

National Equity Atlas

Equity Indicators for North Carolina

Produced for the UNUM Fellows, January 2022

PolicyLink

USC Dornsife
Equity Research Institute



About the Atlas

The [National Equity Atlas](#) is America's most detailed report card on racial and economic equity, produced through a partnership between PolicyLink and the USC Equity Research Institute. We equip movement leaders and policymakers with actionable data and strategies to advance racial equity and shared prosperity.

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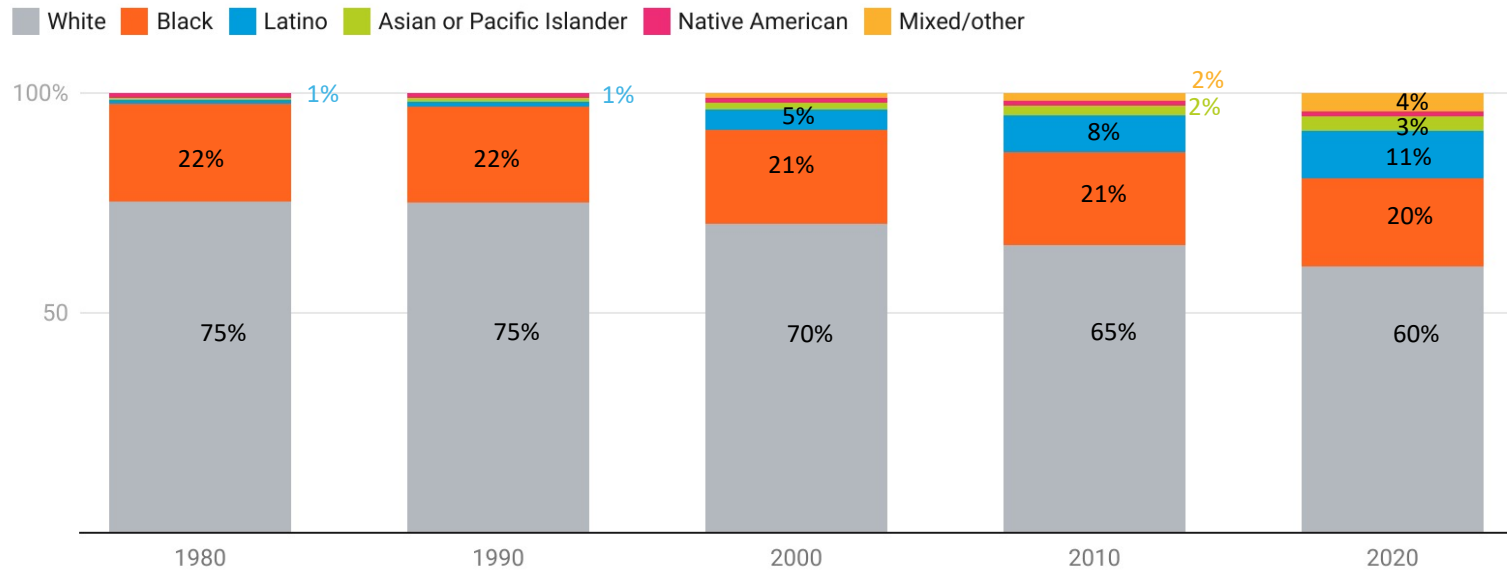


Demographics

DEMOGRAPHICS

People of color now make up 40 percent of the state's population, compared to 25 percent in 1980

Race/ethnicity, North Carolina, 1980-2020

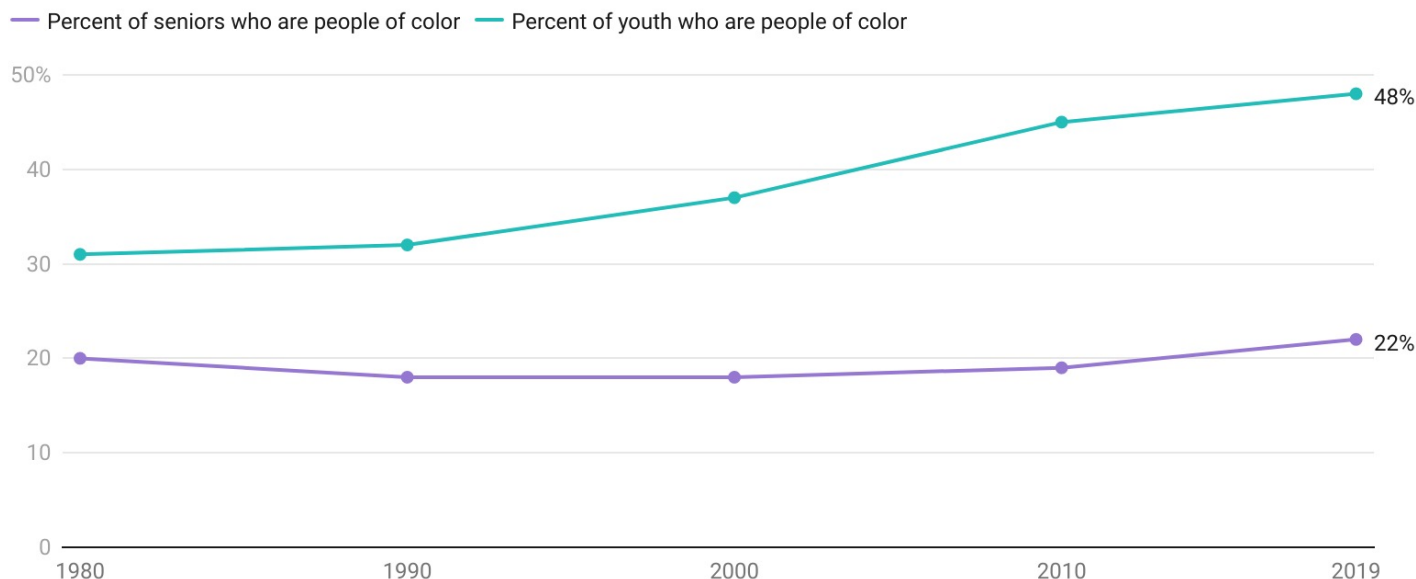


Source: National Equity Atlas analysis of the decennial Census and five-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA and the 2020 Decennial Census Redistricting Data. Note: Percentages are not displayed for groups that comprise <2% of the population.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The racial generation gap grew from 11 percentage points in 1980 to 26 percentage points today

Percent people of color by age group, North Carolina, 1980-2019



Source: National Equity Atlas analysis of the decennial Census and five-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA.

