Creating Safety Among Latino Immigrants in San Mateo County:

What providers need to know about increased federal immigration enforcement

Community Health Promotion Unit
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services – Alcohol and Other Drug Services
San Mateo County Health System
July 5th, 2018 – SUD Treatment Provider Meeting
Health Equity = Everyone has a fair opportunity to live a long and healthy life.
Silently, think about:

- What is your documentation status?
- What is the documentation status of your parents, grandparents (now and in the past)?
- What is the documentation status of your friends and neighbors, coworkers? (now and in the past)
What contributes to substance use?
Alcohol

Society
- Low Minimum Wages, Poverty (2)
- Lack of Affordable Housing (14)
- Lack of Resources for Enforcement - Not Prioritized, Punishment/Jails Rather than Treat (4)
- No $ from State/Fed Government for Prevention

Community
- Poor Transportation, No Extracurricular Activities/Healthy Alternatives/Programs (11)
- Block Parties (1), Highly Visible, Expectations (2)
- Crime/Gangs (1), Sense of Hopelessness (1)
- Learning Difficulties/Special Needs (ADHD) (2)
- Laws/Legislation - Accessibility
- Systems of Oppression (20)

Interpersonal
- Emotional Neglect Across All SES (2)
- Single Parent, Parents Busy, Easy to Get in Family (3)
- Denial of Problem in Family/Friends
- Miseducation
- Family Abuse
- Fit in Expectations
- Pressure (3)
- Normal
- Brain Development, Want of Acceptance (5)
- Acceptance, Culture Shock, Fun, Numb Pain, Lack of Healthy Coping
- Discrimination, Trauma, Expectations, Lack Self-Worth/Identity, Helps Socialize, Hereditary, New Culture Transition, Disconnected, Mental Illness
- Misguided Perceptions of Acceptance
- Lack of Autonomy
- Rite of Passage - 21

Individual
- Brain Development, Want of Acceptance, Culture Shock, Fun, Numb Pain, Lack of Healthy Coping
- Discrimination, Trauma, Expectations, Lack Self-Worth/Identity, Helps Socialize, Hereditary, New Culture Transition, Disconnected, Mental Illness

Outcomes of Abuse

Spirituality +
Cultural Background
- Ethnicity
- Gender
Current Political Climate

- Enhanced Immigration Enforcement
- Changes to Legal Immigration such as Refugee and Asylum changes
- Termination of DACA, TPS
- Targeting of sanctuary jurisdictions
- Public Charge proposed changes
U.S. History

GREAT DEPRESSION - 1930’s
- County social workers supported and participated in the deportation of 2 million Mexican American people, including 1 million US citizens

GREAT RECESSION – 2009 +
- Deportation of 2.5 million

OPERATION “WETBACK” - 1954
- Deportation of 3.8 million Mexican Americans

Image source: Adam Jones, Ph.D./Wikimedia Commons
Contradiction to Public Health Principles

REASONS FOR MIGRATION

- War, Conflict
- Violence
  - Gang violence
  - Religious persecution
  - Gender-based violence
  - Anti-LGBTQ
- Economic hardship and opportunity
- Natural Disaster

PUBLIC HEALTH PRINCIPLES

- Equity
- Valuing every life
- Prevention harm
Public Health and Safety Implications
Fear of Deportation Makes Communities Less Healthy

Deportation policy creates a climate of fear and paralysis in communities.

- People are afraid to drive,
- People are afraid to use parks and exercise outdoors,
- People are afraid to use public services like clinics,
- People are afraid to get involved in their communities.

Children Are Especially Vulnerable¹

Deportations and threat of deportations lead to:

POORER CHILD HEALTH

POORER CHILD EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

POORER CHILD BEHAVIORAL OUTCOMES

POORER ADULT HEALTH AND SHORTER LIFESPAN
30% of undocumented parents said their US-citizen children are afraid either all or most of the time.\(^2\)

Three-quarters said that a child has shown symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.\(^2\)

Decrease in enrollments to nutrition and other public benefits programs in *San Mateo County*

Lower birth-weights in babies born to Latina mother’s exposed to ICE raids while pregnant compared to non-Latina mothers.\(^3\)
Community Safety Issues

- Lower likelihood to contact police among both undocumented (70%) and US-born Latinos (28%)\(^4\)
- Threat of deportation makes victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence less safe\(^4\)
- Despite media and political rhetoric, Immigration and Crime are not linked
**Toxic Stress and Trauma**

- **WEBINAR**: A Critical Look at Intergenerational Trauma and Substance Misuse: Implications for Prevention
  - Accumulation of overwhelming stress (toxic stress) and trauma
  - **Intergenerational trauma** = trauma and the adaptive characteristics to that trauma
  - **Developmental trauma** = accumulation of overwhelming stress during sensitive periods of human development
1 in 3 foreign-born\(^6\) (260,576)

44% are immigrants without full citizenship\(^6\) (114,634)

57,000 or 7.6% undocumented\(^7\)

58.7% of children have a foreign born parent

Image source: Alameda County Public Health Department
DUI – ICE Pipeline

- DUI – San Mateo County*
  - Latino – 35.4% (Latinos represent 24.8% of SMC population)
  - Other – 22.0%
- Most common charge or conviction associated with ICE arrest: DUI**
- Underserving Latinos in treatment provision
- Threshold languages – Spanish is the most common
- ICE removals**
  - Top 4 countries of origin are Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras


**Fiscal Year 2017 ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Report. Pages 4 and 15
Purpose and Methods of assessment project

- Determine primary concerns of immigrant families
- Assess the services that offer support
- Understand what resources are needed to address community needs
- 5 Focus groups
  - San Mateo (2), EPA, RWC, Pescadero
  - All focus groups were conducted in Spanish
- Service provider interviews
- Key informant interviews
## Participant Demographics

