



Families, Friends and Neighborhoods (FFAN) Study

FINDINGS AT-A-GLANCE

ABOUT THIS REPORT

You are receiving this report because you participated in the Friends, Families and Neighborhoods Study, led by Dr. Cheryl Knott at the University of Maryland, College Park, and Dr. Debarchana Ghosh at the University of Connecticut. In this report, you will find information about who participated, and what participants shared with us.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO YOUR COMMUNITY, AND WHY YOU STAYED

Some residents are new to their respective area, having only moved within the past year for school. Alternatively, some have lived there as long their *entire* lives. Reasons for living and staying in their area varied, including;



Lifelong Resident



School or Work



“Fresh Start”

WHAT KEEPS YOUR COMMUNITY HEALTHY?

Health Resources and Events

1

Participants shared that having access to community health resources and events, like health fairs, screenings, and wellness initiatives, are important for the health of their communities.

Social Support

2

Social support was also viewed as important among participants, with family members, friends, organizations, churches, and neighbors supporting one another during tough times, and holding each other accountable to their health goals being critical for wellbeing.

Nearby Parks and Recreation

3

Parks, hiking trails, green space, restaurants, shopping malls, entertainment venues and other attractions are what participants identified as important staples in their community that enhance wellness, mental health and happiness.

Strong Education System

4

Many participants emphasized the importance of high quality public schools to ensure that youth have proper access to education, development and safety.

Study Background

What we know: African Americans are disproportionately impacted by Cancer when compared to people of other races.

This is in part due to structural racism, housing discrimination, poverty and an array of other issues that are a result of historical oppression towards African Americans.

What we wanted to learn with you:

We wanted to better understand how support from your families, friends and neighbors and neighborhood characteristics work together to impact cancer control behaviors, like a healthy diet and regular cancer screenings, in African American communities.

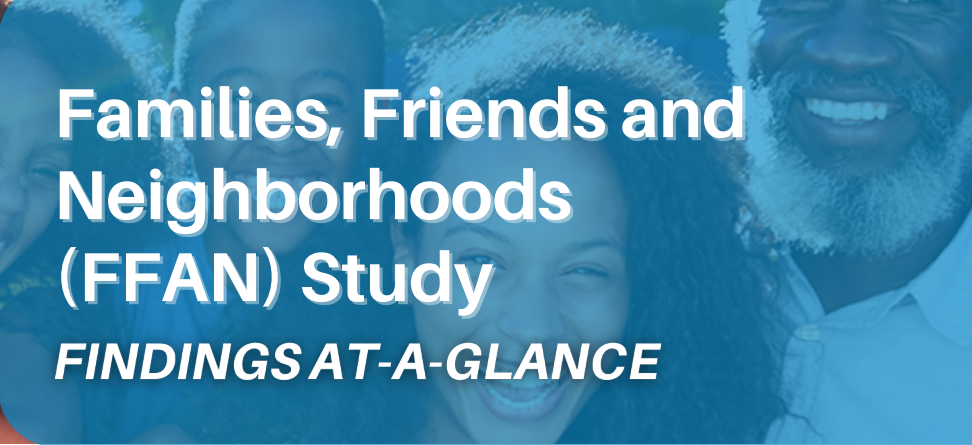
Thus, we conducted 82 informative, engaging interviews with community members like you to learn more!

Thank you again for sharing your stories and helping us learn how to improve health for all African Americans!



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH





Families, Friends and Neighborhoods (FFAN) Study

FINDINGS AT-A-GLANCE

WHAT HARMS HEALTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

1 Racism and Discrimination

Participants believed that both racism and discrimination are major factors that negatively shape the health of predominantly African American communities, noting that residential segregation and concentrated poverty are noticeable in their neighborhoods.

2 Lack of Healthy Food Options

Participants emphasized the importance of healthy food and grocery options being embedded in communities, mentioning that food deserts (few grocery stores, many corner stores), food swamps (many fast food options) and food insecurity are unfortunately common in African American communities.

3 Far From to Healthcare Facilities

Participants shared that having safe, trusted healthcare facilities (doctors offices, medical centers, and clinics) are important to having a healthy community, and expressed how some African American communities lack the necessary access to these health resources.

4 Environmental Toxins

Many participants shared testimonies on how environmental toxins, such as mold and harmful chemicals, are prevalent and damaging in many African American communities.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS



Violence and Crime



Homelessness



Property Disinvestment



Transportation

COMMUNITY CHANGES OVER TIME



Gentrification



Loss of sense of community care

HOW PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES IMPACT OUR HEALTH

Many participants shared how important home and community care is for them. The people in our lives, like our families, friends, co-workers, organization members, and neighbors next door have profound impacts on health and overall wellbeing. Belonging was also seen as a powerful motivator for community involvement and active participation in local initiatives. It seems that the stronger the cohesion and support within a community, the stronger the health is of those in the community.