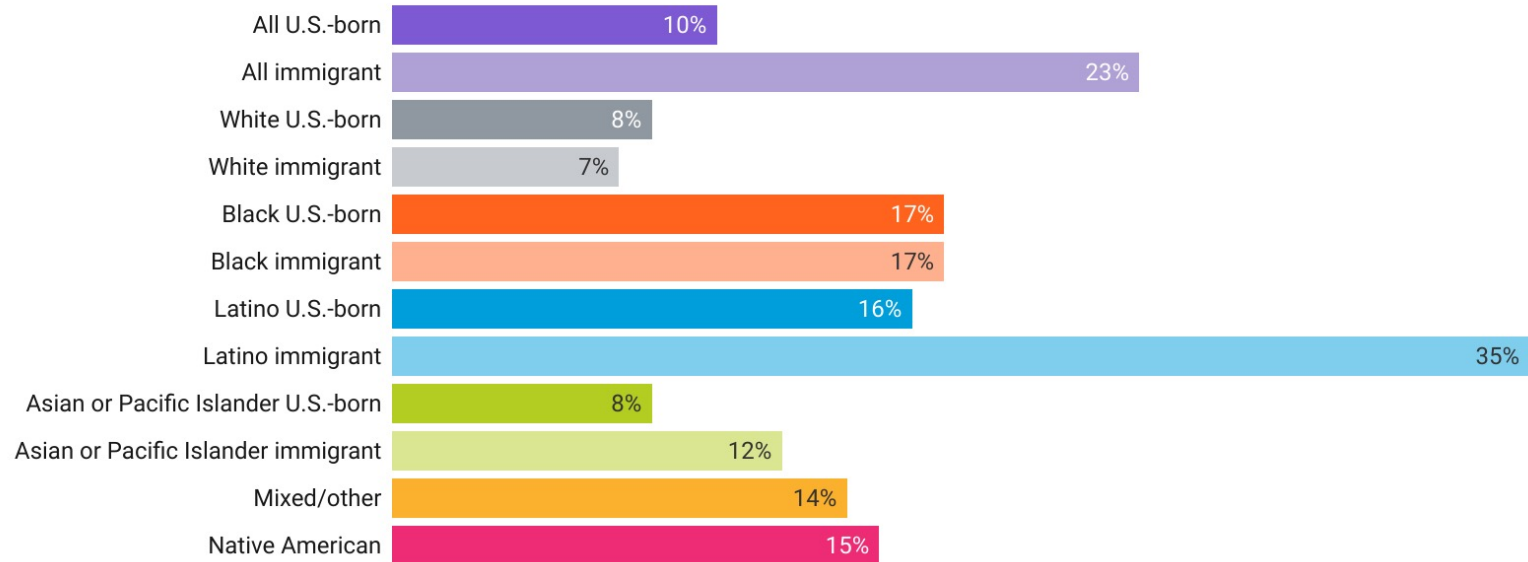
Economic Vitality

A photograph of a city street scene. In the foreground, a black convertible is parked on the left, and a white pickup truck is parked next to it. A dark sedan is driving in the middle of the street. A large white truck with an orange cab and "YRC" logo is driving towards the camera. In the background, there are several historic brick buildings. One building has a sign that says "KRESS". Another building has a sign that says "THE VERMONT BUILDING CO. 1888". A tall, ornate building with a green dome is visible in the distance.

ECONOMIC VITALITY

More than one in three Latino immigrants are working full time and still economically insecure

Percent working poor by race/ethnicity and nativity, North Carolina, 2019

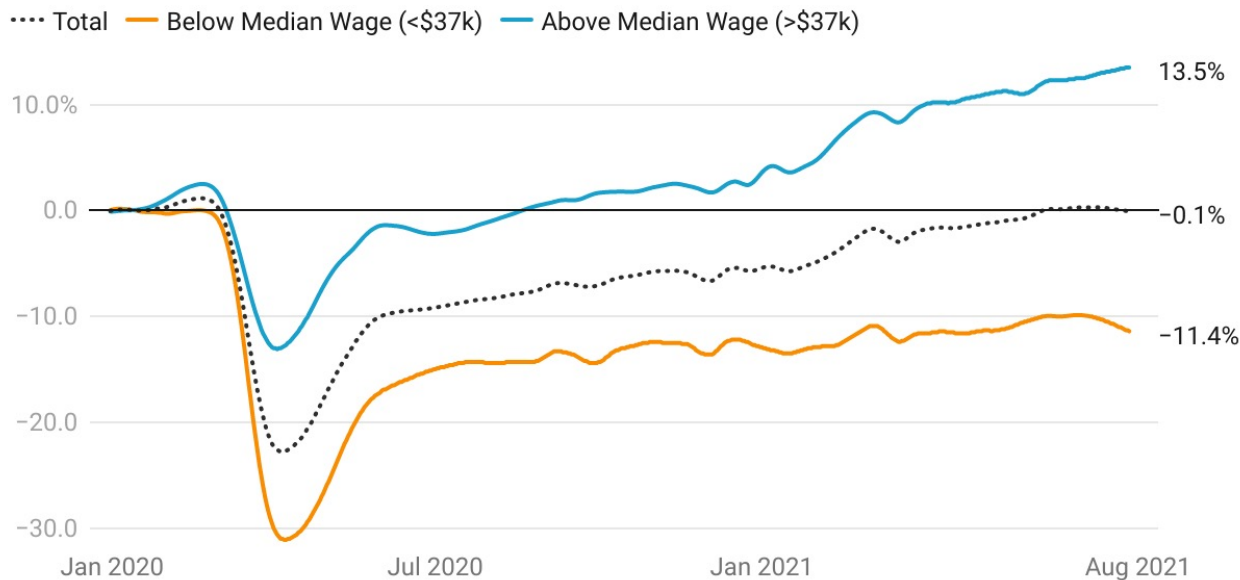


Source: National Equity Atlas analysis of 2019 five-year American Community survey microdata from IPUMS USA.

