Para acceder a interpretación inglés-español durante el seminario web haga un click en “Interpretation” ubicado en el panel de control abajo de su pantalla y seleccione “Spanish”.
WEBINAR

The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Immigrants and Refugees in Louisiana and Mississippi

May 13, 2020
2-3:15pm EDT
1-2:15pm CDT
Featured Speakers

Sue Weishar, Ph.D., Policy and Research Fellow, Jesuit Social Research Institute/Loyola University New Orleans (Moderator)

Kimberly Mukerjee, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Director of Immigrant and Refugee Health, Section of Community Pediatrics and Immigrant Health, Tulane University School of Medicine

Daniela Alulema, Director of Programs, Center for Migration Studies

MariLo Martinez-Rivera, Executive Director, Mujeres Luchadoras

Julie Norman, LMSW, Bilingual Counselor, Trauma Recovery Services, New Orleans Family Justice Center

Monica Soto, English Language Tutor for the Forest Mississippi Municipal School District and Outreach Worker for El Pueblo

Dauda Sesay, Executive Director, Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants, and Member of Board of Directors, Refugee Congress for the Southern U.S.
“Not all in the same boat”
Health disparities and inequities during COVID-19

Kimberly Mukerjee, MD MPH
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Director of Immigrant and Refugee Health, Section of Community Pediatrics and Immigrant Health, Tulane University School of Medicine
Setting the stage: demographics

African American, white, and Hispanic population, Orleans Parish

Source: The Data Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 and Population Estimates 2018

Hispanic population change by parish

High rates of poverty: Louisiana, Mississippi

Source: https://talkpoverty.org/poverty/
High rates of poverty

Source: The Data Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from Census 2000 SF3 and American Community Survey 2018.
High rates of child food insecurity

https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2017/child/louisiana
• Disparities in health insurance coverage

• Hispanics are 3 times as likely to be uninsured as compared to whites
Louisiana and COVID-19: an early hotspot


http://ldh.la.gov/coronavirus/
Social determinants of health: COVID-19

- Access barriers to healthcare
- Essential workers
- Physical health + Mental health
- Poverty, food insecurity
- Immigration status
- Government policies
- PPE, social distancing
An on-the-ground look

- Meeting the urgent needs of children and families
- Keeping families safe
- Bringing testing to neighborhoods
- Pairing testing with resource distribution
Next steps

• Continued advocacy and awareness for immigrant and refugee populations
• COVID-19 testing must be accessible to all
• Address urgent and life-saving needs
• Increase protective measures to keep all safe
Economic Challenges facing Immigrants during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Daniela Alulema
Director of Programs, Center for Migration Studies
MariLo Martinez-Rivera
Executive Director, Mujeres Luchadoras
## Foreign-Born Essential Workers in Louisiana and Mississippi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Naturalized Citizens</th>
<th>Legal Foreign-born</th>
<th>Undocumented</th>
<th>Total Foreign Born</th>
<th>Foreign-born Share of All Essential Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>28,900</td>
<td>15,400</td>
<td>35,100</td>
<td>79,400</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>10,500</td>
<td>6,600</td>
<td>11,200</td>
<td>28,300</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Center for Migration Studies. Data collected in the 2018 American Community Survey.
## Foreign-born Essential Workers in Louisiana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Worker or Economic Activity</th>
<th>Naturalized Citizens</th>
<th>Legal Foreign-born</th>
<th>Undocumented</th>
<th>Total Foreign Born</th>
<th>Foreign-born Share of All Essential Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>21,200</td>
<td>27,700</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Retail</td>
<td>5,600</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>11,400</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Health Care Operations</td>
<td>4,900</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>8,200</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Infrastructure</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Services</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Services to Maintain Safety and Sanitation</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Manufacturing</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>4,300</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Institutions</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Wholesale</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Center for Migration Studies. Data collected in the 2018 American Community Survey.
### Foreign-born Essential Workers in Mississippi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Worker or Economic Activity</th>
<th>Naturalized Citizens</th>
<th>Legal Foreign-born</th>
<th>Undocumented</th>
<th>Total Foreign Born</th>
<th>Foreign-born Share of All Essential Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essential Retail</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>3,700</td>
<td>8,600</td>
<td>6.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Health Care Operations</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>4,400</td>
<td>2.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3,100</td>
<td>3,900</td>
<td>4.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Manufacturing</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>3,400</td>
<td>2.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Infrastructure</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>3.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Services</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Services to Maintain Safety, and Sanitation</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Center for Migration Studies. Data collected in the 2018 American Community Survey.
COVID-19 Layoffs Have Hit the Undocumented Community Hard

• 32 percent of undocumented workers were employed in Service Sector before pandemic

• 10% of labor force in hotels and 8% of workers in restaurants and food service were undocumented Immigrants. https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/undocumented-immigrants-covid-19-crisis/
How Undocumented Immigrants Left Out of Coronavirus Relief Bills

• Unemployment Insurance (UI) through the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program is only available to people who are work-authorized.

• CARES Act Direct cash payments of $1200 per adult and $500 per child only to taxpayers with a valid Social Security Number.

  (If one member of family does not have Social Security number then entire household ineligible.)

Mujeres Luchadoras

NOS LEVANTAMOS CUANDO AYUDAMOS A OTRAS A LEVANTARSE!

