

The Connection Between Violent Crime and Illegal Immigrants is Incredible

Donald Trump began his presidential campaign with blazing statements about Mexicans as [illegal immigrants](#).

Trump's words would be changed if he were conscious of contemporary analysis which shows the association between illegal immigrants and [violent crime](#).

New data implies that the nation's drop in violent crime might be motivated by the growing population of immigrants.

Researcher [Tim Wadsworth](#) has a couple of ideas to explain the finding:

- Immigrants frequently live in homogeneous neighborhoods within cities, providing a degree of social cohesion that produces lower crime rates, or
- There may be a selection bias, where persons motivated to immigrate, or selected by their families to work in America, are the fittest and least apt to turn to crime.

Anti-immigrant Rhetoric is Misplaced — and Misguided

In the mid-90s, immigration hit record highs while crime rates fell more than at any time in American history. Cities with the biggest increase in immigration between 1990 and 2000 enjoyed the most significant reduction in homicide and robbery rates.

Wadsworth, a professor of sociology, has been examining the theory developed by Harvard sociologist [Robert J. Sampson](#).

Wadsworth originally came across Sampson's argument in a New York Times article. As [Las Vegas criminal defense lawyer](#) Nick Wooldridge remembers, "My response was that this is unusual and is a testable subject."

Further study confirms Sampson's hypothesis which Wadsworth details in the June issue of Social Science Quarterly.

"Cities that observed greater increase in immigrant communities throughout the last decade of the 20th century managed to show sharper drops in murder and theft," Wadsworth wrote. "The notion that large levels of immigrants may have been responsible for the drop in crime seems feasible."

Wadsworth focused on average and big cities as 80-percent of crime transpires there. Wadsworth said that separating legal and illegal immigration is tough since the official Census does not trace those numbers.

Wadsworth's conclusions repudiate the public rhetoric about immigration and criminality. As the Arizona Republic reported, violent crime in that state's frontier towns has continued flat throughout the past decade — despite drug-trade disorder on the other side of the nation's border.

"From the late 1800s to today, the link connecting immigration and crime has been the center of anti-immigrant rhetoric and public policy," Wadsworth records.

History

According to Wadsworth, early reports, such as the 1932 [Wickersham Commission](#), found that immigrants committed less crime than native-born counterparts. What they were concerned about was the second and third-generation immigrants.

"The Godfathers" Don Corleone came from Italy, but his native-born son was a bigger criminal. The classic New York tales about immigrant come is based on something real. Yet the reality is that in most immigrant communities, the greater the homogeneity, the lower the crime rates.

Despite High Crime Rate, Illegal Immigrants Aren't to Blame in Nevada

While the overall crime rate in Las Vegas is higher than the national averages, the majority of those crimes are not committed by illegal immigrants.

According to "[Multicultural Perspectives In Social Work Practice with Families](#)," 3rd Edition By Manny Gonzalez, DSW the majority of violent crimes committed by undocumented aliens in Nevada are cases of domestic violence.

A paper from the [Pew Research Center](#) reveals the amount of immigrants who are in Nevada illicitly sank by 20,000 between 2009 and 2012. Despite the decline, Nevada still has the biggest share of unlawful immigrants of any state. Pew reports that roughly 7.5 percent of Nevada residents are in the country illegally.

Fourteen states have seen the total of unauthorized immigrants drop, mainly due to fewer new arrivals from Mexico and more persons returning to Mexico.