

Children's Mercy Kansas City

**SHARE @ Children's Mercy**

---

Posters

---

9-2024

## "Ghosts in This Country": Pediatric Caregiver Perspectives on Immigration Status in the Healthcare Setting

Anik Patel

Ali Fowler

Juan Farias Torres

Ana Contreras

Claudia Zepeda

*See next page for additional authors*

Let us know how access to this publication benefits you

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlyexchange.childrensmercy.org/posters>



Part of the Pediatrics Commons

---

---

**Authors**

Anik Patel, Ali Fowler, Juan Farias Torres, Ana Contreras, Claudia Zepeda, Estefania Bazan, John Cowden, Frances Turcotte Benedict, Jennifer Watts, and Kimberly A Randell

## INTRODUCTION

Undocumented Immigration status (UIS) is a social determinant of health

UIS associated with:

- Negative health outcomes
- Limited access to health insurance
- Limited employment opportunities

The aim of the study is to understand undocumented immigrants' perspectives about UIS in relation to healthcare.

## METHODS

### Qualitative Research



20 1-to-1 Interviews

- Hispanic/Latino
- Spanish-speaking
- No SSN
- Caregivers at CMH
- 18 years or older



### Interview Domains

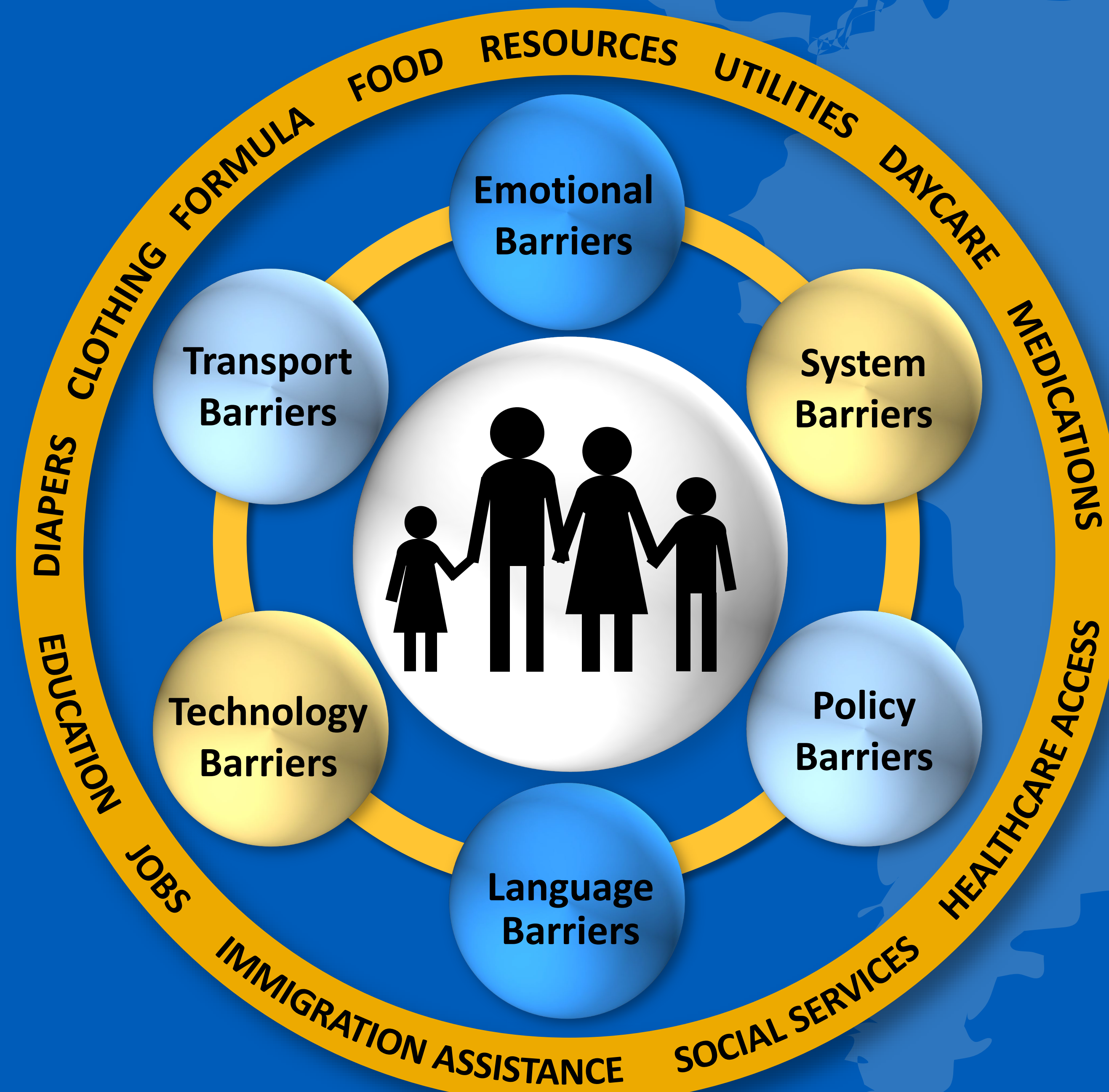
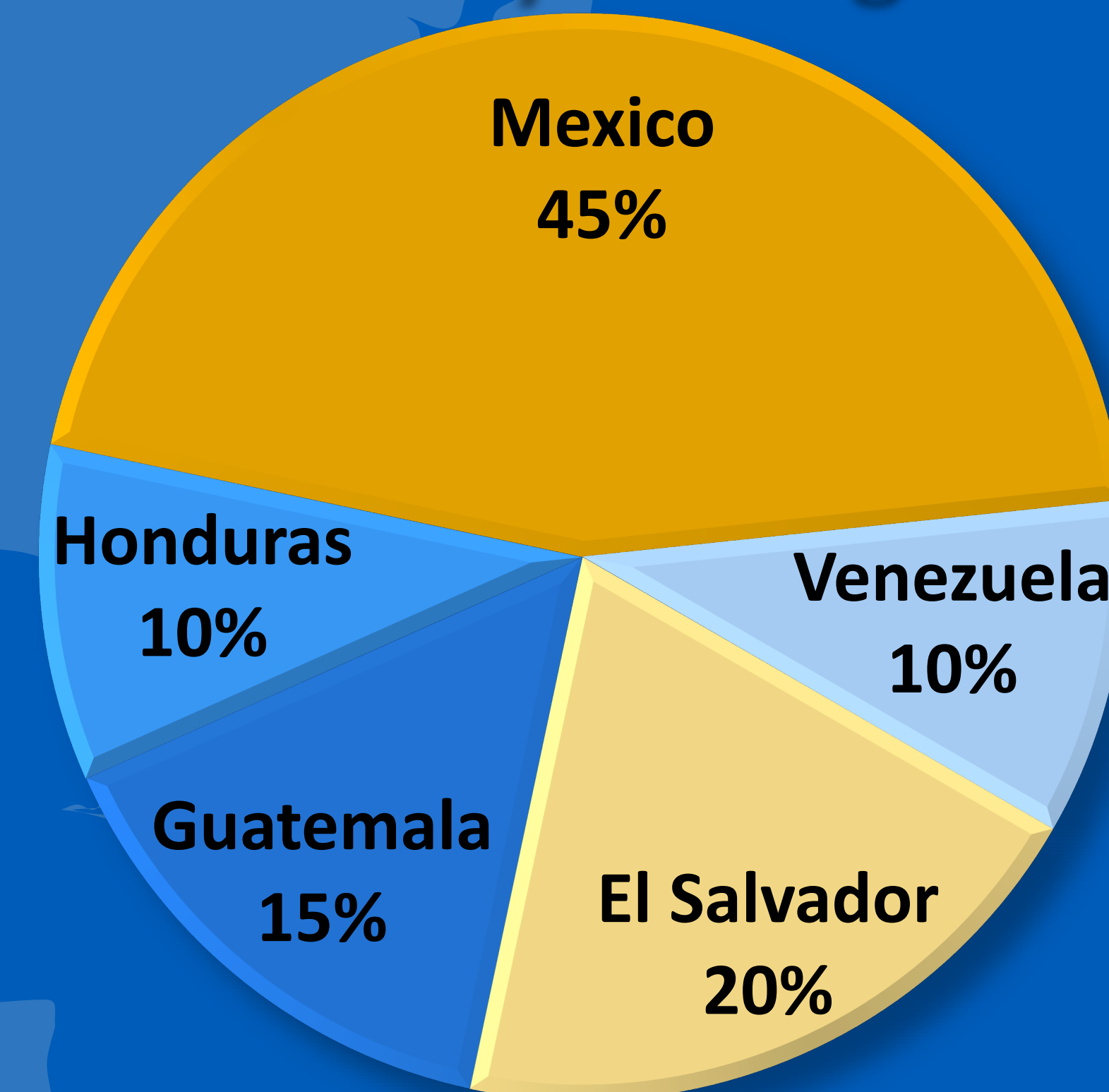
- UIS affects on health
- Qualities about healthcare setting & providers
- Resource needed and preferred methods

