

Which Sanctuary Jurisdictions Have Released the Most Criminals?

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By [Jessica M. Vaughan](#) on April 9, 2025

Newly obtained ICE records reveal the sanctuary jurisdictions that have most frequently failed to allow ICE to take custody of deportable aliens who were jailed in those locations. Over the period covered by the records (October 1, 2022, to February 6, 2025), more than 25,000 detainees were declined by these jails, and in more than 1,400 instances the jails failed to give adequate notification to ICE to take custody of the aliens. Among the findings:

- More than half of the declined detainees (52 percent) were refused by jails and prisons in California. The total number declined in California was 13,025.
- Illinois, Virginia, Massachusetts, and Connecticut also had especially large numbers of declined detainees.
- Detainers were declined by jails in 46 states and three U.S. territories (the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Northern Marianas). Many of these states have state laws prohibiting sanctuary policies.
- The jail with the highest number of declined detainees or insufficient notice to ICE was the main jail in Santa Clara County, Calif., which released nearly 3,000 criminal aliens during the period.
- Cook County Jail in Illinois and Fairfax County Adult Detention Center in Virginia each also released more than 1,000 criminal aliens during the period.
- A total of 72 criminal aliens with homicide convictions or charges were released during the period. The Illinois River Corrections Center and the Santa Clara County jails each released six convicted killers, and Stateville Correctional Center in Illinois released five.

The tables below provide more details.

The Center's [sanctuary map](#) displays a comprehensive list of the active sanctuary jurisdictions and policies.

Table 1. Declined Detainers by Year, FY 2023 through February 6, 2025

| | |
|------|--------|
| 2023 | 6,769 |
| 2024 | 10,127 |

| | |
|------------|--------|
| 2025 (YTD) | 8,387 |
| Total | 25,283 |

**Table 2. Declined Detainers
by State, FY 2023 through
February 6, 2025**

| | | | | |
|--------|--------|--|-------|----|
| Calif. | 13,025 | | Texas | 39 |
| Ill. | 2,946 | | Ga. | 33 |
| Va. | 1,601 | | Fla. | 26 |
| Mass. | 1,324 | | Kan. | 23 |
| Conn. | 1,153 | | Utah | 23 |
| N.Y. | 873 | | Neb. | 17 |
| Minn. | 823 | | N.H. | 15 |
| N.C. | 508 | | Ark. | 14 |
| Pa. | 486 | | D.C. | 14 |
| Md. | 384 | | Ala. | 13 |
| Colo. | 295 | | Mo. | 13 |
| N.J. | 239 | | Okla. | 10 |
| Ky. | 192 | | Ariz. | 8 |
| N.M. | 157 | | Vt. | 6 |
| Wyo. | 155 | | Idaho | 3 |
| Ind. | 139 | | Iowa | 3 |
| S.C. | 111 | | Miss. | 3 |
| Wash. | 79 | | Mont. | 2 |
| R.I. | 75 | | Maine | 1 |
| Ore. | 71 | | CNMI | 1 |
| Tenn. | 68 | | P.R. | 1 |

| | | | | |
|-------|----|--|--------------|---------------|
| La. | 62 | | S.D. | 1 |
| Mich. | 57 | | W.Va. | 1 |
| Wisc. | 53 | | Unknown | 49 |
| Nev. | 44 | | Total | 22,283 |
| Ohio | 44 | | | |

Table 3. Top Jails for Declined Detainers and Insufficient Notice, FY 2023 through February 6, 2025

| Rank | Jail | State | Number | | Rank | Jail | State | Number |
|------|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|--|------|--------------------------------|--------|--------|
| 1. | SANTA CLARA COUNTY MAIN JAIL | Calif. | 2,981 | | 16. | RIKERS ISLAND, QUEENS | N.Y. | 236 |
| 2. | COOK COUNTY JAIL | Ill. | 1,804 | | 17. | LAPD 77TH DIV. | Calif. | 232 |
| 3. | FAIRFAX COUNTY ADULT DETENTION CENTER | Va. | 1,151 | | 18. | WAKE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT. | N.C. | 219 |
| 4. | SANTA CLARA COUNTY JAIL/ELMWOOD | Calif. | 976 | | 19. | SANTA RITA JAIL-ALAMEDA COUNTY | Calif. | 205 |
| 5. | SAN DIEGO COUNTY JAIL | Calif. | 857 | | 20. | SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MAIN JAIL | Calif. | 181 |
| 6. | VISTA DETENTION FACILITY | Calif. | 739 | | 21. | BRIDGEPORT CORRECTIONAL CENTER | Conn. | 178 |
| 7. | VENTURA COUNTY JAIL | Calif. | 613 | | 22. | ESSEX COUNTY JAIL, MIDDLETON | Mass. | 175 |
| 8. | SANTA BARBARA COUNTY JAIL | Calif. | 499 | | 23. | QUEENS CENTRAL BOOKING | N.Y. | 174 |

