



**Happy Holidays from the Migration and Child Welfare National Network (MCWNN)!  
Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season and a successful 2013!  
Thank you for all you do on behalf of children and families!**

## **News & Opinions**

[Falling Through the Cracks: The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on Children Caught Up in the Child Welfare System](#) (American Immigration Council/First Focus, Dec 2012). Policy brief summarizing key issues and recommendations for children and families in the foster care system as a result of immigration enforcement.

[Rep Gutierrez: Stop Deporting Parents as Reform Debate Unfolds](#) (Colorlines, Dec 18, 2012). In response to new ICE data released this week, Rep Gutierrez calls on Congress and the President for immigration reform. "Our children and families simply cannot wait any longer for relief," said Wendy Cervantes, vice president for Immigration and Child Rights at the D.C.-based group First Focus. "These alarming numbers highlight the urgent need for Congress to work together to pass immigration reform that provides a pathway to citizenship and that keeps families together," she added. Like Amador and Rep. Gutierrez, Cervantes says the president should act. "The Administration will also need to consider what immediate action can be taken in lieu of immigration reform to prevent the continued separation of families at record-setting numbers."

[US deports more than 200k parents of US citizen children](#) (Colorlines, Dec 17, 2012). New data obtained through the Freedom of Information Act shows that between July 1, 2010 and Sept 31, 2012, nearly 23% of all deportations, or 204,810 deportations, were issued for parents with citizen children.

[LIRS Troubled by Deportation of Over 204,000 Parents of US Citizen Children](#) (LIRS Press Release, Dec 18, 2012).

[Waco judge grants U-visa to girl after DA denied paperwork](#) (Waco Tribune, Dec 14, 2012). A Waco judge has stepped in to help a young sex abuse victim who is seeking permission to stay in the United States. McLennan County District Attorney Abel Reyna refused to sign paperwork the 13-year-old girl and her mother need to apply for U-Visas, saying the visas should not be doled out as "rewards" to illegal immigrants who help with the investigation or prosecution of a crime. The request sat in Reyna's office for nearly a year before he denied it late last month.

[Waco judge helps sexual abuse victim get visa](#) (Associated Press, Dec 14, 2012).

[Russian parliament says no to US adoptions](#) (Yahoo News, Dec 19, 2012). If approved by the State Duma on Friday, and upper house of Parliament this week, the bill would need to be signed by President Vladimir Putin before entering into force, possibly by as early as the start of next year.

[How the Internet is Revolutionizing the Adoption Process](#) (National Public Radio, Dec 19, 2012). Many pregnant women and potential adoptive parents are bypassing traditional adoption agencies and connecting online. This

trend raises a number of ethical concerns about the regulation of the online process and interactions between birth mothers and hopeful adopters.

[Grants to aid UC Berkeley's undocumented students](#) (Los Angeles Times, Dec 12, 2012). The \$1 million donation from the Haas Fund will provide \$4,000 to \$6,000 a year to about 100 students.

[Salt Lake City to roll out immigrant 'welcome' – Council Resolution aims to aid growing community](#) (The Salt Lake Tribune, Dec 11, 2012). The resolution is part of a national movement with Salt Lake City joining 10 communities and 20 states that have adopted such a measure.

[A Family, for a Few days a Year](#) (New York Times, Dec 9, 2012). Hundreds of children have been stranded in orphanages in Guatemala for years as authorities there weigh whether to approve their adoptions by families in the United States.

[Graduation data shows states struggle with English Learners](#) (Governing, Dec 6, 2012). New data from the U.S. Department of Education released last week of standardized, state-by-state four year graduation rate data show half of states graduated at least 80% of their students, the numbers demonstrate struggles to graduate English language learners.

[Don't gut Violence Against Women Act](#) (by Leslye Orloff for CNN, Dec 6, 2012). Leslye Orloff is a professor and director of the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project at American University. She helped draft protections for immigrants in the Violence Against Women Act.

[Illegal immigration drops after decade-long rise](#) (Associated Press, Dec 6, 2012).

[Battling for his daughters, Luis Rodriguez exemplified the struggle many deported parents go through to reunite their families](#) (Los Angeles Times, Dec 2, 2012).

[Secure Communities is optional, Harris says](#) (Los Angeles Times, Dec 5, 2012). California Attorney General Kamala Harris told local law enforcement agencies that they were not obligated to comply with a federal program whose stated goal is to deport illegal immigrants convicted of serious crime.

[Trying to close orphanages where many aren't orphans at all](#) (New York Times, Dec 4, 2012). Of the roughly 30,000 children in Haitian institutions and the hundreds adopted by foreigners each year, the Haitian government estimates that 80 percent have at least one living parent. The decision by Haitian parents to turn their children over to orphanages is motivated by dire poverty.

