

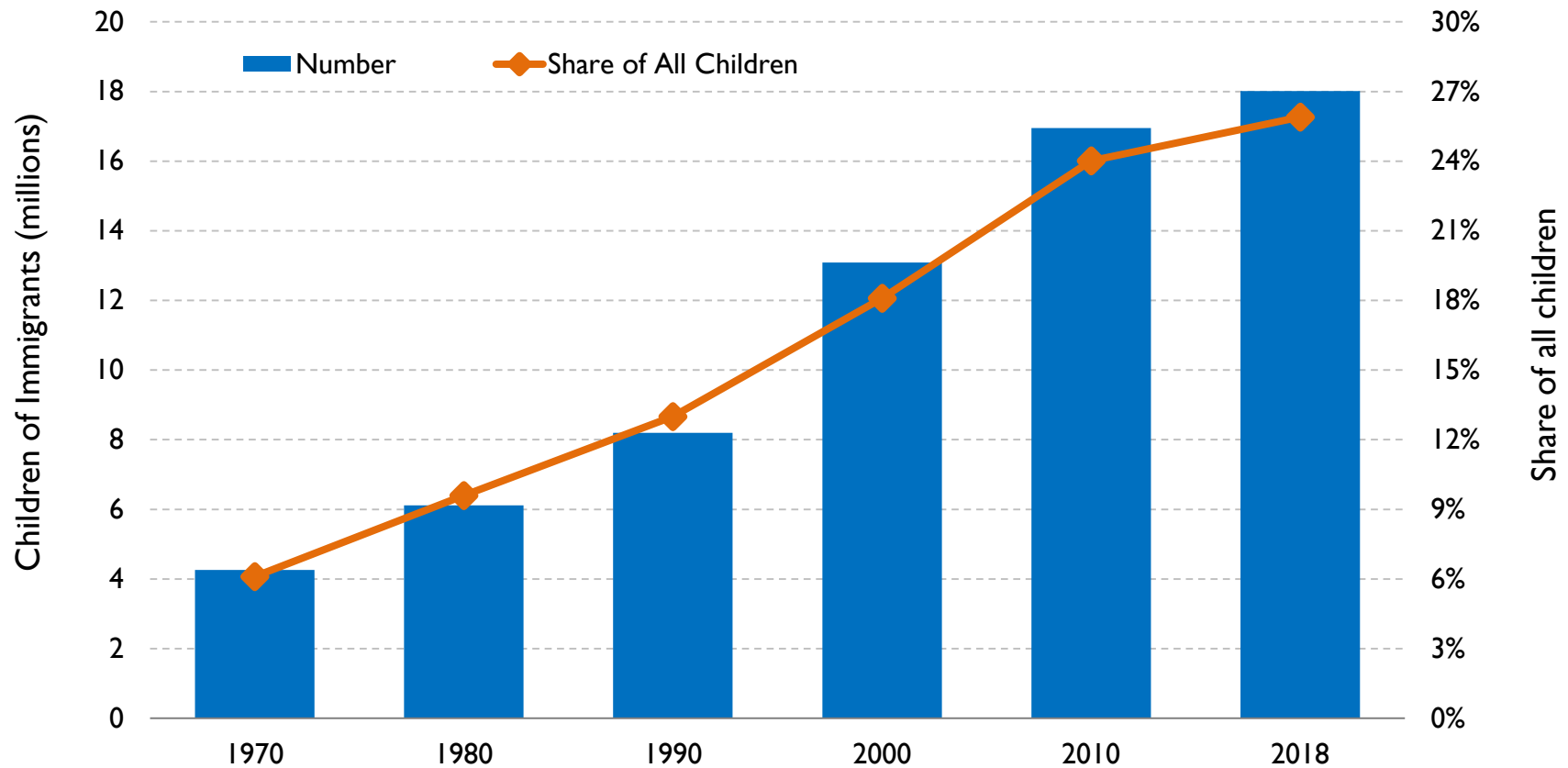
Reducing Poverty for Children of Immigrants



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More than one fourth of all children in the US are children of immigrants

