

6.5.25 Roundtable Focus Intersectionality & Autism: Immigration Status

Roundtable Takeaways

- **Unique experiences are nuanced and shaped by the intersection of immigration and autism**
- **Autistic culture does not exist in a vacuum, it is interconnected with other identities**
- **Consider insights from the person's many intersecting identities and lived experiences to deliver the most meaningful services**
- **Ethical service delivery requires listening to lived experiences and the entirety of multi-dimensional lives, which include Immigrant status and Autism**
- **BACB Ethics Codes Alignment**
 - 1.05, 1.06, 1.07, 1.10

Member Insights

- Immigration status intersects with other identity markers, compounding barriers to care and inclusion
- Lack of local support networks and community ties heightens isolation for immigrant families
- Clinician resources are limited, with insurers often denying requests for interpretation or translation services
- Educational access is impacted, with some families missing IEP services for over a year due to lack of information or fear of advocating
- Fear of ICE raids discourages families from accessing center-based care; in-home services can be offered as an alternative, but fear can still persist

RESOURCES

From the Roundtable:

- Brownstein, M. (2025). Poll: Many Americans say they will lose trust in public health recommendations under federal leadership changes. Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. <https://hsph.harvard.edu/news/poll-many-americans-say-they-will-lose-trust-in-public-health-recommendations-under-federal-leadership-changes/>
- Wheel of Privilege & Power (adapted from Canadian Council for Refugees) - see page 2

Other helpful resources:

- GW Office for Diversity, Equity, and Community Engagement's intersectionality resource bank <https://diversity.gwu.edu/resources-intersectionality>

Pre- & Post-Discussion Poll Results

How confident are you in your awareness/understanding of the experiences of people who are both autistic and immigrated to the U.S.?



