Undocumented Children and Healthcare Access

The Michigan Immigrant Rights Center partnered with the National Voices Project to conduct a national survey to measure the perception adults have regarding access to healthcare for undocumented immigrant children.

This report includes findings from the fifth National Voices Project survey, conducted in March-April 2014. Approximately 2,400 adults from 48 states and D.C. that work or volunteer in ways that affect education, healthcare, economic opportunities, or community and civic engagement for children were surveyed. Respondents were asked to rate their agreement with the following statement:

Undocumented children in the U.S. should have access to healthcare just like U.S.-born children.

"Partnering with the National Voices Project gave us the opportunity to see how well people who work with children on a daily basis understand what immigrant children in the U.S. face. While we saw strong support for the health and welfare of all kids, there is still significant work to be done when it comes to ensuring that immigrant children specifically have equal access to the care they need."

-Susan Reed, Supervising Attorney at the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center
Perceptions about Healthcare Access—Within Specific Subgroups

Respondents who perceived many or some racial/ethnic inequities in their communities were more likely (52%) to agree/strongly agree that undocumented immigrant children should have equal access to healthcare compared with those who perceived few/no (39%) inequities in their communities.

Opinions about healthcare access for immigrant children varied among respondents from different racial/ethnic backgrounds:

- 61% of Hispanic respondents agree/strongly agree that undocumented immigrant children in the U.S. should have equal access to healthcare.
- 54% of multi-race/other respondents agree/strongly agree that undocumented immigrant children in the U.S. should have equal access to healthcare.
- 46% of African American respondents agree/strongly agree that undocumented immigrant children in the U.S. should have equal access to healthcare.
- 37% of white respondents agree/strongly agree that undocumented immigrant children in the U.S. should have equal access to healthcare.

Data Source: Data are based on responses from National Voices Project Partners Survey, fielded March-April 2014. The National Voices Project is conducted in partnership with GfK, an international survey research organization that maintains KnowledgePanel®, a nationally representative web-enabled panel of adult members of households across the United States. Survey respondents included 2,400 adults from 48 states and D.C. that work and/or volunteer with children in ways that affect education, healthcare or economic opportunities, or community and civic engagement.