

# Health Policies for an Equitable Built Environment

**Place Matters Initiative**  
**December 15, 2012**

**place matters**



community engagement | criminal justice | economics | education | housing | land use + transportation

# Alameda County Place Matters

**Mission:** Promote health equity through community-centered local policy focused on criminal justice, economics, education, housing, and land use and transportation



# Outline

- Built environment and health equity
- Alameda County data
  - Housing, transportation, air quality, food access and liquor stores, physical activity and neighborhood conditions
- Health Element
- Health Tools: Sustainable SF, Health Impact Assessments – Lili Farhang, Human Impact Partners
- Using HIA in Organizing Campaigns – Julia Liou, Asian Health Services

# Health Equity



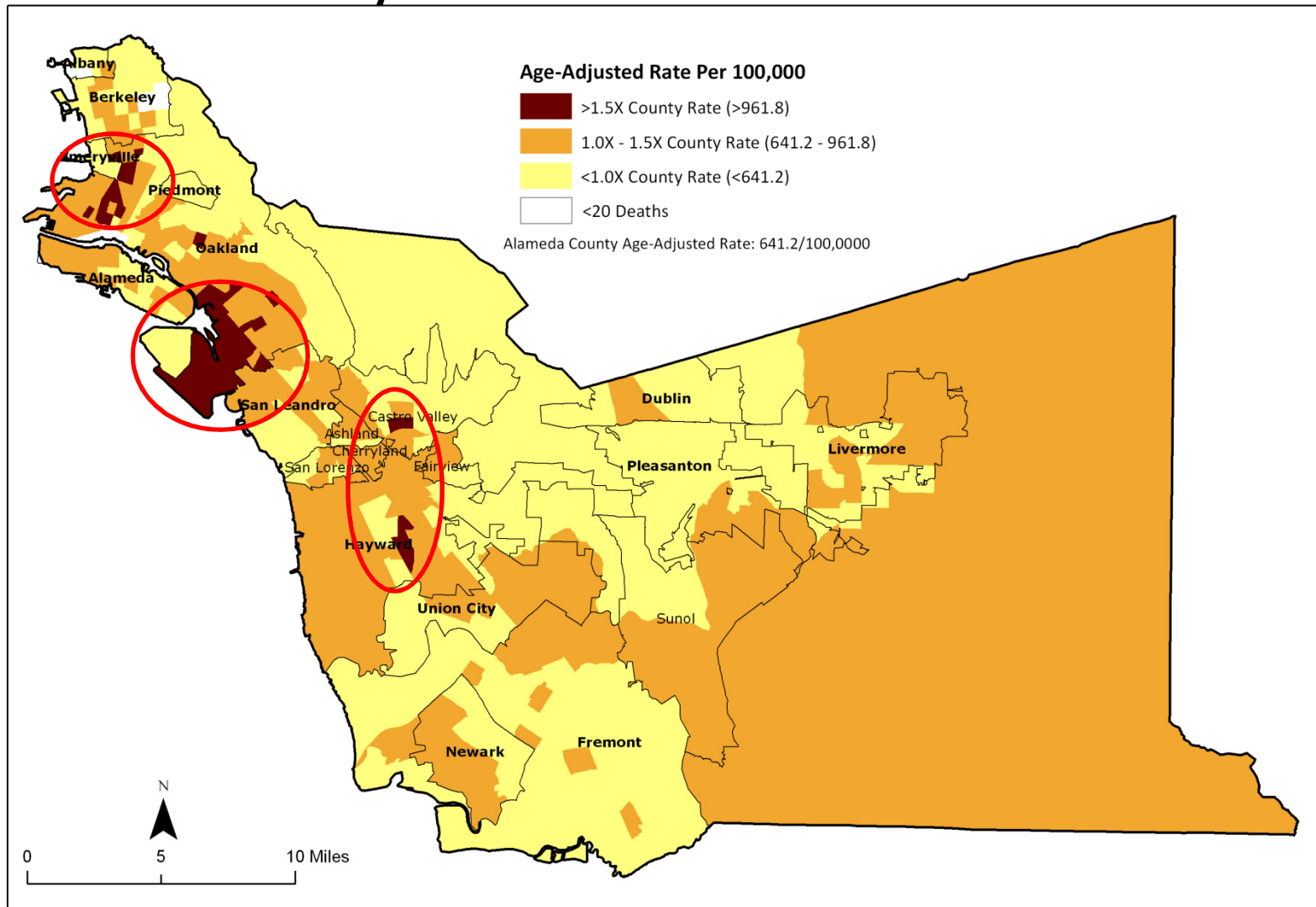
*Everyone in Alameda County, no matter where you live, how much money you make, or the color of your skin, has access to the same opportunities to lead a healthy, fulfilling and productive life.*



