

# *Creating Safety Among Latino Immigrants in San Mateo County:*

*What providers need to know about increased federal immigration enforcement*



Community Health Promotion Unit

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services – Alcohol and Other Drug Services

San Mateo County Health System

July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – SUD Treatment Provider Meeting



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
HEALTH SYSTEM

Health  
Equity

=

Everyone has a fair  
opportunity to live a  
long and healthy life.




# Silently, think about:

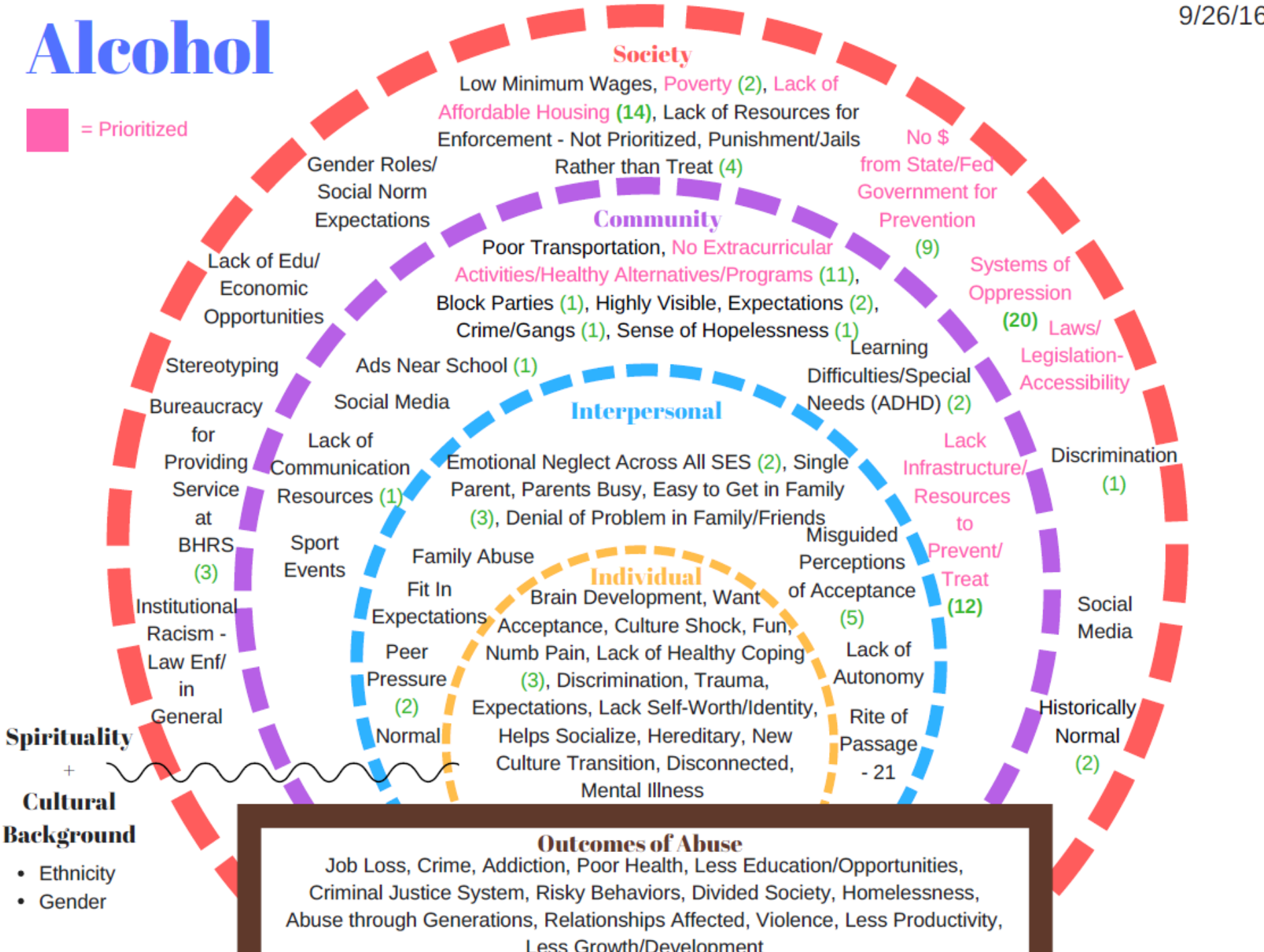
- What is your documentation status?
- What is the documentation status of your parents, grandparents (now and in the past)?
- What is the documentation status of your friends and neighbors, coworkers? (now and in the past)



