



Debunking myths about immigrants

March 16, 2019

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A common narrative we frequently encounter is that undocumented immigrants are bringing drugs into the United States. According to the 2018 National Drug Threat Assessment, the majority of illegal drugs trafficked into America enter at legal points of entry, not via unlawful immigration (<https://www.dea.gov>).

Another point often heard is that immigrants are bringing crime into our country. According to the Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Criminology, first generation immigrants to America are 45 percent less likely to commit crimes than the general populace and in fact, usually cause crime rates to go down in the neighborhoods where they live.

According to the libertarian Cato Institute, undocumented immigrants in Texas are criminally convicted at half the rate of native-born Tex (www.cato.org). A simple internet search provides a multitude of studies that contradict the narrative that undocumented immigrants are more criminal than a native-born American.

It makes sense, if you think about it: If we were in a country without status, we would avoid behaviors that attract attention in order to avoid detection. All of these narratives are simply unfounded.