# Place Matters:

## Inequities by where people live

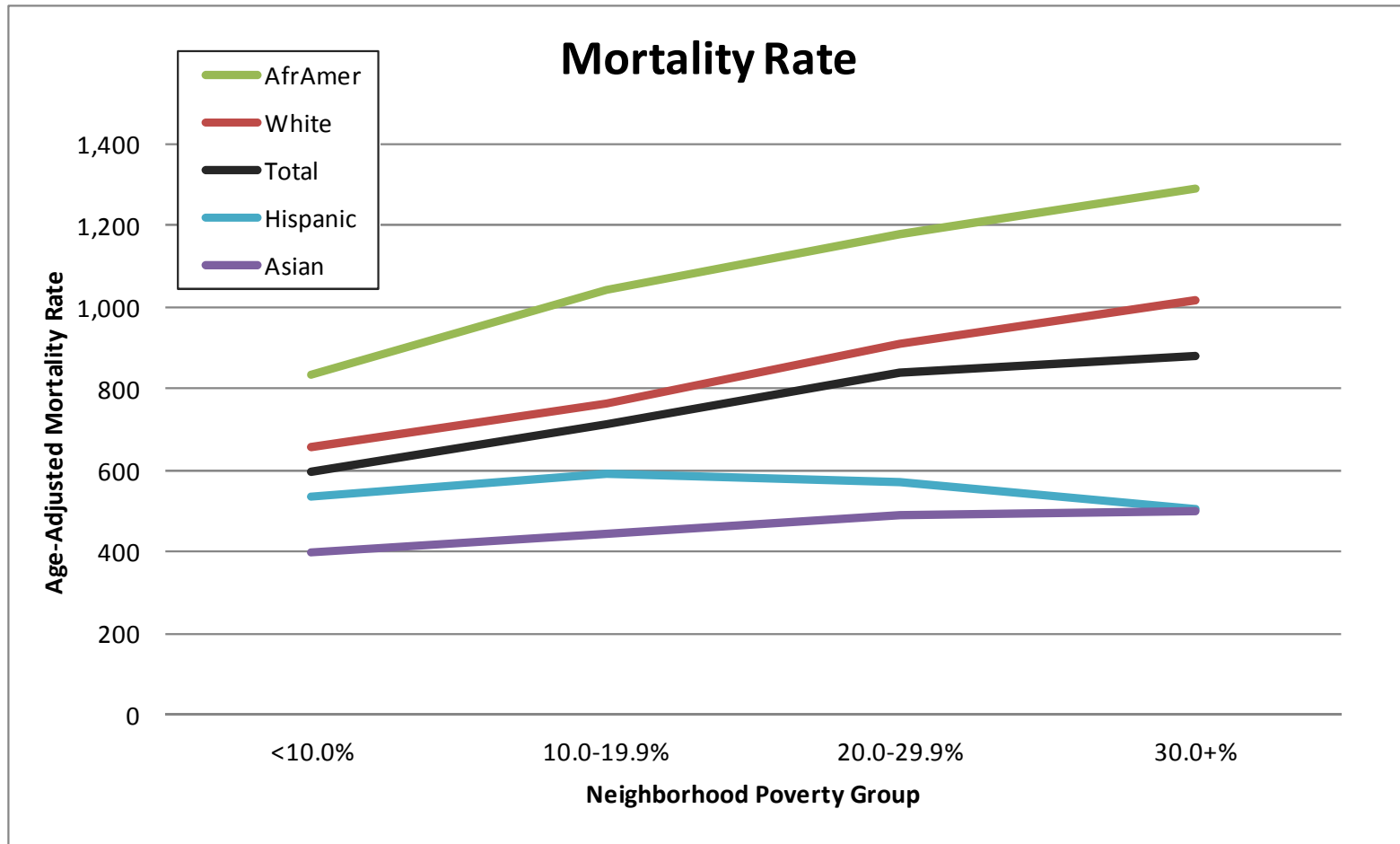
### All-Cause Mortality Rate



Source: CAPE, with data from Alameda County vital statistics files 2007-2009.

# Income Matters:

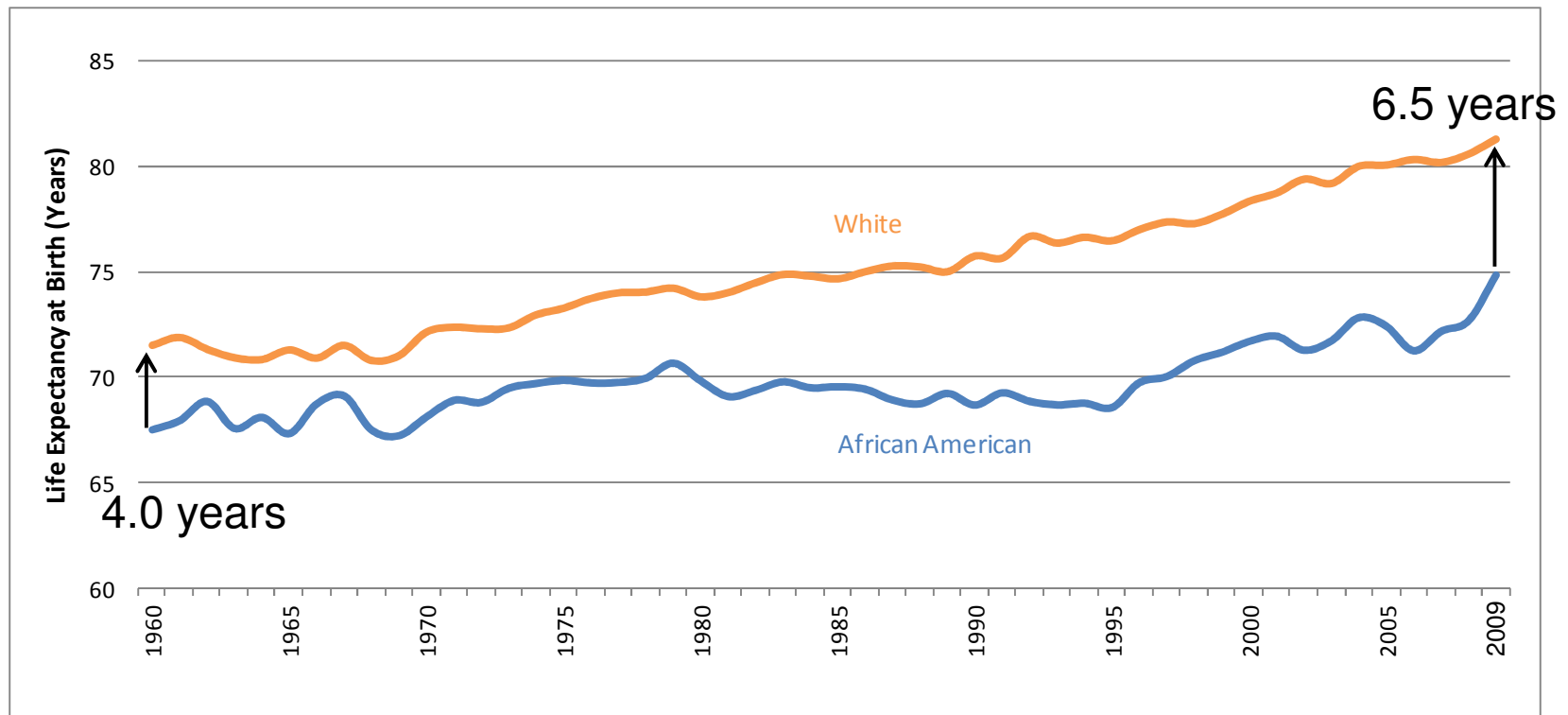
## Inequities by Neighborhood & Household Poverty



Source: Alameda County vital statistics files, 2006-20

# Race Matters:

## Inequities by Race/Ethnicity



Source: Alameda County vital statistics file

# Racism, Income, and Place Impact Health

Compared to a White child in the affluent Oakland Hills,  
an African American born in the flatlands is...

