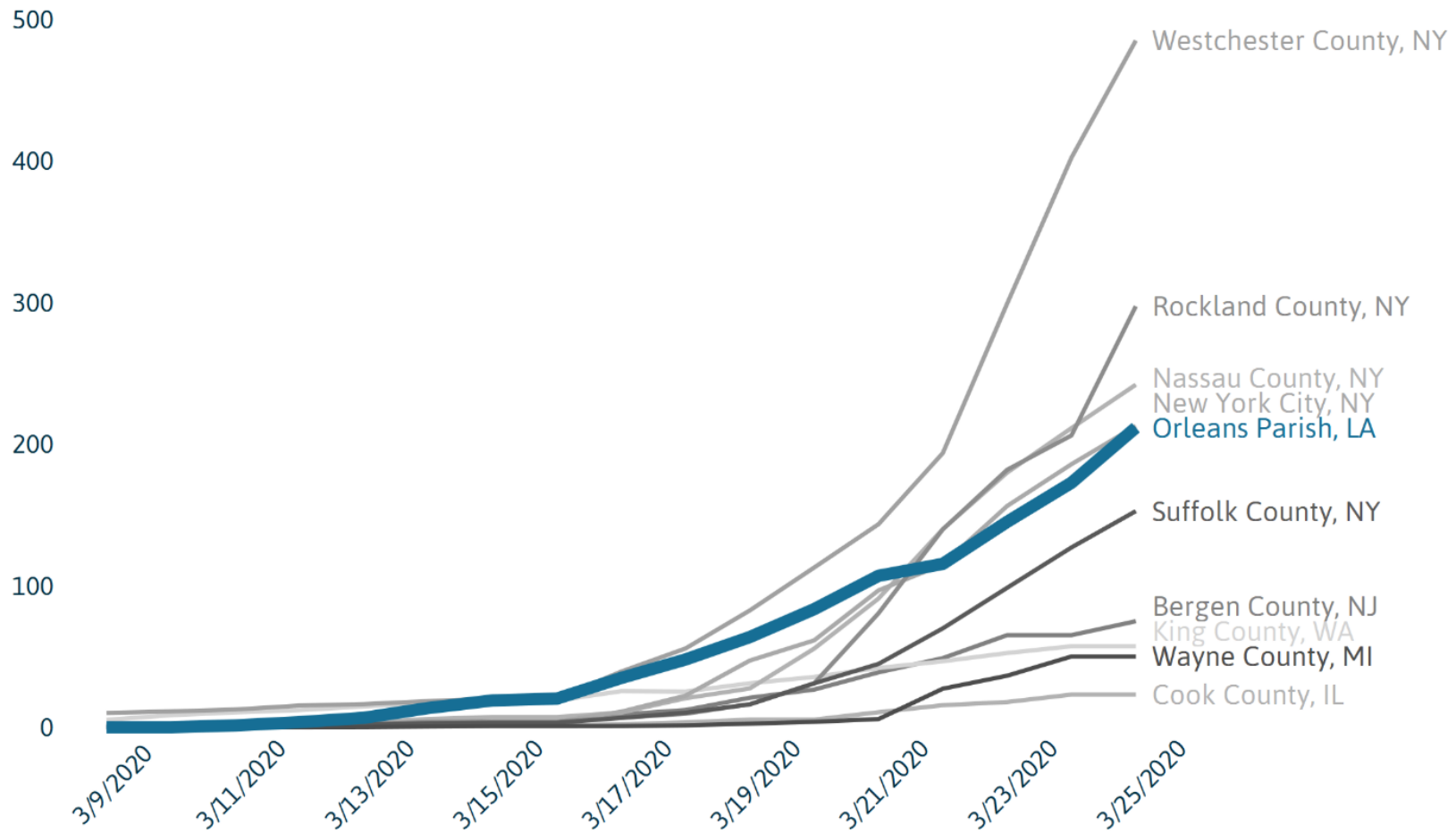# THE DATA CENTER
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ACS data for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 -- plus comparisons to other early COVID hot spots
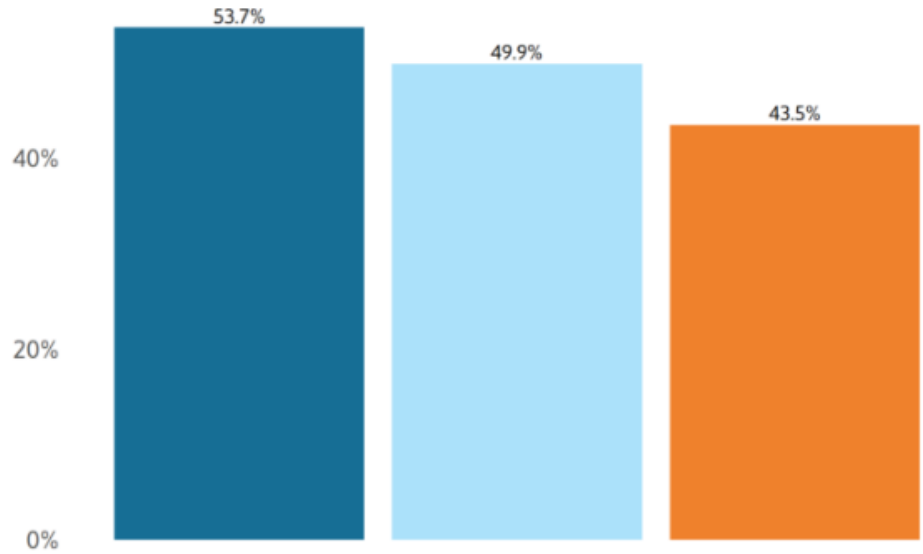## – March 25, 2019

Allison Plyer, Chief Demographer,
allisonp@datacenterresearch.org

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 infections by county, per 100,000 residents

Source: The Data Center analysis of UVA COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard and Population Estimates 2018.
Note: New York, New York is the 5 boroughs of New York City.

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Demographics of New Orleans and early COVID-19 Hot Spots in the U.S.

This webpage highlights key demographic data relevant to mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and related economic impacts in New Orleans. Indicators include age distribution, poverty levels, access to vehicles and the internet, along with comparisons to Seattle, Westchester County, NY, and New York City. This webpage is intended to inform decisionmakers in policymaking, program design, [...]

