IMMIGRANT YOUTH IN THE SILICON VALLEY

TOGETHER WE RISE!

UCLA Labor Center | DREAMRESOURCECENTER

Dream Summer Silicon Valley Immigrant Youth Cohort

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December 2016

Acknowledgments

UCLA Labor Center

For over fifty years, the UCLA Labor Center has created innovative programs that offer a range of educational, research, and public service activities within the university and in the broader community, especially among low-wage and immigrant workers. The Labor Center is a vital resource for research, education, and policy development to help create jobs that are good for workers and our communities, to improve the quality of existing jobs in the low-wage economy, and to strengthen the process of immigrant integration, especially among students and youth.

Dream Resource Center

The Dream Resource Center, a program of the UCLA Labor Center, believes that young people deserve the right to learn, be healthy, and pursue their dreams—regardless of immigration status. Since its founding, the center has emerged as a national source for innovative research, education, and policy on immigration issues. The center promotes immigrant youth leadership nationwide and works to ensure immigrant youth continue to be at the forefront of the national conversations that directly impact their lives and families.

Silicon Valley Immigrant Youth Cohort

The Dream Resource Center runs "Dream Summer," a national ten-week fellowship program that empowers immigrant youth to be the next generation of social justice leaders through leadership and professional development opportunities. Since its founding, the program has provided more than five hundred fellowship opportunities to immigrant youth and allies throughout the nation. In 2016, Dream Summer launched the Silicon Valley cohort to advance the leadership of immigrant youth in the area.

Dream Summer Silicon Valley Host Organizations

DREAMer's Roadmap
San Francisco State University
Mural Music & Arts Project
East Palo Alto Youth Arts and Music Center
The Primary School
Family Connections
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto
Centro Legal de La Raza, Oakland

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction 5

a. Recommendations 6

b. Methodology 7

2. Education 8

a. Current School Enrollment 8

b. Educational Attainment 9

Story: Computer Science Dreams, by Astrid Regalado Sibrian and Grisell Canas 9

3. Work and Employment 10

a. To Live and Work in Silicon Valley 10

b. Currently in Workforce 10

c. Work Positions 11

Story: A Prison of Fear, by Mariela Arceo Madriz 12

d. Industries 12

e. Median Hourly Wage by Industry 14

Story: A Blessing in Disguise: The Journey of Sarahi Espinoza Salamanca, by Jasmin Gutierrez and Cesar Avalos 14

4. Background Information 16

a. Undocumented Immigrants 16

b. Gender 16

c. Age 17

Story: Building a Pathway to Fight Cancer, by Carmen Ayala and Marypaz Real 18

d. Race/Ethnicity 18

e. Country of Birth 19

Story: A Vietnamese Undocumented Story, by Anthony Phan 20

f. English Proficiency 21

Story: Technology Companies: Invest in the Communities, Not Push Them Out, by Rosamia Valdez 21

1. Introduction

Silicon Valley, an area famous for technological innovation and affluence, ranks eighth in the nation in gross domestic product growth and third in per capita personal income.[1] The area is also marked by severe disparities. Over one-third of workers earn low wages (defined as two-thirds of the county minimum wage).[2] The average annual pay for a direct technology employee is five times the salary of a blue-collar contract industry worker, who earns less than the median rent in Santa Clara County.[3] Black and Latino communities also face pronounced hiring barriers for higher paying, direct technology jobs.[4]

The immigrant community in Silicon Valley experiences low wages, a lack of access to affordable housing, limited access to health care, and a frequently discriminatory social and political environment.[5] And for undocumented immigrant communities, these challenges are amplified. Eight percent of the 2.5 million residents in Silicon Valley are undocumented.[6]

Presently, ***14% of the half a million young people (18-32) in Silicon Valley are undocumented.*** They are a core part of the daily economic life of the valley but encounter a singular set of economic and social challenges. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which provided two-year work permits and relief from deportations for youth who entered the country before their sixteenth birthdays and before June 2007, reduced the challenges for some of these young people. But many, particularly those who are not DACA-eligible or may not have the financial and social capital to fully utilize its benefits, are still highly and persistently vulnerable.[7]

This report intends to understand the experience of undocumented immigrant youth (including DACA recipients) in the Silicon Valley, based on census data and interviews with undocumented youth. Additionally, the report suggests tangible recommendations by which the Silicon Valley can enhance its support of undocumented immigrant youth.

Undocumented youth face immense barriers in accessing education.

- Eight in 10 undocumented young persons are not in school, 26% more than other youth.
- Undocumented youth are almost four times more likely to not complete high school.
- Nearly one-third of undocumented youth, as opposed to nearly two-thirds of other youth, have some college education.

Undocumented youth are concentrated in low-wage jobs.

- Undocumented youth are concentrated in service sectors, such as food and retail, construction, administrative work, and waste management.
- Undocumented young workers are 50% more likely to be “front-line” workers. Front-line jobs are low-wage, entry-level jobs, such as the floor positions in retail stores, counter staff at a fast food restaurant, and nonsupervisory positions at the construction site.

- Undocumented youth earn 28% less than other youth and earn less than what is needed to live in the area.

Undocumented youth are diverse and a core part of the Silicon Valley community.

- More than one in ten young people in Silicon Valley are undocumented. They comprise 14% of the half million youth in the region.

- Nine out of ten undocumented youth are Latino or Asian.

- Over one-third of undocumented youth do not speak English well or at all, a rate three times higher than documented immigrant youth.

a. Recommendations

California has passed innovative legislation that provides access for undocumented immigrants to subsidized health care, student loans and financial aid, and professional licenses in areas such as law and medicine.[8] Leaders of the Silicon Valley have supported these policy changes, and have frequently rejected the anti-immigrant rhetoric advanced during the recent presidential debate. But these immigrant rights advocacy initiatives have lacked the full participation of immigrants themselves.

