

# Reimagining community safety from a public health perspective



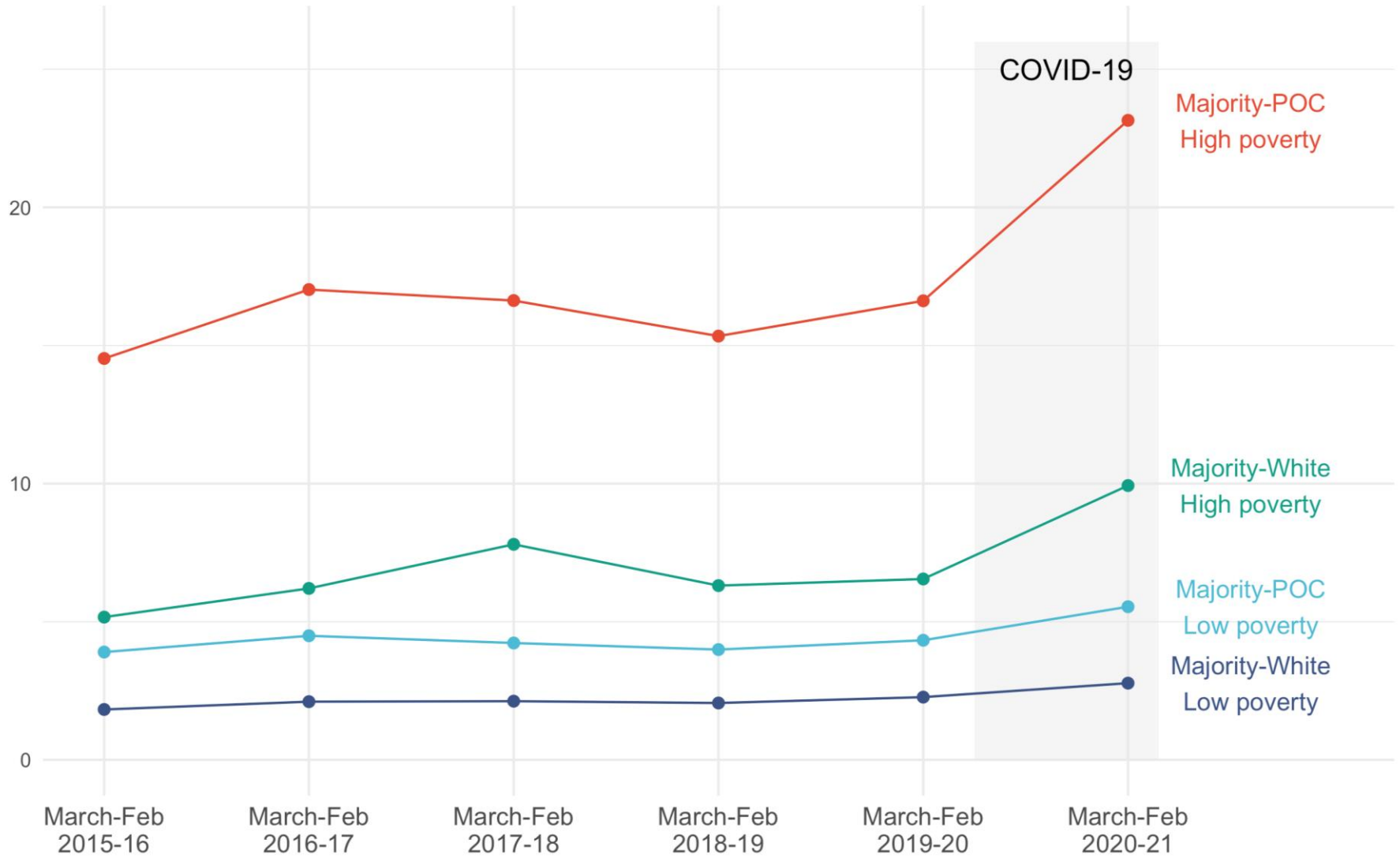
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Boston University School of Public Health



