



# Vulnerable Population: Immigrant Youth

*The purpose of this document is to provide background information on Immigrant Youth.*

## **Defining Immigrant**

An **immigrant** is a person who migrates to another country to live permanently.

To become a legal immigrant there is a visa process that one must go through to become a permanent resident. A **family based visa** is for immigration of certain family members of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents. An **intercountry adoption visa** is for the adoption of orphans from another country. **Employment based visas** are for immigration based on permanent employment or investment by entrepreneurs.<sup>1</sup>

An **undocumented immigrant** is a person who has entered the United States illegally or who has entered the United States legally but has fallen "out of status".<sup>2</sup>

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## References

<sup>1</sup> [Department of State Immigration Information](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Immigration Terms and Definitions](#)

## **Fast Facts on Immigrant Youth**

**Immigrant youth**-defined as those under age eighteen who are either foreign-born or U.S.-born to immigrant parents-now account for one-fourth of the nation's 75 million youth. By 2050 they are projected to make up one-third of more than 100 million U.S. youth.<sup>3</sup>

Immigrant youth are more likely to live in low income families with parents who have a small amount of education. Immigrant youth are also less likely to be covered by health insurance.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to poverty immigrant youth face several other challenges such as parents' low education level, language acquisition, bullying, isolation, extreme stress and loss of identity.<sup>5</sup>

## **Federal Laws Regarding Immigrant Youth**

[William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008](#)

[Special Immigrant Juveniles \(SIJ\) | USCIS](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Demography of Immigrant Youth](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Children of Immigrants](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Pathways](#)