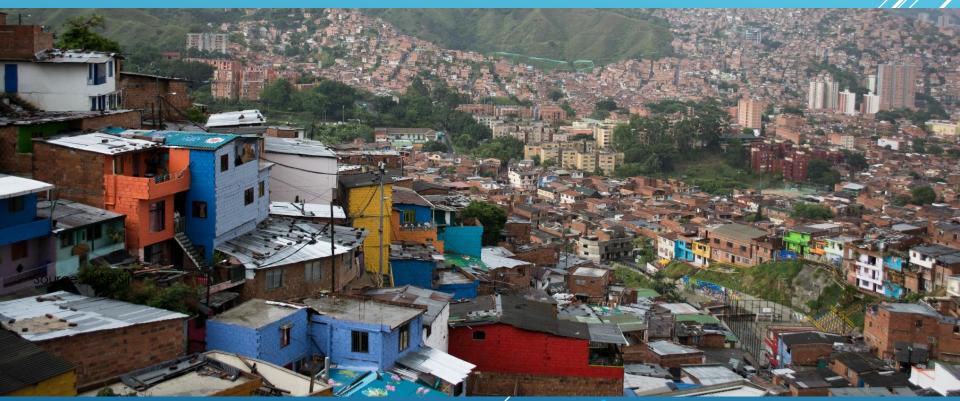
### LAC-URBAN HEALTH

Urban Health Network for Latin America and the Caribbean







José Siri, PhD, MPH

Research Fellow in Urban Health



### POPULATION OF THE WORLD







#### URBANIZATION PATHWAYS

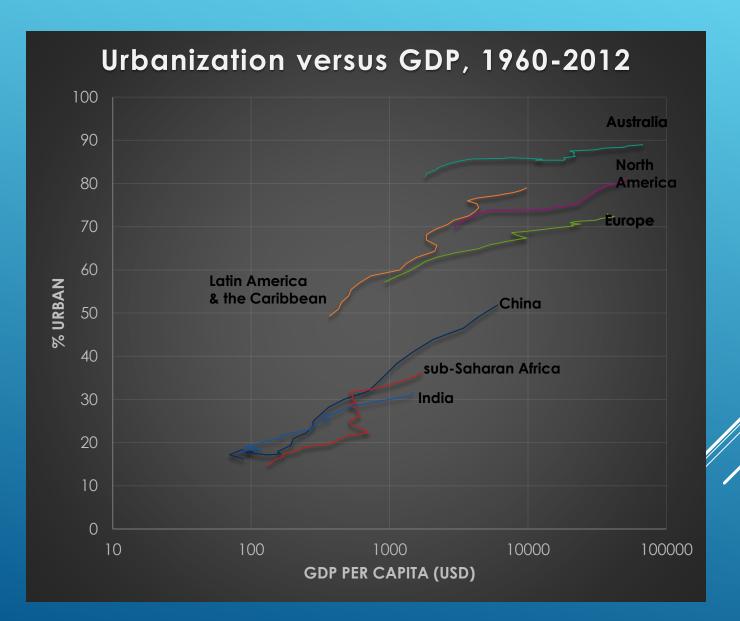
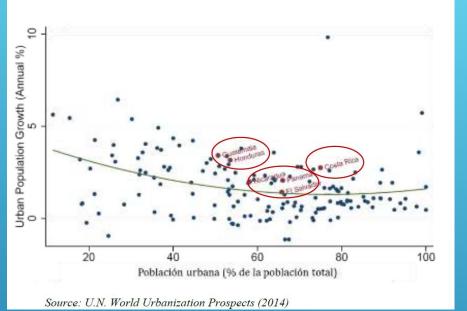


Figure 3. Urban population growth is above average compared to countries at similar levels of urbanization

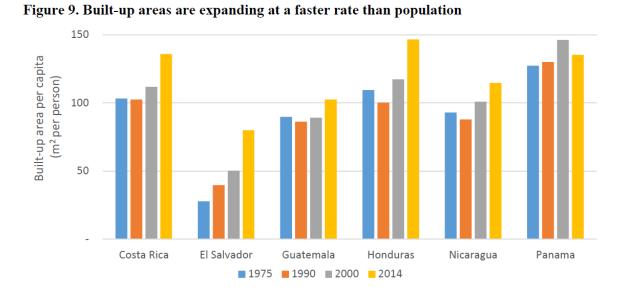




## CENTRAL AMERICAN URBANIZATION

El Salvador 4x urban land since 1975

 CA second-fastest growing urban population (after Africa)



Source for both figures: World Bank (2016) Central America Urbanization Review: Making Cities Work for Central America

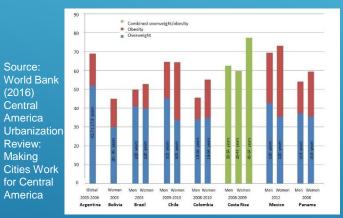
Source: Own calculations using WB's CDRP urban agglomeration polygons and UN World Urbanization Prospects.

