

# ICE APPREHENSIONS IN MAINE

Data Analysis and Implications for Public Safety, Due Process, and Community Stability

By Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC)

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## Executive Summary

Between September 1, 2023, and October 15, 2025, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) recorded 442 apprehensions in the state of Maine. Analysis of ICE data obtained through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests reveals a sharp increase in apprehensions over time, with the most significant escalation occurring in 2025.

Critically, this increase was not driven by apprehensions of individuals convicted of serious crimes. Instead, ICE enforcement in Maine has increasingly targeted working-age men, predominantly from African and Latin American countries, many of whom had no criminal convictions or no criminal history at all.

These findings challenge the prevailing narrative that ICE enforcement activity in Maine is primarily focused on individuals who pose a threat to public safety. Rather, the data indicate a shift toward broader immigration enforcement strategies that disproportionately impact immigrant workers, families, and individuals navigating asylum or humanitarian pathways.

The findings in this report raise serious concerns regarding due process, community trust, and the alignment of federal immigration enforcement practices with Maine's stated public safety priorities.

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a clear, evidence-based analysis of ICE apprehensions in Maine using data obtained through FOIA requests. Specifically, this report examines:

- The scale and growth of ICE apprehensions in Maine
- The demographic characteristics of individuals apprehended
- Country-of-citizenship trends
- The criminal history, or lack thereof, of apprehended individuals

By grounding public discussion in verified data, this report seeks to inform policymakers, community leaders, and the public about who federal immigration enforcement is impacting in Maine and what implications these practices have for public safety, due process, and immigrant communities statewide.

**PLEASE NOTE:** FOIA data forming the basis of this report covers September 1, 2023, through October 15, 2025.

## METHOD

The Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition analyzed individual-level ICE apprehension data obtained through FOIA requests and processed by the [Deportation Data Project](#). Records were filtered to include cases where the apprehension occurred in the state of Maine.

The dataset covers the period from **September 1, 2023, through October 15, 2025**. No entries in the dataset were flagged as “duplicate likely” by the deportation data project. Microsoft Excel was used for data cleaning, analysis, and visualization.

**Important methodological note:** Year-to-year comparisons reflect unequal time periods. Data for 2023 covers four months, 2024 covers twelve months, and 2025 covers approximately nine and a half months.

## Key Findings

**Key Finding 1:** ICE apprehensions in Maine increased significantly between 2024 and the first 9.5 months of 2025.

**Key Finding 2:** ICE enforcement overwhelmingly targeted **working-age men**, particularly those between the ages of 20 and 50.

**Key Finding 3:** Nearly half of all apprehended individuals were citizens of **Angola, Ecuador, or the Democratic Republic of Congo**.

**Key Finding 4:** The majority of individuals apprehended by ICE in Maine **were not convicted criminals**, and a substantial portion had **no criminal charges whatsoever**.

## APPREHENSIONS IN MAINE

An ICE “Apprehension” is an instance where ICE detained an individual. Between September 1, 2023, and October 15, 2025, **ICE recorded 442 apprehensions** in Maine.

Table 1: Total ICE Apprehensions in Maine			
2023*	2024	2025*	Total
44	168	230	442

When comparing the number of ICE apprehensions in Maine between January 1, 2025, and October 15, 2025, to all of 2024, ICE apprehensions have increased 37%.

<b>Table 2: 2025 Apprehension Supplemental Data</b>	
<b>Average Monthly Apprehensions</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Largest Number of Apprehensions in a Month</b>	<b>35 (June 2025)</b>

Based on the year-to-date 2025 data, we can expect a year-end increase in apprehensions in 2025 between 73% to 89% as compared to 2024.

This growth reflects a **substantial escalation of immigration enforcement activity in Maine**. As subsequent sections demonstrate, this increase is not associated with a corresponding rise in apprehensions of individuals convicted of serious crimes, indicating a shift in enforcement priorities rather than a response to increased public safety threats. Rapid expansion of enforcement activity without a public safety rationale risks undermining community trust and diverting law enforcement resources away from genuine safety concerns.

★ **KEY FINDING:** ICE apprehensions in Maine increased **37%** between 2024 and the first 9.5 months of 2025, and are expected to increase between **73% and 89%** upon release of year end data.

## **DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIVIDUALS APPREHENDED**

ICE records select demographic characteristics of the individuals it apprehends, including sex, age, and country of citizenship. Analysis of demographic data indicates that **male individuals** between the ages of **20 and 50**, primarily from **Angola, Ecuador, and the Democratic Republic of Congo**, were the most impacted by ICE apprehensions in Maine between September 2023 and October 2025. The sections below present a detailed demographic breakdown of ICE apprehensions in Maine, disaggregated by year, and are shown below in Tables 2 – 4 and Figures 1 – 2.

