



King County ranks as one of the wealthiest the country. However, wealth and security are not equally distributed. Resilience is evident in many ways. A community can be strong and also be under tremendous economic, environmental, and health pressures due to institutional choices that have favored some and disfavored others.

Even when rapid response is required, we must appreciate the strength of these communities AND understand their economic capacity to recover from the threat COVID 19 poses.

There are 3 primary factors that can identify communities whose health is especially vulnerable to an economic crisis during COVID 19 response. This tool can be used as a reference for understanding these factors as they present in the data. Where there is segregation, these inequities are profound and persistent.

RACE

Many of the County's most vibrant and productive neighborhoods are centers of Black, Brown and Native communities. It is also true that racial residential segregation are correlated with inequity. Economic insecurity, poverty, burden of chronic disease and barriers to health care are top indicators of vulnerability. *These are strongly correlated with race in King County.*

Acknowledging the communities that we know are vulnerable, but do not have the disaggregated data to demonstrate it, like refugee and immigrants, Pacific Islanders, LGBTQ+, and those with disabilities is important, as is the *intersectionality* of multiple risks. The available data shows these groups tend to live in areas with high concentrations of Black, Latinx and American Indian/Alaska Native people and by pointing out those areas, we hope to include other communities as well.

A high risk factor of a community's relative economic resilience is having its Black, American Indian/Alaska Native and Latinx residents together exceed 10% of that community.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Income, Net Worth, and Asset Poverty are key factors in determining how vulnerable a household is to an economic crisis and how difficult bouncing back may be.

Income is the money regularly received for work or investments. **A high risk factor is more than 20% of an area's households making within 200% of the federal poverty level.**

Net Worth is the total dollar value of all a household's assets subtracted by the total debts and liabilities. **A high risk factor is having less than 50% of an area's households owning the home they live in.**

Asset Poverty is the inability to access the resources to cover 3 months of expenses. **A high-risk factor is 16% or more of an area's residents reporting not having the resources to replenish food in the previous 12 months.**

Throughout the County, the relationship between being 65 years or older and economic vulnerability is complex. Elders tend to have more resources accumulated than younger community members.

However, the health risks of COVID 19 to elders are significant, and the confluence of age with the other risks also must be noted.

A high risk factor is having more than 14% of residents being 65 or older.

AGE

KEY QUESTIONS FOR EQUITY IMPACT AWARENESS



King County

Office of Equity
& Social Justice



Progress must be swift and this is an imperfect tool. Nevertheless, it aims to identify communities that are extremely vulnerable to prolonged hardship with less resources to recover in an economic crisis. These are not the only considerations in reviewing sites, however these questions will highlight the inequities of risks in the County by race, economics, and age.

Does this community's Black, American Indian & Alaska Native and Latinx residents together exceed 10%*? 20% of residents?

Are more than 20% of this community's household incomes within 200% of the federal poverty level? 30% of households?**

Do less than 50% of this community's households own the home they live in?

Have more than 16% of residents in this community experienced food insecurity in the last year?

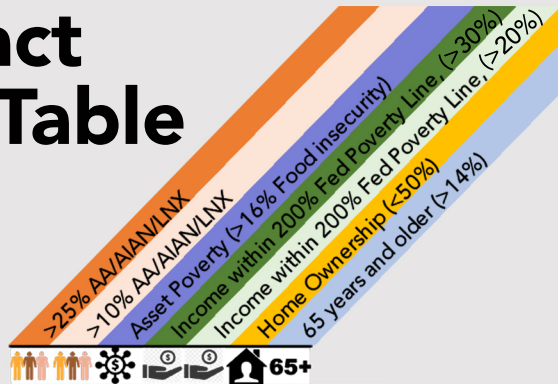
Are more than 14% of residents of this community 65 years or older?

*The thresholds were chosen to highlight extreme economic conditions and to locate the 25% of areas with the most risk.

