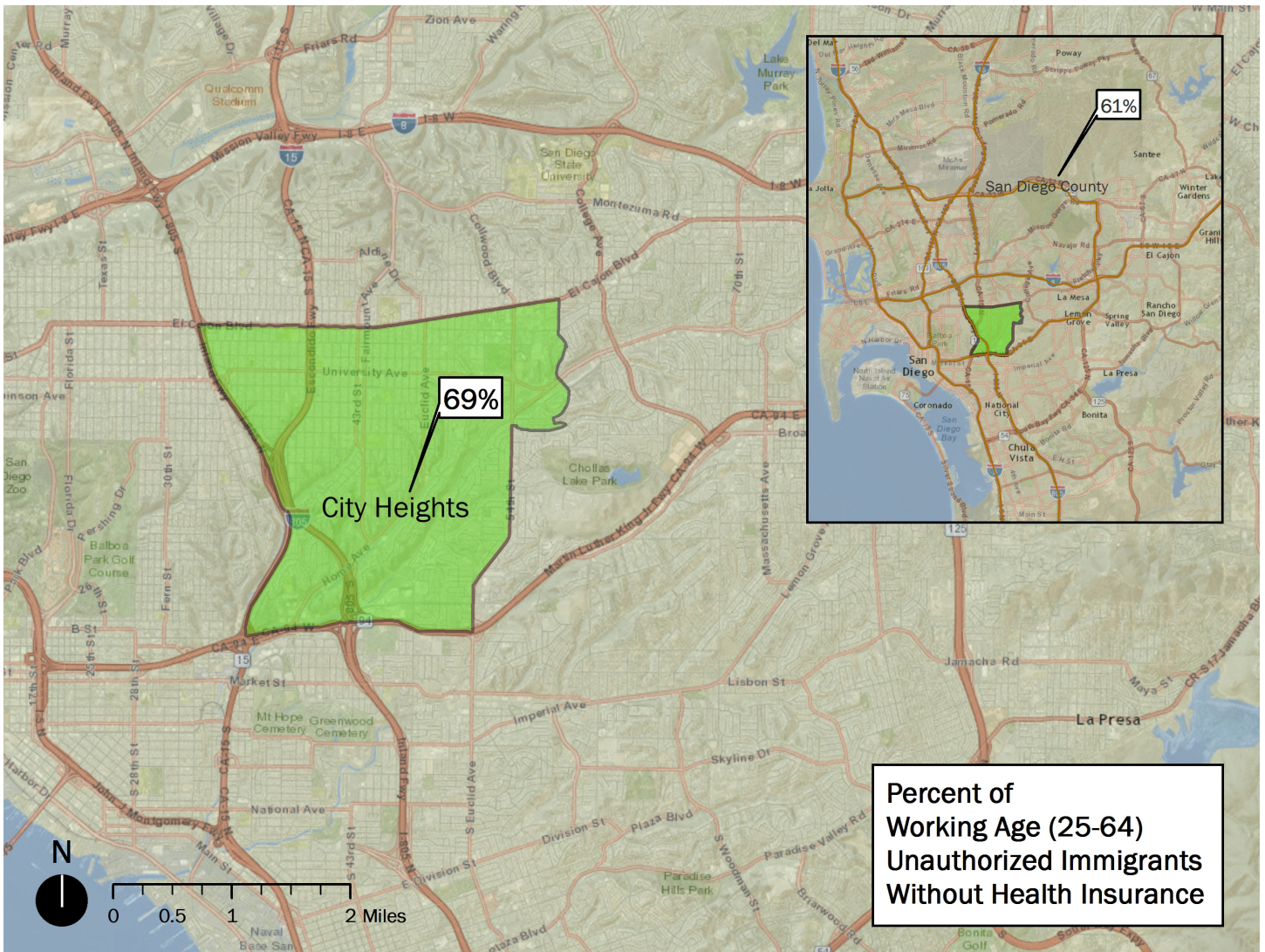


UNAUTHORIZED AND UNINSURED

CITY HEIGHTS AND SAN DIEGO COUNTY

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Acknowledgements

Thanks to The California Endowment for funding this research and to Nexi Delgado, Louisa Holmes, Rhonda Ortiz, Genesis Reyes, Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez, and Jared Sanchez for their assistance in generating this fact sheet. Results were generated using 2001 and 2012 Los Angeles County Mexican Immigrant Health & Legal Status Survey (LAC-MIHLSS II & III) and 2008-2012 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (ACS PUMS) data. We would like to thank the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) for their assistance with designing and implementing the 2001 and 2012 LAC-MIHLSS. The strategy to generate estimates of the unauthorized is explained in detail in Enrico A. Marcelli, Manuel Pastor, and Steven P. Wallace, *Who's In? Who's Out? Immigrant Access to Health Insurance in The California Endowment's 14 Building Healthy Communities and Surrounding Counties by Legal Status*. Los Angeles, CA: USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII), forthcoming 2015.

