



**February 2026**

# ICED IN

**The Actions and Impacts  
of U.S. Immigration and  
Customs Enforcement (ICE)  
in Massachusetts in 2025**

*A report for the Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts and the public*



**LEAH  
ZALLMAN  
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FOR IMMIGRANT  
HEALTH RESEARCH

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to everyone who shared stories of their own lives and those of friends, family, and community members with us.

Please contact [lzc@icommunityhealth.org](mailto:lzc@icommunityhealth.org) with any questions.

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# Contents

<b>Summary</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Who Is ICE? .....	3
Is ICE Targeting “Criminals”? .....	4
Report Purpose and Methods .....	6
<b>Findings</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>ICE Actions and Strategies</b> .....	<b>10</b>
1. Arresting Non-Criminals in Community .....	10
2. Using Excessive Force, Violence, and Intimidation .....	12
3. Creating a Climate of Fear .....	13
4. Suppressing Basic Rights and Support .....	14
<b>Impacts of ICE on Individual, Institutional, and Community Well-being</b> .....	<b>16</b>
1. Psychological, Financial, and Health Impacts on Individuals and Families .....	16
2. Institutional Impacts in Healthcare and Social Services .....	19
3. Community Impacts on Towns, Businesses, and Schools .....	20
How Do We Understand These Findings Collectively? .....	22
<b>Discussion</b> .....	<b>23</b>
ICE Is Testing the Rule of Law .....	23
Fear and Violence Are Changing the Climate of Our Communities .....	24
Today’s Violence Stems From Ongoing Historical Structural Inequality .....	25
Massachusetts Communities Can Prevent and Mitigate Further Harm .....	27
<b>Resources and Next Steps</b> .....	<b>29</b>

# Summary

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The Leah Zallman Center for Immigrant Health Research (LZC) offers this report to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and its residents to systematically document the impacts of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Massachusetts. In early 2025, the newly inaugurated Trump administration enacted a series of policies and actions that redefined immigration policy and gave new authority and resources to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This report records, validates, and publicizes the experiences of families and institutions in Massachusetts during this turbulent time.

We analyzed 100 stories and found that ICE's actions in Massachusetts in 2025 ran counter to the public narrative that they were detaining criminals and keeping communities safe. Families without criminal backgrounds and with all types of legal statuses—including U.S. citizen children and adults—were directly and indirectly affected. We found patterns of unnecessary violence and suppression of basic rights. The impacts of these actions are far-reaching and have many implications for the future climate of safety and trust in our state. We also documented interconnected economic, health, and psychological impacts at the individual, institutional, and community levels.

In 2025, Massachusetts residents, institutions, and communities experienced unprecedented levels of collective fear, stress, and harm. ICE's violent and threatening tactics made communities less safe. We identified well-known chilling effects, documented during the first Trump administration, that prevented people from accessing basic resources and rights out of fear. We also found that fear, uncertainty, and instability have taken hold in Massachusetts in broader ways; entire institutions and communities are destabilized. ICE has effectively altered the climate of our state—we are “iced in.”

The term “iced in” refers to the moment when a body of water shows evidence of consistent ice cover. Although imperfect, this metaphor aptly conceptualizes the very rigid and fragile climate of fear and violence that has become our shared reality in Massachusetts. In addition, like any body of water that is iced in, there are unseen forces that shape the underlying ecosystem for winter. Currents, wind, and varying temperatures create cracks and constantly change the shape and strength of the ice. Across Massachusetts, community-based rapid response teams and support networks have mobilized to support immigrants. New evidence-based narratives, cross-issue coalitions, and mutual aid networks are actively disrupting, thawing, melting, and cracking the ice. State and local policies, despite lagging behind public opinion and community efforts, show promise.

Massachusetts has a choice. We can remain frozen, or we can shift our climate, saying “ICE OUT.” Strong, coordinated efforts and actions to protect immigrants now will shift the underlying ecosystem and build stronger, healthier communities into the future.



# Introduction

In 2025, the U.S. federal government enacted a series of policies to fund and deploy Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers in communities across the United States for enforcement, detention, and deportation at an unprecedented scale. This included \$10 billion in appropriations in March for ICE in FY25, and an additional [\\$75 billion allocated to ICE through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act](#). Thirty billion of those funds were dedicated to hiring 10,000 additional personnel by the end of 2025 and carrying out large-scale enforcement operations. Approximately \$45 billion went to detention. This unprecedented infusion of resources roughly tripled ICE's FY24 funding of \$9.9 billion. The government publicly set a goal to deport one million people per year. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) also received tens of billions of dollars for surveillance and border protection.

[Mass detention and deportation efforts are not new](#)—the Clinton administration deported over 12 million immigrants, the Bush administration over 10 million immigrants, and the Obama administration over five million over the course of each of their eight-year terms. However, the scale of ICE operations and the lengths to which ICE agents are willing to go to in order to reach the White House's [directive of apprehending 3,000 immigrants per day](#) is unprecedented.

Nationally, as of December 2025, [68,440 people were detained by ICE](#)—an all-time high. Thirty-two people died in ICE custody in 2025—another all-time high—and tens of thousands more were exposed to violence and trauma. [In New England, the number of ICE removals increased tenfold](#) from 2024 to 2025 (933 individuals from January 20 through December 2, 2024 to 9,987 individuals in 2025 over the same period). In Massachusetts, 5,129 people were arrested by ICE from January to October 2025.

Massachusetts readers will likely be familiar with many of the high profile cases of immigrant detentions that made state and national news in 2025. These range from large scale operations to individual stories. In May, Operation Patriot resulted in 1,461 arrests; Operation Patriot 2.0 in September led to another 1,406 arrests. On Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Plymouth, 40 people were detained and 12 arrested in a series of "roundups" of immigrants. A 61-year old Latino man with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) was—incorrectly—told by ICE that as someone born outside of the United States he had no rights. Nine employees with work permits were detained at Allston Car Wash by 22 agents in a raid. High schooler Marcelo Gomez da Silva was arrested and detained on his way to volleyball practice in Milford.

Public policy and narrative shifts that make immigrants feel unwelcome or unsafe in their communities erode trust—a phenomenon known as the chilling effect. One well-documented case was the [chilling effect of the public charge rule change proposal in 2018](#) which expanded the categories of public benefits that would label an immigrant a "public charge"; even though the rule was not implemented until two years later, one in five immigrant adults avoided using a public benefit such as SNAP, Medicaid, or CHIP in 2019. However, the impacts of ICE in Massachusetts under the current Trump administration are broader and deeper. Their practices are not just "chilling" immigrant families, they are "icing in" entire communities.

## Who Is ICE?

In comparison to most other federal agencies, ICE is relatively young. The Homeland Security Act of 2003 established the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS), with one of its three agencies named the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, today known as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The Act was a direct response to the 9/11 tragedy, with Congress directing ICE to "[promote homeland security and public safety through the criminal and civil enforcement of federal laws governing border control, customs, trade, and immigration.](#)" ICE itself has three directorates: Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO), and the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA). While immigration raids and detention efforts have traditionally fallen under the purview of ERO, [HSI officers have been drafted in](#) to carry out ICE enforcement.

