

Alex:

Could you help on Wednesday with a Wisconsin Watch fact-check article I'm doing?

I'm fact-checking [a statement](#) that Donald Trump made in Wisconsin on Tuesday.

He said that hundreds of thousands of people are killed each year because of illegal border crossings.

Trump referred to President Biden's "migrant armies of dangerous criminals," then said: "This is an invasion of our country. And by the way, hundreds of thousands of people — between the drugs that come in the border and all of the death that's brought into the border in so many different ways — hundreds of thousands of people are being killed in our country every year."

Trump seemed to be alluding to homicides committed by illegal immigrants and overdose deaths as a result of drugs smuggled into the U.S.

1. Is Trump's claim of hundreds of thousands of people killed per year accurate?

2. Are homicides and fatal drug overdoses the two largest categories of deaths associated with illegal border crossings?

(My understanding is that dating back to Oct. 1, 2016, the largest number of noncitizens convicted of homicide or manslaughter in any fiscal year was [62](#) in fiscal 2022; and that the total number of drug overdose deaths during President Joe Biden's first three years in office [ranged](#) from about 92,000 in calendar year 2000 to 108,000 in 2022.)

3. Per year, how many homicides are committed by illegal immigrants and how many fatal drug overdoses are due to smuggling?

If you could include links to any data cited, I'd appreciate it.

Thank you.

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Tom Kertscher

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[Wisconsin Watch contributor](#)

Apr 2, 2024, 11:17 PM (10 hours ago)



Alex Nowrasteh

to me 

1. No. According to data from the Texas Department of Public Safety, 472 illegal immigrants have been convicted of homicide in Texas during the 2013-2022 period. The homicide conviction rate averaged 2.2 per 100,000 illegal migrants over those 10 years, compared with 3.0 for native-born Americans.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2024/03/19/laken-riley-murder-illegal-immigration-migrants-homicides/72992181007/>.

Murderers are clearly responsible for their crimes, but assigning responsibility for drug overdose deaths is more difficult. As sad as it is, those who voluntarily consume dangerous drugs in the black market bear some of the responsibility for accidental overdoses because they assumed the risks of such dangerous activity. Fentanyl smuggling is ultimately funded by U.S. consumers who pay for illicit opioids: nearly 99 percent of whom are U.S. citizens. In 2021, U.S. citizens were 86.3 percent of convicted fentanyl drug traffickers—ten times greater than convictions of illegal immigrants for the same offense.

<https://www.cato.org/blog/fentanyl-smuggled-us-citizens-us-citizens-not-asylum-seekers>.

However, those who sell dangerous illegal drugs also bear some of the responsibility.

Apportioning responsibility for those deaths is subject to interpretation, values, and ethical judgments for which there is no clear answer.

2. Yes, including all types of homicides such as vehicular homicides and those who are killed in car accidents where the illegal immigrant was inebriated.
3. If the number of homicides in Texas committed by illegal immigrants are representative of nation-wide trends, illegal immigrants have committed approximately 3,118 homicides in the United States from 2013-2022. When illegal immigrants do commit homicides, they typically kill people they know, who are mostly other illegal immigrants. According to the FBI, of homicides where we know the prior relationship, nearly 80% of the killers know their victims.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2024/03/19/laken-riley-murder-illegal-immigration-migrants-homicides/72992181007/>