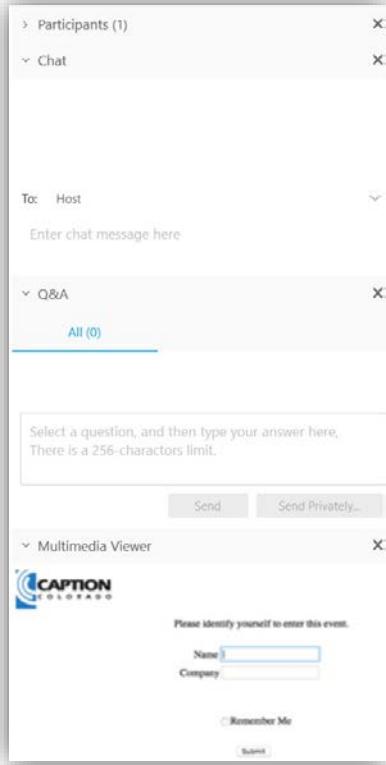


# **NCI Webinar: Place-Based Strategies for Disease, Injury, and Violence Prevention**

# Using WebEx and webinar logistics



- All lines will be in listen-only mode
- Make sure icons are selected for them to appear as a drop down option
- Submit questions at any time during the presentation by typing into the Q&A feature on the right hand side of the WebEx interface.
  - Select Host and a moderator will ask the questions on your behalf
- Closed captioning available by selecting the Media Viewer Panel on the right hand side of the screen
- This webinar is being recorded



Michelle Kondo, Ph.D.  
Research Scientist  
USDA Forest Service

## Webinar Overview

*NCI Webinar: Place-Based Strategies for Disease, Injury, and Violence Prevention*



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[www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)

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# Place-Based Strategies for Disease, Violence, and Injury Prevention in Urban Areas

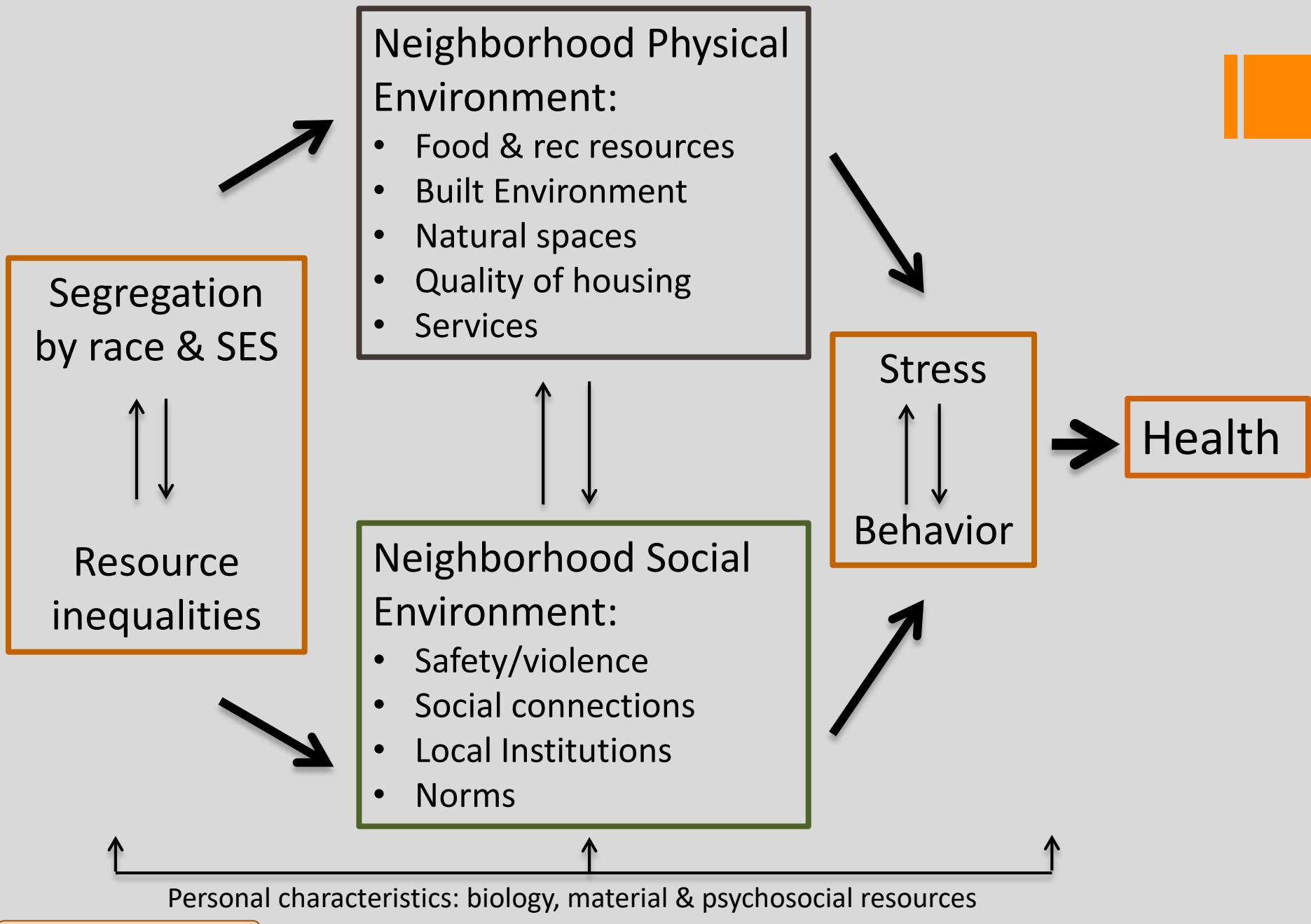
Michelle C. Kondo, Ph.D.

*Research Social Scientist* USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station @usfs\_nrs  
Philadelphia Field Station #phillyfieldstation michelle.c.kondo@usda.gov @MichelleCKondo