# "Ghosts in this Country" - Pediatric Caregiver Perspectives on Immigration Status in the Healthcare Setting

## DEMOGRAPHICS

- Average age: 34 years
- Gender: Male 20%, Female 80%
- Average time in US: 11.3 years
- Highest education: High school (45%), Trade school (10%), College (30%), No answer (15%)

## Country of Origin



*"They don't seek medical care because they're afraid."*

*"People don't go to receive medical care... they're afraid of them knowing their immigration status."*

*"We cannot get good health insurance... So, sometimes you self-medicate."*

*"Our fear - being undocumented - is that they can call immigration."*

*"It seems interesting [doctors] are wanting to talk about immigration. It makes me feel like they're... willing to help."*

*"They reveal it to Immigration... so, a family is destroyed."*

*"They don't know how to explain, they couldn't help them... even with speaking the same language."*

*"Not everybody can afford internet, or they don't know how to use it."*

*"They don't have cars. Not being able to get a license, they don't want to drive"*

*"There are people who need help for the children, but some need food, housing. The circumstances are different."*

*"They don't help immigrants with anything... in this country"*

*"The best option, for me, has been a good social worker; I get all I need, and she always resolves what I have to do."*

*"What's lacking is spreading the word, posting papers where it says, 'They help out here. Call.' That's the truth."*

*"You have more trust... talking in person."*

*"Take your time, don't make us feel like... we're not important just because we don't have papers."*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: This work was supported by the Simone Pediatric Emergency Medicine Research Fund. The survey and interview scheduling tools were designed, and data was collected, using REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture) hosted at Children's Mercy Hospital.

## RESULTS

### THEMES:

- 1 UIS negatively impacts multiple aspects of health, but many people do not connect UIS with health.
- 2 There are many perceived barriers to disclosure of UIS, but varied perspectives on whether providers should discuss IS in the healthcare setting.
- 3 There are many barriers to resource utilization for UIS.
- 4 UIS seek resources for a variety of needs from varied places but many do not know where to go for resources.
- 5 Medical teams can facilitate discussion about immigration with caregivers and connect UIS to resources, but one size does not fit all.

## CONCLUSION

Caregivers offered perspectives on the impact of UIS on health and identified barriers to and facilitators of discussing immigration status while in healthcare settings.

Universal provision of resource information may more effectively support families with caregivers who are undocumented immigrants.

Anik Patel, MD; Ali Fowler, MD; Juan Farias-Torres, MD; Ana Contreras; Claudia Zepeda; Estefania Bazan, MD; John Cowden, MD MPH; Frances Turcotte-Benedict, MD MPH; Jennifer Watts, MD MPH; Kimberly A Randell, MD, MSc