

Presentation to Board of Supervisors On COVID Related Equity Issues

Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition

February 9, 2021

What We'll Cover

- Introduction
- Disparate COVID Health, Housing, and Economic Impacts: Bay Area Equity Atlas, Sarah Treuhaft, PolicyLink
- BIPOC Community Challenges: Linda Olvera
- Stabilizing Neighborhoods and Equitable Relief: Dessi Mia Carbajal, RichmondLAND
- Closing

Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition

The Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition advocates for community engagement in the Contra Costa County budgeting process and for a set of values-based budgeting principles that support safe and affordable housing, stable employment with fair wages, sufficient healthy food, essential health care, access to critical social services, and quality early care and education.

THE BUDGET IS A MORAL DOCUMENT

“Despite its complexity the budget is essentially a moral document—the specific expression of the values of the nation.”

From: “The Federal Budget as a Moral Document: A Letter from Religious Leaders,” by sixty faith leaders from around the United States in a letter to President George W. Bush, 2005

FROM CRISIS . . .

CNBC make it
THE COVID ECONOMY

Inequality has been building for decades in the U.S., but experts say the pandemic 'ripped it open'

Published Fri, Oct 23 2020 2:07 PM EDT • Updated Fri, Oct 23 2020 2:13 PM EDT

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@ALICIAADAMCZYK

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TheUpshot

The Year Inequality Became Less Visible, and More Visible Than Ever

Even as shared public spaces emptied out, the gap between the economically privileged and the precarious became impossible to ignore.

Deloitte Insights | By topic v | By sector v | Spotlight v

Article | 11 minute read - 23 July 2020

COVID-19's impact on US income inequality: It's going to get worse before it gets better

Issues by the Numbers, July 2020

TO OPPORTUNITY

Anna Roth, HSD
Director: *“Our job is equity”*

PROMARKET
THE PUBLICATION OF THE STIGLER CENTER
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO BOOTH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

CHICAGO BOOTH
Stigler Center
for the Study of the Economy and the State

DIGITAL PLATFORMS CORONAVIRUS ANTITRUST AND COMPETITION FRIEDMAN 50 YEARS LATER RESEARCH TEACHING CC

CORONAVIRUS READING LIST THE COVID-19 ECONOMY

Piketty on the Covid-19 Crisis: “It Is High Time to Use This Opportunity to Counter the Dominant Ideology and Significantly Reduce Inequality”

Health Affairs

TOPICS JOURNAL BL

HEALTH AFFAIRS BLOG GRANTWATCH

RELATED TOPICS:
COVID-19 | HEALTH EQUITY | HEALTH DISPARITIES | SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH | HOUSING
| HEALTH PHILANTHROPY | ACCESS TO CARE | PANDEMICS | LOW INCOME

The COVID-19 Crisis: An Opportunity To Build A Fairer, Healthier Nation

NEWS > HEALTH • News

Contra Costa declares racism a public health crisis, OKs equity office

2/4/2021

6

Bay Area Equity Atlas

Advancing Equitable Recovery in Contra Costa County

February 9, 2021

to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

by Sarah Treuhaft, Vice President of Research, PolicyLink

OVERVIEW

An equitable recovery requires bold, targeted solutions

- The Covid recession is extremely unequal: Contra Costa's low-wage workers and communities of color have been the hardest hit and face major obstacles to recovery.
- For an equitable recovery, we must:
 - Protect and stabilize vulnerable households and workers;
 - Connect low-wage workers with economic opportunities;
 - "Build back better" through equitable investments in a stronger, fairer, more sustainable economy.

