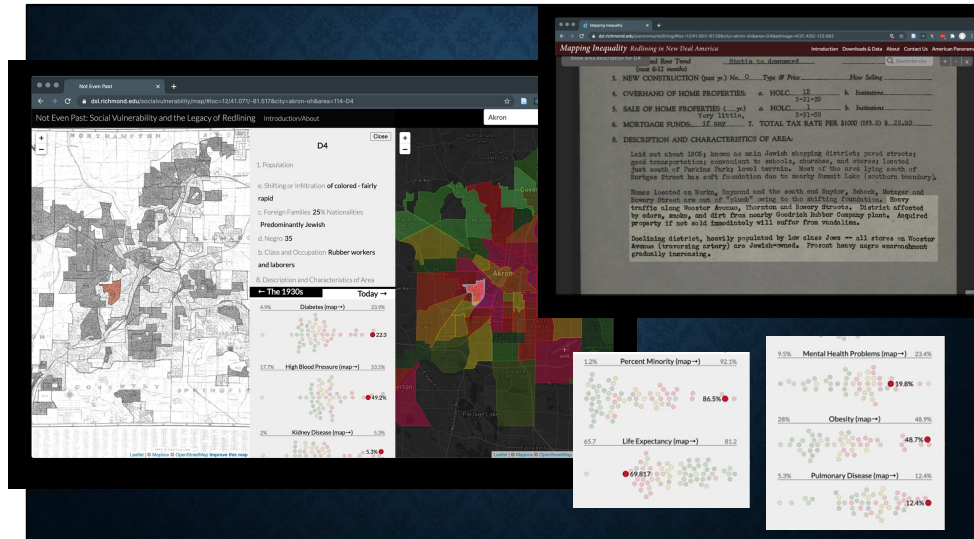


EJ issues did not arise accidentally.

Redlining is a fact. In the United States, **redlining** was a discriminatory practice started in the 1930's in which services (financial and otherwise) were withheld from potential customers who resided in neighborhoods classified as 'hazardous' to investment; these residents largely belonged to racial and ethnic minorities. The most well-known examples involved denial of credit and insurance, backed by federal government institutions – Federal Housing Authority and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board (FHLBB).

Our colleagues at California EPA overlaid the digitized redlining maps for the city of Oakland, California, with CalEnviroScreen, their environmental justice cumulative impacts mapping tool. You can see the correlation between those areas classified as D hazardous or the worst environment, and the worst environmental disparities today.

The communities we designed 100 years ago they still look the same. Even then they were using the same language as we do today. That is our shared history whether we agree with it or not; and now in present day, it is all of our responsibility to address it.



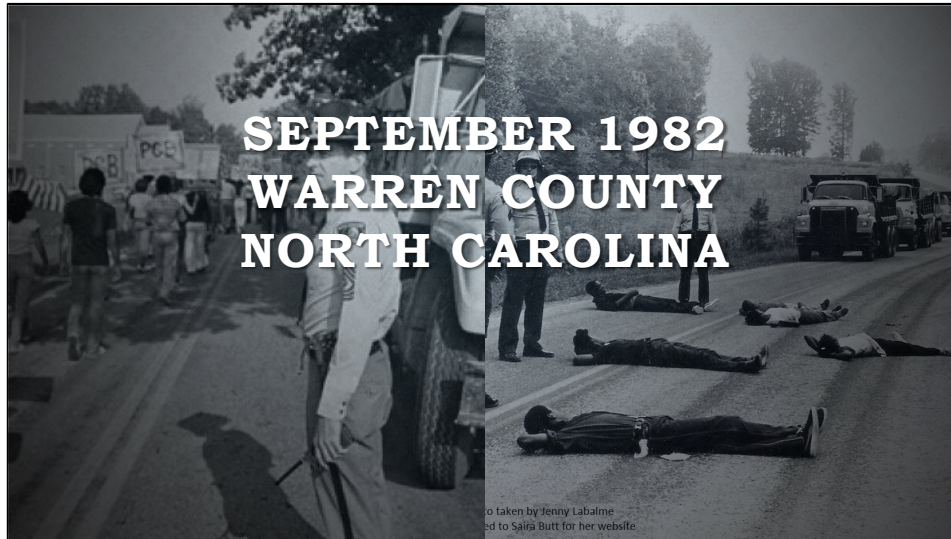
Not only do our communities look like this. It is still impacting the health of people living there today. You can look at diabetes, asthma, health. Same would be true if you look at Climate change, covid-19 pandemic. Still impact health and wealth outcomes today.

