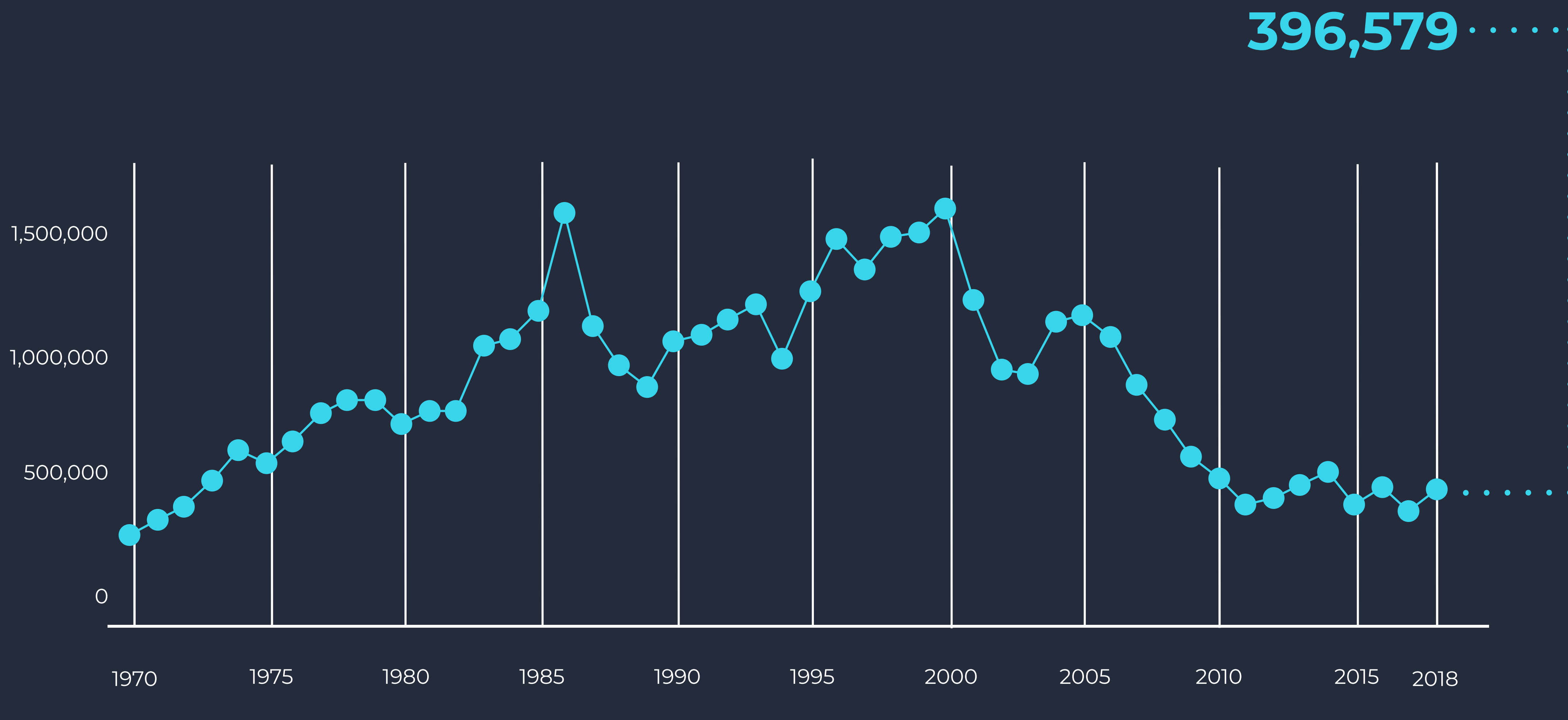




WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE BORDER?

