# LONG BEACH EQUITY TOOLKIT

### An Evaluative Approach

## How effectively has the Long Beach Equity Toolkit been implemented in urban planning & design projects/practices?

## METHODOLOGY

This project took a mixed-methods evaluation with the following components:
- **Survey:** Online, distributed via QR-coded flyers in public spaces
- **Field Observations:** Visited multiple neighborhoods in Long Beach to document equity-related urban design elements
- **Document Analysis:** Reviewed planning documents, policies & case studies involving the Equity Toolkit.

## INTRODUCTION

In response to persistent health & environmental inequities rooted in planning policies, the City of Long Beach introduced the Equity Toolkit in 2019 to embed equity into city planning & decision-making. This project's goal is to assess whether equity principles like community engagement & fair distribution of benefits have meaningfully shaped development & to identify areas of opportunity.

Equity VS Equality
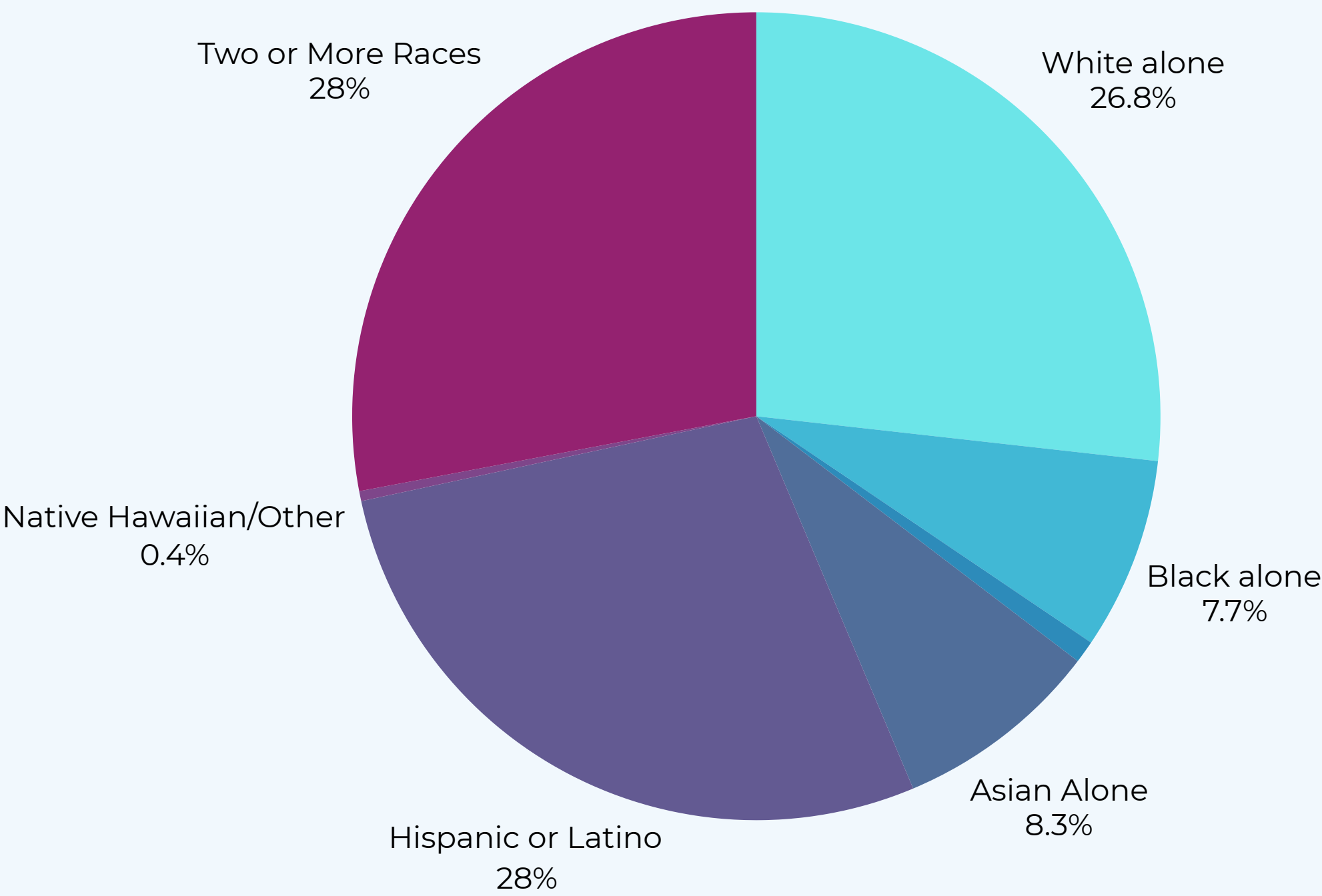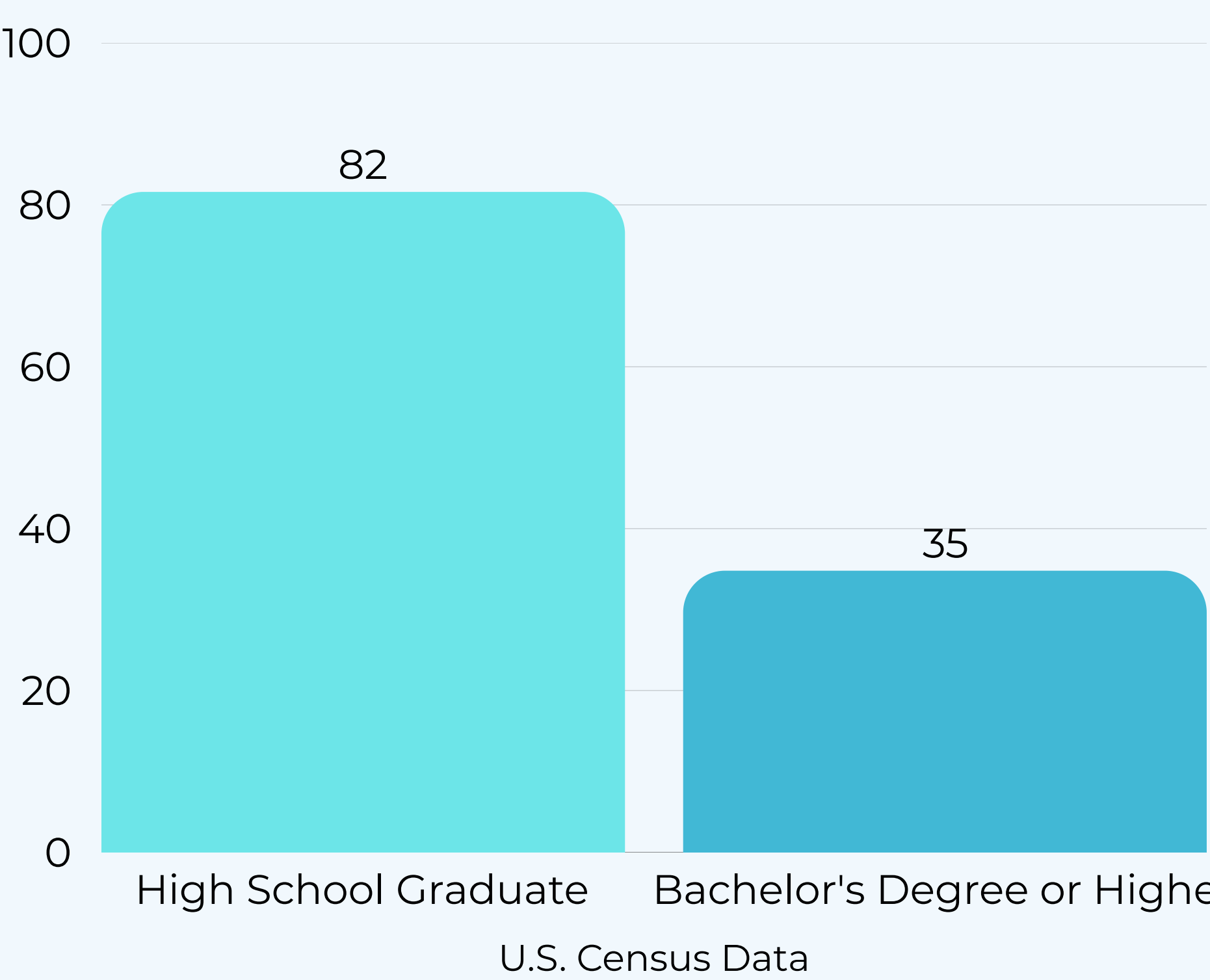
### What's the difference?

