

# Immigration Enforcement During the COVID-19 Pandemic

May 27, 2020

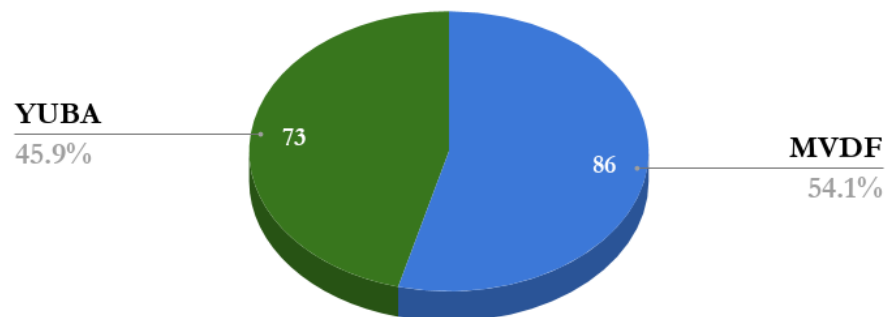
## Executive Summary:

Immigration enforcement in the Northern California Region during the COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly high at state prisons and county jails. Counties in close proximity to ICE's detention and enforcement infrastructure, such as detention centers and processing centers, have experienced higher levels of enforcement during this pandemic. Yuba County Jail and Mesa Verde Detention Facility (MVDF) respectively have capacity for approximately 200 and 400 beds. Based on absolute numbers, this report analyzes immigration arrests for just over 25% of the total possible detained population. However, based on estimates derived from ongoing litigation efforts, the immigration arrests analyzed could represent anywhere from 45% to 50% of the currently detained population. Therefore, the information presented herein provides insights into immigration enforcement trends during the COVID-19 pandemic and specifically details ICE's enforcement activities in the region.

## 1. Introduction

During the period covering March 1, 2020 until May 23, 2020, legal service organizations members of the California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice (CCIJ) provided assistance to 159 community members detained at Yuba County Jail and Mesa Verde Detention Facility. During this period, local and federal agencies continued to carry out immigration arrests throughout the state of California and outside the state despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Through a detailed analysis of where these immigration arrests took place, the agencies involved, and the tactics employed, it is possible to discern patterns of immigration enforcement during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the limitations faced in providing assistance to anyone currently detained in the Northern California Region, the following analysis is based on information obtained from 73 community members served at Yuba County Jail and 86 community members served at Mesa Verde Detention Facility.

**Immigration Arrests by Facility (Total=159)**



## 2. Immigration Arrest Trends

The immigration arrests identified were coded into general categories to identify the most prevalent locations for immigration arrests and subsequent transfers into immigration detention. Accordingly, immigration arrests at state prisons, federal correctional institutions, and county jails make up 61.64% of all immigration arrests identified. Individuals apprehended at or near the border who were then transferred to an immigration detention facility in Northern California constituted 9.43% of all immigration arrests identified. Furthermore, immigration arrests at county courthouses, the homes of community members, and through traffic stops constituted 8.80% of all immigration arrests identified. As will be demonstrated in the following sections, these arrest locations represent the immigration detention pipeline that enables these two immigration detention facilities to continue incarcerating community members during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

