Immigrants in California

Figure 1. Immigrants in the State of California

Note: Data is displayed at the county level. Maps are based on IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 12.0 . ACS 2012-2016 dataset. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota. 2017.

Foreign Born as a Percentage of Total County Population

- 0% - 7%
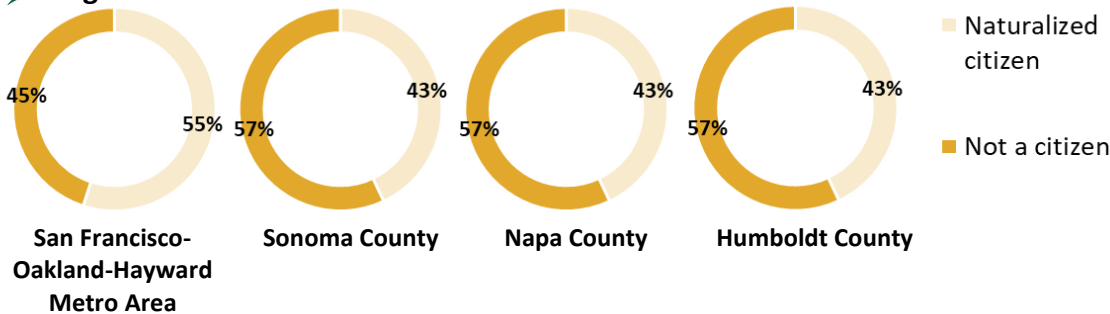- 7.1% - 12%
- 12.1% - 20%
- 20.1% - 25%
- 25.1% - 38%
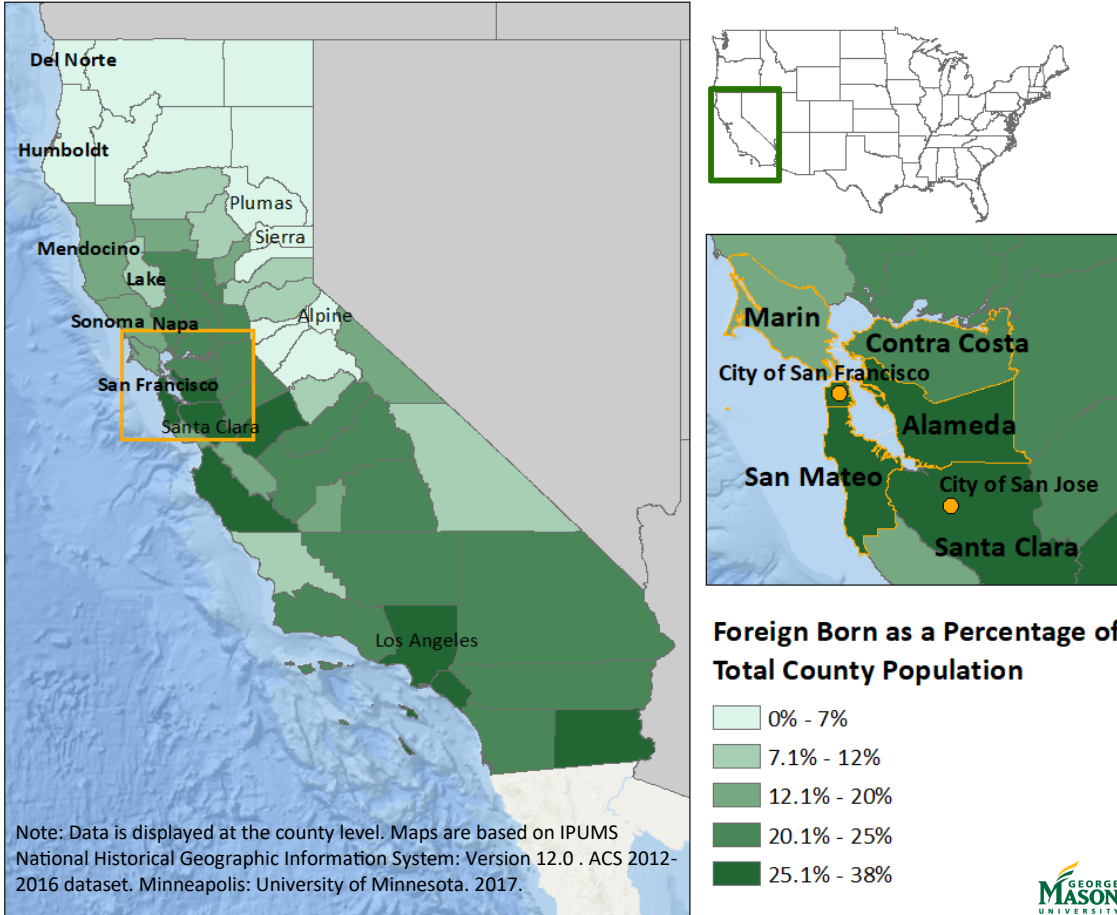
2016 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **42,228,200:** Approximate number of immigrants[1] living in the U.S. (13% of the population)

