

# Healthy Places Index and California's Health Equity Metric for COVID-19

California Chronic Disease  
Prevention Leadership Team

Jan 28, 2021



Jason Vargo

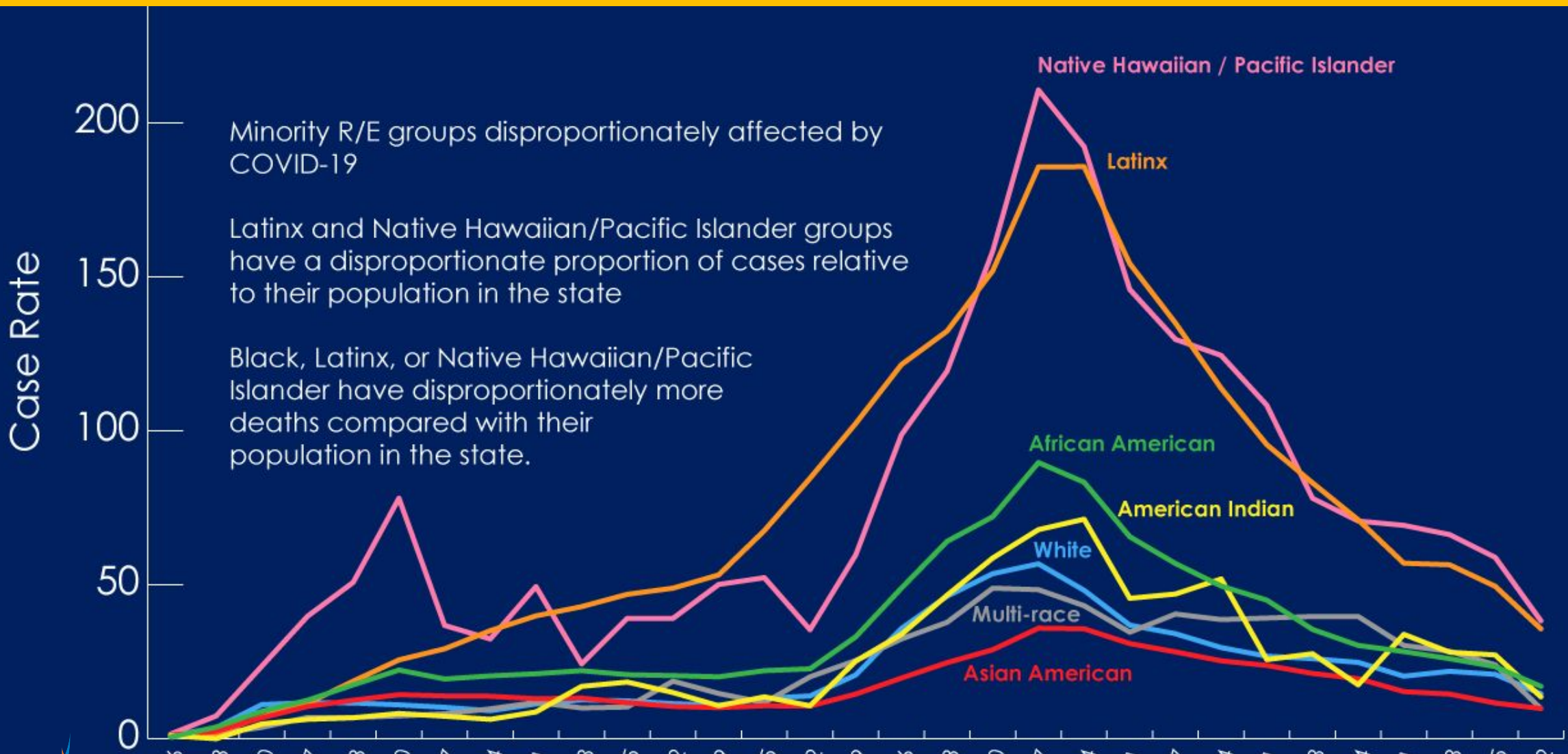
[Jason.Vargo@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Jason.Vargo@cdph.ca.gov)

[@\\_vargo](#)

# Questions to keep in mind

- Why should we use HPI over some other Index that is available?
- Is the data outdated?  
Is the census tract the right geography?  
Is HPI missing in a lot of locations?
- What if the index does not include race?
- Should the Index be designed based on the particular outcome we are trying to address?
- What are local health departments supposed to do about this?

# Disparities in COVID-19 in CA | Race/ethnicity



# Disparities in COVID-19 in CA | The Challenge

## Racial Health Disparities and Covid-19 — Caution and Context

Merlin Chowkwanyun, Ph.D., M.P.H., and Adolph L. Reed, Jr., Ph.D.

In early April, Wisconsin and Michigan released data showing stark racial disparities in rates of Covid-19 cases and deaths. In those states, many media outlets noted that the percentages of af-

ected people who were black were more than twice as high as the proportion of blacks in the overall population. Similar disparities have since been reported elsewhere, sometimes along with

overrepresentation of additional racial minority groups.

Racial disparities have thus become central in the national conversation about Covid-19. Front-page headlines in the *New York*

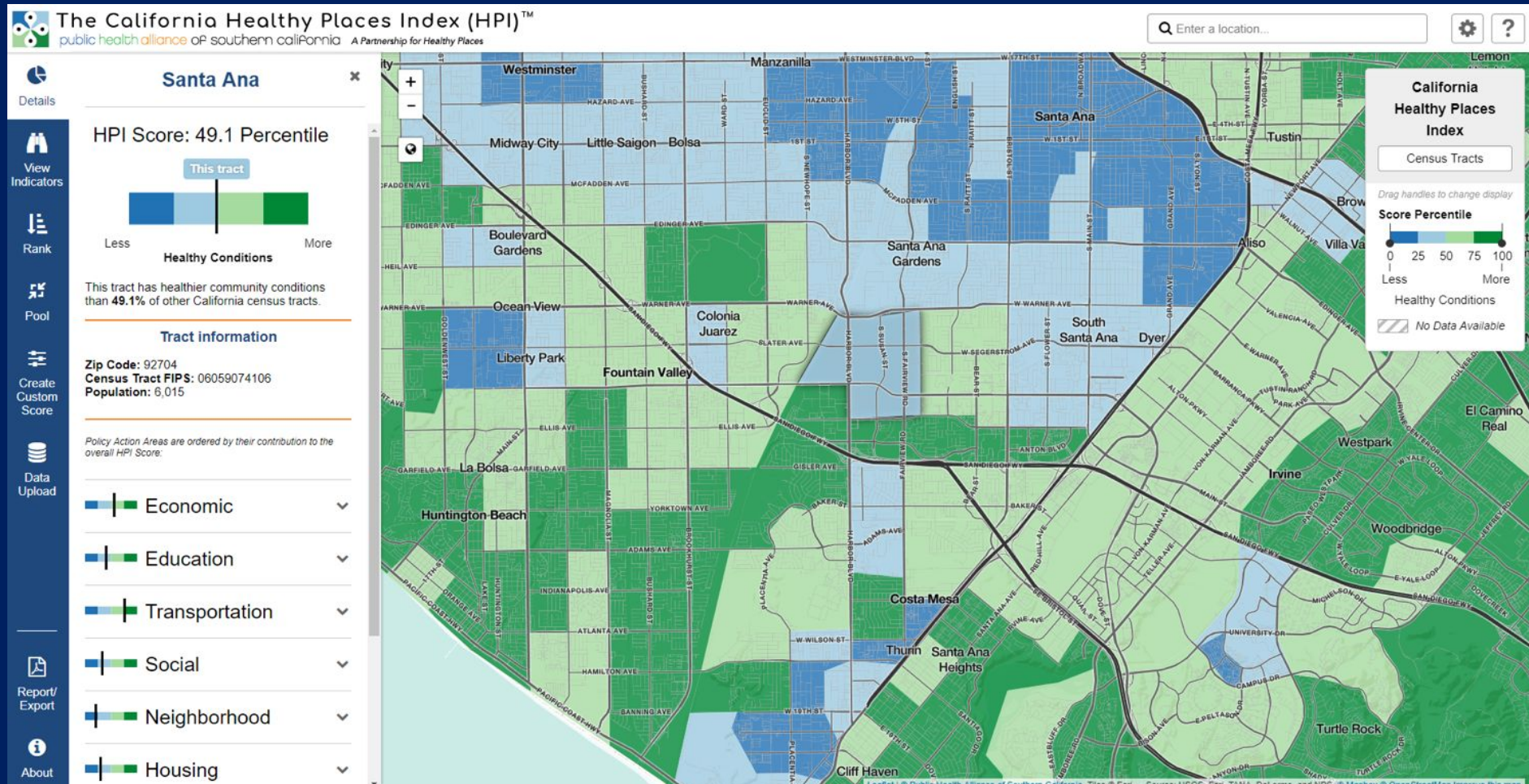
N ENGL J MED 383:3 NEJM.ORG JULY 16, 2020

201

Chowkwanyun and Reed, *NEJM* 2020; 383:201-203



# Healthy Places Index | Introduction



public health alliance<sup>™</sup> of southern california A Partnership for Healthy Places  
Fiscally administered by the Public Health Institute



<https://healthyplacesindex.org/>

## Granular

Fine geographic resolution reveals the variation *within* cities, counties, and communities

## Validated

Each indicator – and the overall index – is linked to a summary health outcome:  
**life expectancy at birth**

## Policy Solutions

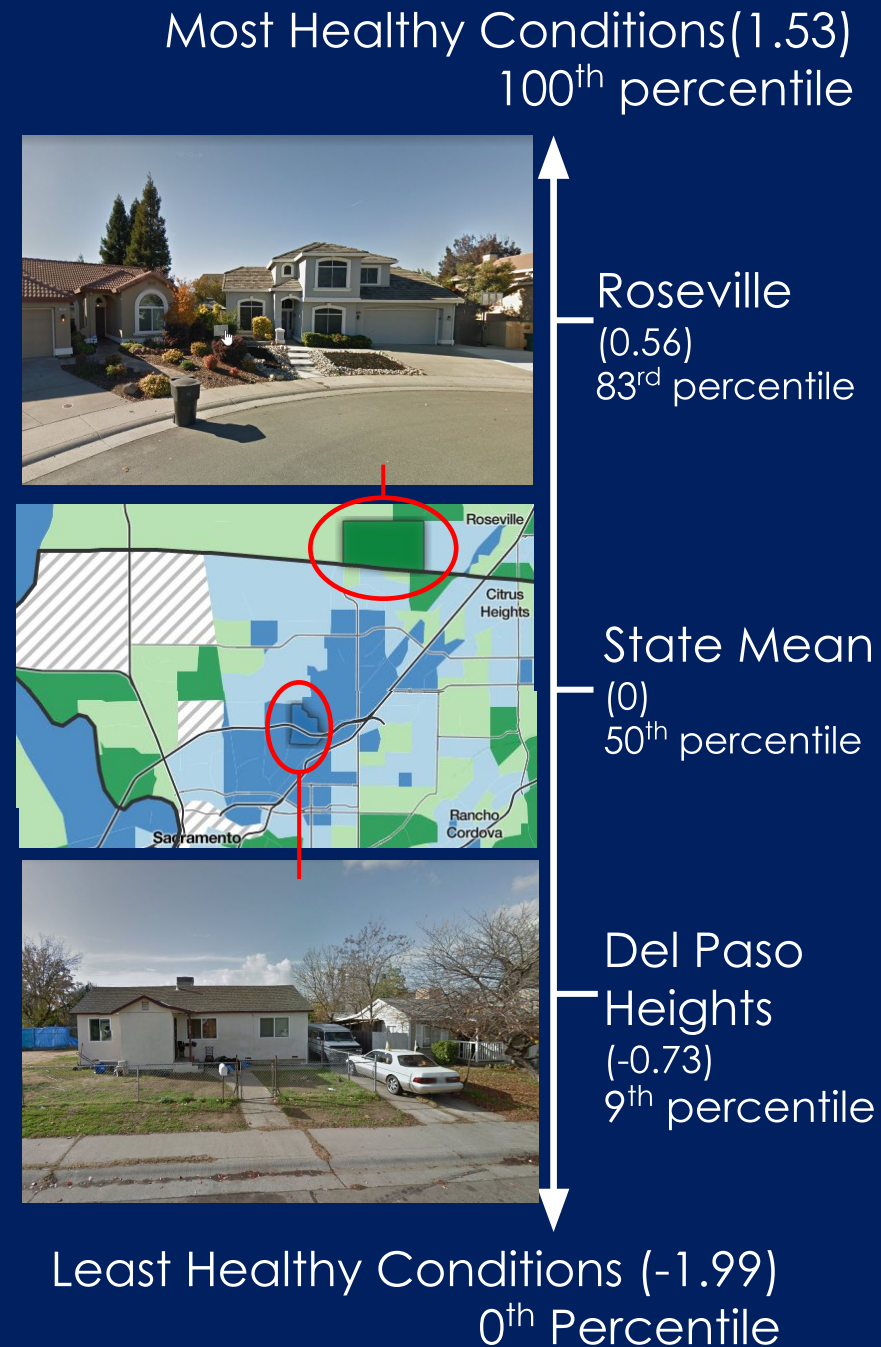
Each indicator is supported by a wealth of policy solutions detailed in our Policy Guides

## Indicator Selection

- Informed by literature
- Statewide data publicly available at the census tract
- Actionable for policy, systems, and environmental change
- Optimize association with life expectancy

# Healthy Places Index | Methods

- Indicator scores are standardized (Z score)
- Policy Action Area score (mean of indicators)
- Policy Action Area weights (predictive of life expectancy)
- Final HPI calculated by:
  - Multiplying each policy action area score with its weight
  - Summing across eight policy action areas





# Healthy Places Index | Indicators

<u>Economic</u> 32%	<u>Education</u> 19%	<u>Transportation</u> 16%	<u>Social</u> 10%	<u>Neighborhood</u> 8%	<u>Housing</u> 5%	<u>Clean Environment</u> 5%	<u>Healthcare Access</u> 5%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Employed</li><li>•Income</li><li>•Above Poverty</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In Pre- School</li><li>• In High School</li><li>• Bachelor's Education or Higher</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Automobile Access</li><li>• Active Commuting</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two Parent Household</li><li>• Voting in 2012</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retail Density</li><li>• Park Access</li><li>• Tree Canopy</li><li>• Supermarket Access</li><li>• Alcohol Outlets</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Low-Income Renter Severe Housing Cost Burden</li><li>• Low-Income Homeowner Severe Housing Cost Burden</li><li>• Housing Habitability</li><li>• Uncrowded Housing</li><li>• Homeownership</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ozone</li><li>• PM 2.5</li><li>• Diesel PM</li><li>• Water Contaminants</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Insured Adults</li></ul>

# The Public Health Disparities Geocoding Project Monograph

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## THE PUBLIC HEALTH DISPARITIES GEOCODING PROJECT MONOGRAPH

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### Welcome

[Executive Summary](#)[Introduction](#)[Publications](#)[How To...](#)[Tools](#)[COVID-19 Resources](#)[Who We Are](#)

