



SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES WITH A NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

Agri-Business Child Development

WHAT WE KNOW



- **Immigration policy** can impact a variety of public policy areas, including national security, criminal justice, budgets, **education** and healthcare. Although the federal government is responsible for setting and enforcing most immigration policy, states can enact their own supplementary laws and set policies that may, for example, determine which public services immigrants can access. Some jurisdictions, including some states, cities, and counties, have adopted policies of not cooperating with federal immigration enforcement; these jurisdictions have become known as [sanctuary jurisdictions](#).

DEBATED IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION ON THE ECONOMY



- Shikha Dalmia of the [Reason Foundation](#), argues that "open borders would double world GDP [[gross domestic product](#)] in a few decades, virtually eliminating global poverty."
- George Borjas of Harvard University, says that immigration has a mixed impact on the American economy. "the influx of immigrants can potentially be a net good for the nation, increasing the total wealth of the population, but not everyone benefits when immigrants arrive."

BY THE NUMBERS

IMMIGRANTS ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN 1 IN 5 NEW YORKERS

- The foreign-born share of New York's population rose from 15.9% in [1990](#), to 20.4% in [2000](#), to 22.3% in [2013](#), according to The U.S. Census Bureau. New York was home to 4,383,311 immigrants in [2013](#), which is more than the total population of [Los Angeles, California](#).
- 53.8% of immigrants (or 2,359,247 people) in New York were naturalized U.S. citizens in [2013](#)—meaning that they are eligible to vote.
- Unauthorized immigrants comprised roughly 3.8% of the state's population (or 750,000 people) in [2012](#), according to a report by the Pew Hispanic Center.
- 23.9% (or 2,121,443) of all registered voters in New York are “New Americans”—naturalized citizens or the U.S.-born children of immigrants who were raised during the current era of immigration from Latin America and Asia which began in 1965—according to an analysis of 2012 Census Bureau data by the [American Immigration Council](#).
- New York's immigrants are responsible for \$229 billion in economic output, while Latinos and Asians (both foreign-born and native-born) account for one quarter of New Yorkers and wield \$165 billion in consumer purchasing power. At last count, the sales and receipts of businesses owned by Latinos and Asians totaled more than \$68.7 billion and employed more than 310,000 people.

- A study by the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) estimates that 50% of U.S. farms, which supply over 60% of the nation's milk, use immigrant labor. It is estimated that 41% of overall dairy labor is foreign born, the majority coming from Mexico. Evidence from the American Farm Bureau suggests the number of immigrant laborers may be even higher [15].

Table 2. Ten States with Largest Populations of Children of Unauthorized Immigrants (under age 18) and their Shares of Overall Immigrant and Entire Child Populations, (%), 2009-13

State	Children of Unauthorized Immigrants	Children of All Immigrants	Total Child Population	Children of Unauthorized Immigrants as Share of...	
				Children of All Immigrants (%)	Total Child Population (%)
United States	5,127,000	17,317,000	70,596,000	30	7
California	1,481,000	4,475,000	8,827,000	33	17
Texas	834,000	2,289,000	6,608,000	36	13
New York	293,000	1,449,000	4,112,000	20	7
Illinois	249,000	794,000	2,969,000	31	8
Florida	215,000	1,175,000	3,820,000	18	6
Georgia	188,000	467,000	2,373,000	40	8
North Carolina	179,000	381,000	2,176,000	47	8
New Jersey	168,000	697,000	1,970,000	24	9
Arizona	149,000	463,000	1,559,000	32	10
Washington	109,000	415,000	1,524,000	26	7

Source: MPI analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau 2009-13 ACS, pooled, and 2008 SIPP by Hammar, Bachmeier, and Van Hook.

NEW YORK STATE HIGHLIGHTS

- As of October 2016, New York allowed lawfully residing immigrant children and pregnant women to enroll in [Medicaid](#) and the [Children's Health Insurance Program](#). The state allowed individuals residing in the state without legal permission to access in-state tuition.



