







# “Who’s Leading the Leading Health Indicators?”

- Welcome to the second installment of the monthly series, “Who’s Leading the Leading Health Indicators?”
- Each month, this series will highlight an organization that is using evidence-based approaches to address one of the Healthy People 2020 Leading Health Indicator (LHI) topics.



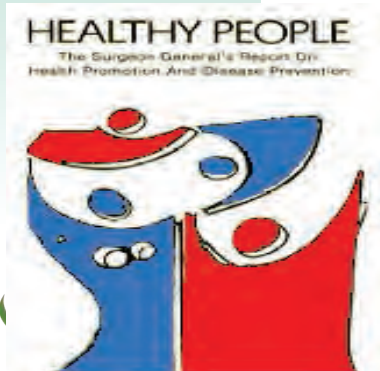
# Webinar Agenda

- Don Wright, MD, MPH  
HHS Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health
- Howard K. Koh, MD, MPH  
HHS Assistant Secretary for Health
- Dalton Paxman, PhD  
HHS Regional Health Administrator, Region III
- Robert Grossmann, Director  
Philadelphia Landcare Program, Pennsylvania  
Horticultural Society
- Charles Branas, PhD  
University of Pennsylvania



# What is Healthy People?

- A comprehensive set of national 10-year health objectives
- A framework for public health priorities and actions
- Roadmap for prevention





# What are the Leading Health Indicators (LHIs)?

## Leading Health Indicators are:

- Critical health issues that, if addressed appropriately, will dramatically reduce the leading causes of preventable deaths and illnesses.
- Linked to specific Healthy People objectives.
- Intended to motivate action to improve the health of the entire population.



# LHI Topics

- Access to Health Services
- Clinical Preventive Services
- Environmental Quality
- Injury and Violence
- Maternal, Infant, and Child Health
- Mental Health
- Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity
- Oral Health
- Reproductive and Sexual Health
- Social Determinants
- Substance Abuse
- Tobacco

# Howard K. Koh, MD, MPH

## Assistant Secretary for Health







# Impact: Injury and Violence

- Reducing injury and violence decreases disabilities and saves lives.
- Injury and Violence
  - Among top 15 killers of Americans of all ages
  - Leading cause of death for ages 1 to 44



# Determinants: Injury and Violence

- Numerous determinants (factors) can affect the risk of injury and violence.
- For example:
  - Individual behaviors
  - Access to services
  - Physical environment

