



WashPost: Reports Cast Doubt on Trump's Criminal Immigrants Push

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President Donald Trump's focus on alleged crimes committed by illegal immigrants draws attention to a small portion of the immigrant population, including those who entered the country unlawfully, [The Washington Post](#) reports.

Criminal justice advocacy center the [Sentencing Project](#) and libertarian think tank the [Cato Institute](#) both released reports stating that immigrants commit crimes on a less frequent basis than native-born Americans.

"The big picture concern is that the administration's policies seem premised on the idea that immigration status is some kind of indicator for criminality, when in fact that is not at all the case," Gregory Chen, American Immigration Lawyers Association advocacy director, told the Post.

"Why is this administration so hyper-focused on making the connection between crime and immigration?"

Cato's Alex Nowrasteh, one of the co-authors of the report on immigration crime, told the Post: "If the facts were aligned with what they say about the criminality of immigrants, they wouldn't have to play up these horrible anecdotes. I see it as a political tactic to support a policy agenda. It's policymaking by fear, not fact."

Trump has mentioned violent crimes committed by immigrants several times in speeches, including in his address to Congress in February.

"We are providing a voice to those who have been ignored," he said before mentioning the deaths of two law enforcement officials who "were viciously gunned down by an illegal immigrant with a criminal record and two prior deportations."

He added: "Should have never been in our country."

During a recent press conference White House press secretary Sean Spicer was asked about a case in which two teenage illegal immigrants allegedly raped a ninth-grade girl in Rockville, Maryland.

"Part of the reason that the president has made illegal immigration and a crackdown such a big deal is because of tragedies like this," he replied. "This is why he's passionate about this, because people are victims of these crimes. . . .

"Immigration pays its toll on our people, if it's not done legally, and this is another example."