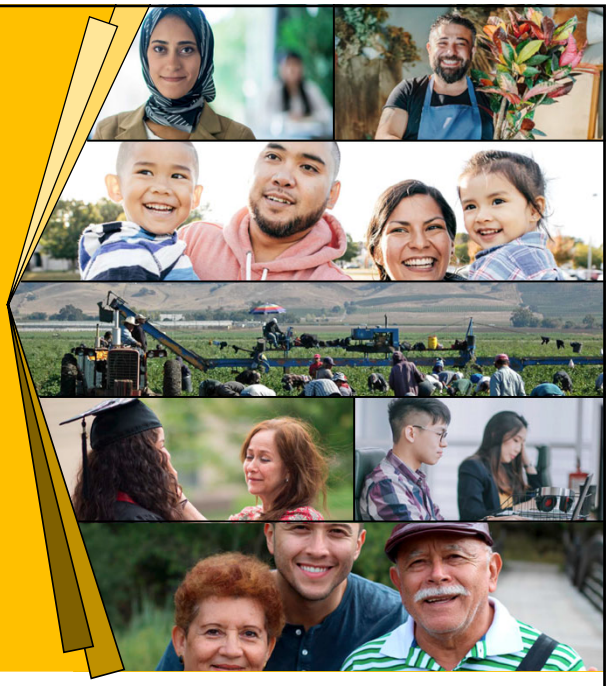
THE WEALTH OF WELCOME: WHY GETTING IMMIGRATION RIGHT MATTERS FOR EVERYONE

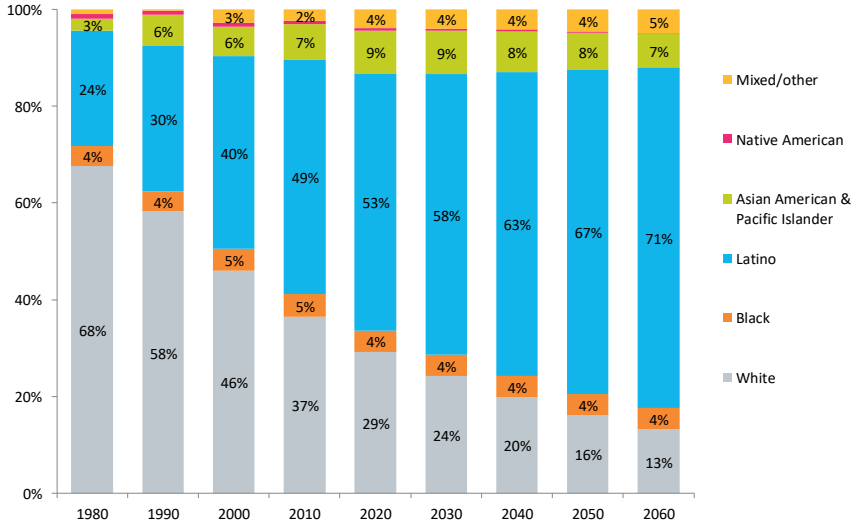
August 21, 2026

USC Dornsife
Equity Research Institute



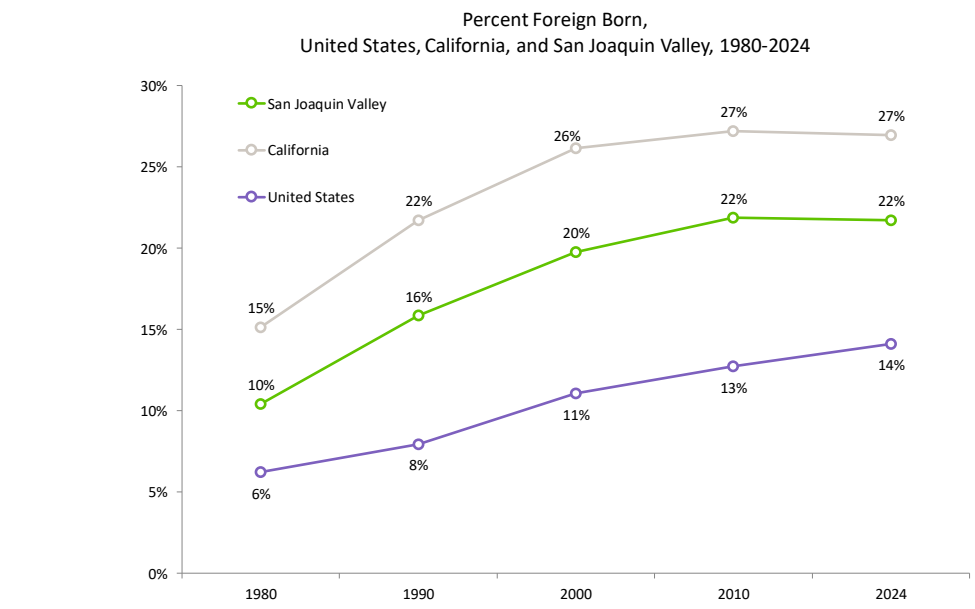
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Changing Demographics,
San Joaquin Valley, 1980-2060



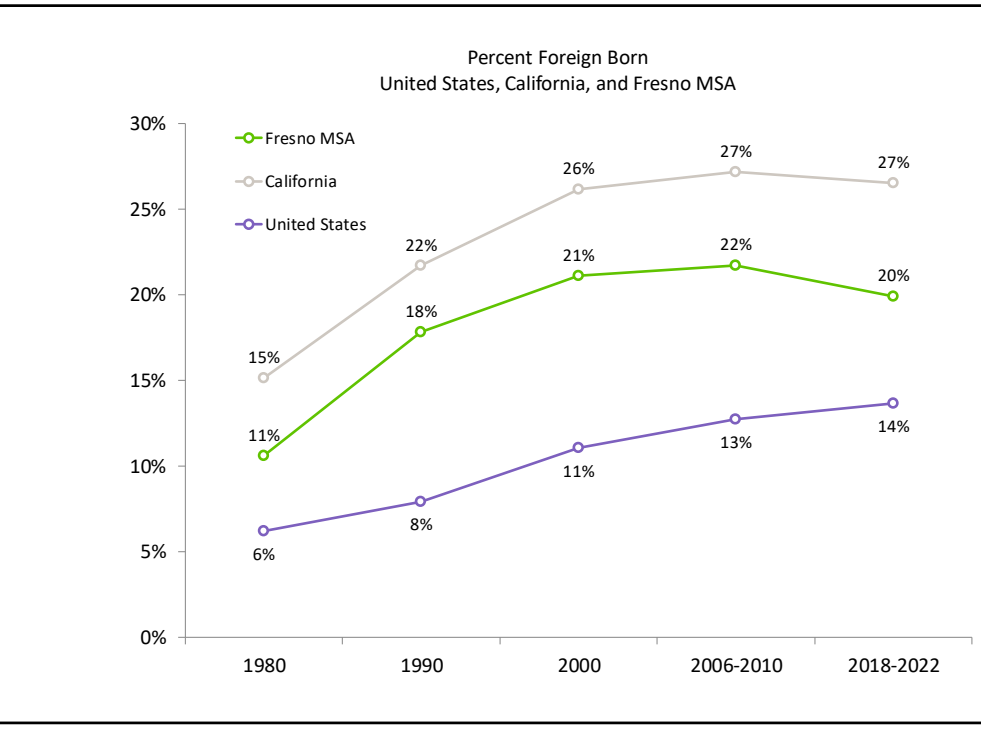
Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Woods & Poole Economics, Inc. Note: Much of the increase in the mixed/other population between 1990 and 2000, and between 2010 and 2020, is due to changes made to the survey question on race and the way the responses are coded.

