

# Addressing Alcohol Outlet Density through an HIA of Baltimore City's Zoning Code Rewrite

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by:

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# Goals

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- ◉ Context for HIA
- ◉ Relationships of interest
- ◉ Contributions of qualitative and quantitative methods
- ◉ Keeping health on the agenda
- ◉ Continued partnership after HIA report
- ◉ Status of alcohol recommendations

# TransForm Baltimore HIA

## ● Zoning rewrite timeline

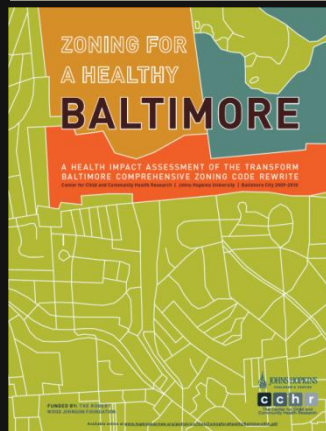
- Last updated in 1971
- Mandated by the Comprehensive Plan
- Began in late 2007
- First draft released May 2010

## ● Goals for the rewrite:

- Simplify and standardize
- Support investment
- Preserve unique character
- Reflect built environment
- Flexibility
- Prepare for future

## ● Website:

[www.rewritebaltimore.org](http://www.rewritebaltimore.org)



## ● HIA Goals

- Inform and influence the code to promote health and mitigate unanticipated negative health consequences
- Inform the mapping phase of the process

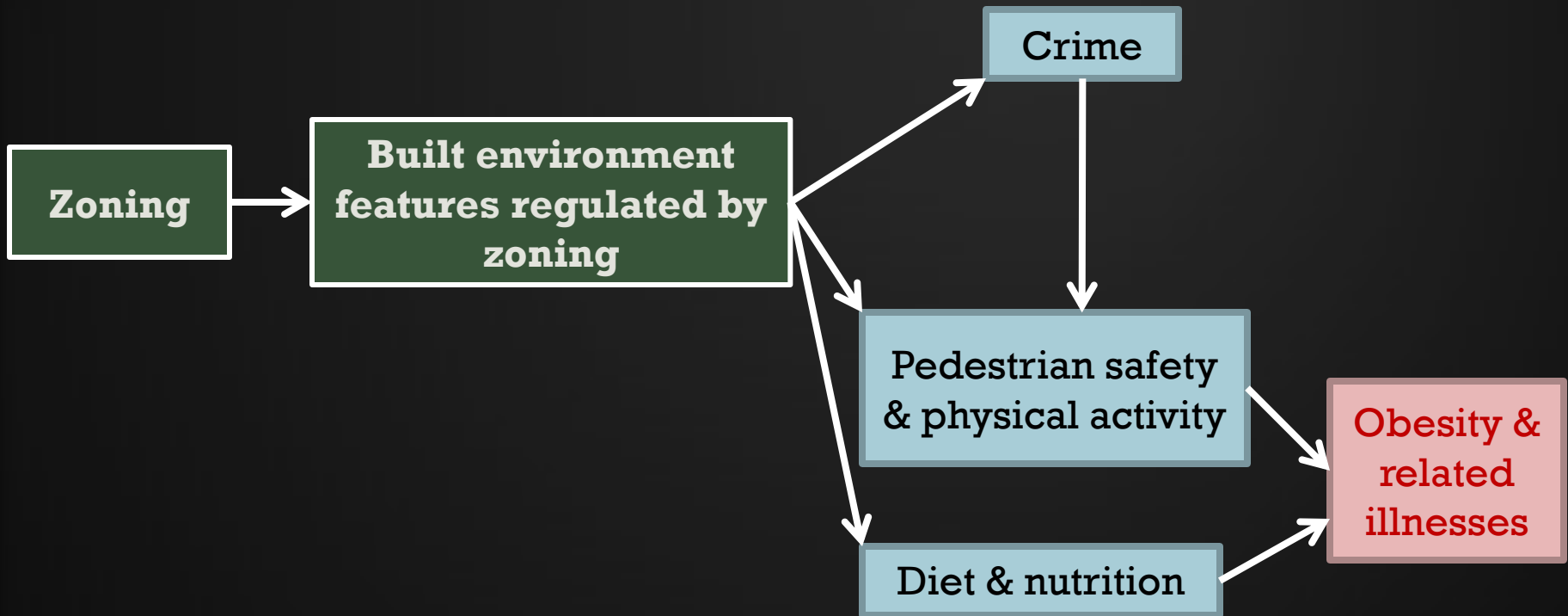
## ● Timeline:

- Began in 2009
- Report released September 2010
- Follow-up continues

## ● Website

[www.hopkinsbayview.org/p/ediatrics/zoning](http://www.hopkinsbayview.org/p/ediatrics/zoning)

# Framework: Zoning → Health Relationships



# Methods

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## ● Scoping Phase

- Review old and new code, engage stakeholders and decision-makers, and observe public meetings
- Review public health literature on zoning → health relationships

## ● Assessment Phase

- Identify potential built environment changes
- Evaluate possible impacts on obesity and violence
- Estimate the changes in the % of the population likely to be exposed