The data illustrates that there is much work to be done to address the broad economic and educational inequities in the Silicon Valley. Leaders there could do a great deal more to advance immigrant integration and to engage immigrant youth in the local economy.

While immigrants continue to play an indispensable role in generating economic prosperity in the Silicon Valley, the lack of educational and economic opportunities for immigrant youth is alarming. The following are key recommendations to advance opportunities for immigrant youth in the valley:

Defend Immigrant Rights. It is critical for the Silicon Valley to take the lead nationally in supporting immigrant rights, including defending the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and opposing deportations. The success of Silicon Valley has depended on immigrant labor. The anti-immigrant policies being advanced by the Trump administration endanger the Silicon Valley community and economy.

Create quality jobs and access for undocumented youth in the technology industry. The technology industry has been notorious for their lack of diversity in hiring, and this includes Latino and Asian immigrants. Economic justice also includes supporting wage policies like increasing the minimum wage and improving employment access for immigrant youth.

Improve access to educational opportunities. Higher education is still inaccessible to far too many immigrant youth. The technology industry should dramatically increase its support for educational access through scholarship programs like College Track and COIN and fellowship programs like Dream Summer.

Expand access to affordable housing, and protect homes that are at risk due to gentrification. Silicon Valley's steep rise in housing costs and the dearth of affordable housing are pushing immigrants and low-wage residents out of their neighborhoods and promoting overcrowding and substandard housing conditions for those who remain.

b. Methodology

The study is based on census data and interviews conducted of undocumented residents in the Silicon Valley. We defined "youth" as those who are 18-32 and defined Silicon Valley as Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. The Dream Summer cohort, comprised of nine youth from Silicon Valley, reviewed and provided an analysis of the census data during the Dream Summer opening retreat in June 2016 and collected six interviews throughout the summer. The cohort provided feedback and analysis on the final report.

The UCLA Labor Center analyzed census data obtained from the Center for Migrant Studies (CMS) Democratizing Data program. The CMS developed estimates on the size and characteristics of the unauthorized populations based on microdata collected by the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). The methodology involved identifying and removing as many legal residents as possible, deriving separate population controls for 145 countries or areas and for unauthorized residents, and using those population controls to select records to be classified as unauthorized residents.[9] These are the sources for all figures below.

This report provides key statistics related to undocumented youth (including those with DACA) and their experience in Silicon Valley with education attainment and access and employment. It also includes general and demographic information.

2. Educational Experience

a. School Enrollment

Undocumented youth have less access to education; they are 26% more likely than US-born and documented youth to not be in school.

FIGURE 1: **Current School Enrollment for Silicon Valley Youth and by Immigration Status**

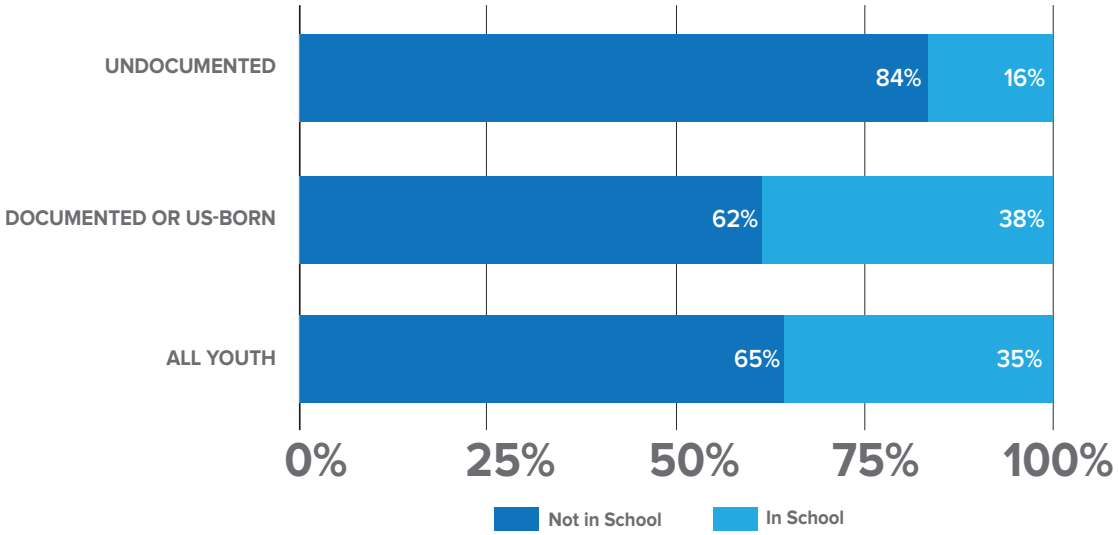


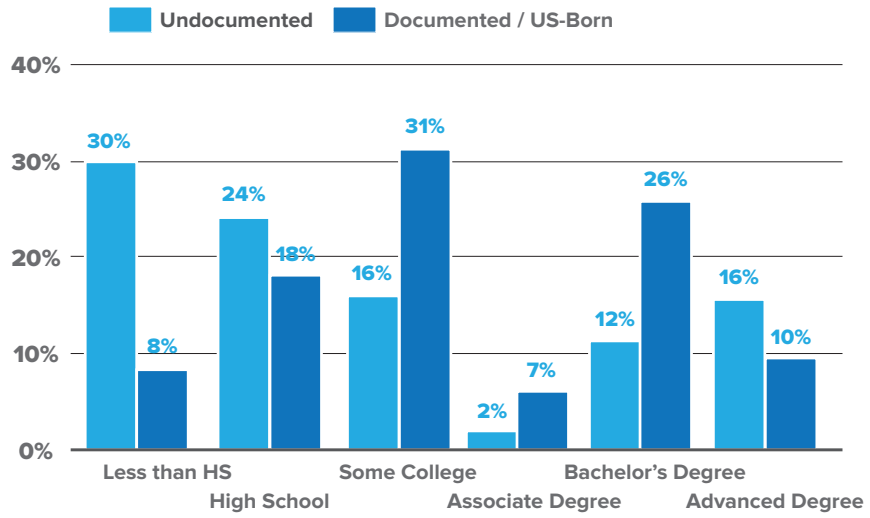
FIGURE 2: **Disparities in Educational Access**

b. Educational Attainment

Undocumented youth are almost four times more likely to not have completed high school. Half of undocumented youth do not have a degree beyond high school. Only 12% have a bachelor's degree.

