

# Equity Project Alliance

## Data Walk 2026

### *Guidelines*

- We are all here because we care about learning about our own participation in racism and we want to find solutions that are equitable and creative.
- We seek to have a positive impact in our own lives, businesses, communities, and Pensacola as a whole.
- This is a powerful, personal, and sometimes scary conversation. We will be gentle with each other and treat each other with dignity.
- When personal struggles or painful experiences are shared here, we will keep them confidential unless they are offered with permission to share with others.
- We are striving for real consultation, community care, innovative ideas, and to build trust.

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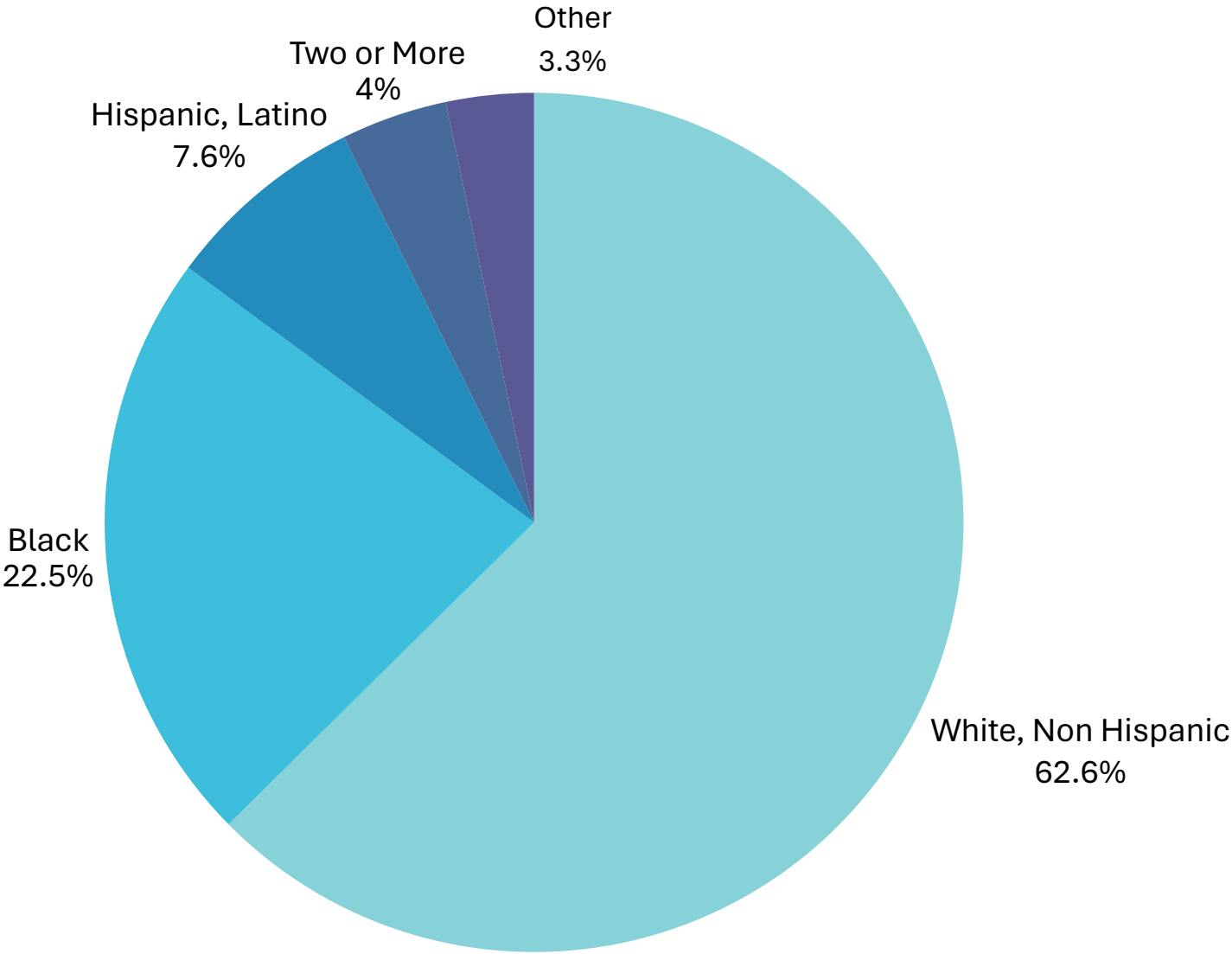
## Racial Equity Reframing

Framing Element	Traditional Approach	Racial Equity Approach
<b>What's the problem?</b>	This is often the problem as defined long ago and reinforced over years and decades.	Where is the injustice? What is the inequity? Are specific groups bearing a greater burden?
<b>What's the cause?</b>	Individual behaviors and actions are often identified as the root cause of the problem.	Shifts the focus from individual narratives to a systemic understanding of how structural, institutional, and policy-driven factors create and perpetuate inequality.
<b>What's the solution?</b>	When the cause of the problem is deemed a result of individual action, the solutions are usually individual as well.	How do you address the root causes identified above? What can be done to push for change in program and public policies?
<b>How can we act?</b>	Individual-level interventions, engaging the same stakeholders, using the same language, analyzing the same generalized data.	Creative social justice strategies that center on engaging people, partners, and community.
<b>What are our values?</b>	Given the problem and solution, what do you know to be true?  Traditional approaches highlight personal responsibility and individual choice.	Given the newly defined problem and solutions, what is now known to be true?  <b>The racial equity approach highlights history, equity, fairness and shared responsibility.</b>

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## Escambia County

### Population Breakdown



**Total Population: 321,905**  
2020 Decennial Census

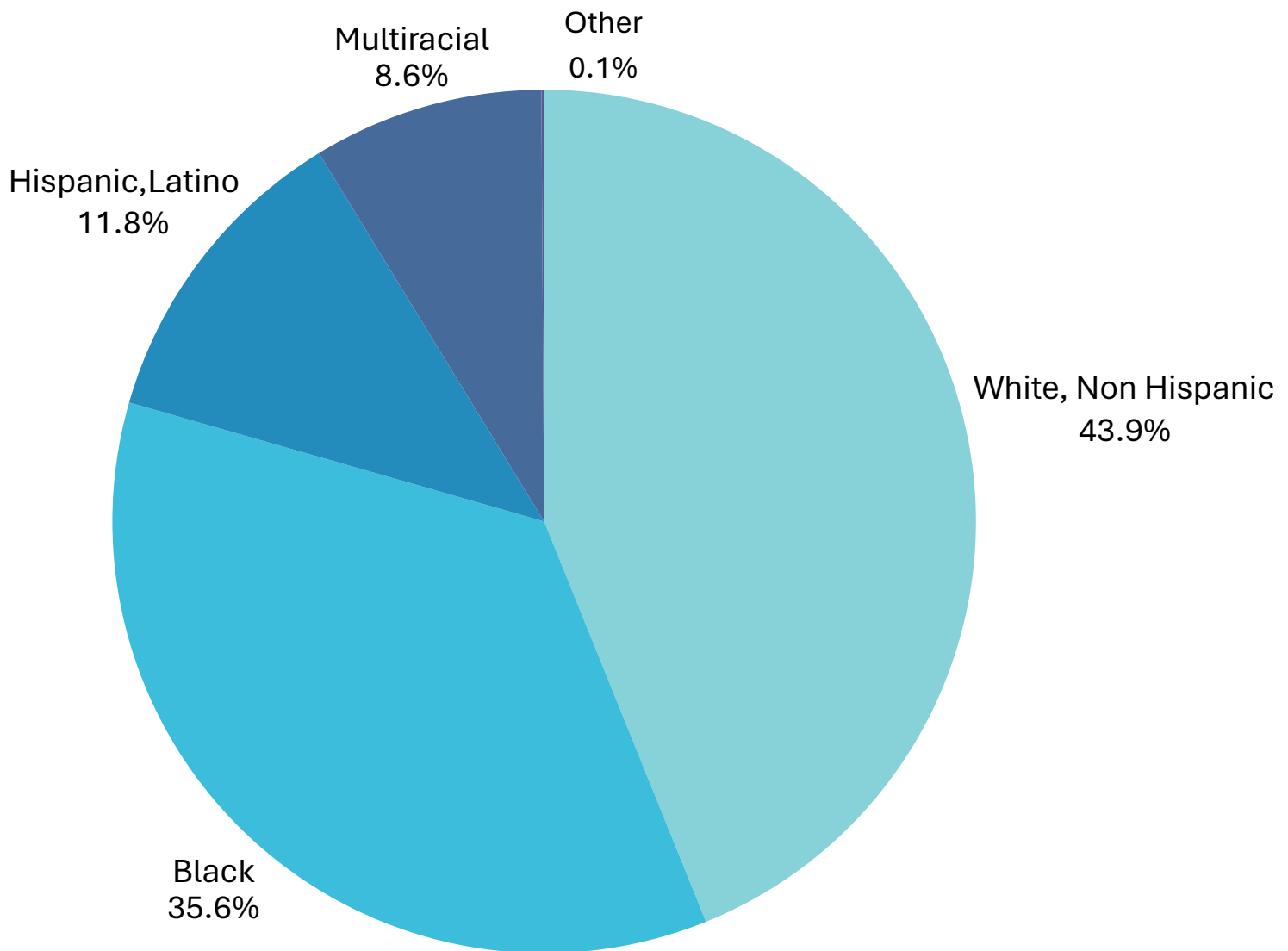
Data Source:



U.S. Census Bureau, 2025

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## Escambia County School District Population Breakdown



**Total Enrollment: 35,695**  
Fall 2025 - 2026 Overview

Data Source:



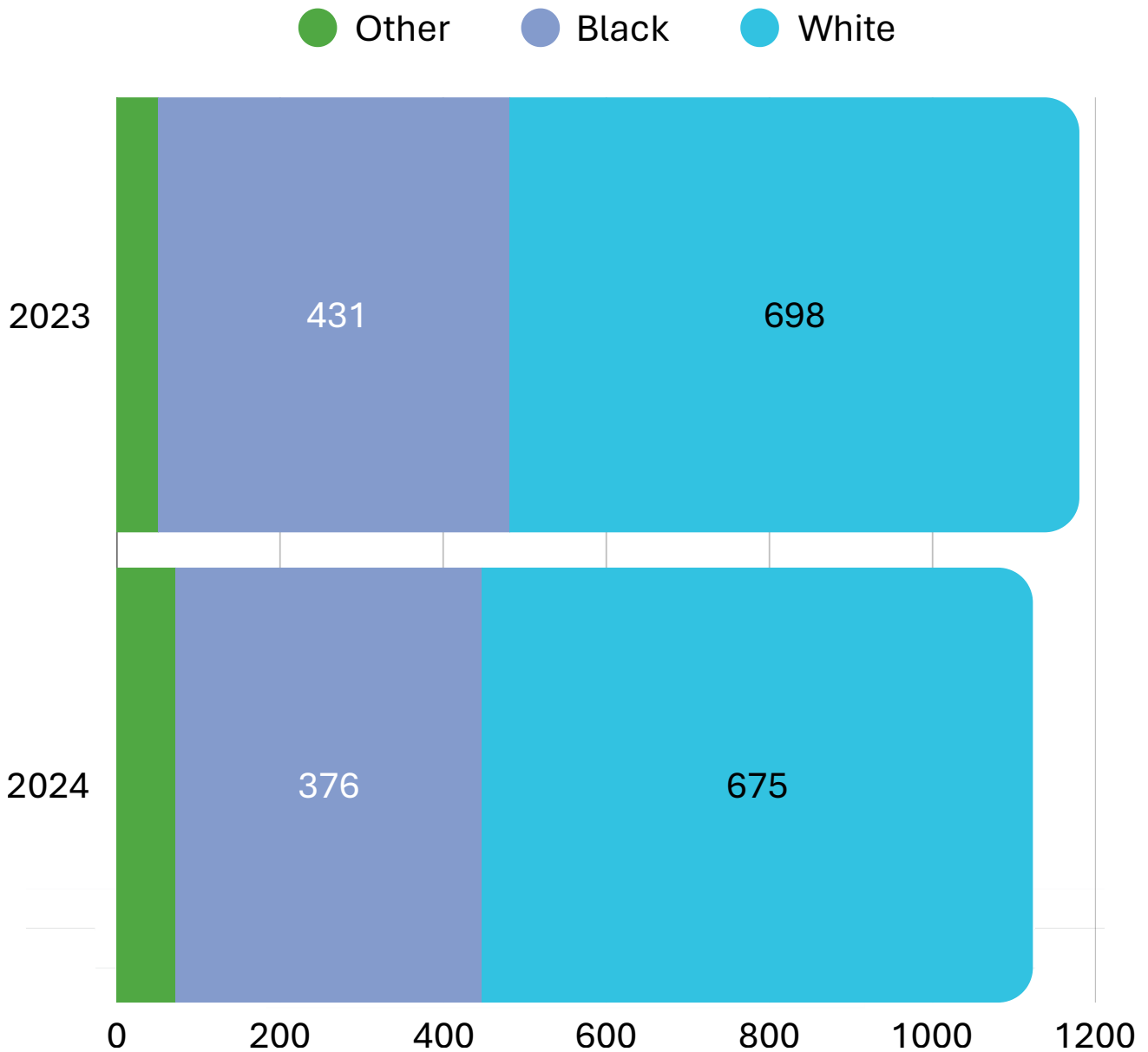
Florida Department of Education

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## Housing

### Experiencing Homelessness in Escambia AND Santa Rosa

Presented as the number of people experiencing homelessness at a point-in-time



#### **Insights:**

- *Despite a lower overall count, note that, as a proportion of county populations, those who identify as Black or African American are more likely to be homeless than those who identify as white.*

Data Source:

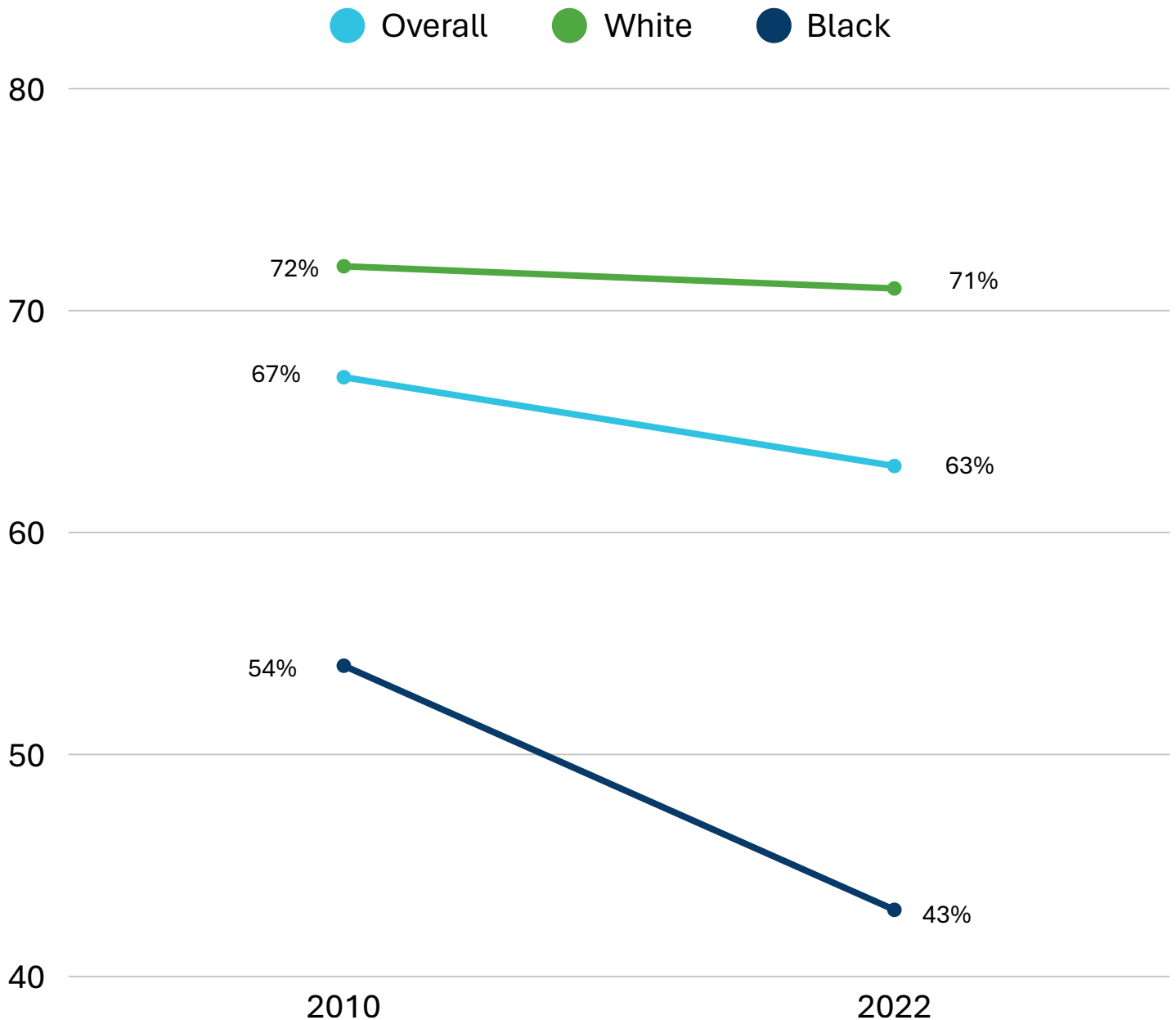


Opening Doors Northwest Florida

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## Housing Homeownership

Presented as % of owner-occupied households by self identified race/ethnicity.



### **Insights:**

- The overall homeownership rate decreased from 67% in 2010 to 64% in 2022.
- White home ownership decreased by **one** percentage point from 2010-2022.
- Black homeownership decreased by **eleven** percentage points in the same time.

Data Source:



National Equity Atlas

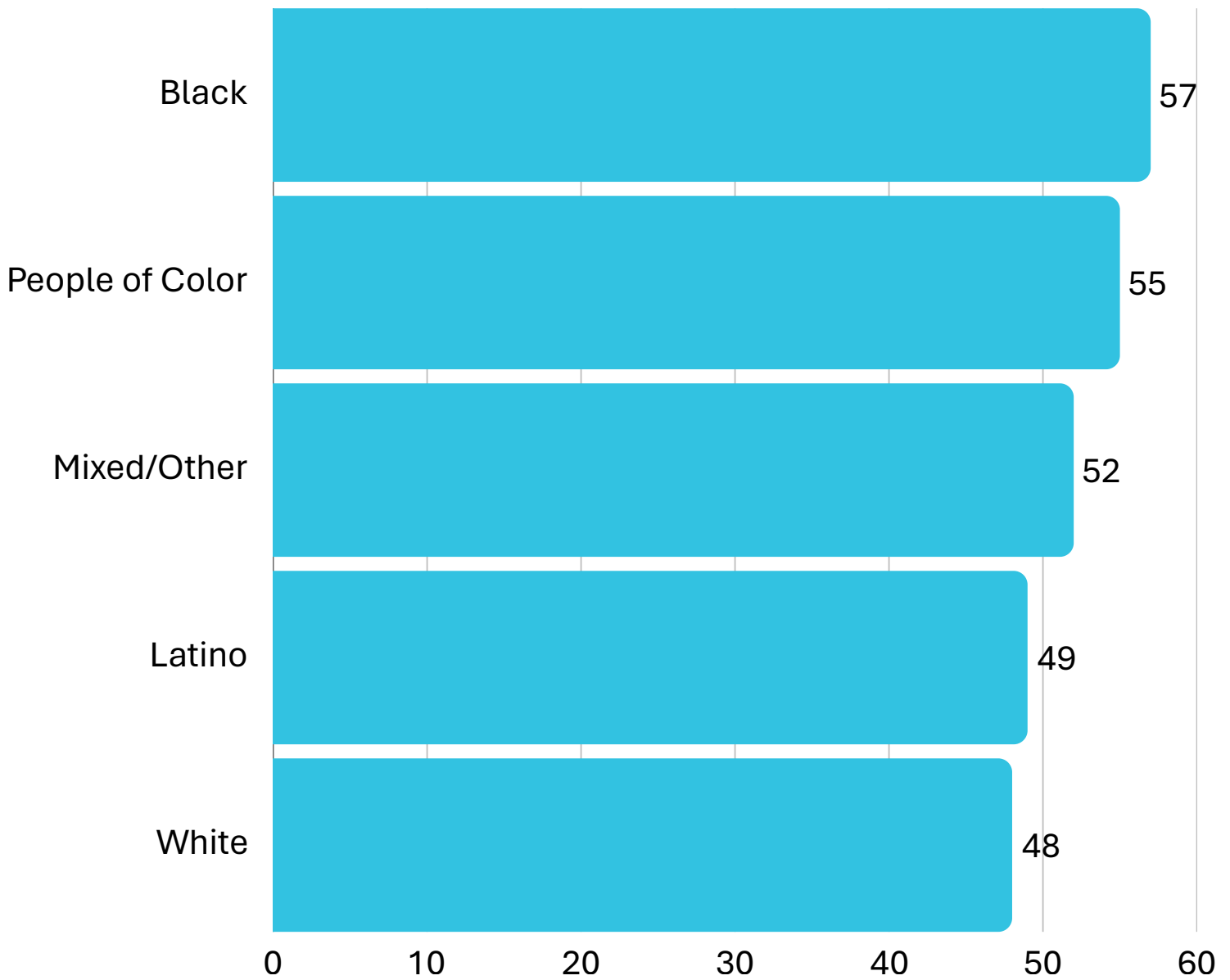
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## Housing

### Housing Cost Burdened by Race

52% of renters in Escambia County are considered “cost burdened” meaning more than 30% of income is spent on housing costs.

Presented as % of renters who are considered cost burdened by self identified race/ethnicity.



Data Source:



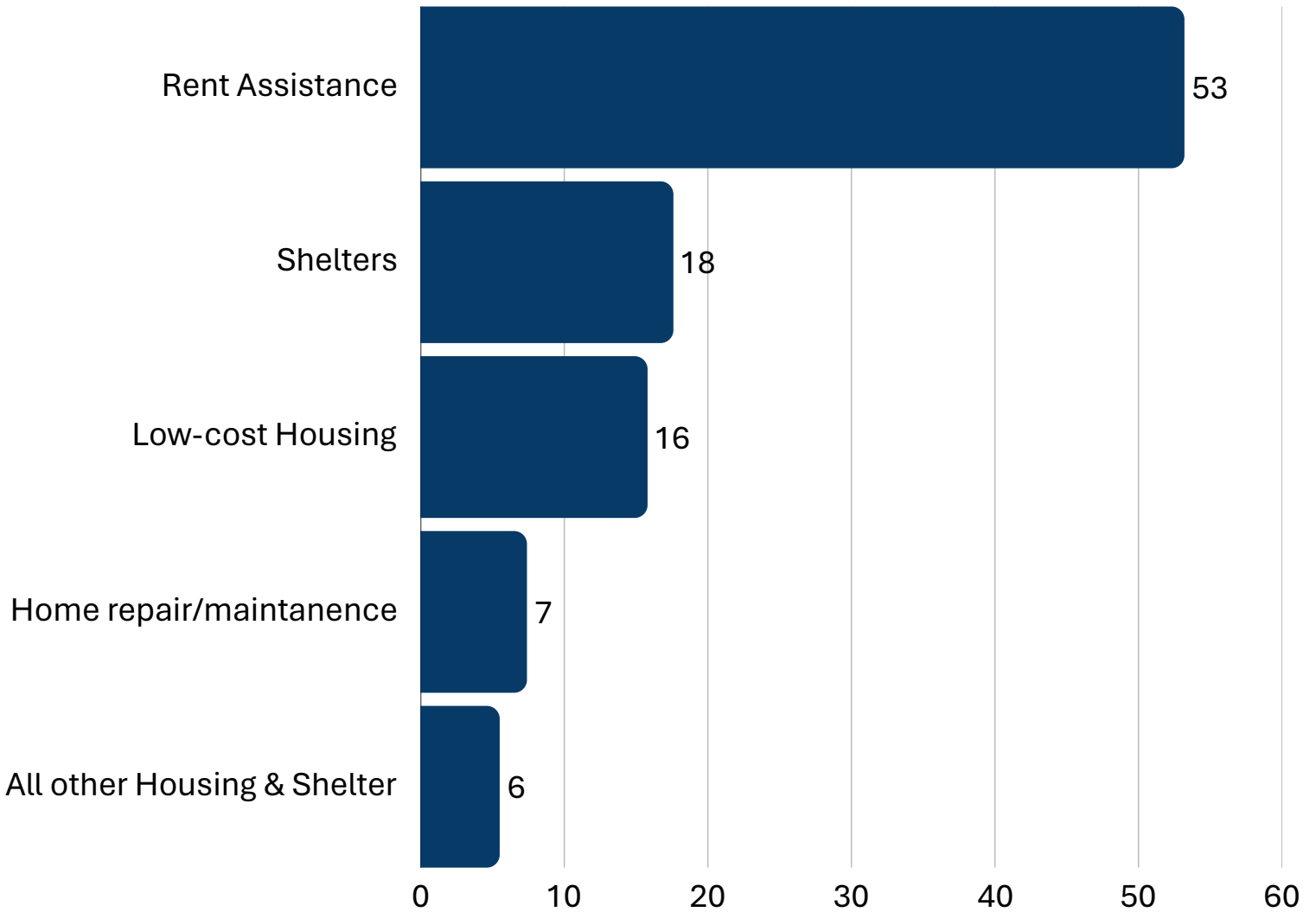
National Equity Atlas, 2022

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## Housing

### Requests Made for Housing Assistance

Presented as % of 2-1-1 requests by Housing & Shelter topic



#### **Insights:**

- *Of the ~40,000 service requests made to 2-1-1 in Escambia County in the past year, 25.9% related to Housing & Shelter.*
- *Of those, 53.2% were related to rent assistance.*
- *Another 17.6% related to shelters.*
- *15.8% related to low-cost housing.*

Data Source:

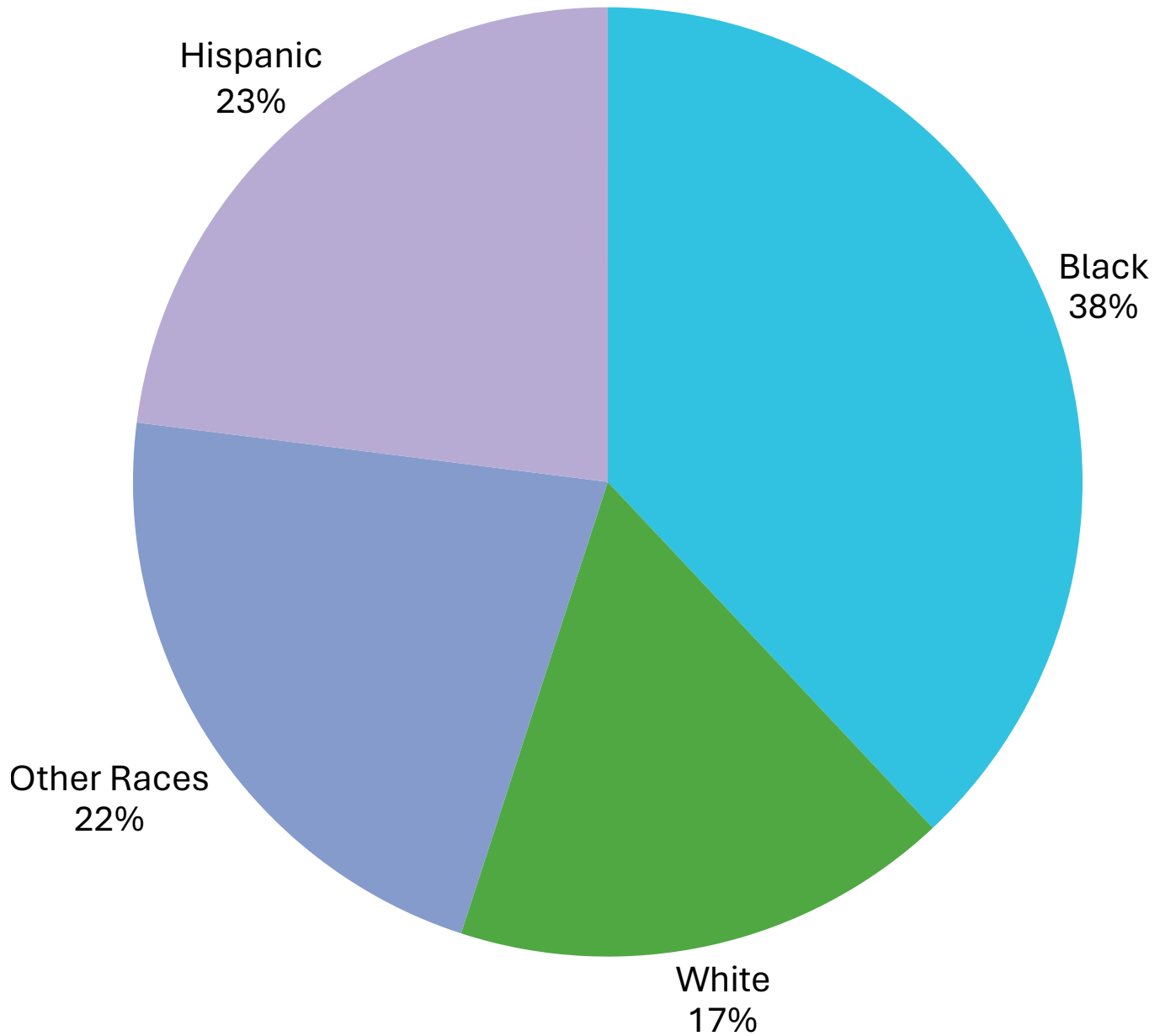


Florida 211 Counts 2025 - 2026

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## Employment/Income

### Escambia County Children Living in Poverty (ages 0-17) By Race



#### ***Insights:***

- 71,134 children lived in Escambia County in 2022.
- Of those, **16,504** (23.2%) were living in poverty.
- Of those, the majority were Black children (38%), Hispanic children (23%), and children of other races (22%).

