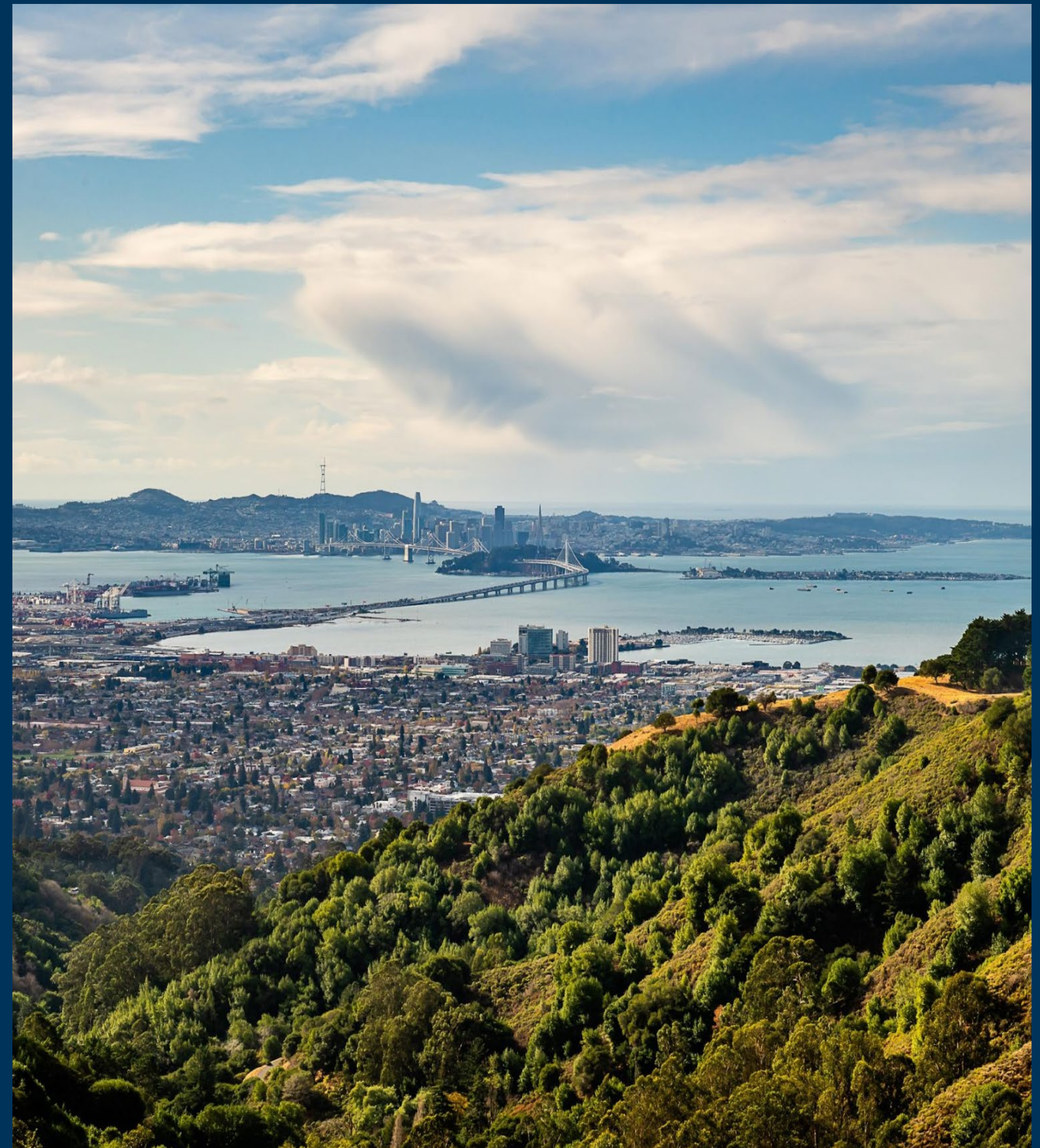


Berkeley Health Status Update

Anju Goel, MD, MPH

February 27, 2024



Interim Health Officer

September 2023 – March 2025

Previous experience:

- **City, County & Federal**
- **Assistant, Deputy & Health Officer**



Overview

In the summer of 2023, the City of Berkeley Health, Housing and Community Services (HHCS) Division engaged JSI Research and Training Institute (JSI) to conduct a **Community Health Assessment (CHA)** and create a **Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)** over the course of two years.

