Policymakers must prioritize the wellbeing of children in our laws and policies. Yet the Trump Administration has been indifferent to—and even emboldened by—the harmful consequences of its immigration policy priorities for up to 7.5 million young children in immigrant families across the country. CLASP surveyed nearly 200 early care and education professionals in 17 states regarding perceived changes among children and parents in their programs. This is what we learned.

**Children in immigrant families are a large and growing share of the young child population**

1 in 4 children under age 8 have an immigrant parent

94% are U.S. citizens

Source: CLASP analysis of 2018 American Community Survey data

**FAMILY SEPARATION IS PREVALENT IN OUR OWN BACKYARDS**

Among respondents who work directly with children,

41% said children are afraid of being separated from their parents.¹

“I noticed the children did not feel safe anymore…Children seem to feel like they were next to have to leave.”  
– Home Based Child Care Director from New York

Nearly 1 in 3 respondents were aware of at least one child in their program who had a family member that was arrested, detained, or deported.

Respondents said children:²

- Were more aggressive with peers: 29%
- Had changes in eating patterns: 34%
- Refused to talk: 36%
- Had changes in sleep patterns: 45%
- Were more socially withdrawn: 52%

Respondents said families:²

- Lost employment: 57%
- Moved in with family or friends: 68%
- Relocated to another residence: 68%
- Lost income: 73%
CHILDREN ARE LOSING ACCESS TO VITAL SERVICES

Among respondents working with parents and children,

65% said parents have refused at least one publicly-funded program for their children in the last year.¹

"About 15-20 families [of more than 100] currently enrolled have dropped from SNAP."
– Head Start provider from Texas

Children are also losing out on early educational opportunities. Program administrators reported:²

46% have difficulty meeting enrollment goals
41% not having a waiting list this year
46% frequent absences when there is real or rumored immigration enforcement nearby

About this survey

As part of our continued efforts to document the harm of immigration policy changes on children and families, the Center for Law and Social Policy conducted a web survey of early care and education providers between July and October 2019. A total of 188 respondents from 17 different states participated in the survey. Just under half of all respondents identified as program administrators or directors; the remaining 52 percent work directly with children and/or their parents. For detailed sample descriptives, see clasp.org/nolongerfeeling-safe. The findings in this brief reflect the characteristics and beliefs of the respondents and are not nationally representative of early care and education programs or immigrant families with young children.

This brief was authored by Rebecca Ullrich and Shiva Sethi and designed by Sivan Sherriffe. The authors would like to thank Kate Gallagher Robbins, Hannah Matthews, and Wendy Cervantes for their helpful feedback. We also extend our gratitude to Sarah Walzer and Hamutal Bernstein for reviewing the survey questions.

¹ Represents the share of respondents who work directly with children (n=87) who agreed or strongly agreed.
² Represents the share of respondents who knew of one or more children affected by immigration enforcement (n=56) who checked the enumerated economic or behavioral impacts.
³ Represents the share of respondents who work with parents and children (n=51) who checked one or more programs that parents have refused for their children.
⁴ Represents the share of program directors or administrators (n=76) who agreed or strongly agreed.