

Making Black Lives Matter: Neighborhood Investments to Promote Health & Safety

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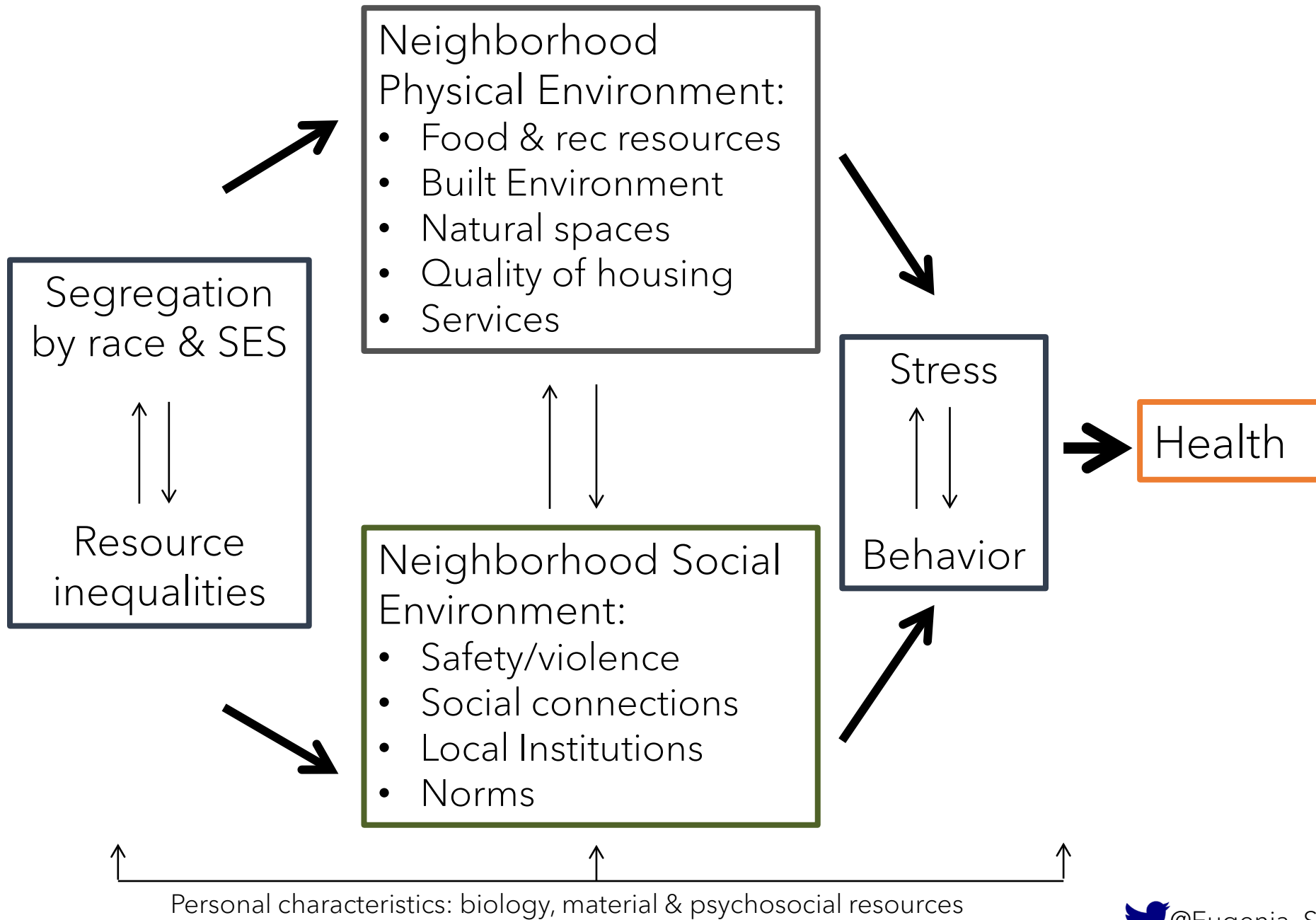
