



COMMUNITY ACTION MARIN



# Community Action Plan Public Hearing



> May 9, 2023



# >>> Agenda

- Welcome
- Background and context
- Guiding questions
- Needs and needs assessment
  - Cross cutting themes and collective action
  - Documented needs
  - Responsive services
- Please ask questions and provide input throughout!



# MISSION



We make it possible for people to achieve well-being by providing the vital services they need.

Together, we break down the barriers that get in the way of fair and lasting change in service to better outcomes for all.

# OUR HISTORY



Looking Back,  
Looking Forward

# ➤➤➤ Background

- Community Action Agencies must do Community Action Planning
- Action plans start with assessing **community needs** and showing:
  - Coordination with community partners;
  - Service roles and responsibilities;
  - Advocacy for systemic change; and
  - County-wide service
- California Department of Community Services & Development (CSD) evaluates our Needs Assessment and Action Plan to ensure we can meet the needs of low, and very low-income residents effectively
- Your input drives this process and informs our plan

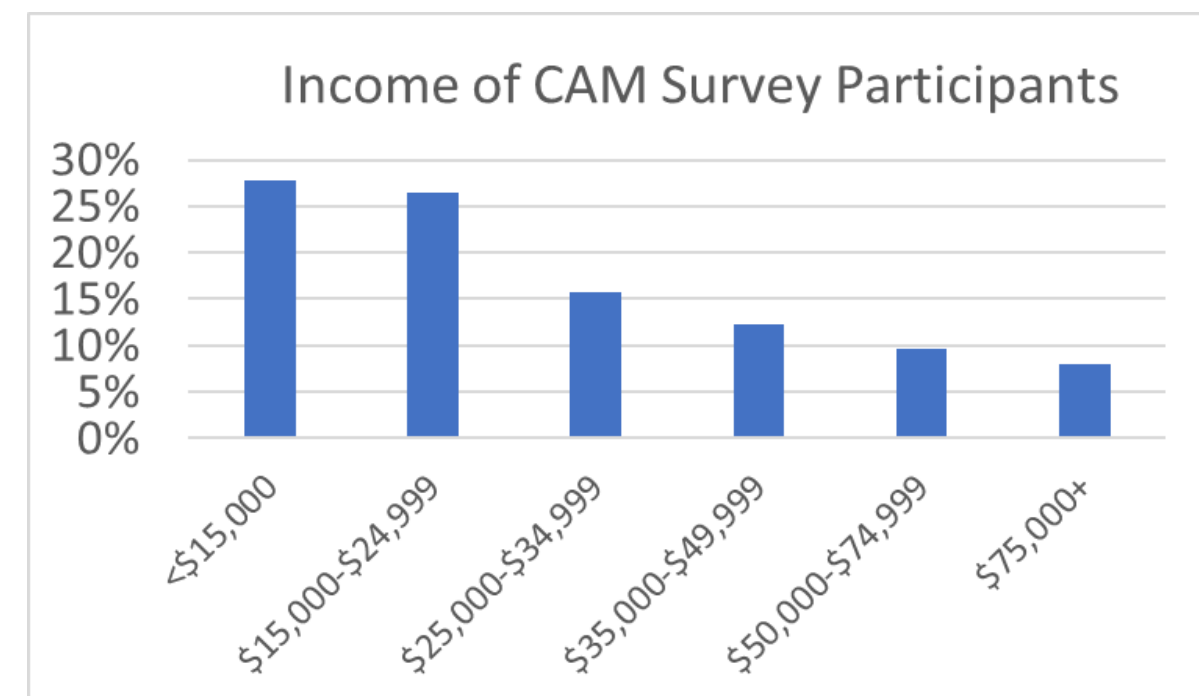
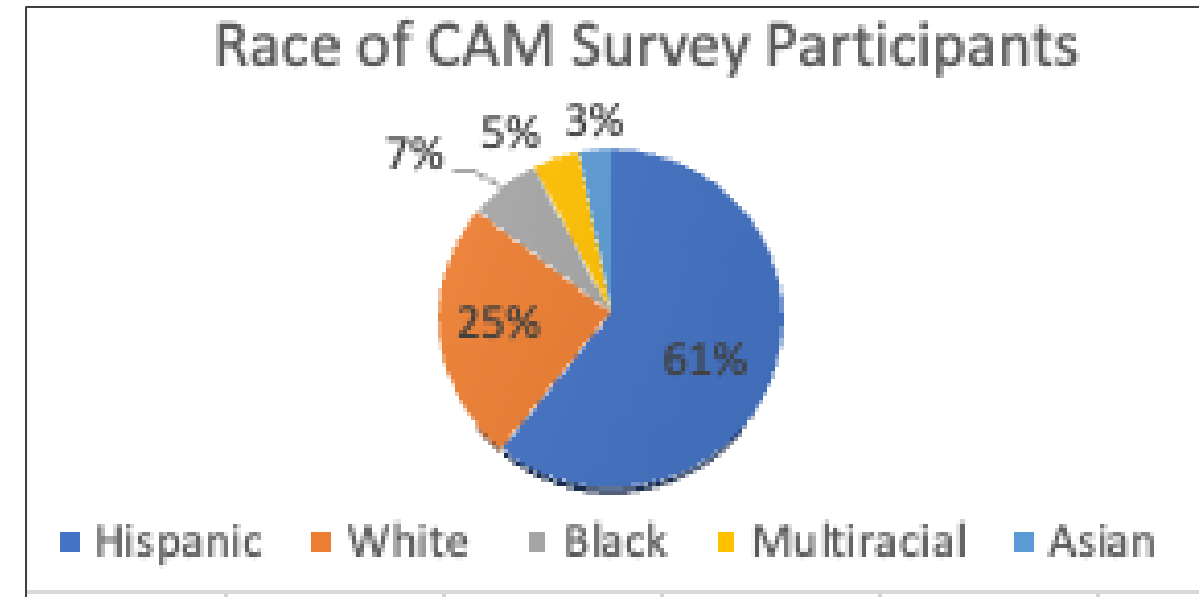
# Community Assessment Data Sources

- Government: U.S. Census, HUD, CA Dept of Ed, Marin County HHS
- Other organizations: California Housing Partnership, County Health Rankings, Race Counts, Marin Promise Partnership
- Community Action Marin: surveys (community, clients, employees) and program data
- Qualitative data: conversations with clients, interviews with partners & leaders, community focus groups, survey responses



# >>> Community Needs Survey

- > Surveyed 596 Marin residents, multiple languages
- > Distributed by text and email to CAM clients, community partners, and through in-person surveys
- > 50% of households earned less than \$25,000/yr.



# >>> Guiding Questions

- > **What do you think?** Are there community needs that are your pain point or greatest concern?
- > **Where are the gaps?** Given our current community programs and services, are there needs that are not yet represented through what CAM does?
- > **Got priorities?** Community needs are dynamic and intersecting, have we picked the right priorities?

