

Immigrant Children's Health Insurance Coverage by Maternal Region of Origin and Acculturation

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Among a sample of US-born children of immigrants, we assess the association between immigrant mother's region of origin and acculturation on health insurance coverage using the Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey-Kindergarten Cohort data set. Results indicate that children whose mothers are from Latin America and Mexico compared to Europe/Canada are at greater risk of being uninsured compared to receiving public or private coverage. Children whose mothers are from Latin America and the Caribbean compared to Europe/Canada are at greater risk of receiving public coverage than private. Overall, children of less acculturated mothers are at increased risk of being uninsured or receiving public insurance; U.S. citizenship mediates the increased risk of Mexican immigrant children being uninsured compared to receiving private coverage. We discuss the findings in relation to socio-economic factors from the mother's region of origin and how encouraging education may increase health insurance coverage among U.S.-born children of immigrants.