



# Trump Administration Deadlier for ICE Detainees Than COVID-19 Pandemic

**Published:** October 17, 2025

**Author:** Molly Gibson

**Topics:** [Detention](#)

---

Share:





The American Immigration Council is a non-profit, non-partisan organization. [Sign up to receive our latest analysis as soon as it's published.](#)

On September 29, 2025, in what has become a shockingly common occurrence, Huabing Xie [died in ICE custody](#) after suffering an apparent seizure. Xie, a citizen of China, is the 23rd person officially reported by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to have died in custody this fiscal year, marking 2025 as the deadliest for ICE detainees [since 2004](#). As of writing, [two more](#) people have died in ICE detention since the fiscal year ended on September 30.

The first year of the second Trump administration has been even deadlier than 2020, when the unchecked [COVID-19 pandemic contributed](#) to the high death toll in detention facilities. The rising fatalities this year are likely caused by several factors, including acute overcrowding, abysmal detention conditions, medical neglect, soaring mental distress, and even gun violence.



Across detention centers, overcrowding has resulted in [dire and inhumane conditions](#). For example, a Massachusetts ICE field office used a windowless room as a holding area packed with “[35 to 40 men](#)” who had to share one toilet without privacy and sleep “[head-by-toe](#)” on the concrete floors. Similarly, at Krome Service Processing Center in Florida, people were forced to [sleep on the floor](#) and only given “[a cup of rice and a glass of water a day](#).” ICE is refusing to give people enough food in some facilities and provides [rotten food](#) at other facilities. These reports are understandably alarming family members and advocates.

Overcrowding and poor hygiene can spread and exacerbate diseases, leading to deaths. But medical neglect in detention can lead to equally harmful consequences. Sick detainees are being denied care, leading to unnecessarily worsening medical conditions. [NPR reported](#) that a man with a “serious eye infection for almost two weeks” and a “fever” was denied medication for both conditions.

In another instance, a previously healthy 23-year-old man was [unable to walk](#) due to pain after only a few months in ICE confinement because of medical neglect. The Venezuelan asylum seeker was frequently moved between detention centers without the ability to shower or change his clothing, forced to sleep on the floor, and frequently complained of pain. Nurses prescribed him antibiotics and pain medication, but his medical records show that he rarely actually received his prescriptions, and that ICE took his medications from him when it transferred him between detention centers. Ultimately, his symptoms worsened so acutely that he was “taken to medical in a wheelchair, assisted by fellow detainees, because he was unable to walk on his own.” This young man’s story is just one example of countless horrifying incidents occurring out of the public eye.

The Trump administration’s immigration detention policies and the resulting appalling conditions have also led to disastrous effects on detainees’ mental health. Three of the reported deaths are by apparent suicide. Twenty-seven-year-old [Brayan Rayo-Garzon](#) was found “[unresponsive in his cell with a blanket wrapped around his neck](#)” in April 2025. During his two-week detention, his appointment with the mental health clinic was rescheduled twice. In June, [Jesus Molina-Veya](#) was discovered “unresponsive with a cloth ligature around his neck tied to the bottom rail of the top bunk.” [Chaofeng Ge](#) was also found “with a cloth ligature around his neck in a shower stall” four days after his intake assessment. Many other people [have reported](#) experiencing acute mental distress in detention, including suicidal thoughts.



## HOW IS ICE getting away with this?

People in immigration detention have protested their inhumane treatment to raise awareness, but accountability for ICE remains minimal. For instance, a group of [men at Krome staged a peaceful sit-in](#), while noncitizens in a [California detention center staged a hunger strike](#) protesting poor conditions. In New York, a [federal judge ordered ICE to hold fewer people in the cells](#) and allow people to shower more frequently at a Manhattan holding facility. But even with a court order, [poor conditions persist](#). Until ICE drastically reduces the number of people it chooses to incarcerate, or elects to stop using detention as punishment, this disturbing trend is unlikely to change.

As of writing, only 17 of the 23 deaths are listed on [ICE's Detainee Death Reporting webpage](#). The other reports can be found wading through [ICE's news releases](#). But the official reports of deaths in ICE detention are not the end of the story. As previously detailed, [ICE frequently seeks to release critically ill detainees prior to death](#), allowing them to avoid their reporting requirements. In addition, the Trump administration slashed internal accountability measures by [shutting down oversight offices that oversee immigration detention](#). While the administration has [reportedly](#) reversed its decision to abolish these offices entirely following litigation, their staffing levels and approach to prior investigations remain unclear.

The agency's lack of transparency and its obfuscation conceal the gravity of the inhumane treatment people face in ICE custody and allow ICE to avoid accountability.

