

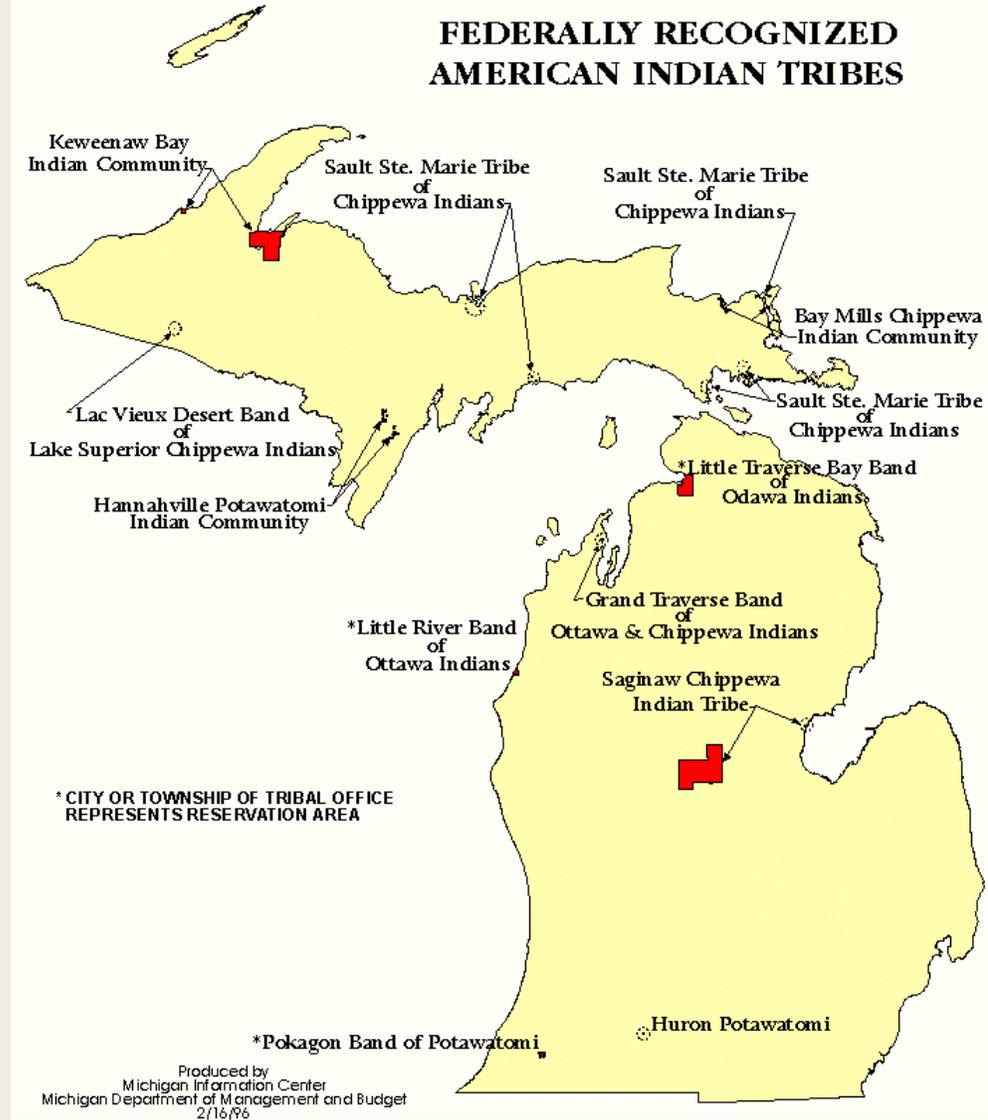


RACISM AND BIRTH DISPARITIES

Zea Malawa, MD, MPH
March 31, 2020

HOW TO BE A GOOD SETTLER

1. Acknowledge, regardless of intention, you will always be a settler, a guest in someone else's home. Come with **cultural humility and respect**, always.
2. Grow your awareness of current causes and **political actions** of local Native people; Attend local events, volunteering to support a group or event.
3. Donate **time, money, and resources** to aid in tribal community work.
4. Do not homogenize Native communities.
5. **Educate** your colleagues, friends, and neighbors on how to be good settlers.





**We know that
black women
have higher
risk, but do we
know why...**

What assumptions do we make about the causes of birth disparities?



COST OF SLAVERY 1612-1865



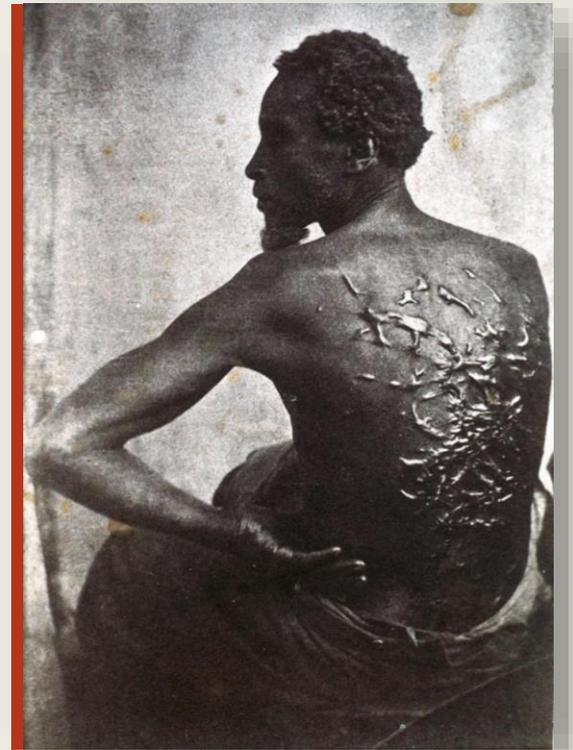
The wealth stolen from US Black communities in the form of slavery amounts to **17.5 trillion** dollars (in today's dollars)

Source: Craemer, T. (2015), Estimating Slavery Reparations: Present Value Comparisons of Historical Multigenerational Reparations Policies. *Social Science Quarterly*, 96: 639–655

COST OF SLAVERY 1612-1865

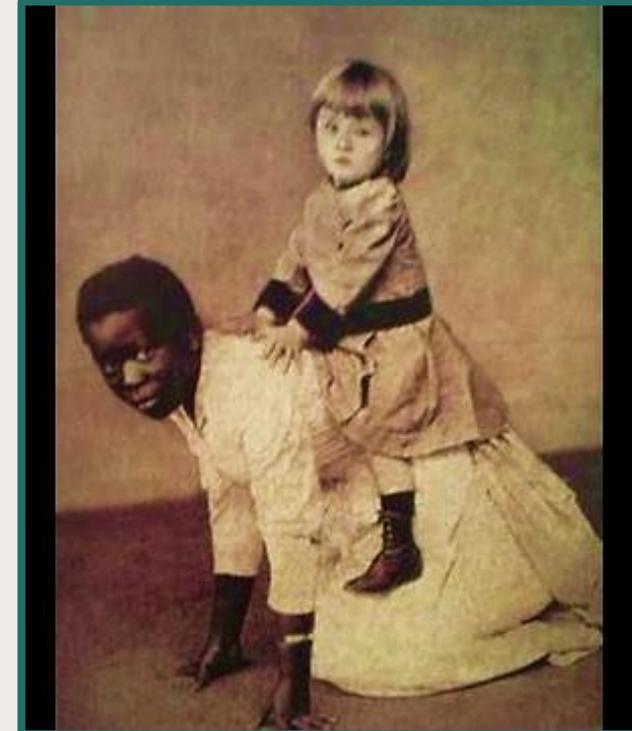
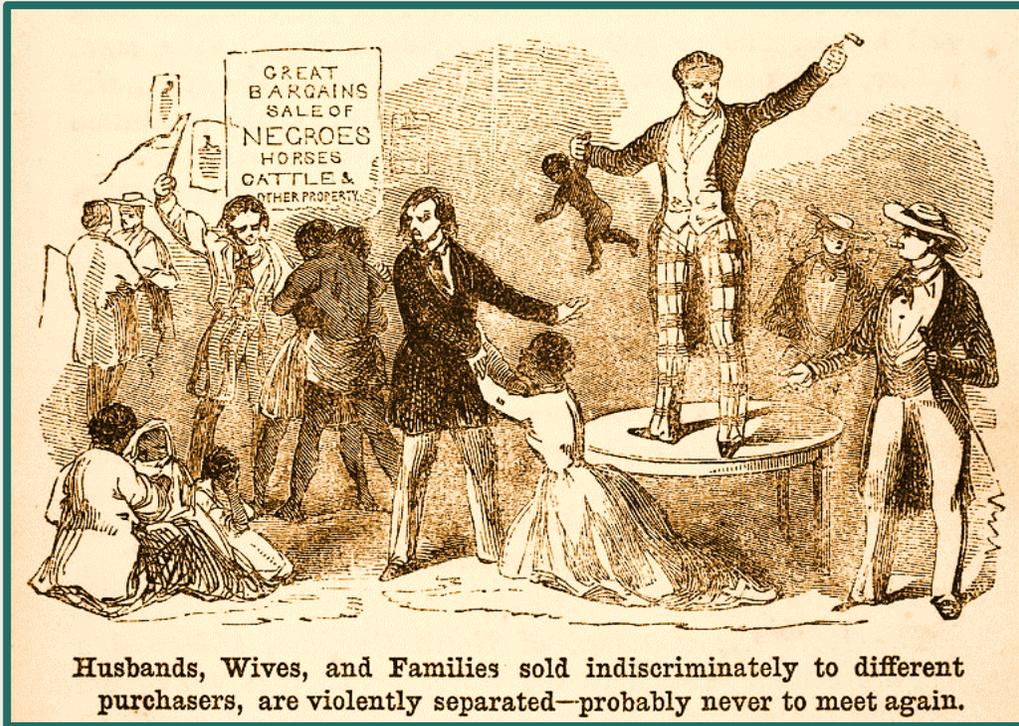
As a result, slavery is the monetary foundation that created this country's **global economic advantage**

Source: Baptist, Edward E. (2014). *The half has never been told : slavery and the making of American capitalism*. New York :Basic Books, a member of the Perseus Books Group



COST OF SLAVERY 1612-1865

Disrupted Family Relationships



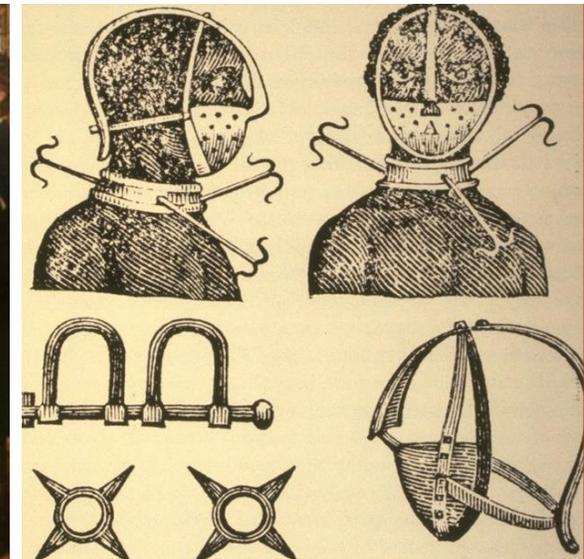
COST OF SLAVERY 1612-1865

Normalization of racist policing



COST OF SLAVERY 1612-1865

Dehumanization of Black women



COST OF SLAVERY 1612-1865

Persistent Racist Beliefs about Black People

Percentage of white medical learners endorsing beliefs about biological differences between blacks and whites

<u>Item</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>1st year</u>	<u>2nd year</u>	<u>3rd year</u>	<u>Residents</u>
Blacks age more slowly than white	23	21	28	12	14
Blacks' nerve endings are less sensitive than whites'	20	8	14	0	4
Black people's blood coagulates more quickly than whites	39	29	17	3	4
Whites have larger brains than blacks	12	2	1	0	0
Whites have a better sense of hearing than blacks	10	3	7	0	0
Blacks' skin is thicker than whites	58	40	42	22	25
Blacks have a more sensitive sense of smell than whites	20	10	18	3	7
Whites have a more efficient respiratory system than blacks	16	8	3	2	4
Black couples are significantly more fertile than white couples	17	10	15	2	7
Blacks are better at detecting movement than whites	18	14	15	5	11
Blacks have stronger immune systems than whites	14	21	15	3	4

Source: Racial bias in pain assessment, Kelly M. Hoffman, Sophie Trawalter, Jordan R. Axt, M. Norman Oliver, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Apr 2016, 201516047; DOI:10.1073/pnas.1516047113

Terrorism 1877-1960s

To keep the Black population as a cheap source of labor, many Whites used terrorism to undermine any Black economic success.

