

Racial Disparities in Lorain County

*Prepared for Lorain County Stakeholders
by The Center for Community Solutions*



THE CENTER FOR EST. 1913
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
RESEARCH • ANALYSIS • ACTION

August 2021

Since the inception of our country, American citizens have organized social movements that – in many cases – have challenged our country to uphold its promise to protect all U.S. citizens’ unalienable rights: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. It is only through this promise that our country can continue to evolve, uphold its democratic principles and aspire toward a more perfect Union.

America’s promise is always under attack and constantly at odds with the longstanding vestiges of patriarchy, racism, bigotry and hate. Inclusion efforts have been resilient in the face of evil, sparking movements that have led to major breakthroughs in civil rights such as (to name a few):

- In 1868, the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment was expanded to include African Americans.
- In 1920, women received a right to vote.
- In 1938, the Fair Labor Standards Act banned extreme child labor and established minimum wage and work conditions.
- In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court held segregation in public schools was unconstitutional.
- In 1964, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 banned discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, national origin (and later sexual orientation).
- In 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Virginia state law banning interracial marriages.
- In 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibited discrimination based on disabilities.
- In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in all fifty states.
- In 2021, the U.S. Congress passed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act.

In 2020, we witnessed protests across the country after George Floyd was murdered by a police officer in Minneapolis, MN. At a high level, the nationwide protests that followed continued the legacy of citizens challenging America to sustain its promise. In response, many state and local governments declared racism a public health crisis; a plethora of private companies, including Fortune 500 companies, publicly denounced racism and committed to deepening investments in BIPOC communities; and, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

Further, in Lorain County, our Board of Commissioners along with the City of Lorain, City of Elyria and City of Oberlin declared racism a public health crisis. During that time, our staff participated in countless community conversations on racial equity, many of which were grounded in anecdotal experiences and assumptions as our community lacked a comprehensive - one stop - document that illustrated racial disparities across the various public systems in our local community. As such, in the spirit of learning and surfacing quantitative data, The Center for Community Solutions – through a generous grant provided by The Nord Family Foundation – embarked upon a six-month research journey to conduct an audit on racial disparities in Lorain County.

It is our hope that the data in this report is not weaponized to spur greater division; instead, may it be used to challenge and disrupt existing social constructs and institutional norms that continuously undermine Lorain County residents’ ability to fully access and enjoy their unalienable rights and constitutional rights, respectively.

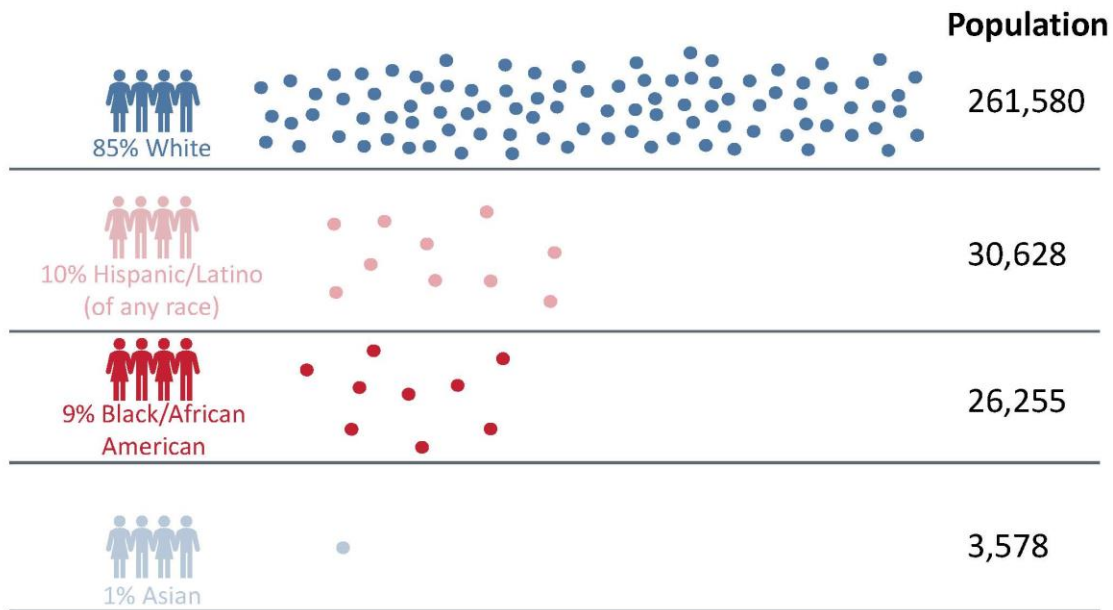
Lastly, I want to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to all the people and organizations that have been and continue to remain at the forefront of equity work in our community. I also want to acknowledge the people and organizations that are in the very early stages of their equity journey; I commend your bravery, capacity to empathize and willingness to envision and ultimately create a more just Lorain County.

Ever onward,

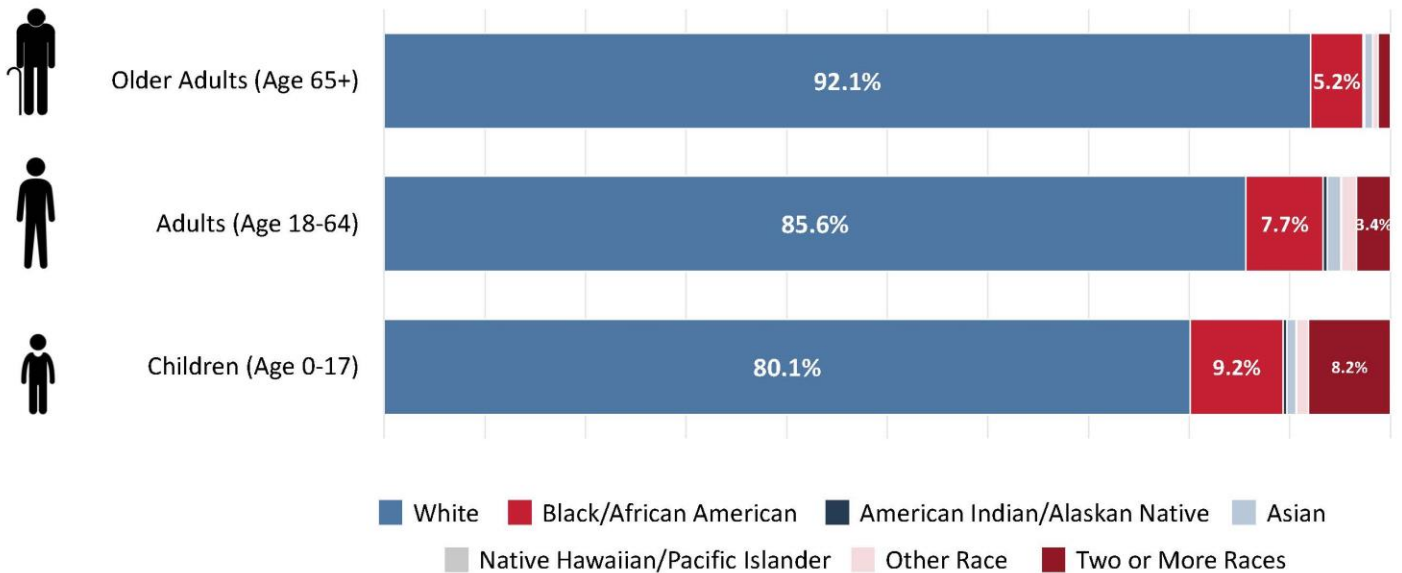


Anthony Richardson, J.D.
Executive Director
The Nord Family Foundation

Lorain County is a racially and ethnically diverse community. The racial demographics of the county are similar to the overall demographics of Ohio, and the county is home to one of the highest concentrations of Hispanic/Latino residents in the state.



