The background of the slide features a photograph of a lush green forested hillside. In the upper portion of the image, several modern buildings are visible, including a prominent glass-fronted skyscraper. A cable car system is also present, with two white gondolas suspended from cables. The lower portion of the image is obscured by a dark gray diagonal overlay that serves as a background for the text.

# Why aren't there more Black people in Oregon?

**Antwon Chavis, MD** (He/Him/His) – Assistant Professor, Division of General Pediatrics  
Oregon Health & Science University, Doernbecher Children's Hospital

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DATE: January 20th, 2023

# Disclosures

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I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

# Acknowledgment/Appreciation

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[Walidah Imarisha](#) - Director of the Center for Black Studies and Assistant Professor in the Black Studies Department at Portland State University. Imarisha is a public speaker and spoken word artist, educator and author.



[Oregon Black Pioneers](#) is Oregon's only historical society dedicated to preserving and presenting the experiences of African Americans statewide.

# Objectives

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1. Review and explore Oregon history, detailing historical examples of Black exclusion and discrimination that have occurred since its founding.
2. Create a connection between the historical timeline of racial identity and power and present day socioeconomic health disparities and social inequity that still exist.
3. Review community organizations that are working to eliminate racial discrimination and disparities to enhance the quality of life for Black Oregonians.

# Things to keep in mind:

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**I am not a historian**, nor am I a native Oregonian.

**This is not a comprehensive timeline.** Its several KEY moments of Oregon history that had an impact on the Black community.

**This focuses on BLACK HISTORY**, though it is important to review how other communities of color have been affected historically.

**Some of the information is uncomfortable.** It is the lived history and the living legacy and lived experience of members of our community.



black

versus

# Black



Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional lands

#honornativelands

Learn more: <https://usdac.us/nativeland>





We begin by acknowledging the land on which OHSU rests on the ancestral lands of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlement, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Kalapuya, Molalla and many other Columbia River tribes.





# 1859: State of Oregon

---

Oregon entered the Union as a free state.  
Outlawed slavery in 1844, the rest of the  
country in 1865.

*At this time, the territory was comprised of ~5000 white  
squatter settlers from US and Eastern Canada, their slaves  
and tens of thousands of native people.*



# People against slavery are good, right?

---

Slaves and white Abolitionists are against slavery for issues of justice and freedom.

The majority of white citizens against slavery were against it because of economics.

At this time there were 2 economic systems in the United States.

- Industrialized labor in the north
- A system based on slavery in the south.

*“We know your wages are low... its is not ‘us’, it’s the slaves. Slaves are taking your jobs.”*



# 1844: Illegal to be Black

---

## Black exclusion law:

- Required all free Black people to leave the state within 2 years if male and 3 years if female.
- Banned Blacks from living in Oregon in the form of public whipping every 6 months until they left.

Black residents were banned from making contracts or owning real estate. We had no legal standing.

White people feared competition with Black workers, but also feared Black-Native alliances.

# 1859: State of Oregon

---

Oregon entered the Union as a free state.  
Outlawed slavery in 1844, the rest of the  
country in 1865.

15 years after being told we'd be  
publically whipped for staying, there were  
124 freed slaves living here.

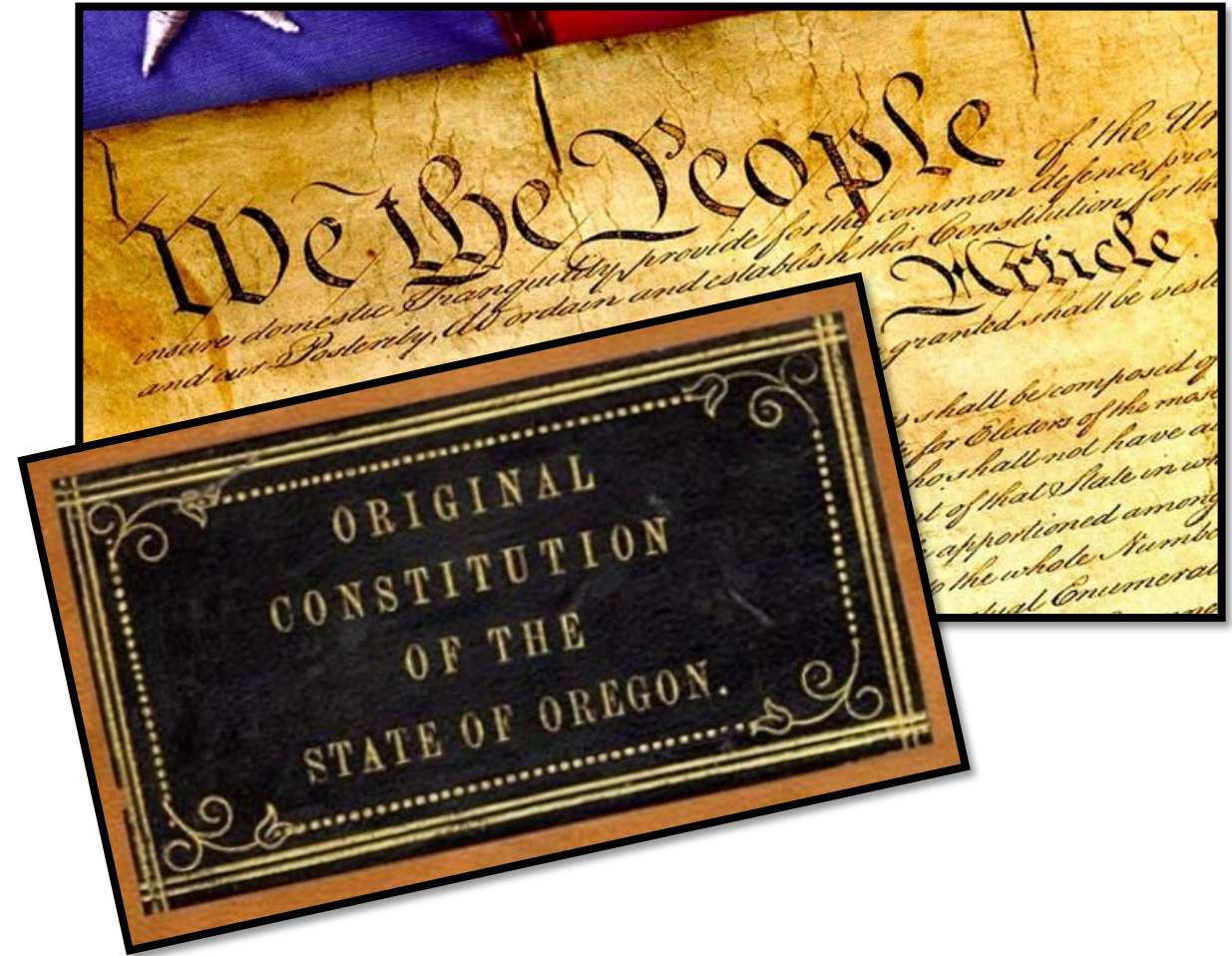




Only state to ENTER the union with a racial exclusionary clause written into its Constitution.

The ideas that founded Oregon are the same ideas that founded the United States.

US policy was racist, Oregon was just bold enough to write it down.



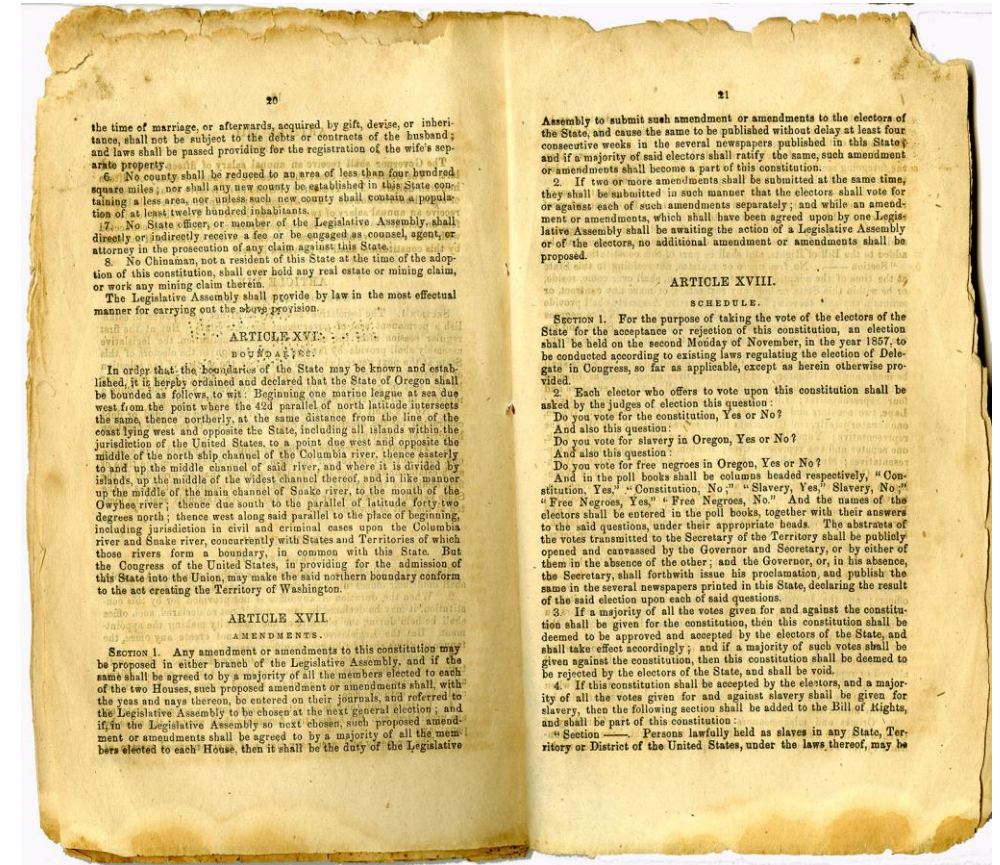
# Preservation of history

The exclusion law was repealed in 1926.

This language was not removed from the Oregon Constitution until 2001. The language was inactive, but still present.

