The Impact of Changes to Public Charge Determination for Immigrant Families in the United States
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BACKGROUND

On October 10, 2018, the Department of Homeland Security published a proposed rule redefining the standard of “inadmissibility on public charge grounds” in the Federal Register. The proposed changes alter long-standing interpretation of public charge determination and will significantly alter immigrants’ ability to obtain LPR status or a “green card.” The rule mandates consideration of federal benefit programs, received by the applicant, the applicant’s children, and dependents.

METHODS

• Retrospective cross-sectional design
• Secondary data analysis of 2017-2018 ACS
• “Totality of the Circumstances” factors will be extracted to estimate immigrant disqualification and qualification for LPR status.

RESEARCH AIMS

A secondary analysis of the 2017-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) dataset will be conducted to:

1. estimate the number of immigrants who would not qualify for legal permanent resident (LPR) status under new public charge law
2. estimate the number of immigrants with U.S. born children who may dis-enroll from public benefit programs even though they qualify

POTENTIAL IMPACT

Total Population and Children by Citizenship and Parents’ Citizenship Status, 2016

Total U.S. Population: 320.4 Million
Total Children (Ages 0-18): 78.2 million

Totality of the Circumstances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Consideration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>18 &lt; age &lt; 61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td>Rent vs. Own home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Education Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Dx of Medical Condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Size</td>
<td>Number of Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Status</td>
<td>Gross Household Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>Use of Public Benefits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IMPLICATIONS

• This is the first step in examining how changes to public charge determination may impact the health and well-being of immigrant families and their U.S. born children.
• Publicly funded programs fill gaps in health coverage for lawfully present immigrants and provide families with access to primary and preventive care.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Immigrant parents with U.S. born children may dis-enroll from public programs even though they qualify due to fear that use of benefits will disqualify them from obtaining LPR status and/or serve as grounds for their deportation.

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