

THE CURRENT STATE OF ICE ARRESTS IN FRESNO

The Data

Data compiled by UC Berkeley's Deportation Data Project shows that in 2025, within the general Fresno area, 566 ICE arrests were made between Jan. 1 to July 29, a nearly 71% increase from the entire year of 2024, where 331 arrests occurred.

Of the arrests made this year, 270 people have already been deported, with Mexico receiving the highest number at roughly 200 deported individuals.

This number is expected to grow, considering U.S. President Donald Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act that was signed on July 4. The bill allocated a \$170.7 billion fund to fund construction of the southern border wall and to increase deportations, including plans to hire 10,000 new agents to reach "AT LEAST one million" annual deportations, according to whitehouse.gov. This amounts to around 2,700 deportations daily, a goal nearly four times the current number of daily deportations.

About 57% of the arrests made in Fresno are convicted criminals, according to the Deportation Data Project. The remaining cases included 107 people with pending criminal charges, and 139 with immigration violations and no criminal record. Across the U.S., over 71% of people held in ICE detention centers have no criminal conviction, according to Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. Around 42,755 people without convictions are currently detained, a statistic that contradicts Trump's claim of "going after the worst of the worst."

For individuals with criminal convictions, the Deportation Data Project shows that these charges can include having a DUI or arrest for possessing marijuana.

ICE Impact on Fresno Residents

Many people face deportations on account of arrests made decades prior. Fresno City College student and psychology major Ryan Moua explained that this was the case for his uncle.

Moua said that his uncle faced jail time for a criminal charge when he was young. According to Moua, his uncle signed away his immigrant refugee status of citizenship in order to cut his sentencing from 26 years to only 16. At the time, Moua's uncle didn't face deportation, because Laos' borders were closed.

Earlier this year, Laos opened its borders to accept deportations following pressure from Trump, including a partial travel ban.

"He was deported in the dead of the night," Moua said. "His family didn't even know until the day after he was caught."

Moua's uncle, like many other Hmong deportees, have no family or support system in the country that they're deported to.



The Fresno Postage Stamp Mural on the side of The Business Journal building in Downtown Fresno faces a stop sign on Nov. 7. Photo by Logan Payne.

"He served 16 years in prison and then came out and lived 30 years, had a family, had a wife, had kids. He lived 30 years without ever making a scratch on his record," Moua said.

Moua said he anticipated ICE deportations affecting Hmong people and Asian Americans as a whole when raids began.

"When it happens to one of us, it completely cuts the trust that we have in society," Moua said. "When you don't find a way to stop hurting somebody like the Latinx people or the people who were getting deported, you are going to be next."

Fresno State student and LEAD California community member Rosas, who wished to only be identified by her last name, said there was fear that spread through her community after ICE raids began picking up.

"Everyone around me was afraid, and it wasn't even just people who were undocumented," Rosas said. "It was just people who fit the stereotype that ICE was putting out."

Rosas said her mother's workplace had to be shut down due to increased ICE raid activity. Outside of her own job, Rosas accompanied her mother whenever leaving the house to ensure her safety.

"We couldn't just hang out with friends and extended family. We had to be inside and hope that someone doesn't knock on our door, or we get a phone call about something [that] happened to someone," Rosas said.

Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP) Fresno field manager Tammy Vang also said her community is afraid of being stopped by ICE agents despite not having any criminal record.

Vang said many deportees who have criminal records turned to crime after facing poverty and a lack of resources in their youth.

"It's that our government [is] not giving us proper resources. That's why a lot of members decided to transition to this route," Vang said. "How much is our government providing resources to our neighborhoods to make sure we get [people with criminal convictions] to deter from these types of crimes?"

FCC International Student Services Coordinator Jesus Delgadillo said that for international students, concerns about travelling between countries arose following the spike in deportations.

"It's just always that fear of the unknown, of what might happen," Delgadillo said.

In August, the Trump administration proposed a rule to limit the stay of specific visa holders without additional screening, which includes foreign exchange students. Delgadillo said many international students aren't aware of what screenings they may undergo, including a screen through student social media.

Support Resources Available

Despite fears, Rosas said she found support and solidarity in the LEAD community at Fresno State.

"[LEAD] helps advocate for undocumented immigrants, so I felt maybe I can find some people who are like me, and I did," Rosas said. "There are plenty of people who are like me, and it's really refreshing to see that I'm not alone."

Rosas encouraged others who are in her position to reach out to their local communities.

"I think that it's important [to reach out], even if it's risky, because you're letting everyone know, showing everyone that you deserve to be seen as much as anybody else," Rosas said.