## The Public Health Disparities Geocoding Project

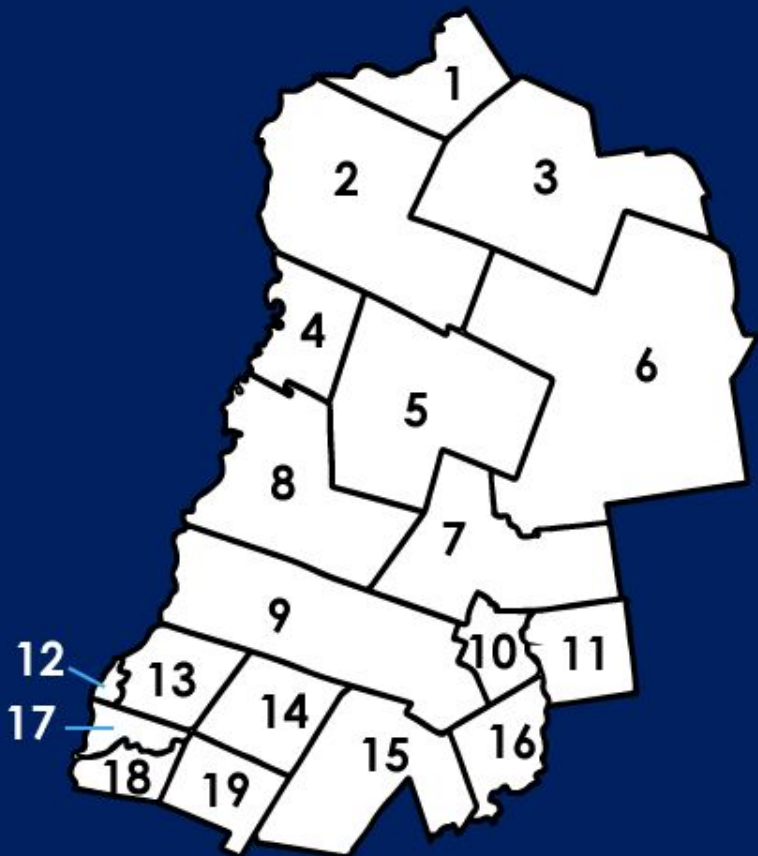
### Welcome to the Public Health Disparities Geocoding Project Monograph

These pages present an introduction to geocoding and using area-based socioeconomic measures with public health surveillance data, based on the work of the Public Health Disparities Geocoding Project at the Harvard T. H Chan School of Public Health, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

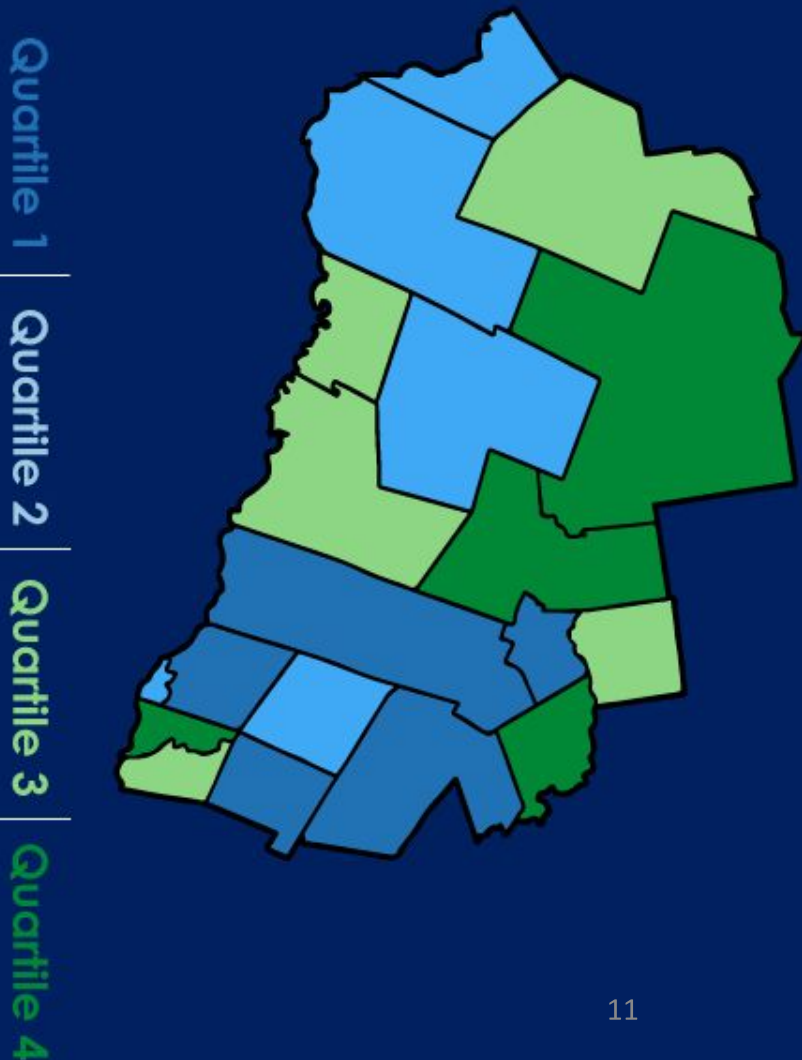
- The [Executive Summary](#) describes the motivation behind the Public Health Disparities Geocoding Project, and summarizes the methodology, key findings, and recommendations.
- The [Introduction](#) provides a more in-depth look at the history of geocoding and area-based measures, the objectives of our project, and our main findings. We include a glimpse of what routine public health surveillance of socioeconomic disparities in health could look like if conducted over a variety of health outcomes over the lifecourse, from birth to death, using a single area-based socioeconomic measure at the census tract level.
- The [Publications](#) page is a comprehensive list of the publications of the Public Health Disparities Geocoding Project, and includes pdf copies of all of our published work.
- We also provide a primer on the basics of [Geocoding](#), including descriptions of the many options and services available, and the nitty-gritty details of address cleaning, address formatting, and evaluation of geocoding accuracy.
- In [Generating ABSMs](#) we describe the concepts, methods, and measures behind creating area-based socioeconomic measures, including a summary

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/thegeocodingproject/>

# The Health Equity Metric | Methods

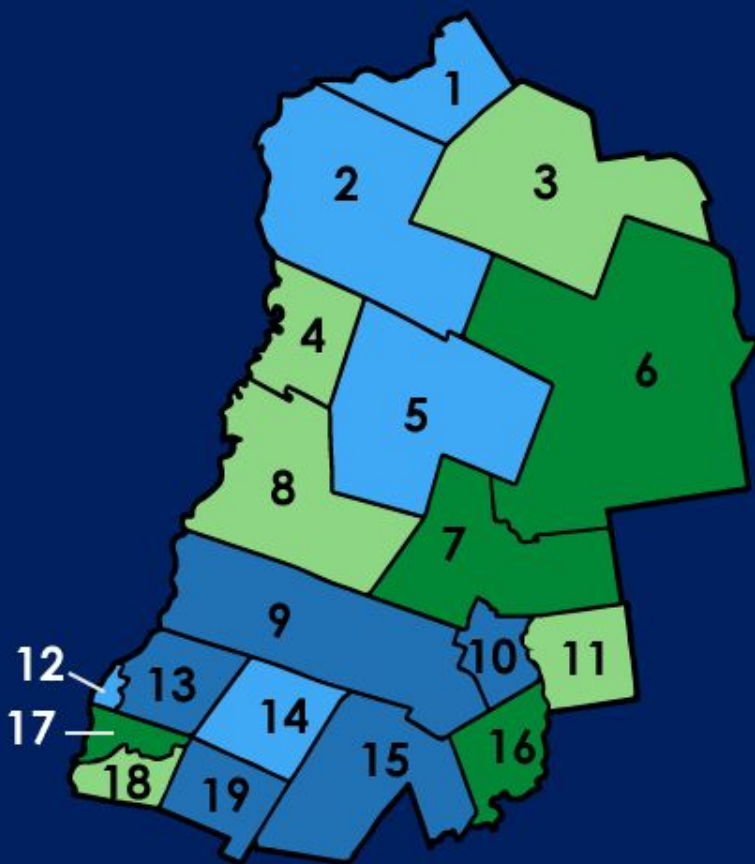


Tract	HPI Score	Rank	Tract
1	-1.41	7	10
2	-1.05	9	15
3	0.55	15	9
4	0.03	14	19
5	-0.71	10	13
6	0.81	18	14
7	0.66	16	1
8	-0.56	11	12
9	-1.87	3	2
10	-1.94	1	5
11	-0.08	12	8
12	-1.4	8	11
13	-1.54	5	18
14	-1.52	6	4
15	-1.92	2	3
16	0.80	17	7
17	1.10	19	16
18	-0.06	13	6
19	-1.57	4	17





# The Health Equity Metric | Methods



	Tract	Tests	Positives	Positivity
Quartile 1	10	1395	82	6%
	15	1342	71	5%
	9	103	14	14%
	19	1863	90	5%
	13	1270	84	7%
Quartile 2	14	1022	43	4%
	1	1827	50	3%
	12	1943	94	5%
	2	1712	63	4%
	5	1030	71	7%
Quartile 3	8	1627	79	5%
	11	1835	87	5%
	18	1862	61	3%
	4	1132	76	7%
	3	1774	81	5%
Quartile 4	7	1299	84	6%
	16	1613	91	6%
	6	1869	75	4%
	17	1133	87	8%

## Health Equity Metric Bottom Quartile Test Positivity

~~average tract positivity~~

$$\frac{6 + 5 + 14 + 5 + 7}{5} = 7.4$$

test over test for the quartile

$$100 \times \frac{82 + 71 + 14 + 90 + 84}{(1395 + 1342 + 103 + 1863 + 1270)} = 5.7$$



# The Health Equity Metric | Methods

**Use HPI scores to assign county's tracts to quartiles**



**Sum positive tests and total tests for the bottom quartile**



**Divide total positive tests by total tests and multiply by 100**

A county's census tracts are assigned to intra-county HPI quartiles based on score. The quartile that appears on the HPI website may differ from a tract's quartile once assessed within the county.

Test positivity over a 7-day period (based on specimen collected date) with 7-day lag for the tracts in the lowest HPI quartile in a given county, excluding tests associated with prison, ICE, or Department of State Hospitals facilities.

This is not calculated for small counties (defined as those with a population less than ~100,000 residents, including Sutter County with approximately 105,000 residents).

CalREDIE & LA County (Electronic Lab Reporting - ELR)

# Blueprint for a Safer Economy

County risk level	Adjusted case rate* 7-day average of daily COVID-19 cases per 100K with 7-day lag, adjusted for number of tests performed	Positivity rate** 7-day average of all COVID-19 tests performed that are positive	
		Entire county	Healthy equity quartile
<b>WIDESPREAD</b> Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed	<b>More than 7.0</b> Daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>More than 8.0%</b> Positive tests	
<b>SUBSTANTIAL</b> Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed	<b>4.0 – 7.0</b> Daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>5.0 – 8.0%</b> Positive tests	<b>5.3 – 8.0%</b> Positive tests
<b>MODERATE</b> Some indoor business operations are open with modifications	<b>1.0 – 3.9</b> Daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>2.0 – 4.9%</b> Positive tests	<b>2.2 – 5.2%</b> Positive tests
<b>MINIMAL</b> Most indoor business operations are open with modifications	<b>Less than 1.0</b> Daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>Less than 2.0%</b> Positive tests	<b>Less than 2.2%</b> Positive tests

\*Small counties (those with a population less than 106,000) may be subject to alternate case assessment measures for purposes of tier assignment.

\*\*Health equity metric is not applied for small counties. The health equity metric is used to move to a less restrictive tier.

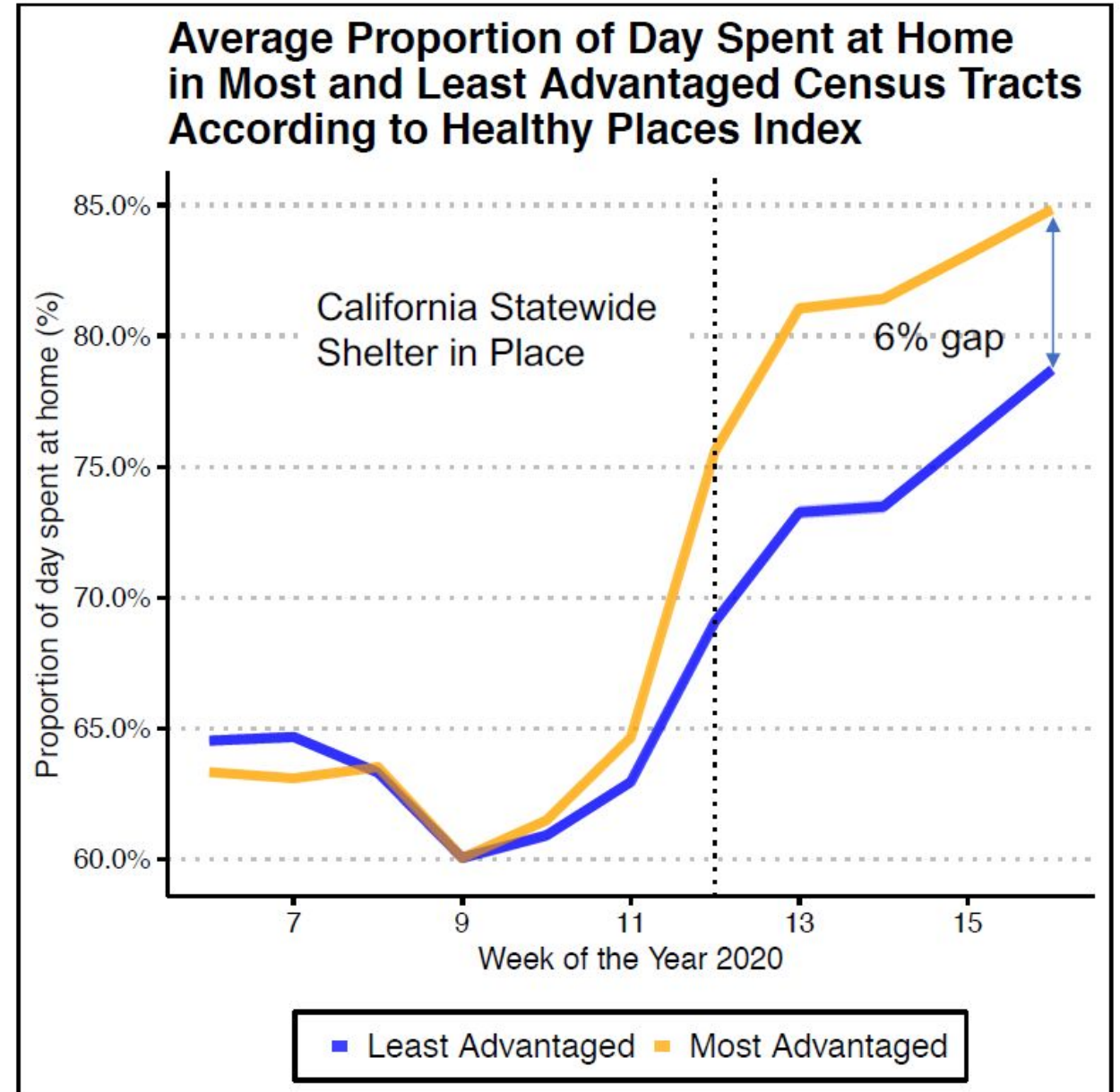
# Statewide Mobility by Health Equity Measures

