Equity Working Group

Regional Planning Working Group

Thursday, June 16, 2022



Session Logistics





The meeting will take approximately two hours.



All participant lines will be muted.



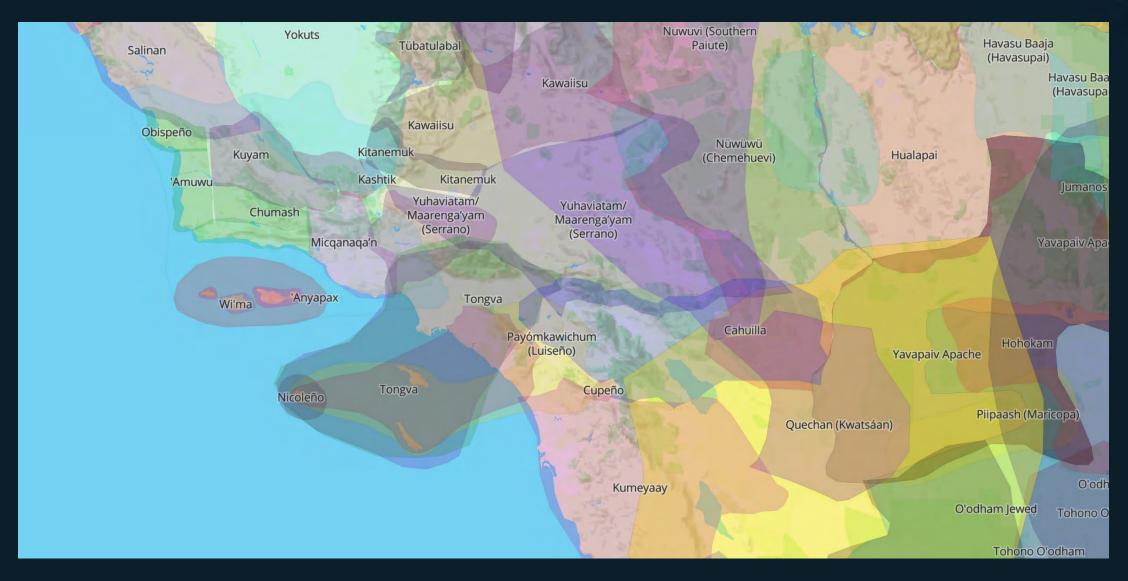
At the end of each presentation, there will be a Q & A. If you have a question, please type it into the chat box.



All presentations will be posted on the SCAG website

Land Acknowledgement





Agenda



| 1. Welcome • Anita Au, Senior Regional Planner, SCAG | 1:05 – 1:10pm |
|---|---------------|
| Racial Equity Resource Hub 2. • Kirin Kumar, Deputy Director, Equity and Government Transformation, California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) | 1:10 – 1:30pm |
| 3. Regional Climate Collaboratives Program • Emily Rotman, Assistant Regional Planner, SCAG | 1:30 – 1:40pm |
| Healthy Places Index 3.0 Adrienne Damicis, Data Analyst, Public Health Alliance of Southern California | 1:40 – 2:10pm |
| Central Coast Regional Equity Study 5. • Marcos Vargas, Executive Director & Kathleen Knight, Capacity Building Manager, The Fund for Santa Barbara | 2:10 – 2:40pm |
| 6. Announcements, Offers, Requests, and ConnectionsAnita Au, SCAG | 2:40 – 2:50pm |



What actions have you already taken to advance equity in your jurisdiction?

Fill out the poll on your screen!

Regional Climate Collaboratives Program

Emily Rotman

SCAG Sustainable & Resilient Development Department

June 16, 2022



Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC) Program









Goal to strengthen local coordination, leadership, knowledge, skills, and expertise



Focus on increasing access to funding resources for climate action within under-resourced communities



Funds communityrooted and crosssectoral collaboratives to conduct capacitybuilding activities

Available Funding





Regional Climate Collaboratives Program



- Round 1: \$8.35M available for competitive grant awards of \$500k \$1.75M
- Round 2: TBD, anticipated release in spring 2023

Program Objectives & Activities



Objectives:

- Develop actionable plans and projects
- 2. Build social infrastructure
- 3. Center community engagement and decision making
- 4. Develop equity-centered processes

Activities:

- Build relationships, identify priorities, and develop plans, policies, and projects
- 2. Supplement program-specific technical assistance and act as a local technical assistance provider that can translate funding program requirements & frame within local context
- 3. Evaluate project implementation
- 4. Engage in peer-to-peer learning
- 5. Data collection & analysis (optional)
- 6. Education & training (optional)

The "Regional" in RCC





REGION:

Counties that grant applicants intend to work within

- Cover a geographic area of between 1–8 contiguous counties
- At minimum, include two underresourced census tracts (as defined in SB 1072) that the proposed activities will focus on (do not need to be contiguous)



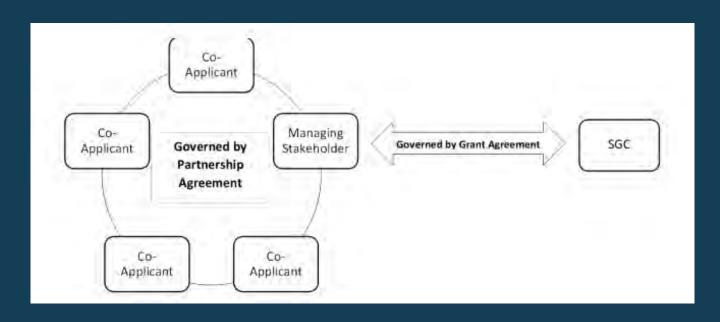
COMMUNITIES OF FOCUS:

Specific census tracts that grant applicants propose to serve

➤ At least 51% of the census tracts identified within the Communities of Focus must meet the definition of under-resourced (as defined in SB 1072)

Collaborative Stakeholder Structure





- Co-Applicants will form a collaborative and submit a single application based on a shared vision
- Managing Stakeholder is a Co-Applicant that executes the grant agreement with SGC and handles administrative grant responsibilities
- Partnership Agreement (MOU) describes the governance and organization of the Collaborative Stakeholder Structure

Application Timeline





RCC Alignment with SCAG's Work

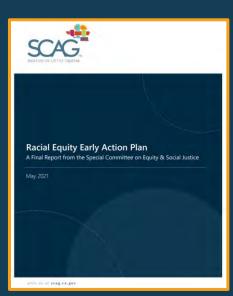




"Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians; Provide innovative information and value-added services to enhance member agencies' planning and operations and promote regional collaboration."