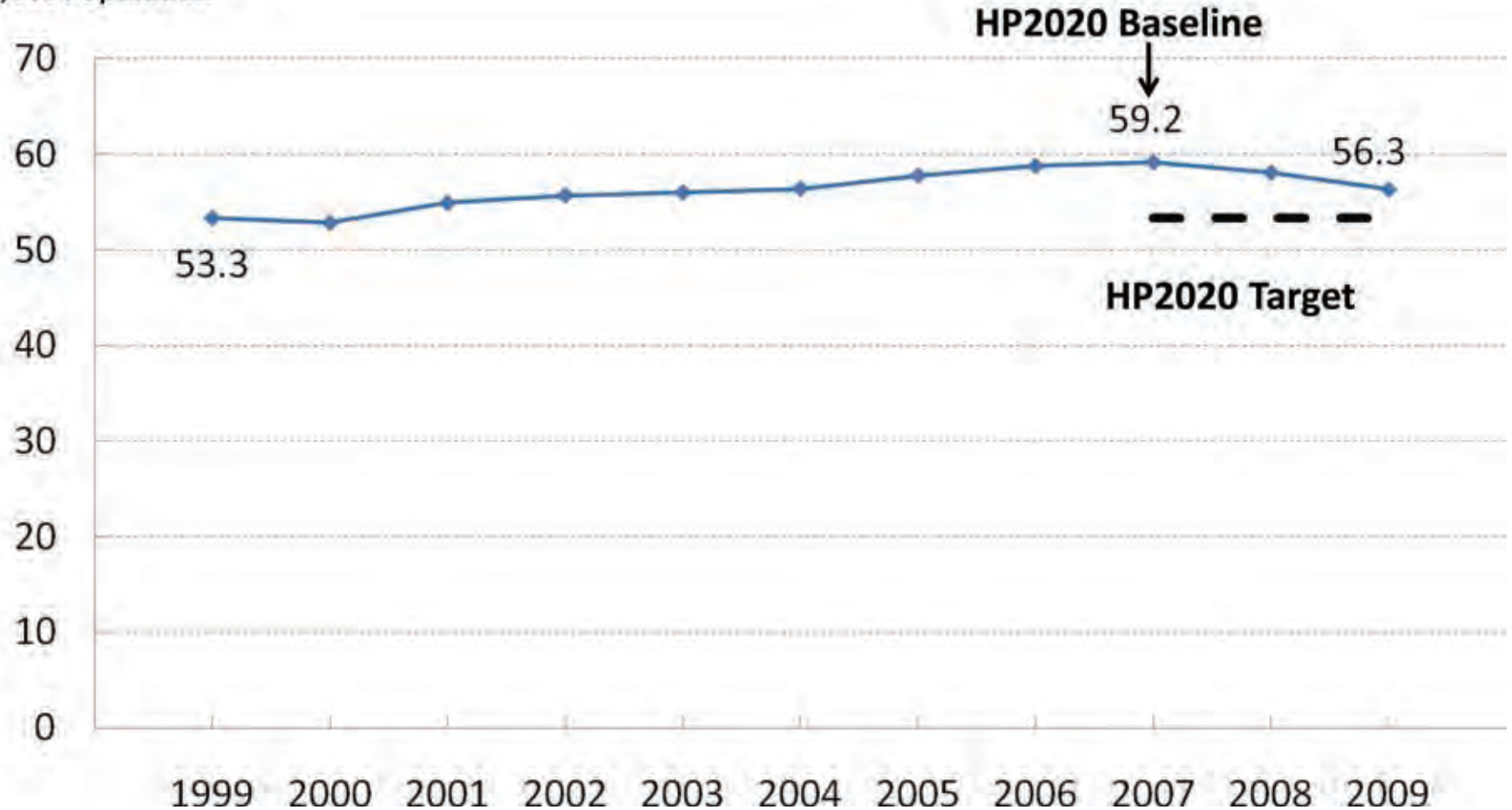


# Leading Health Indicators: Injury and Violence

- **Indicators for injury and violence:**
  - Fatal injuries
  - Homicides
  
- **Healthy People at the community level:**
  - Action at the community level creates momentum for national change.