On the other hand, those who are able to access higher education are more likely to get an advanced degree. Undocumented youth are almost twice as likely as US-born and documented youth to have an advanced degree.

FIGURE 3: **Educational Attainment for Silicon Valley Youth by Immigration Status**



Computer Science Dreams

By Astrid Regalado Sibrian and Grisell Canas

Rogelio, an eighteen-year-old student who arrived from Mexico when he was five, lives in an underserved and sometimes dangerous neighborhood in Hayward. Like many from California's East Bay, Rogelio had a diverse array of friends while growing up; some might be perceived as "gangster," while others were privileged. When he was among his wealthier friends, he felt accepted. But at one point, when he realized he wasn't one of them, he felt somewhat disoriented. It was at that moment that he began to pay attention to the struggles of his family and their particular path. This reflection eventually led him to embrace his education, and he presently attends a community college in Cupertino, California.

School was not always the obvious direction for Rogelio. His first language is Spanish, so he needed to take ESL classes in addition to standard English courses, and he lacked the resources for a tutor. He also sometimes encountered blatant discrimination in the classroom; in an advanced physics class in which he was only one of two Latinos, he felt the teacher targeted him when he made mistakes, even calling him names. His classmates generally stood up for him, but the experiences left a mark on him.

It wasn't until his sophomore year of high school that Rogelio discovered that he was undocumented. He didn't think much about what his status meant until he learned that undocumented students had to apply for financial aid differently from documented students. His parents also lack the social security numbers that might allow them to leave their jobs in fast food. Rogelio is undeterred, however, and doesn't accept that his legal status will hinder him.

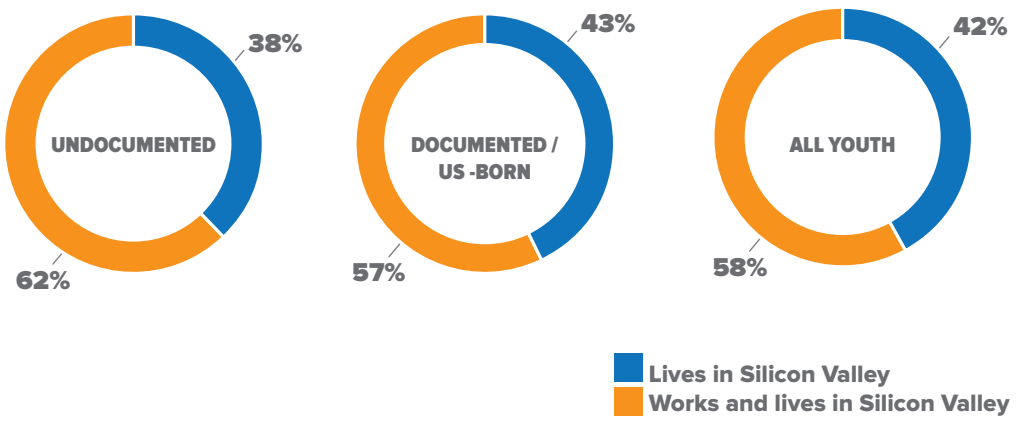
Because of his family's history, Rogelio is active in the Higher Education for AB540 Students (HEFAS) club at his community college. He is planning to transfer to UC Berkeley next year to study computer science and intends to remain deeply committed to the fight for immigration reform and educational opportunities for students who are also low income and undocumented.

3. Work and Employment

a. To Live and Work in Silicon Valley

Undocumented youth are not commuting outside of the valley for work. Almost two-thirds of undocumented youth both live and work in Silicon Valley at slightly higher rates than other youth.

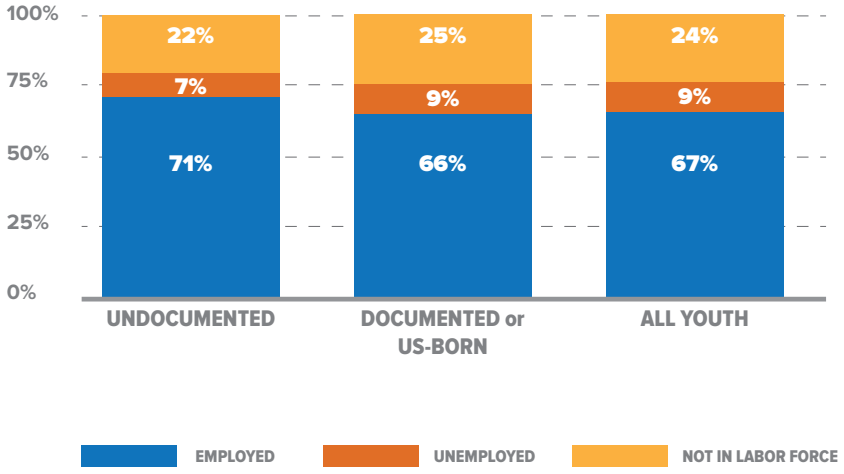
FIGURE 4: **Silicon Valley Youth that Work and/or Live in Silicon Valley and by Immigration Status**



b. Labor Force Participation

Almost three-quarters of undocumented youth are in the workforce, a slightly higher rate than for other youth.

