



New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice

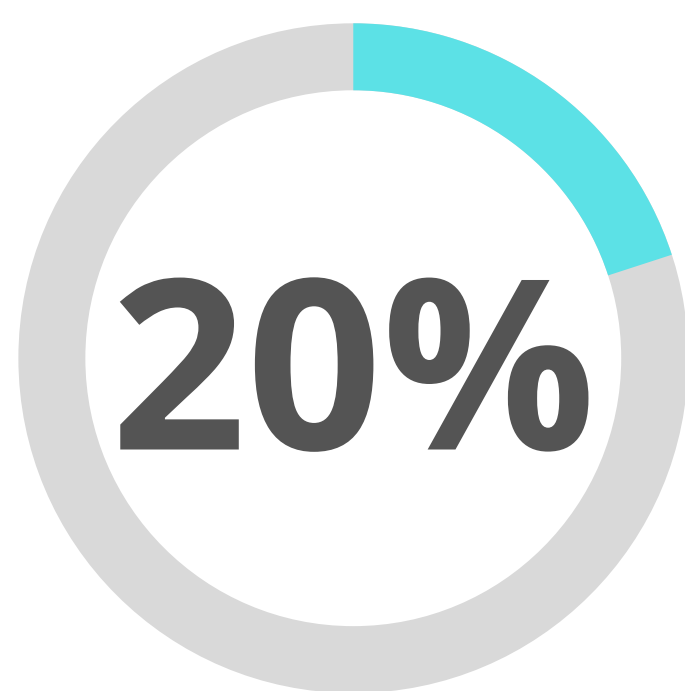
NJAIJ is the state's largest immigration coalition. Together with the power and strength of 50+ organizations, we fight for policies that empower and protect immigrants.

The Immigrant Trust Act Critical Protections for New Jerseyans

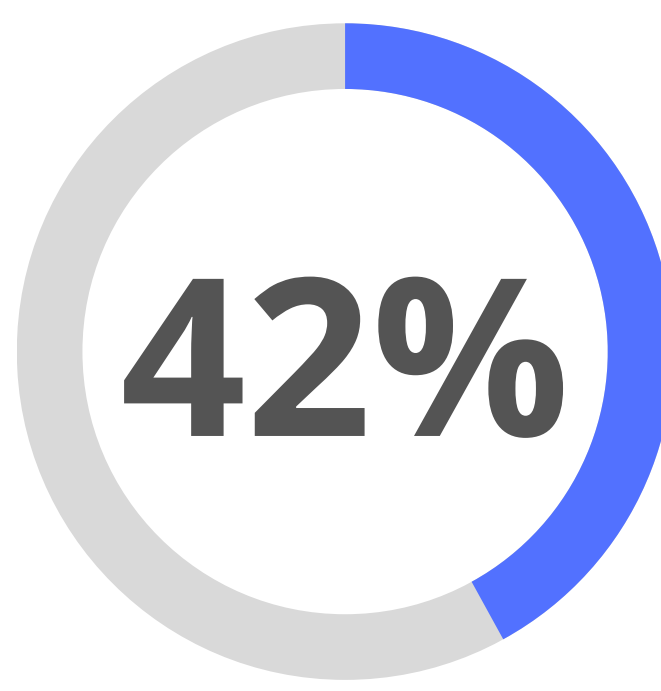
New Jersey agencies collect personal information that, if shared with ICE, could lead to deportation, detention, and family separation. As a result, New Jerseyans who fear immigration consequences may avoid public benefits and services to which they are eligible.

Immigrants have long feared seeking public services due to fear of detention and deportation. These fears deepened during the last federal administration due to the public charge ruling and still persist today.

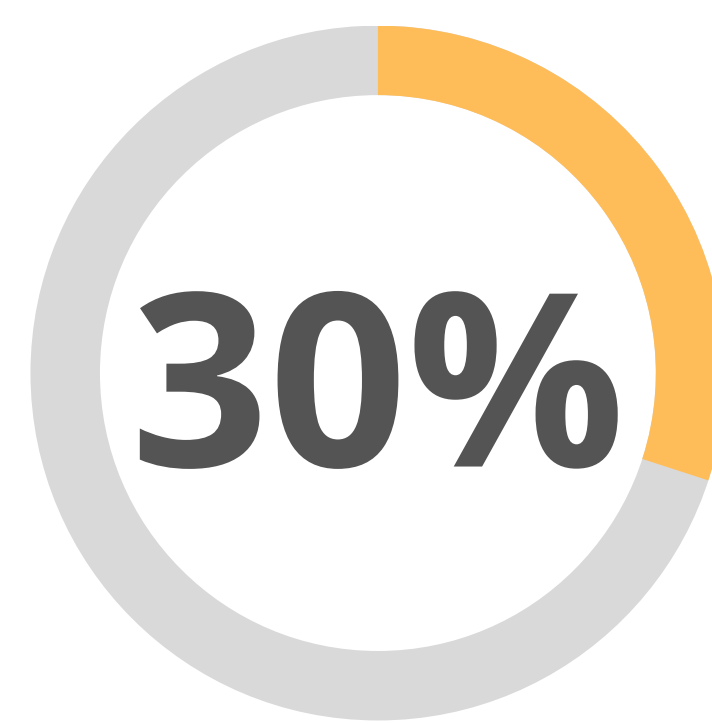
Data on immigrant families who avoided public benefits in 2020:



adults in immigrant families with children



families with children where someone is a nonpermanent resident.



30% of low-income immigrant families with children

**Our resources should support NJ's values and priorities,
not the federal detention & deportation machine.**

The Immigrant Trust Act will:

Expand critical protections

Immigration questions will only come up if needed to determine eligibility for a service, and law enforcement will not voluntarily share information with ICE.



Advance accountability



Law enforcement agencies must annually report cooperation with immigration enforcement

Set model policies that keep information safe

Will stop the sharing and collection of immigration information at places like ...

Healthcare Facilities



Public Schools

Public Libraries



Shelters
...and more!

The ITA is important to workers, parents, survivors, students, and so many more.

Should these community members deny themselves support because of fear of deportation?

Since immigrating to the US in 2014, Perla's 11 year old child has **avoided school physicals due to fear of deportation** if their records ever get shared with ICE.

In 2020, Melvin Herrera-Interiano, a 50-year-old father of two U.S citizen children and a resident of North Brunswick was **deported after a police officer pulled him over for making a wrong turn at a traffic light**. He was reported to ICE due to an ICE order of removal, unknown to him, from 15 years ago. The deportation caused by **this incident forced Melvin's entire family to upend their lives in New Jersey and leave the country, despite their own roots here.**²

Maximina is a survivor who was falsely accused by her abuser of domestic violence. **She was found not guilty in court, but after her hearing, ICE was waiting outside and was arrested.** Even though she wasn't detained, she has to report regularly to ICE. The trauma from **this experience prevents Maximina from asserting her rights** and applying for public services out of fear of deportation.

² Karen Yi, "In the Aftermath of NJ Father's Deportation, U.S. Citizen Children Follow Him to Honduras," *Gothamist* (2021).