

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR AMERICAN POLICY
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2.7 MILLION PEOPLE COULD LOSE TPS, DACA AND HUMANITARIAN PAROLE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Protection from deportation may expire for up to 2.7 million people within the next two years, according to a National Foundation for American Policy (NFAP) analysis. The vast majority face dismal prospects if forced to return to their birth countries, and obstacles in Congress mean legislation may not rescue even the most sympathetic groups. In a second Trump administration, many individuals in Temporary Protected Status and recipients of humanitarian parole and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program could see themselves subject to deportation. It is uncertain how many people would leave voluntarily or could be removed given home country conditions or lack of cooperation from other governments. Some individuals may fall into two categories, such as TPS and humanitarian parole. However, the 2.7 million does not include people on Deferred Enforced Departure, smaller parole programs or individuals who received parole at ports of entry. Economists have warned that reducing the supply of available workers may contribute to higher inflation and reduced economic growth.

Table 1
Individuals Approved for TPS, DACA and Humanitarian Parole

Country and Immigration Program	Number of Approved Individuals*
Temporary Protected Status (16 countries)	863,880
DACA	535,030
Humanitarian Parole for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans	528,000
Humanitarian Parole for Ukrainians	651,000
Humanitarian Parole for Afghans	133,000
TOTAL	2,710,910

Source: Department of Homeland Security, Congressional Research Service, National Foundation for American Policy. Some individuals may have received parole and were later approved for Temporary Protected Status. Data for CHNV humanitarian parole program as August 31, 2024. DACA data as of June 30, 2024. TPS data as of September 2024.

Among the findings in the research:

- Up to 863,880 people live in America under Temporary Protected Status, reports the [Congressional Research Service](#). The Biden administration rescinded the Trump administration's termination and extended TPS for several countries. It also extended and redesignated TPS for others and designated TPS for the first time for individuals of several nations, including Afghanistan, Ukraine and Venezuela. Many people with TPS have lived in the United States for over a decade. A second Trump administration could attempt to force people currently with TPS out of the country, though legal challenges might complicate the effort. TPS expires in 2025 for 13 of the 16 countries. TPS expires in 2026 for nationals of Haiti, Somalia and Yemen. During Trump's first term, court rulings forced his administration to maintain TPS for nationals of several countries, covering approximately 300,000 people. It is unclear if a court would compel Trump officials to do so again in a second term.

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- Given Donald Trump's campaign rhetoric, his administration may target the more than 200,000 Haitians living in the United States with TPS and the 344,355 Venezuelans approved for TPS. If the Venezuelan government refuses to accept back its citizens or Haiti is considered too dangerous, stripping TPS would leave many Haitians and Venezuelans in the United States in limbo. Over 180,000 Salvadorans have lived in the United States with TPS since February 2001.
- According to DHS, 528,000 individuals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela have arrived in the United States after being approved for the Biden administration's humanitarian parole program.¹ The numbers, as of August 31, 2024, are Cuba 110,000 approvals for humanitarian parole, Haiti 210,000, Nicaragua 92,000 and Venezuela 116,000. Grants under the CHNV humanitarian parole program generally last two years. The Biden administration [announced](#) a "re-parole" process in February 2024 for Ukrainians and for [Afghans](#) in June 2023. A Harris administration could develop a similar process for the CHNV program. A second Trump administration [would end](#) the CHNV humanitarian parole program.
- After the Biden administration introduced humanitarian parole programs, Border Patrol encounters declined by 92% for Cubans, Haitians and Nicaraguans as a group between December 2022 (the month before the parole programs started) and November 2023 compared to an 18% increase for nationals of non-parole countries, according to an NFAP analysis.² Illegal entry also declined for Venezuelans. Due to the demand, the low 30,000-monthly limit for the countries may limit the effectiveness of the humanitarian parole program. The programs require a U.S. sponsor, flying to an interior port of entry and the possibility of employment authorization. Mexico agreed to accept 30,000 people from the four countries who are expelled after entering the United States unlawfully. "Normally, these migrants would be returned to their country of origin, but the U.S. cannot easily send back people from those four countries for a variety of reasons that include relations with the governments there," noted [PBS](#).
- After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Biden administration established Uniting for Ukraine to grant humanitarian parole for Ukrainians fleeing the war. The policy served a vital foreign policy interest since, given the administration's condemnation of the invasion, it would have looked hypocritical if America blocked or expelled Ukrainians seeking refuge. According to DHS, there are 651,000 Ukrainians with humanitarian parole in the United States: 221,000 via Uniting for Ukraine and an additional 430,000 other Ukrainians.