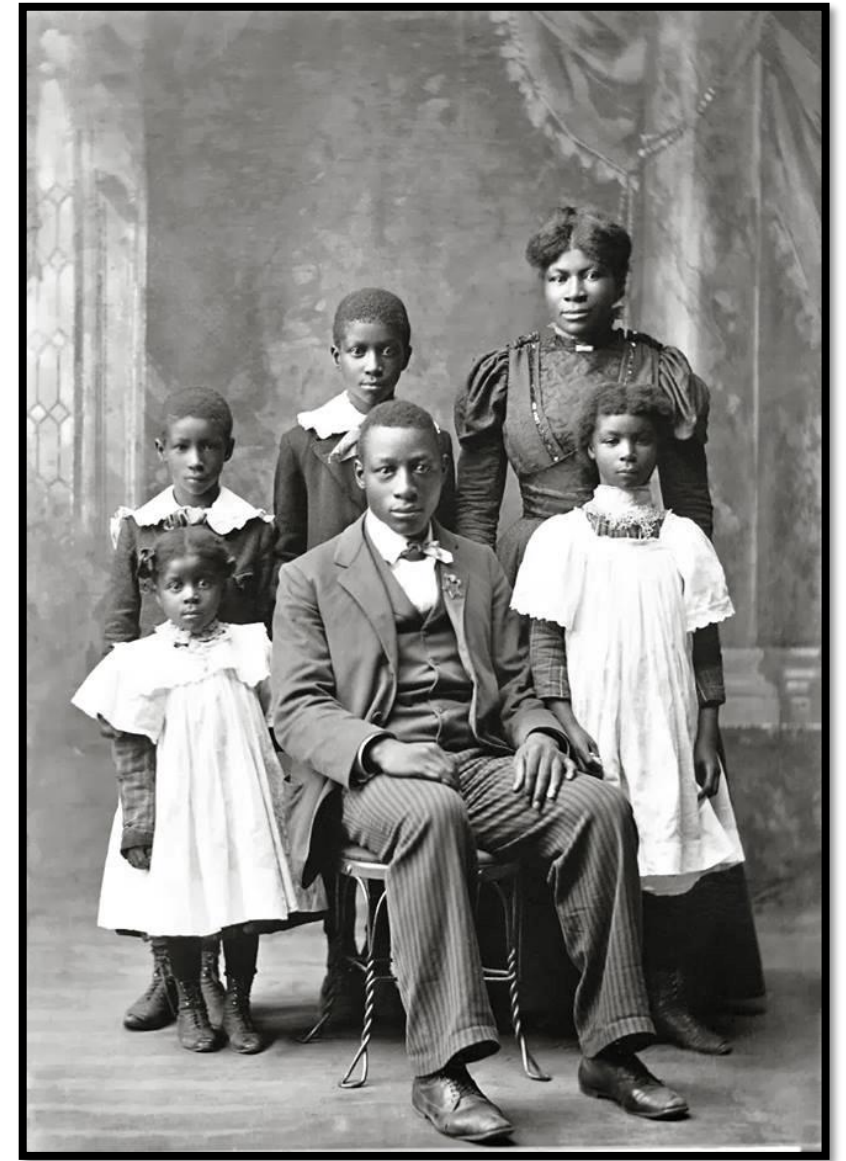
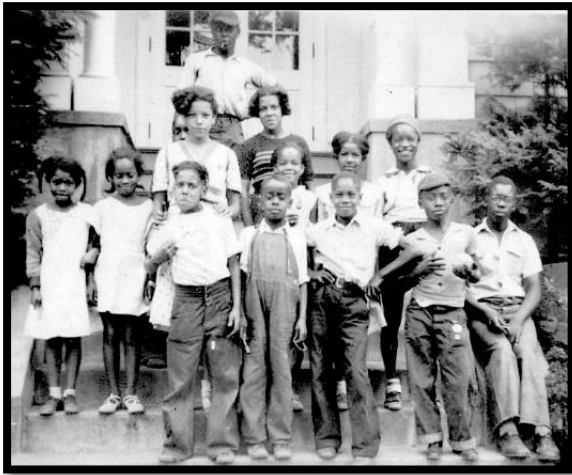
This wasn't a forgotten oversight. Black community leaders had to fight for this.

Opposition fought to maintain the language to "preserve Oregon history".





The fact that Black people exist here now speaks to the resilience of the Black people before us.



# 1880s

---

Majority of the Black people in Oregon live in Portland. Many came with the end of the trans-continental railroad in 1880s.

By 1941, 98% of Black men in Portland were employed in the railroad industry.

At the time, Blacks couldn't eat at restaurants, go to the doctor, get their teeth fixed, stay in a hotel, etc.





# 1919 - Portland's Redline District

Real estate maps created by private lenders would mark neighborhoods in different colors to show which were the safest investments.

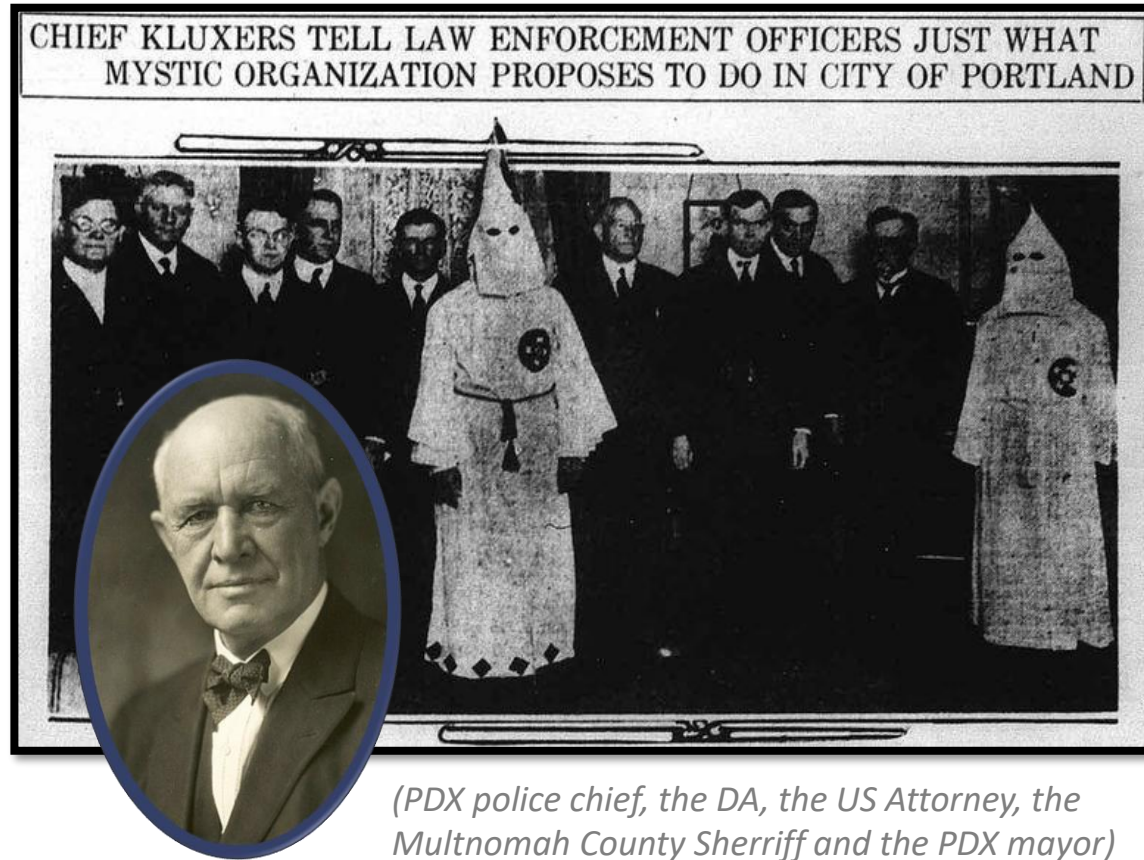
**Red neighborhoods** were labeled as “hazardous”, as they often contained more Black residents.

Portland Real Estate Board's Code of Ethics: “Don't sell to individuals whose race would lower property values”.

This was later changed to be more clear that it meant the Black community.



# KKK: High reach of power



*(PDX police chief, the DA, the US Attorney, the Multnomah County Sherriff and the PDX mayor)*

At its height in the 1920s, 15% of its eligible persons (white men) were members in the US.

Oregon had the highest per capita membership in the country.

Walter Pierce was elected as Oregon Governor in 1922 with the active support of the KKK.

With Klan support, pushed through legislation until 1926.

- At a time when our public institution foundations were being laid, the Klan had power to pass legislation to control public schools curriculum, healthcare and the justice system.

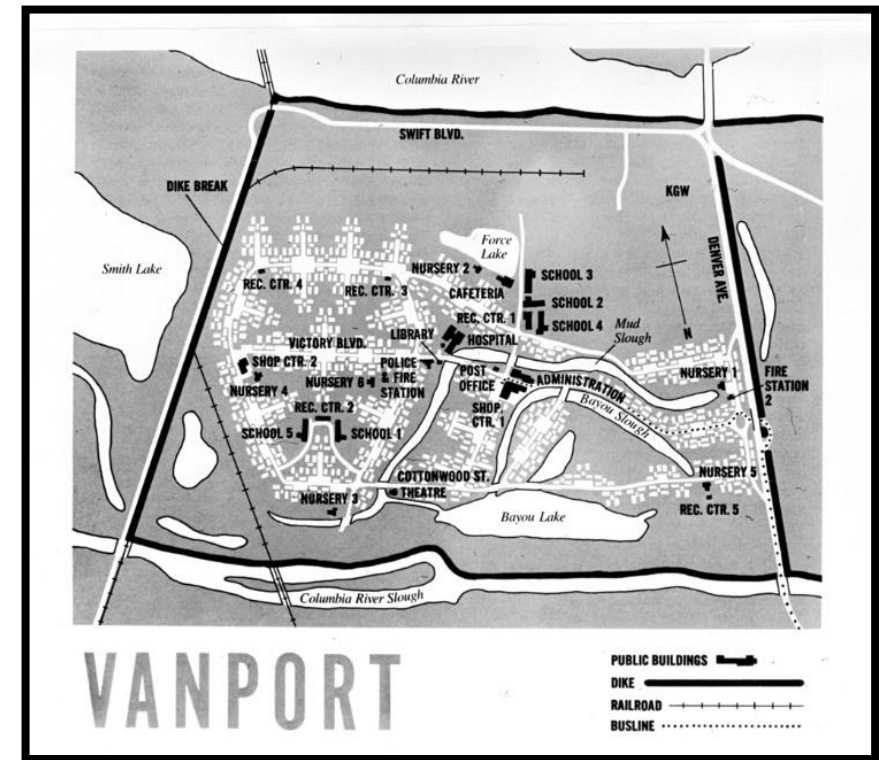
# 1942 – Vanport

Racism drove out the Blacks to 1,500.

It wasn't until WWII that a sizeable Black population moved to Oregon (shipyards).

Albina was full. A majority of new residents lived in Vanport, a constructed city of houses between Portland and Vancouver.

“Negro Project” despite the fact that African Americans were no more than 25% of residents at any given time.





# 1942-1948 – Vanport thrives

Vanport became the second biggest city in Oregon, with a peak population of 42,000.

Many amenities including a hospital, fire and police services, a movie theater, and its own school system.

The schools of Vanport were the first in the state to employ Black teachers, and Black and white students learned and socialized together.

Employed Black police officers.



Vanport City Vacation School, August 1943. Oregon Historical Society, Neg. OrHi 78867. (The Oregonian)

# 1948 – Vanport floods

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In May of 1948, the Columbia River flooded, wiping out Vanport in a single day.

The 18,500 residents of Vanport—6,300 of whom were Black—had to find somewhere else to live.



# 1950s – Albina thrives

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After Vanport floods, Black people were redlined into the Albina neighborhood.

By 1960, 4 out of 5 Black people lived here. It was the only place Black people were allowed to buy homes.

