

South Gate General Plan: Addressing Health and Climate Change



About Raimi + Associates



- ◆ Comprehensive Planning
- ◆ Sustainable Development
- ◆ Public Health and Planning
 - LEED-ND Public Health Criteria Study, USGBC
 - How to Create and Implement Healthy General Plans, Public Health Law & Policy
 - Design for Healthy Living, Coachella Valley Assoc. of Govts
 - South Gate General Plan, South Gate CA
 - Riverside County Public Health Element, Riverside County, CA

What is a General Plan?

- ◆ “General Plan” = Comprehensive Plan in California
- ◆ “General Plan Element” = Chapter
- ◆ Required General Plan topics:
 - Land Use
 - Circulation
 - Housing
 - Conservation and Open Space
 - Safety and Noise
- ◆ A natural place to address health and climate change

South Gate: An Overview

- ◆ 8 miles southeast of downtown LA
- ◆ Population: 115,000 to 125,000
- ◆ 7.5 square miles
- ◆ > 95% Latino
- ◆ Median age 26 years of age
- ◆ Working class





General Plan Process

- ◆ Existing Conditions
- ◆ Visioning
- ◆ 12 public workshops
- ◆ General Plan Development



Addressing Health and Climate

- ◆ Vision and Guiding Principles
- ◆ General Plan Elements
 - Community Design
 - Mobility
 - Green City
 - Healthy Community



General Plan Vision

Vision Statement & Guiding Principles

“We, the citizens of South Gate, are shaping a proud, new vision for the City that will build a better tomorrow for future generations of South Gate residents.”

A Green City
A City that Grows
A Family-Oriented City
Strong Neighborhoods
Transportation Choices
Economic Vitality
Vibrant Tweedy Mile and Corridors
Life Long Learning
A Beautiful City
A Healthy Environment
Community Participation



Community Design Element

Key Community Design Goals

Create “neighborhood nodes” within walking distance of residents

Redevelop major corridors with mixed use

Create mixed use districts

Build around transit

Address urban form and character in land use designations





Strategy Framework



Mobility Element

Key Mobility Goals and Policies

Streets as public space

Prioritize moving people not cars

Integrate land use and transportation
- context-sensitive roadway
classifications

Safety improvements in
neighborhoods

Identified pedestrian and bicycle
infrastructure

Promote transit improvements





Healthy Community Element

Key Healthy Community Goals

Overall health and well-being

Land use patterns that support physical activity

Active and safe transportation

Access to healthy foods

Access to health care

Preventing air pollution

Improved social capital and mental health

Conventional safety topics (seismic, emergency preparedness)



Sample Policies

Overall Health:

“Improving overall health conditions in South Gate will be a city priority.”

Access to Healthy food:

“The City will seek to increase access to healthy food choices, such that every residential parcel is within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of a healthy food outlet.”

Land Use and Urban Design:

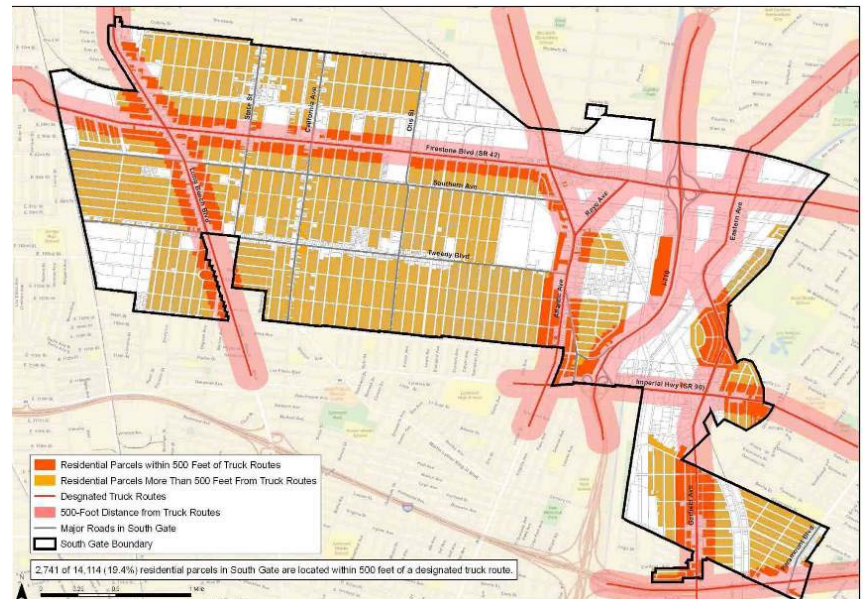
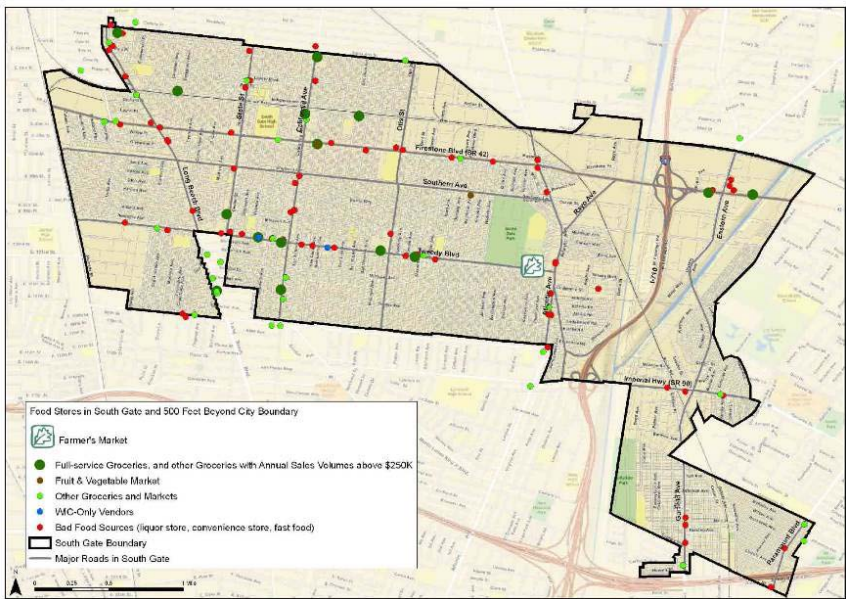
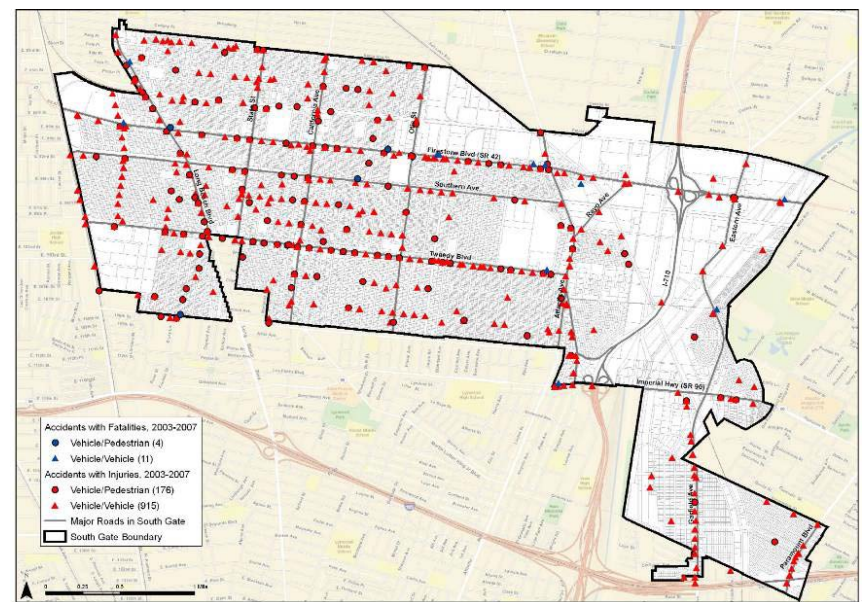
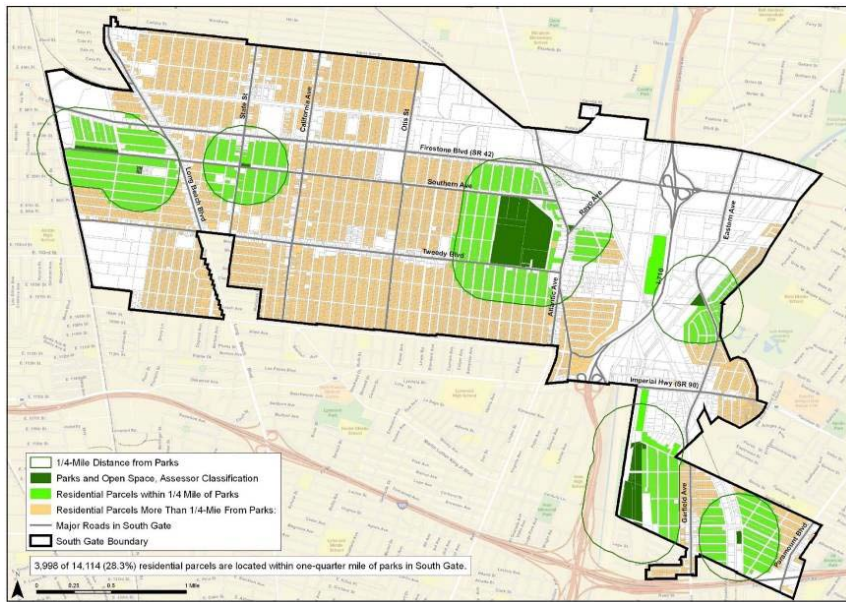
“The City should make land use and urban design decisions that promote physical activity, improve access to nutritious foods, and reduce air pollution.”

