

# Context-Setting

BEST START REGIONAL NETWORKS LEARNING DIALOGUE

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**CATALYST  
CALIFORNIA**  
Advancing Racial Justice

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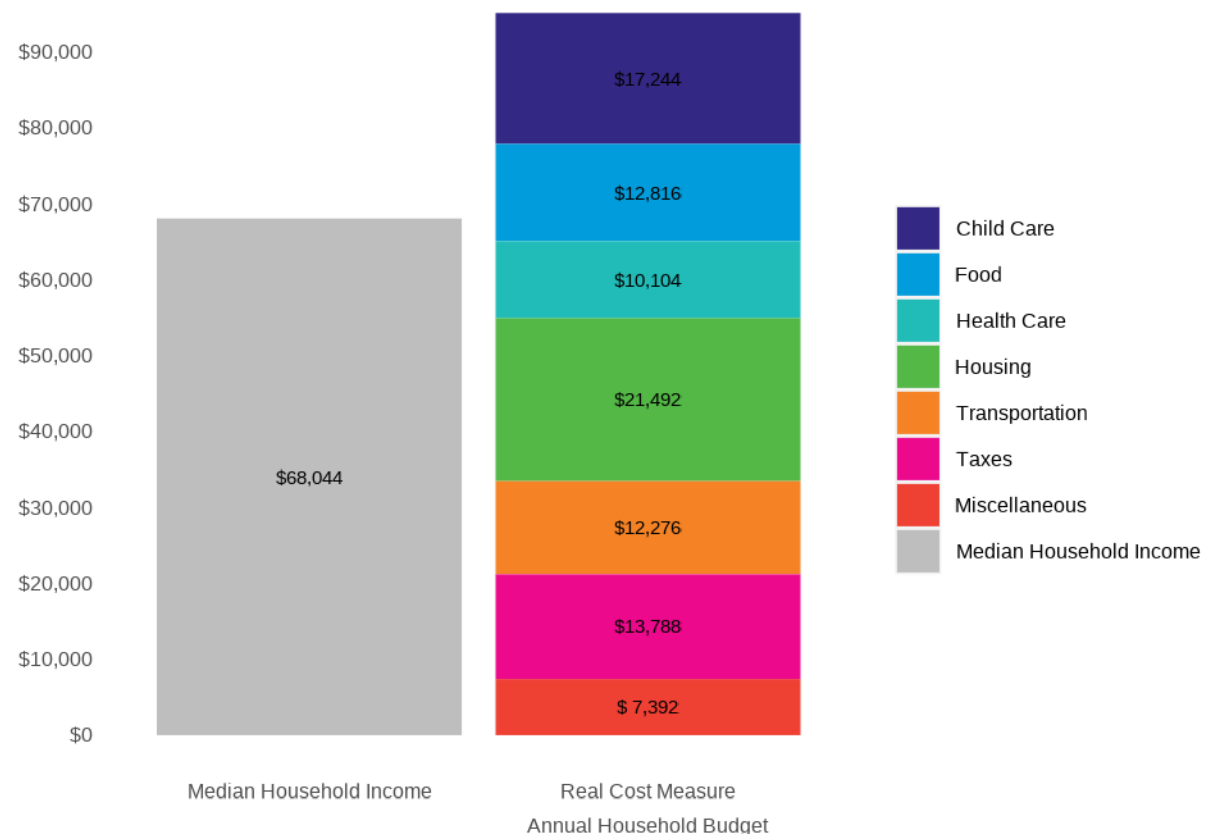
# **The housing crises in Los Angeles negatively impacts families with children**



# Real cost measure

There are several costs that are required to raise young children. With housing costs continuing to rise, there are less resources available for other essential needs.

