

# IMMIGRATION

# I.H.H.E.E.L.

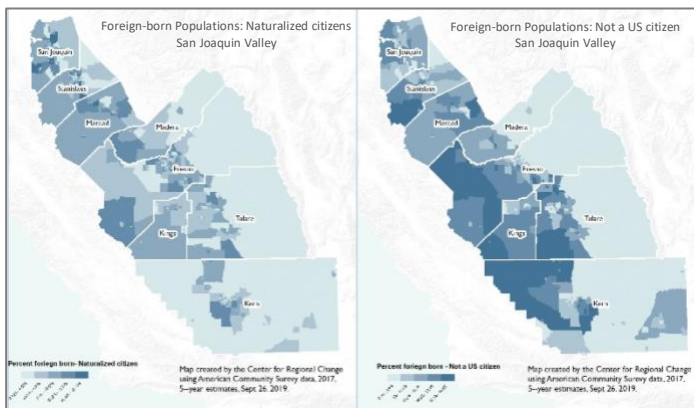
## INTRODUCTION

Immigration patterns and immigration status are important factors that affect health and well-being, economic mobility, and social inclusion. Immigrant populations in the San Joaquin Valley have distinct needs as well as important contributions to make to the development of the region. Recently, a new pattern of anti-immigrant sentiment and crackdowns on undocumented immigrants has made it hard for immigrants to access essential resources and opportunities like health care, education, jobs, and legal services.

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW

- The San Joaquin Valley's foreign-born people mostly live on the west side of the region.
- In all eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley, the percentage of foreign-born households whose members have limited English proficiency is higher than it is statewide.
- Foreign-born individuals in all counties of San Joaquin Valley have a lower percentage of high school graduates compared to the US-born individuals.
- In the San Joaquin Valley, the percentage of individuals who were naturalized since 2010 is lower than the percentage of individuals naturalized from 2000-2009.
- In all eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley, the percentage of undocumented immigrants employed in the agricultural industry is significantly higher than it is statewide.
- The San Joaquin Valley is home to 12.5% of the immigrant population eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program in California.

## IMMIGRATION PATTERNS



### Foreign-Born Populations

The San Joaquin Valley's foreign-born population mostly lives on the west side of the valley. In the valley's neighborhoods, the percentage of foreign-born individuals who are naturalized ranges up to 25.11%, compared to 46.61% for those who are not naturalized.<sup>i</sup> Additionally, in 2016, the San Joaquin Valley was home to 11.6% of the undocumented population in California.<sup>ii</sup> These figures do not include mixed-status families, whose members may also benefit from services, resources, and opportunities designed to support immigrant families. The demographic

composition of the valley points to the need for resources to support a culturally diverse population.

### Households Whose Members Have Limited English Proficiency

In all eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley, the percentage of foreign-born households whose members have limited English proficiency (ranging from 27.1% to 42.6%), is higher than it is statewide (26.3%). This increases the need for services to support immigrant and linguistically diverse families.<sup>iii</sup>

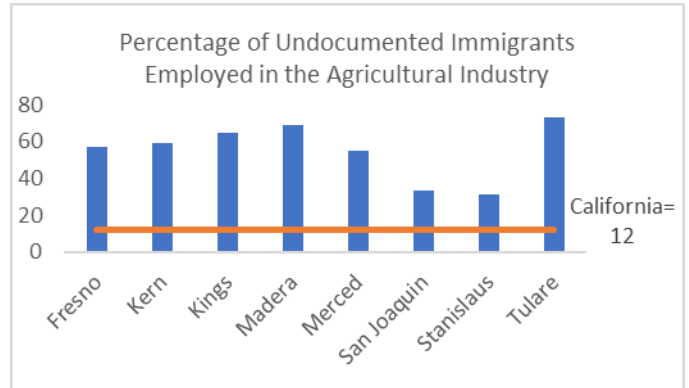
### Educational Attainment

In all eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley, U.S-born populations have a higher percentage of high school graduates than foreign-born populations. In the valley, the percentage of U.S.-born high-school graduates ranges from 24.5% to