"Move toward community ownership of projects where public participation moves toward engagement and engagement moves toward community ownership of planning processes..."



"SCAG stands in solidarity with those working toward a fair and just society, and with those calling for systemic change to eliminate all barriers that reduce opportunity and undermine Southern California's shared values and ability to thrive; and SCAG affirms its commitment to...strengthen the way it engages and convenes to protect and expand community voice and power, and work in partnership with others to close the gap of racial injustice and better serve our communities of color..."



"Support development of local climate adaptation and hazard mitigation plans, as well as project implementation that improves community resiliency to climate change and natural hazards"



"SCAG shall initiate a regional climate planning network that will provide technical assistance for local jurisdictions' climate planning initiatives ... that collectively foster climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience."

Supporting RCC Applications in SoCal



SCAG is looking to support RCC applicants and is considering pursuing the RCC grant

SCAG could:

- Join as a partner on other grant application(s)
- Facilitate a grant application and apply as the Managing Stakeholder to take on administrative responsibilities

• SCAG can bring:

- Staff capacity and expertise
- > Existing climate programs and technical assistance channels
- > Convening power and regional reach
- > Financial and administrative capacity
- Leverage funding (in-kind, SCP, REAP, etc.)

We want to hear from you!





Please reach out to us if you'd like to connect!

- ➤ Are you interested in the RCC program?
- ➤ Are you looking for additional partners on an application?
- ➤ Do you have ideas on how SCAG could help bring RCC funding to our region?

Thank you!

Emily Rotman rotman@scag.ca.gov

www.scag.ca.gov







Advancing Health Equity Through High-Quality Data

SCAG Equity Working Group June 16, 2022

Helen Dowling, MPH
Director of Data Initiatives



Public Health Alliance is fiscally administered by the Public Health Institute



Public Health Alliance of Southern California



Our Mission

Mobilize the transformative power of local public health for enduring health equity

10 Local Health Departments

- Imperial
- Long Beach
- Orange County
- Pasadena

- Riverside
- Santa Barbara
- Los Angeles San Bernardino
 - San Diego
 - Ventura





WHY THE HEALTHY PLACES INDEX?

- Life expectancy and well-being are heavily tied to the community conditions in which we live
- Social conditions vary drastically by neighborhood
- To create lasting systems change, both race and place must be recognized and understood





WHY THE HEALTHY PLACES INDEX? (cont.)



- For these reasons, the HPI was launched in 2018 and is now in its third evolution
- The tool works to advance health equity through open and accessible data to implement actionable solutions



WHAT IS THE HEALTHY PLACES INDEX?

- HPI provides data and policy recommendations to:
 - Compare the health and well-being of communities at the neighborhood level
 - Quantify the factors that shape health
 - Turn data into actionable solutions
- The HPI has become a go-to data tool for hundreds of state and local government agencies, foundations, advocacy groups, hospitals and other organizations

WHAT IS THE HEALTHY PLACES INDEX? (cont.)

- HPI 3.0 evaluates the relationship between 23 social drivers of health and life expectancy at birth
- Produces a score representing a "ranking" of conditions compared to other neighborhoods
- Measures organized by eight policy action areas:
 - Economic
 - Social
 - Education
 - Transportation

- Neighborhood
- Housing
- Clean Environment
- Healthcare Access



POLICY ACTION AREAS & WEIGHTS

Economic

35%

- Employed
- Per Capita Income
- Above Poverty

Education

18%

- In Pre-School
- In High School
- Bachelor's Education or Higher

Transportation

13%

- Automobile Access
- Active Commuting

Social

13%

- Census Response Rate
- Voting in 2020

Housing

5.3%

- Low-Income Renter Severe Housing Cost Burden
- Low-Income Homeowner Severe Housing Cost Burden
- Housing Habitability
- Uncrowded Housing
- Homeownership

Healthcare Access

5.3%

Insured Adults

Clean Environment

5.2%

- Ozone
- PM 2.5
- Diesel PM
- Water Contaminants

Neighborhood

5.2%

- Retail Density
- Park Access
- Tree Canopy





COMMUNITY IMPACT

The HPI has been used to identify and respond to community needs in ways that keep growing and evolving, such as:

- COVID-19 Blueprint Health Equity Metric
- Affordable housing & rental assistance programs
- Food security & nutrition assistance
- Active transportation funding
- Climate-related investments
- And much, much more





COMMUNITY IMPACT (cont.)

Over a billion dollars has been directed toward community investments including \$272 million of COVID-19 assistance to neighborhoods hit the hardest during the pandemic.





RACE & PLACE FRAMING

Applying a race and place frame to data:

- Provides sound, quality data for residents, advocates and leaders
- Helps communities better advocate for their unique needs
- Guides leaders to develop more equitable, communityforward solutions
- Allows leaders and community providers to scale resources appropriately for each region

INTRODUCING THE HPI 3.0

- Completely updated data
- Emphasis on concordance and continuity with HPI 2.0
- Stronger correlation with life expectancy at birth
- Myriad of other new and enhanced features that will make your work quicker and easier



WHAT CAN I DO WITH THE HPI?

Community leaders, academics, advocates and residents are able to:

- Explore community conditions in individual neighborhoods, including HPI score and HPI indicators
- View hundreds of decision support layers
- Quickly identify high- and low- ranked geographies in your area of interest
- Create custom communities using the pool feature

WHAT CAN I DO WITH THE HPI? (cont.)