(Data freshness: as of Day 04.14.20)

## THE TAKEAWAY

# The least advantaged Californians struggle to self-isolate

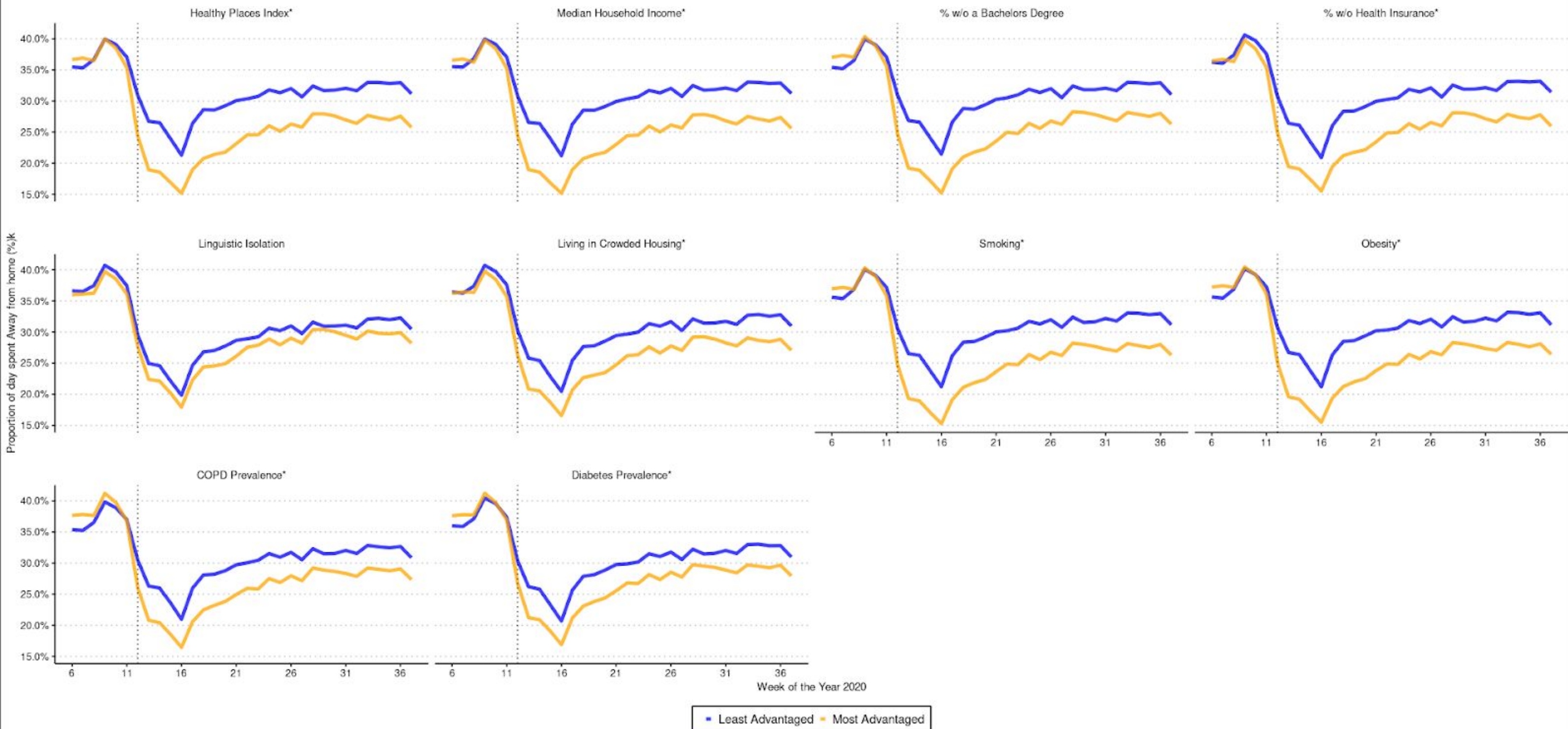
- The most advantaged census tracts spend 6% more of the of the day at home compared to the least advantaged census tracts
- The Healthy Places Index ranks census tracts by how specific community conditions affect health outcomes.
- Community conditions include indicators related to housing, education, environmental, economic, and social factors.
- Physical distancing information from aggregated mobile device location data.





# The least advantaged Californians were less able to adhere to the shelter in place order.

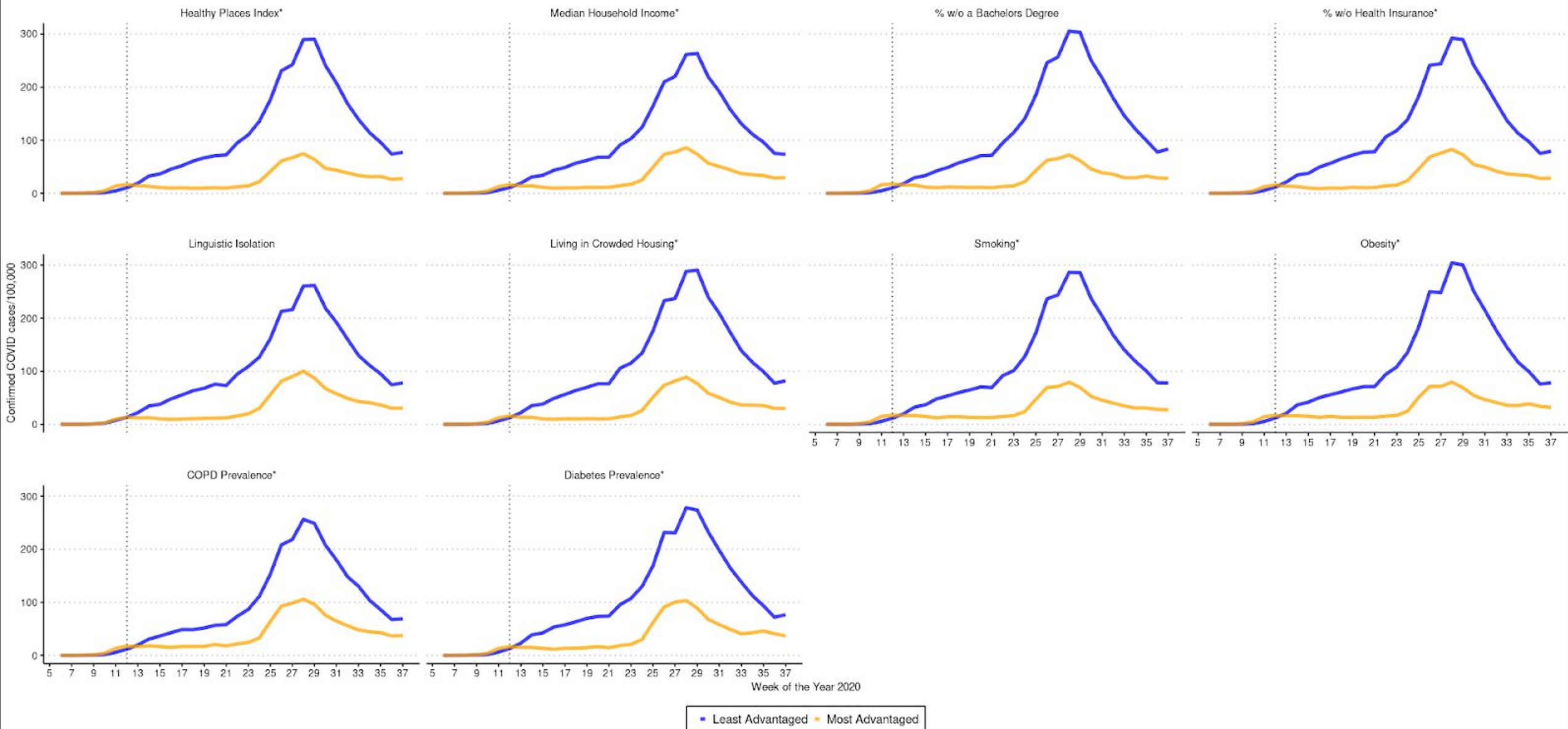
Proportion of day spent Away from home for tracts in the most and least advantaged quartiles of each indicator.





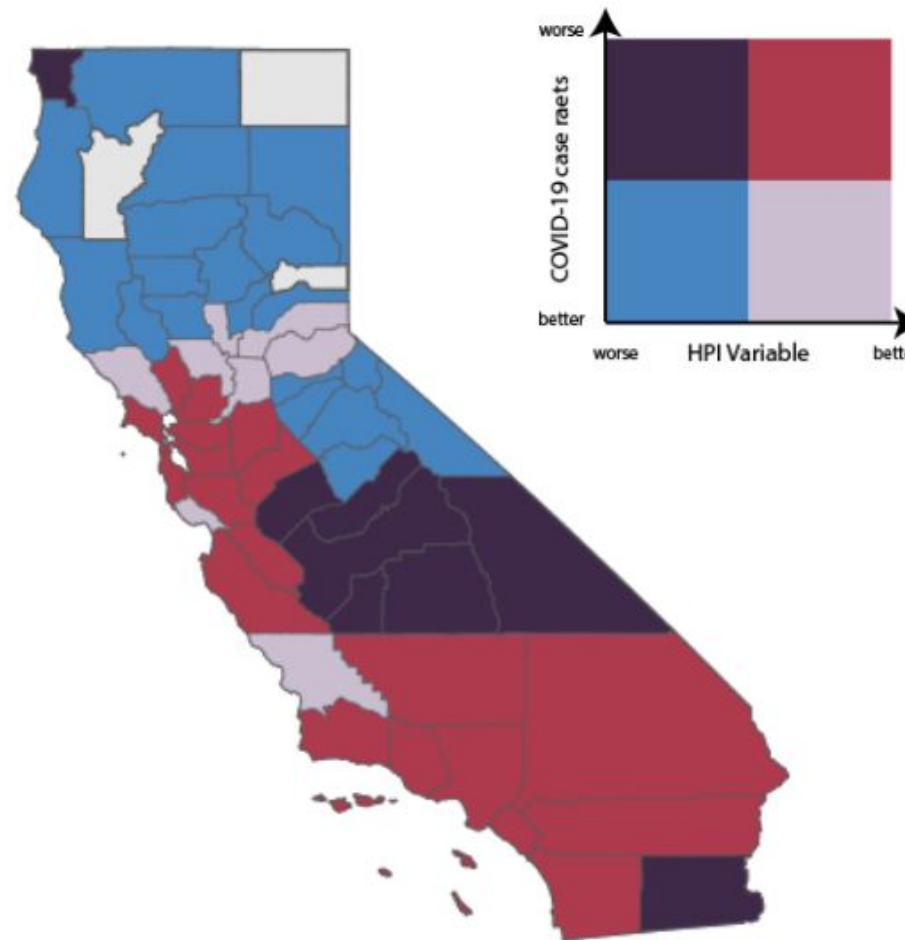
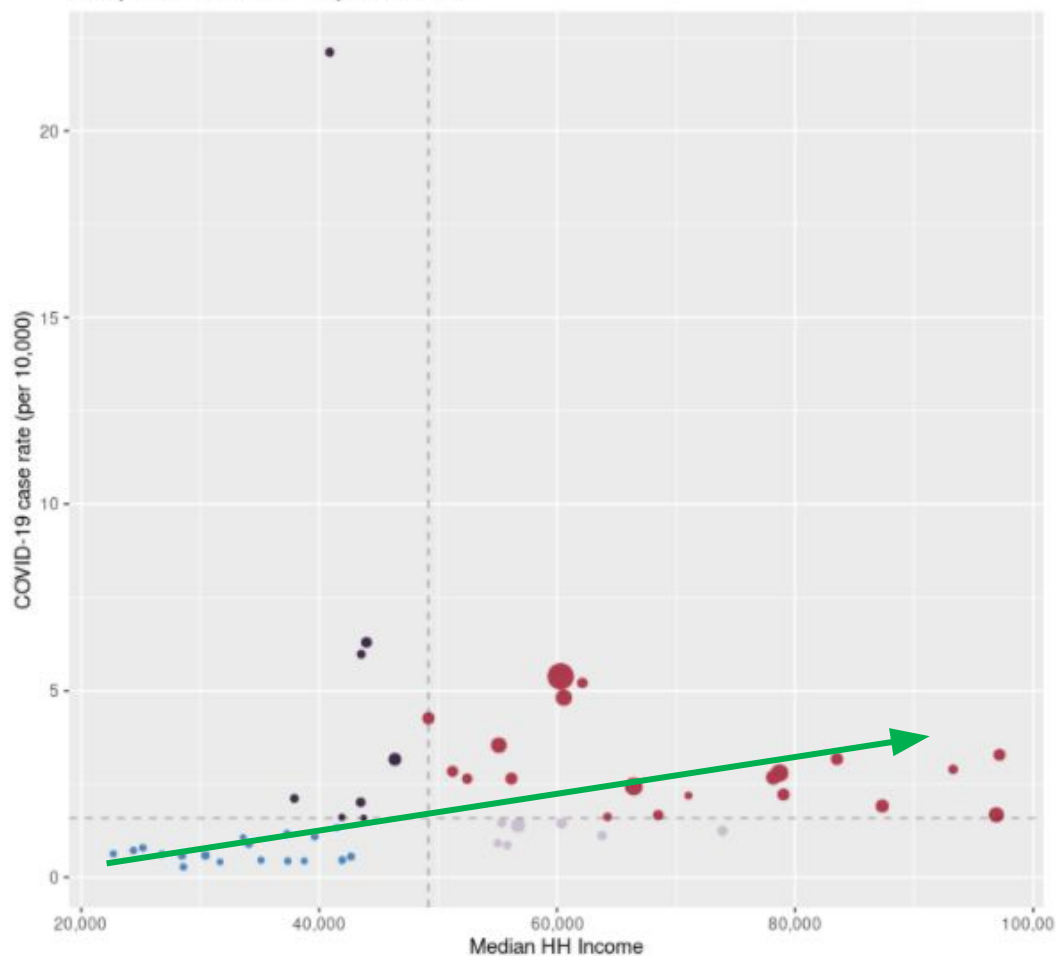
# The least advantaged Californians suffered far more cases of COVID-19.

Weekly COVID-19 case rates for tracts in the most and least advantaged quartiles of each indicator.