**What contributes to substance use?**

# Alcohol

 = Prioritized



# Current Political Climate

- Enhanced Immigration Enforcement
- Changes to Legal Immigration such as Refugee and Asylum changes
- Termination of DACA, TPS
- Targeting of sanctuary jurisdictions
- Public Charge proposed changes

# U.S. History

## GREAT DEPRESSION - 1930's

- County social workers supported and participated in the deportation of 2 million Mexican American people, including 1 million US citizens

## GREAT RECESSION – 2009 +

- Deportation of 2.5 million

## OPERATION "WETBACK" - 1954

- Deportation of 3.8 million Mexican Americans



Image source: Adam Jones, Ph.D./Wikimedia Commons

# Contradiction to Public Health Principles

## REASONS FOR MIGRATION

- War, Conflict
- Violence
  - Gang violence
  - Religious persecution
  - Gender-based violence
  - Anti-LGBTQ
- Economic hardship and opportunity
- Natural Disaster

## PUBLIC HEALTH PRINCIPLES

- *Equity*
- *Valuing every life*
- *Prevention harm*



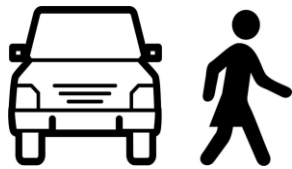


# Public Health and Safety Implications

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# Fear of Deportation Makes Communities Less Healthy<sup>1</sup>

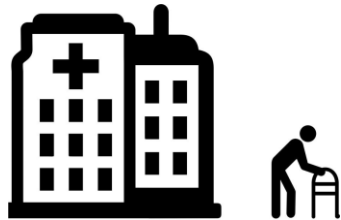
*Deportation policy creates a climate of fear and paralysis in communities.*



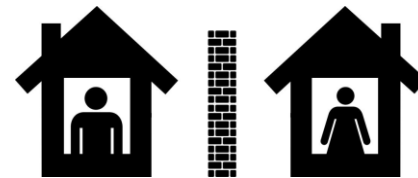
People are afraid to drive,



afraid to use parks and exercise outdoors,



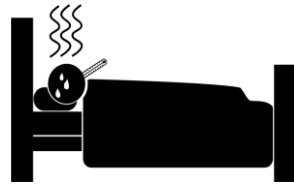
afraid to use public services like clinics,



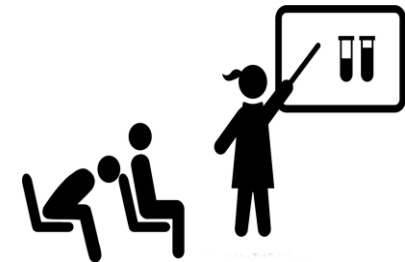
and afraid to get involved in their communities.

# Children Are Especially Vulnerable<sup>1</sup>

Deportations and threat of deportations lead to:



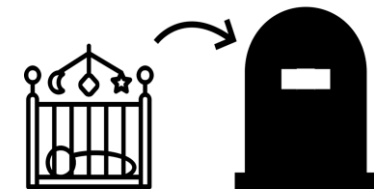
POORER CHILD HEALTH



POORER CHILD  
EDUCATIONAL  
OUTCOMES



POORER CHILD  
BEHAVIORAL  
OUTCOMES



POORER ADULT HEALTH  
AND SHORTER  
LIFESPAN



# Cont. – Public Health Implications

- 30% of undocumented parents said their **US-citizen children are afraid either all or most of the time.**<sup>2</sup>
- **Three-quarters** said that a **child has shown symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.**<sup>2</sup>
- Decrease in enrollments to **nutrition and other public benefits programs** *in San Mateo County*
- **Lower birth-weights** in babies born to Latina mother's exposed to ICE raids while pregnant compared to non-Latina mothers.<sup>3</sup>

# Community Safety Issues

- Lower likelihood to contact police among **both undocumented (70%) and US-born Latinos (28%)**<sup>4</sup>
- Threat of deportation makes victims of **domestic violence and gender-based violence less safe**<sup>4</sup>
- Despite media and political rhetoric, Immigration and Crime **are not linked**

# Toxic Stress and Trauma

- [WEBINAR](#): A Critical Look at Intergenerational Trauma and Substance Misuse: Implications for Prevention
- Accumulation of overwhelming stress (toxic stress) and trauma
- **Intergenerational trauma**= trauma and the adaptive characteristics to that trauma
- **Developmental trauma**=accumulation of overwhelming stress during sensitive periods of human development