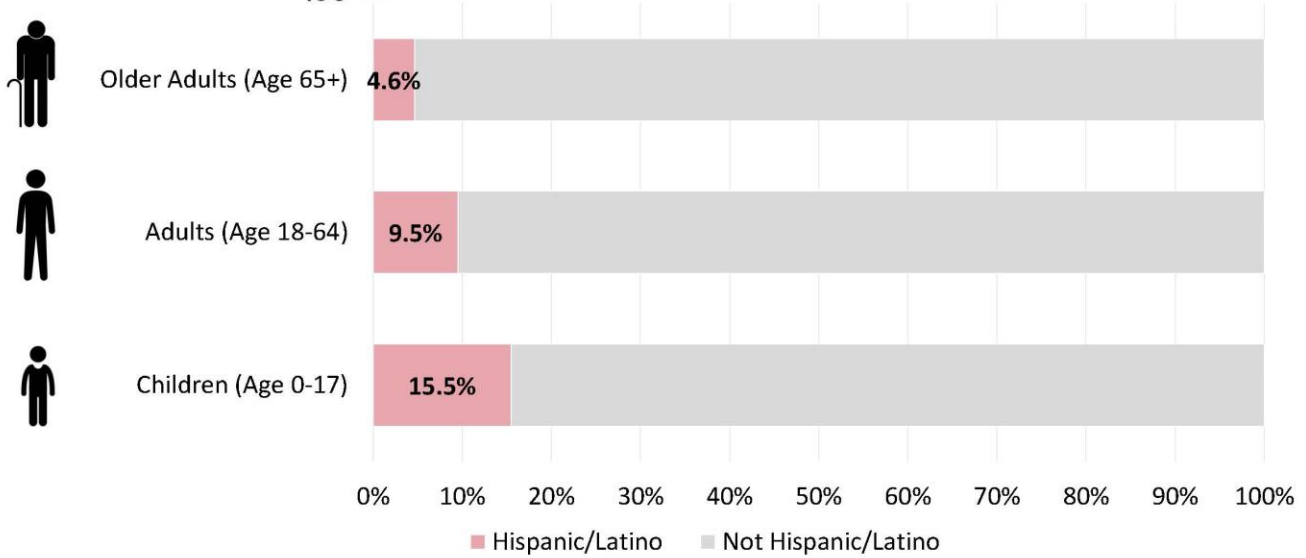
Children are the most diverse population in Lorain County



*Hispanic/Latino population is not included in this chart, because the Census considers Hispanic/Latino an ethnicity, not a race.



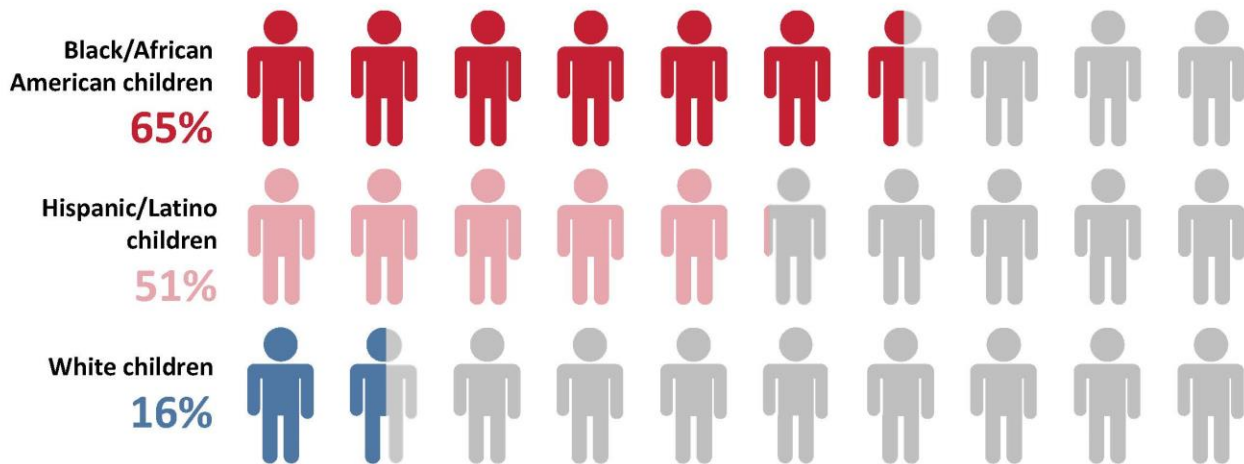
Children also represent the highest concentration of Hispanic/Latino people in the county.



Black/African American children are **4x** more likely than **white children** to be living in poverty.

Hispanic/Latino children are **3x** more likely to be living in poverty.

Child Poverty Rate

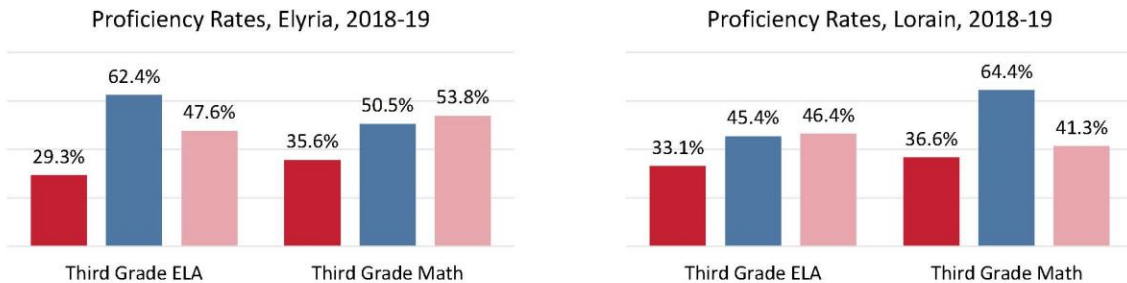




Across the board, disparities exist between **Black/African American students**, **Hispanic/Latino students**, and **white students** when it comes to academic proficiency.