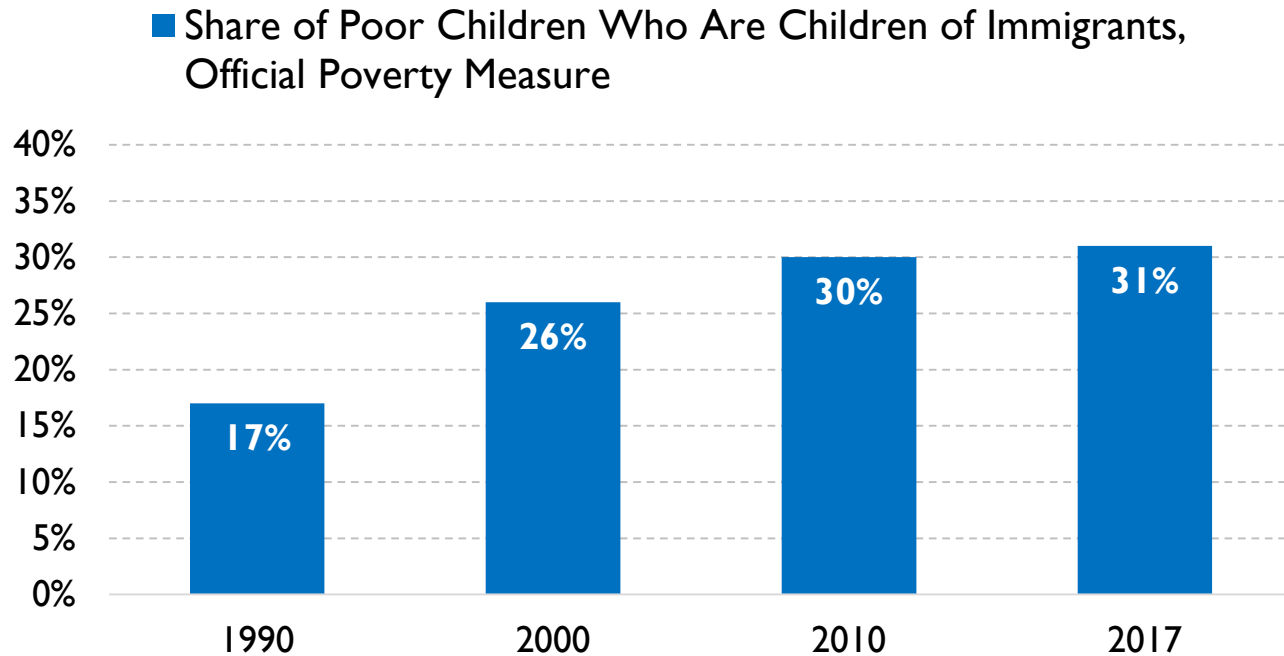


Note: Data here include only children who reside with at least one parent. The term “children of immigrants” (or children in immigrant families) refers to children under 18 with at least one immigrant parent.

Source: MPI analysis of data from the 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 U.S. Decennial Census and the 2010 and 2018 ACS.

