

Return Migration and Illegal Immigration Control

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This paper investigates the effectiveness of immigration control policies when the duration of stay of illegal immigrants is endogenous because they may return home voluntarily. It shows that return intentions matter, because then policies will typically affect not only the number of immigrants, but also their duration of stay. For example, we find that spending on border enforcement can potentially increase the total amount of illegal labor in the receiving country. Second, in-site inspections reduce illegal labor, unless there is an amnesty: then, they can have the opposite effect. Third, fines on apprehended migrants have only limited bite.