Third Grade Proficiency Rates

Black/African American White Hispanic/Latino

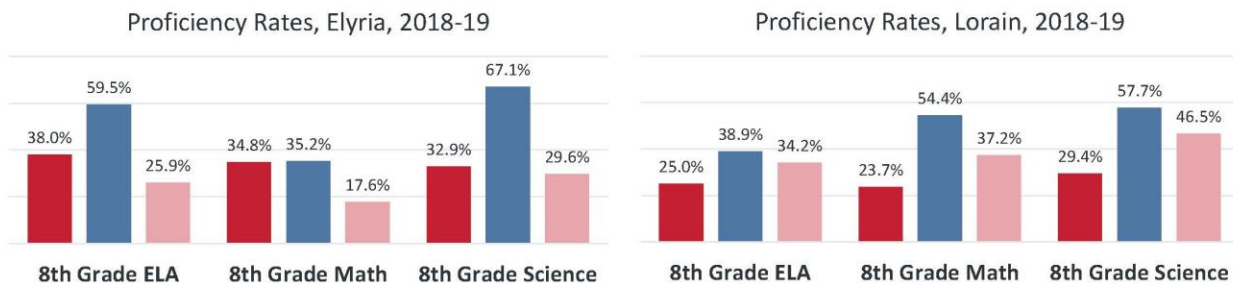


*ELA stands for "English Language Arts"

Note: Elyria and Lorain City Schools have the highest population of Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino students respectively. In other districts in the county, many of the proficiency rates by race/ethnicity were suppressed due to lower populations of Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino students in those districts.

Eighth Grade Proficiency Rates

Black/African American White Hispanic/Latino



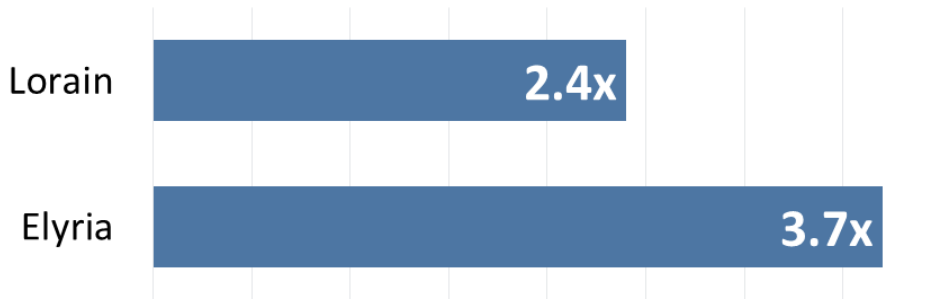
*ELA stands for "English Language Arts"

Note: Elyria and Lorain City Schools have the highest population of Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino students respectively. In other districts in the county, many of the proficiency rates by race/ethnicity were suppressed due to lower populations of Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino students in those districts.

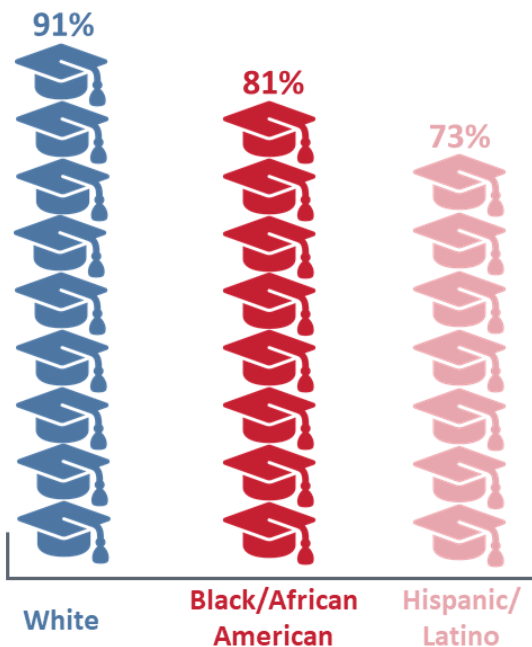


White students are more likely than **Black/African American students** to be enrolled into educational opportunities, like gifted and talented programs and AP classes.

Opportunity Gap – *White students in the school district are this many times more likely than Black students to be enrolled:*

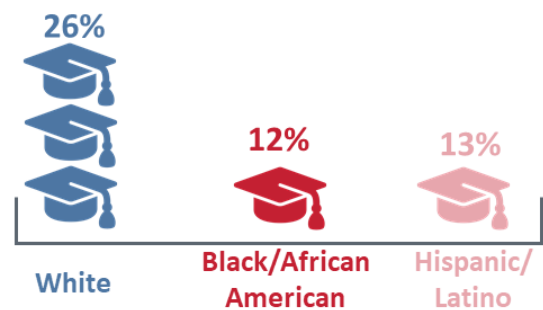


Percent of Adults Who Have Graduated from High School (or have GED)



Disparities in educational achievement and opportunity result in lower educational attainment for **Black/African American** and **Hispanic/Latino** residents overall.

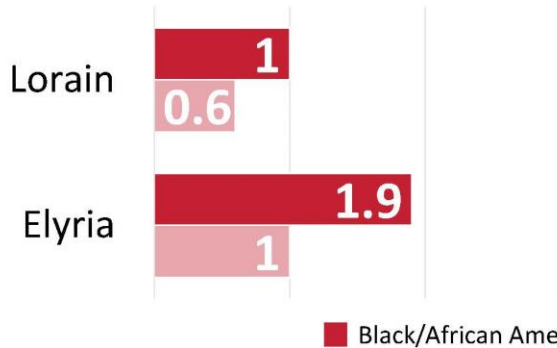
Percent of Adults Who Have a Bachelor's Degree or Higher



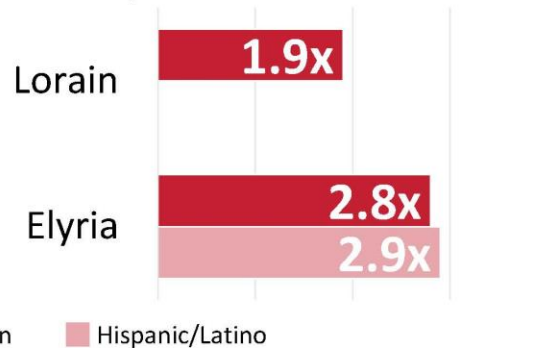


Black/African American and **Hispanic/Latino** students are more likely than **white** students to be behind in school, or be suspended.

