Undocumented Latinos in California: The safety under AB 60 and vulnerability under Real ID

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Undocumented Latinos in California: The safety under AB 60 and the vulnerability under Real ID

A Thesis Project Proposal Presented to
The Faculty of the Masters in Migration Studies Program

In Partial Fulfillment
Of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts in Migration Studies

By
Ricardo Velazquez
May 2023
Undocumented Latinos in California: The safety under AB 60 and the vulnerability under Real ID

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MASTER IN MIGRATION STUDIES

by Ricardo Velazquez
May 2023

UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Under the guidance and approval of the committee, and approval by all the members, this thesis project has been accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree.

Approved:

Advisor

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12 May 2023

Date

5/18/23

Date
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A mi madre y a mi padre, quienes sin saberlo me brindaron este problema para investigar. Gracias por apoyarme continuamente en mi camino académico, y por todos los sacrificios y dificultades que han tenido que soportar desde que llegaron a este país. El esfuerzo de este tesis es para ustedes. A mi esposa, quien me ha brindado su apoyo y amor incondicional. Gracias por todo, no hubiera podido terminar esta tesis sin ti.

To my professors at USF and Ibero, thank you for your dedication to the program and its students. This program would not run or exist without you. To my advisor, Genevieve Negrón Gonzales, thank you for believing in my research, your advice has been invaluable. Last but not least, to Cohort 6, it was a pleasure to learn alongside each one of you.
SAFETY UNDER AB 60 AND VULNERABILITY UNDER REAL ID

ABSTRACT

This qualitative research study focuses on the safety under AB 60 driver’s licenses and how the Real ID affects the daily lives of Latino undocumented California residents. The purpose of this project is to further understand the implementation of the second provision of the Real ID Act of 2005 which issues marked identifications and driver's licenses that are federal compliant and understand how it will affect Latino undocumented California residents. The focus of this study through the literature review and the Testimonios is on the experiences of Latino undocumented immigrants living in California, and is viewed through a Latino Critical Race Theory lens. All six participants' testimonios discussed their experience before having an AB 60 driver’s license, having an AB 60 driver’s license, and how they anticipate the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements will affect their daily life. The two research questions for this study were: (1) How have AB-60 driver’s licenses been beneficial to Latino undocumented California residents, and how do Real IDs pose a threat on their daily stability? (2) How will the Real ID (Act of 2005) affect the daily lives of Latino undocumented immigrants living in California once the act is in effect in May of 2025? In conclusion, existing literature and the findings from the study demonstrate that Latino undocumented California residents benefit in various ways with their AB 60 driver’s license and they anticipate the Real ID will separate them from society, bringing back discrimination they had previously experienced before obtaining their AB 60 driver’s license, and fear of being criminalized by law enforcement.

Keywords: AB 60 driver’s licenses, Real ID Act of 2005, Real ID, Latinos, California, Post 9/11
CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

Statement of the problem

The enactment of the Real ID Act of 2005 demonstrates how the United States favored national security policy over pro-immigration policy, which places immigrants living in the United States in danger. (Garcia, 2007, Griggs & Schaffer, 2009) While all 3 provisions in the Real ID Act of 2005 are important and apply to every state in the United States, this research will focus on provision 2, the establishment of federal standards for the issuance of driver’s licenses, and its direct impact in California since this provision has a direct impact on the day-to-day lives of undocumented immigrants.

While undocumented California residents are ineligible to apply and obtain a Real ID driver’s license or identification card due to the proof of identity document, they are eligible to apply for and obtain an AB-60 driver’s license. This is possible because in 2013, Governor Brown signed AB-60 into law which directs the California Department of Motor Vehicles to issue a driver's license to residents who are unable to provide proof of legal presence, regardless of their immigration status (Immigrant Legal Resource Center, 2015). This means that since 2015, when the law became effective, California undocumented residents have been able to lawfully drive their children to school, they have been able to identify themselves when California police officers pull them over for traffic stops, and more importantly there has been an impact in the daily lives of undocumented individuals with legal access to this method of transportation. While the Real ID Act of 2005 does not change the access or validity of AB-60 driver's licenses in California, undocumented California residents are unable to obtain a REAL ID, making them a vulnerable population if pulled over in a traffic stop, unable to present a Real ID compliant marked golden bear driver’s license (Enriquez et al., 2019).
One of the populations that will be negatively impacted with the requirements of the California Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain a Real ID, will be Latino undocumented California residents (Garcia, 2007). Considering a large percentage of the Latino population is undocumented, Latino immigrant communities have been wrongfully targeted since 9/11, and this wrongful targeting of immigrants and people of color who look like immigrants has led to infringements of Latino civil rights since 9/11 (Culliton, 2004). The Real ID Act among other post 9/11 policies, which has not made the United States safer, have not been as effective as they had planned to be in finding terrorists. Some of the tactics and policies since 9/11 that have affected Latino communities, are the fear of deportation which has been exacerbated by the threats of local and state police who enforce civil immigration laws, the immigration detention questionable conditions which have been seen as common, and human rights violations southwest of the border (Culliton, 2004). Opponents of the Real ID (Act) have expressed that Real IDs will not make us safer but will instead divide us (documented and undocumented), and immigrants will now have to face additional burdens in their life such as their access to driving (Marvin, 2020). Implementing the Real ID in California, enables their function as “internal passports” monitoring movements within states, and failure to carry the Real ID fosters discrimination on a massive scale for Latinos since they would be viewed as a reason to search, arrest, and be placed in detention (ACLU). There is also a stigma and humiliation for undocumented California residents who will be unable to possess and present a Real ID, unable to prove that they are Americans citizens or legal residents in their daily life (ACLU). Since the Real ID Act of 2005 is soon to be enforced and compliant in every state in May of 2025, revisiting the Act and understanding how it will affect Latino undocumented immigrants living
in California is important to amplify the potential effects the act will have on millions of undocumented people, including the reasons mentioned above.

**Background and Need for the Study**

After President George W. Bush won the election in 2000, he entered into negotiations with Mexican President Vicente Fox in an attempt to create a larger-scale temporary worker program in the United States (Rosenblum, 2011). The two presidents formally endorsed a framework agreement on September 6th, 2001, echoing a commitment to complete a deal by the end of the year. It was widely observed in that time that the immigration relations between Mexico and the United States had never been better (Rosenblum, 2011). Plans for this immigration reform crumbled a few days later, after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the political situation shifted radically for immigrants in the US. Soon after the tragic events of September 11, federal and state governments called for reform of the nation and state’s security laws (Mounts, 2003).

Eight days after the attacks on September 11, the Bush Administration submitted to Congress the Anti Terrorism Act of 2001 which proposed new authority to gather domestic intelligence and to streamline judicial procedures for deporting suspected terrorists (Rosenblum, 2011). Unprecedentedly, President Bush’s administration drafted the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act (USA Patriot Act) six weeks after the attacks which targeted terrorists and imposed restrictions on immigration (Griggs & Schaeffer, 2009). Only a few days after President Bush signed the USA Patriot Act into law, he issued the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 2 (HSP2), titled “SUBJECT: Combatting Terrorism through Immigration Policies”, which overtly linked immigration to terrorism (Griggs & Schaffer, 2009). War on terrorism and war on immigration
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became synonymous in the political environment (Griggs & Schaffer, 2009). In 2002, Congress developed the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States otherwise known as the 9/11 Commission. This bipartisan commission was responsible for preparing a detailed report of the terrorist attacks of September 11. This report was to include the response and preparedness of all involved government agencies but more importantly the commission was ordered to provide Congress with recommendations for the prevention of future terrorist attacks (Garcia, 2007).

On January 26, 2005, at the 109th Congress, Representative James Sensenbrenner introduced H.R. 418: The Real ID Act of 2005. Sensenbrenner (2005) stated, “the goal of the Real ID Act is straightforward: it seeks to prevent another 9/11-type attack by disrupting terrorist travel.” The report (2005) also stated, "for terrorists, travel documents are as important as weapons.” The House of Representatives approved the Real ID Act of 2005 in February of that year. The Act was attached to an emergency supplemental bill that funded causes like the war on terror, and it was considered a "must-pass" bill. Provisions of the Real ID Act include: 1) stringent qualifications on those seeking United States relief; 2) the establishment of federal standards for the issuance of driver's licenses; and 3) providing authority to Homeland Security for the construction of physical barriers along the United States borders (Garcia, 2007).

The Real ID Act has been pushed back by the federal government and has granted extensions to all states numerous times since its passing in 2005. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (n.d.) in December 2007, President Bush signed into law, H.R. 2764 & P.L. 110-161, which provided 50 million dollars in funding for state assistance in implementing the Real ID Act. In January 2008, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released the final regulations to implement the requirements of the Real ID driver’s licenses and
identification cards. In April 2008, DHS granted extension to all states to implement the requirements by 2009, with an optional extension to 2011. In December 2009, DHS extended implementation to all states by 2011, in March 2011 DHS extended it to all states by 2013, in October 2018 DHS extended the act to the remaining jurisdictions by 2019, and in October 2021 DHS extended it once again for full enforcement by May of 2023. By October 2021 all states and territories were compliant with the issuing standards and 43% of all state-issued driver’s licenses and identification cards were federally, or Real ID, compliant. After numerous push backs in enforcement dates and 20 years later, provision 2 of the Real ID Act of 2005 will be effective and fully enforced in May of 2025 (Department of Homeland Security, 2022).

