

# The COVID Recession and the SW Washington Labor Market

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**BEAM ME UP SCOTTY**

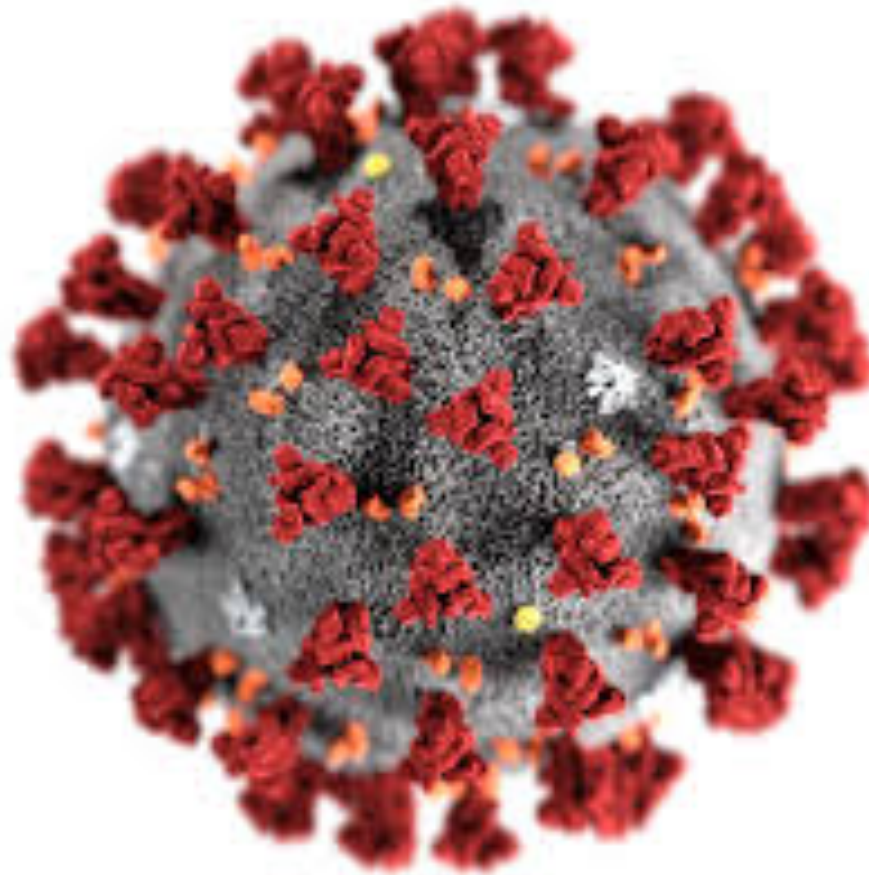


**NO TRACE OF INTELLIGENT  
LIFE DOWN HERE**

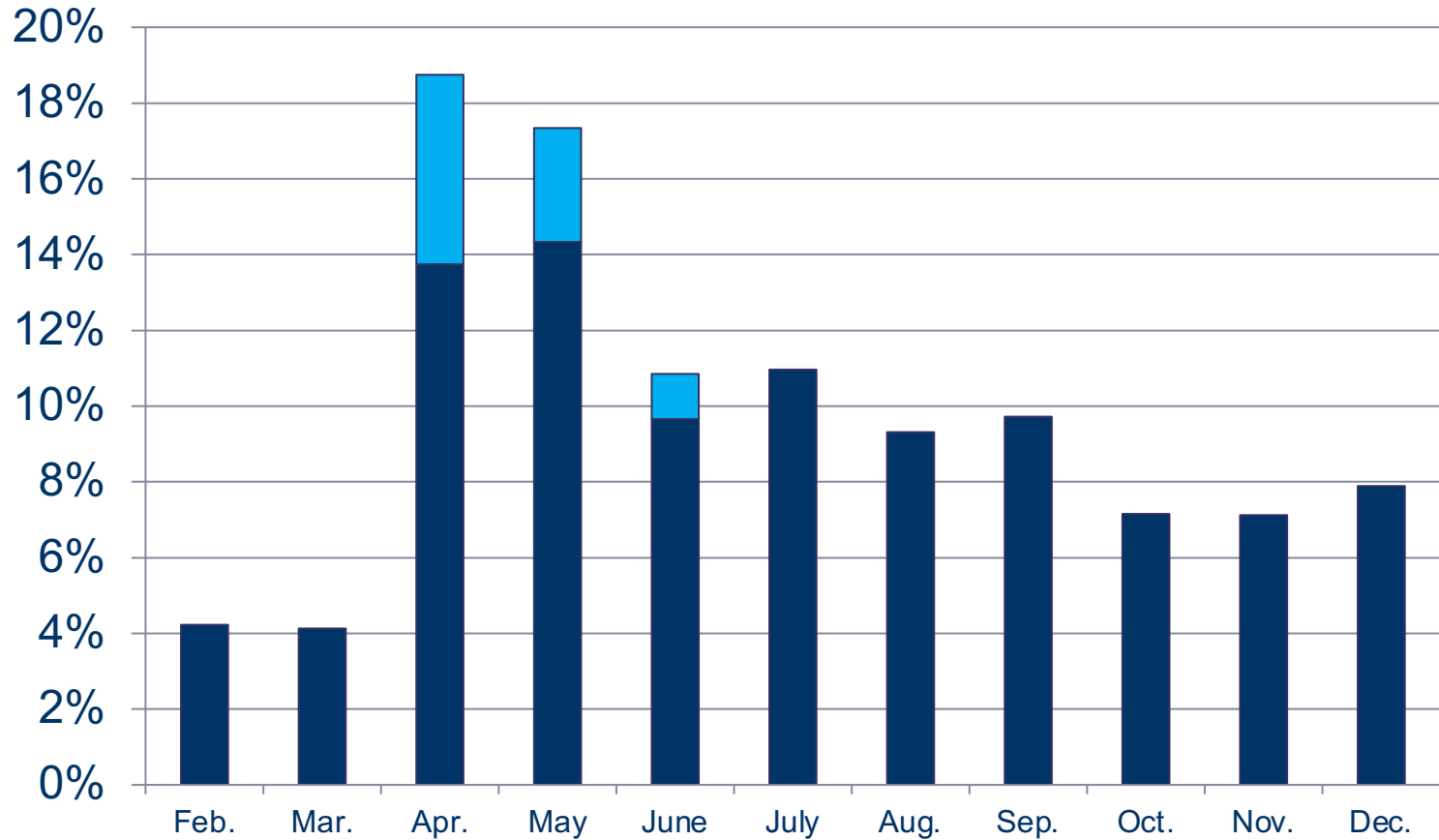


3 Photo credit: Washington Post

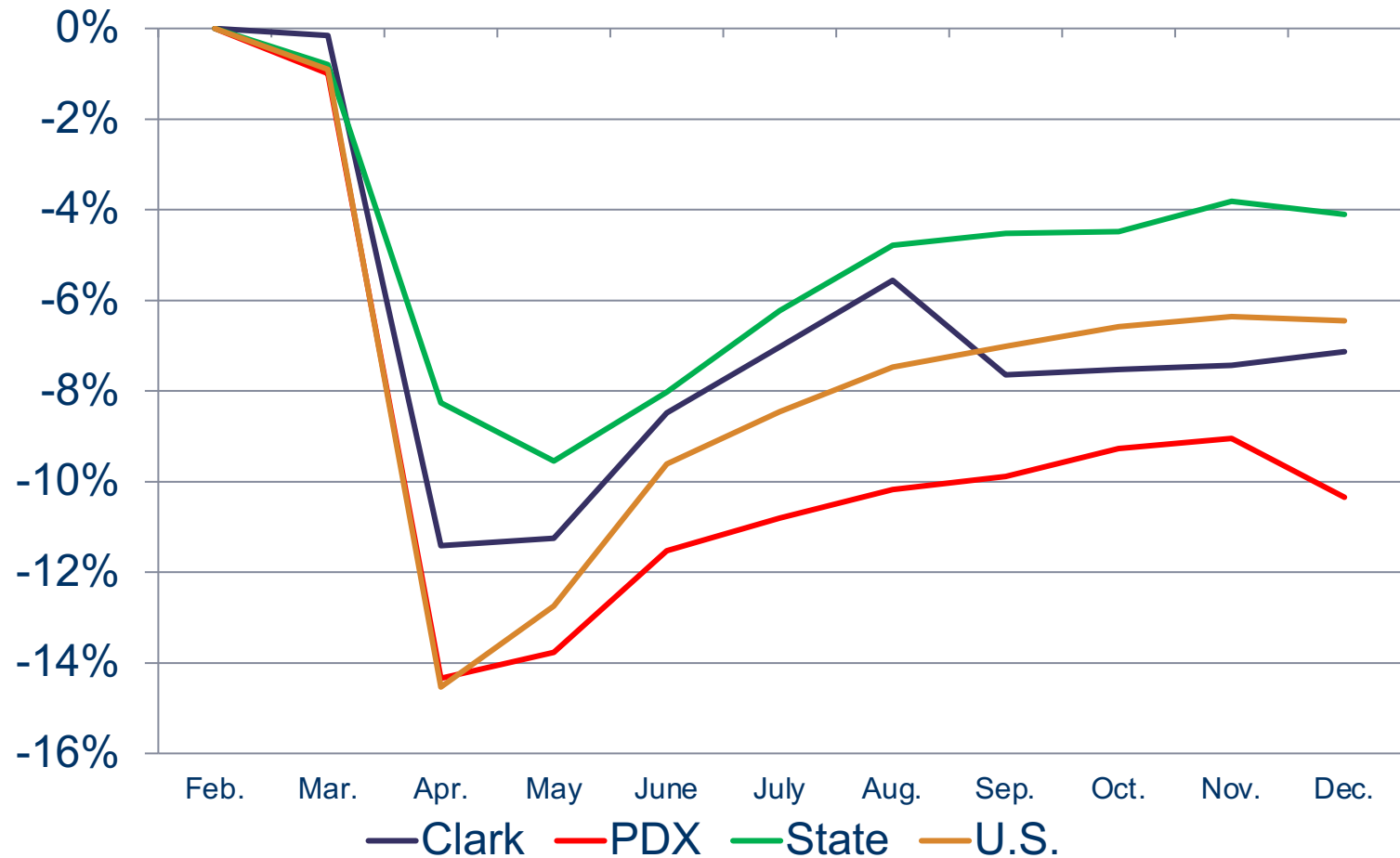
# The COVID recession



# Unemployment shoots up, abates, but...



# Clark loses 19,700 jobs, recovers 7,400— could be worse



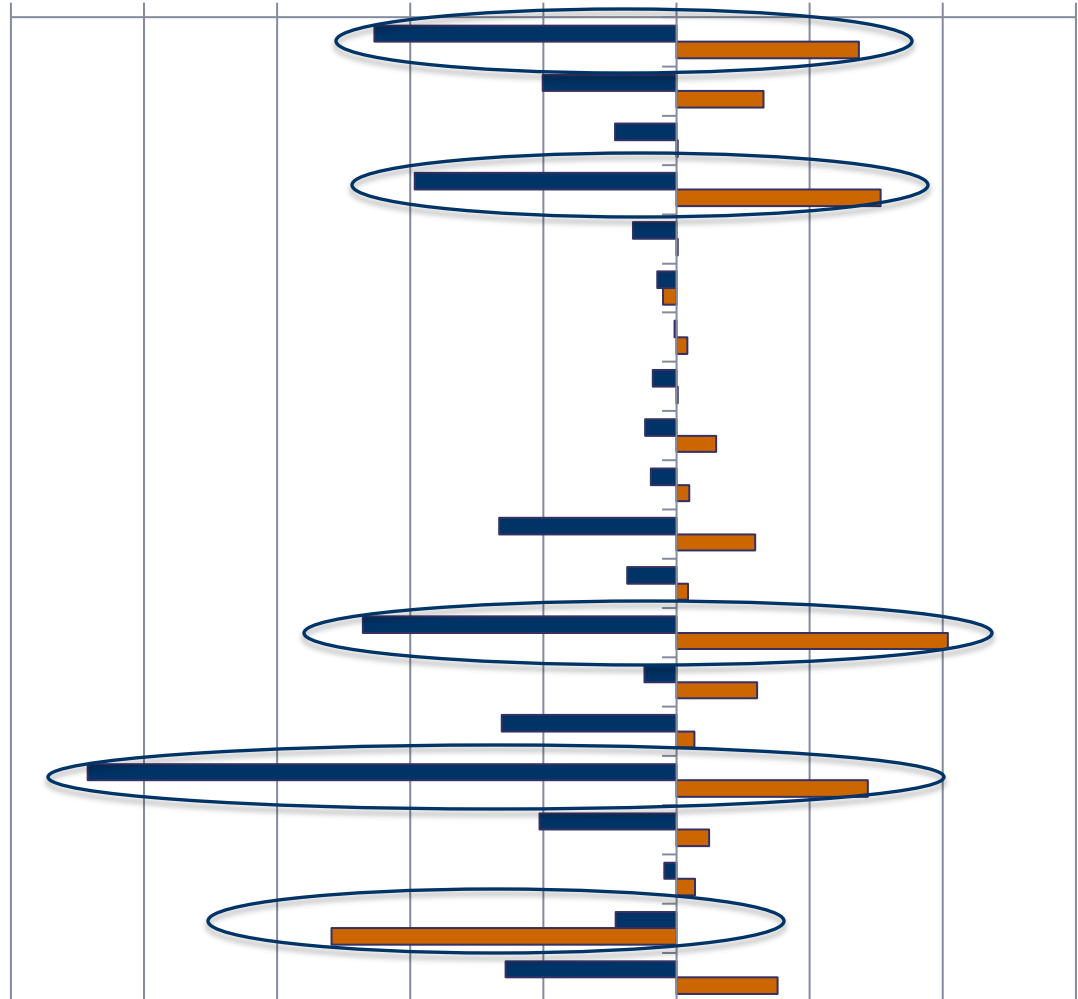