Why is this fact sheet important?

City Heights is one of 14 sites supported by The California Endowment under its Building Healthy Communities (BHC) initiative. While BHC is focused on the broad social determinants of health – including improved land use, access to healthy food, and youth development – one key challenge for many residents of the BHC communities is access to medical insurance. This is especially true for unauthorized immigrants who are explicitly excluded from the insurance exchanges and Medi-Cal insurance expansion of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). While insurance coverage is a key issue for unauthorized immigrants, there is also evidence that maintaining a large population of uninsured residents harms others in terms of both economic and community health – thus, it matters for all Californians.

How many unauthorized immigrants live here?

We estimate that unauthorized immigrants represent a larger part (10 percent) of City Heights' estimated 84,500 residents than they do among all residents of San Diego County (about six percent of approximately three million residents). Furthermore, an estimated one in four of all children (75 percent of whom are U.S. citizens) residing in City Heights have at least one unauthorized parent. At the same time, unauthorized immigrants are often deeply rooted in their communities – in City Heights, about half have resided just shy of a decade (nine years) in the USA.

How do the unauthorized fare economically and socially?

Although City Heights is one of the poorest neighborhoods in the county, the poverty rate for unauthorized immigrants is over 50 percent higher than that of the native born. Also, about one-half of the unauthorized five years of age or older do not speak English well, often limiting their social and economic status. For example, the unauthorized are often working and poor – those who work full-time but toil in low-wage industries and occupations with limited chances of economic mobility and limited access to employer-based health insurance.

How does this unauthorized population compare to the surrounding county?

The unauthorized are at a greater disadvantage in City Heights than in the larger county – but not in all cases. For example, while about three-in-four (78 percent) children with at least one unauthorized parent in City Heights live in poverty, three-in-five (58 percent) do throughout San Diego County. The composition of the unauthorized is different too: as one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the region, City Heights has a much higher share of unauthorized immigrants coming from, say, Vietnam.

What is the state of health insurance coverage among unauthorized immigrants in the community?

To profile the relative access to medical insurance of the unauthorized, we estimate the percentage of residents age 25-64 years old with any type of insurance (for example, employer-sponsored, Medi-Cal, military) by nativity and legal status. This age range is chosen for comparison because it is conventional – specifically, those under 25 years of age are more likely to be covered by their parents and those older than 64 qualify for Medicare. Consistent with previous studies, unauthorized immigrants have very low medical insurance coverage: only around 30 percent of this working age population is covered in City Heights – rates far below the native born (83 percent) and lower than the average rate for unauthorized adults in the county (39 percent). The most prevalent type of medical insurance coverage is employer sponsored, but still, only 13 percent of the unauthorized have coverage through employers, compared to over one-half of the native born and one-quarter of the unauthorized in the region.

