

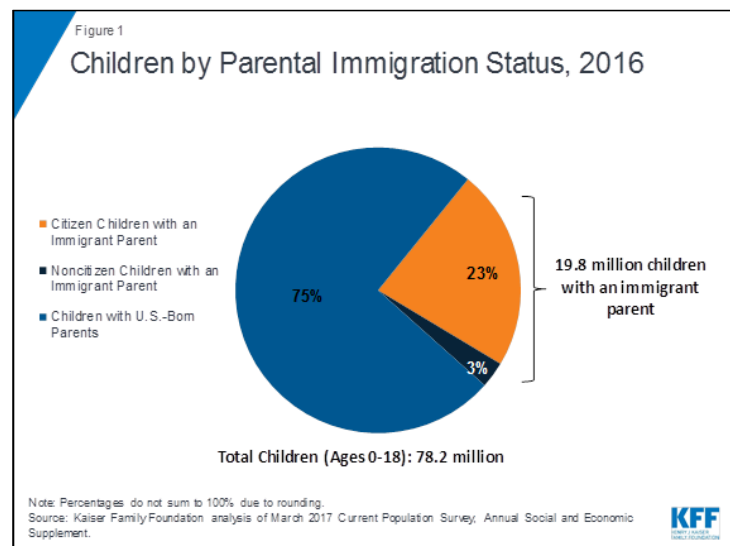
Nearly 20 Million Children Live in Immigrant Families that Could Be Affected by Evolving Immigration Policies

Samantha Artiga and Anthony Damico

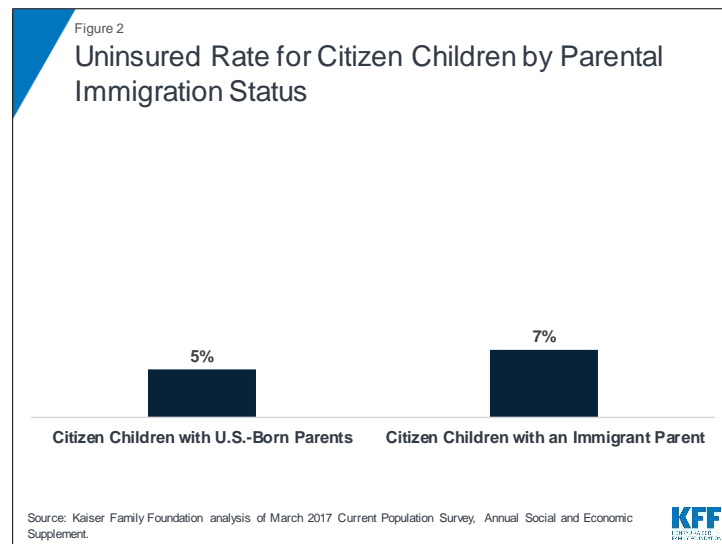
President Trump has intensified national debate about immigration by implementing policies to enhance immigration enforcement and restrict legal immigration. [Recent findings](#) show that the climate surrounding these policies has significantly increased fear and uncertainty among immigrant families, broadly affecting families across different immigration statuses and locations. The effects extend to lawfully present immigrants, including lawful permanent residents or “green card” holders, and children in immigrant families, who are predominantly U.S.-born citizens. In particular, findings point to both short- and long-term negative consequences on the health and well-being of children in immigrant families.

Potential [changes to public charge policies](#) intended to reduce use of public programs by immigrant families, including their citizen children, could further increase strains on immigrant families and lead to losses in health coverage. To provide insight into the scope of potential impacts of continually evolving immigration policy on children, this data note provides nationwide and state-level estimates (Table 1) of citizen children living in immigrant families and the number currently covered by Medicaid/CHIP coverage.

In 2016, nearly 20 million or one in four children had at least one immigrant parent, and nearly nine in ten (89% or 17.7 million) of these children were citizens (Figure 1). An immigrant parent is a foreign-born parent, including naturalized citizens, lawfully present immigrants, and undocumented immigrants. Over half of children with an immigrant parent live in California (23%), Texas (13%), New York (8%), and Florida (8%).



