

2023-2025



County of Los Angeles  
**Anti-Racism,  
Diversity,  
& Inclusion**

# STATE OF BLACK LOS ANGELES COUNTY REPORT

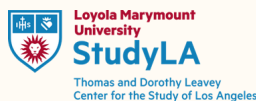
MOVING FORWARD IN AN ERA OF REGRESSION

COMPANION PIECE



By the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative  
Chief Executive Office, County of Los Angeles

In partnership with  
Loyola Marymount University



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We would also like to thank the Chief Executive Officer and her staff.

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# Foreword

As the inaugural Executive Director of Racial Equity for Los Angeles County, it is my charge to carry out the Board of Supervisors' vision to ensure that the County of Los Angeles advances an anti-racism policy agenda – one that enhances the lives of the children, families, and communities we serve. The Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative was founded in the wake of George Floyd's murder and nationwide uprisings against anti-Black racism, but our efforts build upon the unyielding work of many communities who confront, resist, and challenge racial inequity daily.

When the ARDI team released the inaugural State of Black Los Angeles County Report last year, we experienced firsthand how meaningful this report was for so many members of the community. In partnership with the Board of Supervisors, local jurisdictions, and community-based organizations, we hosted multiple listening and co-design sessions as well as report presentations throughout the entire County. During these gatherings, residents shared how they saw their lives and neighborhoods reflected in the histories and data.

As a Black Angeleno who has partnered and collaborated with thousands of residents, County staff, and community organizers across our region, I've also learned something firsthand: there is strength in solidarity across racial and ethnic groups. Yes, data is an essential tool to measure racial disparities and inform solutions needed to end inequities, but it's through collective multiracial solidarity and the commitment to stand together that we will advance equity for Black residents and all communities where there is a need for justice. Solidarity will enable us to create a County where all residents can thrive and live well – especially in the face of efforts to eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives across our country.

To my fellow residents, County colleagues, young folk, longtime advocates, new allies, and loved ones who reviewed and advocated for the first edition of this report: I thank you for exemplifying this solidarity and commitment. Thank you also for continually challenging our systems to abide by our responsibility to serve all residents, which must include proactive efforts to vanquish anti-Black racism, address root causes of suffering, and invest in community resources that lead to healing, reconciliation, and justice.

To this aim, let this second edition of the State of Black Los Angeles County Report be a firmly planted step as we continue to champion the well-being of Black Angelenos and all peoples who live in our region.

In solidarity,

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## Section I

### Background

In 2023, the County of Los Angeles released its inaugural report on the State of Black Los Angeles. This report served as one of the County's recent efforts to highlight the importance of addressing structural racism in Los Angeles County since the Board of Supervisors' July 21, 2020 motion declaring racism as a matter of public health.<sup>1</sup>

Since then, numerous shifts within the larger social and political landscape have raised concern about the viability of new and existing efforts across the country to address racial disparities as well as the direction in which our society is headed when it comes to ensuring access and opportunity for people from marginalized groups.

In the second installment of this report, we not only pay attention to the unique challenges that shape Black residents' quality of life in Los Angeles County, we also explore the availability of County services aimed at addressing these challenges. In addition, we explore how the aforementioned evolving political context will shape Black people's experiences in years to come, as well as the lingering effects of COVID-19 on Black communities. This year, we have also expanded the scope of the report to cover



Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors: from left, Janice Hahn (4<sup>th</sup> District); Hilda L. Solis (1<sup>st</sup> District); Lindsey P. Horvath (3<sup>rd</sup> District); Kathryn Barger (5<sup>th</sup> District); and Holly J. Mitchell (2<sup>nd</sup> District)



Read the inaugural report of the State of Black Los Angeles County here.

<sup>1</sup> "Establishing an Antiracist Los Angeles County Policy Agenda," July 21, 2020. Board Motion of Los Angeles County <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Motion-Establishing-An-Antiracist-LA-County-Policy-Agenda-7.21.20final.pdf>



additional areas that shape Black people’s health and well-being, including Black child and youth development, the built environment, and civic engagement. These new domains and indicators, along with those featured in the inaugural report, allow us to paint a more comprehensive picture of the many issues that impact Black people across their life course. We conclude the report with recommendations and next steps regarding how the County can go about improving the quality of life for Black people throughout the region.

## An Era of Regression

In the summer of 2020, George Floyd’s murder prompted protests nationwide, and combined with the public’s frustration with the racially disproportionate rates of COVID-19 deaths and hospitalizations, many organizations were left searching for ways to respond to the moment. The unprecedented nature of these events marked a key milestone in our nation’s centuries-long conversation about race and racism. The protests also prompted many state and local jurisdictions across the U.S. to acknowledge structural racism and commit to addressing racism within their boundaries. Private corporations made similar acknowledgments, pledging generous sums of money and making bold commitments to improve their diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts.

In California, the County of Los Angeles represented one of several government entities that adopted motions declaring racism a public health concern. In its unanimous motion, the Board also established a unit within the Chief Executive Office known as the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative and committed to developing a countywide anti-racism policy agenda. As we pointed out in our inaugural report, counties “provide a vast array of municipal services to residents, including roads, parks, law enforcement, emergency response services, and libraries.”<sup>2</sup> They also “serve as a delivery channel[s] for many State services, such as foster care, public health care, jails and elections.”<sup>3</sup> As a result, County governments are uniquely positioned to ensure that their residents receive equitable access to services as well as fair and unbiased treatment from the various individuals and agencies charged with serving the public.

Toward this end, the County implemented and/or expanded a wide array of County programs, initiatives, and departments aimed at promoting more equitable outcomes across multiple domains including poverty, housing and homelessness, safety and justice, youth development, infrastructure, and LGBTQ+. These recent efforts include (with links to their websites):

- [Countywide Racial Equity Strategic Plan](#) (adopted 2023)
- [Los Angeles County Anti-Racism Policy Agenda](#) (adopted 2020)
- [Distribution of \\$1.9 billion in American Rescue Plan Act Funds](#)
- [2022-2023 State of Black Los Angeles County Report](#) (published 2023)

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<sup>2</sup> *What Do Counties Do?* California State Association of Counties. <https://www.counties.org/californias-counties>

<sup>3</sup> California State of Association of Counties, *ibid.*



- [Los Angeles County Prevention & Promotion Systems Governing Committee \(PPSGC\)](#)
- [Poverty Alleviation Initiative \(PAI\)](#) (launched 2021)
- [Equity in Infrastructure](#) (adopted 2021)
- [Black People Experiencing Homelessness \(BPEH\)](#) Implementation Steering Committee (acquired 2022)
- [Department of Economic Opportunity \(DEO\)](#) (launched 2022)
- [Department of Youth Development \(DYD\)](#) (launched 2022)
- [Justice Care & Opportunities \(JCOD\)](#) (launched 2022)
- [Care First Community Investment \(CFCI\)](#) (launched 2021)
- [Alternatives to Incarceration \(ATI\)](#) (launched 2019)
- [Addressing the Inequities Facing Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Intersex People](#) (adopted 2022)

Around the nation, however, we began to witness widespread attacks on new and existing DEI initiatives—in both the public and private sectors—by coalitions opposed to efforts to mitigate racial, gender, and economic inequities in primary and secondary schools, government agencies, higher education institutions, private organizations, professional sports, and the like. Although heavily coordinated efforts to undo the progress made on several measures are nothing new, the last four years mark what appears to be the early stages of an era of regression when progressive policies and legislative actions that roll back civil, human, and political rights for segments of society, especially marginalized populations are implemented. These legal and policy reversals weaken laws that protect against discrimination, create a resurgence in discriminatory practices, and deepen social stratification. Furthermore, these efforts erode institutional protections, diminish laws that uphold civil and human rights, reduce accountability, eliminate mechanisms for victims to seek redress, and promote harmful and exclusionary ideologies. It is not only a concerted attempt to reverse the gains of the last four years, but also the gains made over the last several decades. This has amounted to a strident and well-funded countermovement to what its adherents refer to as being “woke,” a term that emerged from Black communities in the 1930s, which referred to a heightened awareness and sensitivity of social injustices and inequalities, which is now often used to mock and denigrate those who elevate and bring attention to the harms against historically oppressed groups and individuals.