HOW POLITICAL LEADERS CAN HELP COMMUNITIES THRIVE

In our discussions on how political leaders can help improve the health of communities, participants underscored the importance of political leaders who truly care about the needs of the communities they strive to serve. Improved tax structures, better housing policies and more youth programs were among asks from politicians. Some noted that to date, political leaders have been absent in their communities, and that ultimately, community led movements (like neighborhood watch) of concerned residents and grassroots organizations may be a turning point.

Families, Friends and Neighborhoods (FFAN) Study

INITIAL FINDINGS REPORT

WHO WAS IN OUR STUDY?

Average age of 49.5

Age ranged from early 20s to late 70s

82 total participants

21.9% from Alabama & Mississippi, 26.9% from Connecticut, 25.6% from Maryland and 5.6% from Missouri

75.4% College or Postgraduate Degree

4.9% high school or less, 20.7% some college or tech school

84.1% African American

8.5% White, 7.3% multiracial, 2.4% Hispanic/Latino

58.5% Employed Full time

21.9% employed part time, 6.1% in school, 4.9% self employed, 20.7% retired, 9.8% homemakers, 1.2% unemployed, 4.9% receiving disability

74.4% Women, 25.6% men

46.3% married, 34.1% single

2.4% living with partner, 11% separated/divorced, 6.1% widowed

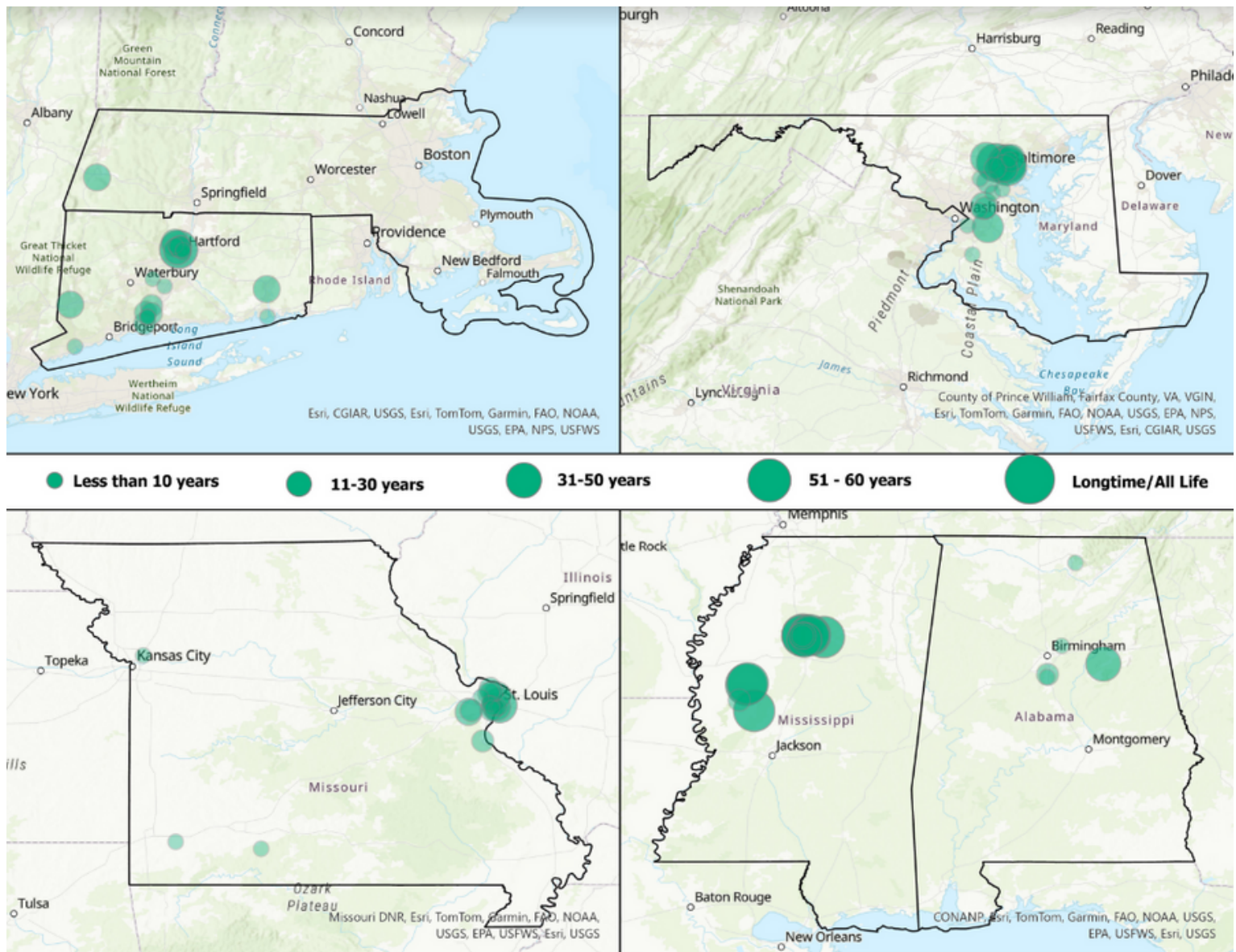


Families, Friends and Neighborhoods (FFAN) Study

FINDINGS AT-A-GLANCE

FIGURES

Figure 1: How long have you lived and/or worked in your community?