# Job Loss/Rebound, Clark County

## *February to December, 2020*

-5,000 -4,000 -3,000 -2,000 -1,000 0 1,000 2,000 3,000

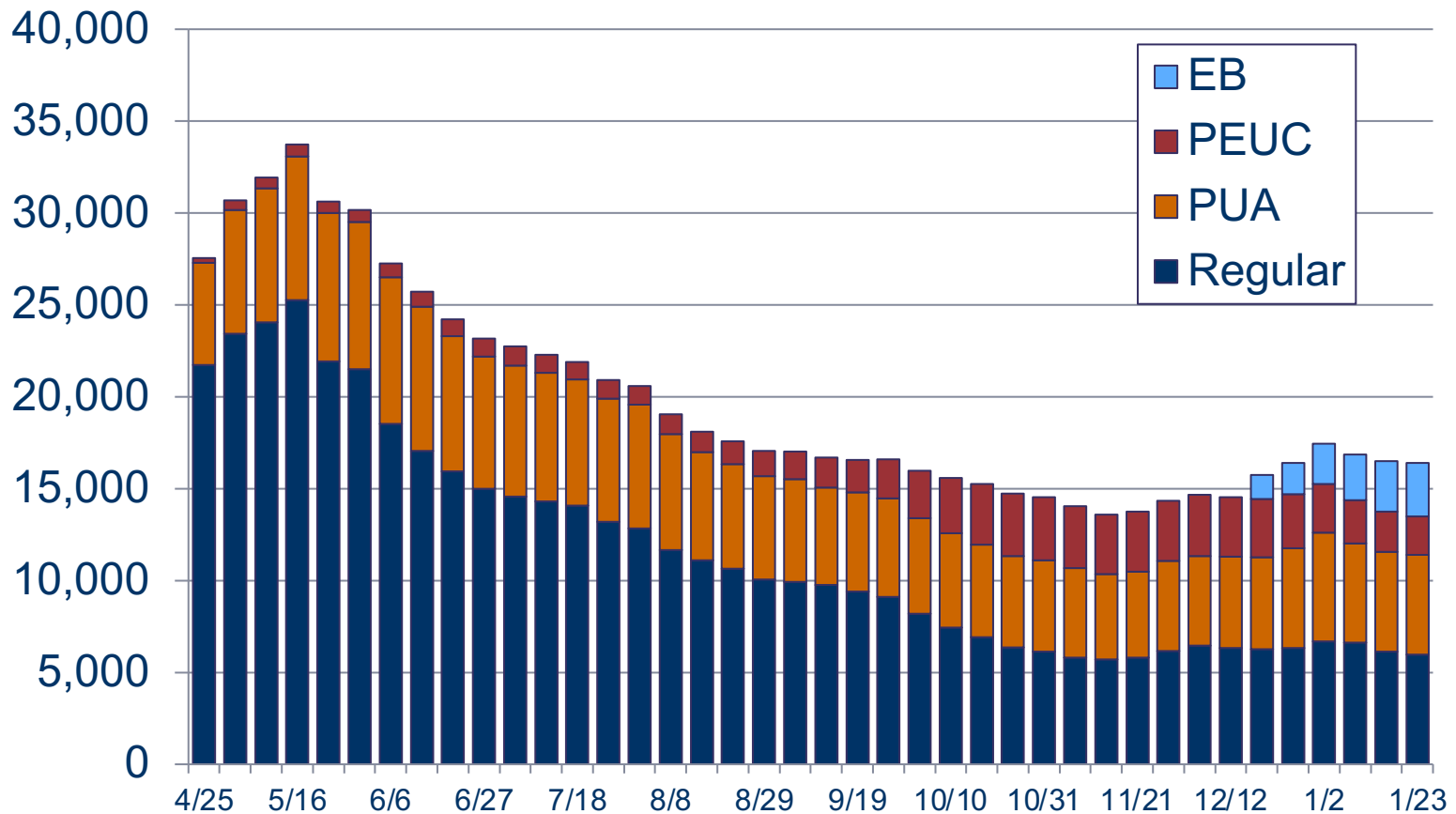


- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Wholesale Trade
- Retail Trade
- Transportation
- Information
- Finance & Insurance
- Real Estate, Rental & Leasing
- Professional Services
- Corporate Offices
- Business Services
- Education Services
- Health Services
- Social Assistance
- Recreation Services
- Accommodation & Food Services
- Other Services
- State & Federal Government
- K-12 Education
- Other Local Government



