

## Executive Summary

Los Angeles County faces an affordable housing crisis, one of the most acute in the state of California. Rising rents and home purchase prices, a countywide shortfall of new units to meet current and future demand, old housing stock, and a high proportion of low-wage working families in the metropolitan area have combined to leave too many of the County's residents struggling to secure safe, quality housing. Compounding these trends, the Covid pandemic exacerbated socioeconomic disparities for groups with disproportionately high rates of low-income, especially women of color and single mothers.<sup>1</sup>

SB-679, authored by Senator Sydney Kamlager, would create the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (LACAHSAs), a countywide multistakeholder agency whose purpose is to increase the supply of affordable housing and provide rental assistance throughout Los Angeles County.<sup>2</sup>

The [Gender Equity Policy Institute](#) analyzed housing expenditures and income of Los Angeles County residents to assess the disparate gender and race/ethnicity impacts of the regionwide housing affordability crisis. Our findings show that people of color and women, especially Black and Latina women, are more likely to be spending an unsustainable portion of their income on housing.<sup>3</sup>

Women in Los Angeles County are more likely than men to be paying unaffordable rents

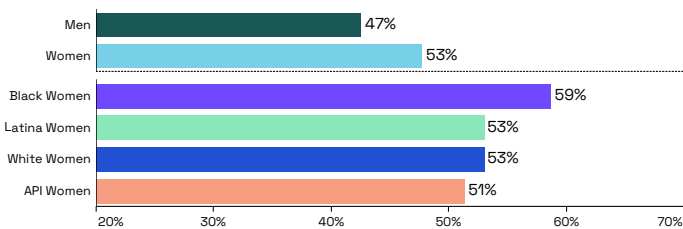


FIGURE 1  
GEPI analysis of ACS 2019.

Understanding current racial and gender housing inequities in Los Angeles County, we hope, will assist LACAHSAs in addressing Los Angeles County's regionwide housing crisis in a way that contributes to eliminating existing inequalities, advancing gender and racial equity in housing, and promoting a healthy and sustainable future for all people in Los Angeles County.

## KEY FINDINGS

### IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY:

- ▶ **53% of women** are rent burdened, compared to 47% of men.
- ▶ **1 in 3 Black women renters** spend more than half their income on housing.
- ▶ **3 in 5 Latino-led households** are rent burdened.
- ▶ **36% of elderly** Latinas living alone have income below the federal poverty line, which is \$12,880 for a single adult.
- ▶ **Women-led households** are 4 times as likely as households headed by a married couple to have extremely low-income.
- ▶ **726,000 children** live in households paying unaffordable rents.