**1.5 times** more likely  
to be born premature  
or low birth weight

**2.5 times** more likely  
to be behind in  
vaccinations

**5 times** more likely  
to be hospitalized  
for diabetes

**7 times** more likely  
to be born into  
poverty

**4 times** less likely  
to read at grade  
level

**2 times** more likely  
to die of heart  
disease

INFANT

CHILD

ADULT

**Cumulative impact:**

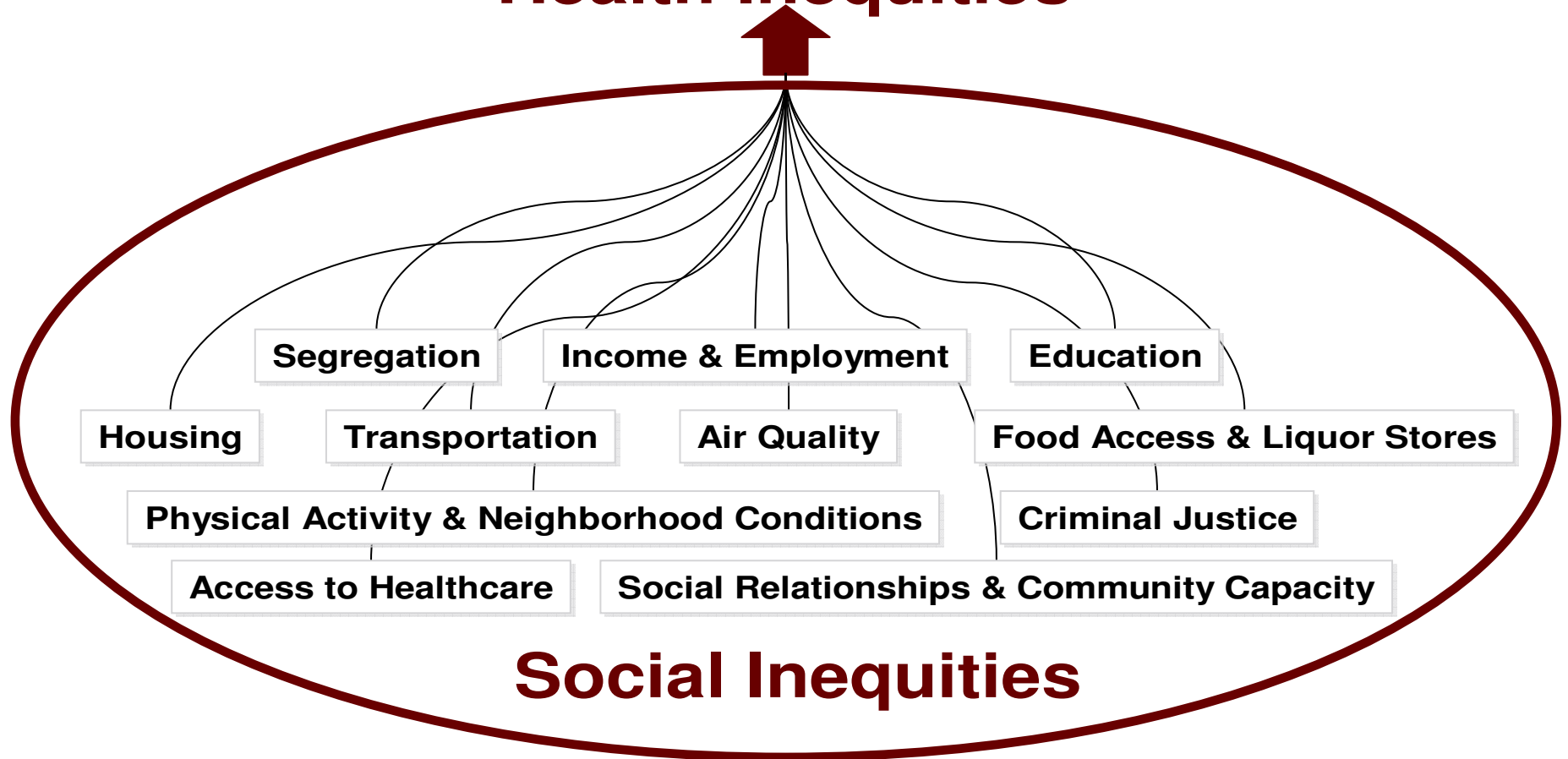
15 year difference in life expectancy



# **Social Inequities:**

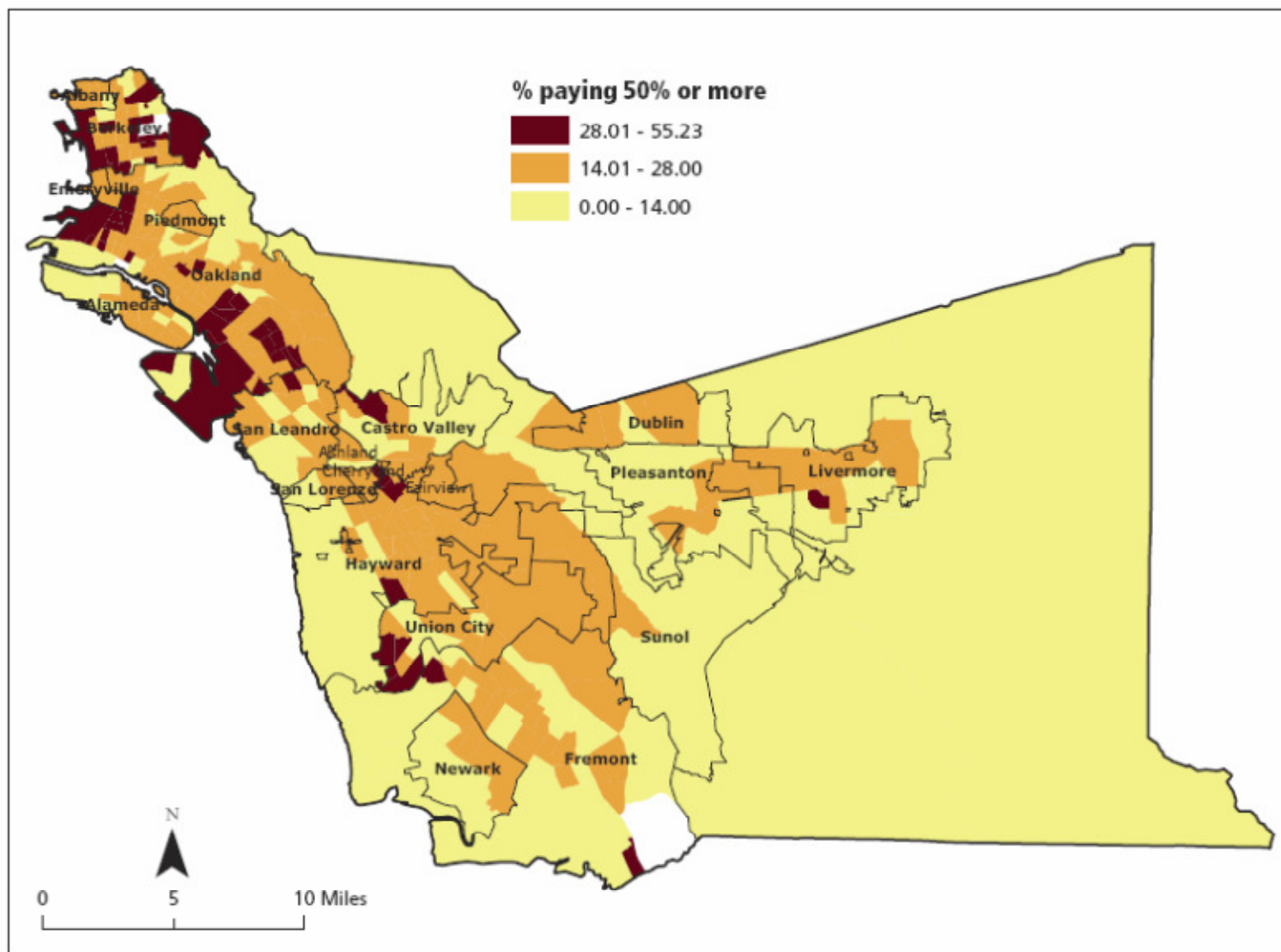
## **Root Causes of Health Inequities**

**Health Inequities**



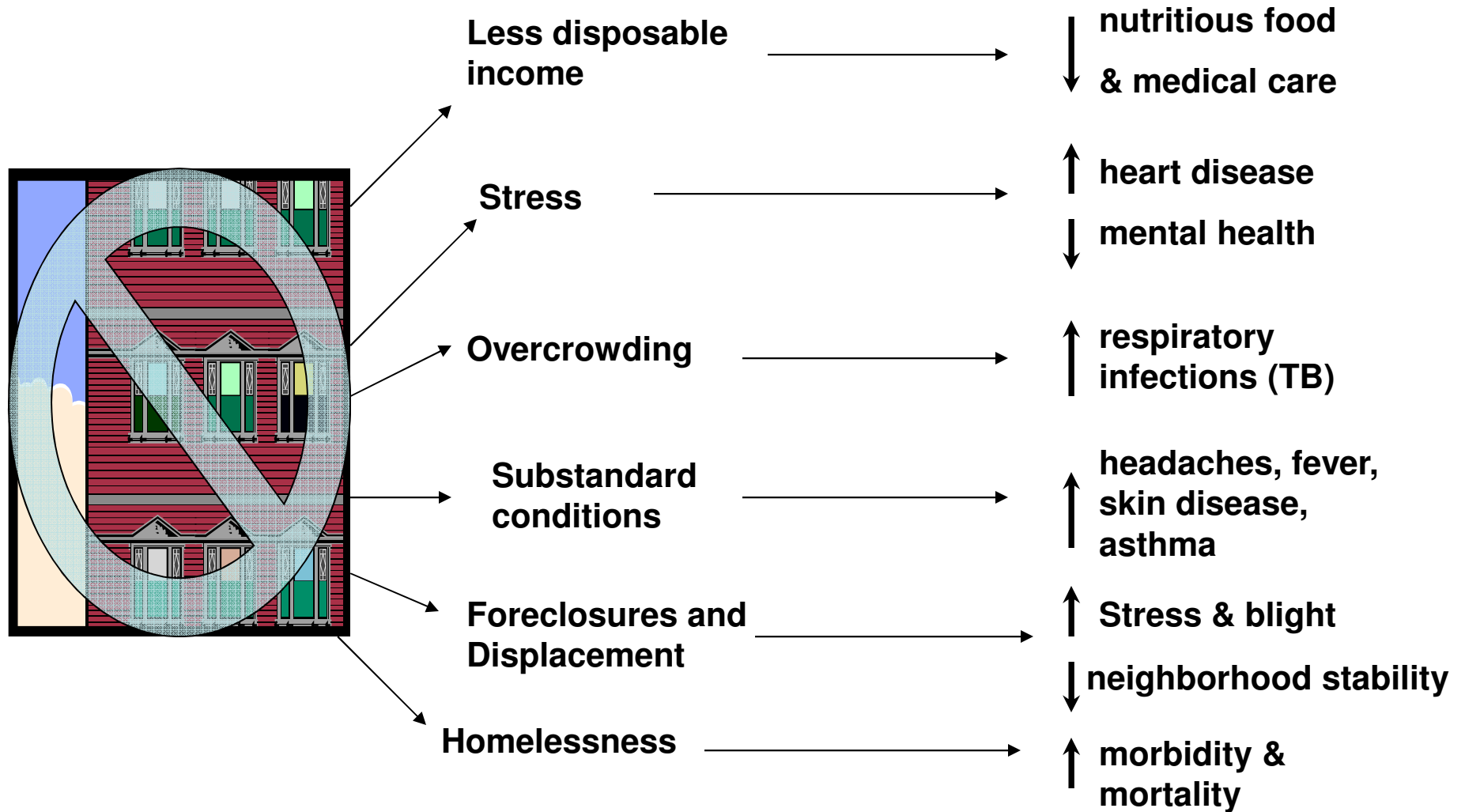
Housing

Map 5: Renting Households Under Severe Cost Burden, Alameda County, 2000



Notes: This map shows some high concentrations of renting households under severe burden in otherwise high-income neighborhoods such as the Berkeley hills and Castro Valley. In addition to the fact that there are relatively very few renter (vs. owner) households in these areas, one possible explanation for these anomalies is that people are paying a premium to rent in these neighborhoods.  
Source: Census 2000.

# Housing → Health impacts



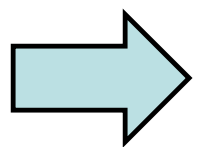
# Transportation

# **Health Costs of Transportation Inequities**

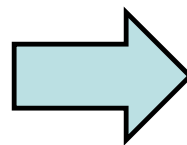
- Lack of access to goods, services, healthy & affordable foods, and health care
- Obstacle to maintaining quality jobs, which in turn impacts income & health
- Increased air-pollution and related health consequences
- Noise pollution and related stress (hearing loss, hypertension, heart conditions, mental stress)

