



STATE OF BLACK LOS ANGELES REPORT 2023-2025

2025 Update: Trends Analysis



SCAN TO VIEW
INTERACTIVE
REPORT:



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

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

In partnership with
Loyola Marymount University



**Loyola Marymount
University**
StudyLA

Thomas and Dorothy Leavey
Center for the Study of Los Angeles



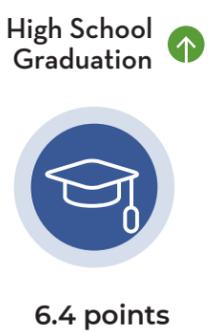
Introduction

This 2025 Trends Analysis update builds upon the *State of Black Los Angeles County Report* to track changes across critical domains affecting the quality of life for Black residents. By comparing year-over-year indicators, this analysis shows where conditions have improved, where disparities persist, and where urgent policy attention is needed.

These topline numbers reveal a mixed picture — one where progress is tempered by deepening inequities. To understand the story behind the numbers, we look across core domains of life for Black Angelenos.

Highlights

Key indicators shaping the lives of Black Angelenos:



Health



Health outcomes provide one of the clearest indicators of racial disparities. They show how systemic inequities in healthcare access, environmental conditions, and social determinants shape life chances. For example:

74.8 → 73.2 Black life expectancy decreased by 1.6 years
11.6% → 17.2% Black residents without a usual source of care increased

Life expectancy reflects broad inequities across healthcare, opportunity, and justice. It also signals structural disparities and reveal urgent challenges. While progress has been made in expanding healthcare access overall, disparities persist, leaving Black Angelenos with shorter lifespans and less consistent care.

Between Year 1 and Year 2 of the report, life expectancy in the County overall decreased by one year from 2020 to 2021. For Black residents, it fell by about 1.6 years over the same time frame—more than the decrease for White and Asian populations, both of which saw declines of around 0.8 years. For Hispanic and American Indian / Alaska Native (AIAN) residents, life expectancy declined by approximately 2.1 and 3.6 years, respectively.

The reduction in life expectancy across the County is partly attributable to excess deaths due to COVID-19. Another contributing factor is opioid overdoses, which have been rising nationally since 1999. In LA County, Black people experience the second-highest opioid death rate in the County (38.1 per 100,000) and the second-highest suicide rate (8.2 per 100,000). Relatedly, between Year 1 and Year 2 of the report, we observed an increase in the percentage of Black residents without a usual source of care, from 11.6% in 2020 to 17.2% in 2022. “Usual Source of Care” refers to a specific doctor’s office, clinic, health center, or other place an individual usually goes when they are sick or need health advice.

Why It Matters

Life expectancy is widely considered a key indicator of quality of life. Shorter life expectancy not only results in lower cumulative earnings over a lifetime, but it also signals deep inequities in health care access, economic opportunity, and justice, which ripple across entire communities. Declines reduce political power over time and signal structural disparities. Black health outcomes reveal urgent challenges. While progress has been made in expanding healthcare access overall, disparities persist, leaving Black Angelenos with shorter lifespans and less consistent care. Declines in physical health outcomes raise urgent questions about how Black Angelenos are coping emotionally and psychologically — which brings us to mental and behavioral health.

Mental & Behavioral Health

Mental and behavioral health data reveal how Black communities cope with stressors shaped by systemic inequities, while also reflecting resilience and community support structures.

Black residents were the only group to show a decrease in current depression rates between our first and second reports. In Year 1, 15.3% of Black residents reported being currently depressed (2018); in Year 2, that figure dropped to 11.4% (2023). Over the same interval, rates of current depression increased by 0.9 percentage points among Hispanic residents, by 1 percentage point among White residents, and by 2 percentage points among Asian residents.

With respect to suicide, our analysis showed a 6.9% decrease in the percentage of Black adults who ever thought seriously about committing suicide from 17.9% (2021) to 11.0% (2023). On depression counseling, the percentage of Black adults currently diagnosed with depression who are currently receiving counseling from a mental health professional increased by 5% from 59.4% (2018) to 64.4% (2023).



Sustained, culturally tailored services for Black Angelenos remain critical.

