

# IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS IN A NATION OF CHANGING POLICY

**Michael A. Rodríguez, MD, MPH**

**Professor, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and**

**UCLA Fielding School of Public Health**

**Director, UCLA Blum Center on Poverty & Health in Latin America**

Portland, Oregon — April 22-25, 2017



STARFIELD SUMMIT



Portland, Oregon — April 22-25, 2017

 STARFIELD SUMMIT



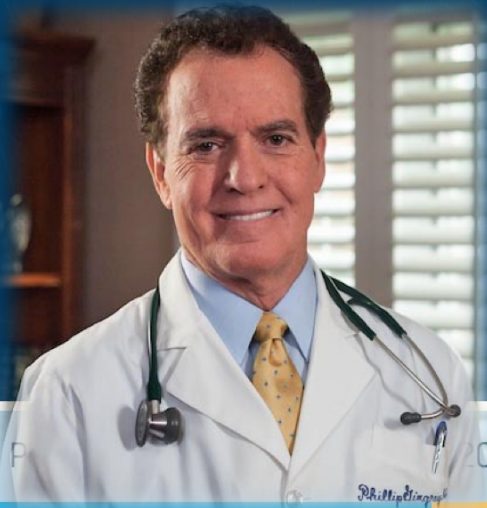
Portland, Oregon — April 22-25, 2017

 STARFIELD SUMMIT



“The influx of **families and unaccompanied children** at the border poses many risks, including grave public health threats...Reports of illegal migrants carrying deadly diseases such as **swine flu, dengue fever, Ebola virus, and tuberculosis** are particularly concerning.” Former Rep. Phil Gingrey, MD (R-GA) 2014

## Policymakers Pushing Misinformation



“I don’t think there is any health care professional who has examined the facts who can honestly say that Americans have not died because the **diseases brought into America by illegal aliens** who are not properly healthcare-screened as lawful immigrants are.”

Rep. Morris Brooks (R-AL)  
 STARFIELD SUMMIT

# Healthcare Professional Societies Against Scaremongering

- Major societies have passed resolutions that commit them to advocating for access to healthcare for immigrant populations and to speaking out against scaremongering.



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
*For science. For action. For health.*



## CANDIDATE DONALD TRUMP

Ran on an an anti-immigrant platform.

- ◉ Demonized Mexican immigrants, calling them rapists and criminals.
- ◉ Promised to build a wall along southern border
- ◉ Advocated for the mass deportation of the undocumented.
- ◉ Stated he would create a Muslim registry and ban Muslims from entering the U.S.
- ◉ Reduce or deny entry of refugees
- ◉ Federally defund “sanctuary cities”



# Recent Federal Executive Actions

- 3 Executive Orders on Immigration
  - “Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States” (EO 13768) (Interior Enforcement)
  - “Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements” (EO 13767) (The Wall)
  - “Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States” (EO13769) (Travel Ban)

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/judge%E2%80%99s-pause-trump-travel-ban-takes-page-republican-challenge-obama-executive-action-daca>



# US Immigrants: 2015

- 43.3 million immigrants in U.S.
- 84.3 million people (27%) if include US born children
- 11 million undocumented