# Firearm homicides per 100k

500 largest US cities, by census tract characteristics



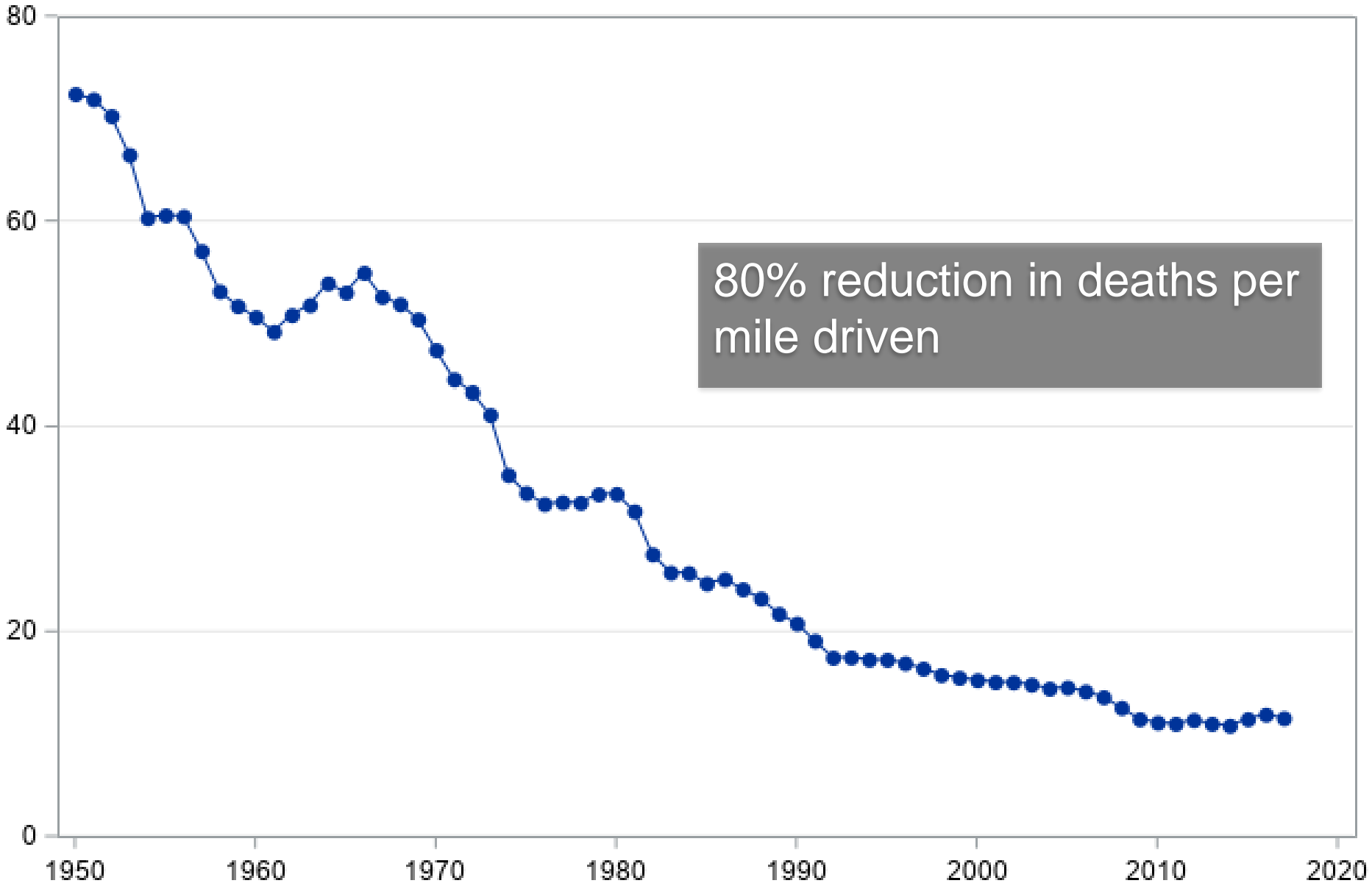
POC = People of Color (any race/ethnicity except non-Hispanic White)  
High poverty: >20% of households below federal poverty line

Data sources: Gun Violence Archive, US Census, CDC 500 Cities Project  
Compiled by RISE Lab at BUSPH



GUN VIOLENCE IS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

# US Motor Vehicle Deaths per Billion Miles Traveled 1950-2017



80% reduction in deaths per mile driven



VS.

