

Findings at a Glance



Human Impact Partners (HIP), in collaboration with La Unión Del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), conducted a health impacts study to examine what happens to individual and family health when a simple encounter — like a traffic stop — with local law enforcement snowballs into potential detention and/or deportation. We researched the effects on the health of children, parents, and families who live in the Rio Grande Valley when they live in fear of a parent or household loved one being deported, or if they've already experienced forced family separation as a result of deportation.

About the Evidence-Based Approach of Public Health

- Social and environmental conditions in our life determine more than 50% of our health. In public health, we refer to these as the *social determinants of health*. These are shaped by environmental, economic, and social policies, which can either help build healthier communities or harm them.
- Immigration stressors — such as living in fear of deportation, being detained for immigration-related reasons, having a family member deported, and experiencing discrimination because of one's immigration status — can affect an individual's health in profound ways.

Local Policies Affect Day-to-Day Life for Valley Residents

2017 in the Rio Grande Valley*

2,800

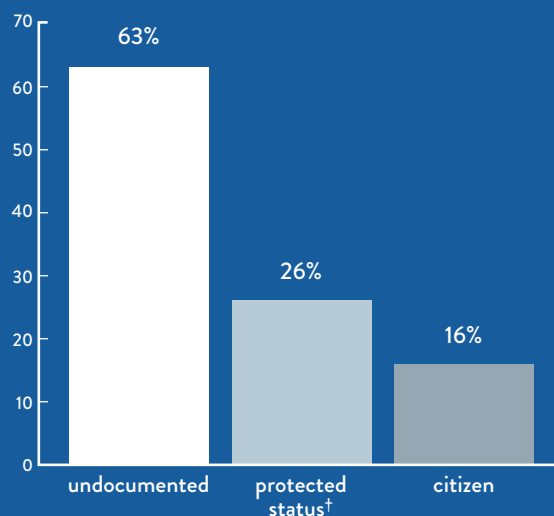
Valley residents were deported by ICE

1,800

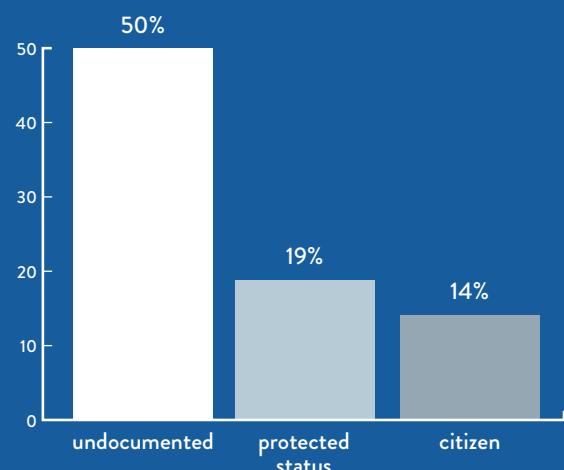
US-born kids had a parent deported by ICE

Local police played a role in many of these forced family separations through their collaboration with immigration officials.

Valley survey respondents reported fear of driving because of their immigration status