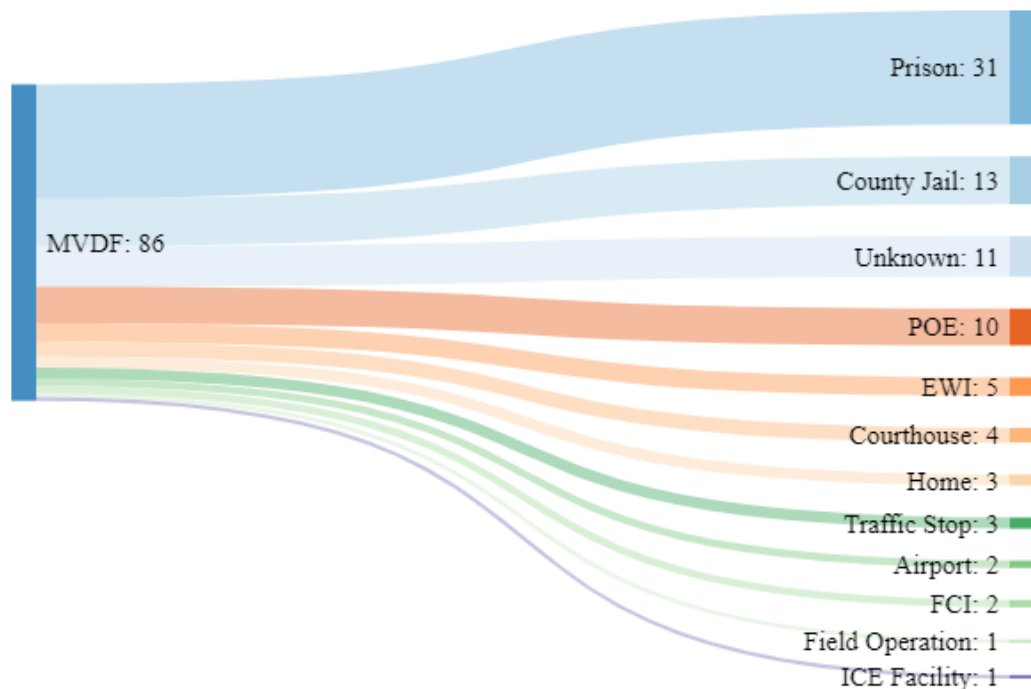
<i>Category of Immigration Arrest</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Airport	3	1.89%
County Jail	38	23.90%
Courthouse	5	3.14%
DEA	3	1.89%
EWI (Entry Without Inspection)	5	3.14%
FBI	1	0.63%
FCI (Federal Correctional Institution)	4	2.52%
Field Operation	1	0.63%
Home	4	2.52%
ICE Facility	1	0.63%
POE (Port Of Entry)	10	6.29%
Prison	56	35.22%
Traffic Stop	5	3.14%
U.S. Marshals	1	0.63%
Unknown	22	13.84%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### 2.1 Visualization of Transfers by Facility

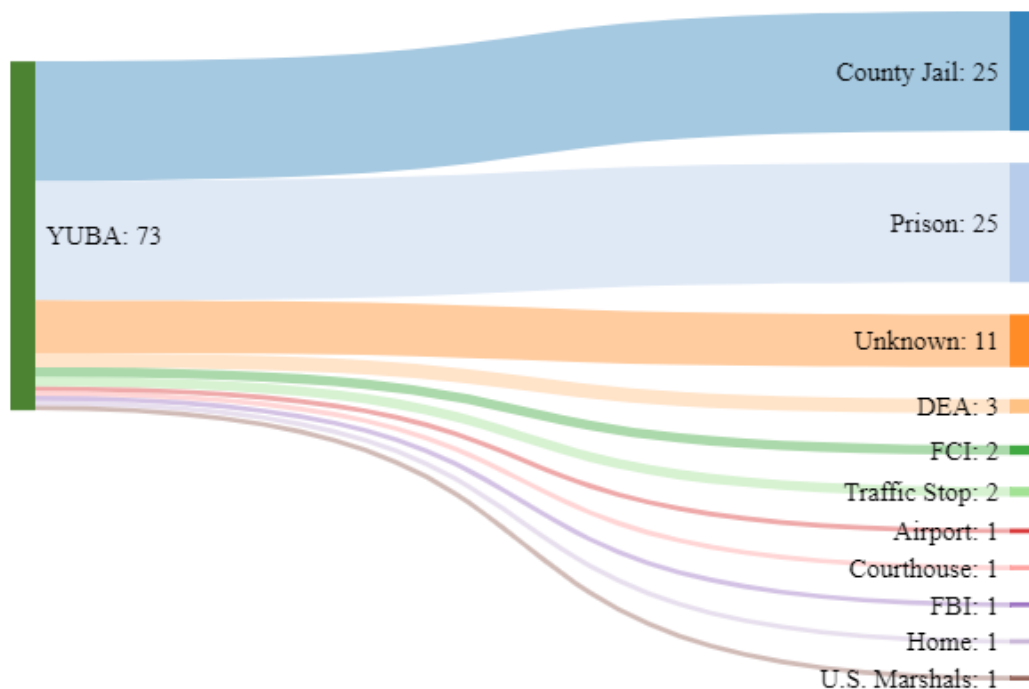
The diagrams below visually demonstrate the ‘flow’ of the immigration detention pipeline and they provide insight into how these two immigration detention facilities have filled up their bed space during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Immigration arrests at state prisons and county jails make

