

National Equity Atlas

Illuminating Data: Visualizing Pandemic Response and Recovery

September 28, 2022

PolicyLink

USC Dornsife
Equity Research Institute



Speakers



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PolicyLink is a national research and action institute advancing racial and economic equity by **Lifting Up What Works®**.

Our areas of focus:

- Equitable Economy
- Healthy Communities of Opportunity
- Just Society

Our four essential functions:

- Advocacy
- Constituency and network engagement
- Applied research and communications
- Implementation capacity



About the National Equity Atlas

The National Equity Atlas is America's most detailed report card on racial and economic equity.

We equip movement leaders and policymakers with actionable data and strategies to advance racial equity and shared prosperity.

www.nationalequityatlas.org

Produced by **PolicyLink** and the **USC Equity Research Institute (ERI)**



National Equity Atlas

- Produce innovative research to inform the field and influence policy debates
- Partner with communities to create tailored analyses that advance local campaigns
- Democratize access to equity data



How We Do Research

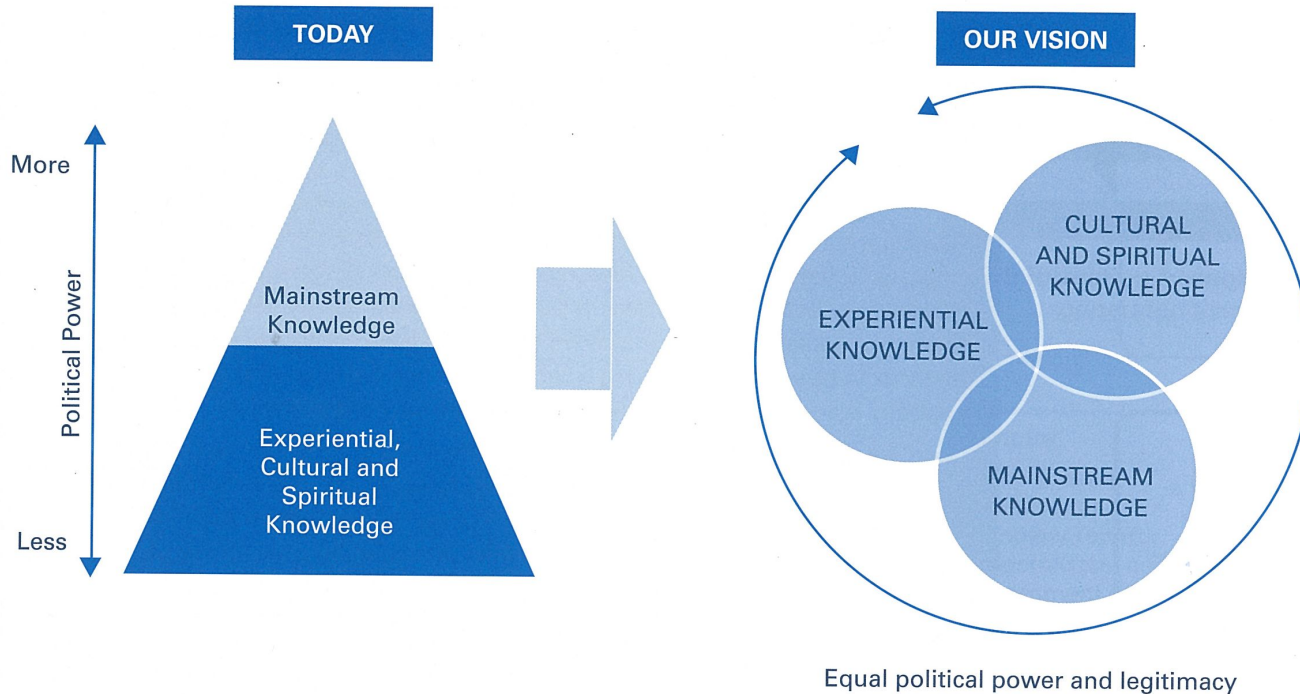
- **Campaign-driven:** Part of a broader policy change strategy.
- **Justice-driven:** Center dismantling anti-Black racism. Disaggregate data. Understand intersectional inequities. Co-create research products with grassroots and movement leaders.
- **Rigorous:** Back assertions with evidence. Acknowledge limitations. Check facts.
- **Accessible:** Write clearly and be accessible to our key audiences – policymakers and movement leaders.

How We Do Data

- Strong Narrative & Messaging
- Deeply Disaggregated Local Data
- Community-Tested Framework
- Unique Indicators & Analyses
- User-Friendly Interface
- Data for Policy & Systems Change



KNOWLEDGE IN THE WORLD



Source: Data Center, <http://www.datacenter.org/who-we-are/our-mission-and-vision/>

10 Design Principles for Online Data Tools

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----|---|
| 1 | Build community power | 6 | Be intentional about making visualization choices |
| 2 | Address the root causes of inequity | 7 | Emphasize assets and opportunities |
| 3 | Lead with equity goal, not the data | 8 | Provide clear explanations |
| 4 | Make data actionable | 9 | Contribute to data democracy |
| 5 | Disaggregate data | 10 | Honor indigenous data sovereignty |

Full report: <https://nationalequityatlas.org/sites/default/files/10-Design-Principles-For-Online-Data-Tools.pdf>