# Transit Access and Health: What's the Connection?

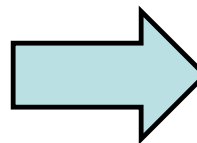
Service cuts



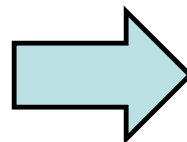
Missed medical  
appointments



↓ physical health  
↑ chronic disease

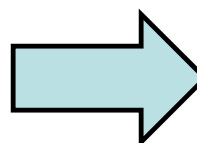


Long wait times  
and overcrowded  
buses

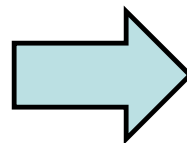


↑ Stress  
↓ Safety

Fare increases



Less disposable  
income

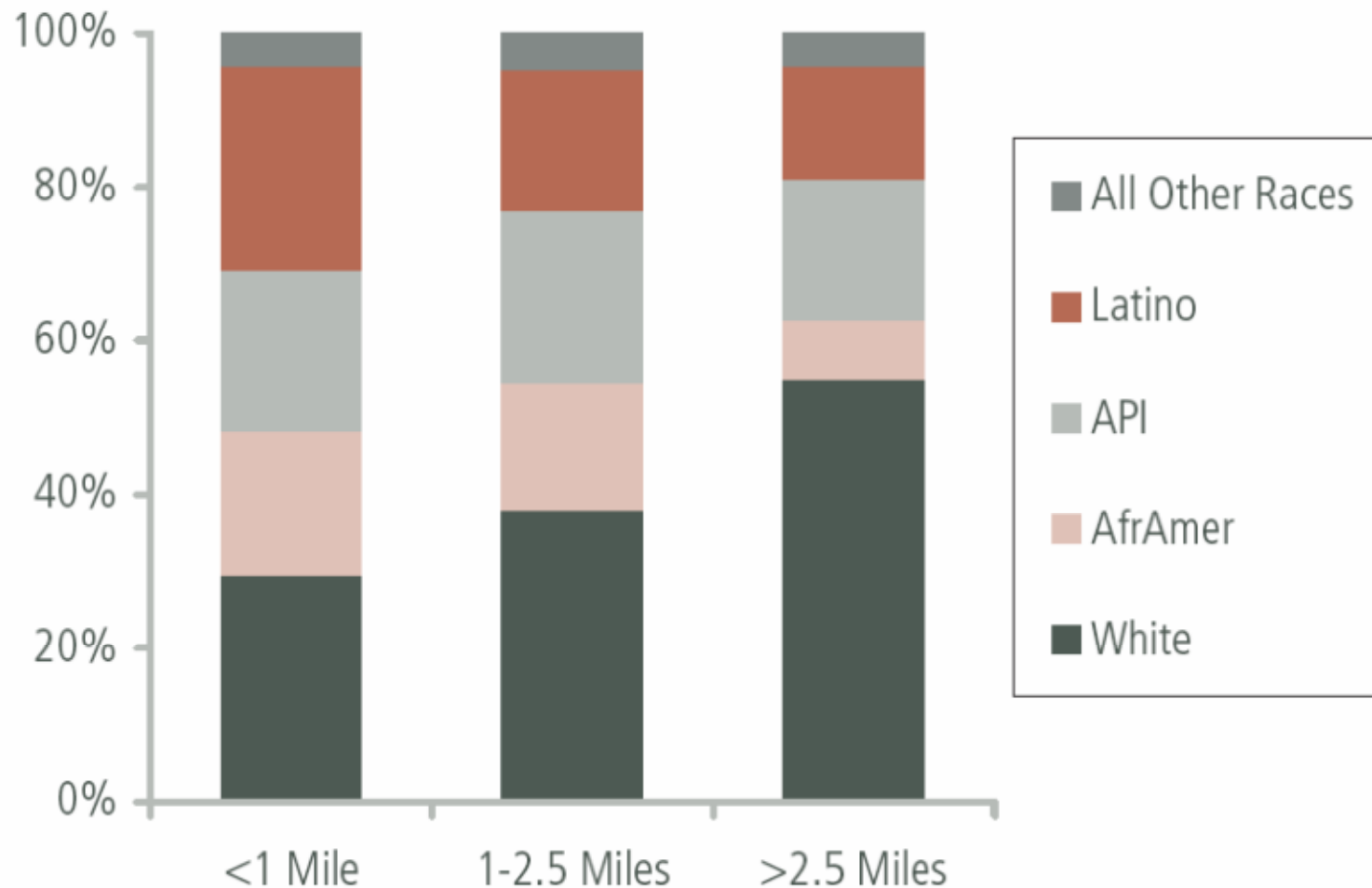


↓ nutritious food  
& medical care

# Land Use

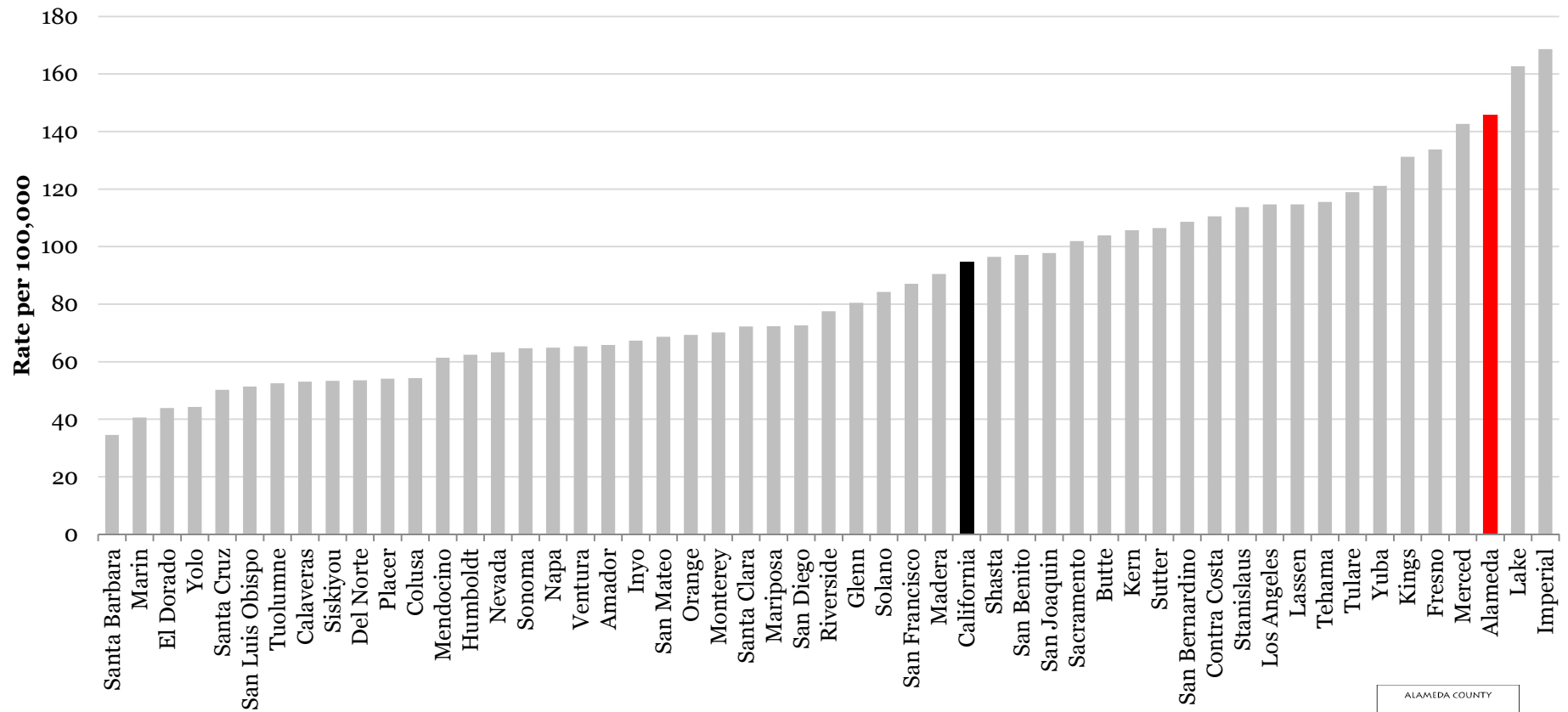


Figure 42: Population Racial/Ethnic Composition by Proximity to Toxic Air Release Facilities, Alameda County