- Compare data across geographies and time periods
- Examine the link between race and place
- Filter geographies by race, ethnicity, and country of origin

- Receive policy opportunities tailored to the needs of the community
- View historically redlined neighborhoods



HOW CAN I USE THE HPI MAP FEATURES?

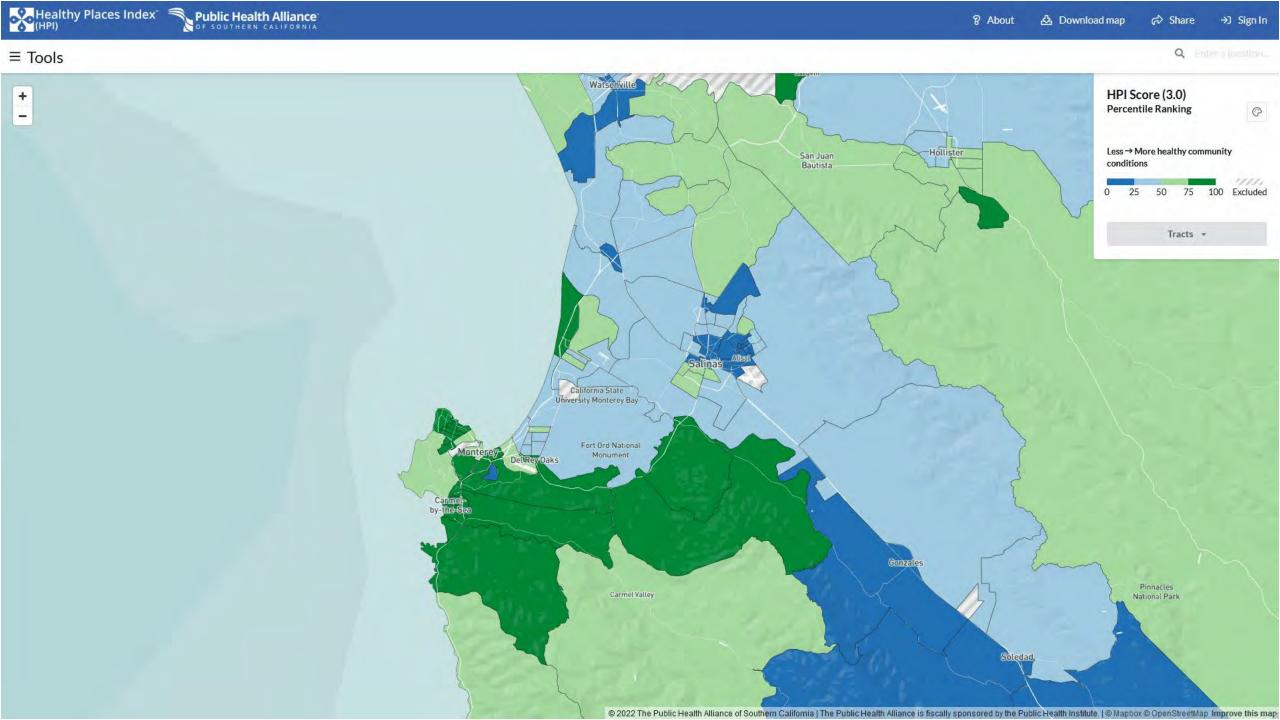
Accessing information about your community

The HPI score, policy action areas with the HPI indicators, detailed race/ethnicity measures, including subpopulations and national origin data, and equity indicators can all be explored in the **Community Conditions** function

Example

Educating medical students on the social determinants of health and their impact on health among communities in California





HOW CAN I USE THE HPI MAP FEATURES? (cont.)

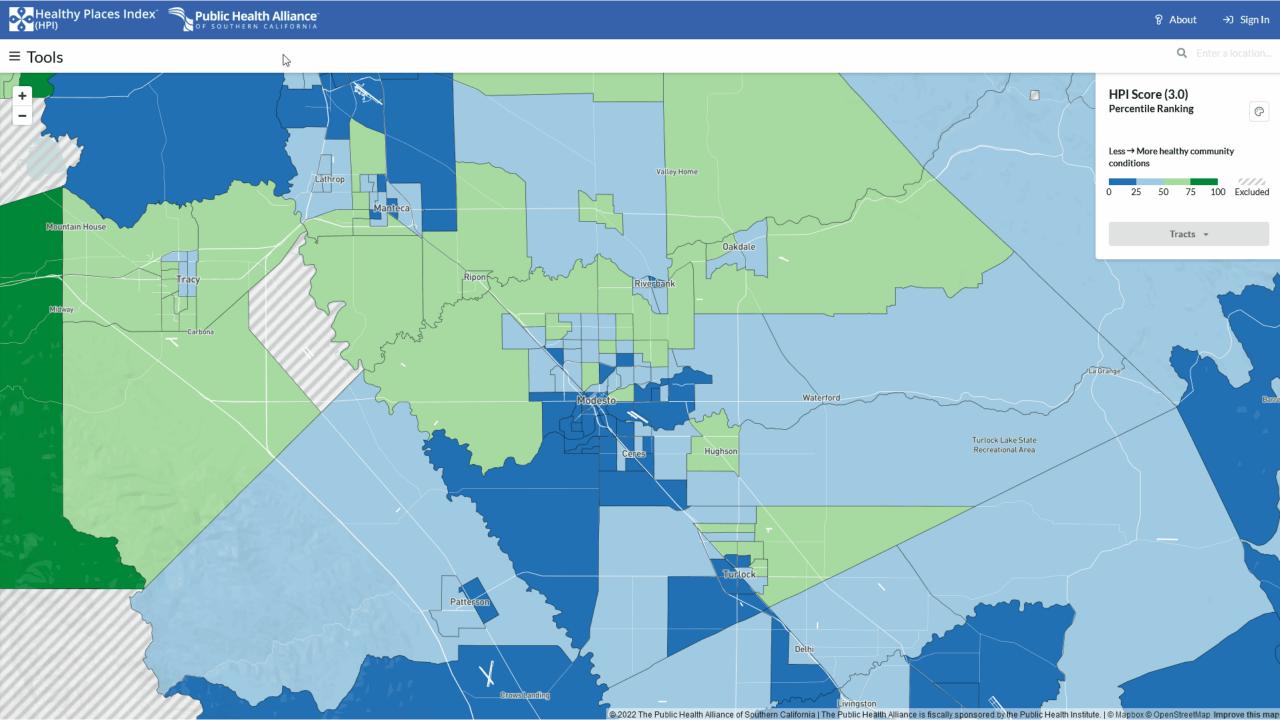
Policy recommendations within platform

Tailored **Policy Opportunities** built into the platform, and customized to prioritize the specific needs of a chosen community