MUJERES LUCHADORAS

TE INVITA A PARTICIPAR EN SU ENTREGA DE CANASTAS BÁSICAS
DOMINGO, 17 DE NOV. 2019
DE 3 A 5PM
AREA DE JUEGOS GRANDE
PARQUE LAFRANIÈRE
3000 DOWN BLVD, METAIRIE LA.
TE ESPERAMOS!

Para más información llama al 504 491 8927
Mujeres Luchadoras Community Building Events
Making the Holidays Special for Traumatized Children
COVID-19 Emergency Assistance
Safety Challenges facing Immigrants during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Julie Norman  LMSW
Bilingual Counselor
Trauma Recovery Services
New Orleans Family Justice Center
Impact of COVID Crisis on Immigrant DV Survivors

Ojalá que las personas valoren como nos sentimos los inmigrantes de este país cuando venimos por un sueño y dejamos a nuestra familias y amigos atrás muy lejos después de haber cruzados millones de kilómetros. Hemos vivido y sentido la pérdida de familiares y amigos y sin poder ir a verlos y estar con ellos y darles su último adiós, sinceramente es igual que lo que han vivido muchas personas que han perdido a sus familiares y no se han despedido por el Covid-19.

Hopefully people from this country can appreciate how we - immigrants in this country - feel when we come here for a dream and leave our families and friends behind - far away - after crossing thousands of kilometres. We have lived and felt the lost of family and friends, without being able to see them or be with them or say a final goodbye; sincerely, it is exactly what many people have experienced who have lost their relatives and have not been permitted to say goodbye due to COVID-19.
Stay-at-Home When Home is Not Safe

- Increased Dangers at Home combined with
- Decreased Routes to Safety
What’s Needed to Escape Abuse & Violence?

- Safety Planning
- Support Network
- Support from institutions & courts
- Emergency Shelter
- $$$, Relocation & Stabilization Resources
- Psycho-social/Mental Health Support
Politics, Histories, Safety Spanning Borders
August 7, 2019, ICE Raids in Central Mississippi

Largest ICE raid in 10 years
Immigration officials raided seven Mississippi chicken processing plants, arresting 680 mostly Latino workers in the largest sting in at least a decade.

Source: JSRI
Educational Challenges facing Immigrants during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Monica Soto
English Language Tutor for the Forest Mississippi Municipal School District and Outreach Worker for El Pueblo
Overview of COVID-19 Educational Challenges to Vulnerable Immigrant Families

Louisiana Department of Education Distance Learning Survey of all 192 LA Public School Systems, April 7-17, 2020, findings:

- About 1 in 4 students (28%) do not have access to a computer;
- About 1 in 4 students (24%) are not receiving any feedback on their learning;
- On average, a majority of the content that students are receiving is review (61%);
- A top need identified: Technology access for students (71%).

(In MS a similar survey sent to districts April 29, due May 14).
From JSRI Report *The Privilege of Plenty: Educational Inequity in Mississippi*

Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants (LORI)

ONE COMMUNITY-STRONGER TOGETHER

Dauda Sesay, Executive Director, Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants, and Member of Board of Directors, Refugee Congress for the Southern U.S.

Refugee Congress is a nonpartisan national advocacy organization built and led by former refugees, asylum-seekers and other vulnerable migrants to promote the well-being, integration and dignity of all vulnerable migrants.
1. RESETTLED IN THE USA IN 2009
2. BOARD MEMBER OF REFUGEE CONGRESS
3. SERVE ON MAYOR PRESIDENT SHARON WESTON BROOME INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
4. FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF LORI
5. WORK WITH DOW CHEMICAL AS PROCESS TECHNICIAN

Dauda fled Sierra Leone due to the brutal war that led to the murder of his father and younger sister. In the refugee camp in the Gambia, he worked with other refugees to advocate for better living conditions in the camp and education for the children. Today Dauda has been resettled in Baton Rouge and is the proud father of three children.
WHO WE ARE

LORI is a non profit organization founded by refugees and immigrants from 17 countries assisting other refugees and Immigrants.

MISSION

The primary mission of LORI is to assist refugees and immigrants throughout their various stages of integration in Louisiana, and other states enabling them to become self-reliant.

VISION

LORI seeks to promote the socio-economic and well-being of all Refugees and Immigrants living in Louisiana, the United States and the world at large.
Virtual One Community Dialogue on Zoom is a safe platform to Educate, Connect and Engage members to discuss how we can navigate through this covid-19 challenges.

- FEAR OF PUBLIC CHARGE
- LANGUAGE ACCESS
- UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS
PUBLIC CHARGE

The Trump administration recently instituted a new rule that would deny admission or make someone ineligible to get green card if the government thinks might receive public benefits, at any time.

Vulnerable immigrants.

- Seniors/elderly and those with disabilities.
- Non-English speakers
- Low-income refugees/immigrants
LANGUAGE ACCESS/BARRIER

- Lack of essential information in local languages.
- Getting the right message at this critical time saves lives.
- Translating or creating multilingual materials in both written and audio
ACCESS TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE in the Baton area, majority of the refugees and immigrants who have been laid-off or furloughed are severely struggling to navigate the system to apply for unemployment benefits.

- Lack of familiarity with process of applying
- Language barrier
- Internet skills or access to internet services
- Fear that their reduced income will count against them in the future—Public Charge
Questions & Resources


https://talkpoverty.org/poverty/

http://ldh.la.gov/coronavirus/


Information on how to support survivors of domestic violence
https://survivormutualaid.wordpress.com/

Information on how to support vulnerable immigrants in Mississippi

Information on how to support Mujeres Luchadoras

Information on how to support LORI