[Immigration Court Representation a 'Moral Imperative'](#) (New York Times, Nov 28, 2012). Legal representation in deportation proceedings is a moral imperative. While the federal government has abdicated its responsibility to provide this critical component of a fair and just process for immigrants in deportation proceedings, the individual, familial, and community devastation caused by the current enforcement regime is felt most acutely in places like New York, where immigrants play a vital and central role. [New York Immigrant Representation Study Report: Part II, Accessing Justice II: A Model for Providing Counsel to New York Immigrants in Removal Proceedings, Dec. 2012.](#)

[New California prison program helps foreign-born inmates get diploma](#) (KSWT, Nov 13, 2012). A new program will allow foreign-born national inmates to obtain a high school education while still in prison. It took a visit from The Mexican Consulate to Calipatria State Prison earlier this year to get the idea out there.

[Trafficker Sentenced to Life Without Parole](#) (Chicago Reporter, Nov 27, 2012). The undocumented women from Eastern Europe were brought to the Chicago area where they were later beaten, branded, and forced into

prostitution. The man responsible for the scheme was sentenced to life without parole in a federal prison. The women qualify for temporary immigration status for victims of human trafficking. Since 2002, the federal government has 3,183 human trafficking visas.

[North Carolina Deportation Case Highlights Child Welfare Maze](#) (by Michael Biesecker and Gosia Wozniacka, Huffington Post, March 2012).

[Election Voters Strongly Back Federal Leadership for Kids](#) (Press Release, First Focus, Nov 16, 2012). A First Focus Campaign for Children election eve/day [poll](#) found a strong bipartisan majority of voters support federal leadership on a wide range of children's issues. Creating a [children's budget](#) and enacting the DREAM Act earned the support of more than two-thirds of voters and maintaining progress on children's health and reducing child poverty earned the support of more than 80% of 2012 voters. [Read more](#) about the ACHIEVE and DREAM acts in a new comparison.

### **Information on DACA/DREAM Act**

[Website tracking DACA Approvals on Month-to-Month Comparison](#) (DACAmended, a website created by LexSpot/Harvard Innovation Lab). The website also provides comparison of approvals by regions.

[ACA: Obtaining a Social Security Number, Transferring Your Credit History, and Rescinding your ITIN](#) (Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Dec 8, 2012).

[DACA grantees and eligibility for in-state tuition rates, Cal grants, etc. at CA colleges and universities](#) (National Immigration Law Center website).

[Young Leaders Cast a Wider Net for Immigration Reform](#) (New York Times, Dec 2, 2012). Leaders of a national movement of young immigrants voted to mobilize in support of a bill to legalize 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States.

[DREAM Act gives young immigrants a political voice](#) (New York Times, Dec 1, 2012).

[Immigrant-Rights Group Sue Over Arizona Gov. Brewer's Driver's License Order](#) (Arizona Republic, Nov 30, 2012). Gov. Jan Brewer vowed to defend her executive order denying driver's licenses to young undocumented immigrants who receive federal permits through DACA.

[Illinois State Senate committee approves driver's licenses for undocumented individuals](#) (Chicago, Nov 29, 2012). The Illinois State Senate Executive Committee voted 12-2 on Thursday to advance a plan offering driver's licenses to the estimated 250,000 Illinois residents without documents. Supporters of the plan argue that licensing motorists regardless of immigration status will make Illinois roads safer by ensuring that drivers are trained and carrying insurance.

[ICE vs. USCIS: DACA Applicants Ordered Deported](#) (Houston, Nov 26, 2012). Rodrigo Murcia, 25, trudged out of Houston immigration court on an October afternoon, stunned by the immigration judge's decision ordering him to leave the country to return to El Salvador, a country he hasn't seen since he was 7 years old. His attorney had told him he was a slam-dunk for DACA.

### **Resources for Direct Service Providers**

[Special Immigrant Juvenile Status](#) (Minnesota Department of Human Services, 2012).

[NEW POSITION - ICE Public Advocate](#) (Immigration and Customs Enforcement website). The public advocate works directly for ICE's Executive Assistant Director of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO). This individual builds constructive relationships with the community and helps resolve problems or concerns. You may contact the Public Advocate Office by calling the **ICE Community Helpline at 1-888-351-4024** during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.

[Rights and Protection for Foreign-Citizen Finance and Spouses of US Citizens and Spouses of Lawful Permanent Residents](#) (Dept of State Pamphlet). Explains rights of protection from domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

[Guidance for determining if an adoption is valid for immigration and nationality act \(INA\) purposes](#) (USCIS Policy Memo, Nov 6, 2012).

[Children's health and Mental Health Brochures](#) (Center of Knowledge on Healthy Child Development). Multilingual brochures on a variety of topics including anxiety, autism, behavior problems, eating disorders, substance abuse and more.

[Assessing the Needs and Guiding the Future: Findings from the Health Needs Assessment in 13 Asian American Communities of Maryland](#) (from Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health, April 2011). Support for awareness education on the importance of preventive care and mental health.

## **Policy & Legislation**

[The Adoption Tax Credit: A Guide for State Advocates](#) (by Mary Boo, Assistant Director for the North American Council on Adoptable Children for SPARC/First Focus, Dec 2012). This brief provides an overview of the federal adoption tax credit and serves as a guide for advocates seeking to assist adoptive parents in accessing this credit.

