

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top half features a clear blue sky with wispy clouds and the Washington Monument standing prominently in the center. The bottom half shows a row of cherry blossom trees in full bloom, with people walking along a path next to a body of water that reflects the trees and the sky.

# *ASPPH Presents:* From Local Action to National Progress on 5 Major Health Challenges

ASPPH Presents  
 WEBINAR

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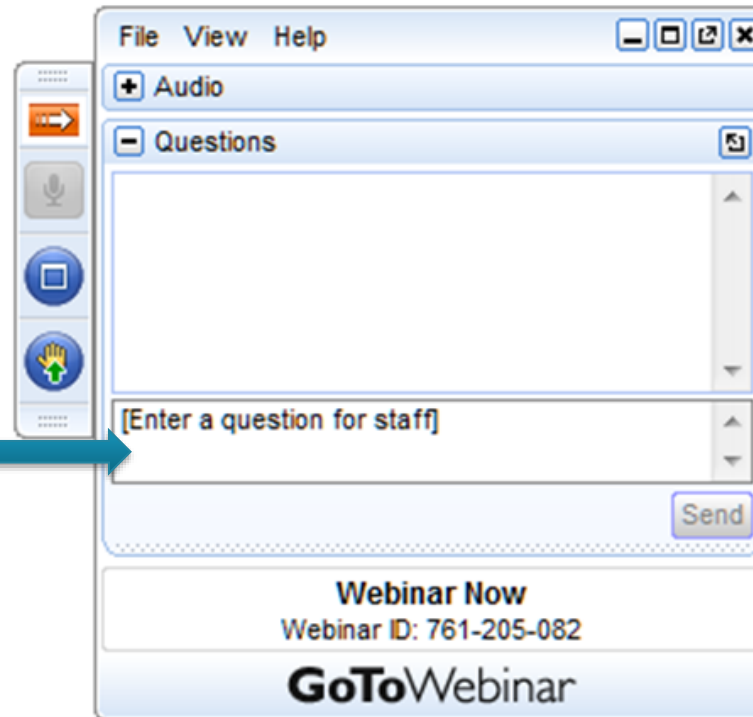
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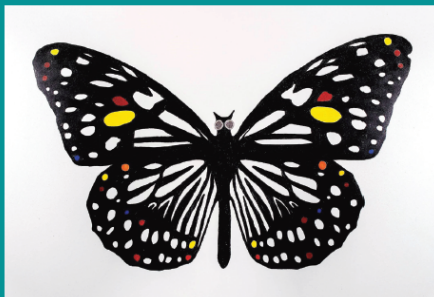
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## Bloomberg American Health Initiative

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Associate Director  
Bloomberg American Health Initiative



The Bloomberg American Health Initiative aims to use the tools of public health to address five major challenges facing the United States: **addiction and overdose, environmental challenges, obesity and the food system, risks to adolescent health, and violence.**

The Initiative, based at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, was created by a gift from Bloomberg Philanthropies for the School's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016.

The Initiative has sponsored this supplement to *Public Health Reports* to provide a public health vision on these five major challenges and to highlight three cross-cutting themes: equity, evidence, and policy.

# ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES



Thomas Burke  
Professor



Kirsten Koehler  
Associate Professor

Special Article

## Building Healthy Community Environments: A Public Health Approach

Kirsten Koehler, PhD<sup>1</sup> , Megan Latshaw, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Thomas Matte, MD, MPH<sup>2</sup>,  
Daniel Kass, MSPH<sup>2</sup>, Howard Frumkin, MD, DrPH<sup>3</sup>, Mary Fox, PhD<sup>4</sup>,  
Benjamin F. Hobbs, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Marsha Wills-Karp, PhD<sup>1</sup>,  
and Thomas A. Burke, PhD, MPH<sup>4</sup>

