Children Living in Mixed-Status Families: By the Numbers*

Mixed-status demographics:

- Nearly half (47%) of all households headed by an undocumented immigrant and about one-third (35%) of households headed by a legal immigrant are comprised of couples with children, compared to one-fifth (21%) of households headed by a U.S.-born citizen.

- In 2008, about three-quarters (73%) of children with at least one undocumented parent were U.S. citizens by birth.

- That year, there were four million U.S.-born children in mixed-status families (unauthorized immigrant parents and citizen children). This is up from 2.7 million in 2003. “By contrast, the number of children who are unauthorized immigrants themselves (1.5 million in 2008) hardly changed in the five-year period and may have declined slightly since 2005.”

Insurance status:

- In 2008, one in four (25%) citizen children with at least one undocumented parent is uninsured. In households were at least one parent is a legal immigrant, about one in seven (14%) citizen children were uninsured.

- In comparison, among children with U.S.-born parents, about one in 12 (8%) were uninsured.

- Immigrant children living in immigrant families are even more vulnerable to uninsurance. Nearly half (45%) of immigrant children living in families with at least one undocumented parent are uninsured, and more than one-fifth (22%) of immigrant children living in families with at least one legal immigrant parent are uninsured.

![Figure 1: Uninsured Children by Nativity and Parents' Immigration Status, 2008](source_image)

* The source for the following statistics is: Jeffrey S. Passel and D’Vera Cohn, A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States (Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center, 2009).