

RACE COUNTS

RACE COUNTS 2024

ANNUAL REPORT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The RACE COUNTS team would like to acknowledge and express our gratitude to all those involved in the creation of this report. This includes Catalyst California staff across multiple teams across the organization.

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We would also like to thank the Catalyst California staff who reviewed early drafts of the report and provided feedback - Chauncey Smith, Selena Reynolds.

The county spotlights would not have been possible without the input from our community partners.

Alliance for a Better Community
Brotherhood Crusade
Fresno American Indian Health Project
Sacramento ACT

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INTRODUCTION

For nearly two centuries, people have been coming to California from all over the world with the dream of fulfilling their full potential through independence and prosperity. They often found that, to achieve a good life, they needed to reach beyond custom and culture to build new communities that could share common benefits, like a quality education, fair wages, affordable housing and mutual safety.

It is the racial and cultural diversity of these new communities that has made California such a beacon of hope for so many. Coalitions of communities of color in our state have worked together for decades to achieve social and economic justice for every Californian, including passage of policies that protect immigrants' rights, increase workers' wages, improve public education, build affordable housing, safeguard the environment, and provide healthcare for all.

But now, this collective progress is under threat from corporate billionaires and an authoritarian President in the White House. The incoming Trump administration made clear its promises to attack our communities and dismantle our democratic institutions, depriving Californians of color of the prosperity and independence our families came here to find. Their agenda seeks to

deport immigrants *en masse*, take away healthcare from families through repeal of the Affordable Care Act, threaten workers who unionize, and dismantle public education through elimination of the U.S. Department of Education. So now, California is once again a state of resistance, fighting to keep our hard-won policy victories.

To be sure, racist systems already existed in California long before the 2024 election. Our diverse communities worked diligently to reshape them, with some success. For example, voters in 2014 approved a state measure, Proposition 47, that right-sized penalties for non-violent offenses and invested in care-first approaches. And when the COVID-19 pandemic began, BIPOC community members fought for equity in distribution of federal and state resources to keep communities safe. In some cases, they reversed a narrative that unfairly blamed low-income communities for the ravages of the disease.

But now, those gains are under threat. Many families haven't fully recovered from the economic and health damage that COVID-19 wreaked on them despite that policy win. And voters in this past election approved Proposition 36, a measure that largely reversed the community investments of Proposition 45.

RACE COUNTS

This is where RACE COUNTS can help. Our 2024 report aims to provide comprehensive data in a shared framework that gives racial justice advocates throughout the state the tools to reframe a harmful narrative that threatens our communities as we move forward. Data can show where advocates foster solidarity to bring communities together, and where greedy

corporate billionaires who want benefits only for themselves are inflicting the most harm on these communities. This moment requires all Californians, regardless of race or background, to recommit to the creation of a state where everyone thrives. The RACE COUNTS 2024 report is our contribution.

RACE COUNTS

About RACE COUNTS

RACE COUNTS is an initiative that uses race as the primary lens to understand inequity in California. It aims to dismantle systemic racism and transform public systems in California through data, research, and advocacy.

RACE COUNTS uses a comprehensive, cutting-edge tool that tracks racial disparity data for more than 40 indicators across seven issue areas at multiple levels of government: state, county, city and school district. RACE COUNTS also includes research reports and data briefs and provides support to community organizations in their advocacy efforts.

In developing the initiative, we partnered with key thought leaders, community organizers, and policy advocates across issues and regions, most notably California Calls, PICO California, and the University of Southern California's Equity Research Institute (ERI). The indicators highlighted in this report represent a small selection of the data available through RACE COUNTS, and the report does not discuss city-level findings.

We encourage you to visit the updated www.racecounts.org site to explore the data through our maps, charts, and more. On the website, you can find data for many of the racial and ethnic groups in your city and county. You can also see how equitable outcomes are for the systems in your community compared to other parts of the state, including seeing where your community ranks on the RACE COUNTS indices of outcomes and racial disparity.

You can also learn how to partner with us, including collaborating on a joint report, developing fact sheets and other materials using RACE COUNTS data, or providing a presentation on RACE COUNTS for advocates, organizers, and residents.

Methodology

We measure outcomes, racial disparity, and population impacts for indicators across seven key issue areas:

- Safety and Justice
- Democracy
- Economic Opportunity
- Education
- Health Access
- Healthy Built Environment
- Housing

We selected indicators for each issue area after reviewing literature and meeting with on-the-ground groups.

Outcomes tell you how well our systems are doing in general. If high school graduation rates are high, our education system is doing well; if our life expectancy rates are high, our health system is doing well, etc. Disparity refers to how well our systems are serving different racial groups. We measure how different outcomes are between racial groups in two ways. The first is to compare one racial group's outcome with another's. The second way is to summarize the differences in outcomes among all races. We use a metric called the Index of Disparity, where we take the average of the differences in outcomes of all racial groups and compare it with the best outcome.

We show you the results of our outcomes, disparity, and impact calculations in two ways. First, we rank counties and cities based on their outcomes and disparities on the [Disparity & Outcome Rankings Table page](#). And second, we assign counties and cities to one of four categories (Gains at Risk, Prosperity for the Few, Stuck and Unequal, and Struggling to Prosper) based on their systems' outcomes and racial disparity compared to the averages. For more detailed technical information about our methodology, visit our [RACE COUNTS GitHub repository](#).

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What is New This Year

Data on Law Enforcement Traffic Stops

This year, RACE COUNTS includes a new data indicator for the safety and justice issue area – law enforcement traffic stops. This data collected by the California Department of Justice, under the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA), examines disparities for various aspects of law enforcement traffic stops, from the reasons for the stops to results of the stops.

Data for SWANA Community

For the first time, RACE COUNTS this year includes data for the Southwest Asian and North African (SWANA) community in California. Estimates for SWANA people are only available for 14 indicators. Despite the limited and inconsistent data for this population, we have been able to shine a light on some of the inequities that this community faces, making them more visible. This was possible because more sources included SWANA data and we advanced our data disaggregation methods.

We will continue to innovate in our data analysis and push for more accurate and inclusive data to reflect our country's diversity.

State Level Analysis

As California has worked to emerge from the post-COVID era during the past few years, communities of color now face an immense threat of the incoming federal administration.

Now that health officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention consider COVID-19 to be in the endemic phase, the “new normal” has not been as promising as some might have hoped. The categorization of an endemic indicates that the virus that

causes COVID will continue to circulate and cause illness indefinitely, similar to malaria in certain parts of the world, requiring the public to be vigilant and manage on a regular basis.¹ In 2024, compared to the 2023 data, disparity decreased in more indicators than it increased, a hopeful sign. RACE COUNTS revealed the least disparity in the Economic Opportunity and Education issue areas. But outcomes showed worsening student homelessness and suspension rates statewide. Additionally, access to healthcare became more difficult for communities of color.

