# CDC Report Links Fatal Measles Outbreak to Venezuelan Immigrants at Chicago Migrant Center



A recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) links 84% of fatal measles cases in a significant outbreak at a Chicago migrant center to Venezuelan immigrants. The outbreak at the Pilsen migrant shelter involved 57 measles cases, gestated from a one-year-old boy who had only received one of the two essential MMR vaccines. Overcrowding, with approximately 500 individuals cramped into a single room, facilitated the spread. The majority of affected individuals were unvaccinated.

Chicago, experiencing the highest number of measles cases in the U.S., confirmed 64 cases. The initial patient, a young boy from Venezuela, arrived in the U.S. five months prior to his illness and had no recent travel history. Subsequent exposure occurred between February 22-27, with the CDC deeming anyone present at the shelter during this period to have been potentially exposed.

Venezuelan migrants were predominantly affected, with the median age of patients being three years old. Out of the 57 cases, 30 were in women, 27 in men, and the ages ranged from six months to 49 years. Illinois has seen an influx of approximately 41,000 migrants since August 2022, with 88% from Venezuela, a nation experiencing a decline in child vaccination rates.

In response to this public health challenge and broader immigration concerns, the Biden administration announced an initiative to expedite immigration court cases for recent single adult migrants in key cities, aiming for resolutions within 180 days. This docket will be implemented in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York City. This shift is intended to alleviate the backlogged immigration system, currently inundated with about 3 million cases.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas emphasized the necessity of this administrative step amidst halted bipartisan efforts for broader immigration reforms. Previously, similar efforts have been made by the Obama and Trump administrations to quicken asylum decisions and manage court backlogs.

This expedited process, which includes 10 assigned judges, intends to enforce laws more effectively while addressing the logistical challenges and delays inherent in the current immigration system.