

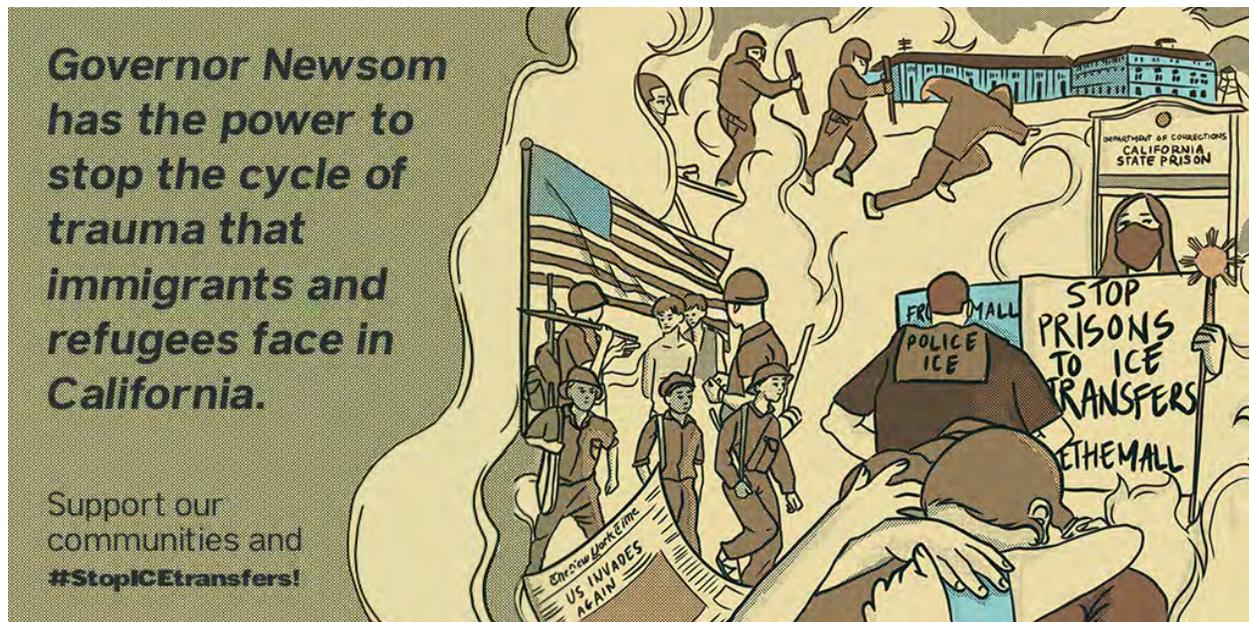
Public Health Talking Points to #StopICEtransfers

Tell your elected representatives how direct transfers from California prisons and jails to immigration detention have impacted you

- **Speak your truth!** Your legislators are responsible for representing the needs of your family and community — what you have to say matters, and your voice has the power to make a difference.
- **These talking points are meant to offer support** as you tell your own story. Feel free to use ones that feel relevant and make them your own.
- **You should never feel pressured** to talk to the media, but if you want to do so, these talking points can also apply.
- **Avoid dehumanizing words** like “criminal,” “felon,” “inmate,” “convict,” or “detainee.” Instead, use people-first language, such as “people who are incarcerated,” “people who are undocumented,” or “people who are detained by ICE.”
- **Avoid drawing a line** between serious or violent convictions and nonviolent convictions — everyone deserves to be with their families and communities.
- **Remember that you are not alone.** Thousands of people in the US are impacted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) transfers and immigration detention and are fighting for their families and communities. This guide is to help you protect your family’s health and well-being.

WE’RE ASKING THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE TO:

1. Stop all ICE transfers from California prisons and jails.
2. Stop the criminalization of immigrant and refugee communities by investing in the social determinants of health, including investments in community-based mental healthcare, stable housing, and living wages.
3. Stop deportations by granting pardons and/or commutations to immigrants with convictions.
4. Stop all state and local agencies within the criminal legal system from collaborating with ICE.
5. Release people from prisons and jails without supervision conditions and with community-based reentry support, including access to housing, job training, and food.
6. Stop the expansion of ICE facilities in the state of California.



QUICK FACTS TO USE WHEN TALKING ABOUT ICE TRANSFERS

Direct transfers from prison or jail to immigration detention harm health.

