

Healthy Neighborhoods, Health Equity and Community Well-being

Ventura County Health Care Agency
May 2, 2018

Manal J. Aboelata, MPH
Managing Director
Prevention Institute

PREVENTION
INSTITUTE

PREVENTION INSTITUTE



Prevention Institute



[PreventionInstitute.org](https://www.PreventionInstitute.org)



[@preventioninst](https://twitter.com/preventioninst)



PreventionInstitute.org



@preventioninst

PREVENTION
INSTITUTE

Health Equity

Health equity means that every person, regardless of who they are—the color of their skin, their level of education, their gender or sexual identity, whether or not they have a disability, the job that they have, or the neighborhood that they live in—has an equal opportunity to achieve optimal health.

- Braveman, Kumanyika, Fielding, et al., 2011

Healthy Communities



- Meets basic needs of all
- Quality and sustainability of environment
- Adequate levels of economic and social development
- Health and Social Equity
- Social relationships that are supportive and respectful

Source: Clarion Alley Mural Project

Determinants of Health

People



Social networks & trust



Participation & willingness to act for the common good



Norms & culture



Education



Living wages & local wealth/assets

Place



What's sold & how it's promoted



Look, feel, & safety



Housing



Parks & open space



Air, water & soil



Getting around

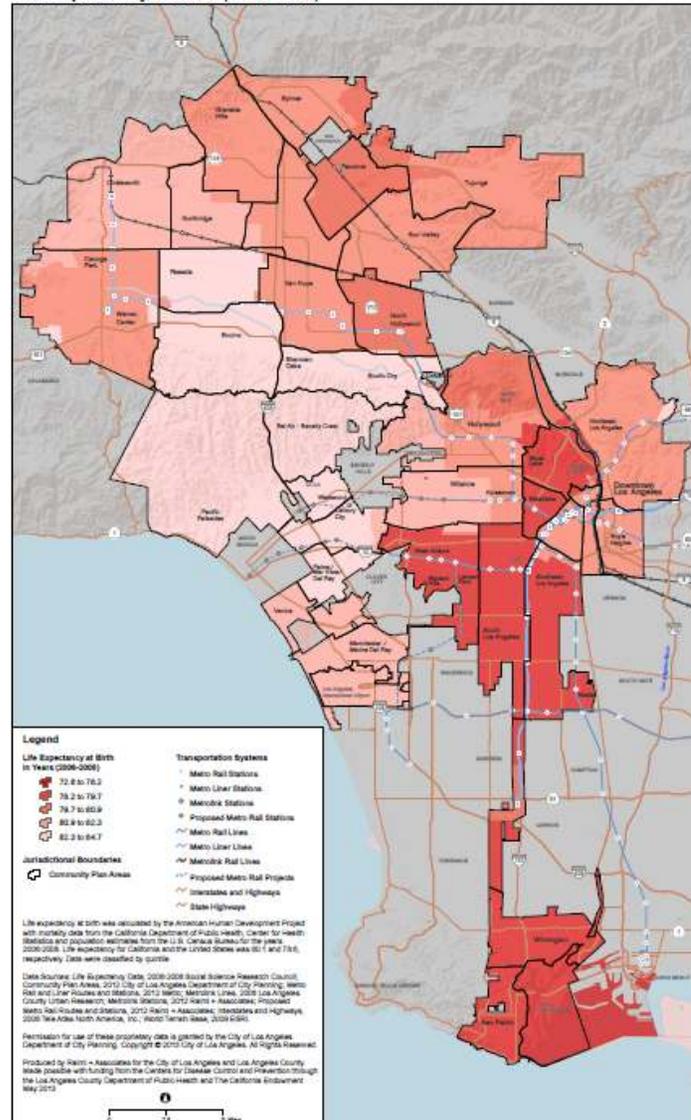


Arts & cultural expression



Map 37

Life Expectancy at Birth (2006-2008)



Inequities in the built environment: Whose Health is Most At Risk?

