



# CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



# Capital Improvements: An Opportunity to Address Community Gun Violence

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VA



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Veterans Health Administration  
Office of Academic Affiliations

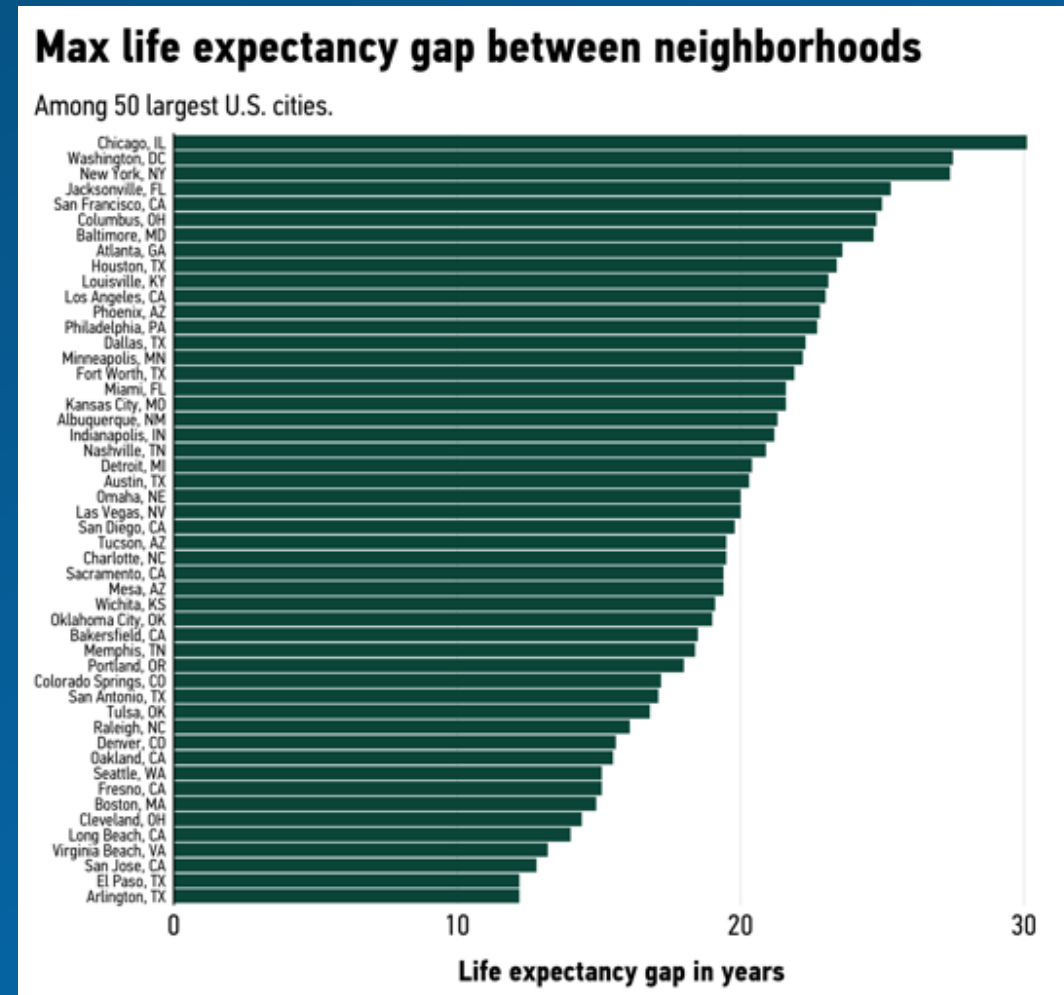
# Disclosures

The views expressed in this presentation do not represent the views of the NIH, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or the United States Government.

