Evaluation of a controversial legal reform: unaccompanied minors and their transition to adulthood in Spain

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Undocumented minors in Spain and transition to adulthood

Arrivals by coast statistics

Minor in Care statistics
Public Institutions for Protection of Minors up to 18 y.o.

18 y.o. = end of protection

Scattered Statistics (ex UAMs?)

Minor age

Documentary of Foreign Minors

Residence Permits statistics
Before the reform

No minor is illegal in Spain because they are minors before than foreigners BUT…

1. Administration had a very long period for requesting documentation (9 months plus time of processing)

2. Documented minors who reached age 16 were not allowed to work (but Spanish youth were)

3. Documented minors who reached age 18:
   1. had to demonstrate economic resources (2500€/month) to keep their residence permit
   2. had to receive a job contract for one year to obtain a work permit
1. Many remained undocumented during childhood because the Administration was too slow (1-2 years) in providing them with papers (residence permits)

2. Many reached 18 years old without having received their documentation, which turned them automatically into ‘illegals’

3. Very few were able to keep documents during adulthood and even fewer managed to work legally
Goals of the reform

- Simplify & speed up documentation procedure for minors
- Prevent reaching 18 y.o. without being documented
- Provide documental stability in first years of adult life
- Consolidate right to work and labor market integration

Expected increase in the number of documented UAMs

Smooth transition into age 18, no jumps in statistics

Access since age 16 & remain legally employed after
Figures from the register of documented UAMs

REFORM

International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS 2023)
24-25 January - Santiago, Chile

MINISTERIO DE INCLUSIÓN, SEGURIDAD SOCIAL Y MIGRACIONES
No sign of pulling effect... no increase in annual arrivals of minors.

Figures from Border Police: number of undocumented minors arrived by boat.
New arrivals & new documentation of UAMs

Daily arrivals of unaccompanied minors

Stock of Documented Unaccompanied Minors
Increase of documented youth rather than minors...

Increase in the number of UAMs & youth Nov 2021 – Nov 2022

<table>
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</table>
Effects of the reform on employment rate (legal)

Employment Rate among 16-23 (ex) unaccompanied minors

- Before Reform: 28%
- After Reform: 56%
- Increased by 28%
Menores no acompañados y jóvenes extutelados con autorización de residencia

Nota de análisis:

Acceso a la infografía

Fecha de publicación: 30 de septiembre 2022
Últimos datos publicados: 30 de junio de 2022

Stock mensual desde el 30 de junio de 2021 al 30 de junio de 2022 (personas de 16 a 23 años)

Menores no acompañados y jóvenes extutelados con autorización de residencia.

Número de menores no acompañados y jóvenes extutelados de 16 y más años por sexo, edad y nacionalidad.

Número de menores no acompañados y jóvenes extutelados de 16 y más años por sexo, edad, tipo de autorización y motivo de concesión.
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