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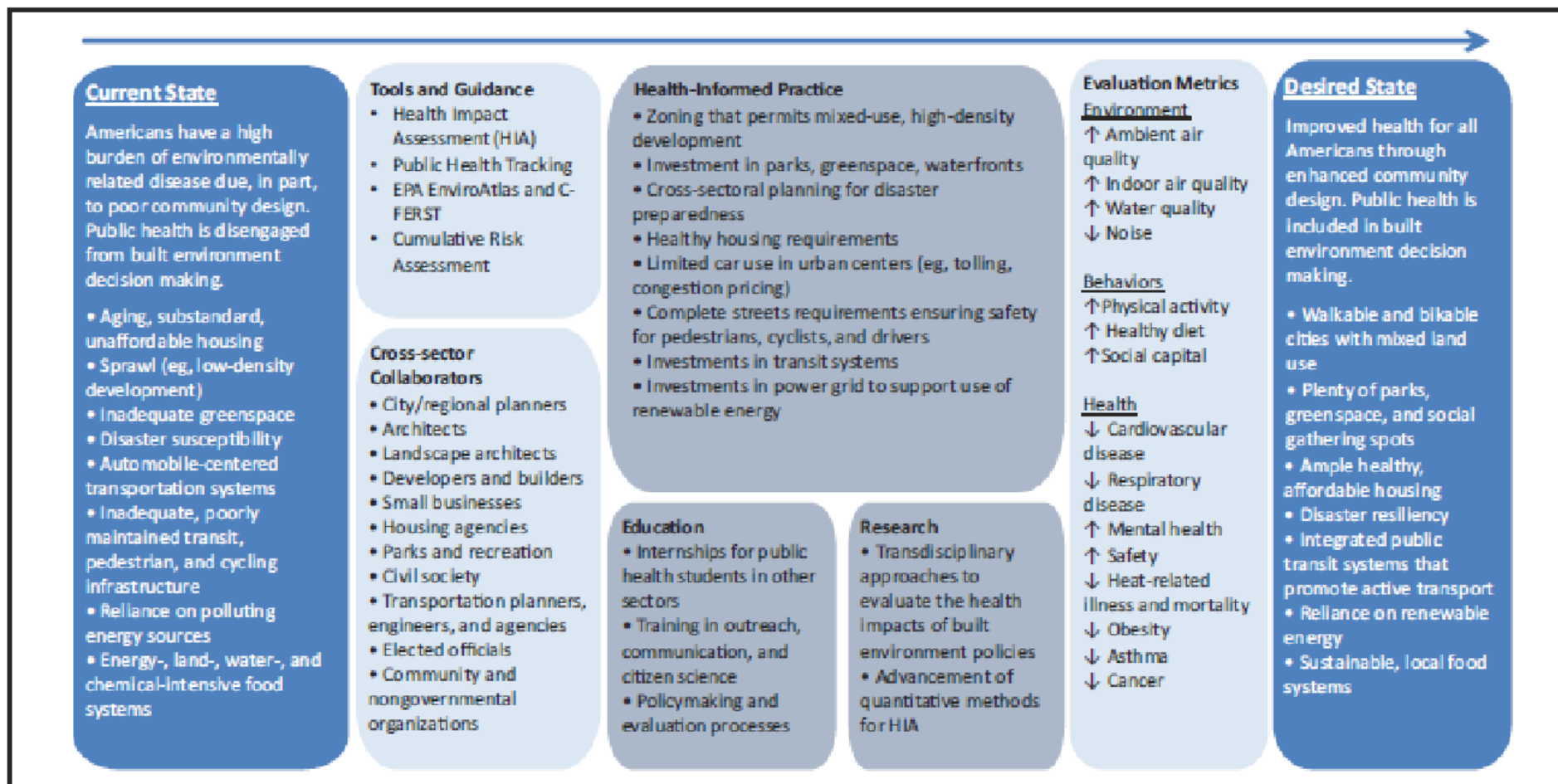
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- The quality of our environment has a profound impact on the health of our communities.
- Today our major community health challenges are influenced by the environment
- Decisions about the built environment are public health decisions.
- It is time for a new approach, the built environment matters!

# ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

## A Framework for Improving Health - Systems Thinking





# A Public Health Approach to Healthy Communities

- Problem formulation – recognizing the public health impacts of community decisions
- Inclusion of public health – a seat at the table
- New partnerships with urban planners, developers, transportation, housing
- Filling gaps in data on health and environment - environmental public health tracking
- Application of new tools to inform decisions - health impact assessment
- Evaluation metrics to measure health and environmental progress
- Training public health professionals – cross agency and cross disciplinary
- Rethinking our approach to environmental health – moving towards prevention
- Moving beyond traditional roles to reduce the burden of disease through healthy community environments

# RISKS TO ADOLESCENT HEALTH



Kristin Mmari  
Associate Professor



Tamar Mendelson  
Bloomberg Professor of  
American Health

- Opportunity youth face high risks for long-term emotional, behavioral, and health problems compared to their connected peers
- Societal and economic costs of failing to address the needs of opportunity youth are high – both for this generation and their children
- Nearly 12% of teenagers and young adults aged 16-24 years in the United States are out of school and out of work: commonly referred to as disconnected or “**opportunity youth**”, they have a disproportionate share of problems as they age

*Special Article*

## **Opportunity Youth: Insights and Opportunities for a Public Health Approach to Reengage Disconnected Teenagers and Young Adults**

