



A Narrative Toolkit | February 2024

The Impact of the 100-mile Border Enforcement Zone on Mexican Americans in Arizona

Dr. Nilda Flores-González and Dr. Emir Estrada in collaboration with The Im/migrant Well-Being Scholar Collaborative



INTRODUCTION	3
PURPOSE	3
Storytelling and Advocacy	3
How to Use This Toolkit	4
KEY TAKEAWAYS	4
TALKING POINTS ON THE 100-MILE BORDER ENFORCEMENT ZONE	5
Talking Points	5
Statistics	5
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	6
What are "secondary inspections"? Could you expand on the nature of these inspections?	6
What are "Prevention Through Deterrence" policies?	6
What is a "low-intensity conflict zone"?	6
Although the 100-mile border zone encompasses a significant portion of the United States, there are only a handful of states that border Mexico, including Arizona. Do similar experience exist in other states? If not, is this an issue that should be addressed nationally or would it be better handled at a state-level?	
What is the value of a study focused on young Latino adults as compared to the general Latin population when evaluating the impact of the border zone?	10 7
The research highlights the testimony of a tragic event occurring where a person trying to creat the border was seen dead. How common are tragedies like this? Are there a significant amou of deaths in border crossings?	
CBP agents can often be a part of the community that they patrol as mentioned in the researce paper. If there was to be a move to demilitarize these areas, how do we ensure that these communities aren't negatively affected through possible job loss or other economic impacts'	
How do the experiences of participants change when going further into the 100-mile border zone? Are most negative experiences seen closer to the border or are they equally as present throughout this whole area?	t 8
Since SENTRI programs expedite the process of going through these inspection zones, could the program be a possible solution to the negative experience felt among Latinos?	d e
What are some steps that DHS can take to address corruption and abuse of power by CBP personnel?	S
What are some viable policies that could serve as alternatives to the 100-mile border enforcement zone?	S
NARRATIVE REPOSITORY	10
Everyday Life in Arizona's Low-Intensity Conflict Border Zone	10
Criminalizing Collateral Subjects in a Low-intensity Conflict Zone	12
Coping Strategies to Navigate Interactions with CBP	13
DRAFT SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS	15
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	15



INTRODUCTION

This toolkit summarizes new academic research published in the American Behavioral Scientist, "The Impact of the 100-mile Border Enforcement Zone on Mexican Americans in Arizona," examining how immigration enforcement policies and practices impact Latino citizens living near the U.S.-Mexico border. It serves as a resource for policymakers, advocates, activists, media, and the public interested in understanding the experiences of U.S. border residents subjected to harsh, racialized policing under the pretext of immigration enforcement.

The toolkit highlights research findings from over 150 in-depth interviews with Latino young adults in Arizona. Many participants reside within the 100-mile border enforcement zone, where Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents have broad authority to stop and search private citizens without a warrant.

While border security measures are often presented as targeting unauthorized immigrants, U.S. citizens – particularly Black and Brown Latinos – disproportionately bear the brunt of aggressive enforcement tactics. Under policies expanding CBP's mandate since the 1980s, Latino citizens near the border are questioned, racially profiled, and have their constitutional rights violated regularly.

This toolkit shares Latino citizens' firsthand accounts of navigating life in what they experience as a "low-intensity conflict zone" in Arizona's militarized border towns. Their stories reveal how omnipresent immigration enforcement seeps into daily life for border residents, eroding their sense of security, safety, and belonging.

By summarizing this research in an accessible format, the toolkit aims to highlight the damaging collateral consequences of border militarization on Latino citizens. It demonstrates the need for oversight, reform, and accountability of CBP to protect the rights of all U.S. border residents.

PURPOSE

This toolkit takes academic research and compiles the real stories of Latino citizens in Arizona's border enforcement zone to show how aggressive immigration enforcement has affected their lives. These citizens' accounts illustrate how immigration tactics framed as targeting "illegal immigrants" regularly violate the rights of U.S. citizens - particularly Latinos. Their words demonstrate the human impact of unconstrained border policing on border residents. All names have been changed to protect their privacy.