Our first step in this process was to conduct a **Landscape Scan** to develop a baseline understanding across four key areas.

1

Health status of residents of Berkeley including health condition, social determinants of health, and demographic & geographic patterns.

2

Staff capacity of organizations and agencies inside and outside government to work independently and collectively to address priority health and safety concerns.

3

Resources available to address priority health and safety concerns.

4

Community leaders, both those with organizational standing and those with lived experience.

Our Process

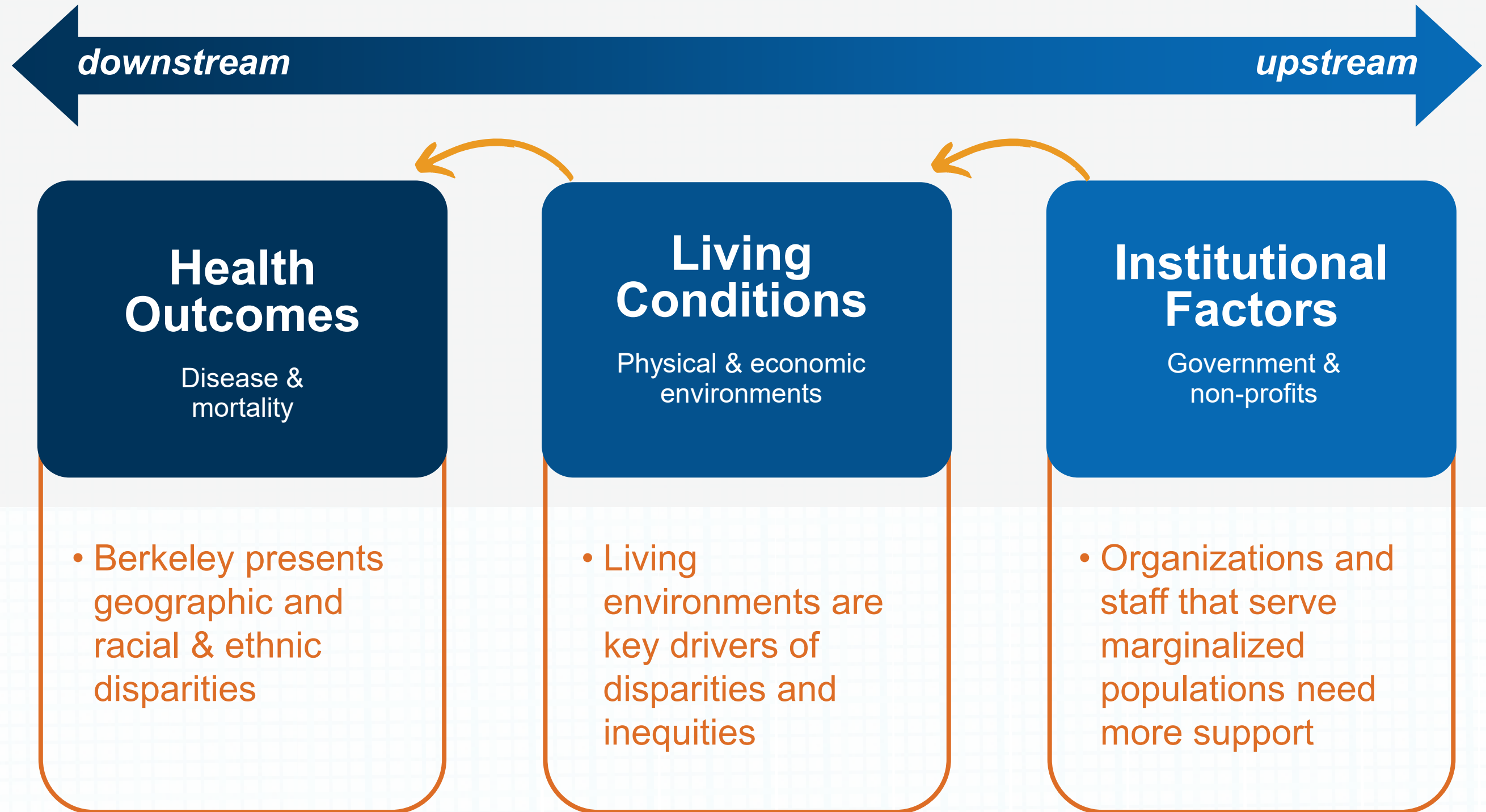
- Key informant interviews (n=15)*
- Document review (n=20)*
- Quantitative data review and synthesis



