

Casa Alitas Origins, Languages & Destinations Report

Kendra Lyons

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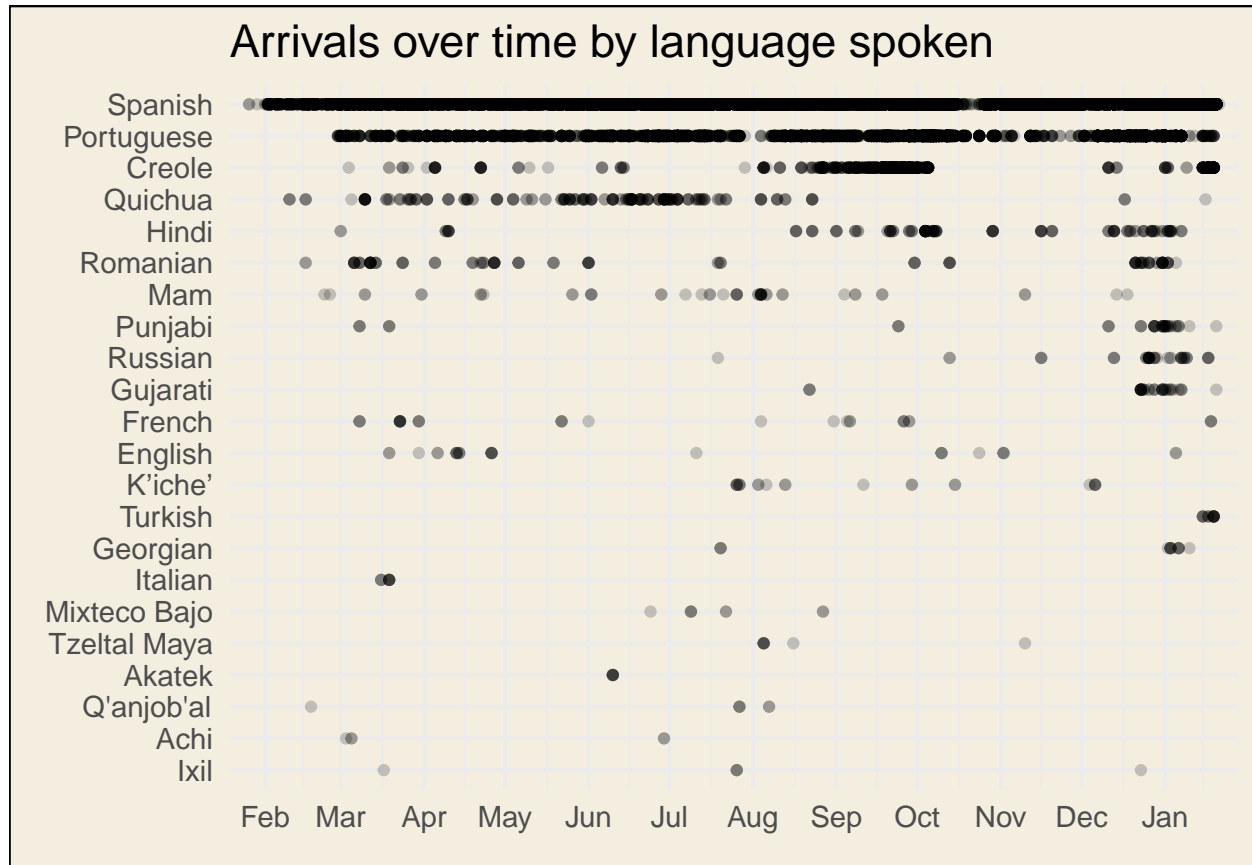
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Data Dates: 1/26/21 to 1/20/22

Data for this project were collected by volunteers and staff at Casa Alitas Welcome Center in Tucson, Arizona.

During the dates these data were collected, approximately 24,000 individuals from at least 37 different countries passed through the Welcome Center. They spoke at least 41 different Languages, and after being dropped off in Tucson or nearby towns by border authorities, they continued on to 47 states and the District of Columbia.