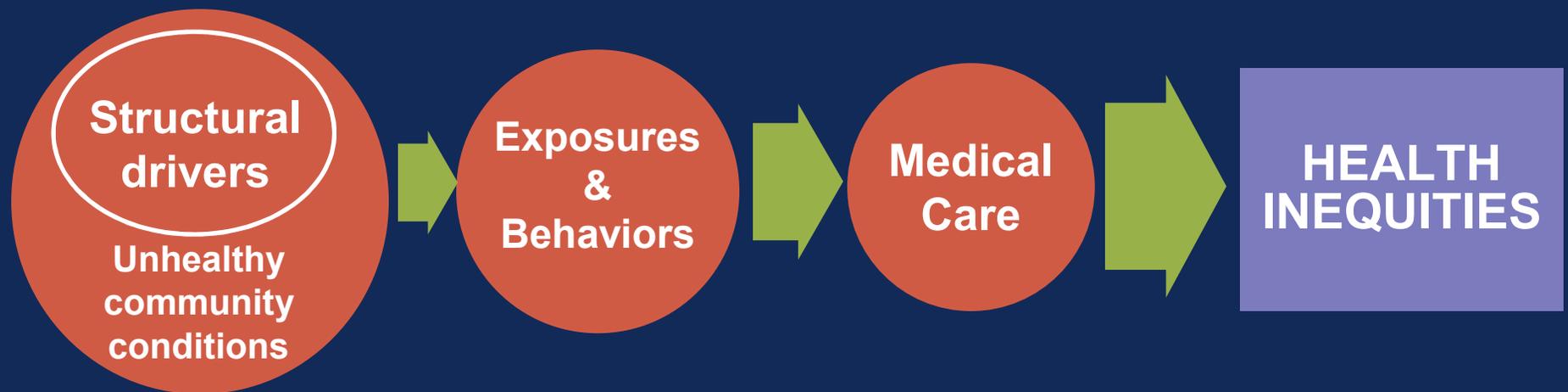
Production of Inequities in the Built Environment



Selected Policies, Practices, and Procedures That Have Produced Inequities in the Built Environment

Image source: Prevention Institute, *Countering the Production of Health Inequities: An Emerging Systems Framework to Achieve an Equitable Culture of Health*

The Trajectory of Health Inequities



The Production of Equity

While health inequities have been created, there is also a pathway to produce health equity.



**How do we create
pathways to health
equity?**

Example: Production of Park Inequities

- Segregation and discrimination
- Biased planning and park making
- Economic restructuring
- Devolution
- Prop 13
- Low priority status of parks



Green Infrastructure's Multiple Benefits



- Recreation
- Community space
- Habitat
- Cooling/shade
- Flood control
- Urban greening
- Water supply
- Jobs

Source: City of Los Angeles Sanitation

Source: Ventura County Star

Infrastructure Investments

Prop 1
Water

\$7.5 Billion

Prop 84
Water/Parks

\$5.3 Billion

Prop 51
Schools

\$9 Billion

Measure A
Parks

\$94 Million per year

Measure M
Transportation

\$860 Million per year



Environmental Bonds Should Equitably Benefit All Communities: Looking Forward Based on an Analysis of Prop 84

Jon Christensen, UCLA,
Institute of the Environment and Sustainability

Prop 84 has spent \$2 billion on 2,174 local projects in California communities.

In 2006, California voters approved Proposition 84, a bond measure authorizing \$5.4 billion in spending on projects to improve parks, natural resource protection, and water quality, safety, and supply. Most of that money has now been spent.

Where was the funding spent? Who benefited? And were funds spent according to the priorities stated in the measure approved by voters?

Prop 84 is a good case study for examining these questions: the measure sought to ensure equitable distribution of bond funds by prioritizing investments in various sections. Some sections of the measure explicitly prioritized funding for disadvantaged communities, for example, including sections on parks and safe drinking water, while other sections more vaguely prioritized bond expenditures. And some sections did not prioritize investments in any specific manner, instead allocating funds to agencies in general categories. The results are telling.

Overall, although “local parks and urban greening” were listed as a priority for the bond as a whole, we found that communities that lack parks received less funding than areas

that already have parks. And we found that rural areas, with lower population density, received just as much funding as urban areas with larger populations. And we found that less Prop 84 funding has been spent in disadvantaged communities than in communities with higher median household income.

Most importantly, we found that when priorities were clearly spelled out, funds were spent according to those priorities. By contrast, when priorities were only vaguely stated, we found that spending was not closely aligned with those priorities.

We conclude that more attention should be paid to establishing priorities, setting criteria, and using available data to shape strategies in order to achieve more equitable distribution of bond monies across communities. If legislators and voters have specific priorities, such as allocating bond funding more equitably, we need to be explicit about those priorities and

