

State Immigration Database

Technical Appendix

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The State Immigration Database provides a comprehensive Excel file detailing state policies in 2017–20 related to immigrants on public benefits, immigration enforcement, and integration. These data extend [similar data](#) covering 2000-2016 developed by the Urban Institute. Below, we list the contents of each file and the sources we used to gather this information. In addition to drawing on the data sources below, we consulted experts from the National Immigration Law Center and numerous universities. We code all policies to the year in which a bill was signed into law or in which an administrative decision was issued, not the date of implementation. The policy must be in effect for at least 6 months of the year to be counted for that year.

Public Benefits Policies

Our public benefits policy file contains information on whether, in each year from 2017 to 2020, each state provides the following:

1. Cash assistance for lawful permanent residents (LPR's) during five-year bar. (*Data only available through 2019).¹
2. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) for LPR's after five-year bar. (*Data only available through 2019).
3. Food assistance for LPR adults during five-year-bar.
4. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) replacement for LPR's.
5. Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to LPR children during the five-year bar.
6. Public health insurance to some unauthorized immigrant children.
7. Public health insurance to LPR adults during five-year bar.
8. Public health insurance to some unauthorized immigrant adults.
9. Medicaid to pregnant LPR women during the five-year bar.
10. Medicaid to unauthorized immigrant pregnant women.
11. Medicaid for LPR's after five-year bar.

In all cases, states require noncitizens to meet the rest of the eligibility requirements that US citizens are required to meet, including income cut-offs, work or training requirements, and asset tests.

The data sheets include brief explanations of each of these policies and detailed information on sources. Much of this information came from the National Immigration Law Center, which collected information as it came to them and did not always conduct a "50 state check" when they updated their tables. Sometimes their revisions represent a correction rather than a new program or the elimination of a program.

The following are the sources that we relied upon to categorize these policies:

- Bitler, Marianne, and Hilary W. Hoynes. 2011, "Immigrants, Welfare Reform, and the U.S. Safety Net." NBER working paper No. 17667. Washington, DC: National Bureau of Economic Research.
- Urban Institute. "Table I.B.6 States Using State Funds to Help Noncitizens Who Entered after Enactment and Are Ineligible for Federal TANF Assistance." In Welfare Rules Database. Washington, DC: Urban Institute. <http://wrd.urban.org/wrd/tables.cfm>.
- Urban Institute "Table I.B.7 State Practices Regarding Eligibility of Non-Exempt, Post-PRWORA, Qualified Aliens after Five Years." In Welfare Rules Database. Washington, DC: Urban Institute. <http://wrd.urban.org/wrd/tables.cfm>.
- National Immigration Law Center. 2002, 2004–05, 2011, 2014, 2016. "State-Funded Food Assistance Programs." Internet Archive: Wayback Machine. <https://archive.org/web/>.
- Fortuny, Karina, and Ajay Chaudrey. 2011. "Overview of Immigrants' Eligibility for SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and CHIP." Washington, DC: Urban Institute.
- The National Immigration Law Center, "Immigrants' Rights Gain Ground in the States" 2018-2019. Retrieved October 2020 from <https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Immigrants-Rights-Gain-Ground-in-the-States-2019-12-11.pdf>.
- The National Immigration Law Center, State and Local Immigrant Rights Developments, December 2019–August 2020. Retrieved October 2020, via <https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/State-and-Local-Immigrant-Rights-Developments-2020-09.pdf>.
- Illinois General Assembly, Bill Status of SB3007. Retrieved Oct 2020 via <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=3007&GAID=13&DocTypeID=S&LegId=96339&SessionID=88&GA=99>.
- National Immigration Law Center. 2005–06, 2011, 2014, 2016, 2017-20. "Table 9. State-Funded SSI Replacement Programs." Internet Archive: Wayback Machine. <https://archive.org/web/>.
- Tumlin, Karen C., Wendy Zimmermann, and Jason Ost. 1999. "State Snapshots of Public Benefits for Immigrants: A Supplemental Report to 'Patchwork Policies.'" Washington, DC: Urban Institute.
- National Immigration Law Center. 2002, 2005–07, 2009–12, 2014–16, 2017-20. "Medical Assistance Programs for Immigrants in Various States." Internet Archive: Wayback Machine. <https://archive.org/web/>.
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. "Medicaid and CHIP Coverage of Lawfully Residing Children & Pregnant Women. Retrieved June 2020 from <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/enrollment-strategies/medicaid-and-chip-coverage-lawfully-residing-children-pregnant-women>.
- Kaiser Family Foundation. "Medicaid/CHIP Coverage of Lawfully-Residing immigrant Children and Pregnant Women. Retrieved June 2020 from <https://www.kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/medicaid-chip-coverage-of-lawfully-residing-immigrant-children-and-pregnant-women/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>.
- DC Health Link. "DC Healthcare Alliance and Cover all DC". Retrieved September 2020 via <https://dchealthlink.com/node/2478>.
- The Commonwealth Fund. "Immigrant Women's Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Coverage and Care in the United States". Issue Brief, November 2020. Retrieved September 2020 via https://www.commonwealthfund.org/sites/default/files/201811/Hasstedt_immigrant_wom

[en_access_coverage_ib.pdf](#).