Languages



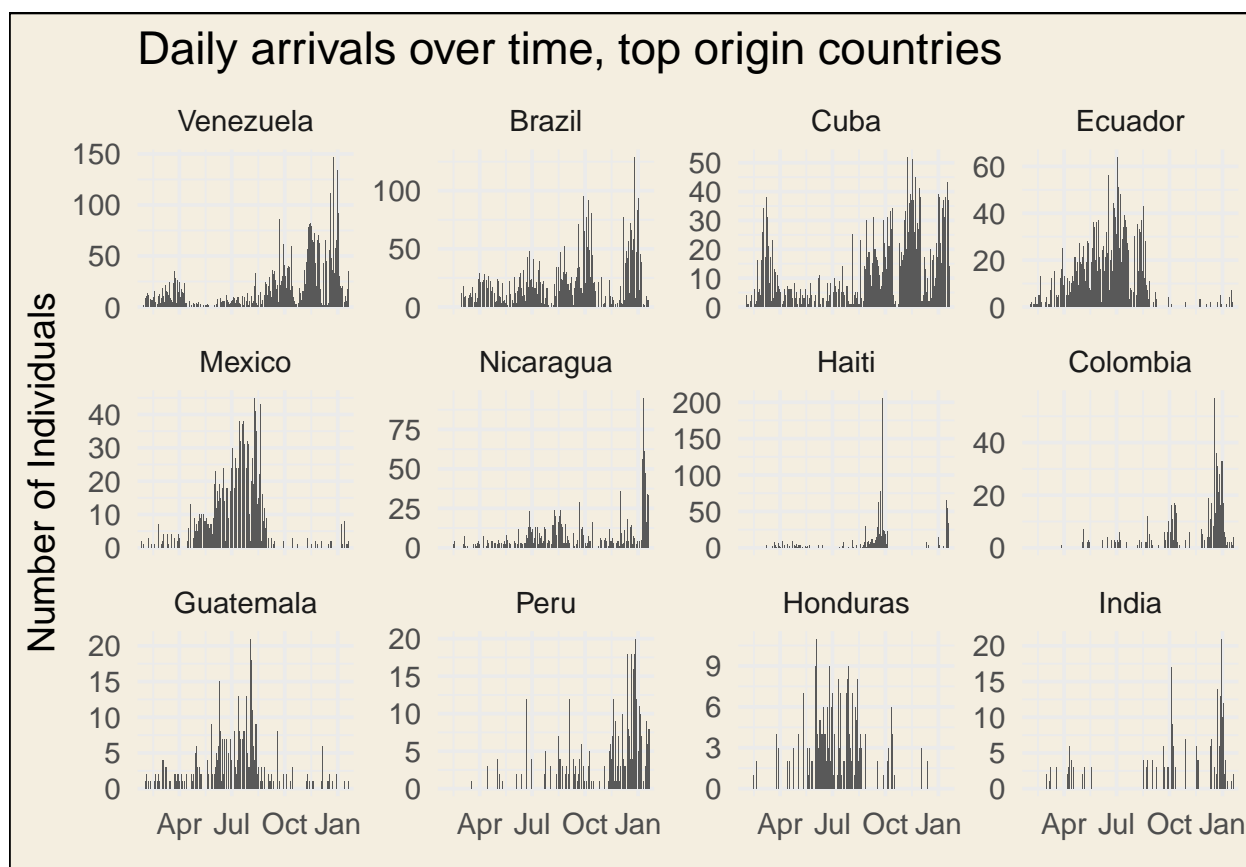
The language most commonly spoken by guests at Casa Alitas was Spanish, spoken by nearly 71% of arrivals in 2021. Brazilian Portuguese was the next most common, spoken by just under 20% of guests. Haitian Creole was spoken by around four percent, and Quichua was spoken by one percent of guests. Hindi and Romanian were the only other languages spoken by more than 100 arrivals, but smaller numbers of guests spoke many other languages including a wide variety of indigenous languages. See Table 1 for a complete list.