# Immigrant Policy and Health Equity



Portland, Oregon — April 22-25, 2017



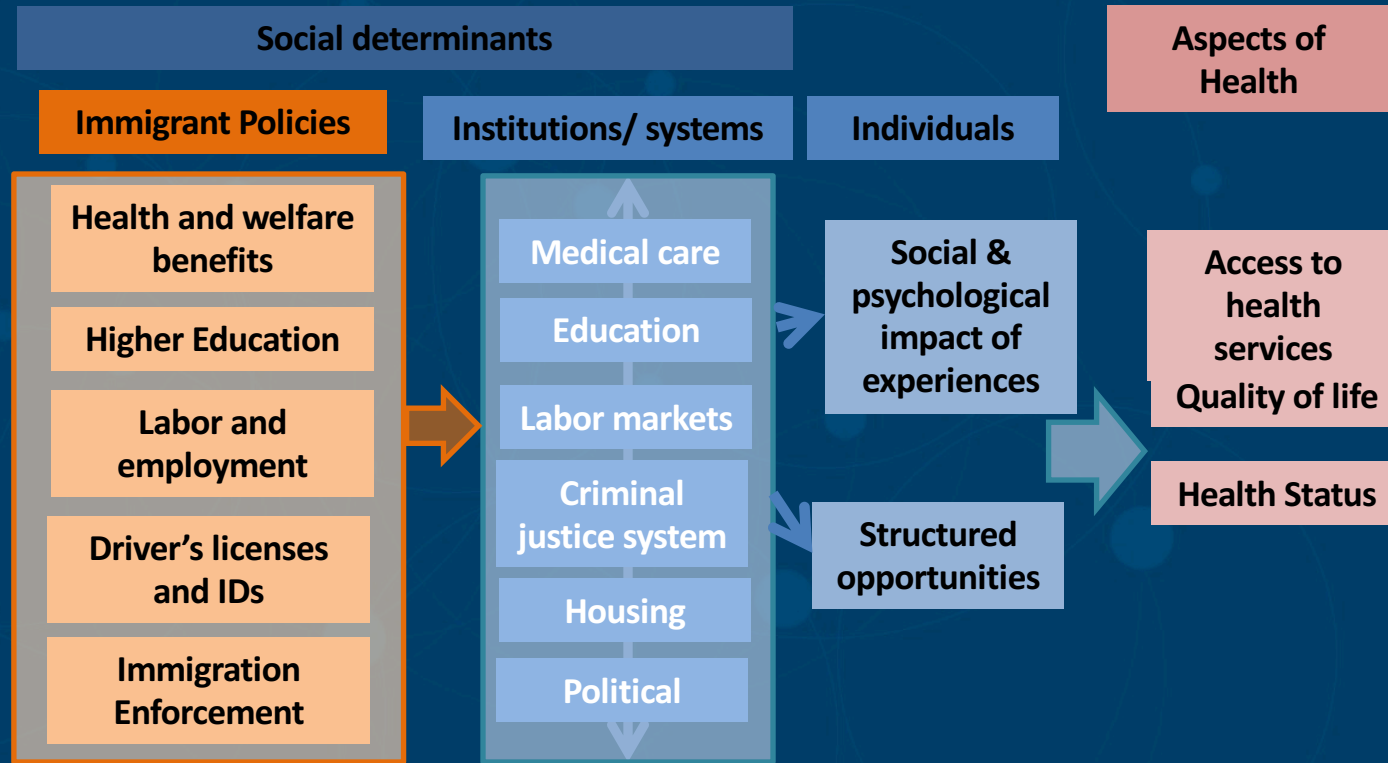
STARFIELD SUMMIT

# Immigration vs Immigrant policy

- Immigration policy – federal laws on entry and legal status
- Immigrant policy – the rights and eligibility for programs for persons with different immigration statuses



**Figure 1. Immigrant policy as a social determinant of health**



<http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/publications/search/pages/detail.aspx?PubID=1373>



**Creating conditions to  
support healthy people:**  
State policies that affect the  
health of undocumented  
immigrants and their families

Michael A. Rodríguez  
Maria-Elena Young  
Steven P. Wallace





# Policy Areas

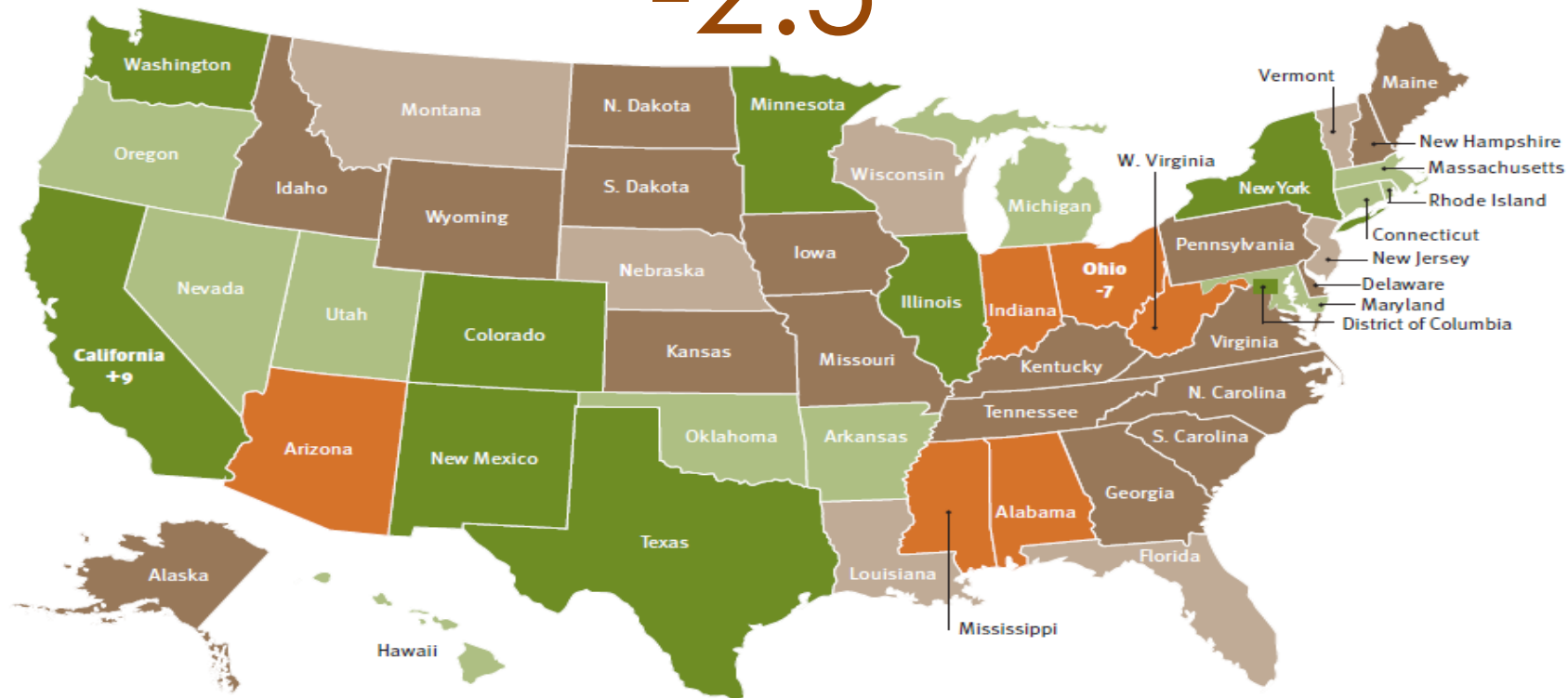
- Public health & welfare benefits
- Higher education
- Labor & employment practices
- Driver licensing and identification
- Secure Communities



