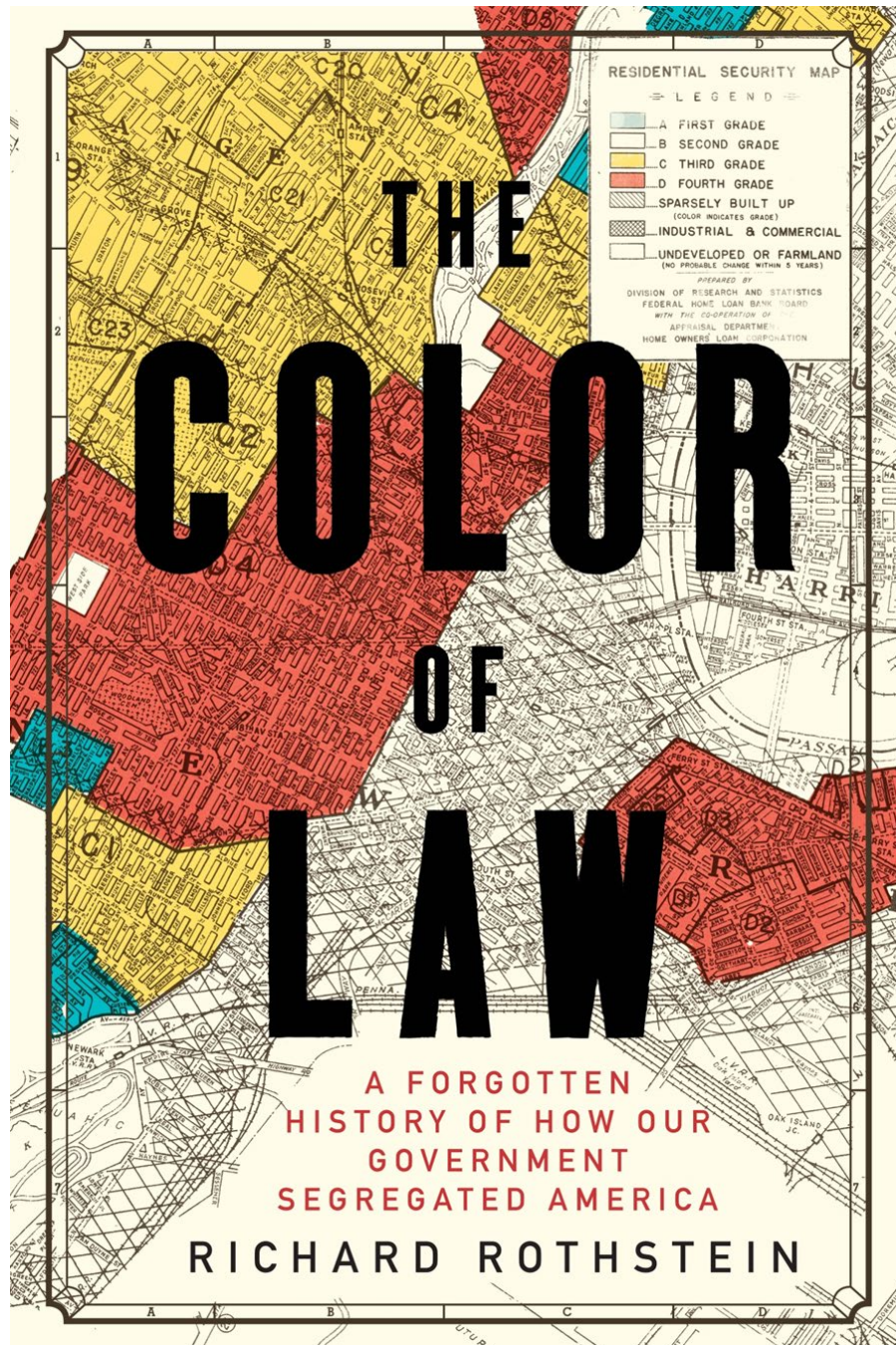


The Color of Law and the Geography of Opportunity in West Oakland

State of Black Education - Oakland
(SoBEO)