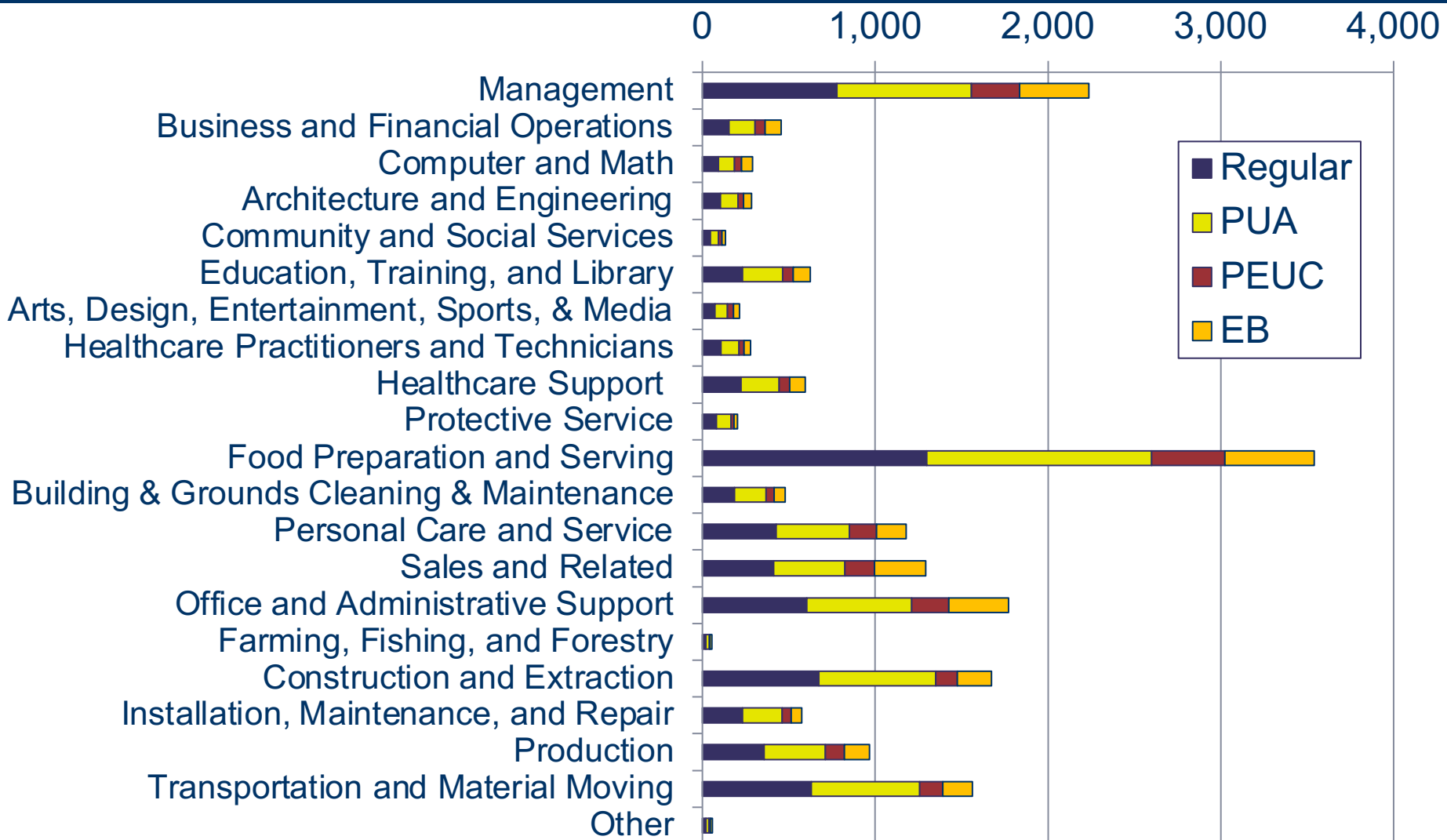
# Continued claims at high levels

*Last January: ~3,000*





# Continued claims by occupation, Clark County, week ending 1/23

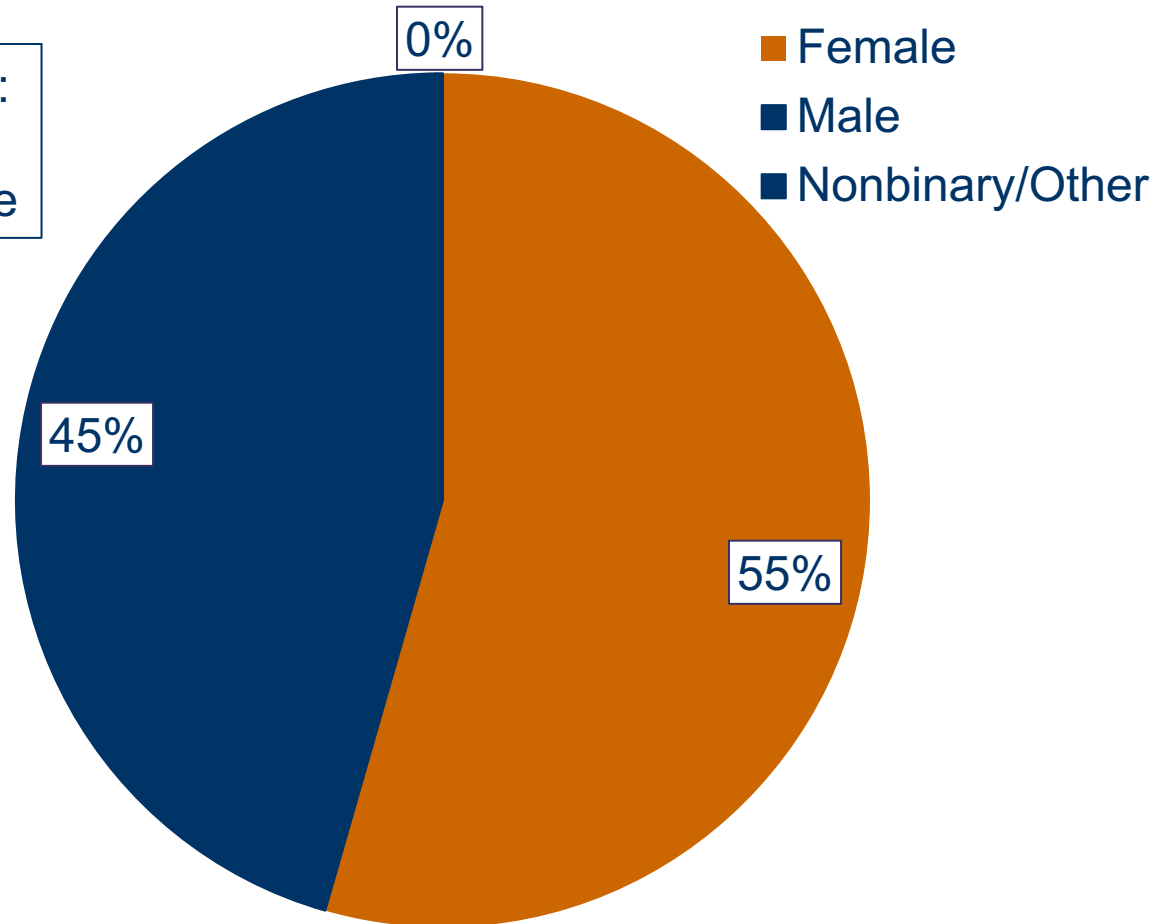


# Top occupations, Clark County, week ending 1/16

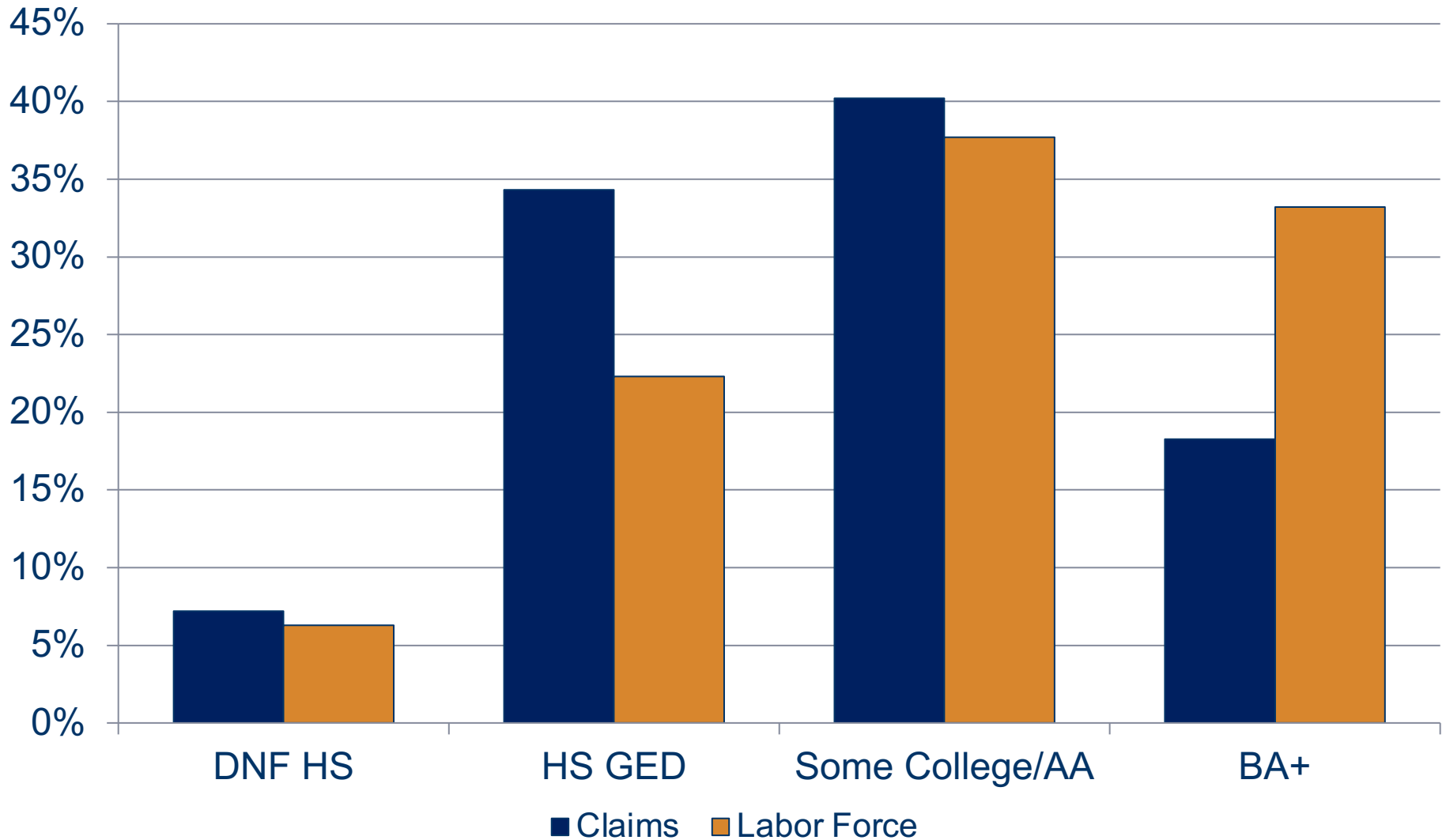
SOC	Occupation	Claims
35-3031	Waiters and Waitresses	840
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	388
35-3011	Bartenders	380
53-3022	Bus Drivers, School or Special Client	330
11-2022	Sales Managers	327