## ICE Detainee Deaths for FY 2025 (10/1/24-9/30/25)

Date	Name	Link
September 29, 2025	Huabing Xie	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/illegal-alien-china-passes-away-regional-medical-">https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/illegal-alien-china-passes-away-regional-medical-</a>



September 29, 2025	Guzman-Fuentes, Norlan	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/victim-active-shooter-attack-dallas-ice-field-office-identified">https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/victim-active-shooter-attack-dallas-ice-field-office-identified</a>
September 22, 2025	Ayala-Uribe, Ismael	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/mexican-national-dies-ice-custody-after-being-referred-local-hospital-day-prior">https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/mexican-national-dies-ice-custody-after-being-referred-local-hospital-day-prior</a>
September 18, 2025	Reyes-Banegas, Santos	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/honduran-national-ice-custody-passes-away">https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/honduran-national-ice-custody-passes-away</a>
September 8, 2025	Duarte Rascon, Oscar	Already had dementia, cancer, and requires full assistance with ADLs: <a href="https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrDuarteRasconOscar.pdf">https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrDuarteRasconOscar.pdf</a>
August 31, 2025	<a href="#">Batrez Vargas, Lorenzo Antonio</a>	Diabetes/Covid?: <a href="https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrBatrezVargas.pdf">https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrBatrezVargas.pdf</a>
August 5, 2025	<a href="#">Ge, Chaofeng</a>	Apparent suicide: <a href="https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrChaofengGe.pdf">https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrChaofengGe.pdf</a>
July 19, 2025	<a href="#">Phan, Tien Xuan</a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrPhanTienXuan.pdf">https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrPhanTienXuan.pdf</a>
June 26, 2025	<a href="#">Perez, Isidro</a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrPEREZIsidro.pdf">https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrPEREZIsidro.pdf</a>
June 23, 2025	<a href="#">Noviello, Johnny</a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddr_NOVIELLOJohnny.pdf">https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddr_NOVIELLOJohnny.pdf</a>



		<a href="#">rAbelardoAvellenedaDelgado.pdf</a>
April 25, 2025	<a href="#">Blaise, Marie Ange</a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrMarieAngeBlaise.pdf">https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrMarieAngeBlaise.pdf</a>
April 16, 2025	<a href="#">Nguyen, Nhon Ngoc</a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrNguyenNhonNgoc.pdf">https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrNguyenNhonNgoc.pdf</a>
April 8, 2025	<a href="#">Rayo-Garzon, Brayán</a>	Possible suicide after multiple mental health appointment reschedulings: <a href="https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrBrayanRAYO-Garzon.pdf">https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrBrayanRAYO-Garzon.pdf</a>
February 23, 2025	Tineo-Martinez, Juan Alexis	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/dominican-national-passes-away-centro-medico-hospital-san-juan-after-narcoticshuman">https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/dominican-national-passes-away-centro-medico-hospital-san-juan-after-narcoticshuman</a>
February 20, 2025	<a href="#">Chernyak, Maksym</a>	Hemorrhagic stroke: <a href="https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrMaksymChernyak.pdf">https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrMaksymChernyak.pdf</a>
January 29, 2025	<a href="#">Dejene, Serawit Gezahegn</a>	Tuberculosis: <a href="https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddr-SerawitGezahegnDejene.pdf">https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddr-SerawitGezahegnDejene.pdf</a>
January 23, 2025	<a href="#">Ruiz Guillen, Genry</a>	Psychosis, epileptic seizures, rhabdomyolysis: <a href="https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddr-GenryRuizGuillen.pdf">https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddr-GenryRuizGuillen.pdf</a>
December 16, 2024	<a href="#">Amechand, Ramesh</a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrRameshAmechand.pdf">https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/reports/ddrRameshAmechand.pdf</a>



<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	
--------------	-----------	--

## ICE Detainee Deaths Since Trump Took Office: (YTD but still counting)

Date	Name	Link
October 11, 2025	Hasan Ali Moh'D Saleh	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/illegal-alien-jordan-ice-custody-passes-away-miami-hospital">https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/illegal-alien-jordan-ice-custody-passes-away-miami-hospital</a>
October 4, 2025	Cruz-Silva, Leo	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-announces-death-illegal-alien-mexico-missouri-detention-facility">https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-announces-death-illegal-alien-mexico-missouri-detention-facility</a>
September 29, 2025	Huabing Xie	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/illegal-alien-china-passes-away-regional-medical-center-near-san-diego">https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/illegal-alien-china-passes-away-regional-medical-center-near-san-diego</a>
September 29, 2025	Garcia-Hernandez, Miguel Angel	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-reports-second-death-dallas-sniper-attack-after-detainee-succumbs-injuries">https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-reports-second-death-dallas-sniper-attack-after-detainee-succumbs-injuries</a>
September 29, 2025	Guzman-Fuentes, Norlan	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/victim-active-shooter-attack-dallas-ice-field-office-identified">https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/victim-active-shooter-attack-dallas-ice-field-office-identified</a>



