

THE SOUTHERN BORDER CRISIS

June 22, 2023

THE ISSUE

The southern border is experiencing the worst security and humanitarian crisis in history.

This Administration has torn down successful, proven policies and implemented new ones that have defied the rule of law and allow for never-before-seen numbers of illegal aliens to cross into our country, Mexican drug cartels to exploit men, women, and children to rake in billions of dollars, deadly fentanyl to pour into our communities killing Americans, and a record-high number of human smuggling and child trafficking. To be blunt, the Biden Administration is the first administration of either political party to deliberately take steps to diminish the security along our southern border.

THE AMERICA FIRST SOLUTION

Secure the Border ★ End Human Trafficking ★ Defeat the Cartels

TOP LINES

★ **The Biden Administration's dangerous open border policy is not a mistake; it's ON PURPOSE.**

- Since the start of the Biden Administration, more than 6 MILLION illegal aliens have been allowed into our country – that's larger than the population of every city in the U.S. except New York City.

PRO TIP

The numbers cited in data points are often overwhelmingly large and unrelatable. Take that number and weave it into an example more personal/digestible for your audience:

To put it in perspective, 6 million people is a population larger than EVERY SINGLE AMERICAN CITY but one – New York City.

- More than 200 known or suspected terrorists have been apprehended at the border and countless others, within the 1.5 million known got-aways, have crossed in undetected.
- At least 380,000 unaccompanied alien children have poured into this country and now, the Biden Administration cannot locate 85 THOUSAND of them.
- These same children, and women, and men are being sold into slavery, sexually abused, exploited, and used to bring deadly drugs into America.

★ **The Biden Administration's policies are dangerous, inhumane, and immoral. But administration officials continue to lie about what's actually happening, and the media refuses to tell the tragic reality.**

- Reports show more than 80% of women are raped on the journey to America.
- Girls as young as 9 YEARS OLD are given pregnancy tests after the journey because of the sexual abuse.
- Record numbers of men, women, and children are found lying dead in the desert from malnutrition, dehydration, or abuse, or drowned in the Rio Grande River at the border.
- A tractor trailer attempting to cross into America was found with 148 dead migrants literally cooked by the heat.
- Tens of thousands of migrant children, some as young as 12, have been forced to work like slaves in factories.
- The Biden Administration says THIS is a "safe, humane, and orderly" process? That is a lie.

★ **This is more than just an issue along the SOUTHERN border. Communities across America face deadly and costly consequences.**

- Fentanyl is now the leading cause of death for young Americans aged 18-45.
- Illegal immigrants have been convicted of murder, rape, burglaries, vehicular homicide and more in many states across in the country.
- American communities cannot handle the financial burden that come with millions of people flooding into neighborhoods here illegally and unlawfully.
- This crisis puts a massive strain on resources Americans depend on like schools, first responders, our healthcare system, and law enforcement.
- In New York City, American children are deprived of after-school activities because migrants are being housed in elementary school gyms.

- In Chicago, hundreds of migrants have taken shelter in police stations, making it more difficult to assist local residents.
- Drug cartels even recruit American citizens from states all around the country to illegally smuggle migrants into the interior of the country. This often results in dangerous high-speed car chases killing innocent Americans.

★ **The Biden Administration has incorrectly stated that the border crisis is not their fault.**

- Every murder, rape, robbery, etc. committed by an illegal alien is 100% preventable.
- The administration's open border policies are a clear signal to illegal aliens, human traffickers, child smugglers, and drug cartels that the border is open, and it is okay to commit crimes in America.
- The Biden Administration tries to blame everyone else, but it is their failed policies that caused it.

★ **The America First Border Policies worked!**

- 450+ miles of the border wall system resulted in an 87% decrease in illegal crossings where the wall was constructed.
- Deterrence policies such as 'Remain in Mexico,' and the Asylum Cooperative Agreements put an end to illegal aliens fraudulently claiming asylum.
- Halting nationwide 'catch and release' stopped illegal aliens from being released into American communities.
- America First policies produced record-low numbers of illegal alien crossings, human smuggling, and child trafficking, a reduction in the amount of drugs coming into our country, and safer and more prosperous American communities.

IF PRESSED

★ **America First does NOT mean shutting down the border AND all immigration.**

- America is the most welcoming and generous country in the world – issuing more than 1 million green cards every year and allowing tens of thousands of people to LEGALLY temporarily enter the country every year.

- Conversations about reforming the legal immigration system is irrelevant as long as the southern border remains open and it has never been easier to enter the U.S. unlawfully.
- We must return to the policies that secure the border and that ask immigrants what every other civilized country in the world does: “Why are coming here? Do you have a criminal record? Will you assimilate into American culture? Will you be an addition to our economy or a drain on our resources?” to name a few.

★ **What do you do with the tens of millions of illegal aliens already here – and who have been here for decades?**

First, you have to secure the border. If a pipe bursts in your bathroom, and water is filling up your house, your first move is NOT to go Lowe’s to pick out a new faucet. You must stop the leak immediately before you can deal with the other issues. The same applies to the border. Once you secure the border, then you can have a longer conversation about the tens of millions of people already here unlawfully.

★ **America First policies do not lead to child separation.**

The Left knows it is lying when it claims that America First policies lead to child separation. Children must be protected. Children who come to our southern border with an adult often do not have identification, so there is no way to know if the adults are actually related to the child. We do know however, drug cartels, human smugglers, and child traffickers regularly use children, and pair them with adults to traffic drugs and/or simply gain access to our country.

