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COVID-19 and the Impact on Communities of Color: Our Nation's Inequities Exposed

May 20, 2020

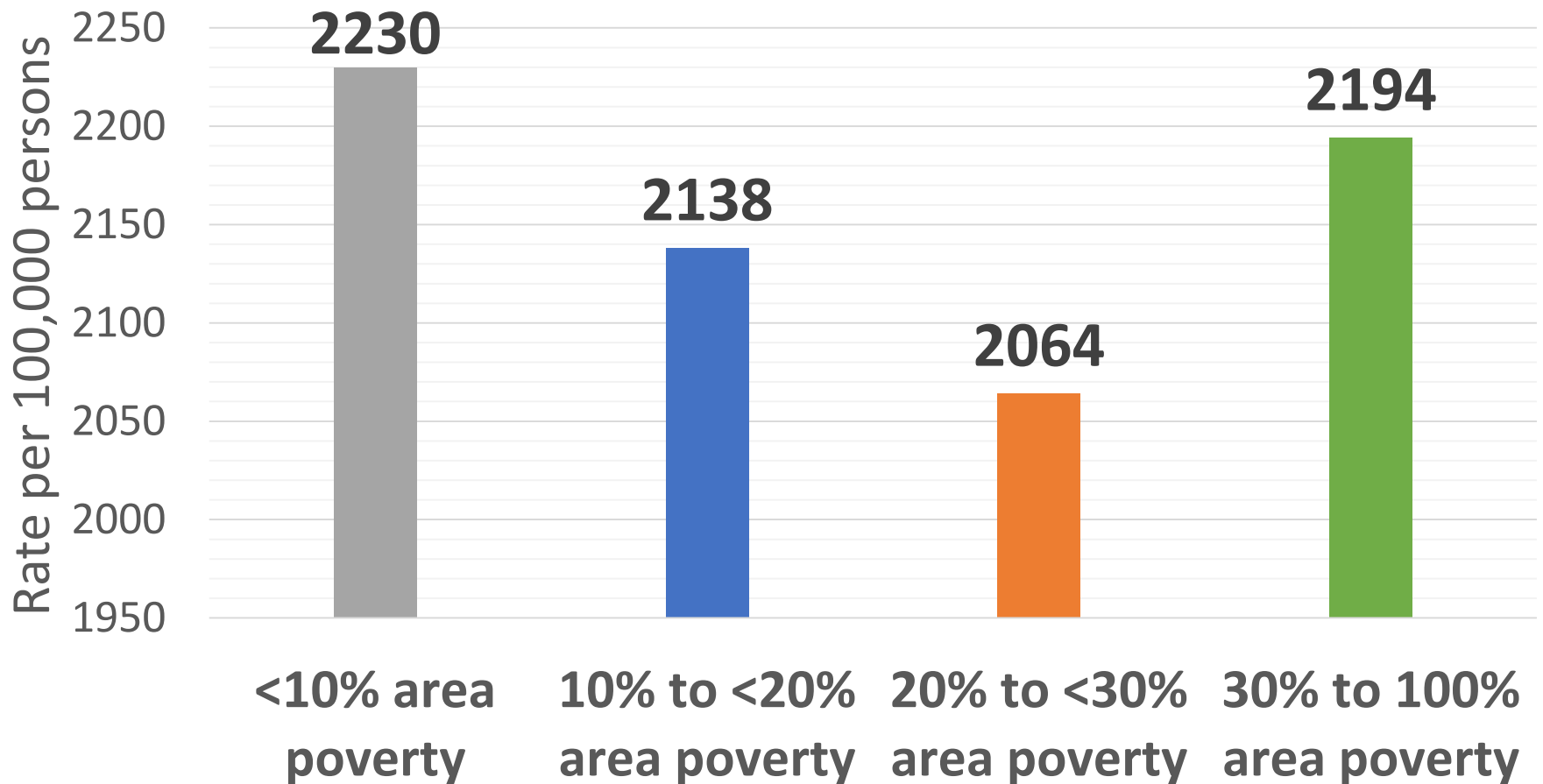
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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

