Urban League of
Broward County

BROWARD COUNTY
EQUITY INITIATIVE

STATE OF BLACK BROWARD

FIU Jorge M. Pérez Metropolitan Center

Urban League of
Broward County

About the Urban League of Broward County



Founded in 1975, the Urban League of Broward County (ULBC) is a community-based organization dedicated to empowering communities and changing lives in the areas of Education, Entrepreneurship, Jobs, Justice, Housing, and Health. ULBC has been a cornerstone in Broward for over 46 years and serves over 14,000 individuals and families annually. It has solidified itself in this community as a trusted voice providing impactful services. The ULBC's theory of change requires us to work with the individual and their family with the understanding that family by family, we'll change a block; block by block, we'll change a neighborhood, neighborhood by neighborhood we'll change Broward County.

Summary of Major Core Programs and Services

The Urban League of Broward County has 18 programs in the areas of Education, Entrepreneurship, Jobs, Justice, Housing and Health. The intended impact of the core areas are as follows:



Education

We value education as a key component for living a more prosperous life. Our education and youth development programs provide young people with the critical skills they need to matriculate to the next grade level, graduate high school and become engaged members in their communities. Academic enrichment, college preparation, and leadership development are some of the many educational advancement tools offered.

Entrepreneurship

We are committed to building community wealth through ownership. Our Entrepreneurship Center's M3 Model (Money, Market & Management) helps small minority business owners access the tools needed to grow and develop their business. We provide technical assistance, business management training, and access to capital.

Jobs

We are committed to strengthening the family unit by promoting economic self-sufficiency and certification programs. We equip individuals with the tools needed to enter or re-enter the workforce, stabilize their finances and build assets.

Justice

We strive to build a stronger, safer community for the children and families we serve. Our Community Justice programs provide a meaningful response for youth offered to avoid prosecution and the subsequent collateral damages of justice-involvement. Through a restorative justice model, we partner with law enforcement, community leaders, and families to break the cycle of recidivism, hold youth accountable for their actions, and strengthen public trust in the justice system.

Housing

We are dedicated to building thriving communities through strong economic infrastructure. Our housing programs offer families long-term, sustainable solutions that focus on building assets through savings and homeownership. Our wealth accumulation services include financial education, budgeting, credit counseling homeownership education, foreclosure prevention and loan modification.

Health

We believe that health education, wellness and physical activity are the keys to optimal growth for our children and families. Our health programs are designed to ensure that self-management, preventative care education, and vital health resources reach those who need them most.

About Our Partners

For years, the Urban League of Broward County (ULBC) has partnered with Hispanic Unity of Florida on economic prosperity-related initiatives that inform community-level programs such as Individual Development Accounts (IDA), Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), and the Center for Working Families (CWF). In 2011, The Urban League of Broward County and Hispanic Unity of Florida were the first to implement CWF in Broward and provide coordinated, bundled services to the most financially vulnerable population. The program includes income and employment support, workforce development and employment services, financial coaching, and asset building. This approach was designed to help individuals and families strengthen their financial position and support financial stability.

Jorge M. Perez
Metropolitan Center



About the Jorge M. Perez Metropolitan Center

The Florida International University Jorge M. Perez Metropolitan Center is Florida's leading urban policy think tank and solutions center. Established in 1997, the Center provides economic development, strategic planning, community revitalization, and performance improvement services to public, private, and nonprofit organizations in South Florida. Its staff and senior researchers are leaders in their respective fields; and bring extensive research, practical, and professional experience to each project. The Center's research has catalyzed major policy initiatives and projects in housing, economic redevelopment, transportation, social services, and health services throughout South Florida.

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THE JIM MORAN FOUNDATION
"THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO PREPARE FOR IT."

The mission of The Jim Moran Foundation is to improve the quality of life for the youth and families of Florida through the support of innovative programs and opportunities that meet the ever-changing needs of the community.

The Urban League of Broward County is deeply grateful to The Jim Moran Foundation for its continued support and trust. This report is made possible with their funding.

Thank You

The BROWARD COUNTY EQUITY INITIATIVE: The State of Black Broward report provides an analytical framework to advance racial equity in Broward County by identifying challenges & opportunities facing Black and African American families. The findings of this report will influence critical conversations about racial equity and transformative, long-term solutions in our community.

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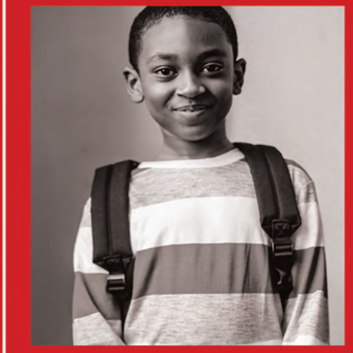


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FOREWORD

THE STATE OF BLACK BROWARD



Germaine Smith-Baugh, Ed.D, President & CEO Urban League of Broward County

South Florida continues to be an epicenter in Florida for coronavirus infections, and as a result, the negative impacts of this pandemic have taken their toll on our residents, especially Black Broward. The outbreak of the coronavirus revealed the fragility of many of our nation's social and economic systems and the lack of resilience for so many individuals and families. The sudden closures of businesses and industries caused a ripple effect of high unemployment and financial struggles. The murder of George Floyd by a law enforcement officer ignited protests across the world. All of these instances created an eruption of consciousness in the American psyche related to Black America.

> MARKED BY A TRIPLE PANDEMIC OF A HEALTH CRISIS, ECONOMIC UPHEAVAL, AND JUSTICE INEQUITIES, 2020 WAS AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR IN MODERN HISTORY

The Urban League of Broward County has produced reports over the decades to highlight the experience of Black residents:

- *The State of Black Broward in the early 1980s and 1990s*;
- *The 1996 33311 Neighborhood Community Asset Report* [based on the Annie Casey Foundation naming 3 of the census tracts in 33311 as the top 10 in child poverty in the U.S.]
- *Closing the Gap: The State of Black Broward: Health Report (2013);* and
- *Two Urban League Reports: (Un)Affordable Housing and Unemployment (2016)*

The Urban League of Broward County used these reports to examine its current offerings, shift its focus as necessary, and engage community stakeholders to address the challenges. These reports also have been used by local organizations, policymakers, and civic leaders as advocacy and policy tools. Equipped with reliable, accurate data, we as a community are better prepared to make informed decisions that will build upon existing efforts to improve life outcomes.

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“ AN INITIATIVE TO ADVANCE EQUITY AND SUPPORT FOR BROWARD FAMILIES

The Urban Leaque of Broward County is partnering with the Florida International University Jorge M. Pérez Metropolitan Center and Hispanic Unity of Florida to launch the *State of Black and Hispanic Broward*: *An Initiative to Advance Equity and Support* for Broward Families to address a range of economic and social issues in Broward County's Black and Hispanic and immigrant populations and communities.

The Urban League of Broward County has partnered for many years with Hispanic Unity of Florida on economic prosperity related matters that inform community-level programming such as Individual Development Accounts (DA), Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), and the Center for Working Families (CWF). ULBC and HUF were the first to implement CWF in Broward in 2011, which provides coordinated, and bundled services to financially vulnerable community members, including income supports, employment training, financial services, and asset building. This approach was designed to help individuals and families strengthen their financial position and support them on a path to financial stability. The initial implementation was based on reducing the revolving door nature of then offered emergency services.



The *State of Black Broward* report provides our local community with a snapshot of the state of the Black community in Broward County. The goal is to develop an objective data analysis tool that can be used by government, business, civic, community, and grassroots leaders to prepare for a more equitable future.

It is a tool that measures the disparities that exist between racial/ethnic groups in Broward County, and a tool that calls us, as stakeholders, to urgent action.

The *State of Black Broward* has three primary objectives:

- **Data and Information** - Provide objective data on key economic and social issues for the local area.

- **Analysis and Benchmarks** - Provide data that can show trends over time based on actions or non-actions.

- **Call to Action** - Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to engage the community in dialogue and consider policy recommendations.

Our intention is to develop *The State of Black Broward* report through a lens of racial equity and to recognize the intersectionality of these systems and their impact on the lives of Broward County residents. Our hope would be that collectively, we - families, business, government, faith, and community groups can truly advocate for game-changing strategies and policies in Broward County's communities to address social and economic barriers impacting our children and adults and provide the resources necessary to help our community achieve long-term, positive life outcomes.

Yours in the Movement,
Germaine Smith-Baugh, Ed.D,
President & CEO
Urban League of Broward County

PREFACE

The following report on *The State of Black Broward* through an equity lens provides an opportunity for all to pause and reflect on how the story of Black Broward has unfolded over the decades and where we stand now as we plan for a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive future. Black Broward has a long and rich historical narrative that has sadly been strewn with oppressive racial disparities and segregation.

Blacks have long populated Broward County as slavery existed in the Spanish colony of La Florida nearly a century before the arrival of the enslaved Angolans in 1619. On the eve of the American Civil War, half of Florida's population were slaves. The earliest recorded black settlers in Broward County migrated from Georgia, South Carolina, and the Bahamas. Many were railroad workers who helped build the southward extension of Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway from Palm Beach in 1895. For convenience, Blacks settled in cottages along the railroad tracks. During this period, the area was little more than swamp and farmland. With the Florida East Coast Railway completed to Miami, small farming communities began to spring up adjacent to the railroad. Fort Lauderdale, which would incorporate in 1911, had already become a major center for the growing and shipping of winter fruits, beans, and tomatoes. In her book, *My Soul is My Witness*; author Deborah Work describes Broward County's Black settlement in the early 1900s:



> "A steady migration of black workers just kept pouring in from the surrounding South and from the Bahamas. Many of the black community worked on the white-owned farms that quickly sprouted around the five local train stops: Deerfield Beach, Pompano Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Dania, and Hallandale.

Broward County's first Black settlements occurred when Blacks faced overt segregation and racism commonplace in the Jim Crow South. Jim Crow laws were meant to marginalize Black Americans by denying them the right to vote, hold jobs, and get an education. Segregation divided all public and private entities and spaces based on race. To this day, neighborhoods throughout Broward County are intertwined with racially tied social and economic disparities related to the Jim Crow era.

In 1922, Fort Lauderdale passed the first ordinance with a "color line" restricting black residents to the west of the Florida East Coast Railway tracks. This form of physical segregation prohibited Blacks from acquiring land and building wealth. Segregation also existed in public schools and health care. From 1885 until the US Supreme Court Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954, Florida schools were prohibited by law to teach white and black children in the same school. Blacks were also turned away from Broward hospitals. In 1938, two African American physicians, Von D. Mizell and James Sistrunk, founded Provident Hospital in northwest Fort Lauderdale. It remained the only hospital in the County for Blacks until 1964 when Broward General finally became integrated.



NAACP leader Eula Johnson speaking at a rally.
Source: Florida State Parks

Fast forward to today and we still see stark evidence of Broward County's racial divide and the disparities and inequities that persist despite laws that prohibit segregation and discrimination. Fundamentally, overcoming systemic racism will require a dismantling of embedded policies, practices, and attitudes. Systemic racism is embedded in our workplaces, our schools, and our healthcare, lending, and criminal justice systems. In the U.S., we have an economy that leaves millions without access to a living wage, an education system that fails Black Americans, and substandard health care that makes a vastly disproportionate share of our Black population more vulnerable to death and disease as we have seen play out during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sadly, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted for all to see the racial disparities and inequities that continue to exist in South Florida. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused deep and far reaching economic and community impacts. Evidence indicates the health, economic, and community impacts of the virus have been borne disproportionately by minority populations, individuals and families living in poverty, undocumented immigrants, and persons with disabilities. The economic burden of the pandemic has also fallen more heavily on Black workers and Black business owners. It is anticipated that without carefully crafted responses, the health and economic crisis created by the pandemic may increase inequality, exclusion, and unemployment in both the short- and long-term.

Introduction

The State of Black Broward provides the analytical framework for the 2021 Broward Equity Initiative. The analysis, performed in tandem with *The State of Hispanic and Immigrant Broward*, provides a comprehensive, holistic analysis of population, economic, social trends that allow for an informed discussion on racial and ethnic equity and disparity issues over time. The analysis connects different socioeconomic indicators and speaks to the barriers and opportunities for community development. The assessments will also provide the underpinnings for the subsequent *Broward Equity Plan of Action*. The plan will include specific planning and policy recommendations for each topic area.

Approach and Methodology

The State of Black Broward - a data-driven assessment identifying the key population trends, factors, and conditions that quantify and determine the levels of racial and ethnic equity, disparity, and inclusion in Broward County and its municipalities. The methodology for the *State of Black Broward* includes a detailed data and trend analysis of each of the following topic areas:

A. Population and Demographic Trends
B. The Economy
C. Public Education
D. Public Health
E. Housing
F. Criminal Justice and Safety
G. Voting Rights

The analysis applies a variety of public and proprietary data sources to provide the most thorough analysis of the County's and individual municipality's demographic trends, economy, public health, crime, and voting. Data sources include the U.S. Census, American County Survey, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DE) Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Current Employment Statistics (CES), Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Occupational Employment Statistics and Wages (OES), EMSI, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Florida Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control, Florida Department of Corrections, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Broward County Public Schools, National Center for Educational Statistics, and the Broward County Supervisor of Elections.

Defining Equity

A necessary first step in the *Broward County Equity Initiative* is to establish a shared language to present data findings and describe conditions that will serve as the platform and underpinnings for the *Broward Equity Plan of Action*. A shared language helps identify the root causes of the disparities and inequities and creates awareness for establishing policies with clear outcomes. A common language helps to create a critical narrative to be communicated to diverse audiences.

In essence, a locality (county, city) achieves racial equity when race no longer determines one's socioeconomic outcomes and when everyone has what they need to thrive, no matter where they live. According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, in order to illuminate inequities, we need to "name it, frame it, and explain it." The definitions of words and terms frequently used, i.e., equity, inclusion, equality, structural racism, need to be clarified to ensure that public discussions concerning the desire for a "racial reckoning" in Broward County are accurately stated and shared.

Equity is generally defined as the state, quality, or ideal of being just, impartial and fair. The concept of equity is synonymous with fairness and justice. To achieve and sustain equity, it needs to be thought of as a structural and systemic concept. Equality generally refers to equal opportunities and the same levels of support for all segments of society. However, equity goes a step further and refers to offering varying levels of support depending upon the need to achieve greater fairness of outcomes. Essentially, equity involves understanding and giving people what they need to enjoy full and healthy lives in the communities of their choice. According to the Race Matters Institute, "the route to achieving equity will not be accomplished through treating everyone equally, rather by treating everyone equitably, or justly according to their circumstances."

The term "inclusion" must also be used to promote actionable policy objectives, not simply lofty goals. As such, inclusion is the action or state of including or of being included within a group or structure. More than simply diversity and numerical representation, inclusion involves authentic and empowered participation and a true sense of belonging.

“EQUITY IS GENERALLY DEFINED AS THE STATE, QUALITY OR IDEAL OF BEING JUST, IMPARTIAL AND FAIR. THE CONCEPT OF EQUITY IS SYNONYMOUS WITH FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

> EQUITABLE HEALTH CARE MEANS THAT ALL INDIVIDUALS HAVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, HIGH QUALITY, CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY APPROPRIATE CARE IN A TIMELY MANNER



The *State of Black Broward* provides the analytical framework for the Broward Equity Initiative and the subsequent "Broward Equity Plan of Action." The report is a data-driven assessment identifying the key population trends, factors, and conditions that determine the levels of racial and ethnic equity, disparity, and inclusion in Broward County and its municipalities. The methodology includes a detailed data and trend analysis of each of the following topic areas:

a. Population and Demographic Trends
b. The Economy
c. Public Education
d. Public Health
e. Housing
f. Criminal Justice and Safety
g. Voting Rights

The report found Broward County has gone through dramatic demographics shifts in the past thirty years marked by rapid suburbanization in the 1990s, a general aging of the White population and steady migration of Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino and populations over the past two decades.

Black Broward has a long and rich historical narrative that unfortunately has been strewn with oppressive racial disparities and segregation. In fact, the report found evidence that racial divides and disparities continue to persist despite laws that were enacted to prohibit segregation and discrimination. Sadly, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted for all to see the racial disparities and inequities that continue to exist in Broward County and the nation. Evidence indicates the health, economic, and community impacts of the pandemic has been borne disproportionately by minority populations, individuals and families living in poverty, and undocumented immigrants. The economic burden of the pandemic has also fallen more heavily on minority workers and business owners.

The *State of Black Broward* and forthcoming "Broward Equity Plan of Action" provides an opportunity for all community leaders to hold society to a higher standard in matters of racial equity and inclusion. According to the Racial Equity Institute, "racial equity demands that we pay attention not just to individual-level discrimination, but to overall social outcomes." This contrasts with the current state of affairs in which a person of color is more likely to live in poverty, be imprisoned, drop out of high school, be unemployed, and experience poor health outcomes, and lack access to safe, decent, and affordable housing.

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The following is a summary of the *State of Black Broward's* key findings:

Population and Demographics Trends

The report found that Broward County's recent population growth is being driven by Hispanic and Black migration patterns. Since 2015, Broward County's most significant population increases were among Hispanic or Latinos (15.6 percent/77,298 persons) and Black or African Americans (7.4 percent / 38,010 persons). Broward County's majority White population (60.7 percent) has grown by only 4.5 percent/15,948 persons. Hispanic or Latino and Black or African American persons now comprise 29.8 percent and 28.6 percent of Broward County's population, respectively. Significantly, Broward County's workforce age population (20-55 years of age) has become increasingly Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino.

The Economy

Strong, equitable, and inclusive economies deliver broad-based prosperity to their residents by providing Stable Long-Term Growth, Economic Opportunity, Economic Mobility, and Economic Equity. Prosperity can be achieved when regardless of where one starts on the economic ladder, individuals and families can improve their economic conditions and build wealth, and where the benefits of economic growth are shared by residents across the income spectrum and where they live.

