

MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTH SNAPSHOT 2020

The Black/African American population in Santa Cruz County is small and often overlooked. In August 2020, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis, increasing the urgency to address inequities impacting marginalized populations.

This snapshot, sponsored by United Way, Applied Survey Research, the NAACP, Black Health Matters, and Santa Cruz County Black Coalition for Justice and Racial Equity Advisors, builds on the Community Assessment Project and shares data on the social determinants of health impacting this historically underserved population. The data, although limited, highlights a need for intentional centering of the Black/African American experience in Santa Cruz County. While further research and data collection is planned for the spring, this spotlight is a starting place for increasing visibility to better meet the needs of this community.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Population by Race/Ethnicity

	Santa Cruz County		California	
	Count	%	Count	%
Black/African American	4,743	1.7%	2,782,446	7.0%
Hispanic/Latino	92,921	34.0%	15,574,882	39.4%
White	154,075	56.4%	14,356,081	36.3%

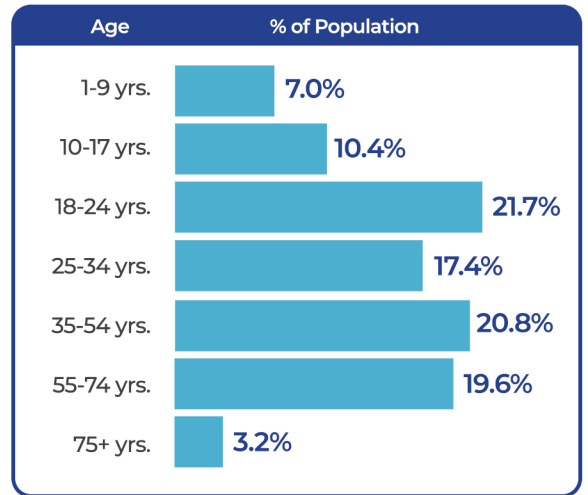
Source: United States Census Bureau. (2020). 2019 American Community Survey 1-year estimates.

Race/Ethnicity Distribution

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	White	Asian	Multi-Race	Other
2019	1.7%	34.0%	56.4%	5.3%	4.4%	0.7%
2018	1.0%	34.1%	56.6%	4.7%	3.2%	0.2%
2017	1.0%	33.9%	58.6%	4.9%	4.5%	0.5%
2016	1.0%	33.5%	57.6%	4.9%	2.7%	0.3%
2015	0.8%	33.3%	57.6%	4.4%	3.5%	0.4%
2014	0.8%	33.2%	58.1%	4.3%	3.3%	0.3%
2013	0.8%	32.9%	58.3%	4.4%	3.4%	0.1%

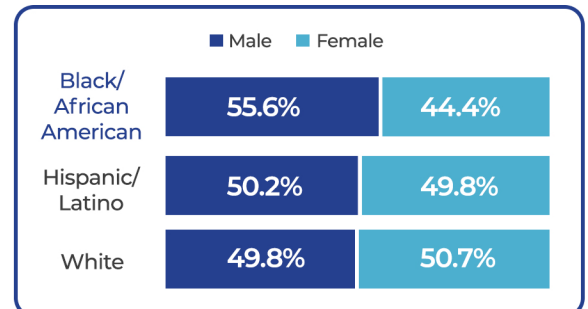
Source: United States Census Bureau. (2020). 2013-2019 American Community Survey 1-year estimates.

Black/African American Age Distribution



Source: United States Census Bureau. (2020). 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Gender Distribution by Race/Ethnicity



Source: United States Census Bureau. (2020). 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

ECONOMIC STABILITY

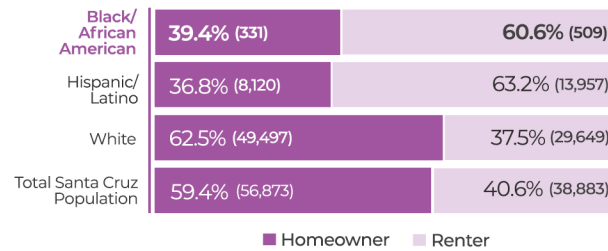
Economic stability is the first determinant area in the Social Determinants of Health framework. Indicators included in this profile on Black/African Americans in Santa Cruz County are income, housing status, and food insecurity.

Median Family Income Comparison, by Race/Ethnicity

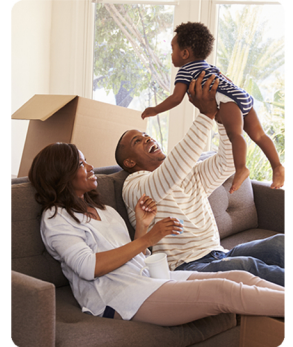
Black/African American	\$78,381
Hispanic/Latino	\$77,307
White	\$123,248

Source: United States Census Bureau. (2020). 2019 American Community Survey 1-year estimates.

