
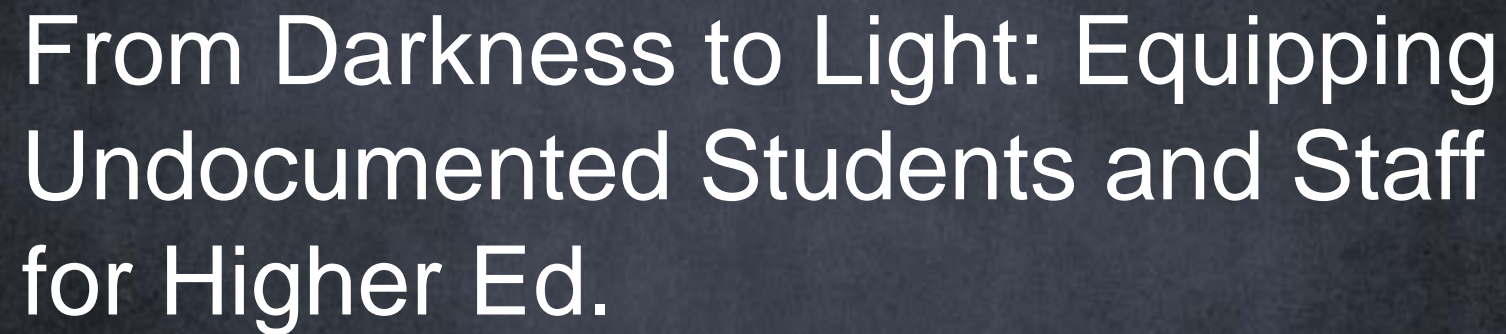




PHENND Conference on Immigration 



From Darkness to Light: Equipping Undocumented Students and Staff for Higher Ed.



Stephanie R. Brown

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Access to Higher Education for Undocumented Students 



The Journey from Darkness to Light...

- The Push & The Pull: Reasons to Migrate
- Stats on Undocumented Families in America
- Plyer vs. Doe: K-12 Access to Education
- Dissolving the Permanent Underclass: Preparing undocumented students and staff for Higher Ed.

They tried to bury us.
They didn't know we
were seed.
-Mexican Proverb

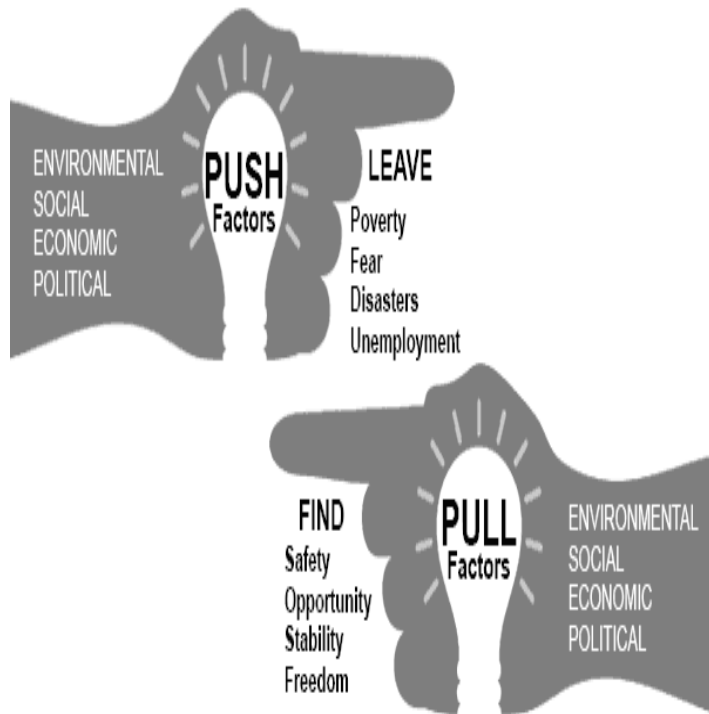


The Push & The Pull: Reason to Migrate

You have to understand, no one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land.

-Warsan Shire





“I want to go home, but home is the mouth of a shark, home is the barrel of the gun”.

-Warsan Shire

Experience The American Dream

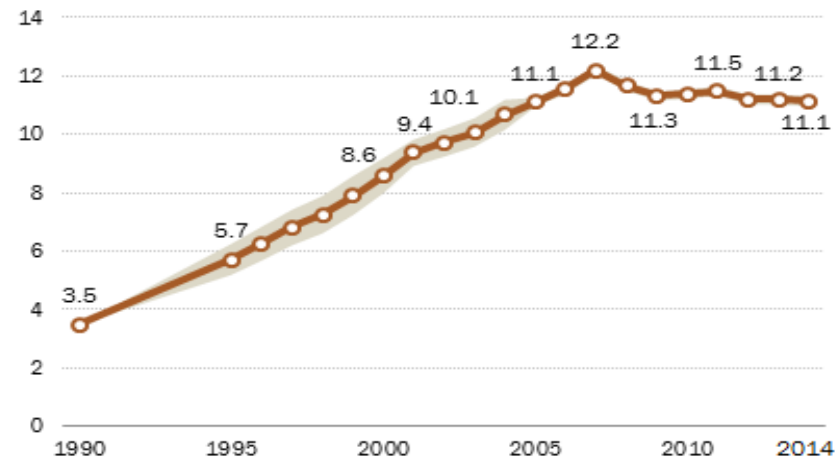
- “I think when you from **another country** you [know about the American Dream] since you growing up, **since you were a little**”.
- “Here [in the U.S.] it’s about working and **they pay you good**”.
- “I want to do **something different** in my life. That is **my dream**! I want to go to **school**”!

