

FAMILY PREPAREDNESS

June 8, 2020



Massachusetts
Immigrant & Refugee
Advocacy Coalition



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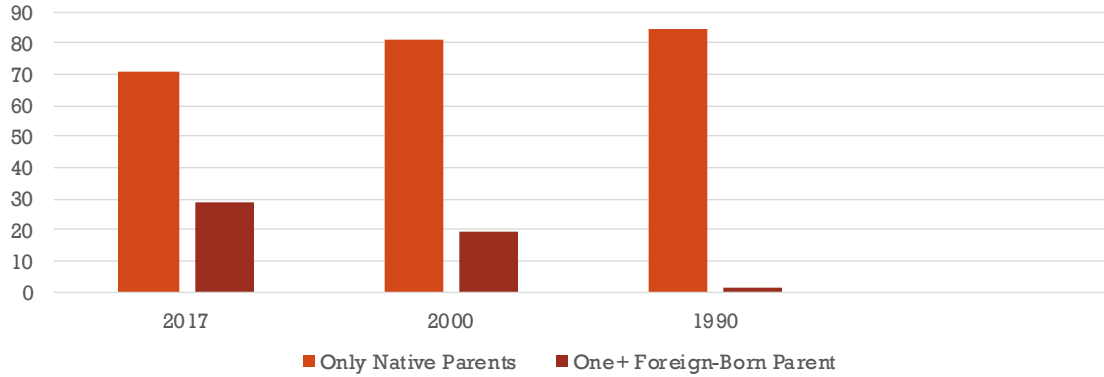
IMMIGRANT FAMILIES IN MASSACHUSETTS: WHAT TO KNOW



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CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS UNDER AGE 6 NUMBER APPROXIMATELY 138,000 AND MAKE UP 32% OF MASSACHUSETTS' POPULATION AGES 0–5, GROWING BY 38% SINCE 2000, COMPARED WITH 24% NATIONALLY.

% of Child Population Under Age 6 in MA by Parent's Nativity



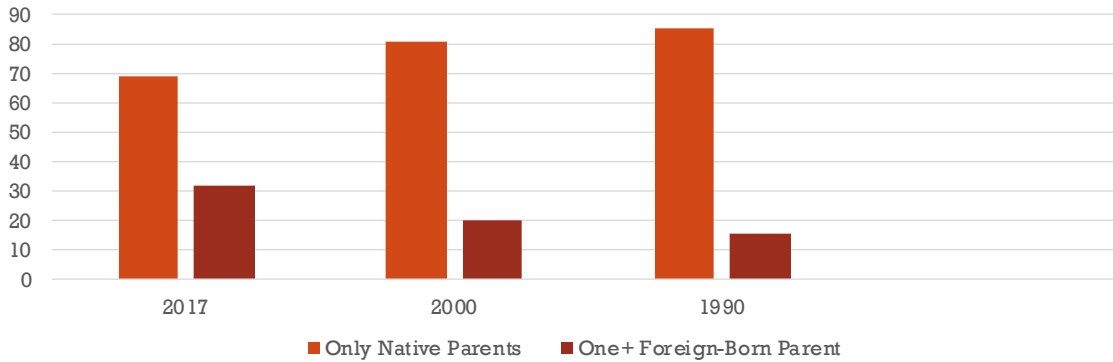
Sources: Migration Policy Institute tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) and Decennial Census.



3

CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS UNDER AGE 18 NUMBER APPROXIMATELY 385,000 AND MAKE UP 29% OF MASSACHUSETTS' POPULATION AGES 0–18, GROWING BY 33% SINCE 2000, ON PAR WITH THE NATIONAL GROWTH.

% of Child Population Under Age 18 in MA by Parent's Nativity



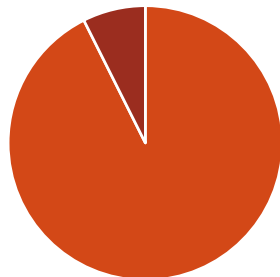
Sources: Migration Policy Institute tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) and Decennial Census.



