

# Arizona Healthfields Initiative

Transforming Brownfields To Improve Community Health

March 23, 2016



# Arizona Healthfields Initiative

- Voluntary collaboration of federal and state agencies, cities, nonprofit organizations, healthcare providers started in 2014
- Interested in using land redevelopment/reuse for improvement of community health
- Discuss and share projects, challenges, solutions, and successes

# Arizona Healthfields Initiative

- Community health issues
- Programmatic approach to identification of effective solutions
- Health outcomes



# Community Health Issues

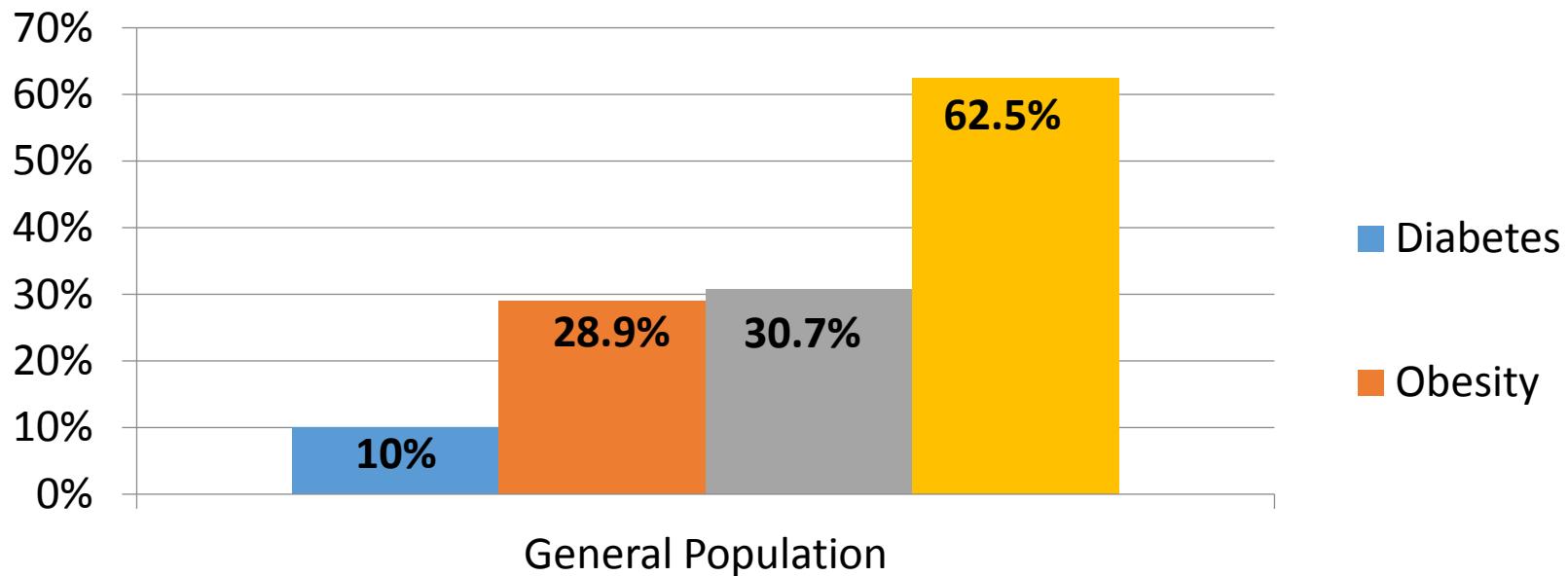


# Arizona Health Issues

Chronic health issues related to diet, exercise, and access to healthcare that are more serious in low income populations:

- Diabetes
- Obesity
- High blood pressure
- Cardiovascular disease

# Arizona Health Issues



- Between 2003 and 2013 deaths due to obesity increased 3 times.

