

UNalienable

ACCESS TO SENSITIVE LOCATIONS

ICE's Sensitive Locations Policy limits federal immigration agents from conducting enforcement actions in certain "sensitive locations" including medical facilities, churches, and schools. However, trauma from interactions with ICE and local law enforcement has left many immigrants justifiably hesitant to trust that such a policy will be respected. This study highlights the tangible impact that community mistrust has on immigrants' access to sensitive locations.

Access to Medical Care

Hispanic and Latinx communities have **higher** rates of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths than almost every other ethnic group. This reality corresponds to a systemic lack of access to medical care that arises from a number of sources, including:

- **Fear and Distrust:** Many undocumented individuals ultimately avoid medical services for **fear** of their immigration status being questioned and shared with officials who might target them for detention, deportation, or discriminatory abuse. This fear has been enflamed by years of **aggressive** immigration enforcement and some **politicians'** anti-immigrant rhetoric.
- **Linguistic and Cultural Barriers:** There is a palpable lack of multilingual and immigrant representation amongst Mississippi's healthcare workers, which correlates with experiences of dismissal, misdiagnosis, or other forms of mistreatment and further enforces a community-wide trauma that isolates immigrants from medical facilities.

Other Protected Sites

Medical sites are not the only sensitive locations at which aggressive immigration enforcement interferes with immigrants' lives:

- Community members recall a recent period of time during which "Hispanics were terrified of being in Pearl" and other municipalities due to a fear of ICE or DHS enforcement, which was particularly persistent outside of local churches. "A lot of people would go to church and, as soon as they left church, they'd be stopped by the police, be detained by ICE, and then the next thing you know, they're deported back to their country," one individual remembers.
- Fear of immigration enforcement has especially taken a toll on both immigrant and **US citizen** children across many aspects of their lives, including at school. For example, some students have reported exhaustion and difficulty concentrating since taking on afterschool employment to make up for the household income lost to parental deportation, and from the **toxic stress** associated with status-related anxieties.

Recommendations

For State and Local Bodies

- Promote diversity and inclusion across medical sites, including private clinics and rural facilities
- Create safe and reliable systems for reporting discrimination by healthcare providers.

For the Biden Administration and Federal Agencies

- End all at-large immigration enforcement operations
- Create a safe and reliable system for reporting breaches of immigration enforcement agencies' sensitive locations policies

For Local, State, and Federal Bodies

- Take specific actions to target undocumented immigrants in public health efforts; for example, by providing information in multiple languages