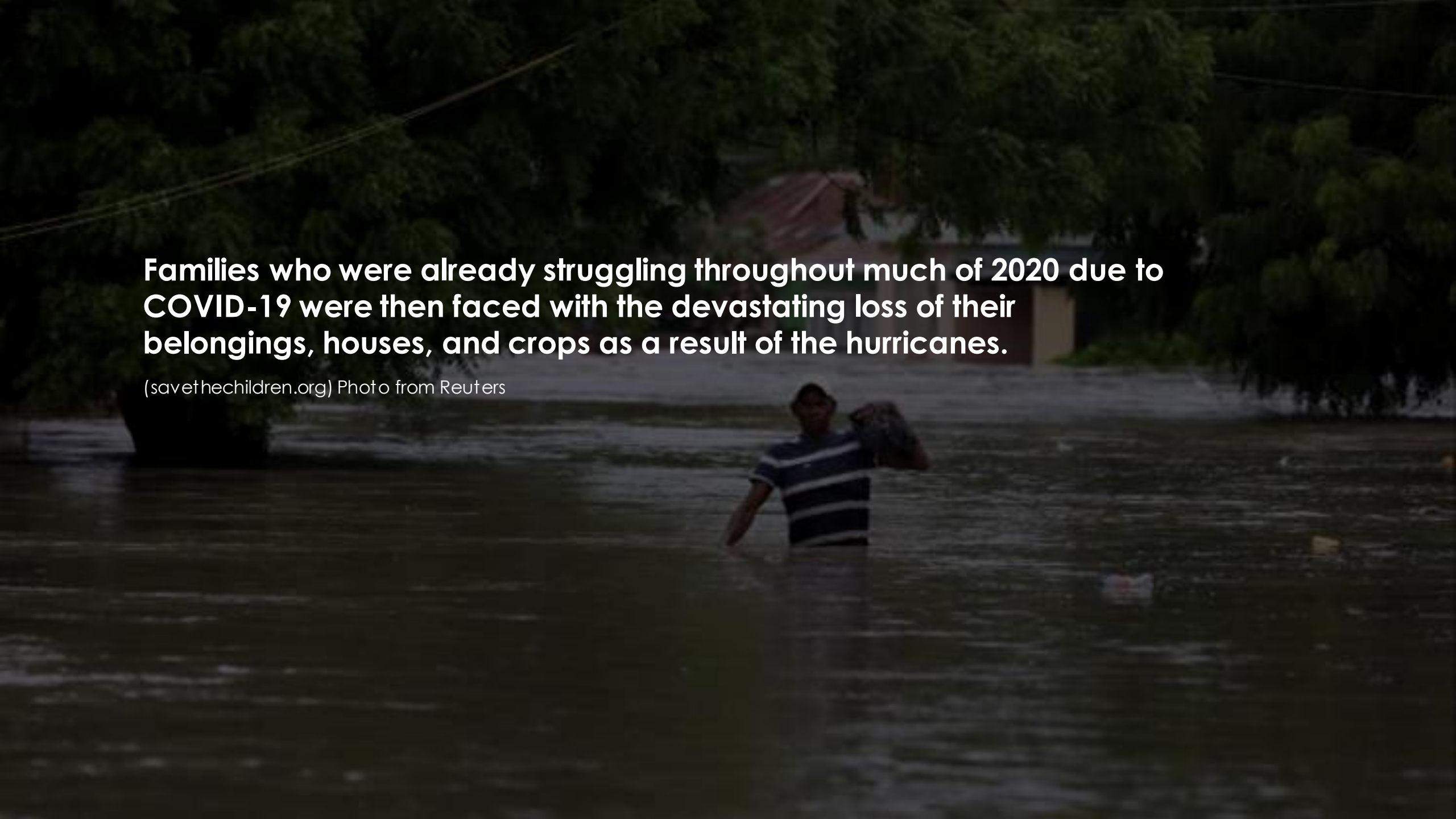
Adrees Latif/Reuters

"In El Salvador, they take young girls, rape them and throw them in plastic bags," explains a 15-year-old girl named Maritza.

(https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/unaccompanied-minors-border-crisis).

Photo by Emily Yates-Doerr



Families who were already struggling throughout much of 2020 due to COVID-19 were then faced with the devastating loss of their belongings, houses, and crops as a result of the hurricanes.

(savethechildren.org) Photo from Reuters

- "The increase in poverty [in Latin America] will make it very hard for the most vulnerable children and their families to make up for the loss," said Janti Soeripto, CEO of Save the Children
- (SavetheChildren.org)

Photo by Elmer Martinez

Encountering Unaccompanied Minors at the U.S. Southern Border

CHRISTINA CHAVEZ, PRINCESS EKEZIE, SUZY JONES

IN FULFILLMENT OF DSO110

FINAL GROUP PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

ENTITY ACADEMY

WOZ U

Agenda

- Introductions
- The Dataset and its Importance
- Analysis of Data
  - Demographics
  - Encounters over Time
  - Encounter Type
  - Correlation/Confusion Matrix
- Conclusions
- Summary
- Learn More
- Q & A
- Works Cited

Introducing The Unaccompanied Adults:

Christina Chavez is a mother, wife of a retired Army service member, and self-employed project manager with higher education and NPO experience. Her most recent role led migrant service teams in applying for/bidding on federal, state, and local grants/contracts funding services for this and other immigration demographics. The vulnerability of those attempting to immigrate to the U.S., especially those identifying as unaccompanied minors is a "hot, political" topic within the US migrant services sector. As the grandchild of an immigrant deported three times before obtaining US citizenship, she yearns to be part of the functioning solution to this problem.

As a neuroscience major with a minor in politics, Princess possess a unique blend of academic knowledge and practical experience in assisting immigrant families through the citizenship process. Princess is deeply passionate about advocating for unaccompanied minors and aspire to work for the government in order to aid them on their path to becoming citizens. With a foundation in neuroscience and a commitment to social justice, Princess is determined to contribute to the well-being and empowerment of these young individuals as they navigate their journey towards a brighter future.

Suzy Jones is a data scientist with a strong academic background in education, specializing in understanding the complexities of unaccompanied minors crossing the border. For the past decade, as an English as a second language teacher, she has developed a deep understanding of the challenges faced by children and families affected by border procedures and policies. Through rigorous analysis and modeling techniques, she has extracted meaningful insights from government data sources for this project. Our research focuses on identifying risk factors and exploring migration trends of all encounters, but especially these vulnerable children. Ms. Jones strives to contribute to policy discussions and advocate for a more compassionate approach.