# Cardiovascular Disease in Arizona

- Heart disease is No. 2 killer in Arizona\*
- Arizona ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the country in the number of deaths from cardiovascular disease in the US\*\*
- Stroke is the No. 6 killer in Arizona\*



\*American Heart & Stroke Associations (2010)

\*\*America's Health Rankings (2015)

# Health of Children in Poor Households

- Nearly one (1) in three (3) children in Arizona is considered overweight or obese
- 53.3% of children living in households earning at or below the federal poverty level are classified as overweight or obese
- Arizona ranks 46th (5<sup>th</sup> worst) nationally in childhood poverty (28.6 % of children live in households at or below the poverty level)

# Poverty In Arizona (2014)\*

- 21.2 % of Arizonans at or below the federal poverty level vs. 14.8% in US (3<sup>rd</sup> worst)
- 9.2% of Arizonans earned less than half the federal poverty level vs. 6.6 nationally (4<sup>th</sup> worst)
- One in every 11 people in AZ vs. one in 15 nationally
- Among working-age adults, those between 18 and 64 years old, Arizona was 4<sup>th</sup> worst in poverty

\* US Census

# Social Determinants of Health

- safe and affordable housing
- access to education
- public safety
- availability of healthy foods
- local emergency/health services
- environments free of life-threatening toxins.

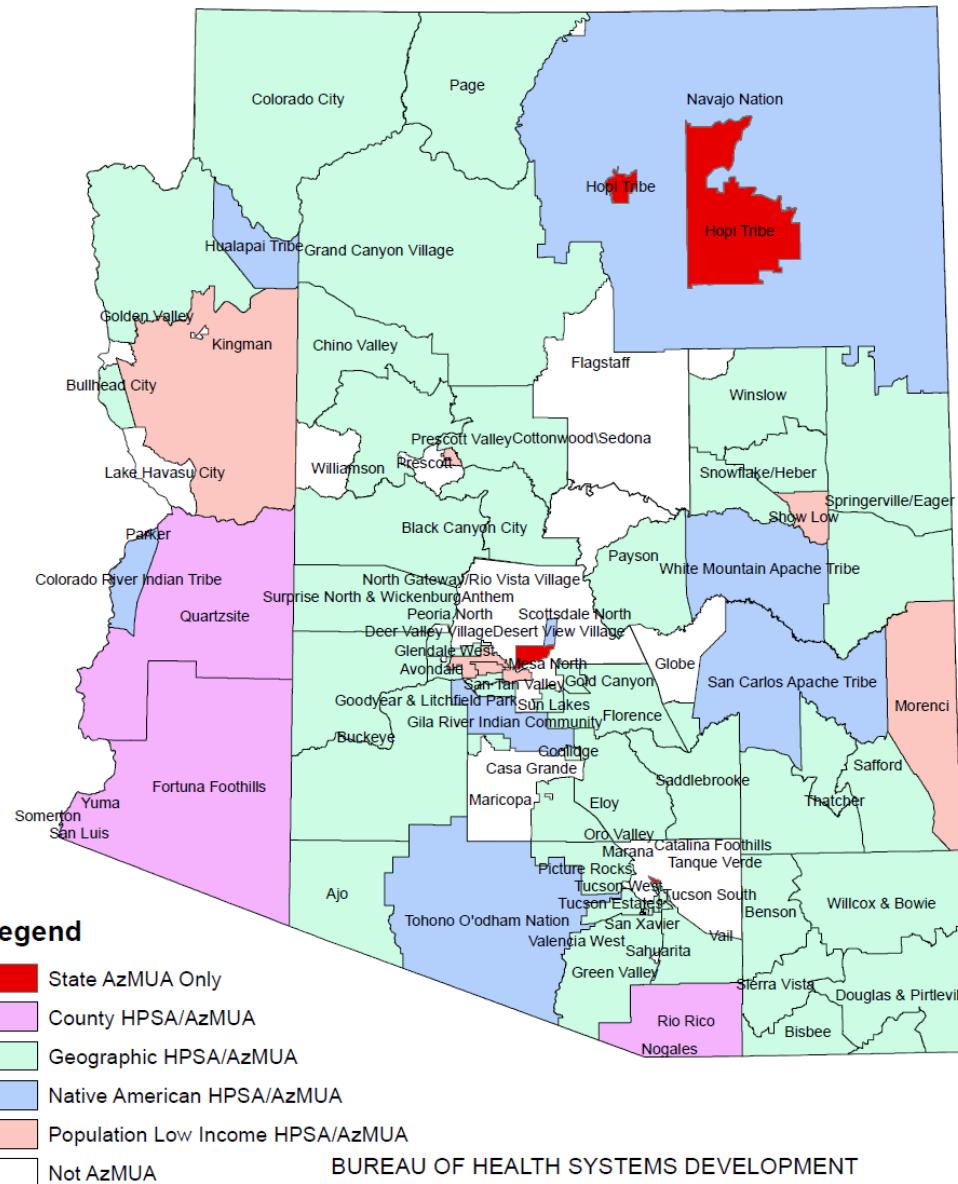
# Health Disparities Among Low Income Populations

- Food Insecurity
  - Limited funds to purchase healthy food
  - Limited providers of healthy food in low income areas
  - Limited options to travel to healthy food stores
- Medically Underserved Areas/Populations
  - Limited number of primary care physicians\*
  - Limited number of healthcare facilities
  - Limited funds and rising healthcare costs

\*Arizona ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in the number of primary care physicians in the US.