Within the past four years, we also bore witness to a series of U.S. Supreme Court rulings that have the power to reshape our society into one reminiscent of our nation’s pre-Civil Rights era. Among the slate of recently decided cases is the June 2022 decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*<sup>4</sup> and the decision banning race-conscious admissions in colleges and universities.<sup>5</sup> These rulings (and others) represent just one facet of a growing effort to return to a period in which people from marginalized and historically underrepresented communities are excluded and/or subordinated in society.

<sup>4</sup> *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*

<sup>5</sup> *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. (SFFA) v. President & Fellows of Harvard College (Harvard) and SFFA v. University of North Carolina (UNC)*



## Doubling Down on Anti-Racism and Equity: Moving Forward in an Era of Regression

As the threat of additional efforts to erode the rights of marginalized communities continue to grow, some advocates, policymakers, and other stakeholders committed to anti-racism and equity have not only articulated their opposition to regressive policies, but they have “doubled down” on their efforts to advance equity, justice, and the inclusion of all people, including women, LGBTQ+ communities, religious minorities, immigrants, and people of color. In her dissent to the majority opinion on the recent affirmative action ruling, Justice Sonia Sotomayor condemned the ruling, saying “the devastating impact of this decision cannot be overstated.”<sup>6</sup> Then, in a sharp rebuke of the ruling, she wrote that “society’s progress toward equality cannot be permanently halted,” further adding that, “diversity is now a fundamental American value, housed in our varied and multicultural American community that only continues to grow... The pursuit of racial diversity will go on.”

In California, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide protests against the killing of George Floyd, Governor Newsom signed AB 3121, a first-of-its-kind state legislation to explore reparations. In the bill, Newsom writes, “As a nation, we can only truly thrive when every one of us has the opportunity to thrive. Our painful history of slavery has evolved into structural racism and bias built into and permeating throughout our democratic and economic institutions.”<sup>7</sup> In 2021, the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans (“Reparations Task Force”) was established and by June 29, 2023, it submitted its final report to the California Legislature.<sup>8</sup> The report informed the California Legislative Black Caucus’ proposal which includes 14 reparations bills for the descendants of enslaved African Americans.<sup>9</sup> The bills focus on policies aimed at addressing systemic racism. On May 24, 2024, by a vote of 62-0, the California Assembly approved a bill urging the State to offer a formal apology for its role in supporting slavery.<sup>10</sup> It also approved a bill to compensate Black residents for land unjustly seized through eminent domain.

In an acknowledgment of the important work done by the State’s Reparations Task Force and a desire to ensure that LA County does its part to repair the harm caused by chattel slavery, LA County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a [motion](#) on June 4, 2024 to create “a framework to provide families displaced by racist policies with ample and

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<sup>6</sup> Charlie Savage and Daniel Victor June 29, 2023. In a scorching dissent, Sotomayor says ‘the devastating impact of this decision cannot be overstated.’ New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/29/us/politics/affirmative-action-dissent-sotomayor-jackson.html>

<sup>7</sup> Governor Newsom Signs Landmark Legislation to Advance Racial Justice and California’s Fight Against Systemic Racism & Bias in Our Legal System. September 30, 2020. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/09/30/governor-newsom-signs-landmark-legislation-to-advance-racial-justice-and-californias-fight-against-systemic-racism-bias-in-our-legal-system/>

<sup>8</sup> The California Reparations Report. State of California Department of Justice. <https://oag.ca.gov/ab3121/report>

<sup>9</sup> Taryn Luna, January 31, 2024. “California lawmakers unveiled 14 reparations bills. None of them call for cash payments.” <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-01-31/california-lawmakers-unveil-more-than-a-dozen-reparations-bills>

<sup>10</sup> Wendy Fry, May 24, 2024. “California lawmakers advance apology for slavery, funding frameworks for reparations.” CalMatters. <https://calmatters.org/california-divide/2024/05/reparations-california-apology-bills/>



substantial resources to address the effects of eminent domain through reparations.”<sup>11</sup> This motion is an extension of the groundwork laid by the County over the past four years to eliminate racism in the County in all its forms. Since declaring racism as a matter of public health,<sup>12</sup> the Board of Supervisors has worked diligently to ensure that the County continues to advance racial equity on multiple measures, including homelessness,<sup>13</sup> criminal justice,<sup>14</sup> Black maternal health,<sup>15</sup> infrastructure,<sup>16</sup> and more.

Among these efforts is the creation of a Countywide effort to advance prevention and promotion. In its July 25, 2023 [motion](#), the Board acknowledged that “if our Board seeks to address the racial disproportionality laden within our systems, we need to take the bold step to imagine a transformative coordinated prevention and intervention strategy.”<sup>17</sup> One of the Board’s primary goals for advancing a coordinated prevention and promotion delivery system is “to attempt to redress the harms perpetuated by racist systems built to disadvantage communities of color” due to these communities’<sup>18</sup> disproportionate representation in the County’s homeless, child welfare, justice, and public social services systems. Once realized, this cross-cutting County initiative, combining robust prevention- and promotion-based interventions, will have a meaningful impact on the quality of life for many Angelenos’, particularly Black and other Angelenos from communities of color.

This work represents just a few of the efforts made by the County over the past four years in the face of an increasingly hostile social and political environment around the nation. It is also a testament to LA County’s unwavering commitment to advancing anti-racism and equity. As we push forward during this momentous phase, LA County remains steadfast in upholding the rights of Angelenos and expanding access to the resources and opportunities residents need to thrive.

It is within this context that we undertake this study on the state of Black people in Los Angeles County.

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<sup>11</sup> Motion by Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell “Continuing the Work of Reparations in Los Angeles County,” June 4, 2024. Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/192152.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> “Establishing an Antiracist Los Angeles County Policy Agenda,” July 21, 2020. Board Motion of Los Angeles County <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Motion-Establishing-An-Antiracist-LA-County-Policy-Agenda-7.21.20final.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH AND KATHRYN BARGER, “Proclamation of a Local Emergency for Homelessness in the County of Los Angeles, January 10, 2023. <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/176661.pdf>; REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH AND KATHRYN BARGER, “Updating the County’s Implementation of the Proclamation of a Local Emergency for Homelessness in the County of Los Angeles October 3, 2023. <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/184650.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL AND HILDA SOLIS, “Reimagining L.A. County: Shifting Budget Priorities to Revitalize Under-resourced and Low-income Communities,” July 21, 2020. <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/147400.pdf>; MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL, “Care First, Jails Last: Establishing a Justice, Care, and Opportunities Department to Promote Collaboration and Transparency in a Person-Centered Justice System,” March 1, 2022. <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/166845.pdf>;

<sup>15</sup> MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL, “Implementing Medi-Cal’s Doula Benefit in Los Angeles County,” February 7, 2023.

<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/6af4cf61-446e-48b7-b187-168b6552495d.pdf>; MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL, “Supporting the Doula Workforce’s Ability to Claim Medi-Cal Reimbursement and Provide Quality Birthing Services to At-Risk Pregnant Women,” July 11, 2023. <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/182272.pdf>; MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL, Proclaiming April 11-17, 2024 as Black Maternal Health Week and April 16, 2024, as the Day of the Black Infant in Los Angeles County,” April 9, 2024. <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/190080.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL AND JANICE HAHN, “ADDRESSING INFRASTRUCTURE INEQUITY,” August 10, 2021. <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/160816.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> “Building Los Angeles County’s Prevention Infrastructure.” Revised Motion By Supervisors Holly J. Mitchell and Lindsey P. Horvath, July 25, 2023. <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/182741.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> Largely Black and Native American



## State of Black Los Angeles County

Today, approximately 1 million Black people reside in Los Angeles County.<sup>19</sup> Since their arrival to the region in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Black Angelenos have been integral to the cultural, economic, and sociopolitical landscape of Los Angeles. Despite the many contributions made by Black Angelenos, however, many continue to experience adverse life outcomes resulting from anti-Black racism,<sup>20</sup> including disproportionate rates of homelessness, incarceration, and other outcomes that have a significant impact on overall health and well-being.<sup>21</sup>

The State of Black Los Angeles County Report is an online interactive report comprised of several in-depth sections centered on the outcomes and lived experiences of Black people in Los Angeles County. In this report, we assess how Black residents are doing on over 100 indicators, all within the domains of health, housing, income and employment, education, civic engagement, safety and justice, child and youth development, and the built environment. The report features a series of bar charts, dashboards, and interactive maps enabling users to see differences in outcomes among racial groups in the County as well as visualize the geographical areas in the county with the most challenging outcomes and highest need. The report also addresses the drivers and root causes of these outcomes as explained by the peer-reviewed literature and local experts across multiple fields. We also highlight 20 geographical areas within the county, providing insight into the history and sociopolitical context of each area, as well as historical and contemporary landmarks that hold unique cultural, historical, or political significance for Black Los Angeles County residents.