		<a href="#"><u>an-national-ice-custody-passes-away</u></a>
September 8, 2025	Duarte Rascon, Oscar	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting">https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting</a>
August 31, 2025	<a href="#"><u>Batrez Vargas, Lorenzo Antonio</u></a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting">https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting</a>
August 5, 2025	<a href="#"><u>Ge, Chaofeng</u></a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting">https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting</a>
July 19, 2025	<a href="#"><u>Phan, Tien Xuan</u></a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting">https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting</a>
June 26, 2025	<a href="#"><u>Perez, Isidro</u></a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting">https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting</a>
June 23, 2025	<a href="#"><u>Noviello, Johnny</u></a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting">https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting</a>
June 7, 2025	<a href="#"><u>Molina-Veya, Jesus</u></a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting">https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting</a>
May 5, 2025	<a href="#"><u>Avelleneda-Delgado, Abelardo</u></a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting">https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting</a>
April 25, 2025	<a href="#"><u>Blaise, Marie Ange</u></a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting">https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting</a>
April 16, 2025	<a href="#"><u>Nguyen, Nhon Ngoc</u></a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting">https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting</a>

We envision a nation where immigrants are embraced, communities are enriched, and justice prevails for all.

Sign Up

Donate Now →



About Us ▾ Immigration Topics ▾ Tools & Resources ▾ J-1 Visa Sponsorship Services Building Connection ▾ Ways to Help ▾

		<a href="#">hospital-san-juan-after-narcoticshuman</a>
February 20, 2025	<a href="#">Chernyak, Maksym</a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting">https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting</a>
January 29, 2025	<a href="#">Dejene, Serawit Gezahegn</a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting">https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting</a>
January 23, 2025	<a href="#">Ruiz Guillen, Genry</a>	<a href="https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting">https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting</a>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22 (and counting)</b>	

## Related Resources



We envision a nation where immigrants are embraced, communities are enriched, and justice prevails for all.

[Sign Up](#)

[Donate Now →](#)



[About Us](#) ▾ [Immigration Topics](#) ▾ [Tools & Resources](#) ▾ [J-1 Visa Sponsorship Services](#) [Building Connection](#) ▾ [Ways to Help](#) ▾

has less than 12 hours to avert a possible...

[Read More →](#)

The federal takeover of Washington, D.C. is another front in the Trump's war on immigrants and the communities that welcome them.

[Read More →](#)

Customs Enforcement (ICE)...

[Read More →](#)

[Load More](#)

Map The Impact

[Explore Our Map →](#)

## Explore immigration data where you live

Our Map the Impact tool has comprehensive coverage of more than 100 data points about immigrants and their contributions in all 50 states and the country overall. It continues to be widely cited in places ranging from Gov. Newsom's declaration for California's Immigrant Heritage Month to a Forbes article and PBS' Two Cents series that targets millennials and Gen Z.

100+

We envision a nation where immigrants are embraced, communities are enriched, and justice prevails for all.

[Sign Up](#)

[Donate Now →](#)



[About Us](#) ▾ [Immigration Topics](#) ▾ [Tools & Resources](#) ▾ [J-1 Visa Sponsorship Services](#) [Building Connection](#) ▾ [Ways to Help](#) ▾

Giving Tuesday

# Defend Immigrant Rights, Defend Democracy

[Donate Today](#)

[Make a Monthly Gift →](#)



We envision a nation where immigrants are embraced, communities are enriched, and justice prevails for all.

[Sign Up](#)

[Donate Now →](#)



[About Us](#) ▾ [Immigration Topics](#) ▾ [Tools & Resources](#) ▾ [J-1 Visa Sponsorship Services](#) [Building Connection](#) ▾ [Ways to Help](#) ▾



📞 202-507-7500

🏠 PMB2026

2001 L Street N.W., Suite 500

Washington, DC 20036



[About Us](#)

[Tools & Resources](#)

[Our Impact](#)

[Building Connection](#)

[J-1 Cultural Exchange](#)

[Immigration Justice Campaign](#)

[Reports & Fact Sheets](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Events](#)

[Careers](#)

[Financial Information](#)

[Contact](#)



American Immigration Council is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. EIN number 52-1549711.

[Privacy Policy](#)

2026 © Copyright American Immigration Council. All rights reserved.