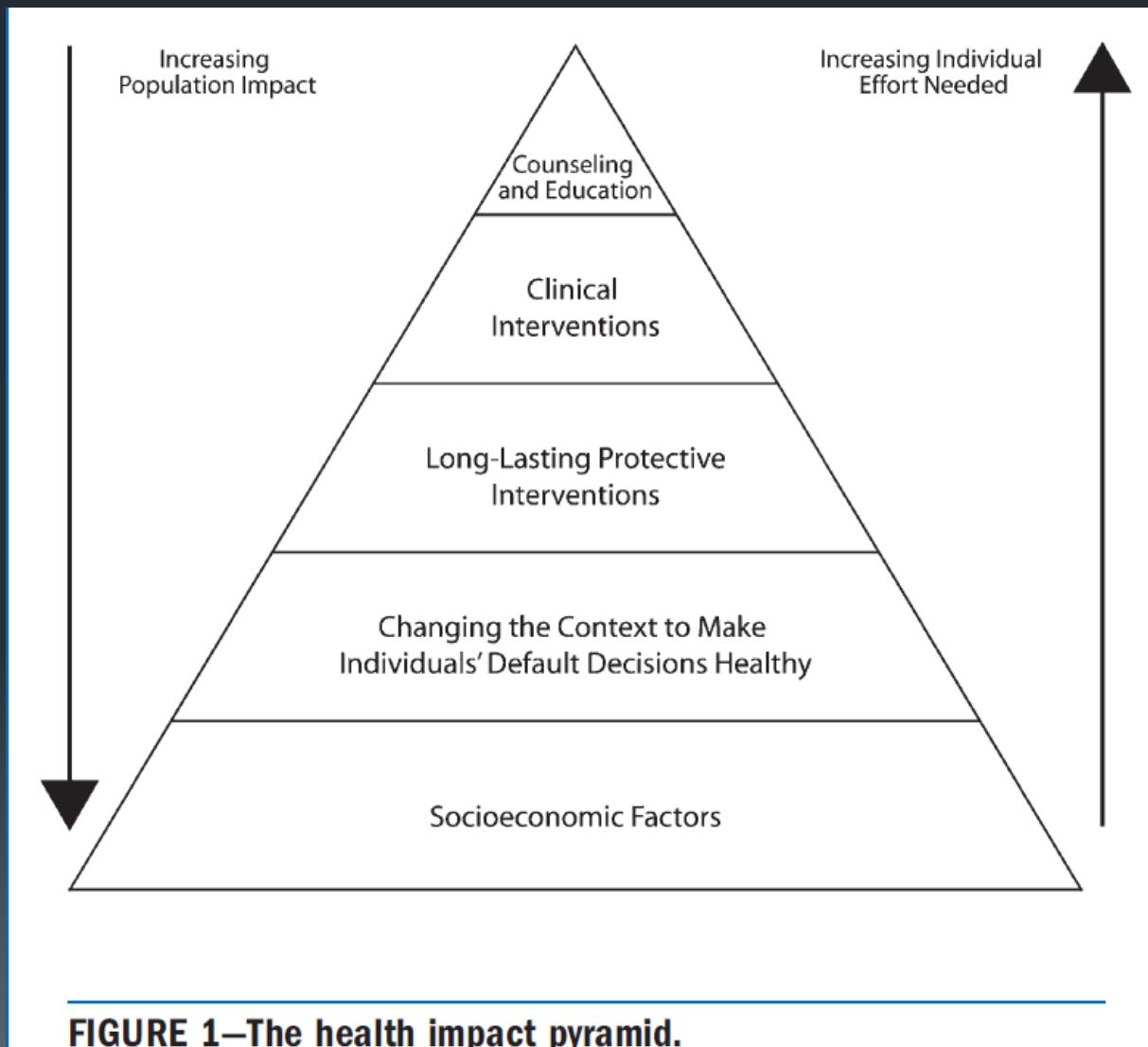


Place matters





# Improving Urban Environments as a Public Health Strategy



# Can urban place- and nature-based interventions improve public health and safety?



Before



After

vacant-lot greening



doors & windows  
treatment

# Health Outcomes Tied to Urban Nature Exposure

- ▪ Mortality
- Heart rate
- Mental health
- Crime & violence
- Post-operative recovery

+

- Attention
- Mood

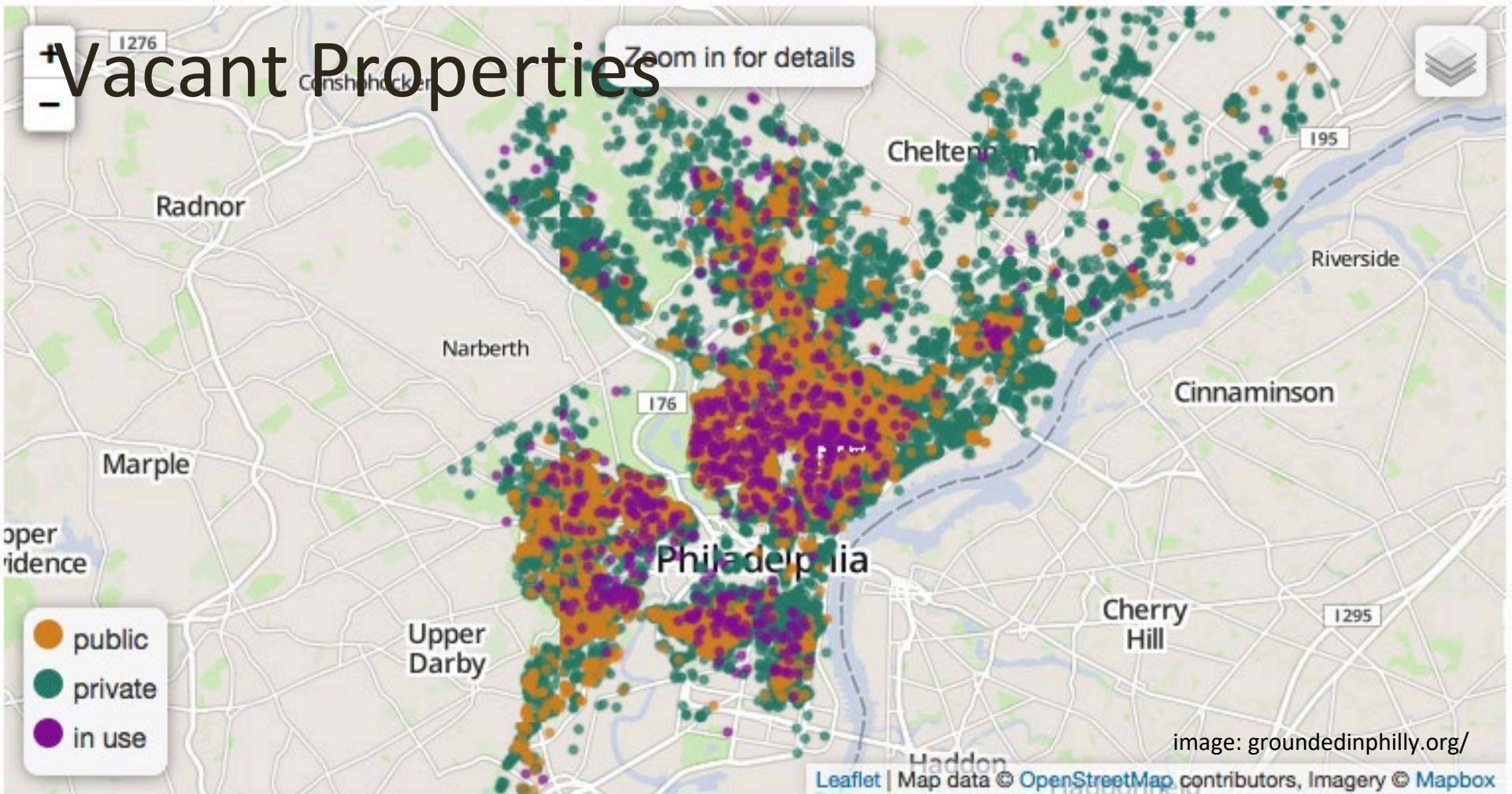




*Annual Review of Public Health*  
Neighborhood Interventions  
to Reduce Violence

Michelle C. Kondo,<sup>1</sup> Elena Andreyeva,<sup>2</sup>  
Eugenia C. South,<sup>3</sup> John M. MacDonald,<sup>4</sup>  
and Charles C. Branas<sup>5</sup>

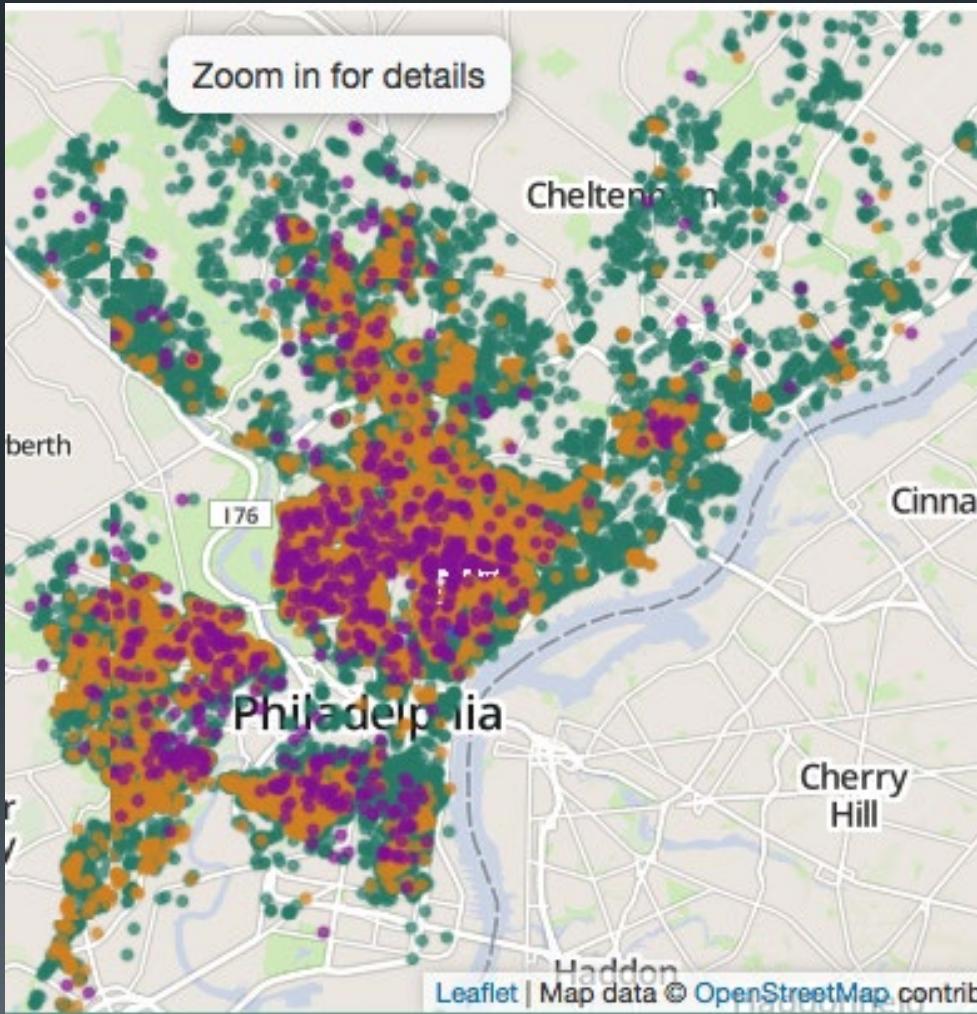
# Vacant Properties



- Trash dumping
- Rodents
- Pathogens
- Illicit activity
- Fear, anxiety, stress, depression



# Vacant Properties in Philadelphia



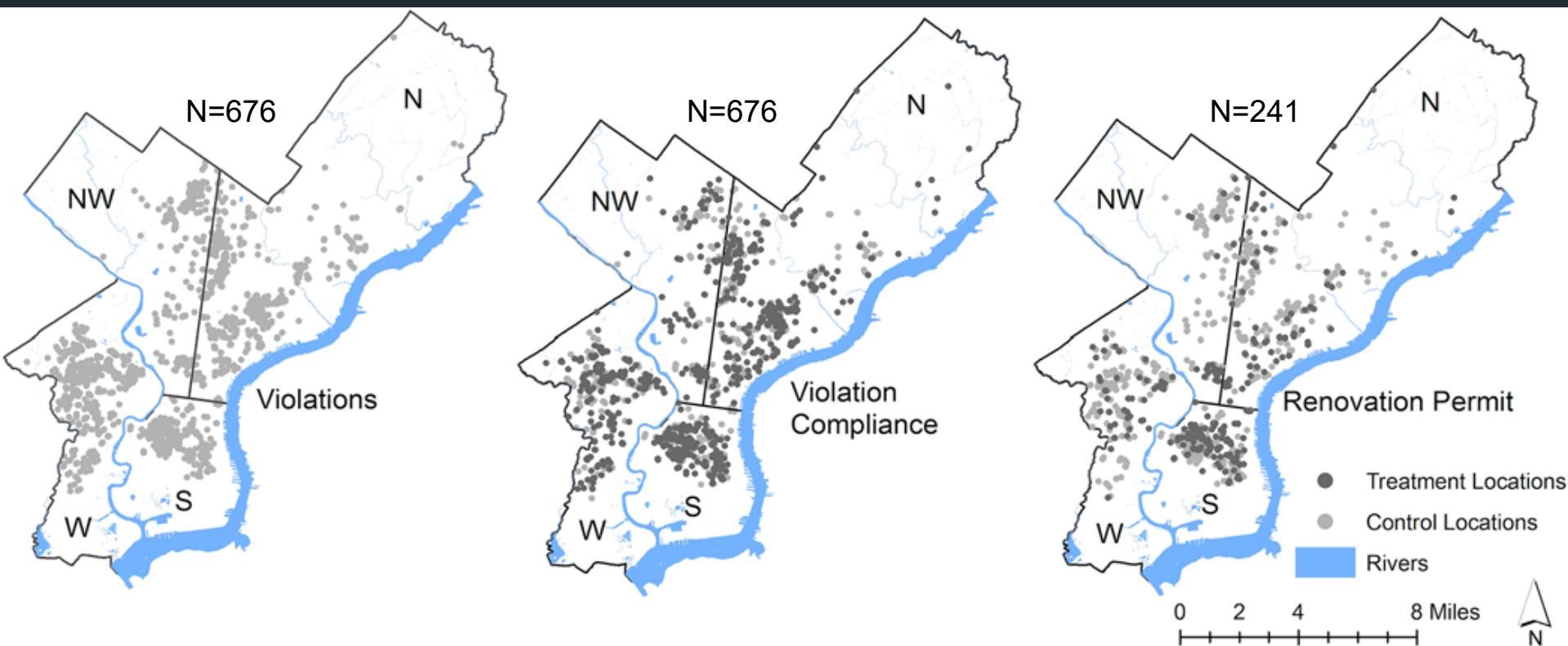
- 40,000 vacant land parcels
  - 23.1% owned by city
  - 76.9% privately owned
- Abandoned buildings per capita:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Baltimore
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Detroit
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Philadelphia

# Doors and Windows Treatment & Crime

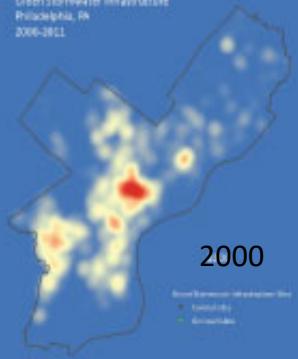
An evaluation of effects of Doors & Windows treatment on crime  
in Philadelphia, PA (2011-2014)



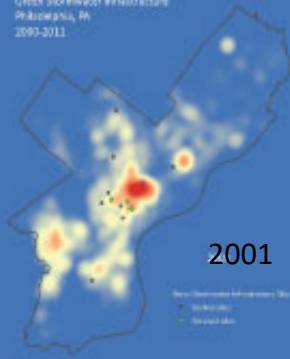
Kondo, Keene, Hohl, MacDonald, Branas (2015). The effects of a new vacant building remediation strategy on safety.  
*PlosOne*, 10(7).



