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Spring 2020

The Effects of Unauthorized Immigrants on Crime

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Abstract

The effects of immigrants on crime has been the subject of hostile conversations and bold claims. As anti-immigrant sentiments see an increase in mainstream society, the empirical research suggesting an explanation to such claims are direly needed. Using PEW Research databases, and the States 2016 database in Stata, I evaluate the effects of unauthorized immigrant density of a given region on various crime rates of the aforementioned region. In particular, I assess the violent crime rate, murder crime rate, and property crime rates of states in America. Utilizing confidence intervals, ordinary least squares regression models (OLS), and a number of Stata commands, I predict that an increase in the number of unauthorized immigrants will be linked to a decrease in the crime rate of a given region. Future research will enhance the findings of this study by offering an international scope to this study and controlling for a number of key variables in such studies. My research aims to offer the reader an empirical and quantitative approach to understanding the nature of relations between unauthorized immigration and crime.

Keywords

Immigration, Crime, Undocumented, National Security

Disciplines

Defense and Security Studies | Political Science | Political Theory

Comments

Written for POL 215: Methods of Political Science.

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POL 215

April 1, 2020

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Introduction

Despite extensive media coverage and mainstream attention of violence committed by immigrants and crime perpetuated at the hands of undocumented non-citizens there seems to be a lack of a consensus regarding this divisive issue. Rhetoric surrounding immigrants and highly concentrated immigrant areas have been plentiful but does the data support such sweeping, and, in many cases, aggressive claims? In order to supply clarification to this issue this research will chiefly focus on the question: To what extent, if any, does immigration and immigrant concentration have on the crime rate of a given region?

In recent years, there has been an alarming number of anti-immigrant sentiments being discussed in society and often in offhand manner. Immigration is a divisive issue; however, that is not to say that immigration must always be such a divisive issue. Immigration adds to the economic strength, cultural diversity, and population growth of nations, yet there remains a stigma around immigrants and growing concerns around immigrants. Now, this would be one issue if it was merely rhetoric but as we have seen it is not such. For example, President Trump stated, "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" (Washington post, 1). Furthermore, Trump planned on acting on his strong claims and planned to cut funding to sanctuary cities, declaring 'we must not protect criminals' (Shaw, 1). Such comments lead to action and will be examined in further depth as the study progresses.

There remains a fear that immigration entails the destruction of traditional morals, that immigrants create division within a nation, and, most importantly for the scope of this essay; that immigrants add a disproportionate amount of crime relative to their limited size. Every day, one may pass hundreds of immigrants with little knowledge of these peoples' nominal status and would not expect the people to be harmful. Nonetheless, it is quite common for one to associate negative qualities with a person as soon as they are coined an immigrant.

These assumptions regarding immigrants often lack empirical evidence and are a grave danger to the safety and essential place for immigrants, in every society. Immigrants have played a vital role in fueling the economy, adding to the workforce, taking over production in tough times, and; furthermore, immigrants have influenced important policy choices- all of these immigrant-effects add to the progress of any nation (Abramitzky & Boustan, 1336). The benefits of immigration are compelling and make a clear case for why immigration must not be threatened and subject to such unrelenting scrutiny. The status, and safety of immigrants become threatened when immigrants are deemed as criminals, rapists, and thugs- especially when these misnomers come from the mouth of the President of the United States of America.

According to a 2000 study conducted by the General Social Survey, 73.4% of respondents thought it was "very likely" or "somewhat likely" that more immigrants will cause an increase in crime (Spenkuch, 177). However, my study theorizes that immigrants' function well in society, and, in return, allow society to function. Little empirical data supports such skepticism regarding the threats of immigrants. Labeling, and falsely accusing immigrants of their propensity to commit crimes not only threatens the status of immigrants but it threatens the prosperity of a nation built from immigrants, and sustained with the help of immigrants.

This analysis will begin with definitions of key terms such as: sanctuary city, immigrant, crime rate, and other pertinent information to this research. Following the clarification of terms, there will be a series of literature reviews which will place my research question, anticipated method, and argument in the context of previous scholarship (Powner, 56). Following the literature review, I will state my hypothesis which will forecast a causal relationship that offers a tentative explanation to my research question. Once the hypothesis is clearly defined, I will test the relationship between crime and immigration through the application of certain statistical methods. The fruits of this analysis will produce a causal relationship, or lack thereof, between my independent variable and dependent variable; immigration and crime, respectively. Following the consideration of this relationship, the implications of such a relationship will be discussed and possible avenues for future advancements in this field of study will be suggested. Concluding the analysis made in my research, I will highlight some of the limitations of my study, how this research could be strengthened by future research, and offer a brief conclusion on my findings.

Definitions

In order to clarify the scope of this study, it is essential to have working definitions for key terms. As it pertains to this essay, an immigrant will be defined as a person born in a country other than their current country of residence (Gimeno-Feliu et al., 2). It is vital to recognize that America is diverse and is home to many immigrants; according to one study nearly 13 percent of the American population is foreign born (Hirschman, 69-70). Thus, immigrants come from a multitude of backgrounds but will be grouped under the umbrella term 'immigrant'. Immigration is the movement of individual(s) to a country in which they are not native-born. Another key term which will be vital to the analysis of immigration and crime is sanctuary city. A sanctuary

city is as a region where asylum seekers may be secured and met with welcoming practices within and beyond the region the asylum seeker resides in (Bagelman, 49). These definitions are meant to be concise and give as clear in order to provide as much precision as possible due to the strong opinions regarding the topic and foreseeable hostilities associated with immigration and crime.

