Bay Area Equity Atlas

Indicators of Equitable Recovery in the Bay Area

May 18, 2021
Commonwealth Club
by Jamila Henderson, Senior Associate, PolicyLink
Low-income communities of color have been hardest hit by the pandemic

Cumulative Covid-19 cases per 100,000 people, March 2021

Share of people of color by neighborhood, 2019

Latinx and Black workers face greater health risks as essential workers

Currently employed workers in essential industries by race/ethnicity: Bay Area, February 2021

- White: 23%
- Black: 36%
- Latinx: 38%
- Asian or Pacific Islander: 25%
- Native American, Mixed/other: 23%

Source: 2019 IPUMS-CPS, using frontline industry definitions provided by the Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), for the nine-county Bay Area region (with the exception of Napa County).
Black workers have suffered the greatest job losses

Share of the California workforce that has filed for regular unemployment insurance by race/ethnicity, March 2020-February 2021

- White: 24%
- Black: 42%
- Latinx: 29%
- Asian: 27%

Source: California Policy Lab analysis of 2020-2021 unemployment insurance claims from the Labor Market Information Division of the California Employment Development Department.
People of color, especially Black women and Latinas, are most vulnerable to the economic impacts of the pandemic.

Share of Bay Area renters that are both rent burdened* and economically insecure** by race/ethnicity, 2018

- **Male**
  - White: 25%
  - Black: 44%
  - Latinx: 46%
  - Asian or Pacific Islander: 29%
  - Mixed/other: 37%

- **Female**
  - White: 33%
  - Black: 59%
  - Latinx: 54%
  - Asian or Pacific Islander: 36%
  - Mixed/other: 40%

Source: PolicyLink/ERI analysis of 2018 5-Year ACS IPUMS for the nine-county region. Notes: *Rent-burdened is defined as spending more than 30 percent of income on housing costs. **Economic insecurity is defined as living below 350 percent of the federal poverty line, or about $87,000 for a family of four or $44,000 for a single individual.
Black residents are disproportionately represented among people experiencing homelessness.

Population experiencing homelessness: Bay Area, 2019

- White: 32% Homeless Population, 40% Overall Population
- Black: 29% Homeless Population, 6% Overall Population
- Latinx: 27% Homeless Population, 24% Overall Population
- Asian or Pacific Islander: 4% Homeless Population, Overall Population
- Native American: 3% Homeless Population, 0.2% Overall Population
- Mixed/other: 5% Homeless Population, 4% Overall Population

Source: HUD 2019 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs point-in-time report and county population share from the 2018 5-Year ACS for the nine-county region with adjusted homelessness data to create mutually exclusive racial/ethnic categories.
In most Bay Area counties, low-wage workers experienced the largest declines in employment

Percent change in employment by worker wage level in Bay Area counties, January 2020 to October 22, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Low-wage &lt; $27K</th>
<th>Middle-wage $27K-$60K</th>
<th>High-wage &gt; $60K</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alameda</td>
<td>-22%</td>
<td>-15%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contra Costa</td>
<td>-33%</td>
<td>-12%</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marin</td>
<td>-44%</td>
<td>-18%</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Napa</td>
<td>-23%</td>
<td>-20%</td>
<td>-23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>-25%</td>
<td>-25%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Mateo</td>
<td>-23%</td>
<td>-20%</td>
<td>-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Clara</td>
<td>-34%</td>
<td>-11%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solano</td>
<td>-39%</td>
<td>-12%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonoma</td>
<td>-13%</td>
<td>-13%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Employment change by worker wages from Opportunity Insights’ Economic Tracker (not seasonally adjusted) for the nine counties in the Bay Area region. Data based on January 2021 data extract.
The majority immigrant and people-of-color gig workforce faces particular vulnerabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People of color</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work &gt;30 hours per week</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrants</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Said employer doing nothing/not enough to respond to virus</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Said gig work was their only source of income in last month</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support others with their earnings</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack means to cover $400 emergency expense</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost 100% of income since the pandemic</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes/often sleeping in their car before/after work</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Still accepting jobs despite fear of the virus</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would possibly go to work with a fever because they need work</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack health insurance</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliant on public assistance</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

58,000 Bay Area households are at risk of eviction and indebtedness

- About 10% of all Bay Area renter households are behind on rent
- These renters collectively owe $304.7 million in rent debt
- This is approx. $5,300 per household behind on rent

**Characteristics of renters behind on rent: Bay Area, February 17, 2021 – March 29, 2021**

- 82% Earn less than $75k/year
- 90% People of color
- 47% Currently unemployed
- 90% Lost employment income

Source: Week 25–27 Census Household Pulse Survey for the San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA 5-County Metro Area; the Understanding America Survey from the Center for Economic and Social Research at USC, and 2019 5-Year data from the ACS IPUMS. The share of adults behind on rent by renter characteristics reflects average responses across three surveys to improve accuracy.
Black and Latinx residents are disproportionately experiencing food insecurity during the pandemic

Share of adults who sometimes or often do not have enough to eat in the past week: Bay Area, February 17, 2021 – March 29, 2021

Source: Week 25–27 Census Household Pulse Survey on food sufficiency for households in the last 7 days for the San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA 5-County Metro Area. The data reflects average responses across three surveys to improve accuracy. Data for some racial/ethnic groups is unavailable due to small sample size.
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: jamila@policylink.org