Ida B. Wells saw lynching as “an excuse to get rid of Negroes who were acquiring wealth and property and thus keep the race terrorized and the nigger down”



TERRORISM 1877-1960s

Lynching Crimes:

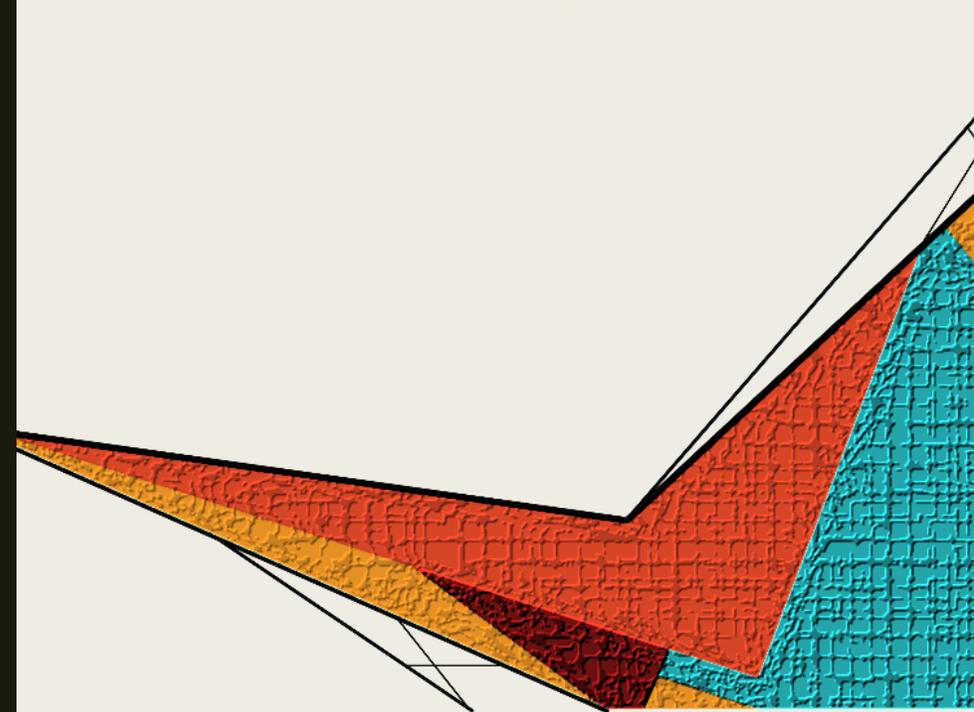
- gambling
- quarreling
- arguing with a white man
- attempting to vote
- unruly remarks
- demanding respect
- "acting suspiciously"
- flirting with a white woman



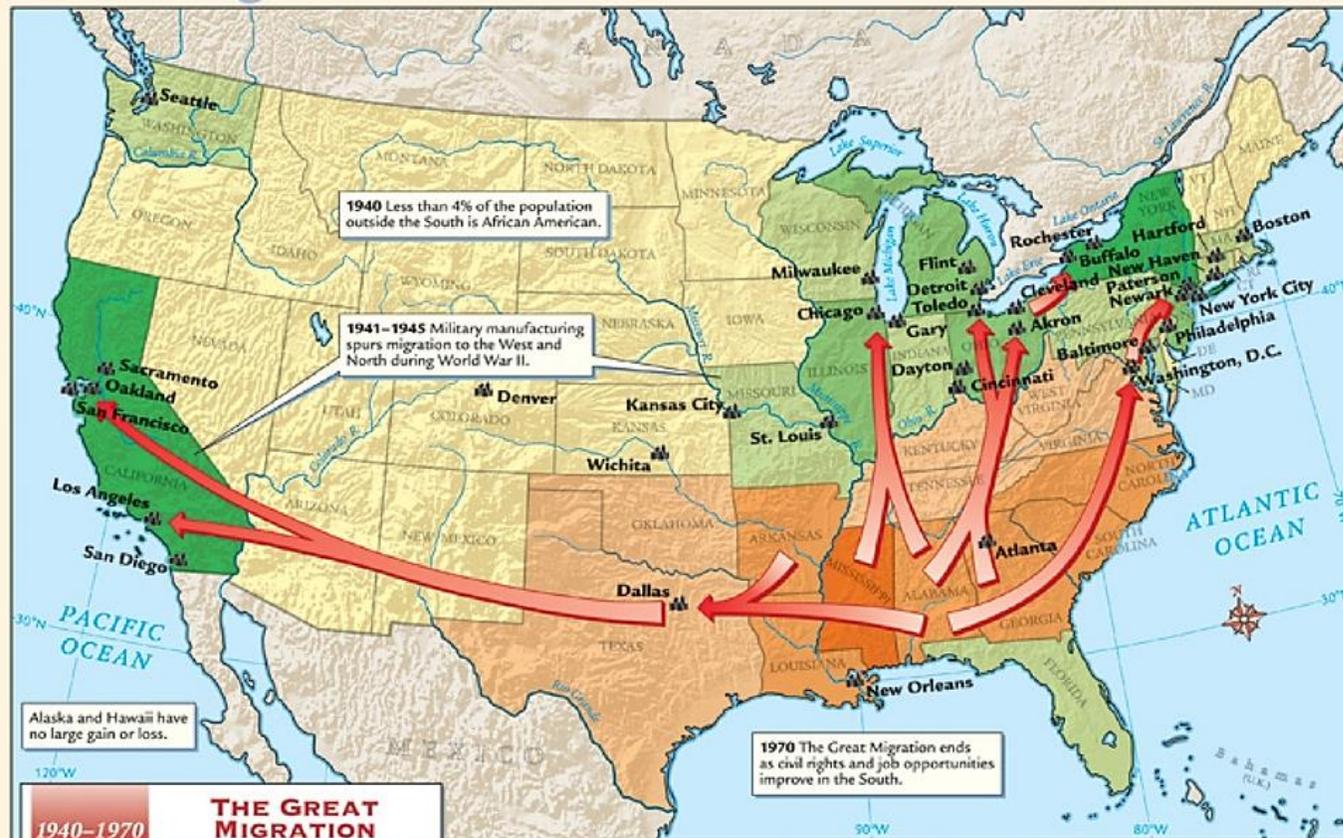
TERRORISM IN MICHIGAN

HONOR OUR ANCESTORS

- Tillot Warner 1883--*He was accosted by a mob of 500 and tortured in an attempt to get a confession. When he maintained his innocence, he was hanged.*
- Albert Martin 1889--*A masked mob dragged him from jail and beat him. He was lynched from a bridge in Port Huron. No one was prosecuted.*
- John Taylor 1886--*A former slave, and teenage soldier for the Union, a mob dragged him from a jail, tortured him and hanged him from a tree, and mutilated and decapitated his body; no one was prosecuted.*



GREAT MIGRATION 1910-1970



1940-1970 THE GREAT MIGRATION

Movement of African Americans

- ➔ Main flow of migration
- 🏠 Major migration destination

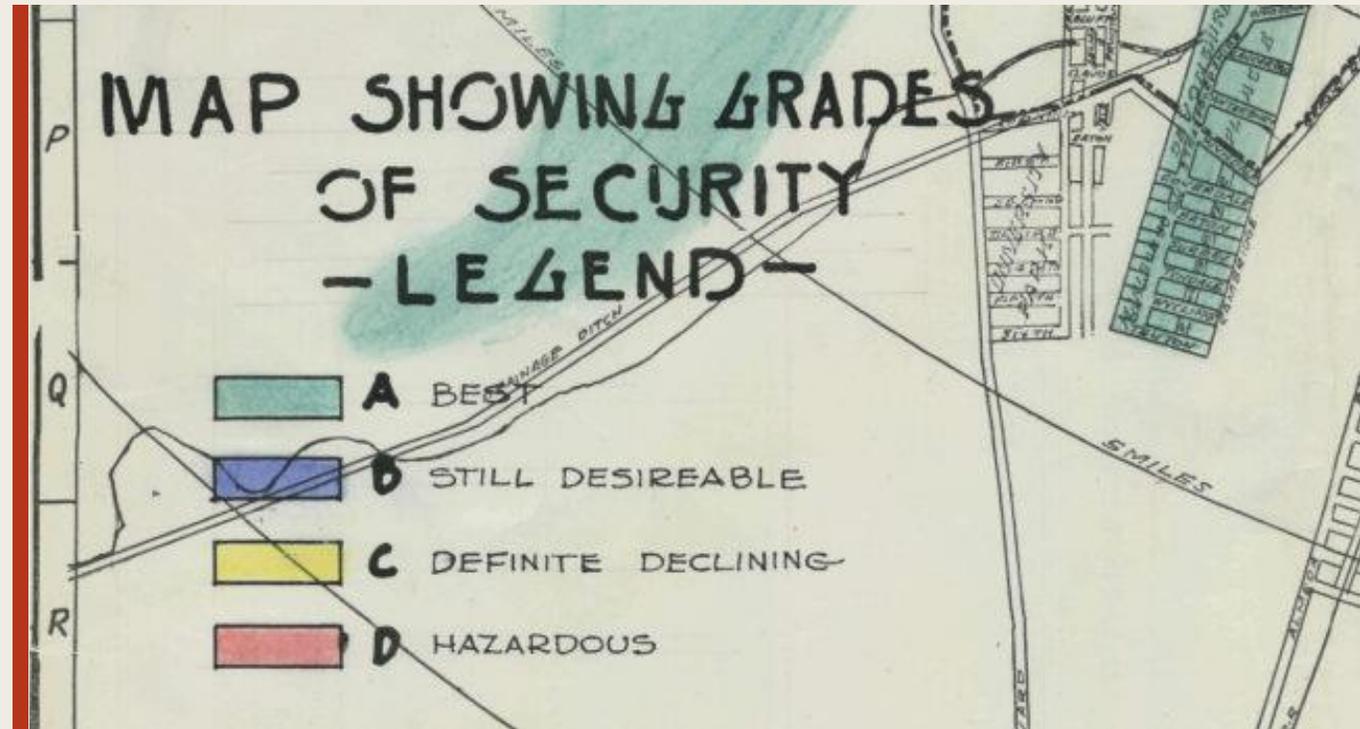
States with Major Gains		States with Major Losses	
More than 1,000,000	More than 1,000,000	More than 1,000,000	More than 1,000,000
300,000-1,000,000	300,000-1,000,000	300,000-1,000,000	300,000-1,000,000
60,000-300,000	60,000-300,000	60,000-300,000	60,000-300,000
No major change		No major change	

Map shows boundaries of 1970.