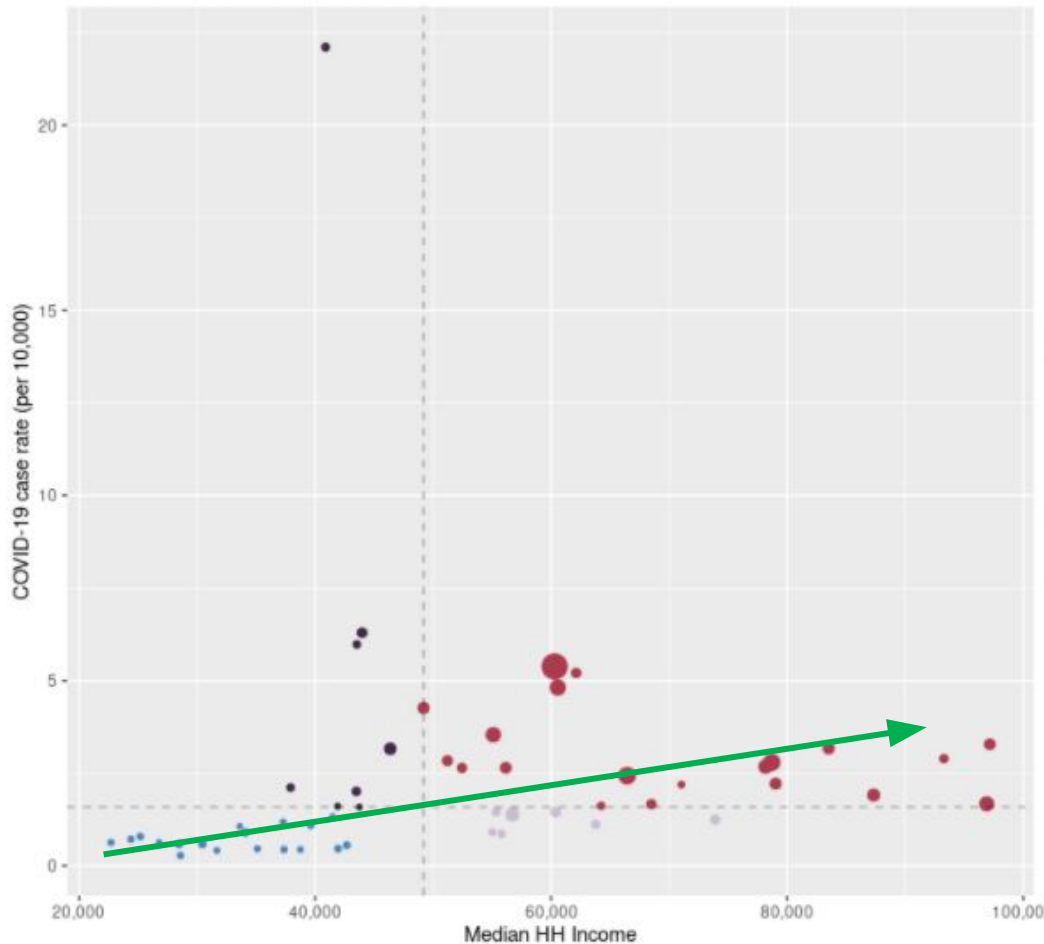
# HPI & COVID 19 | Importance of Community-level Data

COVID-19 Case rates and Median HH Income  
county level; data from Healthy Places Index

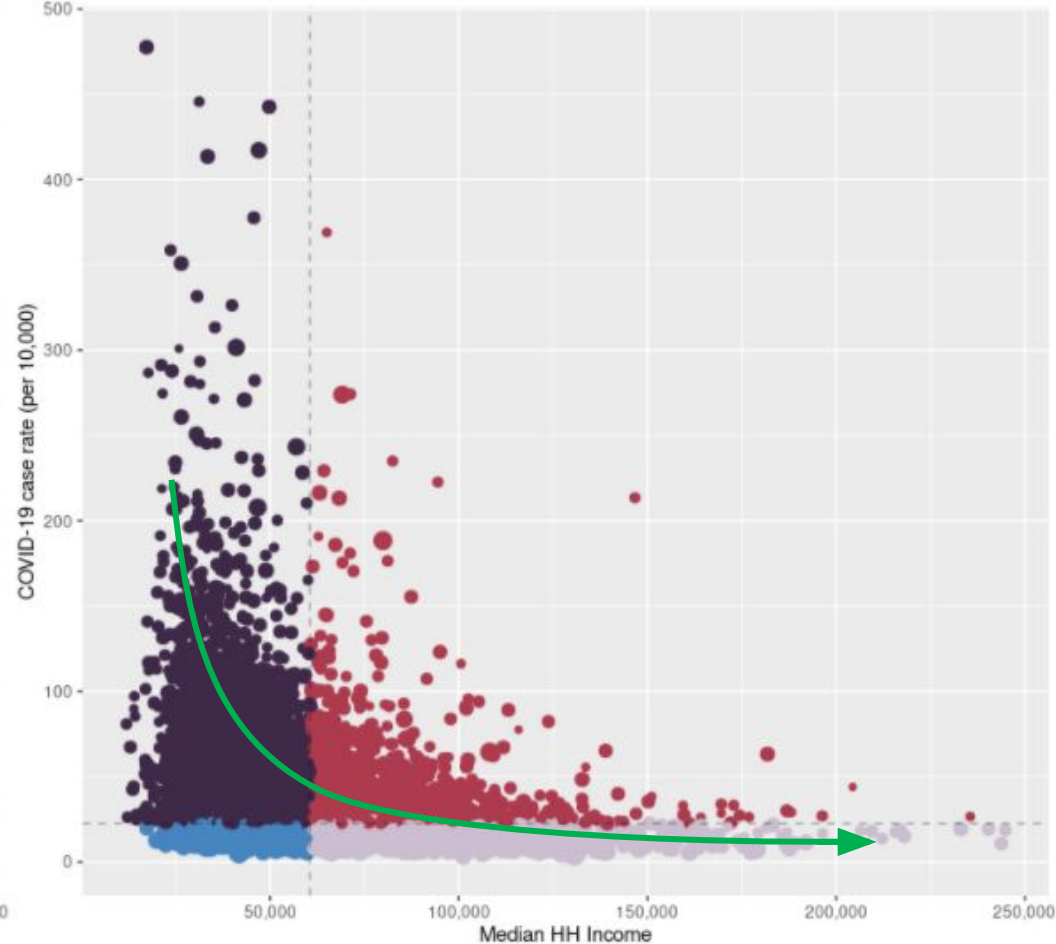


# HPI & COVID 19 | Importance of Community-level Data

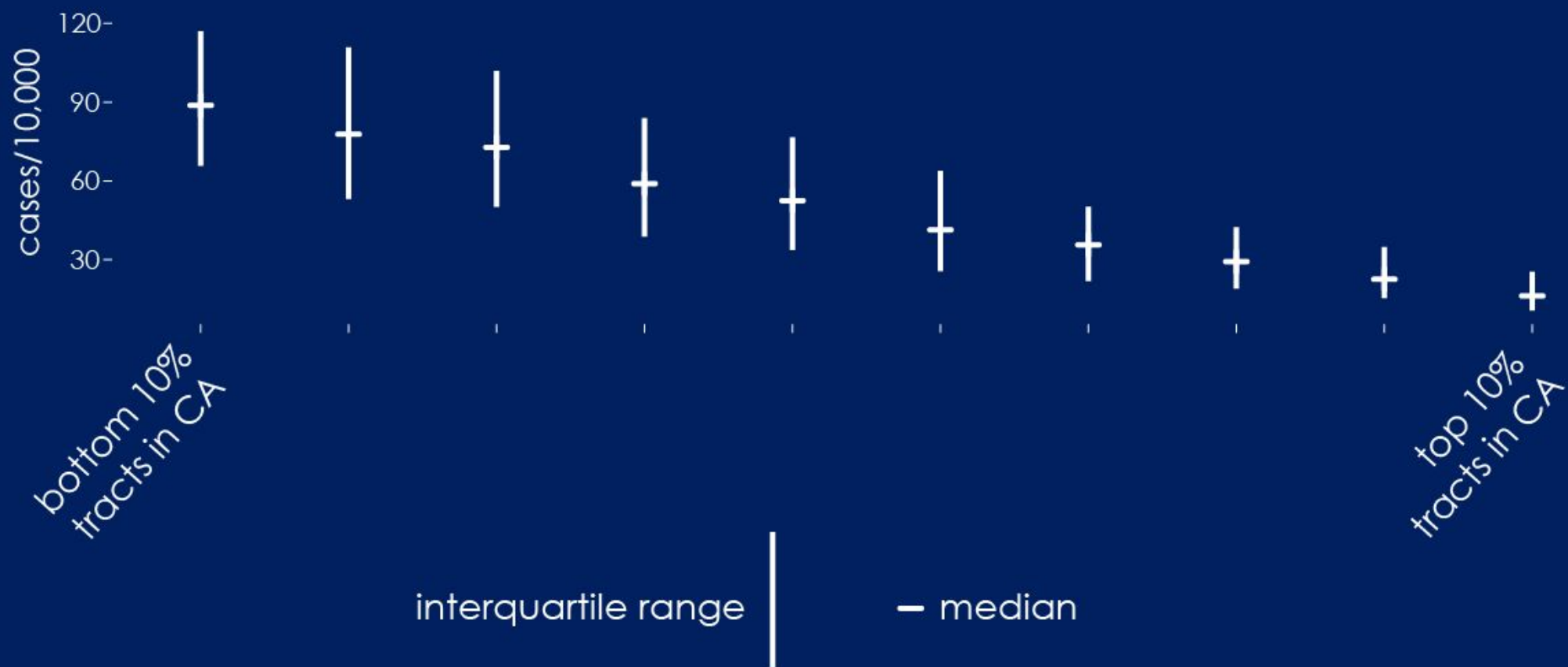
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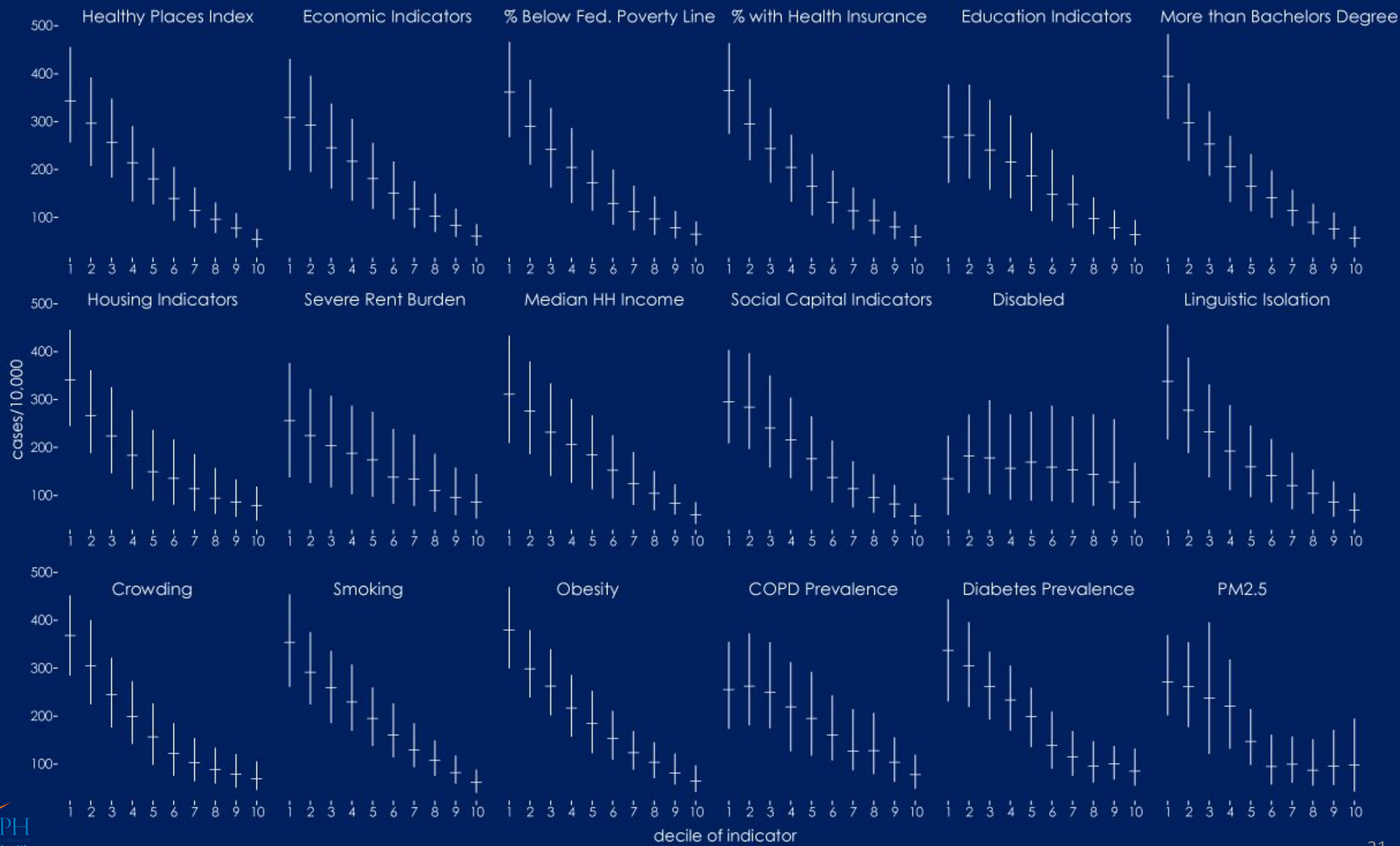
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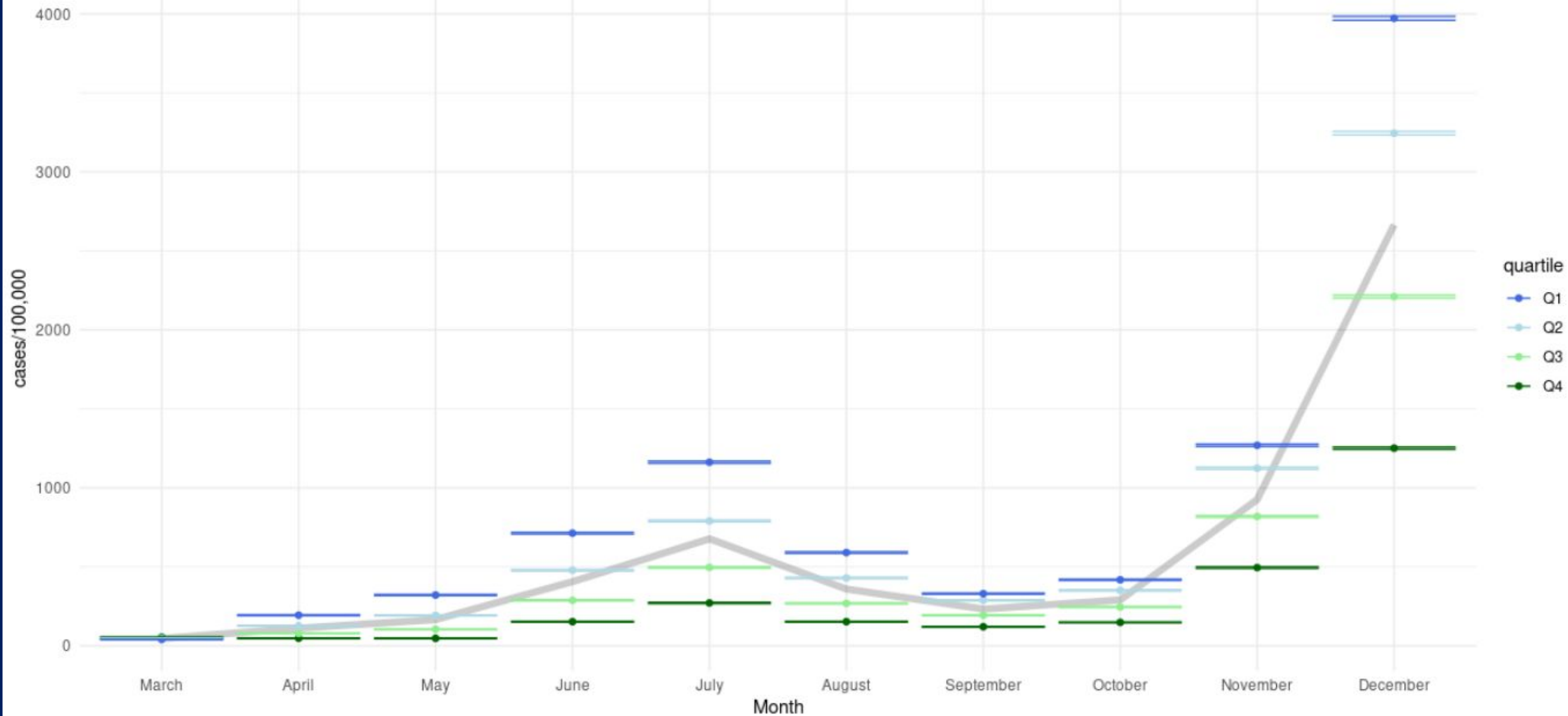
## Healthy Places Index