Learn More

– March 25, 2019

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Income and poverty can indicate the extent to which a community may be able to adhere to COVID-19 mitigation (such as "stay at home" and "quarantine family members who are sick").
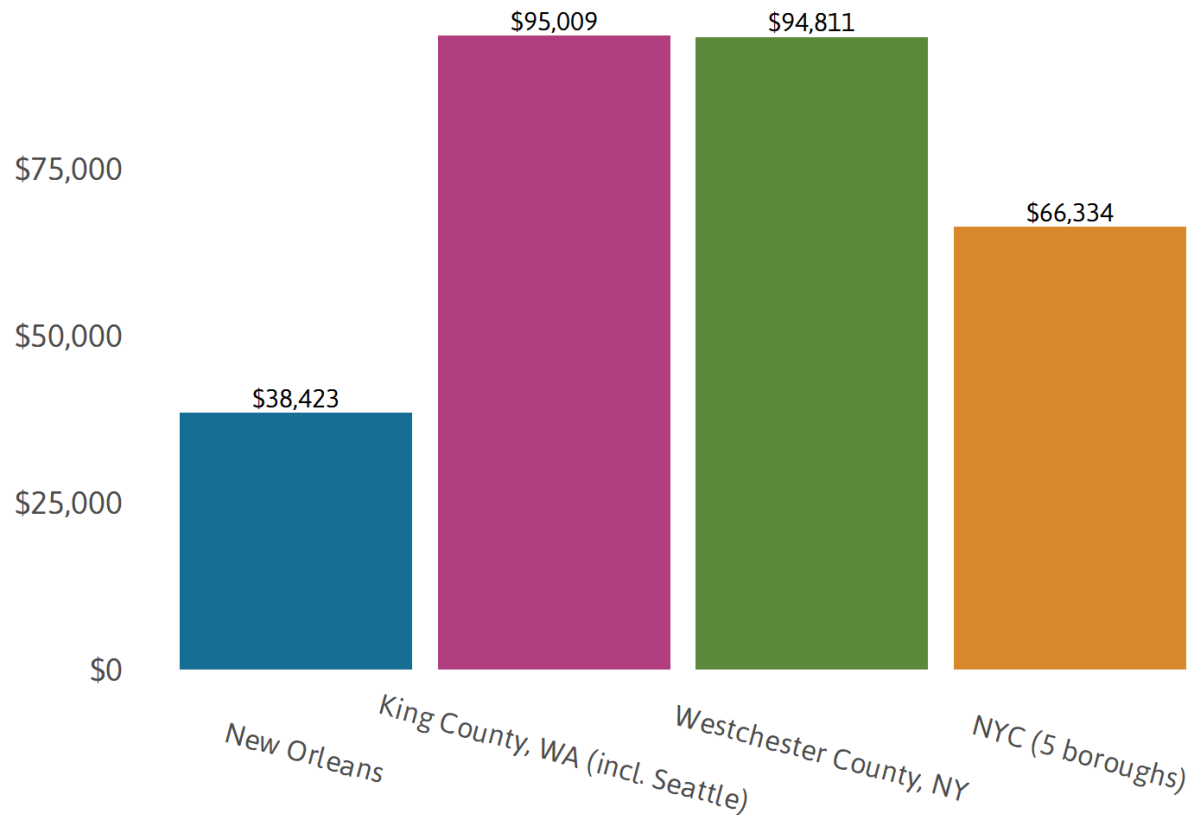
Poverty rate
New Orleans and select comparison geographies, 2018