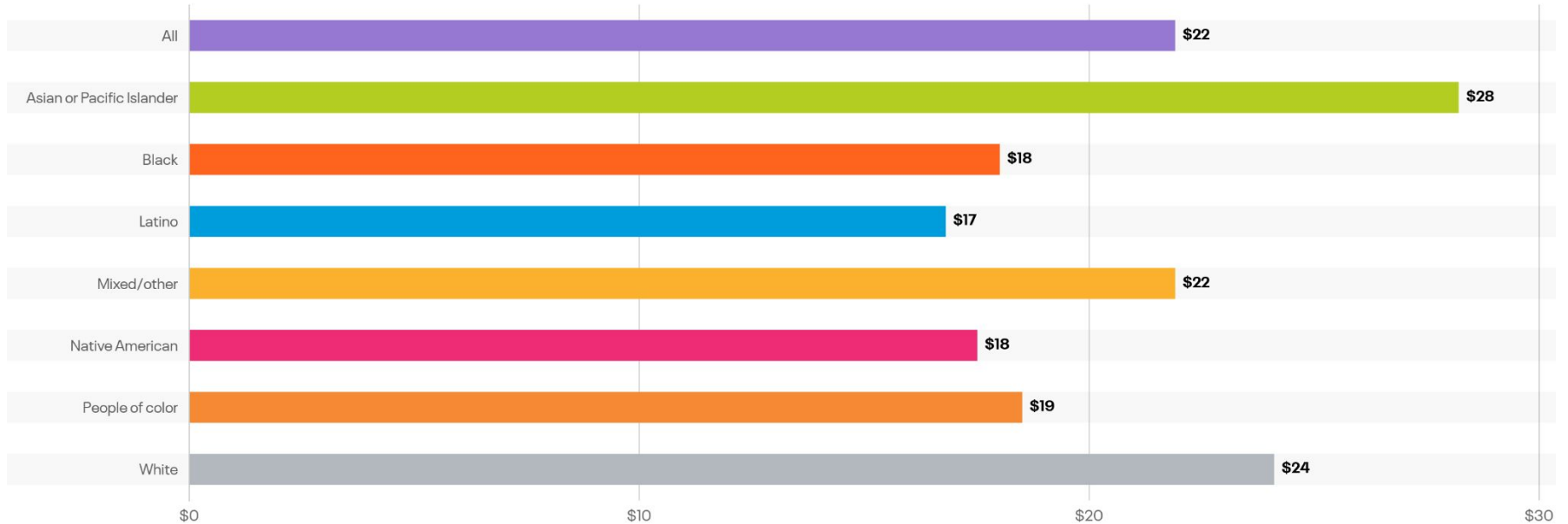


Source: "A Short Guide to Community Based Participatory Action Research"
www.healthycity.org

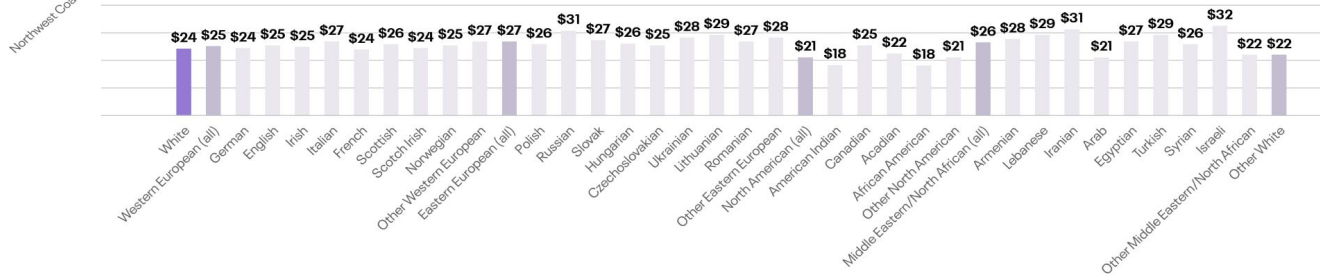
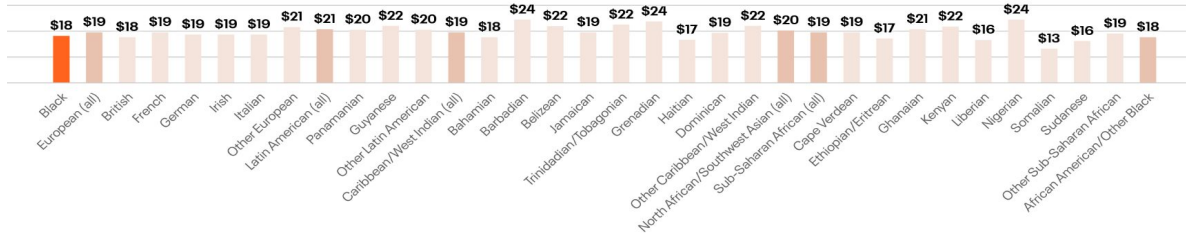
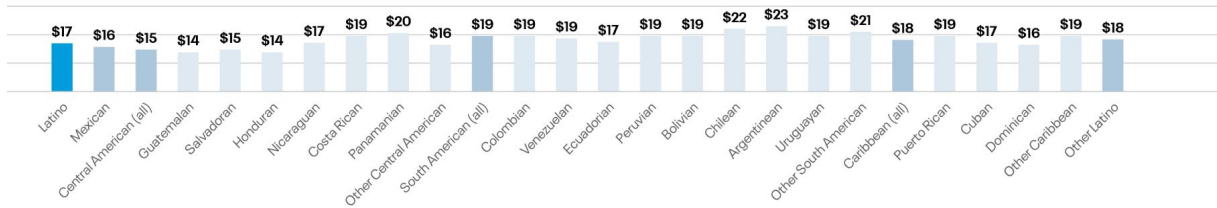
Which racial/ethnic group has the lowest median wage in the US (as of 2019)?

Question: Which racial/ethnic group has the lowest median wage in the US?

