

# Rooted in the Valley: Immigrants in Napa County's Communities and Economy

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Rooted in the Valley

Immigrants in Napa County's Communities and Economy

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# About MPI

MPI is an **independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit, think tank** dedicated to the study of the movement of people worldwide.

MPI seeks to improve immigration and integration policies through authoritative research and analysis, opportunities for learning and dialogue, and the development of new ideas to address complex policy questions. For more info, please visit: [www.migrationpolicy.org/](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/).

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# About this report

## Content:

Detailed data portrait of Napa's immigrant population and workforce

## Purpose:

Understand and quantify immigrants' contributions; identify areas of progress and needs

## Prior Profile:

NVCF-funded 2012 MPI report: expansive profile of immigrants; data from mid-2000s

Who are Napa County's immigrants and their children?

How do immigrants - in and around the county - participate in the workforce?

What would it cost the economy if immigrant workers could no longer fill certain jobs?

# How we conducted the research



## U.S. Census

- Microdata from American Community Surveys, 5-year pooled samples
- Other admin sources



## Legal Status

- MPI methodology to assign legal status to individuals in the ACS (2019-2023)



## Economic

- Input-output model to estimate economic impact of immigrant workers



Section 1

# Who Are Napa's Immigrants?

Origins, demographics, and how deeply rooted this community has become over decades.

# Highlights

135,000

- Napa County's total population
- 2019-2023 estimate

29,000

- Foreign Born living in Napa County
- 21% of all county residents

48,000

- Napa residents of Latino origin
- 62% were born in the U.S.

12,000

- Children of immigrants

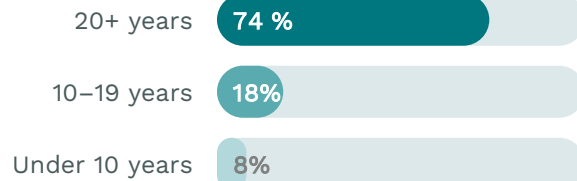
*Source: MPI analysis of 2019–23 ACS data, pooled.*



# Origins: A predominantly Latino, long-settled community

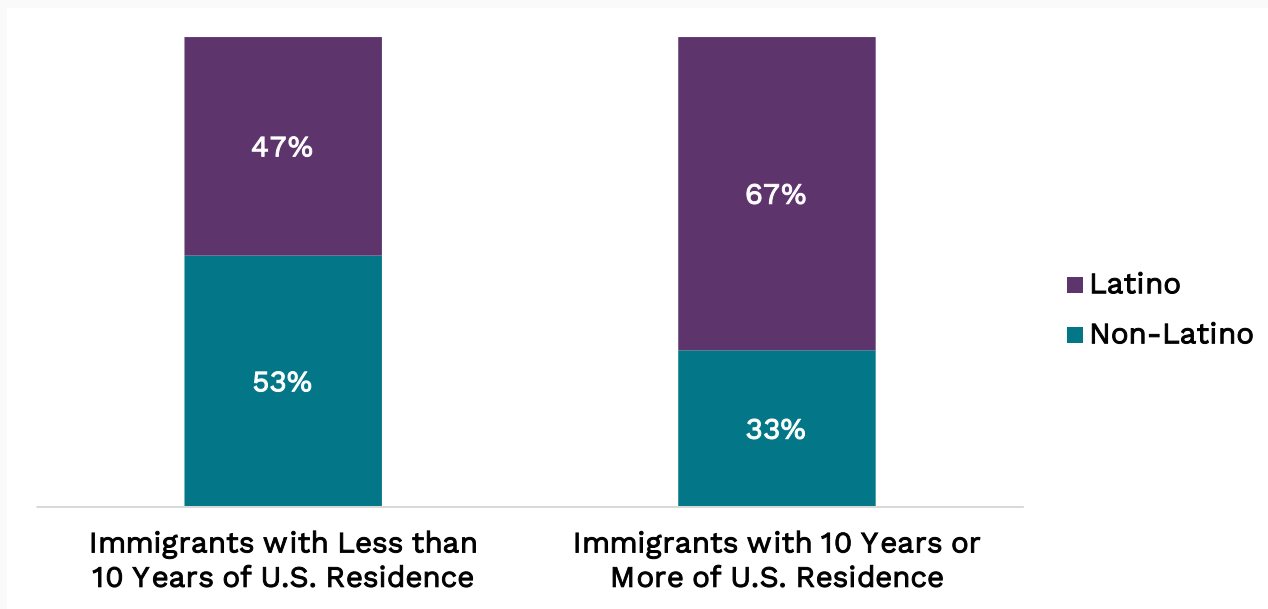
- **57% of all immigrants** are from Mexico; about 2/3 from Latin America & Caribbean overall
  - 23% from Asia, primarily the Philippines (14%)
- **74% have lived in the U.S. for 20+ years** — a sign of deep immigrant integration
- **Only 8% arrived in the last 10 years** — signaling slowing immigration over time