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Safety & Justice

Despite the tireless advocacy by multiracial coalitions, RACE COUNTS data show that Safety and Justice is still the most racially disparate issue area. Incarceration is the main driver of this disparity. Black Californians are imprisoned at three times the rate of Californians overall. Statewide, Black residents are 30.5 times more likely to be subject to law enforcement use of force than the group with the lowest rate. Black youth are more than twice as likely to be arrested for status offenses than White youth. Black Californians are nearly 20 times more likely to be incarcerated than the group with the lowest incarceration rate. The rigidity of the data in this issue area is a call to action for racial justice advocates to push harder for a more equitable criminal legal system.

The Northern / Sierra region is home to six of the top 10 most disparate counties for this issue. The new data show the Bay Area region still has the best outcomes in California on this issue. Not surprisingly, this region is also home to some of the state's most affluent communities, located in Silicon Valley.

Democracy

With one of the most consequential elections in decades behind us now, we examined

the RACE COUNTS democracy data that uncovers a relationship between better outcomes and lower disparity. For example, as voter registration rates go up, racial disparity decreases in this indicator.

White voter rates are still the highest, but the differences in voting rates between racial groups are less pronounced for presidential elections than for midterms. The causes may be diverse: the high interest might reflect the political polarization of the country, or a new awareness of the importance of civic action. We do know that voter turnout is usually higher for presidential elections. But again, there is a connection between better outcomes and lower disparity.

White Californians have by far the highest representation among candidates for office, with 1.4 White candidates per 100,000 residents of the same race. They are the only racial group that does better than the overall statewide average. Latinx Californians, who make up the largest non-White group in the state, have nearly three times less representation in the candidate pool than White Californians. American Indian / Alaska Native (AIAN) Californians have the fewest candidates for elected office of any racial group in California. They have eight times less representation than White Californians.

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RACE COUNTS data also reveal that Latinx and Asian Californians have the lowest rates of voter registration in the state. This is noteworthy given that these are two key voter blocs – both not monolithic – within the state that is home to the largest share of Latinx and Asian electorates in the nation.² According to a recent study by AAPI Data on voter insights within the Asian American communities, approximately 46% of voters surveyed indicated they had not been contacted by any political party to vote in upcoming elections.³

Education

Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander (NHPI) students have the highest chronic absenteeism rate at nearly 66%, which is more than 58 percentage points higher than the group with the lowest rate.

Statewide, one in four students is chronically absent. That figure rises to one in three for Black, NHPI, and AIAN students. This is an indicator where counties with larger populations like San Francisco, San Mateo, Los Angeles, Kern, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Bernardino, and others have among the worst disparities.

Three counties (Modoc, Lake, and Del Norte) in the Northern / Sierra region lead in suspensions, sanctioning students at rates at

or nearing 10%. Lake and Del Norte also rate high on racial disparity on this indicator, in part because their schools suspend American Indian and Alaska Native students more often than others.

Healthcare Access

All eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley region have worse than average outcomes in Health Care Access. Looking across indicators, Black Californians fare worse than other groups in three out of the six indicators for Health Care Access.

Healthy Built Environment

When analyzing the data under the Healthy Built Environment category, we find that SWANA and Latinx Californians are most likely to live in communities near environmentally hazardous sites and to be exposed to drinking water contaminants. In Placer and El Dorado – counties with some of the best outcomes in this issue area - SWANA residents live in neighborhoods with the least amount of greenspace.

Housing

Young Californians face growing disparities, evidenced in an increase in student homelessness among K-12 students. AIAN

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Californians have the highest student homelessness rate in the state at 7.1%, nearly twice the statewide rate. Black, NHPI, and Latinx students face more homelessness as well. Asian, Filipinx, and White students in California experience considerably less homelessness than the statewide average.

Looking at student homelessness regionally, four of the five most racially disparate counties are in the Bay Area. Three counties in the Central Coast region – Monterey, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo - struggle with the highest student homelessness rates. This is somewhat surprising as Santa Barbara is an affluent city, and both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo are home to two prestigious universities.

Community Most Impacted by Disparity

Across all indicators, Black Californians continue to be most impacted by racial disparity. Of the 47 RACE COUNTS indicators, Black Californians have the worst outcomes among all groups on nearly half of them. Additionally, Black residents are the only group who do not have the best outcome on any indicator.

County Ranking Analysis

The new RACE COUNTS data findings, which include COVID-19 and post-pandemic shifts, show that some counties with the smallest populations continue to have higher than average racial disparity. For example, Lassen, Mono, Inyo, Mendocino, and Imperial make up the top five highest disparity counties overall in California – four of these counties have populations under 100,000.

There were some notable shifts in this year's rankings:

- The Bay Area's Marin County fell out of the top five most disparate counties compared to last year, when it was third.
- Three other Bay Area counties (Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma) also had less disparity compared to other counties and had big shifts down the rankings.
- Imperial, a moderate-sized county in Southern California with a population of less than 200,000 people, moved up in the disparity rankings, jumping from 31st to fifth most disparate. Disparity is higher in Democracy, Economic Opportunity, Education, Health Care Access, and Housing. Its outcome rank was unchanged at 51.

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- Ten of the 15 counties with the highest racial disparities in Democracy are in the Northern / Sierra region.
- Sacramento area counties, Placer and El Dorado, have better outcomes overall than most counties. Their outcome ranks were unchanged at second and third respectively.
- San Joaquin Valley counties, plus San Bernardino, and some Northern / Sierra counties have among the worst outcome rankings.

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Top 5 Highest Racial Disparity Counties

Ranking	County	Region
1	Lassen	Northern / Sierra
2	Mono	Northern / Sierra
3	Inyo	Northern / Sierra
4	Mendocino	Northern / Sierra
5	Imperial	Southern California

Bottom 5 Lowest Racial Disparity Counties

Ranking	County	Region
52	Sacramento	Sacramento Area
53	San Diego	Southern California
54	Solano	Bay Area
55	San Benito	Central Coast
56	Tuolumne	Northern / Sierra

*Alpine and Sierra counties lack sufficient data to receive disparity rankings.

Top 5 Best-Outcome Counties

Ranking	County	Region
1	Marin	Bay Area
2	Placer	Sacramento Area
3	El Dorado	Sacramento Area
4	San Mateo	Bay Area
5	San Luis Obispo	Central Coast

Bottom 5 Worst-Outcome Counties

Ranking	County	Region
53	Lake	Northern / Sierra
54	San Bernardino	Southern California
55	Tulare	Central Valley
56	Trinity	Northern / Sierra
57	Fresno	Central Valley

*Alpine County lacks sufficient data to receive an outcome ranking.

Conclusion

Our political and economic horizons across the nation are unclear and unsettled now, and they will likely remain so for some time to come. In the wake of a consequential general election, that reality touches California in a very particular way.

The RACE COUNTS 2024 report shows where the state's systems still significantly discriminate against communities of color, but it also spotlights areas where, through their advocacy and involvement, these communities have begun to pull their governments toward more equity. That progress faces a considerable possibility of reversal as an unfriendly federal administration takes over, with plans to target California in large and small ways.