up a disproportionately large percentage of the detention pipeline. No other identified source of the detention pipeline comes close to the level of immigration arrests that occur at state prisons and county jails.

**Figure 1:** Overall Transfers into Mesa Verde Detention Facility



**Figure 2:** Overall Transfers into Yuba County Jail



### 3. Prison Transfers

Transfers from state prisons into Yuba County Jail and Mesa Verde Detention Facility accounted for 35.22% of all immigration arrests identified. The table below provides a more concise breakdown of the state prisons identified. When it was not possible to identify the exact state prison, but it was possible to infer based on the information available that a transfer from a state prison occurred, an asterisk “\*” was used.

<i>Location</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
California Correctional Center (CCC)	1	1.79%
California Correctional Institution (CCI)	2	3.57%
California State Prison Solano (SOL)	3	5.36%
Corcoran State Prison (CSP-COR)	1	1.79%
Correctional Training Facility (CTF)	1	1.79%
Deuel Vocational Institution (DVI)	2	3.57%
Folsom State Prison (FSP)	6	10.71%
Golden State Modified Community Correctional Facility (GSMCCF)	1	1.79%
Kern Valley State Prison (KVSP)	2	3.57%
Mule Creek State Prison (MCSP)	1	1.79%
Pelican Bay State Prison (PBSP)	1	1.79%
Pleasant Valley State Prison (PVSP)	2	3.57%
Prison*	10	17.86%
Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP)	3	5.36%
San Quentin State Prison (SQ)	4	7.14%
Shafter Modified Community Correctional Facility (MCCF)	3	5.36%
Sierra Conservation Center (SCC)	7	12.50%
Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison, Corcoran (SATF-CSP)	1	1.79%
Taft (MCCF)	3	5.36%
Valley State Prison (VSP)	2	3.57%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

#### 4. County Jail Transfers

Transfers from county jails into Yuba County Jail and Mesa Verde Detention Facility accounted for 23.90% of all immigration arrests identified. The table below provides a more concise breakdown of the county jails identified. When it was not possible to identify the exact county jail, but it was possible to infer based on the information available that a transfer from a county jail occurred, an asterisk “\*” was used.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Claybank Detention Facility	1	2.63%
County Jail*	3	7.89%
Fresno County Jail	4	10.53%
Fresno County Jail (Outside)	1	2.63%
Fresno County Jail Lobby	2	5.26%
Kern County Jail	1	2.63%
Kings County Jail	1	2.63%
Lassen County Adult Detention Facility	1	2.63%
Marin County Jail	2	5.26%
Monterey County Jail	2	5.26%
Placer County Auburn Main Jail	1	2.63%
San Mateo County Jail	3	7.89%
Santa Rita Jail	7	18.42%
Solano County Jail	1	2.63%
Sonoma County Jail	5	13.16%
Tehama County Jail	1	2.63%
Tulare County Jail	1	2.63%
Yuba County Jail	1	2.63%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

