



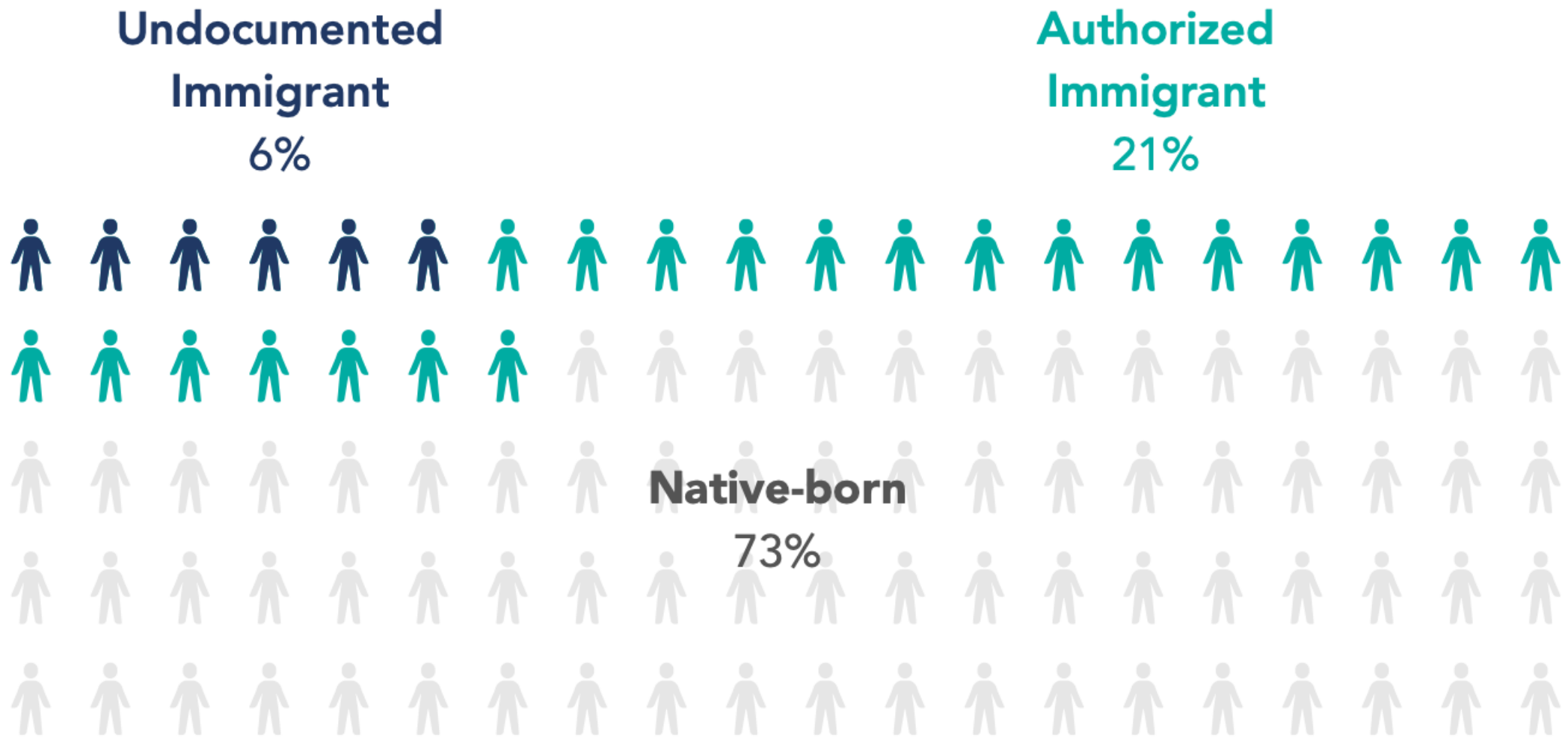
# The Economic Impact of Mass Deportation in California