Median hourly wage by race/ethnicity: United States; Year: 2019

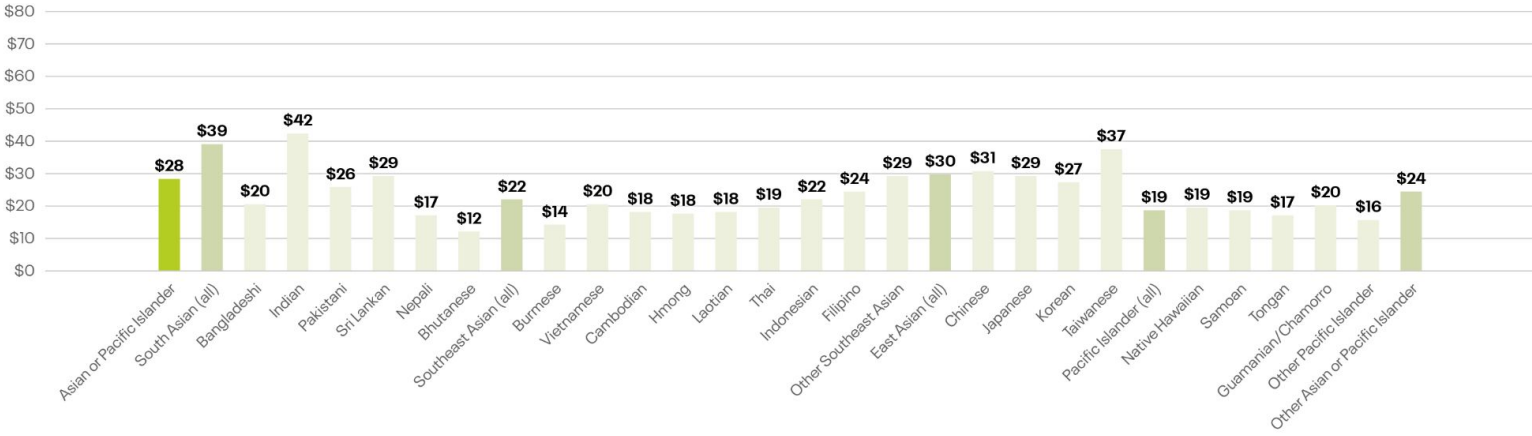


Data source: IPUMS USA | National Equity Atlas



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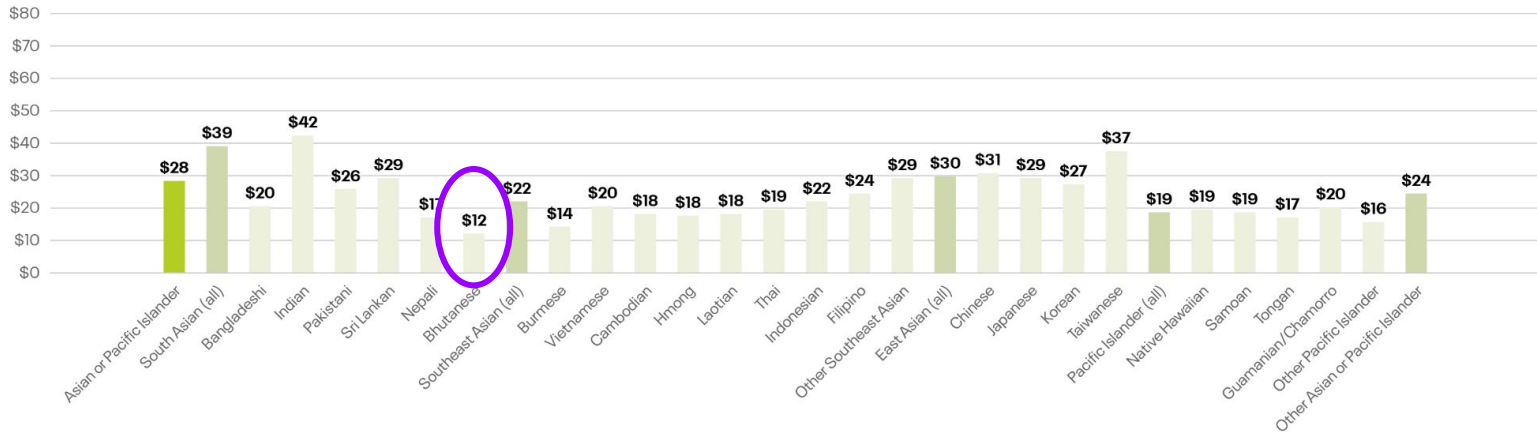
Median hourly wage by race/ethnicity and ancestry: United States; **Nativity:** All; **Race/Ethnicity:** Asian or Pacific Islander; **Year:** 2019



Data source: IPUMS USA | National Equity Atlas

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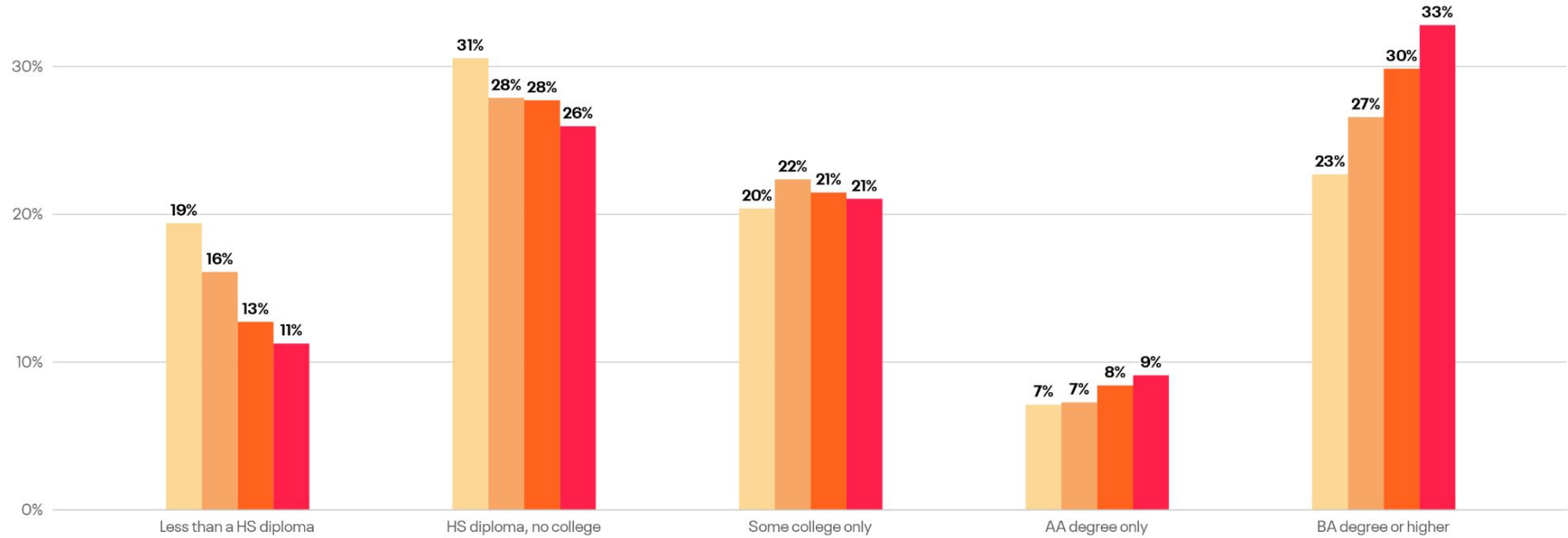
Data source: IPUMS USA | National Equity Atlas

Your observation and conclusion is based on what data you look at, and how you define race/ethnicity.

