

Supporting Young Children & Families Impacted by Immigration Policies



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Hannah Matthews, Director, Child Care and Early Education, CLASP

Dr. Michael McNeil, Seattle Children's Hospital

Wendy D. Cervantes, Senior Policy Analyst, CLASP

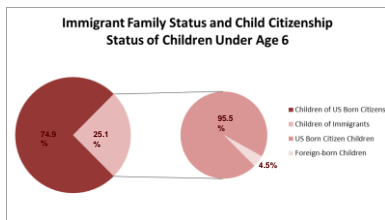


Overview on Children of Immigrants

Hannah Matthews

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Children of Immigrants are 1/4 of Young Children, and Most are U.S. Citizens



Source: Migration Policy Institute, MPI Data Hub, tabulation of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, 2012, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub>.



Who are children of immigrants?

- **Children in mixed-status families.**
 - More than 5 million children in the U.S. live in a mixed-status family with at least one unauthorized parent.
- **Undocumented children.**
 - Less than 1 million undocumented children (0-17) estimated to be living in the U.S., also known as "Dreamers".
- **Unaccompanied children.**
 - More than 68,000 unaccompanied children entered the U.S. in 2014.



Unique Barriers for Children in Immigrant Families

- Lack of awareness regarding availability of programs
- Language and cultural barriers
- Confusing immigrant eligibility rules
- Immigration-related concerns, including "public charge" and fear of immigration enforcement
- Lack of sufficient training for front-line workers



Immigrant Children & ECE Eligibility

- Head Start serves all eligible children regardless of immigrant status.
- CCDBG is restricted to "qualified immigrants" in most circumstances.
 - Eligibility is based on child's status, not the parent's.
 - Head Start collaborations are exempt from immigrant restrictions.
- Pre-k does not have immigrant restrictions in most circumstances.
 - Child care subject to public educational standards is exempt from restrictions.



Anti-Immigrant Policies & the Impact On Children's Development

- Stress related to unauthorized status (parent, youth, or child)
- Immigration enforcement/family separation
- Policies that restrict access to critical health and nutrition assistance, child care, early education, and income supports
- Policies that fail to meet the needs of unaccompanied & other asylum-seeking children

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Immigration, Children, and Trauma

Dr. Michael McNeil

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“You must tread with caution on the hallowed ground of another’s suffering.”

Neal A. Maxwell

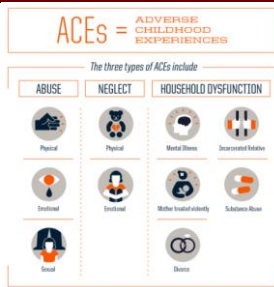
Adverse Childhood Experiences

Research Article

Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study

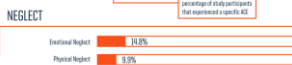
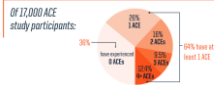
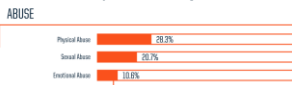
Vincent J. Felitti, MD, FACP; Robert F. Anda, MD, MS, Dale Nordenberg, MD, David F. Williamson, MS, PhD, Alison M. Spitz, MS, MPH, Valerie Edwards, BA, Mary P. Koss, PhD, James S. Marks, MD, MPH

Adverse Childhood Experiences

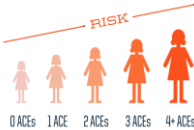
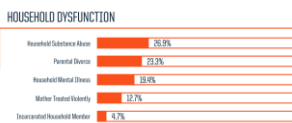


Who experiences ACEs/Toxic Stress?