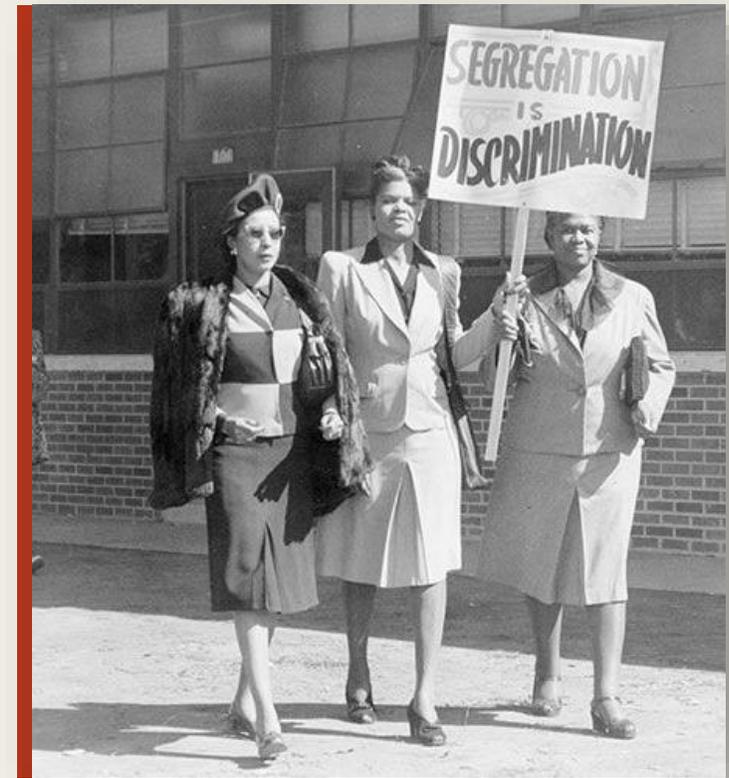
REDLINING 1932-1968

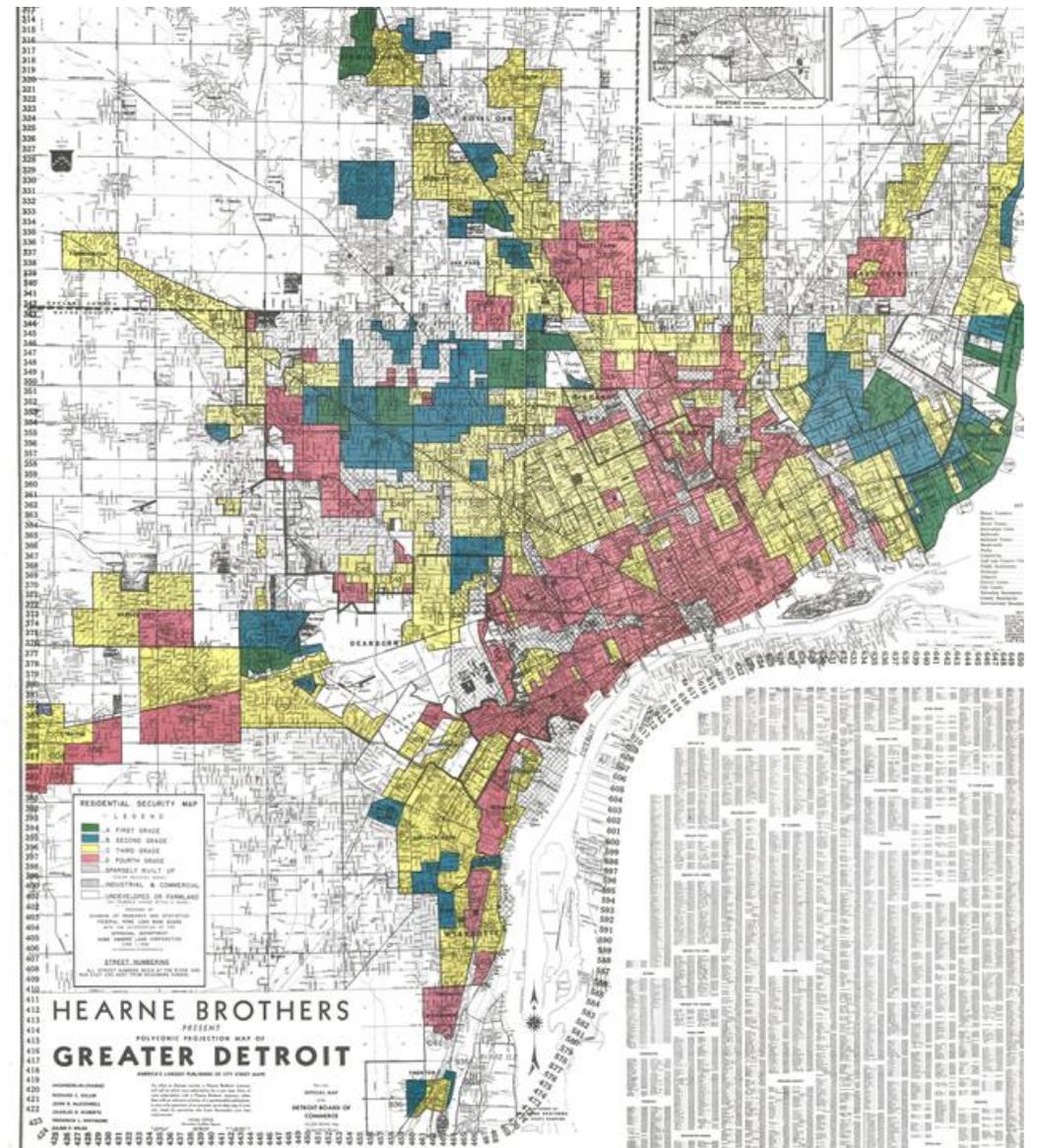
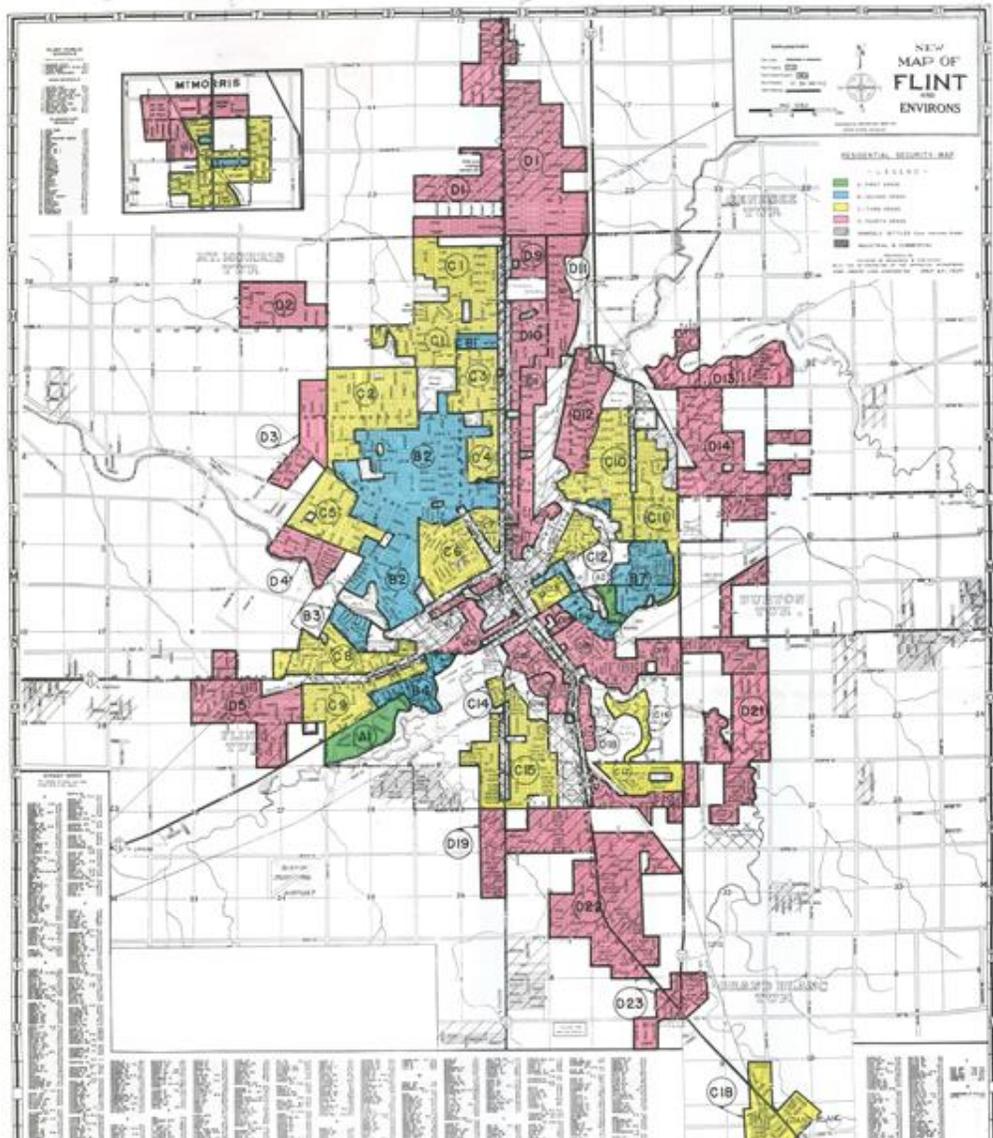
- FHA would only insure loans in **white areas**
- The presence of **black homeowners** would make entire area **uninsurable**.
- Strongly incentivized **segregation**

