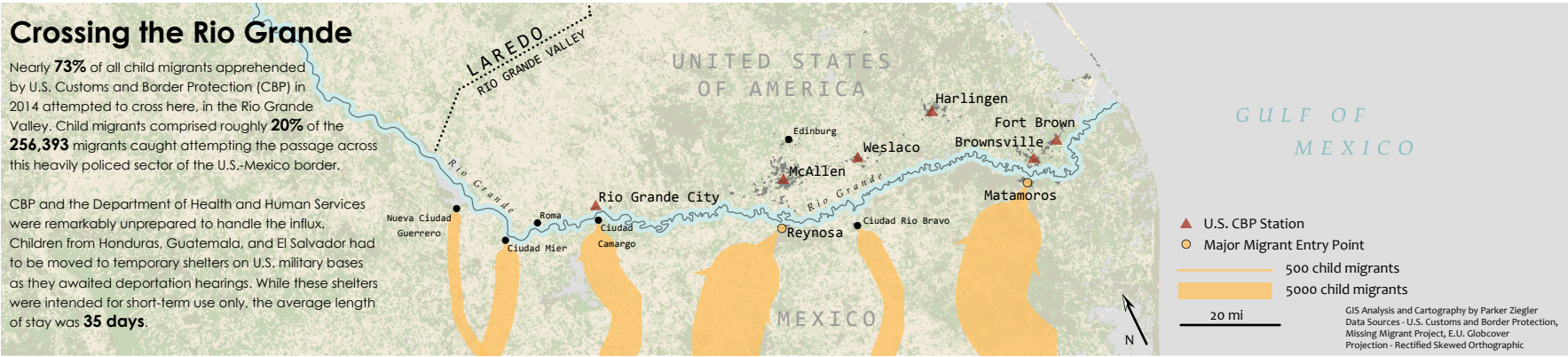


Unseen, Unheard, and Forgotten

Child Migration from Central America to the United States



Since late 2011, the number of unaccompanied children migrating from Central America to the United States has increased astronomically. Unemployment, gang violence, and an increasingly vicious drug trade have been the key factors forcing kids from Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, many under the age of 12, to seek asylum in the United States. The crisis reached a peak in 2014, when child migration from these three countries increased **43%** from the previous year alone. In the period from 2011 through 2014, the number of child migrants has increased by a total **330%**. Accordingly, U.S. border security rose in the most heavily trafficked sectors of the southwest border, particularly near Tucson in the West and along the Rio Grande Valley in the East.



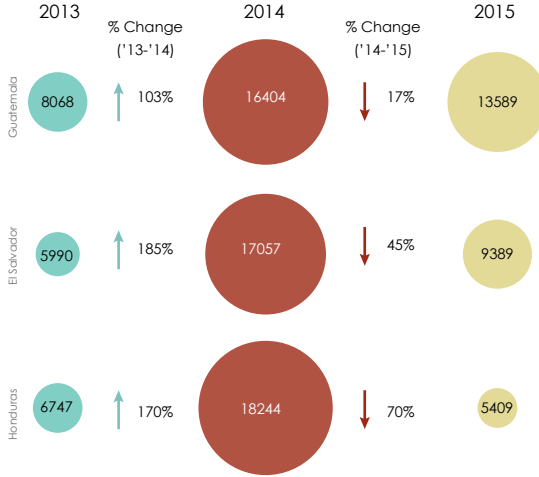
Once apprehended, child migrants often face an even more difficult journey navigating the U.S. justice system. Although President Obama put into effect an executive order in 2014 to expedite the hearings and removal process for unaccompanied minors, the courts continued to lag behind. Moreover, when these children appeared before court, **97%** of them were denied official immigration status, meaning they remained unauthorized, undocumented, and destined for deportation. The result has been a ‘revolving door’ cycle of migration, where children migrate, are deported, and subsequently remigrate. Indeed, conditions for most child migrants in their countries of origin are often worse when they return, prompting another dangerous journey northward.



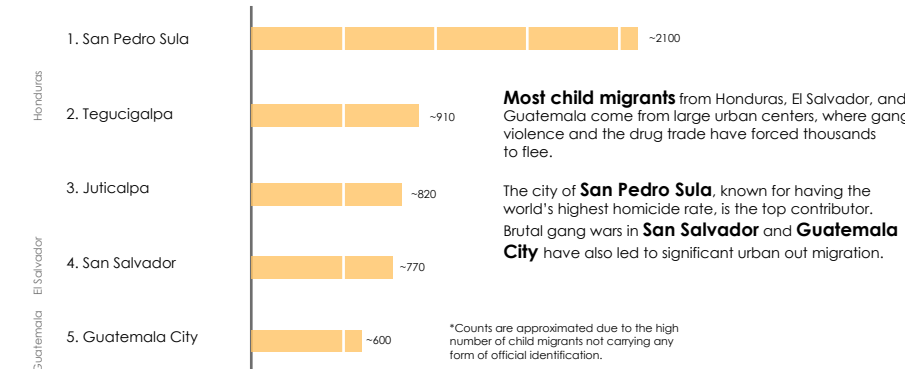
The dramatic increase in the number of child migrants from Central America in 2014 was met by a sharp decrease in 2015, particularly among Salvadorian and Honduran youth. Many believe the cause was Mexico's stricter detention and deportation policies for migrants from Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

According to the Pew Research Center, Mexico's deportation rate for unaccompanied minors from these three countries increased by 56% in the first five months of 2015 (compared to the same time period in 2014).

Apprehensions of Child Migrants by U.S. CBP along U.S. - Mexico Border (by Country of Origin by Year)



Apprehensions of Child Migrants by U.S. CBP along U.S. - Mexico Border (by City of Origin* by Year)



*This layout is dedicated to the thousands of child migrants who continue to face danger and oppression in Central America, and to the many hundreds gone that these maps fail to show.

Data Sources - New York Times, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Pew Research Center