Overview

Taken as a whole, Berkeley is doing well in terms of health and wellness. But inequities and disparities exist and have intensified as a result of the pandemic.

Framework



Initial Findings

Key Achievements

- Measure O (2018): \$135M for affordable housing
- Measure P (2018): \$10M for homeless services
- Project Homekey Awards (2020 and 2022): 80 permanent affordable housing units
- Affordable housing preference policy (2023)
- Heart to Heart Program in South Berkeley
- Food pantries in South & West Berkeley

Health Outcomes

Disease & Mortality



Life Expectancy & Overall Health

Geography	2010-2015 Life Expectancy at Birth	2020 Fair or Poor General Health Among Adults
Berkeley, CA	82.8	10.1%
Alameda County, CA	80.9	12%
California	80.3	15.4%
United States of America	78.8	14.5%

Sources: CDC BRFSS PLACES 2020; CDC NCHS USALEEP 2010-2015

Berkeley is doing quite well in overall health outcomes, especially compared to Alameda County, California, and the United States.

Chronic Disease

Geography	2019 High Blood Pressure Among Adults	2019 Diagnosed Diabetes Among Adults
Berkeley, CA	22.1%	6.3%
Alameda County, CA	25.7%	9.3%
California	26.7%	9.8%
United States of America	32.6%	11%