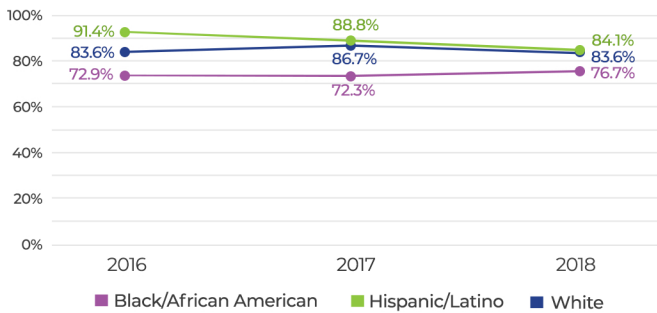
Homeowner vs. Renter, by Race/Ethnicity



Source: United States Census Bureau. (2020). 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

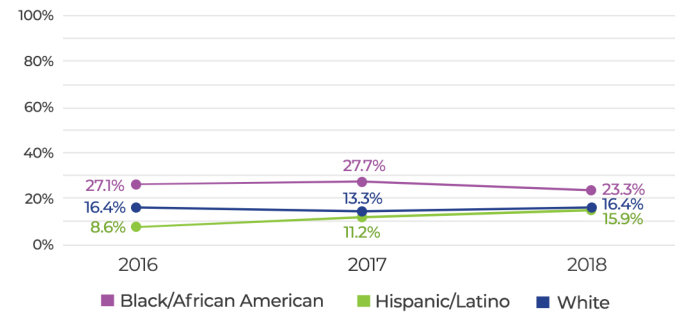


Mobility, by Race/Ethnicity (Same house 1 year ago)



Source: United States Census Bureau. (2020). 2016-2018 American Community Survey 1-year estimates.

Mobility, by Race/Ethnicity (Have moved within a year)

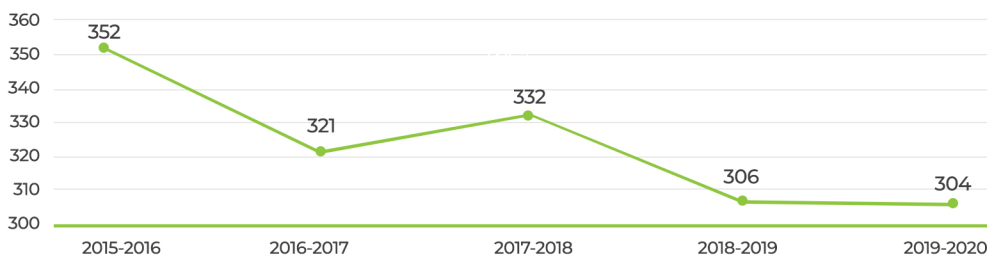


Source: United States Census Bureau. (2020). 2016-2018 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Note: The category "Have moved within a year" includes those who have "Moved within Santa Cruz County", "Moved from different county within California", "Moved from different state", and "Moved from abroad".

EDUCATION

Education is the second determinant area in the Social Determinants of Health framework. Indicators included in this profile on Black/African Americans in Santa Cruz County are school enrollment, educational attainment, and suspension rates.

Total Black/African American Student Enrollment, Kindergarten – 12th Grade



Source: California Department of Education (2020). 2015-2020 Enrollment data.



Education Attainment, by Race/Ethnicity

	High School or Higher	Bachelors or Higher
Black/African American	1,407 (54.2% of entire Black pop.)	692 (26.7% of entire Black pop.)
Hispanic/Latino	48,485 (52.9% of entire Hispanic pop.)	6,206 (6.8% of entire Hispanic pop.)
White	113,354 (72.0% of entire White pop.)	58,843 (37.4% of entire White pop.)

Source: United States Census Bureau. (2020). 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Suspension Rates per 1,000 Students

	2017-18			2018-19		
Santa Cruz County	30.5	29.3	18.2	42.2	42.1	22.2
California	95.8	36.4	30.9	92.2	35.8	29.8
	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	White	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	White

Source: California Department of Education. (2020). 2017-2019 Suspension Data.

HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

Health and Health Care is the third determinant area in the Social Determinants of Health framework. Indicators included in this profile on Black/African Americans in Santa Cruz County are fertility and infant mortality rates, suicidal ideation, substance use, and chronic sad/hopeless feelings among students at Santa Cruz High School.

The infant mortality three-year average in Santa Cruz County from 2015-2017 for Black/African American mothers is 0 compared with the state average of 8.7 per 1,000 Black/African American live births.

Source: California Department of Public Health, County Health Status Profiles 2020, (2020). 2015-2017 Infant Mortality Rate, Santa Cruz County.