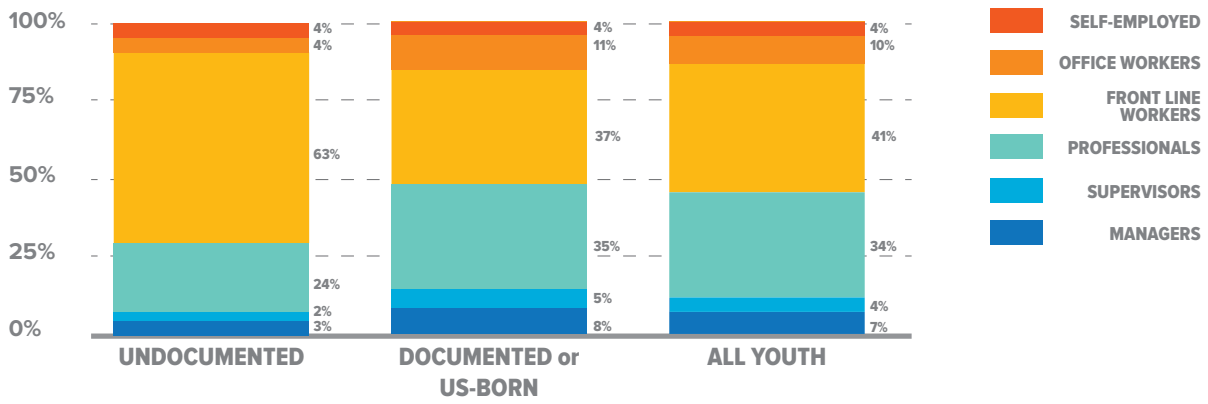
FIGURE 5: **Labor Force Participation of Silicon Valley Youth and by Immigration Status**



c. Work Positions

Undocumented young workers are twice as likely to be in "front-line" jobs and less likely to be in professional, managerial, or supervisory positions. Front-line jobs are low-wage, entry-level jobs, such as the floor positions in retail stores, counter staff at fast food restaurants, and nonsupervisory positions at the construction site.

FIGURE 6: **Occupational Positions for Silicon Valley and by Immigration Status**



A Prison of Fear

By Mariela Arceo Madriz

When Maria Contreras was fourteen years old, her aunt presented an opportunity to her: "El Norte." El Norte was said to be a magnificent land where skies were blue and dreams came true. Her aunt, eyes aglow, explained to her, "Maria, you can get a job, go to school, and help your family." Maria's family was awed by her aunt's offer to live with her. Maria had not only a home waiting for her but a job as well.

El Norte seemed to be the solution to all that haunted her and her family. Her aunt lived in the United States and seemed to have it all; every visit, she brought gifts, clothes, shoes, and jewelry. After Maria convinced her mom to let her seek out a life in El Norte, Maria's aunt arranged it. But Maria could not get a visa, so she had to cross the border illegally.

This was the very first time she ever faced a new world without her family by her side. This was the very first time she would meet a "coyote," a complete stranger who claimed he could help her cross the border but guaranteed nothing: not safety, her crossing, nor her life. She ignored the dangers in the vague hope that someday her mother, her father, and her siblings would have food every day, be able to afford health care, and be reunited. "I was lucky, when I crossed, I was lucky," Maria remembered. "I didn't cross through the desert or the mountains; I crossed with someone else's documentation. It was illegal, but my pain and misery in Mexico was legal."

After arriving, Maria began to work for her aunt. Maria cooked, washed dishes, did laundry, shopped for groceries, and took care of her aunt's two daughters. When Maria asked to use the phone to call her mother, her aunt always claimed it was too late or too early in Mexico. Maria ignored it, thinking gratefully, "After all, if it wasn't for my aunt I would never be here." Maria worked all day and sometimes nights.

When Maria asked her aunt when she could enroll in school, her aunt replied that if Maria went to school without being able to speak English, she would be investigated. "Maria you are illegal," her aunt explained, and could be jailed "for a long, long time." Maria began to realize that El Norte was not the problem; her aunt was.

At fourteen, Maria had little idea of what it meant to be illegal. She lived in San Jose, and the people around her looked like her, but still she avoided everyone. When she was outside, she made sure to avoid the gaze of police. She was isolated and lived in fear. No one was present to speak English to her, so she did not learn and did not attend school. She was not paid, but her aunt sent $50 monthly to her parents in order to allay suspicions. Maria was denied her right to education and interaction with the world around her. She felt she was "illegal, a substance, a thing that did not matter and if [she] did, it was behind bars."

After Maria realized that her aunt was exploiting her, she managed to escape. Today, her aunt knows nothing about her, and she claims that "my aunt will never know; she has no right." Today Maria works a minimum-wage job at a pizza restaurant in a southern state and is raising three children as a single mother. Leaving a life in virtual slavery was not easy, but Maria gained her freedom by overcoming fear.

Immigrant Youth in the Silicon Valley

d. Industries

More than half of undocumented workers are in the service, construction, administrative support (such as security and janitorial), and waste management industries, and at higher rates than other young people in Silicon Valley. Undocumented workers are underrepresented in the health care and education sectors compared to other youth.