Literature Review

A recent study conducted by the Journal of Quantitative Criminology examines the extent to which immigrant concentration is linked to crime rates in Los Angeles. This study utilized two-stage least square regression models to display immigration concentration levels in 1990 and predict the immigrant concentration levels in 2000 (MacDonald, Hipp, & Gill, 193). Holding constant for other extraneous variables, the authors analyzed crime rates from 2000 to 2005 reported by the Los Angeles Census and determined that higher concentrations of immigrants are associated with significant reductions in total reported criminal offenses and violent crimes (205). This evidence seems compelling, and, is further strengthened by the empirical data supplied by these authors' analysis.

MacDonald and his associates' study found a 19.1 % increase (half a standard deviation) in the concentration of immigrants in Los Angeles neighborhoods reduces the average rate of total crime in a neighborhood by 35.7 %, and violent crime by 40.9 % (205). Granted, this study may have some limitations as it only references one city; however, Los Angeles is quite a diverse city. According to a study by CNBC, Los Angeles ranked as the most diverse city in America (Wells, 1). This diversity adds to the validity of the study because it encompasses many different types of immigrants, and many different types of people immigrants interact as a natural cause of such regional diversity. This in-depth study will be vital in supporting this research with

historical empirical data regarding the effects of immigrants on regional crime and utilizes data from earlier years which add to the depth and breadth of my research and statistical analysis.

Despite this limited but significant study by MacDonald, there have been studies with other results. Yoonhwan Park conducted research on residential immigration and crime. Park, through analyzing multiple types of crime in the Si-Gun-Gu region of South Korea and cross-analyzing this with GIS mapping of residential segregation of immigrants attempted to find a causal relationship between the two variables (Park, 51-53). Parks' analysis provided the conclusion that the pattern of property crime appears to be similar to the spatial pattern of immigrants' population distribution and violent crime tends to have more clustered results which emulate the effect of spatial actors i.e. metropolitan areas, infrastructure (53).

One of the most surprising findings, which is largely credited to GIS mapping, is that the effect of immigrant segregation does not appear to be significant for crime (52). Park insists that high levels of immigrants does not undermine the safety of a community. Furthermore, the community often put immigrants in disadvantageous situations but this unequal distribution does not cause crime immigrants to commit crimes at a higher rate when controlling for other variables (53-55). There seems to be a trend forming that immigrants are not disproportionally adding to crime, relative to their size; however, there immigrants are still blamed for crime and unfairly subject to discrimination.

Brian Bell conducted a study in which the condition of a labor market an immigrant must survive in affects crime. Contrary to MacDonald & Park, but not necessary in opposition to Macdonald & Park, Bell concludes that immigrants with poor labor market results relative to natives, with all else being equal, will lead to higher criminal participation rate from immigrants relative to natives (Bell, 3). One of the most interesting conclusions from Bell's research is the

effect legalization of an immigrant has on crime rates. According to Bell, economic forces play a large role in the propensity for an immigrant to commit a crime. Thus, if immigrants were to become legalized and have greater access to labor markets it is likely their crime rate will likely decrease.

Table 1: Self-Reported Effects of Legalization

	On Ability to Find Work	On Ability to Advance in Job
Made it Much Easier	52.40%	37.60%
Made it Somewhat Easier	24.33%	24.11%
No Effect	19.95%	36.92%
Made it Somewhat Harder	2.49%	1.0%
Made it Much Harder	0.8%	0.35%
Total	100%	100%

Answers taken from LPS2 survey conducted on IRCA applicants in 1992, subsequent to their legalization. First column denotes response to question "How has receiving legal status effected your ability to advance at work?" Second column denotes response to question "How has receiving legal status affected your ability to get work?" (Baker, 44).

The table above depicts the effect legalization of their status has on immigrants' ability to find work and subsequently advance in the labor force. The findings are consistent in the fact that legalization has a positive effect on one's ability to find work, and increases one's likelihood of advancing in the job. Bell's finding- that immigrants with little access to a good labor market will have an increased propensity to commit property crimes, can be counteracted by affording

immigrants a nondiscriminatory chance in a decent labor market (Bell, 3-5). The most effective

means of affording an immigrant better work is through legalization and removing negative

assumptions that come along with the term 'undocumented immigrant'. Property crimes have

strong links to a lack of access to a decent job. This relationship is widely accepted and calls into

question the economic forces at play as it pertains to crime. In conjunction with these sentiments,

Spenkuch theorizes that there exists a positive correlation between changes in property crime and

changes in immigration, and, similarly credits this to the theory of economic crime which

predicts that else equal, individuals with lower outside options commit more crimes. Immigrants

do fall into the 'lower outside option' group as their access to education, decent wages, and

ample healthcare, is far less advanced than the average native-born citizen (Spenkuch, 215).

Immigrants are human, have families to feed, and people depending on them; thus, if an

immigrant is lacking the economic means to satisfy these basic needs it is logical that one would

turn to crime in order to protect and ensure the survival of their loved ones. This conclusion I

have drawn does have its limits as 'property crime' is not defined clearly in the literature at hand.