HEALTH IMPACT

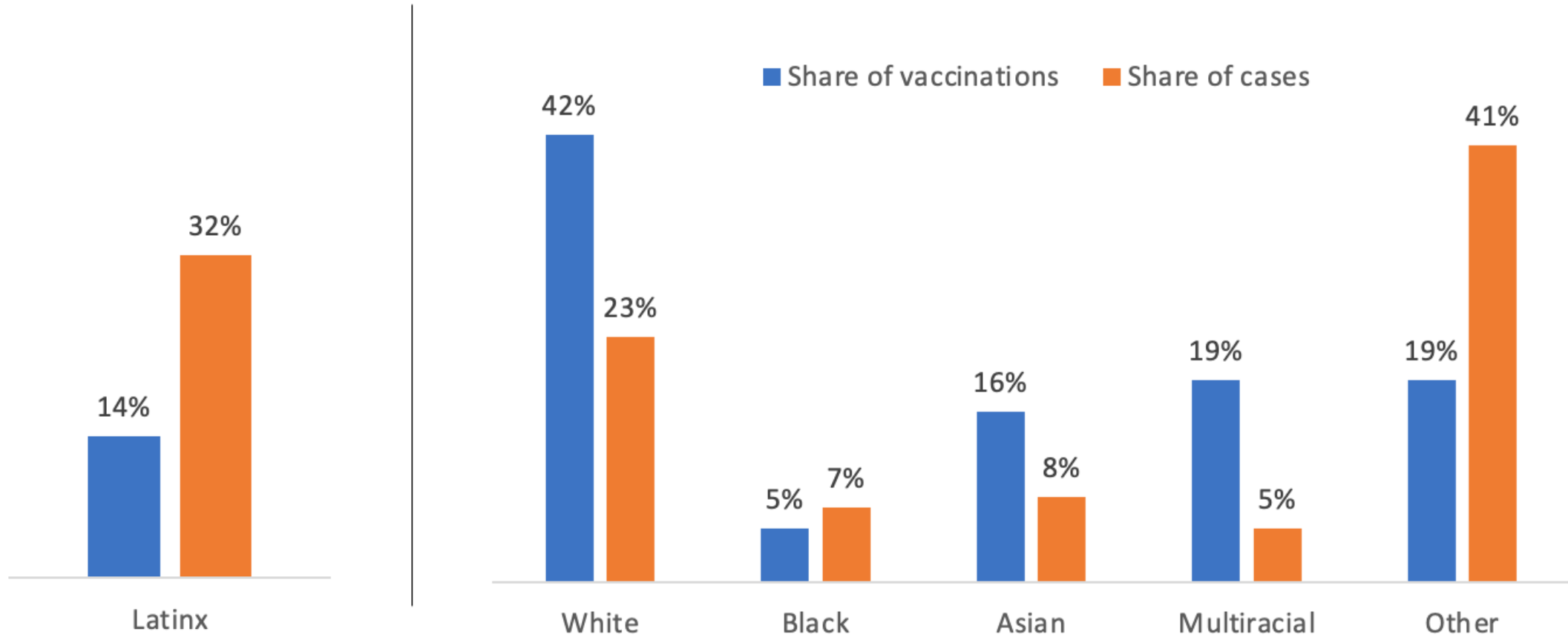
The county's communities of color have suffered disproportionately from Covid-19

Covid-19 cases and deaths relative to the White population: Contra Costa County, December 2020

	African-American	Latino	Asian
Cases	2.5x	6.0x	1.4x
Deaths	1.3x	1.7x	0.9x

Source: Contra Costa County COVID-19 Coordinating Body: December 19, 2020 Equity Presentation Summary

Vaccine distribution raises racial equity concerns



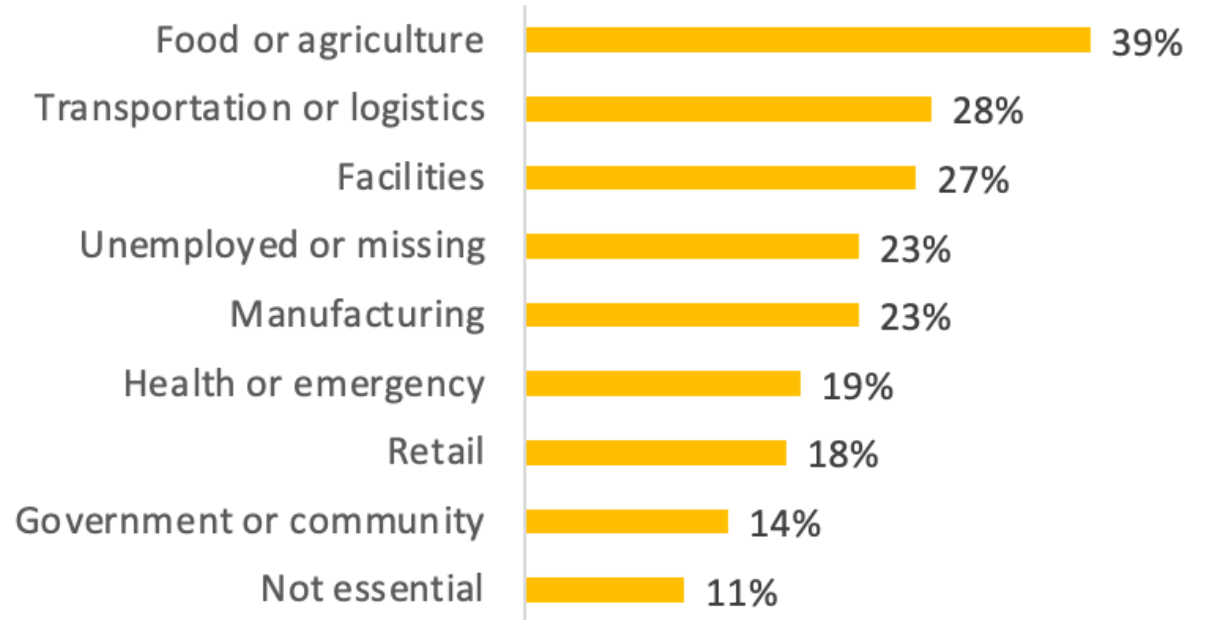
Source: Bay Area Equity Atlas analysis of data from the Contra Costa County Public Health Department.