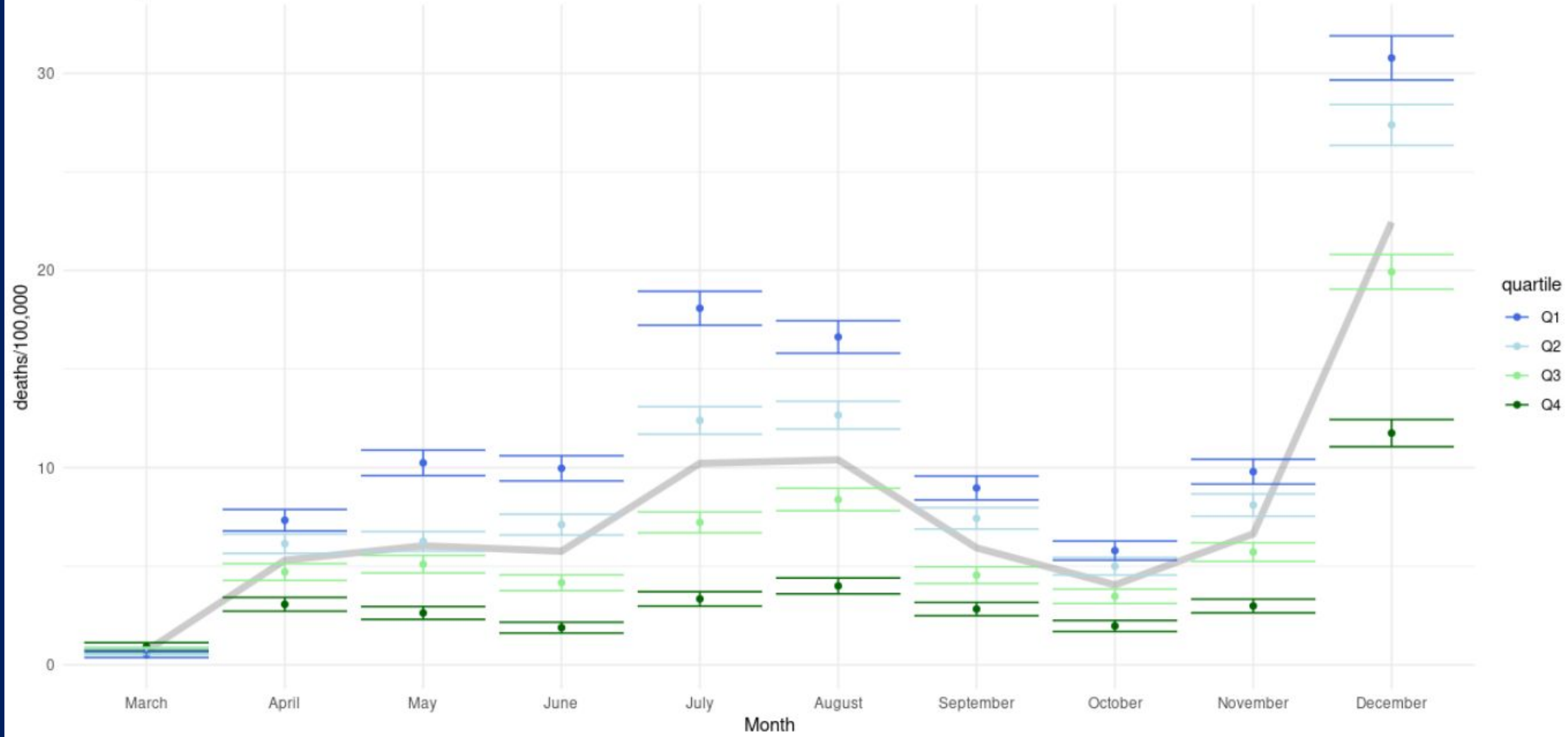




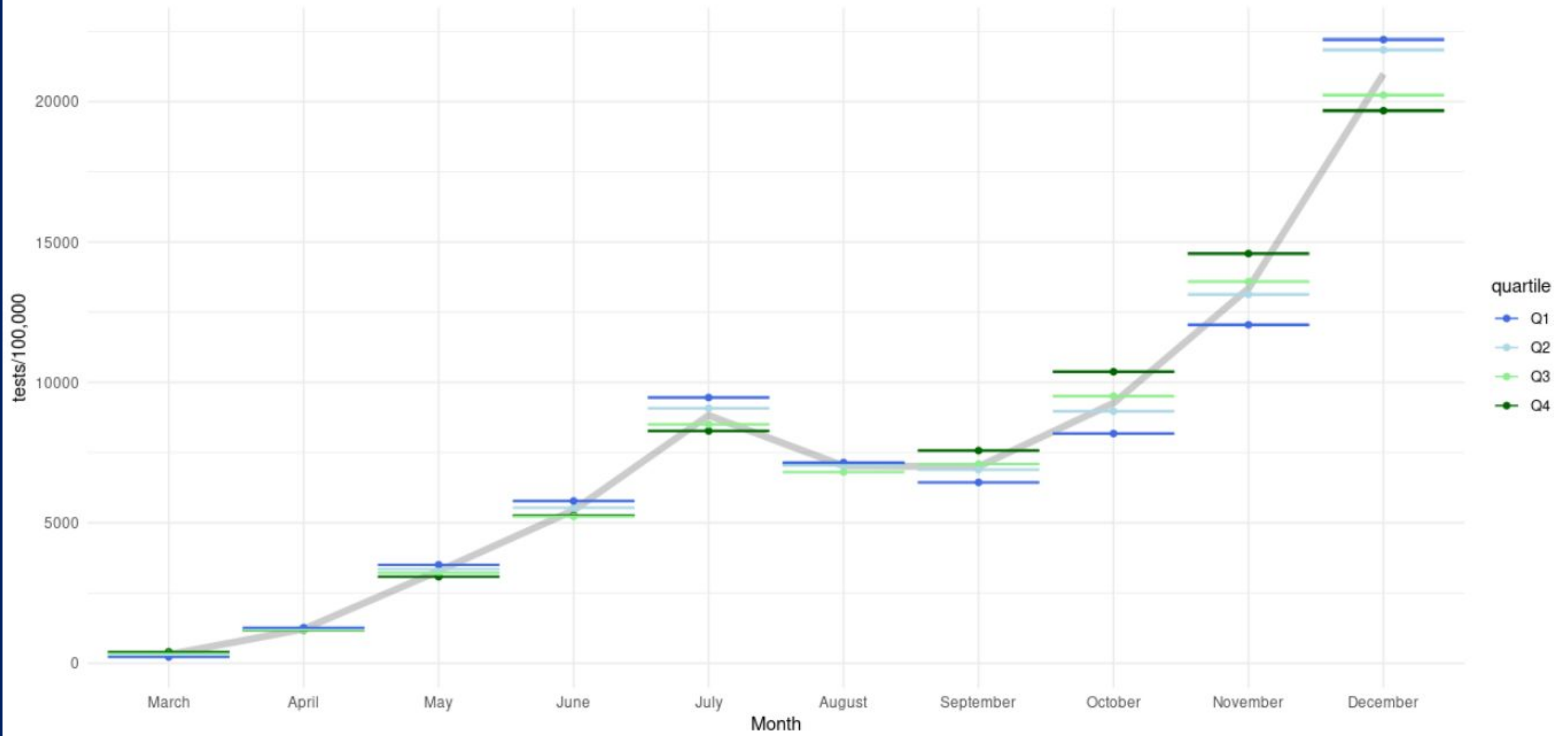
# Case Rates



# Mortality Rates



# Test Rates

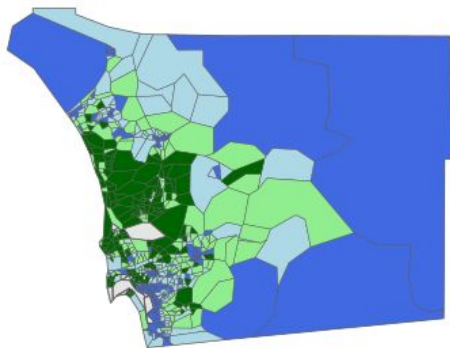




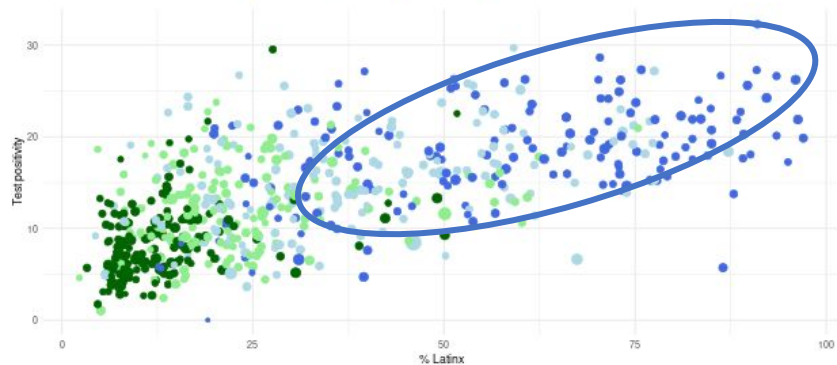
# The Health Equity Metric | Race and Ethnicity

## Test Positivity vs. % Latinx

Health Equity Index - San Diego County



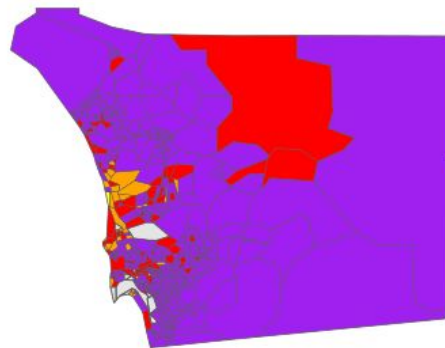
Index Quartile ● bottom\_25pct ● quar25.50 ● quar50.75 ● top\_25pct tests ● 500 ● 1000 ● 1500



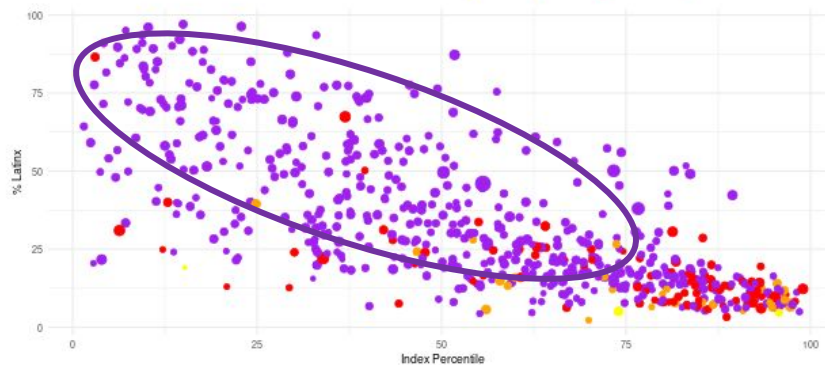
### Lowest HPI quartile

## HPI vs. % Latinx

Test Positivity - San Diego County



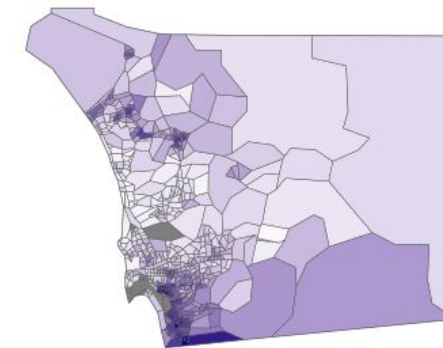
tests ● 500 ● 1000 ● 1500 Blueprint Tier (positivity) ● minimal ● moderate ● substantial ● widespread



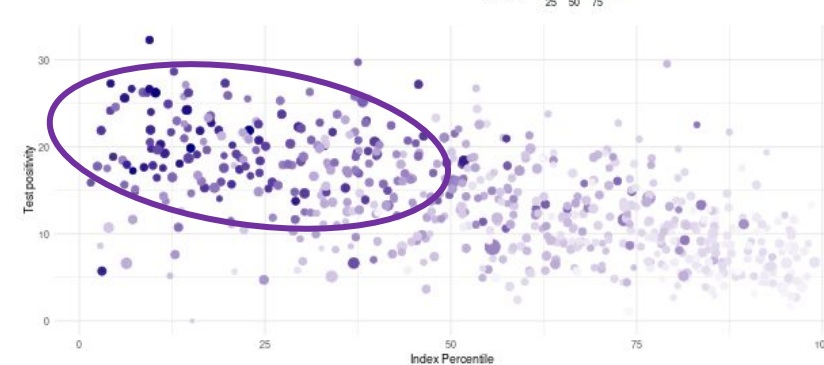
### Highest positivity

## Test Positivity vs. HPI

% Latinx - San Diego County



tests ● 500 ● 1000 ● 1500 % Latinx 25 50 75

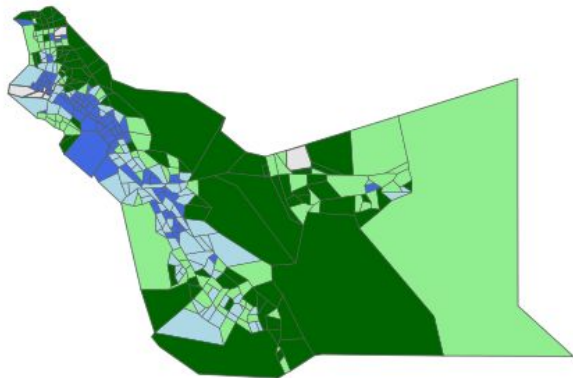


### Highest Latinx

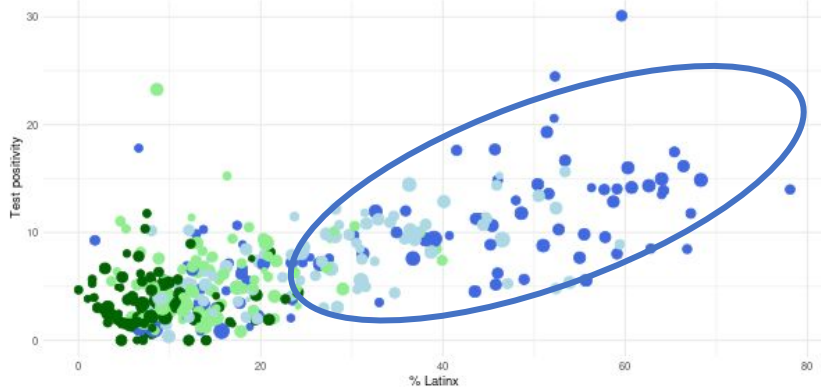
# The Health Equity Metric | Race and Ethnicity