I am assuming property crime to be crimes committed to ensure the safety of an immigrant or an

immigrants' loved ones; however, that may not be the case, and may be a mischaracterization of

the full scope of property crimes.

As the leader of the United States of America President Trump influences public opinion

in a multitude of ways and has a great impact on how issues are perceived. As noted, President

Trump refers to immigrant as rapists, thugs, and murderers with no empirical evidence for these

bombastic claims. The Oxford University published a study which analyzed the effect foreign-

born persons concentrations per capita had on violent crime rates which were calculated by

adding counts of homicides, robberies, aggravated assaults, and rapes and dividing that sum by the city population (expressed in units of 100,000) (Ousey & Kubrin, 459).

The results are incompatible with the rhetoric of the President. Ousey & Kubrin add to this argument by concluding that one standard deviation increase in the immigration index corresponds with a .3 standard deviation decrease in violent crime rate (461). This directional relationship of the coefficient is in opposition to the notion that large numbers of immigrants increase violent crime. Unlike many of the other studies, Ousey & Kubrin pooled together longitudinal data. They collected 1980, 1990, and 2000 Census data on crime, immigration, and various demographic, economic, and social factors for 159 large U.S. cities which adds a dimension to their research that most analysis on immigration and crime lack- long-term studies and longitudinal analysis. This adds much validity to this research and suggests a long-term negative relationship between immigration and crime- setting its findings apart from other similar studies with a shorter time frame.

There have been multiple variables affecting an immigrant's likelihood to commit crime- most notably the availability of labor. One important aspect of this analysis is what the immigrant has to lose from committing a crime. According to Orrenius & Zavodny, non-citizens show a decreased propensity to committing crimes because they potentially face deportation and U.S. selection of immigrants is very competitive and likely screen out likely criminals (Orrenius & Zavodny, 53). This finding is coherent with the notion that non-citizens are less likely to commit violent crime but will occasionally turn to property crime when their economic needs for survival are not met. Perhaps, the screening process and harsh potential for deportation dissuade non-citizens from committing violent crimes but as the theory of economic crime states, those

with little means to sustain life will are more likely to turn to property crime than individuals with more advanced economic means (Spenkuch, 215).

Hypothesis & Explanation

Although myths regarding immigrants' propensity for crime are common, there seems to be a general consensus amongst empirical-based literature that immigration reduces average crime rates and reliable data supporting the often-propagated notion that immigrants increase crime is sparse. Nearly 75 percent of Americans believe immigrants will pose a danger to their safety and will increase crime yet existing analysis shows the opposite may be true (Spenkuch, 177). Literature analyzed thus far has revealed that immigrants, just like native-born people, are influenced by their means and their need for survival. For example, immigrants may raise property crime slightly, but, as shown, when controlling for economic means and labor there is not a significant difference between crime rates from native-born persons and immigrants. It is vital to recognize that existing literature does not support the notion that immigrants are more likely to cause crime than native born persons with all else being equal.

As it pertains to my research question (to what extent, if any, does immigration and immigrant concentration have on the crime rate of a given region?) I foresee that in a comparison of regions, those which have higher concentrations of immigrants will have lower crime rates than regions which contain fewer immigrants. The hypothesis predicts that the more immigrant-dense an area is, the less crime there will be in total. This indicates a negative relationship between the independent variable-immigration- and the dependent variable-crime rates.

In order to have a legitimate and valid result; I will control for economic status i.e. income. Income may skew the results of my analysis and will be vital to control for. Earlier literature has shown the effects income can have on my hypothesis but that is not the variable of choice in this study. I will also control for difference in interpretation of the term 'immigrant'. Children of immigrants are occasionally put into the 'immigrant' group, but, in compliance with the functioning definition of immigrant laid out in this analysis, an immigrant will be measured as a non-native born person residing in a foreign country.

The hypothesis is as such: in a comparison of states, those with higher levels if unauthorized immigrant populations will have lower crime rates in comparison to states with lower levels of unauthorized immigrant populations. This hypothesis and analysis will be challenged by a lack of full representation in calculating immigrants per region. It is likely that not all immigrants are known to be in a region; thus, adding to some doubt regarding the validity of the results. Nonetheless, this analysis will aim to overcome this challenge and produce a significant result. Furthermore, the analysis is reliant on crime reports that may be prejudiced and are subject to many biases along the way. For example, the targeting of Latinos by enforcement is a real issue and is unfortunately something this study will not be able to account for.

Research Design Introduction

In order to test the hypotheses, I examined data from the World2016 dataset, states2016 dataset, and the NES dataset under the STATAIC platform. The states2016 dataset will afford my research access to important variables such as: crime_rate_violent, property_crime_rates, crime_rate_murder which were reported as a percentage of crime per 100,000 respondents. The Pew Research conducted a study in which levels of illegal or unauthorized immigrants were

calculated as a percent of a state's population. This research conducted by PEW will serve as the independent variable in this research.

I selected this data because the data fits the requirements for testing the hypotheses as it gives tangible insight and empirical evidence to certain crime rates which can be tested against the percent of immigrants in a region. These two variables are of main concern in this research and the data available could clarify the results of the hypothesis.

Variable measurements:

In order to operationalize the crime rate of a given region I use the variables: Property crime rates, per 100,000 population, murder and non-negligent manslaughter rate, per 100,000 population, and violent crime rate, per 100,000 population. These figures were taken from the States 2016 dataset and each unique value corresponds to the level of crime per 100,000 individuals in a given state.

