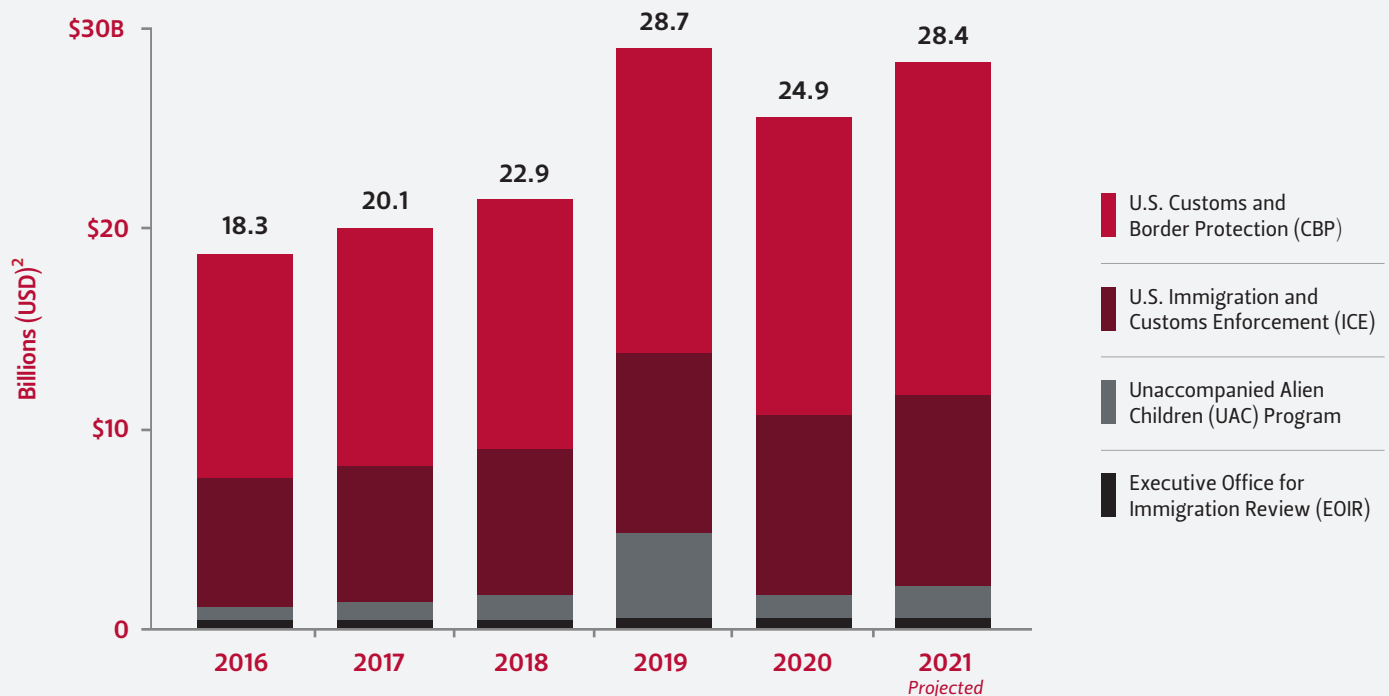


What are the costs of border security and immigration enforcement?

The U.S. government has made enormous investments in border security and immigration enforcement. Since the 2003 creation of the Department of Homeland Security, a reorganization that integrated all or part of 22 different federal departments and agencies, it is estimated that the U.S. government has spent **\$330 billion** on immigration enforcement agencies.¹



\$10,800
Cost per Border Patrol apprehension.³

\$129.64
Adult bed cost per day for detention in 2020.⁴

\$20 million
Estimated cost per mile for border wall construction.⁵

Policy Recommendations

- Rebalance border security resources to modernize and increase efficiency at ports of entry
- Subject budget requests to cost-benefit analyses and include alternative options to immigration detentions
- Allocate additional resources to alleviate backlogs in refugee processing and the immigration court system

Sources

1. American Immigration Council, <https://bit.ly/2UrWv9s>
2. White House 2020, <https://bit.ly/35odZ9k>; 2021, <https://bit.ly/39Z8XIA>
3. National Immigration Forum 2019, <https://bit.ly/2rRmPhn>
4. DHS FY 2020 Congressional Justification, <https://bit.ly/34xPLSk>
5. NPR 2020, <https://n.pr/39fsgXv>

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