Storytelling and Advocacy

Storytelling is a key part of persuasive advocacy. Hearing directly from those affected by policies can influence lawmakers and the public to support reform. Telling stories:

- Lends credibility to the real-world impact of policies.
- Provides vital context about effects on individuals' lives.
- Puts a human face on problems to inspire urgent solutions.
- Reveals unintended consequences of laws to generate alternative approaches.

How to Use This Toolkit

Pair the talking points below with Latino citizens' accounts of racial profiling, intense questioning and secondary inspections, and mistreatment by border authorities:

Advocates can share these stories when meeting with lawmakers, press, and voters - especially constituents' narratives when meeting with policymakers who represent border residents.

Congress members/staffers can cite the research and highlight these accounts in speeches, forums, and reports to humanize the issues.

Press should contextualize border stories with citizens' experiences and reference the study's findings. To speak with the researchers or willing participants of the study, contact The Collaborative (admin@iwbcollab.org).

Activists can employ the research and narratives as evidence-based advocacy tools.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Latino citizens near the border experience immigration enforcement as an **intrusive** daily presence.
- Participants describe frequent interactions with border patrol at checkpoints, crossings, and in their communities, which have resulted in damaged property and hours of wasted time.
- Border residents are **racially profiled** and face **dual criminalization** as both "illegal immigrants" and "drug smugglers" by border agents leading to heavier and more insidious policing of Brown people, regardless of their citizenship.
- Despite proof of citizenship, participants have their **rights violated** via invasive questioning, searches, and accusations.
- Strategies like Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI) cards to expedite crossings provide little protection from profiling for Latinos.
- Mistreatment by border patrol provokes feelings of fear, frustration, and lack of recourse among Latino citizens.



- Harassment from CBP erodes the sense of security, safety, and belonging of Latino US citizens living in the border enforcement zone, especially those in border towns.
- Ultimately, Prevention Through Deterrence immigration enforcement measures impinge on the lives of Latinos and treat them as second-class citizens.

TALKING POINTS ON THE 100-MILE BORDER ENFORCEMENT ZONE

Below are some talking points and statistics on the 100-mile border enforcement zone and findings from the peer-reviewed article, "The Impact of the 100-mile Border Enforcement Zone on Mexican Americans in Arizona" by Dr. Nilda Flores-González and Dr. Emir Estrada. For more information on research and advocacy efforts around the 100-mile border enforcement zone, see Section: Additional Resources of this toolkit.

Talking Points

- Latino citizens living near the border regularly endure racial profiling, harassment, and rights violations by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents.
- Despite proof of citizenship, participants report persistent questioning, interrogation, and unfounded searches both at the border and at checkpoints located dozens of miles away from the border.
- CBP officers often automatically ask Latino citizens to "prove" their citizenship based on discriminatory assumptions about race and legal status.
- Strategies like using "SENTRI" cards to expedite crossings provide little real protection for Latino citizens who still report profiling based on race/ethnicity.
- Participants express fear, frustration, and lack of recourse when faced with mistreatment by CBP agents acting under the pretext of immigration enforcement.
- Heavy CBP presence and harassment in border zones erodes Latino citizens' sense of security, safety, and belonging in their own country.
- Ultimately, immigration enforcement near the border imposes a second-class existence on Latino citizens as their homes are turned into "low-intensity conflict zones," defined by constant military presence and intervention.
- Reforms and oversight are needed to curb CBP overreach, protect rights, and prevent the normalization of mistreatment against Latino citizens.

Statistics

- Nearly 3 million U.S. citizens live within the 100-mile border enforcement zone in Arizona.
- Over 40% of Arizona's population resides in this zone, including cities like Tucson and Yuma.
- The study sample included 151 Latino young adults ages 18-29, most of whom are second-generation citizens, from cities across Arizona.
- Customs and Border Protection interacts with 27 million U.S. citizens annually at southwest border checkpoints.



- 96% of all individuals crossing the U.S.-Mexico border annually are U.S. citizens.
- 60% of CBP detentions at checkpoints are of non-deportable U.S. citizens, disproportionately Latinos.

OUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What are "secondary inspections"? Could you expand on the nature of these inspections?

Secondary inspections refer to instances where people are stopped at border checkpoints or crossings and then subjected to additional scrutiny and searches by CBP agents. After a first routine inspection of their identification documents, Latino citizens report being pulled aside for further interrogation about their citizenship status, travel plans, etc. Their vehicles are also often searched for contraband or drugs without cause, sometimes involving drug-sniffing dogs.

These secondary inspections can take over an hour and involve extensive questioning, accusations of criminality, and even destruction of personal property and vehicles. Participants feel racially profiled and targeted by CBP agents for secondary inspections based solely on their ethnicity or whether they "look Mexican." The practice demonstrates that proof of citizenship affords little protection from discrimination for Latinos in the border enforcement zone.

What are "Prevention Through Deterrence" policies?

Since the 1990s, Prevention Through Deterrence (PTD) has been the main United States border enforcement strategy. It aims to deter unauthorized immigration by making crossing extremely difficult and dangerous. PTD escalated border security infrastructure, including expanding border fencing, deploying advanced surveillance technology, and increasing patrol agents.

This "prevention" hardened the border zone. The resulting hazardous terrain leads to injury, death, and exploitation of migrants by smugglers. Critics argue PTD uses exposure to natural hazards as an instrument of "deterrence." However, in reality, it channels migrants to remote areas, pushing fatalities higher. Despite its heavy costs, data shows PTD has not deterred migrants but instead increased death and suffering.

What is a "low-intensity conflict zone"?

The concept of a "low-intensity conflict zone" (LIC) refers to the unique situation created in border communities by the ongoing militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border over the past few decades. Sociologist Timothy Dunn first applied the term, borrowed from military contexts, to describe the border region in his research.



Dunn argues that the massive build-up of enforcement infrastructure and personnel along the border has effectively turned it into a zone of continuous, low-level warfare against immigration. This "low-intensity conflict" zone is characterized by the constant, intrusive presence of militarized border security measures permeating the daily lives of border residents. It also suspends normal constitutional rights regarding search and seizure for communities within 100 miles of the border. Residents compare it to living in a war zone, just at a subtler, chronic level of impact.

The study applies this concept to examine how immigration enforcement policies and practices associated with the border's militarization affect the rights, well-being, and sense of belonging of U.S. citizen Latinos who live there. The narratives show that citizens experience the 100-mile border enforcement zone as a LIC environment via frequent contact with enforcement authorities, racial profiling, and rights violations.

Although the 100-mile border enforcement zone encompasses a significant portion of the United States, there are only a handful of states that border Mexico, including Arizona. Do similar experiences exist in other states? If not, is this an issue that should be addressed nationally, or would it be better handled at a state-level?

While this study focuses on Arizona's border enforcement zone, research indicates Latino citizens face similar racial profiling, harassment, and rights violations by CBP in other border states like California and Texas. The consistent reports of abuse across multiple states suggests these are systemic issues ingrained in CBP culture rather than isolated to Arizona.

As such, reforms likely need to happen through federal oversight of CBP rather than stateby-state. However, state and local leaders can still play an important role in advocating for their constituents when CBP violates their rights under the pretext of immigration enforcement.

What is the value of a study focused on young Latino adults as compared to the general Latino population when evaluating the impact of the border enforcement zone?

This study's focus on Latino young adults provides insights about the long-term impacts of coming of age in a militarized border enforcement zone. Much research has examined immigrants themselves, but by looking at Latino citizens, we see how an entire generation growing up with normalized rights violations is impacted by and adapts to that experience.

Young adults articulate a diminished sense of belonging as Americans, which has implications for their future civic participation, mental health, and attitudes if left unaddressed. While studies of the general border population are also important, there is



specific value in understanding how punitive policies imprint on young citizens to remedy issues before they become ingrained.

The research highlights the testimony of a tragic event occurring where a person trying to cross the border was seen dead. How common are tragedies like this? Are there a significant amount of deaths in border crossings?

