

Marie Gluesenkamp Perez says that nobody stays awake at night worrying about the southern border, yet fentanyl is pouring across our southern border at unprecedented rates, and our country is currently facing the worst border crisis in American history.

Marie Gluesenkamp Perez Claimed That “Nobody Stays Awake At Night Worrying About The Southern Border”

In March 2023, Perez Claimed That “Nobody Stays Awake At Night Worrying About The Southern Border.” “... listen like nobody stays awake at night worrying about the southern border like that's just not people stay awake at night worrying that their kid is gonna relapse or that you know someone's gonna drop out of school or they're gonna lose their house like those are the things that um not socialism and I think that's been the most frustrating thing about being actually in DC is that we're like voting on the horrors of socialism and it's like that's not what matters to people when you talk about what really matters.” ([Pod Save America](#), 3/30/23) Minute 53:08 – 53:41

- **VIDEO: Perez: “... Listen Like Nobody Stays Awake At Night Worrying About The Southern Border ...”** ([Pod Save America](#), 3/30/23) Minute 53:08 – 53:14

Fentanyl Is Pouring Across Our Southern Border At Unprecedented Rates

Drug Seizures Are Trending Down At The Southern Border, But Seizures Of Fentanyl Is Up Significantly 480 Percent Higher From 2020 To 2023. “Data indicates drug seizures at the U.S.-Mexico border, by pounds seized, are trending down. The good news, at closer look, can be misleading. Seizures of heavier, less-potent drugs like marijuana are down while illicit fentanyl, a drug 100 times more potent than morphine, are up significantly: 480 percent higher at the southern border in fiscal year (FY) 2023 compared to FY 2020.” (Christian Penichet-Paul, “Illicit Fentanyl And Drug Smuggling At The U.S.-Mexico Border: An Overview,” [National Immigration Forum](#), 10/25/23)

According To CBP Data, Illicit Fentanyl Smuggling Is Increasing And Most Is Seized Coming Across The Southern Border. “CBP data also shows illicit fentanyl smuggling is increasing, and that most of the fentanyl seized by the Border Patrol and OFO is coming across the southern border. Border officials seized 4,600 pounds of fentanyl along the southern border in 2020, a number that skyrocketed to 26,700 pounds in FY 2023 – a 480 percent increase. Most of the fentanyl seized by the two agencies in FY 2023, about 98.9 percent (26,700 out of 27,000 pounds), was seized at the southern border. The remaining 305 pounds were encountered at the northern border (2 pounds) and at U.S. maritime borders and interior checkpoints (303 pounds). Of the fentanyl seized at the southern border, the vast majority, about 23,900 pounds or 90 percent, was seized at POEs.” (Christian Penichet-Paul, “Illicit Fentanyl And Drug Smuggling At The U.S.-Mexico Border: An Overview,” [National Immigration Forum](#), 10/25/23)

According To The DEA, Most Of The Fentanyl Is Smuggled Across The Southern Border. “According to the DEA, most of the fentanyl is smuggled over land across the U.S.-Mexico border. Smaller amounts are smuggled by air from China.” (Nicole Sganga And Camilo Montoya-Galvez, “Fentanyl Seizures Rise At U.S.-Mexico Border – Here's Why,” [CBS News](#), 2/3/23)

Fentanyl Is Smuggled Into The United States From Mexico. “Fentanyl is responsible for the majority of drug overdoses nationwide, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The potent, synthetic opioid is approved for use as a pain reliever and anesthetic, but the illicit version is smuggled into the U.S. from Mexico, which gets its supplies both legally and illegally from manufacturers in China and India.” (Leif Greiss, “Drug Deaths Declined In The Lehigh Valley Last Year. Fentanyl Remains The Top Killer,” [Morning Call](#), 7/7/23)

From 2019 To 2021, Fentanyl Seizures Quadrupled. “At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, from 2019-2021, fentanyl seizures at ports of entry nationwide quadrupled.” (Nicole Sganga And Camilo Montoya-Galvez, “Fentanyl Seizures Rise At U.S.-Mexico Border – Here's Why,” [CBS News](#), 2/3/23)

In 2022, The DEA Seized Enough Fentanyl To Kill Every American. “Last year, the DEA seized enough fentanyl to kill every American — more than 50 million fentanyl-laced pills and over