Achievement Gap – *Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino students in this school district, on average, are this many grade levels behind white students:*



School Discipline– *Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino students in this school district are this many times more likely than white students to be suspended:*



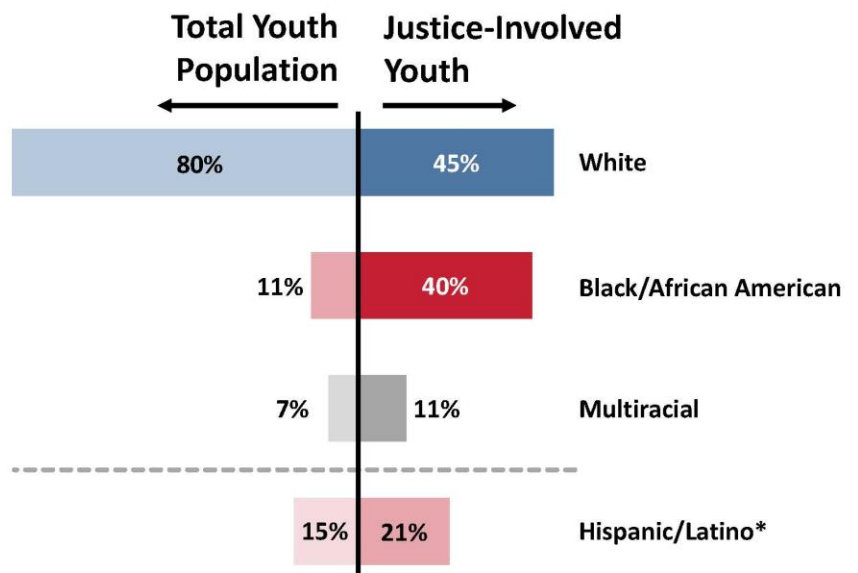
Note: there is no school discipline data available for Hispanic/Latino students in Lorain.

Racial disparities in discipline start in school, and they persist in the criminal justice system. **Black/African American youth** and **Hispanic/Latino youth** are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system.



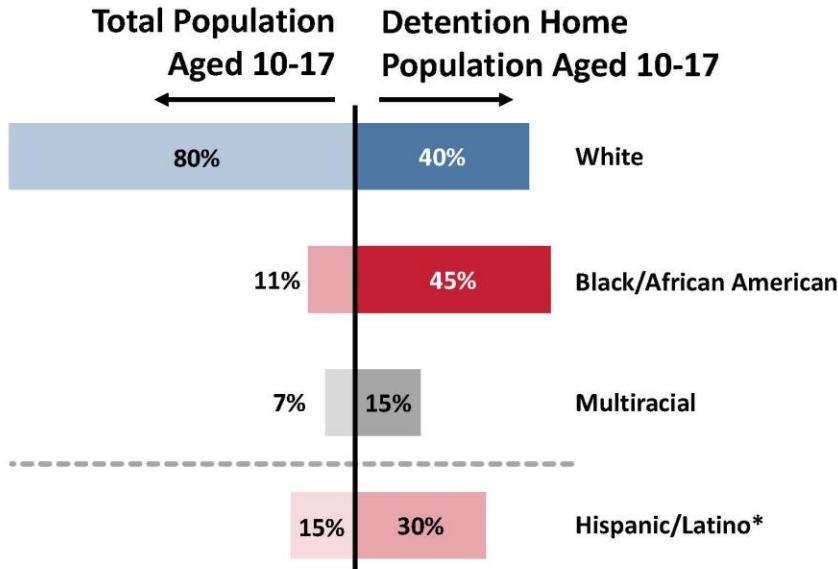
Black/African American youth make up just **11%** of the population, but **40%** of the justice-involved population in Lorain County.

Hispanic/Latino youth make up just **15%** of the population, but **21%** of the justice-involved population in Lorain County.



*Hispanic/Latino is considered an ethnic category, not a racial category, so the rates are calculated separately and do not add to 100% with the racial categories.

The disparities were even wider for youth who were **incarcerated in juvenile detention** in 2020.



Black/African American youth also spent more **14 days** incarcerated, on average, than **white youth**.**

Average Time Spent in a Detention Home



Black/African American

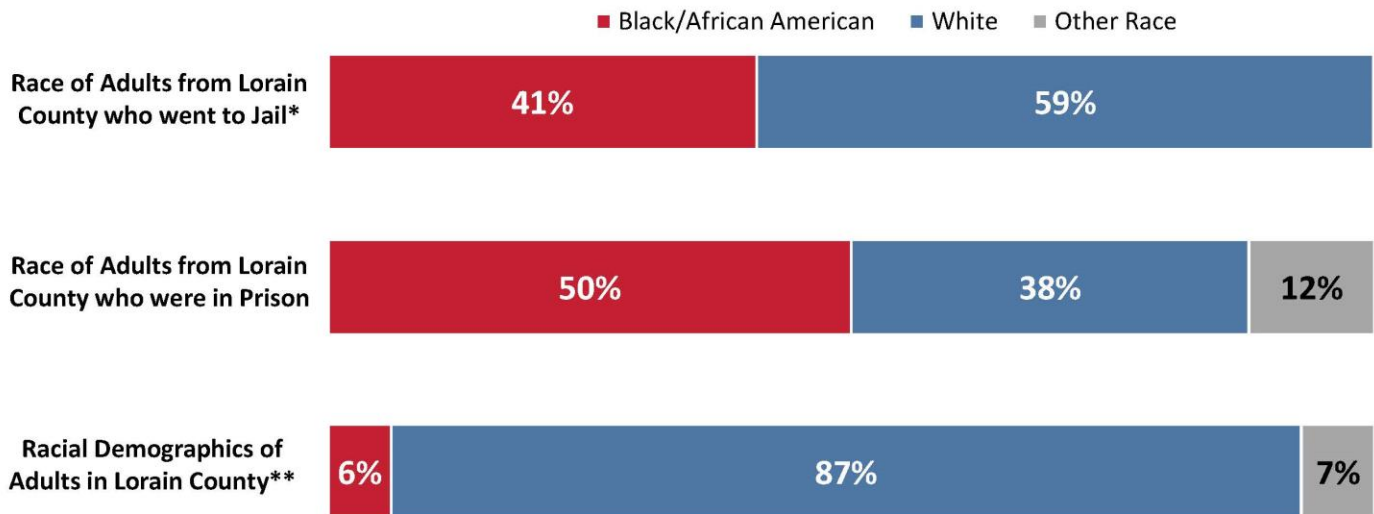


White

*Hispanic/Latino is considered an ethnic category, not a racial category, so the rates are calculated separately and do not add to 100% with the racial categories.
 ** There was not a statistically significant difference between time spent in detention between Hispanic and non-Hispanic youth, so that data is not included.