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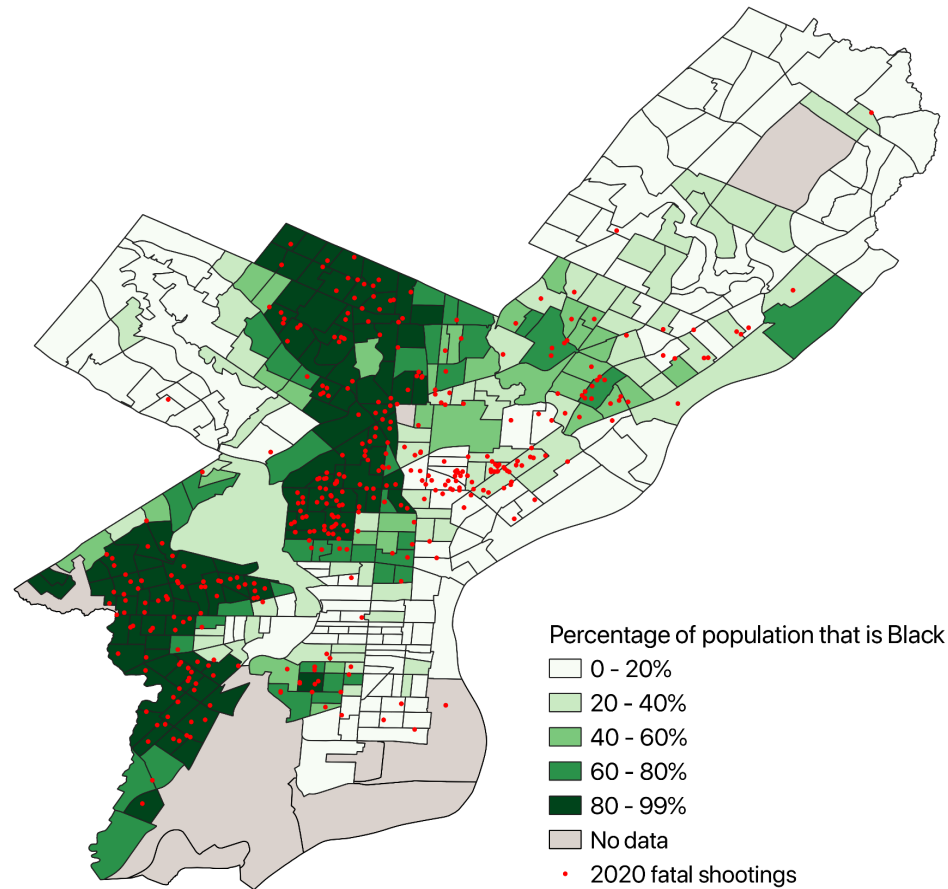
NIEHS Advancing Environmental Health Equity