The *State of Black Broward* report found clear evidence of persistent concentrations of income inequality in Broward County's Black and Hispanic communities. Income inequality has resulted in low median household per capita incomes, higher poverty, and unemployment rates. The median household income of Black or African Americans is only 71 percent of White households. The percentage of Black or African American families with children living in poverty is nearly four times higher than White families. Significantly, the labor force participation rates for Broward County's Black or African American (71.0 percent) and Hispanic or Latino (71.6 percent) populations are much higher than Broward County's White, Non-Hispanic (58.9 percent) population and that of the U.S. (61.8 percent).

Public Education

According to the National Equity Project, "educational equity means that each child receives what they need to develop to theur full academic and social potential." Equity in education is the process of reforming practices, policies, and procedures at the school and district levels to support academic fairness and inclusion and ensure that every child has the resources, teachers, interventions, and supports they need to be successful.

According to the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, education is one of the most important long-term drivers of both economic growth and equity. Education adds to human capital (the education, training, and health of workers) thereby increasing labor productivity and the value of the worker. The quality of education that students receive also directly correlates to their quality-of-life years down the road. Early education, in particular, has the power to shape a child's future and the more resources available to them, the better. It is for these reasons that it's crucial for local educators to address any barriers young students face to succeeding in school.

The *State of Black Broward* report found Broward County Public Schools more racially diverse than Broward's overall population. Significantly, Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino graduation rates have significantly improved in the last ten years. However, "unexcused absences" are significantly higher among Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino students than White students. There are also higher suspension rates among Black or African American students than White and Hispanic or Latino students.

The report found significant disparities in Advanced Placement (AP) Exams passing scores between White students and Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino students. The report also found most of Broward County Public Schools graded as C or D are located in communities with high concentrations of Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino populations. This includes 22 of the 2021-2022 Lowest 300 Performing Elementary Schools in the state.

Public Health

According to the National REACH Coalition, "equitable health care means that all individuals have access to affordable, high quality, culturally and linguistically appropriate care in a timely manner. This includes health care quality; patient education and empowerment; health care infrastructure; health care policy, and program administration."

Equitable health care in Broward County is impacted by a variety of economic and social factors including poverty and the lack of affordable housing. Lower income households are often forced to choose between health care and buying food, medicine, and paying the rent.

The *State of Black Broward* report found a wide disparity in infant mortality rates among Broward County's Black or African American residents than White residents. Rate of births to obese mothers are also substantially higher among Broward County Black or African American residents than Whites. The infant mortality rate among Black or African Americans has not significantly improved over the past ten years. The report found substantially higher HIV and AIDS diagnosis and deaths among Broward County Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino residents than Whites.

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> "EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LONG-TERM DRIVERS OF BOTH ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EQUITY

> **“VOTING IS THE MOST BASIC RIGHT IN OUR DEMOCRACY, BUT TOO MANY PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY PEOPLE OF COLOR, ARE OFTEN LOCKED OUT OF THE PROCESS THROUGH JIM CROW TYPE VOTER SUPPRESSION LAWS**

While the percentage of Broward County's uninsured Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino populations has decreased in the last five years uninsured Hispanic or Latino (18.2 percent) and Black or African American (10.1percent) populations far exceed the County's uninsured (5.9 percent) White population.

Housing

The availability of quality affordable housing is critical in creating diverse and inclusive cities and counties. Affordable, safe, quality housing can provide the anchor for nearby jobs, education, public transportation, and health care. This should matter to cities and counties, not just on equity grounds, but because healthier and more educated residents benefit the local economy by forming a more robust and productive workforce.

Housing affordability also affects educational performance and attainment and the quality of health care. Households with better affordability ratios generally have higher rates of savings, more cash, and/or higher levels of equity (in an owned home) that can be applied to education spending for their children. Cost burdened families are also more prone to unexpected health expenses that can throw a family into foreclosure or eviction.

The *State of Black Broward* report found higher levels of cost-burden and overall housing distress (i.e., age, condition) in less affluent Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino communities. The report found homeownership rates are significantly lower among Black or African Americans and Hispanics or Latinos than Whites.

The report also found significant fair housing and lending issues in Broward County. Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino home purchase-loan denial rates are much higher than White applicants. High-cost owner-occupied home purchase loans are also more prevalent among Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino applicants than White applicants.

Criminal Justice and Safety

Racial justice is the systematic fair treatment of people of all races that results in equitable opportunities and outcomes for everyone. A just and equitable criminal justice system allows all people to achieve their full potential in life, regardless of race, ethnicity, or the community in which they live. According to the Opportunity Agenda, “an equitable criminal justice system should ensure that all individuals feel safe and secure in their communities and be administered in a fair and just manner with a commitment to equal treatment and accountability.”

The *State of Black Broward* report found that Broward County's overall arrests declined by 39.3 percent since 2011. Most crime activity by type in 2020 included drug arrests (4,226), larceny (2,678), simple assault (1,917), and DUI (1,064).

According to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's 2020 Delinquency Profile Dashboard, Broward County ranked 4th in Juvenile intake-arrests (2,735 arrests). Juvenile arrests were down 61 percent in Broward County and 54 percent statewide from 2015 to 2020 due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, juvenile intake-arrests were in Broward County by race showed a significant disparity between White and Black. In 2020, 71 percent (1,955) of juvenile arrests were Black compared to 11 percent (310 arrests) among White juveniles. Hispanics comprised 16 percent (449) of arrests. Statewide, 51 percent of juvenile arrests were Black, 33 percent white, and 16 percent Hispanic youth. A further analysis of juvenile arrest activity in Broward County, shows the highest volume of juvenile arrests occurred in Broward County zip codes with high concentrations of Blacks or African Americans.

Voter Engagement

Voting is the most basic right in our democracy, but too many people, especially people of color, are often locked out of the process through Jim Crow type voter suppression laws. As the cornerstone of American democracy, a fair and equitable election system would remove persistent barriers to voting and work towards a strong and modern voting system where all eligible citizens are motivated to vote, can do so with ease, and can reasonably trust that election outcomes are legitimate.

The on-going struggle for racial justice has been put to the test in recent years. U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the 2013 Shelby County v. Holder Case has made it easier for states to pass voter restriction laws. The report found 361 bills have been filed in 47 states that would limit mail, early in-person, and Election Day voting with such constraints as stricter ID requirements, limited hours, and narrower eligibility to vote absentee. In Florida, on May 6, 2021, Governor DeSantis signed Senate Bill 90 into law with immediate effect. The law will make it harder for Floridians to cast a ballot by mail, force voters to submit vote-by-mail requests more often than is currently required and eliminate secure vote-by-mail drop boxes.

The *State of Black Broward* report found Broward County's voting age population has increased by 20.5 percent since 2008 (192,476 voters). The County's White voting age population has decreased by 8.2 percent (48,828 voters), while the County's Hispanic or Latino and Black or African American voting age populations have increased by 98.8 percent (141,935 persons) and 46.7 percent (98,569), respectively.

The report found significant growth in Broward County's Hispanic or Latino and Black or African American voter age population since 2008. Broward County's voter turnout in the 2020 election significantly higher by race and ethnicity than other recent elections. ■

Population and Demographic Trends

Broward County has gone through dramatic demographic shifts in the past thirty years marked by rapid suburbanization in the 1990s, a general aging of the White population and steady migration of Hispanic or Latino and Black or African American populations over the past two decades.

Broward County's early Black settlers migrated from Georgia, South Carolina, and the Bahamas. Many were railroad workers who helped build the southward extension of Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway from Palm Beach in 1895.



The houses in Deerfield were built in 1890 along Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast. By 1910, the business district centered along Hillsboro Boulevard and Dixie Highway. Produce was the center of the city's economy, and Blacks worked the fields in the segregated city. The town was incorporated in 1925, and there were 1,300 residents.

Photo and caption courtesy of the Sun Sentinel.

Population by Age, Gender, Race, and Ethnicity

Broward County's population has dramatically increased in recent decades as the suburbanization of the County has rapidly accelerated since the 1960s. From 1960 to 2000, Broward County's population grew by 1,289,072 persons. However, since 2000, and with near build-out, Broward County's overall population growth has slowed. From 2000 to 2019, the County's population has increased by 303,187 persons.



First Zion Church; Deerfield's First Church, 1905. In 1902 two Methodist leaders, Reverend Lawrence and Mrs. Knight, brought together members of Deerfield's black community to worship.

Source: Deerfield Beach Historical Society.

Since 2015, Broward County's overall population has increased by 4.5 percent (83,063 persons). The most significant population increases were among Hispanic or Latinos (15.6 percent/77,298 persons) and Black or African Americans (7.4 percent/38,010 persons).

Broward County's majority White population (60.7 percent) has grown by only 1.4 percent/15,948 persons. Hispanic or Latino and Black or African American persons now comprise 29.8 percent and 28.6 percent of Broward County's population, respectively.

The gender mix of Broward County's Black or African American (47 percent male/53 percent female) is representative of Broward County's overall population (49 percent male/51 percent female). However, the male population has slightly increased across all population groups in the last five years.

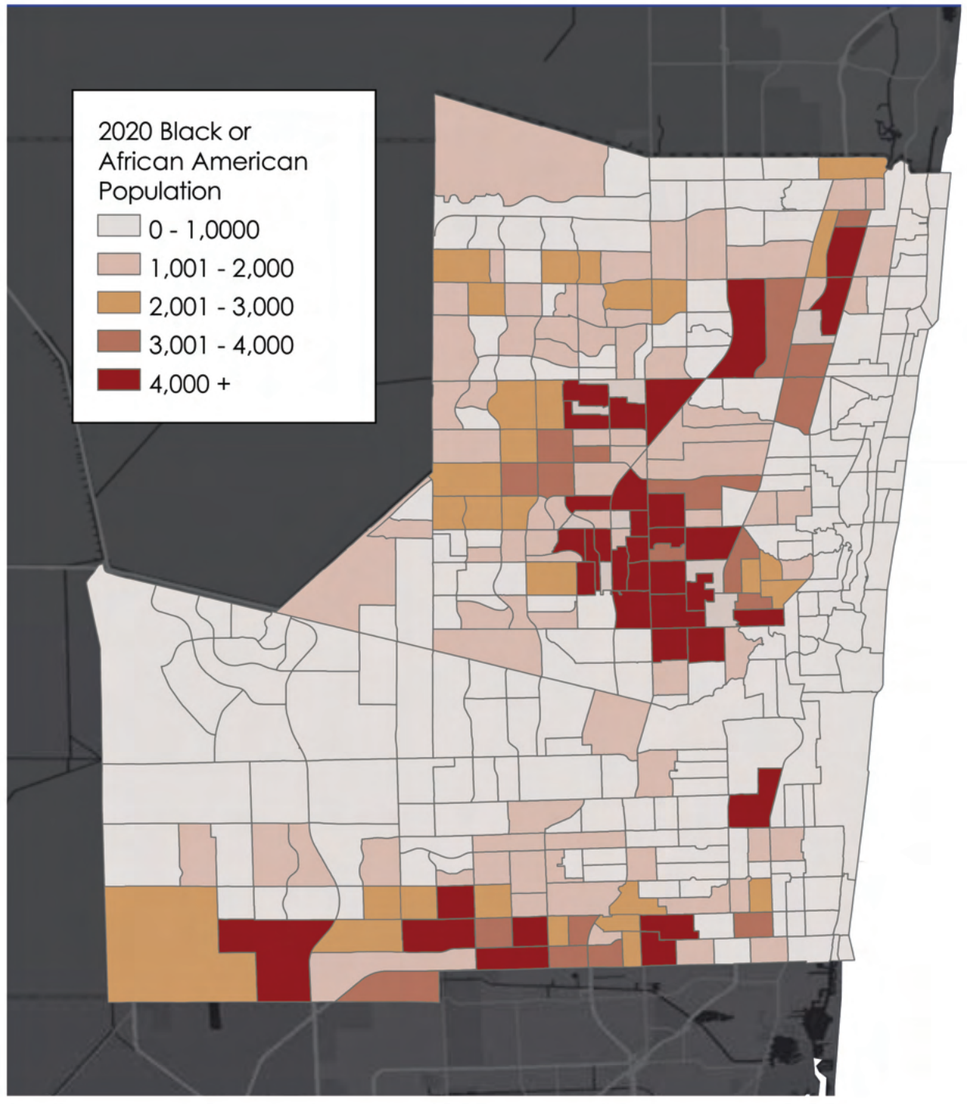
In 2019, the vast majority of Black or African American migrants arrived from other states in the U.S. Jamaicans (36.4 percent), and Haitians (24.2 percent) comprise the largest number of Broward County's Black migrants from foreign countries.

Table 2.1: Broward County Population by Race and Ethnicity 2015 - 2019

Population	2015	%	2019	%	% Change
Total	1,843,152	100	1,926,205	100	4.5
White alone	1,154,135	62.6	1,170,083	60.7	1.4
Black or African American alone	513,087	27.8	551,097	28.6	7.4
Hispanic or Latino	496,991	27	574,289	29.8	15.6
Asian alone	64,492	3.5	68,988	3.6	7
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	868	0	1,227	0.1	41.4
Some other race alone	55,033	3	65,968	3.4	19.9
Two or more races	51,091	2.8	63,738	3.3	24.8

Source: U.S. Census, 2015-2019 ACS 5-year estimates.

Broward County: Total Black or African American Population By Census Tract (2020)



Broward County: Percent Change of Black or African American Population from 2010-2020 By Census Tract

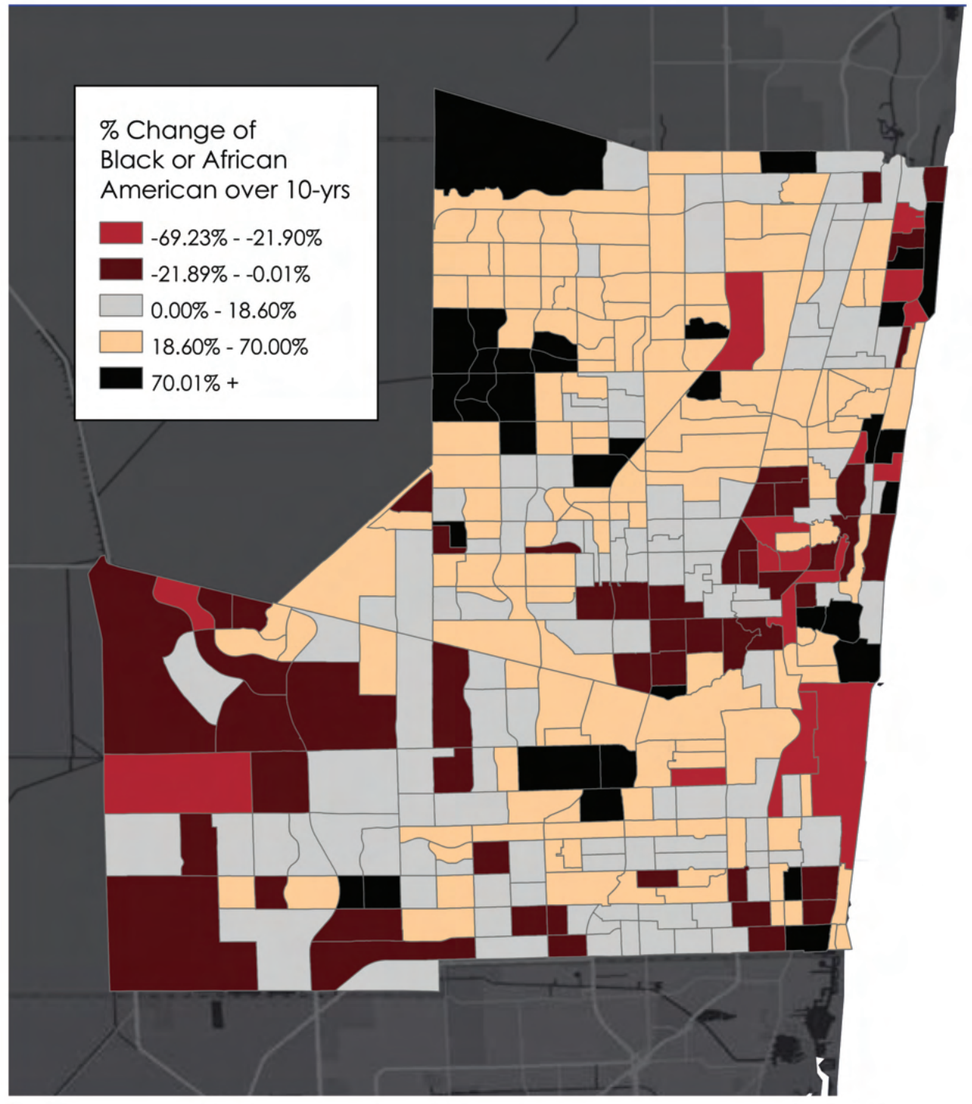


Table 2.3: Broward County Black Population by Origin 2019

2019	
Black or African American	**%**
Total Black Migrants from Other Countries	100.0%
Jamaica	36.4%
Haiti	24.2%
Brazil	9.6%
Caribbean and North America, not specified	9.3%
Dominican Republic	4.4%
South America, not specified	2.8%
France	2.5%
England	2.1%
Canada	1.8%
United Kingdom, Excluding England	1.4%
Venezuela	0.6%
Western Asia, Not Specified	0.6%
Other US Island Areas, Oceania, Not Specified, or At Sea	0.6%
Turkey	0.5%
Colombia	0.4%
Eastern Africa, Not Specified	0.4%
Nigeria	0.4%
Other Africa, not specified	0.4%
Japan	0.3%
Western Africa, not specified	0.3%
Western Europe or Other Europe, Not Specified	0.3%
Guatemala	0.3%
Mexico	0.2%
Central America, not specified	0.2%
Cuba	0.2%

Source: U.S. Census, ACS Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Table 2.4: Broward County Municipalities with Highest Black or African American Population

Municipality	Black or African American	%
Lauderdale Lakes	29,662	84.0%
Lauderhill	56,625	80.0%
North Lauderdale	23,633	58.0%
West Park	7,658	52.0%
Pembroke Park	2,945	51.0%
Miramar	60,509	46.0%
Sunrise	32,365	35.0%
Pompano Beach	34,806	32.0%
Fort Lauderdale	56,776	32.0%
Tamarac	19,658	32.0%

Source: U.S. Census, 2019 ACS 5-year estimates

Broward County's Black or African American population resides throughout the County. However, concentrations are found based on historical settlements and newer migration patterns. Concentrations of Black or African American residents are mostly found in long-established Black communities and neighborhoods.



