



THE HISTORIC DOLLAR COSTS OF MAYORKAS' OPEN-BORDERS POLICIES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY PHASE FOUR INTERIM REPORT

CHAIRMAN MARK E. GREEN, MD

OVERVIEW:

The massive flow of inadmissible aliens into the United States, both across the Southwest border between ports of entry, and through the ports via DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas' legally dubious, mass-parole programs, represents a historic cost for the American taxpayer. Those costs are being incurred on a number of fronts.

HEALTH CARE:

Illegal aliens represent a major strain on local health care systems, as federal law requires that hospitals and emergency rooms provide these individuals with care, even if they are uninsured and cannot pay for it.

- A 2019 estimate from the [Migration Policy Institute](#) (MPI) suggests that 53% of the illegal alien population in the United States is uninsured. Assuming MPI's estimate that 53% of illegal aliens do not have health insurance, and calculating the illegal alien population to be around 16.8 million, this number jumps to nearly nine million uninsured.
- Figures published by the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#) show that total Medicaid costs for "emergency services for undocumented aliens" in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 alone exceeded \$7 billion, and \$5.4 billion in FY22.
- In FY22, improper Medicaid payouts across the United States totaled more than \$80 billion. Around [\\$8 billion](#) likely went to illegal aliens, per one recent report.
- New York City hospitals have recorded around [30,000 visits](#) by illegal aliens in the past year alone, along with approximately 300 births.
- Jonathan Lines, supervisor for Yuma County, Arizona, recently testified to the House Committee on Homeland Security that the maternity ward and emergency room at Yuma Regional Medical Center, which has incurred more than \$26 million in uncompensated costs caring for illegal aliens, [have been "overrun."](#)
- El Centro Chief Patrol Agent Gregory Bovino told the Committee in July 2023, "In talking with hospital administrators in the Imperial Valley, specifically the El Centro Regional Medical Center, they are concerned about what happens and the costs associated with illegal immigration, and what can be done to stop it."

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

The law enforcement costs associated with illegal immigration are not just those directly associated with border security, such as the CBP budget, but the increased costs to other law enforcement.

- In [September 2023](#), Lines testified to the Committee that in FY22, "our cost specifically related to the illegals that were detained was \$1.3 million, of which I believe maybe we were reimbursed 10%—or 10 cents on the dollar," and that local first responders often "have to respond to 911 calls on the border and most often people are just looking for a ride."
- In [Arizona's Cochise County](#), the sheriff's department was allocated more than \$12 million by the state in March 2021 to support operations connected to the border crisis.



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- One Texas county official has said that the cost of burying and cremating illegal aliens found dead within the county have become “such an expense” under Secretary Mayorkas’ leadership that county officials had to [take pay cuts](#) to afford them.
- Based on cost data provided by the [National Institute of Corrections](#), and an analysis of Justice Department statistics of each state’s illegal and [deportable alien population](#), one study estimates police expenditures associated with illegal aliens cost states around \$8.95 billion in 2022, with judicial costs around \$3.72 billion and prison costs about \$6.2 billion.
- 24,954 criminal aliens were in [federal incarceration](#), and according to a 2020 Department of Justice (DOJ) report, 94% of criminal aliens in Bureau of Prisons custody in FY19 were unlawfully present. Data from the bureau also indicates the average annual cost per individual incarcerated in federal prison in FY20 was [\\$39,158](#). Assuming these figures, that’s nearly \$1 billion to incarcerate criminal illegal aliens in federal prisons.

EDUCATION:

The costs of providing education services to illegal alien children, or the U.S.-born children of illegal aliens, represent enormous expenditures for the states and the federal government.

- The [Federation for American Immigration Reform \(FAIR\) estimates](#) that in the 2021-2022 school year, approximately 5.1 million public school students, around 6.5 percent of the school age population, were the children of illegal aliens or illegal aliens themselves. Most of these individuals are designated as Limited English Proficiency (LEP) students.
- [FAIR estimates](#) that at least 3.8 million illegal aliens qualify as LEP students, costing taxpayers nearly \$59 billion, while those children of illegal aliens not classified as LEP students cost another \$16.9 billion.
- In [Fairfax County, Virginia](#), LEP students made up 20 percent of total enrollment, per the county’s approved budget for FY24, with the funding for “English for Speakers of Other Languages” increasing \$17.2 million.
- New York City could ultimately spend around [\\$440 million](#) just to educate around 11,500 illegal alien children who could be present in the city next year. [According to Joseph Borelli](#), minority leader on the New York City Council, these education costs are exorbitant, and can disproportionately affect schools in close proximity to the shelters housing illegal aliens: “The cost per student in New York is about \$38,000 per student.”

