



Homeland
Security

Impact of COVID-19 on U.S. Immigration

2/20/24

*Office of Homeland Security Statistics
Migration Analysis Center
U.S. Department of Homeland Security*



Office of Homeland Security Statistics

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Office of Homeland Security Statistics (OHSS)

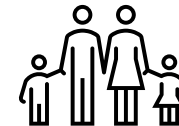
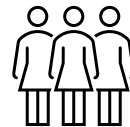
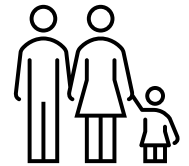
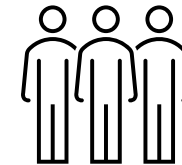
- Publish, maintain, and keep up to date enterprise-wide statistical standards
- Create objective, credible, accurate, relevant, timely, and authoritative statistical homeland security data products to increase transparency for the interagency, Congress, and the public and to support evidence-based policymaking and leadership decisions
- Reduce the burden on DHS Components for statistical reporting

Migration Analysis Center (MAC)

- Research hub of OHSS
- Lead research on U.S. immigration and migration-related topics
- Comprehensive study of migration flows and immigration policy, including understanding the factors that impact migration
- Research the social, economic, environmental, and demographic effects of immigration within the United States

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “IMMIGRANT”?

- Lawful permanent residents (green-card holders)
- Refugees (humanitarian need from abroad)
- Asylees (humanitarian need within the United States)
- Nonimmigrants (students, temporary workers)
- Unauthorized population (border encounters, DACA, paroles, TPS)

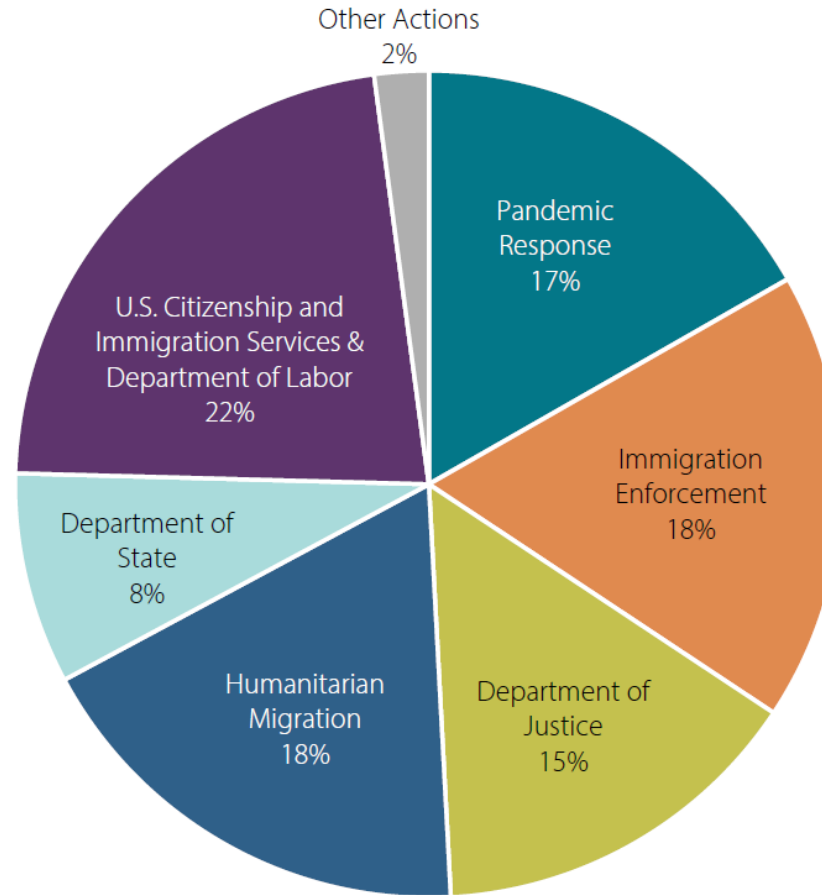


IMMIGRATION STATUS DEFINES EXPERIENCE IN UNITED STATES

- Access to healthcare and health insurance
- Ability to access/qualify for financial aid and public benefits
- Ability to travel abroad
- Ability to work legally within the United States
- Ability to legally remain in the United States
- When compared to U.S. citizens, immigrants broadly have
 - lower rate of healthcare coverage
 - less ability to access public benefits
 - higher-risk occupations
 - lower English proficiency
 - higher levels of poverty
 - younger
 - healthier