Tragically, thousands of migrant deaths have occurred in border crossings, especially as Prevention Through Deterrence policies pushed migrants into hazardous terrain. One study identified over 7,500 border crossing deaths from 1998 to 2021 just on the southwest border. The true number may be even higher.

As security ramped up in urban areas, migrants were diverted into remote desert and mountain areas where exposure and dehydration pose lethal risks. Even with the danger, migrants for a myriad of reasons continue attempts for a better life. So, border militarization has not stopped crossings but instead has made border crossings more deadly. Residents frequently encounter evidence of these preventable tragedies.

CBP agents can often be a part of the community that they patrol as mentioned in the research paper. If there was to be a move to demilitarize these areas, how do we ensure that these communities aren't negatively affected through possible job loss or other economic impacts?

Any reforms to demilitarize border security must be thoughtful to avoid negative economic effects on border towns. Measures could include retraining and reassigning CBP agents to lawful immigration roles at ports of entry. Border communities can also be proactively supported to diversify local economies to reduce reliance on immigration enforcement jobs, such as through education, infrastructure, and business incentives in fields like tech, renewable energy, healthcare and trade. With smart policies, border towns can transition in ways that sustain both rights and economic prosperity. But this requires planning and resources.

How do the experiences of participants change when going further into the 100-mile border zone? Are most negative experiences seen closer to the border or are they equally as present throughout this whole area?

According to participants, contact with CBP diminishes further from the border, but accounts of racial profiling extend far beyond the immediate border across the 100-mile zone. Those on the border report more frequent interactions with CBP via checkpoints, crossings and patrols. However, even residents of central Arizona cities recall discrimination by CBP at interior checkpoints and in communities.

Proximity to the border seems to correlate with frequency of rights violations, but the problem is geographically pervasive throughout the 100-mile zone. More research could elucidate this relationship.



Since SENTRI programs expedite the process of going through these inspection zones, could the program be a possible solution to the negative experience felt among Latinos?

SENTRI and "trusted traveler" programs designed to speed border crossings provide some benefit but do not resolve the root issues. Latinos still report racial profiling, unfounded searches, and presumption of "illegal" status when using SENTRI passes. This indicates the core problem is systemic discrimination, not just long wait times.

Meaningful solutions require accountability, oversight, and culture change within CBP - not just faster crossings for a select few. While SENTRI helps some, it fails to address the endemic culture of rights violations against Latino citizens under the guise of immigration enforcement.

What are some steps that DHS can take to address corruption and abuse of power by CBP personnel?

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) could implement several measures to combat CBP corruption and abuse:

- 1. Establish robust, independent oversight bodies to investigate complaints and allegations;
- 2. Instate mandatory body cameras on all CBP agents to increase transparency and accountability;
- 3. Reform complaint processes to make it easier for citizens to report misconduct without fear of retaliation:
- 4. Enact penalties, termination, and prosecution of agents who violate policies or rights;
- 5. Institute periodic, random audits of CBP practices to identify problematic patterns;
- 6. Require more rigorous vetting, training, and bias screening of new CBP recruits.

However, individual reforms alone will not transform systemic cultural issues within the agency. A combination of top-down changes and bottom-up community input is needed.

What are some viable policies that could serve as alternatives to the 100-mile border enforcement zone?

There are several alternatives that could balance security, rights, and community well-being:

- 1. Reduce the 100-mile zone to a smaller, reasonable distance where warrants are required for interior enforcement operations.
- 2. Prohibit racial profiling and require reasonable suspicion for any stops.
- 3. Increase training and accountability for CBP agents on constitutional rights.



- 4. Independent community oversight boards with power to investigate complaints.
- 5. Mandatory CBP reporting on stops, apprehensions, and collateral arrests.
- 6. Incentivize border towns to diversify economies and reduce dependence on CBP jobs.

Ultimately, we need approaches grounded in dignity, due process, and civil rights - not normalized discrimination justified by immigration enforcement rhetoric. The 100-mile zone should be reined in or replaced entirely.