With this report, we hope to unfurl a road map showing our communities where they can advance now, even as they work to rebuild political power and enlist allies toward a more progressive agenda in the future. Head winds are on the way, but they are nothing our communities haven't faced before—and their dream of prosperity and independence hasn't died. In fact, it burns brighter than ever.

The solution still lies, as ever, in what our families and ancestors learned when they first arrived in California: our diversity is our secret superpower, and working across differences can bring us all broader, more lasting change. Californians have faced difficult times before. We must look to our values of inclusivity and equity to weather this moment and make our goals a reality.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

RACE COUNTS Ranking

RACE COUNTS ranks outcomes and racial disparity levels, taking in all indicators, for the counties for which enough data exist. Ranking higher in disparity means there is a greater range of outcomes between racial groups. Ranking higher in outcomes means systems are working better. LA County rankings:

Disparity Rank (out of 56)	Outcome Rank (out of 57)
44	45

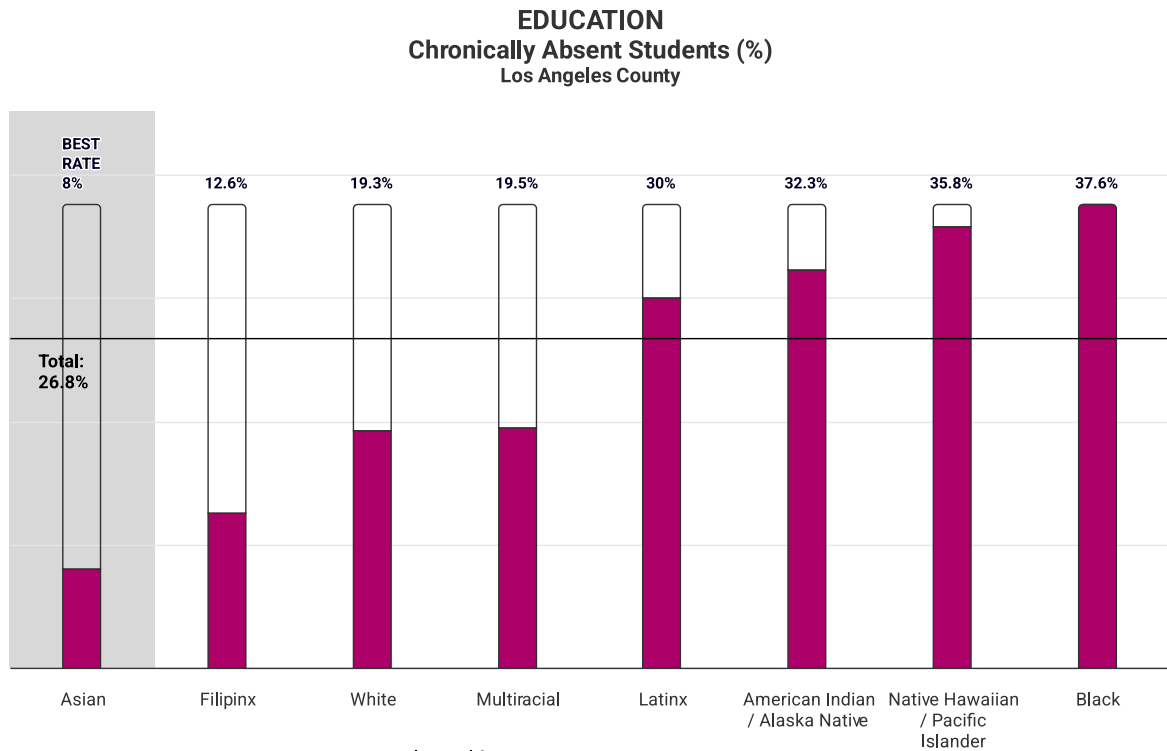
Our updated data show that in LA County, despite slight improvements, chronic absenteeism among students of color remains stubbornly high. About 38% of Black students miss school too often—down from last year’s 43%, but still the highest of any group. NHPI students follow at 36%, also down from last year. Asian students had the best rate at 8%, slightly better than White students.

Officers stop about 181 Black drivers per 1,000 Black people in the county. In comparison, just over 58 stops involve a White driver per 1,000 White people. Asian drivers have the lowest stop rate, with just over 24.

These data echo a pronounced trend in the City of Los Angeles, where police **have long used traffic stops to profile and harass** residents of color. In June, the city council **ordered a study** of traffic stops within its borders, with a view to reducing the role of police in traffic enforcement. Our data suggests a similar need for county supervisors to act on this issue, given that **national** and **regional** studies find racial bias in traffic stops

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

About one in three Black, NHPI, and AIAN students are chronically absent from school.



© Catalyst California; RACE COUNTS, [racecounts.org](https://www.racecounts.org), 2025
<https://www.racecounts.org/issue/education/> (accessed January 30, 2025)
Data Source: California Department of Education (2022-23)

Our spotlight shows that, despite slight improvements, chronic absenteeism among students of color remains stubbornly high.

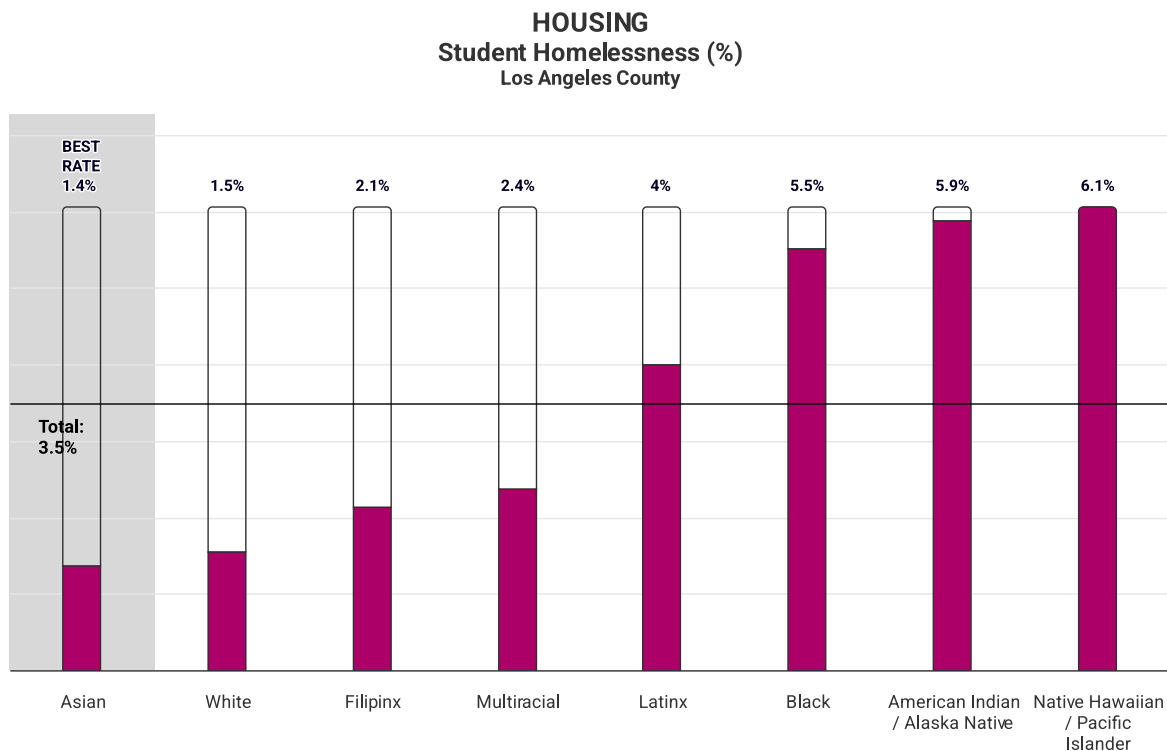
About 38% of Black students miss school too often—down from last year’s 43%, but still the highest of any group. NHPI students follow at 36%, also down from last year. Asian students had the best rate at 8%, slightly better than White students.

