

BUILDINGENERGY BOSTON

Racism Has Always Been a Public Health Crisis: Equity and Health in the Built Environment

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How do buildings impact human health?

02/21/2018

Learning Objectives

- **Describe** the importance of mechanical ventilation in reducing indoor air pollutants as well as simple steps that residents in low-to-moderate resource settings can do to mitigate exposure.
 - **Access** the resources that can help identify and specify building materials which promote occupant health, as well as equity and environmental justice in the built environment and throughout the supply chain.
 - **Address** cultural diversity considerations in the building planning and design process and take action to make building design policies and procedures more culturally inclusive.
 - **Challenge** common understandings of “access” and “recreation,” leading to a reframing of the importance of providing a safe and accessible pathway to greenspace.
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What determines health outcomes?

>5% Genetics/biology

≈20% Lifestyle/behavior

≈20% Medical care

≈55% Physical & social environment

**It's not your genetic code...
it's your zip code!**

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/socialdeterminants/faq.html>

Scary Statistics

90% Time we spend indoors

75% Deaths caused by chronic disease, up from 13% in 1800

85% Of the 82,000 chemicals in use lacking available health data



Today's kids are the first generation expected to have shorter life expectancy than their parents

Source: Fitwel Ambassadors Training Video 2017

Racism is a Public Health Crisis

- “Racism and discrimination are leading barriers to health equity and have perpetuated a society where Black people are more likely to face chronic diseases, die from violence, and suffer from prolonged depression.”
- In New York City, Black residents are more than **twice** as likely to die from COVID-19 as Whites.
- New study released 9/15: more than **75%** of children dying from COVID-19 are Black, Hispanic and American Indian

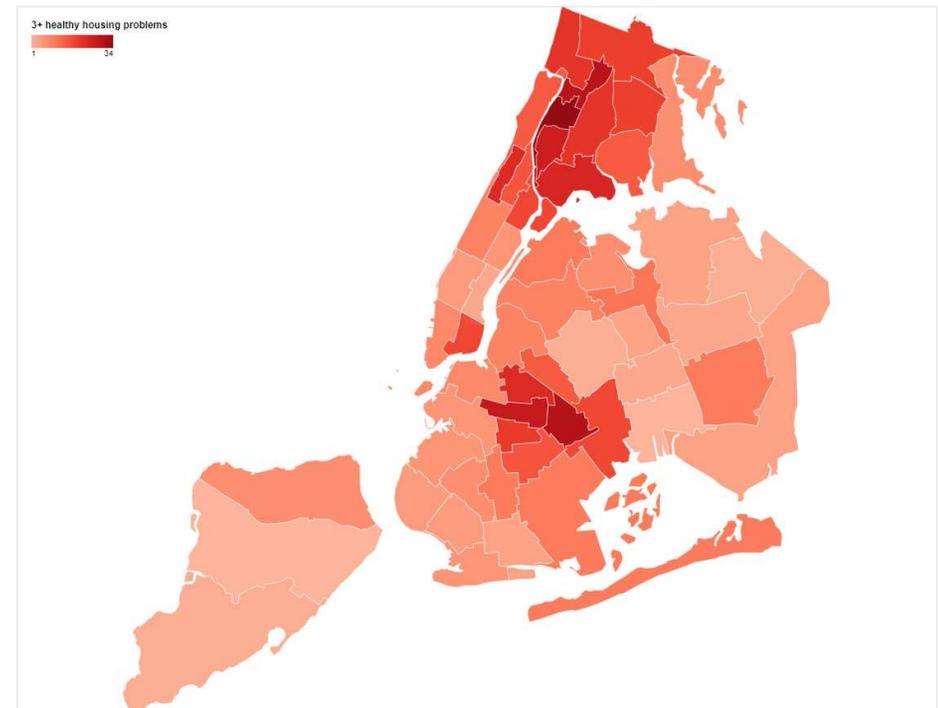


For Health, place matters.

- **And should be a right.**

Healthy housing problems

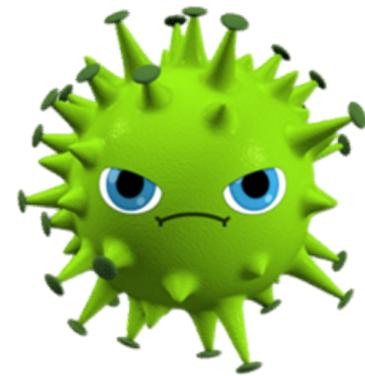
- Cockroaches
- Mice and rats
- Cracks and holes in walls
- Water leaks
- Broken plaster, peeling paint
- Heat breakdown
- Supplemental heat
- No air conditioning
- Toilet breakdowns
- ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE



Public Health Crisis

- Breast cancer increasing
- Testicular cancer increasing
- Asthma increasing
- Fertility rates declining
- Sperm count declining
- Learning disabilities increasing
- Obesity increasing
- **PANDEMICS**