## Years of U.S. Residence



*Source: MPI analysis of 2019-23 ACS data, pooled.*

# Recent immigrants are less likely to be Latino



Source: MPI analysis of 2019–23 ACS data, pooled.



# English proficiency among immigrants of age 5 and older

- Nearly half of all immigrants are proficient in English: they either speak English very well or only English at home

..but 52% are Limited English Proficient

19% “Not well”

8% “Doesn’t speak English”

25% “Well”

Source: MPI analysis of 2019–23 ACS data, pooled.



# Immigrants are more likely to be of working age

**3%**

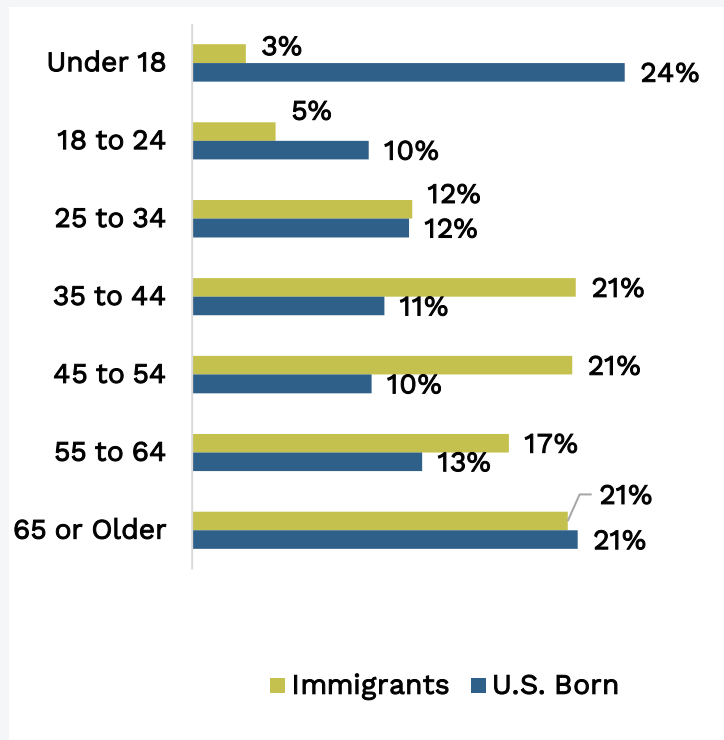
Immigrant Children

Only 3% of immigrants are under 18 vs. 24% U.S.-born

**71%**

Prime Working Age

25–64 among immigrants vs. 46% U.S.-born



Source: MPI analysis of 2019–23 ACS data, pooled.

# The children of immigrants: the workforce backbone



Photo Credit: Google Images

**47%**

Of all County children  
have an immigrant  
parent

**59%**

Of K-12 Students Are  
Latino  
Reflects generational  
integration

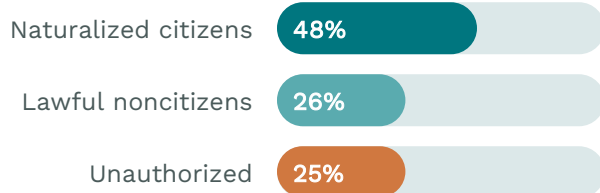
26,000 children of age 0-18  
live in Napa County

19,000 in K-12; most (16K) attended  
Napa Valley Unified District in  
2023-24

Source: MPI analysis of 2019-23 ACS data, pooled ; California Department of Education

# Legal status: a diverse, largely established population

## Legal Status of Immigrants



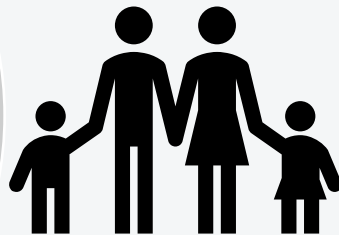
48% of immigrants are now U.S. citizens up from 30 percent found in the 2012 MPI report

- Lawfully present noncitizens include LPRs (green-card holders), H-2A agricultural workers, and other visa holders — **453 H-2A workers** certified specifically in Napa in 2025
- About **8,000 unauthorized immigrants** lived in Napa County in 2023 – some held a temporary, liminal status offering work authorization and protection from deportation, such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

Source: MPI analysis of pooled 2019–23 ACS and the 2023, 2022, and 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), weighted to 2023 unauthorized immigrant population estimates provided by Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University.