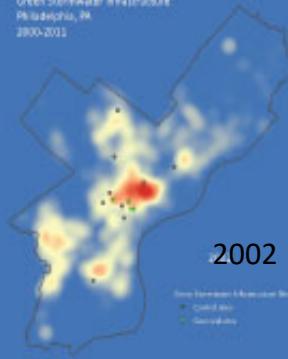
Nanotexts Persistence &  
Green Stormwater Infrastructure  
Philadelphia, PA  
2006-2011



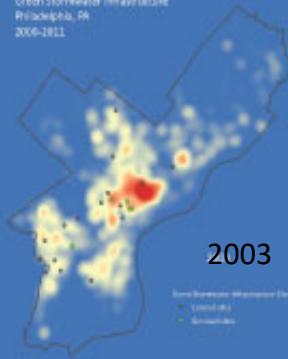
Nanotexts Persistence &  
Green Stormwater Infrastructure  
Philadelphia, PA  
2009-2011



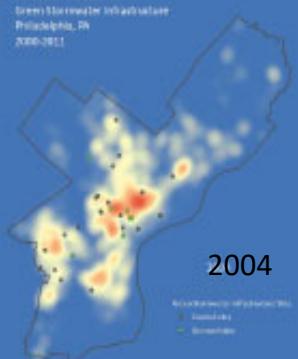
Nanotexts Persistence &  
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2000-2011



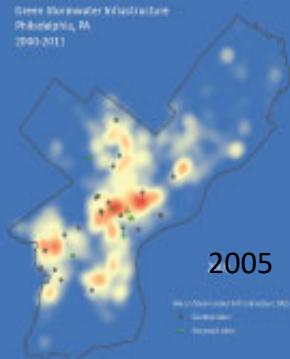
Nanotexts Persistence &  
Green Stormwater Infrastructure  
Philadelphia, PA  
2006-2011



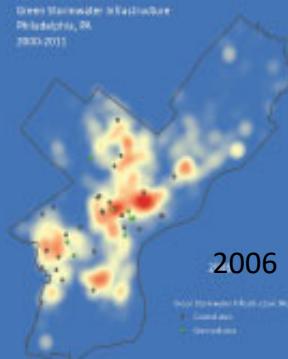
Nanotexts Persistence &  
Green Stormwater Infrastructure  
Philadelphia, PA  
2006-2011



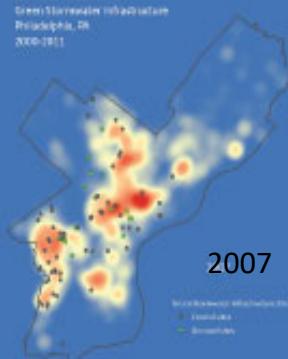
Nanotexts Persistence &  
Green Stormwater Infrastructure  
Philadelphia, PA  
2009-2011



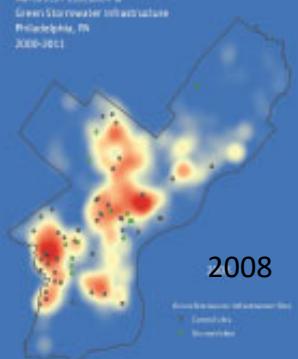
Nanotexts Persistence &  
Green Stormwater Infrastructure  
Philadelphia, PA  
2000-2011



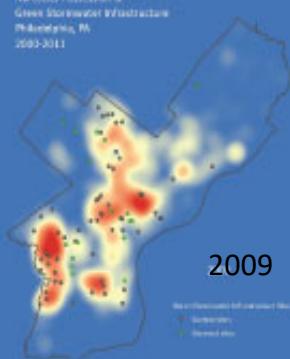
Nanotexts Persistence &  
Green Stormwater Infrastructure  
Philadelphia, PA  
2006-2011



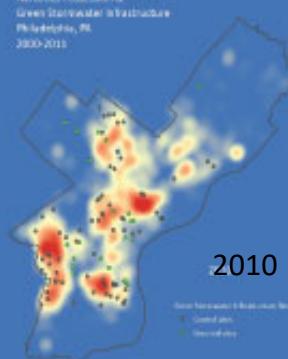
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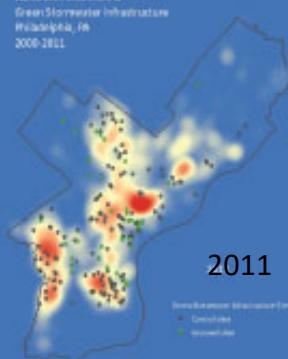
Nanotexts Persistence &  
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2009-2011

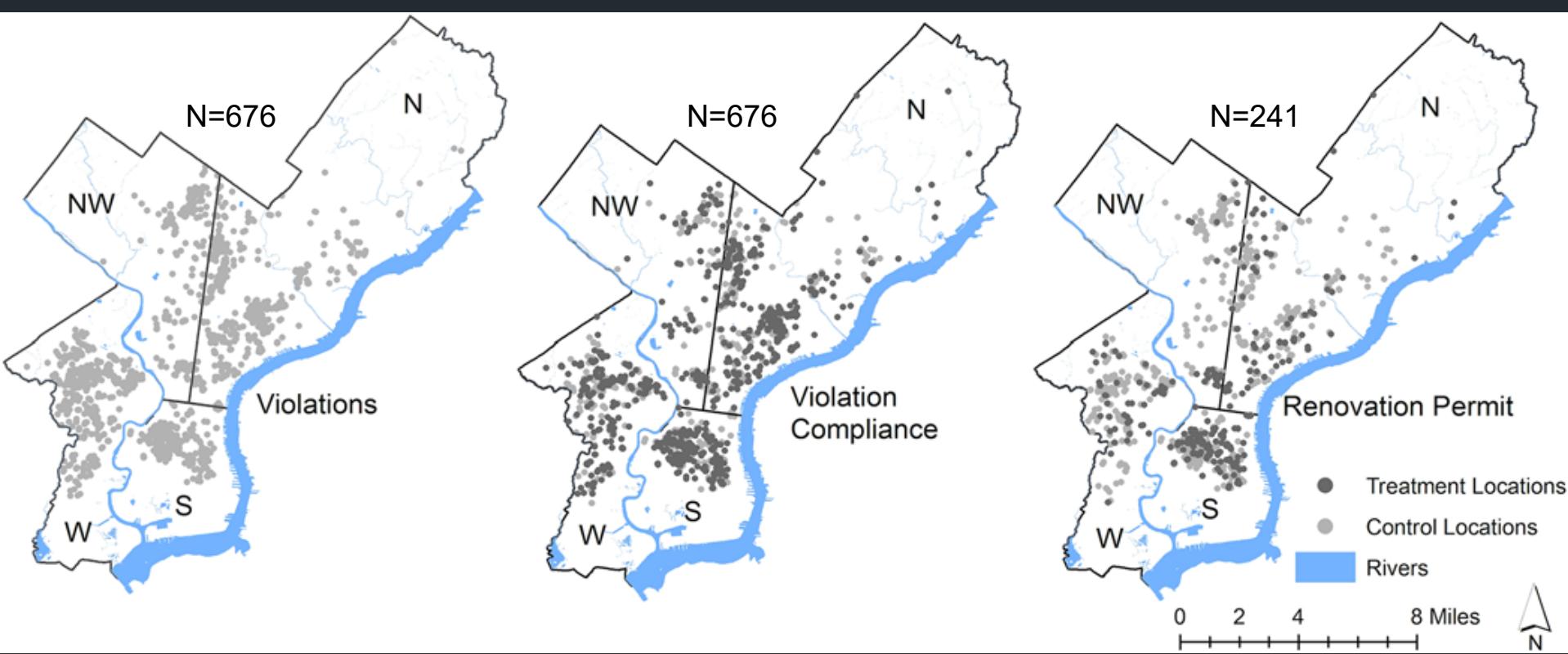


Nanotexts Persistence &  
Green Stormwater Infrastructure  
Philadelphia, PA  
2000-2011



