



Comparing U.S. and the United Nations' Refugee Responsibility

from 1998-2018



Purpose

Evaluate the international vs. domestic responsibility of refugee relief.

Examine the change in refugee arrivals over the course of the Clinton, Bush, Obama, and Trump presidencies.

Methods

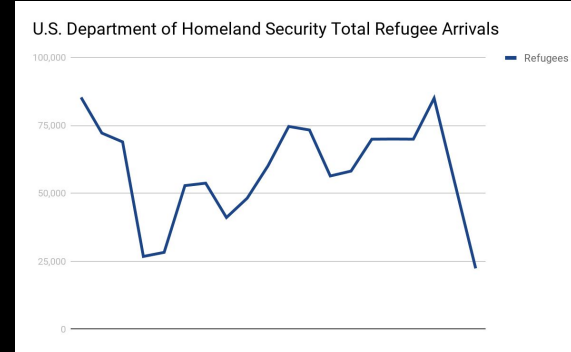
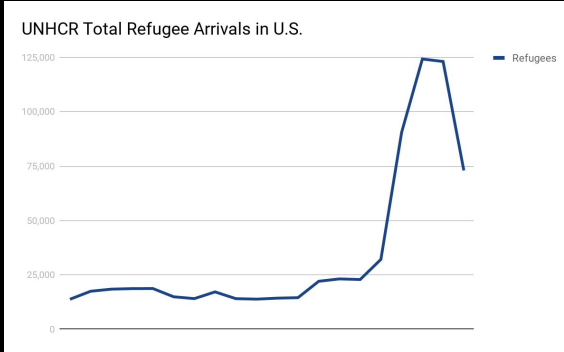
Data was collected from the UNHCR statistical yearbooks and the Department of Homeland Security from 1998-2018 for total number of refugee arrivals in the U.S.

Rhetoric

This is an explanatory factor for why we would expect to see lower numbers of refugees, although the two are not directly correlated.

Hypothesis:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will report lower numbers of refugee arrivals in the U.S. than the UN
The U.S. will report lower numbers of refugee arrivals under the Trump Administration

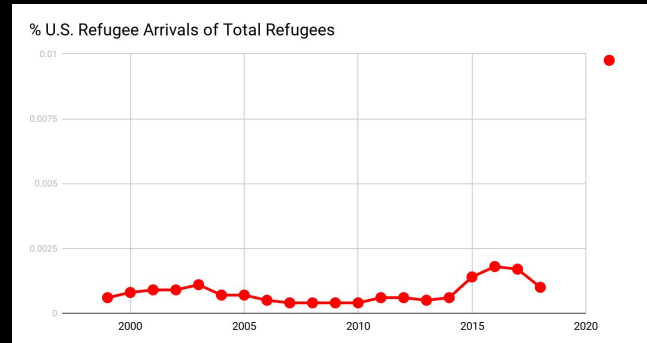


Results

U.S. and UN numbers have a significant disparity, with the U.S. reporting lower numbers, as shown in the two line graphs to the left.

The U.S. has decreased the number of refugee arrivals in 2017 and 2018 under the Trump presidency.

As seen in the scatter plot below, the U.S. takes in less than 1% of global refugees.



Conclusions

The U.S. is not participating in sufficient international or domestic refugee relief efforts. The biggest problem preventing accountability is the lack of a universal definition of a refugee. Internationally, sovereignty, American exceptionalism, and customary law are big issues. Domestically, refugees do not have any constitutional rights or protections.

Suggestion for Future Research

Further study focusing on the domestic treatment and policies, particularly at the southern border, is needed.