Undocumented and Empowered

How different legal environments in California and Arizona impact the psychological outcomes of undocumented individuals

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1. Introduction
2. State vs. Federal Governments
3. Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act
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5. California Proposition 187
6. Conclusion and Next Steps
“Different anti-immigration policies between states create different contextual and environmental stressors which result in differing levels of fear, worry, and stress for undocumented youth and their families.”
A System of Checks and Balances: State vs. Federal Governments
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• Splits the ruling power between the legislative, judicial, and executive branches
• Creates and maintains policies that apply to state governments and all individuals residing in the United States

STATE GOVERNMENTS

• All state governments have the same model of government as the Federal Government
• Creates their own bills and policies that when passed into law, are followed by individuals residing in that particular state

(State and Local Government | The White House, n.d.)
Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA)
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**Policy Breakdown:**

- **Enacted in 1996 as an attempt to crack down on illegal immigration to the U.S.**
- **Penalties for crimes committed by undocumented individuals were harsher.**
- **Imposed a new rule that immigrants seeking asylum must file their paperwork no later than one year after arriving in the U.S.**

*(Table 39. Aliens Removed or Returned: Fiscal Years 1892 to 2019 | Homeland Security, 2019)*
Arizona Senate Bill 1070
“Show me your papers” Provision:

BILL BREAKDOWN:

- Legally gave law enforcement the authority to ask to see proof of citizenship for any individuals who looked to have “reasonable suspicion” of being undocumented.

(Arizona SB 1070, n.d.)
Psychological Effects of SB 1070:

Altered Interactions with Law Enforcement:

Increased Psychological Distress Within Families:

The Family Stress Model*

* modified to add examples

(Imacts of Immigration Actions and News and the Psychological Distress of U.S. Latino Parents Raising Adolescents - ScienceDirect, n.d.)

(Rubio-Hernandez & Ayón, 2016)
California Proposition 187
Proposition 187:

**BILL BREAKDOWN:**

- One of the most explicitly discriminatory policies ever passed
- Restricted public services for undocumented individuals and required that public employees report individuals they suspected of being undocumented

(Thurber, n.d.)
Effects of Proposition 187:

**IMMEDIATE EFFECTS:**
Decreased use of public facilities

**LONG-TERM EFFECTS:**
Increase in youth activism and government transparency

(Marx et al., 1996).

(DeAngelo et al., 2016)
Next Steps and Conclusions:
Conclusion:

Moving Forward...

We need a better and more conclusive immigration policy. Federal government needs to step up and create a better/easier pathway to obtaining legal status.

“NO INDIVIDUAL, WHETHER A CHILD OR AN ADULT, SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL HARM THAT COMES FROM THE CONSTANT FEAR OF DEPORTATION”
Thank you