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### Beyond The Rhetoric: Asylum In The Obama And Trump Administrations

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# Beyond The Rhetoric: Asylum In The Obama And Trump Administrations

PRESENTER:  
**Akiva Cohen**

## BACKGROUND:

As the tides of political control have changed, constituents must understand **impacts** that these most recent administrations had on the **development and implementation of asylum policy** in the United States.

This paper contrasts the asylum policies in the Trump Administration to those of the Obama Administration.

## METHODOLOGY

1. Perform a thorough review of the preexisting base of research including:

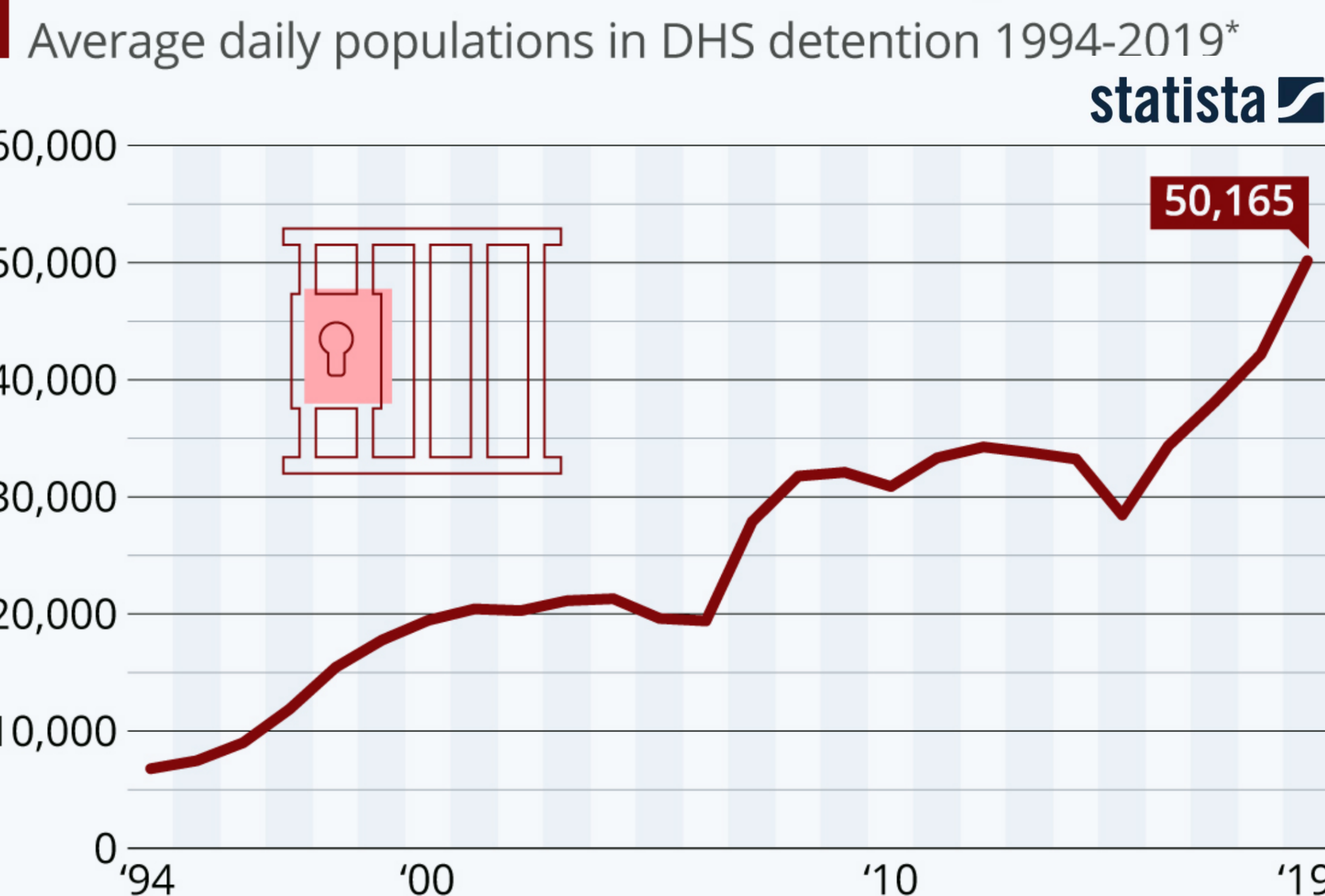
- Scholarly journals
  - Government documents
  - Executive actions
  - Firsthand accounts
  - Nonprofit organizations
2. Perform an intersectional analysis of

