

**Press Clips from National Foundation for American Policy research papers
on Immigrant Deaths at the Border and Family Immigration**

Associated Press

Arizona Republic (two articles)

Forbes

Dallas Morning News

USA Today

Care 2 Make a Difference (blog)

Informador/Reuters

Café Hayek

Greg Siskind on Immigration Law and Policy

Migrant border deaths rose to 417 in 2009

May 6, 6:48 PM EDT

By SUZANNE GAMBOA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The number of people who died trying to illegally cross the U.S.-Mexico border last year rose to 417 - the first increase in four years - despite declines in apprehensions, according to an advocacy group.

The number of deaths hit a peak of 492 in 2005, but had fallen every year since then to a low of 390 in 2008, the National Foundation for American Policy said Thursday, citing U.S. Border Patrol statistics.

Meanwhile, apprehensions of illegal immigrants trying to cross the southern border fell to 538,000 last year, down from 705,022 the previous year. Apprehensions peaked at 1.17 million in 2005, according to the foundation, which supports increasing visas for people to legally come to the U.S.

A lack of U.S. jobs and tighter enforcement are thought to be reasons for the steady drops in apprehensions.

Last October, the Border Patrol had reported 378 deaths for 11 months of fiscal year 2009 and warned the final number for the full year was likely to be higher.

Fortification of the nearly 2,000-mile border has forced migrants to enter the U.S. at areas with more difficult terrain, making crossing the border illegally more deadly. Men, women and children are among the dead each year.

Stuart Anderson, the foundation's executive director, said the deaths reflect flawed enforcement policies that don't provide enough opportunity for migrants to enter the country legally.

Anderson was uncertain whether the increase is related to escalating drug-related violence in Mexico. The Border Patrol was analyzing its own data to determine whether drug violence had an affect on the numbers.

The Border Patrol regularly rescues migrants who are felled by searing heat; swept up in river waters that serve as the international border; perish in attacks by gangs or wildlife, or other scenarios.

The Border Patrol rescued 1,277 people near the Southwestern border last year, the foundation reported.

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

May 7, 2010

U.S. laws blamed for migrant deaths

Dennis Wagner

A national think-tank report released Thursday blames the deaths of thousands of people who died trying to cross the U.S.-Mexican border on the failure to reform immigration law and asserts that congressional inaction has empowered violent human-smuggling organizations.

The Virginia-based National Foundation for American Policy says the lack of a legal entry system for immigrant workers "has contributed to more than 4,000 men, women and children dying while attempting to cross to America since 1998."

The foundation is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization formed in 2003 to conduct public-policy research on trade and immigration.

Its report, written by Executive Director Stuart Anderson, points out that immigrant deaths increased last year despite a drop-off in the number of arrested immigrants. Fewer people are trying to cross the border due in part to America's recession and increased security.

It concludes that, because the border is more difficult to penetrate, immigrants wind up hiring criminal guides at high prices to lead them on long and dangerous treks into the United States.

"The only plausible way to eliminate immigrant deaths at the border, as well as reduce illegal immigration in the long term, is to institute a new program of temporary visas or portable work permits for foreign workers," Anderson writes. "Strong evidence exists that the current 'enforcement-only' policy has strengthened criminal gangs."

Other border researchers, including the southern Arizona group No More Deaths, have condemned border-security programs designed to push illegal immigration into remote desert areas. In 2008, the Congressional Research Service issued a paper that said "border crossings have become more dangerous since the 'Prevention through Deterrence' policy went into affect in 1995, resulting in an increase in illegal migrant deaths."

Steven Camarota, director of research at Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates immigration reductions, said Anderson correctly assails U.S. policy, but for the wrong reasons.

Camarota said all the research shows that the flow of undocumented immigrants would plummet if a workplace-enforcement program was made mandatory, thereby shutting down the jobs that lure illegal immigrants.

Regardless of the policy in place, Camarota said those who risk death to cross the border unlawfully must take responsibility for their fates.

"The illegal immigrants themselves are partly to blame," he said.

According to [Border Patrol](#) data, approximately 1.5 million illegal border crossers were apprehended in 1998, when 263 deaths were reported. Last year, 541,000 immigrants were captured; there were 417 deaths.