HEALTH IMPACT

People of color & immigrants are disproportionately essential workers and more exposed to Covid risk

- Essential workers have experienced more deaths from Covid-19
- In Contra Costa county, workers of color and immigrants are concentrated in essential jobs
- The county's Latinx and immigrant workers are concentrated in agriculture and facilities

Excess mortality among working-age adults: California, Mar - Oct 2020



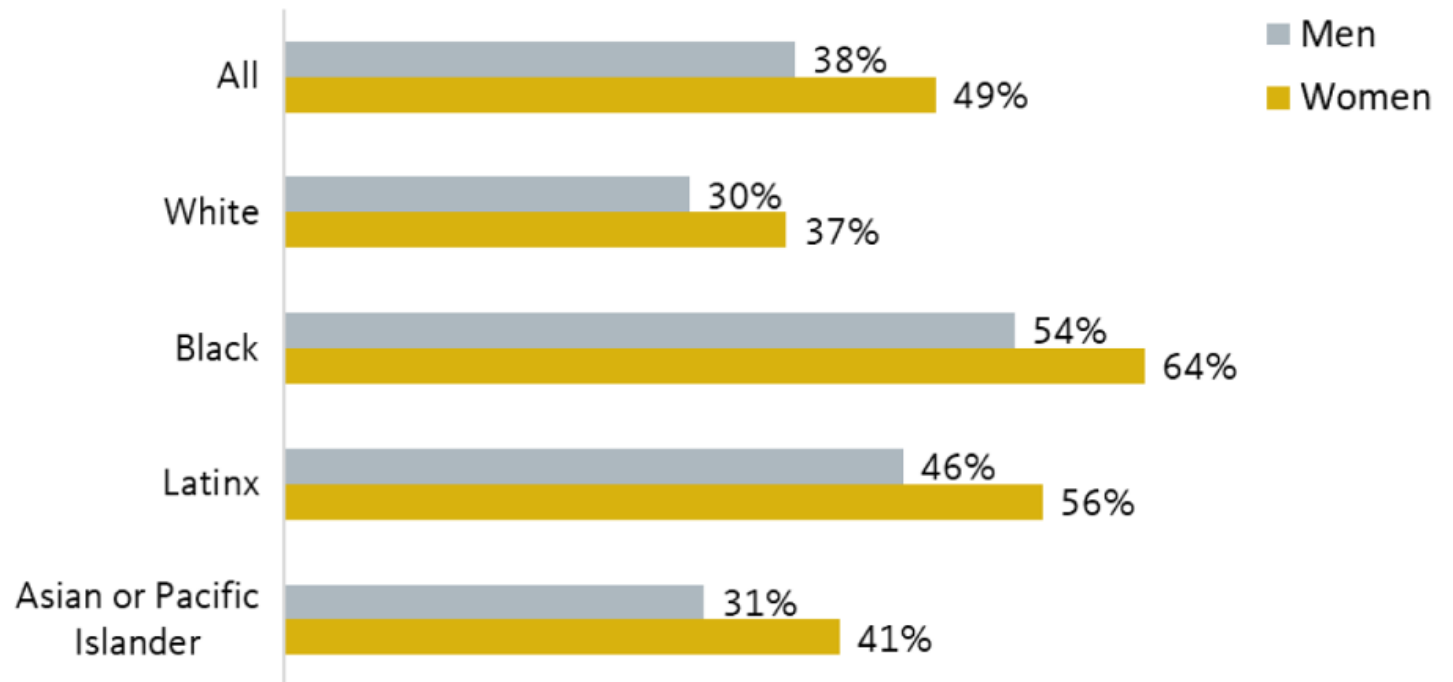
Sources: Yea-Hung Chen et al., Excess mortality associated with the COVID-19 pandemic among Californians 18-65 years of age by occupational sector and occupation: March through October 2020, and Bay Area Equity Atlas Profile of Frontline Workers in the Bay Area.