## Test Positivity vs. % Latinx

Health Equity Index - Alameda County



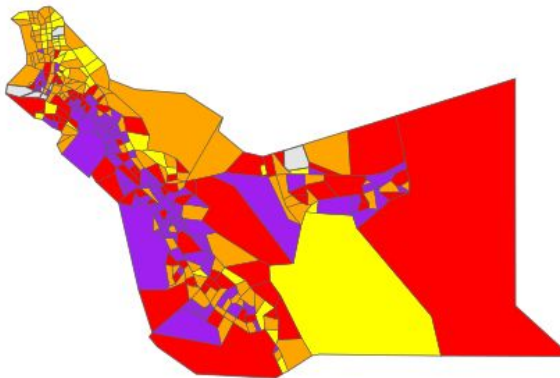
Index Quartile: bottom\_25pct, quart25-50, quart50-75, top\_25pct. tests: 100, 200, 300, 400, 500



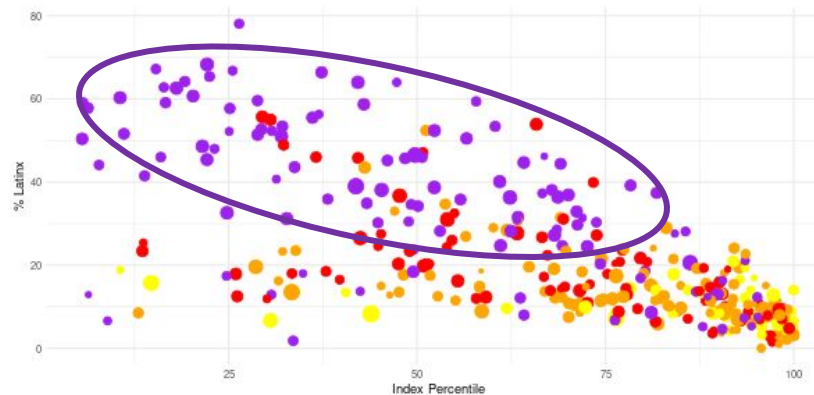
Lowest HPI quartile

## HPI vs. % Latinx

Test Positivity - Alameda County



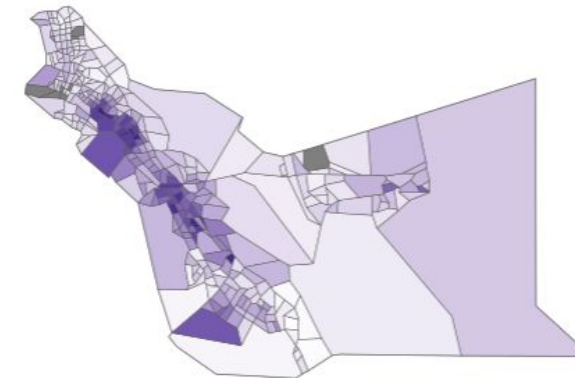
tests: 100, 200, 300, 400, 500. Blueprint Tier (positivity): minimal, moderate, substantial, widespread



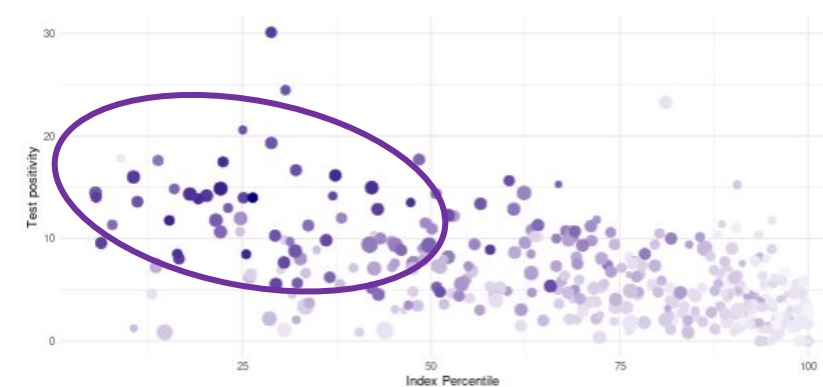
Highest positivity

## Test Positivity vs. HPI

% Latinx - Alameda County

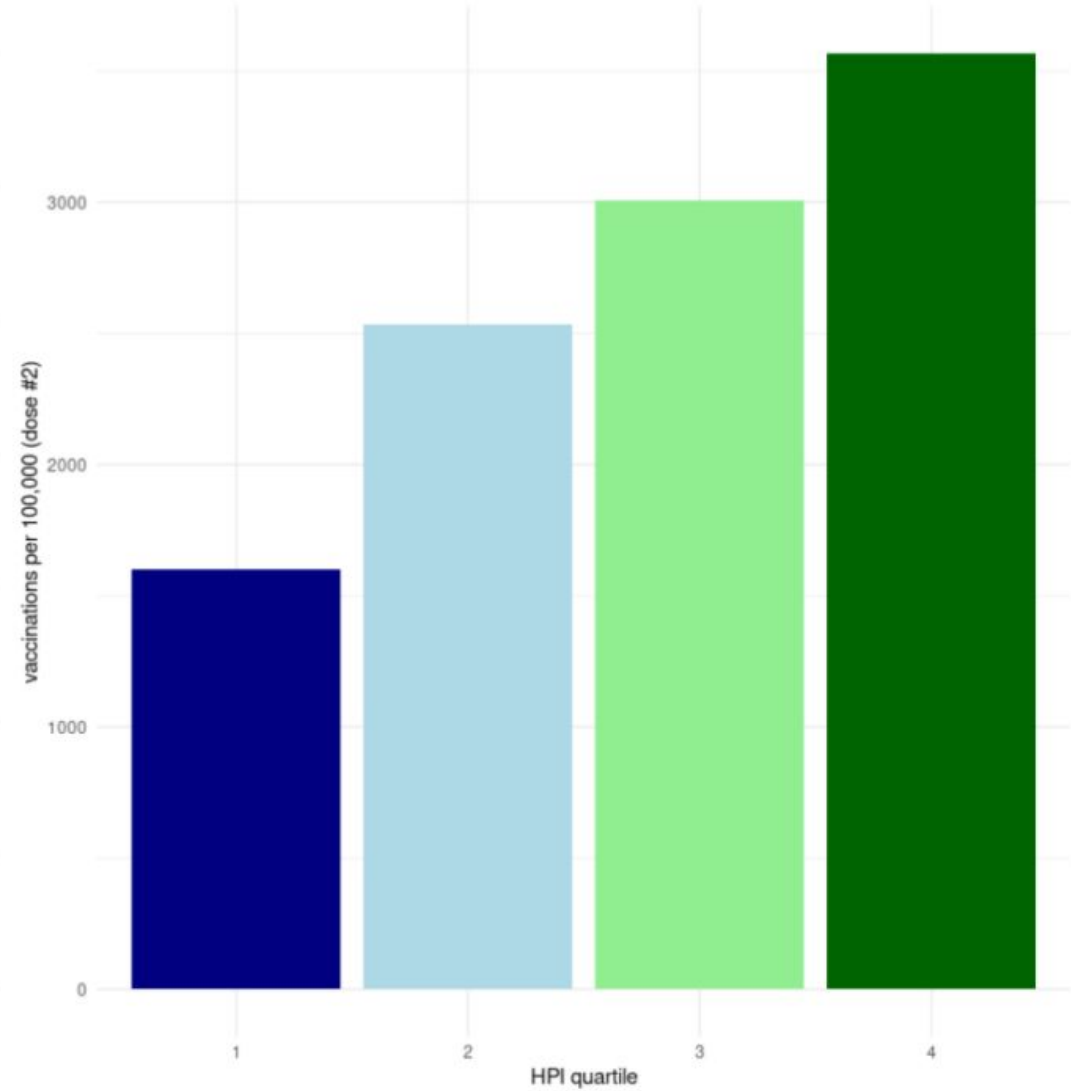
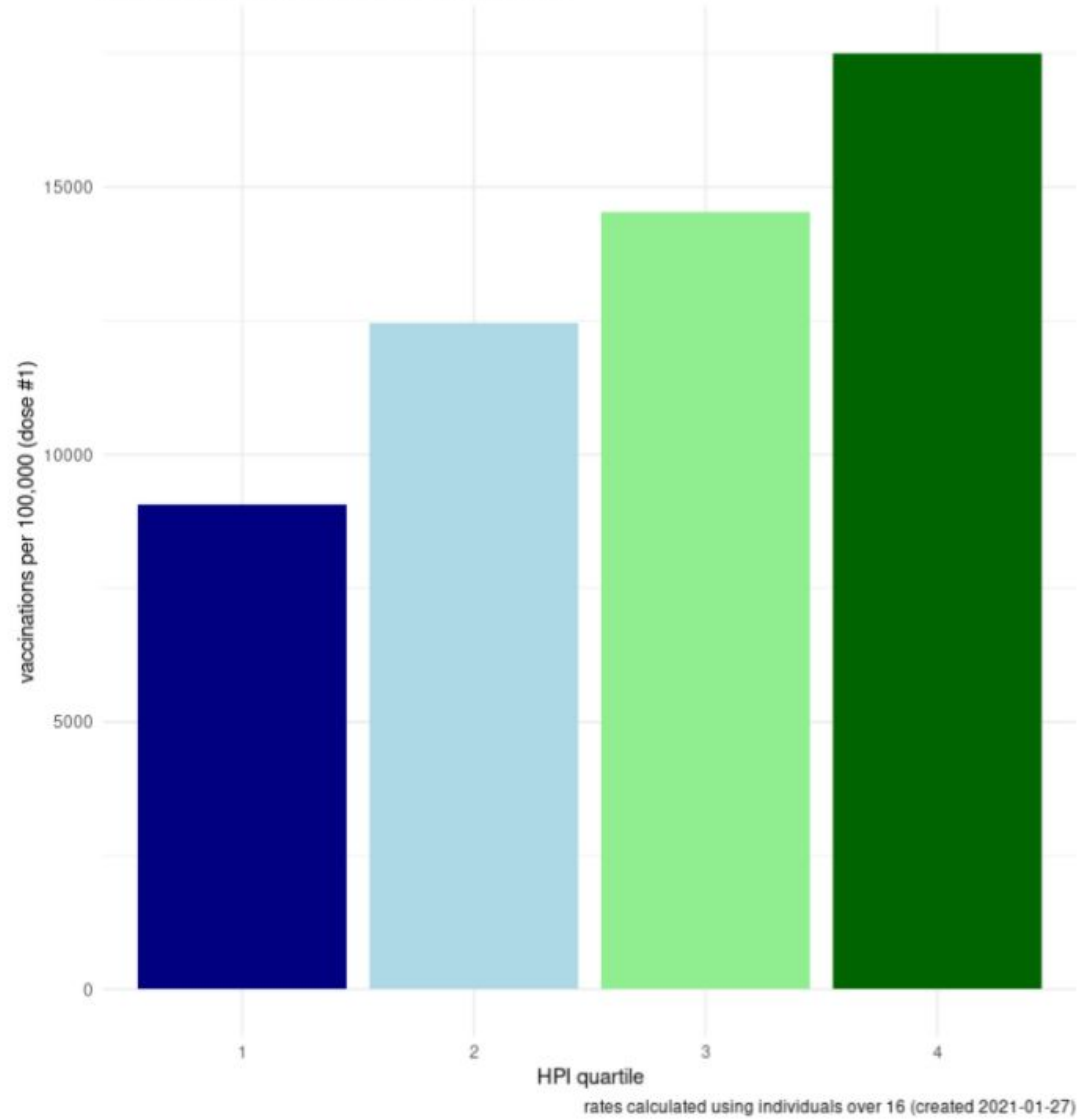


% Latinx: 0, 20, 40, 60. tests: 100, 200, 300, 400, 500



Highest Latinx

Vaccination Rates for 1st and 2nd Dose by HPI Quartile  
HPI quartile is by zipcode, 1 = poorest health equity



rates calculated using individuals over 16 (created 2021-01-27)

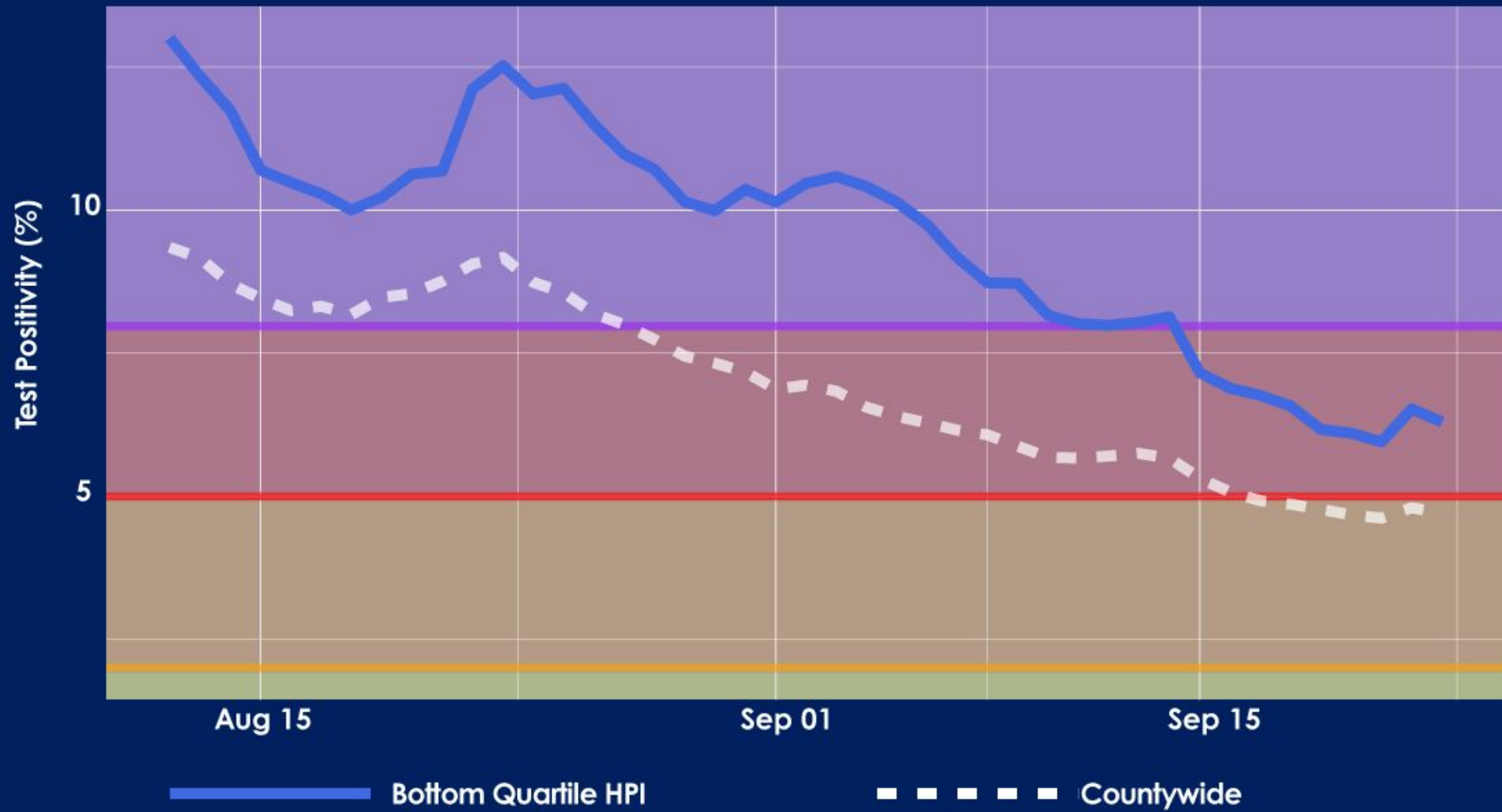
# Vaccine Coverage Rate Ratios by HPI

*Early analysis with mostly 1A vaccinations, however this way of understanding the rollout will become more important as vaccination is opened up to more groups*