For the purposes of this report, we use the term "ICE" to refer to federal agents making immigration arrests, which may include agents from Customs and Border

Patrol (CBP) or other agencies deputized by the federal government to make arrests. At the beginning of December 2025, [65,735 people were detained](#) in the United States, 81% of whom had been detained by ICE and 19% by CBP. This reflects a change in approaches to deportation between the Biden and Trump administrations: Whereas more arrests under the Biden administration took place by CBP near national borders, the Trump administration has increased arrests by ICE of people in the interior of the country.

Once in detention, immigrants interact with a wide range of federal contractors. In early 2025, [90% of detainees](#) were held in facilities owned by private prison companies. CoreCivic and GEO Group, the country's two largest private prison corporations, each reported [profits of more than half a billion dollars](#) in the second quarter of 2025 alone. The number of facilities used for [immigration detention across the country increased by 91%](#) between January and November 2025. The rapid construction and expansion of detention facilities, increase in arrests, elimination of oversight sub-agencies, and “no-release” and “mandatory detention” policies have created a new detention landscape marked by [overcrowding; inhumane and unsanitary conditions; and violations of civil rights](#). The Department of Homeland Security has ramped up rapid deportations using practices that bypass court hearings and/or pressure immigrants to self-deport. The ICE Flight Monitor tracked a [total of 13,446 enforcement flights](#) from January 20 – December 31, 2025, an 84% increase from the previous year.

## Is ICE Targeting “Criminals”?

[Forty-eight million immigrants](#) (people who are foreign-born) live in the United States, totaling approximately 14% of the population. Nearly half of all immigrants are non-citizens, which encompasses people from a wide range of legal statuses, including permanent residents, students, refugees, asylum seekers, parolees, and people with Temporary Protected Status. Of this group, most have the legal right to live, work, and/or study here, and most are also legally protected from detention and deportation. Estimates place the number of [undocumented immigrants in the United States at 13.7 million, 45% of whom have lived in the country for 20 years](#) or more.

Being present in the United States without proper authorization is considered a civil violation of federal law and is not a crime. Immigration cases are typically tried in administrative courts run by the U.S. Department of Justice in the executive branch of government, separate from courts operated by the judicial branch.

Immigrants [have the right to a removal hearing to argue their case and the right to an attorney](#). However, unlike in the U.S. criminal justice system, the government is not required to provide an attorney to defendants. Civil violations are punishable by administrative penalties such as fines or deportation. While a small percentage of immigrants have a criminal record, unrelated to their legal status, only [1.6% of new cases in 2025 sought deportation orders based on alleged criminal activity](#).

ICE's scope of authority is primarily limited to investigating, detaining, and removing individuals who are suspected of *violating immigration laws* in the United States. Since 2021, the [Department of Homeland Security's guidelines](#) have *prioritized the removal of immigrants who have committed a crime* (i.e., have a criminal record). The guidelines acknowledge the potential harm done to communities who lose law-abiding, hardworking people, saying, "We are guided by the fact that the majority of undocumented noncitizens who could be subject to removal have been contributing members of our communities for years." These guidelines further state, "The fact an individual is a removable noncitizen therefore should not alone be the basis of an enforcement action against them." The guidelines charge ICE to prioritize noncitizens who are suspected terrorists, who pose a threat to public safety because of past criminal conduct, or recently crossed the border.

Although these 2021 priorities still stand, recent policies and narratives have increasingly blurred the lines between the immigration detention system and the criminal justice system. For example, a new ICE tactic in 2025 involved [asking judges to dismiss immigrants' cases](#)—and then promptly arresting them at the courthouse. The administration has also expanded the [eligibility of immigrants for expedited removal](#), a process that moves detainees directly to deportation without a hearing before an immigration judge. The percentage of [noncriminal Latino detainees removed increased](#) from 57% in 2024 to 88% in 2025. Nearly [100 immigration judges were fired](#) in 2025, weakening the administrative system, and more detainees are now being tried in criminal courts for deportation trials and proceedings.

ICE is rapidly increasing its use of surveillance technologies and data systems, and levels of cooperation between ICE and state and local police vary from state to state. Using the authority granted under section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), state or local law enforcement agencies can set up memorandums of agreement with the federal government to cooperate with ICE; [there are currently 1,317 287\(g\) agreements across the U.S. covering 40 states](#). In some jurisdictions across the United States, ICE and/or local authorities conduct traffic stops and searches, [use racial profiling](#) to target immigrants of color, share data, and/or

arrest people so that ICE can pick them up directly from jails or other local lock-up facilities. In Massachusetts, the Department of Corrections is the only entity with a current 287(g) agreement, and the Healey administration issued an [executive order on January 29, 2026](#) prohibiting the state from entering into new agreements.

Many people who are forced to migrate due to violence in their home country [apply for asylum](#) in the U.S., either affirmatively without being in removal proceedings (through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) or defensively while in removal proceedings (through an immigration judge at the Executive Office for Immigration Review). There is a [national backlog of over 3.4 million cases](#) in immigration court, and approximately 2.3 million of these cases include formal asylum applications.

## Report Purpose and Methods

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To Massachusetts residents, the first round of ICE detentions in early 2025 may have felt like isolated incidents or specific targeted removals. The federal government stated that ICE was targeting immigrants with a criminal background, with the goal of minimizing “[national security and public safety threats](#).” By Spring, however, we became aware of a growing number of cases in which immigrants without criminal backgrounds and with a wide range of legal statuses—including people who have the right to live and work in the United States—were being detained and deported. Community members and the press also began to report that ICE was using excessive violence and intimidation tactics during arrests.

Researchers at the Leah Zallman Center for Immigrant Health Research (LZC) met with partners across the state, including leaders at the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants, to discuss the value and potential approaches of a study and public report that bore witness to these actions. We co-determined a clear mandate: Collect stories about people impacted by ICE, identify patterns, and share them with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the public. Our two main research questions are:

1. What actions has ICE taken in Massachusetts in 2025, using which strategies?
2. What are the impacts on individual, institutional, and community well-being?

We focus this report on the street-level, lived experiences of Massachusetts residents’ interactions with ICE, while acknowledging that they take place within the context of a much larger policy agenda oriented around restricted immigration, increased surveillance, and mass deportation in the name of national security and public safety.

With help from our many partners, LZC put out a [call for stories](#), asking community and faith-based leaders, healthcare providers, advocates, immigration attorneys, employers, service providers, and other community members to share what they were experiencing and witnessing. Participants submitted de-identified stories and examples of how their clients, patients, workers, neighbors, and family members were affected by ICE detentions and deportation. They also shared how their workplaces, businesses, schools, hospitals, and communities were affected by ICE, and some took the opportunity to share how they felt.

We collected 100 stories from 86 different sources that describe ICE actions and impacts between March and November 2025. These stories were drawn from de-identified case information shared by lawyers (n=27), news articles (n=28), and de-identified stories shared with LZC either through a written form or over the phone (n=45).

We used thematic coding to analyze the data and craft this report. First, we categorized the stories and articles into three non-mutually exclusive levels of impact: individual, institutional, and community. At this stage, all news articles were also summarized into vignettes for the purpose of analysis. We then created a codebook and coded all stories and news articles in Dedoose, a qualitative analysis software. Based on our coding, we identified descriptive patterns and analytical themes to answer the two main research questions. We then utilized a group-based consensus technique to structure the report, identify examples, and finalize key themes. To assess the validity of our themes, we triangulated key findings with notes from community and policy meetings. Last, we provided a full draft to 14 reviewers and incorporated their feedback into the final report.

