

HOW HOUSING WORKS AS HEALTHCARE

HousingWorksRI 
at Roger Williams University

Objectives

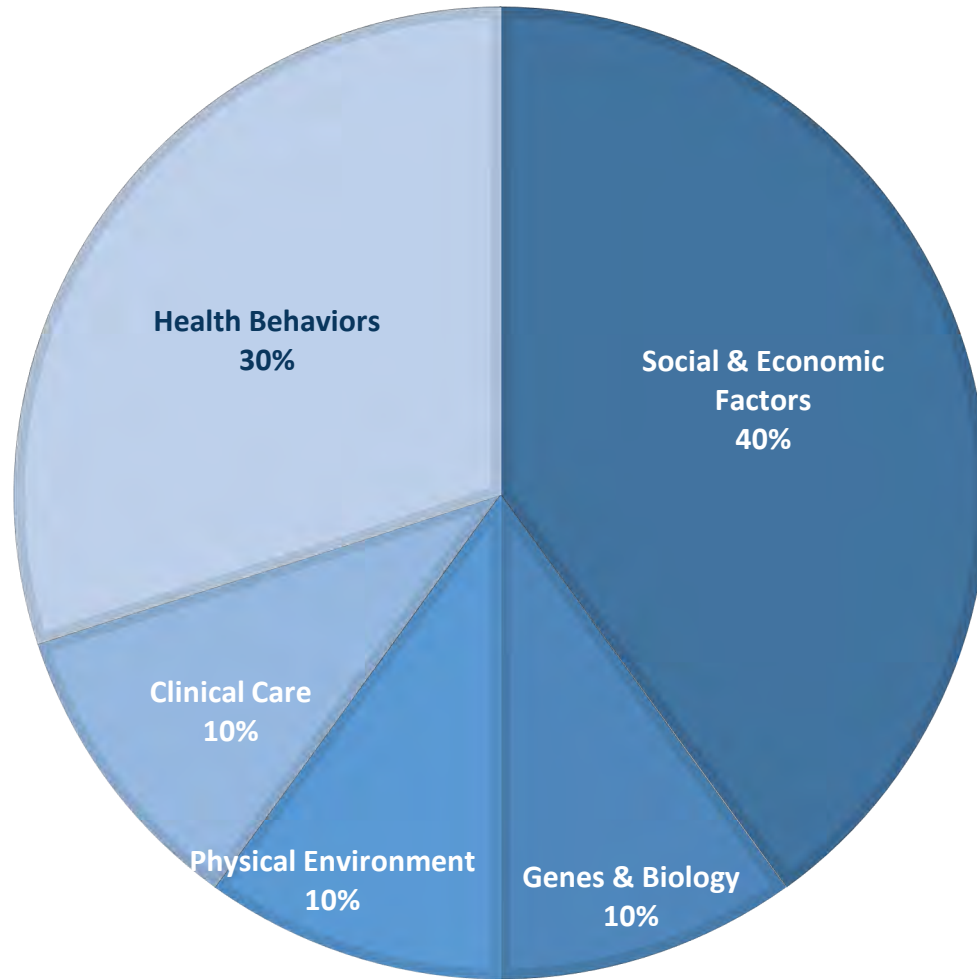
- Understand the intersections between healthcare and housing, and how increased collaboration between the two sectors can improve patient, system, and community health outcomes.
- Learn important housing-related terms and jargon to build understanding between the healthcare, public health, and housing and community development sectors.
- Recognize examples of innovative practices in Rhode Island and from around the nation to inspire collaboration across sectors.



Is Housing Related to Health?



The healthcare sector is transforming



80% of our health is determined outside the doctor's office

Housing Impacts Our Well-being

Housing is a basic and powerful [social determinant of health](#)

Access to stable, affordable housing impacts our

- Health & Healthcare
- Education
- Social/Community Lives
- Neighborhood & Environment
- Economic Stability





Quality & Safety

Lead

- **7%** of children entering kindergarten in RI had elevated lead levels in 2018.
- In the four core cities, **10%** of children entering kindergarten had elevated lead levels.
- In Providence, **20%** of children in most neighborhoods have elevated lead levels.
- Even at low levels, lead exposure can negatively affect a child's health, development, and brain.
- Low income children and children of color remain more likely to be lead poisoned than other children.