Data Source:



Escambia County Children's Trust, 2022

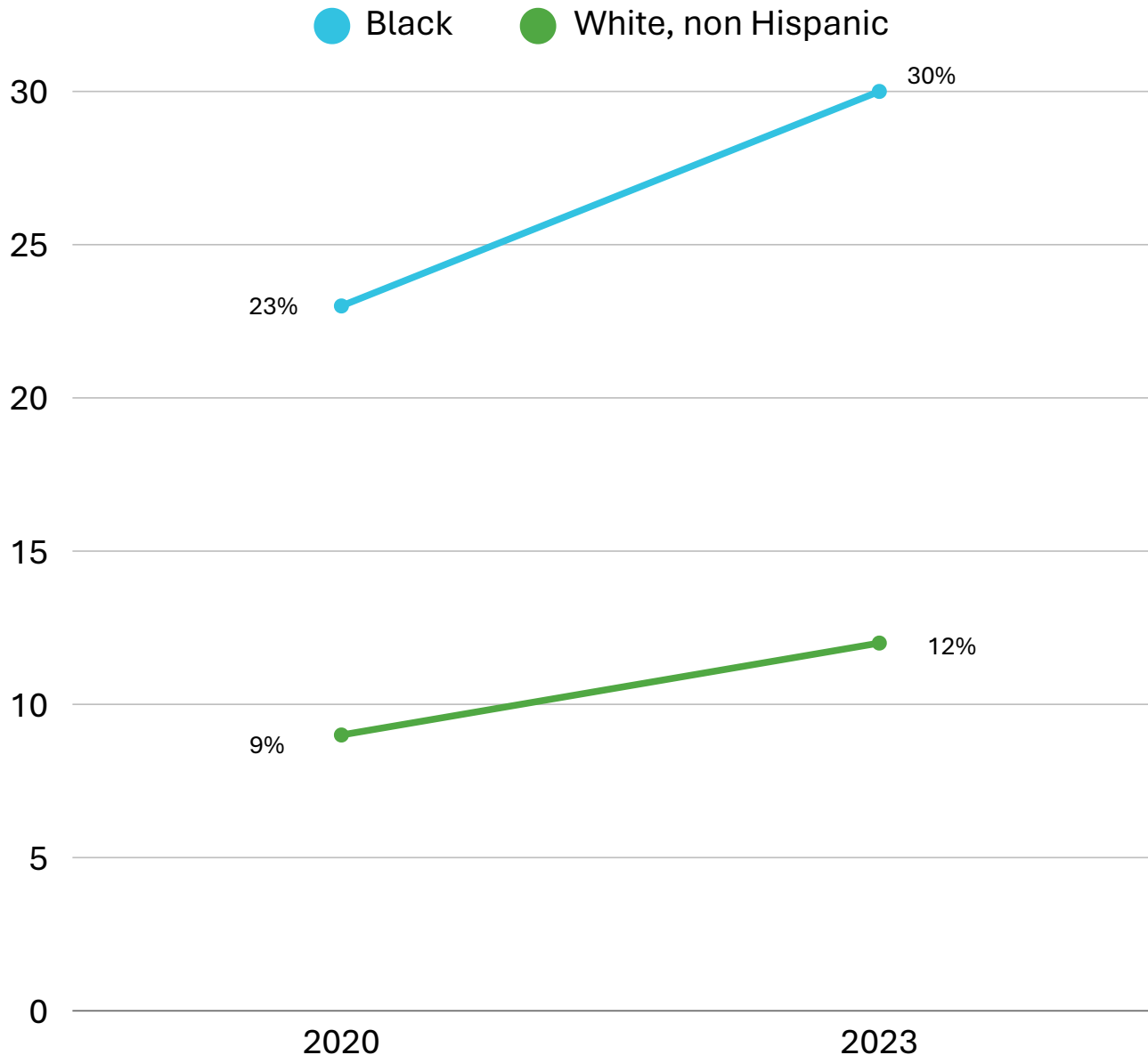
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## Employment/Income

### Food Insecurity

*Food insecurity is defined as the lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life.*

Presented as % of county's population, by race, who are considered food insecure.



#### ***Insights:***

- *In total, 49,350 people in Escambia County were food insecure as of 2023 (15.4% of the county population).*
- *Black residents are more likely to experience food insecurity than white residents.*

Data Source:



Feeding America, 2023

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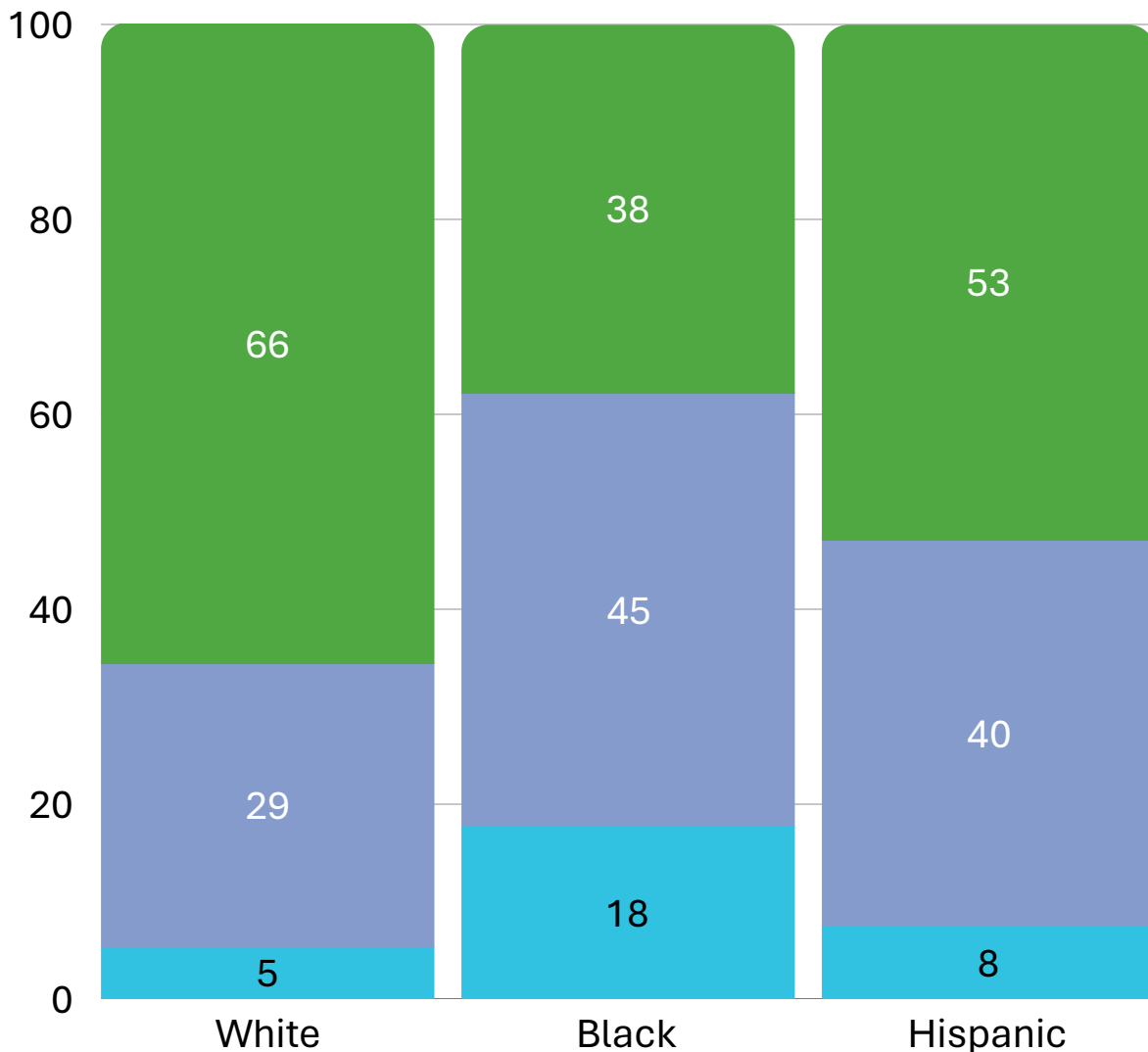
## Employment/Income

### ALICE Families

*ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained Employed or people who earn above the federal poverty level but less than the county's basic cost of living.*

Presented as percentage of households by race

Poverty ALICE Above Alice



#### **Insights:**

- In 2023, 45% of Black households, 40% of Hispanic households, and 29% of white households in Escambia County were earning above the federal poverty level but less than Escambia's basic cost of living.*

Data Source:



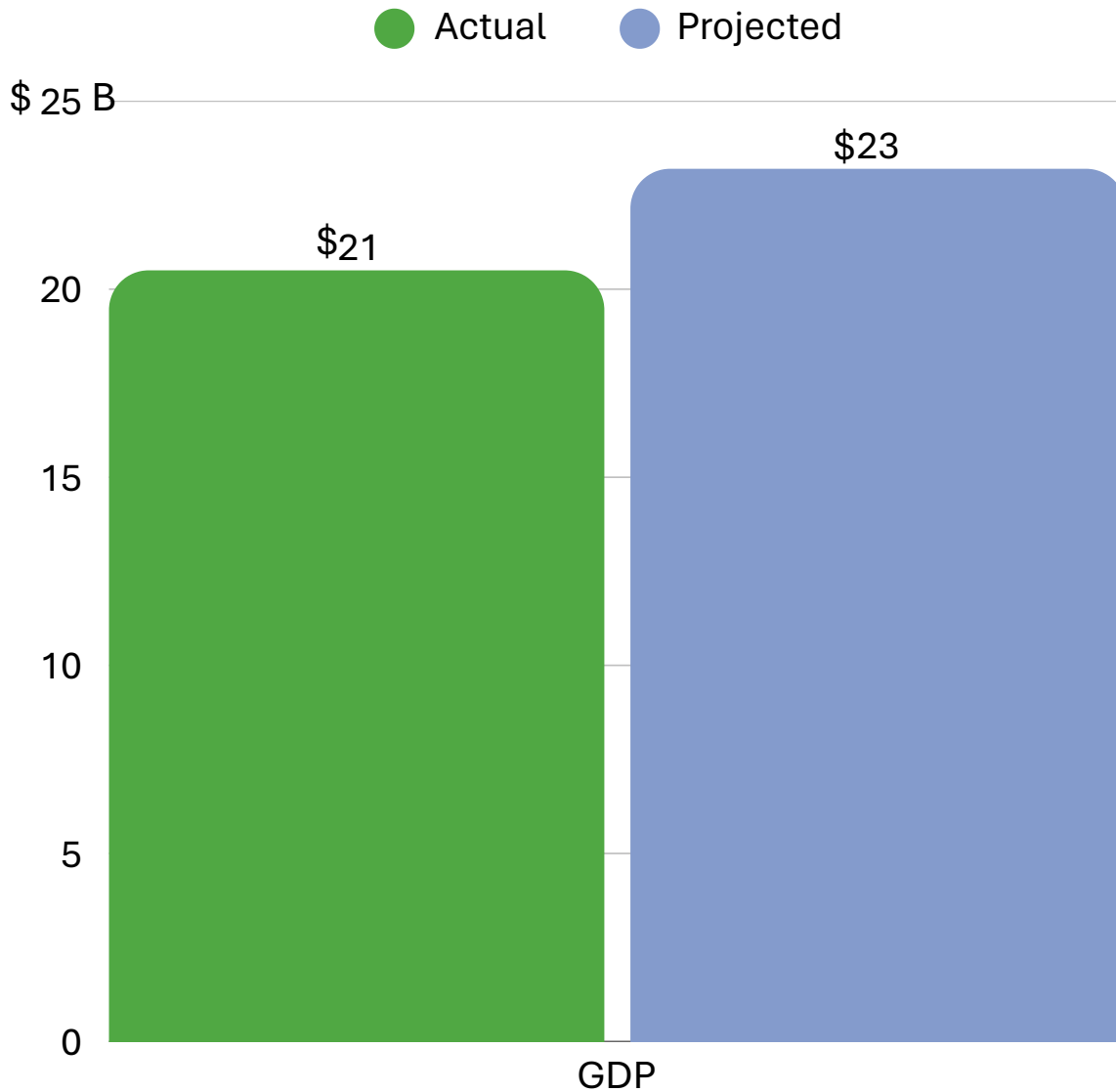
United for Alice, 2023

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## Employment/Income Racial Equity in Income

How much larger would the economy be with racial equity?