Table 2.5: Broward County Population by Race, Ethnicity and Age 2019

Age	White alone, not Hispanic	%	Black or African American	%	Hispanic or Latino	%
Under 5 yrs.	27,008	3.9	38,934	7.1	38,354	6.7
5 to 19 yrs.	88,786	12.7	120,625	21.9	108,754	18.9
20 to 34 yrs.	106,949	15.3	125,761	22.8	121,425	21.1
35 to 54 yrs.	**176,353**	**25.2**	**147,179**	**26.7**	**179,236**	**31.2**
55 to 64 yrs.	117,926	16.9	61,444	11.1	63,345	11.0
65 and over	181,783	26.0	57,154	10.4	63,175	11.0

Source: U.S. Census , 2019 ACS 5-year estimates

Broward County's overall population has been aging over the last 10 years. The share of the population ages 55 to 64 years and 65+ has been gradually increasing while the share of all population age groups from under 5 years to 54 years have been steadily decreasing. However, an analysis of Broward County's population age by race and ethnicity shows significant variations in population ages. According to 2019 ACS estimates, 42.9 percent of Broward County's White alone, not Hispanic population is 55+ years of age compared to 21.5 of the County's African American or Black population and 22 percent of the Hispanic or Latino population. Broward County's overall population also shows large variations in all younger age categories. Only 28 percent of the County's White alone, not Hispanic population fall in the 5 to 19 and 20 to 34 age categories compared to 49.5 percent of the County's African American or Black population and 52.3 percent of the Hispanic or Latino population.

Table 2.6: Broward County Black or African American Population by Age 2011-2019

Black or African American Alone	2011 Total	2011 %	2015 Total	2015 %	2019 Total	2019 %
Under 5 yrs.	35,871	7.8	38,985	7.6	38,934	7.1
5 to 19 yrs.	112,727	24.6	117,706	22.9	120,625	21.9
20 to 34 yrs.	103,595	22.7	119,149	23.2	125,761	22.8
35 to 54 yrs.	131,344	28.7	140,108	27.3	147,179	26.7
55 to 64 yrs.	39,900	8.7	51,861	10.1	61,444	11.1
65 and over	3,888	7.4	45,278	8.8	57,154	10.4

Source: U.S. Census , 2011, 2015 & 2019 ACS 5-year estimates





THE ECONOMY

STRONG, EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES DELIVER BROAD-BASED PROSPERITY TO THEIR RESIDENTS

Strong, equitable, inclusive economies deliver broad-based prosperity to their residents by providing: Stable Long Term Growth - job and employment growth that is less susceptible to wide and/or rapid declines, so that household wealth and income is protected during national economic downturns and shocks as recently experienced with the COVID-19 pandemic and prior "Great Recession;" Economic Opportunity - in the form of a variety of jobs and occupations paying competitive wages and incomes that increase rapidly with improved skills and experience; Economic Mobility - regardless of where one starts on the economic ladder, individuals and families can improve their economic conditions and build wealth; and Economic Equity - growth whose benefits are shared by residents across the income spectrum and where they live.

The following analysis addresses each prosperity indicator in determining the presence and extent of racial disparities and inequities in Broward County's economy.

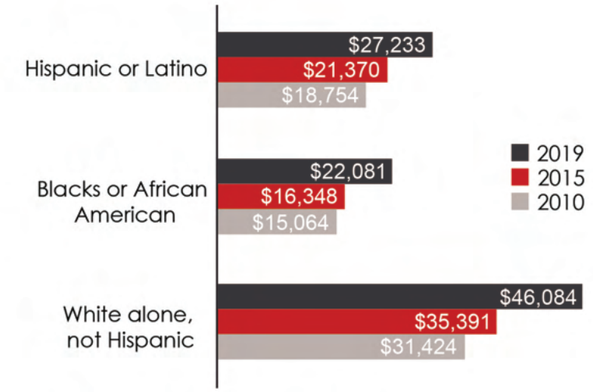
Household and Per Capita Income

Like most metropolitan areas in the U.S., Broward County's median household and per capita incomes have not kept up with sharp increases in the cost of living driven primarily by rapidly increasing housing costs and exacerbated by several decades of stagnant wages.

According to American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, there are significant disparities in median household income among White, Hispanic, and Black households. In fact, the disparity in the median household income between White and Black or African American households has widened in the last 10 years. According to 2019 ACS estimates, the median household income of Blacks is only 71 percent of White households.

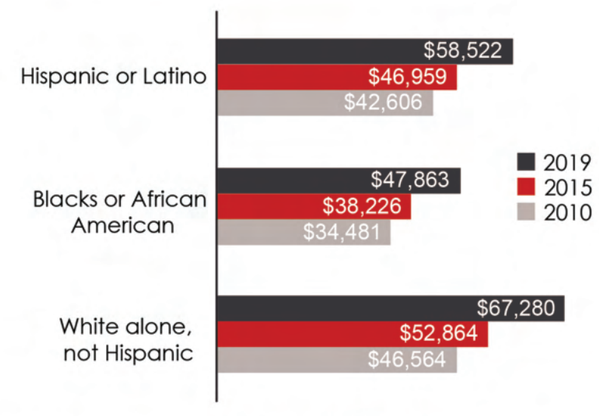
Per capita income provides a general gauge of rising living standards in an economy though it isn't normally used to measure income disparities. However, in Broward County significant disparities do exist in per capita income by race and ethnicity. According to 2019 ACS estimates, the per capita income of Blacks or African Americans is 48 percent of Whites.

PER CAPITA INCOME BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



Source: U.S. Census, 2010, 2015 & 2019 ACS 5-year estimates

HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



Source: U.S. Census, 2010, 2015 & 2019 ACS 5-year estimates

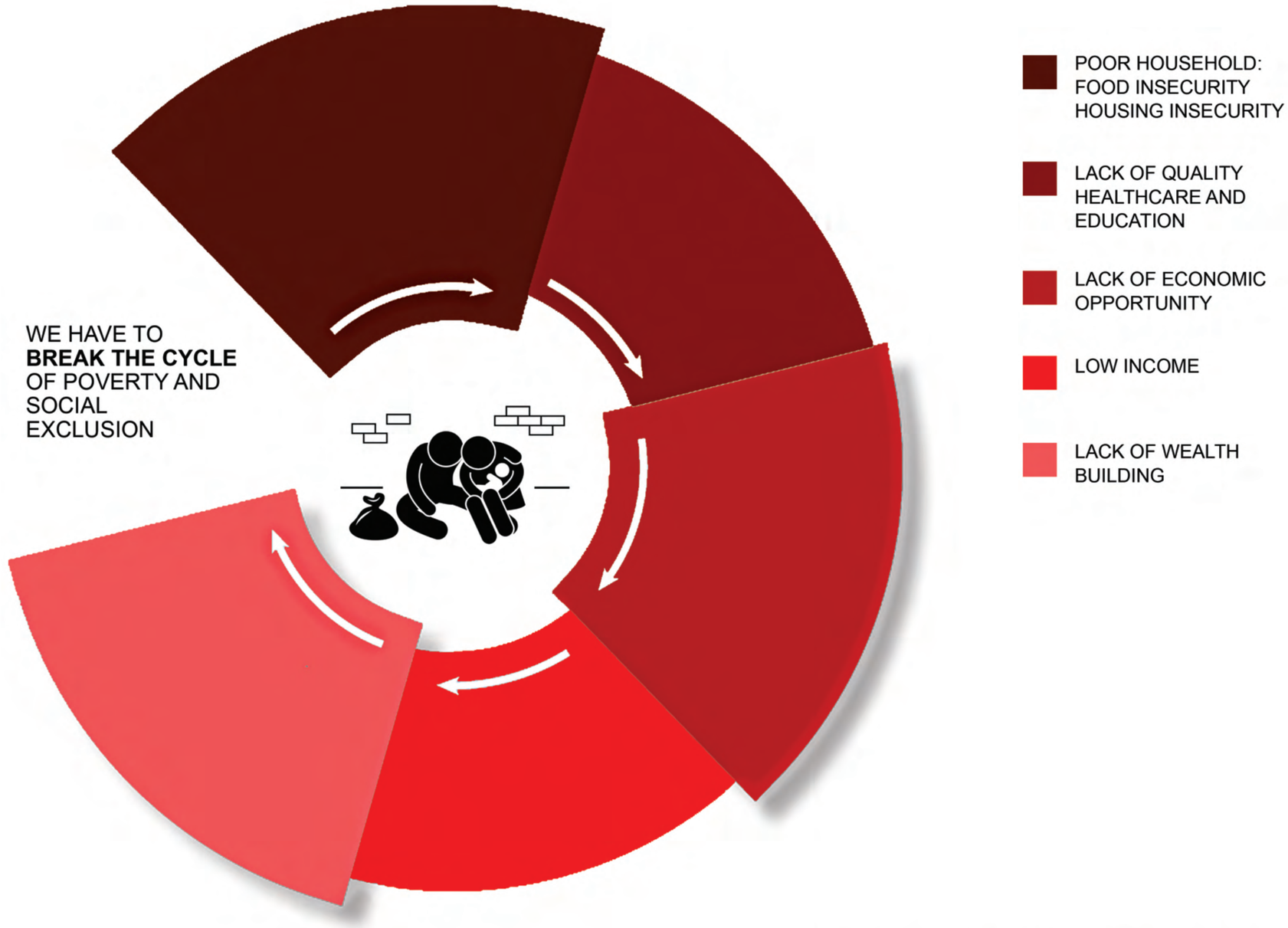
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF BLACKS IS ONLY 71% OF WHITES.

PER CAPITA INCOME OF BLACKS IS 48% OF WHITES

Poverty

There is a growing sense of urgency to improve policy and programmatic outcomes in urban neighborhoods with persistently high concentrations of poverty. In fact, studies have found that poor individuals and families are not evenly distributed across communities or throughout the country. A 2014 report by City Observatory provided data that confirms the strong persistence of high poverty over time. The report found that two-thirds of the high-poverty census tracts in 1970 were still high-poverty neighborhoods forty years later. Why are these numbers important? The concentration of poverty results in higher crime rates, underperforming public schools, poor housing, health conditions, and limited access to private services and job opportunities.

The "vicious cycle of poverty" begins when a child is born into a poor family. These families often have limited resources to create opportunities to advance themselves, which leaves them stuck in the poverty trap. The cycle of poverty has been defined as a phenomenon where poor families become impoverished for at least three generations. Children are most affected by the cycle of poverty as children are dependent on their guardians and therefore can't pull themselves out of poverty because of their young age and lack of resources. Children living in poverty are more likely to experience unsafe living conditions, higher crime and public safety issues, malnutrition, a lack of access to quality education, and inadequate health care.



THE VICIOUS CYCLE OF POVERTY

BROWARD COUNTY'S HIGHEST POVERTY RATES & LEVELS OF DISTRESS ARE CONCENTRATED IN COMMUNITIES LARGELY COMPRISED OF BLACK RESIDENTS

According to ACS estimates, poverty among Broward County's Black or African Americans and Hispanic or Latinos has significantly decreased since 2010. However, Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino persons living in poverty remain significantly higher than White persons.

Families with children living in poverty are also disproportionately higher among Blacks or African Americans and Hispanics or Latinos than Whites. Hispanic or Latino families with children living in poverty are twice as high as Whites and nearly four times higher among Black or African Americans.

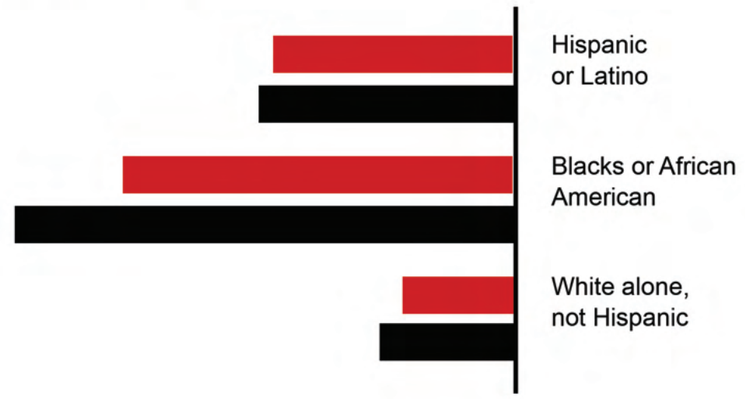
Broward County's highest poverty rates and overall levels of distress (see map) are concentrated in communities largely comprised of African American or Black residents. Poverty rates in these communities are far in excess of the County's overall poverty rate of 12.2 percent. Communities with excessive poverty rates above 20 percent include Pembroke Park (23.6 percent), Lauderdale Lakes (22.5 percent), North Lauderdale (22.0 percent), West Park (21.9 percent), and Lauderhill (20.9 percent).

THE RATE OF POVERTY FOR HISPANIC AND BLACK FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ARE TWO AND FOUR TIMES HIGHER, RESPECTIVELY THAN THE RATE OF POVERTY FOR WHITE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