Real Cost Budget for Family with Children in Los Angeles County



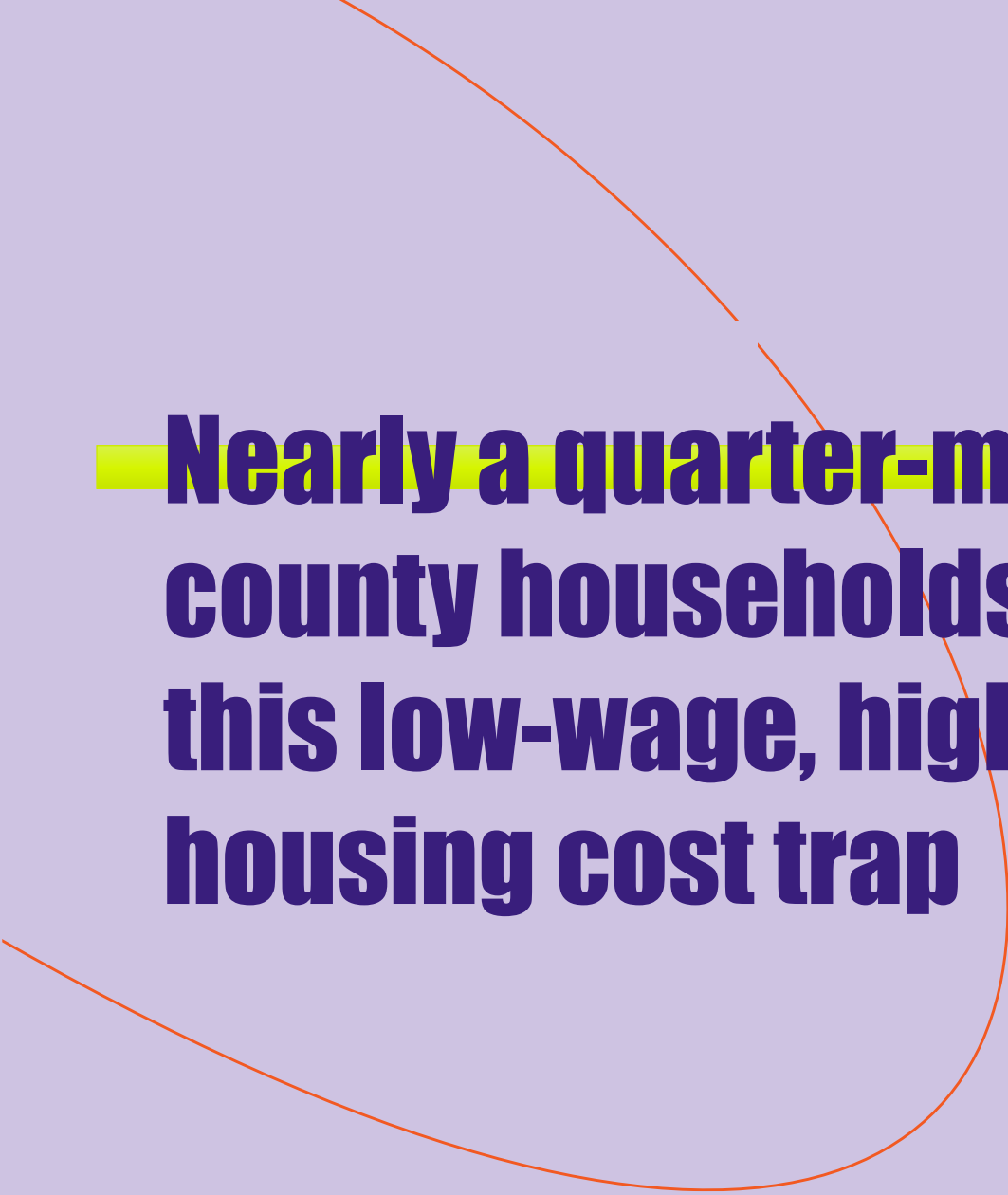
Data Sources: Real Cost Measure annual budget for a family with two adults, one preschooler, and one school-aged child living in Los Angeles County from Struggling to Stay Afloat: The Real Cost Measure in California 2019, United Ways of California. Median household income from American Community Survey 2015-2019 5-year estimates table B19013.