30.5%, whereas the percentage of non-citizen, foreign-born high school graduates ranges from 14.6% to 24.2%. This increases the need for education services and resources to support foreign-born individuals.<sup>iv</sup>

### Employment in the Agricultural Industry

The agricultural industry is dependent on low-wage and low-status employment and tends to employ immigrant workers (both documented and undocumented).<sup>v</sup> In the San Joaquin Valley, the percentage of undocumented immigrants employed in the agricultural industry (ranging from 31% to 73%) is significantly higher than the percentage of individuals employed in the agricultural industry statewide (12%).

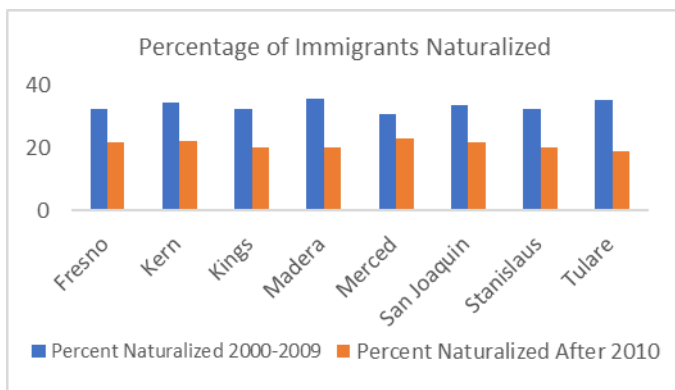


Source: Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the pooled 2012-16 American Community Survey (ACS) and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

### Health Insurance Coverage

In all eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley region, the percentage of foreign-born non-citizens that have health insurance (ranging from 64.3% to 73.1%) is lower than the percentage of foreign-born naturalized citizens with health insurance (ranging from 87.8% to 91.7%).<sup>vi</sup>

### IMMIGRATION STATUS



Source: American Community Survey 2017 5-year estimates [B05011]

### Declining Naturalization Rates

In all eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley, the percentage of people naturalized since 2010 is higher than the percentage of individuals naturalized statewide (17.66%). However, there has also been a decrease of almost 36% in naturalizations, compared to the period from 2000 to 2009. The decline in naturalization rates over the years may be a result of the recent wave of anti-immigrant sentiment and change in immigration policy. Upon naturalization, foreign-born citizens are granted the same privileges and responsibilities as U.S.-born citizens, including the right to vote.<sup>vii</sup>

### Declining Immigration Rates

The percentage of foreign-born people immigrating to the San Joaquin Valley is declining. In all eight counties, the percentage of the foreign-born population who entered the San Joaquin Valley since 2010 (6.6%-10.4%) is lower than it was in the prior decade (23.6%-27.3%). Since 2010, the percentage of foreign-born individuals who entered the San Joaquin Valley (8.79%) was lower than it was for the state as a whole (10.98%). This has the potential to impact the economy of the agricultural industry and other immigrant-dependent industries, as well as affect community vitality.<sup>viii</sup>

### Number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Arrests

In 2018, there were 2,279 ICE-related arrests in the San Joaquin Valley. Among all eight San Joaquin Valley counties, Kern County had the highest number of arrests (1,235), while Madera County experienced the lowest number of arrests (25).<sup>ix</sup>

### Population Eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program

The DACA program offers undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States as children relief from deportation and grants them work authorization. The San Joaquin Valley is home to 12.5% of the immigrant population eligible for the DACA program in California. Among all eight San Joaquin Valley counties, Fresno County has the highest number of people eligible for DACA (15,000) and Madera County has the lowest number (4,000).<sup>x</sup> High numbers of undocumented residents increases the need for outreach and legal services to support DACA-eligible immigrants.

Citations are available at [The Center web site](#).