

# Impact of COVID-19 on NJ immigrants

Fact sheet for Sept. 17, 2021 press briefing with New Jersey journalists

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## Immigrants are feeling the impacts of COVID-19

Since February 2020, more than 7 million people in the U.S. have lost their jobs. People of color and immigrant families have been particularly impacted, including the 10.4 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. Undocumented immigrant workers often lack access to healthcare, are ineligible for many government relief payments, and experience job instability. In New Jersey, there are still barriers to accessing essential services for treatment and testing of COVID-19 for immigrants.



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## Important facts

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- 1.** About 1.6 million people in New Jersey live with at least one non-U.S. citizen in the household. Approximately 32% of New Jersey workers in front-line industries are immigrants, including about 29% of grocery workers, 31% of healthcare workers, and 56% of workers in building cleaning service industries.
  - 2.** Before COVID-19, 754,000 unemployed New Jersey residents, including 330,000 noncitizens, did not have public or private health insurance coverage. Today, 1,060,000 New Jersey residents are unemployed including 463,000 non-citizens.
  - 3.** There are an estimated 425,000 undocumented immigrants in New Jersey. About 23% of NJ's undocumented population has lived in the United States for more than 10 years. Under the Trump administration, the number of undocumented immigrants coming from Central America to New Jersey declined to the lowest point in more than a decade.
  - 4.** As of September 8, 2021, there were 180 confirmed COVID-19 cases among immigrant detainees at New Jersey's two detention centers. At the Elizabeth Detention Center, 116 of its 134 immigrant detainees have tested positive for COVID-19 and nine are under monitoring or isolation. Nationally, more than 23,400 people are currently being held for immigration violations and 847 of them have tested positive for COVID-19.
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**Sources** For an expanded fact sheet and a full list of sources, visit <https://bit.ly/njimmigrantfacts>