

<https://flipboard.com/article/9-maps-that-show-which-areas-could-be-more-vulnerable-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/a-dGSfbRpyT5S0qepnGO0gnA%3Aa%3A3002413-5722e2c7ab%2Ffastcompany.com>

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COVID-19 AND THE CRISIS: VULNERABILITIES IN LOS ANGELES

3.23.20

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THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

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With COVID-19 threatening the nation, certain populations are more vulnerable to its health, economic, and education impacts.

Community partners asked USC's Program for Environmental & Regional Equity (PERE) to look at certain vulnerable populations in Los Angeles: the elderly, the undocumented, renters, and children on the other side of the digital divide.



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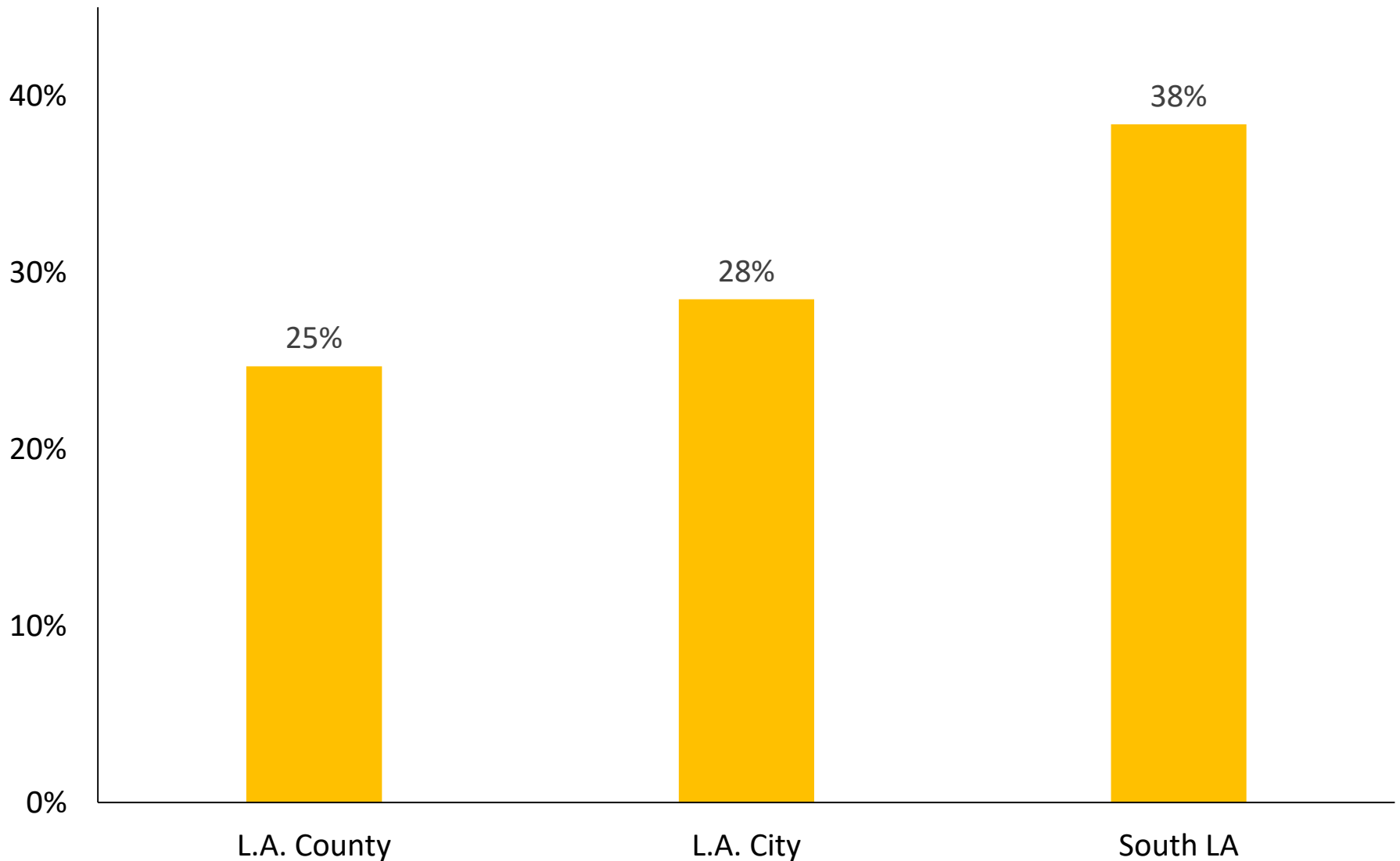
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To do this, we analyzed three data sets: the 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) micro-data (so that we could devise customized disaggregations), a special version of the 2013-2017 ACS in which we previously estimated legal status, and the 2014-2018 ACS summary files which are best for mapping and other sorts of geographic analysis. So here's what we found . . .



Because Los Angeles is a high-cost area, economists tend to look at those living below 150% of the poverty level. The share of seniors living below that is much higher in South LA than in the City or the County.

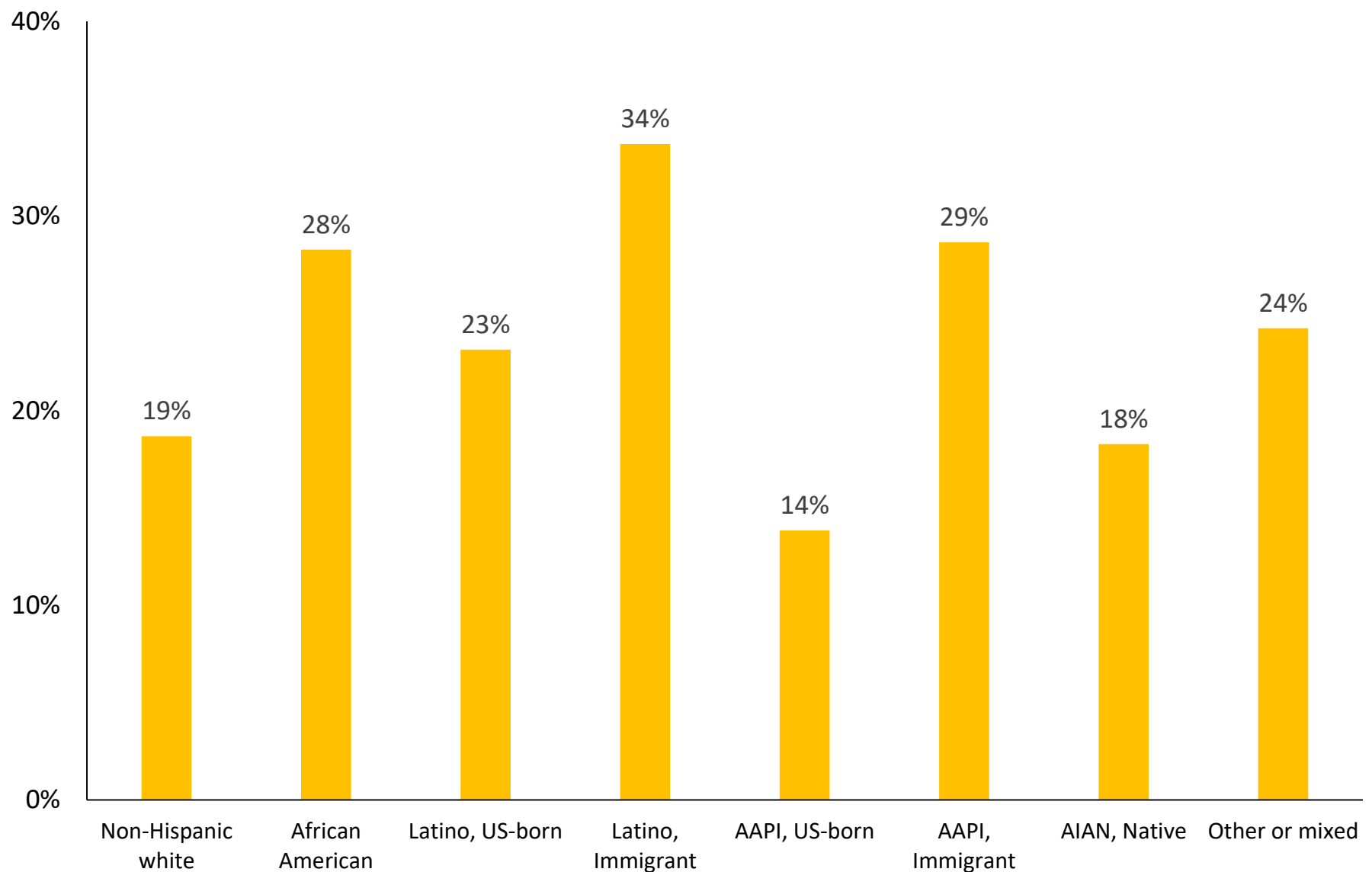
Percent of Seniors (65 years & older) Living Below 150% of the Poverty Level, L.A. County, City, & South LA, 2018



Note: Data reflect a 2014 through 2018 average.

The share of seniors living below 150% of the poverty level in the County varies dramatically by race & nativity.

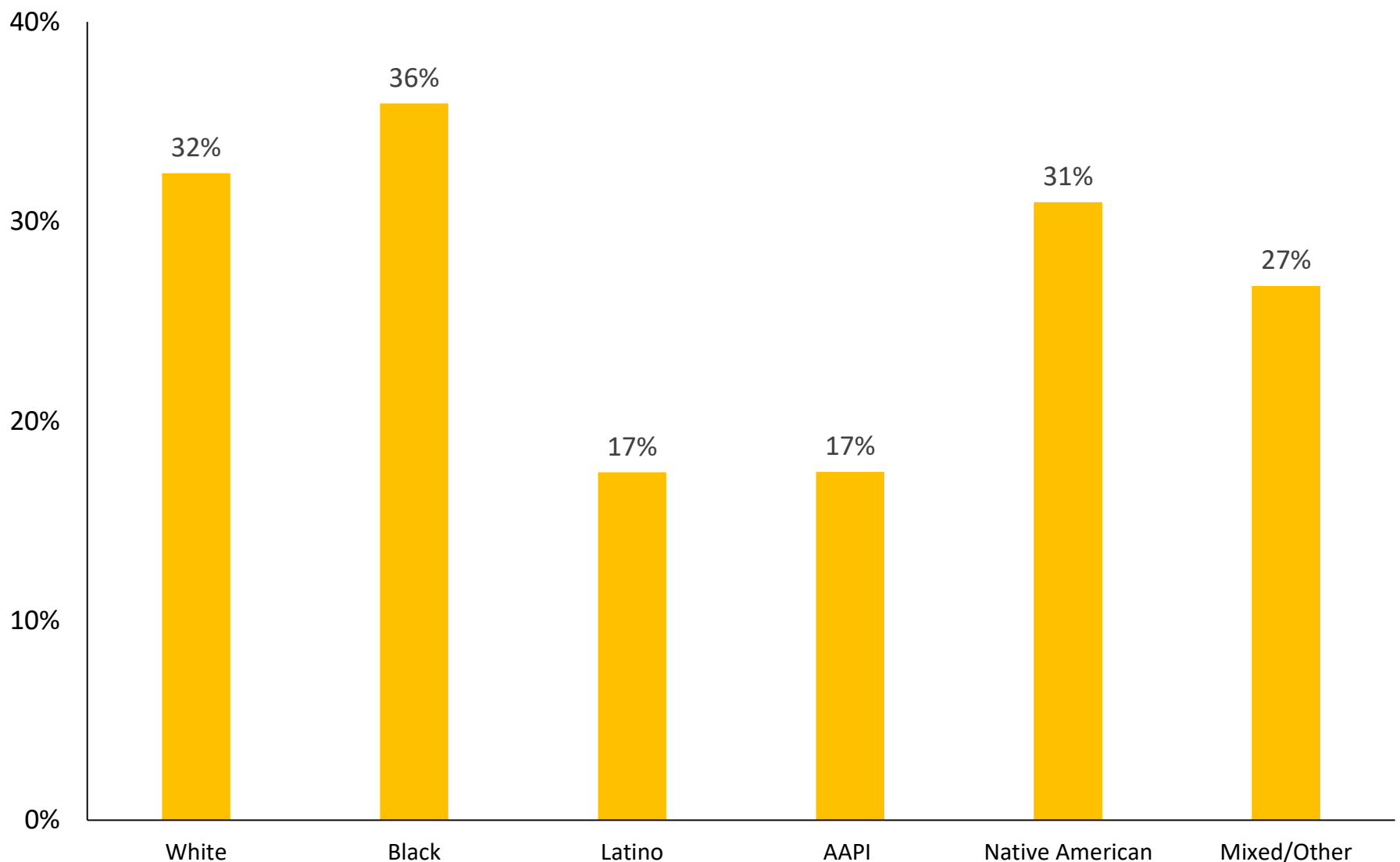
Percent of Seniors (65 years & older) Living Below 150% of the Poverty Level in L.A. County, 2018