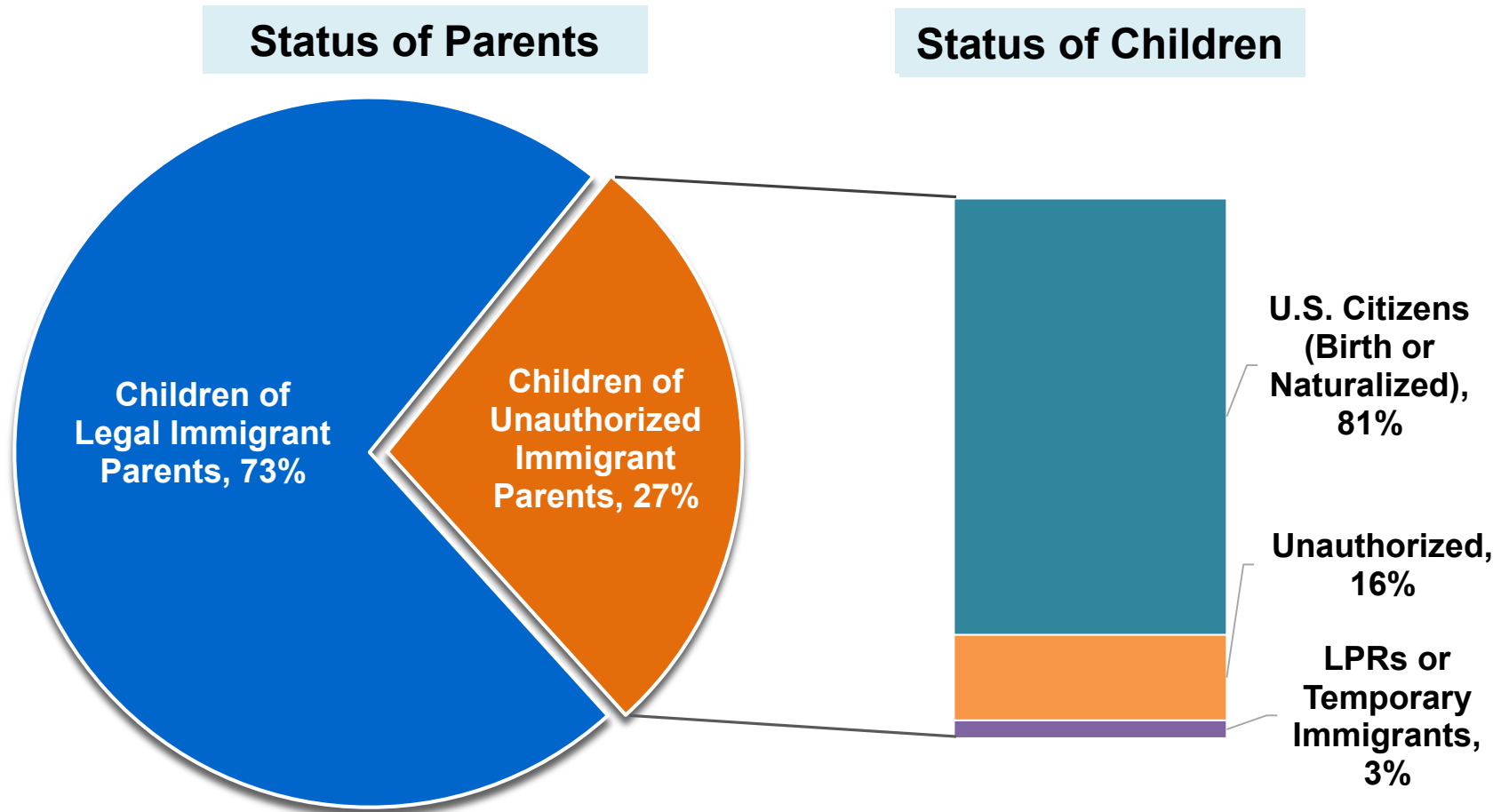


Nearly one-third of poor children are children of immigrants



Source: Migration Policy Institute tabulation of the U.S. Census Bureau's 1990 and 2000 Decennial Census and 2010 and 2017 American Community Survey data.

27% of children of immigrants have at least one unauthorized parent



Source: MPI Analysis of 2012-16 ACS and 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) data.