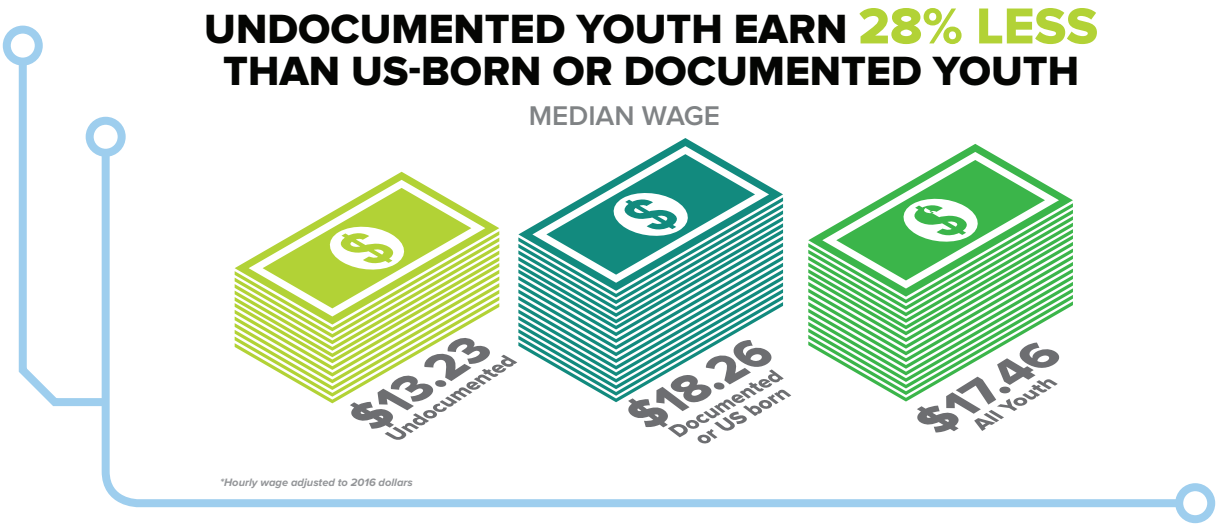
TABLE 1: Industries Worked in by Silicon Valley Youth and by Immigration Status

	Undocumented	Documented or US-born	All Youth
Accommodation and Food Services	18%	10%	11%
Construction	14%	4%	6%
Administrative Support; Waste Management and Remediation Services	12%	4%	5%
Retail Trade	11%	15%	14%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	11%	13%	13%
Manufacturing	11%	10%	10%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	6%	4%	4%
Information	4%	4%	4%
Health Care and Social Assistance	4%	11%	10%
Educational Services	2%	9%	8%
Wholesale Trade	2%	2%	2%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	1%	<1%	<1%
Transportation and Warehousing	1%	3%	3%
Finance and Insurance	1%	3%	3%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1%	2%	2%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1%	3%	3%
Utilities	<1%	<1%	<1%
Public Administration, including the Military	--	2%	2%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	--	<1%	<1%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	--	<1%	<1%

e. Median Hourly Wage by Industry

In most of the major industries, undocumented youth earn a lower median wage than other youth, 28% less than US-born and documented youth. The minimum self-sufficiency wage for Santa Clara is $15.68. The self-sufficiency wage calculates the costs of basic needs for working families who do not need to rely on public or private assistance.[10] Two-thirds of the jobs undocumented young people work in fall below the self-sufficiency wage.

FIGURE 7: **Median Wage of Silicon Valley Youth and by Immigration Status***



A Blessing in Disguise: The Journey of Sarahi Espinoza Salamanca

By Jasmin Gutierrez and Cesar Avalos

Sarahi Espinoza Salamanca is the youngest of eleven children and migrated to the United States at the age of four with her family. Her family knew it would not be an easy move, but a lack of opportunities in Mexico motivated them to leave everything behind and start a new life. Sarahi grew up in Redwood City and Los Angeles and attended public school like any other American kid. In her senior year of high school, she discovered that because of her undocumented status, she was not eligible for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or many scholarships available to other students.

Until she graduated high school, Sarahi had not experienced the limitations of being undocumented. She faced two fundamental difficulties: finding work and figuring out a way to pursue higher education despite her status. Throughout her childhood, her parents inspired her to dream big, but they could not prepare her to overcome this significant obstacle.

Sarahi graduated from high school in Los Angeles in the early 2000s and had to give up her ambition to attend UCLA when she realized that she could not access student aid or scholarships. An array of administrators tried but could not help her; Sarahi's educational journey seemed to end there.

Years later though, after she moved to the Bay Area, Sarahi met a counselor who told her about AB 540, a state bill that allows some undocumented students to attend college and pay in-state tuition at public colleges and universities. With money saved from caring for children, washing clothes, and other jobs, Sarahi was finally able to finally enroll in Foothill College in Los Altos Hills.

Sarahi was one of very few undocumented students at the time who were able to pursue higher education. There were no role models or people who encouraged students like her to pursue higher education. This, in part, is what motivated her to start DREAMer's Roadmap, an app that helps undocumented students find scholarships. Sarahi ultimately hopes that no student will ever be told, "Because you don't have a social, you don't deserve it."

Because scholarships can help make college affordable, especially for young people from cash-strapped families, DREAMER's Roadmap is a valuable resource. It is only a small step toward making higher education available to undocumented students, but Sarahi wants to expand opportunities for undocumented students: "It sounds weird, but appreciate the fact that you are undocumented because you are going to go through struggles that no other person has gone through, and it is really going to change the way you live the rest of your life."

TABLE 2: Median Hourly Wage of Silicon Valley Documented and Undocumented Youth by Industry*

	UNDOCUMENTED	DOCUMENTED/ US-BORN	ALL YOUTH
Accommodation and Food Services	10.06	10.70	10.47
Construction	11.57	19.57	15.07
Administrative Support; Waste Management and Remediation Services	11.68	14.69	13.26
Retail Trade	11.85	12.52	12.41
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	44.33	31.49	33.67
Manufacturing	28.52	29.52	29.35
Other Services (except Public Administration)	9.66	13.53	13.04
Information	50.66	29.58	32.83
Health Care and Social Assistance	13.35	19.58	19.06
Educational Services	20.91	17.57	17.69
Wholesale Trade	16.12	16.39	16.39
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	9.34	11.97	9.37
Transportation and Warehousing	13.66	15.60	15.60
Finance and Insurance	16.92	20.42	20.36
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	9.91	19.59	19.33
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	10.93	14.39	14.39
Utilities	6.51	30.58	26.25
Public Administration, including the Military	--	24.71	24.71
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	--	39.69	39.69
Management of Companies and Enterprises	--	27.89	27.89

**Hourly wage adjusted to 2016 dollars*

Immigrant Youth in the Silicon Valley

4. Background Information

a. Undocumented Immigrants in Silicon Valley

More than one in ten youth in Silicon Valley are undocumented. They comprise 14% of the half a million young people in the area.

