

MIGRANT CROSSINGS

The lack of data has been a problem as we have tried to carry out our mission of providing humanitarian aid to migrants crossing the Arizona border. The available data was the number of migrants apprehended as they attempted to cross the border and the number of recovered human remains. We did not know how many migrants actually crossed the border into Arizona although the Border Patrol was estimating they captured 80% of people attempting to cross. We did not know the number of deaths because the number of recovered human remains did not include human remains undiscovered. The number of deaths could be 5 to 10 times the number of recovered human remains. Recently released information has allowed us to make a better estimate as to the number of people actually moving through the Arizona desert.

In May of 2016 The Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) released a report on estimates of illicit flow of migrants into the US. The report stated that the rate of apprehension has varied widely over the years but recently has averaged around 50%. For this report it is assumed that 54% of the migrants attempting to cross the US border are apprehended.

In 2014-15 337,117 migrants were apprehended along the southern border with Mexico. This means that the total attempts to cross were 624,291 and that the number actually entering the US was 287,174.

In 2014-15 63,188 migrants were apprehended in the Tucson Sector which was 19% of the total apprehensions along the southern border. The total attempts to cross the border were 117,015 and the number actually entering the Tucson Sector was 53,827.

On July 10, 2016 the Arizona Daily Star reported on apprehensions in three zones in the Tucson Sector (see map). A western sector extending west from Sasabe, a central sector extending east from Sasabe to Sierra Vista and an eastern sector extending east from Sierra Vista. The work of the Tucson/Green Valley Samaritans is primarily in the center sector. There were 27,255 apprehensions for this sector in 2014-15 and 23,217 migrants (450 per week) crossed the border without being apprehended. This represents 43% of the migrants entering Arizona. The Sam's are certainly working in the correct area.

The area between the east side of the Tumacacori Mtns and the west side of the San Luis Mtns (about 450 square miles) is mountainous forcing migrants to walk in single file creating trails. The areas to the east and west of this area are relatively flat and migrants do not walk single file thus not creating trails. The mountainous area allows us to concentrate water drops in the areas where migrants are known to be walking. We continue to find RHR in the areas without the trails. The challenge is to find methods to get water to migrants in need, in these areas.