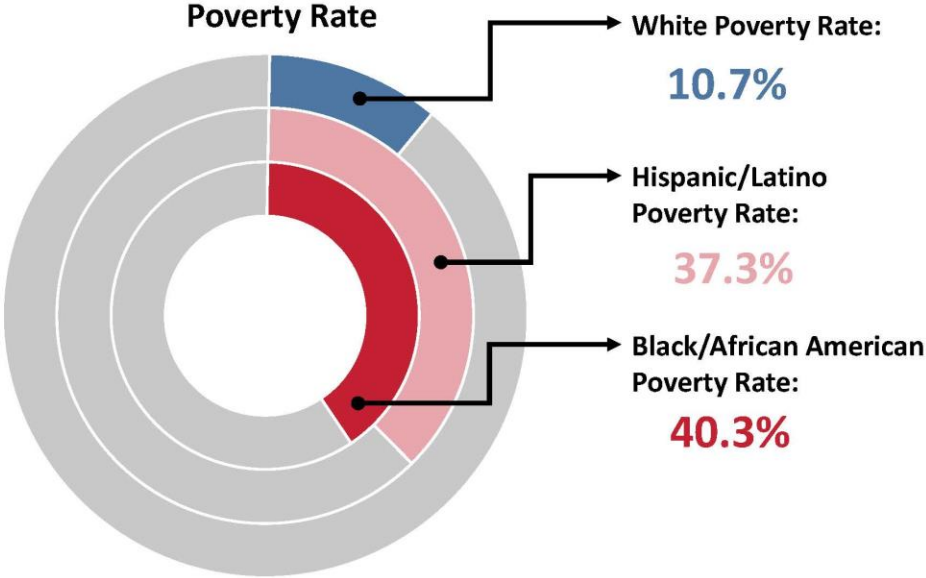
Continuing into adulthood, **Black/African American residents** are significantly more likely than **white residents** to be incarcerated.



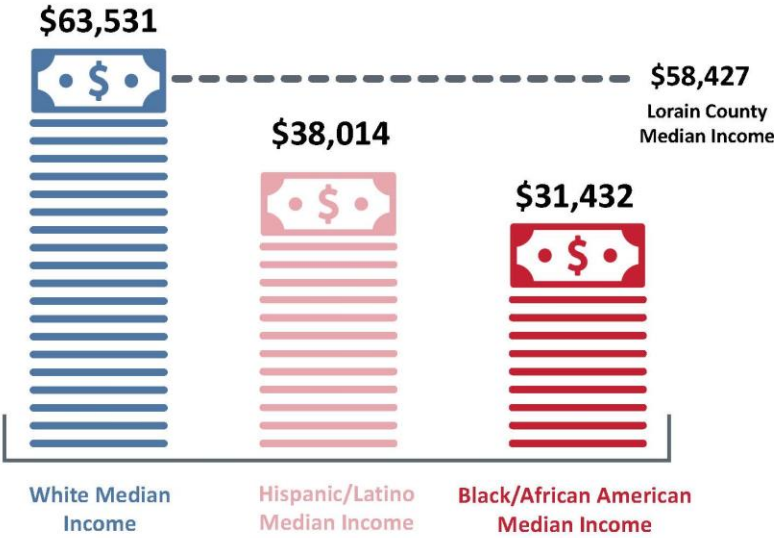
* Adults who were arrested in 2020 is a proxy for adults who went to jail

**Racial Demographics of Incarcerated Population are only available for the presented racial categories. The population data was aggregated to match the categories in the incarceration data.

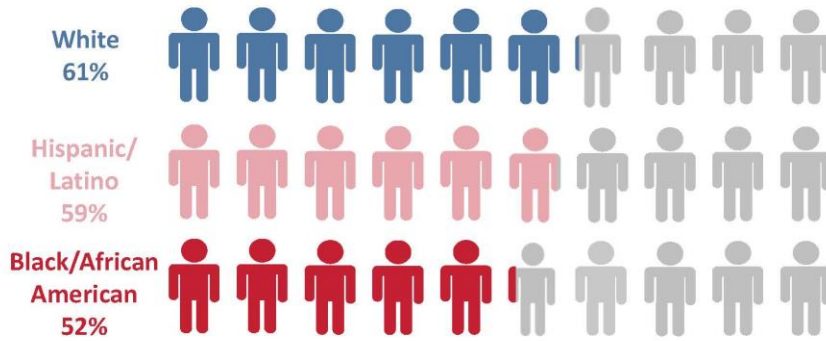
In Lorain County, **Hispanic/Latino people** are over **3x** more likely to be living in poverty than **white people**, while the poverty rate for **Black/African American people** is **4x** higher.



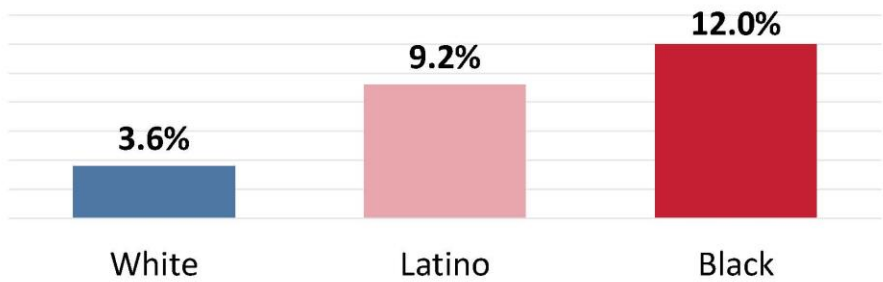
In Lorain County, median household income for **white households** is **1.7x** that of **Hispanic/Latino households**, and **2x** that of **Black/African American households**.



Labor Force Participation – the percentage of people who are working or actively looking for work



Unemployment



Hispanic/Latino workers are 2.6x more likely than white workers to be unemployed. Black/African American workers are 3.3x more likely to be out-of-work.

Top Occupation Categories & Average Annual Earnings, by Race and Ethnicity

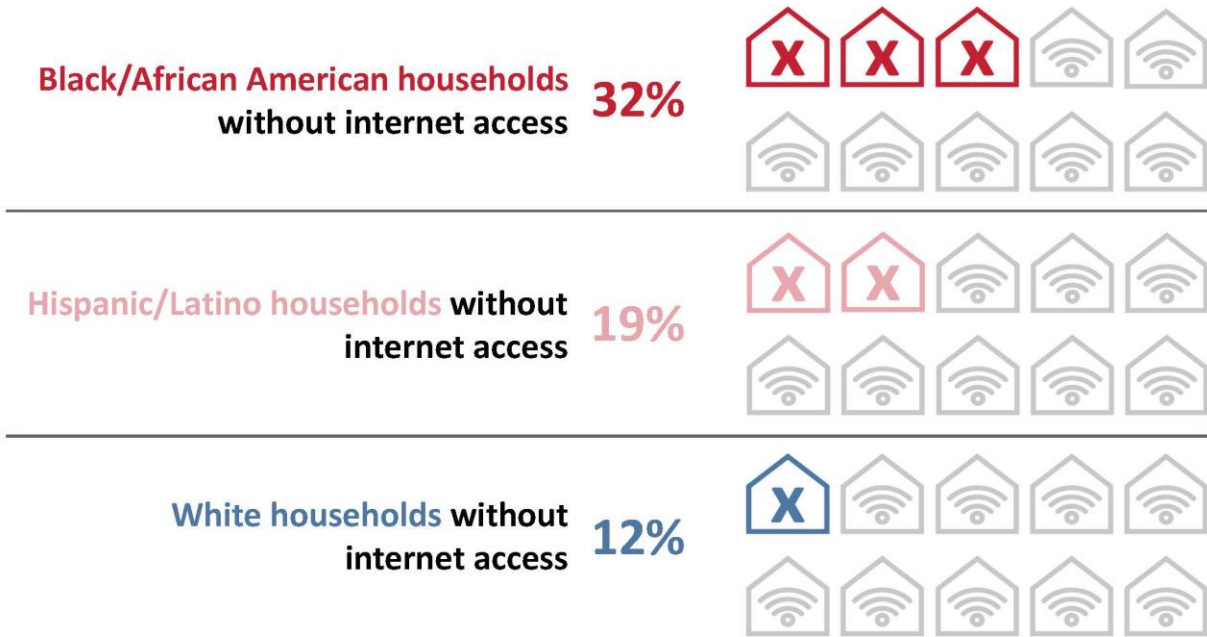
White workers are disproportionately represented in higher wage occupations like legal, management, architecture and engineering occupations.

