



Poverty in Pima County: A Pre- and Post-Pandemic Picture

We
started
in a
deep
hole ...

.... and
because of
the
pandemic,
the hole
got deeper.

Tucson is a culturally vibrant and resource rich community



Resiliency, Strengths and Protective Factors

Tucson and Pima County are located on Tohono O'odham Nation homelands and the lands of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.



We don't know
the collective
impact
from the
pandemic
from trauma,
loss, social
exclusion,
and a fractured
society.

But we know
it has
**widened
many equity
gaps**



Low-income children, women, single parents and people of color are **disproportionately impacted** by poverty and by the pandemic

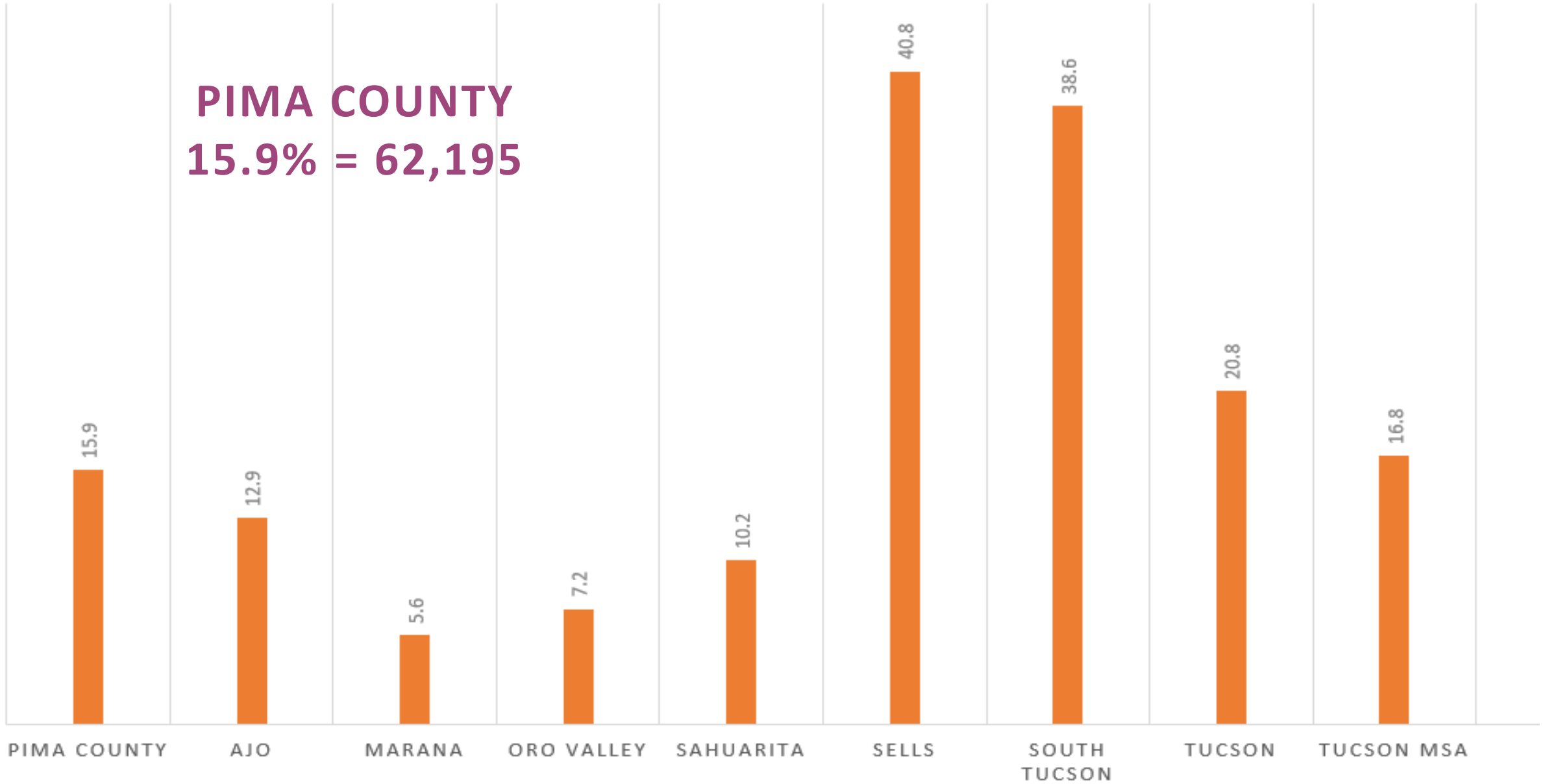
This is how we typically think of poverty

US Official Poverty Guidelines: 2022

| Family Size | Annual Income |
|-------------|---------------|
| Four | \$ 27,750 |
| Three | \$ 23,030 |
| Two | \$ 18,310 |
| One | \$ 13,590 |

