

Separation of Immigrant Families

In April 2018, the U.S. Attorney General directed attorneys on the United States-Mexico border to prosecute all adults entering the country illegally under [8 U.S. Code § 1325\(a\)](#), or “Improper Entry by Alien.” Under this statute, children accompanying parents across the border [are separated from them](#) and taken to temporary shelters or placed with foster families for an unspecified amount of time. Critics of this policy, including a number of NGOs, professional child welfare organizations and public figures, cite the large body of research illustrating the negative effects of separation on children’s mental and physical wellbeing.

[AAP Statement on Executive Order on Family Separation.](#) American Academy of Pediatrics.

[President’s EO on Policy Separating Parents from their Children Does Not Ensure a Permanent Solution.](#) American College of Physicians.

Immigration policy, practices, and procedures: The impact on the mental health of Mexican and Central American youth and families. Torres SA, Santiago CD, Walts KK, Richards MH. – [click here to order full text](#)

[Parental incarceration, transnational migration, and military deployment: family process mechanisms of youth adjustment to temporary parent absence.](#) Rodriguez AJ, Margolin G.

[Parental Separation and School Performance Among Children of Immigrant Mothers in Sweden.](#) Erman J, Härkönen J.

[Transnational Motherhood: Health of Hispanic Mothers in the United States Who Are Separated From Children.](#) McCabe BE, Mitchell EM, Gonzalez-Guarda RM, Peragallo N, Mitrani VB.

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