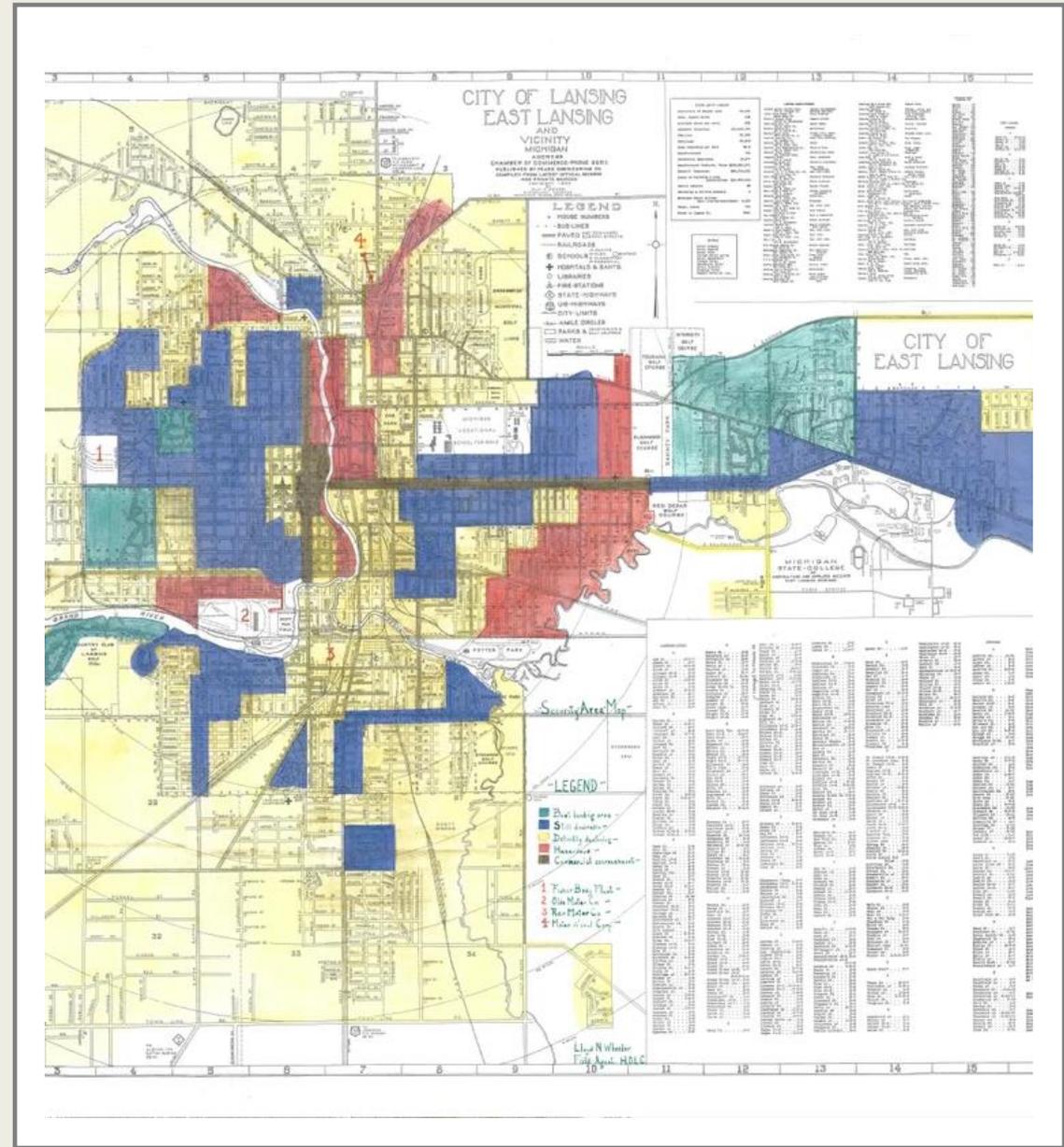
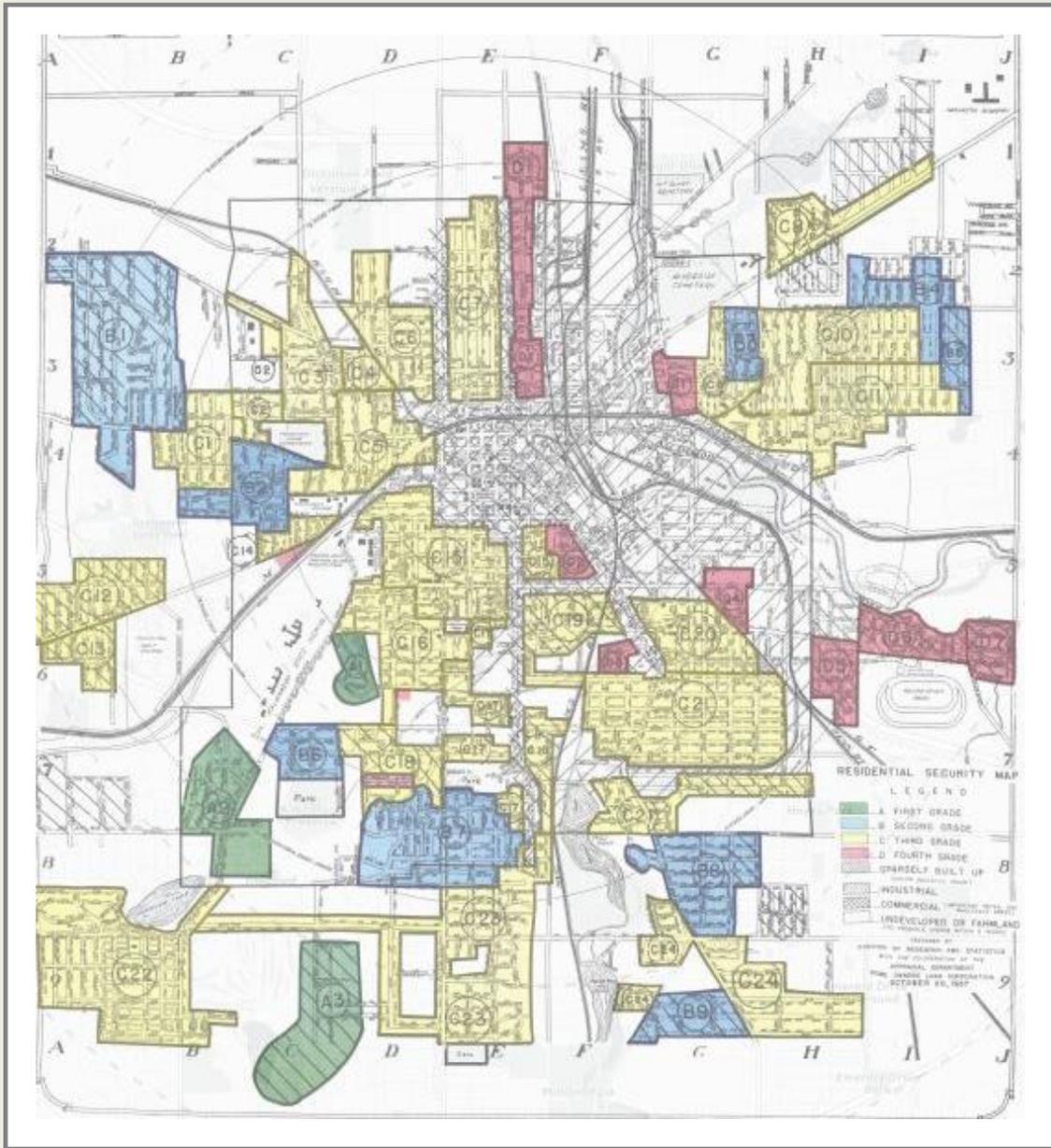


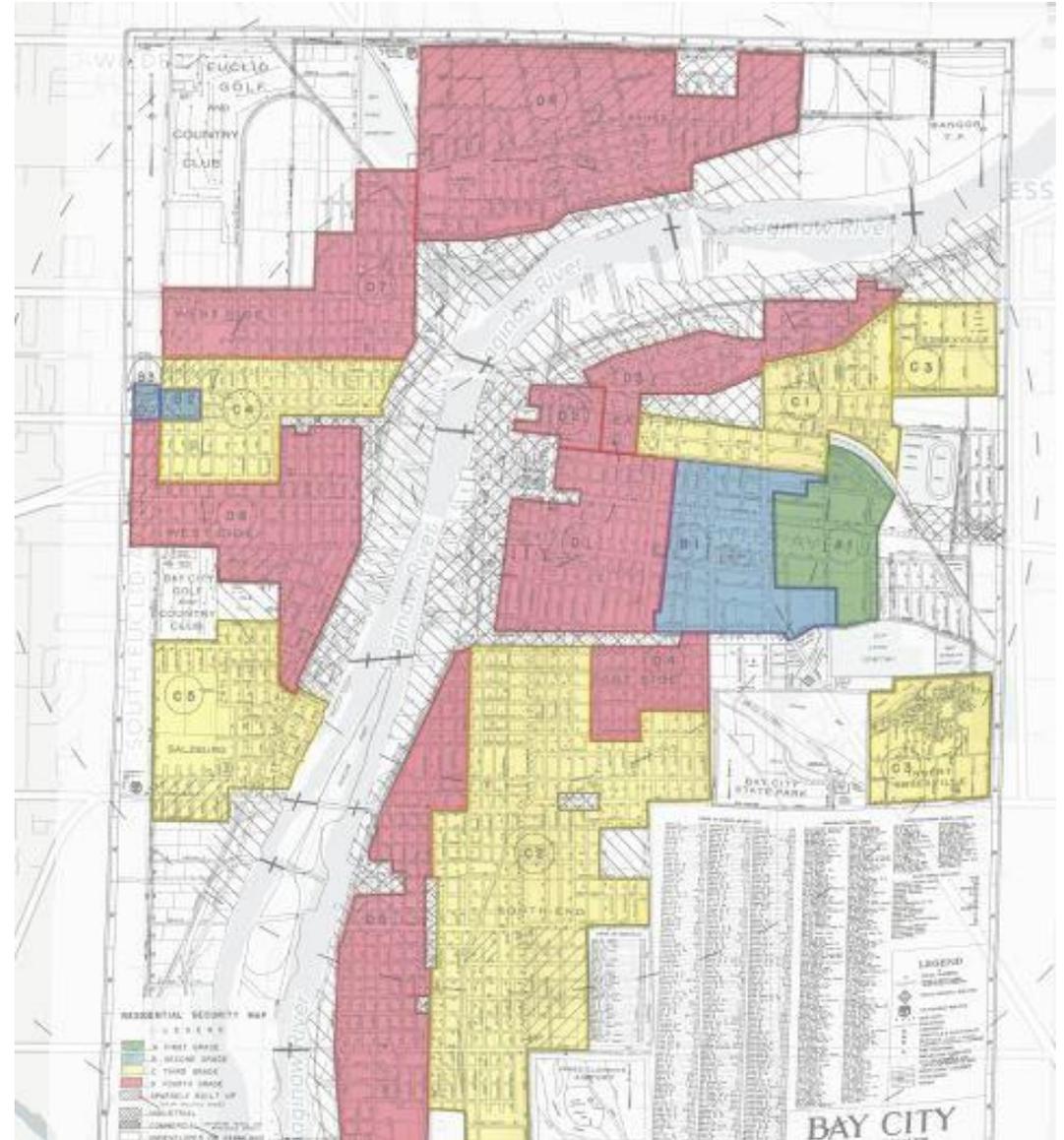
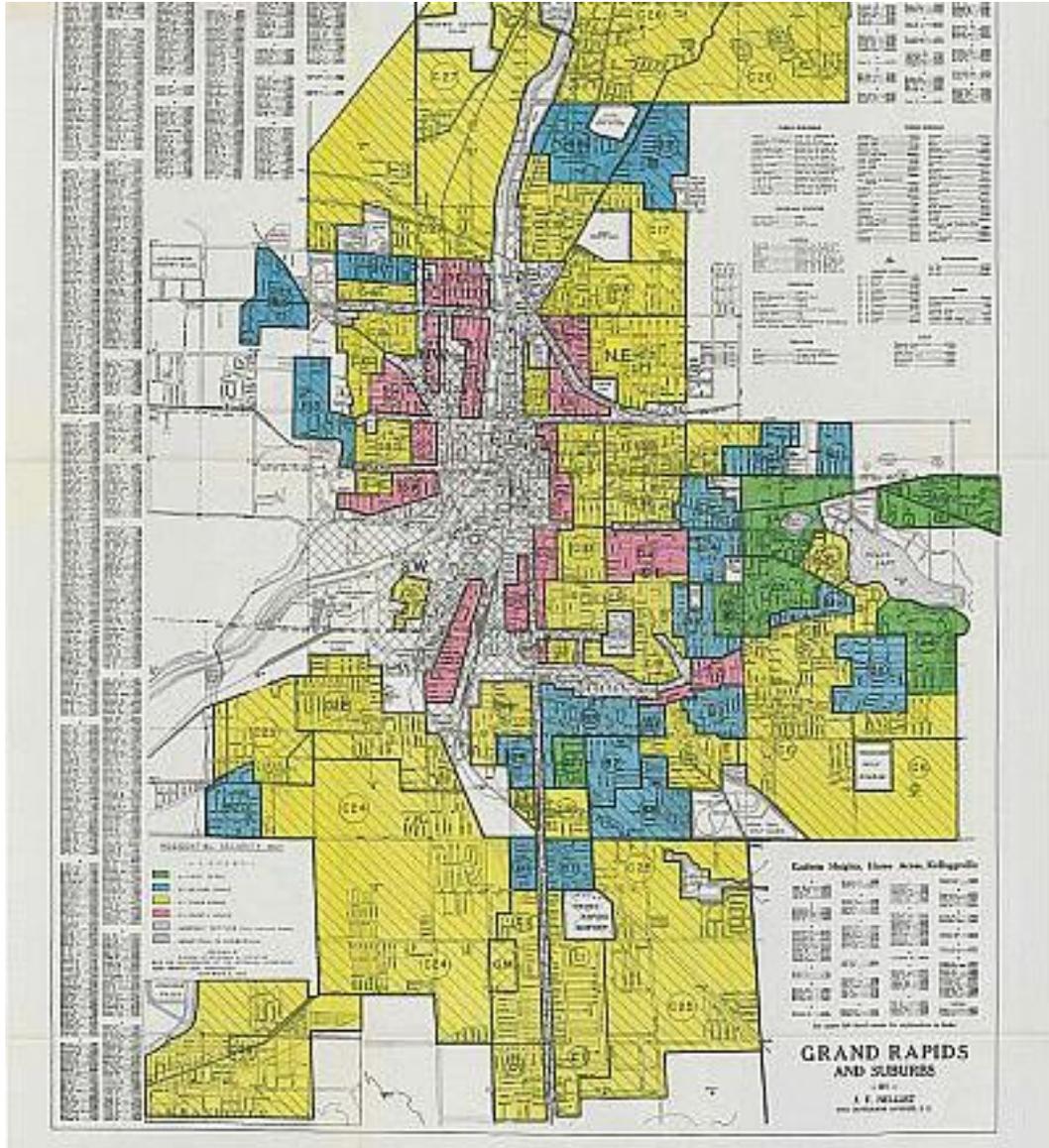
REDLINING 1932-1968