¹ Data obtained from DHS as of August 31, 2024. It is also known as the CHNV humanitarian parole program.

² *Legal Pathways: A Humane and Effective Option*, NFAP Policy Brief, National Foundation for American Policy, January 2024.

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- Following the fall of Kabul, 77,000 Afghans entered the United States and were approved for humanitarian parole under Operation Allies Welcome. DHS also approved an additional 56,000 Afghans for humanitarian parole. The 133,000 Afghans with humanitarian parole could be subject to deportation if a future administration does not renew their parole and they have no other way to remain legally in the United States, such as TPS or asylum. The Taliban government engages in widespread human rights abuses.
- According to DHS, there are 535,030 DACA recipients in the United States as of June 30, 2024. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule again on DACA, likely in 2025, which could leave DACA recipients unprotected from deportation unless they obtain another form of relief or a lawful status. The Trump administration attempted to end DACA for young people brought to the United States as children. The Supreme Court blocked the Trump administration's effort to remove current DACA recipients from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.
- A Biden administration executive order on asylum and tougher actions by Mexico's government have contributed to reduced illegal entry. There were fewer Border Patrol encounters at the Southwest border in July and August 2024 than in Donald Trump's last month in office during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is unclear whether the current policies can sustain these lower levels of encounters without greater use of legal pathways. After a short pause, the Biden administration resumed its humanitarian parole programs and still allows asylum applications when people enter the United States with an appointment through a lawful port of entry.
- Economists at the Federal Bank of Dallas concluded that without the recent increases in immigration, the number of workers would be "insufficient to sustain the type of economic growth the U.S. is accustomed to."³

Humanitarian parole and other legal pathways play significant roles in the U.S. immigration system. Illegal entry will likely increase if a second Trump administration ends legal pathways, such as humanitarian parole programs and applying for asylum via ports of entry via the CBP One app. Donald Trump has announced he would eliminate both avenues of legal entry. Ending TPS may send people who lived in the United States for many years back to uncertain futures and, combined with other policies, could significantly reduce the supply of available workers in the U.S. economy.

³ <https://www.dallasfed.org/research/economics/2024/0702>.

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TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

Over 860,000 people live in America under Temporary Protected Status, according to the Congressional Research Service.⁴ Many have lived in the United States for more than a decade. A second Trump administration could attempt to force out of the country all or many individuals holding TPS, though legal challenges could complicate the effort. For 13 of the 16 countries, TPS expires in 2025. For nationals of Haiti, Somalia and Yemen, TPS expires in 2026. It is unclear if a court would compel an administration to keep TPS for one or more countries.

Table 2
Temporary Protected Status (TPS): Countries Currently Designated

Country	Most Recent Decision	Required Arrival Date	Expiration Date	Approved Individuals
Afghanistan	Extension and redesignation	September 30, 2024	May 20, 2025	8,245
Burma	Extension and redesignation	March 21, 2024	November 25, 2025	2,320
Cameroon	Extension and redesignation	October 5, 2023	June 7, 2025	3,265
El Salvador	Recission of termination and extension	February 13, 2001	March 9, 2025	180,375
Ethiopia	New designation	April 11, 2024	December 12, 2025	2,330
Haiti	Extension and redesignation	June 3, 2024	February 3, 2026	200,005
Honduras	Recission of termination and extension	December 30, 1998	July 5, 2025	54,290
Nepal	Recission of termination and extension	June 24, 2015	June 24, 2025	7,875
Nicaragua	Recission of termination and extension	December 30, 1998	July 5, 2025	2,925
Somalia	Extension and redesignation	July 12, 2024	March 17, 2026	555
South Sudan	Extension and redesignation	September 4, 2023	May 3, 2025	155
Sudan	Extension and redesignation	August 16, 2023	April 19, 2025	1,190
Syria	Extension and redesignation	January 25, 2024	September 30, 2025	3,865
Ukraine	Extension and redesignation	August 16, 2023	April 19, 2025	50,205
Venezuela	Extension and redesignation	July 31, 2023	September 10, 2025	344,335
Yemen	Extension and redesignation	July 2, 2024	March 3, 2026	1,840
TOTAL				863,880

Source: Congressional Research Service. Updated September 23, 2024.