- National Immigration Law Center. 2005, 2008–09, 2011, 2015–16, 2017-20. “Overview of Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Programs.” Table endnotes. Internet Archive: Wayback Machine. <https://archive.org/web/>.

Enforcement Policies

Our enforcement policy file contains information on whether, in each year from 2000 to 2020, each state had any of the following:

1. A “287(g)” Warrant Service Officer Model agreement with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) signed by either a state-wide agency or one of the counties with highest immigrant population in the state.
2. A “287(g)” jail agreement with DHS signed by either a state-wide agency or one of the highest- immigrant counties in the state.
3. Active participation in Secure Communities.
4. A policy prohibiting states and localities from passing E-Verify mandates.
5. A policy to limit cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainer request. (*data only available through 2019).

We code all policies to the year in which a bill was signed into law or in which an administrative decision was issued, not the date of implementation. The data sheets include brief explanations of each of these policies and detailed information on sources.

Most enforcement policies (e.g., 287(g) and limited cooperation with detainer requests) are passed at the sub-state level (e.g., county level). To determine whether a state had this policy, we identified the largest counties by immigrant population where at least 50 percent of immigrants live. Then categorized whether all, some or none of those counties had the policy.

287(g) taskforce agreements were terminated as of [December 31st, 2012](#), by the Obama administration. A new program, the 287(g) Warrant Service Officer agreement, began in [May of 2019](#) as a countermeasure to developments in sanctuary cities. ICE’s Secure Communities policy was temporarily suspended by the DHS in [November 2014](#), then re-implemented in January 2017 via Trump administration executive order.

The Omnibus Immigration Bill, a previous variable tracked by the Urban Institute’s State Immigration Policy Resource, was not updated due to these policies being overturned in the courts. Another variable previously tracked, E-Verify Mandate, was not updated due to a lack of updated and credible sources.

The following are the sources that we relied upon to categorize these policies:

- US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. 2017 & 2020. “Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Library: 287(g) - Memorandums of Agreement/Understanding.” Accessed September 2020 via <https://www.ice.gov/287g>. Older versions of these websites found at https://web.archive.org/web/20150101000000*/http://www.ice.gov/news/library/factsheet/s/287g.htm and <https://web.archive.org/web/20150409113951/http://www.ice.gov/factsheets/287g>.
- The United States Census Bureau, Tables, Selected Social Characteristics in the United

States, filtered by state and county via

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSDP1Y2019.DP02%20Pennsylvania&tid=ACSDP1Y2019.DP02&hidePreview=true>.

- US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. 2017. "Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Library: Secure Communities Statistics, Nationwide Interoperability Statistics, FY 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and YTD FY 2015." Accessed April 20, <https://www.ice.gov/foia/library>.
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Secure Communities Overview. See "The Basics". Retrieved September 2020 via <https://www.ice.gov/secure-communities>.
- Soria Mendoza, Gilberto, and Mathieu Ostrander. 2015. "State E-Verify Action". Washington, DC: National Conference of State Legislatures.
- Johnston, Allison, and Ann Morse. 2012. "E-Verify." Washington, DC: National Conference of State Legislatures.
- California Legislative Information, California Law, Code Section, Labor Code, Division 3 Chapter 2, Article 2.5. Electronic Employment Verification Systems. Retrieved October 2020 via https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=LAB§ionNum=2814.
- Illinois Department of Labor, Laws and Rules, Legal Division, Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act. Retrieved October 2020 via <https://www2.illinois.gov/idol/Laws-Rules/legal/Pages/privacy-workplace.aspx>.
- Federation for American Immigration Reform, 2018. "Sanctuary Jurisdictions Nearly Double Since President Trump Promised to Enforce Our Immigration Laws". Washington D.C. Retrieved January 2020 via <https://www.fairus.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/Sanctuary-Report-FINAL-2018.pdf>.
- Graber, Lena, and Marquez, Nikki. 2016. "Searching for Sanctuary: An Analysis of America's Counties & Their Voluntary Assistance with Deportations." San Francisco, CA: Immigrant Legal Resource Center.
- Graber, Lena, and Sharon, Hing. 2019. "Growing the Resistance. How Sanctuary Laws and Policies Have Flourished During the Trump Administration." San Francisco, CA: Immigrant Legal Resource Center. Retrieved September 2020 via <https://www.ilrc.org/growing-resistance-how-sanctuary-laws-and-policies-have-flourished-during-trump-administration>.
- California Legislative Information, Senate Bill No.54, Chapter 495 "An act to amend Sections 7282 and 7282.5 of, and to add Chapter 17.25 (commencing with Section 7284) to Division 7 of Title 1 of, the Government Code, and to repeal Section 11369 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to law enforcement". Last accessed July 2020 via https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB54.
- State of Connecticut, Substitute House Bill No.6659. Public Act No. 13-155. "An Act Concerning Civil Immigration Containers". Last accessed July 2020 via <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2013/act/pa/2013PA-00155-R00HB-06659-PA.htm>.
- Morse, Ann. 2011. "Arizona's Immigration Enforcement Laws." Washington, DC: National Conference of State Legislatures.
- National Immigration Law Center. 2014. "SB 1070 Four Years Later: Lessons Learned". Los Angeles, California. Last Accessed April 23, 2020, via <https://www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-enforcement/sb-1070-lessons-learned/>.
- US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. 2017. "Weekly Declined Detainer Outcome Report, For Recorded Declined Detainers Feb 4 – Feb 10, 2017" (Washington, DC: US Immigration and Customs Enforcement). https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ddor/ddor2017_02-04to02-10.pdf.