2

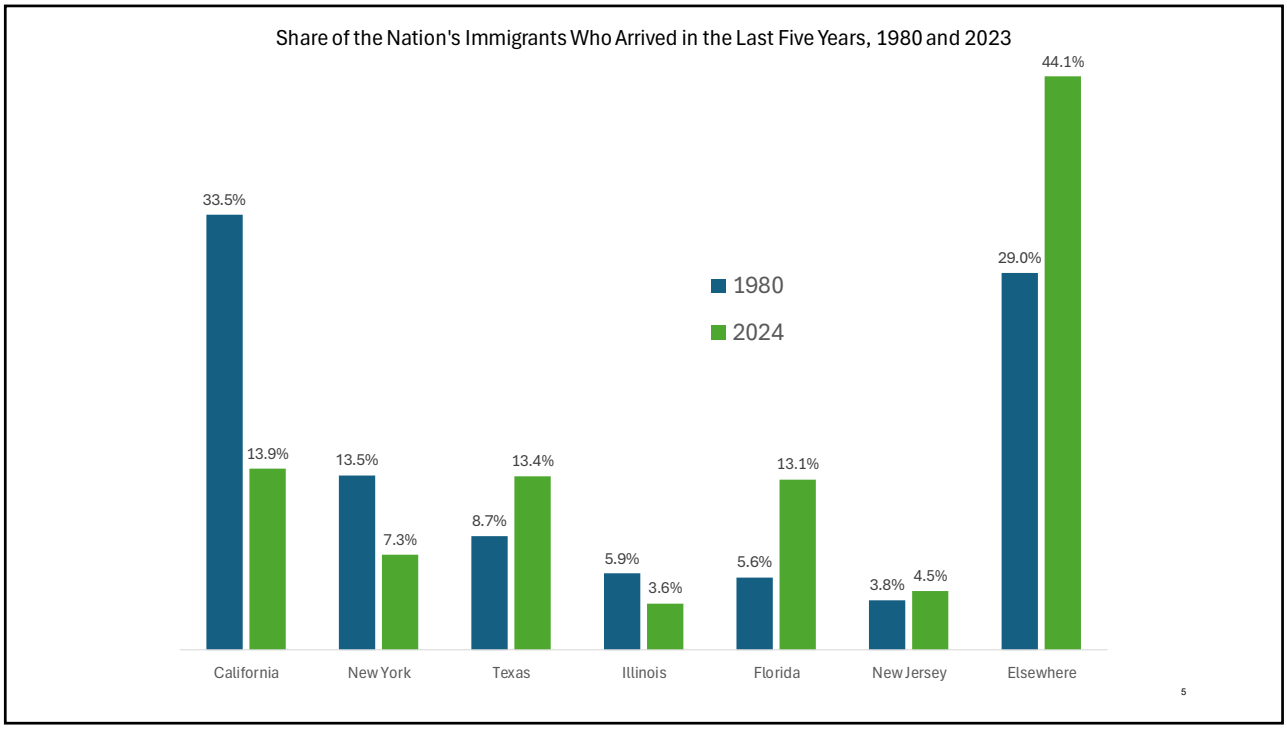


Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Note: Data for 2010 and 2024 represent five-year averages (e.g., 2020-2024).

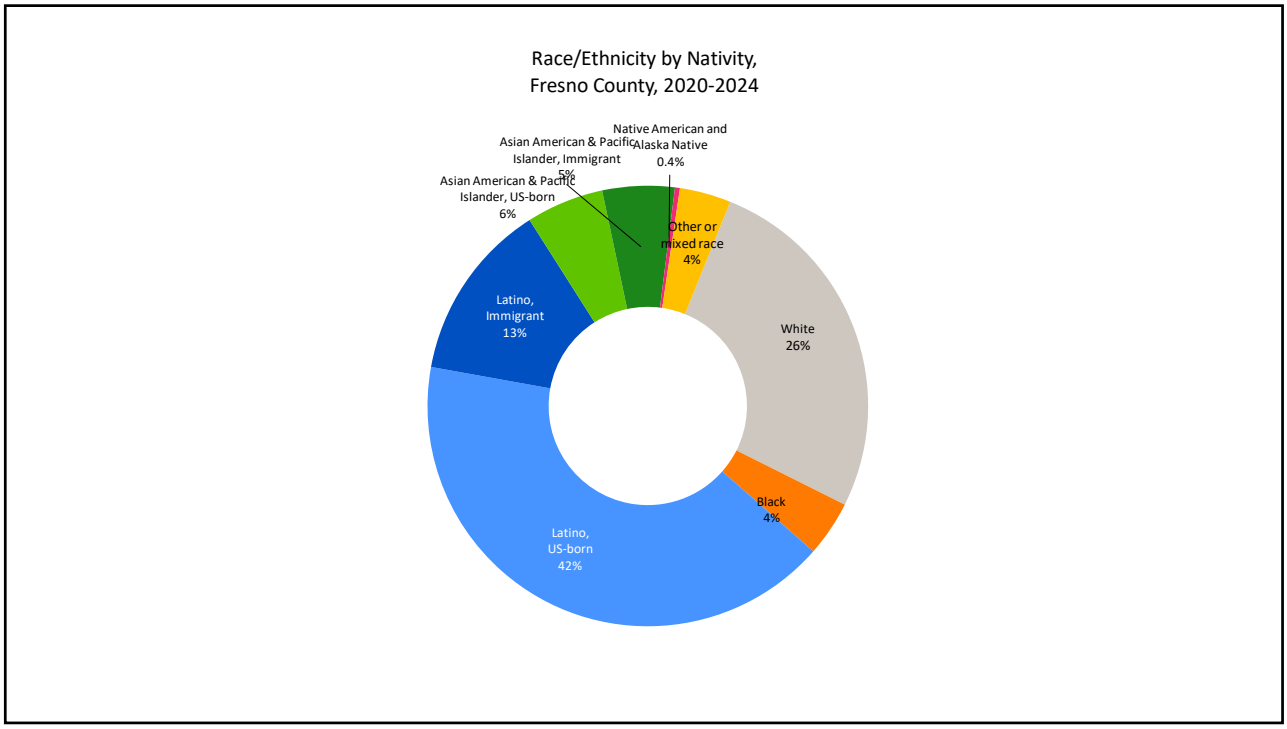
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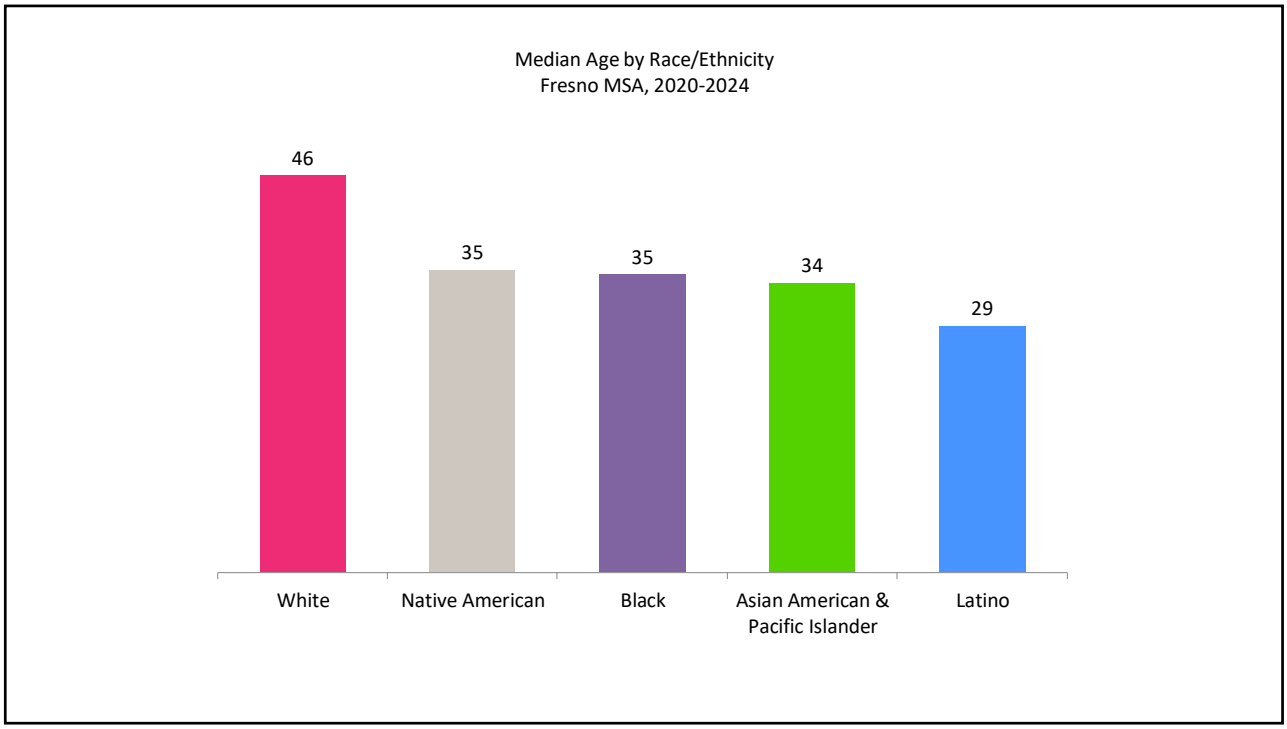
4