Municipal Operations:

“The City should offer healthy food options at all municipal buildings and events where it provides food.”

Sample Actions

- ◆ “Review city codes and ordinances for their impact on health.”
- ◆ “Develop a business attraction strategy targeted towards hospitals and health care facilities.”
- ◆ “Adopt a city ordinance to limit diesel truck idling.”
- ◆ “Establish bike parking standards.”



Healthy Community Mapping



Green City Element

Key Green City Goals

Address climate change

Implement green building

Improve access to parks, trails, and open space

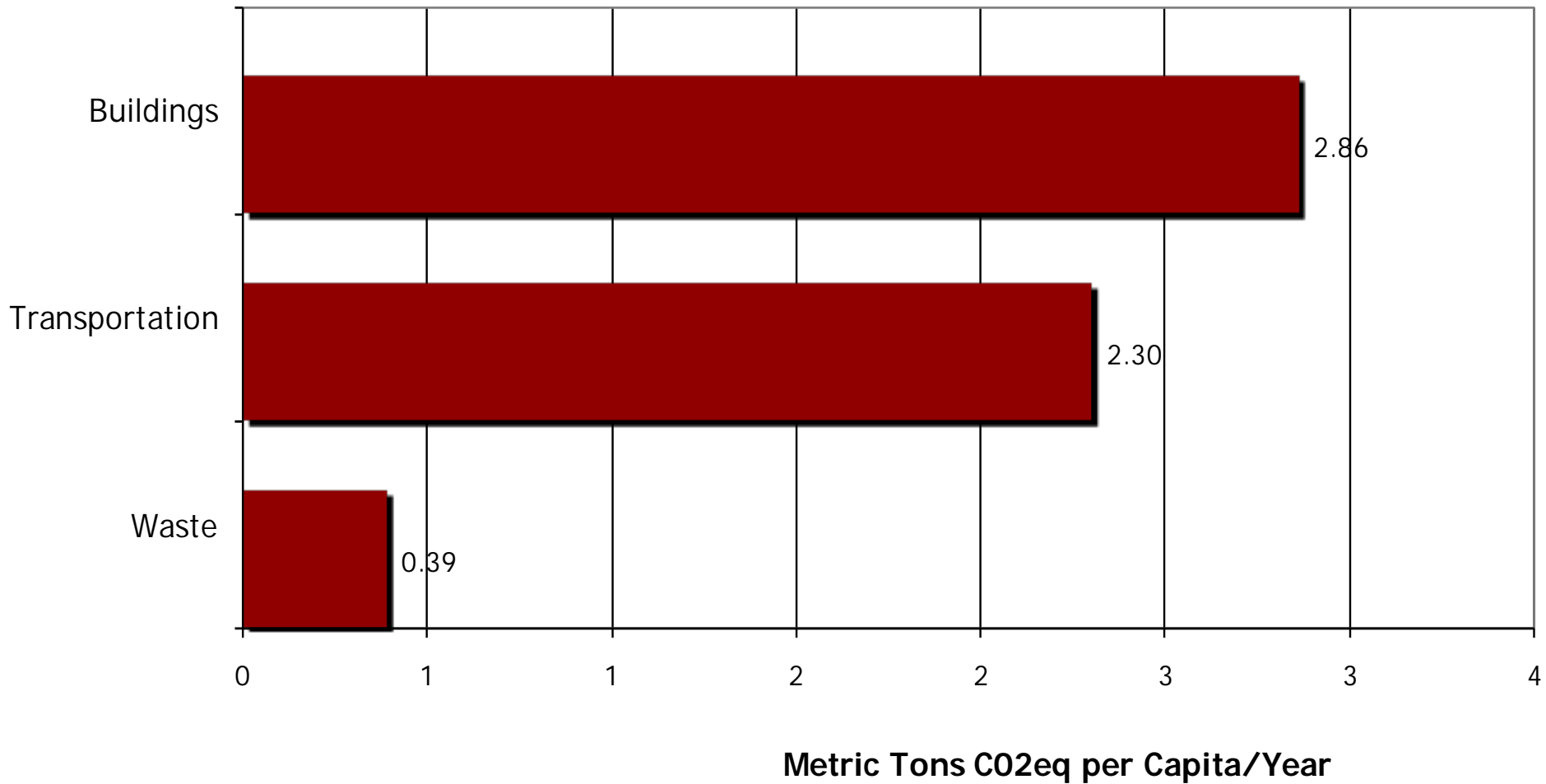
Increase greenery, trees, and landscaping




Climate Change Policies

- ◆ Commitment to assist state with AB 32
- ◆ Statement of a city-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction target: 15% below 2005 levels by 2020.
- ◆ Commitment to create a climate action plan and pursue efforts in the following areas:
 - Energy
 - Land use
 - Buildings
 - Waste
 - Ecology
 - Government Operations
 - Communication and Programs

South Gate Per Capita Community Emissions



Community GHG Inventory



Conclusions from South Gate

Health and Climate: Key Joint Strategies

Mix of uses

Compact development

Urban form and character

Access to transit

Connectivity

Bicycle and pedestrian facilities

Enhance parks and open space

Public safety and disaster

Preparedness

Reduce vehicle emissions



Lessons Learned



Comprehensive Plans are a natural place to address health and climate.

Health and climate planning share many strategies.

Health and climate policy should be both integrated and called out specifically.