# Mixed-status families are part of Napa County's fabric

10,000 people with legal status live with at least one unauthorized immigrant

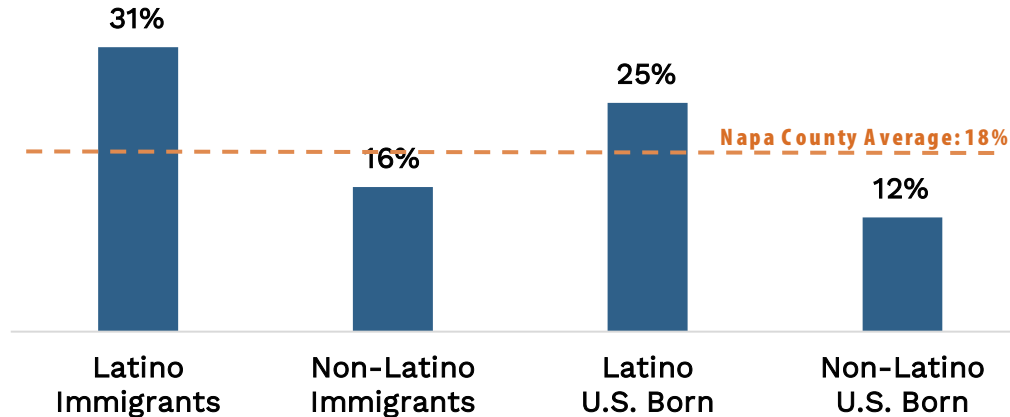


4,000 children live with an unauthorized immigrant parent; 91% of those children are U.S. citizens

*Source: MPI legal assignment methodology, based on pooled 2019–23 ACS and other sources.*

# Low incomes, social safety sets and health Insurance

26% of immigrants in Napa County had low incomes equivalent to a family income below 200% of the federal poverty level



## Health Insurance

89% of immigrants insured

86% of Latino immigrants in Napa are **insured** vs. 79% statewide

*Finding:* Low-income immigrants use Medicaid, SNAP and SSI at about half the rate of U.S.-born peers

Source: MPI analysis of 2019–23 ACS data, pooled.

# Economic integration: income and housing



## Household Income

- Immigrants (All): \$108K
- U.S. Born (All): \$138K
  
- Non-Latino Immigrants: \$156K
- Latino immigrants: \$84K



## Homeownership

- 58% of immigrants own their homes
- Naturalized citizens: 72%
- Unauthorized immigrants: 27%

Legal status closely tracks housing stability

**Mixed picture since 2012 report:** *low-income immigrants shares* *health insurance; relatively flat homeownership rates; persistent disparities by ethnicity*

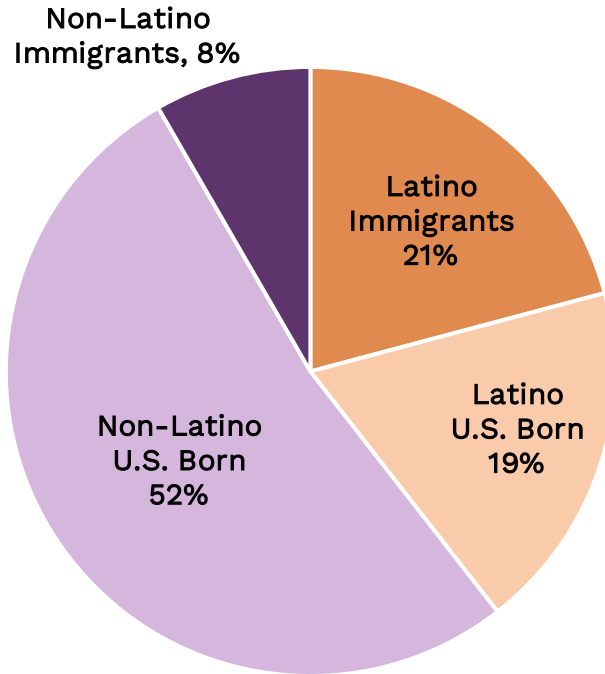
Source: MPI analysis of 2019–23 ACS data, pooled; MPI legal assignment methodology.