#### 5. Courthouse Enforcement

ICE continued to carry out arrests at local courthouses during the COVID-19 pandemic and carried out “Operation Palladium” at Trinity County Courthouse with a mobile criminal alien team unit in Weaverville, CA. These units violate the Due Process Rights of community members who are making an active effort to resolve their pending cases at superior courts.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Total</i>
Fresno County Superior Court	ICE Enforcement Action	1
Inside Madera County Superior Court	ICE Enforcement Action	1
Outside Fresno County Superior Court	ICE Enforcement Action	1
Outside Madera County Superior Court	ICE Enforcement Action	1
Trinity County Courthouse	"Operation Palladium" ICE MCAT	1
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>5</b>

## 6. Home Enforcement

ICE carried out direct enforcement actions in the homes of community members and it was possible to identify one instance in which the community member arrested had just dropped off their children at school.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Total</i>
Home	ICE Enforcement Action	2
In Front of Home (After Dropping Off Children at School)	ICE Enforcement Action	1
Outside Home	ICE Enforcement Action	1
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>4</b>

## 7. Traffic Stops

Immigration arrests through traffic stops were more prevalent in early to mid-March.

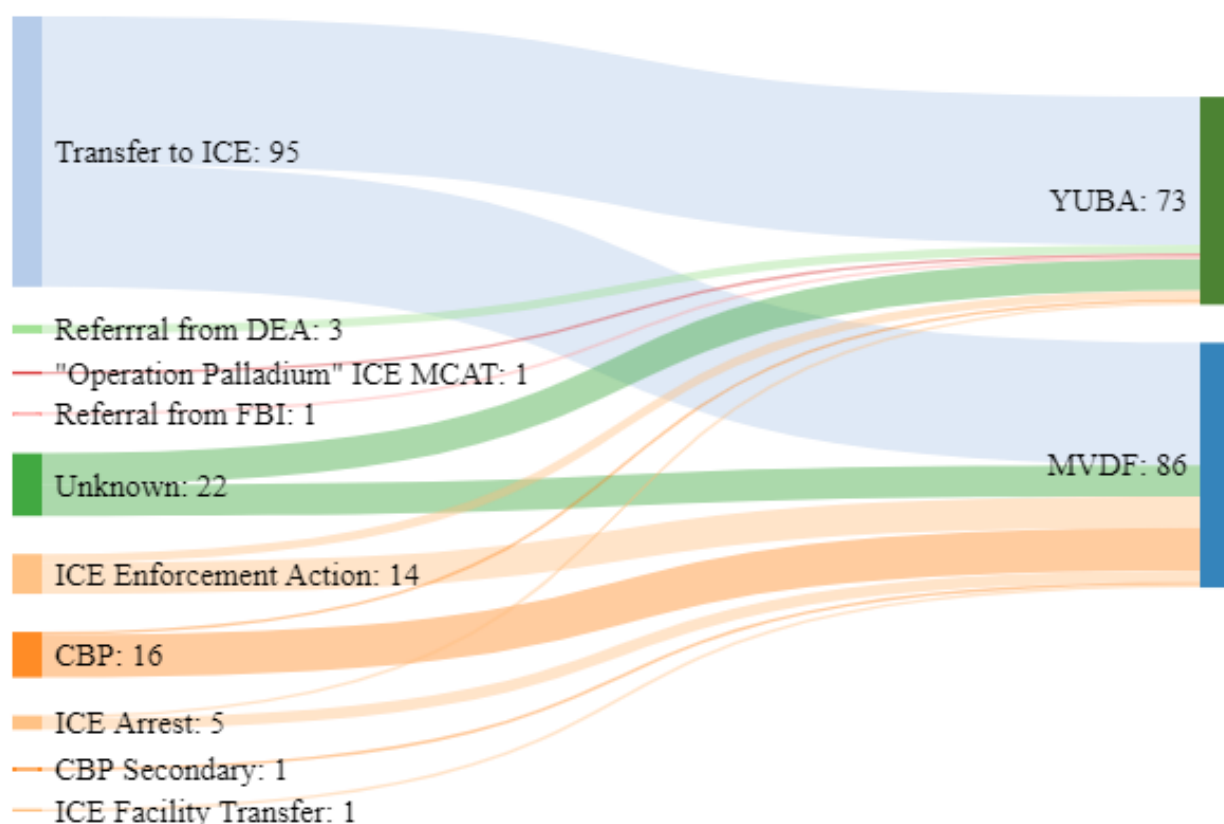
<i>Location</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Total</i>
Traffic Stop	ICE Enforcement Action	2
Traffic Stop Going to Work	ICE Enforcement Action	3
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>5</b>