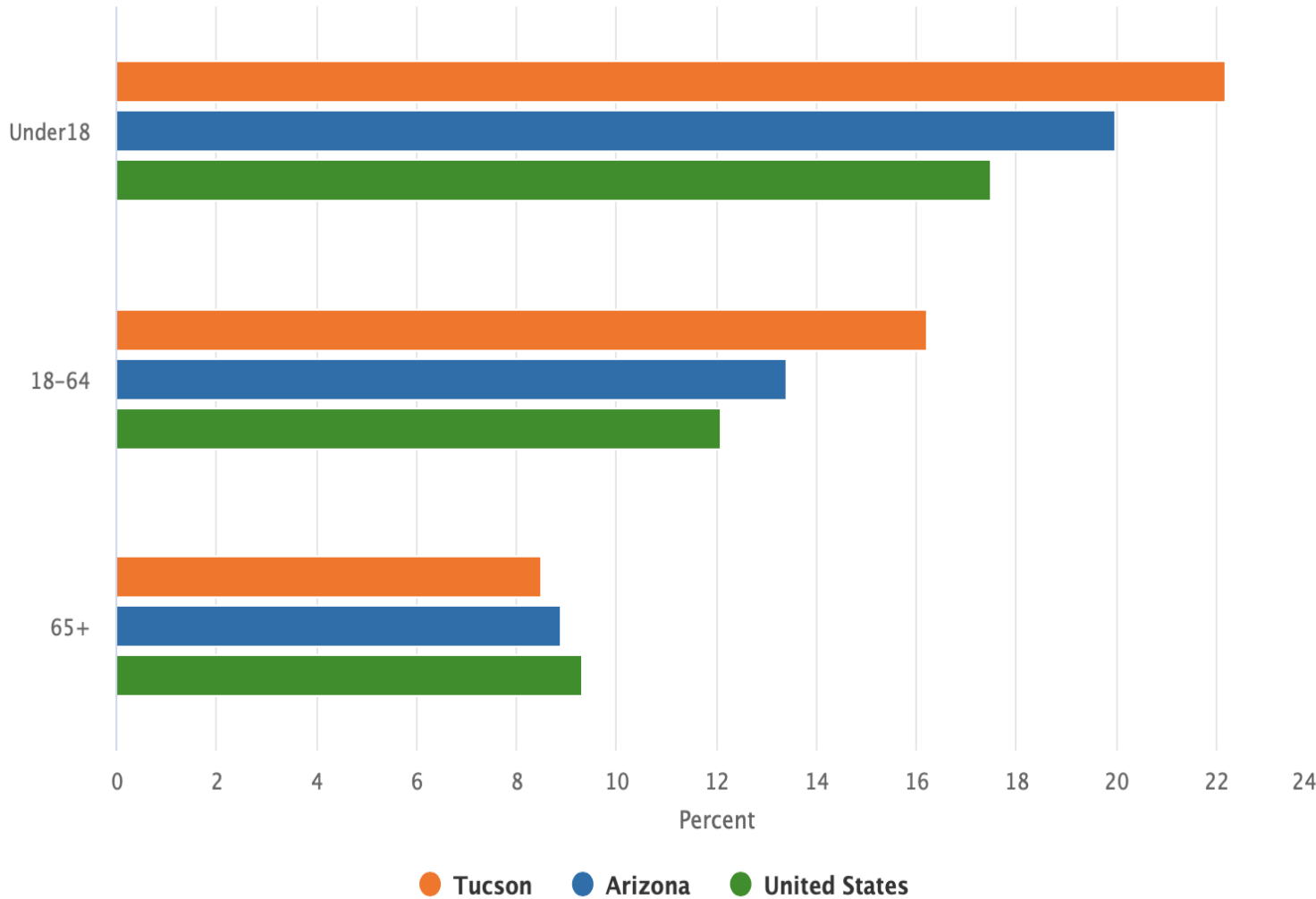


2020 POVERTY RATES



PIMA COUNTY
15.9% = 62,195

Poverty Rate by Age (2020)



U.S. Census Bureau via MAP (mapazdashboard.arizona.edu)

Poverty Rate for Families with Children under 5 (2020)

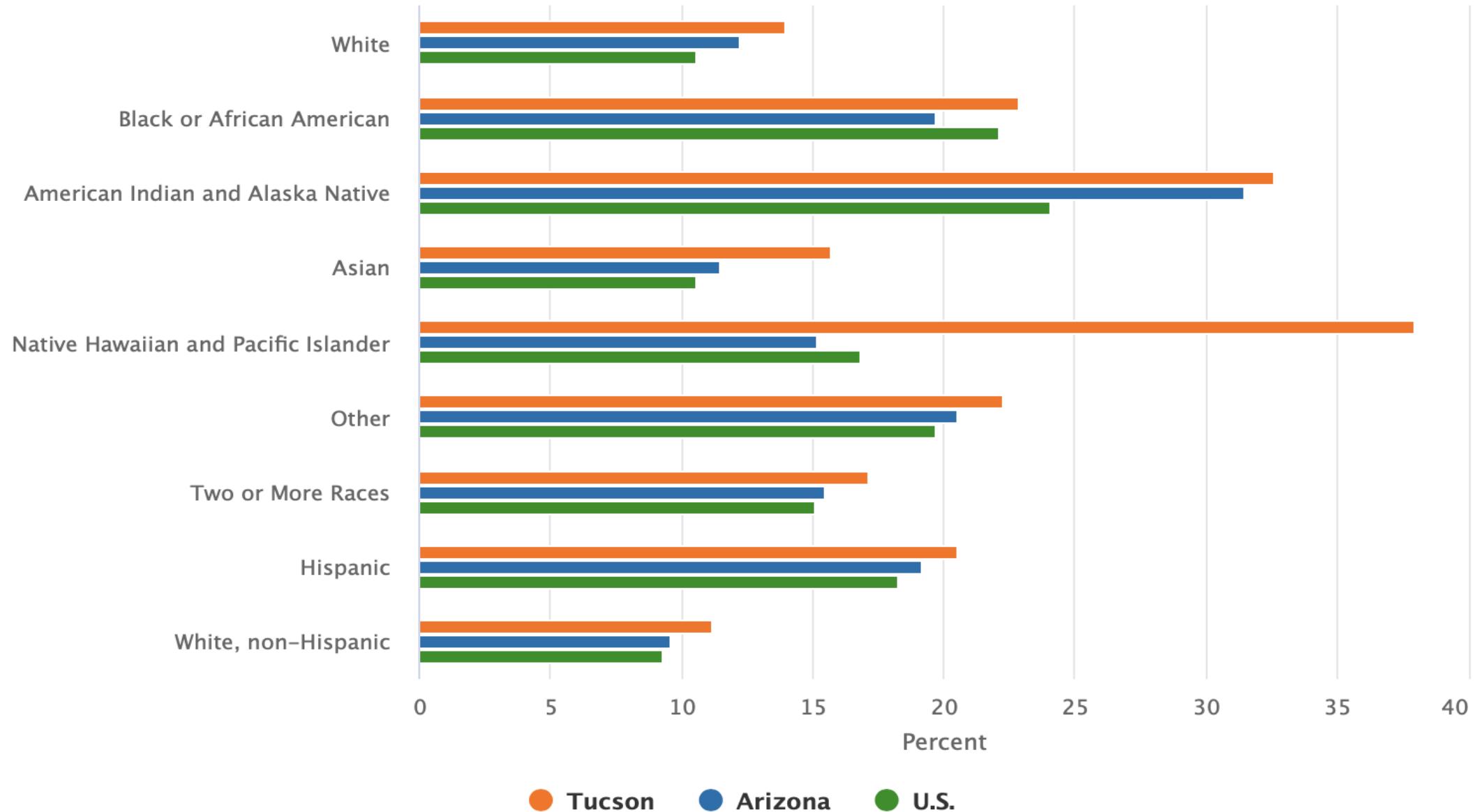
mapazdashboard.arizona.edu

| | FAMILIES | MARRIED COUPLES | FEMALES |
|-----------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
| TUCSON | 18.0% | 10.2% | 35.9% |
| AZ U.S. | 14.0% 13.5% | 6.2% 4.8% | 34.4% 38.8% |

The percentage of children living in single-parent households **reduces** upward income mobility **more than any other variable.**

Harvard's Opportunity Insight Institute.