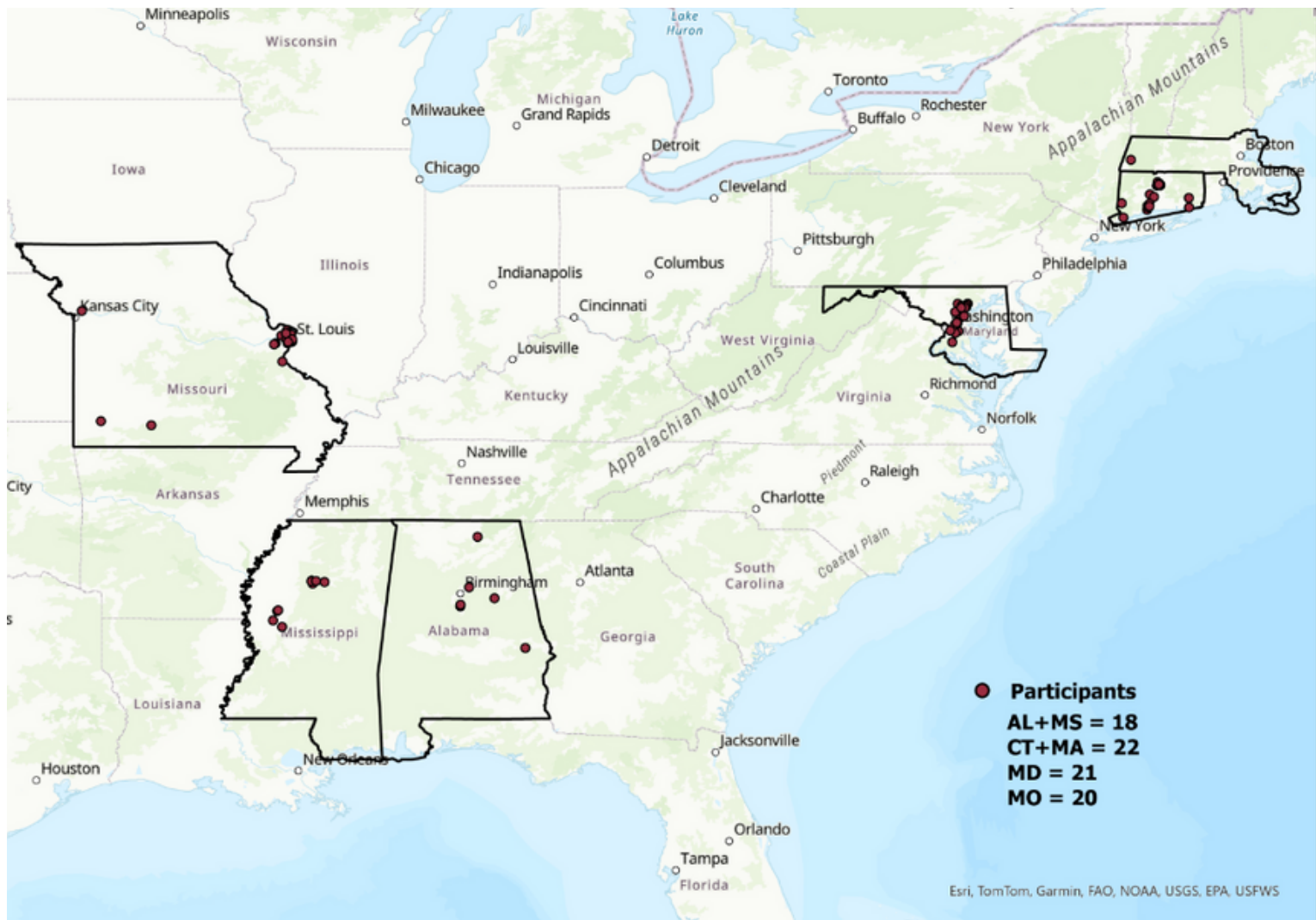


Families, Friends and Neighborhoods (FFAN) Study

FINDINGS AT-A-GLANCE

FIGURES

Figure 2: Approximate Locations of FFAN Study Participants





**Families, Friends and
Neighborhoods
(FFAN) Study**
FINDINGS AT-A-GLANCE

THANK YOU!

**WE THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR
PARTICIPATION IN THE FRIENDS,
FAMILIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS
(FFAN) PROJECT. YOUR
EXPERIENCES AND THOUGHTS
ARE HIGHLY VALUABLE TO US,
AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO
CONTINUING TO HEAR YOUR
STORIES!**



SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