100-A EXHIBIT FARS CODING FORMS (ACCIDENT LEVEL)																	
1998 Fatal Accident Reporting System														O.M.B. No. 2127-008			
U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Traffic Safety														DATE LOGGED: STATE CODE, MO.			
CASE NUMBER		STATE (GSA CODES)		CONSECUTIVE NUMBER		CITY		COUNTY		16		20					
DATE		21		22		23		24		25		26					
Month, Day and Year		1		9		9		8		Military Time		208					
										Number of Vehicle Forms Submitted		33					
										Number of Person Forms Submitted		38					
										Number of Non-Motorist Forms Submitted		27					
NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM										36		SPEED LIMIT		78		79	
0—This Section IS NOT on the NHS 1—This Section IS on the NHS 9—Unknown if This Section is on the NHS										Actual Miles Per Hour Exceed		99—Unknown		ROADWAY ALIGNMENT		80	
ROADWAY FUNCTION CLASS										40		1—Straight		2—Curve		9—Unknown	
RURAL					URBAN					1—Level		2—Hillcrest		9—Unknown			
01—Principal Arterial-Interstate					11—Principal Arterial-Interstate					3—Grade		4—Gag		ROAD SURFACE TYPE		81	
02—Principal Arterial-Other					12—Principal Arterial-Other					1—Concrete		4—Top, Crown or Slope		9—Unknown			
03—Minor Arterial					13—Other Principal Arterial					2—Blacktop (Bituminous)		5—Dirt		ROAD SURFACE CONDITIONS		82	
04—Minor Collector					14—Local Road or Street					3—Gravel or Stone		6—Other		9—Unknown			
05—Major Collector					15—Collector					4—Sand, Gravel, etc.		8—Other		83			
06—Local Road or Street					16—Local Road or Street					1—Asphalt		2—Wet		9—Unknown			
09—Unknown Rural					99—Unknown Urban					2—Ice		3—Sand, Dirt, Oil					
ROUTE SIGNING										42		LOCAL STREET		1—City		2—Other	
1—Interstate					2—U.S. Highway					3—State Highway					4—County Road		
6—Tombolo					7—Municipality					8—Other					9—Unknown		