Sources: CDC BRFSS PLACES 2019

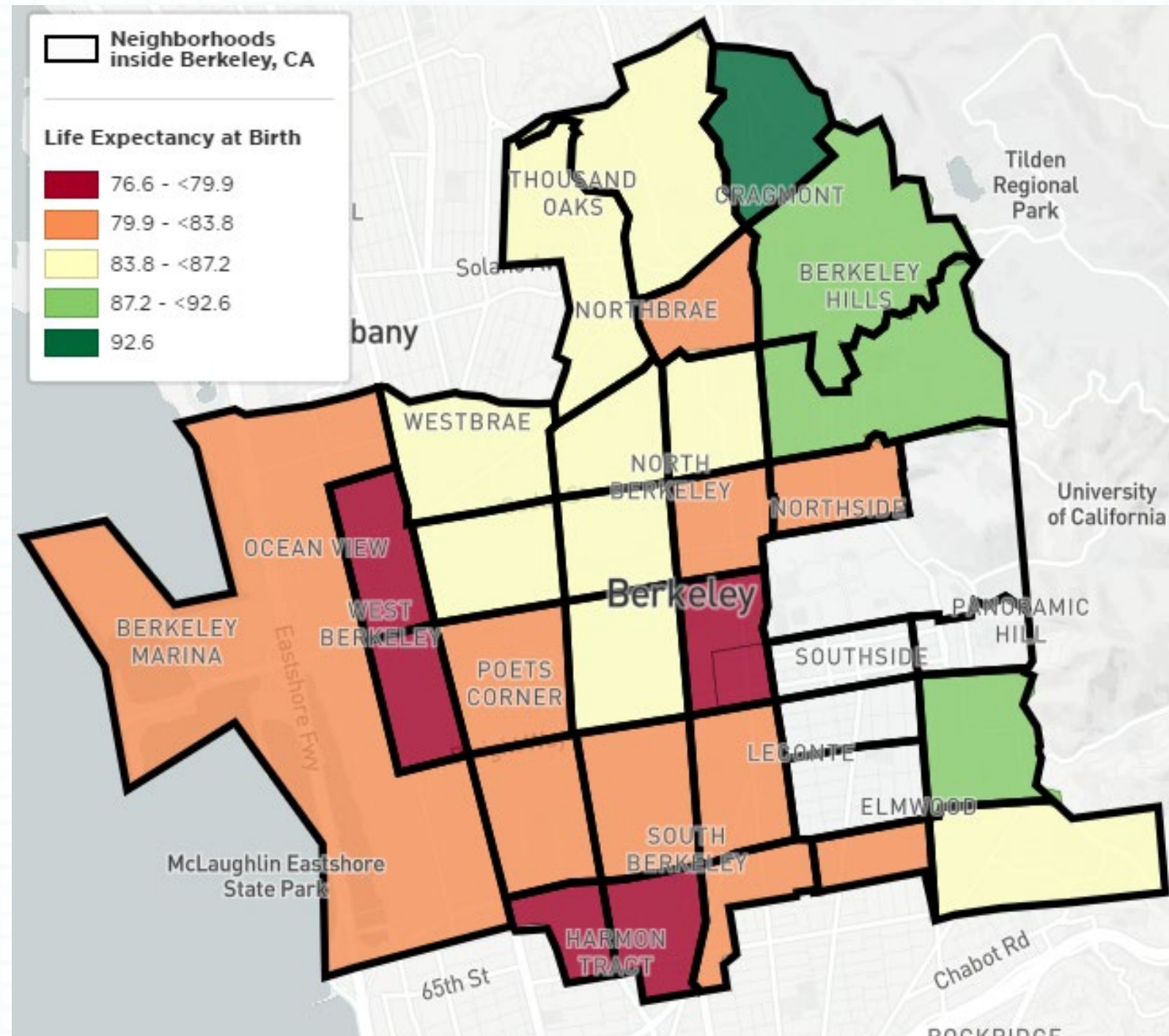
Rates of chronic disease are lower compared with the county, state, and country.

Health Outcomes

Inequities & Disparities



Life Expectancy



Life expectancy in Berkeley varies dramatically by place.

There is a **16 year** difference in life expectancy between the northern most census tract in the Berkeley Hills-Cragmont neighborhood (93 years), and the southern most census tract in the South Berkeley-Lorin neighborhood (77 years).

Living Conditions

Economic & Physical
Environments



Economic Environment

Poverty

Geography	2017-2021 White Children Below Poverty	2017-2021 Asian Children Below Poverty	2017-2021 Black Children Below Poverty	2017-2021 Hispanic or Latino Children Below Poverty
Berkeley, CA	4.3%	1.7%	20.7%	9.7%

Geography	2017-2021 White Seniors Below Poverty	2017-2021 Asian Seniors Below Poverty	2017-2021 Black Seniors Below Poverty	2017-2021 Hispanic or Latino Seniors Below Poverty	2017-2021 AIAN Seniors Below Poverty
Berkeley, CA	5.5%	10.2%	14.5%	12.2%	22.9%

**the AIAN senior community is fewer than 10 individuals.

Source: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year 2017-2021

The poverty rate for **children** (<18 years) and **seniors** (65+ years) varies significantly by race.