The data is as follows: the mean for property crimes is 2551.922 with a standard deviation of 575.6502, the mean for murder and non-negligent manslaughter is 4.066 with a standard deviation of 1.91574, and the mean for violent crime rate is 346.806 with a standard deviation of 128.819. This data is limited as it only reports data for the United States and does not have an insight into unreported crimes or underreported types of crime, and areas subject to under-reporting. Nonetheless, this data is comprehensive as it relates to the United States and contains a fairly large subject pool.

In order to measure the dependent variable statistics, I used the xtile command to collapse the variables into 3 categories- 1-3 with group 1 being the lowest rate of a given crime and 3 being the group of states with the highest rate of said crime. N represents the number of states per group, mean is the arithmetic average, min is the minimum value, max is the maximum

crime rate given per 100,000 respondents and sd stands for standard deviation. Below, the results

are given and it is important to note that for the following three figures the data is tested on a per

100,000 respondent survey.

Table 2: Violent Crime Rates					
crime_rate_violent_3	N	mean	min	max	sd
1	17	218.1941	99.3	278.5	48.08
2	17	333.8941	280.4	396.1	40.00
3	16	497.175	399.9	635.8	83.57
Total	50	346.806	------	------	128.82

Source: 2016 NES Dataset

Table 3: Property Crime Rates					
crime_rate_property_3	N	mean	min	max	sd
1	17	1916.78	1524.4	2093.8	150.58
2	17	2559.01	2110.3	2879	248.31
3	16	3219.23	2906.5	3706.1	245.55
Total	50	2551.922	-----	------	644.44

Source: 2016 NES Dataset

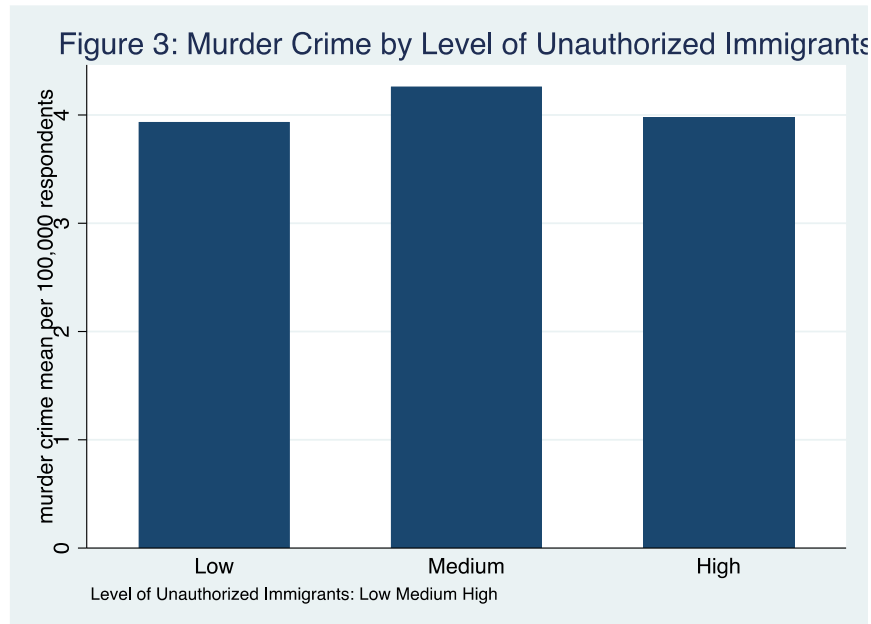| Table 4: Murder Crime Rates					
crime_rate_murder_3	N	mean	min	max	sd
1	18	2.144444	.9	2.9	.535
2	16	4.0625	3	5	.645
3	16	6.23125	5.1	10.3	1.35
Total	50	4.066	-----	------	1.92

Source: 2016 NES Dataset

The main independent variable is percent unauthorized immigrant in a region. This data

was not available in Stata; however, this study utilizes research from the PEW study which gave

immigrant population percentages for all 50 states in the United States in the year 2016. This

data was reported as a simple percentage, and does not include the District of Columbia. This

data was collapsed and produced 3 unique values- a low group, medium group, and high group which correlate to the amount of immigrant population percent in the state (PEW, 2019).

The figures below (Figures 1-3) are a series of bar graphs representing the collapsed independent variable, that being the low (1), medium (2), and high (3) percent of immigrant population in a given state and the mean of a given crime rate which serves as my main dependent variable

