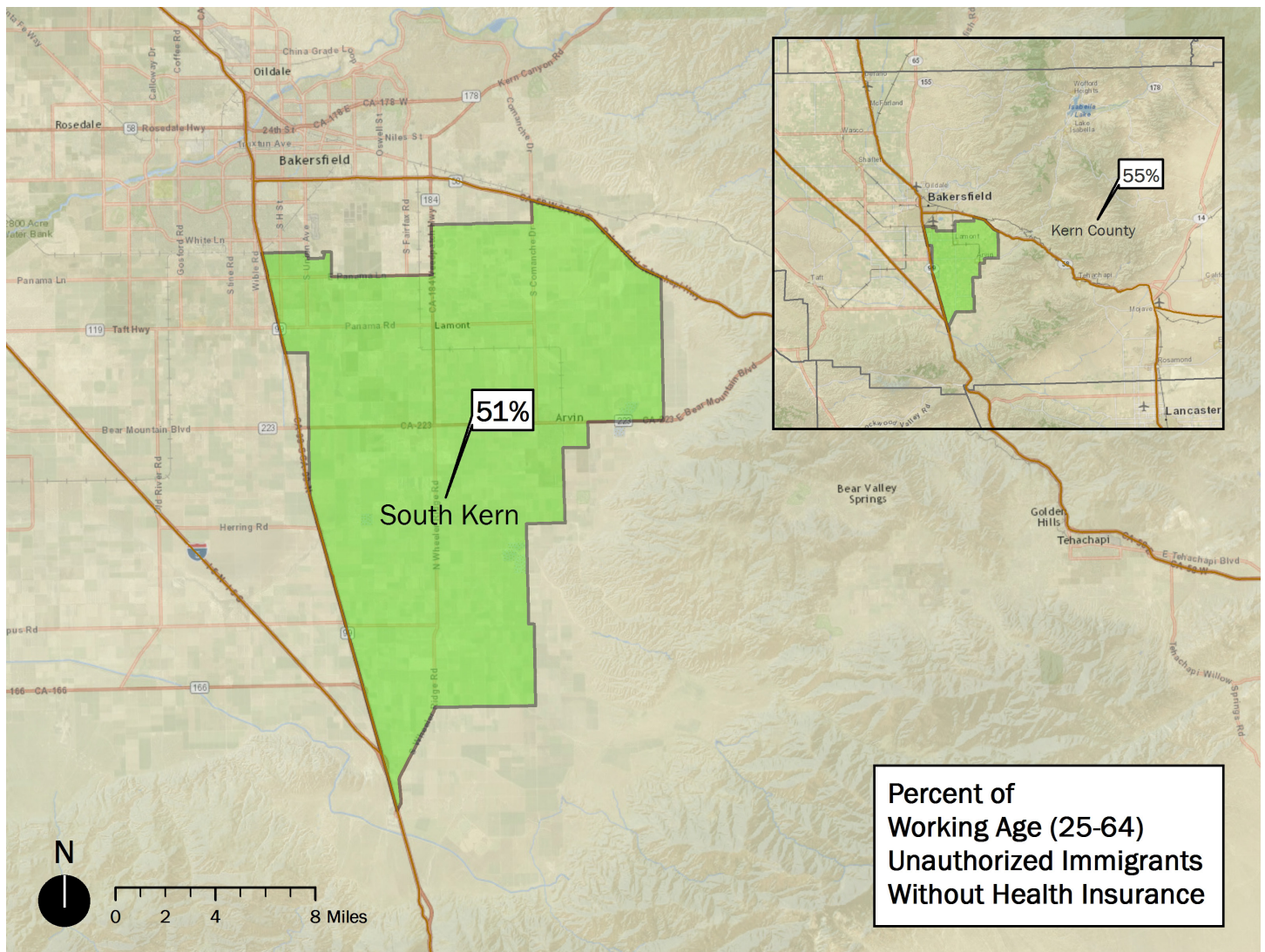


UNAUTHORIZED AND UNINSURED

SOUTH KERN AND KERN COUNTY

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Why is this fact sheet important?

South Kern is one of 14 sites supported by The California Endowment under its Building Healthy Communities (BHC) initiative. While BHC is focused on the broad social determinants of health – including improved land use, access to healthy food, and youth development – one key challenge for many residents of the BHC communities is access to medical insurance. This is especially true for unauthorized immigrants who are explicitly excluded from the insurance exchanges and Medi-Cal insurance expansion of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). While insurance coverage is a key issue for unauthorized immigrants, there is also evidence that maintaining a large population of uninsured residents harms others in terms of both economic and community health – thus, it matters for all Californians.