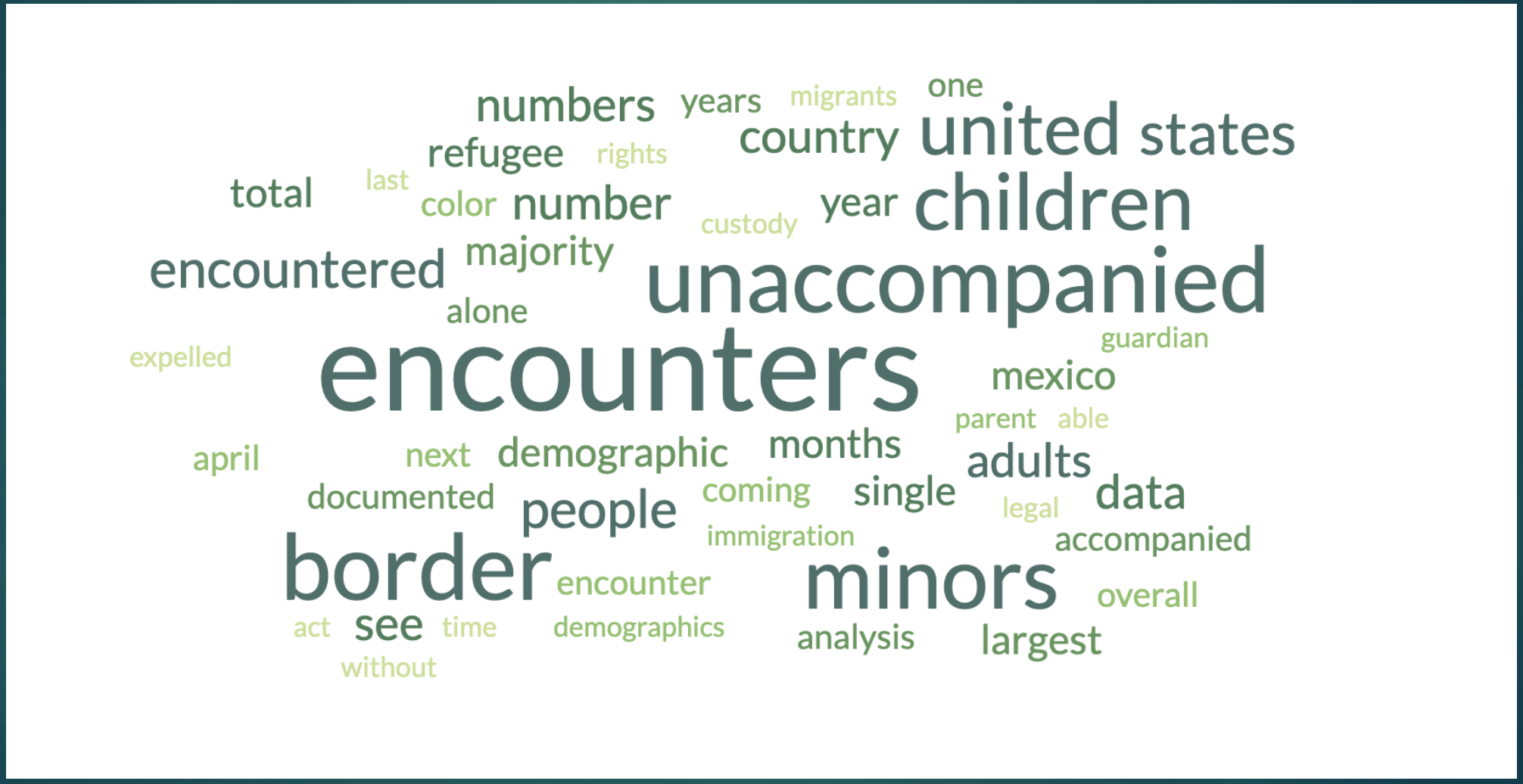
Our "powers" combined assisted us in determining our topic of choice, which hit close to our hearts...

The Dataset and its Importance

- US Customs and Border Protection page titled, "Southwest Land Border Encounters"
- Provides data on:
  - U.S. BP Title 8 apprehensions
  - OFO Title 8 inadmissibles,
  - and Title 42 expulsions

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

These Numbers Matter!



Defining Demographics:

Oliv er de Ros

Single Adults

One adult over the age of 18

Ramon Espinosa, AP

FMUA

Individuals in a Family Unit

Kim Kyung-Hoon, Reuters

Accompanied Minors:

Children arriving in the US with a parent or guardian

Photo by Lucas Jackson, Reuters

UC/Single Minors:

- No lawful immigration status in the US
- <18 years of age
- No parent/legal guardian in US or no parent/legal guardian in US available to provide care and physical custody

Defining Types of Encounters:

- **Apprehensions:** migrants are taken into custody in the United States – at least temporarily

- **Expulsions:** migrants are immediately expelled to their home country or last country of transit

