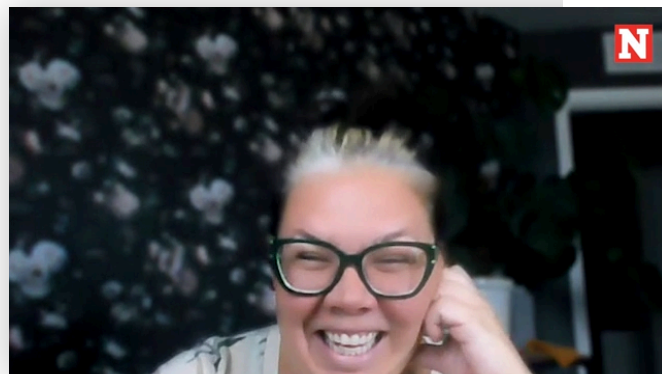


Trump Admin Says 70% of ICE Detainees Do Not Have Criminal Convictions

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By [Dan Gooding](#)
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New numbers from the Trump administration released on Friday showed 70 percent of immigrants in [Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\) detention](#) did not have criminal convictions.

The latest detention management stats from ICE showed a record 61,226 people were being held in [ICE facilities](#) across the country as of August 29.

The Trump administration has insisted the majority of immigrants being detained by ICE are known criminals, but the data provided by the agency appeared to go against this.

Newsweek reached out to ICE for comment via email Friday evening.

Why It Matters

Immigrants residing in the country illegally and legally, [with valid documentation](#) such as green cards and visas, as well as those with criminal histories, have been detained. [with past convictions](#), even from decades ago, have reported being held in inhumane and harsh conditions.

The Trump administration has drastically increased the number of immigrants as part of the president's efforts to deter

Act, allowing it to expand detention space.

What To Know

ICE regularly shares updates on its detention numbers, with stats showing a steady increase in the total number of immigrants being held at any one time over the past eight months.

As of Friday, out of the 61,226 detainees, 18,205 were convicted criminals, 15,593 had pending criminal charges, and 27,428 were being held on other immigration violations, reflecting normal trends for ICE detention.

Arrests within the U.S. now make up the majority of monthly book-ins to ICE detention centers, after several years of Border Patrol arrests making up the larger share as officials dealt with a high number of illegal crossings from Mexico.

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Under President [Donald Trump](#), the focus has shifted inwards due to far fewer border crossings and targets to detain those living in the U.S. without legal status.

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Critics of the way the administration is handling it concerns that holding people without criminal convictions burdens the system and pulls undocumented immigrants

ICE arrests making their way into detention centers compared to June 2025 when the number was 31



A U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Agent is seen on July 25 at 26 Federal Plaza in Manhattan where the hallways are often lined with federal agents. **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

What People Are Saying

Austin Kocher, an immigration professor at Syracuse University, wrote in his analysis of the data Friday: "To emphasize, we don't know what the criminal charges and convictions are, so we can't assume that they represent particularly egregious crimes; nor can we assume that someone without a criminal charge/conviction in the US doesn't have a charge/conviction in another country. This isn't a moral or political perspective—this is just what the data says."

A Department of Homeland Security (DHS) official on the arrests of alleged illegal immigrants on Friday: "We've said it before, and v
country illegally and break our laws, we WILL find
days of letting dangerous criminals terrorize Ame
and Secretary Noem will continue to do everythin
people's mandate to remove the worst of the wor
country."

The Trump administration is [seeking to expand ICE detention capacity](#), as well as recruit thousands of new officers, so that it can arrest and then hold a larger number of immigrants set for deportation.

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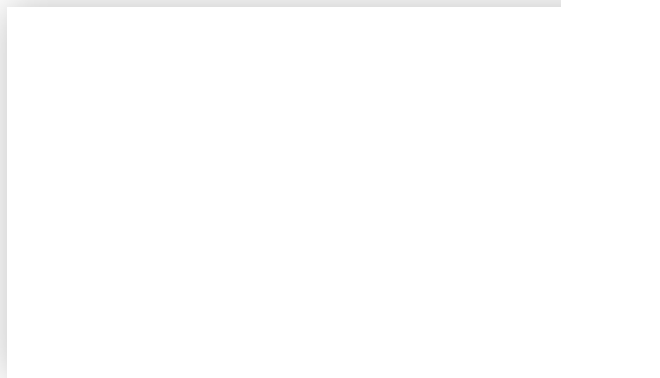
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Dan Gooding is a Newsweek reporter based in New York City. His focus is reporting on immigration and border security. ... [read more](#)

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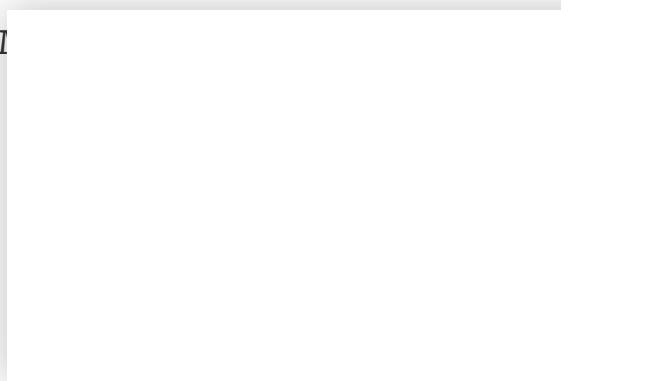
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