HIP provided a hotline, (559) 206-0151, for the Central Valley Rapid Response Network to report ICE agent sightings. In the case that someone is detained, the number can be called to reach out to local legal resources.

According to an employee training seminar hosted at FCC on Oct. 20, if an ICE agent is confirmed to be on campus, they should be escorted to the FCC president's office for a warrant assessment in the Old Administration Building (OAB)-259. In addition, the person who spotted the ICE agent is expected to call the State Center Community College District emergency police number 559-244-5911. ICE agents are not permitted in non-public areas such as classrooms.

For resources, FCC's Dream Center located in OAB-137 provides free and confidential immigration services to students. On top of immigration services, the Dream Center also offers support in filling out the Dream Act application, psychological services and connections to local nonprofit organizations.

The rise in recent deportations have become a scare tactic, according to Delgadillo. Rosas said being seen and connecting with others combats intimidation people face from ICE.

"[Deportation statistics] are just numbers to scare, because they're scared. They're scared of us realizing that we have the power to change elections, to shape the community, and they don't want us to notice it," Rosas said. "They work for the people. We have the power, and all they can do is just scare."

"My mom has always said, 'don't ever expect that you'll be the exception, because we're not.' People of color will never be the exception," Moua said.

SCCCD FACULTY PUSHES FOR COMPETITIVE PAY

Teachers within the State Center Community College District (SCCCD) are experiencing lower wages compared to neighboring districts and schools.

In the past six months, faculty members at Fresno, Reedley, Clovis and Madera Colleges have been voicing their experiences working within the district and how they are not paid competitively compared to other colleges such as the College of the Sequoias (COS) and the West Hills Community College District.

The teachers union is formed to advocate for the wages, working conditions and benefits of all the faculty within the state centers and community districts, according to Keith Ford, president of the State Center Federation of Teachers (SCFT) Union and Fresno City College (FCC) humanities instructor.

Within this union, the SCFT reviews the contracts of other colleges to see the language, wages and benefits in comparison to our faculty within the district.

In doing this, they found out that districts within a 50-mile radius of the SCCC are getting paid considerably



Members of the union in attendance of the meeting on Nov. 13 in the cafeteria at FCC. Photo by Miley Araujo.

better than the faculty within SCCC. Both full-time and part-time faculty are trying to negotiate with the district for competitive pay. The issue is more prominent within part-time faculty who are paid less than full-time faculty, and getting hired into a full-time position is less common.

"You take somebody who has a PhD, who has taught here as a part-timer for 10 years and teaches as many classes as he or she is allowed to teach legally, so three in the fall and three in the spring, and say they have four in the summer, we're talking \$45,000 max," Paul Gilmore, SCFT vice president for Member Rights and full-time history professor, said.

According to Ford, the difference of pay between colleges has caused some teachers to leave their positions within the district to work in other districts with competitive or higher pay.

Gilmore, as an "overload" instructor taking on more than 15 units for full time, said this has always been a problem when part-timers, "smart people who devoted their lives to teaching and to students," leave because they can't make lifetime wages.

"If you know that you're not being paid well to do a job it impacts your morale. I'd argue that a teacher who is not happy where they are or does not feel valued by their employer is going to have a hard time doing their best job," Ford said.

At the SCFT general membership meeting on Nov. 13, the SCFT gathered to unanimously vote no confidence in SCCC Chancellor Carole Goldsmith.

In the meeting, many teachers compared their current wages to the predicted amount they would receive working at COS and how much they would lose

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working within the SCCC. Doug Gong, the treasurer for the SCFT and math instructor at Reedley Community College, said the 10 year difference in pay he would earn between COS and State Center is \$161,000 more than what he earns at FCC.

Gilmore, who has been teaching at FCC for over 20 years, said that projected pay over the next 10 years at COS would be \$133,000, and with overtime it would be over \$300,000.

A new political science instructor at FCC, Austin Schutz, calculated he will lose \$11,914 in the next year, translating to at least \$119,000 over the next 10 years.

There has been a "significant disparity the employers don't seem to recognize," according to Ford.

"It really doesn't look good when an employer has \$126 million in reserves and they're saying they can only give us a 1% raise which we know the monetary value of," Ford said. One percent of \$126 million is \$1.26 million.

This budget only goes up each year, and the projected amount is usually less than what is given each year, according to Gilmore.

Essentially, faculty and staff are only receiving a small portion of the reserves of money that the district can afford to spend.

Despite the strain in efforts to receive competitive pay, Ford believes his fellow members are handling the circumstance well, as they're advocating for themselves at board meetings to make their case heard.

Open to everyone on Dec. 9, the SCFT will be holding a city-wide town hall on higher education at Fresno City College in room 251 of the Old Administration Building.