Arizona  
Medically Underserved Areas  
October 2014

- 50 MUAs
- 11 Areas With Adequate Access to Healthcare



# Primary Solution: Doing Community Development Right The Second Time Around

- Post WWII development
- Rush to the suburbs
- Build on virgin, unspoiled, previously unused property
- When buildings/properties served their purpose they were left behind in the inner city

# A Second Bite At The Apple

- 1993 - US Conference of Mayors began to discuss about slum and blight
- 2002 - federal law passed to encourage redevelopment of vacant, abandoned, underutilized and contaminated properties (“brownfields”)
- More than 450,000 brownfield sites (est.) in the US
- An average of 9,000 per state
- In FY16 the federal government budgeted \$100M for brownfields; \$30M more than in FY15

# Examples of Brownfields

- Abandoned gas stations
- Former mine sites and tailings
- Illegal dump sites
- Meth labs or former grow sites
- Landfills
- Historic industrial operations
- Maintenance yards



# The Benefits of Redeveloping Brownfields

- Infill, valuable lots that are prime for reuse
- Utilize existing infrastructure and transportation
- Located in underserved areas
- Increase local tax base
- Provide for new businesses and jobs
- Bring real estate back into productive use
- Improve quality of life **and community health**

# Willa Carson Health Resource Center Clearwater, FL

*Brownfields Transformation (Abandoned Gas Station to Health Clinic)*

## Challenges

- > Abandoned Contaminated Gas Station
- > Abandoned Gas Station with Out-of-State Property Owner
- > Environmental Issues
  - 4 USTs
  - Hydraulic Lift
  - 450 Tons of Contaminated Soil

## Results

- > Instilled Environmental Justice
- > Established Trust and Credibility with Local Community
- > National Brownfields to Public Health Model
- > Serves over 3,500 Uninsured per Year
- > Location for HealthCare Provider for Underserved / Uninsured Community



# Healthfields

Brownfields properties redeveloped for:

- Hospitals, health clinics
- Community gardens
- Urban agriculture
- Farmer's markets
- Grocery stores
- Parks, sports fields, fitness facilities
- Walking and riding trails, open space



# Arizona Healthfields Initiative



# Arizona Healthfields Initiative

- Provides access to technical resources and expertise
  - ATSDR Community Partnership
  - Arizona Department of Health Services
- Provides access to financial support
  - EPA and ADEQ Brownfields Grants
  - USDA Community Facilities Program Grants & Loans
  - Health Resources and Services Administration Grants