Section 2

# Napa's Immigrant Workforce

Who is doing the work, where they work, and what they earn.

# About Napa County's workforce



70,000 workers,  
18 to 64 yrs old

29% of all workers are  
immigrants

Includes all people who  
work in Napa, residents  
and commuters

Source: MPI analysis of 2019–23 ACS data, pooled.

# A growing share of Napa's workforce commutes in — immigrants disproportionately

24,000

Workers commute into Napa County

8,000

Immigrant workers live outside the county

57% of Immigrant commuters reside in Solano County; 18% in Sonoma County

Housing Affordability is a contributing factor

## Commute Rate Comparison

Immigrants 38%

U.S.-born 32%

All workers 34%

## Change in Immigrants Living & Working in Napa

-11%

The number of immigrants who both live and work within Napa County since 2006-10

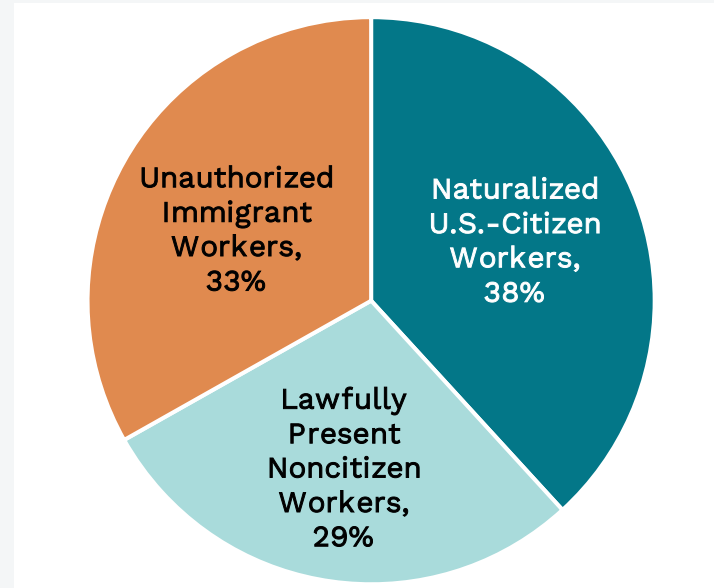
Source: MPI analysis of 2019–23 ACS data, pooled.

# The number of immigrant workers has declined, and legal statuses are different from the overall immigrant population

Since 2006-10, total number of workers increased by 6%

...but the number of immigrant workers declined by 3%

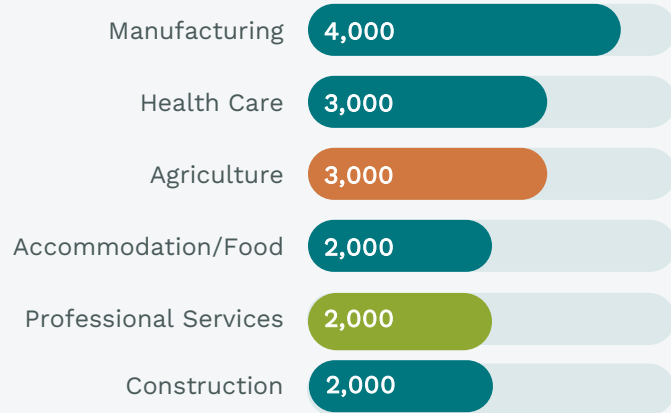
Unauthorized immigrants are over-represented among workers



Source: MPI analysis of 2019-23 ACS data, pooled; MPI legal assignment methodology.