Throughout the report, we pull out examples of stories that illustrate the key themes. We chose this technique so that readers can connect with the data and see the people behind the stories. Although each story is unique, we chose examples that represent larger patterns. All stories are completely anonymized for safety unless they were reported through public media (we removed most references to national origin and names are replaced with the symbol “\_\_\_”).

The 100 stories generate a wide range of feelings, questions, and concerns that are either directly or indirectly expressed by parents, journalists, teachers, immigrant advocates, service and health providers, employers, and policymakers. All are seeking to make sense of the shifting immigration policy landscape at the federal level and in Massachusetts. We chose not to “conclude” this report with any clear answers. Instead, we give voice to the undercurrents in our stories by discussing

our findings in light of several theoretical frameworks that may be useful in identifying leverage points for change. Although a full comprehensive analysis of policy recommendations and actions is beyond the scope of this report, we end with suggestions for the various ways in which policymakers, organizational leaders, and community members can engage and act in support of immigrant and community well-being.



**CONTENT WARNING**  
**THE FOLLOWING**  
**SECTIONS OF THIS**  
**REPORT REFERENCE**  
**EXAMPLES OF EVENTS**  
**THAT INCLUDE ICE**  
**VIOLENCE AGAINST**  
**ADULTS AND CHILDREN.**

# NON-CRIMINAL ARRESTS REPORTED BY LAWYERS

## Findings

### ICE Actions and Strategies

In 2025, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers [arrested 5,129 people](#) in Massachusetts. This section presents patterns of ICE actions and strategies identified in our analysis of 100 stories. Where possible, we reference additional statewide or national data to contextualize these findings.

#### 1. Arresting Non-Criminals in Community

In the stories we collected, we found that Massachusetts residents are being arrested and detained regardless of their criminal background or legal statuses. Although early messaging by the federal government suggested that ICE was targeting specific people with criminal backgrounds, the majority of the stories submitted to LZC suggest a much more indiscriminate approach to arrests. We also found that ICE commonly makes arrests while people are going about their everyday lives, rather than in any organized and targeted fashion.

Most immigrants who were detained had no criminal background and were going about their everyday

\_\_\_ was detained while performing plumbing work at a location where authorities were searching for a different individual. He has no criminal record and has been residing in the United States for over three years.

\_\_\_ has no criminal record and has never been in removal proceedings. He came to the United States in December 2022 on a visa, filed for asylum affirmatively as the head of the family, and the case is pending at the Boston asylum office. He was picked up on his way to work.

\_\_\_ was arrested outside Market Basket as a “collateral” arrest, meaning he was standing near someone else that ICE was targeting. \_\_\_ is gainfully employed, has never been arrested, and has been living at the same address for two years.

\_\_\_ was arrested when he was carrying his clothes to a laundromat. He was shipped off to a detention center in Pennsylvania despite having no criminal history.

ICE arrested a carload of brothers who were on their way to work as roofers, even though they all had either pending Special Immigrant Juvenile cases or asylum cases. None of them had ever committed or been charged with a crime. ICE then shipped them off to Texas and Arizona.

## DETAINED PARENTS OF U.S. CITIZEN CHILDREN

\_\_\_, a green card holder for many years, and the kids are American citizens.

\_\_\_ has two U.S. citizen children, 3 and 6 years old.

\_\_\_ has a green card and is eligible for citizenship but she has a mixed status family. She has one child with DACA and another who has no status.

## PENDING OR CHANGING LEGAL STATUS

\_\_\_ is married to a U.S. citizen and has a pending I-130 petition (that can grant a green card based on marriage).

\_\_\_ family is undocumented because they lost their TPS status, and they have kids on DACA.

\_\_\_ has terminated immigration court proceedings, (i.e. not facing removal any longer), work authorization, and an application for a green card pending.

lives when they were picked up by ICE. Examples include a student walking on campus, a man carrying his clothes to a laundromat in his neighborhood, a community member getting groceries at Market Basket, and a plumber at work. In several cases, ICE went to a specific location to look for one person with a criminal background but ended up questioning or arresting everyone on site or standing nearby. These are known as “collateral arrests.”

According to the Immigration and Nationality Act, being present in the United States without proper documentation is a civil violation, not a violation of federal criminal law. Theoretically, standing at a grocery store, your workplace, walking or driving down the street, or going about your daily activities is not a crime, even for people in the U.S. without valid documents. Nevertheless, ICE arrested people in communities across Massachusetts, without cause, immediately disrupting their lives and the lives of their families.

In our stories, people from a wide range of backgrounds were arrested and detained regardless of their legal status. In many cases, ICE did not ask people to show their ID or immigration paperwork before making arrests. ICE detained asylum seekers, individuals with pending green card applications, permanent residents, people with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), DACA recipients, and undocumented individuals alike.

Many undocumented adults in the U.S. live in mixed status families, meaning family members hold different immigration statuses within the same home. U.S. citizen children and adults saw their parents or spouse detained and/or deported, and immigrants were arrested even if their legal status was pending adjustment or in process.

# VIOLENCE AGAINST ADULTS AND CHILDREN

Our data suggest that by and large, ICE arrests took place in community—on the streets, at homes, at or near workplaces, and in other public or semi-public locations. The Prison Policy Initiative analyzed data from the Deportation Data Project, showing that of the 5,129 people arrested by ICE in Massachusetts in the first nine months of 2025, only [382 were apprehended directly from jails](#) or other lock-ups. We did not see clear evidence of cooperation and collaboration between ICE and state or local authorities. However, in many cases, it is unclear whether or how ICE obtained information about specific people, workplaces, and community sites. Other data show patterns such as ICE waiting at courthouses to make arrests; in 2025, ICE made at least [54 arrests at municipal courthouses](#) in Boston alone.

## 2. Using Excessive Force, Violence, and Intimidation

Some immigrants who were approached by ICE were shocked, scared, and/or tried to get away. Our stories suggest a clear pattern of violent actions by ICE agents, including dragging people out of vehicles, yelling at and threatening people, pushing them against fences, twisting their arms, bringing them to the ground, causing bruises and injuries, and breaking car windows. Family members and bystanders were also harmed simply by being in the vicinity of ICE operations, even if they were not the intended targets. In one incident, ICE agents threw a mother out of her car and onto the street, injuring her badly enough to require emergency medical care.

Public statements by ICE consistently report “an appropriate use of force,” and to date, ICE has not issued any apologies, even in situations where violence was clearly unwarranted.

Bystander videos taken by cell phone are now being

\_\_\_’s family was in their car in Chelsea. ICE came and broke the windows of the car and took everyone out. They threw the mom on the ground, hurting her. ICE agents pushed her children to the side, yelling at both of them. Her son is non-verbal, and they kept yelling at him while she was on the ground in the street. She eventually went to the emergency department to treat her injuries.