41-2011	Cashiers	323
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	322
47-2031	Carpenters	275
53-3041	Taxi Drivers and Chauffeurs	256
43-4051	Customer Service Representatives	255
47-2061	Construction Laborers	254
39-9021	Personal Care Aides	238
39-9011	Childcare Workers	237
37-2012	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	234
25-9041	Teacher Assistants	229

# Continued claims by gender

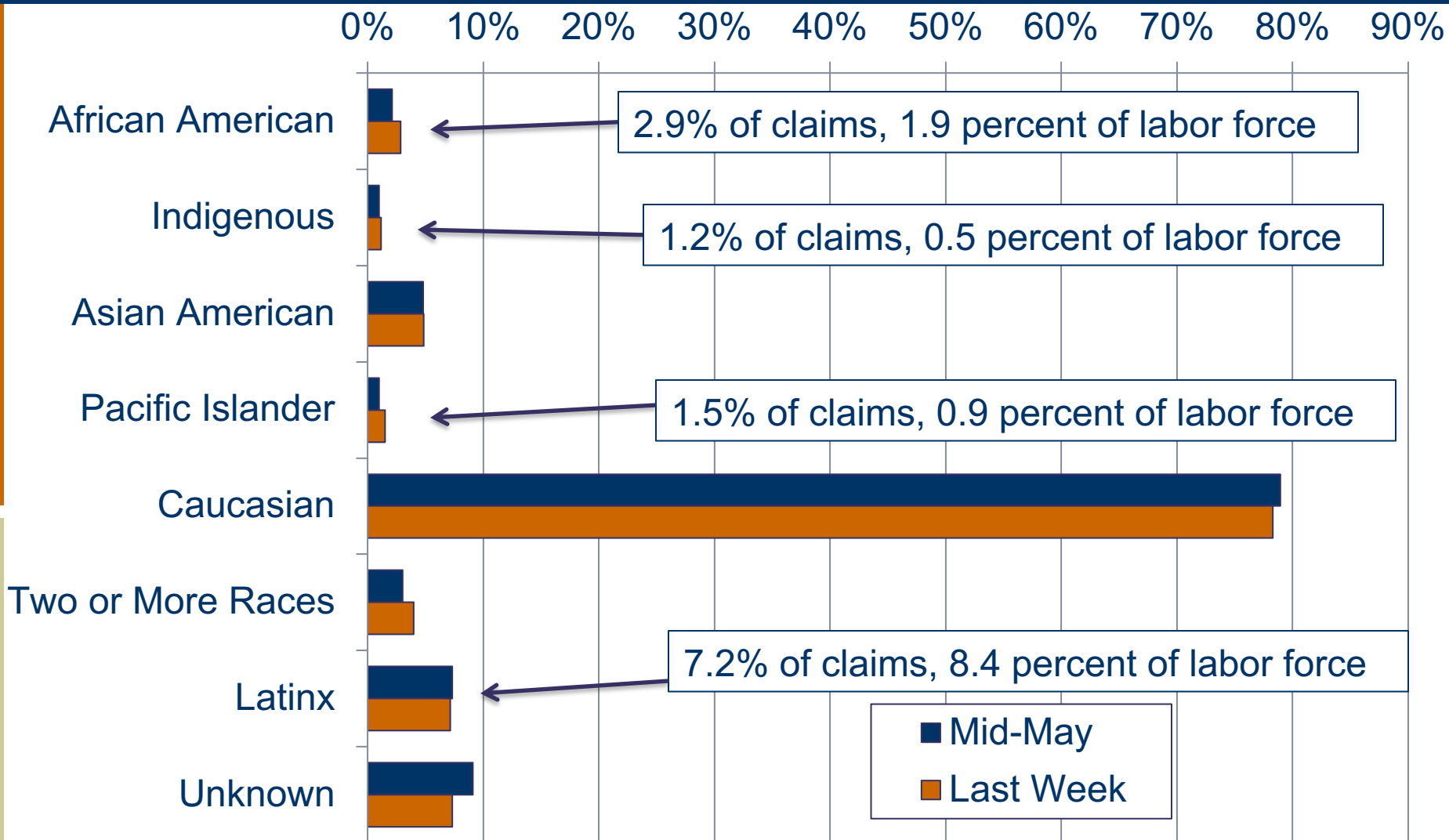
2019 Labor force:  
54 percent male,  
46 percent female