Los Angeles County Measure A

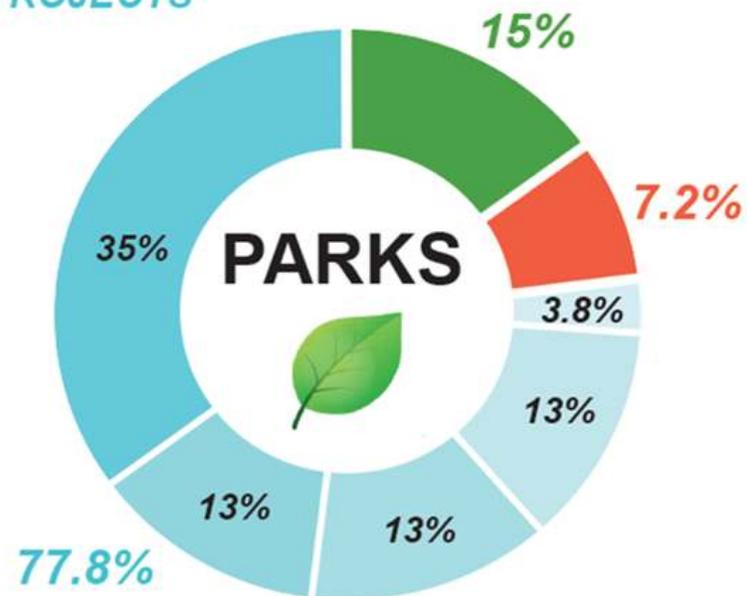
PARKS FUNDING MEASURE REVENUE EXPENDITURE AND IMPLEMENTATION

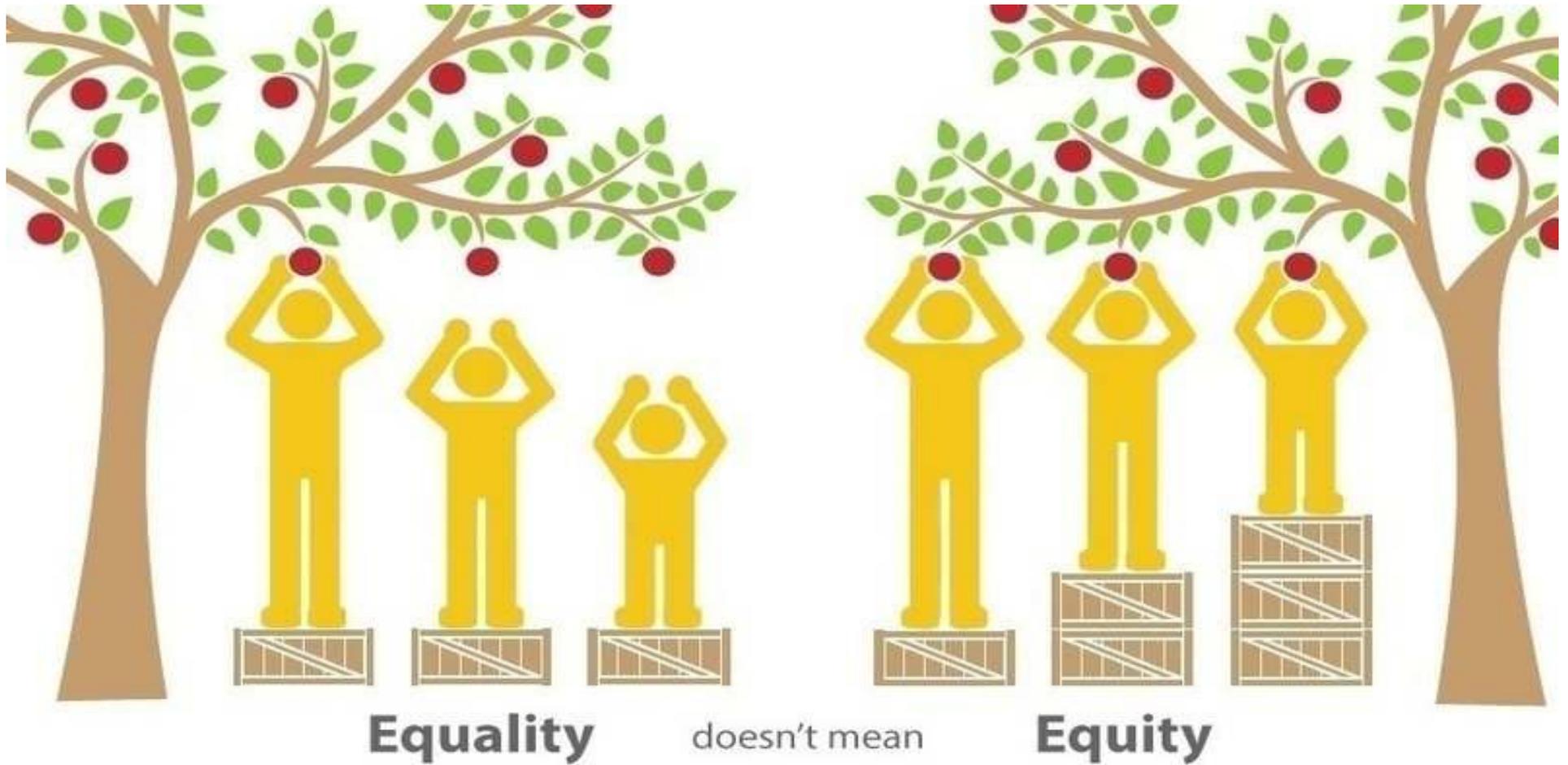
77.8% - GRANT FUNDING FOR PROJECTS

- 35% - COMMUNITY BASED PARK INVESTMENT PROGRAM
- 13% - SAFE PARKS, REPAIRS AND UPGRADES, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES, URBAN GREENING PROGRAM
- 13% - PROTECTING OPEN SPACES, BEACHES AND WATERSHED PROGRAM
- 13% - REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, TRAIL AND ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM
- 3.8% - YOUTH AND VETERAN TRAINING AND PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

15% - MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING

7.2% - PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION, INNOVATION, AND OVERSIGHT





Equality does not mean Equity

MEASURES MATTER

Ensuring Equitable
Implementation
of Los Angeles County
Measures

M&A

By Vanessa Carter, Manuel Pastor,
and Madeline Wander
with Robert Chiala, Natalie Hernandez,
and Edward Muña



JANUARY 2018

USC
Dornsife
Program for
Environmental and
Regional Studies

Equity in Infrastructure Investments

Prioritize equity in infrastructure investments by addressing:

- ✓ **Past disadvantage** – close racialized gaps in a way that improves work as well as health and economic opportunities in vulnerable communities
- ✓ **Contemporary participation** – incorporates perspectives of vulnerable communities and supports community-based participation and power, resulting in shared decision making, while strengthening the entire region
- ✓ **Future consequences** – mitigates disparities likely to emerge in the future by leveraging funding for long term community health and organizational capacity, and incorporates metrics and evaluation

Source: USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity, Measures Matter: Ensuring Equitable Implementation of Los Angeles County Measures M & A, 2018.

Operationalizing Equity

1. Drive with equity from the start
2. Support grassroots groups & leadership development
3. Share decision making among residents, cities & agencies
4. Take a collaborative approach to training & technical assistance
5. Attach government dollars to equity guidelines