# Housing instability & outcomes

- For low-income households, high housing costs affect spending on other essentials and make their finances more vulnerable. High housing costs in California also contribute to poverty in the region. California also has one of the lowest homeownership rates in the country and households that do purchase a home take on more mortgage debt than other areas in the country. This affects the ability of households to build wealth.
  - Source: Legislative Analyst Office. March 2015. California's High Housing Costs Causes and Consequences. Available [here](#).

# Housing instability & outcomes

- Housing insecurity causes toxic stress that affects child development and later health outcomes and is linked to preterm birth for pregnant women which affects infant mortality and child health outcomes.
- Housing instability is also associated with an increased risk for child neglect through higher reported maternal stress. Toxic stress increases the risk for life-long developmental problems in learning and behavior.
  - Source: Children's Environmental Health Promotion Program & the Maternal, Child, & Adolescent Health Section. February 2019. San Francisco Department of Public Health brief: Health impacts of family housing insecurity. Available [here](#).



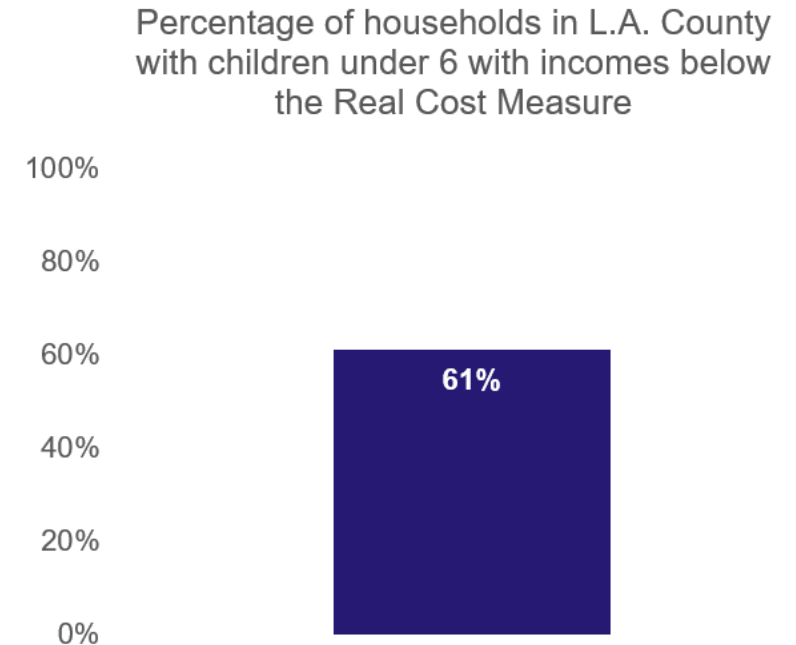
**Nearly a quarter-million LA  
county households fall into  
this low-wage, high  
housing cost trap**



# Magnitude of the problem

- Over-time, there's been a ~100,000 decrease in households with children 0-5 in LA County because of rising costs of living.
  - Source: "What's Behind California's Recent Population Decline." Public Policy Institute of California. Available [here](#)

There are  
**243,644**  
households in L.A. County with children  
under 6 with incomes below the Real  
Cost Measure

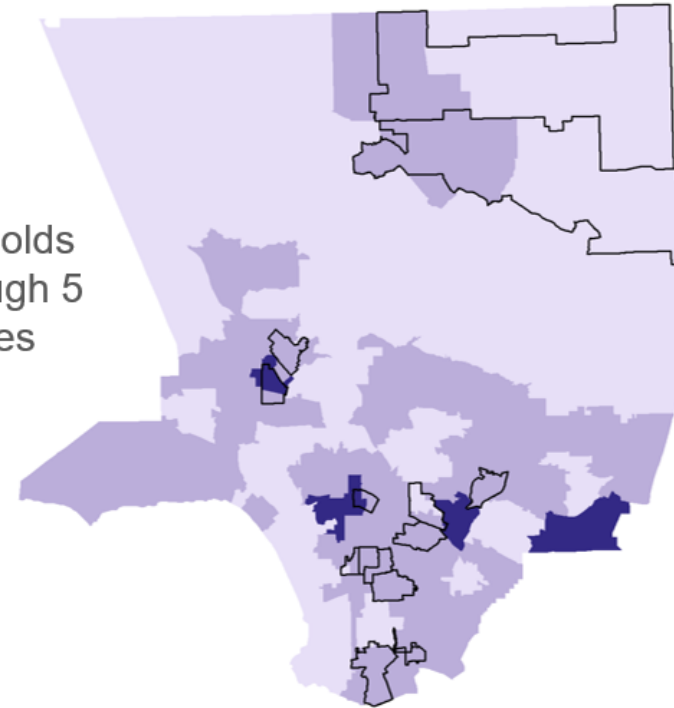
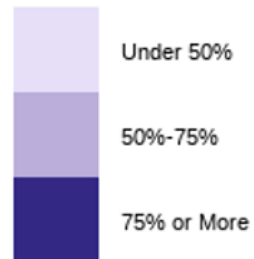