# Claimants had less formal education



# Claimants disproportionately African American, Indigenous, Pacific Islander

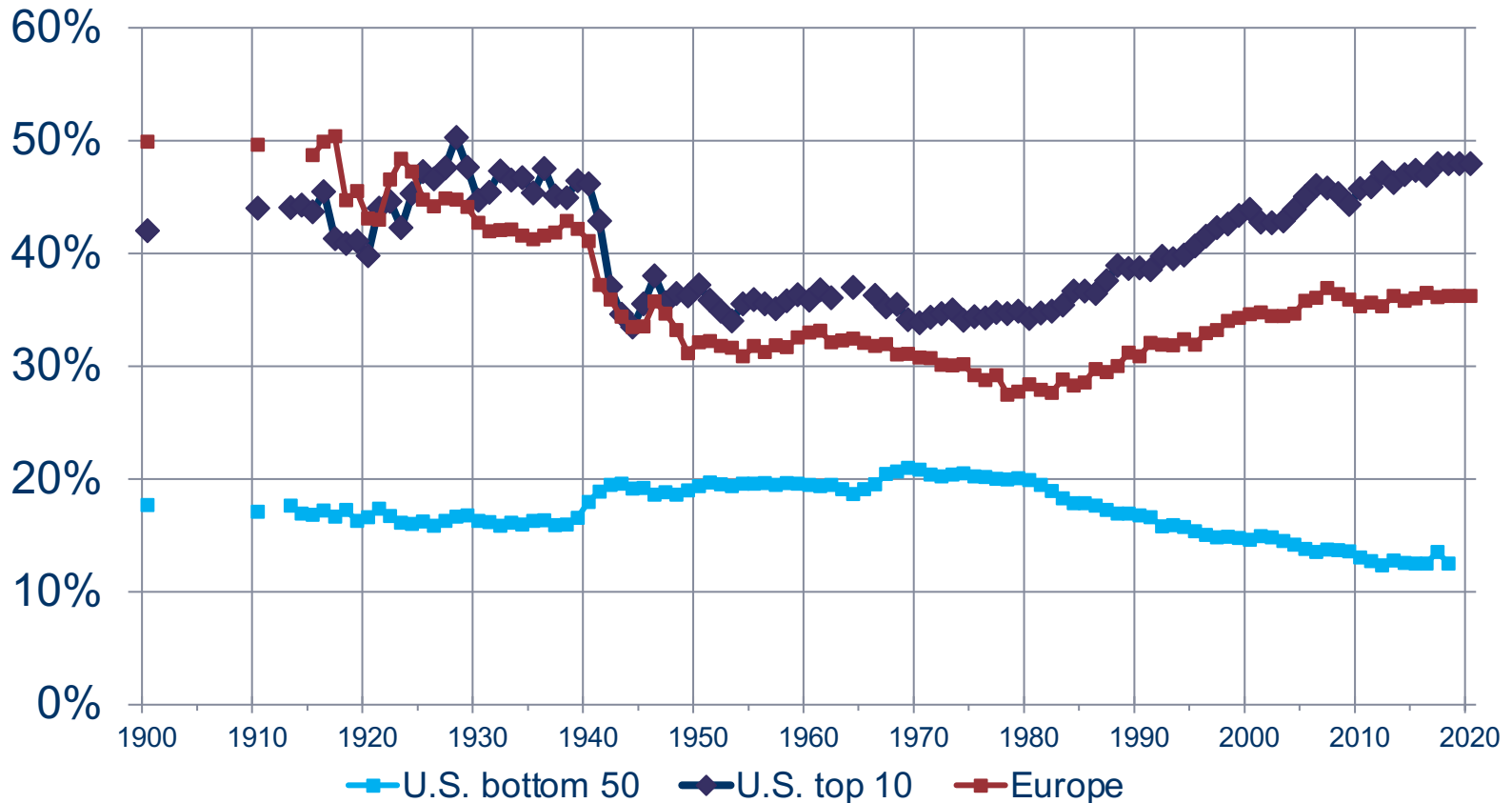


# The other public health crisis

- Systemic racism
- Growing inequality

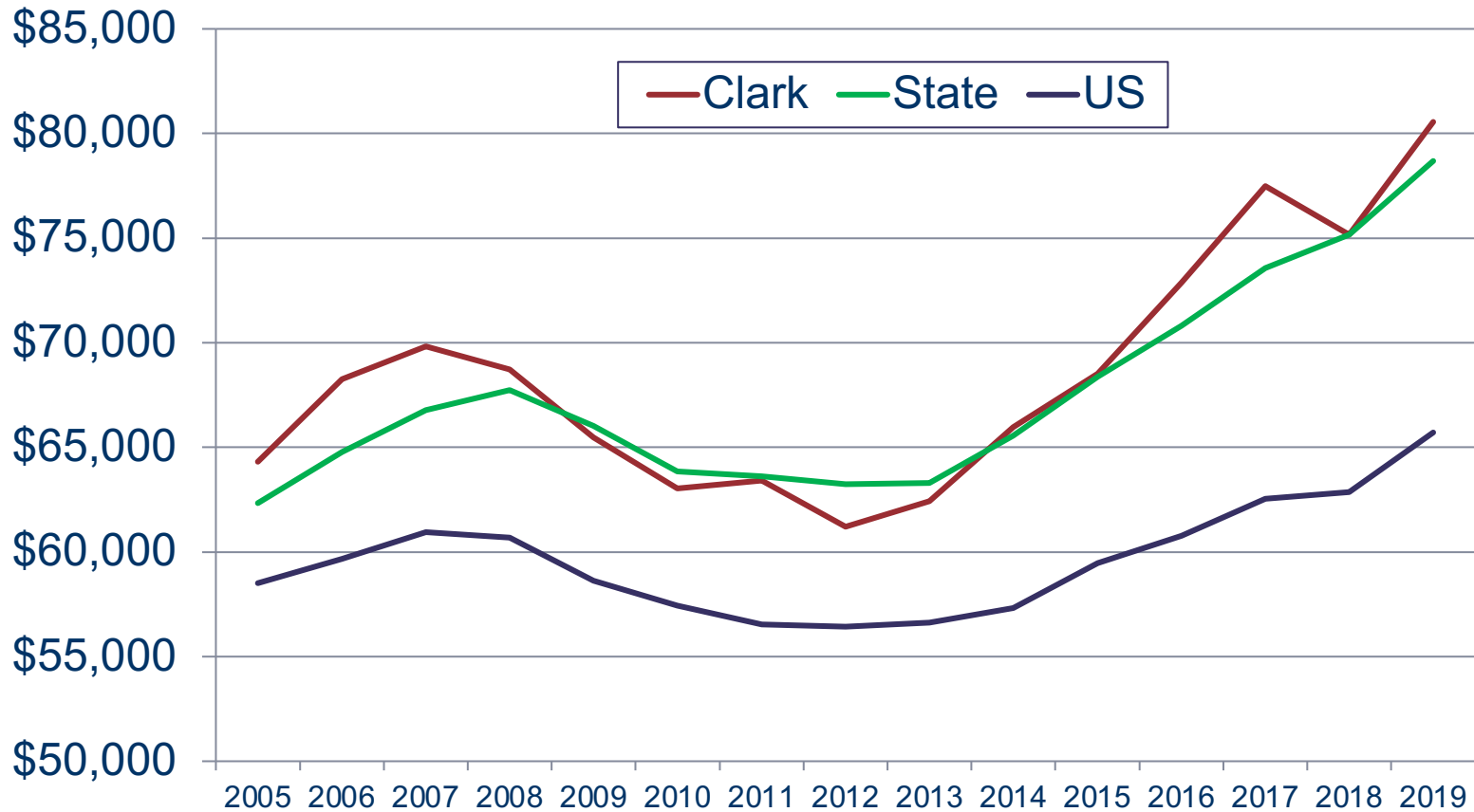
# U.S. distribution of income increasingly skewed...

