



PIONEERED BY THE
ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION



RESILIENT HOUSTON

EQUITY Fall Planning Workshop

November 1, 2019
HGAC

WHAT IS URBAN RESILIENCE?

Urban Resilience

The capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and thrive no matter what kinds of **chronic stresses** and **acute shocks** they experience.

100RC GLOBAL NETWORK



(Under Reboot)

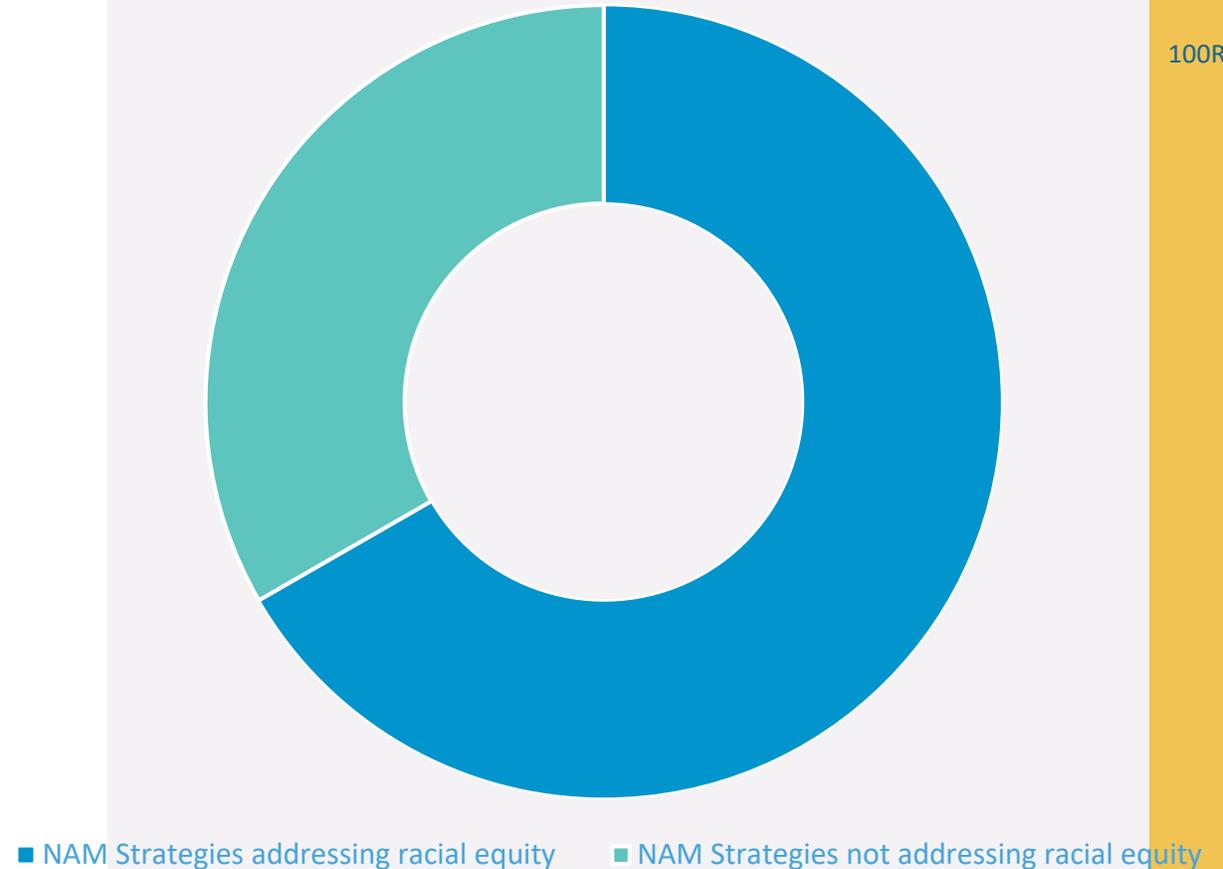


74 RESILIENCE STRATEGIES HAVE BEEN RELEASED

Equity & Resilience

Racial equity is emerging as a key resilience priority in North America

More than 70% of the Resilience Strategies published to date in North America explicitly address racial equity with a total of 175 unique resilience initiatives.



Equity & Resilience



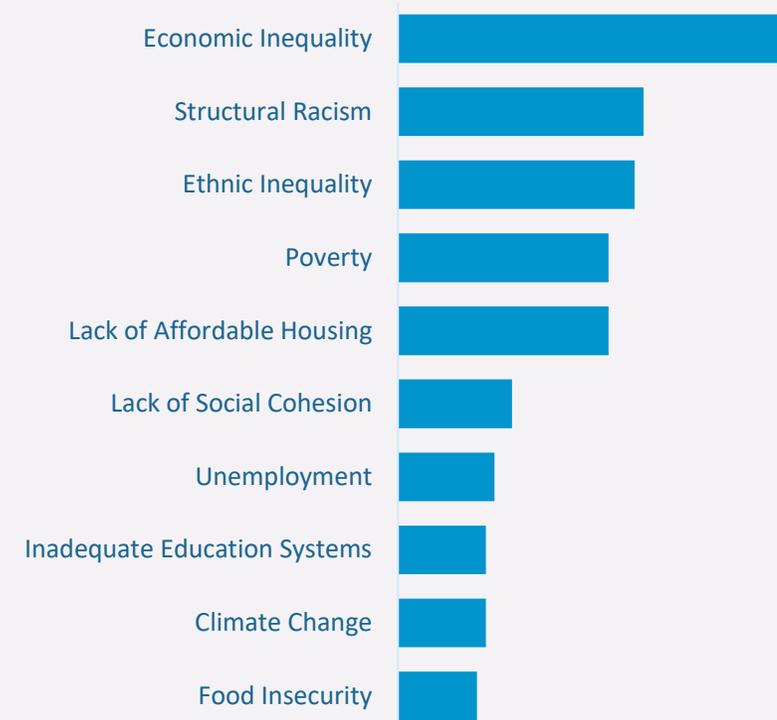
Resilient Cities at the Forefront

A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE TO ACTION

THE RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK
EXCHANGE PROGRAM

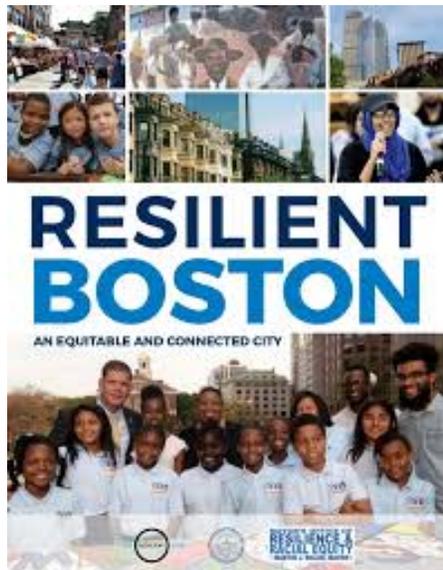


Racial equity initiatives focus on resilience stresses



Most racial equity initiatives explicitly respond to the stress of economic inequality. The most common intersection is with issues of affordable housing, poverty, unemployment, and climate change.