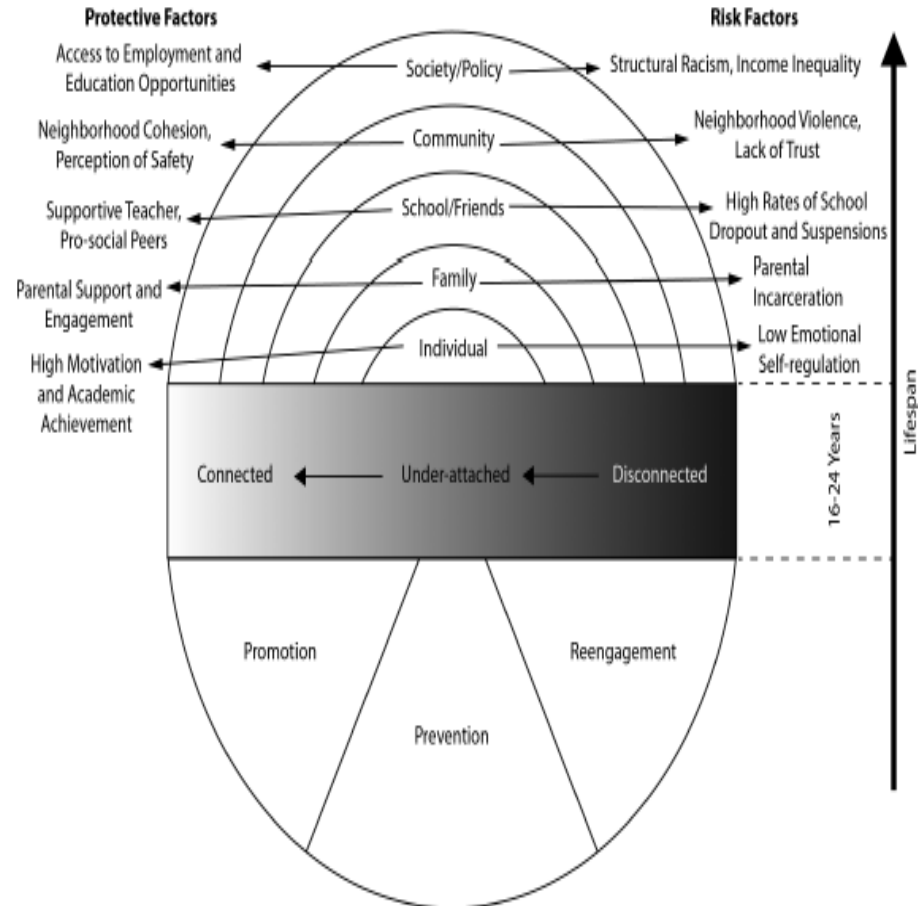
Tamar Mendelson, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Kristin Mmari, DrPH<sup>2</sup>, Robert W. Blum, MD<sup>2</sup>, Richard F. Catalano, PhD<sup>3</sup>, and Claire D. Brindis, DrPH<sup>4</sup>

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# RISKS TO ADOLESCENT HEALTH



## Key aspects:

- Coordinated data systems
- Consolidated service delivery and funding
- Youth involvement
- Systematic intervention testing and scale up

### A public health approach has potential to...

- Reduce the number of opportunity youth
- Bring down high costs associated with opportunity youth (e.g., criminal justice, mental health)
- Harness tremendous potential of opportunity youth in the workforce and as engaged and productive citizens
- Prevent and reduce long-term health and behavioral problems