The ACE study* revealed the following estimates:



As the number of ACEs increases, so does the risk for negative health outcomes



Consequences of ACEs and Toxic Stress

As the number of ACEs increases so does the risk for the following*:

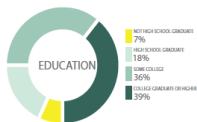
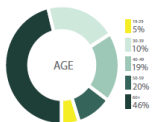
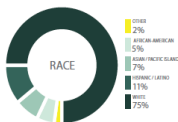
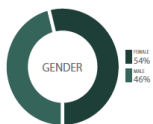
- Alcoholism and alcohol abuse
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Depression
- Fetal death
- Health-related quality of life
- Illicit drug use
- Ischemic heart disease
- Liver disease
- Poor work performance
- Financial stress

- Risk for intimate partner violence
- Multiple sexual partners
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Smoking
- Suicide attempts
- Unintended pregnancies
- Early initiation of smoking
- Early initiation of sexual activity
- Adolescent pregnancy
- Risk for sexual violence
- Poor academic achievement
- *This list is not exhaustive.

Who is impacted by ACEs?

WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ACE STUDY?

Between 1995 and 1997, over 17,000 people receiving physical exams completed confidential surveys containing information about their childhood experiences and current health status and behaviors. The information from these surveys was combined with results from their physical exams to form the study's findings.



*Participants in this study reflected a cross-section of middle-class American adults.

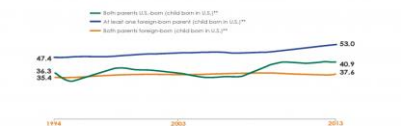
The Hispanic Community

More than half of U.S. Hispanic children have a foreign-born parent



DEMOGRAPHICS

Percent of Hispanic children* by parents' nativity status, 1994-2013



*Excludes all Hispanic children living in the 10 states and the District of Columbia. **U.S.-born refers to the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories. Percentages sum to more than 100, because categories are not mutually exclusive. Hispanics can be of any race. All data/Hispanic origin data are self-reported. Source: Child Trends Data Center's Immigrant Integration Survey



The Hispanic Community

One-third of Hispanic children live in households in poverty



ECONOMICS

Percent of children who live in households with incomes below the poverty level,* 2012



Hispanic:

*In 2012, the federal poverty level for a household with two adults and two children was \$21,202. Estimates reflect the Census Bureau definitions, and exclude only those who are identified with a single race. Hispanics may be of any race. All race/Hispanic origin data are self-reported.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "All Kids Counts: Income, Health, and Education of Hispanic Children in the United States," <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/allkidscounts/allkidscounts.asp>

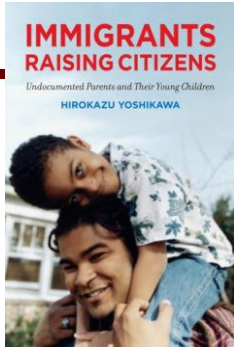


Literature

- National Child Traumatic Stress Network Core Data Set:
 - Latino youth have average of 3.2 traumatic experiences
 - Latino youth had higher rates of exposure to domestic, community, and school violence
 - Latino youth have lower rates of utilization such as primary care, child welfare, and outpatient psychiatric services

Literature

- Latino youth endorsed greater total numbers of victimization experiences than non-Latino white youth. (Finkelhor and Dzuiba-Leatherman, 1994).
- Latino youth had greater rates of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and family abduction (Finkelhor, Ormrod, Turner & Hamby, 2005).
- Increased risk of anxiety and depression seen amongst first generation Latino youth (Potochnick and Perreira, 2010)
- Hispanics report higher levels of overall posttraumatic distress (Schell & Marshall, 2008).



Psychological Impact on Children

- Children of deported parents are more likely to exhibit symptoms of aggression, conduct problems, depression, and anxiety (Allen et al. 2013)
- Children of deported parents are at much higher risk of PTSD (Rojas-Flores et al. 2017)

The Current Immigration Policy Context

Wendy Cervantes

Immigration Policy Changes in 2017

- Immigration executive orders released in January 2017 with a focus on border and interior enforcement
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) rescinded on September 5th, 2017
- Leaked "public charge" EO and other proposals that seek to restrict immigrant and their families' access to public benefits & income supports



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Immigration EOs: Key Policy Changes Impacting Children