Quality & Safety

Asthma

- In RI, there were **1,452** hospitalizations with primary asthma diagnosis for children under age 18 between 2012-2016.
- Nationally, asthma rates are highest among males, Black and Native American children, and children living in poverty.
- Per child hospitalizations for asthma in RI costs
\$10,608 per child
over \$21M annually





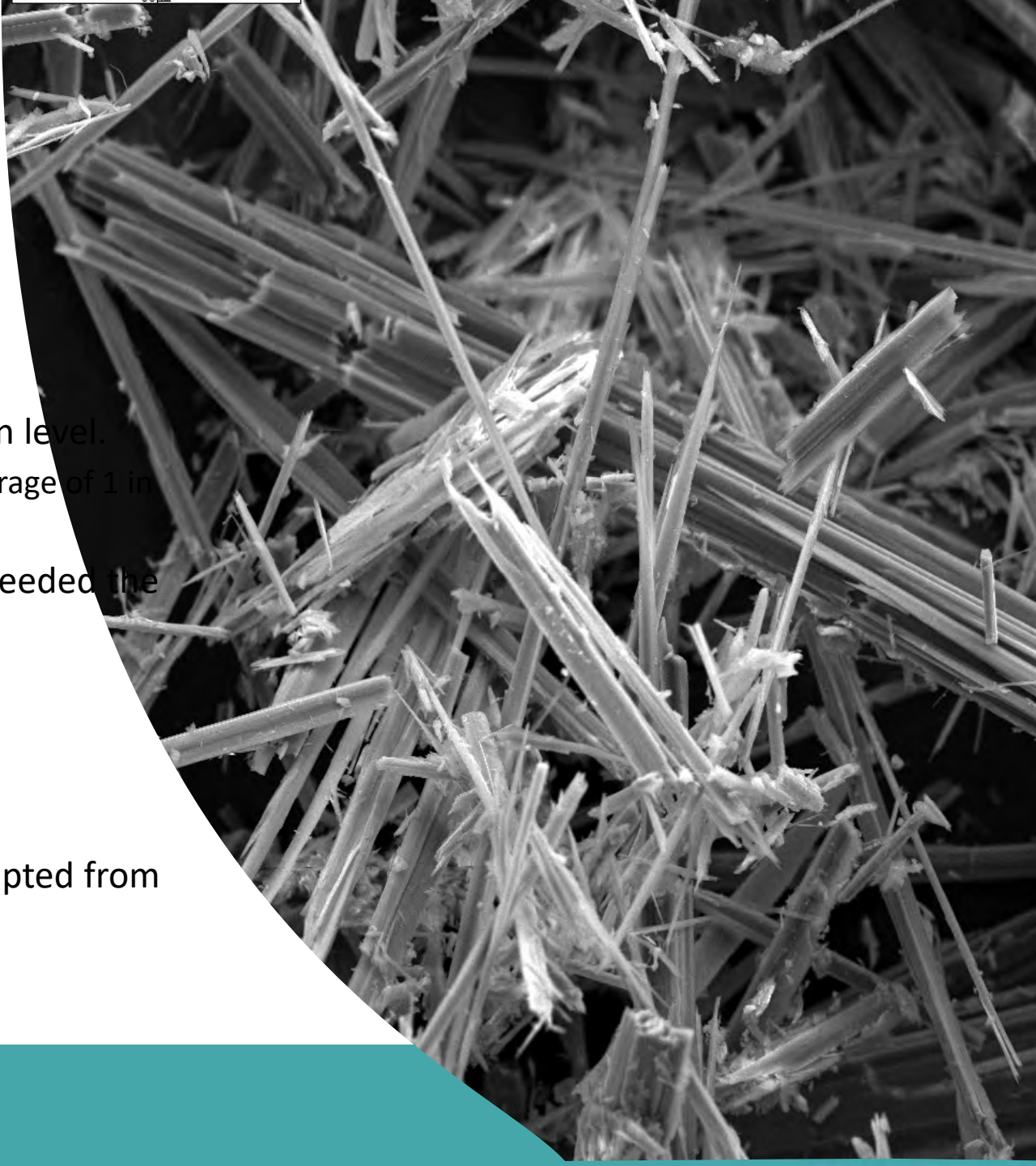
Quality & Safety

Radon

- 1 in 4 RI homes contain radon at or above EPA's action level.
 - This is significantly higher than the national average of 1 in 15
- More than 50% of tested homes in Exeter and Richmond exceeded the EPA's action level