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The share of seniors living without family members (& not in assisted living) is higher for African Americans and whites, lower for Latinos and Asians.

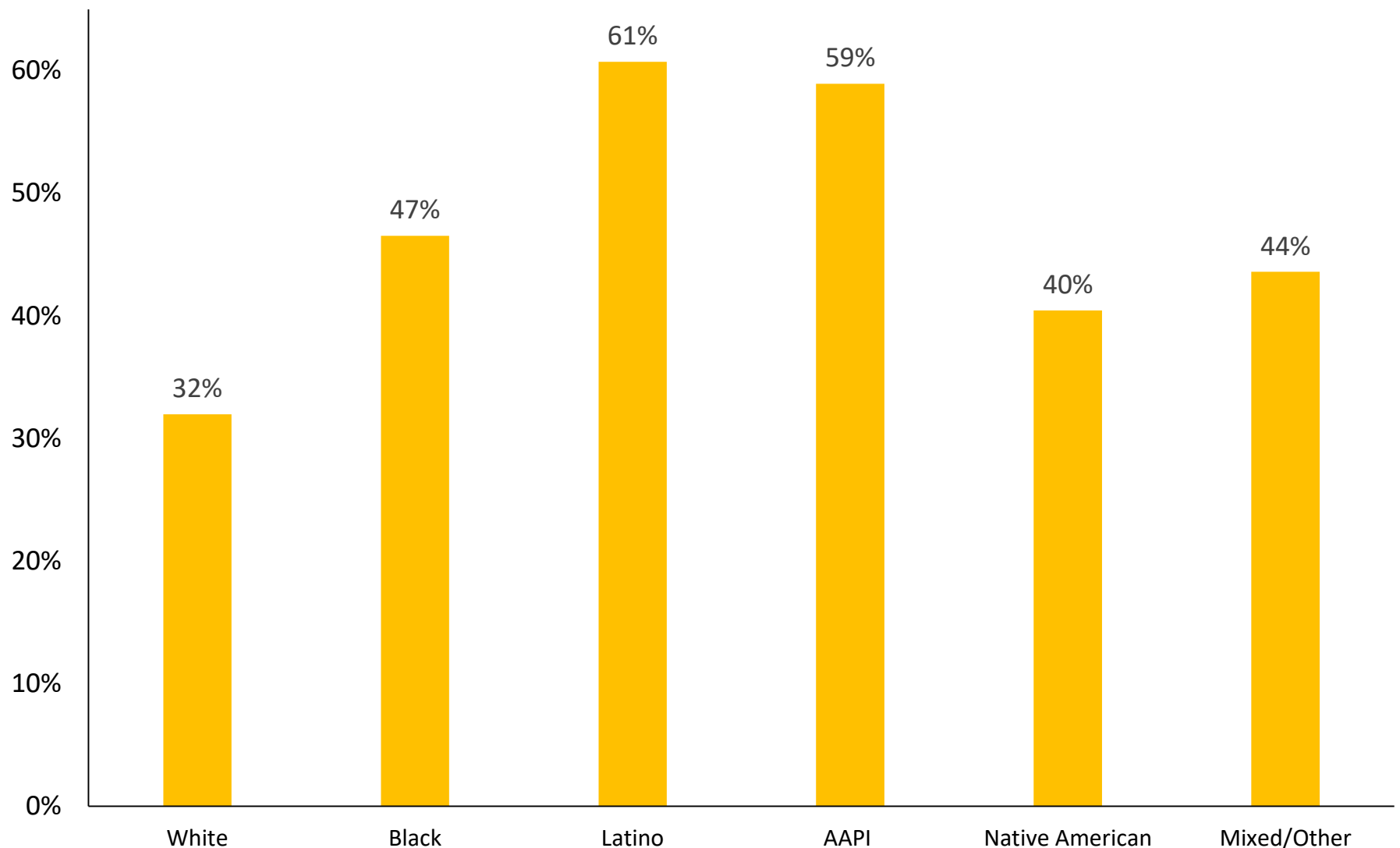
Percent of Seniors (65 years & older) Living Alone (without family members), Not in Assisted Living, L.A. County, 2018



Note: Data reflect a 2014 through 2018 average.

But the poverty rates for all seniors of color living alone is much higher than for whites.

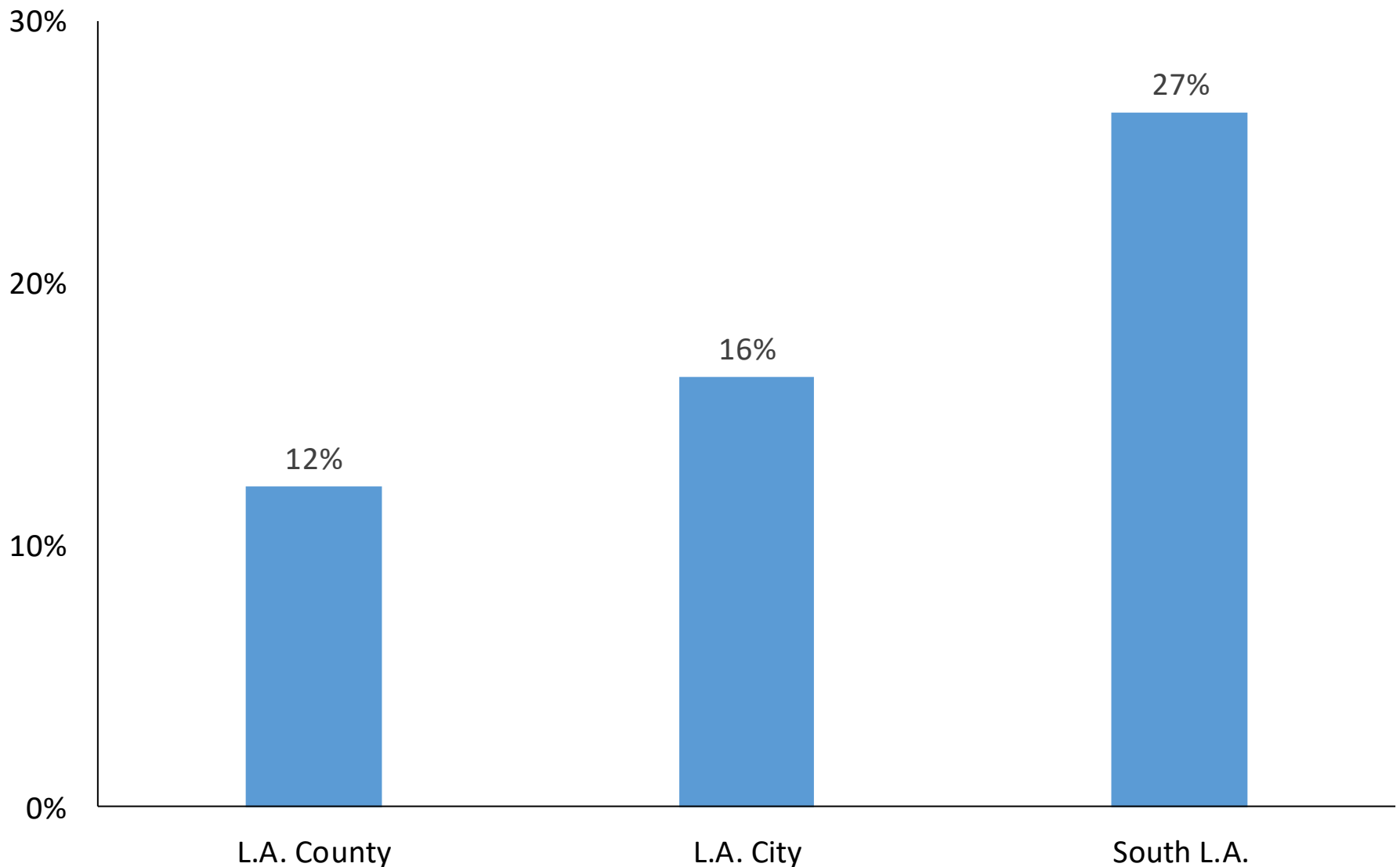
Percent of Seniors (65 years & older) Living Alone (without family members) Below 150% of Poverty Line, L.A. County, 2018



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Undocumented workers are a significant share of employed workers, especially in the City and South LA. They are often in industries that will be hard-hit & lack access to needed support.