- Incarceration for any amount of time leads to worse health, including poor mental health and lower life expectancy.
- The longer someone spends in jail or prison, the worse their physical and mental health.
- A study showed that when jails transfer people to immigration detention, the number of immigrants reporting fair or poor health increased by 11%.

Thousands of people are impacted by ICE transfers every day.

- Over 50,000 people are incarcerated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on any given day, an all-time high in the United States.
- Around 70% of the people in ICE detention centers were transferred from prisons and jails.
- In California, 575 people were transferred from prisons and jails to ICE detention centers from January to May 2020.

Southeast Asian immigrants and refugees are especially targeted by immigration enforcement.

- In the US, Southeast Asian communities are 3 to 4 times more likely to be deported for old convictions than other immigrant communities.
- In 2018, 16,000 of the 2.7 million Southeast Asians in the US had received final orders of deportation.

FACTS TO SHARE ABOUT WHAT HARMS HEALTH

Many immigrants and refugees experience trauma both pre-migration and post-migration.

- Many Southeast Asian refugees entered the US in the 1970s and 1980s, seeking safety and survival after fleeing generations of genocide and violence created by US-backed wars.
- After arriving in the US, many refugees face the trauma of poverty and violence in their communities.

The fear and experience of deportation compounds the trauma of immigrant and refugee communities.

- The fear of deportation creates stress which can lead to symptoms such as hair loss and headaches, as well as several cardiovascular diseases due to heightened anxiety.
- Families experiencing deportation experience depressive symptoms and worsening of chronic health conditions like hypertension and diabetes.

Release from prison or jail with continued supervision still harms health.

- Supervision that requires frequent ICE and/or parole officer check-ins can lead to job loss, which harms people and their families economically, physically, and psychologically.
- Electronic monitoring with an ankle monitor can lead to job loss and cause physical harm including foot swelling, cramps, and burned skin.

FACTS TO SHARE ABOUT WHAT PROMOTES HEALTH

Those who are released without supervision conditions experience improved mental health.

- People who are released from prison or jail without supervision conditions report that psychological symptoms — such as anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts — improve once they are released.
- After release from immigration detention, one study shows that participants reported more life satisfaction, improved mood, and fewer suicidal thoughts.

Reunification of families after release is critical for intergenerational health and well-being.

- Nurturing and stable relationships with caregivers can support children in living healthy lives years after traumatic events.
- Keeping families together is associated with higher self-rated mental and physical health in Asian American immigrant communities.
- Receiving care and support from one's community, instead of facing the trauma of incarceration, positively impacts health.

COVID-SPECIFIC TALKING POINTS TO STOP ICE TRANSFERS

COVID-19 is affecting thousands of people in prisons, jails, and detention centers.

- On April 26, 2020, ICE confirmed that 178 people currently detained tested positive for COVID-19. By July 18, 2020, ICE reported 124 times more cases, with 22,142 people testing positive for COVID-19 in ICE detention centers.
- There have been over 7,000 cases of COVID-19 in California's state prisons — a rate that is 488% higher than California overall.
- There have been at least 40 deaths due to COVID-19 within California state prisons — a rate that is 72% higher than California overall.
- Early data from April 2020 found that 8 of the top 10 hotspots for COVID-19 in the US were in prisons and jails.

Prisons, jails, and detention centers are hotspots for infectious diseases like COVID-19.

- Overcrowding, lack of healthcare, extreme temperatures, toxic water, and unhealthy food make prisons, jails, and detention centers hotspots for infectious diseases — even before COVID-19.
- Social distancing is impossible in these facilities: most prisons, jails, and detention centers have more people inside them than they were built for.
- The state prison system, CDCR, caused the current outbreak at San Quentin State Prison by transferring people from the California Institution for Men. Transfers from prisons and jails to ICE detention centers carry the same risk of making the COVID-19 pandemic worse.
- The only way to prevent more COVID-19 infections and deaths in jails, prisons, and ICE detention centers is by ending transfers and releasing people to the care of their families and communities.

If you have questions or want support, please contact:

Asian Prisoner Support Committee at <https://www.asianprisonersupport.com/contact-us>
Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus at <https://www.advancingjustice-alc.org/contact-us/>