6. Advance a broad regional economic and health equity platform through all programs & policies
7. Integrate & lead across silos
8. Conduct ongoing outcomes and process evaluation

Source: USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity, Measures Matter: Ensuring Equitable Implementation of Los Angeles County Measures M & A, 2018.



A Time of Opportunity: Water, Health, and Equity in the Los Angeles Region

Executive Summary

February 2018

Photo credit: Maria Espinoza/WireImage

The Los Angeles region is reimagining its water infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing population in the face of increasingly unreliable water supplies and a changing climate. County leaders are working on a multi-pronged initiative to establish a resilient water future by increasing drought preparedness and local water self-reliance, improving water quality to protect public health, and advancing communities' ability to adapt to the effects of climate change. At the state level, California legislators have codified access to clean, affordable, and sufficient water as a human right.¹ Water issues are in the public consciousness like never before, offering an opportunity to address longstanding underinvestment in infrastructure and outdated approaches to water management.

The water challenges facing the region are experienced differently in different communities across Los Angeles County, with low-income communities of color bearing

"Health equity means that every person, regardless of who they are—the color of their skin, their level of education, their gender or sexual identity, whether or not they have a disability, the job that they have, or the neighborhood that they live in—has an equal opportunity to achieve optimal health."

—Browner, Kumanyika, Fielding, et al., 2011²

the burdens of inequitable access to safe, clean, and reliable water. While County leaders are focused on a storm water funding measure to address their legal

¹ Browner, P. A., Kumanyika, S., Fielding, J., Lacroix, T., Barlow, L. R., Hendershot, R., & Troutman, A. (2011). Health disparities and health equity: The issue is justice. *American Journal of Public Health, 101*(Suppl 1), 1199–1200.

² California Environmental Protection Agency (2011). *Human right to water: state water resources control board*.