## OBESITY & THE FOOD SYSTEM



Anne Barnhill  
Research Scholar



Anne Palmer  
Senior Research  
Associate

### **Grappling With Complex Food Systems to Reduce Obesity: A US Public Health Challenge**

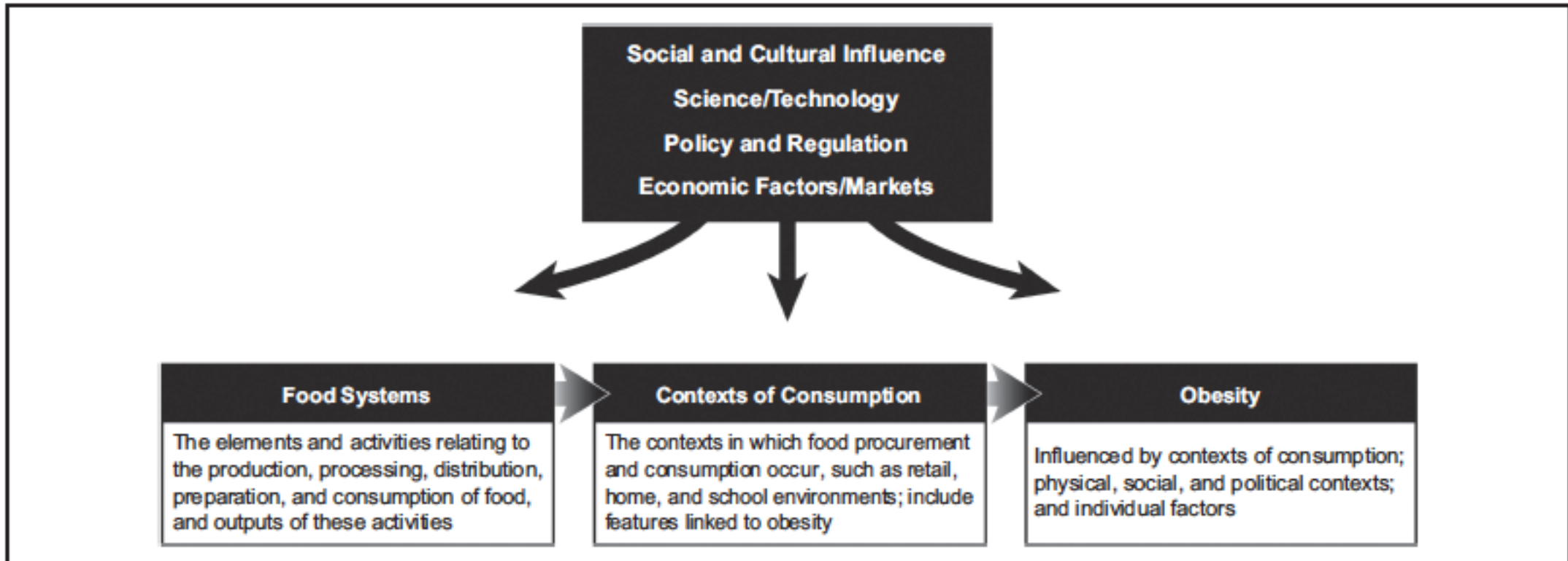
Anne Barnhill, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Anne Palmer, MAIA<sup>2</sup>,  
Christine M. Weston, PhD, MEd<sup>3</sup>, Kelly D. Brownell, PhD<sup>4</sup>,  
Kate Clancy, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Christina D. Economos, PhD<sup>5</sup>,  
Joel Gittelsohn, PhD, MS<sup>6</sup>, Ross A. Hammond, PhD<sup>7,8</sup>,  
Shiriki Kumanyika, PhD, MPH<sup>9</sup>, and Wendy L. Bennett, MD, MPH<sup>10,11</sup>

- High rates of overweight and obesity
- Range of efforts but little progress
- Lack of public consensus
- Interconnection with other food system problems → need for policies that accomplish and balance multiple goals



- Systems approaches: specific methods & a mindset
- Systems approaches can help us:
  - identify relationships between food systems and consumption
  - design coordinated sets of policies that reinforce each other
  - recognize unintended social, economic, environmental consequences & minimize them
  - understand broader social, economic and political contexts, to
    - identify political obstacles to policy and affected groups
    - identify common policy goals and a broad alliance beyond public health

# OBESITY & THE FOOD SYSTEM



Embrace approaches that:

- target multiple parts & levels of a system
- look at broader contexts, not just targeted population-specific interventions
- have broad goals & long time horizon
- include community members, grassroots organizations and non-profits in identifying problems and solutions

Public health can advance this work by:

- Supporting research projects with diverse stakeholders and researchers from many fields
- Increasing systems methods training opportunities
- Creating funding mechanisms to support longer-term research

# VIOLENCE



Michele Decker  
Associate Professor

Daniel Webster  
Bloomberg Professor of  
American Health

Holly Wilcox  
Associate Professor

- Homicide and suicide are leading causes of death for people <45 years in the United States (2016)
  - Almost **45,000 suicides** (rate 13.4 per 100,000)
  - Over **19,000 homicides** (rate 6.1 per 100,000)
- An estimated **36% of women** have experienced **nonfatal intimate partner violence** and **21%** have experienced **attempted or completed rape**.
  - Prevalence is highest for women of color
  - Homicide 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for black women age 15-24 in 2016

