

# How Might We Create a Greater Understanding of Systemic Racism?

## Who are we?

We are human beings connected by our otherness

Jocelyn Velazquez is a Mexican American born and raised in San Jose, California. She is the daughter of immigrant parents who migrated from Mexico to the U.S for better opportunities. Both her parents worked hard to provide their daughter with the best quality of life they could provide; even when they were struggling they tried their best to keep their family safe and together. But she grew up with the fear that her parents might be taken away from her any day, that's when she realized that racism and systemic racism is deeply rooted in the government. She grew up seeing families being separated for the injustice of immigration policy which made her want to take action and educate herself about the injustice in her community.



Tian Hong Zhu (Alex) is a Chinese who was born in Spain, where his mother started a new life and her own small business. Alex would experience, for the first time, Systemic Racism in school where he really believed that he was indeed "different" due to some behavior of professors and mates with respect to his different appearance. It made him refuse anything coming from the Chinese culture and even refused to learn mandarin because he didn't want to feel "different". Alex soon realized that this kind of situation wouldn't only be present in his school life but in every part of his life and the same for people from different origins if Systemic Racism wasn't exposed.



Ashley Campbell immigrated from Jamaica to the U.S. at 7 years old, where she learned that the color of her skin subjected her to marginalization and injustices. Burdened by many interlocking systems of oppression, she recognized a layer of systemic racism that puts her at a disadvantage in succeeding in the realms of higher education. In her journey to being unapologetically black, she learned how to navigate her identities through the determinants and tenets of intersectionality with pride through her teacher, Audre Lorde. To challenge the systems within educational institutions that continue to marginalize children of color, Ashley works as an aftercare teacher where she has the privilege of guiding children in their learning of the world and themselves.

Yash Gandhi was born in India and immigrated to the U.S. when he was 6 years old. He first realized the presence of systemic racism when he studied at a private high school in 9th grade after 9 years in the public school system. He saw the enormous discrepancy in resources and opportunities available to public school students when he returned to public school in 10th grade because of the financial burden a private school education had on his family. Many years later, with his position on a DEI advisory board at Foothill's SLI, he has realized that education is just one area of U.S. society where systemic racism has been perpetuated throughout this country's history.



## Where did it lead us?

The Tradition

Aster. Nasturtium. Delphinium.  
 We thought  
 Fingers in dirt meant it was our dirt, learning  
 Names in heat, in elements classical  
 Philosophers said could change us. Stargazer.  
 Foxglove. Summer seemed to bloom against the will  
 Of the sun, which news reports claimed flamed hotter  
 On this planet than when our dead fathers  
 Wiped sweat from their necks. Cosmos. Baby's Breath.  
 Men like me and my brothers filmed what we  
 Planted for proof we existed before  
 Too late, sped the video to see blossoms  
 Brought in seconds, colors you expect in poems  
 Where the world ends, everything cut down.

John Crawford. Eric Garner. Mike Brown.

— Jericho Brown

Statistical data on its own doesn't tell the whole story



The life stories of victims of systemic racism needs to be humanized and memorialized; their names must be removed from the victim narrative and into the human sphere.

## What did we start with?

New entries published to Wikidata:

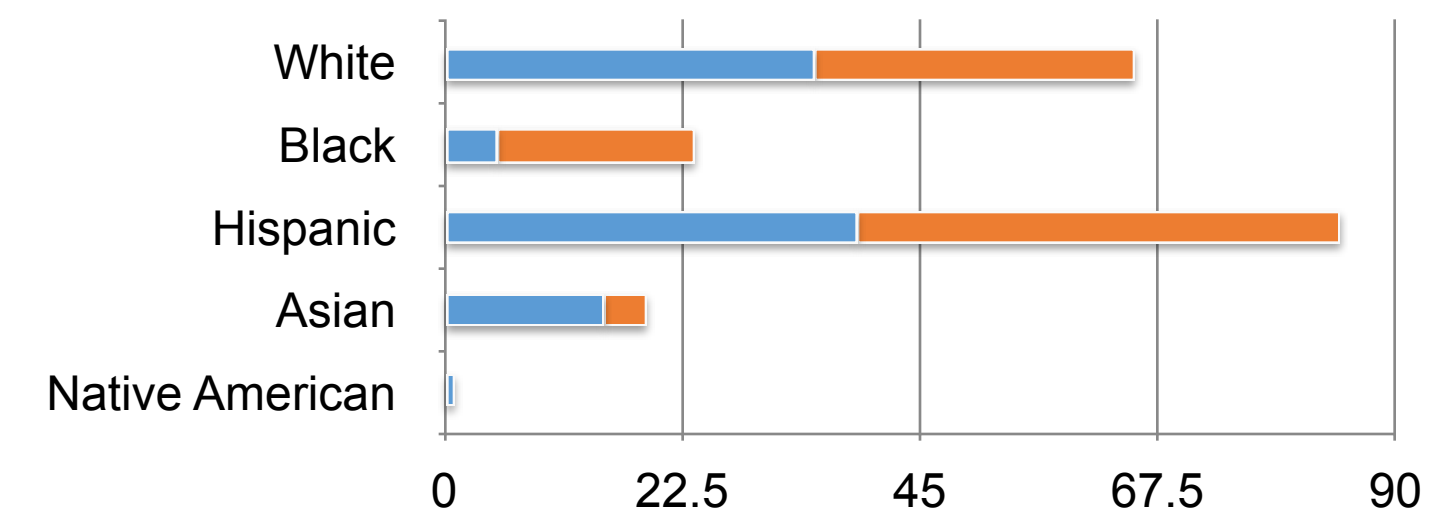
468 California Law enforcement agencies (LEA)