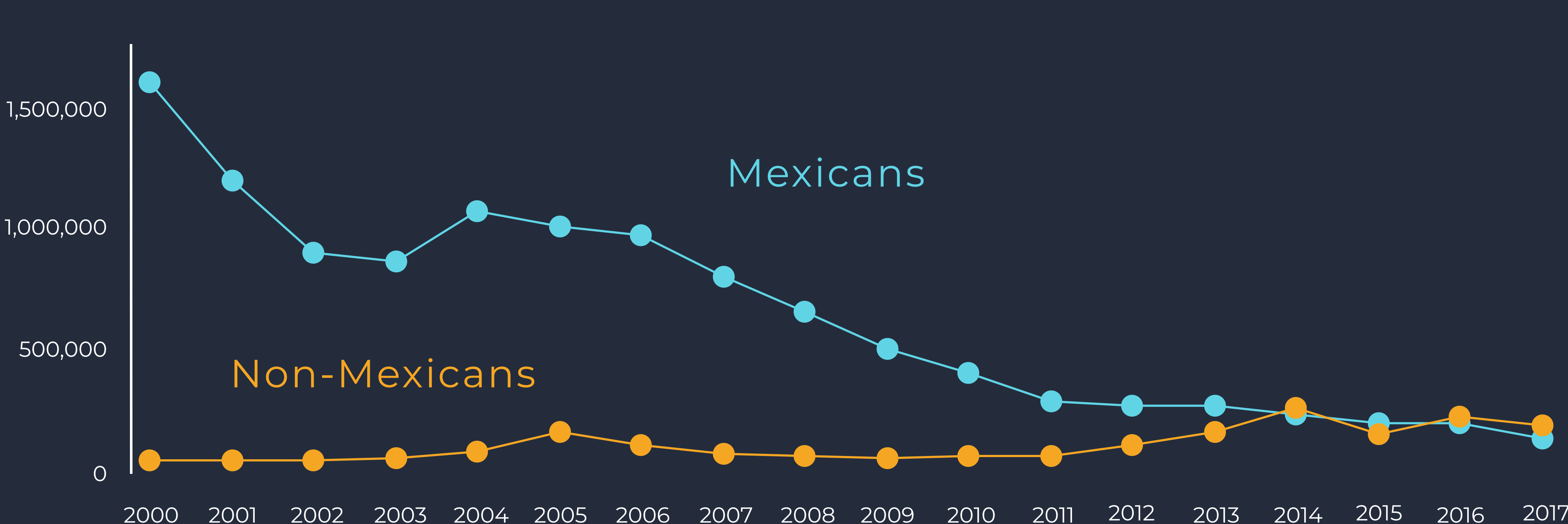


Total apprehensions at the southern border are down approximately 75% from their high point in 2000.



At the same time, **border patrol staffing** is robust, with about 4 times as many agents as in the early 90s.

While overall apprehensions have declined, other changes are occurring.



Apprehensions of Mexicans at the border are down while more migrants are coming from **Central America**.