Law enforcement



Residential segregation



Community investment

**Policy environment**



**Social groups**

**Physical spaces**



Retaliation

**“Hurt people hurt people”**

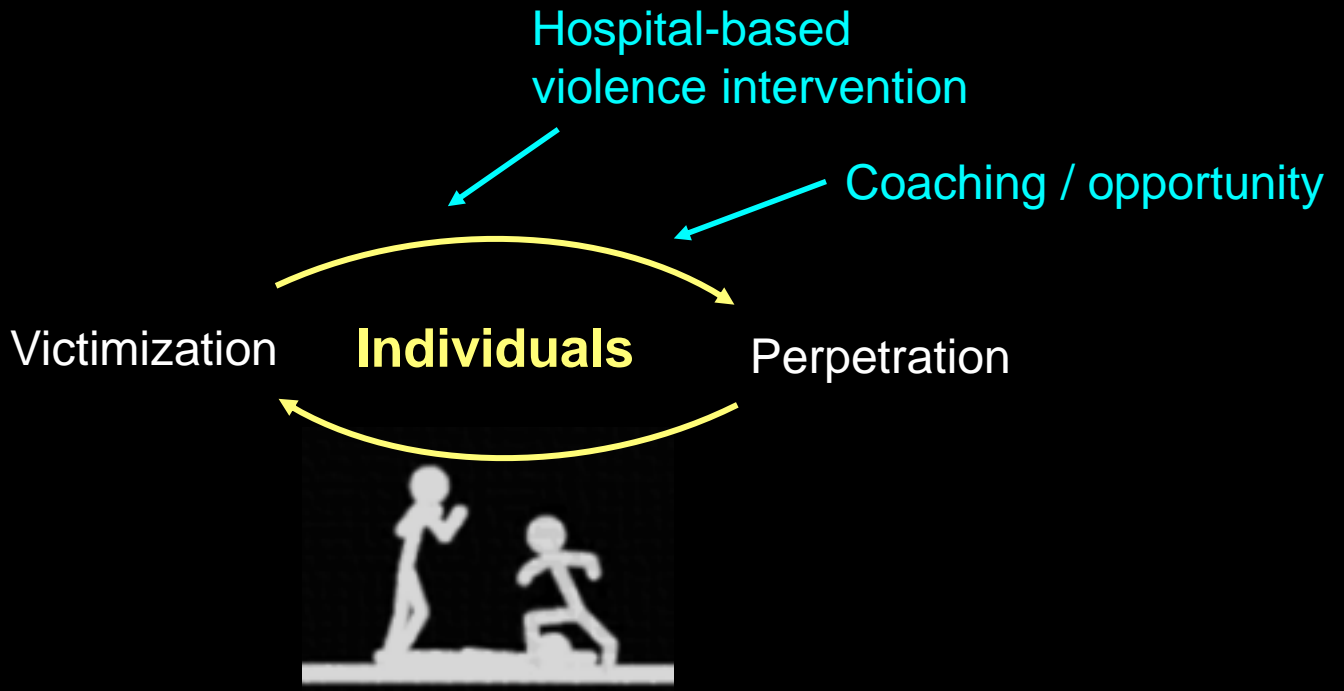
Community control

Victimization

**Individuals**

Perpetration





**Social connections**

**Physical spaces**



Retaliation

Violence interruption  
Street outreach

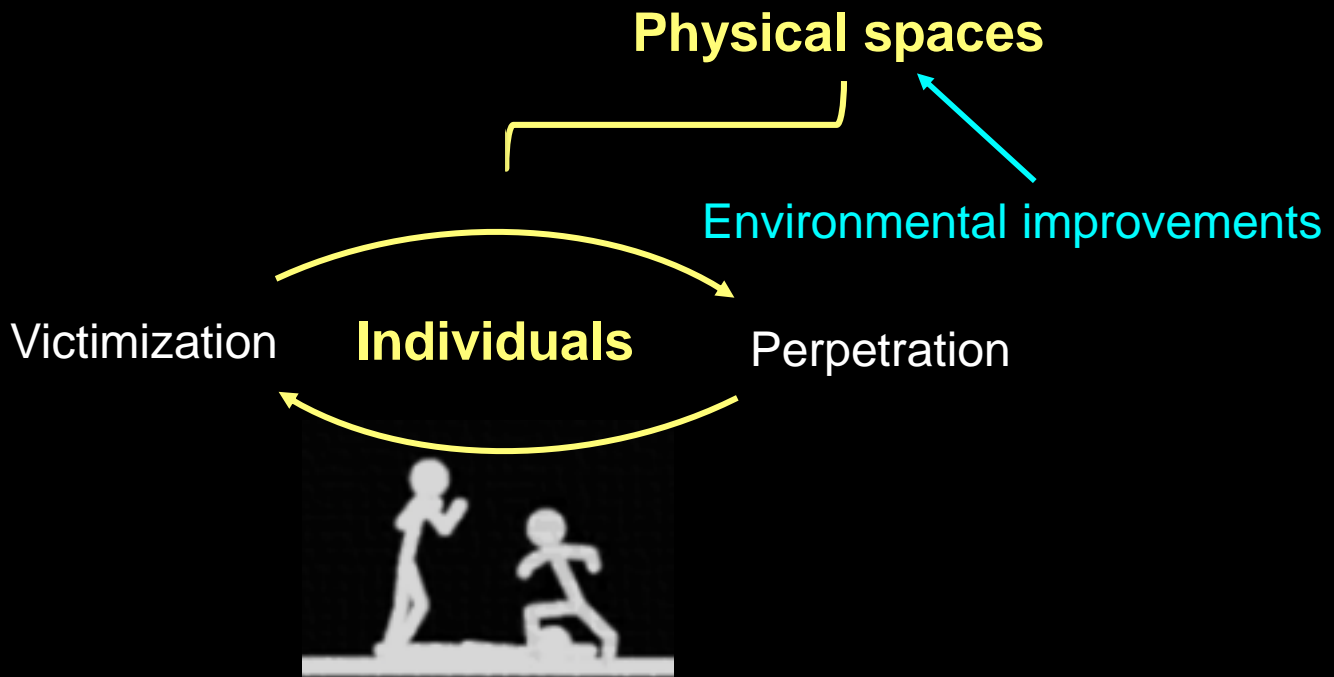
Victimization

**Individuals**

Perpetration









“Cleaning & greening” vacant lots: 29% reduction in firearm assaults in cluster RCT (Philadelphia)