Asbestos

- Houses built before 1970 contain asbestos
 - 62% of homes in RI are built before 1970
- Under RI law, one and two-family homes are generally exempted from Asbestos Control Regulations





Quality & Safety

Unintentional Injury (trip and fall hazards)

- In 2016, housing related falls resulted in 1,629 emergency room visits by RI children age six and under
- Nationally, 1 in 4 people aged 65 or older falls





Quality & Safety

Nearly 9 million US families live in unhealthy homes.

Billions of dollars are lost on these homes annually

- Treating lead poisoning
- Asthma-related illnesses
- Trip and fall injuries among seniors





Quality & Safety

Environmental factors within homes



24 million homes have significant lead-based paint hazards.
Lead Poisoning affects 535,000 U.S. children aged 1 – 5



18,000 injury-related deaths occur annually in U.S. homes.
12 million nonfatal injuries occur annually in U.S. homes.



6.8 million homes have radon exposures above the current EPA action level.
Lung cancer from radon exposure causes 21,000 deaths annually.

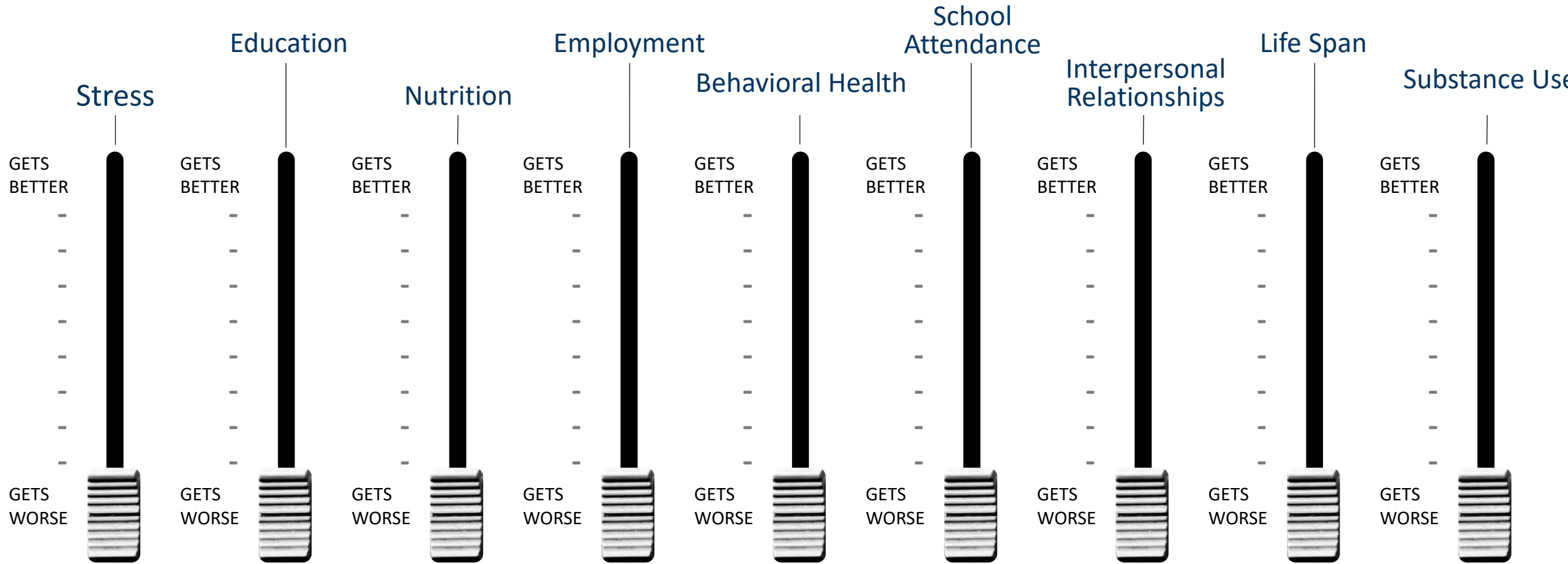


Stability

Issue: Being without a stable home is detrimental to one's health while stable, affordable housing is known to decrease healthcare expenses, specifically Medicaid and Emergency services, and increase primary care utilization.



