

Connect SoCal

Racial Equity in Regional Planning



QUICK STATS

SCAG developed an extensive baseline assessment of racial equity in Southern California, the Racial Equity Baseline Conditions Report (2022)*, to better understand racial inequities in the region.



Homeownership

Black households are 2x less likely to own a home compared to white households



Poverty

40% of Hispanic (Latino) households live below the poverty line



Safety

Hispanic (Latino) residents are the most likely to live in high-risk areas for pedestrian or bike-involved collisions

*For the full report, please visit scag.ca.gov/equity-report

As central to SCAG's work, racial equity describes the actions, policies, and practices that eliminate bias and barriers that have historically been and systemically marginalized communities of color, to ensure all people of color can be healthy, prosperous, and participate fully in civic life.

Historically, communities of color and low-income populations have been underserved by programs and investments and underrepresented in decision-making processes. This led to decades of discriminatory funding and policy decisions that segregated Southern California and the country.

In July 2020, SCAG's Regional Council adopted a resolution affirming systemic racism as a human rights and public health crisis which results in health, socioeconomic, and environmental disparities within Southern California.

The resolution directed a series of comprehensive actions, including identifying and addressing disparities and inequities of the built environment, which are central to SCAG's work to plan for a more racially equitable future.

SCAG, as a metropolitan planning organization, is required to analyze institutional and systemic impacts of our regional transportation plan on vulnerable populations, including low-income and people of color.

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CONNECT SOCAL 2024 EQUITY ANALYSIS

The Equity Analysis evaluates the potential impacts of the implementation of Connect SoCal 2024 on communities, including both protected populations defined by federal regulation and priority communities identified by SCAG and regional stakeholders. To do this, SCAG focused on specific equity areas, called Priority Equity Communities, to analyze the potential impacts of the Plan for several equity performance measures.

Priority Equity Communities

Priority Equity Communities are census tracts in the SCAG region that have a greater concentration of populations that have been historically marginalized and are susceptible to inequitable outcomes based on several socioeconomic factors.

Equity Performance Measures

Building on previous Environmental Justice Technical Reports, SCAG will assess the impacts of the Plan on priority populations in the region using the following measures:

- Access to everyday destinations
- Bicycle and pedestrian collisions
- Emissions impact analysis
- Geographic distribution of transportation investments
- Impacts from mileage-based user fees
- Investments vs. benefits
- Jobs-housing imbalance
- Neighborhood changes and displacement
- Noise impacts
- Rail-related impacts
- Resilience and climate vulnerabilities
- Revenue sources in terms of tax burdens
- Share of transportation system usage
- Travel time and travel distance savings

Identifying Priority Equity Communities

A census tract is considered a Priority Equity Community when it exceeds the county average of criteria in **A** or **B**:

A
People of Color
AND
Low-Income Households
B
People of Color
OR
Low-Income Households
AND 4+ of the 7 other priority population criteria

- Limited Vehicle & Transit Access
- People without a High School Diploma
- Vulnerable Ages
- People with Disabilities
- People with Limited English Proficiency
- Single Parent Households
- Housing Cost Burdened Households

