

Assessment of Public Resource Utilization and Immigration-Related Concerns in Families of Hospitalized Children: A Cross-Sectional Study



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Results

Introduction

- Children of immigrants are a fast-growing population
- An estimated eighty-eight percent of children of immigrants are United States (US) citizens and many qualify for government-issued resources
- With recent changes to immigration policies, some families fear that using public resources will affect their ability to remain in the US

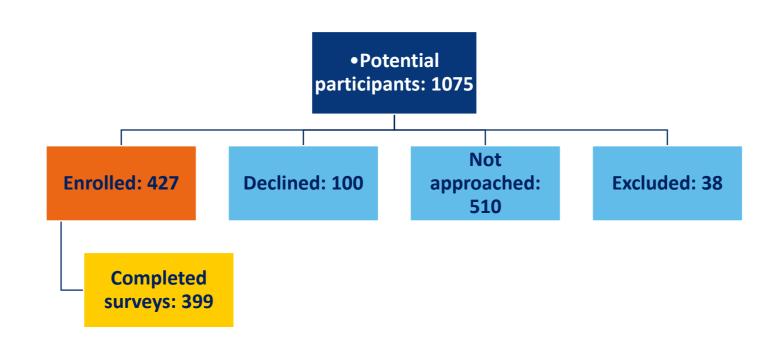
Objectives

- Assess Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) utilization rates in children with one or more undocumented parent (UP) compared to children with no UP
- Compare income level, food security, healthcare use, and immigration-related concerns between groups

Methods

- Anonymous cross-sectional, survey-based study conducted at Texas Children's Hospital on patients admitted to general pediatrics services from March 2019 – September 2019
- Inclusion criteria: Primary caregivers of hospitalized patients 0-18 years old who speak either English or Spanish
- Exclusion criteria: patient in child protective services custody, caregivers <18 years of age, or patients not living in the United States (medical tourists)
- Parents completed an 89-item survey (available in English and Spanish), on paper or electronic tablet, assessing demographics, insurance payor, SNAP use, WIC use, food security, and fear relating to immigration status
- A waiver of signed consent was obtained from the institutional review board to ensure patient privacy
- Chi-square and Fisher's exact tests were used to assess differences between groups

Figure 1: Enrollment consort flow diagram and documentation status of enrolled caregivers