PERSONS IN POVERTY BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



CHILDREN IN POVERTY BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

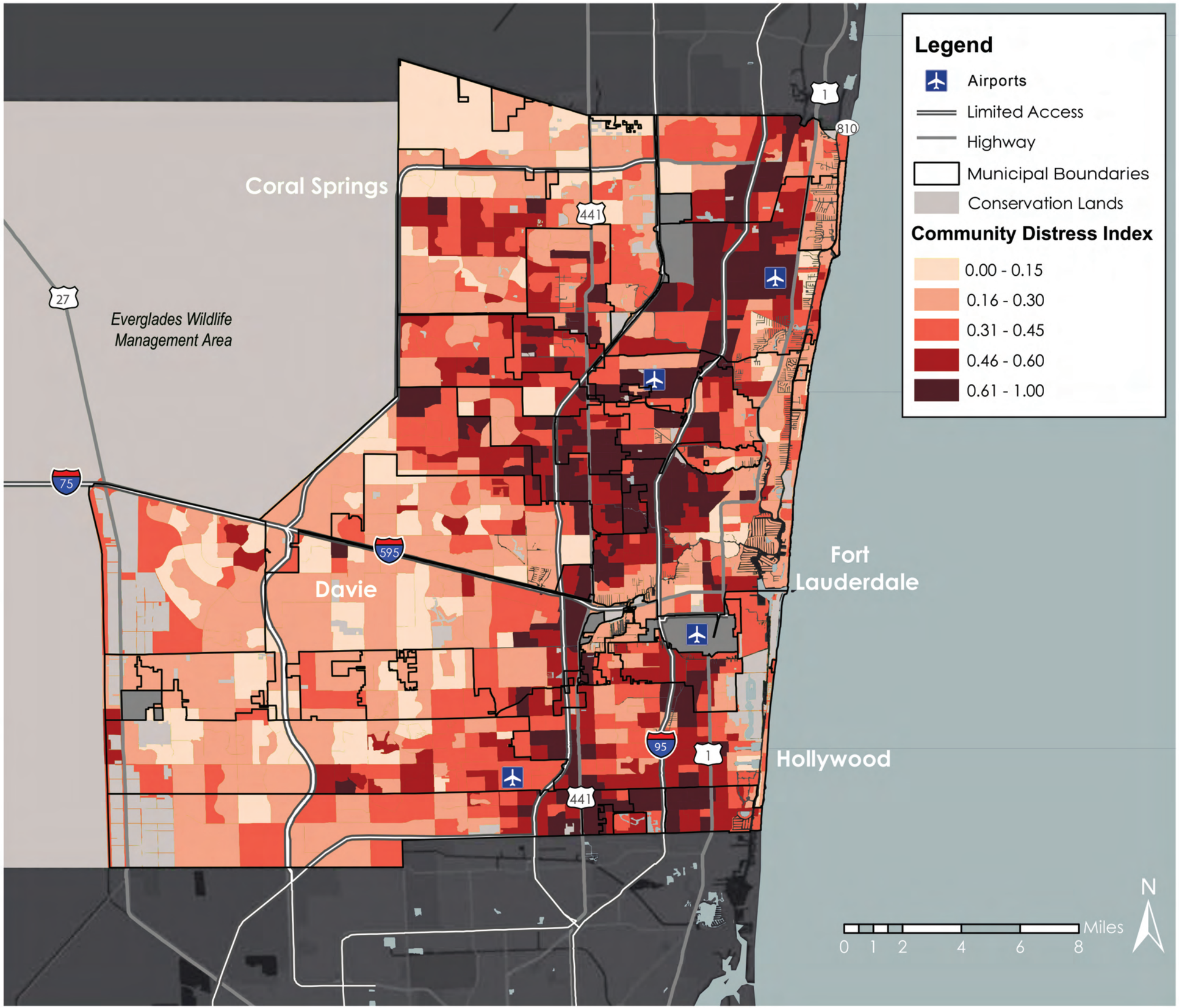


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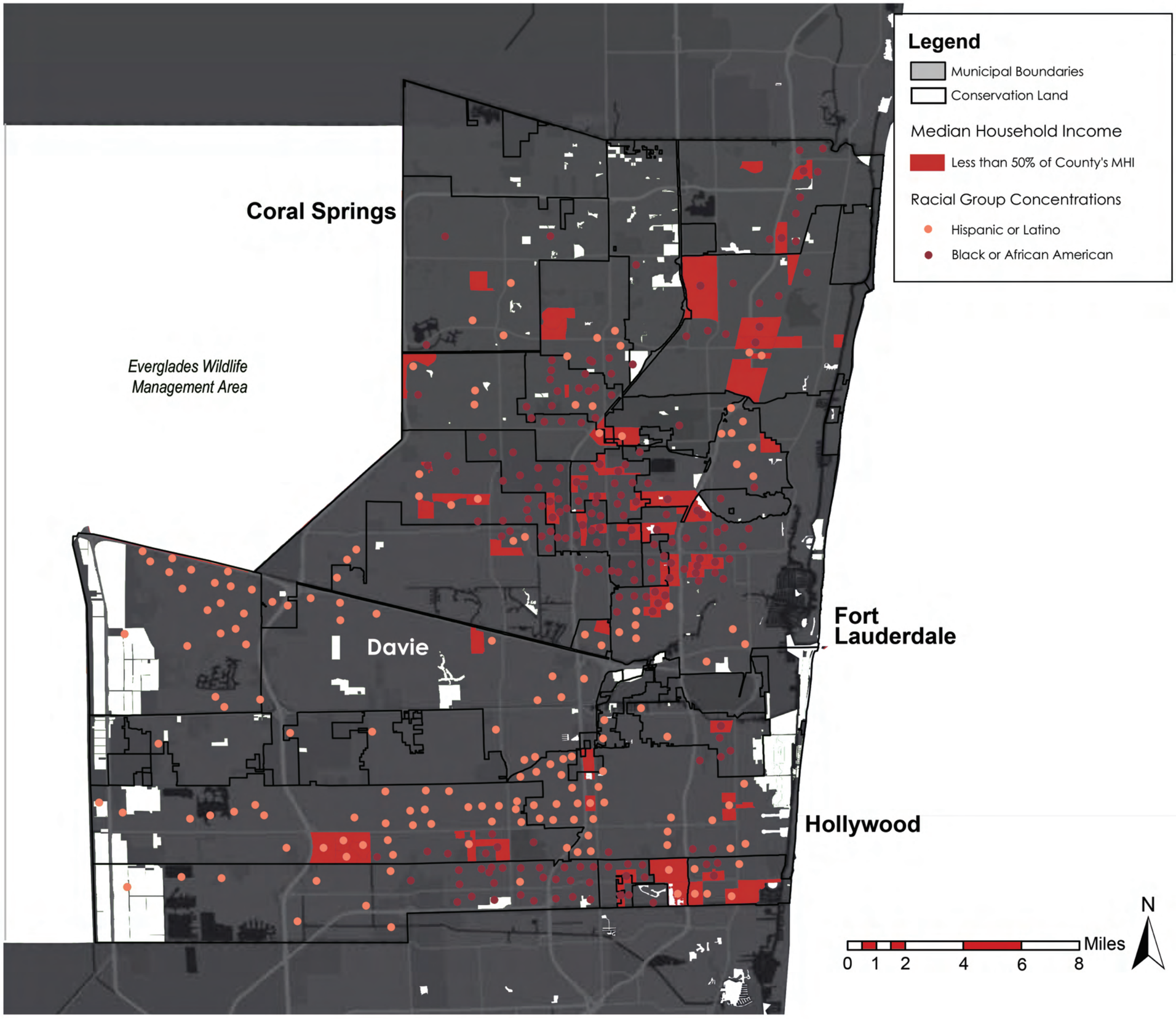
Broward County COVID-19 Community Distress Index (CDI)

CDI categorizes the types and levels of distress within a defined sub-geography providing an analytical tool for designing appropriate response strategies.

The CDI for Broward County shows high level of community distress in North, Central, and South Broward with concentrations of Black or African American and Hispanic and Immigrant populations. The primary community stressors include low income, lack of educational attainment, and housing affordability.



Black and Hispanic Concentrations by < 50% of the Median Household Income (MHI)



Labor Force Participation

Labor force participation is an important economic indicator as it shows the percentage of civilian workers 16+ years of age who are either employed or looking for work. The current (September 2021) U.S. labor participation rate of 61.6 percent reflects a slow COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery as millions of Americans still remain sidelined from the job market. This is significant as unemployment benefits for millions of Americans ended summer of 2021, but weren't enough to bring many people back into the labor force.

The overall decline in the labor participation rate since the Great Recession has been due largely to the aging of the population, especially among White workers. Another factor cited is the pre-COVID absence of family-friendly policies in the United States as a key reason for the decline in the overall labor force participation rate and a stalling out of women's labor force participation.

According to the 2019 ACS, the labor force participation rates for Broward County's Black or African American (71.0 percent) and Hispanic or Latino (71.6 percent) populations are significantly higher than the U.S. and Broward County's White, Non-Hispanic (58.9 percent) population.

Employment Rates

Pre-COVID, unemployment rates in Broward County had been steadily declining since the Great Recession. However, unemployment rates among Blacks or African-Americans remain significantly higher than Whites. In the early months of the COVID pandemic, unemployment rates soared to 17.4 percent in Broward County. Job loss was especially acute in Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino communities with high concentrations of frontline service sector workers. While Broward County's August 2021 unemployment rate decreased to 4.9 percent, unemployment rates in predominantly Black communities remain higher than the County, including Lauderhill (6.9 percent), Lauderdale Lakes (6.9 percent), and North Lauderdale (6.2 percent).

Employment by Occupation

Broward County is largely a service sector economy comprising over 90 percent of all employment. Leading service-providing sectors include educational and healthcare services (108,800 jobs), government (103,800 jobs), retail trade (102,100 jobs), leisure and hospitality (85,700 jobs), and administrative and support and waste services (75,900 jobs).

The leading service sector occupations among Broward County's Black or African American workers include healthcare and social assistance (15.8 percent), retail trade (13.1 percent), government (12.3 percent), and administrative and support waste management and remediation services. The leading occupations among Hispanic or Latino workers include retail trade (13.2 percent), healthcare and social assistance (9.8 percent), government (9.5 percent), and educational services (9.2 percent).

A large percentage of African American or Black workers are employed in low wage service sector occupations. 2020 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) provided by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) indicate Broward County's leading service sector occupations have median hourly wages under $15.00, including Sales and Related Occupations ($14.75/293,800 workers), Transportation and Material Moving Occupations ($14.80/220,980 workers), Health Care Support Occupations ($14.35/80,550 workers), and Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations ($12.50/85,750 workers).

Employment by Industry

Broward County's economic base is largely comprised of service-producing industry sectors which provide the majority of employment including retail (12.5 percent), education services and health care and social assistance (20.8 percent) and professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services (14.1 percent).

An analysis of Broward County's industry employment by race shows significant disparities in employment among several of the leading industry sectors, including educational services, professional, scientific, and technical services, government, information, and finance and insurance. These industry sectors generally provide higher wages than lower-wage service industries such as accommodation and food services, retail, and administrative and support and waste management. Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino workers are largely employed.

Minority-Owned Businesses

According to the most recent 2017 U.S. Census Annual Business Survey, there are 13,236 minority-owned businesses in Broward County. There are 2,259 Black or African American-owned businesses with 12,293 employees and 7,932 Hispanic or Latino businesses with 53,327 employees.

> A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN OR BLACK WORKERS ARE EMPLOYED IN LOW WAGE SERVICE SECTOR OCCUPATION

> LEADING SERVICE SECTORS OCCUPATIONS HAVE MEDIAN HOURLY WAGES UNDER $15.00

Table 3.1: Broward County Businesses and Activity by Race

Businesses by Race	Number of employer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer firms	Number of employees	Annual payroll ($1,000)
White	44,792	$81,905,628	371,584	$15,326,067
Black or African American	2,259	$1,458,316	12,293	$366,556
American Indian & Alaska Native	99	$93,049	500	$18,480
Asian	3,082	$2,792,797	17,308	$460,569
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	62	$22,666	363	$8,705
Minority	13,236	$15,325,357	83,298	$2,701,001
Equally minority/nonminority	1,212	$1,407,012	9,027	$348,847
Nonminority	35,766	$69,501,071	309,900	$13,134,765

Source: U.S. Census, 2017 Annual Business Survey

Public Education

Education is often referred to as the great equalizer. It can open the door to jobs, resources, and skills that an individual or family needs to not just survive but improve quality of life and build prosperity. In fact, access to high-quality primary education and supporting child well-being is a globally recognized solution to the cycle of poverty. According to the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, education is one of the most important long-term drivers of both economic growth and equity.

Education adds to human capital (the education, training, and health of workers), thereby increasing labor productivity and the value of the worker. The quality of education that students receive also directly correlates to their quality-of-life years down the road. Early education, in particular, has the power to shape a child's future and provide more resources available to them, the better. It is for these reasons that it's crucial for local educators to address any barriers young students face to succeeding in school.



In 1929, Colored School #13 (aka The Rosenwald School) was built to educate African American students in Deerfield. The school's name was later changed to Braithwaite School in honor of ex slave, poet, and writer William Stanley Beaumont Braithwaite. The school motto was "to educate, to elevate and to cultivate."

> **According to the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, education is one of the most important long-term drivers of both economic growth & equity**

Barriers to inclusive education can affect groups based on race, gender, and many other factors. As such, equity measures are important in determining persistent learning issues and gaps that exist in local public education. Equity in public education means offering individualized support to students that address possible barriers, such as poverty, housing conditions, family crises, mental health issues, hunger, and homelessness. Major education initiatives across the country support efforts to ensure quality teaching in every classroom; raise standards for all students; build systems to improve instruction, and significantly improve low-performing schools.

Mrs. Blanche Ely was born January 4, 1904, and graduated from Florida A&M University. She also received a Master's degree from Columbia University. Mrs. Ely became principal of Ely High School in 1951, which was originally named "Pompano Colored School" and later named "Pompano Negro High School.'



Photo and caption courtesy of Hy-Lo News.



Old Dillard Museum and former Old Dillard School Fort Lauderdale's first school for African American students in 1907.

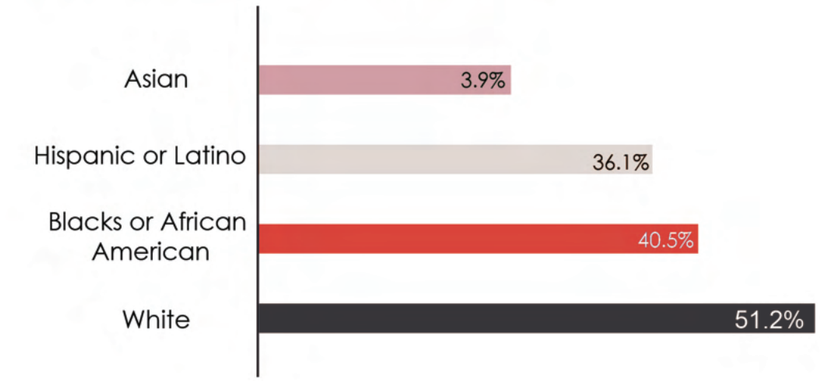
Source: Broward County Public Schools

Race/Ethnic Composition of the Student Population

The analysis found the racial and ethnic make-up of Broward County Public Schools more diverse than Broward County's overall population. This is attributed to a larger percentage of childbearing ages among the County's Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino populations.



Racial and Ethnic Make-up of Broward Public Schools



Source: Broward County Public Schools - Student Enrollment Counts 2020/21

Educational Attainment

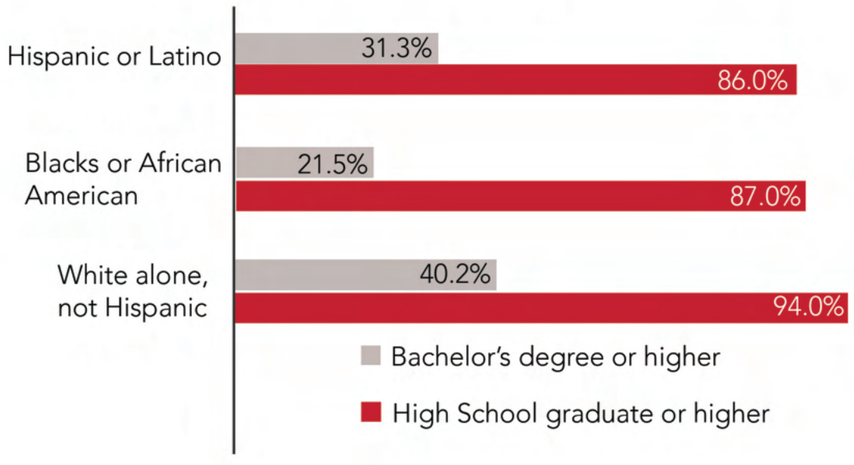
Broward County's overall education attainment has not significantly improved in the past ten years, though the County's population 25+ years with less than a high school diploma has decreased from 12.8 percent to 10.7 percent of the adult population and adults with graduate or professional degrees increased from 10.2 percent to 12.2 percent. However, significant disparities exist in Broward County's education attainments based on race and ethnicity. Only 21.5 percent of Broward County's Black or African American population 25+ years of age have a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 40.2 percent for the County's White, non-Hispanic population.

Table 4.1: Broward County Educational Attainment 2010 - 2019

Educational Attainment	2010	2019
Less than high school diploma	12.8%	10.7%
High school grad or equivalent	28.4%	28.3%
Some college or associate's degree	29.5%	28.1%
Bachelor's degree	19.0%	20.7%
Graduate or professional degree	10.2%	12.2%

Source: U.S. Census, 2010 & 2019 ACS 1-year estimates

Educational Attainment by Race and Ethnicity, 2019

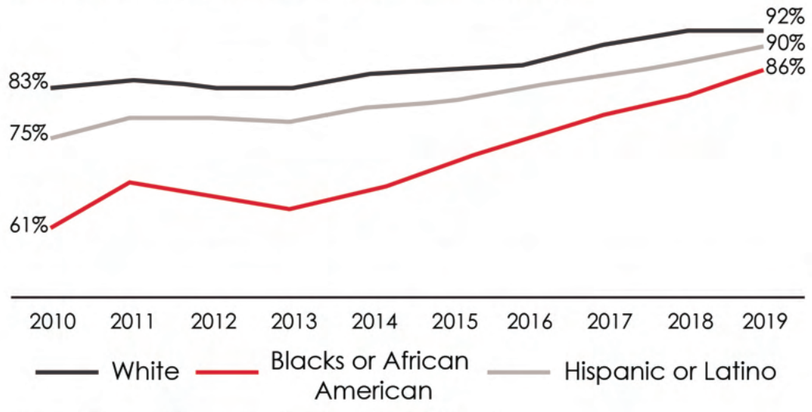


According to 2019 ACS estimates, Broward County's high school graduation rates have steadily improved over the past ten years with marked improvement among Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino students. Among Black or African American students, the graduation rate increased from 61 percent in 2010 to 86 percent in 2019. Among Hispanic or Latino students, the graduation rate increased from 75 percent in 2010 to 90 percent in 2019.

Table 4.2: Broward County Graduation Rates by Race & Ethnicity 2010 - 2019

Year	White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino
2010	83%	61%	75%
2011	84%	68%	78%
2012	83%	66%	78%
2013	83%	64%	78%
2014	85%	67%	80%
2015	86%	71%	81%
2016	87%	75%	83%
2017	90%	79%	85%
2018	92%	82%	87%
2019	92%	86%	90%

Broward Graduation Rate by Race and Ethnicity



Source: Broward County Public Schools - High School

Educational attainment varies significantly among Broward County's communities. Broward communities with the highest percentages of persons 25+ years of age without a high school diploma - Lauderdale Lakes (25 percent), West Park (23 percent), Pembroke Park (21 percent), Pompano Beach (18 percent) and Lauderhill (17 percent) also have the highest number of Black or African American residents.

Full Time Instructional and Administrative Staff

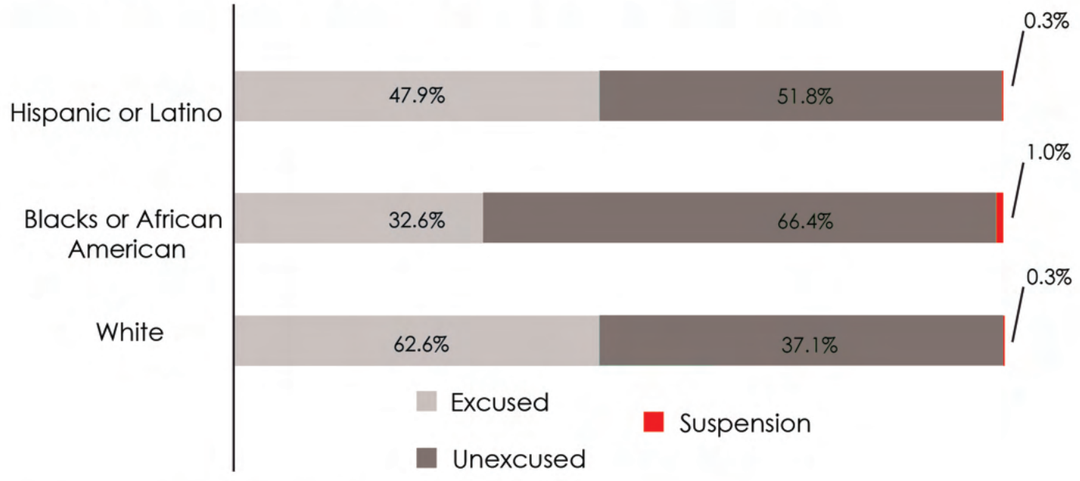
Creating educational equity in non-homogenous schools where students come from various backgrounds requires that educators - instructional and administrative staff - focus on "vertical equity," which assumes that students have different needs and require learning resources based on those understood needs. Because their families or schools might have very limited budgets, providing these students with equitable resources is difficult. Additionally, "at-risk" communities often have trouble keeping educators who can make a difference.

An analysis of Broward County's public schools found disparities in the proportion of inexperienced school administrators and instructional staff among high- and mid-range minority schools and low- minority schools.

School Attendance

Current school attendance and other educational metrics require added scrutiny as the 2020 COVID pandemic created an unprecedented impact on Broward County's public schools and student education. According to Broward County's Public Schools 2020 Attendance Report, "average daily attendance" in Broward public schools showed little variation by student race and ethnicity. However, "absences" during the 2020 school year does show significant disparities by race and ethnicity. "Unexcused" absences were significantly higher (66.4 percent) among Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino (51.8 percent) students than White students (37.1 percent).