THE COLOR OF LAW

A FORGOTTEN
HISTORY OF HOW OUR
GOVERNMENT
SEGREGATED AMERICA

RICHARD ROTHSTEIN

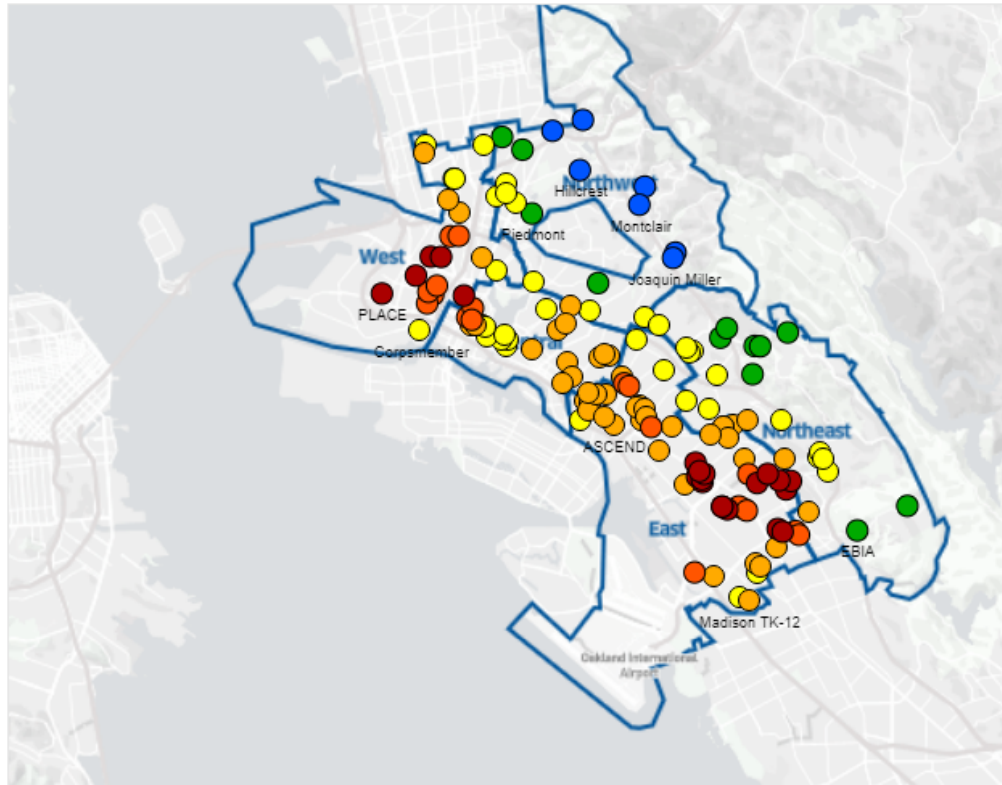
“An African-American born in West Oakland can expect to die almost 15 years earlier than a White person born in the Hills” – [Alameda County Public Health Department Report](#)

Environmental Stress in Oakland

School Environment: Environmental Stress Factors 2016

SRA Region: School:

*More school names appear when zoomed into region.



Environmental stress factors tend to be interrelated and concentrated in certain geographic areas of Oakland where:

- violent crime, unemployment, residential vacancy, and poverty rates are high;
- air quality is poor;
- access to fresh food is limited;
- liquor stores may outnumber grocery stores.

These environmental factors have a compounding effect on schools located in the most disinvested parts of the city, largely serving students who come from the surrounding communities.

Environmental Stress Factor Score

(average of all schools in region)

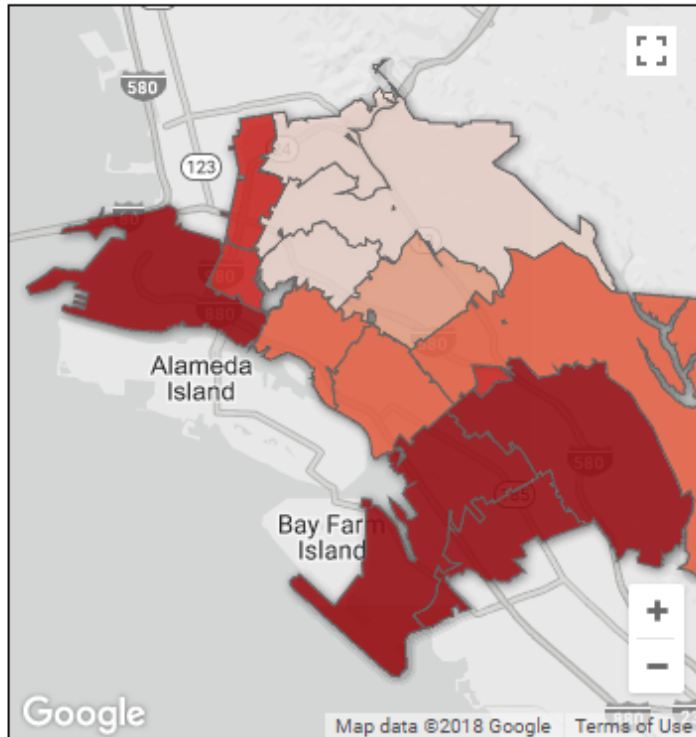
Central	3.79
East	4.60
Northeast	2.78
Northwest	1.88
West	4.48
District wide average score	3.51