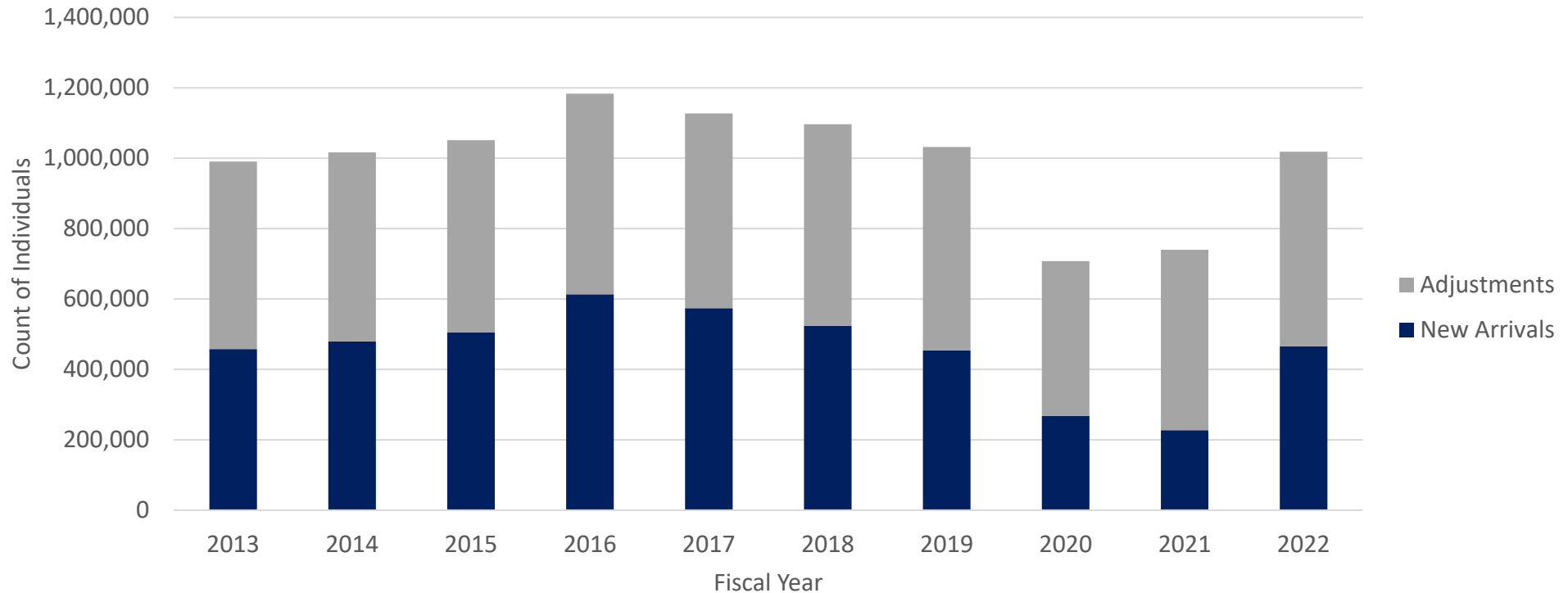
FIGURE 1

Executive Actions on Immigration Taken during the Trump Presidency, by Category, 2017–21



Bolter, Jessica, Emma Israel, and Sarah Pierce. 2022. Four Years of Profound Change: Immigration Policy during the Trump Presidency. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute.

LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS



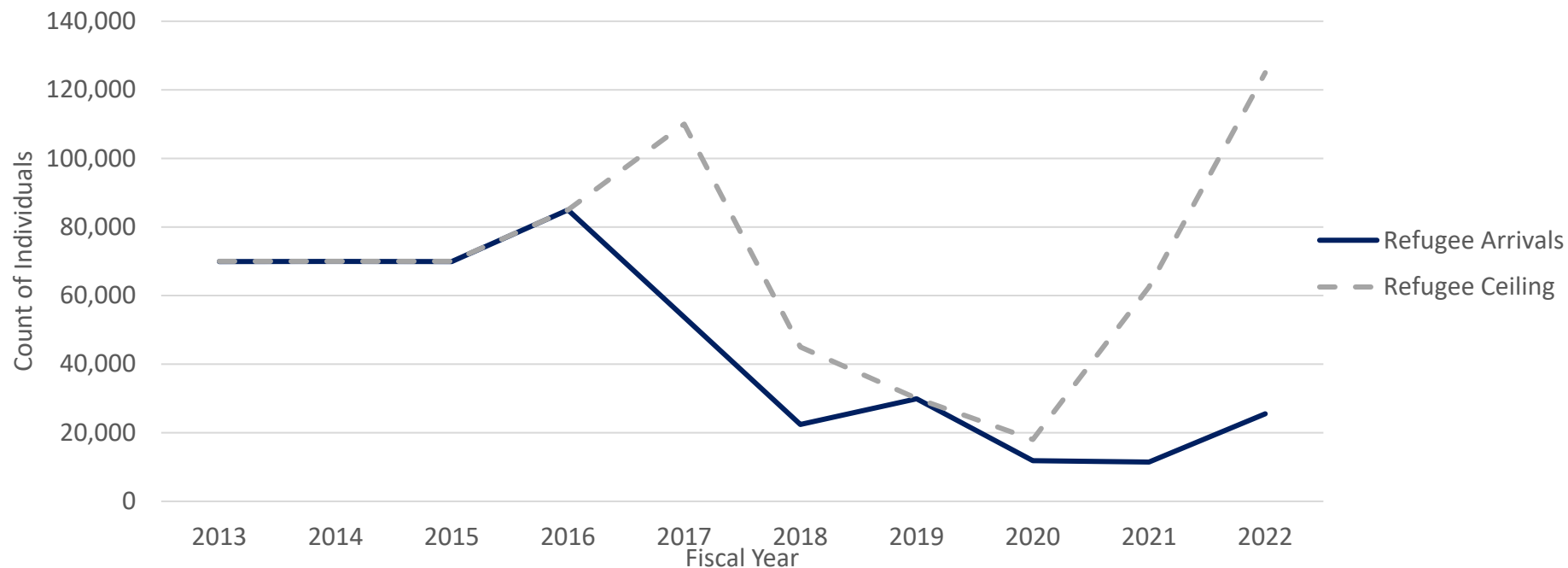
- Holders

- Access to public healthcare
- Access to federal benefits after 5 years (Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP, etc)
- Right to work
- Ability to travel outside the U.S. for limited periods
- Significant renewal delays

- Applicants

- If outside the U.S. no access to benefits
- If inside the U.S.
 - Limited access to public healthcare/benefits
 - Apply for right to work
 - Apply for right to travel outside the U.S.
 - Significant processing delays