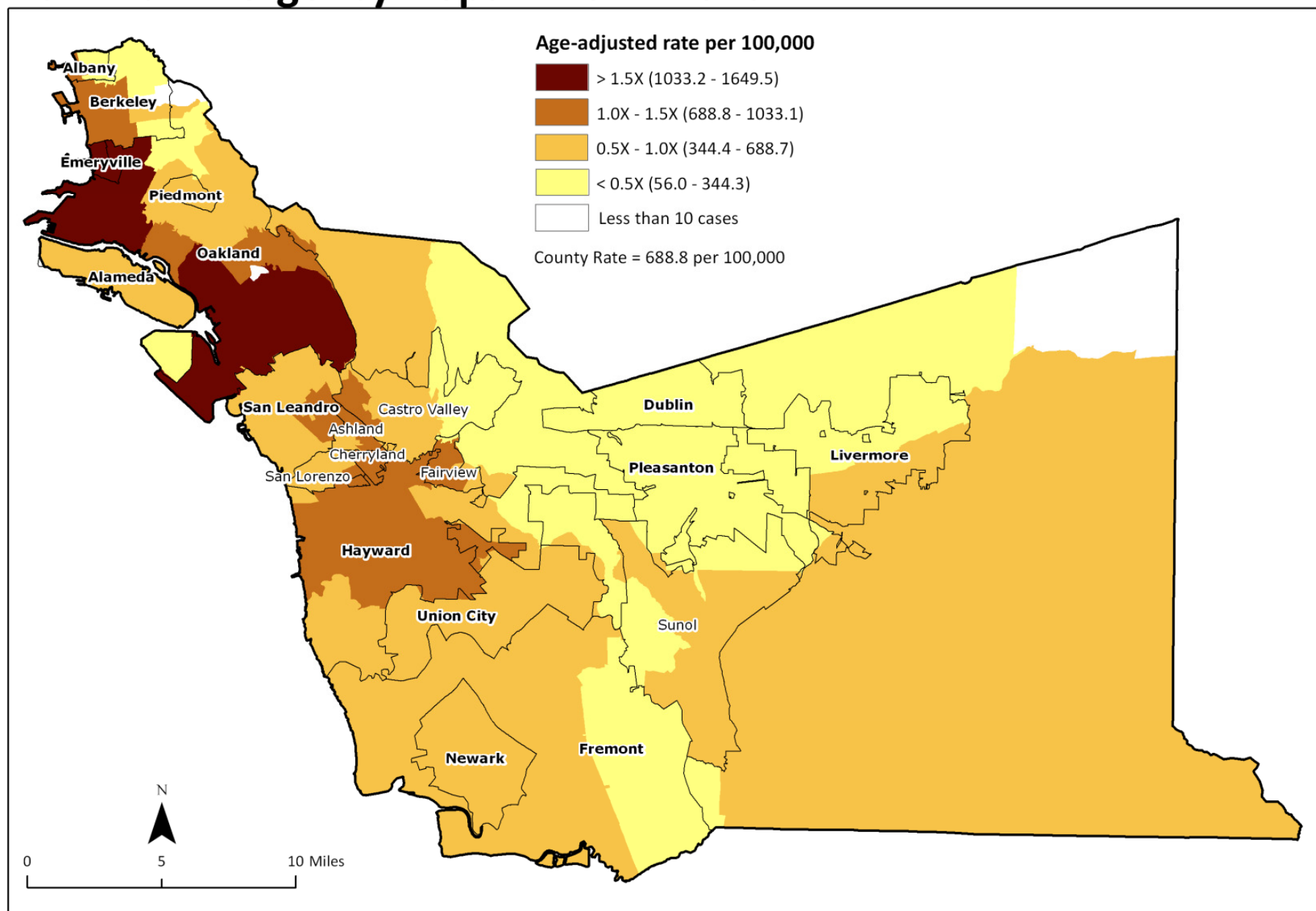


Sources: TRI 2005; Census 2000.