How many unauthorized immigrants live here?

We estimate that unauthorized immigrants represent 8 percent of South Kern's estimated 70,000 residents, similar to the rest of the county. Furthermore, an estimated one-fifth of all children (83 percent of whom are U.S. citizens) residing in South Kern have at least one unauthorized parent. At the same time, unauthorized immigrants are often deeply rooted in their communities – in South Kern, about half have resided more than a decade (11 years) in the USA.

How do the unauthorized fare economically and socially?

South Kern is one of the poorer communities in the county, and the poverty rate for unauthorized immigrants is almost double than that of the native born. Also, a little more than one-half of the unauthorized who are at least five years old do not speak English well, often limiting their social and economic status. For example, the unauthorized are often working and poor – those who work full-time but toil in low-wage industries and occupations with limited chances of economic mobility and limited access to employer-based health insurance.

How does this unauthorized population compare to the surrounding county?

The unauthorized populations share many similarities in both South Kern and Kern County, including comparable homeownership and poverty rates. However, South Kern is distinguished by a comparatively larger presence of non-Hispanic Whites (47% vs 38%) and a lower share of Latinos (41% vs 50%). Among the undocumented, though the site has a higher female participation rate in the labor force, the gender wage gap is higher than at the county level. Interestingly, the rates of medical insurance coverage among unauthorized are marginally higher in South Kern, even though the median annual income is lower compared to unauthorized workers in Kern County.

What is the state of health insurance coverage among unauthorized immigrants in the community?

To profile the relative access to medical insurance of the unauthorized, we estimate the percentage of residents age 25-64 years old with any type of insurance (for example, employer-sponsored, Medi-Cal, military) by nativity and legal status. This age range is chosen for comparison because it is conventional – specifically, those under 25 years of age are more likely to be covered by their parents and those older than 64 qualify for Medicare. Consistent with previous studies, unauthorized immigrants have very low medical insurance coverage: only around 49 percent of this working age population is covered in South Kern – rates far below the native born (81 percent) yet higher than the average rate for unauthorized adults in the county (45 percent). The most prevalent type of medical insurance coverage is employer sponsored, but still, only 29 percent of the unauthorized have coverage through employers, compared to 23 percent of the unauthorized in the county.

