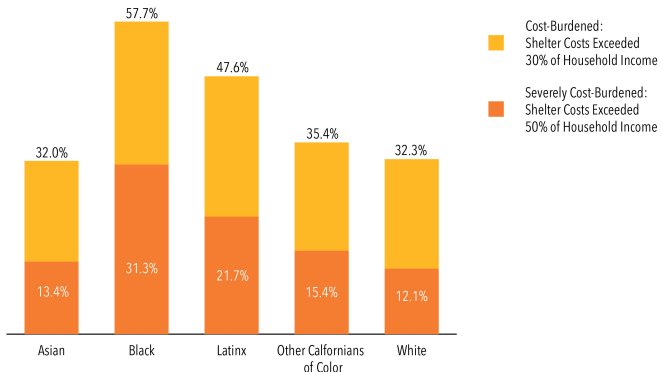




DECEMBER 2020 | BY AUREO MESQUITA

Black and Latinx California Children Were More Likely to Live in Households With Unaffordable Housing Costs Before COVID-19

Percentage of Children Ages 0 to 5 in Households With Housing Cost Burden, 2019



Note: Definitions of housing cost burden are from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. "Other Californians of color" includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Pacific Islanders, and people who identify with multiple races.
Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey data

- Californians faced a housing affordability crisis even before COVID-19, which has pushed even more people into unstable situations. Nearly 1.2 million children in California ages 0 to 5 lived in households that were paying more than 30% of their income toward housing costs in 2019.

- More than half of Black children and nearly half of Latinx children ages 0 to 5 lived in households that faced unaffordable housing costs before COVID-19. Racial and ethnic disparities reflect the legacy of explicitly racist policies and practices in housing and other areas that produce inequitable access to housing, education, and well-paying jobs.

- Policymakers should extend the COVID-19 eviction pause and provide rental assistance for Californians. State and federal policymakers can help struggling renters and ensure all families can maintain a safe and stable home during the pandemic and beyond.

Support for this Data Hit was provided by First 5 California.