# Asthma Hospitalization Rates, 2010, California Counties

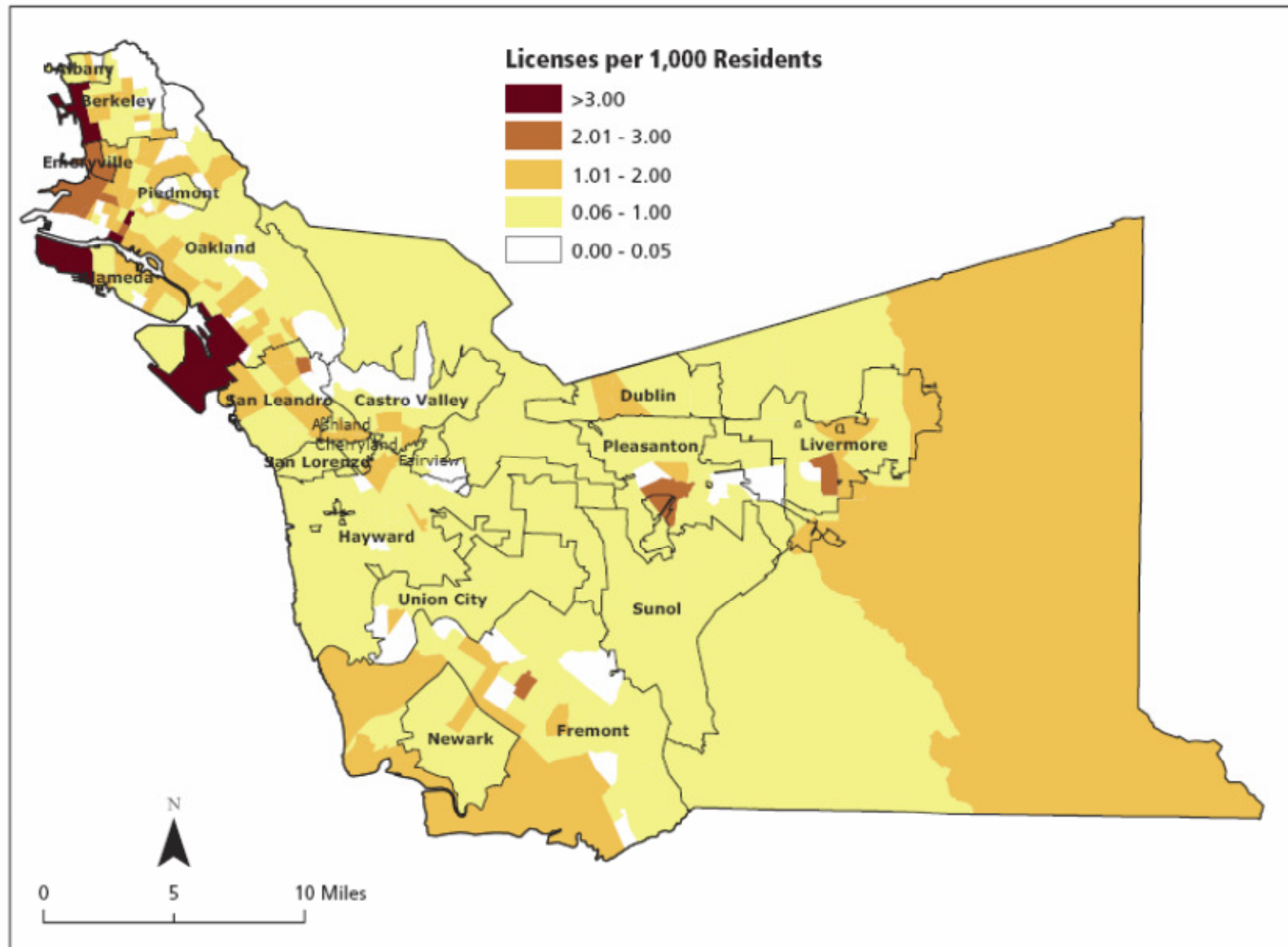


# Asthma Emergency Department Visits\*



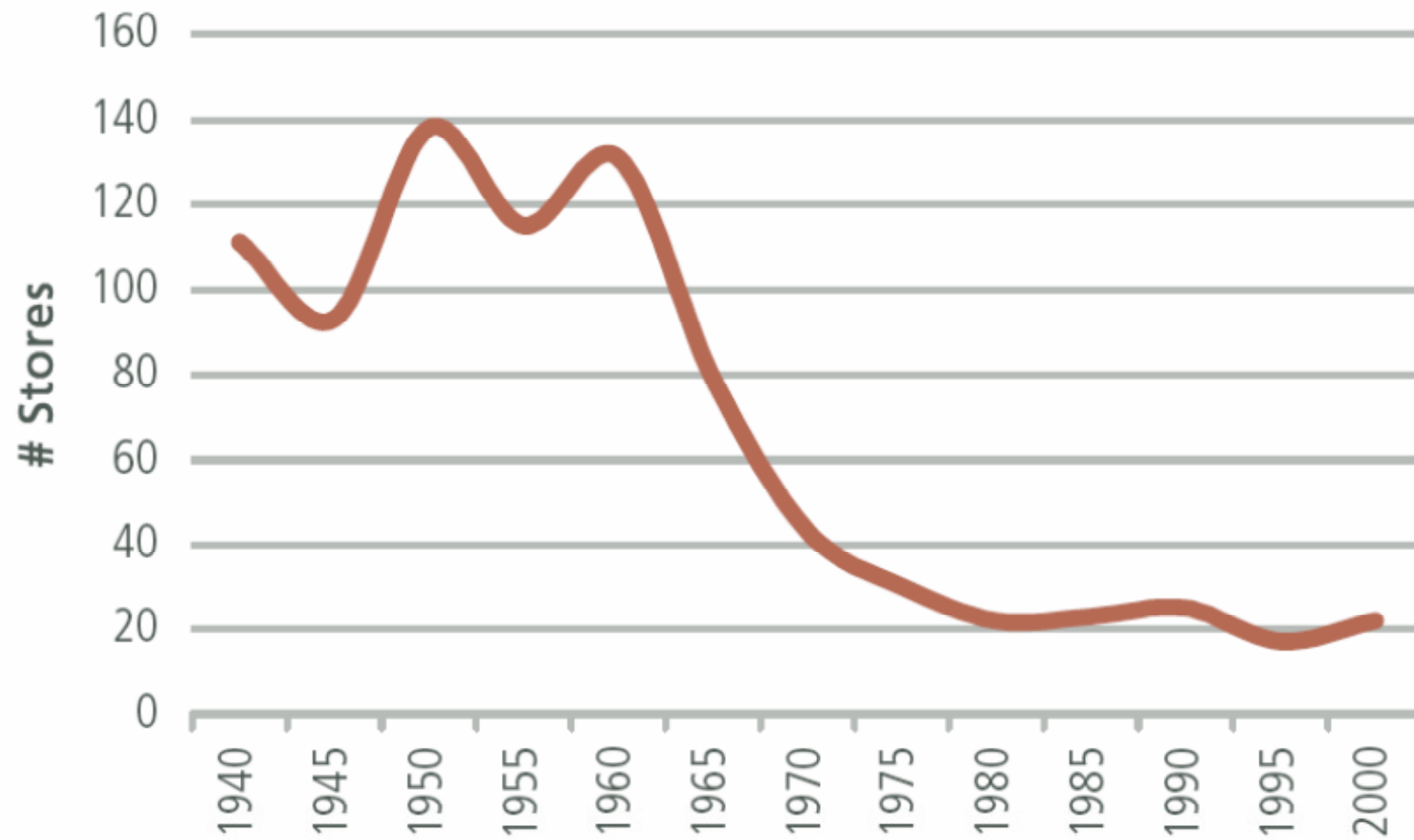
Source: CAPE, with data from OSHPD 2008-2010  
\*Includes inpatients admitted through same facility ED

Map 10: Density of Off-Sale Liquor Licenses, Alameda County



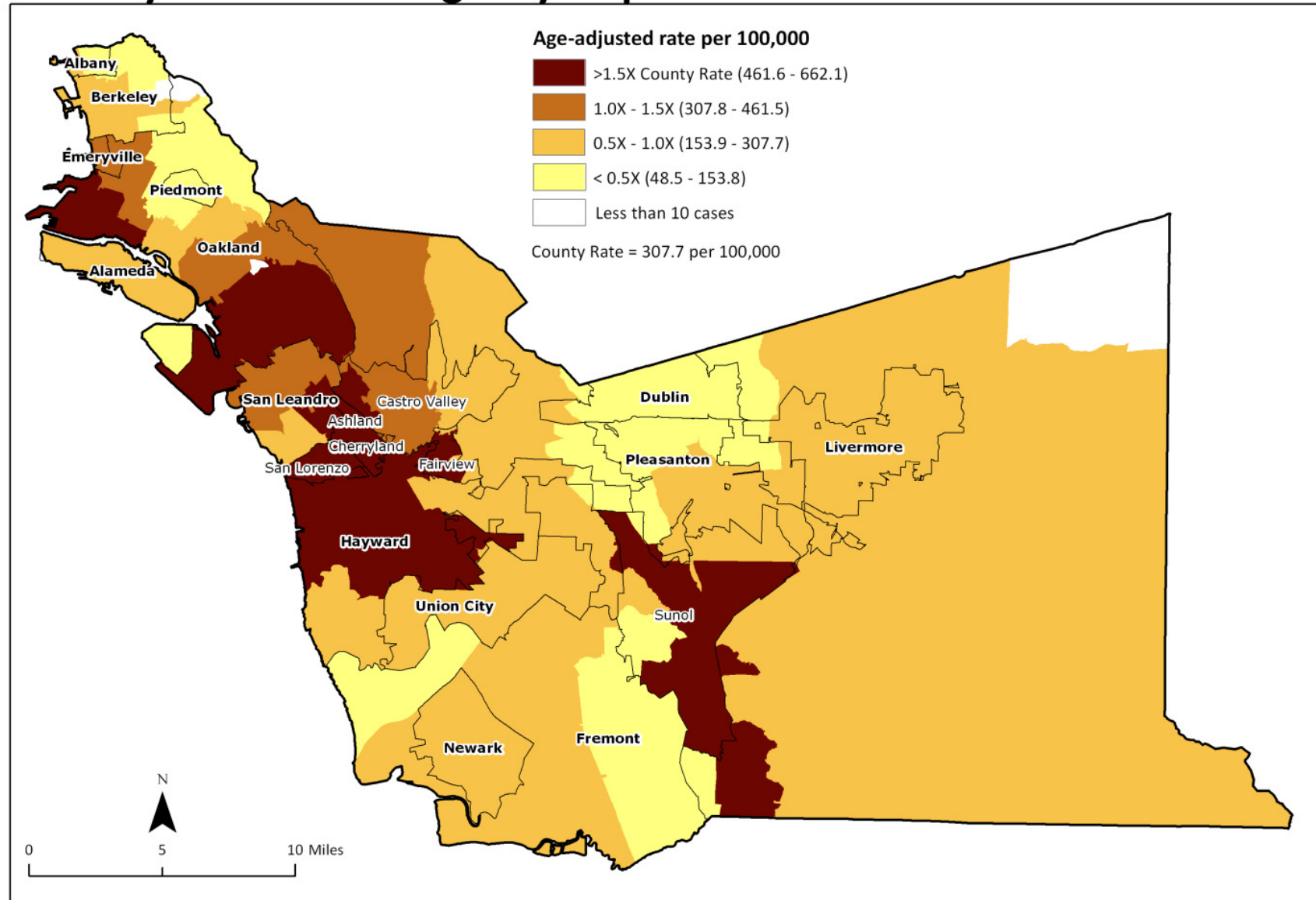
Source: California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control, 2007.