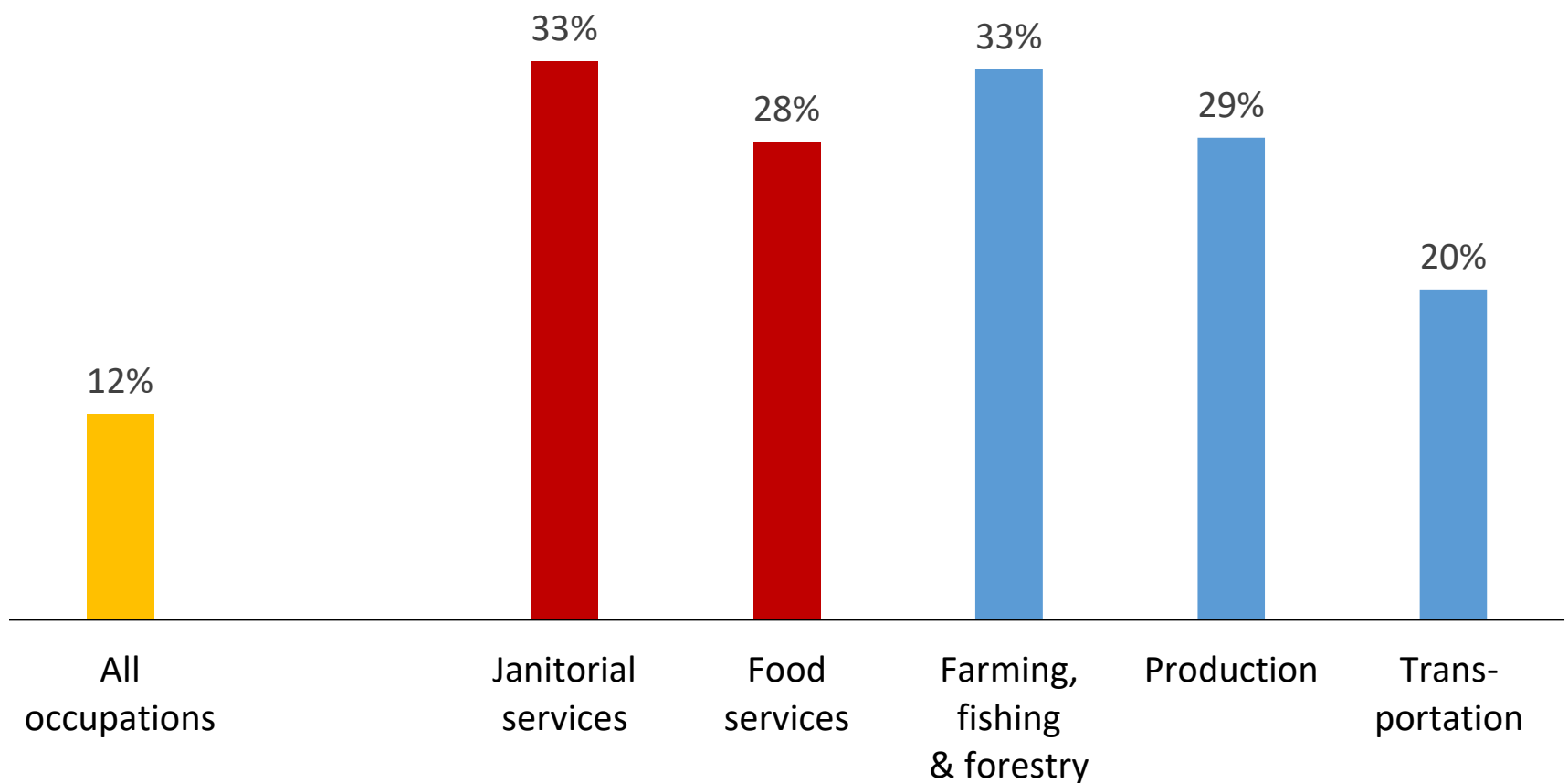
Percent of Employed Workers (Age 25-64) Who Lack Legal Status, L.A. County, 2017



Note: Data reflect a 2013 through 2017 average.

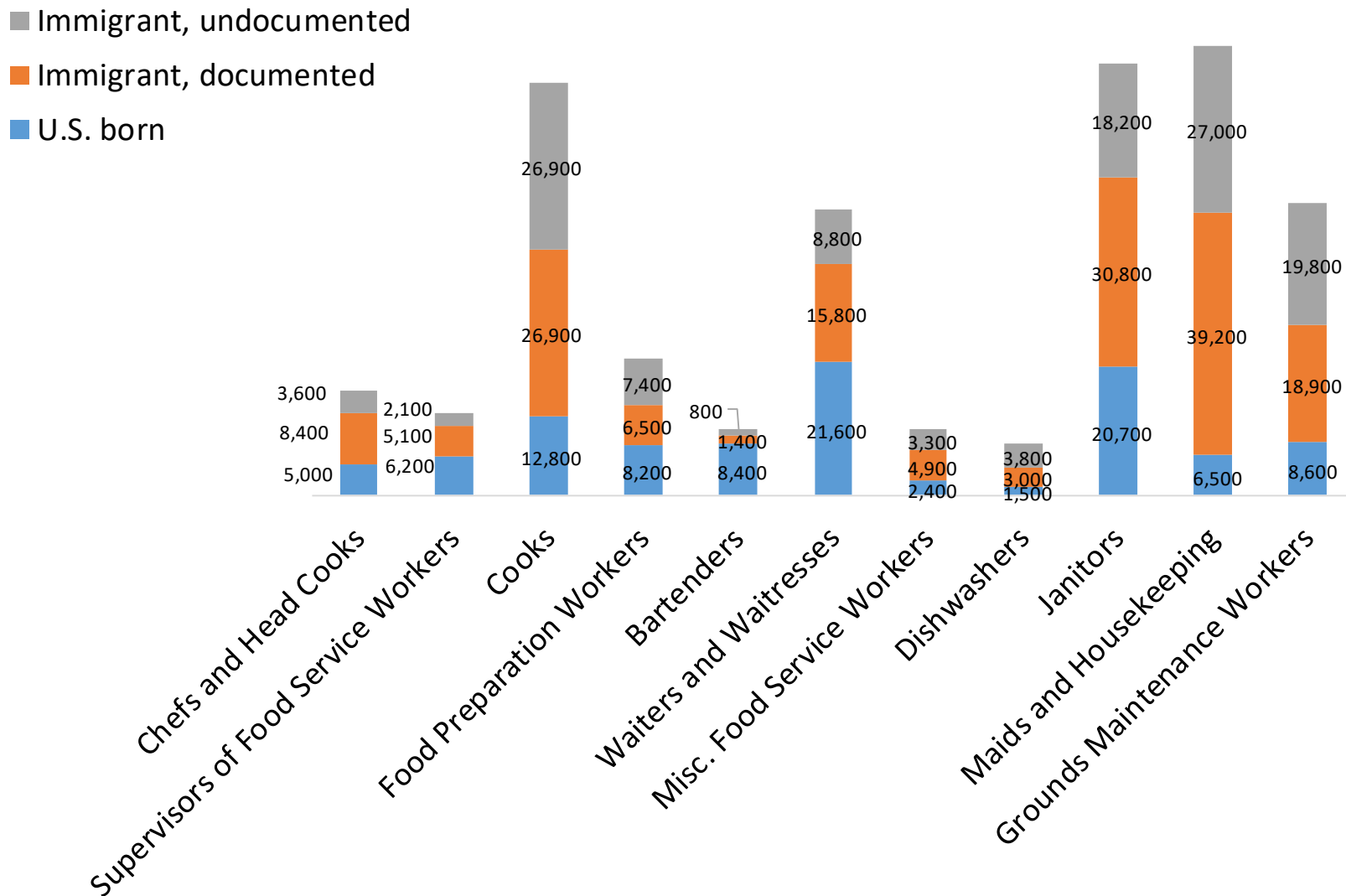
Undocumented workers are 12 percent of the overall workforce, but up to one-third of those in occupations that are hard-hit by the COVID-19 crisis, such as janitorial and food services. They also are a large share of workers in occupations that are essential for all of us to keep going, such as farming, production and transportation.

Percent of Employed Workers (Age 25-64) Who Lack Legal Status, Selected Occupations in L.A. County, 2017



Among food service occupations in the County, there are about 67,000 cooks and nearly 27,000 of them are undocumented. Among janitorial service occupations, there are over 18,000 undocumented janitors and 27,000 undocumented housekeepers.

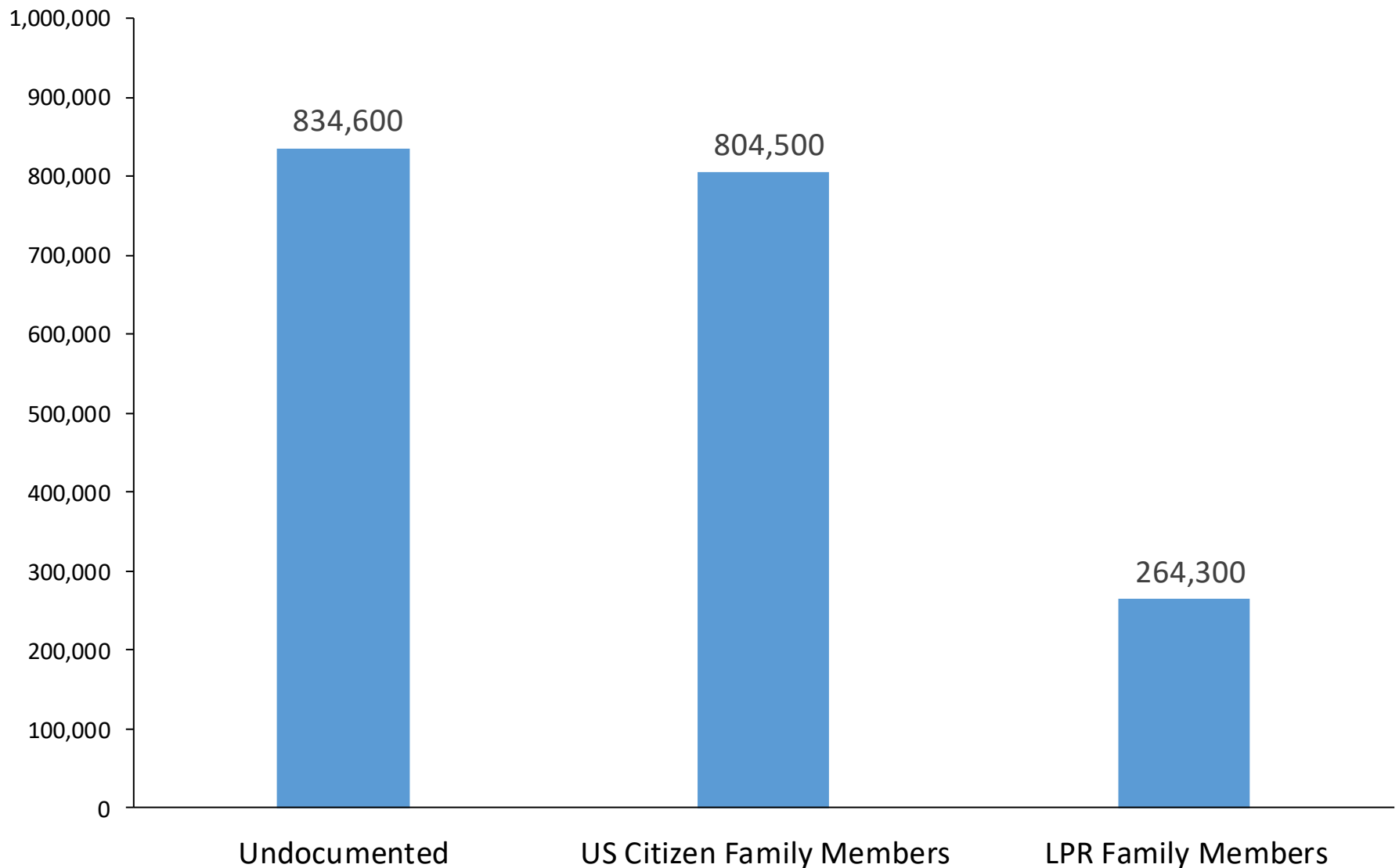
Workers (Age 25-64) by Immigration Status, Selected Food and Janitorial Services Occupations in L.A. County, 2017



Note: Data reflect a 2013 through 2017 average. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100,

Nearly 19 percent of L.A. County residents are either undocumented or living with a family member who is undocumented. This is partly because of the long-settled nature of the population: 69% of undocumented Angelenos have in the U.S. for a decade or longer.