Nanotexts Persistence &  
Green Stormwater Infrastructure  
Philadelphia, PA  
2006-2011





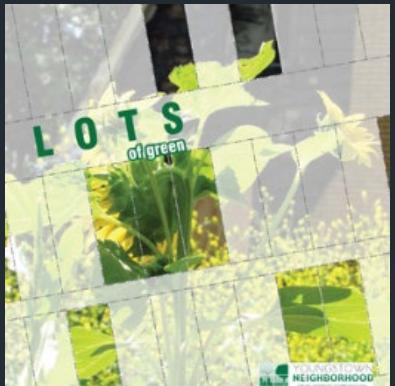
Adjusted Difference-in-Differences Estimates of Violation Compliance on Point-Level Crime Outcomes

	All Philadelphia	
	IRR	SE
All crimes	0.99	0.00 **
Violent gun crimes	1.00	0.01
All assaults	0.98	0.00 ***
Gun assaults	0.96	0.01 ***
Robberies	1.01	0.00 **
Narcotics sales & possession	1.03	0.00 ***
Property crimes	1.03	0.00 ***
Vandalism & illegal dumping	0.99	0.00
All nuisance crimes	0.99	0.00 ***

Adjusted Difference-in-Differences Estimates of Renovation Permits on Point-Level Crime Outcomes

	All Philadelphia	
	IRR	SE
All crimes	0.96	0.00 ***
Violent gun crimes	0.90	0.01 ***
All assaults	0.92	0.00 ***
Gun assaults	-	-
Robberies	0.98	0.01 ***
Narcotics sales & possession	0.87	0.01 ***
Property crimes	0.87	0.01 ***
Vandalism & illegal dumping	0.98	0.01 ***
All nuisance crimes	0.98	0.00 ***

Results: Significant reductions in all crimes, assaults, gun assaults, nuisance crimes



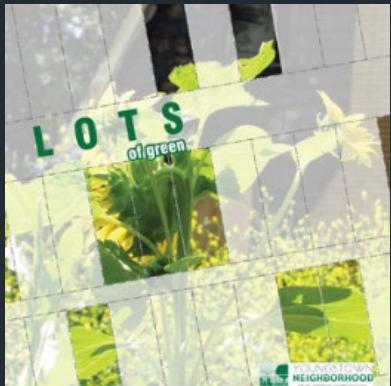
# Contractor vs. Community Greening in Youngstown, OH 2011-2014



v1.0: "clean & green"

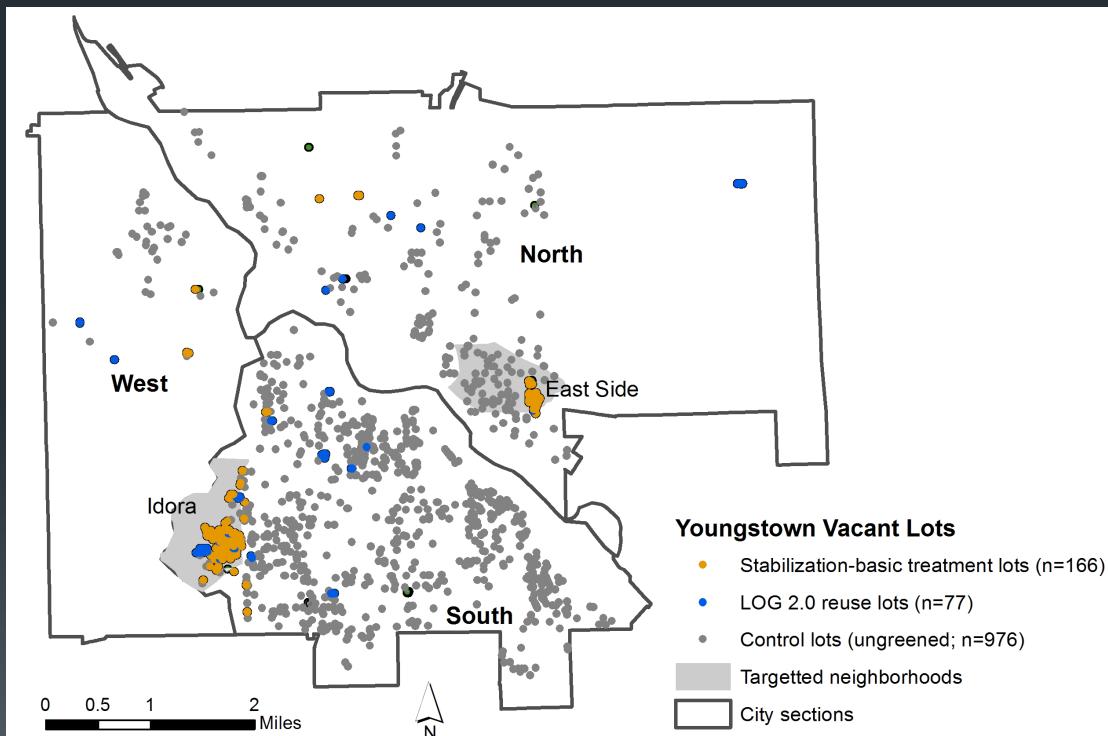


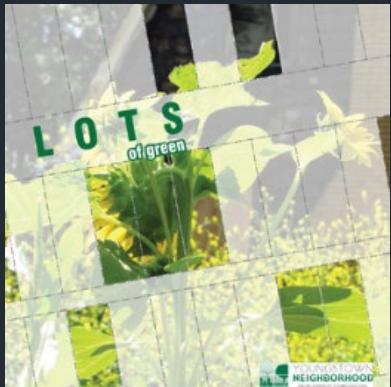
v2.0: "community reuse"



# Contractor vs. Community Greening in Youngstown, OH

244 greened lots randomly matched with 959 control vacant lots





# Contractor vs. Community Greening in Youngstown, OH

- Significant reductions in burglaries and robberies (all lots & clean&green lots); reductions in assaults and violent felonies (community reuse lots)
- Increases in motor vehicle theft (all lots)
- Spill-over crime-reduction effects into neighboring areas, especially with community reuse lots



# Vacant Lot Greening Studies

1. Retrospective  
Quasi-experimental

2. Prospective  
Pilot RCT

3. Youngstown  
Quasi-experimental

4. Prospective  
Citywide RCT

2011

2012

2015

2018

Outcomes: crime, safety, stress, mental health

# Citywide cluster randomized trial to restore blighted vacant land and its effects on violence, crime, and fear

Charles C. Branas<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Eugenia South<sup>c</sup>, Michelle C. Kondo<sup>d</sup>, Bernadette C. Hohl<sup>e,f</sup>, Philippe Bourgois<sup>g</sup>, Douglas J. Wiebe<sup>b</sup>, and John M. MacDonald<sup>h</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, NY 10032; <sup>b</sup>Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Informatics, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104; <sup>c</sup>Department of Emergency Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104; <sup>d</sup>Northern Research Station, Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture, Philadelphia, PA 19103; <sup>e</sup>Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ 08854; <sup>f</sup>School of Criminal Justice, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ 07102; <sup>g</sup>Center for Social Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90095; and <sup>h</sup>Department of Criminology, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104