CSAC Annual Meeting Workshop  
December 3rd, 2025

*Abby Raisz, Vice President of Research  
Bay Area Council Economic Institute*

*Dr. Maria-Elena Young, Associate Professor  
University of California, Merced*

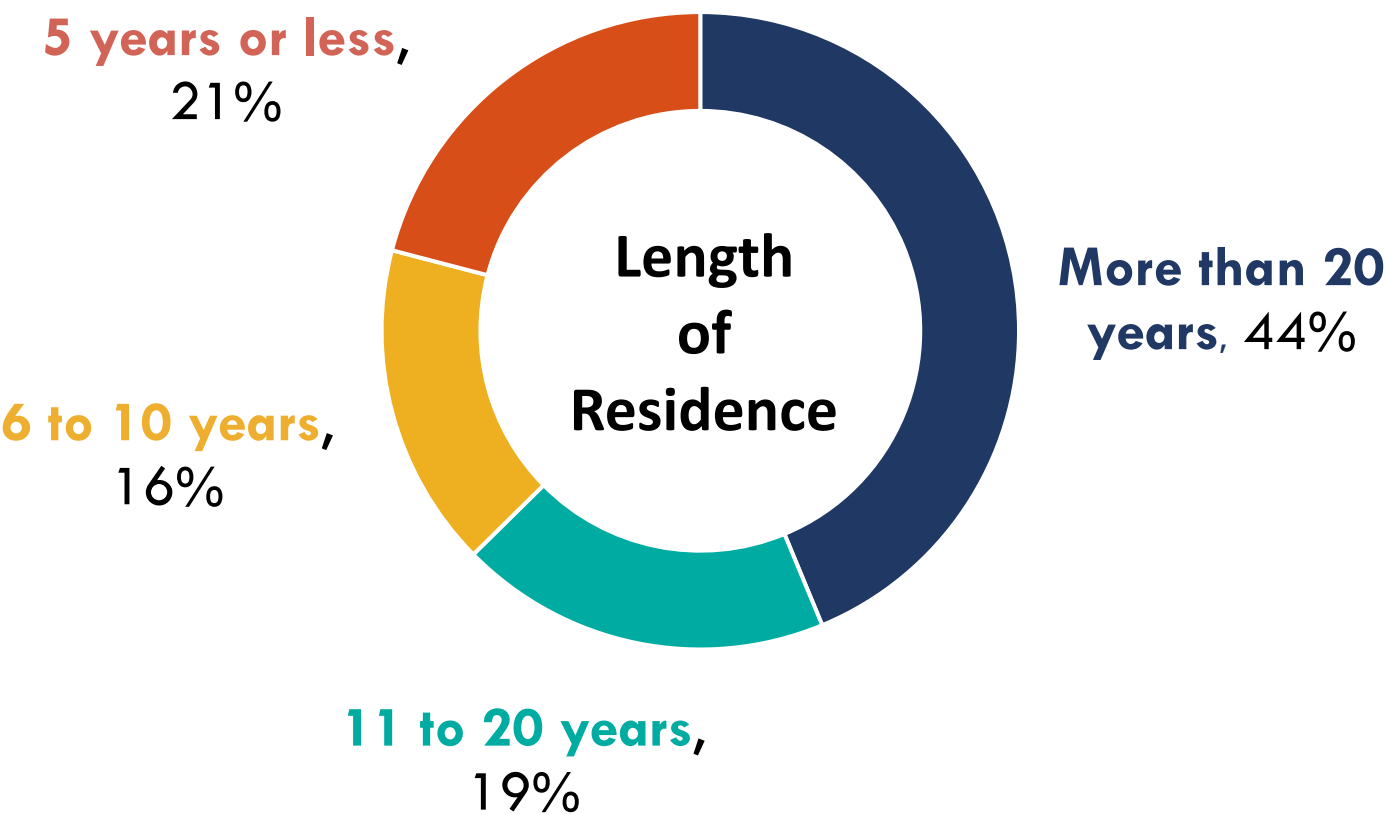
**KEY FINDING:** In California, there are 2.28 million undocumented immigrants, comprising 6% of the total population and 20% of the immigrant population.



**Source:** Author’s calculations of U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2023 1-Year data **Analysis:** Bay Area Council Economic Institute

**KEY FINDING:** Nearly 2/3 of the undocumented population has lived in CA for longer than a decade, and nearly half have been here longer than 20 years

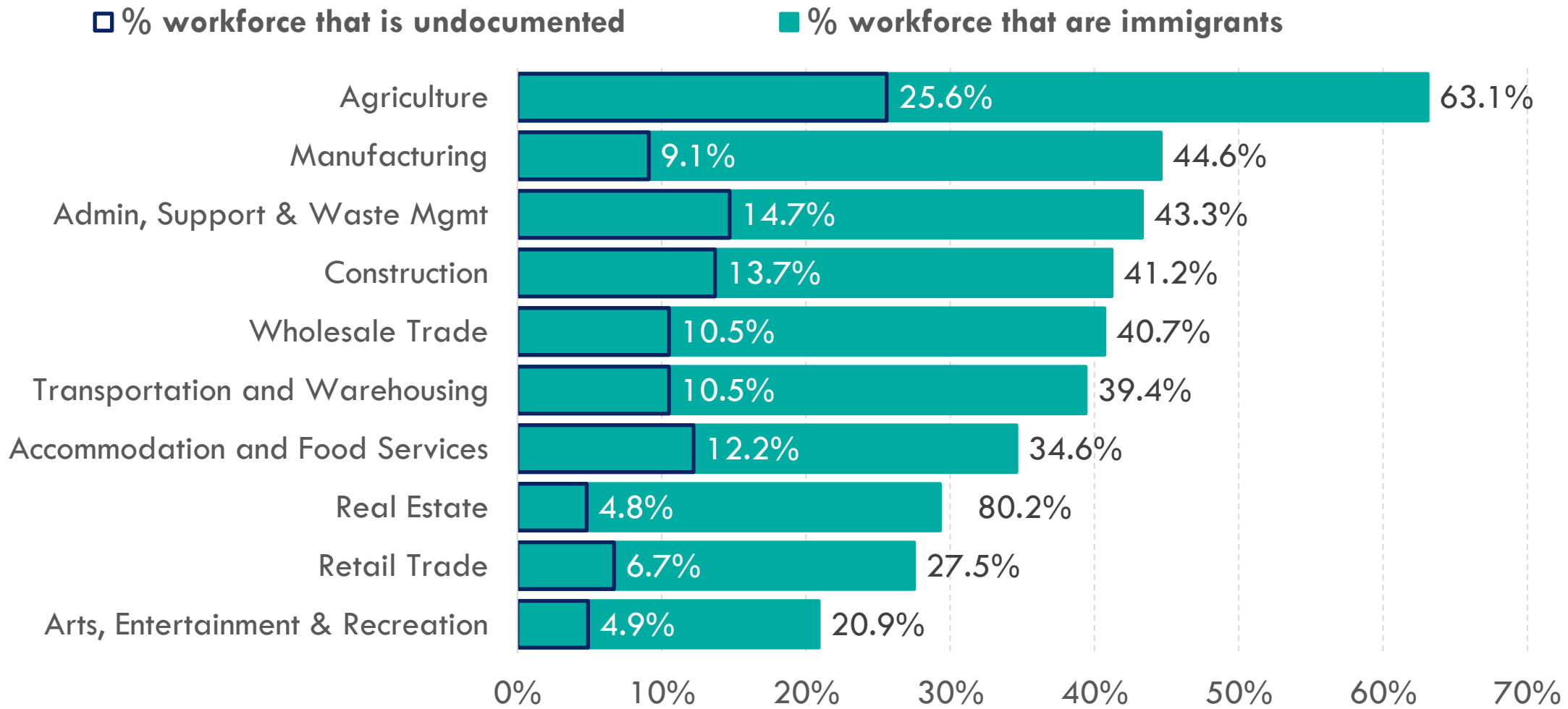
*Undocumented population by length of residence*



