# San Diego Surpasses Other Border Sectors as Primary Entry Point for Migrants into the US



San Diego has become the primary entry point for migrants into the United States, surpassing other border sectors in April. The US Border Patrol reports that 37,370 migrants entered through the San Diego sector, which includes all of Southern California except for El Centro. Previously, Tucson, Arizona, held the top spot for migrant apprehensions and recorded 31,219 encounters in the same month. El Paso, covering West Texas and all of New Mexico, followed with 30,393.

The shift towards San Diego was anticipated as the area has been experiencing a significant increase, with 6,000 to 8,000 migrants crossing weekly in recent months. Commissioner Jim Desmond of San Diego County cited stricter controls in Texas as a contributing factor. Texas Governor Greg Abbott's measures, such as closing a known entry park and removing Border Patrol agents, have shifted migrant flows elsewhere.

Border dynamics are also influenced by drug cartels, and the Mexican government has intensified efforts to keep migrants within Mexico. This has resulted in a decrease in border crossings overall, with 247,837 migrants entering the US illegally in April, down from over 300,000 in previous months.

San Diego faces challenges in managing the influx. The local migrant shelter was closed earlier this year due to its $18 million annual cost, leading to released migrants being left at transit stations or the airport. Desmond noted this has strained local resources, affecting the tourist-centric community. Migrants sometimes spend days at the airport awaiting flights to other parts of the country.

Despite these challenges, the Biden administration has pledged $20 million to reopen a shelter in San Diego.