Example

Identifying community assets and challenges alongside policy solutions that can improve your community's health





HOW CAN I USE THE HPI MAP FEATURES?(cont.)

Added decision support layers

View over 375 **decision support layers**, covering multiple time periods and racially disaggregated where available

Example

Investigating the 3rd Grade Math Proficiency in your community



HOW CAN I USE THE HPI MAP FEATURES? (cont.)

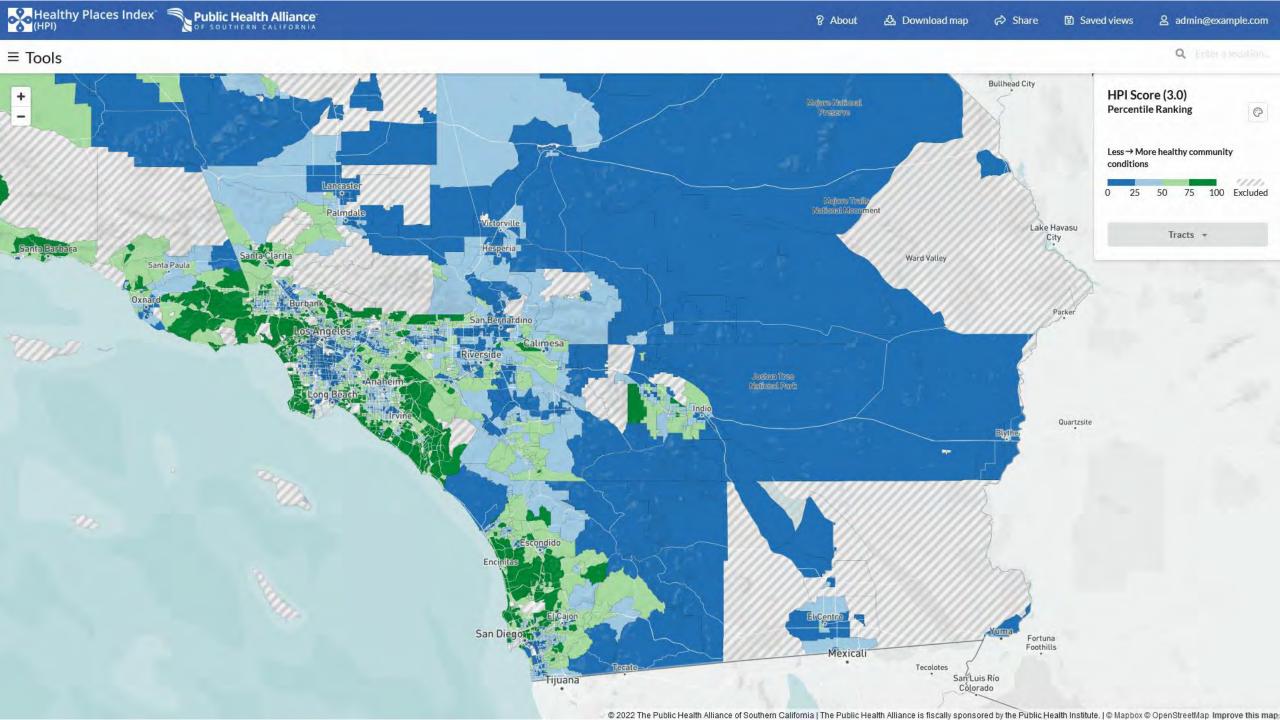
Within-county HPI rank

Relative rank option in **Rank By Geography** function provides within-county HPI rankings

Example

You are a county health department that wants to see the breakdown of HPI scores amongst your county alone





HOW CAN I USE THE HPI MAP FEATURES? (cont.)