Meanwhile, Anderson says, "current (enforcement) efforts seem to have produced the unintended consequence of swelling the illegal immigrant population" because those who safely enter the United States — fearful they could never make it through the border again — seldom return home.

Arizona Republic

June 28, 2010

Huge demand to live in U.S. part of illegal immigration problem

by Erin Kelly

Republic Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - While the national spotlight is focused on illegal immigration, millions of people enter the United States legally each year on both a temporary and permanent basis.

But the demand to immigrate to the United States far outweighs the number of people that immigration laws allow to move here legally. Wait times can be years, compounding the problem and reducing opportunities for many more who desperately want to come to the United States.

In 2009 alone, more than 1.1 million people, including nearly 21,000 living in Arizona, became legal permanent residents, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's 2009 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics. The largest single group of new permanent residents nationwide, 15 percent, was born in Mexico. Six percent came from China and 5 percent came from the Philippines.

Also last year, nearly 744,000 immigrants, including about 12,400 Arizona residents, became naturalized U.S. citizens. The largest group, with 111,630 people, was from Mexico. The second largest group, with 52,889 people, came from India.

But those figures are eclipsed by the demand, which in part contributes to the problem of illegal immigration. Nearly 11 million immigrants are in the country illegally, according to estimates by the Department of Homeland Security. Earlier this year, there were an estimated 460,000 illegal immigrants in Arizona.

But since Gov. Jan Brewer signed Arizona's controversial new immigration bill in April, hundreds, if not thousands, of illegal immigrants have left the state. And many more are planning to flee before the law takes effect July 29.

Some are going back to Mexico. Many are going to other states, where anti-illegal-immigrant sentiment isn't so strong and where they think they will be less likely to be targeted by local authorities.

“Insufficient legal avenues for immigrants to enter the U.S. ... has significantly contributed to this current conundrum,” says a report by Leo Anchondo of Justice for Immigrants, which is pushing for Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Arizona's immigration law makes it a state crime to be in the country illegally. It states that an officer engaged in a lawful stop, detention or arrest shall, when practicable, ask about a person's legal status when reasonable suspicion exists that the person is in the U.S. illegally.

Temporary visas

Temporary visas allow people to enter the United States and stay for a limited amount of time before returning to their home countries. In 2009, about 163 million people came in this way. The biggest groups came from Mexico, Britain and Japan.

Among those who can obtain temporary visas: tourists; visitors on business trips; foreign journalists; diplomats and government representatives and their staffs; students and foreign-exchange visitors and their dependents; certain relatives of lawful permanent residents and U.S. citizens; religious workers; and internationally recognized athletes and entertainers.

Temporary visas also are used to bring in foreign workers when U.S. employers say they do not have enough qualified or interested U.S. workers. Among the categories: workers in specialty occupations, registered nurses to help fill a shortage and agricultural workers. Mexican and Canadian professionals also are granted temporary visas under the terms of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Permanent residents

A lawful permanent resident has been granted authorization to live and work in the United States on a permanent basis. As proof of that status, a person is granted a permanent-resident card, better known as a "green card."

People petition to become permanent residents in several ways. Most are sponsored by a family member or employer in the United States.

Others may become permanent residents after being granted asylum status. In 2009, nearly 75,000 refugees were granted asylum from persecution in their home countries. Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens are given the highest immigration priority and are not subject to annual caps that apply to other categories of immigrants. Immediate relatives are defined as spouses, unmarried children under age 21 and parents.

Although there is no annual cap on the number of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens who can obtain green cards, there is a cap on the number of green cards for other relatives such as siblings and adult married children. That cap is about half a million people a year, according to the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Employment-based immigration also is limited to 140,000 people a year, according to the lawyers association.

There also are limits based on a person's country of origin. Under U.S. immigration law, the total number of immigrant visas made available to natives of any single foreign nation shall not exceed 7 percent of the total number of visas issued. That limit can make it tough for immigrants from countries such as Mexico, where the number of people who want to come here greatly exceeds the number of people that the law allows.

