

Immigrant Health Update

King County Board of Health

Lee Che P. Leong, Sr. Policy Advocate

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NoHLA
Northwest Health Law Advocates



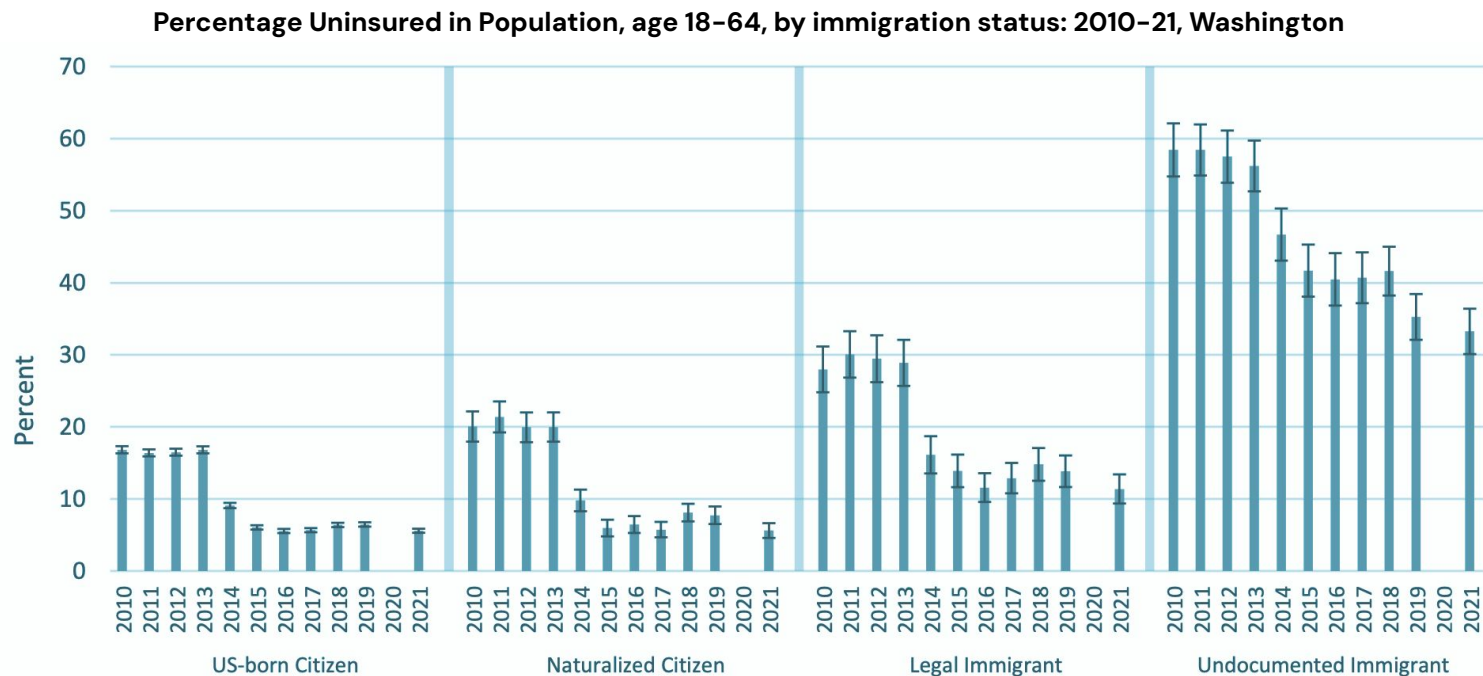
Overview of Washington's Current Immigrant Health Landscape

Under long-standing federal law, many categories of immigrants have been excluded from federally-funded health coverage & care. The state has acted to fill some gaps, but many disparities remain.