**Higher educational attainment is
the solution to the increasing
racial/ethnic wage gap:
True or False?**

Educational attainment for the population age 25-64: United States; 1990-2019

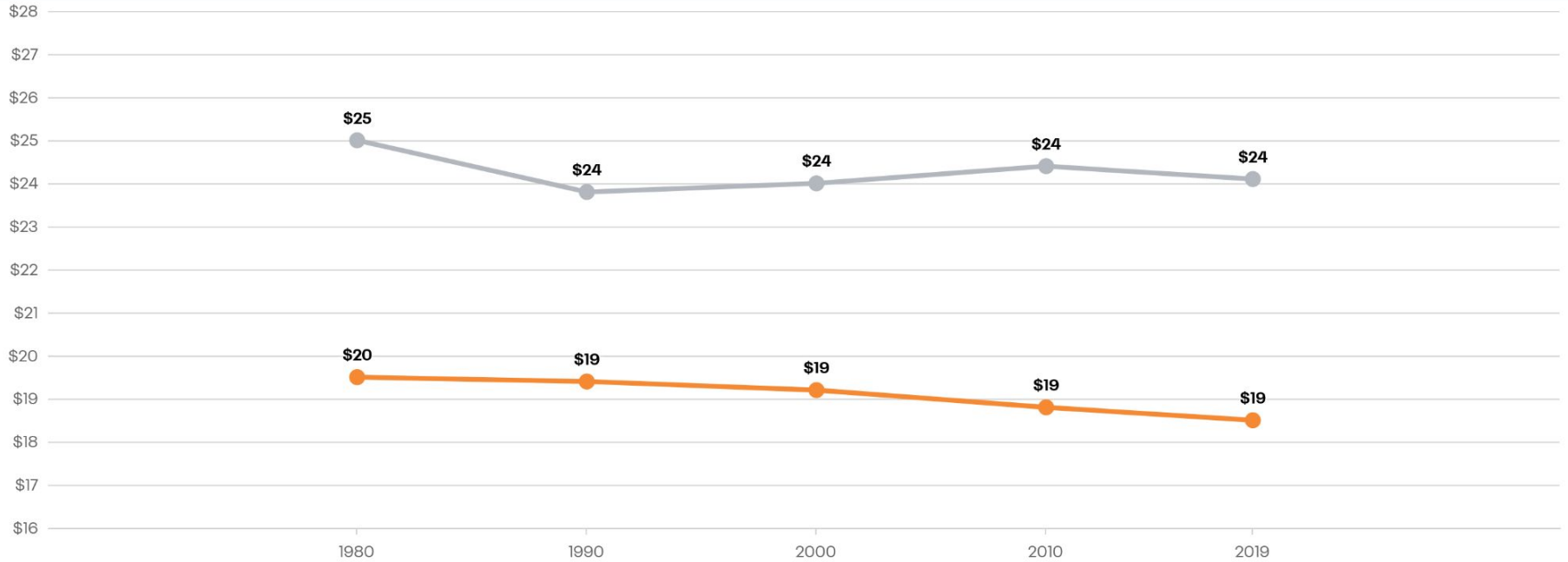
1990 2000 2010 2019



Data source: IPUMS USA | National Equity Atlas

Median hourly wage by race/ethnicity: United States; 1980–2019

People of color White



Data source: IPUMS USA | National Equity Atlas

False. Educational attainment has increased across all racial/ethnic groups.

This is why policies that specifically address racial equity are critical for increasing equity.

Which Measure:

- High School Dropout Rate; or
- High School Graduation Rate; or
- College-Bound Rate?

The narrative you're telling starts with the data.

What is Data

- Who is included?
- Who isn't?
- Who decides?

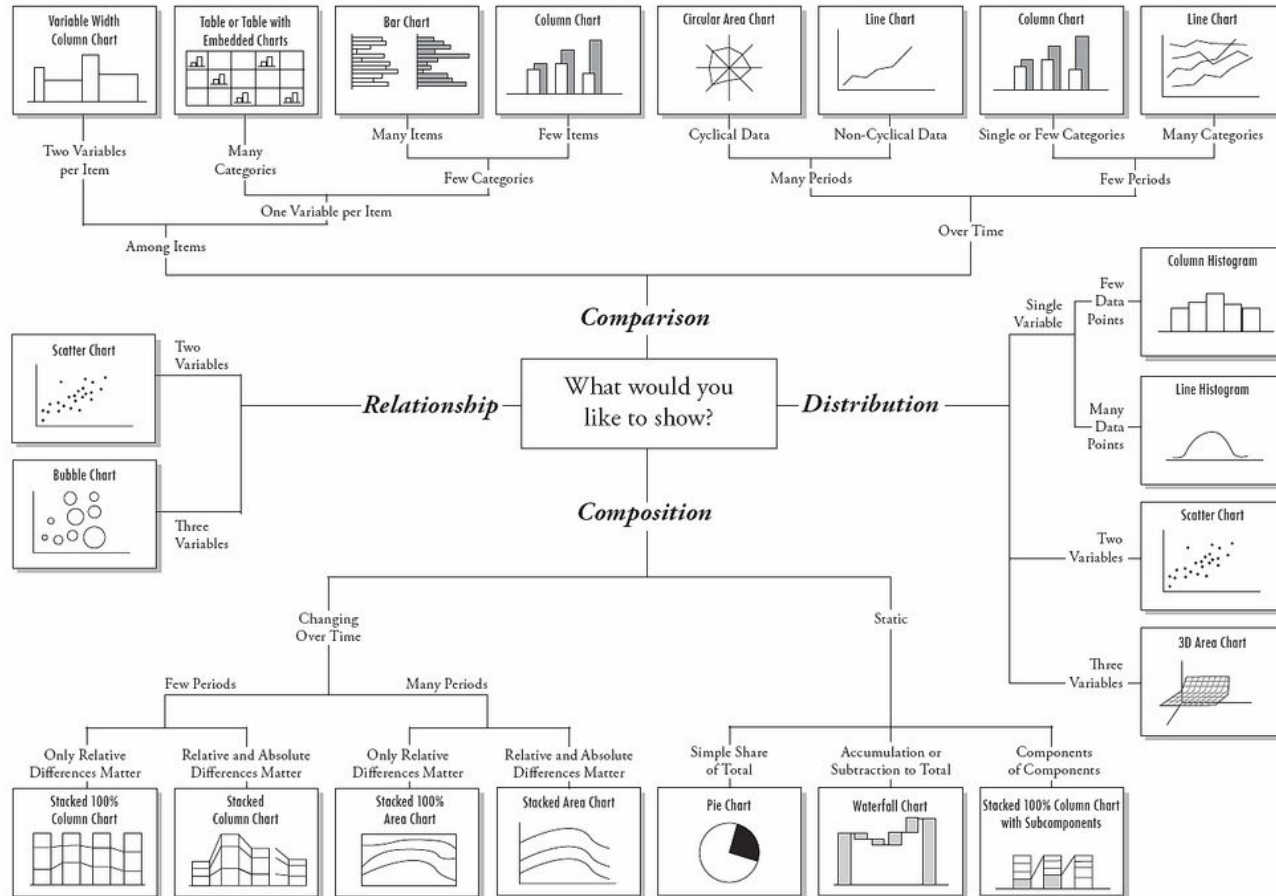
Guiding questions

- What does the data show?
- Why does it matter?
- What is the **purpose**?
- What is the most important **message** you want to convey with the data?
- Who is the **audience**
 - How will they be using/accessing the data?
- What are the **solutions**?