Table 1: Table 1: Number and Percentage of CAWC Arrivals by Language Spoken

language	n	percent
Spanish	17144	70.95
Portuguese	4731	19.58
Creole	982	4.06
Quichua	238	0.99
Hindi	147	0.61
Romanian	118	0.49
Mam	49	0.20
Punjabi	47	0.19
Russian	46	0.19
Gujarati	41	0.17
French	30	0.12
English	27	0.11
K'iche'	22	0.09

language	n	percent
Turkish	16	0.07
Georgian	14	0.06
Italian	9	0.04
Mixteco Bajo	8	0.03
Tzeltal Maya	7	0.03
Akatek	6	0.02
Q'anjob'al	6	0.02
Achi	5	0.02
Ixil	5	0.02
Mixteco	4	0.02
Nahuatl	4	0.02
Uzbek	4	0.02
Creole Portuguese	3	0.01
Patois	3	0.01
Q'eqchi'	3	0.01
Urdu	3	0.01
Albanian	2	0.01
Armenian	2	0.01
Bengali	2	0.01
Chuj	2	0.01
Mandarin	2	0.01
Maya	2	0.01
Nepali	2	0.01
Ch'ol	1	0.00
Otomi	1	0.00
Persian	1	0.00
Telugu	1	0.00
Tz'utujil	1	0.00

Countries of Origin



Venezuelans represented the largest percentage of 2021 arrivals at 22.7%, followed by Brazilians at around 20%. Cubans made up almost 14%, Ecuadorians nearly 12%, Mexicans and Nicaraguans around 7%, and Haitians less than 5%. Colombians, Guatemalans, Peruvians, Hondurans and Indians each made up between one and three percent of arrivals. For a complete list of origin countries, see Table 2.

Table 2: Table 2: Number and Percentage of CAWC Arrivals by Origin Country

country	n	percent
Venezuela	5481	22.68
Brazil	4862	20.12
Cuba	3296	13.64
Ecuador	2770	11.46
Mexico	1738	7.19
Nicaragua	1643	6.80
Haiti	1165	4.82
Colombia	758	3.14
Guatemala	491	2.03
Peru	451	1.87
Honduras	300	1.24
India	266	1.10
Romania	153	0.63
El Salvador	124	0.51
Russia	36	0.15

country	n	percent
Georgia	28	0.12
Turkey	13	0.05
Uzbekistan	9	0.04
Belize	7	0.03
Kyrgyzstan	7	0.03
Chile	6	0.02
Bolivia	4	0.02
Dominican Republic	4	0.02
Democratic Republic of Congo	3	0.01
Jamaica	3	0.01
Pakistan	3	0.01
Ukraine	3	0.01
Armenia	2	0.01
Bangladesh	2	0.01
Costa Rica	2	0.01
Kosovo	2	0.01
Nepal	2	0.01
Panama	2	0.01

Policy Effects

Policy changes played an key role in determining which migrants were allowed to enter the country at different points in time throughout the year. Three policies had especially obvious impacts. One is the **Migrant Protection Protocols** (MPP), also known as “Remain in Mexico”, which forces migrants to await U.S. immigration trials in Mexico, often under exceedingly dangerous conditions. Another important policy is **Title 42** is used to expel migrants, including many asylum-seekers, upon their arrival at the border without the opportunity to request asylum. Migrants from certain countries were eligible for **Temporary Protected Status** due to war, natural disasters or other extreme circumstances in their home countries. Countries eligible for TPS in 2021 include Venezuela, Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, El Salvador and Nepal.

