Vulnerable Population: Immigrant Youth

The purpose of this document is to provide background information on Immigrant Youth.

Defining Immigrant
An immigrant is a person who migrates to another country to live permanently.

To become a legal immigrant there is a visa process that one must go through to become a permanent resident. A family based visa is for immigration of certain family members of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents. An intercountry adoption visa is for the adoption of orphans from another country. Employment based visas are for immigration based on permanent employment or investment by entrepreneurs.¹

An undocumented immigrant is a person who has entered the United States illegally or who has entered the United States legally but has fallen "out of status".²

Fast Facts on Immigrant Youth
Immigrant youth-defined as those under age eighteen who are either foreign-born or U.S.-born to immigrant parents-now account for one-fourth of the nation's 75 million youth. By 2050 they are projected to make up one-third of more than 100 million U.S. youth.³

Immigrant youth are more likely to live in low income families with parents who have a small amount of education. Immigrant youth are also less likely to be covered by health insurance.⁴

In addition to poverty immigrant youth face several other challenges such as parents' low education level, language acquisition, bullying, isolation, extreme stress and loss of identity.⁵

Federal Laws Regarding Immigrant Youth
William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008
Special Immigrant Juveniles (SIJ) | USCIS

References
¹ Department of State Immigration Information
² Immigration Terms and Definitions
³ Demography of Immigrant Youth
⁴ Children of Immigrants
⁵ Pathways