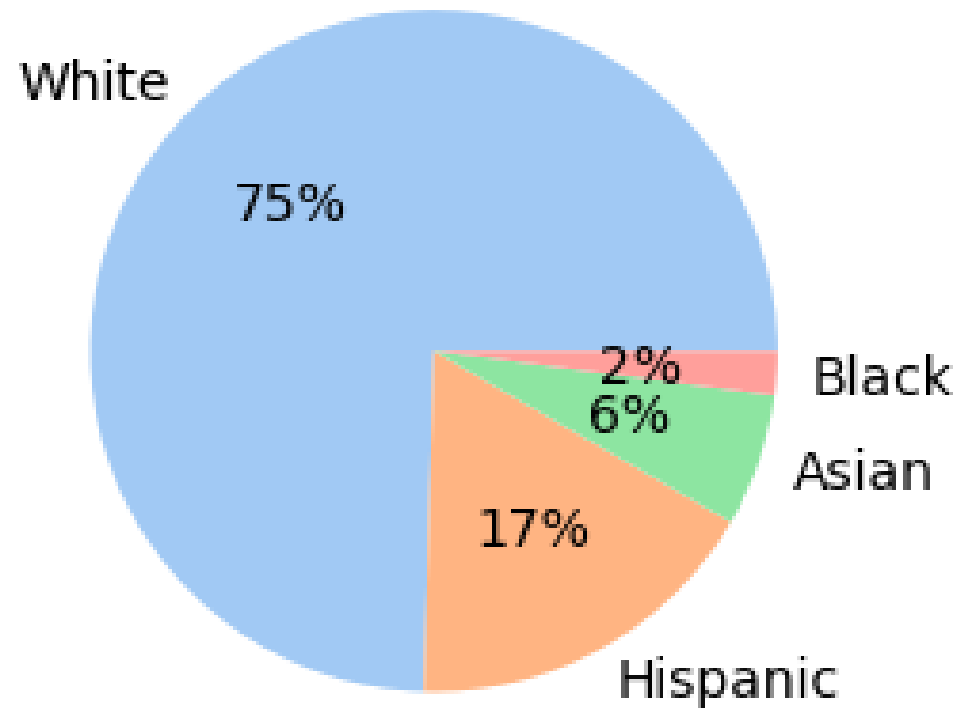




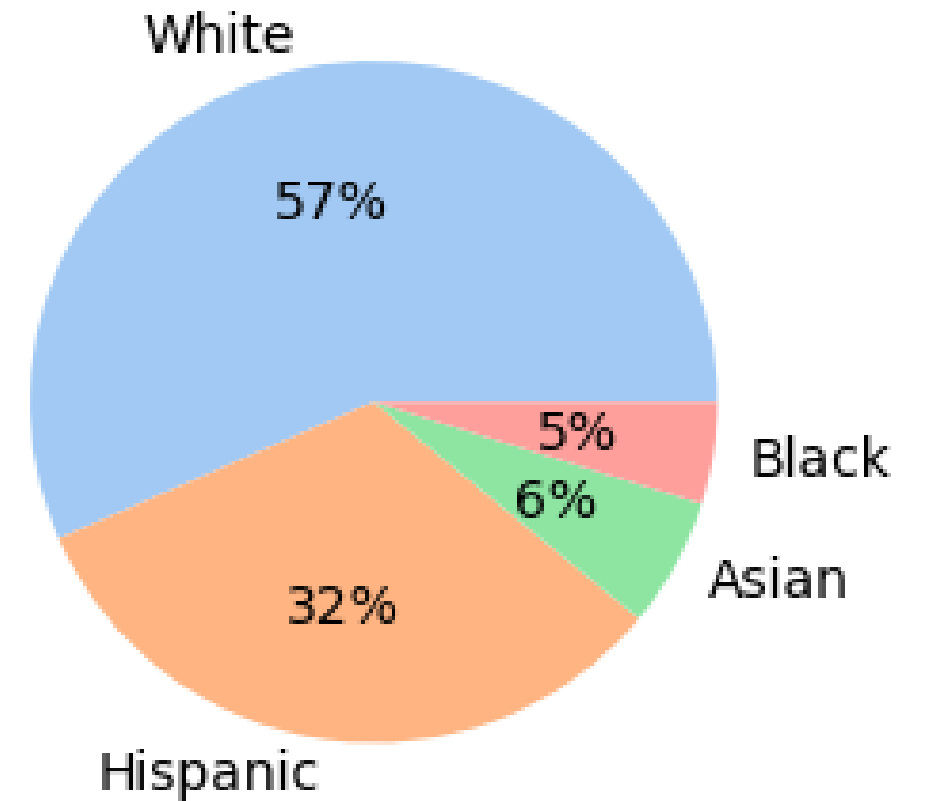
# >>> Racial and Income Inequality

- > 19% of Marin residents are Hispanic or Black
- > 37% of the people living in poverty are Hispanic or Black