Presented as \$ Billions (rounded) Actual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Projected GDP



### Insights:

- If there had been no racial gaps in income, the Escambia County GDP would have been about **\$2.68 Billion** larger in 2022.
- The majority of income gains created by eliminating racial gaps in income for all people of color would come from **growth in wages**.

Data Source:



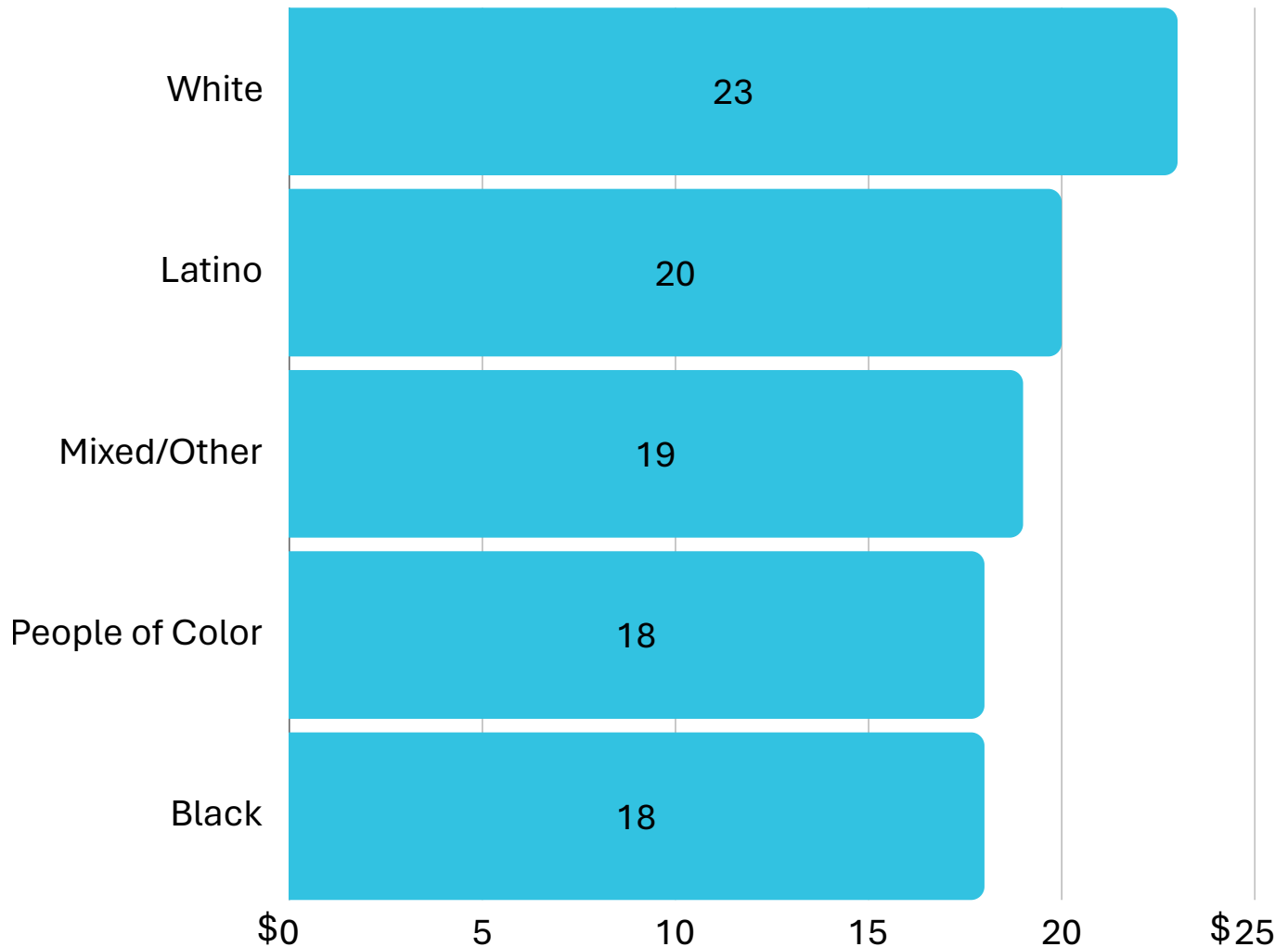
National Equity Atlas, 2022

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## Employment/Income

### Median Wages

*Presented as median hourly wage \$ amount by race/ethnicity for workers ages 25-64*



#### ***Insights:***

- In 2022, among workers aged 25 to 64, and at all income levels, Black workers had the lowest median wage at \$18 per hour and white workers had the highest median wage at \$23 per hour.*

Data Source:



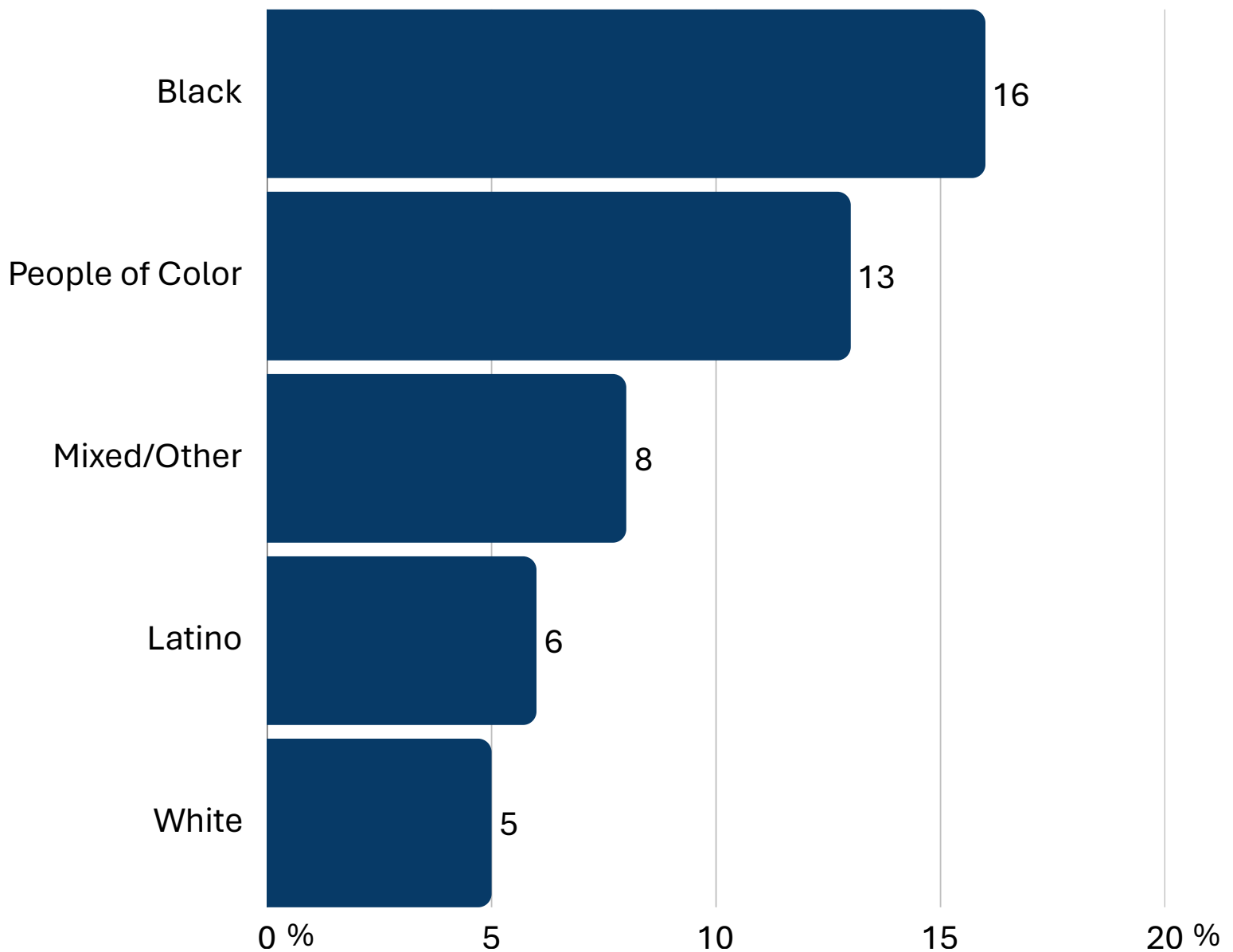
National Equity Atlas, 2022

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## Employment/Income

### Vehicle Access

Presented as Percent of households **without** a vehicle by race/ethnicity



#### **Insights:**

- Data Source:
- *In 2022, among people at all income levels, Black households were most likely to lack access to a car*



National Equity Atlas, 2022

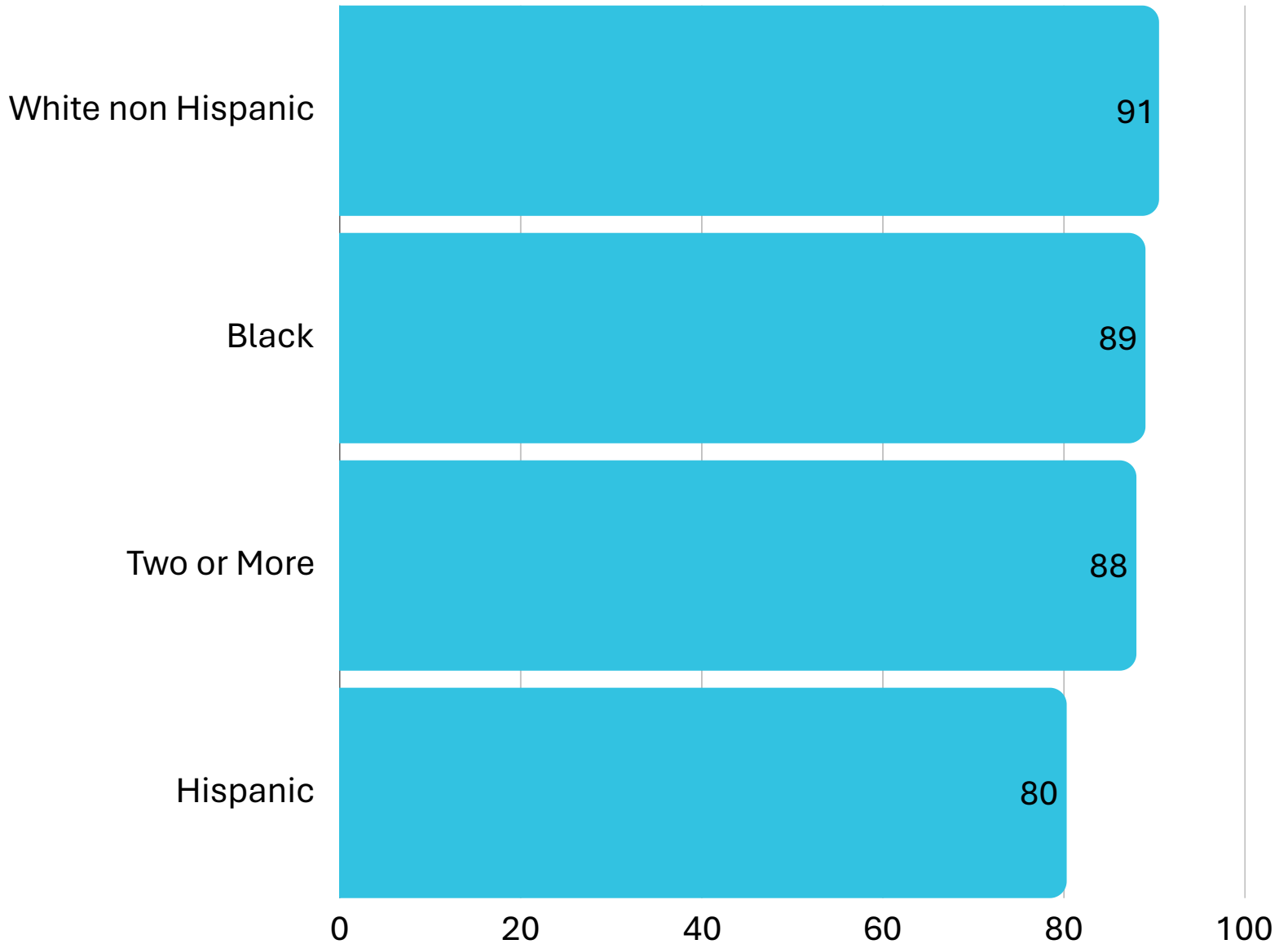
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## Health

### Health Insurance Coverage

Presented as percent of non-institutionalized civilians **with** health insurance.

This means people 16 years of age and older who are not in active duty military, correctional institutions, or mental/aged facilities.