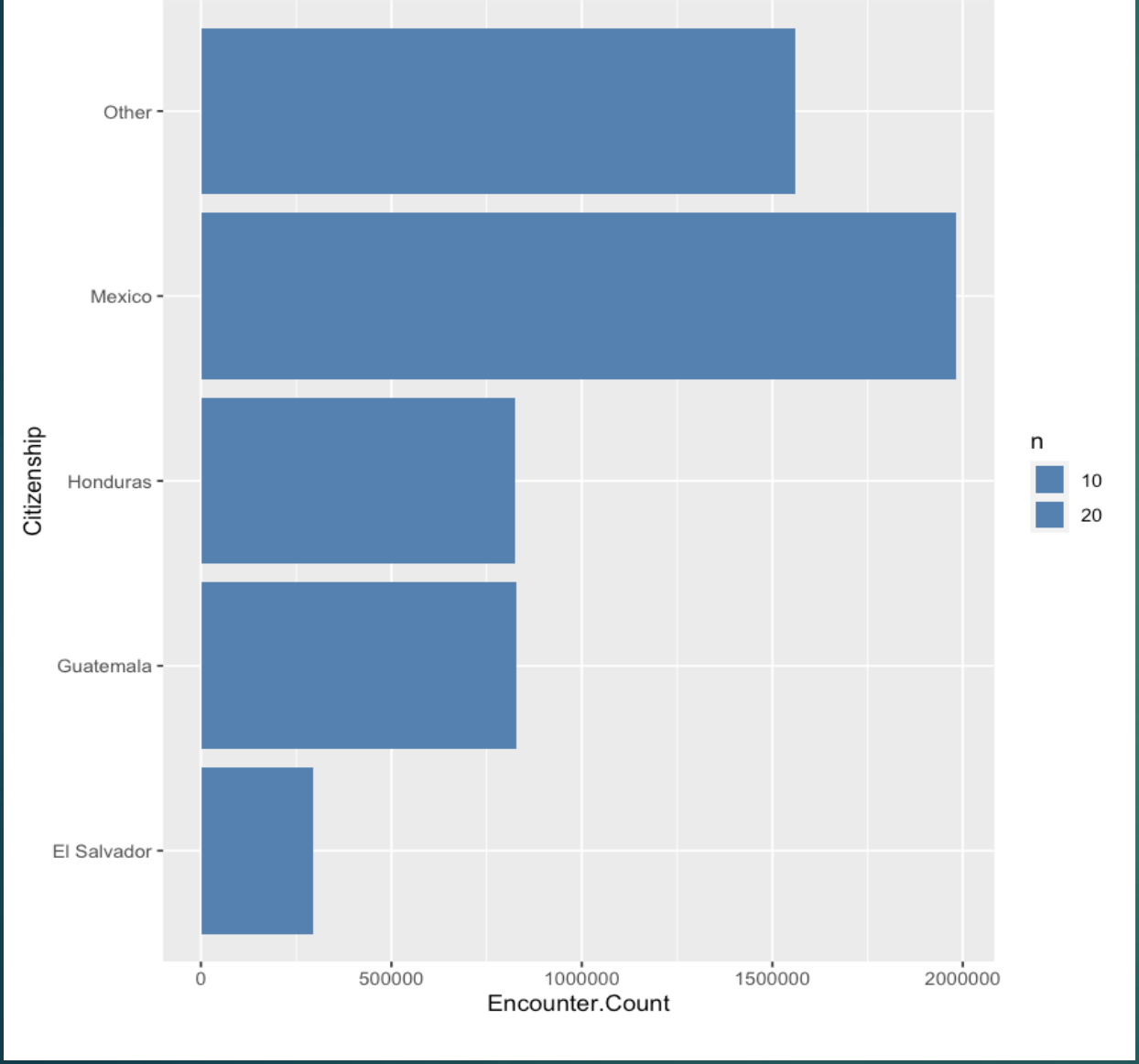
- **Inadmissible:** migrants are not able to be lawfully let into the country

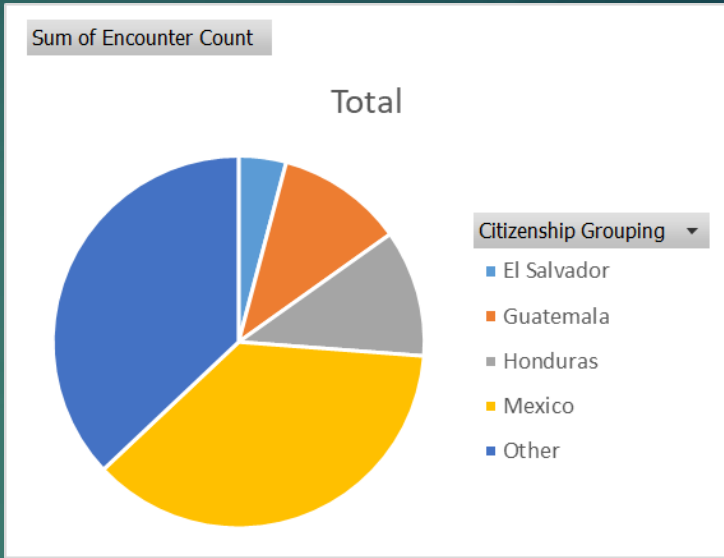
Matt York/AP

Reuters

Herika Martinez/AFP/Getty Images

Where People are Coming from…

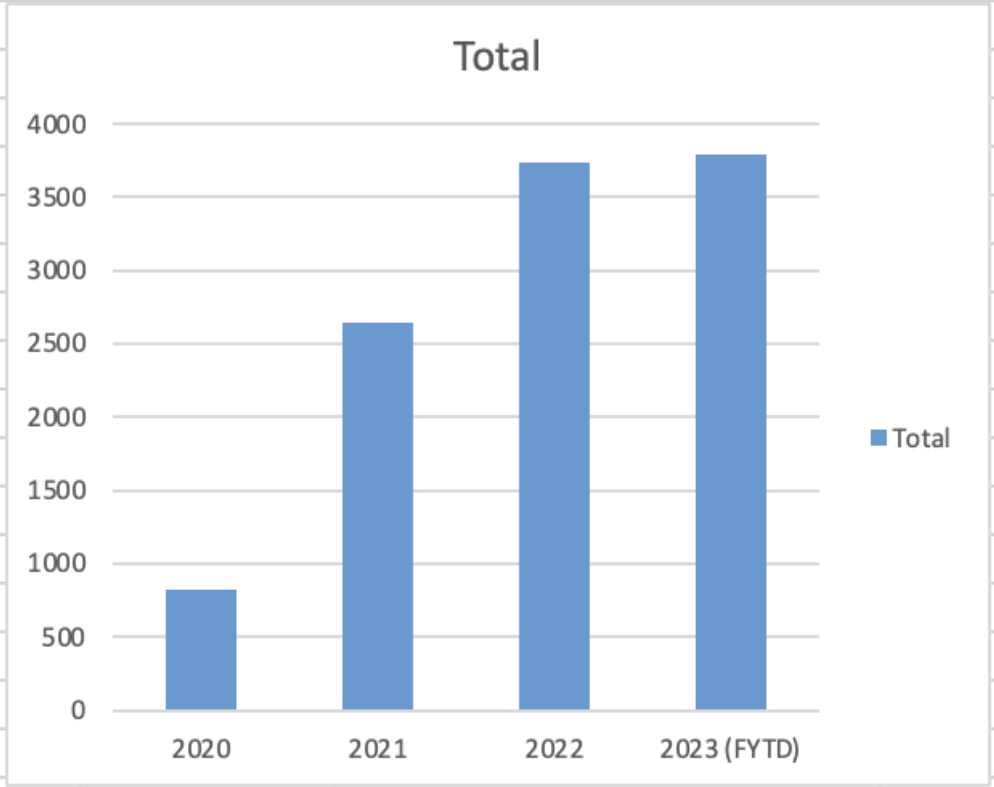




	Row Labels	Sum of Encounter Count
2	El Salvador	248184
3	Guatemala	662482
4	Honduras	662470
5	Mexico	2208196
6	Other	2222350
7	Grand Total	6003682