Pct of Total Population

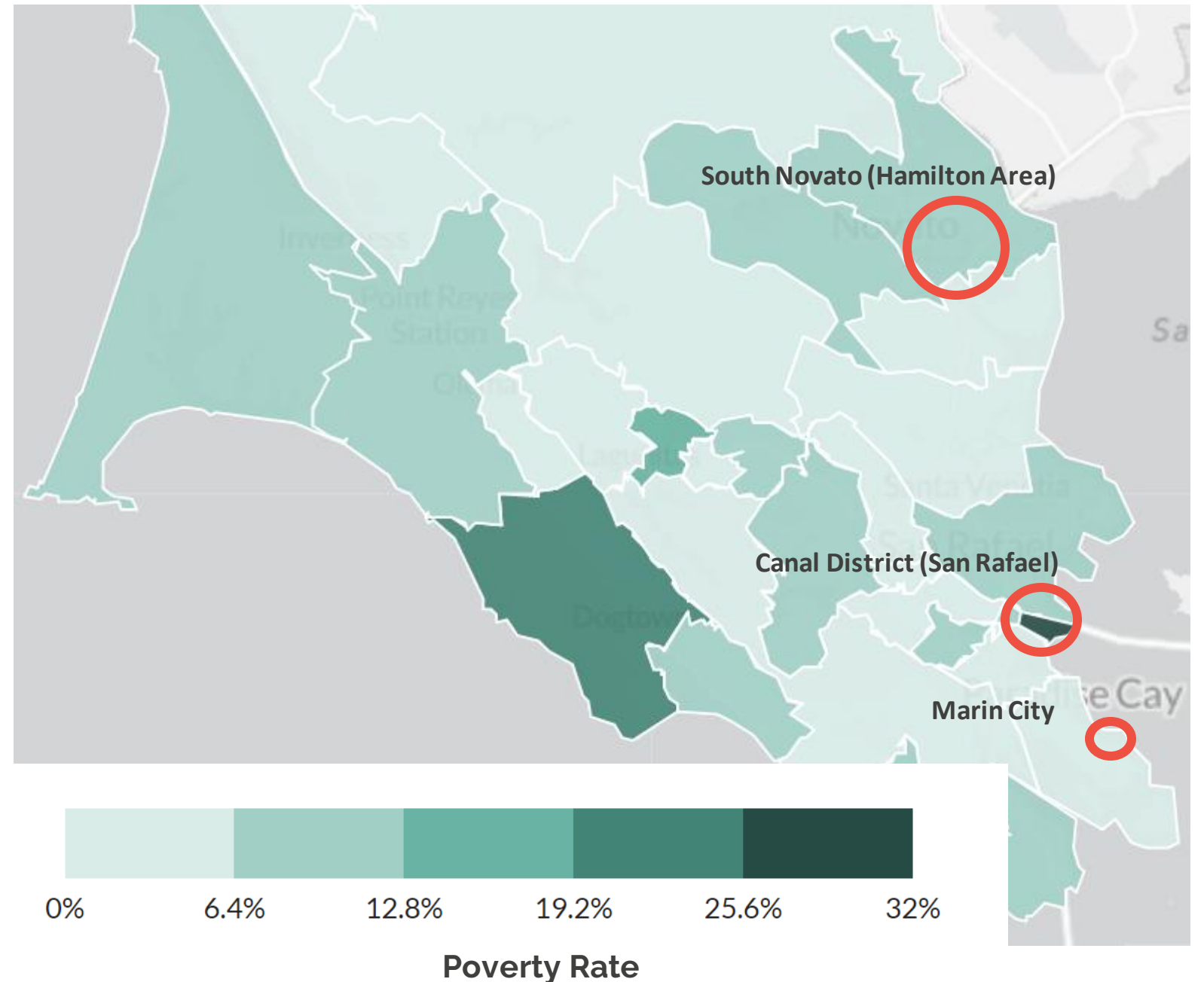


Pct living in Poverty



# >>> Age-related Inequality

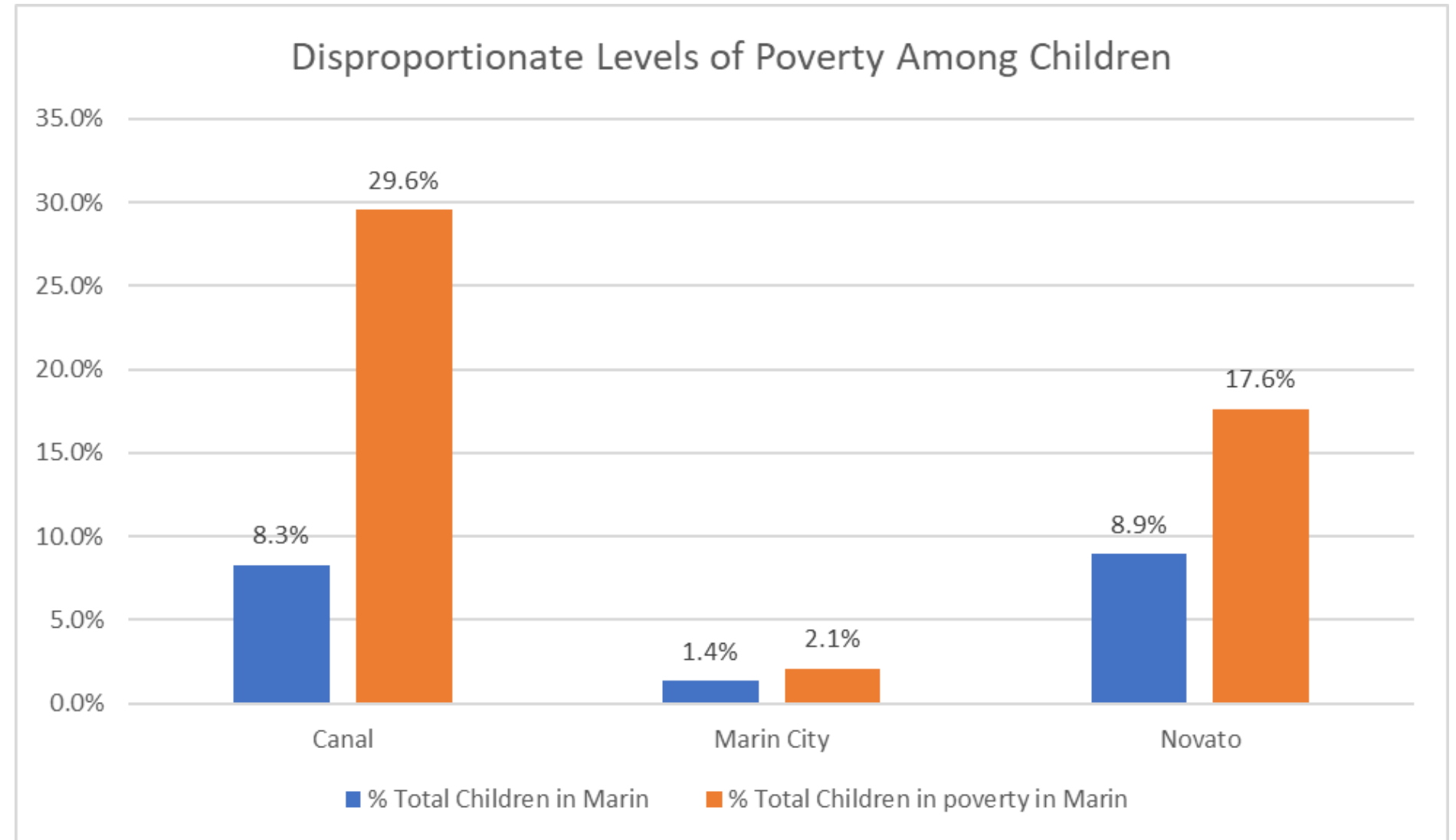
Poverty in Marin County	
Total in Poverty (and Poverty Rate)	17,840 (6.9%)
Under 5 years old in Poverty (and Poverty Rate)	1,003 (8.6%)
Under 18 years old in Poverty (and Poverty Rate)	3,858 (7.4%)
65 years and older in Poverty (and Poverty Rate)	3,906 (6.8%)



Source: American Community Survey (U.S. Census)

# >>> Childhood Income Inequality

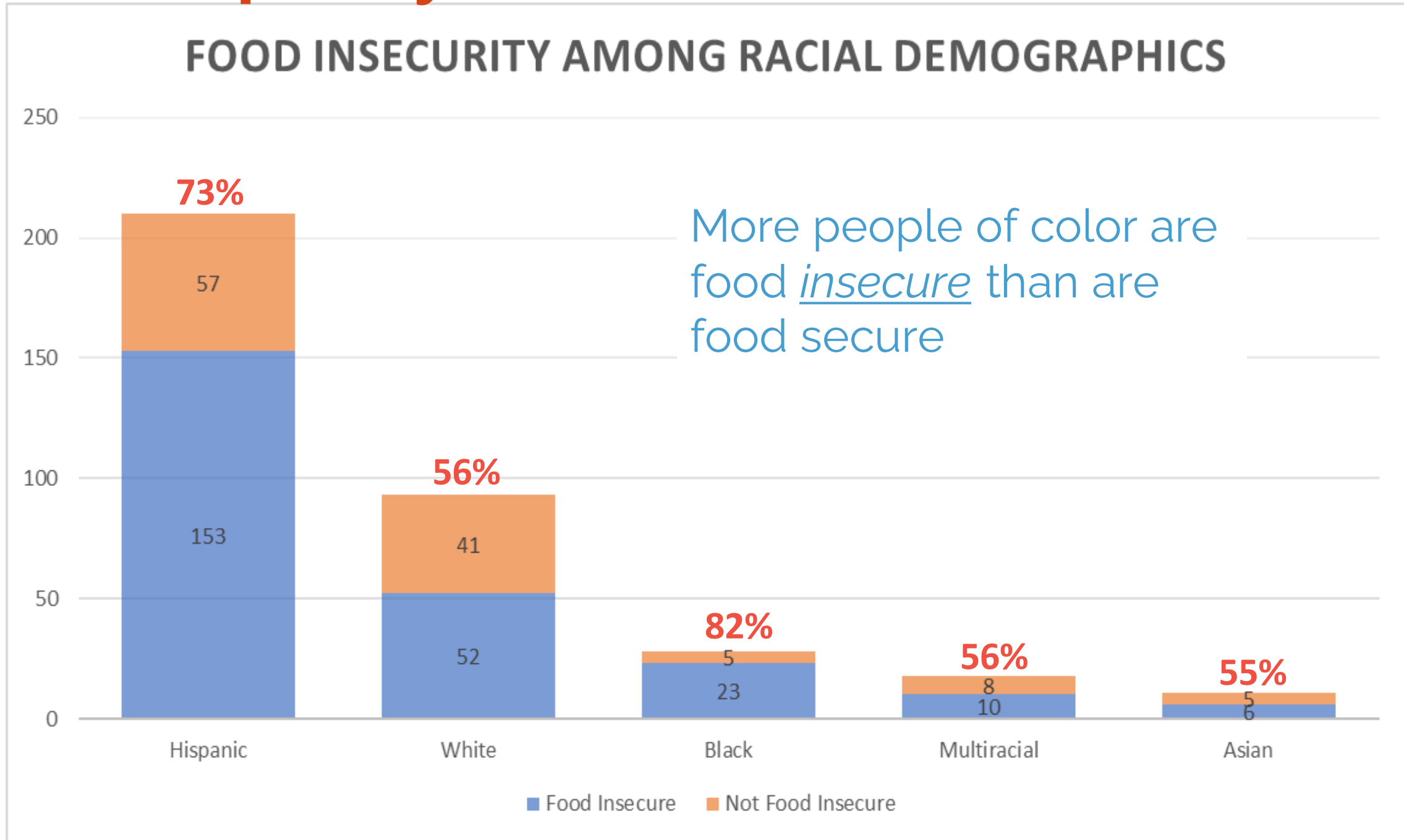
- > 20% of the population are children, but
- > 50% of the poorest live in just three cities



Note: Canal is census tracts: 1122.02, 1122.03, 1122.04. Marin City is the unincorporated census designated place. Novato is zip code 94947

Source: American Community Survey (U.S. Census)

# >>> Food Inequality

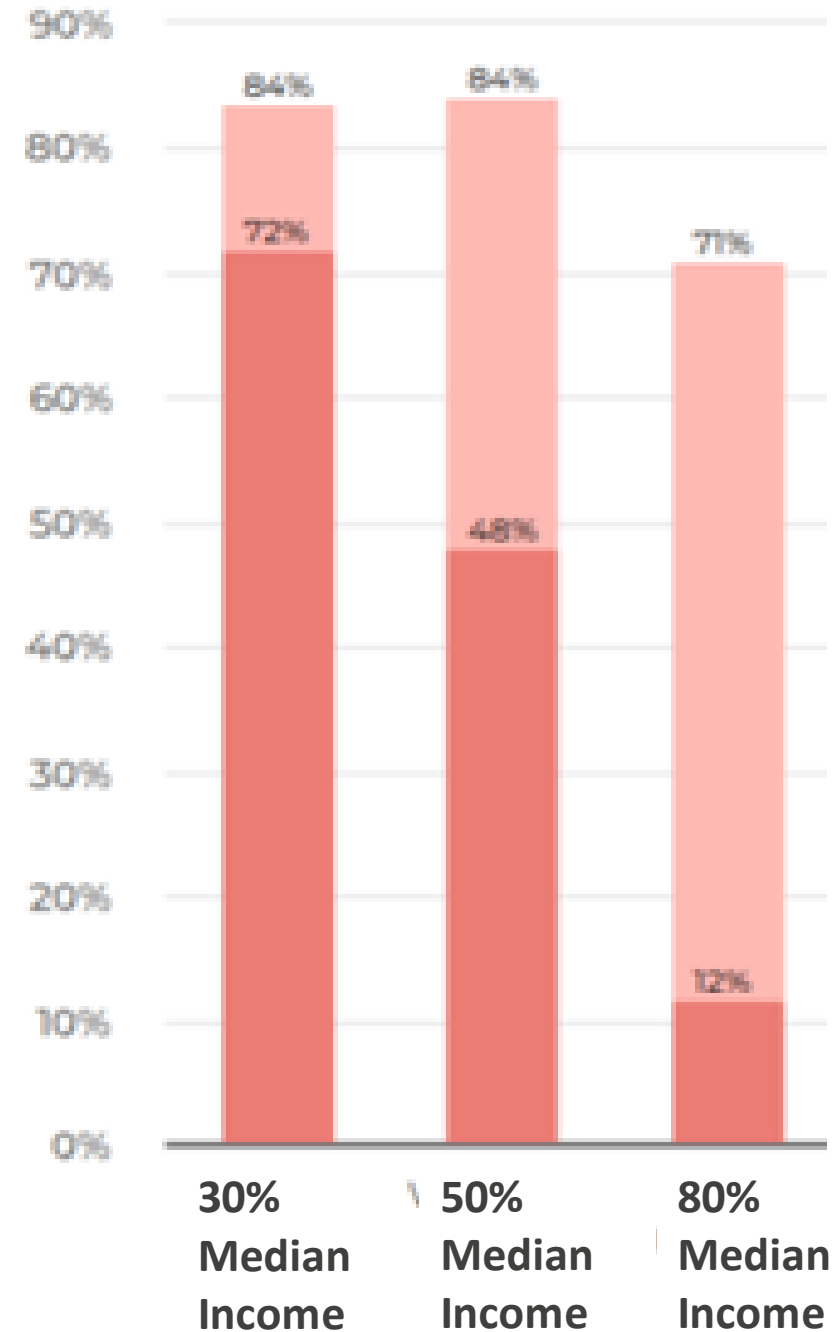


Source: community needs survey conducted by Community Action Marin in February 2023