Black/African American workers are disproportionately represented in lower wage occupations like healthcare support, community and social services, and transportation and material moving occupations.

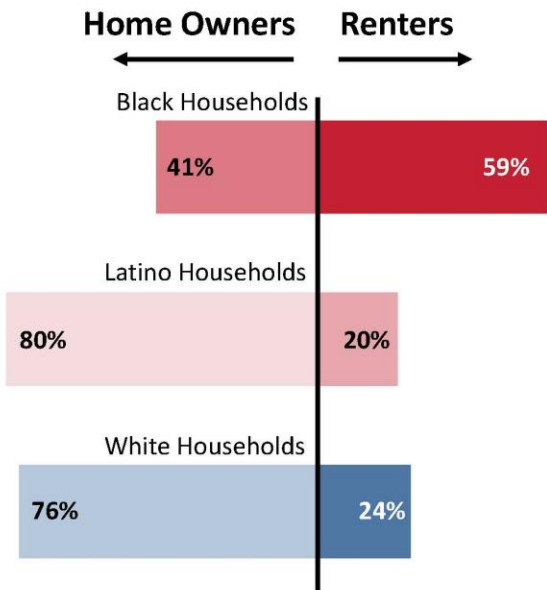
Hispanic/Latino workers are disproportionately represented in lower wage occupations like farming, fishing, and forestry, military, and building and maintenance occupations.



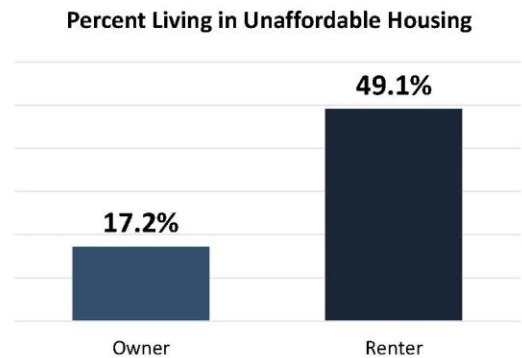
White households are **2.7x** more likely than **Black/African American** households and **1.6x** more likely than **Hispanic/Latino** households to have **internet access**.



Black/African American households are **2.5x** more likely to rent their home than **white households**.



Households in Lorain County that rent are **2.9x** more likely to be living in housing that is unaffordable to them.

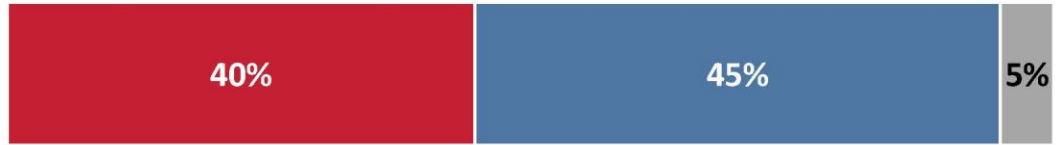




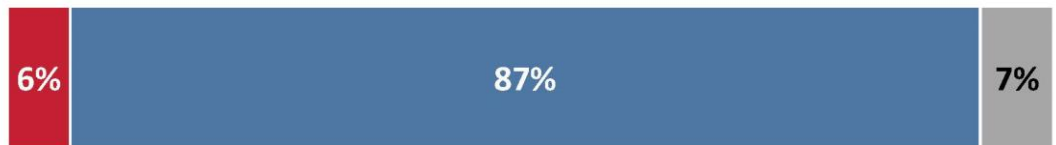
Compared with the overall population, **Black/African American adults** are significantly more likely than **white adults** to be homeless.

■ Black/African American ■ White, Non-Hispanic ■ Other Race

Race of Adults in Lorain County who were Homeless in 2020*



Racial Demographics of Adults in Lorain County*

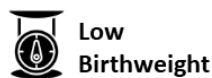
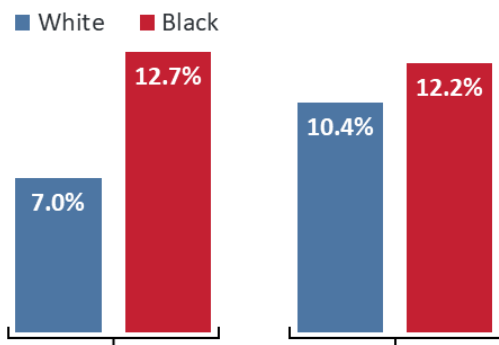


*Individuals were considered homeless if they were counted in the Homeless Management Information Systems in Lorain County

Note: Hispanic/Latino individuals of any race represented 11% of the homeless population and 10% of the adult population in Lorain County

Racial disparities in Lorain County begin at birth, and compound over the course of the lives of residents. There are wide disparities between Black/African American infants and white infants when it comes to birth outcomes.

*Some birth outcomes are not available for Hispanic/Latino populations. Infant mortality rates are five year data from 2015-2019.



Low Birthweight

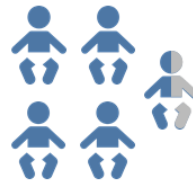


Preterm Birth

Low birthweight and preterm birth are risk factors for infant mortality, which disproportionately impacts Black infants.

White Infants

4.5 deaths per 1,000 live white births



Hispanic/Latino Infants

8.8 deaths per 1,000 live Latino births



Black/African American Infants

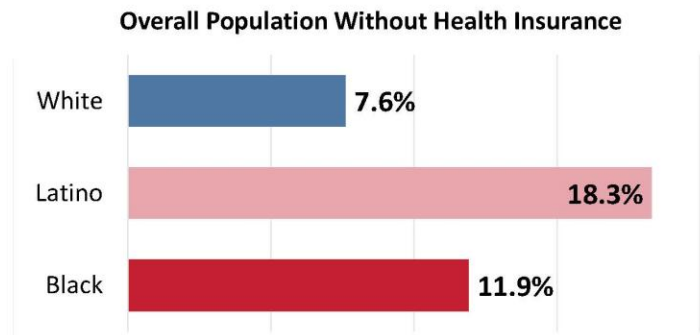
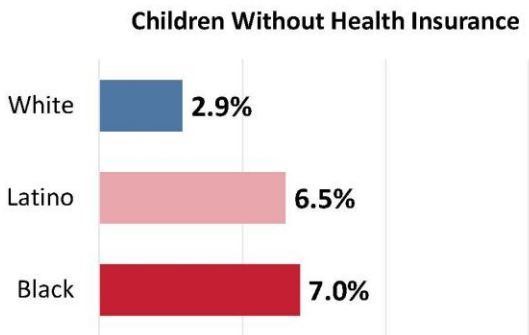
13.0 deaths per 1,000 live Black births



Black/African American and **Hispanic/Latino** residents also face poorer health outcomes on many indicators than their **white** counterparts.

