

POLICY DIGEST

A monthly snapshot of housing-related policy research



THE ROOTS OF STRUCTURAL RACISM PROJECT

June 21, 2021 | Othering & Belonging Institute

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY RACIAL RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION IN THE UNITED STATES

This report focuses on racial residential segregation, framing it as one of the roots of structural racism. Segregation is one of the oldest sources of inter-group inequality. Research from the Othering & Belonging Institute investigates the persistence of racial residential segregation across the United States. The report seeks to explain how segregation functions as a global driver of inter-group inequality. Most major metropolitan regions and cities are highly segregated, but this report finds that nearly 81 percent of American cities and metropolitan regions are more segregated today than they were in 1990. Racial residential segregation is associated with disparities in life outcomes and is based upon group identity as the driver of unequal outcomes.

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

1. The Roots of Structural Racism Project
2. Fair Share Report
3. Taking Stock: Natural Hazards and Federally Assisted Housing
4. COVID-19 Resources



"Racial residential segregation so effectively sorts people across space and bundles vitalizing resources that no redistribution plan can ever match the swift efficacy of the underlying mechanism."

This report points out that the problem with modern American public schools is that they replicate the demographic profiles of the communities and neighborhoods they serve.

Key Findings

- 1. Out of every metropolitan region in the United States with more than 200,000 residents, 81 percent (169 out of 209) were more segregated as of 2019 than they were in 1990**
- 2. Neighborhood poverty rates are highest in segregated communities of color (21 percent), which is three times higher than in segregated white neighborhoods (7 percent)**
- 3. Household incomes and home values in white neighborhoods are nearly twice as high as those in segregated communities of color.**
- 4. Homeownership is 77 percent in highly segregated white neighborhoods, 59 percent in well-integrated neighborhoods, but just 46 percent in highly segregated communities of color.**
- 5. 83 percent of neighborhoods that were given poor ratings (or "redlined") in the 1930s by a federal mortgage policy were - as of 2010 - highly segregated communities of color.**
- 6. Regions with higher levels of racial residential segregation have higher levels of political polarization, an important implication in the context of gerrymandering and voter suppression**

[Read the entire report.](#)

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THE FAIR SHARE REPORT

May 21, 2021 | City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning & HCIDLA



CITYWIDE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

This report outlines strategies to distribute affordable housing more equitably throughout the city of Los Angeles. Proposing the establishment of an equitable Housing Element rezoning program, as well as housing targets and other strategies, these structural changes will ensure that equity takes precedent in future land use considerations.

City Planning is proposing a structural change that will require every neighborhood in the City to do its part to address the housing crisis. The department is also proposing new rezoning strategies that will focus additional housing capacity in high-opportunity areas with access to jobs and transit, along with tenant protections. By analyzing housing production trends, this report identifies potential factors that have led to an unequal distribution of affordable housing options in areas with high opportunity.

Key Findings

- Relatively little affordable housing has been developed in high opportunity areas
- In high opportunity areas, mixed-income affordable housing is more likely to be built than 100% affordable housing
- Single and multi-family zoning is not equitably distributed throughout the city
- Funding criteria make it difficult to build affordable housing in high opportunity areas

Key Recommendations

- Equitable RHNA rezoning
- Update housing element goals, policies, objectives and programs
- Conduct an inclusionary zoning feasibility study
- Create targeted fair share zoning allocations by community plan area to guide future plan updates and ensure an equitable distribution of housing
- Reduce or eliminate barriers to prioritize affordable housing developments in higher resource areas

[Read the entire report.](#)

TAKING STOCK: NATURAL HAZARDS AND FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING

2021 | The Public and Affordable Housing Research Corporation & The National Low Income Housing Coalition



PROPERTIES AND THE NATIONAL RISK INDEX

This report examines the locations of project-based federally assisted properties in relation to the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s National Risk Index (NRI). The NRI compares across locations the risk of harm from 18 different types of weather, geological, and climate events.



Punitive policies disrupt the path to housing causing more damage than good. As the costs and frequency of severe weather events climb, understanding and planning for potential impacts on affordable housing is critical. Federally assisted rental properties represent roughly five million homes and account for more than 10% of the nation’s rental stock. They provide housing stability to some of our nation’s most marginalized people with the fewest resources, who are often least able to prepare for a disaster and face significant hurdles during recovery.

Key Findings

- Nearly one-third of the federally assisted housing stock is in areas with very high or relatively high risk of negative impacts from natural hazards compared to one-quarter of all renter occupied homes and 14% of owner occupied homes.
- Federally assisted households are less likely than their low-income unassisted peers to have the supplies and resources needed to adequately to evacuate or prepare to weather a natural hazard.
- Households of color in HUD-assisted housing are more likely than white HUD-assisted households to live in areas with greater risk. The Public Housing program has the largest share of units (40%) in areas of very high or relatively high risk of natural hazards.
- Natural hazards pose a significant threat to federally assisted housing, while its residents are especially vulnerable to adverse impacts.

The Reforming Disaster Recovery Act and the Disaster Learning and Life Saving Act, two bills under consideration in Congress, provide direction and resources towards this goal.

[Read the entire report.](#)

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TOGETHER WE CAN END THE PANDEMIC

SCANPH IS PROUD TO PARTICIPATE IN A STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE AND PREVENTATIVE HEALTH MEASURES

Vaccines are our most powerful tool to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

All Californians ages 12 and older can now schedule an appointment to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Vaccines are safe, effective and free for ALL Californians. To learn more about vaccines, call (833) 422-4255 or visit VaccinateALL58.com.

Schedule your COVID-19 vaccine today.

More appointment times are making it easier to get your COVID-19 vaccination.

Before your vaccination

- Schedule your appointment at VaccinateALL58.com or by calling (833) 422-4255.
- Find a vaccination site for you and your loved ones.



Day of vaccination

- Bring a form of documentation with your name that matches the name on your appointment. Acceptable forms include: a driver's license, pay stub or utility bill.
- If your vaccine requires a second dose, ask when it will be scheduled.
- Prepare to wait 15-30 minutes after your shot to make sure you don't have a reaction to the vaccine.
- After your shot make sure to get your vaccination card.



After getting vaccinated

- If you experience mild side effects, it's a normal reaction to the vaccine. Doctors recommend taking over-the-counter pain relievers like acetaminophen or ibuprofen if you have any discomfort.
- Typically it takes two weeks for your body to build immunity against COVID-19 after your last dose.
- Take a photo of your vaccination card and keep in a safe place.
- **Continue to wear a mask,** wash your hands and practice physical distancing.



CA COVID-19 RENT RELIEF

PROGRAM SUPPORTS HOUSING STABILITY FOR MOST VULNERABLE

- CA COVID-19 Rent Relief provides financial assistance to income-qualified tenants experiencing housing instability. The program provides rent reimbursement to landlords for unpaid rent.
- Landlords are eligible to receive 80% of unpaid rent, as long as they agree to waive the remaining 20% of unpaid rent.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Tenants and landlords can determine eligibility and apply for funds directly at HousingIsKey.com.
- If you don't have access to the internet, you can call the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief Call Center, 1-833-430-2122 for information on the help center nearest to you to help you access an application.