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### **Reform U.S. Approach to Border Prosecutions**

Illegal entry (under 8 U.S.C. § 1325) and illegal re-entry (under 8 U.S.C. § 1326) are now the most prosecuted federal crimes in the United States.<sup>1</sup> According to the Pew Research Center, the increase in illegal re-entry convictions over the past two decades accounts for 48 percent of the growth in total convictions in federal courts over the period.<sup>2</sup> This is the direct outcome of programs seeking the federal criminal prosecution and imprisonment of unlawful border crossers, aggressively pursued in southwest border districts in every state except California since 2005.

Rather than being processed through the civil immigration enforcement system, apprehended migrants in these districts





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Tool, <http://tracfed.syr.edu/index/index.php?layer=cri> and *At Nearly 100,000, Immigration Prosecutions Reach All-time High in FY 2013*, TRAC