- Anyone without authorization is now a priority for deportation, including parents & legal guardians of U.S. citizen children
- Massive increase in immigration enforcement
- Increased involvement of police in immigration enforcement
- Faster deportations for certain immigrants
- Weakened protections for unaccompanied children



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Impact on U.S. Citizen Children in Mixed-Status Families

- Increased risk of losing a parent to deportation (more than 25 percent of DACA recipients are parents of young U.S. citizen children)
- Toxic stress associated with fear of enforcement
- Chill factor and policy proposals further restricting access to health care, nutrition assistance, etc.
- Anti-immigrant climate in schools and communities



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How Educators & Service Providers Can Support Children and Families

- **Re-assure children and parents** that programs are safe from intrusion by ICE, and ensure all personnel are familiar with the sensitive locations policy and other relevant internal policies
- **Promote welcoming learning environments, and integrate a trauma-informed approach** across systems
- **Review existing policies** to ensure they are in compliance with federal policies and consider additional policies that will prevent the inappropriate record and release of immigration status
- **Connect parents to information** (Know Your Rights, safety planning, etc.) as well as resources in the community (legal services, mental health, etc.)
- **Utilize community-based partnerships** to hold on-site Know Your Rights and other informational workshops

Sensitive Locations Policy

In general, DHS has explained that immigration enforcement actions may not occur at or in "sensitive locations." These locations include:

 <p>Schools, such as homes and licensed daycares, pre-schools and other early learning programs, primary schools, secondary schools, post-secondary schools up to and including colleges and universities, as well as academic or education-related activities or events.</p>	 <p>School bus stops that are marked and/or known to the officer, during periods when children are present at the stop.</p>	 <p>Medical treatment and health care facilities, such as hospitals, doctors' offices, accredited health clinics, and emergency or urgent care facilities.</p>
 <p>Places of worship, such as churches, mosques, temples, and synagogues.</p>	 <p>Religious or civil ceremonies or observances, such as funerals and weddings.</p>	 <p>During public demonstrations, such as a march, rally, or parade.</p>

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Educational Resources for Immigrants, Refugees, Asylees and other New Americans, 2015, <https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/safe-spaces-fact-sheet.pdf>.

Helping Families Prepare for Deportation: Emergency Plans

- Designate a caregiver (US citizen or with legal status)
- Inform child care providers and others about the caregiver in case a parent does not arrive to pick up their child
- Collect important documents (birth certificates, medical and school records, passports for the child, etc.)
- Set up a guardianship/power of attorney (consult a lawyer if possible)
- Discuss the plan with children, family and other essential people



Source: *Appleseed Deportation Manual 2017*

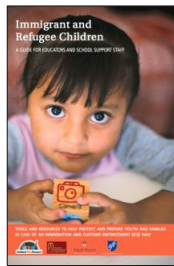
How Agencies and Policymakers Can Support Immigrant Families

- Agencies can develop **confidentiality policies**
- Agencies can publish **messages for consumers**
- Draft **state laws or policies** that help ensure that people feel comfortable seeking services for which they or their family members are eligible
- Public education about **existing federal, state, and laws** and regulations that continue to protect the confidentiality of benefit applicants/recipients
- **Document the harm** to individuals, communities, and institutions when people are afraid to seek critical services



Additional Resources

- [Applesseed Protecting Assets and Child Custody in the Face of Deportation](#)
- [Women's Refugee Commission Resources for families facing deportation](#)
- [American Psychological Association webinar series](#)
- [AFT "Protecting Our Students" Resources](#)
- [Department of Education Sensitive Location Policy Fact Sheet](#)
- [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#)
- [Department of Education Resource Guide: Building a Bright Future for All](#)
- [Department of Education Resource Guide: Supporting Undocumented Youth](#)



Contact Info

Hannah Matthews: hmatthews@clasp.org

Dr. Michael McNeil:
michael.mcneil@seattlechildrens.org

Wendy D. Cervantes: wcervantes@clasp.org