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Illegal immigration: Another of Biden's manufactured crises

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While Americans' attention is understandably focused on skyrocketing gas prices and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the crisis at our southern border has dropped out of the headlines. But it is also escalating.

Biden is doing nothing to enforce our immigration laws; those exploiting Biden's nonexistent enforcement know it. Here are some numbers that should shock Americans as much as the prices at the pump do:

In the first full month of Biden's presidency (February 2021), the number of migrants illegally crossing into the United States from Mexico jumped to 101,099. In March, it jumped again to 173,277. By July, more than 213,000 immigrants illegally crossed the southern border of the United States. In fiscal year 2021 — which included eight months of Biden's deliberate neglect of the border — 1,734,686 people crossed the U.S.' border with Mexico. If we look at calendar year 2021, almost two million people (1,963,253) crossed the border, more than four times the number that crossed during the entire last year of Trump's presidency. That's more people than the population of Dallas, Philadelphia or Phoenix.

And those are just the ones we know of.

Like virtually every other policy being pushed by Biden and his "progressive" puppet masters, throwing the doors of the country open wide has huge costs for Americans; illegal immigration is estimated to cost us between \$100 and \$150 billion annually.

For starters, households headed by immigrants are significantly more likely to use welfare programs than households headed by native-born Americans. Under the most conservative calculations, 45 percent of immigrant households are using at least one welfare program, typically Medicaid and/or food stamps.

Welfare programs are not the only costs. According to research conducted by the libertarian Cato Institute, illegal immigrants are twice as likely to be incarcerated as legal immigrants. Illegal immigrants make up 13 percent of the federal prison population (and of California's prisons). While native-born Americans are far more likely to commit crimes than either category of immigrant, it is the nature of the crimes and the recidivism rate that infuriates taxpayers. A 2008 Rand Corporation study revealed that 75 percent of immigrants who were deported for commission of a crime and returned to the U.S. committed another crime within a year. A highly publicized homicide in 2015 drove this point home: 31-year-old Kate Steinle was shot and killed in San Francisco by Juan Lopez-Sanchez, an illegal immigrant with seven felony convictions who had already been deported five times.

Biden has been busing and flying immigrants all over the country, under cover of night and often without the knowledge or approval of state government officials. Federal contractors responsible for some of these flights into the Westchester County, New York, airport were caught on video earlier this year stating that these transports were supposed to be kept "hush-hush" and "as down low as possible." One contractor stated that the government is "betraying the American people." Although the Biden administration claims that they are reuniting children with their families, observers across the country have noticed that a disproportionate number of these illegal migrants are young adult males.

Which raises other issues, including national security and public health. As with the 100,000-plus Afghans brought into the U.S. after Biden's disastrous pullout from Afghanistan, none of the migrants crossing the U.S./Mexico border are vetted. Even during the height of the pandemic, most were unvaccinated against COVID-19, while American citizens were enduring lockdowns and "vaccine passports." Press secretary Jen Psaki defended this, arguing that most illegal migrants will only be here "a short time." That is laughably wrong (not to mention irrelevant from a contagion standpoint), as is the claim that 95 percent of illegals subject to the "catch and release" policy show up to their court hearings.

Then there are the costs of human trafficking and the illegal drug trade. Almost 92,000 Americans died of opioid overdoses in 2020; most of those deaths were caused by fentanyl, a drug the Border Patrol is seizing in staggering volume at the border.

None of these crises are accidental. All are avoidable. How much more will Americans endure?