Geography	Poverty rate
New Orleans	23.8%
King County, WA (incl. Seattle)	9.3%
Westchester County, NY	8.2%
NYC (5 boroughs)	17.3%
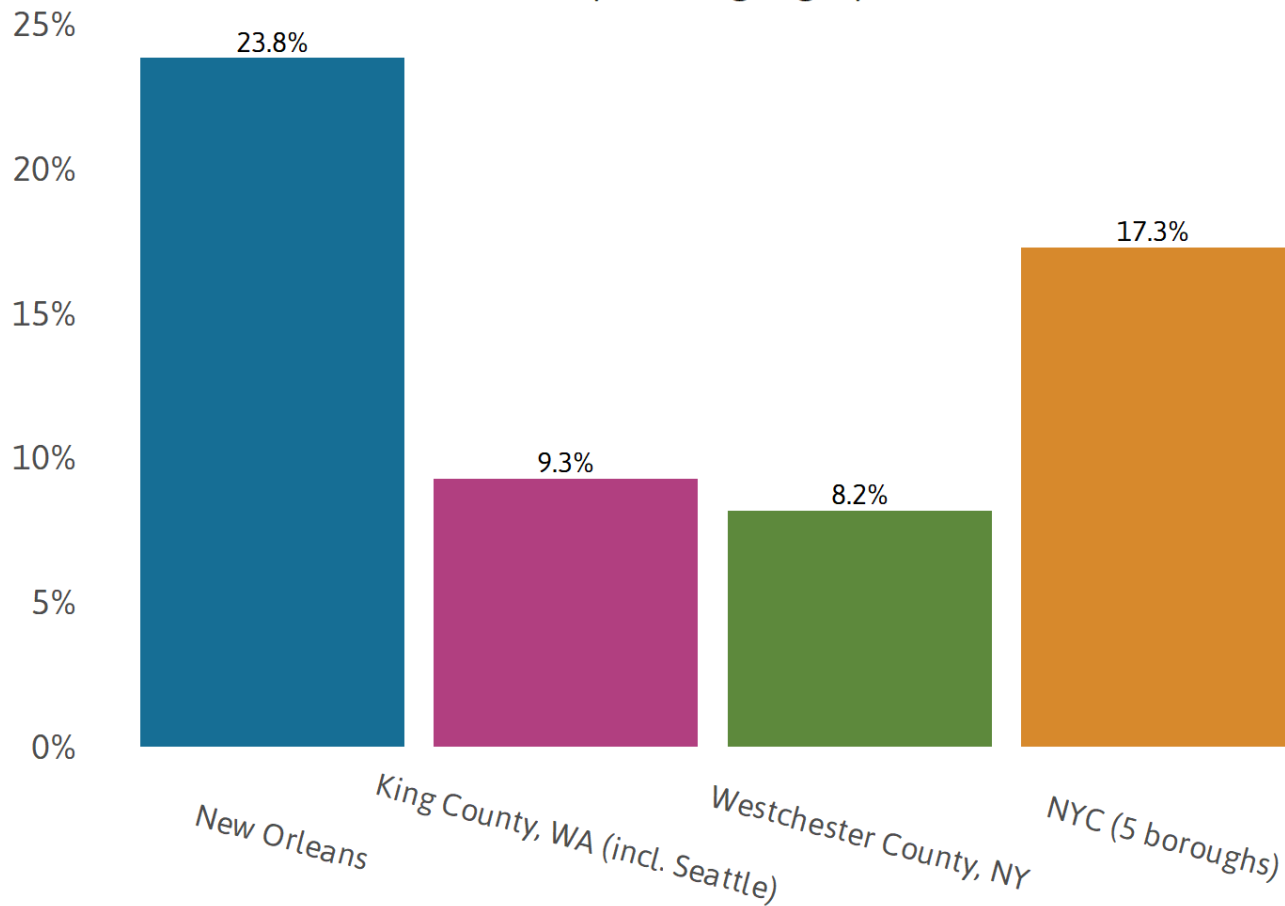
Lower-income individuals are more likely to live in smaller homes, making quarantining sick family members difficult. Low-income individuals are more likely to be working in "frontline" service positions such as at-home health aides, grocery store clerks, and nannies, and may not be able to "stay at home."
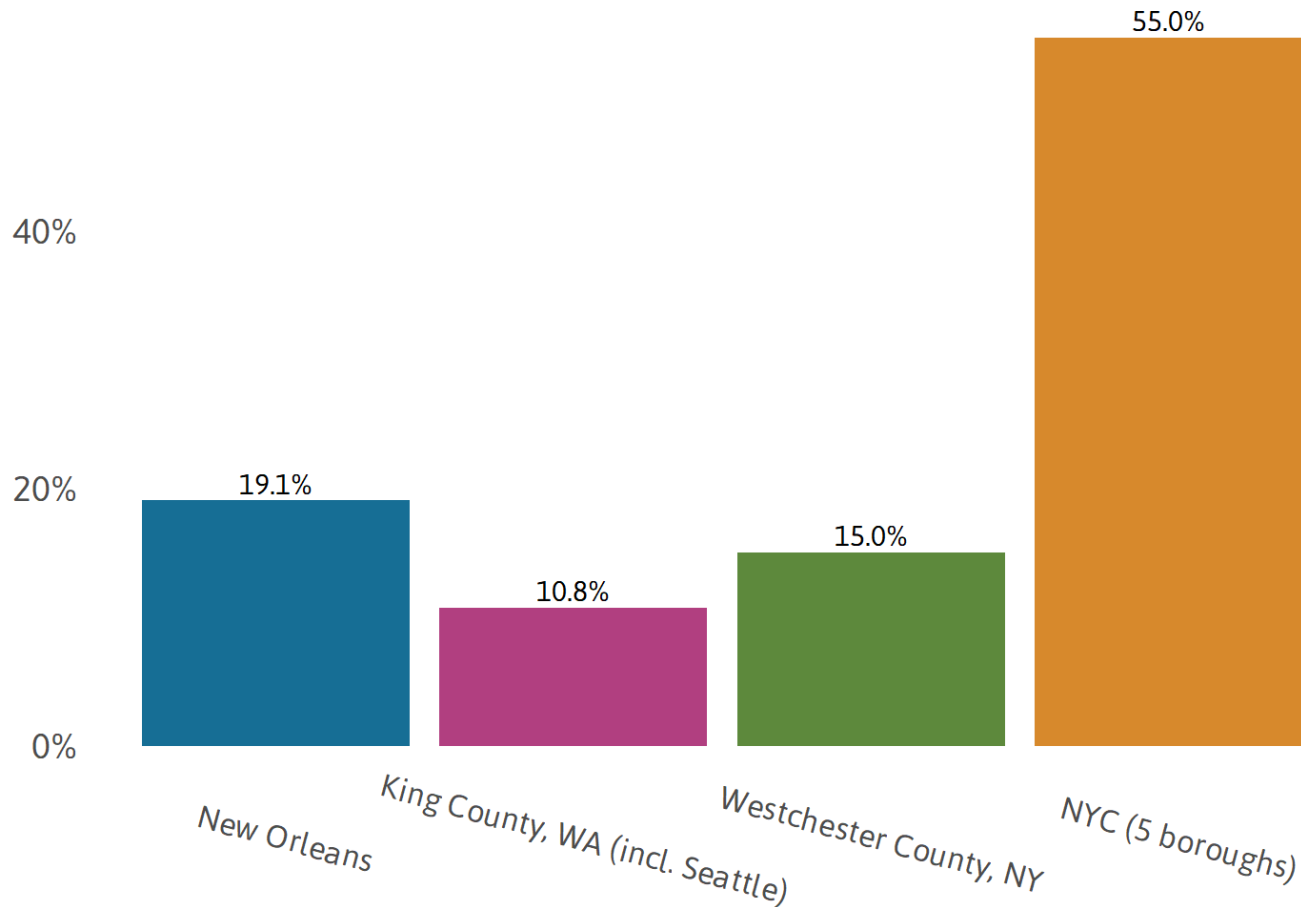
Median household income
New Orleans and select comparison geographies, 2018

$95,009 — King County, WA (incl. Seattle)
$94,811 — Westchester County, NY
$66,334 — NYC (5 boroughs)
$38,423 — New Orleans

Drive-up testing will be less effective in cities and counties where larger shares of the population do not have access to vehicles. Additional means of testing should be considered for most cities and counties.

Percent of households without access to a vehicle
New Orleans and select comparison geographies, 2018

- New Orleans: 19.1%
- King County, WA (incl. Seattle): 10.8%
- Westchester County, NY: 15.0%
- NYC (5 boroughs): 55.0%

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Internet access is an indicator of ability to work from home, participate in online learning, and access information. Having access only through a smartphone restricts ability to write documents, assist children with homework, etc.

