Understanding the Structural Factors that Impact Wealth and Health

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Investing in Innovations for Thriving Communities and Healthy People

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Growing Disparity in Income and Wealth.

- Median Net Worth of Households (Pew, 2011)

  Whites $113,149

  Asians $78,066

  Latinos $6,325

  Blacks $5,677

Sources; Pew Research Center, 2011. www.socialtrends.org

Socioeconomic Factors that Matter for Health

- Income and educational attainment
- Accumulated wealth
- Occupation and neighborhood socioeconomic conditions
- Poverty
- Chronic stress

See: Braveman et al.. 2011. Race and Socioeconomic Factors Affect Opportunities for Better Health. http://www.rwjf.org/goto/whatshapeshealth.

Macro-Structural Factors that Influence Income and Wealth

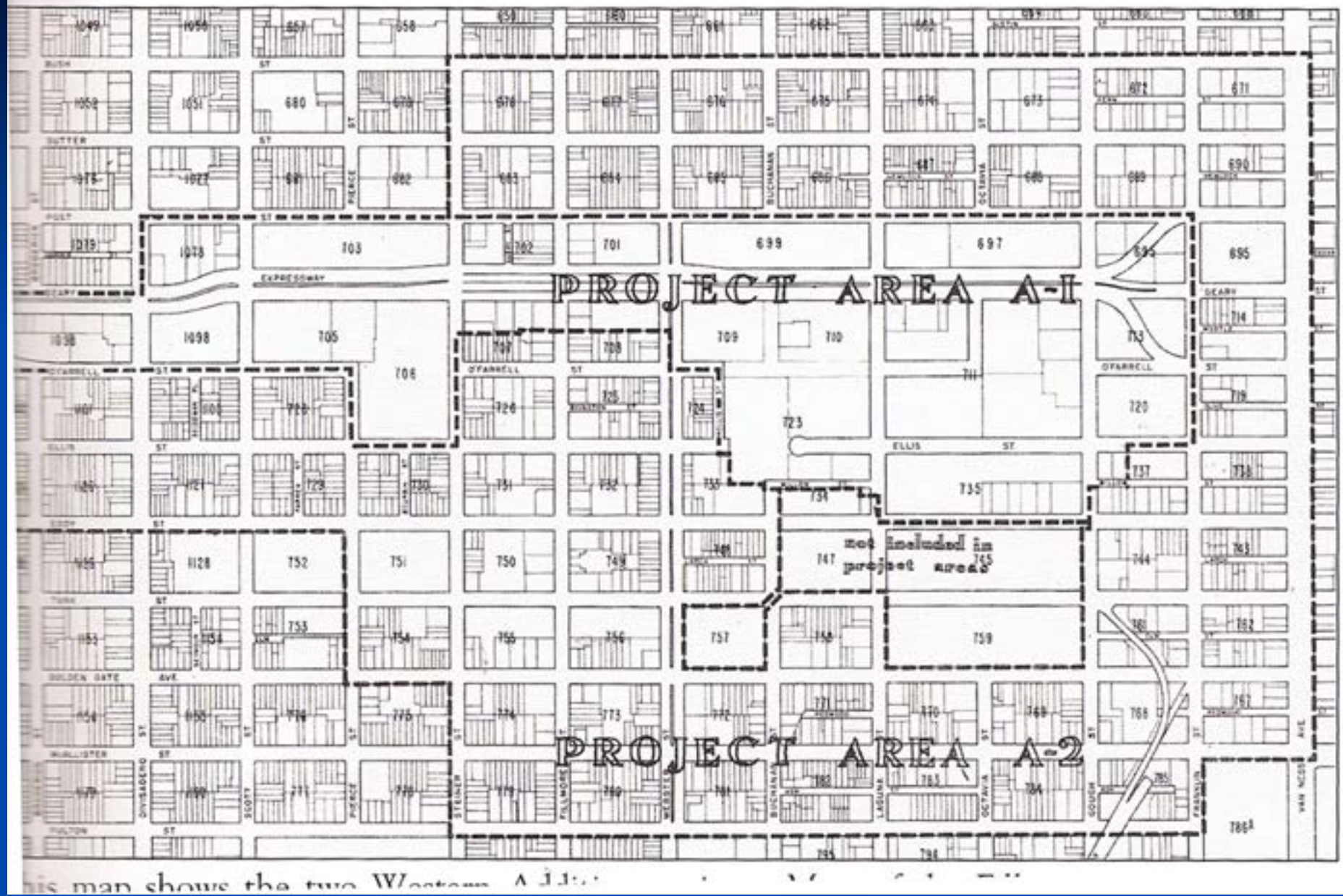
Macro-Socioeconomic Factors

- Urban renewal and displacement
- Housing discrimination and residential segregation
- Redlining
- Predatory lending and home foreclosure crisis

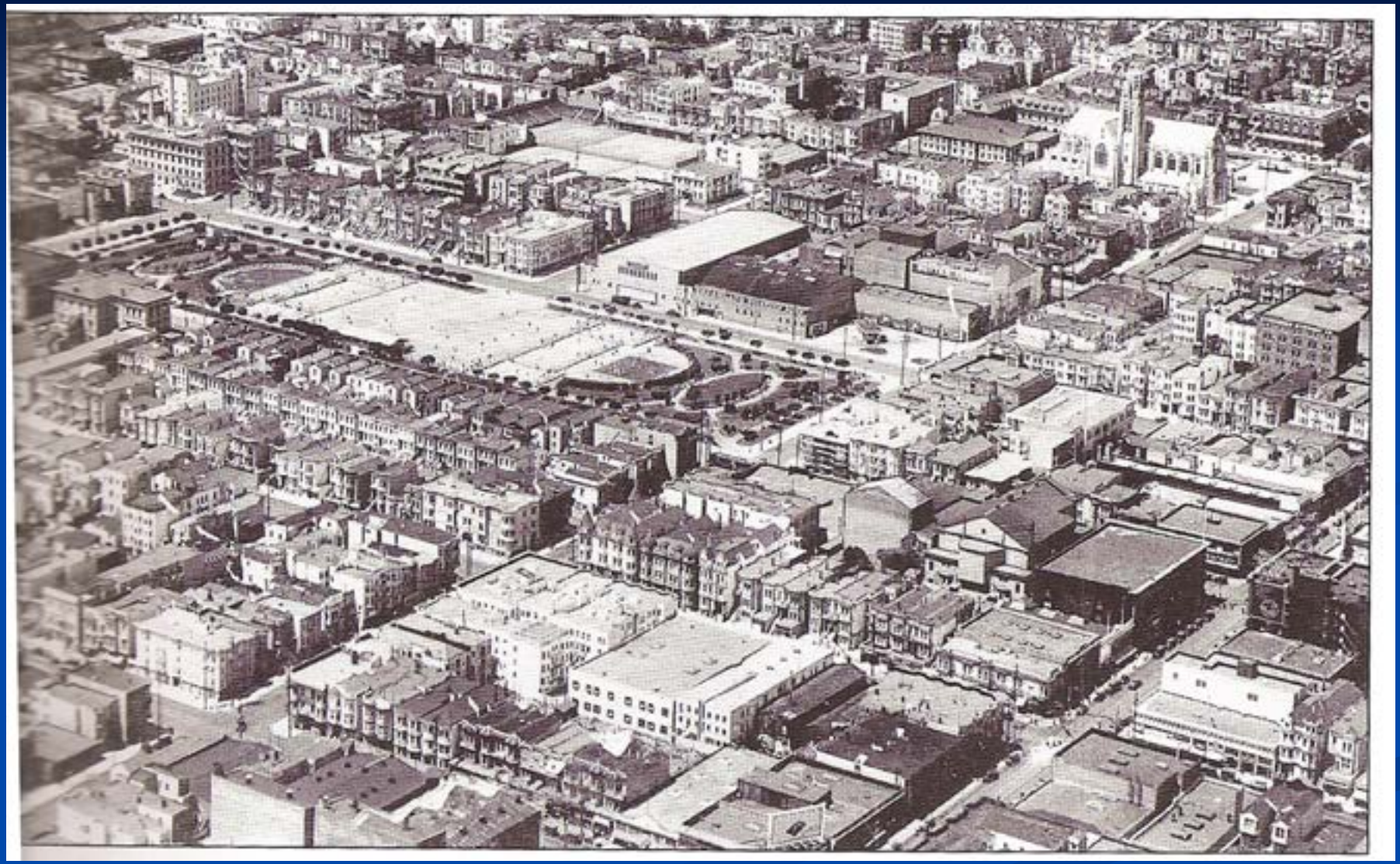
Example: Redevelopment in the Western Addition, San Francisco