Source: The Real Cost Measure (RCM) in California 2021, United Ways of California (uses 2019 ACS data). The L.A. County RCM for a household with 2 adults, 1 preschooler, and 1 school-aged child is: \$95,112.

# Magnitude of the problem

59% of LA County households with children 0-5 are rent-burdened, and many of these households are in Best Start Geographies.

Rent-burdened households with children birth through 5 & Best Start geographies



Source: ACS 2021 1-yr PUMS estimates. Note: Rent-burden defined as paying 30% or more of income on rent. Includes some unstable estimates.



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# **Housing instability and rent burden varies by race**



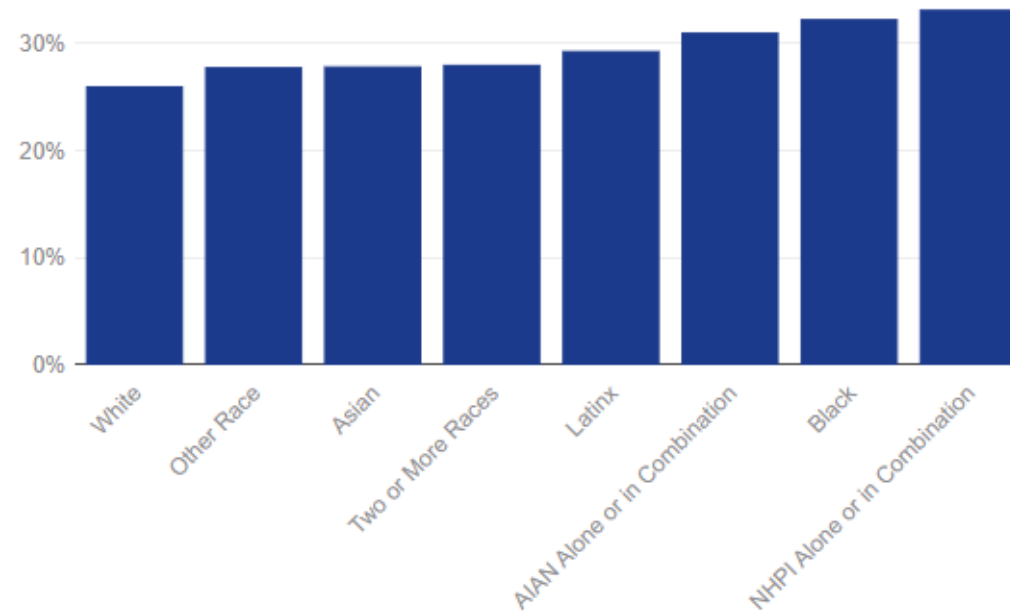
# Disparities in housing insecurity

Across all Best Start Geographies, BIPOC households disproportionately spend a higher percentage of income on rent relative to White households.

Best Start Geography:

Central Long Beach

Percentage of Income Spent on Rent by Best Start Geography



# Disparities in housing insecurity

- Women in California are more likely to be rent-burdened and women-headed households and single mothers are more likely to be rent-burdened than their married or male counterparts. For example, 73% of single mothers are rent-burdened compared to 56% of single fathers. Black women are the most likely to be rent-burdened
  - Source: “Gender & Housing in California: An Analysis of the Gender Impacts of California’s Housing Affordability Crisis,” Gender Equity Policy Institute, August 2022. Available [here](#).
- Renters of color are also more likely to be cost-burdened than their White counterparts and Black renter households experience the highest rates of cost-burden.
  - Source: California Housing Partnership. June 2022. 2022 Los Angeles County annual affordable housing outcomes report. Available [here](#).