### Why is this Report Needed?

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the vast structural inequities in our nation's public health systems as well as other systems including our education, child welfare, justice, and economic systems. It also revealed how the accumulation of injustices over generations rendered Black communities particularly vulnerable to the virus.<sup>22</sup>

Early in the pandemic, for example, while stay-at-home orders were in effect, many Black workers were either furloughed or laid off from their jobs, while others in roles deemed "essential" by the federal, state, and local governments continued to work—increasing their risk of contracting the virus.<sup>23</sup> Decades of disinvestment in Black communities combined with exclusionary hiring practices and discriminatory college admissions have shaped the Black workforce as well as several other aspects of Black life in LA County,

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<sup>19</sup>American Community Survey 5-year estimate (2022)

<sup>20</sup> South Central Rooted: A blueprint to dismantle multigenerational inequity and restore community health in South (Central) LA (2020). <https://southlaisthefuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SouthCentralRootedFullReport.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> "No Going Back: Together for an Equitable and Inclusive Los Angeles" (2020) by Manuel Pastor and Gary Segura [https://secureservercdn.net/50.62.89.111/bj6.4b9.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/USC\\_ERI\\_no-going-back\\_policy\\_report.pdf](https://secureservercdn.net/50.62.89.111/bj6.4b9.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/USC_ERI_no-going-back_policy_report.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> Manuel Pastor and Gary Segura (2020). "No Going Back: Together for an Equitable and Inclusive Los Angeles." <https://dornsife.usc.edu/eri/no-going-back>

<sup>23</sup> Compared to 29% of Black workers in jobs considered both "essential" and "high risk" (i.e., working in close proximity to others), only 17% of white workers occupied the same category



leaving Black residents particularly vulnerable to the health and economic consequences of the pandemic.<sup>24</sup> Other issues, such as inequitable access to the vaccine—partly stemming from vaccine distribution processes that favored whiter, wealthier communities and residents from more affluent communities deploying their resources to get in line in areas designated higher vaccine priority because of higher infection rates<sup>25</sup>—also contributed to racial disparities in COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates. A 2021 LA Times article revealed that by February 2021, 25 percent of Beverly Hills residents had received the first dose of the vaccine compared to only 5 percent of residents in South LA and neighboring cities like Compton. The article noted that County officials attributed the disparities to “long-standing issues with healthcare access, education, and poverty, which government outreach efforts thus far have failed to overcome.”<sup>26</sup>

Similarly, Black children without the requisite access to technology or caregivers available to stay home while they attend school via distance learning were also disproportionately impacted by the pandemic—leaving them particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of the pandemic on children. These effects included “learning loss” and the trauma experienced as a result of the economic hardship faced by many families of color.<sup>27</sup> According to a study by the National Institutes of Health, nationally, Black children were more likely than white, Hispanic, and Asian children to lose a primary or secondary caregiver.<sup>28</sup> And although American Indian/Alaska Native children were most likely to lose a caregiver to the virus, compared to white children, Black children were 2.4 times more likely to lose a parent or a primary caregiver to the virus.

Even before the pandemic, Black children were least likely to be at grade level for reading on the state standardized exam, less likely to report that they had a high level of school connectedness, and less likely to report feeling highly motivated about their academics.<sup>29</sup> In the aftermath of a pandemic, such outcomes are particularly worrisome given that “children who lose a parent are at elevated risk of traumatic grief, depression, poor educational outcomes, and suicide or unintentional death.”<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> “No Going Back: Together for an Equitable and Inclusive Los Angeles” (2020) by Manuel Pastor and Gary Segura)

[https://secureservercdn.net/50.62.89.111/bj6.4b9.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/USC\\_ERI\\_no-going-back\\_policy\\_report.pdf](https://secureservercdn.net/50.62.89.111/bj6.4b9.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/USC_ERI_no-going-back_policy_report.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> The wealthy scramble for COVID-19 vaccines: ‘If I donate \$25,000 ... would that help me?’ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-12-18/wealthy-patients-scramble-covid-19-vaccine>; Young L.A. ‘vaccine chasers’ crowd unofficial standby lines in hopes of a shot (January 23, 2021) <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-01-23/standby-lines-backdoor-vaccine-access>; L.A. officials allowed dozens without

medical credentials to get COVID-19 vaccine early (January 6, 2021) by Laura J. Nelson, Maya Lau, Joel Rubin <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-01-06/how-la-covid-vaccine-line-skips-healthcare-workers>; The Wealthy Are Getting More Vaccinations, Even in Poorer Neighborhoods (Published Feb. 2, 2021, updated March 4, 2021). By Abby Goodnough and Jan Hoffman.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/02/health/white-people-covid-vaccines-minorities.html>; California clinics: More vaccines going to rich than at-risk (Updated Mar 3, 2021) by Amy Taxin and Jamie Har. <https://www.kcra.com/article/california-clinics-more-vaccines-going-to-rich-than-at-risk/35714220#>

<sup>26</sup> New Map Shows Deep Inequities in L.A.’S COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout (FEBRUARY 20, 2021) by Sandhya Kambhampati, Iris Lee, Rahul Mukherjee and Ryan Murphy. <https://www.latimes.com/projects/la-covid-vaccine-racial-disparities-by-neighborhood-map/>

<sup>27</sup> Johnson, Jr., S.L., Bishop, J.P., Howard, T.C., James, A., Rivera, E., Noguera, P.A. (2021). Beyond the Schoolhouse, Digging Deeper: COVID-19 & Reopening Schools for Black Students in Los Angeles. Center for the Transformation of Schools, School of Education & Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles. <https://transformschoools.ucla.edu/research/beyond-the-schoolhouse-digging-deeper/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/more-140000-us-children-lost-primary-or-secondary-caregiver-due-covid-19-pandemic>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.kidsdata.org/demographic/13/african-americanblack-children/summary/#60/demographics>

<sup>30</sup> Kidman R, Margolis R, Smith-Greenaway E, Verdery AM (2021). Estimates and Projections of COVID-19 and Parental Death in the US. *JAMA Pediatr.*, 175(7):745–746. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2778229?questAccessKey=43aa3546-0434-4397-b992-5e4806ea7953>

Numerous experts have examined the ways in which the pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities across a multitude of domains including housing, health, education, economic opportunity, and issues around safety and justice.<sup>31</sup> Community activists have demanded that recovery efforts address both ongoing racial disparities as well as the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on communities of color.<sup>32</sup> In the time since the first wave of Black people migrated west to escape the rural South through today, racist policies and practices have either explicitly targeted Black Angelenos or have had an unintentional, but disproportionately negative, impact on them. Even bygone practices such as redlining and restrictive covenants continue to have lasting effects on Black Angelenos' health and economic outcomes. We also see the residual effects of Proposition 13 and Proposition 209 in our local schools, universities, and businesses, while issues like racial profiling, mass incarceration, and police violence continue to leave an indelible mark on the lives of system-involved individuals, their families, and their communities.<sup>33</sup>

According to the American Health Association (AHA), "structural racism and its deleterious downstream effects on social determinants, [cardiovascular disease], and overall health and well-being require careful attention, exploration, and action."<sup>34</sup> In this moment, LA County has an opportunity to eliminate structural racism and bias in all its forms to reduce negative outcomes and promote positive outcomes for all Angelenos, including Black Angelenos. To do so effectively, the County must:<sup>35</sup>

Acknowledge the role that structural racism has and continues to play in producing inequitable outcomes, affirm its commitment to combating structural racism, introduce policies that advance racial equity, collaborate with those from the communities affected, collect and analyze data, and increase public awareness about the problem.