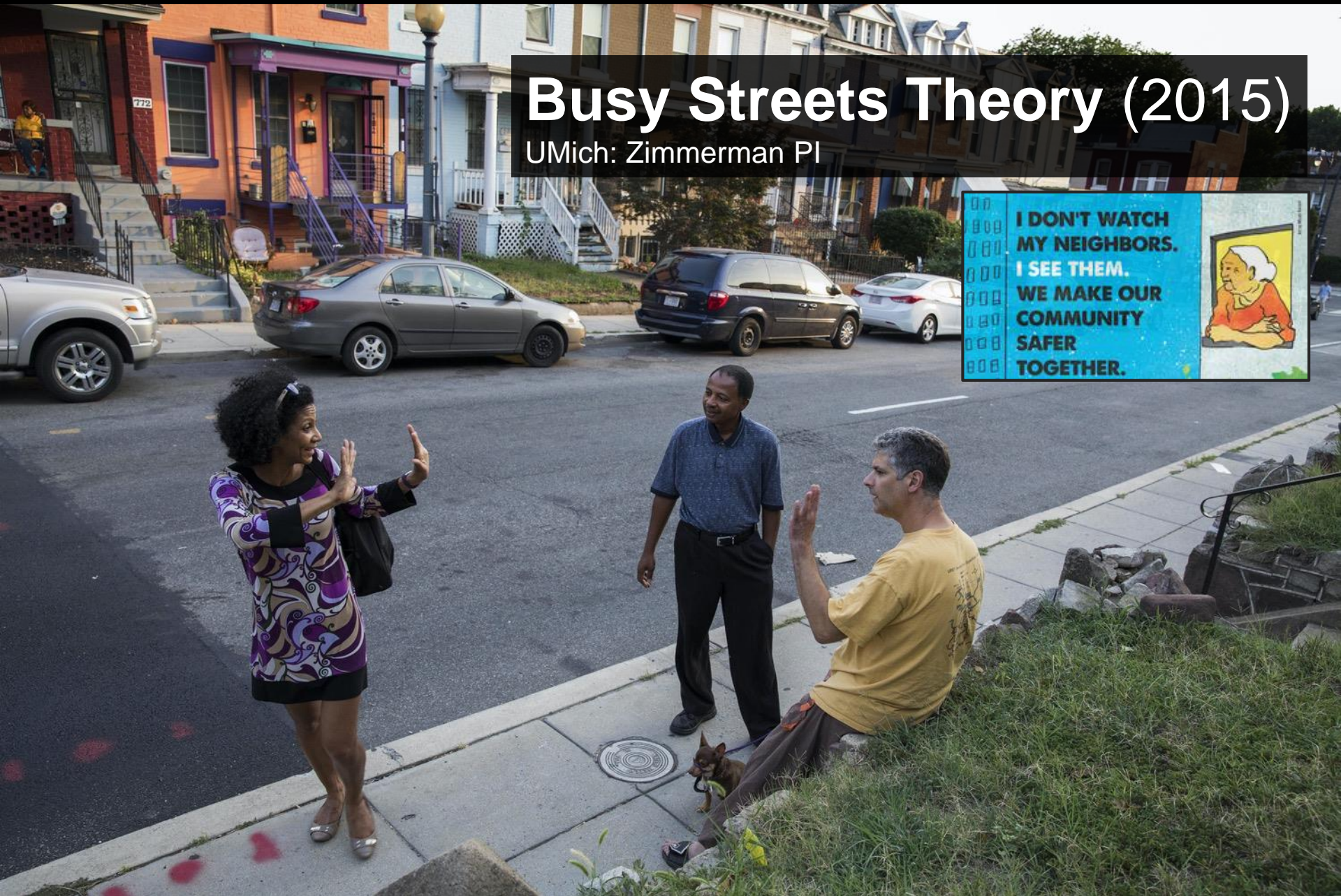
- Similar results in Flint, MI

Branas et al, PNAS (2018)

Heinze et al, Am J Community Psychol (2018)