# Women of color in Los Angeles County are highly likely to live in areas with unaffordable rents

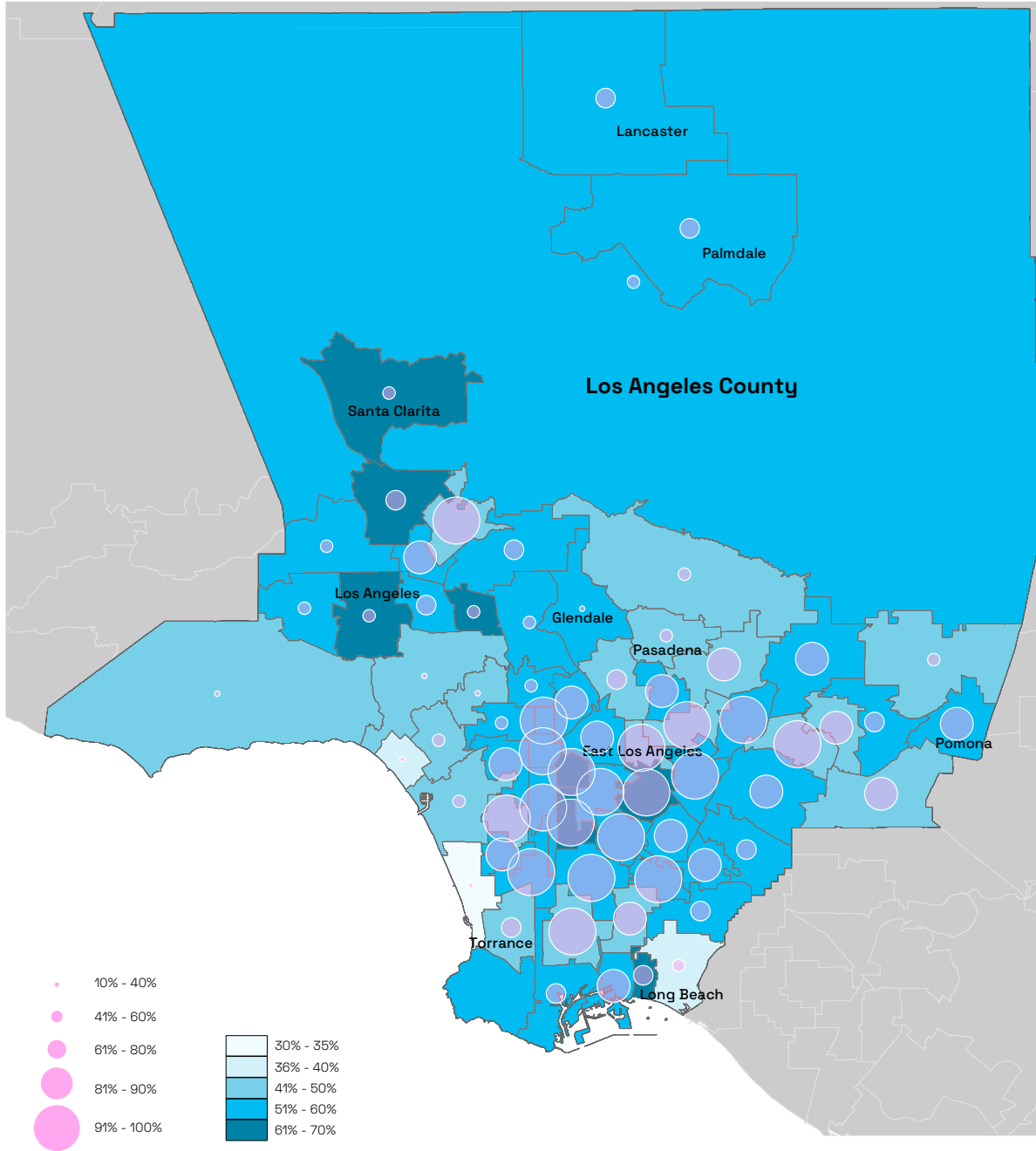


FIGURE 3

Boundary lines show Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA). Pink circles represent the percentage of PUMA residents who are people of color. Blue shading represents percentage of PUMA renters who are rent burdened. On PUMAs, see Methodology section.

**Key Statistics on Los Angeles County Housing**

**TABLE 1:  
COST BURDENED HOUSEHOLDS (%),  
BY GENDER, LOS ANGELES**

	All CA	All LA	Joint Led	women Led
Rent Burdened	52%	56%	47%	68%
Severely Rent Burdened	26%	31%	22%	41%
Cost Burdened	29%	34%	29%	45%
Severely Cost Burdened	12%	16%	11%	26%

*See Methodology for definition of cost burden levels. GEPI Analysis of ACS (2019).*

**TABLE 2:  
RENTING AND OWNING HOUSEHOLDS (%),  
BY GENDER, LOS ANGELES**

	All CA	All (LA)	Joint Led (LA)	women Led (LA)
Renting Households	45%	55%	45%	63%
Owning Households	55%	45%	55%	37%

*See note 7 for definition of household types. GEPI Analysis of ACS (2019).*

**TABLE 3:  
RENT BURDENED BLACK-LED HOUSEHOLDS (%),  
BY GENDER, LOS ANGELES**

	Black-led Households		
	Joint Led	Women Led	Single Mother Led
Rent Burdened	42%	72%	78%
Severely Rent Burdened	17%	43%	51%

*Households headed by individuals who identify as Black are defined as Black-led households. Household members can be of any race/ethnicity. Margins of error for these households range from +/- 2-6 percentage points.*

**TABLE 4:  
RENT BURDENED LATINO-LED HOUSEHOLDS (%),  
BY GENDER, LOS ANGELES**

	Latino-led Households		
	Joint Led	Women Led	Single Mother Led
Rent Burdened	52%	70%	77%
Severely Rent Burdened	22%	41%	51%

*Households headed by individuals who identify as Latino are defined as Latino-led households. Household members can be of any race/ethnicity.*