Special Article

## An Integrated Public Health Approach to Interpersonal Violence and Suicide Prevention and Response

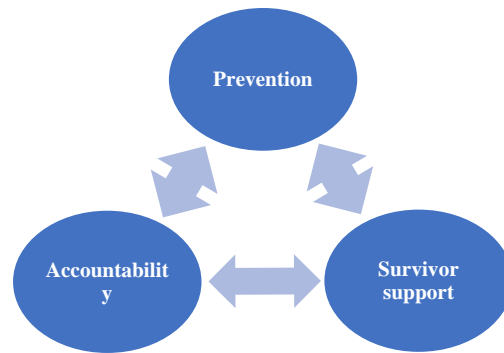
Michele R. Decker, ScD, MPH<sup>1,2</sup>, Holly C. Wilcox, PhD<sup>3</sup>,  
Charvonne N. Holliday, PhD, MPH<sup>1</sup>, and Daniel W. Webster, ScD, MPH<sup>4,5</sup>

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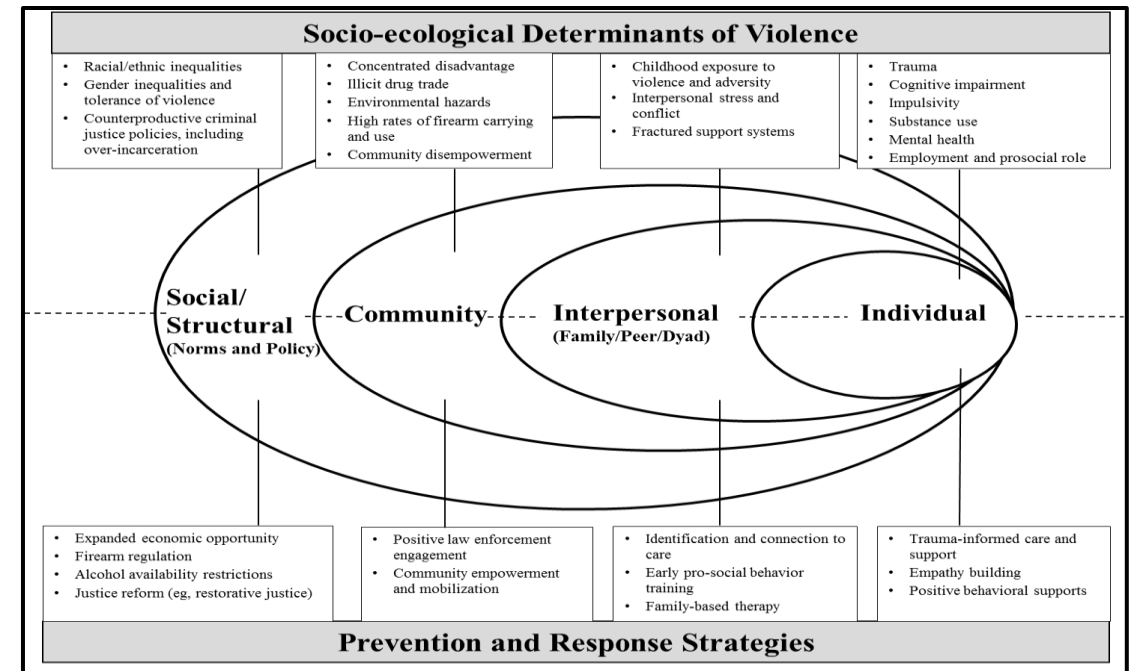
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## Frameworks for violence prevention & response



**Figure.** Three pillars for comprehensive violence prevention and response



**Figure.** A socio-ecological framework for determinants of violence and strategies for prevention and response.



# Implications for making public health progress

- Behavioral interventions
  - Universal programming for youth can support behavioral regulation, positive behavior and resilience with dividends across forms of violence
  - Targeted support remains necessary for individuals at high risk for violence and recidivism
- Policy and social environments can create conditions that disinhibit violence
  - Support survivors and witnesses of violence through access to mental health services, social supports, and trauma-informed care
  - Changes in policy and social environments can impart broad and lasting reductions in violence
  - Firearm restrictions for individuals with histories of violence

Special Article

## A Public Health Strategy for the Opioid Crisis

**Brendan Saloner, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Emma E. McGinty, PhD, MS<sup>1</sup>,  
Leo Beletsky, JD, MPH<sup>2,3</sup>, Ricky Bluthenthal, PhD<sup>4</sup>,  
Chris Beyrer, MD, MPH<sup>5</sup>, Michael Botticelli, MEd<sup>1,5,6</sup>,  
and Susan G. Sherman, PhD<sup>7</sup>**

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Brendan Saloner  
Assistant Professor