This is from the web site called 'Not Even Past: Social Vulnerability and the Legacy of Redlining'. On the left is a redlining map of Akron, Ohio, and on the right is a map of census tracts where the color is reflective of something called the Social Vulnerability Index, which is an index that's put together by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that takes into account a lot of health data as well as some socio-economic data to come up with a score between zero and one, with zeros being communities that have low social vulnerability, and those close to one having high social vulnerability.

The area highlighted has the Goodrich Rubber Factory in it. And what you'll see here is that this neighborhood today, 80 years after that map was made and that survey was produced, still has an incredibly high social vulnerability. It's an overwhelmingly African American neighborhood and with an alarming social vulnerability score of .85. The life expectancy in this area is under 70 years. All those dots are other census

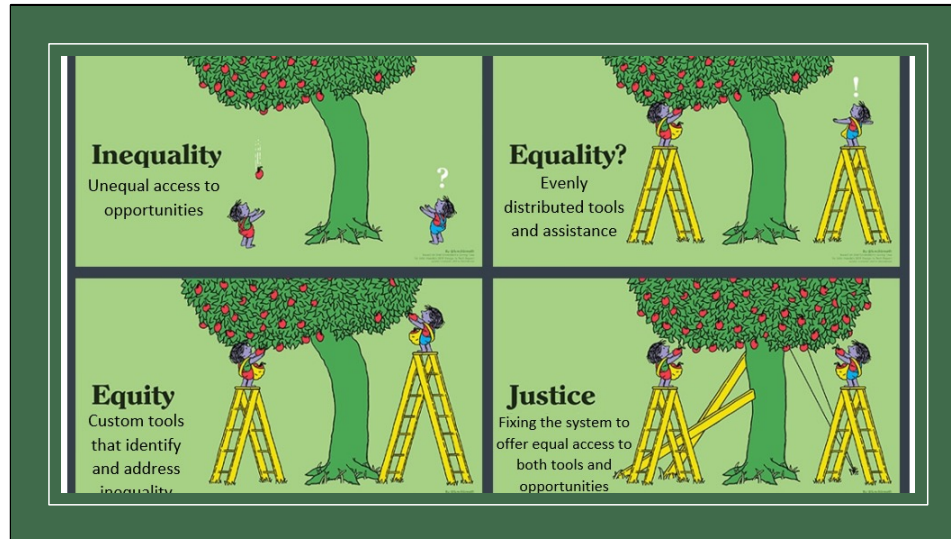
tracts where the life expectancy is over 11 years higher. So there's a substantial 11-year gap in life expectancy going through some of these census tracts, which aren't that far from one another. We're talking just a series of miles. Mental health problems is one in five; obesity is half - right at the top again; and pulmonary disease is one in eight, and right at the top.

We want to be careful about drawing conclusions, but it doesn't seem like a coincidence that you have this site that has been a site of heavy industry for a century and that's a place where people are suffering from multiple health issues.





Warren County gave way to many more actions in what's now known as the EJ movement.



These folks were advocating for Justice in environmental protections. What does that mean?

I've already shown how historically, systems of injustice have been embedded within the laws, policies, and practices throughout the structures of government and its systems. These systems of injustice have had long-lasting effects on people of color, indigenous, and low-income populations.