“The Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a foreign country for TPS due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country’s nationals from returning safely, or in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately,” [according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\)](#). “USCIS may grant TPS to eligible nationals of certain countries (or parts of countries), who are already in the United States.”⁵

⁴ <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/homesec/RS20844.pdf>.

⁵ <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>.

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According to USCIS, “During a designated period, individuals who are TPS beneficiaries or who are found preliminarily eligible for TPS upon initial review of their cases (*prima facie* eligible): Are not removable from the United States; can obtain an employment authorization document (EAD); [and] may be granted travel authorization. Once granted TPS, an individual also cannot be detained by DHS [Department of Homeland Security] on the basis of his or her immigration status in the United States.”⁶

The Trump administration attempted to end Temporary Protected Status for individuals from several countries. [Lawsuits](#) “enjoined DHS from implementing and enforcing the decisions to terminate Temporary Protected Status” for Sudan, Nicaragua, Haiti, El Salvador, Nepal and Honduras. The Trump administration’s decision to end TPS for those countries would have left [approximately 300,000](#) people without protection from deportation. The lawsuits compelled USCIS to publish a November 1, 2019, [Federal Register](#) notice to extend the “validity of TPS” documents for those countries through January 4, 2021. The Biden administration renewed TPS for nationals of those countries and designated or redesignated TPS for individuals from additional countries affected by war or domestic turmoil, including Ukraine.

“The Trump administration is likely to terminate most if not all new TPS designations in addition to not renewing prior designations,” note Elizabeth Carlson and Charles Wheeler, attorneys with CLINIC. They note the Ninth Circuit vacated the lower court injunction that stopped Trump officials from terminating TPS for several countries. “Future challenges to TPS terminations, while possible, may prove difficult.”⁷

Over 200,000 Haitians have TPS. Haitians first received Temporary Protected Status following an earthquake in 2010. DHS has extended and redesignated TPS for Haitians several times. Following the Trump administration’s unsuccessful efforts to end TPS for Haitians, the Biden administration changed the effective date, making more individuals eligible. “Haitians who have been residing in the United States since June 3, 2024, are eligible under the most recent redesignation,” according to CRS.⁸

Given Donald Trump’s criticism of Haitians, a second Trump administration would almost certainly seek to end TPS for Haitians, which expires February 3, 2026. Whether it can deport over 200,000 people to Haiti remains uncertain.

With 344,355 approved individuals, Venezuelans represent the largest group of nationals with TPS. Venezuela’s TPS designation expires on September 10, 2025. Donald Trump has alleged that Venezuelans are committing

⁶ <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>.

⁷ <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/23315024241274703>.

⁸ <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/homesec/RS20844.pdf>.

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crimes across the United States and likely would not renew the TPS designation for Venezuela. However, the Venezuelan government is unlikely to accept the return of its nationals, which would put the Trump administration in an unusual position if it ended the legal status of over 300,000 people but could not remove them from the United States.

Salvadorans with TPS arrived in the United States by February 13, 2001. That means ending TPS for 180,375 Salvadorans could result in the U.S. government attempting to deport people living in America for over two decades. Over 54,000 Hondurans with TPS have lived in the United States at least since December 30, 1998. The same is true of nearly 3,000 Nicaraguans.

HUMANITARIAN PAROLE FOR CUBANS, HAITIANS, NICARAGUANS AND VENEZUELAN

According to DHS, 528,000 individuals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela have arrived in the United States after being approved for the Biden administration’s humanitarian parole program.⁹ After the Biden administration introduced humanitarian parole programs, Border Patrol encounters declined by 92% for Cubans, Haitians and Nicaraguans as a group between December 2022 (the month before the parole programs started) and November 2023 compared to an 18% increase for nationals of non-parole countries, according to an NFAP analysis.¹⁰ The programs require a U.S. sponsor, flying to an interior port of entry and the possibility of employment authorization.

**Table 3
CHNV Humanitarian Parole Program**

Country of Origin	Number Arrived in U.S. Following Approval
Cubans	110,000
Haitians	210,000
Nicaraguans	92,000
Venezuelans	116,000
Total	528,000

Source: Department of Homeland Security. Data as of August 31, 2024.