Susan Sherman  
Professor

# ADDICTION AND OVERDOSE

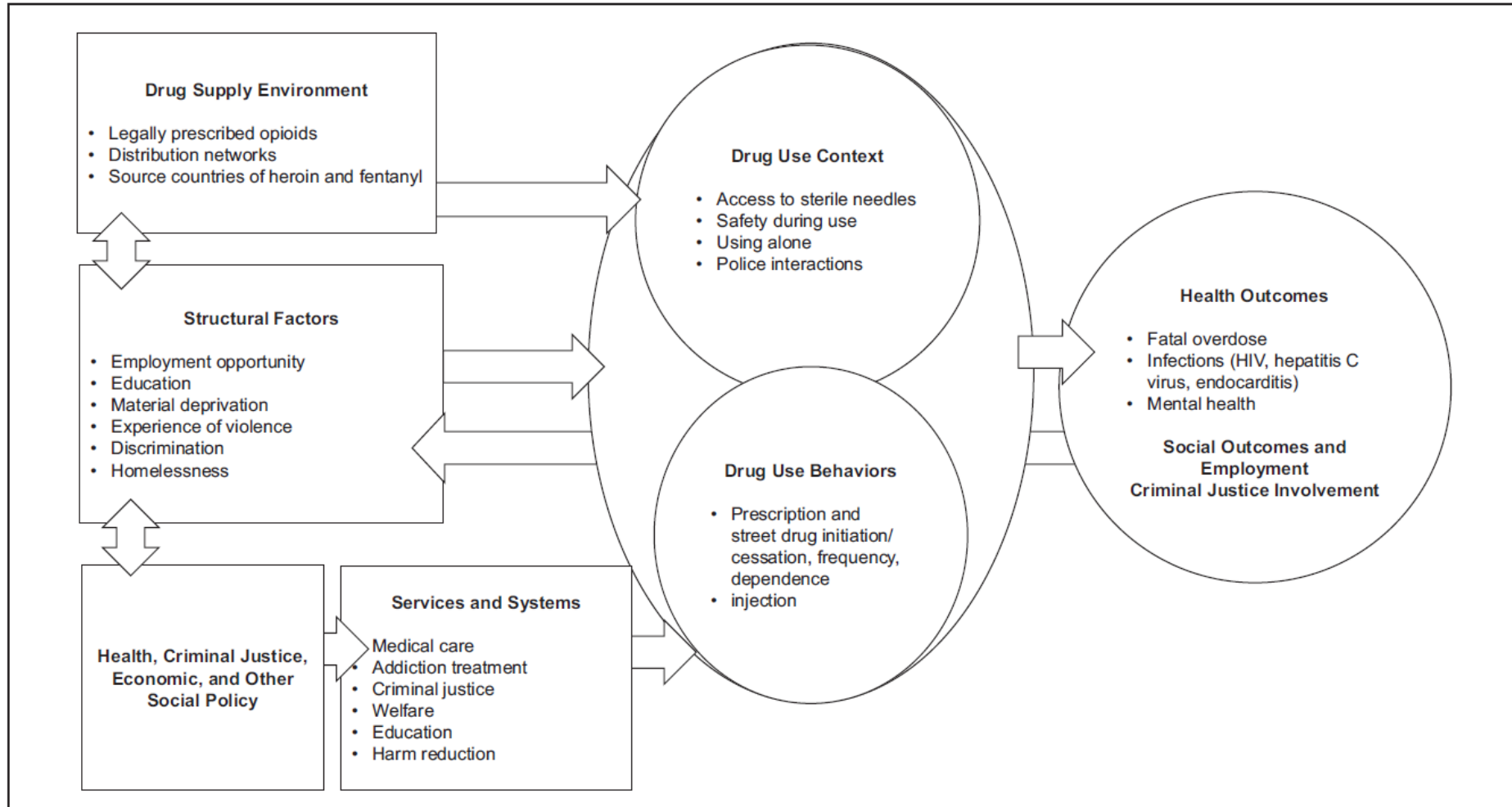


Figure. A conceptual framework for the opioid overdose epidemic.

# ADDICTION AND OVERDOSE

**Table 2.** Key priorities for a public health approach to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with the opioid overdose epidemic