# >>> Housing Inequality

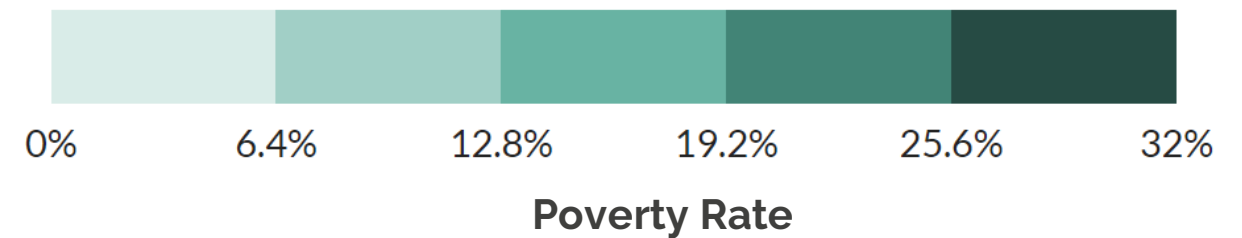
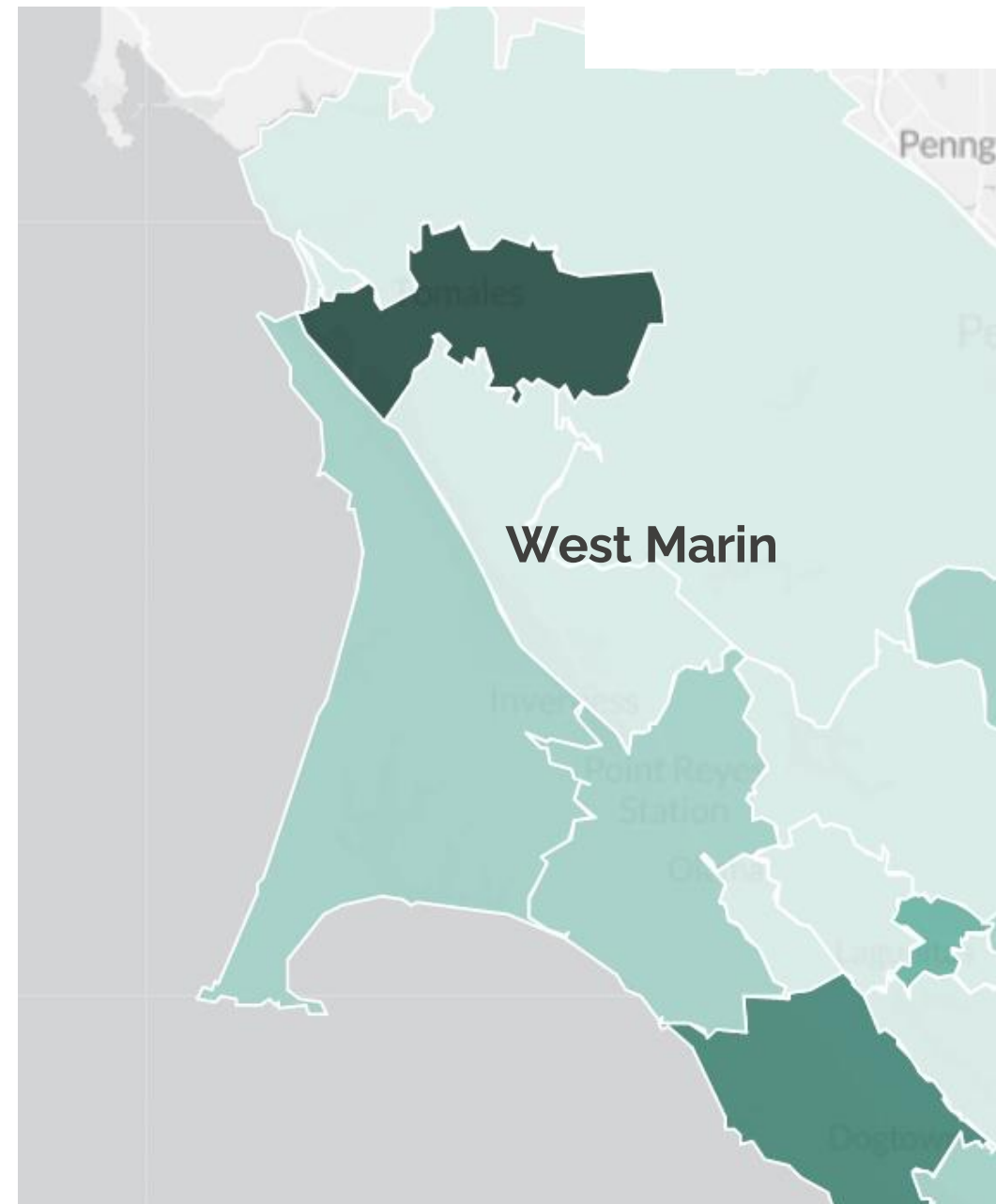
- > The Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates most low-income families pay more than 30% of their income for rent, and many pay 50% or more
- > More than half of Black and Hispanic renters in Marin spend more than 30% of their income on housing

■ Cost Burdened Households\*
 ■ Severely Cost Burdened Households\*



# >>> Geographic Inequality

- > Population is spread out and harder to count. (Good news: improved data collection in the last census)
- > Residents need to travel long distances to access services
- > Housing shortage is made worse by increases in short-term rental units
- > Many workers who provide vital services can't find housing in the area



Source: American Community Survey (U.S. Census)

# >>> Guiding Questions



## What do you think?

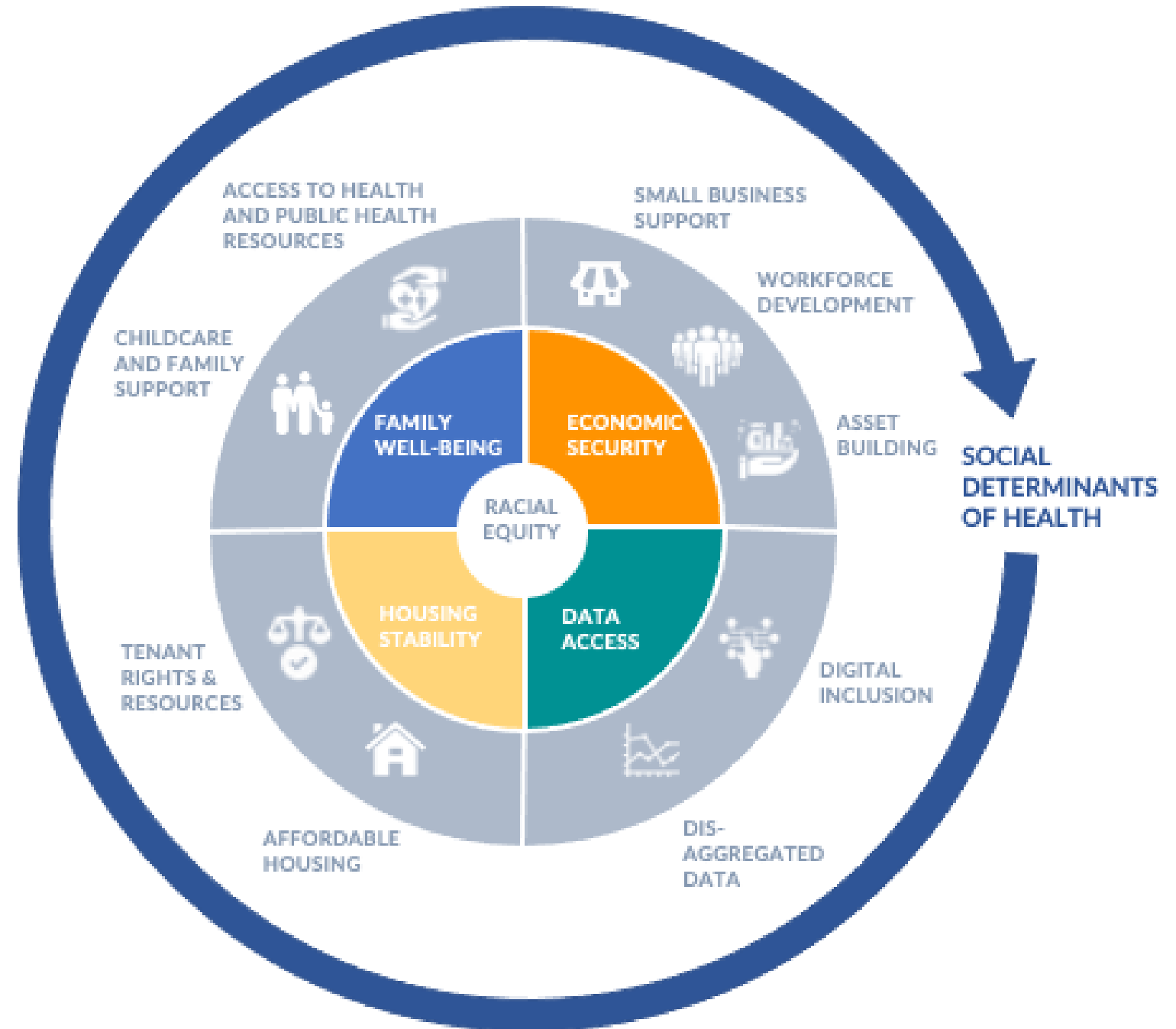
Does any of this data surprise you?

