

Ten Things We Know from the Latest ICE Detention Data

Data as of August 5, 2026

This memo contains 10 key takeaways from the Vera Institute of Justice's (Vera's) analysis of the most recently available ICE detention data.

On August 25, 2026, the Deportation Data Project at the University of California Berkeley posted its latest release of data it obtained from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.¹ The release contains anonymized data on people detained in ICE's vast facility network through August 5, 2026.²

In addition to analyzing this newly released data, Vera processed the data to update its *ICE Detention Trends dashboard*, which presents Vera's analysis of millions of detention history records over a nearly 18-year period.³ The dashboard provides an unprecedented level of detail about ICE detention populations—nationally across 1,438 facilities in which ICE detained people—on each day from October 1, 2008, through August 5, 2026.

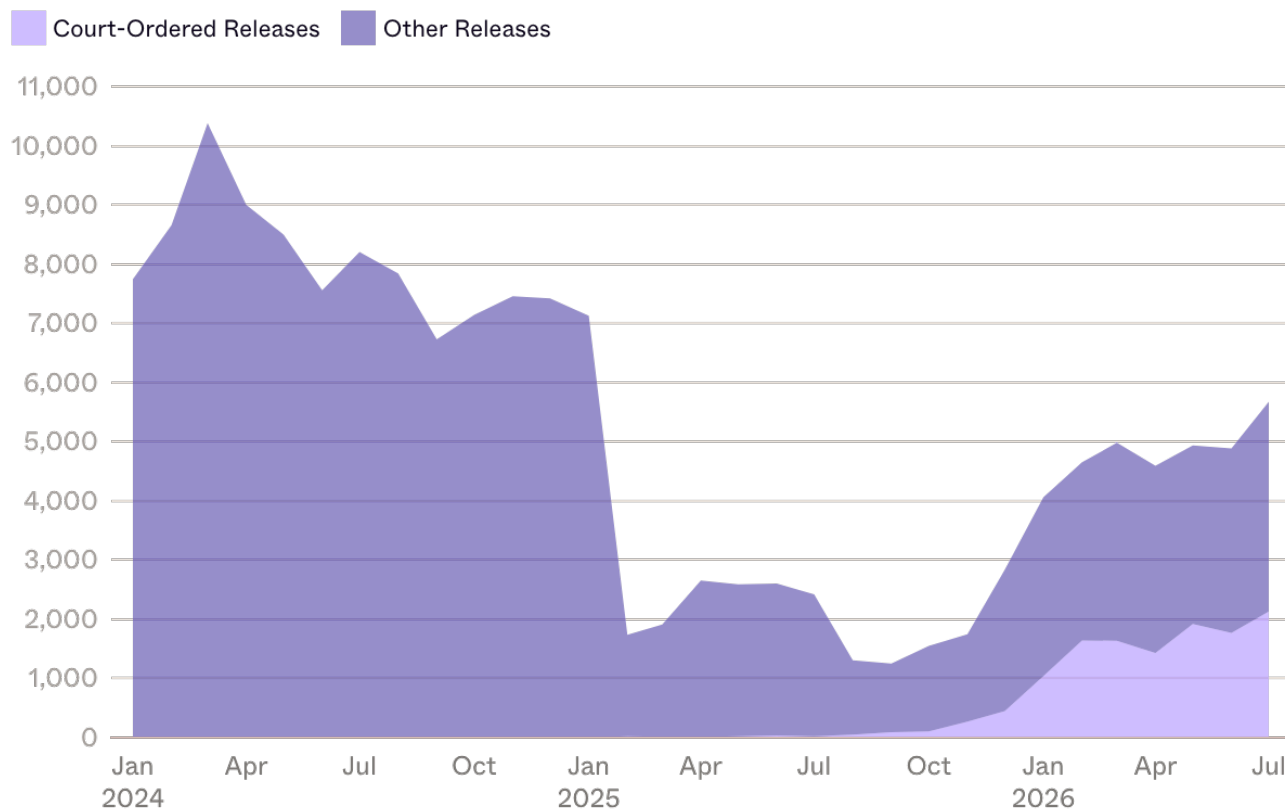
Key Takeaways

1. **ICE continues to hold a historically high number of people in detention.** The second Trump administration has ramped up its mass detention and deportation agenda over time. On nearly every day since mid-June 2025, the number of people detained by ICE exceeded the previous all-time high (which was 56,600 in August 2019). In July 2026, ICE detained an average of more than 66,000 people per day. The daily immigration detention population reached a peak in mid-January 2026 with more than 73,000 people detained per day.
2. **ICE has booked a total of 591,385 people into detention since the start of the second Trump administration.** From February through July 2026, the number of people ICE booked into detention has increased by about one-third compared with the same period in 2025.
3. **ICE booked more people into detention in July 2026 than it had in any other month since this administration began.** ICE booked more than 46,000 people into ICE detention in July alone.
4. **Half of all people detained in July 2026 were held in just three states:** Texas, Louisiana, and California. ICE routinely transfers people across facilities in its vast detention network, including across state lines. Approximately 26 percent of the people detained by ICE nationally were held in facilities in Texas, 13 percent in Louisiana, and 11 percent in California. Nonetheless, ICE detained people across all 50 states as well as Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and Guantanamo Bay (Cuba).