Internet access
New Orleans and select comparison geographies, 2018

Geography	Access only at locations inaccessible during lockdown	No Internet access	Cellular only	Broadband and all other
New Orleans	2%	20%	17%	61%
King County, WA (incl. Seattle)	2%	6%	7%	86%
Westchester County, NY	2%	9%	8%	80%
NYC (5 boroughs)	2%	13%	12%	72%

Legend:
- Access only at locations inaccessible during lockdown
- No Internet access
- Cellular only
- Broadband and all other

7

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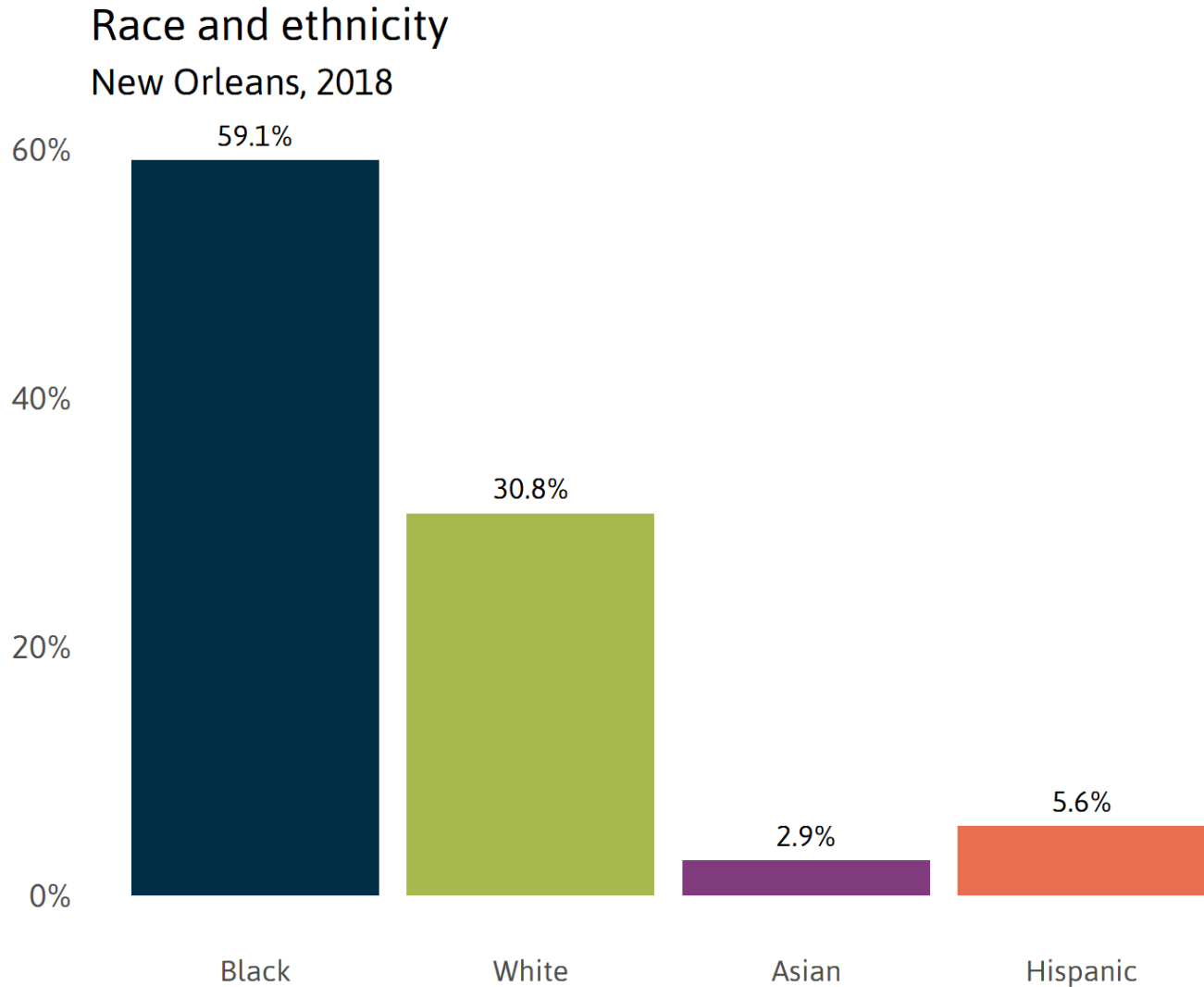Independent Analysis for Informed Decisions in Southeast Louisiana

When incomes are lost, families that are "severely housing cost burdened" may face homelessness. The COVID-19 related layoffs of low-wage workers could significantly increase housing instability in cities where many renters are severely housing cost burdened (paying >50% of their pre-tax household income on rent and utilities).