Equity & Vulnerable Populations and Neighborhoods



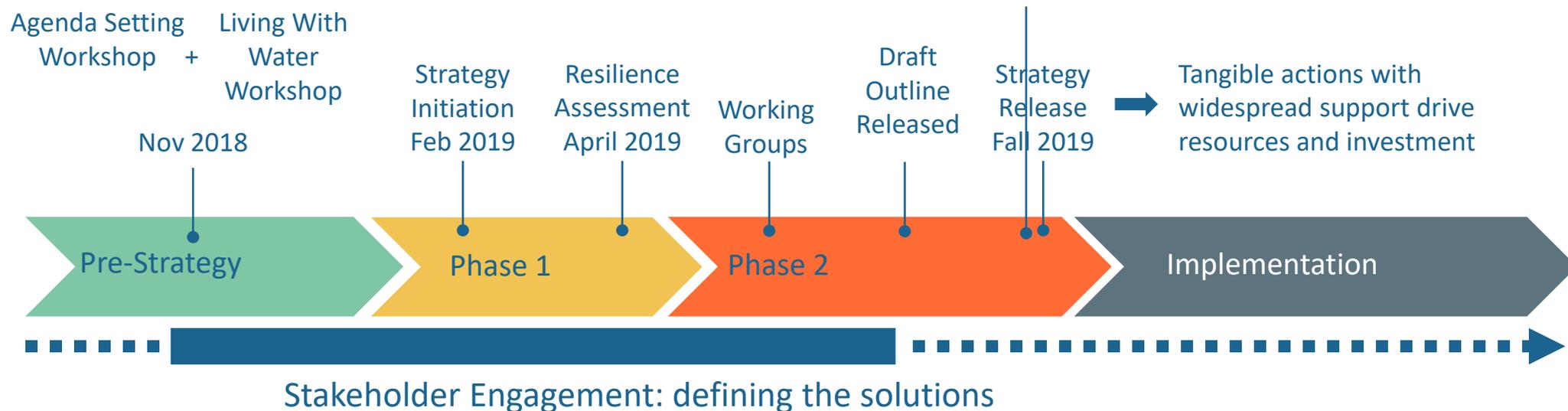
Vulnerable Populations and Neighborhoods – from Resilient Los Angeles

When we talk about vulnerable populations and neighborhoods throughout this document, we want to be clear about not projecting a victimhood label on any Angeleno or neighborhood. The diversity of our neighbors and neighborhoods is a source of pride for our city as we continue to strive for additional inclusion and participation from everyone. **However, it is important to acknowledge the inequities and disparities that more advantaged Angelenos and affluent neighborhoods do not face, including historical and systemic discrimination, exclusion, marginalization, exploitation, underrepresentation, and dis - investment.** Nothing about an individual’s race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin, immigrant status, linguistic ability, or ZIP code makes them inherently vulnerable. **We see acknowledging vulnerability as an assessment of the system’s deficiencies, rather than as a judgment of any Angeleno or neighborhood. And while Resilient Los Angeles is for every Angeleno, the actions we take to make Los Angeles safer and stronger will prioritize identifying and addressing our greatest vulnerabilities.**

Developing Resilient Houston

The **Strategy** is a tactical roadmap to build resilience that articulates the city’s resilience priorities and specific initiatives for short-, medium-, and long-term implementation.

WE ARE HERE



BUILDING ON AND CONNECTING EXISTING EFFORTS

What do you see as Houston's most important existing efforts to strengthen and build the resilience of the city? (November 2018)



2,500,000

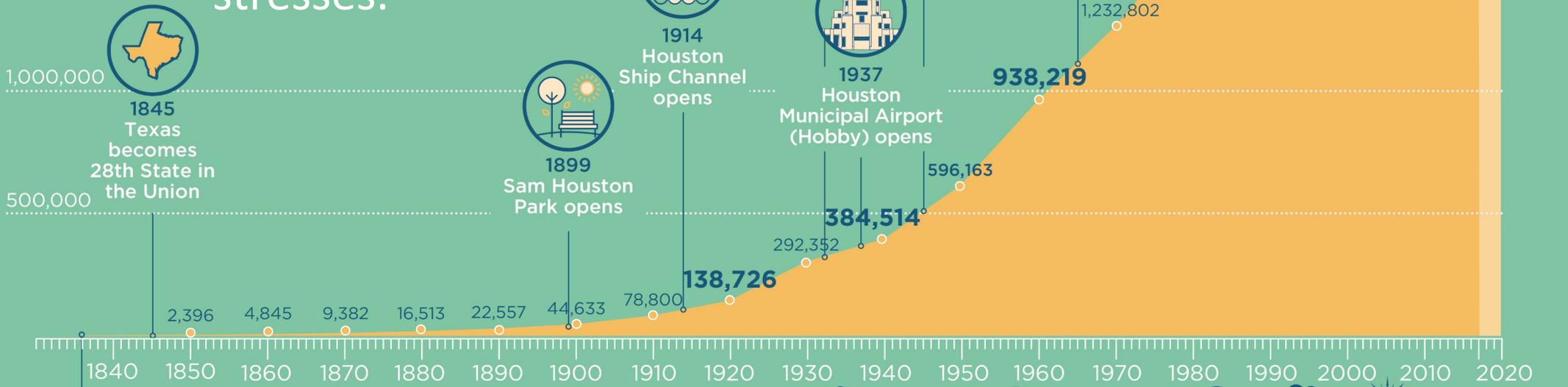
2,000,000

1,500,000

1,000,000

500,000

As Houston has grown, it has experienced significant milestones as well as shocks and stresses.