STATS ON UNDOCUMENTED POPULATION IN AMERICA



Estimated unauthorized immigrant population in the U.S. rises, falls, then stabilizes

In millions



Note: Shading surrounding line indicates low and high points of the estimated 90% confidence interval. The 2009-2014 change is not statistically significant at 90% confidence interval. Data labels are for 1990, 1995, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2014.

Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2005-2014 based on augmented American Community Survey data (IPUMS); for 1995-2004 based on March Supplements of the Current Population Survey. Estimates for 1990 from Warren and Warren (2013). "Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

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Statistics of Undocumented Population

Estimated unauthorized immigrant total declines from Mexico, rises from Asia since 2009

In thousands

	2014	2009	Change*
Latin America			
Mexico	5,850	6,350	-500
Central America	1,700	1,600	+110
South America	650	725	-80
Caribbean	425	400	n.s.
Other regions			
Asia	1,450	1,300	+130
Europe, Canada	600	550	n.s.
Middle East	140	110	n.s.
Africa	275	200	+70
U.S. total	11,100	11,300	n.s.

*Each number in this chart is rounded based on a set of rules specified in Methodology. Subtracting the 2009 total from the 2014 total for any region may produce a different result than shown in the change column because of this rounding. The number in the change column is the more precise estimate of difference.

Note: Asia includes South and East Asia. Europe includes all central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union. The Middle East includes Southwest Asia and North Africa; Africa refers to sub-Saharan Africa only. U.S. total includes a residual from other nations that is not shown. Significant changes are based on 90% confidence interval. The symbol "n.s." means the measured change is not statistically different from zero.

Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2009 and 2014 based on augmented American Community Survey (IPUMS).

"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

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Statistics of Undocumented Population

Among states with the largest unauthorized immigrant populations, California ranks first

In thousands

	2014 Estimate	Range (+ or -)
California	2,350	60
Texas	1,650	45
Florida	850	40
New York	775	40
New Jersey	500	30
Illinois	450	30
Georgia	375	25
North Carolina	350	20
Arizona	325	20
Virginia	300	25
Washington	250	20
Maryland	250	20
Massachusetts	210	20
Nevada	210	15
Colorado	200	20

Note: Each number in this chart is rounded based on a set of rules specified in Methodology. Differences between consecutive ranks may not be statistically significant. Range based on 90% confidence interval.

Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

"Overall Number of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrants Holds Steady Since 2009"

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How many undocumented children and youth live in America?

- ❑ There are **one million children under 18ⁱ** and **4.4 million under 30ⁱⁱ** living in America out of the estimated total of 11.1 million undocumented immigrantsⁱⁱⁱ living in America.
- ❑ There are an estimated **5.5 million children with at least one undocumented parent**, 4.5 million of whom were born here making them U.S. citizens.
- ❑ These kinds of “mixed-status” family situations are very common with an estimated **nine million people** living in families that contain **at least one undocumented adult** and one citizen child.

ⁱ Passel & Cohn, 2011 - <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2011/02/01/authorized-immigrant-population-national-and-state-trends-2010/>

ⁱⁱ Passel & Lopez, 2012 - <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2012/08/14/up-to-1-7-million-unauthorized-immigrant-youth-may-benefit-from-new-deportation-rules/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Passel & Cohn, 2012 - <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2012/12/06/unauthorized-immigrants-11-1-million-in-2011/>





PLYER VS. DOE: K-12 ACCESS TO EDUCATION

No one leaves home until home is a damp voice in your ear saying leave, run now, i don't know what I've become.

-Warsan Shire



Plyer vs. Doe

» THE FACTS

(1982) A class action was filed on behalf of certain **school-age children of Mexican origin** residing in Texas who **could not establish** that they had been **legally admitted into the United States**. The class filed a motion for permanent injunctive relief, asking the district court **to prevent** defendants from **denying a free public education** to members of the class.

» THE ISSUE

Whether **denying undocumented children** of illegal immigrants the right **to attend public school** constitutes **discrimination** based on alienage that **violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment?**

» Source: <http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/access-education-rule-law>



The Reasoning

» RULING

Yes

» REASONING

» Justice Blackmun noted that "when a state provides an education to some **and denies it to others**, it immediately and inevitably **creates class distinctions** of a type fundamentally inconsistent with" **the purposes of the Equal Protection Clause** because "**an uneducated child is denied even the opportunity to achieve.**" When those children are members of an identifiable class, the state has **created a separable and identifiable underclass**.