Percent of renters with severe housing cost burden

New Orleans and select comparison geographies, 2018

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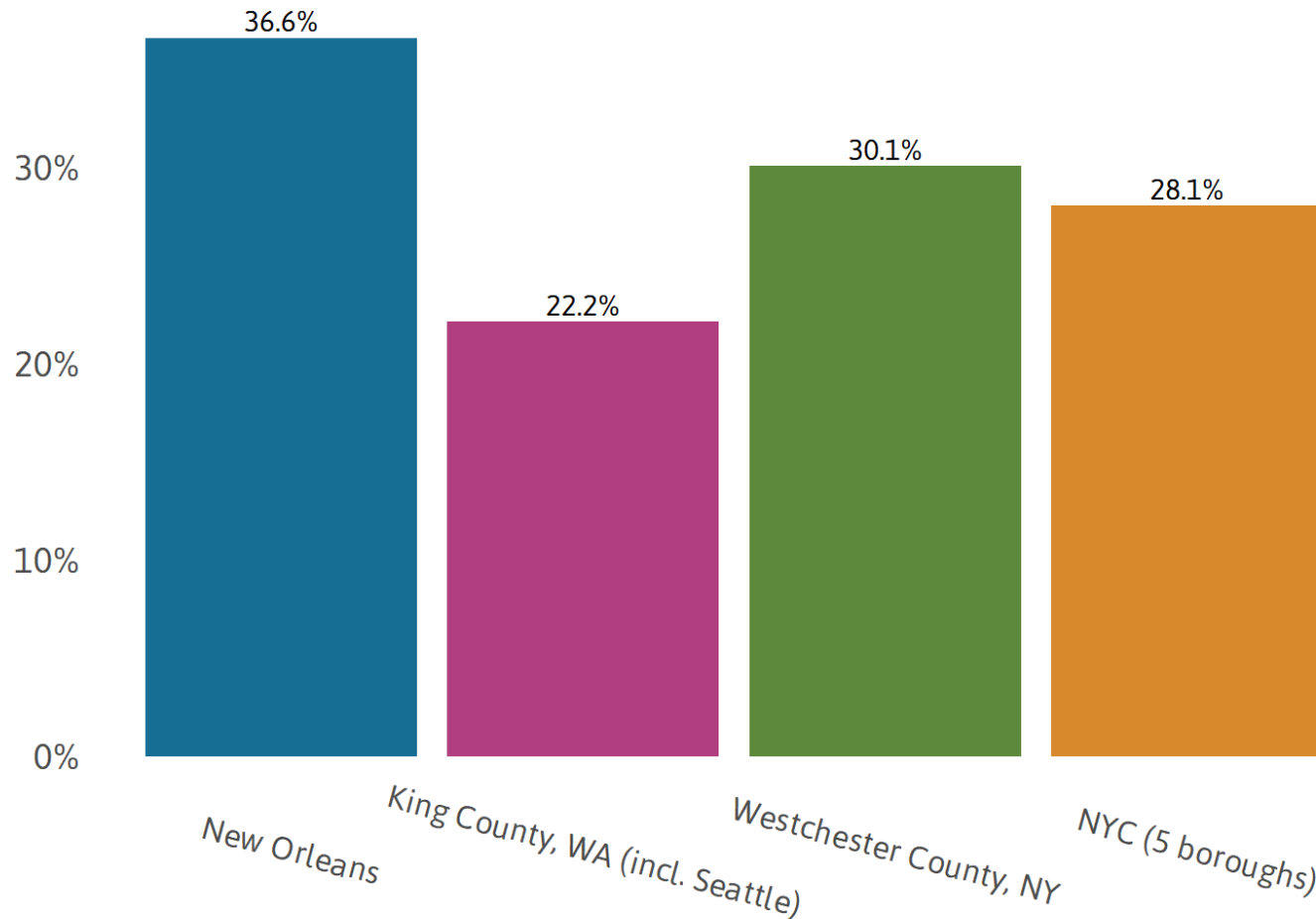
Understanding the racial make-up of New Orleans is essential for clarity about who is likely most affected by the twin health and economic crisis that COVID-19 represents. Nearly 60 percent of New Orleanians are African American, 31 percent are white, 5.6 percent are Hispanic, and 2.9 percent are Asian.

Race and ethnicity
New Orleans, 2018

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According to the most recent data (from 2018), African American households in New Orleans earned about 1/3 of what white households earned on average.

Median household income by race/ethnicity
New Orleans, 2018

$69,852			
$60,000		$55,616	
$40,000			$38,487
$24,813			
$20,000			
$0			
Black	White	Asian	Hispanic
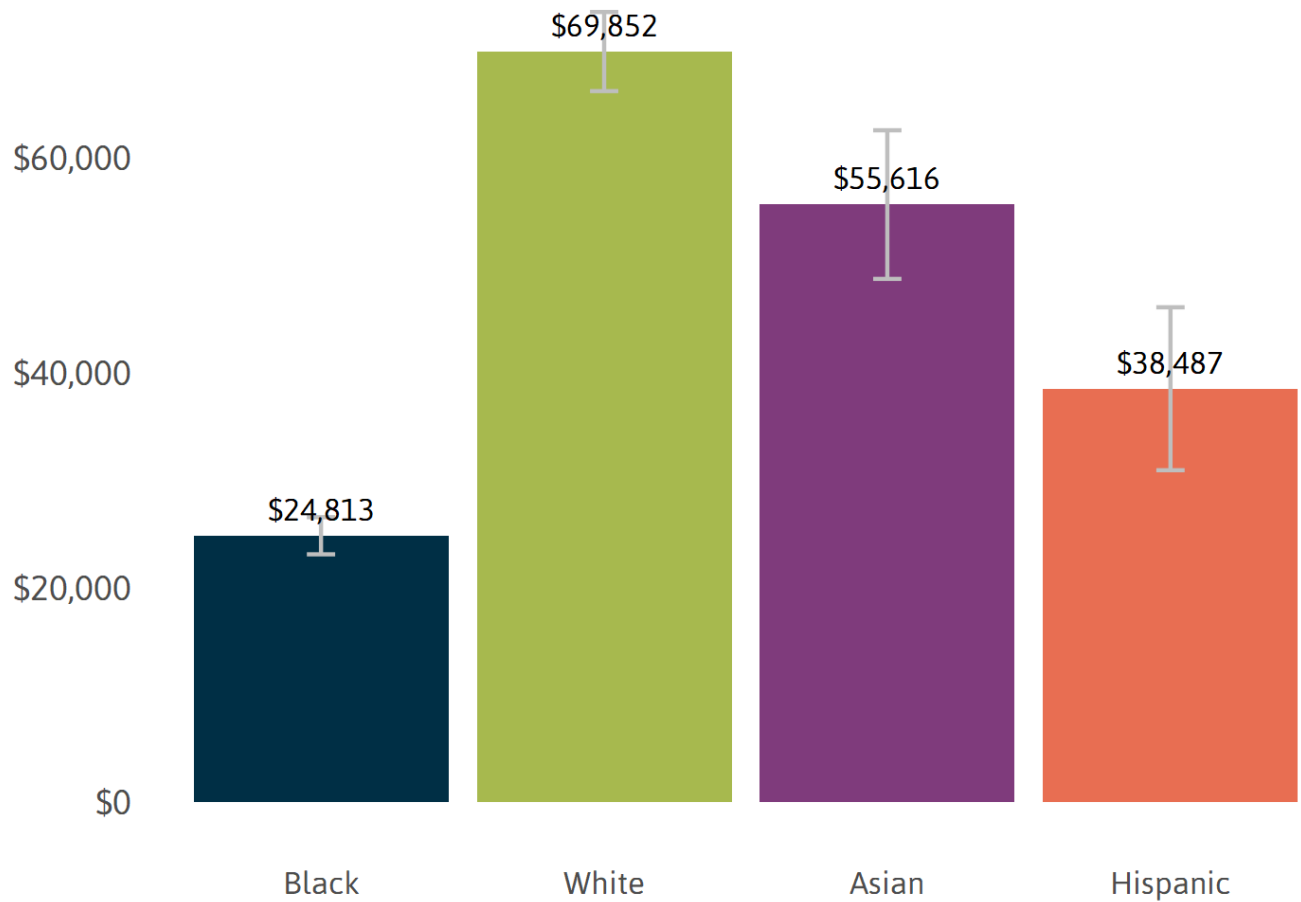
Fully 32 percent of all black New Orleanians live in poverty, compared to 10 percent of whites. Lower-income individuals are more likely to live in small homes where quarantining family members is difficult. But emerging research suggests that the virus is more likely to be spread among household members than other contacts.