Figure 1: Violent Crime by Level of Unauthorized Immigrants

Figure 2: Proerty Crime by Level of Unauthorized Immigrants

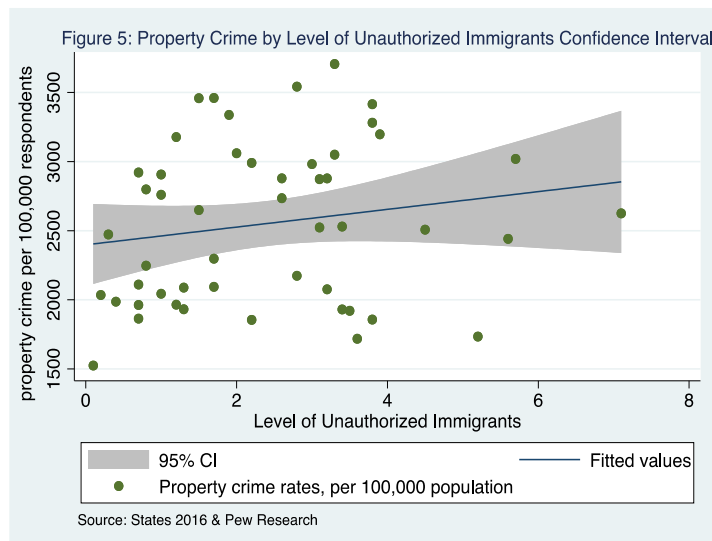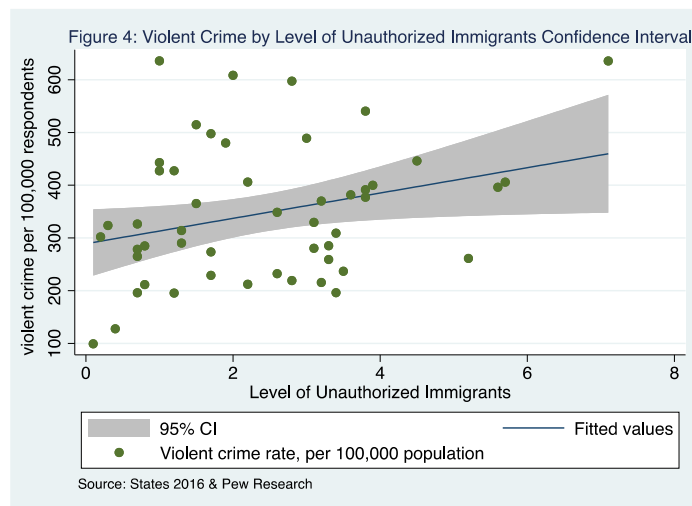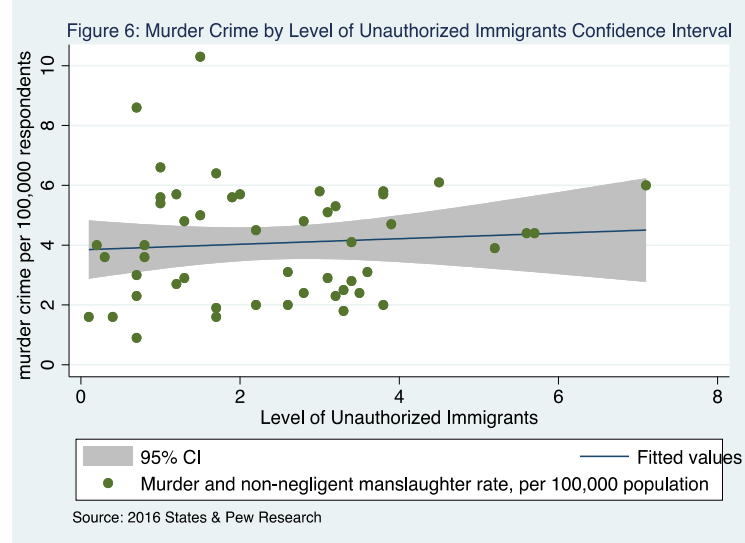Figure 3: Murder Crime by Level of Unauthorized Immigrants
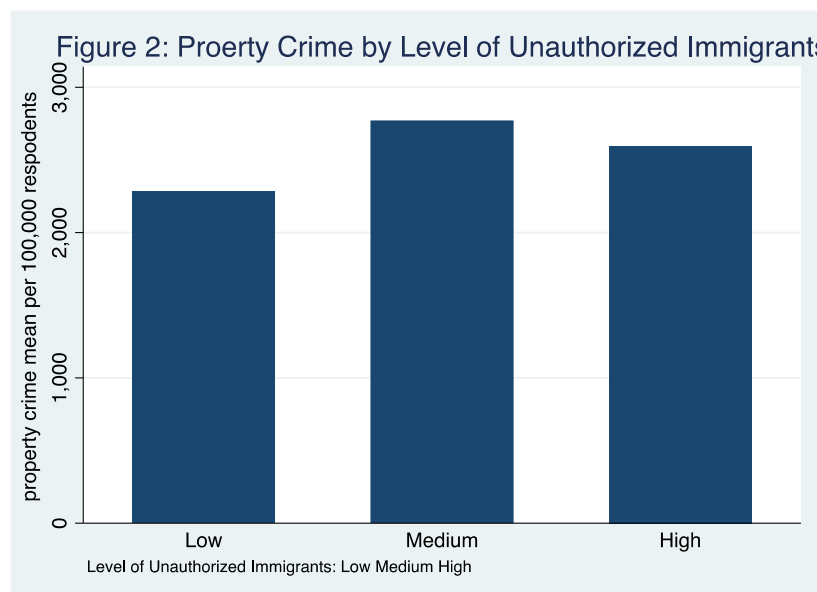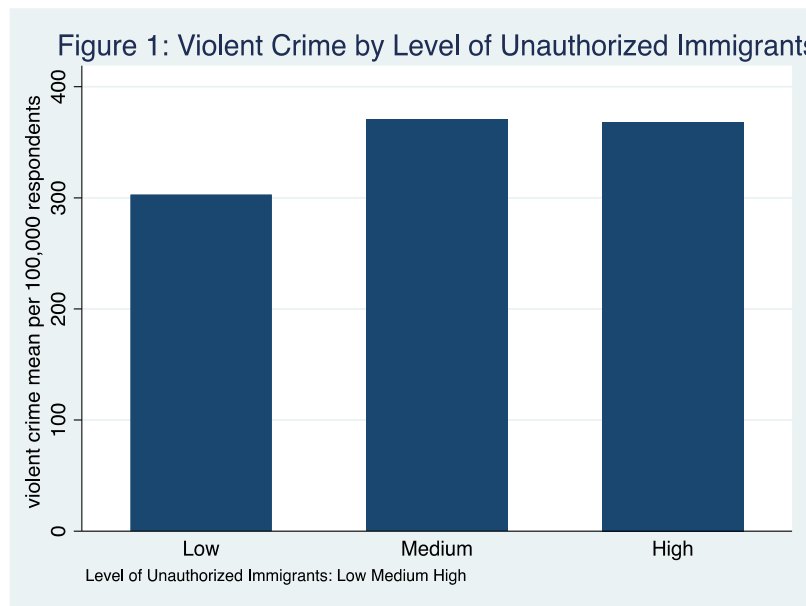
The relationship shown is consistent with data supplied in previous sections of this