\_\_\_ was on his way to work with two friends early in the morning when he noticed they were being followed by three SUVs. When he stopped in a driveway to pick up some tools for his construction job, the three men were quickly surrounded by ICE agents, who pointed guns directly at them. The ICE agents began to strip the men’s clothes off to see if they had tattoos, which they did not. One of the men had a work permit and was let go. The other two had no papers so they were immediately detained and deported within days.

\_\_\_ is now back in his home country, afraid for his life because his brother was killed before he fled for the United States to seek safety and work.

ICE officials claimed \_\_\_ resisted arrest and they used “minimum force,” but \_\_\_’s wife was on the phone when ICE agents surrounded his truck and she heard the car window shatter. Video footage shows him being pulled out of his car. He has no criminal background and has a pending petition to become a United States permanent resident.

# INTIMIDATION

ICE showed up at \_\_\_'s store, which is staffed by approximately 18 Brazilians. ICE said they were looking for a single employee and demanded that the store owner either "point him out" or they would go through the IDs of all the employees and take anyone without legal permanent residence. \_\_\_, who was sobbing, had to choose between the one employee and the 18. She pointed the person out.

During an ICE arrest where \_\_\_ was taken into custody in Waltham, a 12-year-old boy that was with the adult was left on the street by ICE agents. A city councilor was on the scene recording the encounter. At one point an ICE vehicle drove onto the sidewalk and towards the city counselor which she interpreted as an intimidation tactic, even though she was observing the encounter and not interfering. Volunteers on the scene walked the boy home.

Residents who witnessed \_\_\_'s arrest said there were at least three unmarked sedans and agents wearing bulletproof vests. Workers were heading to [address], just a few blocks from the site of the arrest, where they had been seen working all summer, according to residents.

used on a regular basis to verify or compare the accounts of victims of violence with ICE accounts of the same incident. The prevalence of mismatches between victim and ICE accounts of arrests nationally suggests a need for clearer federal transparency and accountability.

## 3. Creating a Climate of Fear

With arrests taking place in broad daylight and in public, it was common for neighbors and families, including children, to witness ICE actions. Traffic stops attract the attention of other drivers and create moments of confusion and disruption in daily life for both bystanders and those targeted. Because some of these arrests are violent, many immigrant families live in fear. Stories included examples of people making calculated decisions to miss essential appointments or opting out of daily life activities such as work, school, healthcare appointments, and much more because they were afraid to leave their house.

ICE agents also use intimidating tactics and hide their identities. They wear full military uniforms, bulletproof vests, masks, and do not always provide a rationale for physically grabbing people and arresting them. They also show up at houses looking for specific targets and ask to be let in, without the required warrant.

Instead of trusting that government agents are following the law, immigrants find themselves making split-second decisions in the moment to act in ways that defend their own rights, while also minimizing potential violence. One man called his wife and told her he thought he was being followed. He drove home and ran into his house, leaving his 5-year old autistic daughter in the car. ICE officers picked up the daughter and tried to get the man to come out of the house. Local police recovered the child and returned

her to her family. Two days later, ICE went back and arrested the same man at his home.

Local advocacy groups and policymakers across Massachusetts developed Know your Rights (KYR) trainings and educational information for immigrants groups, which can give people a baseline understanding of their rights in the event of an ICE encounter. However, the broader climate of fear is pervasive and cannot be countered solely with information.

Children witnessing their parents being taken by ICE, families coming home to someone missing, and having a loved one kidnapped off the street for an unknown reason are all causes of trauma. At a community level, these traumatic events can also spark outrage and solidarity, bringing people together as they articulate their values and support one another.

#### 4. Suppressing Basic Rights and Support

Immigrants are protected under the U.S. Constitution and are entitled to due process and equal protection under the law. However, as these stories show, ICE tactics suppress basic rights. Our stories included examples of detainees not having the chance to provide paperwork to defend themselves in the moment of arrest or contact family members or lawyers.

Once detained, people who need an interpreter are not always provided with one and many detainees remain confused about where they are, why they were arrested, and how they can proceed. In several stories, immigrants were transferred out of state quickly to facilities across the country and it took many days for family members to figure out where they were.

The treatment of detainees varies and is at the discretion of ICE agents in the street and in detention

## VIOLATIONS OF BASIC RIGHTS

- **Medical neglect**
- **Lack of due process**
- **Lack of access to legal counsel**
- **Preventable deaths**
- **Solitary confinement**
- **Racial profiling**
- **Discrimination**

centers. In detention, many people are kept isolated, neglected, and lack basic protections. Some are refused essential medications, not fed regularly, and denied the ability to shower for several days. These stories have raised concerns about humane treatment, health, and rights of people in immigration detention.

Massachusetts state and local policymakers took significant steps to increase access to legal services, conduct community meetings, provide families with resources, and improve communication and transparency throughout 2025. However, these supports must come with strategies to reach detainees and accountability for humane treatment.



# Impacts of ICE on Individual, Institutional, and Community Well-being

The threat of ICE detention and deportation has caused an avalanche of psychological, financial, and health impacts for thousands of families in Massachusetts.

## 1. Psychological, Financial, and Health Impacts on Individuals and Families

### *Psychological Impacts*

One detention or deportation affects all members of a family. Witnessing violence against a family member or experiencing the overnight loss of a loved one due to detention can be deeply traumatic. In one family, the children missed school after witnessing one of their parents being detained by ICE; the experience was so traumatic that they refused to leave their house.

For some immigrants who have past experience with or exposure to torture, trauma, or violence, the intimidating strategies employed by ICE can trigger new and old traumas, causing anxiety, PTSD, or otherwise interfering with people's daily lives and feelings of safety. In one case, an asylum seeker with trauma history experienced a panic attack after being stopped by CBP on a church trip to New York.

The continuous presence of ICE in Massachusetts and the resulting climate of fear has increased stress and caused families to make impossible calculations on a daily basis. In our stories, we learned that many immigrants are deeply scared of simply leaving their homes. People skipped school, work, health appointments, and daily activities that support well-being because of fear, and one person lost their job. Another family withdrew their children from Saturday Portuguese school due to fear. Families are missing

## FEAR IS DISRUPTING DAILY LIFE

Many immigrants are avoiding:

- Work
- Education/training
- School for children
- Healthcare appointments
- Court appointments
- Legal appointments
- Weekend activities
- Faith-based meetings
- Cultural events
- Language school
- College graduation
- Grocery shopping
- Picking up medication

## ICE IS TRIGGERING NEW AND OLD TRAUMAS

\_\_\_, an asylum seeker, went on a trip with his church members from Massachusetts to the Niagara Falls area of New York State. They were meeting up with other church members and were not planning to cross the border. Their van was pulled over by CBP and asked to show their identification. Those who had green cards or were citizens were allowed to go. \_\_\_ and several others were kept there. He has a history of trauma, and soon after being pulled over, he started to feel terrible. He had a panic attack and thought he was in cardiac arrest. He was eventually brought to a hospital.

## ALL FAMILY MEMBERS ARE AFFECTED, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN

\_\_\_ recently graduated from high school when his father was picked up by ICE and later self-deported to his home country. \_\_\_ helps the family by working and picking up his younger siblings from school. His mom is also planning to self-deport with the younger children, and \_\_\_ will stay in the United States alone.