ECONOMIC VITALITY

While overall employment has nearly recovered relative to January 2020 levels, low and middle-wage jobs lag behind

Employment levels relative to January 2020, North Carolina

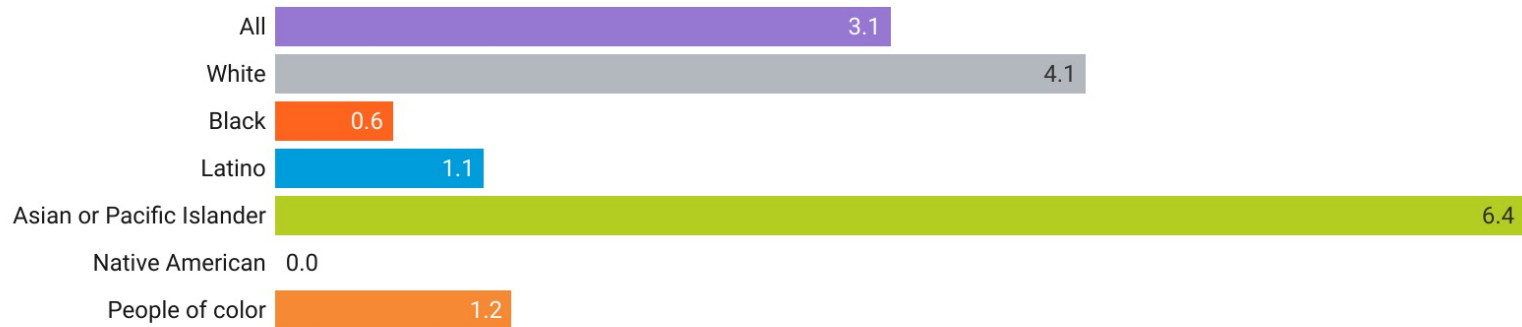


Source: Economic Opportunity Insights Tracker data from Paychex, Intuit, Earnin and Kronos

ECONOMIC VITALITY

Black entrepreneurs are highly underrepresented among firms with paid employees

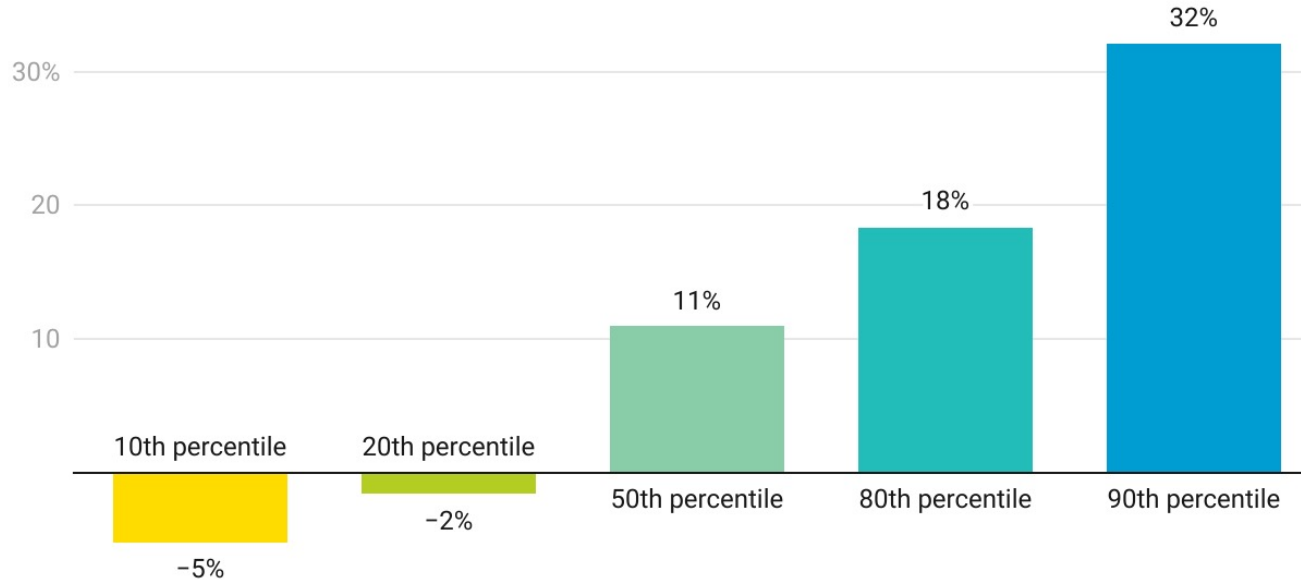
Firms (per 100 workers) by race/ethnicity, North Carolina, 2018



Source: National Equity Atlas analysis of the Annual Business Survey and NES-D series; the Survey of Business Owners; and the American Community Survey.

Workers at the top of the income distribution have seen the greatest income growth since 1980

Earned income growth for full-time wage and salary workers, North Carolina, 1980-2019

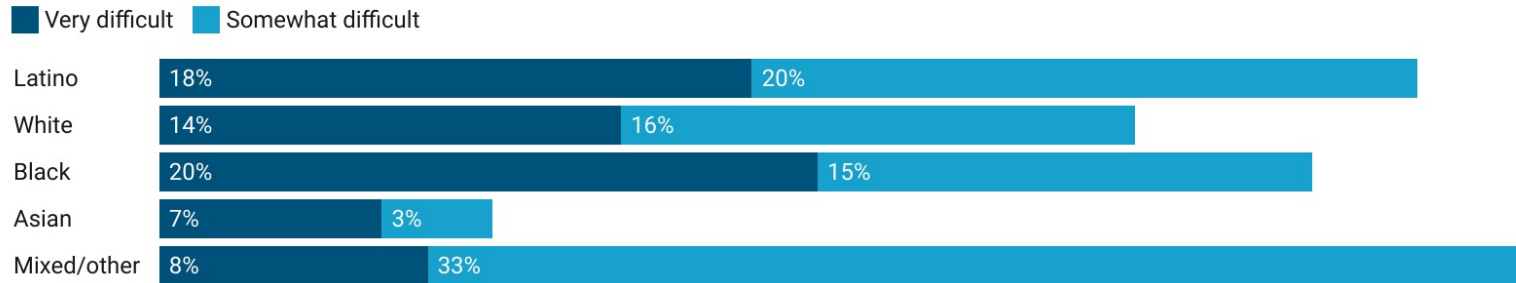


Source: National Equity Atlas analysis of the 1980 decennial Census and the 2019 five-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA.

