



## Donald Trump's Argument That Undocumented Immigrants Make the Country Less Safe Is Simply Not True

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Remember early 2015? It was a glorious time. The Cavs and Warriors met in their first (of hopefully three straight) NBA Finals. *Mad Max: Fury Road* was a revelation. And most importantly, Barack Obama was president. Then in June, something happened that seemed like a joke: Donald Trump announced he was running for president. And what did he talk about during that announcement? Was it a soaring speech about American ideals? Was it an inspiring tale of a self-made man? Was it a petty and insane diatribe that foretold a dark and dangerous future that may well end up looking like *Mad Max: Fury Road*? Respectively: No. No. And you bet your tiny fingers it was. Donald Trump came out and ranted that we needed a wall to protect us from illegal immigrants from Mexico, because, well, let him say it.

"When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're not sending you. They're not sending you. They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists."

So from jump, Donald has been saying that illegal immigration makes the country *more* dangerous. On Tuesday, at the direction of President Trump, the Department of Homeland Security has rolled out its plan to deal with this "problem." Here are some details from *The New York Times*:

Under the Obama administration, undocumented immigrants convicted of serious crimes were the priority for removal. Now, immigration agents, customs officers and border patrol agents have been directed to remove anyone convicted of any criminal offense.

That includes people convicted of fraud in any official matter before a governmental agency and people who "have abused any program related to receipt of public benefits."

This along with an expansion of enforcement agents, the empowering of local police to assist in deportations, and Trump's financial threat to sanctuary cities, means that millions who were

under little threat of being deported (those who have not committed a serious crime) could now be subject to it. Never mind that, according to the Cato Institute, there have been *zero* fatal attacks by immigrants on U.S. soil since 1980. So the grand, infuriating irony in all this is Trump's malformed argument that immigrants make our country LESS safe. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio explained why this line of thinking is bullshit very clearly in a recent interview.

His reasoning is this: If someone who is here illegally witnesses a crime, under this new policy, they will be less likely to report it to a cop for fear of being deported, which means crime can grow unchecked. The same goes for if that person were to get sick and needed to go to a hospital. So now, a policy that was supposedly designed to make us safer has not only put us in more danger by allowing crime to go unreported, but it's also made us sicker, by guaranteeing that many in our communities will not seek help should they need it.

*If* this is really about safety, as Donald Trump has claimed, then this should matter to him. But it doesn't. It's almost like someone else in the administration—say, someone whose worldview is informed by white nationalism—is the one actually calling the shots.