# San Mateo County

- 1 in 3 foreign-born<sup>6</sup>  
(260,576)
- 44<sup>0</sup>% are immigrants  
without full citizenship<sup>6</sup>  
(114,634)
- 57,000 or 7.6%  
undocumented<sup>7</sup>
- 58.7% of children have a  
foreign born parent

## immigrants =

Naturalized U.S. citizens

Lawful permanent residents  
(green card holders)

Temporary migrants  
(such as foreign students)

Humanitarian migrants  
(including refugees/asylees)

Other foreign-born residents  
(who were not U.S. citizens at birth)

Image source: Alameda County Public  
Health Department

# DUI – ICE Pipeline

- DUI – San Mateo County\*
  - Latino – 35.4% (Latinos represent 24.8% of SMC population)
  - Other – 22.0%
- Most common charge or conviction associated with ICE arrest: DUI\*\*
- Underserving Latinos in treatment provision
- Threshold languages – Spanish is the most common
- ICE removals\*\*
  - Top 4 countries of origin are Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras

\*2015 Annual Report of the California DUI Management Information System.  
California Department of Motor Vehicles. Page 109

<https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/wcm/connect/77b8boe3-c20b-42bo-8670-451d9c9262cd/S5-250.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>

\*\*Fiscal Year 2017 ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Report. Pages 4 and 15  
<https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Report/2017/iceEndOfYearFY2017.pdf>



# Purpose and Methods of assessment project

- Determine primary concerns of immigrant families
- Assess the services that offer support
- Understand what resources are needed to address community needs
- 5 Focus groups
  - San Mateo (2), EPA, RWC, Pescadero
  - All focus groups were conducted in Spanish
- Service provider interviews
- Key informant interviews



# Participant Demographics

Years Residing in U.S. (N=53)		
	Percentage	n
Less than 1 y	3.8%	2
1-5 Yrs.	17.0%	9
6-10 Yrs.	9.4%	5
10-20 Yrs.	41.5%	22
20+ Yrs.	25.0%	13
No response	1.9%	1

Immigration Status (N=53)		
	%	n
US Citizen	5.7%	3
Permanent Resident	9.4%	5
Other legal status	5.7%	3
DACA	0%	0
Undocumented	47.2%	25
Don't know my status	13.2%	7
No response/ Prefer not to answer	18.9%	10

# Themes - Concerns

- **Family separation**
  - Mental Health - Stress, depression, anxiety, fear
  - Changes in behaviors
    - social isolation, withdrawal from services, reluctance to interact with law enforcement or county officials
  - Impacts on mixed families, children
    - Bullying
  - Mistrust, distrust of law enforcement
- ***“My children are citizens. They belong to the U.S. My worst fear is that they [ICE] believe my children belong to them and will take my children away from me”***  
~Mother, San Mateo

# Themes - Concerns

- Discrimination
  - Housing
  - Service provider staff
  - Law Enforcement
  - General public
- Financial Hardship
- Workplace issues
- ***"We are not animals"***
  - ~ Mother, Redwood City
- ***"I feel terrorized"***
  - ~ Farmworker and father, Pescadero
- ***"The president himself is encouraging people to discriminate against us."***
  - ~ Volunteer, East Palo Alto

# Health Impacts of Racism

- Weathering Effect:
  - Erosion of health caused by constant stress that marginalized people experience because of repeated experiences of racism and discrimination over time.
  - **NPR Article:** [\*Scientists Start To Tease Out The Subtler Ways Racism Hurts Health\*](#)

# Themes - What is helpful?

- **Community outreach and linkage to services**
  - Having someone to link them to services and work through their fears
- **Having the Right Information about** legal rights, how to be prepared and other timely updates
- **When leaders openly reject** discriminatory practices/rhetoric
- **A Welcoming Environment**
  - Signs, welcoming language, acceptance, respect
- **When familiar organizations work together to help us**
  - Example: school and law enforcement joining together to provide a forum; when faith-based and other organizations work together

# Immigration Services



COMMUNITY  
LEGAL SERVICES  
IN EAST PALO ALTO



**Nuestra Casa**

2396 University Ave.  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
[www.nuestracasa.org](http://www.nuestracasa.org)



**FAITH  
IN ACTION  
BAY AREA**



Catholic  
Charities  
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**BAY AREA LEGAL AID**

