

Food Insecurity Among Undocumented Immigrants in California

More than half a million children and adults without legal permanent resident status (described throughout as "undocumented") live in households with limited or uncertain access to enough food, according to a policy brief based on California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) data.

More than

2 in 5 (45%)



undocumented immigrants are affected by food insecurity

Nearly

2 in 3 (64%)



undocumented children are affected by food insecurity

Percent of undocumented immigrants with low income who are affected by food insecurity

By age



0-17 years old  **64%**

18-26 years old  **36%**

27-49 years old  **46%**

50+ years old  **42%**

All ages  **45%**

Immigrants who avoided public programs in 2019 for fear that participation would negatively impact immigration status*



1 in 4 (25%)

low-income immigrant adults in California

Percent of immigrant adults with low income who were affected by food insecurity in 2019

54%
Of those who avoided public programs

vs. 36%
Of those who did not avoid public programs

*Data cited from separate study: <https://ucla.in/3breLXz>

Read the study: [Food Insecurity Among Undocumented Immigrants in California & Exclusion from Nutrition Assistance Programs](#)

Source: 2017-2020 pooled California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) data

The CHIS category "non-citizens without legal permanent resident status" includes all undocumented immigrants but is not exclusive to undocumented immigrants. For instance, this category includes individuals such as refugees and asylees.