IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ON CHILDREN

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Child Trends
Children with unauthorized immigrant parents
When parents are detained and/or deported...
Their children experience...

- Emotional distress
- Economic instability
- Fears about family stability
- Permanent family separation
Emotional distress
Fears about family stability
Economic instability
Permanent family separation

ADVERSE EXPERIENCES
that hinder healthy development

Mental health
Physical health
Well-being as adult
Long term effects of parental detention...
Young children
(age 6 to 11)

- Emotional difficulties
- Low school engagement
- Behavioral/academic problems in school
Older youth
(age 12 to 17)

• Problems in school
All school-aged children
(age 6 to 17)

• At risk of experiencing a larger number of other adverse childhood experiences
Compounding effect

Emotional distress
Fears about family stability
Economic instability
Permanent family separation

Parental detention
MORE adverse experiences
Dysfunction, disease, early mortality
Children and schools more broadly
Ripple effects...
Ripple effects…

Psychological distress of:

- Misunderstanding of legal status
- Worry that family or friends will be detained/deported
- Seeing peers separated from their parents
- Seeing other community members being detained/deported
Hate Incidents (i.e., identity-based bullying)
Motivation

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Effects

• Physical
  • Headaches
  • Sleep disturbances
  • Gastro-intestinal disturbances

• Psychosocial
  • Internalized
    • Depression, fear, anxiety, self-harm
  • Externalized
    • Aggression, anger, conduct problems

• Academic
  • Diminished academic achievement
  • Increased absenteeism
School Climate
THANK YOU

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