Immigrant Eligibility Policy Proposals in the NAS Child Poverty Report

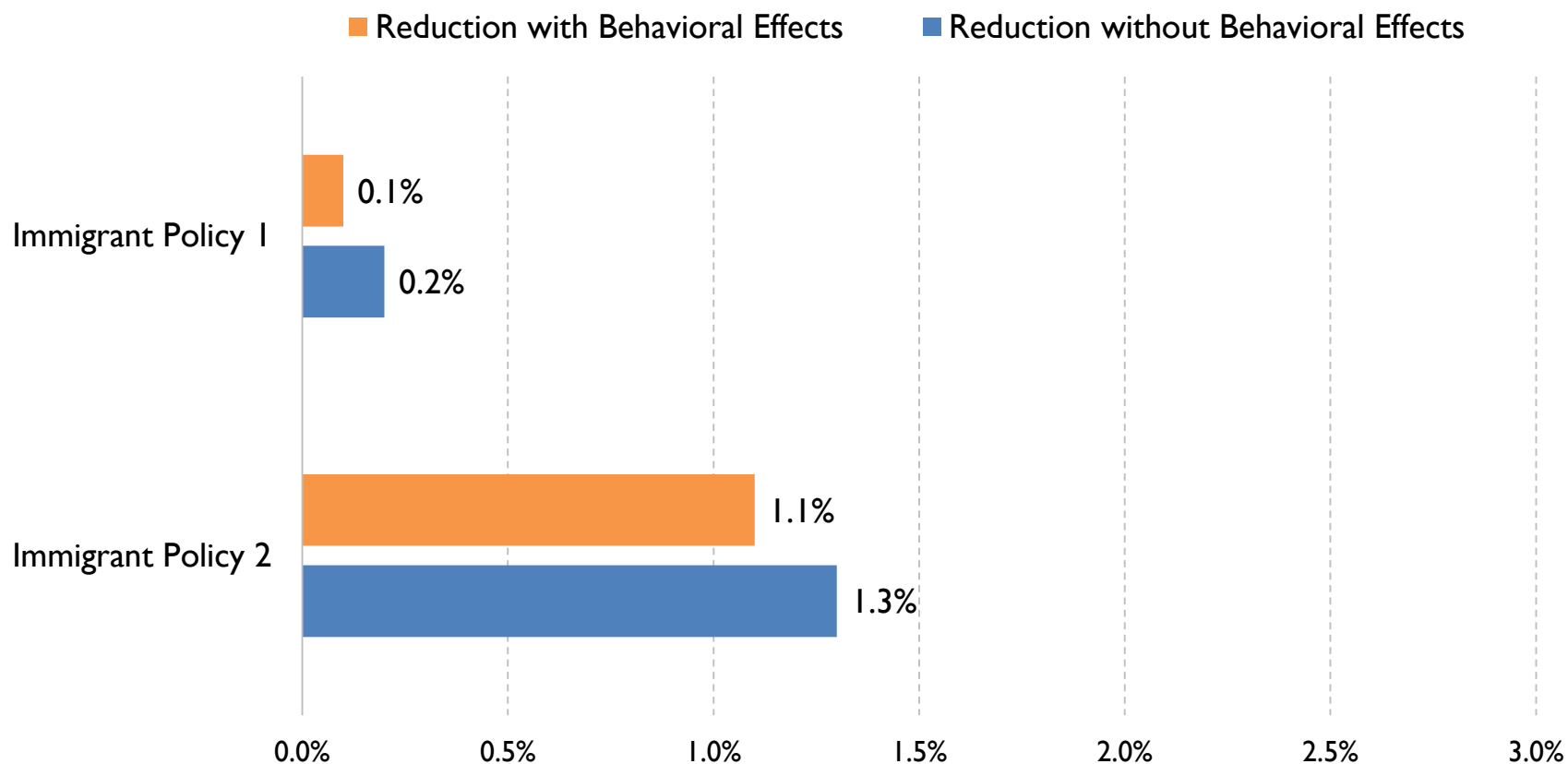
Immigrant Policy Proposal 1	All legal immigrants are potentially eligible for all programs; unauthorized immigrants and noncitizens who are in the country temporarily (e.g., people with student visas or work visas) continue to be ineligible for benefits.
Immigrant Policy Proposal 2	There are no eligibility restrictions of any type based on citizenship or legal status. All noncitizens—including legal immigrants, noncitizens with temporary status, and noncitizens in the country without authorization—are potentially eligible for all benefit programs and for the EITC without any additional requirements beyond those imposed on citizens.

Source: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, *A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty*, (Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2019), 557, <https://doi.org/10.17226/25246>.



Poverty Reduction Effects of Immigrant Eligibility Proposals

Reduction in SPM Child Poverty Rate



Source: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, *A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty*, (Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2019), 439, <https://doi.org/10.17226/25246>.



Challenges to Accessing Benefits

- Lack of awareness
- Concerns about ineligibility
- English proficiency barriers
- Difficulties navigating service systems and application processes
- Documentation challenges
- Immigration-related fears



Why Public Charge Matters

- Being determined **likely to become a public charge** can be a basis for:
 - Denying admission to the U.S; and
 - Denying adjustment of status (getting a green card).
- Being determined to have **become a public charge** can be a basis for deportation, including for lawful permanent residents.