In addition to the practice of redlining, which led to the segregation of people of color into the most polluted areas of towns and cities

- & The siting of facilities and industries that emit high levels of pollution and toxics near communities of color;
- Systematic racism can be seen in financial markets – where certain groups were prohibited from access to home loans and other unfair housing practices
- lack of access to good schools; hiring practices of teachers
- Lack of voting rights and voter suppression
- And many more....

This graphic represents the different ways that injustices have been addressed. Under 'Inequality', it shows that some populations have had unequal access to opportunities

– such as housing, education, voting, etc. Under ‘Equality’, the assumption is that everyone benefits from the same supports – but in a society where certain populations and communities have been oppressed, we obviously have different needs to achieve equality. As you can see on the graphic under ‘Equality’, each person has the same size ladder, but the person still can’t access the fruit on the tree. This is where many communities with environmental justice concerns still stand.

Under ‘Equity’, you can see that everyone gets the support they need, so everyone can reach the fruit on the tree, but the reason or barrier for the inequity was not addressed or remedied. In this case, the tree has been left leaning to one side.

Under ‘Justice’, the tree is propped up so everyone has equal access; the cause of the inequity is addressed and the systemic barrier removed. It is this section where EJ advocates focus their work – on removing the systemic barrier. Equity options are still necessary and important, but it is crucial that we identify and address the underlying reasons for the injustice.

## History of Environmental Justice at EPA

### History of EJ at EPA

- **1992:** Office of Equity formed at EPA
- **Feb 16, 1994:** President Bill Clinton signs EO12898
- **1994:** Office of Equity becomes Office of Environmental Justice

### EPA's Definition of Environmental Justice

EPA defines "environmental justice" as the **fair treatment** and **meaningful involvement** of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.



Now that we've covered some of the basic tenets of environmental justice and EJ communities, let's look at the history of EJ at EPA.

In 1992, the Office of Equity was created based on the recommendations of the Environmental Equity Workgroup that had been formed at the agency. Then, on February 16, 1994, President Bill Clinton signed Executive Order 12898, titled Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. The purpose of EO12898 is to focus federal attention on the environmental and human health effects of federal actions on minority and low-income populations with the goal of achieving environmental protection for all communities.

Along with EO 12898 in 1994, the Office of Equity expanded to become the Office of Environmental Justice. A lot of substantive groundwork was done over the next 15 years. One of the major milestones occurred from 2010-2016, when Plan EJ 2014 was created and implemented. This document was the foundation for integrating EJ in EPA programs, policies and activities.

EPA's definition of Environmental Justice covers two core principles.

The first principle is fair treatment – As stated in EO 12898, EPA and other federal agencies are required to “identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse impacts” on low-income, people of color, and indigenous people.

The second principle is meaningful involvement – We want to make sure that the people most likely to be affected by our decisions are well-informed about the agency’s options; and have not only a voice, but a seat at the table whenever possible.

The principle of environmental justice asserts that no people, based on their race or economic status, should be forced to bear a disproportionate burden of environmental risks.



### Climate Safe Neighborhoods

May 5, 2021, 12:00 - 1:00 pm EST

Learning about the [Climate Safe Neighborhoods Partnership](#) and how youth in two of Groundwork's Triad, Groundwork Huston Valley, and Groundwork Richmond, VA, and other places are leading the way in working closely with residents and stakeholders to organize, mobilize, and effect systems change to make communities more resilient to extreme heat and flooding.

[Record of the Climate Safe Neighborhoods Partnership Session](#)

(Captions in both English and Spanish; subtítulos en inglés y español)

[Transcript in English \(.pdf\)](#)

[Transcript in Spanish \(.es\)](#)

[Transcript in Spanish \(.es\)](#)

### Pollution and Prejudice

June 10, 2021, 12:00 - 1:00 pm EST

Learning about the [Pollution and Prejudice](#) project and how CalEPA's local equity team designed a set of tools to explore the connection between racist land use practices of the 1930s and the persistence of environmental injustices. Understanding how environmental conditions are informed by legacy land use practices helps CalEPA to ensure equitable access to clean air, water, and land for all Californians through policy development and implementation.