NARRATIVE REPOSITORY

Everyday Life in Arizona's Low-Intensity Conflict Border Enforcement Zone

Mónica Estévez, a 21-year-old from Yuma, Arizona:

I've lived in Yuma my whole life, and we have border crossing points. I thought that was normal growing up [...]. When I got older, people were like, 'No, you don't have to go through a crossing at every state.' I was like, 'Oh, that's very interesting.'[...] My boyfriend, who is white, when we go through [checkpoints], I'm like, [...] 'They don't ask you to take off your sunglasses?' And he's like, 'No, I don't even usually talk to them when I go through the checkpoints.' I'm like, 'What?!' Every time when I go through [border patrol agents ask][...] 'Oh, can you take off your sunglasses?' I usually, by habit, just take them off when I go through. And I usually get stopped.

Juliet Carmona, a 20-year-old Tucson resident:

"Last year and this year, there was a lot of spotlight on law enforcement here in Arizona, like we've always had issues with law enforcement, especially with us being so close to the border."

Itzel Del Real, a 21-year-old woman from San Luis:

I was driving, and I was like, 'What?' I see lights. I was like, 'What is that' and then I noticed it was a big, tall wall, and they had lights, and it went down for like a mile more. Then I was trying to look further down, but it was pretty long. I don't know, but every time I drove that road, I never saw that [...] Then I realized it was the border wall that I guess Trump is working on. I even had a guy at work show up, and he was like, 'Yeah, I'm in charge of building the wall here.'

I rarely see cops out here [...] I feel like they could do more patrolling because there is a lot of crime here [...] I see the Border Patrol all the time out there like I think the other day I was, I think last Friday actually I saw border patrols, and then I saw some like the trucks,



and then I saw them on ATVs, and there was a helicopter, and I was like, 'Oh my gosh, they're really trying to get on top of this person.' And I feel like here I barely see cops like in my community as well.

Eduardo Perales, a 24-year-old Latino from Tucson:

[He recalls being] "absolutely livid with what was happening on the southern border" as "it's been a very dangerous situation because more and more people have been dying in the desert because we've militarized it and we've made sure that the only way for people to cross is through the most rural and basically the most no man land part of the desert."

Natasha Caballero, a 26-year-old Mexican woman from Yuma:

[There was] a [dead] man hanging, and you could hear the cell phone ringing from his backpack, and he was just hanging there, and nobody had done anything. I think about that every day because you look at the wall and everybody reacts to it, and it is sad[...] he tried to jump the gate, and he had a backpack. The backpack got stuck on the gate, and it choked him. I never forgot about that.

"I think it affects them too because there's a lot of racist people that apply for that job, for Border Patrol, and they treat the people a certain way."

Lizbett Lozano, a 24-year-old Yuma resident:

I have an uncle [...] who's a border patrol agent [...] I think he feels his job is best protected under a Republican president, and my side with that conversation usually goes something along the lines of, 'Well, you're a Brown person, policing Brown bodies physically passing the border.' And so, I think they're mostly heated conversations. When it happens, it happens. Not every time. Usually, I try to avoid them.

Enrique Dante, a 29-year-old man from Somerton:

I think the border patrol, or the customs ingrained their own customs and beliefs. It almost seems like a microaggression, but you go, you cross the border, and they automatically speak to you in Spanish. And to me, for someone who speaks Spanish, maybe like, "Oh, well, they're just being accommodating." Where that's not true because [...] I respond in English, but I still get spoken to in Spanish [...] I think it's the culture embedded within, like the CBP, that, you would say that this is how you treat certain people or what it seems like.

Amalia Solis, a 29-year-old woman who from Nogales:



[1]t always seemed like Hispanic Border Patrol people were just way more intense."

I feel like when it's a white guy or a white woman; it's just kind of like, 'Okay, whatever. These are your own preconceived notions about Hispanics.' But whenever it's somebody who's Hispanic, I think it hits a little different where I'm just like, 'Well, why? Why are you doing this to me?' Whereas when it's white people, I'm just kind of like, 'Oh, whatever. That's just how they are.' So, I think, yeah, it does hit home a little bit harder, and it just feels more intense when they're really digging for it.