According to the State of California Department of Motor Vehicles (CA DMV, n.d.), the federal Real ID Act of 2005 issues new rules on which forms of identification may be used to board national flights within the United States and enter secure federal facilities, such as military bases and federal courthouses. A California issued REAL ID driver’s license or identification card meets the new requirements and is marked with a golden bear and star. Applying for a REAL ID requires proof of identity, proof of California residency, providing your Social Security number, and a trip to a CA DMV. The proof of identity document must show your date of birth and true full name, such as a valid U.S. passport, a certified copy of a United States birth certificate, a valid Permanent Resident Card, etc. Next, to meet the proof of California residency requirement, applicants must show two different documents proving California residency that include the first and last name and mailing address that will be shown on your REAL ID driver’s license or identification card. Examples to meet this proof of California residency requirement include a mortgage bill, home utility or cell phone bill, vehicle registration card, and bank statement. The CA DMV issued a press release in December of 2022, stating that nearly 14.8
million California residents now have a Real ID compliant driver’s license or identification card compared to the 12 million in December of 2021 (State of California Department of Motor Vehicles, 2022)

**Purpose of the Study**

According to the Migration Policy Institute (2019) there are 2.7 million unauthorized residents in California, over 2 million of Latinos from Mexico and Central America. The purpose of this project is to further understand the effects and threats of implementing the second provision of the Real ID Act of 2005 in California, impacting Latino undocumented California residents, which issues marked identifications and driver's licenses that are federal compliant. Since undocumented residents in California are not eligible to apply or obtain Real ID compliant driver’s licenses, this research seeks to understand how this ineligibility will affect their daily lives once the act is in effect in May of 2025. The second provision of the Real ID Act of 2005 harms Latino undocumented immigrants who make up the majority of the immigrant population, by denying them federal compliant identifications and is a step backwards in national security (Garcia, 2007). Additionally, this research seeks to understand how AB-60’s driver’s licenses in California have been beneficial to its undocumented residents and if Real ID’s pose a threat to the daily stability once the act is in effect in May of 2025. Prior to the issuance of AB-60 driver’s licenses, undocumented California residents risked contact with immigration enforcement mechanisms and it led undocumented residents to restructure their lives by limiting their participation in life (Enriquez et al., 2019). Therefore, AB-60 driver’s licenses have “mitigated the consequences of immigrant illegality in everyday life” (Enriquez et al., 2019, pg. 35) Understanding both the benefits of AB-60 driver’s licenses and potential threats of the Real ID compliant driver’s licenses is important because it affects millions of undocumented people
living in California. With the growing number of individuals who possess Real ID’s in California, it can and may be an issue for undocumented individuals who drive and face getting pulled over. While the Real ID does not change the accessibility or validity of the California issued AB-60 driver’s licenses, this research draws upon literature and Testimonios to understand first hand how Latino undocumented residents living in California anticipate the act in May of 2025.

**Research Questions**

The study consists of two research questions, which tries to understand and capture the future impact of undocumented California residents in their daily life.

1. How have AB-60 driver’s licenses been beneficial to Latino undocumented California residents, and how do Real IDs pose a threat on their daily stability?

2. How will the Real ID (Act of 2005) affect the daily lives of Latino undocumented immigrants living in California once the act is in effect in May of 2025?

**Theoretical Framework**

To frame this research the researcher draws from Latino Critical Race Theory (LatCrit), which explores the unique experiences of the Latina/o community (Perez Huber, 2010). LatCrit emerged from a colloquium in Puerto Rico on Latina/o Communities and Critical Race Theory in 1995, a multidisciplinary category of scholarship which includes legal studies, feminist legal theory, critical race theory, critical race feminism, Asian American legal studies, and queer theory which centers Latino/as in larger inter-group frameworks (LatCrit.org). Perez Huber states that such experiences include: immigration related issues, language, ethnicity and culture (Perez Huber, 2010). LatCrit is positioned to understand U.S. policies targeting Latino/as to challenge power structures and challenge the “complicity of law in ongoing oppressions” (Bender, 2016).
After 9/11, LatCrit scholars have identified that immigrants have been subordinated members in the same communities we live in, and believe that LatCrit theorists should interrogate both the legal and political notions of immigrant identity (Garcia, 2003). Considering the Real ID Act of 2005 affects Latino undocumented residents in California, LatCrit provides a framework to view it from a perspective centering the Latino/a experience (Bender, 2016; LatCrit.org; Perez Huber, 2010).

**Methodology**

To frame the research study, the researcher employs Testimonio as the methodology, as it is used to denounce injustices that have been experienced by marginalized groups, such as Latino undocumented immigrants (Booker, 2002). The researcher combined both Testimonio and LatCrit theory to validate and center the experiences of the participants to better understand the research questions. By employing Testimonials, the research challenges traditional scholarship by centering the voices and experiences of Latino/as, and validating their words as knowledge (Delgado Bernal & Villalpando, 2002).

**Limitations of the Study**

This research study has several limitations including: (a) The study is limited to the literature reviewed which focuses on the vulnerabilities of Latino undocumented immigrants, the criminalization of immigrants, and the Real ID’s impact on Latino undocumented immigrants (b) The study is also limited to the testimonios (semi structured interviews) of 6 participants who fit the study’s criteria: undocumented residents over 18 years old who possess a California issued AB-60 driver’s license and who are unable to possess a Real ID driver’s license due to their undocumented status (c) Additionally, the study is limited to Latino/as since the research’s theoretical framework is Latino Critical Race Theory (d) Lastly, the study is limited to California
Latino undocumented residents and does not discuss other states impact on undocumented residents.

**Significance of the Study**

The significance of this study is to capture the current state of undocumented individuals living in California prior to the Real ID Act becoming effective in May of 2025, and to demonstrate the need for all undocumented individuals to have access to a driver's license without fear or burden in their daily lives. By focusing on the positive impact that AB-60 has had on undocumented individuals in California, the objective of this research is to show how being undocumented and not having access to a Real ID may affect the daily life of an undocumented California resident. The researcher will integrate resources in the literature review, along with testimonios provided by undocumented folks, to influence policymakers decisions of undocumented bodies and to empower others to fight against policies that continue to marginalize the undocumented community like the Real ID Act. During the research portion of this project, the researcher noticed that there was a trend of research done on this topic from 2005 to 2015, and a decline of research on this act in the past decade. Furthermore, there is existing but very little research that focuses on the Real ID and understanding how it affects Latino/as. Research centering the experiences of Latino undocumented immigrants in relation to this act is also very minimal. This research study attempts to close that gap by reviewing existing literature, employing LatCrit theory, and Testimonios which centers the experiences of Latino undocumented immigrants living in California.
Definition of Terms

AB-60

AB 60 driver’s licenses (DL) are for individuals who are unable to provide proof of legal presence in the United States (U.S.), but who meet California DMV requirements and are able to provide proof of identity and California residency (AB 60 Driver’s Licenses, n.d.).

Crimmigration

Crimmigration Law otherwise known as Criminal Law and Immigration Law, is often blurred and it is difficult to explain where the criminal justice system ends and where the immigration process begins, but one of its unique features is the growth in criminalization which imprisons and prosecutes migrants due to Immigration Law violations or Immigration related crimes (Garcia Hernandez, 2017).

State of CA DMV

The State of California Department of Motor Vehicles is the state agency that registers motor vehicles and boats and issues driver licenses in the U.S. state of California. It regulates new car dealers, commercial cargo carriers, private driving schools, and private traffic schools (About us, n.d.).

Real ID

The Real ID (Act) establishes minimum security standards for license issuance and production and prohibits certain federal agencies from accepting for certain purposes driver’s licenses and identification cards from states not meeting the Act’s minimum standards. The purposes covered by the Act are: accessing certain federal facilities, entering nuclear power plants, and boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft (About Real ID, 2014).


Testimonio

Interviews conducted in a conversational or story-telling manner in an effort to give complete and total control to the individual participating in the interview (Ocasio-Stoutenburg, 2020).

Undocumented

Without (legal) status for immigration purposes. Undocumented individuals are non-citizens residing in the United States without legal authorization, who entered the country without inspection, or entered with a visa that eventually expired, which led them to overstay (Defining Undocumented. IMMIGRANTS RISING. n.d.).
CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Introduction

In this chapter, the author determined and defined the conceptual and theoretical frameworks to guide this research paper. Latino Critical studies or LatCrit Theory, a branch of Critical Race Theory (CRT), is the theoretical framework the researcher will use to conduct the research study. The researcher did a considerable analysis of existing literature on the topic of the Real ID Act of 2005 being one of the policies post 9/11 which has affected the daily lives of undocumented immigrants, and the need for this to be viewed from a LatCrit lens. This chapter will focus on how immigration policies post 9/11 target Latino undocumented communities with a close overview of how the Real ID Act of 2005 has been an act that further marginalizes Latino undocumented immigrants living in CA. While it is important to acknowledge that this research has a lens for California undocumented Latino residents, this issue is national and each state deals with it differently.

According to Perez Huber (2010), Latino Critical Race Theory, otherwise known as LatCrit, explores the unique experiences of the Latina/o community. Perez Huber states that such experiences include: immigration related issues, language, ethnicity and culture. (Perez Huber, 2010). LatCrit allows for the researchers to explore the literature through the lens of the Latino/a experience and specifically look at the California undocumented experience. The researcher will utilize LatCrit, an extension of CRT, to interpret the common but unique experiences that undocumented Latino folks face with the implementation of the Real ID Act of 2005.

Latino Critical Race Theory (LatCrit) and Testimonios will be used by the researcher to demonstrate how the Real ID Act of 2005, a post 9/11 policy, will affect California undocumented residents. Although there is no universal definition for Testimonio, generally it
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has been used as a strategy to denounce the injustices experienced by marginalized groups (Booker, 2002). Testimonio and LatCrit combined are tools used by researchers that validate and center the experience of people of color and therefore are guided by empowering communities of color (Perez Huber, 2010). Testimonios are also a way to challenge traditional Eurocentric epistemologies which are embedded with and perpetuated by notions of white supremacy (Delgado Bernal & Villalpando, 2002). Delgado Bernal and Villalpando (2002) explain the “apartheid of knowledge” which is a one-dimensional perspective rooted in dominant beliefs which validates Eurocentric perspectives while simultaneously delegitimizing non-Eurocentric perspectives. This study seeks to resist and decolonize traditional Eurocentric perspectives by validating sources of knowledge outside of traditional knowledge and in the lives and voices of Latino undocumented folks.