NEW YORK STATE HIGHLIGHTS

- ABCD (Only Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Agency)
- NYS Dept. of State Office for New Americans
- The state attracts high functioning consulates
- The state attracts a variety of immigrants with different skills
- The state has high functioning policy groups, such as ECAC, working on behalf of all children.



VARIED IMMIGRANT CHARACTERISTICS:

- Immigrant by choice:
- Come to U.S. for experiences and high level educational degrees
- Have solid economic security
- Can go back to their countries at any time
- Are not prosecuted or in fear
- Bring high level workforce skills and boost to NYS Economy
- **Immigrant by need:**
- Escape their country for their survival
- Arrive to U.S. with nothing but hope
- Have health needs related to physical/mental abuse in country of origin.
- Live in constant fear of deportation, racism, aggression
- Have unique educational obstacles and comprise a low skill workforce

THE CHILDREN OF UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS ARE MORE EXPOSED TO A NUMBER OF RISK FACTORS:

- Lower pre-school enrollment
- Linguistic isolation
- Limited English proficiency
- Poverty
- Reduced socio-economic progress
- Separation from family members due to deportation
- There were 5.1 million U.S. children under the age of 18 living with at least one unauthorized immigrant parent during a 2009-13 period examined by MPI. 79% of these children were U.S. citizens.
- Absent major policy changes, millions of children will continue living in mixed-status families.

DEPORTATION AND THEN WHAT?

- Child might be separated from at least one parent and possibly siblings and extended family
- Child physical and emotional environment might change tremendously
- Lack of ECE services or completely different educational curriculum. Lack of health and social safety nets in “new” country
- Adapting to a “new” language, food, customs
- Possibility of abject poverty, hunger, homelessness



FOCUS ON SUPPORTING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND TWO GENERATION PROGRAMS

- For the United States and other societies that experience high rates of immigration, investments in early childhood education and care are likely instrumental to successful integration.
- **But** the reach of high-quality early learning programs to children of immigrants remains limited.
- There are wide differences in access to early childhood education and care among the children of immigrants.
- **Factors for success in program and policy design:**
 - Employing a diverse, culturally and linguistically competent workforce reflective of the community being served.
 - Building the social capital of immigrant families and connecting them to a wide range of local support.
 - Utilizing holistic needs assessment and case management approaches

THE GOAL OF CREATING REASONABLE, COMPASSIONATE IMMIGRATION REFORM

- Takes guts
 - Takes dedication
 - Takes compassion and understanding
 - Takes advocacy
 - Takes money
- Immigration reform could provide a pathway to legal status for unauthorized immigrant parents.
 - The suspension of programs like DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans) has meant that large numbers of children continue to experience the well-documented disadvantages that flow from living in families with unauthorized immigrant parents.

HOW CAN NYS SUPPORT IMMIGRANT FAMILIES TODAY?

- Create information “hubs” and anti-fraud “Cafes” (stop panic reports of people selling their cars and homes for cash...)
- Support bilingual mental health services
- Support bilingual education and bilingual literacy
- Create statewide integration and civic workshops (ABCD Parent Ambassador Initiative)
- Promote financial education fairs and trainings related to planning for the unexpected future (ABCD Financial Fair)



WHAT CAN THE ECAC DO TO SUPPORT IMMIGRANT FAMILIES?

- Promote efforts to support provision of parent-focused programs.
- Promote support for programs addressing immigrant parents' language, literacy and system navigation needs.
- Aim to help local stakeholders understand the various socio-economic disparities between families led by immigrant and native-born parents and the potential utility of two-generation services in addressing them.
- Promote partnerships with consulates, agencies and foundations geared to support the immigrant population
- Engage communication with Early Childhood Education counterparts in Mexico and other countries to understand variances in education goals and requirements.
- Support immigrant parents with direct, factual knowledge related to: registering their child in public schools, credit equivalency, health insurance coverage, disability services, early intervention, etc. in other countries
- Promote “cultural adaptability education”, teacher exchange programs and trainings related to multicultural norms (religious, sexual, social, artistic, etc.)

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