**In 2017 the federal poverty level was \$24,600 for a family of 4.

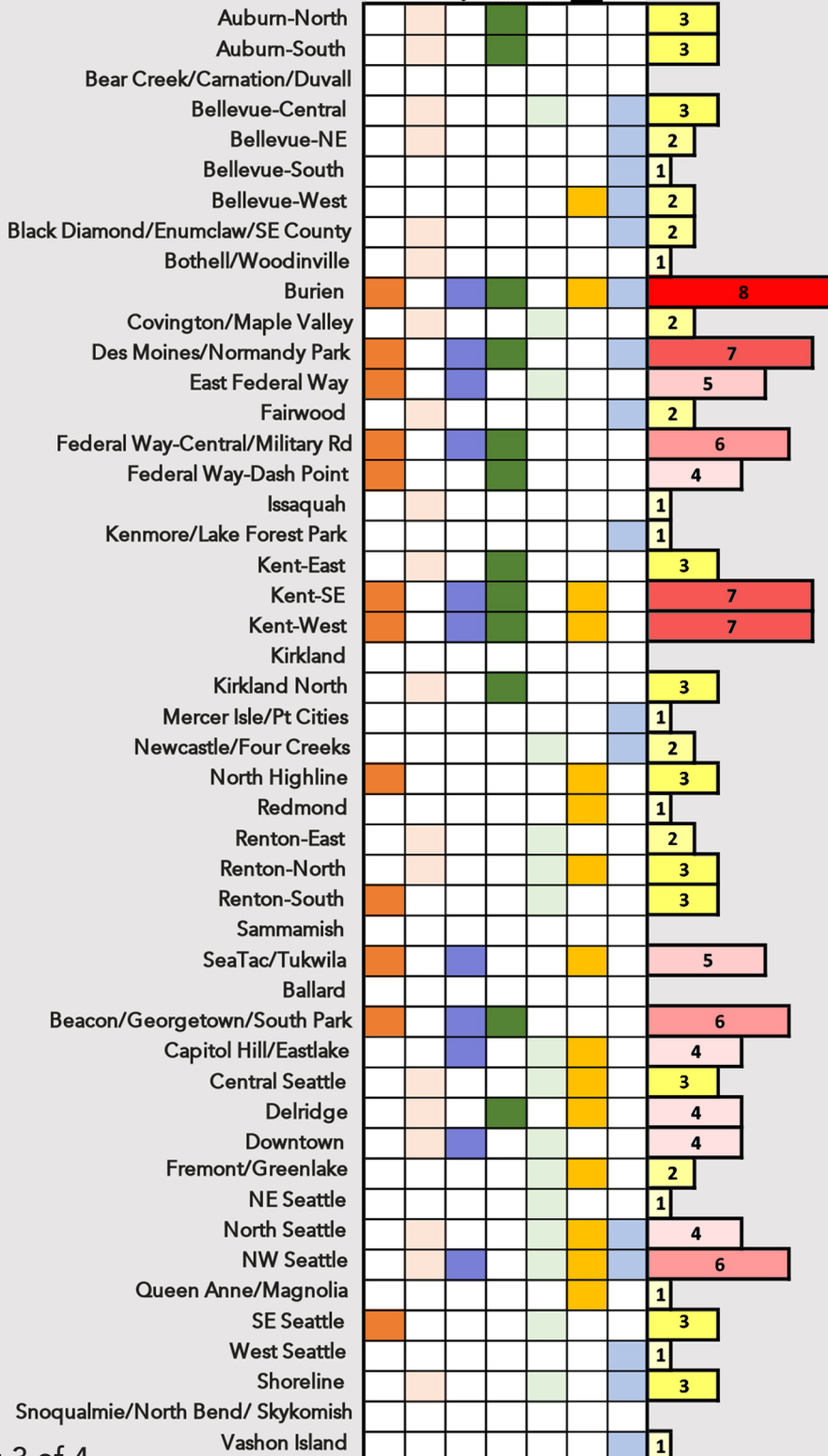
Equity Impact Awareness Table

This column **BELOW** lists the 48 Health Reporting Areas (HRA) in King County



These columns to the **LEFT** lists the 5 categories used to determine inequities of impact from COVID 19 within King County.

Two of these data points, Race and Income, are divided into two thresholds. Each area is represented by highest threshold when applicable.



The Column to the **LEFT** with the horizontal bars represents each HRA's total scoring of the combined impact categories. The colors of the bars correspond to the **Impact Awareness Map** color gradients.

Each category is scored 1 point, EXCEPT for the two higher thresholds in **Race (>25%)** and **Income (<30%)**, and the single category **Asset Poverty**. Those three categories are scored at 2 points rather than 1 because the impacts is significant and inequitable.

The highest possible total for each area is 8 points and determines the areas with the highest risk for prolonged impact with the least amount of resources to recover. Areas that do not meet the risk threshold in any of these categories will have a total of zero.