As Black people moved into Albina, whites moved out; by the end of the 1950s, there were 23,000 fewer white residents and 7,000 more Black residents.

The neighborhood of Albina became the center of Black life in Portland. But for outsiders, it symbolized a slum in need of repair.



# 1950s – Albina thrives

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The Albina neighborhood was once the epicenter of Portland's African American community and one of the hottest spots on the West Coast for live jazz.

Soon, many new city policies and a series of urban development projects would come to change the neighborhood forever.



## 1956 – Albina homes destroyed

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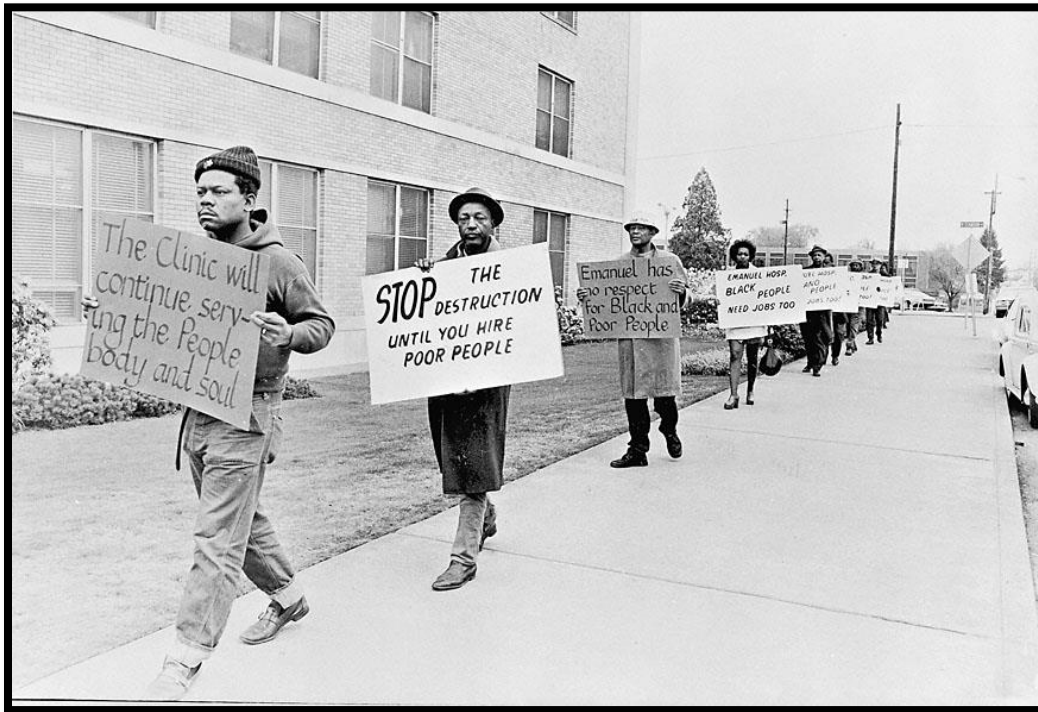
In 1956, voters approved the construction of an arena in the area, which destroyed 476 homes and businesses, half of them inhabited by Black people

- The Moda Center was built in the heart of the Black community.

The Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 provided funds for Portland to build Interstate 5 and Highway 99, destroying 1,100 housing units.

# 1970 – Emmanuel Hospital expansion

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*(This isn't "history", this was recent.)*

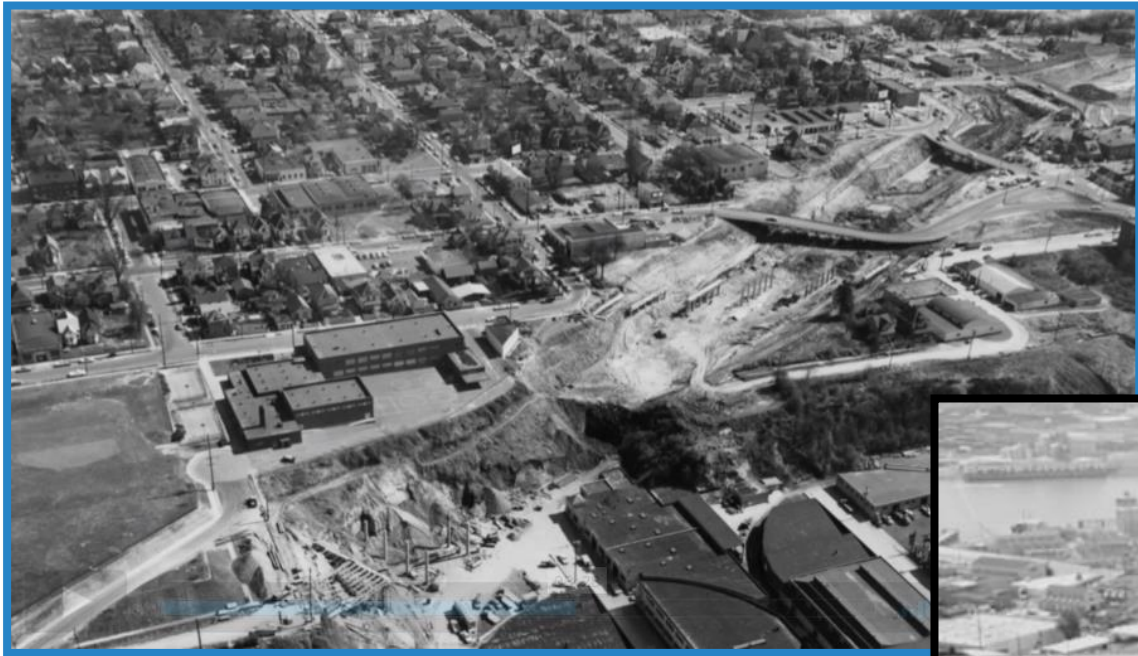
In the 1970s, Emmanuel Hospital expansion was approved, clearing 76 acres, including 300 African American-owned homes and businesses.

Home owners given 90 days to leave before their home was destroyed.

- 90 days to move their entire lives from the only welcoming community.

Federal funding ran out after demolition but before construction. It took decades to complete.





# 1980s – Into economic collapse

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In the 1980s, Albina's property values dropped.

Industrial and factory jobs began moving production overseas.

- 60-80% unemployment rate in communities of color.

You can't understand the introduction of underground drug economy as survival tactics, underground economic system and self-medication without understanding larger context around it.

# 1990s – Gentrification

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1990s – Gentrification and “revitalization” occurred in Albina.

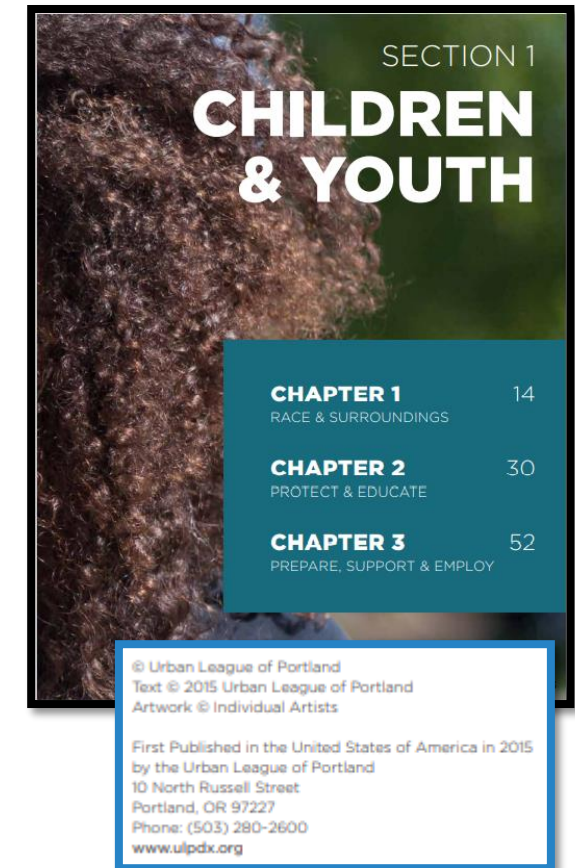
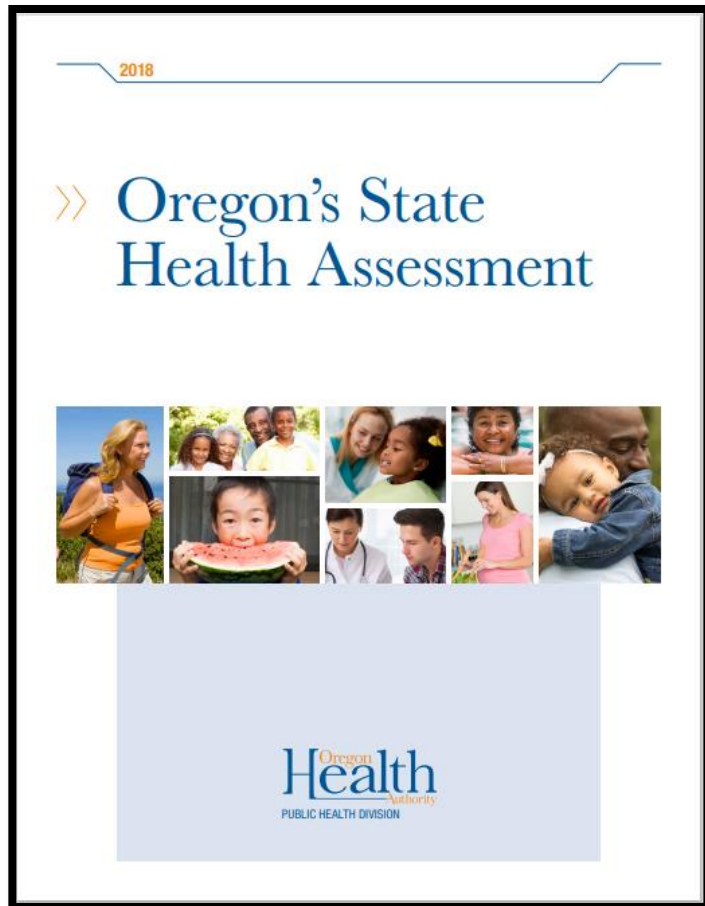
By 1999, Blacks owned 36% fewer homes, whites owned 43% more than the decade prior.

Blacks split their displacement between Vancouver and Gresham (and prison).