Resilient Assessment for Houston (May 2019) is located here:

<https://www.houstontx.gov/mayor/Resilient-Houston-Resilience-Assessment-2019may.pdf>

PRIORITY SHOCKS AND STRESSES FOR HOUSTON

Equity + Inclusion

- **Poor education quality or access**
- **Poverty/ inequity**
- **Lack of health care access**
- **Lack of equal economic opportunity for all**
- **Linguistic Isolation**
- **Environmental injustice**

Infrastructure + Economy

- **Cyber attack**
- **Infrastructure failure**
- **Aging infrastructure**
- **Overreliance on one industry**
- **Lack of economic diversity**
- **Slow recovery from Harvey**
- **Population growth**
- **Energy transition**
- **Oil & gas downturn**

Health + Safety

- **High winds/tornados**
- **Hazardous materials incidents**
- **Extreme cold**
- **Terrorism**
- **Health emergency**
- **Poor air quality**
- **Crime and violence**
- **Environmental degradation**
- **Mental/behavioral health**

Housing + Mobility

- **Poor transportation network quality**
- **Lack of affordable housing**
- **Land use and urban sprawl**
- **Homelessness**
- **Lack of pedestrian safety and accessibility**
- **Displacement**

Water + Climate

- **Flooding**
- **Hurricanes**
- **Coastal storms**
- **Drought**
- **Extreme heat**
- **Wildland fire**
- **Hail & Lightning**
- **Climate change**
- **Sea level rise / storm surge**
- **Subsidence**