REFUGEES



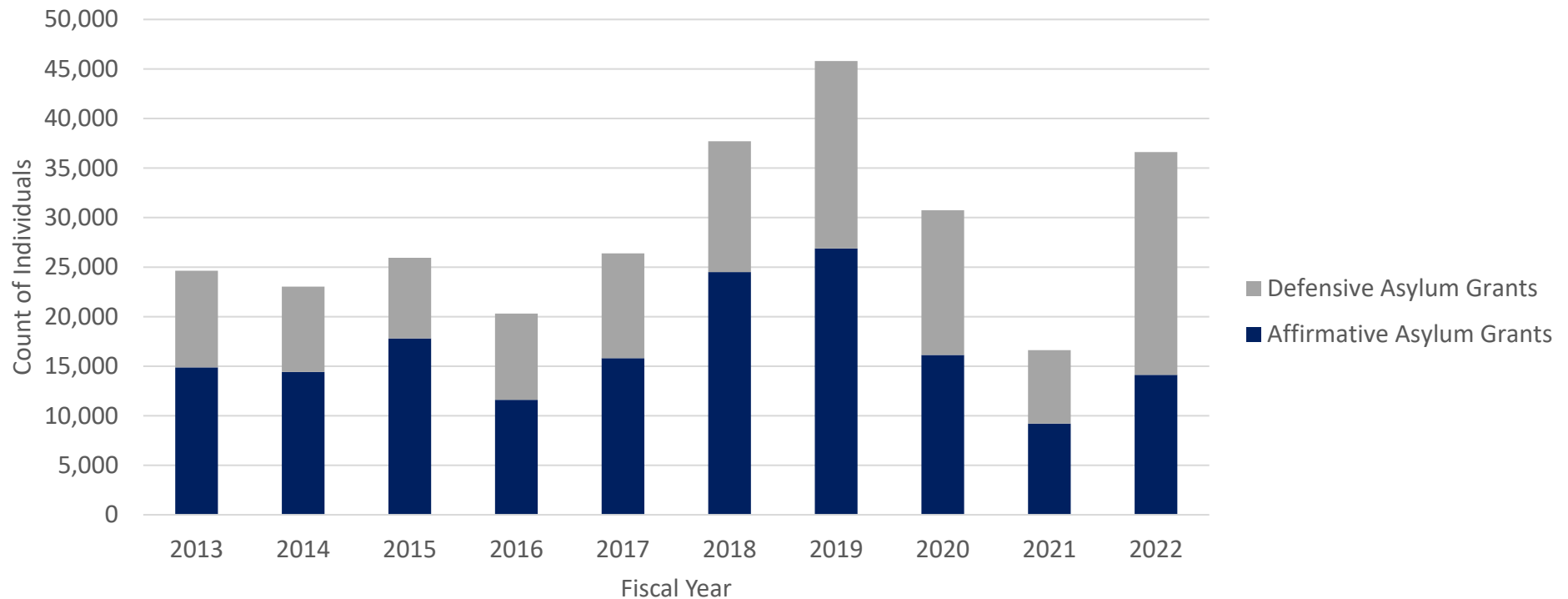
- Holders

- Access to public healthcare
- Access to federal programs (Medicaid, CHIP, TANF) more likely due to arrival without job
- Right to work
- Ability to travel outside U.S. for limited periods

- Applicants

- Outside of country
- Significant cuts to program
- Processing delays

ASYLEES



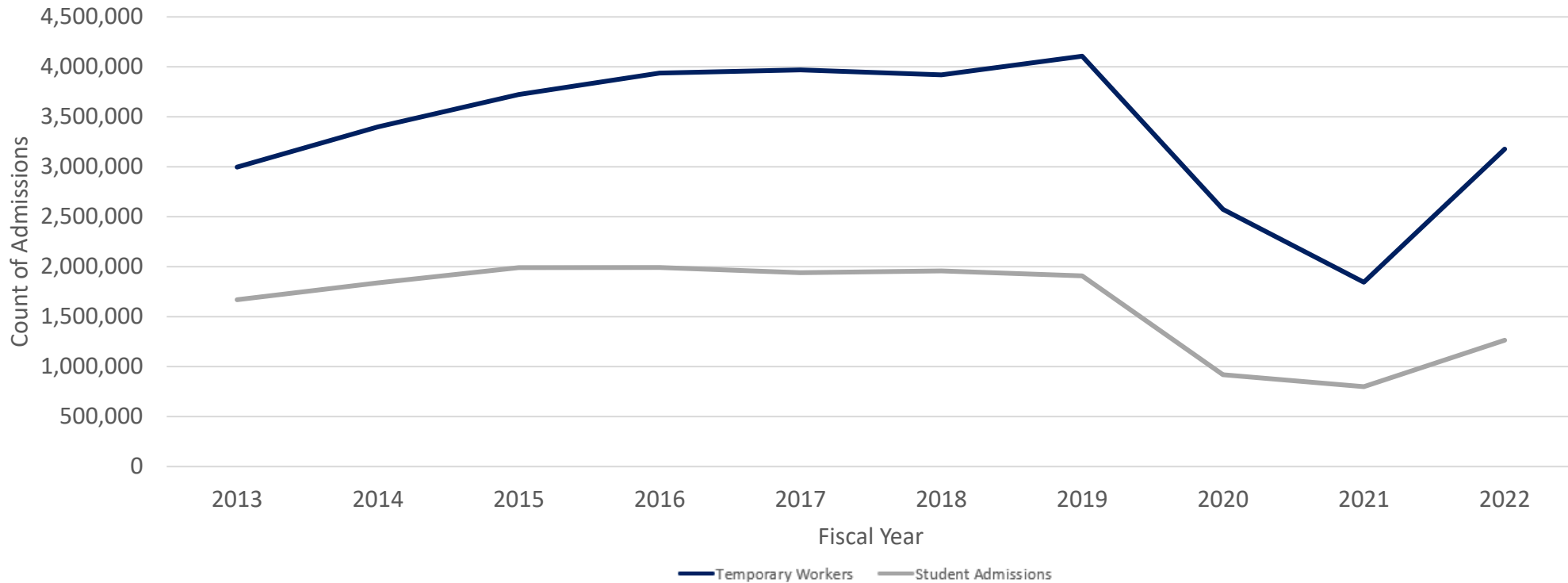
- Holders

- Access to public healthcare
- Access to federal programs (Medicaid, CHIP, TANF) more likely due to arrival without job
- Right to work
- Ability to travel outside U.S. for limited periods