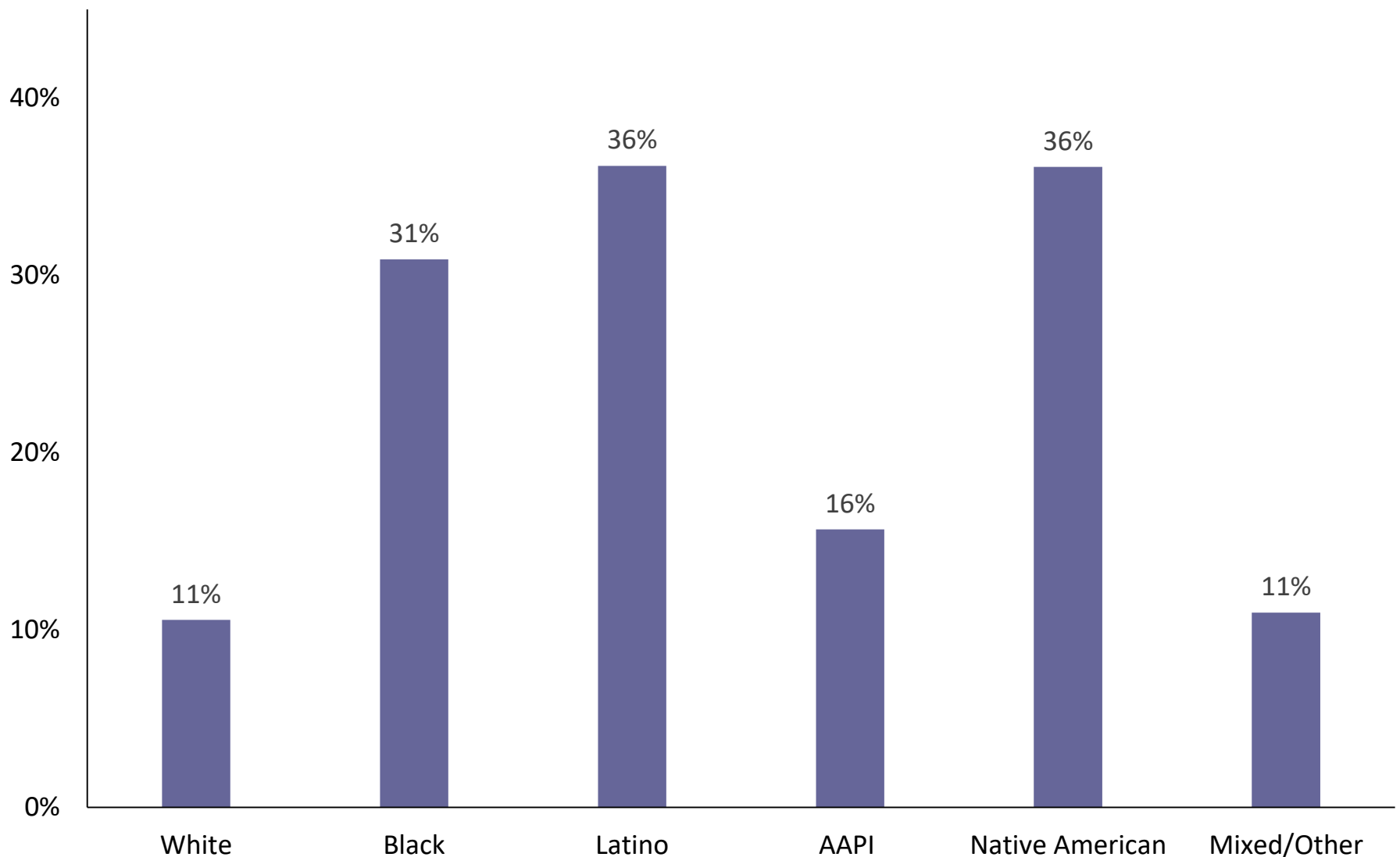
Immigration Status and Family Ripple Effects, Los Angeles County, 2017



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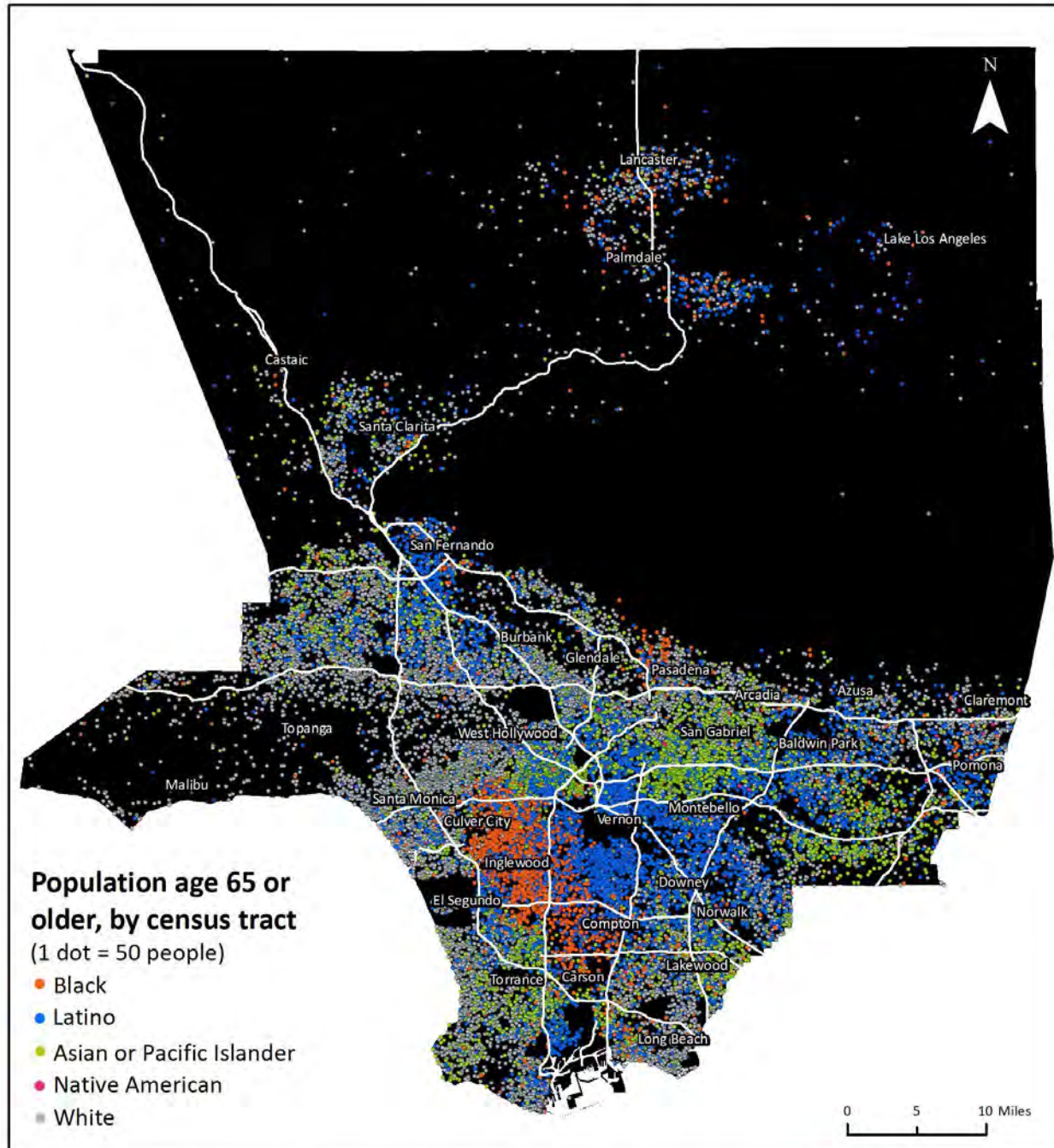
Children are heading to home-based instruction, but the digital divide by race persists.

Percent of Children (<= 18 years) Who Attend K-12 And Lack a Computer & High-Speed Internet at Home by Race, L.A. County, 2018



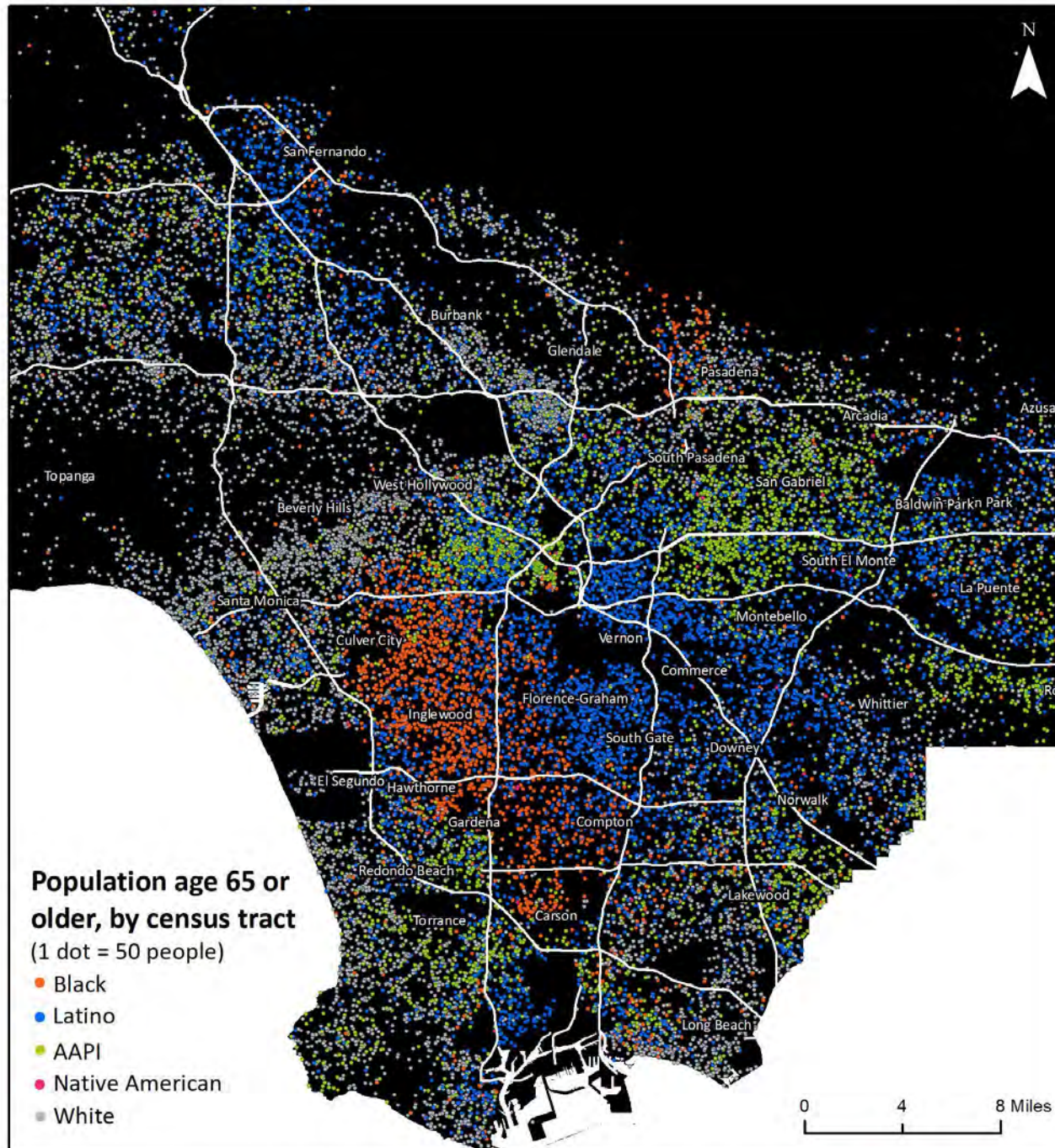
Note: Data reflect a 2014 through 2018 average.

