

Immigration and the Nation's Health Care System

Steven A. Camarota, Ph.D.

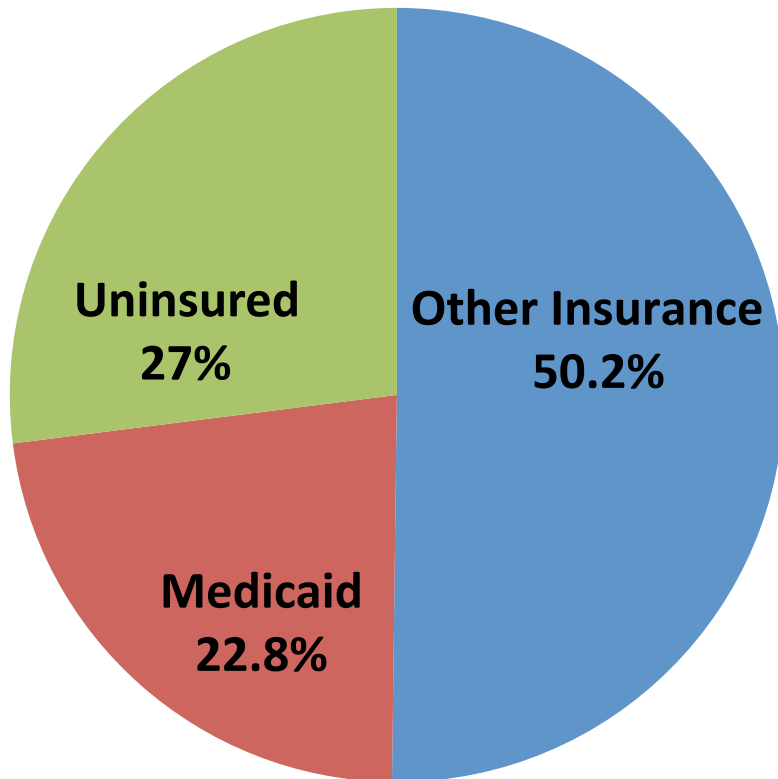
**Director of Research
Center for Immigration Studies
Washington, DC
www.cis.org**



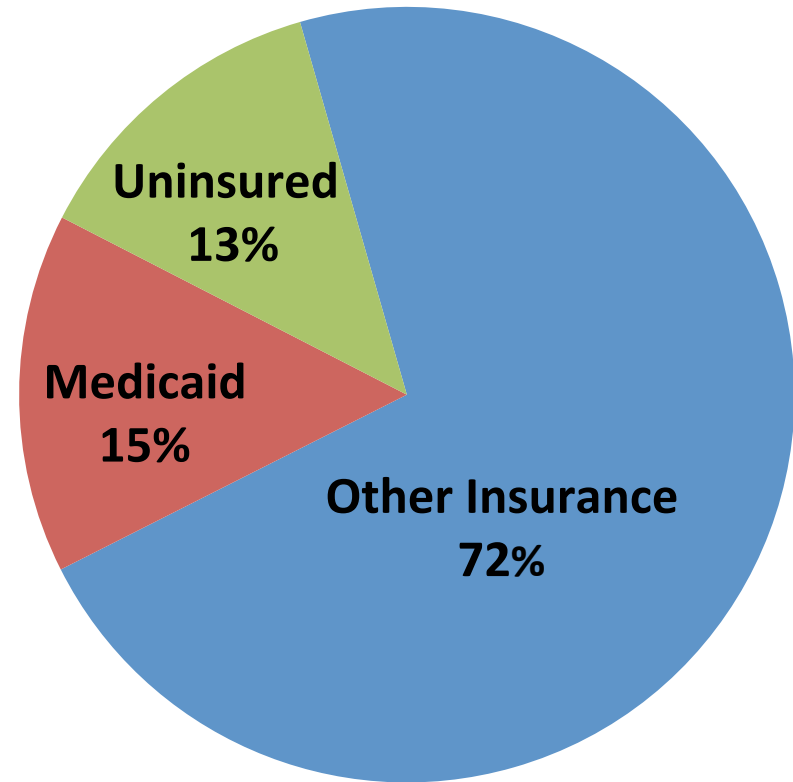
**1629 K Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 466-8185**

A larger share of immigrants and their U.S.-born children are uninsured or on Medicaid