Integration Policies

Our public integration policy file contains information on whether, in each year from 2017 to 2020, each state had any of the following:

1. Allowed unauthorized immigrant students to pay in-state tuition rates.
2. Allowed unauthorized immigrant students to access state financial aid.
3. Allowed unauthorized immigrants to apply for a driver's license and state ID cards.
4. Banned unauthorized immigrant students from attending some or all public institutes of higher education.
5. Had a policy establishing English as the official state language.

We code all policies to the year in which a bill was signed into law, or in which an administrative decision was issued, not the date of implementation. The data sheets include brief explanations of each of these policies and detailed information on sources.

The following are the sources that we relied upon to categorize these policies:

- National Immigration Law Center. "Table: Laws & Policies Improving Access to Higher Education for Immigrants." In "Toolkit: Access to Postsecondary Education." Last modified, April 2020. <https://www.nilc.org/issues/education/eduaccesstoolkit2a/#tables>.
- National Conference of State Legislators. 2015. "Undocumented Student Tuition: Overview." Accessed October 29. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/undocumented-student-tuition-overview.aspx>.
- ULEAD Network. 2017. "National Map." Accessed April 20. <http://uleadnet.org/issue/map>.
- Mendoza, Gilberto. 2016-20. "States Offering Driver's Licenses to Immigrants." Denver, CO: National Conference of State Legislatures. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/immigration/states-offering-driver-s-licenses-to-immigrants.aspx>.
- National Immigration Law Center. 2020. "State Laws Providing Access to Driver's Licenses or Cards Regardless of Immigration Status." Los Angeles, CA: National Immigration Law Center. <https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/drivers-license-access-table.pdf>.
- National Conference of State Legislatures. 2020. "States Offering Driver's Licenses to Immigrants". Washington, DC. Retrieved June 2020 via <https://www.ncsl.org/research/immigration/states-offering-driver-s-licenses-to-immigrants.aspx>.
- ProEnglish. 2017. "Official English Map." Accessed April 2020. <https://proenglish.org/official-english-map-2/>.
- State of Michigan. "Aspire Higher: An Undocumented Student Guide to College in Michigan." Retrieved June 2020 from https://www.michigan.gov/documents/hlcomsp/Undocumented_Student_Guide_to_College_in_Michigan_2019_FINAL_659274_7.pdf.
- WHSV Newsroom; Capital News Service. "Northam signs bills to expend in-state tuition regardless of citizenship status". Retrieved June 2020 from <https://www.wHSV.com/content/news/With-Northams-signature-Virginia-becomes-1st->

[southern-state-allowing-undocumented-students-to-pay-in-state-tuition-569640931.html](https://www.pewresearch.org/immigration/2016/05/11/southern-state-allowing-undocumented-students-to-pay-in-state-tuition-569640931.html).

Notes

1. Welfare reform legislation in 1996 barred most lawful permanent immigrants from receiving most federally funded public benefits during their first five years with that status. To cover this gap, some states provide state-funded benefits for those who meet other eligibility requirements (e.g., household income below a certain threshold, asset tests, and work or training requirements). Federal policy changes since 1996 have restored some benefits to some groups of lawful permanent residents during this “five-year bar,” while some policies are available if a state chooses.

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