How to choose a chart type

If you'd like to:	For example:	Consider using:
Compare between a few groups	Compare differences by race and ethnicity	Bar chart
Compare between many groups	Compare cities/states, or use disaggregated racial data	Column chart
Compare between groups and subgroups	Compare differences between groups by race and gender	Grouped bar chart
Show gaps and change over time	Show different rates over time for each racial group	Trend line
Show clusters and gaps between groups over time	Show distribution between races for different years	Dot plot graph
Display and compare geographically-related data	Compare differences between and across states or cities	Map

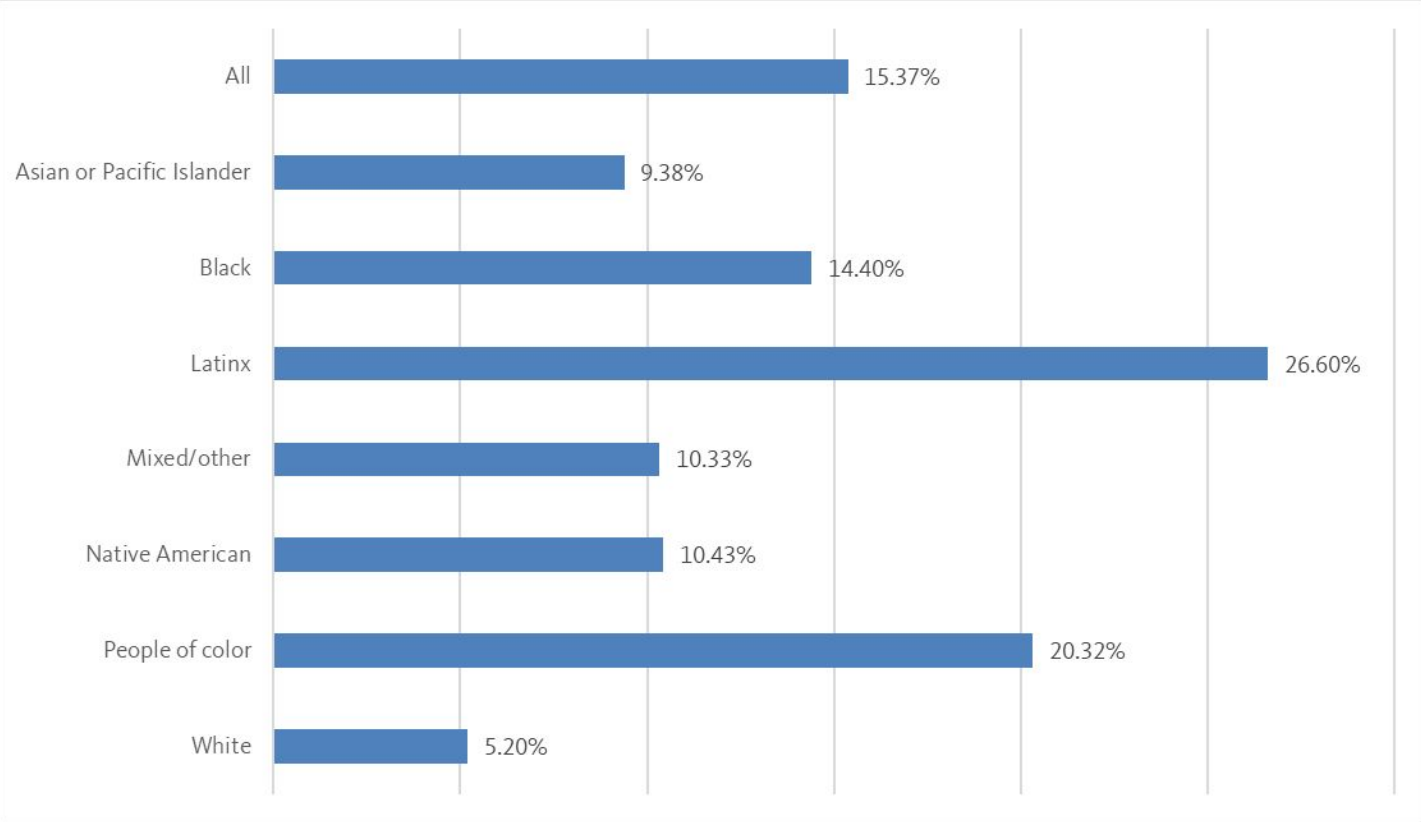
Chart Suggestions—A Thought-Starter



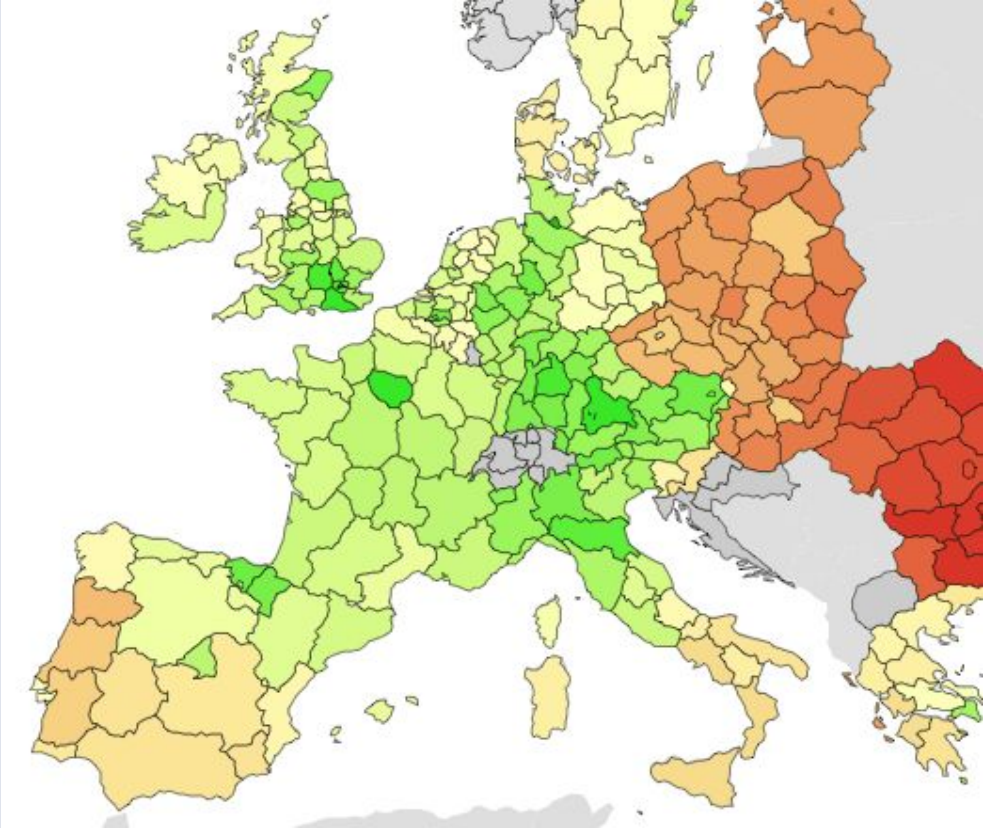
Data Visualization Considerations

- Rounding
- Color choice and associations
- Accessibility
- Order of categories
- Axis settings and scaling
- Comparing apples to apples