### **DETAINEE SEX**

ICE records the sex of individuals it apprehends, allowing for analysis of enforcement patterns by gender over time. Review of this data shows a pronounced and growing concentration of enforcement

<b>Table 2: ICE Apprehensions by Sex, Year</b>				
<b>Sex</b>	<b>2023*</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025*</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Female	9	18	4	31
Male	35	150	226	411
<i>Grand Total</i>	<b>44</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>442</b>

activity. Between September 2023 and October 2025, 93% of individuals apprehended by ICE in Maine were Male. In 2025 alone, this figure rose to 98.3%.

★ **KEY FINDING:** ICE apprehensions in Maine primarily and increasingly targeted male individuals, reflecting enforcement patterns that disproportionately impact working-age men.

## DETAINEE AGE

ICE records the age of individuals at the time of apprehension, allowing for analysis of how enforcement activity is distributed across life stages. Reviewing age data helps clarify whether ICE enforcement in Maine is primarily affecting children, older adults, or individuals in their working years.

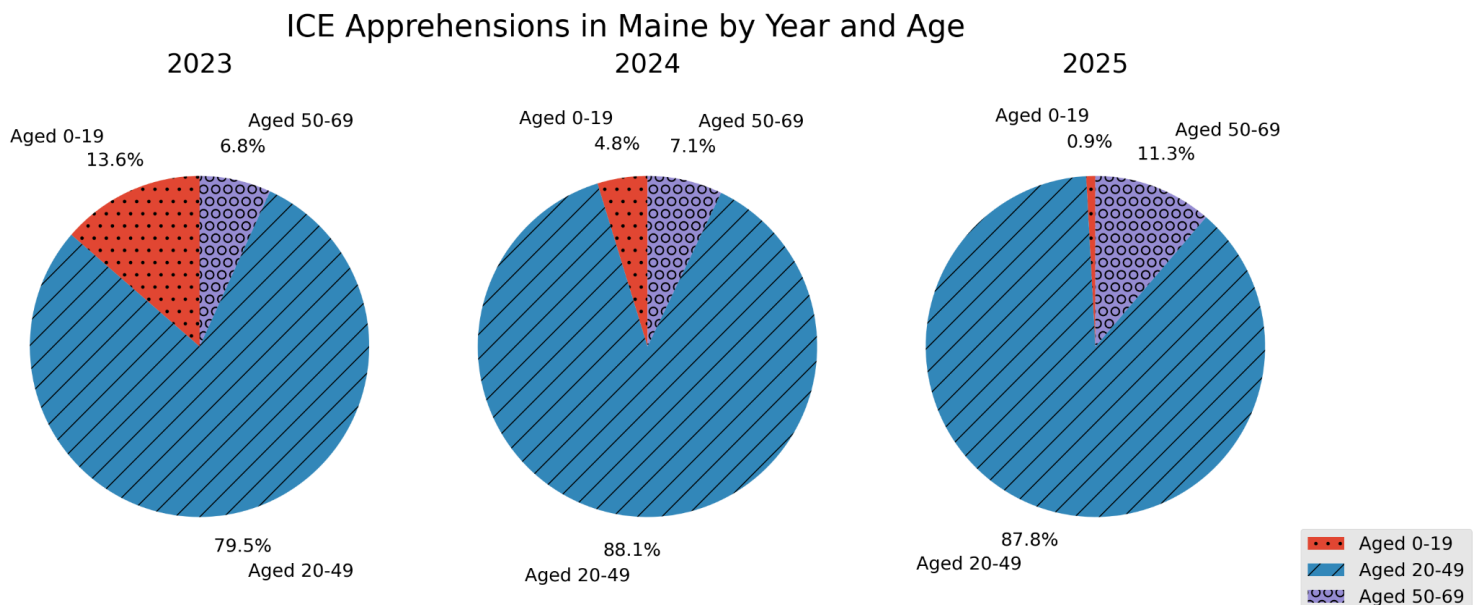
Between September 2023 and October 2025, **87% of individuals apprehended by ICE in Maine were between the ages of 20 and 50.**

During the same period, **4% of apprehended individuals were under the age of 20, and 9% were over the age of 50.**

★ **KEY FINDING:** ICE apprehensions in Maine primarily targeted individuals between **20 and 50 years of age**, though children, youth, and older adults were also impacted by enforcement activity.