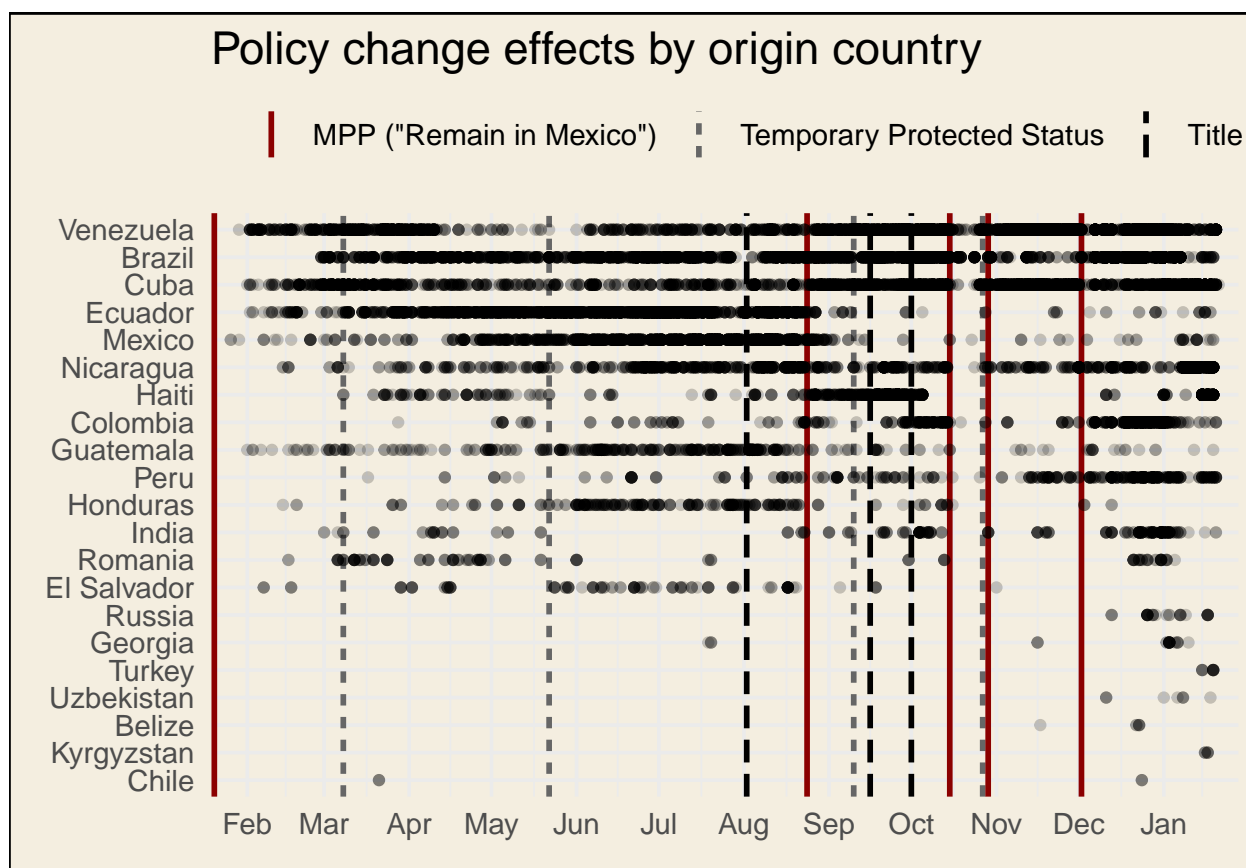


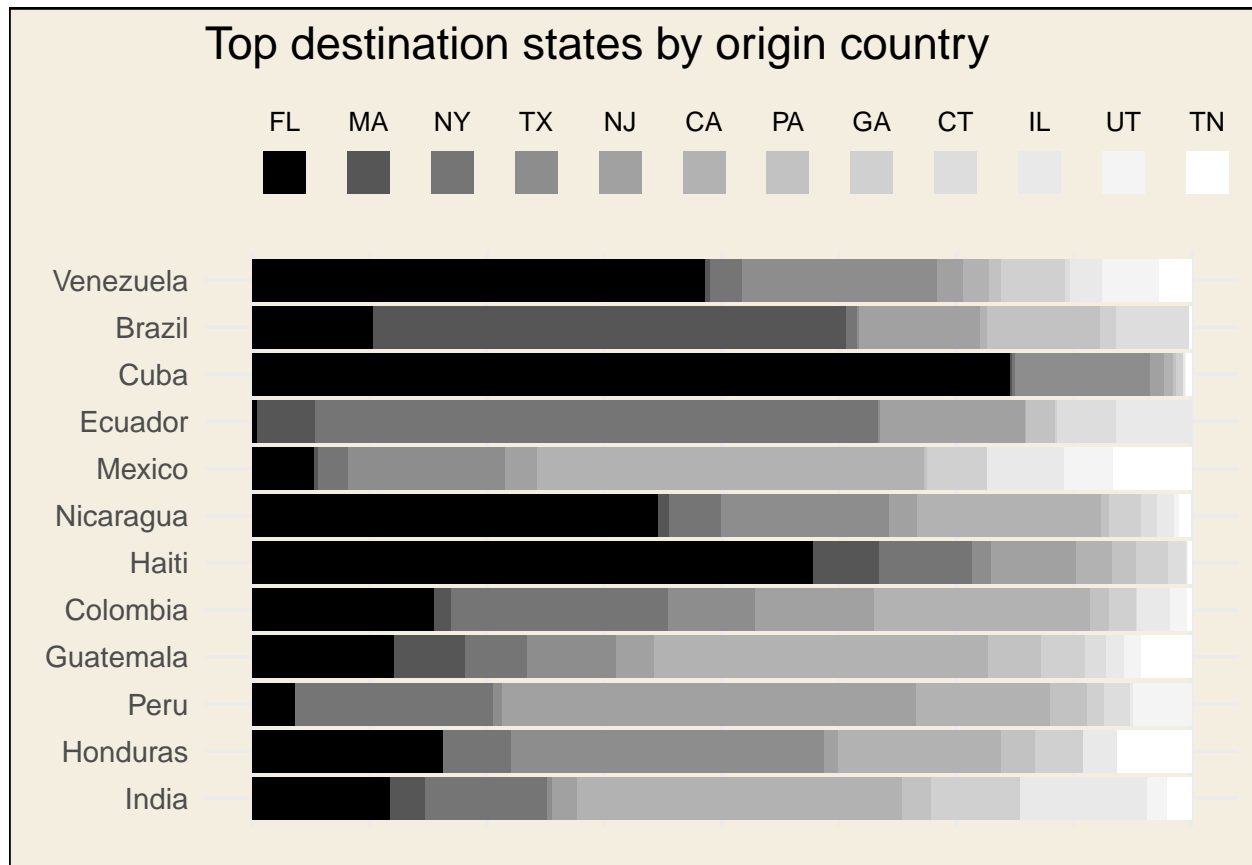
Table 3: Table 3: Immigration Policy Changes in 2021 (Source: Investigative Reporting Workshop)

date	category	description
2021-01-20	MPP ("Remain in Mexico")	Suspension of Enrollments in MPP
2021-03-08	Temporary Protected Status	Venezuelans Granted TPS
2021-05-22	Temporary Protected Status	TPS Extended for Haitians
2021-08-02	Title 42	CDC Orders Title 42 Extension
2021-08-24	MPP ("Remain in Mexico")	Court Requires Reinstatement of MPP
2021-09-10	Temporary Protected Status	TPS extended for El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras
2021-09-16	Title 42	Judge Blocks Title 42 for Families
2021-10-01	Title 42	Appeals Court Allows Use of Title 42
2021-10-15	MPP ("Remain in Mexico")	DHS Announces Restart of MPP
2021-10-27	Temporary Protected Status	Scope of TPS widened
2021-10-29	MPP ("Remain in Mexico")	Memo Ends MPP
2021-12-02	MPP ("Remain in Mexico")	MPP Resumes

Origins by Destination States

There were some strong relationships between certain origin countries and destination states. The most common destination for Venezuelans, Cubans and Nicaraguans was Florida, followed by Texas. Haitians also primarily went to Florida, but were more likely to go to New York or New Jersey than to Texas. Some Brazilians went to Florida, but they were much more likely to travel to the East coast, especially to Massachusetts, but also to Pennsylvania, New Jersey and, to a lesser extent, Connecticut. Ecuadorians

