

2017 San Joaquin Valley Survey - Results on Deportations

Nearly Half of San Joaquin Valley Adults are Worried about Deportations

In a new survey of the San Joaquin Valley, 46 percent of adults in the region worry that they, a family member, or a close friend could be deported. Fifty-three percent of adults in the Valley, however, are not concerned that more deportations could affect them or someone they know. The Migration Policy Institute estimates that California has 3 million undocumented immigrants residing in the state and that 12 percent, or 356,000 of them, live in the San Joaquin Valley.

Latinos disproportionately report the highest levels of concern over deportations. Sixty-eight percent said that they worry “a lot” or “some” that they or someone they know could be deported. This percentage is considerably higher than the 47 percent of Latinos nationally that expressed concern in a Pew Research Center survey in January. Non-white, non-Latino groups, including blacks and Asians, report higher levels of concern about deportations (33 percent) than whites (21 percent).

Not surprisingly, Trump supporters are not worried about deportations (90 percent said “not much” or “not at all”). In contrast, a significant majority of non-Trump supporters are concerned about deportations (63 percent). There are also clear differences across party lines. A majority of both Democrats (63 percent) and Independents (54 percent) are concerned that they or someone they know could be deported, while most Republicans, 83 percent, are not concerned.

Among those who reported voting in the 2016 presidential election, 33 percent said they worry about deportations. On the other hand, 72 percent of non-voters worry that they, a family member, or a close friend could be deported.

Table 1: Percentage Who Worry about More Deportations

	All	Trump Supporter		Party Registration			Voted in Presidential Election		Race/Ethnicity		
		Yes	No	Dem	Rep	Ind.	Yes	No	White	Latino	Other
A lot	31	4	43	44	8	30	19	53	9	49	20
Some	15	5	20	19	8	17	14	19	12	19	13
Not much	12	12	11	14	13	10	12	7	9	11	17
Not at all	41	78	25	22	70	44	54	21	69	20	48
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2

Note: Trump supporter is respondent that indicated that he/she voted for Donald Trump or would have voted for Donald Trump if she/he had voted in the election. Other for race/ethnicity includes blacks and Asians. Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding.

A Majority in the San Joaquin Valley Think that More Deportations Will Have a Negative Impact on the Region's Economy

The survey of the San Joaquin Valley also found that a large majority of adults, 63 percent, think that more deportations will have a negative impact on the region's economy. In contrast, 19 percent of respondents think that more deportations will have a positive effect, and 11 percent think deportations will have no impact. These views likely reflect the concern that more deportations could hurt the agricultural sector of the Valley economy. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that about 56 percent of California's hired crop workers are undocumented.

Among all racial and ethnic groups, either a plurality or a majority believe that more deportations would negatively impact the economy. Forty-five percent of white respondents, 75 percent of Latinos, and 63 percent of non-white, non-Latinos think that more deportations will have negative consequences. An almost equal percentage of white respondents (26 percent) and non-white, non-Latino respondents (27 percent), or about 1 out of 4, thinks more deportations will be good for the region's economy.

With regard to party registration, Democrats are almost unanimous in thinking that more deportations will negatively impact the region's economy (80 percent), while Republicans are divided on the issue. Thirty-four percent of Republicans think that the impact will be negative, while 29 percent think more deportations will have no impact on the region. Twenty-eight percent of Republicans think more deportations will be good.

Trump supporters are also divided. A slight plurality of respondents, 38 percent, think that increasing deportations will have a positive effect the Valley economy, 27 percent think the impact of more deportations will be negative, and 24 percent think that deportations will have no effect.

Table 2: Impact of More Deportations on the Economy of the Region

	All	Trump Supporter		Party Registration			Voted in Presidential Election		Race/Ethnicity		
		No	Yes	Dem	Rep	Ind.	Yes	No	White	Latino	Other
Positive	19	10	38	12	28	19	24	8	26	12	27
Negative	63	79	27	80	34	68	53	81	45	75	63
No impact	11	5	24	4	29	4	14	6	20	8	2
Don't know	8	5	12	4	9	9	9	5	9	6	9

Note: Trump supporter is respondent that indicated that he/she voted for Donald Trump or would have voted for Donald Trump if she/he had voted in the election. Other for race/ethnicity includes blacks and Asians. Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Methodology of Survey

The findings in this report are based on a survey of a random sample of adults from the San Joaquin Valley, which includes eight counties: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare. A total of 541 adults were interviewed in Spanish or English. Eighty percent of interviews were conducted in English, while 20 percent were conducted in Spanish, based on the respondent's preference. Sixty-two percent were interviewed on landlines and 38 percent were interviewed on cell phones. Interviews took on average 13.6 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekday nights and Sunday evenings, from March 13-26, 2017. Up to 5 attempts were made to reach each randomly selected number on different days during the interview period. Dr. Annabella España translated the survey questions into Spanish.

The final sample was weighted by age, gender, education, and race/ethnicity to match the characteristics of the San Joaquin Valley adult population. The Institute used the U.S Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey population estimates to compare regional demographics to the characteristics of the survey sample in order to assure representativeness. The margin of error for the survey is ± 4.2 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the unweighted sample of 541 adults. That is, we are 95 percent confident the results will reflect the population's responses ± 4.2 percentage points, if all adults in the San Joaquin Valley were interviewed. There are other possible sources of error beyond sampling variability, such as question wording, question sequencing, and survey timing.

Additional information about our methodology is available upon request from Dr. Lisa Bryant at lbryant@mail.fresnostate.edu or 559.278.7612.

Questions Asked

Thinking about immigration, how much do you worry that yourself, a family member or a close friend could be deported? Do you worry a lot, some, not much or not at all?

- A lot
- Some
- Not much
- Not at all
- Don't know/Refuse to Answer

Do you think more deportations have a positive impact, negative impact, or no impact on the economy of the region?

- Positive
- Negative
- No impact
- Don't know/Unsure

About the Institute for Leadership and Public Policy

Under the College of Social Sciences, the new Institute for Leadership and Public Policy is dedicated to conducting policy-relevant research and offering student training and career development to inspire public leadership in the San Joaquin Valley. Financial support for the Institute has been provided by a generous gift from PG&E and Chevron.