Over 8 million citizen children with an immigrant parent have Medicaid/CHIP coverage. Medicaid and CHIP provide these children access to preventive and primary care as well as care for chronic conditions. In addition, the coverage provides families financial protection from high medical costs. [Recent findings](#) indicate that growing fear and uncertainty among immigrant families is leading to decreased participation in Medicaid and CHIP. Moreover, potential forthcoming [changes to public charge policies](#) would likely lead to sharp declines in enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP as well as other programs among immigrant families, including their citizen children. Decreased participation in Medicaid and CHIP would increase the uninsured rate among immigrant families, negatively affecting the financial stability of families and the growth and healthy development of their children. Such coverage losses also would widen disparities in coverage citizen children in immigrant families already face compared to those with U.S.-born parents. Today, citizen children with an immigrant parent are more likely to be uninsured compared to those with U.S.-born parents (Figure 2).



In sum, although changes in immigration policy may target specific groups of immigrants, they often have much farther-reaching effects. One group significantly affected by such changes is children living in immigrant families, who are predominantly U.S. citizens. The effects on these children may have long-term negative consequences on their health and well-being across their lifespan.

This data note was prepared by Samantha Artiga, with the Kaiser Family Foundation, and Anthony Damico, an independent consultant to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Table 1: Medicaid/CHIP Coverage for Citizen Children With an Immigrant Parent, 2016

	All Children	Citizen Children with an Immigrant Parent	
		Total	Total with Medicaid/CHIP Coverage
United States	78,150,000	17,674,000	8,112,000
Alabama	1,155,000	95,000	49,000
Alaska	202,000	23,000	NA
Arizona	1,715,000	451,000	205,000
Arkansas	742,000	63,000	30,000
California	9,678,000	4,122,000	2,039,000
Colorado	1,318,000	217,000	108,000
Connecticut	804,000	171,000	81,000
Delaware	215,000	41,000	19,000
DC	128,000	23,000	7,000
Florida	4,450,000	1,329,000	519,000
Georgia	2,666,000	484,000	260,000
Hawaii	319,000	77,000	25,000
Idaho	473,000	66,000	34,000
Illinois	3,048,000	791,000	341,000
Indiana	1,694,000	104,000	NA
Iowa	756,000	82,000	48,000
Kansas	763,000	107,000	41,000
Kentucky	1,104,000	60,000	NA
Louisiana	1,176,000	63,000	NA
Maine	272,000	22,000	NA
Maryland	1,428,000	398,000	141,000
Massachusetts	1,480,000	414,000	157,000
Michigan	2,280,000	222,000	82,000
Minnesota	1,383,000	270,000	106,000
Mississippi	768,000	31,000	NA
Missouri	1,479,000	125,000	NA
Montana	241,000	12,000	NA
Nebraska	500,000	73,000	29,000
Nevada	729,000	240,000	87,000
New Hampshire	283,000	28,000	13,000
New Jersey	2,077,000	751,000	277,000
New Mexico	522,000	101,000	67,000
New York	4,397,000	1,485,000	704,000
North Carolina	2,450,000	404,000	219,000
North Dakota	188,000	12,000	3,000
Ohio	2,792,000	195,000	90,000
Oklahoma	1,023,000	149,000	97,000
Oregon	933,000	203,000	132,000
Pennsylvania	2,836,000	336,000	170,000
Rhode Island	217,000	52,000	27,000
South Carolina	1,183,000	113,000	NA
South Dakota	229,000	14,000	NA
Tennessee	1,550,000	172,000	68,000
Texas	7,731,000	2,353,000	1,135,000
Utah	963,000	123,000	NA
Vermont	131,000	9,000	NA
Virginia	2,013,000	438,000	152,000
Washington	1,721,000	455,000	240,000
West Virginia	398,000	NA	NA
Wisconsin	1,396,000	89,000	NA
Wyoming	153,000	9,000	NA

Notes: Children with an immigrant parent in a household with at least one immigrant parent. NA: insufficient sample size to report.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation analysis of March 2017 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