#### ***Insights:***

- *Across the state of Florida, the percentage of Hispanic civilians with health insurance coverage is 84%, slightly higher than the Escambia County percentage of 80%.*

Data Source:



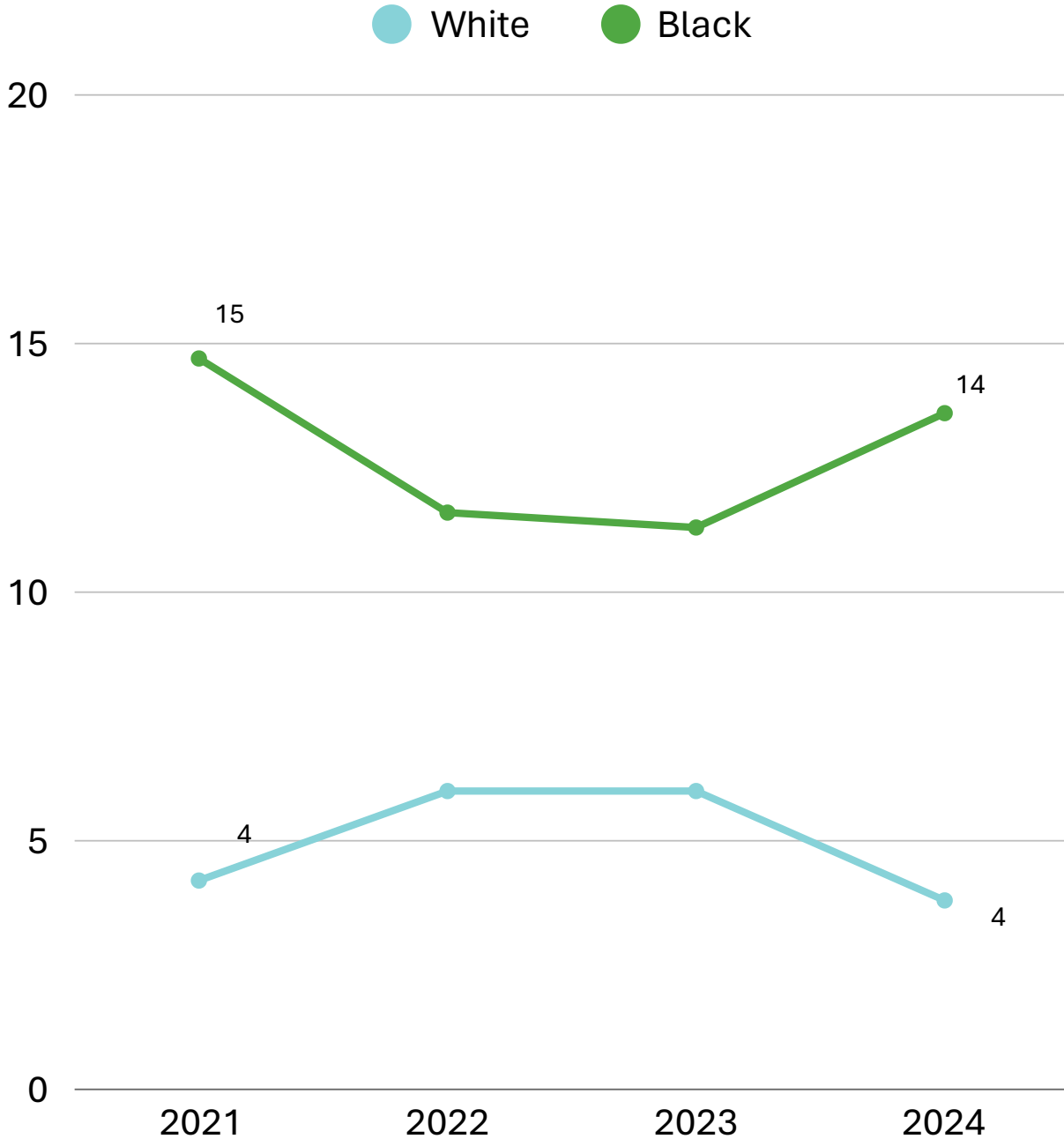
U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2024

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## Health

### Infant Mortality Rate

Presented as number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births



#### **Insights:**

- *For every 1,000 Black infants born in Escambia County, 14 will pass away before their first birthday.*
- *While the Black infant mortality rate dipped down, it has climbed back up and remains higher than the white infant mortality rate.*

Data Source:



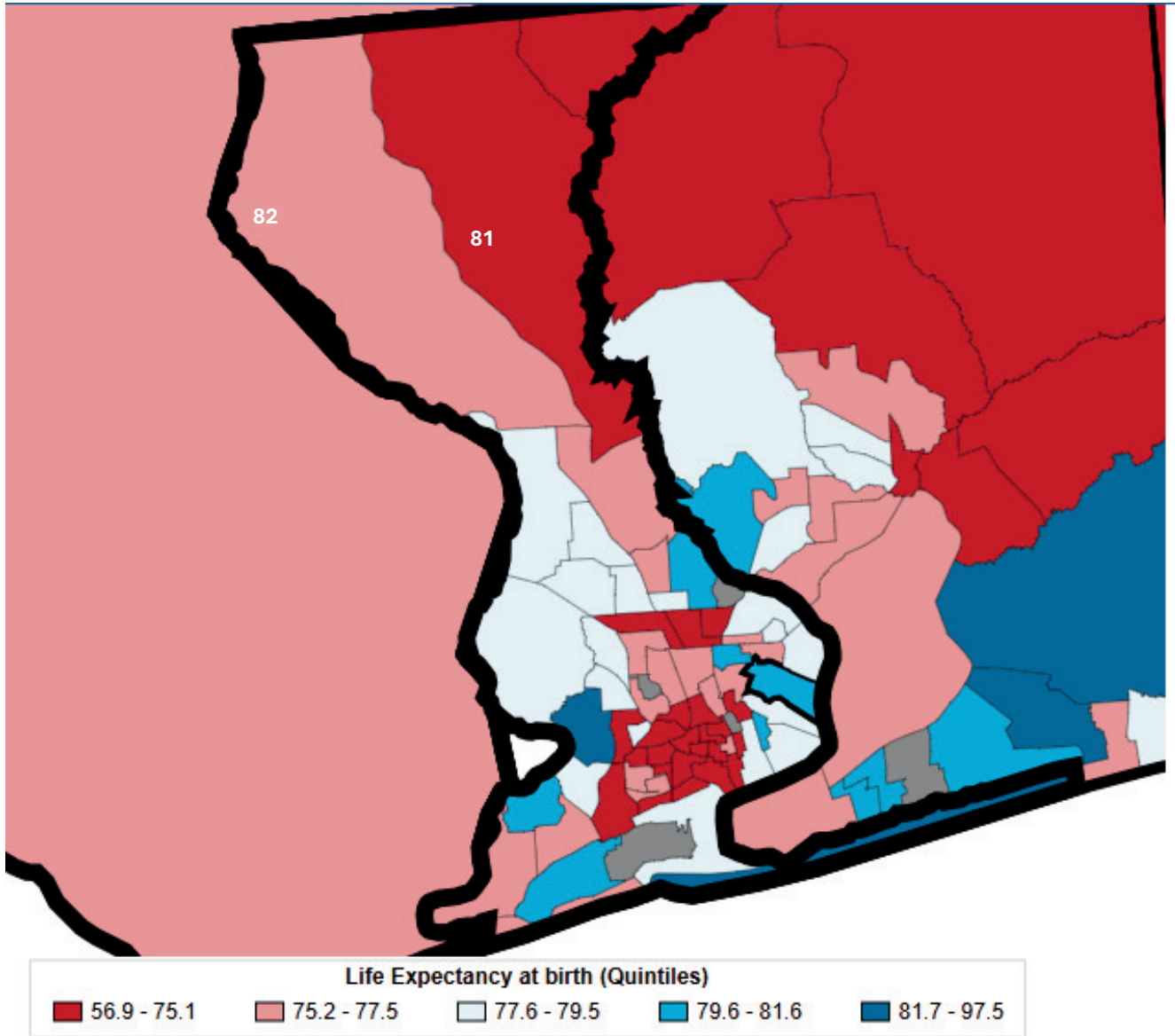
Florida Vital Statistics

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## Health

### Life Expectancy

Presented as life expectancy by census tract in Escambia County



Geographic areas with no data available are filled in gray

#### Lowest life expectancy

Census Tract	Zip Codes in that tract	Life Expectancy at birth
1	32501, 32502	61.1
17	32501, 32505	62.1
20	32508	67.3

Data Source  
Interactive Map:

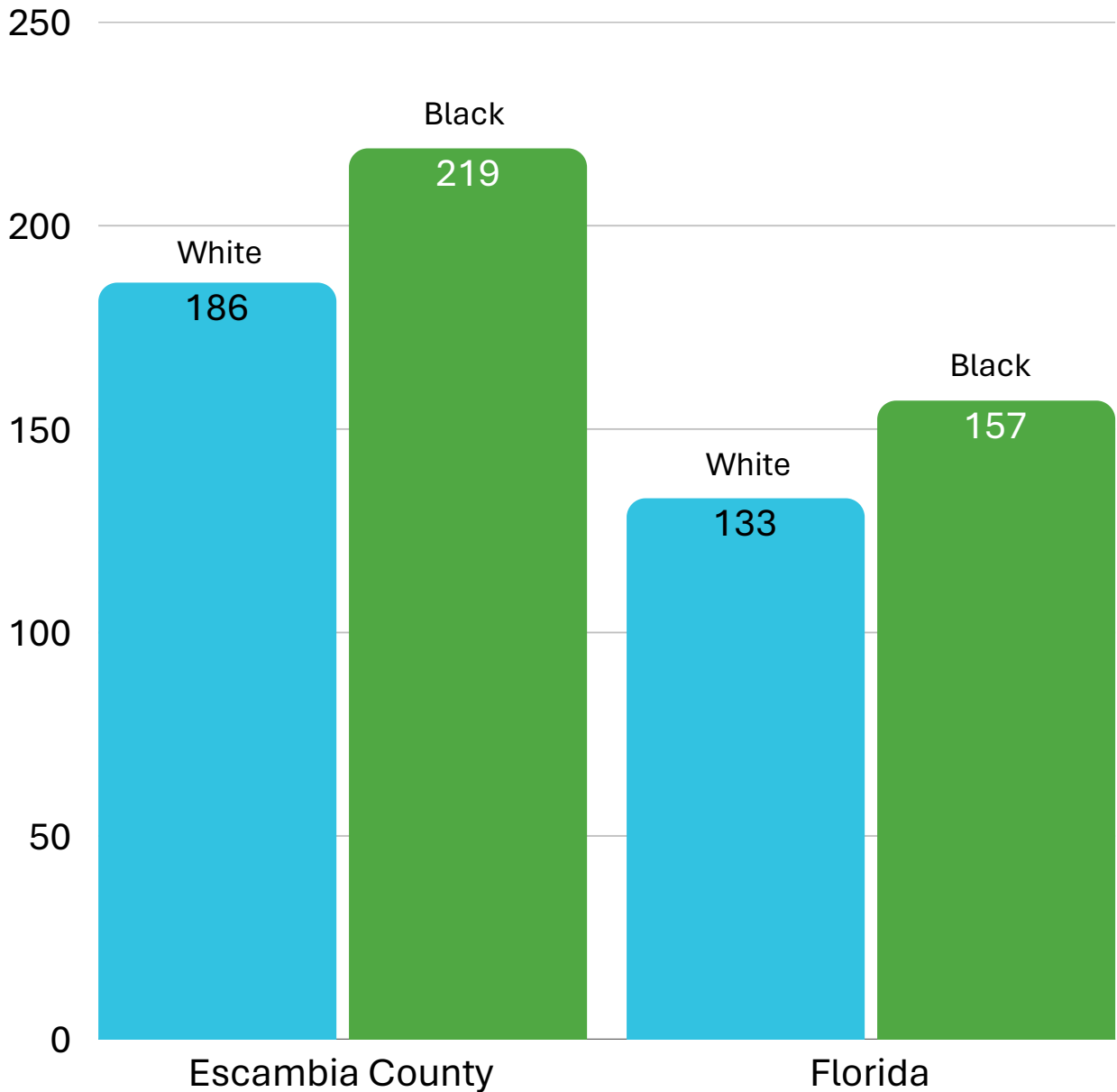


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## Health

### Heart Disease Deaths

Presented as age-adjusted deaths from heart disease, rate per 10,000.



#### ***Insights:***

- *A higher age-adjusted heart disease death rate than the state indicates that our county has a greater burden of cardiovascular mortality.*
- *This may be driven by factors such as limited access to healthcare, lower socioeconomic status (like income or education), and higher rates of risk factors like smoking or obesity.*

Data Source



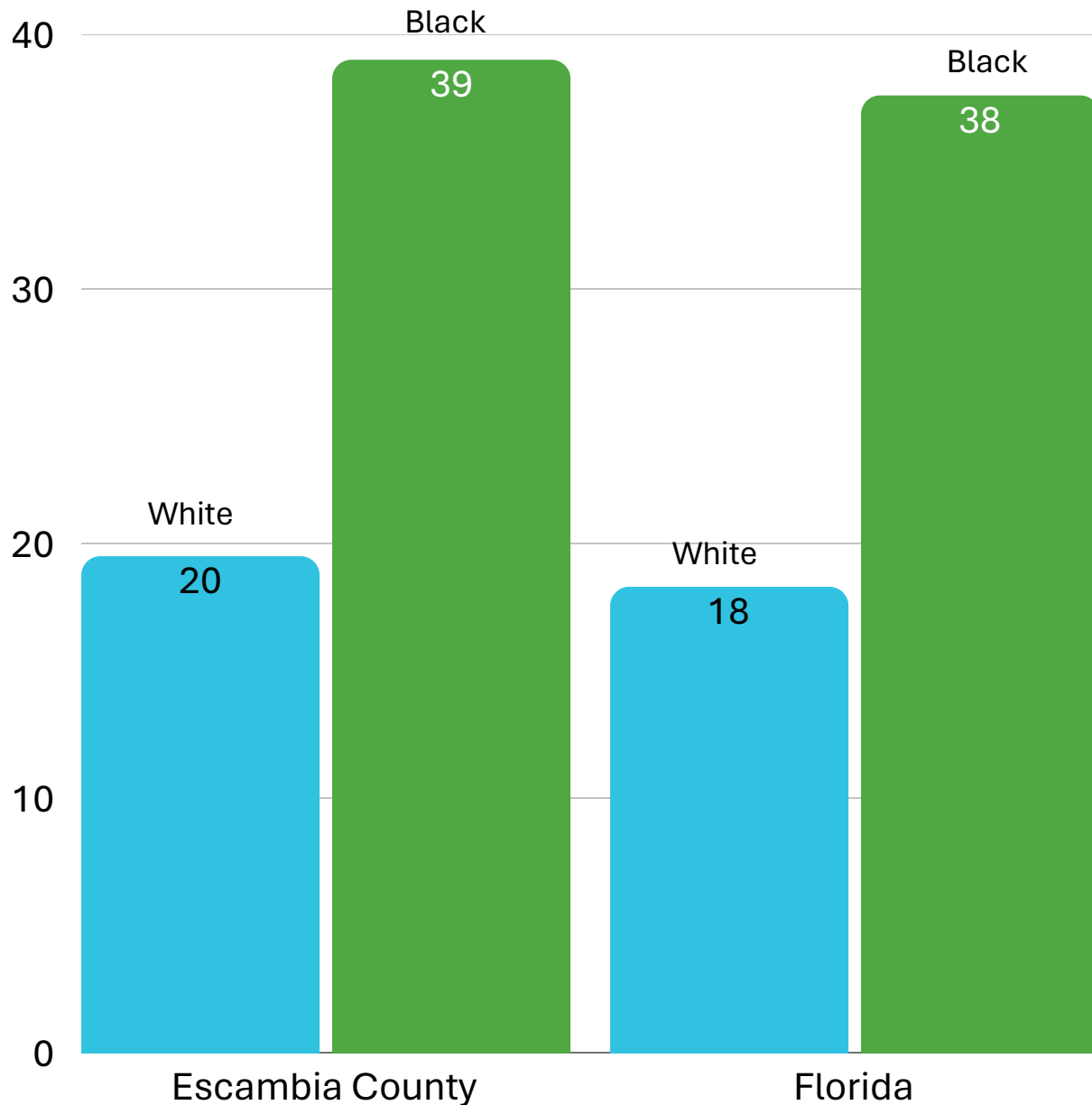
Florida Department of Health, 2024

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## Health

### Diabetes Deaths

Presented as age-adjusted deaths from heart disease, rate per 10,000.



