



# Collaborative for Health Equity

Cook County

Where People, Place, and Power Matter

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## Why We Stand Against Deportations and for Protecting the Human Rights of Immigrants and All Oppressed Groups

- Immigrants are woven into the social fabric, political landscape, and economy of the United States. Research shows that documented and undocumented immigrants make significant contributions as diligent tax payers, home owners, job creators, and workers in the United States.<sup>1</sup>
- A legacy of racist immigration policies and practices created and privileged particular classes of immigrants according to skin color. These policies and practices born from systemic racism create a cascade of disadvantage that accumulates over time and shapes the health of immigrants.<sup>1</sup>
- A growing body of research illustrates the direct and indirect effects of immigration law enforcement and policy on the health of undocumented immigrants and the communities in which they live.<sup>2</sup>
- A recent study found a 24% increase in risk of low birth weight among infants born to Latina mothers after a major immigration raid, when compared to birth weights before the raid.<sup>3</sup>
- Immigration home raids, in which Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents enter a residence to detain undocumented immigrants, represent extreme examples of immigration law enforcement with emerging **evidence of their influence on health**<sup>2</sup>
- Local police collaboration with federal immigration law enforcement exacerbates distrust between local law enforcement and community members, decreasing the likelihood that undocumented immigrants will report crimes, even if they are the victims<sup>2</sup>
- As immigration policy continues to be a topic of national debate, we must include in these conversations a holistic assessment of the social cost of enforcement policies, including how they may exacerbate existing health inequities among marginalized populations<sup>2</sup>
- Raids are associated with higher levels of immigration enforcement stress and lower self-rated health scores<sup>2</sup>
- Stress, born of systemic exclusion, hardship, and exploitation, taxes the mental and physical health of many immigrants and their families, and is a pathway to rapidly declining health outcomes<sup>1</sup>
- There is a direct relationship between anti-immigration policies and their effects on access to health services. In addition, as a result of these policies, undocumented immigrants were impacted by mental health outcomes, including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder<sup>4</sup>

**Working to eliminate structural racism so that all people of Cook County have the opportunity to live healthy lives**

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- Data indicate that racial and ethnic profiling occurs when local law enforcement cooperates with ICE. This profiling has been well-documented, and Latinos in particular are targeted because of skin color, bilingual speaking abilities, or shopping in neighborhoods highly populated by Latinos<sup>5</sup>
- Deportations result in families being separated. The U.S. citizen children of deported parents suffer disproportionately, including having an increased risk of Poverty and food insecurity; Being placed in the foster care system; Having difficulty accessing conventional health, mental health, early education, and social services<sup>6</sup>
- Federal and local public health departments in the USA have participated in the past in “medical exclusion” of immigrants that involved intrusive, humiliating, and harmful, baths, and physical examinations, contributing to fear and trauma that is passed across communities<sup>7</sup>
- **During the Great Depression, county social workers supported and participated in the deportation of 2 million Mexican American people, including 1 million US citizens<sup>8</sup>**
- National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) encourages local health departments to act on race, ethnicity, class, gender, and other types of oppression as the significant root causes of health inequity among documented and undocumented immigrants<sup>1</sup>
- NACCHO opposes Federal policies on deportation that separate families<sup>1</sup>
- The majority of undocumented immigrants live in mixed-status families, or households where one or more family members are of lawful status<sup>1</sup>
- **Oak Park residents’ recent call for strong protection of immigrants’ health and rights-- ‘No Loopholes, No Collaboration’ --is significant to a national community of public health leaders (See page 6 in the online publication “Public Health Actions for Immigrant Rights ” at bit.ly/PHAIRguide )**
- Threat of deportation makes victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence less safe. Domestic violence victims often remain with their abuser rather than risk being detained and/or deported when seeking protection from abuse<sup>9</sup>

**Sources:**

1. National Association of County & City Health Officials (2014) STATEMENT OF POLICY the health of documented and undocumented immigrants; <sup>2</sup>Lopez, W. D etal (2016). doi:10.1007/s10903-016-0390-6; <sup>3</sup> Novak etal (2017) doi: 10.1093/ije/dyw346; <sup>4</sup> Martinez etal 2015; <sup>5</sup> DeSisto, C. (2016) [unpublished], citing Romero, M., (2006) <sup>6</sup> DeSisto, C. (2016) [Unpublished], citing Satinsky, S., etal. (2014), Applied Research Center (2011), American Public Health Association (2012), and Capps, R., Fix, M., & Zong, J. (2016).; <sup>7</sup>Cacari-Stone (2013); <sup>8</sup> Balderrama, Francisco. Decade of Betrayal: Mexican Repatriation in the 1930s (UNM Press 2006); <sup>9</sup> American Public Health Association Policy Resolution 20128-Opposing the DHS-ICE Secure Communities Program (2012) & Applied Research Center (2011). Shattered Families: The Perilous Intersection of Immigration Enforcement and the Child Welfare System.