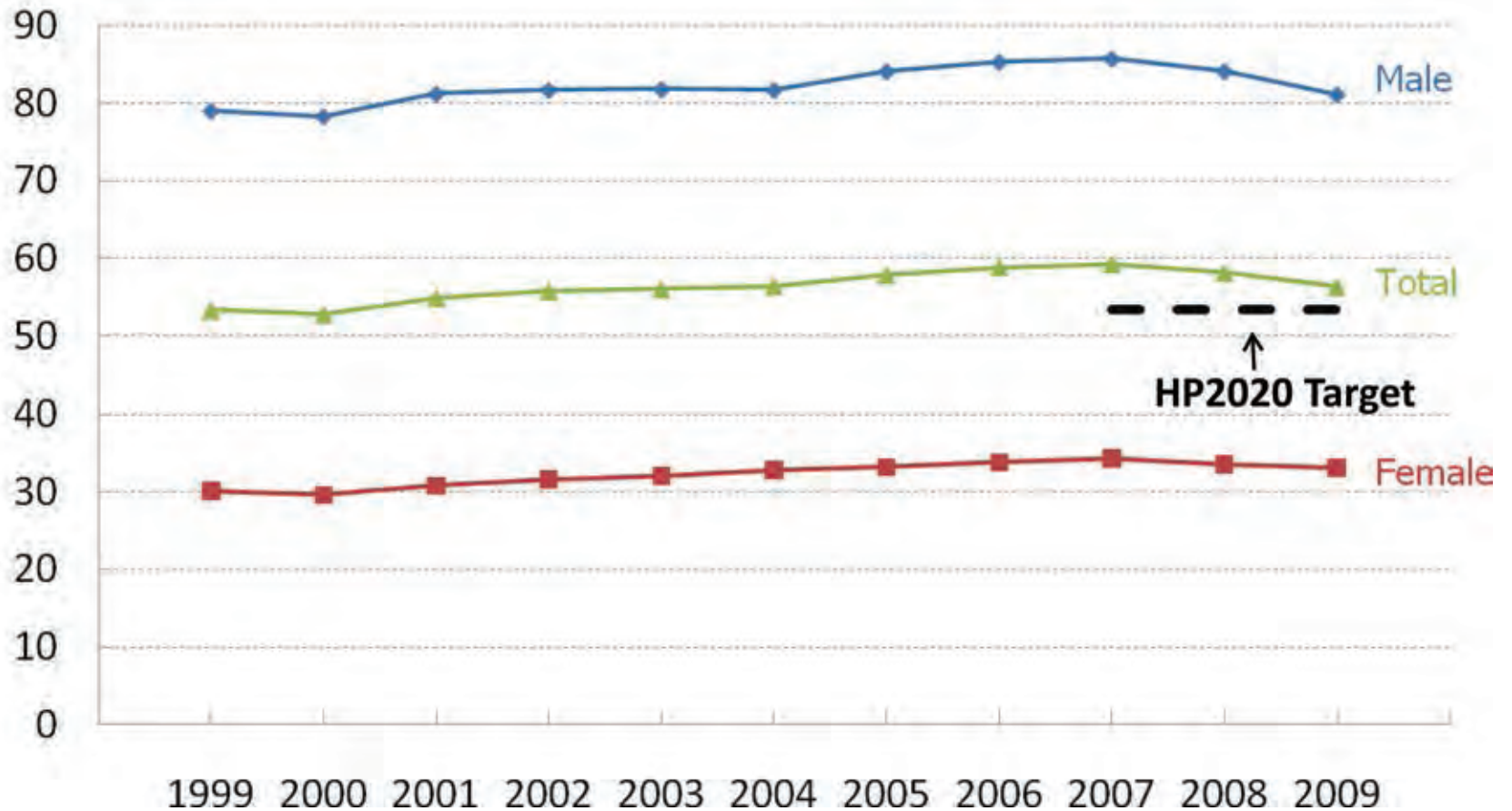
# Injury Death Rate

Age-Adjusted Rate per  
100,000 Population

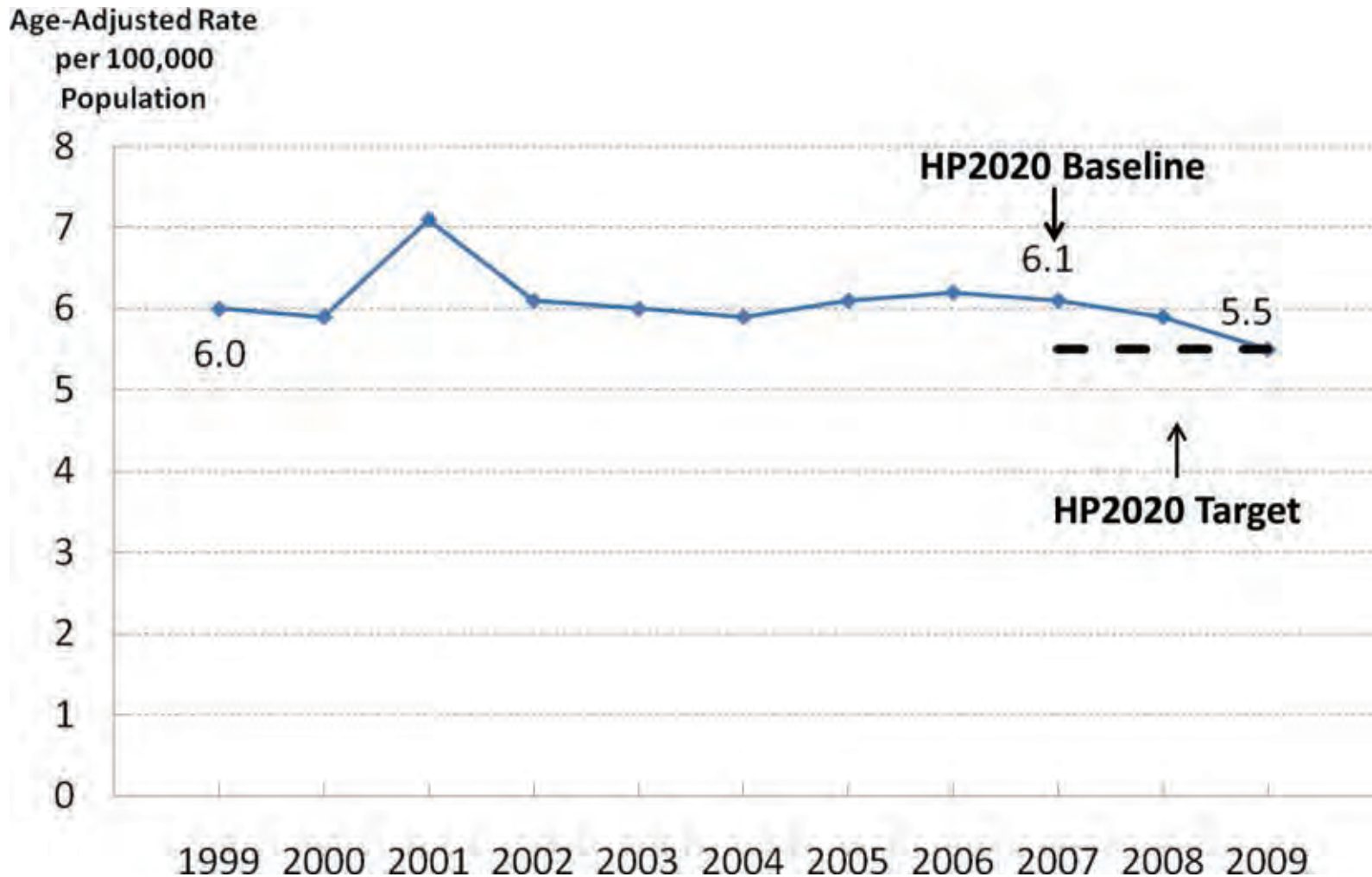


# Injury Death Rate: By Gender

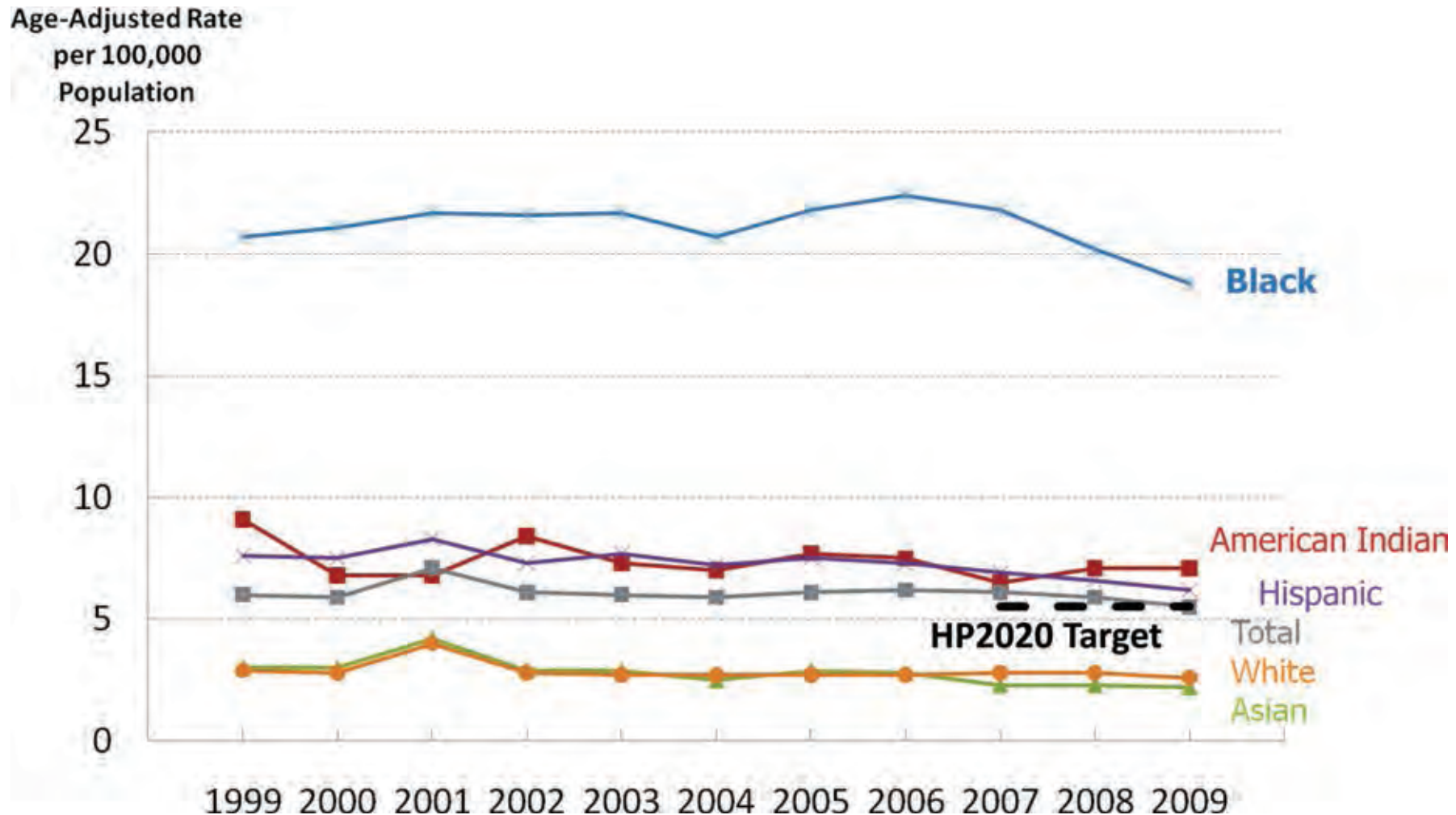
Age-Adjusted Rate per  
100,000 Population



# Homicide Rate



# Homicide Rate: Race and Ethnicity





# Preventing Injury and Violence: Federal Actions

- Teen Violence Awareness Month
- HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities
- Health Reform Law
  - National Prevention Strategy
  - Domestic Violence Screening





A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a small, vibrant green plant with several leaves and a small amount of dark soil. The person is wearing a white t-shirt with a large number '50' on it. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