Develop community relationships to implement health and climate planning.

for additional information

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Healthy General Plans Toolkit:
www.healthyplanning.org/toolkit_healthygp.html



Extra slides are below

Active and Safe Transportation

Promote transit service
throughout the city

Improve bicycle and pedestrian
connections

Monitor areas with high-frequency
injuries and accidents

Promote safe routes to schools

*Reinforces and references
policies in Mobility Element*



Land Use Patterns

Support land use patterns that promote physical activity –
mixed use development, TOD, corridor development

Improve neighborhoods with pedestrian and bicycle facilities

Improve park and recreation facilities

Reinforces policies in Community Design Element





Community Workshops



Workshop #1: Connecting Planning and Health



Workshop #2: Healthy Eating 101



Workshop #3: A Walkable South Gate

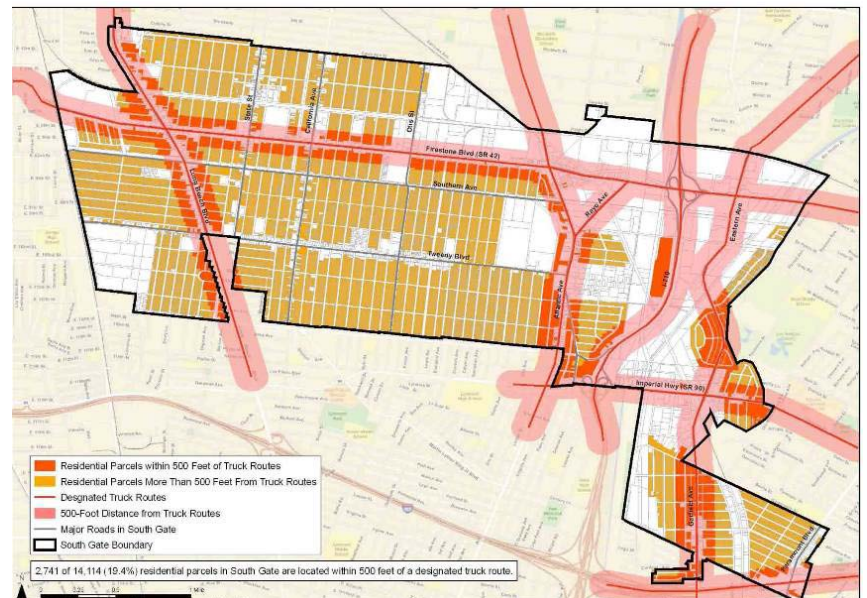
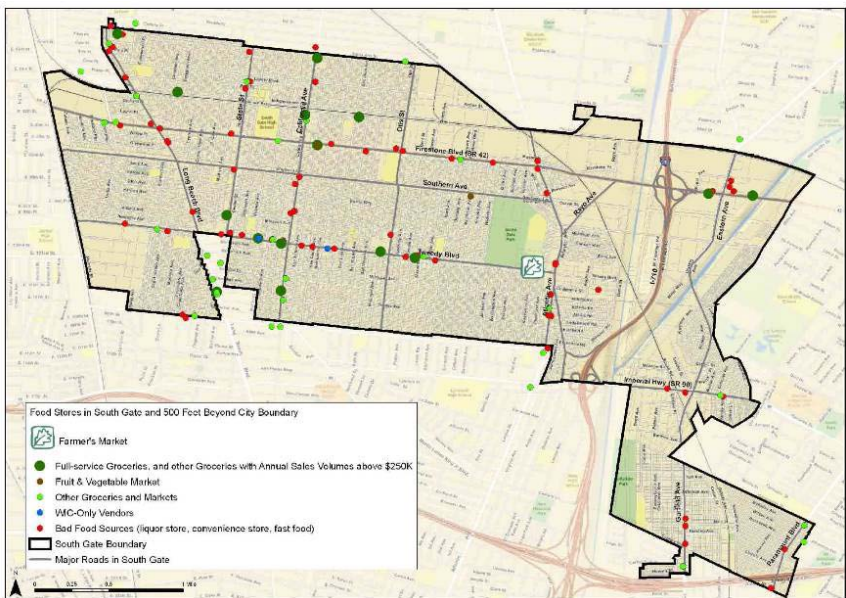
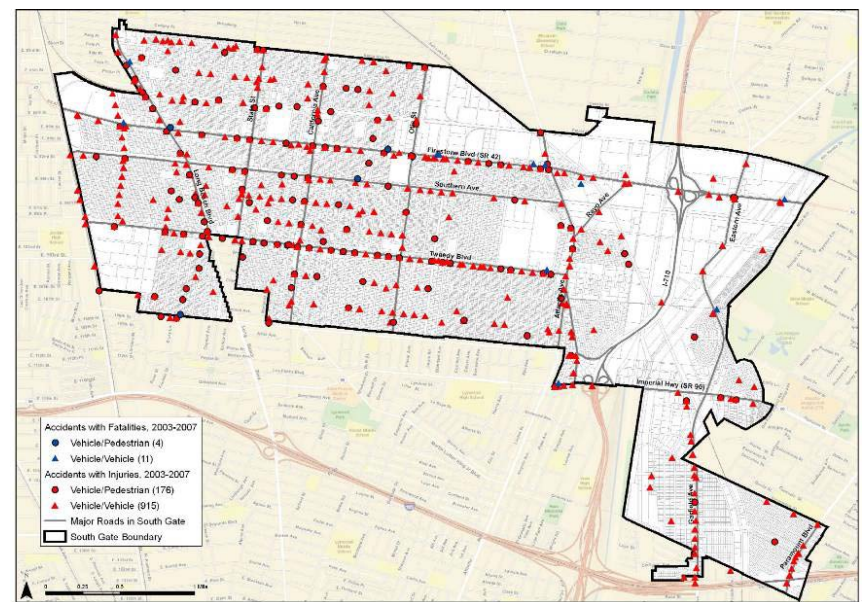
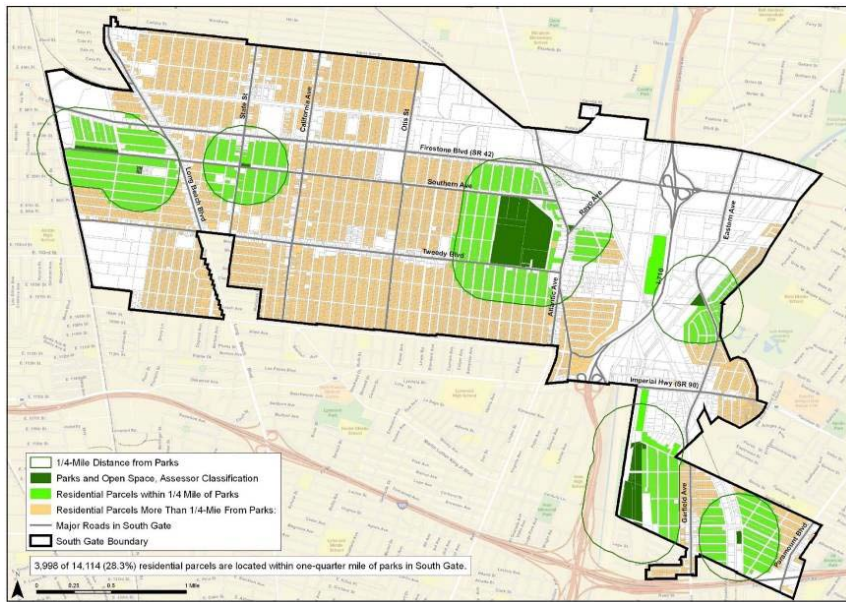
Taking South Gate's Temperature