» Source: <http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/access-education-rule-law>





**DISSOLVING THE PERMANENT UNDERCLASS:
PREPARING UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS
AND STAFF FOR HIGHER ED.**

Who would choose to spend days and nights in the stomach of a truck unless the miles travelled meant something more than journey.

-Warsen Shire



About **65,000** undocumented students who have lived in the United States for five years or longer **graduate** from **high school** each year (American Immigration Council 2010).

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.

-Desmond Tutu

“But, she told me **she can't do nothing** because I'm an immigrant. She said something like, "When you come this country, you have to have a permit. So you don't have a permit, **you can't do nothing!**" So she couldn't do nothing for me”.

“It's kind of **hard**, I remember how my situation is right now and that it's **not going to change** with the things on the news and **it can be even worse!** Sometimes, I think about moving to another country to live with my Dad's family or go back to Brazil. At the same time, I say I'm going to overcome this.. this problem! But nothing is possible as they say, and I can try! Maybe a law comes and God opens doors so.. so **sometimes I feel sad**. Some days I feel like **how am I going to do this?** I want to study and **it's hard for me!** **How** am I going finish college? I don't have a Social Security card? **How** I'm gonna get work?”

“They **shut the door** in your face”!

Preparing undocumented students and staff for Higher Ed.

*“He started saying how **he don't support undocumented people and they illegal.. and they not good for the country and it was hurting me..**”*

1. Create a Safe Space

- a. Don't ask students to self-identify
- b. Make resources easily available to students
- c. Understand that trust takes time
- d. Be mindful of your language
- e. Let students know that you are a “SUPPORTER”

Source: http://www.e4fc.org/images/E4FC_EducatorTop10.pdf



Preparing undocumented students and staff for Higher Ed.

*“I told my counselor, “Oh I **do not have a Social Security number**! I can’t apply for the FAFSA”! They would just kind of like **stop...** like and they **don’t know what to do**. [They’d say] like if you go to college you have to pay out of pocket, it’s up to you, **you just don’t go**”.*

*“In **high school**, some students that I talked to **dropped out** because they said I cannot go any further why should I even finish? Some students, didn’t get their advisor, their advisor didn’t know anything about DACA! **They didn’t know anything...**”*

2. Stay Informed of Institutional Policies and Legislation

- a. Understand admission and enrollment policies for undocumented students
- b. Understand DACA, Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals
- c. Keep informed about proposed legislation related to immigration policies

d. **Websites:**

1. Department of Homeland Security <https://www.dhs.gov/topic/immigration-enforcement>
2. Migration Policy Institute <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/>
3. Pew Research Center <http://www.pewresearch.org/>

Preparing undocumented students and staff for Higher Ed.

“He [gave] me more information for other websites for financial [support]. So I try to look for [scholarships].

*“You know, the only thing that I would recommend is for the **counselors** to **get more information to help** with undocumented students **financially**.*

3. Find & Advocate for Scholarships and Financial Aid Support

- a. Keep track of scholarships that don't require citizenship or residency
- b. Help students apply to as many available scholarship as possible
- c. Advocate for scholarship providers to consider and support undocumented students
- d. Share, **“List of Scholarships that Don't Require Social Security”**
http://www.e4fc.org/images/E4FC_Undergraduate_Traditional_List_2016-2017.pdf
- e. **My Undocumented Life** <https://mydocumentedlife.org/>
- f. **United We Dream** <http://unitedwedream.org/?s=Scholarships>

Source: http://www.e4fc.org/images/E4FC_EducatorTop10.pdf



Preparing undocumented students and staff for Higher Ed.

*“This was **all new to them** because they hadn't had anyone who was undocumented in the past and so.. **they** were **willing to work with me** and were **very supportive**. **They** were doing research online and **they** were like.. oh, these selected schools accept undocumented students”.*

4. Build Your Own Educator Network

- a. Build relationships and collaborate with other educators at your school or in your neighborhood
- b. Reach out to educators at local colleges who are supportive of undocumented students
- c. Find and connect students to local, state or national undocumented youth advocacy organizations
- d. Educate parent about why undocumented students should pursue college
- e. Identify older undocumented students who can serve as role models

Source: http://www.e4fc.org/images/E4FC_EducatorTop10.pdf





Questions?

Additional Resources

- ❑ U.S. Citizen and Immigration Service- *DACA Toolkit: Resources for Community Partners*:
<http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Humanitarian/Deferred%20Action%20for%20Childhood%20Arrivals/DACA-toolkit.pdf>
- ❑ Federal Student Aid- *Financial Aid and Undocumented Students*:
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/financial-aid-and-undocumented-students.pdf>
- ❑ White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics' *Graduate! Financial Aid Guide to Success*: <http://www.ed.gov/edblogs/hispanic-initiative/graduate-financial-aidguide-to-success/>
- ❑ Educators for Fair Consideration: www.e4fc.org
- ❑ College Board- *Advising Undocumented Students*:
<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/guidance/financial-aid/undocumented-students>
- ❑ CUNY DREAMERS HUB:
<http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/sa/specialprograms/CunyDREAMERS.html>





Thank you!

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