



Children of immigrant families at risk for hunger and poor development

Children's Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program (C-SNAP)

Informing Evidence-Based Policy Decisions that Prevent Child Hunger and Promote Children's Health

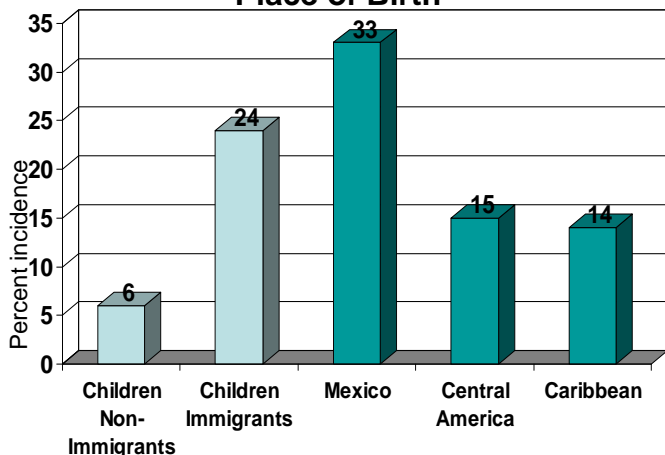
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A Chronic and Growing Problem

In 2005, **12.4 million children** lived in food insecure households. Babies and toddlers who live in food insecure households are more likely to experience **poor health, hospitalizations, iron deficiency anemia, problems with cognitive development, and behavioral and emotional problems.**

New Americans

Incidence of Child Food Insecurity, by Place of Birth



Food insecurity threatens the health of citizen children of immigrant parents. In the US, the percentage of all children with at least one parent who was foreign born rose from 15 percent in 1994 to 20 percent in 2004.

Food Insecurity: Limited or uncertain access to enough nutritious food for all household members to lead an active and healthy life; A technical term for hunger

Child Food Insecurity: The most severe form of food insecurity, in which resources are so limited that parents can no longer buffer their children from the lack of food. Essentially, this is child hunger.

US Department of Agriculture, Household Food Insecurity in the United States, 2005.

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C-SNAP Medical Research:

Infants and toddlers in immigrant families

C-SNAP data shows that **citizen children of immigrant parents who receive food stamps are 32% less likely to be in poor health** than if their families did not receive food stamps. Specific data on Latino infants and toddlers have shown that:

- Sanction (termination) of family TANF benefits increased likelihood of food insecurity by **63%**
- Sanction of family food stamp benefit **doubled likelihood of food insecurity.**
- Those whose families were potentially eligible but did not receive WIC were **more likely to have a lower weight and be shorter in height** than those who received WIC.
- Latino children in low-income, food insecure households have **more than twice the odds of their parents identifying significant developmental concerns** than those in low income food secure homes.

Nutrition Assistance: Under-prescribed and under-accessed among immigrant families

Young children of immigrants, are **less than half as likely** to receive food stamp benefits as young children of citizen parents, despite higher poverty rates among immigrant families.

- Only 17% receive food stamps, compared to 35% of children of low-income, native-born parents.
- Only 7% receive TANF, compared to 13% of children of low-income, native-born parents.
- Only 34% are insured by Medicaid or SCHIP, compared to 41% of children of low-income, native-born parents. (from the National Center for Children in Poverty)

Prescriptions for Policy

- Expansion of **food stamp funding** in the FY 2007 Reauthorization of the Farm Bill
- Continued federal funding for State Children's Health Insurance Program (**S-CHIP**)
- Continued federal funding for **WIC and TANF**
- Promotion of **community-based nutrition** programs, including outreach to immigrants with citizen children
- Laws to **protect and enhance immigrant participation** in public assistance programs