

REFLECTION: MY MIXED IMMIGRATION STATUS FAMILY

Being in a mixed status family has affected me for years. My parents came to this country for a better life, but unfortunately it is not as easy as a lot of people think. My dad only graduated from middle school and my mom graduated from college in Mexico. However, even with a college degree, my mom was only able to work as a housekeeper in the US because of her immigration status.

It's even more heartbreaking that she earns more as a housekeeper in the US than she would as a teacher in Mexico, yet we are still considered to be low income. I remember going thrifting for years because we could not afford buying new clothes. We also lived in a very small house where I had to share a room with my sister. The carpet had not been changed in over 15 years so there was mold growing on the floor. Combined with the lack of space, this would cause us to get sick often.

All of this stress affected me in school because I did not even have a place to do homework, and my parents felt guilty because they could not afford a bigger or healthier place. Furthermore, I developed anxiety and depression as a result of my parents' situation and even the bullying I experienced.