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**Quality of housing &  
evictions are also  
important issues impacting  
families**



# Housing quality and outcomes

- Higher housing costs contribute to overcrowding, which is shown to affect educational outcomes and well-being, and have weaker relationships with their children. Adults who live in overcrowded households are more stressed and socially isolated
- Children in overcrowded housing have lower math and reading scores and have their sleep, mood, and behavior affected.
- Households with children are more likely to live in overcrowded housing than other Californians and as housing costs increase in a metro, so do overcrowding rates.
  - Source: Legislative Analyst Office. March 2015. California's High Housing Costs Causes and Consequences. Available [here](#).

# Housing quality and outcomes

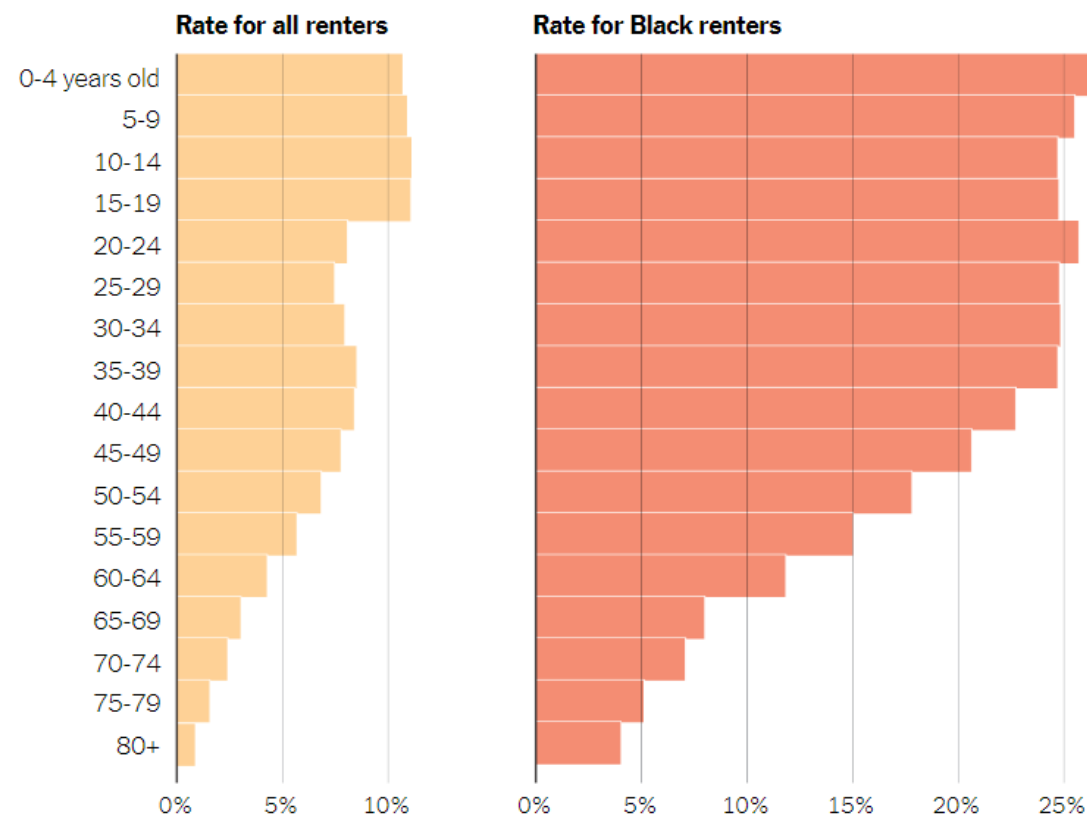
- Infants and toddlers are particularly vulnerable to poor housing quality, such as household dangers like lead, asbestos, and mold. About 18% of households below the poverty line do not have air conditioning, which can contribute to higher risks of heat stroke and other health risks.
  - Source: Scheider, A., & Gibbs, H. December 2022. Disparities in housing, health care, childcare, and economic security affect babies for life. Center for American Progress. Available [here](#).