## 8. Enforcing Agencies and Tactics

Transfers into ICE custody from state prisons, federal correctional institutions, and county jails accounted for 59.75% of all immigration arrests identified. An additional 3.14% of ICE arrests

occurred outside county jails, their lobbies, and the SFO airport. CBP carried out 10.06% of immigration arrests identified at the U.S. border, Ports Of Entry, and the SFO airport. For 8.81% of immigration arrests, ICE individually targeted community members through enforcement actions in their homes, courthouses, or through traffic stops. The diagram below shows the different tactics used by enforcing agencies to carry out immigration arrests.

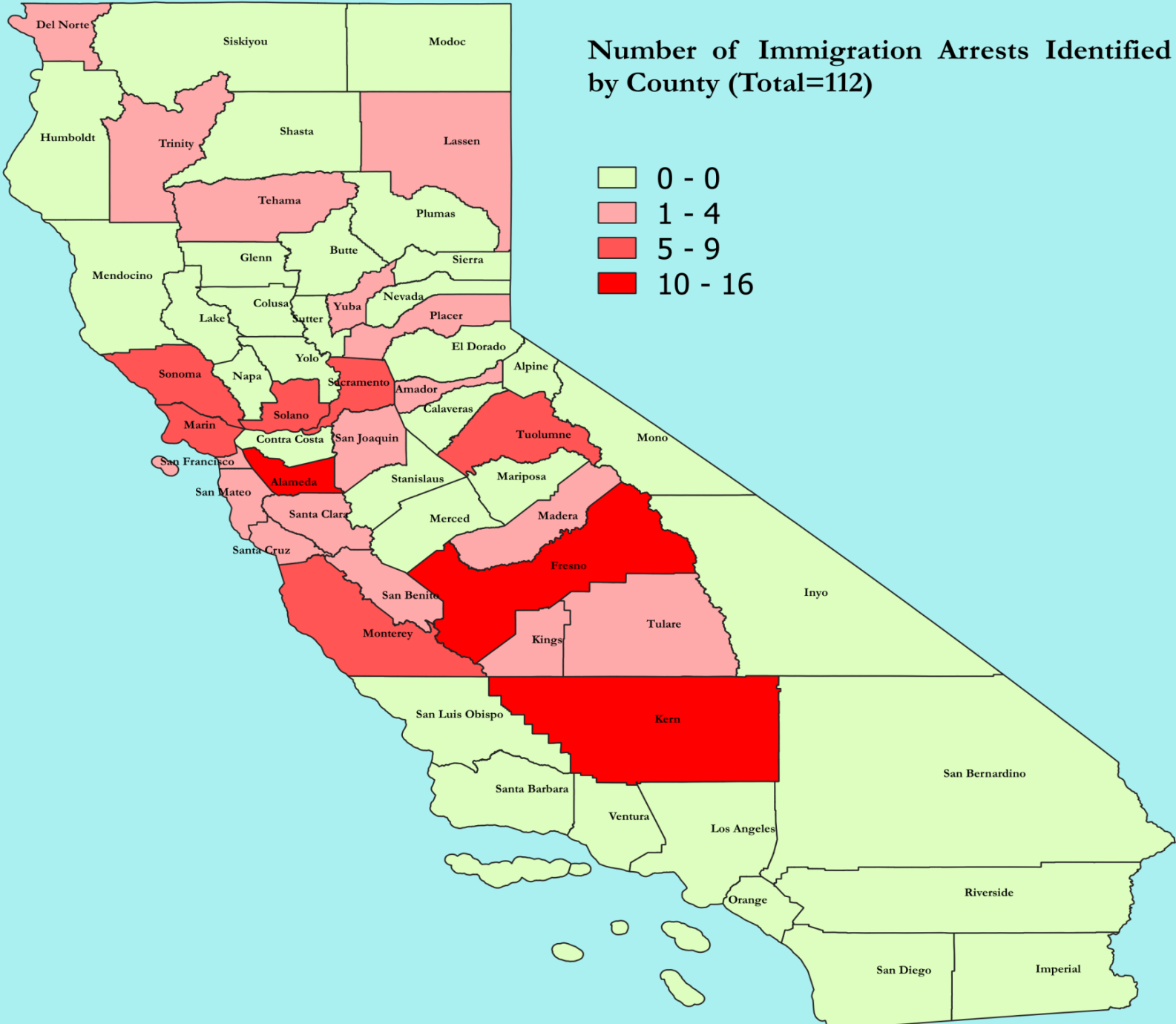
**Figure 3:** Tactics Used for Immigration Arrests