**Source:** Author’s calculations of U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2023 1-Year data **Analysis:** Bay Area Council Economic Institute

# KEY FINDING: Over a quarter of the state's agriculture industry is undocumented, and 2/3 are immigrants of any status

Top 10 industries by number of undocumented workers, shown as share of total, 2023



Source: Author's calculations of U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2023 1-Year data Analysis: Bay Area Council Economic Institute

# Sector Snapshots

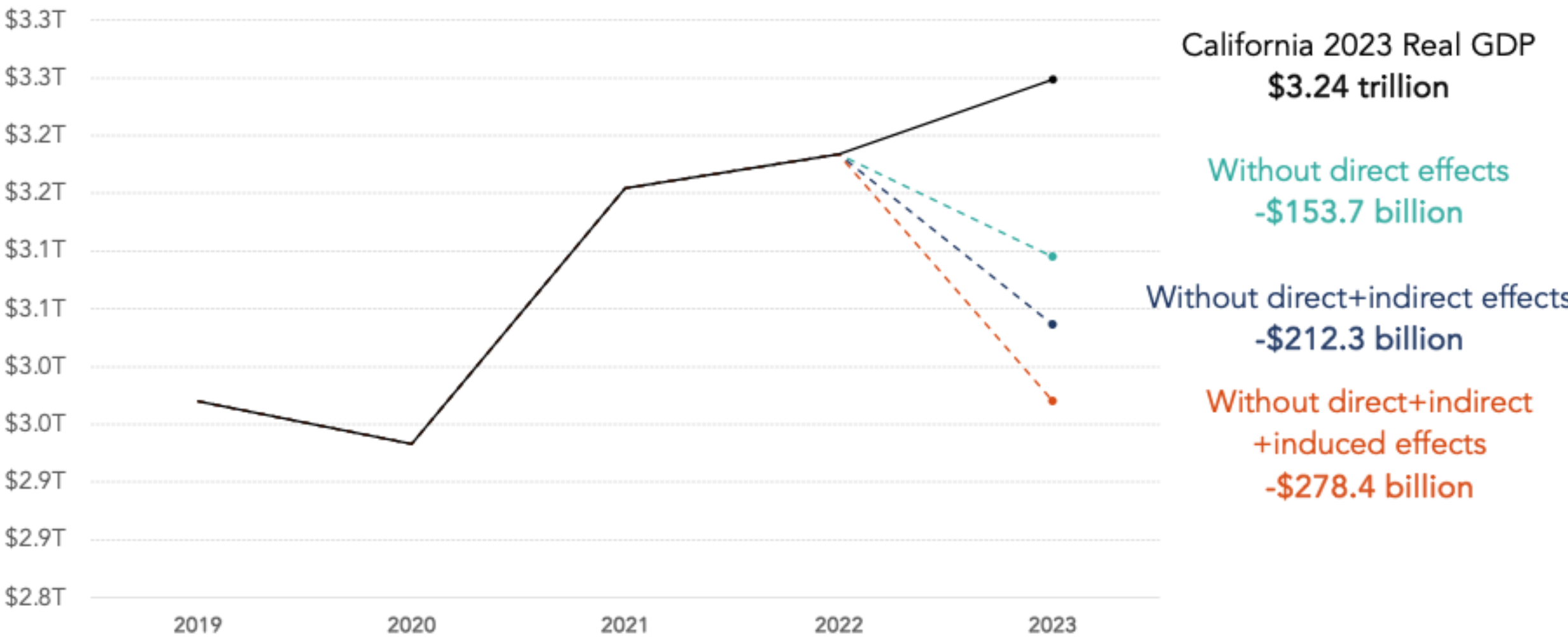
*“[On] Wednesday, [growers] reported no-shows. Individual companies said they’ve got a quarter of their workforce that didn’t show up for work... the economic impact was probably in the small millions.”*

*- Respondent from an agricultural trade organization*

*“If [mass deportations] start, you know, there’s going to be raids on construction sites. You’re not going to have homes being built. Pretty simple.”*

*- Respondent from a construction trade organization*

**KEY FINDING:** California could lose up to \$275 billion in GDP output without undocumented workers, including both direct labor and ripple effects