TOTAL POPULATION	84,563		CHILD POPULATION (< 18 YEARS OLD)	21,316	
Nativity and Legal Status			Nativity and Legal Status		
U.S.-born (U.S. Citizen)	55,683	66%	U.S.-born	18,541	87%
Foreign-born ("Immigrant")	28,880	34%	Immigrant	2,775	13%
Naturalized Immigrant (U.S. Citizen)	11,809	14%	Unauthorized Immigrant	1,239	6%
Authorized Immigrant (Non-U.S. Citizen)	8,761	10%	Resides with at Least One Immigrant Parent⁴	13,568	66%
Unauthorized Immigrant (Non-U.S. Citizen)	8,310	10%	of those children, share U.S.-born	11,010	81%
Female (For Each Nativity Group)	42,521	50%	Resides with at Least One Unauthorized Immigrant Parent⁴	5,540	27%
U.S.-born	27,597	50%	of those children, share U.S.-born	4,132	75%
Immigrant	14,924	52%	Child Poverty (Family Income < 150% of Poverty Line)⁴	11,616	57%
Naturalized Immigrant	6,019	51%	Resides with ≥ 1 U.S.-born Parent	3,869	44%
Authorized Immigrant	4,449	51%	Resides with ≥ 1 Immigrant Parent	8,789	65%
Unauthorized Immigrant	4,456	54%	Resides with ≥ 1 Naturalized Parent	2,734	51%
Ethno-Racial Group			Resides with ≥ 1 Authorized Immigrant Parent	2,936	60%
White, Non-Latino	24,377	29%	Resides with ≥ 1 Unauthorized Immigrant Parent	4,314	78%
Latino (Any Race)	34,907	41%			
Asian, Non-Latino	11,780	14%	UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANT POPULATION	8,310	10%
Black, Non-Latino	11,133	13%	Top Five Countries of Origin	7,427	89%
Other, Non-Latino	2,366	3%	Mexico	5,974	72%
Speaks English Well (Among Those Age ≥ 5 Years Old)¹	66,842	85%	Vietnam	747	9%
Immigrant	17,816	62%	Myanmar	300	4%
Naturalized Immigrant	8,656	74%	Guatemala	209	3%
Authorized Immigrant	5,117	59%	Honduras	197	2%
Unauthorized Immigrant	4,043	50%	Female	4,456	54%
Homeownership	10,589	34%	Ethno-Racial Group		
U.S.-born	7,400	38%	Latino (Any Race)	6,483	78%
Immigrant	3,189	28%	Asian, Non-Latino	1,373	17%
Naturalized Immigrant	2,429	43%	Other (White, Black, Other Non-Latino)	454	5%
Authorized Immigrant	577	18%	Age and Time in Country (Medians)		
Unauthorized Immigrant	183	7%	Age	31 yrs.	
Poverty (Family Income < 150% of Poverty Line)²	35,856	43%	Age First Arrived in Country	21 yrs.	
U.S.-born	21,709	39%	Years Residing in the USA	9 yrs.	
Immigrant	14,147	49%	Labor Force Participation (Age 18-64 Years Old)	4,280	63%
Naturalized Immigrant	4,196	36%	Male Participation	2,577	83%
Authorized Immigrant	4,814	55%	of which, share employed	2,494	97%
Unauthorized Immigrant	5,137	62%	of employed, share full-time	2,031	81%
			Female Participation	1,703	46%
			of which, share employed	1,457	86%
			of employed, share full-time	780	54%
INSURANCE/COVERAGE FOR WORKING AGE POPULATION (25-64)			Top 5 Industries	3,049	77%
Has Medical Insurance Coverage (Among 25-64 Year Olds)	30,678	70%	Food & Recreational Services	1,072	27%
U.S.-born	19,685	83%	Construction	805	20%
Immigrant	10,993	55%	Business Services	533	13%
Naturalized Immigrant	6,261	75%	Manufacturing	332	8%
Authorized Immigrant	2,919	49%	"Other" Services	307	8%
Unauthorized Immigrant	1,813	31%	Top 5 Occupations	3,770	95%
Has Employer-Sponsored Medical Insurance Coverage	18,446	42%	Food, Health, Protective & Other Service	2,078	53%
U.S.-born	12,267	52%	Construction	783	20%
Immigrant	6,179	31%	Precision, Craft & Repair	380	10%
Naturalized Immigrant	4,109	49%	Transportation & Material Moving	275	7%
Authorized Immigrant	1,306	22%	Sales	254	6%
Unauthorized Immigrant	764	13%	Annual Earnings among Full-Time Workers (Median)	\$19,200	
Has Low-Income Government Insurance or Assistance (e.g., Medi-Cal)³	5,322	12%	Male	\$20,400	
U.S.-born	2,357	10%	Female	\$15,000	
Immigrant	2,965	15%	Annual Earnings among Part-Time Workers (Median)	\$14,000	
Naturalized Immigrant	1,113	13%	Male	\$14,000	
Authorized Immigrant	1,092	18%	Female	\$12,800	
Unauthorized Immigrant	760	13%			

Notes

- 1 Virtually all U.S.-born respondents in the ACS either report speaking English very well or speak no other language but English at home.
- 2 These are computed at the individual level using the ACS variable indicating the ratio of family income to the poverty line by family type.
- 3 Employer and low-income insurance coverage do not add up to total coverage which also includes private purchased insurance, veteran coverage, etc.
- 4 The denominator for these computations is the number of children residing with at least one parent.

