

2019

# Food Insecurity Affecting Immigrant Families in the United States

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# Food Insecurity Affecting Immigrant Families in the United States

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I am afraid to apply for assistance due to my legal status.

I am scared of deportation and leaving my children behind.

Objectives – To answer the following:

1. Do states provide federal programs to immigrant families who not qualify for programs?
2. What other programs can recent immigrant families benefit from?
3. How can the rates of child poverty be lowered?

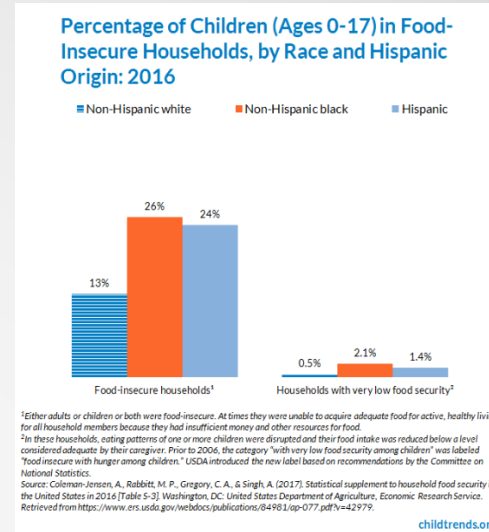
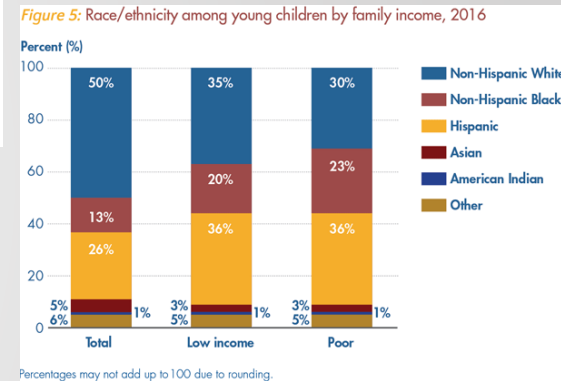


Figure 5: Race/ethnicity among young children by family income, 2016



Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

## Food Insecurity

- Food insecurity can cause malnutrition, poor health, and developmental issues.
- 36% of young children in Hispanics families are low income and/or poor.
- 37% of poor young children in the US are located in the Northeast.

## Relevant Legislation & Policy

**Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act 1996:** known as “welfare reform” that requires work in exchange for time-limited assistance



**Farm Security and Rural Investment Act 2002:** known as the “Farm Bill” covers a wide range of programs, income support, and domestic food programs

### Inclusive States vs. Exclusive States

After the 2002 Farm Bill passed, seven states – California, Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, Washington, and Wisconsin – used state-funded food assistance programs to provide support to some immigrants who were not covered by the federal food assistance program.

- In New Jersey, families who receive Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) known as “food stamps” are lawfully-present non-citizen. However, they must satisfy other eligibility requirements.

Methods:  
Online Research  
Relevant Literature

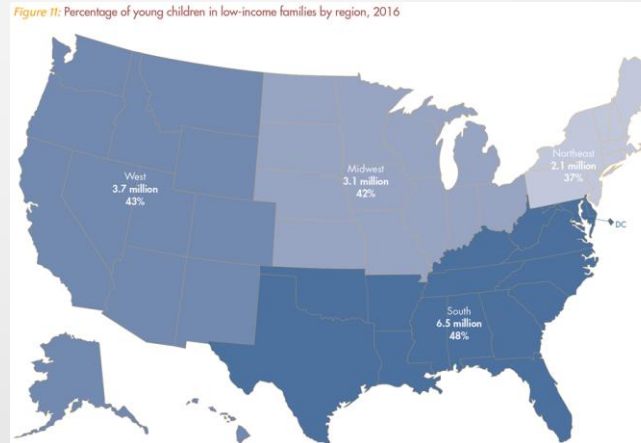


Figure 11: Percentage of young children in low-income families by region, 2016

## Quick Facts

- Immigrants who have lived in the United States for five years or less are ineligible to receive SNAP benefits.
- More than 21% of children in the United States live in families with income below the federal poverty threshold.
- 15% of children in New Jersey live in poor families.
- 1 in 4 low-income children are children of Immigrants.