



# Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

## Backgrounder

### LIRS Talking Points on Preparing for ICE Raids and Interior Enforcement

January 25, 2017

#### BACKGROUND

From 2006-2008, the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) conducted a number of large-scale immigration raids. Some of these enforcement sweeps made national headlines because of the number of immigrants who were apprehended. These raids were also decried for their destructive impact on families, businesses and communities. In late 2015 and early 2016, DHS enforcement actions once again garnered national attention as DHS targeted unaccompanied children and families, many of whom were apprehended in their homes. Now many in our communities fear that, under the Trump Administration, DHS will once again engage in widespread worksite and home enforcement actions, causing children, parents and communities to live in terror.

#### TALKING POINTS

##### **Immigrants contribute to our communities and shouldn't be targeted.**

- There are over **11 million undocumented immigrants including students** in the United States and **8 million immigrants who contribute to our economy** as part of the American workforce.<sup>1</sup>

##### **Raids traumatize children and tear families apart.**

- People arrested in raids, and their family members left behind, are traumatized by the experience.
- Often, raids involve dramatic actions characterized by an excessive use of force. These strategies are designed to elicit confusion and fear. In home raids, ICE often enters the home at daybreak and arrests the target in front of their family, including children and other minors.<sup>2</sup>
- Raids often involved the improper use of administrative removal warrants or the provision of false information to gain entry to a home, and sometimes involved the unnecessary use of weapons.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/11/03/5-facts-about-illegal-immigration-in-the-u-s/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://unitedwedream.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Report-Hotline-raids-1.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

- People targeted in raids are usually handcuffed, taken into custody, and denied the opportunity to notify their family about what has happened. Most are then shipped to detention facilities, often far from their families, and are eventually deported.<sup>4</sup>

**For every two workers seized in a raid, one child is directly affected.<sup>5</sup> Mostly American citizens, these children should not be made to suffer for their parents' immigration status.<sup>6</sup>**

- With separation or loss of a parent or caregiver, children experience symptoms of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and separation anxiety.<sup>7</sup>
- Studies have also shown that children whose parents have been deported are at higher risk of homelessness, poor educational attainment, and permanent psychological trauma, as well as significant declines in household income and high rates of food insecurity.<sup>8</sup>
- As many as half a million parents have been deported from the U.S since 2009.<sup>9</sup>

### **Raids sow fear and economic hardship in communities rather than a sense of security.**

- Raids and deportation also affect the wider community. Churches, schools, and employers lose valuable members, students, and employees. In the aftermath of raids, immigrant owned small businesses often report a complete stop in business.<sup>10</sup>
- Workplace raids are conducted with the overwhelming force of sophisticated military operations—hundreds of armed agents in riot gear lock everyone in the building until they prove legal immigration status.<sup>11</sup>
- Worksite raids create a climate of fear in communities. For example, after a raid in Postville, IA, 90% of Latino students--immigrants and U.S. citizens alike--were absent from school.<sup>12</sup> After the 2015/2016 enforcement actions targeting families and children, the principal of one Maryland high

---

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.humanimpact.org/projects/hia-case-stories/family-unity-family-health-an-inquiry-on-federal-immigration-policy/>

<sup>5</sup> Randy Capps, et al, "Paying the Price: The Impact of Immigration Raids on Children," National Council of La Raza and the Urban Institute, (2007) p.11, Available at: <http://www.ime.gob.mx/documentos/nclr.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> 2/3 of children with undocumented parents are U.S. citizens. Jeffrey S. Passel, "The Size and Characteristics of the Unauthorized Migrant Population in the U.S. Estimates Based on the March 2005 Current Population Survey," Pew Hispanic Center, March 7, 2006. <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/61.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Randy Capps, et al, "Paying the Price: The Impact of Immigration Raids on Children," National Council of La Raza and the Urban Institute, (2007) p. 41,53, Available at: <http://www.ime.gob.mx/documentos/nclr.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/implications-immigration-enforcement-activities-well-being-children-immigrant-families>

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Esther Yu-His Lee, "This Is What A Deportation Raid Is Like" ThinkProgress, January 7, 2016, available at <http://thinkprogress.org/immigration/2016/01/07/3736390/rosa-immigration-raid/>.

<sup>11</sup> "Immigration Raids Primer," LIRS, 7/02/08.

<sup>12</sup> "Statement of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Bishop Steven Ullestad, Northeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," May 20, 2008, Available at: <http://www.lirs.org/donateserve/advocate/cir/lirsstatement20080519.pdf>

school reported that attendance among unaccompanied children from Latin America dropped from 90% to 50% over the winter break.<sup>13</sup>

- Workers in a raid on a Postville, Iowa packing plant hid wherever possible: meat-lockers, freezers, bathroom stalls, under stacks of cardboard boxes, within mounds of chicken feathers, even in a tub of blood.<sup>14</sup>

### **Raids are an expensive and disproportionate response.**

- In Postville, IA, ICE spent at least \$5.2 million on one worksite enforcement operation, amounting to a cost of \$13,396 per arrest.<sup>15</sup>
- On a given day, ICE detains 38,000-42,000 migrants; in a year, 353,000. The total annual cost of detention for taxpayers is \$2.3 billion.<sup>16</sup>
- Raids increase the likelihood that children left behind will be placed into the care of the child welfare system, at great cost to states. Thousands of children are in CPS care because of a parent's detention or deportation, and this number will increase if ICE increases the use of worksite and home raids.

### **Resources:**

[Migration Policy Institute, Implications of Immigration Enforcement Activities for the Well-Being of Children in Immigrant Families: A Review of the Literature](#)

[The Sentencing Project and First Focus; CHILDREN IN HARM'S WAY CRIMINAL JUSTICE, IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT, AND CHILD WELFARE JANUARY 2013](#)

[United We Dream, IMMIGRATION RAIDS: THE REAL IMPACT Findings from the national Deportation Defense Hotline JANUARY 2016](#)

[Hometown Security: Tools to Help Your Community Prepare:](#)

[Make a Plan: Migrant Parents' Guide to Preventing Family Separation](#)

[Know Your Rights – a General Collection](#)

[Comprehensive Directory of Immigration Legal Service Providers](#)

---

<sup>13</sup> NPR, "Attendance Drops At Maryland High School, As Deportation Fears Rise," January 17, 2016, available at <http://www.npr.org/2016/01/17/463405722/attendance-drops-atmaryland-high-school-as-deportation-fears-rise>.

<sup>14</sup> Marcelo Ballve, "After Iowa Raid, Families in Limbo," New American Media, June 20, 2008. Available at: [http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view\\_article.html?article\\_id=bb4c6d3b1d0a4e3a4e8826215e371096](http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=bb4c6d3b1d0a4e3a4e8826215e371096).

<sup>15</sup> William Petroski, "Taxpayers costs top \$5 million for May raid at Postville," Des Moines Register (10-14-08) Available at: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20081014/NEWS10/810140389/0/NEWS>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/dhs-releases-end-fiscal-year-2016-statistics>

