



A Warning from the Housing Famine

How Rising Rent and Inequality Crippled Public Health in New York City

By Deborah Wallace and Rodrick Wallace

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Explains how political decisions and real estate interests created a housing crisis that reshaped public health in America.

Several real estate-supported public policies destroyed swaths of NYC housing. The housing famine allowed immense increases in rent and housing code violations, both of which crippled public health.

Readership

Academicians/practitioners/students in public health, social epidemiology, urban systems, political science, public administration, geography, civil rights and history.

Key selling points

Declining birth rates and rising obesity prevalence mark local and national hierarchical societies of disempowered citizens.

Rising rents associated strongly with declines in birth rates and increases in obesity prevalence in the Bronx and Manhattan 2005–2021.

Rising rents influenced rates of deaths from drug overdose, strokes, and several chronic conditions in the Bronx as well as incidence of low-weight births.

Relationships between the real estate industry and elected and appointed officials generated the public policies that resulted in the housing famine: redlining, urban renewal, and planned shrinkage.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Deborah Wallace, part of the generation of ecologists who pioneered impact assessment, applied those analytical approaches to urban systems and public health.

Rodrick Wallace, a mathematical epidemiologist, studied mass housing destruction and its consequences for half a century.

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