The estimated wait time for family members to legally bring their relatives into the United States from Mexico ranges from six to 17 years, according to a May study by the non-profit, nonpartisan National Foundation for American Policy. It is nearly impossible for a Mexican, especially someone without a college degree or special skills, to immigrate to the United States legally without a family member or employer petitioning on his behalf.

The costs also can be high. A U.S. employer who wants to bring in an immigrant worker can expect to pay nearly \$6,000 in fees and legal expenses, according to the foundation. A U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident petitioning to bring a relative to the United States from another country must pay a \$355 filing fee for each relative who wants to immigrate, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Naturalized citizens

In general, immigrants are eligible to become citizens if they are at least 18 and have lived in the United States as a lawful permanent resident for five years without leaving for trips of six months or longer.

An applicant for citizenship must be deemed to be of good moral character, which means in part that they must not have been convicted of a serious crime or been caught lying to gain immigration status.

Applicants must be able to pass a test demonstrating that they can read, write and speak basic English. They also must pass a basic test of U.S. history and government.

Immigrants become citizens when they take the oath of allegiance to the United States in a formal naturalization ceremony. The oath requires applicants to renounce foreign allegiances, support and defend the U.S. Constitution, and serve in the U.S. military when required to do so by law.

The time it takes to become naturalized varies by location and can take years. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services agency is trying to improve the system and decrease the time to an average of six months.



Commentary

Four Steps To Fix Immigration

Stuart Anderson, 05.20.10, 3:00 PM ET

What if by passing a law Congress could make American companies more competitive, produce stronger families and reduce illegal immigration? One would think members of Congress would jump at passing such a law. Well, if you think that, then you may not be familiar with the politics of immigration.

In 2006, 2007 and, so far, in 2010 a sufficient number of Democrats and Republicans have failed to join together on a series of reforms to improve America's immigration system. Whether or not to legalize the status of the estimated 11 million people now living in the country without legal status has remained the flashpoint in the debate. However, there are at least four reforms Congress could make either separately or as part of a comprehensive reform bill that would help the economy, aid families and address concerns about illegal immigration.

First, [a recent report](#) released by my organization, the nonpartisan [National Foundation for American Policy](#), concluded the absence of a way to enter the U.S. legally to work at lower-skilled jobs has contributed both to illegal immigration and to more than 4,000 men, women and children dying while attempting to cross to America. More immigrants, over 400, died in 2009 than the year before, even though the slower economy contributed to less illegal entry. The loss of life will almost certainly continue unless more paths are open to work legally in the U.S.

Research shows that between 1953 and 1959 illegal entry dropped by 95% when Mexican migrants had the legal option of utilizing the Bracero program, which allowed them to enter the U.S. temporarily as contract workers in agriculture. In contrast, the U.S. increased the Border Patrol from 3,733 in 1990 to approximately 20,000 today. And over the past two decades the illegal immigrant population in the U.S. rose from 3.5 million to about 11 million because, without a legal safety valve, entering the U.S. has become more hazardous, encouraging people to stay once they are here. The only plausible way to eliminate immigrant deaths at the border, as well as reduce illegal immigration in the long term, is to institute a new program of temporary visas or portable work permits for foreign workers, potentially in conjunction with a bilateral agreement on enforcement with Mexico and Central American countries.

Second, [another report our organization recently released](#) found family immigration quotas for legal immigrants are inadequate and result in separation and long waits for Americans, lawful permanent residents and close family members. The wait time for a U.S. citizen petitioning for a brother or sister from the Philippines exceeds 20 years. A U.S. citizen petitioning for a son or daughter (21 years or older) can expect to wait 6 to 17 years, depending on the country of origin. Concerns that new immigrants will be a burden are misplaced. Research shows legal immigrants experience faster wage growth than natives, and are more likely to start businesses and have higher median years of schooling. Eliminating the family immigration backlogs and/or raising the quotas would serve both the humanitarian and economic interests of the U.S.