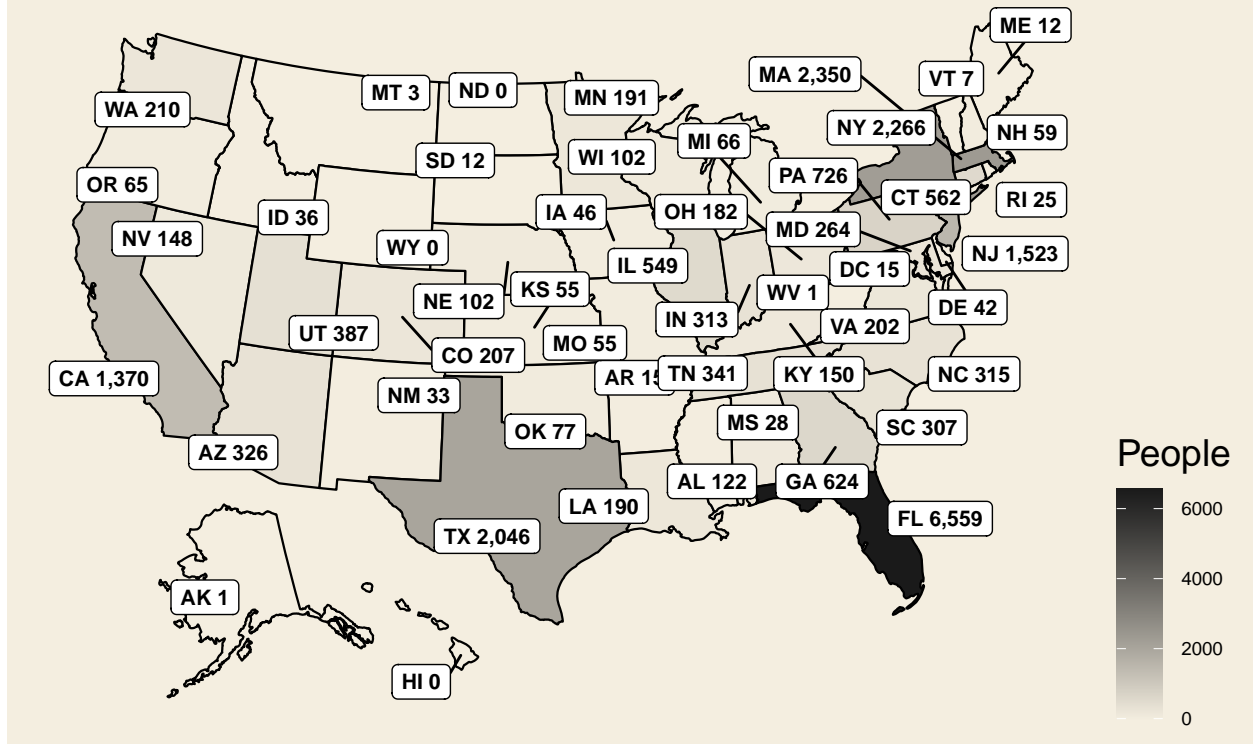
and Peruvians were also usually destined the East coast, mainly New York and New Jersey. Mexicans most commonly went to California, followed by Texas. Colombians were about equally likely to go to New York, Florida or California. Guatemalans and Indians both commonly went to California, and Hondurans were most likely to go to Texas.



