Hardest-Hit Communities by COVID-19 and Unemployment

The number of COVID-19 cases has tripled since mid-June, while unemployment has stabilized at a high level, around 14%.

The findings shown in Figure 1 are an update to the analysis completed by the SANDAG Data Science and Analytics team released on June 16, 2020.

The updated analysis reflects the impacts of COVID-19 on the San Diego region, showing Black and Hispanic communities are still among the hardest-hit.

As of July 25, the most affected ZIP Codes with both the highest number of COVID-19 cases and the highest estimated unemployment rates are:

- 91911 (Chula Vista S)
- 91932 (Imperial Beach)
- 91950 (National City)
- 92020 (El Cajon)
- 92021 (El Cajon)
- 92027 (Escondido E)
- 92102 (Golden Hill)
- 92105 (City Heights)
- 92113 (Logan Heights)
- 92114 (Encanto)
- 92115 (College)
- 92154 (Nestor)
- 92173 (San Ysidro)

Figure 1: Hardest-Hit ZIP Codes - COVID-19 and Unemployment (as of July 25)

Source: Applied Geographic Solutions, Inc., Thousand Oaks, California, Weekly Release August 3, 2020; County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency
Results are largely unchanged from SANDAG’s previous analysis and confirm that the region’s Black and Hispanic communities are most impacted. When compared to the White population, Black and Hispanic populations are almost three times as likely to live in areas that have been impacted by COVID-19 and unemployment. When compared to the Asian population, they are almost twice as likely to reside in areas with high COVID-19 cases, and high unemployment.

COVID-19 Impacts by Race and Ethnicity

Figure 2: COVID-19 Cases and Estimated Unemployment by ZIP Code

Source: SANDAG Annual Estimates 2019; Applied Geographic Solutions, Inc., Thousand Oaks, California; County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency
Over half of Black residents (58%) and almost two-third of Hispanic residents (63%) live in ZIP codes with higher than average unemployment rates.

Approximately half of Black residents (53%) and Hispanic residents (52%) live in ZIP codes with higher than average COVID-19 cases.

Thirty-six percent of Black and Hispanic residents live in ZIP codes that have higher than average COVID-19 cases and higher than average unemployment rates.

This can be linked with previous findings that Black and Hispanic residents account for a significant portion of essential workers who continued to go to work and/or who became unemployed due to temporary business closures as a result of COVID-19.

**Figure 3: Impact of COVID-19 and Unemployment by Race/Ethnicity in the San Diego Region**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Unemployment</th>
<th>COVID-19 Cases</th>
<th>Unemployment and COVID-19 Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SANDAG Annual Estimates 2019; Applied Geographic Solutions, Inc., Thousand Oaks, California; County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency