

Race Counts is an initiative launched by Advancement project California that does a comprehensive ranking of all 58 counties in the state to assess several issue areas critical for California's future and get a comprehensive picture of racial disparities. These issue areas include democracy, economic opportunity, crime and justice, access to health care, a healthy built environment, education, and housing. Marin county has been ranked number one in the state for performance, meaning that people are doing very well here regarding the indicators listed. However, in terms of racial disparity Marin county is ranked number two, meaning that many of the benefits that come with living here are enjoyed by white people far more frequently than people of color. For example, Latino kids under the age of 18 are approximately 9 times and black kids more than 12 times more likely to be arrested than white kids. Only 30% of Latino families in Marin are living above the cost-of-living adjusted poverty rate. Black and Latino kids have approximately ½ of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math proficiency as white kids in Marin County and are 2-5 times more likely to be suspended from school. Black people are 8 times less likely to have health insurance and twice as likely to have preventable hospitalizations as white people in this county. These are just a few of the facts make Marin county a far more challenging place for people of color than for white people. As good as we feel we have it in Marin, that feeling is not shared by everyone.

San Anselmo may or may not be different than the entirety of Marin County. But we are part of Marin County and the problems that impact the county surely impact us. The Instagram account bipoc.of.marin was started a few years ago to provide a space for people to share their experiences with racism in Marin County schools and community at large anonymously. Several posts in this account are from kids at Archie Williams High School and White Hill Middle School. One student in the class of '22 at Archie Williams said "I was walking around Northgate Mall one day and a group of white boys walked by me. Then the next thing I hear are monkey noises. I was so embarrassed and ran away. This stuff happens way too often and needs to stop." While the posts in this Instagram account do not represent quantitative research about racism in San Anselmo, they give us a sense of how racism is experienced by people of color in our community.

The ad hoc racial equity committee in San Anselmo was started with a narrow charter to assess whether the town's policies contained implicit bias that might make San Anselmo less equitable for people of color. While we hope to formally move forward with this town audit in the near future, discussions during committee meetings indicate that there is more work to do in San Anselmo to ensure that ALL people in town are able to live equitably day to day while enjoying everything that is offered that we cherish so much. For that reason, I hope the Town Council will endorse making the Racial Equity Committee in San Anselmo a permanent standing committee.

Thank you – Denise Krawitz