HPI Quartile 1	Ratio (Q1/Q4)	HPI Quartile 4
37% of cases rate : 10,217/100,000	<b>3.24x</b>	11% of cases rate: 3,152/100,000
37% of deaths rate: 127/100,000	<b>3.38x</b>	11% of deaths rate: 38/100,000
1st dose rate: 2,560/100,000	<b>0.47x</b>	1st dose rate: 5,361/100,000
2nd dose rate: 291/100,000	<b>0.33x</b>	2nd dose rate: 861/100,000

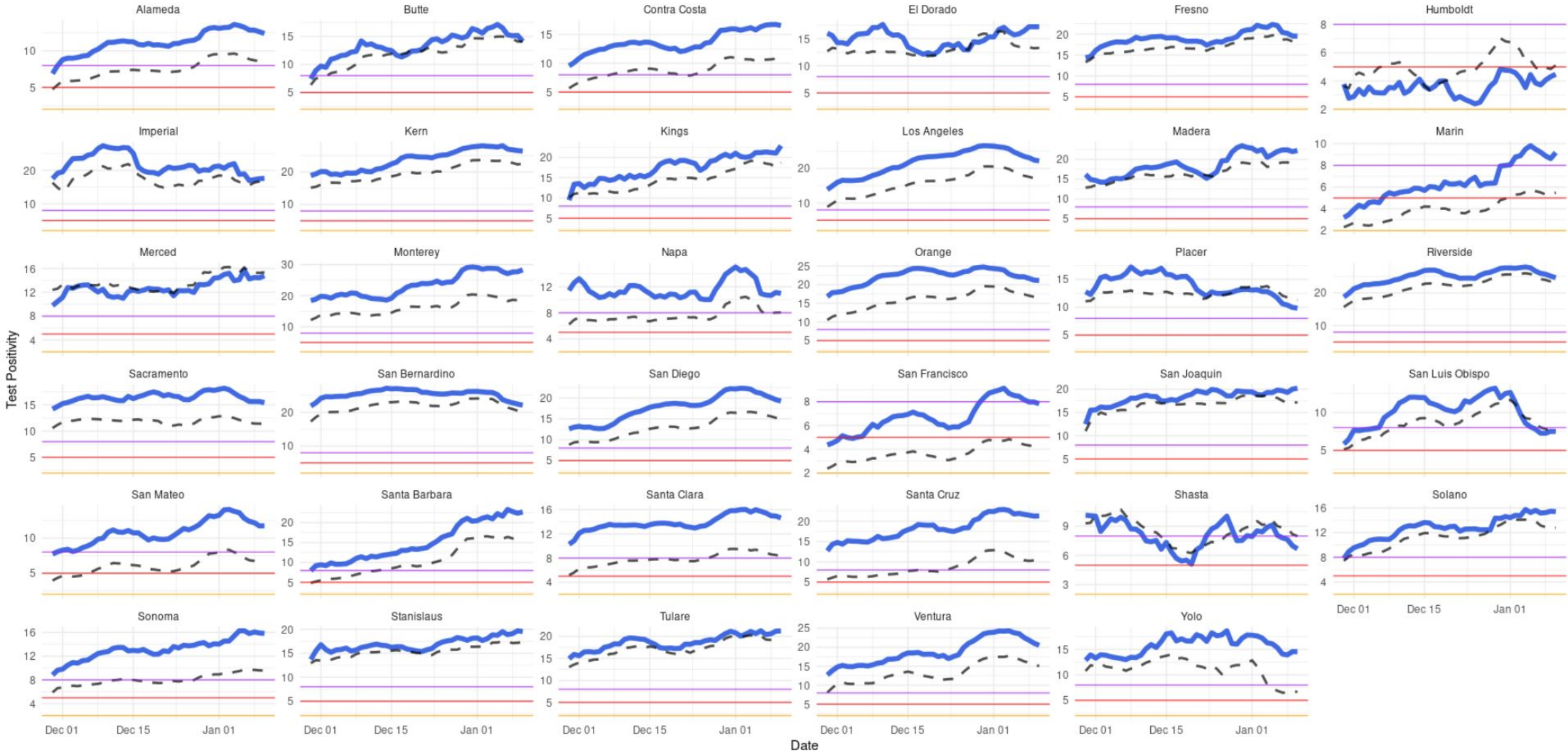


# The Health Equity Metric | Trends in Test Positivity

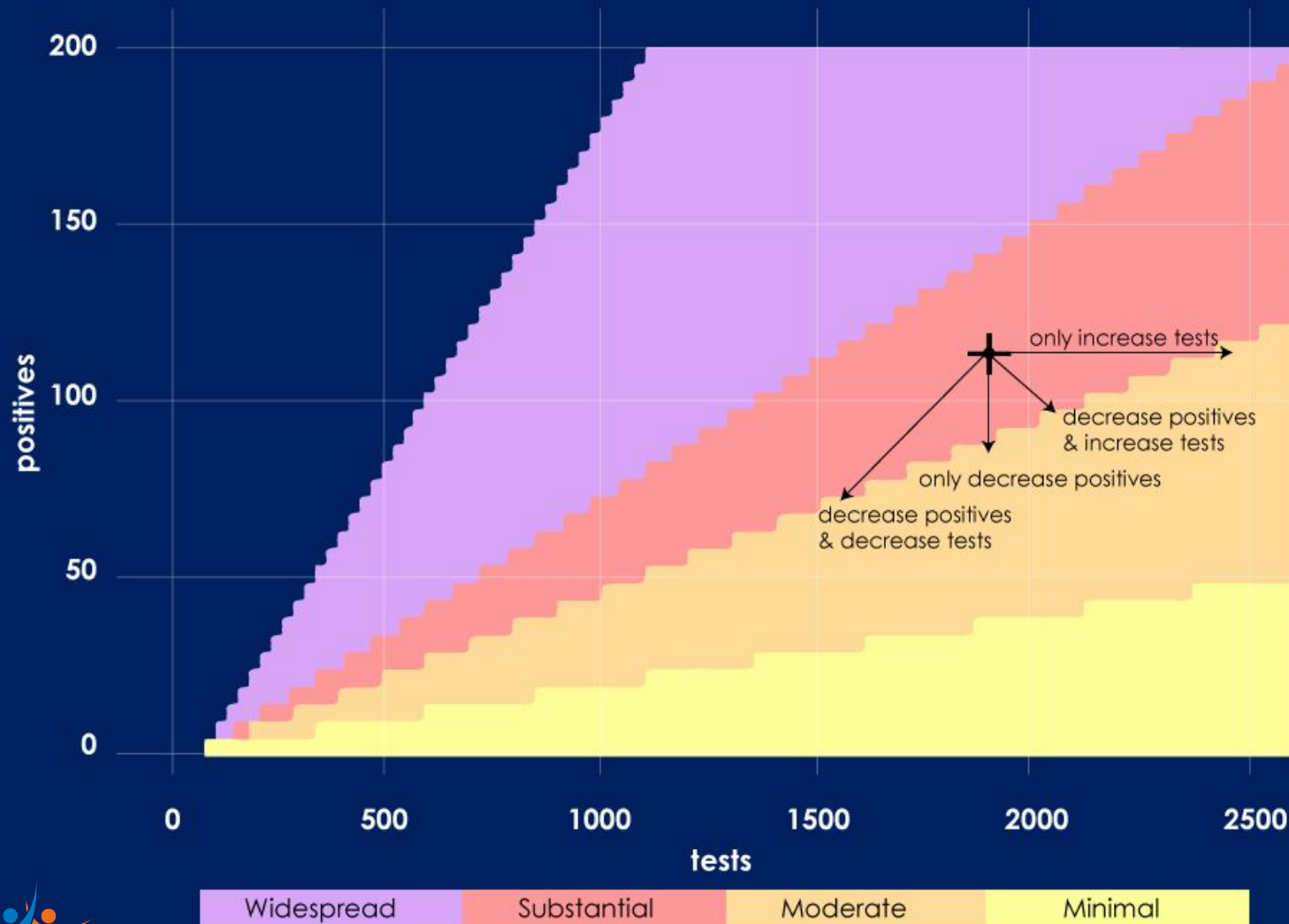


# Daily Test Positivity

Health Equity Quartile (blue) and the county overall (black, dashed)



# The Health Equity Metric | Strategies



Addressing the Health Equity Metric involves a combination of approaches to impact the

- Numerator (controlling the spread), and
- the Denominator (testing volume)

The specific strategy for improving the HE Metric should be tailored to the context of the county (R-effective and resource availability).

# COVID-19 Health Equity Playbook for Communities

Overview: Working  
Draft

## Immediate COVID-19 Response Strategies

- Testing
- Contact Tracing
- Isolation Support
- Worker Protections

## Medium and Longer-term COVID-19 Response Strategies

- Housing Security and Homelessness
- Economic Security
- Schools and Childcare
- Transportation / Physical Access and Mobility
- Health in All Policies (HiAP)/Governing for All

## Cross cutting strategies

- Data
- Communication
- Language Access and Cultural Competency
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement



# Section Content | Example

## Example: Homelessness

- **Principles:**
  - Homelessness response requires expansive and cross sector collaboration
  - Place central focus on the lived experiences and needs of the unhoused population
  - Address the unique needs of unhoused subpopulations (unhoused youth and unhoused drug users)
  - Be aware of and address unhoused vulnerabilities to COVID-19:
- **Strategy A - Emergency Single Unit Housing for the Unhoused**
  - Provide single unit isolation capacity to protect unhoused population from COVID-19 in hotel and motel rooms.
  - Leverage and expand on state-level Project Roomkey which provided local governments and Continuums of Care for shelter support and emergency housing to address COVID-19 among the homeless and established occupancy agreements to secure rooms in hotels, motels, and other facilities.
    - Project Roomkey Fact Sheet
  - **Examples:**
    - City of Los Angeles- Project Roomkey expanded state-level Project Roomkey with a goal of 15,000 isolation motel/hotel units for Los Angeles. This initiative has been met with opposition and challenges but has also effectively been able to get participants into permanent housing faster the usual by setting up collaborative social services.

## Within Each section:

- Principles
- Strategies
- Promising practices and Examples
- Resources

# Technical Assistance

Principles

Strategies

Promising practices and Examples

Resources

**Goal: to provide fast, responsive regionally relevant technical assistance**

## Components

- Local Coordination Team
- ELC funding positions
  - Community engagement
  - Strategic Partnerships
- State Subject Matter Expert (within and outside of Public Health)
- Philanthropic funded efforts
  - PHI, Kaiser
- Regional Collaborative
  - BARHII, Public Health Alliance of Southern California, San Joaquin Valley Consortium
- Advocacy efforts
  - ChangeLab Solutions, California Pan Ethnic Health Network, Public Health Advocates, Prevention Institute

# Health Equity Indices

Jan 19, 2021



Jason Vargo

[Jason.Vargo@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Jason.Vargo@cdph.ca.gov)

[@\\_vargo](#)

# An Introduction to Datasets for Examining Social Determinants of Health in California

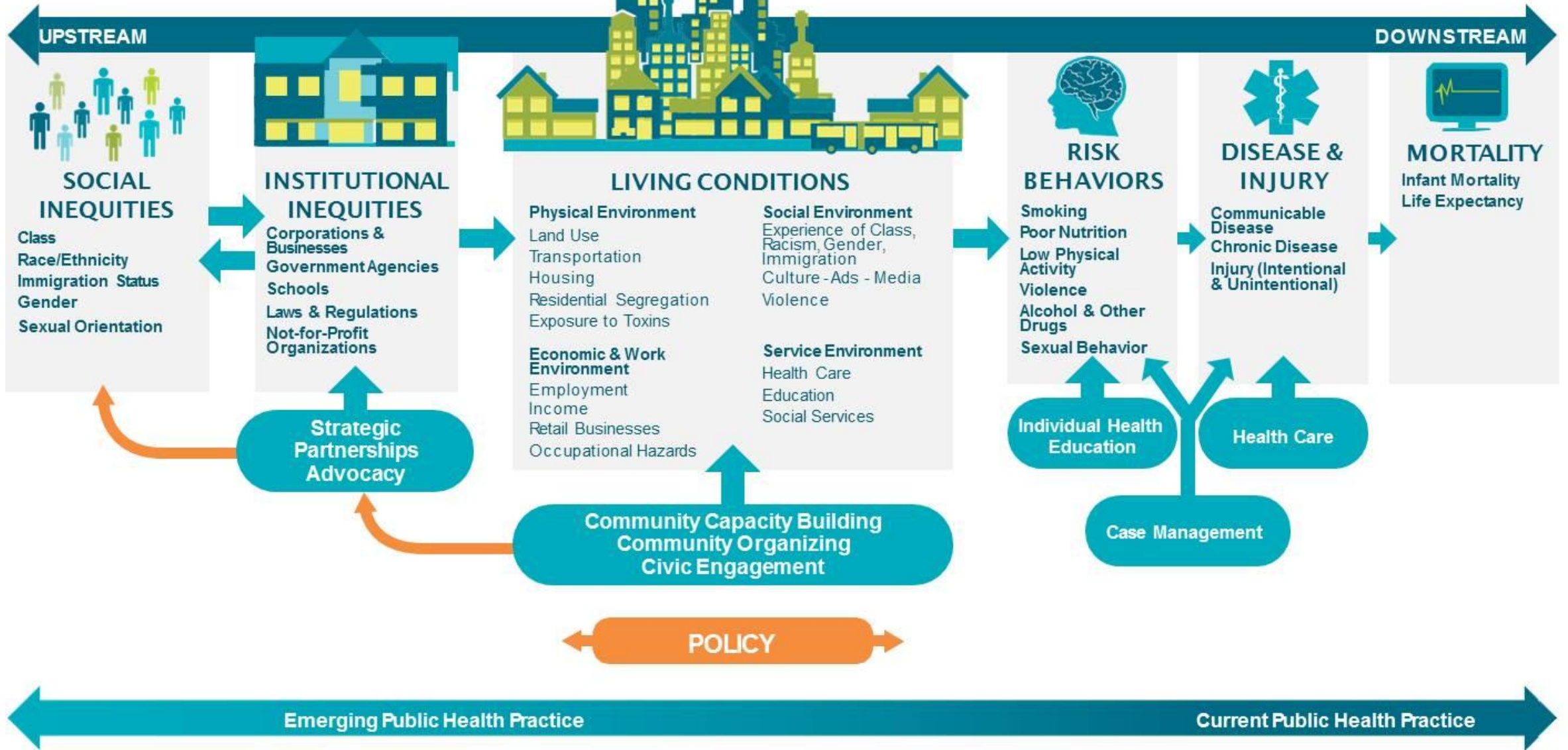
**Jason Vargo**  
Office of Health Equity  
California Department of Public Health  
[Jason.Vargo@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Jason.Vargo@cdph.ca.gov)