Time in Relation to Encounters at the Border:

Row Labels	Average of Encounter Count
2020	828.3688969
2021	2648.375573
2022	3740.477987
2023 (FYTD)	3788.26455
Grand Total	**2701.927093**

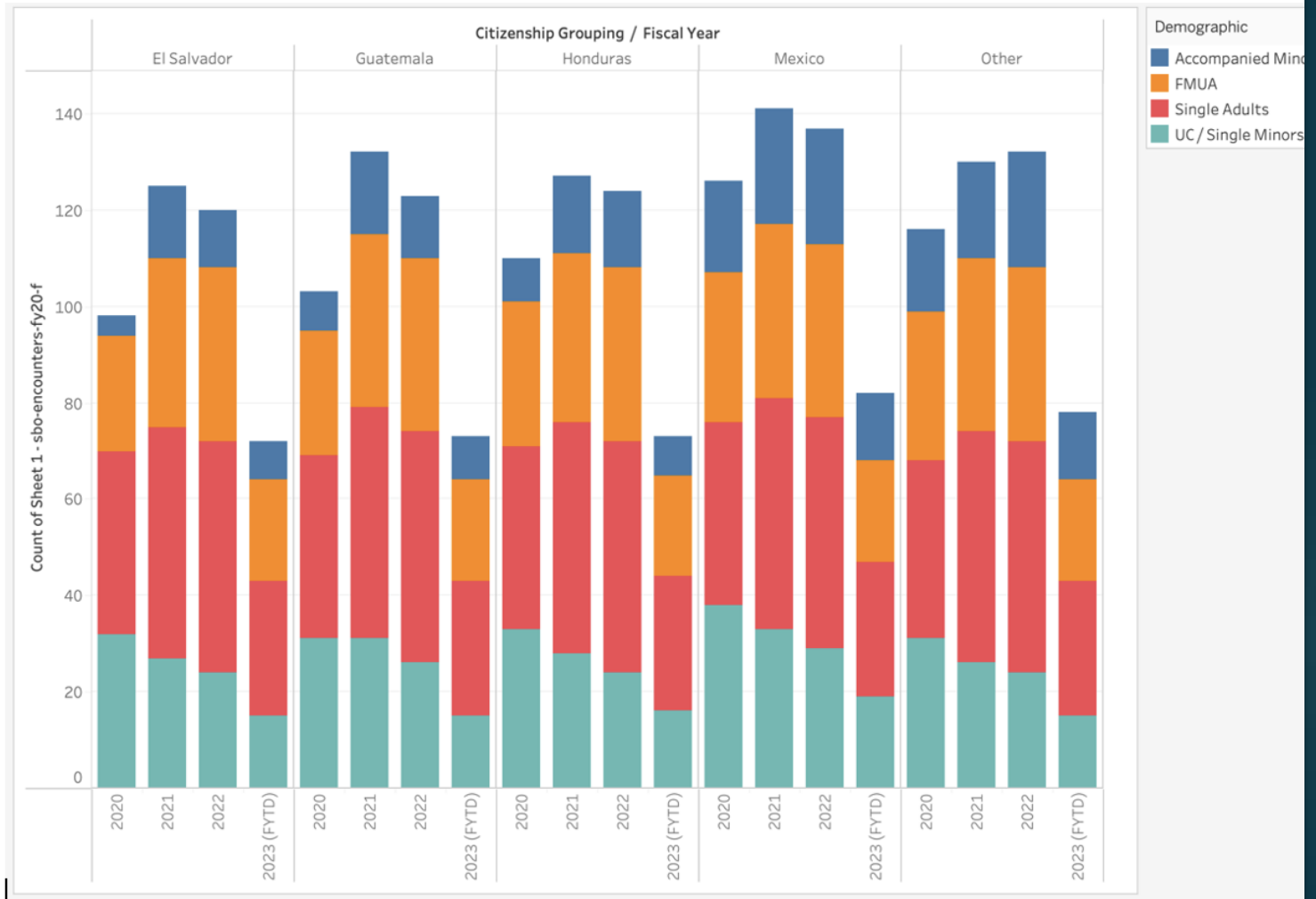


- Significant increase after 2020
- Coronavirus forced borders to be closed in April 2020 which slowed migration (Pew Research)
- Continued increase through 2023
- Total averages per year: 2,702