# Top industries of work and highlights

## Number of immigrant workers, top industries



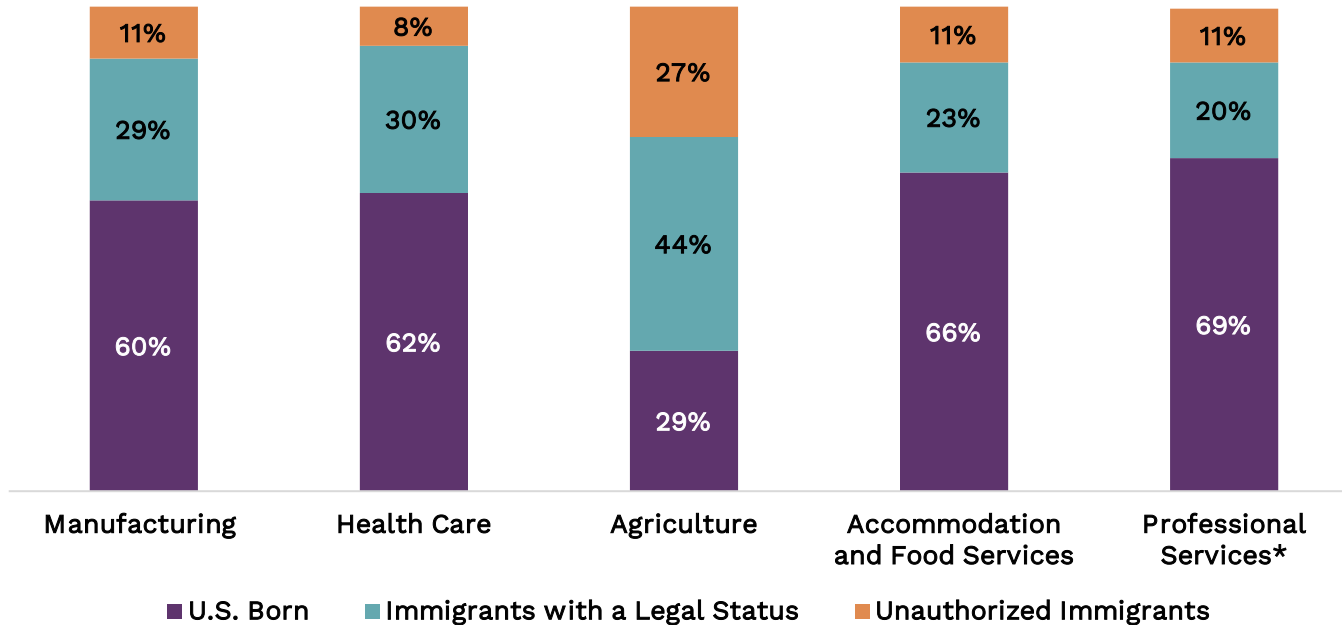
U.S.-born workers are the majority in most industries

Agriculture stands apart:  
71% of all workers are immigrants

Lawfully present noncitizens play a significant role in the top 3 industries

Source: MPI analysis of 2019–23 ACS data, pooled.

# Legal status of all workers by selected industry



Source: Source: MPI legal assignment methodology, based on pooled 2019–23 ACS and other sources.

# More insights on immigrant workers

## Full-time, year-round work (FTYR)

- High FTYR rates: immigrant men (82%) and immigrant women (68%)
- Immigrants more likely to work FTYR than U.S.-born workers

## Workers' education

- University degree: Immigrant women (30%) and immigrant men (19%)
- Did not have a high school diploma: immigrant men (39%) and immigrant women (29%)

## FTYR Immigrant-native earnings ratios

- Immigrant workers earned 77 cents to the dollar earned by U.S.-born workers
- Higher earnings ratios in Accommodation/food services, Retail, Health care and Education

Source: MPI analysis of 2019–23 ACS data, pooled.



Section 3

# Immigrant workers' economic contributions

A lens into immigrant contributions to the wine and hospitality industry and beyond

# Measuring immigrants' economic contributions



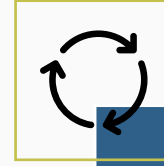
## Input-Output Model

- IMPLAN software
- Multiple large databases
- Napa County, industry specific



## Assumptions

- Based on MPI estimates on immigrant workers and their characteristics
- Relatively conservative



## Simulations

- 1: All immigrants are removed from wine and hospitality
- 2: Only unauthorized immigrants are removed from the industry



# Assumptions and limitations

## Industry definition

- MPI combined Agriculture, Manufacturing and Accommodation and food services
- Framed as leading sector of the economy