Poverty rate by race/ethnicity
New Orleans, 2018

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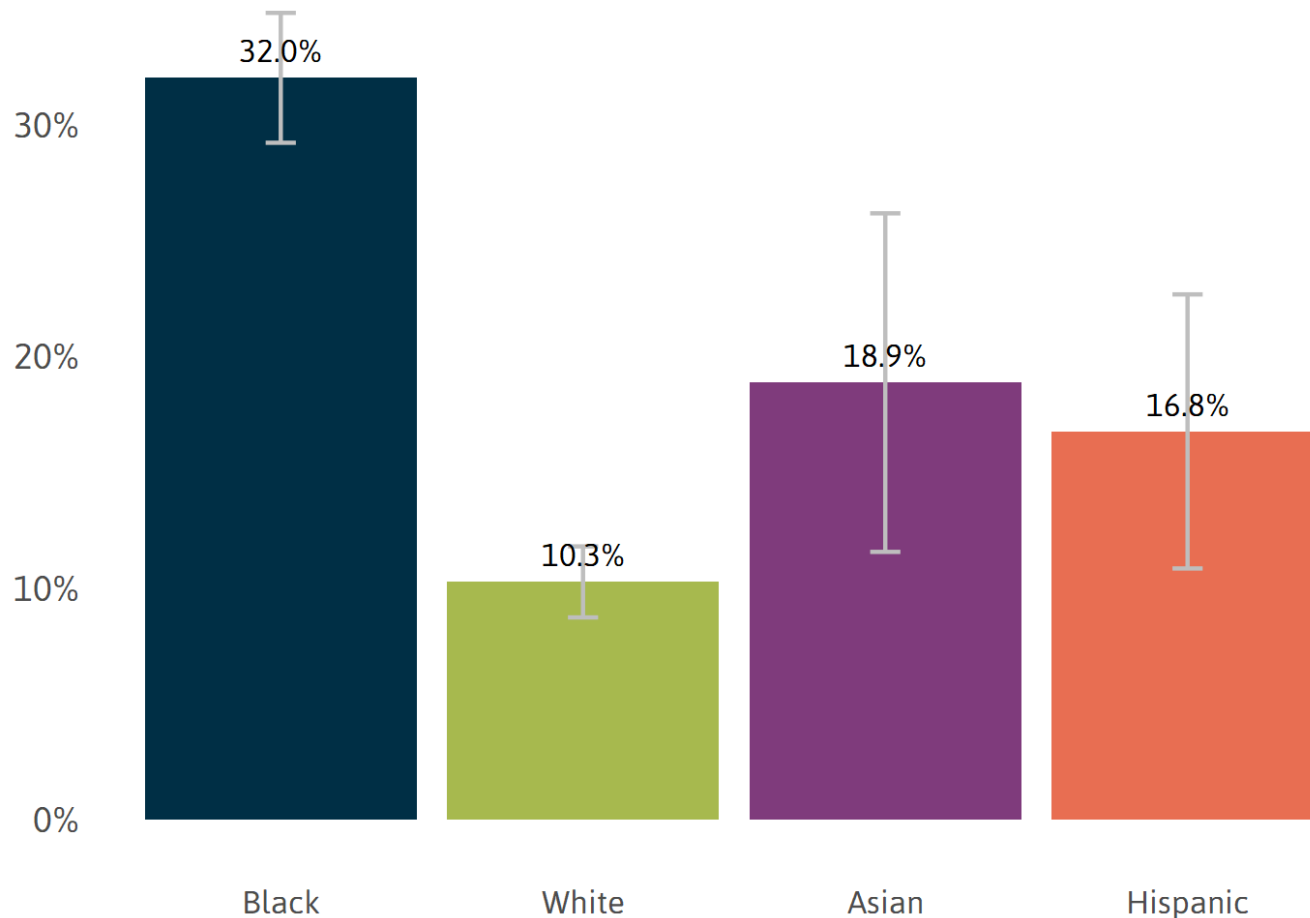
Grandparents are being advised to isolate themselves from grandchildren. But when grandparents live with grandchildren, their exposure to COVID may be increased. In New Orleans, 12.2 percent of all black people 60+ live in multigenerational homes while only 3.8 percent of white elders do.
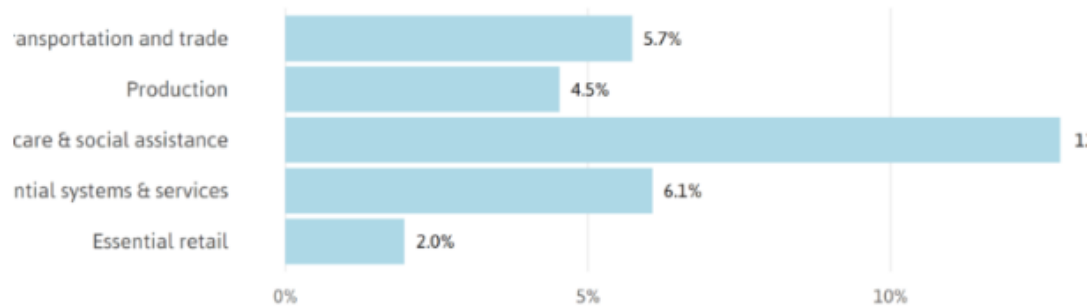
Percent of people 60+ living in a multigenerational household by race/ethnicity