The Criminalization of Immigrants in California

The criminalization of immigrants in California has resulted due to the growth of criminalized immigration or Crimmigration, in which undocumented immigrants are prosecuted for immigration violations such as not having lawful status (Garcia Hernandez, 2017). Research illustrates the growth in crimmigration leading to the immigration detention and removal pipeline, research that articulates that the criminalization of immigration has racially targeted and discriminated undocumented Latino immigrants in California through local government cooperation, and research that claims that prior to undocumented individuals having access to driver’s licenses, undocumented California residents were criminalized for their unlawful status (Armenta, 2016; Carbado & Harris, 2011; Cottle, 2021; Enriquez et al., 2019; Garcia Hernandez, 2017; Garcia Hernandez, 2018; Pomerenke, 2018; Stuesse & Coleman, 2014; Stumpf, 2011). This is important because undocumented immigrants living in California are criminalized for
their unlawful status through the growth in Crimmigration, the federal cooperation, and through their access to driver’s license resulting in an increase in the vulnerability in their daily lives.

According to Garcia Hernandez (2017) Crimmigration Law otherwise known as Criminal Law and Immigration Law, is often blurred and it is difficult to explain where the criminal justice system ends and where the immigration process begins, but one of its unique features is the growth in criminalization which imprisons and prosecutes migrants due to Immigration Law violations or Immigration related crimes. Garcia Hernandez (2017) suggests that despite evolving for nearly 30 years, it is likely to expand immediately, through federal cooperation with state and local governments who want to apprehend suspected immigration law violators. Garcia Hernandez (2018) also indicates that local governments are an integral component of present policing of migration which poses a reputational cost for local governments leading to migrants' fear and concern of being victims of the immigration detention and removal pipeline. Lastly, according to Stumpf (2011), criminal law plays the role of regulating conduct within communities and immigration law governs the entry and expulsion of individuals.

Likewise, research illustrates that the criminalization of immigration has racially targeted and discriminated undocumented Latino immigrants in California through local government cooperation. Evidence of this can be found in Cottle (2021) who claims that in Santa Ana California, a city which consists of 78% Latinos and a long history with immigration, has seen an increase of criminalization of immigrants which has impacted the community with a direct effect of discrimination from migration policies and local policing policies which target Latino immigrant populations. Similarly, Pomerenke (2018) conducts a case study on Crimmigration during the Trump era and finds that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) train and use local law enforcement in California to employ strategies to prey on undocumented Latinos
by lurking in protected spaces such as churches, shelters, and courts. In contrast, Carbado and Harris (2011) review a series of undocumented criminal procedures in the U.S. Supreme Court cases, including United States v. Brignoni-Ponce, INS v. Delgado, and United States v. Martinez-Fuerte, which do not explicitly endorse racial profiling but facilitate the practice of utilizing “the appearance of Mexican ancestry” as an investigatory tool. These court cases legitimize the government’s actions to target on the basis of race when it is enforcing immigration laws. In sum, research reinforces that the criminalization of immigration has racially targeted Latino immigrants in California through local cooperation and facilitated through the U.S. Supreme court decisions.

A final body of research investigating California undocumented residents' access to driver’s licenses articulates that prior to not having access to driver’s licenses, undocumented immigrants living in California were criminalized for their unlawful status in their everyday life. Evidence of this can be found in Enriquez et al. (2019) which examines the case of the California Assembly Bill (A.B.) 60 driver’s licenses, a bill passed in 2013 which required the DMV to issue a driver’s license to persons unable to submit proof of authorized presence, and finds that allowing undocumented residents access to driver’s licenses mitigated the consequences of immigrant illegality in everyday life. Two decades before A.B. 60, in 1993 Senate Bill 976 prohibited undocumented immigrants from obtaining a driver’s license in California by requiring applicants to prove lawful status which increased the risk of contact for undocumented residents with immigration enforcement, and in turn the risk of detention and deportation (Enriquez, et. al, 2019). Similarly, Armenta (2016) investigates the structural racist crimmigration system from within by riding along with police officers in their shift who do not see what they do as policing immigration and finds that unlicensed Latino drivers have no protection from punishment, and
driving offenses resulted in a pipeline to deportation. Armenta (2016) also adds that in her ride along with police officers she saw first hand officers wrongly assume Americans of Latino descent as foreign born, and illegally detaining Americans of Latino descent, actively contributing to the crimmigration system. In contrast, Stuesse and Coleman (2014) claims that programs such as the Secure Communities program, which called upon local police to act as enforcement for federal immigration law, converted mundane acts such as driving, a high risk activity for undocumented individuals, and in consequence getting pulled over for a minor traffic violation risked and resulted in detention and deportation. In total, research illustrates that prior to undocumented individuals having access to driver’s licenses, undocumented California residents were criminalized for their unlawful status which risked detention and deportation.

In summary, according to research the criminalization of Latino undocumented immigrants in California has resulted due to the growth of Crimmigration, resulting in prosecution for immigration violations such as not having lawful status. It includes research that illustrates the growth in crimmigration, research that articulates the criminalization of immigration of Latino undocumented immigrants in California through local government cooperation, and research that claims that prior to having access to driver’s licenses, undocumented California residents were criminalized for their unlawful status (Armenta, 2016; Carbado & Harris, 2011; Cottle, 2021; Enriquez et al., 2019; Garcia Hernandez, 2017; Garcia Hernandez, 2018; Pomereneke, 2018; Stuesse & Coleman, 2014; Stumpf, 2011). Taken together, this body of research justifies that the criminalization of immigrants in California has directly affected undocumented immigrants in their everyday lives. Related to this research, is the vulnerabilities undocumented Latino immigrants face in their daily life.
Vulnerabilities Undocumented Latino Immigrants face in daily life

Research demonstrates that undocumented Latino immigrants living in the United States lead vulnerable lives while being socially and physically immobile, facing Anti-Latino hostility, and constantly examining their legal consciousness across social positions (Abrego, 2011; Bailliard, 2013; Branton et al., 2011; Chavez, 2013; Enchautegui & Menjivar, 2015; Flores et al., 2019; Gonzalez, 2019; Lazos Vargas, 2007; Sondergaard Winther, 2014). Research that illustrates the social and physical mobility for undocumented immigrants constrain their participation in their daily life (Bailliard, 2013; Enchautegui & Menjivar, 2015; Sondergaard Winther, 2014). Research also articulates the nation-wide Anti-Latino hostility and sentiment and it includes research that claims undocumented immigrants migration experiences and social institutions play a role in developing their legal consciousness (Abrego, 2011; Branton et al., 2011; Chavez, 2013; Flores et al., 2019; Gonzalez, 2019; Lazos Vargas, 2007). This is important because undocumented immigrants lead vulnerable lives across their social and physical lives which limit and hinder their participation in daily lives. Before diving into the obstacles undocumented immigrants in California face with the Real ID Act of 2005, it is crucial to understand the broadview but central experience of the undocumented immigrants lives and vulnerabilities within California.

To begin, research illustrates that undocumented immigrants struggle to obtain social and physical mobility while dealing with the consequences of their illegal status. Evidence of this can be found in Sondergaard Winther (2014) who claims that social immobility for Latino undocumented immigrants has been described as a feeling of preventing one from getting ahead in life, and physical immobility as a restriction of a predominant feature of everyday life. Similarly, Enchautegui and Menjivar (2015) demonstrates that immigration laws constrain
migration mobility across borders which produces a sense of feeling “trapped” by existing immigration laws, and triggers other mechanisms that keeps their families apart. In contrast, Bailliard (2013) conducted an ethnographic study with a migrant Latino community in North Carolina where he finds that migrants limit their occupations to those that are absolutely necessary and decisions to participate in routine occupations outside the home are shredded in fear. In sum, research articulates that immigration laws limit the social and physical mobility for undocumented immigrants, and its effects on their daily lives as they have constrained participation in everyday and long-term activities.

Related to this, research investigating the changing demography of the nation due to the emerging Latino minority articulates that there is a climate of anti-immigrant hostility, particularly targeting Latina and Latino undocumented immigrants on the rise. Evidence of this can be found in Lazos Vargas (2007) who claims that unrealistic immigration laws and local laws have created an underclass of undocumented immigrants who can be legally subordinated, and opponents of Latino immigrants often point to their belief that undocumented immigrants cost the United States more than they contribute. Correspondingly, Gonzalez (2019) employs a mixed-methods content analysis of all 74 speeches made during Trump’s presidential campaign to investigate how U.S Latinos were depicted in the media during the 2016 election, and he finds that in over 70% of Donald Trump’s campaign speeches, the words illegal and Latino are in proximity to one another. The results depict Latinos often rooted in narratives of illegality. In contrast, Branton et al. (2011) estimated a model of Anglo attitudes towards immigration in the post 9/11 era using data from the 2000 and 2004 National Election Studies using indicators of acculturation fear and anti-Latino sentiment which found that post 9/11 hostilities towards the Latino community and preferences for stringent immigration policy were amplified. In total,
research illustrates that anti-immigrant hostility, in particular anti-Latino hostility, has been amplified in combination with stringent and unrealistic immigration policies which have further rooted narratives of Latinos being undocumented and a threat to the nation.

A final body of research claims that the legal consciousness of undocumented Latinos is examined by how their legal status intersects with and is experienced adversely across social positions. Evidence of this can be found in Abrego (2011) who claims that despite all undocumented immigrants being equally banned by residence, labor and education U.S laws, their migration experiences, and social institutions play important roles in developing their legal consciousness, and in turn, informs their legal status as a source of fear or stigma. Similarly, Chavez (2013) investigates the legal consciousness of undocumented Latinos by suggesting that a Latino threat narrative has been socially constructed through media stories and through the construction of “illegal aliens”, which is a legal status written upon and granted to bodies of migrants and is produced and experienced by migrants themselves. In contrast, Flores et al. (2019) term the word legal-spatial consciousness “which refers to the individuals’ sense of how space and law are interconnected and experienced at the personal level.” Flores et al. (2019) apply legal-spatial consciousness through an ethnographic study which examined undocumented youth’s legal consciousness through their social imm/mobility where the researchers find that the social immobility caused ambiguity and uncertainty about their future legal status which in turn shaped their daily life and life course, limiting their social and physical mobility such as education and driving. Ultimately the dynamic nature of illegality and the legal consciousness of the participants revealed that immobility was experienced differently for each participant but similarities emphasized their “stuckness” due to their illegal status.
In summary, research demonstrates that undocumented Latino immigrants living in the United States lead vulnerable lives while being socially and physically immobile, facing Anti-Latino and anti-immigrant hostility, and constantly examining their legal consciousness across social positions (Abrego, 2011; Bailliard, 2013; Branton et al., 2011; Chavez, 2013; Enchautegui & Menjivar, 2015; Flores et al., 2019; Gonzalez, 2019; Lazos Vargas, 2007; Sondergaard Winther, 2014). Taken together, this body of research justifies that undocumented Latino immigrants living in California lead vulnerable lives in their everyday lives physically and socially. This research brings up the impact of the Real ID driver’s licenses on Latino undocumented communities.