- ❑ Factory-employed Black families were unable to get bank loans, forced to use predatory loan sharks
- ❑ Black soldiers unable to take advantage of GI bill benefits after WWII
- ❑ Home prices in suburbs soared post-WWII. Blacks were excluded from this wealth accumulation









URBAN RENEWAL 101

**A LESSON IN
BLACK
LIVELIHOOD
DESTRUCTION**

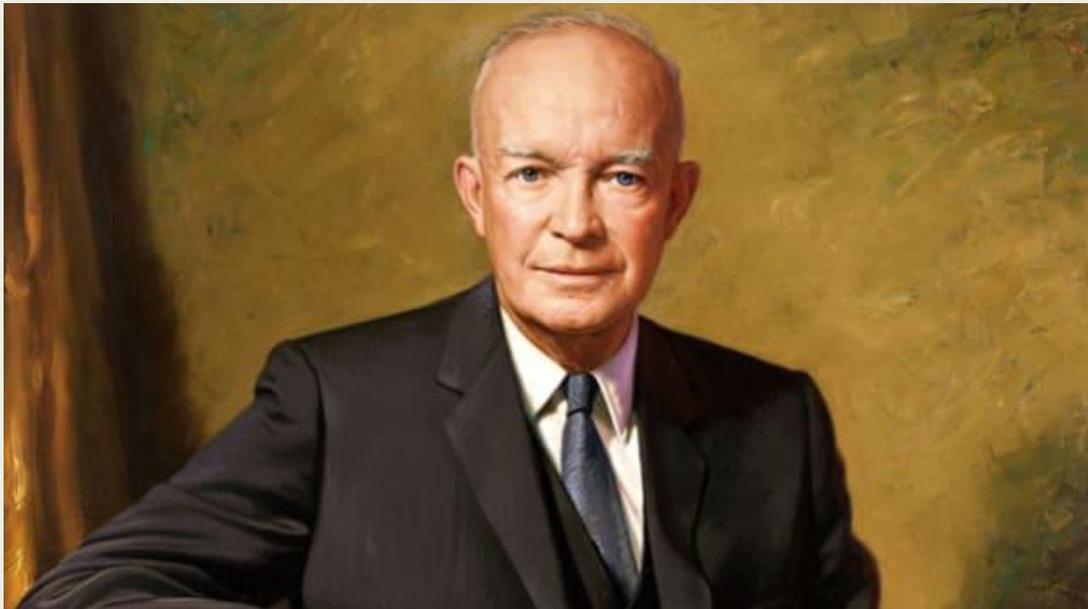




STEP 1:
MAKE
INVESTMENT
IN BLACK
COMMUNITIES
NEARLY
IMPOSSIBLE
(REDLINING)

STEP 2:

Promote a narrative that poor people are a threat to cities



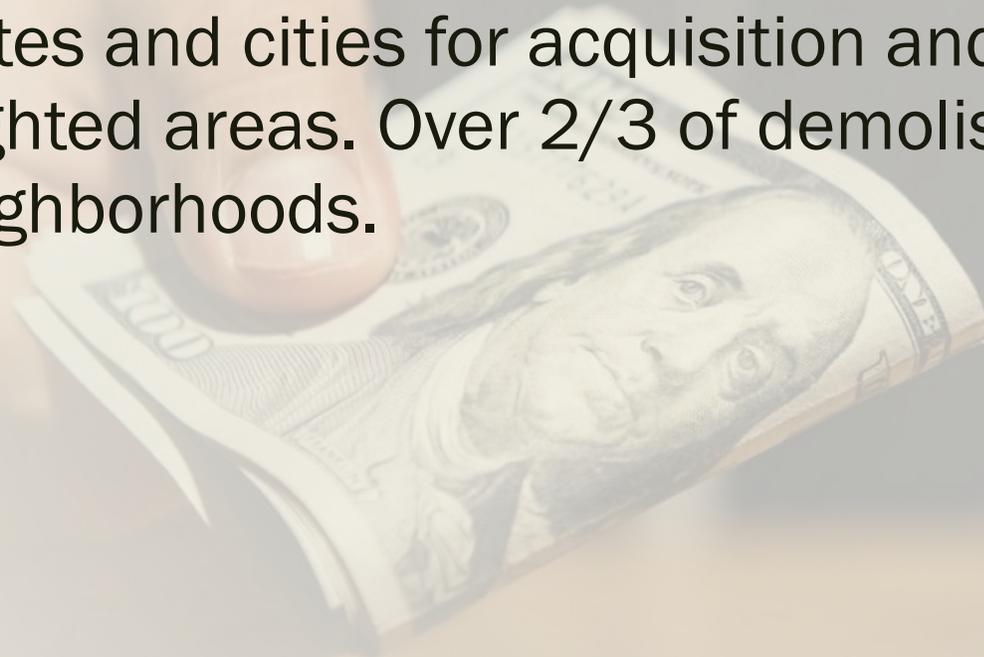
"[Urban renewal]...is a stimulating approach to one of the nation's pressing problems—urban blight"

-President Eisenhower
1959, Lincoln Center Groundbreaking

STEP 3:

Create a financial incentive for government to displace Black families

The federal government made billions of dollars available to states and cities for acquisition and clearance of slums and blighted areas. Over 2/3 of demolished areas were Black neighborhoods.



STEP 4:

Use eminent domain to
displace marginalized people
and get a bunch of land at
bargain prices



Parcel 373 July 22nd, 1949
1357 East Lafayette/



STEP 5:

DEMOLISH THE HOMES AND SELL IT TO PRIVATE DEVELOPERS AT A PROFIT

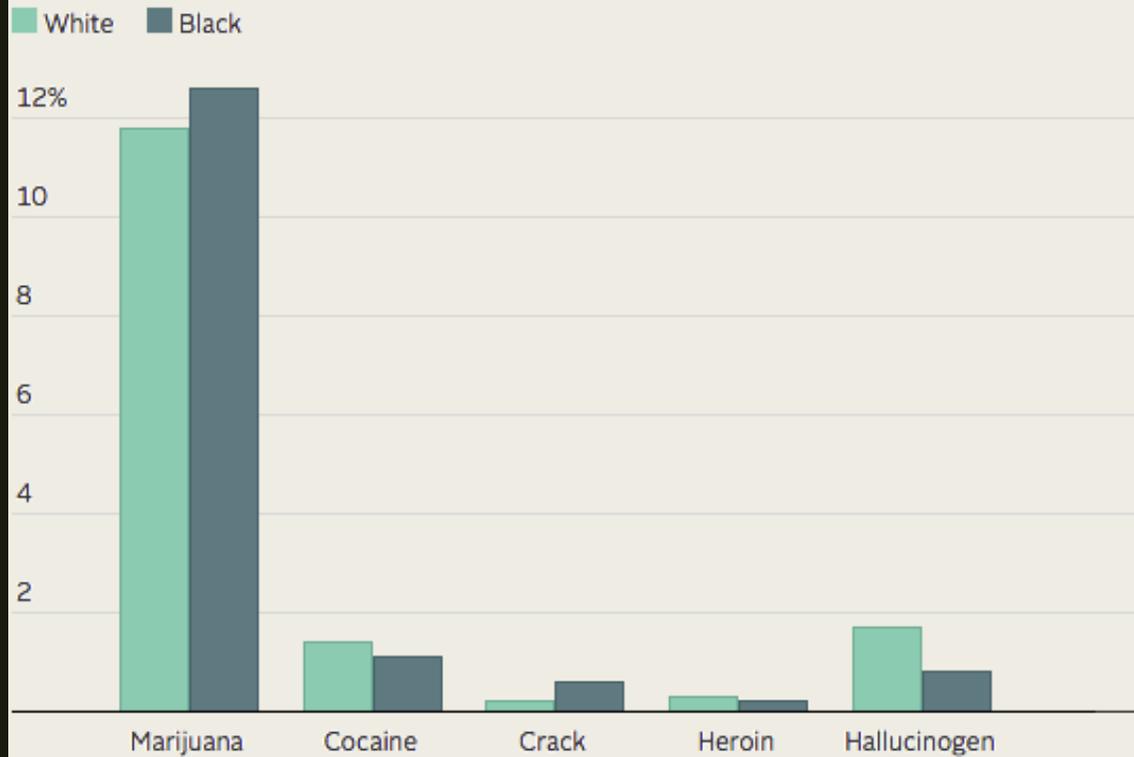
**SO HOW ARE WE
DOING NOW?**



MASS INCARCERATION

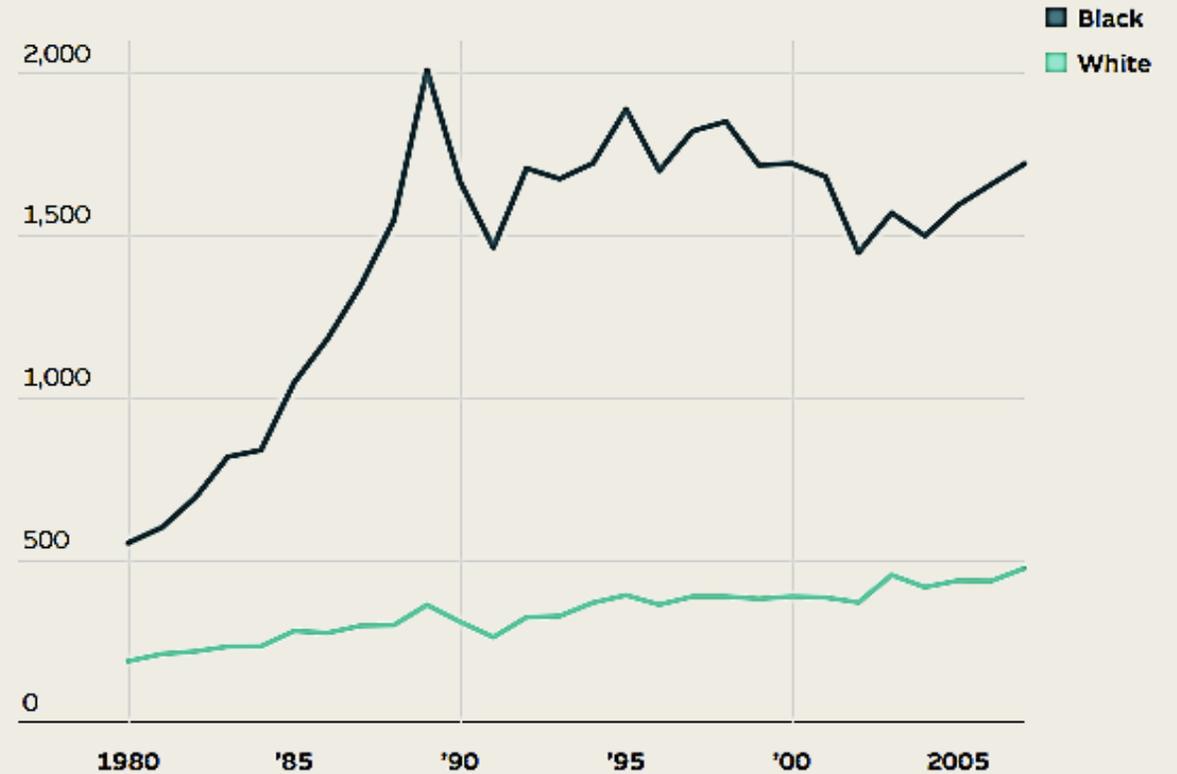
Black people are significantly more likely to be arrested and convicted

Percent of population who used a drug in the past year



Source: SAMHSA, 2011 data

US drug arrest rates, per 100,000 residents of each race

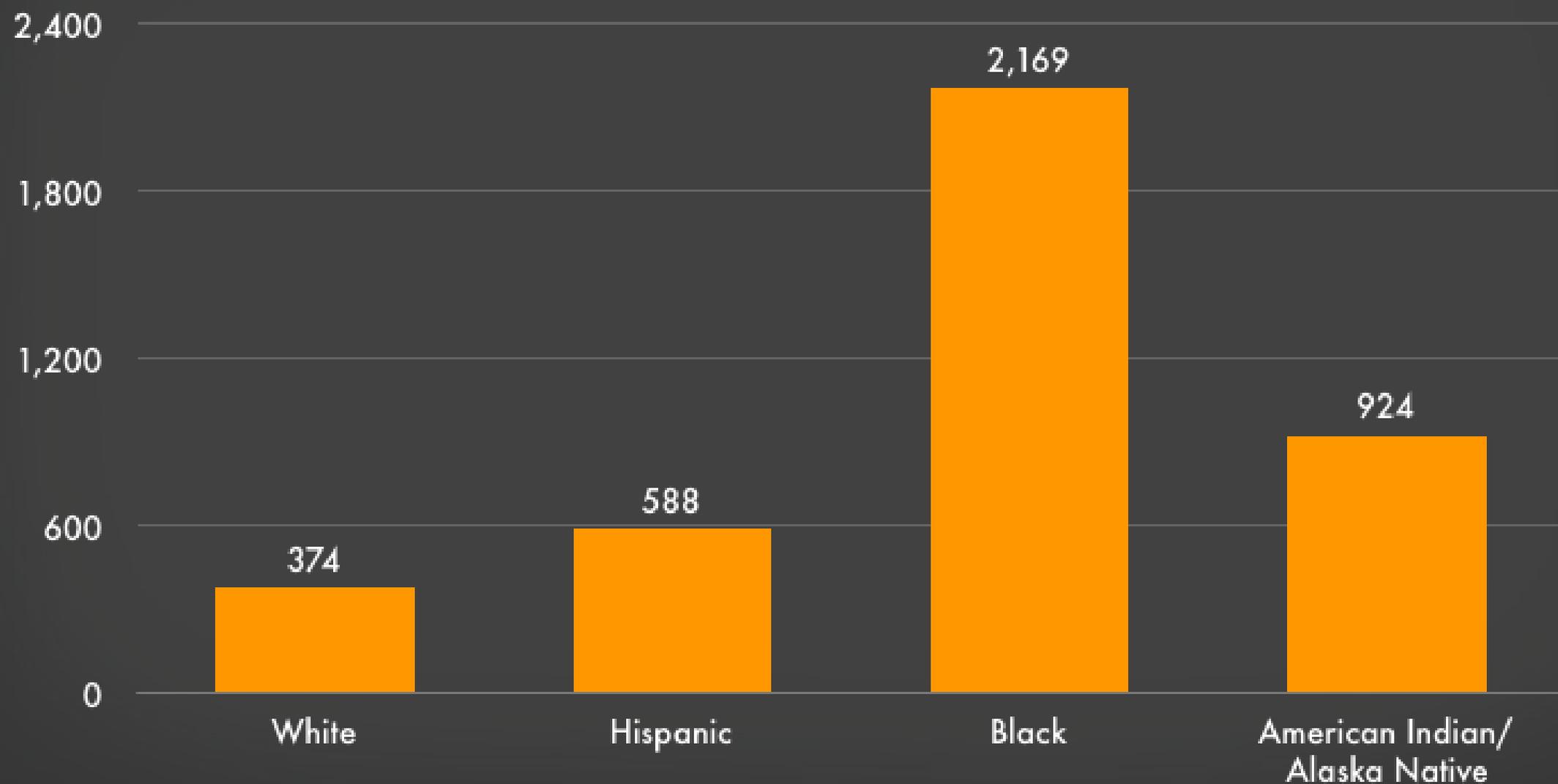


Source: Human Rights Watch, 2009 analysis of government data



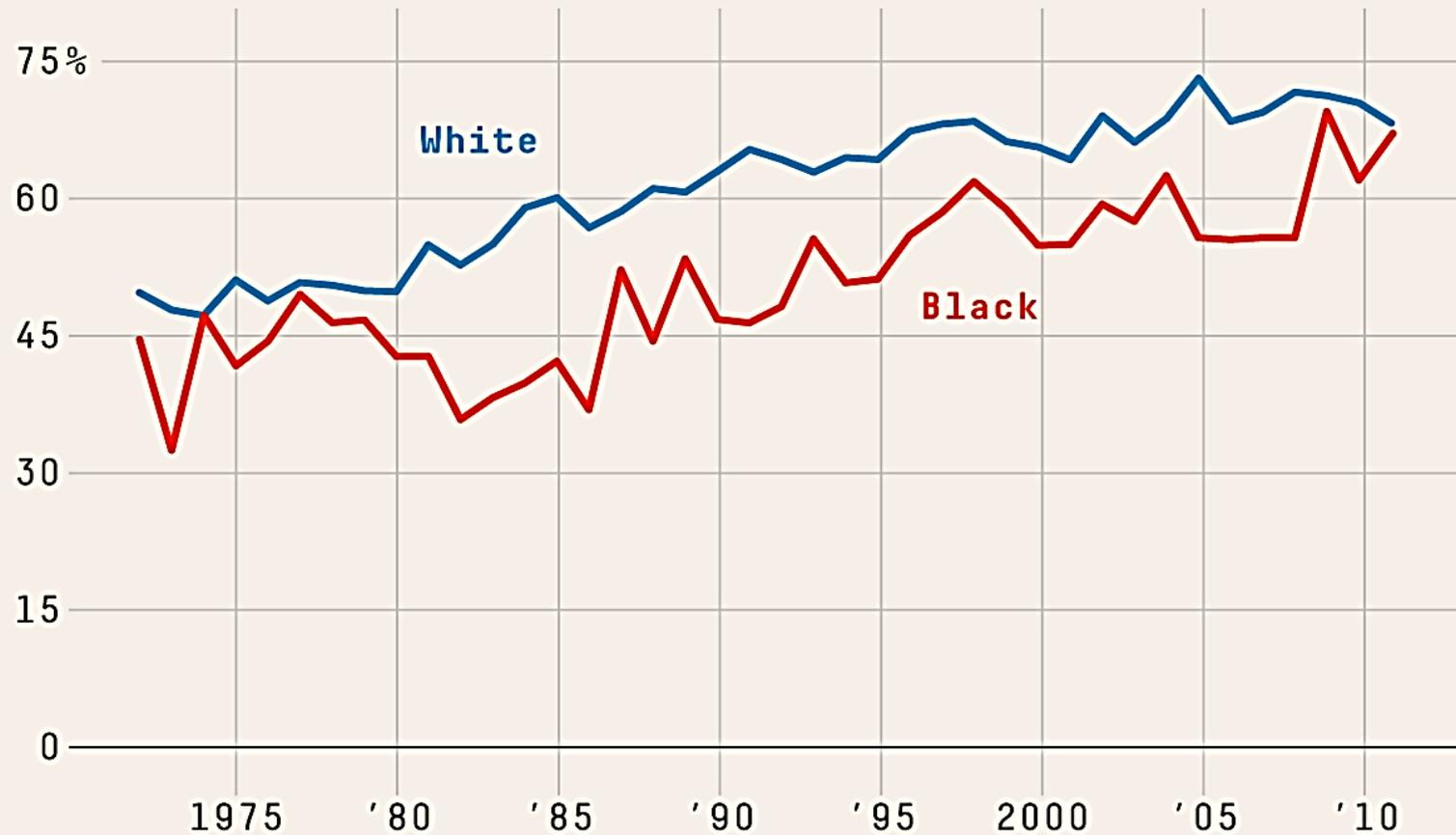
BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2010

(Number of people incarcerated per 100,000 people in that racial/ethnic group)



