Scourge on American Society: Are Refugees Increasing Violent Crime in the United States?

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Scourge on American Society: 
Are Refugees Increasing Violent Crime in the United States?

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President Trump and many citizens in his wake have called for a decrease in the number of refugees in America. Many claim that refugees are a “Scourge on American Society” and that refugees are “dangerous” and likely to commit violent crimes.

The number of reported refugees in the world has been growing at an alarming rate since 2006 following the Lebanese Crisis. Despite the growing number of refugees, the United States of America has kept the number of refugees located in the states relatively stable since 2007.

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"Trump has long painted undocumented immigrants and refugees as scourges on American society, saying they’re responsible for killings and terrorism.”

-Business Insider

I find that nationally there is a slight negative relationship between violent crimes and the refugees allowed into the U.S. the previous year.

Further, I find that there is no relationship between the crime rate in the cities and states the year following refugees’ arrival.

Conclusion:
If refugees are a “Scourge on American Society” it has little to do with a tendency to violent crime.

Where did the Refugees Come From?

Accepted into the US 2005-2015

From 2005 to 2007 the US had a large influx of refugees from Russia which are not shown on this map

The U.S. has taken in the most refugees from Cuba, Burma, Syria, and Somalia.

In my analysis I found no substantive differences in the violence levels of any specific nationality.

References:
Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)
Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System (WRAPS)