# >>> Cross-Cutting Themes & Collective Action

Community Action Marin *and* the Canal Alliance *and* Legal Aid of Marin *and* North Marin Community Services...

Developed a framework to support:

- > Family Well-Being,
- > Economic Security,
- > Housing Stability, and
- > Data Access





# ➤➤➤ Cross-Cutting Themes & Collective Action

## Family Well-Being

**Goal:** The health and well-being of low-income children, families, and essential workers

**Priorities:** Access to health and public health resources, childcare, family support

## Economic Security

**Goal:** Long-term financial resiliency for low-income families, immigrants, small businesses

**Priorities:** Remove barriers to workforce training, build community assets, support small businesses



# ➤➤➤ Cross-Cutting Themes & Collective Action



## Housing Stability

**Goal:** Affordable, stable, safe housing

**Priorities:** Tenant rights, housing preservation, affordable housing, housing rehabilitation

## Data Access

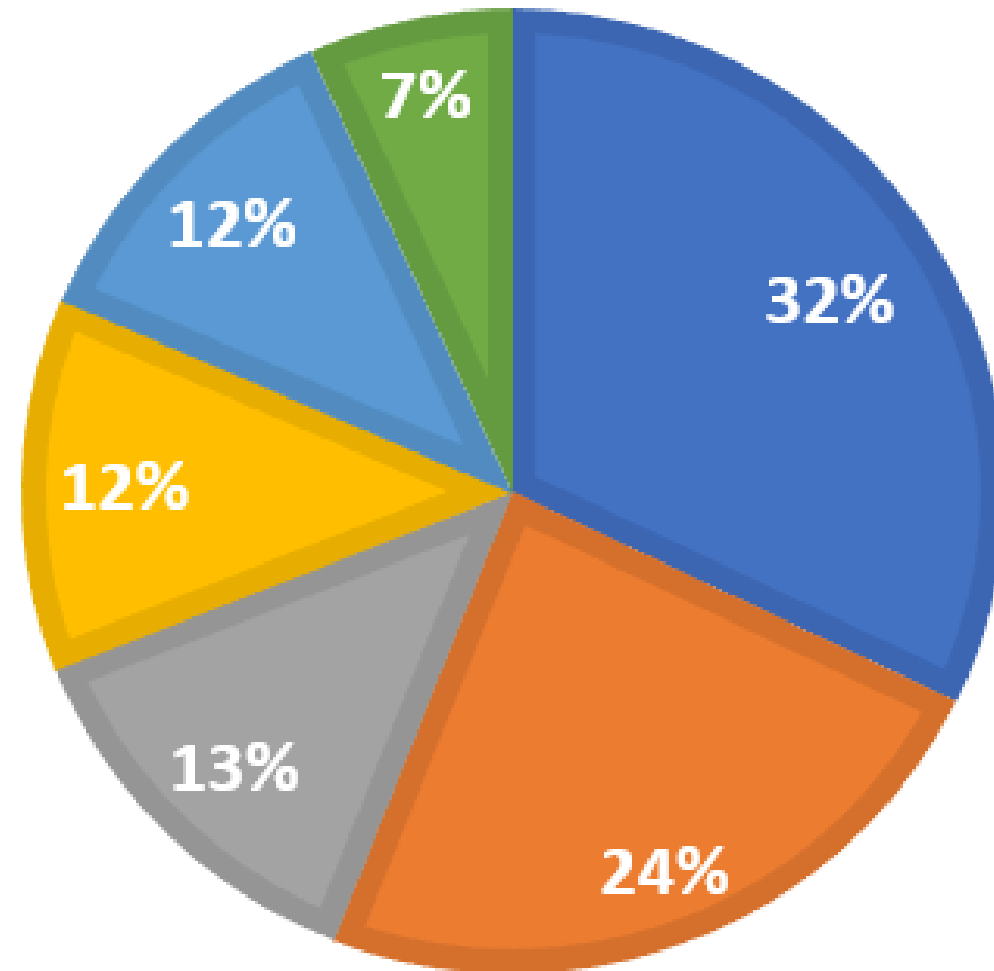
**Goal:** Strengthening decision-making that impacts children, families, and essential workers