## Percent of income accruing to the top 10/bottom 50 percent



Source: Piketty, *Capitalism & Ideology*

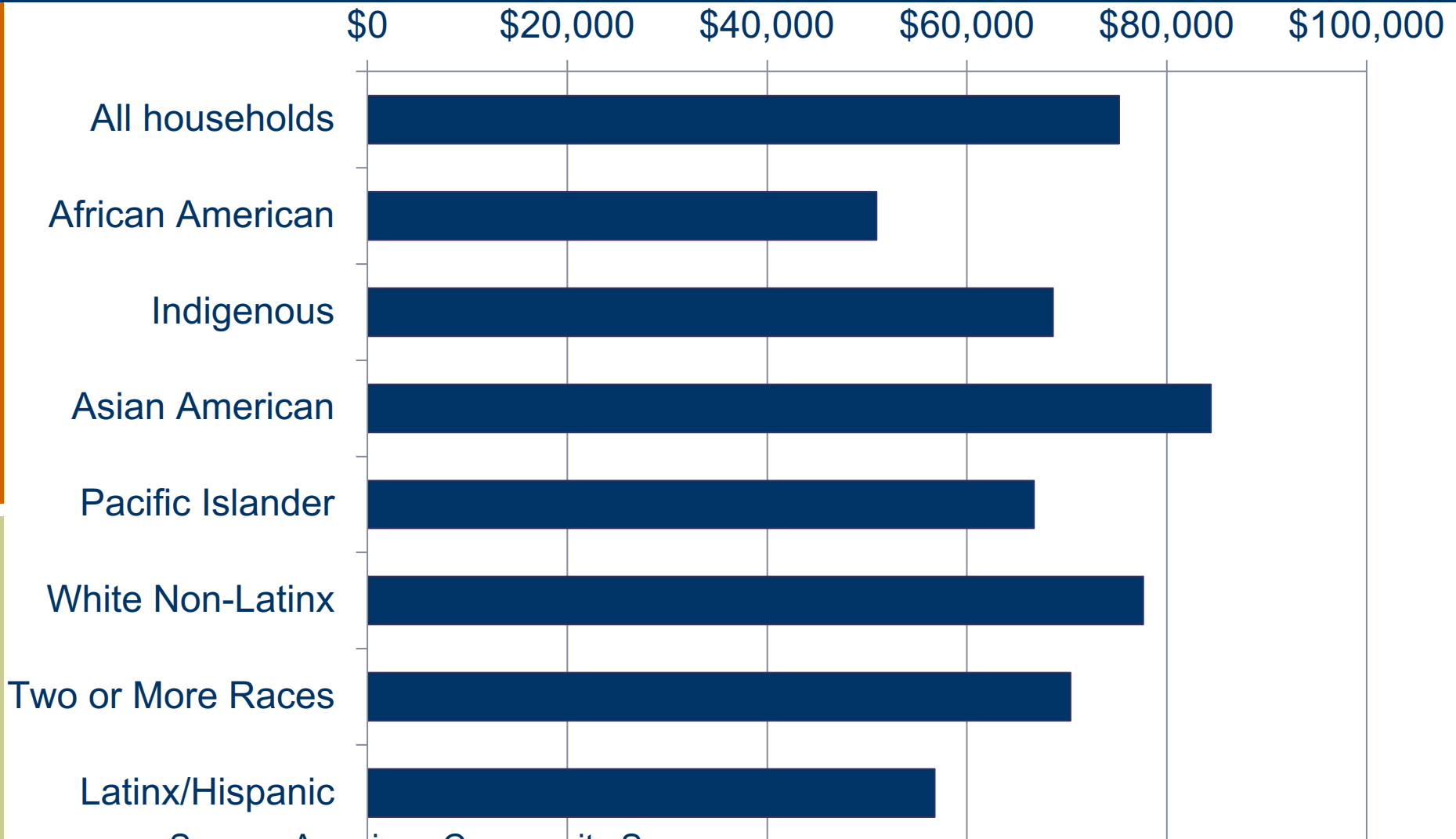
# Median household income: upward trend



Source: Census Bureau/American Community Survey, adjusted for inflation



# Median income by race/ethnicity, Clark County, 2015-19

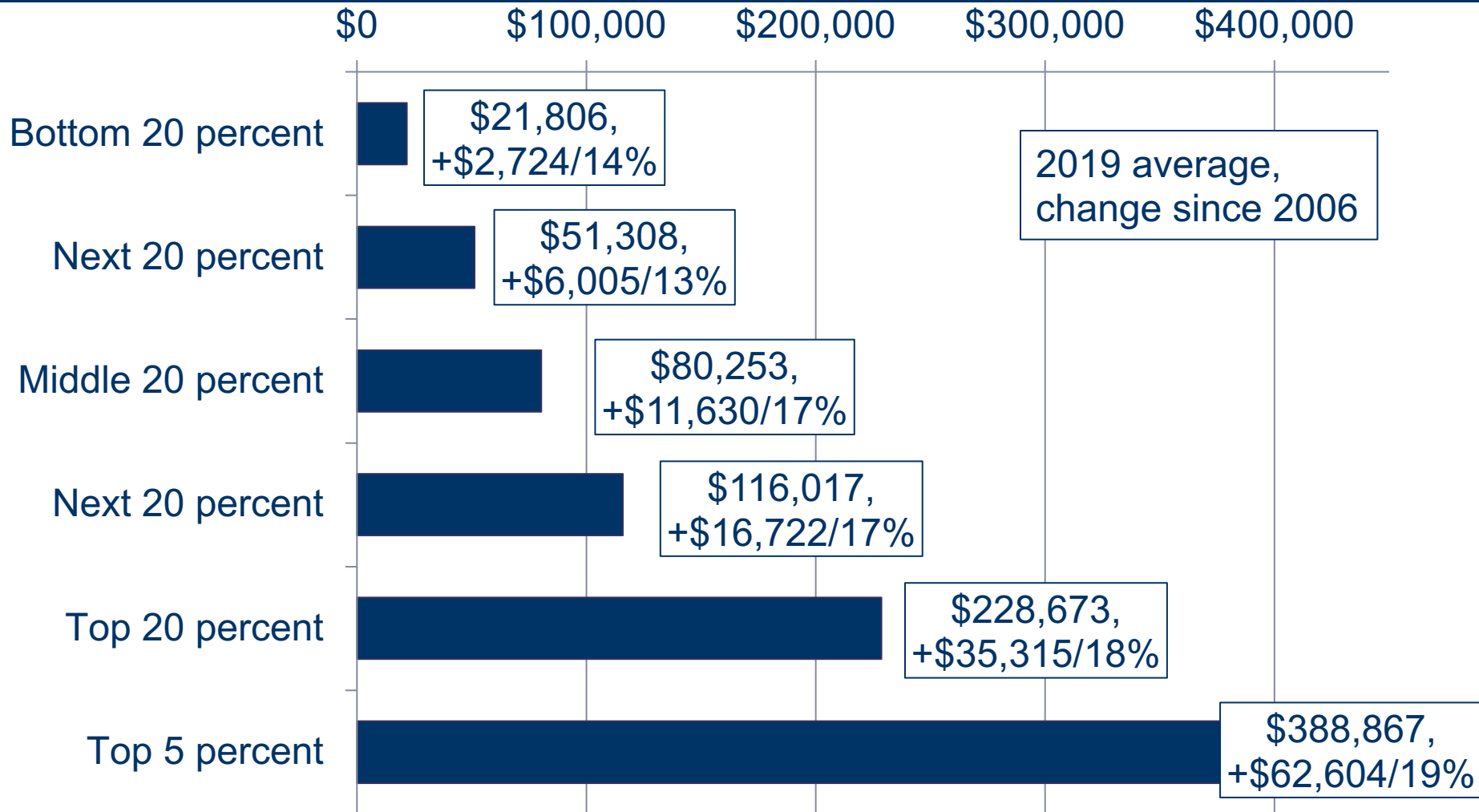


Source: American Community Survey

