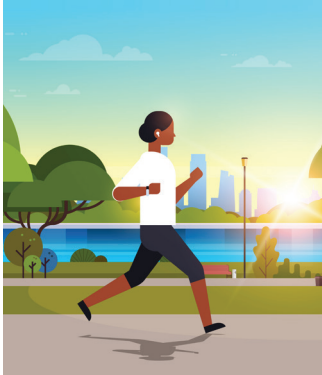


Environmental Injustice

“Environmental injustice is about [the state] creating sacrifice zones where we place everything which no one else wants. ... Environmental justice is about communities being able to reclaim their power.” —*Mustafa Santiago Ali, vice president of environmental justice, climate, and community revitalization for the National Wildlife Federation*



The strategic erasure of indigenous, Black and brown environmental leadership plays an important role in white-washing the environmental movement and maintaining unjust policies.
—*The Conversation*
September 2020

FROM
ALCATRAZ
TO THE
DAKOTA
PIPELINE



Native American sovereign nations have led the longest environmental movement in the U.S., yet they have suffered some of the greatest environmental costs due to broken treaties and illegal selling of land and water rights to oil, gas and mining companies, resulting in the pollution of over 300 water sources.

—*Mary Anne Liebert Publishers Inc.*

People of color are the subject of violence, intimidation and threats while participating in outdoor activities, or for simply enjoying nature.

—*“The Nature Gap” / Center for American Progress*

Living in the Danger Zones



Historically, residential zones were redlined “white-only” while mixed residential and industrial zones with high environmental and chemical hazards were open to non-whites.

—*University of Michigan Center for Sustainable Systems*



Black Americans are 68% more likely to live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power plant.

—*Princeton Student Climate Initiative*



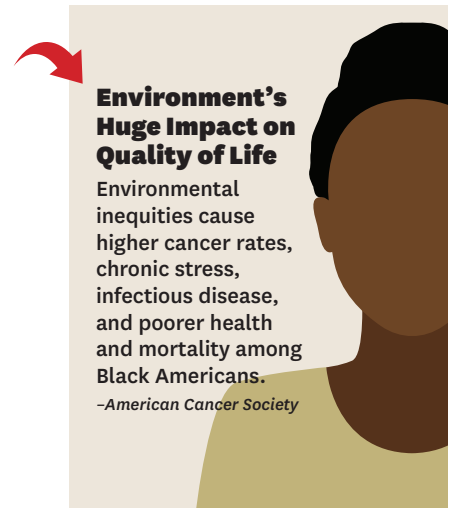
From Pacoima, California to Cancer Alley in Louisiana, Black Americans are 75% more likely to live near toxic dumps, hazardous factories, and pollution sites.

—*The New York Times*



Redlined neighborhoods were found to be the hottest in 94% of cities.