# Zip code as a predictor of health

RESEARCH, PRESS RELEASES | JUNE 5, 2019

## Large Life Expectancy Gaps in U.S. Cities Linked to Racial & Ethnic Segregation by Neighborhood

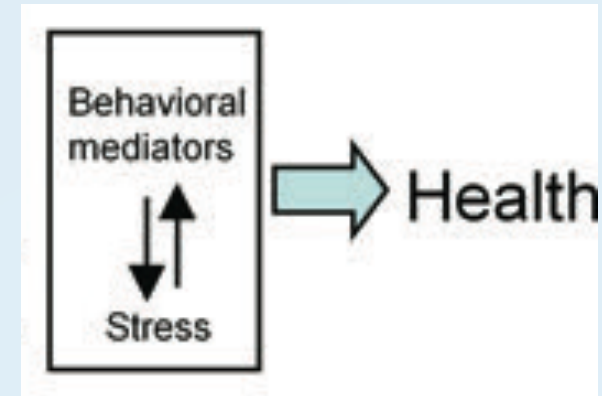


Source: NYU School of Medicine's Department of Population Health (David H. Montgomery/CityLab)

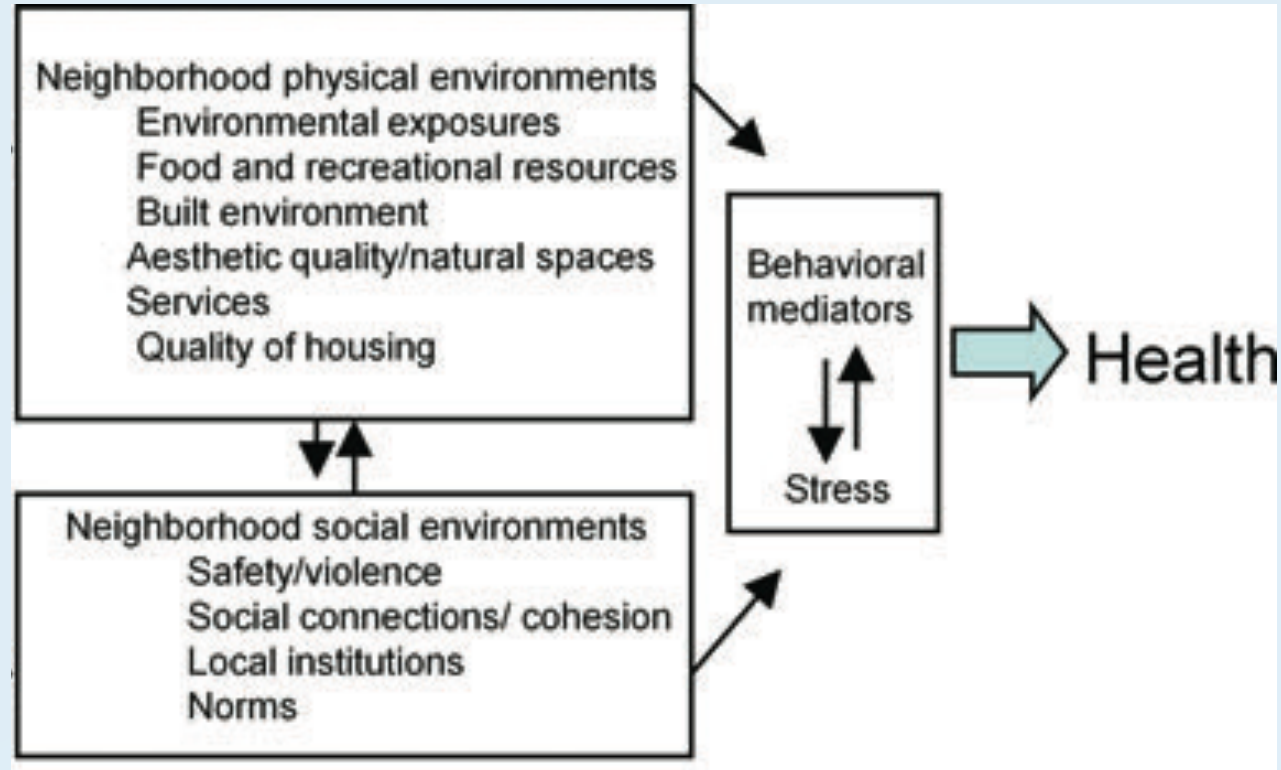
# Framework: Neighborhoods and Health



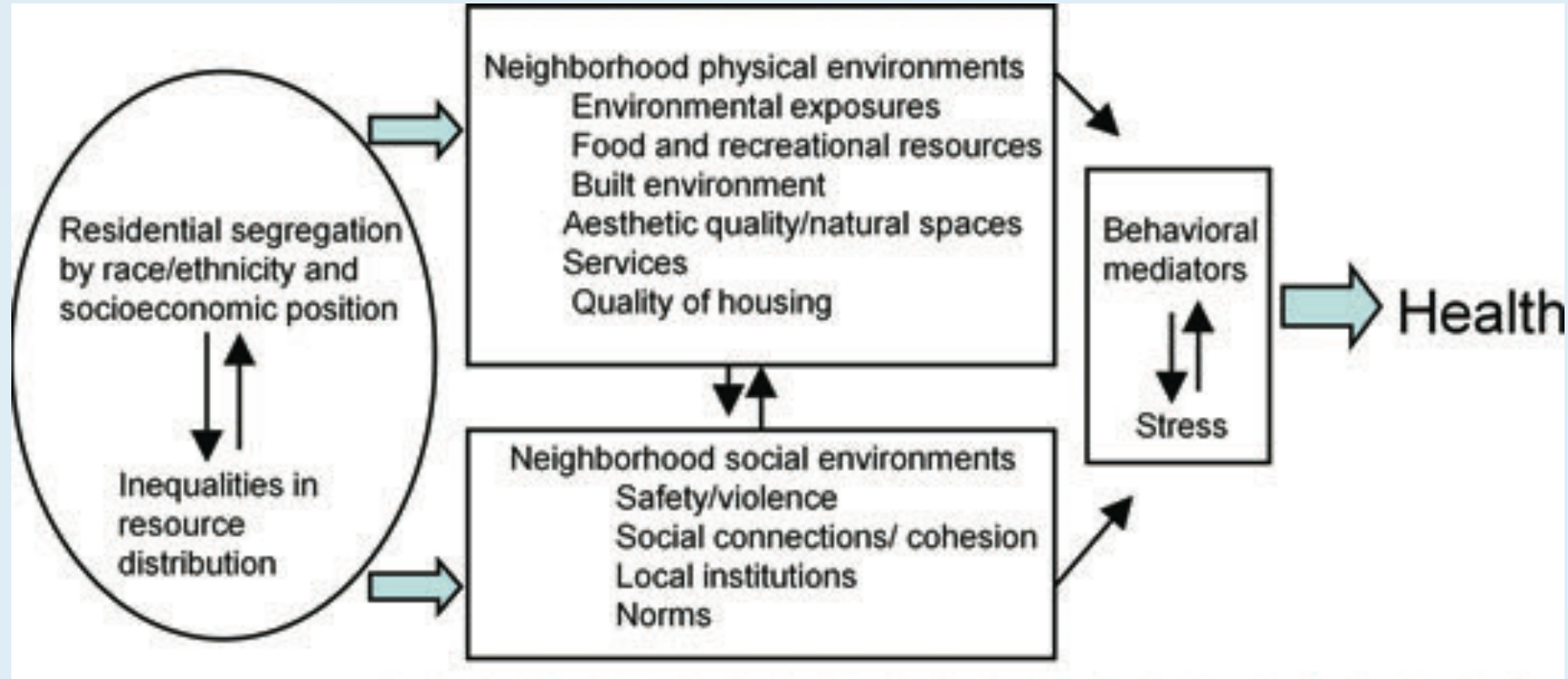