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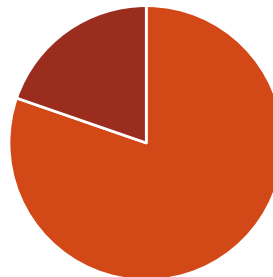
THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS ARE U.S. CITIZENS

Children of Immigrants Ages 0-5 in MA by Nativity



■ Born in the U.S. ■ Foreign-born

Children of Immigrants Ages 6-17 in MA by Nativity



■ Born in the U.S. ■ Foreign-born

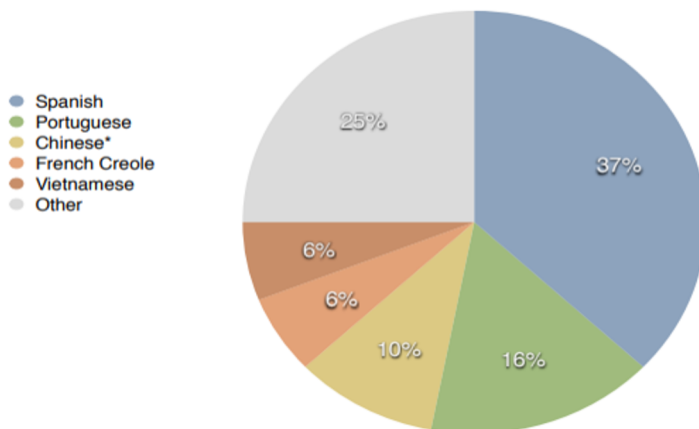
Sources: Migration Policy Institute tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) and Decennial Census.



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LANGUAGE OF FAMILIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Top Languages Spoken at Home by Foreign-Born LEP Parents of Young Children in Massachusetts



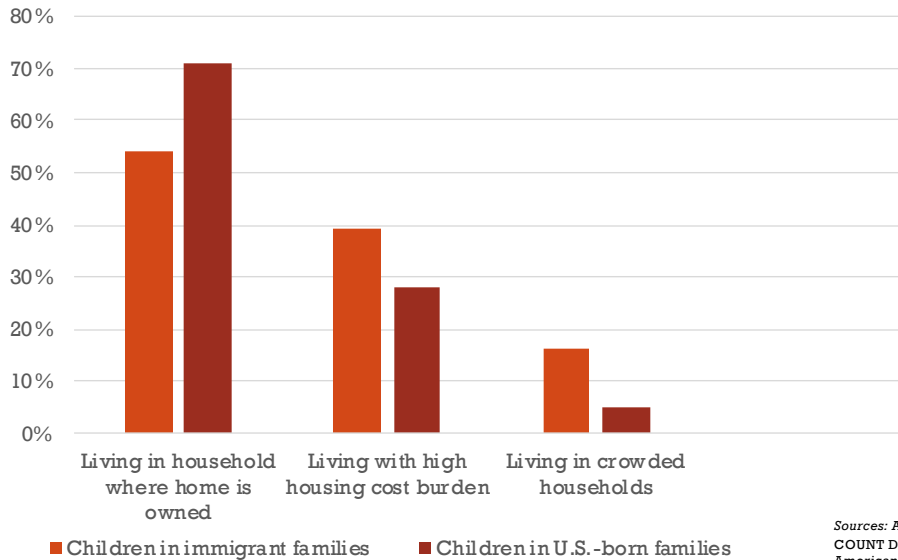
*Includes Mandarin, Cantonese, and other Chinese languages

Data collected from: Park, Maki, Margie McHugh, and Caitlin Katsiaticas. 2016. *Sociodemographic Portrait of Immigrant and U.S.-Born Parents of Young Children in Massachusetts*. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute



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COMPARISON OF LIVING SITUATIONS FOR CHILDREN IN MASS. AGES 18 AND UNDER (2018)

