

## Immigration Enforcement During the COVID-19 Pandemic

July 17, 2020

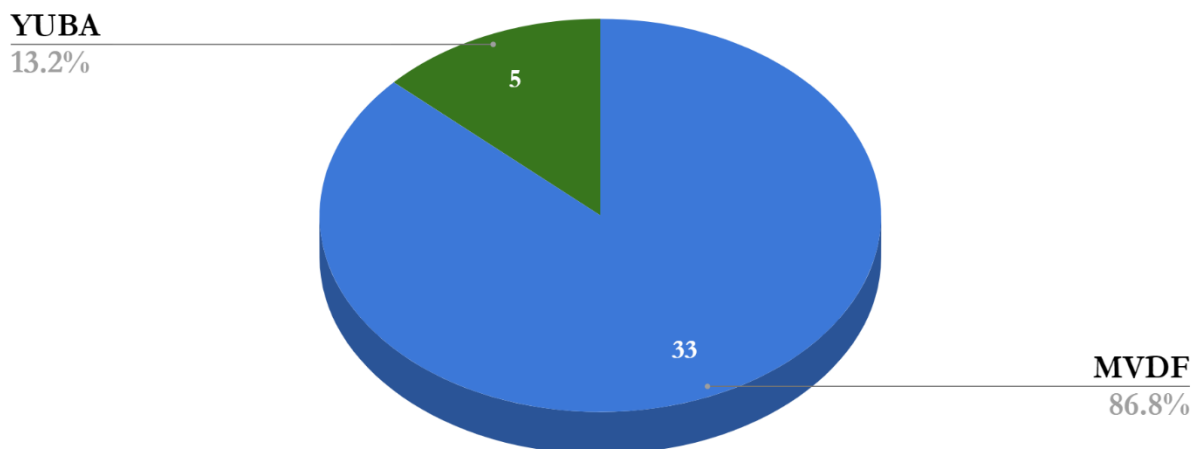
### Addendum

The initial report *"Immigration Enforcement During the COVID-19 Pandemic"* last updated on June 16, 2020 analyzed immigration enforcement in the Northern California Region for the period covering March 1, 2020 until May 23, 2020. Since then, legal service organizations members of the California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice (CCIJ) have continued to serve detained community members transferred to Yuba County Jail and Mesa Verde Detention Facility. The information presented in this addendum is based on 38 cases identified covering the period of May 24, 2020 until July 17, 2020. Furthermore, it provides an updated version of a map detailing immigration arrests and transfers by county since March 1, 2020 and it incorporates recently published Values Act data to provide a comparison between current enforcement trends during the pandemic and past transfers.