FRAMING HOUSTON'S RESILIENCE-BUILDING BY THEME & SCALE

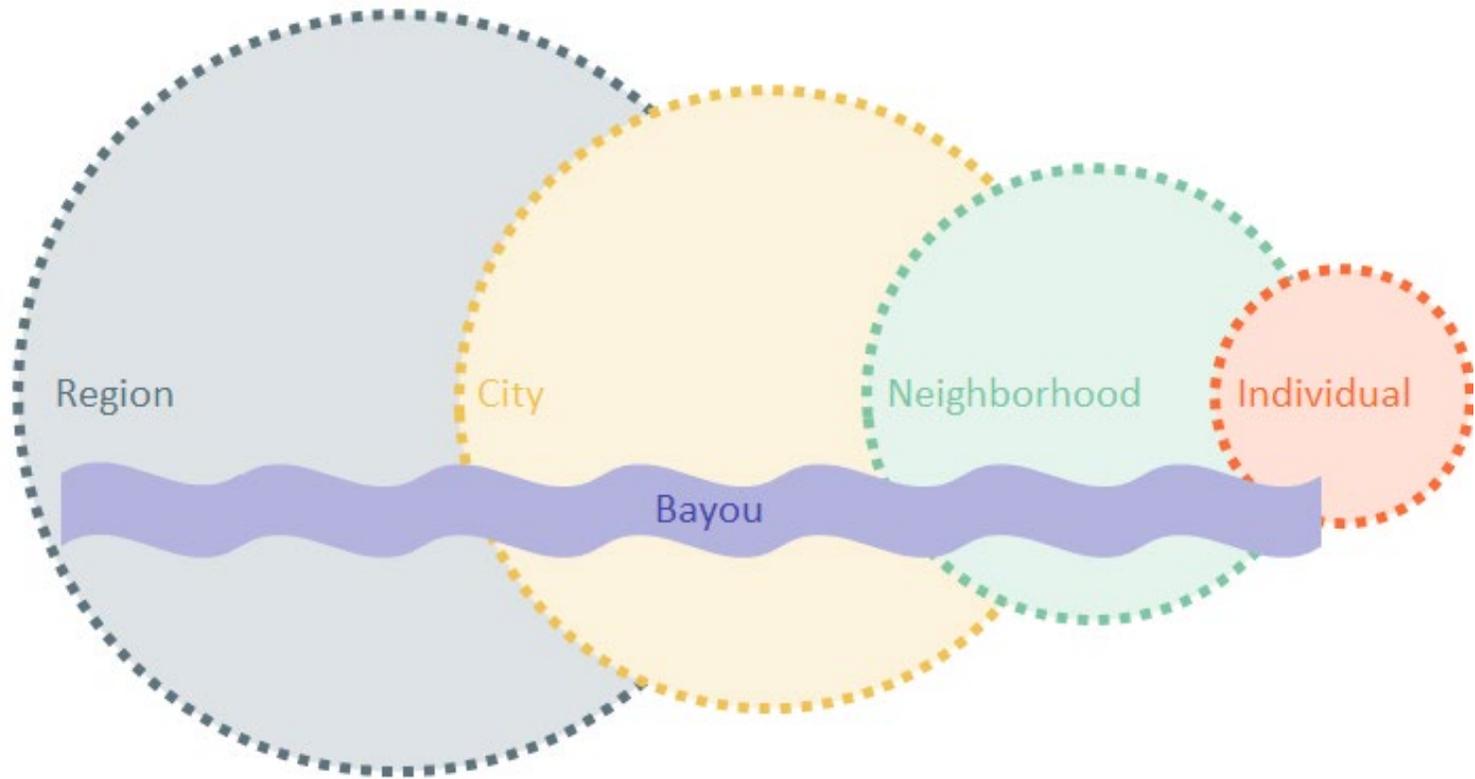
Achieving Equity
and Inclusion

Building Forward

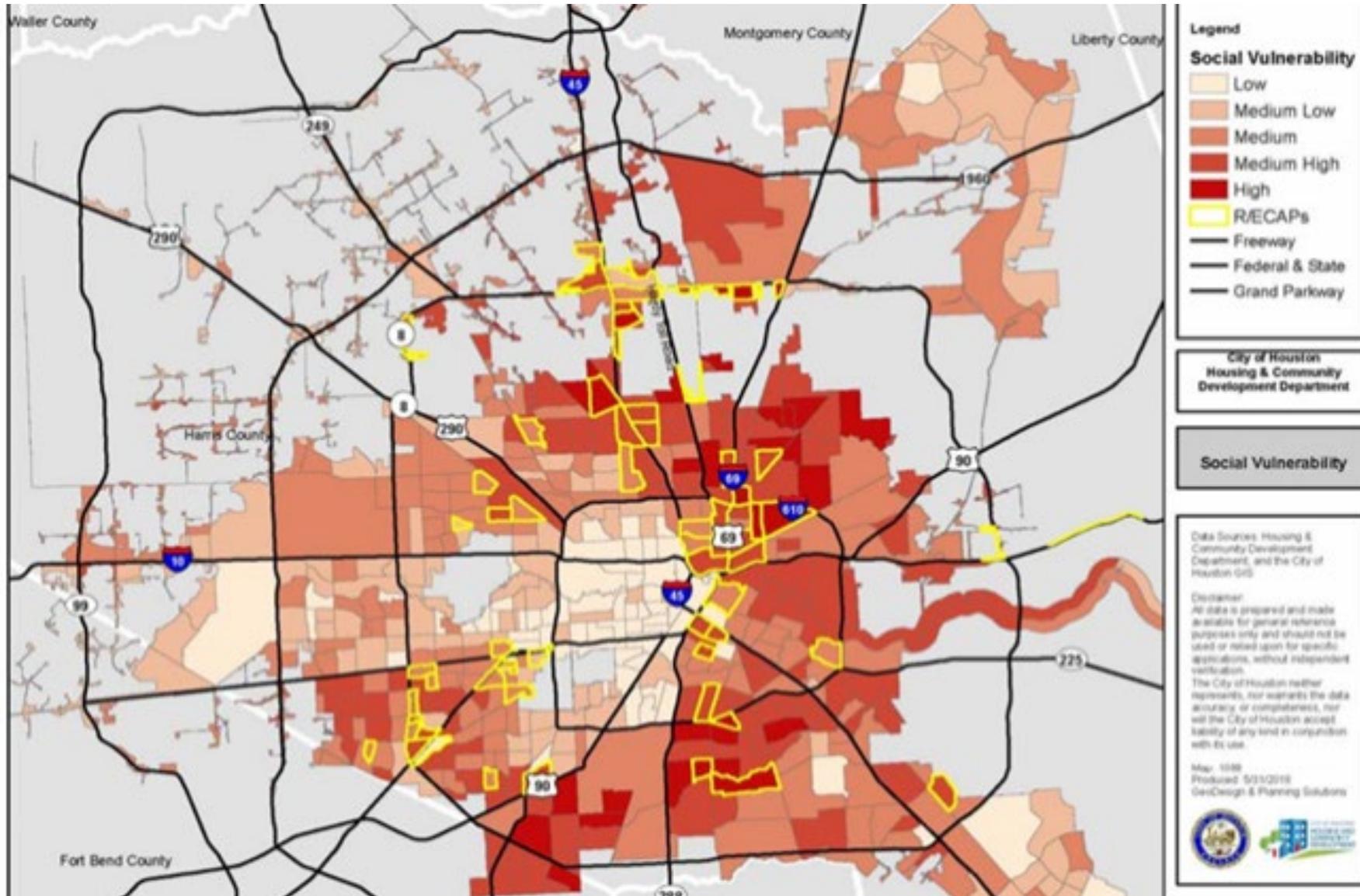
Improving Health
and Safety

Integrating Housing
and Mobility

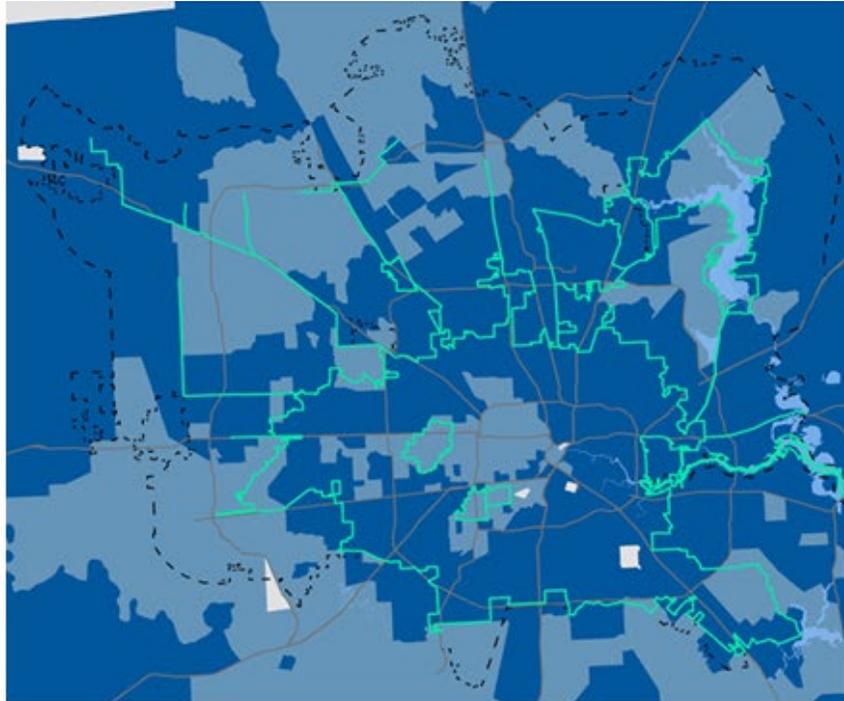
Living With and Without
Water



SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

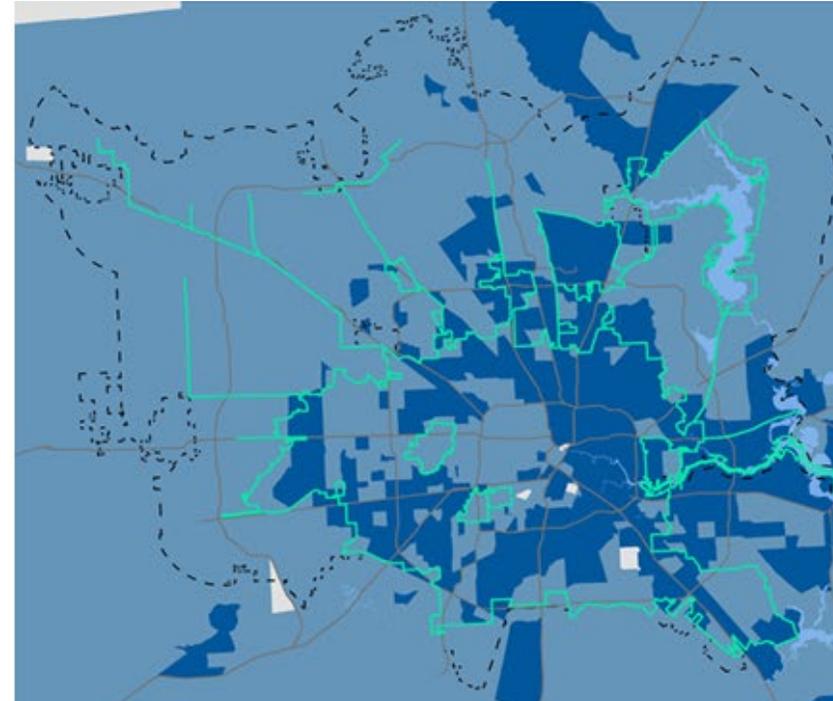


AFFORDABLE HOUSING & TRANSPORTATION



Housing is less than 30% of income
 Housing is more than 30% of income

When using the standard metric that suggests housing costs not exceed 30% of income, much of the Houston area is affordable to local residents.