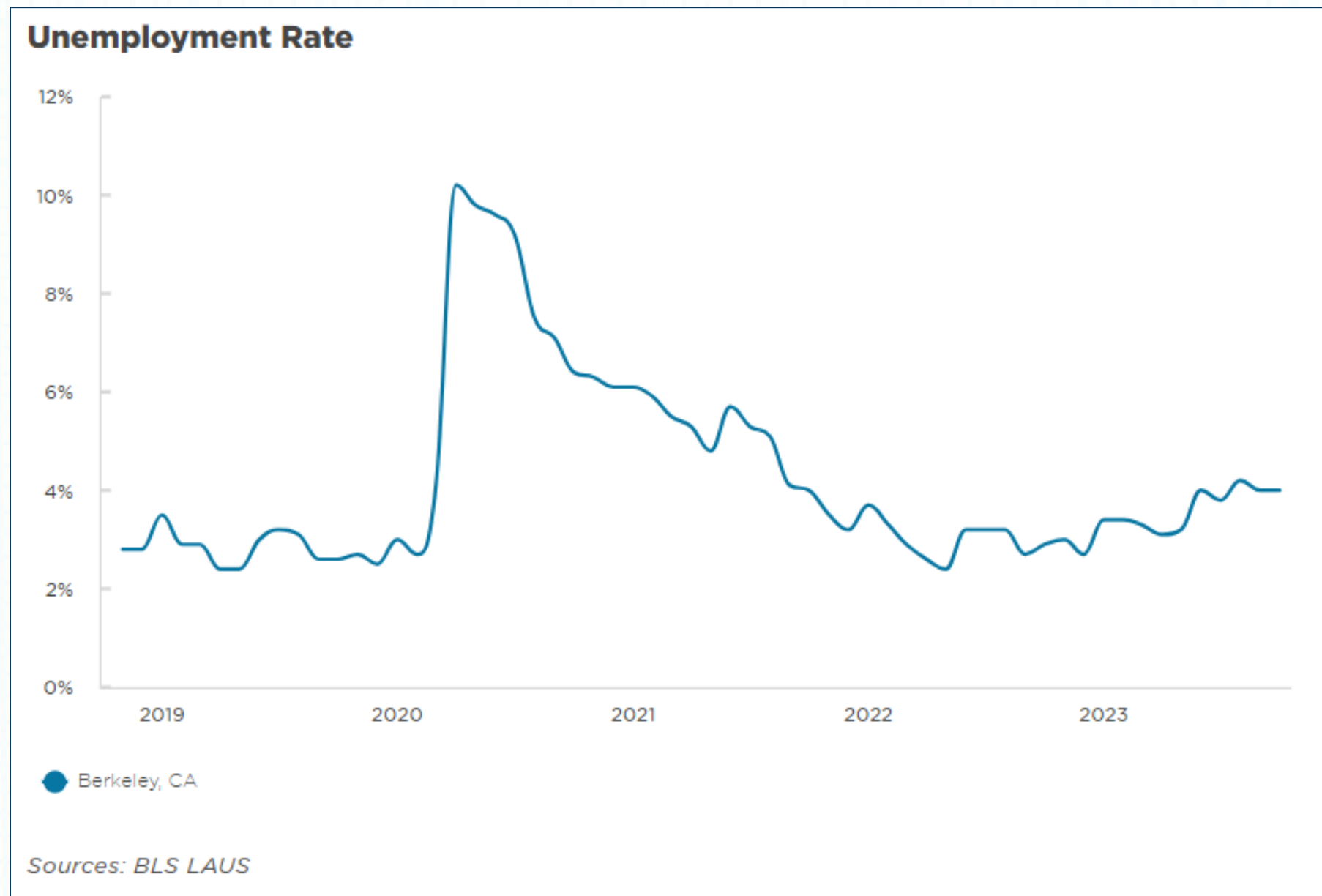
Other marginalized groups (i.e. trans-identified individuals) have been cited by interviewees as experiencing high rates of poverty as well.

“67% of our participants are below the poverty line; 49-48% are trans identified or under the trans umbrella, which is a huge change from a decade ago.”