## 9. Mapping the 'Hot Spots' of Immigration Enforcement

For 112 immigration arrests that occurred in the state of California, the exact location of the immigration arrest was determined. Consequently, it was possible to identify the counties where these arrests happened and map out the intensity of immigration arrests by county. The hot spots of ICE activity during the COVID-19 pandemic based on the information available are in the counties of Kern, Fresno, and Alameda. However, it is also clear that enforcement has continued in counties in the Central Valley, the Central Coast, and in counties surrounding the Bay Area. Despite statewide lockdown measures implemented to protect public health, ICE continues to operate throughout the state including in counties near the Oregon and Nevada border.

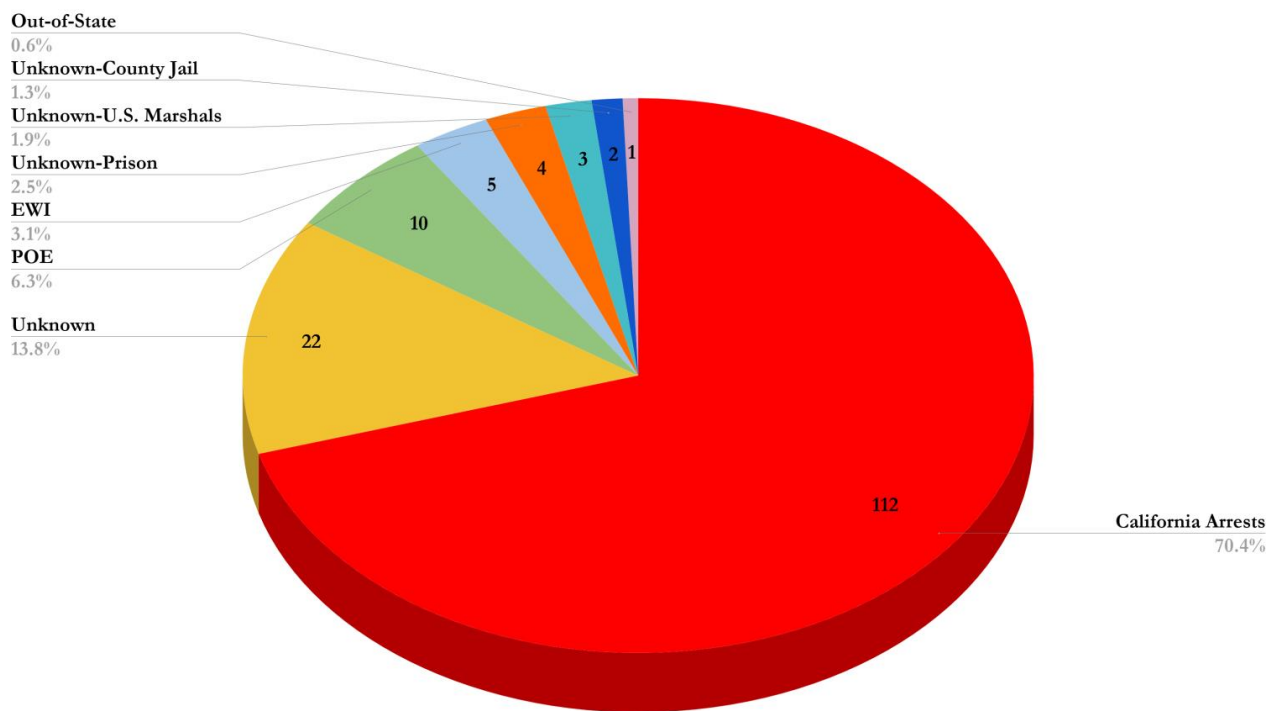
# Mapping Immigration Enforcement During the COVID-19 Pandemic