**Source:** Author’s calculations of BEA, ACS and IMPLAN data **Analysis:** Bay Area Council Economic Institute

# Ripple Effects

*“I would use the word catastrophic. [Mass deportation] would be a catastrophic blow to the economy....it would bring inflation insanely up...Overall it would be, like, a massive domino effect.”*

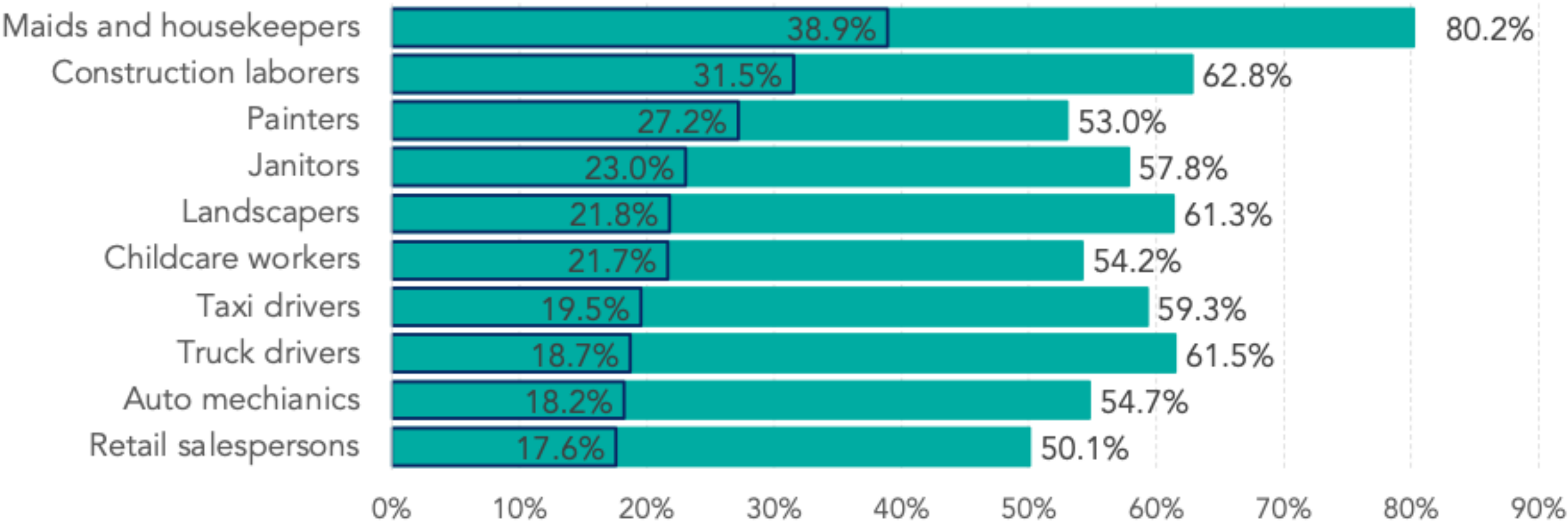
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*“There’s going to be less labor. They’re going to have to pay more. So, everything is going to be passed onto the consumer.”*



**KEY FINDING:** In California, immigrants own the majority of small businesses in key service and labor-intensive occupations – including over 80% of housekeeping businesses, and 63% of construction businesses

□ Small business owners in this occupation who are undocumented  
■ Small business owners in this occupation who are immigrants



Source: IPUMS U.S. Census ACS 2023 1-Year Estimates. Analysis: Bay Area Council Economic Institute



# Economic Vitality at Risk

*“Our city would be hard hit because the general fund is funded by people spending, from people having businesses and paying taxes. There are a lot of business owners that are immigrants...So, what would happen is that there would be jobs left empty, buildings and businesses would shut down. Our downtown... would be kind of a ghost town.”*