ECONOMIC VITALITY

About 40 percent of Latino and multiracial residents are experiencing financial difficulties

Difficulty paying usual household expenses in the last seven days by race/ethnicity, North Carolina, 2021



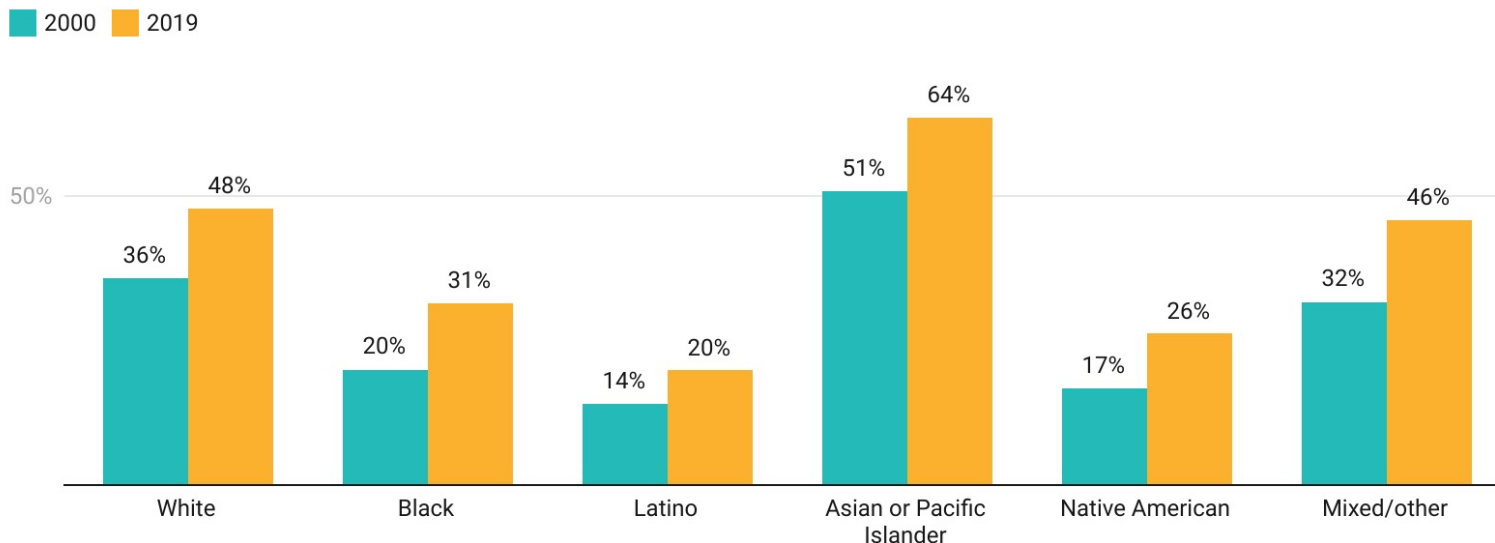
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, Week 40 (December 1-December 13, 2021), Housing Spending Table 1.

Readiness



Despite improvements since 2000, just 20 percent of Latino adults have an associate's degree or higher

The share of the population age 25-64 with an AA degree or higher by race/ethnicity, North Carolina, 2000-2019

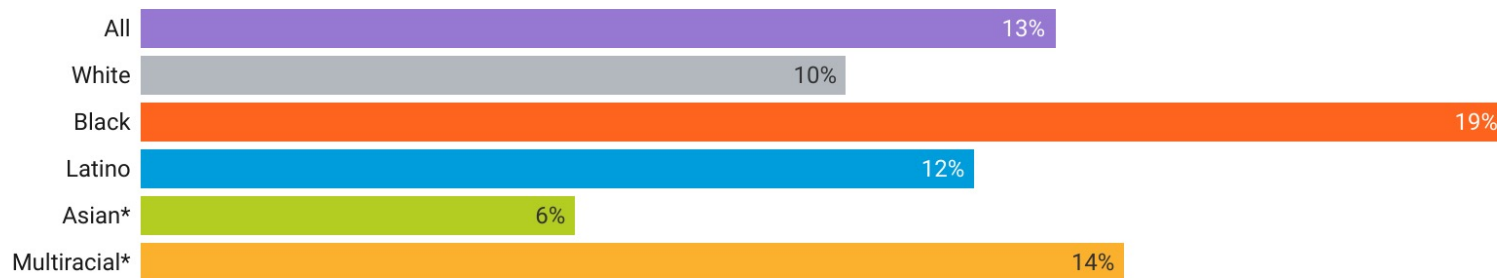


Source: National Equity Atlas analysis of the 2019 five-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA

READINESS

Nearly one in five Black students borrowed more than \$26,500 for their undergraduate education

Percent who borrowed \$26,500 or more for undergrad by race/ethnicity, North Carolina, 2016

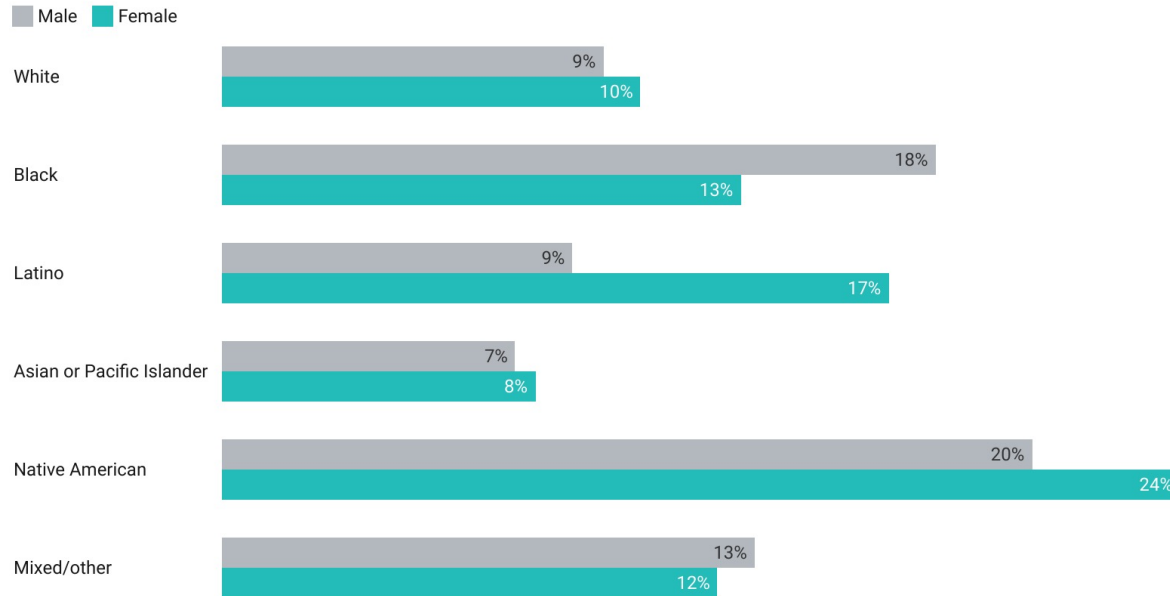


Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 2016 Undergraduates (NPSAS:UG). *Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate.