By examining root causes and establishing a baseline for where the community is on critical health and well-being indicators, the County of Los Angeles can begin to take the actionable steps toward improving outcomes for Black Angelenos.

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<sup>31</sup> California's Future; Health Inequities and the Spread of COVID-19 Across LA County; Pathways for Economic Resiliency: Los Angeles County 2021-2026; The Los Angeles Housing Crisis: in the Wake of the COVID-19 Global Pandemic. <https://wdacs.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Pathways-for-Economic-Resiliency-Condensed-Report-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> No Going Back: Policies for an Equitable and Inclusive Los Angeles. (September 2020) [https://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/1411/docs/USC\\_ERI\\_no-going-back\\_policy\\_report.pdf](https://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/1411/docs/USC_ERI_no-going-back_policy_report.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> RACE COUNTS: Advancing Opportunities for All Californians; South Central Rooted: A blueprint to dismantle multi-generational inequity and restore community health in south (central) LA; South Central Rooted: A blueprint to dismantle multigenerational inequity and restore community health in South (Central) LA (2020). <https://southlaisthefuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SouthCentralRootedFullReport.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> Call to Action: Structural Racism as a Fundamental Driver of Health Disparities, p. 456

<sup>35</sup> CEOARE Racial Equity Implementation Framework <https://ceoactionracialequity.com/insights/ceoare-racial-equity-implementation-framework/>



## Section II

### Digital Storytelling

Alongside this written report, we use a web-based application called ArcGIS StoryMaps to enhance readers' experience. The online version of this report allows users to explore narrative text alongside 3D maps, data dashboards, images, QR codes for further reading, and other media content. This multifaceted tool allows stakeholders—including residents, community advocates, service providers, County staff, policymakers, and researchers—to visualize the data as well as target the geographical areas where Black Angelenos reside and/or have the highest needs.

Our “Report Highlights and Key Findings” chapter provides an overview of the report's findings, including a data dashboard for every domain. At the bottom of each dashboard, there are a series of tabs for users to choose from to view the bar charts for each indicator within the domain. Each bar chart shows the data for each indicator broken down by race. Since Black outcomes are the focus of this report, Black outcomes at the countywide level are all represented by different colors while overall outcomes and outcomes for other racial/ethnic groups in the county are denoted by grey bars. This dashboard also features a heat map that enables users to differentiate the areas in the county with the highest need from those with the lowest need. Users can also enter their own address or zip code in the finder and see their neighborhood's outcomes on each measure available.

### New Features

Aside from our new 3D maps, another new report feature includes an inventory of available County services by domain and location. Upon choosing a domain—i.e., physical health, education, safety and justice, etc.— users will see a list of all the related County services available across the County's 38 departments. Residents can also use the finder to locate the County offices closest to them.



## How to Navigate the Report

In this second iteration of the report, we take a more person-centered approach to the study of how Black people are faring in LA County, starting with the premise that all people—including Black people—need and are deserving of dignity, belonging, and a satisfying quality of life. We also examine how Black people in LA County are faring at different life stages and within the larger social, political, and historical context of a racially discriminatory society in which policies, programs, social structures, and institutions are shaped by anti-Black racism. Hence, our primary research question for this report is:

- 1. What factors or experiences reduce or negatively impact Black people’s quality of life, dignity, and sense of belonging in Los Angeles County across the life course?**

Second, in an effort to inform residents about existing County services and provide tools for residents and other stakeholders unaware about the work the County is already doing to address many of the challenges we identify in this report, our secondary research question is:

- 2. Which existing County programs and services address these challenges?**

Taking what we learned from experts, community leaders, community members, County department staff, local advocates, and providers, we have expanded the report’s domains to include three new domains alongside the six original report domains. In the following order, we cover the below nine domains in the report:

- **Physical Health**
- **Mental and Behavioral Health**
- **Income and Economic Opportunity**
- **Housing and Homelessness**
- **Black Child and Youth Development – \*new\***
- **Education**
- **Built Environment – \*new\***
- **Safety and Justice**
- **Civic Engagement – \*new\***

In Chapter 2: Research Methodology and Chapter 3: Key Findings, we outline the process we undertook to conduct this study and provide a summary of our findings. Next, after examining the importance of dignity and belonging to health and well-being (Chapter 4: Dignity, Belonging, and County Services), we begin with the body (Chapter 5: Physical Health), heeding Ta-Nehisi Coates’ refrain that “racism is a visceral experience...[that] dislodges brains, blocks airways, rips muscle, extracts organs, cracks bones, [and] breaks

teeth...You must always remember that the sociology, the history, the economics, the graphs, the charts, the regressions all land, with great violence, upon the body."<sup>36</sup>

Throughout the report, we combine census, survey, interview, focus group, listening session, and geospatial data, including over 100 metrics and dozens of drivers and root causes, to assess how Black people are faring in the county. We then conclude our study with an analysis of Black Angelenos' political participation and community practices (Chapter 13: Civic Engagement), capturing Kayla Reed's sentiment that "We don't [protest and advocate for our communities] because we hate the police. We [protest and advocate for our communities] because we love each other."<sup>37</sup> In our concluding chapter (Chapter 15: Conclusion), we summarize the report, with particular attention to how Black people's outcomes and lived experiences have shaped their sense of belonging in LA County.

This year, we also incorporate the input, insights, and lived experiences of a diverse group of Black people who live and serve in the County, including people who are men, women, non-binary or gender non-conforming, straight, queer, middle-aged adults, older adults, young adults, youth, subject matter experts, community advocates, college students, elected officials, working professionals, retirees, and more. These individuals participated in one-on-one interviews, focus groups, and youth listening sessions held between 2023 and 2024. We also include survey responses from the 2024 Annual Angeleno Opinion Poll, which included questions on belonging, which issues concerned survey respondents the most, and their stance on recent local and national events.

## Research Framework, Data Collection, and Analysis

The ARDI research team, comprised of the County's Director of Racial Equity, a Principal Analyst, and a Senior Data Analyst/Racial Equity Research Consultant, directed the project. The Senior Data Analyst/Racial Equity Research Consultant served as the lead researcher for the project. ARDI was responsible for formulating the research questions and framework, designing the research study, managing the project, analyzing data, and drafting the report. To complete this study, ARDI partnered with two research teams—Loyola Marymount University (LMU) and LA County's Internal Services Department:

- Dr. Chaya Crowder, professor of Political Science and International Relations at Loyola Marymount University, led a research team that included researchers from LMU's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles (StudyLA). The research team included research assistant, Rishan Ephrem; data analyst, Tolulope Babalola; managing director for StudyLA, Brianne Gilbert; student researchers from StudyLA; and director of StudyLA, Dr. Fernando Guerra. This team was responsible for administering the 2024 Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for

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<sup>36</sup> Coates, T. N. (2015) *Between the world and me*. Spiegel & Grau.

<sup>37</sup> Kayla Reed, Executive Director of Action St. Louis in Folayan, S., & Davis, D. (2017). *Whose Streets*. Documentary, nd Sundance Film Festival, 10.

the Study of Los Angeles Angeleno Poll (Angeleno Poll), conducting a landscape analysis, collecting and analyzing qualitative data, consulting with the Academic Research Consortium, performing an inventory of the County's programs and services, and assisting with the drafting of the report.

- Los Angeles County's Internal Services Department and Enterprise GIS (eGIS) team consisted of GIS Specialist, Rob Graham; Principal GIS Analyst, Shannon Julius; and Senior GIS Analyst, Victor Diaz. This team collected, analyzed, and mapped the quantitative data for the project. They also received support from ESRI specialist, Evan Olivier.

To help guide this work, a multi-disciplinary body of experts with deep knowledge about diverse topics, as well as trends around Black Angelenos' group-level outcomes and lived experiences was assembled. This body, known as the Academic Research Consortium (ARC), consisted of scholars from several academic disciplines including health and human sciences, education, political science, law, and African American studies. In assembling this body, LMU performed a comprehensive landscape analysis of scholars in various fields, including scholars from 21 community colleges, 20 private universities, five California State University (CSU) campuses, and one University of California (UC) campus. LMU consulted with the ARC bimonthly to obtain their expertise on a host of topics. The overarching purpose of the ARC is to serve a standing body of experts to advise ARDI on multiple issues impacting minoritized communities in Los Angeles County.