- **1,382,900:** Approximate number of immigrants living in the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward metro area (30% of the area's population)

- **83,300:** Approximate number of immigrants living in Sonoma County (17% of the county population)

- **31,900:** Approximate number of immigrants living in Napa County (23% of the county population)

- **7,500:** Approximate number of immigrants living in Humboldt County (6% of the county population)

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Figure 1 shows that immigrants are widely distributed across the state of California. There are an estimated 10,454,967 immigrants in California (27% of the state population). Among them, an estimated 1,382,862 immigrants are living in the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward metro area (30% of the area's population). Los Angeles (35%), San Francisco (35%), and Santa Clara (38%) counties have the highest percentages of immigrants in their populations, while Alpine (3%), Plumas(4%), and Sierra (4%) counties have the lowest percentages of immigrants.

Figure 2. Naturalization Status

- Naturalized citizen
- Not a citizen

San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward Metro Area — 45% / 55%

Sonoma County — 57% / 43%

Napa County — 57% / 43%

Humboldt County — 57% / 43%

As presented in Figure 2, while 55 percent of immigrants in the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward metro area are naturalized citizens, the naturalization trend is opposite in Sonoma County, Napa County, and Humboldt County as 57 percent of immigrants are not naturalized citizens.

[1] Please note that the terms "immigrant" and "foreign born" are used interchangeably throughout this fact sheet. Foreign born refers to individuals who are not a U.S. citizen at birth or who were born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The foreign born may include naturalized U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, temporary residents, refugees and asylees, and others. Additionally, native born includes those who are U.S. citizens at birth, those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories, and those born abroad to a parent who is a U.S. citizen.

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🖌 Figure 3. English Proficiency

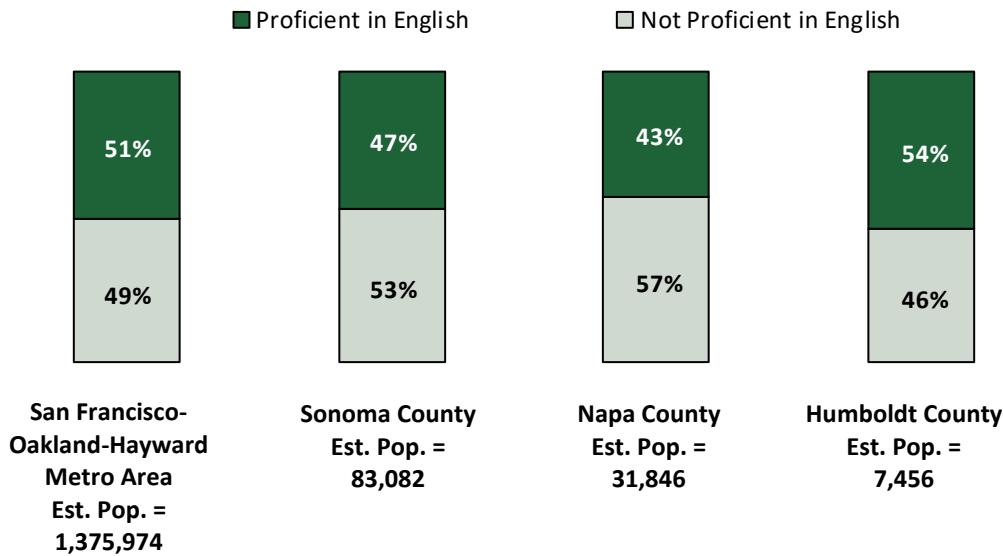**Foreign-Born Individuals, Age 5+**

■ Proficient in English   ☐ Not Proficient in English

San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward Metro Area — 51% Proficient / 49% Not Proficient — Est. Pop. = 1,375,974

Sonoma County — 47% Proficient / 53% Not Proficient — Est. Pop. = 83,082

Napa County — 43% Proficient / 57% Not Proficient — Est. Pop. = 31,846

Humboldt County — 54% Proficient / 46% Not Proficient — Est. Pop. = 7,456

Figure 3 shows that about half of the immigrants in the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward metro area, Sonoma County, Napa County, and Humboldt County are proficient in English. However, immigrants in Humboldt County are slightly less likely to be proficient in English compared to the other three areas.