Poverty Rate by Race & Ethnicity (2020)



U.S. Census Bureau via MAP (mapazdashboard.arizona.edu)

<https://mapazdashboard.arizona.edu/health-social-well-being/poverty-rate>

Focus on 200% of poverty

US Official Poverty Guidelines: 2022

| Family Size | Annual Income | 200% | Hourly* |
|-------------|---------------|--------|---------|
| Four | \$ 27,750 | 55,500 | 26.68 |
| Three | \$ 23,030 | 46,060 | 22.14 |
| Two | \$ 18,310 | 36,620 | 17.60 |
| One | \$ 13,590 | 27,180 | 13.06 |

*At 200% if one wage earner full time.



ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed



**WORKING HARD
BUT STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE**


43% (51 million households) of Americans can't afford the basics each month:

- Housing
- Utilities
- Food
- Child care
- Health care
- Transportation
- Cell phone

And they don't have **\$400** in savings or for emergencies

We started in a deep hole in Pima County (2019)

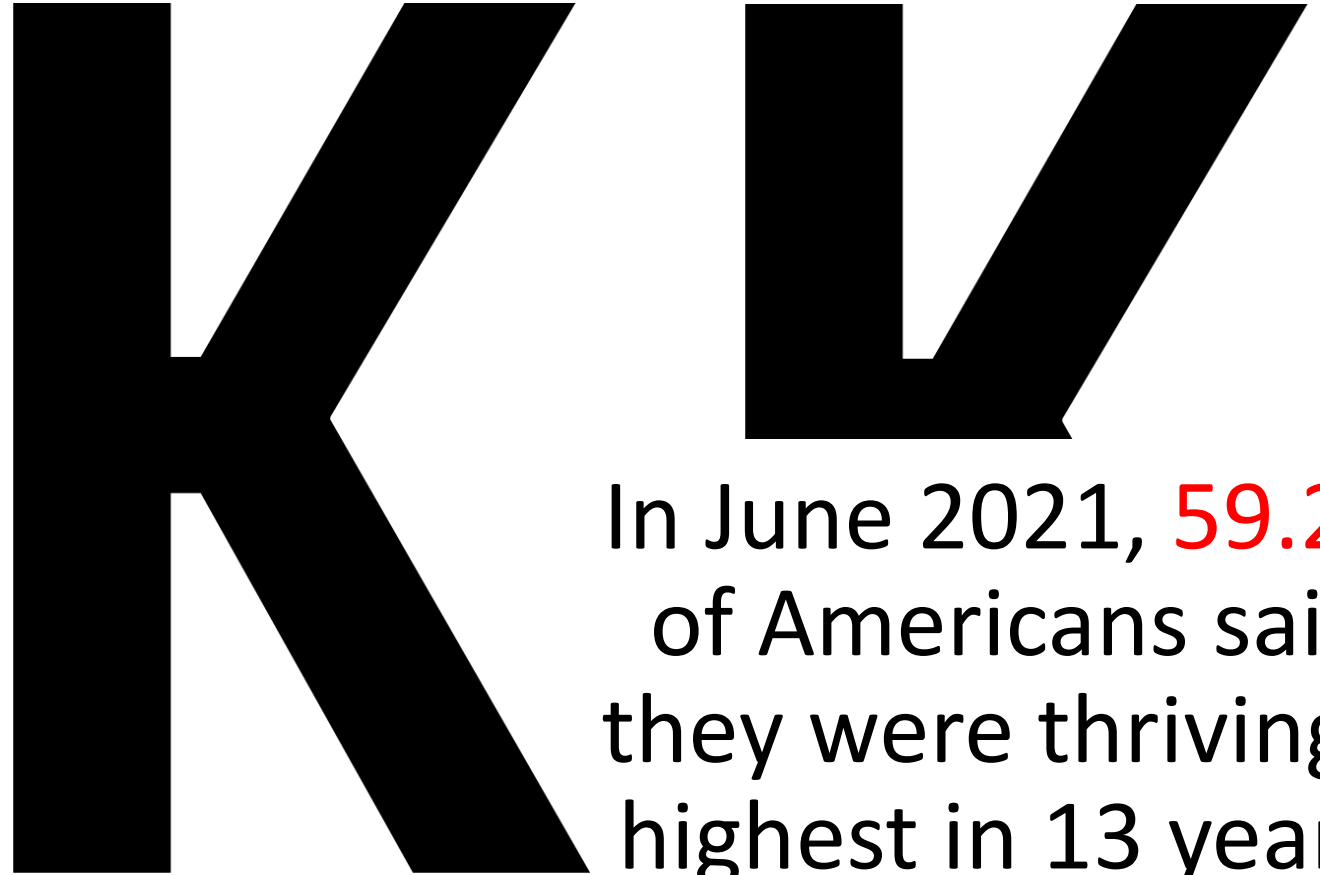
| POPULATION AND POVERTY STATUS | Total |
|--|---------|
| Population for whom Poverty Status is Determined | 998,061 |
| Income to Poverty Ratio <0.50 | 76,322 |
| Income to Poverty Ratio 0.50-0.99 | 91,501 |
| Income to Poverty Ratio 1.00-1.24 | 49,484 |
| Income to Poverty Ratio 1.25-1.49 | 50,342 |
| Income to Poverty Ratio 1.50-1.84 | 73,783 |
| Income to Poverty Ratio 1.85-1.99 | 29,317 |
| Income to Poverty Ratio 2.00+ | 627,312 |

 200% and below: 370,749 or 37%

Top of the K

- More likely college educated and in sectors with less job loss
- Could work from home
- Kids attended virtual school
- Had investments that gained
- Increased savings
- More ability to socially distance
- Fewer co-morbidities
- Fewer family and friends who became ill and/or died

The K Recovery



In June 2021, **59.2%** of Americans said they were thriving – highest in 13 years.