**– City official**

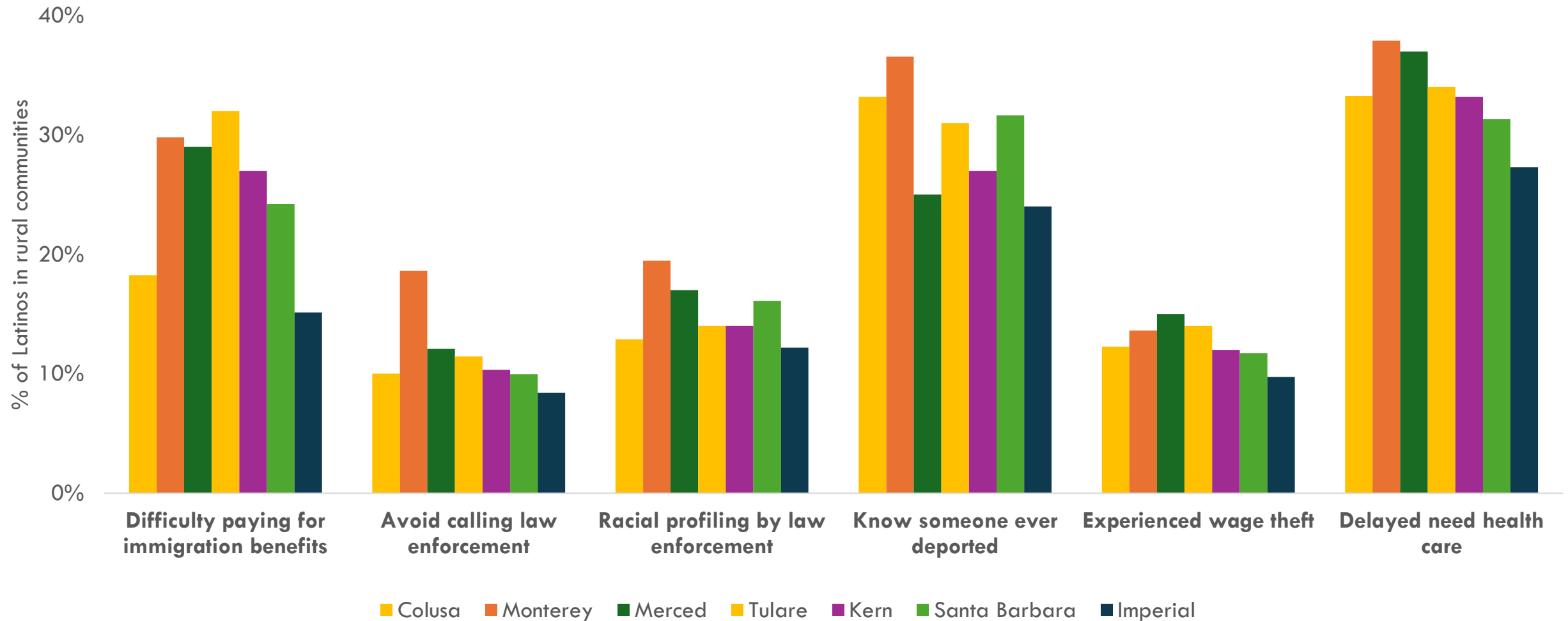
*“The workers themselves don’t have much of a voice. So, [we need] the restaurant industry, the hotel industry, and agriculture...It’s going take a lot of voices expressing a lot of concern and recommending to our Congress and senators that this is impacting the lives of people and businesses and needs to be addressed.”*

**– Business leader**

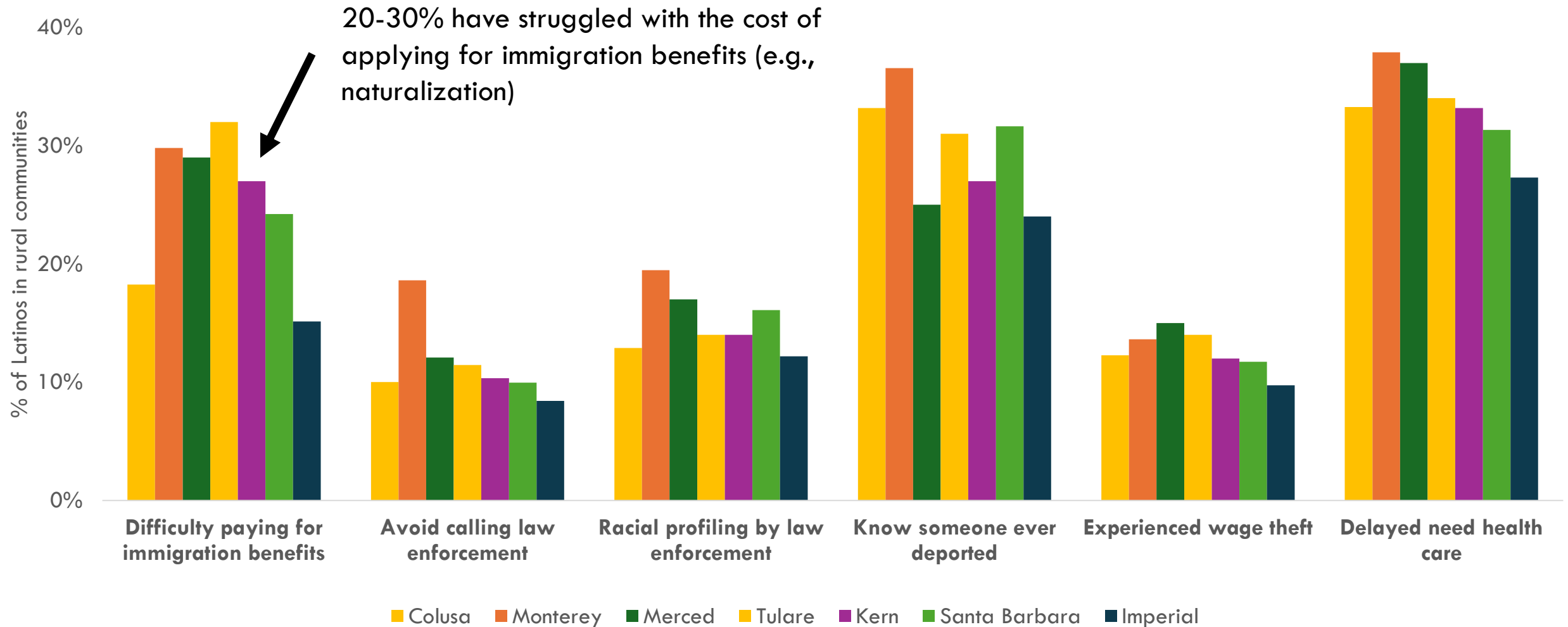


- NIH-funded population-based survey of Latinos residing in rural counties in California and Arizona
- County-level data on immigration-related experienced, health care access, mental health, housing, and perceptions of local policy
- 3,181 respondents in 2024