-Nonprofit leader

Economic Environment - Unemployment

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

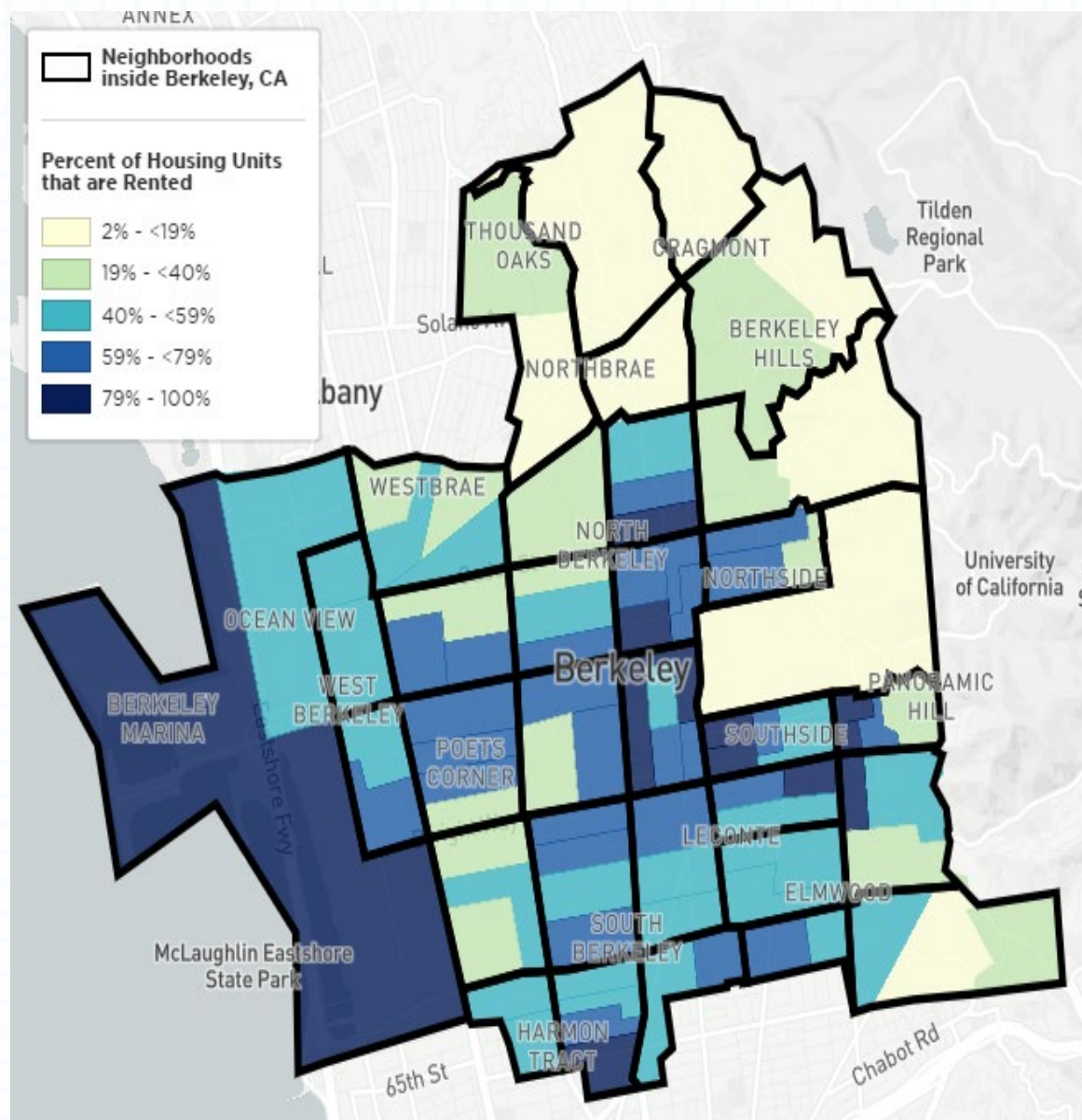


COVID had a dramatic impact on the city's economic wellbeing, a fact most plainly demonstrated by the **sharp rise in unemployment**. Recovery from this on-going and system-wide shock has been slow, and the city's unemployment rate **remains above pre-pandemic level**.