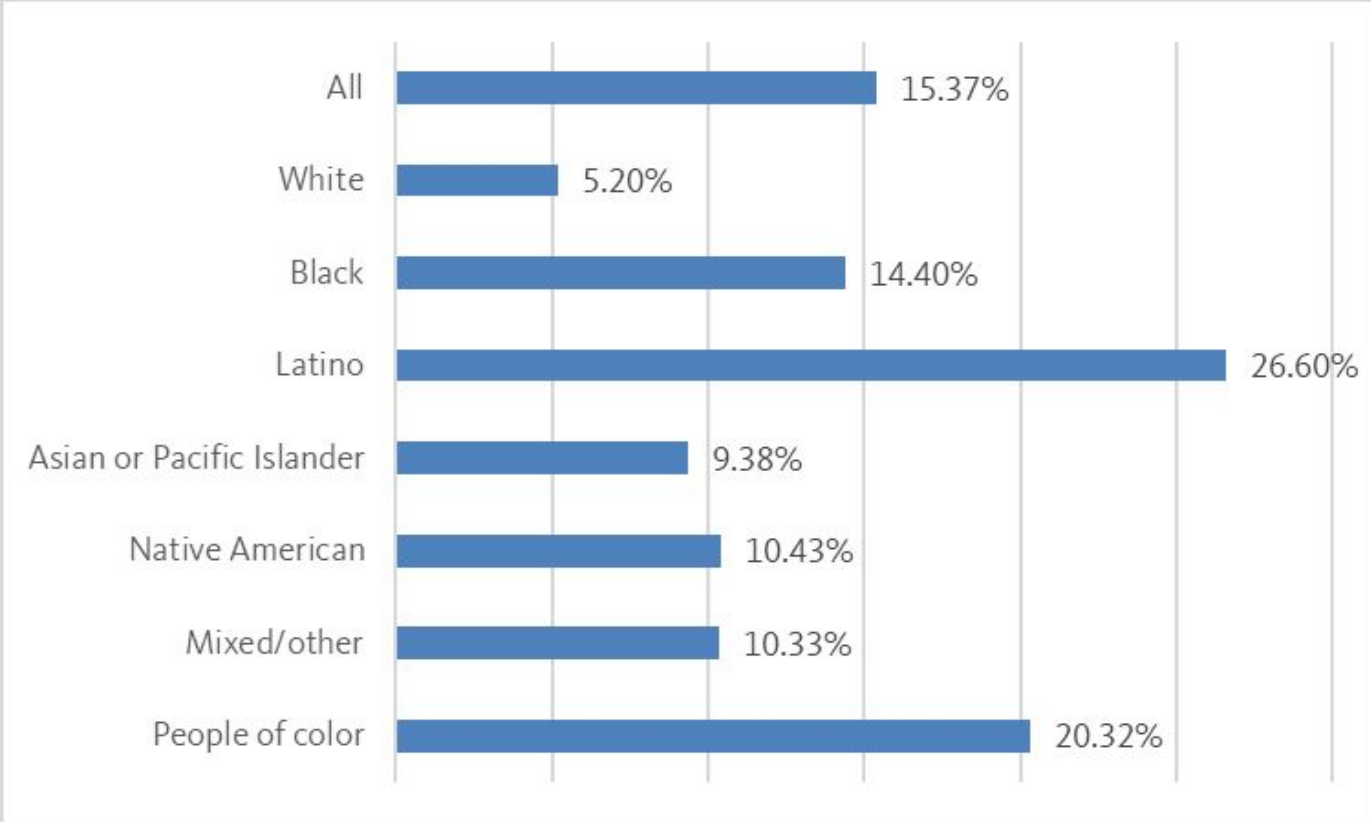
Consider this: Rounding



Consider this: Color associations



Consider this: Order of categories



Equity Frames

- **Stories:** How we organize information in our minds
 - Stories are the building blocks of shared* narratives
- **Narratives:** How understand and bundle all the stories we encounter

*Note: Narratives are shared, but they aren't universal!



If growth were inclusive, all workers would see their incomes rising, with the incomes for low- and middle-wage workers and increasing incomes for high-wage workers, leading to economic resilience and prosperity.

Powered by the National Equity Atlas

Insights & Analyses

- Income has decreased most dramatically from 1990-2019 for workers at the bottom (in the 10th percentile) and increased most dramatically for workers at the top (in the 90th percentile).
- Income has increased steadily in recent decades for the highest-earning workers in the 2019.
- Only four states (Alaska, Wyoming, West Virginia, and Michigan) saw declining incomes for workers at the 10th percentile in 2019. Forty-three states saw declining incomes for workers at the 10th percentile.

PUBLICATION

October 2019: Regional Economies in Transition



How does this relate to advancing equity? Click here to learn more.

Done Back Next

20th percentile

WHAT IT SHOWS WHY IT MATTERS TOUR

If growth were inclusive, all workers would see their incomes rising, with the incomes for low- and middle-wage workers and increasing incomes for high-wage workers, leading to economic resilience and prosperity.