New Orleans, 2012-2018

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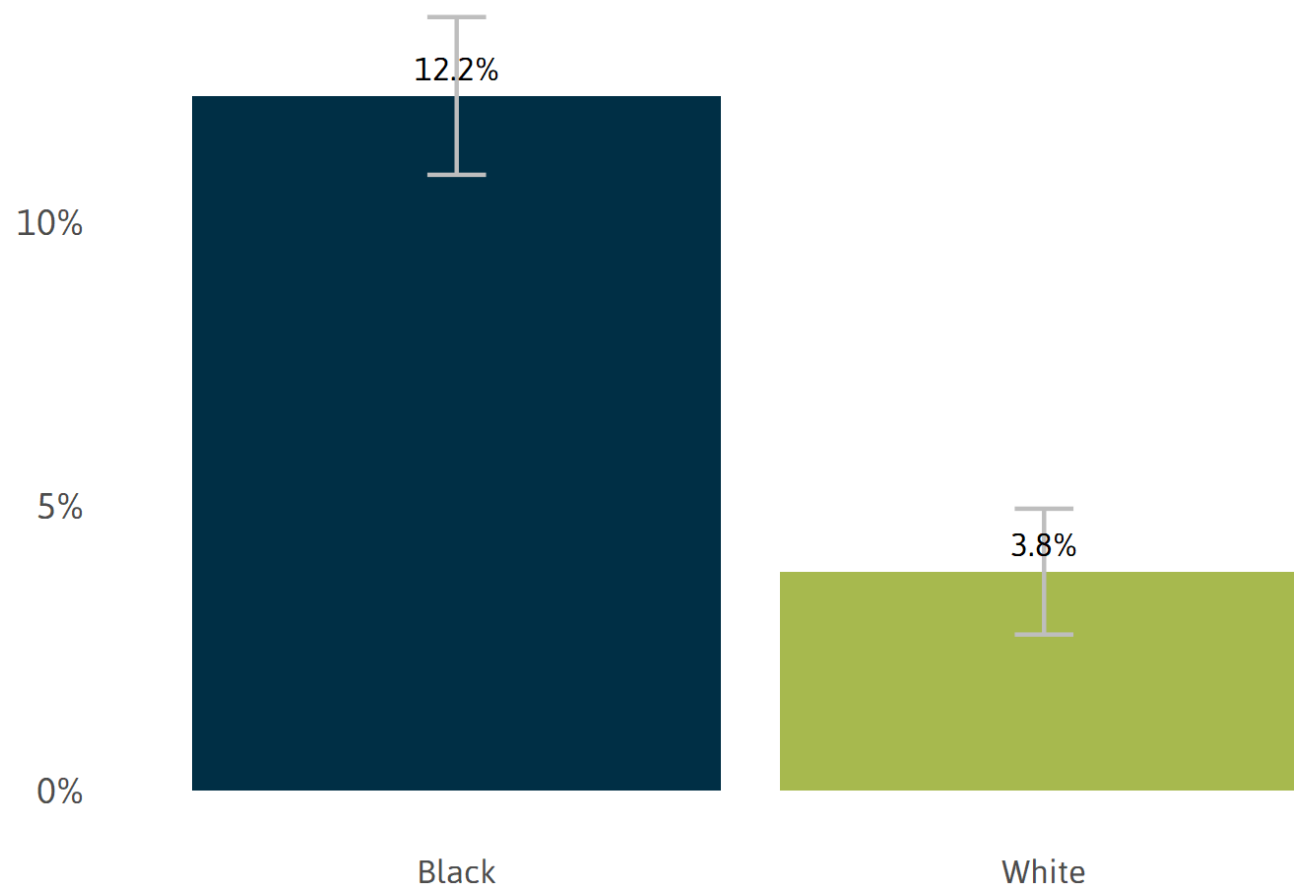
Five essential industry groups by share of the total workforce
New Orleans metro, 2014 - 2018

Industry	Share
...ansportation and trade	5.7%
Production	4.5%
...care & social assistance	1...
...ntial systems & services	6.1%
Essential retail	2.0%

Who are the essential workers keeping the New Orleans region going?

This brief is a profile of workers in industries deemed "essential" and where a large portion of the workforce is likely still present on site. It covers demographics, earnings, and other characteristics to spotlight a few of the overlapping vulnerabilities that workers on the frontlines of COVID-19 may face.