\_\_\_ became the head of her household overnight after her father was picked up by ICE. She takes care of her three younger siblings, works full-time as a receptionist at a clinic, drives for Uber Eats, and is actively working with lawyers to help her father's case. With a mother who is afraid of leaving their home due to her legal status, \_\_\_ feels the weight of the well-being of her family.

One family signed up for the self-deport program; they anticipated leaving shortly, so they didn't enroll their children in school for the fall. But the process took longer than expected, and after waiting for several weeks—with their children missing school the whole time—the parents hurried to enroll their children in school, despite still planning to self-deport.

out on life. These losses have long-term effects on child development and family well-being.

ICE's lack of transparency and refusal to allow detainees to talk to their families or attorneys creates further confusion and stress. Many detainees were transferred out of Massachusetts quickly—sometimes within 24 hours—and families and lawyers reported spending extended periods of time without information about their whereabouts.

### *Financial Impacts*

Detention and deportation create acute economic challenges. Families of detainees are faced with hard decisions about whether to stay in the United States, especially when they lose a primary provider for the family.

In the stories we heard, many families lost the main breadwinner in their homes or went from a dual-to single-income and single-parent household overnight. In one case, a father and husband was arrested and detained by ICE, and his wife could not access the family's bank account and pay their bills because the account was in his name. In another case, both parents were detained on the same day, which left their children alone and dependent on support from friends and extended family.

We received several stories of family members who were left behind (e.g., women whose husbands were deported) and were planning to self-deport. After her husband was deported, one woman decided to self-deport with her U.S. citizen children to the country from which she and her husband had fled due to death threats, upending their lives here and risking death simply to have her family reunited. Neither she nor her husband had a criminal record and they were both in the process of seeking asylum.

Families who decide to stay face increased financial instability. The stories highlighted food insecurity,

with some families beginning to rely on food banks to help meet nutritional needs. Housing insecurity is another challenge; several families faced the serious risk of being evicted due to no longer being able to pay their rent.

The loss of the primary wage earner in families has caused young people and distant family members to have to step into new roles to financially support their families, while simultaneously dealing with the emotional and mental loss of a parent figure or guardian. This means they miss out on school or opportunities to “be a kid” in childhood. Some youth are dropping out of school entirely to take on household responsibilities or care for their younger siblings overnight. These actions can have long-term economic consequences for families; in the short-term, youth are filling in to help, but as a result they may miss out on educational and work opportunities that would place them in a more financially secure position over time.

### **Health Impacts**

Beyond psychological and economic impacts, ICE detentions and deportations impact health and well-being. One man dealing with kidney disease was issued a deportation letter after being approved for a kidney transplant, even though he has a low to zero chance of getting another transplant in his home country.

Several stories documented Massachusetts individuals with serious health conditions being detained in ICE facilities and denied proper medical care, including one individual with brain cancer who was denied medication while detained and experienced seizures every day. He was finally released after a month but has since been wheelchair-bound. Another person with a brain tumor was arrested by ICE; because he did not have signed releases of his medical

## **DETAINEES ARE HARMED AND LACK ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE**

\_\_\_\_, a green-card holder, was detained at Boston Logan Airport as she was coming into the country with her family from vacation. She was detained for 10 days due to a decades-old minor marijuana charge that was never disclosed to her, her family, or attorney. During custody, she was denied proper attention to her chronic health issues, and was eventually rushed to the hospital due to an emergency. Her family only found out about her hospitalization after she called them from a nurse’s phone. She was eventually released from the Burlington ICE facility without a phone or money, and she walked half a mile in the rain until she found someone to let her borrow a phone to call her family.

\_\_\_\_ has been living legally in the United States for the past two decades. She was on her way to court when she and her family were pulled over by ICE. Agents did not identify themselves or produce a warrant. With her son watching, she was pulled out of the car, forced against a fence and down to the ground, and held in a way that twisted her hand around—all while she told them it hurt and she needed help. Afterwards, she had bruises all over her arms and required a brace.

## STRAINS ON HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES

**A Massachusetts-based medical provider described how ICE's presence has increased immigrants' fear of accessing health services, leaving them vulnerable to worsening health conditions. In one case, \_\_\_\_\_, a prenatal patient who was 36 weeks pregnant with preeclampsia missed two visits in a row because she did not want to leave her house. The doctor hoped to find a medical resident that could do a home visit to maintain her care while ensuring her safety.**

**\_\_\_\_\_, a young immigrant woman living in a predominantly immigrant neighborhood recently lost her job due to fear and anxiety of leaving her home as ICE has increased their presence. As a result, she currently relies on pantries and a few food bags from clinics.**

**An immigrant-serving organization reported that more families are seeking advice and assistance on housing options now that they can no longer pay their share of rent, even with the support of programs such as the state's HomeBASE initiative.**

information, neither his wife nor his lawyer were able to share his medical information with ICE and secure his release.

Family members of detainees have also experienced health consequences. The wife of a detained man prematurely gave birth to their twins after he was arrested. The premature birth came with heightened risk for the mother's life and the lives of her newborns. Other stories described how chronic health conditions, such as diabetes and hypertension, have risen as people witness the arrests of their family members, or are frozen by fear and stress and are unable to manage their conditions.

The psychological effects of ICE described earlier go hand in hand with physical health. Against the backdrop of [funding cuts to Medicare and Medicaid](#), some immigrant families have chosen not to renew their MassHealth out of fear that they will no longer be eligible or that ICE will obtain their information. Those families are increasingly vulnerable to health impacts while simultaneously being disconnected from a key public institution. Pressing stress and anxiety have deterred individuals from leaving their homes and led them to miss their healthcare appointments. In two separate stories, pregnant women missed prenatal visits in their third trimester due to fear of being picked up by ICE. Another woman stopped taking her child with a health condition to healthcare appointments after noticing that several of her neighbors had been arrested and deported.

### 2. Institutional Impacts in Healthcare and Social Services

The cumulative individual and family impacts described above are starting to change how core community institutions operate. Healthcare and social service organizations are experiencing these

changes in real time, with impacts on their daily operations and ability to provide efficient, high-quality care.

We heard about an increase in patient no-shows at hospitals and people opting out of care, as well as an increase in demand for telehealth visits and home delivery services for medications. Requests for therapy have also surged as people deal with mental health issues brought on or exacerbated by ICE enforcement.

Amidst this upheaval and uncertainty, healthcare organizations are working to treat exacerbated health issues such as anxiety, trauma, and chronic disease in a system that is not adequately structured to support high quality immigrant healthcare. In the current political climate, healthcare providers are balancing their commitment to medical ethics and care standards with pressure from funding cuts, inadequate staffing levels, and direct threats to their workforce.

Nationwide, [over one million noncitizen immigrants who work in healthcare](#) (one-third of whom are undocumented) are at risk of detention or deportation. In Massachusetts, nearly [one in four](#) (24%) of all healthcare workers are immigrants, and in Boston, [immigrants make up over half](#) (54%) of the nursing assistant workforce.

Social service programs that support the well-being of immigrants and refugees are also being stripped of funding or shut down. The cuts are impacting organizations and institutions, as well as people that work in those programs.

Our stories suggest an undercurrent of confusion from institutions about how to support immigrants when federal guidance is harmful. Leaders are also hesitant to act at an institutional level out of fear of being targeted with funding cuts or other forms of retribution. Healthcare providers, community leaders, and other direct service staff expressed concerns that this fear is causing institutions to stay silent in the face of serious harm. Although some provider organizations are taking steps to train staff on their rights or create internal action plans, many are still hesitant to advocate for immigrant staff and patients and create procedures to support targeted communities.

### **3. Community Impacts on Towns, Businesses, and Schools**

Massachusetts municipalities—especially those with large immigrant populations—are feeling the strain of ICE enforcement. In the stories shared with us, ICE agents targeted frontline workers in specific neighborhoods, immigrant-dominant sectors, and in certain workplaces such as construction sites and ethnic restaurants and grocery stores. People often reported sightings of unmarked SUVs—associated with ICE—and some described an awareness of constant danger.

## ARRESTS ARE IMPACTING SMALL BUSINESSES

**Massachusetts is home to one of the largest Brazilian communities in the country. Bakeries, markets, and hair salons, to name a few, are being impacted financially by the mass deportation of these community members. Many of those who have not yet been arrested are hiding, and others are not spending as much money due to strains in personal finances. One story explained how some Brazilians who lean conservative are now seeing the broader effects of ICE presence in their communities; it included one aesthetician who said that her business is floundering.**

**Nine employees at an Allston car wash, many of whom have legal status and valid work permits, were arrested in an ICE raid. Twenty-two agents arrived at the business, asked employees to show their documents, and then detained them without giving workers the chance to get documents from their lockers. Some of the detainees reported experiencing mistreatment, such as not being fed or given a chance to shower for several days. Meanwhile, the business lost its core workforce for several weeks.**

In the stories we collected, small businesses reported a decrease in sales due to regular customers having less money to spend or because their customer base is being detained and deported. In one story, we heard that customers have reduced their outings and are less likely to frequent immigrant-owned bakeries, markets, and businesses out of fear of ICE stops and raids. Small businesses with lower cash reserves in particular are at high risk of forced closure, which would lead to additional negative ripple effects in the community as employees lose their jobs.

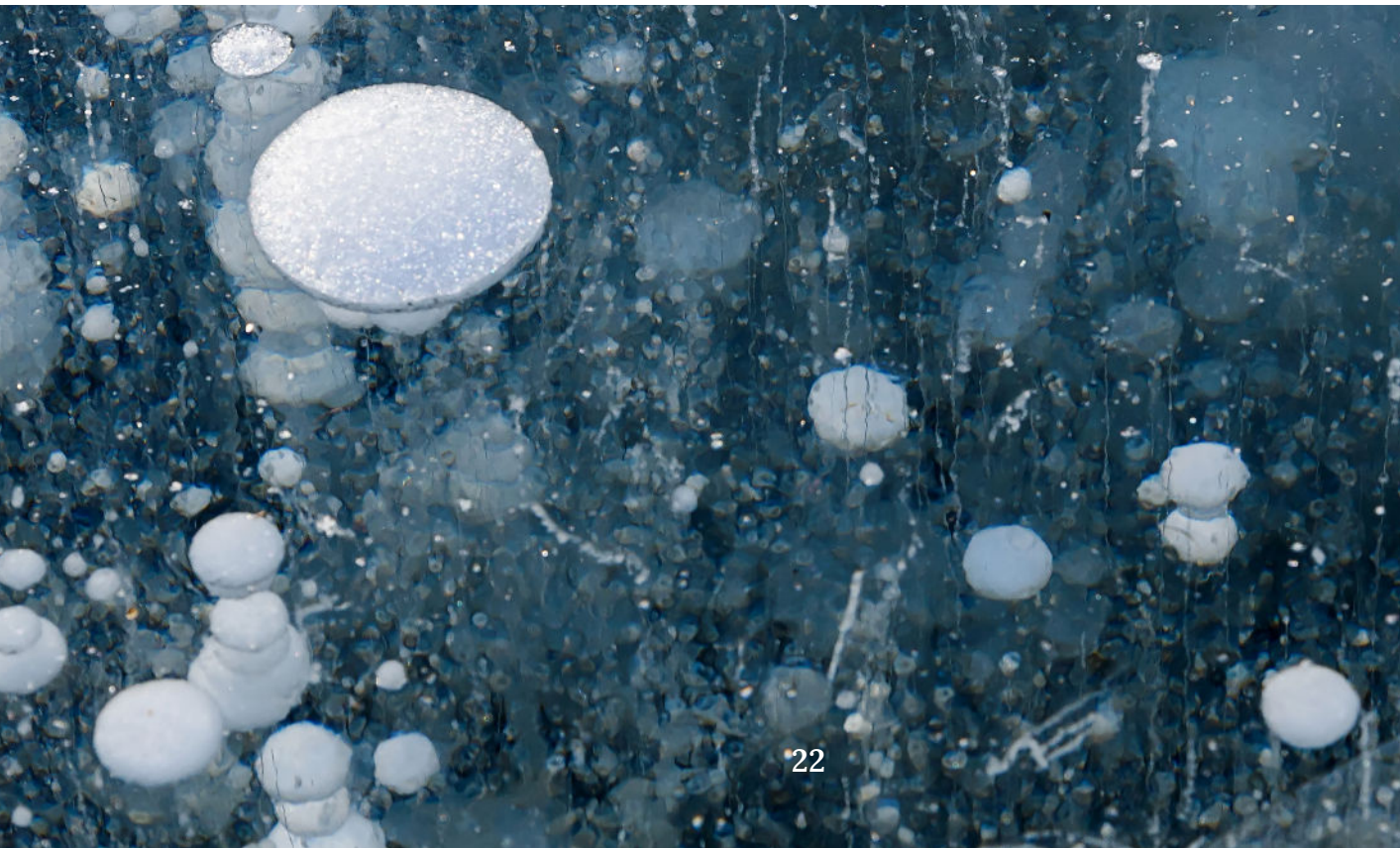
Secondhand trauma is indiscriminate in whom it affects. Many people have witnessed ICE arrests, while others are overwhelmed by daily news cycles featuring violent detentions and unconstitutional deportations. When a Tufts student was arrested and detained by ICE, the Tufts and wider Somerville community—and students and professors at other universities—were shocked, anxious, fearful, and outraged. They also mobilized effectively to advocate for the student's release.

In the city of Everett, an annual Hispanic cultural festival was canceled due to fear and anxiety over ICE showing up, turning a joyful day of celebration and community into one of uncertainty and isolation. The town of Milford was disproportionately raided by ICE, with notable arrests and incidents, including that of a high schooler. In this story, the community came together to protest and successfully advocate for his return, although his arrest left many afraid that ICE would continue to pursue and detain youth.

## How Do We Understand These Findings Collectively?

In summary, ICE's actions in Massachusetts in 2025 had real, tangible impacts on our Commonwealth. The 100 stories that we collected paint a picture of the ways that ICE enforcement affected and harmed individuals and families, institutions, and communities in 2025. Families experienced sudden, forced separation and economic instability; youth were forced to take on the burden of providing not only for themselves but for younger siblings; mothers had to choose between a single-parent future here for their U.S. citizen children or reunification with their father in another country; individuals were violently detained in traumatizing ways; and institutions and communities had to grapple with rapidly changing federal policies and punitive actions.