Broward County Schools Absences by Type, Race, and Ethnicity (2020)



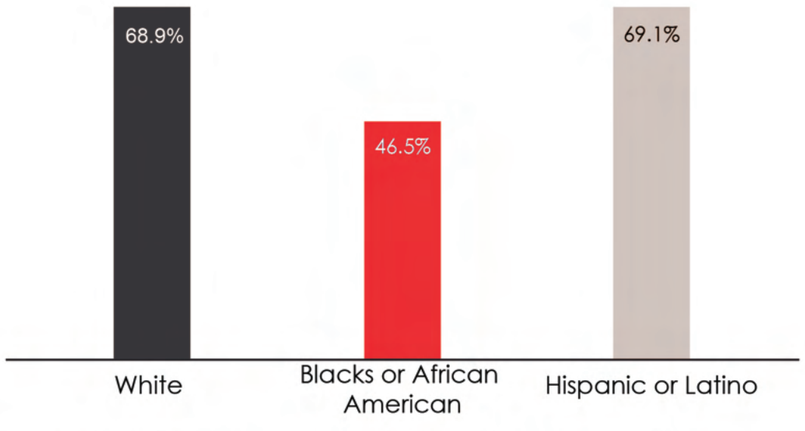
Source: Broward County Public Schools - 2020 Attendance Report

Student Participation in Advanced Level Courses

While the number of Black and Hispanic students taking academically challenging Advanced Placement courses in high school has increased in recent years, the racial scoring gap on Advanced Placement tests continues to be large and, in fact, has increased in recent years. According to a 2020 report from the Education Trust, Black and Latino students across the country have unequal access to advanced coursework, which means they often miss out on vital learning opportunities that can set them up for success in college and careers.

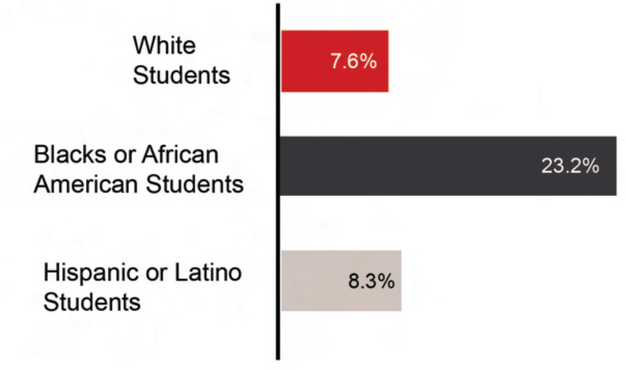
According to Broward County Public Schools - Advanced Placement Report 2019 - 2020, the average exams by race shows a disparity by race and ethnicity. The "rate of passing" AP exams show parity between White (68.9 percent) and Hispanic (69.1 percent) students, but a significant disparity with Black students (46.5 percent).

Rate of Passing AP Examinations by Race and Ethnicity



Source: Broward County Public Schools - Advanced Placement Report 2019-20

Broward County Schools Suspension Rate by Race and Ethnicity



Same System, Different Experiences



95% of schools in Broward County are majority-minority schools, but disparities in Broward's education system manifests as a variety of outcomes:

Compared to White students in Broward, Black and Hispanic students experience higher suspension rates and unexcused absenses. These groups also score lower (on average) on their Florida Standardized Assessments, and participate in the PSAT less often.

All of these examples have short- and long-term implications for the students of Broward County. Ultimately, these bifurcated experiences will produce less successful Black students, less economic mobility, and increased inequalities.

> MOST OF BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS GRADED AS C OR D ARE LOCATED IN COMMUNITIES WITH HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC OR LATINO POPULATIONS

Public School Grading System

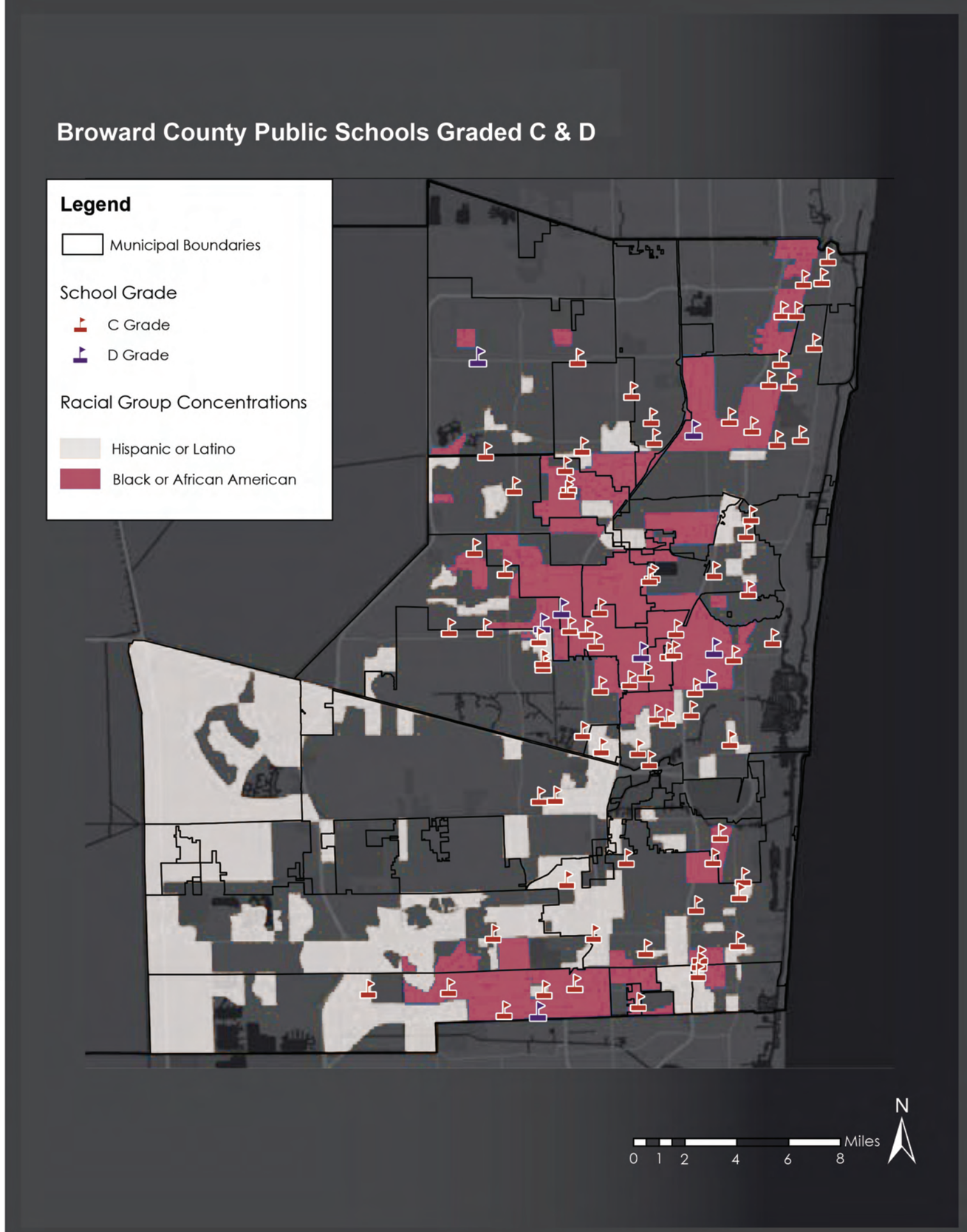
The Florida Department of Education's grading system provides an easily understandable way to measure a school's performance. Parents and the general public can use the school grade and its components to understand how well each school serves its students. Schools are graded A, B, C, D, or F. There are four achievement components, four learning gains components, a middle school acceleration component, as well as components for graduation rate and college and career acceleration. Each component is worth up to 100 points in the overall calculation.

There are four Achievement Components: English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. These components include student performance on statewide standardized assessments, including comprehensive and end-of-course (EOC) assessments. The component measures the percentage of full-year enrolled students who achieved a passing score. Four Learning Gains Components are learning gains in English, Language Arts, and Mathematics, as well as learning gains for the lowest-performing 25% of students in English Language Arts and Mathematics. These components include student performance on statewide standardized assessments, including the comprehensive assessments and EOC assessments for the current year and the prior year. The components measure the percentage of full-year enrolled students who achieved a learning gain from the prior year to the current year.

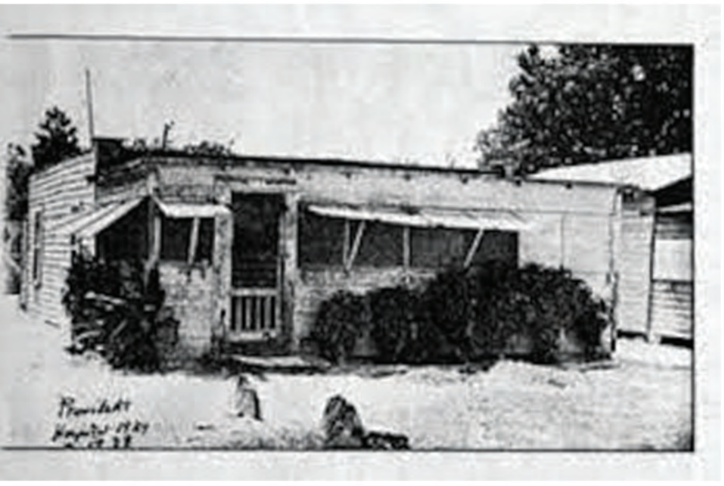
It should be noted, pursuant to Florida Department of Education Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-1, spring K-12 statewide assessment test administrations for the 2019- 20 school year were canceled, and accountability measures reliant on such data were not calculated for the 2019-20 school year. Additionally, in April 2020, the U.S Department of Education provided a waiver for requirements related to certain assessments and accountability based on data from the 2019-20 school year.

Public School Grading System Findings

The *State of Black Broward* report found that most of Broward County Public Schools graded as C or D are located in communities with high concentrations of Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino populations. This includes 22 of the 2021-2022 Lowest 300 Performing Elementary Schools in the state.



PUBLIC HEALTH



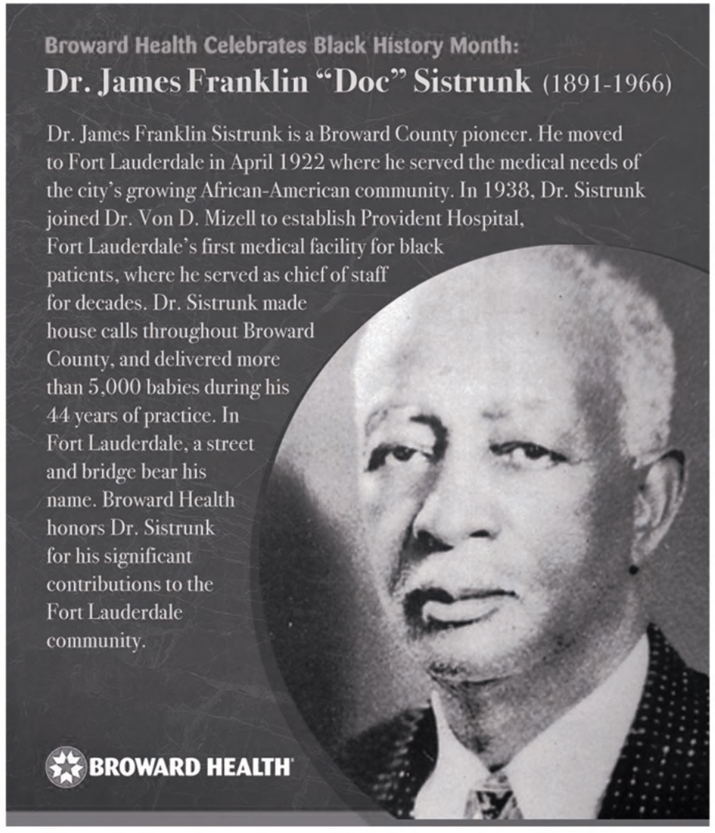
Provident Hospital opened in a small wooden house in Northwest Fort Lauderdale by Dr. James S. Sistrunk. It remained the only hospital in the County for Blacks until 1964, when Broward General finally became integrated.

Source: Aaregistry.org

> **BLACK PEOPLE WERE MORE THAN TWICE AS LIKELY TO DIE FROM COVID-19 AS WHITE PEOPLE**

> **EQUITABLE HEALTH CARE MEANS THAT ALL INDIVIDUALS HAVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, HIGH QUALITY, CULTURALLY & LINGUISTICALLY APPROPRIATE CARE IN A TIMELY MANNER. THIS INCLUDES HEALTH CARE QUALITY; PATIENT EDUCATION & EMPOWERMENT; HEALTH CARE INFRASTRUCTURE; HEALTH CARE POLICY; & PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION (NATIONAL REACH COALITION)**

Source: Broward Health



Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a growing focus on its disproportionate impacts on people of color, particularly as the availability of data to understand racial disparities has increased. The COVID-19 pandemic has been exceptionally disruptive for the Black, Indigenous, and Hispanic communities. Data from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) shows:

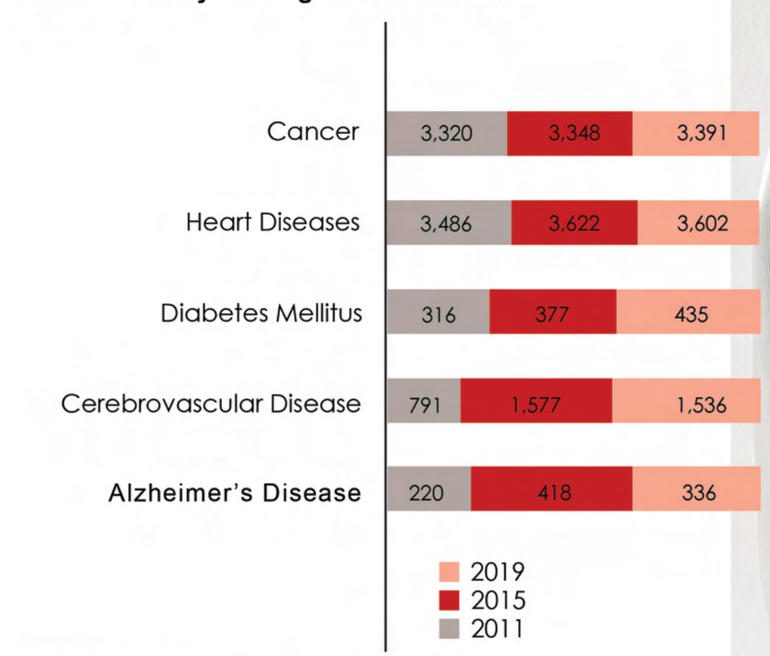
- Black people were more than twice as likely to die from COVID-19 as White people;
- Indigenous people accounted for more than 56 percent of COVID deaths in New Mexico (home to part of the Navajo Nation), although indigenous people were only 8.8 percent of the state's population;
- Hispanic Americans between the ages of 40 and 59 had been infected at a rate five times greater than White people in the same age group, nationwide;
- An important factor in COVID's disparate impacts is that a much higher proportion of minority group members live in overcrowded and/ or substandard housing. That problem compounds other disparate impacts of the pandemic such as the facts that people of color are more likely to (1) have "essential" jobs in crowded workplaces; (2) rely on crowded public transportation; and (3) suffer from pre-existing health conditions. Studies have linked many of those pre-existing conditions to substandard and overcrowded housing.

Broward County's Public Health Conditions

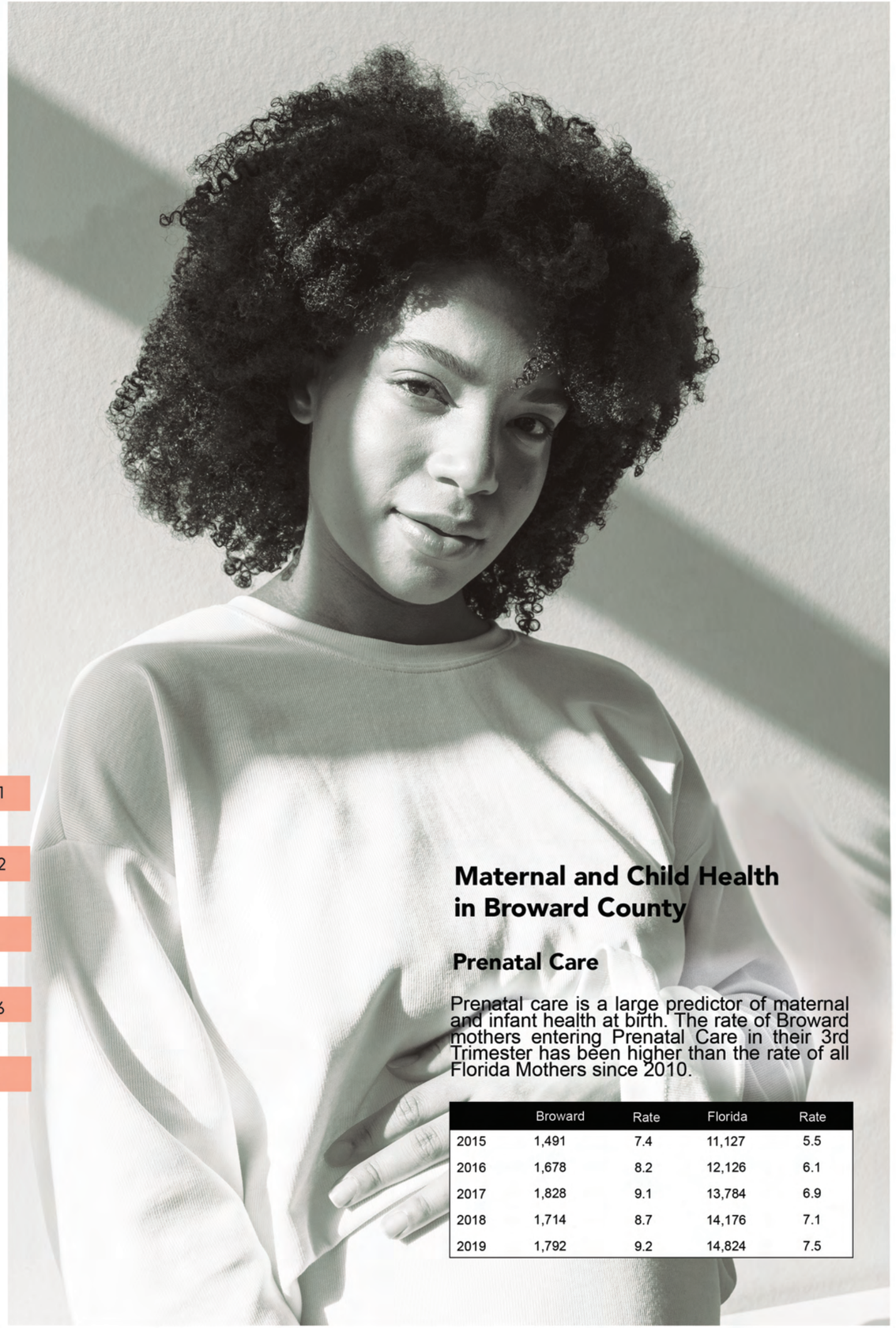
An analysis of Broward County's public health conditions shows significant disparities among the County's White, Black or African American, and Hispanic or Latino populations.