TOTAL POPULATION	70,151		CHILD POPULATION (< 18 YEARS OLD)	21,209	
Nativity and Legal Status			Nativity and Legal Status		
U.S.-born (U.S. Citizen)	54,746	78%	U.S.-born	19,970	94%
Foreign-born ("Immigrant")	15,405	22%	Immigrant	1,239	6%
Naturalized Immigrant (U.S. Citizen)	5,088	7%	Unauthorized Immigrant	*	
Authorized Immigrant (Non-U.S. Citizen)	4,411	6%	Resides with at Least One Immigrant Parent⁴	9,233	45%
Unauthorized Immigrant (Non-U.S. Citizen)	5,906	8%	of those children, share U.S.-born	8,144	88%
Female (For Each Nativity Group)	36,071	51%	Resides with at Least One Unauthorized Immigrant Parent⁴	3,938	19%
U.S.-born	28,505	52%	of those children, share U.S.-born	3,258	83%
Immigrant	7,566	49%	Child Poverty (Family Income < 150% of Poverty Line)⁴	9,757	48%
Naturalized Immigrant	2,758	54%	Resides with ≥ 1 U.S.-born Parent	4,897	39%
Authorized Immigrant	1,830	41%	Resides with ≥ 1 Immigrant Parent	5,349	58%
Unauthorized Immigrant	2,978	50%	Resides with ≥ 1 Naturalized Parent	1,700	44%
Ethno-Racial Group			Resides with ≥ 1 Authorized Immigrant Parent	1,690	52%
White, Non-Latino	32,893	47%	Resides with ≥ 1 Unauthorized Immigrant Parent	2,850	72%
Latino (Any Race)	28,544	41%	UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANT POPULATION	5,906	8%
Asian, Non-Latino	3,888	6%	Top Five Countries of Origin	5,706	97%
Black, Non-Latino	2,543	4%	Mexico	4,848	82%
Other, Non-Latino	2,283	3%	India	313	5%
Speaks English Well (Among Those Age ≥ 5 Years Old)¹	57,644	89%	El Salvador	247	4%
Immigrant	8,532	56%	Philippines	162	3%
Naturalized Immigrant	3,794	76%	Honduras	136	2%
Authorized Immigrant	1,987	45%	Female	2,978	50%
Unauthorized Immigrant	2,751	47%	Ethno-Racial Group		
Homeownership	13,710	61%	Latino (Any Race)	5,301	90%
U.S.-born	10,139	62%	Asian, Non-Latino	605	10%
Immigrant	3,571	57%	Other (White, Black, Other Non-Latino)	-	0%
Naturalized Immigrant	2,019	78%	Age and Time in Country (Medians)		
Authorized Immigrant	1,009	52%	Age	32 yrs.	
Unauthorized Immigrant	543	32%	Age First Arrived in Country	21 yrs.	
Poverty (Family Income < 150% of Poverty Line)²	25,850	37%	Years Residing in the USA	11 yrs.	
U.S.-born	18,568	34%	Labor Force Participation (Age 18-64 Years Old)	4,185	80%
Immigrant	7,282	47%	Male Participation	2,504	91%
Naturalized Immigrant	1,441	28%	of which, share employed	2,257	90%
Authorized Immigrant	2,215	50%	of employed, share full-time	2,147	95%
Unauthorized Immigrant	3,626	61%	Female Participation	1,681	67%
INSURANCE/COVERAGE FOR WORKING AGE POPULATION (25-64)			of which, share employed	1,232	73%
Has Medical Insurance Coverage	25,431	74%	of employed, share full-time	906	74%
U.S.-born	18,679	81%	Top 5 Industries	2,664	76%
Immigrant	6,752	60%	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	1,110	32%
Naturalized Immigrant	3,008	80%	Retail Trade	503	14%
Authorized Immigrant	1,633	51%	Food & Recreational Services	500	14%
Unauthorized Immigrant	2,111	49%	Business Services	321	9%
Has Employer-Sponsored Medical Insurance Coverage	15,106	44%	Wholesale Trade	230	7%
U.S.-born	10,995	48%	Top 5 Occupations	2,988	86%
Immigrant	4,111	36%	Farming, Forestry & Fishing	1,131	32%
Naturalized Immigrant	2,053	54%	Food, Health, Protective & Other Service	819	23%
Authorized Immigrant	783	25%	Precision, Craft & Repair	444	13%
Unauthorized Immigrant	1,275	29%	Sales	307	9%
Has Low-Income Government Insurance or Assistance (e.g., Medi-Cal)³	4,189	12%	Transportation & Material Moving	287	8%
U.S.-born	2,800	12%	Annual Earnings among Full-Time Workers (Median)	\$15,000	
Immigrant	1,389	12%	Male	\$17,000	
Naturalized Immigrant	206	5%	Female	\$12,000	
Authorized Immigrant	490	15%	Annual Earnings among Part-Time Workers (Median)	*	
Unauthorized Immigrant	693	16%	Male	*	
			Female	*	

Notes

* indicates that the underlying number of observations is too small to make a reliable calculation of the variable in question.

1 Virtually all U.S.-born respondents in the ACS either report speaking English very well or speak no other language but English at home.

2 These are computed at the individual level using the ACS variable indicating the ratio of family income to the poverty line by family type.

3 Employer and low-income insurance coverage do not add up to total coverage which also includes private purchased insurance, veteran coverage, etc.