- Applicants

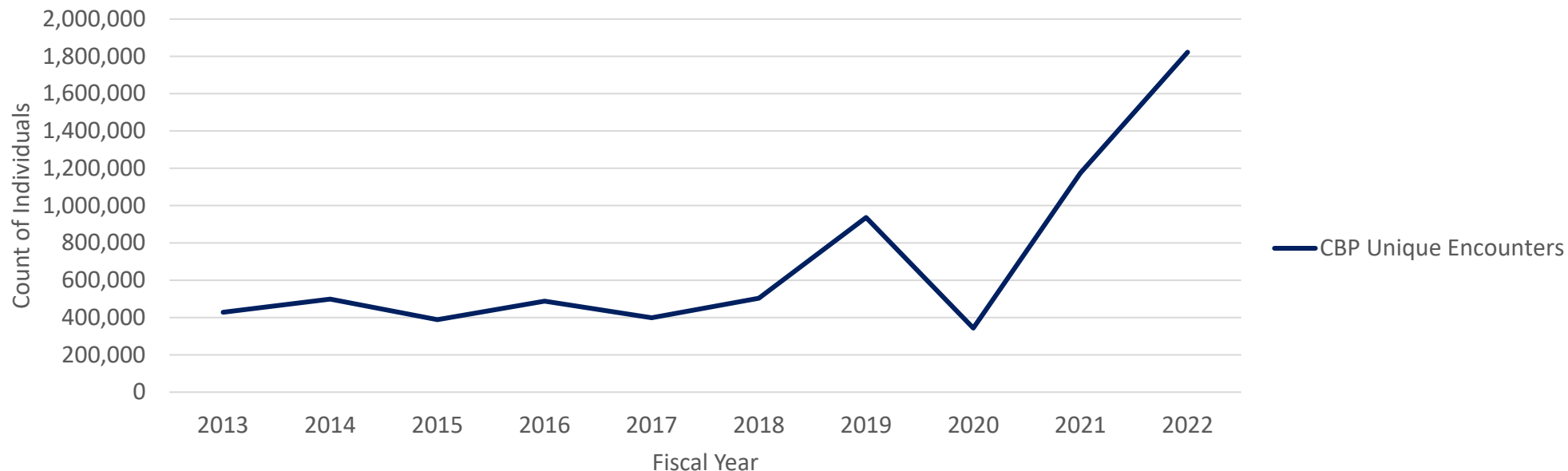
- Access public healthcare after 180 days
- Apply for right to work after 150 days (180 days minimum wait)
- No ability to access federal benefits (SNAP, etc)
- No ability to travel without special approval

NONIMMIGRANTS: STUDENTS AND TEMPORARY WORKERS



- Holders (of worker and student visas)
 - Access to public healthcare
 - Access to federal benefits after 5 years (Medicaid, CHIP, etc) but 2019-2021 could be considered “public charge”
 - Can travel without special approval
 - Can work legally, but employment authorization and renewal delayed
- Applicants
 - Outside of country
 - Processing severely delayed/on hold for various periods