Criminalizing Collateral Subjects in a Low-intensity Conflict Zone

Karina Oquendo, a 20-year-old from Phoenix:

"I feel people see my ethnicity as an illegal immigrant immediately and just assume that we are here to steal jobs and bring drugs."

Saúl Cerda, a 23-year-old resident of Yuma:

Whenever you cross the border, Customs and Border Patrol, I don't know if it's a specific script they have to just question everybody or if there's something just especially about me. And when they ask you, 'Where are you from? What are you doing here? Where are you going?' I would say that's something that always stings a bit because I think it's like it'll be another Mexican or Hispanic that he's either lighter-skinned or there's something to them. There's that sense of doubt whether you're really from here.

Leticia Jonas, a 22-year-old woman from Yuma:

[Leticia][is asked] "crazy questions," [which irks her because] "Dude, you have my paperwork in front of you." They'd be like, "Where are you going? Where do you go to school? Where do you live?" I'm just like, "Dude, you know where I live because it says right there on my passport where I live." It's like really interrogating us."

Amalia Solis, a 29-year-old woman who from Nogales:

[Amalia experiences questioning of her legality even though] "you present your passport [...] It was like, 'I'm going to do a full vehicle search,' even though I just crossed to get a haircut, or to go to the dentist, little things like that. It just felt like there was a lot more happening there."

Violeta Carrión, a 20-year-old Yuma resident:

The only time where I've been a little worried is when I'm dealing with, like crossing the



border or at a checkpoint because, like there's a checkpoint [going out of] Yuma [...] I think like 'Will this border patrol officer think that I'm suspicious because of how I look and not believe that I'm a US citizen?' kind of thing [...] Yeah. it can happen especially in Arizona [...] especially after SB1070 when people were more suspicious of you if you looked Latino.

Enrique Dante, a 29-year-old man from Somerton:

[Enrique puts it,] "Honestly, for me, it just seems there are a bunch of hassles there. And I say that because every time that I'm there, whatever I'm driving, there's always follow-up questions and they just seem to be invasive, which are pointless."

Back in 2012, I was still young and had a Mustang, and that border patrol checkpoint asked me to go to secondary [inspection] [...] And then they're like, 'We're going to bring in the drug dog.' And they started sniffing, and they started making allegations that there was cocaine in my car. And I was like, 'What do you mean? I have cocaine in my car?" 'Well, the dog sniffed it; where is it?' I have no idea. I don't know what you're talking about.' 'Well, he's sniffing cocaine.' I'm like, 'How do you know he is? I don't really understand.' At the end of the day, nothing was found. And I don't know if it was a form for me to confess something, but they just put the dog on the seats. They looked around the seats, but there was nothing.

Norberto Canales, a 24-year-old from Phoenix:

[At] the checkpoint [...] they asked us, like, 'Oh, where you're from?' [...] At the time, we didn't know, but there's another person behind us -- a border patrol agent -- and he opened up the back side of the car. And, at the time, we didn't know, but he actually cut open the seat. And he took out -- you know how there's like fluff in the seat. -- so, he took it out. But we didn't know until we got home because we had some stuff in the back of the car. So, when we were taking everything out, we noticed that he cut open the seat.

Coping Strategies to Navigate Interactions with CBP

Fránces Román, a 22-year-old woman from Tucson:

[Fránces described the SENTRI card as:]

It's kind of [a] fastpass [...] so you don't have to wait in line in order to cross [...] and normally when you have SENTRI, that means you're a trusted traveler, so they don't ask you questions [...] It's just way faster. So, they won't ask you where you're going or what you did in Mexico or to declare anything because they're already assuming that you're a trusted traveler.



[My sister], who's a lot darker than I am, didn't have the same experience. The custom [officer] started asking her a bunch of questions. 'How did she get the SENTRI.' He asked her if we were related. And my sister told the guy, 'Yes,' we were sisters. And he said, 'You're sisters? You don't look like sisters.' And then he was like. 'Are you a U.S. citizen?' And then on the SENTRI, it specifically says US citizen on it. And so, my sister was like, 'Yes, I'm a U.S. citizen.' And he was like, 'You don't look like a U.S. citizen,' and then he started [...] asking her a bunch of questions.