## Research Questions and Framework

For this report, we sought to answer the following research questions:

1. What factors or experiences reduce or negatively impact Black people’s quality of life, dignity, and sense of belonging in Los Angeles County across the life course?
2. Which existing County programs and services address these challenges?

To guide this study, including our review of the literature, data collection, and analysis processes, we combined multiple theories and approaches including: (1) Quality of Life Framework (QoL); (2) Life Course approach; and (3) systemic racism theories, which we explain in the full print and digital report. In addition, we adopted a mixed methods approach to ensure the rigor of our study. Experts Regnault et al.<sup>38</sup> describe mixed methods research as “research in which the investigator collects and analyzes data, integrates the findings, and draws inferences using both qualitative and quantitative approaches or methods in a single study or program of inquiry.”<sup>39</sup> This assures that the study results/findings are considered from the perspective of actual people so that the research is focused on their needs and priorities. As a result, we integrated data from multiple data sources, including quantitative, qualitative, and geospatial data.

## Report Domains and Indicators

The July 2020 Board [motion](#) directing the County’s CEO to publish an annual report on the state of Black Los Angeles County outlined several focus areas to be examined.<sup>40</sup> Based on these focus areas, the research team for the first year’s report conducted an in-depth literature review and spoke with 12 local experts, including scholars and practitioners across multiple disciplines, to create a final list of 36 indicators. In their gap analysis of focus areas that should be covered in future reports, the research team identified two additional domains—civic engagement and the built environment. In our community listening sessions, community members elevated the importance of examining Black child and youth outcomes. As a result, we expanded the report to cover three new domains, including (1) child and youth development, (2) civic engagement, and (3) the built environment.

In order to identify new indicators for each of the new and existing domains, the LMU team performed an in-depth landscape analysis of issues affecting Black people as well as health and well-being outcomes with significant racial disparities. LMU also relied on the expertise of the ARC and used the qualitative data collected from the interviews and focus groups to identify which data indicators to include and to validate those data indicators

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<sup>38</sup> Regnault, A., Willgoss, T., Barbic, S. et al. Towards the use of mixed methods inquiry as best practice in health outcomes research. *J Patient Rep Outcomes* 2, 19 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41687-018-0043-8>

<sup>39</sup> Regnault, et al., p. 2

<sup>40</sup> Establishing an Antiracist Los Angeles County Policy Agenda. <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Motion-Establishing-An-Antiracist-LA-County-Policy-Agenda-7.21.20final.pdf>

identified via literature reviews. ARDI assisted in this effort by contacting County staff from different departments to provide input on proposed indicators and identify viable data sources. Ultimately, we added over 90 new data indicators to the report.

### **Additional Inputs and Analyses**

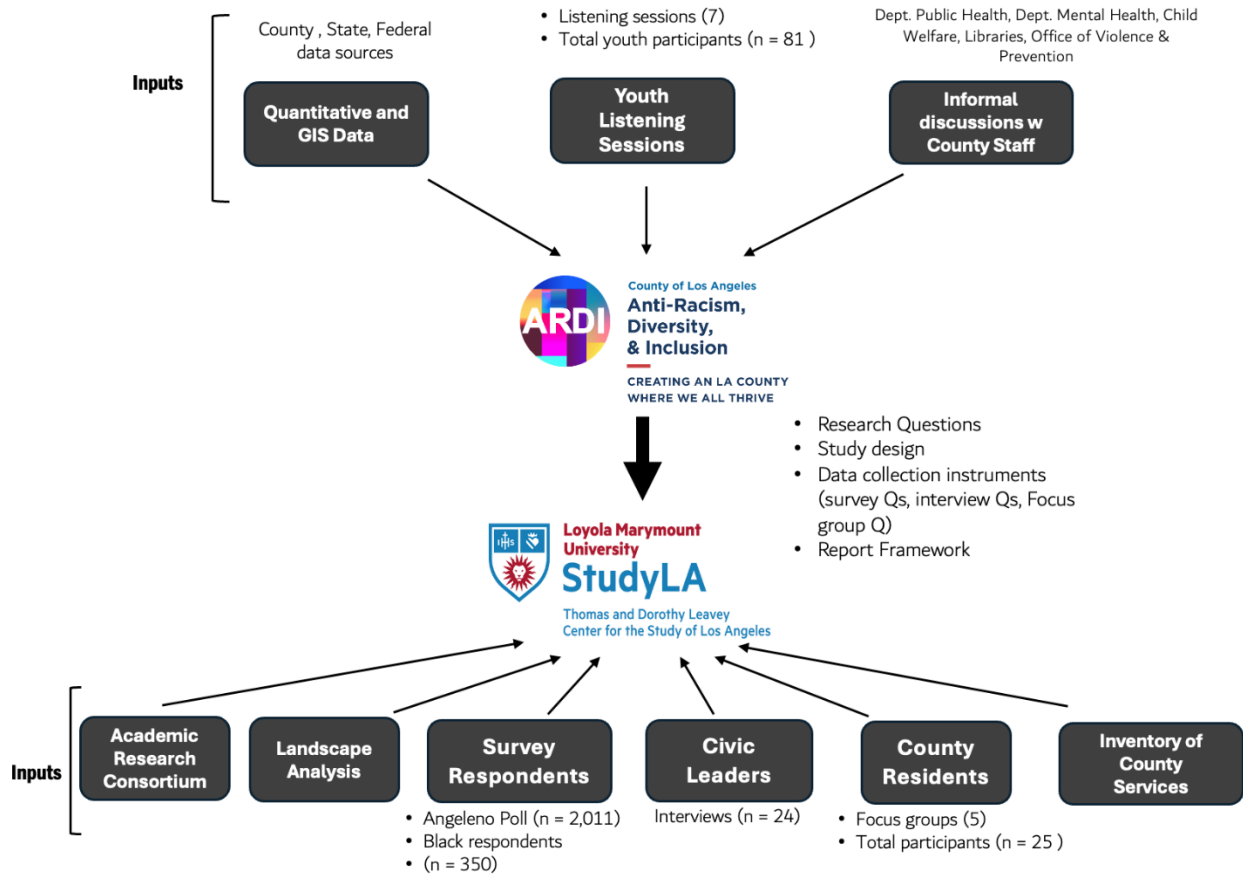
Additional inputs and analyses included the trends analysis and an inventory of the County's programs and services, both of which were performed by LMU. The trends analysis involved calculating differences between each domain's outcomes from the Year 1 and Year 2 report. This process was done in order to first identify, then quantify any changes over time. For the inventory of County programs and services, researchers from StudyLA conducted a comprehensive analysis of each of the County's 38 departments and their websites. Relevant data from department websites, such as program descriptions, physical locations, contact information, and the population served, were collected to identify which County programs and services addressed the reports' domains and/or indicators.