4 The denominator for these computations is the number of children residing with at least one parent.

TOTAL POPULATION	814,550		CHILD POPULATION (< 18 YEARS OLD)	253,458	
Nativity and Legal Status			Nativity and Legal Status		
U.S.-born (U.S. Citizen)	633,762	78%	U.S.-born	240,337	95%
Foreign-born ("Immigrant")	180,788	22%	Immigrant	13,121	5%
Naturalized Immigrant (U.S. Citizen)	59,662	7%	Unauthorized Immigrant	6,949	3%
Authorized Immigrant (Non-U.S. Citizen)	54,627	7%	Resides with at Least One Immigrant Parent⁴	113,545	47%
Unauthorized Immigrant (Non-U.S. Citizen)	66,499	8%	of those children, share U.S.-born	101,777	90%
Female (For Each Nativity Group)	408,017	50%	Resides with at Least One Unauthorized Immigrant Parent⁴	50,626	21%
U.S.-born	320,227	51%	of those children, share U.S.-born	42,916	85%
Immigrant	87,790	49%	Child Poverty (Family Income < 150% of Poverty Line)⁴	111,578	46%
Naturalized Immigrant	30,843	52%	Resides with ≥ 1 U.S.-born Parent	56,055	37%
Authorized Immigrant	26,090	48%	Resides with ≥ 1 Immigrant Parent	62,364	55%
Unauthorized Immigrant	30,857	46%	Resides with ≥ 1 Naturalized Parent	15,527	36%
Ethno-Racial Group			Resides with ≥ 1 Authorized Immigrant Parent	22,535	55%
White, Non-Latino	311,505	38%	Resides with ≥ 1 Unauthorized Immigrant Parent	35,018	69%
Latino (Any Race)	406,567	50%	UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANT POPULATION	66,499	8%
Asian, Non-Latino	33,982	4%	Top Five Countries of Origin	64,236	97%
Black, Non-Latino	38,561	5%	Mexico	57,173	86%
Other, Non-Latino	23,935	3%	El Salvador	2,776	4%
Speaks English Well (Among Those Age ≥ 5 Years Old)¹	650,112	88%	Philippines	2,161	3%
Immigrant	94,807	53%	India	1,194	2%
Naturalized Immigrant	46,211	78%	Guatemala	932	1%
Authorized Immigrant	24,513	45%	Female	30,857	46%
Unauthorized Immigrant	24,083	36%	Ethno-Racial Group		
Homeownership	151,400	59%	Latino (Any Race)	61,930	93%
U.S.-born	112,929	60%	Asian, Non-Latino	4,028	6%
Immigrant	38,471	55%	Other (White, Black, Other Non-Latino)	541	1%
Naturalized Immigrant	21,449	75%	Age and Time in Country (Medians)		
Authorized Immigrant	11,644	53%	Age	32 yrs.	
Unauthorized Immigrant	5,378	28%	Age First Arrived in Country	20 yrs.	
Poverty (Family Income < 150% of Poverty Line)²	290,000	36%	Years Residing in the USA	11 yrs.	
U.S.-born	209,809	33%	Labor Force Participation (Age 18-64 Years Old)	42,527	74%
Immigrant	80,191	44%	Male Participation	28,450	90%
Naturalized Immigrant	15,256	26%	of which, share employed	25,348	89%
Authorized Immigrant	23,961	44%	of employed, share full-time	23,052	91%
Unauthorized Immigrant	40,974	62%	Female Participation	14,077	54%
INSURANCE/COVERAGE FOR WORKING AGE POPULATION (25-64)			of which, share employed	10,678	76%
Has Medical Insurance Coverage	293,367	74%	of employed, share full-time	8,031	75%
U.S.-born	217,303	82%	Top 5 Industries	26,925	75%
Immigrant	76,064	57%	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	15,747	44%
Naturalized Immigrant	33,763	74%	Food & Recreational Services	3,644	10%
Authorized Immigrant	20,535	51%	Retail Trade	3,101	9%
Unauthorized Immigrant	21,766	45%	Business Services	2,234	6%
Has Employer-Sponsored Medical Insurance Coverage	184,726	46%	Construction	2,199	6%
U.S.-born	140,285	53%	Top 5 Occupatlons	31,062	86%
Immigrant	44,441	33%	Farming, Forestry & Fishing	14,619	41%
Naturalized Immigrant	22,109	49%	Food, Health, Protective & Other Service	7,066	20%
Authorized Immigrant	11,203	28%	Precision, Craft & Repair	3,512	10%
Unauthorized Immigrant	11,129	23%	Transportation & Material Moving	3,466	10%
Has Low-Income Government Insurance or Assistance (e.g., Medi-Cal)³	49,069	12%	Construction	2,399	7%
U.S.-born	30,354	12%	Annual Earnings among Full-Time Workers (Median)	\$17,000	
Immigrant	18,715	14%	Male	\$18,000	
Naturalized Immigrant	4,280	9%	Female	\$13,000	
Authorized Immigrant	5,716	14%	Annual Earnings among Part-Time Workers (Median)	\$8,200	
Unauthorized Immigrant	8,719	18%	Male	\$9,000	
			Female	\$7,200	

Notes

- 1 Virtually all U.S.-born respondents in the ACS either report speaking English very well or speak no other language but English at home.
- 2 These are computed at the individual level using the ACS variable indicating the ratio of family income to the poverty line by family type.
- 3 Employer and low-income insurance coverage do not add up to total coverage which also includes private purchased insurance, veteran coverage, etc.
- 4 The denominator for these computations is the number of children residing with at least one parent.