### **URBAN** HEALTH IN LAC

- > Issues
  - Violence
  - Road traffic
  - ▶ Dengue/Zika

(2016)

- > Pollution
- > NCDs
- Disaster risk











Source: Fidel Gonzalez. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smog#/media/File:Aeria IViewPhotochemicalSmogMexicoCity\_2.jpg

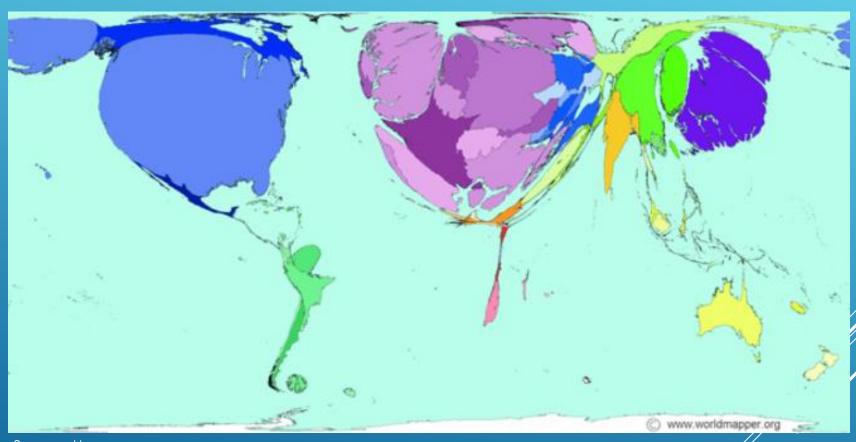


#### CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- Social exclusion
- Lack of economic opportunity
- Deficient or absent urban planning
- Lack of effective cross-sectoral action
- ▶ Migration
- Demographic & epidemiological & social transitions
- Climate change
- Unrecognized complexity

### UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

# ORIGINS OF PUBLISHED RESEARCH



Source: worldmapper.org



http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Heb



Source: José Siri

# LAC GOOD PRACTICE



Source: Mariordo (Mario Roberto Duran Ortiz)





source: ati\_fg, https://commons.wi kinedia.org/wiki/File :Ciclovia\_de\_domin go.jpg



Interview with MedellĀn

#### INCREASING RECOGNITION

2016: Medellin honored with Lee Kwan Yu World City Prize, which "honours outstanding achievements and contributions to the creation of liveable, vibrant and sustainable urban communities"



### LAC-URBAN HEALTH: HISTORY





#### > Timeline:

- Sept 2015: 1st meeting in Philadelphia
- January 2016: Establishment of Steering Committee representing supporting partners and LAC members
- March 2016: Second meeting in Santiago, Chile
- > April 2016: Website online
- July 2016: MOU signed among supporting partners
- October 2016: Wellcome
   Trust Our Planet Our Health
   Grant Proposal presentation
- February 2017: Third meeting in Bogotá, Colombia









- > Participating countries:
  - Argentina, Brasil, Chile,
     Colombia, Guaternala,
     Honduras, Mexico, Peru,
     USA, Venezuela

### LAC-URBAN HEALTH MOTIVATION



- LAC among the most urbanized, and most recently-urbanized, world regions;
- Little information exists on:
  - the state and drivers of urban health and health inequities in LAC;
  - how the specific socio-political and economic context of urbanization in LAC affects urban health;
  - how urban policies currently being implemented may impact health
- Future health of LAC cities requires:
  - new partnerships for collaboration/exchange among urban health researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers;
  - better dissemination/translation of research
  - new ways of framing links between urbanization and health
- Lessons from LAC cities may have global relevance,

## UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

#### GOALS & ACTIVITIES

#### > Goals

- To enhance understanding of the state and drivers of health in cities of Latin America and the Caribbean
- To participate in the evaluation of a range of urban policies currently being implemented in cities of LAC
- To promote training, including trainee exchanges across groups
- To disseminate information on health in cities and evidence on the impact of policies to the public and decision-makers
- Year 1 Activities
  - Convening meetings and promoting the network
  - Grant-seeking (Wellcome Trust)
  - Expansion of network (~40 member from 10 countries)
  - Future...

### LAC-URBAN HEALTH

Urban Health Network for Latin America and the Caribbean

Bringing together public health practitioners, researchers, policy makers and communities to improve health in the cities of Latin

America and the Caribbean

http://www.drexel.edu/dornsife/lac lacurbanhealth@gmail.com