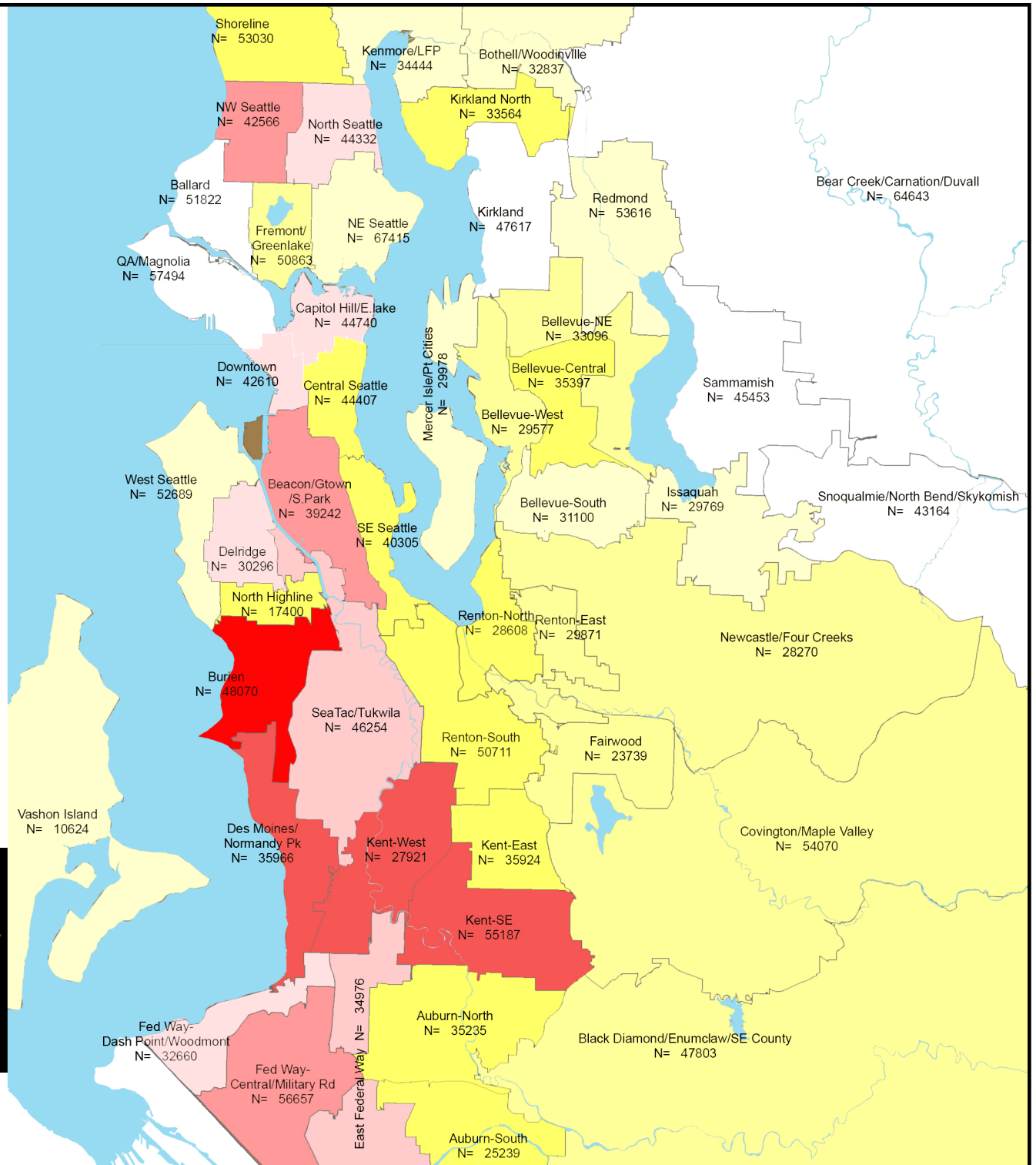
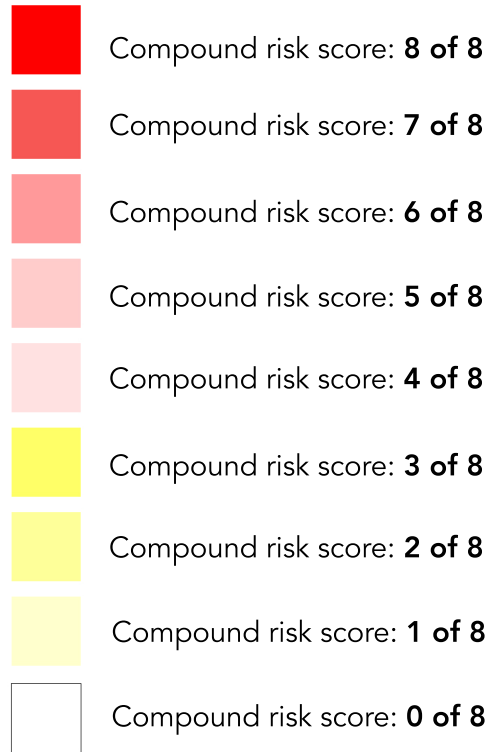
*Retrieved 3/17/20 from Public Health – Seattle & King County, Community Health Indicators. www.kingcounty.gov/chi

And 3/17/20 from Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool. <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>



EQUITY IMPACT REVIEW MAP

MAP KEY



**Office of
Equity &
Social Justice**



King County