5. **Those same three states—along with Florida and Virginia—also have the most ICE detention facilities in use.** In July 2026, the states with the most facilities in use were Texas (66 facilities), Florida (38 facilities), California (25 facilities), Virginia (21 facilities), and Louisiana (18 facilities).
6. **ICE continues to expand its use of local jails for detention.** In addition to holding people in dedicated ICE detention facilities, ICE also maintains contracts to hold people in local county and city jails. As of August 5, ICE has detained 104,800 people across 303 jails in 2026. Compared to the same period in 2024 under the Biden administration, this reflects an 84 percent increase in the number of local jails used for ICE detention and triple the number of people held by ICE in local jails.
7. **ICE obscures the breadth of its detention network in its reporting.** In July 2026, ICE detained people in 469 facilities (excluding medical facilities) but acknowledged using just 208 facilities on its website. Vera’s analysis reveals ICE was using 165 “hold” and “staging” facilities across all 50 states in July 2026—facility types that ICE largely excludes from the statistics it shares with the public. The agency has published just two reports over the last six months, a departure from its longstanding practice of releasing reports roughly every other week at the direction of Congress.⁴
8. **Haitian immigrants have been increasingly targeted for removal following the termination of Haiti’s Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation in recent months.** The administration has terminated (or temporarily halted while facing ongoing litigation) TPS for 13 countries, affecting an estimated 1 million people—or a large majority of people who had this legal protection.⁵ On June 25, 2026, the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for the termination of TPS for Haiti and Syria, ending protections for approximately 334,900 Haitians and 6,100 Syrians, which went into effect on July 27.⁶ Prior to the Supreme Court’s decision, the second Trump administration booked an average of approximately 48 Haitians into detention each week this year. Following the Court’s decision—and before the TPS termination for Haiti even went into effect—this number increased by more than 50 percent, with an average of 78 Haitians being booked into detention each week. Immediately after the policy took effect on July 27, the number of Haitians booked into detention more than tripled from the levels seen before the decision, to a weekly average of 153 Haitians being booked into detention.
9. **As avenues for release from ICE detention have narrowed since the start of the second Trump administration, the data shows a dramatic rise in “court-ordered” releases, as attorneys have increasingly turned to “habeas corpus” petitions to challenge the lawfulness of their clients’ detention in federal courts.** While there is no ICE data documentation defining releases that are “court-ordered,” it appears this data reflects releases ordered by a federal court, rather than at the discretion of ICE or the immigration courts.⁷ Nearly 13,000 people have had court-ordered releases from detention during the second Trump administration. Most of these court-ordered releases occurred during 2026. This year, by early August, more than 11,800 people had been released from detention as a result of a court order, nearly 10 times the number during the same period in 2025. California has seen the highest number of court-ordered releases under this administration, with California detention facilities accounting for almost one-third of people with court-ordered releases.

Figure 1

Number of People with “Court-ordered” Releases and Other Releases from ICE Detention, by Month