analysis in depicting that higher levels of immigrant populations does not necessarily mean there

will be an increase or a decrease in the given crime rate of a region. Thus, this is evidence that

the null hypothesis between the two variables is at play and seems like a likely finding. It is

important to note that 17 states are in the low group, 18 states in the medium group, and 15 states

in the high group. This is important as it shows a relatively even distribution of the states in each

group and should allow for a reliable test

Furthermore, what is extremely fascinating is the trend that the low-group (group with

fewer numbers of immigrant population) consistently has a lower average crime rate for murder,

property crimes, and violent crimes and the high-group (group with higher immigrant

populations) is consistently between the low-group and the middle-group. This is further

evidence supporting the null hypothesis. It also calls into question some of the extreme rhetoric

from politicians claiming that states with higher levels of immigrant populations are seeing huge amounts of crime and a disproportionate number of murders, rapes, etc (Pew, 2019).

Figures 4-6 display a set of confidence intervals which are used to measure uncertainty within a study. Figure 4 utilizes violent crime rate as the dependent variable, Figure 5 utilizes property crime rate as the dependent variable, and Figure 6 utilizes murder rates as the dependent variable; the independent variable in Figures 4-6 is the percentage of unauthorized immigrant populations per state (Pew, 2019).

Figure 4: Violent Crime by Level of Unauthorized Immigrants Confidence Interval

Source: States 2016 & Pew Research

Figure 5: Property Crime by Level of Unauthorized Immigrants Confidence Interval

Source: States 2016 & Pew Research

Figure 6: Murder Crime by Level of Unauthorized Immigrants Confidence Interval

Figures 4-6 demonstrate that the null hypothesis is in effect and is the likely relationship between dependent variable and independent variable in each figure. There is much overlap between the shaded region of each graph and the line of best fit is largely horizontal which indicates the lack of effect the independent variable has on the dependent variable. Thus, these graphs lead to the conclusion that a higher percentage of immigrants in a population does not necessarily lead to an increase in violent crime, property crime, or murder crime. This allows for the conclusion that the results are not statistically significant and is vital to recognize for the scope of this study. It seems especially relevant to point out the slope of Figure 6. This figure depicts that the level of unauthorized immigrant has close to no effect on the murder rate of a given state. The line of best fit is almost perfectly horizontal- the most efficient means of spotting this trend. This analysis could be strengthened if other variables were controlled for. Controlling for certain variables strengthens the results, and adds validity to a study. Due to the limited nature and scope of this study, that method was not implemented but would be an addition made to this study in future research.

Model estimation:

In order to test the relationship between my variables, I used the OLS regression model. This analysis utilized OLS regression for all 3 variable tests- the effect of undocumented immigrants on: violent crime, property crime, and murder crime rates in a given state. In the first model, I reported violent crime rate by unauthorized immigrant percentage (Table 5 & Figure 7).

Table 5: Violent Crime Regression Output	
	(1)
Variable	crime_rate_violent
Percent Unauthorized Immigrant	24.02**
	(11.22)
Constant	289.1***
	(32.18)
Observations	50
R-squared	R-squared 0.087

Standard errors in parentheses
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table 5 depicts that the unauthorized immigrant population percent variable has two asterisks (**), indicating a p-value of less than 0.05, or strong statistical significance for this analysis. As seen from Table 5 and Figure 7, for every 1% increase in unauthorized immigrant population of a state, there are 24.02 more violent crimes. What is more uncertain though is the validity of this test- or the extent to which the analysis is testing for the relationship it aims to test. This is evident as the R-squared term is .087, meaning that this model only explains 8.7% of what is actually happening. This is evidence that a key explanatory variable is missing in this analysis i.e. other independent variables such as education, income, etc. Thus, this data may not be the best fit for this analysis; however, this limited data does offer a statistically significant result but the result does not illustrate the full-picture of how crimes are affected by the

independent variable. This knowledge is vital to keep in mind when approaching Figure 7.

Figure 7 shows a relatively positive relationship between variables; meaning as unauthorized

immigrant population increases, violent crime will increase. But, Table 5, most notably the low

R-squared number, sheds light on Figure 7 as it recognizes the limitations of this data and limits

the merits of Figure 7.