Third, in a global economy American employers need access to talent to grow in the U.S. H-1B temporary visas, which generally can be renewed up to 6 years, are the primary means of hiring outstanding international students off U.S. campuses or talented individuals who were educated abroad. Limited to an annual quota of 65,000, plus 20,000 for those completing a graduate degree from a U.S. university, the supply of H-1B visas has been exhausted during or before each of the past seven fiscal years. This has often left employers with no choice but to hire skilled foreign nationals outside the U.S. or see these scientists, engineers and professionals lost to competitors overseas. (Half to two-thirds of graduate students in key technology fields on U.S. campuses are foreign nationals.) The availability of H-1B visas is crucial, otherwise skilled foreign nationals, particularly graduates of U.S. universities, generally cannot work or remain in the U.S. At minimum, Congress can eliminate the current cap of 20,000 for international graduate students and prevent new efforts at "reform" designed to make it more difficult for employers to utilize the visas.

Fourth, the current wait for employer-sponsored green cards (used to stay in the U.S. permanently) is 6 to 20 years, depending on the country of origin. This time frame is unrealistic for hiring new employees and a related reason why H-1B visas are important. The problem is particularly acute for would-be immigrants from India because of the per country limits, which restrict the number of green cards awarded from any one country. Two good reforms would be to eliminate the per country limit for employment-based immigrants and to allow international students who complete a degree at a U.S. university and have a valid job offer to obtain a green card outside the current low quotas.

Congress could make the reforms discussed here either individually or as a legislative package combined with legalization and new enforcement measures. In one fell swoop members of Congress could make American companies more competitive, produce stronger families and reduce illegal immigration. What are they waiting for?

Stuart Anderson, former staff director of the Senate Immigration Subcommittee and head of policy at the Immigration and Naturalization Service, is executive director of [the National Foundation for American Policy](#), a nonpartisan research group based in Arlington, Va.

Dallas Morning News

May 27, 2010

[Will 1,200 more troops at the border matter?](#)



11:20 AM Thu, May 27, 2010 | [Permalink](#)
Nicole Stockdale/ Editor [Bio](#) | [E-mail](#) | [Suggest a blog topic](#)

Every week, we poll the members of the editorial board on a timely and divisive topic. This week, the question is:

Is **Barack Obama** doing the right thing in sending 1,200 **National Guard** troops to the border?

Here are their responses (click on the headline to read the full entry):

[Keven Ann Willey](#), Editor of the editorial page:

It's certainly not the "wrong" thing. The situation along the border has deteriorated sharply in the last year and so using the National Guard in a support role to reinforce the border makes some sense.

But is it the "right" thing as in Does It Solve the Problem? No. It's an incremental step. Actually, it's easy to conflate two issues here - illegal immigration and drug-related violence. They aren't the same thing. To solve the illegal immigration problem, it would be most effective if Congress would get off its duff and pass meaningful comprehensive reform that includes border security, workplace sanctions, a guest worker program and a pathway to legalization. To solve the drug-related violence problem, the U.S. should be doing everything it can to help Mexico be more effective in cracking down on the drug cartels. That includes everything from doing more to stop gun running to coordinating intelligence to drying up demand....

[Michael Landauer](#), Assistant editorial page editor:

No. He's trying to look strong on enforcement, and his heart's not in it. He should ram comprehensive immigration reform he actually believes in through Congress. He's letting conservatives set the immigration agenda, and that will come back to bite him.

[Nicole Stockdale](#), Assistant editorial page editor:

I wouldn't say it's the wrong thing to do, but it's just the first step of many in what needs to be done along the border.

Yes, it's a political move. Obama is giving the border-security-first crowd some of the extra troops they're asking for, in hopes that it will make the climate more amenable for passing immigration reform. And because I truly believe reform is necessary, this seems like a good opening move -- as long as there's a Step 2 to follow. Adding 1,200 troops alone isn't going to solve this problem.

[Jim Mitchell](#), Editorial writer:

Closing the border is one step, but so is comprehensive reform of immigration policy. Without the latter, the former amounts to windowdressing.

My main question is this: These troops are there for what purpose, immigration control or to combat drug smuggling?

Unless it is clear which mission these troops will have, some national guard member will end up in the middle of another Esequiel Hernandez incident -- the 18-year-old goat herder who was killed along the Mexico-Texas border in the late 1990s when Marines mistook him for an armed drug smuggler.