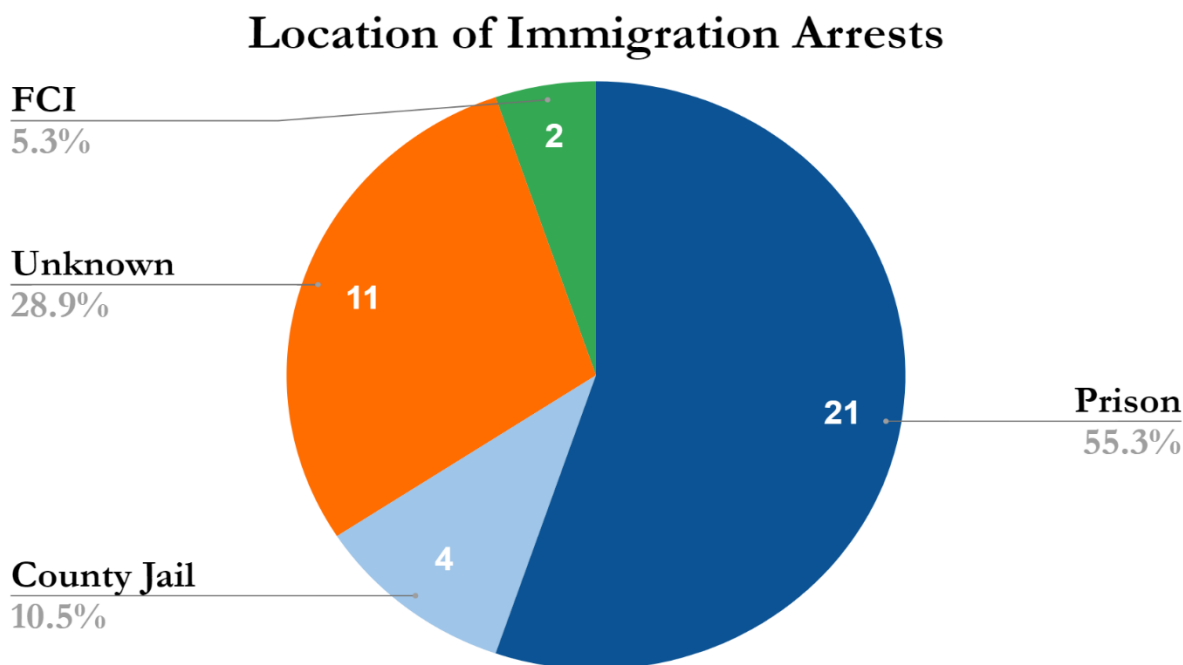
### 1. Immigration Arrests Trends

The vast majority of community members detained during this most recent period were transferred to Mesa Verde Detention Facility. A substantially fewer number of community members were transferred to Yuba County Jail, denoting a significant contrast between immigration transfers to a privately-owned detention facility and a county jail. As will be detailed in Section 3, a substantially fewer number of transfers into Yuba County Jail does not necessarily mean that the risk of spreading COVID-19 has been similarly reduced.

### Immigration Transfers by Facility (Total=38)



Transfers to ICE from state prison continued to be one of the main locations from which immigration arrests and subsequent transfers occurred. It was not possible to identify the exact location of the immigration arrests for 11 cases due to communication limitations that prevented a full legal screening with these community members.



## 2. Immigration Arrests Locations

The known locations of immigration arrests are listed below. The majority of immigration transfers occurred from state prisons or federal correctional institutions. In a few instances, community members were transferred from county jails or detained right outside them. When it was not possible to identify the exact immigration arrest location, but it was possible to infer based on the information available that a transfer from a state prison or federal correctional institution occurred, an asterisk “\*” was used.

Location	Total
Avenal State Prison (ASP)	2
California City Correctional Facility (CAC)	1
California Correctional Institution (CCI)	2
California Health Care Facility (CHCF)	1
Corcoran State Prison (CSP-COR)	1

Elmwood Correctional Facility Parking Lot	1
Federal Correctional Institution Victorville	1
Federal Correctional Institution*	1
Folsom State Prison (FSP)	4
Mule Creek State Prison (MCSP)	1
North Kern State Prison (NKSP)	2
Pleasant Valley State Prison (PVSP)	1
Prison*	3
San Quentin State Prison (SQ)	1
Taft (MCCF)	2
Unknown	11
Wasco State Prison-Reception Center (WSP)	1
Wayne Brown Correctional Facility	1
Yuba County Jail	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>38</b>

### 3. Transfers from California State Prisons or Jails with Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

Based on information compiled by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations (CDCR)<sup>1</sup> and independent research, the state and county jail facilities below have confirmed COVID-19 cases as of July 17, 2020. Throughout the period of May 24, 2020 until July 17, 2020, community members were transferred from these state and local facilities into immigration detention. In one instance, it was possible to identify that a community member was present at San Quentin State Prison (SQ) during their initial COVID-19 outbreak before being transferred to Folsom State Prison (FSP) and then to Mesa Verde Detention Facility. Such transfers between prisons and into immigration detention facilities exacerbate the risk of community spread given how virulent COVID-19 is in enclosed spaces where social distancing is not possible. Even one instance of a transfer from a facility with confirmed COVID-19 cases into immigration detention poses an unacceptable risk to public health. These transfers are a threat to public health, detained community members, and surrounding communities throughout the state.

