

# UC Berkeley

## Cal-in-Sac Undergraduate Research Products

### Title

Climate-induced Displacements in California: Looking county by county to explore human displacement directly caused by natural disasters

### Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0q7517rn>

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2024 Cal-in-Sacramento Undergraduate Research Project

Project Title:

**Climate-induced Displacements in California: Looking county by county to explore human displacement directly caused by natural disasters**

Link to Storymap: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/51d5314923cc4e909d091dd265d2a9db>

Project Description:

In 1992, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) produced the First Assessment Report, stating the gravest impact of climate change would be human migration. In 2022, the United States experienced 675,000 internal displacements due to disasters, contributing to a total of over 9 million displacements over the past decade. Historically, California has been significantly burdened by climate-induced displacement. In 2018, California experienced 22 wildfires, leading to the displacement of 354,000 individuals. This contributed to 30% of all displacements in the USA at the time. At the moment 1 in 5 people are at-risk for flooding events and ¼ of all California residents live within a high-risk fire zone.

As displacement data is limited, especially in California, the purpose of this project is to use publicly available data to demonstrate the current reality of climate-induced displacement within California, fill in knowledge gaps of highly burdened communities, and identify data limitations. At the same time, the goal is to also identify racially and linguistically vulnerable areas in relation to displacement-burdened communities.

Lastly, this project will perform a policy analysis of relevant California initiatives surrounding displacement and provide key recommendations for California policymakers.

Note: This project only represents one part of climate-induced displacement known as “temporary” or “short-term” displacement where the individual has the possibility of returning to their communities after a disaster event.