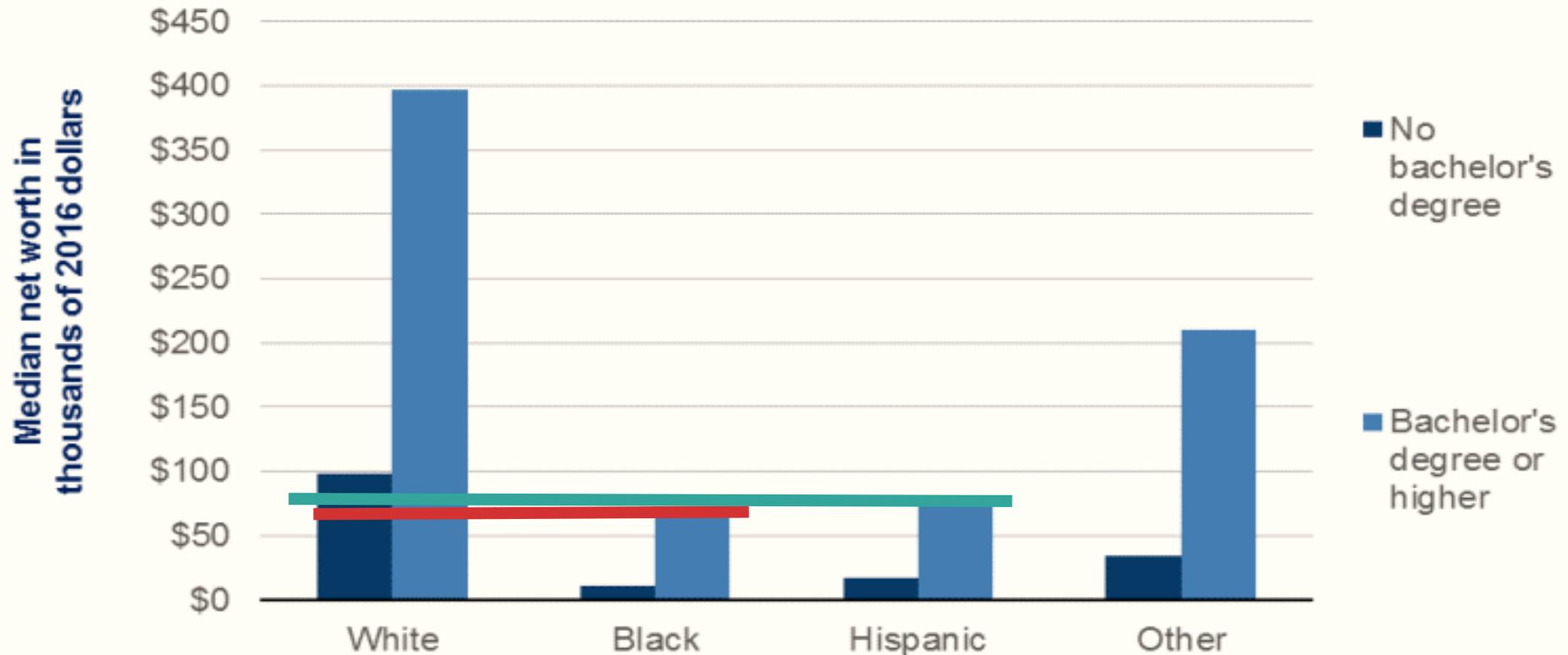
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATES

Recent high school graduates attending two- or four-year colleges



College Is Not a Cure for Wealth Gaps

Median net worth of U.S. households in 2016 by race and educational attainment of household head



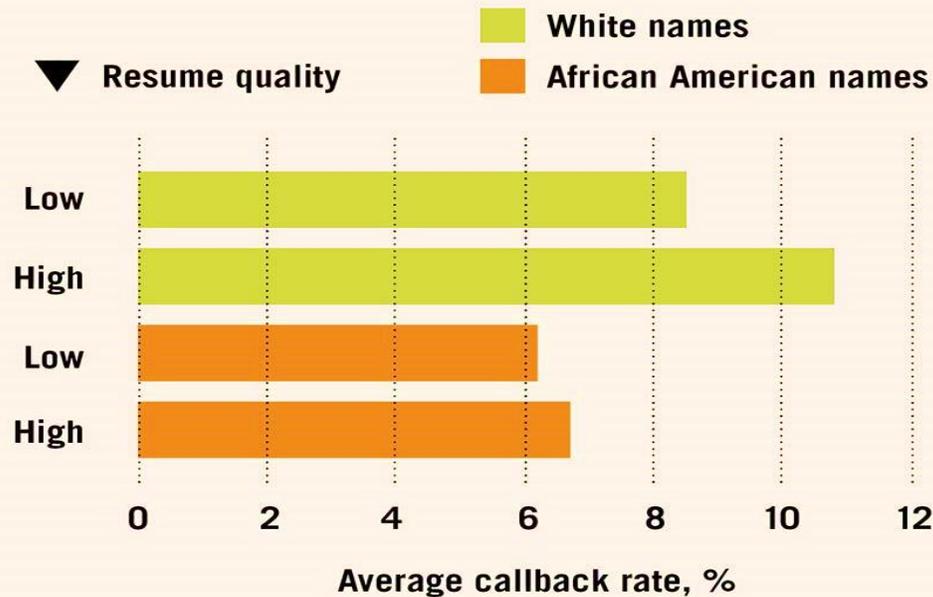
Source: Lisa J. Dettling, Joanne W. Hsu, Lindsay Jacobs, et al. "Recent Trends in Wealth-Holding by Race and Ethnicity: Evidence from the Survey of Consumer Finances." Federal Reserve Board. September 27, 2017.

BROOKINGS

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND HIRING BIAS

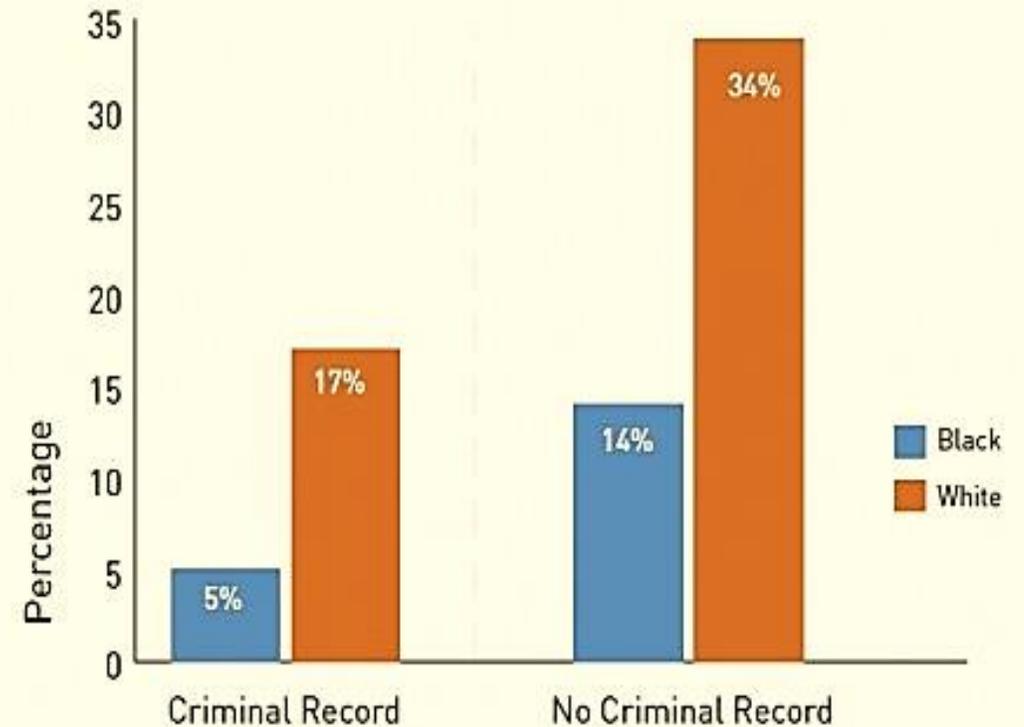
Racism in a resume

Job applicants with African American-sounding names got fewer callbacks.



Source: Bertrand and Mullainathan, 2004

Fig. 9. Racial Impact of a Criminal Record on Interview Callbacks, 2003



Source: Devah Pager, "The Mark of a Criminal Record", *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 108, No. 5 (March 2003), Figure 6, p. 958.

RACIAL WEALTH DISPARITIES

Median Assets of
White Families

\$116,000

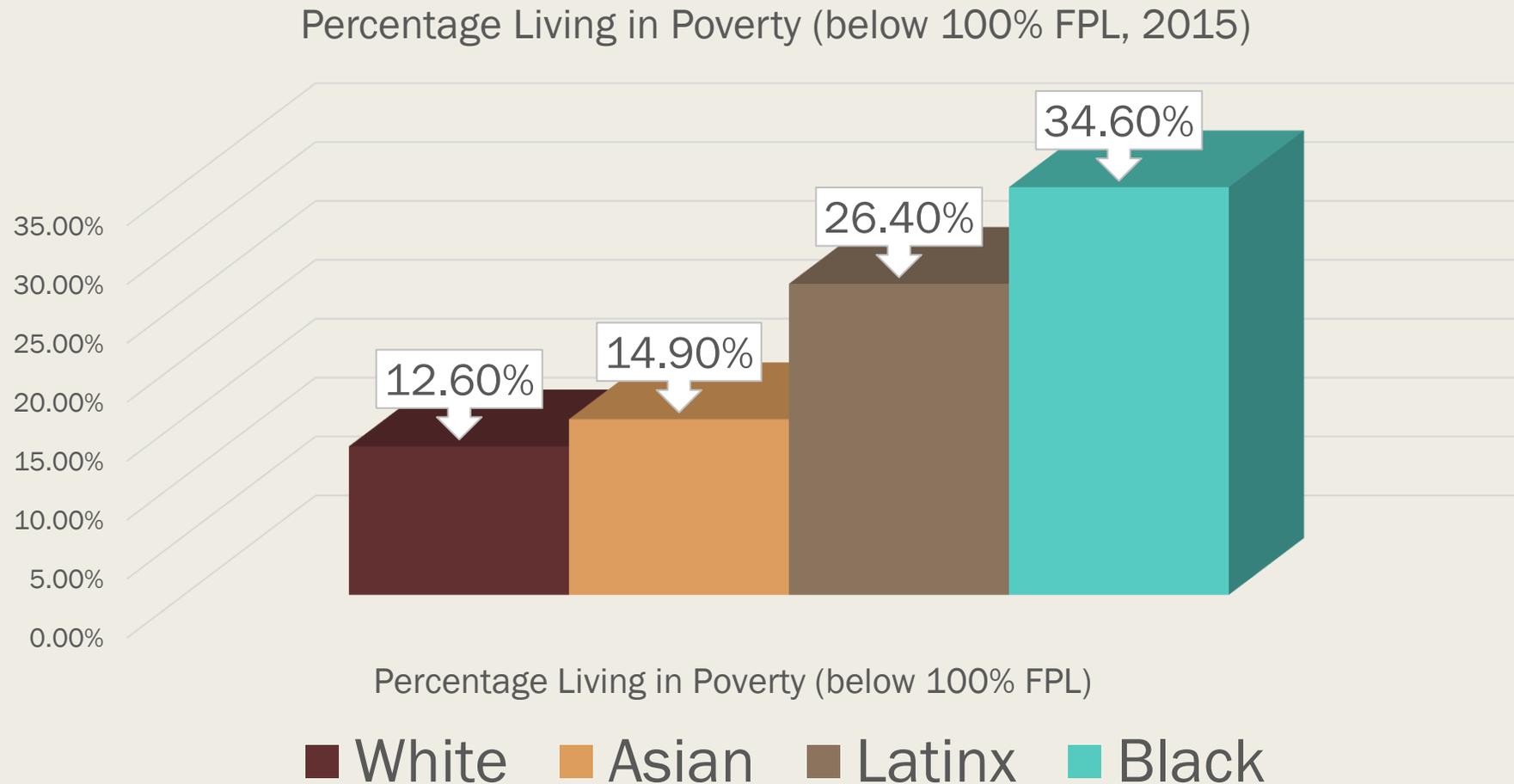


Median Assets of
Black Families

\$2000



Poverty in Michigan by Race



Risk factors for Preterm Birth

- **Acute Stress**
- **Racism**
- **Neighborhood conditions**
- **Anxiety**
- **Socio-economic status**
- **Chronic Stress**
- **Work conditions**