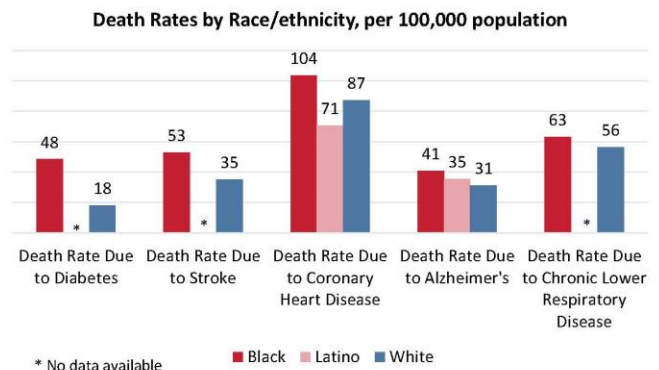
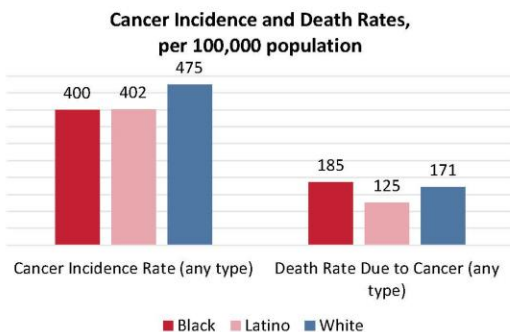
Black/African American children are **2.4x** more likely than **white children** to be uninsured.

Hispanic/Latino people are **2.4x** more likely than **white people** to be uninsured.



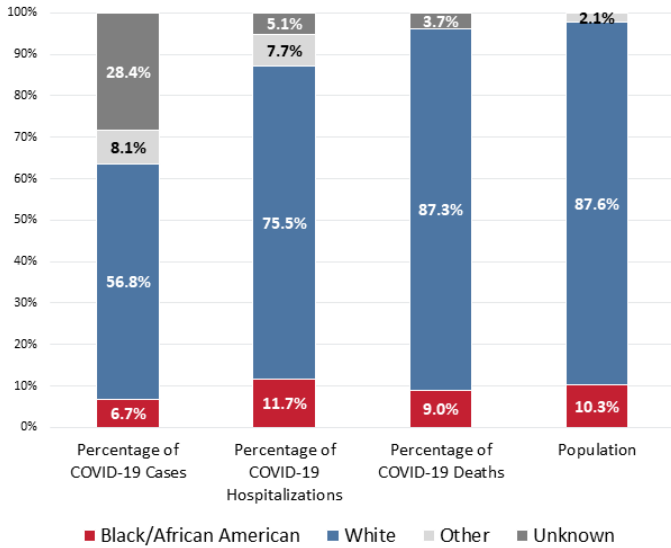
Although **white people** have higher incidence rates of cancer than **Black/African American people**, Black people have **higher death rates due to cancer**.

Black/African American people face higher death rates than **white people** for most chronic diseases.

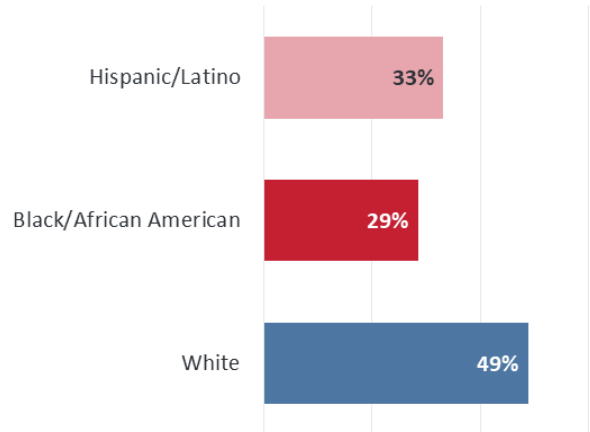




Throughout the **COVID-19 Pandemic**, accurate data collection has been a challenge and there are many “unknowns” in the racial data reported.



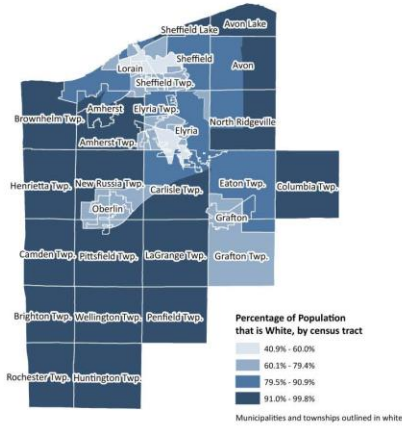
White people have significantly higher vaccination rates than **Black/African American people** and **Hispanic/Latino people**.



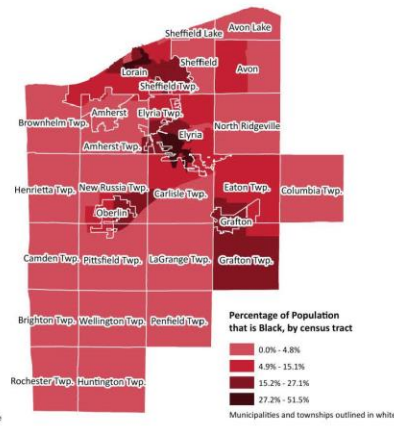
Note: The COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing and data are updated daily. Case, hospitalization, and vaccine started data were accessed August 2, 2021. Death data is as of July, 2021, but is considered preliminary meaning it is subject to changes as more information is provided.

While the rural parts of Lorain County and suburbs are mostly **white**, the cities of Elyria and Lorain are more diverse.