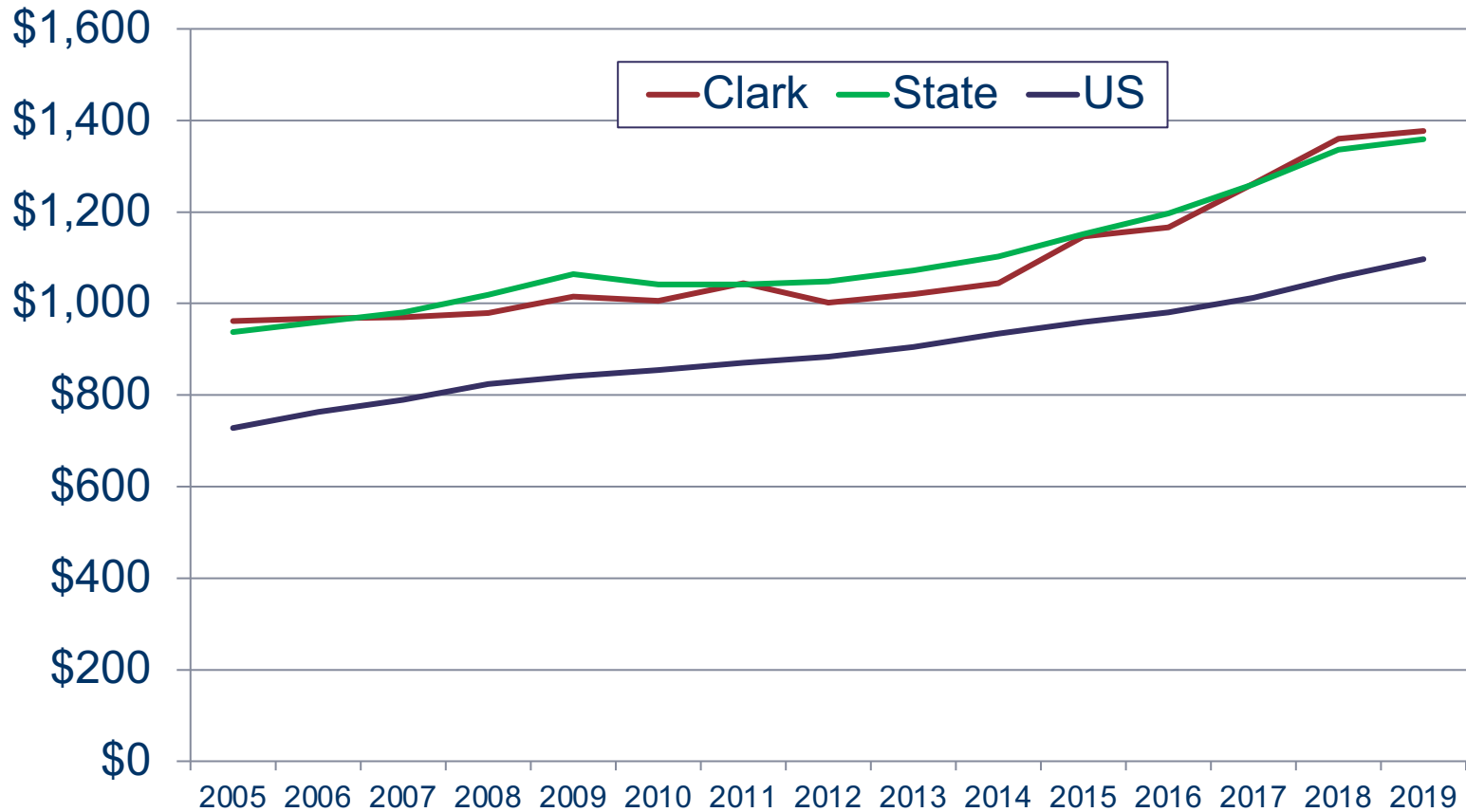
# Average monthly wage as a percent of the average for all workers

Race/Ethnicity	1991	2019
African American	90%	78%
Indigenous	83%	82%
Asian American	104%	112%
Pacific Islander	77%	73%
Multi-racial	81%	87%
Latinx	77%	75%

# Average household income by quintile, Clark County, 2019



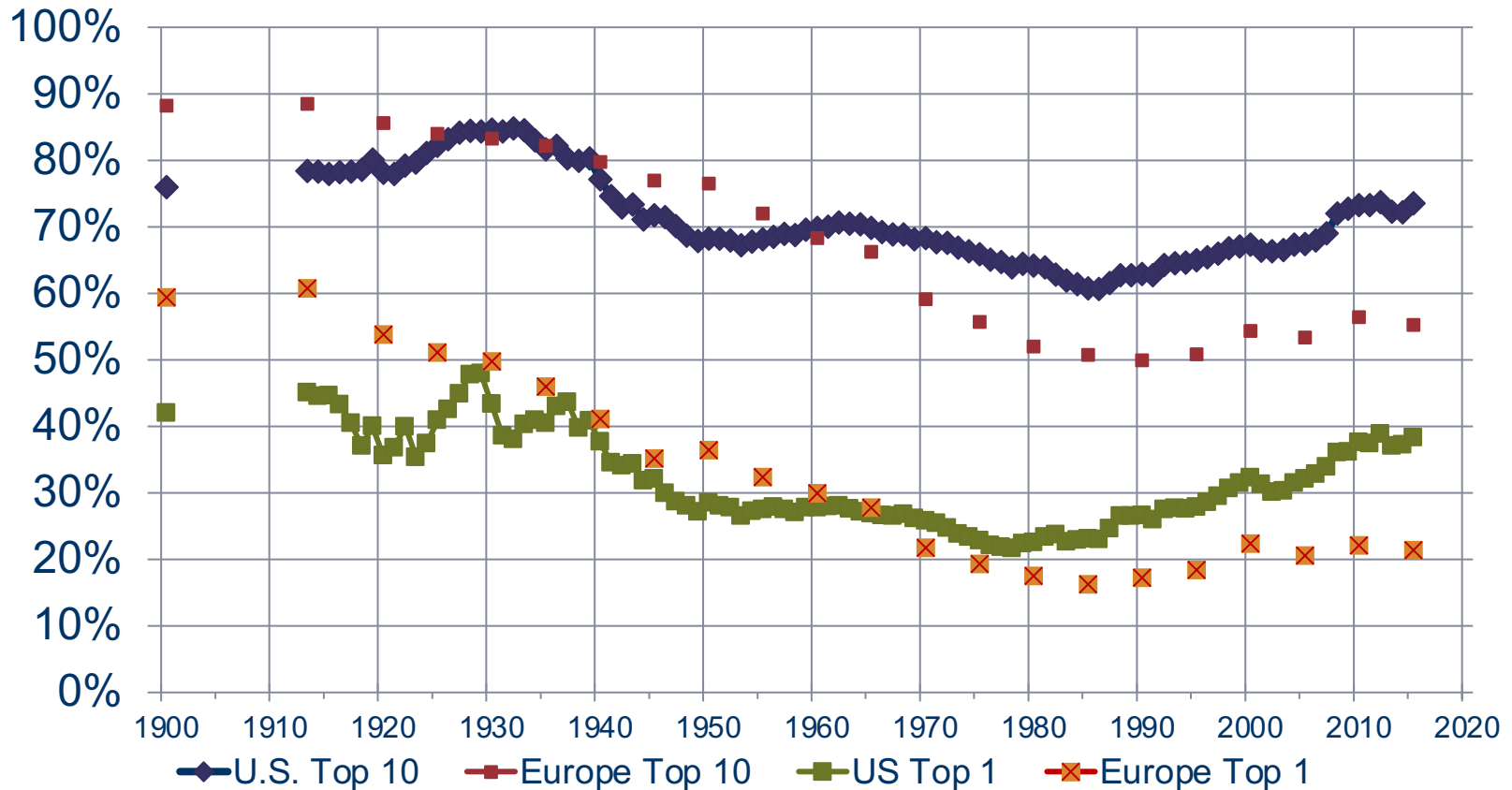
# Median monthly gross rent: upward trend