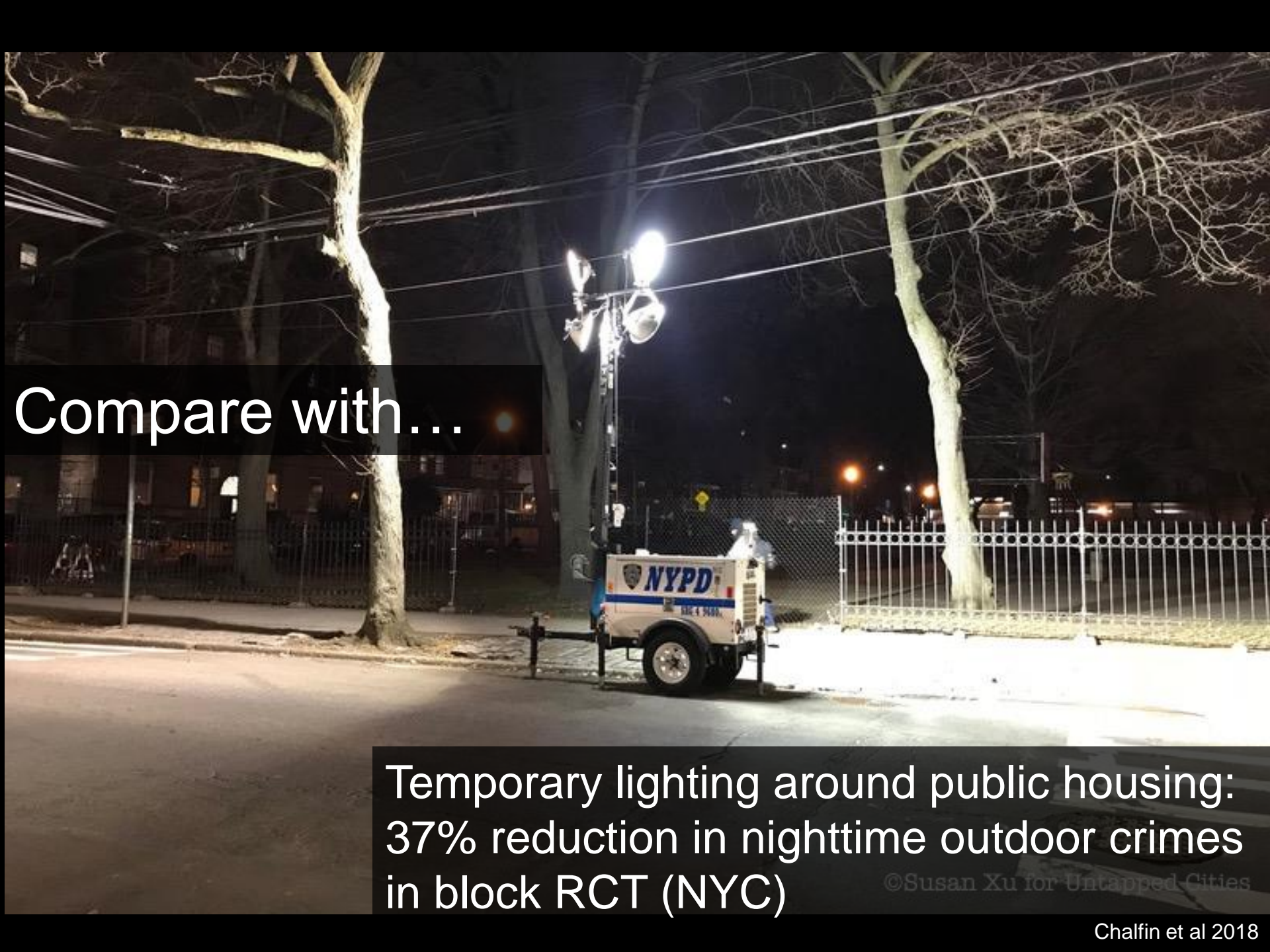
# Busy Streets Theory (2015)

UMich: Zimmerman PI



## More environment-focused interventions:

- Require owners make housing repairs (e.g. doors, windows)
- Demolish abandoned buildings
- Increase tree cover
- Alter roadways (cul-de-sacs)
- Business improvement districts
- “Safe Passage” routes to school



Compare with...

