

- **About 45% of the unauthorized immigrants in the United States did not sneak across the border. Rather, they entered the U.S. legally, but overstayed their visas** ¹.
- **People without documentation are not criminals. Being unlawfully present in the U.S. has always been a civil, not criminal, violation of the Immigration and Nationality Act.** ⁶
- **People without documentation are not a drain on our social services, because they are not eligible to receive them. Undocumented immigrants are ineligible for most federally funded benefits including cash assistance, food stamps, and Supplemental Security Income.** ⁷
- **Far from being a drain, people without documentation pay taxes.**
 - Between one-half and three-quarters of undocumented immigrants pay federal and state income taxes, Social Security taxes, Medicare taxes and all undocumented immigrants pay sales taxes ¹⁰.
 - As of 2005, undocumented immigrants had paid about \$520 Billion to the Social Security Administration ¹⁰.
 - Virginia's undocumented population pays around **\$145 million and \$174 million** in state income taxes, sales and excise taxes, and property taxes. ¹¹
 - Undocumented immigrants working "on the books" in Virginia pay an additional **\$114 million to \$137 million** in Social Security and Medicare taxes. ¹¹
- **It is not true that Virginia's law enforcement have their hands tied when it comes to dealing with illegal immigrants who commit crimes.**
 - Virginia law enforcement authorities possess all the authority they need to pursue violent criminals, regardless of immigration status, and to detain criminals who are also immigration law violators ².
 - The only thing that Virginia law enforcement officers are not specifically empowered to do is to round up immigrants for *purely administrative violations* of federal civil immigration law. ²
- **Research indicates that as immigration rates have risen, the crime rate has dropped**
 - While immigration rates have increased 50% over the past decade, the homicide rate has plummeted in that same period ².
 - Foreign-born residents increased 83% and undocumented immigrants increased 115% from 1990 to 2000 in Virginia. But the violent crime rate in Virginia (and in the U.S. generally) has actually been dropping in that same period (since the early-to-mid 1990s). ⁹
- **Immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than native-born Americans.**
 - Among males 18-39 the incarceration rate of the foreign-born was *substantially less (almost 4 times less!)* than that of the US-born ³.
 - Immigrants are 45% less likely than third-generation Americans to commit crimes ⁴.
 - Immigrants in Virginia appear to commit less serious crimes than native-born Americans ⁵.
- **Immigrants and their families are learning English at the same rate as immigrants in previous eras** ¹².
 - 2nd generation children of immigrants have a 91% rate of fluency
 - 3rd generation have 97% fluency ¹²

Sources

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<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?id=403>
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<http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/images/File/factcheck/Undocumented%20as%20Taxpayer%2011-29-07.pdf>
- 11 Cassidy, Michael and Sara Okos. "Fiscal Facts: Tax Contributions of Virginia's Undocumented Immigrants." The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis.
<http://www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org/pages/immtaxcontribution.pdf>
- 12 Shirin Hakimzadeh and D'Vera Cohn, "English Usage Among Hispanics in the United States," Pew Hispanic Forum, Dec. 6, 2007. <http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=82>