Figure 7: Violent Crime by Level of Unauthorized Immigrants Regression

Source: States Dataset 2016 & Pew Research
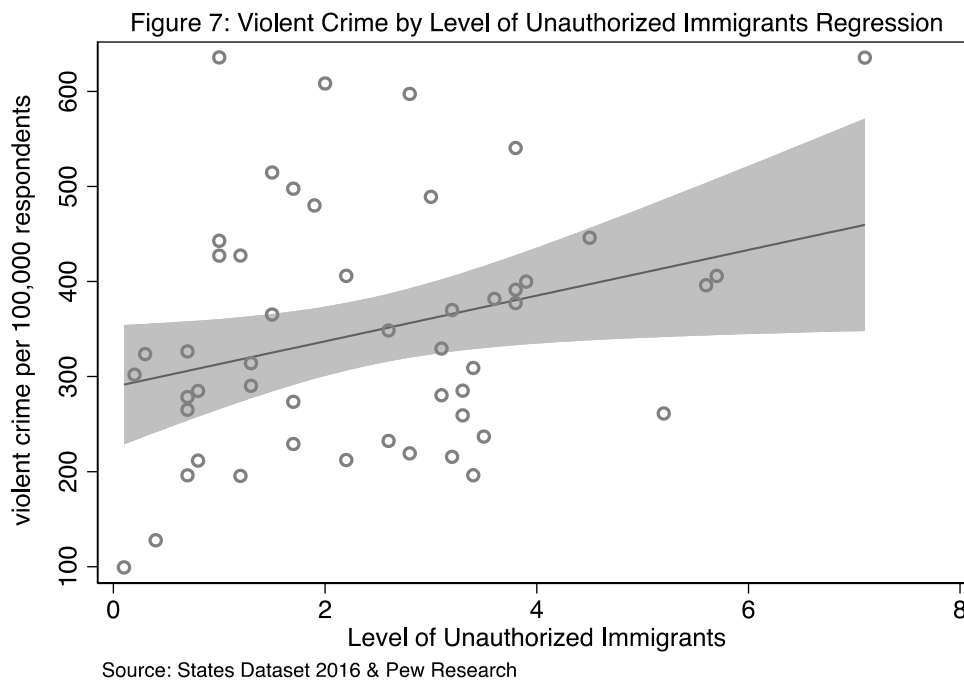
This statistically significant coefficient is suggesting that as there is an increase in

unauthorized immigration there is an increase in violent crime. Nonetheless, there is much

overlap in the highs and lows of Figure 7; so, even though there is a statistically significant

coefficient it cannot be certain that levels of unauthorized populations have substantial effect on

violent crime rates.

Table 6: Property Crime Regression Output

Variable	crime_rate_property
Percent Unauthorized Immigrant	64.16
	(51.65)
Constant	2,398***
	(148.1)
Observations	50
R-Squared	0.031

Standard errors in parentheses
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table 6 and Figure 8 represent the effects of unauthorized immigrant populations on property crime. The coefficient in Table 6 is positive (64.16); which is evidence that as unauthorized immigrant populations increase in a state, so does the rate of property crime. For every 1% increase in unauthorized immigrant population, there are 64.16 more crimes per 100,000. As seen in Table 6, there are no asterisk next to the corresponding data for Percent Unauthorized Immigrant (64.16) this is evidence that there is no statistical significance.

Figure 8: Property Crime by Level of Unauthorized Immigrants Regression
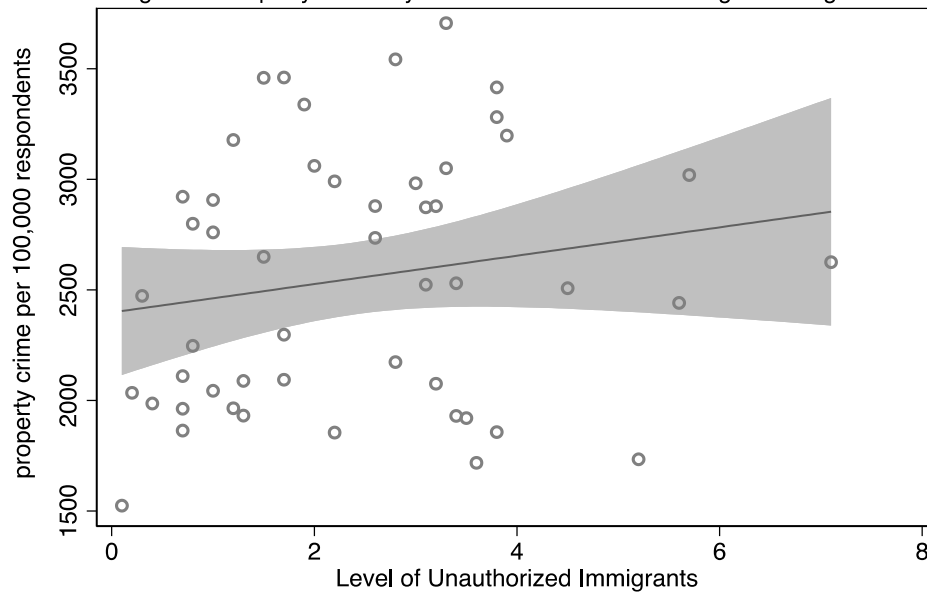
Source: States Dataset 2016 & Pew Research

As seen in Figure 8, there is plenty of overlap in the shaded regions of the graph. This overlap indicates that the result is not statistically significant and it cannot be determined that the percent of unauthorized immigrant population has a substantial effect on the property crime of a given region. Table 6 suggests that an increase in unauthorized immigrant population leads to increase property crime; however, the overlap in Figure 8, as well as the lack of statistical significance noted in Table 6 shows otherwise.