Public Charge Standards Before New Rule

- Since 1999, standard for admission and adjustment of status has been whether the individual is likely to become a public charge, as evidenced by:
 - Being primarily dependent on cash assistance for income maintenance; or
 - Institutionalization for long-term care at government expense.
- Narrower standard for deportation



Status of Rulemaking

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) **final rule** concerning admission and adjustment of status issued August 14, 2019, 84 Fed. Reg. 41292.
- Department of Justice **proposed rule** concerning standards for deportation has not been yet been published.



USCIS: Likely to Become a Public Charge

- More likely than not to receive one or more of the following benefits for more than 12 months in a 36-month period at any future point:
 - Cash assistance for income maintenance, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Supplemental Security Income;
 - SNAP (food stamps);
 - Medicaid, with exceptions for children under 21 and pregnant women;
 - Public Housing or Section 8 Housing.
- Apply a “totality of circumstances” test to determine likelihood.



Key Concerns About the Rule

- Immigration:
 - Government now has broad discretion to curtail legal immigration by applying public charge test.
- Public Benefits:
 - Families with immigrant members may drop out of or fail to enroll in wide range of programs due to “chilling effects.”



Evidence of Chilling Effects

- Urban Institute survey of nonelderly adults who are foreign-born or live with one or more foreign-born family members finds:
 - 14% of all respondent said they or a family member did not participate in a noncash assistance program in 2018 for fear of risking future green card status.
 - 21% of those below 200 percent of poverty
 - 15% of those where all noncitizen family members were permanent residents
 - 9% of those where all foreign-born family members were naturalized citizens



Evidence of Chilling Effects (cont'd.)

- 17% of those with a child under 19 in the home
- 31% of those who reported having heard a lot about proposed rule
- Among those reporting chilling effects:
 - 46% reported someone did not apply for or stopped participating in SNAP.
 - 42% reported someone did not apply for or stopped receiving Medicaid or CHIP.
 - 17% indicated program was Medicaid or CHIP for a child in the family.

Source: Bernstein et al, One in Seven Adults in Immigrant Families Reported Avoiding Public Benefit Programs in 2018 (Urban Institute, May 2019).