Age (Years)	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
0 - 9	3	2	0	5
10 - 19	3	6	2	11
20 - 29	13	49	70	132
30 - 39	18	59	79	156
40 - 49	4	40	53	97
50 - 59	3	10	20	33
60 - 69	0	2	6	8
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>442</b>

**Figure 1: Age of Apprehended Individuals by Year**

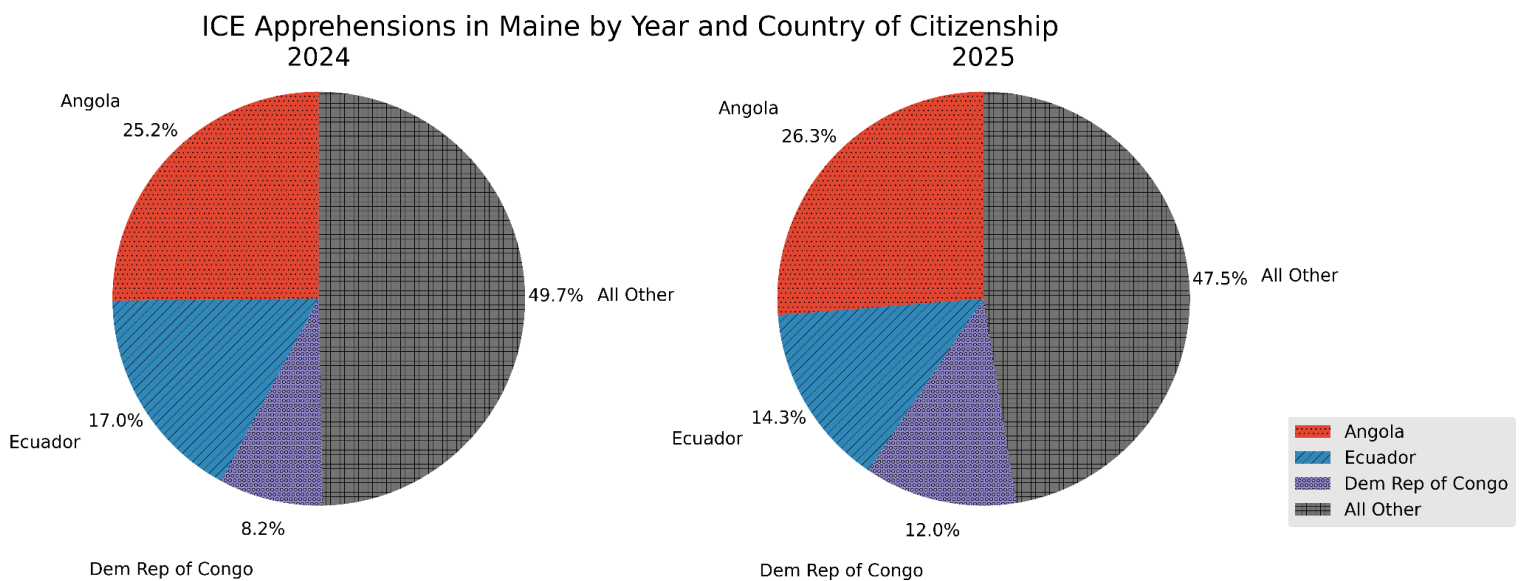


## COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP OF APPREHENDED INDIVIDUALS

ICE records the country of citizenship of individuals it apprehends, which provides insight into which communities are most impacted by immigration enforcement. Reviewing country-of-citizenship data helps identify whether ICE activity is broadly distributed across immigrant populations or concentrated among specific groups. In Maine during the study period, nearly **49%** of all individuals apprehended by ICE were citizens of **Angola, Ecuador, or the Democratic Republic of Congo**. When grouped by region, **49%** were from African countries and **45%** from Latin America.

★ **KEY FINDING:** ICE apprehensions in Maine disproportionately impacted individuals from **Africa and Latin America**, with nearly half of all apprehensions impacting individuals from **Angola, Ecuador, and the Democratic Republic of Congo**.