	Central	East	Northeast	Northwest	West
	3.79	4.60	2.78	1.88	4.48

Asthmatic Students %	10
Avg. Fresh Food Distance (miles)	0.7
HazMat Sites #	17
Liquor Sellers %	7
Median Household Income	\$56,974
Median Home Value	\$421,976
Nearby Lock Out Incidents #	1
Oakland Police Calls for Service #	173
Unemployment Rate %	9
Vandalism/Graffiti Incidents #	6

Asthma Rates

Visits to the emergency room for asthma



Data from 2009-2011. Age-adjusted rates are per 100,000.
Source: Alameda County Public Health Department

Rates of asthma for African-American children in Alameda County are **2.5 times higher** than the overall rate in the county.

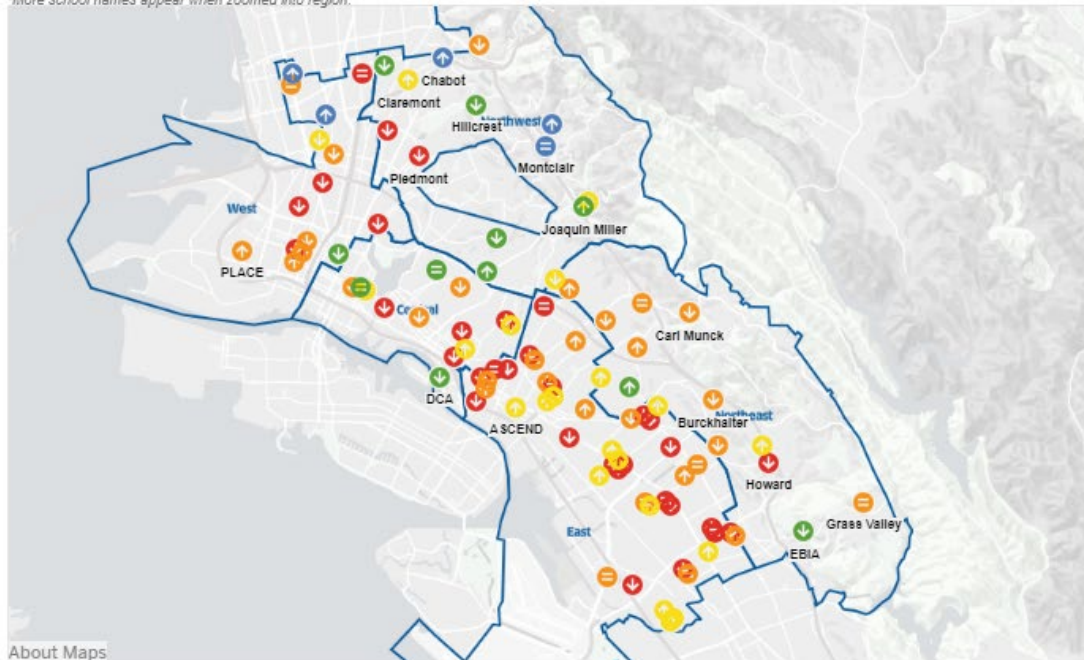
Alameda County Public Health Department

School Performance

OUSD Strategic Regional Analysis: 2017-18 School Quality: Oakland Public School Report Cards

SRA Region: (All) Indicator: Academics - ELA School Level: (All) School Type: (All)

**More school names appear when zoomed into region.*



California recently developed a new way to measure school performance along a set of measures that includes both status and change in academics and school culture/climate.