Even as rates improve, absenteeism remains higher than before the COVID-19 pandemic, and students face daunting barriers to get to school.

Rather than shore up help for students of color, **LAUSD recently changed the Black Student Achievement Plan** that focused on supporting Black student success, eliminating race as a factor in determining whom to help. This is a serious concern.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

NHPI, AIAN, Black, and Latinx students are most likely to experience homelessness.



© Catalyst California; RACE COUNTS, [racecounts.org](https://www.racecounts.org), 2025
<https://www.racecounts.org/issue/housing/> (accessed January 30, 2025)
Data Source: California Department of Education (2022-23)

Student homelessness remains a concern, mainly due to a years-long dearth of proper housing. New data show three-quarters of the nearly 48,000 students who lack stable housing are Latinx.

Families of color are more likely to rent, so they suffer when landlords turn limited available units into condos or short-term rentals.

Measure A, the voter-approved new 1/2-cent sales tax measure, will provide funding that could help this often invisible cohort.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Law enforcement officers are 2.5x more likely to stop Black drivers than the average driver.



© Catalyst California; RACE COUNTS, racecounts.org, 2025
<https://www.racecounts.org/issue/safety-and-justice/> (accessed January 30, 2025)
Data Source: Open Justice Data, California Department of Justice (2022); American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Tables DP05, B04006, and B2018 (2018-2022)

RACE COUNTS updated its data on officer-initiated traffic stops, showing law enforcement officers initiated 181 stops per 1,000 Black residents in Los Angeles, followed by NHPI residents with a rate of 124.9. According to the Racial and Identity and Profiling 2024 data, Black Californians accounted for 12% of officer-initiated stops statewide. Often, these traffic stops lead to law enforcement opening a file on members of BIPOC communities, and that becomes the entry point to the criminal legal system.

These Los Angeles County data echo a pronounced trend in the City of Los Angeles, where police have long used traffic stops to profile and harass residents of color. This summer, the city council passed a motion instructing City officials to conduct a study imagining a future in which unarmed city workers would take over most traffic duties.⁴ Our data show a need for the county supervisors to act on this issue, given that national and regional studies find racial bias in traffic stops.⁵

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Conclusion

The growing narrative of a need for law and order within LA County seriously harms BIPOC communities, bringing us back to the new Jim Crow era of mass incarceration. If the

historic pandemic has shown us anything, it is possible to reimagine our criminal legal system in such a way that more investments can lead to restorative justice with more investment in a care first system.

Partner Spotlight: Brotherhood Crusade

Brotherhood Crusade is a 50-year old grassroots organization with a vision of improving quality of life and meeting the unmet needs of underserved and underrepresented Youth and Families in South Los Angeles. By helping them identify and address unresolved issues of trauma using both non-clinical and clinical approaches with an ultimate goal of helping them maximize their opportunities to succeed in school and in life. By creating highly intentional and individualized youth development plans of action and milestones, we give young people the opportunity to become Change Agents in their schools and communities.

FRESNO COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Rankings

RACE COUNTS ranks outcomes and racial disparity levels, taking in all indicators, for the counties for which enough data exist. Ranking higher in disparity means there is a greater range of outcomes between racial groups. Ranking higher in outcomes means systems are working better. Fresno County rankings:

Racial Equity Index ranking on overall disparity and outcomes

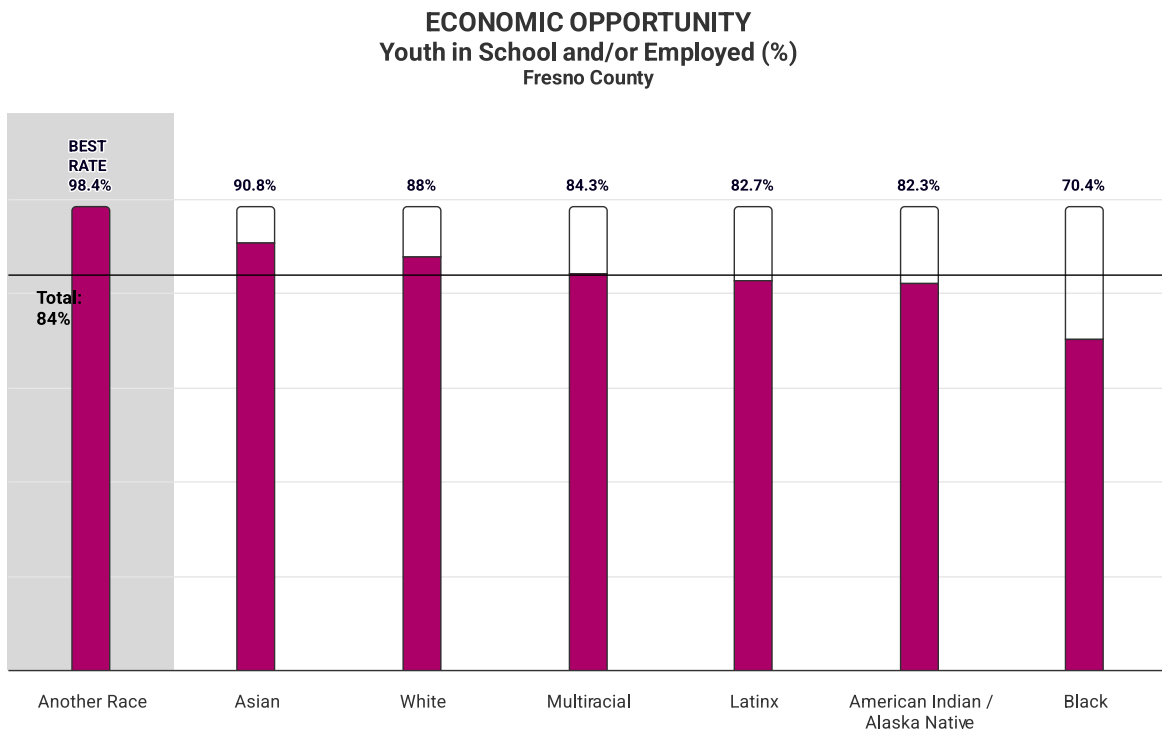
Disparity Rank (out of 56)	Outcome Rank (out of 57)
17	57

Education has the most racial disparity among issue areas in Fresno. RACE COUNTS data show there was less racial disparity around Health Care Access. The Safety & Justice issue area had the best outcomes for the county

(though still below average for the state), while the worst outcomes were in Healthy Built Environment. Connected youth (e.g., youth in school or employed) is the most disparate RACE COUNTS indicator in Fresno County.