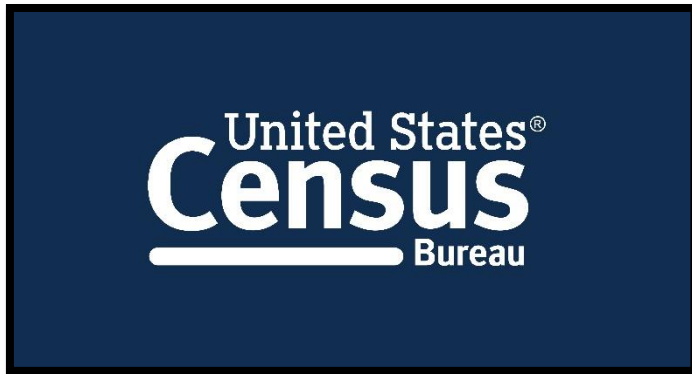




# State of Black Oregon



# Current Oregon Demographics



## Race and Hispanic Origin\*

White	86.7%
Black or African American	2.2%
American Indian of Alaskan Native	1.8%
Asian	4.9%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	0.5%
Hispanic or Latino	13.4%
Two or More Races	4.0%

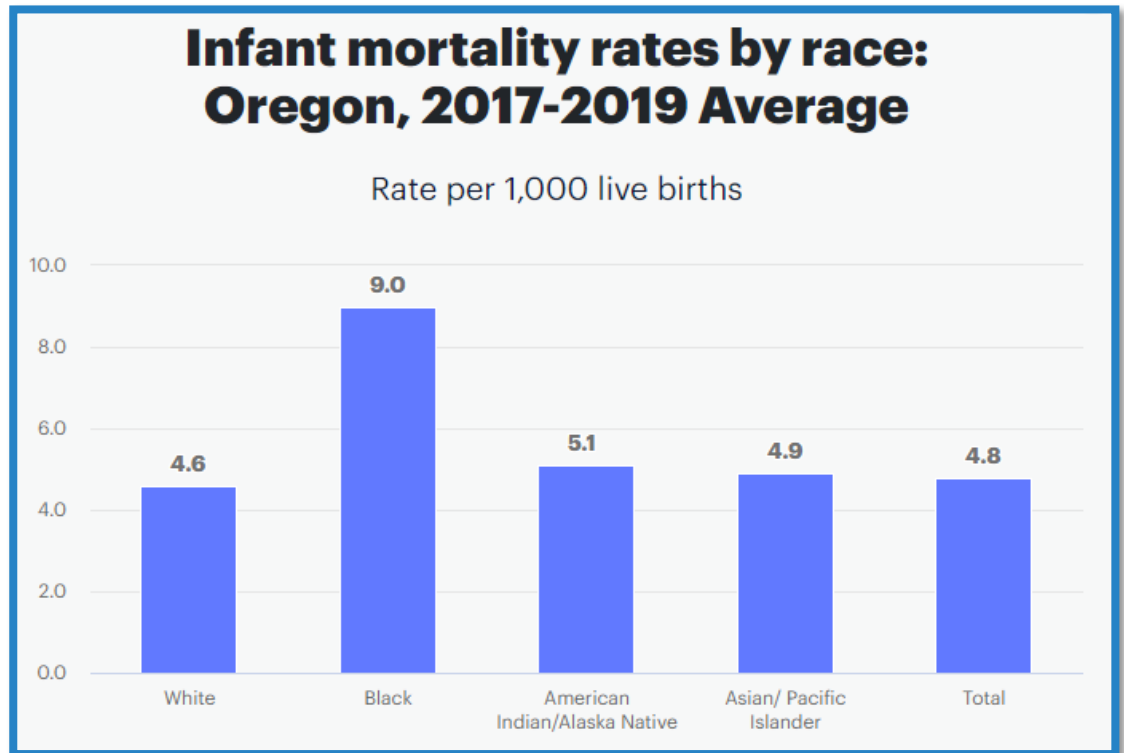
*\* Population estimates, July 1, 2021*

# State of Black Oregon: Health

Oregon's **Infant Mortality Rate** has been lower than the US average infant mortality rate for >25 years.

Black women are **3-4x more likely** to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women in the U.S. In Oregon and Multnomah County, the inequalities are the same.

Even in wealthy Black women. We have to talk about race, not just about class.



*Sources: National Center for Health Statistics, period linked birth/infant death data. Retrieved January 9, 2023, from [www.marchofdimes.org/peristats](http://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats).*



# State of Black Oregon: Health

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Major factors in predicting **Infant Mortality Rate** are:

## 1) Premature birth

- Twins and Chronic health issues (DM, HTN)
- Economic and social determinants include poverty, unemployment, discrimination and segregation, lack of access to healthcare.
  - Environmental factors creating high levels of chronic, toxic stress. Father's involvement can improve Mom's stress.

## 2) Sudden Unexpected Infant Death

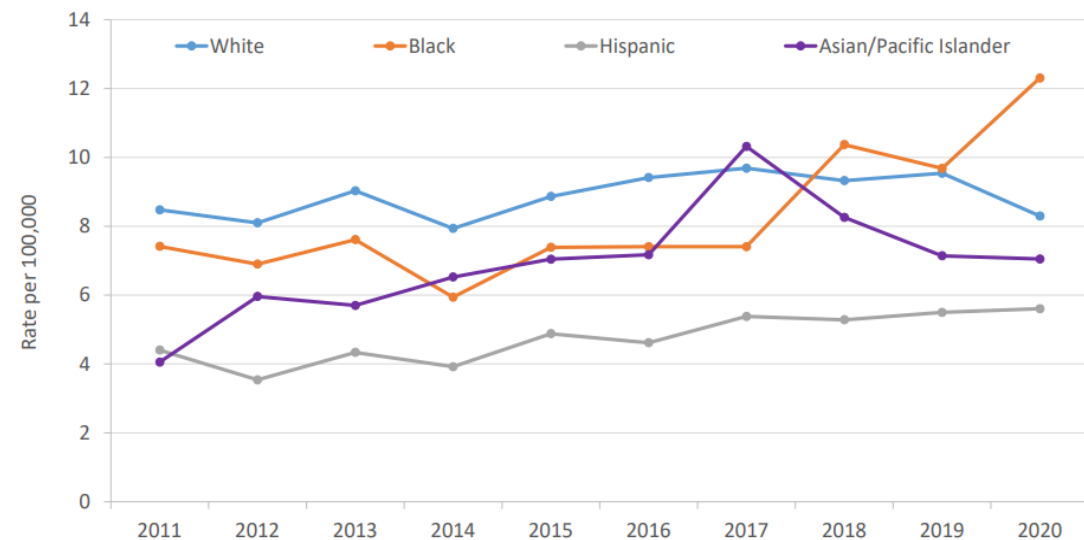
- SIDS (Unsafe sleep positions, smoking)
- Accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed
  - Up to 92% of white babies practice safe sleep.
  - Only 72% of Black babies sleep safely.

# State of Black America: COVID-19 Impact

## Black youth are facing rising rates of depression, anxiety, suicide

- In California, suicide rates among Black youth has doubled, far exceeding rate changes in all other groups.
- Twelve of every 100,000 Black 10-24-year-olds died by suicide in 2020.
- In 2014, the Black suicide rate was about 25% lower than that of white students.
  - In 2020, the Black suicide rate was 33% higher.

## Suicide Rates among Youth (ages 10-24) by Race/Ethnicity in CA, 2011-2020



Source: 2011-2013 deaths: CDPH, Death Statistical Master File (DSMF); 2014-2020 deaths: CDPH, CA Comprehensive Master Death File (CCMDF); CA Dept. of Finance P-3 Population Projection File (2010-2060)

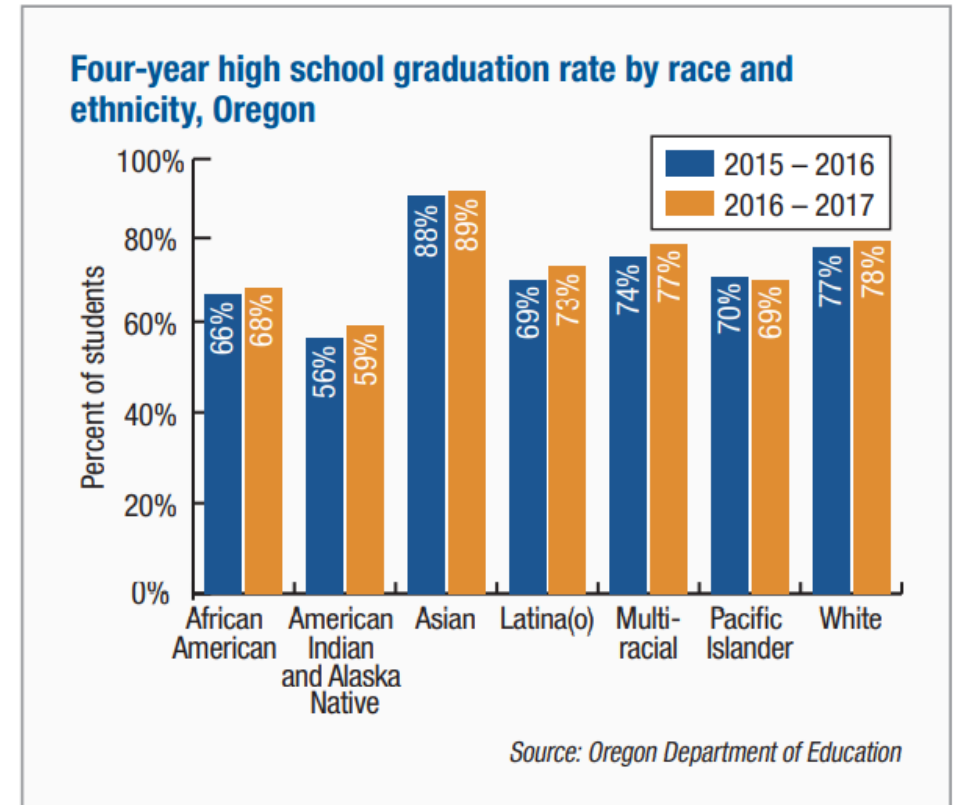
Center for Healthy Communities  
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

# State of Black Oregon: Education

For Black youth to succeed in school, they need:

- ✓ The basics of good physical and mental health
- ✓ Sufficient hours spent learning
- ✓ Positive teacher perception and expectation
- ✓ A strong cultural identity

Every child should be able to attain an education and fulfill their dreams. We must focus on strategies to lift Black youth out of poverty, end school exclusion and foster respect for cultural identity.