BASELINE OF INSECURITY

Renters of color were already facing a housing crisis

- The majority of the county's Black, Latinx, and immigrant residents rent
- Most Black and Latinx renters, especially women, were already economically insecure and rent-burdened before the pandemic

Share of renter households that have low incomes and are rent-burdened: Contra Costa County, 2018



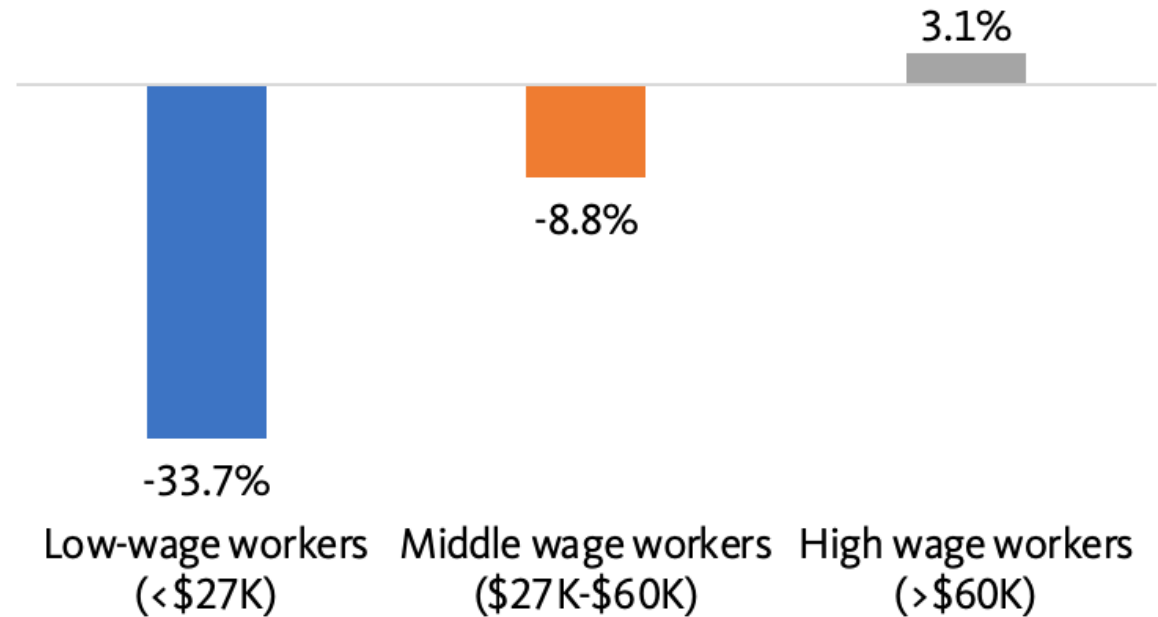
Source: Bay Area Equity Atlas of 2018 5-Year data from the American Community Survey. Low-income is below 350 percent of the Federal Poverty Line (about \$87,000 for a family of four or \$44,000 for one person). Rent-burdened is paying more than 30% of income on rent and utilities.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Low-wage, Black, Latinx, women workers hardest hit by job and income losses

- 13,800 workers left the county's labor force in 2020
- 248,352 workers filed for unemployment March - December
- Low-wage workers have disproportionately lost their jobs
- Latinx & Black workers face higher unemployment

Percent change in employment by worker wage Level: Contra Costa County, Jan - Nov, 2020



HOUSING IMPACT

Job and income loss during the pandemic is driving eviction risk and rent debt

22,300

Contra Costa county households behind on rent in late December

\$88m

Estimated rent debt in the county, approximately \$4,100 per behind household

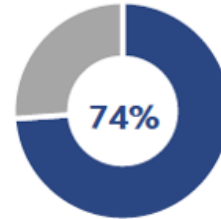
Sources: Bay Area Equity Atlas analysis of Census Household Pulse Survey (Table: Last month's payment status for renters) and American Community Survey data on rent by household income

