

SNAPSHOT: IMMIGRANT HEALTH IN THE UNITED STATES

By **2065**, the number of immigrants is expected to nearly **double to 78 million**, when one in three Americans will be an immigrant or have immigrant parents. Migration patterns will lead to change and **Asians will overtake Hispanics** as the **largest** incoming **immigrant population** in the country by 2065.¹



Barriers to Health Care

Immigration status is a major social determinant of health, impacting the type of coverage a person is eligible for. Depending on their status, immigrants may be blocked from public health insurance programs.

31% of **noncitizens** are **uninsured**, compared to **8%** of naturalized citizens and **7%** of native born citizens³

Immigrants who have held qualifying lawful status for less than five years. ⁴	Barred from Medicaid and CHIP <i>Exception: Pregnant women and children in some states</i>
Nonqualified immigrants (including from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of Palau)	Permanently barred from Medicaid and CHIP <i>Exception: state-funded programs</i>
Undocumented persons (including DACA)	Barred from non-emergency Medicaid, CHIP and Affordable Care Act marketplaces <i>Exception: state-funded programs</i>

Being uninsured can mean devastating consequences for a person's life, leading to expensive health conditions and forgoing essential care.

50% of the uninsured have delayed health care⁵

\$34 billion: cost of uncompensated care in 2013⁶

Many Immigrant Communities have Complex Health Care Needs

Paradoxically, many immigrants often come to the U.S. healthy, but over time or generations develop poorer health.⁷ For example, first-generation adolescents are less likely to report having obesity or asthma, or engaging in risky health behaviors. For some immigrants, however, acculturation leads to deterioration in health indicators.⁸ In addition, health may worsen due to barriers accessing coverage and difficulties finding culturally and linguistically accessible providers.

Immigrants Support the Health of the Nation

There are 2.1 million immigrants in the health care industry, or 17 percent of all health care workers. They account for 28 percent of physicians and surgeons and 23.8 percent of nurses and health aids.⁹ These health professionals bring needed cultural competency and language skills as the nation continues to diversify. Fears around immigration enforcement may also deter many families from seeking the care they need.¹⁰

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