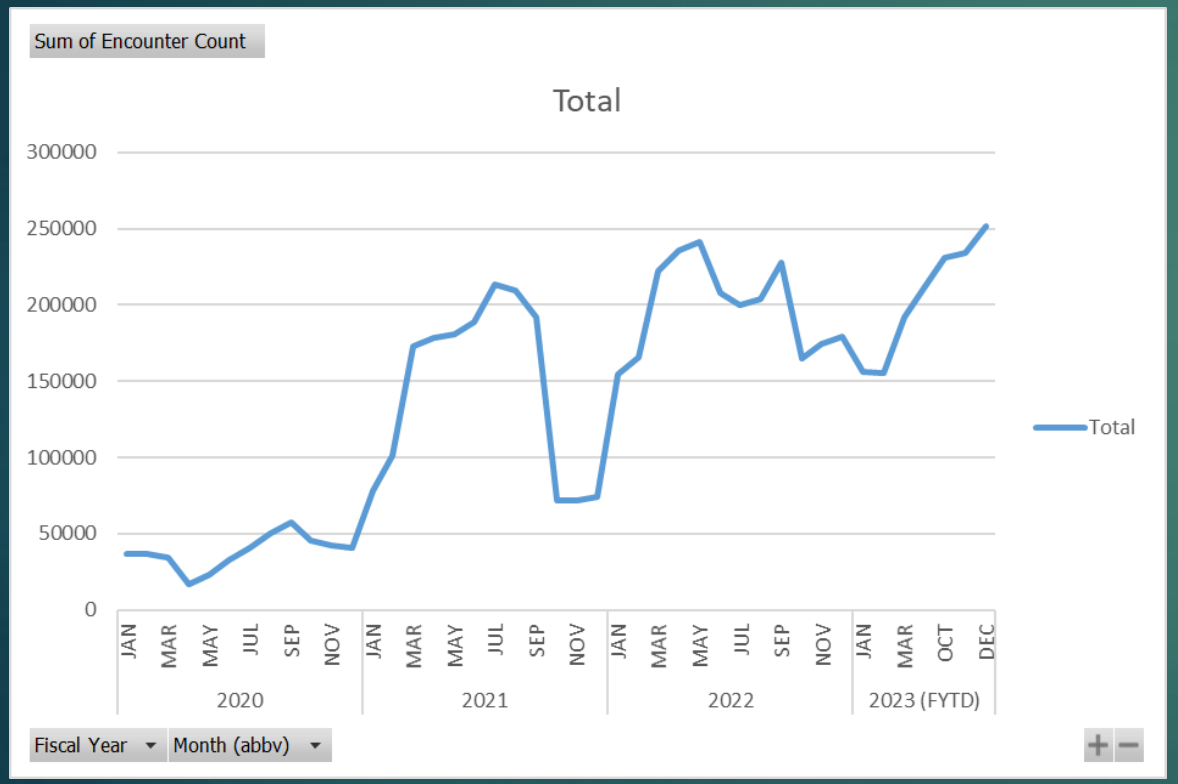
Who Came from Where and When?

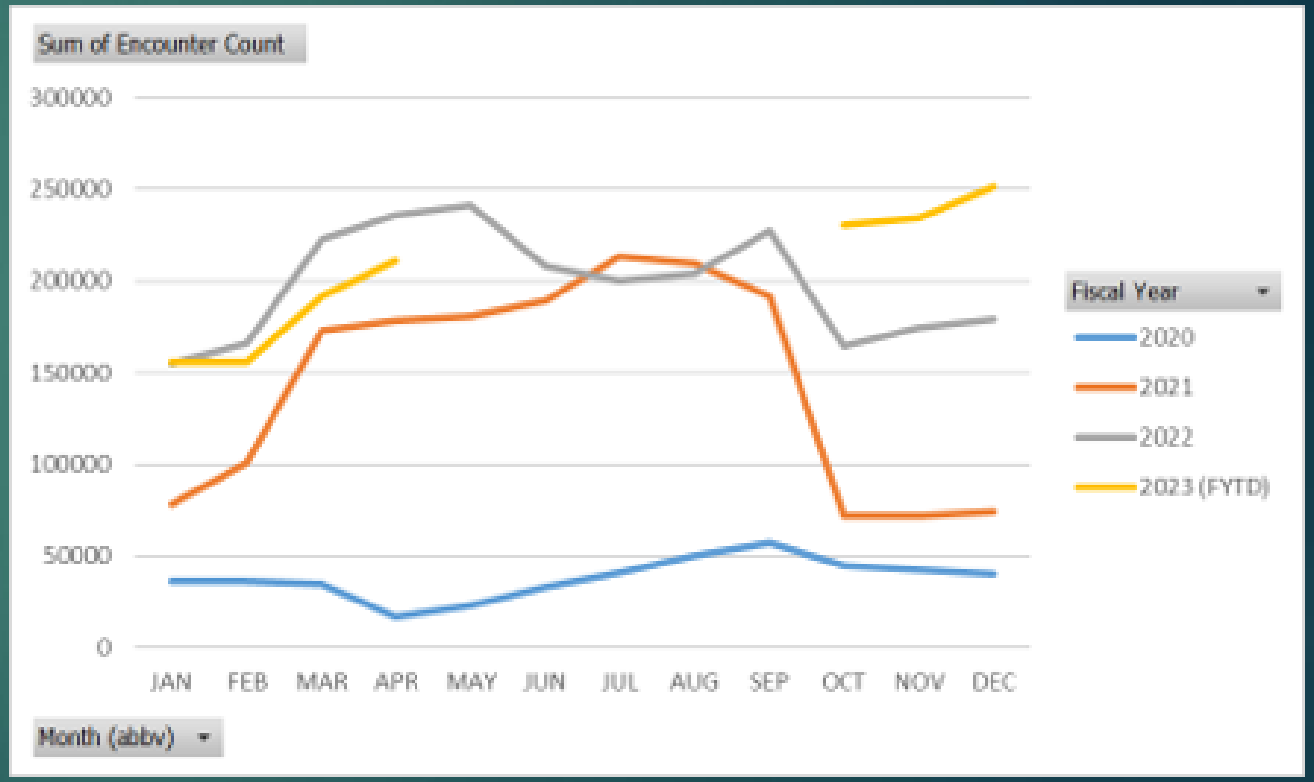
- 2021 & 2022 encounters higher
- 2023 fiscal year has not ended yet
- Demographics mirror totals
- NOT UC/Single Minors
- Fewer UC/Single Minors encountered at border over last 4 years
- Not necessarily a good thing