There is significant racial segregation of the elderly in Los Angeles County.



Source: USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity analysis of the 2018 5-year American Community Survey summary file. Note: Data reflect a 2014 through 2018 average. All groups except white may include people of Hispanic or Latino origin who identify racially as indicated by the legend.

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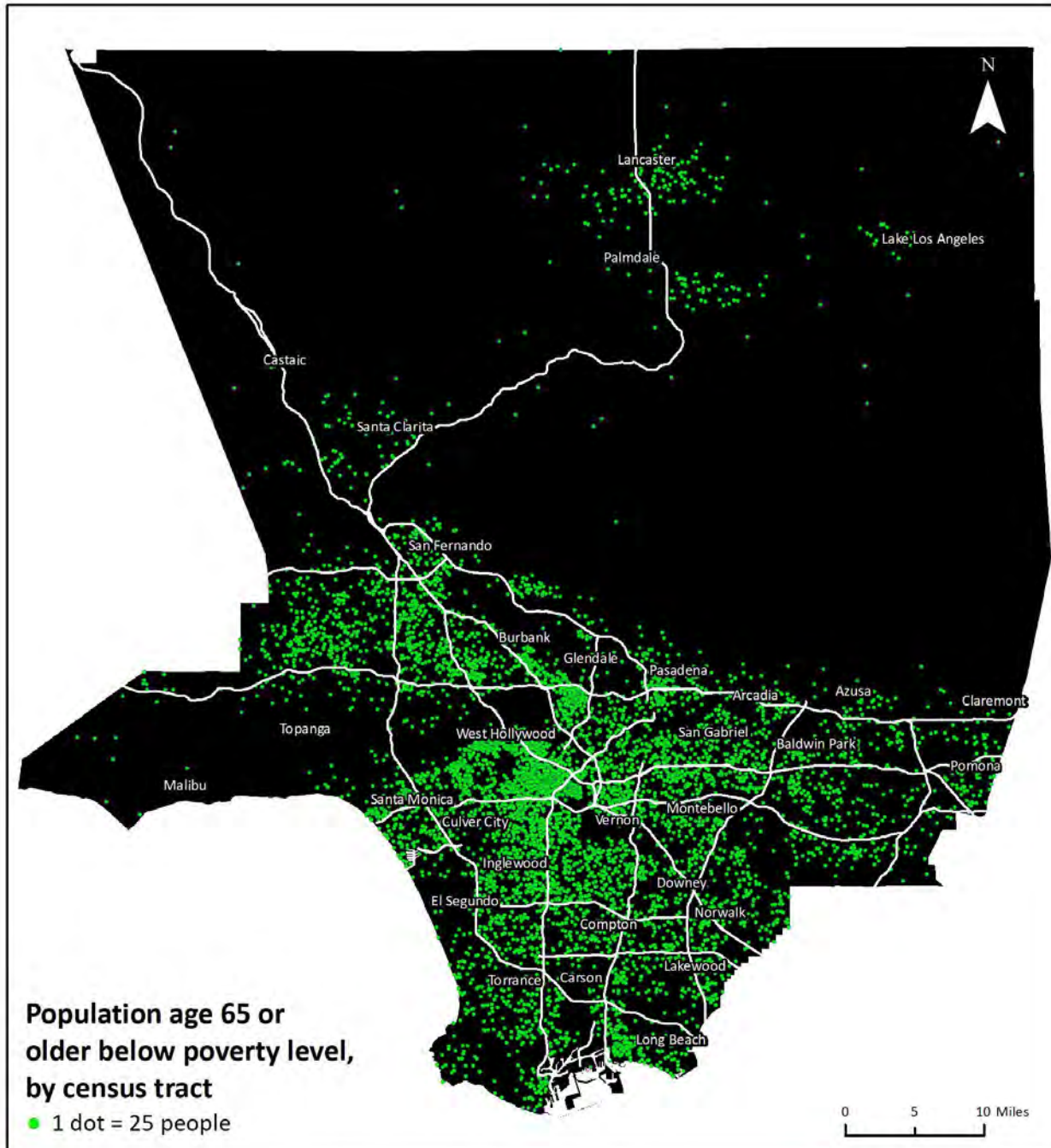
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There are significant disparities in where the elderly poor live in Los Angeles County.



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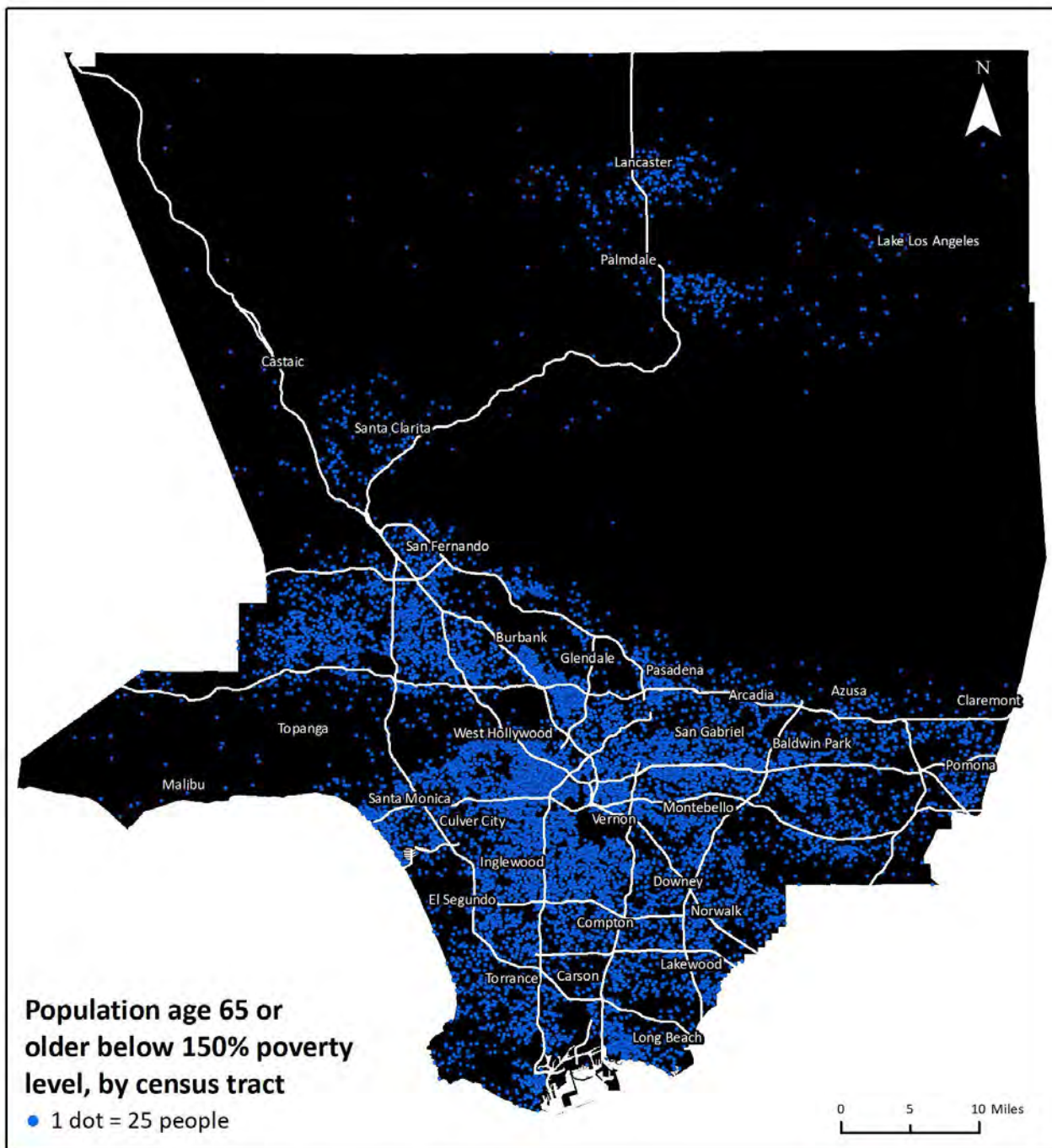
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This map shows the pattern when we adjust up the poverty line to 150% of the poverty level, more appropriate for L.A. County.