Enrique Dante, a 29-year-old man from Somerton:

I've been sent to secondary [inspection] a few times. And they happened more when I was a lot younger. Now that I'm older, I have a SENTRI, which is the fast track. So, it's kind of a privilege. So, I got that more for me as an insurance that I won't always be sent a secondary [inspection] and waste an hour to an hour and a half of my life waiting there as they inspect my car, but I would always get sent to secondary every time. And it just seemed more of a harassment.

Sonia, a 28-year-old woman from Tucson:

I've had hostile interactions with law enforcement [...] specifically within Border Patrol [...] I've just really had negative experiences with that agency and my citizenship is constantly in question based on how I look [...] Then to make things move faster, you give in, and you conform to those [requests], which I've just decided to stop doing. I just really don't answer their questions anymore. You want to understand that they have jobs to do, but you also recognize that their agency is really reinforcing these kinds of stereotypes and biases.

Cristal Herrera, a 20-year-old from San Luis, a small border town in Yuma:

We were crossing the border, and they sent us to a secondary inspection. And me and my sister were really mad because we had been in line to cross into the United States for like six hours. And then, they sent us to secondary inspection [which would take] like another two hours. So, we were really mad. And we were just going to tell the Border Patrol, like, 'Let us go.' And, my boyfriend was like, 'You can't do that. Like, if I get in trouble, I can get deported. I can get my permanent resident card taken away.' And that was when I really realized 'I'm American. I have these privileges that can't be taken away from me.' I think that would be the first instance when I really realized that I was American.

Tianna Barrios, a 28-year-old from Yuma:

I think it means that we have to be a little more careful. I think there's a sentiment that we're visitors, or we're very new to being American. I guess, being raised in a border town, I



kind of got that feeling a lot more where the older population. I never faced any kind of direct anything, but there is this kind of feeling of: 'Did they cross the border, or have they been here? Do they only speak Spanish?' [...] The way you look kind of determines [how you are treated].

DRAFT SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

- New study shows how aggressive immigration enforcement erodes Latino citizens' rights and sense of belonging near the border. Racial profiling and harassment are color experiences. Learn more: https://www.iwbcollab.org/briefing
- Latino citizens near the border describe racial profiling, interrogation, and rights violations by Customs and Border Protection. Learn more: https://www.iwbcollab.org/briefing
- Proof of citizenship or a SENTRI card does little to protect Latinos from discrimination and mistreatment under pretext of immigration enforcement. Read the study here: https://www.iwbcollab.org/briefing
- Study finds border residents feel less secure and belonging due to invasive immigration tactics targeting anyone "brown." Learn more: https://www.iwbcollab.org/briefing
- Participants express fear, frustration, and lack of recourse when facing mistreatment by border agents. Learn more: https://www.iwbcollab.org/briefing
- "Will this border patrol officer think that I'm suspicious because of how I look and not believe that I'm a US citizen?" Read more accounts in new study here: https://www.iwbcollab.org/briefing

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Know Your Rights: 100 Mile Border Zone
- ACLU, Factsheet on Customs and Border Protection's 100-Mile Zone
- Washington Office on Latin America, <u>Border Oversight: Monitoring Conduct and</u> Accountability in U.S. Border Law Enforcement
- Project on Government Oversight (POGO), <u>An Oversight Agenda for Customs and</u>
 <u>Border Protection: America's Largest, Least Accountable Law Enforcement Agency</u>
- POGO <u>The Border Zone Next Door, and Its Out-of-Control Police Force:</u> <u>Recommendations for the Biden Administration to Rein in Customs and Border</u> Protection
- Southern Border Communities Coalition, 100-Mile Border Enforcement Zone
- CityLab, <u>Inside the Massive U.S. 'Border Zone'</u>
- Migrant Clinicians Network, <u>Militarization on the Border: Professor Timothy Dunn on the History and Implications for Health</u>