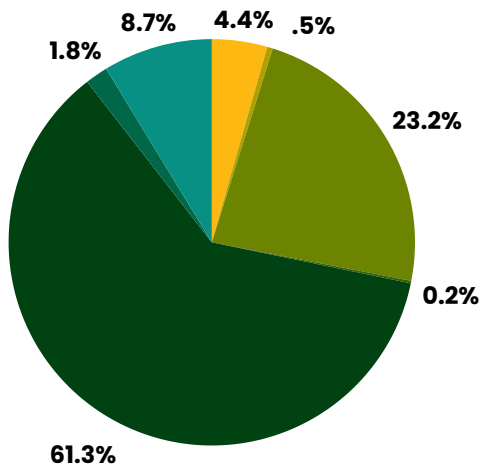# UNEQUAL NEIGHBORHOODS MERCED: INTRODUCTION

Nestled in the fertile San Joaquin Valley (SJV), an agricultural belt extending 300 miles through the center of California and just 110 miles from Silicon Valley, lies Merced county, California, which is home to 271,579 people. Merced, along with other areas of the SJV, has a history of policies that have shaped **unequal neighborhoods**, including racial segregation. Historical land use patterns laid the foundation for rural and urban racially segregated areas of poverty, and the legacy of racist policies and housing discrimination continues to affect communities today. Segregated and unequal neighborhoods in Merced did not happen by chance but rather were intentionally created. For the purpose of Unequal Neighborhoods, two categories were created to demonstrate the impact of these policies on neighborhoods directly: the first is the BHC Place and Advantaged Neighborhoods.

The BHC Place
12%
BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

Advantaged Neighborhoods
22%
BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

The BHC Place pie chart:
- 4.4%
- .5%
- 23.2%
- 0.2%
- 61.3%
- 8.7%
- 1.8%

Legend:
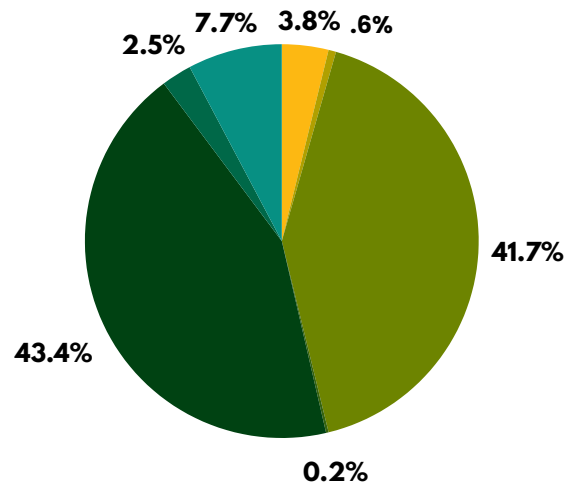- Black:
- Pacific Islander:
- White:
- American Indian:
- Asian:
- Two or more races:
- Hispanic/Latino:

*AIAN: American Indian and/or Alaska Native
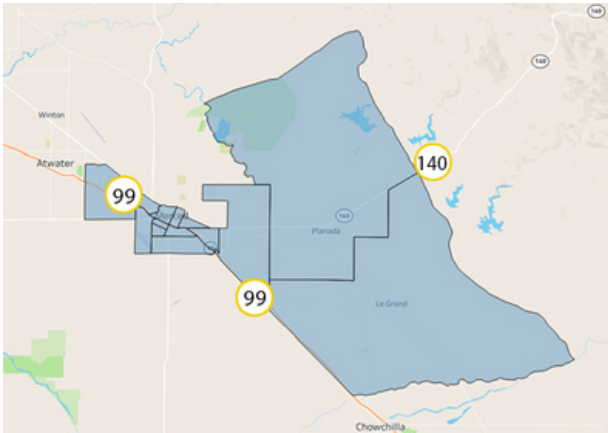**Pacific Islander: Including Native Hawaiian

Advantaged Neighborhoods pie chart:
- 3.8%
- .6%
- 41.7%
- 0.2%
- 43.4%
- 7.7%
- 2.5%

Legend:
- Black:
- Pacific Islander:
- White:
- American Indian:
- Asian:
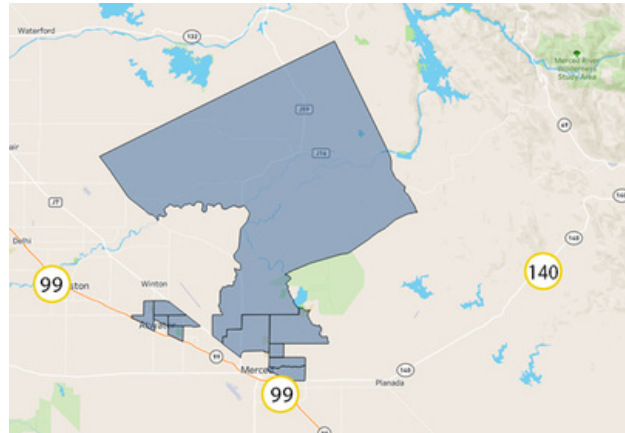- Two or more races:
- Hispanic/Latino:

*AIAN: American Indian and/or Alaska Native
**Pacific Islander: Including Native Hawaiian

The BHC Place

The Merced BHC Place is comprised of 64,293 people and covers 14 census tracts in and around the city of Merced. These areas include places where historical race-based discrimination occurred, such as where immigrant communities were often isolated by local ordinances. Over time, these areas faced continued disinvestment and lacked amenities, such as parks and grocery stores, but were also missing vital infrastructure and transportation access necessary for what is defined as complete neighborhoods.

Advantaged Neighborhoods

Advantaged Neighborhoods are comprised of 60,461 people and cover 11 census tracts in and around the city of Merced. These neighborhoods include mostly northern Merced, where there is a concentration of amenities, including parks and grocery stores, more investments in infrastructure, as well as the University of California-Merced campus and its resources.

Citations

Social Explorer. (2021). Retrieved from: https://www.socialexplorer.com/explore-maps

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