

Trends in food insecurity and SNAP participation among immigrant families of US born young children

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The authors have no relationships to disclose.

Road Map

- ✓ About the Children's HealthWatch study
- ✓ Study Measures and Sample Characteristics
- ✓ Trends among immigrant vs US born mothers 2007-2018
- ✓ Implications





About Us

Non-partisan network of pediatricians, public health researchers and child health and policy experts.

Mission: To improve the health of young children by informing policies that address and alleviate economic hardships.

Our Data

- Ongoing cross-sectional, sentinel sample
- Household level survey verbally administered by a Research Assistant to parents of children <48 months
- Pediatric Emergency Rooms and Primary Care Clinics in
 - Baltimore
 - Boston
 - Little Rock
 - Minneapolis
 - Philadelphia

Our Survey

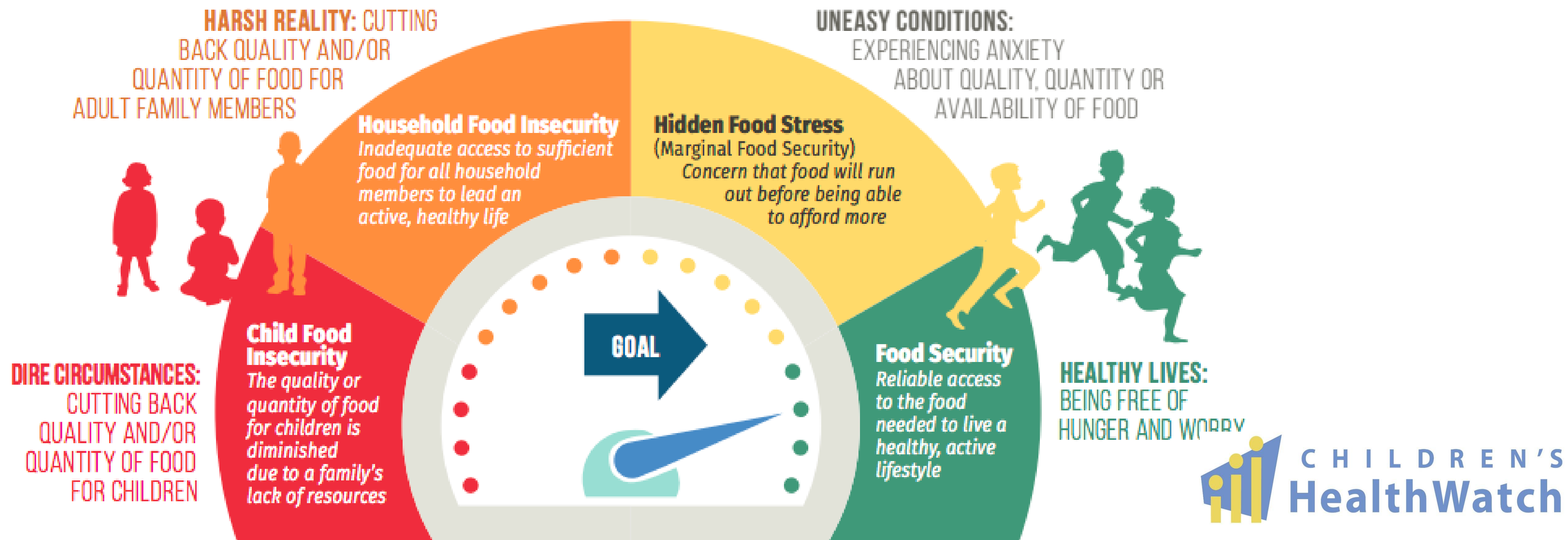
- Demographics
- Household level hardships, including food security status
- Participation in federal and state assistance programs
- Child and parent health outcomes

Measures for Current Study

- Mother's place of birth (US including Puerto Rico vs. outside of the US)
 - For immigrant mothers, length of stay in the US:
 - Less than 5 years
 - More than or equal to 5 years
- Household Food Security Status
- Child Food Security Status
- Participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Food Security Definitions

- Measured using the USDA 18-item Food Security Survey Module
- Household Food Insecurity = 3 or more affirmative responses of 10 adult-specific questions
- Child Food Insecurity = 2 or more affirmative responses of 8 child-specific questions



