

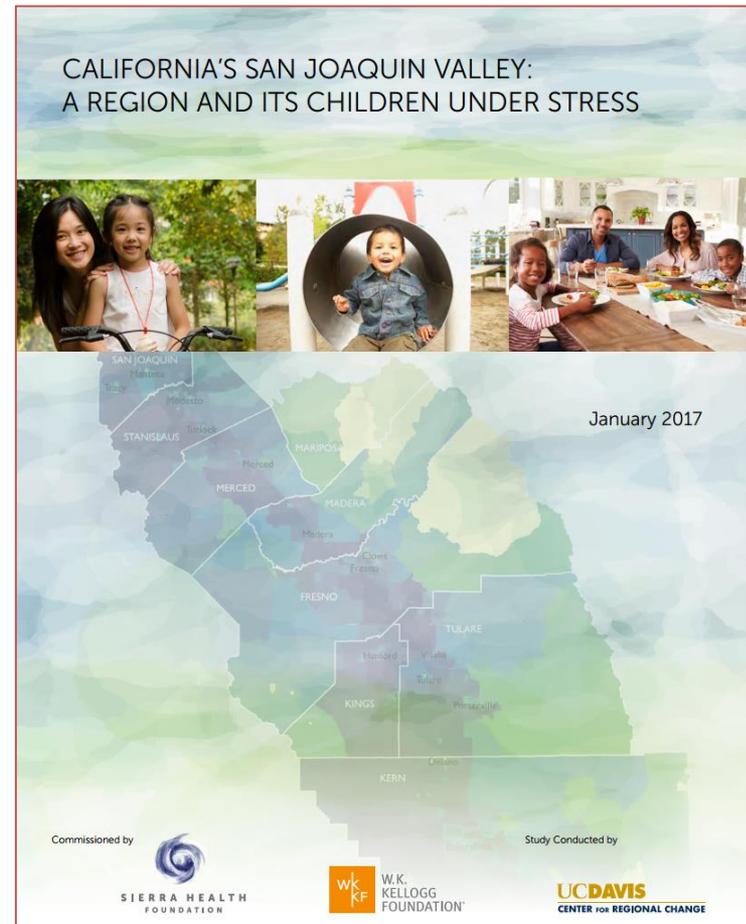
California's San Joaquin Valley: A Region and Its Children Under Stress

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Objectives

- Document conditions in the San Joaquin Valley
- Elevate community voice
- Inform decision-making and investment that promotes equity
- Highlight the significance of place



“Families face multiple barriers such as food deserts, concentrated areas of high crime, high poverty neighborhoods, and institutionalized racism. Where families live determine their opportunities.”

- Fresno County resident

Project Overview

Goal:

Identify challenges and opportunities for improving the well-being of children, and assess community priorities for policy and systems change.

Methods:

- 10 community meetings with San Joaquin Valley residents
- 28 key informant interviews with local leaders and advocates
- Online survey of 208 individuals working across sectors
- 4 town hall meetings with community stakeholders
- Analysis of secondary data from public sources

Community Priorities

Early Education

- Access to high quality educational opportunities
- Social exclusion and discrimination
- Exposure to trauma and school discipline

Healthy Food

- Access to fresh and nutritious food
- Affordability

Healthy Environments

- Air pollution
- Unsafe drinking water
- Pesticide Exposure

Equitable Land-Use Planning

- Green space and parks
- Affordable housing
- Transportation access
- Community Safety

Community Vision



“In order to have the resources driven in these communities, we need representatives who really understand the needs. And nobody really understands the needs of these residents more than themselves.”

- Community organizer

Recommendations

Build community capacity to influence local decision-making

- Support grassroots community organizing
- Empower residents to participate at the local level
- Consideration of language barriers, cultural barriers, and community isolation

Support regional planning and policy efforts to address land use challenges and create more livable environments for local residents

- Engage with existing state policies that support regional land use, transportation, and housing planning (e.g., SB 375, SB 535, SB 1000)
- Land use influences pollution burden, water quality, community safety, access to food, housing, healthcare, education, and community resources

Address barriers to healthcare, healthy food, and education services through cross-sector collaboration

- Joint-service provision (e.g. multi-service hubs, parent education, etc.)
- Strengthen community outreach to improve service awareness

“The conditions here took decades to be created and are now embedded in the built environment, policies, dynamics in homes and neighborhoods, and learned generational behaviors and coping mechanisms. They will take decades to undo.”

- Health policy advocate

THANK YOU

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Full Report Available Online:

<https://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/project/region-and-its-children-under-stress>