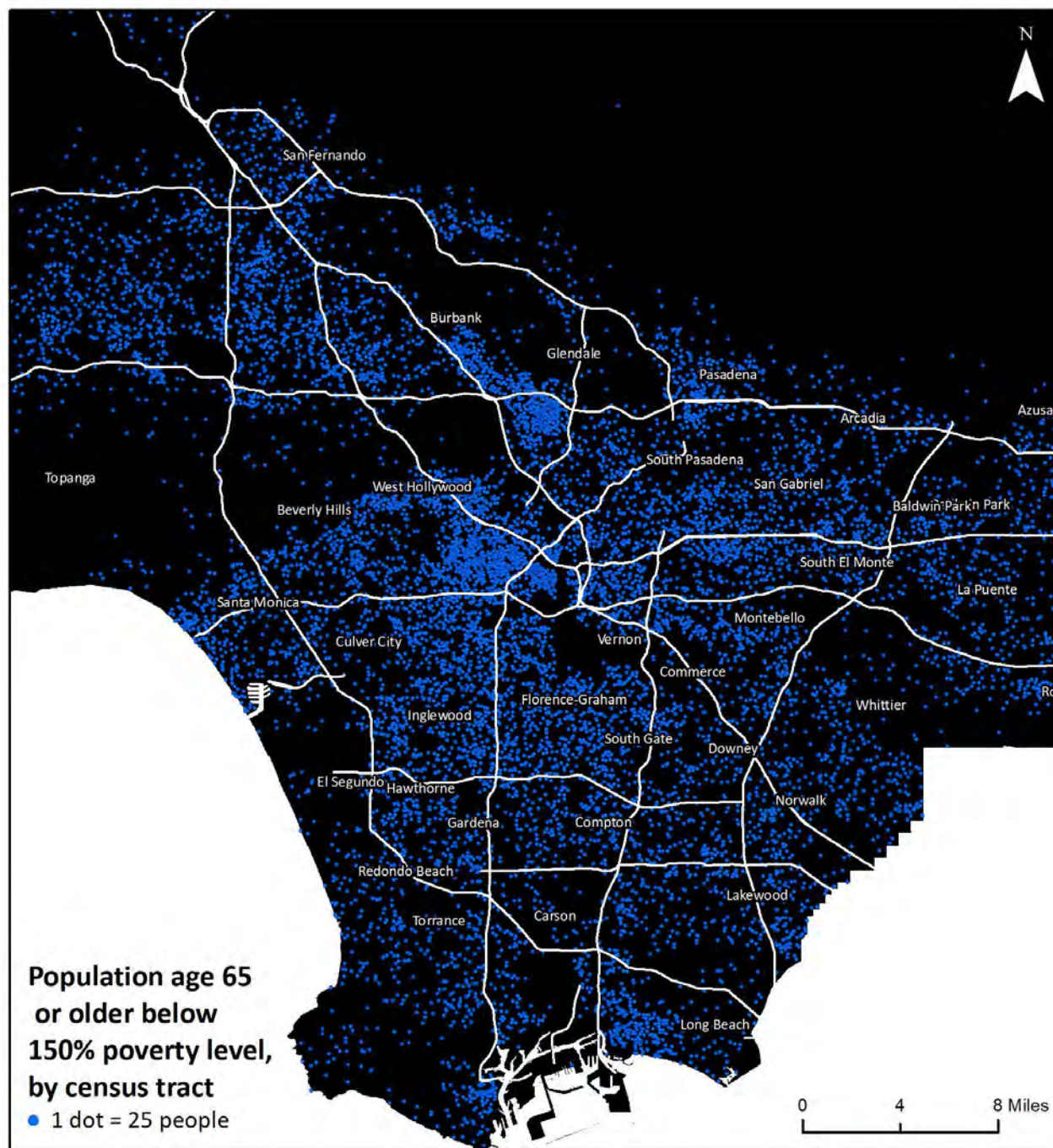
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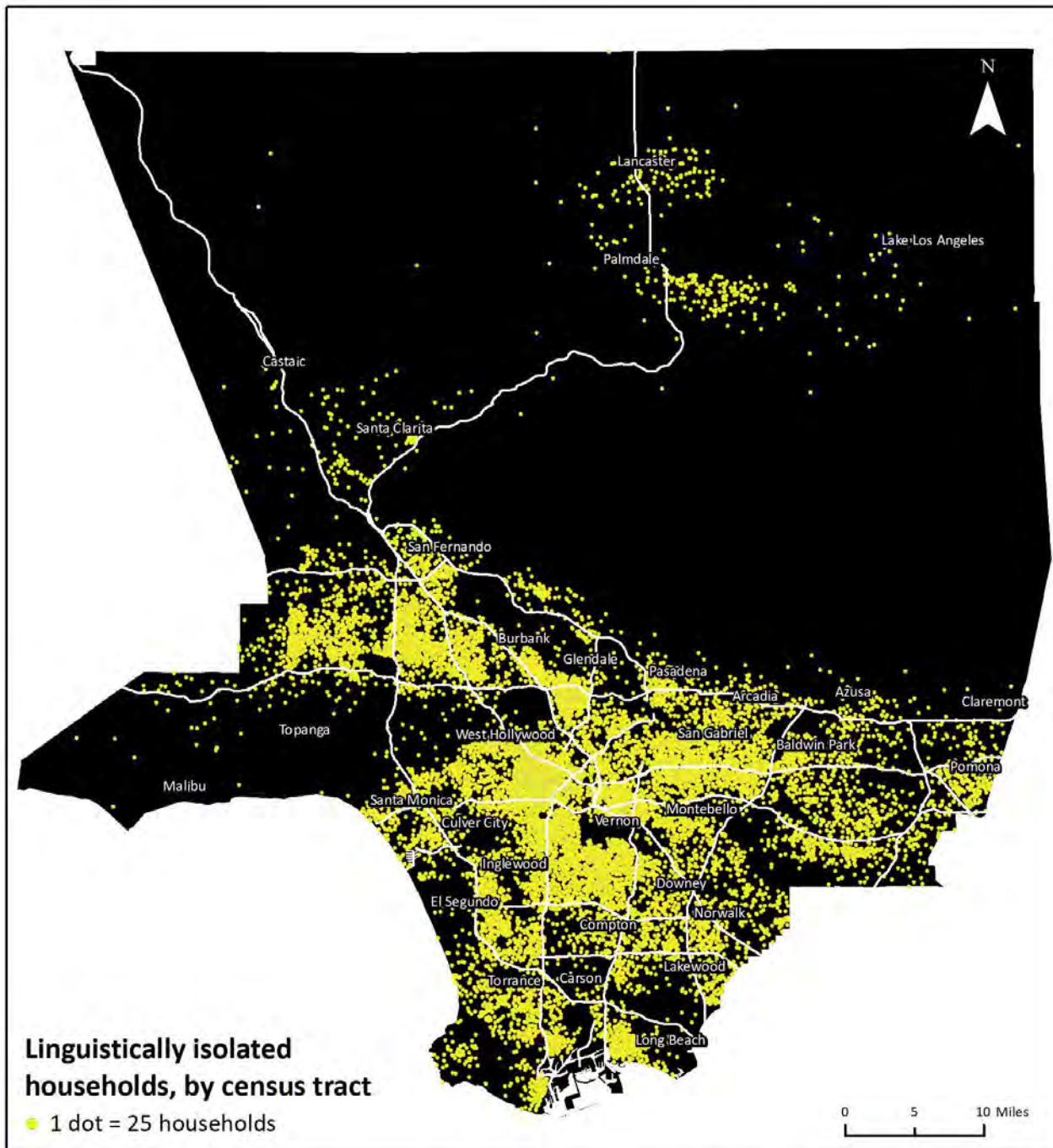
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“Linguistically isolated” households are households where no one age 14+ speaks English “very well.” Such households may need special language-appropriate outreach.