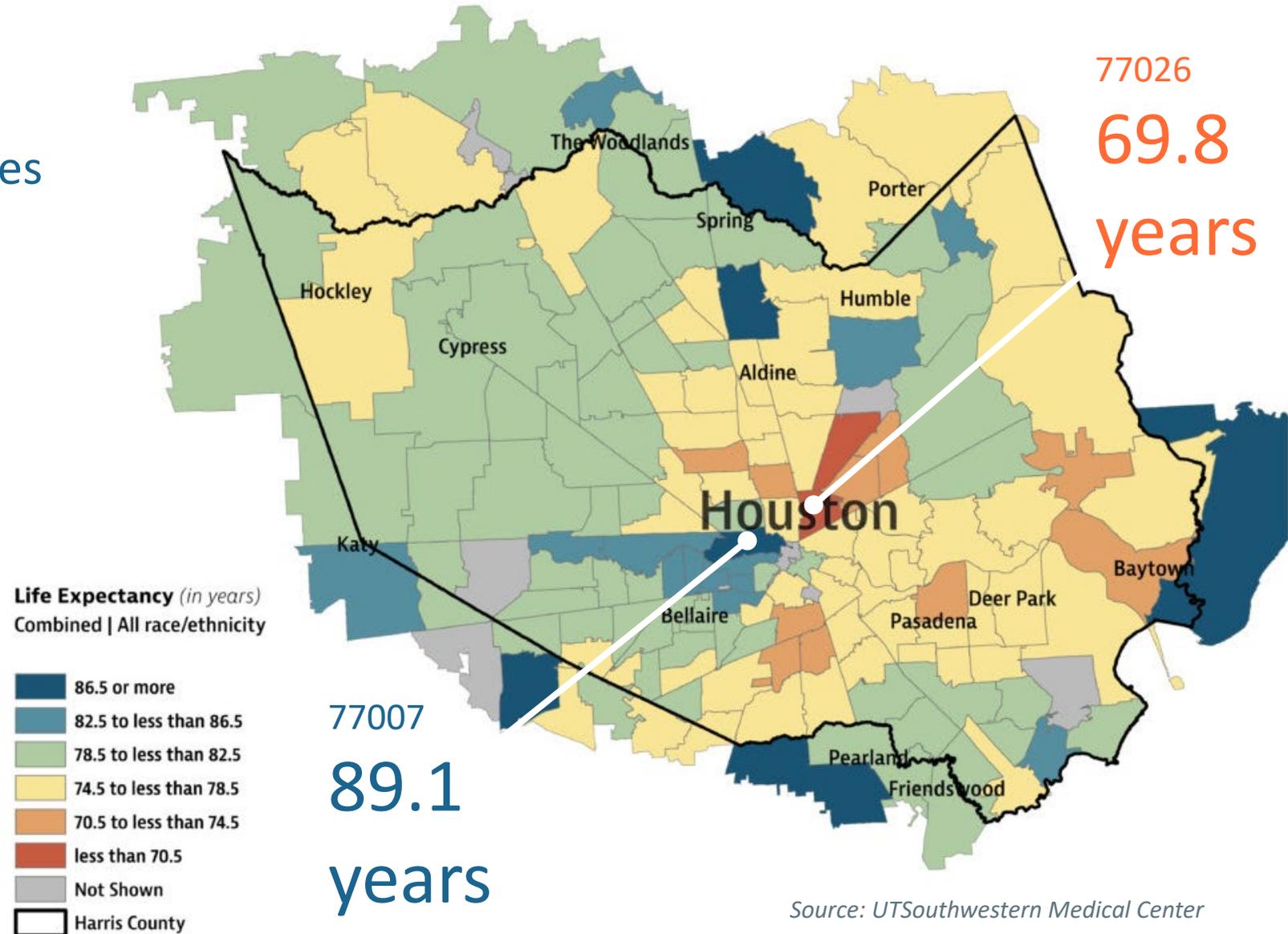


Housing + Transportation is less than 45% of income
 Housing + Transportation is more than 45% of income

When using the standard metric that suggests housing + transportation costs not exceed 45% of income, much of the Houston area is unaffordable to residents.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

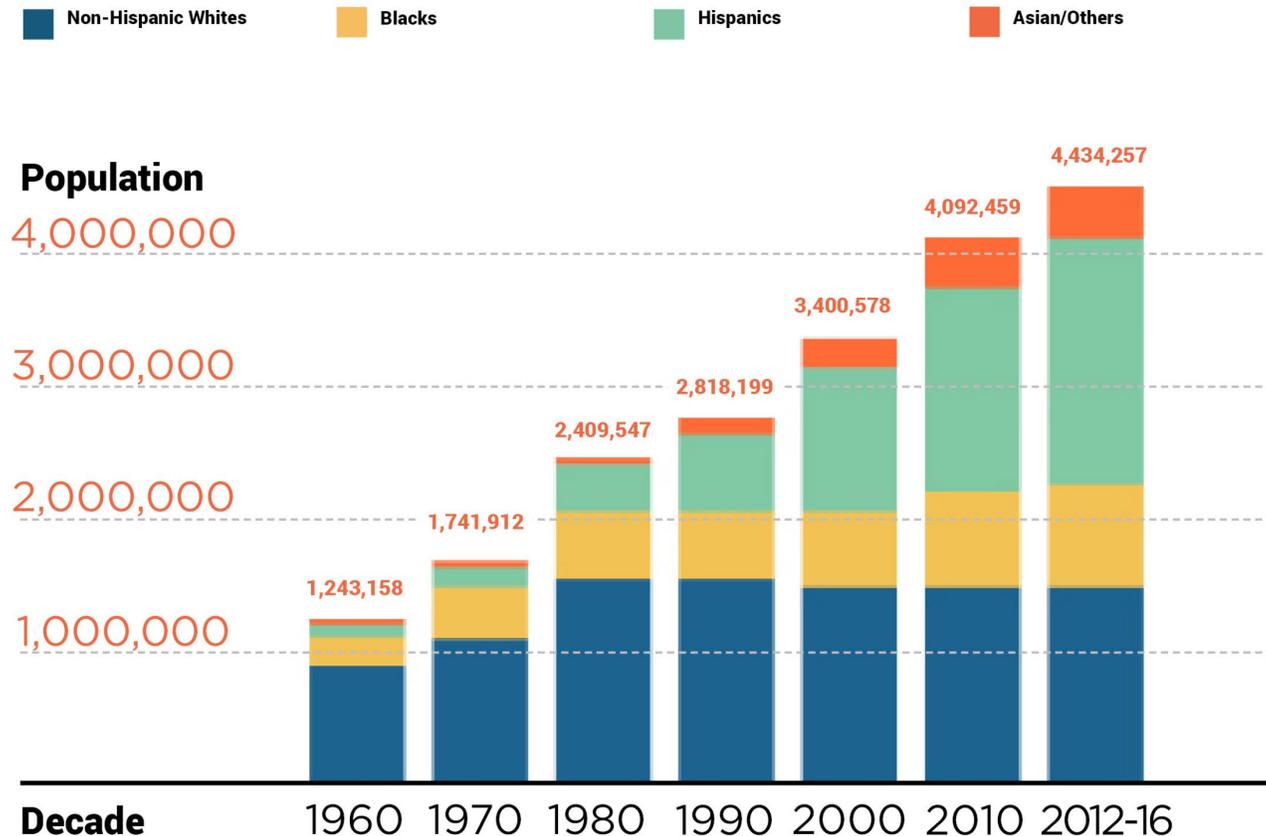
Life expectancy varies by as much as **20 years** between zip codes.