Physical & Economic Environments

Housing Access and Affordability

Homelessness and housing affordability were at the forefront of many interviewee’s minds. There is a multi-faceted impact of one’s housing situation on overall health. Interviewees referenced a lack of affordable, ADA compliant housing options. Berkeley has also seen an alarming **50% decline** in its population of **Black residents** since 1990.



Geography	2017-2021 Home Owners	2017-2021 Housing Cost Burdened Owners	2017-2021 Renters	2017-2021 Housing Cost Burdened Renters
Berkeley, CA	43.2%	27.6%	56.8%	51.9%

Source: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year 2017-2021

“The housing thing is huge... We know people who definitely were houseless during the pandemic... just struggling... We lost a lot of really wonderful artists during that time.”

-Nonprofit leader

Institutional Factors

Government & Non-profits



Resources: Staff, Funding & Infrastructure

- There is broad consensus across leaders inside and outside of government that existing **capacity** of CBOs and city agencies is **insufficient**.
- City leaders cited struggles of being a small LHJ with relatively little **funding** compared to county public health departments; **staff shortages**; and **siloing** of departments.
- CBOs cited low funding levels, lack of staff, and infrastructure challenges.

“We don’t have capacity for so much because we have to struggle so hard for our funding.”

- Nonprofit leader

“We have a very vast reporting responsibility, because we’re funded by about 15 different grants and contracts. So we have a very vast reporting structure that is necessitated by this very complex budget that we work with.”

-Nonprofit leader

Next Steps

Community Health Assessment (CHA) | February - September 2024

- Community Steering Committee
 - 10 people with diversity in geography, race/identity, gender, age, lived experience, and skills/expertise
 - Meet 1-2x/month, kick off meeting February 29

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) | September 2024 - May 2025

- Develop and implement strategies to address high priority health issues

Appendix A: Key Informant Interviewees

- Amy Davidson, Deputy Director, HHCS
- Lisa Warhuus, Director, HHCS
- Janice Chin, Division Manager, Public Health Division, HHCS
- Karen Klatt, Mental Health Services Act Coordinator, Berkeley Mental Health
- Jeff Buell, Mental Health Division Manager, Berkeley Mental Health
- Tanya Bustamante, Aging Services Manager, HHCS
- Coco Auerswald, Professor of Community Health Sciences, UC Berkeley
- Lasara Firefox Allen, Executive Director, The Pacific Center
- Natalia Neira, Executive Director, La Peña Cultural Center
- Brenda Goldstein, Chief of Integrated Services, Lifelong Medical (FQHC)
- Tse-Sung Wu, President, Berkeley PTA Council
- Wilhelmenia Wilson, Executive Director, Healthy Black Families
- Rich Woolbert, Deputy Executive Director, Easy Does It
- Mirna Cervantes, Executive Director, Multicultural Institute
- Kimi Watkins-Tartt, Director, Alameda County Public Health Department

Appendix B: Document Review

- Berkeley 2018 Health Status Summary Report
- HHCS website
- Berkeley MHSA FY24-26 Three Year Plan
- City of Berkeley Adopted Budget FY 2023 & 2024
- 2023-2031 Berkeley Housing Element
- Alameda County CHA 2022-25
- Staff Shortages: City Services Constrained by Staff Retention Challenges and Delayed Hiring
- Budget Referral: Funds to Study Berkeley's Affordable and Social Housing Needs and Programmatic and Funding Opportunities
- Fulfilling the Promise of Berkeley's Reimagining Public Safety Initiative: Recommendations for a Comprehensive, Phased Approach
- Kaiser Oakland 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment
- Kaiser Oakland 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment
- Alta Bates 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment
- Policy & Funding, Alameda County CoC
- 2022 Alameda County PIT Count
- Direct Services | City of Berkeley
- The City of Berkeley Employer of Choice Initiative
- Berkeley 2022 Point In Time Count
- Age Friendly Executive Summary
- Homeless Solutions in AC Plans and Reports