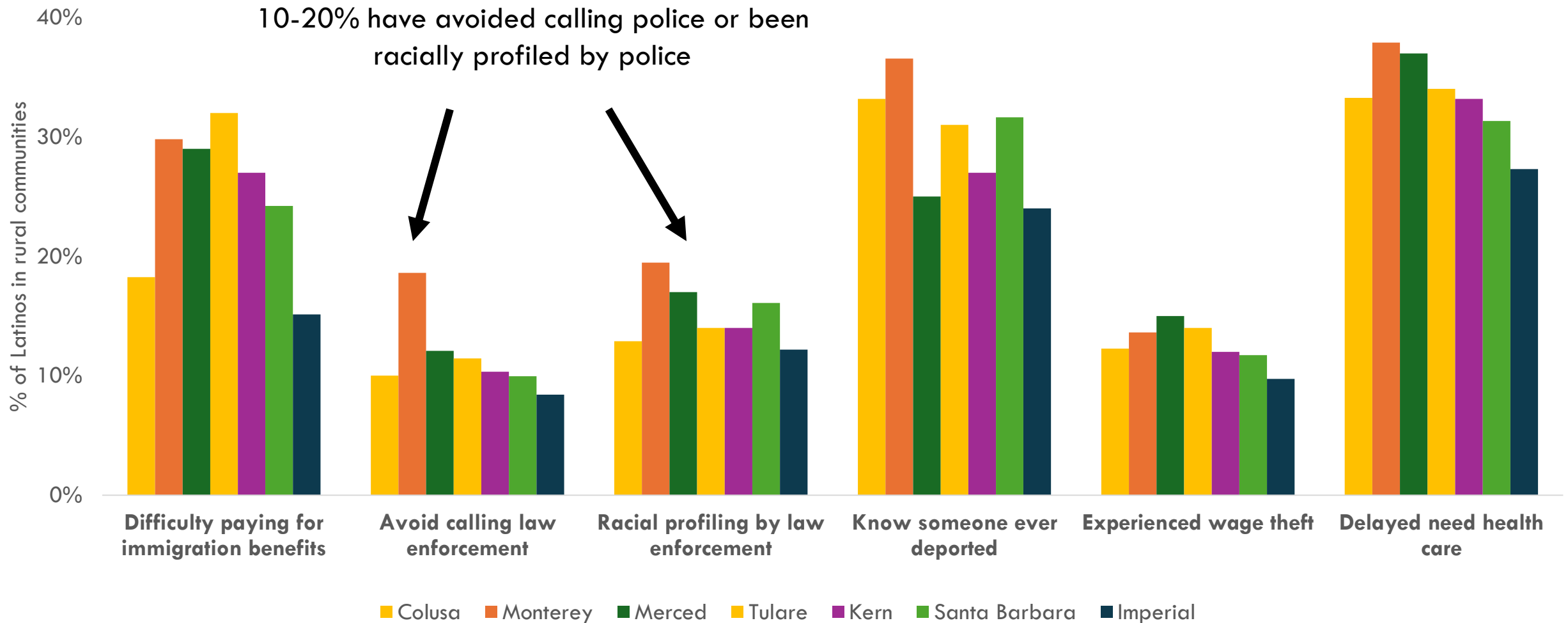
# Latinos across California counties report extensive immigration-policy related experiences