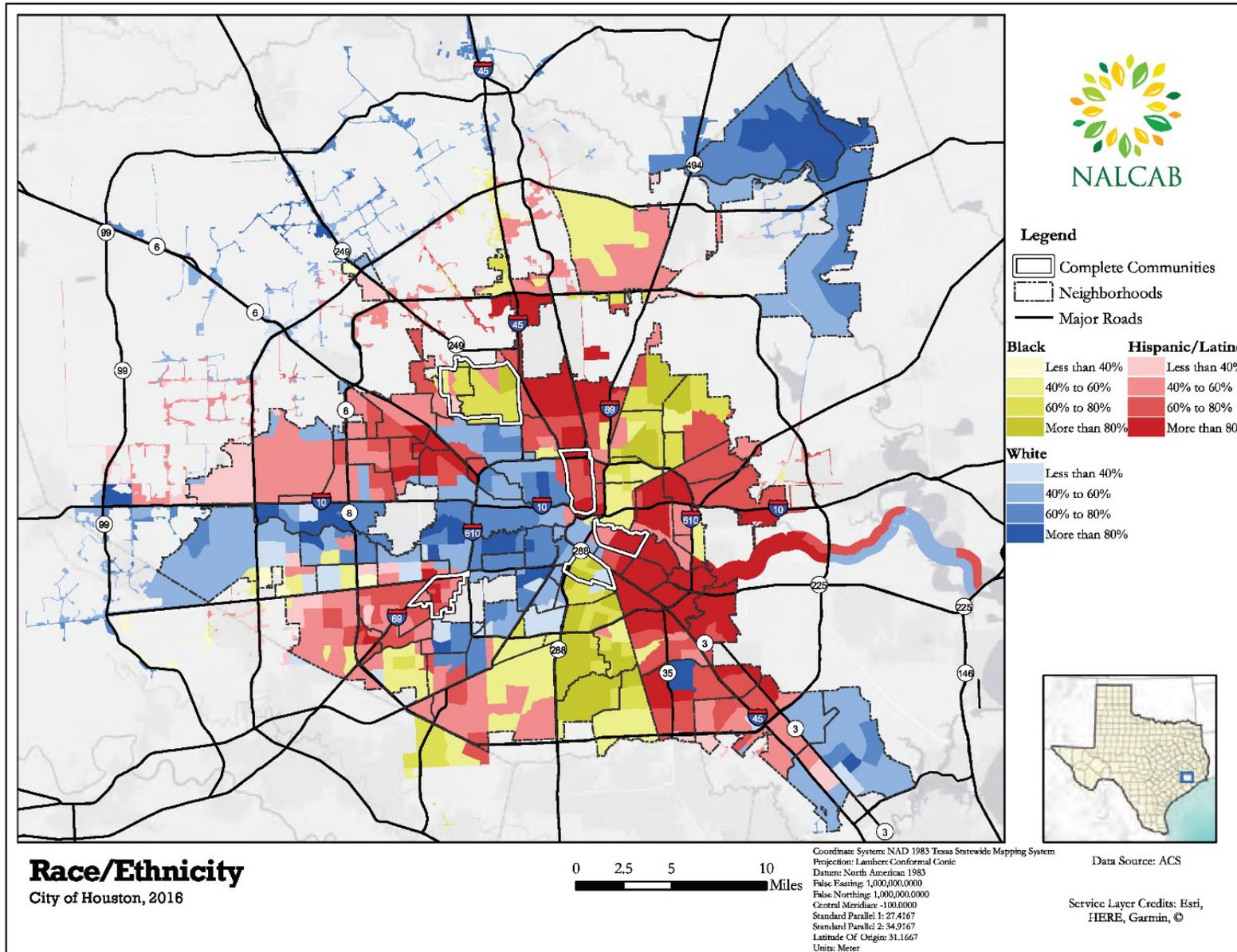
RACIAL DIVERSITY ON THE RISE

Since the 1960's Houstonians have become increasingly diverse with the Hispanic population becoming the majority at 43.8%. Non-Hispanic White population is 25.6%, Black or African American population is 23.7%, Asian population is 6%

Demographics of Harris County by Decade (1960-2010) and ACS Estimates for 2012-2016

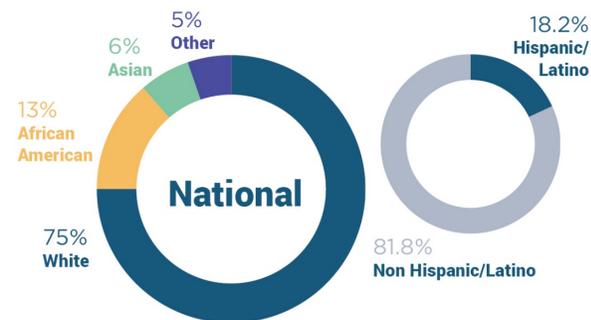
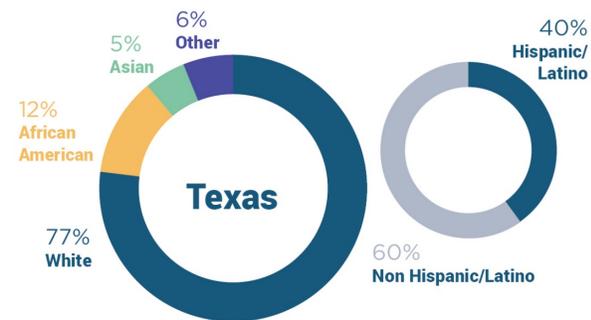
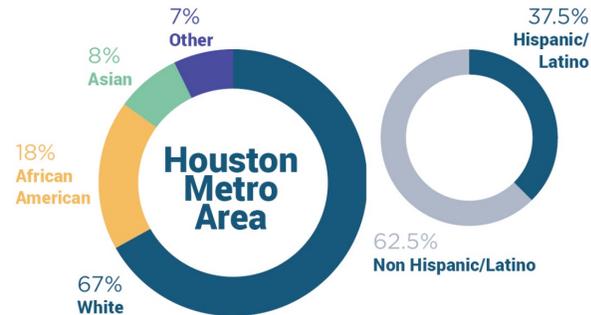


RESIDENTIAL RACIAL SEGREGATION



A MULTICULTURAL METROPOLIS

One in four Houstonians were born outside of the United States.



