Immigrants Delay or Avoid Medical Care for Fear of Raids at Medical Facilities

Fearing ICE raids at medical facilities, immigrants at all stages of the relocation process appear to be delaying or avoiding medical care. This puts the immigrants themselves and their communities at risk for health problems including:
- acute and chronic illnesses
- adverse pregnancy and birth outcomes
- untreated mental illness
- lower rates of immunizations
- premature death

For More Information

For more information on this issue, follow the links below.

- Read the brief.
- Visit sbm.org
- @BehavioralMed
- @SocietyOfBehavioralMedicine

What Must Be Done

Restrict ICE from engaging with immigrants in or around health care settings, including:
- hospitals
- pharmacies
- clinics
- mental health and addiction treatment
- ambulances
- rehab facilities

Forced Separations Cause Lasting Distress

Children are negatively impacted by parental internments. Children who witness the detention, or fear the detention, of their loved ones, are found to suffer from short- and long-term physical and psychological distress including:
- stomachaches
- headaches
- anxiety
- anorexia
- depression
- suicidality
- school absenteeism and poor academic achievement
- mental and physical health problems in adulthood

What would make you feel better?

I want to see my mom and dad again.
I want my mom to be okay.

What would make you feel better?

Yes. I have a stomach ache. I feel tired. And my head hurts a lot.

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Yes. My mom was sick when they took her. She is afraid to go to the doctor, but my dad made her go. I’m very worried.

At the hospital.

What happened to your parents?
I don’t know.

Where did you last see them?

At the hospital.

When did you last see them?

3 months ago.

Are you worried about your parents?
Yes. My mom was sick when they took her.

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Do you feel sick? How do you feel sick?

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