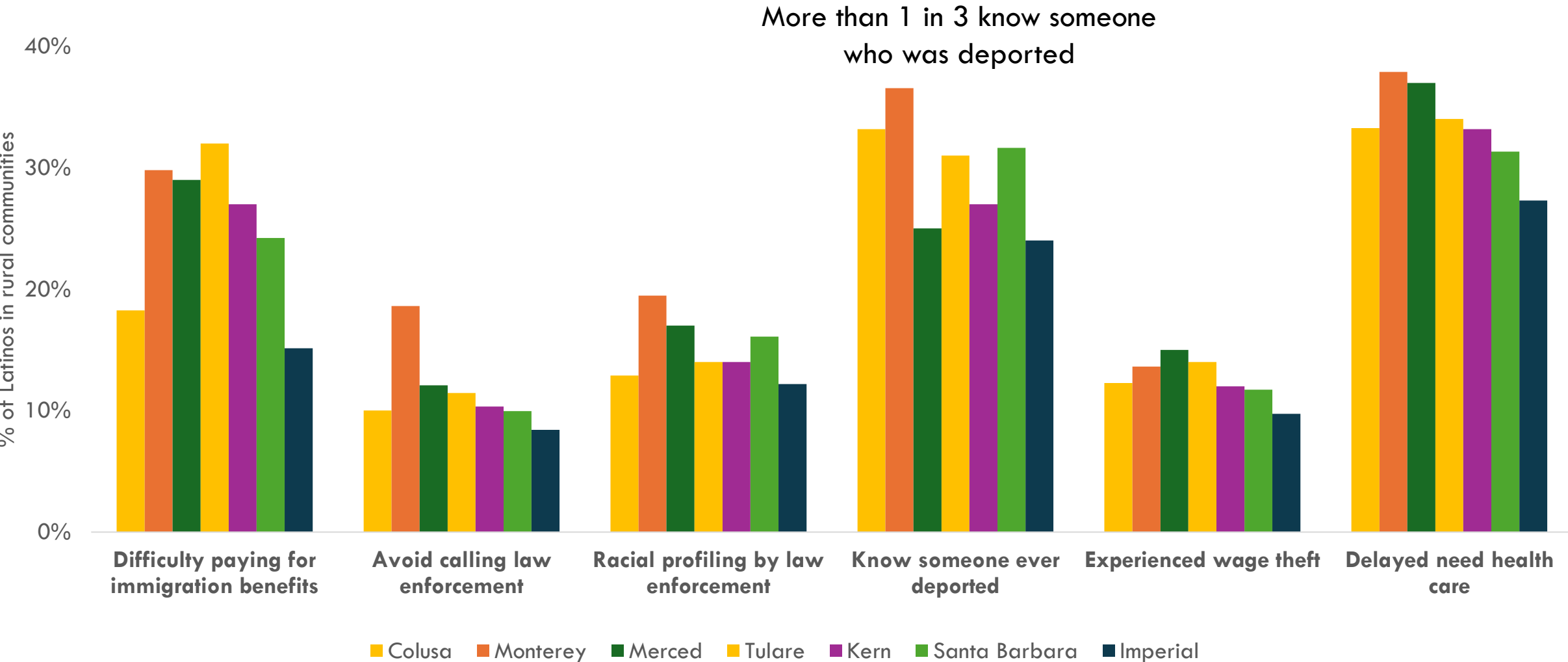
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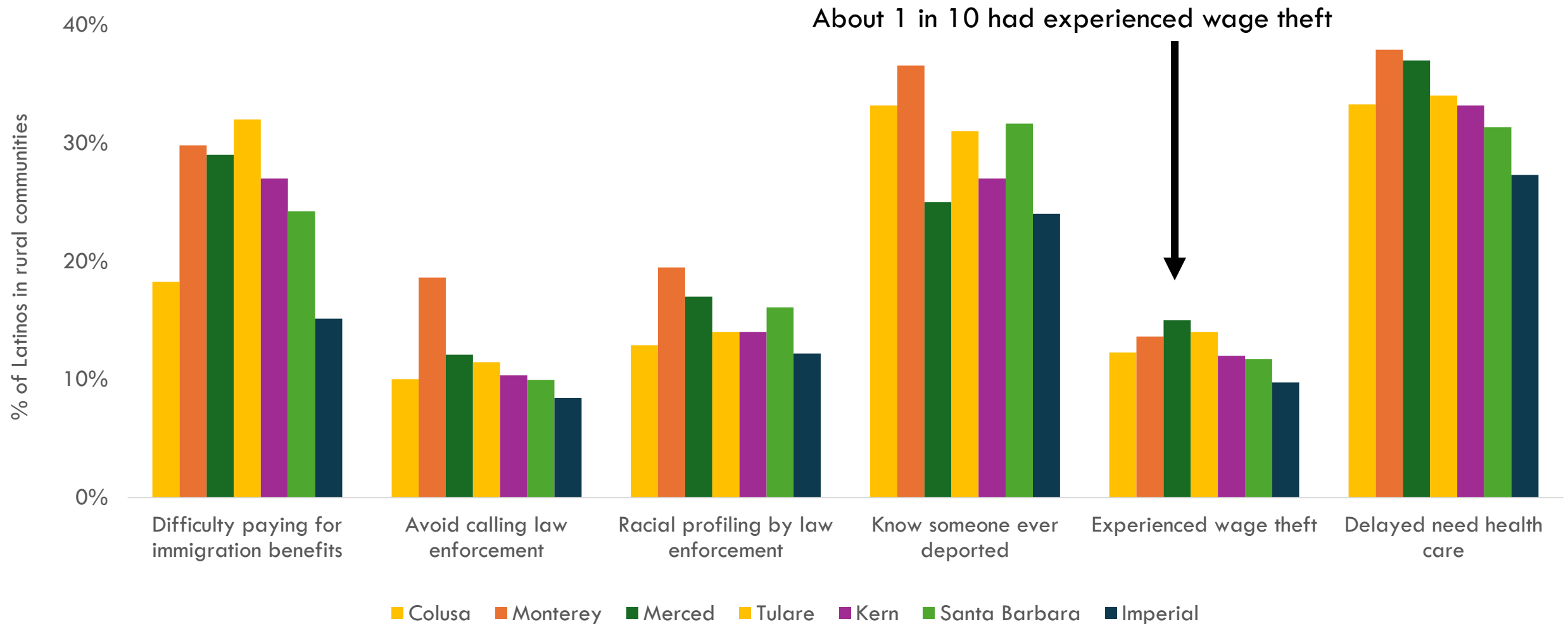
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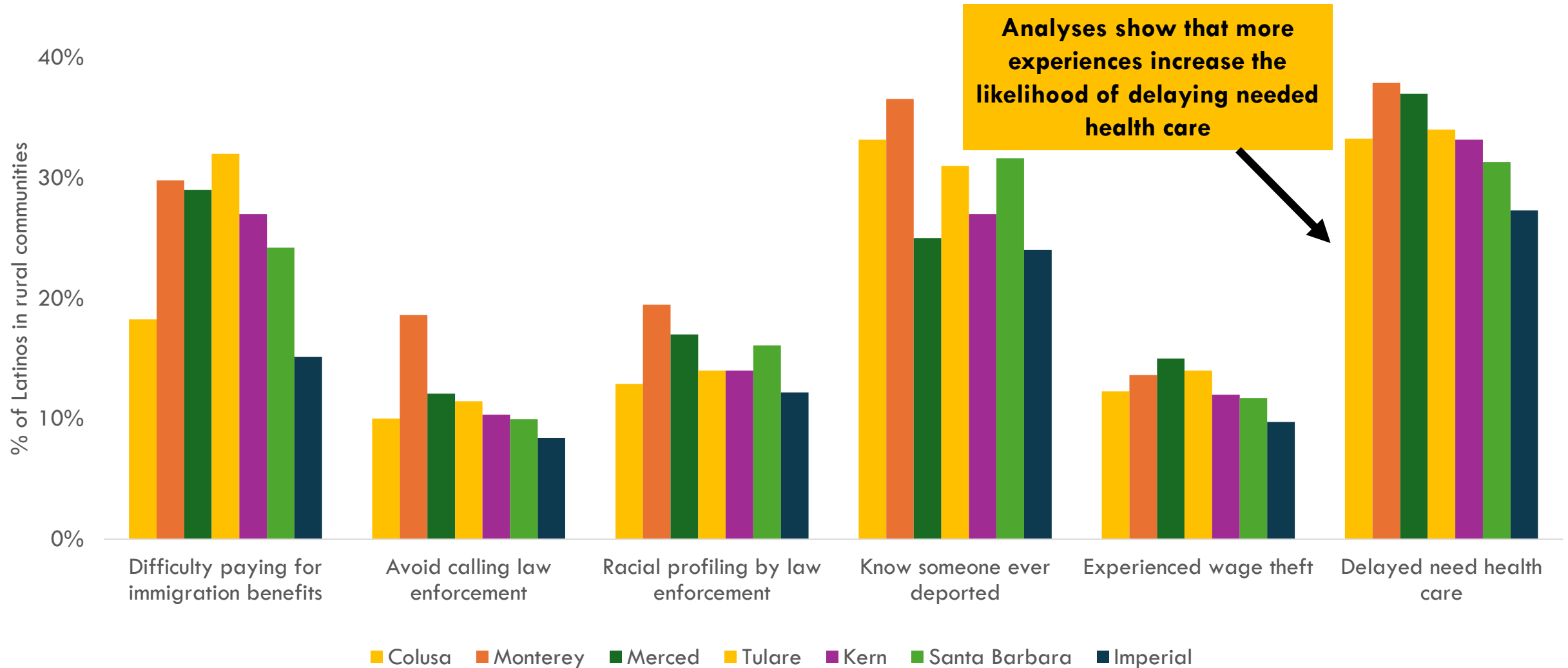