Key Priority	Strategy	Responsible Group
Improved data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build overdose tracking into existing sentinel surveillance systems.</li> <li>• Create data dashboards that link information across service systems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislatures should pass bills to support data surveillance and linkage.</li> <li>• Epidemiologists and other researchers should work with policy makers to analyze new databases.</li> </ul>
Safer prescribing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase physician and patient awareness of opioid benefits and risks.</li> <li>• Integrate addiction treatment with pain management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional associations representing physicians should partner with patient advocacy organizations and payers to increase uptake of comprehensive pain management protocols.</li> </ul>
Stigma reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use destigmatizing language and imagery in news media, government communication, and medical practice.</li> <li>• Implement stigma-reduction campaigns that use messages intended to influence public opinion, tested by using experimental methods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News organizations, government agencies, and medical organizations should adopt new policies and practices to ensure that language and imagery are not stigmatizing.</li> <li>• Government and foundations should sponsor scientifically tested campaigns focused on reducing negative attitudes and increasing treatment and harm-reduction service uptake.</li> </ul>
Harm reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer universal access to syringe services programs, fentanyl test kits, and naloxone.</li> <li>• Provide access to safe consumption facilities (ie, places where people can consume previously purchased drugs under medical supervision).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congress should appropriate new funds and change laws around safe consumption facilities.</li> <li>• US Department of Justice should change its prohibition of safe consumption facilities.</li> <li>• State and local government should develop safe-consumption plans and expand harm-reduction services.</li> </ul>
Treatment expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer universal access to treatment on demand with opioid agonists.</li> <li>• Deregulate treatment to make methadone easier to access and buprenorphine easier to prescribe.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congress and the White House should appropriate new funds for treatment and create regulations to make opioid agonists easier to access.</li> </ul>
Criminal justice reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand prearrest diversion programs (programs that provide people with treatment alternatives to jail).</li> <li>• Make changes in policing practices to reduce adversarial encounters with people who use drugs.</li> <li>• Provide universal medication-assisted treatment in jails and prisons.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City and local police departments should adopt programs focused on prearrest diversion and clarify policies related to arresting low-level offenders and increasing treatment access.</li> <li>• States and cities should support expanded access to medication in jails and prisons, and the federal government should develop new funding opportunities to support police capacity development in these areas.</li> </ul>
Regulatory change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Align the regulations for controlled substances with best public health evidence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congress and the White House should review applicable regulations to increase public health input to controlled substances laws, and Congress should amend laws where necessary.</li> </ul>

# POLICY CHANGE



Keshia M.  
Pollack Porter  
Professor



Beth McGinty  
Associate Professor

*Commentary*

## The Importance of Policy Change for Addressing Public Health Problems

Keshia M. Pollack Porter, PhD, MPH<sup>1,2,3</sup>,  
Lainie Rutkow, PhD, JD, MPH<sup>1,3</sup>, and Emma E. McGinty, PhD, MS<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

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- Use evidence to inform policy
- Consider health equity
- Design policy with implementation in mind
- Use proactive research-policy translation strategies





Lisa Cooper  
Bloomberg Distinguished  
Professor

*Commentary*

## Progress on Major Public Health Challenges: The Importance of Equity

**Lisa A. Cooper, MD, MPH<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>, Tanjala S. Purnell, PhD, MPH<sup>1,3,4,6</sup>,  
Nakiya N. Showell, MD, MPH, MHS<sup>4,7</sup>, Chidinma A. Ibe, PhD<sup>4,5</sup>,  
Deidra C. Crews, MD, ScM<sup>4,5</sup>, Darrell J. Gaskin, PhD<sup>2,8</sup>,  
Kathryn Foti, MPH<sup>3,4</sup>, and Rachel L. J. Thornton, MD, PhD<sup>1,4,7</sup>**

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Kevin M. Callahan  
Visiting Faculty