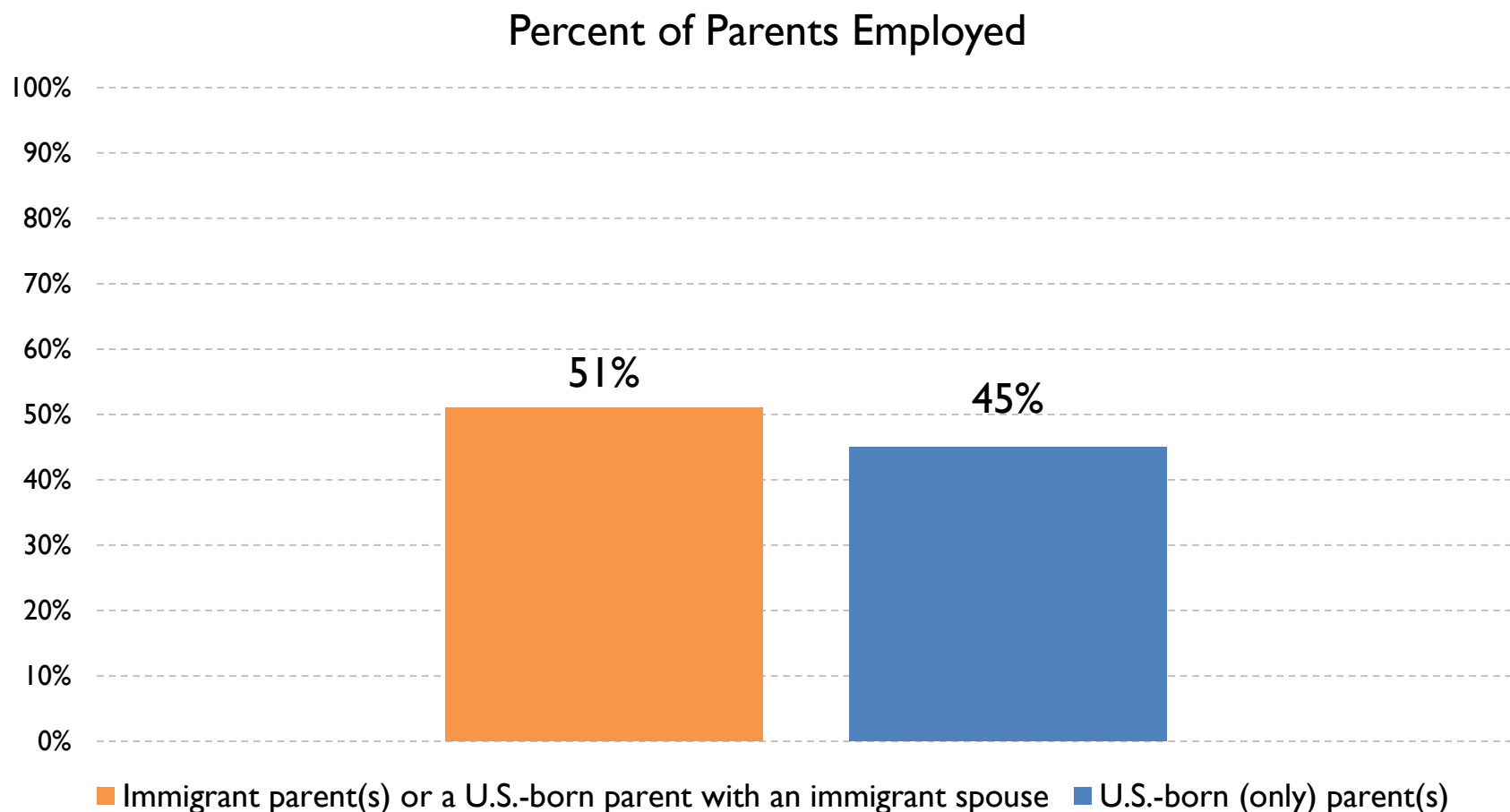


Tax Policy and Children of Immigrants

- Important to consider when children of immigrants will or won't benefit from seemingly universal proposal.
- Earned Income Tax Credit — only available if child and parents have SSNs.
 - Some proposals in states to consider extending state EITCs to individuals with ITINs.
- Refundable Child Tax Credit — only available to children with SSNs.
- NAS Child Allowance — limited to children born in US or naturalized.



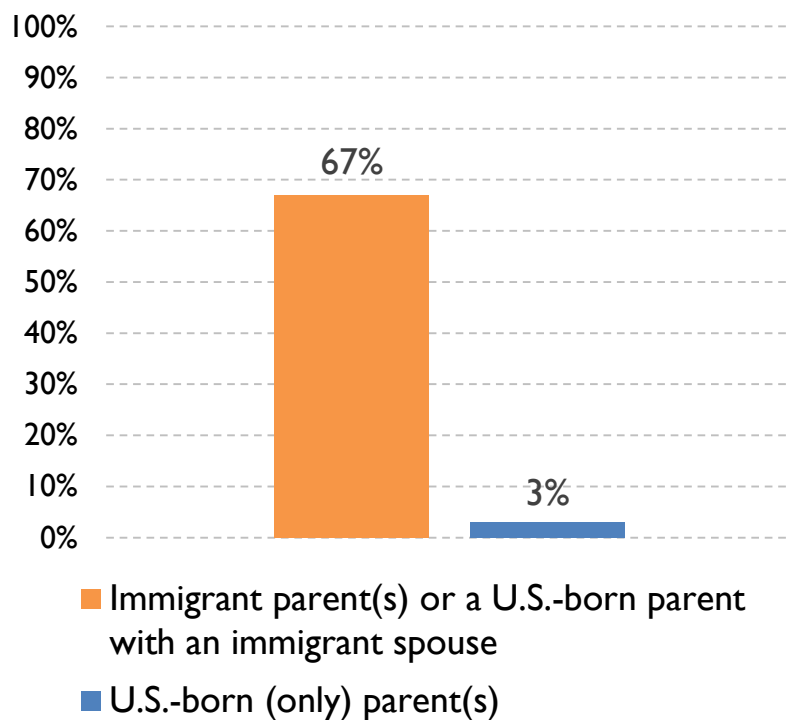
Parents of poor children of immigrants are more likely to be working than are other poor parents