Share of the Nation's Immigrants Who Arrived in the Last Five Years, 1980 and 2023
1980
2024
33.5%
13.9%
13.5%
7.3%
8.7%
13.4%
5.9%
3.6%
5.6%
13.1%
3.8%
4.5%
29.0%
44.1%
California
New York
Texas
Illinois
Florida
New Jersey
Elsewhere
5

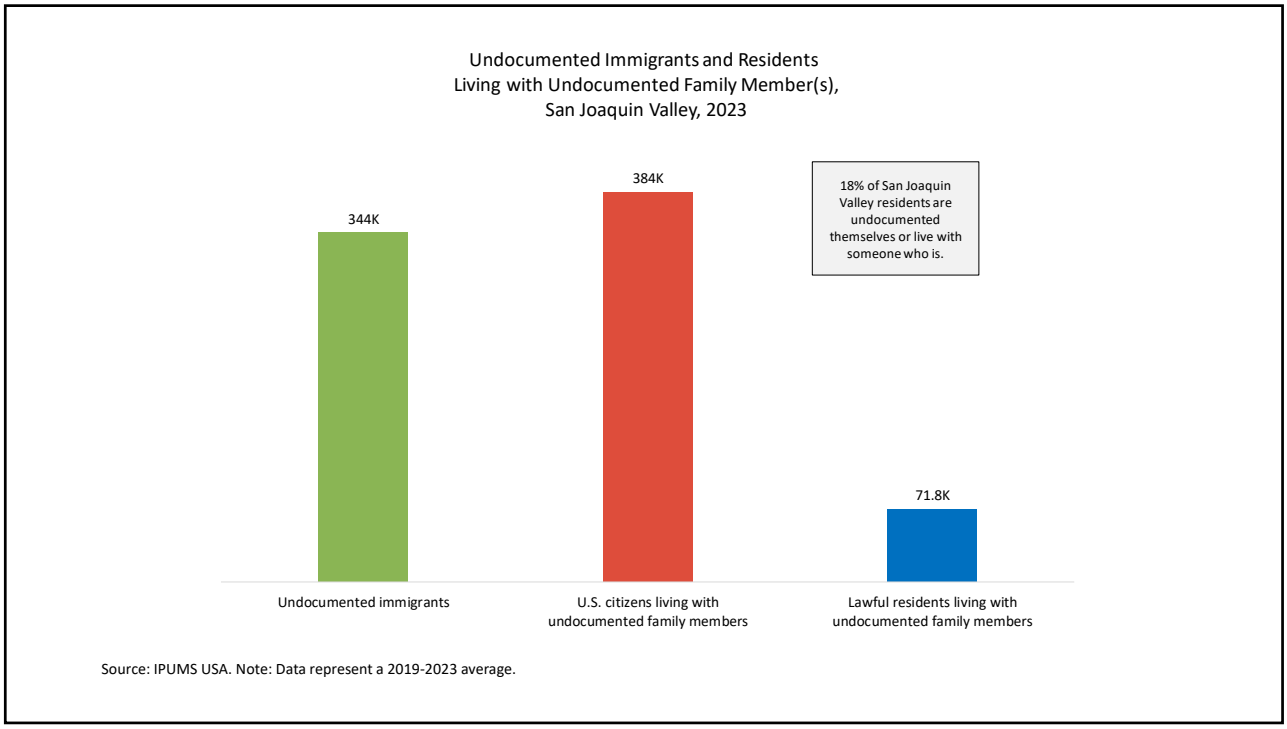
5


Race/Ethnicity by Nativity,
Fresno County, 2020-2024
Native American and Alaska Native 0.4%
Asian American & Pacific Islander, Immigrant 5%
Asian American & Pacific Islander, US-born 6%
Other or mixed race 4%
Latino, Immigrant 13%
White 26%
Black 4%
Latino, US-born 42%

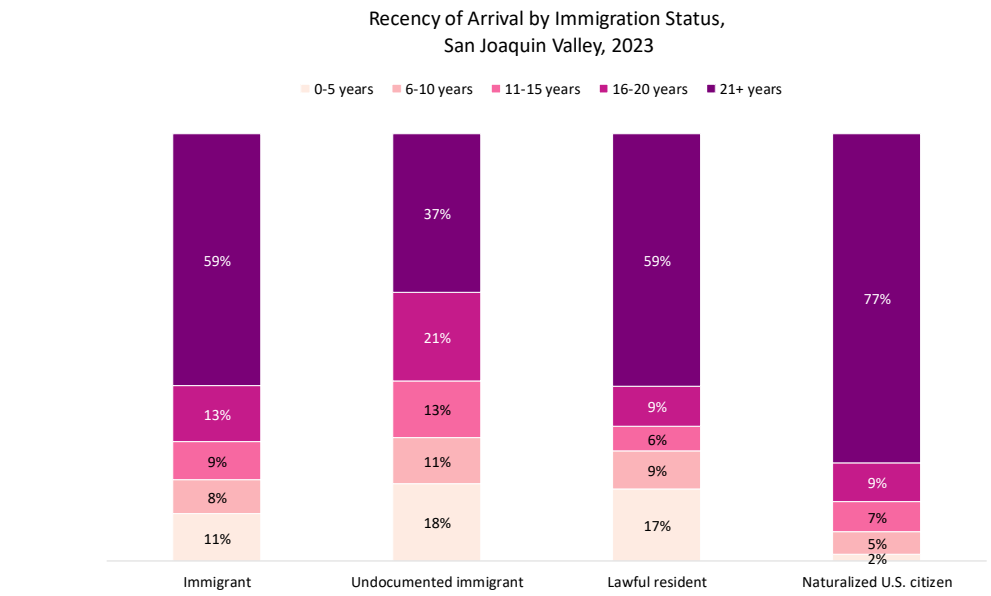
6


Median Age by Race/Ethnicity
Fresno MSA, 2020-2024
46
35
35
34
29
White
Native American
Black
Asian American & Pacific Islander
Latino

7

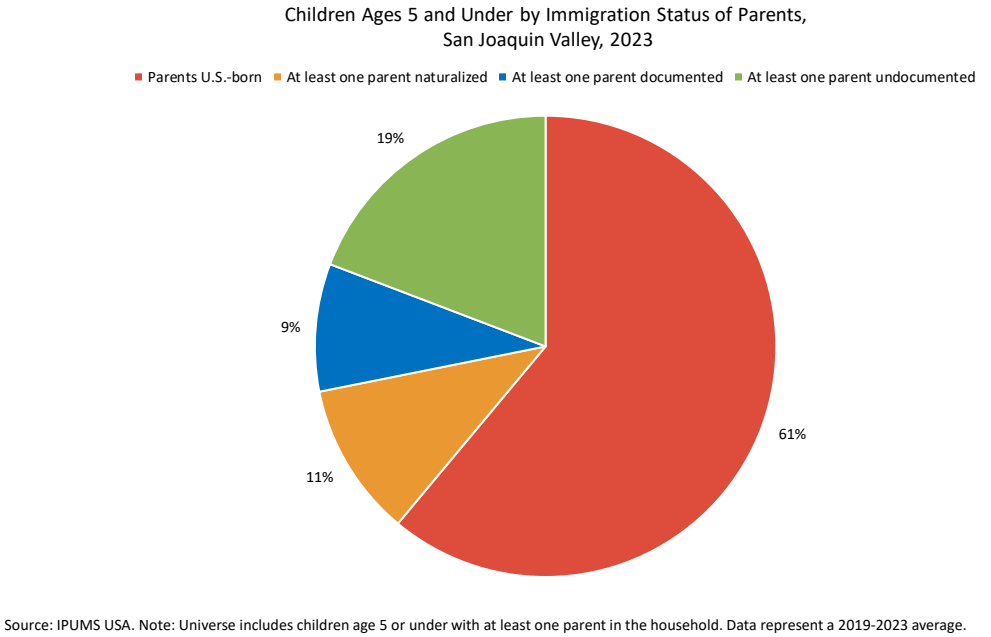

Undocumented Immigrants and Residents
Living with Undocumented Family Member(s),
San Joaquin Valley, 2023
344K
384K
18% of San Joaquin Valley residents are undocumented themselves or live with someone who is.
71.8K
Undocumented immigrants
U.S. citizens living with undocumented family members
Lawful residents living with undocumented family members
Source: IPUMS USA. Note: Data represent a 2019-2023 average.

