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MIGRANT BORDER DEATHS: TRAGIC, BUT NOTHING NEW

By Steve Bakke  December 28, 2018



The tragic deaths of two migrant children have captured our attention. Naturally, Trump is **getting the blame as if it's never happened before. I looked up some statistics, and guess** what.....this is nothing new. Exposure, including heat-stroke, dehydration, and hypothermia is the main cause. While official comprehensive records aren't kept, dependable estimates are available:

- Since 1994, approximately 10,000 migrants have died attempting to cross the border.
- A low point was 1996 when about 90 died.
- The peak was 2005 with over 500 fatalities.
- Another low point was 2017 when under 300 died.
- 2017 was the lowest since 2005, which includes the Obama years.
- 2018 will be considerably higher than 2017.

These are tragic statistics, but as with all problems, having proper context and information is important for finding solutions. Objectivity has been absent, and of course Trump is the favorite target of finger-pointing. And now, incredibly, some Democrats are asking that Congress have a special investigation of these two deaths.

Let's be sure our actions reflect reality. Border deaths of migrants has occurred in high numbers over several administrations. So, skip the politics, swallow your hate for the President, and let's secure our border and modernize our out-of-date immigration policies.