**Priorities:** Increasing and sharing useful data, information, and online resources

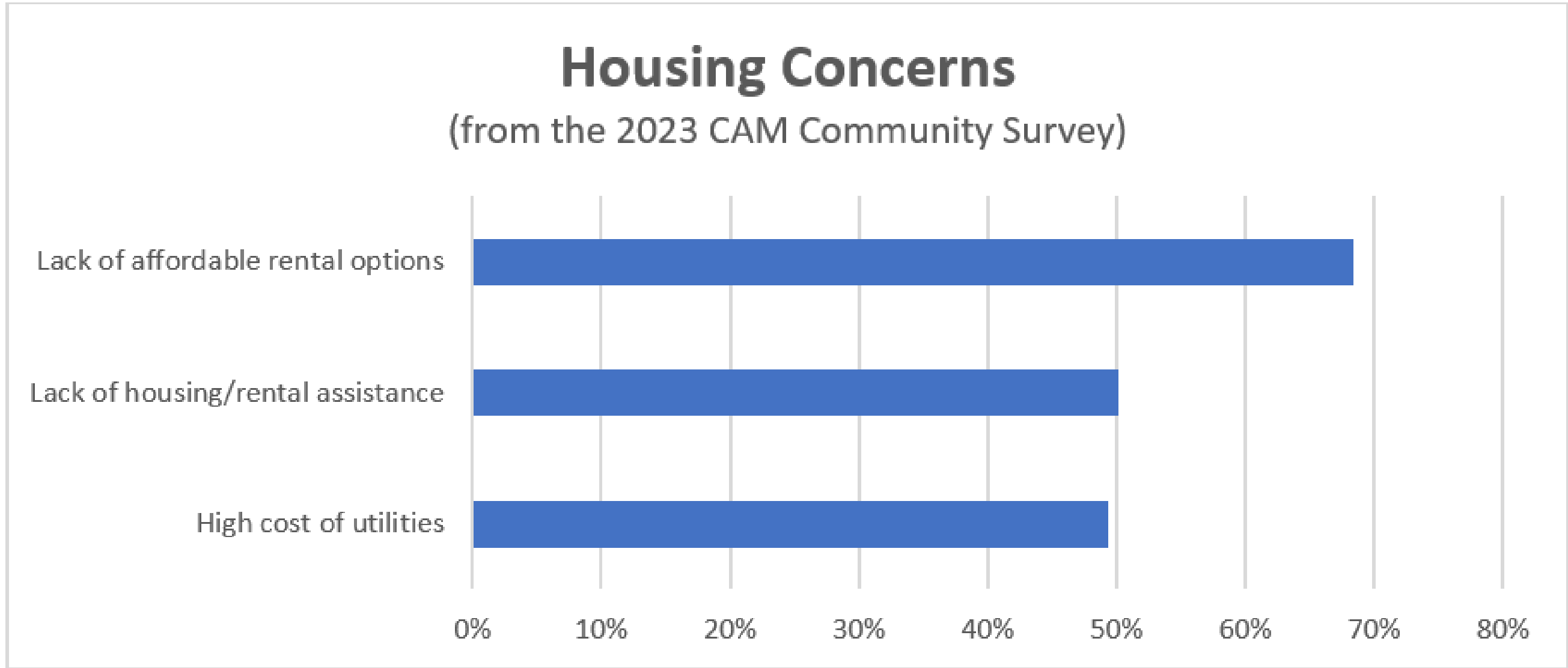
# >>> Community Needs Survey Results

## HIGHEST RATED COMMUNITY CONCERNS IN MARIN COUNTY

- Housing
- Health
- Education
- Employment
- Safety
- Transportation

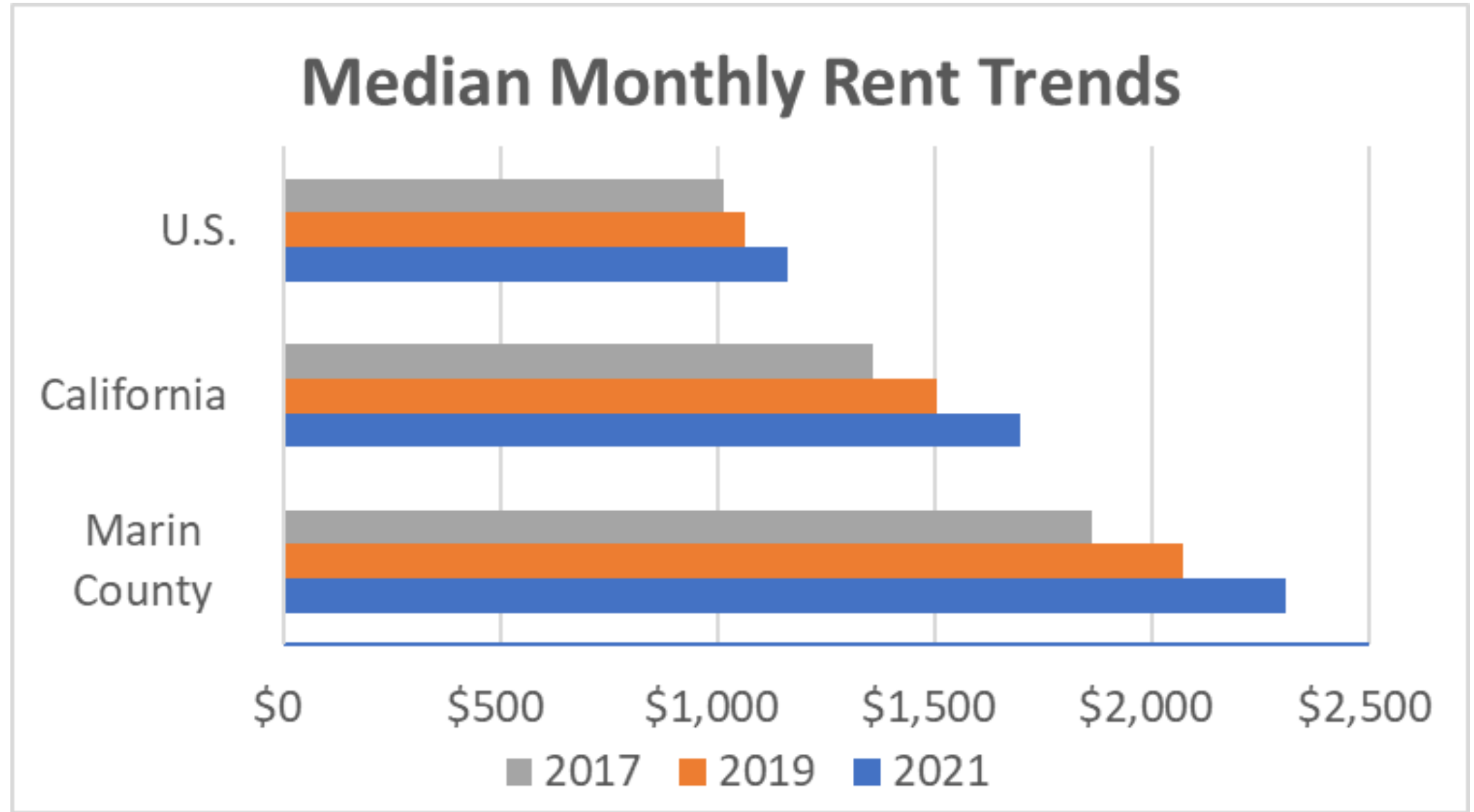


# >>> Housing Needs



# >>> Housing Needs

Rents in Marin county are very high and continue to increase



Source: American Community Survey (U.S. Census)

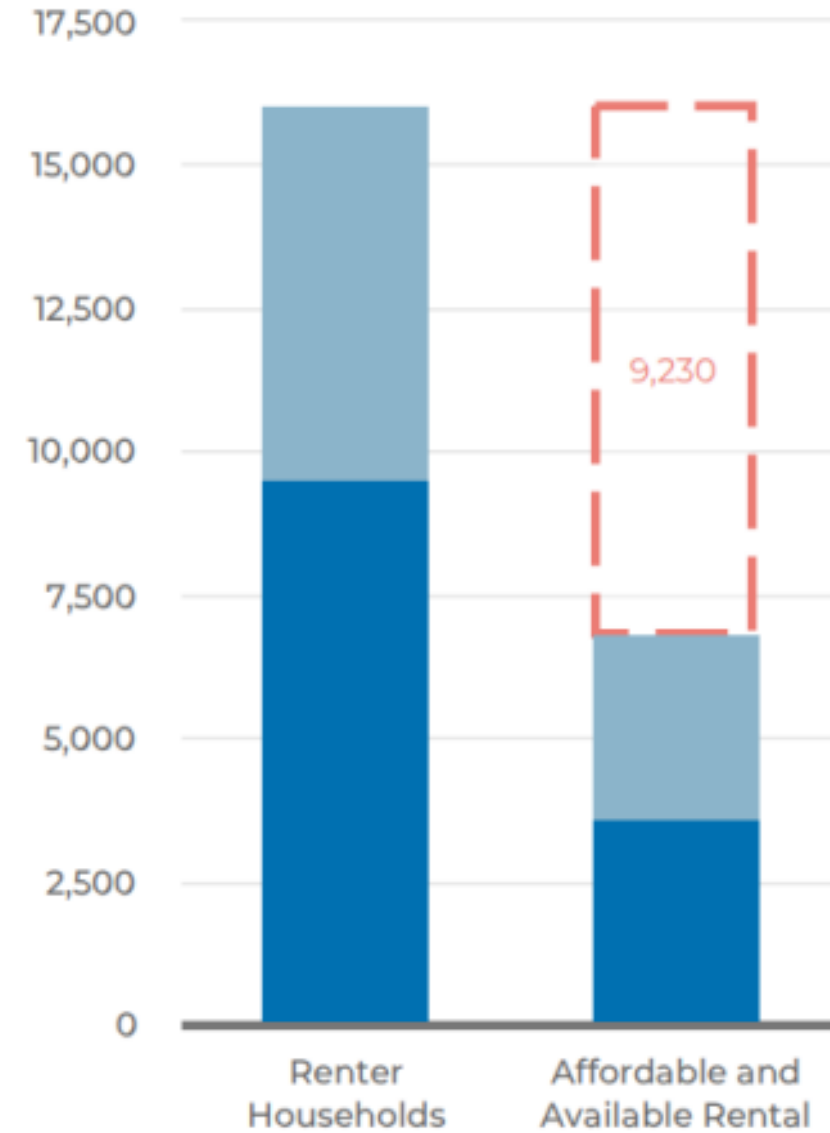
# >>> Housing Needs

There is not enough affordable housing for Marin County's low-income population

## AFFORDABLE HOMES SHORTFALL

**9,230 low-income renter households** in Marin County do not have access to an affordable home.

Shortfall Very Low-Income Extremely Low-Income



# >>> Housing Needs

## Comments from Community Members

*"If I could change one thing about Marin I would open up the housing voucher waitlist to those who need it."*

*"The hardest thing is to pay rent when you get sick."*

*"They are asking me to prove I make 3-4 times the rent to get approved. . . I don't make that kind of money!"*

*"Additional low-income housing it critical so clients don't need to be living in their car."*

# >>> Housing Services

## Rental and Housing Assistance

FY 2022

306

FY 2023\*

386\*

*\*Added County ERA Program*

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### Advocacy

- > Affordable housing plans
- > Rent freezes
- > Longer-term policy agenda and tenant protections

## Homeless Outreach (CARE team)



60+ homeless people served per month



# ➤➤➤ Safety Net Services

## Housing and Utility Assistance

- CAM distributed more than \$2.8 million in assistance to 400 households
- Assistance included:
  - Housing deposits
  - Rental assistance
  - Utility assistance (primarily PG&E)

## Population Served

- CAM provides safety net assistance to Marin County's most vulnerable residents
- Over two-thirds of those served earn less than 30% of Marin's median monthly income
- Over 80% of those served earn less than 50% of Marin's median monthly income

# >>> Health and Healthcare Needs

Marin is the healthiest county overall, but there are major inequities:

Life Expectancy	Marin City 76 years San Anselmo 91 years
Child mortality	Hispanic rate 3x the white rate
Teen Pregnancy	Hispanic rate 21x the white rate



# >>> Health and Mental Health Needs

## Health

- > #1 concern for **24%**
- > Top 3 concern for **72%**
- > From a focus group: *"I feel **discriminated against** at clinics . . . it makes me **hesitant** to even try to get medical help"*

## Mental Health

- > **35%** ranked mental health a top issue
- > **CAM staff** note Mental Health issues are especially difficult for homeless clients
- > Inequities: **access** to benefits and **cost** are barriers to MH care for **low-income** residents

# >>> Guiding Questions

- > **What do you think?** Are there community needs that are your pain point or greatest concern?
- > **Where are the gaps?** Given our current community programs and services, are there needs that are not yet represented through what CAM does?
- > **Got priorities?** Community needs are dynamic and intersecting, have we picked the right priorities?