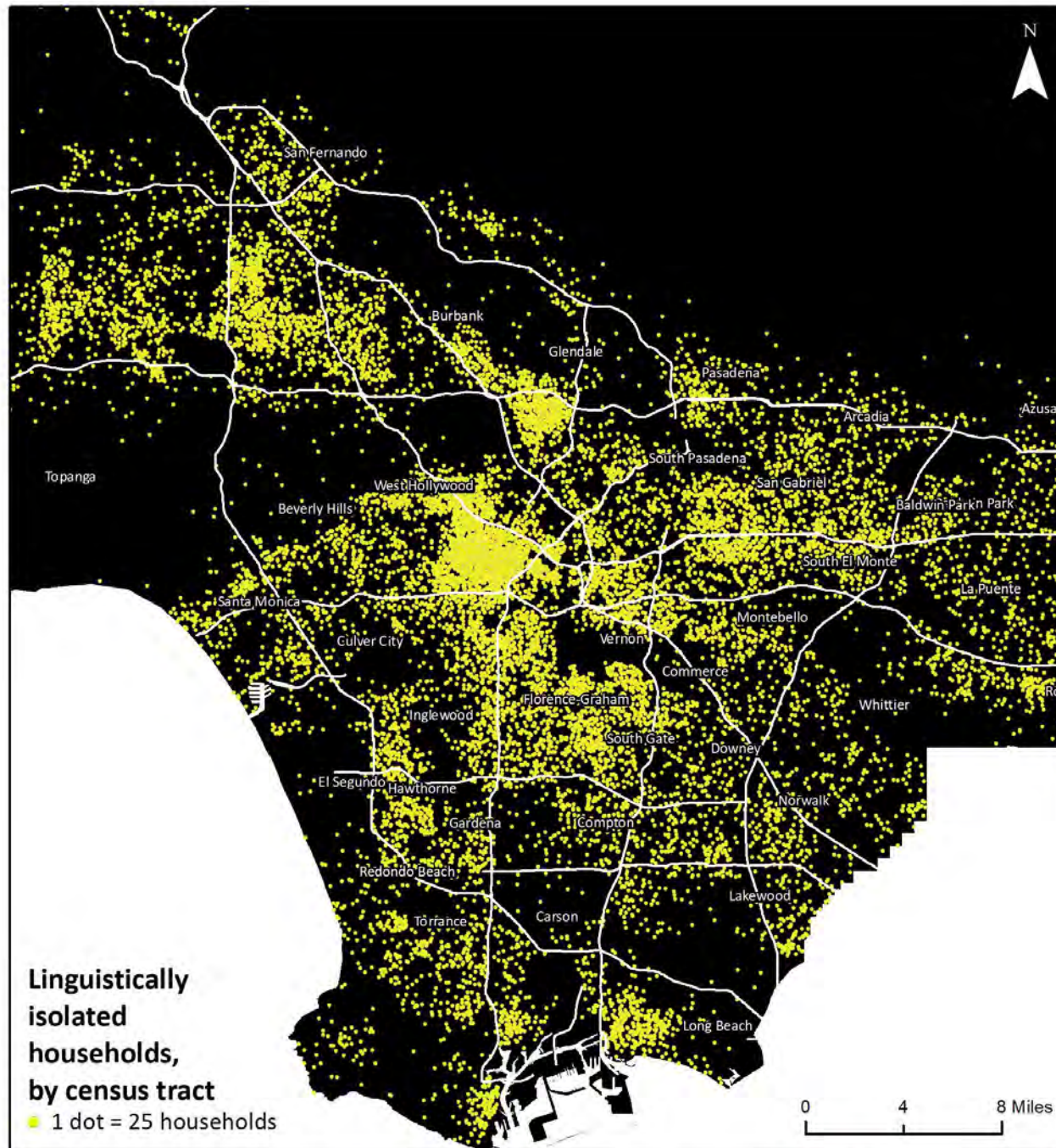
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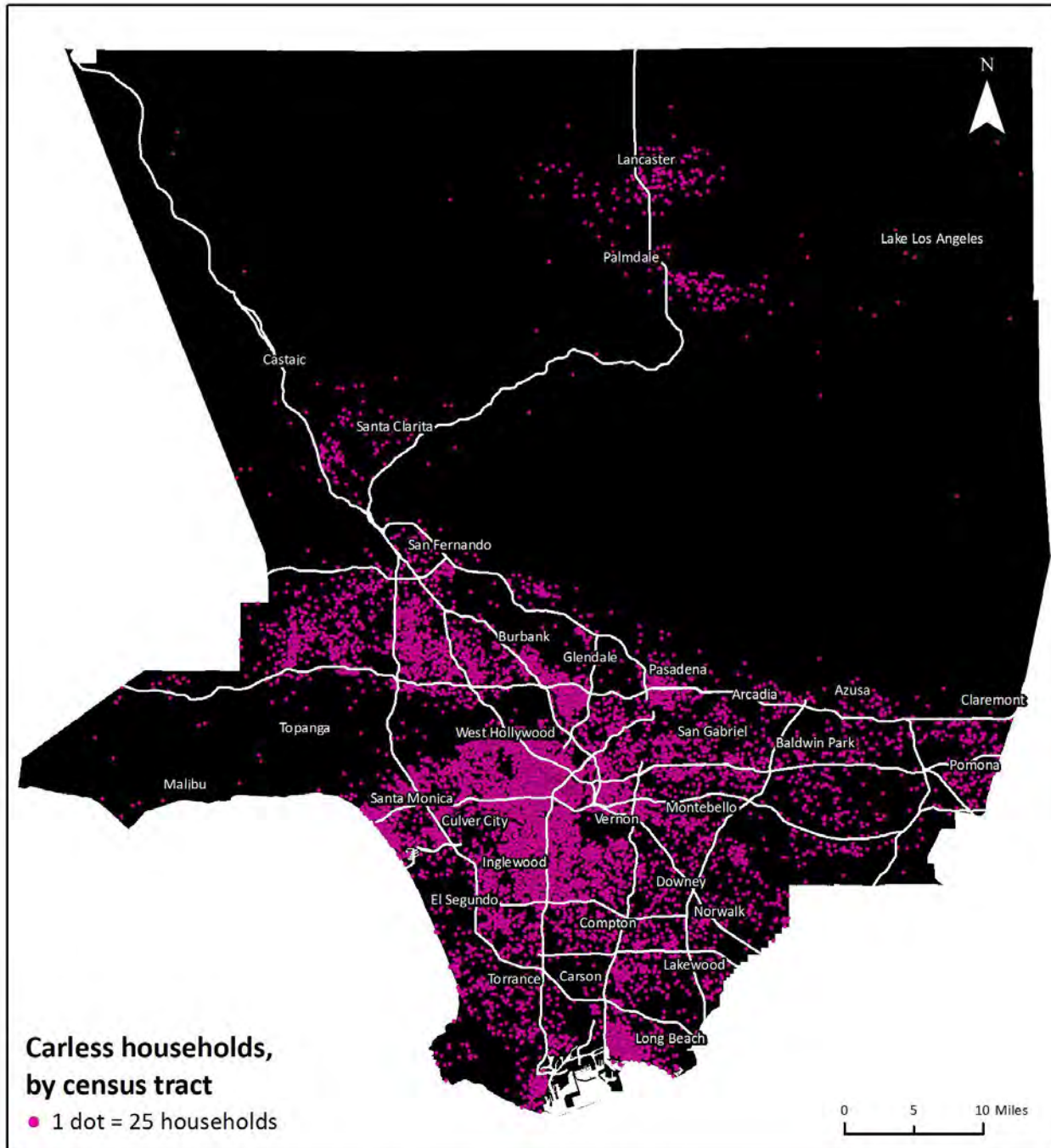
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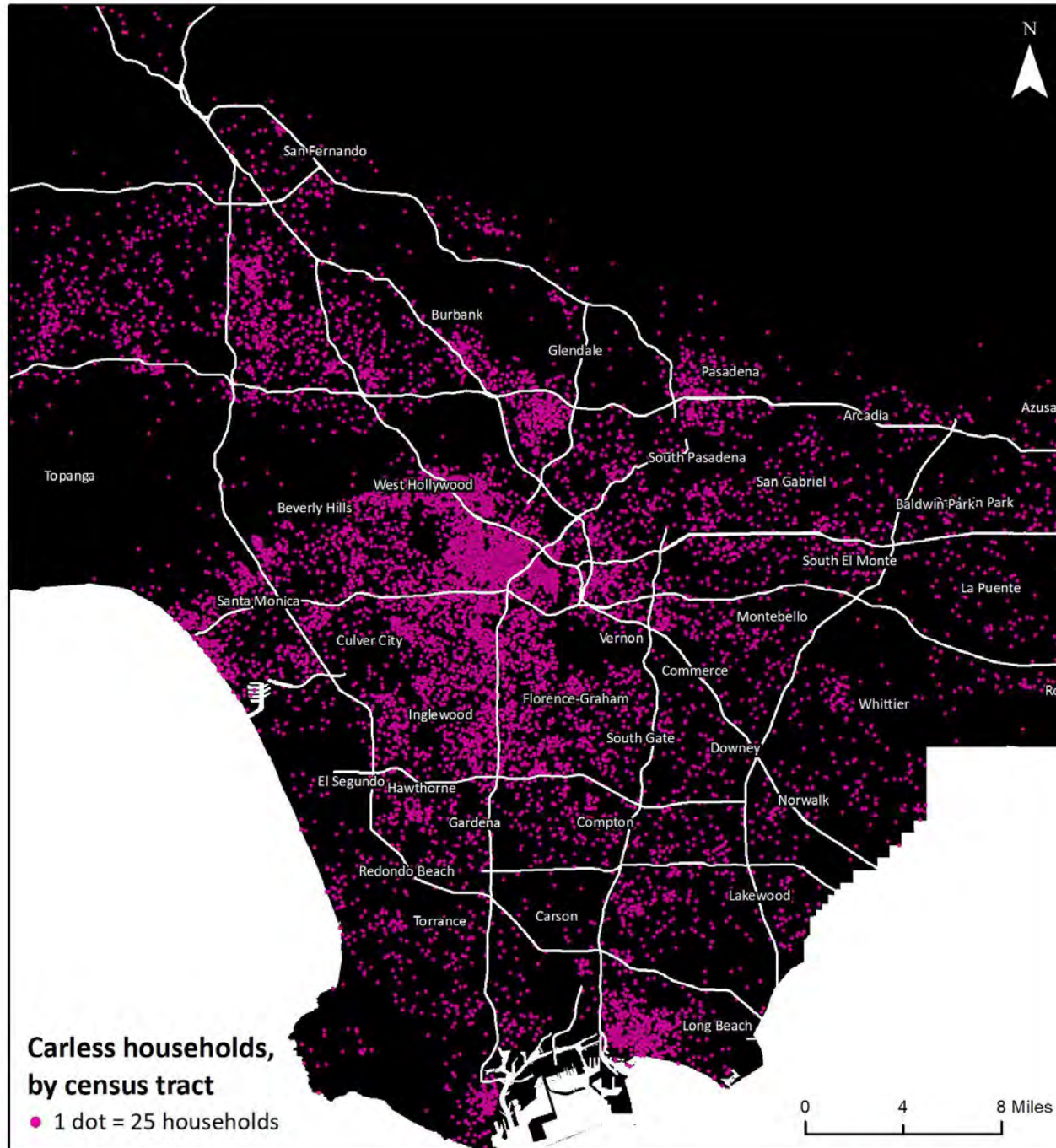
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Carless households are likely to need to rely on public transit to go to work or shop. This is especially concentrated in mid-city and South LA.



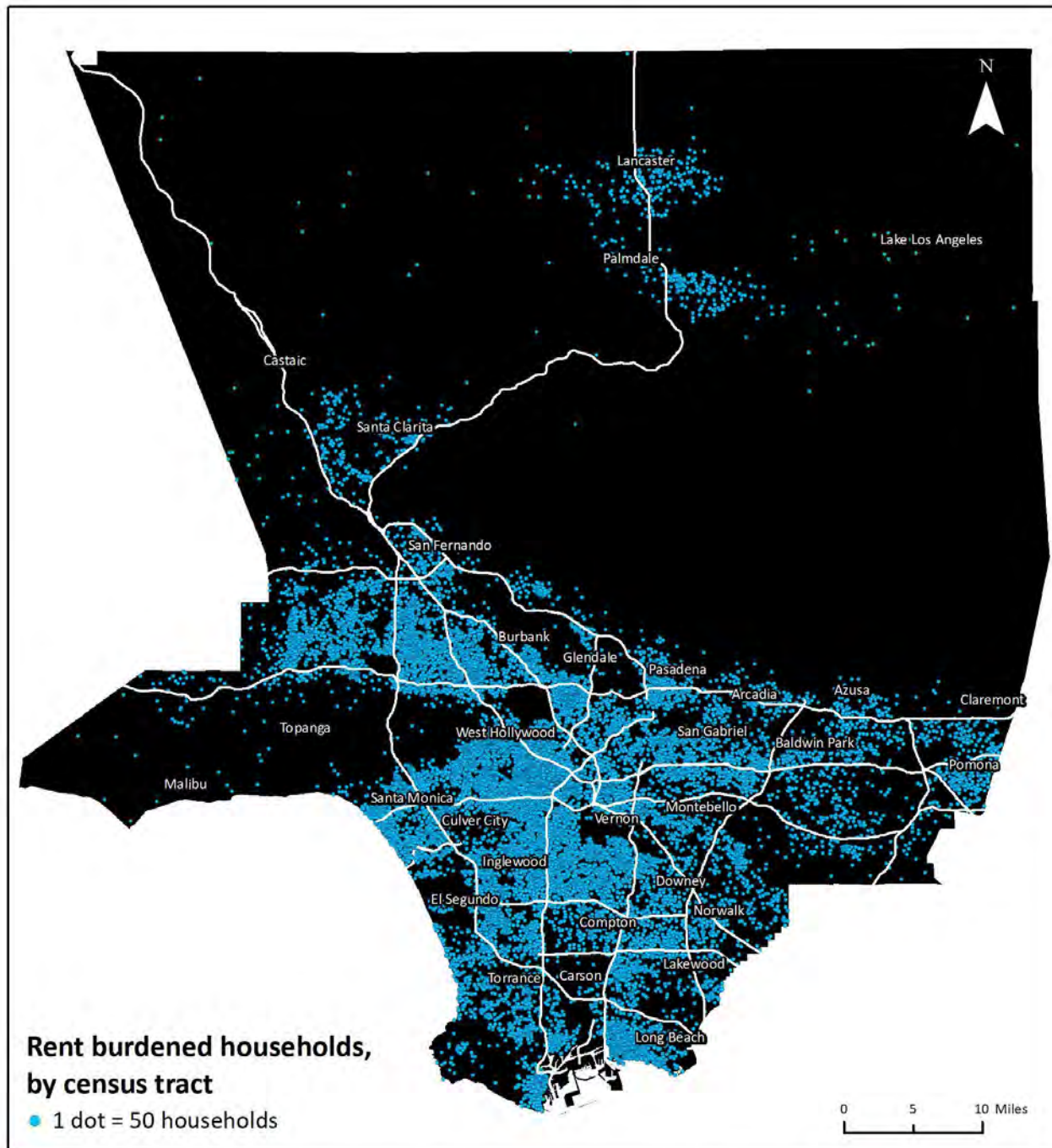
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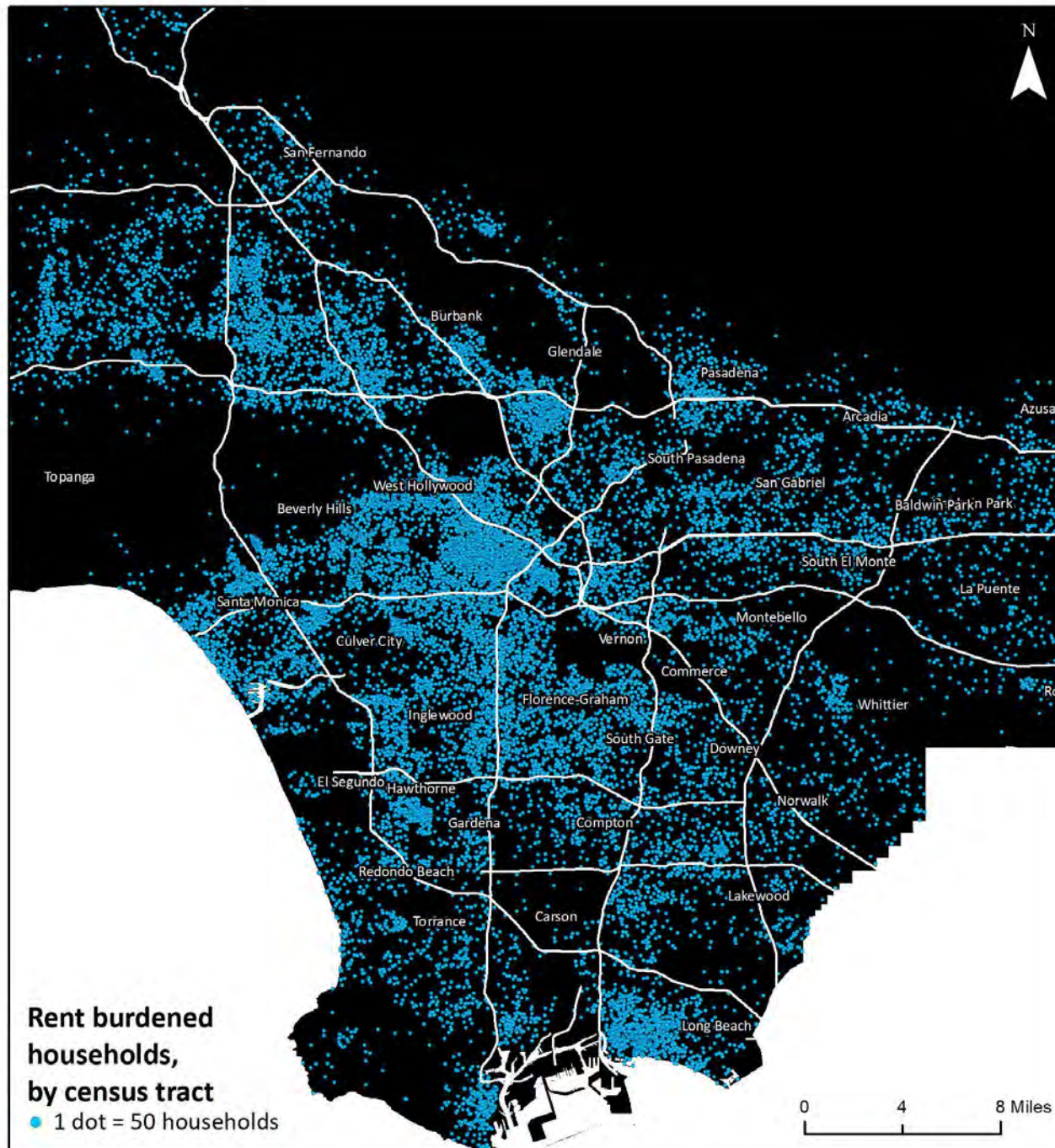
Source: USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity analysis of the 2018 5-year American Community Survey summary file. Note: Data reflect a 2014 through 2018 average.