FRESNO COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Fresno schools and employers are least likely to enroll and/or employ Black youth.



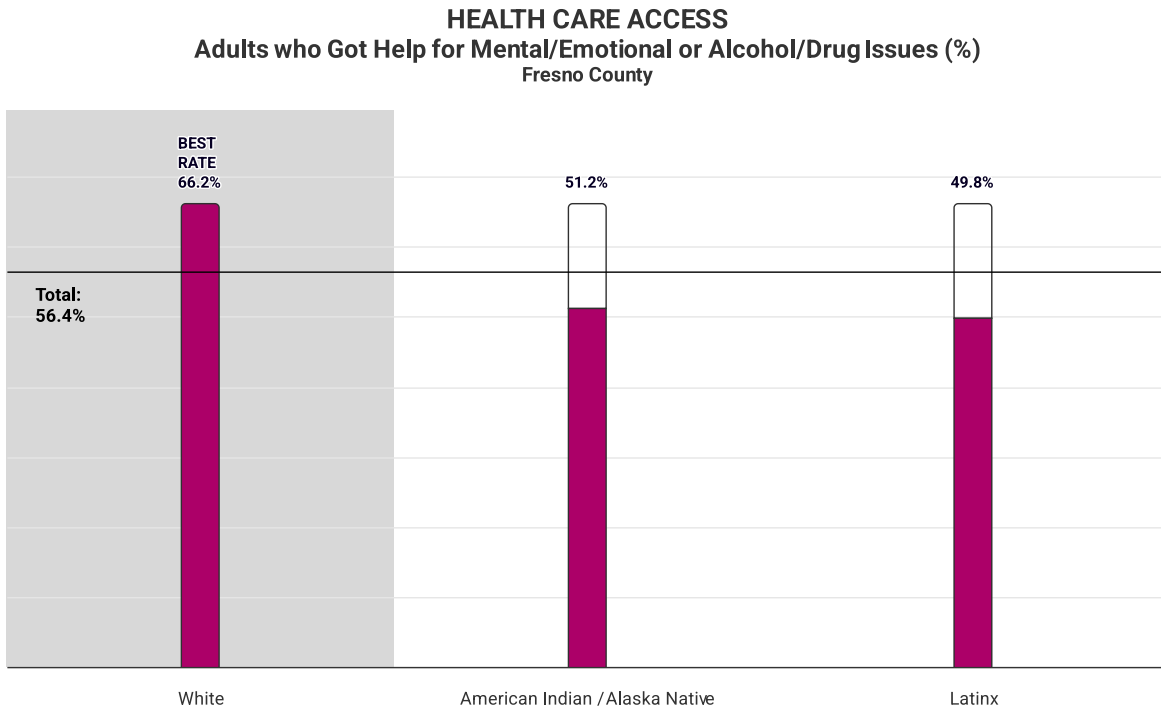
© Catalyst California; RACE COUNTS, [racecounts.org](https://www.racecounts.org), 2025
<https://www.racecounts.org/issue/economic/> (accessed January 30, 2025)
Data Source: American Community Survey 5-Year PUMS Estimates (2018-2022)

Communities of color were disproportionately impacted, living in poor environmental conditions with fewer resources than White residents. Across all indicators, Black residents in Fresno County are the most impacted by racial inequities. Even as our analysis shows that racial inequity most affects Fresno

County's Black residents, AIAN residents have concerning outcomes in health access, education, and economic indicators that are out of proportion with their numbers in the population. AIAN residents have the worst rate for six of the 42 RACE COUNTS indicators for them.

FRESNO COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Only half of Latinx and AIAN adults who need help get help, though overall access is low too.



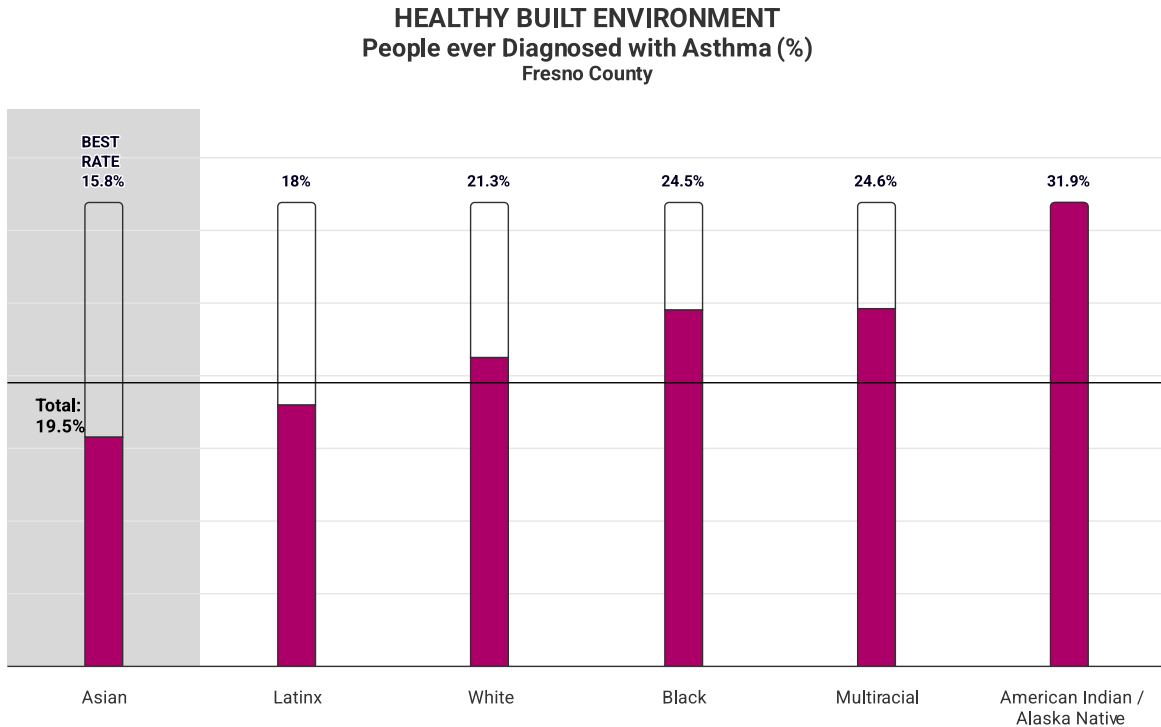
© Catalyst California; RACE COUNTS, [racecounts.org](https://www.racecounts.org), 2025
<https://www.racecounts.org/issue/health/> (accessed January 30, 2025)
Data Source: California Health Interview Survey (2011-2022)

Disparities in whether groups get help for mental or behavioral health are rooted in access to providers, differences in insurance coverage, and discrimination by health systems and professionals.