Color indicates how well this school performed relative to other public schools in California, where blue is the highest performing and red is the lowest.

Up and down arrows show whether the result increased or declined from the prior year, and an equals sign indicates no change.

No result (a white circle) is shown when data are not currently available or when there were fewer than 30 students in a group.

- High performing
- ⬆ Increased
- = Maintained
- ⬇ Declined
- Low performing

About Maps

View table by: # Schools # Schools [Click on table column header to highlight selected schools on map.](#)

4 schools 4 miles apart- chasms of opportunity

School	School A	School B	School C	School D
Free/reduced lunch	92%	1%	74%	8%
Reading proficiency	0%	89%	13%	79%
Math Proficiency	1%	88%	15%	78%
Driving Distance form School A in miles	N/A	3.7	4.0, less than .5 miles from school B	6.6
% African American	62.7%	1.9%	53.5%	7.4%

Urban Redevelopment Hurt West Oakland

- **The ORA's first project would be telling of its character: the Acorn Project designated about 50 blocks in West Oakland for demolition, including parts of the historic heart of black Oakland, 7th Street. On top of that, construction did not begin in Acorn until five years after demolition was completed, leaving a giant barren area in the middle of West Oakland. By the mid 60s, the demolition policies of the ORA would create deep scars in the black neighborhoods close to downtown[10].**

A Scar in the Middle of the Black Community



Redevelopment Helps the Suburbs not the West

- **The construction of the Cypress freeway portion of I-880 further upset West Oakland. This project, completed in 1958, demolished properties through the neighborhood in a north-south strip, pushing families out and physically segregating the westernmost section from the rest of the city. : THE CHANGING FACE OF OAKLAND 1945-1990**
- **between 1960-66, urban renewal, freeway construction, BART construction, and other government action destroyed over 7,000 housing units in Oakland, almost 5,100\ of which were located in West Oakland[12].**

Housing Policy Hurt

- **The Housing Act of 1949, under eminent domain, condemned to destruction the homes of Blacks that had fallen to disrepair. Dozens of blocks of homes were bulldozed to the ground to make room for housing projects like Acorn, which alone displaced approximately nine thousand residents. Four hundred more homes and business were demolished in 1960 to make room for the construction of a U.S Postal Service distribution center .(19) The Black residents that were once pushed into West Oakland were now being forced out, taking with them the wealth and culture that created the allure of Seventh Street.**
-
- http://www.foundsf.org/index.php?title=The_Rise_and_Fall_of_Seventh_Street_in_Oakland

The FHA Created the Ghetto

- **Important precedents were made in housing stock patterns and in racial segregation of housing units. The FHA promoted construction of all-white suburban developments, and were not afraid to use racial covenants to carefully control the racial composition in the new developments. This left the numerous new black families of Oakland with few options. Overcrowding in West Oakland, the traditional black hub of the city, became a problem: instance of overcrowding doubled in West Oakland between 1940 and 1950 [5]. Racial homogeneity increased in West Oakland as well: THE CHANGING FACE OF OAKLAND 1945-1990**

Racial Zoning Outside of Oakland Affects Oakland

- San Leandro, the suburban community bordering Oakland to the south, turned its covenants into “neighborhood protective associations,” or groups of homeowners that determined who could live in their neighborhood as long as “race and creed” were not taken into account. Such associations were extremely effective in maintaining San Leandro’s racial exclusivity and protecting property values. By 1970 blacks comprised thirty-four percent of Oakland’s population, while just eighty-four blacks lived in San Leandro, comprising just over one percent of the population. In 1980 the average house in San Leandro was worth \$96,400, thirty thousand dollars more than the average house in Oakland--Title: A Tale of Two Cities: How the Government Caused and Maintained Racial Inequality in Oakland, California 1945- 1970

The FHA and Segregation Part 2

- the Federal Housing Administration's Title 6 program guaranteed loans for private construction, but was restricted to white buyers doing little to help those of color. Thus, white suburban neighborhoods arose, many of which were built outside of the city limit in an attempt to avoid municipal building codes. With little assistance from the private sector, Blacks remained in West Oakland and relied on public housing programs. Claims of racial conflict by Oakland Housing Authority, however, necessitated segregation of these programs. Four all-Black projects were built in West Oakland, while corresponding white projects were built along bay flats in East Oakland.(11)
http://www.foundsf.org/index.php?title=The_Rise_and_Fall_of_Seventh_Street_in_Oakland