Why It Matters

This improvement may reflect resilience and the buffering role of community supports (family, faith, social networks). However, it does not negate broader disparities in poverty, safety, and housing. Sustained, culturally tailored services remain critical. Mental health outcomes suggest resilience in the face of structural inequities. Still, disparities in access to mental health services and ongoing socioeconomic stressors underscore the need for ongoing County investment. The strain of systemic inequities is especially visible in housing and homelessness, where the gap between stability and crisis continues to widen.

15.3% → 11.4%

Black current depression rates decreased, while other groups saw increases

17.9% → 11.0%

Percentage of Black adults who ever thought seriously about committing suicide decreased

59.4% → 64.4%

Percentage of Black adults currently diagnosed with depression who are currently receiving counseling from a mental health professional increased



Housing and Homelessness



Housing stability is a foundation for health, education, and economic mobility. Shifts in home values, mortgage access, and homelessness rates highlight persistent structural barriers for Black residents.

Asian home values rose by \$97,003, and NHPI home values increased by \$300,781. In contrast, White home values decreased by \$8,234, while American Indian/Alaska Native home values fell by \$121,786 on average. During the same period, **mortgage acceptance rates for Black applicants declined from 61% in 2021 to 51% in 2022.**

Overall homelessness in the County increased by 9.5% between the Year 1 and Year 2 reports (2022-2023). **For Black residents, homelessness rose by 16%**—from 19,522 to 22,606. By comparison, homelessness increased by 1% for White residents and by 5% for Hispanic residents.

Black renters have the highest eviction rate in the County—1.6 per 100 renter households. They are also the most rent-burdened group (65%) and the most severely rent-burdened (43%). **These trends, combined with the rising cost of living and the persistent shortage of affordable housing, help explain why Black residents experience disproportionately high rates of homelessness.**

Why It Matters

Rising home values increase wealth for owners but highlight inequities in lending and access to mortgages. Meanwhile, the growth in homelessness severely harms health and well-being, reinforcing structural barriers to stability. Black Angelenos face the dual reality of increasing property values for some and a deepening homelessness crisis for many others.

This contrast underscores inequities in access to financial systems and affordable housing. These economic and housing pressures are mirrored in employment and income trends, which further shape the financial stability of Black households.

Black Mean Home Values Increased:
\$728.6k → \$831.6k

Black Mortgage Acceptance Rates Decreased:
61% → 51%

Black Homelessness Increased:
19,522 → 22,606



Measure A is projected to generate **approximately \$1.2 billion annually** to address homelessness and housing affordability in LA County.

Income and Employment



Economic well-being is central to quality of life. Income, employment, and poverty trends reveal whether Black residents are gaining access to sustainable livelihoods.

Over the same period, median household income increased by \$11,100 for Hispanic households, \$13,900 for Asian households, \$14,000 for White households, \$14,500 for American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN) households, and \$19,300 for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI) households.

Our trends analysis also shows an increase in Black median per capita income of \$5,200 between Year 1 and Year 2 reports (2016-2020 to 2018-2022). However, this **growth was lower than the County median per capita income increase (\$6,100)**, as well as the increases for White (\$8,600) and Asian (\$8,200) residents. Hispanic residents experienced a smaller increase in median per capita income than Black residents (\$4,200).

The Black poverty rate (i.e., households at 200% of the federal poverty level or less) increased by 7.2 percentage points, from 29.0% in 2021 to 36.2% in 2022. This increase was higher for Black Angelenos than for White, Asian, and Hispanic populations over the same period. Between the Year 1 and Year 2 reports, Hispanic poverty increased by 6.1 percentage points, White poverty by 4.4 percentage points, Asian poverty by 3.3 percentage points, and AIAN poverty by 2.9 percentage points.

Black Median Household Income Increased By \$8,000:
\$51K → \$59K

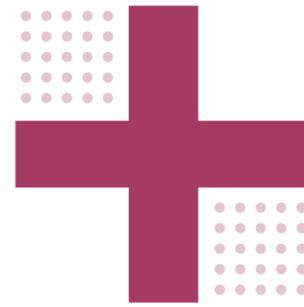
Black Median Per Capita Income Increased By:
\$5,200

Black Poverty Rate Increased From:
29% → 36.2%

Why It Matters

Long before the pandemic, Black workers have struggled to earn equitable wages compared to their non-Black counterparts. However, the pandemic exacerbated existing inequities between Black and non-Black workers. Pandemic relief temporarily reduced poverty, but its expiration left Black households particularly vulnerable. Employment losses and persistent wage gaps hinder recovery, deepening economic precarity. While incomes grew modestly, poverty among Black residents surged, highlighting widening inequities and underscoring the need for structural interventions in wages, employment, and wealth-building. These economic realities have direct consequences in schools, where Black students' progress tells a story of resilience challenged by new barriers.