Bottom of the K

- Lost hours or job
- Could not work from home
- Kids challenged to attend virtual school
- Little savings or financial cushion
- Less ability to socially distance
- Greater likelihood of co-morbidities
- Family and friends became ill and/or died
- Greater chance of eviction, illness, death or other major disruptions



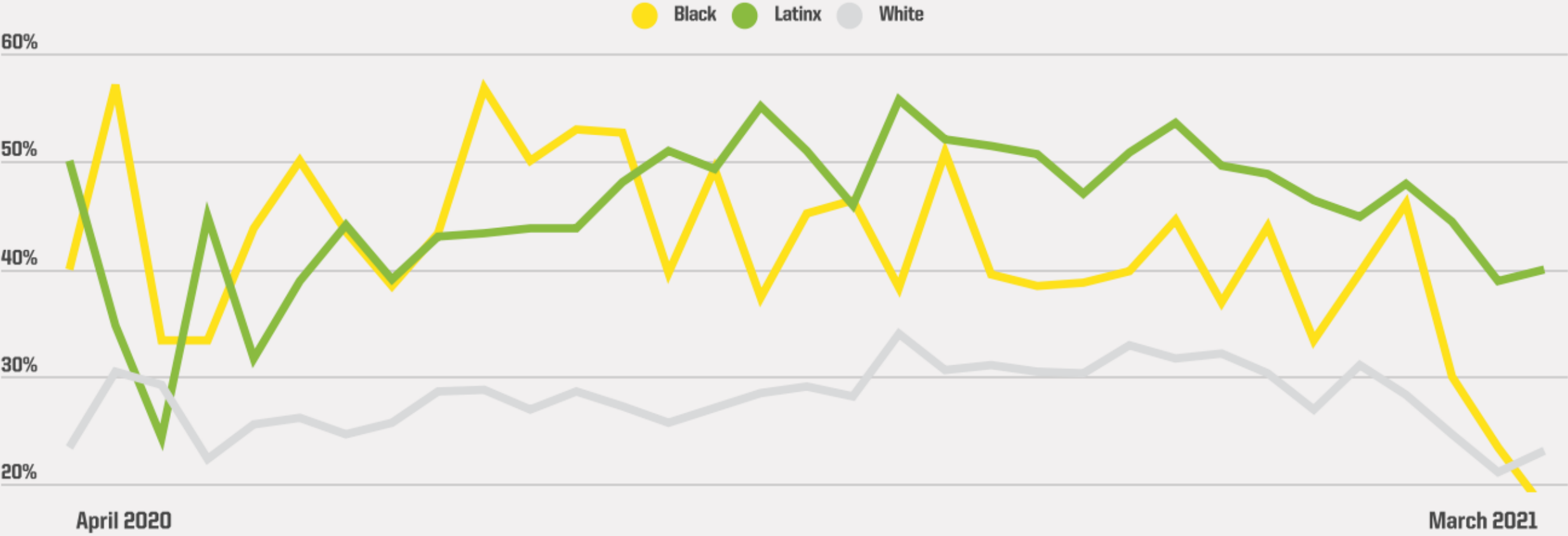
Rapid Survey on Pandemic Impact

- More families are experiencing financial stress since the pandemic
 - **40% of families** are struggling to pay for rent, utilities and groceries
 - **60% for Black, Latinx and single-parent households**
- Inequalities that existed before COVID-19 hit have grown deeper
 - **Higher income Black and Latinx** families face more material hardship than White families with similar levels of pre-pandemic income

10,707 families across all 50 states participated.



PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES REPORTING 1+ MATERIAL HARDSHIPS



Almost twice as many single parent households have a difficult time paying for basic costs

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS HAVING DIFFICULTIES TO PAY FOR:

● Single-parent households
● Other households

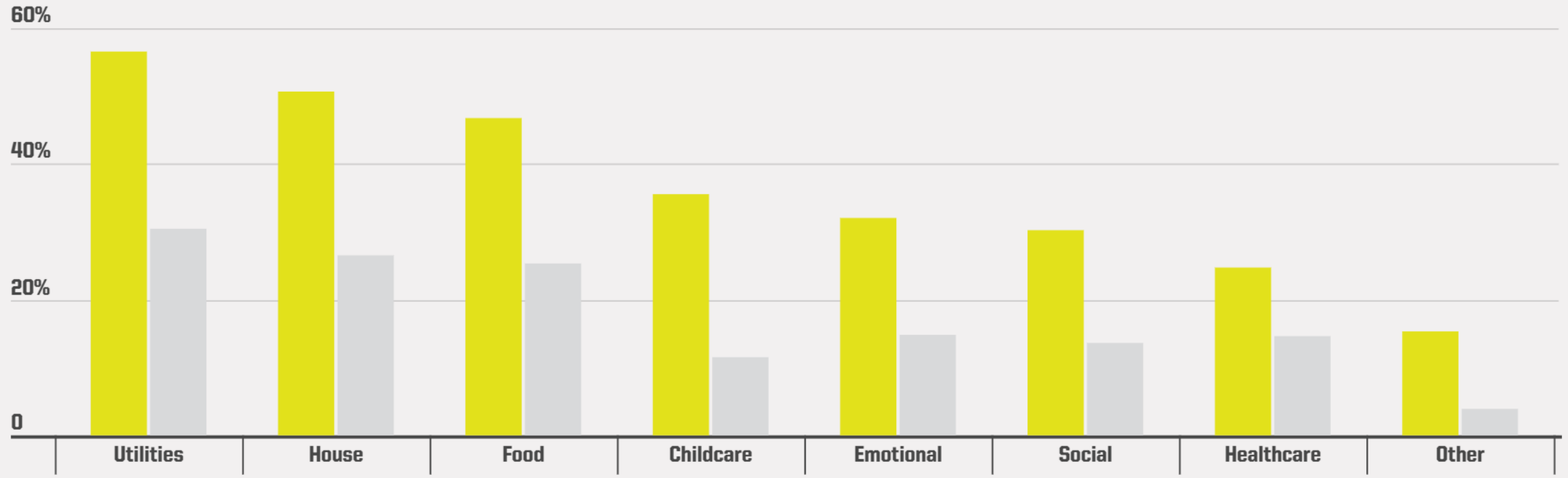


FIGURE 1.

Percent Change in Employment Relative to Business Cycle Peak, by Gender



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) 1981 to 2021; National Bureau of Economic Research n.d.; author's calculations.

Note: Figure shows the percent change in total nonfarm employment from the peak of a business cycle until employment returns to the level of the previous business cycle peak.