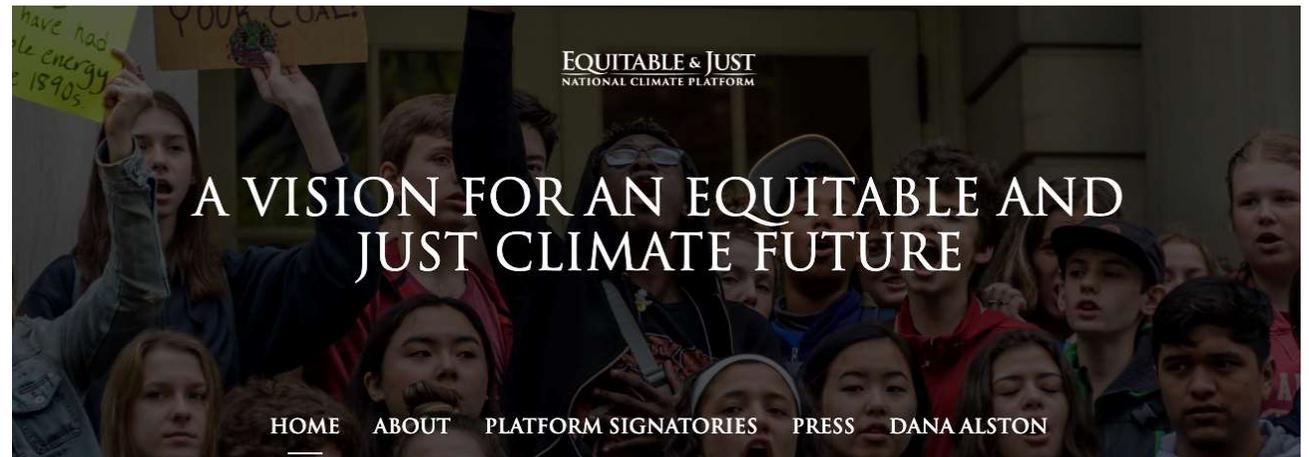
RACISM



COVID-19

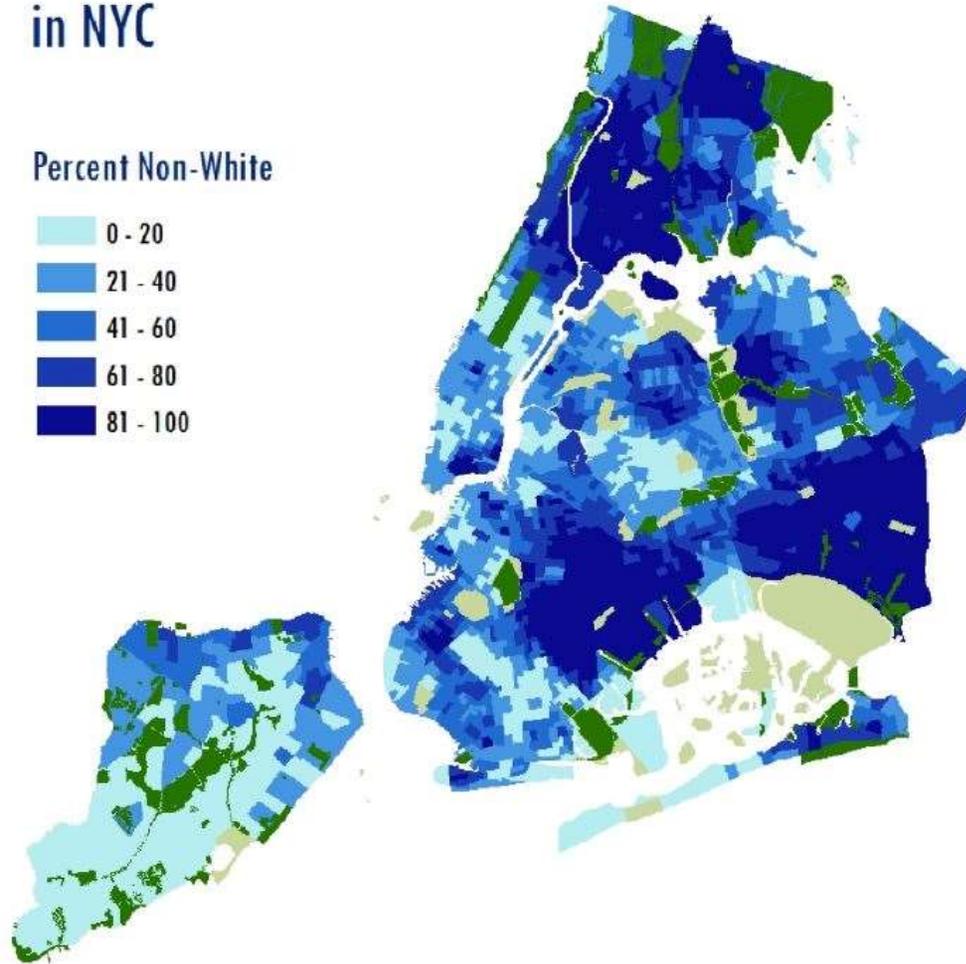
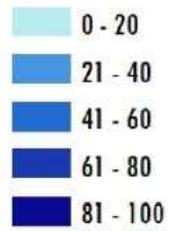


Reasons for Hope:
**We know more
now than we have
ever known!**



Marginalized Communities in NYC

Percent Non-White



Reach Out!



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