People who shared stories with us expressed deep fear and sadness for immigrant families and neighbors; shock and disgust at ICE enforcement tactics; disappointment with institutional leaders; and confusion and frustration at the Trump administration's deportation agenda. They also questioned ICE's ability to ignore the rule of law and established procedures, deny individuals their constitutional rights, racially profile community members, and damage and destroy personal property with seemingly zero consequences. While they shared stories of unique individuals whose lives have been overturned, a common thread that surfaced over and over again was that the impacts of ICE's actions extend far beyond solely the immigrants who ICE is detaining and deporting.





## Discussion

As researchers, we are typically encouraged to tie things together neatly, make conclusions, or help others make sense of what we are seeing and hearing. But the patterns documented in this report continue in real time and we are trying to make sense of things while “iced in.” In this next section, we position our findings within several frameworks and pose additional questions that may help to orient us as we collectively work to make sense of and thaw ICE’s actions and their aftermath.

### ICE Is Testing the Rule of Law

Our findings show that in Massachusetts, ICE is testing the limits of the rule of law by acting with unnecessary force and arresting non-criminals with impunity. As ICE’s own data and the stories we collected show, ICE is not focusing on “[the worst of the worst](#),” as DHS frequently states. Analysis by the Cato Institute, a libertarian-leaning think tank, notes that nearly [three in four \(73%\) ICE detainees have zero convictions](#); just 5% have a violent criminal conviction. In contrast, previous administrations focused on arresting and deporting individuals convicted of serious crimes, with [51% of deportations under the Bush administration and more than 90% of deportations under the Obama administration meeting that criterion](#). Increasingly, the Trump administration’s trend of blurring boundaries and definitions of criminality justifies and obscures ICE’s erosions of the rule of law. ICE’s lack of transparency, accountability, and standards to uphold basic human rights means that the experience of immigrants varies widely from state to state and from officer to officer. Michael Lipsky coined the term “[street-level bureaucracy](#)”

in 1980 to describe how government employees who interact with members of the public have considerable leeway in addressing situations they encounter and making decisions in those moments. They are “bureaucrats” at the street level because they choose in the moment how to implement policies, leaving room for bias and discretion.

For example, a police officer might pull you over for driving above the speed limit but let you off with a warning rather than a ticket. An ICE officer might use excessive force against a Latino man because of consciously held racist beliefs or implicit, unconscious associations about what a “criminal” looks like. DHS’ recruitment efforts include language such as [“America has been invaded by criminals and predators”](#) and needing [“patriots” to “defend the homeland.”](#) Recent reports have surfaced about the [reduced amount of training new ICE recruits receive](#), compared to that of previous years, with DHS accelerating the vetting, hiring, and training process to meet its goal. A processing error in the fall [sent 200 agents to the field without the already shortened requisite training](#).

On the ground in Massachusetts, ICE agents act as both representatives of the federal government as well as individuals who make choices based on their beliefs, training, and values. While some recent recruits have joined in response to a perceived threat to the United States from within, others see an ICE ERO position as simply [“a job.”](#) The policies and appropriations that supercharged ICE as an agency also allowed DHS to offer [\\$50,000 signing bonuses](#). It is not difficult to imagine people who are looking for work and feel strongly about safety—even if they do not hold strong anti-immigrant beliefs—taking this opportunity to feed their own families. Once on the job, these street-level bureaucrats are technically bound by laws but exercise discretion in the moment, deciding whom they target or look for, the extent to which they are personally willing to go to detain someone, the amount of force used, and the decision to arrest or release someone after questioning.

## Fear and Violence Are Changing the Climate of Our Communities

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Across the country, we are starting to see the results of ICE’s intense efforts to reach the White House’s goal of deporting one million immigrants annually. Fear of detentions, deportations, violence, and retaliation has pervaded Massachusetts institutions and communities. This represents a climate shift in which the impacts of ICE threaten not just immigrant families, but all of us.

The American Psychological Association defines [collective trauma](#) as “an event or series of events that impact not only one person but also a group of identified or

targeted people.” While ICE arrests technically only directly affect individuals—and, by extension, their families—ICE’s efforts have collectively traumatized immigrants across the United States, even those with lawful permanent resident or U.S. citizen status. People have reported fearing leaving their homes, creating family preparedness plans, censoring their writing and social media posts, keeping an eye out for unmarked SUVs, carrying their U.S. passport around, avoiding ethnic grocery stores and businesses, moving to majority-white neighborhoods, refraining from flying or commuting between cities, and leaving the United States entirely.

Bystanders and would-be institutional allies are also affected by the federal government’s restrictions of First Amendment rights related to anti-administration speech. Since taking office in 2025, the Trump administration has [detained students for speaking out in support of Palestine](#), introduced plans to [vet would-be entrants’ social media at border crossings](#), and [issued executive orders against law firms](#) that worked against President Trump in his first term. This has caused many organizations to hesitate or perform what Timothy Snyder calls “[anticipatory obedience](#)” rather than taking a clear public stand.

We are witnessing a “[chilling effect](#)” of governmental actions and decisions on people’s ability and willingness to exercise their [First Amendment rights](#). D. D. Winter and D. C. Leighton (2001) note that “[brutality terrorizes bystanders](#), who then becoming unwilling or unable to confront social injustice.” Out of fear of repercussions and making targets of themselves and their organizations, people refrain from publicly sharing opinions that might be critical of the government, attending peaceful protests, and testifying in court. States and municipalities are wary of declaring themselves “sanctuaries” for immigrants and drawing the administration’s ire, while [law firms have refused to challenge the administration this time around](#).

This chilling effect on free speech, assembly, and behavior is particularly noteworthy because it is a hallmark of authoritarian regimes—not democratic countries. One of the most defining characteristics of the United States in times past has been its emphasis on free speech and gatherings, and the ability of anyone to voice contrary opinions without fear for their safety.

## Today’s Violence Stems From Ongoing Historical Structural Inequality

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Repeatedly, in both the stories from Massachusetts residents and news articles about ICE’s actions in 2025, the word we heard and saw was “unprecedented.”

Although we have shown that the scale and violence of ICE actions under the current Trump administration are unprecedented and will have long-lasting impacts, we also see today's violence as an extension of historical racialized structural inequality.

For many, ICE agents' use of personal, direct violence triggers a sense that something is not right, that their approach and actions violate people's basic human dignity and rights. Others might perceive ICE agents' use of personal violence as occasionally crossing the line but normal or necessary in service of a larger agenda of safety and security. Johan Galtung (1969) [defines structural violence](#) as constraints on human potential caused by economic and political structures. He posited that:

personal violence *shows* . . . Structural violence is silent, it does not show—it is essentially static, it is the tranquil waters. In a *static* society, personal violence will be registered, whereas structural violence may be seen as about as natural as the air around us. Conversely: in a highly *dynamic* society, personal violence may be seen as wrong and harmful but still somehow congruent with the order of things, whereas structural violence becomes apparent because it stands out like an enormous rock in a creek, impeding the free flow, creating all kinds of eddies and turbulences.