Rethinking Poverty

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco
(Mary Daly, President)

- Poverty is **more than** income at a specific point in time
- It is the **systematic denial** of opportunities and choice
- Which results in the human experience of **social exclusion and social vulnerability**
- Our **brains respond** to social exclusion similar to physical pain
- It has **serious implications** for people's mental, emotional, and behavioral health

POVERTY as environment

(shows up in many
areas of life)

Where you live

Where you go to school

Where you worship

What you do for a living

Who is your social support system

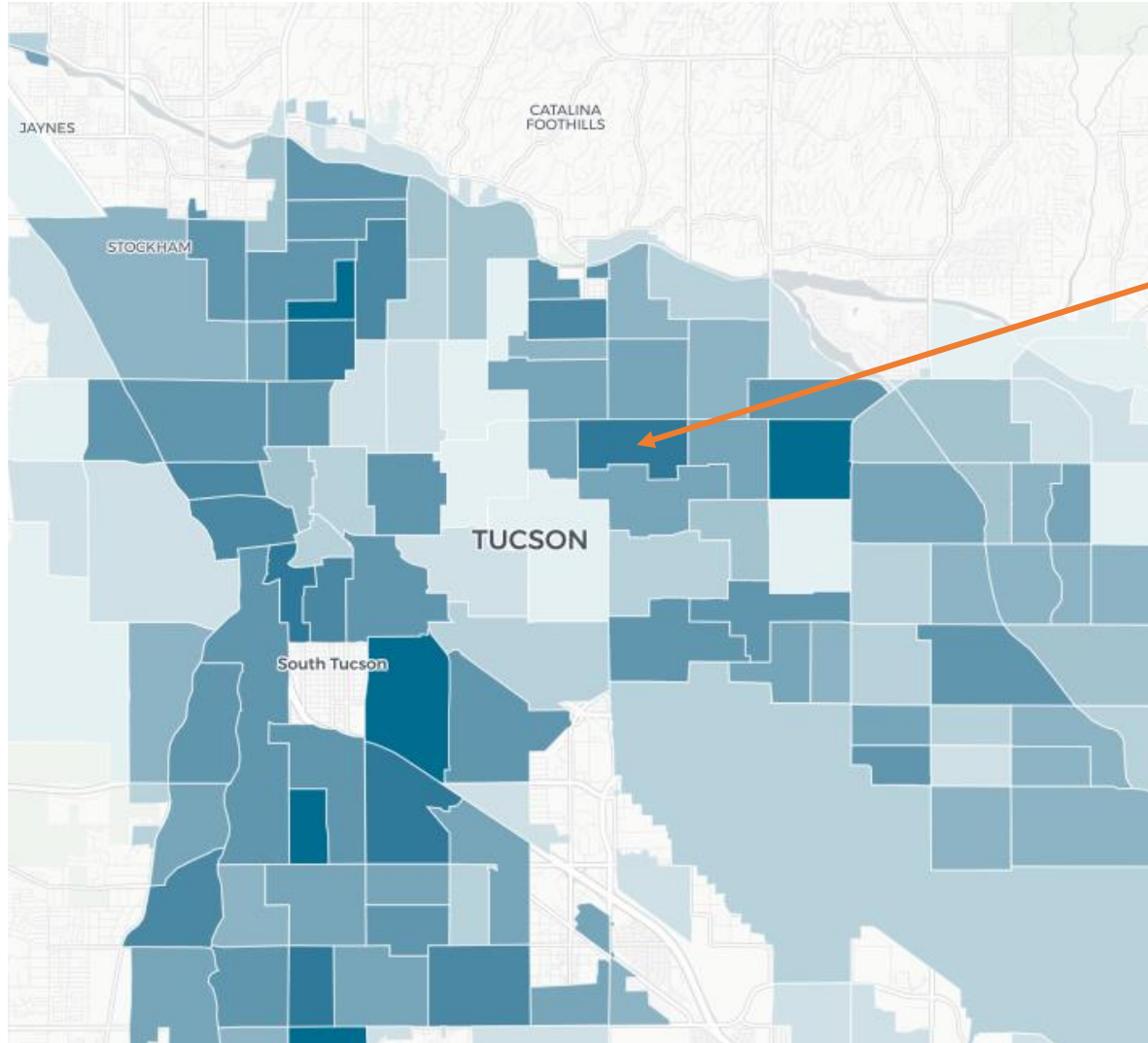
How healthy you are

How long you live

Poverty concentrates geographically and that
makes it harder to get out of



City Health DASHBOARD

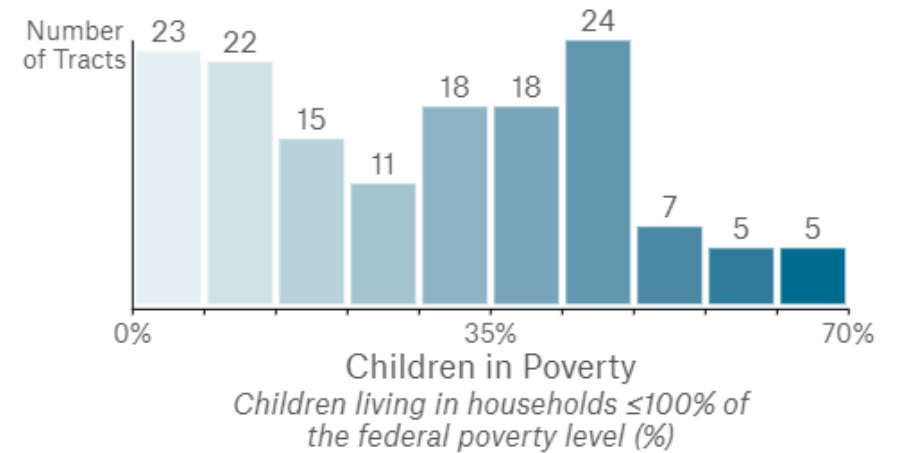


ZIP Code: 85705, Tract #: 26.03

Value for Tract

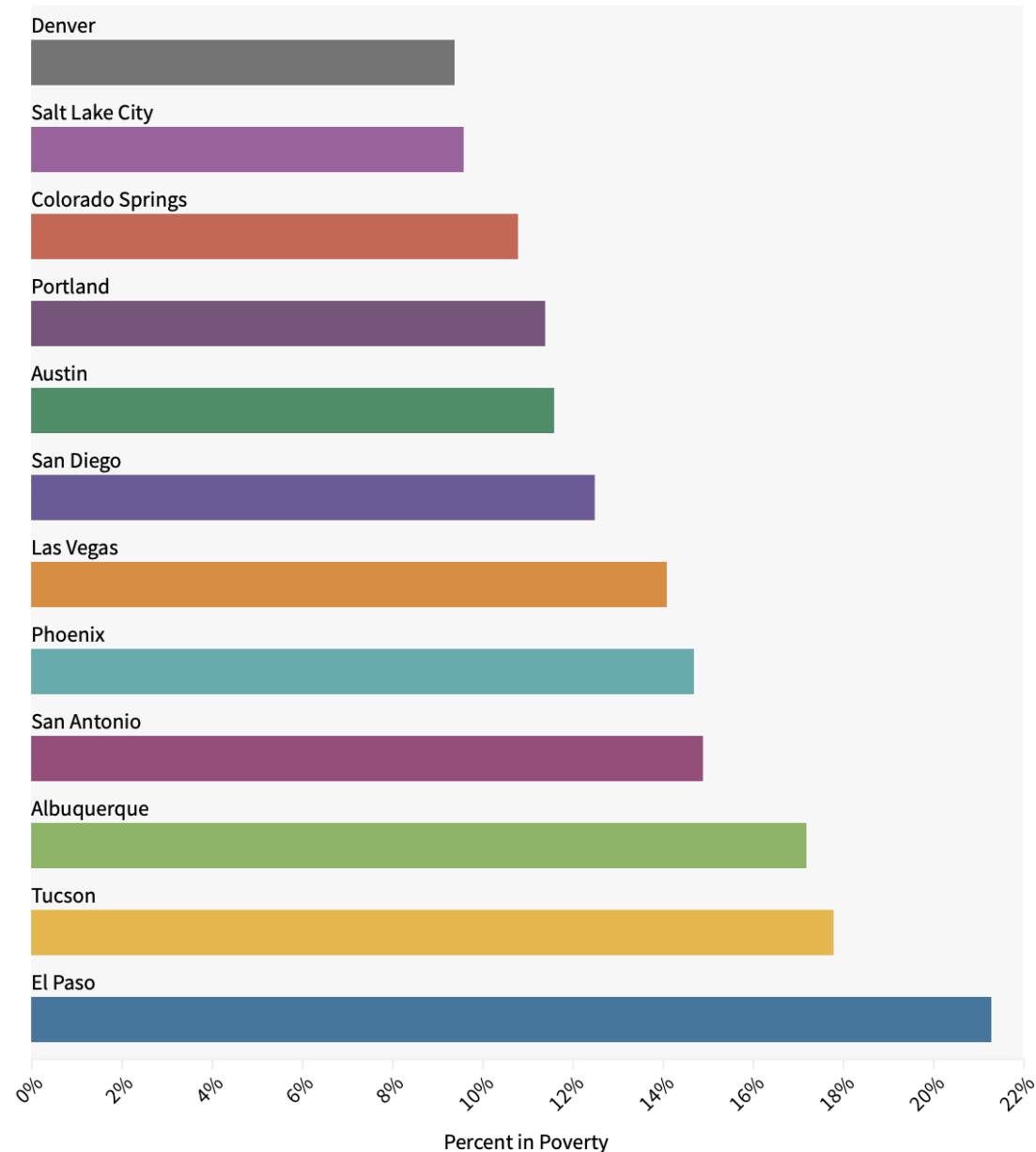


Census Tracts by Value of Children in Poverty



Tucson and comparison cities

Poverty rate in 2018



Source: [Map Arizona Dashboard](#)

Income mobility is limited.

Children in Tucson tend to have annual household incomes **\$2,000 to \$3,000 less in adulthood** than kids who grow up in the 11 other comparable Western cities.

Multiply this average annual shortfall by a 40-year work life = **lifetime shortfall of \$80,000 to \$120,000.**



\$2.2 Billion

estimated for Pima County (5.62% of GDP)

1. Health costs
2. Costs to law enforcement
3. Intergenerational costs
4. Opportunity costs
5. Direct costs

The community cost of poverty



Ending poverty should be everybody's business

If poverty is a
complex set of
factors that