[Record of the Pollution and Prejudice project Session](#)

(Captions in both English and Spanish; subtítulos en inglés y español)

[Transcript in English \(.pdf\)](#)

[Transcript in Spanish \(.es\)](#)

[Transcript in Spanish \(.es\)](#)

### Redlining & Climate Crisis

April 6, 2021, 12:00 - 1:00 pm EST

Reviewing a recent study on the correlation of redlined areas and the location of urban heat islands will discuss their participatory research on the spatial distribution of climate impacts, involving communities in measuring heat in cities. This interdisciplinary approach offers a compelling perspective on how scientists and residents seek to address disproportionate vulnerability emerging from climate change.

[Record of the Redlining and the Climate Crisis Session](#)

(Captions in both English and Spanish; subtítulos en inglés y español)

[Transcript in English \(.pdf\)](#)

[Transcript in Spanish \(.es\)](#)

[Transcript in Spanish \(.es\)](#)

### Mapping Inequality

March 4, 2021, 12:00 - 1:00 pm EST

Highlighting [The Mapping Inequality Project](#), a unique collaboration on redlining and current environmental challenges that provides publicly accessible digitized versions of redlining maps for about 200 cities. This project has generated mobilizing work in the area of EJ and systemic racism. Two of its founders will discuss the genesis, philosophy, methodology, and impact of this game-changing project.

[Record of the Mapping Inequality Project Session](#)

(Captions in both English and Spanish; subtítulos en inglés y español)

[Transcript in English \(.pdf\)](#)

[Transcript in Spanish \(.es\)](#)

[Transcript in Spanish \(.es\)](#)

## EJ AND SYSTEMIC RACISM SERIES

It's our responsibility to address EJ and here are some concrete ways to do something about it. If you're looking for ways, there are resources on our website.

We developed the Environmental Justice and Systemic Racism Speaker Series to show how addressing systemic racism is highly relevant to EPA's mission. It explores how understanding and addressing systemic racism and the roots of disproportionate environmental and public health impacts is key to integrating EJ in the policies and programs for the benefit of all people.

We have had four webinars already: on Climate Safe Neighborhoods, Pollution and Prejudice, Mapping Inequality Project, Heat Islands  
We hope to have more of these webinars in the new year.



One of the major milestones occurred from 2010-2016, when Plan EJ 2014 was created and implemented. This document was the foundation for integrating EJ in EPA programs, policies and activities. Another important milestone was the creation and implementation of EPA's screening tool, EJSCREEN. EJSCREEN is EPA's web-based GIS tool that was designed to provide nationally consistent EJ screening and mapping. It combines environmental and demographic data to highlight areas where vulnerable populations may be disproportionately impacted by pollution and other environmental stressors.

Other important publications include EPA's Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples, and Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews. Both of these guidance documents have been instrumental in the integration of EJ practices at EPA.

# Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

JANUARY 27, 2021 • PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

## Explore the tool

Use the map to see communities that are disadvantaged. The map uses publicly-available, nationally-consistent, datasets. Learn more about the methodology and datasets that were used to identify disadvantaged communities in the current version of the tool on the [Methodology & data](#) page.