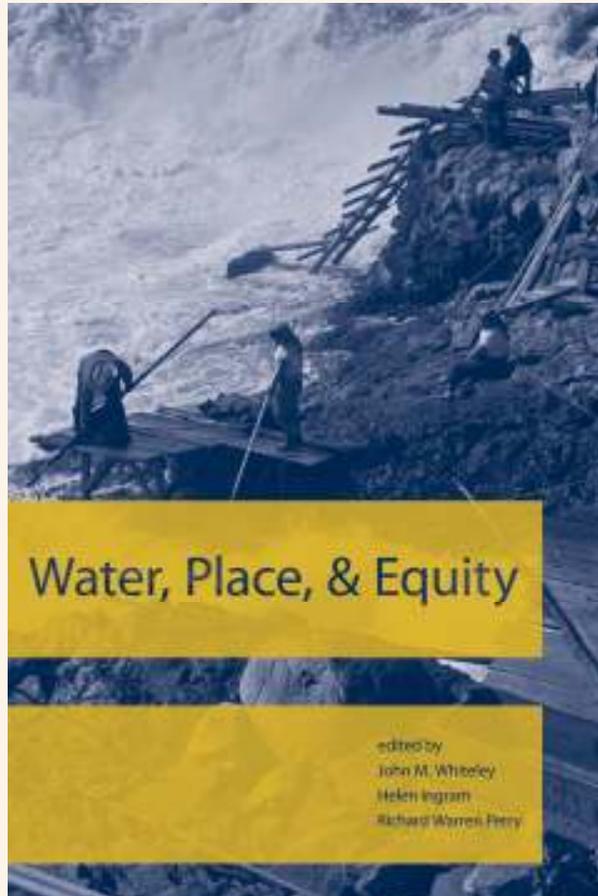




Source: Heal the Bay



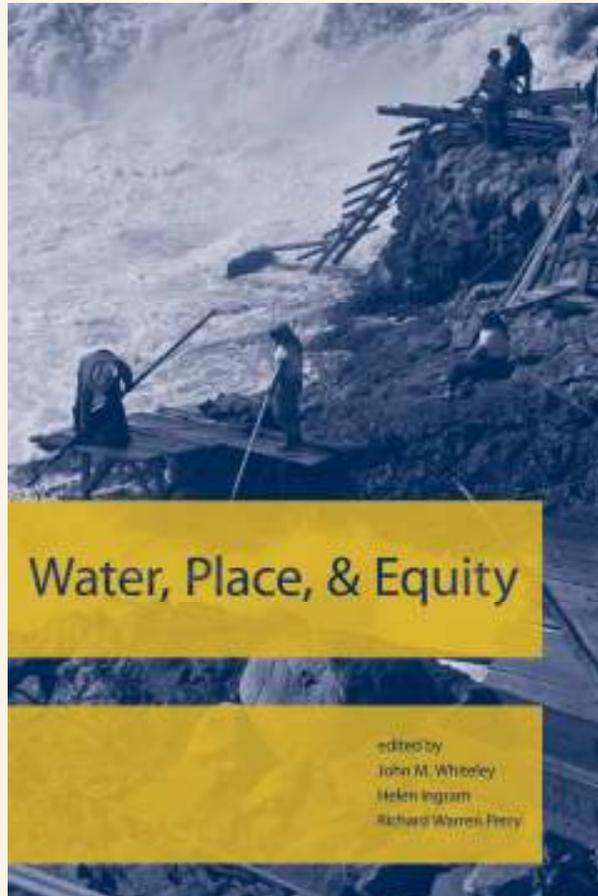
Equity in Water Management...and beyond



- Is a complex concept
- Applies to individuals, groups and communities
- Is particular to specific places and circumstances
- No 'one size fits all' approach

Source: J.M. Whiteley, H. Ingram & R. Warren Perry (eds.). *Water, Place & Equity*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008.

Equity in Water Management...and beyond

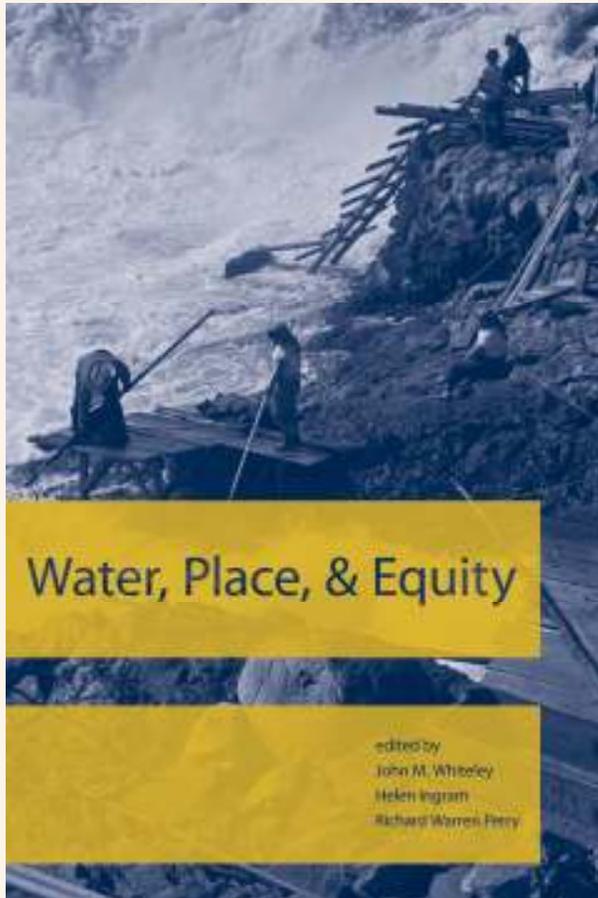


Is concerned with:

- The good of the community & broader community values
- Effects on the poor and disenfranchised
- Fair and just processes

Source: J.M. Whiteley, H. Ingram & R. Warren Perry (eds.). Water, Place & Equity. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008.