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<sup>1</sup> California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations (CDCR). <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/covid19/population-status-tracking/>

<i>Location with Confirmed COVID Cases</i>	MVDF TRANSFER	YUBA TRANSFER	TOTAL
Avenal State Prison (ASP)	1	1	2
California City Correctional Facility (CAC)	1		1
California Correctional Institution (CCI)	2		2
California Health Care Facility (CHCF)	1		1
Corcoran State Prison (CSP-COR)	1		1
Elmwood Correctional Facility Parking Lot <sup>2</sup>	1		1
Folsom State Prison (FSP)	4		4
North Kern State Prison (NKSP)	1	1	2
San Quentin State Prison (SQ)	1		1
Wasco State Prison-Reception Center (WSP)	1		1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>

#### 4. Updated: Mapping the ‘Hot Spots’ of Immigration Enforcement

The previous version of this map was based on 112 immigration arrests that occurred in the state of California where the exact location of the immigration arrest was determined. The updated map on page 6 is based on 135 known immigration arrests covering the period of March 1, 2020 until July 17, 2020. Kern County, where Mesa Verde Detention Facility is located, stands out as a hot spot of immigration enforcement of its own. The number of immigration arrests identified in Kern County (24) are nearly double the number of immigration arrests identified in Fresno County (13). Additional counties where there is significant ICE enforcement activity based on identified immigration arrests are Alameda (13), Sacramento (11), Monterey (9), Marin (8), and Tuolumne (7). What sets these counties apart from other counties is their close proximity to ICE detention facilities (Mesa Verde and Yuba), processing offices (Fresno, Morgan Hill, Sacramento), field offices (Bakersfield and San Francisco), and the San Francisco immigration court. From a logistical perspective, it is easier for ICE to operate in these counties or surrounding counties to conduct enforcement operations, which as previously mentioned, are a threat to public health.

#### 5. Values Act: Mapping Immigration Transfers in 2019

How do the current enforcement trends during COVID-19 compare to historical trends? Data recently published under the Values Act offers some insights into how different counties transferred community members into immigration detention in 2019. Last year, there were 503 reported transfers and the data set is described in the following manner:

<sup>2</sup> CBS SF Bay Area. <https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2020/05/28/santa-clara-sheriff-covid-19-cases-main-jail-elmwood-correctional-facility-minimum-camp/>

“The Department of Justice (DOJ) Criminal Justice Statistics Center (CJSC) collects information on the number of transfers to immigration pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of California Government Code section 7284.6. The values act transfer data are collected from various Law Enforcement Entities (LEA) throughout the State on an annual basis. The data set provides summary statistical data on the total number of transfers to immigration.”<sup>3</sup>

Compared to the Values Act data in 2019, current immigration enforcement trends during COVID-19 pandemic align for some counties in the Central Valley, the Bay Area, and Sacramento. However, there seems to be much greater enforcement and transfers occurring during the COVID-19 pandemic in counties in the Central Coast, like Monterey, and other counties, such as Tuolumne and Marin, than was ever reported for these counties in all of 2019 under the Values Act. Please keep in mind that the Values Act map has categories depicting much greater values than the Hot Spot map and there are gaps between categories. For example, the first category depicts counties with 1-5 reported transfers while the second category depicts counties with 14-29 reported transfers. The lack of overlap in categories is due to the fact that, for example, there were no counties with 6-13 reported transfers under the Values Act.

