


Welcome!

CARE Community Briefing: **Immigration Detention Facilities Report**

THURSDAY, MAY 22 | 3:00PM



Accessibility/Accesibilidad

- **Find the menu bar at the bottom of your zoom window** | *Busque la barra de menú en la parte inferior de su ventana de zoom*
 - **For closed captioning, select “more”** | *Para subtítulos, seleccione “more”*
 - **For Spanish and American Sign Language interpretation, select the image that looks like this/Para interpretación en español y lengua de signos americana, seleccione la imagen que se parece a esta:** 
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AGENDA

- I. Welcome
 - II. Introduction to Report – Special Assistant Attorney General, Jaclyn Gonzalez
 - III. CA DOJ Immigration Detention Facilities Report Presentation – Supervising Deputy Attorney General, Vilma Palma-Solana, and Deputy Attorney General Kelly Burns
 - IV. Questions
 - V. Thank you
-



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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Immigration Detention in California: A Comprehensive Review with a Focus on Mental Health

AB 103

- Transparency bill directing Department of Justice to review facilities from 2017 through July 1, 2027
- Covers: Locked immigration detention facilities operated by private corporations (or local governments, which no longer provide immigration detention in California)
- Scope of Review:
 - Conditions of confinement
 - Standard of care
 - Due process rights



Our Previous Reports

- Immigration Detention in California (February 2019)
- Immigration Detention in California (January 2021)
- Immigration Detention in California: A Review of Immigration Detention Facilities' Response to COVID-19 as of Fall 2021 (July 2022)



Detention Facilities in California

- Adelanto ICE Processing Center (GEO Group)
 - City of Adelanto, San Bernardino County
- Desert View Annex (GEO Group)
 - City of Adelanto, San Bernardino County
- Golden State Annex (GEO Group)
 - City of McFarland, Kern County
- Imperial Regional Detention Facility (MTC)
 - City of Calexico, Imperial County
- Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center (GEO Group)
 - City of Bakersfield, Kern County
- Otay Mesa Detention Center (CoreCivic)
 - City of San Diego, San Diego County



Overview of Detention

Housing Units



Recreation



Scope of 2025 Report

- Site visits May – November 2023
- Review of documents covering January 2021-November 2023
- Covered full scope of AB 103 mandate
- Mental Health focus
 - Prior reports indicated lapses in mental health care
 - Our findings were consistent with literature suggesting high mental health needs and inadequate mental health services for individuals in immigration detention



Methodology

- Facility document review and publicly available information
- Site visits to all facilities
 - Interviews with 154 detained individuals
 - Interviews with detention and healthcare staff
 - On site file review of medical charts, custody files, and use of force incident reports
- Surveys of attorneys and legal services providers
- Analysis
 - AB 103 does not specify a standard; predominantly used ICE's own Performance Based National Detention Standards (2011, rev. 2016)
 - CA Dept. of Justice's Research Services performed qualitative and quantitative analysis of interview responses and information from facility logs



Demographics as of 2023

Figure 1. Ten Most-Represented Countries of Origin, All Facilities.

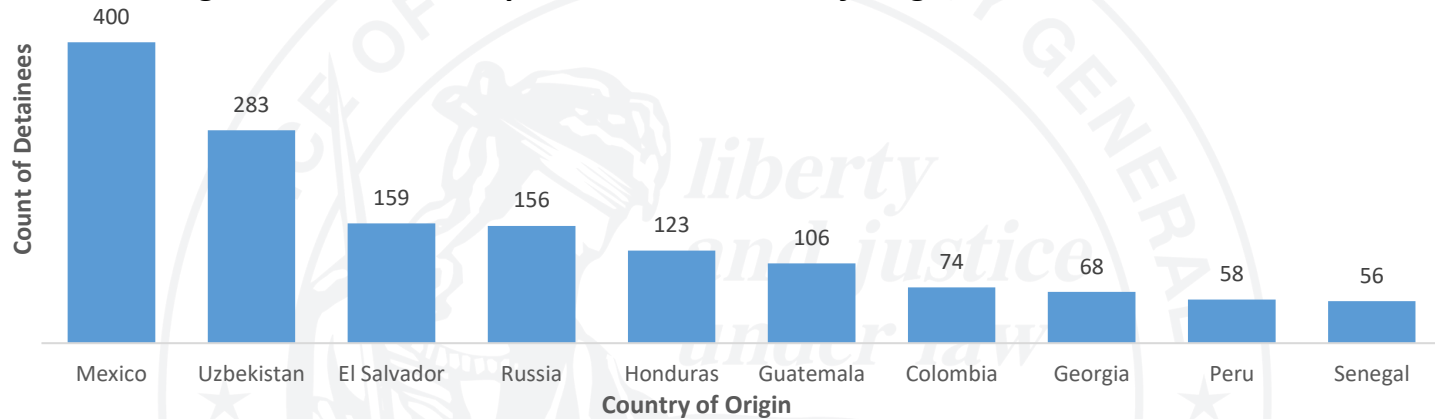


Table 3. Detainees' Length of Detention by Facility (in Days).