TABLE 3: **Silicon Valley Youth Population and by Immigration Status**

	N	%
Documented / US-born	449216	86%
Undocumented	75253	14%
Total	524469	100%

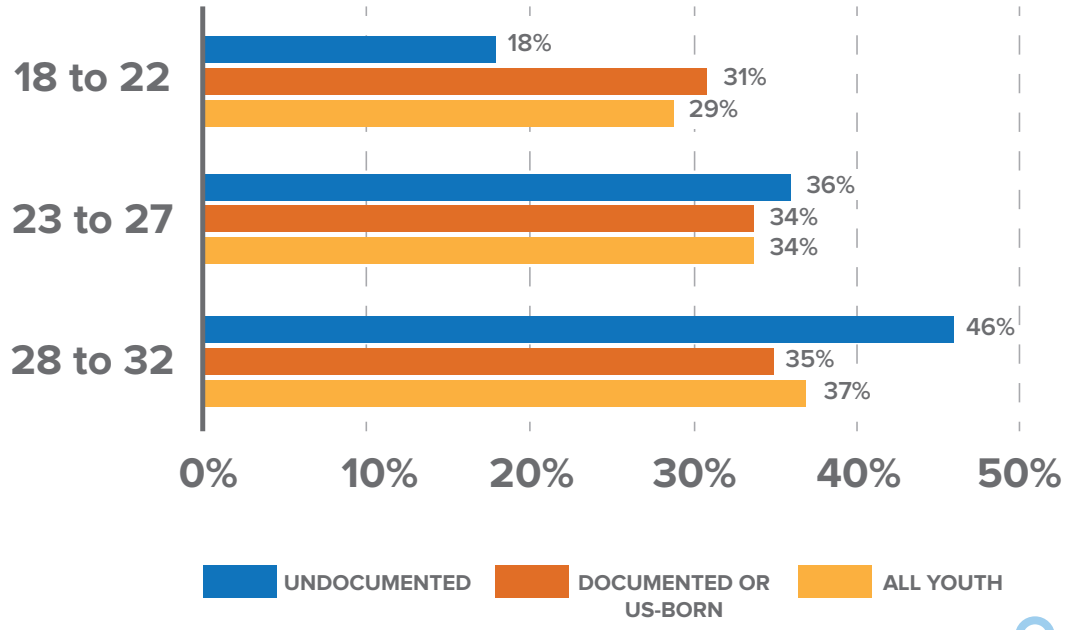
FIGURE 8: **Undocumented Youth in Silicon Valley**

14% of the half million young people in Silicon Valley are undocumented.

b. Age

Undocumented youth tend to be older. Almost half are 28-32, compared to one-third of US-born and documented youth, while one-third are in their mid twenties, and less than 20% are 18-22.

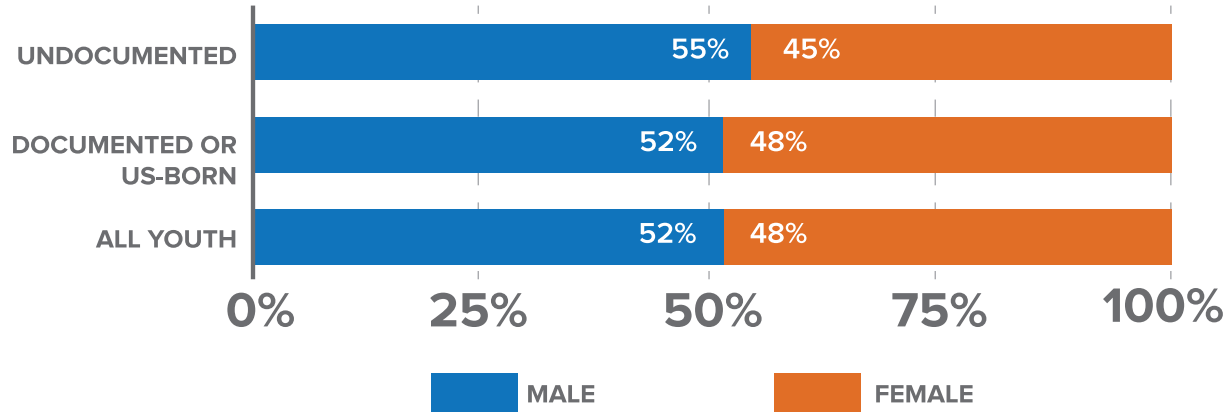
FIGURE 9: **Silicon Valley Youth Age Breakdown and by Immigration Status**



c. Gender

Just over half of undocumented youth are men, a slightly higher percent than other youth, and 45% are women.

FIGURE 10: **Silicon Valley Youth Gender Breakdown and by Immigration Status**



Building a Pathway to Fight Cancer

By Carmen Ayala and Marypaz Real

Luis Pimentel never saw being undocumented as an obstacle; instead, it was a motivation. He knew that it would complicate his path but also believed that through hard work, he could persevere. Luis moved to the United States when he was eleven, and his parents frequently reminded him that they endured the sacrifice of that migration so that he might succeed.

Luis grew up partly in east Menlo Park and went to Menlo Atherton High School where he participated in College Track, an after-school program focused on college preparation. When Luis started at UC Santa Cruz , he had a hard time finding scholarships, as nearly all required a social security number. He was unable to afford housing, and it was too far to commute from his parents' home. College Track was able to help Luis, along with other students in the program, afford a shared house close to campus.