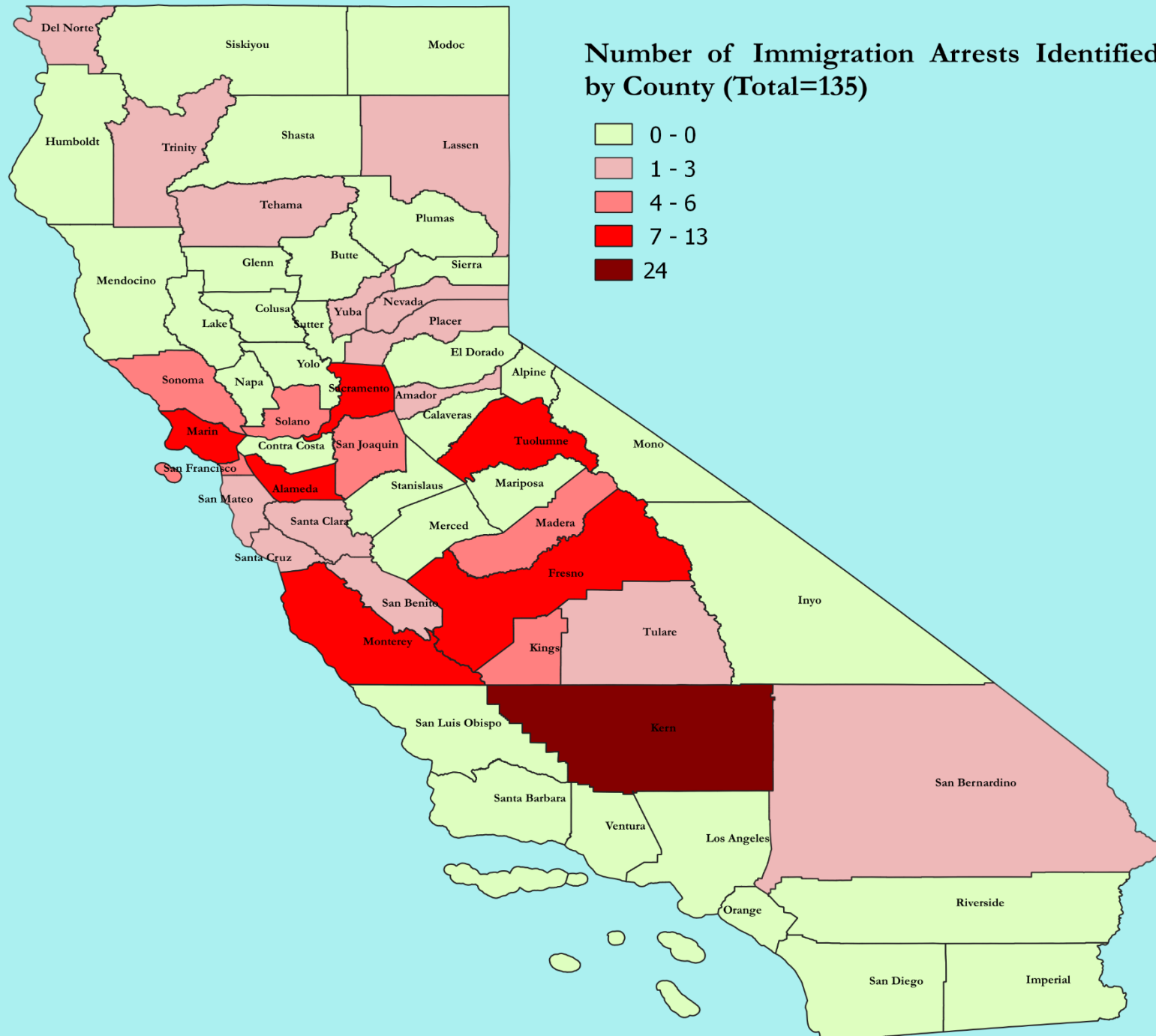
## 6. Conclusion

There is a very concerning trend of immigration transfers occurring from California prison and jail facilities with confirmed COVID-19 cases into Mesa Verde Detention Facility and Yuba County Jail. As of July 21, 2020, there have been 9 staff members at Mesa Verde Detention Facility who have tested positive for COVID-19. ICE and GEO Group, the private operator of Mesa Verde Detention Facility, have continued to carelessly operate as shown by the number of transfers since late May and the consequences of their actions are becoming apparent. But these transfers would not have occurred without the cooperation of CDCR and local law enforcement agencies that have facilitated ICE’s enforcement activities. It is clear based on Values Act data, that ICE’s enforcement activities during the COVID-19 pandemic have extended to other counties where the reported numbers of transfers in 2019 have been very low or none at all and have continued in counties with a historically high level of immigration enforcement. ICE’s continued enforcement activities will continue to threaten the public health of counties and communities throughout the state, as well as the community members detained at their facilities.

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<sup>3</sup> California Department of Justice (DOJ) Criminal Justice Statistics Center (CJSC). [https://data-openjustice.doj.ca.gov/sites/default/files/dataset/2020-07/The%20Values%20Act%20%28SB54%29%20Transfers%20Context\\_062519.pdf](https://data-openjustice.doj.ca.gov/sites/default/files/dataset/2020-07/The%20Values%20Act%20%28SB54%29%20Transfers%20Context_062519.pdf). Data set available at <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/data> under “Values Act Transfer Data.”

## Mapping Immigration Enforcement During the COVID-19 Pandemic (March 1-July 17)



## Values Act: Mapping Immigration Transfers in 2019

