



Kino Border Initiative
Iniciativa Kino
para la Frontera

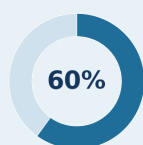


Neighbors, Not Threats

The Truth About U.S. Immigrants Detained and Deported

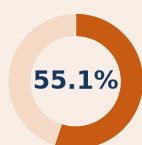
Kino Border Initiative collected the testimonies of people deported from the United States into Mexico at the Mexican government's "México Te Abraza" reception shelter in Nogales, Sonora, in 2025–2026. The testimonies included evidence of long-term community ties, including employment, established families, and participation in local church and community. The testimonies also described dehumanizing practices by immigration authorities during arrests and detention in Colorado, Arizona and California.

KEY FACTS AND FINDINGS



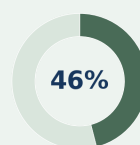
Lived in the U.S. before deportation

Many had established families, employment, and deep community ties.



Reported family separation

34% were separated from their children, with lasting effects on families and communities.



Reported abuse by U.S. authorities

Reports included ICE (34%), Border Patrol (26%), and detention facility staff (21%).



3 in 5

Fled violence or persecution

45% economic hardship

43% personal safety

VOICES FROM THE BORDER

"What worries me most is that I have seven U.S. citizen children, and I am now separated from them."

— Deportee from the U.S.

"The food was rotten...they laughed when they saw the maggots."

— Deportee from the U.S.

"They kept us chained on a bus for 25 hours. For 19 of those hours, they gave us no food or water."

— Deportee from the U.S.

DIGNITY FOR ALL HUMAN BEINGS

We recommend immigration policies grounded in evidence, accountability, and shared values:

- Protect family unity
- Strengthen oversight and accountability
- Ensure humane treatment and due process
- Restore safe legal pathways
- Center immigrant voices
- Promote evidence-based public understanding
- Address the root causes of migration

Source: Findings from Kino Border Initiative's (KBI) *Congressional Year-End Report 2025* and firsthand testimonies from 131 immigrant deportees from the United States at the Mexican government's "México Te Abraza" reception shelter in Nogales, Sonora in 2025-2026.