#### **Insights:**

- *The age-adjusted mortality rates for diabetes in Escambia County show significant racial disparities, with rates for Black residents consistently higher than those for white residents, mirroring state trends.*

Data Source



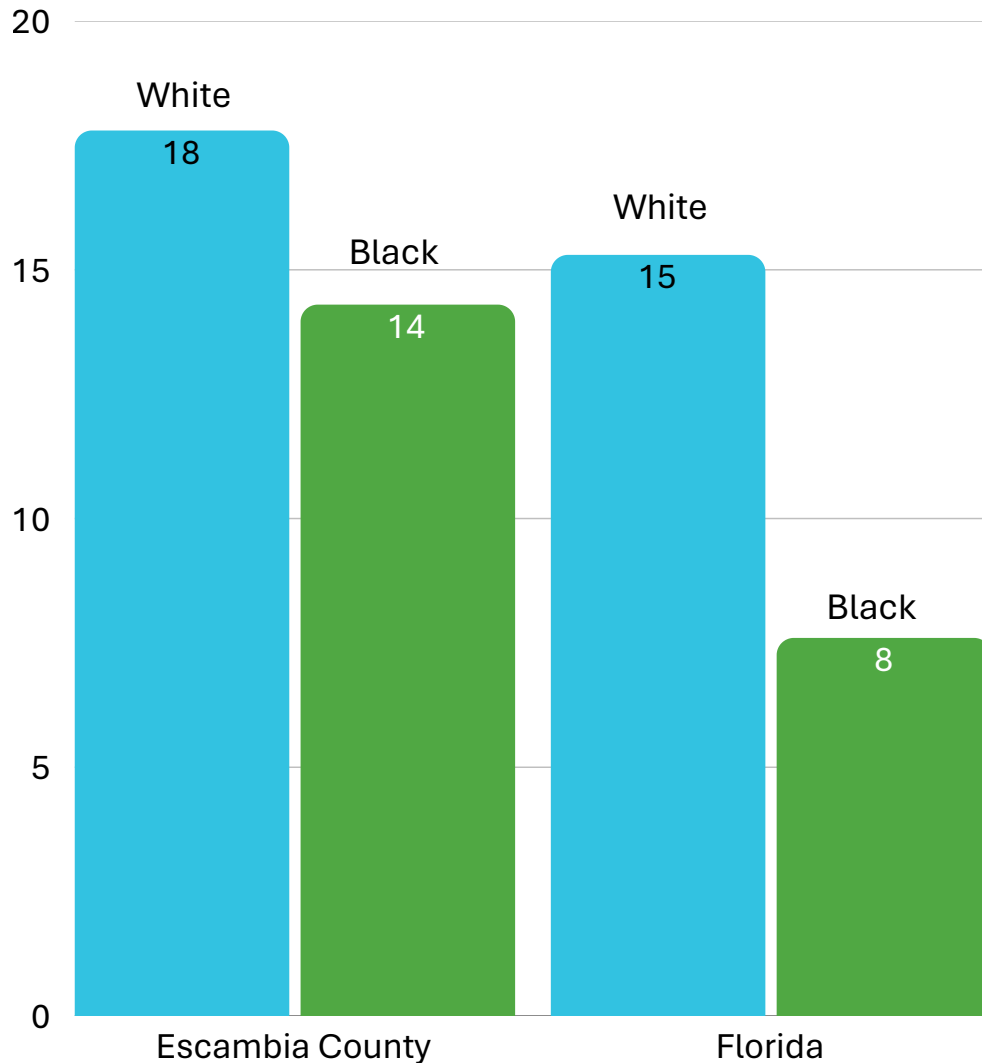
Florida Department of Health, 2024

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## Mental Health

### Suicide Rate

Presented as age-adjusted deaths from suicide, rate per 10,000.



#### **Insights:**

- *The age-adjusted mortality rates for suicide in Escambia County show racial disparities with rates for white residents consistently higher than those for Black residents and higher than the state of Florida.*
- *Youth suicide is a significant concern in the area with rising rates over the past several years.*

Data Source



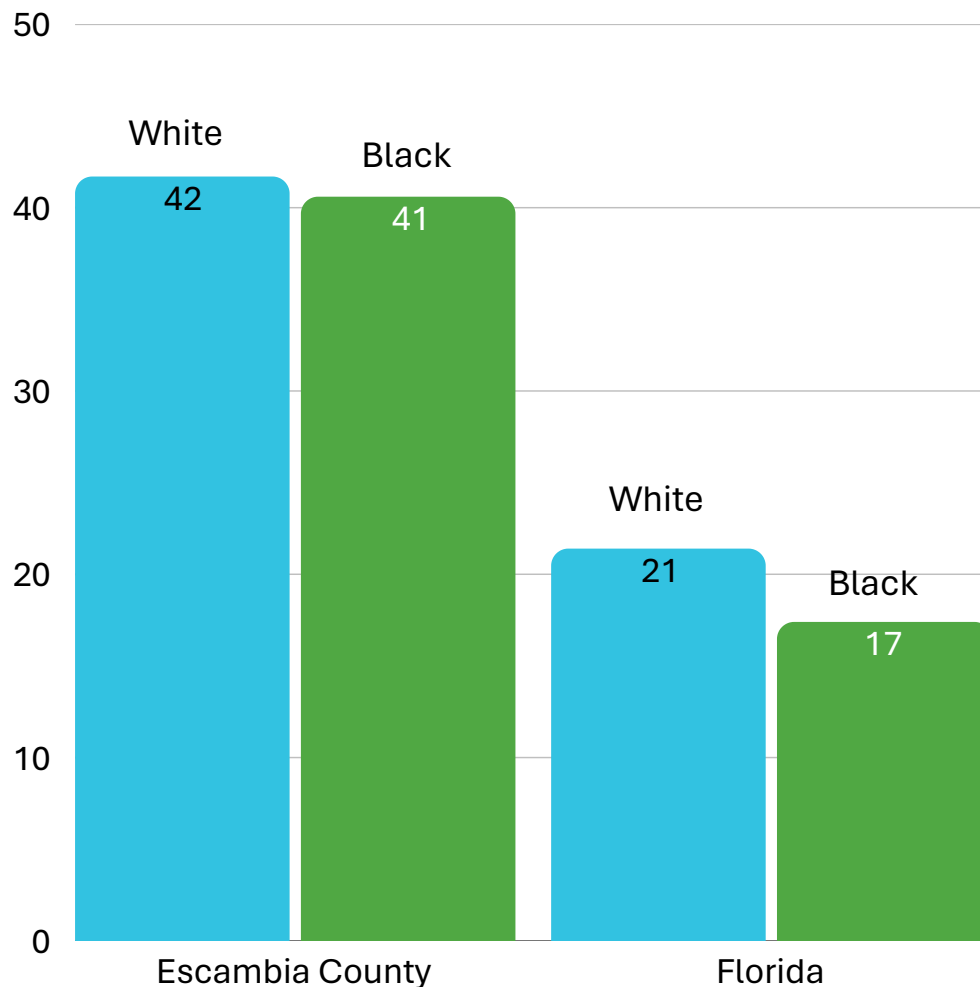
Florida Department of Health, 2024

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## Mental Health

## Overdose Deaths

Presented as age-adjusted deaths from unintentional injury by drug poisoning, rate per 10,000 population.



### ***Insights:***

- *While Florida as a whole has seen a slight decrease in overall drug-related fatalities, specific regions, particularly in the Panhandle, remain disproportionately affected.*
- *Escambia County has historically experienced some of the highest age-adjusted drug-related death rates in Florida, often more than double the state average.*