7 out of 10 adults are overweight or obese

5 out of 10 children are overweight or obese

Higher rates of adult diabetes (9.7% vs. LAC 8.1%)

Rank	South Gate	LA County
1	Heart Disease	Heart Disease
2	Stroke	Stroke
3	Diabetes	Lung Cancer
4	Emphysema/COPD	Emphysema/COPD
5	Lung Cancer	Pneumonia/Influenza



Mapping



General Plan

Policy Decisions

Urban Form,
Transportation System, and
Land Use



Built Environment

Access to Goods and Services
Travel Choices
Street Design



Health Indicators

Physical Activity Levels, Time spent driving,
Access to Nutrition and Healthcare
Pollution, Stress



Health Outcomes

Diabetes, Obesity
Traffic Accidents, Respiratory Illness
Crime, Mental Health Issues

Making the Connection

A Healthy General Plan

Health included in the vision statement

Regulates land use and urban form

Requires “healthy” transportation and infrastructure systems

Layers health policies throughout

Includes a stand-alone “Healthy Community” Element

Healthy Community Element

Stand-alone Healthy Community “element”

- Overall health and well-being
- Land use patterns that support physical activity
- Active and safe transportation
- Access to healthy foods
- Access to health care
- Air pollution
- “Traditional” safety element topics (seismic, emergency preparedness)



Data Challenges

Creating connections between land use and health outcomes

Many data sources – difficult to get info

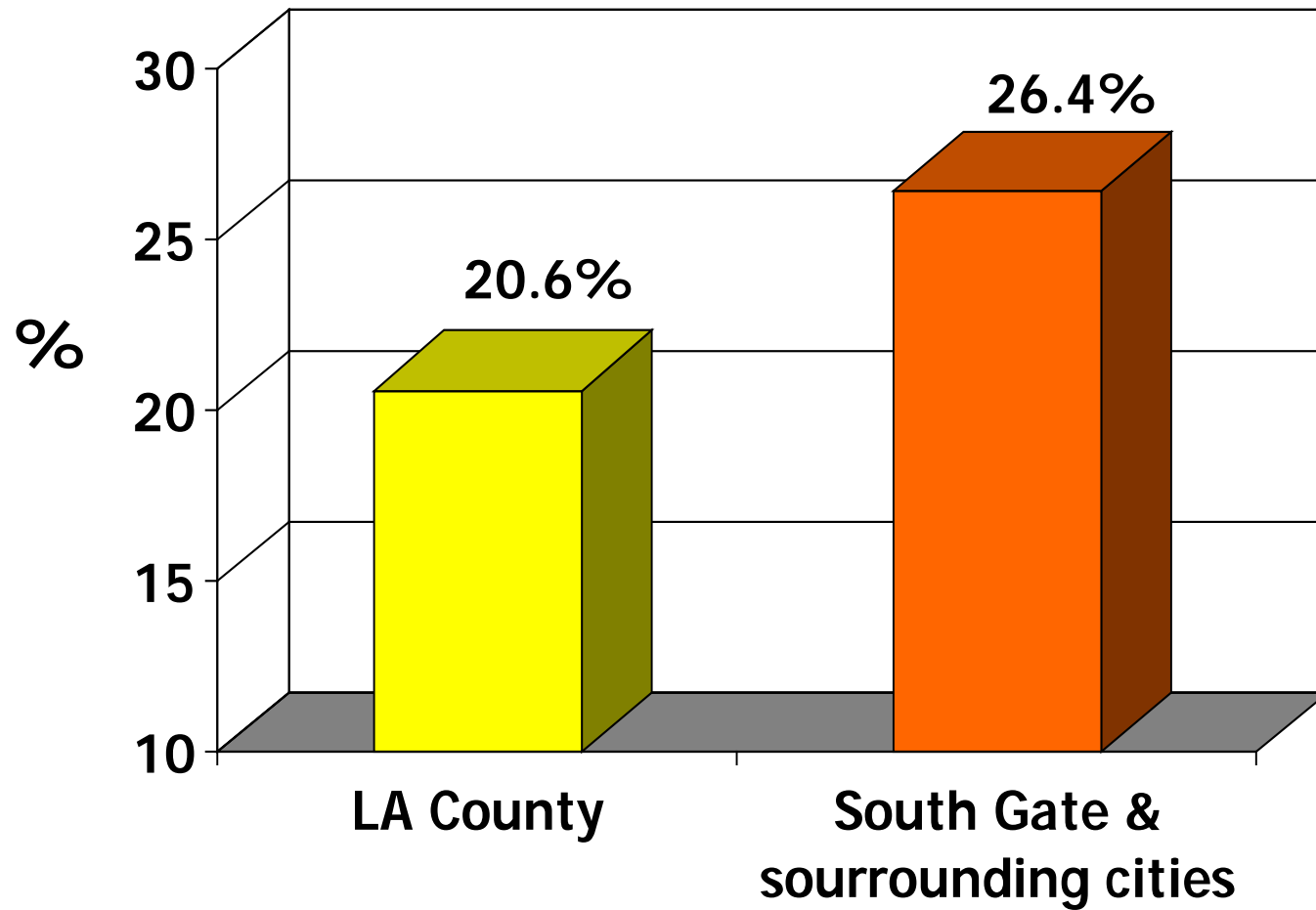
Obtaining accurate city-level and sub-city level information (LA County is the exception)



Public Health Issues

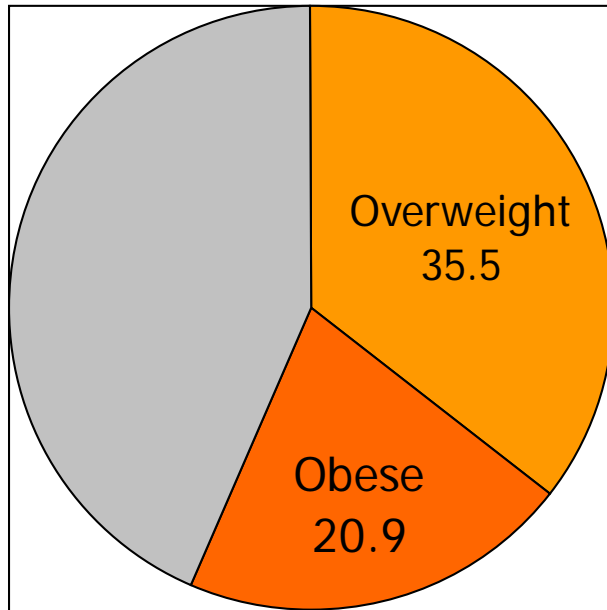
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Leading Causes of Death