**Impact of the REAL ID driver’s licenses on Latino undocumented communities**

Research demonstrates that the Real ID Act will negatively impact Latino undocumented residents by heightening their underclass status, the deprivation of providing Real ID driver’s licenses will make them more detectable, and will experience fear when it comes to the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements (Action Network, 2015; Carpio, 2019; Cheong, 2021; CLINIC, 2019; Garcia, 2005; Garcia, 2007; Lazos & Aldana, 2005; Marvin, 2020; Reyes 2022). This includes research that illustrates the Real ID Act will negatively impact Latino undocumented residents by heightening their underclass status and delegitimizing them (Garcia, 2007; Lazos & Aldana, 2005; Marvin, 2020). Research that articulates the deprivation of providing a legal status document to undocumented immigrants will further make them detectable (Cheong, 2021; Garcia, 2005; Reyes 2022). Research that claims they will experience fear when it comes to the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements (Action Network, 2015; Carpio, 2019; CLINIC, 2019). This is important because the Real ID’s negative impact on Latino undocumented residents will make them more vulnerable in their daily life.
To begin, research illustrates that the Real ID Act will negatively impact Latino undocumented residents by heightening their underclass status and delegitimizing them. Evidence of this can be found in Garcia (2007) who claims that all the provisions of the Real ID Act will negatively impact Latino immigrants but specifically Section 202(c)(2)(B) of the Act requires states to verify the legal status of the applicants before issuing a driver’s license, denying proper federal compliant identification which will only heighten their underclass status. Garcia (2007) adds that states may continue to issue non-compliant driver’s licenses or identification cards but they must use a unique color or design to alert officials of its non-compliance, resulting in discriminatory implications. Similarly, Marvin (2020) demonstrates that undocumented immigrants will face challenges complying with the Real ID driver’s license requirements due to the lawful status requirement, and will face government scrutiny for their possession of non-compliant driver’s licenses. In contrast Lazos & Aldana (2005) claim that the consequences of denying federal compliant driver’s licenses to undocumented residents denies them an identity, further delegitimizing by rendering them invisible. In sum, research articulates that the Real ID Act will have a negative impact on Latino undocumented individuals by heightening their underclass status and delegitimizing them.

Related to this, research investigating the Real ID Act of 2005 articulates that the deprivation of providing a legal status document to undocumented immigrants will further make them detectable. Evidence of this can be found in Reyes (2022) who claims that undocumented immigrants will be discouraged from applying for a driver’s license, even if they are eligible for a non-compliant driver’s license such as California’s AB-60 license, due to the Real ID’s legal status requirement, which is marked to visually differentiate compliance, thus serving as an indirect indication of the lack of legal status. Similarly, Cheong (2021) demonstrates that the lack
of a government issued compliant identification closes off undocumented immigrants from everyday interactions causing them to experience fear and marginalization. Cheong (2021) adds that there is a “need to expand our understanding of being undocumented to also refer to the literal deprivation of official documents at local and state levels, given its multiple negative impacts on the lived experiences of immigrants” (Cheong, 2021, p. 3). In contrast, Garcia (2005) claims that with the implementation of the Real ID, an estimated 9 to 11 million undocumented immigrants will be more detectable and may possibly face deportation if they cannot show a license proving legal presence in the United States. In total, this research illustrates that the deprivation of providing Real ID driver’s licenses to undocumented immigrants will make them more detectable.

A final body of research claims that Latino California undocumented immigrants will experience fear when it comes to the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements. Evidence of this can be found in Gutierrez (2022) who interviews an undocumented Latino resident living in Fresno California who advocates for Latinos, fears being picked up by Immigration Customs and Enforcement for not having valid (compliant) documentation. Similarly, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) (2019) demonstrates that granting driver's licenses to undocumented individuals can help reduce the fear residents may have about disclosing their undocumented status in traffic stops. Action Network (2015) adds that the Real ID is exclusionary and creates an immense disparity to undocumented communities and therefore it fosters fear among otherwise law-abiding, longtime residents. In contrast, Carpio (2019) claims that despite undocumented immigrants now being able to obtain driver’s licenses in California, Latina/o/x corridors have been fostered with a state of fear when navigating their everyday lives. Additionally, “the federal requirement for a REAL ID threatens to temper these advances by
differentiating authorized from unauthorized California” (Carpio, 2019, p. 3). When taken together, this research suggests that the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements will cause Latino California undocumented immigrants to experience fear.

In summary, research demonstrates that the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements will negatively impact Latino undocumented residents by heightening their underclass status, making them more detectable, and causing them to experience fear (Action Network, 2015; Carpio, 2019; Cheong, 2021; CLINIC, 2019; Garcia, 2005; Garcia, 2007; Lazos & Aldana, 2005; Marvin, 2020; Reyes 2022). Taken together, this body of research justifies that the Real ID will negatively affect Latino undocumented residents in their everyday lives as it poses a threat to their daily stability.

**Summary**

This literature review claims that the criminalization of immigrants in California has directly affected their everyday lives, undocumented Latino immigrants living in California lead vulnerable lives in their everyday lives physically and socially, and that the Real ID will negatively affect Latino undocumented residents in their everyday lives. This claim and body of evidence addresses the Real ID and its direct negative impact on the daily lives of undocumented Latino immigrants living in California by highlighting the criminalization, vulnerability and direct impact. With my thesis, I propose to further understand how AB 60 driver’s licenses have been beneficial to Latino undocumented immigrants living in California, and understand how the Real ID will affect their daily lives.
CHAPTER III
METHODOLOGY

Brief Description of the Project

The researcher prioritized the voices of Latino undocumented California residents, and their unique experiences before having access to driver’s licenses, obtaining and living their life with a valid AB-60 driver’s licenses, and understanding how they expect the Real ID will impact their daily lives, if at all. This was accomplished using qualitative data collection. The researcher has captured a sample of the reality many undocumented California residents face with the implementation of the Real ID Act in May of 2025. Testimonios served as the data collection tool which helped capture this sample as it obtained information regarding the undocumented experience in relation to their experiences with driver’s licenses. From the data that was collected, the researchers plan is to understand the current experiences of Latino undocumented California residents experience in their daily lives in relation to the Real ID. The objectives are to determine the day-to-day life of an undocumented person who currently has an AB-60 driver’s license, and understanding if not obtaining a Real ID impacts them in their overall life or daily life.

Lastly, this aspect was asked to undocumented participants to determine if AB-60 has been a positive aspect in their day to day life, and to determine if not having a Real ID will affect their daily life. For the research study, the researcher utilized a system of semi-structured interviews in an effort to gather the experiences of the research subjects. Through this project, the researcher aimed to answer the two following research questions:

1. How have AB-60 driver’s licenses been beneficial to Latino undocumented California residents, and how do Real IDs pose a threat on their daily stability?
2. How will the Real ID (Act of 2005) affect the daily lives of Latino undocumented
immigrants living in California once the act is in effect in May of 2025?

For the remainder of the chapter, the researcher defines the research methodology, design and rationale of the project, detailed description of the research population, data collection and analysis procedures. The researcher drew from both literature and Testimonios to answer the two research questions. All decisions made by the researcher regarding the project were made with ethical considerations and approved by the University of San Francisco Institutional Review Board.

**Research Design**

To conduct this study the researcher took a qualitative research approach with a testimonio methodology. The researcher conducted six one-time semi-structured testimonios and were between 15 and 25 minutes. Interviews were held on Zoom and in person. The entire participant pool consisted of undocumented California Latino residents. The participants were required to be living in California with a valid AB-60 driver’s license issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles to undocumented residents. By using a snowball sampling method, identifying participants was done via a chain of referrals through word of mouth started with the first few participants. Lastly, in order to make sure the data collected through the semi-structured testimonios were reliable, the researcher utilized their notes that were taken during the interview as well as reading the transcriptions.

**Participant Selection**

The following criteria was used to identify undocumented individuals as participants for this research project. For the purpose of this research study, undocumented participants were defined in this study as individuals who met the following criteria: (1) An undocumented person who currently lives in California (2) identifies as Latino/a (3) is over 18 years old (4) has had a
government issued AB-60 driver’s license for at least one year, (5) they are ineligible to apply for a Real ID due to not possessing an identity document issued by the United States showing legal status such as a US Passport, Legal Permanent Residency Card, or US birth certificate, and (6) are not in the process of gaining legal status as it may affect participants response. The last criteria is important as they may be eligible for a Real ID and therefore may hinder or limit the participant’s interaction with the subject as an undocumented person.

**Description of Methods used**

As part of the research design, the researcher chose to utilize testimonios, through a one-time semi-structured testimonio, as the qualitative research tool. Using this method allows the researcher to develop open-ended questions to gather specific information based on the lived experiences of the participants. This method also allowed the participants to answer the questions in their own words, their own format, and what they would like to do based on their own experience. Participants were able to emphasize or speak about their experiences, being able to emphasize what they have experienced and allowed for the researcher to follow-up with questions to further understand their experiences. The use of semi-structured interviews also allowed the testimonios to flow as conversations where the participants could engage with the topic while going through the list of questions. Lastly, testimonios were important to this research because it allowed participants to be vulnerable in a safe environment, and protected from any repercussions.

It is important to note that all six semi-structured interviews were conducted in Spanish, which means all the questions were translated to Spanish (word for word) and responses were also answered in Spanish. While there was no initial intent to conduct the interviews in Spanish, the first two participants spoke Spanish and through word of mouth, informed other participants
of the testimonio being conducted in Spanish. The researcher’s first and native language is Spanish and therefore, the interviews gave space to the participants to communicate in their own first and native language.

