



Data Snapshot of Immigrants in Vermont: Effective COVID Relief Depends on the Inclusion of Immigrants

The COVID-19 crisis has shown that we are interconnected: the health and prosperity of *each* of us depends on the health and prosperity of *all* of us. Yet, the legislation enacted to date has excluded millions of immigrants and their families from health care and economic relief. A response that leaves out immigrants and their families in **Vermont**--many of whom are providing care for our loved ones and delivering groceries--will undermine our public health and economic recovery. This data snapshot describes immigrants in Vermont, some of the barriers to accessing health care they face, and how the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions ("HEROES") Act would make our state and nation healthier and safer.

Immigrants in Vermont:

- Approximately **20,000 people in Vermont live in families with at least one noncitizen** in the household.¹
- **6% of Vermont workers in frontline industries** are immigrants, including about **3%** of workers in the grocery, **9%** of workers in health care, and **4%** of workers in the building cleaning services industries.²

Barriers Accessing Essential Services for Testing and Treatment of COVID-19 for Immigrants in Vermont:

- Because of the public charge regulation's "chilling effect," immigrant families, including many who are not subject to the public charge test, are avoiding public programs.³ About **9,000 people in Vermont could potentially be deterred from public programs** because of immigration-related consequences.⁴
- Rapid job loss is leading to declines in employer-provided health insurance coverage,⁵ which in turn has increased need for publicly funded health care.

If you have questions or would like assistance creating your own state-specific version, please contact Renato Rocha at CLASP at rrocha@clasp.org or Sonya Schwartz, NILC consultant, at sonya@sonyaandpartners.com.

¹ Public Charge Proposed Rule: Potentially Chilled Population Data Dashboard (Manatt Health, 2018), <https://www.manatt.com/insights/articles/2018/public-charge-rule-potentially-chilled-population>.

² A Basic Demographic Profile of Workers in Frontline Industries, [A Basic Demographic Profile of Workers in Frontline Industries \(Center for Economic and Policy, April 2020\)](#).

³ Amid Confusion over the Public Charge Rule, Immigrant Families Continued Avoiding Public Benefits in 2019, (Urban Institute, May 2020), <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/amid-confusion-over-public-charge-rule-immigrant-families-continued-avoiding-public-benefits-2019>.

⁴ Public Charge Proposed Rule: Potentially Chilled Population Data Dashboard (Manatt Health, 2018), <https://www.manatt.com/insights/articles/2018/public-charge-rule-potentially-chilled-population>. Calculation of the potentially chilled population based on families with at least one noncitizen and earned income under 250 percent of the federal poverty level.

⁵ As of April 2020, the national unemployment rate stands at nearly 15 percent: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empisit.pdf>.