# >>> Employment Needs

- > Marin County consistently has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state
- > Yet there are large inequities in income

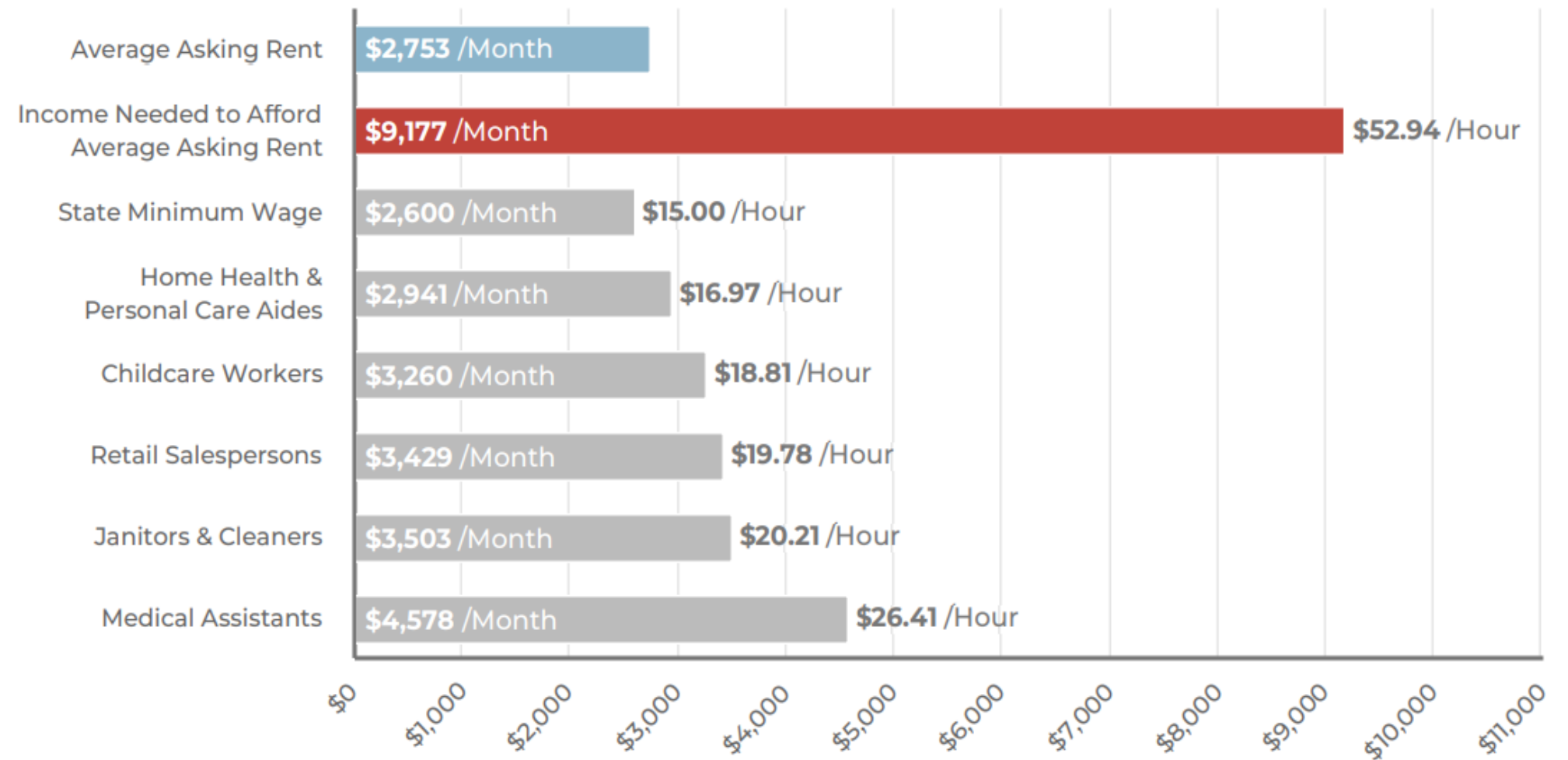
	2019 Median Income	2021 Median Income
Asian	\$107,849	\$155,338
Black/African American	\$48,602	\$60,849
Hispanic	\$58,639	\$67,125
White	\$126,501	\$138,214

# >>> Employment Needs

California Housing Partnership data shows how hard it is for low wage workers to afford the high cost of living in Marin

## WHO CAN AFFORD TO RENT

| Renters need to earn **3.5 times** minimum wage to afford the average asking rent in Marin County.



Source: California Housing Partnership

# >>> Economic Justice Services



- > **Teacher training and employment**  
Apprenticeship programs to become a licensed Early Childhood Education Associate Teacher
- > **Driver training & employment**  
Driver training instruction and employment placement assistance
- > **Program to support individuals**  
Overcome barriers to employment to achieve stability, engage in job training, and secure fulfilling employment in their field of choice

# >>> Economic Justice Services

## Economic & Workforce Development

- > **SparkPoint Coaching:** High-touch, integrated financial, credit, career, and housing coaching to support individuals on their pathway to economic well-being
- > **Workforce Development:** Quality job skills training and employment placement for individuals seeking fulfilling careers in a variety of industries





# >>> Food Needs

Lack of access to food dropped overall in California, but increased in Marin

Geographic Area	% Food Insecurity 2021	% Food Insecurity 2023
Marin County	7%	8%
California	11%	9%

Source: American Community Survey (U.S. Census)

School	Area	Eligible FRPM 2021-2022
Bahia Vista Elementary	San Rafael	97%
San Pedro Elementary	San Rafael	95%
Hamilton Meadow Park	Novato	60%
Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy	Marin City	53%
Tomales Elementary	West Marin	52%

Source: California Department of Education

Schools with highest rates of free and reduced-price meals (FRPM) are in low-income neighborhoods, more students of color

# >>> Food Justice Services

- 11,000 healthy meals and snacks for infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and school-aged children each month
- Education about food and nutrition during family-style meals
- 1,200 healthy meals for seniors each month
- 730 pounds of local food from community gardens for children to enjoy



# >>> Food Justice Services



## Our Production Farm harvested:

Over 730 pounds of: Cucumbers, Bok Choi, Cabbage, Cilantro, Kale, Carrots, Collard greens, Lettuce, Tomatoes, and Zucchini

## Appetite for Change Partnership

- Partnering with Occidental Art and Ecology Center
- 7-week course helps families learn about year-round ecological and sustainable gardening methods
- Families become ambassadors for equitable access to healthy foods

# >>> Education and Childcare Needs

Families qualify for free or subsidized early childhood education based on eligibility criteria, including:

- > Meeting federal or state income guidelines
- > Homeless or precariously housed
- > In foster care
- > Children with disabilities
- > Receiving public assistance

There are 1,003 children under 5 in poverty in Marin County.

- > Community Action Marin provides early childhood education to over one-third (356) of them!
- > This includes 163 children with disabilities

CAM is striving to increase staffing amidst a shortage of qualified teachers. We look forward to enrolling to our full capacity of 550 children.