Source: Census Bureau/American Community Survey,  
adjusted for inflation

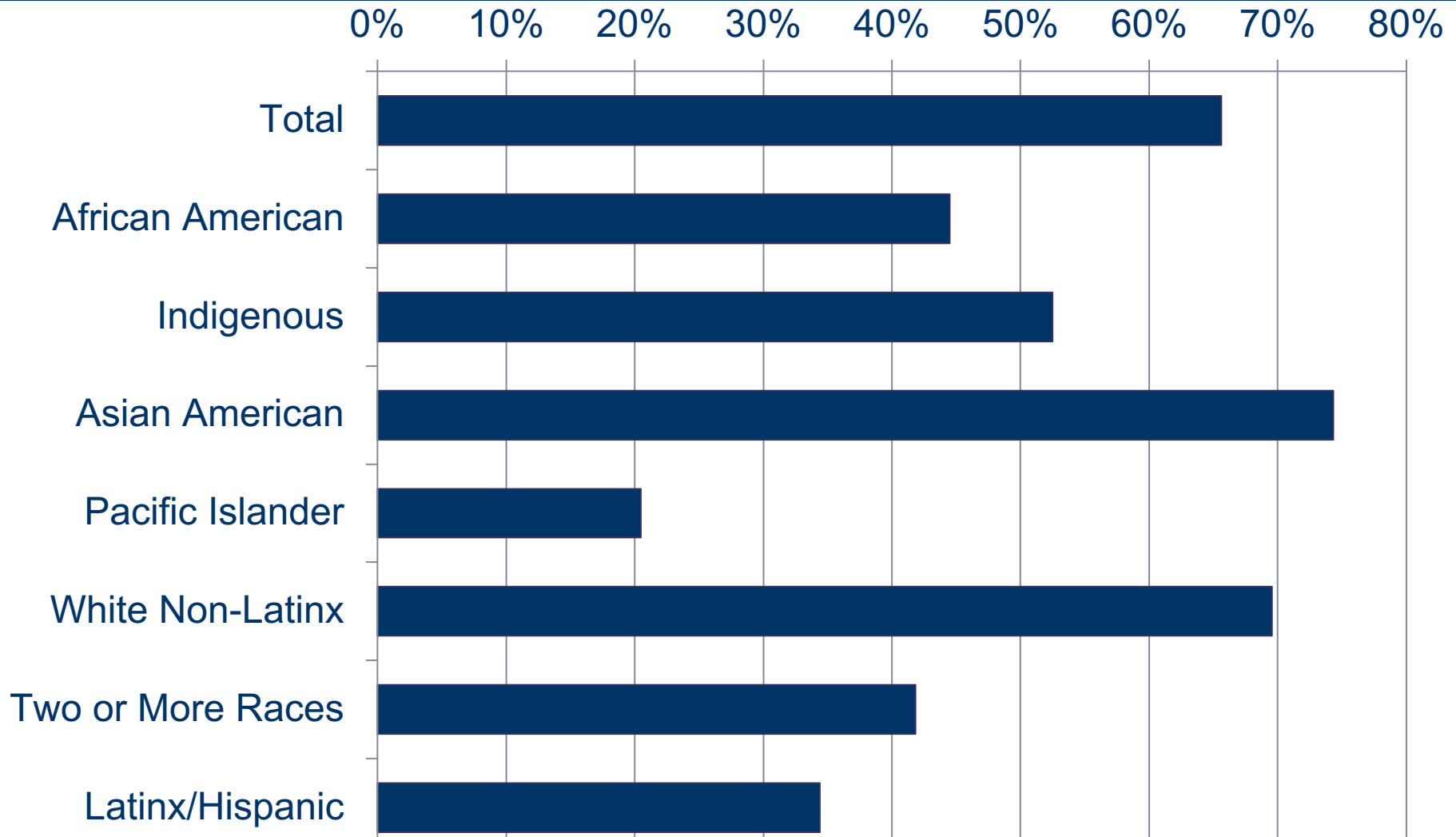
# Distribution of wealth increasingly skewed...

## Percent of wealth accruing to the top 10 and top 1 percent



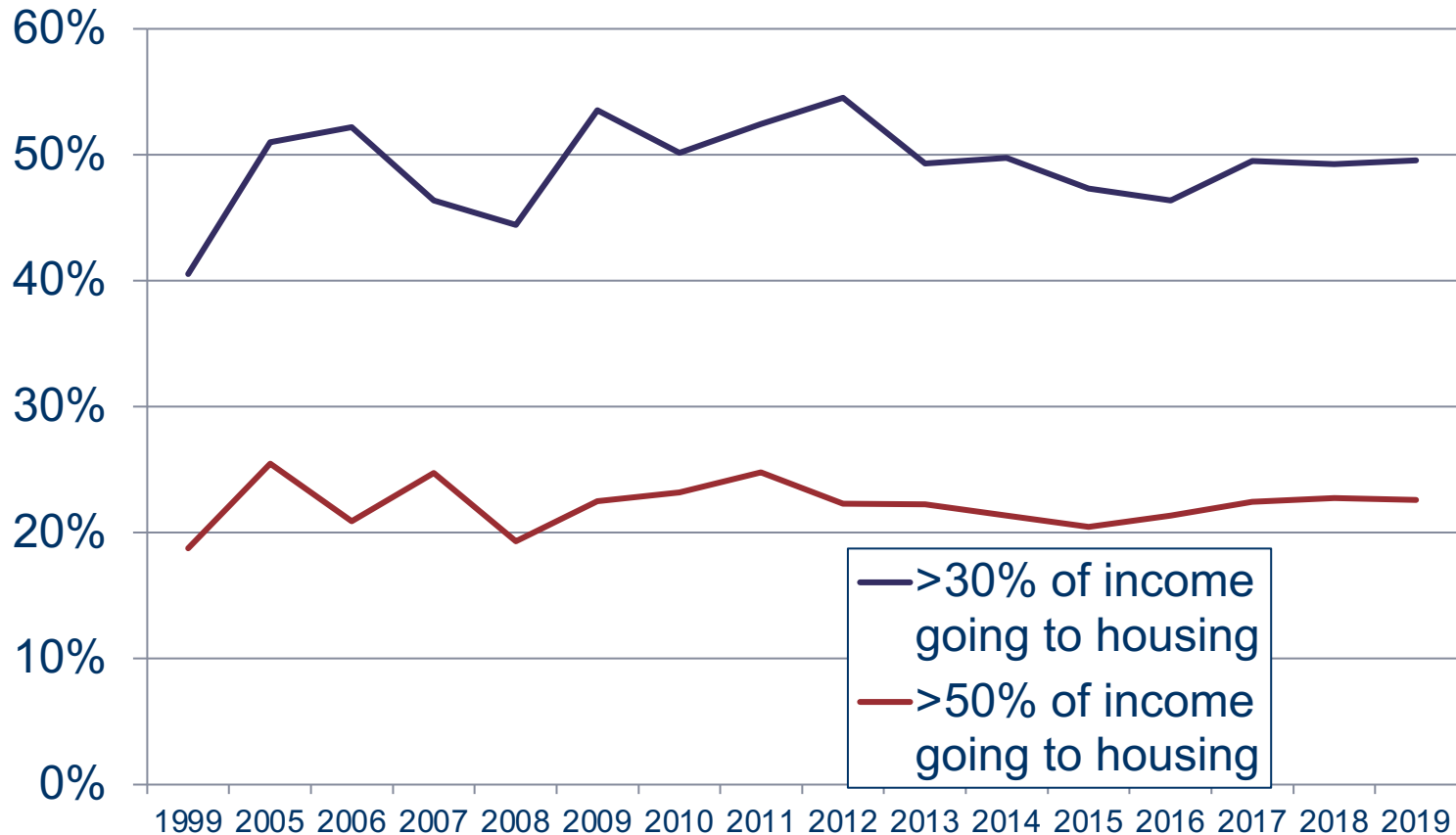
Source: Piketty, *Capitalism & Ideology*

# Home ownership by race/ethnicity, Clark County, 2019



Source: American Community Survey. Adjusted for inflation

# Cost-burdened renters



Source: Census Bureau/American Community Survey

# Economic recovery depends on three factors

- COVID-19
  - Vaccine deployment
  - Mutations/variants
- How we behave
- Federal policy
  - COVID response
  - Assistance to businesses
  - Assistance to individuals
  - Assistance to state and local governments
- Addressing racial inequities



# Contact Info

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