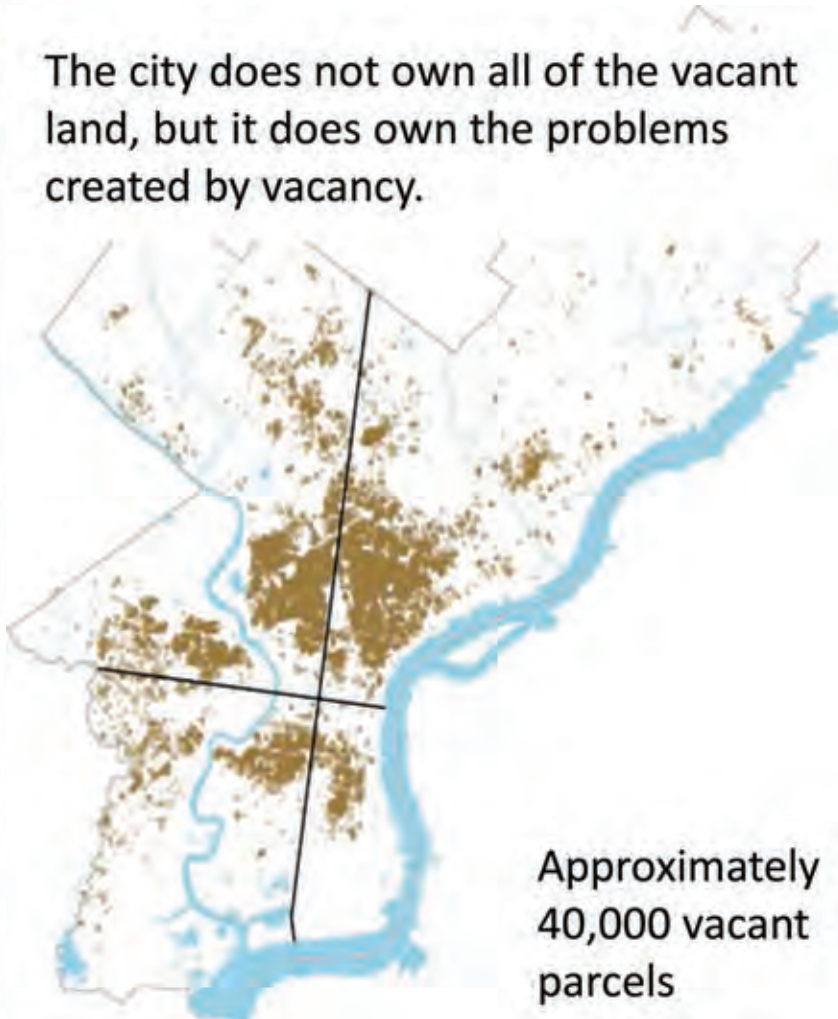
# **Philadelphia LandCare Program**

**Managed by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society  
Under contract with the City of Philadelphia**

# Unmanaged Vacant Land



The city does not own all of the vacant land, but it does own the problems created by vacancy.