10,000 pounds of fentanyl powder.” (Nicole Sganga And Camilo Montoya-Galvez, “Fentanyl Seizures Rise At U.S.-Mexico Border – Here’s Why,” [CBS News](#), 2/3/23)

During The Pandemic, Slowing Border Traffic Enabled More Fentanyl To Be Found And Seized. “That trend was on display as fentanyl seizures spiked at the start of the pandemic, with former President Trump shutting down the U.S.-Mexico border to all but essential traffic – including returning U.S. citizens. The limited traffic meant officers were able to search a greater share of cars crossing the border, and the proportion of border searches that found fentanyl shot up fourfold.” (Rebecca Beitsch And Rafael Bernal, “As US Fentanyl Deaths Jump, GOP Casts Blame At The Border,” [The Hill](#), 3/27/23)

Homeland Security Has A Finite Number Of Resources To Tackle Multiple Issues And An Increase In Migrants Limits Their Ability To Tackle Fentanyl. “But federal law enforcement concedes that the Department of Homeland Security is working with a ‘finite number of resources’ to tackle simultaneous challenges of record-breaking fentanyl trafficking and migrants seeking asylum in the United States.” (Nicole Sganga And Camilo Montoya-Galvez, “Fentanyl Seizures Rise At U.S.-Mexico Border – Here’s Why,” [CBS News](#), 2/3/23)

- “‘If we have a group of 200 migrants turn themselves in, we of course have to process and transport them, etc.,’ one CBP official said. ‘When we’re doing that, we don’t necessarily know what’s going on the rest of the border.’” (Nicole Sganga And Camilo Montoya-Galvez, “Fentanyl Seizures Rise At U.S.-Mexico Border – Here’s Why,” [CBS News](#), 2/3/23)

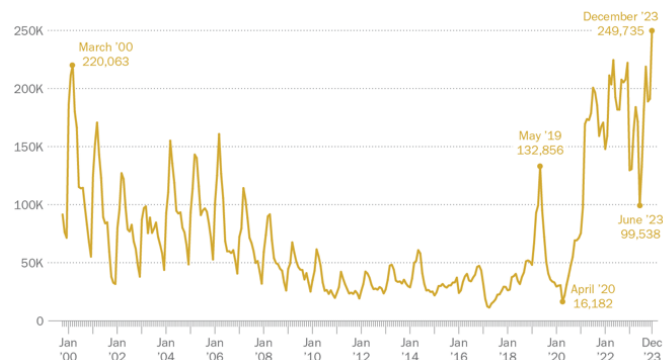
The United States Is Currently Facing The Worst Border Crisis In American History

In December 2023, Migrant Encounters Hit Record Highs. “The U.S. Border Patrol had nearly 250,000 encounters with migrants crossing into the United States from Mexico in December 2023, according to government statistics. That was the highest monthly total on record, easily eclipsing the previous peak of about 224,000 encounters in May 2022.” (John Gramlich, “Migrant Encounters At The U.S.-Mexico Border Hit A Record High At The End Of 2023,” [Pew Research Center](#), 2/15/24)

2023 Ended With More Migrant Encounters Than Any Month On Record. (John Gramlich, “Migrant Encounters At The U.S.-Mexico Border Hit A Record High At The End Of 2023,” [Pew Research Center](#), 2/15/24)

2023 ended with more migrant encounters at U.S.-Mexico border than any month on record

Monthly migrant encounters by U.S. Border Patrol at U.S.-Mexico border



Note: Beginning in March 2020, monthly totals combine apprehensions and expulsions into a new category known as encounters. Monthly totals before March 2020 include apprehensions only. Some migrants are encountered more than once.
Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

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(John Gramlich, “Migrant Encounters At The U.S.-Mexico Border Hit A Record High At The End Of 2023,” [Pew Research Center](#), 2/15/24)

In March 2024, Perez Voted For A Resolution Acknowledging That We Are Facing “The Worst Border Security Crisis In The Nation’s History,” Which Passed The United States House Of Representatives. “Over a dozen House Democrats voted with Republicans to back a resolution that denounced President Biden’s border policy on Tuesday, adding to pressure on the president to focus on a critical 2024 campaign issue. Led by Rep. Monica De La Cruz (R-Texas), the measure accuses Biden and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas of creating ‘the worst border security crisis in the Nation’s history,’ and claims the president ‘systematically dismantled

effective border security measures and interior immigration enforcement.” (Nick Robertson, “14 Democrats Vote For Resolution Denouncing Biden Border Policy,” [The Hill](#), 3/12/24; H. Res. 1065, [Roll Call #85](#), Passed: 226 – 193; R: 212 – 0; D: 14 – 193, Perez Voted Yea, 3/12/24)