Our updated data shows AIAN (and Latinx) residents seek help for addiction/mental health issues at a considerably lower rate than White residents. If the Trump administration ramps up attacks on Covered California, this disparity could rise significantly.

FRESNO COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

One out of every three AIAN residents has been diagnosed with asthma.



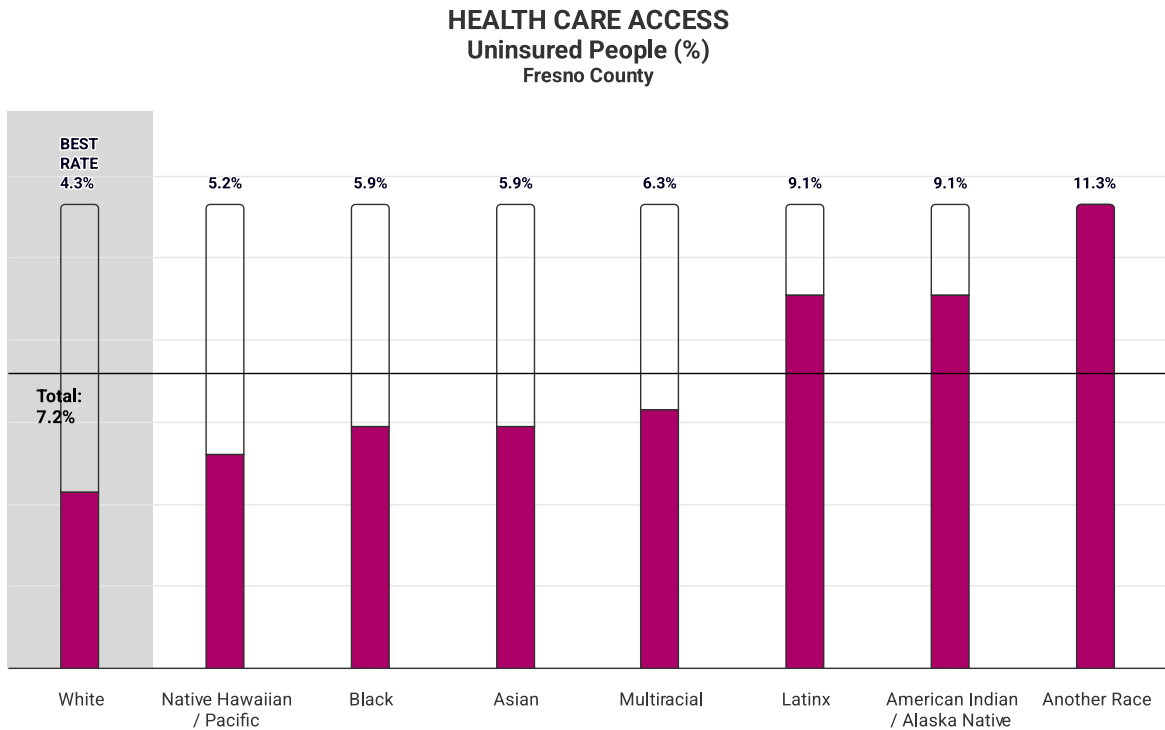
© Catalyst California; RACE COUNTS, racecounts.org, 2025
<https://www.racecounts.org/issue/healthy-built-environments/> (accessed January 30, 2025)
Data Source: California Health Interview Survey (2011-2022)

Redlining and a lack of protective regulations which enable polluting industries and land uses (e.g., freeways) to locate in low-income communities of color, resulted in disproportionate exposure to air pollution.

AIAN have the worst asthma rate in Fresno – one out of three AIAN residents has been diagnosed with asthma in Fresno. According to a recent report by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, the city of Fresno was listed as one of the nation’s “asthma capitals” based on asthma-related emergencies and deaths.⁶ Despite this crisis, during the summer the California Air Resources Board voted to once again delay meeting air quality standards that would lead to more clean air for residents. Regulators must act urgently to implement air quality plans that will effectively reduce air emissions so that communities can have more access to clean air.

FRESNO COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Latinx, AIAN, and residents of Another Race are most likely to be uninsured.



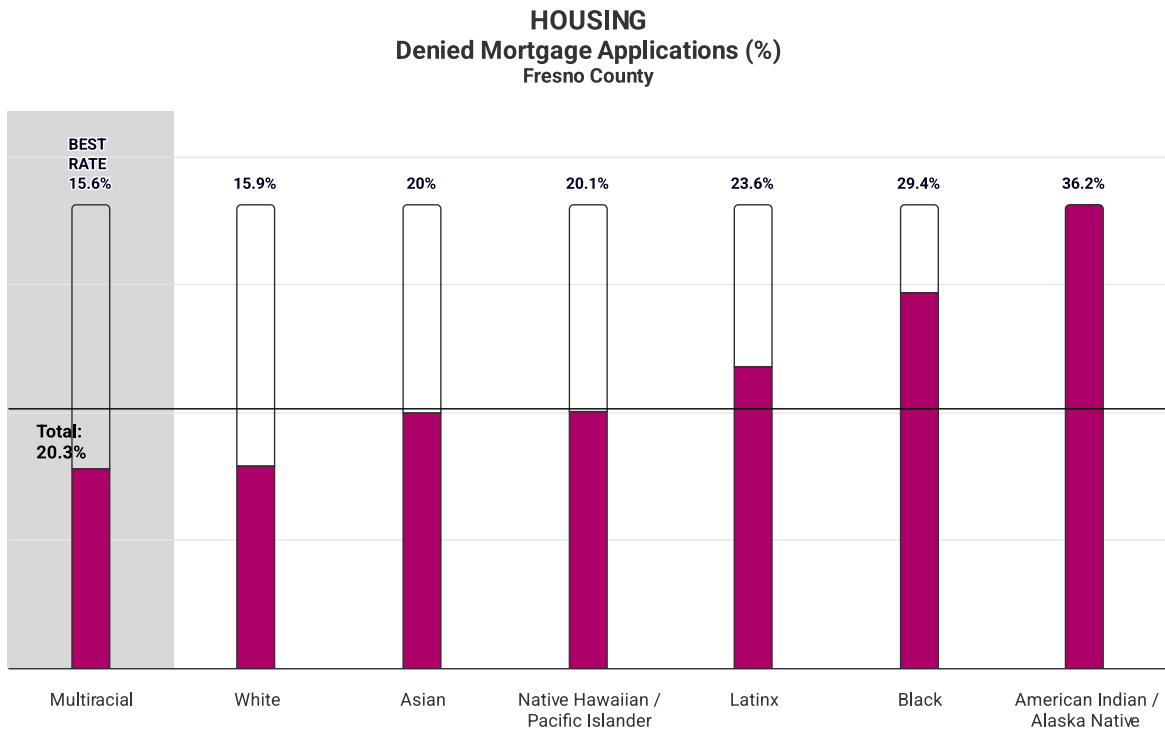
© Catalyst California; RACE COUNTS, [racecounts.org](https://www.racecounts.org), 2025
<https://www.racecounts.org/issue/health/> (accessed January 30, 2025)
Data Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S2701 (2018-2022)

Workers of color are more likely to be found in low-wage industries that do not provide health insurance. These industries were excluded from the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, which resulted in stronger union rights and employer-sponsored health insurance.

