PLACE MATTERS FOR HEALTH IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY: ENSURING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOOD HEALTH FOR ALL

Prepared by

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies San Joaquin Valley PLACE MATTERS Team

In Conjunction with

The Center on Human Needs, Virginia Commonwealth University Virginia Network for Geospatial Health Research

CONTEXT AND REPORT FOCUS

- Place Matters: national program, 16 communities, focus on the social determinants of health race and class inequities in health and well-being
- Place Matters: San Joaquin Valley joins regional and local health and development efforts in advancing equity in all policies and programs.
- Multiple prior reports have painted a troubling picture of overall population health and well-being in the region and identified multiple causes.
- The Community Health Equity Report explores how social, economic and environmental differences among Valley zip codes are linked to health and well-being and the emerging consensus on how to improve outcomes for all.

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of San Joaquin Valley, California, and United States

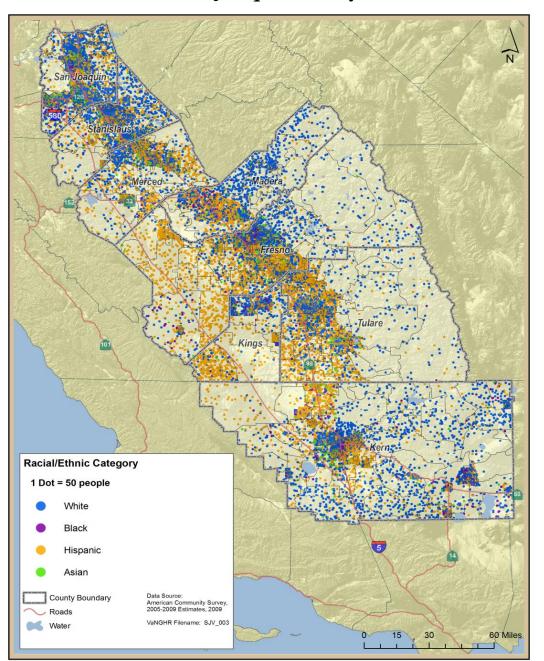
	San Joaquin Valley	California	United States
Population (2009)(a)	3,888,304	36,961,664	307,006,556
Population Density (2009)(b)	248.8	239.5	86.7
Race/Ethinicity (2009)(a)			
White	38.2%	41.5%	64.9%
Black	4.5%	5.8%	12.1%
Hispanic	48.5%	37.0%	15.8%
Asian	5.7%	12.3%	4.4%
Other	3.1%	3.3%	0.7%
Foreign Born (2009)(a)	21.4%	26.9%	12.5%

(a) Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey

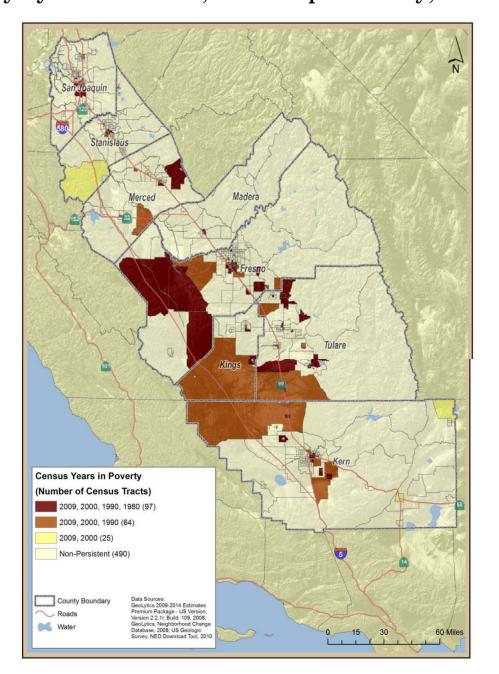
(b) Source: 2009 Geolytics Projection

Note: "Other" includes American Indian and Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and those who identified themselves as some other race or two or more races. Racial groups include the non-Hispanic population only; Hispanic can include any racial group.