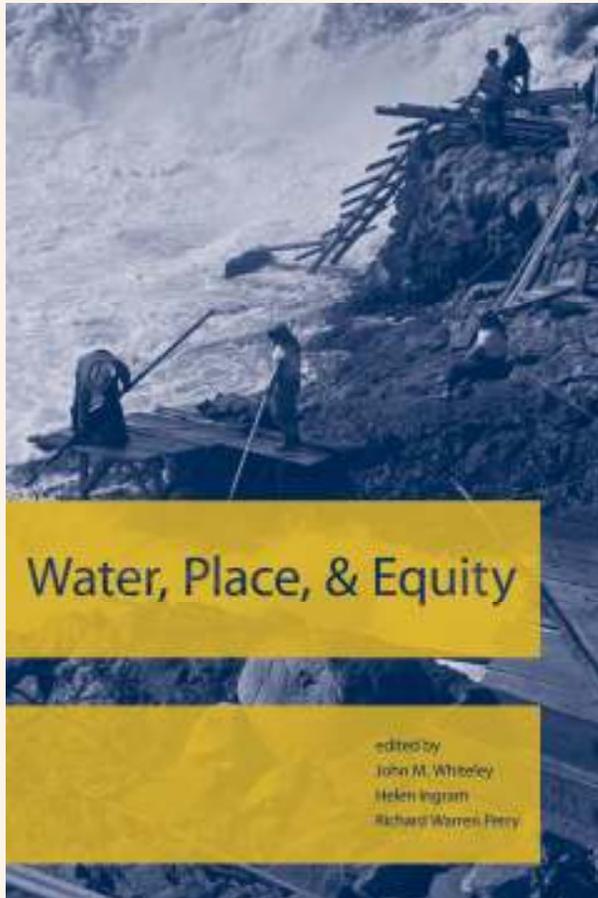
Water, Place and Equity



“Equity requires fair, open and transparent decision-making processes in which all individuals and groups affected by water decisions have an opportunity to participate...”

Source: J.M. Whiteley, H. Ingram & R. Warren Perry (eds.). Water, Place & Equity. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008.

Water, Place and Equity

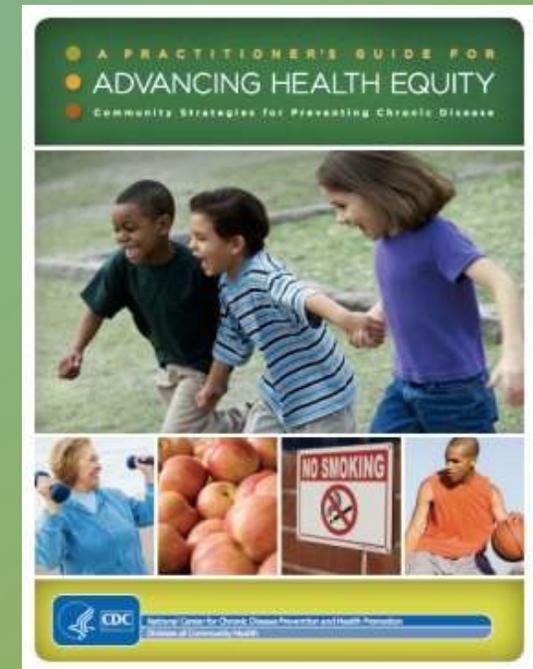


“Everyone’s opportunity to affect policy outcomes is not equally weighted. Some are provided more opportunities while others are victims to others’ decisions.”

Source: J.M. Whiteley, H. Ingram & R. Warren Perry (eds.). Water, Place & Equity. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008.

“

[Policy, systems, and environmental improvements] have great potential to prevent and reduce health inequities, affect a large portion of the population, and can be leveraged to address root causes, ensuring the greatest possible health impact is achieved over time. However, without careful design and implementation, such interventions may inadvertently widen health inequities.



-Practitioner's Guide for Advancing Health Equity, CDC.

”



For public health researchers and practitioners, preventing displacement may be the single greatest challenge and the most important task in our collective efforts to create healthy communities for all.”