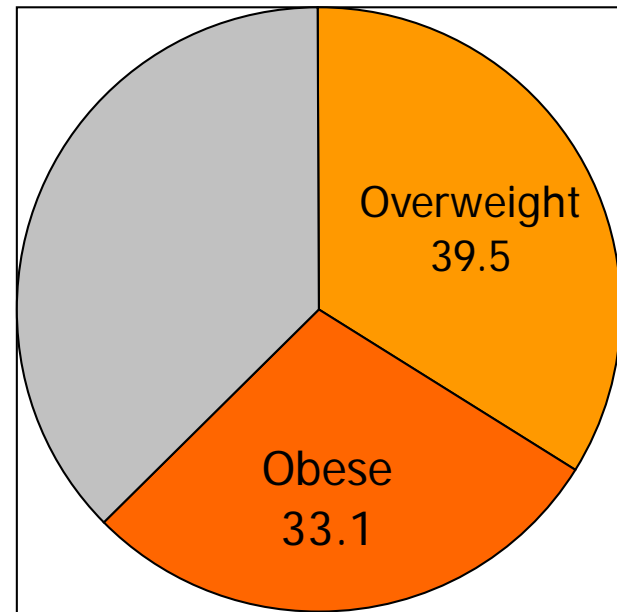


Adults with Fair or Poor Health

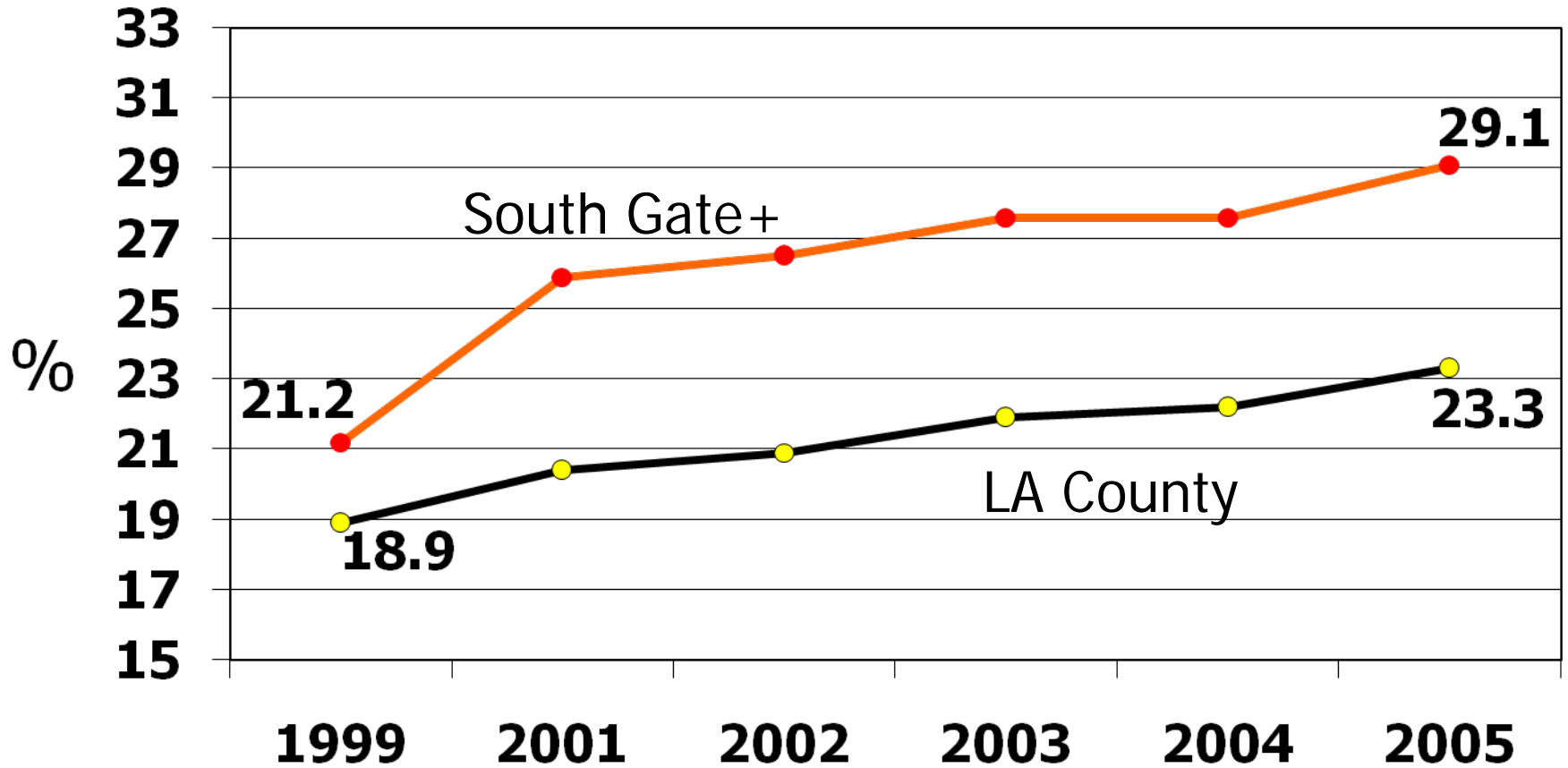
LA County



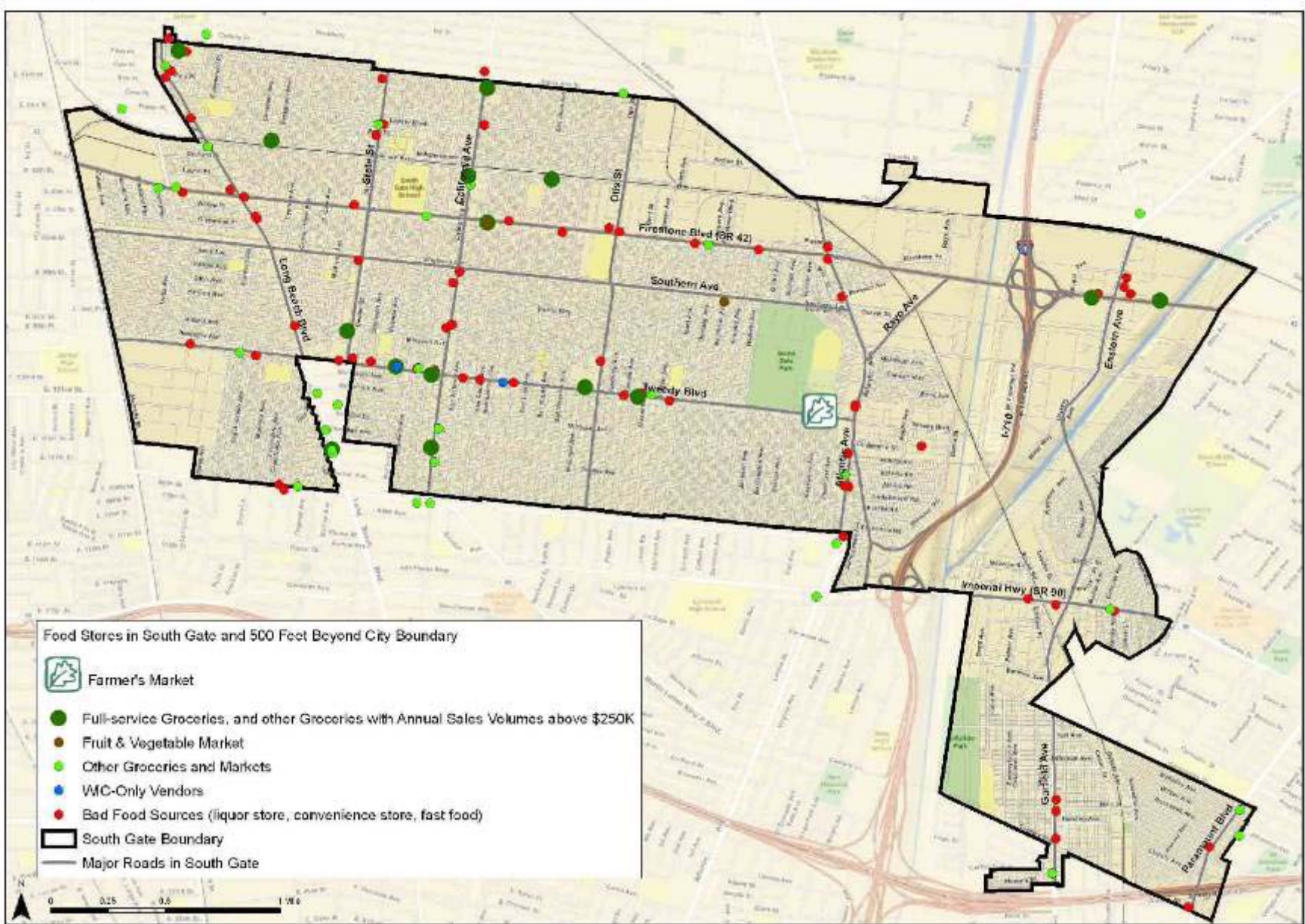
South Gate & Surrounding Cities



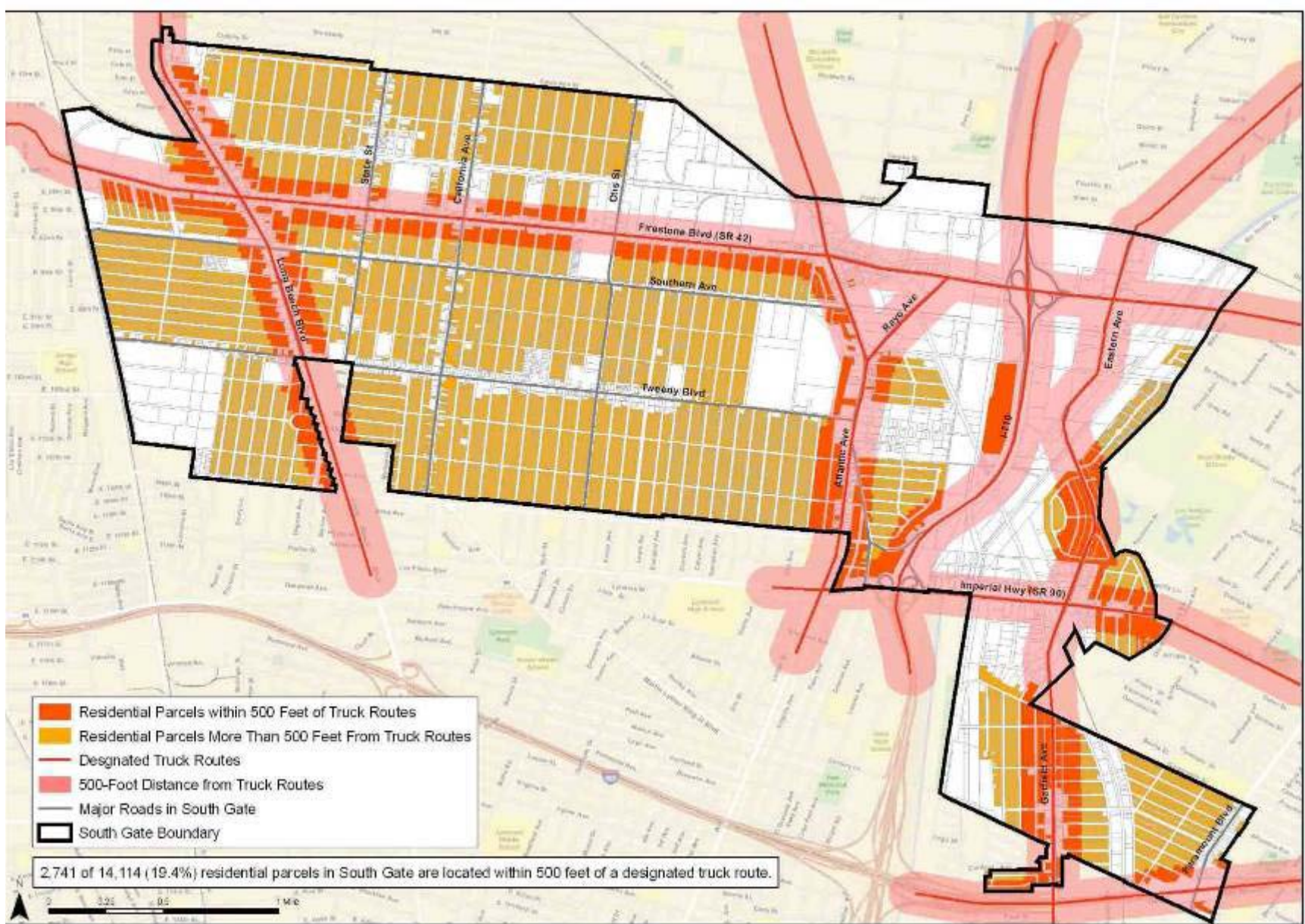
Overweight and Obese Adults



Obese Children Over Time



Food Sources (healthy, not so much)



Proximity to Freeways and Truck Routes

Vision Statement

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT: South Gate supports public health through a healthy environment that includes and promotes walkable communities, safe neighborhoods, enhanced recreational