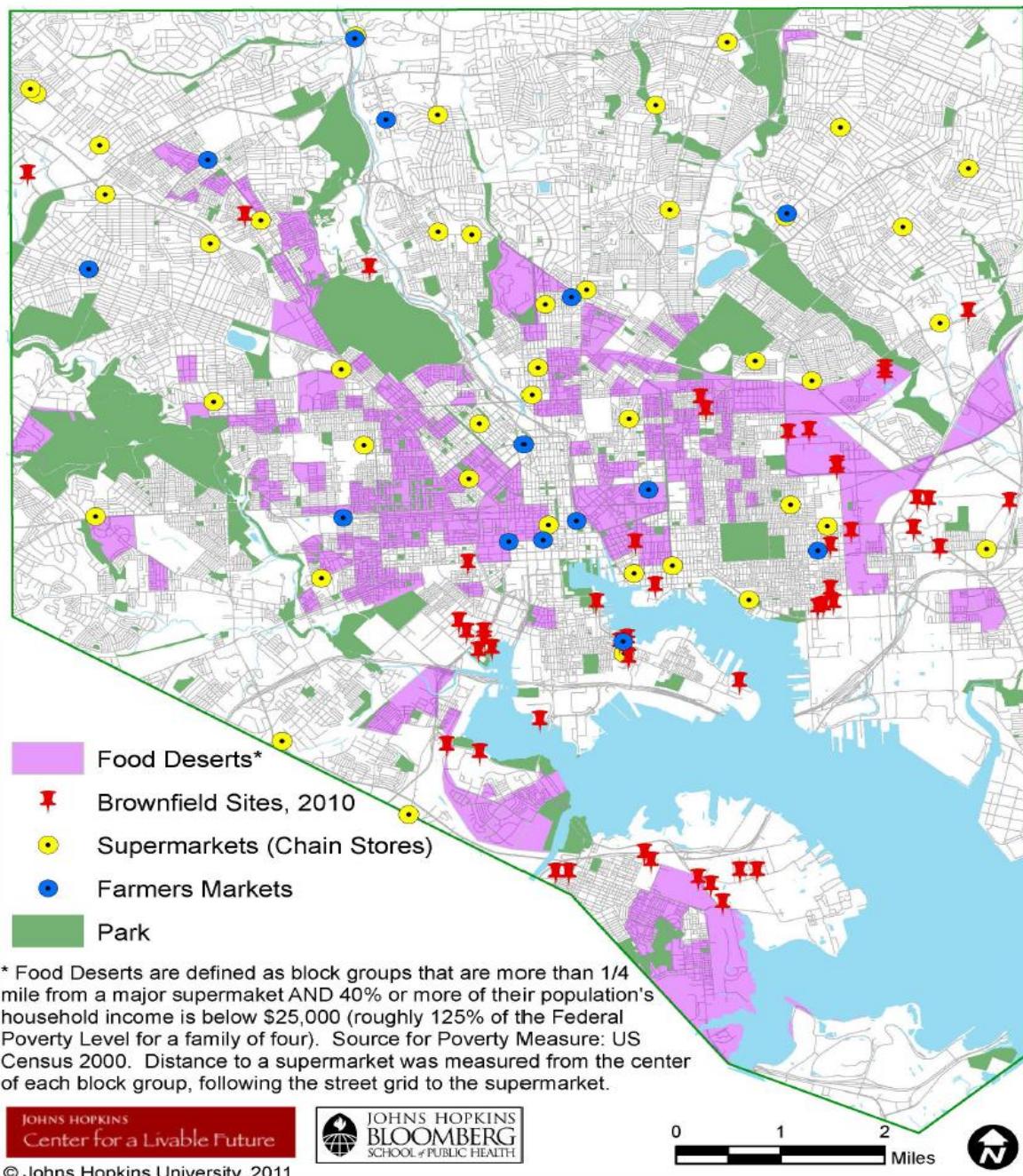
# Health Outcome #1: Improved Access to Healthy Food

During the last **twenty-five years**,  
brownfields  community gardens & farmers:

- Bridgeport, CT since 1989
- Lawrence, MA since 1999
- Denver, CO since 2002
- Sacramento, CA since 2002
- Shelton, CT since 2005
- Philadelphia, PA since 2007
- Somerville, MA since 2007
- Chicago, IL since 2010
- Portland, OR since 2012



## Baltimore City: Food Deserts, Brownfields, Supermarkets and Farmers Markets



# Health Outcome #2: Improved Access to Healthcare

During the last **fifteen years**,  
brownfields  hospitals & health clinics:

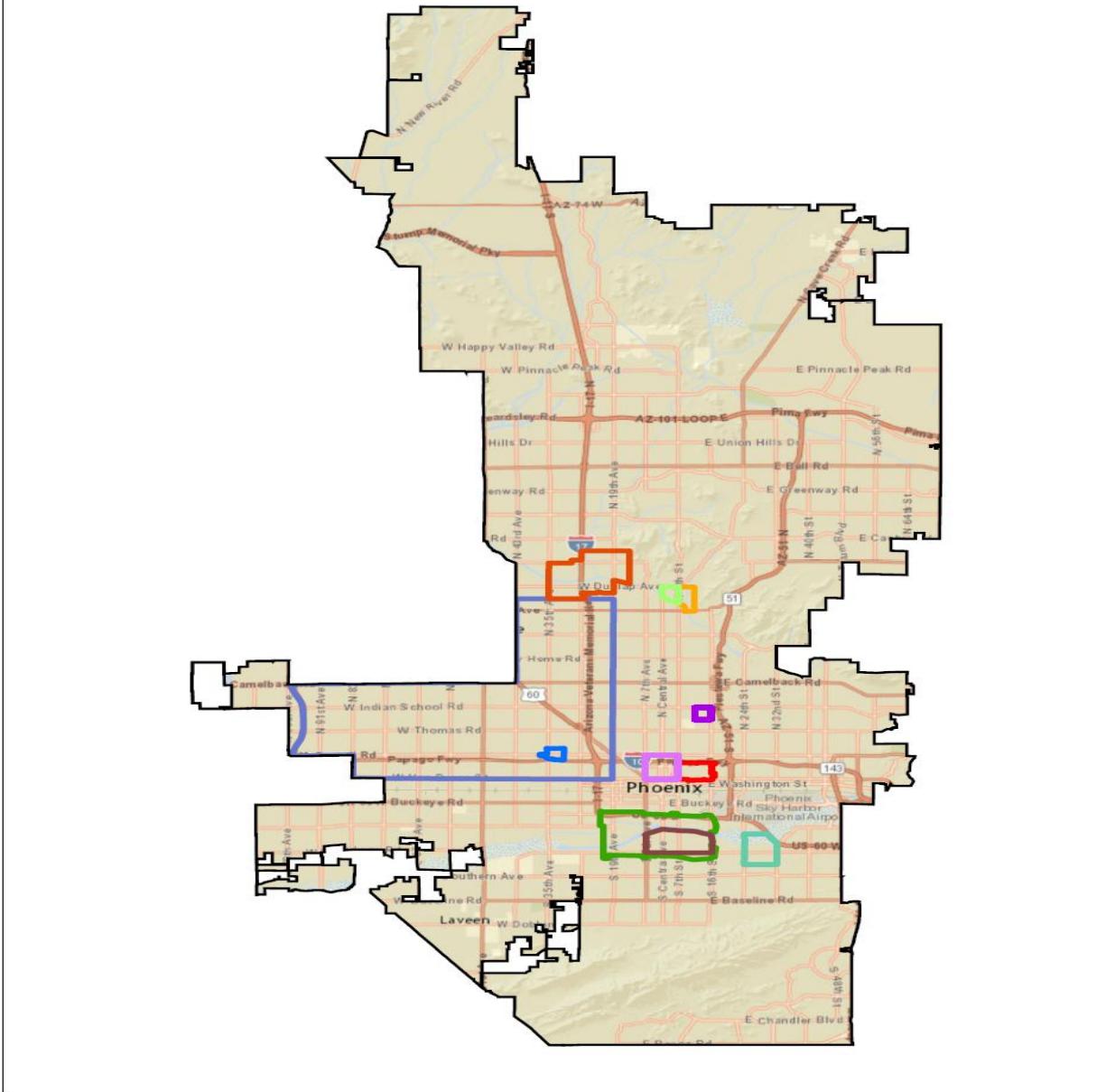
- Florida (2001)
- New Hampshire
- Pennsylvania
- Colorado
- Oregon
- Minnesota
- California





# Health Outcome #3: Phoenix Brownfields to Healthfields Project

- Received 3 year brownfields grant from EPA
- Completion of city-wide inventory including evaluation of more than 1500 potential brownfield properties in 11 target redevelopment/neighborhood initiative areas
- These properties are located in low income neighborhoods with food deserts and medically underserved areas of the City
- Identification of potential *healthfields* redevelopment opportunities



LEGEND

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<span style="background-color: green; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px;"></span>	Rio Salado Redevelopment Area
<span style="background-color: teal; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px;"></span>	South Phoenix Village
<span style="background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px;"></span>	West Phoenix Revitalization Area

City of Phoenix  
Office of Environmental Programs  
**Healthfields Inventory Project**  
Target Areas

Date: August 24, 2015



# Phoenix Brownfields to Healthfields Project

- Assessment and planning for cleanup (if necessary) of eligible properties
- Goal is establishment of new community garden gardens and farmers markets, use of mobile markets and healthmobiles, and construction of new grocery stores, health clinics, etc.

# Health Outcome #4: Arizona Department of Health Services Healthfields Promotion Project

- Received 1 year \$150,000 grant from ATSDR
- Healthfields website
- Statewide workshops
- Community Action Model
- Sustainable community garden resource guide
- Brochure/flyer



# Arizona Healthfields Initiative

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