New Stressors Affecting Immigrant and Refugee Children and Families in the Trump Era

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Roadmap

- Data snapshots for Maryland’s immigrant and refugee families
- New policies and potential impacts
- Old barriers and their impact on access to and quality of ECEC programming
- Solutions and resources
Primary Areas of Work:

- Education and Training:
  - Early Childhood
  - K-16
  - Adult Education and Workforce Development
- Language Access and Other Benefits
- Governance of Integration Policy

www.migrationpolicy.org/integration

U.S. and MD Context: Significant Growth in Immigrant-Origin Children

Source: Authors’ tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau’s 1990 Decennial Census and pooled 2011-13 ACS data.

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Sociodemographic Portrait: Parents of Young Children in Maryland

Of the 179,000 foreign-born parents in Maryland:

➢ 32 percent are low-income vs. 19 percent of native-born
➢ 29 percent lack health insurance vs. 6 percent of native-born
➢ 52 percent are LEP vs. 1 percent of native-born
➢ 21 percent have less than a high school education (12 percent with a 0-8th grade education and 9 percent with a 9th-12th grade education) vs. 4 percent of native-born

Source: MPI analysis of U.S. Census Bureau pooled 2010-14 American Community Survey (ACS) data.

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Refugee Resettlement in Maryland

Maryland Refugees’ Top Countries of Origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017 (as of 04/21)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total refugees resettled</td>
<td>1,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burma</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

➢ Primary locations of resettlement in FY 2016 were: Baltimore City (729), Prince George’s County (513), Baltimore County (210), Montgomery County (107) and Howard County (47)


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Maryland Children of Immigrant Parents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maryland’s Total Child Population</th>
<th>1,287,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children of Unauthorized Immigrants</td>
<td>90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Citizen Children of Unauthorized Immigrants</td>
<td>67,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 3-4</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 5-11</td>
<td>34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children of All Immigrants</td>
<td>321,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 3-4</td>
<td>18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 5-11</td>
<td>123,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MPI Factsheet, “A Profile of U.S. Children with Unauthorized Immigrant Parents”

New Stressors Post-Election

➢ Executive Orders
➢ Rumored Executive Orders
➢ Potential federal budget cuts and restrictive legislation
➢ Increased anti-Muslim/refugee/immigrant sentiment and bias incidents

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Executive Orders

Enacted:
- Interior Enforcement
- Border Wall
- Travel/Refugee Ban 1.0 and 2.0
- H1B visas

Rumored:
- DACA
- Public benefits

Primary Implications

- Increased potential for deportation and associated fallout: fear or reality of separated family members, loss of livelihood/home/assets, etc.
  - Leading to reports in some cities of reduced police reports regarding domestic violence and other crimes
- Uncertainty regarding penalties for use of publicly funded programs
  - Leading to reports across the U.S. of immigrants avoiding public programs and services
- Uncertainty regarding protection of data provided to government authorities
Nevertheless …

- **Plyler v Doe protections still apply**
- **Sensitive locations policy still applies**
- **DACA continues as policy**
- **Attempts to maintain privacy of data expected; EO on public benefits will be extremely complicated to implement**
- **President has spoken openly re immigration reform package**

Old Barriers: DLLs

- **Limited identification of DLLs or collection of other relevant data on their learning needs or progress**
- **Lack of appropriate assessments for L1 and L2 development**
- **Lack of appropriate training for ECEC staff regarding L1 and L2 development**
- **Lack of QRIS measures that value quality instruction for DLLs**
Old Barriers: Parents and Workers

➢ Limited language access for parents, particularly those speaking low-incidence languages

➢ Decline of parent-focused literacy programs (accelerating under WIOA) blows up two-gen advancement for families that need it most

➢ Lack of integrated education and training pathways to support immigrant and refugee workers remaining and/or advancing in the field

Solutions and Actions

➢ Acknowledge changed circumstances with parents; open up communication around new stressors

➢ Have a plan regarding potential enforcement actions at your program site

➢ Build relationships now with local legal experts and service providers (see Immigration Advocates Network list) in case they are needed later

➢ Keep an eye out for action by the President on public benefit restrictions or enforcement of public charge provisions … but don’t panic if any are announced!
Solutions and Actions

➢ Push for improved data collection on DLLs, appropriate assessment tools for L1 and L2 development, and professional development opportunities to support quality programming

➢ Push for QRIS measures and implementation to better value linguistic and cultural competence in programs and be more responsive to diverse providers

➢ Promote programs that address two-generation success needs of immigrant and refugee parents

➢ Expand QRIS measures that value quality instruction for DLLs and implementation strategies responsive to diverse providers

Comments, Questions?

Please share the experiences of your program with these issues, offer comments or ask questions.
Thank you—let’s stay in touch!

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