HOUSING IMPACT

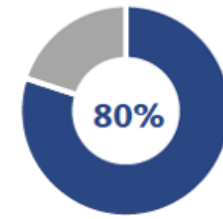
Low-wage workers and families of color face mounting debt

- The vast majority of renters behind on rent are low-income, Covid-impacted, and renters of color
- Most low-income renters are current on rent, but many are relying on credit cards and borrowing from family and friends to meet household needs

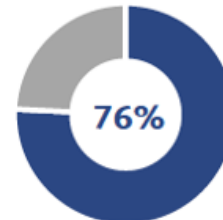
Characteristics of renters with rent debt: 5-County Bay Area, Nov 2020 - Jan 2021



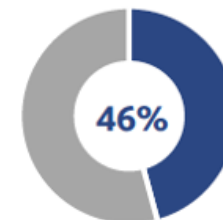
Lost employment income



People of color



Earn less than \$75k/year



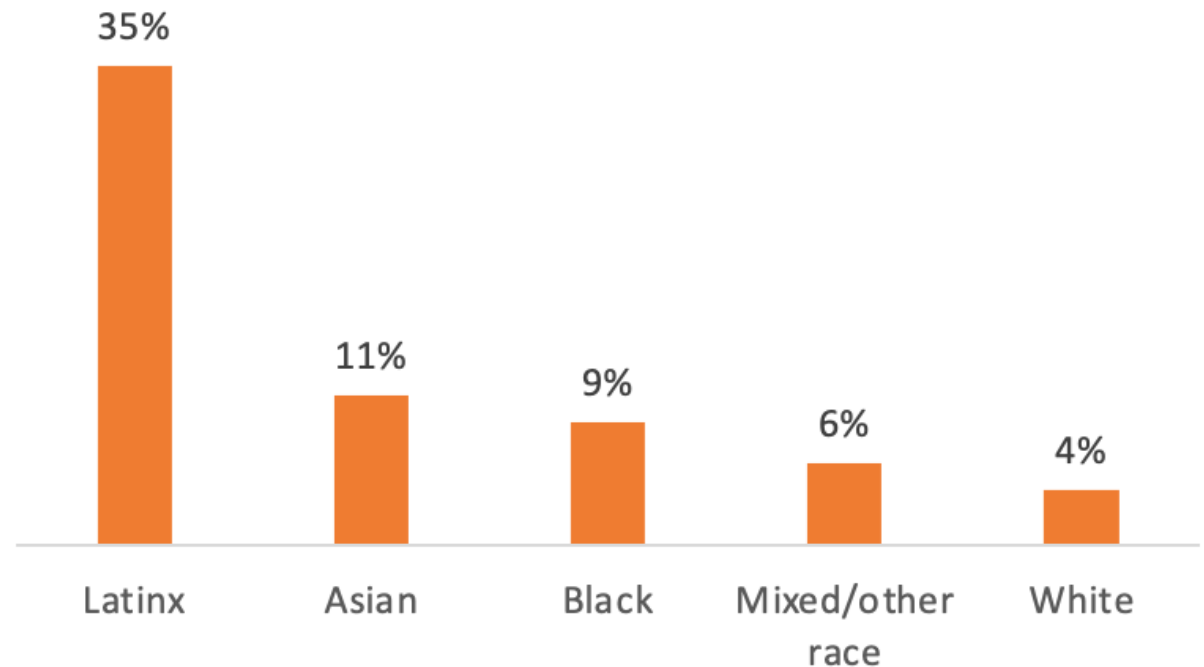
Currently unemployed

HOUSING IMPACT

Low-income homeowners and homeowners of color are falling behind on mortgage payments

- Latinx homeowners are disproportionately vulnerable: 35% are behind
- 24% of homeowners with incomes <\$75,000 are behind

Share of homeowners that are behind on their mortgage, 5-County Bay Area, Nov 2020 - Jan 2021



Source: Census Household Pulse Survey data last month's mortgage payment status for owner-occupied housing units with a mortgage for the San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA Metro Area. The data reflects average responses across three surveys to improve accuracy.