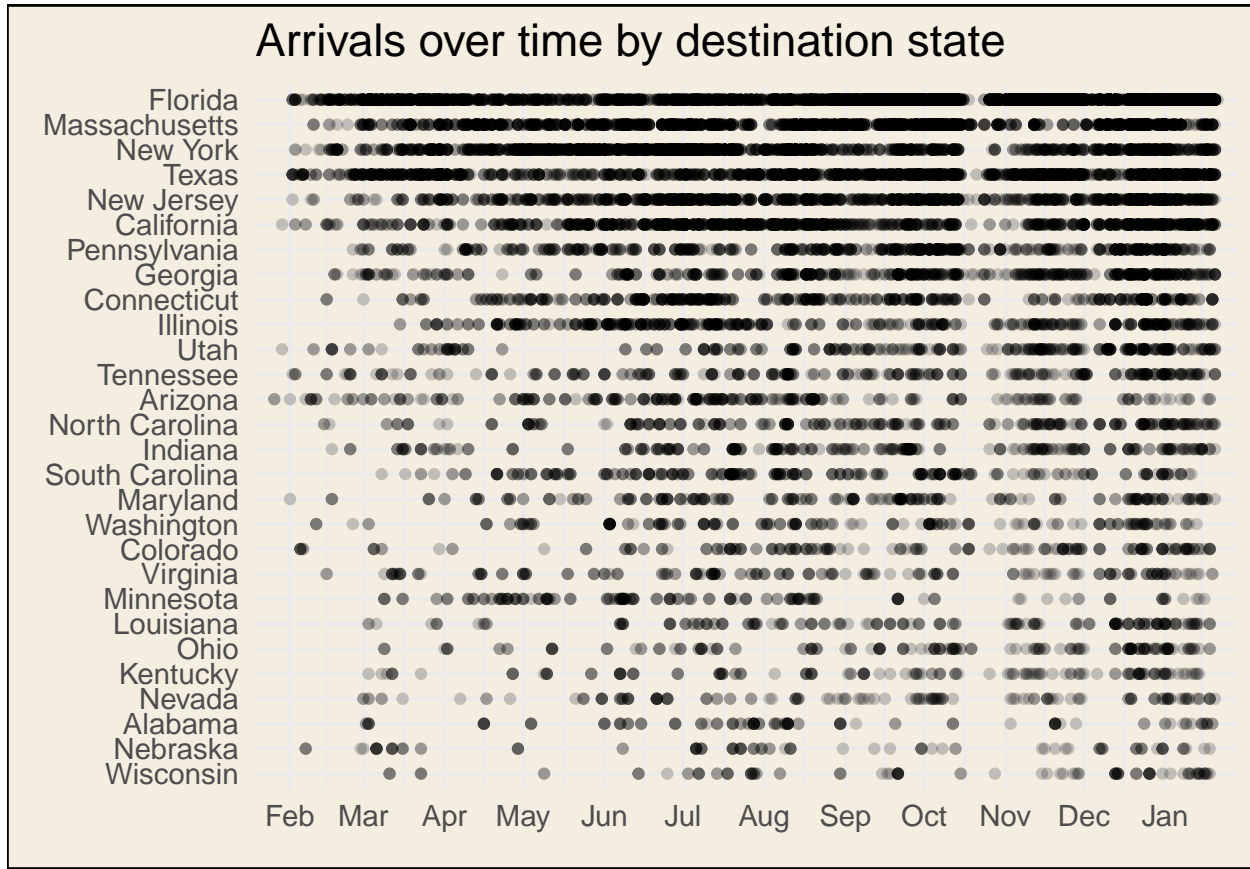
Destination States

By far, the most popular destination of Casa Alitas guests was Florida, with about 27% travelling there. Massachusetts and New York were the next most popular, with 9.7% and 9.4%, respectively. Texas had 8.5%, New Jersey 6.3% and California 5.7%. Three percent of guests went to Pennsylvania, 2.6% to Georgia, and 2.3% to both Connecticut and Illinois. No other states received more than 2% of arrivals, and only three states had zero arrivals (Hawaii, North Dakota and Wyoming). See Table 4 for a list of numbers and percentages of destinations for all 2021 arrivals

Destination states of Casa Alitas guests



Logically, the most people went to the most populated states, where they were most likely to know someone willing to be their legal sponsor in the U.S. for the duration of the asylum process. Things didn't always go smoothly with sponsors, though. Sometimes they backed out, leaving guests without a place to go. When that happened, people at Alitas tried to locate another sponsor for them.



At least one guest traveled to every single state except Hawaii, North Dakota and Wyoming. Twenty-eight states received more than 100 migrants who passed through Casa Alitas during their journey.

Table 4: Table 4: Number and Percentage of CAWC Arrivals by Destination State

state	state_abb	n	percent
Florida	FL	6559	27.14
Massachusetts	MA	2350	9.73
New York	NY	2266	9.38
Texas	TX	2046	8.46
New Jersey	NJ	1523	6.30
California	CA	1370	5.67
Pennsylvania	PA	726	3.00
Georgia	GA	624	2.58
Connecticut	CT	562	2.33
Illinois	IL	549	2.27
Utah	UT	387	1.60
Tennessee	TN	341	1.41
Arizona	AZ	326	1.35
North Carolina	NC	315	1.30
Indiana	IN	313	1.30
South Carolina	SC	307	1.27
Maryland	MD	264	1.09
Washington	WA	210	0.87
Colorado	CO	207	0.86

state	state_abb	n	percent
Virginia	VA	202	0.84
Minnesota	MN	191	0.79
Louisiana	LA	190	0.79
Ohio	OH	182	0.75
Kentucky	KY	150	0.62
Nevada	NV	148	0.61
Alabama	AL	122	0.50
Nebraska	NE	102	0.42
Wisconsin	WI	102	0.42
Oklahoma	OK	77	0.32
Michigan	MI	66	0.27
Oregon	OR	65	0.27
New Hampshire	NH	59	0.24
Kansas	KS	55	0.23
Missouri	MO	55	0.23
Iowa	IA	46	0.19
Delaware	DE	42	0.17
Idaho	ID	36	0.15
New Mexico	NM	33	0.14
Mississippi	MS	28	0.12
Rhode Island	RI	25	0.10
Arkansas	AR	15	0.06
District of Columbia	DC	15	0.06
Maine	ME	12	0.05
South Dakota	SD	12	0.05
Vermont	VT	7	0.03
Montana	MT	3	0.01
Alaska	AK	1	0.00
West Virginia	WV	1	0.00