Immigrants & their children <18



Natives and their children <18



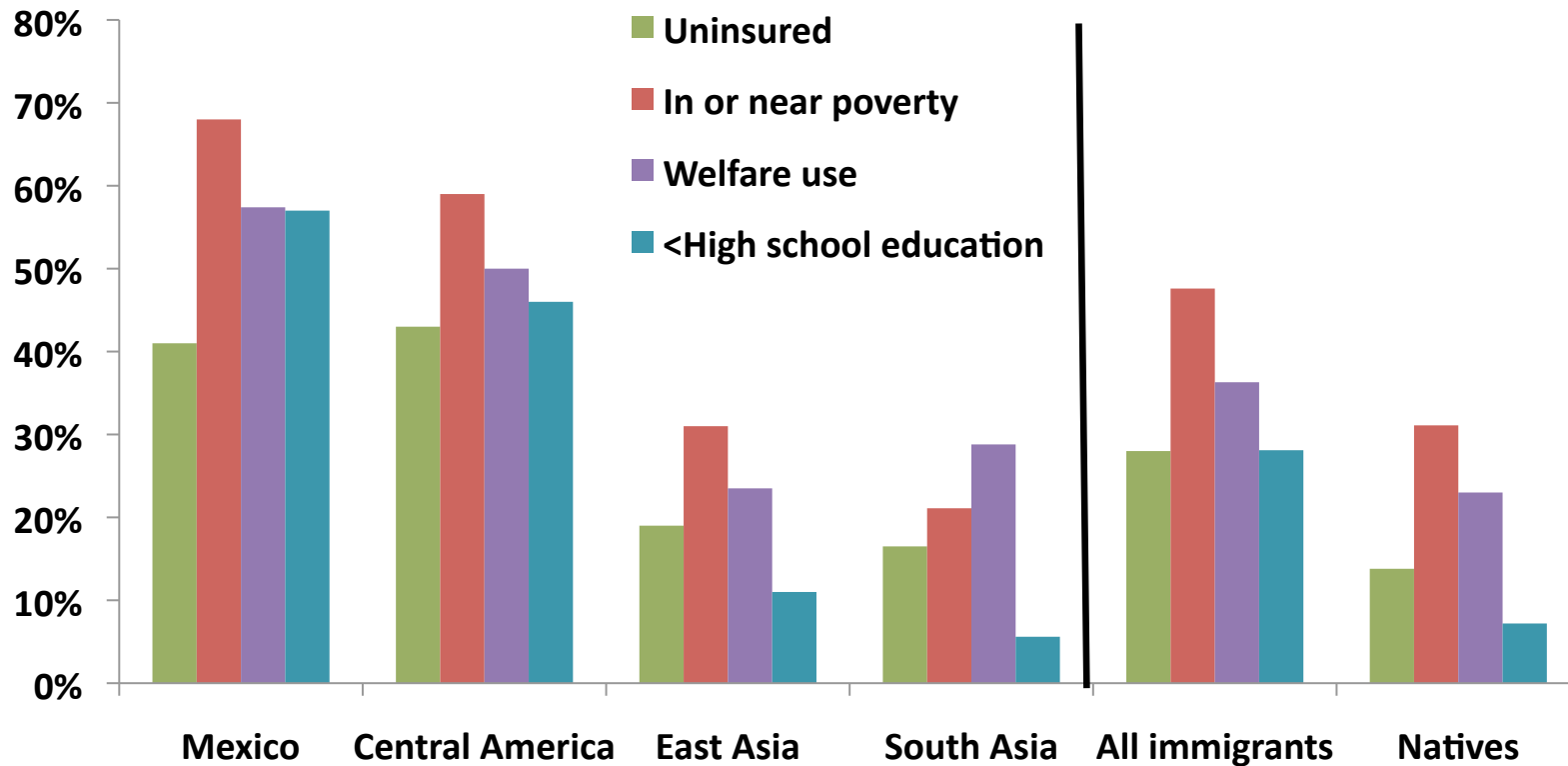
Source: Public use file of the 2013 Annual Social and Economic Supplement of the Current Population Survey. The survey includes legal and illegal immigrants. Children (<18) of immigrants are those born in the U.S. to immigrant fathers under age 18 and are excluded from figures for natives.

Immigrants and their U.S.-born children account for a large share of uninsured

- **14.5 million immigrants & their children are uninsured — 1/3 of total uninsured.**
- **New immigrants account for 3/4 of the increase in uninsured since 2000.***
- **12.2 million immigrants & their children are on Medicaid — 1/4 of total.**

*There are 6.2 million post-2000 immigrants who are uninsured, accounting for 80% of national increase in uninsured.
Source: Public use file of the 2013 Annual Social and Economic Supplement of the Current Population Survey. Children of immigrants are those with immigrant fathers under age 18. The survey includes legal and illegal immigrants.

