

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

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](#)