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Segregation results in unequally distributed neighborhood level resources and risks



- Concentrated poverty
- Lack of economic opportunity
- Failing public schools
- Mass incarceration and the police surveillance state
- **Deteriorating neighborhood physical environments**

Neighborhood environment interventions are **vital** to advancing health equity



1. Vacant lot greening
2. Abandoned house remediation

Vacant Lot Greening



Before



During



After



Before



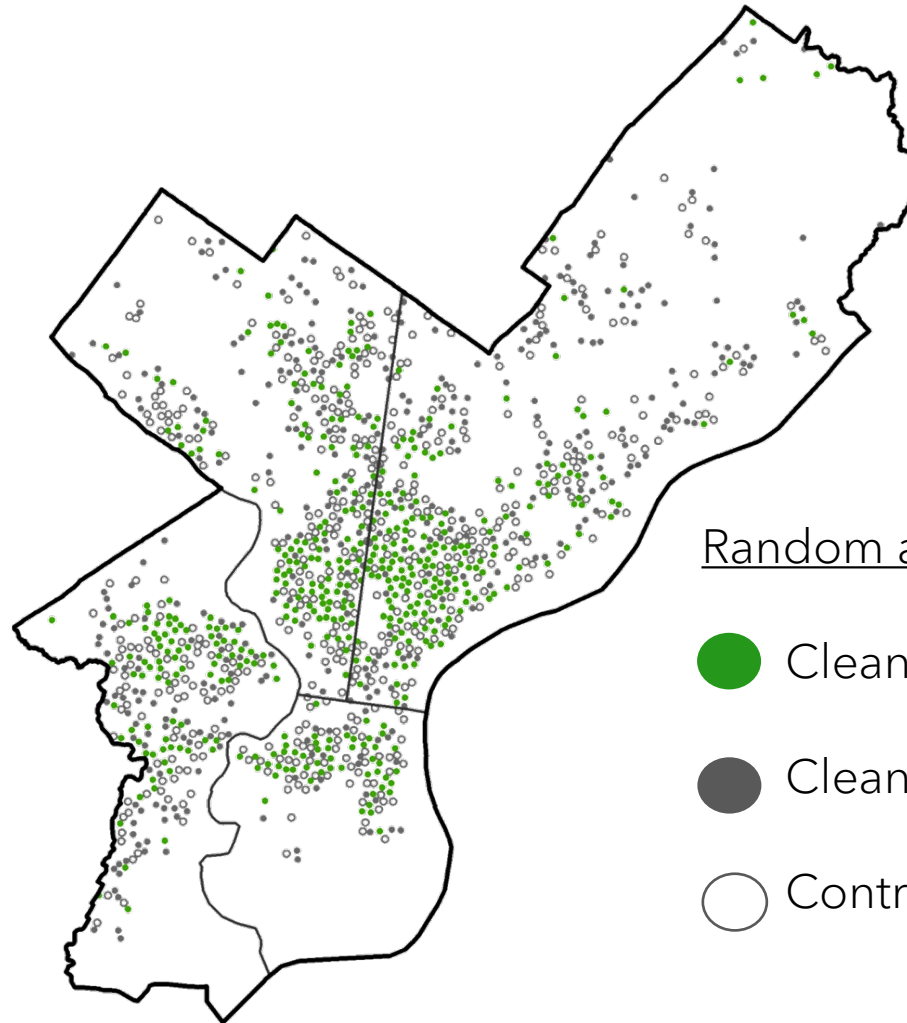
During



After

Citywide RCT of vacant lot greening

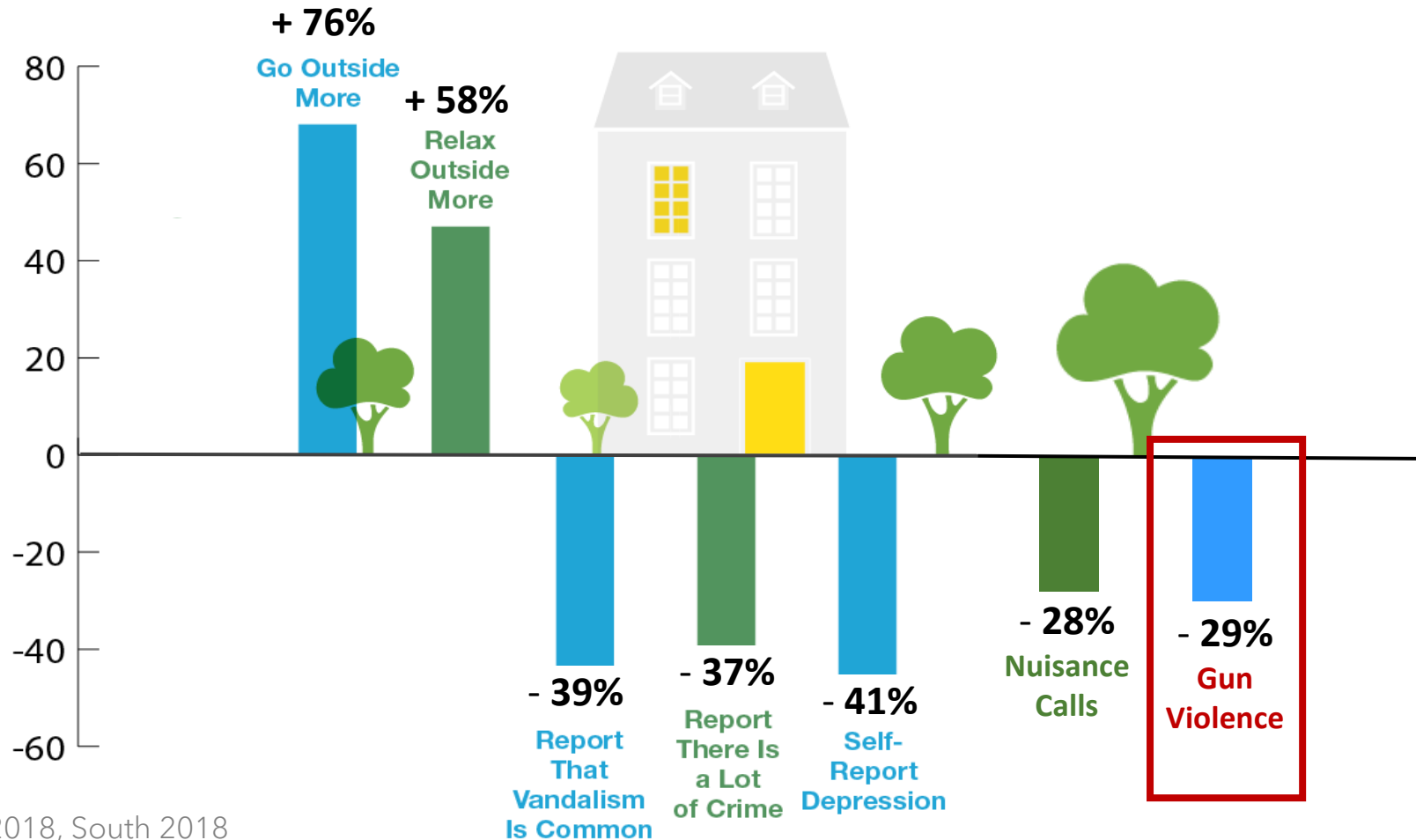
- Big team effort
- Neighborhoods: majority Black
- 445 people (majority Black) living nearby interviewed 19 months pre/post
- Police reported crime



Random assignment (541 lots):

- Cleaning + Greening + Maintenance
- Cleaning + Maintenance
- Control lots

Vacant lot greening reduces gun violence



Branas 2018, South 2018

Citywide RCT abandoned house remediation

- Neighborhoods:
majority Black
- 258 abandoned houses:
 - Remediation
 - Trash cleanup only
 - No-intervention control
- Police-reported crime 18 months pre/post



House remediation reduces violent crime

	<u>House Remediation</u>	<u>Trash Cleanup</u>
Weapons Offenses	↓	↓
Gun Assaults	↓	↓
Shootings	↓	↑

South 2021, under review

What's next? IGNITE

- A randomized controlled trial of concentrated investment in Black neighborhoods to address structural racism as a fundamental cause of poor health
- Nearly \$10M NIH award
- PIs: Eugenia South, MD MS, Urban Health Lab
Atheen Venkataramani, MD PhD, Opportunity for Health Lab

“Big push” intervention

- 60 randomly selected clusters (4x4 blocks)
 - 30 to receive intervention
- Enroll 720 adults (12/cluster)



- Environmental justice (community-level)
 - Vacant lot greening (150)
 - Abandoned house remediation (90)
 - Tree planting (300)
 - Trash clean-up (weekly)
- Economic justice (household-level)
 - Tax preparation (360 people)
 - Connection to benefits (360)
 - Financial counseling (360)
 - Emergency cash grants (180)

Neighborhood environment intervention implementation considerations

- Structural racism
 - Power, money, access to opportunity
- Community partnership and empowerment
- Local government
- Gentrification
- Academic medicine and funding