Tableau of Encounter Count by Citizenship and Fiscal Year

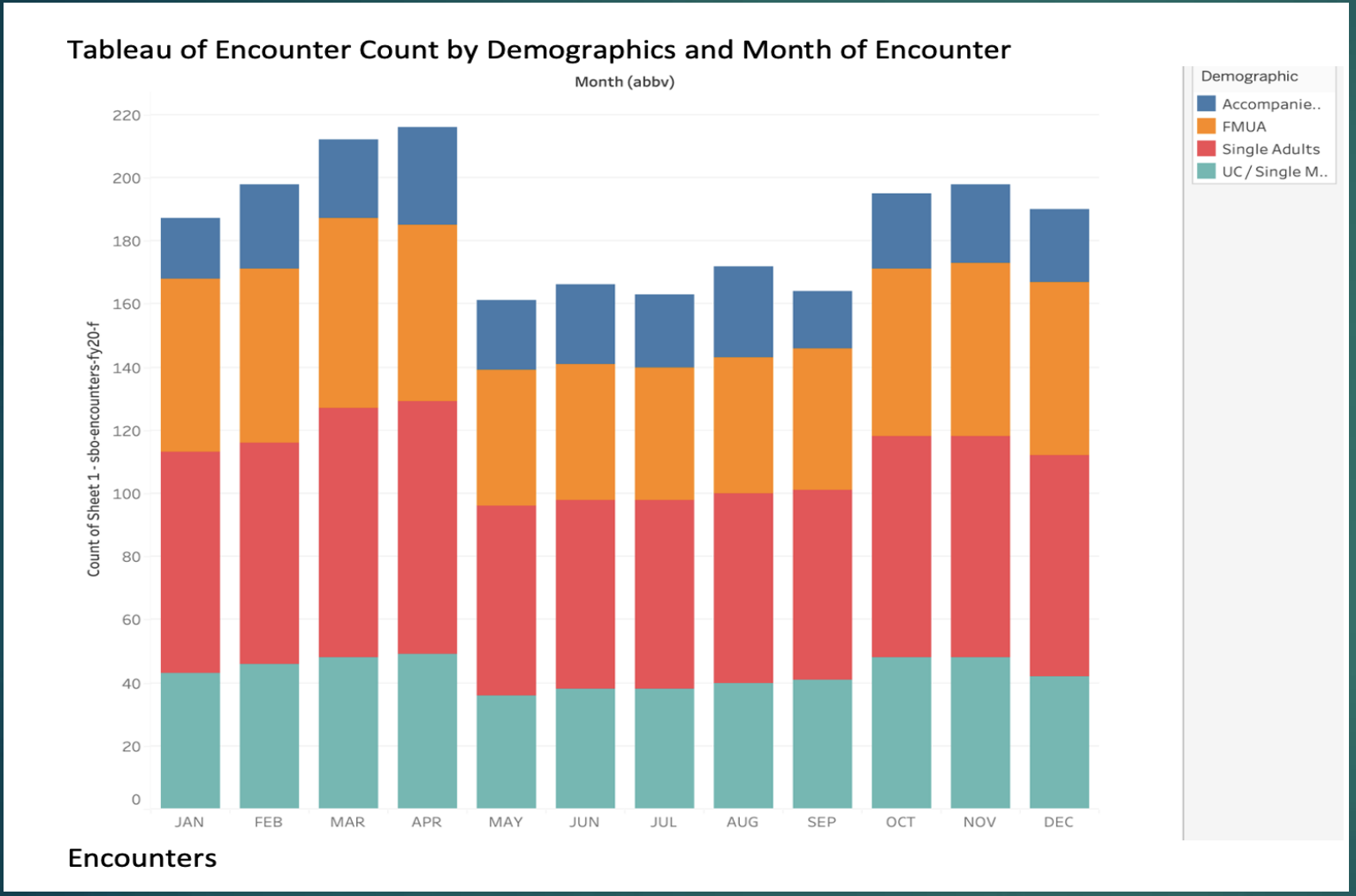


Total Encounters over Time &
Total Encounters Comparison by Year



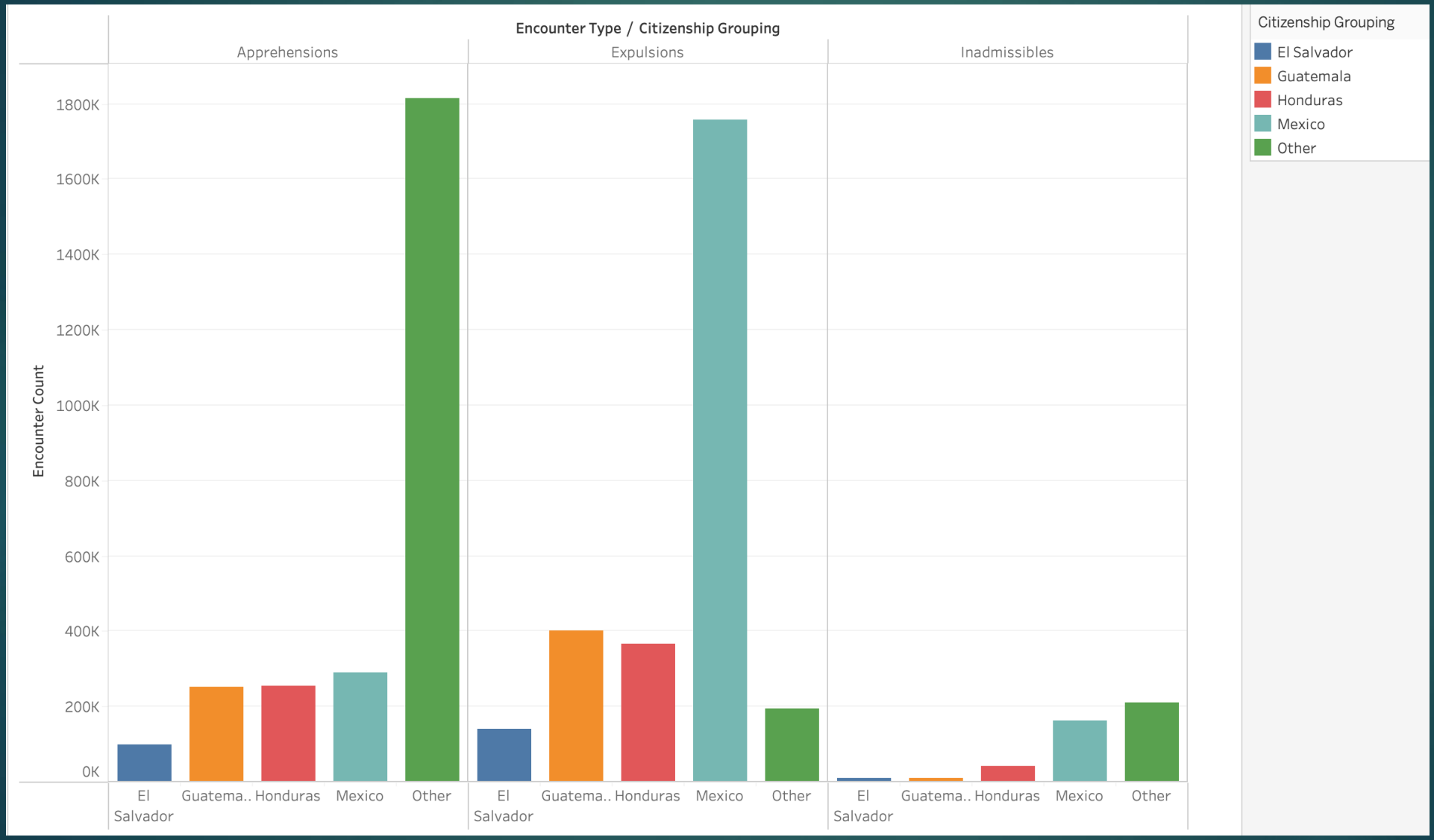