## Methods:

- 541 vacant lots randomly assigned to treatment and control
- Outcomes: crime/violence data; health outcomes from 445 participants; ethnographic observations
- 38-month study period
- Intention to Treat Analysis (ITT)

## Funders:

- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- CDC

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



BEFORE



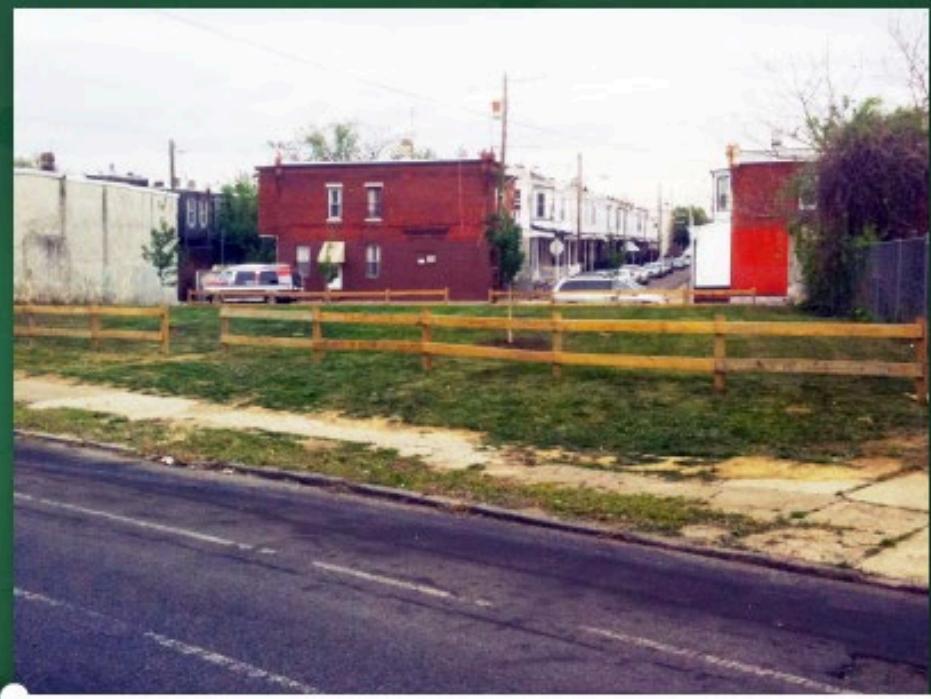
AFTER

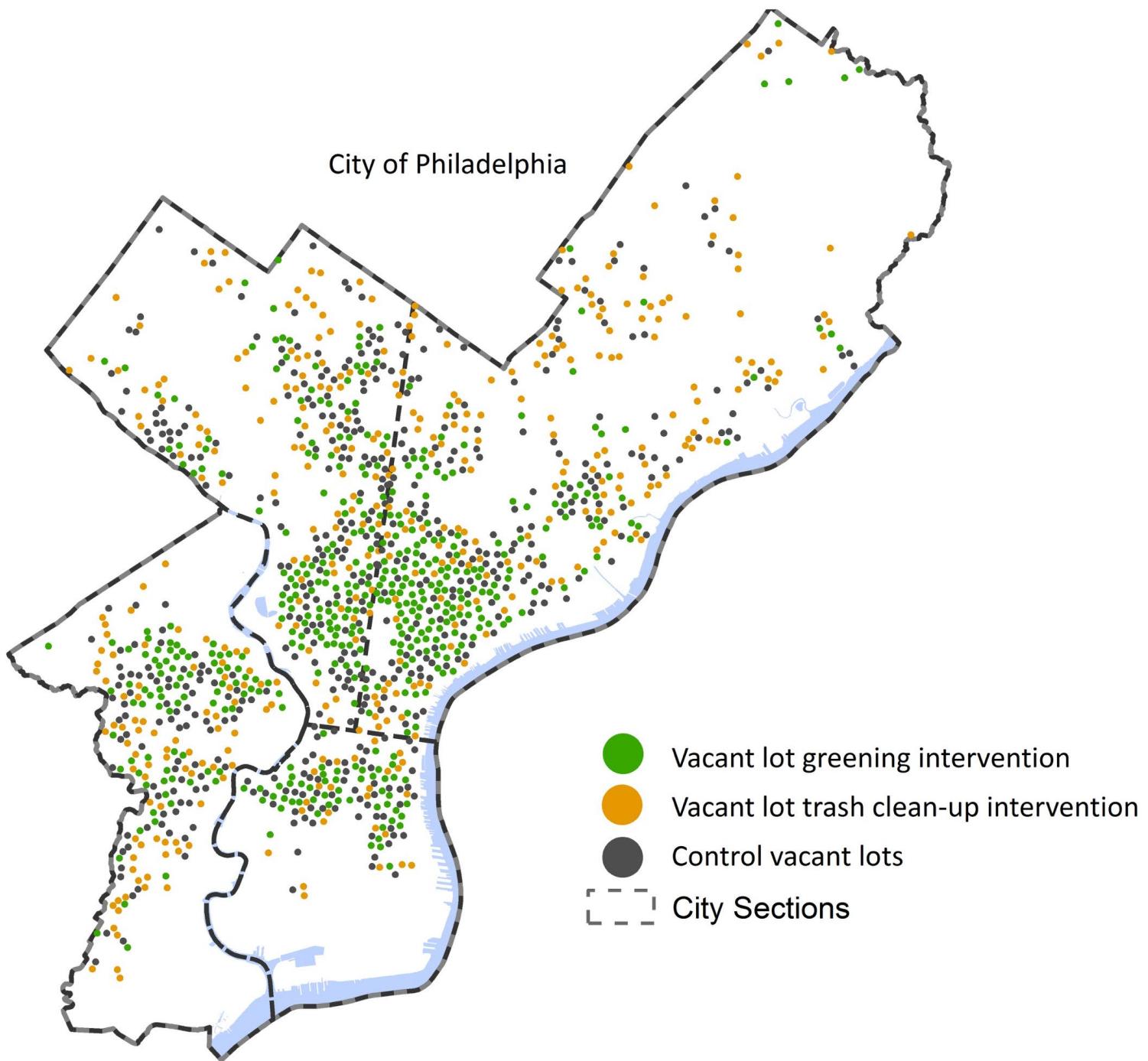


BEFORE



AFTER





# Citywide cluster randomized trial to restore blighted vacant land and its effects on violence, crime, and fear

Charles C. Branas<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Eugenia South<sup>c</sup>, Michelle C. Kondo<sup>d</sup>, Bernadette C. Hohl<sup>e,f</sup>, Philippe Bourgois<sup>g</sup>, Douglas J. Wiebe<sup>b</sup>, and John M. MacDonald<sup>h</sup>

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## Findings:

- Significant reductions in crime overall (-13%), gun violence (-29%), burglary (-22%), and nuisances (-30%) in neighborhoods below the poverty line
- Significantly reduced perceptions of crime, vandalism, and safety concerns; and significantly increased use of outside spaces for relaxing and socializing