The semi-structured testimonios consisted of 15 open-ended questions that allowed for participants to elaborate on any questions they felt comfortable doing so. The questions were developed and refined with the idea in mind to capture the true reality of the past, present, and future of being an undocumented person living in California before possessing a driver’s license, currently possessing an AB-60 driver’s license, and how they expect the Real ID will impact them, if at all, with the implementation of Real ID in May of 2025. The questions were written in that order as well, with the intent of starting with the past and leading up to the future.

For this study, the researcher draws on original qualitative semi-structured testimonios conducted with Latino undocumented immigrants living in California. To protect the participants, all of whom are unauthorized and therefore vulnerable, the consent to participate in the study was verbal with the approval of the Institutional Review Board, and the full interview transcripts are not available for public access.

**Data Collection Procedures**

For the testimonios, potential participants had been sent a picture of the Spanish flier, which briefly explains the purpose of the study and the qualifications. Participants had the option to meet in person or through Zoom once they had reached out to the researcher confirming they were qualified to participate. Participants then were scheduled at their preferred time and a Zoom link was sent to their email, or a time was scheduled to meet in-person. To keep confidentiality of the participants, all electronic communication between participants and the researchers were discarded from the researcher’s devices once the testimonio was completed. Pseudonyms were
used to name and collect the recorded audio, transcription, and notes. Verbal consent was asked by the researchers at the beginning of the testimonio and before the recording of audio was initiated. The interviews were initially scheduled for 30 to 45 minutes, but resulted in being between 15 and 25 minutes.

Once the testimonios were completed, the researcher compared the audio recording to the transcription generated by Zoom, and made necessary adjustments to accurately transcribe the participants words. All the files, including the transcriptions, recordings, and notes were kept in a password protected device.

**Data Analysis Procedures**

When the researcher completed the transcription for all six testimonios, the researcher began the coding process by building on the themes and patterns based on the participants' experience. Each transcription was reviewed and participants' responses were coded to develop findings to answer the research questions. The researcher also used the observation notes taken during the testimonio to write down significant words and phrases.
CHAPTER IV
FINDINGS

Findings

Each participant shared as much or as little as they wanted to share when it came to them living in California undocumented, before obtaining an AB 60 driver’s license, after obtaining their AB 60 driver’s license, and how they anticipate the Real ID driver’s license will affect or threaten their daily life, if at all. Their unique stories express how they anticipate the Real ID, specifically how the Real ID will affect them once the Real ID Act is effectively implemented in May of 2025. The narratives of the participants are evident that although AB 60 driver’s licenses have been beneficial to them in numerous ways in their daily lives and for their daily stability, the Real ID will pose a threat to their daily lives. The three findings were: 1) Undocumented immigrants in California have experienced a sense of safety under AB 60 2) Latino undocumented immigrants in California are concerned the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements will increase vulnerability by distinguishing them and discriminating them 3) Undocumented Latino immigrants in California fear being criminalized by law enforcement once the Real ID is implemented, as they have experienced in the past.

*Latino undocumented immigrants in California have experienced a sense of safety under AB 60*

All six of the participants discussed that they found out about AB 60 driver’s licenses through *los noticieros* (television newscasts) around 2015. The participants applied to obtain their AB 60 driver's licenses within weeks of hearing the news. They described these moments as good and joyful. Every participant acknowledged that AB 60 driver’s licenses have been beneficial to them when it comes to their daily lives with an emphasis on their positive driving
experience. This benefit that they experienced in their daily life gave them a sense of safety because although they remained legally undocumented, they could now identify themselves. The common themes that were discussed by the participants when it came to AB 60 driver’s licenses were no longer having to drive with a fear of getting pulled over, feeling more confident when driving, and feeling secure of possessing a California issued identity document for everyday interactions. One participant expressed her experience by comparing the fear she felt without a license and how she feels now with a valid AB 60 driver’s license. She recounts an experience years before she got her AB 60 driver’s license and a police officer pulled her over for a routine traffic stop. The participant shared the fear that she and her children felt when they were pulled over, for driving undocumented, specifically driving with no driver’s license. Elena reflected on her experience:

I remember when my children were younger, the fear that my children felt when a police officer pulled me over for a routine traffic stop, and my children were also very scared, and crying. And the only error that I was doing in that moment was driving without valid proof of being able to drive. And that is why I was very happy to get it. Now with the license I don’t drive with the fear that I drove with when I did not have it.

Elena emphasized that prior to her AB 60 driver’s license she drove with fear but now she does not drive with fear because she has a valid driving license. Obtaining a driver’s license gave Elena a sense of safety in her own life by being able to drive. Like many of the participants, she believes that AB 60 ha sido un gran logro para los hermanos indocumentados (has been a great achievement for the undocumented brothers). Like Elena, Eduardo discusses the fear he felt driving without a valid California driver’s license due to his status. He also discusses his current
life with an AB 60 driver’s license which has reduced the fear he feels when driving, resulting in feeling protected. Eduardo discusses his experience with fear:

When I didn’t have that driver’s license, well, I had fear of being pulled over by police. I had fear that the police would pull me over, see that I did not have a driver’s license and take my car from me. The police would know that you are undocumented if you didn’t have a driver’s license. When I didn’t have this license I would deprive myself from driving to places other than work. My general experience with this license has been really good now because I don’t have the fear to drive to work, drive to run my errands, or just drive in general. It has served me well.

Elena and Eduardo were two of the five participants that used the word fear to describe their experience driving without a driver’s license. The use of the word fear from participants arose from not driving with a valid driver’s license but stemmed from their undocumented legal status. These five participants also discussed how they felt driving without fear once they obtained their AB 60 driver’s license. The way participants spoke about having and not having fear, resulted in how safe participants felt in environments or situations where they needed to have a driver’s license. Like Elena and Eduardo, Teodoro also expressed the fear he felt of being pulled over by a police officer and the extra precautions he had to take when driving to avoid encountering police. Additionally, Teodoro mentioned that there is no way to tell a police officer during a traffic stop that you don’t have a driver’s license. The driving experience and the sense of protection for Teodoro changed when he obtained an AB 60 driver’s license. Teodoro reflected on his experience comparing his experience driving with and without an AB 60 driver’s license:

Because in the past we drove with great fear, with great caution. Well we always drive with caution, but afraid of being stopped by an officer. My driving experience has
changed a lot. Because I go out feeling more secure and confident. Without the fear that someone will pull me over. When there was a traffic checkpoint, one would go looking for how to get out of it or get out of the lanes where the traffic checkpoint was at. Instead, now, well nothing happens now. One is able to drive and be fine now. Because, well, we have the driver’s license and the permission to drive.

Teodoro, like all six participants, expressed the confidence he feels when driving with an AB 60 driver's license as opposed to when he did not possess a driver's license. This feeling of security participants discussed pertains to daily life tasks such as driving. When participants were asked if AB 60 has been beneficial or harmful in their daily lives, three of the participants expressed that AB 60 has been beneficial to their daily lives and three expressed that AB 60 has been very beneficial. Therefore, all six participants expressed the sense of safety they felt under AB 60. In fact, the driving experience for every participant has changed beyond having a positive driving experience after obtaining a driver’s license. Like Teodoro, Gloria shared about the benefits she has experienced since obtaining her AB 60 driver’s license and expressed the benefit it has had on her everyday interactions besides driving. She indicated that the most benefit it has for her is especially in situations with law enforcement so she can identify herself and show her permission to drive during traffic stops. Gloria reflects on her experience using the AB 60 driver’s license in her everyday life:

   With this, many situations were fixed, especially with the police. Also, now I can go to a bank and show my driver’s license and can open a bank account, which some banks did not allow unless you had a California identification. Most banks did not accept our Mexican matricula consular identification. And it would affect you because you couldn’t have a normal life like the rest of the people. It was an impediment more than anything.
You can obtain car insurance now and you have more variety and the prices are more economical. Even to use the credit card at the store, you will get asked for identification, therefore it has been so beneficial in that sense.

Latino undocumented California residents like Gloria have used AB 60 driver’s licenses not just for driving but for everyday transactions, such as opening a bank account, obtaining car insurance, and even making credit card purchases. These are essential interactions and transactions that people do daily and have been beneficial for California undocumented residents. The participants, having experienced what it is like to not have any form of California issued identification, express that their daily life was affected by not having an AB 60 driver’s license. Unfortunately, this meant life could not be lived normally with certainty in everyday life until they obtained their driver’s license. Like Gloria, Diego expressed other benefits he has experienced with AB 60 which has gave him the assurance to do other things besides driving:

Many things have been easier for me. For example, when you go somewhere for a service. I am used to renting tools, renting things. You go to various places and it is easier and you feel safer. Well showing the license, they accept it easier than a license that is not from here. So it helps you to feel more secure when doing certain things in life, in our daily life. And now I can rent a machine, go rent something, even get a book or any kind of thing much easier because of the license.

*Latino undocumented immigrants in California are concerned the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements will increase vulnerability by distinguishing them and facilitating discrimination against them*

All six of the participants had heard about the Real ID and knew that they were ineligible to apply for it due to the proof of residency requirement. Additionally, all but one participant
knew about the Real ID effective date being pushed to May of 2025. The common theme that was discussed by the participants when it came to the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements was being separated from society due to their undocumented status, and fear of experiencing discrimination once again, as they had experienced before AB 60. One participant expressed that his daily life would be affected by the Real ID because it directly separates between those who are documented and undocumented. Eduardo reflects on separation:

Well it will affect my daily life because what they are doing is not right. It’s not right because for me it feels like they are separating us. Like they are trying to make us undocumented. Like they are telling us those who don’t have papers move to the side and those who do have papers move to the other side. They are putting us aside. We are not being treated like people, like they treat those who are legally here. At any given moment, the Real ID will be a big problem for us, as in the people who don’t have papers. Separating us, is what they are doing and they know.