shows up in the
environment
and has
generational
impact ...

... then what
are we doing?

Community and Workforce Development's efforts to reduce poverty



Innovative Strategies

- Workforce development
- Veteran's and Sullivan Jackson Employment Center
- Youth employment
- Opportunity youth education
- Eviction Prevention
- Housing services
- Childcare Scholarships
- Quality assurance
- Funds to community organizations
- Faith-based outreach
- Ending Poverty Now

Help begins with One-Stop



No wrong door approach



**Does your cooling not work?
Heating broken?
Drafty house? Roof leaking?**

**PIMA COUNTY
HOME REPAIR**

YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR NO-COST HOME REPAIR IF:
You live outside the City of Tucson • Own your home • Have qualifying income

Call 520-724-2461 or email HomeRepair@pima.gov



Heart and Urgency



In poverty, problems are interlocking.

Our solutions need to be too.

- Expanding services by launching a *digital One Stop*
- Training *Resource Navigators* to connect people with community and CWD services

Job support = \$50 million impact

Five One-Stops & Two Schools

- Two adult, one youth, Veteran's and Sullivan Jackson for people experiencing homelessness
 - Stayed open during the pandemic
- Served **60,000 adults and 700 youth**
- **4000 adults** enrolled in **intensive services** with training dollars
- Largest youth employment program with **over 1000** youth employed each summer



Without a home, everything else falls apart



37.6% of Tucson (MSA) residents are **renters**

33% of Tucson residents are **housing burdened**

15% of Pima County residents (57,907) are **severely housing burdened** spending **50%** or more on housing