# Evictions are disparate

- Children 0-5 make up the largest age group among households that have had an eviction filed against them.
- In a given year, about a quarter of Black children under 5 in rental homes live in a household facing an eviction filing.
- Landlords consider young children an unwanted risk. For parents, having a baby comes with high financial costs, making them more likely to miss rent. Low-wage workers are also least likely to receive paid parental leave.
  - Source: “The Americans Most Threatened by Eviction: Young Children.” *The New York Times*. Available at: [link](#)

## Black Renters Face Eviction at Significantly Higher Rates

Eleven percent of all children under 5 in rental households face eviction each year. But that rate is 27 percent for Black children under 5 in rentals.



Source: “A Comprehensive Demographic Profile of the United States Evicted Population,” by researchers at Princeton, Rutgers and the U.S. Census Bureau • Note: Data covers 2007-2016.



**Zoning laws create racial  
segregation in where  
families own homes**

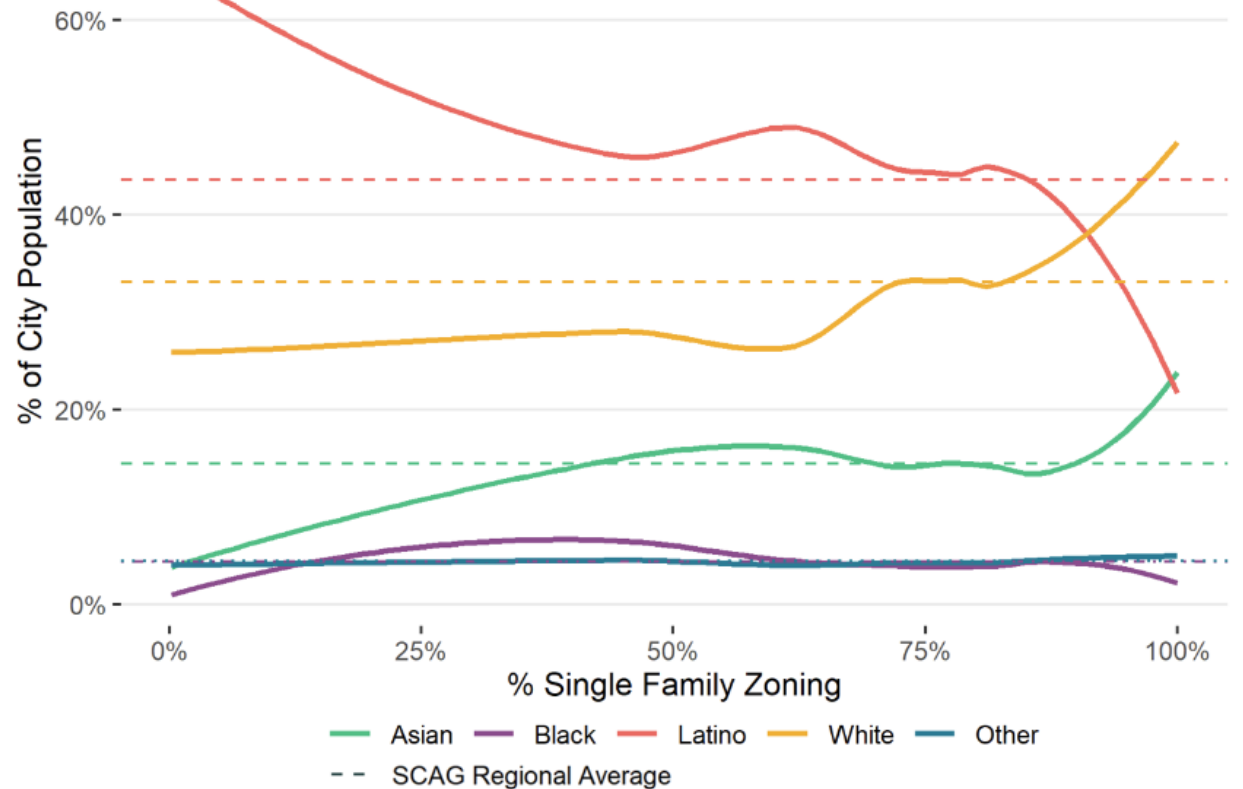




# Single family zoning disparities and outcomes

- "anti-density zoning appears to play a sharply exclusionary function, used by municipal jurisdictions to exclude lower-income people and people of color, or at least has that effect, in the greater LA region. It is not simply that these exclusionary communities use land-use regulation to maintain their exclusivity, they are denying access to vitalizing resources by hoarding those resources for themselves."
- Source: "Single-Family Zoning in Greater Los Angeles." *Othering and Belonging Institute*. UC Berkeley. Available at: [link](#)

Figure 3: Race Composition of SCAG Cities  
By Percentage of Restricted Single-Family Zoning



# Single family zoning disparities and outcomes

Figure 6: Educational Outcomes of SCAG cities  
By Restricted Single-Family Zoning Category