### Years Residing in U.S. (N=53)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>n</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1 y</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-5 Yrs.</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10 Yrs.</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-20 Yrs.</td>
<td>41.5%</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20+ Yrs.</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Immigration Status (N=53)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>n</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US Citizen</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Resident</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other legal status</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DACA</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undocumented</td>
<td>47.2%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know my status</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response/Prefer not to answer</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Themes - Concerns

- Family separation
- Mental Health - Stress, depression, anxiety, fear
- Changes in behaviors
  - social isolation, withdrawal from services, reluctance to interact with law enforcement or county officials
- Impacts on mixed families, children
  - Bullying
- Mistrust, distrust of law enforcement

- “My children are citizens. They belong to the U.S. My worst fear is that they [ICE] believe my children belong to them and will take my children away from me”

~Mother, San Mateo
Themes - Concerns

- Discrimination
  - Housing
  - Service provider staff
  - Law Enforcement
  - General public

- Financial Hardship
- Workplace issues

- “We are not animals”
  ~ Mother, Redwood City

- “I feel terrorized”
  ~ Farmworker and father, Pescadero

- “The president himself is encouraging people to discriminate against us.”
  ~ Volunteer, East Palo Alto
Weathering Effect:

- Erosion of health caused by constant stress that marginalized people experience because of repeated experiences of racism and discrimination over time.

NPR Article: Scientists Start To Tease Out The Subtler Ways Racism Hurts Health
Themes - What is helpful?

- Community outreach and linkage to services
  - Having someone to link them to services and work through their fears
- **Having the Right Information about** legal rights, how to be prepared and other timely updates
- When leaders openly reject discriminatory practices/rhetoric
- A Welcoming Environment
  - Signs, welcoming language, acceptance, respect
- When familiar organizations work together to help us
  - Example: school and law enforcement joining together to provide a forum; when faith-based and other organizations work together
Immigration Services

Community Legal Services
In East Palo Alto

100 Years
IIBA

Puente
Since / Desde 1998

Nuestra Casa
2396 University Ave.
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
www.nuestracasa.org

Faith in Action
Bay Area

Mission

Catholic Charities
USA

Bay Area Legal Aid
Working Together for Justice
Service Providers and Community Leaders

- Language barriers
- Fear of sharing information
- Lack of knowledge about rights
- Low wages
- Lack of affordable housing
- Harassment and threats

- Lack of services
  - legal defense services
  - dental services

- Difficulty navigating county services

- Reluctance to seek services, accept help, attend work or school

- Confusion about law enforcement role
Service Provider Suggestions

- Funding for Legal defense
- Increase income limit for ACE program
- Provide housing and financial assistance
- Address language barriers
- Address geographic gaps
- Expand/support
  - Promotora, Outreach programs
  - Accompaniment programs
Access to Legal Defense

- Roughly 2/3 of detained immigrants had no legal representation at any point in their removal proceedings.
- Detainees with legal counsel are much more likely to win their cases.
- Poor and harsh conditions. Many voluntarily deport.
Recommendations for Providers

- **Build Capacity of staff and community**
  - Learn about immigration issues; educate and train staff
  - Provide Know Your Rights and encourage Family Preparedness Plans
  - Promote healing

- **Education and Advocacy**
  - Change the harmful narrative about immigrants
  - Share stories

- **Examine our Policies, Practices**
  - Are immigrants (including undocumented) served equitably by our policies and practices?
  - Are their harmful practices?
  - Are immigrants SAFE when accessing our services?
Recommendations – cont.

- Make services more accessible
  - Outreach to immigrant communities
  - Language access
  - Increase income limits of health programs for undocumented

- Collect better Data
  - What is the minimum amount of information needed?
  - How does your organization protect data?
  - Are immigrants and other marginalized communities represented in surveys and assessments?
Recommendations – cont.

- Collaborate with Law Enforcement and other agencies
  - *Build trust, increase transparency*
  - *Encourage/advocate for clarity in policies and practices – this impacts health!*
Torn Apart
One family. Two countries.

Monday, February 26th, 2018 7-9pm
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City
2124 Brewster Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94062

RSVP: https://tornapartscreening.eventbrite.com

This 29-minute film, produced by the San Jose Mercury News in 2010, tells the human story about a San Mateo family, their struggle to stay together and how one organization, Fools Mission, is working to empower and support immigrant families.

Join us for this special screening and discussion -- with an update directly from a member of the family in the film!

Together, we will explore:
- The impact of today's fear climate on local families
- Community health consequences related to elevated fear, stress and anxiety
- How local groups and organizations can support immigrants

A special thank you to our co-sponsors

For full list of trainings, visit:
http://preventiontrainingacademy.eventbrite.com
Questions? Contact: Kathy Reyes
ekreyes@smcgov.org or 650-802-6687
Torn Apart

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faC1gzyzLUuU
References

1. Public Health Awakened: Guide for Public Health Actions for Immigrant Rights


   http://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/INSECURE_COMMUNITIES_REPORT_FINAL.PDF

5. County of San Mateo: County Satisfaction Survey August 9, 2016

6. U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates


“The butterfly [has been] a symbol of fluid and peaceful migration for generations...represents the dignity and resilience of migrants, and the right that all living beings have to move freely. I believe that we shouldn’t allow our identity to be defined only by our suffering, nor by the actions that others have taken to devalue our families and our labor — rather, let us celebrate our beauty, pride, and resilience in the face of inequality and injustice.”

Faviana Rodriguez
Artist and Activist, Oakland, CA
Thank You!

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