Education



Education trends show both progress and ongoing challenges for Black youth. Graduation and attendance are powerful predictors of lifelong health and economic outcomes.

Over the same period, graduation rates increased by 1.1 percentage points for NHPI students, 2 percentage points for Asian students, 5 percentage points for White students, and 5.9 percentage points for Hispanic students.

With respect to school attendance, however, our analysis shows that although chronic school absenteeism increased among all racial groups in the County, Black students experienced a 13.3 percentage point increase, from 24.3% for the 2018–2019 school year to 37.6% during 2022–2023. Chronic absenteeism increased by 4.2 percentage points for Asian students, 5.2 percentage points for Hispanic students, 8.8 percentage points for White students, and 12.1 percentage points for AIAN students.

Why It Matters

Higher graduation rates extend life expectancy and improve economic prospects. However, chronic absenteeism threatens academic outcomes and long-term progress, reflecting broader issues like school climate, transportation, and mental health. Education outcomes for Black youth show promise but remain uneven. Graduation gains are tempered by high absenteeism, which risks undermining progress without targeted interventions. Beyond schools, the environments in which Black residents live and work also shape daily experiences of safety, justice, and belonging.

Black high school graduation rate increased by 6.4 percentage points

75.7% → 82.1%

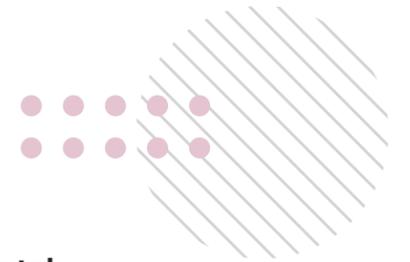
Chronic school absenteeism increased among Black students

24.3% → 37.6%



Parents and communities created supportive learning spaces during the crisis.

Safety and Justice



Safety and justice outcomes shape both lived experiences and community well-being. Perceptions of safety directly affect mental health, civic engagement, and trust in public institutions.

This disproportionately lower sense of neighborhood safety among Black residents may be linked to several factors. Although rates of violent crime have declined nationally and in Los Angeles County overall, certain neighborhoods—many of which are home to Black residents—continue to experience higher concentrations of crime and instability. Black Angelenos also tend to fare worse on multiple socioeconomic indicators that increase exposure to violence or instability, including poverty, housing insecurity, and unemployment. Media coverage emphasizing crime may further heighten perceptions of insecurity, regardless of actual crime rates.

Why It Matters

Safety perceptions strongly influence mental and physical health, civic trust, and children's development. Declines reinforce stress, weaken community cohesion, and limit civic participation. Even with broader crime reductions, Black residents feel less safe in their neighborhoods. Addressing safety perceptions requires structural reforms, community investment, and equitable justice strategies. Despite these challenges, Black Angelenos continue to demonstrate resilience — a vital strength that County policy must recognize and build upon.

Black Residents' Perception of Neighborhood Safety Decreased:

82.9% → 70.1%

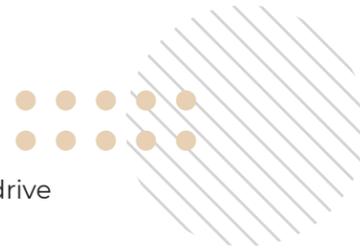


Rates of violent crime have declined nationally and in Los Angeles County overall



Perceptions of unsafe environments are associated with poorer mental health outcomes.

Bright Spots & Resilience



Even amid adversity, Black Angelenos demonstrate resilience and strength that drive community progress. There are a few highlights:

Declines in reported depression rates suggest resilience and strong community supports.



Rising high school graduation rates highlight the impact of targeted initiatives.



Civic engagement remains strong, with Black residents overrepresented among registered voters.

These bright spots reflect both individual resilience and the positive impact of targeted investments. They serve as models for scaling solutions across other domains. To build on these bright spots while addressing persistent inequities, Los Angeles County must take bold, targeted steps.