-7 to -6
  -5 to -4
  -3
  -2 to 0
  +1 to +9

Less inclusive More inclusive

-2.5



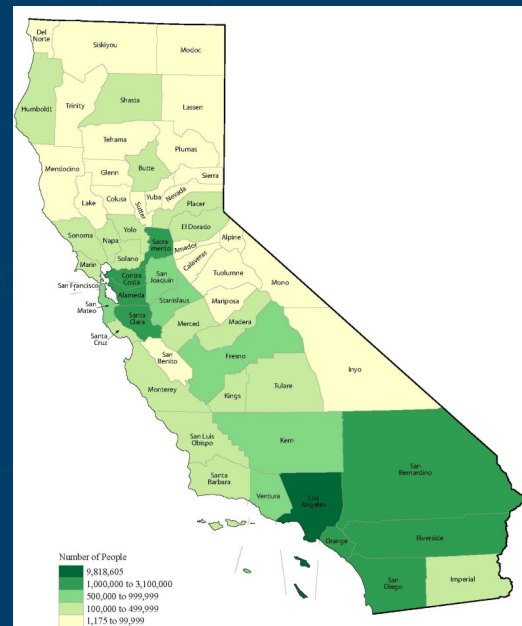
# States can adopt inclusive policies in areas reviewed

- Expand laws that actively grant rights
- Buffer impact of restrictive federal laws
- Acknowledge undocumented immigrants



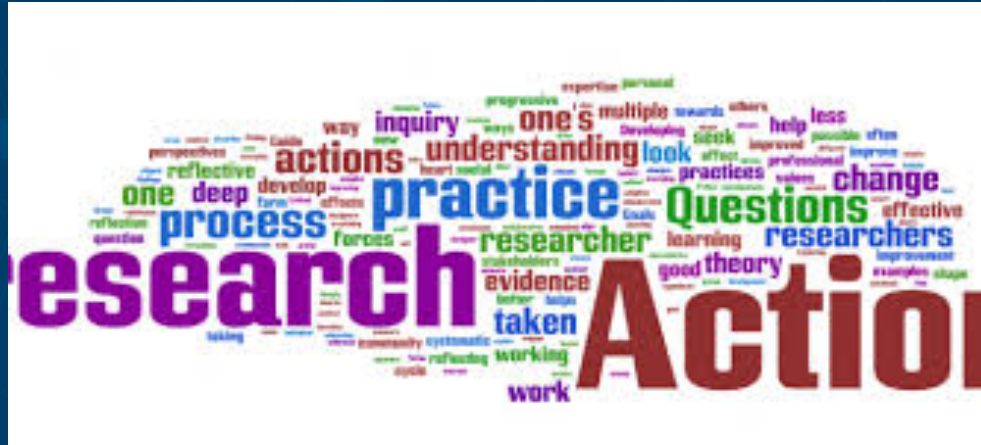
# Examples from California

- 10 bill package introduced to 2015 legislative session
  - Lara bill (health insurance)
  - Anti-discrimination laws ext'd to all immigrants
  - Assist w/legalization, naturalization





## Next Steps



Portland, Oregon — April 22-25, 2017



STARFIELD SUMMIT

# Adopt a human rights frame

## Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25

- Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.





# Thank you!

Portland, Oregon — April 22-25, 2017

 STARFIELD SUMMIT