145

Languages spoken in Houston.

3rd in the Nation after NYC & LA for languages spoken*

More than

one third

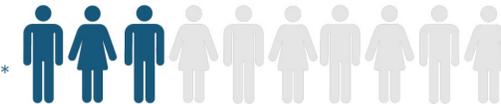
of Houstonians over 5 years old speak a language other than English at home *

Foreign Born

59% In the Gulfton Community



29% Overall in Houston**



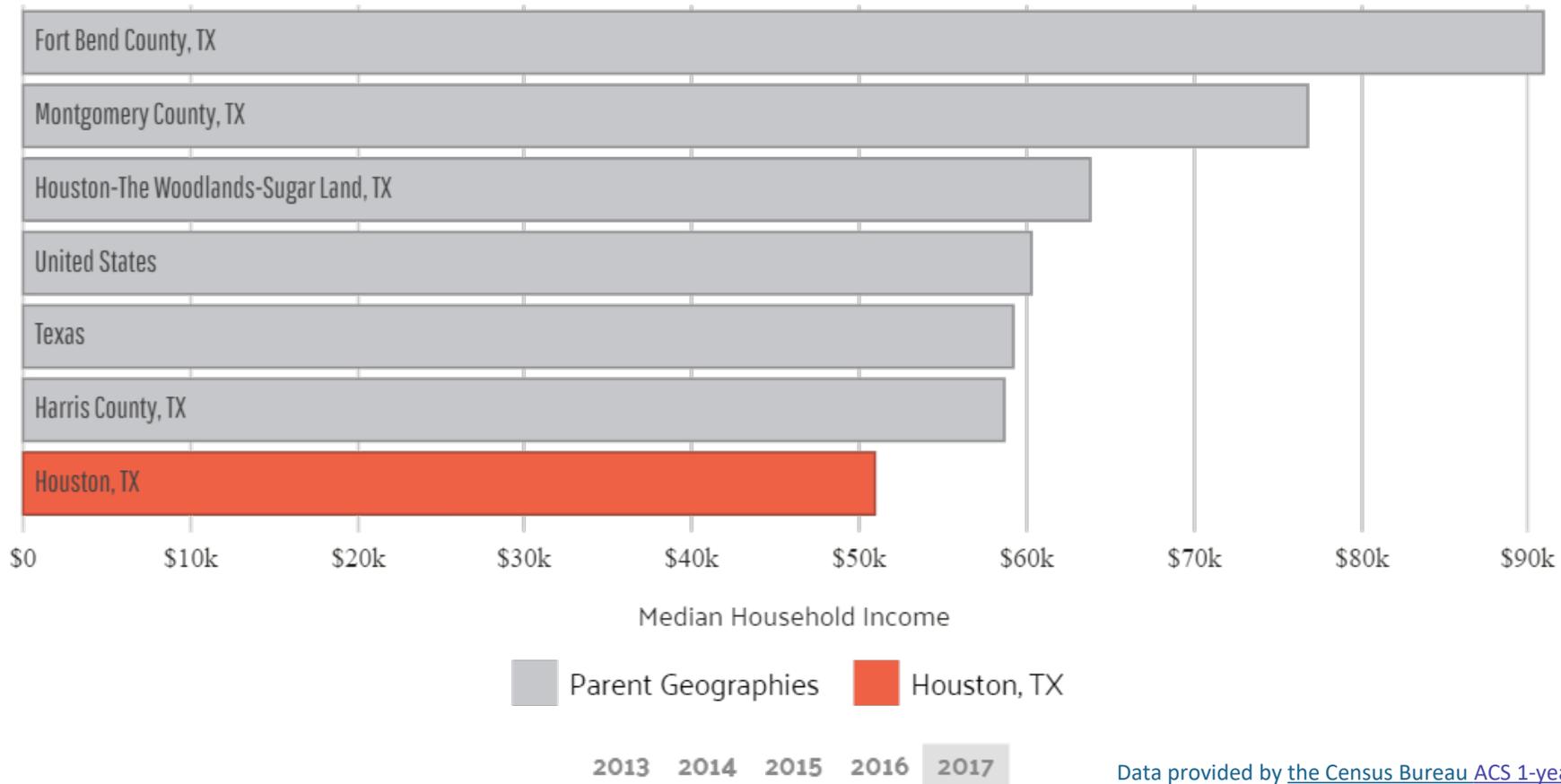
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race. 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

*Source: Visit Houston. About Houston, Facts and Figures. Accessed March 20, 2019. <https://www.visithoustontexas.com/about-houston/facts-and-figures/>

** City of Houston. Gulfton, Complete Community Data Snapshot. http://www.houstontx.gov/completemunities/docs_pdfs/Gulfton/Gulfton-DataSnapshot.pdf