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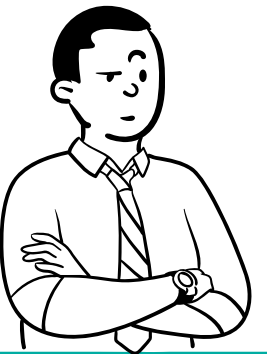


# Latinos across California counties report extensive immigration-policy related experiences



*“When you’re an immigrant and you’re residing in a sanctuary state [the policy] probably allows you to sleep a little better at night. But it doesn’t change your daily life. You’re still going to get pulled over if somebody wants you to be pulled over. You’re still going to be frowned upon when you walk into the grocery store with dirty clothes from working in the fields.”*

Gregorio, representative from a farmworker aid organization



# THANK YOU!

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# SUPPLEMENTAL SLIDE: The Ripple Effects of Immigration Crackdowns

## 1. Raids disproportionately affect labor-intensive crops, exacerbating supply chain disruptions

- In Ventura County, raids in June caused **25-45% of farmworkers to stop showing up** which can lead to a reduction in farm labor supply, crop losses and an increase in produce prices.

## 2. Reduced revenue & business disruptions

- Some restaurants in Los Angeles report **revenue declines of up to 25%** since raids intensified in June 2025.
- In the Bay Area, fear of raids has caused customers to stay away, workers not showing up, and even closures.

## 3. Labor shortages increase operational costs

- Under a labor shortage, farms need to offer higher wages or other incentives to attract labor.
- Businesses in hospitality/food service sectors are incurring costs for adapting to absenteeism (e.g., paying overtime, hiring more staff to cover shifts, or reducing hours).

# SUPPLEMENTAL SLIDE: What Today's Immigration Reform Bills Propose

## 1. Farm Workforce Modernization Act

*introduced May 7, 2025 by Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA) and Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)*

- Creates “Certified Agricultural Worker” status: undocumented workers work history to gain temporary legal status and reduce risks of labor shortages that drive up food prices.
- Modernize the H-2A visa program to expand access to year-round labor and improve worker protections.

## 2. Registry Update Bill

*introduced July 16, 2025 by Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA) with Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)*

- Replace the outdated 1972 fixed date cutoff with a rolling 7-year residency requirement, expanding green card eligibility to millions of long-term residents, including Dreamers, TPS holders, and essential workers. Faces steep odds in a Republican-controlled Congress.

## 3. Dignity Act

*introduced May 2023 by Reps. María Elvira Salazar (R-FL) and Veronica Escobar (D-TX)*

- Combines tougher border security (mandatory E-Verify, faster asylum processing, stricter penalties) with modernization of visas and family protections.
- Legal status, but not citizenship: creates a 7-year “Dignity Program” granting renewable legal status to long-term undocumented immigrants, plus protections for dreamers/DACA.