

Understanding the Health Impacts of Immigrant Detention: Developing a Community-Engaged Study

Juan Gudino BA*, Naomi Marroquin*, Isabella Reyes*, Nicole Novak PhD MSc

University of Iowa College of Public Health
*coauthors contributed equally

BACKGROUND

- In the past two decades, communities across the United States are witnessing increased collaborations between federal and local law officers to carry out immigration enforcement resulting in increased detentions and deportations [1-4].
- On any given day, approximately 15,000 people are held in immigration detention in the United States by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in over 600 sites [2].
- In Iowa, the minimum bond required for release from detention is \$1,500; although the state average for immigration bond sits at about \$5,000 paid fully in cash.

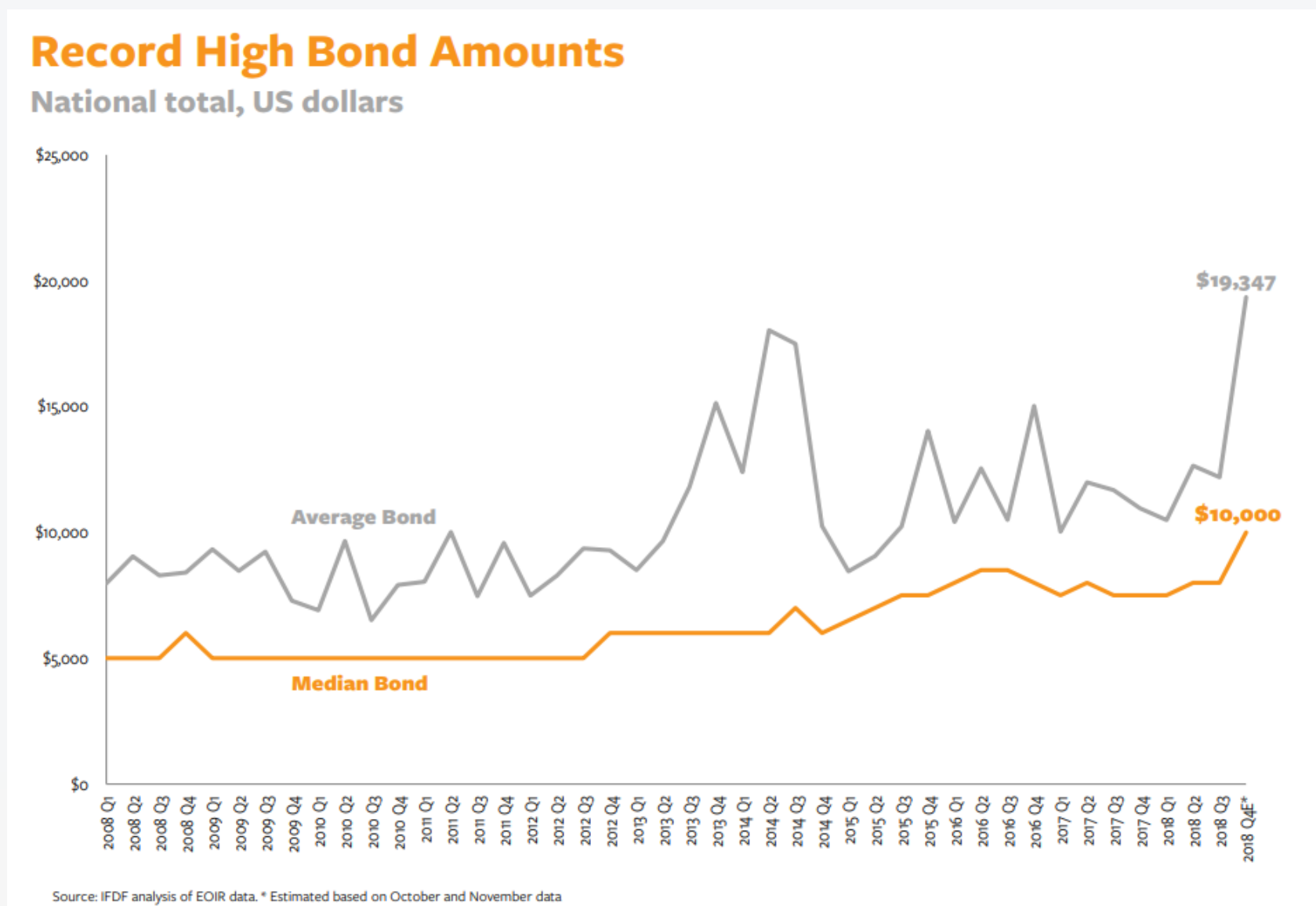


Figure 1. National total for average U.S. immigration bond from 2008-2018

- Immigration-related stress has been found to be associated with damages to material impacts, food insecurity, self-rated health, prenatal care, & chilling effects links that apply to detained immigrants and their social networks [1-3,6].