# >>> Education and Childcare Needs

- > Too few credentialed teachers for all low income 0-5 age children means we cannot serve 40% of eligible children *[Marin Child Care Council]*
- > National staff turnover rate is over 19% per year *[Center for the Study of Early Care and Education Employment]*
- > Lack of good paying jobs and affordable childcare were highest concerns countywide

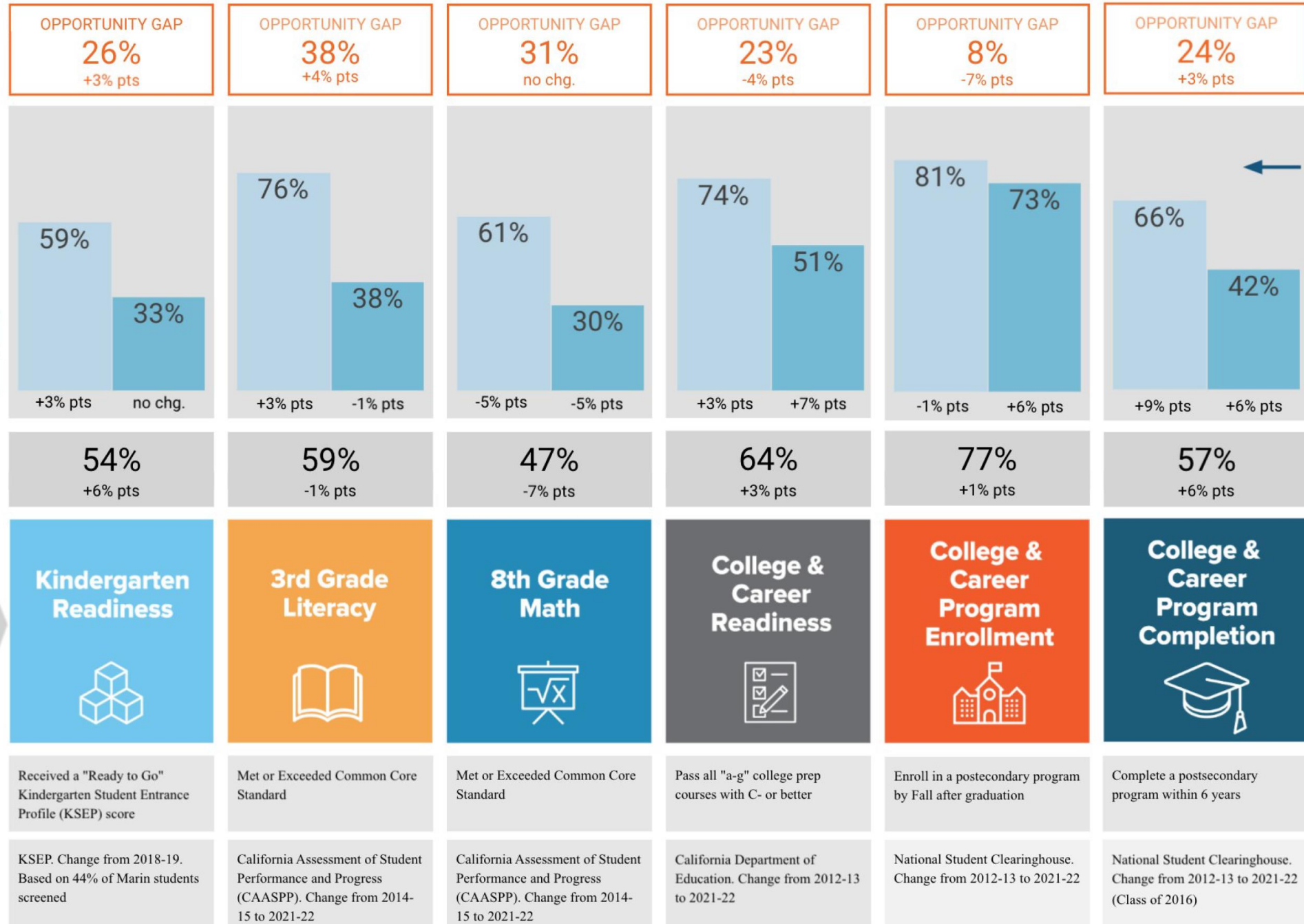
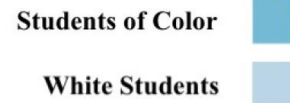




# Education and Childcare Needs

## RACIAL OPPORTUNITY GAP

Students meeting milestones:



CRADLE

CAREER

# >>> Education and Childcare Services

## We offer care for:

- > Infants and toddlers age 0-3
- > Toddlers and preschoolers age 3-5
- > After school care

## Satisfaction Survey:

- > **98%** of parents said children are happy, safe, and feel like they belong
- > **94%** of parents said this care helped them with employment, education or caregiving issues



# >>> Education and Childcare Needs

*"...when [my daughter] comes home she tells us her experiences of her day and it makes our lives very happy to know that she is living a happy life with those around her. thank you very much."*

*"[The CFS program] is very helpful both in my emotional health and relieving some stress."*

*"Thank God for this program, we can work."*



# ➤➤➤ Other Community Needs



## Safety

- Marin has low rates of violent crime
- Key concern among CAM preschool families is fear of deportation

## Transportation

- Vehicle expenses: car, gas, insurance
- Public transit routes often don't align with needs, and there is little public transportation in West Marin

# Access to Opportunity

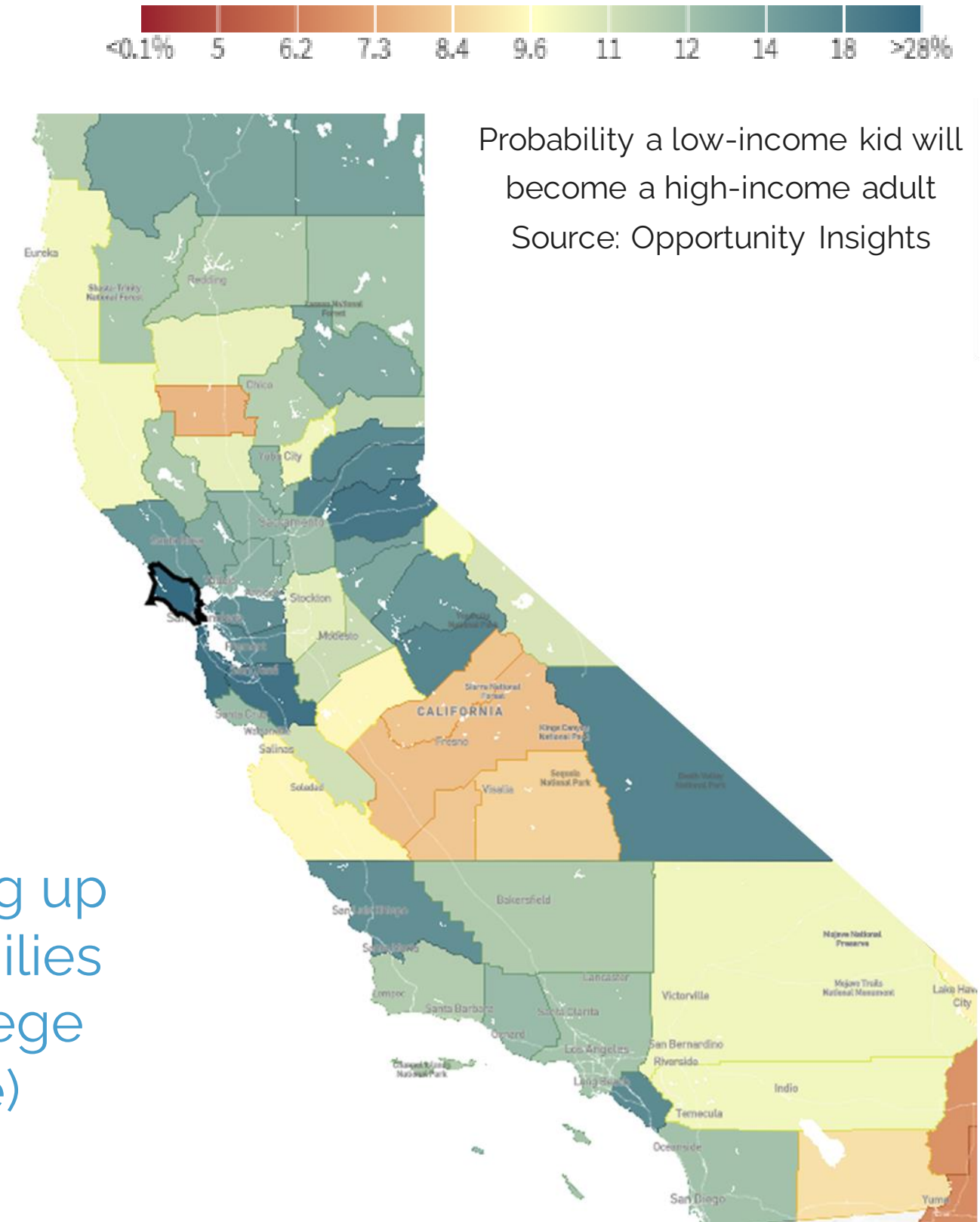
According to projections by Opportunity Atlas, low-income kids growing up in Marin have among the **highest rates of upward mobility** in the state (including Hispanic and black children)

21%

Of children growing up in low-income families will become high-income

44%

Of children growing up in low-income families will graduate college (highest in state)



# >>> Guiding Questions

- > What do you think?
- > Where are the gaps?
- > Got priorities?





# THANK YOU

## CONTACT

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