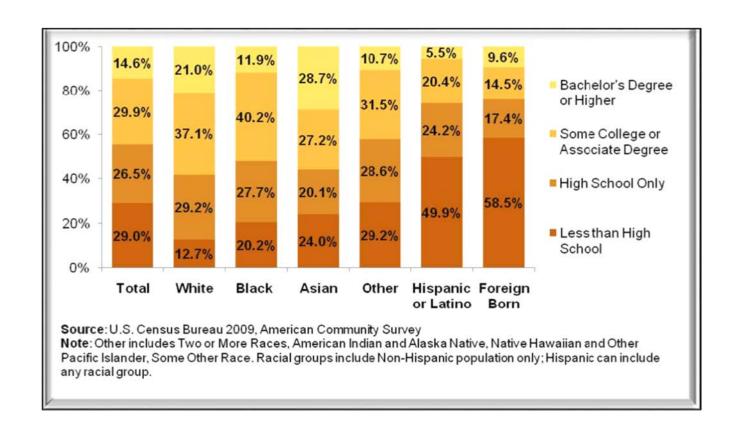
Racial and Ethnic Distribution, San Joaquin Valley, 2005-2009



Persistent Poverty by Census Tract, San Joaquin Valley, 1970-2009

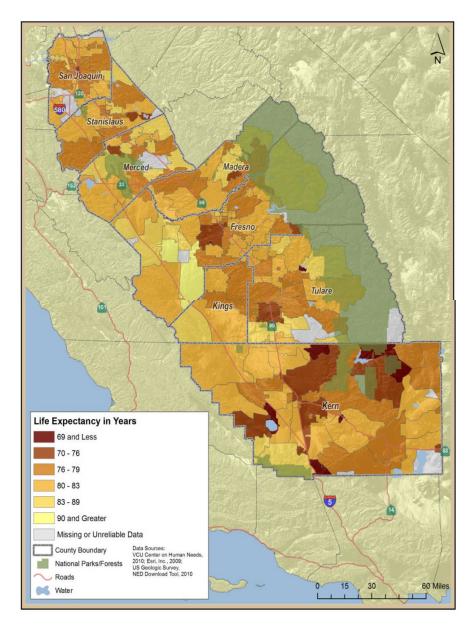


Educational Attainment in San Joaquin Valley, 2009



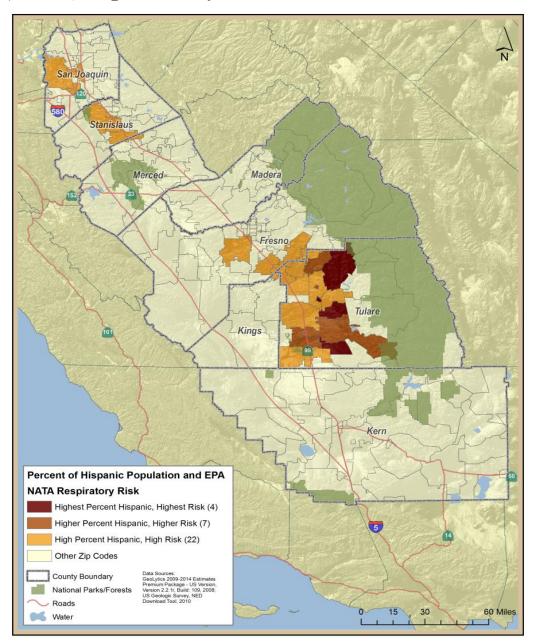


Life Expectancy by Zip Code, San Joaquin Valley 1999-2007





Elevated Respiratory Risk (2002) and High Percentage Hispanic Population by Zip Code (2009), San Joaquin Valley



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Neighborhood socio-economic and environmental factors are strongly linked with premature mortality in the San Joaquin Valley.
- Neighborhoods with greater poverty, lower educational attainment, and more racial/ethnic segregation face greater risks for premature death.

AN EMERGING CONSENSUS ON CAUSES

- Reinforces findings from a growing and consistent literature across diverse domains--- air and water, transportation, housing, economic development, education, and health/development services.
- SJVs health inequalities are partly explained by historical forces and current policies that concentrate low-income people, people of color, and recent immigrants in urban and rural areas that lack many of the most fundamental supports for health and wellbeing.
- Regional and local programs and policies do not consistently focus on achieving equity by improving living conditions and life opportunities in the communities facing the worst conditions.

AN EMERGING CONSENSUS ON SOLUTIONS

- Equity In All Policies initiatives are being adopted in communities nationwide.
- Counties and cities that adopt **Equity In All Policies** are required to consider the impacts of proposed actions on equity in life opportunities, health, and well-being and to adjust action choices to maximize this goal.
- Achieving equity in health and well-being requires a twopronged strategy:
 - Create physical and institutional infrastructure for access to basic determinants of health and well-being
 - Support leadership in traditionally excluded communities so they have the political power to ensure that policies and practices respond to their interests