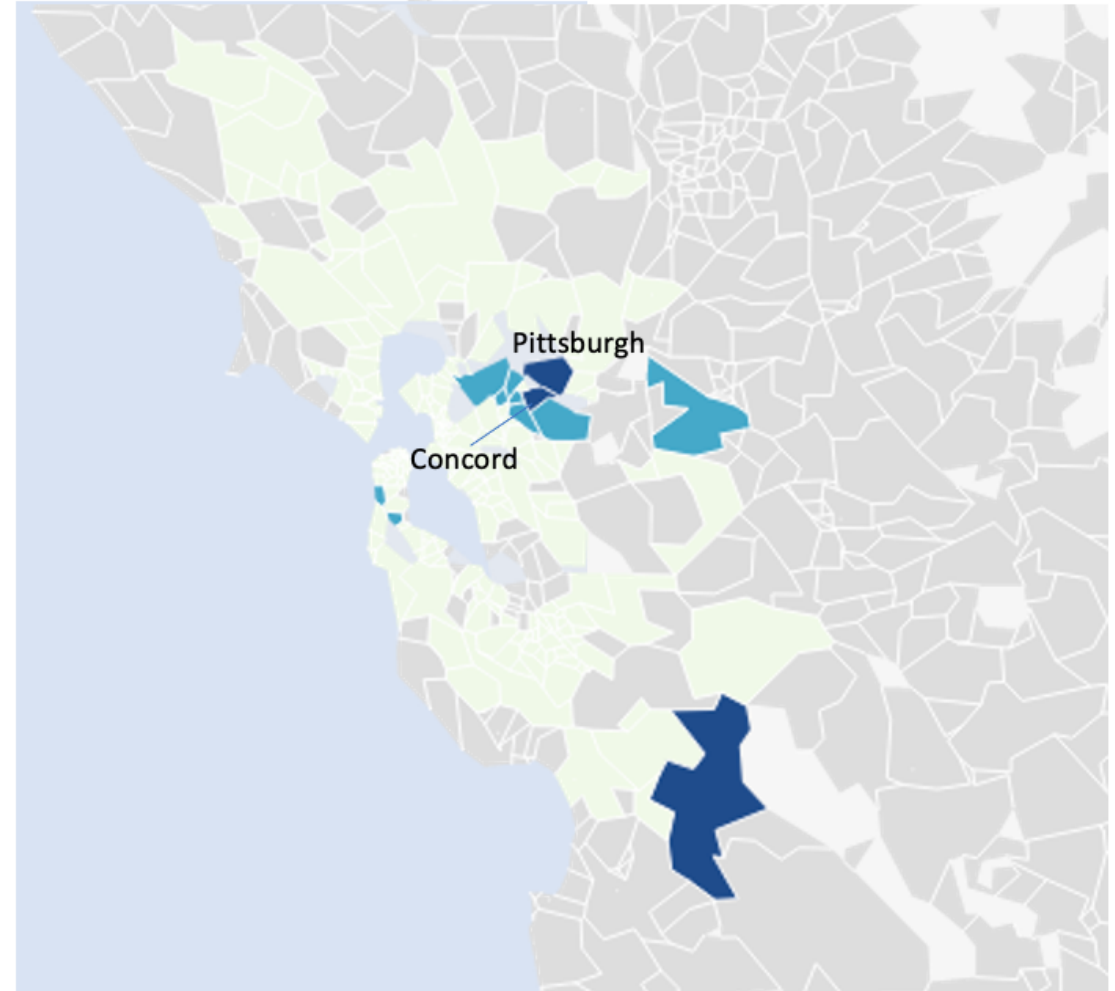
ECONOMIC IMPACT

Rent debt is not the only debt

- Contra Costa has the most water debt among Bay Area counties
- 38,500+ Contra Costa county households have water debt of \$6.7 million+
- ~60% of them owe between \$100-\$500

Households with water debt, by zip code

<1,600 1,600 - 3,200 3,200 - 10,158



EDUCATION IMPACT

Consistent access to online education is uneven due to the persistent digital divide

- Only 6 in 10 Black students always have Internet access
- Latinx and mixed race students are also less likely to always have Internet access

Share of households with school children that always have Internet available at home by race/ethnicity: 5-County Bay Area, Nov 2020 - Jan 2021