Among AIAN and Latinx residents, 9.1% have no health insurance. This compares to White residents who are the least likely to be uninsured with the best rate at 4.3%.

FRESNO COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Lenders are most likely to deny loans to AIAN mortgage applicants.



© Catalyst California; RACE COUNTS, [racecounts.org](https://www.racecounts.org), 2025
<https://www.racecounts.org/issue/housing/> (accessed January 30, 2025)
Data Source: Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (2019-2022)

Opposition to high-density housing and the high cost of construction have created the extreme housing shortage and rising housing costs in California. This coupled with lower incomes for people of color mean many live in overcrowding housing to reduce that cost burden.

Our data shows that AIAN applicants and co-applicants in Fresno were denied mortgages at more than double the rate of White applicants and co-applicants. With ongoing barriers such as a lack of access to credit, banks and other financial institutions, AIAN residents are unable to build wealth through homeownership.

FRESNO COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Campaign Spotlight: Fresno American Indian Health Project (FAIHP)

The Fresno American Indian Health Project is a culturally sensitive health access and advocacy program for American Indians and Alaska Natives in Fresno. The FAIHP has been serving the American Indian community of Fresno since 2007. The agency offers a variety of services including health screenings and referrals, mental health services, case management, transportation, nutrition education, a community garden, prevention and intervention programs, and a youth after-school program.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Sacramento County, with a population of more than 1.5 million residents, is a county with outcomes above the average for counties statewide and lower disparity compared to counties overall. It experienced its highest levels of disparities in the Education issue area, while having the least amount of disparity in the Economic Opportunity issue area.

Racial Equity Index ranking on overall disparity and outcomes

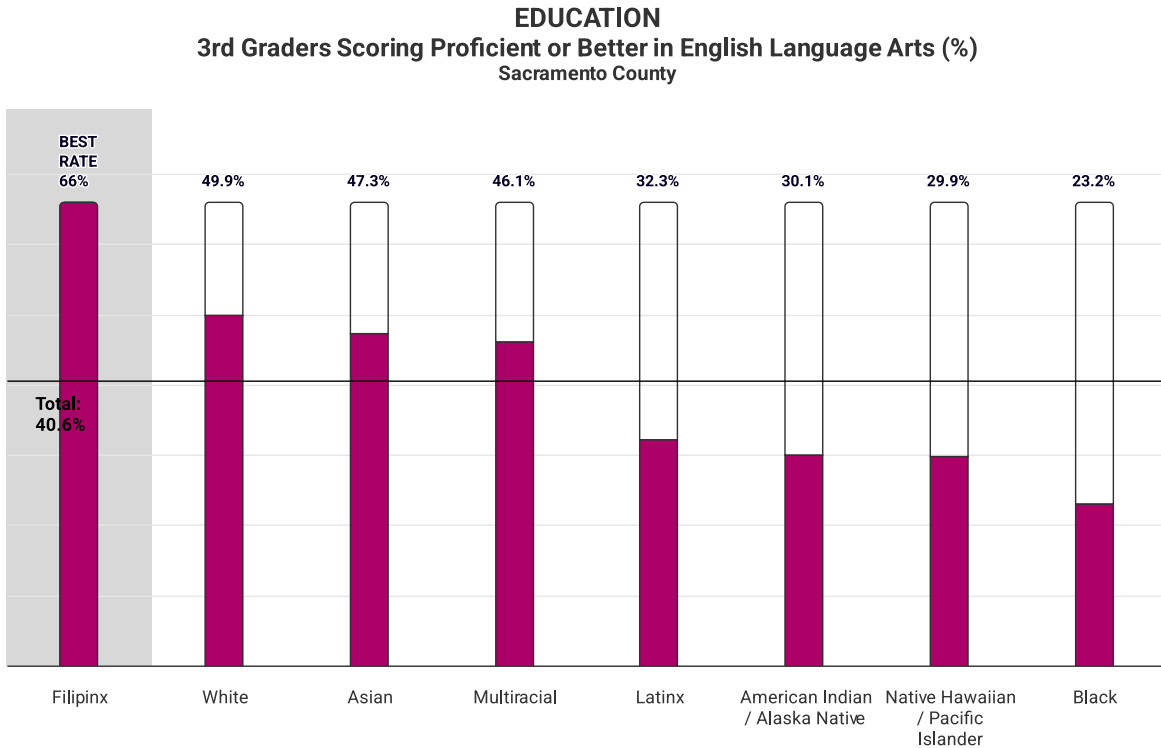
Disparity Rank (out of 56)	Outcome Rank (out of 57)
52	21

In Sacramento County, Third Grade English Language Arts has the most racial disparity. Despite students making some progress within the classroom with slight increases in English language arts and math scores last school year, updated data shows fewer than half of students are proficient (41%). Additionally, schools

produce even lower proficiency rates among Black, NHPI, AIAN, and Latinx students. With the historic, one-time levels of funding the state school districts received during the height of COVID drying up, school officials must get creative and invest available resources in proven strategies to close the achievement gap.⁷

SACRAMENTO COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Schools are least likely to ensure Black 3rd graders are proficient in English Language Arts.