# Framework: Neighborhoods and Health



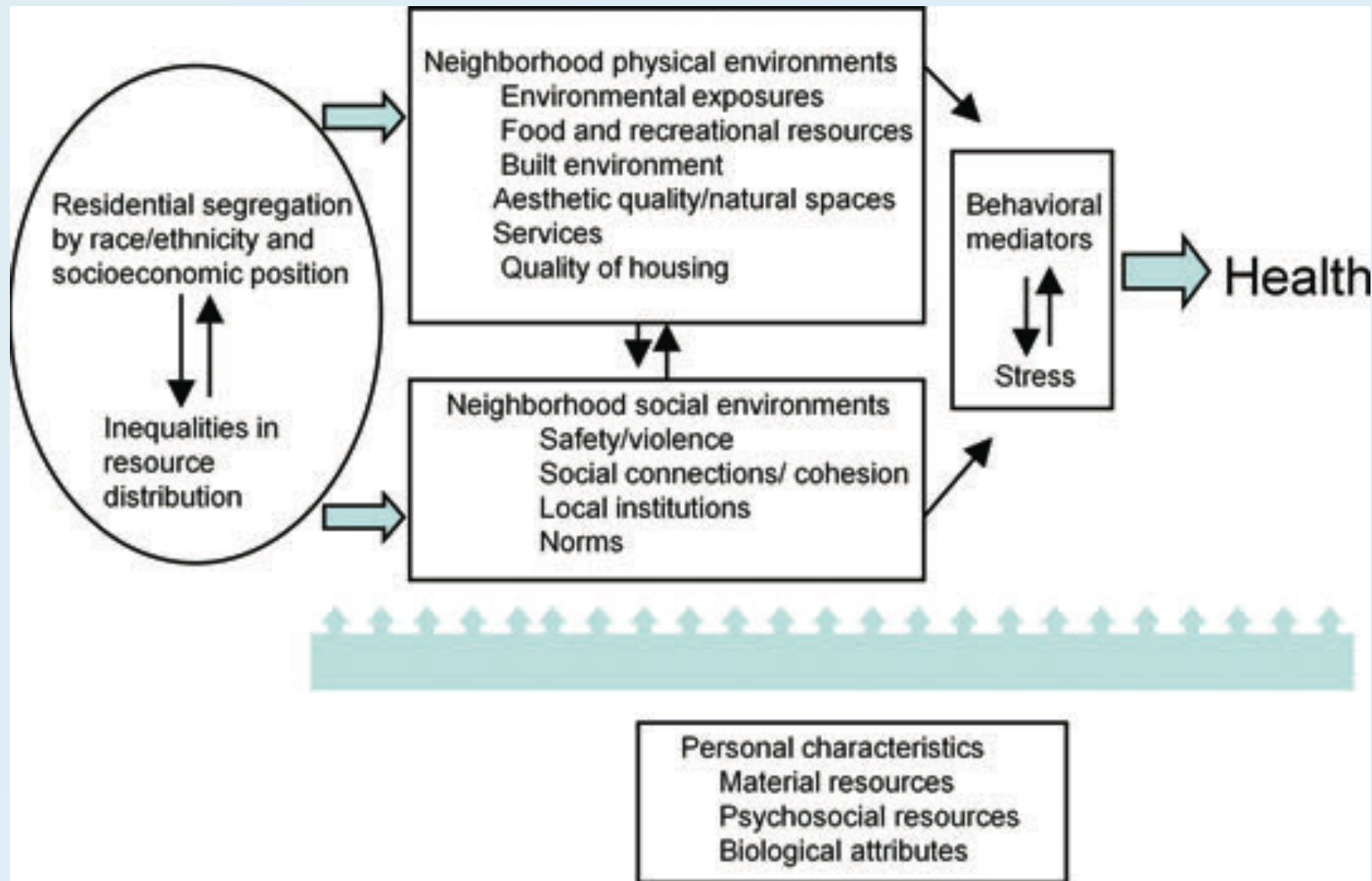
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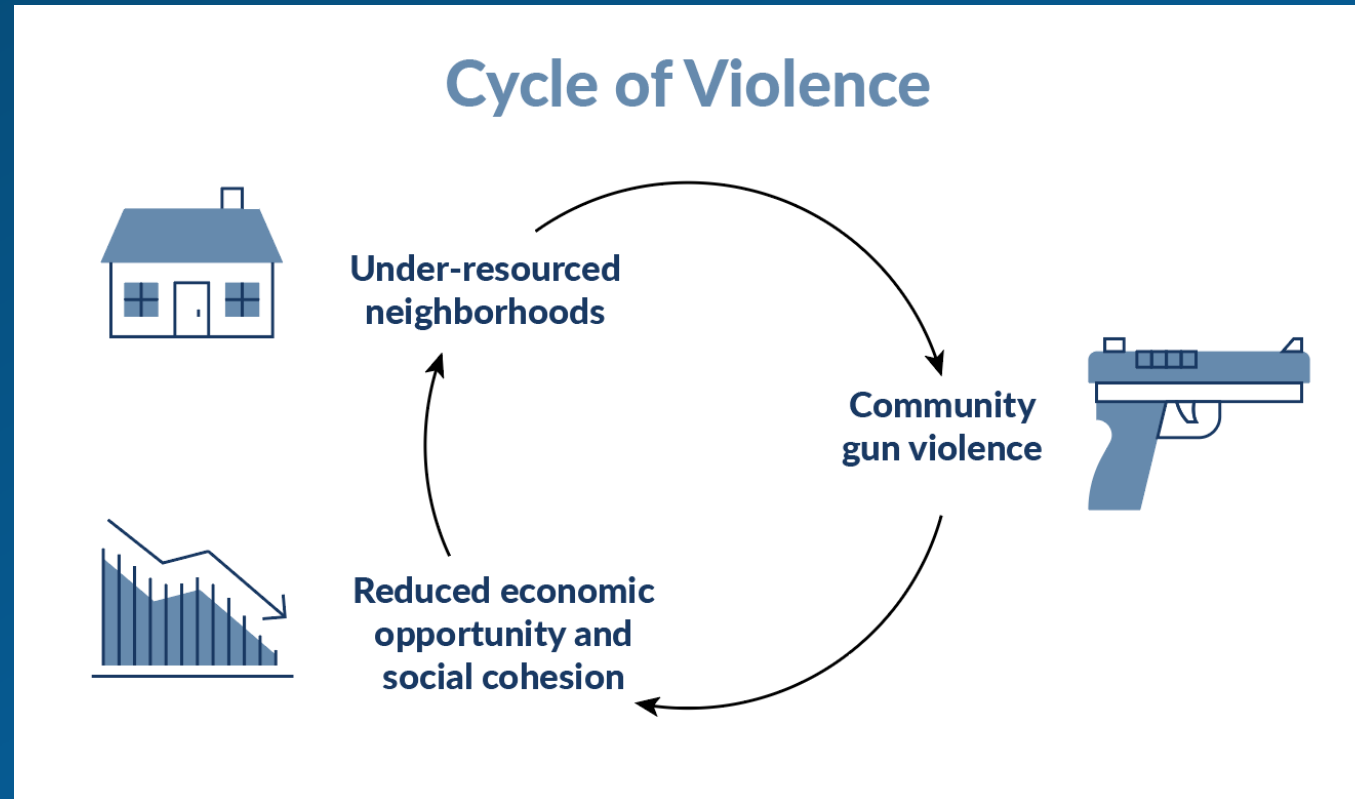


