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Should unauthorized American immigrants have access to insurance through the Affordable Care Act?

NORMAN DANIELS

Norman Daniels, PhD, is currently Mary B. Saltonstall Professor of Population Ethics and Professor of Ethics and Population Health in the Department of Global Health and Population of the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. He was formerly Goldthwaite Professor and Chair of the Philosophy Department at Tufts University and Professor of Medical Ethics at Tufts Medical School, 1969–2002. He has published over 150 articles in anthologies and journals and he has published over 10 books. His research interests include justice and the politics of health, ethics and health sector reform, justice and intergenerational equity.

By some estimates, about 12 million people in the US are unauthorized immigrants. They constitute the largest group of individuals excluded from the expanded insurance coverage provided by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) signed into law by President Obama in 2010. While Daniels rejects the global-justice perspective that says borders should be open, he nevertheless points out that long-standing unauthorized immigrants have made contributions to society and are clearly no longer just visitors. Consequently, out of considerations of reciprocity for their contributions to society, like other community members, they should be entitled to have their opportunities protected and their voices heard. Daniels will consider these as arguments for immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship.

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noon to 1:30 p.m.

Direction de santé publique
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