Recommendations & Call to Action

Closing gaps in life outcomes requires sustained County action. To advance this work, Los Angeles County can expand targeted universalism by setting universal goals for health, housing, education, safety, and opportunity for everyone, while creating strategies tailored to the unique needs of each population. By focusing on the barriers facing Black communities, we not only repair harm and expand access for those most impacted, but also lay the foundation for broader progress that benefits all residents. This can include mobile and community-based services, trauma-informed and culturally responsive approaches, and continued investment in housing and Black student achievement programs. Centering Black communities tackles root inequities and moves the County toward justice, belonging, and equality.

Conclusion

This 2025 Trends Analysis of the first and second editions of the State of Black Los Angeles County Report paints a complex picture – one of progress in some areas, yet deepening inequities in others. Black Angelenos are experiencing notable gains in high school graduation rates, mental health resilience, and income growth, but these improvements are overshadowed by setbacks in life expectancy, poverty, housing stability, and neighborhood safety.

These mixed outcomes reflect persistent systemic barriers. Rising home values benefit some Black residents, but mortgage gaps and homelessness erode stability. Greater use of mental health services shows resilience, yet falling life expectancy and rising poverty expose deep inequities. Education gains are offset by chronic absenteeism, while declining community safety underscores ongoing social and economic stressors.

Achieving equity requires sustained, targeted action. Initiatives like Measure A and the Black Student Achievement Plan show progress, but must be scaled and paired with culturally responsive strategies across health, housing, education, employment, and safety. These changes over time highlight both the resilience of Black Angelenos and the urgent need for structural change. Without intentional action, disparities will persist, but with investment, accountability, and community partnership, Los Angeles County can move toward a future where all residents have the opportunity to live longer, healthier, and safer lives.