The heat map does not show the full extent of immigration enforcement in the state, but it does offer insights into how certain communities are being impacted by immigration enforcement during the COVID-19 pandemic. As Figure 4 below shows, immigration enforcement is occurring in other localities. Given that at times there are technical and logistical difficulties in communicating with detained community members at Yuba County Jail and Mesa Verde Detention Facility, it is not always possible to ascertain the full details of their immigration arrests. Despite these limitations, the information available offers accurate insights into how local and federal agencies have continued to carry out immigration arrests throughout the state during the COVID-19 pandemic.

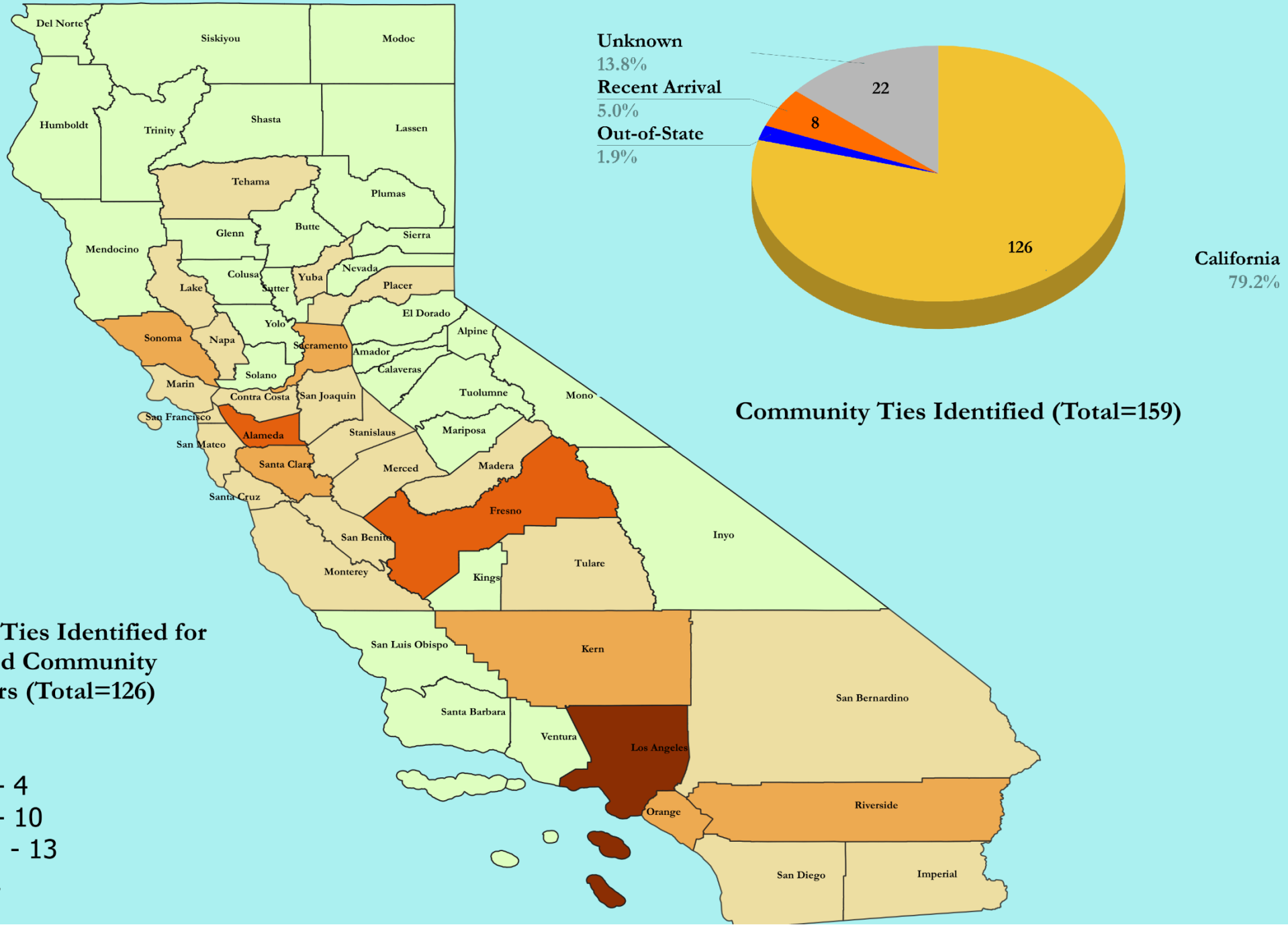
**Figure 4: Exact Location of Immigration Arrests Identified**



