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Presentation title: Changes in violent crime in Swedish municipalities: Estimating the effect of immigration

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Studies from around the world have shown that immigration has little to no connection with crime. Scandinavian studies, however, have been generally carried out on individuals and show that immigrants are overrepresented in crime. In this study we analyzed police-reported violent crime in Swedish municipalities between 2000 and 2020. We found that nearly all municipalities had higher violent crime rates in 2020 relative to 2000. Municipalities with the highest increase in reported violent crime rates were contrasted with municipalities with the lowest increase in reported violent crime rates. The percent of immigrants in the municipality and excess immigration could not account for the average difference in reported violent crime rates. Municipalities with high crime increases, tended to be sparsely populated and have a lower SES. These tendencies became starker over time so that municipalities with high crime increases, relative to those with low crime increases, had significantly higher levels of crime correlates. We conclude that immigration seems to have had little direct impact on reported crime.