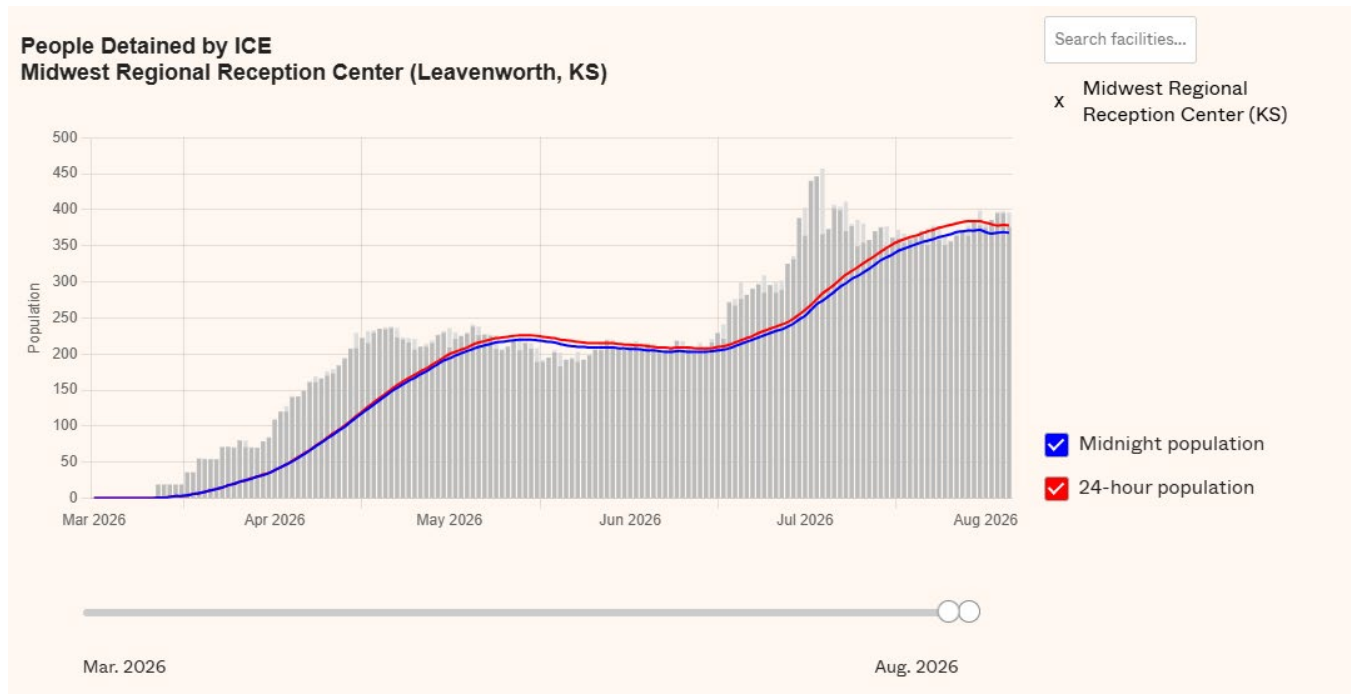


Source: Vera’s analysis of government data provided by ICE in response to FOIA requests by the Deportation Data Project. “Other releases” includes people released on bonds set by ICE or an immigration judge, orders of recognizance, orders of supervision, and parole.

10. After spending \$700 million on a failed attempt to turn seven warehouses into detention sites, the Department of Homeland Security has turned to purchasing former prisons and existing detention centers from private prison companies in an effort to expand ICE detention capacity, costing taxpayers billions.⁸ ICE has already spent \$2.2 billion purchasing four facilities with a combined 7,187-bed capacity from CoreCivic, which will net \$1.6 billion in proceeds from these sales alone while continuing to operate these facilities.⁹ One of these facilities, the Midwest Regional Reception Center in Kansas, was a former federal prison with an extensive history of poor conditions before closing in 2021.¹⁰ Since it reopened as an ICE detention center earlier this year, more than 1,300 total people have been detained there, with average daily populations steadily increasing through August 2026.

Figure 2

Number of People Detained Daily at Midwest Regional Reception Center (Kansas)



Source: Vera Institute of Justice, “ICE Detention Trends,” accessed August 31, 2026, <https://www.vera.org/ice-detention-trends>.

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Endnotes

¹ Deportation Data Project, “Immigration and Customs Enforcement: Original Data Provided by the Agency,” <https://deportationdata.org/data/ice.html>.

² The dataset that the Deportation Data Project obtained via FOIA by ICE contains records from August 6, 2026. However, Vera’s analysis suggests that the records on this final day of the dataset are incomplete, and so Vera excluded them from the latest update of its ICE Detention Trends dashboard and from the analysis presented here.

³ Vera Institute of Justice, “ICE Detention Trends,” <https://www.vera.org/ice-detention-trends>.

⁴ U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, “Detention Management,” <https://www.ice.gov/detain/detention-management>. ICE routinely overwrites older reports, but Vera has archived them and makes the original files and processed data available to the public: Vera Institute of Justice, “ICE Fiscal Year-to-Date (FYTD) Detention Statistics,” <https://github.com/vera-institute/ice-fytd-stats>.

⁵ Carolyn Im and Mia Hennen, “Second Trump Administration Has Ended Temporary Protected Status for Most Immigrants Who Had It,” Pew Research Center, August 12, 2026, <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2026/08/12/second-trump-administration-has-ended-temporary-protected-status-for-most-immigrants-who-had-it>.

⁶ *Mullin v. Doe*, 609 U.S. ____ (2026), https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/25pdf/25-1083_f204.pdf; and Im and Hennen, “Second Trump Administration Has Ended Temporary Protected Status for Most Immigrants Who Had It,” 2026.

⁷ Depending upon the legal posture, a successful habeas claim could either result in a federal court ordering a person released, which appears to be reflected in this data, or it could result in ordering a new bond hearing before the immigration judge, the outcome of which does not appear to be reflected in this data.

⁸ Hamed Aleaziz, "ICE Spent \$700 Million on 7 Warehouses. Now It Wants to Get Rid of Them," *The New York Times*, June 18, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/18/us/politics/ice-warehouses-immigration.html>; and Philip Wang, "Why ICE Is Quietly Buying Up Private Detention Centers," *Time*, August 4, 2026, <https://time.com/article/2026/08/04/ice-detention-strategy-private-prisons-immigration-deportation>.

⁹ Core Civic, "CoreCivic Sells Two Detention Facilities," July 6, 2026, <https://ir.corecivic.com/news-releases/news-release-details/corecivic-sells-two-detention-facilities>; and Core Civic, "CoreCivic Sells Two Additional Detention Facilities," August 5, 2026, <https://ir.corecivic.com/news-releases/news-release-details/corecivic-sells-two-additional-detention-facilities>.

¹⁰ Zane Irwin, "Prisons Closed Due to Serious Problems Set to Reopen as Migrant Detention Centers," NPR, May 8, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/05/08/nx-s1-5376491/prisons-closed-due-to-serious-problems-set-to-reopen-as-migrant-detention-centers>.