HOUSING AND SHELTER:

Towns and cities across the country have been forced to pick up the costs of housing and providing shelter for the hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens who have been released into their communities.

- [According to the Wall Street Journal](#) in August 2023, “Over 100,000 migrants have come to New York City since the spring of 2022 and continue to arrive at a rate of more than 2,000 a week.” By October, the number had risen to [more than 130,000](#).
- By August 2023, the city was spending [nearly \\$10 million per day](#) to provide services to illegal aliens arriving in the city. [According to Borelli](#), over the next year alone, New York “will spend enough money to cover the entire budget of Dallas, Texas. Meaning for the cost of sheltering



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migrants, New York City taxpayers could pay to man every firehouse, police station, pick up the garbage, maintain the water and sewers, inspect the buildings, run the airport and even cut the grass in Dallas parks, a city of 1.3 million people.”

- Chicago is spending more than \$20 million per month to “house and support” illegal aliens, while Washington, D.C., was expected to have spent more than \$52 million by October 2023.
- The Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) recently estimated that the annual cost just to care for and house illegal aliens who have been released into the country under Mayorkas’ leadership, along with the 1.7 million known gotaways since January 2021, could cost as much as \$451 billion.

PRIVATE PROPERTY AND BORDER LIVELIHOODS:

The devastation to private property, particularly ranches and farming operations along the Southwest border, has represented an unprecedented and daily challenge for the citizens of border states.

- In a June 2021 letter to Mayorkas, the American Farm Bureau Federation and the farm bureaus of all 50 states and Puerto Rico wrote, “Farm and ranch families, many of whom have owned land for generations, are bearing the brunt of this unprecedented influx and have never seen a more dire situation.”
- Dr. Mike Vickers, a veterinarian and rancher in South Texas, said in June 2023 he had already spent \$40,000 repairing fences damaged by “human smugglers charging through” them and that this has driven down property value.
- McMullen County Sheriff Emmett Shelton told the House Committee on Homeland Security in August 2023 that he knew some ranchers that had paid between \$70,000-\$100,000 to repair their fences.
- A Texas ranch owner, Debbie Douglas, recounted in March 2023 that she had spent more than \$13,000 installing new security measures at her family’s ranch after an increase in break-ins.
- New Mexico Cattle Growers’ Association President Randell Major: “To be honest, we feel like it’s a Trump versus the new administration, so they’re going to do the opposite of whatever Trump did, and so, unfortunately, that’s the political game that’s going on, but meanwhile the citizens of America and the citizens of New Mexico are caught in the middle.”

PUTTING ILLEGAL ALIENS ABOVE AMERICAN CITIZENS:

Open-borders policies are encouraging state and local governments to prioritize services for illegal aliens over American citizens, all at significant cost to taxpayers.

- San Diego in April 2022 launched a multi-million-dollar program to provide taxpayer-funded legal services to illegal aliens, becoming “the first along the southern border to commit to paying legal fees incurred by immigrants facing deportation proceedings.”
- In New York City, just days after Title 42 expired, city officials announced that hundreds of illegal aliens would be housed in middle and elementary school gyms in Brooklyn, prompting a massive outcry from parents.



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- Americans experiencing [homelessness in New York City](#) are now competing for shelter with illegal aliens, per Borelli's testimony to the Committee, despite a [record number of Americans](#) now finding themselves homeless.

TRANSPORTING ILLEGAL ALIENS:

In the wake of the border surge, several states have chosen to transport those aliens out of their states to other locales, particularly sanctuary states and cities.

- Figures published in October 2023 showed that Texas had to pay [more than \\$75 million](#) to transport illegal aliens from the state.
- Last summer, 43 buses departed from Arizona to Washington, D.C., totaling around [\\$3.5 million](#).
- State lawmakers allocated [\\$12 million](#) to the Florida Department of Transportation for illegal alien relocation.
- The Biden administration has also inked contracts with private groups to transport illegal aliens from the Southwest border into the country. From January-September 2021, the Biden administration spent at least \$340 million transporting illegal aliens [into the interior](#).
- In 2021, Mayorkas' DHS also deepened the federal government's involvement with a private security and intelligence firm, MVM Inc., to transport alien family units and unaccompanied alien children. By September 2023, DHS owed the group around \$660 million for [these services](#).