Facility	Average	Median	Min-Max	Standard Deviation
Adelanto	1,492.00	1,595	1,190-1,789	208.39
Desert View	68.46	20	1-712	91.67
Golden State	183.04	98	1-741	192.57
Mesa Verde	254.76	173	5-1,118	264.03
Imperial	61.74	25	1-1,502	131.13
Otay Mesa	58.95	29	2- 1,693	98.01



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Key Findings: Conditions of Confinement

Security Classifications

- Low, Medium, High – based on score sheet including criminal history, disciplinary record, special vulnerability, etc.
- Score has large impact on experience of detention
- Scores not always supported by adequate evidence
- Security Threat Group (e.g. gang) affiliations poorly supported
- Reclassifications overdue



Discipline

- Disciplinary hearing required before imposing
- Range of consequences (e.g., loss of commissary privileges, disciplinary segregation)
- Instances of discipline imposed for inappropriate reasons (cultural or religious practice, hunger strike)
- At some facilities, detainees receiving mental health care received discipline at a higher rate
- Mental health reviews not always conducted prior to discipline



Pat Down Policy at Mesa Verde

- Detained individuals required to undergo pat down searches whenever leaving housing unit
- Described as invasive and inappropriate
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) complaints / sexual assault allegations
- GEO Group deemed allegations unfounded so detained individuals had ongoing contact with officers involved



Use of Force Practices

- Desert View Annex, Imperial, and Otay Mesa – disproportionate use of force against detained individuals with mental health conditions
- Mesa Verde failed to report to Cal DOJ or DHS OIG a calculated use of force against detainees on hunger strike
- Inadequate mental health review prior to uses of force



Restrictive Housing

- Segregation or restrictive housing – immigration detention term for solitary confinement
- Types: administrative segregation, disciplinary segregation, protective custody
- Records of some detained people spending months in segregation, including people with mental health conditions
- Facilities generally not conducting mental health review prior to placement in segregation
- Imperial & Mesa Verde – detained people with mental health conditions placed in segregation for longer periods on average





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Key Findings: Mental Health and Medical Care

Medical and Mental Health Care Records

- Deficiencies in medical record keeping at all six facilities
- Inconsistency in diagnoses
- Notes copied and pasted across different health care visits
- Unclear criteria for placing detained people on “serious mental illness” lists
- Inconsistent use of records/information received from outside care facilities
- Insufficient documentation to support treatment planning



Healthcare Staffing

- Healthcare staffing vacancies common at all facilities and particularly impacted Imperial and Otay Mesa
- Some facilities had no psychologist / therapist at time of visit
- At one point much of psychiatric care across the state provided by single telehealth psychiatrist



Quality of Mental Health Care

- No facility offered adequate psychotherapy services for the conditions most commonly observed in detained immigrant populations
- Multidisciplinary treatment planning did not consistently occur at any of the facilities
- Under-recognition of trauma
- Lack of consistent lab tests / Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale tests ordered when medications prescribed
- Other diagnosis or treatment concerns varied by facility



Suicide Prevention and Intervention

- Some deficiency in suicide prevention or intervention practices at every facility
- Inconsistent use of standard suicide risk assessments
- Detained individuals did not always have regular contact with mental health provider while placed on suicide watch
- Diffuse responsibility for releasing detained people from suicide watch
- Few facilities engaged in adequate safety planning after suicide watch





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Key Findings: Due Process

Due Process

- *Franco-Gonzalez v. Holder settlement*: In California and some other states, immigrants with certain serious mental illnesses must be provided counsel
 - Facilities did not always post notice of rights as settlement requires
- Some reports, particularly at Golden State Annex, of practical obstacles to contact with attorneys
- Some attorneys surveyed reported detained individuals not being given psychiatric medication prior to hearings, so could not meaningfully participate



Next Steps

- Planning next round of site visits (currently the 6 existing facilities, will include any additional privately operated facilities that open during review period)
- AB 103 sunsets in July 2027



**THANK YOU FOR
ATTENDING
TODAY'S WEBINAR**

- **Video and Presentation Materials Will Be Available At:** oag.ca.gov/care/community-briefings
Note: Please allow at least 2 weeks for the video to be uploaded.
- **Upcoming Event:**
Demystifying the Department of Justice:
Division of Medi-Cal Fraud & Elder Abuse

Thursday, 12th, 2025
10:00 AM -11:00 AM
Virtual Presentation

Register at:
<https://oag.ca.gov/care/demystifying-the-doj>
- **Contact Us:** care@doj.ca.gov