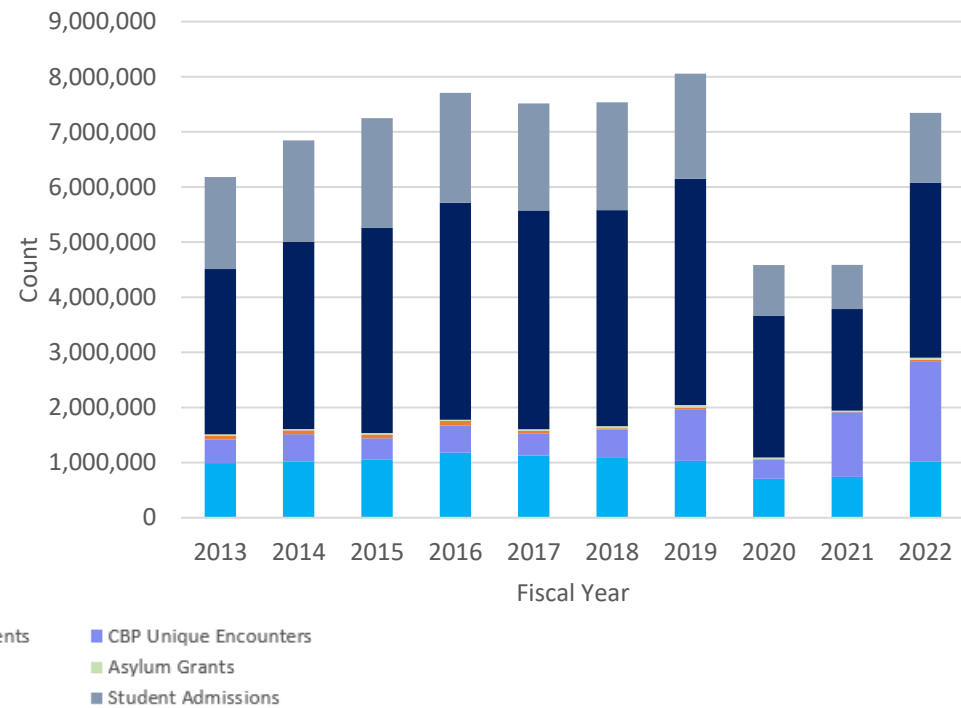
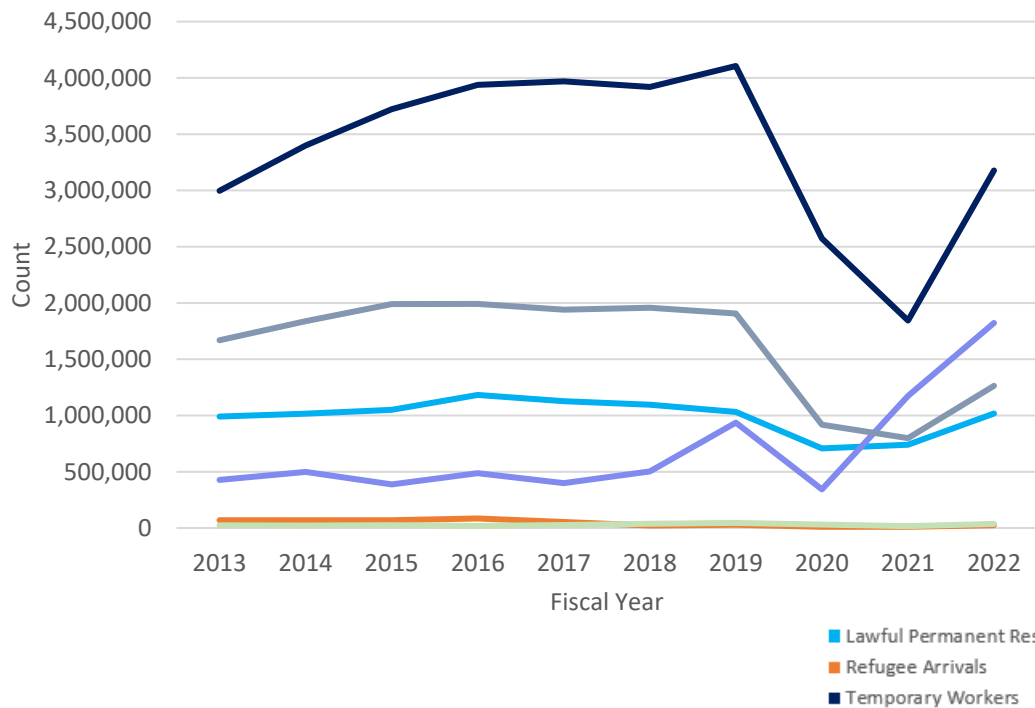
UNAUTHORIZED



Note: Data as of November 2023, and includes OFO enforcement encounters and USBP encounters.