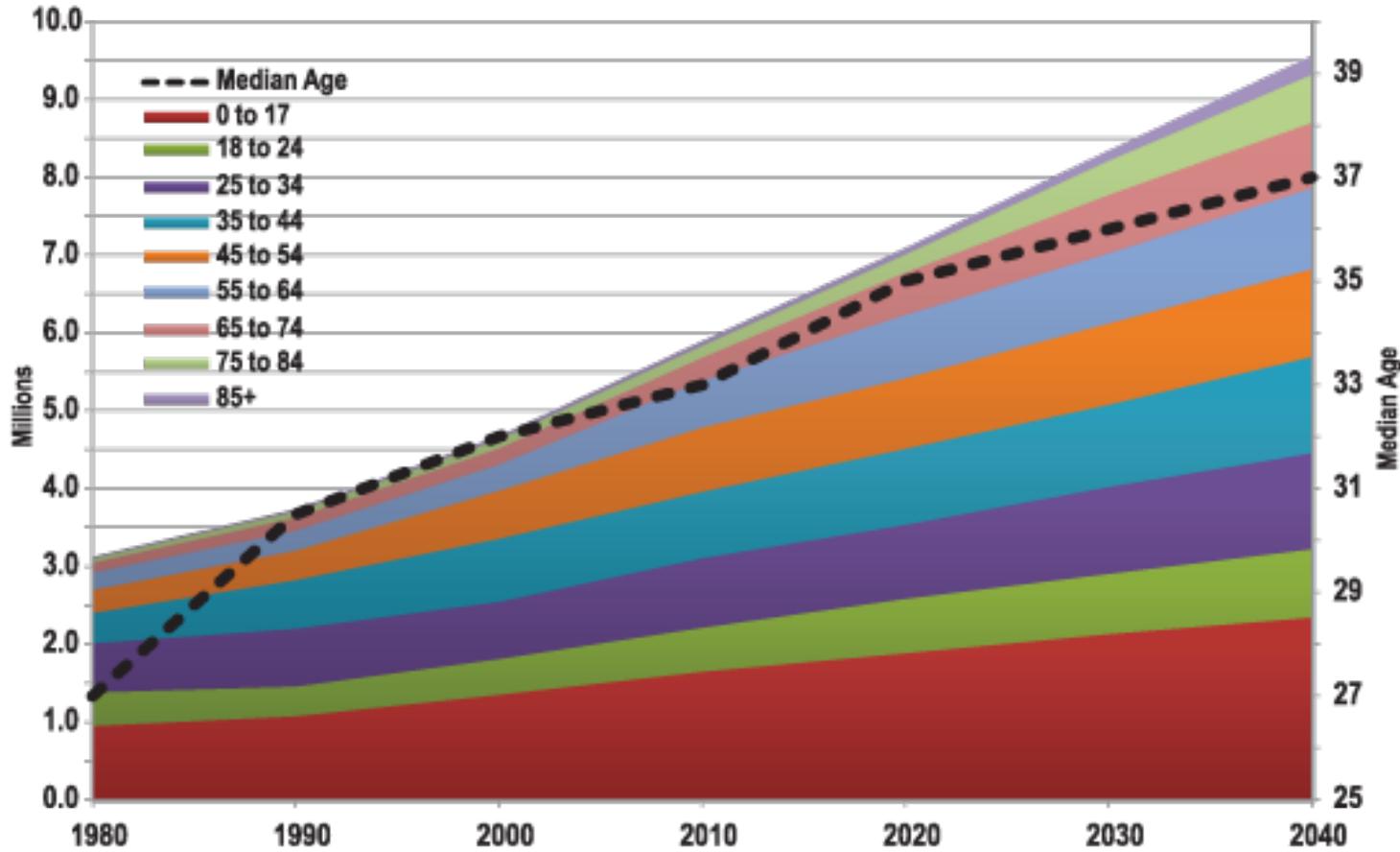
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Households in Houston have a median annual income of \$50,896, which is less than the median annual income of \$60,336 across the entire United States. This is in comparison to a median income of \$47,793 in 2016, which represents a 6.49% annual growth.



Data provided by [the Census Bureau ACS 1-year Estimate](#)

CHANGING AGE DEMOGRAPHICS



By 2040, the percentage of the population age 60+ will be nearly 10 percent higher than it is today. On the other end of the spectrum, people younger than 20 are expected to make up a smaller portion of the total population than they do today. The implication here is that fewer adult households will have children in schools.

AND SPECIFIC POPULATONS WE SERVE

Over 215,000 Houstonians one or more disability characteristics including:

- 53,000 Houstonians with a **hearing difficulty**
- 46,000 Houstonians with a **vision difficulty**
- 82,000 Houstonians with a **cognitive difficulty**
- 116,000 Houstonians with an **ambulatory difficulty**
- 47,000 Houstonians with a **self-care difficulty**
- 77,000 Houstonians with an **independent living difficulty**



Over 4,000 Houstonians are experiencing **homelessness** according to the 2018 annual Point-In-Time Homeless Count & Survey.



Over 300,000 **Veterans** call the Greater Houston Area home.

Resilience Actions Recommendations

- Working Group Members developed over 100 ideas to build resilience, many focused on equity and inclusion:
 - Developing Equity Indicators
 - Racial Equity Training
 - Equitable Community Outreach
 - Local Hire Program
 - Increase Co-opts
 - Cash and direct assistance programs post disaster
 - Culturally informed disaster case management
 - Living wage jobs
 - Change history of environmental injustice and environmental racism
 - Workforce development opportunities
 - Equitable housing and neighborhood development investment fund
 - Equity metric for parks
 - Equity policy analysis approach
 - Grow language access program
 - ADA Transition Plan

WHAT MAKES UP AN ACTION?

1 GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE INCENTIVES

Establish incentives program to stimulate private sector investment in green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) to increase the number of projects that capture water for reuse, improve water quality, and reduce flooding risk.

Through the support of the Houston Endowment, the City of Houston is in the process of completing a one-year study that provides recommendations to encourage the use of GSI in the private sector. Greater implementation of GSI in private land

development projects will allow project sponsors, the City, and the area around these projects to realize economic, social, and environmental benefits, as well as enhanced resilience. Green infrastructure strategies will vary between simpler

solutions, such as swales and parkway basins, and larger projects, such as underground infiltration galleries under key streets and alleys, where the water supply benefits are greatest.

Shocks/Stresses



Timeframe



Short Term

Partners

Houston Public Works / Planning / Greater Houston Builders Association / Houston Parks Board / Mayor's Office / ULI – Houston / Private-sector partners

SDG



Implementation



Partnerships

Smart Cities

Metrics

Communication & Education

Shocks/Stresses

These icons represent the acute shocks and chronic stresses to which Houston is susceptible

Timeframe

The timeframe for implementing each action is identified as immediate (2020), Short term (2025), Medium term (2030) or Long term (2050)

Partners

Implementation partners include key public, private, nonprofit, and academic collaborators that will advance Resilient Houston actions in the years ahead. Partnership is not exclusive and is meant to be a starting point for implementation.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 for the year 2030. Global Cities are aligning local actions with the SDGs.

Implementation Theme

Key themes including Communication/ Education, Partnerships, Metrics, Smart Cities, Finance, and Legal/Legislative will allow for Actions to be grouped in ways that will accelerate implementation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR RESILIENCE



<https://www.houstontx.gov/mayor/chief-resilience-officer.html>

Thank you!

Marissa Aho, AICP

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City of Houston

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