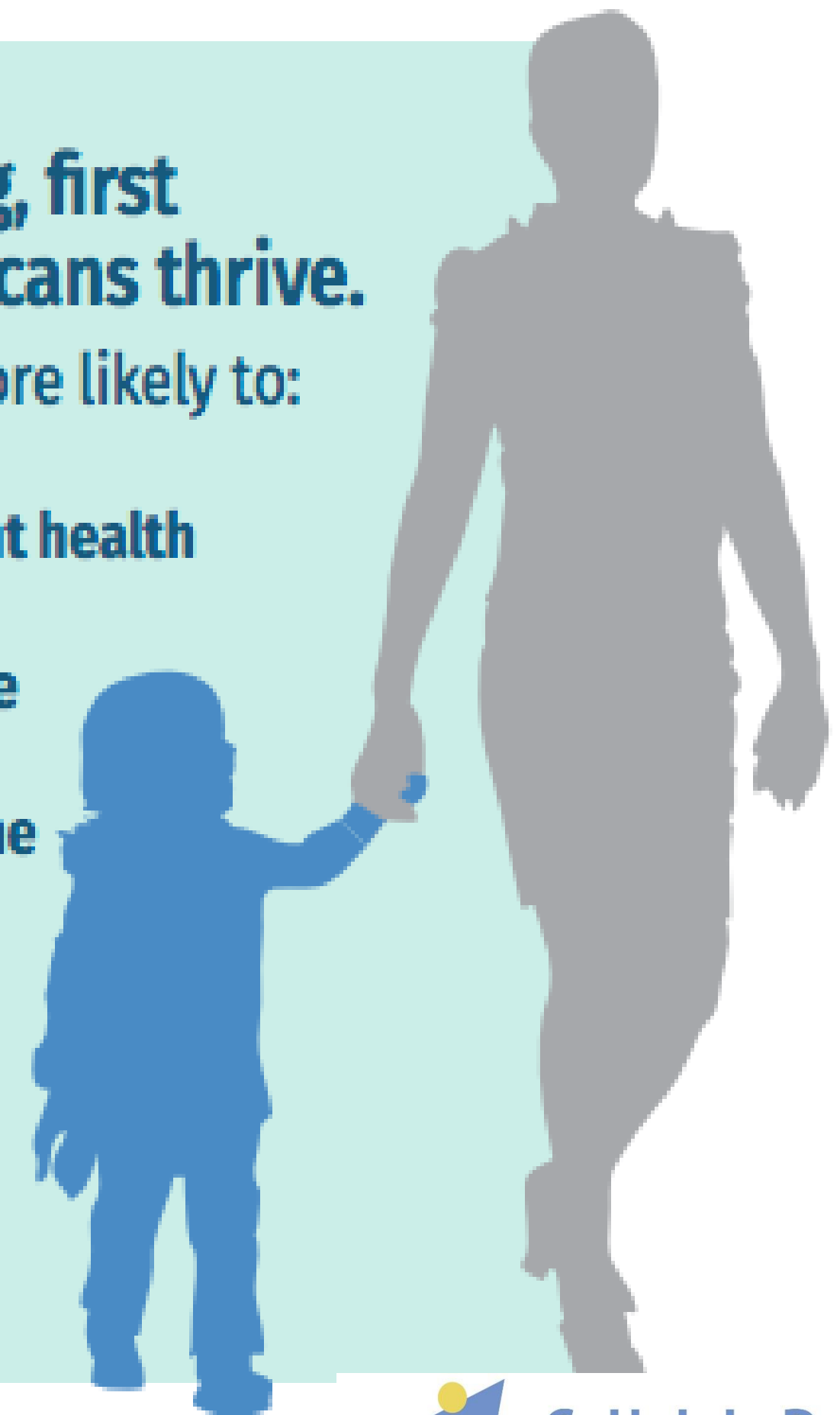
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- Largest nutrition assistance program in the US
- Evidence SNAP reduces food insecurity, improves health across the life course, and reduces health care costs
- SNAP eligibility
 - Low household income AND
 - US citizen, refugee, asylee OR
 - Lawfully present non-citizen in the country more than 5 years

SNAP helps young, first generation Americans thrive.