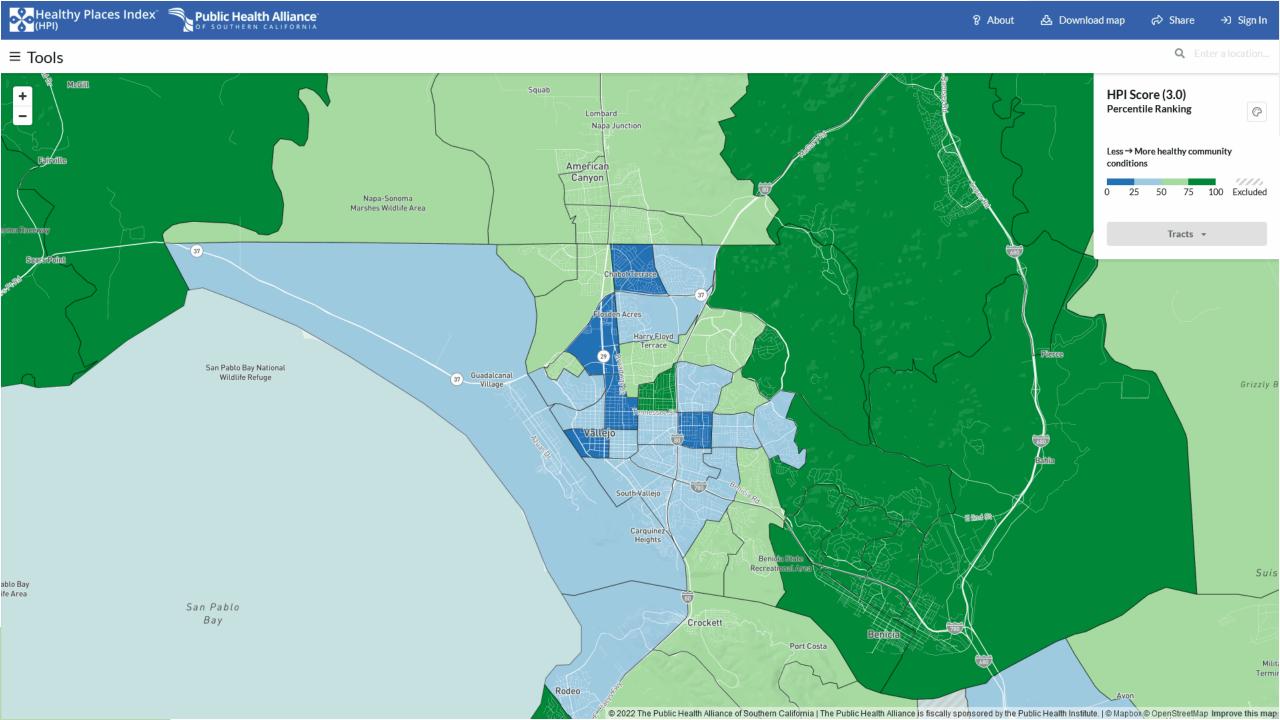
Creating custom geographies

Geographies not represented in our built-in selection of geographies can be created using the **Pool Geographies** function.

Example

You have a grant application that covers 5 census tracts in which you would like to report aggregated data





HOW CAN I USE THE HPI MAP FEATURES? (cont.)

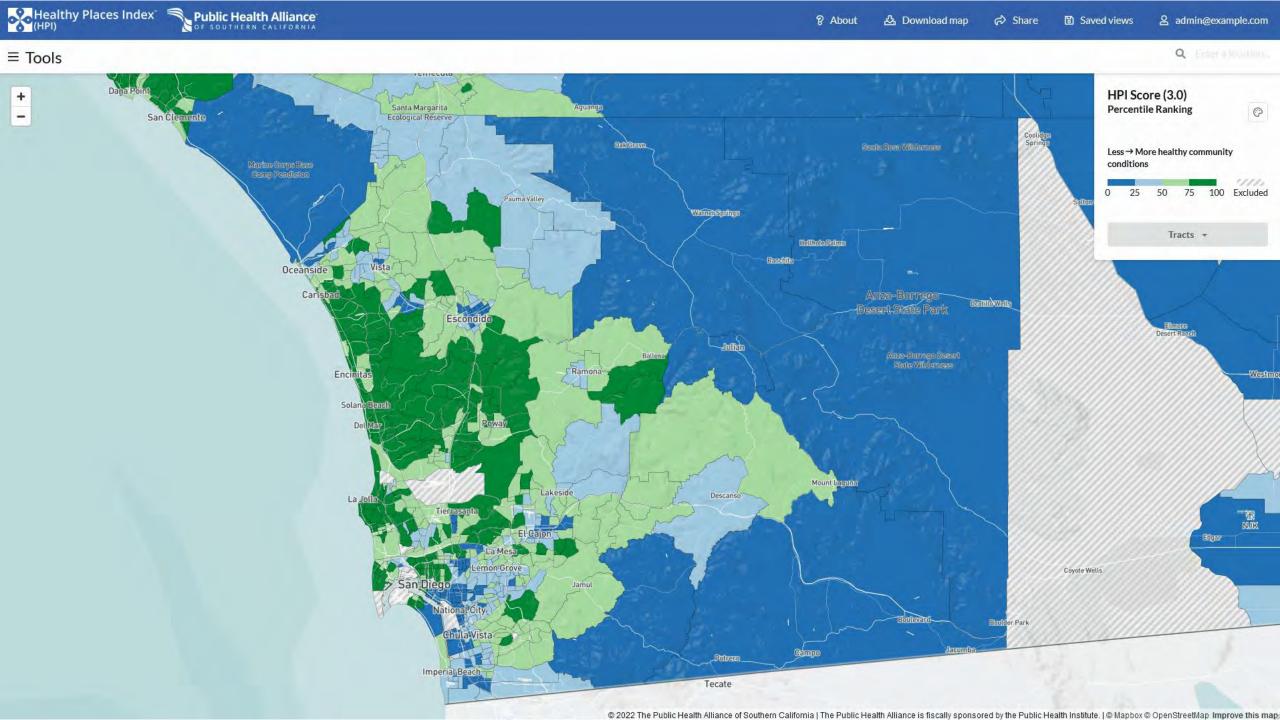
Finding communities that meet certain conditions

Expanded **Filter by Indicator** function allows for identification of communities by multiple criteria, including HPI score and income

Example

Limiting geographic results to only populations that are below 50% Median Household income in San Diego





Q&A

THANK YOU!