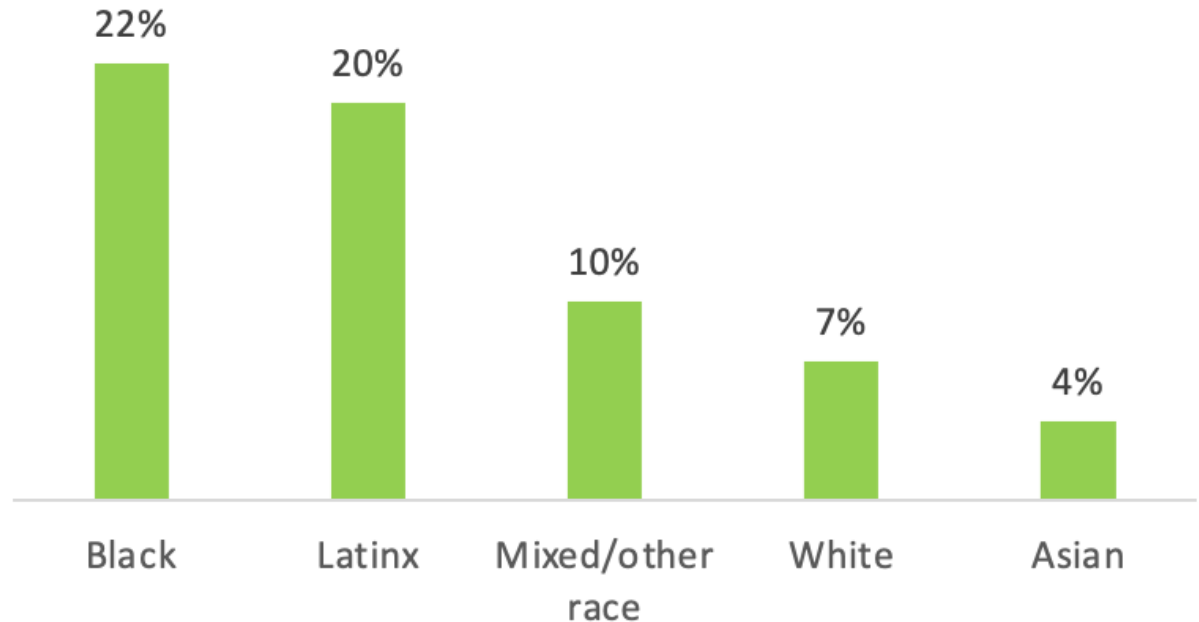
Source: Census Household Pulse Survey data (Table 3) on internet availability ("always available") in households with children in public or private school for the San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA Metro Area. The data reflects average responses across three surveys to improve accuracy.

HEALTH IMPACT

Black, Latinx, and mixed race residents are disproportionately experiencing food insecurity

- Black and Latinx adults are most likely to be food insecure
- Households with children experience greater food insecurity

Share of adults who sometimes or often did not have enough to eat in the past week: 5-County Bay Area, Nov 2020 - Jan 2021



Source: Census Household Pulse Survey data food sufficiency for households in the last 7 days for the San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA Metro Area. The data reflects average responses across three surveys to improve accuracy.

Bay Area Equity Atlas

Thank you!

Explore more data about our region on the Bay Area Equity Atlas at:

<http://bayareaequityatlas.org>

Questions? Contact us at: sarah@policylink.org

SFF San Francisco
Foundation

USC Dornsife
*Program for Environmental
and Regional Equity*

PolicyLink

COVID Community Outreach

- Culturally inclusive outreach and engagement
- Challenges for undocumented residents
- Resources for CBO's serving non-English speaking residents
- “Build Back Better” – strengthen service system infrastructure