–Dr. Muntu Davis, Health Officer and Public Health Director,
Alameda County



Displacement

“...occurs when any household is forced to move from its residence by conditions which affect that dwelling or its immediate surroundings, and:

Are beyond the household's reasonable ability to control or prevent;

Occur despite the household's having met all previously-imposed conditions of occupancy;

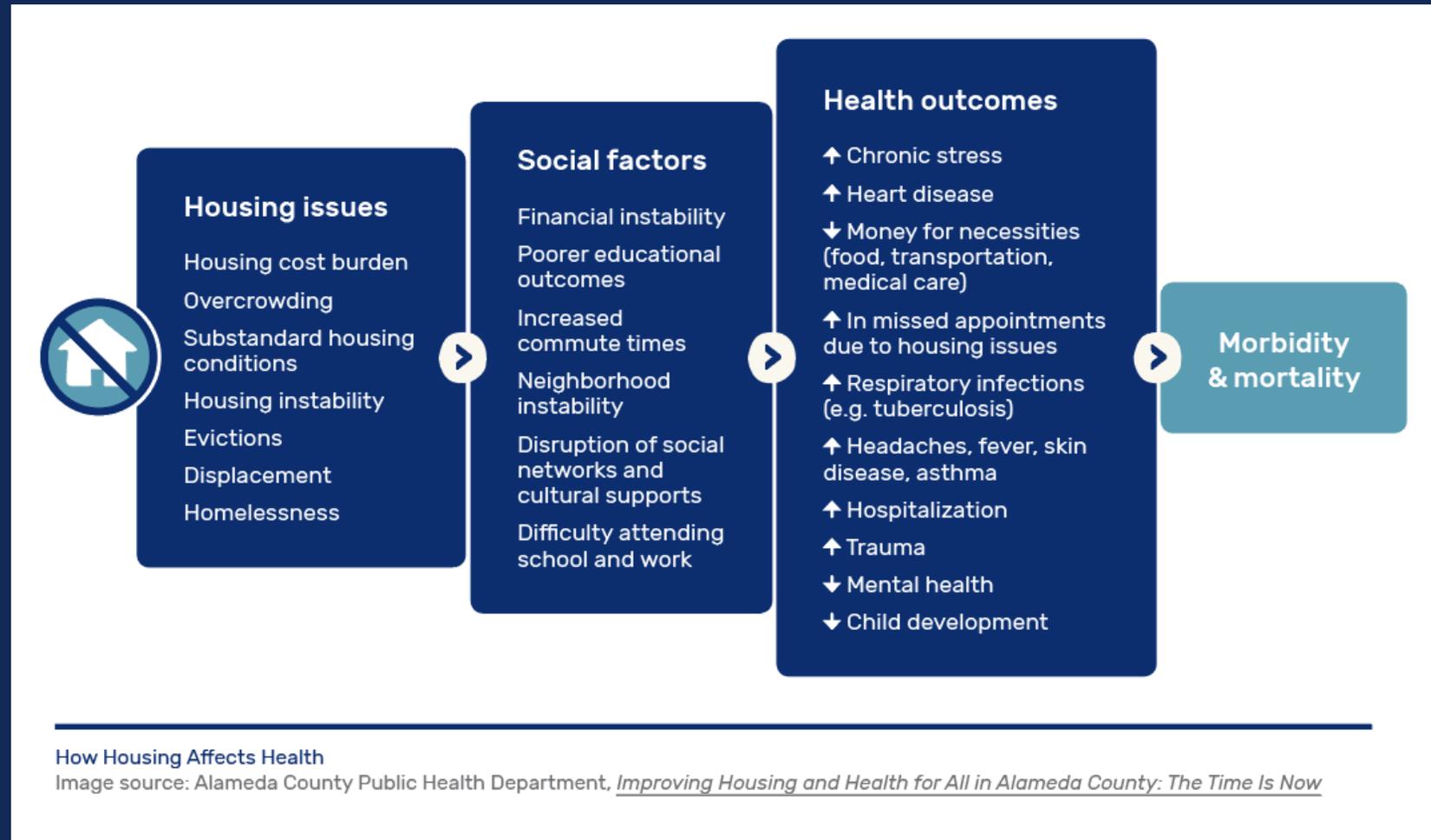
And make continued occupancy by the household impossible, hazardous, or unaffordable.”

– Grier and Grier, 1978



Too frequently, low and middle income people and people of color get squeezed out of neighborhood housing and business markets rather than benefiting from new development and investments.