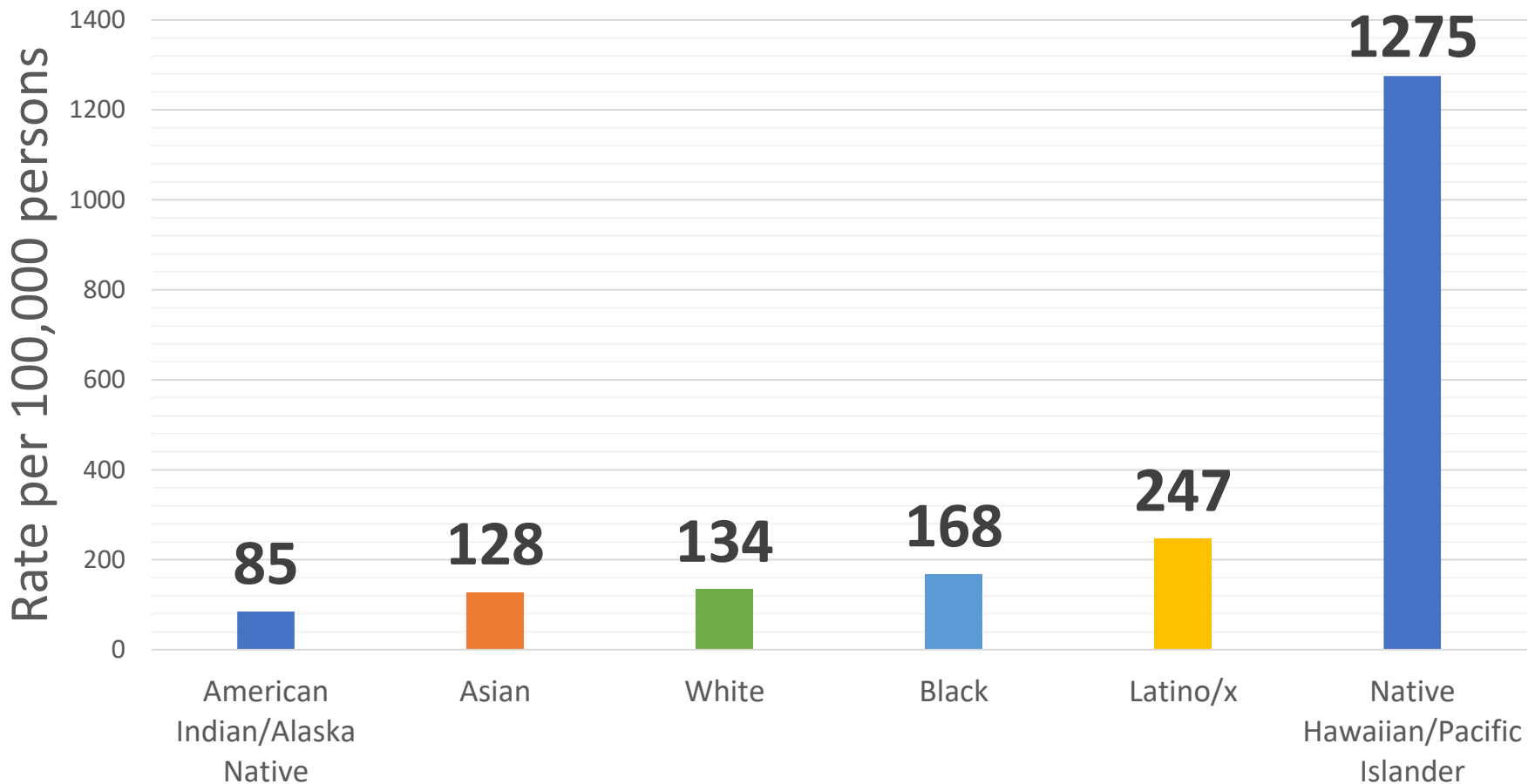


LA County COVID-19 Testing by Area Poverty (ELR only) Age-Adjusted Rate as of May 19, 2020



