

Illinois Alliance for Welcoming Healthcare

Recent federal executive orders and policy changes have ramped up immigration enforcement and the threat of deportation and family separation.¹ These harsh policy changes have already inflicted significant damage on our communities' well-being.

- A recent study in California, found “worry about deportation was significantly associated with cardiovascular risk factors, including body mass index (BMI), waist circumference, and continuous measures of systolic and pulse pressure.”²
- Other studies have also found that children who have had a parent detained or deported experience an increased occurrence of social isolation, depression, and anxiety.³ Illinois is home to 249,000 children who have at least one undocumented parent, representing 8% of our total child population (2,969,000).
- Further studies have shown that those who worry about being deported or having a relative or friend be deported have a higher likelihood of reporting the need to seek mental or emotional help.⁴

These studies and the growing anxiety and fear in our community led the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) to create the Illinois Alliance for Welcoming Healthcare. The Alliance's goal is to create a welcoming environment for everyone in every healthcare institution in Illinois.

The Alliance Supports:

- Serving all individuals regardless of race, age, language, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, religion or ethnicity;
- Ensuring that immigrants receive equitable access and quality services;
- Supporting communities in creating a welcoming climate for immigrants;
- Creating a continuum of services that addresses patients' health needs.

The Alliance Commits to:

- Providing quality health care regardless of a person's race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, religion or ethnicity;
- Educating relevant staff on the rights of patients (consumers) and resources regardless of immigration status;
- Establishing relationships with immigrant serving community organizations in our communities;
- Not asking for or sharing patients' information that can endanger their safety or immigration status;
- Creating a physically welcoming environment for all.

¹ “Immigration under Trump: A Review of Policy Shifts in the Year Since the Election.” Sarah Pierce and Andrew Selee, Migration Policy Institute, (December 2017).

² “Worry About Deportation and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors Among Adult Women: The Center for the Health Assessment of Mothers and Children of Salinas Study.” Jacqueline M. Torres, et al., *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, Volume 52, Issue 2, 5 February 2018, Pages 186–193

³ “Facing Our Future: Children in the Aftermath of Immigration Enforcement,” A. Chaudry, et al., The Urban Institute, (February 2010).

⁴ “Fear by Association: Perceptions of Anti-Immigrant Policy and Health Outcomes.” Vargas, ED., et al., *Journal of Health Politics*, (June 2017).

For more information about the Alliance or if you would like to get involved, contact Luvia Quiñones at lquinones@icirr.org or 312-332-7360 x221

www.icirr.org

Supporters

Health Providers

Chicago Department of Public Health
Community Health
Cook County Health and Hospitals System (CCHHS)
Esperanza Health Centers
Holy Cross Hospital
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
(ICAAP)
Lake County Health Department
Mount Sinai Hospital
Medical Association of Latino Advancement
National Organization of Nurses with Disabilities
(NOND)
PrimeCare
Rush Hospital
St. Anthony Hospital

Organizations

Access Living
Aids Foundation Chicago
ACLU-IL
DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform
Enlace Chicago
Greater Chicago Food Depository
Health Justice Project,
 Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy
 Loyola University Chicago School of Law
Heartland Alliance
Illinois Public Health Institute
Illinois Public Health Association
Legal Council for Health Justice
Mujeres Latinas en Acción
Salud Sin Papeles
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

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