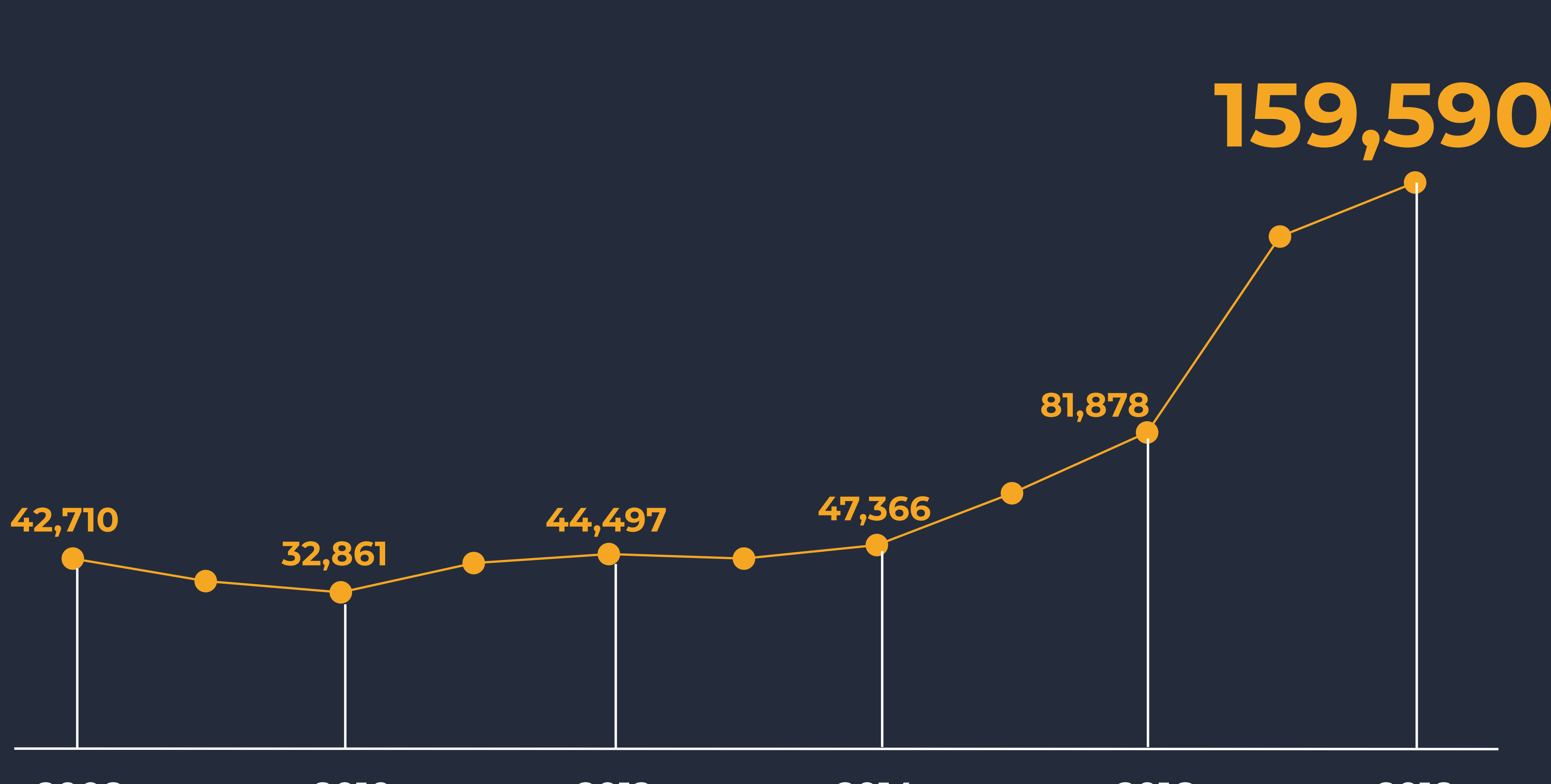
107,212
family units
apprehended
in 2018



50,036
unaccompanied
children
apprehended
in 2018



Families and unaccompanied minors are arriving in unprecedented numbers, putting strain on a detention and shelter system designed predominately for adult males.



Asylum claims have more than doubled since 2015.

1,293
requests
in 2013



14,544
requests
in 2018



More and more Central Americans are also claiming **asylum in Mexico**, making clear that this is a regional challenge. As Mexico becomes less of a migrant sending country, it is increasingly a country of both transit and destination for migrants.



721 days
average time for an asylum
seeker to be granted an
immigration hearing

These changes have overwhelmed the U.S. asylum system and created new humanitarian challenges, even as border security remains strong as compared to previous decades.



For media inquiries, contact angela.robertson@wilsoncenter.org.

Sources:

- Southwest Border Migration, USCBP - 2018
- Illegal Aliens Apprehensions by fiscal year USCBP - 2018
- Southwest Border Migration, USCBP - 2019
- Border Patrol Agent Staffing by fiscal year, USCBP - 2017
- Total Asylum Applications, DOJ - 2018
- Individuals Granted Asylum, DHS - 2016
- Total Family Units Apprehensions, USCBP, 2017
- Immigration Forum - 2018