

Immigrants in Massachussets Say They Are Scared to go to the Hospital

In April 2020, Esmeralda wasn't been feeling well. She started feeling dizzy and really hot, like she had a fever. She thought she might have COVID-19, but she was scared to get tested. Ever since she was little, Esmeralda had been afraid to get help from doctors (seek healthcare) because she thought it might make it harder for her to get to stay in the United States.

Esmeralda was afraid because she was undocumented, meaning that she didn't have papers that said she could be here in the United States. She had applied for asylum, which means she was asking to stay in a place because it is unsafe for her to go back home. Esmeralda couldn't go back home to El Salvador because it was too violent.

Esmeralda knew that doctor's offices and hospitals sometimes communicate with a government organization called ICE, or Immigration and Customs Enforcement. If ICE finds someone without papers, they will take them away from their family and put them in jail and return them to the country they came from, even if it is unsafe. She was scared that if she went to the doctors office, the doctors office might call ICE, and then they would take her away from her family and send her back to El Salvador.

Esmeralda isn't alone. Many immigrants in Chelsea, and across Massachusetts don't get help from doctors when they need it because they are afraid. Fortunately, there are a lot of doctors and organizations (groups of people) working to help immigrants get access to healthcare they need. For example, during the pandemic, some doctors spent a lot of time reassuring patients that getting care wouldn't make it harder for them to stay in the United States. But the doctors also know that it is hard to trust the medical system when it has made it really hard and dangerous to access healthcare services for a long time.

(McGloin, 2020)

Animal Justice Advocates Fight for Two Elephants

Two elephants, Emma and Ruth, have lived at the New Bedford zoo for decades. But animal justice advocates from the group *In Defense of Animals* think that the elephants have been mistreated by at the zoo. The elephants are confined to a small space and they have suffered injuries from being left out in the cold weather. These advocates say that the elephants should be moved to a big elephant sanctuary (a much bigger space than a zoo, where they won't be confined to a small area or viewed by visitors). *In Defense of Animals* even claimed that the zoo is breaking a law called the Animal Welfare Act by mistreating the elephants.

However, the zoo says that the zoo caretakers are doing everything they can to take care of the elephants, and that Emma and Rush are happy where they are and should not be moved. They say that the elephants are important to the people of New Bedford and that animal experts at the zoo know what is best for them.