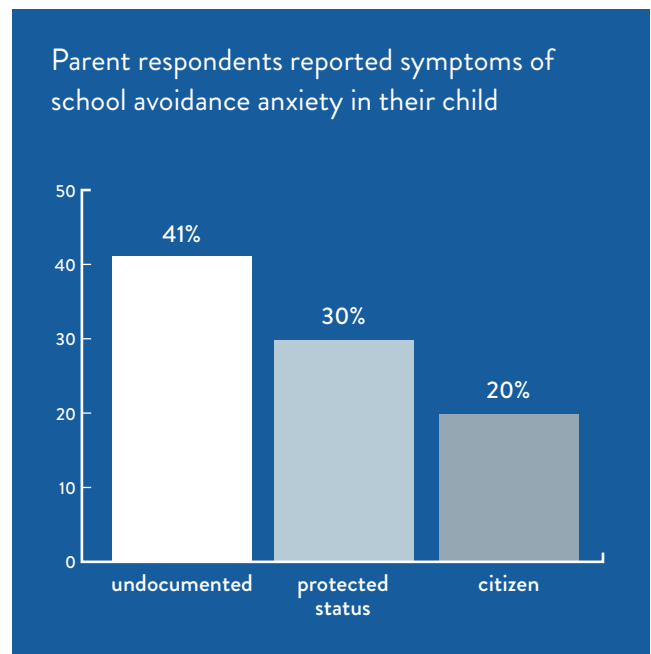
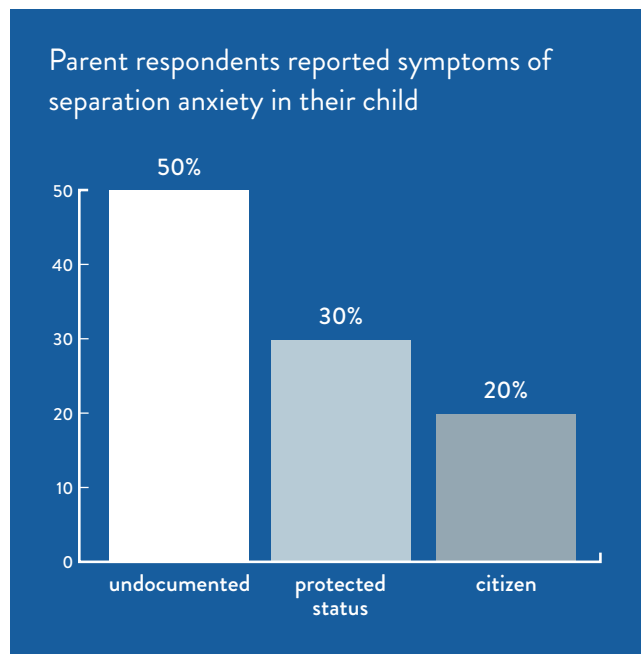
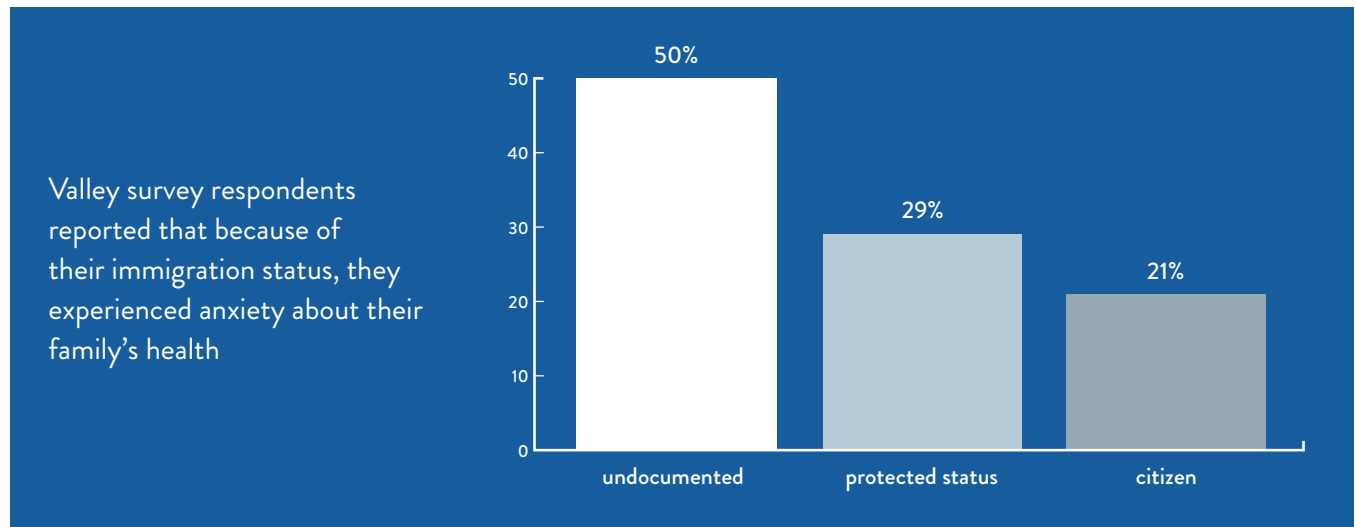
Valley survey respondents reported unfair targeting by law enforcement because of their immigration status



* This is an approximate estimate. Read more about our methods in Appendix D of the full report, available on FamilyUnityFamilyHealth.org.

† Protected status is defined in this report as a person who has lawful permanent residence (LPR) or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

Fears of Deportation and Forced Family Separation Harm Child Health



Recommendations to promote health and safety

We recommend a *public health approach* to local law enforcement and policymaking, to ensure both the safety and health of Rio Grande Valley residents.

1. Prioritize local police resources toward local law enforcement issues instead of assisting immigration officials
2. Increase use of “cite and release” practices during standard traffic stops
3. Accept alternative forms of identification for traffic stop procedures

Visit FamilyUnityFamilyHealth.org to read the full report and view references.