Stability – What happens as housing becomes more stable?





Neighborhood

Issue: Research indicates that the availability of resources such as public transportation, access to grocery stores with healthy food, and safe spaces to exercise improve health. In contrast, living in proximity to busy roads is dangerous and can result in increased instances of respiratory disease.

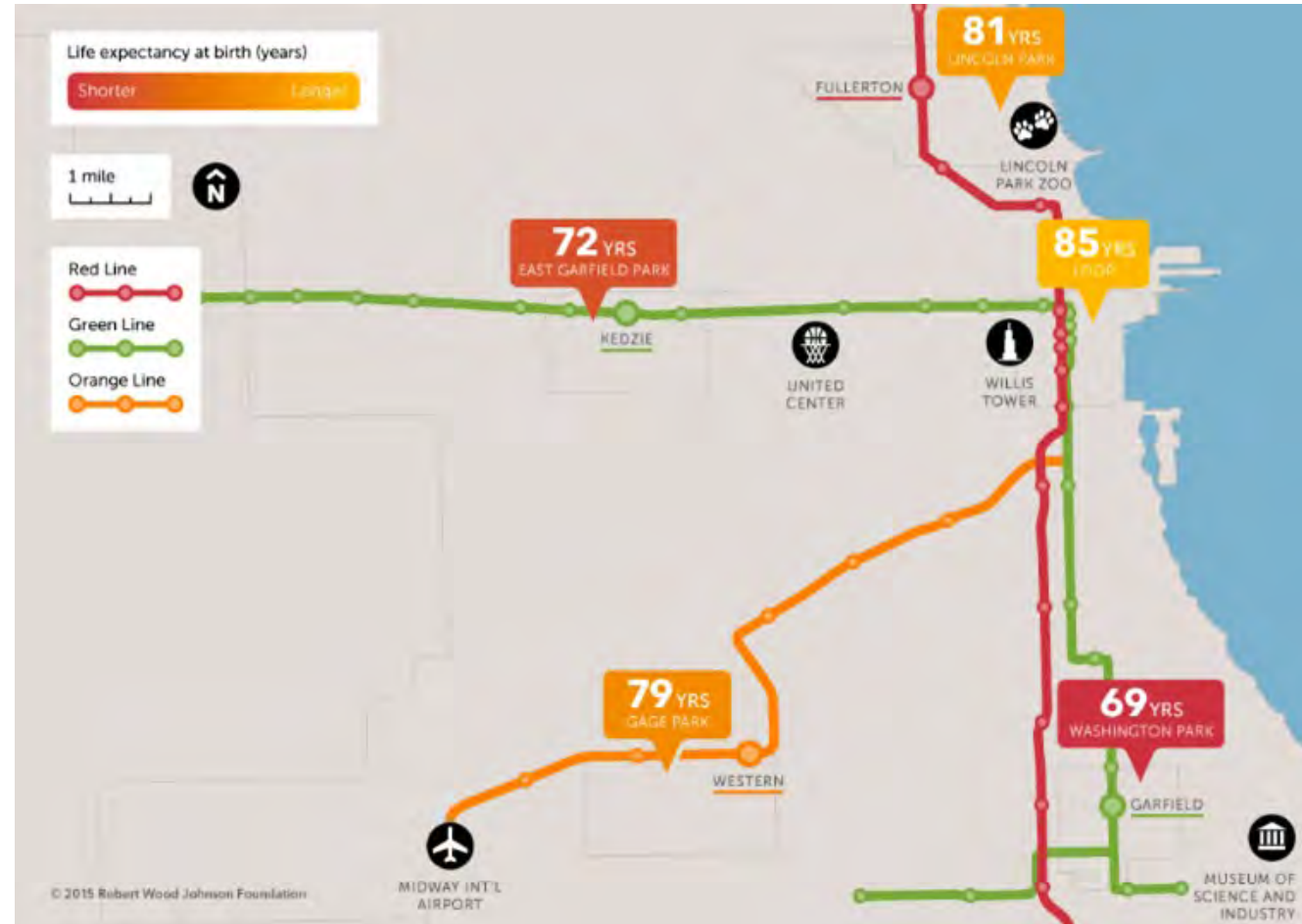


Neighborhood

Where you live is a better predictor of your health than your Genetic Code

Gaps in health across neighborhoods stem from

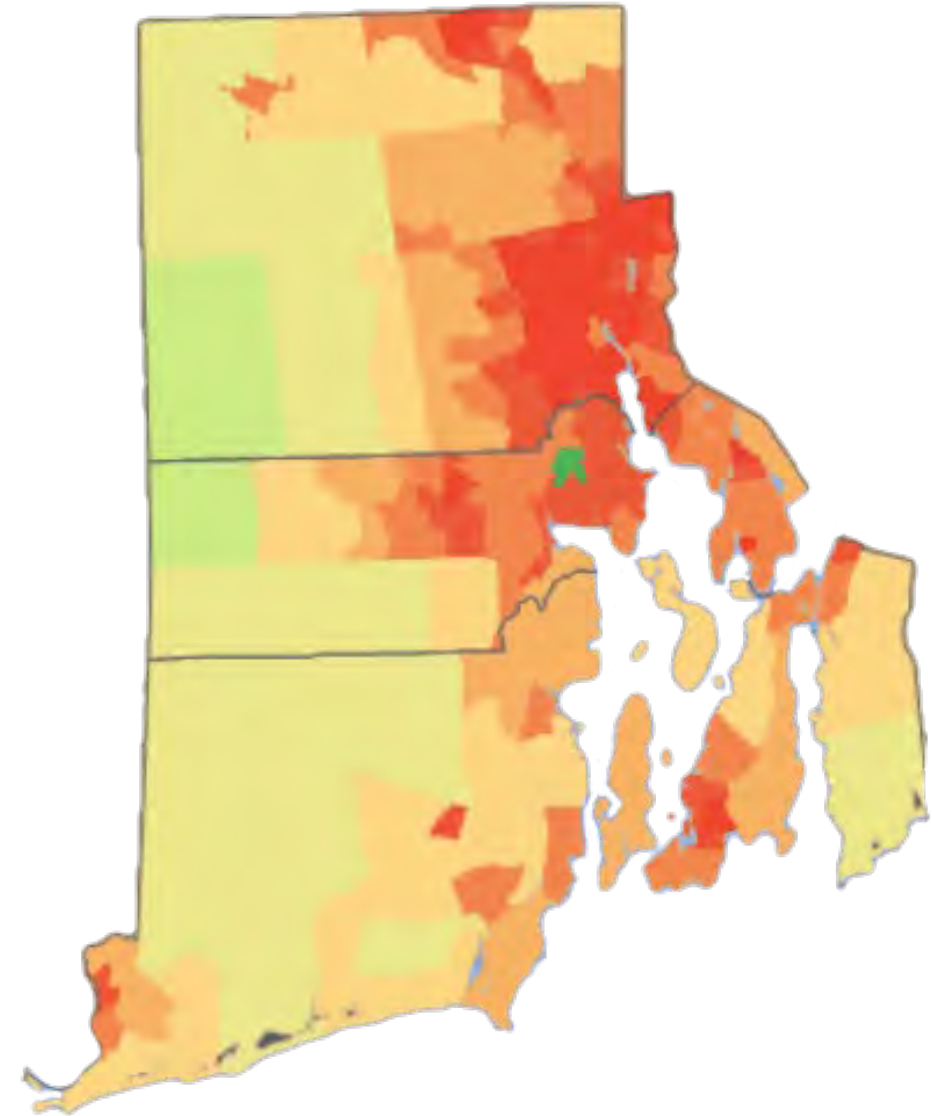
- Education and income
- Housing safety/health
- Exercise opportunities
- Proximity to highways
- Access to primary care doctors
- Access to transportation
- Residential segregation