In July 2023, Illegal Crossings Along The U.S. Southern Border Jumped More Than 30 Percent. “Illegal crossings along the U.S. southern border jumped more than 30 percent in July, according to preliminary U.S. Customs and Border Protection data obtained by The Washington Post, dealing a blow to President Biden’s new immigration enforcement strategy at a time when his policies are facing multiple legal challenges.” (Nick Miroff And Maria Sacchetti, “Border Arrests Surged In July, A Blow To Biden Migration Plan,” [Washington Post](#), 8/1/23)

In January 2023, Pew Research Center Reported That Monthly Encounters With Undocumented Migrants Remained Near Record Highs. “Monthly encounters between U.S. Border Patrol agents and migrants attempting to cross into the United States at the U.S.-Mexico border remain at levels not seen in more than two decades, according to the latest available government statistics. The recent influx of migrants at the southwestern border has been a key topic of discussion this week in meetings between U.S. President Joe Biden and his Mexican counterpart, Andrés Manuel López Obrador.” (John Gramlich, “Monthly Encounters With Migrants At U.S.-Mexico Border Remain Near Record Highs,” [Pew Research Center](#), 1/13/23)

In Fiscal Year 2022, There Were A Recorded 2.76 Million Illegal Border Crossings. “The number of undocumented immigrant crossings at the southwest border for fiscal year 2022 topped 2.76 million, breaking the previous annual record by more than 1 million, according to Customs and Border Protection data.” (Julia Ainsley, “Migrant Border Crossings In Fiscal Year 2022 Topped 2.76 Million, Breaking Previous Record,” [NBC News](#), 10/22/22)

HEADLINE: “Migrants Cross U.S. Border In Record Numbers, Undeterred By Texas' Razor Wire And Biden's Policies” (Camilo Montoya-Galvez, “Migrants Cross U.S. Border In Record Numbers, Undeterred By Texas' Razor Wire And Biden's Policies,” [CBS News](#), 12/24/23)

In December 2023, CBS Reported That Thousands Of Migrants Were Coming Over Each Day. “In just five days last week, Border Patrol processed nearly 50,000 migrants who entered the U.S. illegally, with daily apprehensions surpassing 10,000 thrice, up from the 6,400 average last month, according to federal data obtained by CBS News. Roughly 1,500 additional migrants are being processed each day at official border crossings under a Biden program powered by a phone app.” (Camilo Montoya-Galvez, “Migrants Cross U.S. Border In Record Numbers, Undeterred By Texas' Razor Wire And Biden's Policies,” [CBS News](#), 12/24/23)

In December 2023, An Estimated 300,000 People Attempted To Cross The Southern Border. “While the Department of Homeland Security will release the December numbers later this month, Reuters and other news organizations estimate that 300,000 people attempted to cross the border in the final month of 2023, with about 50,000 of them coming through designated points of entry.” (Rob Garver, “Huge Number of Migrants Highlights Border Crisis,” [Voice Of America](#), 1/3/24)

HEADLINE: “Migrant Encounters Along Southwest Border Reach All-Time High Of 302,000” (Luke Barr, “Migrant Encounters Along Southwest Border Reach All-Time High Of 302,000,” [ABC News](#), 1/2/24)

In December 2023, There Were 302,000 Encounters Along The Southwest Border, The Highest Ever Recorded. “There were 302,000 encounters along the southwest border in December, marking the highest monthly total ever recorded, sources told ABC News.” (Luke Barr, “Migrant Encounters Along Southwest Border Reach All-Time High Of 302,000,” [ABC News](#), 1/2/24)

In January 2024, There Were 124,220 Encounters Between Ports Of Entry Along The Southwest Border. “In January 2024, the U.S. Border Patrol recorded 124,220 encounters between ports of entry along the southwest border, a decrease of 50% from December 2023.” (United States Customs And Border Protection, “CBP Releases January 2024 Monthly Update,” [Press Release](#), 2/13/24)