



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Nationwide Encounters

The goal of this data dictionary is to provide insight into how users should read and analyze the raw data available for download.

I. Tips when working with Encounter data:

1. Statistical information is subject to change due to corrections, systems changes, change in data definition, additional information, or encounters pending final review.
2. Nationwide numbers are calculated by adding together “Northern Land Border,” “Southwest Land Border,” and “Other” regions

II. Data Dictionary

1. Data Source: Secure Government Integrated Mainframe Access (SIGMA); Unified Secondary (USEC); Enforcement Integrated Database (EID)
2. Data Elements:

Data Variable	Description	Examples
Fiscal Year	The fiscal year the encounter took place	2018 2019 2020
Month Grouping	Allows for comparisons between completed FY months vs. those remaining	FYTD Remaining
Month (abbv)	The month the encounter took place (abbreviated)	JAN FEB MAR
Component	Who in CBP was involved in the encounter	Office of Field Operations (OFO) U.S. Border Patrol (USBP)
Land Border Region	The border region in which the encounter occurred; border regions are defined by each component Nationwide numbers are calculated by adding together Northern Land Border, Southwest Land Border, and Other regions	Northern Land Border Southwest Land Border Other
Area of Responsibility	The field office or sector where the encounter occurred	Atlanta Field Office Big Bend Sector
AOR (abbv)	The field office or sector where the encounter occurred (abbreviated)	San Diego RGV
Demographic	Categories under which individuals were encountered based on factors such as age, admissibility, and relationship	Accompanied Minors ¹ Single Adults Unaccompanied Children / Single Minors (UC / Single Minors)

¹ Accompanied Minor represents a child accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and the parent or legal guardian is either a U.S. Citizen, Lawful Permanent Resident, or admissible noncitizen, and the child is determined to be inadmissible. Accompanied minors is a demographic used only by OFO



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Nationwide Encounters

		Individuals in a Family Unit ² (FMUA)
Citizenship	Citizenship of the individual encountered	Canada El Salvador Guatemala Mexico
Title of Authority	The authority under which the noncitizen was processed ³	Title 8 Title 42
Encounter Type	The category of encounter based on Title of Authority and component <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Title 8 for USBP = Apprehensions;• Title 8 for OFO = Inadmissibles;• Title 42 = Expulsions	Apprehensions Expulsions Inadmissibles
Encounter Count	The number of individuals encountered	(Discrete variable)

² FMUA represents the number of encountered individuals within the family unit, not the number of units. A Family Unit is defined as a least one noncitizen minor child and at least one noncitizen adult parent or legal guardian. For example, a family unit consisting of two or more individuals is encountered. (Continued on page two footer)
The data would show two or more individuals, not one family unit. Beginning in March 2020, FMUA data also includes Title 42 Expulsions of a family group of at least one child and one related adult (regardless of whether the adult and child met the definition of a family unit).

³ CBP has been assisting in enforcing the CDC Order, pursuant to Title 42, by USBP and OFO starting 3/21/2020 and 3/27/2020, respectively.