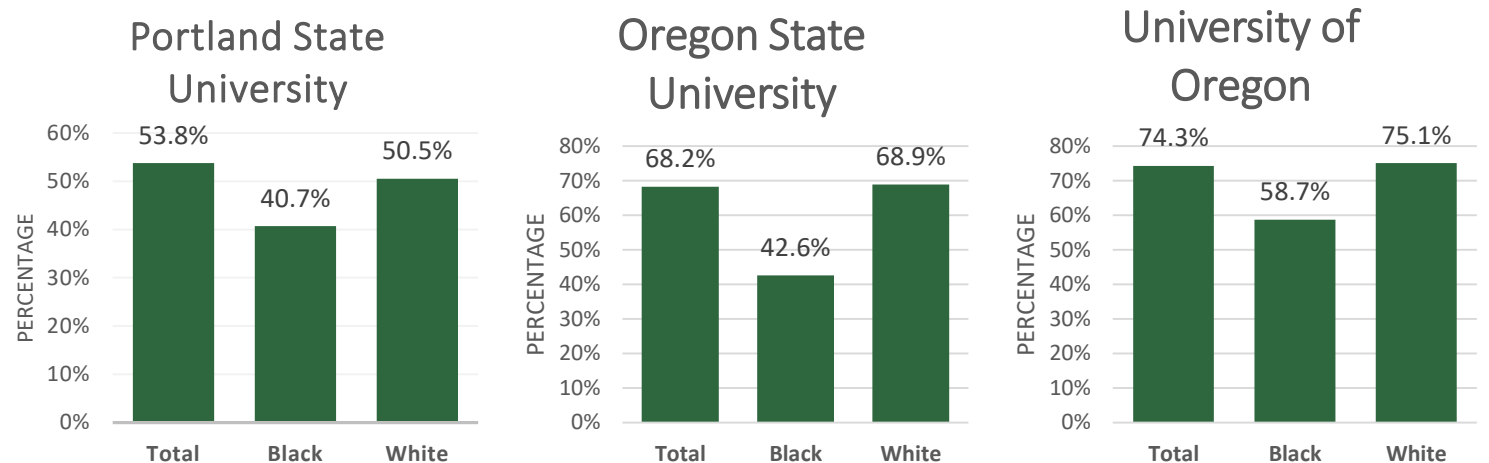




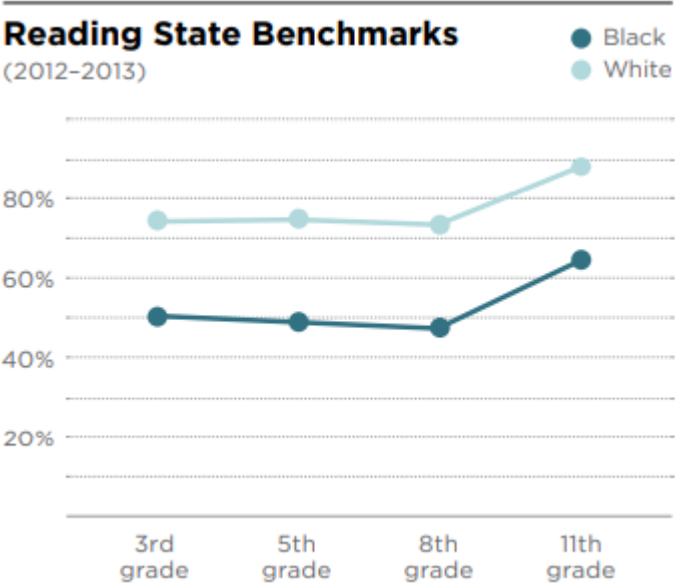
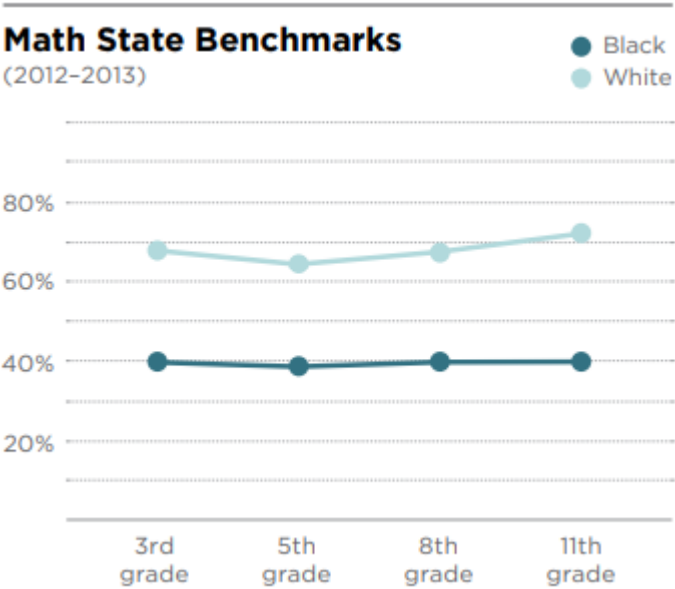
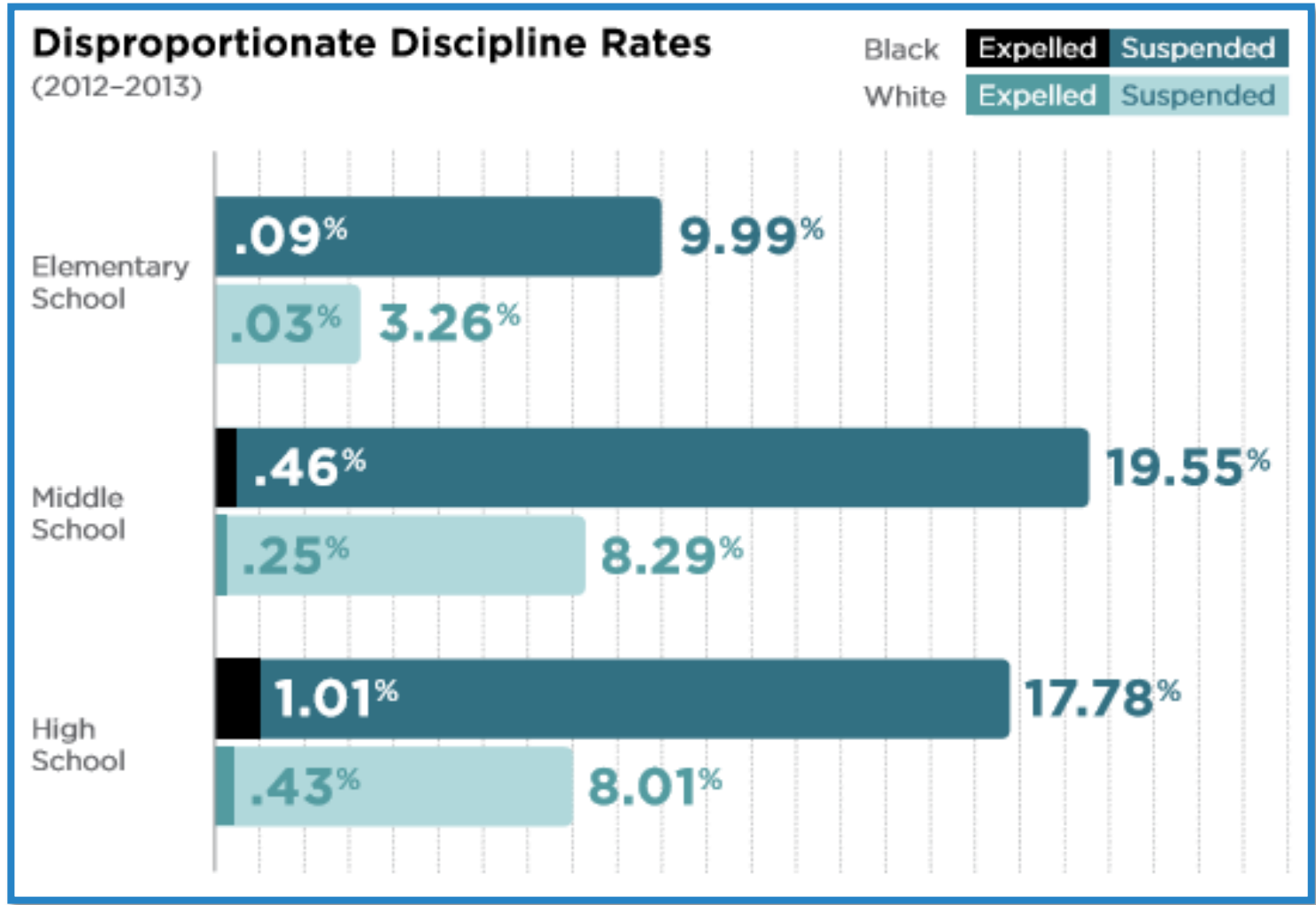
# State of Black Oregon: Education

College graduation rates show significant disparities, which are closely related to job/financial security, health, and intergenerational wealth accumulation and transfer.

## College graduation rates within 6 years (2021)



*The above information was obtained via the publicly-available Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), operated by the U.S. Department of Education, which compiles self-reported information provided by colleges and universities, for the purpose of making such information openly available to students and parents.*



*Positive relationship with positively influences literacy, math skills and test scores.  
Students of color may experience personally-mediated racial bias in teachers' expectations of their performance and are more likely to receive a worse assessment of behavior when they have a white teacher.*

Studies show that Black students who had at least one Black teacher before fifth grade scored higher on reading and math tests.

Stressing cultural identity in schools with educators of color improves student engagement and achievement.

**The percentage of Black teachers is decreasing, while the achievement gap between Black and white students is growing.**



Between **2003** and **2013**, students of color increased

**12%**

in public schools.

In **2011** and **2012**,

**26%**

of Oregon's public high school graduates were students of color.

In the **2015-2016** school year,

**31%**

of Oregon public school graduates will be students of color.



During the **2015-2016** school year,

**91.7%**

of teachers were White, while Whites made up

**64.7%**

of the students.



Black teachers made up

**0.6%**

of all teachers, while Black students made up

**2.5%**

of all students.



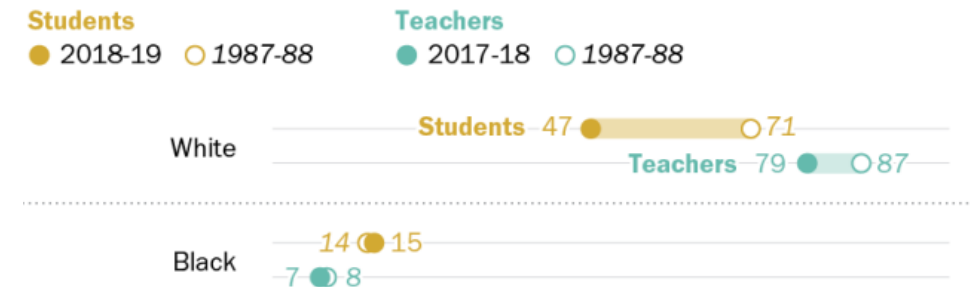
# State of Black America: COVID-19 Impact

## Public schools are struggling to retain Black teachers

- According to the RAND study, nearly half of Black teachers reported in the winter of 2021 that they were likely to leave their jobs at the end of the school year, compared with 23% of teachers overall.