Also, as I recall, under Bush, troops weren't allowed to detain immigrants or smugglers. If the new troops have the same rules of engagement, then what's the point?. And since they're not trained law enforcement officers, orders to engage suspected drug smugglers or illegal border crossers are likely to result in another ugly incident.

Rodger Jones, Editorial writer:

The number of troops won't make much difference along a 2,000-mile border, but I won't criticize any little thing that helps secure the border.

Obama's move is political. He needs to build cred if he wants to push a comprehensive immigration package (which I support), but I wonder how badly he wants this fight.

Obama has in a position where he was saying no to every reform initiative and looking like he doesn't care. Do the wall thing? No. How about the tough law in Arizona? No. Send in troops? OK, you got me.

It's sad that he seems to be driven to this point by others and not because he has any fire for the issue. I think the border is an abstraction for him that he would shovel onto a heap of second-tier issues if he could.

Border states have a perspective that he doesn't strain to share. Drug wars in Mexico are one legitimate Texas concern. Another is addressed in this May 7 story from the AP:

The number of people who died trying to illegally cross the U.S.-Mexico border last year rose to 417 - the first increase in four years - despite declines in apprehensions, according to an advocacy group.

The number of deaths hit a peak of 492 in 2005, but had fallen every year since then to a low of 390 in 2008, the **National Foundation for American Policy** said Thursday, citing U.S. Border Patrol statistics.

Meanwhile, apprehensions of illegal immigrants trying to cross the Mexican border fell to 538,000 last year, down from 705,022 the previous year. Apprehensions peaked at 1.17 million in 2005, according to the foundation, which supports increasing visas for people to legally come to the U.S.

Conservative immigration reformers are sometimes depicted as nativist kooks who want to drive Mexican workers out of the country and keep them out.

I think we need Mexican workers and should have an orderly process for keeping our economy humming. My heart also breaks for those people who want to get here to satisfy our demand for labor but die trying in the desert. If we can't find the political formula for passing comprehensive reform -- and I wonder if we ever will if McCain-Kennedy couldn't get there -- we have to take steps in the meantime. Little steps will do. Like Arizona. Like troops.

One more thing about Obama's announcement: Gov. Perry's office told me yesterday that they had no word from Washington on how those 1,200 troops would be deployed. It's madness for the state with the longest border with Mexico to be in the dark about Obama's plans. That tells me he has no plan.

[Colleen McCain Nelson](#), Editorial writer:

No. This seems like a move ripped from George W. Bush's playbook. It didn't lead to comprehensive immigration reform four years ago, and it doesn't appear likely to compel Congress to get off the dime now. Instead, this decision just comes across as pandering, ultimately frustrating both the left and the right. Obama needs a new strategy if he hopes to break this logjam and start a serious discussion about an immigration bill.

[Tod Robberson](#), Editorial writer:

This plan is pure political show. National Guard troops are not law enforcers, and illegal immigration is a law-enforcement problem. Deploying National Guard troops is, at best, a temporary fix. And illegal immigration is not a temporary problem. America has a long border with Mexico, and 1,200 troops cannot do much to seal it, even if they're just concentrated in Arizona.

Obama is taking this action for two reasons: He's trying to bolster his get-tough credentials ahead of the November elections to reduce the ammunition that Republican candidates can use against Democrats, and he's trying to answer the border-security mandate that immigration-reform skeptics insist is a prerequisite for any comprehensive reform measure. If Obama really thinks 1,200 troops are necessary, he'll have to justify it in military terms: What's the mission, what's the goal, and how do you define victory? I don't think he's got those answers, and even if he does, I don't think he can adequately explain how 1,200 troops will get that job done.

USA Today

May 7, 2010

U.S. laws blamed for migrant deaths

Dennis Wagner

A national think-tank report released Thursday blames the deaths of thousands of people who died trying to cross the U.S.-Mexican border on the failure to reform immigration law and asserts that congressional inaction has empowered violent human-smuggling organizations.

The Virginia-based **National Foundation for American Policy** says the lack of a legal entry system for immigrant workers "has contributed to more than 4,000 men, women and children dying while attempting to cross to America since 1998."