California Chronic Disease  
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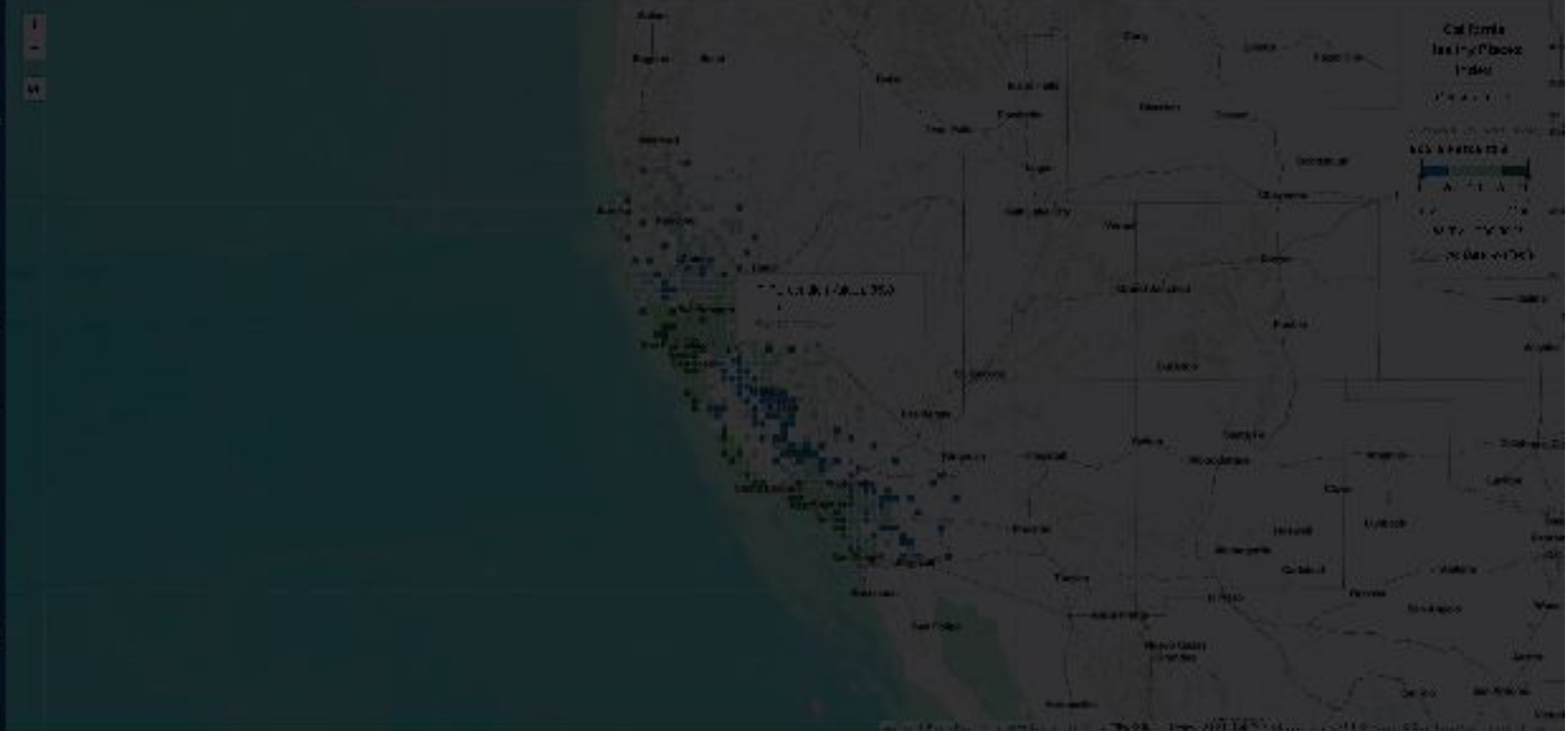




**A PUBLIC HEALTH FRAMEWORK FOR REDUCING HEALTH INEQUITIES**  
**BAY AREA REGIONAL HEALTH INEQUITIES INITIATIVE**



Map navigation controls including a search icon, a home icon, a zoom in (+) button, a zoom out (-) button, a scale bar showing 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 miles, and a compass icon.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

# Healthy Places Index

Domain	Indicator	Weight
<b>Neighborhood</b>	Retail Density	<b>7.7%</b>
	Park Access	
	Tree Canopy	
	Supermarket Access	
	Alcohol Outlets	
<b>Clean Environment</b>	Ozone concentrations in air	<b>5.2%</b>
	PM 2.5 concentrations in air	
	Diesel PM	
	Water Contaminants	
<b>Economic</b>	Employment	<b>31.9%</b>
	Income	
	Poverty	
<b>Social</b>	Two Parent Household	<b>10.4%</b>
	Voting (2012)	
<b>Housing</b>	Severe Housing Cost Burden (renter and homeowner)	<b>5.2%</b>
	Housing Habitability	
	Housing Crowding	
	Homeownership	
<b>Education</b>	In Primary School	<b>18.7%</b>
	In High School	
	Bachelors Degree or higher	
<b>Transportation</b>	Automobile Access	<b>15.5%</b>
	Active Commuting	
<b>Healthcare</b>	Health Insurance	<b>5.2%</b>

**Healthy Places Index**

Indicators available at census tract scales.

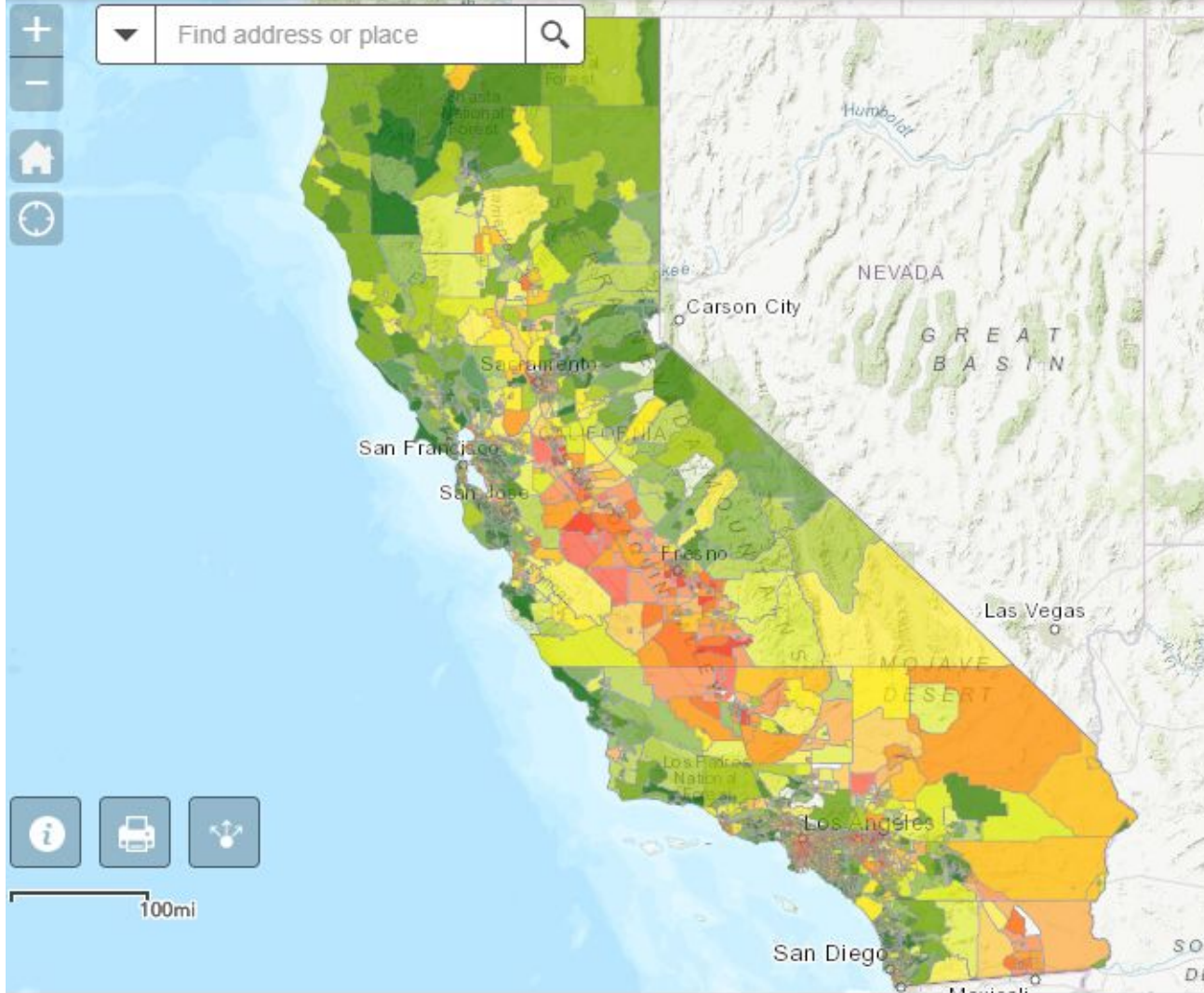
24 indicators >>

8 Domains >>

1 Index

Domains are weighted toward final index value based on association with life expectancy at birth.





CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Results

- 91 - 100% (Highest Scores)
- 81 - 90%
- 71 - 80%
- 61 - 70%
- 51 - 60%
- 41 - 50%
- 31 - 40%
- 21 - 30%
- 11 - 20%
- 1 - 10% (Lowest Scores)

CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Results

High Pollution, Low Population





# CalEnviroScreen 3.0

Domain	Component	Indicator
<b>Pollution Burden</b>	Exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ozone concentrations in air</li> <li>PM 2.5 concentrations in air</li> <li>Diesel particulate matter emissions</li> <li>Drinking water contaminants</li> <li>Use of certain high-hazard, high-volatility pesticides</li> <li>Toxic releases from facilities</li> <li>Traffic density</li> </ul>
	Environmental Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toxic cleanup sites</li> <li>Groundwater threats from leaking underground storage sites and cleanups</li> <li>Hazardous waste facilities and generators</li> <li>Impaired water bodies</li> <li>Solid waste sites and facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Population Characteristics</b>	Sensitive Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asthma emergency department visits</li> <li>Cardiovascular disease (emergency department visits for heart attacks)</li> <li>Low birth-weight infants</li> </ul>
	Socioeconomic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational attainment</li> <li>Housing burdened low income households</li> <li>Linguistic isolation</li> <li>Poverty</li> <li>Unemployment</li> </ul>

## CalEnviroScreen 3.0

20 indicators >>  
 4 components >>  
 2 burdens >>  
 1 score

Statewide census tracts ranked by percentile and averaged to obtain component scores.

Component scores are combined (exposure overweighted) to burden scores (0-10).

Burden scores are multiplied together (0-100).

# OTHER DATA SETS

## HEALTH

CA Community Burden <http://cdph.ca.gov/communityburden>

CDC 500 cities Data <https://www.cdc.gov/500cities/index.htm>

California Environmental Health Tracking Program <http://cehtp.org/>

California Health Interview Survey Neighborhood Edition <http://askchisne.ucla.edu/>

## INDICES

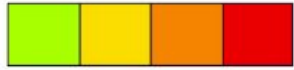
Regional Opportunity Index

<https://interact.regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/roi/index.html>

CDC Social Vulnerability Index <https://svi.cdc.gov/>

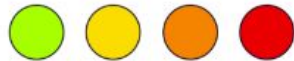
- Area Deprivation Index <https://www.neighborhoodatlas.medicine.wisc.edu/>
- UCSF Health Atlas <https://healthatlas.ucsf.edu/>
- SURGOS COVID Community Vulnerability Index <https://precisionforcovid.org/ccvi>

# How Do I Read These Charts?



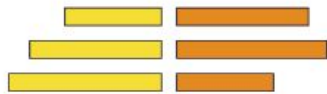
SCATTERPLOTS, MAPS, HEAT MAPS

We use these colors primarily in scatterplots charts or geographic and heat maps



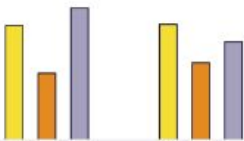
DISPARITY/PERFORMANCE

Colors measuring average / aggregate disparity or performance from lower (green) to higher (red)



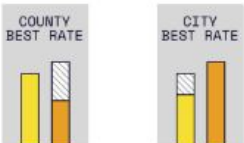
BAR CHART COMPARISONS

In plotting bar charts, especially on county and city comparison pages, we use two colors: yellow (primary/county) and orange (secondary/city)



PURPLE COMPARISON

A third color of purple is added to bar charts when comparing two cities against the county average. The second city is purple. Yellow remains county. And orange is the initial city. Purple is also a color used in maps and charts that don't directly compare with other data sets.



BEST AND LOW RATE

The best rate is not the same as the best outcome. The best rate applies to the racial group which has the best performance on an indicator (e.g., highest graduation rate or lowest poverty rate).

# Seven Key Issues

<p>KEY ISSUE</p> <p><b>Crime and Justice</b></p>	<p>KEY ISSUE</p> <p><b>Democracy</b></p>	<p>KEY ISSUE</p> <p><b>Economic Opportunity</b></p>
<p>KEY ISSUE</p> <p><b>Education</b></p>	<p>KEY ISSUE</p> <p><b>Health Care Access</b></p>	<p>KEY ISSUE</p> <p><b>Healthy Built Environment</b></p>
	<p>KEY ISSUE</p> <p><b>Housing</b></p>	

GET A 3D VIEW OF RACIAL EQUITY

# Performance. Disparity. Impact.

