

IMMIGRATION & WELFARE » WHAT'S THE TRUTH?

Today, welfare benefits and this statement:

"Undocumented workers' claim on state and federal welfare shuts out American citizens."

What our reporting uncovered:

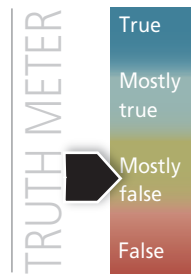
Most state and federal funded welfare programs are off-limits to undocumented workers.

The few benefits open to them are nutritional programs like school lunch and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC); immunizations; emergency medical services; disaster relief and other programs necessary to protect life and

safety.

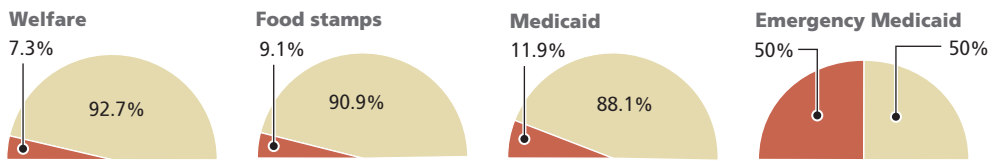
Undocumented members of mixed status families arguably benefit from aid given to citizen relatives. And increased demand for aid can strain budgets and prod states to reduce "optional" benefits, such as Medicaid coverage for dental and vision care.

But citizens aren't denied aid because an immigrant gets there first. All who are eligible qualify.



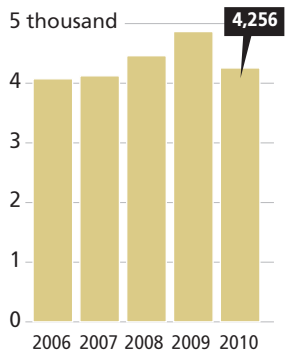
Contrary to popular belief, public aid is generally reserved for Utah citizens. Only some food assistance and emergency medical services appear to be disproportional.

■ Percent of households with an undocumented member using: ■ Percent of Utah citizens using:

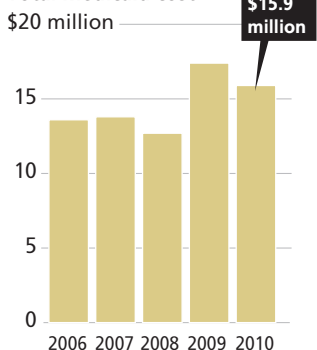


Emergency Medicaid-paid births to low-income women, most of whom are undocumented immigrants.

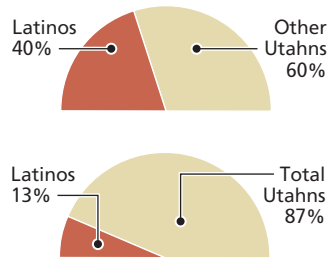
Number of births



Total Medicaid cost



Latinos comprise 40 percent of people using the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, but they account for just 13 percent of the Utah population.



Note: Unless noted, percentages are monthly averages or fiscal year-to-date 2011.

Sources: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Utah Department of Health, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Reporting by Kirsten Stewart, graphic by Todd Adams | The Salt Lake Tribune