Eduardo shared his experience about how the Real ID will affect him directly once the act goes into effect. Separation was a key word emphasized by three participants, including Eduardo, to describe the vulnerability he will face by being separated. Eduardo also stated that the Real ID makes him feel like he is not being treated like a person, and he is being put aside, and therefore separated from those who are legally here and can obtain a Real ID. These participants expressed how the Real ID will increase their vulnerability as they face being distinguished for having a non federal compliant license. Diego emphasizes and shares a similar perspective about being separated from society. Diego reflects how the Real ID will affect his daily life, emphasizing the vulnerability he will face:

From my point of view, it’s unnecessary to mark licenses, unless you want to facilitate
the job to certain people, to indicate that you are paperless or that you don’t belong here. So marking them, to me, feels like they are marking us. At the moment of seeing our license, you see it has limits, and what comes to mind? Well, that we don’t belong here! And in a way it makes us feel bad, because they are separating. Separating us from society. There’s no need to mark an ID for the whole world to know. We know our status.

Eduardo and Diego both use the word separation to discuss how they anticipate the Real ID will distinguish them in May of 2025. They emphasized that it is not right and unnecessary to mark them because they know they are not eligible for the Real ID. This distinguishes between those who are eligible for a Real ID and those who are not also brought up discrimination. Four of the participants discussed that the Real ID poses a threat to their daily lives as it may bring back discrimination that they had experienced when they did not have any driver’s license. Elena elaborates how the Real ID leads to discrimination:

The truth is, when they say that the undocumented are not eligible for the Real ID, automatically when I hear the word undocumented, I hear fear. I hear rejected. We will return to the past like when we didn’t have a driver’s license. Because at the moment a police officer stops you, automatically they will know we are not legal in this country. And we will return to the fear daily. Even at the stores when you go buy something, the person behind the counter will know you are paperless. We will be in the shadows again. I wish we could all be eligible for that Real ID license, so that there would not be discrimination.

Elena expressed that the Real ID poses a threat to her because there will be discrimination, and therefore she feels she and others will be in the shadows again. She stated that she would give everything she could to be able to not be discriminated against once the act goes into effect. She
describes the vulnerability she will likely encounter when she gets pulled over by a police officer and they know that she is undocumented due to the distinguishing of licenses. Alike Elena, Esteban discussed his frustrations that the Real ID poses for him, expressing that discrimination may be a result of the act’s implementation. Esteban discusses the heightened vulnerability he will face:

It’s frustrating because our ID in a way is marked to say that we don’t have the Real ID, then this can be a target from everyone including police. Our ID will imply that we have an identification, but that we may not legally be here. And we will not be treated the same or given the same attention or service as someone who has a Real ID. In my daily life, in a traffic stop, buying things anywhere, even requesting a new insurance, when the person requesting to see your ID sees that it is not a Real ID, it distinguishes you from a person who is legal. In this way, we will begin to see distinctions. I would feel more calm if there were no distinctions, because it may bring back the discrimination for having undocumented status.

Esteban discussed that the visual distinction between those who have an AB 60 driver’s license and those who have a Real ID is what may lead to discrimination in his daily life. He feels his vulnerability will be increased when having to present his non-Real ID anywhere, and then be discriminated against for it. Elena and Esteban both discussed that this differentiation in licenses would stem from them not being eligible to obtain a Real ID, and they would be ultimately discriminated against because of their paperless or undocumented status. Latino undocumented California residents like the four participants, feel they will face discrimination once the Real ID act goes into effect in May of 2025. Another participant, Gloria, adds on to this discussion by expressing what undocumented immigrants had faced when they didn’t have a license, and the
threat it will have on her day-to-day life. She reflects on the vulnerability and discrimination she may face if the licenses are distinguished by police:

Well in my day-to-day there will be a difference between the Real ID’s and our driver’s licenses because when we present our driver’s license it will lead to discrimination in some places and by some people, especially police. We would return once again to that time we faced discrimination for not having a license. I am glad that it does not change our access to drive but my worry and fear is that there will be a difference between one and the other.

*Undocumented Latino immigrants in California fear being criminalized by law enforcement once the Real ID is implemented, as they have experienced in the past*

Four of the six participants described situations they had with law enforcement and they all described their experiences during these encounters. While none of the participants mentioned that they were arrested or faced immigration consequences, they were all criminalized for being undocumented or felt they were criminalized for their status. These experiences ranged from many years ago to a few weeks before the Testimonios were conducted, and also ranges from when they had a driver’s license and when they didn’t. Elena describes the criminalization she experienced before she had an AB 60 driver’s license and expresses the fear she will have when the Real ID is implemented in May of 2025:

I remember when my children were younger, the fear that my children felt when a police officer pulled me over for a routine traffic stop, and my children were also very scared, and crying. And the only error that I was doing in that moment was driving without valid proof of being able to drive…. From the traffic stop, I also remember the police had called a tow truck to take my car and I had to call someone to come pick me and my
children up. I remember I called my husband, and I was scared they would pull him over too since he is also undocumented. We could have lost both of our cars because we are undocumented. I don’t want to go through that again, especially because at the end of the day we are still here with no papers.

This fear of being criminalized for being undocumented was consistent through the Testimonios and this participant recounted her experience being pulled over and getting her car repossessed for not having a driver’s license, ultimately the literal definition of undocumented. This fear she experienced was not only for herself but for her husband who was on the way to pick them up, and the children who felt fear of being pulled over because their mom was undocumented. While participants recounted their most recent experience getting pulled over, most of them mentioned they had been pulled over multiple times in the past and have had to face consequences such as traffic violations and car repossession. Gloria, another participant expresses an experience she had in the first week of obtaining her AB 60 driver’s license and how law enforcement made her feel like a criminal. She tells her experience:

Especially during the first week of obtaining the driver’s license, I had already three days with it. I was driving on the freeway and all of a sudden, a police officer pulled me over but told me to exit the freeway. I did not understand why, I wasn’t even going as fast as the others. I felt like I was treated like a criminal because the police officer did not even let me pull over on the side of the freeway. It’s like he had already assumed I did not have my license and that’s why he took me off the freeway. He was surprised when I presented him with my license when he asked for it. He even seemed bothered that I did have my license. So when the Real ID is effective, I don’t want them to make me feel like a criminal for having my license with limits.
Gloria discussed her experience and explained that she felt like a criminal because law enforcement assumed that she was probably driving without a license so when she was pulled over she was directed to exit the freeway. Although she has a sense of safety under AB 60, she knows law enforcement may pull her over even if she is driving with a driver’s license, and knows she may get a traffic violation. Like Elena, Gloria also fears being made to feel like a criminal for the type of driver’s license they drive with and use for everyday interactions. Thus, they fear the criminalization that may come once the Real ID is implemented just as they have discussed in their testimonios. Diego, another participant, describes an interaction he had years before AB 60 and discusses how he felt during the traffic stop:

When I drove before having the AB 60 license, there was one day when the police pulled me over, and well it was a very bad experience because I had an ID that was not from here. They didn’t even give me a chance to keep my car, or allow me to call someone with a license to get it for me. And in the end, I lost that car. Although I did not have permission to drive and my identification was not valid for them, it was a bad experience because I felt that I was treated badly for it. For being without papers. I thought I was going to get arrested, and I am surprised I didn’t.

Diego expressed an incident prior to AB 60 and emphasizes the bad experience he had with law enforcement because he was not able to identify himself at the traffic stop. He felt criminalized for being undocumented, and feared getting arrested in that incident. While he has not encountered any traffic stops with his license, he conveys that the Real ID may criminalize him for the distinguishing of driver’s licenses, as he expressed in the previous finding. This feeling of fear participants communicate are mainly tied with interactions with law enforcement during traffic stops but will also affect their everyday interactions and transactions when they present it.
Opposite of Diego, Eduardo experienced a form of criminalization weeks before the Testimonios, and discusses how he felt about the traffic stop:

Just around two or three weeks ago I was pulled over because I did not make a full stop and had to show my license. This encounter could have been avoided but it happened. I gave him my driver’s license and tried to explain to him that it was an accident but I still got a ticket. I believe they already knew I was undocumented because of the limited level of English I spoke, and maybe my accent. While this stop could have resulted in a worse situation, I don’t want it to change in 2025. I am scared the police will ask me why my driver’s license is not a Real ID and then they could arrest me or even deport me. I’ve had worse experiences at traffic stops and I know what they are capable of doing.

While Eduardo did not go into further detail about worse traffic stops he had experienced, he discusses how he feels as he speaks to an officer, feeling like he reveals his undocumented status with his license and the way he speaks English. Furthermore, he brings up the fear of being arrested and deported if he presents a driver’s license in 2025 that is not Real ID compliant. The criminalization he and other participants felt led to the fear of being criminalized once again as they had prior to the implementation of the act.

**Conclusions**

This research study was conducted with the intention of documenting the experiences of Latino undocumented California residents, understanding how AB 60 driver’s licenses have been beneficial to them and understanding the impact and threat the Real ID poses on their daily lives. The results of the first research question, “how have AB-60 driver’s licenses been beneficial to Latino undocumented California residents, and how do Real IDs pose a threat on their daily stability?” is answered in the first finding: (1) Undocumented immigrants in California have
experienced a sense of safety under AB 60, and are organized by these three themes: no longer having to drive with a fear of getting pulled over, feeling more confident when driving, and feeling secure of possessing a California issued identity document for everyday interactions. The results of the second question, “how will the Real ID Act of 2005 affect the daily lives of Latino undocumented immigrants living in California once the act is in effect in May of 2025?” is answered in the last two findings: (2) Latino undocumented immigrants in California are concerned the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements will increase vulnerability by distinguishing them and discriminating them, and (3) undocumented Latino immigrants in California fear being criminalized by law enforcement once the Real ID is implemented, as they have experienced in the past. The second research question and findings are tied to these three themes: Separated from society due to their undocumented status, fear of experiencing discrimination once again, and fear of being criminalized as they have in the past. The next chapter presents a discussion of these results, as well as conclusions and recommendations based on the findings presented in this chapter.
CHAPTER V
DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Undocumented California residents are ineligible for a Real ID driver’s license or identification card due to the proof of identity requirement, and while the Real ID Act of 2005 does not change the access or validity of AB-60 driver's licenses in California, undocumented California residents are unable to obtain a REAL ID. This makes undocumented California residents a vulnerable population if pulled over in a traffic stop, unable to present a Real ID compliant marked golden bear driver’s license (Enriquez et al., 2019). Considering a large percentage of the Latino population is undocumented, Latino undocumented California residents will be negatively impacted with the requirements of the California Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain a Real ID (Garcia, 2007).