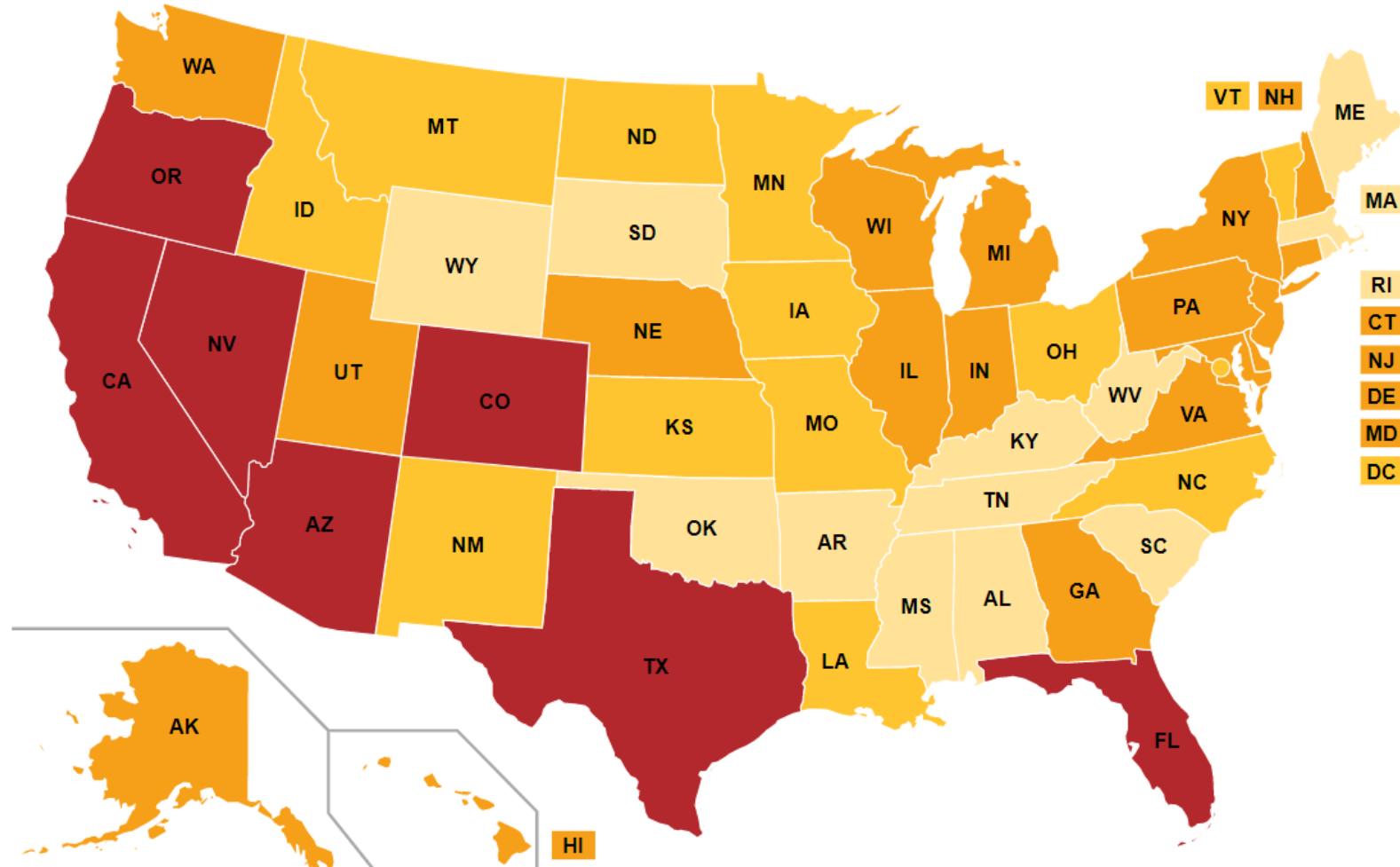
Rent plays a particularly **pivotal role** in low-income families' overall financial health

No State Has an Adequate Supply of Affordable Rental Housing for the Lowest Income Renters

Affordable and Available Rental Homes per 100 Extremely Low Income Renter Households

● 30 or fewer ● 31 to 40 ● 41 to 45 ● 46 or greater

[View Data as Table ↓](#)



Rent assistance efforts: **One door**

- Collaboration with City of Tucson and nonprofits
- **\$62 million delivered to 11,000+ households**
 - Additional \$42 million received
 - \$30 million additional requested
- One portal with tracking info & regular communication
 - Landlords can initiate
 - Community dashboard with real time info
- Use the Neighborhood Vulnerability Map to expedite the application of high-risk families
- Top 10% nationally for distributing ERAP funds



SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Statewide emergency rental assistance lags while Pima County outperforms most of the country

A D.C. nonprofit found the state of Arizona has distributed less than 10% of its federal funds, while Pima County is closing in on 80%.



by Megan Myscofski

Tweet

Share

EELS program

Emergency Eviction Legal Services

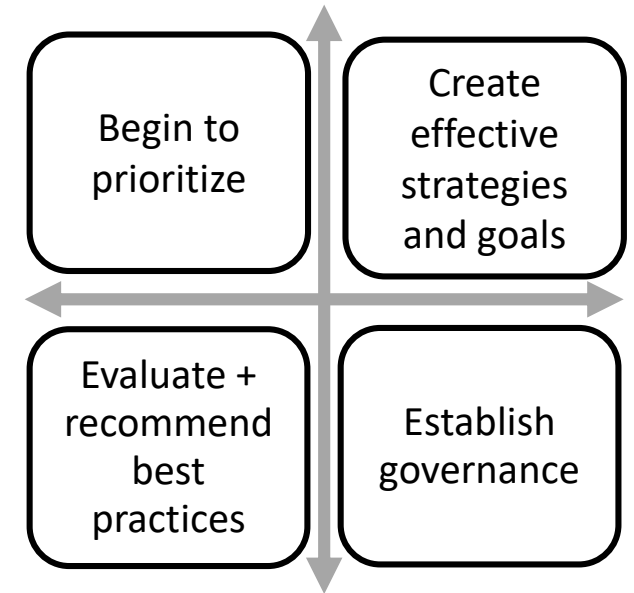
- Recommendation of **Eviction and Homelessness Prevention Task Force**
- BOS voted in March 2021 for funds and **launched August**
- **Second Right to Counsel Program** in Arizona
 - **666** receive legal assistance in first 8 months
 - **159** receive full case representation
- **Navigators** can escalate rent assistance
 - Connect with jobs and other resources
 - **282 referrals** to One Stop resources for jobs.
- **Navigators** work with **Justice Court and Constables**
- **One Judge in Justice Court** (initially 9 Justices)
- **New Settlement Process**
 - Legally binding
 - Avoids the eviction judgment
- **40 hotel rooms as a safety net** for families and vulnerable adults being evicted
 - Case management to aid in transition to stable housing
- **Partnering with City of Tucson** on national Eviction Prevention Learning Lab and developed a heat map
- **Building relationships with property owners and managers**
 - Partnering with UA's Innovation for Justice on landlord engagement

Get **FREE** legal help on your eviction case.

Affordable Housing Task Force

The 22 member task force will:

- Highlight success stories and identify evidence-based and promising practices that should be considered in Pima County.
- Make recommendations that will meaningfully increase availability of affordable housing within metro and rural Pima County.
- Identify public/private collaborative pathways to improve housing affordability.
- Recommend a new charter for the Pima County Housing Commission that will strengthen the Board's role in housing affordability.



