

## More immigration doesn't mean more crime, libertarian think tank says

By [Matthew Reichbach](#) 7/7/10 10:13 AM



Increased immigration does not necessarily mean a higher crime rate according to an [immigration reform bulletin](#) from the the libertarian Washington D.C. think tank the CATO Institute.

“National studies have reached the conclusion that foreign-born (both legal and illegal immigrants) are less likely to commit crimes than the native-born,” the bulletin states.

“U.S.-born men have an institutionalization rate that is 10 times higher than that of foreign-born men,” CATO writes.

One reason given is that illegal immigrants are wary of contact with the police, even for minor crimes, for fear of being discovered and deported. And “legal immigrants are screened with regard to their criminal backgrounds. In addition, all noncitizens, even those in the U.S. legally, are subject to deportation if convicted of a criminal offense that is punishable by a prison sentence of a year or more, even if that is suspended.”

The CATO Institute notes that notorious crimes — like the unsolved murder of Arizona rancher Robert Krentz — can incite passions among the populace and create an impression that immigrants, whether in the country legally or illegally, commit crimes at a higher rate than natural-born U.S. citizens.

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