

100 MILE ZONE FACT SHEET:

WHAT IS BORDER PATROL DOING IN MICHIGAN?

Americans need to know what their largest law-enforcement agency is up to. The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center and several researchers have been trying for a year and half to get documents about U.S. Border Patrol operations in Michigan. We haven't gotten much, and what we have gotten only raises more questions. Here's what we know. And more importantly, here is what we don't know, which is why it is so important to find out what Border Patrol is doing in our state.

What We Know¹

- Border Patrol considers the entire state of Michigan to be within 100 miles of an international border. Special rules for warrantless vehicle searches apply within the "100 mile zone," and therefore Border Patrol apparently believes it can do such "border" searches anywhere in the state.
- Almost one in three people (31.3 percent) processed by Border Patrol for whom citizenship is recorded are United States citizens.
- Almost 40 percent of people processed are either U.S. citizens or foreign citizens lawfully in the United States.
- Border Patrol documents show less than 2 percent of foreign citizens who are stopped as having a criminal record.
- About 5 percent of known foreign citizens processed are recent border crossers who arrived in the United States during the preceding 30 days.
- Over 63 percent of people detained were first stopped by another agency, like local police.
- The number of agents in the Detroit sector has grown from 38 to 411 between 2001 and 2015, an increase of 981 percent, by far the fastest rate of growth of any U.S. Border Patrol sector in the United States.²

¹ The data we obtained is for a three-year period from fiscal year 2012-2014. It covers U.S. Border Patrol's "Detroit sector," which includes Michigan and parts of Ohio.

What We Don't Know

- Why is Border Patrol detaining so many United States citizens and so many people who are legally in the United States?
- How many of the people Border Patrol stops are people of color? (We do know that 82% of foreign citizens stopped are Latino.)
- Why does Border Patrol think it can do warrant-less “border” searches anywhere in Michigan?
- Where are these stops occurring? If Border Patrol thinks Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Traverse City are all in an international border zone, how many people is Border Patrol picking up there?
- Does Border Patrol use arrest quotas, targets, or goals?
- How many complaints regarding racial profiling and other abuses is Border Patrol receiving? How does it handle those complaints? What kind of training do Border Patrol agents receive to prevent racial profiling?
- Which other agencies are responsible for calling in Border Patrol? How often do those other agencies detain United States citizens and other people who are legally here in order to call Border Patrol? (Most detentions are started by some agency other than Border Patrol.)
- For the 5.2 percent of foreign citizens who are recent border crossers, did they cross the U.S.-Canadian border or did they cross the southern border?
- Do the records released so far show the actual number of Border Patrol stops? Since those records only include individuals who are “processed”, how many cases go unreported because the individual was not considered to have been “processed”?
- Why won't Border Patrol release documents that the public has a right to see?

² Information derived from <https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/BP%20Staffing%20FY1992-FY2015.pdf>.