and cultural amenities, reduced noise and air pollution, water and energy conservation, and an attractive natural environment.

Overall Health

Take health into consideration in city's decisions

Monitor health conditions

Focus on preventive care

Build and maintain partnerships



Access to Healthy Foods

Encouragement of healthy food stores

Promote and support farmers markets

Create community gardens and support “edible” school yards

Avoid concentrations of unhealthy food, particularly around schools



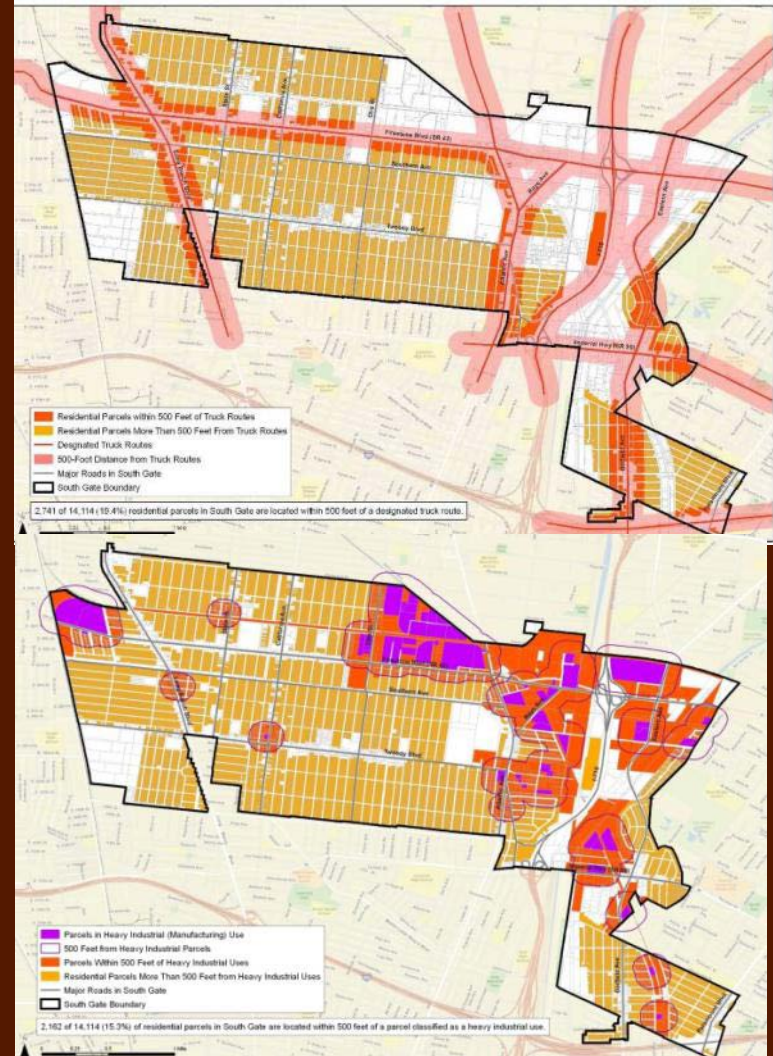
Respiratory Health

Siting of “sensitive receptors”