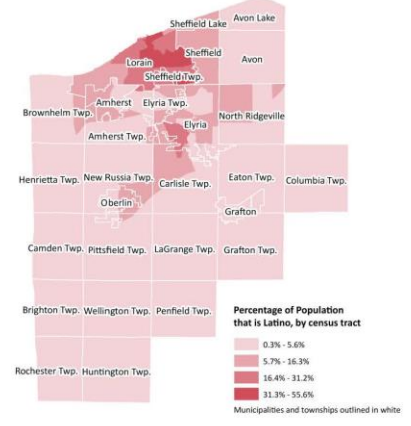
% of Population that is White



% of Population that is Black/African American

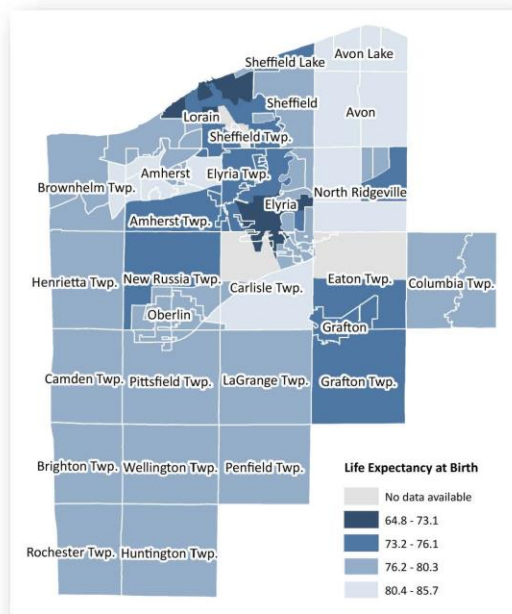


% of Population that is Hispanic/Latino



*The census tract containing Grafton and Grafton Township has a correctional facility located in its boundaries. The population at that correctional facility is included in the racial demographics for the tract.

Life Expectancy varies widely throughout Lorain County, and in many cases mirrors maps showing racial demographics.

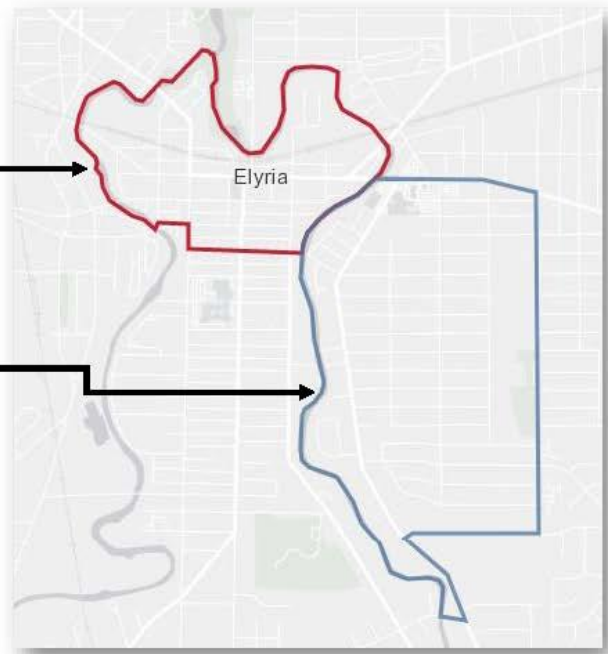


In some cases, there are wide disparities in Life Expectancy between neighborhoods just a few streets apart.

The life expectancy in the neighborhood surrounding Downtown Elyria is **64.8 years**.
This neighborhood is 22% Black/African American and 8% Hispanic/Latino.

In the nearby Eastern Heights neighborhood, the life expectancy is **80.2 years**.
This neighborhood is 87% white.

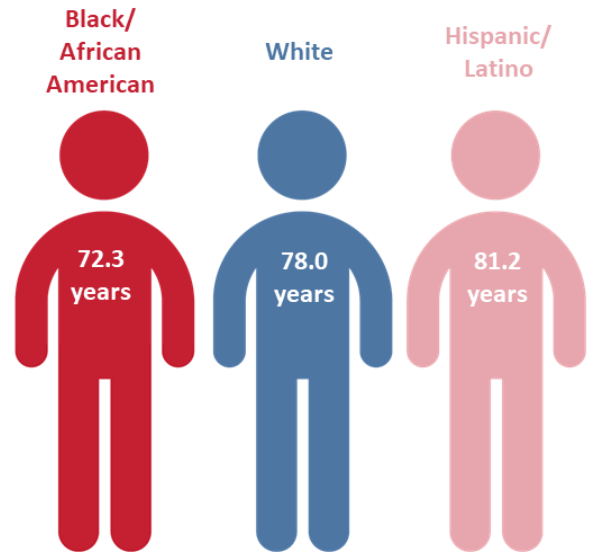
The poverty rate in Downtown Elyria is one of the highest in the county; **52% of residents are below the poverty line.**



The impacts of racism compound throughout the life cycle, and ultimately **Black/African American people** have **lower life expectancy** than **white people**.

Black/African American life expectancy is nearly **5 years less** than **white life expectancy** in Lorain County.

Hispanic/Latino people have the highest life expectancy, consistent with national trends.



Recommendations for Additional Data Gathering

The following data either do not currently exist, data sets are incomplete/not publicly available, or data was not collected. The first step to solving racial disparities is understanding them. We are interested in better understanding how the following issues and sectors are impacted by race and ethnicity in our community.

- Pre-K enrollment by race/ethnicity in Lorain County
- Food insecurity or food bank utilization by race/ethnicity
- Eviction filings and evictions by race/ethnicity
- Voter participation by race/ethnicity
- Demographics of elected officials and other civic leaders in Lorain County

Data Sources

- **Racial Demographics:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 1-Year Estimates
- **Racial Demographics by Census Tract (mapped):** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates
- **Racial Demographics by Age Group:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 1-Year Estimates
- **Birth Outcomes:** Rates calculated by The Center for Community Solutions based on data provided by Lorain County Public Health and Ohio Department of Health, 2015-2019
- **Child Poverty Rates:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates
- **Proficiency Rates:** Ohio Department of Education, 2018-19 school year
- **Educational Attainment:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 1-Year Estimates
- **Opportunity Gap, Achievement Gap, and School Discipline:** ProPublica, Miseducation: Is there Racial Inequality at your School?, 2018 <https://projects.propublica.org/miseducation/>
- **Juvenile Justice:** Raw De-identified Data provided by Lorain County Domestic Relations Court and analyzed by The Center for Community Solutions, 2020
- **Incarcerated Adults:** Lorain County Sheriff's Office 2020 Annual Jail Report; Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, January, 2020 Institutional Census
- **Internet Access:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 1-Year Estimates
- **Median Household Income:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates
- **Labor Force Participation & Unemployment:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 1-Year Estimates
- **Occupational Categories:** Emsi Q4 2020 Data Set, provided by Team NEO in March 2021
- **Housing Affordability & Owning/Renting:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 1-Year Estimates
- **Homelessness:** HMIS Data for Lorain County, 2020 (de-duplicated data for all organizations that submit data to HMIS; there are some programs in the county that do not report to HMIS)
- **Health Insurance Status:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 1-Year Estimates
- **Chronic Disease Incidence and Death Rates:** Various Sources and Years (Including Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute), accessed via Healthy NEO Dashboard in March, 2021 <http://www.healthyneo.org/>
- **COVID-19:** Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard, accessed August 2, 2021 (updated daily)
- **Life Expectancy:** Various Sources and Years (Including U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project), Data shown for 2017-2019, accessed via Healthy NEO Dashboard in July, 2021 <http://www.healthyneo.org/>
- All data gathered, analyzed, aggregated, and mapped by The Center for Community Solutions, 2021