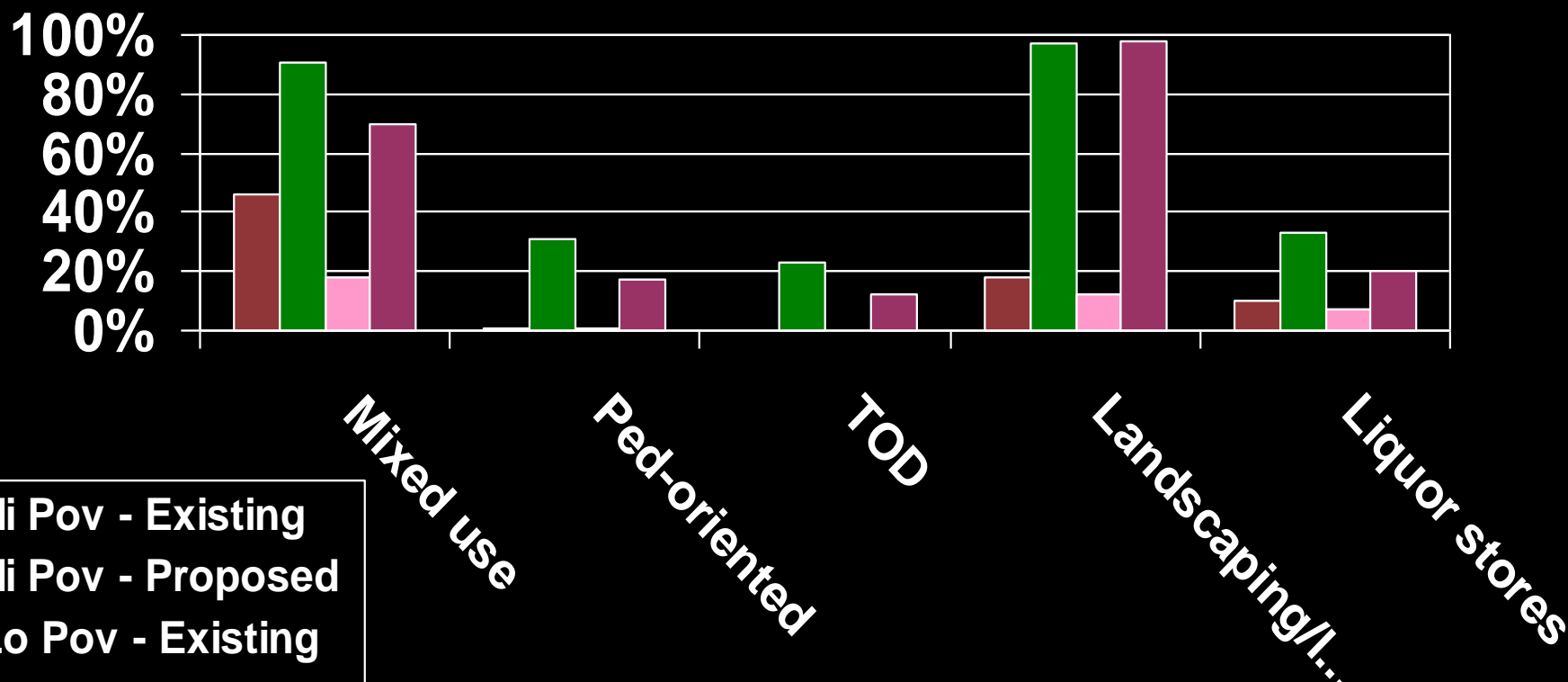
# Findings: Zoning → Crime



# Distribution of potential built environment impacts

## Changes in percent of residents living near districts allowing particular zoning features/uses

Percent of residents



- Hi Pov - Existing
- Hi Pov - Proposed
- Lo Pov - Existing
- Lo Pov - Proposed

# Initial recommendations for off premise alcohol outlets

## ● For new outlets

- Prevent concentration of off-premise alcohol outlets
  - New TOD and industrial mixed use zones
  - Change from permitted to “conditional”
- Dispersal and lighting standards
- Change conditional use process to emphasize public health considerations (e.g. crime)

## ● For existing outlets

- Employ “deemed approved” process
- Improve lighting and other site features



# TransForm Baltimore HIA: Follow-up

- ◉ Window of opportunity for pursuing HIA recommendations
  - Public health leadership
    - *Health Baltimore 2015* –sets goal of 15% reduction in alcohol outlet density
    - <http://www.baltimorehealth.org/healthybaltimore2015.html>
  - Interagency investment in addressing quality of life issue

# Ongoing work with off-premise alcohol outlets

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## ◉ Interest in existing outlets

## ◉ Rationale

- Public health data supported connection between alcohol outlets and crime
- Limited addition of new outlets in the future
- Regs on new outlets might have narrow effect
- Many liquor stores in residential districts, considered “nonconforming” after 1971 rewrite
- Outlets were supposed to fade away over time

# Supportive data

- Worked with Departments of Health, Planning and Law
- Assess how crime varies in similar areas, with and without nonconforming outlets
- Mapping to overlay poverty, crime and outlets
- Discuss merits/drawbacks of various approaches
- Enforcement around taverns that sold packaged goods could improve
- Provided estimates for crimes that could averted if nonconforming, off-premise liquor stores amortized (128 total)

# Estimating crimes averted\*

Total Violent Crime Counts over Two Years for Census Block Groups with Nonconforming Off-Premise Alcohol Outlets and Comparison CBGs without Nonconforming Off-Premise Alcohol Outlets\*

<b>Census Block Groups (CBGs) with</b>	<b>Total Violent Crime Counts for 2008 and 2009</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Mean</b>
<b>Nonconforming Off-Premise Alcohol Outlets<sup>2</sup></b>	2810	5.5	0-101	12.7
<b>Without Nonconforming Off-Premise Alcohol Outlets<sup>2</sup></b>	1939	2	0-134	8.7

\*Unpublished data, do not cite or reproduce without express permission of authors

# Impact and Current Policy

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- A maximum of 128 outlets could be eliminated
- Up to 871 violent crimes averted (31% reduction in violent crime)
- Law department is drafting policy to address existing, nonconforming outlets in zoning rewrite
- To be introduced to City Council this summer, one year of hearings

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