- Freeways (I-710)
- Truck routes
- Heavy industrial areas

Addresses tension between density and air pollution

Promotes reduction of auto trips



Additional Topics

Access to health care

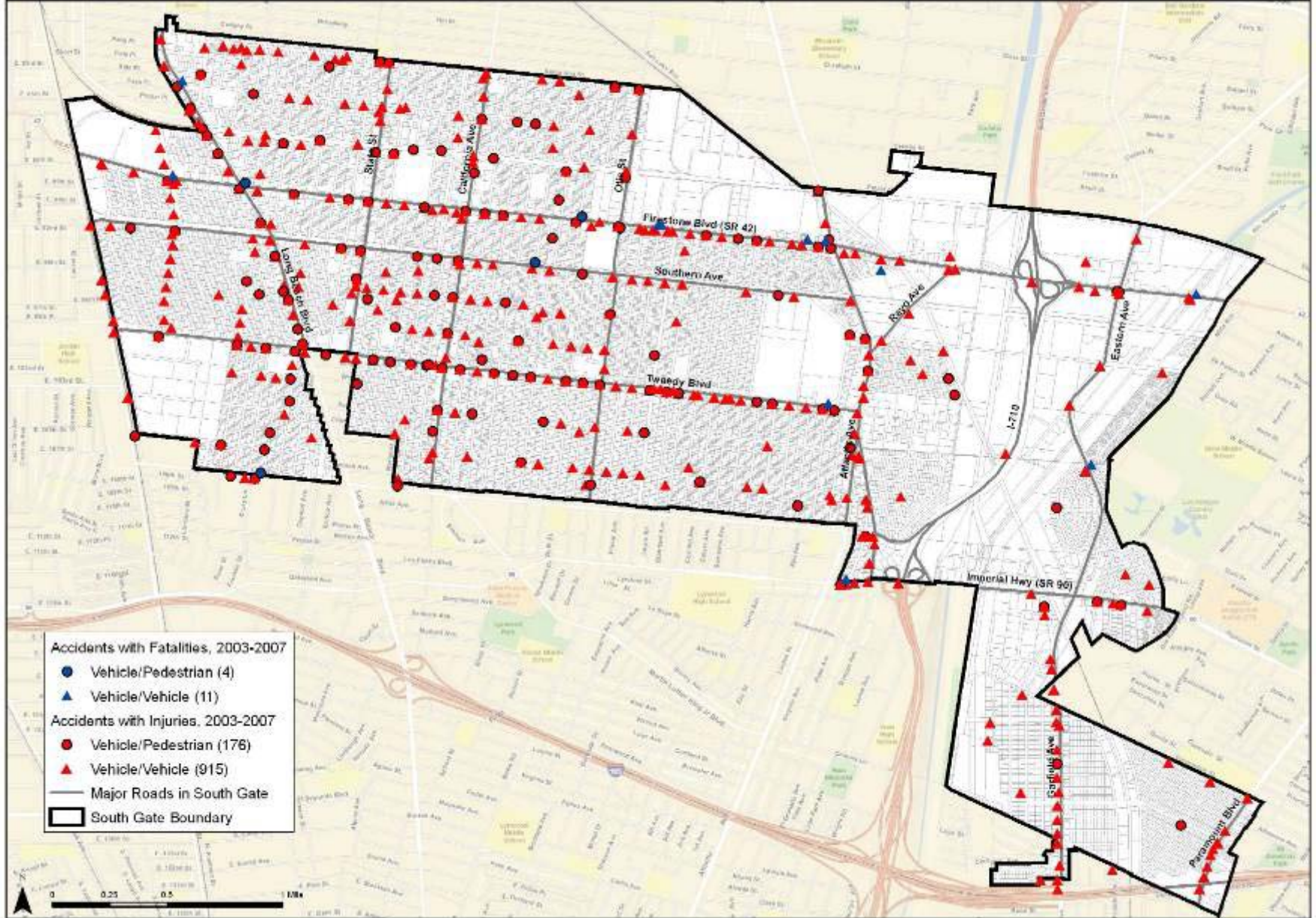
- ◆ Partnerships with local health providers
- ◆ Incentives for hospitals and clinics
- ◆ Full range of health care, including mental health