### **Report Framework and Development**

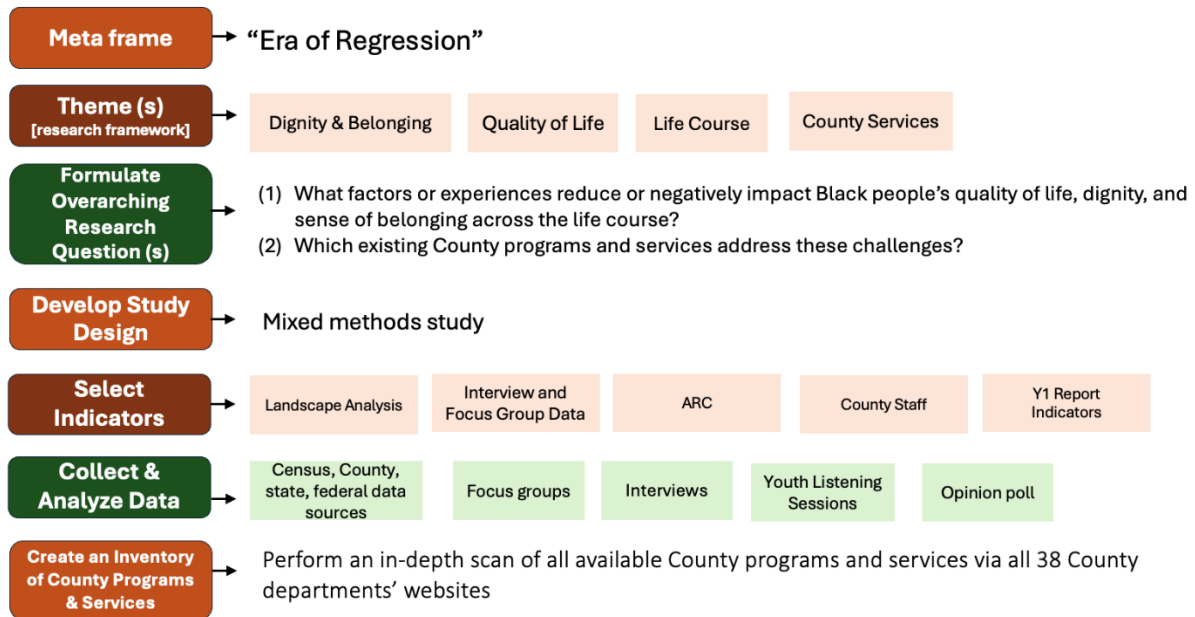
After designing the research framework for the report, ARDI outlined the full report framework, including chapters for each domain, as well as an overarching narrative through which we framed the data on how Black people in LA County are faring. To contextualize the data, ARDI and LMU examined the key drivers and root causes for each outcome and included them in each chapter. We then summarized the report's highlights and key findings, including bright spots gleaned from the data. Each chapter includes bar charts, maps, diagrams, and, in few instances, tables to allow readers to visualize the data and facilitate readers' understanding of the data and concepts presented in the report. In addition to a written report, we used an ArcGIS application called StoryMaps to provide those interested in reading the online report with an immersive experience.

The diagrams provided in Figure 1 and Figure 2 below illustrate the inputs and process used to develop this report.

**Figure 1: Report Inputs**



**Figure 2: Research Process**



## Robust Community Engagement

To ensure the report reflected the voice and lived experiences of local Angelenos, ARDI built upon what we learned in preparation for the inaugural report, as well as what we learned during our community engagement process after we released the first report. This year, we worked alongside LMU researcher and professor Dr. Chaya Crowder (lead researcher) and team to collect new data via a variety of sources, including a countywide survey (i.e., 2024 Angeleno Poll) as well as focus groups, interviews, and youth listening sessions held throughout the county.

Survey data was collected through LMU StudyLA's 2024 Angeleno Poll. This annual opinion poll is the largest general social survey of any metropolitan area in urban America. The survey provides an important overview of respondents' quality-of-life perceptions, economic concerns, overall life satisfaction, and opinions on various regional civic issues. Since 2014, StudyLA has reached more than 22,000 residents through the survey, resulting in hundreds of thousands of hours of meaningful conversations about the future of the region. Using random sampling, survey participants were recruited to complete the survey. 2,011 adults living in Los Angeles County answered questions on various topics, including policing, housing, climate change, and more to gauge what people in Los Angeles County think about these issues facing the County and society at large. Of the total number of survey respondents (n = 2,011), there were approximately 350 Black/African American respondents.

Over the course of this study, we also spoke with a total of 130 people through one-on-one interviews, focus groups, and youth listening sessions. Between 2023 and 2024, LMU conducted one-on-one interviews and focus groups with a total of 24 individuals, including elected officials, community organizers, non-profit leads, city employees, educational administrators, and a faith leader. Each of these individuals advocates for and/or works closely with the Black community in LA County. These individuals were selected from a pool of local civic leaders and stakeholders identified through purposive sampling.

LMU then conducted five focus groups, either virtually or in person, with a total of 25 County residents. Each participant was over the age of 18 and resided in various areas of the County. These participants ranged in age, gender, socioeconomic background, and profession, including the following (both active and retired): social worker, educator, systems analyst, HR professional, banker, custodian, entertainment professional, postal worker, real estate property manager, college student, and self-employed. Participants were recruited using flyers placed around the County and social media platforms, such as Facebook and Instagram, and those who met the criteria coordinated with LMU's research team to attend the focus group sessions. Interviews and focus groups discussed topics related to belonging, civic engagement, issues impacting Black people in the County, and the role County services play in improving residents' outcomes.

This report also includes the unique perspectives of Black youth living in the County. To accomplish this, ARDI partnered with a community-based outreach firm, JADE Strategies, to host listening sessions for youth around the County, including South LA, Long Beach, Pomona, Antelope Valley, and the San Fernando Valley. In early 2024, JADE Strategies spoke with a total of 81 youth between the ages of 11 and 22. They discussed the following topics: youth's sense of belonging in LA County, adults and peers who serve as supports for them, local programs and services that address their needs, important issues facing Black youth in LA County, and reasons for joy or optimism for their future and the futures of all Black youth in LA County.

Data collected through these qualitative methods enabled us to develop a deeper understanding of the unique challenges facing Black Angelenos in the County. Data were analyzed and coded by theme and then examined alongside the quantitative and geospatial data to paint a more complete picture of Black Los Angeles County.





## Section III

### Highlights and Key Takeaways

In Chapter 3 of the report, we summarize the report’s findings, highlight new domains, and discuss trends, specifically changes that may have occurred between the inaugural report and the current one. In our inaugural report, our key takeaway from our study on how Black people in LA County are faring on multiple measures was:

**“Black Angelenos are less likely than other racial groups to enjoy good health, housing security, access to economic opportunities, quality education, and freedom from punishment and overpoliced communities.”**

As we shared in the introduction of this report, in this iteration of the study, we provide a more comprehensive analysis of Black people’s outcomes in Los Angeles County. In addition to expanding the report’s domains, we also added over 90 new data indicators. An important departure from our previous report is our examination of Black Angelenos’ outcomes against a backdrop of an increasingly polarized social and political environment in which laws, policies, and programs designed to protect the rights of marginalized people and/or increase their access to opportunities have been weakened or eliminated entirely. We argue that these changes negatively impact their quality of life, dignity, and sense of belonging.

Another aspect of our approach to this year’s report is the examination of Black Angelenos’ outcomes across the life course, i.e., at different life stages. In this respect, we pay more time and attention to the outcomes of Black children and youth in the county (including young adults) and older adults. We also apply an intersectional lens to domains and/or outcomes where there is available data, disaggregating data by gender, sexuality/gender identity, income, and education level. By elevating the unique outcomes of Black women, low-income Black people, Black people who are disabled, or Black people

who are part of the LGBTQ+ community, we create an easier pathway to the development of targeted program and policy solutions to the challenges raised in this report.

Broadly, we find that when compared to other racial groups in the County, Black people in Los Angeles County continue to experience some of the most adverse outcomes on indicators across multiple domains. However, by expanding the scope of the quality of life measures we examine, we uncover areas in which Black Angelenos have promising outcomes on certain indicators, particularly on indicators that are typically difficult to measure. More importantly, we conclude that even in the face of adverse outcomes, Black Angelenos remain resilient, engaged, deeply invested in their communities, and, to some extent, optimistic about the possibilities in front of them. However, as we point out in the report, these efforts are not a substitute for government action. The County of Los Angeles must remain committed to implementing policies and programs that uphold all residents' dignity, foster belonging, and ensure all residents are given the opportunity to have a good quality of life.

## New Indicators

### Child and Youth Development

For children and youth in the county, our study showed that compared to other young people in the county, Black children and youth's overall health status was on par with that of their white and Asian counterparts. For more than 80.4% of Black children and youth, parents/caregivers reported that their child's overall health was either "excellent or very good." This is above the County average of 74.4% and roughly on par with white (80.3%) and Asian (80.1%) children and youth whose overall health status is "excellent or very good." Regarding access to health care, 97% of Black youth had health insurance coverage, and 91.3% were reported to have a usual source of care, once again, roughly on par with their white and Asian counterparts' outcomes on these indicators (97% and 92%, respectively). As we reported in our inaugural report, the expansion of health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) had a positive impact on populations that historically lacked adequate access to health care due to lack of health insurance.