The foundation is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization formed in 2003 to conduct public-policy research on trade and immigration.

Its report, written by Executive Director Stuart Anderson, points out that immigrant deaths increased last year despite a drop-off in the number of arrested immigrants. Fewer people are trying to cross the border due in part to America's recession and increased security.

It concludes that, because the border is more difficult to penetrate, immigrants wind up hiring criminal guides at high prices to lead them on long and dangerous treks into the United States.

"The only plausible way to eliminate immigrant deaths at the border, as well as reduce illegal immigration in the long term, is to institute a new program of temporary visas or portable work permits for foreign workers," Anderson writes. "Strong evidence exists that the current 'enforcement-only' policy has strengthened criminal gangs."

Other border researchers, including the southern Arizona group No More Deaths, have condemned border-security programs designed to push illegal immigration into remote desert areas. In 2008, the Congressional Research Service issued a paper that said "border crossings have become more dangerous since the 'Prevention through Deterrence' policy went into affect in 1995, resulting in an increase in illegal migrant deaths."

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Regardless of the policy in place, Camarota said those who risk death to cross the border unlawfully must take responsibility for their fates.

"The illegal immigrants themselves are partly to blame," he said.

According to [Border Patrol](#) data, approximately 1.5 million illegal border crossers were apprehended in 1998, when 263 deaths were reported. Last year, 541,000 immigrants were captured; there were 417 deaths.

Meanwhile, Anderson says, "current (enforcement) efforts seem to have produced the unintended consequence of swelling the illegal immigrant population" because those who safely enter the United States — fearful they could never make it through the border again — seldom return home.

Wagner reports for The Arizona Republic.

Care 2 Make A Difference Blog

May 7, 2010

More Undocumented Migrants Dying to Cross Over the Border

posted by: [Natasha G.](#) 19 hours ago



In 2009, 419 undocumented migrants died trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border, up from 2008 when 390 people died, according to a recent [study](#) conducted by the non-partisan research organization [National Foundation for American Policy \(NFAP\)](#). This is the first increase in deaths in four years.

Why has it become more deadly to cross the border?

In 1994, [Operation Gatekeeper](#) was enacted as a plan to fight illegal immigration, employing a "prevention and deterrence" strategy. It concentrated resources and border patrolmen in populous areas, and was deemed a success early on because it resulted in less apprehensions. However instead of actually lessening the number of people attempting to cross over, Operation Gatekeeper caused people to seek more remote and dangerous routes to cross through. A 2007 [ACLU report](#) reveals that from Operation Gatekeeper's inception in 1994 to the 2007 publication of the report, death toll estimates range from 3,801 to 5,607. Meanwhile the number of undocumented immigrants have grown from 8.4 million in 2000 to 11.9 million in 2007.

A large number of recorded deaths are due to environmental exposure, particularly desert heat. Some die due to train or motor accidents, drowning, homicide or suicide. And many

more have undetermined causes of death. The exact numbers and identities are difficult if not impossible to pinpoint because often remains are not found.

Why should anyone be concerned with the plight of people who have not gone through the standard procedures to gain legal entry? Simply put, no human being should have to risk death in order to gain a new life. While the U.S. immigration system remains full of red tape and sky-high fees with no guarantee of entry, impoverished men, women and children are risking their lives to cross over.

Strengthen the nation, strengthen the immigration system and strengthen families by taking action:

- [Reform America's Broken Immigration System](#)
- [Immigration Reform Must Keep Families Together](#)

Mueren más de cuatro mil inmigrantes en frontera desde 1998



Los inmigrantes enfrentan peligros antes y después de cruzar la ilegalmente la frontera.
REUTERS

- El año pasado fallecieron 417 personas en su intento por ingresar a EU

La Fundación Nacional para la Política Estadounidense señala que en 2009 se arrestó a 540 mil 865 inmigrantes

WASHINGTON, ESTADOS UNIDOS (06/MAY/2010).- Más de cuatro mil personas, un promedio de una por día, han muerto desde 1998 en su intento por cruzar de manera ilegal la frontera con Estados Unidos, según un [reporte](#) de la **Fundación Nacional para la Política Estadounidense (NFAP, en inglés)**.