## Immigrant workers

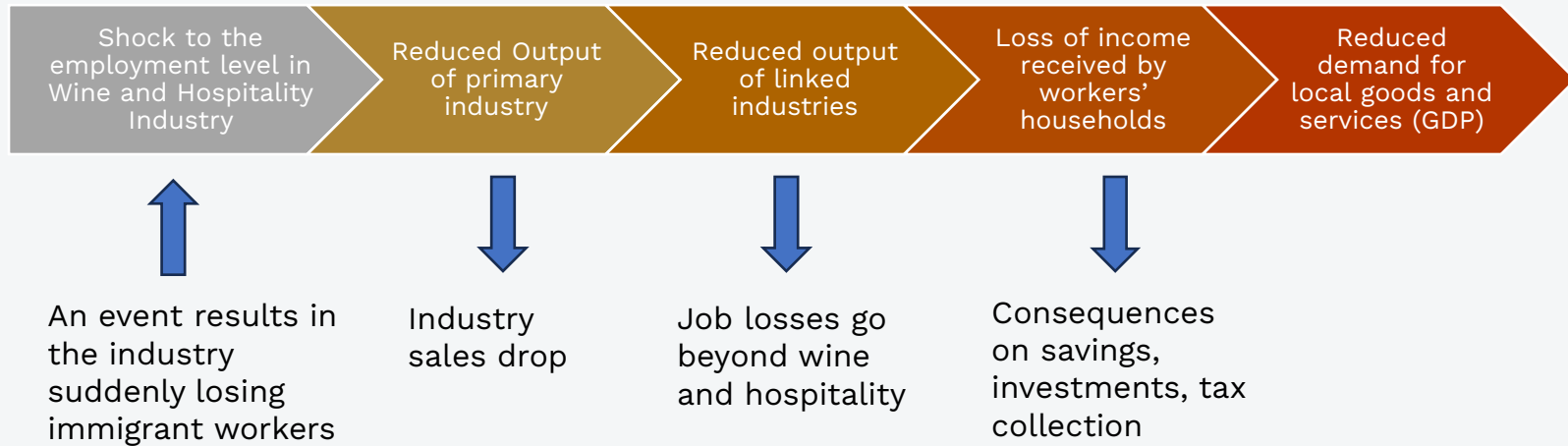
- Spending behavior – commuters vs county residents
- Earnings, remittances, taxation

## Employers

- Workers cannot be replaced



# Hypothetical: How removing immigrant workers from the wine and hospitality industry could impact Napa County's economy



# Results of 1<sup>st</sup> simulation: What immigrant workers contribute to Napa County's economy

**\$1.5B**

GDP Contribution

All immigrant workers in the wine and hospitality industry; 11% of total county GDP

**14,900**

Jobs at Risk

Total jobs lost if all immigrant workers removed from the industry

**\$2.7B**

Gross Sales at Stake

Annual gross sales of the industry lost from removing workers

Examples of linked industries: fruit farming (grape growing), real estate, insurance, wholesale (groceries), warehousing- storage, glass containers, wood products

Source: MPI simulation in IMPLAN using data from the software's data library.

# What if only unauthorized immigrants were removed from the wine and hospitality industry?

**\$366M**

GDP Contribution

Unauthorized immigrant workers in the wine and hospitality industry

**4,300**

Jobs at Risk

Total jobs lost if unauthorized immigrant workers removed from the industry

**\$1B**

Gross Sales at Stake

Annual gross sales of the industry lost from removing workers

In addition, the model estimates that Napa County government and sub-county authorities would lose over \$28 million in tax collection annually

Source: MPI simulation in IMPLAN using data from the software's data library.



## Findings



Due to multiplier effects throughout the economy, high-enforcement immigration policies in Napa County would:

- Cause job losses beyond the target population – U.S. born workers and lawfully present immigrants would also lose their jobs
- Significantly reduce industry output and local GDP (by up to 11%)
- Reduce local tax revenues, even if only unauthorized immigrants lost their jobs



## Section 4

# What Local Actors Can Do

Six evidence-based areas for action by nonprofits, employers, county government and researchers

# Policy recommendations for Napa stakeholders



## Continue Naturalization Assistance Campaigns

Target the eligible-to-naturalize. Citizenship unlocks voting, better jobs, and housing stability.



## Continue Legal Assistance for Changing Immigration Landscape

Legal aid is critical given current federal enforcement priorities - consider mixed-status families, people in liminal statuses.



## English Language & Adult Education Investment

About 2,000 immigrants speak no English.



## Credential & Skills Recognition Programs

Immigrants hold university degrees may still be facing credential barriers.



## Health & Nutrition Access as Federal Benefits Shrink

With Medicaid and SNAP under federal pressure, county-funded safety net programs will become critical.



## Examine the role of descendants of immigrants in the workplace

The growth in the county's U.S.-born population is powered by the children and further descendants of immigrants.

# Thank you!

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**Related Report:** Rooted in the Valley:  
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