



Bridging Refugee Youth & Children's Services

This document is provided by the BRYCS Clearinghouse.

What is a UAC?

By Children's Services MRS/USCCB

What is a UAC?. ©2012. Children's Services MRS/USCCB.



BRYCS is a project of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS) 1-888-572-6500/ info@brycs.org/ www.brycs.org



MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES
CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROGRAM

What is a UAC?



Definition (Homeland Security Act 2002):

- 18 years or younger
- Without lawful immigration status in the U.S.
- Without parent or legal guardian in the U.S.
- OR, with no parent or legal guardian in the U.S. available to provide care or legal custody

Unaccompanied Alien Child (UAC) is the legal term often used for children who are in the US without legal status, and without an available parent or legal guardian.

Many come to the US alone to reunify with family members, others are escaping poverty, hunger, violence and abuse in their communities or homes.

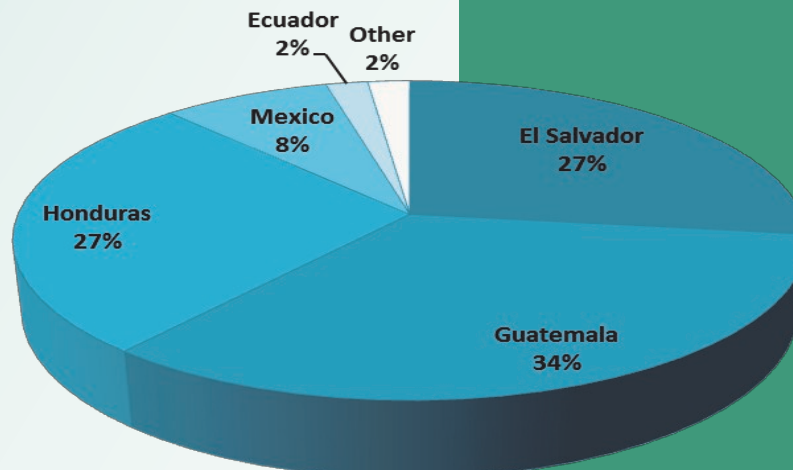
Their journey to the US often involves negotiating with smugglers and riding on tops of trains. Many children go without food or water for several days. They often witness violent situations and are victims of violence themselves.

UACs are apprehended at the border or in communities by immigration officials and are put in the custody of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS), Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), Division of Children's Services (DCS).

Once children are in federal custody they are placed in immigration proceedings and family reunification options are identified. Some children do not have viable family reunification options and are placed in federal foster care or return to their home country.



Where do UACs come from?



In FY12, the majority of UACs that ORR/DCS served were between 14 and 17 years old. 77 percent were males and 23 percent were females.*

For More Information
Contact:
Kristyn Peck,
Assistant Director
Family Reunification
(202)541-3039
KPeck@uscbb.org

Gift of the United States Government



Children served by ORR/DCS FY12*

* UAC Program Overview Power-Point ORR/DCS 11/12