WORKING TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE

# Service Providers and Community Leaders

- Language barriers
- Fear of sharing information
- Lack of knowledge about rights
- Low wages
- Lack of affordable housing
- Harassment and threats
- Lack of services
  - legal defense services
  - dental services
- Difficulty navigating county services
- Reluctance to seek services, accept help, attend work or school
- Confusion about law enforcement role



# Service Provider Suggestions

- **Funding for Legal defense**
- Increase income limit for ACE program
- Provide housing and financial assistance
- Address language barriers
- Address geographic gaps
- Expand/support
  - Promotora, Outreach programs
  - Accompaniment programs

# Access to Legal Defense

- Roughly 2/3 of detained immigrants had no legal representation at any point in their removal proceedings.
- Detainees with legal counsel are much more likely to win their cases.
- Poor and harsh conditions. Many voluntarily deport.



# Recommendations for Providers

- **Build Capacity of staff and community**
  - *Learn about immigration issues; educate and train staff*
  - *Provide Know Your Rights and encourage Family Preparedness Plans*
  - *Promote healing*
- **Education and Advocacy**
  - *Change the harmful narrative about immigrants*
  - *Share stories*
- **Examine our Policies, Practices**
  - *Are immigrants (including undocumented) served equitably by our policies and practices?*
  - *Are their harmful practices?*
  - *Are immigrants SAFE when accessing our services?*

# Recommendations – cont.

- **Make services more accessible**
  - *Outreach to immigrant communities*
  - *Language access*
  - *Increase income limits of health programs for undocumented*
- **Collect better Data**
  - *What is the minimum amount of information needed?*
  - *How does your organization protect data?*
  - *Are immigrants and other marginalized communities represented in surveys and assessments?*

# Recommendations – cont.

- Collaborate with Law Enforcement and other agencies
  - *Build trust, increase transparency*
  - *Encourage/advocate for clarity in policies and practices – this impacts health!*

# Torn Apart

**One family. Two countries.**

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Monday, February 26th, 2018 7-9pm

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City  
2124 Brewster Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94062

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RSVP: <https://tornapartscreening.eventbrite.com>

This 29-minute film, produced by the San Jose Mercury News in 2010, tells the human story about a San Mateo family, their struggle to stay together and how one organization, Fools Mission, is working to empower and support immigrant families.

Join us for this special screening and discussion -- with an update directly from a member of the family in the film!



Together, we will explore:

- The impact of today's **fear climate** on local families
- **Community health consequences** related to elevated **fear, stress and anxiety**
- How local groups and **organizations can support immigrants**

A special thank you to our co-sponsors



Social Action Committee of the  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of  
Redwood City



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
HEALTH SYSTEM  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
& RECOVERY SERVICES

For full list of trainings, visit:  
<http://preventiontrainingacademy.eventbrite.com>

Questions? Contact: Kathy Reyes  
[ekreyes@smcgov.org](mailto:ekreyes@smcgov.org) or 650-802-6587

# Torn Apart

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faClgyzLUuU>

# References

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<https://publichealthawakened.com/guide-for-public-health-to-protect-immigrant-rights/>
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4. Insecure Communities: Latino Perceptions of Police Involvement in Immigration Enforcement. Nik Theodore Department of Urban Planning and Policy University of Illinois at Chicago May 2013  
[http://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/INSECURE\\_COMMUNITIES\\_REPORT\\_FINAL.PDF](http://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/INSECURE_COMMUNITIES_REPORT_FINAL.PDF)
5. County of San Mateo: County Satisfaction Survey August 9, 2016  
<https://cmo.smcgov.org/sites/cmo.smcgov.org/files/documents/files/Resident%20Satisfaction%20Survey.pdf>
6. U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
7. Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS), 2010-2014 ACS pooled, and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) by James Bachmeier of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute.
8. California Healthy Kids Survey, 2015
9. 2015 Annual Report of the California DUI Management Information System. California Department of Motor Vehicles.
10. Fiscal Year 2017 ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Report  
<https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Report/2017/iceEndOfYearFY2017.pdf>



- “The butterfly [has been] a symbol of fluid and peaceful migration for generations...represents the dignity and resilience of migrants, and the right that all living beings have to move freely. I believe that we shouldn’t allow our identity to be defined only by our suffering, nor by the actions that others have taken to devalue our families and our labor — rather, let us celebrate our beauty, pride, and resilience in the face of inequality and injustice.”
- Faviana Rodriguez  
Artist and Activist, Oakland, CA



# Thank You!

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COUNTY OF SAN MATEO  
HEALTH SYSTEM