9



Source: IPUMS USA. Note: Data represent a 2019-2023 average.

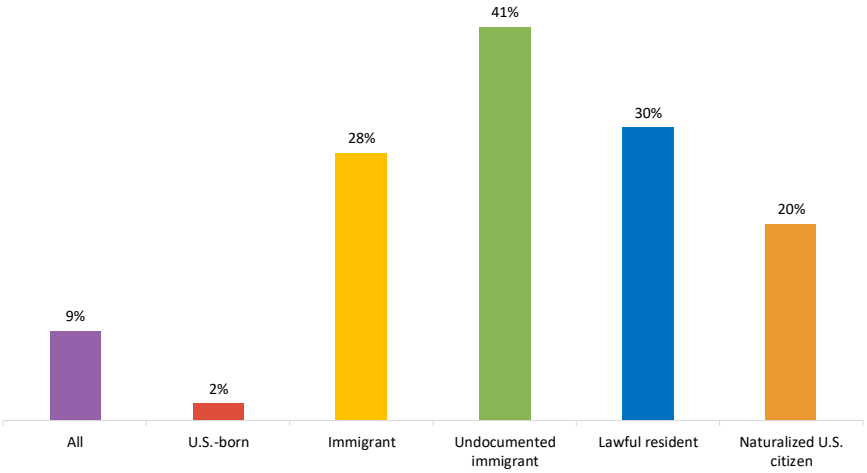
10



Source: IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes children age 5 or under with at least one parent in the household. Data represent a 2019-2023 average.

11

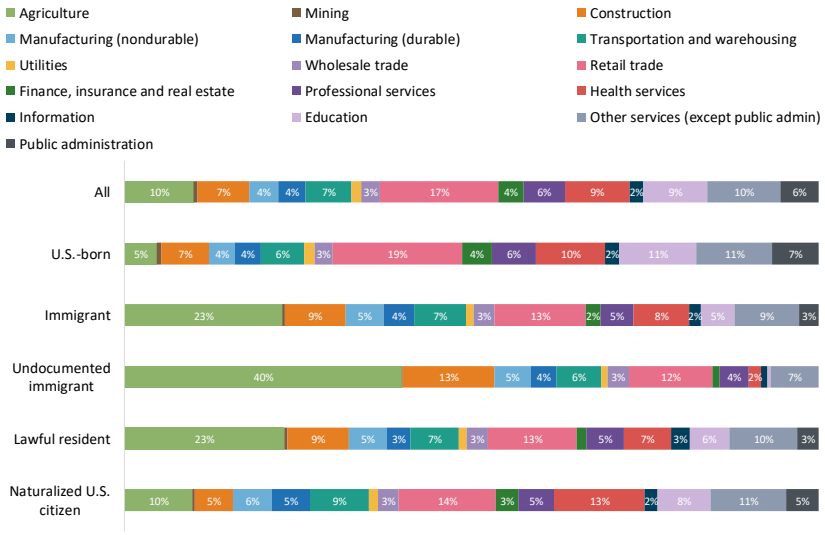
Percent Linguistically Isolated Households by Immigration Status, San Joaquin Valley, 2023



Source: IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes all households. A household is considered linguistically isolated when no member age 14 years or older speaks only English or speaks English at least "very well." Immigration status is based on the householder. Data represent a 2019-2023 average.

12

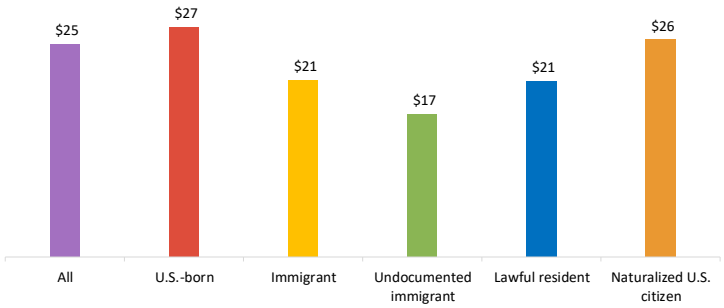
Industries by Immigration Status, San Joaquin Valley, 2023



Source: IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes the employed civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 or older. Data represent a 2019-2023 average.

14

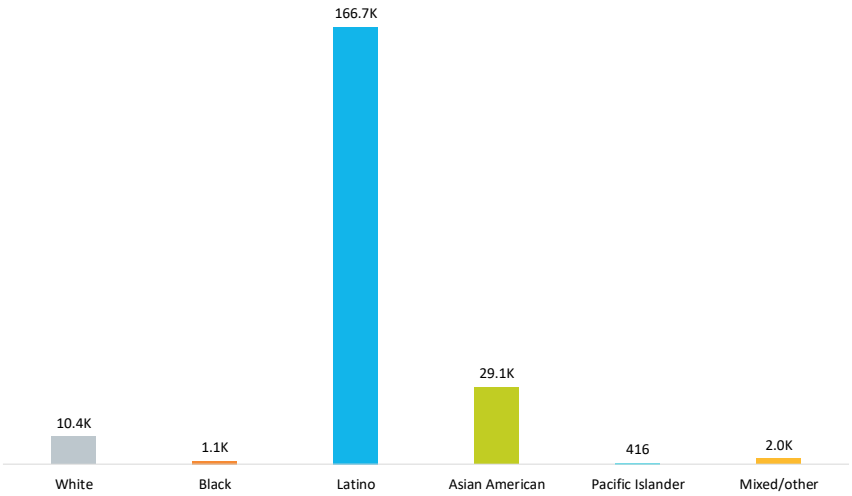
Median Hourly Wage by Immigration Status,
San Joaquin Valley, 2023



Source: IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes civilian noninstitutionalized full-time wage and salary workers ages 25 through 64. Data represent a 2019-2023 average. Values are in 2023 dollars.

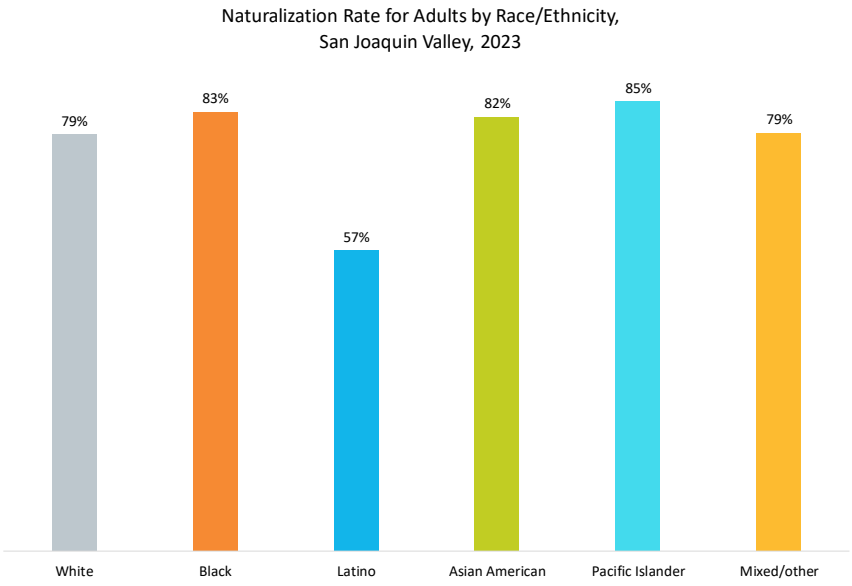
15

Eligible-to-naturalize Adults by Race/Ethnicity,
San Joaquin Valley, 2023



Source: IPUMS USA. Note: Data represent a 2019-2023 average.

16



Source: IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes naturalized citizen and eligible-to-naturalize adults. The naturalization rate is calculated as the ratio of naturalized adults to the sum of naturalized and eligible-to-naturalize adults. Data represent a 2019-2023 average.