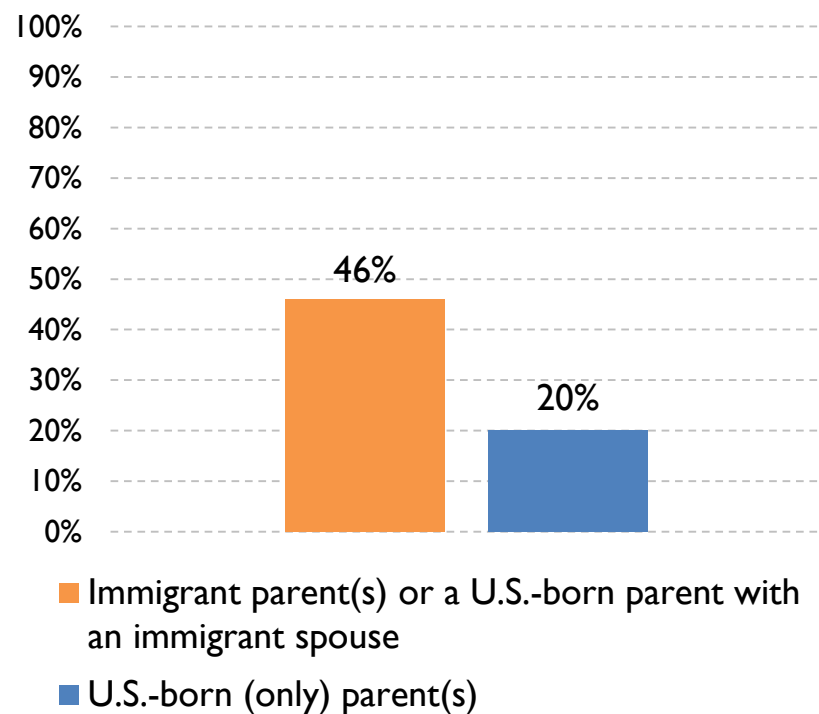


Poor parents of children of immigrants are more likely to be Limited English Proficient & are less likely to have a high school degree

Limited English Proficiency (LEP)



Less than a High School Degree





Immigration Issues with Important Implications for Reducing Child Poverty

- Naturalization
- DACA
- Work Authorization/Legalization
- Enforcement Policies/Removal of Parents
- Unaccompanied Children
- Asylum-Seeking Families



ICE Removals of Immigrants Claiming U.S. Citizen Children, 2011-2017

Year	Number of Removals
2011	92,380
2012	88,517
2013	72,410
2014	N/A
2015	31,411
2016	28,860
2017	27,080

Sources: 2011–12 data: U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), “FOIA #13-00678 Final Orders Sought, Final Orders Obtained, and Removals of Parents Claiming USC Children” (dataset obtained by Colorlines through a *Freedom of Information Act* request, ICE, Washington, DC, December 17, 2012), www.colorlines.com/articles/primary-data-deportations-parents-us-citizen-kids; 2013 and 2015–17 Data: DHS, ICE, *Deportation of Aliens Claiming U.S.-Born Children, Fiscal Years 2013–2017* (Washington, DC: ICE, multiple years), www.hsdl.org/?search=&searchfield=title&all=Deportation+of+Aliens+Claiming+U.S.-Born+Children&collection=public&advanced=1&submitted=Search.



Southwest Border Apprehensions of Families and Unaccompanied Children, FYs 2012-2019

Fiscal Year	Members of Families	Unaccompanied Children
2012	11,116	24,403
2013	14,855	38,759
2014	68,445	68,541
2015	39,838	39,970
2016	77,674	59,692
2017	75,622	41,435
2018	107,212	50,036
2019	473,682	76,020

Sources: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), "United States Border Patrol Southwest Family Unit Subject and Unaccompanied Alien Children Apprehensions Fiscal Year 2016," updated October 18, 2016, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-border-unaccompanied-children/fy-2016>; CBP, "Southwest Border Migration FY2017," updated December 15, 2017, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration-fy2017>; CBP, "Southwest Border Migration FY2018," updated November 9, 2018, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fy-2018>; "Southwest Border Migration FY2019," updated November 14, 2019, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fy-2019>.



For More Information



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For additional information and to receive updates:

www.migrationpolicy.org

For interactive data tools on U.S. and International migration data, visit:

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub>