



is the Trump Administration doing things that are quietly killing people

Reports from independent research groups, non-profit organizations, and news outlets allege that recent and past Trump administrations have pursued policies that lead to avoidable deaths. These deaths are not typically direct, but rather the result of policies that jeopardize public health, weaken environmental protections, and create dangerous conditions for vulnerable populations. [↗](#)

Public health and healthcare

- COVID-19 pandemic response: During the initial outbreak of COVID-19, critics argued that the administration's mismanagement of the pandemic, which included dismantling public health infrastructure and downplaying the virus's severity, resulted in a greater number of deaths than necessary.
- Repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA): A bill signed by a Trump administration in July 2025 significantly cut Medicaid and ACA funding. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that this will cause nearly 12 million more people to become uninsured by 2034. Health policy experts warn that stripping coverage from millions of vulnerable people will have negative impacts on patient safety and could overwhelm hospitals.
- Weakening consumer protections: The Trump administration expanded the availability of "short-term health plans" that are exempt from ACA standards and protections for pre-existing conditions. These and other measures, which discourage enrollment through the ACA marketplace, are expected to raise premiums and expose consumers to greater risk.
- Cuts to funding and outreach: Past and more recent moves have cut funding for outreach and enrollment assistance for federal health insurance programs, which has been shown to reduce coverage. Changes were also proposed to restrict access to family planning providers and roll back anti-discrimination policies. [↗](#)

Environmental regulations

- Rollbacks of EPA regulations: An executive order issued by the Trump administration in February 2025 weakened air and water quality regulations, rolled back emissions standards, and halted enforcement of climate-related policies. According to the [Center for American Progress](#), canceling funds for pollution reduction would put Americans' health and jobs at risk.
- Undoing clean air and water initiatives: The Trump administration has canceled funding for grants aimed at improving air and water quality, including initiatives to replace lead pipes and address PFAS contamination. The Center for American Progress reports that repealing the new federal PFAS standard alone could lead to 9,600 preventable deaths and nearly 30,000 avoidable illnesses annually.
- Ignoring climate science: In 2025, the Trump administration disbanded a controversial climate panel that questioned mainstream climate science, using its draft report to justify

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- Targeting immigrants with Social Security numbers: In April 2025, the Trump administration directed the Social Security Administration to add more than 6,000 names of immigrants to its database for tracking deceased individuals. This measure cuts off immigrants' access to employment, financial services, and government benefits, which critics say is intended to force "self-deportation".
- Deportation to dangerous conditions: According to the [League of United Latin American Citizens \(LULAC\)](#), hundreds of migrants deported by a Trump administration have been killed upon returning to dangerous conditions in their home countries.

Workplace safety and military action

- Withdrawing civilian protection policies: In January 2025, [The Washington Post](#) reported that the Trump administration was moving to close a Pentagon office focused on curbing civilian deaths. In 2019, an Obama-era rule requiring the public reporting of civilian casualties from airstrikes in covert operations was also weakened.
- Restricting access to workplace fatality data: In 2017, the administration's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) made it harder to access details on worker fatalities by removing the information from its homepage and refusing to publish information on deaths that did not result in a company citation.

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