

# Immigration and Disinformation

While misinformation involves the dissemination of false information negligently or unknowingly (e.g., posting without verifying), disinformation is false information intentionally disseminated, usually to spread a misleading story for political gain.

## 1. Contrary to disinformation, immigrants are less likely to engage in crime.

- A study of crime and immigration over 4 decades in 40 cities found a correlation between increased immigration and **less** crime (Adelman, et al, 2017).
- A 2018 study (Light and Miller) found that the more undocumented immigrants an area has, the **lower** the violent crime rate.
- A 2020 study of Texas arrest records found that undocumented immigrants have **lower** crime rates than native-born citizens **and** legal immigrants (Light et al).
- Since 2001, the vast majority of terrorist acts inside the United States have been committed by homegrown terror groups, most espousing white nationalism (Kurzman, 2019; Center for Extremism of the ADL, 2019).
- **Who brings crime?** An economist has correlated increased gang activity and homicides in El Salvador with the increased deportation of gang members from the US to El Salvador starting in 1996 (Sviatschi 2022).

## 2. Contrary to disinformation, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) apprehend the vast majority of border crossers.

- According to US Customs and Border Patrol, during early 2024, 92% of those who crossed the border were apprehended by CBP, both because of extensive CBP presence but also because people turned themselves in to seek asylum.

## 3. Contrary to disinformation, immigrants are very rarely involved in voter fraud.

- The conservative Heritage Foundation has a database of confirmed voter fraud cases from 2002 to 2022, and less than 100 of the cases involve non-citizens voting, those out of more than a billion votes cast.
- In 2016 the Brennan Center for Justice looked at 23.5 million votes in 42 jurisdictions and found only 30 cases of non-citizen voting.

## 4. Contrary to disinformation, US citizens, not immigrants, smuggle fentanyl.

- 89% of people convicted of smuggling fentanyl in 2022 were US citizens (Cato Institute analysis of government data). In 2023, 93% of seizures of fentanyl occurred at legal border crossings.

## 5. Contrary to disinformation, asylum seekers at the southern border are not illegal immigrants, and they rarely “disappear” into the country.

- US immigration law specifically allows for asylum seekers to request asylum at the border, or to do so even after they have crossed the border illegally.
- In FY 2019, 98.7% of asylum seekers who were not detained showed up for every court hearing (TRAC 2020). According to Penn Law Review, 95% of non-detained asylum seekers attended all their court hearings from 2009 to 2018 (and 88% of immigrants in deportation cases attended all their hearings).