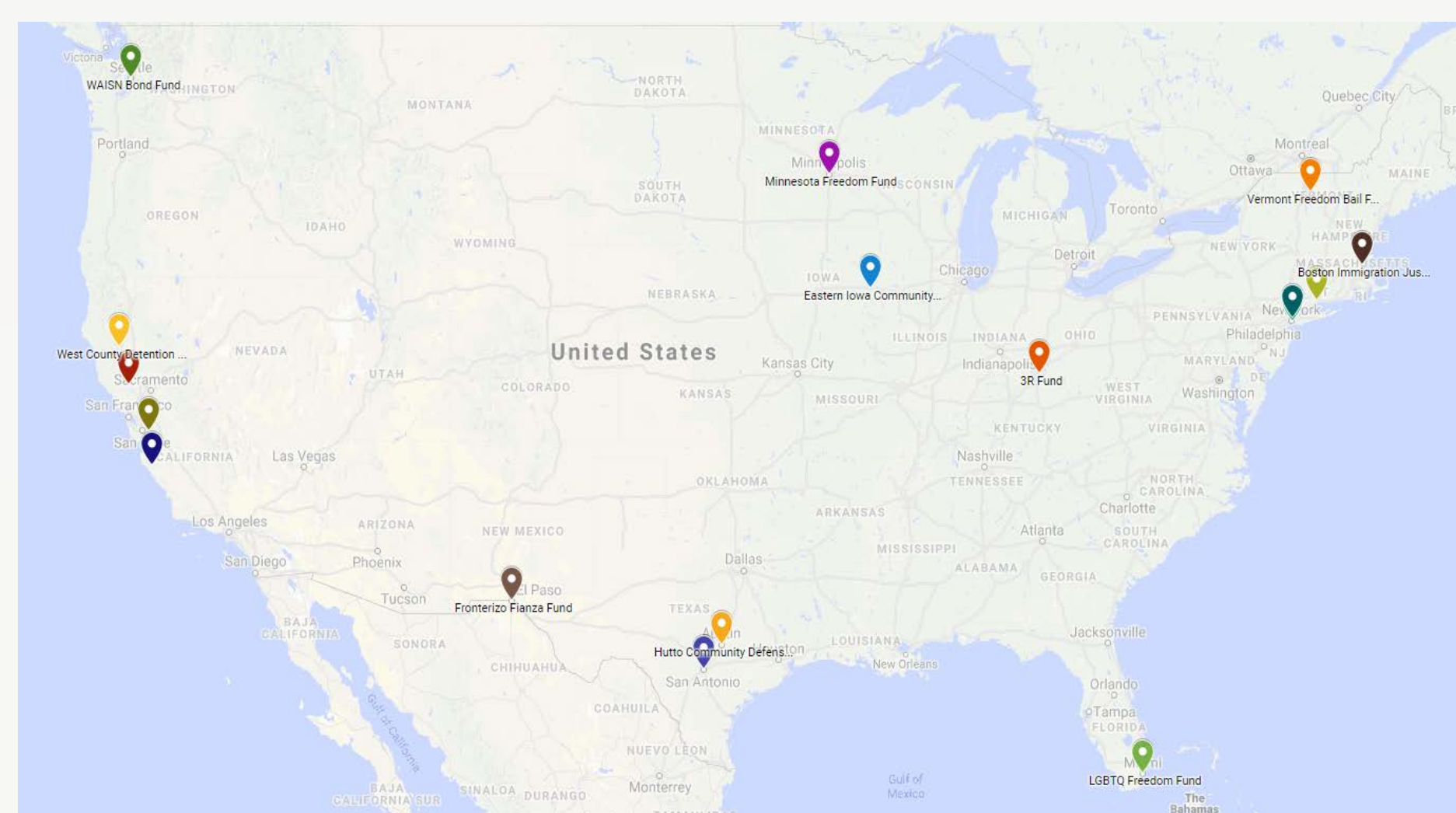


Figure 2. Immigration bond funds in the United States (2019)

- Recently, networks providing bond support have begun developing as an effect of increased immigration enforcement across the U.S. to mitigate damages associated with bond [1,6].