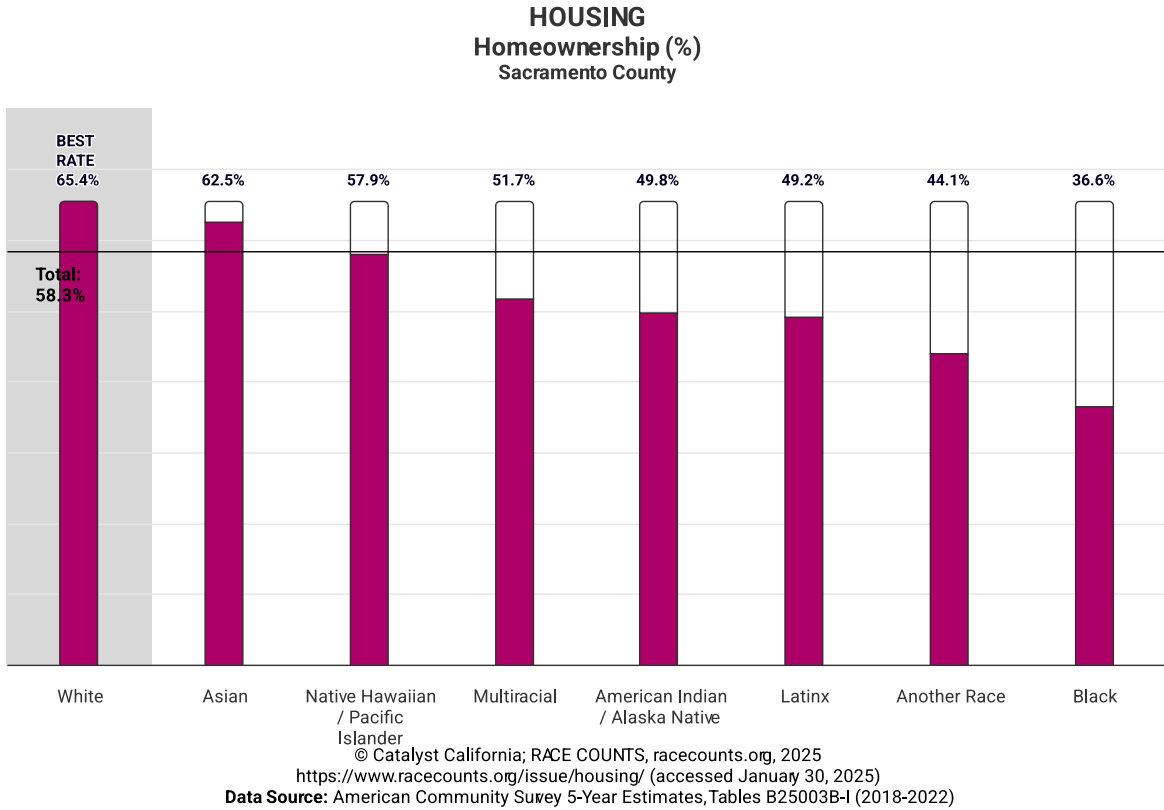
© Catalyst California; RACE COUNTS, [racecounts.org](https://www.racecounts.org), 2025
<https://www.racecounts.org/issue/education/> (accessed January 30, 2025)
Data Source: California Department of Education (2022-23)

Inequalities, such as inequitable resource access and funding, less attention and access to high quality early educators, and a lack of access to developmentally appropriate learning, in the first five years of life have the most impact on reading and math proficiency in elementary school.

Sacramento's Black students have the worst 3rd grade English proficiency. In addition to Black students, Latinx, AIAN, and NHPI students have 3rd grade English proficiency rates that fall below the county average.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Black households are least likely to own their homes.

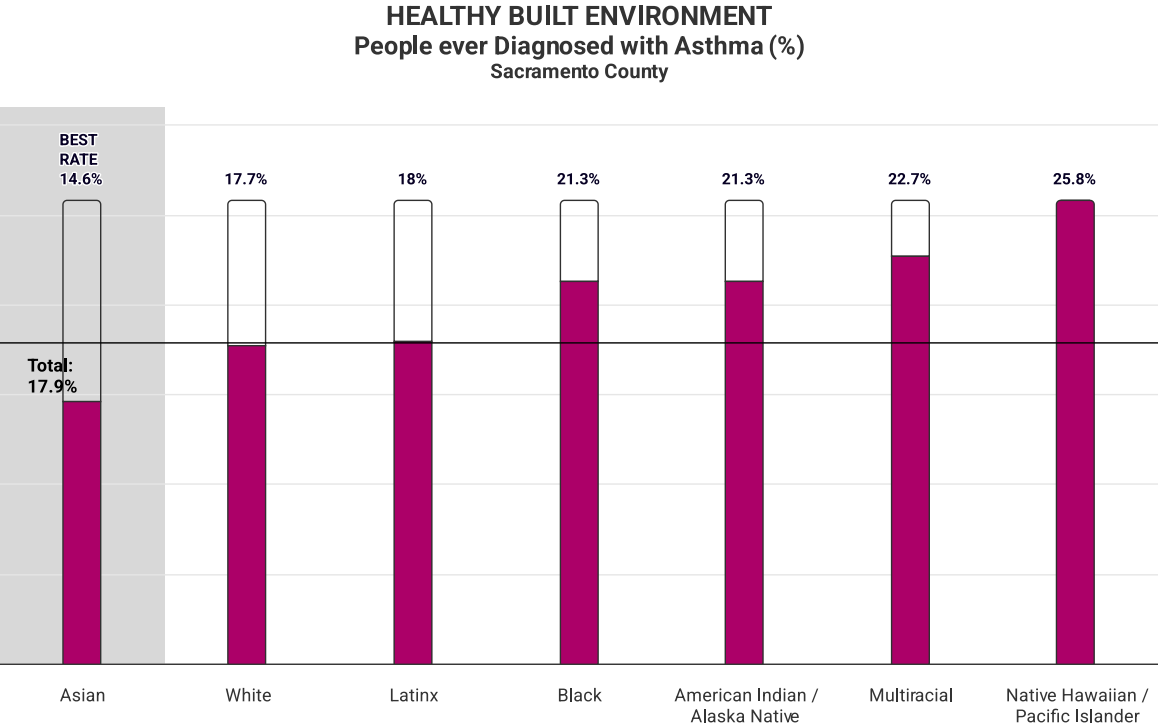


Racial disparities in homeownership reflect income and wealth inequalities and discrimination in the housing and lending markets in part stemming from redlining.

Black residents in Sacramento are most impacted by housing inequity, with a homeownership rate of 36%. By contrast, White residents had the highest rate at 65%. Additionally, only 22% of owner-occupied housing belongs to Black, AIAN, and Latinx owners. These continued racial disparities are a serious concern, and further demonstrate the need for more housing within high-need communities. State ballot measures such as the recently defeated Proposition 5 would have removed barriers for cities and counties to approve bonds to fund affordable housing developments.⁸

SACRAMENTO COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

NHPI residents are most likely to have been diagnosed with asthma.



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<https://www.racecounts.org/issue/healthy-built-environments/> (accessed January 30, 2025)
 Data Source: California Health Interview Survey (2011-2022)

Redlining and a lack of protective regulations which enable polluting industries and land uses (e.g., freeways) to locate in low-income communities of color, resulted in disproportionate exposure to air pollution.

Sacramento was named the 42nd city in the nation with the worst asthma rate.⁹ The asthma rate for NHPI residents is 11.2 percentage points higher than the rate for Asian residents, who have the best rate. This difference is an example illustrating the need for disaggregated data for these communities who are often grouped together in data.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Campaign Spotlight: Sacramento ACT

Sacramento ACT is a powerful multi-racial, multi-faith organization advocating a transformation of community rooted in shared faith values. The organization, a member of the PICO California network, equips ordinary people to effectively identify and change conditions to create justice and equity. Sacramento ACT's members include over 56 congregations, schools and neighborhood groups, representing 60,000 families in Sacramento County.

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