Months of Encounters

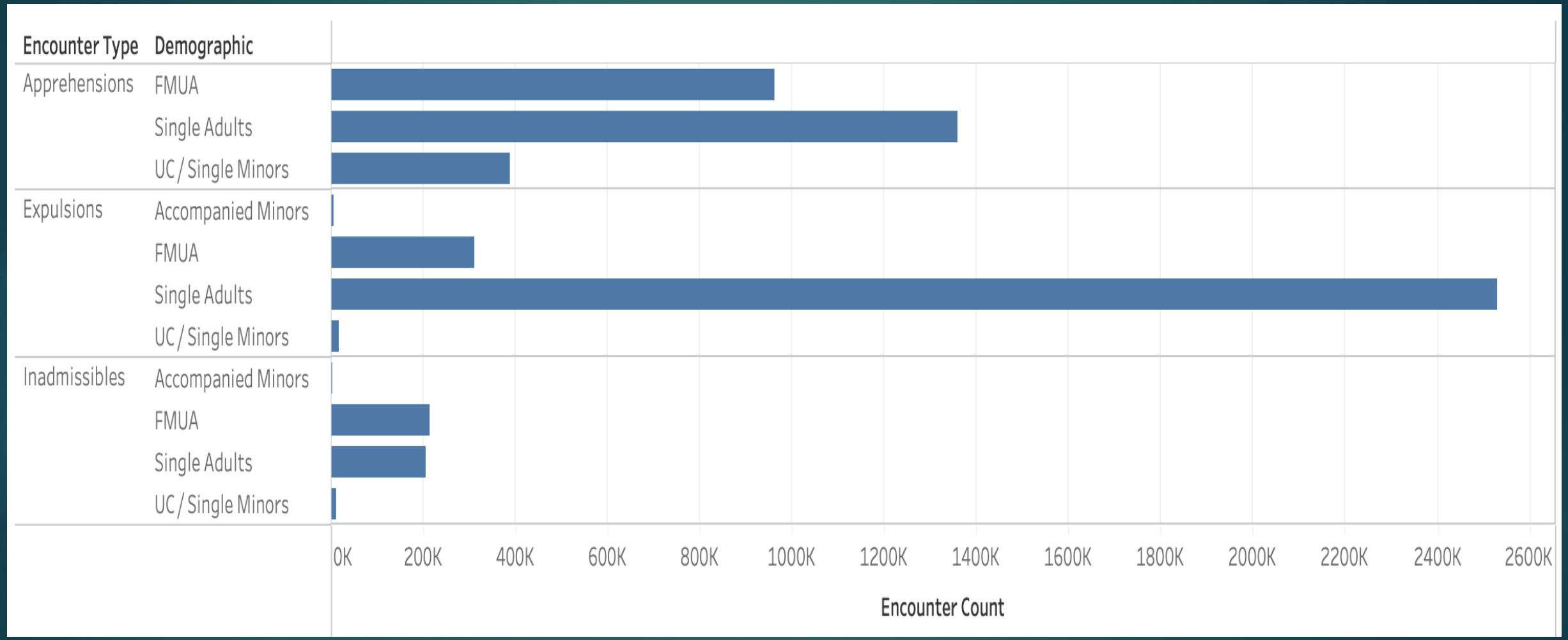


- Most encounters occur in fall and winter months
- In summer months, it is too hot / wet
- UC/Single Minors data aligns with general demographic trends.

