Rapid Response Survey: Health Impacts of Federal Immigration Policy

Initial Findings, May 2017

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• Rapidly Changing National Conversation
• Increased Uncertainty
• Stepped up ICE Enforcement
• Reports of ICE at Health/Social Service Locations
• Proposals for Border Wall
• Threats to Sanctuary City Funding
• Muslim/Refugee Ban
• Xenophobic/Racist Violence
• Program Participation Data Analysis (WIC, etc.)
• Interviews with Immigrant Serving Organizations
• Rapid Response Survey
Survey Goals

- Rapid, Policy-Driven Data Collection
- Build on Staff Knowledge and Experience with the Community
- Share BARHII/Alliance Efforts
- Results Inform:
  - Internal Practice
  - Policy Advocacy
Limitations

- Meant as a initial, rapid, qualitative assessment
- Not a scientific representative sample
  - Convenience survey with self-selected participation
- Will be accompanied/followed by quantitative analysis
Program Types

Clinical
- Clinics/FQHCs
- Pediatrics
- Medi-Cal

Public Health
- Mental Health
- Lead
- Drug and Alcohol
- Epidemiology
- Family Health/Maternal Health
- Immunizations
- Needle Exchange
- STD/HIV
- Rape Crises

Social Services
- WIC
- CALWorks and Employment
- CALFresh
- CPS
- Homelessness

Community Partners

N=157

N=50

Responses
“Have you witnessed or heard from clients that they have been impacted by the new immigration and refugee policy, enforcement and public discussion since November 2016 in the following ways:”

- Afraid to continue or sign up for public programs, services, and/or...
  - 58%
- Increased fear, stress, or other mental and emotional health impacts
  - 55%
- Family members at risk of detention and deportation
  - 43%
- Afraid to leave the house or neighborhood
  - 33%
- Afraid to travel (by car, transit, or plane)
  - 31%
- Drops in program utilization or participation
  - 30%
- At risk of losing healthcare
  - 26%
- At risk of losing jobs/wages
  - 19%
- Afraid to leave the house or neighborhood
  - 14%
- Afraid to continue or sign up for public programs, services, and/or...
  - 12%
“Have you witnessed or heard from clients that they have been impacted by the new immigration and refugee policy, enforcement and public discussion since November 2016 in the following ways:”

- Afraid to continue or sign up for public programs, services, and/or...
- Increased fear, stress, or other mental and emotional health impacts
- At risk of losing other necessities
- At risk of losing housing
- At risk of losing jobs/wages
- At risk of losing healthcare
- Drops in program utilization or participation
- Afraid to travel (by car, transit, or plane)
- Afraid to leave the house or neighborhood
- Family members at risk of detention and deportation

Results by Region

- Southern California
- Northern California
“A patient told me she was afraid of going back to county clinic. She feels fearful that because we are a government entity we will turn in her information and illegal status to immigration authorities. **Not only has she stopped seeing our clinic, her specialist, but also she is reluctant to take her daughter to the Pediatrics department for the same reason.** Her daughter who is only 3 has had a history of abnormal blood work, was set up to see a specialist for possible leukemia and is recently fainting.”

“I received a call from a client whom is a single mother with 2 children. **The client called to request cancellation of CalFresh benefits for her children, stating she feared receiving benefits would create legal issues for her in the future which could result in her deportation.** I informed the client her information is not shared, however client insisted we cancel her CalFresh benefits.”
“I saw a patient recently at an evening clinic at a local school who was suffering from headaches. An interview and exam led me to believe these were related to stress. As we explored sources of stress for her, she revealed that neither she nor her husband are documented but their only child was born in this country and is, therefore, a citizen. Should they be deported, she has no idea how she will deal with finding care for her child who is 8 years old.”

“The children at our schools arrive crying because they are afraid that their parents may be picked up by ICE agents and they will not be returning to school to pick them up. Parents who are dropping or picking up their kids from our schools have reported that they won’t walk towards the school if they see a patrol car in the vicinity of the school.”
“One outreach client that was actively interested in engaging in Mental Health Services prior to the election, **who is now so afraid to leave their house that they have cut off all contact with government agencies for fear of being thought of as illegal(sic) because they are "brown," and are married to someone who is in fact illegal.** They are worried about drawing attention to their spouse as illegal, so they won't engage in anything that could require personal information to be shared/registered.”

“We've been seeing more children affected emotionally by the fear that their parents or themselves will get deported. **We've seen in increase in psychosomatic symptoms (i.e. sleep disturbances, headaches, stomachaches, tiredness, nausea) and anxiety/fears increase.”
What Are We Hearing- Isolation and Fear

“I’ve had several clients who do not want to come out of their homes to do simple living routines. It has become difficult to go shopping for foods that they need due to being scared that they will be subjected to racial profiling that may lead them to being held up.”

“I have an undocumented patient who has a diagnosis that's high risk to public health. He's a day laborer and, sometimes, due to fear he'll be caught and deported, he'll forgo going to work. Lost wages render him unable to support himself and his spouse.”
Data Into Action: Next Steps

Suggestions?
Public Health Awakened has prepared this guide for public health departments wishing to support immigrant communities:  

The National Immigration Law Center just put together an excellent guide for health care providers which was accompanied by a recorded webinar and slides.

- Recording:https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/viewRecording/516256275702666498/432522737731450370/sara@humanimpact.org

California Health Advocates has put together these frequently asked questions:  
https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/capca/pages/62/attachments/original/1494018311/2017_05_04_CPCA_Immigrant_Patient_FAQs.pdf?1494018311

San Francisco and San Mateo have made public their detailed instructions to staff in interactions with ICE:
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