- Justice40 – 40% of the resources of certain programs to flow to disadvantaged communities
- Climate and EJ Screening Tool (CEJST)
- EJ Scorecard

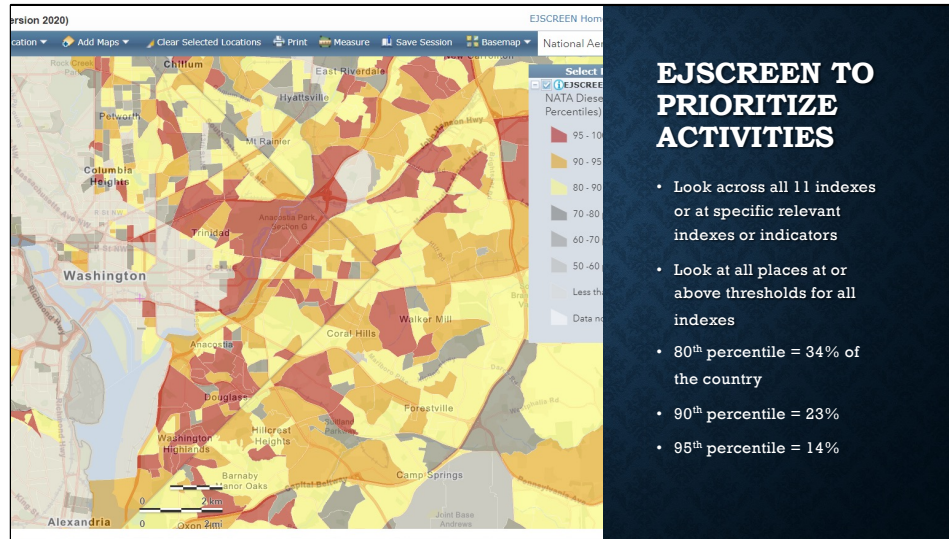
## Justice 40

40% of benefits of certain programs flow to disadvantaged communities.

What we do is not just with this Administration. We are taking the lead of states. No just waiting out the clock. Might as well start now.

Bloomberg Law: These requirements make New Jersey's law the [first of its kind](#), but similarly robust proposals are being considered in [Connecticut](#), [Minnesota](#), [New York](#), [Rhode Island](#), [Texas](#), and [Vermont](#). States with less rigid laws require similar EJ analysis but ultimately leave any action to agency discretion. [California](#) provides another leading example. In addition to [planning](#) and [enforcement](#) initiatives, state law requires that disadvantaged communities receive baseline [financial benefits](#) from California's greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program. [Michigan](#) has similar proposed legislation that would create a special fund to direct proceeds from regulatory fines for air pollution to EJ communities.

(source: <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/bloomberg-law-analysis/analysis-state-laws-are-codifying-environmental-justice>)



## EJSCREEN TO PRIORITIZE ACTIVITIES

- Look across all 11 indexes or at specific relevant indexes or indicators
- Look at all places at or above thresholds for all indexes
- 80<sup>th</sup> percentile = 34% of the country
- 90<sup>th</sup> percentile = 23%
- 95<sup>th</sup> percentile = 14%

EJScreen moving from just a screen to driving decisions. EJ Scorecard is the way to hold folks accountable.

## EPA's EJSCREEN

Nationally consistent screening and mapping tool

- Other EPA and State mapping tools also incorporate EJSCREEN data

## State Governments:

Many states are building their own EJ tools, some of which based on EJSCREEN

This allows them to incorporate state specific information and other datasets

Identified 19 different tools and provided a detailed review of indicators & methodologies utilized



Nail salons in the United States are a multi-billion-dollar industry. Due to immigrant and refugee labor and changes in technology, the nail salon industry grew from a high-end, luxury service to an affordable service available to low- and middle-income clients. Nail salons are largely Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese, Nepali, Tibetan, and Latin immigrant and refugee labor force.

In 2001, EPA held a listening session in Houston Texas. We heard from Nail Salon technicians and owners who were concerned with their health.

Through the WHI AAPI, EPA created effective partnership with federal, state, community health organizations and small businesses to address challenges raised by nail salon workers. The partnership resulted in education and outreach programs which directly impacted the lives of nail salon workers and their families nationwide. Through this partnership, EPA developed the Nail Salon Strategy to create a comprehensive framework for protecting the health of the nail salon community, and for engaging the communities in these efforts.