HPI WEBSITE: www.healthyplacesindex.org

HPI 3.0 MAP: map.healthyplacesindex.org

For additional questions, please contact: AskHPI@ThePublicHealthAlliance.org







TOWARDS A JUST AND **EQUITABLE CENTRAL COAST**





USC Dornsife Equity Research Institute















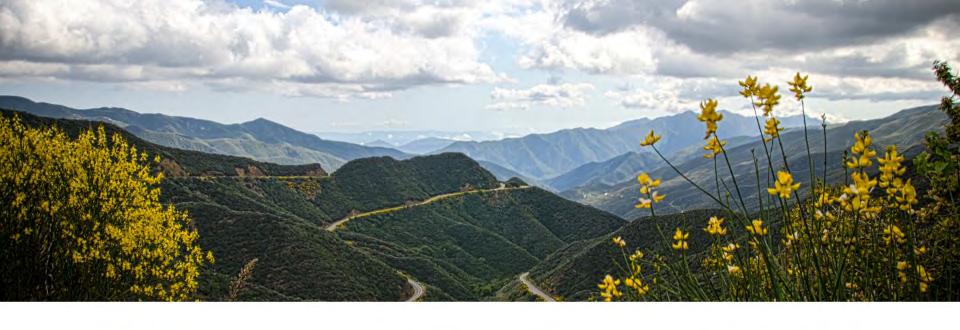










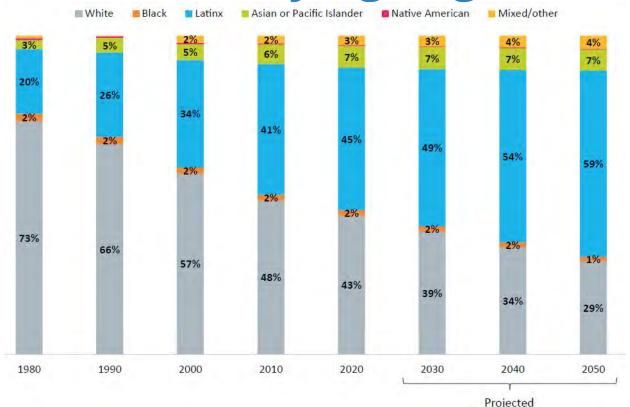


A Regional Vision of Equity

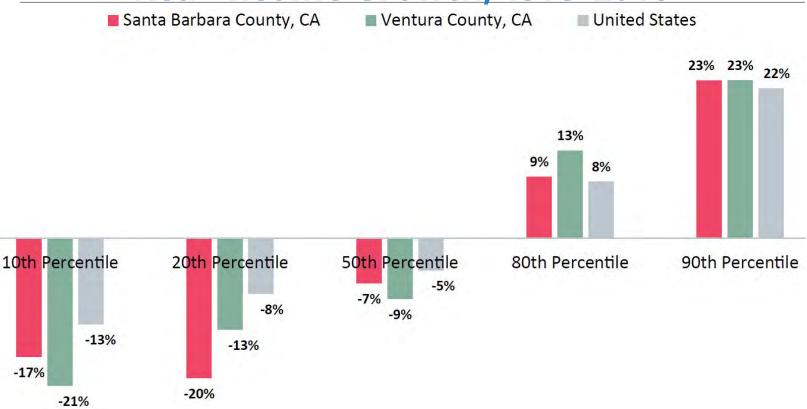
Acknowledges our shared history, our socioeconomic integration and interdependence, and our long and growing history of bi-county activism.



A Diversifying Region

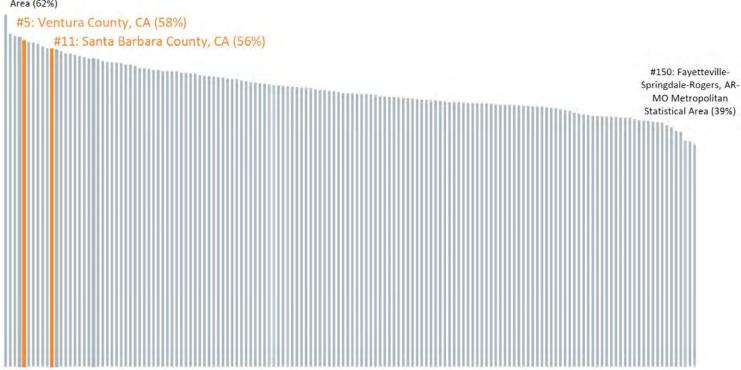


Rising Inequality: Real Income Growth, 1979-2018



Rent Burden

#1: Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL Metropolitan Statistical Area (62%)