Institute of Medicine Report Preterm Birth: Causes, Consequences, and Prevention

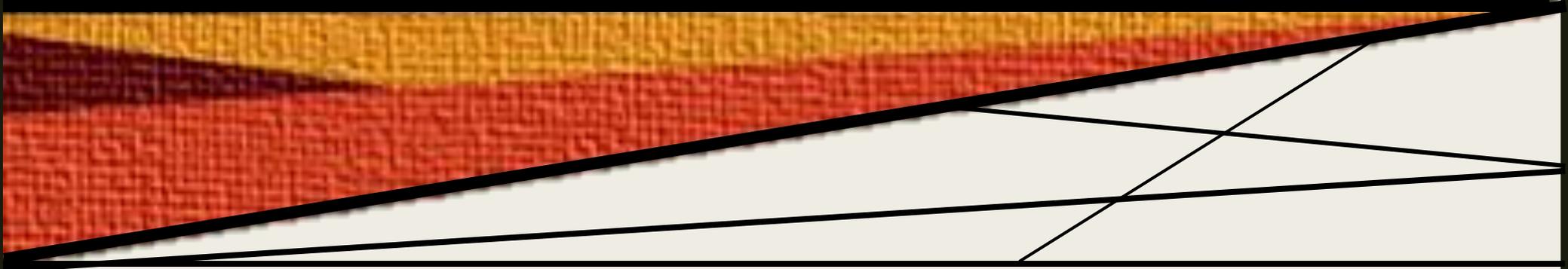


Richard E. Behrman, Adrienne Stith Butler, Editors

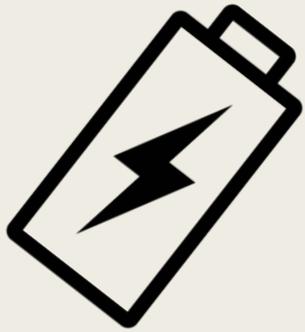
Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, 2006



RACISM AS A ROOT CAUSE (RRC) APPROACH



LONG TERM



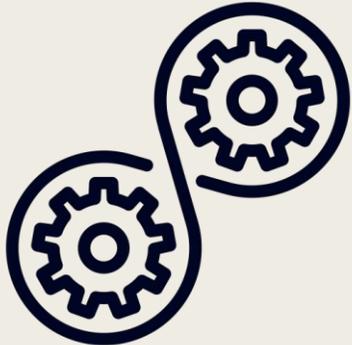
Sustainable and/or
institutionalized for long- term
impact

PRECISE IMPACT



Precisely impacts the racially marginalized group(s)

SYSTEMS CHANGE



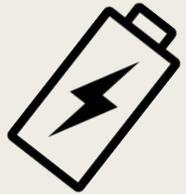
Focuses on changing **policies, systems, and environments** as opposed to changing people

REPARATIONS

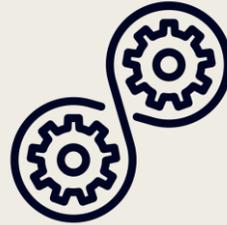


Seeks to repair historical injustices by shifting **resources, power, and opportunities** to marginalized racial groups

Racism as a Root Cause (RRC) Approach



Long-Term



Systems Change

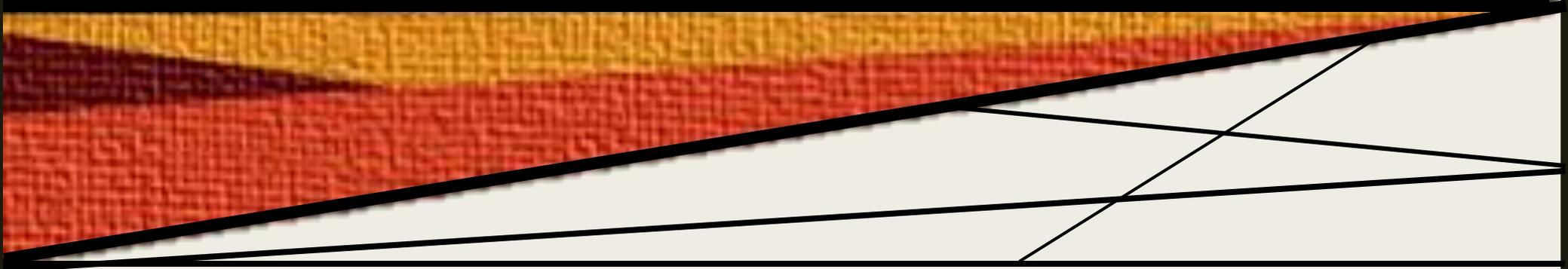


Precise Impact



Reparations

**WHAT DOES THIS LOOK
LIKE IN PRACTICE?**



REDUCING PREMATURE BIRTH

What Black Women Need to Know

The rate of babies born too soon to Black women is 48% higher than other women. Prematurity (meaning a baby born before 37 weeks of pregnancy) can cause a range of challenges, from learning problems to loss of hearing and vision. Premature birth is the leading cause of infant death in the U.S. before a baby's first birthday. If you've already had a baby born before 37 weeks, you are especially high risk for having another baby born too soon. However, there are many things you can do to help your baby have a healthy start!

How You Can Reduce Your Risk of Premature Birth:

- ◆ Take a multi-vitamin with folic acid every day if you are of child-bearing age.
- ◆ Wait 18 months after the birth of your baby to get pregnant again.
- ◆ Go to the doctor as soon as you think you're pregnant.
- ◆ Keep your doctor appointments, even if you feel fine.
- ◆ Smoking is linked to low birth weight. Drinking alcohol or using drugs while you're pregnant can also hurt you and your baby. Ask your doctor for help. There are treatment programs that can help you and baby stay healthy.
- ◆ Get treated for health conditions, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, depression and thyroid problems *before, during and after* pregnancy.
- ◆ Try your best to maintain a healthy weight by eating more fruits and vegetables and keeping physically active *before, during and after* pregnancy.
- ◆ Let your partner, friends and family know you need help. Having a baby can be tough!



■ CDPH, 2017

■ How Black women can reduce PTB

■ Individual health behaviors

REDUCING PREMATURE BIRTH

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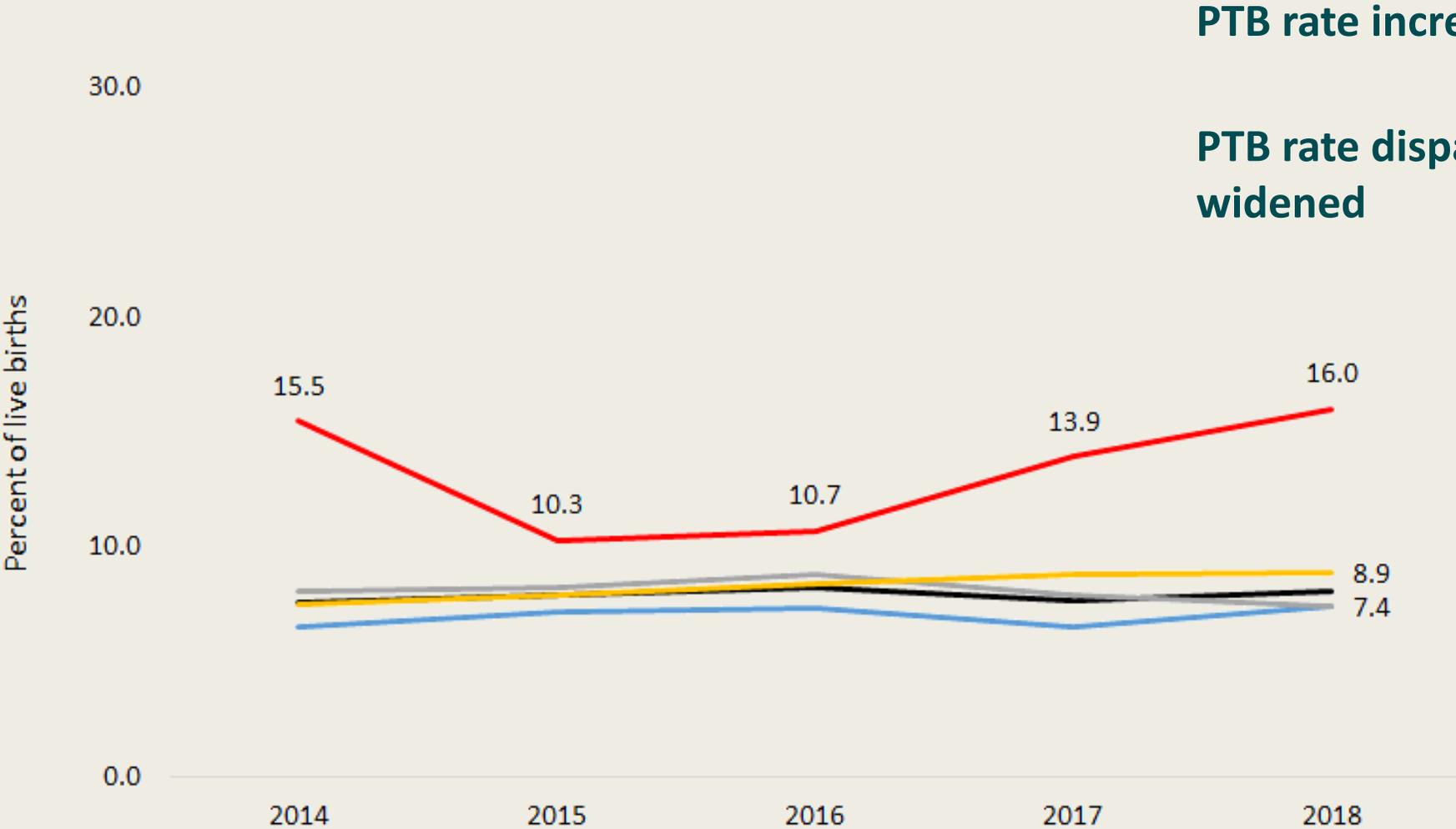


- ◆ Take a daily vitamin
- ◆ Go to the doctor
- ◆ Don't smoke
- ◆ Eat healthy and exercise
- ◆ Make sure everyone helps you. Having a baby is tough!



Percent of live births in San Francisco born before 37 weeks gestation, 2014-2018

— All — White — Asian — Latina — Black



PTB rate increased

PTB rate disparity widened

IS IT AN RRC?

Long-Term	Health education interventions are short-term and deliver information at one point in time. This is inadequate to address the long-standing, systemic impacts of racism.	
Precise Impact	These tips are generally applicable to all populations and fails to acknowledge that different groups need different resources to be healthy.	
Systems Change	Does not address the social and economic structural barriers that contribute to stress and impact the ability to maintain a healthy lifestyle.	
Reparations	Nor does it repair historical injustices by shifting resources, power, and opportunities to racially marginalized groups.	

ABUNDANT BIRTH PROJECT AS AN RRC INTERVENTION

- ◆ Provides \$800/mo of cash to Black pregnant people
- ◆ Alleviates stressors during pregnancy such as financial worry, food insecurity, housing insecurity, etc.
- ◆ Distributed monthly for up to five years postpartum allowing time for child(ren) to be school-ready and family to transition to employment opportunities

IS IT AN RRC?

Long-Term	Earned Income Tax Credit policy can be a pathway for sustainability.	
Precise Impact	Specifically designed by and offered to Black mothers, those with the greatest burden of risky births.	
Systems Change	Provides resources to overcome barriers rather than placing the onus on the individual to do so alone.	
Reparations	Shifts resources and financial power to Black parents, unconditionally.	



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



None of our work is possible without our funders. We appreciate you

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Photo Credit: Naja Lerus

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