To Learn More

- **Arizona Public Media Video Feature:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FUyY0_exoo
- **Casa Alitas Program Website:** <https://www.casaalitas.org/>
- **Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona:** <https://www.ccs-soaz.org/agencies-ministries/detail/alitas-aid-for-migrant-women-and-children>

Asylum

- **Southern Border Communities Coalition:** https://www.southernborder.org/border_lens_asylum_seekers_at_the_border
- **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services:** <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/asylum/obtaining-asylum-in-the-united-states>
- **Syracuse University:** <https://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/667/>

Migration Policy Changes

- **Boundless:** <https://www.boundless.com/blog/biden-immigration-tracker/>

- **Center for Migration Studies:** <https://cmsny.org/biden-immigration-executive-actions/>
- **Immigration Policy Tracking Project:** <https://immpolicytracking.org/home/>
- **Investigative Reporting Workshop:** <https://investigativereportingworkshop.org/news/timeline-bidens-immigration-policy/>
- **Lawfare Blog:** <https://www.lawfareblog.com/president-bidens-immigration-executive-actions-recap#Asylum>
- **Pew Research:** <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/01/11/key-facts-about-u-s-immigration-policies-and-bidens-proposed-changes/>

“Remain in Mexico” (MPP)

- **Department of Homeland Security:** <https://www.dhs.gov/migrant-protection-protocols>
- **Migration Policy Institute:** <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/court-order-relaunch-remain-in-mexico>
- **Reuters:** <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/biden-administration-issues-new-memo-ending-trump-remain-mexico-policy-2021-10-29/>

Temporary Protected Status

- **Federal Register:** <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/09/10/2021-19617/continuation-of-documentation-for-beneficiaries-of-temporary-protected-status-designations-for-el>
- **National Immigration Forum:** <https://immigrationforum.org/article/fact-sheet-temporary-protected-status/>
- **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services:** <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>

Title 42

- **American Immigration Council:** <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/guide-title-42-expulsions-border>
- **CBS News:** <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigration-title-42-senate-bill-border-expulsions/>
- **Deseret News:** <https://www.deseret.com/2022/4/8/23015106/what-is-title-42-and-why-does-biden-plan-to-end-it-your-questions-answered-us-mexico-border>
- **El Paso Matters:** <https://elpasomatters.org/2021/10/08/timeline-how-title-42-came-to-be-used-on-asylum-seekers/>
- **Puente Arizona:** <https://puenteaz.org/title42/>
- **Washington Office on Latin America:** <https://www.wola.org/analysis/a-tragic-milestone-20000th-migrant-deported-to-haiti-since-biden-inauguration/>

News

- **Boundless:** <https://www.boundless.com/blog/boundless-weekly-immigration-news/>
- **FEMA Funds for Migrant Aid:** https://tucson.com/news/local/pima-county-uncertain-federal-funds-to-support-asylum-seekers-will-continue/article__1d07a4c8-901d-11ec-8e6c-a37e4491dcf4.html
- **Human Rights Watch:** <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/05/mexico-abuses-against-asylum-seekers-us-border>
- **International Rescue Committee:** <https://www.rescue.org/article/what-happening-us-southern-border>
 - En español: <https://www.rescue.org/article/que-esta-pasando-en-la-frontera-sur-de-estados-unidos>
- **Tucson Sentinel:** https://www.tucsonsentinel.com/local/report/030122_casa_alitas_budget/pima-county-spending-13-million-per-month-shelter-migrants-released-by-dhs/
- **Tucson Weekly:** <https://www.tucsonweekly.com/tucson/crowded-house-casa-alitas-faces-increased-pressure-as-more-migrants-seek-refugee-status/Content?oid=30449369>