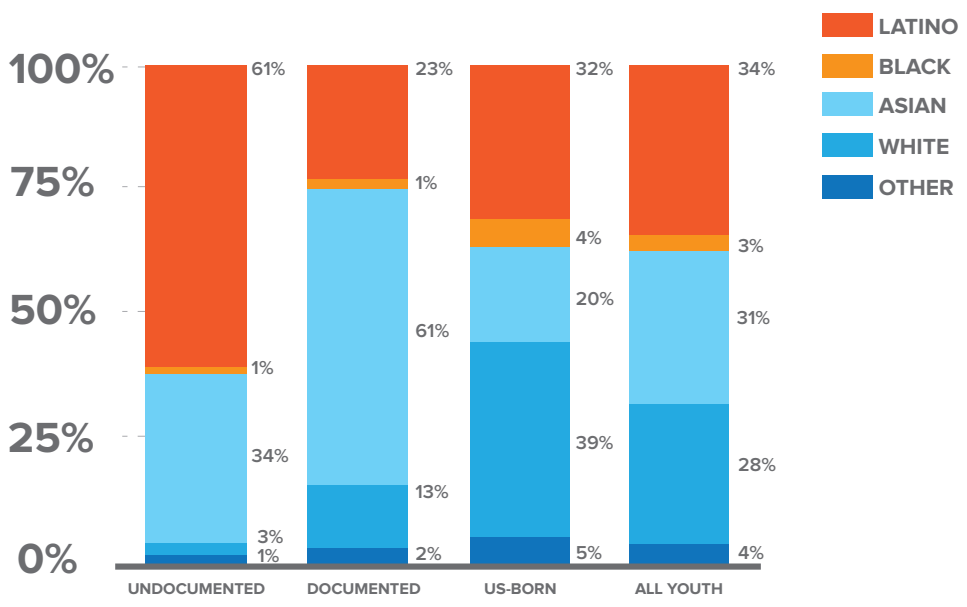
Though Luis had always wanted to practice law, when one of his close friends was diagnosed with cancer and passed away shortly thereafter, Luis changed his course. He decided then that he wanted to pursue a career in cancer research. Luis graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a degree in chemistry.

Luis was fortunate that DACA was implemented after he graduated, and he was able to obtain a work permit. His first job after college was with College Track, where he had an opportunity to network and land an internship. He interned at a cancer research center and then stayed on as a senior research associate. In spite of his undocumented status, Luis has worked extremely hard to achieve his goals from the time his family first migrated to the United States. He is committed to proving that his family's sacrifice was worth it.

d. Race / Ethnicity

A majority of undocumented young workers are Latino (61%) and Asian (34%).

FIGURE 11: **Silicon Valley Youth Race Breakdown and by Immigration Status**



e. Country of Birth

Over half of undocumented youth are from Mexico, followed by India (16%). Twenty percent come from the Philippines, China, El Salvador, Vietnam, and Guatemala.

TABLE 4: Top Ten Countries of Origin for Undocumented Youth

Mexico	53%
India	16%
Philippines	5%
China	5%
El Salvador	4%
Vietnam	3%
Guatemala	2%
Korea	1%
Honduras	1%
Brazil	1%

TABLE 5: Top Ten Countries of Origin for Documented Youth

India	18%
Mexico	17%
Vietnam	10%
Philippines	9%
China	8%
Taiwan	3%
Korea	3%
Hong Kong	2%
El Salvador	2%
Iran	2%

A Vietnamese Undocumented Story

By Anthony Phan

Robert Nguyen is a junior in high school in San Jose, California. When he was six years old, his parents traveled with him from Vietnam to San Jose on a tourist visa. Robert's dad had expressed pro democracy views on the internet, and the family feared persecution from the government if they returned home. The family had heard about people being sent to jail for expressing "anti government sentiments."

Robert's family decided to overstay their visa, which meant that the family became undocumented. Local authorities in Vietnam questioned Robert's family back in Vietnam about their whereabouts. Robert says, "We'd rather live without papers in America because we'd still be more free than back there."

Ironically, Robert's biggest challenge in finding acceptance has come from the Vietnamese American community. Many Vietnamese Americans who arrived in this country after the Vietnam War are distrustful of recent Vietnamese arrivals and associate them with the communist government from whom previous generations had fled. The distrust and resentment is compounded because of some recent immigrants' undocumented status.

When Robert was in elementary school, his family moved to another city because of their fear of deportation. Robert suffers from anxiety and had difficulty making friends. His best friend was another Vietnamese American boy named Jimmy, who shared his interest in the video game Pokémon. Robert's world came crashing down shortly after Jimmy's parents found out about Robert's status. Jimmy told Robert, "My mom and dad don't want us to play anymore, Robbie. They said you're with the communist cheaters, whatever that means."

Jimmy continued to sneak over and play Pokémon with Robert whenever he could. It was fine for awhile, until Jimmy's parents found out. One day, Jimmy's mom confronted Robert's mom while she was picking him up from school. The two women engaged in a heated argument. Robert and Jimmy kept playing Pokémon while their moms argued, but that was the last time they saw each other. Jimmy's mother was afraid that Robert was "brainwashing" her son and believed that Robert was responsible for encouraging Jimmy to sneak out of the house. Jimmy's dad worked for Homeland Security, and Jimmy's mom threatened to report Robert's family and have them deported.

Fearing deportation, Robert's family moved from San Jose to Westminster in Orange County, California. Even though they were in a conservative part of the state, they were more comfortable living in a large Vietnamese American community where there were opportunities for his parents to find work "under the table." Robert's dad worked in construction for a contractor who didn't ask questions, and his mom worked for tips at local restaurants. The family survived on these jobs for several years, until his dad was injured on the job. The family had no medical insurance, so Robert skipped school often to provide medical treatment for his dad based on "whatever the internet told (him) to do."