## 10. Impacted Communities

Communities throughout the state have been impacted by immigration enforcement during the COVID-19 pandemic. The former city of residence was identified for 126 community members to gain a better understanding of which communities have been directly impacted by immigration enforcement during this pandemic. As the map in the next page demonstrates, former residents of the counties of Los Angeles, Alameda, Fresno, Santa Clara, Sacramento, Orange, Sonoma, Riverside, and Kern make up just over 64% of the 126 community members for which community ties were identified. For these counties, 5 or more of their community members were detained since the

## Mapping Impacted Communities During the COVID-19 Pandemic



beginning of March 2020. The counties of Los Angeles (22), Alameda (13), and Fresno (11) are the counties most impacted by immigration enforcement in terms of total number of community members detained. These figures include individuals who recently arrived to the country with community ties to those counties given that their families are directly impacted by their detention. For a small number of individuals who recently arrived to the country, there was not enough information to determine their exact community ties.

A side-by side comparison of the detention pipeline map and the impacted communities map reveals that the most impacted communities are those closest to ICE's detention infrastructure or in 'hot spots' of immigration enforcement. Furthermore, communities in Southern California, particularly Los Angeles, are being directly impacted by the detention of their community members in Yuba County Jail and Mesa Verde Detention Facility, and these detention facilities are respectively located in the counties of Yuba and Kern. These detention facilities have had a pervasive impact on communities throughout the state, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, and enable ICE and CBP to extend the reach of their operations.

## **11. Conclusion**

The preceding analysis is based on known facts available to advocates. It is evidently clear that immigration enforcement has continued throughout the Northern California Region despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Communities in Southern California, however, are also being directly impacted by these enforcement activities and it highlights the need for greater collaboration with advocates in these localities. Such high levels of immigration enforcement have a direct negative impact on immigrant communities throughout the state, public health, and the community members detained at immigration detention facilities that cannot guarantee proper social distancing measures. Without addressing the main sources of the detention pipeline, as previously shown, immigration enforcement will continue throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.