DEVELOPING A RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

- A team from the University of Iowa College of Public Health partnered with EICBP to develop a community-engaged evaluation of the impacts of EICBP's bond intervention.
- Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project (EICBP):
 - Works with bond-eligible detained immigrants and their families to pay their bond and get them back into the community.
- Research assistant training:
 - Watched a series of interviews on Facebook that were conducted by local Spanish-language media with immigrants who received bond assistance.
- During evaluation development:
 - Researchers volunteered with EICBP to understand the organization's approach to wellbeing.
 - Attended a community meeting and report-back from families who received bond assistance. Participants expressed an interest in sharing their stories and the importance of bond assistance.

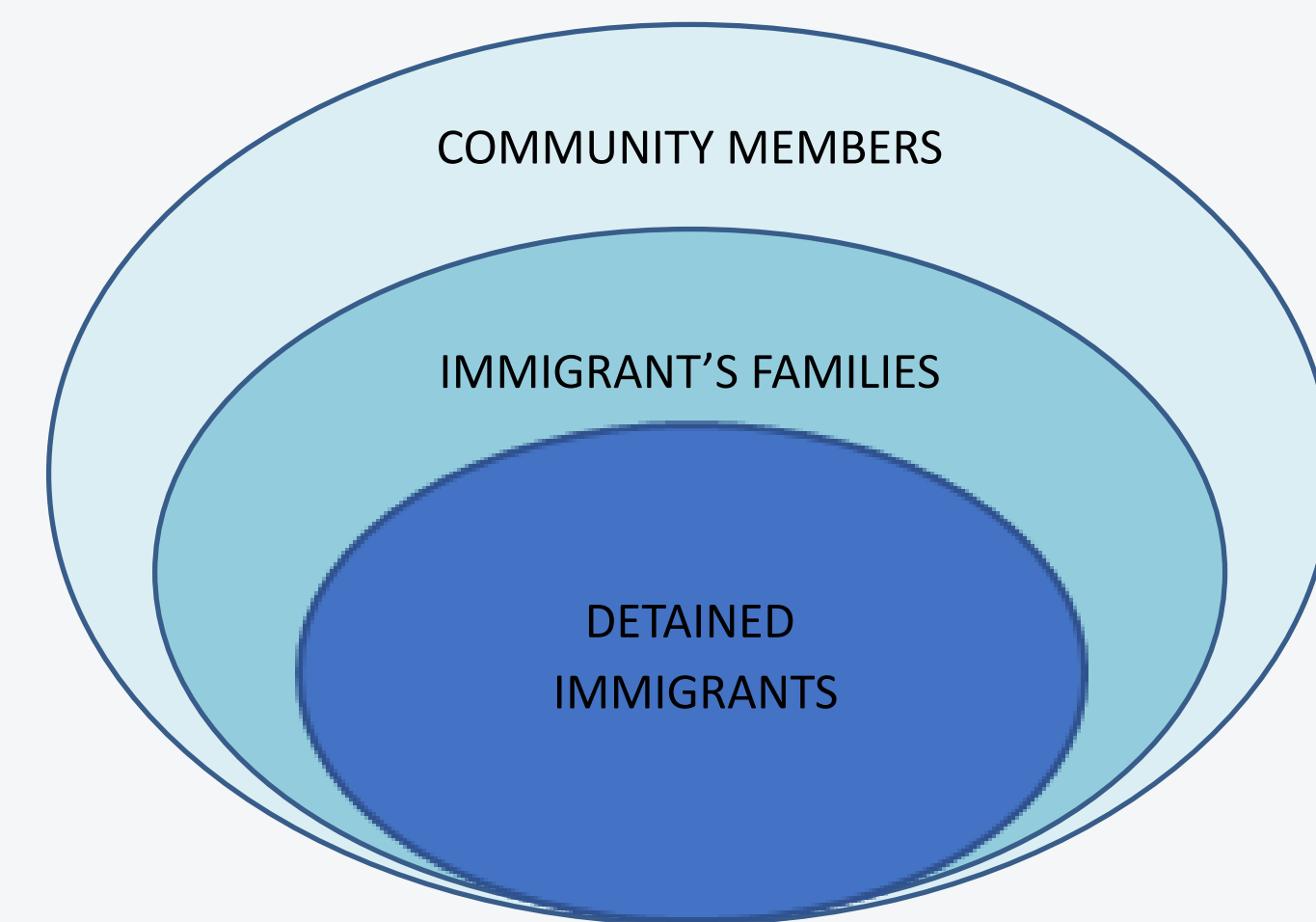


Figure 3. Socioecological Model of the Impacts of immigration-related Stressors on Wellbeing in Mixed Status Communities

- Concerns during evaluation development:
 - Privacy
 - Voluntary participation
 - Rural residence