### Racial and ethnic makeup of U.S. public school teachers and students has changed over time

*% of public school teachers and students who are \_\_\_\_, by year*



Note: All races are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Data for those of two or more races not collected in earlier years. Pacific Islander and Asian students were categorized together in the 1987-88 school year. For direct comparison with 1987-88, Asians and Pacific Islanders are grouped together in later years. Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

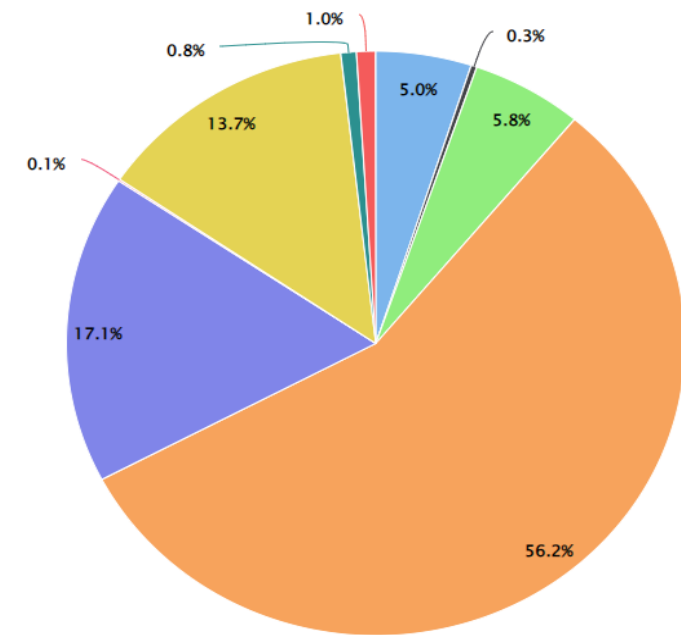
# State of Black America: COVID-19 Impact

## Increase in Black medical students amid pandemic

- Amid the coronavirus pandemic, Black medical student enrollment increased by 21% in the past year.
- Currently, African-Americans account for just 5% of the entire physician population nationally, though about 14% of the general U.S. population.

**The boost is thought to be the result of the family members lost to COVID-19, as well as an increase in awareness about the structural inequities that exist in the health care system.**

Figure 18. Percentage of all active physicians by race/ethnicity, 2018.



Click on legend item below to add or remove a section from the report.

<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native (2,570)	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian (157,025)
<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American (45,534)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic (53,526)
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Race, Non-Hispanic (8,932)	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (941)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (7,571)	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown (126,144)
<input type="checkbox"/> White (516,304)	

Note: Figure 18 shows the percentage of active physicians by race and ethnicity as of July 1, 2019.

# State of Black Oregon: Education

The most persistent barriers for Oregon's Black youth remain:

Unfair discipline practices

Too few teachers of color

Feeling isolated

A lack of mentorship opportunities and culturally specific programming

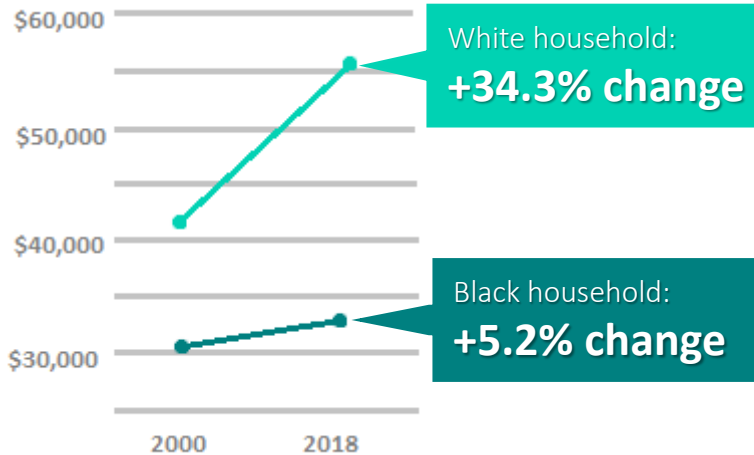
Solutions to the educational achievement gap need to begin by targeting funding for these.





# State of Black Oregon: Housing/Income

**Median Household Income**  
(2000, 2018)



**Home Ownership vs. Renting**  
(2010)

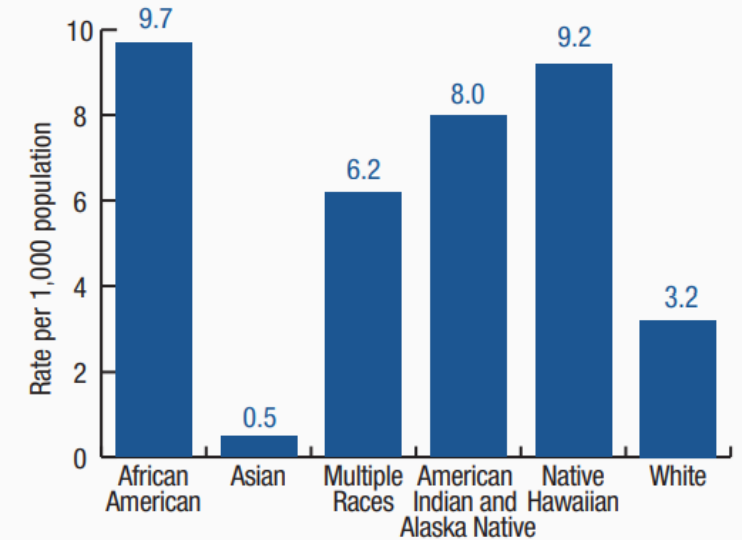


**Individuals Below Poverty Level**  
(2014-2018)



**Nearly 30 percent**  
of all Black families in  
Oregon live in poverty

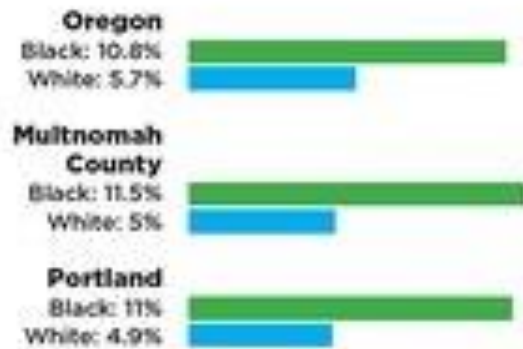
**Estimates of the homeless population by race and ethnicity, Oregon**



Source: Oregon Housing and Community Services, Point-in-Time Count, 2017

# State of Black Oregon: Employment

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, 2015-2018



## WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION



Although Blacks make up only **2%** of the population, **40.2%** of Oregon's reported workplace discrimination claims from 2009 to 2014 were filed by Black employees, compared with just **7.3%** of Whites.<sup>12</sup>

# State of Black America: COVID-19 Impact

## Black Americans continue to see higher jobless rate despite market recovery

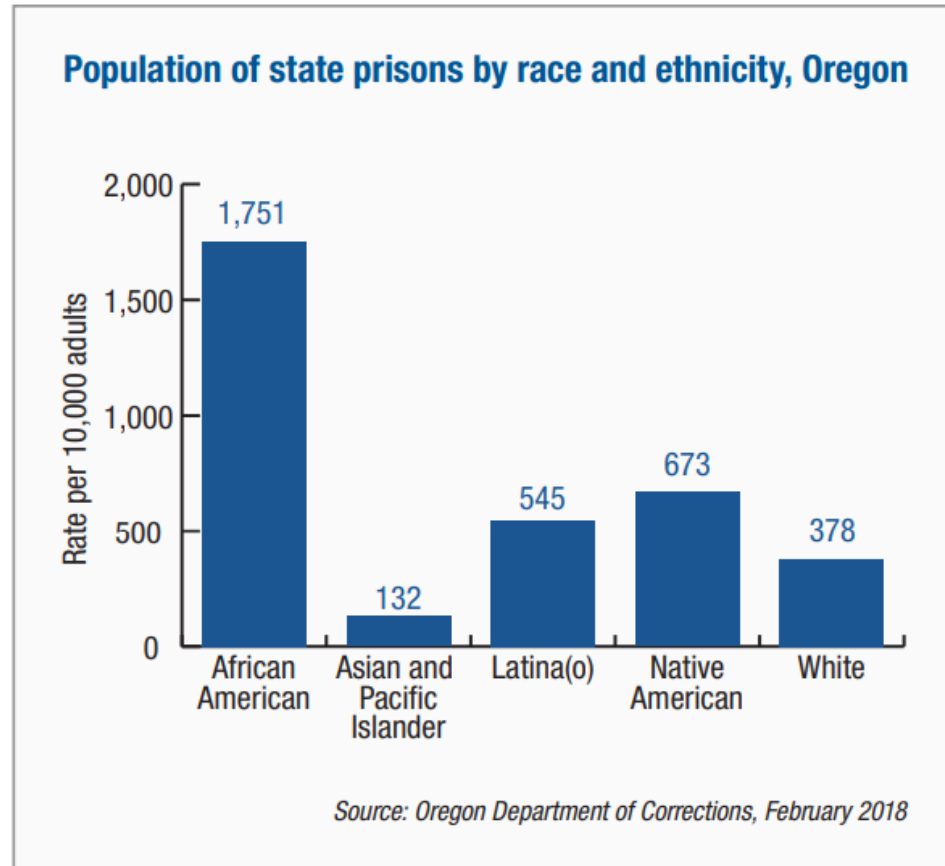
- In November 2021, Black Americans had an unemployment rate of 6.7%, while the unemployment rate for white Americans was 3.5%.
- The gap is even more pronounced between men: Black men had an unemployment rate of 7.3% in November 2021 while white men saw an unemployment rate of 3.4%.

**41% of Black-owned businesses closed, a rate 2.5 times greater than white owned businesses**





# State of Black Oregon: Criminal Justice

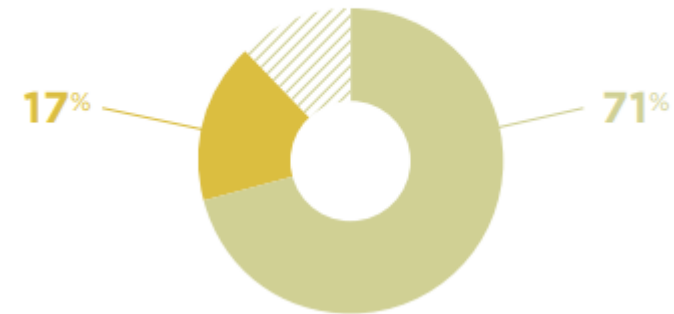


Black incarceration rate is 6x white incarceration rate in Oregon.

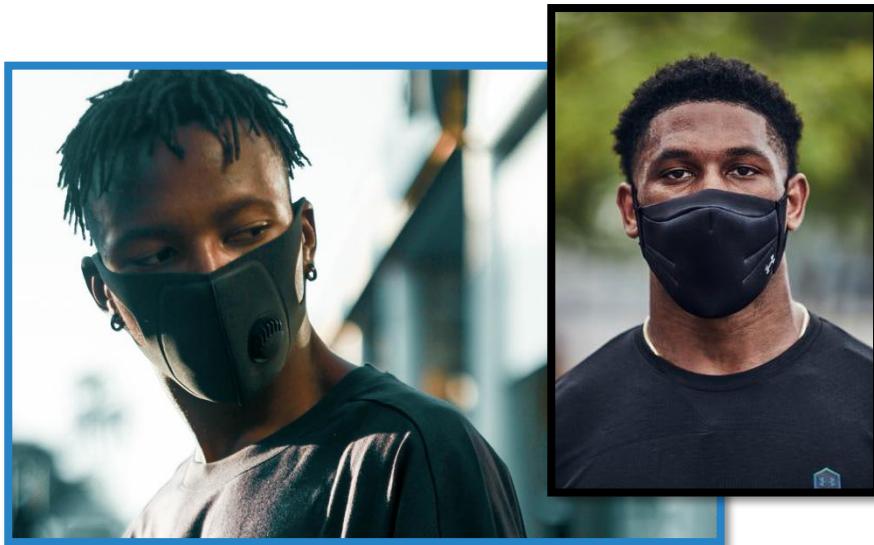
## Race at Police Stops

(percent of total traffic & patrol stops, Portland, 2010)

● Black  
● White



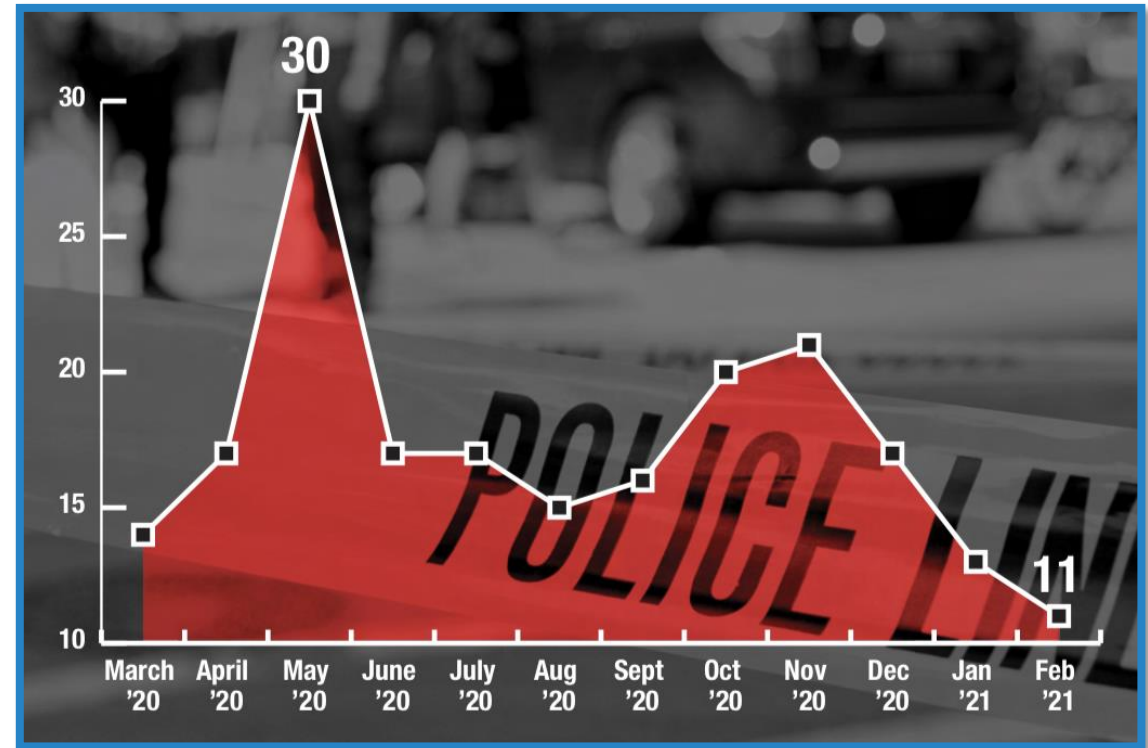
# State of Black America: COVID-19 Impact



African Americans perceived that other people were more likely to become uncomfortable with their race during the pandemic.

**Blacks were 8x more likely to report fearing that others might become suspicious if they wore a mask in public.**

## Fatal Police Shootings of Black People



<https://www.centerforjusticeresearch.org/lp/black-in-america>

# State of Black Oregon: Criminal Justice

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Negative police interactions pose a threat to adolescents' psychological and physical health. Physicians can address these patients' experiences, educate them about their rights, and help them stay safe.

## PEDIATRICS®

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

**"The Talk," Physician Version: Special Considerations for African American, Male Adolescents**

Terry Maroney and Barry Zuckerman

*Pediatrics* 2018;141;

DOI: 10.1542/peds.2017-1462 originally published online January 9, 2018;

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/141/2/e20171462>

# Allostatic Load

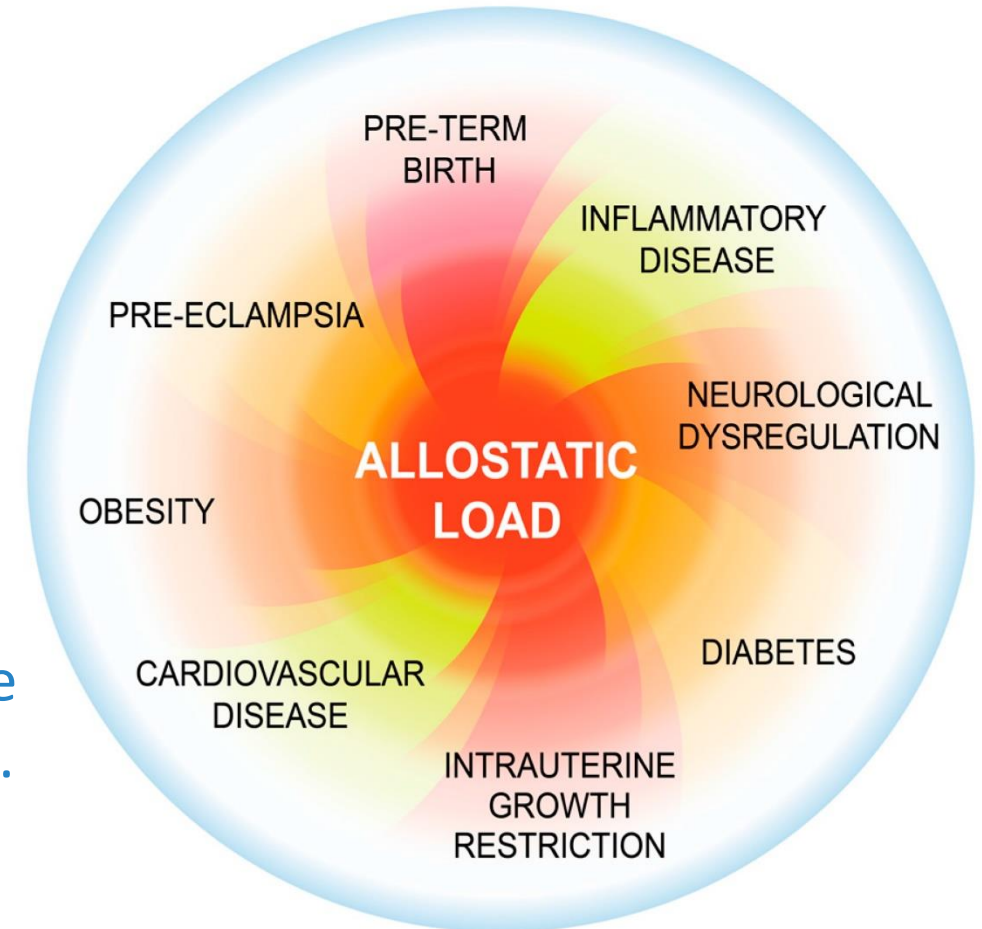
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The “wear and tear on the body” which accumulates as an individual is exposed to repeated or chronic stress.

Both “poor” and “non-poor” Blacks share stressors not generally experienced by whites, such as interactions with institutionalized racism.

Allostatic load burden is associated with higher mortality among Blacks, independent of SES and health behaviors.

Chronic physiologic stressors negatively affect the health and lifespan of Blacks in the United States.





# Programs

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**The Portland NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)** ensures the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. They also provide a calendar of meetings and gatherings, volunteer opportunities, and African American healthcare provider listings.

**Urban League of Portland** empowers African-Americans achieve equality in education, employment, health, economic security and quality of life through housing, workforce development, community health, and social reform.

**Healthy Birth Initiative** addresses the needs of pregnant African American women by opening up access to health care before and after birth.

**Black Male Achievement Portland (BMA)** is designed to assist City leaders in their efforts to improve the life outcomes of Black men and boys. BMA will help improve the life outcomes of Black men and boys in four key areas: Education, Employment, Family Stability, and Criminal Justice.

# Programs

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**The Black Resilience Fund** raises money to help Black families and individuals pay rent, bills, get groceries, reduce debt, and more.

**Black United Fund of Oregon** assists in the social and economic development of Oregon's underserved communities by channeling charitable funds to low-income areas in the city.

**Elevate Oregon** builds relationships with urban youth to promote education, self-reliance and leadership.

**Self Enhancement Inc.** is a nonprofit organization helping at-risk urban youth realize their potential. Working with schools, families and community organizations, SEI provides opportunities for personal and academic success, bringing hope to individual young people and enhancing the quality of community life.

**Black PDX** is a combination business-listing and community calendar specifically for Black Portlanders.

# Programs

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**The Equal Justice Initiative** is dedicated to ending mass incarceration and economic and racial injustice, and protecting America's most vulnerable.

**Black Women in STEM** is dedicated to supporting, promoting, and inspiring Black women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers, as well as advocating for equitable and inclusive workplace environments that nurture diverse talent.

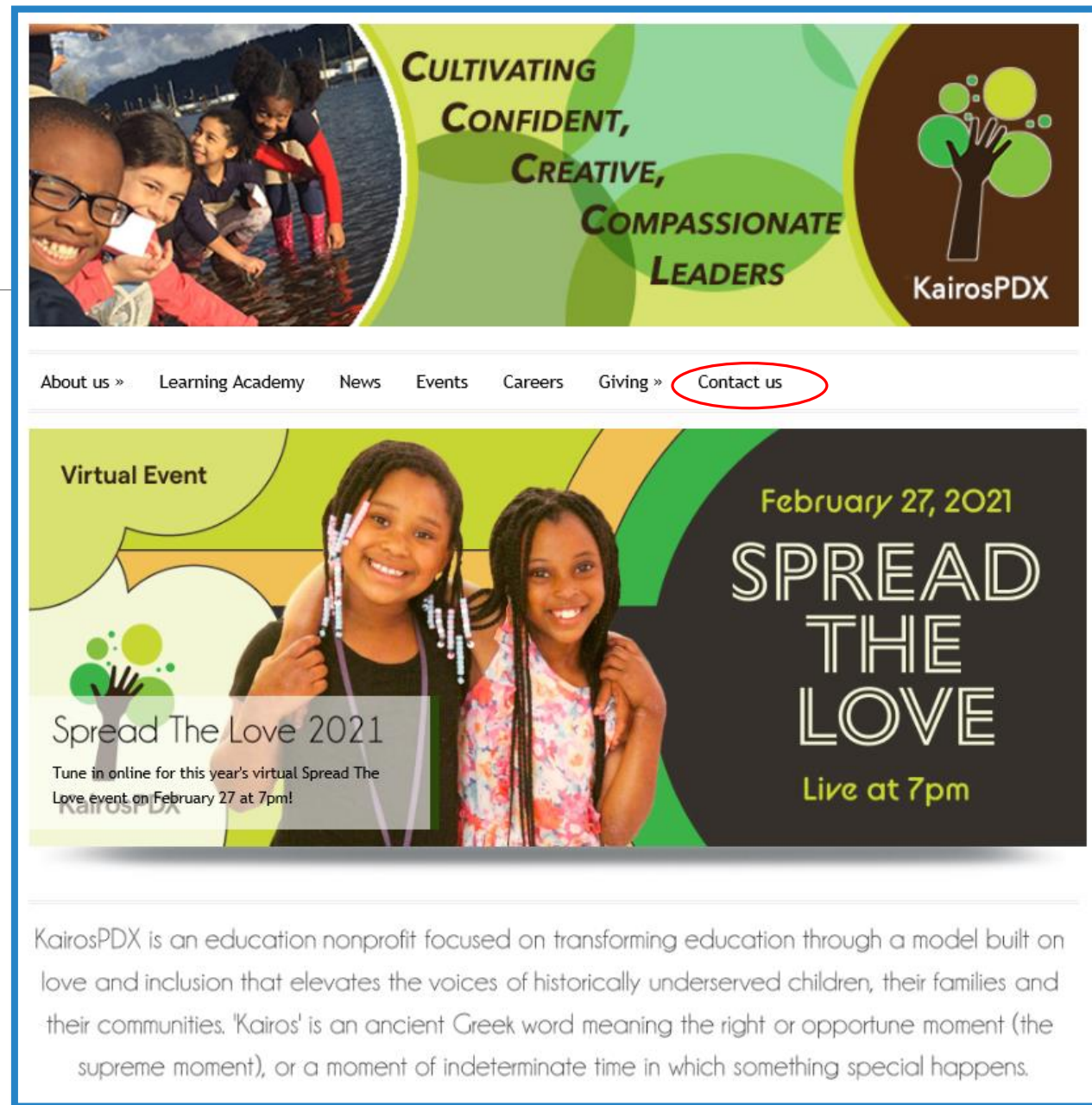
**The Blueprint Foundation** helps students find the career option that drives their motivation for completing school, contributing to the next generation of Black environmental scientists, health care professionals, engineers, and trades people.