- Generally
 - No access to healthcare (50% uninsured)
 - No ability to access federal benefits (Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, etc)
 - No ability to travel
 - No ability to work legally
 - No ability to legally remain in the country
- For specific categories (asylum applicants, paroles, DACA, TPS, etc.)
 - Access to public healthcare
 - Some ability to get limited benefits
 - Request permission to travel
 - Request permission to work
 - Can legally remain in country

ALL IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS



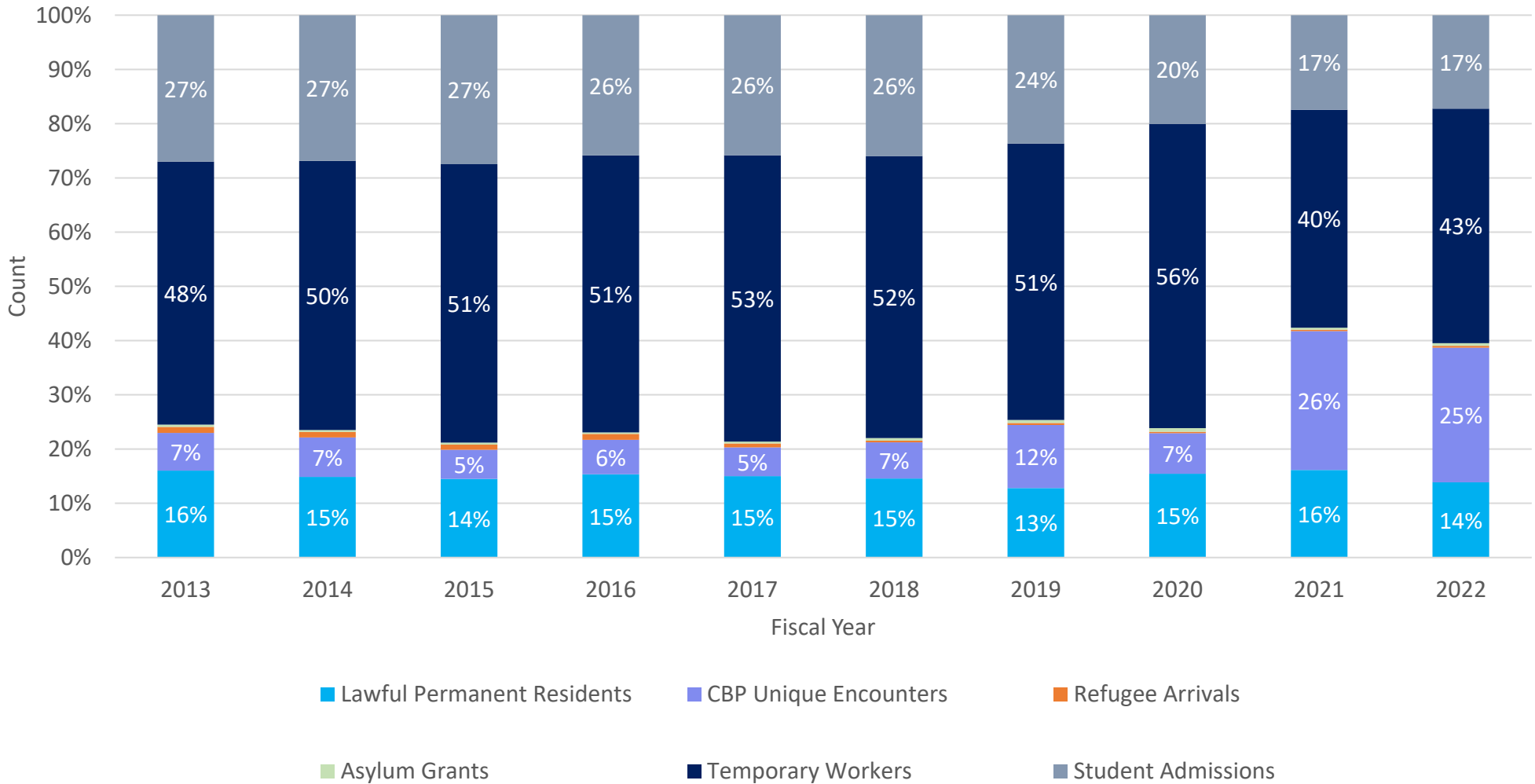
- Overall

- Immigration as a whole returned to former levels by 2022
- Distribution of immigrant categories has changed

