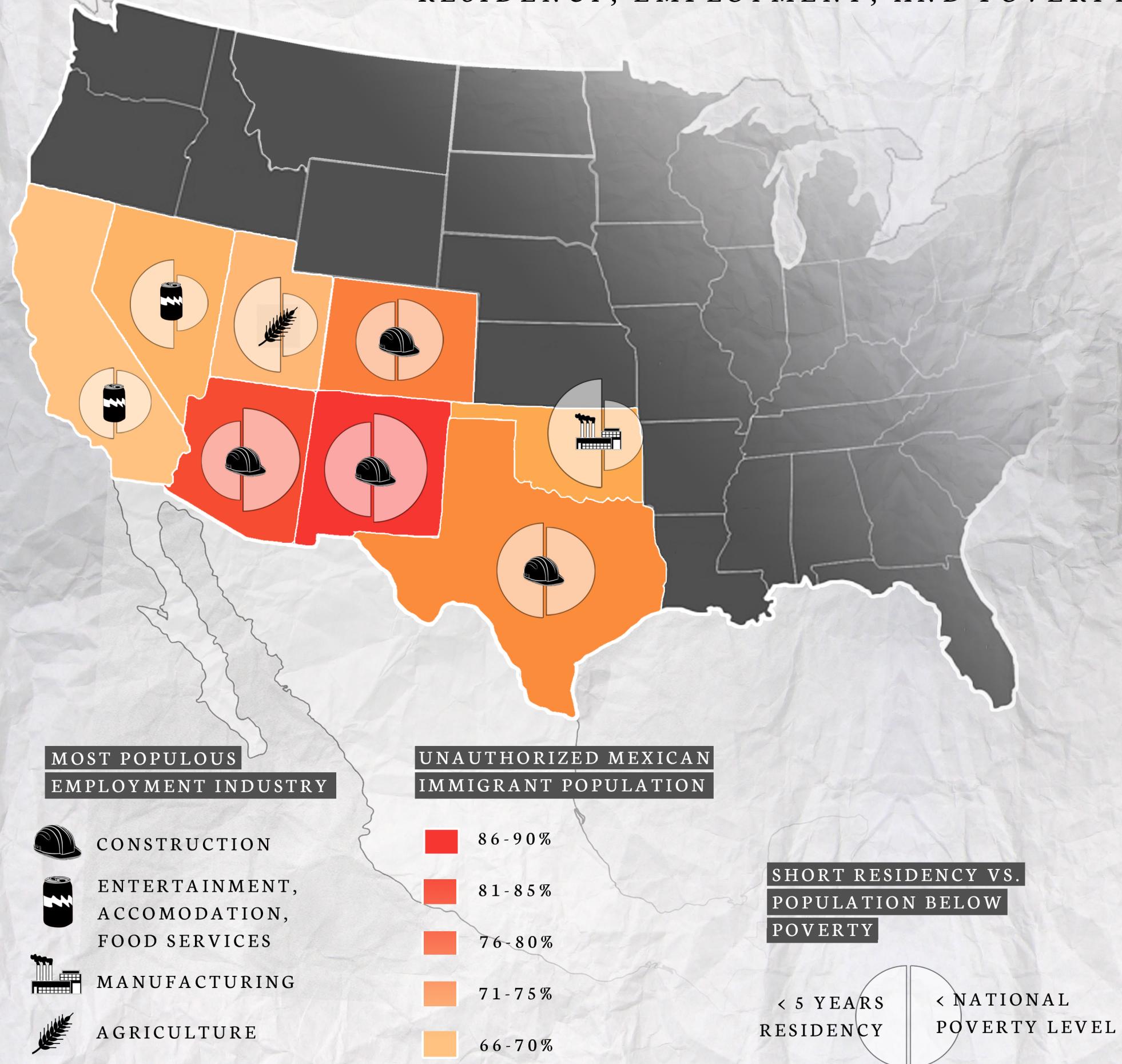


AN EXAMINATION OF UNAUTHORIZED SOUTHWESTERN MEXICAN IMMIGRATION

RESIDENCY, EMPLOYMENT, AND POVERTY



In this map, data retrieved from resources provided by migrationpolicy.org works to illustrate the realities of unauthorized Mexican immigration within the southwest United States. Variables such as total unauthorized Mexican immigrant population (relative to total unauthorized immigration within each state), populous employment industries, and relative percentages comparing short residency and population levels below poverty all aid one another in illuminating a unique and necessary story. As immigration reform becomes a more and more prevalent issue within our nation, it is crucial to examine the realities of such immigration and the relationships that they create. The recent influx of immigrants existing as southwestern residents for 5 years or less is important to consider. The dominant industries of employment within the southwest region (New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas) include construction, accommodation/food services, manufacturing, and agriculture. It is acknowledged that many jobs within these industries are available to employ unauthorized immigrants due to their ability to provide payment methods to workers that are ‘under the table.’ However, these industries and their payment methods are rarely sufficient enough to provide for immigrants and their families. Populations of unauthorized Mexican immigrants below the national poverty line can reach as high as 44% in the southwest (New Mexico). The state with the lowest percentage below this level is Nevada at 30%. ■ Kayla Cooke