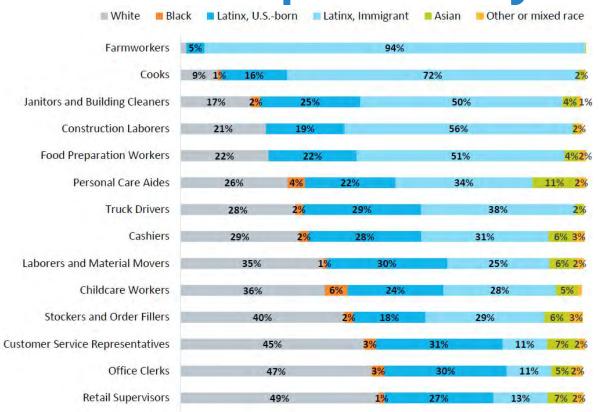


Economic Hardship by Race

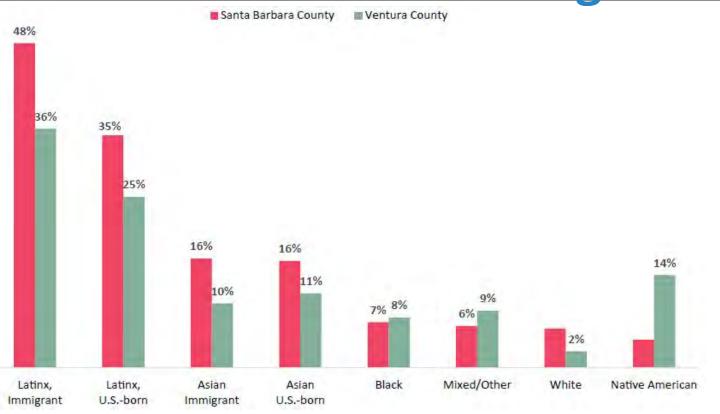




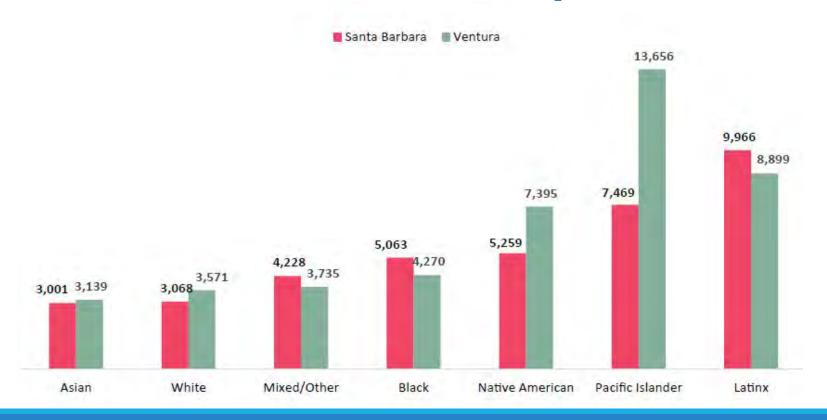
Frontline Occupations, by Race



Overcrowded Housing

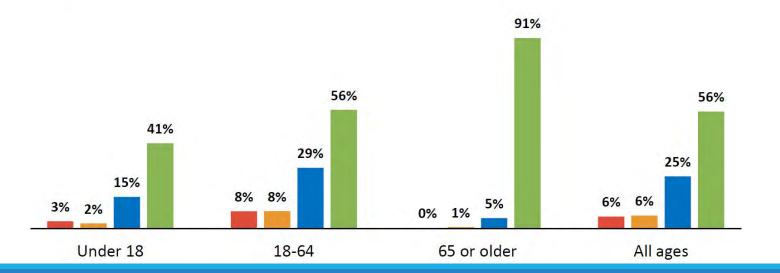


COVID-19 Case Rates (per 100k)



Percent with No Health Insurance, by Immigration Status and Age

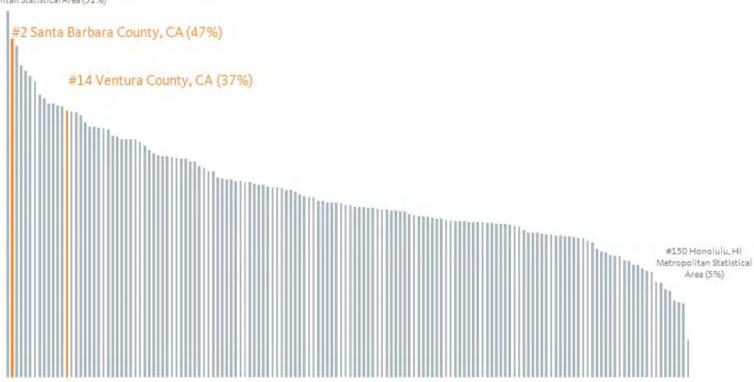
- US-born
- Naturalized U.S. citizen
- **LPR**
- Undocumented





The Racial Generation Gap

#1 Naples-Marco Island, FL Metropolitan Statistical Area (51%)





How We Get There

Strengthen political infrastructures

Recognize previous successes

Build from an activated community











Central Coast
Regional Equity
Initiative

Our goal is to deepen our understanding of regional disparities, facilitate a region-wide conversation, and support the planning and implementation of initiatives focused on advancing social, health, environmental, and economic equity



Respect the rights and experiences of Indigenous people

It is important to acknowledge that the Central Coast region is on the traditional, unceded homelands of the Chumash and Tataviam people. We acknowledge and support their ongoing struggles for political rights, cultural recognition, and land protection by recognizing the historical experience of colonization, enslavement, violence, and resource extraction that established the region, and honoring the knowledge, cultural traditions, and resilience that have sustained Native communities over time. As we look to the future planning and development of the region, it is critical that we also center Native principles of stewardship and reciprocity between the land and the lives it sustains. Indigenous perspectives, and experiences must be centered in processes of acknowledgment and accountability, and in the frameworks we bring to regional equity, environmental, and democratic organizing.

Center equity and justice as foundational economic values

2

This starts with an economic vision that recognizes freedom from want and a justly compensated workforce as signposts of economic strength, that respects workers' rights to labor in dignity, and that embraces goals such as closing racial and gender wage gaps as benchmarks of regional economic success. It calls for public and private investment in strategies that improve labor standards for traditionally undervalued but essential workers and that promote access to high-quality job opportunities for historically marginalized communities. Equity and prosperity can and should be embraced as mutually supportive goals, but only when guided by active measures to assure that the benefits of prosperity are widely and equitably shared.

Invest in inclusive, universally accessible infrastructures of opportunity and social provision

3

A just and equitable region rests on more than an inclusive economy. It requires a robust infrastructure of social investment—in systems of care, opportunity, civic connectedness, and political engagement-that promotes health, education, and human development, assures equal justice for all, and provides assistance in times of need. The vast disparities in access to adequate, affordable quality health care is but one of the major fault lines brought to the surface by the region's experience of the COVID-19 pandemic. All Central Coast residents should have access to basic rights and social goods, such as health care and quality education, which requires accommodating for diverse language, cultural, and technological needs as well as making them available regardless of income, citizenship, or immigration status.

Advance racial and intersectional justice

4

Racial and intersectional justice inform all aspects of equity work, and cut across multiple issue areas, in efforts that seek change at the systemic level. A growing number of intersectional justice initiatives in the region focus on the needs—and draw on the leadership—of youth, who represent the fastest-growing segment of the region's BIPOC population and who have heightened public awareness of how systemic problems of chronic underfunding, criminalized behavior, and discriminatory disciplinary protocols have fed into the school-to-prison pipeline and otherwise failed to nurture students from historically marginalized groups. In these and aligned initiatives, advancing racial and intersectional justice means emphasizing nurturing, culturally relevant learning environments; fully inclusive access to services, educational, and employment opportunities; and restorative approaches to discipline and public safety.

Recognize, respect, and protect immigrant rights, civic integration, and political voice

5

Whether they are recent arrivals or long-standing residents, immigrants are an integral part of the Central Coast region, as contributors to the regional economy, community organizers, educators, students, parents, and neighbors. Fully achieving equity and justice in the region requires that all immigrants, regardless of citizenship status, have full access to the social safety net, emergency relief, and the legal protections accorded workers and tenants. Local political systems should be made more aware, responsive, and accountable to immigrant communities, through immigrant-inclusive organizing, naturalization, and voter registration campaigns.