### Built Environment

A higher percentage of Black (5%) and Hispanic (6.3%) residents reside in the 11 unincorporated County-designated "Green Zones." These rates are higher than the percentage of white (2.4%) and Asian residents (1.1%) who reside in these areas. Also, although Black Angelenos were less likely than their counterparts to live in communities with adequate shade, they were less likely than other racial/ethnic groups to report that they had experienced an extreme weather event in the past two years, or that they had an adverse physical health impact due to extreme weather event within the past two years. Black households are more likely than every other group (other than American Indian

Pacific Islander residents) to lack a vehicle (16.2% compared to 7.9% for white residents). Fortunately, our charts show that Black residents (67.8%) were more likely than any other group to live in a High-Quality Transit Area (HQTA) since Black Angelenos were more likely than any other group to take public transportation to work. On the topic of “walkability,” data show that outcomes on these indicators are fairly on par for more racial/ethnic groups in the county.

## Civic Engagement

This year, we found some of the most significant bright spots in the Civic Engagement domain. Compared to indicators in other domains, civic engagement activities are often difficult to measure. Nonetheless, we find that despite their negative experiences with the justice, economic, and educational systems, Black people in LA County do not allow these experiences to undermine their political participation. Data show that while Black people comprised a little over 9% of the overall County population, they represented 11.1% of registered voters in the County. And although Black residents had lower voter turnout rates in 2020 than their peers (68.9%), policies put in place during the pandemic—namely vote-by-mail—have expanded how Black people engage in our political system. With respect to the impact of arts and culture on Angelenos’ quality of life and sense of belonging, more Black than white or Asian poll respondents (2021 Angeleno poll) reported that facilities such as community art centers, museums, theaters, and concert halls were important to quality of life (58.8%) and sense of belonging (46.2%). Data from the LA County Department of Arts and Culture showed that the County makes the highest number and highest amount of investments (from medium to high) in arts and culture in communities where Black Angelenos reside.

## Other Highlights

Data from the 2024 Angeleno Poll showed that Black residents were more likely than any other group to report they “strongly agree” with the statement “I belong in my community.” Although our analysis of the qualitative data we collected for this study was mixed in that while some participants shared, they do not feel a sense of belonging in Los Angeles, others asserted that they feel a sense of belonging. Many, however, acknowledged the complexity of belonging and pointed to the importance of both quality of life and group familiarity to belonging. During our listening sessions with the County’s Black youth, while some mentioned feelings of isolation or lack of belonging in school, many said that they feel a sense of belonging in their communities and expressed pride in being Black.

## Preview of Report Findings

### Physical Health

- Compared to all other racial groups in the county, Black Angelenos have the lowest life expectancy (73.6 years), which is nearly six years less than the county average and about 12.5 years less than Asian residents who have the highest life expectancy.
- Black women and other birthing people in the county experience the highest rates of maternal morbidity (182.6 per 10,000 live births) and mortality (44.8 per 100,000 live births), more than twice the white rate of maternal morbidity and nearly four times the rate of white maternal mortality.
- Black infants have the highest infant mortality rate in the County (eight per 1,000), 3.5 times white and Asian rates of infant mortality.
- Overall, 10.6% of all county residents have a disability compared to 16% of Black residents in the county. Disaggregating disability rates by age shows that disability rates increase as individuals age.
- Despite Black Angelenos' increased susceptibility to COVID-19, their COVID-19 vaccination rates (59.9%) remain stubbornly low compared to other groups.



### Mental and Behavioral Health

- Black mothers and other birthing people are more likely than any other racial/ethnic group to suffer from prenatal (21.2%) and post-partum depression (15%).
- Overall, 22.1% of County residents reported binge drinking, while 17.6% of Black, 21% of white, and 25.4% of Hispanic residents reported binge drinking. On opioid emergencies and death, Black residents had the second highest rate of emergencies (i.e., ED visits) (45.8 per 100,000) and second highest rate of opioid deaths (38.1 per 100,000).
- Black residents (60.9%) were more likely than their white (28.7%) and Asian (11.4%) counterparts to reside in census tracts with a shortage of mental and behavioral health practitioners.
- Among the more than 230,000 people who received mental and behavioral services from the County in the past year (April 2023 – April 2024), Black participants made up 16.8% of clients, suggesting that the County plays an important role in the provision of mental and behavioral health services for Black residents.

## Income and Employment

- Among county residents, Black Angelenos, on average, have the lowest median household income and highest poverty rate in the county. Black median household income (\$59,034) is well below the overall county median household income of \$83,411, white median household income of \$105,286, and Asian median household income of \$97,209. The county's poverty rate for Black residents is 36.2%, compared to 31.6% overall, 24.3% for Asian, and 20.4% for white residents.
- Black Angelenos are employed in a variety of industries. The top three for Black people in LA County included Management, Business, Science, and Arts Occupations (43%), Sales and Office Occupations (23%), and Service Occupations (20%). A larger percentage of white (62%) and Asian residents (56%) are concentrated in Management, Business, Science, and Arts Occupations industries, which have higher earnings.
- In the county, compared to their non-Black counterparts, Black residents tend to be overrepresented in public sector employment. The County of Los Angeles is the largest employer in the region. Among the County's approximately 100,000 employees, Black Angelenos represent 16.9%, almost twice their population in the County's overall population. While Black men make up 13.1% of the County's male staff, Black women make up 21.2% of the County's female staff.



## Housing and Homelessness

- In LA County, 39.1% of Black Angelenos reside in census tracts of concentrated disadvantage. This is well above the county's overall rate of people who reside in these tracts (25.1%), the rate of white residents who reside in these tracts (18.4%), and the rate of Asian residents who reside in these tracts (11%).
- From 2022 to 2023, LA County reported an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness. In 2023, 32% of all people in the county experiencing homelessness were Black, and Black people had a homelessness rate of 329.3 per 10,000 residents, which was four times the county's overall homelessness rate.
- Within the population of people experiencing homelessness, older Black Angelenos represented the group with the highest percentage (37%) of people experiencing homelessness among the county's older adults, although they comprise only 8.4% of the county's overall older adult population.

## Black Child and Youth Development

- The Strong Start Index is a summary of the positive maternal and child assets present at birth (i.e., a score from 0-12). In LA County, the average newborn had a Strong Start score of 9.3, and 63.4% lived in a census where newborns had a score of 9 or more. Black newborns (47%) had one of the lowest percentages of babies born in a census tract where newborns had a score of nine or more positive maternal and child assets (compared to 80.8% of Asian and 73.1% of white newborns).
- Black children and youth were more likely than any other racial/ethnic group to live with a single parent (64.3%), experience poverty (27.1%), and experience homelessness (28% of children and youth in the county experiencing homelessness are Black, though Black children and youth make up roughly 7% of the County's overall population).
- Black children and youth had the second highest rate of suicide deaths in the County (six per 100,000) behind Asian children and youth (7.3 per 100,000), as well as the highest rates of treatment for suicide attempts served in hospitals or emergency departments.



## Education

- Black students also have the second lowest rate of completing college preparatory courses in school (51.2% compared to 82.7% for Asian students) and second lowest college-going rate (57.1% compared to 86.4% for Asian students).
- About 1/3 of Black students reported having a high degree of caring relationships with adults at school, and a little more than one in ten Black students reported a high degree of meaningful participation at school. Also, the percentage of Black teachers in the county's teaching workforce is 8.2%, slightly above the percentage of Black children in the county (7%). However, white students in the county had the highest ratio of teachers-to-students of the same race (178.1 white teachers per 1,000 white students, compared to 66.3 Black teachers per 1,000 Black students).
- Black students also have one of the highest rates of students enrolled in special education (13.7% compared to 10.5% for white and 5.8% for Asian students).

## Built Environment

- In LA County Black Angelenos are among the residents with the lowest population of people residing in opportunity-rich areas (28.8% compared to 62.8% of Asian and 56.9% of white residents who reside in these tracts). Black residents (7%) are also more likely to live in areas known as “high-poverty and segregated” high segregation areas—more than three times Asian (2.4%) and 2.5 times white (3.2%) white residents.
- On transportation, our charts show that Black residents (67.8%) were more likely than any other group to live in a High-Quality Transit Area (HQT) than white (56.2%) and Asian residents (52.2%).
- Black residents are slightly less likely than every other racial/ethnic group to have a travel time to work under 45 minutes.
- Overall, 2% of traffic incidents in the county end in death or severe injury. Black residents have the highest rate of traffic deaths and severe injuries (1.9% compared to 0.7% for white residents).
- On the topic of “walkability,” data show that outcomes on these indicators are fairly on par for most racial/ethnic groups in the county. However, residents who are white (80%) and Pacific Islander (79.8%) were less likely than Black residents (84.1%) to live in above-average walkable areas.