Encounter Type by Citizenship



Demographics and Encounter Type



Encounters by Demographics and Citizenship

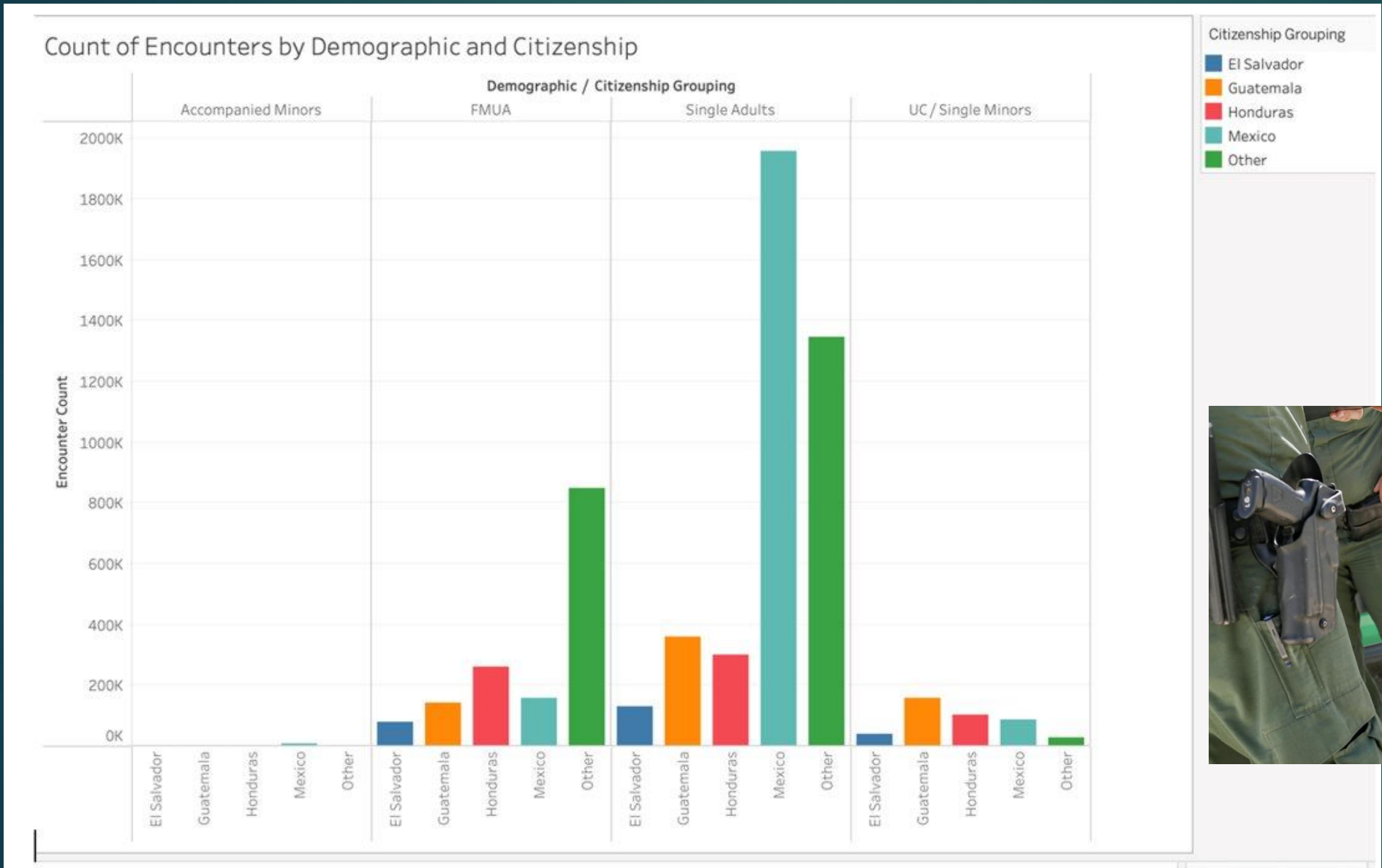


Photo by Upfront, NYT

	Month (abbv)	Encounter Count
Month (abbv)	1.0	0.0094
Encounter Count	0.0094	1.0

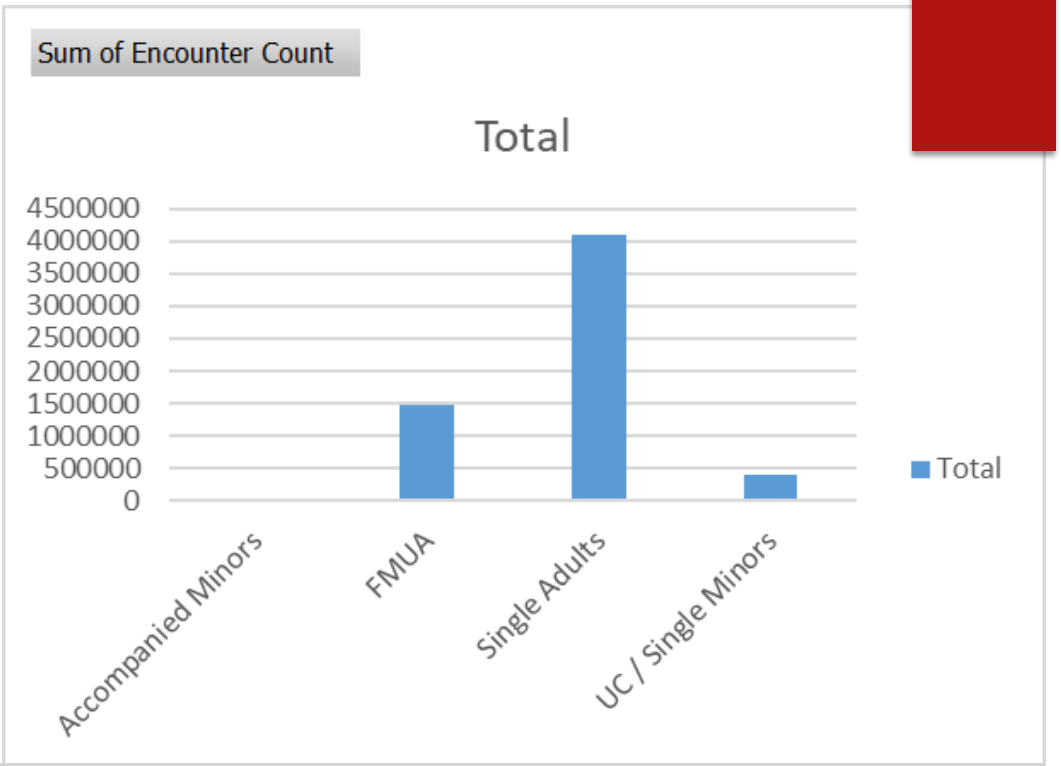
Photo by Reuters

Can we predict when the next influx of encounters will be?

No, there isn't enough correlation to predict influxes of encounters

Conclusions

- Latin Americans leaving their home country due to:
  - impending violence,
  - effects of climate change,
  - generational poverty
- **Over 6 Million Encounters**
  - Roughly 7% are UCs
- Encounters by Country:
  - **Guatemala** 11% **(UC: 38%)**
  - Mexico 37% (UC: 21%)
  - Honduras 11% (UC: 24%)
  - **El Salvador 37%** (UC: 10%)
  - "Others" 4% (UC: 7%)



Row Labels	Sum of Encounter Count
Accompanied Minors	7510
FMUA	1487613
Single Adults	4094864
UC / Single Minors	413695
Grand Total	**6003682**

Summary…

- The Dataset and its Importance
- Analysis of Data
- Conclusions

Learn more....

- "Crossing the Border: Firsthand Accounts"
- New York Times: Crossing the Border
- "El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras Situation"
- "'There Is Nothing For Us Here': Why People Keep Leaving Guatemala"
- "What asylum-seekers meet when they try to cross legally"

Questions from the Audience?

Works Cited

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). 2023, July 13. FY20 - FY23(YTD) Southwest Land Border Encounters (October) . Retrieved from https://www.cbp.gov/document/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters

- Bhargava Ray, S. *. 2016, Fall. Applying the U.S. Constitution to Foreign Asylum Seekers: Exposing a Curious, Inconsistent Practice in the Federal Courts. Marquette Law Review. Retrieved from https://scholarship.law.marquette.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=5304&context=mulr#:~:text=THE%20FEDERAL%20COURTS,-SHALINI%20BHARGAVA%20RAY&text=Specifically%2C%20they%20rely%20on%20constitutional,as%20political%20opinion%20or%20religion.

- American Immigration Council (2023, July 6). https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/

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Thank you!