SOURCES

- Balfanz, R., & Byrnes, V. (2012). The importance of being in school: A report on absenteeism in the nation's public schools. Johns Hopkins University Center for Social Organization of Schools. <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/161b/f91a0b4a9f2fa8bff6a464c48f48c01fa72c.pdf>
- Bohn, S., Mejia, M., Lafortune, J. (2021). Black Californians struggle within a challenging job market. Public Policy Institute of California. <https://www.ppic.org/blog/black-californians-struggle-within-a-challenging-job-market>
- Bohn, S., Mejia, M., Lafortune, J. (2025). Who is unemployed in California today? Public Policy Institute of California. <https://www.ppic.org/blog/who-is-unemployed-in-california-today>
- Bravo, J. M., Ayuso, M., & Holzmann, R. (2019). Making use of home equity: The potential of housing wealth to enhance retirement security (No. 12656). IZA Discussion Papers. <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/207481/1/dp12656.pdf>
- Brown, D. L. (2008). African American resiliency: Examining racial socialization and social support as protective factors. *Journal of Black psychology*, 34(1), 32–48. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0095798407310538>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). Vital statistics rapid release: Provisional life expectancy estimates for 2020–2021 (Report No. 23). National Center for Health Statistics. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/vsrr023.pdf>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023). Understanding the opioid overdose epidemic. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. <https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/about/index.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). Life expectancy in the U.S. declined a year and a half in 2020. National Center for Health Statistics. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2021/202107.htm
- Chang, H. N., & Romero, M. (2008). Present, engaged, and accounted for: The critical importance of addressing chronic absence in the early grades. National Center for Children in Poverty. <https://www.nccp.org/publication/present-engaged-and-accounted-for-the-critical-importance-of-addressing-chronic-absence-in-the-early-grades/>
- County of Los Angeles Public Health. (2022). Mortality in Los Angeles County: Leading causes of death and premature death with trends for 2000–2020. Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov>
- County of Los Angeles. (2023). 2022–2023 State of Black Los Angeles County Report. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/cc7914ce627845448d235549b353f411>
- County of Los Angeles. (2024). 2023–2025 State of Black Los Angeles County Report. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/3b039f7994d540fd9af11893ee791a7a>
- Crosby, I. E., "Social Support in Black Individuals: The moderating effects on the relationship between resilience and well-being" (2024). Electronic Theses and Dissertations. 2544.
- Cutler, D. M., & Lleras-Muney, A. (2006). Education and health: Evaluating theories and evidence. National Bureau of Economic Research. <https://www.nber.org/papers/w12352>
- Dale, S. K., & Safren, S. A. (2018). Resilience takes a village: Black women utilize support from their community to foster resilience against multiple adversities. *AIDS Care*, 30(sup5), S18–S26. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540121.2018.1503225>
- EdTrust West (2025). "Black Minds Matter: Building bright Black futures." https://west.edtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/FINAL-FOR-WEB_EdTrust-West_2025_BlackMindsMatterReport.pdf
- Ellen, I. G., & Turner, M. A. (1997). Does neighborhood matter? Assessing recent evidence. *Housing Policy Debate*, 8(4), 833–866. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10511482.1997.9521280>
- Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2022). Crime in the United States, 2021. U.S. Department of Justice. <https://ucr.fbi.gov>
- Gist, J. R., Figueiredo, C., & Verma, S. K. (2012). Boom and Bust: Housing equity withdrawal and consumption decisions and their impacts on household wealth. *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*, 24(1), 1–28. <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/207481/1/dp12656.pdf>
- Hill, T. D., Ross, C. E., & Angel, R. J. (2005). Neighborhood disorder, psychophysiological distress, and health. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 46(2), 170–186. <https://doi.org/10.1177/002214650504600204>
- Jany, L. (2023, October 12). Crime is down, but fear is up: Why is L.A. still perceived as dangerous?, THE L.A. TIMES. <http://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-10-12/violent-crime-is-down-fear-is-up-why-is-la-perceived-as-dangerous>
- Joo, J. Y., & Liu, M. F. (2021). Culturally tailored interventions for ethnic minorities: A scoping review. *Nursing open*, 8(5), 2078–2090. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8363345/>
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Center for Health Impact Evaluation. (2025). Mortality rates and causes of death among people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County: 2017–2023. https://hpri.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Homeless_Mortality_Report_2025.pdf
- Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative. (2024). Leadership Table for Regional Homeless Alignment: Strategic priorities and metrics. <https://homeless.lacounty.gov/responsive-regional-plan/>
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. (2023). LASD crime data & statistics. <https://lasd.org>
- Mama, S. K. (2020). Commentary: The social environment and mental health in African American adults. *The American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 28(6), 606–608. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8262915/>
- Robinette, J. W., Charles, S. T., Mogle, J. A., & Almeida, D. M. (2013). Neighborhood cohesion and daily well-being: Results from a diary study. *Social Science & Medicine*, 96, 174–182. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2013.07.027>
- Schott Foundation (2024). "Love Is The Foundation For Life": Schott report on Black males in public education <https://schottfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/schott-foundation-2024-black-males-report.pdf>
- Sharkey, P. (2010). The acute effect of local homicides on children's cognitive performance. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 107(26), 11733–11738. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1000690107>
- Trisi, D. (2023). Government's pandemic response turned a would-be poverty surge into a record poverty decline. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/governments-pandemic-response-turned-a-would-be-poverty-surge-into>
- Trisi, D. (2024). Expiration of pandemic relief led to record increases in poverty and child poverty in 2022. Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/expiration-of-pandemic-relief-led-to-record-increases-in-poverty>
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2022, September). Income, poverty, and health insurance coverage in the United States: 2021 (Current Population Reports, P60-277). U.S. Department of Commerce. <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2022/demo/p60-277.html>
- Ugo, I. (2023). Testimony: Assessing the pandemic's effects on student learning, absenteeism, and graduation. Public Policy Institute of California. <https://www.ppic.org/blog/testimony-assessing-the-pandemics-effects-on-student-learning-absenteeism-and-graduation/>
- Woods-Giscombe, C. L., Williams, K. P., Conklin, J., Dodd, A., Bravo, L., Anderson, A. M., Frazier, T., Bey, G., Robinson, M. N., Warren, B. J., Wight, K. D., Felix, A. S., Anderson, C. M., & Hood, D. B. (2023). A scoping review of the concept of resilience among African American women. *Archives of psychiatric nursing*, 46, 107–120.
- Woolf, S. H., Masters, R. K., & Aron, L. Y. (2021). Effect of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 on life expectancy across populations in the USA and other high income countries: Simulations of provisional mortality data. *BMJ*, 373, n1343. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.n1343>