Learn More

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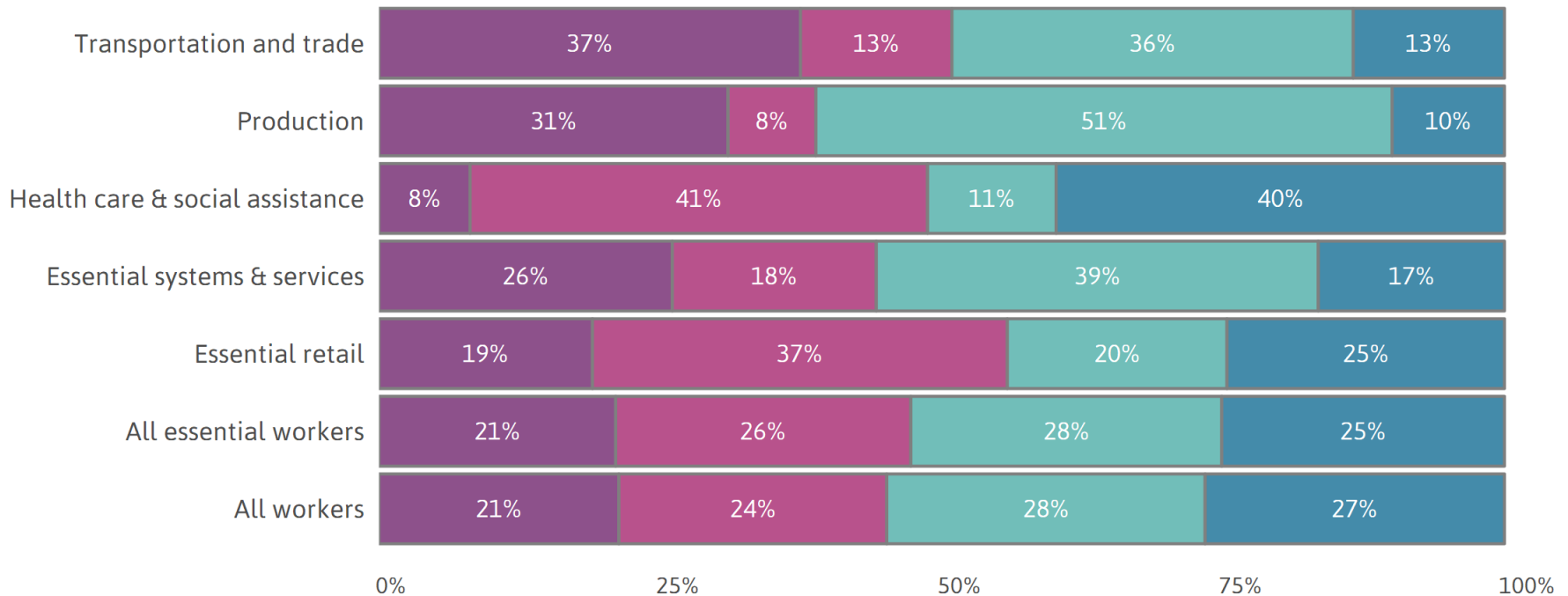Independent Analysis for Informed Decisions in Southeast Louisiana

Workers of color are overrepresented in essential retail (56 percent), transportation and trade (50 percent), and health care and social assistance (49 percent).

## Demographics of essential workers by essential industry group

New Orleans metro, 2014 - 2018

Legend:
- Workers of color, Male
- Workers of color, Female
- White workers, Male
- White workers, Female

Industry group	Workers of color, Male	Workers of color, Female	White workers, Male	White workers, Female
Transportation and trade	37%	13%	36%	13%
Production	31%	8%	51%	10%
Health care & social assistance	8%	41%	11%	40%
Essential systems & services	26%	18%	39%	17%
Essential retail	19%	37%	20%	25%
All essential workers	21%	26%	28%	25%
All workers	21%	24%	28%	27%

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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Workers of color are more likely to work in low-wage front line positions than whites.

Percent of essential workers earning less than $30,000 annually by race and sex
New Orleans metro, 2014 - 2018

Category	Percent
Workers of color, Male	37.7%
Workers of color, Female	53.8%
White workers, Male	16.2%
White workers, Female	32.0%

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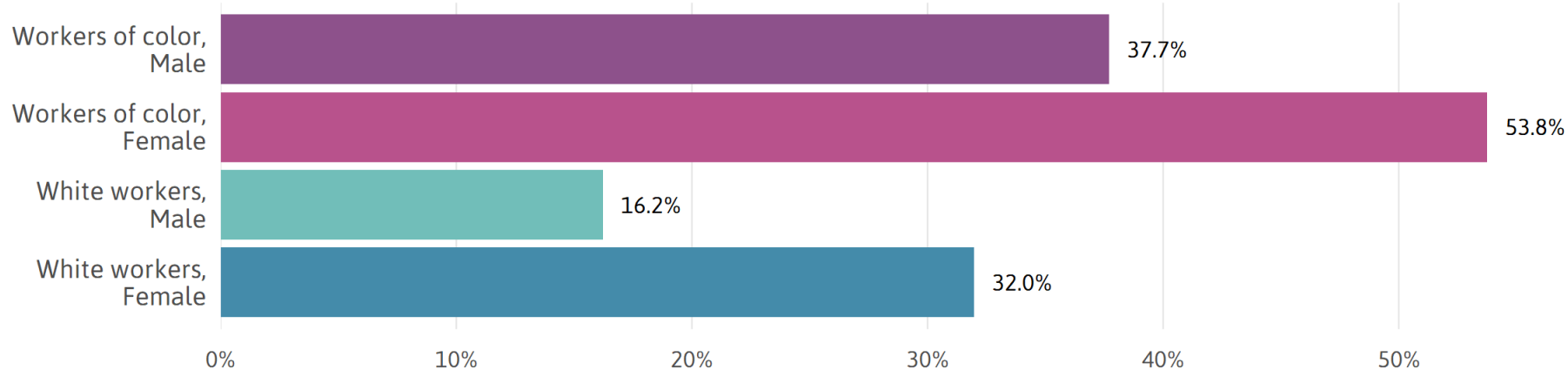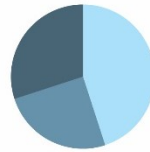
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Attacking COVID's Racial Disparities with ACS Data

How U.S. cities lost precious time to protect black residents from the coronavirus

Downtown Shreveport, Louisiana. (Rory Doyle for The Washington Post)

By **Robert Samuels**, **Aaron Williams**, **Tracy Jan** and **Jose A. Del Real**

June 3, 2020

Shreveport Mayor Adrian Perkins had a hunch. He had used data compiled for emergency responders in late March to create a computerized map showing cases of the novel coronavirus by address. A cluster of red pins curved around downtown and extended into black neighborhoods toward the city's western edge.

At the time, policymakers and public health experts studying the still mysterious disease had been focusing on risk factors such as international travel, age and chronic health conditions including diabetes and heart disease — not race. Most states — including Louisiana — weren't even publicly

What we've learned about COVID's disparate impact on African Americans.

- African Americans are experiencing COVID deaths at rates twice as high as whites (among the 43 states reporting deaths by race).

- Underlying health conditions do not fully account for this disparity.

- Emerging research indicates that disparities are related to greater exposure in frontline occupations and multigenerational households.

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We'll publish COVID data and ACS data and maps for all LA parishes to help leaders and advocates target mobile testing sites in communities of color and provide supported isolation (including sick pay, childcare and elder care) to reduce COVID's spread within households.

Confirmed Cases
- None
- 1-9
- 10-49
- 50-199
- 200-499

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