Figure 2: ICE Apprehensions by Country of Citizenship and Year



**Table 4: ICE Apprehensions by Country of Citizenship, Year**

Country of Citizenship	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
ANGOLA	7	40	57	104
ECUADOR	9	27	31	67
DEM REP OF THE CONGO	5	13	26	44
GUATEMALA	0	9	13	22
HONDURAS	1	8	9	18
CONGO	1	3	13	17
RWANDA	1	4	11	16
CHINA	0	6	7	13
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	0	7	6	13
EL SALVADOR	2	5	6	13
MEXICO	2	3	7	12
VENEZUELA	3	2	5	10
BURUNDI	0	6	4	10
JAMAICA	2	4	4	10
BRAZIL	2	1	6	9
COLOMBIA	1	6	2	9
NICARAGUA	5	3	1	9
DJIBOUTI	0	6	0	6
JORDAN	0	0	3	3
RUSSIA	0	1	2	3
SUDAN	0	1	2	3
SOMALIA	0	1	1	2
EGYPT	0	0	2	2
SOUTH AFRICA	0	1	1	2
NIGERIA	0	1	1	2
CANADA	0	1	1	2
HAITI	0	1	1	2
TANZANIA	0	2	0	2
PERU	1	1	0	2
NAMIBIA	0	0	1	1
ARGENTINA	0	0	1	1
PORTUGAL	0	0	1	1
MOZAMBIQUE	0	0	1	1
BELGIUM	0	0	1	1
LAOS	0	0	1	1
CHAD	0	0	1	1
SERBIA	0	0	1	1
COSTA RICA	0	1	0	1
FRANCE	0	1	0	1
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE	0	1	0	1
KENYA	0	1	0	1
INDIA	0	1	0	1
PAKISTAN	1	0	0	1
UNITED KINGDOM	1	0	0	1
<i>Grand Total</i>	<b>44</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>442</b>

# CRIMINAL STATUS OF INDIVIDUALS APPREHENDED

“Criminal status” refers to an individual's history with the justice system, including past arrests, charges, and convictions. ICE categorizes individuals into three criminal-status groups:<sup>1</sup>

- **Convicted Criminal** - An individual with at least one criminal conviction,
- **Pending Criminal Charges** - An individual with no criminal convictions but at least one criminal charge,
- **Other** - An individual with no criminal charges or convictions, also classified as “other immigration violator”.

Before reviewing the criminal status data further, *it is important to note issues with ICE’s “criminal” classification terminology above, which manufactures an undue appearance of criminality in apprehended individuals:*

- 1. Apprehending Individuals with “Pending” Charges Denies Due Process** - Due process of law, enshrined in the 5th and 14th Amendments, requires the government to provide a person with an opportunity to make their case in court before depriving them of life, liberty, or property. When ICE apprehends an individual before they have been convicted in court, the individual is denied “due process.” Importantly, the CATO Report finds that people who fall under the label of pending criminal charges “have never been found guilty, and the charges are often minor and regularly dismissed.”<sup>2</sup> *By apprehending and classifying individuals as “Pending Criminal Charges,” ICE presents individuals they apprehend as guilty before they are proven so in court.* By apprehending non-convicted individuals who may be deported without trial, ICE potentially violates the 5th and 14th Amendment right to Due Process.
- 2. Apprehended individuals listed as “Other” have not been convicted or charged with any crimes and may be legally present** - ICE lists people they apprehend who have not been charged or convicted of a crime as “other immigration violator.” This again assumes guilt without being proven in court. Importantly, these apprehended individuals may be in compliance with immigration law or even be US citizens.<sup>3</sup> *While ICE labels individuals as “Other immigration violators,”*

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<sup>1</sup> Blair, Graeme, David Hausman, and Phil Neff. 2025. “Immigration and Customs Enforcement Individual-Level Data: An Introduction,” December. <https://deportationdata.org/docs/> (Blair et al.)

<sup>2</sup> Bier, David J. “5% of People Detained By ICE Have Violent Convictions, 73% No Convictions.” Cato Institute, 24 November 2025, <https://www.cato.org/blog/5-ice-detainees-have-violent-convictions-73-no-convictions>. Accessed 11 January 2026.

<sup>3</sup> “Immigration Agents Have Held More Than 170 Americans Against Their Will, ProPublica Finds.” ProPublica, 16 October 2025, <https://www.propublica.org/article/immigration-dhs-american-citizens-arrested-detained-against-will>. Accessed 11 January 2026.

assuming wrongdoing, these people are not criminals and may be legal immigrants or even US citizens.