**Gang Impacted Families Team (GIFT)** provides intense case management for families of gang members.

# Get involved!

KairosPDX is an education nonprofit focused on transforming education through a model built on love and inclusion that elevates the voices of historically underserved children, their families, and communities.

You can support their work, including the KairosPDX Early Learning Network, Family Connections Program, and the Reggio-inspired, multicultural Learning Academy.



The screenshot shows the KairosPDX website. The header features a banner with a photo of children and the text "CULTIVATING CONFIDENT, CREATIVE, COMPASSIONATE LEADERS" and the KairosPDX logo. Below the banner is a navigation menu with links: "About us »", "Learning Academy", "News", "Events", "Careers", "Giving »", and "Contact us" (which is circled in red). The main content area features a "Virtual Event" section for "Spread The Love 2021" on February 27, 2021, at 7pm. The event description states: "Tune in online for this year's virtual Spread The Love event on February 27 at 7pm!". The footer contains a paragraph about KairosPDX's mission and the meaning of the word 'Kairos'.

**CULTIVATING  
CONFIDENT,  
CREATIVE,  
COMPASSIONATE  
LEADERS**

KairosPDX

[About us »](#) [Learning Academy](#) [News](#) [Events](#) [Careers](#) [Giving »](#) [Contact us](#)

**Virtual Event**

**February 27, 2021**

**SPREAD  
THE  
LOVE**

**Live at 7pm**

**Spread The Love 2021**  
Tune in online for this year's virtual Spread The Love event on February 27 at 7pm!

KairosPDX is an education nonprofit focused on transforming education through a model built on love and inclusion that elevates the voices of historically underserved children, their families and their communities. 'Kairos' is an ancient Greek word meaning the right or opportune moment (the supreme moment), or a moment of indeterminate time in which something special happens.





**NAACP**  
PORTLAND BRANCH 1120

Be a part of the future you want to see.

Join Us

## WHAT WE DO

Research & Data  
Justice

- Menu Of  
Services

- Why Research &  
Data Justice

- Research &  
Publications

Leadership  
Development

- Bridges Online  
Directory

Collective  
Advocacy

- 2021 Legislative  
Agenda

Environmental  
Justice



## 2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Every session, CCC engages throughout the legislative process to pass bills that increase opportunity and advance racial justice for communities of color. To learn more, see our 2021 Legislative Agenda [here](#).





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*"WHEN YOU CLIMB A GOOD TREE"*

- Science is:
  - not limited to the classroom or lab
  - outside and can be found everywhere
  - for everyone
  - all ways of knowing
  - living and learning in relation to all
  - accountable, radical and revolutionary
- Science can be:
  - accessible
  - understood by immersion
  - understood from a cultural framework
- Science incorporates all lived experience.

ELSO ABOUT

EdW How a STEM Program Helps Students of Color See Th... Watch later Share

**EDUCATION WEEK**

How a STEM Program Helps Students of Color See Themselves in Science.



ADVOCACY & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY HEALTH

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

SENIOR SERVICES

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

YOUTH & EDUCATION





## Advocacy & Engagement

We are taking a stand for social justice by informing, engaging and organizing our community in order to achieve a more equitable and just place to live and work.



## Community Health

We are creating healthier neighborhoods through education and navigation of available health care insurance choices, and building a network of trusted advocates who promote healthcare in their own communities.



## Housing Assistance

We connect the most vulnerable in our community to stable housing resources and solutions.



## Senior Services

We provide care services that help our elders remain independent, safe and active in their own homes and connected to vital wellness and preventative health care services.



## Workforce Development

We are bridging the gap of employment through mentorship, job readiness and expanding professional growth as part of our steadfast commitment increasing diversity in the workplace.



## Youth & Education

We are guiding young adults towards a brighter future through workforce preparation and digital literacy, and the exploration of career and higher education.



# Urban League of Portland

**We work to empower Black communities through advocacy, services to seniors, family health and wellness, youth and workforce development**

In the areas that deeply affect the social and economic conditions of Black families in our communities, it is important that our voices are heard and that they matter to decision makers.

Our programs are our these values in action. They help us activate civic empowerment, navigate through complicated systems, and support healthy outcomes for the communities we serve.

# ABOUT US

BWiSTEM is dedicated to supporting, promoting, and inspiring Black Women in STEM careers, as well as advocating for equitable and inclusive workplace environments that nurture diverse talent. BWiSTEM encourages the engagement of all women who want to share professional perspectives, gain cutting-edge industry information, enhance leadership and communication skills, participate in partner programs, and build meaningful networks with peers.





OTHER GREAT PLACES TO CHECK OUT.

[I Love Black Food](#)

[Black American Chamber](#)

[Black PDX](#)

## Support Black-Owned Restaurants

[DIRECTORY »](#) [ABOUT »](#) [NEWS](#) [CONTACT »](#)

*Food is culture. Food is love. Food is economy. Food is personal. Food is political.*

*Food is essential.*

We are here to support the many black-owned restaurants of Portland and the deliciousness they serve.

In the whitest major city in the US, with gentrification pushing out small businesses and with hate crimes targeting visibly black-owned restaurants on the rise: it is harder than ever to keep a small business afloat. We want to show love and support for our local, black-owned eateries. The people who run them literally feed a village. They bring flavor to our lives and to our town. They feed multiple communities and our local economy.

*How did this start?*

In 2014, [Bertha Pearl](#) was inspired by the Bay Area's [Black Restaurant Day](#). She worked with other volunteers to start up a 1-day event that grew to a 2-day event. Thanks to the direction of William Travis (chef-owner of [Dubs St. Johns](#)), the event grew to a full week in 2017. By keeping this directory up, we hope folks will support these businesses all year long!

**SUPPORT BLACK-OWNED  
RESTAURANTS WEEK**  
**AUG 24-30, 2020 PDX**

*Get Involved!*

There are lots of ways you can help local black eateries thrive:

- **Put your mouth where your money is!** and enjoy while directly supporting small businesses.
- **Bring a friend** when you do and please remember to [#supportblackownedrestaurants](#) in your posts.
- **Want to volunteer?** We'd love more hands keeping things running and getting the word out!

# Get involved!

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If you have questions about how to get involved with a community organization that you are interested in:

1. Reach out to the organization directly, saying:

- Who you are and your role at OHSU
- What you value about their organization
- How you'd like to get involved
- How they can reach you

2. Contact me with questions or if you need any assistance!

- Antwon Chavis, MD
- [chavis@ohsu.edu](mailto:chavis@ohsu.edu)



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# Preserving the History of Black Oregonians.

We honor their sacrifices by remembering their stories and by sharing them with the public.

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

Oregon Black Pioneers is Oregon's only historical society dedicated to preserving and presenting the experiences of African Americans statewide. Since 1993, our organization has illuminated the seldom-told history of people of African descent in Oregon. We are inspired by the tenacity of Black Oregonians who have faced discrimination and hardship to make a life for themselves here over the past 400 years. We honor their sacrifices by remembering their stories and by sharing them with the public.

# Please continue to:

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1. Review and explore the history of Black exclusion and discrimination that have occurred in Oregon.
2. Create a connection between the historical timeline and present day socioeconomic health disparities and social inequity that exist.
3. Review community organizations that are working to eliminate racial discrimination and disparities to enhance the quality of life for Black Oregonians.

# References

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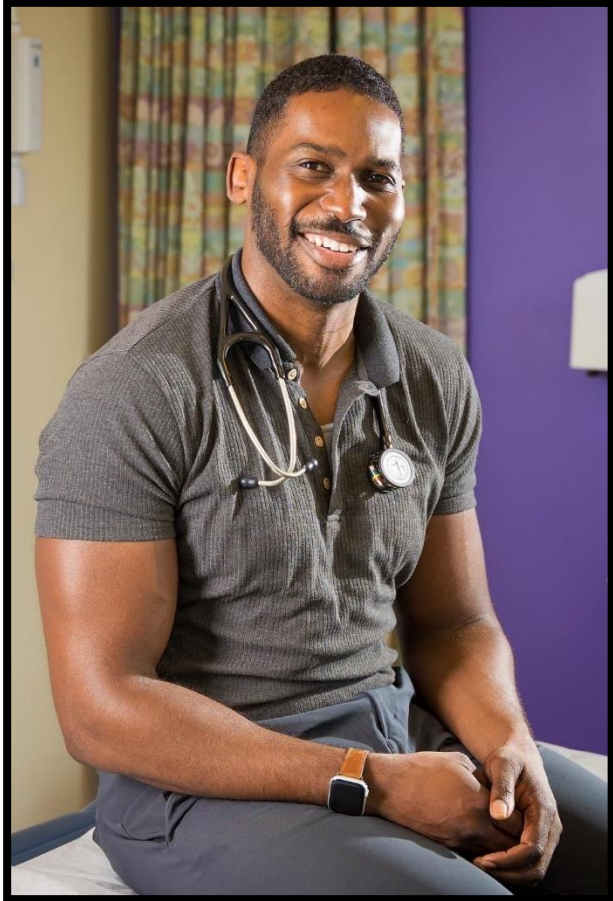
*Questions?*





# Thank You!

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Feel free to contact me with any questions or to have further discussion.

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