Seismic safety

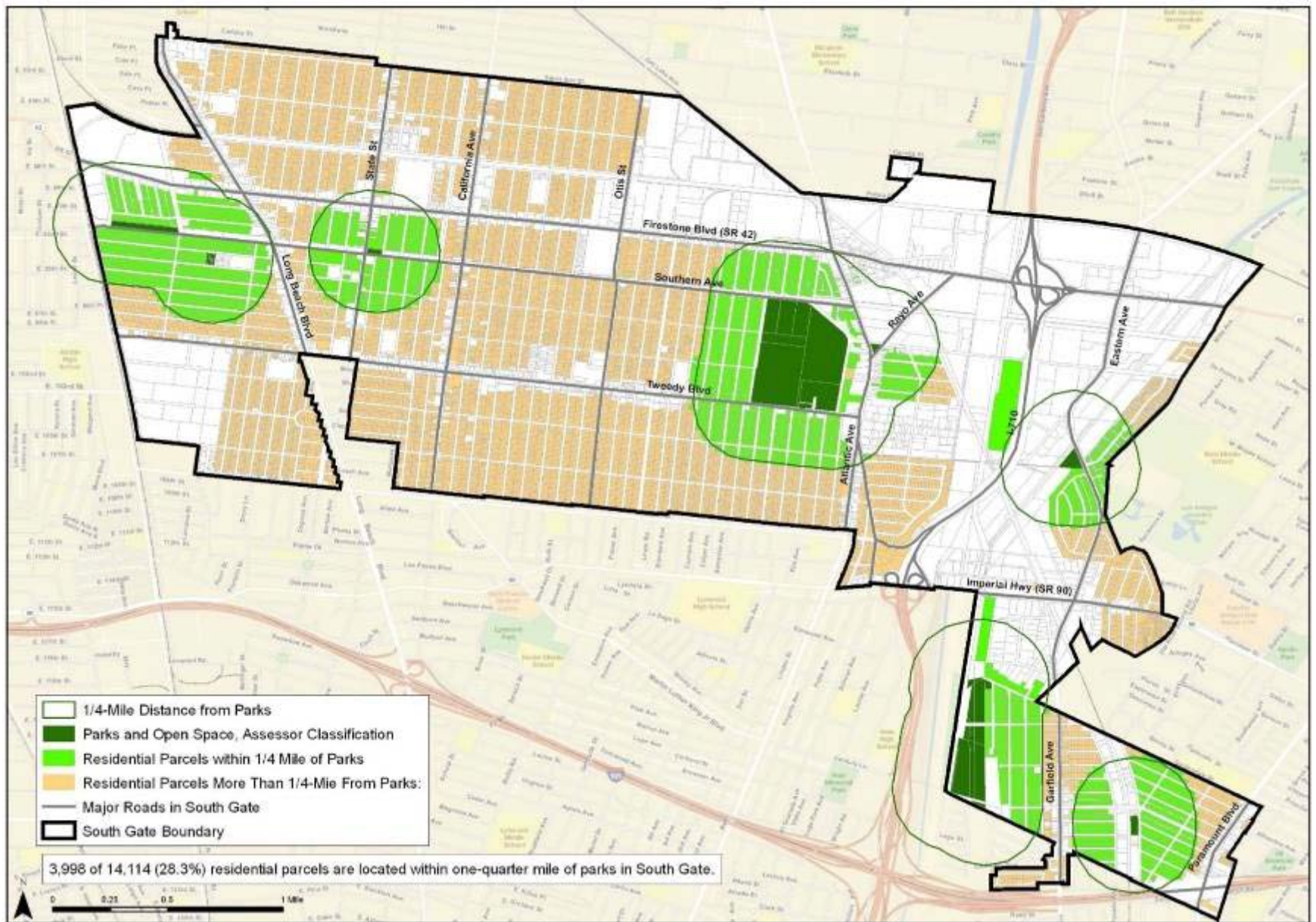
Emergency preparedness

Hazardous materials





Traffic Accidents



Proximity to Parks

Community Design Element

Redevelop major corridors with mixed use

Create mixed use districts

Create “neighborhood nodes” within walking distance of residents

Build around transit

Revise land use designations to address urban form and character



Making the Health Connection



Policy Decisions

Urban Form,
Transportation System, and
Land Use



Built Environment

Access to Goods and Services
Travel Choices, Street Design



Health Conditions

Physical Activity Levels, Time spent driving,
Access to Nutrition and Healthcare, Pollution, Stress

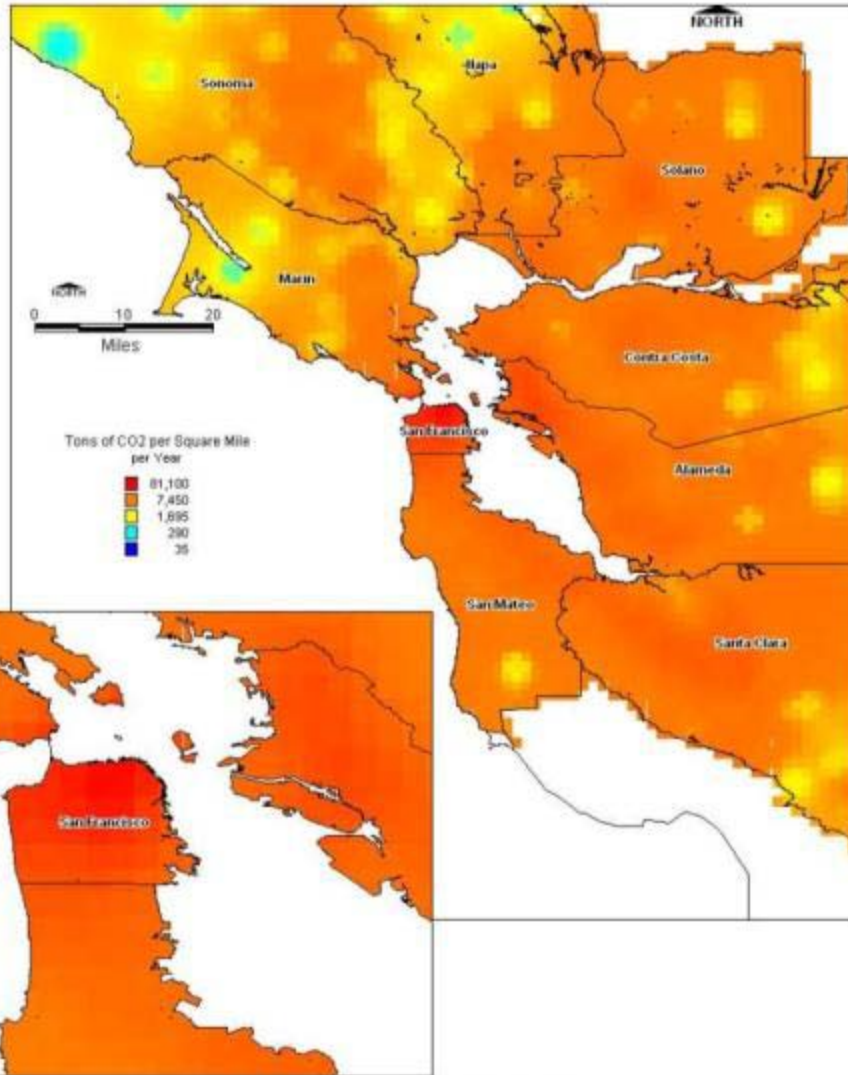


Health Outcomes

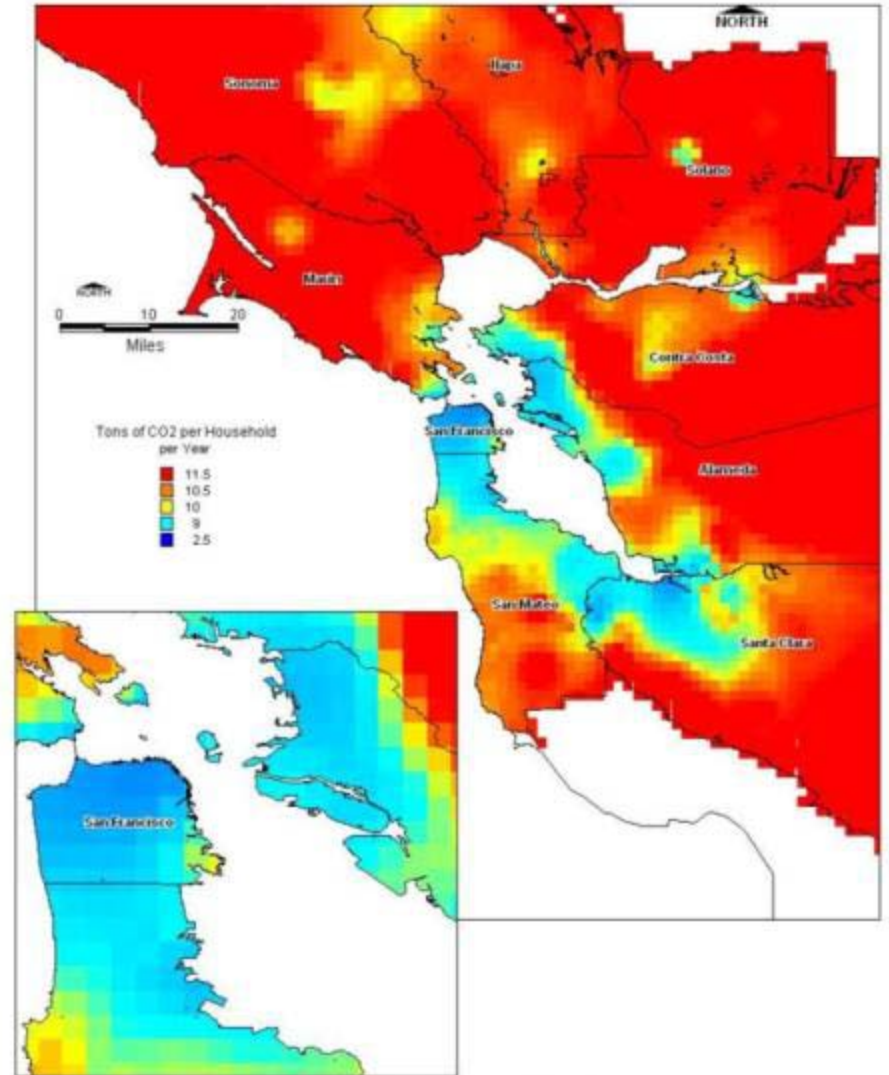
Diabetes, Obesity
Traffic Accidents, Respiratory Illness
Crime, Mental Health Issues



CO2 Emissions Comparison



CO2 Per Sq. Mile



CO2 Per Household

A Healthy General Plan

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