

Crimes committed by foreigners without papers are a real problem.

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Is there a connection between immigration and crime? Many studies have concluded that immigration does not increase crime.

According to an article in Scientific American, research on immigration and crime over the past 20 years has confirmed the conclusions of a number of presidential commissions that immigration does not increase crime. In fact, the literature shows that immigrants on average commit fewer crimes than native-born Americans.

But very few of these studies have focused on “illegal” immigration, in contrast to immigration in general, which includes both legal and illegal immigration.

Some of the reports on this research seem to attempt to discredit people who have expressed concern about immigrant crime. This could be easier if the research focuses on immigration in general, without drawing attention to crimes committed by foreigners who should not even be here.

However, some organizations, such as the CATO Institute, have focused on the link between illegal immigration and crime – and have not been able to obtain the necessary information.

CATO has just published a working paper on a study on the link between illegal immigration and crime, but it is based on information from only one state. CATO was only able to obtain the necessary information from Texas, which appears to be the only state that collects and maintains information on the immigration status of persons entering the criminal justice system.

There is information on undocumented aliens who have been detained or imprisoned by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) because President Trump asked for it at the beginning of his term.

On January 25, 2017, Trump signed Executive Order 13768 to “Enhance Public Security within the United States.

Section 16 of that Order directs the DHS Secretary and the Attorney General to submit to Congress quarterly reports on the immigration status of (a) aliens detained under BOP supervision; (b) aliens detained as federal detainees on remand under the supervision of the U.S.M.S.; and (c) convicted aliens held in state prisons and local detention facilities throughout the United States.

The most recent report on the detention of aliens was published on October 16, 2020. It shows that 94 percent of confirmed aliens detained by the BOP and in U.S. M.S. facilities are illegally in the United States.

In addition, 70 percent of the 27,494 known or suspected aliens in BOP custody had been convicted of non-immigrant related crimes, as had 39 percent of the 23,580 known or suspected aliens in U.S. M.S. custody.

But this information is not even remotely comprehensive. Approximately 90 percent of foreigners in detention are held in state and local institutions.

This is a problem for two reasons.

First, it is not possible to determine how much damage – if any – illegal immigration is doing without knowing how many of the foreigners who come here illegally are committing crimes in the United States and how serious their crimes are.

Second, if elected, Joe Biden will need information about the criminal activities of undocumented foreigners in order to implement his immigration enforcement policy.

What does this have to do with Biden?

In his “Plan For Securing Our Values as a Nation of Immigrants,” Biden says that he intends to follow the approach of the Obama-Biden administration, which was to prioritize law enforcement resources to deport deportable foreigners who pose a threat to national and public security.

In fact, Biden wants to go even further than Obama.

During the Democratic pre-election debate on March 15, 2020, Biden said: “In the first 100 days of my term of office, no one, and certainly no one, will be deported. From that point on, the only deportations that will take place will be for commissions of major crime in the United States of America”.

The lack of information about the crimes committed by undocumented foreigners, as reported by CATO, would not prevent a Biden administration from finding enough criminal foreigners to employ the ICE and immigration courts, but it would make it impossible to focus enforcement efforts on the foreigners who commit the most serious crimes.

Nolan Rappaport was presented to the Justice Committee of the House of Representatives as an immigration law expert to the executive branch for three years. He then served for four years as immigration advisor to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims. Prior to his work on the Justice Committee, he spent 20 years writing decisions for the Immigration Complaints Committee.