*Commentary*

## Bringing Evidence to Bear on Public Health in the United States

Kevin M. Callahan, PhD<sup>1</sup>, and Elizabeth A. Stuart, PhD<sup>2</sup>

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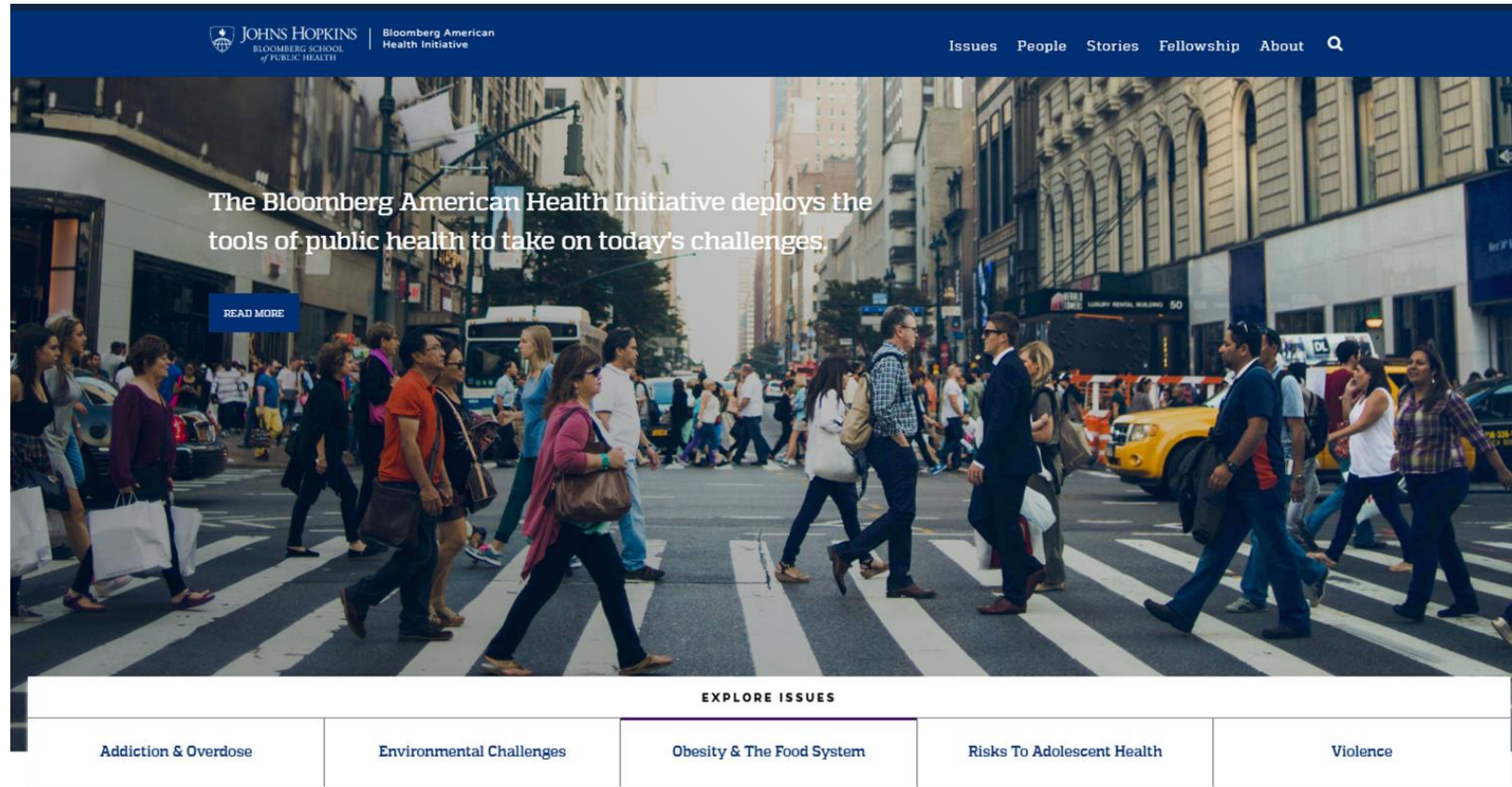
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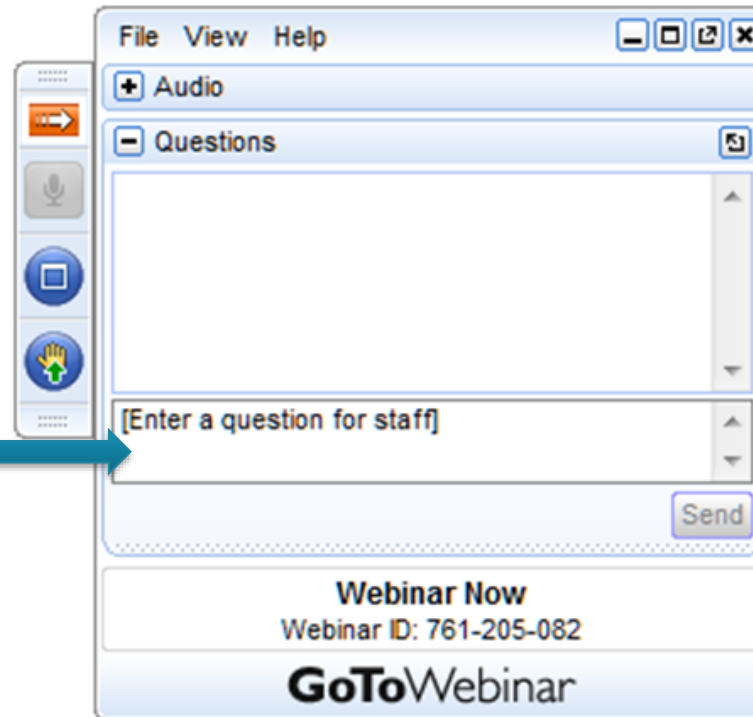


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## Q & A



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Contact: [sweiner@aspph.org](mailto:sweiner@aspph.org)



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Wednesday, December 12, 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Eastern

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