Data Source



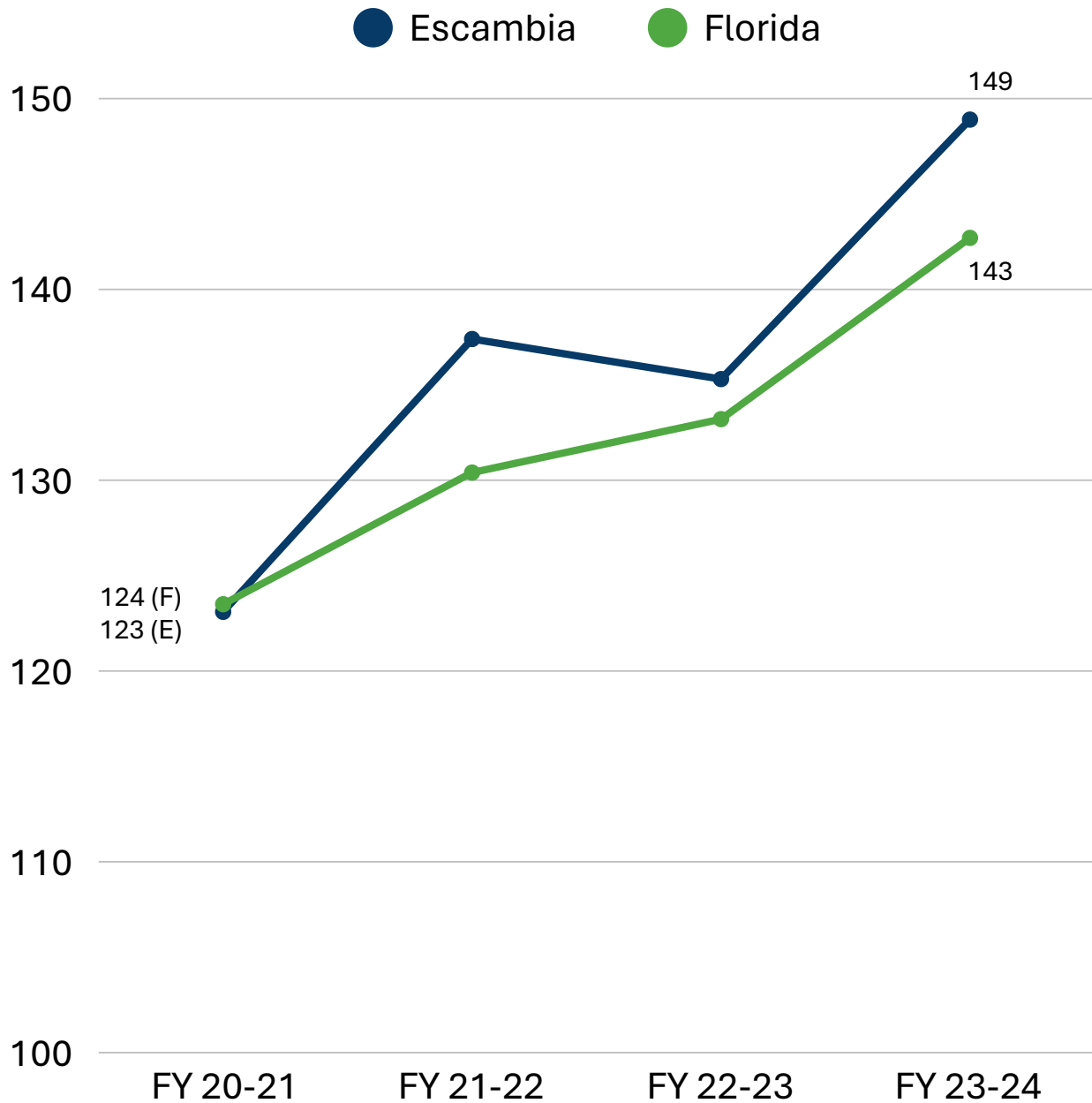
Florida Department of Health, 2024

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## Mental Health

### Behavioral/Mental Health Professionals

The rate per 100,000 of Behavioral/Mental Health Professionals



Data Source



#### Insights:

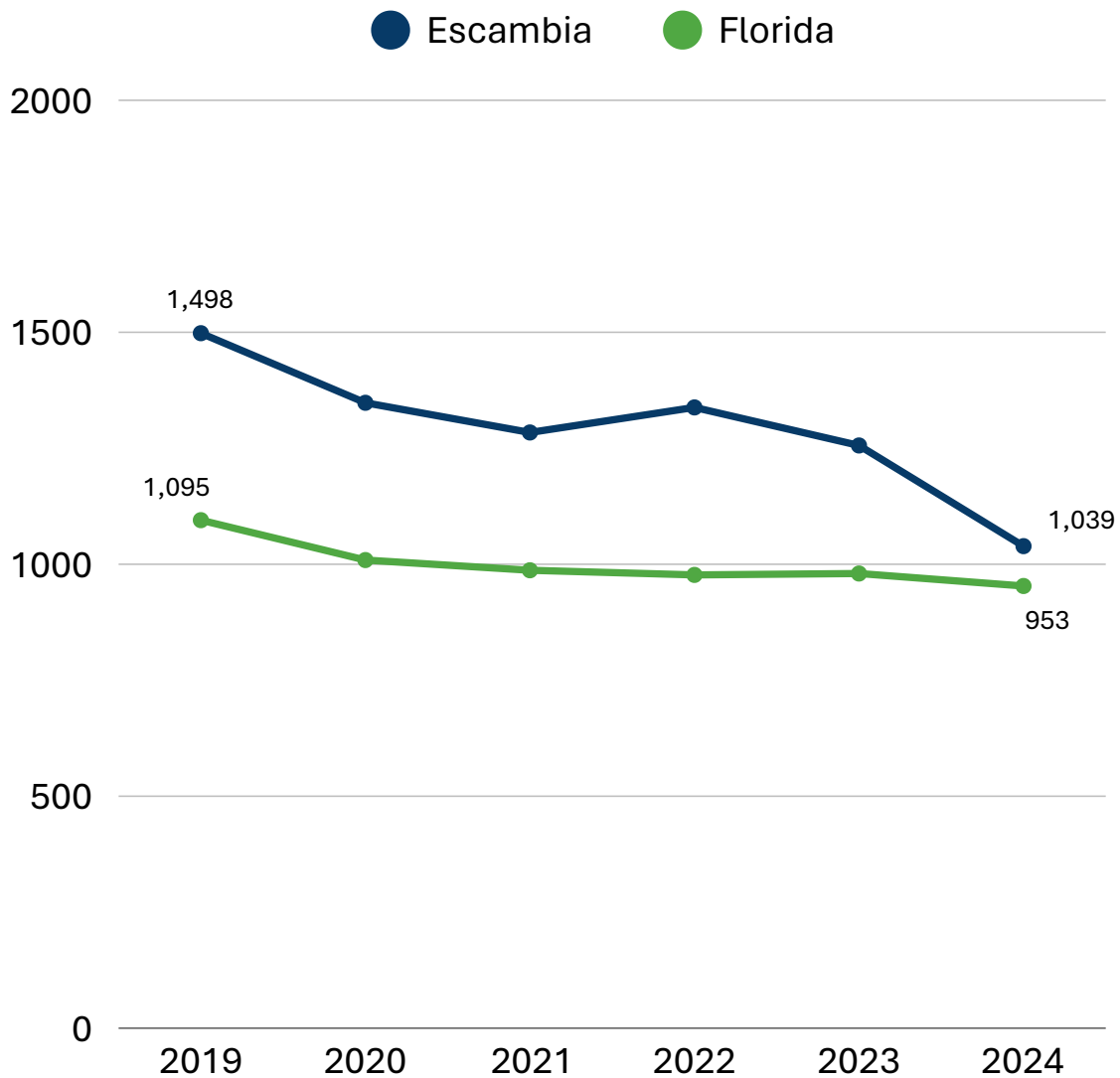
- For every 100,000 people in Escambia County, there are 149 behavioral/mental health professionals working in the county which is higher than the state of Florida rate.

# Equity Project Alliance

## Mental Health

### Hospitalizations from Mental Health Disorders (Over 18 yrs old)

Presented as rate per 100,000 of hospitalizations with a primary diagnosis of a mental disorder



#### ***Insights:***

- *While still higher than the state of Florida rate, Escambia County has reported a declining trend in the number of hospitalizations with a primary diagnosis of a mental disorder.*

Data Source



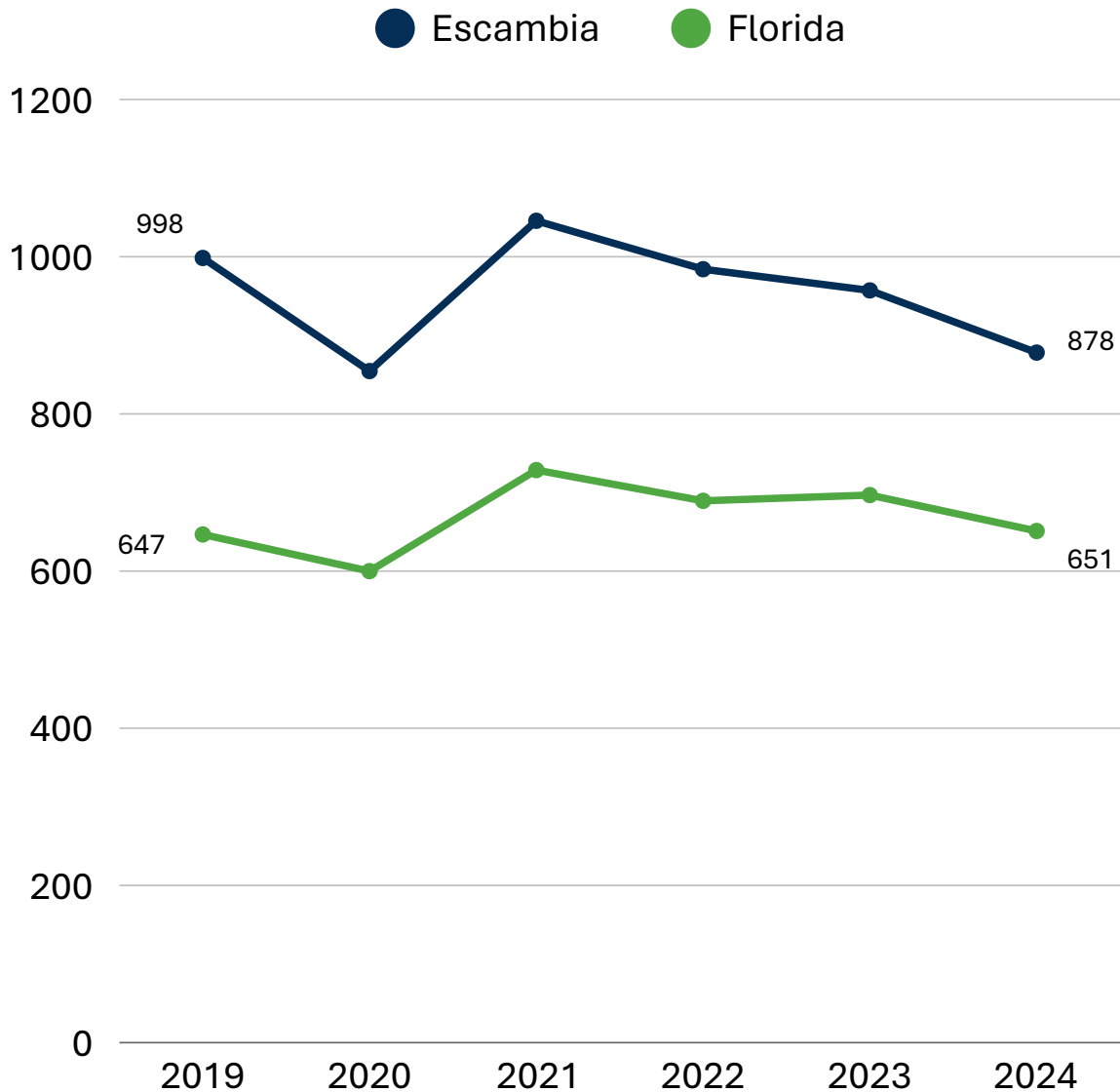
Florida Department of Health, 2024

# Equity Project Alliance

## Mental Health

### Hospitalizations from Mental Health Disorders (Ages 0-17 yrs old)

Presented as rate per 100,000 of hospitalizations with a primary diagnosis of a mental disorder



#### ***Insights:***

- *In 2024, a child in Escambia County was roughly 35% more likely to be hospitalized with a primary mental health diagnosis than the average child in the state of Florida.*

Data Source



Florida Department of Health (Note: Search for the key terms.)

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## Education

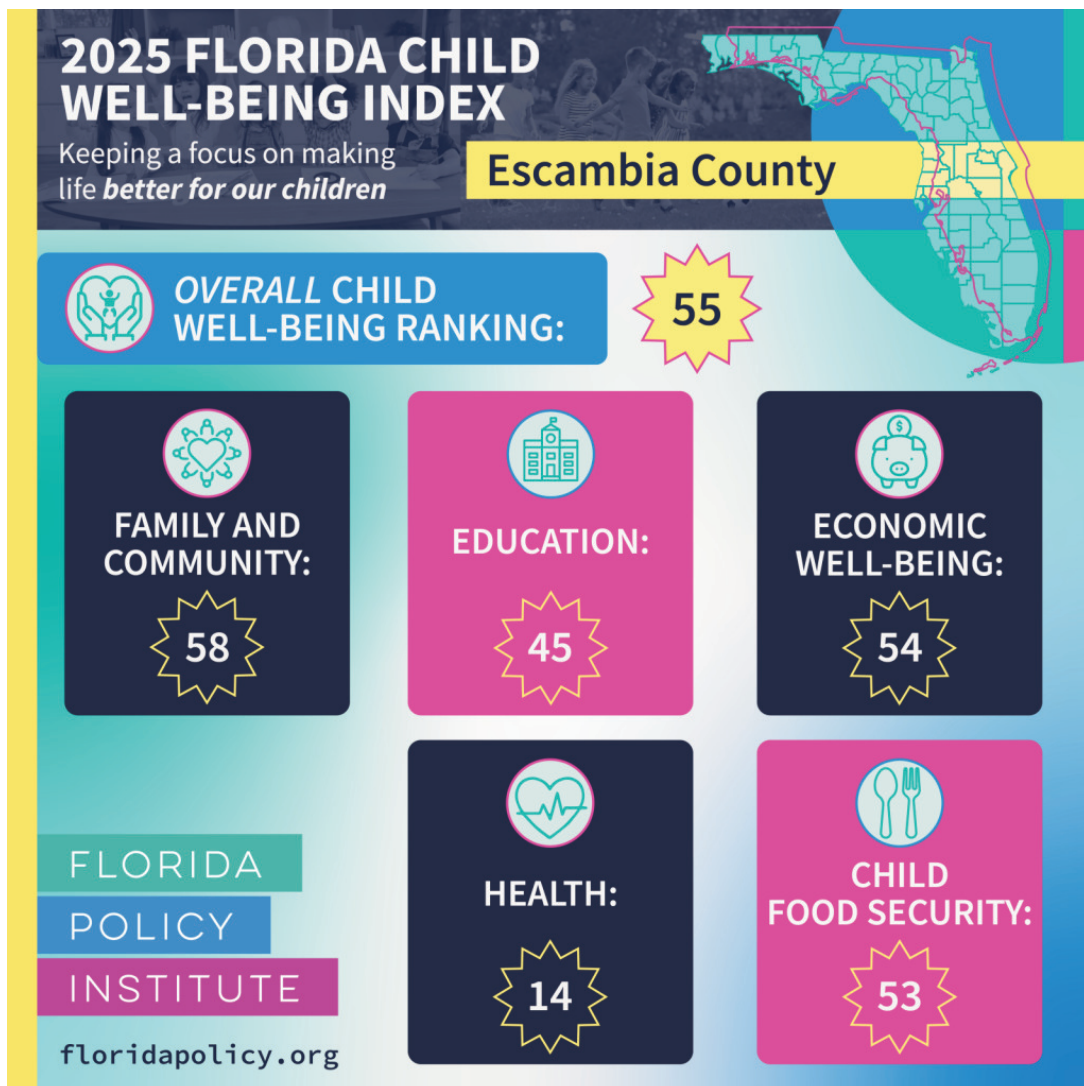
### Child Wellbeing Index

The Child Well-being Index (CWBI) provides counties with a snapshot of 16 indicators of child and family well-being organized into four domains:

#### **Economic Well-Being, Education, Health, and Family and Community**

These 16 indicators do not contribute to well-being independently; rather, they interact with each other to influence outcomes that are to the benefit or detriment of Florida's children.

**Ranks are 1-67 with a higher ranking indicating better outcomes.**



#### **Insights:**

- In 2025, Escambia County ranked 55<sup>th</sup> out of 67 counties in the state, one place higher than our lowest rank in a declining trend over the past few years.

Data Source

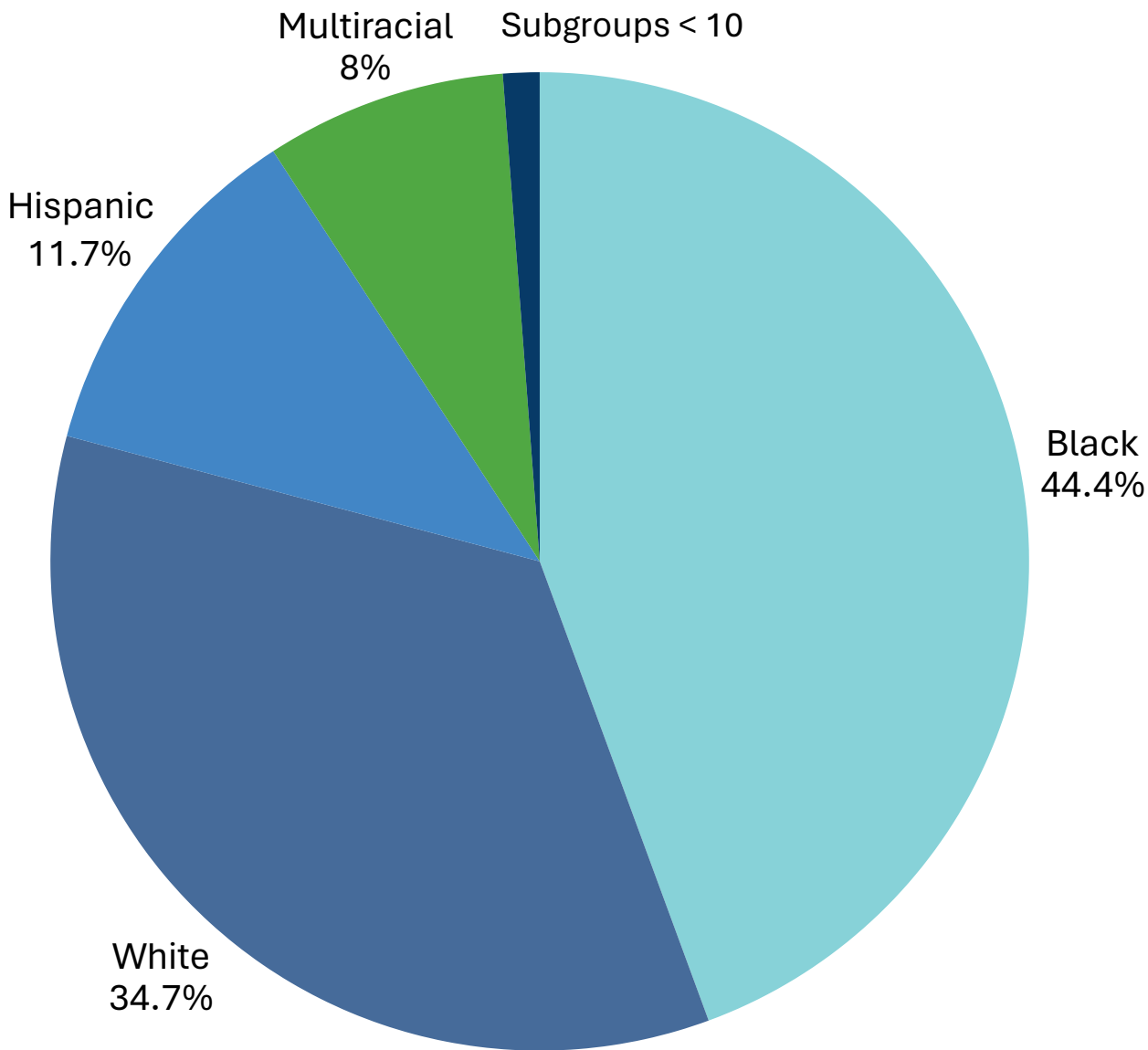


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## Education

### Fall Preschool Enrollment 2025 - 2026

*Presented as percentage of public pre-k students by race*



#### ***Insights:***

- *Black students represent the largest segment of the public pre-K population at 44.4%, significantly higher than their representation in the overall district K-12 population (35.6%).*
- *White students accounted for only 34.7% of public pre-K enrollment, suggesting a higher use of private early education options by this group.*