Focus on the next generation



Pima Early Education Program Scholarships

Year One: 1,145 children served

- **\$30 million+** over 3 years with investments from Pima County, City of Tucson, Towns of Marana and Oro Valley, and investments from school districts, the business community and nonprofits
- **214 providers:** Head Start, private providers, and school-based programs
- Helps eligible families with incomes at or below **200% Federal Poverty** pay for high quality early childhood education at 170 locations

Health Priorities Identified in the 2021 CHNA

Substance Use Disorder

Social Determinants of Health
(Poverty, Transportation, Built Environment)

Access to Care*

Mental & Behavioral Health

PIMA | **HEALTH DATA PORTAL**



Health



Community



Economy



Education

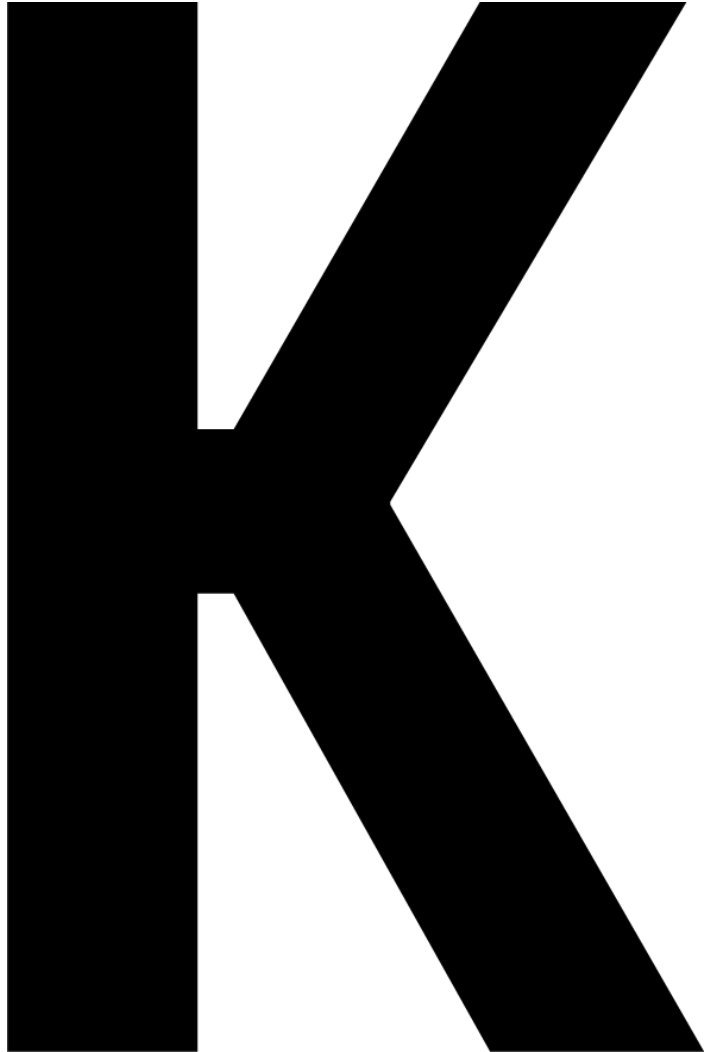


Environmental Health

Can we create a
post-pandemic
community
where *everyone*
lives well?



Where we should prioritize resources



Focus our efforts here where low-income women, children, and people of color have been hardest hit.

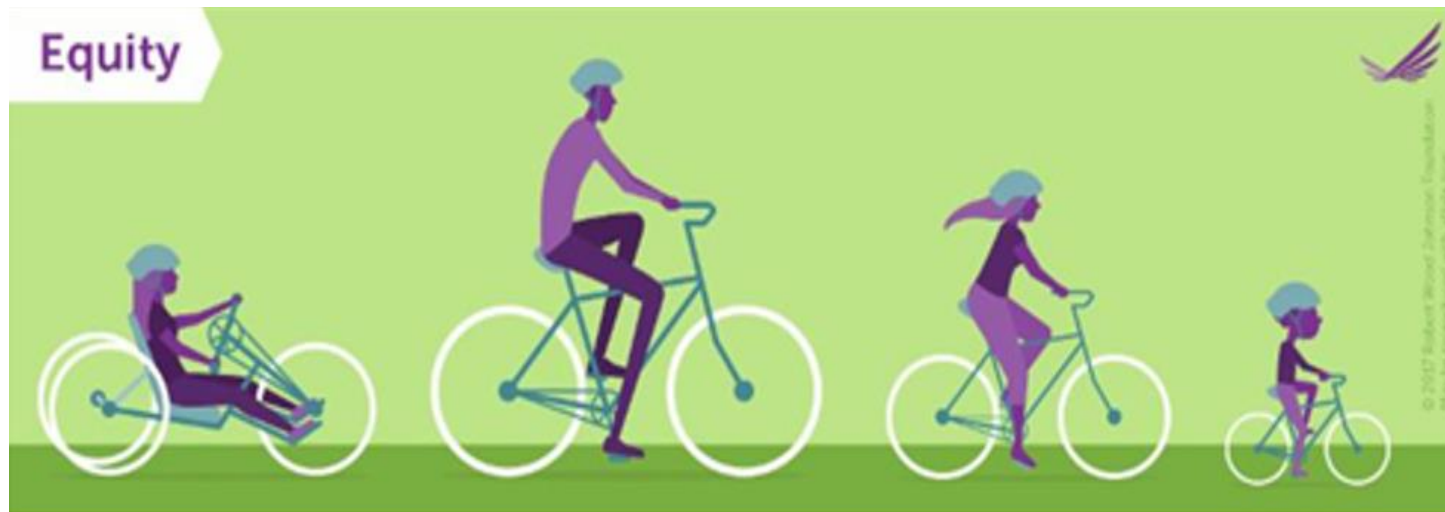


Most communities focus on alleviating suffering
But it takes a different strategy and resources to
transition out of poverty

1. Preventing poverty
2. Alleviating suffering
3. Aiding transition to economic stability
4. Addressing structures in a community



Equity = data driven



Gender equity cannot be realized without racial equity. Racial equity cannot be realized without gender equity.

The Curb Cut Effect

A framework for understanding the community-wide benefits of any innovation specifically designed to achieve equity for an underserved group.

The curb cuts spread all over the US, “a magnificent and unexpected thing happened. When the wall of exclusion came down, everybody benefited—not only people in wheelchairs.

Parents pushing strollers headed straight for curb cuts.

So did workers pushing heavy carts, business travelers wheeling luggage, even runners and skateboarders.”



Nine out of 10
“unencumbered pedestrians”
go out of their way to use a
curb cut.

Cathedral Thinking

Cathedrals are started by people who know they will not live to see the end of their project, but they start them nonetheless.





PIMA COUNTY

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