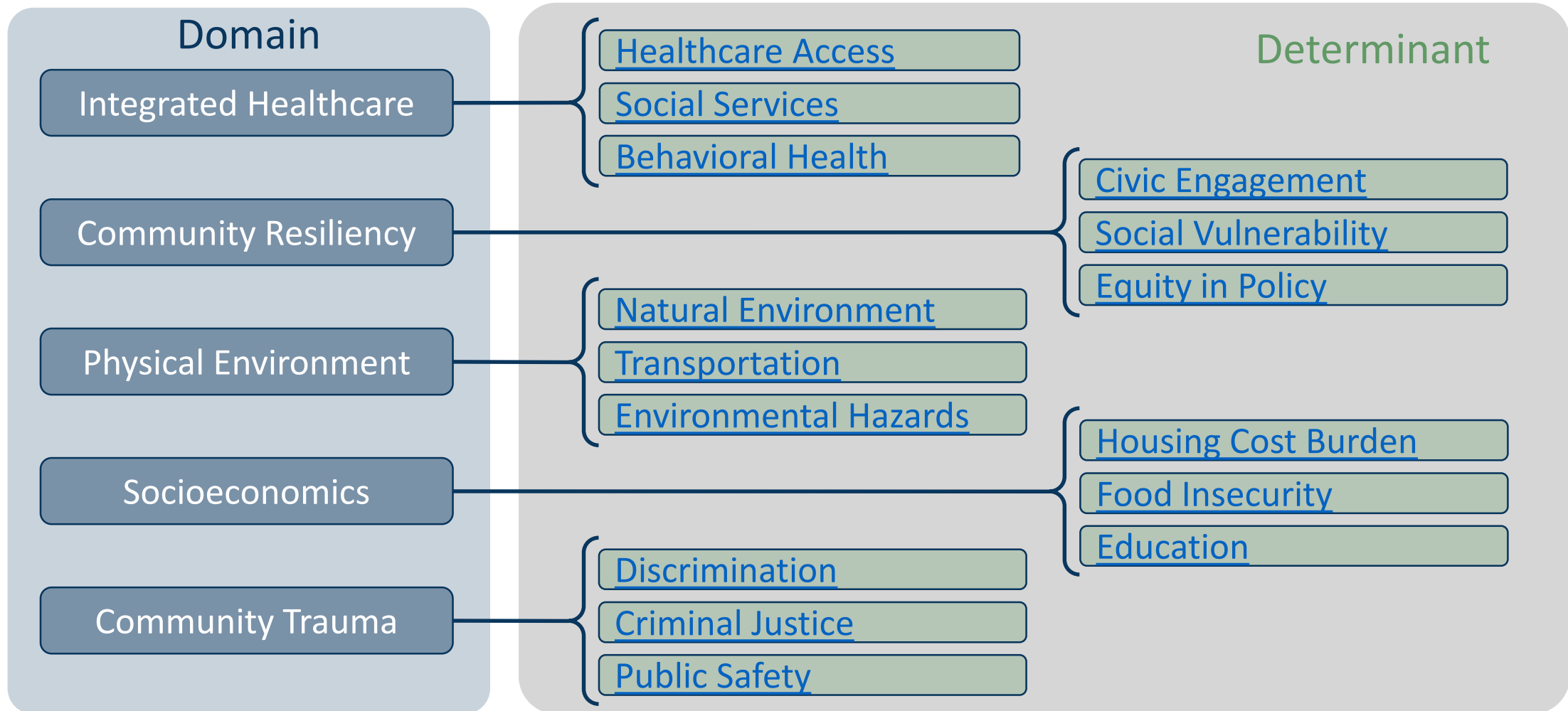


Neighborhood

- 5% of the nation's population accounts for more than half of healthcare costs.
- Hotspotting – Using data to identify extreme patterns impacting the healthcare system.
 1. Identify people with the greatest need
 2. Intervene in a meaningful and targeted way
 3. Improve quality, address needs, and reduce cost



Housing and Health Equity



Housing as a Vaccine to Improve Individual and Community Health

“Medical professionals are now looking ‘upstream’ to determine, based on research, how to improve children’s health through housing.”

“We have a new understanding of the interplay of how housing influences health in terms of stability, quality, and the effect on physical and mental health.”

Hardships are interconnected. A family that struggles to pay the rent also struggles to put healthy food on the table and keep the heat and lights on.



Discussion: How is housing impacting the health of your clients?