# Framework: Neighborhoods and Health





# Community Gun Violence



Source: The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence

# How can nature help?

- Living near or spending time in green spaces is associated with numerous improved health outcomes:
  - Cognitive function
  - Mental health
  - Physical activity
- Urban nature can be a community health tool to address violence.



# Improving the Neighborhood Physical Environment

# Housing Structure Remediation

- Full housing remediation was linked to reductions in gun violence outcomes.
- Structural, scalable, and sustainable changes to neighborhood environments can potentially promote community safety.



South *et al.*, 2023

# Vacant Lot Remediation



Branas *et al.*, 2018

# Greening



Source: Michigan News (2018)



Source: Bloomberg (2013)

# Summary

- Urban nature is associated with improved health, decreased rates of violence, and increased social connectedness.
- Urban development can be a public health tool for mitigating structural racism.
- Evidence-based interventions include:
  - Remediating abandoned houses and vacant lots
  - Creating more green spaces for community gardens and tree planting

# Future Considerations

- Partner with community members and organizations.
  - Create subcommittee to further assist with community engagement and identifying needs.
  - Utilize community-based approaches to minimize risk of gentrification and displacement.
- Create a strategic plan for evaluation of implementation and the impact on gun violence.
- Collaborate across multiple municipalities to allow for more efficient rollout of interventions.



Thank you. Questions?