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|-----|------------------------------------|--------|-----|--|-----|-------------------------------|--------|-----|
| 9. | SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY JAIL | Calif. | 462 | | 24. | PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY | Va. | 172 |
| 10. | MONTEREY COUNTY JAIL | Calif. | 372 | | 25. | SONOMA COUNTY MAIN ADC | Calif. | 171 |
| 11. | HENNEPIN COUNTY ADC | Minn. | 363 | | 26. | WEST VALLEY DETENTION CENTER | Calif. | 171 |
| 12. | LOS ANGELES COUNTY JAIL-TWIN TOWER | Calif. | 360 | | 27. | TETON COUNTY DETENTION CENTER | Wyo. | 154 |
| 13. | LAPD METRO DETENTION CENTER | Calif. | 353 | | 28. | SAN MATEO COUNTY JAIL | Calif. | 153 |
| 14. | LAPD - VAN NUYS | Calif. | 324 | | 29. | DUPAGE COUNTY JAIL | Ill. | 146 |
| 15. | ORANGE COUNTY JAIL | Calif. | 274 | | 30. | DANBURY PD | Conn. | 138 |

Table 4. Location of Release of Aliens with Homicide Convictions and Charges

| Jail or Prison | State | Number | | Jail or Prison | State | Number |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Avenal State Prison | Calif. | 1 | | Los Angeles County Jail - Twin Tower | Calif. | 2 |
| Baltimore County Detention Center | Md. | 1 | | Menard Corrections Center | Ill. | 1 |
| Bronx Central Booking | N.Y. | 1 | | Monterey County Jail | Calif. | 1 |
| Butte County Jail | Calif. | 1 | | Napa County Dept. of Corrections | Calif. | 1 |
| Cook County Jail | Ill. | 2 | | Orange County Jail | Calif. | 1 |
| California Rehab Center/Men | Calif. | 1 | | Pleasant Valley State Prison | Calif. | 1 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|---|------|-----------------------------------|--------|---|
| California State Prison - San Quentin | Calif. | 1 | | Polk County Jail | Ore. | 1 |
| Dane County Jail | Wisc. | 1 | | Pontiac Corrections Facility | Mich. | 1 |
| Danville Corrections Center | Ill. | 2 | | Pontiac Corrections Center | Ill. | 1 |
| Dixon Corrections Center | Ill. | 1 | | Pope County Jail | Ark. | 1 |
| Dracut Police Dept. | Mass. | 1 | | Rikers Island | N.Y. | 1 |
| Durham County Detention Center | N.C. | 1 | | San Francisco County Jail | Calif. | 1 |
| El Centro State Prison | Calif. | 1 | | Santa Clara County Jail - Elmwood | Calif. | 2 |
| Fairfax County Detention Center | Va. | 2 | | Santa Clara County Main Jail | Calif. | 4 |
| Gaithersburg Police Department | Md. | 1 | | Snohomish County Jail | Wash. | 1 |
| Hill Corrections | Ill. | 2 | | South Gate Police Dept | Calif. | 1 |
| Howard County Detention Center | Md. | 1 | | Stateville Corrections | Ill. | 5 |
| Illinois River Corrections | Ill. | 6 | | Suffolk County 3rd Precinct | N.Y. | 1 |
| Jacksonville Corrections Center | Ill. | 1 | | Taft Community Corrections Center | Calif. | 1 |
| Kane County Jail | Ill. | 1 | | Taylorville Corrections | Ill. | 2 |
| Lincoln Corrections Center | Ill. | 1 | | Tulare County Jail | Calif. | 1 |
| Logan Corrections Center | Ill. | 2 | | Ventura County Jail | Calif. | 1 |
| Los Angeles City Jail | Calif. | 1 | | Vienna Corrections Center | Calif. | 2 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---|------|---------------------|--------|-----------|
| Los Angeles County Central Jail | Calif. | 1 | | Wasco State Prison | Calif. | 1 |
| Los Angeles County SD - Lakewood | Calif. | 1 | | Will County Sheriff | Ill. | 1 |
| Los Angeles County SD - Palmdale | Calif. | 1 | | Total | | 72 |

Topics: [Sanctuary Cities](#), [Criminal Aliens](#)