These children are more likely to:

- ✓ Be in good/excellent health
- ✓ Be child food secure
- ✓ Live in a stable home
- ✓ Live in families who are able to afford prescriptions and medical care



Sample Characteristics

- Biologic mothers interviewed between 2007-2018
- N = 37,570
- US-born
 - 78.6%
 - N=29,530
- Immigrant in US ≥ 5 years
 - 17.64%
 - 6,628
- Immigrant in US < 5 years
 - 3.76%
 - N=1,412

Figure 1: Trends in Household Food Insecurity 2007-2018 by Mother's Place of Birth

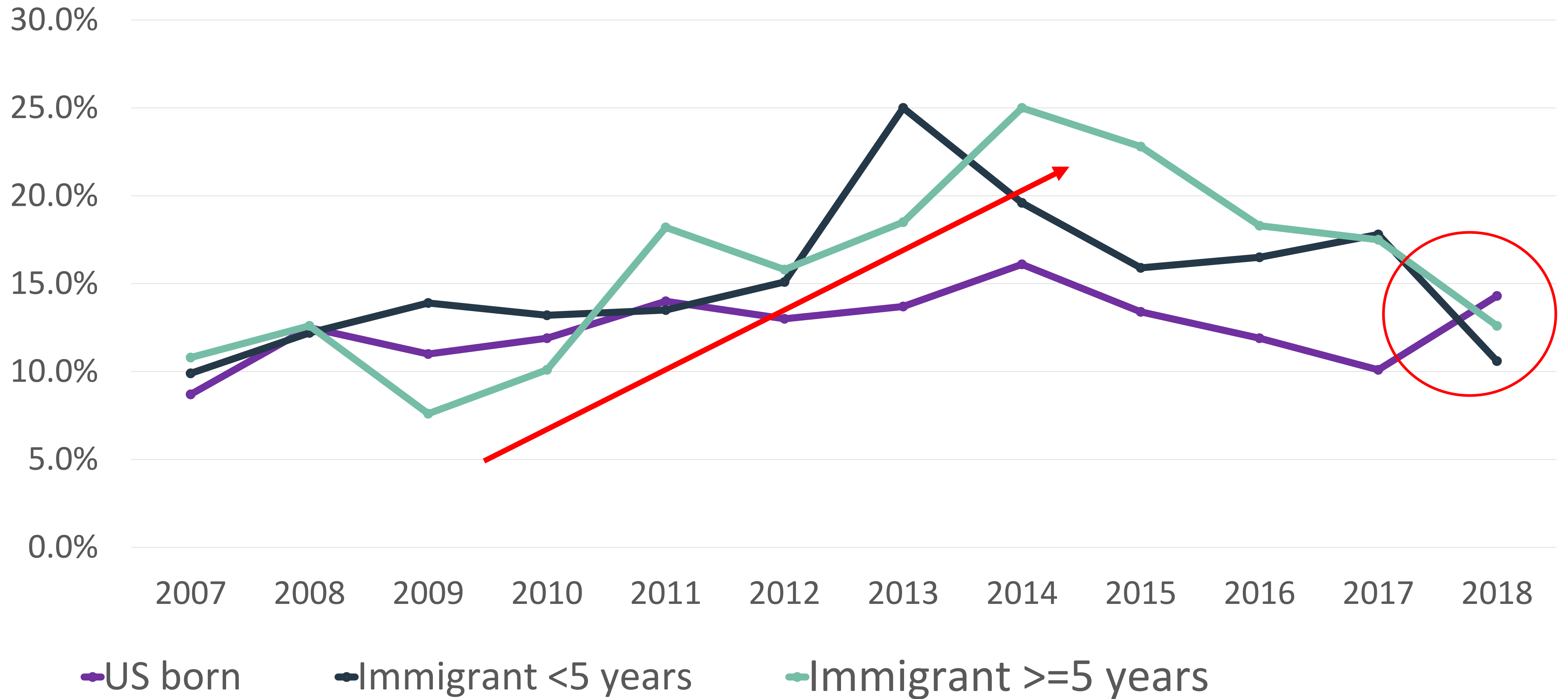


Figure 2: Trends in Child Food Insecurity 2007-2018 by Mother's Place of Birth

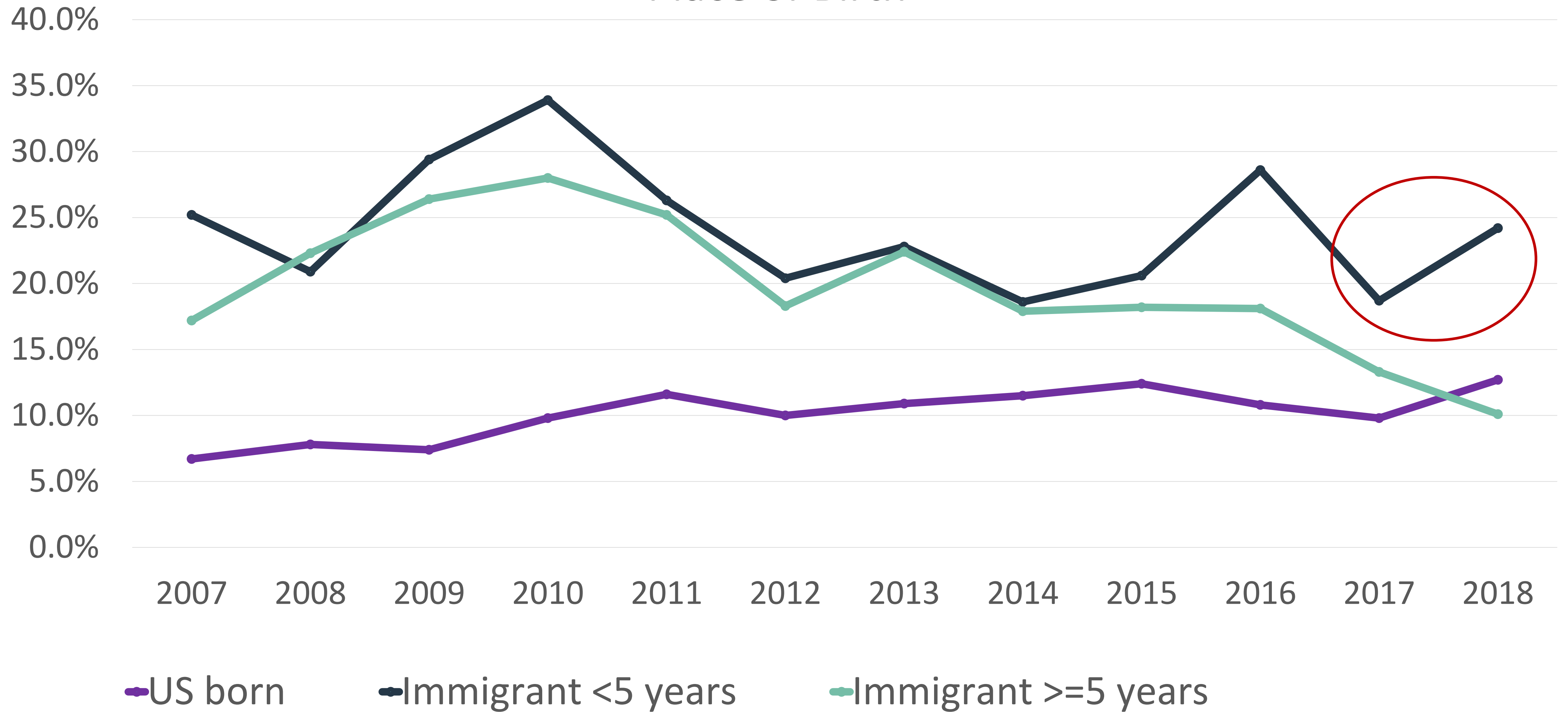