Equity ensures that everyone has the resources and opportunities to reach their full health and potential for a successful life, regardless of background or identity, while equality promotes fairness but only works if everyone starts from the same place and requires the same support.

### What is the Equity Toolkit?

The *Long Beach Equity Toolkit* talks about the big differences in *wealth* and *health* in the city and how the city is working to fix these problems by listening to the community and making new rules to make the city fairer for everyone.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

**Institutionallze Toolkit Use Across Departments**
(planning, housing, public works, etc.)

**Launch Participatory Budgeting**
in underserved neighborhoods

**Mandate Equity Impact Assessments**
alongside Environmental Impact Reports

**Integrate Public Health + Urban Planning**
via partnerships & collaborations

**Reform Zoning Codes**
to promote inclusionary housing & access to amenities

**Create Community-Led Accountability Boards**
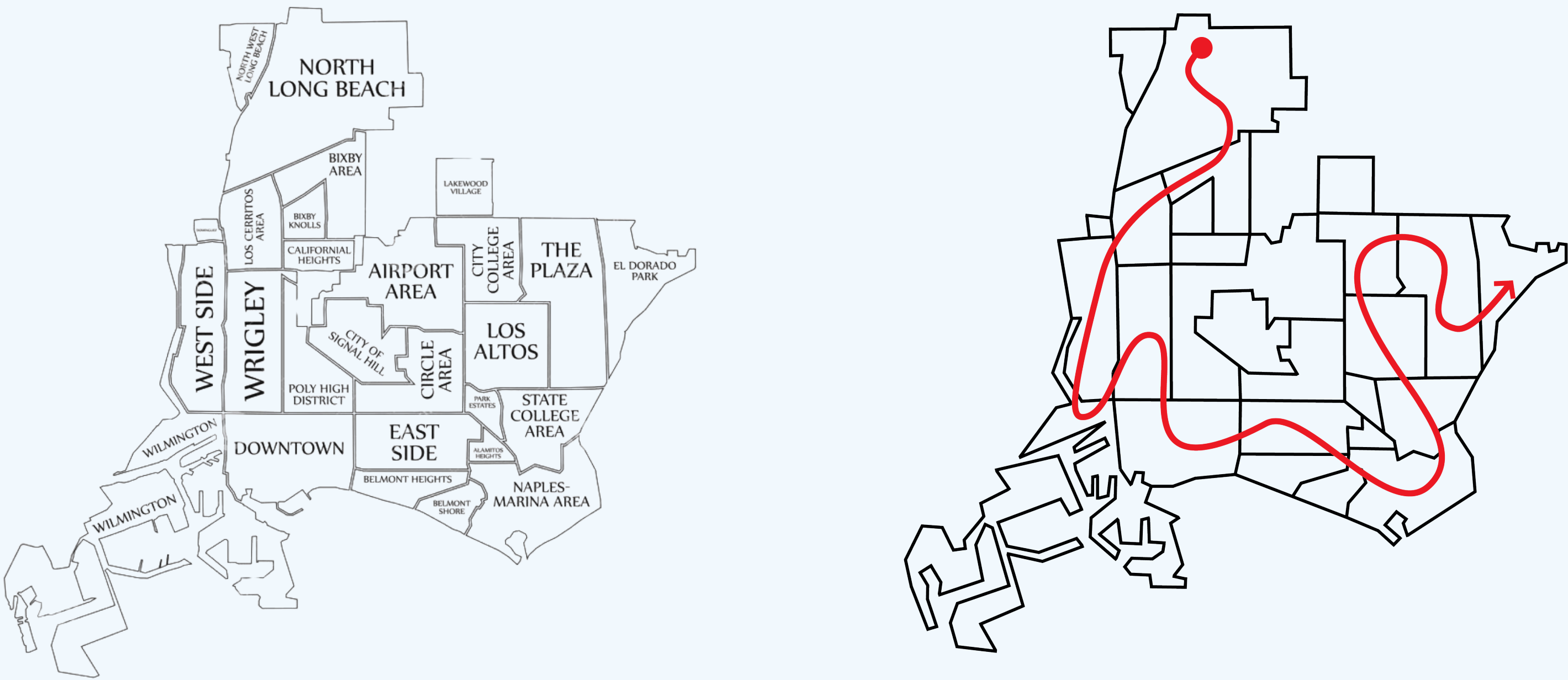to ensure long-term equity goals are monitored

## DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

The data served in two ways: (1) to frame the socio-economic context of the study area and (2) to identify patterns that may intersect with themes emerging from the document analysis.
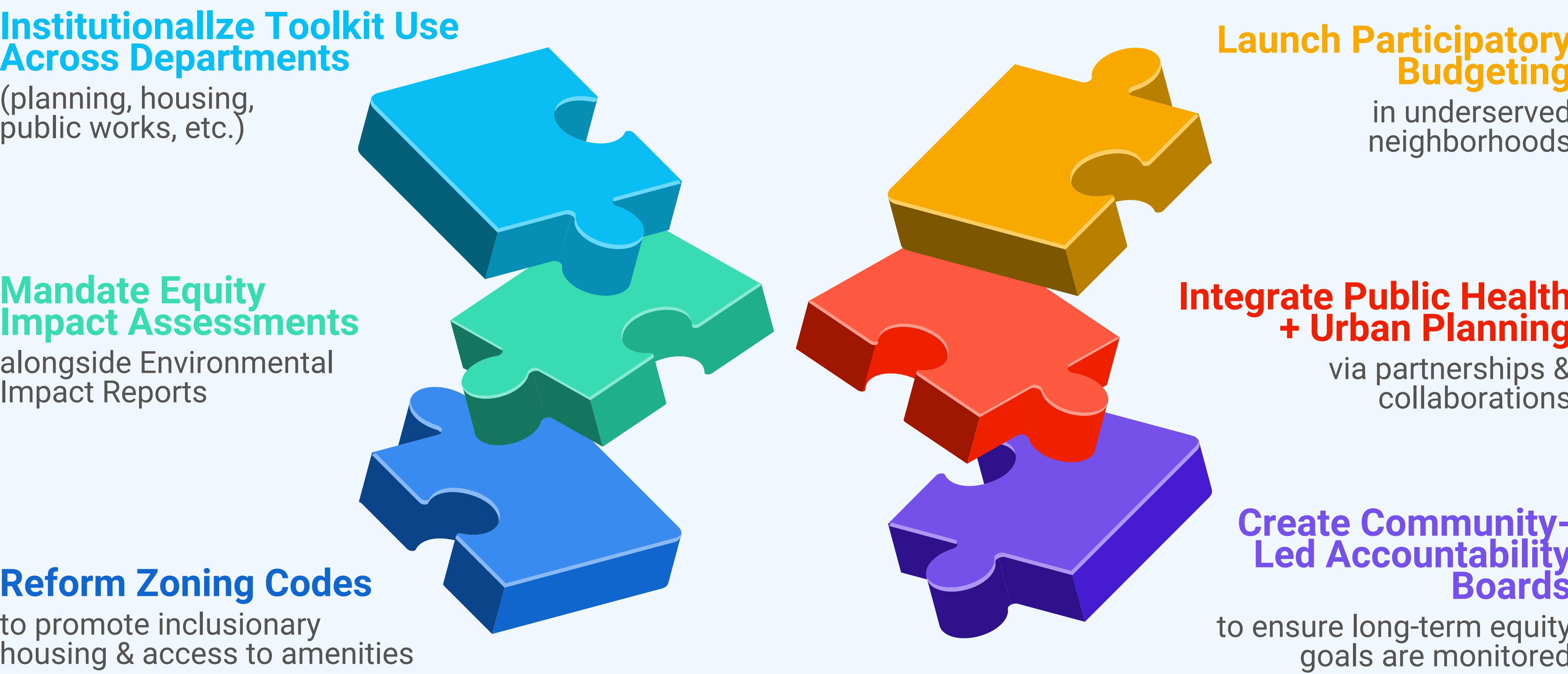
Bar chart:
- High School Graduate: 82
- Bachelor's Degree or Higher: 35

U.S. Census Data

Pie chart:
- White alone 26.8%
- Black alone 7.7%
- Asian Alone 8.3%
- Hispanic or Latino 28%
- Native Hawaiian/Other 0.4%
- Two or More Races 28%

## KEY FINDINGS

⭐ **Gap Between Policy & Practice:** Toolkit principles are not consistently reflected in the built environment or planning efforts.

⭐ **Structural Issues:** Zoning policies & lack of cross-sector collaborations hinder equity outcomes.

⭐ **Residents' Experiences:** Feel underrepresented & uninformed about city initatives despite ongoing planning-related projects.

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