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Social & Behavioral Sciences \ Education

Perez, William. **We ARE Americans: undocumented students pursuing the American dream.** Stylus Publishing, 2009. 161p index afp; ISBN [9781579223755](#), \$70.00; ISBN [9781579223762](#) pbk, \$22.50. Reviewed in 2010apr CHOICE.

This is a short introduction to undocumented students in the US. Perez (Claremont Graduate Univ.) records case histories from interviews with undocumented students, who continue to live a precarious future in a country that does not welcome them.

These honest, heartrending biographical stories are the bulk of the book. Perez includes questions for discussion to facilitate group study and a brief three-page index. The introduction is informative and provides background on how these students come to live in the US without citizenship; changing demographics, including economic contributions of undocumented immigrants; use of public services; and crime statistics. Perez traces the laws that have affected these students, from *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) in Texas to the present. He includes statistics, e.g., "in California about 25,000 undocumented students graduate from high schools each year, yet fewer than 7,000 enroll in community colleges" and fewer still in the state university systems. He briefly gives information on statewide higher education access, in-state tuition legislation, and the DREAM Act that would extend conditional legal status to undocumented youth who meet several criteria. Perez concludes his introduction with rationales for an immigration policy that is in the national self-interest. **Summing Up:** Recommended. All readership levels. -- *H. Quintana, Imperial Valley College*

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