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Immigrant Communities of Philadelphia: Spatial Patterns and Revitalization

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Crime

The maps to the left show the density of different crime types in Philadelphia. The color gradient from yellow to brown shows standard deviations in the density of crime (crimes per 1,000 people). The outlined areas show those census tracts which have an above average density of foreign-born people (page 6).

It does appear to be true that the prevalence of violent crimes are lower in areas that have a higher density of immigrants. The “All Crime” map includes non-violent crime, (i.e. theft) and these rates also appear to be lower for high immigrant census tracts. The data here is merely a snapshot of last year’s crime incident report (2014) and the latest census data (2010) and so no conclusions can be made about the impact that immigrant communities have on crime. A further analysis might consider a difference in difference estimation to examine the impact that an increase immigrant communities has on the increase or decrease of crime in an area. This would require time-series data for both crime and immigrant populations.