

## INTEGRATING PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH EQUITY INTO COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING: DEVELOPING THE NORTH BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK PLAN

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### Disclosure

- No personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation
- Information presented here does not necessarily represent the official views of the authors' affiliations.



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**Your zip code may be as important as your genetic code in predicting your health outcomes and life expectancy.**



- Neighborhood conditions (e.g., school quality, housing, employment opportunities, environmental exposures, food access, physical activity resources) powerfully predict who is healthy, who is sick, and who lives longer.



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## Planning and Health

- Land use and transportation systems are well-documented sectors with significant population health consequences.
  - Childhood asthma [1-2]
  - Poor birth outcomes [3-5]
  - Cardiovascular risk [6-7]
- Other health behaviors are similarly impacted by planning decisions
  - Urban sprawl promotes social isolation [8]
  - Increased sedentary behavior due to high use of cars for commuting [9]
  - limited physical activity due to neighborhood design [10-11]

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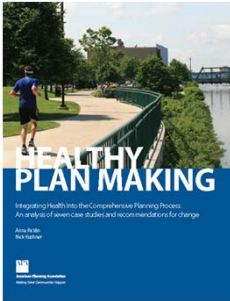
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## Integrating Public Health Into Planning



- Public health is a core element of thriving communities.
- Cities have started to incorporate health into comprehensive plans.
- Focus on a holistic view of natural systems and the human activities affecting them.

<https://www.planning.org/research/publichealth/pdf/healthyplanningreport.pdf>

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- Our prior showed a concentration of limited health promoting resources and poor health outcomes in select census tracts in Birmingham, AL.



Available at: [www.jeffcocoplacematters.com](http://www.jeffcocoplacematters.com)

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## Legacies of Planning in Birmingham

- 1926 zoning ordinance established land use and racially segregated districts in the city.

- Struck down by the US Supreme Court in 1951



Photo Courtesy of: Birmingham News/Landov

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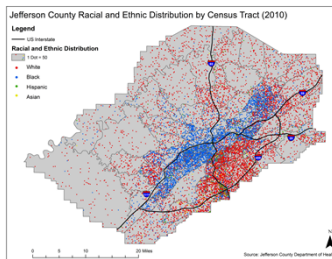
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## Legacies of Planning in Birmingham

- 1950s started the development of the interstate highway system and federal urban renewal which effect reinforced the 1926 racial zoning.



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## Legacies of Planning in Birmingham

- Iron and steel industries, coal mining and railroads were key to the development of the city.



KOPCO plant founded in 1905 (above)

- Northern Birmingham was the base of operation for many of these industries.



Water Coke plant opened in 1900 (above)

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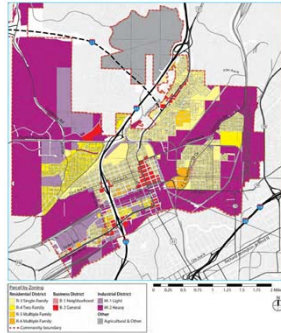
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## Legacies of Planning in Birmingham

- Northern Birmingham was home to a large number of African American plant workers and families living in company-built camps directly around industrial plants.




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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
National Priorities Listing of the  
**35th Avenue Superfund Site**  
Birmingham, Alabama

**EPA**  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Number 5 September 2014

Hot Spot Analysis\* Life Expectancy by Census Tract, Jefferson County (2005-2009)

Legend

HotSpotLifeExpect

0.00 - 1.00 Std. Dev.
1.00 - 1.50 Std. Dev.
1.50 - 2.00 Std. Dev.
2.00 - 2.50 Std. Dev.
2.50 - 3.00 Std. Dev.

\*Hot Spot Analysis is the DataCue SP\* Statistic for statistical significance of density values. © 2014 Environmental Protection Agency. Map: National Geographic, Jefferson County, The American Factfinder

- 94% African American
- 22% Unemployment
- 32% Poverty

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## Planning for the Future

- October 2013 the City of Birmingham Adopted its first comprehensive plan in 50 years.
- Collaboration among community members, planners, public health professionals, local institutions, etc. reignited the conversation around health and planning, particularly Northern Birmingham.

**THE PLAN**  
USING OUR POWER TO BUILD OUR FUTURE

**NORTH BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK PLAN HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

[http://www.imaginebham.com/uploads/1/4/4/7/14479416/n\\_bham\\_health\\_impact\\_assessment1.pdf](http://www.imaginebham.com/uploads/1/4/4/7/14479416/n_bham_health_impact_assessment1.pdf)

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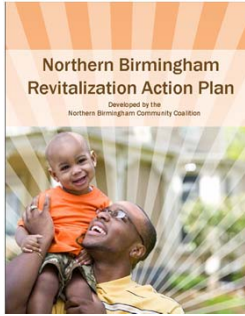
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## Planning for the Future



[http://www.skeo.com/images/uploads/downloads/NBCC\\_Action\\_Plan\\_2015.01.16\\_low\\_res.pdf](http://www.skeo.com/images/uploads/downloads/NBCC_Action_Plan_2015.01.16_low_res.pdf)

• Vision of restored and flourishing neighborhoods based on three priorities:

1. Housing: Rehab, Rebuild, Reclaim
2. Commercial Revitalization: Food, Fuel, Retail
3. Health: Health Care and Comprehensive Wellness

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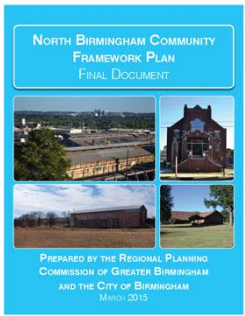
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## Planning for the Future



[http://www.imaginebham.com/uploads/1/4/4/7/1/4479416/north\\_birmingham\\_framework\\_plan\\_final\\_document.pdf](http://www.imaginebham.com/uploads/1/4/4/7/1/4479416/north_birmingham_framework_plan_final_document.pdf)

• Identifies specific policies, recommendations, proposals and action items that support community input and adhere to guidelines of the Birmingham Comprehensive Plan

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## Lesson Learned: Challenges

- Social determinants of health
- Politics
- Credible champions
- Trust/trustworthiness
- Resources
- Time



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## Lesson Learned: Opportunities

- Recognize community assets
- Coalition building
- Multiple, diverse voices
- Leverage resources
- Be prepared
- Be opportunistic



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THANK  
YOU!

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Photo Courtesy of: David Smith (KP Cinema)

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