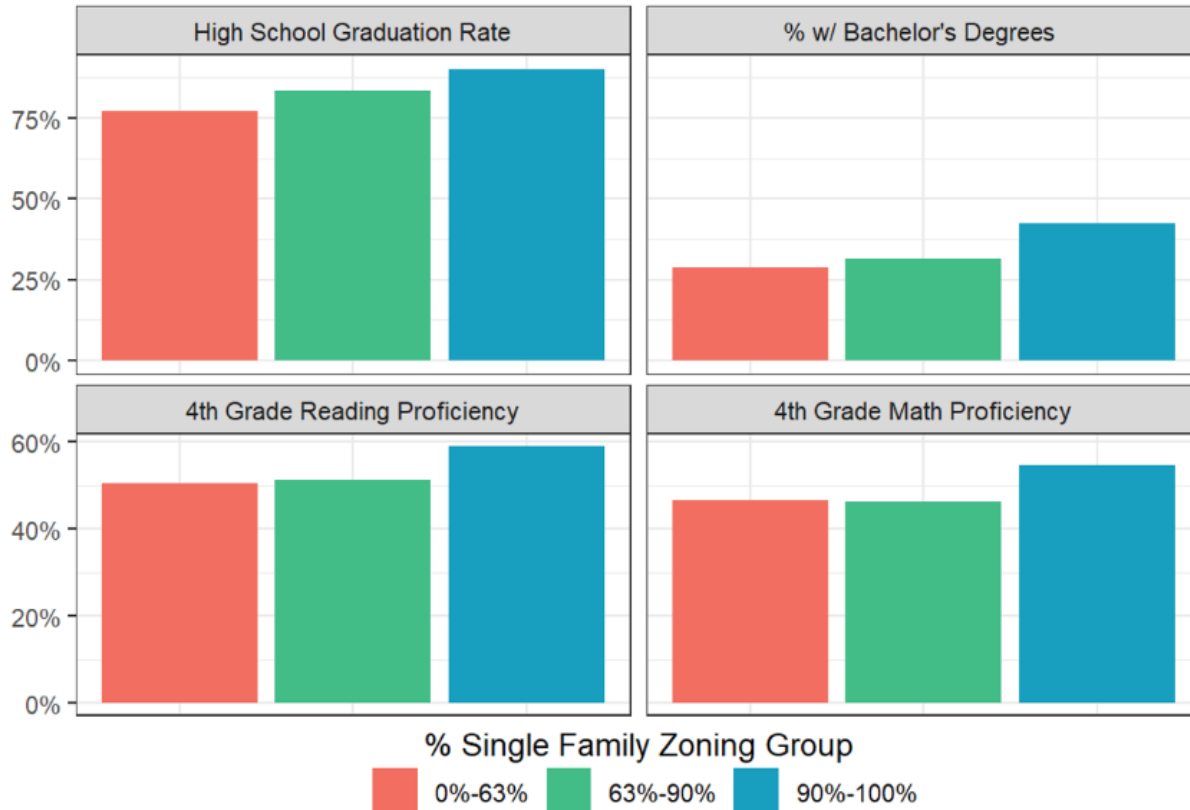
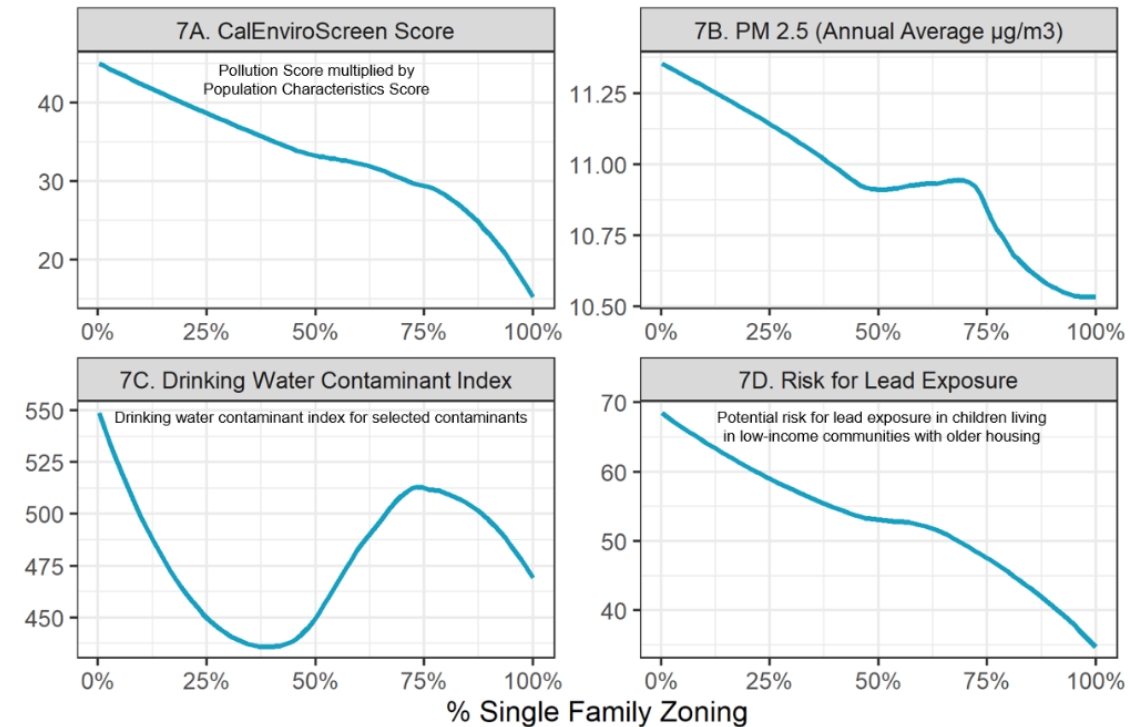



Figure 7: CalEnviroScreen and Pollution of SCAG cities  
By Percentage of Restricted Single-Family Zoning




Detailed indicator description and data sources can be found at: <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf>

**THANK YOU!**

**Questions?**

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# Appendix



# Protective measures/recommendations from literature

- A universal basic income and more safety net supports to prevent houselessness
- Subsidizing health coverage and the cost of child care
- Increased wages and improved pathways to jobs
- Increasing funding for housing assistance and increasing eligibility for it
- Increasing income support programs like Earned Income Tax Credit or child tax credit
- More affordable housing units and funding for continued development
- Eviction moratoriums and other tenant protections

# Examples of how community has elevated housing as a priority

- Region 1 includes stable, affordable, quality housing in its Bill of Human Rights.
- Region 4 included income spent on rent among the indicators of the Region 4 State of the Child reports and included a call out of the work LiBRE and Long Beach Forward do to protect renters from eviction.
- Housing was a component of the Region 5 State of the Child Report conclusion that
- the family-friendly, low-cost-living in the Antelope Valley, that residents love and depend on, is disappearing and a new, more proactive infrastructure for children and families is needed.