TOTAL POPULATION	3,048,746		CHILD POPULATION (< 18 YEARS OLD)	722,910	
Nativity and Legal Status			Nativity and Legal Status		
U.S.-born (U.S. Citizen)	2,253,304	74%	U.S.-born	666,429	92%
Foreign-born ("Immigrant")	795,442	26%	Immigrant	56,481	8%
Naturalized Immigrant (U.S. Citizen)	394,389	13%	Unauthorized Immigrant	22,159	3%
Authorized Immigrant (Non-U.S. Citizen)	219,532	7%	Resides with at Least One Immigrant Parent⁴	346,737	50%
Unauthorized Immigrant (Non-U.S. Citizen)	181,521	6%	of those children, share U.S.-born	297,583	86%
Female (For Each Nativity Group)	1,539,571	50%	Resides with at Least One Unauthorized Immigrant Parent⁴	114,955	16%
U.S.-born	1,112,903	49%	of those children, share U.S.-born	89,873	78%
Immigrant	426,668	54%	Child Poverty (Family Income < 150% of Poverty Line)⁴	205,985	30%
Naturalized Immigrant	214,602	54%	Resides with ≥ 1 U.S.-born Parent	90,843	21%
Authorized Immigrant	118,131	54%	Resides with ≥ 1 Immigrant Parent	130,651	38%
Unauthorized Immigrant	93,935	52%	Resides with ≥ 1 Naturalized Parent	38,681	22%
Ethno-Racial Group			Resides with ≥ 1 Authorized Immigrant Parent	45,287	42%
White, Non-Latino	1,452,950	48%	Resides with ≥ 1 Unauthorized Immigrant Parent	66,374	58%
Latino (Any Race)	995,999	33%			
Asian, Non-Latino	343,561	11%	UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANT POPULATION	181,521	6%
Black, Non-Latino	138,055	5%	Top Five Countries of Origin	158,789	87%
Other, Non-Latino	118,181	4%	Mexico	139,907	77%
Speaks English Well (Among Those Age ≥ 5 Years Old)¹	2,598,897	91%	Philippines	9,444	5%
Immigrant	564,653	72%	Vietnam	3,737	2%
Naturalized Immigrant	335,756	86%	Iraq	3,117	2%
Authorized Immigrant	141,310	65%	China	2,584	1%
Unauthorized Immigrant	87,587	49%	Female	93,935	52%
Homeownership	586,863	54%	Ethno-Racial Group		
U.S.-born	441,135	57%	Latino (Any Race)	146,601	81%
Immigrant	145,728	47%	Asian, Non-Latino	23,288	13%
Naturalized Immigrant	109,640	61%	Other (White, Black, Other Non-Latino)	11,632	6%
Authorized Immigrant	27,718	35%	Age and Time in Country (Medians)		
Unauthorized Immigrant	8,370	16%	Age	32 yrs.	
Poverty (Family Income < 150% of Poverty Line)²	690,661	23%	Age First Arrived in Country	21 yrs.	
U.S.-born	459,753	20%	Years Residing in the USA	9 yrs.	
Immigrant	230,908	29%	Labor Force Participation (Age 18-64 Years Old)	105,925	69%
Naturalized Immigrant	67,771	17%	Male Participation	66,617	89%
Authorized Immigrant	73,901	34%	of which, share employed	60,906	91%
Unauthorized Immigrant	89,236	49%	of employed, share full-time	51,237	84%
			Female Participation	39,308	50%
			of which, share employed	34,131	87%
			of employed, share full-time	21,621	63%
INSURANCE/COVERAGE FOR WORKING AGE POPULATION (25-64)			Top 5 Industries	64,419	68%
Has Medical Insurance Coverage (Among 25-64 Year Olds)	1,305,196	79%	Food & Recreational Services	20,660	22%
U.S.-born	925,333	86%	Business Services	14,433	15%
Immigrant	379,863	67%	Construction	11,585	12%
Naturalized Immigrant	229,996	83%	Manufacturing	9,048	10%
Authorized Immigrant	97,939	62%	Retail Trade	8,693	9%
Unauthorized Immigrant	51,928	39%	Top 5 Occupations	72,712	77%
Has Employer-Sponsored Medical Insurance Coverage	875,893	53%	Food, Health, Protective & Other Service	37,860	40%
U.S.-born	629,318	58%	Construction	11,436	12%
Immigrant	246,575	43%	Precision, Craft & Repair	9,921	10%
Naturalized Immigrant	149,635	54%	Sales	7,726	8%
Authorized Immigrant	64,426	41%	Administrative Support & Clerical	5,769	6%
Unauthorized Immigrant	32,514	24%	Annual Earnings among Full-Time Workers (Median)	\$23,000	
Has Low-Income Government Insurance or Assistance (e.g., Medi-Cal)³	80,507	5%	Male	\$24,000	
U.S.-born	42,483	4%	Female	\$20,000	
Immigrant	38,024	7%	Annual Earnings among Part-Time Workers (Median)	\$10,000	
Naturalized Immigrant	15,053	5%	Male	\$12,000	
Authorized Immigrant	12,755	8%	Female	\$8,000	
Unauthorized Immigrant	10,216	8%			

Notes

¹ Virtually all U.S.-born respondents in the ACS either report speaking English very well or speak no other language but English at home.

² These are computed at the individual level using the ACS variable indicating the ratio of family income to the poverty line by family type.

³ Employer and low-income insurance coverage do not add up to total coverage which also includes private purchased insurance, veteran coverage, etc.

⁴ The denominator for these computations is the number of children residing with at least one parent.