Temporary lighting around public housing:  
37% reduction in nighttime outdoor crimes  
in block RCT (NYC)

©Susan Xu for Untapped Cities

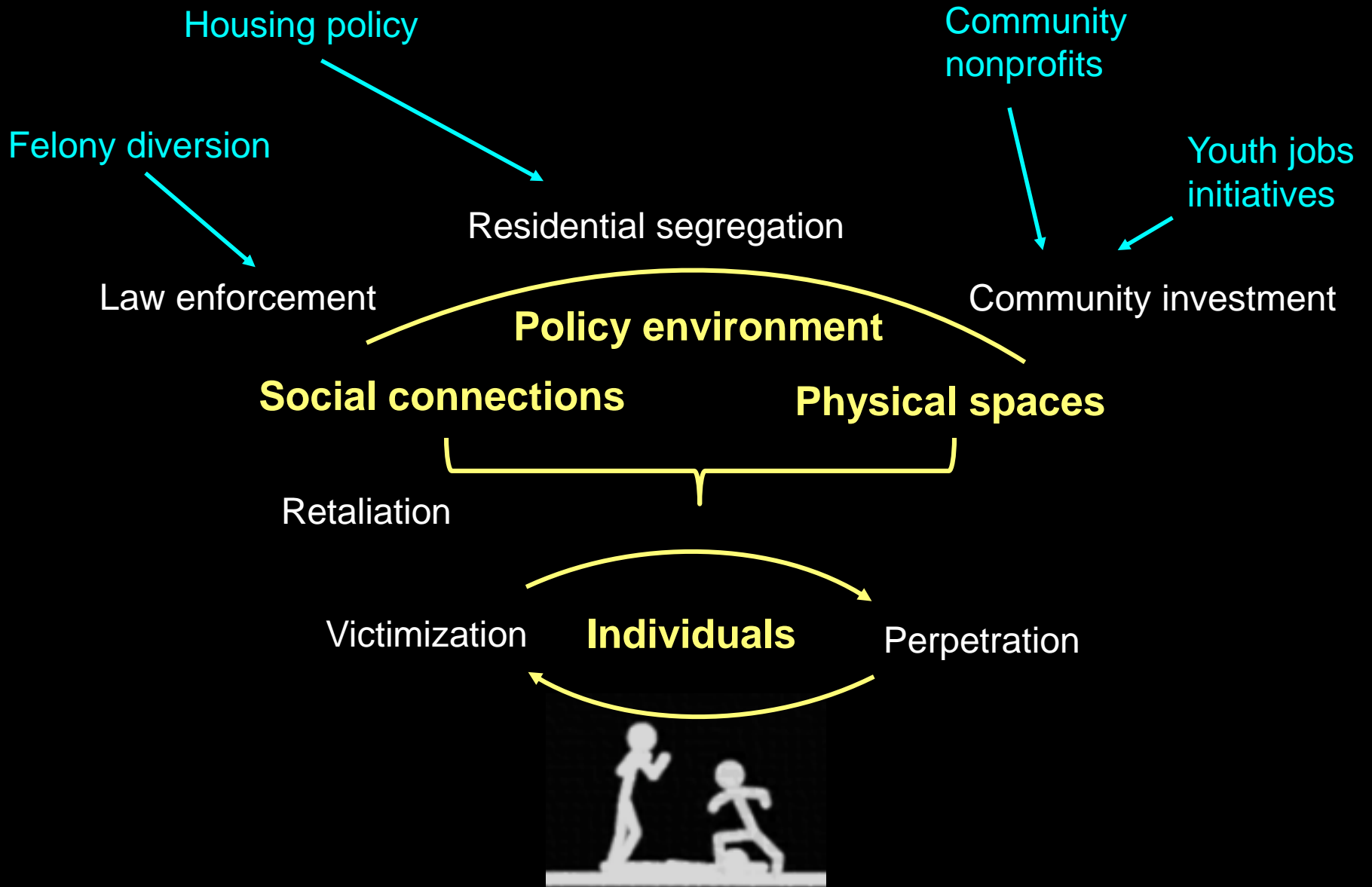
Residential segregation  
Law enforcement **Policy environment** Community investment

**Social connections** **Physical spaces**

Retaliation

Victimization **Individuals** Perpetration





# Summary

- Cycles of gun violence occur at the individual and community levels
- Interventions should address the multiple drivers of community gun violence risk
- Investments in physical spaces can contribute to reductions in gun violence

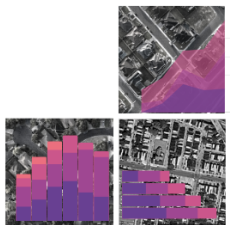


# Thank you!

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[sites.bu.edu/riselab](https://sites.bu.edu/riselab)



**RISE Lab**

**Research on Innovations for Safety and Equity**