Table 7: Murder Crime Regression Output

Variable	crime_rate_murder
Percent Unauthorized Immigrant	0.0931
	(0.174)
Constant	3.842***
	(0.499)
Observations	50
R-squared	0.006

Standard errors in parentheses
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table 7 and Figure 9 produced some of the most intriguing results from this analysis. Table 7's coefficient is not statistically significant; however, it does show that unauthorized immigrants have a minimal, if any, effect on the total murders of a region. The statistical significance is known to be 0 due to there being no asterisk next to the corresponding number for "Percent Unauthorized Immigrant" in Table 7. Table 7 suggests that as there is a 1% increase in unauthorized immigrant populations, there is an increase in murders at a rate of 0.0931- not a statistically significant coefficient but it calls into question some of the negative rhetoric surrounding immigrants.

Figure 9: Murder Crime by Level of Unauthorized Immigrants Regression

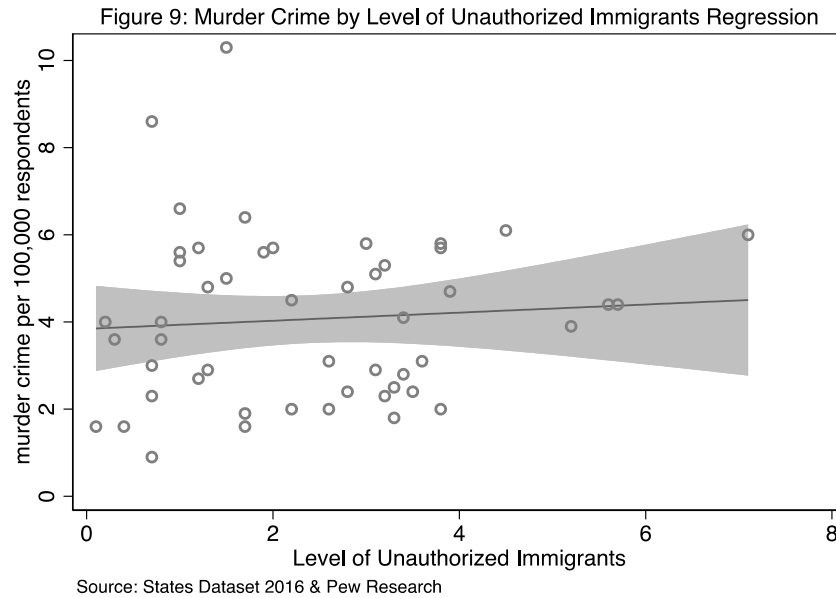Source: States Dataset 2016 & Pew Research

Figure 9 suggests that there is a minimal increase in murder as immigration increases. The shaded line is fairly horizontal which is an indicator of this trend. Furthermore, there is much overlap in the shaded regions which reaffirms the findings of Table 7- which is that there is a lack of statistical significance. Nonetheless, the positive coefficient, but extremely low number as seen in Table 7 seems to be in opposition to some of the anti-immigrant sentiments being discussed in society.

Discussion & Conclusion

This research was not able to reject the null hypothesis in the three types of crime reported as the results were largely statistically insignificant and in need of future advancements. However, from the limited data that was compiled, there can be much said regarding the research question tested- that as there is an increase in unauthorized immigrants, there will be a decrease in crime rates. Although prominent politicians and the leader of the free world may project unauthorized immigrants as murderers, rapists, and unequal proponents of crime, there is little

data supporting such bombastic claims. It is vital to recognize that unauthorized immigrants are human too and must meet their needs for survival; thus, in dire circumstances, they may turn to crime. However, this may be a better indicator that immigrants are more often subject to less-humane conditions than it is an indicator of an immigrant's propensity to commit crimes.

What is certain is that states will have crime with or without unauthorized immigrants composing a portion of their population. If a state intends to reduce crime perhaps that state should aim to increase the quality of life for its peoples and decrease the likelihood that certain groups of people must face circumstances in which crime is seen as the only means of survival. As noted in Table 1, there remains a stigma around immigrants. For example, Table 1 depicts that 52.40% of newly granted citizens found that their status as a citizen made it much easier to find work (Baker, 44). Thus, working as a society to remove the stigma around unauthorized immigrants may allow for the advancement of immigrants in our society. Advancing the social positions of all people should be a main function of the government and is something that would likely benefit human lives in many ways- including the reduction of crime rates.

Due to the limited resources and scope of this study this research was not able to produce statistically significant results in the regression models; however, the results were still fruitful and offered insight into the relationship between various types of crime and unauthorized immigrant populations. In future research, this analysis could be strengthened through the application of multiple control variables which would increase the R-squared number which is an indicator that the analysis is testing what it aims to. Possible control variables could be: education, population, income, poverty rates, etc. Furthermore, it would be especially intriguing to incorporate more data from newly granted citizens regarding how increased economic and social means has affected their propensity to commit crimes.

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