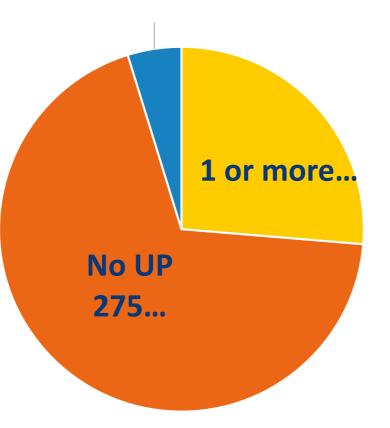


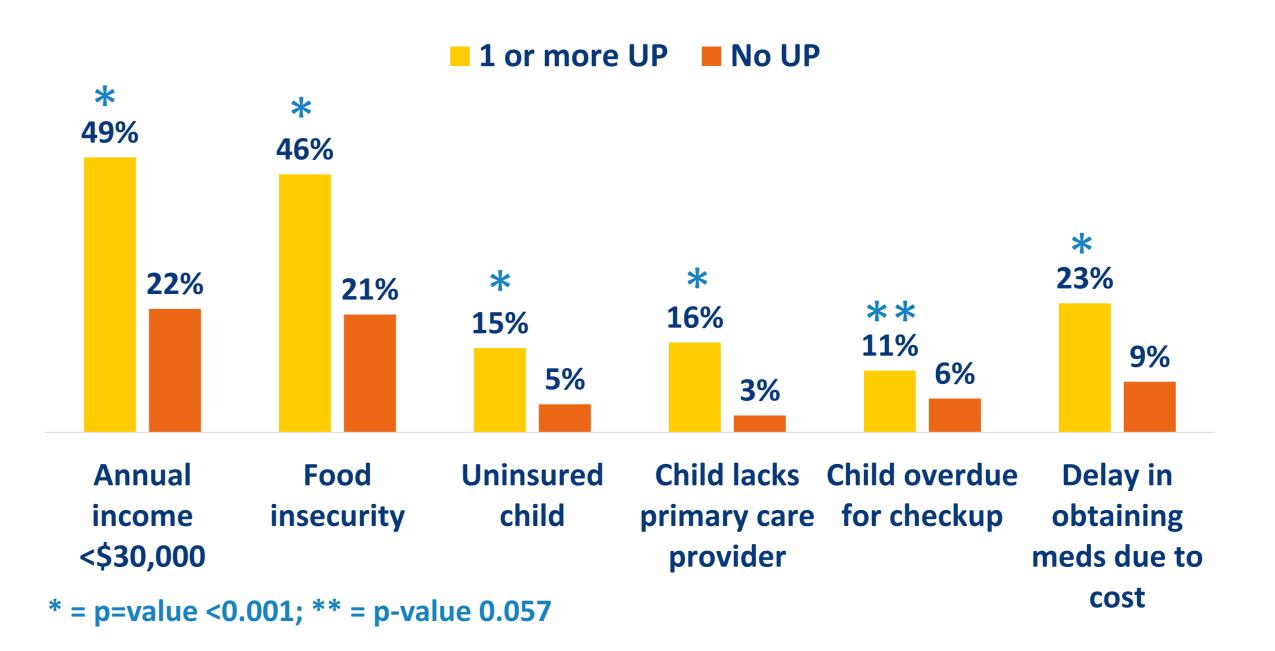
Table 1: Comparison of demographics in families with one or more UP vs families with no UP

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n (%) 1 or more UP N=105	n (%) No UP N=275	p-value
32 years (19-56)	34 years (18-72)	0.0238
91 (87)	269 (98)	<0.001
72 (69)	177 (64)	0.4402
52 (50)	127 (46)	0.7082
25 (24)	233 (85)	<0.001
98 (93)	122 (44)	<0.001
37 (35)	22 (8)	<0.001
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Table 2: Comparison of caregiver immigration-related concerns in families with 1 or more UP vs families with no UP

Survey Question	n (%) 1 or more UP N=105	n (%) No UP N=275	p-value
Discontinuation at any time of WIC, SNAP, or Medicaid because of concerns for immigration problems	30 (29)	2 (1)	<0.001
I have a family member or friend who was deported within the last year	27 (26)	13 (5)	<0.001
I worry about whether a family member, friend, or myself will be deported	75 (71)	27 (10)	<0.001
I worry about whether a family member, friend, or myself will be separated from family	76 (72)	26 (9)	<0.001
I worry about finding a job because of fear of deportation	35 (33)	3 (1)	<0.001
I worry that my child's hospitalization will affect my immigration status	25 (24)	2 (1)	<0.001
My child worries whether a family member, friend, or myself will be deported	42 (40)	10 (4)	<0.001
My child worries whether a family member, friend, or myself will be separated from family because of problems with immigration or citizenship	40 (38)	12 (4)	<0.001

Figure 2: Comparison of needs percentages between families with 1 or more UP vs families with no UP



Results

Table 3: Comparison of resource utilization in families with one or more UP vs families with no UP

	n (%) 1 or more UP N=105	n (%) No UP N=275	p-value
Current Medicaid or CHIP use	80 (76)	155 (56)	<0.001
Current SNAP use	42 (40)	81 (30)	0.05
Current WIC use ^a	45 (63)	57 (32)	<0.001

a Participants with child ≤5 years old (N=72 for UP and 177 for no UP)

Conclusions

Compared to families with no UP

- Families with one or more UP have significantly higher levels of poverty and food insecurity
- Families with 1 or more UP have significantly higher use of Medicaid and WIC; however SNAP use is not significantly different across groups
- Families with 1 or more UP are less likely to be insured, more likely to be overdue for a well child check up, and are less likely to have a PCP

In families with 1 or more UP

- 29% reported discontinuing public resources because of immigration concerns and 24% reported concerns about their child's hospitalization affecting their immigration status
- >70% reported worrying about deportation or separation from family (38%-40% of children reporting similar concerns)
- Further work is needed to mitigate fear as a barrier for seeking public assistance in this vulnerable population
- The inpatient setting offers a unique opportunity to address social determinants of health in immigrant families by providing education and public resource referrals