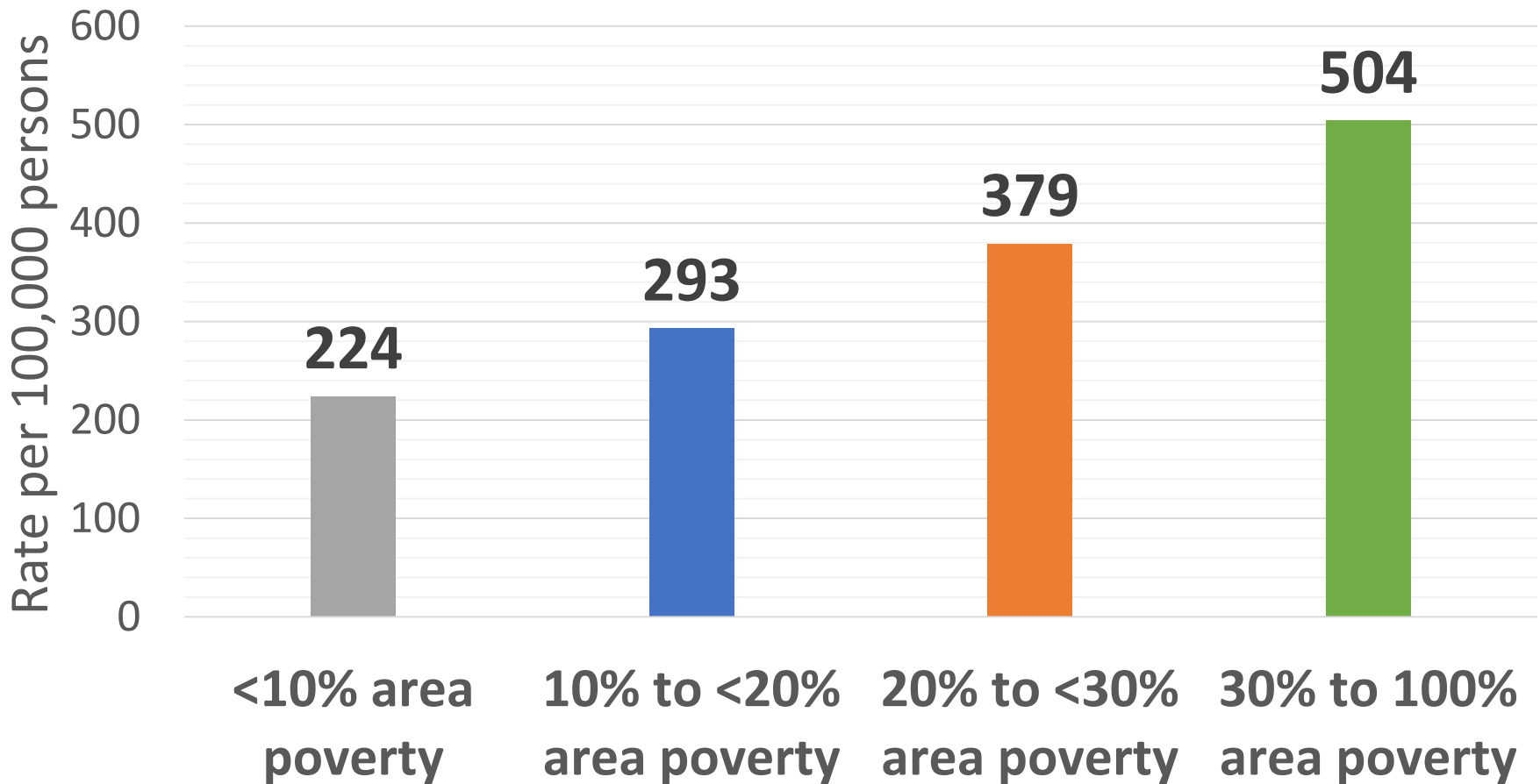


LA County COVID-19 Cases by Race/Ethnicity, Age-Adjusted Rate as of May 19, 2020



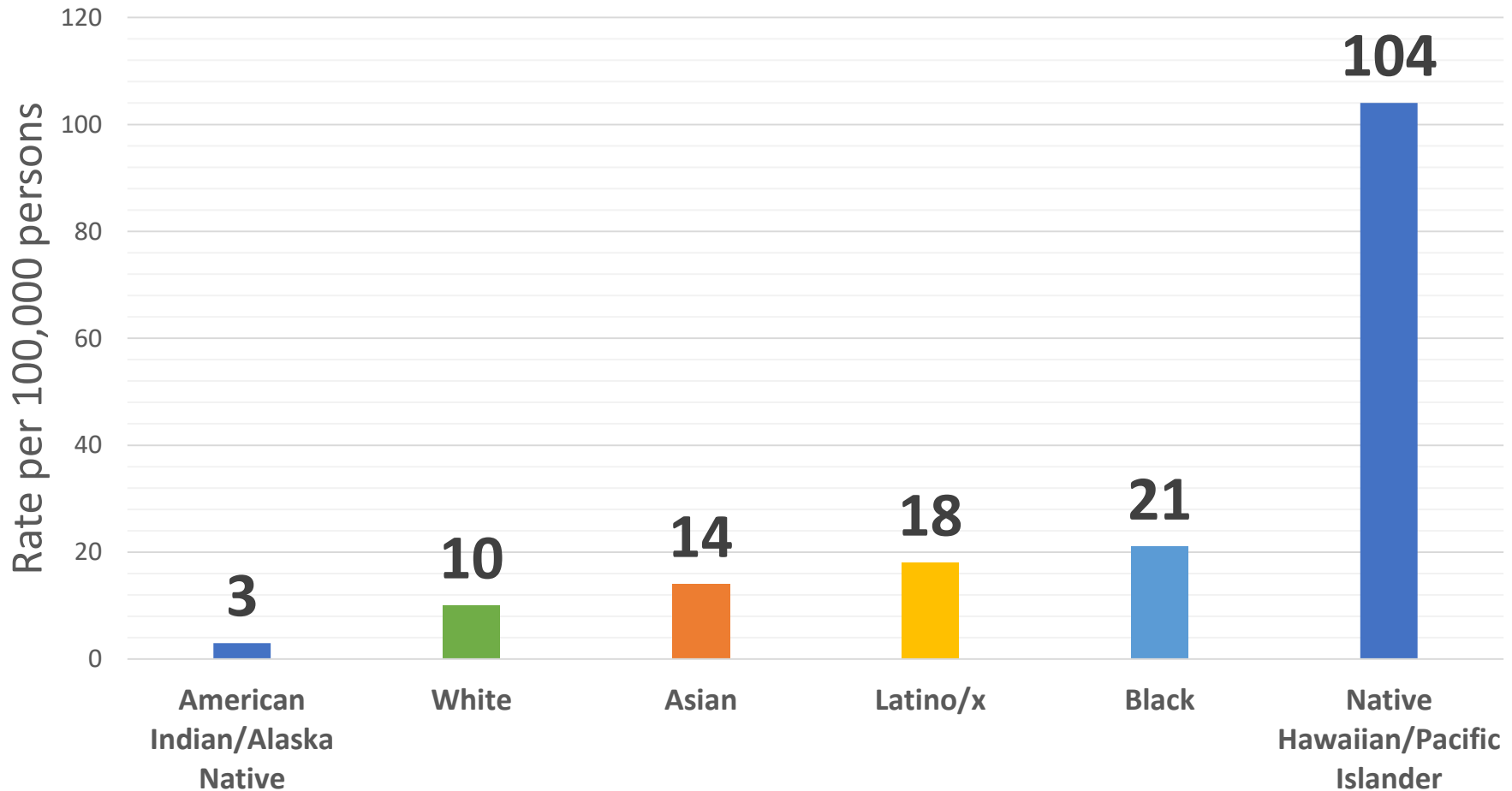


LA County COVID-19 Cases by Area Poverty, Age-Adjusted Rate as of May 19, 2020



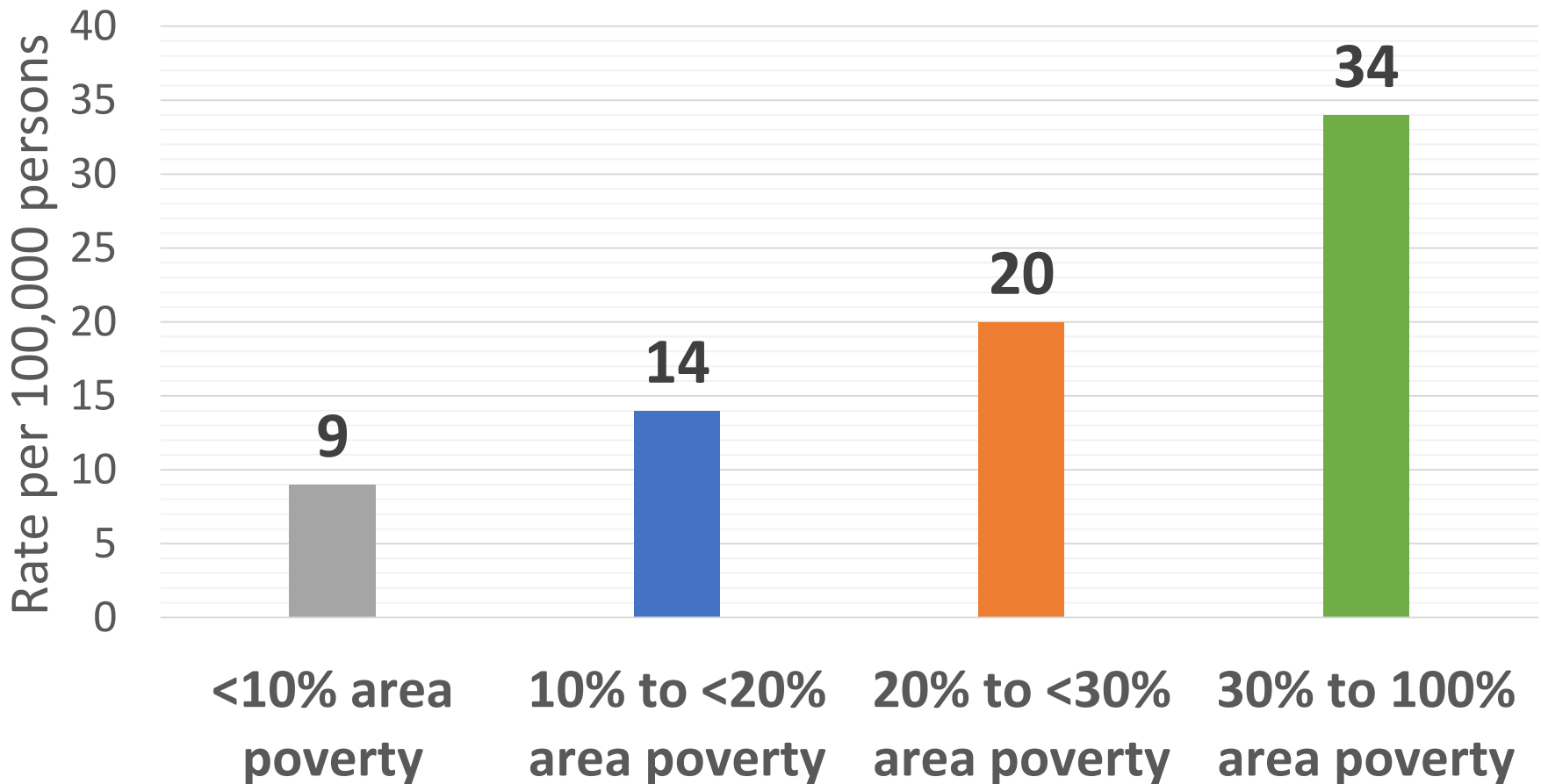


LA County COVID-19 Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, Age-Adjusted Rate as of May 19, 2020





LA County COVID-19 Deaths by Area Poverty, Age-Adjusted Rate as of May 19, 2020





People of color and lower wage earners, may experience higher rates of COVID-19 because....

- Their risk of **exposure is higher** since they are more likely to...
 - Be essential service workers
 - Work in sectors that have fewer protections in place
 - Use of PPE
 - Paid Leave
 - Live in smaller spaces, sometimes with more people