Great variation by sending country and region in health insurance coverage and socio-economic status



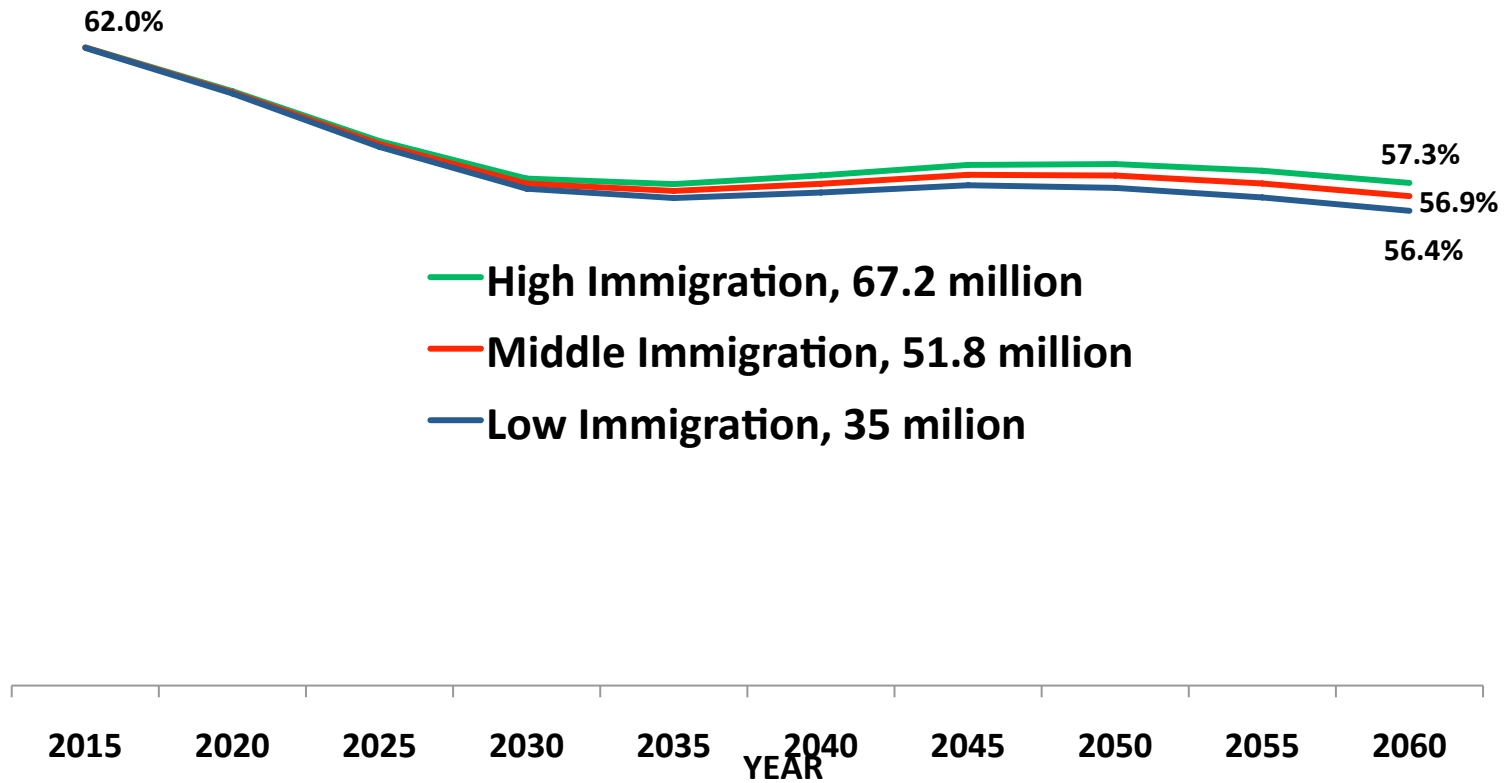
Source: "Immigrants in the United States: A Profile of America's Foreign-Born Population," Center for Immigration Studies.

Data is from the 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement of the Current Population Survey. Figures for health insurance and poverty are for immigrants and their U.S.-born children under age 18 with immigrant fathers and are excluded from the figures for natives. In or near poverty defined as <200% of the poverty threshold. Welfare use based on nativity of household head; programs include at least one of the following: cash, food, housing assistance, and Medicaid. Education is for immigrants 25 to 65 years of age.



Census Bureau projections show immigration slows aging only slightly

Percentage of population that is working age (18-64) under different immigration levels



Immigration and Medicare

- **Immigrants are less likely to be on Medicare**
 - **10% for immigrants versus 17% for natives.***
- **Immigrants by arriving young can help pay for Medicare & Social Security in the short run.**
- **But their higher poverty, lack of health insurance, and welfare use creates a drain in other areas of the budget.**

*Public use file of the 2013 Annual Social and Economic Supplement of the Current Population Survey. The survey includes legal and illegal immigrants.

Conclusion

- **Immigration has enormous implications for publically financed health care.**
- **Immigrants and their children are a large share of the uninsured and those on Medicaid.**
- **If you want immigration to finance health care, then select immigrants based on their education.**