Drivers of Inequity

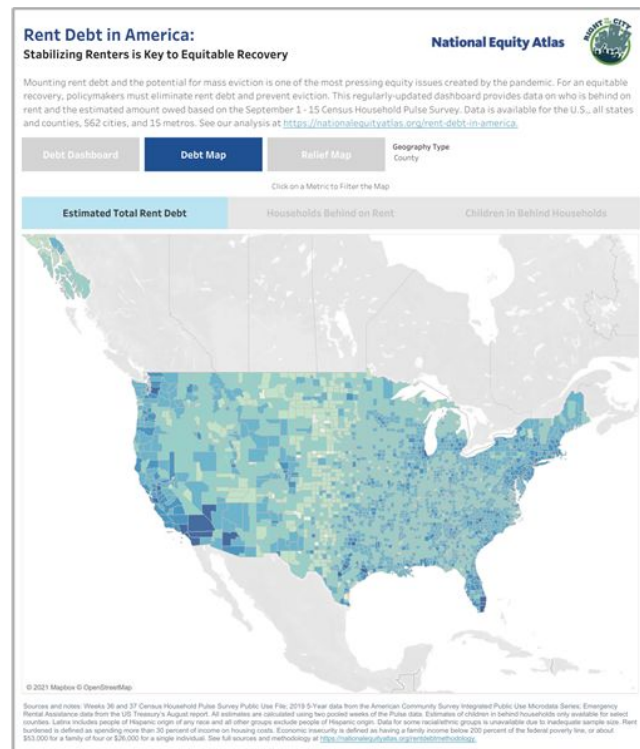
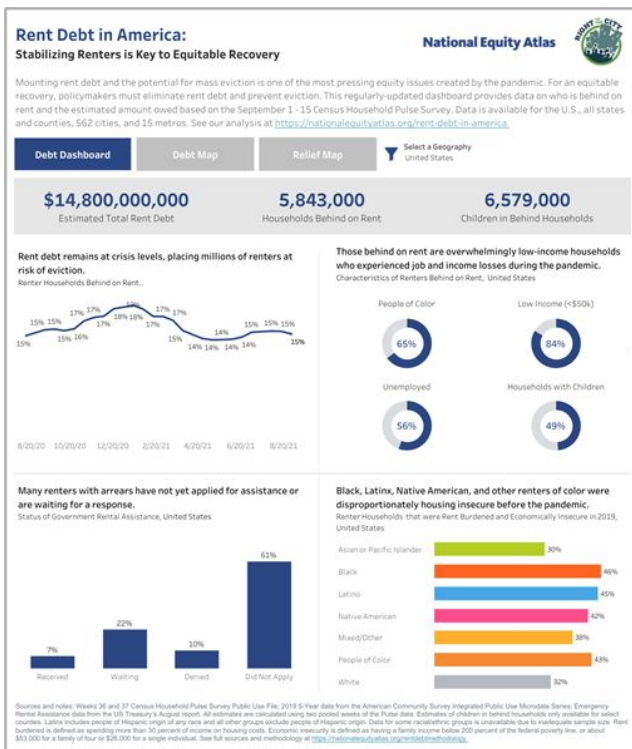
Recent stagnating economic growth among workers due to declines in union membership and corporate consolidation as well as a higher average unemployment rate have caused incomes for low-wage workers to grow more slowly than those of high-wage workers. Growing trade with low-wage countries, automation, and stagnant minimum wage rates also contribute to income inequality. However, growing income inequality disproportionately impacts women and people of color as these populations are concentrated in low-wage jobs. This trend is a result of historical practices, such as racial segregation and policies that banned women and people of color from accessing education and higher paid professions, as well as ongoing factors, including biased hiring practices and inadequate childcare support.

Strategies

Grow an equitable economy: Policies to create good jobs for all

- Raise the floor on low-wage work by increasing the minimum wage or enacting living-wage laws, requiring paid sick days, ending wage theft, strengthening workers' rights to organize, and ensuring fair scheduling.

Tracking Pandemic Impacts



HOUSING

How long are Californians waiting for rent relief?

BY MANUELA TORIAS, MARCH 3, 2022 UPDATED MARCH 19, 2022



Tenants and housing rights activists protest for a halting of rent payments and mortgage debt the COVID-19 pandemic in Los Angeles on October 1, 2020. Photo by Lucy Nicholson, Reuters.

NEWS

California Lawmakers Extend Eviction Protections for Tenants Awaiting Rent Relief

By Eric Lipton / KQED | Mar 31 | News Analysis



Los Angeles renters and housing advocates demonstrate on Aug. 21, 2020, against evictions in the region. (Diane Houshory/KQED via Getty Images)

Tenants still waiting on rent relief will now have more time before their landlords can evict them. The Legislature voted Thursday to extend eviction protections through June 30 — just hours before those safeguards were set to expire. The bill was signed into law Thursday afternoon by Lt. Gov. Eleni Koumoulaki.

Rent Debt in California: Eliminating Rent Debt and Preventing Eviction is Key to Equitable Recovery



Some 806,000 California renters, predominantly low-income households of color who suffered job and income losses due to the pandemic, were behind on rent in June 2022. California's statewide rental assistance program offered a pathway to clear this debt and prevent eviction and homelessness, but the program ended on March 31, 2022. At least 149,000 applicants faced imminent eviction when they applied to the program. See our analysis and policy recommendations at <https://nationalequityatlas.org/CARentalAssistance>

This dashboard tracks data for jurisdictions participating in the state program in real-time. Select ...

State County City Zip code

Click on a question to explore the data

What's the status of California rental assistance applications?

Is the program reducing rent and utility debt?

Is the program serving renters equitably?

How many applicants were facing eviction when they applied?

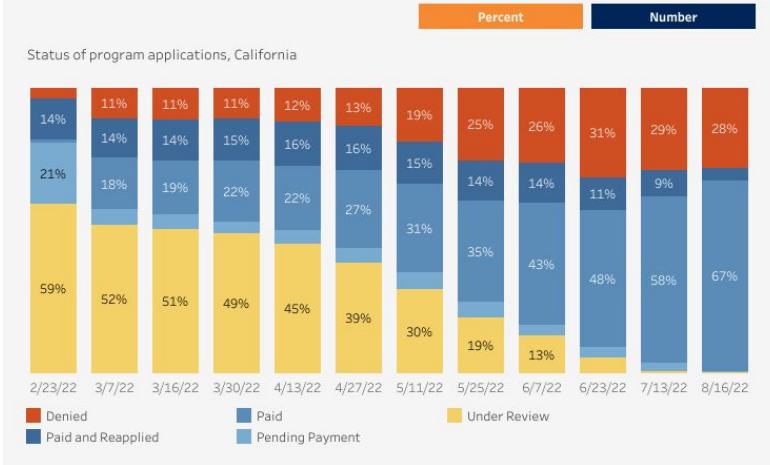
Location name: California
 Applications Received: 469,232
 Applicants facing eviction when they applied: 149,290

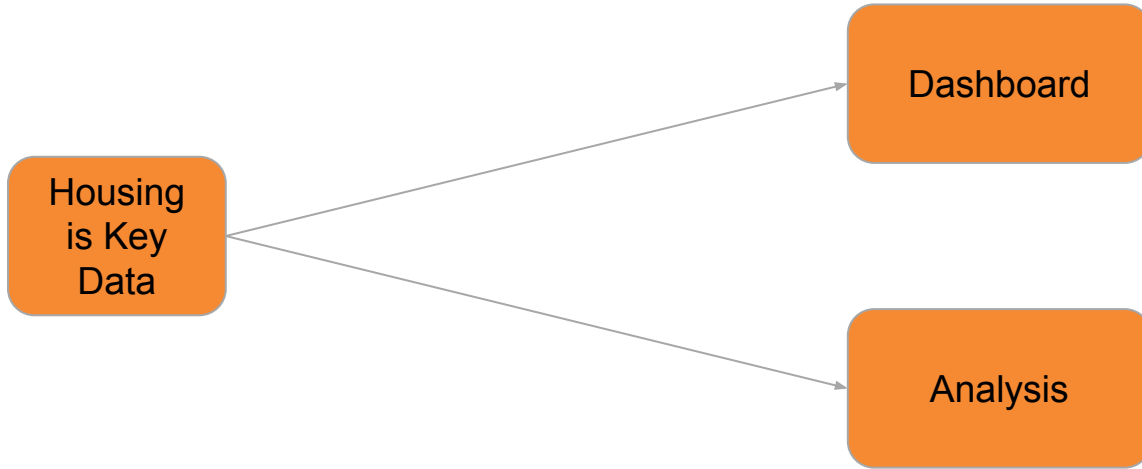
Given the extended waiting times for ERAP applications, a far higher number of renters will likely face eviction before assistance finally arrives. Tenants can be physically removed from their home within a month after a court case is filed.

