

Maya Angelou once said, "Prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the future, and renders the present inaccessible." Redlining was a dark and cruel practice that consisted of the systematic denial of services based on race or ethnicity. Redlining is deeply rooted in the systemic racism and prejudice of this country and has negatively impacted the education, health, and economic well-being of African American communities in Atlanta, but it is not too late to put an end to these issues. Learning the history of redlining is the first step toward change.

Redlining was designed to decide which people should be denied home buyer loans, but that practice led to extreme complications in the United States education system. It has been over 50 years since redlining was made illegal. However, families could not afford to leave their neighborhoods, so schools stayed segregated. The author of the article, "Redlining: How can we remedy it," writes, "There are wide, well-documented race gaps in educational outcomes." It also says, "neighborhoods with higher average household income have access to more resources than the lower income neighborhoods." The quality of schools in formally redlined areas, or predominantly black neighborhoods, are much worse than schools in white neighborhoods. Most kids in redlined areas do not do well in school meaning they either do not get a decent job and are forced to stay in the same bad neighborhoods or they become homeless, maintaining the cyclical nature of segregation.

In addition, redlining had a negative impact on minorities' health in the United States. The author of "Redlining: How can we remedy it" states, "on average, life expectancy is lower by 3.6 years in redlined communities when compared to communities that existed at the same time but were highly graded by the HOLC." Communities that were graded highly by the HOLC tend to have better nutrition than redlined communities. The author also says, "it also impacted health and longevity, resulting in a legacy of chronic disease and premature death in many high minority neighborhoods." The diets of people in redlined neighborhoods are low in fruits and vegetables and high in sodium and saturated fats because access to healthy food is scarce in said communities. Lastly, the author writes, "Minority families were forced into neighborhoods with declining housing stock, putting these communities at higher risk of environmental health issues." Finding quality medical care is difficult in areas like these.

Redlining has affected minorities' education and health, but it has affected the financial health of minority communities the most. The authors of the news article "The lasting legacy of redlining" said, "Neighborhood residents are now backing an effort in the city's legislature to create their own city and secede from Atlanta, a majority-Black city. If this were to happen, it would be financially devastating for Atlanta since the city would lose an estimated 38 percent of its tax revenue." The city of Buckhead is still segregated from Atlanta because of redlining. People in Buckhead make more money than minorities in other Atlanta neighborhoods. According to the author of "Where People of Color Are Shut Out of Home Loans," "the North Atlanta suburbs show spikes of 10 times or more odds that blacks will be denied home loans when whites are applying for them too." The practice of redlining has been made illegal, but people are still being denied home loans because of their skin color. The author of "Redlining: How can we remedy it?" states, "White households own 10x more wealth compared to Black households." Even though systemic racism was made illegal, some people continue to perpetuate those unlawful acts purposefully.

In conclusion, redlining has had a lasting impact on African American and other minority communities in the United States. For change to be possible, we need to educate ourselves about the history and impacts of redlining so solutions can be developed.

Work cited page

Best, Ryan and Mejía, Elena. “*The Lasting Legacy Of Redlining.*” *FiveThirtyEight* .
February 09, 2022. <https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redlining/#explore-top>.

Blankenship, Grant. “Where People of Color in Georgia Are Shut out of Home Loans.”
Georgia Public Broadcasting, February 16, 2018. Updated: August 13, 2020
<https://www.gpb.org/news/2018/02/16/where-people-of-color-in-georgia-are-shut-out-of-home-loans>.

“Redlining: How Can We Remedy It?” *Bellwetherhousing*, Equity Committee, 8 Jan.
2021, www.bellwetherhousing.org/post/redlining-how-can-we-remedy-it.