

## ABSTRACT

### UNDOCUMENTED MEXICAN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM: CHALLENGES, BARRIERS, AND OPPRESSION

The impact of undocumented immigrants in the child welfare system is increasingly becoming more prevalent today. This study examines the challenges and barriers that undocumented Mexican immigrants encounter in the public child welfare. These barriers and challenges limit their ability to receive adequate, appropriate, and quality services in the child welfare system. This study applies the intersectionality of oppressions theory that assumes this population is exposed to different oppressors, discriminations, and challenges that occur as a consequence of the combination of their multiple identities. The research method used in this study was qualitative exploratory interviews with specialized service providers who assist the undocumented Mexican immigrant in the child welfare system. The findings indicated that this population has multiple identities, is challenged by global structural oppression, and faces an intersectionality of barriers. The service providers interviewed for this study are confronting these barriers on a regular basis.

Erika Janeth Mendoza  
May 2009