178 Events - the occurrences of deadly police shootings

997 People - the people shot and killed by police

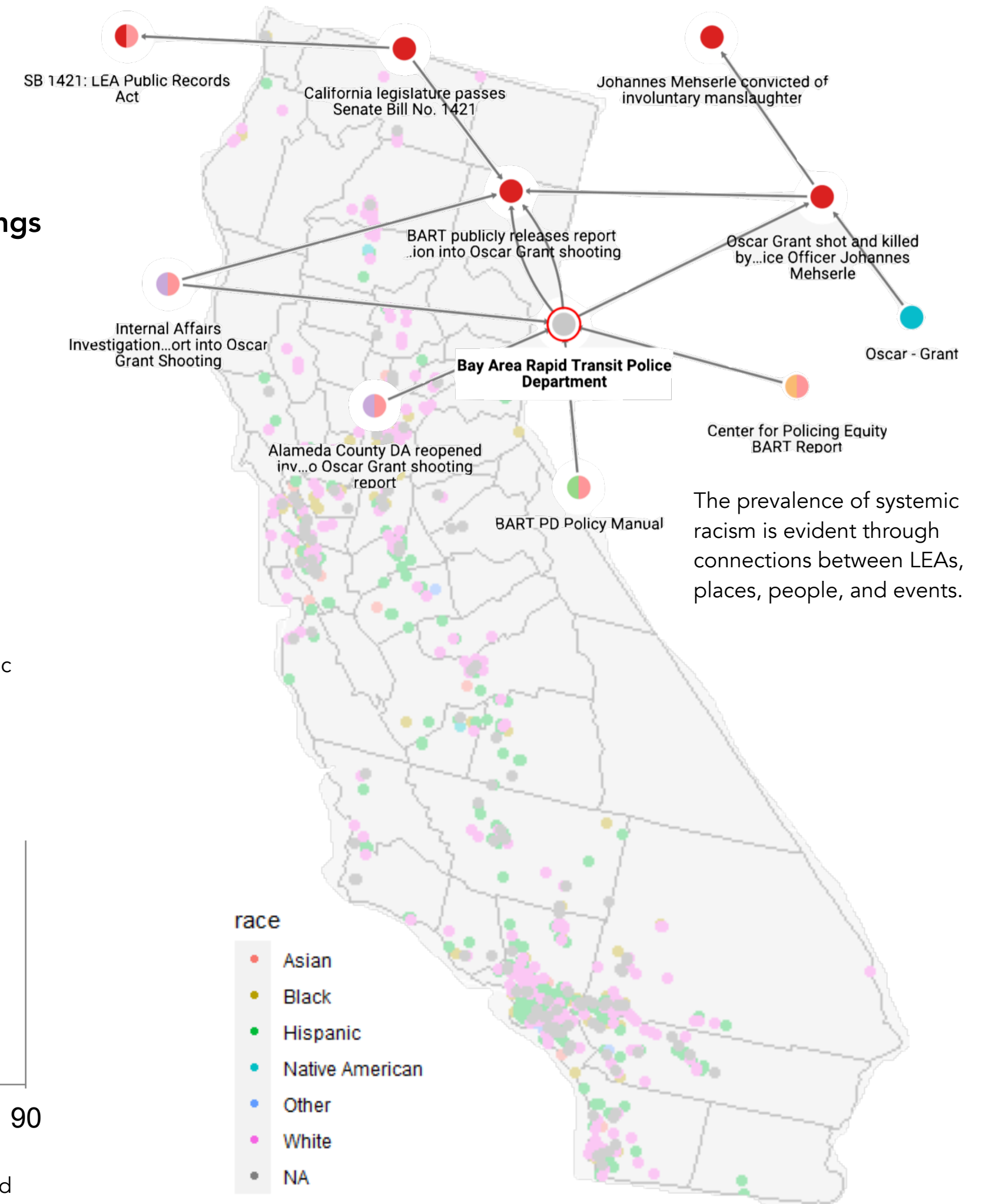


Reconciliation with Wikidata and publication of new entries to build public records of people killed by police in California and linking those people, places, organizations and events to each other.



We had to compare the demographics of people that were shot and killed with the population of California in order to see the true inequalities.

Data sets based on fatal encounters with the police in California



The prevalence of systemic racism is evident through connections between LEAs, places, people, and events.

## How should we proceed?

Understand that the people they're reading and asking questions about are not just victims - they are human beings

We should collect non-statistical data that can be used to create a narrative. The bot would use the narrative to answer questions.

- Was the victim killed with just cause?
- What was the verdict?
- Who were the officers involved?
- Were the police justified?
- What is justice?



Question Answering APP

Context: Breonna Taylor was a 26-year-old Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) living in Louisville, Kentucky. On March 13, 2020, three plainclothes police officers executed a "no-knock" search warrant on her apartment while investigating two men suspected of selling controlled substances more than 10 miles away from Breonna's home. Shortly after midnight, police barged into Breonna's home unannounced while she and her boyfriend Kenneth Walker lay sleeping. Kenneth, who was licensed to carry a firearm, exchanged gunfire with the officers, who fired over 20 shots. Breonna was shot eight times and pronounced dead at the scene. Kenneth was injured. No drugs were found in Breonna's home. The officers not only raided the wrong home but were also attempting to serve a warrant to suspects who were already in police custody. The police officers filed a clearly falsified incident report that stated Breonna had no injuries and that no forced entry had occurred. The police department said that technical errors led to a search.

Question: Were the police justified?

Answer: The police officers filed a clearly falsified incident report. Score: 0.0028598657809197903

Buttons: Clear, Submit

The responses can open people to think more critically.

The confidence score is usually low. What does that mean?