- Rhetoric
- Political affiliation
- Direct and indirect policy initiatives
- Enforcement across these administrations

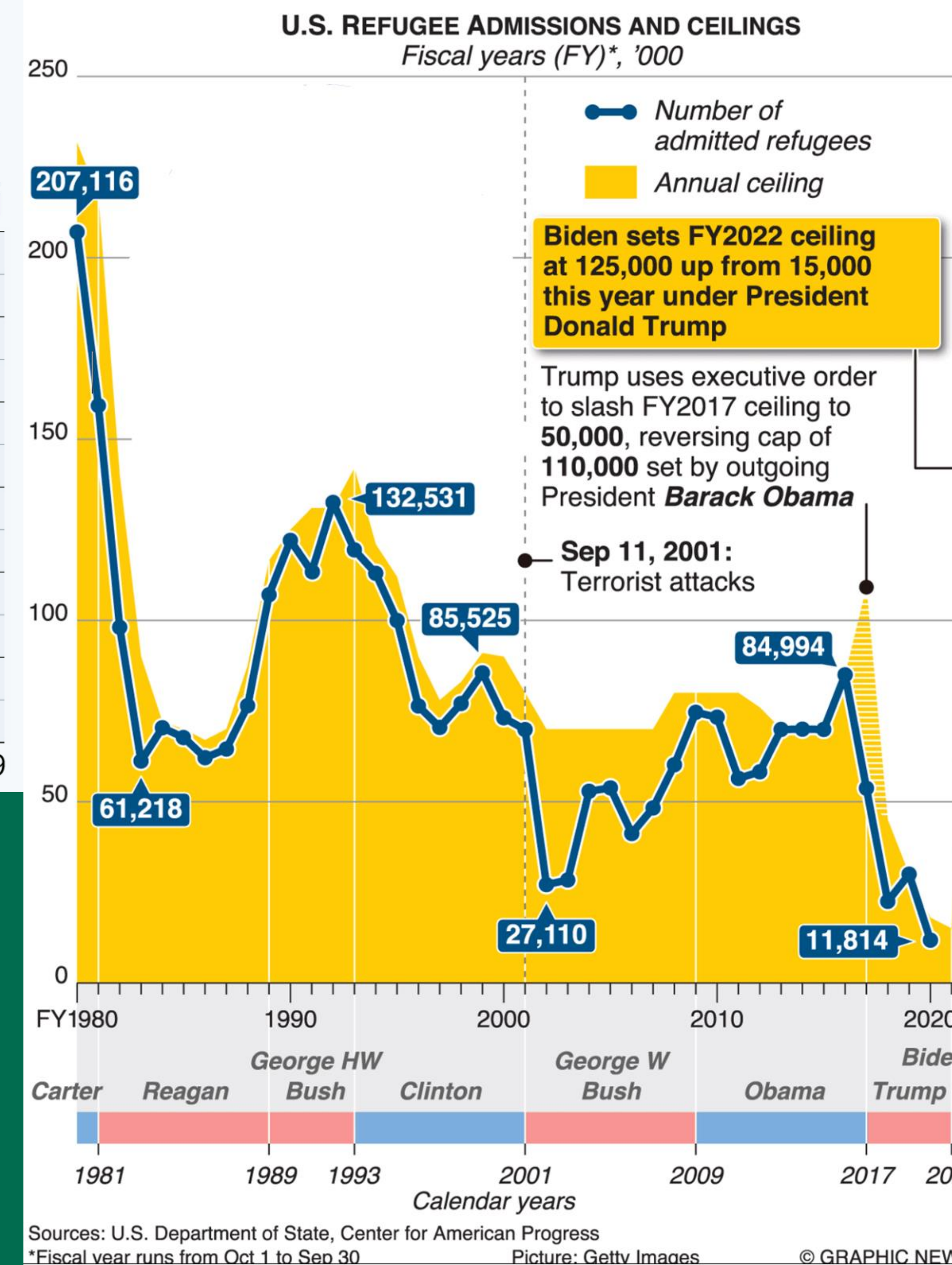
## FINDINGS

1. Although rhetoric can alter public opinion, it has often been unrelated to the development of asylum policies and enforcement.
2. Harsh detention practices that are often associated with the Trump Administration through public opinion and the media, were developed during the Obama Presidency and continually perpetuated in President Trump's term.
3. President Trump signed harsh executive actions against the asylum system, compared to President Obama.