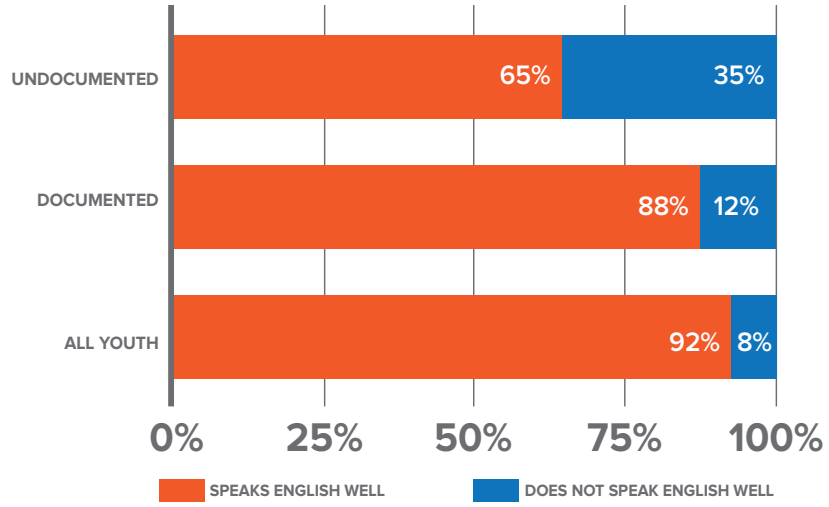
The family returned to San Jose after a friend of the family learned about their situation and offered financial assistance. Because of their financial problems, Robert has had to work in construction to help support the family. His demanding work schedule has caused him to fall behind in school. His anxiety and fear about his undocumented status prevented him from seeking any support.

Robert has struggled to fit in with his classmates, many of whom are college bound. They are "taking honors classes and getting straight A's." Robert is now a junior in high school, but he is not planning for college like most of his peers. He knows it is difficult to obtain financial aid because of his undocumented status, and he is afraid to ask for help. Robert says, "College is not for me. Maybe someday. But I need to take care of my family right now."

f. English Proficiency

Over one-third of undocumented youth do not speak English well or at all, a rate three times higher than documented immigrant youth.

FIGURE 12: **Silicon Valley Youth English Proficiency by Immigration Status**



Technology Companies Should Invest in Communities, Not Push Them Out

By Rosamia Valdez

Felicita Valdez is a hard-working wife, a mother of two DACA recipients, and an undocumented woman who came to the United States from Lima, Peru, nearly eleven years ago. She is unafraid to tell her story. Felicita came to the United States so that her children could graduate from college, pursue a successful career, and build a better future. To that end, she has helped provide her daughter Rosamia, a junior at CSU Northridge, and her youngest son, a junior at the public charter school East Palo Alto Academy, with the resources vital to their education.

The gentrification of Silicon Valley has accelerated at a historic rate, and Felicita is concerned that one day soon, her family will not be able to afford their rent and will be forced to move to a neighboring city like Modesto or Stockton. She also expressed her frustration with the hiring practices of the large corporations she's surrounded by, such as Facebook, which is five minutes away from her home: "I think that there is no help because if we are going to look for a job, the first thing they are going to ask for is our documents. If we don't have them, they won't give us a job. Then for us, there is no possibility."

East Palo Alto, which she considers her home, has undergone rapid gentrification, which she feels excludes its longtime residents. Facebook, for instance, has profoundly complicated the life of her community. "Facebook should construct low-income housing, and a portion of jobs should be for us, the people who really want to stay in East Palo Alto because this is our city. It is the place where many of us have established ourselves; it is a small place where most of us know each other. I think that if they [Facebook] want to do something for us just as there is housing for people with money, they should collaborate and invest in the people that live here."

Felicita though is also attuned to the services the county provides its undocumented population, especially in contrast to neighboring counties: "In this county, there is a lot of help, especially in terms of health. All people without documents can have insurance. Also, a child without papers can go to school, receive scholarships, food services, and many other services, and in that aspect there is a lot of help, and I cannot complain."

According to Felicita, "We are hardworking people. My husband and I came ten years ago with my kids and in these ten years in this country, I haven't begged for anything to anyone, nor help from the government, and I can be a witness to how hard work can help your kids get ahead and go to a university."

Notes

1. Connie M. Razza, *A Hidden Crisis: Underemployment in Silicon Valley's Hourly Workforce*, The Center for Popular Democracy, Working Partnerships USA, Fair Workweek Initiative, April 2016, p. 4, https://www.wpusa.org/ Publication/A_Hidden_Crisis.pdf.

2. "Low-wage" is defined as two-thirds of the median hourly wage for full-time workers. San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties' median hourly wage for full-time workers was $31.65 in 2016

3. Chris Benner and Kyle Neering, *Tech's Invisible Workforce*, Working Partnerships USA and Silicon Valley Rising, March 2016, p. 4, http://www.siliconvalleyrising.org/TechsInvisibleWorkforce.pdf.

4. Ibid, 3.

5. *San Mateo County Immigrant Focus*, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, 2013, https://www.siliconvalleycf.org/sites/default/files/publications/svcf_san_mateo_county_immigrant_focus.pdf.

6. UCLA Labor Center analysis of Center for Migration Studies (2014) estimates of the unauthorized Population; dataset based on the augmented American Community Survey datafiles hosted by IPUMS (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series), 2010 to 2013. See methodology section for more information.

7. *The Economic Effects of Administrative Action on Immigration*, The White House, November 2014, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/cea_2014_economic_effects_of_immigration_executive_action.pdf; and Roberto G. Gonzales, Veronica Terriquez, and Stephen P. Ruszczyk, "Becoming DACAmented: Assessing the Short-Term Benefits of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)," *American Behavioral Scientist,* October 2014, doi:10.1177/0002764214550288.

8. Alexia Fernandez Campbell, "How California Is Making Life Easier for Undocumented Immigrants," *National Journal*, November 18 2014, https://www.nationaljournal.com/s/35326.

9. A detailed description of the project and the methodology is available from Robert Warren, "Democratizing Data about Unauthorized Residents in the United States: Estimates and Public-Use Data, 2010 to 2013," *Journal on Migration and Human Security* 2, no. 4 (2014): 305–328, http://dx.doi.org/10.14240/jmhs.v2i4.38.

10. Razza, *A Hidden Crisis,* 7.

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