The Healthy Nail Salon program is one of the few in our nation that has paid attention to the plight of low-income immigrant nail salon workers in a billion-dollar industry

that interfaces with millions of consumers who create the demand for their services. This program has been shown to not only reduce exposures to key toxic chemicals and improve worker health, but also become a way for these small businesses to increase their revenue with increased clientele.

Available in:

English

Chinese

Vietnamese

Korean



Through the WHI AAPIs, EPA partnered with OSHA, FDA and other federal and state agencies to develop **a guide to Protecting the Health of Nail Salon Workers**. The guide is available in **English, Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean**. EPA also conducted in language train the trainer workshops across the country to educate nail salon workers on how to protect themselves.

We provided \$120K grant to pilot a micro loan program which provided small loans of \$5000 to install ventilation or purchase safe products.



- Goal is to address health, environmental, reproductive justice, and other social issues faced by its low-income, female, Vietnamese immigrant and refugee workforce.
- Members include nail salon workers and owners.
- The Collaborative also has organizational members.

Founded in 2005, the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative is a statewide grassroots organization that addresses health, environmental, reproductive justice, and other social issues faced by its low-income, female, Vietnamese immigrant and refugee workforce.

Members include nail salon workers and owners who support the Collaborative's mission and participate in various leadership programs.

The Collaborative also has organizational members that are committed to the health, safety and rights of people working in the nail salon industry. They are engaged in Collaborative efforts through committee work and other efforts.



**SF created a Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Program** to help nail salon workers reduce their exposure to the toxic chemicals in products. The benefits include:

The potential to attract new customers  
Enhanced health and well-being of staff  
Safer salon environment for customers

**Recognition is a three- step process:**

- SF Environment conducts a one-hour training with all nail salon employees. The training can be held at the salon and in language.
- Complete criteria checklist of Criteria include purchasing safer products, implementing worker safety practices, disposing of chemicals safely, and installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Once the checklist is complete, the salon owner requests a site visit from SF Environment staff. Then, the salon is recognized as a Healthy Nail Salon.

Healthy Nail Salons receive a plaque, a window decal and certificates for all employees. Salons are also listed on SF Environment’s website, newsletters, and

social media.



## NAIL SALONS HAIR SALONS AUTO SHOPS

**Boston has the Green and Clean Program**, which recognizes nail salons, hair salons and auto shops, for participating in the program. The program follows a four-point “leaf” system. In order to participate and get one leaf, nail salons must meet the program’s minimum requirements, including employing one Green and Clean practice and one method of reducing chemical exposure along with not using nail salon products with certain chemicals. Salons that do more to reduce chemical exposure and protect the environment are awarded up to four leaves.

## **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

Disclosure of Lead-Based Paint  
Hazards in Housing (Chinese)

Compliance Assistance For Dry  
Cleaners (Korean)

Protect Yourself from Pesticides: Guide  
for Agricultural Workers (Hmong)

Automotive Refinishing Safety  
Information, Best Practices Training

Thanks! and Contact Info

Chitra Kumar  
[Kumar.chitra@epa.gov](mailto:Kumar.chitra@epa.gov)

Piyachat Terrell  
[Terrell.Piyachat@epa.gov](mailto:Terrell.Piyachat@epa.gov)

Key takeaways:

- You all have to figure this out. Einstein famously said, “We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”
- You need to invest in equity and justice, you need to hire people in to interface with community. Even though you’re going to spend money up front it will save you money and time in the long run.
- Impacted community – it is a challenge to figure out where the impacted community is if you’re looking at mapping tools. Think of your supply chain.
- People are savvier at suing you and even if we don’t do anything, States have new laws.
- Polluting industries may never be desirable from a community’s perspective. We have a responsibility as a society to find alternatives. You can wait until that’s thrust on you or work to incorporate the solution into your business model.
- We will see more funding coming our way – whether it’s from existing programs redirecting resources b/c of J40 or because congress appropriates new climate funds.