
UC SANTA BARBARA
Social Sciences

Regional Equity Profile of The California Central Coast Region: Data and Analysis for a More Equitable Future

University of California Santa Barbara
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The Blum Center on Poverty, Inequality and Democracy at UC Santa Barbara, in partnership with the Fund for Santa Barbara, and the USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity ([PERE](#)), will launch the first Central Coast Regional Equity Profile in the summer of 2020. The goal is to collect and analyze basic data to deepen our understanding of regional disparities, facilitate region-wide conversations on equity, and support planning and implementation of initiatives to advance social, health, environmental, and economic equity. The production of the Central Coast regional profile, taking inspiration from similar studies carried out by PERE and [PolicyLink](#), will yield a periodically updated data base, for use in teaching, research and policy work.

Over the past several decades, socio-economic and ethnic-racial inequality has been on the rise. The depth of these inequities has been all-too dramatically laid bare by the COVID crisis, with consequences that we are just beginning to gauge. They also put equity at the forefront as we set our sights toward a recovery that sets the course for a future of genuinely shared, environmentally sustainable prosperity.

An equitable region is one in which all residents, regardless of race/ethnicity or nativity, neighborhood of residence, are fully able to participate in economic vitality, contribute to the region's readiness for the future, and take full advantage of the region's assets and resources. A strong current of social science research confirms that inequality hinders economic growth and prosperity, and conversely, that greater economic and social inclusion fosters social cohesion, environmental health, and sustainable prosperity as well as a wider range of civic capacities that enable people from diverse communities to exercise political voice.