Figure 47: Number of Food Stores, West Oakland



Source: Fuller A, 2006.

# Obesity-Related Emergency Department Visits\*



Source: CAPE, with data from OSHPD 2008-2010  
\*Includes inpatients admitted through same facility ED



# Overall Health Impacts of Poor Land Use Planning

- ↑ • Asthma
- ↑ • Car crashes
- ↑ • Pedestrian injuries
- ↓ • Water quality
- ↓ • Mental health
- ↓ • Social capital
- ↓ • Physical activity
- ↑ • Obesity



Credit: Dr.  
Richard  
Jackson

# Sustainable Growth and Healthy Communities



“People who live in neighborhoods with a mix of shops and businesses within easy walking distance have a 35% lower risk of obesity.”

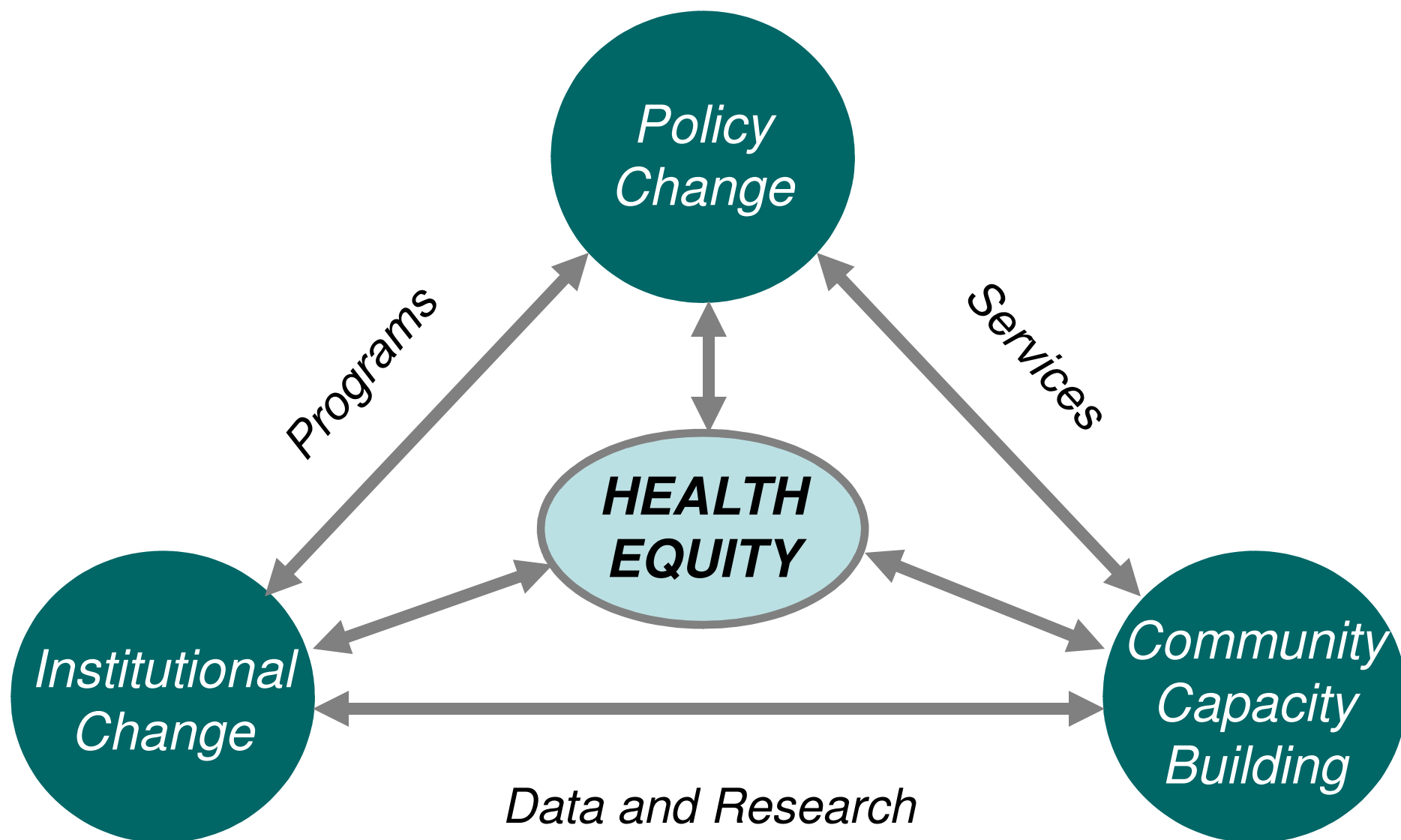
Larry Frank, et al, American Journal of Preventative Medicine



# What we are doing?

<http://www.acphd.org/healthequity>

## ACPHD 3-Pronged Approach to Achieving Health Equity



# Integrating Health into Planning

Health and Wellness Element

# What is a Health and Wellness Element?

- A Health Element of the General Plan creates a comprehensive long-term community vision for a healthy City or County
- Set clear policies and actions guided by local health data
- Helps to identify those projects that yield economic co-benefits and prioritizes them for action
- Improves health, wellness and resiliency for communities
  - Invests residents in a vision for their community
  - Creates a proactive plan for achieving this vision
  - Ties together related issues from different elements to tell a coherent story about the City
  - Shifts focus to the environment in which projects are developed
  - Creates a healthy community image

# What issues it can cover

■ Economic  
Development

■ Housing

■ Social  
Engagement

■ Food Access

■ Crime  
Prevention/Public  
Safety

■ Disability/Elderly  
Issues

■ Healthcare

■ Environmental  
Conditions

■ Sustainable  
Development

■ Transportation

■ Public Facilities

# Example of Economic Co-Benefits

- Pedestrian friendly environments:
  - Economic: higher home sale prices, enhanced marketability and faster sales or leases than conventional development
  - Health: encourages physical activity, discourages driving
- Downtown Lodi Example:
  - Pedestrian improvements, coupled with economic development incentives attracted 60 new businesses
    - Vacancy rate dropped from 18% to 6%
    - Sales tax revenues increased by 30% since work was completed in 1997



# Contact Information

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