READINESS

Native American youth are most likely to be disconnected from school and work

Percent of 16 to 24 year olds not working or in school by race/ethnicity and gender, North Carolina, 2019

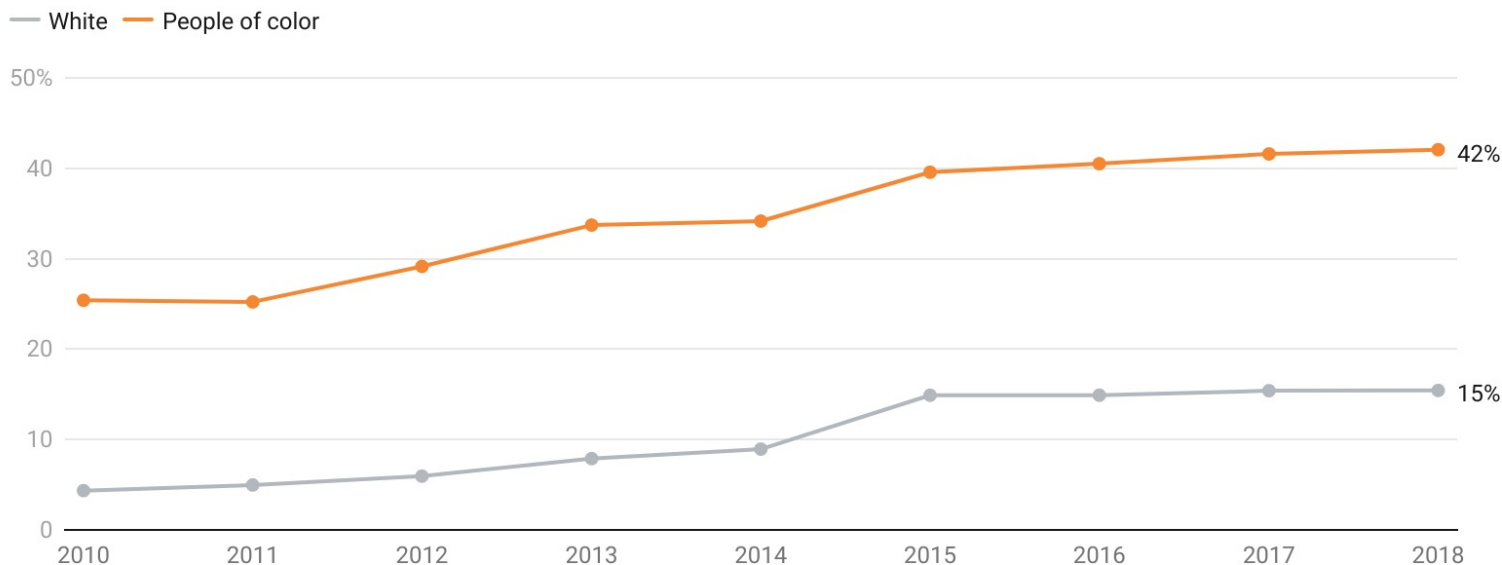


Source: National Equity Atlas analysis of the 2019 five-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA. Note: Some data are not displayed due to small sample size.

READINESS

Four out of 10 children of color in the state attend high-poverty schools

Percent of students in high-poverty public schools, North Carolina, 2010-2018

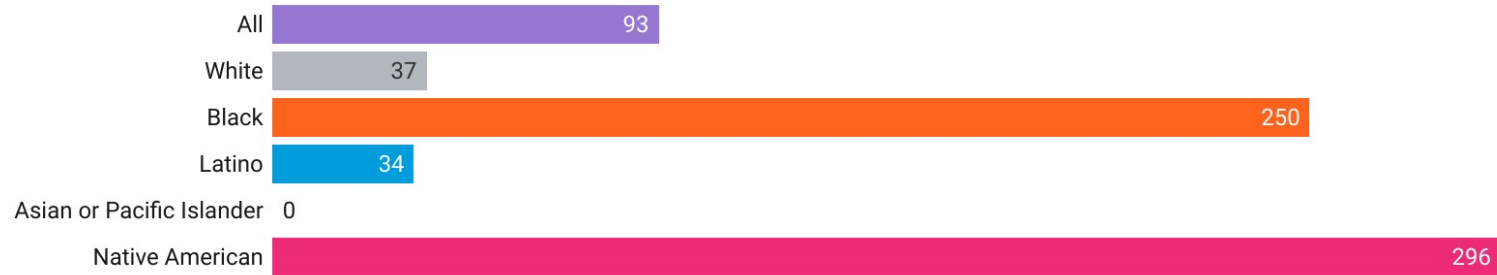


Source: National Equity Atlas analysis of data from National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, and Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey.

READINESS

Native American and Black youth are about 7 to 8 times as likely as white youth to be incarcerated

Youth incarceration rate per 100,000 juveniles by race/ethnicity, North Carolina, 2019



Source: Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Puzzanchera, C., and Kang, W. (2021) "Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement." Online. Available: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/>.

READINESS

Black children are 50 percent more likely than white children to have two or more adverse childhood experiences

Percent of children who have experienced two or more adverse experiences by race/ethnicity, North Carolina, 2018- 2019



Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, National Survey of Children's Health.

Adverse childhood experience, also known as ACEs, are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years). ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance use problems in adulthood. ACEs can also negatively impact education, job opportunities, and earning potential.

Children were included if the respondent answered that the child had ever experienced two or more of the following adverse experiences: frequent socioeconomic hardship, parental divorce or separation, parental death, parental incarceration, family violence, neighborhood violence, living with someone who was mentally ill or suicidal, living with someone who had a substance abuse problem or racial bias.

READINESS

Asian residents have the highest COVID-19 vaccination rates in the state by far

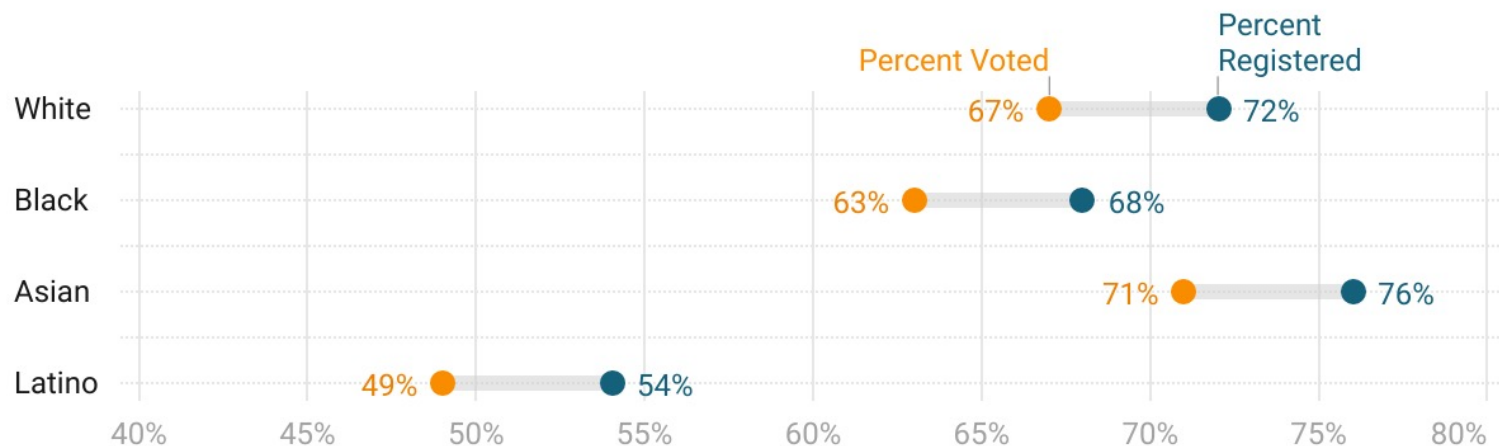
Percent of population that has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose by race/ethnicity, North Carolina, December 2021