## Safety & Justice

- Black residents are more likely, on average, than their non-Black counterparts to reside in areas with higher rates of violence, including homicide and assaults. Data show that the overall rate of homicides in the county is 6.4 per 100,000. For Black residents, however, the rate is 25 per 100,000 residents. This is compared to 6.9 per 100,000 homicides for Hispanics, 2.5 per 100,000 for whites, and 1.3 per 100,000 for Asian residents.
- With respect to interpersonal relationships, namely intimate partner violence (IPV), Black Angelenos (27.1%) were also more likely than their non-Black counterparts to report ever experiencing physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner. Among women who reported experiencing IPV, 30.3% were Black women, and among men, 22.9% were Black men – the highest rates for each gender.
- Between the last time the County administered the health survey (2018) and the most recent iteration (2023), Black residents’ perception of neighborhood safety decreased from 82.9% to 70.1%, the largest decrease (-12.8%) compared to that of Asian (-7.4%), white (-7.5%), and Hispanic residents’ (-12.3%) decrease on this measure.
- An analysis by UCLA’s Million Dollar Hoods project shows that the annual cost of incarcerating Black residents in the County jail (\$290.9 million) far exceeds the cost of incarcerating Hispanic (\$96.5 million), white (\$59.3 million), and Asian residents (\$0.1 million) in the County.



## Civic Engagement

- Despite being slightly overrepresented among people registered to vote (11%), Black Angelenos who are registered to vote have the lowest voter turnout rate compared to all other racial groups in the County. More than one in four Black Angelenos reside in a civic desert in the county (i.e., areas with low voter turnout).
- On political ideology, data show that 37.7% of all 2024 Angeleno Poll respondents identified as Liberal, 42.5% as Moderate, and 19.8% as Conservative. While white respondents had the highest percentage of Liberals (43.4%), Black respondents had the second highest percentage of Liberals (38.1%). Angeleno Poll data show that over the past three years (2022-2024), more and more Black respondents are identifying as Moderate (from 36.7% to 46.5%), and fewer are identifying as Liberal (from 51.9% to 38.1%).
- On arts and culture, data show that Black Angelenos are more likely than their non-Black counterparts to reside in areas where the County makes the most investments (medium to high) in arts and culture. When it comes to areas where the County made the highest dollar amount of arts and culture investments, Black residents are more likely than every other racial group to reside in these areas, except for American Indian Alaska Native residents.
- Black respondents to the 2024 Angeleno Poll (44.1%) were more likely than white (42.7%) and Asian respondents (32.4%) to report they strongly agree that they feel they belong in Los Angeles. Hispanic respondents had the highest percentage of people who reported they strongly agree that they belong in Los Angeles (46.3%).





# Recommendations and Next Steps

Key findings from the State of Black Los Angeles County report indicate several opportunities where intervention is needed to improve the lives of Black Angelenos and close existing gaps in life outcomes. To identify community-driven solutions, ARDI and its partners asked stakeholders what the County can do to support Black communities and how to address adverse outcomes experienced by Black Angelenos across multiple domains. Below is an overview of community engagement activities held, the feedback collected, and how the County will address the proposed recommendations.

## Year 2 Report Recommendations

Following the development of the 2023-2025 Report, LMU submitted 18 policy concepts drawn from feedback received during civic and community leader interviews, focus groups, and quantitative data analyses, as well as feedback and suggestions from the Academic Research Consortium. These concepts included:

### Civic Engagement

- Increase voter outreach in civic deserts to increase voter engagement

### Education

- Improve digital literacy
- Invest in after-school youth and educational programs

### Employment

- Ensure non-discriminatory hiring policies
- Provide job training programs (high school)

### Health

- Provide mobile health services
- Provide trauma informed care
- Address systemic racism and systemic determinants of health in medical residency programs

### Housing

- Support access to capital to purchase real estate (commercial or residential)
- Enact rent control policies
- Increase access to rent stabilized units in new construction

### Income

- Expand guaranteed basic income program

## Safety and Justice

- Decrease law enforcement surveillance in Black communities

## County Practices

- Increase support for nonprofits and community organizations
- Increase transparency with accessing county contracts
- Increase accountability structures for incidents of discriminatory practices
- Create a reparations program

These concepts were consistent with the feedback collected during community engagement activities following the 2022-2023 Report launch and the three policy table recommendations. They also aligned with several existing and newly formed Board priorities and County departments that aim to accelerate progress in the areas of [youth development](#), [economic opportunities](#) and [poverty alleviation](#), [housing and homelessness](#), [justice](#), and [racial equity](#). Second, the [2024-2030 County Strategic Plan](#) adopted by the Board on March 6, 2024, and the [Los Angeles County Racial Equity Strategic Plan](#) adopted by the Board on July 11, 2023, broadly address many of the recommended actions and resources through the plans' goals and corresponding strategic initiatives.

Given the synergy between the community input and current County priorities, initiatives, and strategic plans, the recommendations for the 2023-2025 Report are:

### 1) Adopt a Countywide Approach to Targeted Universalism

Tailor outreach efforts and service delivery practices to the specific cultural contexts, beliefs, values, practices, and needs of various communities.

### 2) Repair Harm and Expand Access

Create accountability for past and present harms inflicted on Black communities and address the harms perpetuated by unfair policies and practices.

### 3) Provide Mobile Services

Provide mobile health, counseling, educational, and career services to increase access to communities with difficulty traveling due to disability, health and safety concerns, or lack of transportation.

## Next Steps

ARDI will collaborate with County departments to integrate and implement recommendations through existing County efforts. This will also require strengthening workforce capacity to provide culturally appropriate, trauma-informed, and healing centered approaches to service delivery and increasing communication, outreach, and promotion efforts to increase awareness of County resources. To maintain accountability, ARDI will also track investments, assess impact on desired outcomes, and publicly report on progress.

## Conclusion

Though our inaugural report served as a comprehensive, baseline report on how Black people are faring in LA County, this year's report provides a more panoramic view of the Black community, including areas of well-being that are more difficult to measure. Also, by contextualizing these outcomes within the broader social, political, and cultural environment, we are better able to convey the importance and magnitude of racial disparities in the County and identify the appropriate institutional levers and policy solutions needed. We hope that this report will not only better inform residents and other stakeholders about Black people's lived experiences in Los Angeles County, we hope that it encourages Angelenos from various sectors—private, non-profit, philanthropy, city government, etc.—to partner with the County and help eliminate these disparities, as well as enable us to better align County services with the most vulnerable residents' health, economic, and social needs.

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# About ARDI



County of Los Angeles

**Anti-Racism,  
Diversity,  
& Inclusion**

CREATING AN LA COUNTY  
WHERE WE ALL THRIVE

## The LA County Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative

On July 21, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a motion to establish an Anti-Racist Los Angeles County Policy Agenda to address “generational inequality and systemic anti-Black racism.” This is the Board’s 8th Directed Priority.

Recognizing that racism is “a matter of public health in Los Angeles County,” and that racism against Black people and communities of color has resulted in large disparities in family stability, health and wellbeing, education, employment, economic development, public safety, criminal justice, and housing, the Board directed the County Chief Executive Officer to establish the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative, which is now led by Dr. D’Artagnan Scorza as Executive Director of Racial Equity.

### Our Initiative Functions

- Training and Capacity Building
- Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting
- Technical Assistance and Planning
- Policy Analysis and Development
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement
- Equity-Infused Programming and Resourcing

### Current Board-Directed ARDI Areas of Focus

- Child and Family Welfare
- Equitable Resource Investment
- Health
- Justice
- Policy
- Sustainability
- Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation
- Workforce Culture and Climate

To learn more, visit our website at <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/ardi/> or email us at [ardi@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:ardi@ceo.lacounty.gov).