La muerte de inmigrantes se incrementó en 2009, a 417 respecto a 390 un año antes, pese a que el año pasado cayó significativamente el ingreso ilegal entre peticiones insistentes del Congreso de que el gobierno federal "controle las fronteras", de acuerdo con el informe divulgado hoy por la organización civil.

Indica que en 1998 fueron arrestados 1.5 millones de personas en la frontera sur y fueron registradas 263 muertes, mientras en 2009 la cifra de arrestados cayó a 540 mil 865, pero el número de muertes aumentó a 417. El acumulado de 1998 a 2009 es de cuatro mil 375 fallecimientos.

El único modo de eliminar la muerte de los inmigrantes en la frontera y de reducir la

inmigración ilegal a largo plazo, "es instituir un nuevo programa de visas temporales o permisos de trabajo para extranjeros", dijo el director de la NFAP, Stuart Anderson.

Un segundo estudio de la misma organización señala que unos cuatro millones de personas están en la lista de espera por retrasos en casos de inmigración sobre peticiones de familiares, señaló la organización, que se basó en datos del Departamento de Seguridad Interna.

Añadió que el tiempo de espera para que un ciudadano estadounidense traiga a un hermano de Filipinas excede los 20 años. El ciudadano estadounidense que pide a un hijo adulto no casado de México debe esperar 17 años.

Además de los crecientes peligros para cruzar la frontera, la política de 'sólo aplicación de la ley' ha fortalecido a lucrativas empresas ilegales y pandillas criminales, de acuerdo con la NFAP.

"Si los trabajadores mexicanos y centroamericanos pudieran venir a Estados Unidos con una visa o un permiso de trabajo, no tendrían necesidad de usar los servicios de un 'coyote' o de una empresa delictiva", señaló Anderson, ex funcionario del ahora desaparecido Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS) de Estados Unidos.

Café Hayek

Some Immigration Links

by Don Boudreaux on May 10, 2010

Stuart Anderson, of the [National Foundation for American Policy](#), has two superb must-reads: "[Death at the Border](#)" and "[Family Immigration: The Long Wait to Immigrate.](#)"

[EconLog's David Henderson](#) sees the current struggle over Arizona's new immigration statute as a "battle of the collectivists." With a follow-up post [here](#).

Greg Siskind on Immigration Law and Policy

NEW REPORTS FROM NFAP

The National Foundation for American Policy has put out a number of excellent reports on the state of American immigration and now they have two more.

[Family Immigration: The Long Wait to Immigrate](#)

Family immigration quotas are inadequate and result in separation and long waits for Americans, lawful permanent residents and close family members. Approximately 4 million people are waiting in family immigration backlogs, according to data obtained from the U.S. Department of State and Department of Homeland Security.

The wait time for a U.S. citizen petitioning for a brother or sister from the Philippines exceeds 20 years. A U.S. citizen petitioning for either a married (3rd preference) or unmarried (1st preference) son or daughter (21 years or older) can expect to wait 6 to 17 years, depending on the country or origin. Research shows legal immigrants experience faster wage growth than natives, are more likely to start businesses and have higher median years of schooling. Raising family immigration quotas would serve both the humanitarian and economic interests of the United States.

[Death at the Border](#)

The absence of a way to enter the United States legally to work has contributed to more than 4,000 men, women, and children dying while attempting to cross to America since 1998. Alarming, immigrant deaths increased in 2009 at a time when illegal entry fell significantly. This death toll – an average of about one person a day – has occurred in the context of great pressure from Congress and executive branch officials to “control the border.” The loss of life will almost certainly continue unless more paths are open to work legally in the United States. The only plausible way to eliminate immigrant deaths at the border, as well as reduce illegal immigration in the long term, is to institute a new program of temporary visas or portable work permits for foreign workers. Strong evidence exists that the current “enforcement-only” policy has strengthened criminal gangs, providing a profitable line of business for Mexican criminal enterprises. If Mexican and Central American workers could come to America on a legal visa or work permit they would have no need to employ the services of a coyote or criminal enterprise.