Fertility Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, per 1,000 Females

Black/African American	28.4
Hispanic/Latina	59.5
White	36.7
Asian & Pacific Islander	33.3
Other	26.4
Total Santa Cruz County Rate (all births)	45.4

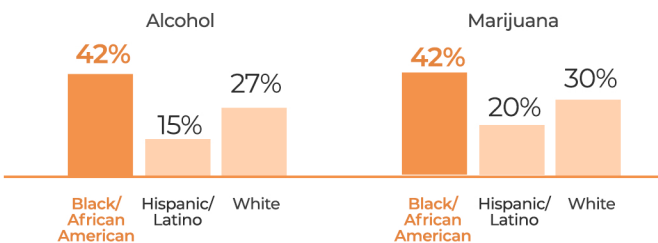
Source: Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, Public Health Division. (2020). 2018 Births, Santa Cruz County.

Student Suicidal Ideation, by Race/Ethnicity, 9th & 11th Grades

	Santa Cruz County	California
Black/African American	18.9%	12.6%
Hispanic/Latino	12.0%	15.4%
White	16.8%	17.6%

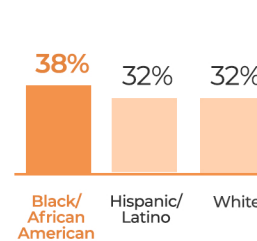
Source: Kidsdata.org, California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) (2020). 2017-2019, Santa Cruz County & California. Note: No "n" value is available because this is a two-school year weighted estimate incorporating all reports in California and Santa Cruz County. Kidsdata.org aggregates all these data and produces the descriptive data tool without providing a total "n" value.

Alcohol and Marijuana Use Among 11th Grade Students at Santa Cruz High School, by Race/Ethnicity



Source: West Ed for the California Department of Education. (2020). 2018-2019 California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS), Santa Cruz County. n=499. Note: The "n" represents all the 11th grade students completing the CHKS survey at Santa Cruz High School. The per question "n" is not available. Santa Cruz High School was the only school in the county with a large enough sample size to report on Black/African American students.

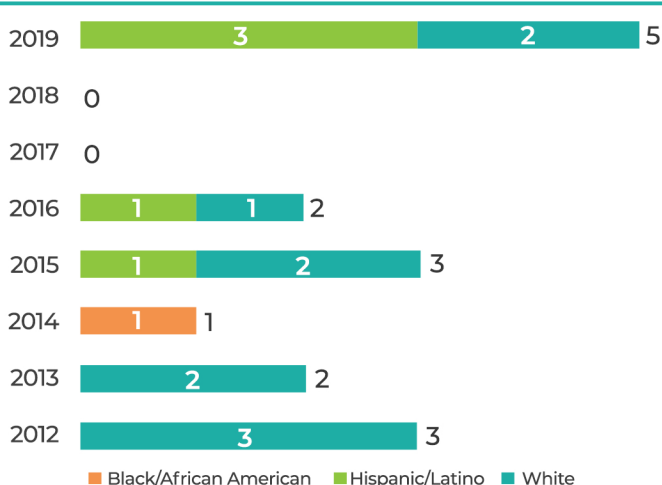
Chronic Sad or Hopeless Feelings Among 11th Grade Students at Santa Cruz High School, by Race/Ethnicity



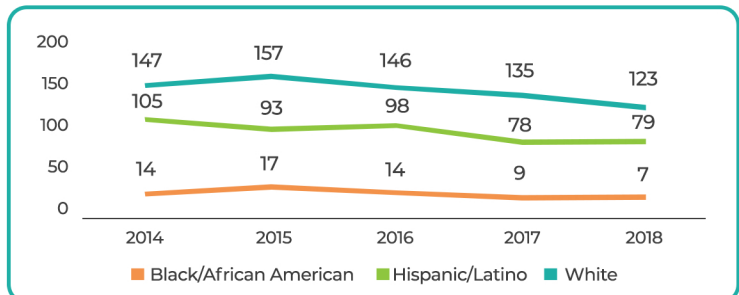
NEIGHBORHOOD AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Neighborhood and Built Environment is the fourth determinant area in the Social Determinants of Health framework. Indicators included in this profile on Black/African Americans in Santa Cruz County are deaths while in police custody and involvement in foster care.

In Custody Deaths, by Race/Ethnicity



Foster Care, by Race/Ethnicity



Source: Webster, D., et al. California Child Welfare Indicators Project Reports (2020). (2014-2018) UC Berkeley Center for Social Services Research.

Source: California Department of Justice. (2020). 2012-2019 OpenJustice.

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Social and Community Context is the fifth determinant area in the Social Determinants of Health framework. Indicators included in this profile on Black/African Americans in Santa Cruz County are reported hate crimes, and harassment due to race among students at Santa Cruz High School.