The leading causes of death in Broward County include heart disease, cancer, and cerebrovascular diseases. Significantly, African Americans and Hispanics are at risk for heart disease and cerebrovascular disease. According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), African Americans and Hispanics are more likely than Whites to die after a stroke. The at-risk population includes those with diabetes and high blood pressure, two disproportionate ailments associated with Black or African Americans.

Broward County Leading Causes of Death



Source: FL Health Charts - Leading Causes of Death



Maternal and Child Health in Broward County

Prenatal Care

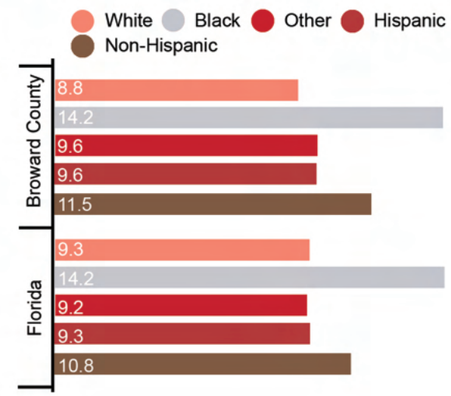
Prenatal care is a large predictor of maternal and infant health at birth. The rate of Broward mothers entering Prenatal Care in their 3rd Trimester has been higher than the rate of all Florida Mothers since 2010.

	Broward	Rate	Florida	Rate
2015	1,491	7.4	11,127	5.5
2016	1,678	8.2	12,126	6.1
2017	1,828	9.1	13,784	6.9
2018	1,714	8.7	14,176	7.1
2019	1,792	9.2	14,824	7.5

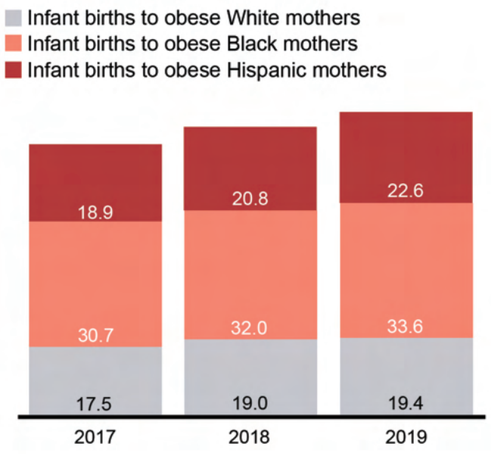
According to the 2019 Florida Health - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, there is a wide disparity in infant mortality rates among Broward County's Black or African American residents than Whites. Infant mortality rates among Hispanic and Latino population is also significantly higher than Whites. Strikingly, the infant mortality rate among Black or African Americans has not significantly improved over the past ten years.

Preterm births (2019)

In 2019, Black babies were 1.6 times more likely to be born preterm



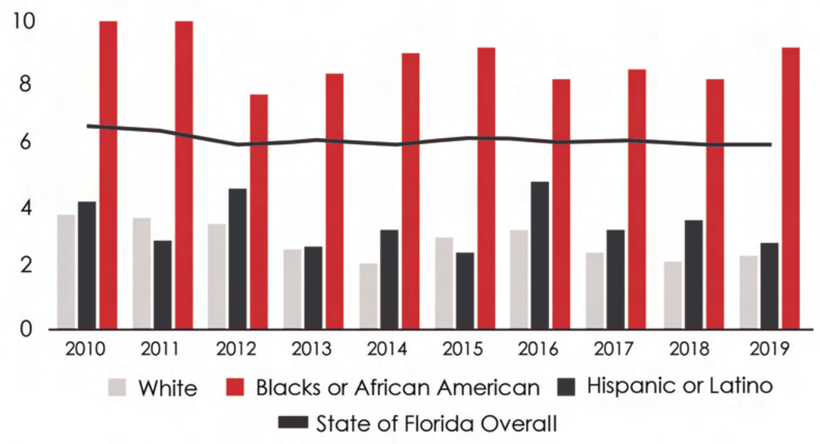
Maternal Weight (2017-2019)





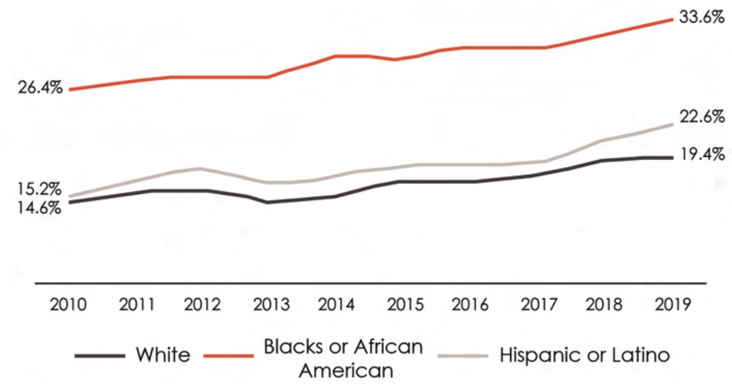
According to the 2019 Florida Health - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, the rate of births to obese mothers was also substantially higher among Broward County's Black or African Americans (33.6 percent) than Whites (19.4 percent). The rate of births to obese mothers was also higher among Hispanics or Latinos (22.6 percent) than Whites.

Infant Mortality Rate (deaths in every 1000 live births)



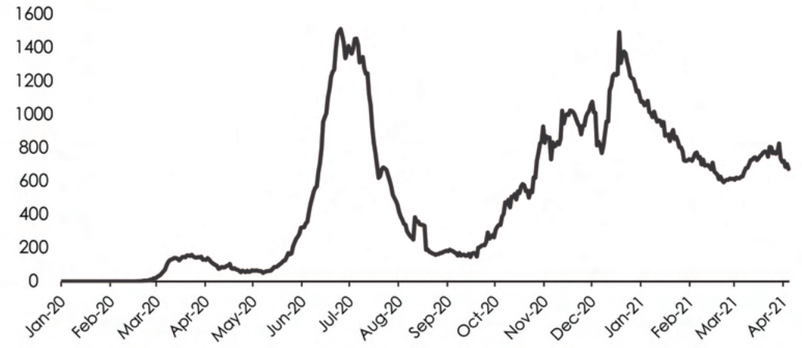
Source: FL Health – Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey

Rate of Birth to Obese Mothers



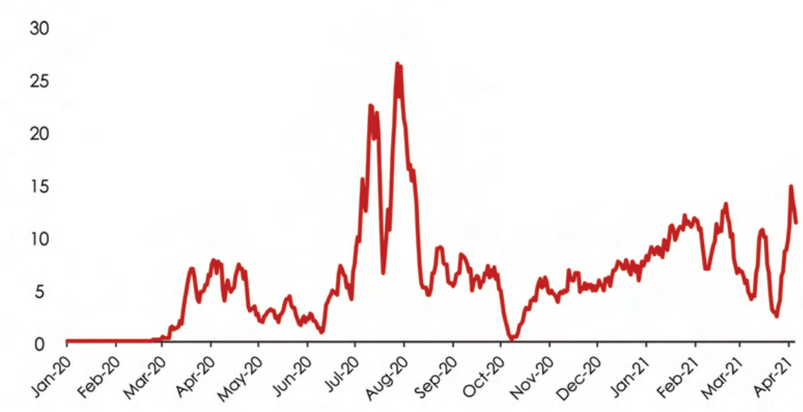
Source: FL Health – Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey

COVID-19 Cases in Broward



Source: Center for Disease Control - COVID Tracker

COVID-19 Deaths in Broward



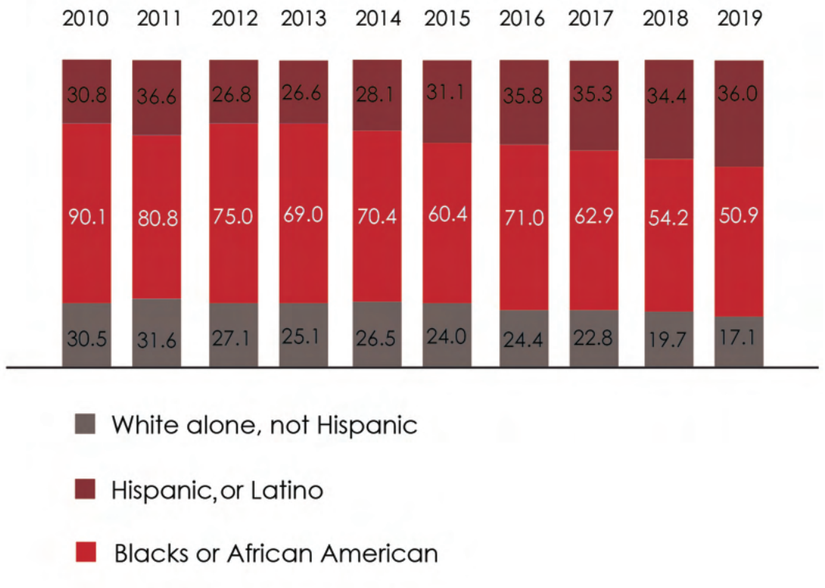
Source: Center for Disease Control - COVID Tracker

HIV and AIDS Incidence

According to the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Diseases, there are substantially higher HIV and AIDS cases and deaths among Broward County's Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino residents than Whites. However, the HIV diagnosis rate among Broward County's Black or African American population has decreased from 90.1 per 100,000 in 2010 to 50.9 in 2019.

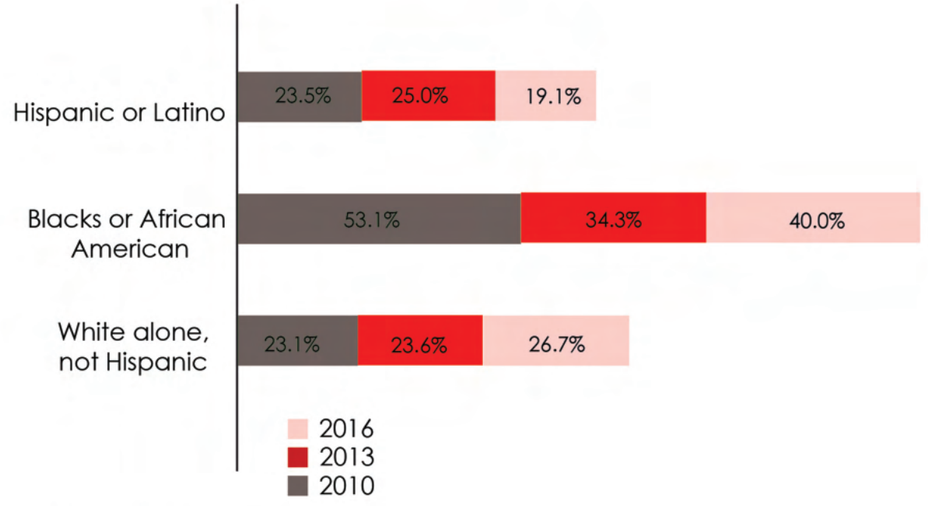
The HIV diagnosis rate among Broward County's Hispanic or Latino population has increased from 30.8 per 100,000 in 2010 to 36.0 in 2019.

HIV Diagnosis rate by Race (rate per 100,000 pop.)



Source: FL Dept. of Health

Adults Who are Overweight or Obese



Source: FL Dept. of Health

Health Insurance Coverage

According to the 2019 ACS estimates, the percentage of Broward County's uninsured Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino populations has decreased in the last five years. However, the percentages of the County's uninsured Hispanic or Latino (18.2 percent) and Black or African American (10.1 percent) populations far exceed the County's uninsured (5.9 percent) White population.



Housing

The availability of quality affordable housing is critical in creating diverse and inclusive cities and counties. Affordable, safe, quality housing can provide the anchor for nearby jobs, education, and transportation, and health care. This should matter to cities and counties, not just on equity grounds, but because healthier and more educated residents benefit the local economy by forming a more robust and productive workforce.

Housing affordability also affects educational performance and attainment. Households with better affordability ratios generally have higher savings rates, more cash, and/or higher levels of equity (in an owned home) that can be applied to education spending for their children, including university education costs. Lower housing cost burden and higher quality housing leads to better family health outcomes.



Households with lower cost burden rates have more income available for health care expenditures, including insurance, especially for low-income households. Families on the margin of home affordability are often forced to choose between health care and paying the rent or mortgage, and a single unexpected health expense can throw a family into foreclosure or eviction.

The pre-COVID Affordable Housing Needs Assessment for Broward County published by JP Morgan Chase (JPMC) documented excessive housing distress, especially for low- and very low- income renters. Lower-income renters comprise the vast majority of service workers in the industry sectors most impacted by the pandemic, including accommodation and food services, retail, and healthcare and social assistance. In the post-COVID economy. While remote working has become more common in the post-COVID economy, low-income workers, who are disproportionately people of color, are less likely to work from home and must commute daily to service jobs at fixed-site locations. In the post-COVID economy, it will be critical to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing opportunities in communities as close as feasible to where jobs are located.

The Bowles-Strachan house is now a landmark in West Park, also known as Carver Ranches. This home was one of the first four model homes built for the Carver Ranches subdivision. The Strachan family was one of the first families in the community. Ethelyn Bowles moved to unincorporated Broward and purchased the shotgun home During the time, two white men were selling the land exclusively to African Americans that lived in the Liberty City and Overtown area who wanted to move. Ethelyn had a son named Theodore "Lucky" Strachan, who grew up to be a prominent pioneer in that community living, and he was there all of his life.

Housing Tenure

Since the Great Recession, the homeownership rate among the nation's Black or African American population has decreased to a historical low hovering around 44 percent. Nationally, the Hispanic or Latino homeownership rate is 49.3 percent compared to 74 percent White homeownership rate of approximately 74 percent. The gap in homeownership rates between Black and White Americans grew to over 30 percent last year, which is higher than what it was in 1960 when racial discrimination in housing was legal.

According to 2019 ACS estimates, the overall homeownership rate in Broward County is a historical low of 62.1 percent. Renter-occupied units have steadily increased since the Great Recession and now represent 37.9 percent of all occupied units. Renter-occupied units increased by 6.9 percent (16,775 units) since 2015.

Table 6.1: Broward County Housing Occupancy 2015 -2019

Housing Occupancy	2015		2019		% Change
	# of Units	%	# of Units	%	
Total housing units	814,454	100.0%	823,499	100.0%	1.1%
Occupied housing units	670,284	82.3%	690,050	83.8%	2.9%
Owner-occupied	425,691	63.5%	428,682	62.1%	0.7%
Renter-occupied	244,593	36.5%	261,368	37.9%	6.9%
Vacant housing units	144,170	17.7%	133,449	16.2%	- 7.4%
Homeowner vacancy rate	2.3	n/a	1.9	n/a	-17.4%
Rental vacancy rate	7.9	n/a	7.1	n/a	-10.1%

According to 2019 ACS estimates, owner-occupancy (71.9 percent) among Broward County's White population is significantly higher than the County's Black or African American (47.6 percent) and Hispanic or Latino (57.1 percent) populations. An estimated 52.4 percent (87,540 units) of Black or African American households 42.9 percent (76,615 units) of Hispanic or Latino households are renters.

