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Healthcare Inequity Among Undocumented Immigrants

Rashmina Sayeeda

Binghamton University--SUNY

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Recommended Citation

Sayeeda, Rashmina, "Healthcare Inequity Among Undocumented Immigrants" (2021). *Research Days Posters 2021*. 88.

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Healthcare Inequity Among Undocumented Immigrants



PRESENTER:

Rashmina Sayeeda

BACKGROUND: Who cares?

- Healthcare is a right, not a privilege.
- Undocumented immigrants should not be denied access to a doctor because of their legal status.

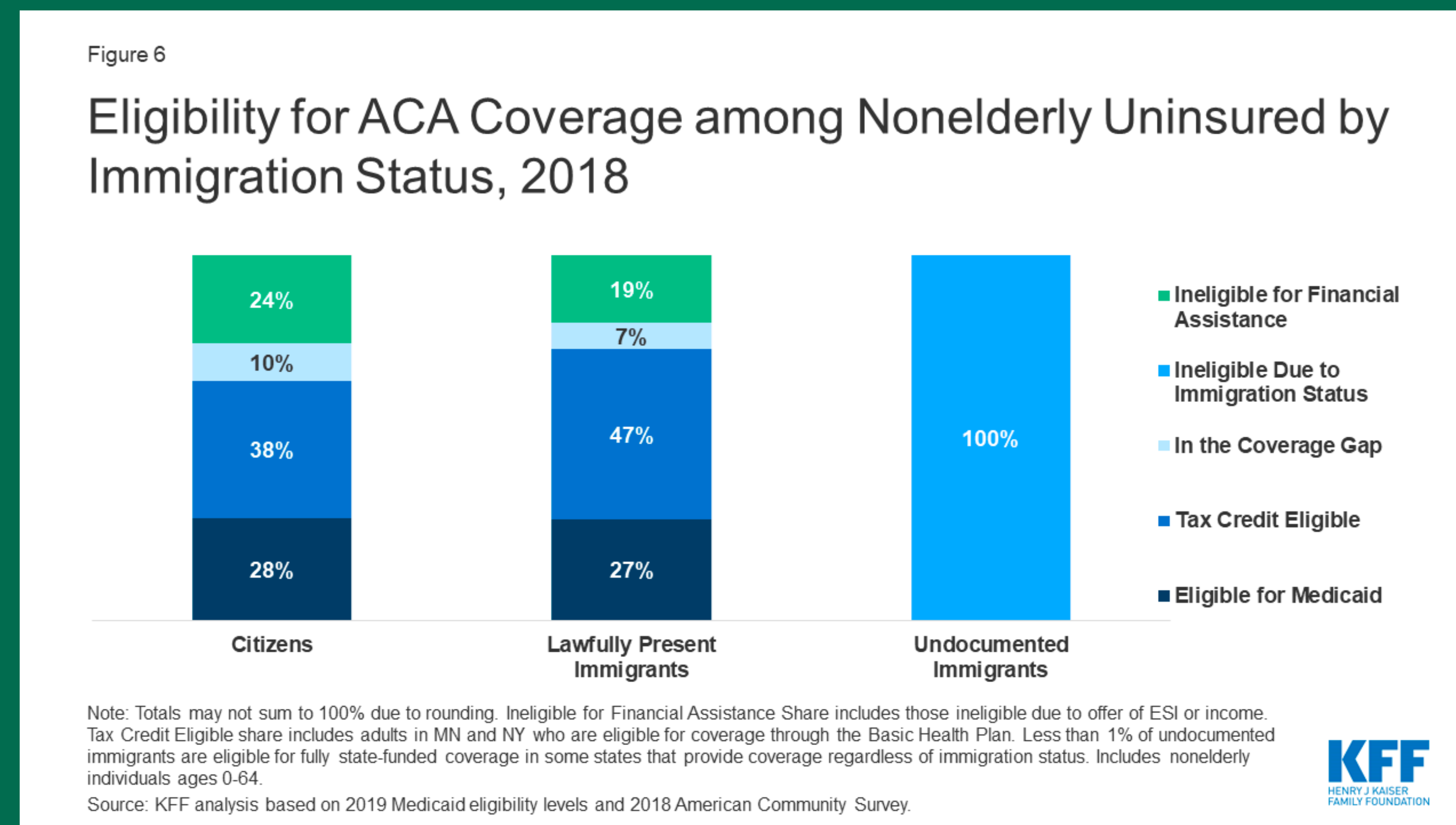
Hindrances faced by Undocumented Immigrants

- Undocumented immigrants do not qualify for Medicaid, Medicare, or health insurance under the ACA.
- Language, cultural, and financial barriers further hinder access to healthcare.
- There is constant fear that a healthcare professional will out someone's legal status, which negatively impacts an immigrant's mental health.
- The presence of ICE creates a hostile environment in both hospitals and in detention centers.

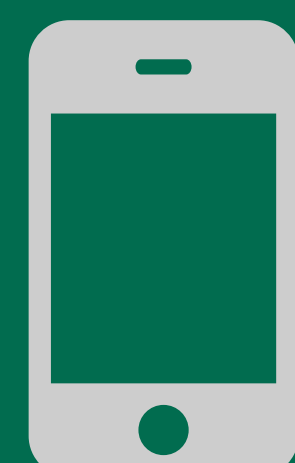
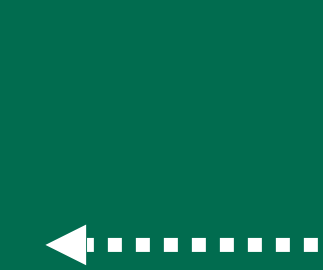
RESULTS

- Undocumented immigrants have turned to alternative medicine for their healthcare needs.
- Alternative medicine cannot be a substitute for primary, preventive care.

An efficient healthcare system aims for frequent check-ins instead of **delayed** interventions, which can prove **costly** to the patient both physically and financially, and become **complex** to treat.



While the ACA gave coverage to millions of Americans, it left out the entire undocumented immigrant population, adversely affecting marginalized communities. The inaccessibility has left immigrants no choice but to seek alternative pathways for care that are insufficient and cannot replace universal public healthcare.



Take a picture to download the abstract.

Impact on Women and Children

- Separation of families at borders can cause severe mental health deterioration and PTSD.
- DREAMers cannot apply for most public health coverage even though they are allowed to reside in the U.S. legally.
- When women do not have access to reproductive and sexual health care, the stability of their overall well-being, family, and communities are compromised.
- POC, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and people in rural areas largely rely on Title X for health care access.

Ways to Mitigate Inequity

- Sanctuary cities provide resource networks to undocumented immigrants.
- Community organizations can act as system navigators pointing struggling people in the right direction for help.
- An increase in diversity and cultural competency in healthcare professionals will bridge barriers.
- Training providers to better understand the needs of specific immigrant communities will equate to better care for undocumented immigrants.
- Community outreach and advocacy pertaining to most current immigration and health policy will decrease uncertainties and misconceptions.

REFERENCES

Aidan Aguilar, Ilham AlMahamid, Planned Parenthood, Sheyda M. Aboii, Sheila Desai