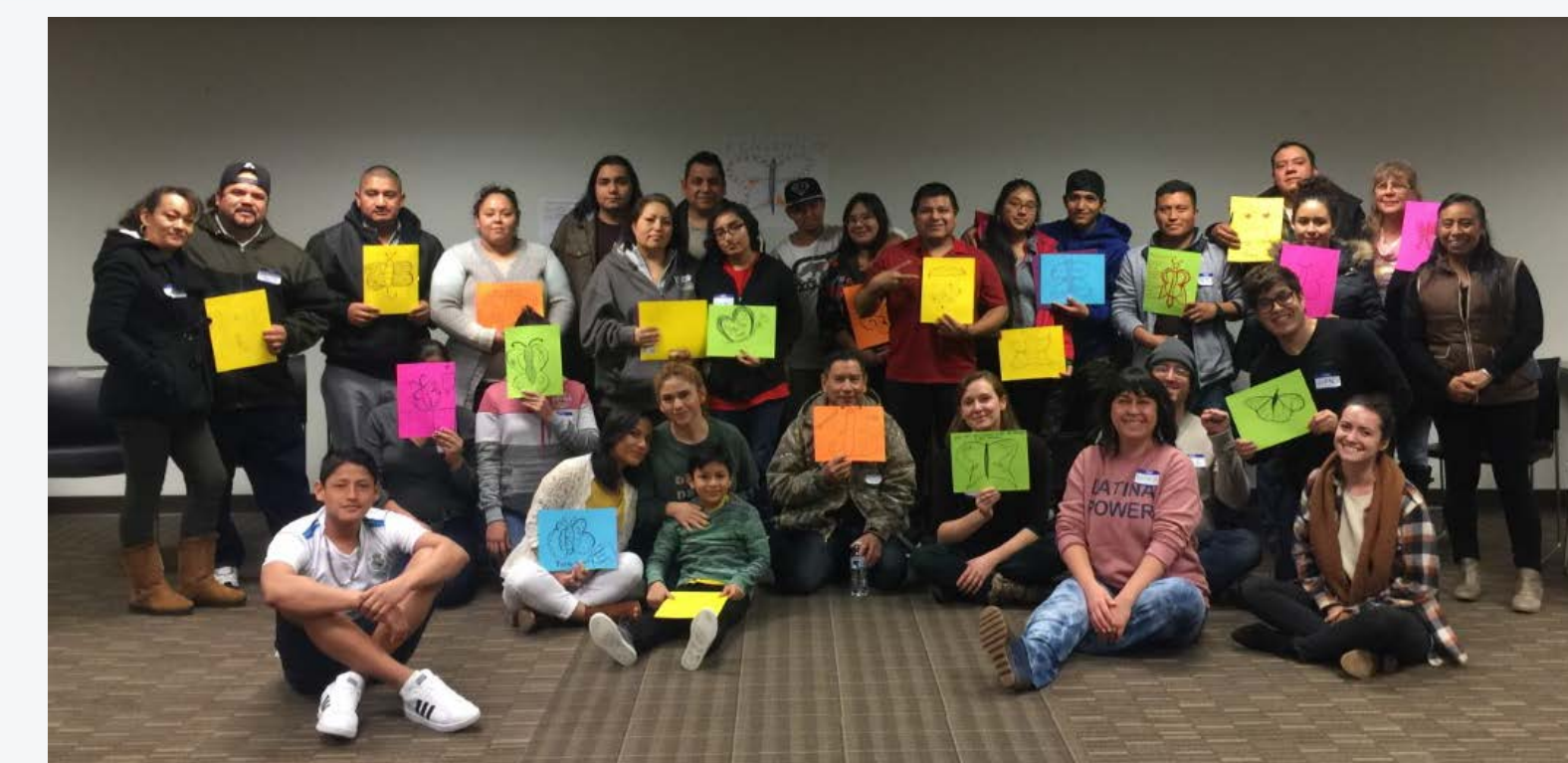


Figure 4. Community workshop and report-back with EICBP and UI College of Public Health research team, December 2018

STUDY DESIGN

- Research Questions:
 - How does immigration detention affect the wellbeing of the detained immigrant, their family, and others in their community?
 - Does an immigration bond intervention mitigate health impacts of immigration detention?
- Anonymous qualitative phone interviews (English or Spanish):
 - Individuals who have received bond assistance
 - Members of their family
 - Members of other social networks
- Semi-structured interview guide assesses experiences:
 - Before detention
 - During detention
 - After release on bond
- Analysis:
 - Interviews will be transcribed and coded
 - How does detention affect the wellbeing of immigrants, their families and their communities?
 - How does a bond intervention mitigate the impacts of detention?

Sociodemographic characteristics, immigrants receiving bond support who will be invited to participate (n=43)

Gender		
	Man	93%
	Woman	7%
Age		