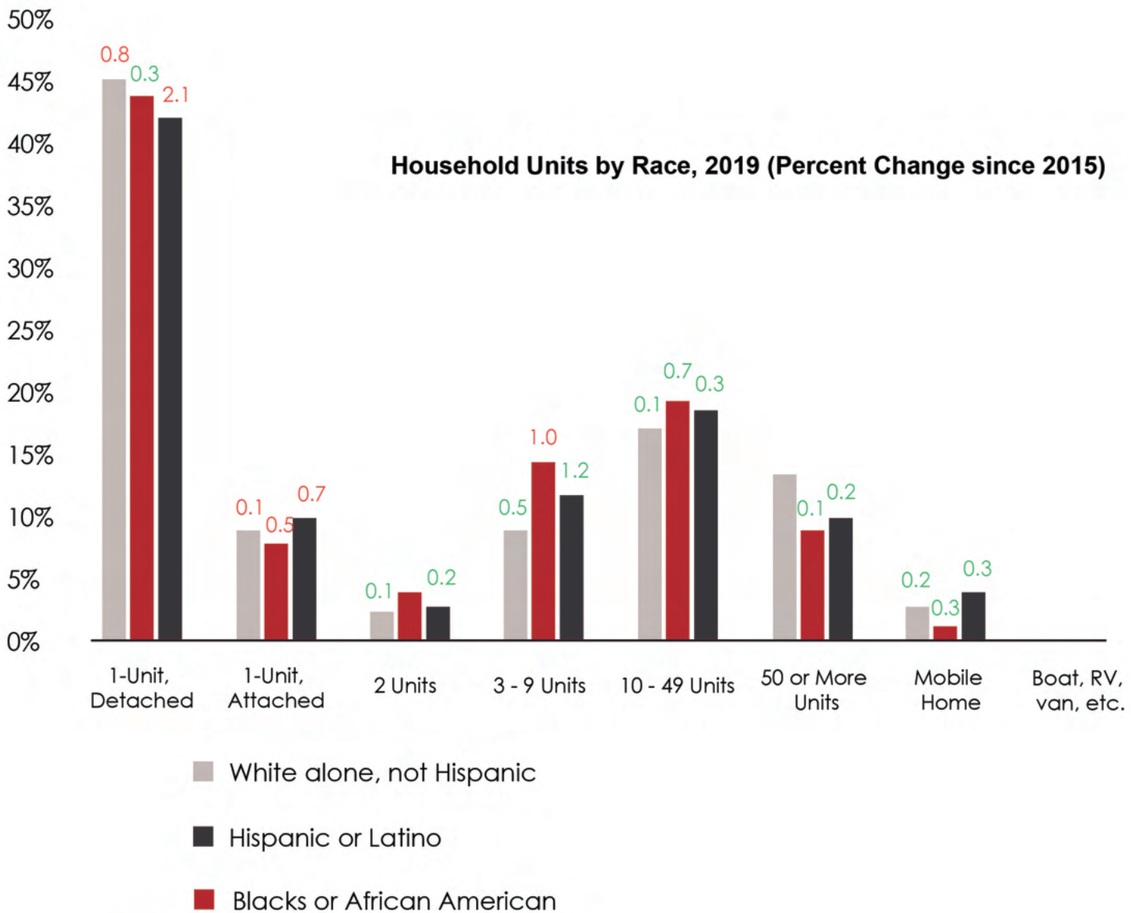
Table 6.2: Broward County Housing Occupancy by Race & Ethnicity 2019

Housing Tenure	White, non-Hispanic		Black or African American		Hispanic or Latino	
Total Occupied Units	314,306 1		67,141		178,595	
Owner occupied	226,027	71.9%	79,601	47.6%	101,980	57.1%
Renter occupied	88,279	28.1%	87,540	52.4%	76,615	42.9%

Source: U.S. Census, 2019 ACS 5-year estimates

Housing Units by Structure Type

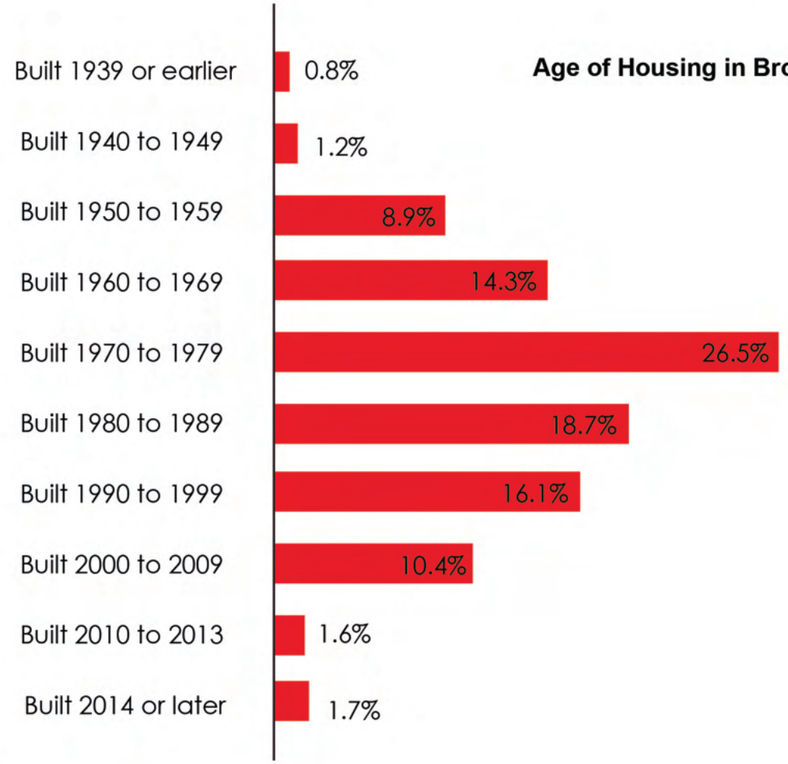
According to 2019 ACS estimates, housing structures by type show little variation by race and ethnicity. However, Broward County's Black or African American population has a greater share of residence in small, multi-family structures of 3-49 units. This is significant, as small, multi-family structures are generally much older properties constructed prior to the Florida Building Code.



Source: U.S. Census, 2015 & 2019 ACS 5-year estimates

Age and Condition of Housing Structures

The provision of "safe, decent, and affordable housing" is an important responsibility of local governments. A healthy and sustainable community ensures the availability of safe, decent, and affordable housing. Safe and decent housing supports the health of its occupants and provides shelter from the elements, especially during and after disasters. This is especially important for lower-income populations who do not have the financial means to control these necessities. Significantly, the concentrations of older, unsafe housing structures in Broward County are found in less affluent communities that are already experiencing the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Source: U.S. Census, 2019 ACS 5-year estimates

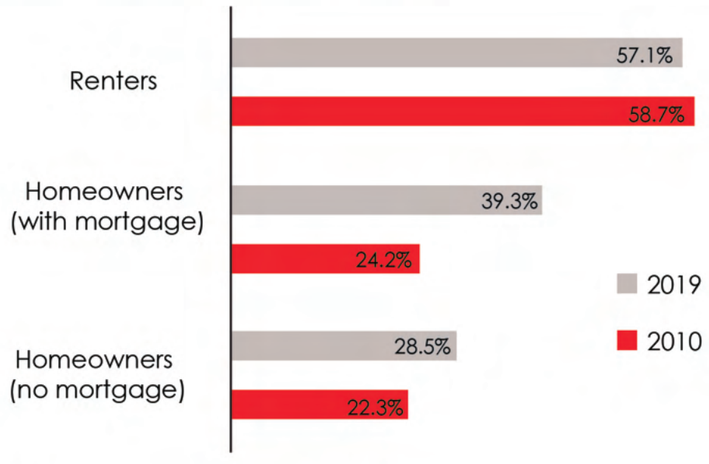
Cost-Burdened Households

According to the 2018 Broward County Affordable Housing Needs Assessment, the housing affordability demands in Broward County and its municipalities did not improve despite impressive post-recession job growth numbers and low unemployment. The study found 53.9 percent of Broward County households are cost-burdened, making Broward County one of the most unaffordable places to live in the U.S.

The most critical housing problem in Broward County is the estimated 147,313 renter households who are cost-burdened and the 77,677 renter households who are "severely" cost-burdened. The significant growth of severly cost-burdened renters is the most pressing problem due to three market conditions 1) the increasing demand for renter housing throughout the County resulting in low vacancy rates and a spiraling increase in rent prices, 2) the lack of affordable rental housing production, and 3) rent prices are increasing faster than wages.

According to the JPMC's COVID-19 Community Distress Index (see COVID Distress Index map), the highest levels of housing distress, including the highest concentrations of cost-burdened households, are found in lower-income Black or African American communities.

Cost Burdened Residents by Housing Tenure



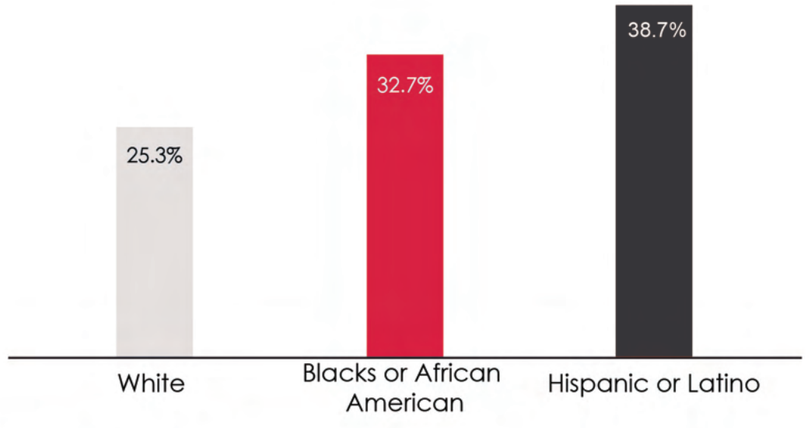
Source: U.S. Census, 2010 & 2019 ACS 5-year estimates

Lending Activity

A recent analysis by the JPMC of the post-COVID housing market has found affordable housing disappearing from the market due to rapid appreciation. At every level, the housing crisis hits minority communities harder. As noted in the National Association of Real Estate Brokers' State of Housing in Black America report, African-American home buyers are more likely to take out "nonconventional" loans, often from the Federal Housing Authority, which require smaller down payments and lower credit scores.

Homebuyers receiving housing assistance or nonconventional loans in high-demand cities often lose out to cash offers or applicants with traditional loans. Black applicants are twice as likely to be denied home loans as white applicants. While many cities have programs to help veterans, minorities, and low income families with down payments, housing costs in many cities are now so high that even a 3 percent down payment is out of reach.

Home Purchase-Loan Denial Rate by Race



Source: HMDA Application Register

Table 6.3: Broward County High Cost Owner-Occupied Home Purchase Loans by Race & Ethnicity, 2005-2019

Race/Ethnicity	% Broward	% Florida
Black or African American	13.6	19.5
Hispanic or Latino	22.9	9.6
White, non-Hispanic or Latino	9.9	10.2

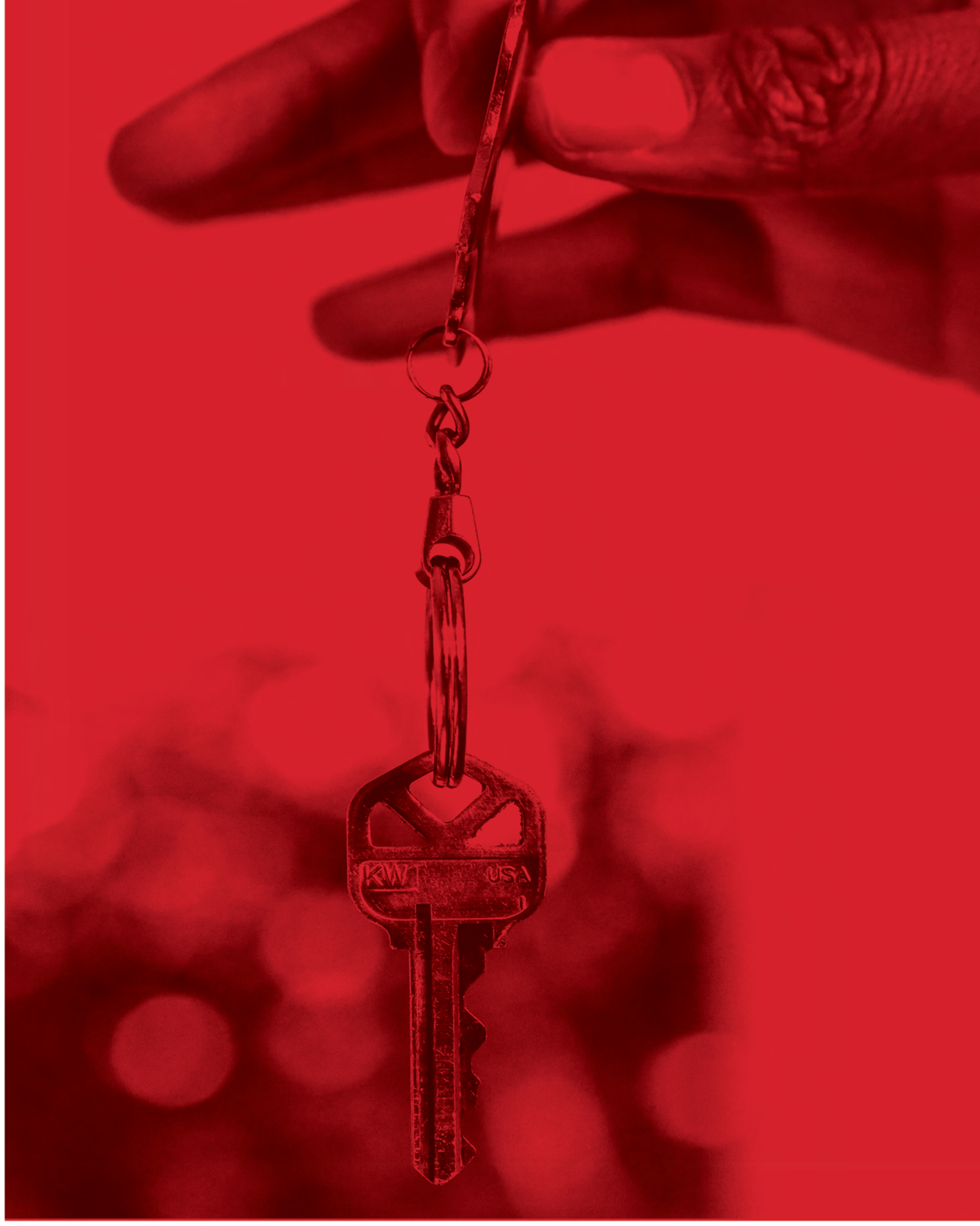
Table 6.4: Broward County Owner-Occupied Home Purchase Loans by Race, 2019

Race	High-Cost	Non-High Cost or Unknown
American Indian or Alaska Native	13	81
Asian	93	1,184
Black or African American	539	3,428
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	16	67
White	1,890	19,086
Information not provided by applicant in mail, Internet, or telephone application	316	4,317
Not applicable	1	11
Missing	-	6

Table 6.5: Broward County Home Purchase Loan Applications Approved/Denied by Race, 2019

Applicant Race	Loan Originated	Application Denied	Other
American Indian or Alaska Native	112	117	72
Asian	1,491	765	747
Black or African American	4,395	3,218	2,236
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	92	173	67
White	23,794	11,392	9,877
Information not provided by applicant in mail, Internet, or telephone application	5,275	3,206	3,065
Not applicable	5 35	163	181
Missing	8	30	12

Sources: Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, Home Mortgage Disclosure Act Loan Application Register



Criminal Justice and Safety

Racial justice is the systematic fair treatment of people of all races that results in equitable opportunities and outcomes for everyone. A just and equitable criminal justice system allows all people to achieve their full potential in life, regardless of race, ethnicity or the community in which they live. According to the Opportunity Agenda, racial justice--or racial equity--goes beyond "anti-racism." It is not just the absence of discrimination and inequities, but also the presence of deliberate systems and supports to achieve and sustain racial equity through proactive and preventative measures.

A "racial justice" framework can move communities from a reactive posture to a more powerful, proactive, and even preventive approach. An equitable criminal justice system should also ensure that all individuals feel safe and secure in their communities and be administered fairly and justly with a commitment to equal treatment and accountability.

There are few areas of American society where racial disparities are as profound and as troubling as in the criminal justice system. In fact, racial perceptions of crime and race-influenced policy development have been intimately tied to the development of mass incarceration. Despite substantial progress in achieving racial justice in American society over the past half-century, racial disparities in the criminal justice system have persisted and worsened in many respects over this period of time. According to the 2014 Sentencing Project report, Blacks and Latinos together comprise 30 percent of the general population, but 58 percent of the prison population. The research showed that some of the apparent progress in areas such as educational attainment and racial equality is in part a product of incarcerated African American men not being counted in household-based surveys.

Broward County Crime Rates

According to the 2019-2020 crime data report released by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Broward County's overall crime rate decreased in the past year. This includes the juvenile crime rate, which decreased from 11.1 percent in 2010 to 5.8 percent in 2019. The reduction in Broward County's Total Crime Index was also reflected in most municipalities. Municipalities with increases in their Total Crime Index included Southwest Ranches (47.4 percent index change), Wilton Manors (24.6 percent index change), Lauderhill (13.6 percent index change) and Lauderdale Lakes (3.1 percent index change).

Having a just and equitable criminal justice system at the local level also helps to ensure access to substance abuse and mental health interventions without justice involvement. Many behavioral health issues end up being addressed through the justice system, particularly local jails, because of inadequate capacity to intervene and treat them in the community. Typically, treatment and services may often come to juveniles through the justice system because of insufficient funding for community-based interventions.

> RACIAL JUSTICE IS THE SYSTEMATIC FAIR TREATMENT OF PEOPLE OF ALL RACES THAT RESULTS IN EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES AND OUT COMES FOR EVERYONE

> BLACKS & LATINOS TOGETHER COMPRISE 30% OF THE GENERAL POPULATION, BUT 58% OF THE PRISON POPULATIONS

Table 7.1: Broward County and Municipal Offenses

County and Municipal Offenses	Year	Total Crime Index	% Index Change 2019-20
Broward County	2019	27,975	
FL006	2020	24,197	-13.5
Broward County Sheriff's Office	2020	447	-15.2
Dania Beach Police Department	2020	627	-4.4
Deerfield Beach Police Department	2020	988	-24.8
Fort Lauderdale Police Department	2020	4,505	-10.1
Hallandale Beach Police Department	2020	630	-3.2
Hollywood Police Department	2020	1,981	-12.7
Plantation Police Department	2020	1,109	-18.1
Pompano Beach Police Department	2020	2,138	-12.8
Pembroke Pines Police Department	2020	1,347	-25.7
Wilton Manors Police Department	2020	258	24.6
Cooper City PD	2020	181	1.7
Coconut Creek Police Department	2020	395	-30.2
Davie Police Department	2020	1,289	-14.9
Hillsboro Beach Police Department	2020	3	-50.0
Lauderdale-By-The-Sea PD	2020	49	-19.7
Lauderdale Lakes PD	2020	571	3.1
Lauderhill Police Department	2020	1,350	13.6
Lighthouse Point Police Department	2020	112	1.8
Margate Police Department	2020	447	-13.2
Miramar Police Department	2020	913	-21.8
North Lauderdale Police Department	2020	474	-6.0
Oakland Park Police Department	2020	999	6.3
Sea Ranch Lakes Police Department	2020	5	-16.7
Sunrise Police Department	2020	785	-31.4
Coral Springs Police Department	2020	933	-20.7
Pembroke Park Police Department	2020	111	-16.5
Tamarac Police Department	2020	607	-20.5
Ft. Lauderdale Intl. Airport PD	2020	132	-35.6
Parkland PD	2020	101	0.0
Seminole Police Department	2020	226	-14.1
Town of Southwest Ranches PD	2020	112	47.4
West Park Police Department	2020	204	-30.4
Weston PD	2020	147	-29.3
FHP - Fort Lauderdale	2020	6	-14.3
Port Everglades PD	2020	15	-59.5

Source: Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement, 2020

Most crime activity by type in 2020 included drug arrests (4, 226), larceny (2,678), simple assault (1,917), and DUI (1,064).