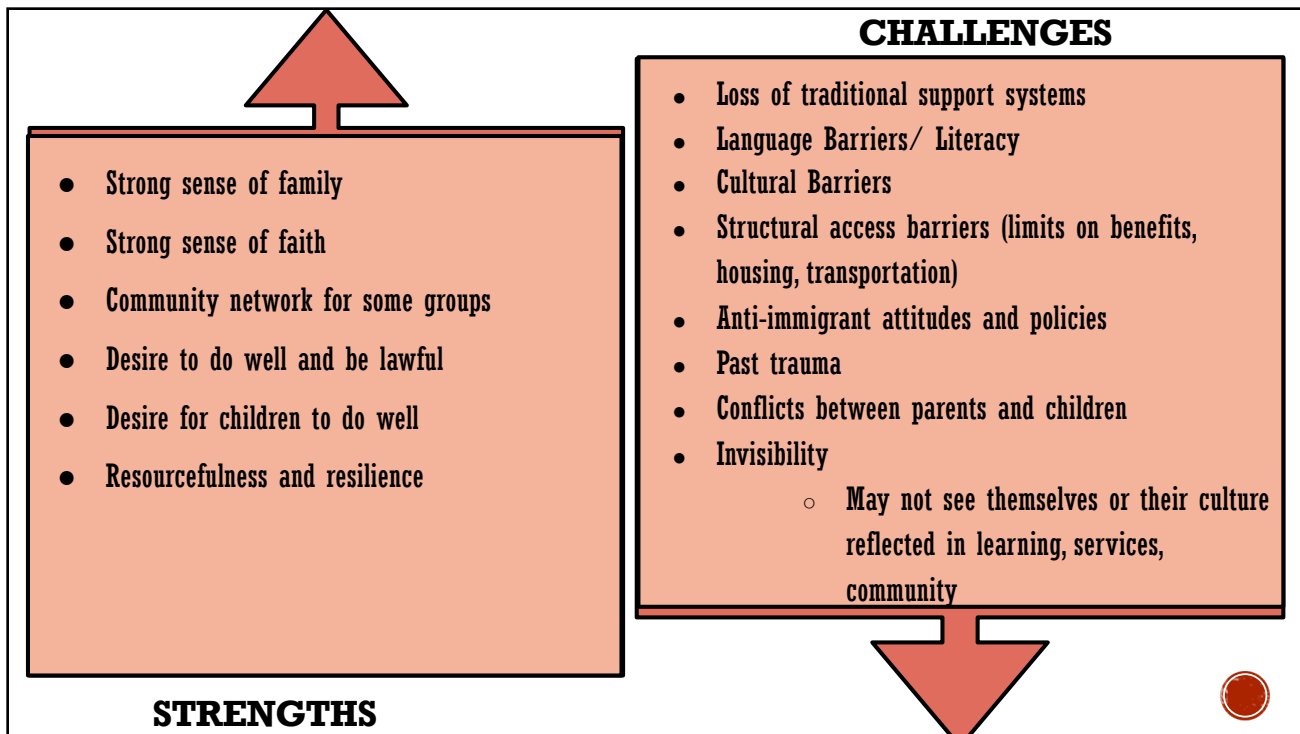


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MIXED STATUS FAMILIES

- ❖ Ctr. For American Progress Estimate, 2017:
 - ❖ **233,035 residents** of Massachusetts have at least one unauthorized family member (~about 3.5% of the population)
 - ❖ **88,416 children** (under age 18) in Massachusetts have at least one unauthorized family member
- ❖ Mixed-status families in Massachusetts come from El Salvador, Brazil, Guatemala, China, Dominican Republic and other countries (Migration Policy Institute, 2016)
- ❖ Mixed status families have increased parental vulnerability to detention and deportation, increased risk of family separation, and confusion
- ❖ Undocumented status and threats of deportation create traumatic stress for both parents and children

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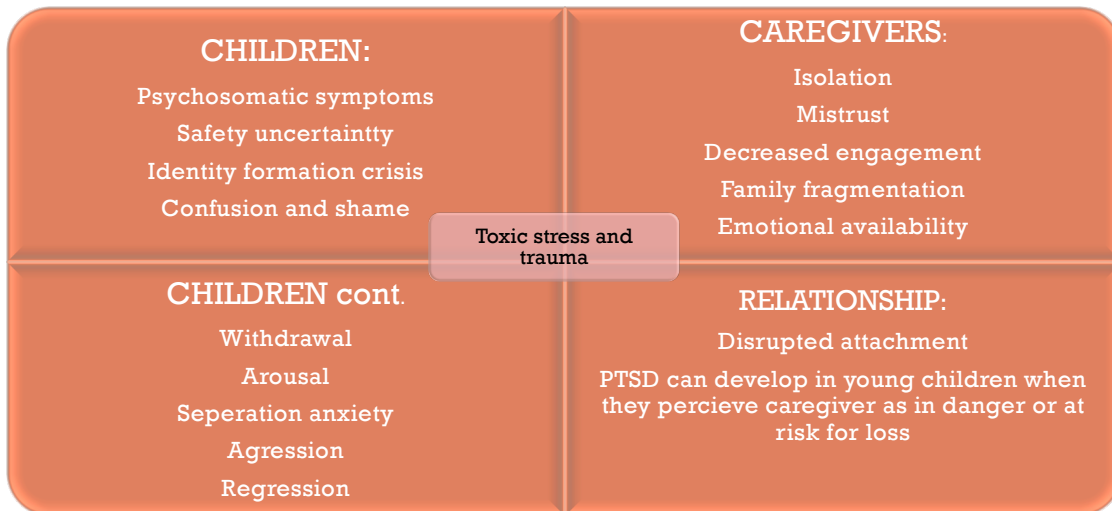
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IMPACT OF FEAR ON FAMILIES RIGHT NOW

