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# Poverty: The Unaccompanied Immigrants' Reality

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# Poverty: The Unaccompanied Immigrants' Reality

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**Unaccompanied minors:**

Minors may apply for asylum with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as unaccompanied minors if they:

- ✓ Are under 18 years old;
- ✓ Have no lawful immigration status in the United States; and
- ✓ Have no parents or legal guardians in the United States available to provide care and physical custody.

**Reasons to emigrate:**

Unaccompanied minors migrated to the United States in order to escape from life-threats due to gangs, poverty, lack of education, physical, emotional or sexual abuse, and to reunify with their parents or relatives.

**Level of poverty:**

- ✓ Most children of immigrants are U.S. citizens.
- ✓ 1 in 4 low-income children is a child of immigrants.
- ✓ 92% of children with foreign-born parents have a parent who works.



**A new reality in the United States:**

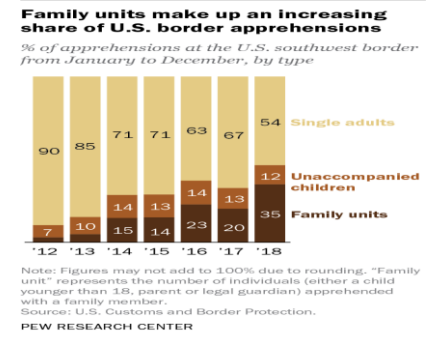
Child poverty in immigrant families is not linked to joblessness; rather it is more closely connected to low-wage jobs.

**A huge problem:**

In Summer 2018, the Health and Human Services Department faced a tidal wave of criticism for its handling of migrant children after an official acknowledged that the agency had lost track of nearly 1,500 minors in a three-month period.

**The numbers of detainees are shocking:**

In November 2018, 51,856 people were apprehended between ports of entry on the Southwest Border, compared with 51,001 in the month of October. In FY18, a total of 396,579 individuals were apprehended in ports of entry on our Southwest Border.



**Current relief in New York:**

The State will also provide new services to aid immigrant children who have been discharged from New York State facilities:

- ✓ Peer support groups;
- ✓ Group and individual counseling;
- ✓ Referrals and services to assist families;
- ✓ Assistance with educational and language services;
- ✓ Education and prevention related to human trafficking and gang violence; and
- ✓ Access to legal representation by Liberty Defense Project.