Data Source



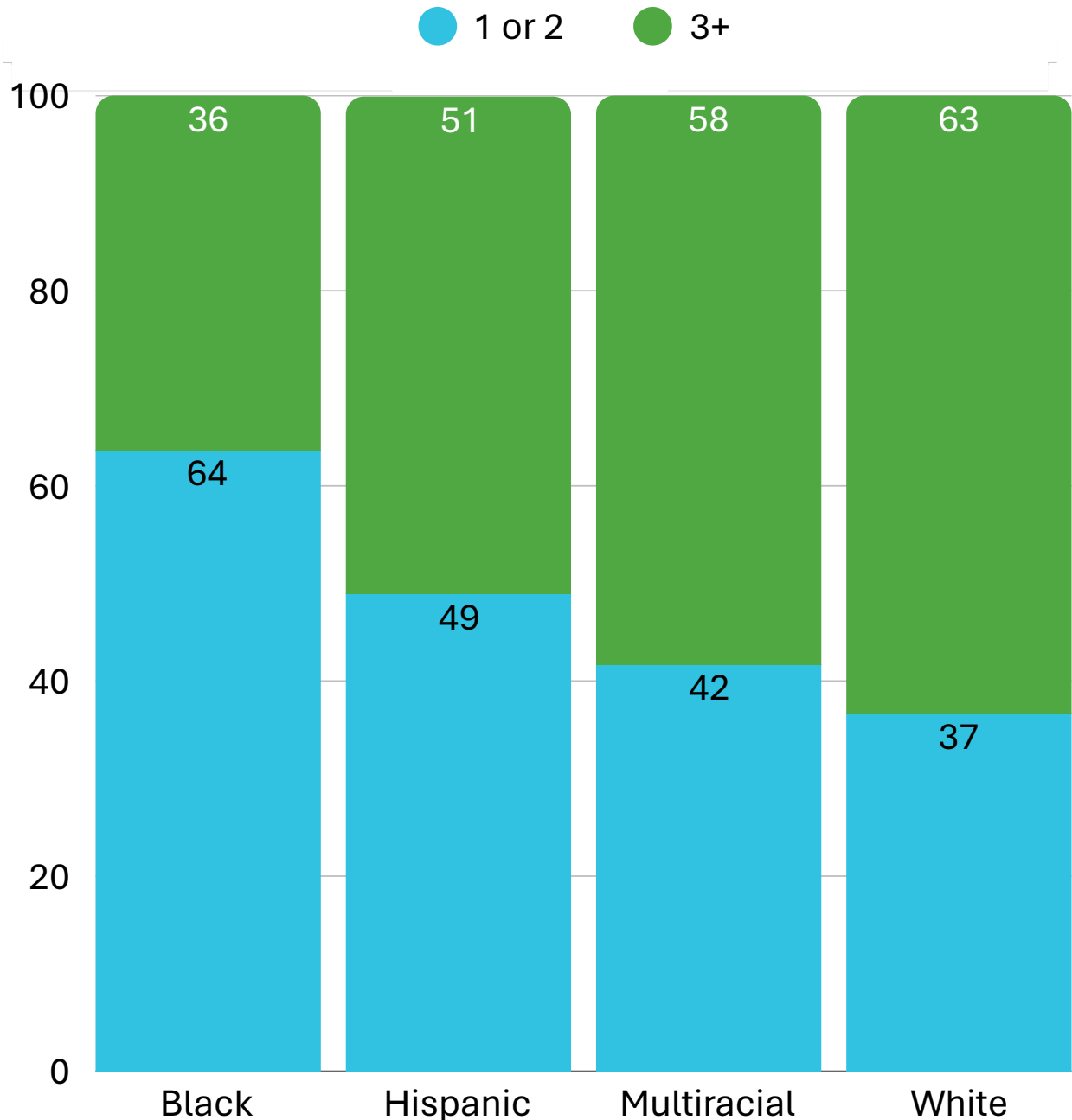
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## Education

### Escambia County English Language Arts Assessment

*Presented as ELA Assessment Scores by Achievement Level.*

*A score of 3 or higher indicates proficiency.*



Data Source



#### ***Insights:***

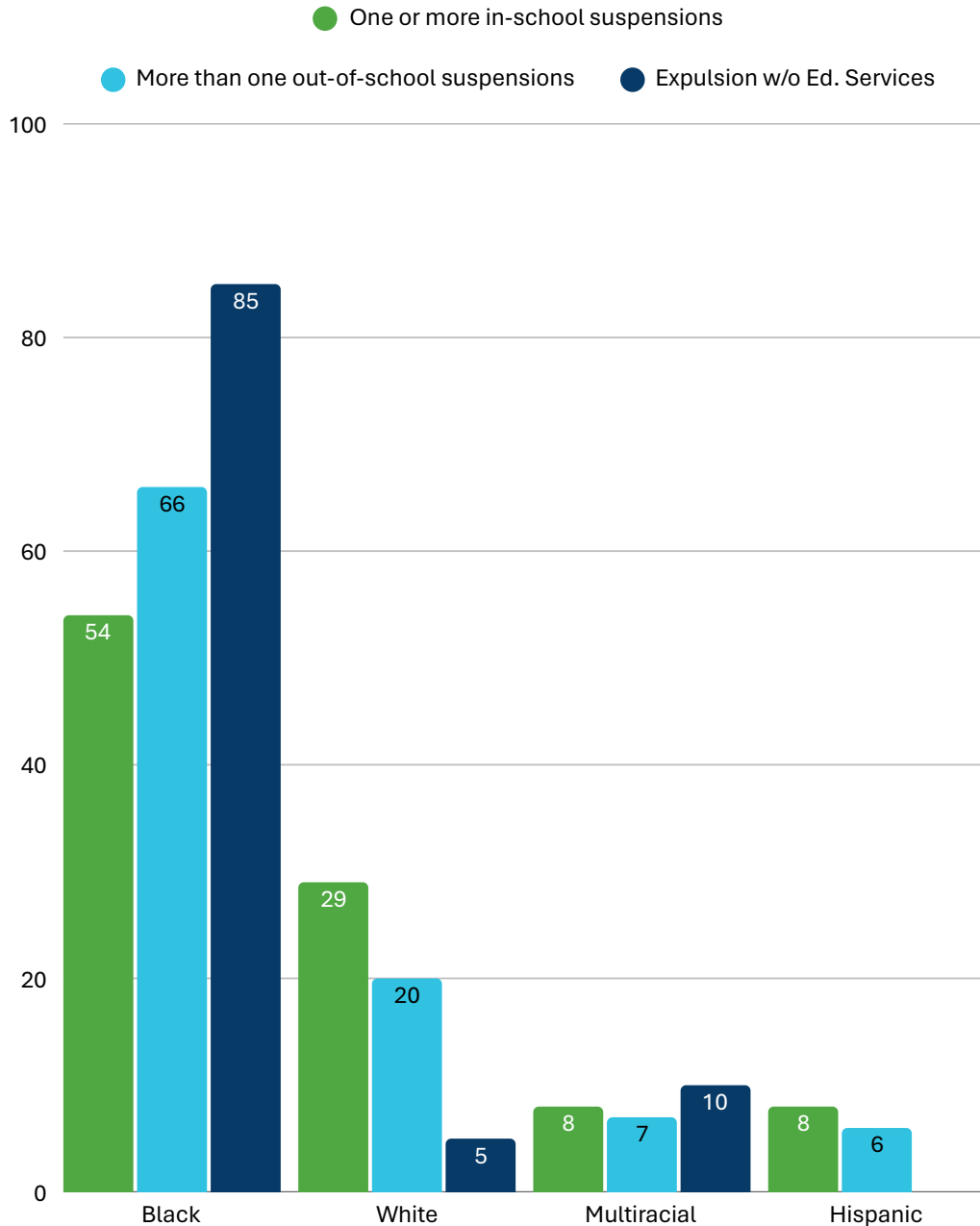
- *36% of Black students scored a 3 or higher on the English Language Assessment compared to 51% of Hispanic students, 42% of multiracial students, and 63% of white students.*

# Equity Project Alliance

## Education

### Disciplinary Actions

*Presented as percentage of racial subgroups that face disciplinary actions*



#### **Insights:**

- *While Black students represent roughly 36% of the student population in Escambia County, they face more disciplinary actions than their white and Hispanic peers.*
- *Across the state, Black youth are twice as likely to receive in-school suspensions and 2.5 times as likely to face out-of-school suspensions or expulsions compared to white students.*

Data Source

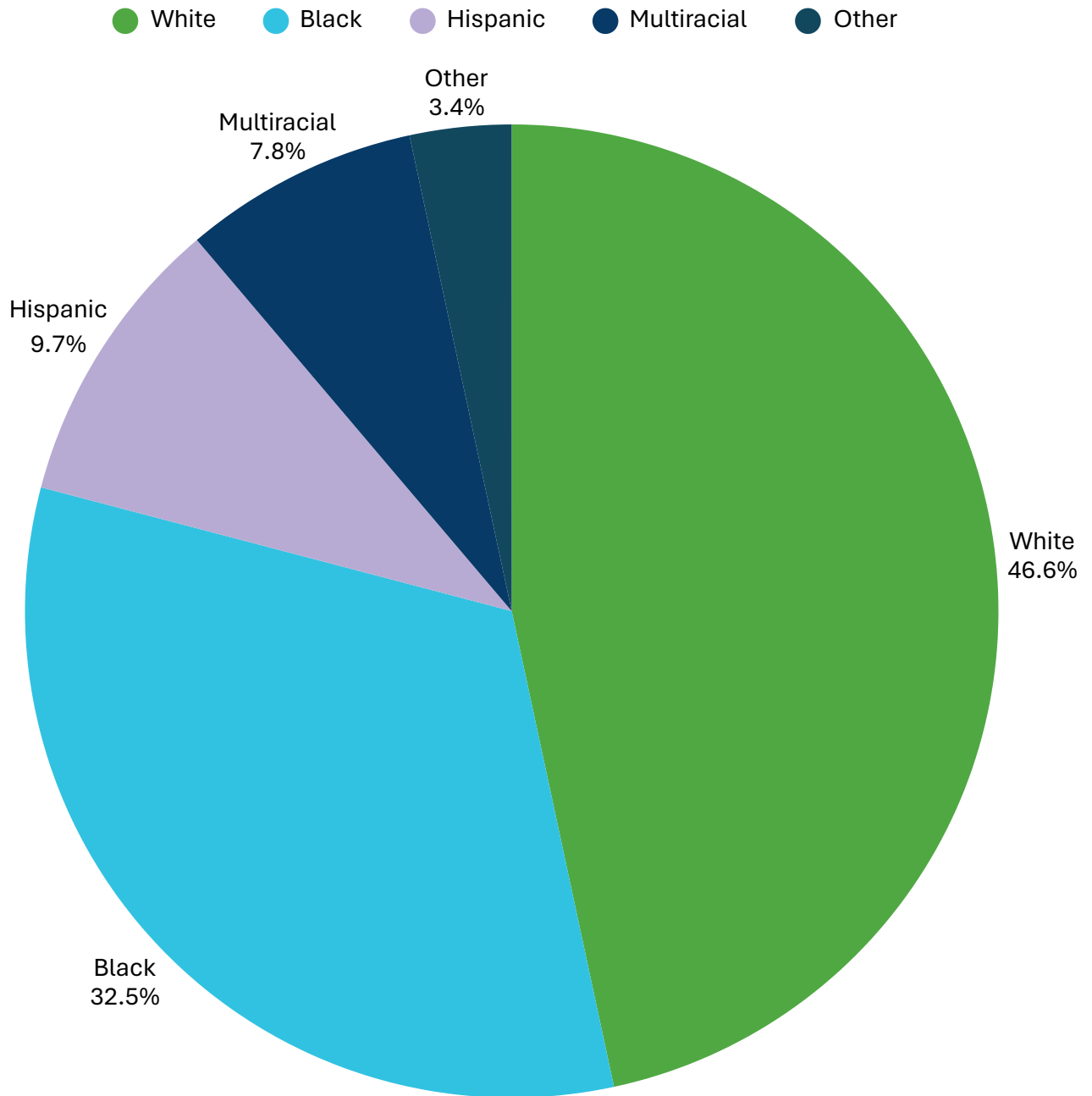


# Equity Project Alliance

## Education

### Escambia County High School Graduation Rates

*Presented as percentage of high school graduates by race*



#### Data Source



#### **Insights:**

- *The total graduation rate in Escambia County in 2024-2025 was 89.5%*
- *The total graduation rate in the state of Florida in 2024-2025 was 92.2%*