

# The Public Health Impacts of Immigration Laws

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## Today's topics



- Immigration terminology and processes
- Impact of immigration policies on public health
- The role of public health & health professionals

## Enforcement & Administration of Immigration Laws



43.7 million immigrants --- 13.5 percent of the total U.S. population

(2016)

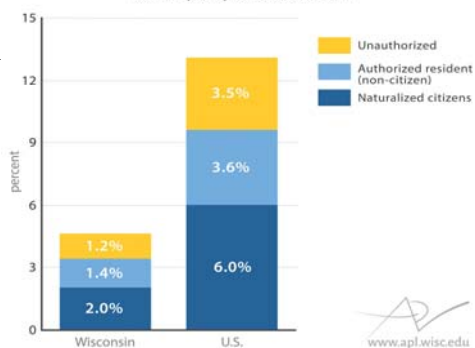
## Immigrants: Who are we?

Immigrants and their U.S.-born children number approximately 86.4 million people --- 27 percent of the overall U.S. population

(2017)

"Foreign born" and "immigrant" are used interchangeably and refer to persons with no U.S. citizenship at birth. This population includes naturalized citizens, lawful permanent residents, refugees and asylees, persons on certain temporary visas, and the unauthorized

Foreign-born Population Citizenship and Authorization Status  
U.S. and Wisconsin, Migration Policy Institute & American Community Survey estimates for 2010-2014



## Documentation status: US Citizen



A person born in the United States or its territories. Example: Any person born in Wisconsin, or any person born in Puerto Rico.

A person born to a US citizen: Any person born outside the United States or its territories whose mother or father is a US citizen. Example: Born in France to US soldier, born in Costa Rica to a US citizen

Naturalized citizen: A person born outside the United States or its territories that earns the rights and privileges of US citizenship. (Legal process)

**Resident:** lawful resident aka green card holder


- Conditional residence
- Permanent residence

**Visa holder:** Many types of visas. Different visas will afford you different rights and different allow times in the USA

**Undocumented immigrant:** A person that is residing in the US without some of the previous documentation status or after that status has expired.

**Documentation status:  
Non-US Citizen**

### What is Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)?



- 2012 Executive Order allowing certain people who came to the United States as children and meet several guidelines to request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal.
- Also eligible for work authorization.
- Deferred action means deferred removal action for a certain period of time.
- Deferred action does not provide lawful status.
- Currently in state of limbo.

### The path to citizenship

Eligible under an immigrant category

↓

Legal Permanent Resident  
"Having a green card"

↓

Naturalization/Citizenship




### The Notion of "Public Charge"

Under Immigration & Nationality Act, a person seeking admission or to adjust status to LPR can be denied if "likely at any time to become a public charge."

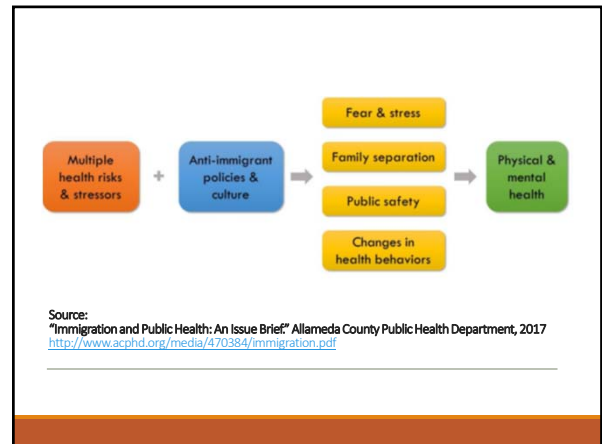
	Current Policy	Proposed Policy ads
<b>Considered to make public charge determination</b>	Cash assistance such as SSI and TANF	Non-emergency Medicaid (with some very limited exceptions)
	Government funded long-term care	SNAP
		Subsidy for Medicare Part D
		Housing assistance such as section 8
	Current and proposed policy	
<b>Excluded from public charge determination</b>	CHIP	Private or employer health insurance
	WIC	Premium tax credits under ACA
	Emergency Medicaid	Health services such as immunizations, testing for communicable disease
	Medicare Part A, B, and C	Use of health clinics

### APHA values & current federal immigration policies



### Current Immigration Policies Make Communities Less Healthy

- No access to driver's license
- Barriers in using public services
- Fear of being outdoors/participating in activities
- Isolation & lack of community participation



## What can public health professionals and agencies do?

**1** Publicly state agency commitment to serve all people regardless of immigration status

**2**

Post signs in the top languages spoken in your area of service

**3**

Use qualified interpreters and/or bilingual staff

4

Do not collect identifiable data that contains immigration status

5

Do not collect identifiable data that contains immigration status

6

Create, review, and know your policies re: ICE

7

Support local government policies that protect immigrants

8



Support legal funds set up to represent immigrants

9

Be intentional in creating a positive narrative

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1kkdBjASfc>

¡Gracias!

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