- ❖ Urban Institute study: 1 in 6 adults of varying immigration statuses more frequently avoided activities where they would be asked about citizenship status including
 - Driving a car
 - Going to parks, libraries, and stores
 - Renewing a license
 - Visiting doctor's office
- ❖ 1 in 9 (12%) with more secure immigration statuses avoided an activity
- ❖ Adults who avoided activities were 3x more likely to report serious psychological distress
- ❖ CLASP report: Families report doing only “necessary activities”, interrupting other routines
 - ❖ Parents reported more frequent moving based on enforcement activity

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IMPACT OF FEAR ON CHILDREN AND PROVIDERS



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BARRIERS TO EFFECTIVE SERVICE PROVISION

- ❖ Lack of awareness about scope of services on the part of client population
- ❖ Lack of availability of culturally competent services and provision by qualified providers
- ❖ Language and communication barriers
- ❖ Failure of providers to recognize clients' fear of exposure, fear of giving out information, and concerns about confidentiality
- ❖ Mistrust of authority of clients is well-founded: both in home country and here in U.S., there's a reason to be fearful of sharing information.
 - Privacy and secrecy is a strategy to keep family safe and may not reflect the level of trust between provider and client

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A FEW KEY STEPS TO RETAIN TRUST WITH IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

Efforts to create welcoming environments and valuing assets of family are more critical than ever

- ❖ “Double down” on key organizational cultural competence efforts of supporting family home language and incorporating culture
- ❖ Maintain consistency of service provision
- ❖ Clarify and proactively communicate privacy policies and protocols
 - Review forms and applications- highlight and emphasize information that may be optional
- ❖ Support and encourage opportunities interpersonal connectedness to build resilience
- ❖ Continue to build an open, nonjudgmental environment where families are empowered to be their child’s best advocates



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FAMILY PREPAREDNESS

- ❖ What is a Family Preparedness Plan?
 - ❖ Safety plan that offers parents and caregivers facing the threat of detention or deportation the opportunity to make decisions about:
 - Who will care for their children in their absence
 - Plans for meeting child’s educational, medical, and emotional needs in a parent’s absence
 - Plans for reunification
 - ❖ It is NOT a clinical/ mental health assessment or evaluation tool
 - ❖ It is customizable to family’s needs
- ❖ Why use a Family Preparedness plan?
 - ❖ Tool that can better clarify choices on safety, make meaning of immigration traumas, remove stigma, enhance resiliency, and provide hope
 - ❖ Empowers caregivers and families to make choices that make sense for them

Source: Fernández-Pastrana, Hurvitz & Noroña, 2018



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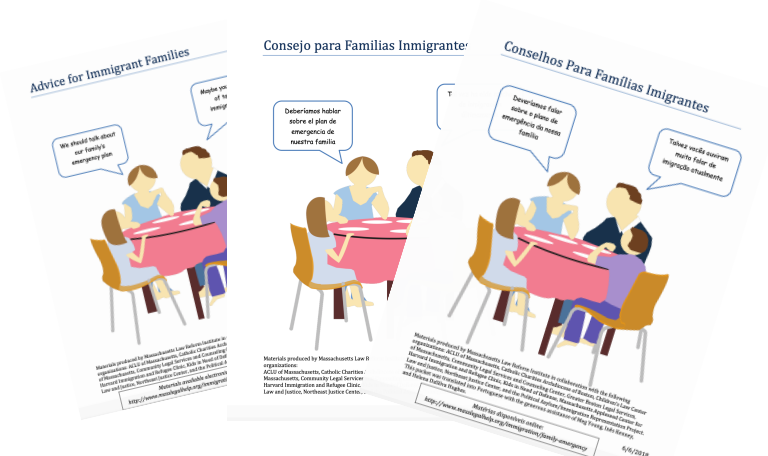


FAMILY PREPAREDNESS



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WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION



<https://www.masslegalservices.org/content/family-preparedness-packets>

See also [BMC Family Preparedness Plan](#)



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HOW TO BE PREPARED

- Know your rights in case an officer asks you questions or comes to your home.
- Memorize phone numbers for your family members and/or an attorney/organization that you trust. **You might only be able to make one phone call while detained!**
- Think of a U.S. citizen or someone with immigration status that you trust who can pay bond if you are granted one by an immigration judge.