This chapter includes sections titled (a) discussion (b) conclusions (c) recommendations. In the discussion section, the evidence presented in chapter three is explored. The discussion is organized by research question and includes a discussion of each theme presented in Chapter Three. The conclusion section presents conclusions based on the results of my study. It also relates my findings back to the body of literature reviewed in Chapter Two. The conclusion section is organized according to the themes used in Chapter Two. The final section of this chapter includes evidence-based recommendations related to future research studies that may be carried out to advance the work begun in this investigation.

Discussion

In this section the evidence presented in Chapter Four is discussed. The discussion is organized according to the research questions that guided this study. These include:

1. How have AB-60 driver’s licenses been beneficial to Latino undocumented California residents, and how do Real IDs pose a threat on their daily stability?
2. How will the Real ID Act of 2005 affect the daily lives of Latino undocumented immigrants living in California once the act is in effect in May of 2025?

The following themes are discussed under the heading Research Question 1: (a) no longer having to drive with a fear of getting pulled over (b) feeling more confident when driving (c) feeling secure of possessing a California issued identity document for everyday interactions. Under the heading Research Question 2, the following themes are discussed: (a) separated from society due to undocumented status (b) fear of experiencing discrimination once again (c) fear of being criminalized as they have in the past. This section ends with a brief conclusion.

**Research Question One:** How have AB-60 driver’s licenses been beneficial to Latino undocumented California residents, and how do Real IDs pose a threat on their daily stability?

*No longer having to drive with a fear of getting pulled over*

The first theme brought up by five of the six participants in relation to the sense of safety they felt under AB 60 was that they no longer drove with fear, emphasizing that they no longer felt fear of getting pulled over since they had an AB 60 driver’s license. In their testimonios, these participants often compared their experience to when they did not have a driver’s license, and used the same word, fear, to describe the fear they did have before AB 60. By discussing fear, the participants spoke about how they feared driving, going to work, and speaking about the times they had been pulled over before obtaining a license. They then emphasized that there was no longer fear of driving because they acknowledged their driver’s license has been beneficial for daily driving. The safety participants experienced under AB 60 included being able to drive to work, and being able to drive places without having to worry about getting pulled over. No longer having fear of driving or fear of getting pulled over brought up the theme of feeling more confident when driving.
**Feeling more confident when driving**

Another theme discussed by all six participants about the safety they felt under AB 60 was feeling confident when it came to driving. Participants expressed in a variety of ways how they felt more confident driving, stating that they felt secure, comfortable, at ease, confident, better, great, and without fear. The participants testimonios often tied this confidence of driving to having passed the driving test, being able to get insurance, and having permission to be on the road like others. They also no longer need to avoid traffic checkpoints or law enforcement. This confidence was the main sense of safety they felt when it came to possessing an AB 60 driver’s license considering all of the participants had experienced not having permission to drive in the past. Feeling confident when driving however, was not the only certainty, AB 60 was beneficial for them beyond driving.

**Feeling secure of possessing a California issued identification for everyday interactions**

The final theme for this finding was feeling secure in possessing an AB 60 driver’s license which not only served as a license to drive but as an identification card that participants did not have previously. The testimonios reflected the safety they felt under AB 60 by discussing everyday tasks that they used their license for. Each participant listed and discussed separate everyday use but the most common one was going to stores and showing their AB 60 driver’s license to confirm their identity. Participants discussed how they would have to use their home country’s identity documents to be able to identify themselves in the past but they were not always accepted or validated for identity purposes. Therefore, AB 60 has been reassuring and beneficial to participants for everyday tasks and transactions which has resulted in feeling secure.
The following research question’s themes discuss how the Real ID poses a threat to participant’s daily stability, in response to the second half of the first research question.

**Research Question Two:** How will the Real ID Act of 2005 affect the daily lives of Latino undocumented immigrants living in California once the act is in effect in May of 2025?

**Separated from society due to undocumented status**

The first theme that was discussed by participants in their testimonios was that the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements would separate them from society by distinguishing them for being undocumented, leading to an increase in participants’ vulnerability. Three participants used the word separation to describe how the Real ID implementation would affect them and two others implied it by stating that they would be treated differently. The participants described the separation between those who possess a Real ID and those who don’t, as those who are documented and those who are undocumented. This theme of separation was described by participants as a way that made them feel less than and to some it made them feel bad as it emphasized their undocumented status. This distinguishing of licenses through the visual marks is what will cause participants to experience heightened vulnerability. This theme of separation brought up the second theme, in which participants discuss that the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements will increase their vulnerability and discriminate against them.

**Fear of experiencing discrimination once again**

The second theme that was discussed in the testimonios in relation to the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements was participants' fear of experiencing discrimination for not having a Real ID, and they referenced this to how they experienced discrimination before obtaining their AB 60 driving license. This discrimination is attributed to the heightened vulnerability due to the difference in driver’s licenses. In their testimonios, participants emphasized that the
differentiation between AB 60 and Real ID through their visual mark would lead to discrimination. Four of the participants described this discrimination as they would be more vulnerable by being pushed to the shadows again, feeling targeted knowing there is a visual mark, and feeling like the visual mark facilitates law enforcement and others to view them as undocumented upon presenting their non federal compliant licenses. This theme of discrimination brought up the last theme in which participants shared a common experience of being criminalized, and fear of being criminalized with the implementation of the Real ID.

**Fear of being criminalized by law enforcement, as they have in the past**

The last theme discussed by participants was the fear of experiencing criminalization once the Real ID is implemented, as they have in the past with and without a driver’s license. The fear that participants experienced is attributed to the experiences they have had when pulled over by law enforcement. During these traffic stops, some were routine and others were due to a traffic violation, however participants felt criminalized for their undocumented status. Four of the participants described their stories, indicating how they were very bad experiences and stating that they would not want to experience that again in the future. Overall, the participants felt criminalized in their previous experiences with law enforcement during the traffic stops and expressed fear that they would have to experience it again once the Real ID is fully effective in May of 2025.

**Conclusion**

The previous sections discussed the evidence presented in Chapter Four. The discussion was organized by research question and included, under the heading *Research Question 1*: (a) no longer having to drive with a fear of getting pulled over (b) feeling more confident when driving (c) feeling secure of possessing a California issued identity document for everyday interactions.
Under the heading Research Question 2, the following themes are discussed: (a) separated from society due to undocumented status (b) fear of experiencing discrimination once again (c) fear of being criminalized by law enforcement as they have in the past.

**Conclusions**

In this section conclusions from the results of this study are reviewed and related back to the body of literature reviewed in Chapter Two. The evidence used to support that claim included (a) the criminalization of immigrants in California (b) vulnerabilities undocumented Latino immigrants face in daily life (c) impact of the Real ID driver’s licenses on Latino undocumented communities. This section is organized like Chapter Two and includes: (a) conclusions related to the criminalization of immigrants in California (b) conclusions related to the vulnerabilities undocumented Latino immigrants face in their daily lives (c) conclusions related to the impact the Real ID driver’s licenses has on Latino undocumented communities. In each section, the conclusions are linked to the theoretical framework, Latino Critical Race Theory (LatCrit) employed by this study. This section ends with a brief summary.

**Conclusions related to the Criminalization of Immigrants in California**

According to the existing literature the criminalization of Latino undocumented immigrants in California has resulted due to the growth of Crimmigration, leading to prosecution for immigration violations such as not having lawful status. The growth in Crimmigration due to not having lawful status, or undocumented status, has directly affected the daily lives of Latino undocumented immigrants in California. The findings from my study partially confirm the existing literature because participants discussed that before possessing an AB 60 driver’s license, when driving to work, driving to run errands, or for leisure, they previously experienced their cars being repossessed and getting traffic tickets for not having a license, specifically for
being undocumented. The criminalization participants experienced was tied to their undocumented status, and although none of the participants faced prosecution for their legal status, they were still criminalized in their daily life. The findings confirmed that undocumented Latinos living in California fear being criminalized by law enforcement, as they have in the past. This is important because existing literature acknowledges and exposes the criminalization Latino undocumented immigrants face, and my findings further contribute to literature with the knowledge of the participants themselves. The theoretical framework Lat Crit was employed through the existing literature by prioritizing research that focused on the criminalization of Latinos, and was employed in the findings by positioning the research questions to be expressed through the experience of undocumented Latinos themselves. LatCrit also guided the participant selection, to hear from Latino’s experiences as they have been criminalized and fear being criminalized by the Real ID.

Conclusions related to the Vulnerabilities Undocumented Latino Immigrants face in their daily lives

Related to this, the existing literature demonstrates that undocumented Latino immigrants living in the United States lead vulnerable lives while being socially and physically immobile, facing Anti-Latino and anti-immigrant hostility, and constantly examining their legal consciousness across social positions. The findings from my study confirm the existing literature because participants heavily expressed the increased vulnerability they will face with the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements by distinguishing and discriminating against them. Participants expressed their vulnerability as also affecting their physical and social immobility for being undocumented by illustrating their fear of driving, fear of getting pulled over, and the impediment of not being documented. Additionally, participants implied the anti-immigrant and
anti-Latino hostility they faced by feeling targeted by the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements. The findings also show participants experienced different levels of anti-immigrant hostility during traffic stops due to their undocumented status. Furthermore, participants also expressed and stated they were aware of their legal status and examined it across social positions by illustrating their day-to-day interactions under AB 60 and when they did not have a license. Under AB 60, participants felt a sense of safety but still remained vulnerable. This is important because literature does not express the vulnerabilities Latino undocumented immigrants face through the impact of policies such as the Real ID Act of 2005, however, the findings support and express the vulnerability of the participants in their daily lives. LatCrit, in relation to this finding, was employed to find the vulnerabilities undocumented Latinos experience, and to express the unique but common experience they face in their daily lives. LatCrit guided the research study to find how exactly Latino undocumented immigrants living in California feel under AB 60 and feel with the implementation of the Real ID.