After the Biden administration introduced the parole program for Venezuelans in October 2022, Border Patrol encounters declined by 90% for Venezuelans between September 2022 (the month before the parole programs started) and March 2023 compared to a 24% increase for nationals of non-parole countries. The low 30,000-monthly limit for the four countries may have reduced the program’s effectiveness for Venezuelans after March 2023 because the demand likely exceeded the available monthly slots to enter legally via parole.

⁹ Data obtained from DHS as of August 31, 2024. It is also known as the CHNV humanitarian parole program.

¹⁰ This section draws from *Legal Pathways: A Humane and Effective Option*, NFAP Policy Brief, National Foundation for American Policy, January 2024.

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The humanitarian parole programs are connected to U.S. foreign policy and cooperation with the Mexican government. “Mexico has agreed to accept up to 30,000 migrants each month from the four countries who attempt to walk or swim across the U.S.-Mexico border and are turned back, reported [PBS](#). “Normally, these migrants would be returned to their country of origin, but the U.S. cannot easily send back people from those four countries for a variety of reasons that include relations with the governments there.”¹¹

The Biden administration’s humanitarian parole programs proved more effective in reducing illegal entry than Trump administration policies that relied only on increased immigration enforcement. During the Trump administration, Border Patrol apprehensions at the Southwest border, a proxy for illegal entry, [increased](#) 108% between [FY 2016](#) and [FY 2019](#) (from 408,870 to 851,508).¹² After the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, Border Patrol encounters initially declined. However, Border Patrol [encounters](#) on the Southwest border rose from 16,182 in April 2020 to 69,032 by October 2020, a 327% increase.¹³

The Trump administration’s immigration policies did not override people’s need for protection and their motivations. Pending asylum cases rose 276% between FY 2016 and FY 2020 (from 163,451 to 614,751), according to Syracuse University’s [TRAC](#).

Forcing asylum seekers to “Remain in Mexico” in unsafe conditions under the “Migrant Protection Protocols” (MPP) beginning in January 2019 did not reduce illegal entry. Border Patrol apprehensions along the Southwest border increased by 162% between December 2018 (the month before Remain in Mexico started) and May 2019. Eight months after the start of MPP, Border Patrol apprehensions along the Southwest border in September 2019 were almost identical to those of September 2018.¹⁴ In contrast, the Biden administration’s parole programs showed immediate and significant declines in illegal entry.

“Despite Donald Trump’s criticism of the Biden-Harris administration, illegal entry, based on border arrests, [was lower](#) in July and August 2024 than during Trump’s last month in office,” noted a *Forbes* article. “In January 2021, there were 75,316 [Border Patrol encounters](#) along the Southwest border. That is well above the 56,408 encounters reported in July 2024. In August 2024, there were 58,038 [Border Patrol encounters](#).”

¹¹ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/watch-live-biden-speaks-on-border-and-immigration-policy-in-white-house-address>.

¹² Department of Homeland Security. See also Stuart Anderson, “GOP State Lawsuit Could Stop Sound Way To Reduce Illegal Immigration,” *Forbes*, March 21, 2023.

¹³ Ibid. The Border Patrol reported encounters in place of apprehensions beginning in March 2020 due to using the Title 42 health authority.

¹⁴ <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fy-2018>; <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fy-2019>.

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An executive order on asylum and tougher actions by Mexico’s government have reduced Border Patrol encounters at the Southwest border. However, whether that combination is sustainable without greater use of legal pathways is unclear. After a short pause, the Biden administration resumed its humanitarian parole programs and still allows asylum applications when people enter the United States with an appointment through a lawful port of entry.

HUMANITARIAN PAROLE FOR UKRAINIANS AND AFGHANS

After Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Biden administration established Uniting for Ukraine to grant humanitarian parole for Ukrainians fleeing the war. The policy served a vital foreign policy interest after the Biden administration condemned the invasion and assisted Ukraine’s government.

**Table 4
Humanitarian Parole for Ukrainians**

Country of Origin	Number Arrived in U.S. and Approved for Parole
Uniting for Ukraine	221,000
Additional Ukrainians Paroled into U.S.	430,000
Total	651,000

Source: Department of Homeland Security. Data as of August 31, 2024.