- Specifically

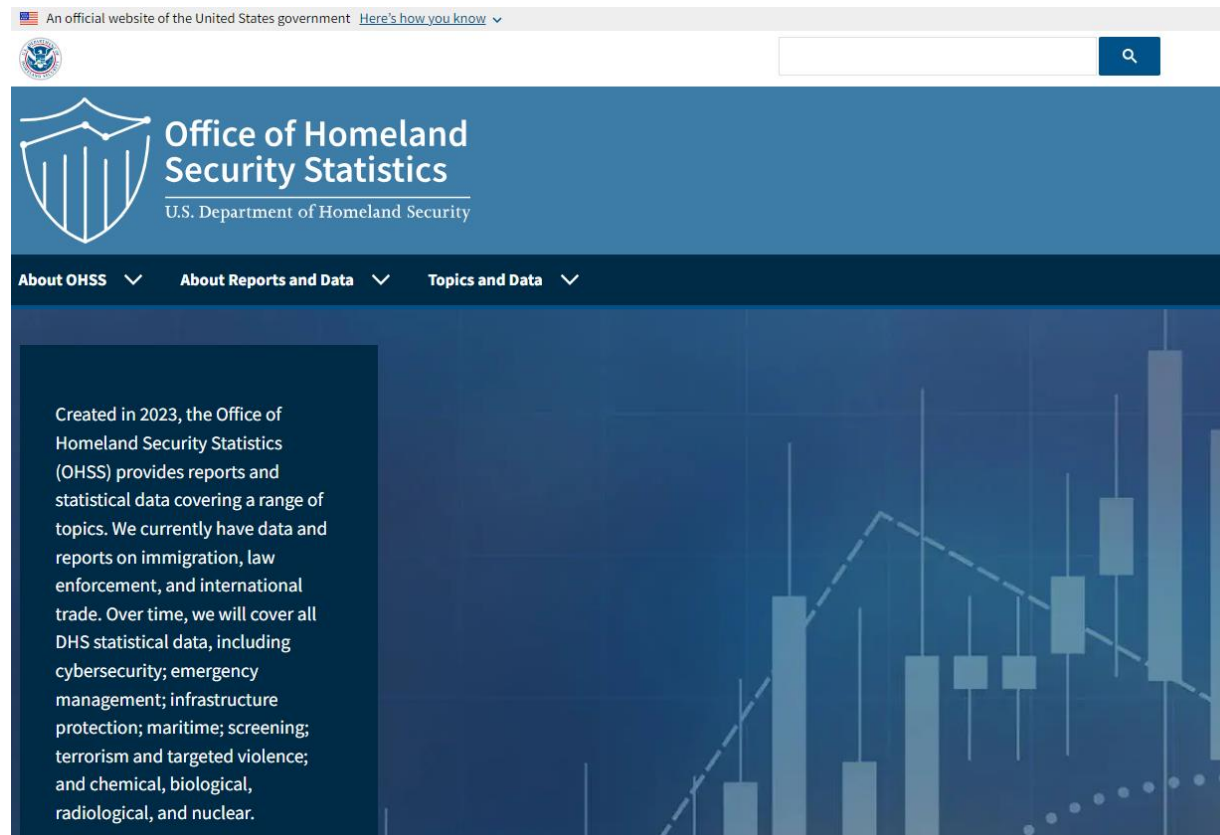
- Higher proportion of unauthorized immigrants
- Lower proportion of refugees and nonimmigrants (students, temporary workers)
- Lawful permanent resident and asylee populations have recovered to pre-pandemic levels

ALL IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS




DATA RESOURCES

- [Office of Homeland Security Statistics website](#)
- [COVID-19 Vulnerability by Immigration Status report](#)
- [Lawful permanent residents](#)
- [Refugees and asylees](#)
- [Nonimmigrants](#)
- [Unauthorized](#)
- [Naturalizations](#)
- [Yearbook](#) (historic data)
- Specific data requests?
Email questions to: ohss@dhs.gov



An official website of the United States government. [Here's how you know](#)

 **Office of Homeland Security Statistics**
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Created in 2023, the Office of Homeland Security Statistics (OHSS) provides reports and statistical data covering a range of topics. We currently have data and reports on immigration, law enforcement, and international trade. Over time, we will cover all DHS statistical data, including cybersecurity; emergency management; infrastructure protection; maritime; screening; terrorism and targeted violence; and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear.