

# Citizenship health inequalities across the US: State-level immigrant policies and health care access



## Maria-Elena Young, PhD

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**Tuesday, February 19th | 12-1:30 p.m.**  
**1102 BWW (2121 Berkeley Way)**

Maria-Elena Young, PhD, examines the impact of immigration policies on public health. Her studies have employed quantitative and qualitative methods to understand how access to health care and health status are shaped by both federal policies, such as those that increase immigration enforcement, and state policies, such as those that restrict or expand rights and protections for noncitizens. She is the Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Merced and project director of the Research on Immigrant Health and State Policy (RIGHTS) Study at the Center for Health Policy Research at the University of California, Los Angeles. She completed her PhD in Community Health Sciences at UCLA and holds a Masters in Public Health in Maternal and Child from the UC Berkeley.

In this talk she presents findings from two studies that examine how citizenship status and immigrant policies influence inequities in access to health care. Immigrants who lack citizenship are less likely to have health insurance and access to health care compared to citizens. Citizenship status is a form of inequality that is shaped by the policies that determine immigrants' rights and opportunities and the social environments in which they live.

*This Brown Bag talk is co-hosted by the School of Public Health, the Department of Demography, the Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative, and the Berkeley Center for Social Medicine. The talk is open to UC Berkeley students, staff and faculty and provides the opportunity to share information about current research.*