According to DHS, 221,000 Ukrainians, primarily women and children, have entered the United States and been approved for humanitarian parole.¹⁵ An additional 430,000 Ukrainians have been approved for parole and came to America outside of Uniting for Ukraine, resulting in 651,000 total Ukrainians currently with humanitarian parole in the United States. Should a future administration not renew humanitarian parole for Ukrainians, these individuals would be subject to deportation.

**Table 5
Humanitarian Parole for Afghans**

Country of Origin	Number Arrived in U.S. and Approved for Parole
Afghans Arriving under Operation Allies Welcome	77,000
Additional Afghans	56,000
Total	133,000

Source: Department of Homeland Security. Data as of August 31, 2024.

¹⁵ Data obtained from DHS. Totals as of August 31, 2024.

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After the fall of Kabul, many Afghans needed to flee for safety from the Taliban. According to DHS, 77,000 Afghans entered the United States and were approved for humanitarian parole under Operation Allies Welcome. DHS also approved an additional 56,000 Afghans for humanitarian parole. The 133,000 Afghans with humanitarian parole could be subject to deportation if a future administration does not renew their parole and they have no other means of remaining legally in the United States, such as TPS or asylum. Given the human rights abuses of the Taliban government in Afghanistan, deporting people to Afghanistan who sought refuge in the United States would result in significant public criticism. Congress failed to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act, at least in part due to opposition by Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA).

The Biden administration [announced](#) a “re-parole” process in February 2024 for Ukrainians and for [Afghans](#) in June 2023. A Harris administration could develop a similar process for the CHNV program.

DACA

According to DHS, there are 535,030 DACA recipients in the United States as of June 30, 2024. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule again on DACA, likely in 2025. Following the ruling, it’s possible DACA recipients will not be protected from deportation unless they obtain another form of relief or a lawful status.

Table 6
Active DACA Recipients

Active DACA Recipients	535,030
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Source: Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Office of Performance and Quality. Data as of June 30, 2024. Numbers rounded off.

In September 2017, the Trump administration announced it would terminate DACA or the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.¹⁶ Created during the Obama administration, the program protected (at the time) from deportation up to 800,000 “Dreamers,” young people without legal status who arrived in the United States as children. After years of lawsuits, in June 2020, the Supreme Court ruled the Trump administration’s action to end DACA violated the Administrative Procedure Act.¹⁷

Trump officials were allowed to prevent new people from applying for DACA, but due to the ruling, they needed to accept the renewals of existing DACA recipients. A September 2023 District court ruling in Texas declared DACA unlawful for new participants but allowed it to continue for current recipients. “In the summer of 2022, the Biden

¹⁶ <https://www.npr.org/2017/09/05/546423550/trump-signals-end-to-daca-calls-on-congress-to-act>.

¹⁷ <https://www.niic.org/issues/daca/alert-supreme-court-overturns-trump-administrations-termination-of-daca/>.

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Administration announced a new DACA rule with the intent of further protecting DACA from legal challenges,” according to the [Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#). “The Texas judge found that, like the DACA policy, the DACA rule was also unlawful. This decision is not the end of the DACA litigation, and it will be appealed.”¹⁸

CONCLUSION

Humanitarian parole and other legal pathways play significant roles in the U.S. immigration system. Illegal entry is likely to increase if a second Trump administration ends legal pathways, such as humanitarian parole programs and applying for asylum via ports of entry via the CBP One app. Donald Trump has announced he would eliminate both avenues of legal entry.¹⁹ TPS could end for up to 863,880 individuals.

¹⁸ Stuart Anderson, “The Outlook On H-1B Visas And Immigration In 2024,” *Forbes*, January 2, 2024.

¹⁹ <https://x.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1835315698169475316>.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR AMERICAN POLICY

Established in 2003, the National Foundation for American Policy (NFAP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy research organization based in Arlington, Virginia, focusing on trade, immigration and related issues. Advisory Board members include Columbia University economist Jagdish Bhagwati, Cornell Law School professor Stephen W. Yale-Loehr, Ohio University economist Richard Vedder and former INS Commissioner James Ziglar. Over the past 24 months, NFAP's research has been written about in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and other major media outlets. The organization's reports can be found at www.nfap.com.
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