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) analysis of publicly available data on state websites; total population data used to calculate rates based on KFF analysis of 2019 American Community Survey data. Note: States vary in whether they include or exclude Hispanic people from their racial groups and in their racial classifications. Total population data used to calculate rates is matched to each states' racial classification approach. Rates may not match those reported on state websites due to differences in the source for total population data and/or ages included in the total population.

Just half of the state's Latino citizens voted in 2020

Percent of citizens who are registered and voted by race/ethnicity, North Carolina, November 2020



Source: Table 4b from the Census Bureau's data on Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2020.



CONNECTEDNESS

Native American residents are slightly more likely to live in neighborhoods with high exposure to air toxins

Air pollution exposure index by race/ethnicity, Mississippi, 2019

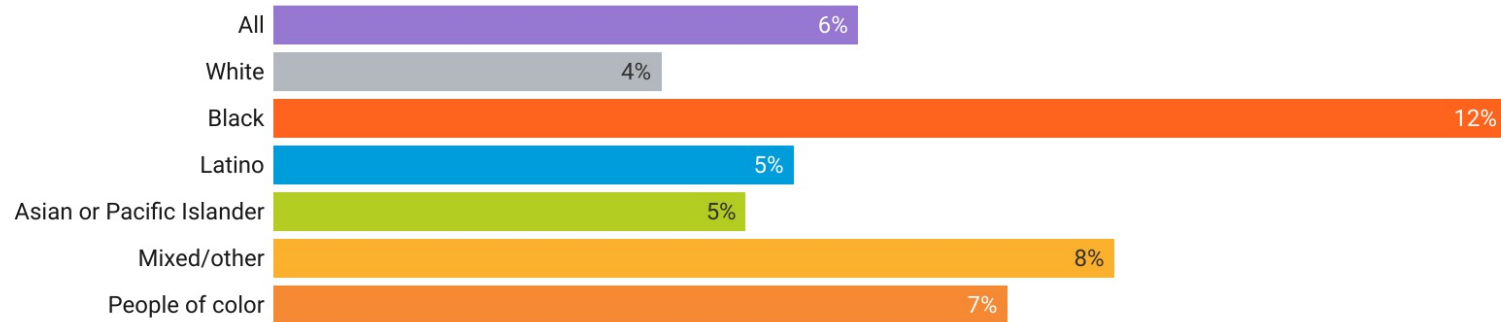


Source: National Equity Atlas analysis of National Air Toxics Assessment data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

CONNECTEDNESS

Nearly one in eight Black households in North Carolina lack access to a vehicle

Percent of households without a vehicle by race/ethnicity, North Carolina, 2019

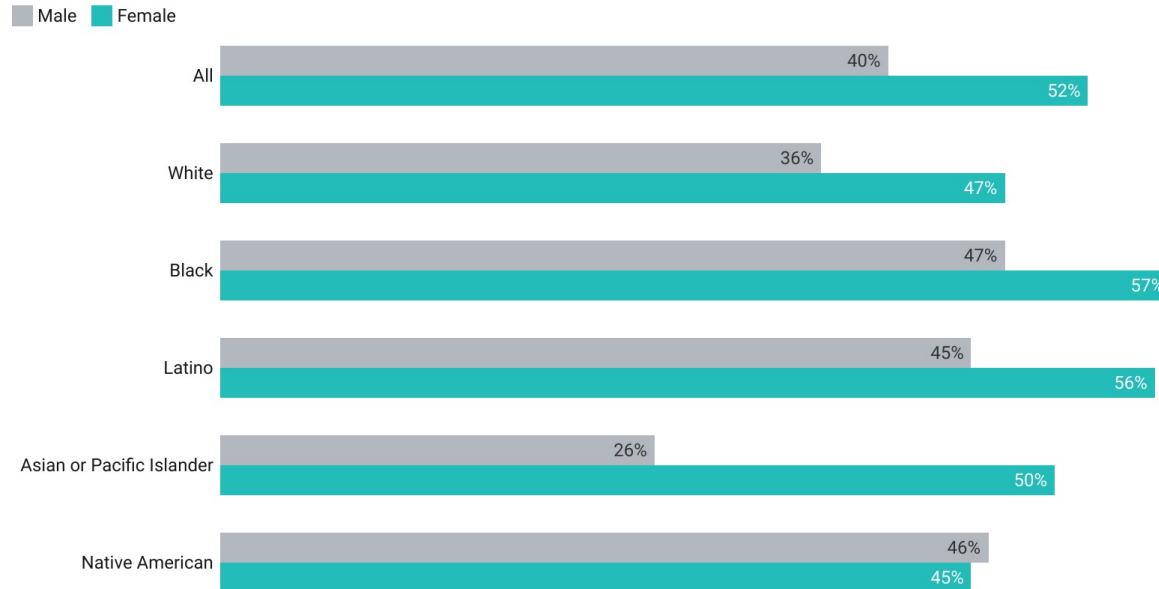


Source: National Equity Atlas analysis of the 2019 five-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA.

CONNECTEDNESS

More than half of households headed by Black or Latina women pay more than 30 percent of their income for rent

Rent burden by race/ethnicity and gender, North Carolina, 2019



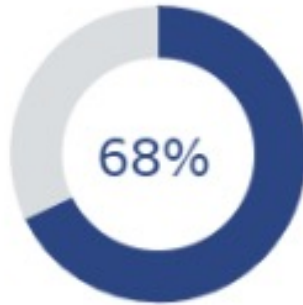
Source: National Equity Atlas analysis of the 2019 five-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA.

CONNECTEDNESS

Roughly 207,000 households (or 17 percent of renters) are behind on rent, and 68 percent are people of color

Percent of households behind on rent, North Carolina, 2021

...who are people of Color



...who have incomes <\$50k

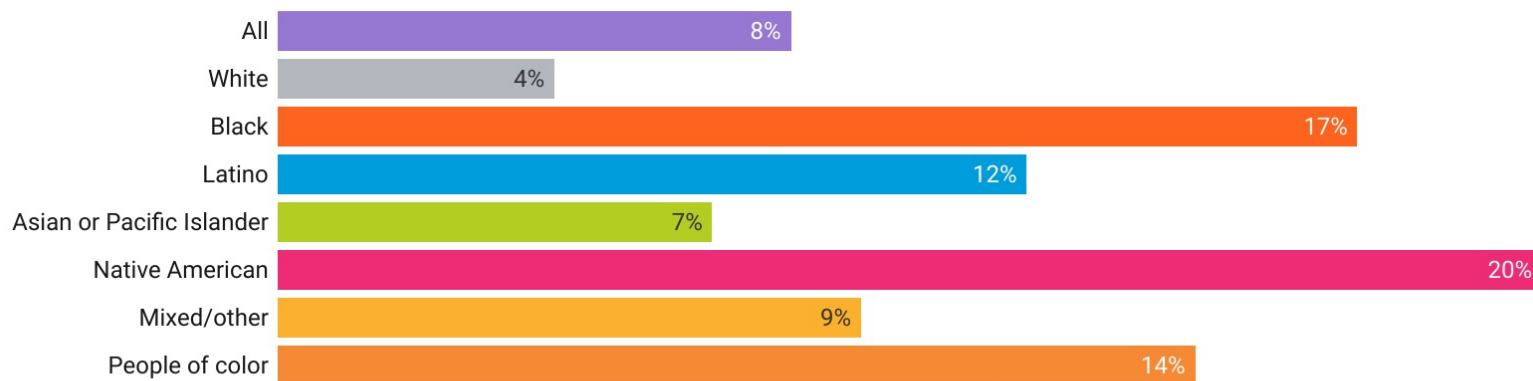


Source: Census Household Pulse Survey Public Use File, 2019 five-year data from the American Community Survey, and the Emergency Rental Assistance data from the US Treasury October report.

CONNECTEDNESS

Twenty percent of Native American residents and 17 percent of Black residents live in high-poverty neighborhoods

Percent living in high-poverty neighborhoods by race/ethnicity, North Carolina, 2019

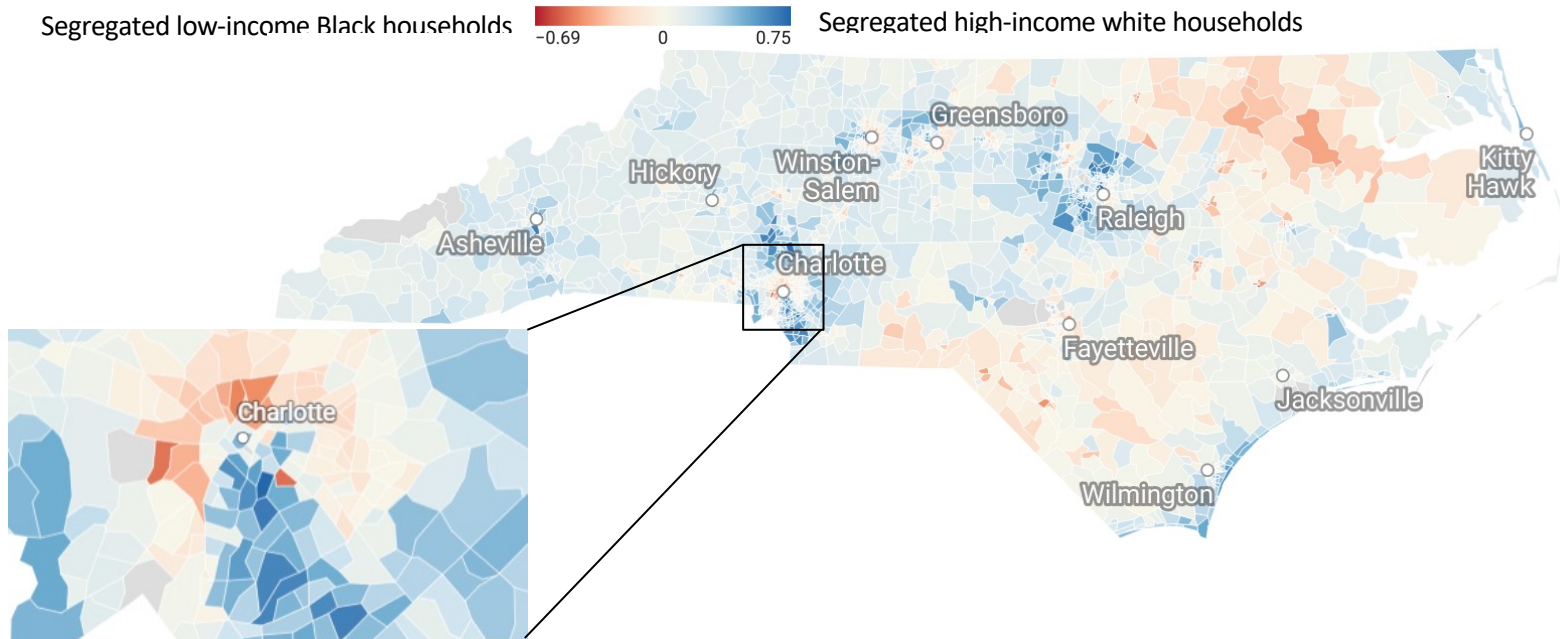


Source: National Equity Atlas analysis of the 2019 five-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA.

