

BUILDING UNITED COMMUNITIES

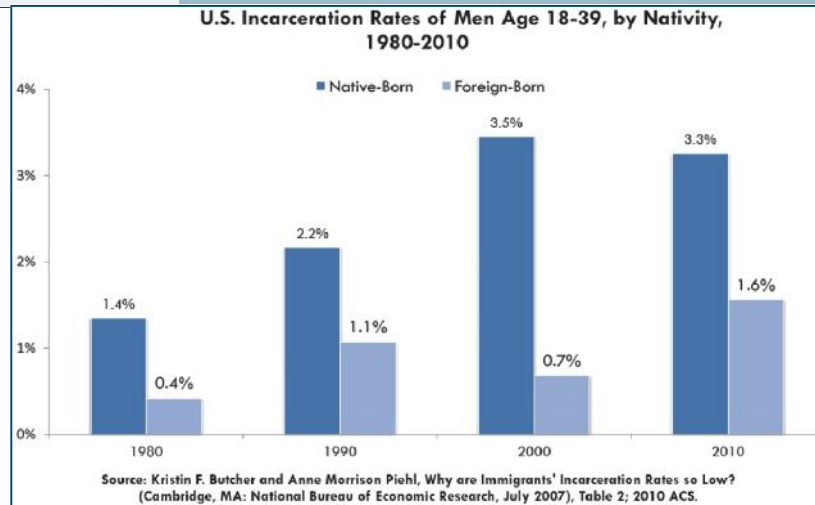
IMMIGRANTS, COPS AND CRIME

WEBINAR SUMMARY October 2016

MYTH VS. FACT

The latest data shows that immigrants commit **far fewer** crimes than the U.S.-born.

- 1.6% of immigrant males age 18-39 are incarcerated, compared to 3.3% of the U.S.-born.
- Chance of an American being killed in a terrorist attack caused by a refugee: 1 in 3.64 billion per year. By an undocumented immigrant: 1 in 10.9 billion per year.



INTEGRATION STRATEGIES

Building relationships is the key to integrating police and new Americans.

- Build a coalition to approach law enforcement/immigrant meetings, especially with a few leaders from communities of color or under-resourced communities.
- Alternatively, use political pressure if police departments are unresponsive via other civic leaders or police chiefs in neighboring counties.
- Make it relatable. Go out in the community and show how immigrants are contributing and what value they're adding as community members.

MESSAGING

You are not your audience. Identify the counter-narrative, and uphold common values.

- **We're all moving forward together.** Success stories should not just be about individuals but the mutually beneficial relationships of newcomers and receiving communities.
- **Understand how the brain reacts to fear and anger.** Logical conversations will not work when people are riled up or worried. Instead, start a conversation on values: "What kind of community do we want to be: one that encourages participation and contribution, or one that excludes and divides?"



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