Rent-burdened households are households paying more than 30 percent of their income on rent. That's a large number of renters in high-cost Los Angeles County.



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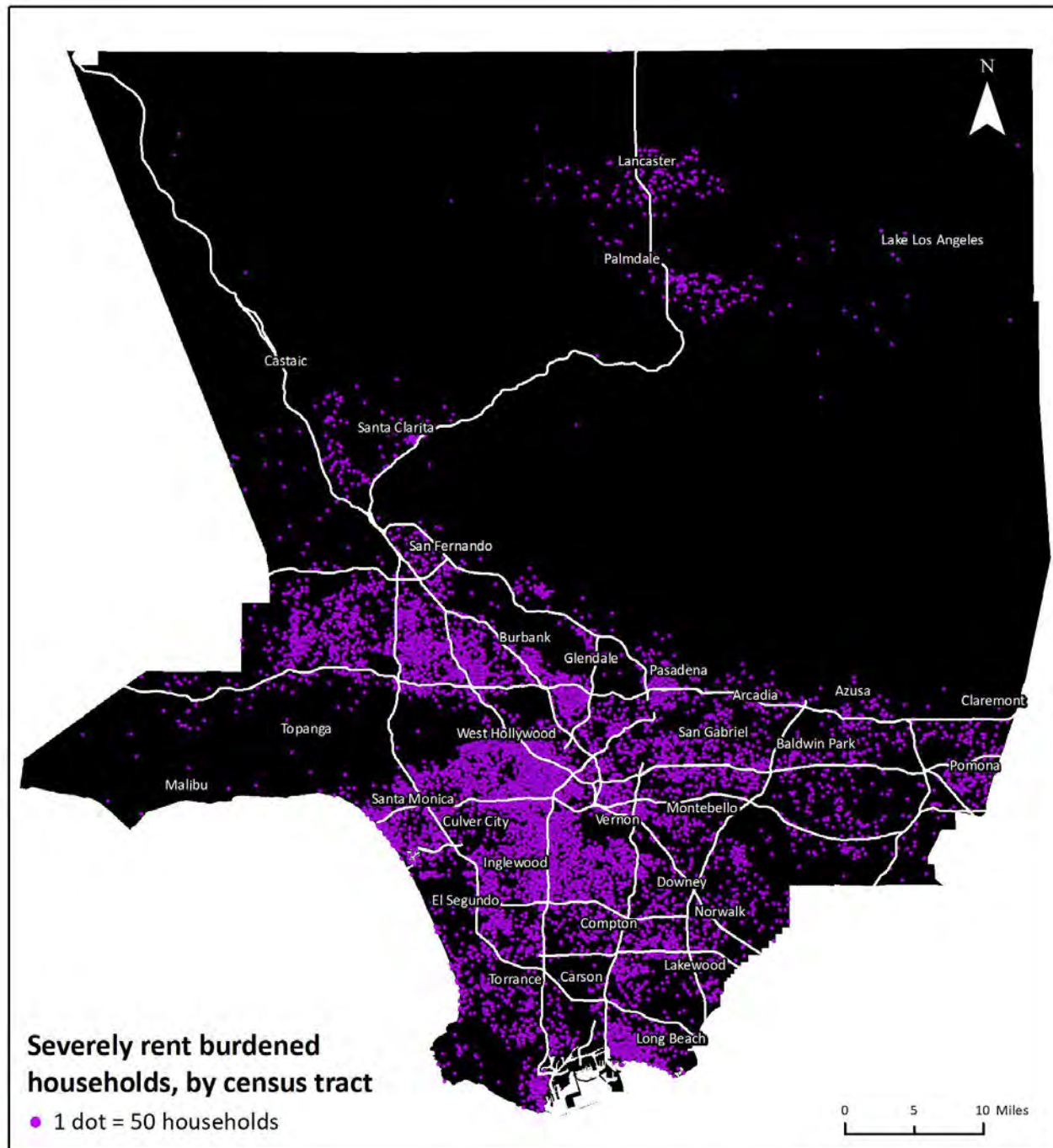
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Severely rent-burdened households are paying more than 50 percent of their income on rental housing. That is an especially acute problem in mid-city, South LA, part of Northeast LA, and Long Beach.



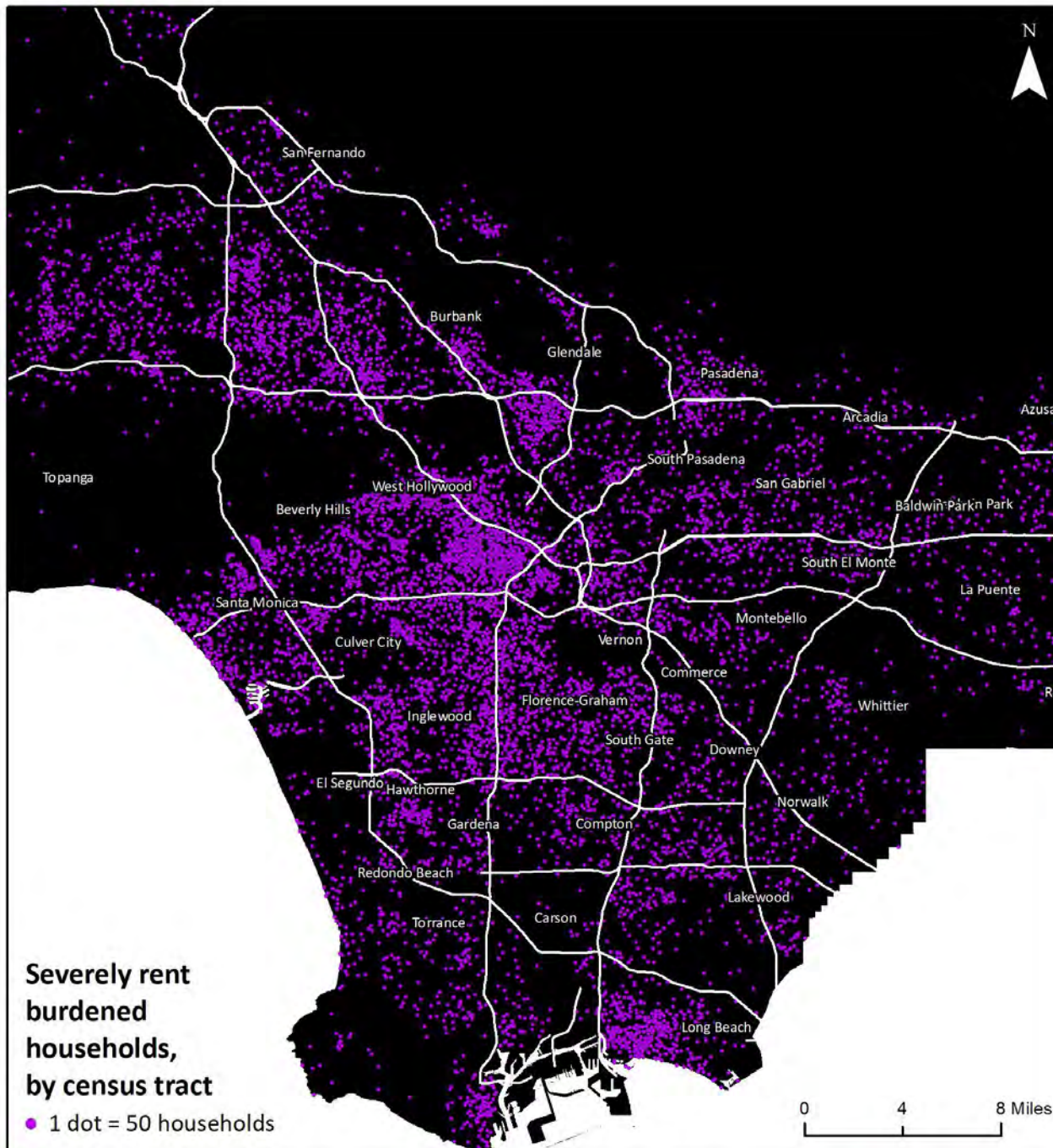
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A key public health principle – evident in this crisis – is to protect ourselves, we must protect everyone. For too long, in L.A. and the U.S., we have instead left the most vulnerable behind.

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This is a time to make sure that our short-run measures to address the COVID-19 crisis take into account the situations of all Angelenos and set the long-term platform for a more inclusive and sustainable economy and society.