17



18

2022

IMMIGRANTS' FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATION

$2 trillion in household income among immigrants

$382.9 billion in federal taxes

$196.3 billion in state and local taxes

$1.6 trillion in spending power

19

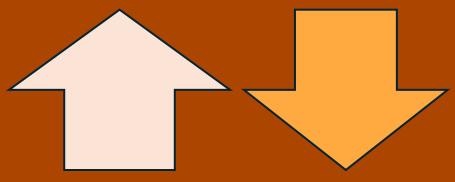
2003 - 2026

THE COST OF IMMIGRANT ENFORCEMENT

$532.5 billion on immigrant enforcement

Growing damages to families, communities and local economies

Increased immigrant enforcement and threats



Shrinking workforce, decreased economic activity, declining funds through taxes, family separation

20



The Problem

- Restrictive legal pathways and enforcement-centered policies prevent millions of workers from fully contributing to the economy → **net cost to economy**
- The current blockage on sensible immigration and immigrant policy is driven by **xenophobia and racial unease**

21



Past Failures

- Failure to align legal immigration pathways and inclusion/integration efforts with the country's **economic needs**
- Annual federal **spending on immigration enforcement** grew nearly 1,300% from $3.3 billion in 2003 to nearly $46.5 billion after the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill and Secure America Act
- **Outdated quotas, visa backlogs, and administrative inefficiencies** limit legal pathways, leaving labor demand high while lawful entry channels remain constrained and lead to economic inefficiencies

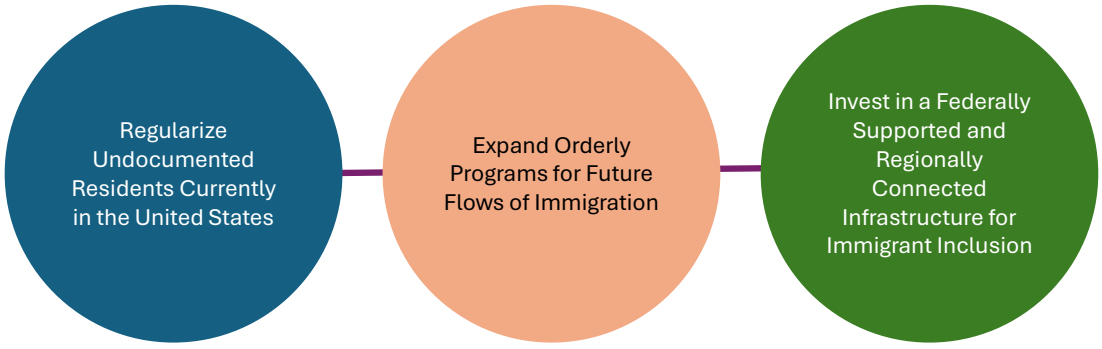
22



Economic Rationale

- Immigration expands **economic productivity** by increasing labor supply, stimulating investment, and fostering innovation
- Immigrants make **substantial fiscal contributions** to the economy and sustaining social programs
- In contrast, **enforcement-heavy policies carry significant fiscal costs** and can disrupt labor markets by removing workers from key sectors

23



> *We can build a system that works and offers dignity to the immigrants who have contributed to the U.S. – past, present, and future.*

24

IMMIGRANT FUTURES

GLOBAL CRISES



https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/hungry-desperate-climate-change-fuels-migration-crisis-guatemala-rcna2135

Displacement from climate disasters, state-violence, war, and social strife continue to impact regions all over the world and force migration to places like our county. At the same time, California continues to face some of its own climate crises.

Californians, including those in the Central Valley, must find a way to both embrace newcomers and address these global challenges, in order to protect residents and the most vulnerable.

25

IMMIGRANT FUTURES

DEMOGRAPHICS



https://diverseelders.org/2018/03/14/southeast-asian-americans-speak-out-to-protect-affordable-healthcare/

Many immigrants will participate in caring for baby boomers as they age. What is less cared for: the protections, benefits, and salaries of these workers.

Aging immigrants will leave the workforce and require greater assistance in accessing social services. A significant share of our immigrant senior population currently lives in poverty and without strong economic mobility policies, their children may struggle to support them, as well.

26

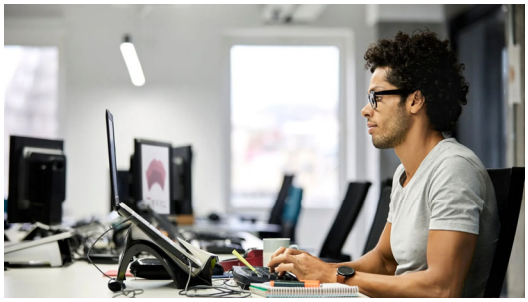
Care employment

Assisted living facilities for the elderly
Child care services
Community food services
Continuing care retirement communities
Emergency and other relief services
Home health care services
Individual and family services
Nursing care facilities
Other community housing services
Other residential care facilities
Residential mental health and substance abuse facilities
Services for elderly and persons with disabilities
Temporary shelters
Vocational rehabilitation services

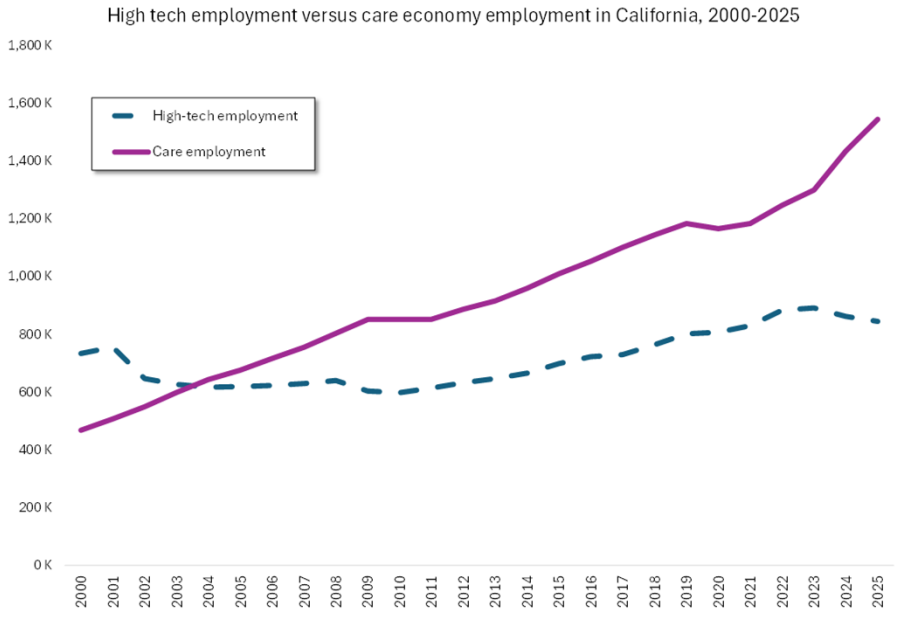


High tech employment

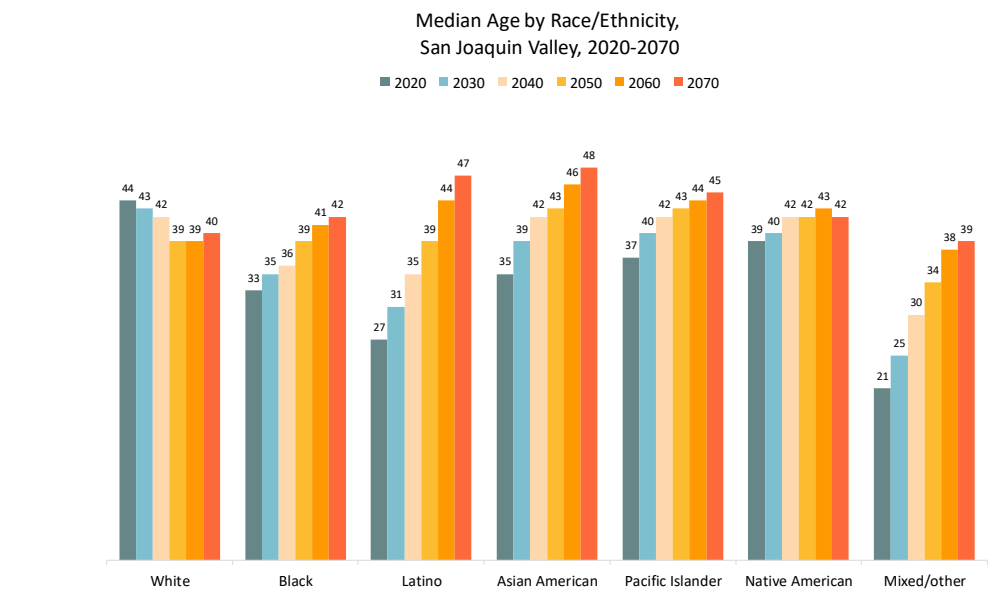
Computer and peripheral equipment manufacturing
Computer systems design services
Custom computer programming services
Data processing, hosting, and related services
Scientific research and development services
Semiconductor and electronic component manufacturing
Software publishing
Telecommunications



27



28



Source: California Department of Finance, Population Projections (Baseline 2024, Vintage 2026).