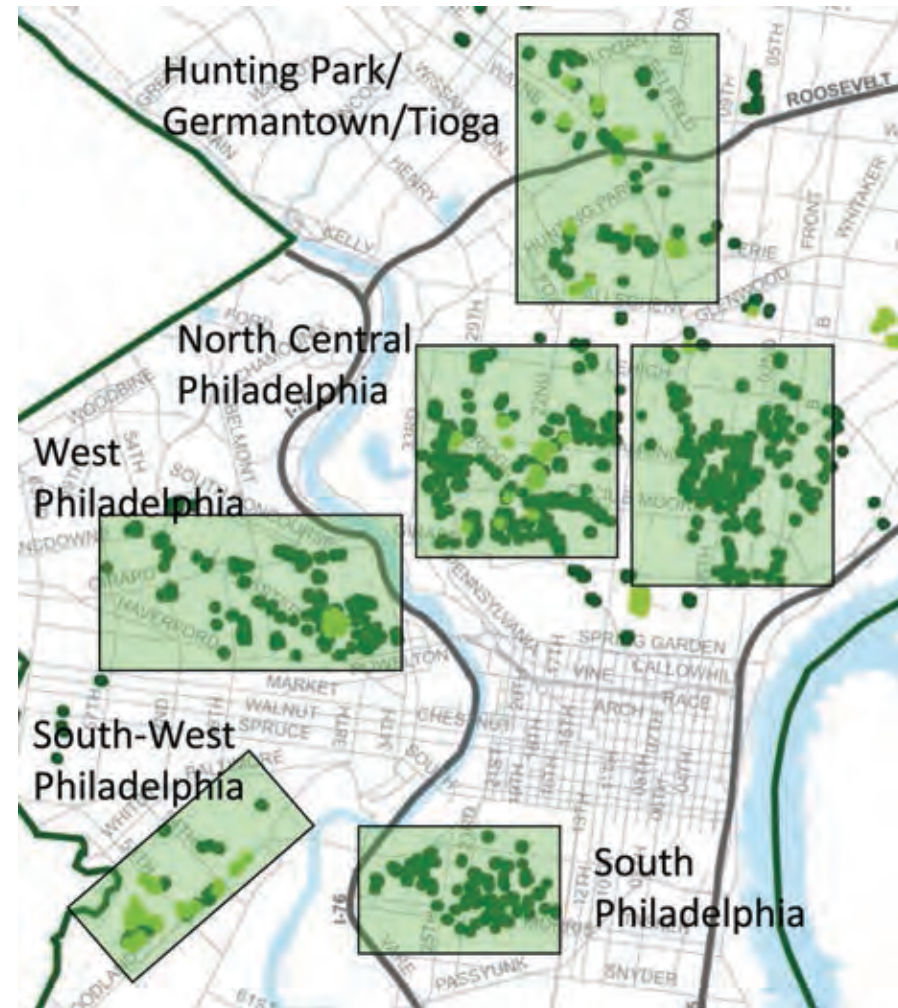


Approximately  
40,000 vacant  
parcels

- Destabilizes neighborhoods
- Depresses property values
- Becomes a haven for illegal activities
- Fosters environmental contamination
- Poses health and safety risks
- Creates a downward spiral of abandonment and disinvestment

# Philadelphia LandCare Program

- Funded by the City of Philadelphia
- 8,000,000 square feet of land stabilized (6000 parcels)



# Interim Treatment-Before



A vacant lot before treatment

# Interim Treatment-After



The same lot after treatment

# Key Elements of Vacant Land Management



- City government / PHS collaboration
- Funding from City of Philadelphia
- Targeted neighborhoods
- Strategic site selection
- Interim treatment
- Pre-development tool
- City-wide scale
- Economical yet pleasing landscape design
- Maintenance system

# Economic Impact



While proximity to a neglected vacant lot subtracts 20% from the value of an adjacent home...



# Economic Impact



...adjacency to a stabilized lot – one that has been improved through cleaning and greening – increases the home's value by as much as 37%.



<http://www.PHSONline.org>

# Health, safety, and greening vacant urban space

Department of Biostatistics and  
Epidemiology

Department of Criminology  
Cartographic Modeling Laboratory

University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, USA



**“Programs that focus on places or structural dimensions can influence the lives of more people and for longer periods of time than individually based interventions.”**