CONNECTEDNESS

Race and class segregation remains very high across the state, particularly in Cumberland, Forsyth, and Wake Counties

Index of concentration at the extremes for racialized economic segregation, North Carolina, 2019

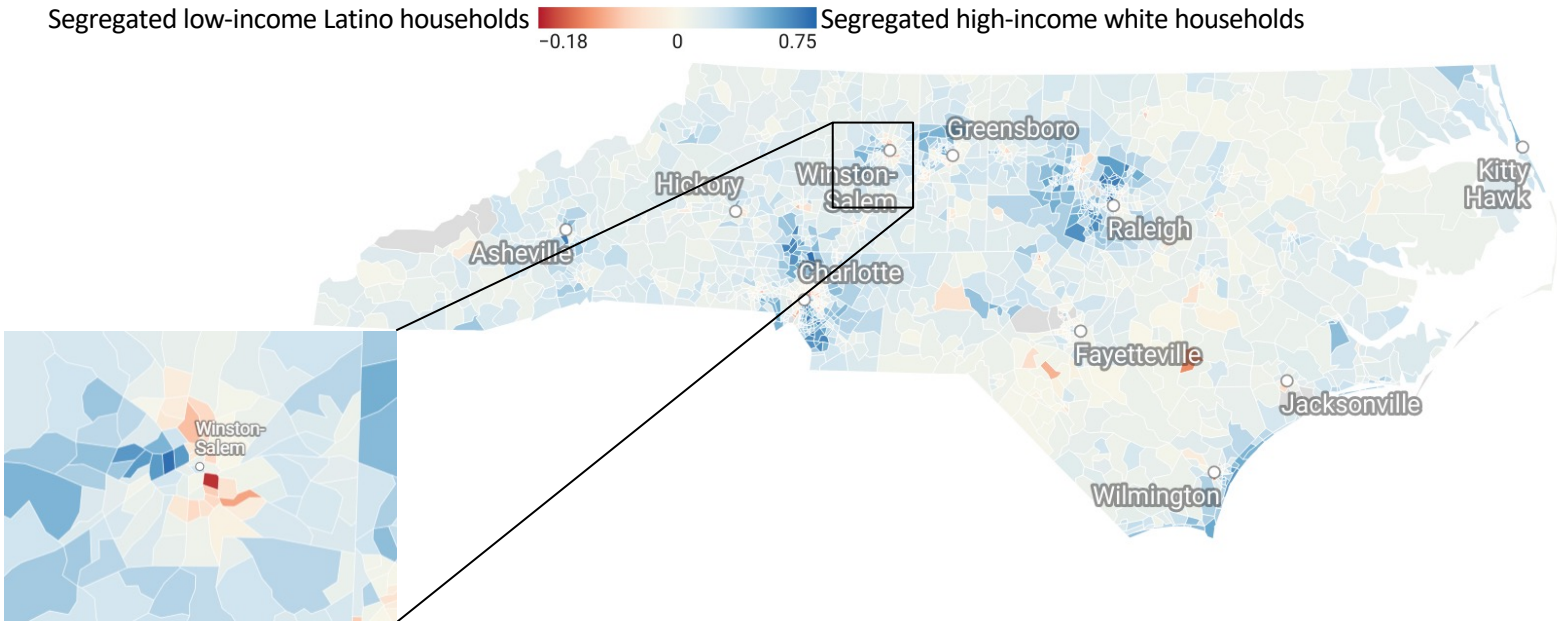


Source: National Equity Analysis of the 2019 American Community Survey five-year estimates. Note: Census tracts with less than 100 households were excluded (in grey).

CONNECTEDNESS

Race (Latino-white) and class segregation is not as pronounced but still high near Charlotte and Winston-Salem

Index of concentration at the extremes for racialized economic segregation, North Carolina, 2019



Source: National Equity Analysis of the 2019 American Community Survey five-year estimates. Note: Census tracts with less than 100 households were excluded (in grey).

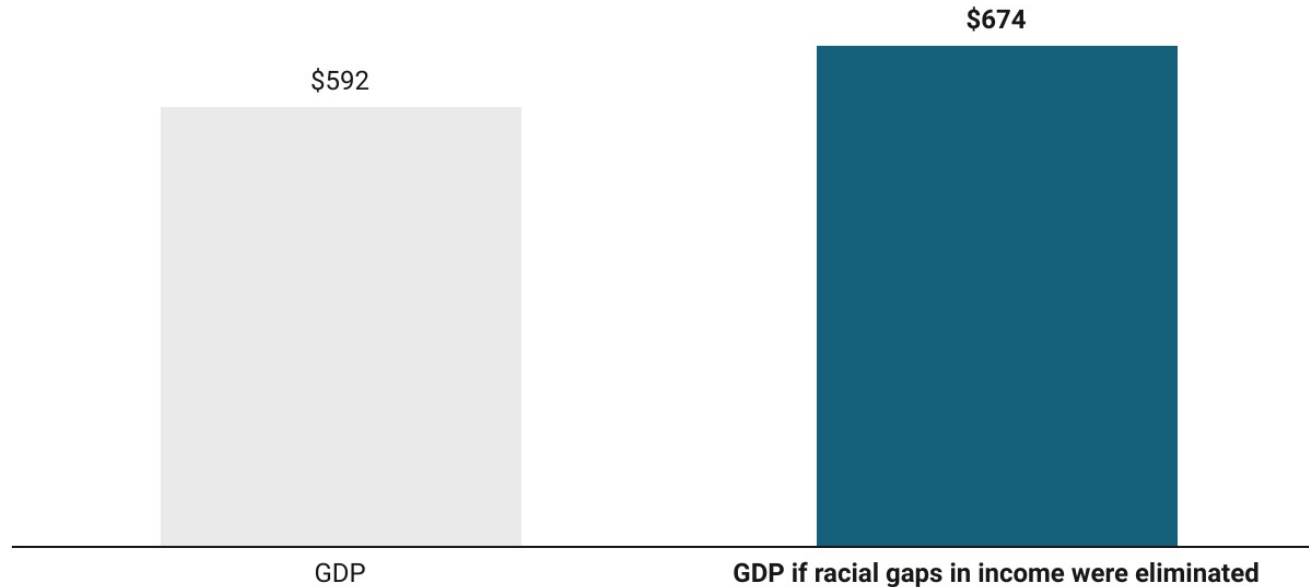
Economic Benefits



ECONOMIC BENEFITS

If there had been no racial gaps in income in 2019, the state GDP would have been about \$82 billion larger

Actual GDP and estimated GDP with racial equity in income (billions), North Carolina, 2019



Source: National Equity Atlas analysis of the 2019 five-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

With racial equity in wages and employment, average incomes for Latinos and Native Americans would grow by 75 percent

Income by race/ethnicity, North Carolina, 2019



Source: National Equity Atlas analysis of the 2019 five-year American Community Survey microdata from IPUMS USA.

Data Notes

Data for 2010 and 2019 represent five-year averages (i.e., 2006-2010 and 2015-2019).

Data for certain race/ethnicity categories are excluded due to small sample size of survey respondents.

High-poverty neighborhoods are defined as census tracts with a poverty rate of 30 percent or higher.

Housing burden is defined as renter-occupied households that are spending more than 30 percent of income on housing costs.

High-poverty schools are defined as public elementary and secondary schools with 75% or more students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

Working poor is defined as those who work full-time and have a family income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.