Under stop-and-frisk, New York police officers were empowered to detain and search people for often-vague pretexts. The policing practice primarily targeted Black and Brown communities. The NYPD admitted that nine out of 10 New Yorkers stopped-and-frisked were innocent.

In 1994, California passed Proposition 187, which denied public benefits, including college scholarships, to undocumented people. Prop 187 also required social workers to report any individual suspected of being undocumented to the authorities.