Conclusions related to the Impact the Real ID driver’s licenses has on Latino Undocumented Communities

Finally, the existing literature illustrates that the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements will negatively impact Latino undocumented residents by heightening their underclass status, making them more detectable, and causing them to experience fear. The findings from my study confirm the existing literature because participants demonstrated that the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements would separate them from society, by emphasizing the underclass status they had. They highlighted that the separation would cause them to be put to the side and be treated as undocumented, and as one participant said, not as a human. Additionally, participants expressed that marking the driver’s license would lead to discrimination, which stems from having a non
federal compliant driver’s license that will make them more detectable. Participants, as well as
the literature also discussed the fear that the Real ID would bring once it was implemented. The
fear was discussed and emphasized by participants when it came to the fear of being criminalized
for their underclass status. This is important because the Latino undocumented population living
in California will experience an underclass status, they will feel more detectable, and will fear.
The findings in this study added to existing scholarship on the Real ID by including the voices of
Latinos in California. LatCrit was employed in this portion of the study by understanding
directly how this act will disproportionately affect Latinos in their everyday lives.

Summary

In this conclusions section, the results of this study were reviewed and related back to the
existing body of literature. In summary, evidence suggests that (a) Latino undocumented
immigrants are criminalized for their undocumented status (b) Latino undocumented immigrants
living in the United States lead vulnerable lives with an emphasis on their physically immobility,
and constantly examining their legal consciousness (c) Latino undocumented immigrants will be
impacted by the Real ID’s exclusionary requirements which heightens their underclass status,
causing them to feel detectable, and to experience fear. These conclusions are important because
prior to this study, research centering the voices of undocumented immigrants in relation to the
Real IDs exclusionary requirements has been overlooked. LatCrit guided the research questions
and findings which helped close this gap.

Recommendations

In this section, I make evidence-based recommendations for future research related to the Real
ID and how it directly affects Latino undocumented immigrants daily lives, as well as
recommendations for future research on the everyday lives of undocumented Latinos.
Recommendations for Future Research

The Real ID Act of 2005 and its impact on Latino undocumented communities has been researched when it comes to the three provisions of the act. Provisions of the Real ID Act include: 1) stringent qualifications on those seeking United States relief; 2) the establishment of federal standards for the issuance of driver's licenses; and 3) providing authority to Homeland Security for the construction of physical barriers along the United States borders (Garcia, 2007). The recommendation when looking at future studies on the impact of post 9/11 policies such as the Real ID Act of 2005 on Latino communities, should include and center the voices of Latino undocumented immigrants as they are overlooked, and have not been considered as valid knowledge for the purpose of scholarship. None of the academic sources in the literature review include their voices, and learn directly from the participants and instead focus on a general impact. The second and last recommendation, is for research to continue once the act is implemented to see how Latino undocumented immigrants are experiencing the Real IDs exclusionary requirements.
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Appendix A

Interview Questions in English

AB-60 driver's licenses

1. How did you find out about AB-60 driver’s license?
2. When did you get this license? (Approximately)
3. Has AB-60 been beneficial or harmful to you in your daily life?
4. Has the daily driving experience changed for you, if you drove with no license previously?
5. Have you ever been pulled over while driving and presented your AB-60 drivers license to a law enforcement officer?
   a. What happened?
5. Have you ever had to stop at a police traffic checkpoint and present your AB-60 driver's license to a law enforcement officer?
   a. What happened?
6. What has been your overall experience with your AB-60 driver's license?

Real ID driver's licenses

1. Have you heard about Real ID’s?
   a. Are you aware of the effective date?
2. Since you are not eligible to apply for a Real ID due to the proof of residency requirement, how do you think this will impact your life?
   a. How will it impact or affect your daily life?
3. Are there any potential obstacles for you in the future, if any, when driving and having an AB-60 driver’s license as opposed to possessing a Real ID driver’s license?
4. Will you feel different driving with an AB-60 driver’s license as opposed to driving with a Real ID driver's license?
Interview Questions in Spanish

Licencias de conducir AB-60

1. ¿Cómo se enteró de la licencia de conducir AB-60?
2. ¿Cuándo obtuvo esta licencia? (Aproximadamente)
3. ¿AB-60 ha sido beneficioso o perjudicial para usted en su vida diaria?
4. ¿Ha cambiado para usted la experiencia de conducir diaria, si anteriormente conducía sin licencia?
5. ¿Alguna vez lo detuvieron mientras conducía y presentó su licencia de conducir AB-60 a un oficial de la ley?
   a. ¿Qué pasó?
5. ¿Alguna vez ha tenido que detenerse en un retén de tráfico de la policía y presentar su licencia de conducir AB-60 a un oficial de la ley?
   a. ¿Qué pasó?
6. ¿Cuál ha sido su experiencia general con su licencia de conducir AB-60?

Licencias de conducir Real ID

1. ¿Has oído hablar de los Real ID’s?
   a. ¿Conoces la fecha efectiva de la ley Real ID?
2. Dado que no es elegible para solicitar una identificación Real debido al requisito de prueba de residencia, ¿cómo cree que esto afectará su vida?
   a. ¿Cómo impactará o afectará su vida diaria (no tener el Real ID)?
3. ¿Existen obstáculos potenciales para usted en el futuro, si los hay, al conducir y tener una licencia de conducir AB-60 en lugar de tener una licencia de conducir Real ID?
4. ¿Se sentirá diferente conduciendo con una licencia de conducir AB-60 en lugar de conducir con una licencia de conducir Real ID? (en Mayo del 2025)
Appendix B

Scripted Informed Consent in English

Hello, my name is Ricardo, I am a Masters in Migration studies student at the University of San Francisco. We are here today to talk about your experiences as an undocumented resident living in California with a current valid AB-60 driver’s license. We will also talk about your day to day life as you possess an AB-60 driver's license and how you anticipate your daily life will be with the effective date of the Real ID in May of 2025. Your participation will involve one semi structured interview that will last 30-45 minutes. This research will help us understand how undocumented California residents live their day to day life with an AB-60 driver's license, and if the Real ID Act poses a risk to that daily stability. Everything within this interview will be confidential. I will protect your identity and personal information. Notes that will be taken during the interview will also remain confidential and stored safely in a password-protected computer. Do you give me permission to record our interview? If you wish to not record your interview, we can end the interview without any repercussions. You may also request to redact any statement you shared, at any time, and may also request to not participate in the research study before, during, and after the interview.
Hola, mi nombre es Ricardo, soy estudiante de la Maestría en Migración de la Universidad de San Francisco. Estamos aquí hoy para hablar sobre sus experiencias como residente indocumentado que vive en California con una licencia de conducir AB-60 válida y vigente. También hablaremos sobre su día a día ya que tiene una licencia de conducir AB-60 y cómo anticipa que será su día a día con la fecha de vigencia del Real ID en Mayo del 2025. Su participación implica una entrevista semiestructurada que durará 30-45 minutos. Esta investigación nos ayudará a comprender cómo los residentes indocumentados de California viven su día a día con una licencia de conducir AB-60 y si la Ley Real ID representa un riesgo para esa estabilidad diaria. Todo dentro de esta entrevista será confidencial. Protegeré su identidad e información personal. Las notas que se tomarán durante la entrevista también serán confidenciales y se guardarán de forma segura en una computadora protegida con contraseña. ¿Me das permiso para grabar nuestra entrevista? Si no desea grabar su entrevista, podemos finalizar la entrevista sin ninguna repercusión. También puede solicitar redactar cualquier declaración que haya compartido, en cualquier momento, y también puede solicitar no participar en el estudio de investigación antes, durante y después de la entrevista.
CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS!

The purpose of this research study is to understand how undocumented Latino California residents live their day-to-day life with an AB-60 driver's license, and if Real IDs pose a risk to that daily stability. Your participation will involve one semi-structured interview that will last 30-45 minutes.

QUALIFICATIONS:

If you:

☑️ Are undocumented, living in California?

☑️ Identify as Latino/a?

☑️ Are 18 years of age or older?

☑️ Have a government-issued AB-60 driver's license?

☑️ Ineligible to apply for a Real ID due to not possessing an identity document issued by the United States showing legal status?

☑️ ¿No está en el proceso de obtener un estatus legal?

THEN YOU ARE QUALIFIED TO PARTICIPATE!

Contact: ruelazquez2@dons.usfca.edu
BUSCO PARTICIPANTES!

El propósito de este estudio de investigación es comprender cómo los residentes latinos indocumentados de California viven su día a día con una licencia de conducir AB-60, y si las identificaciones reales (REAL ID’s) representan un riesgo para esa estabilidad diaria. Su participación implicará una entrevista semiestructurada que será de 30-45 minutos.

CALIFICACIONES:

Si usted:

✔ ¿Es indocumentado, y vive en California?

✔ ¿Se identifica como Latino/a?

✔ ¿Tiene 18 años o más?

✔ ¿Tiene una licencia de conducir AB-60 emitida por el gobierno?

✔ ¿No es elegible para solicitar una Real ID debido a que no tiene un documento de identidad emitido por los Estados Unidos que demuestre su estado legal?

✔ ¿No está en el proceso de obtener un estatus legal?

¡ENTONCES ESTÁS CALIFICADA/O PARA PARTICIPAR!

Contacto: ruelazquez2@dons.usfca.edu
Appendix D

- Expedited Review Approved by Chair - IRB ID: 1840.pdf

IRBPHS - Approval Notification

To: Ricardo Velazquez
From: Richard Greggory Johnson III, IRB Chair
Subject: Protocol #1840
Date: 11/09/2022

The Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (IRBPHS) at the University of San Francisco (USF) has reviewed your request for human subjects approval regarding your study.

Your research (IRB Protocol #1840) with the project title The Real ID Act of 2005 and its daily impact on undocumented immigrants living in California, has been approved by the IRB Chair under the rules for expedited review on 11/09/2022.

Any modifications, adverse reactions or complications must be reported using a modification application to the IRBPHS within ten (10) working days.

If you have any questions, please contact the IRBPHS via email at IRBPHS@usfca.edu. Please include the Protocol number assigned to your application in your correspondence.

On behalf of the IRBPHS committee, I wish you much success in your research.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Greggory Johnson III
Professor & Chair, Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects
University of San Francisco
irbphs@usfca.edu
IRBPHS Website