🖌 Figure 4. Top Five Countries of Origin

San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward Metro Area — 18%, 15%, 12%, 8%, 5%, 42%
Legend: Mexico, China, Philippines, India, Vietnam, 151 Other Countries

Sonoma County — 56%, 3%, 3%, 34%
Legend: Mexico, El Salvador, Philippines, China, Canada, 109 Other Countries

Napa County — 61%, 15%, 19%
Legend: Mexico, Philippines, Canada, Guatemala, El Salvador, 84 Other Countries

Humboldt County — 42%, 6%, 6%, 5%, 5%, 66%
Legend: Mexico, Canada, China, Laos, Philippines, 49 Other Countries
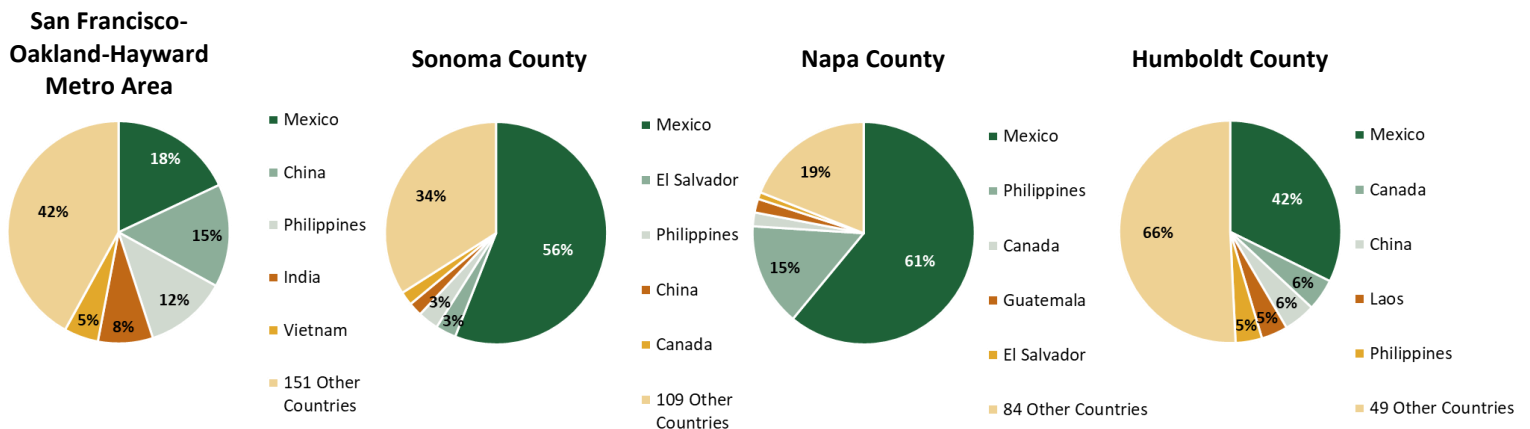
Figure 4 shows that Mexico is the top country of origin among immigrants in all of the areas. Mexicans account for more than half of the immigrants in Sonoma and Napa Counties, and 42 percent in Humboldt County. However, only 18 percent of immigrants in the San Francisco metro area are from Mexico. While 40 percent of immigrants in the San Francisco metro area are from China, the Philippines, India, and Vietnam, there are far smaller shares of immigrants from these countries in Sonoma, Napa, and Humboldt counties. Also, Canada is in the top five countries of origin in Sonoma, Napa, and Humboldt Counties, but not in the San Francisco metro area.