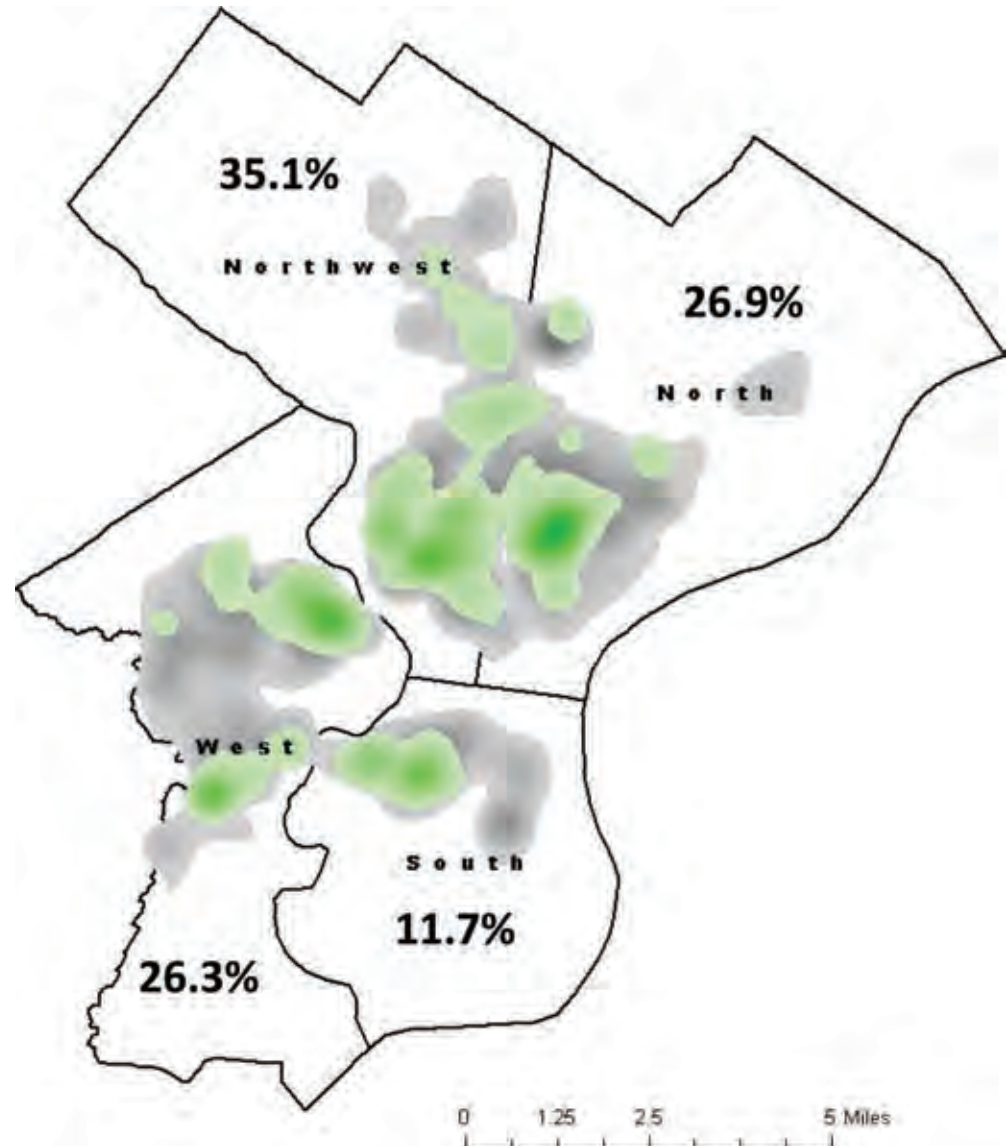


# Quasi-experimental study

From 1999–2008:

**Greened vacant  
lots (n = 4,436)**

Eligible but  
ungreened  
control lots  
(n = 13,308)



# Effect of greening on health and safety

- Gun assaults significantly reduced in all city sections
- Vandalism significantly reduced in West Philadelphia
- High stress significantly reduced in North Philadelphia
- Exercise significantly increased in West Philadelphia



# Going forward

- Greening vacant urban lots is inexpensive, easily scalable, and shown to reduce certain crimes and enhance aspects of health
- The US still has tens of millions of vacant and abandoned properties
- Community-based trials with random assignment of greening now warranted
- Consideration of other structural or place-based interventions



# Questions?



Branas CC, Cheney RA, MacDonald JM, Tam VW, Jackson TD, Ten Have TR. A difference-in-differences analysis of health, safety, and greening vacant urban space. *Am J Epidemiol* 2011 Dec 1;174(11):1296-306.

Funded in part by grant nos. U49CE001093 and R01AA016187 and R01AA020331





# Question & Answer Session

*Please take a moment to fill out our brief survey.*





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