29

IMMIGRANT FUTURES

ECONOMIC INEQUALITY



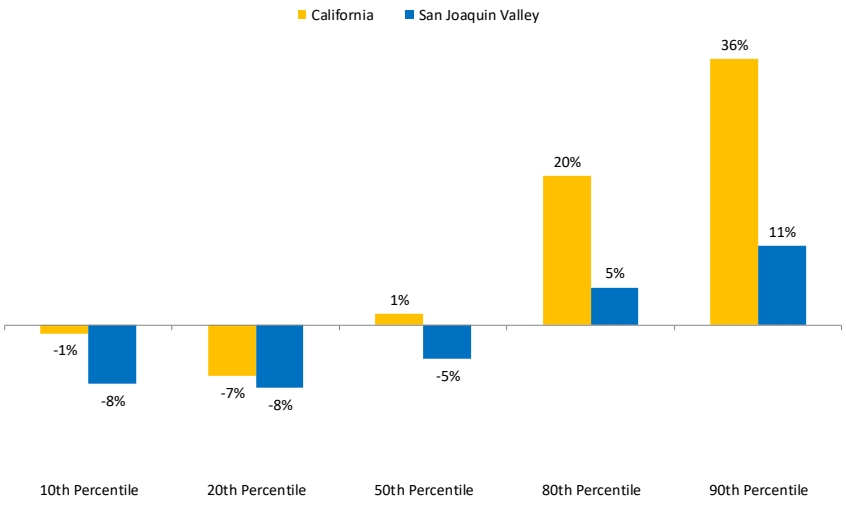
https://theavtimes.com/2022/03/08/minimum-wage-in-unincorporated-la-county-increases-to-15-96-on-july-1/

To create a California for all immigrants, we must do more to protect workers from exploitation and dangerous work conditions–regardless of immigration status–as well as improve compensation and benefits.

Economic transformations may continue to exacerbate inequality in the region, and it will pose a threat to everyone's economic wellbeing. The future of California—and the Central Valley—will be shaped by our ability to close the wage, income, and wealth gap.

30

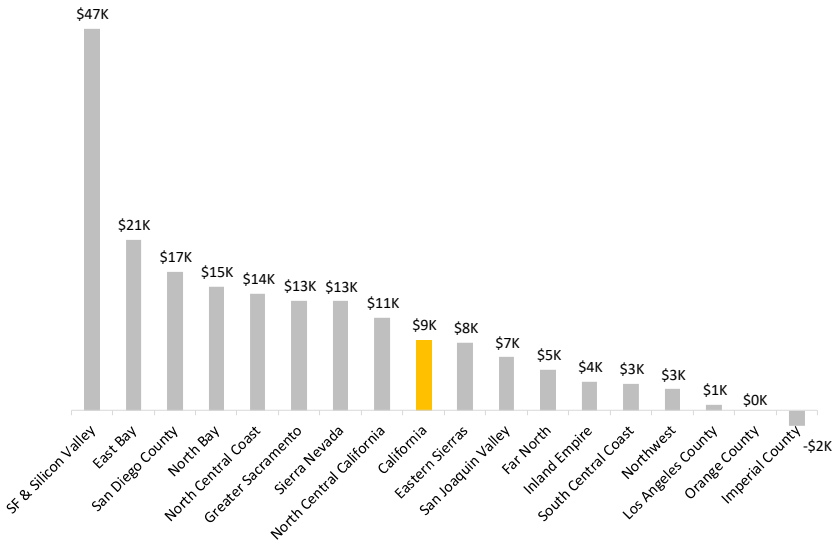
Real Earnings Growth by Percentile, California and San Joaquin Valley, 1990-2024



Source: IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes civilian noninstitutionalized full-time wage and salary workers ages 25 through 64. Data for 1990 reflects income and work efforts for 1989 while data for 2024 represents a 2020-2024 average. Values are adjusted for inflation.