Protect tenants, preserve communities, and make housing affordable for all

6

The crisis of affordable housing has been woven into the fabric of everyday life on the Central Coast, in the form of out of reach home prices, heavy rent burdens, long commutes, rising numbers of unhoused, unsheltered people, and years'-old affordable development targets gone unfulfilled. It's long since time we stop pretending this crisis can be resolved without massive investments of public resources and reordering of regional priorities to construct and otherwise make available housing that is safe, accessible, and affordable, that adheres to standards of environmental sustainability, and that respects the rights of tenants to live free of the threats of eviction, arbitrary rent hikes, and gentrification.

Be a leader in environmental and climate justice

There is no denying that climate change and environmental crises are a reality in the Central Coast. While communities vary in their response resiliency due to factors of inequity, environmental burdens adversely affect all communities regardless of race or affluence. The region has a long history of fighting against offshore drilling, fossil fuel power plants, a proposed liquefied natural gas terminal, and the use of hazardous pesticides on commercial farms. More action is needed to invest in public transportation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and protect local infrastructure from the ravages of climate change. Stronger collaboration between the original stewards of the region's land and water, the Chumash and Tataviam people, and environmental and social justice groups within the region can show the rest of the country dynamic pathways forward toward a more sustainable and just environment.

Bridge digital divides for underserved communities



Full and unencumbered digital access is no longer simply a matter of consumer choice in societies that have turned to internet-based modes of learning, health and service provision, communication, and civic engagement, as we have on the Central Coast. It is a basic necessity for full participation in economic, social, political, and civic life. Bridging digital divides starts with the recognition that internet access is an essential public good, bringing public responsibility to provide affordable and equitable access to all individuals, households, and communities that lack the income, technological, and other resources necessary to attain it. It also requires active steps to gauge and remedy the learning losses, social and civic isolation, and service disparities that stem from disparities in connectivity.

Create platforms for collaborative, community-engaged equity research



The data featured in this report, gathered in consultation with our community networks, provide aggregate indicators of the equity trends and challenges facing the Central Coast and offer some sense of what it would mean to address them on a region-wide scale. While the need for such indicator-based analysis continues, it is also a jumping off point for a broader program of research that builds regional capacity-and the more variegated, community-rooted knowledge base-for inclusive and equitable planning, policy development, and political action. In addition to the region's academic and independent research institutes, such a program will rely extensively on engagement with too-often unheard community voices, experiences, and expertise from community organizations- especially when it comes to understanding the mechanisms and day to day realities of inequality, collecting ground-level data, and identifying priorities and levers for change. Deepening and diversifying our knowledge base in this way also enhances the capacity to build a shared understanding of the region's problems and prospects, generate alliances across issue areas, and track progress towards equity and justice over time.

Build from our victories

Building a just and equitable region requires a long-term commitment, a willingness to confront entrenched forces of resistance, and the oftenpainstaking work of organizing coalitions on multiple fronts. It draws vital energy from accomplishments along the way. Recent victories give cause for hope. Activists successfully pressured state and local governments to increase funding for tenant protections, affordable housing, and services for the unhoused during the pandemic. Environmental organizations and activists created a carbon-free renewable energy program and established a diversified climate justice network. Grassroots organizations collaborated to provide greater assistance to immigrant families who have faced significant loss as a result of natural disasters. These victories are only a small portion of the overall transformative change that is needed, but they nevertheless demonstrate that such change is possible when communities organize the public, persuade stakeholders, form alliances, and apply political pressure to those in power.

Open avenues to participatory democracy

While progress in key areas has been made in recent years, these victories have only been possible because of sustained, targeted organizing campaigns that make concrete demands and electoral strategies to hold elected officials accountable. Broad-based, but unfocused, support for change often loses when the status quo is supported by powerful interests. Organizations rooted in the region's diverse communities are needed more than ever to empower marginalized groups by activating new and occasional voters to build electoral power, pressuring reluctant lawmakers, and building coalitions across groups that have historically been excluded from the political process. Advancing equity on the Central Coast also calls for an expanded toolkit for realizing the region's democratic potential, such as participatory budgeting, equity impact standards, and other measures to promote community engagement in public decision making.

Central Coast Regional Equity Initiative

- What would it take to make this report and framework something that is embraced at the institutional and cultural level?
- What opportunities do you see now or in the next year?
- How do we make these opportunities for transformational change?
- What is one thing you can commit to?

Announcements



Connect SoCal Sustainable Communities Program 4th Call for Applications (Civic Engagement, Equity, and Environmental Justice)

- Draft guidelines released in July 2022
- Call for Applications open in September 2022
- SCAG SCP Webpage: https://scag.ca.gov/scp

2022 Sustainability Awards – Equity Category

- Congratulations to the Port of Long Beach on their Community Grants Program!
- Watch video here: https://scag.ca.gov/past-sustainability-program-awards-recipients

Announcements



Federal Equity Action Plans Released

In April 2022, over 90 Federal Agencies released Equity Action Plans.

- Review the Plans: https://www.whitehouse.gov/equity/#equity-plan-snapshots
- Watch DOT's Info Session on Transportation Equity: https://www.transportation.gov/priorities/equity/events

2022 GARE Annual Membership Meeting

In April 2022, GARE held their annual conference in Portland, OR and online.

Presentations and resources from the conference are available for employees of GARE member jurisdictions on the <u>GARE Network Portal</u>.

Offers, Requests, Connections



Offers

Has your agency been working on any equity-related work you would like to share?

Requests

Are there any issues you have experienced since we met last that you would apricate resources/support on?

Connections

Are you interested in connecting with other agencies around a specific topic?

Thank you! See you in September 2022!

Courtney Aguirre (aguirre@scag.ca.gov)

Anita Au (au@scag.ca.gov)

www.scag.ca.gov