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GENERAL PLANNING

- **Talk** → talk as a family about your emergency plan.
- **Gather important documents** → collect important documents - like birth certificates and passports - and keep them in a safe place.
- **Find legal help** → be proactive about seeking immigration advice.
- **Know your rights!**



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IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

- Passports
- Birth Certificates
- Marriage license
- Insurance documents
- Family court documents (custody paperwork)
- Immigration documents (copies)
- Driver's license or other ID
- Social security or ITIN number
- Registration of birth with consulate
- Children's vital information page
- Emergency Contact Information
- Caregiver's authorization affidavit
- Temporary agent authorization
- Any other important documents



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Child's name	
Date of Birth	
School name and address	
Teacher's name	
Afterschool activities/program information	
Doctor's name	
Doctor's phone number	
Medications	
Allergies	
Medical conditions	
Health insurance	

Child's Vital Information

Keep this information with other important documents or copies.

Family and Emergency Contacts	
Parent 1's Information	Name: Phone Number(s): Address:
Parent 2's Information	Name: Phone Number(s): Address:
Other emergency contact:	Name: Phone Number(s): Address: Relationship to child (grandfather, aunt, family friend):
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MAKING A PLAN FOR YOUR CHILDREN

- **Update school contacts:** make sure they have the correct contact information for a few people you trust to pick your child up from school in case you cannot. Tell the school you want to “opt-out,” in any directory information the school puts out to protect your information.
- **Register your child’s birth with your foreign consulate:** if your child wants to travel or move to your home country, it could be easier if their birth is already registered with the consulate.
- **Apply for passports for your child:** most governments require that both parents give permission for their child to get a passport. If you have sole legal custody or a specific court order you do not need the other parent’s permission.
- **Write a travel letter:** if your child needs to travel outside the U.S., they may need a notarized letter that gives them permission to travel with a trusted adult. You may want to contact an airline or your consulate to get exact instructions.



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Informal option

→ talking to the people you want to care for your child or writing down what you want to happen in an emergency
 → easiest, but does not give caregiver legal rights and your child’s school or doctor might not follow your plan

Caregiver authorization affidavit

→ gives the caregiver the right to make decisions about your child’s health care and education for up to 2 years
 → Parent keeps all rights and can end it at any time
 → Needs signature of parent and 2 witnesses, notarized

Temporary agent authorization

→ allows the “agent,” or person you choose, to make any decisions a parent can make (except marriage and adoption) for your child, including about property and finances
 → Valid for 60 days once it takes effect, but can be renewed
 → Both parents must sign if available
 → Must be signed by agent and 2 witnesses

Guardianship

→ legal guardian has all rights a parent has, but exercises these rights instead of the parent
 → must be obtained through the courts



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FAMILY DETENTION

- Three "family detention" centers:
 - Berks Family Residential Center in Berks County, Pennsylvania – 90 beds
 - Karnes Residential Center in Karnes City, Texas – 580 beds
 - South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas – 2400 beds
- Primarily used to detain families arrested at the border
- US citizen children cannot be detained with their parents



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FINANCES AND ASSETS

- Protecting Assets and Child Custody in the Face of Deportation (<https://www.aecf.org/resources/protecting-assets-and-child-custody-in-the-face-of-deportation/>)
 - Setting up a Power of Attorney
 - Selling a car
 - Selling a home
 - Collecting unpaid wages
 - Breaking residential leases



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RESOURCES FOR SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

[Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services](#)

[First 5 Association Care, Cope Connect](#)

[Colorin colorado! Early Childhood Program Resources](#)

[Informed Immigrant Mental Health Guide](#)

[Center on Immigration and Child Welfare Toolkit for Immigrant Families in CW Systems](#)

[Boston Medical Center Family Preparedness Plan](#)

[NCTSN Immigrant and Refugee Trauma Resources](#)



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