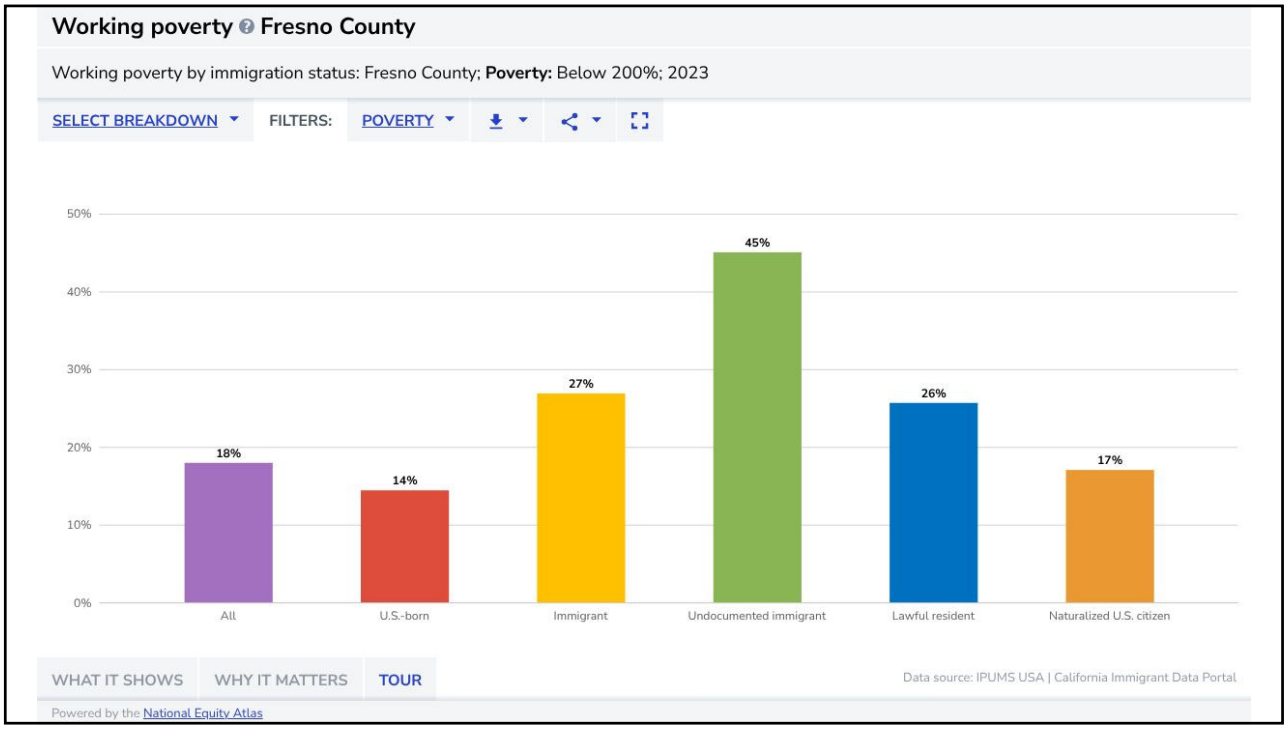
31

Change in Real Median Household Income Over Time
by Region, 1990-2024

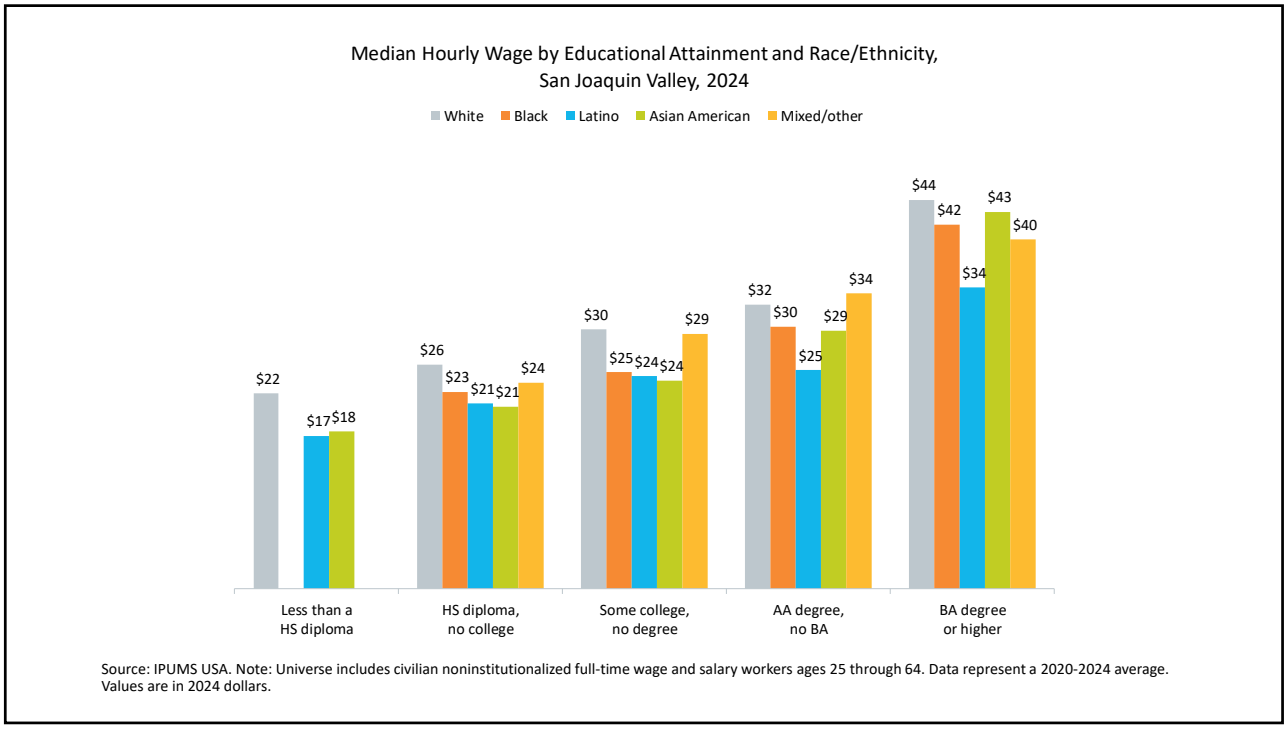


Source: IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes all households. Values are in 2024 dollars. Data for 1990 reflect income earned in 1989 while data for 2024 represents a 2020-2024 average.

32



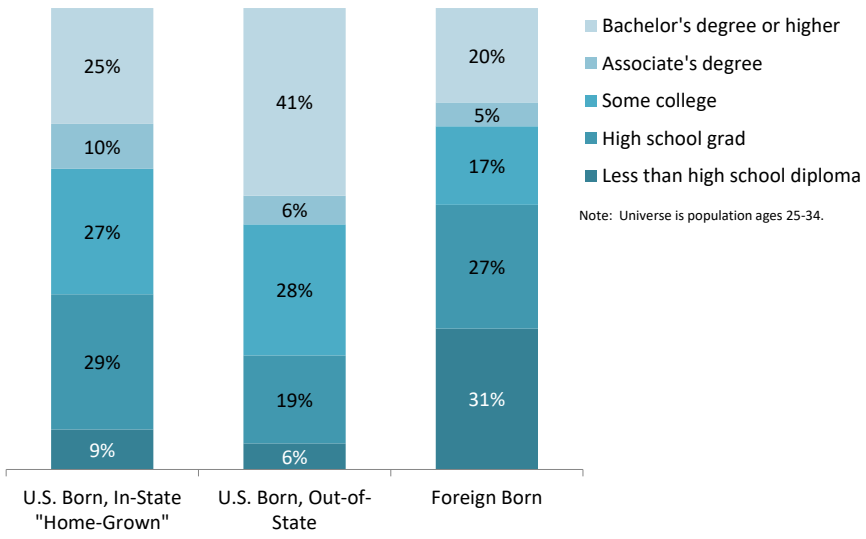
33



Source: IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes civilian noninstitutionalized full-time wage and salary workers ages 25 through 64. Data represent a 2020-2024 average. Values are in 2024 dollars.

34

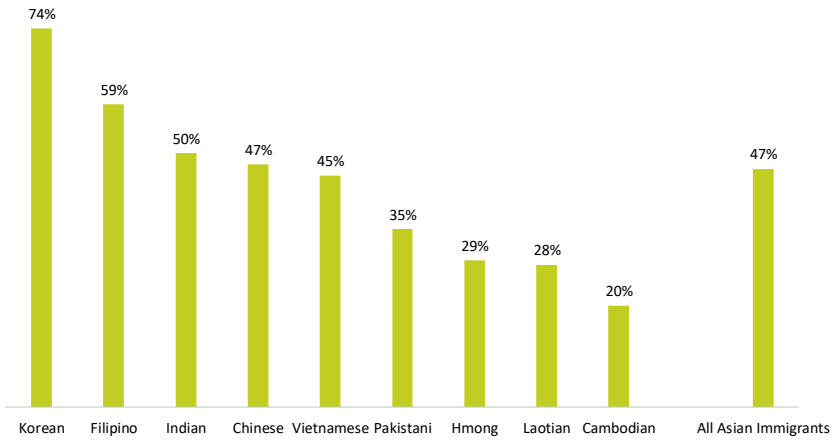
In-state U.S.-born, out-of-state U.S.-born, and immigrant populations by educational attainment, Ages 25-34, Fresno MSA, 2020-2024



Note: Universe is population ages 25-34.

35

Asian American Immigrants, Percent with an AA Degree or Higher by Ancestry, San Joaquin Valley, 2024



Source: IPUMS USA. Note: Universe includes people ages 25 through 64. Data represent a 2020-2024 average.

36

IMMIGRANT FUTURES

HOUSING



https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2020-05-22/coronavirus-housing-homelessness-proposals

California's housing crisis has become untenable for many residents, and this is especially true for immigrants.

Undocumented immigrants are particularly burdened by homeownership and rent due to legal barriers in accessing relief.

Housing costs and insecurity are destabilizing and displacing Californians, especially its immigrants. This crisis will lead to shifts in residential location and may drive future immigrants away from the state altogether.

37

IMMIGRANT FUTURES

FEDERAL-LOCAL DYNAMICS

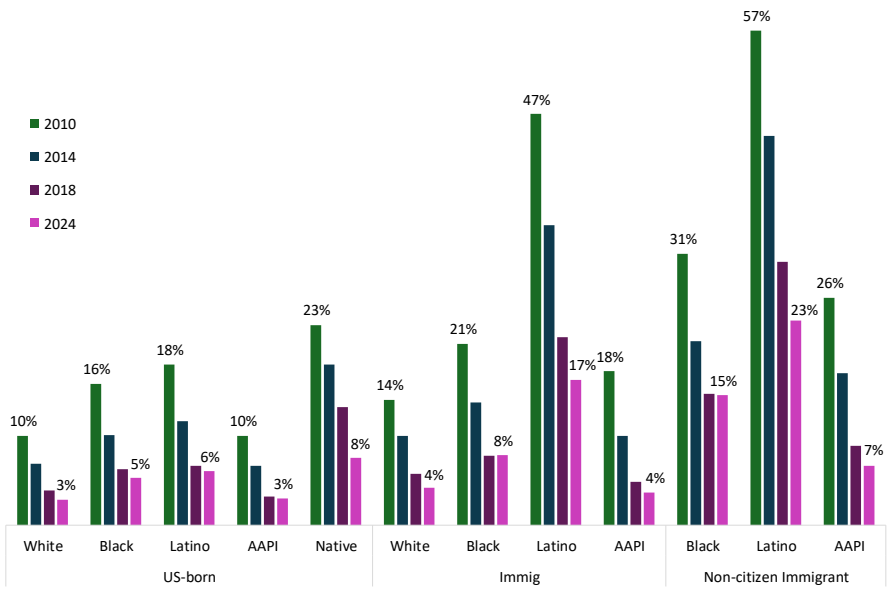
Although local residents can develop strategies to better support immigrants in the region, this does not supersede state level policies and federal legislation.

In pursuit of immigrant integration policies at the state level, Central Valley stakeholders must contend with localities that are promoting immigrant exclusion. There will be political battles with other states and other localities in the state.

Californians would do well to also assess the local geography of immigrant inclusion throughout the state. While some cities may be more welcoming (in word and deed), suburbs and rural areas likely need support to be more open to immigrant inclusion.