Broward Crimes by Type, 2020

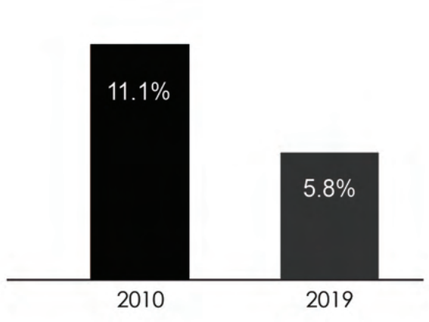


Table 7.2: Broward County and Florida Juvenile Arrests

Arrests, All Offenses by County, Youth Ages 10-17, Rate Per 100,000 Population 10-17, Single Year								
	Broward				Florida			
Year	Count	Denom	Rate	MOV (+/-)	Count	Denom	Rate	MOV (+/-)
2019	3,377	185,080	1,824.6	61.0	55,866	1,941,231	2877.9	23.5
2018	3,906	182,890	2,135.7	66.3	58,452	1,905,170	3068.1	24.5
2017	4,161	180,680	2,303.0	69.2	64,932	1,866,647	3478.5	26.3
2016	4,477	180,636	2,478.5	71.7	69,869	1,852,414	3771.8	27.4
2015	4,781	181,020	2,641.1	73.9	75,069	1,843,163	4072.8	28.5
2014	5,538	181,910	3,044.4	79.0	78,285	1,841,978	4250.1	29.1
2013	7,237	181,427	3,988.9	90.1	85,407	1,841,863	4637.0	30.4
2012	9,031	184,334	4,899.3	98.5	97,235	1,858,218	5232.7	32.0

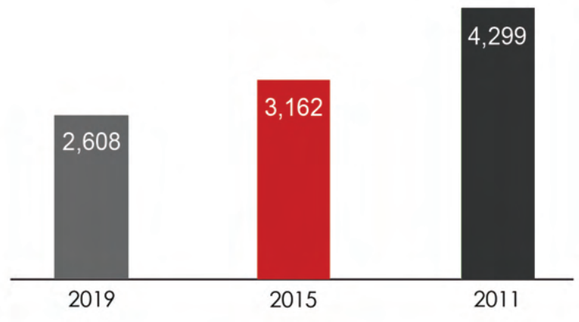
Source: Florida Dept. of Juvenile Justice - Delinquency Profile

Broward Juvenile Arrest Rate



Source: FL Dept. of Law Enforcement - Annual Crime Reports

Broward Juvenile Arrest Rate (arrests in every 100,000)



Source: FL Dept. of Law Enforcement - Uniform Crime Reports

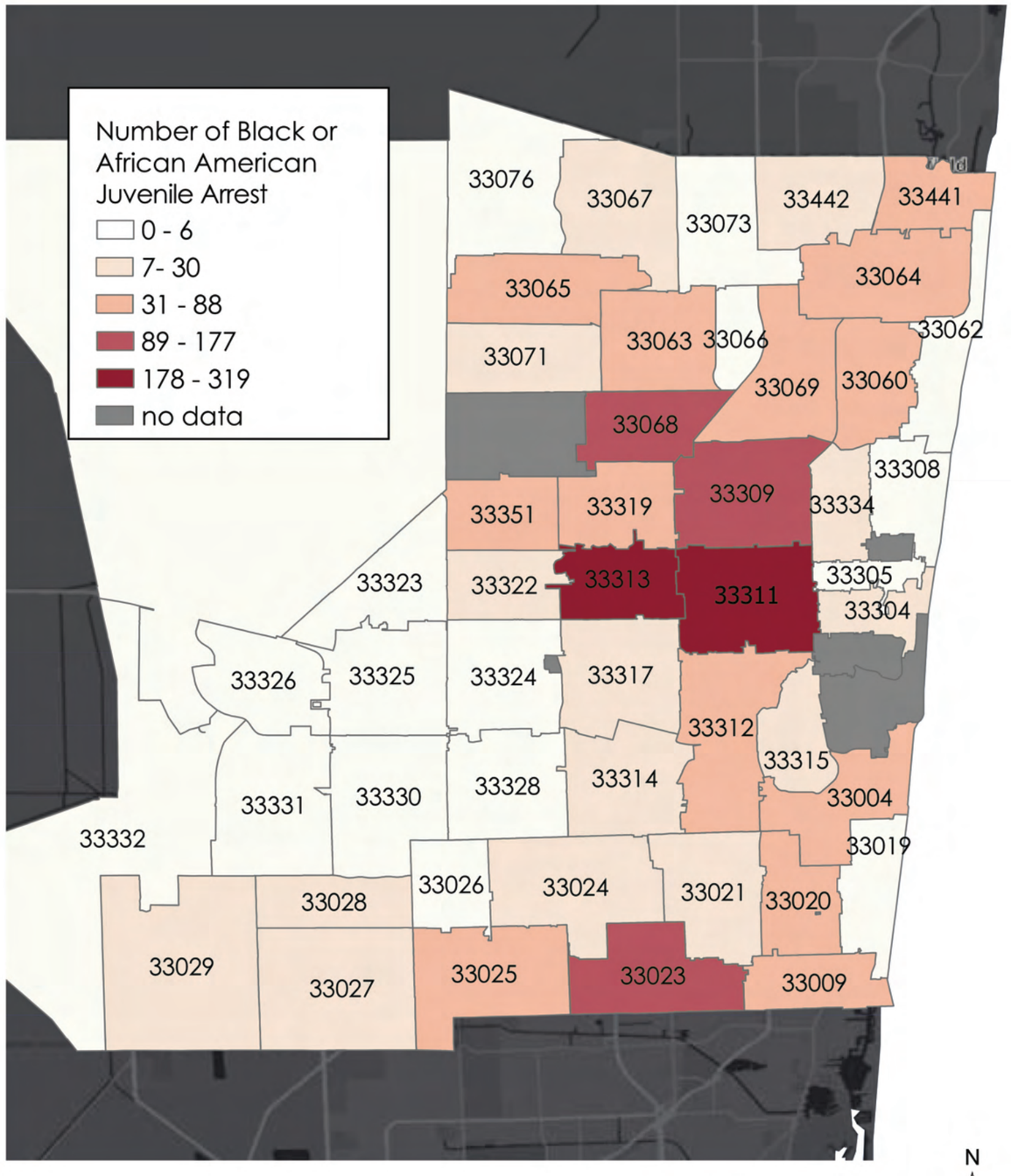
> “THE HIGHEST VOLUME OF JUVENILE ARRESTS OCCURRED IN BROWARD COUNTY ZIP CODES WITH HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF BLACKS OR AFRICAN AMERICANS

Broward County Delinquency Profile

According to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's 2020 Delinquency Profile Dashboard, Broward County ranked 4th in Juvenile intake-arrests (2,735 arrests) behind Hillsborough (3,483 arrests), Orange (3,400 arrests), and Pinellas (3,055 arrests) Counties. Juvenile arrests were down 61 percent in Broward County from 2015 due largely to the COVID-19 pandemic. Juvenile intake arrests were down 54 percent statewide from 2015 to 2020.

Juvenile arrests in Broward County by race show a significant disparity between White and Black. In 2020, 71 percent (1,955) of juvenile arrests were Black compared to 11 percent (310 arrests) of White. Hispanics comprise 16 percent (449) of arrests. Statewide, 51 percent of juvenile arrests are Black, 33 percent white, and 16 percent Hispanic youth.

Further analysis of juvenile arrest activity in Broward County shows the highest volume of juvenile arrests occurred in Broward County zip codes with high concentrations of Blacks or African Americans.



VOTER ENGAGEMENT

Voting is the most basic right in our democracy, but too many people, especially people of color and Native Americans, are often locked out of the process through "Jim Crow type" voter suppression laws. As the cornerstone of American democracy, a fair and equitable election system would remove persistent barriers to voting and work towards a strong and modern voting system where all eligible citizens are motivated to vote, can do so with ease, and can reasonably trust that election outcomes are legitimate.

The on-going struggle for racial justice has been put to the test in recent months as the U.S. Supreme Court has taken up arguments in a case in which the State of Arizona's election rules adversely and disparately affect Hispanic, African American, and Native American voters in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Sadly, these recent election bills would not have seen the light of day had the U.S. Supreme Court not dismantled the heart of the Voting Rights Act in the 2013 Shelby County v. Holder Case. The Shelby decision made it easier for states to pass voter restriction laws after the high court removed the "preclearance' provision from the Voting Rights Act. Under preclearance, a state with a history of racial discrimination in elections had to get permission from the federal government to institute any changes on how they run elections.



The Shelby decision, coupled with the results of the 2020 election, has ignited a wave of GOP state legislature election bills. At last count, 361 bills have been filed in 47 states that would limit mail, early in-person, and Election Day voting with such constraints as stricter ID requirements, limited hours, and narrower eligibility to vote absentee. In Florida, H.B. 7041 limits the use of drop boxes and includes additional ID requirements for mail voting. The bill will also ban giving out food and drinks to voters near a polling place.

While we await the outcomes of the GOP sponsored election bills, the voting rights struggle is being led by Congressional Legislation. H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, alongside the H.R. 1, the For the People Act, and H.R. 51, the D.C. statehood bill, are viewed as the cornerstones of the necessary reforms to defend democracy and make it work for all. H.R. 4 has received vocal and vigorous support from the civil rights community because it responds to the urgent need to stop the abuses by state and local governments in the aftermath of the Shelby decision.

Broward County Voting

The Broward County Supervisor of Elections oversees 577 precincts and over 1 million voters. The County's total voting age population has increased by 20.5 percent since 2008 (192,476 voters). However, the County's White voting age population has decreased by 8.2 percent (48,828 voters), while the County's Hispanic or Latino and Black or African American voting age populations have increased by (98.8 percent/141,935 persons| and (46.7 percent/ 98,569), respectively.



Table 8.1: Broward County Voting Age Population

Voting Age Population (Eligible to Vote)							
	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
White	582,111	581,125	596,526	536,278	554,112	527,578	534,083
Black	211,093	219,292	255,034	243,132	275,577	278,447	309,662
Hispanic	143,555	158,494	192,564	193,932	236,671	249,983	285,490

Source: Broward County Supervisor of Elections

Voter turnout in Broward County has significantly increased by race and ethnicity in recent years. The Hispanic or Latino voter turnout rate of 75.8 percent in the 2020 national election far exceeded the previous three national elections. The Black or African American 74.2 percent voter turnout rate in 2020 was the highest turnout rate since the election of Barack Obama in 2008. Significantly, Black or African American voter turnout in the 2018 midterm election far exceeded the previous two midterm elections in 2010 and 2014.

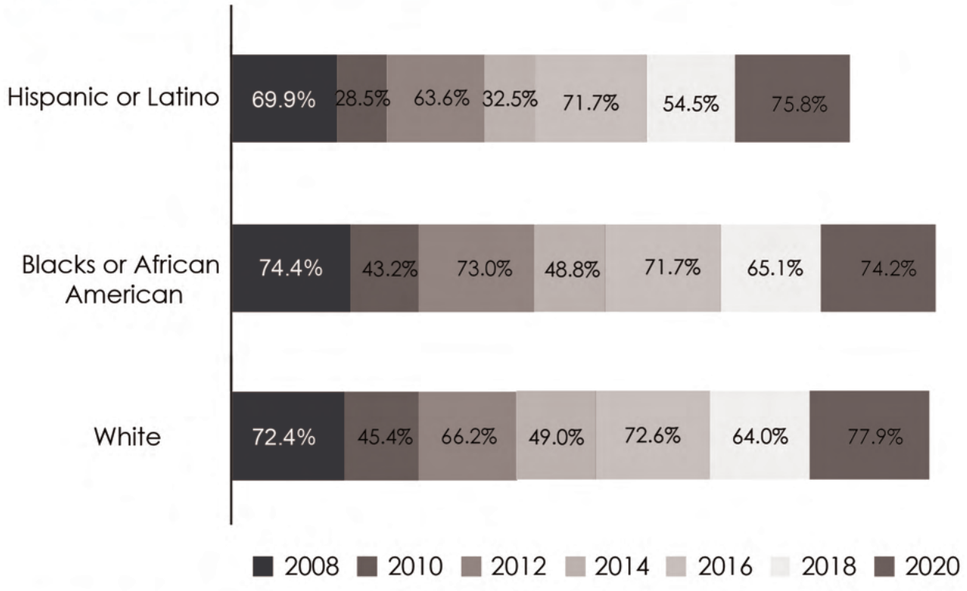
Table 8.2: Broward County Voter Turnout Rate

Voter Turnout Rate							
	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
White	72.4%	45.4%	66.2%	49.0%	72.6%	64.0%	77.9%
Black	76.4%	43.2%	73.0%	48.8%	71.7%	65.1%	74.2%
Hispanic	69.9%	28.5%	63.6%	32.5%	71.7%	54.5%	75.8%

Source: Broward County Supervisor of Elections

> BROWARD COUNTY'S BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN VOTING AGE POPULATION HAS INCREASED BY 98.8%

Voter Turnout by Race and Ethnicity, Midterm and General Elections



Source: Broward County Supervisor of Elections - District Voter Turnout Analysis

New Valid Voters



Source: Broward Supervisor of Elections – Voter Statistics

Voter Engagement and Equity

As previously noted, a fair and equitable election system is the cornerstone of American democracy. The disparity and equity findings of this report regarding the economy, education, public health, housing, and criminal justice can only be fully addressed by policy decisions at the local, state, and federal levels of government that remove structural racism and create effective community development delivery systems at the local level.

The *State of Black Broward* report lays the groundwork for the Broward County Equity Initiative, which will address the findings and policy implications of this report. The desired equity outcomes will ultimately be achieved through effective policies that can only come about when voters of color insist on meaningful change through purposeful legislation.

> BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN VOTER TURNOUT IN THE 2018 MIDTERM ELECTION FAR EXCEEDED THE PREVIOUS TWO MIDTERM ELECTIONS IN 2010 & 2014

The Path Forward

The *Broward County Equity Initiative* provides an opportunity for leaders to hold our community to a higher standard in matters of racial equity and inclusion. As noted in the Introduction and Executive Summary, the purpose of the *State of Black Broward* report, which was produced in tandem with *State of Hispanic and Immigrant Broward* report, is to provide a holistic and integrated assessment of existing disparities and inequities in Broward County that will serve as the analytical underpinnings for future policy discussions and direction.

The *State of Black Broward* and *State of Hispanic and Immigrant Broward* reports found clear evidence that disparities and inequities exist in many forms in the County, including essential community functions. Broward County's racial and ethnic inequities and disparities encumber economic opportunity, educational attainment, quality healthcare, affordable housing, and equal justice among Black, Hispanic, and immigrant populations. The two reports are an important first step to align efforts towards applying an equity lens to address the imbalanced economic and social systems in a manner that leads to long-term, sustainable, equitable access for generations to come in Broward County.

The path forward will be guided and supported by community input at all levels with the objective of advancing equity and inclusion through an actionable policy framework. Following the roll-out of the reports, we will work to create spaces and opportunities for all business, government, faith, and community groups, as well as our families, to participate and hold Broward County accountable in matters of racial and ethnic equity and inclusion. These efforts will provide context for the *Broward Equity Plan of Action*, our forthcoming and final report.

The path forward will be guided and supported by Community Input

The work in the months ahead is intended to sustain resident empowerment and equity and build social cohesion. The *Broward County Equity Initiative* will be a tool for community groups that seek to holistically integrate planning, community education, advocacy, and resident support in Black, Hispanic and immigrant communities and neighborhoods across Broward County.

Ultimately, our hope would be that collectively, we - business, government, faith, community groups, and families- can truly advocate for game-changing strategies in Broward County's communities to address social and economic barriers impacting our families and provide the resources necessary to help families achieve long-term, positive life outcomes.

You can show your active support in many ways:

- Share the report with others
- Invite a deeper conversation on the reports' findings
- Engage in existing networks of change that are of interest
- Support local organizations engaged in racial equity work

If you are interested in actively supporting or would like more information, you may contact:

Urban League of Broward County
(954) 584-0777

Hispanic Unity of Florida
(954) 964-8884

Acknowledgements

The Urban League of Broward County would like to offer a sincere note of gratitude to The Jim Moran Foundation, Hispanic Unity of Florida, and the Florida International University's Metropolitan Institute.

In commemoration of its 20 years of improving the quality of life for the youth and families of Florida, The Jim Moran Foundation recognized the need to advance racial equity in Broward County by investing $1 million in the Urban League of Broward County and Hispanic Unity of Florida's mission to address root causes of racial and social inequality in the county's Black, Hispanic and immigrant communities. Thanks to The Jim Moran Foundation's commitment, we can lead critical conversations about racial equity and propose transformative solutions that address them.

With immense gratitude, we also thank the Hispanic Unity of Florida and the Florida International University's Metropolitan Institute for their extensive commitment to unveiling the disparate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities of color and the persistent gaps in access to health care, education, and employment.

Lastly, we thank our staff, volunteers, and the Board of Directors for the countless hours and selfless devotion to improving today's climate for a brighter future.



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