

Immigration and Crime: Evidence from Germany *

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February 12, 2016

Abstract

Does immigration cause crime? I address this question drawing on recent refugee migration to Germany triggered by political and social turmoil in the Arab world. The analysis covers the time period from 2010 to 2014 and is based on administrative data records. In order to establish a causal relationship between the share of migrants and criminal activities, I construct a supply-push component instrument that accounts for selective settlement patterns of migrants within the country. IV estimates on different types of offenses reveal significantly negative as well as insignificant effects close to zero. Since these findings prove robust, they contradict widespread concerns that immigration fosters crime.

JEL Codes: F22, K42, J15

Keywords: immigration, crime

*Personal acknowledgments are suppressed for purposes of review.

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