# Effect of Greening Vacant Land on Mental Health of Community-Dwelling Adults

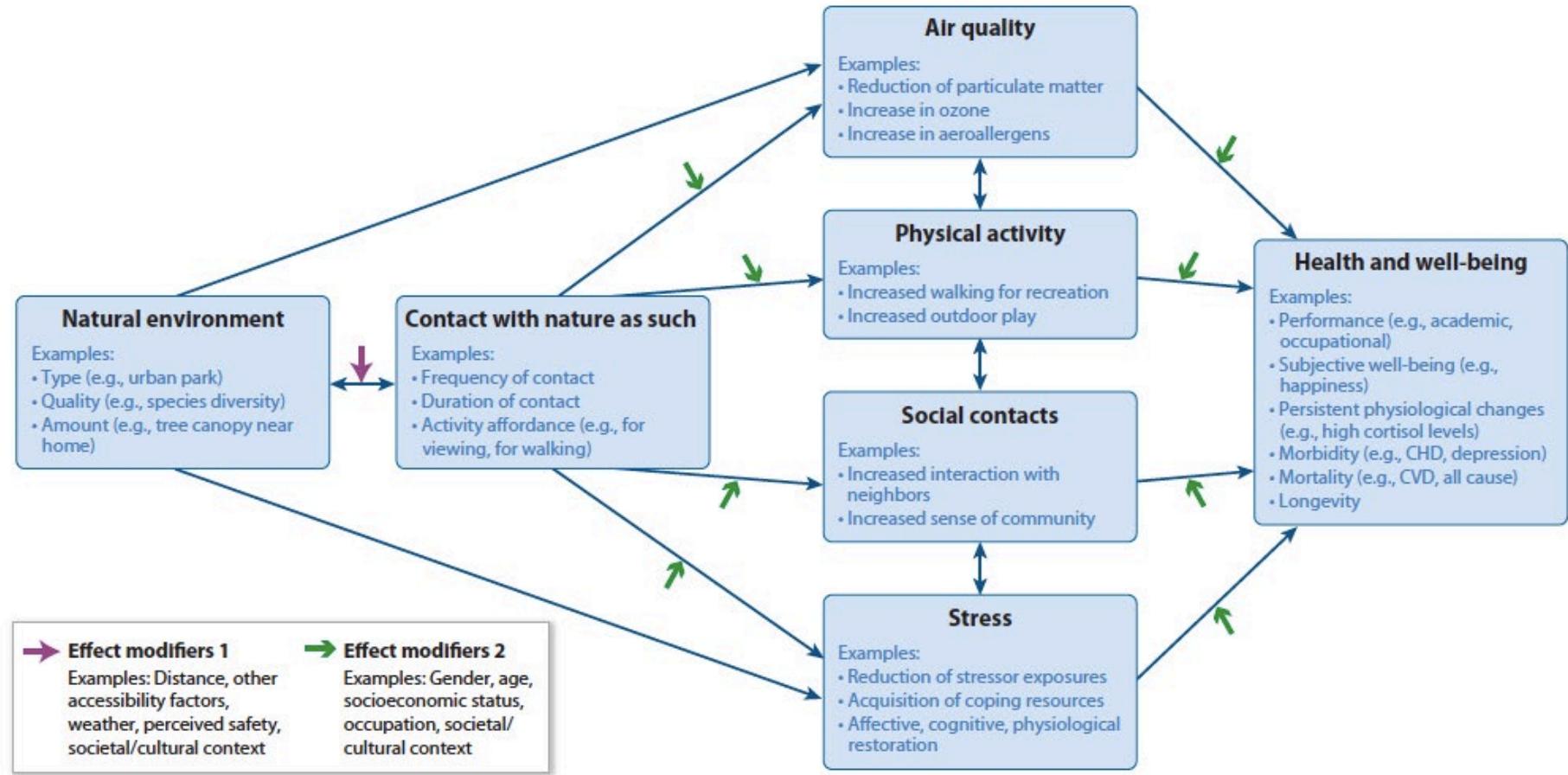
## A Cluster Randomized Trial

Eugenia C. South, MD, MS; Bernadette C. Hohl, PhD; Michelle C. Kondo, PhD; John M. MacDonald, PhD; Charles C. Branas, PhD

- 442 participants surveyed before and after intervention
- Significant decrease in depression and feeling of worthlessness for participants living near treatment lots
- No change in feeling nervous, hopeless, restless, that everything is an effort, or poor mental health

# Places and Health: Mechanisms

*Everyday environments can influence health and safety*





## Does spending time outdoors reduce stress? A review of real-time stress response to outdoor environments



Michelle C. Kondo<sup>a,\*</sup>, Sara F. Jacoby<sup>b</sup>, Eugenia C. South<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> USDA-Forest Service, Northern Research Station, 100 North 20th Street, Ste 205, Philadelphia, PA 19103, USA

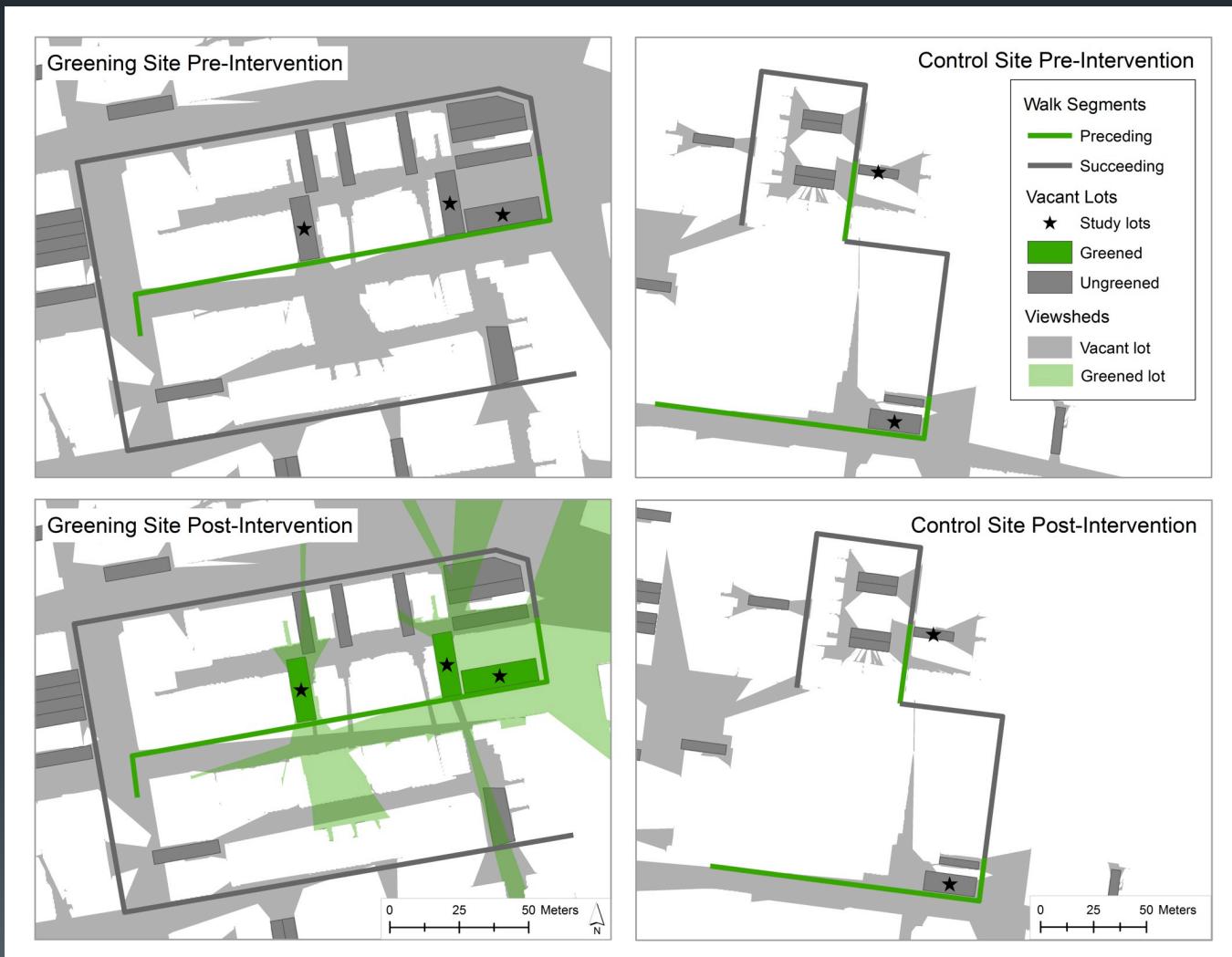
<sup>b</sup> School of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA

<sup>c</sup> Department of Emergency Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA

### ABSTRACT

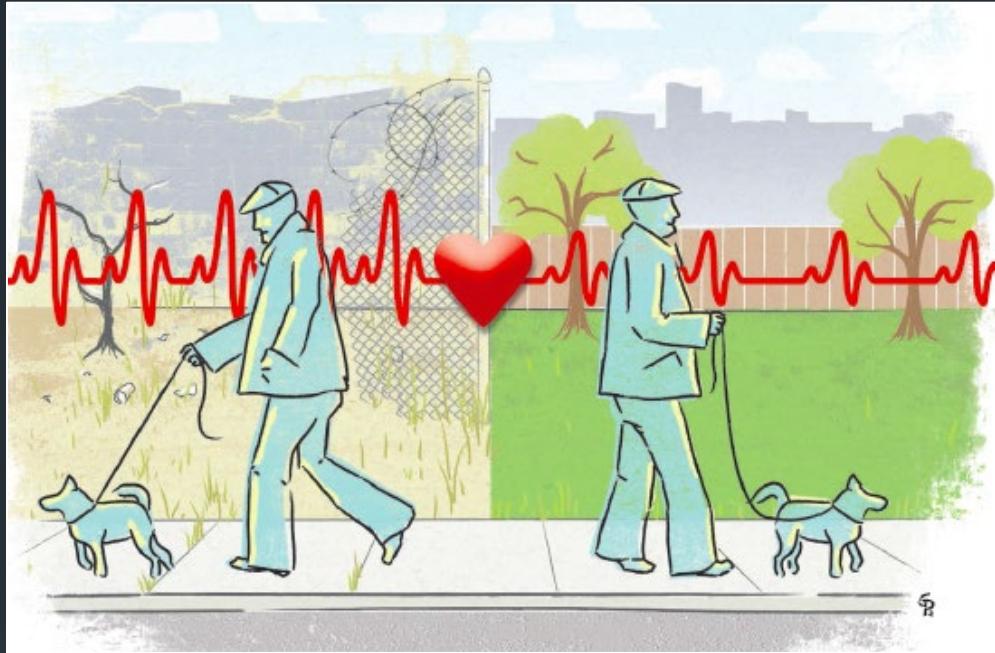
Everyday environmental conditions impact human health. One mechanism underlying this relationship is the experience of stress. Through systematic review of published literature, we explore how stress has been measured in real-time non-laboratory studies of stress responses to deliberate exposure to outdoor environments. The types of exposures evaluated in this review include: nature viewing, outdoor walks, outdoor exercise and gardening. We characterize study design, modalities of stress measurements, and statistical estimates of effect and significance. Heart rate, blood pressure, and self-report measures provide the most convincing evidence that spending time in outdoor environments, particularly those with green space, may reduce the experience of stress, and ultimately improve health. More work is needed to understand effects of in situ modifications to outdoor environments on residents' stress response.

# Does vacant-lot clean & green impact stress levels of nearby residents?



South, Kondo, Cheney, Branas (2015) Neighborhood blight, stress, and health: A walking trial of urban greening and ambulatory heart rate. *American Journal of Public Health*, 105(4):909-913.

# Does vacant-lot clean & green impact stress levels of nearby residents?



Greening site:  
-15.6 bpm,  $p < .001$

Control site:  
-1.7 bpm

Significant drop in heart rate (marker of acute stress) when walking in view of newly greened vacant lots

# Return on Investment



TABLE 2—Percent Reductions in Violence After Implementation of 2 Blight Remediation Strategies: Philadelphia, PA, 1999–2013

Assault Type	Abandoned Building Remediation, % (95% CI)	Vacant Lot Remediation, % (95% CI)
Firearm	-39.2 (-50.1, -27.5)	-4.6 (-5.0, -4.2)
Nonfirearm	-13.0 (-18.5, 7.4)	-0.4 (-0.7, 0.1)
All	-19.6 (-27.7, 11.1)	-2.2 (-2.4, -1.9)
Period of sustained effect	12.0 mo	45.8 mo

Vacant lots:

- Typical cost \$1600, \$180/year maintenance
- \$26 in net benefits to taxpayers and \$333 to society at large, for every dollar invested

# Potential Long-Term Effects

## Punishing and toxic neighborhood environments independently predict the intergenerational social mobility of black and white children

Robert Manduca<sup>a</sup> and Robert J. Sampson<sup>a,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Sociology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138

Contributed by Robert J. Sampson, February 25, 2019 (sent for review December 4, 2018; reviewed by John M. MacDonald and Bruce Western)

- “Neighborhood toxicity” a stronger predictor than poverty of lower income mobility, and higher rates of teenage birth and incarceration as an adult
  - High rates of violence, incarceration and lead exposure
- Black children disproportionately burdened by harshness/toxicity

# Other Intervention Studies

- Abandoned Building Renovation Study (NIH National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; C. Branas & J. MacDonald; Philadelphia)
- Youth Violence Prevention Center (CDC; U Mich; M. Zimmerman; Flint, Youngstown, & Camden)
- New Orleans Healthy Neighborhoods Study (NIH National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD); RWJF; Tulane; K. Theall)
  - To evaluate the impact of blight remediation of neighborhood lots on family violence and youth violence; examine the moderating impact of community level buffers

In development: Baltimore, Wilmington, Pittsburgh

# Questions Regarding Practice

- Who is doing vacant land mitigation or other place-based interventions?
- How are they funded?
- What are the practical challenges and barriers?
- What tools do they need?
- What was/is the return on investment?



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AMERICAN FORESTS



PHOTO COURTESY VISIT DENVER



## IMPACTS

-  Human Health
-  Economic Development
-  Water Quality
-  Air Quality
-  Public Safety
-  Equity
-  Transportation
-  Education
-  City Planning
-  Smart Cities Tech
-  Urban Wood Reuse

## Human Health

Urban forests reduce a variety of health issues, such as respiratory diseases and skin cancer, and promote an active lifestyle, which can reduce obesity.

### RESEARCH

#### Social Impact

#### Mental Impact

#### Physical Impact

### CASE STUDIES

#### Little Rock Combats Chronic Diseases Through "Medical Mile Trail"

#### Philadelphia LandCare Program

#### El Paso, TX: Campus Expands Urban Forest 60% for Mental Health

#### Louisville, KY: Green Spaces Make Healthier Places

#### New York, NY: Streets without trees harm kids and seniors

#### Amigos de los Ríos and the Emerald Necklace

## URBAN FORESTRY TOOLKIT

**GET STARTED →**

-  Assess
-  Prioritize
-  Organize
-  Plan
-  Build
-  Sustain



# Thank you

Michelle C. Kondo, Ph.D.

*Research Social Scientist* USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station @usfs\_nrs  
Philadelphia Field Station #phillyfieldstation michelle.c.kondo@usda.gov @MichelleCKondo