The Fillmore: 'Harlem of the West'

- From 1940 to 1950, SF's African American population jumped from 5k to nearly 50k (Klein, 2010).
- The Fillmore becomes the social and economic center of the black community.
- The Jazz capital of the west coast (Klein, 2010; Watts and Pepin, 2011).



his map shows the two Western Addi



Education, Income, and Economic Opportunity

Education, Income, and Economic Opportunity

- The Great Recession=massive job losses, high unemployment.
- Crisis of unemployment and low-wage jobs (Pitts, 2008).
- Home foreclosures and loss of wealth.

Education, Income, and Economic Opportunity

- Shift from manufacturing to information/knowledge-based jobs requiring more education/skills.
- Global competitiveness (focus by cities on specialization/ competitive advantage).
- Cost of living is rising and real wages are not keeping pace, especially for less-skilled positions.

Education, Income, and Economic Opportunity

- Majority of CA public school students people of color.
- Latinos 50.4 % (3.1 million) of CA public school students (CA Dept. of Education, 2010).
- 2010 Graduation rates for California (CA Dept. of ED, 2011):
  - Latinos 67.7%
  - Blacks 59.0%
  - English learners 56.3%

Neighborhood Environment and Social Conditions

Neighborhood Environment and Social Conditions

Community/regional allocation of resources affects population health (Florey et al, 2007; Hutson and Wilson, 2011, Hutson et al., 2012)

- Access to quality food and proper nutrition.
- Clean, safe water supply.
- Quality housing.
- Access to affordable, efficient transportation.

Neighborhood Environment & Social Conditions: Resource Allocation

- Air pollution, environmental toxins.
- Spatial segregation, poverty and inequality.
- Social support and social capital.
- Crime and violence.

Crime and Incarceration

- Mass incarceration in the U.S. 2.3 million (Sentencing Project, 2012).
- More than 60% of people in prison are now racial and ethnic minorities (Sentencing Project, 2012).
- Imprisonment Rate per 100,000 (Sentencing Project, 2010).
  - Blacks 2,992
  - Latinos 782
  - Whites 460

Crime and Incarceration

Impact on Communities:

- Financial and emotional costs to victims.
- Can destroy community cohesion, cause fear, anxiety, stress.
- Loss of investment (commercial, housing, etc.).

Crime and Incarceration

- Increase financial costs to combat crime.
- Drugs and substance abuse.
- Exploitation of women, sex trade and abuse (especially of young women).
- Defending public space, privatization of public space.

Crime and Incarceration

- Ex-offenders:
  - Most relocate to cities.
  - Problems with unemployment.
  - Difficulty finding housing.
  - Lack of access to medical care.
  - Lack of positive social networks.

Crime and Incarceration

- Ex-offenders (cont'd):
  - Impact on wealth accumulation.
  - Absent fathers and mothers.
- Larger impact on community and future generations, especially children.

Thank you.

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