### Number of Immigrant Detainees Rises Quickly



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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Major Policy Initiatives During The Trump Administration:

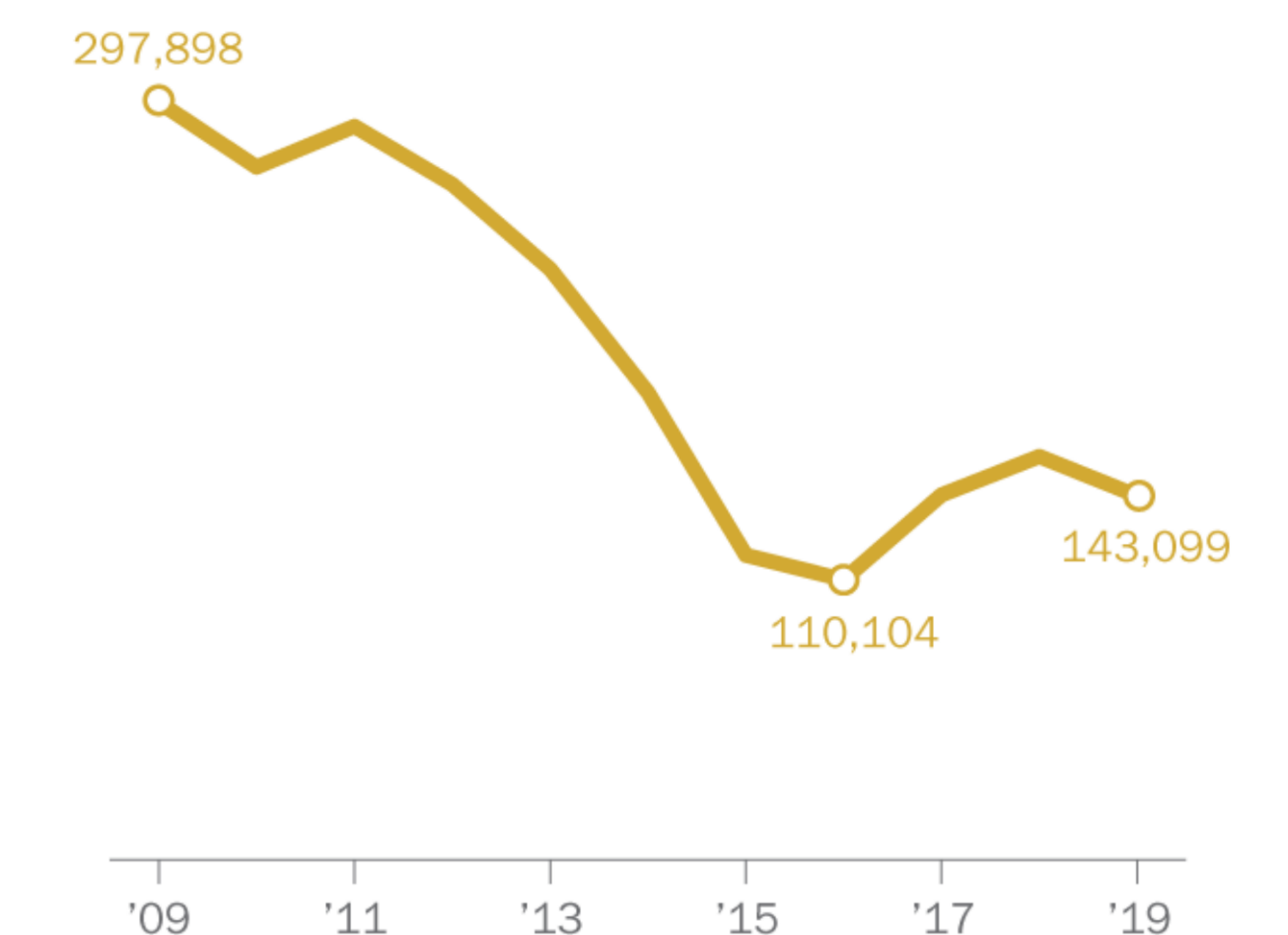
- Migrant Protection Protocols (Remain in Mexico)
- "The Muslim Ban"
- Family Separation
- Border wall construction

Major Policy Initiatives During the Obama Administration

- Obama's Response to the 2014 influx of Central American Arrivals
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- Family separation and detention

ICE arrests went up after Trump took office, but remain lower than during much of Obama's tenure

Number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrests, by fiscal year



Notes: Includes only administrative arrests by ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations. Figures do not include Customs and Border Protection apprehensions. Source: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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## REFERENCES

Chen, Michelle; Czaika, Mathias; Hamlin, Rebecca; Jordan, Miriam; Kagan, Michael; Kerrie Holloway; Kinzie, J. D.; Frelick, Bill; Mueller, Zachary; Oberstadt, Andrew; Schriro, Dora