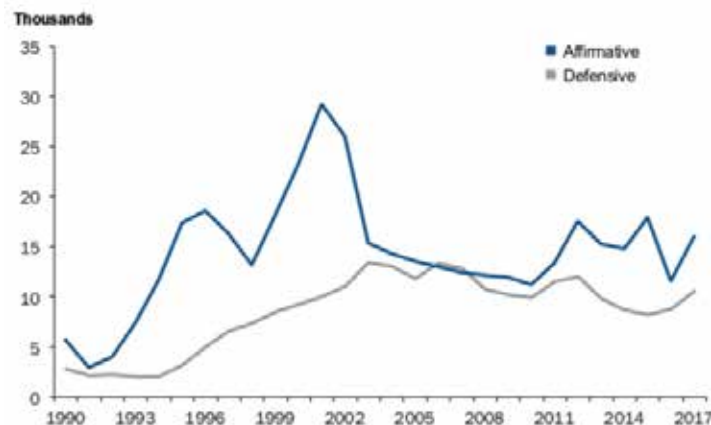


U.S. Asylee Data 1990-2017

Eligibility

To be eligible for refugee or asylum status, the applicant must meet the requirements in section 101(a)(42) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which states that a person is “unwilling or unable to return to his or her country of nationality because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.”

Annual Grants of Affirmative and Defensive Asylum: FY 1990 to 2017



Data exclude follow-to-join asylees.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of Justice.

Asylees

Applicants seeking asylum either file a claim when they arrive at a U.S. port of entry or when they are already in the United States. In 2017, the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security granted asylum affirmatively to 16,045 people. The U.S. Department of Justice granted asylum defensively to 10,523 individuals in 2017.

Top 5 Countries of Origin of Individuals Granted Asylum Affirmatively or Defensively: 2015–2017

| Country of Origin | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total | 26,568 | 20,340 | 26,011 |
| China, People's Republic | 5,567 | 4,476 | 6,155 |
| El Salvador | 3,471 | 2,148 | 2,164 |
| Guatemala | 2,954 | 1,916 | 2,059 |
| Honduras | 2,048 | 1,482 | 1,407 |
| Egypt | 1,109 | 799 | 1,588 |

Source: "Annual Flow Report, Refugees and Asylees: 2017," Office of Immigration Statistics, Department of Homeland Security, March 2019.

Trends in Asylum Cases from Central America

The number of affirmative asylum *applications* by individuals from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras increased nearly 800% from 2012–2017, from 3,523 in 2012 to 31,066 in 2017. Unaccompanied children from these countries made up 66 percent of 2015 applications and 56 percent in 2016 and 2017.

Source: "Annual Flow Report, Refugees and Asylees: 2017," Office of Immigration Statistics, Department of Homeland Security, March 2019.

Age of Individuals Granted Asylum Affirmatively: 2015–2017

| Age | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total | 16,045 | 11,582 | 17,818 |
| 0 to 17 years | 5,004 | 3,645 | 5,264 |
| 18 to 24 years | 3,130 | 2,054 | 3,206 |
| 25 to 34 years | 3,488 | 2,708 | 4,489 |
| 35 to 44 years | 2,664 | 1,853 | 3,026 |
| 45 to 54 years | 1,230 | 864 | 1,223 |
| 55 to 64 years | 373 | 294 | 390 |
| 65 years and older | 156 | 164 | 220 |

Source: "Annual Flow Report, Refugees and Asylees: 2017," Office of Immigration Statistics, Department of Homeland Security, March 2019.