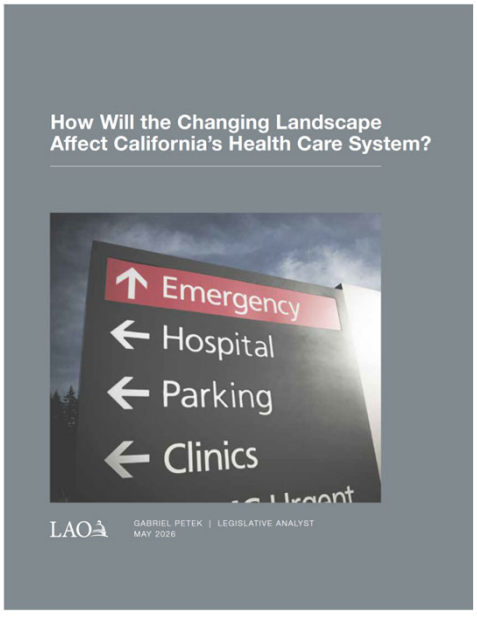
39

Change in Health Insurance Coverage by Race and Nativity in California, 2010-2024



Source: IPUMS USA. Data represent 5-year averages (e.g., 2020-2024)

40

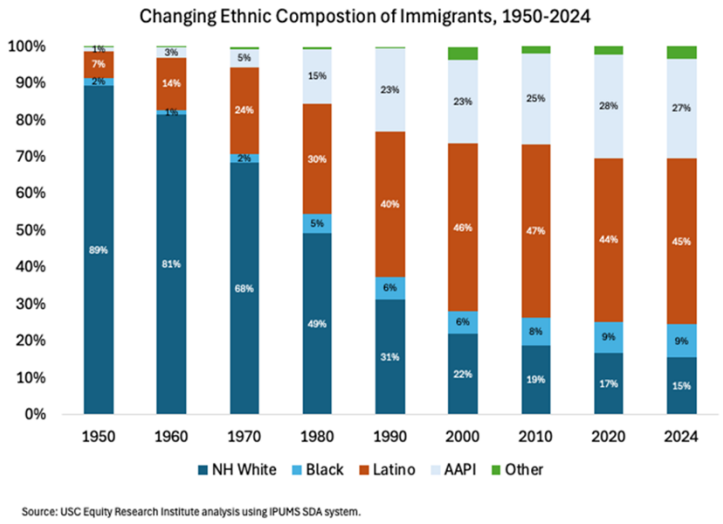


- The number of uninsured Californians (currently about 2 million) will roughly double by 2030
- An additional 1.3 million adults – mostly undocumented immigrants – will leave comprehensive coverage in Medi-Cal
- Hospitals, clinics—and counties—will face greater financial pressures
- Average premiums in the private health insurance market are expected to increase

41

IMMIGRANT FUTURES

CONFRONTING NATIVISM & RACISM



Source: USC Equity Research Institute analysis using IPUMS SDA system.

42

IMMIGRANT FUTURES



- We need a narrative that stresses interdependence, policies that highlight mutual interests, and strategies that connect communities
- *And* we need an understanding that we are also for the fight of our lives to lift up immigrant communities and the basics of human dignity

43



44



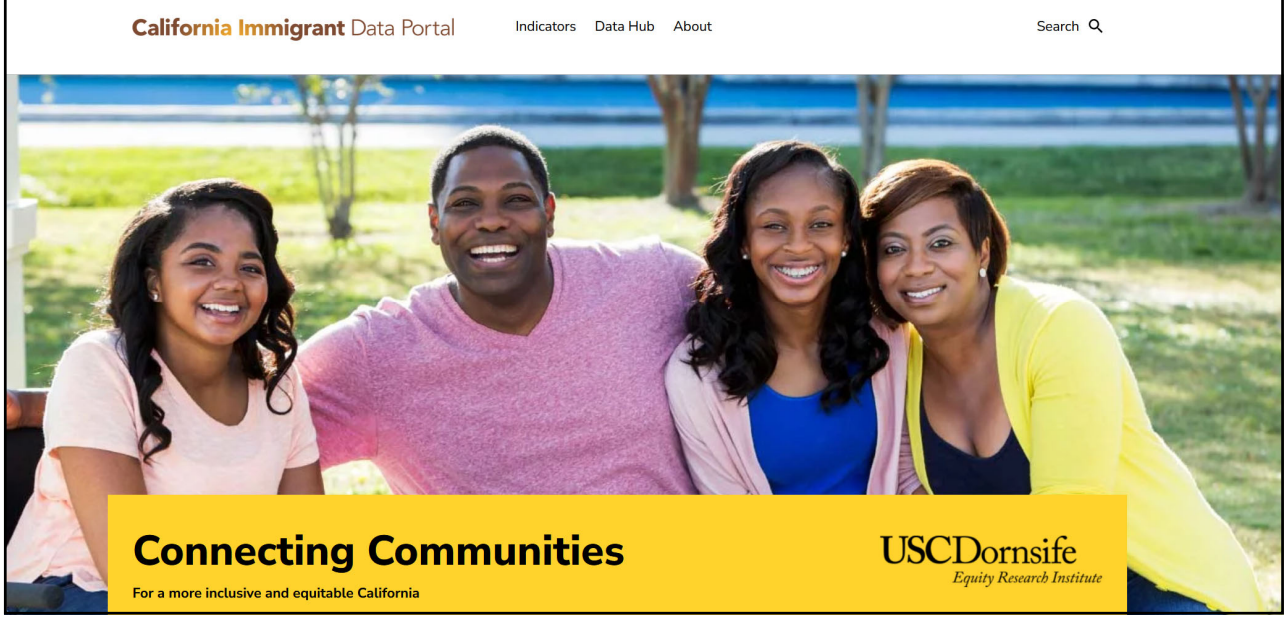




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FOR MORE . . .

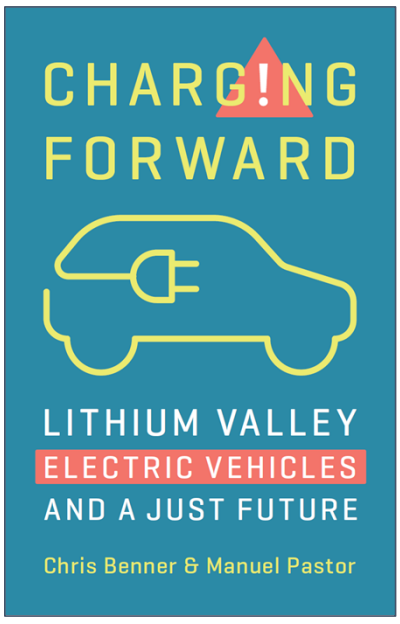
@Prof_MPastor

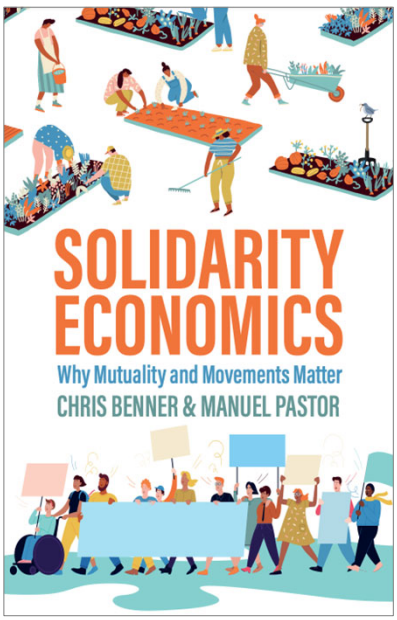


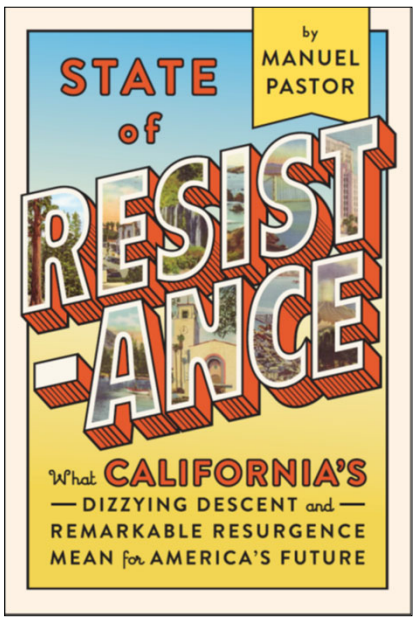
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@Prof_MPastor







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