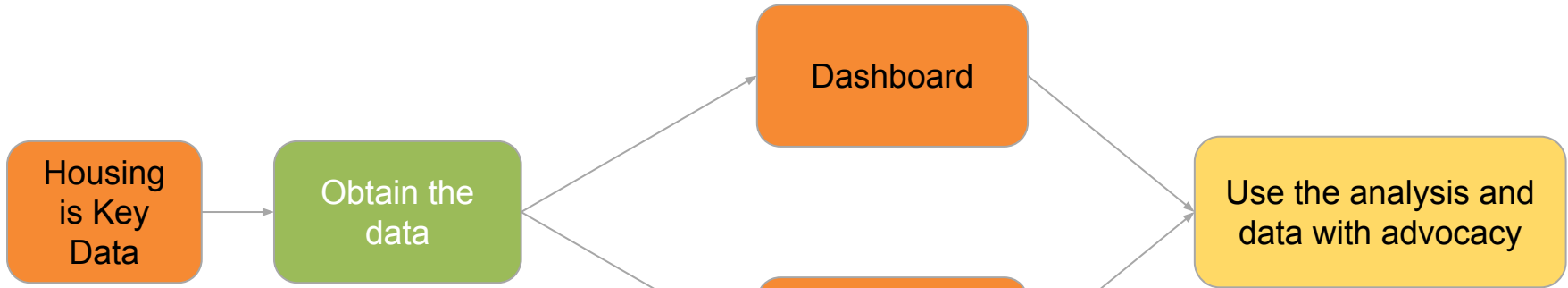
Note: This dashboard does not include data for the 25 cities ...

Data last updated: 8/19/2022

Sources and notes: California Covid-19 Rent Relief Program data provided by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, 2015-2019 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org), and August 2022 Census Household Pulse Survey Public Use File. Severely rent burdened is defined as paying more than 50 percent of income on housing costs. Latinx includes all people of Hispanic origin of any race and all other groups exclude people of Hispanic origin. Denials data not available for 2/9/2022. The decline in total applications is due to the removal of applications for: deduplication; fraud investigation; appeals of denials; and incomplete applications deemed non-responsive. Download the workbook to access weekly state data on the status of program applications since 2/9/2022.







- National Equity Atlas
- Housing NOW advocate network
- Western Center on Law and Poverty

COVID-19 & Race

Covid-19 & Race: Principles

Home / Covid-19 & Race / Recovery Principles

A Common-Sense, Street-Smart Recovery

From Hurricane Katrina to the 2008 financial crisis, low-income communities have been the most vulnerable in our way through the COVID-19 crisis, and we need an equitable nation that works for all. To outline below.

Center Racial Equity

At the current public health and economic crisis in the United States, people of color are being hit the hardest.

Put People First

During the last recession, corporations and governments made us stronger by prioritizing people over profits.

Invest in Community

For an equitable and lasting recovery, we need to invest in water, housing, transit, and roads — as well as local institutions that help our communities thrive.

Build an Equitable Economy

In addition to exposing our extreme inequality, we need to protect the least protected among us. In a diverse economy, we need to ensure that economic gains are shared by all.

COVID-19 and Race: Principles for a Common-Sense, Street-Smart Recovery



The emergency triggered by COVID-19 lays bare the structural failures of a country that operates with a **hierarchy of human worth** that devalues many workers and commodifies the most basic necessities, including health care, housing, and clean water. As businesses have closed their doors to follow stay-at-home orders, **more than 26 million people applied for unemployment benefits** in just over one month, completely erasing the job gains made since the Great Recession. At the same time, conservative congressional leaders have pushed hard to direct \$500 billion in corporate bailouts with little accountability, prioritizing profit over people.

Over the past few decades, worker power has been undermined while economic gains have been concentrated into fewer and fewer hands. While profits soared, wages remained the same and working conditions only got worse. **Since 1978**, as productivity has risen dramatically, wages for workers have increased 12 percent while CEO compensation has grown 9 percent. For workers without college degrees, the last economic recovery produced fewer good jobs that enable upward mobility and more precarious, lower wage jobs with limited prospects for advancement. At the same time, the basic cost of living has been steadily rising. The average share of household budgets used to cover medical expenses and work-related expenses like childcare has climbed over the past

The Coming Wave: COVID-19 Evictions

A Growing Crisis for Families in Contra Costa County

More than one in three Contra Costa County residents are renters, including the majority of Black, Latinx, and immigrant households. Many were already facing a crisis due to soaring rents before the pandemic, and they have been hardest hit by the virus and its economic impacts. Without an effective eviction moratorium, these renters are at risk of being caught in a coming wave of evictions which could force them out of their neighborhoods or even onto the street.

Renters who've lost their jobs and have no replacement income. With little to no savings, they face the risk of homelessness.

14,000 households at imminent risk of eviction, including **12,100** children

8, additional income unemployed

Mass eviction would devastate families and our community

Homelessness takes an immeasurable toll on people and strains resources.

\$20,075 minimum cost per year to temporarily shelter one individual

New eviction moratorium

"In September, our rent will be raised to \$1,695. My husband's work laid off 75% of their workers. I am worried every day that he will be laid off too and we will be unable to stay in our home."

— Veronica Alvarado, Concord

RACE AND THE WORK OF THE FUTURE: ADVANCING WORKFORCE EQUITY IN THE UNITED STATES

PolicyLink
USC Dornsife
Burning Glass
National Fund

Health Equity Data Resources

A banner image for the Louisiana Health Equity Atlas. The top half shows a city skyline at dusk with a prominent tall, cylindrical building. The text "Louisiana Health Equity Atlas" is overlaid in large white font.

Louisiana Health Equity Atlas

The Louisiana Health Equity Atlas is a data resource to track, measure, and make the case for health equity in the state, particularly the Shreveport, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans metro areas. The Atlas examines how much we stand to gain by addressing racial inequities and how we are currently faring on key indicators of racial economic inclusion, which are critical arenas for promoting good health. It also shares local strategies and solutions — such as freeing our cities and parishes to raise their own minimum wages, which the state currently bans them from doing — to improve our performance on these indicators and achieve health equity.



Why health equity matters.

Explore more data on the National Equity Atlas at:

<https://nationalequityatlas.org>

Questions?

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