



**The State of Working People in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties**  
***Health Insurance and Income Data from the 2008 American Community Survey'***  
 September 22, 2009

Over 190,000 People Lack Health Insurance in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties

- In Ventura County in 2008, 129,120 or 16.4% lack health insurance while in Santa Barbara that number is 62,803 or 15.8%. Of California counties with data available, the counties rank in the middle of the pack. The percent of uninsured in California is 17.8%
- However, nationally Ventura County and Santa Barbara County rank in the top one third of counties with the highest rate of uninsured residents. The percent of uninsured in the United States in 2008 was 15.1%.
- Most disturbingly, the cities of Oxnard and Santa Maria have amongst the highest rates of uninsured residents in the state and in the country with both cities in the top 10% of those with the highest rates of uninsured.

Conclusion: Residents in Oxnard and Santa Maria have the most to lose if health care reform does not help them to get affordable health care coverage that meets their needs.

Table 1: Uninsured Residents and Median Income by County or City

<i>County or City</i>	<i># of Residents Uninsured</i>	<i>Percent of Residents Uninsured</i>	<i>Median Income</i>
Santa Barbara County	62,803	15.8%	\$61,543
Ventura County	129,120	16.4%	\$76,860
Oxnard	52,328	29.5%	\$60,670
Santa Barbara	15,291	18.9%	\$61,482
Santa Maria	23,866	26.7%	\$49,638
Simi Valley	16,414	13.7%	\$83,731
Thousand Oaks	10,087	8.6%	\$99,800
Ventura	14,267	13.1%	\$68,984

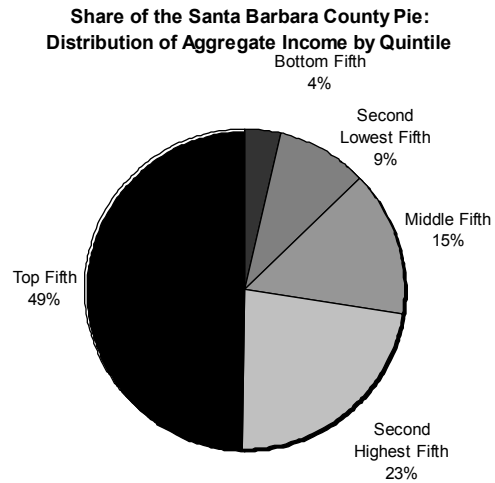
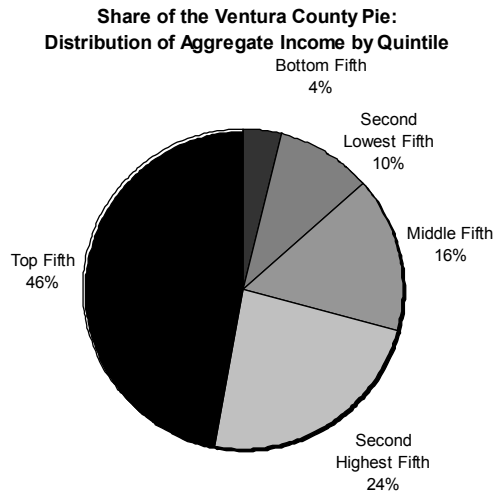
The Income Gap: Latinos Lag Behind in Income and Wages

- In Ventura County the top fifth of all households with the highest income claimed 46% of all income in the region, while the bottom fifth of households got a 4% sliver of the pie.
- The median income for Latino households was 75% of the overall median income for Ventura County.
- In Santa Barbara County, the top fifth of all households with the highest income claimed 49% of all income in the region, while the bottom fifth of households got a 4% sliver of the pie.
- The median income for Latino households was 79% of the overall median, and for Black households was 81% of the overall median in Santa Barbara County.

Recommendation: Projects receiving stimulus funding need to pay prevailing wages and include Project Labor Agreements that have local and disadvantaged worker hiring goals.

Table 2: Median Income for Latinos by County or City

<i>City or County</i>	<i>Median Income</i>	<i>Median Income for Latinos</i>
Santa Barbara County	\$61,543	\$48,366
Ventura County	\$76,860	\$57,845
Oxnard	\$60,670	\$52,614
Santa Barbara	\$61,482	\$48,366
Santa Maria	\$49,638	\$47,699
Simi Valley	\$83,731	\$75,494
Thousand Oaks	\$99,800	\$84,684
Ventura	\$68,984	\$55,660



**The Gender Gap: Women Still Make Less than Men**

- In Ventura County for full-time year-round work, males earned \$52,109 a year, whereas females earned \$41,799. The overall gender gap in wages across all industries is 20%.
- In Santa Barbara County for full-time year-round work, males earned \$45,777 a year, whereas females earned \$36,412. The overall gender gap in wages across all industries is 21%.
- The gender wage gap is greatest in the cities of Thousand Oaks (33%) and Simi Valley (30%) where women working full time and year around earn almost one third less than men.

Recommendation: Projects receiving stimulus funding need to pay prevailing wages and include Project Labor Agreements that have local and disadvantaged worker hiring goals.

<sup>1</sup>The source of data for this report comes from the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS) which was released on September 22, 2009 by the US Census Bureau. ACS provides demographic, economic and social data for individuals and households. The data is made available for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 or more.