Housing Affects Health





Healthy Development **Without Displacement**

Realizing the Vision of Healthy Communities for All

© July 2017 www.preventioninstitute.org

Influencing Policy and Legislation

Examples

- Enact a Health in All Policies ordinance/resolution to integrate health considerations and performance standards into all government practices
- Establish special districts/zones to create a focal point for healthy, equitable investments and policies
- Create requirements and/or incentives for affordable housing units as part of new transit-oriented residential developments
- Establish impact/linkage fees to capture the value generated by new development, and invest revenue in affordable housing trust funds, or other health equity promoting resources
- Enact living wage policies with strong monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to generate higher incomes and local wealth

Healthy, Equitable, Active Land Use Network (HEALU Network)

- Active transportation, housing, parks, healthy food, environmental justice, public health, law
- Grassroots organizing, community development, academic research, strategic policy advocacy
- Joined by a shared vision that healthy, equitable land use can be intentionally produced through strategic multi-sector action

Strategic Opportunities to Create a Healthy, Equitable Land Use System in Los Angeles



About the HEALU Network The Healthy, Equitable, Active Land Use Network (HEALU Network) was formed to promote policies and practices in Los Angeles' land use system that support health and social equity. The HEALU Network represents broad topical expertise—active transportation, parks and open space, affordable housing, environmental law, public health, and more—and varying approaches, from grassroots organizing to community development to strategic policy advocacy, across Los Angeles' diverse landscape. We are joined by a shared belief that healthy, equitable land use can be intentionally produced through strategic multi-sector action. Together, we are committed to building a healthier, more equitable land use system in Los Angeles.

This brief was prepared by Prevention Institute on behalf of the Healthy, Equitable, Active Land Use Network (HEALU Network) and represents a broad vision for achieving health equity through land use.

For a full list of HEALU Network partners and to learn more please visit www.preventioninstitute.org.



Strategies for a Healthy Equitable Land Use System

1. Increase the percentage of public funds invested in health-promoting infrastructure in low-income communities of color
2. Build capacity in government, the private sector, and community based organizations for robust community engagement in land use planning and policymaking
3. Accelerate land use innovations and demonstration policies and projects in low-income communities of color, and scale up successful pilots to drive policy change.
4. Foster cross-government collaboration to embed health and equity in all land use decisions.

Best Practices

- Create relevant, accessible data that identifies issue hotspots and opportunities in relation to health and social disadvantage
- Partner with and invest in low-income communities of color to build community capacity, organizational infrastructure, authentic leaders and ownership
- Start where the community is at with an issue and make connections between your issue and their needs
- Work at the intersection of the issue and community priorities such as good paying jobs, public safety, youth development and community amenities

Benefits of Partnering with CBOs

- Finding a common language with residents on issues connected to individual and community health needs
- Implementing culturally- and community-relevant strategies for engaging residents on environmental health and infrastructure issues
- Establishing a level of resident trust in discussions and decision-making on built environment and land use related matters (parks, housing, transportation, water...)
- Building a regional constituency for solutions led by youth and adult resident leaders of low-income and Latino, African American and Asian American communities.

Building Capacity for Equitable Participation

- Target investments in community-based anchor organizations
- Prioritize engagement in “high need” or “disadvantaged” communities
- Develop and formally adopt inclusive outreach and public engagement standards
- Develop inclusive engagement practices for major land use projects
- Coordinate community engagement across agencies
- Equip people who already have strong community engagement skills to become civic leaders and decision makers

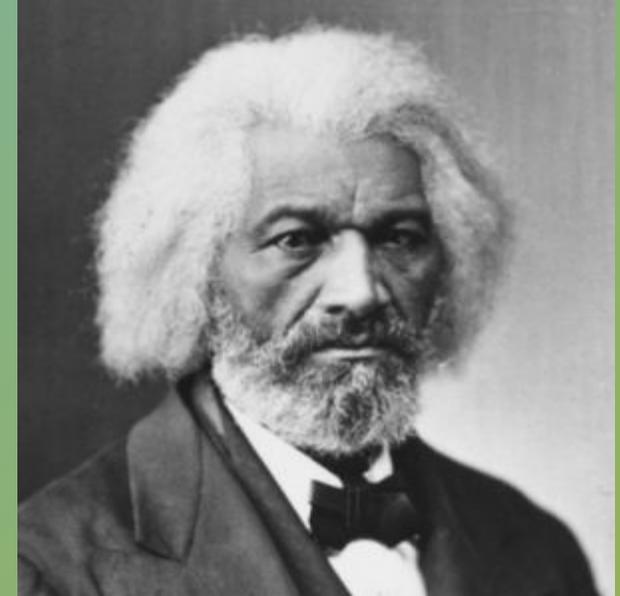
Healthy Land Use for All



“By design, we have left whole communities behind.
By design, we can reverse that and reclaim our
nation and all of its people.”

“

If there is no struggle,
there is no progress.



--Frederick Douglass, 1857

”



Manal J. Aboelata, MPH

Managing Director

323-294-4527

manal@preventininstitute.org