Parental Documentation Status Effects On Citizen Children

By: Esmeralda Montañó
Faculty Mentor: Martín Meráz García, Ph.D.
CHST 101; Winter 2018
Abstract

In this paper I will be discussing how Hispanic children are affected by their parents documented status, deportation, and how it can affect them physically and mentally. Studies have shown that children who live in a household where at least one of their parents is undocumented don’t do well in school and are even less likely to graduate from high school (Luis H. Zayas, Lauren E. Gulbas). These children don’t feel secure because of raids that occur and laws that are passed that make it really hard for undocumented people to have a stable life which also affects them economically putting them in poverty (Sandy P. Rubio-Hernandez, Cecilia Ayon). This paper highlights the impact anti-immigration policies have on Latina/o’s children. Drawing on peer review journal articles and scholarly sources, this paper points to the trauma experienced by Latina/o children whose parents or legal guardians have been deported and what schools and communities where deportations have taken place can do to diminish the negative impact of these anti-immigration actions.

Keywords: Social emotional effects, Parental Documentation status, Mixed-status families, mental health issues
Main points:

Effects on:
• Health
• Home life
• Education
• Exclusion
Children of immigrants represent 25% of the 69.9 million children in the United States over 88% of immigrant-origin children (4.5 million) are U.S-born with a foreign parent.

- In just over 2 years (July 2010 to September 2012), nearly 250,000 parents of citizen children were deported.
- How does this effect the children?
Share of K-12 students with unauthorized immigrant parents has risen since 2009 in U.S.

% of K-12 students with at least one parent who is an unauthorized immigrant


PEW RESEARCH CENTER
Health Effects

- PTE (Potential traumatic events)
  - Can lead to PTSD
- Depression
- Anxiety, frequent crying, changes in eating and sleeping patterns, withdraw aggression, and clinginess
Amelia: Experienced detention of both parents

Mothers detention:

• Felt intense anger and sadness
  • She took out her anger on her education by not trying anymore
  • Once her mom was released she was still traumatized but now felt more pressure on herself to do better in school and become somebody

Fathers detention:

• Emotionally traumatic
• Fear, worry, and anxiety do to the fact that she was constantly thinking about when or if her father would return.
Economical/Home Life

- Parents work longer hours, which causes them to lack parenting skills
- More prone to live in poverty
- Children stress from seeing their parents stress
Education

- Fear discrimination from their peers
- Some feel as if the school doesn't care about them
- More likely to attend under sourced schools
- Less likely to graduate

In Arizona:
- Proposition 203 repealed bilingual education in 2000

**Figure 8**

Why Don't Hispanic Students Do as Well as Others in School?

Question: Please tell me if you think each of the following is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason that Hispanic students are not doing as well as other students. (% of all Latinos ages 16 and older who say “major reason”)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents of Hispanic students don't play an active role</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic students know less English</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too many teachers don't know how to work with Hispanic students</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic students don't work as hard as others</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2009 National Survey of Latinos


Exclusion

- Feel as if they don't belong in the U.S or the land their parents are from
- Have trouble finding out who they're
- Exclude themselves from peer groups
  - Immigrant families experience increased isolation and segregation as they fear deportation limiting them their social interactions
- Marisa a 14 year old, felt excluded, marginalized, and discriminated against in her town. As a result from that she would try avoiding all "white people"
- They feel misplaced and kind of an outlaw
Children who united with their parents in Mexico

- Education
  - Lower standards
  - Language barriers
  - Less career options
  - More responsibilities

- In general life is more difficult
  - House chores were a priority over studying
  - Children lacked interest in school
  - They felt like they would grow up to be nobody's
Conclusion:

More needs to be done for these children who get left behind. Starting with health care being provided to them for the traumatic experiences they face. These indicators point to a need of increased mental health services along with other helpful support systems these children can seek help from.


Questions?