## **Research & Evaluations**

[Legal Violence in the Lives of Immigrants: How Immigration Enforcement Affects Families, Schools and Workplaces](#) (Center for American Progress, 2012).

Asian, Latino children less likely to receive mental health treatment (California Health Interview Survey). According to the article, "[Race/Ethnicity, Parent-Identified Emotional Difficulties, and Mental Health Visits Among California Children](#)," co-authored by Ronald M. Anderson and published in The Journal of Behavioral Health Services and Research, data from 2005, 2007, and 2009 CHIS data found racial and ethnic groups were less likely to receive services. About 17% of Asian children and 22% of Latino children identified by parents as having serious emotional problems received mental health services, compared to 46% of whites and 42% of African Americans.

[Symposium on Immigrants and the Family Court](#) and [Special Issue of the Family Court Review](#) (Hofstra Law School, Dec 13, 2012). This special issue and [symposium](#) featured a number of immigration and child welfare clinicians whose scholarly work has brought much attention to the unique challenges presented by working with families and children who are immigrants. Edited by Theo Liebmann and Lauris Wren, articles submitted by presenters include Seth Wessler, Jorge M. Chavez, Sarah Rogerson, Alison Kamhi, Randi Mandelbaum, David Thronson, Veronica Thronson, Director, Bernard Perlmutter, Jennifer Baum, Lauren Burke, and Dan Smulian.

Fewer child abuse and neglect incidents for fifth straight year (HHS – ACF, December 2012). The number of reported child abuse and neglect incidents has dropped nationwide for the fifth consecutive year. The "[Child Maltreatment 2011](#)" report estimates 681,000 cases in 2011. The report also describes the following characteristics of families experiencing maltreatment :

- ... 56% of the abusers were women
- ... 48% were Caucasian, 20% were African American, and 19% were Hispanic.
- ... 80% of the abusers were the victim's parent
- ... Of the children reported as maltreatment victims, 11% were physically or mentally disabled
- ... Some of the victims were exposed to domestic violence (25%), drug abuse (18%) or alcohol abuse (9%)

[Discharge, Deportation and Dangerous Journeys: A Study on the Practice of Medical Repatriation](#) (Seton Hall University of School of Law's Center for Social Justice and the Heath Justice Center, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Dec 2012). Using a human rights framework, this paper critiques the widespread but barely publicized practice of forced or coerced medical repatriations of immigrant patients.

[Children \(under 18\) in Immigrant Families – Number and share of children of immigrants, 1990 to 2011](#) (Migration Policy Institute, 2012). Graph showing number of children with immigrant parents has more than doubled, from 8.2 million in 1990 to 17.1 million in 2011. The growth in large part, is the result of significant flow of Latin American and Asian immigrations and the relatively high birth rates of those immigrants.

[Children in immigrant and native families by state, 1990 to 2011](#) (Migration Policy Institute, 2012). Excel sheet showing California with the highest number of immigrant origin children, followed by Texas and New York.

[The Flow of Unaccompanied Children through the Immigration System: A Resource for Practitioners, Policy Makers, and Researchers](#) (Vera Institute, March 2012). This report describes the experiences of unaccompanied children—children who are younger than 18, have no lawful immigration status, and have no parent or legal guardian in the United States. The report provides background on the Federal Government's custodial authority over these children, reviews recent legislation affecting this population, and describes their involvement in immigration proceedings.

[Unauthorized Immigrants in California: Estimates for Counties](#) (Public Policy Institute of California, July 2011, 32 pages). California has more unauthorized immigrants than any other state, about 2.6 million of the nation's 11 million; they make up 7% of the total California population and 9% of the state's labor force. This report is the first to use a new source of administrative data (IRS Tax data) at the local level to provide estimates of undocumented immigrants at the county level.

[The 287\(g\) Program: A Flawed and Obsolete Method of Immigration Enforcement](#) (Immigration Policy Center, Nov 29, 2012). Under Section 287(g) of the INA, DHS may deputize selected state and local enforcement officers to perform the functions of federal immigration agents. This fact sheet provides an overview of how the 287(g) program works, as well as arguments raised by its critics.

[Immigration and Child Welfare Website Update](#) (National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections, Oct/Nov 2012).

[A Three-Pronged Approach to Addressing Racial Disproportionality and Disparities in Child Welfare: The Santa Clara County Example of Leadership, Collaboration, and Data-Driven Decision](#) (by Crystal Soderman Duarte and Alicia Summers, Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Vol 25, Nov 6, Sept 28, 2012). In addition to African American population, the article discussed Latino disproportionality and disparate treatment issues in Santa Clara County.

## **Trafficking**

[Fact sheet on sex trafficking and information about legal protections for victims](#) (The Advocates for Human Rights).

[Seeking Asylum for Child Soldiers and Victims of Human Trafficking](#) (Pepperdine Law Review).

[Trafficking in Persons: International Dimensions & Foreign Policy Issues for Congress](#) (Congressional Research Service, July 2012).

[International Human Trafficking and Forced Labor Congressional Hearing](#) (The U.S. House of Representatives Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, Nov 2012).

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