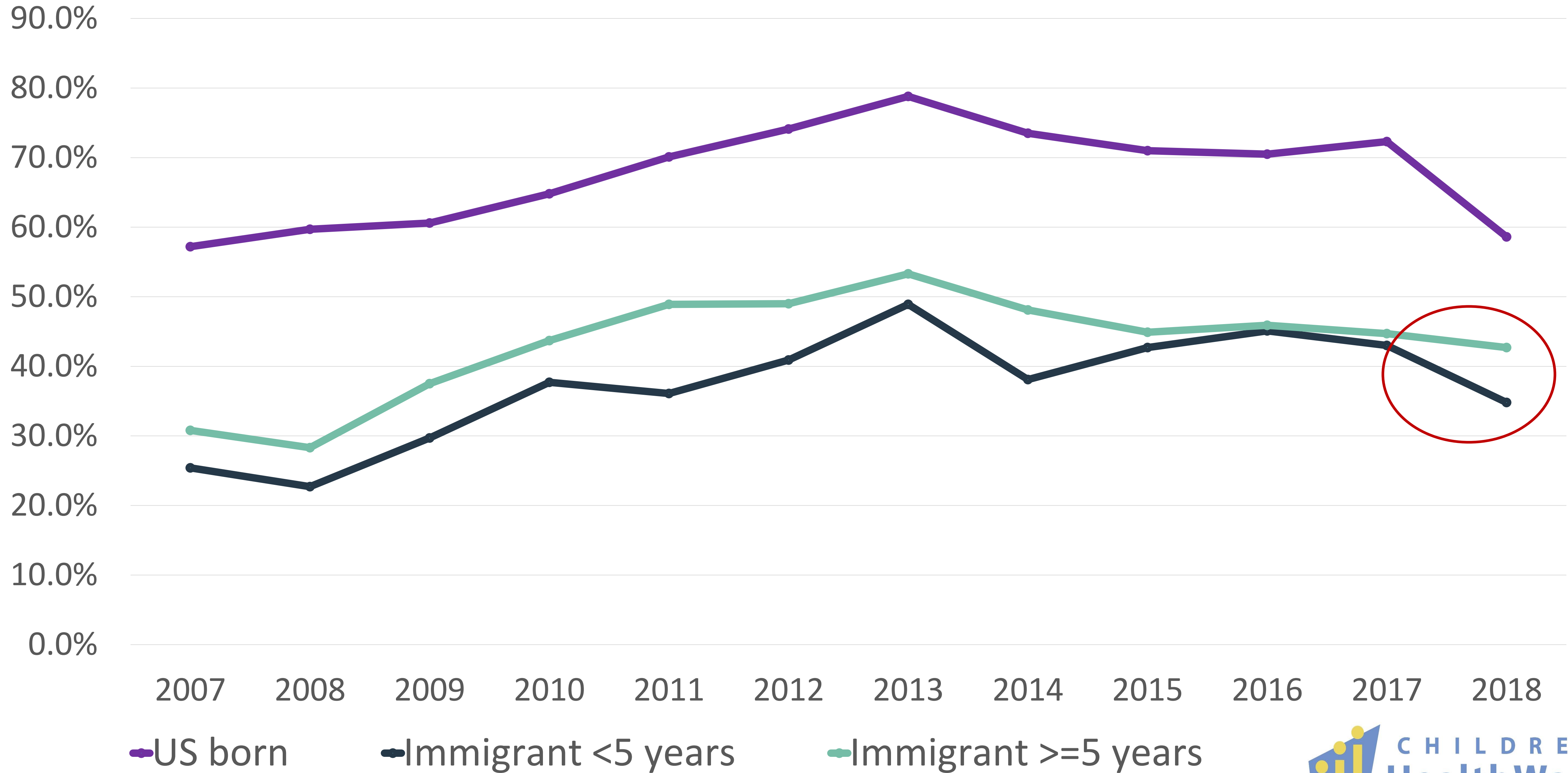


Figure 3: Trends in SNAP Participation 2007-2018 by Mother's Place of Birth



Limitations

- Sentinel sample, not representative
- Self-report SNAP participation and food insecurity
- Immigration status unknown and therefore may vary greatly within the sample
- Preliminary time trends data for 2018, not adjusted for confounders

Current Policy Context

FOOD POLITICO

Immigrants, fearing Trump crackdown, drop out of nutrition programs

Both documented and undocumented immigrants fear that accepting federal aid could make them ineligible for a green card if rules are changed.

By HELENA BOTTEMILLER EVICH | 09/03/2018 08:17 AM EDT | Updated 09/04/2018 01:29 PM EDT

The New York Times

Trump Administration Aims to Sharply Restrict New Green Cards for Those on Public Aid

PowerPost • Analysis

The Washington Post

The Health 202: Under Trump, immigrants back away from Medicaid, Obamacare subsidies

Implications

- Persistently high rates of food insecurity threaten health.
- Policy proposals may exacerbate hardships and decrease participation in SNAP.
- Chilling effect may contribute to decline in SNAP participation among immigrant families

POLITICO

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Thank you!

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