MYTHBUSTERS

MYTH: The southern border is secure.

FACT: That’s completely false. More than six million illegal aliens, and counting, have entered our country since the start of the Biden Administration. Local leaders across the country and border agents on the ground who experience the fallout from this crisis have testified under oath that the border is not secure and that Biden Administration policies are responsible for this humanitarian and security crisis.

MYTH: Border deterrence policies hurt migrants.

FACT: This is untrue. Policies that deter illegal aliens mean LESS human trafficking, child smuggling, and drugs. The drug cartels have made billions of dollars by using and abusing women, men, and

children. This administration is turning a blind eye to the exploitation of women and children who are used as drug mules and sold as slaves to the drug trade.

MYTH: America First Policies lead to child separation.

FACT: This is an absolute lie. Children must be protected. Children who come to our southern border with an adult often do not have identification, so there is no way to know whether or not the adults have any relation to the child. We do know however, drug cartels, human smugglers, and child traffickers regularly use children, and pair them with adults to traffic drugs and/or simply gain access to our country. Sadly, these children are often abused physically and sexually along the path. Presidents Clinton, Obama, Trump, and Biden have used this important safety measure.

MYTH: Conservatives do not care about those fleeing their country to seek asylum.

FACT: The U.S. is the most generous nation in the world providing humanitarian relief. While living in a poor country, wanting a better future for your family, or fleeing a crime-ridden neighborhood is understandable, these are not legal reasons to claim “asylum.” The law clearly states asylum can only be obtained if someone is facing persecution by the government or an official body on account of 5 specific grounds. In addition, international asylum norms require those fleeing to stop in the first safe country they reach – not pass through 5-10 countries to reach the United States. Stopping asylum fraud helps those who actually qualify for asylum because they will not have to wait years to receive official asylum status because of the massive backlog of bogus asylum claims.

MYTH: The crisis at the southern border is due to Congress's failure to enact new laws.

FACT: The laws didn't change between administrations. The Biden Administration refuses to enforce the laws on the books passed by Congress and President Biden signed Executive Orders regarding the border that overturned the previous Administration's policies. The only new law the Biden Administration supports is amnesty for millions of illegal aliens already in the U.S. This would do nothing to solve the current crisis and would accelerate future crises.

QUICK STATS

★ **These statistics can and should be used to show America First policies have been proven to work and furth show the importance, success, and need for their return.**

- In 2021, synthetic opioid-deaths (largely driven by fentanyl) surged by over 20%, killing over 71,000 Americans.

- Total drug overdose deaths in the U.S. reached an all-time high of 109,000 in both 2021 and 2022.
- There have been 5.2 million apprehensions at the Southern border since the beginning of the Biden Administration, NOT including 1.5 million migrants who didn't get caught.
- A record of at least 380,000 unaccompanied alien children have crossed the border since the beginning of the Biden Administration
- The Biden Administration has long lost contact with more than 85,000 unaccompanied alien children after releasing them to sponsors—many of them unvetted.
- Over 200 known or suspected terrorists have been apprehended at the border under the Biden Administration.
- A record 853 migrants died at the border in Fiscal Year 2022.
- The Biden Administration has deported a RECORD LOW 38,000 criminal over the past two years.
- The average number of illegal aliens removed from the US has dropped from 230,000 per year (FY17-20) to 65,000 per year under the current administration.

POLLING

Which of the following best describes your views on immigration?

- 15% Both legal and illegal immigration are bad for the United States.
- 64% Legal immigration is good for the United States, but illegal immigration is bad.
- 13% Both legal and illegal immigration are good for the United States.
- 8% Not sure

Which is currently the bigger problem with the U.S. asylum system?

- 60% Too many people are able to enter the country on illegitimate grounds.
- 29% It is too difficult for people genuinely fleeing persecution to get to safety in America.
- 11% Not sure

Suppose someone crosses the border illegally, gets caught, and is deported. If that person enters illegally again and gets caught again, what should be done?

- 52% He or she should be deported again.
- 16% He or she should be given legal status to remain in the U.S.
- 21% He or she should be sent to prison in the U.S.
- 11% Not sure

Source: Scott Rasmussen National Survey of 1,000 Registered Voters Conducted May 2-3, 2023

POLICY

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT AMERICA FIRST POLICY INSTITUTE'S POLICY SOLUTIONS AND RETURNING OUR COUNTRY TO THE POLICIES THAT HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO WORK.

★ **Playbook for Securing the Border, Ending Human Trafficking, and Defeating the Cartels**

<https://americafirstpolicy.com/latest/20220927-playbook-for-securing-the-border-ending-human-trafficking-and-defeating-the-cartels-existing-laws-the-executive-branch-should-use>

★ **Using Executive Action to Secure the Border**

<https://americafirstpolicy.com/latest/20230124-using-executive-action-to-secure-the-border-in-depth>

★ **Fentanyl: the Deadly Consequences**

<https://americafirstpolicy.com/latest/20221128-fentanyl-the-deadly-consequences>

★ **Ending Title 42 Proves Biden's Border Disaster Could have been Avoided**

<https://americafirstpolicy.com/latest/ending-title-42-proves-bidens-border-disaster-could-have-been-avoided>

★ **All-the-Above Approach Needed to Defeat the Mexican Drug Cartels**

<https://americafirstpolicy.com/latest/all-of-the-above-approach-needed-to-defeat-mexican-drug-cartels>

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