COMMUNITY-ENGAGED GREENING AND VIOLENCE

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GENESEE COUNTY LAND BANK
CLEAN & GREEN PROGRAM

- Community-engaged greening program
- Maintenance every 3 weeks
- Mowing, weeding, trash removal
MAINTENANCE MATTERS!

Unmaintained Vacant Lots

- Depression, anxiety, stress
- Increased fear of crime
- Dumping and illegal activities

Maintained Vacant Lots

- Improved sense of safety
- Improved public health
- Reduction in assaults and crime
COMMUNITY-ENGAGED GREENING

- Increased participation by neighborhood residents
- Improved community pride
- Removed locations for criminal activity
- Visible signs of care and ownership
Does community-engaged greening of vacant lots influence violence?
VACANT LOT CHARACTERISTICS

- Residential, Commercial, Utility, Industrial
- Vacancy Status
- Foreclosure status by year
- Genesee County Land Bank Clean & Green
PARCEL COMPARISON

Clean and Green Residential Vacant Properties

Foreclosed Residential Vacant Properties
Clean & Green and Foreclosed Vacant Lots
Street Segment is a section of a street that ends
- Intersection with another street
- Dead-ends

Crime Incident at Block Address: Assaults

Crimes that occurred during the Clean and Green season
Crime incidents aggregated to nearest 100th block
City of Flint

- Total: 7,246 Street Segments
- Our sample: 662 Street Segments
Street segments with C&G or foreclosed vacant lots
Street segments with C&G or foreclosed vacant lots - color
C&G - Prior Year
Street segments used in analysis
NEIGHBORHOOD FACTORS

- Census
  - Neighborhood Disadvantage

- MI-YVPC Survey
  - Social Capital/ Cohesion
  - Neighborhood Disorder
  - Fear of Crime
  - Neighborhood Participation
DATA ANALYSIS

- Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM)
- Final Model:
  - Level 1: Street Characteristics
    - Community-engaged greening or not
    - Prior year assault incidence
    - Vacancy density
  - Level 2: Neighborhood Characteristics
    - Social Capital/Cohesion
    - Neighborhood Disorder
    - Fear of Crime
    - Neighborhood Participation
    - Neighborhood Disadvantage
Table 1. Effect of street segment with vacant lot maintained by community-engaged greening group or vacant lot on mean assault incidence (street segments n=633, census block group n=107)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Street segments with vacant lots maintained by community-engaged greening or vacant, foreclosed vacant lots not maintained by community-engaged greening.</td>
<td>Model 1a</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community-Engaged Greening (1=Yes, 0=No)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intercept B₀</td>
<td>-.99**</td>
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<td>Model 1b</td>
<td>Community-Engaged Greening (1=Yes, 0=No)</td>
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<td>Intercept B₀</td>
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<td>Previous Year Assaults</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vacancy Density</td>
<td>.07**</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population Density</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Income Less than 15,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Education HS of Less</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Owner Occupied Properties</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Social Capital/Cohesion (z-score)</td>
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<td>Neighborhood Disorder (z-score)</td>
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<td>Neighborhood Participation</td>
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<td>Fear of Crime (z-score)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*p ≤ 0.05, ** p ≤ 0.01
LIMITATIONS

- Cautions about causal inference
- Additional factors to explore
- Generalizability
IMPLICATIONS

- Reduction of Urban Blight
- Social Diffusion of Benefits
- Flint has opportunities to invest in greening
Thank you to:

Genesee County Land Bank
Flint Police Department

For more information please visit:

http://yvpc.sph.umich.edu/
Kettering University’s success is linked to the success of the city of Flint, state of Michigan and the entire Midwest region.
Home Purchase and Renovation Assistance Program (2016)

Stevenson Neighborhood

2016 Property Conditions

Stevenson Neighborhood

2005
Renew The Avenue
A Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grant
October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2017
Our Goals

• Reduce property crime, drug related crime, and assaults by 20%
• Reduce blight that facilitates crime by 50%
• Increase community participation at all levels

Partnerships

• Social Services & Homelessness
• Health
• Law Enforcement
• Universities
• Housing (Federal, State, City, Nonprofit)
• Foundations
• Realtors
• Neighborhoods
• Consultants
• Community Economic Development (State & Local & Nonprofit)
• Subject Matter Experts (training)
• Placemaking
• Government

January 2014 - March 2015
Strategies

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (5)
- Placemaking (4)
- Resident Organizing (5)
- Drug Enforcement (2)
- Blight Elimination (3)
- Home Repair (1)
- Community Economic Development (3)
- School Safety (1)
- Directed Patrols (5)
- Technology (3)
- Community Engagement (4)
- Public Safety Partnerships (3)

Strategies in Stevenson

- Flint Urban Safety Corps
- Stevenson Block Club
- Directed Patrols
- Community Economic Development
- Community Engagement Team
- Placemaking
- Flint Urban Safety Corps
Stevenson Block Club

Directed Patrols

- Stevenson party store
- Health, EBT, alcohol & tobacco, blight compliance
- Open air drug markets eliminated
- Nearly all drug markets eliminated
- Emergency evictions on drug houses
- County Prosecutor Partnership
- Flint River (Trail) Watchers
- Bike patrols
- 24% reduction in crime
- 73% quality of life improvement

Community Economic Development

- Greenview Manor (Stevenson)
  - Multi-Million dollar development
  - 80 units of permanent supportive veteran housing