Public interventions for an Equitable Relief

Producing and *Maintaining* lasting affordable housing

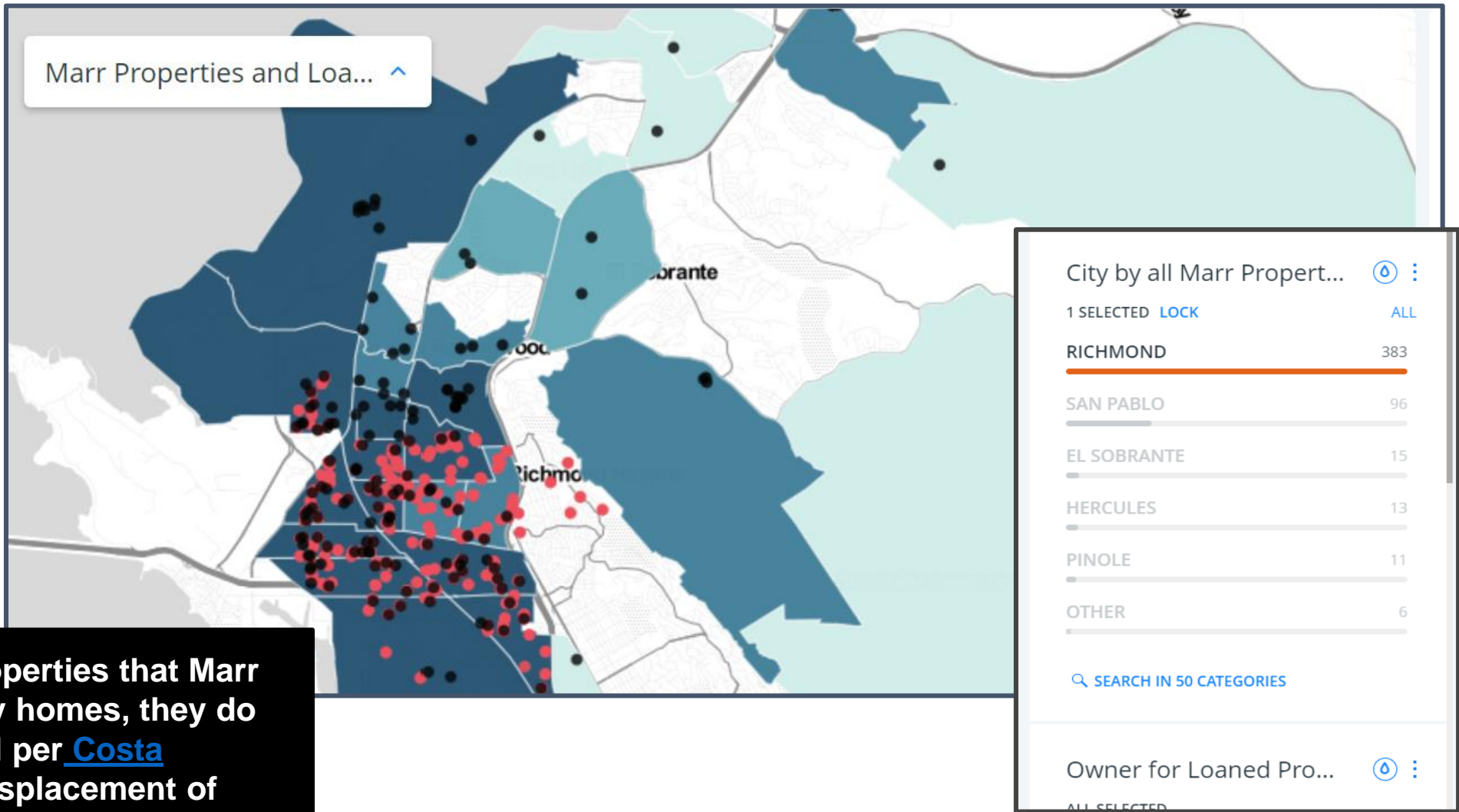
- Production
 - Funding programs for rapid production of alternative housing models
- Preservation
 - Funding for programs to help community groups intervene in the foreclosure auction process for low-wealth homeowners (i.e. implementation of SB 1079)
 - Curbing predatory practices and bad actors

Private equity funds are standing by with cash reserves of at least \$328B to purchase new troubled real estate.

Disastrous consequences for tenants and Contra Costa County's housing system as a whole

Source: Urban Democracy Lab white paper, "Private Equity: the future of housing security in the age of COVID", December 2020

- Marr properties with loans
- All Marr properties



“Because most of the properties that Marr acquired are single family homes, they do not fall under rent control per [Costa Hawkins](#). Widespread displacement of long time residents through rent increases has been the modus operandi for Marr and other foreclosure speculators in the east bay.”

Source: Anti-eviction Mapping Project - Michael Marr / Community Fund LLC

Equitable Relief Through Neighborhood Stabilization & Affordable Housing

- Create an Equity plan for future COVID relief fund **redistribution that connects to neighborhood stabilization efforts**
- Stabilize low-income homeowners (and their tenants) through a **preservation fund**
- Transfer Tax-Foreclosed Properties to not-for-profit housing organizations with capacity to **stabilize affordable housing and add density** (see LA County Chapter 8 Sale Program)

Moving Forward

- Prioritize **equity** and those most in need – *evictions, food, housing, health, essential services*
- **Reimagine Public Safety** – Justice Reinvestment goals and proposals in development
- **Office of Racial Equity & Social Justice**
- **Measure X** Community Advisory Committee provides a model for *community engagement in budget process*



THANK YOU!

Dan Geiger

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