**Blacks relied on public housing but
little was available**

- **In 1966, though an estimated 20,000 people were eligible for public housing in the city, Oakland had just 1,422 permanent public housing units[14].**

Changing Demographics in West Oakland

- The median income for African American, Latino, and Asian households in Oakland has declined since 2000. Citywide, White households had nearly double the median household income of any other racial or ethnic group,¹⁹ and Oakland was recently ranked as having the seventh-highest income inequality among cities in the nation.²⁰ This income stratification will likely continue given labor market trends without significant interventions.
- <http://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/pl-report-oak-housing-070715.pdf>

Blacks are now the third largest racial group in Oakland

Table 3. Changing Demographics in Oakland and Alameda County, 1990–2010

Race/Ethnicity	Oakland 1990 ^a		Oakland 2000 ^b		Oakland 2010 ^b		Alameda County		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	1990	2000	2010
Black or African American	160,640	43%	140,139	35%	106,637	27%	17%	15%	13%
White (not Hispanic/Latino)	105,927	28%	93,953	24%	101,308	26%	53%	41%	34%
Hispanic or Latino	49,267	14%	87,467	22%	99,068	25%	14%	19%	23%
Asian/Pacific Islander	53,818	14%	60,393	15%	65,127	17%	14%	20%	26%
Native American	1,695	<1%	1,471	<1%	3,040	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Multi-racial	N/A	N/A	12,966	3%	14,076	4%	N/A	4%	6%
Other	895	<1%	1,229	<1%	1,468	<1%	7%	<1%	11%
Total	372,242	100%	399,484	100%	390,724	100%	---	---	---

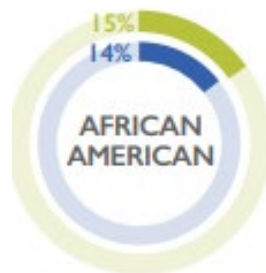
Sources: a: <http://www.bayareacensus.ca.gov/cities/Oakland70.htm>; b: <http://www.bayareacensus.ca.gov/cities/Oakland.htm>.

The Challenges of Affordability

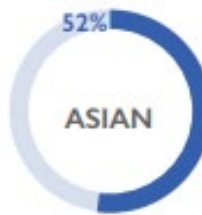
- [Zillow's analysis](#) shows that [African Americans could afford](#) just five percent of the region's home listings in 2017 - the lowest percentage in the entire country, the data showed, compared to 42 percent for all homebuyers in San Francisco and Oakland.

Academic Challenges for our Youth

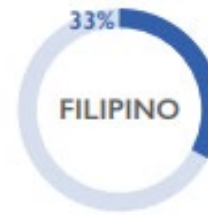
PERCENTAGE OF 3RD-5TH GRADERS MEETING OR EXCEEDING ENGLISH STANDARDS, BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2014-15



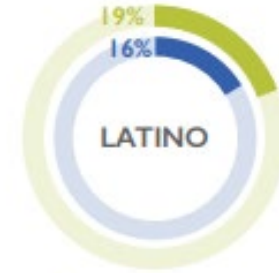
443 2,552



** 1,315



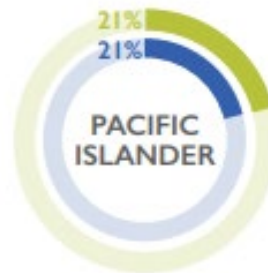
* 92



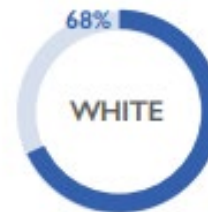
1,579 3,654



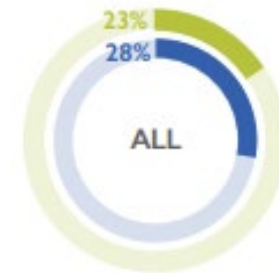
* 57



19 106



** 1,407



2,426 9,399

- “An African-American born in West Oakland can expect to die almost 15 years earlier than a White person born in the Hills” –[Alameda County Public Health Department Report](#)