In light of the scale and patterns of ICE's actions in Massachusetts, we observe a form of structural violence against immigrants, one defined by a move to deny immigrants their basic rights and due process, separate immigrant families, and force immigrants to choose invisibility over healthcare, education, faith services, and other human essentials. This violence stems from the fact that in the United States, [we live in a highly socially stratified society](#). Our institutions and structures permit—perhaps even direct—personal and structural violence against Black and Brown people and lower-resourced families. It is within this context that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in September 2025 to essentially allow ICE to use racial profiling (i.e., on the basis of race alone, to stop people ICE officers suspect of being in the United States without authorization).

As we shine a light on the direct forms of violence that immigrant communities are experiencing in Massachusetts, we must simultaneously work to understand and reverse the patterns of structural inequality that got us here. Our institutions and structures would not exist without the exploitation of Native, slave, and immigrant

resources and labor. These same institutions and structures extend to global hierarchies that lead to war, displacement, and forced migration. As [Du Nann Winter and Leighton \(2007\)](#) point out, “Structural violence produces suffering and death as often as direct violence does, though the damage is slower, more subtle, more common, and more difficult to repair.” Focusing on structural violence and dehumanization in addition to direct violence creates positive disruptions, or “all kinds of eddies and turbulences,” in communities that appear iced in. It also is more likely to lead to long-term solutions for community well-being and prevent history from continuing to repeat itself.

## Massachusetts Communities Can Prevent and Mitigate Further Harm

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The climate of militarization, dehumanization, and fear described in this report inflicts collective harm on all of us—even those who support the Trump administration or still believe that ICE is solely targeting criminals. Communities are fractured, immigrants have retreated into the shadows, and all U.S. residents encounter daily news and stories that create fear and polarization. It also produces questions about our collective safety and well-being, such as:

- What does seeing heavily armed, fatigue-wearing personnel in our streets do to the psyches of our children?
- How does arresting immigrants who show up to their court appointments encourage people to be “law-abiding”?
- To what extent is the current administration eroding trust in government by telling stories that are counter to what we see with our own eyes?
- How can we counter misinformation and come together around shared values to resist this climate and repair our communities?

Although it feels difficult in this era of polarization, social connectedness and cohesion can counter fracturing communities and build pathways of resistance and long-term change. One place to start is by revisiting shared values and acknowledging that we are all impacted and implicated in Massachusetts. Families who are directly affected are experiencing immediate psychological, financial, and health impacts. Healthcare institutions, small businesses, and schools are losing people and revenue.

We are also collectively affected by [political anxiety](#), a “source of chronic stress that differs from psychological conditions such as general anxiety, with its unique impact on emotional well-being and societal cohesion.” With politics and political news

dominating daily headlines and conversations, the majority of U.S. residents—U.S.-born and immigrant alike—live in a state of perpetual stress, with [significant impacts on individual and interpersonal health](#). Political anxiety affects our relationships with our friends, families, coworkers, and neighbors, and our perceptions of groups we do not commonly interact with.

In the face of political anxiety, a common reaction is to give in to the temptation to disconnect and disengage from society, the news, and those who think differently. However, staying engaged in our local communities and advocating for issues we care deeply about are [vital to fighting feelings of hopelessness and helplessness](#). Once we make a commitment to stay engaged, we must sort through a vast and conflicting set of thoughts and emotions to become oriented in our role and positionality during this time.

Although it is critical for us to understand how we are collectively impacted, there are vast differences in levels of harm. On one hand, financially vulnerable immigrant families are losing their primary breadwinner, fearing for personal safety, experiencing direct health impacts, and having to make impossible daily choices. Meanwhile, businesses, schools, and healthcare organizations are experiencing disruptions in their mission to teach or care for the community and impacts to their bottom line. Other community members are grieving the loss of safety and democracy that the United States has long represented for some. As we decide on the ways to act in response, we must personally and collectively weigh potential risks, harm, and capacities in relation to our positionalities.

[Two-thirds of Americans](#) oppose President Trump's immigration agenda, and Massachusetts is home to strong and effective voices of resistance. In the face of harmful federal policies, state and local policies can counteract, protect, and provide. Although the extent of the state's growing resistance is outside the scope of this report, we acknowledge and thank the many immigrant organizers, policymakers, leaders, and everyday community members that are pushing back and saying, "ICE OUT." More work is needed, and the time is now. We see a clear need for state leadership, additional public understanding, collective conversation, and strategic mobilization to create and maintain safety and prosperity in Massachusetts now and long into the future.



## Resources and Next Steps

As widely observed, [immigrants are crucial, skilled, taxpaying members of multiple sectors of the United States' workforce](#). While immigrants are so much more than merely productive workers—they hold value simply for being human—the insidious, pervasive lie that immigrants are a drain on society continues to flourish, to the detriment of us all. Detaining and deporting millions of immigrants and leaving others with no choice but to “self-deport” to remain with their families will depress the economy, with one analysis estimating [job losses to the tune of 5.8 million jobs, 2.6 million of which are held by U.S.-born workers](#).

We need all of us—individuals, parents, students, elected officials, healthcare providers, business owners, municipal employees, school teachers, administrators, faith leaders, interpreters, engineers, delivery drivers, White House advisors, scientists, social workers, lawyers, retirees, judges, researchers, childcare providers, accountants, retail workers, contractors, philanthropists, ICE agents—to combat and thaw this climate of fear so that all of us can truly thrive. Below, we list some resources and next steps for readers who are interested in engaging beyond this report. We encourage everyone to identify ways to support immigrants in each of our local communities.

- **ORI Community Resource Toolkit**
  - » Review practical resources for community organizations and immigrant families: <https://www.mass.gov/community-resource-toolkit>

- **Know Your Rights: ICE Enforcement and Detention**
  - » Read guidance from the MA Attorney General's Office: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/ago-ice-guidance-05292025/download>
  - » Request Know Your Rights trainings from MIRA Coalition, including Bystander Know Your Rights: <https://miracoalition.org/know-your-rights-trainings/>
  - » Print, carry, and distribute Red Cards: <https://www.ilrc.org/redcards>
  - » Learn how to find someone who is detained in the United States
- **LUCE Hotline**
  - » Volunteer as an ICE observer and/or hotline operator (especially beneficial if you know multiple languages): <https://www.lucemass.org>
- **Call or write your elected officials in support of immigrants and against mass ICE raids and funding for ICE**
  - » Find your local legislator: <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>
  - » Find your U.S. Senate and House Members: <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>
  - » Email template from MIRA Coalition to MA State Senators and State Representatives: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/poic-cosponsor/>
  - » Email template from the National Immigration Law Center: <https://act.nilc.org/page/79035/action/1?locale=en-US>
  - » Phone template from Indivisible: <https://indivisible.org/ice-out-house>
- **Bearing Witness @ ICE**
  - » Join others in solidarity and peaceful protest outside the ICE Burlington office every Wednesday from 11 am – 1 pm: <https://tinyurl.com/mrydsy9n>
- **Support immigrant-serving coalitions and organizations**
  - » MIRA Coalition: <https://miracoalition.org/>
  - » List of MIRA Coalition members: <https://tinyurl.com/m6bv8m39>
  - » Massachusetts Immigrant Collaborative: <https://immigrantcollaborative.org/>



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