

Maps of Segregation and Poverty in Marin County (Marin Climate Justice Collaboration)

Marin County is located northwest of the San Francisco Bay, with a total population of approximately 262,231 people, per the 2020 Census, and is governed by the Marin County Board of Supervisors. Marin has the sixth highest per capita income of all counties in the U.S., nearly double the statewide average. Marin is by far the most segregated county in the Bay Area, and the Canal District in San Rafael (Fig. 2) and Marin City (Fig. 1) are among the most segregated communities. This segregation has worsened over the past ten years.

Approximately 70% of all County residents are white, compared to the broader Bay Area region that is 40% white. Most Marin County residents of color live in the Canal District of San Rafael and unincorporated Marin City.³ Generational demographics are shifting, as over 45% of students in Marin are youth of color.

Countywide educational attainment is high, with almost 60% of residents having received a bachelor's degree or higher. And while 7.5% of residents are below poverty, one-third of all residents live paycheck to paycheck, concentrated amongst those living in the Canal District and Marin City and dispersed in low-income pockets throughout the county.

Commensurate with this racial and socioeconomic segregation, the two Communities of Focus – the Canal District of San Rafael and unincorporated Marin City – are experiencing the greatest disparate risk and impacts of sea level rise and flooding in Marin and across the Bay Area.⁸ These are the environmental justice communities of Marin County and are thus central to the Marin Climate Justice Collaborative.

In addition, according to the California Poverty Measure (CPM)—a research effort by PPIC and the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality that accounts for housing costs and safety net benefits. About 4.5 million Californians remain under the CPM poverty line (about \$36,900 yearly for a family of four). The research also shows that Marin County has the highest poverty rate in the Bay Area at 14.7% representing 37,000 people living in poverty. See Fig. 3.

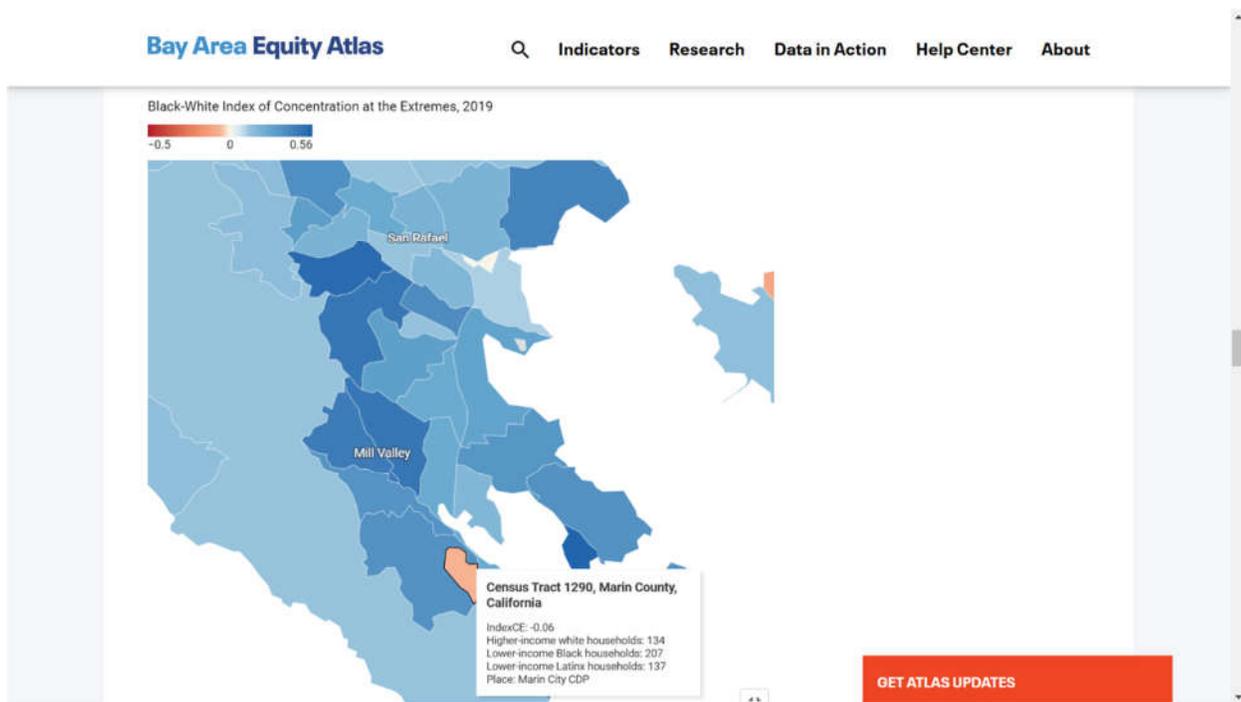


Fig. 1 Bay Area Equity Atlas map showing Census Tract 1290 in unincorporated Marin City is the Most Highly Segregated Black Neighborhood in Marin County.