	Undocumented	DACA Recipient	Lawfully present (non “green card holder”)	Legal permanent resident (“green card holder”)
Federal eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ineligible for Medicaid/CHIP, Medicare, Marketplace (Medicaid exception for emergencies, cancer, dialysis) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ineligible for Medicaid/CHIP & Medicare (Medicaid exception for emergencies, cancer, dialysis) ● Biden policy granted eligibility for Marketplace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eligible for Medicaid/CHIP & Medicare if “qualified” (if not qualified, Medicaid exception for emergencies, cancer, dialysis) ● Eligible for Marketplace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eligible for Medicaid/CHIP & Medicare after 5 year waiting period ● Eligible for Marketplace
State eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eligible for state Apple Health for low-income kids, pregnant/postpartum & family planning ● Eligible for state Apple Health Expansion & Marketplace 1332 waiver (+ Cascade Care Savings) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eligible for state Apple Health for low-income kids, pregnant/postpartum & family planning ● Eligible for Marketplace 1332 waiver (+ Cascade Care Savings) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If non-qualified, eligible for state Apple Health for low-income kids, pregnant/postpartum & family planning ● Eligible for state Cascade Care Savings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eligible for state Cascade Care Savings
NoHLA notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apple Health Expansion has capped capacity ● Cascade Care Savings premium assistance is limited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cascade Care Savings premium assistance is limited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Specific Medicare eligibility depends on work quarters ● Cascade Care Savings premium assistance is limited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Specific Medicare eligibility depends on work quarters ● Cascade Care Savings premium assistance is limited

Impact of Immigrant Coverage Restrictions

Non-citizen immigrant Washingtonians are more likely to lack insurance, which limits access to care.
Recent state actions have helped, but demand outstrips capacity.



Federal Immigrant Health Threats: Executive

Federal Executive Branch actions are limiting access to coverage and care for Washingtonians.

- Trump Administration rescinded Marketplace eligibility for DACA recipients
- News reports indicate Trump Administration mishandled Apple Health/Medicaid enrollee & claims data: CMS turned personally identifying information over to DHS
- Roll-back of prior guidance protecting “sensitive locations” (such as hospitals) from immigration enforcement
- Many other executive branch actions threaten immigrant health & well-being, including roll-backs of language access protections and attacks on birthright citizenship
- Fear of additional executive branch actions in the future – already causing a “chilling effect”

New Federal Immigrant Health Threats: Congress

The recently-passed “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” poses grave threats to health care for immigrants.

- **Eliminates Medicaid & CHIP coverage for most lawfully present immigrants** → *as of 10/1/26*
 - Strips coverage from refugees, asylees, trafficking survivors, and many others
 - Remaining eligible: green card holders, certain Cuban & Haitian entrants, and people residing under a Compact of Free Association*
 - States retain the option to cover lawfully present children and pregnant immigrants
- **Eliminates federal premium assistance for Marketplace coverage for most lawfully present immigrants**
 - Strips access from refugees, asylees, trafficking survivors, and many others
 - Remaining eligible: green card holders, certain Cuban & Haitian entrants, and people residing under a Compact of Free Association* → *as of 1/1/27*
 - **In addition, strips access to ACA from lawfully present immigrants under 100% of the federal poverty level** (primarily harming green card holders under “5 year bar”) → *as of 1/1/26*
- **Eliminates Medicare coverage for most lawfully present immigrants** → *effective 18 mos. from passage*
 - Strips access from refugees, asylees, trafficking survivors, and many others
 - Remaining eligible: green card holders, certain Cuban & Haitian entrants, and people residing under a Compact of Free Association*
- Additional harmful policies increase citizenship/immigration verification requirements & reduce federal funds available to states

Opportunities for King County

Washington State will have challenging decisions ahead as it seeks to protect health care for immigrants in the face of new federal threats and funding limitations. Members of the King County Board of Health can engage by:

Sharing Know-Your-Rights Information

[Apple Health Data Privacy](#)
[NWIRP compilation of KYR materials](#)

Helping Residents Develop Safety Plans

Support local CBOs engaged in this work

Assess additional needs for individualized support

Evaluating County Opportunities to Fill Gaps

Advocate for evaluation of county clinic infrastructure

Explore county sponsorship program

Engaging in State Policy Decisions

Monitor state policies for newly uninsured immigrants

Discuss state policy solutions to gaps

Thank You

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health justice in Washington.