## CRIMINAL STATUS ANALYSIS

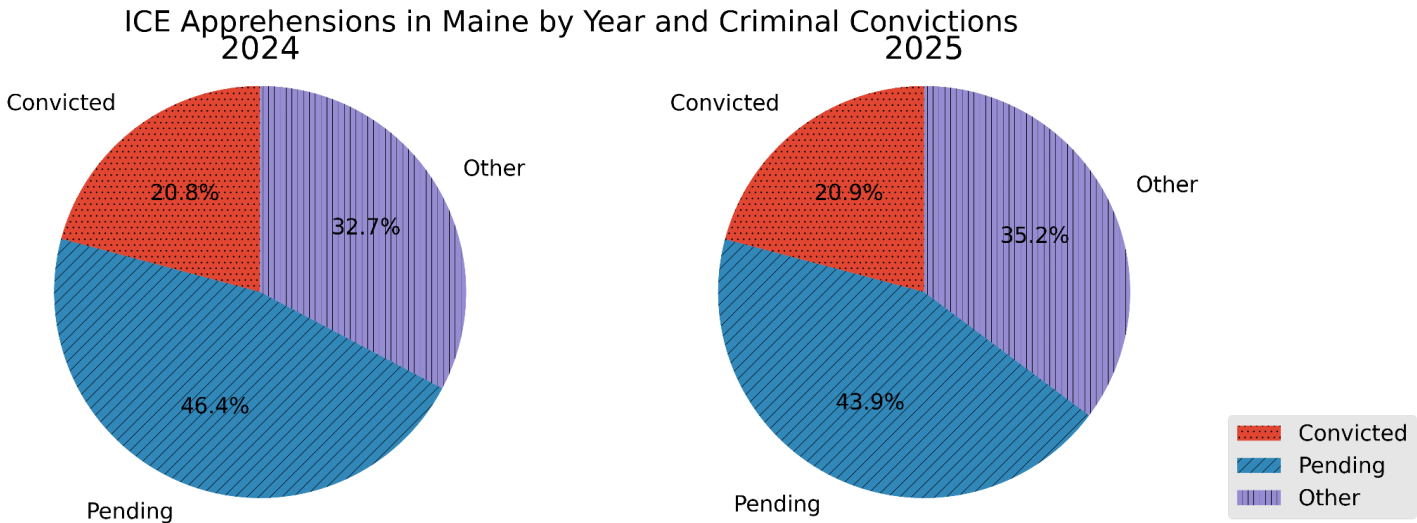
Review of ICE data from Maine demonstrates that the majority of individuals apprehended were **not involved in the criminal legal system in any meaningful way**. In 2024 and 2025, **79% of apprehended individuals had no criminal convictions**. Additionally, **36% of individuals apprehended during this period had no criminal charges or convictions whatsoever**.

**Table 5: Criminal Status of Apprehended Individuals by Year**

Criminal Status	2023*	2024	2025*	Total
Convicted Criminal	5	35	48	88
Pending Criminal Charges	17	78	101	196
Other	22	55	81	158
<i>Grand Total</i>	<b>44</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>442</b>

★ **KEY TAKEAWAYS:** Between 2023 and 2025, **ICE predominantly apprehended individuals in Maine who have not been convicted of a crime**, and many had no charges whatsoever.

Figure 4: Criminal Status of Apprehended Individual by Year (Percentage)



**REMINDER:** ICE Criminal Status terminology manufactures an undue appearance of criminality in apprehended individuals. Individuals listed as “Pending Criminal Charges” have not been found guilty, and individuals listed as “Other” have no criminal charges OR convictions.

## Conclusion

Analysis of ICE apprehension data from September 2023 through October 2025 reveals a clear and consistent pattern of immigration enforcement in Maine that diverges sharply from common public safety justifications. While ICE apprehensions increased substantially during this period, particularly in 2025, this expansion was **not driven by enforcement against individuals with serious criminal convictions**. Instead, the data show that ICE activity increasingly targeted **working-age men**, disproportionately from **African and Latin American countries**, many of whom had **no criminal convictions and, in a growing number of cases, no criminal charges at all**.

The demographic concentration of apprehensions indicates that ICE enforcement in Maine is not evenly distributed across immigrant communities. Nearly half of all individuals apprehended were Black and Brown, as reflected by country-of-citizenship patterns, raising serious concerns about racialized enforcement outcomes that cannot be explained by differences in criminal conduct. At the same time, the overwhelming focus on individuals between the ages of 20 and 50 suggests that **enforcement activity is disrupting families, workplaces, and local economies** rather than addressing threats to public safety.

Perhaps most critically, the criminal status data undermine claims that ICE enforcement in Maine is centered on dangerous or violent individuals. The majority of people apprehended during the most recent years of the dataset were not convicted criminals, and the fastest growth in apprehensions occurred among individuals with **no interaction with the criminal justice system**. ICE's reliance on categories such as "Pending Criminal Charges" and "Other" further obscures this reality by presenting accusation or immigration status as evidence of criminality, raising profound **due process concerns**. Taken together, these findings demonstrate that ICE enforcement in Maine during this period functioned primarily as a **broad immigration control mechanism**, not a targeted public safety strategy. The data point to an approach that prioritizes removability over risk, volume over discretion, and enforcement outcomes over constitutional safeguards.