	18-24	25%
	25-34	23%
	35-44	33%
	45+	20%
Number of children		
	0	33%
	1-2	33%
	3 or more	33%
Age at arrival in the U.S.		
	Under 10	11%
	10-19	40%
	20+	49%
Years in the U.S.		
	Less than 5	23%
	5-10	6%
	10+	71%
Financially supports others		
	Yes	80%
	No	20%

DISCUSSION

- Why is it important to partner with community organizations?
 - Partnering with community organizations guides researchers to communicate effectively and ethically with detainees, immigrant families, and community members
 - Partnering with community organizations could be a bridge to partnering with other local immigration organizations and allies.
- What will be done with future results?
 - Results will be disseminated to diverse stakeholders, including recipients of bond assistance, local leaders, and academic audiences.
 - Results could help us educate communities about immigration raids and the health effects of those detained.

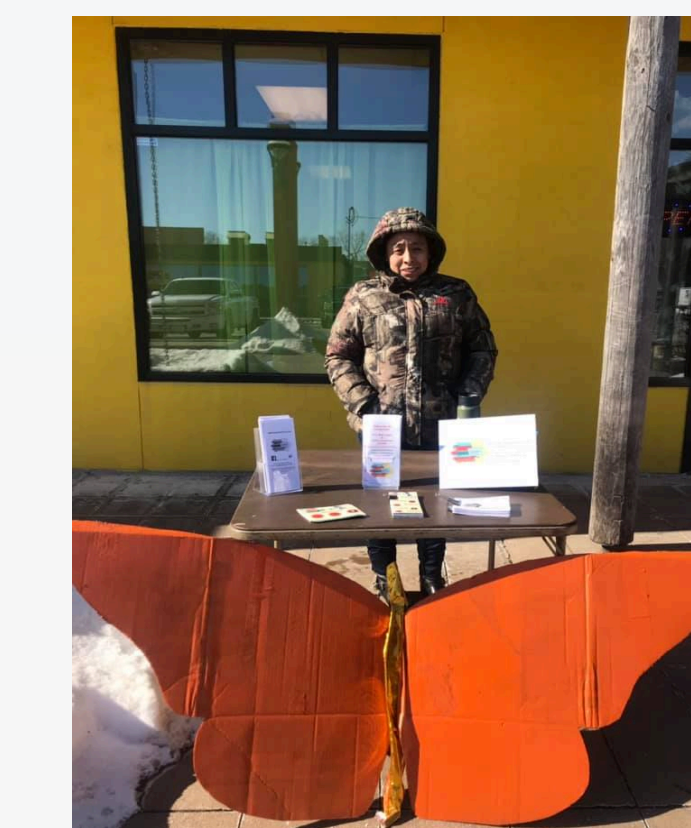


Figure 5. EICBP volunteer does community outreach in Des Moines, Iowa, .

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