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Figure 5. Healthcare Insurance

■ With health insurance coverage   □ No health insurance coverage

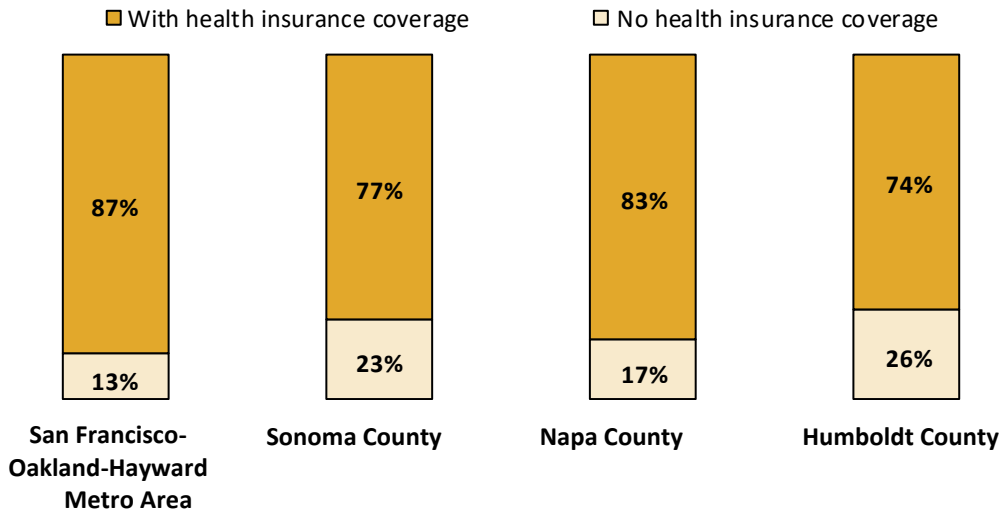| San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward Metro Area	Sonoma County	Napa County	Humboldt County
87% / 13%	77% / 23%	83% / 17%	74% / 26%

Figure 5 shows that more than seventy percent of immigrants in the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward metro area, Sonoma County, Napa County, and Humboldt County have health insurance. However, immigrants in Sonoma and Humboldt counties have lower percentages of healthcare coverage compared to the other two areas.

Figure 6. Poverty Rates

■ At or above the poverty line   ■ Below poverty line

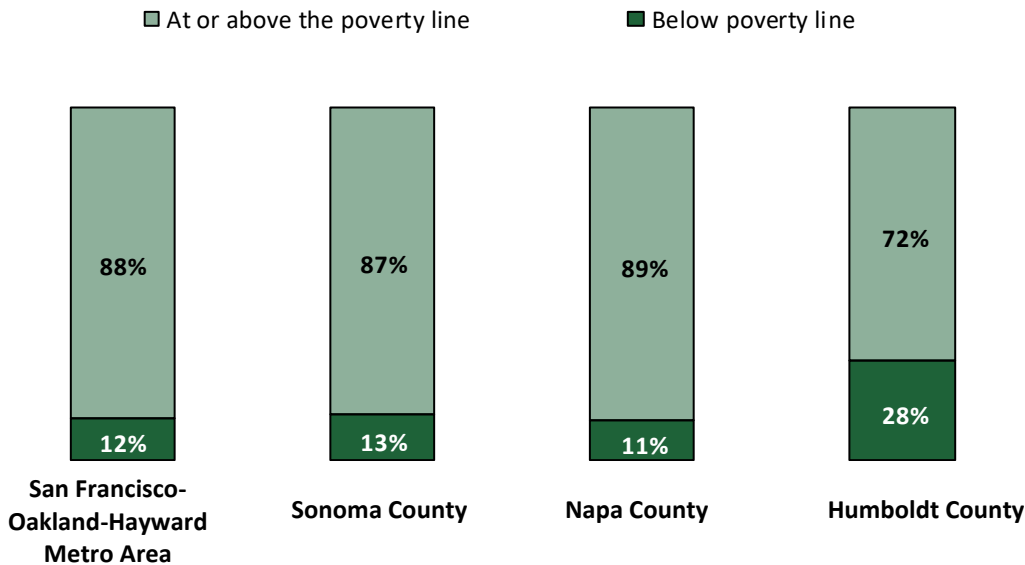| San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward Metro Area	Sonoma County	Napa County	Humboldt County
88% / 12%	87% / 13%	89% / 11%	72% / 28%

Figure 6 shows that nearly ninety percent of immigrants in the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward metro area, Sonoma County, and Napa County are at or above the poverty line. Compared to these three areas, immigrants in Humboldt County are more than 15 percentage points more likely to be below the poverty line.

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