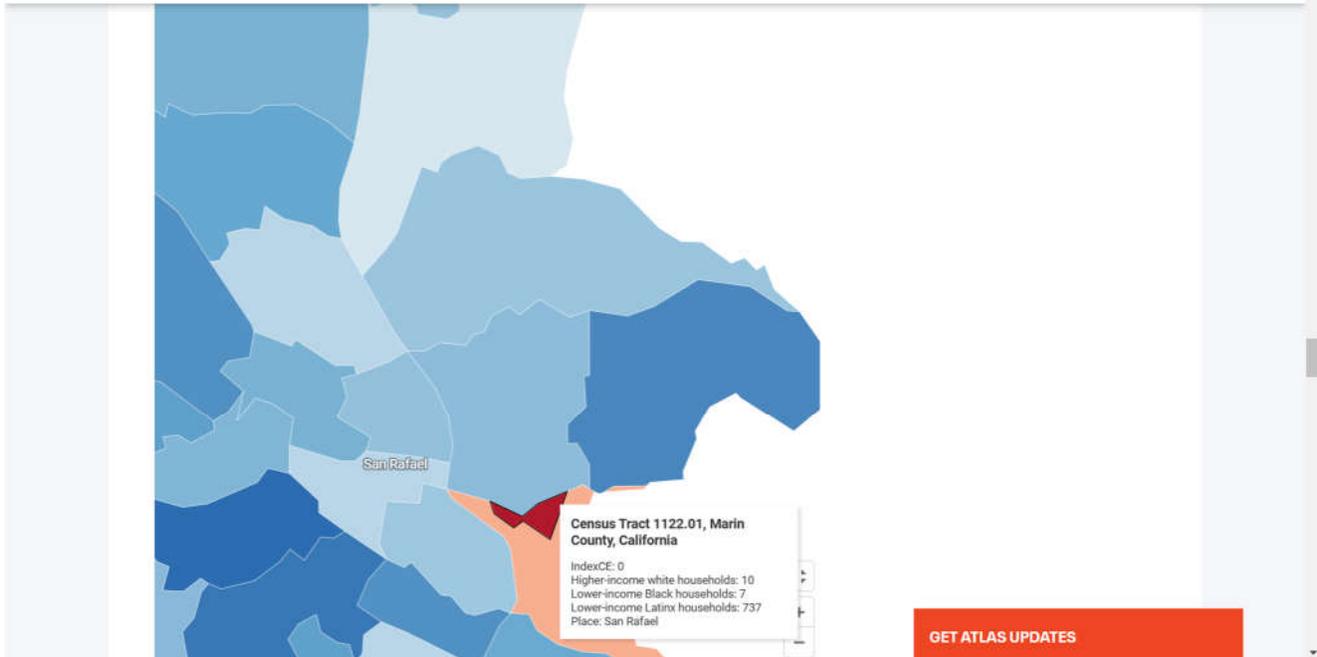
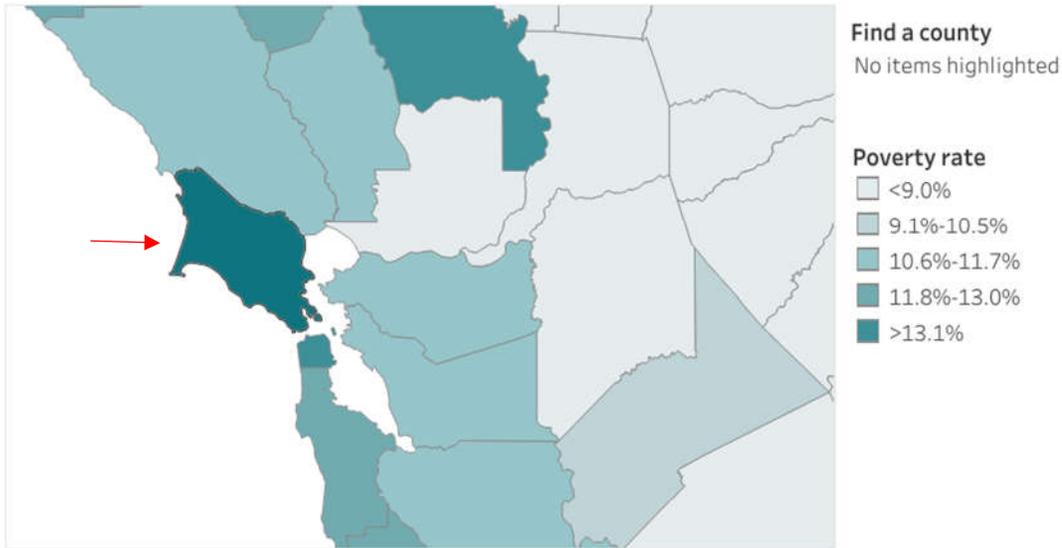


Fig. 2 Bay Area Equity Atlas map shows Census Tract 1122.01 in the Canal Area in San Rafael is the Most Segregated Latino Neighborhood in the nine-county Bay Area.

California poverty by county



Source: California Poverty Measure, fall 2021.

Notes: Please note the margins of error, which reflect uncertainty due to sampling variability. Estimates marked with an asterisk (*) are based on samples of fewer than 2,000 people. Poverty rates for certain counties are calculated at the multi-county level because these counties are not individually identifiable in the data. [Download detailed estimates and notes here.](#)

From: [PPIC, October 2022](#). Updated February 2023 to reflect new representatives and district lines.

Fig. 3 The California Poverty Measure that accounts for housing costs and safety net benefits, shows Marin County indicated by the red arrow, has the highest poverty rate in the Bay Area with 14.7% of its residents living in poverty.