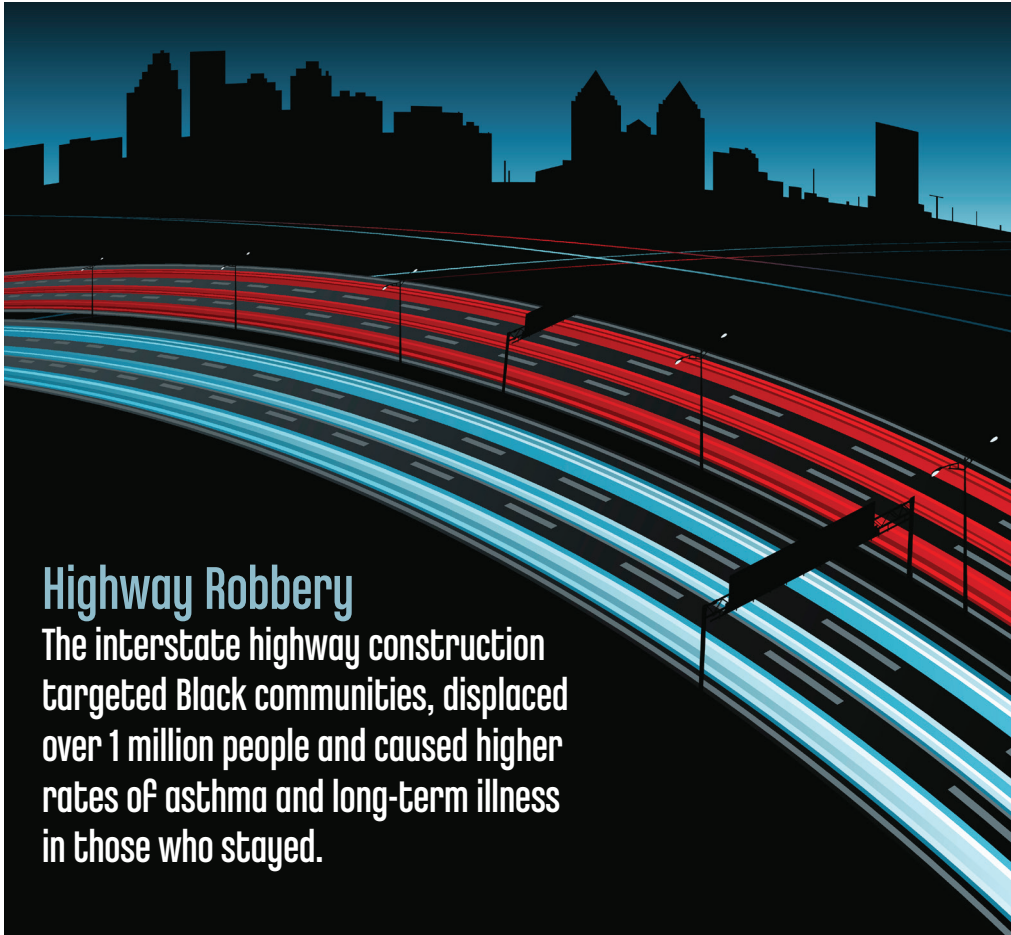
—*Chicago Policy Review*



Environment's Huge Impact on Quality of Life

Environmental inequities cause higher cancer rates, chronic stress, infectious disease, and poorer health and mortality among Black Americans.

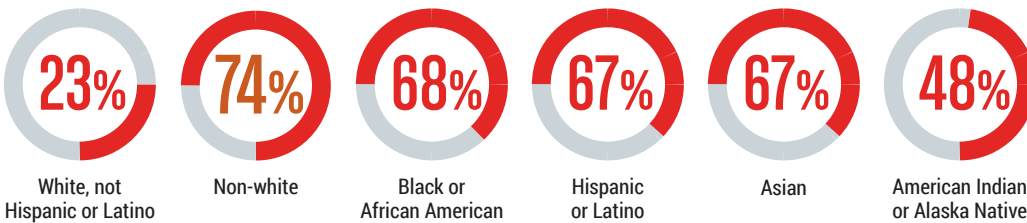
—*American Cancer Society*



Highway Robbery

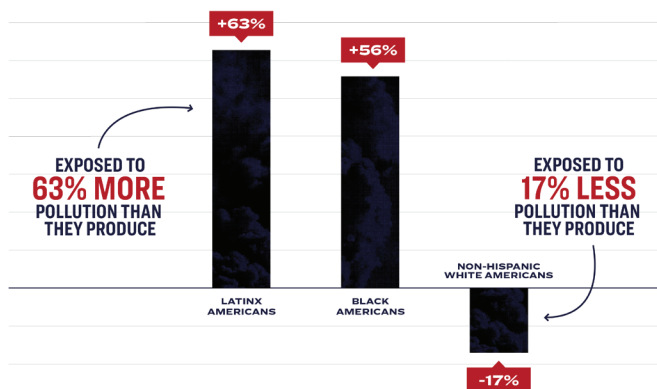
The interstate highway construction targeted Black communities, displaced over 1 million people and caused higher rates of asthma and long-term illness in those who stayed.

Percentage of People Living in Nature-Deprived Area

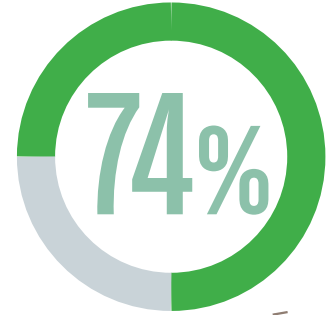


Note: Communities are considered nature deprived if their census tract has a higher proportion of natural area lost to human activities than the state-level median.

POLLUTION EXPOSURE BY POPULATION (2003-2015)



Source: Christopher W. Tessum et al., "Inequity in consumption of goods and services adds to racial-ethnic disparities in air pollution exposure," Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (March 2019).



Green Hoarding

■ 74% of non-white Americans live in nature-deprived areas.

–Center for American Progress

■ Predominantly white neighborhoods in L.A. have more than 10 times the number of park acres than all non-white neighborhoods.

–Headwaters Economics

■ More tree-covering can increase students' scores in schools in redlined communities by 13%.

–Center for American Progress

■ Racial/ethnic minority children are bearing the brunt of air neurotoxicant exposures at school, which may be unequally affecting their school performance and future potential.

Black, Indigenous and Green

■ Minority communities are rebuilding and reimagining their green cities even though they are affected most from environmentally racist policies.

■ The U.N. reports that indigenous people protect 80% of the world's biodiversity using traditional knowledge.

■ Hundreds of thousands of acres of land have been returned to Native sovereign nations for land protection.

–Yale Environment 360

■ Black and indigenous communities created the environmental justice movement and continue to uphold it.

–The Washington Post

■ Grants from the EPA and California are investing millions in community-led sustainability projects in neighborhoods targeted by environmental injustices.



Since 1946, people who are incarcerated in California prisons risk their lives to fight wildfires at a fraction of minimum wage, yet for them there's no pathway to a professional career as firefighters. –The Atlantic