- They may have **underlying health conditions** that weaken their immune system



People of color and lower wage earners, may experience higher rates of COVID-19 because....

- Despite acknowledging their susceptibility to and severity of COVID-19, **more pressing needs** (e.g., food, housing, childcare) affect their ability to respond to pandemic threats
 - May be caregivers to children or older adults
 - Know that a positive COVID-19 test leads to quarantine which impacts their ability to work and provide for their family
- **Do not have needed supports** to get diagnosed or treated
 - May be uninsured
 - May be undocumented and be unclear or afraid to access benefits
 - May not have the support necessary to follow Public Health directives
 - May not have access to information in their language



The Problem— Disproportionate Burden





Community Stress

Definition: Exposure to multiple physical and social stresses at the community level such as disinvestment, marginalization, discrimination, and social exclusion

Manifestations: Deteriorated environment, housing instability, weak social networks, false narratives, institutional dysfunction/systemic fraudulence



Impact of Racism

- **Discrimination** →
Limits resources and opportunities to thrive
- **Toxic stress** →
Biologic impact on health
- **Victim blaming** →
Places onus to change on individuals rather than systems (resilience)

**Inequities in COVID-19 health outcomes are
NOT due to individual behavior**

Nine Strategies to Address COVID-19 Inequities in LA County



Testing

Care
Coordination

Treatment

Supportive
Resources

Protections for
Workers

Community
Engagement

Data

Contact Tracing

Communication



Thank You!