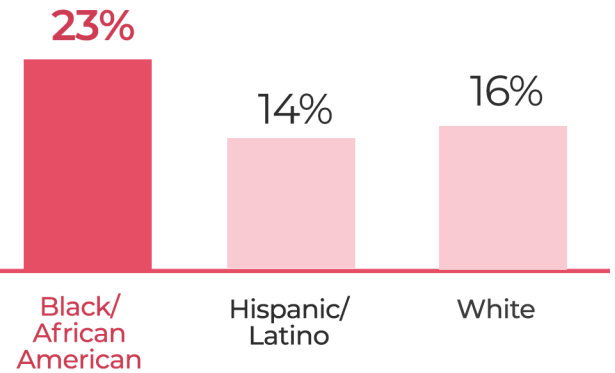
Progress towards Black/African Americans in leadership within the City of Santa Cruz:

Currently **three of seven council members** on the Santa Cruz City Council identify as Black/African American or mixed race.

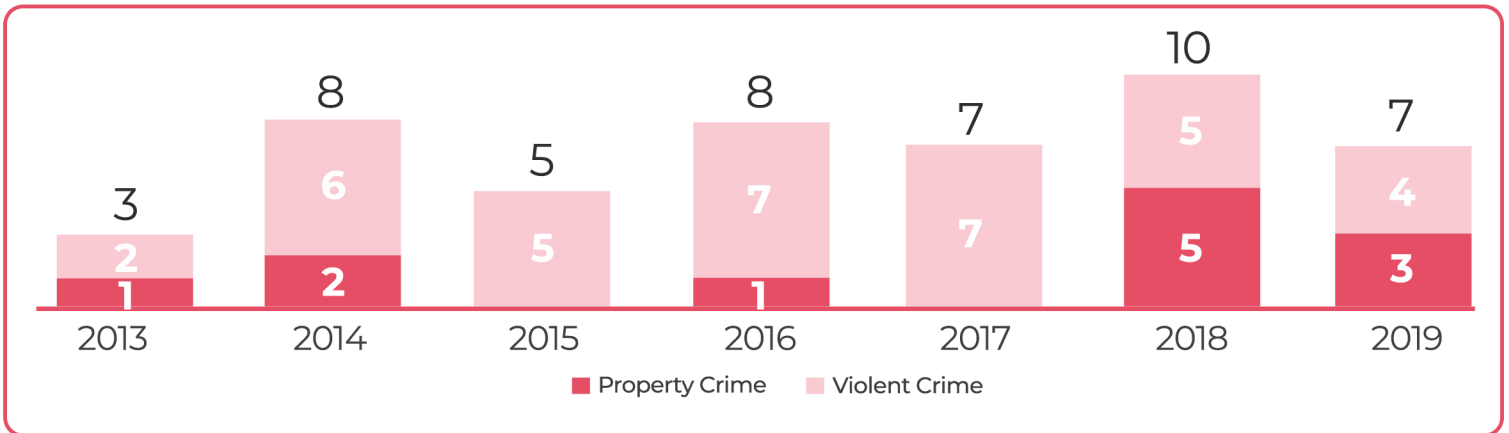


Harassment Among 11th Grade Students due to Race, Ethnicity, Religion, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Disability or Immigration Status at Santa Cruz High School, by Race/Ethnicity

Source: West Ed for the California Department of Education. (2020). 2018-2019 California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS), Santa Cruz County. n=499. Note: The "n" represents all the 11th grade students completing the CHKS survey at Santa Cruz High School. The per question "n" is not available. Santa Cruz High School was the only school in the county with a large enough sample size to report on Black/African American students.



Hate Crimes Reported with Race/Ethnicity Being the Reason



Source: California Department of Justice. (2020). 2013-2019 OpenJustice.

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This special edition snapshot of Black/African American health clearly demonstrates that measuring wellbeing for ALL is an important part of achieving wellbeing for ALL in Santa Cruz county. Highlighting where disparities exist while displaying strengths and resiliency sets the stage for concerted public awareness and action. Next steps, guided by the Community Assessment Project (CAP), the NAACP, Black Health Matters, and Santa Cruz County Black Coalition for Justice and Racial Equity Advisors, will focus on delving deeper into meaning making and linkage to contributions, while pursuing the data development agenda created in anticipation of a much more thorough examination of Black/African Americans in our county. We are pleased to share this introductory piece and we commit to ensuring that black health is measured and treasured. To date, we thank this year's CAP sponsors: County Park Friends, the Arts Council of Santa Cruz County, Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, and Sutter Health. Special appreciation to Black Health Matters and Santa Cruz County Black Coalition for Justice and Racial Equity Advisors for developing the structure and team to carry on until we achieve wellbeing for ALL.