

Data Science to Improve Population Health

Elaine Nsoesie, PhD

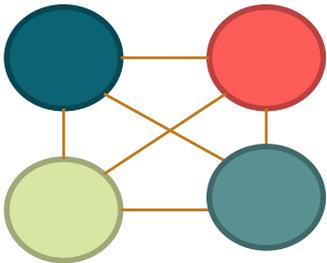
Assistant Professor of Global Health

Email: onelaine@bu.edu / Twitter: [@ensoesie](https://twitter.com/ensoesie)

The logo for Boston University, featuring the words "BOSTON UNIVERSITY" in white, serif, all-caps font, centered within a red rectangular border.

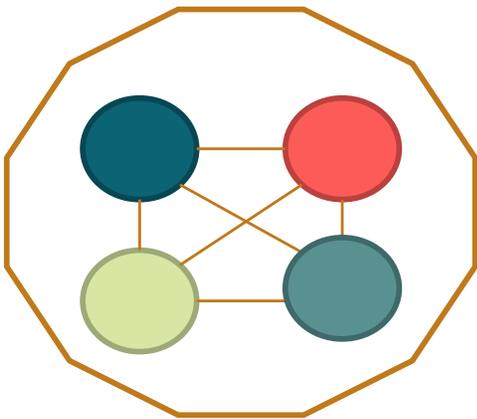
**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

Network Individual-based Model

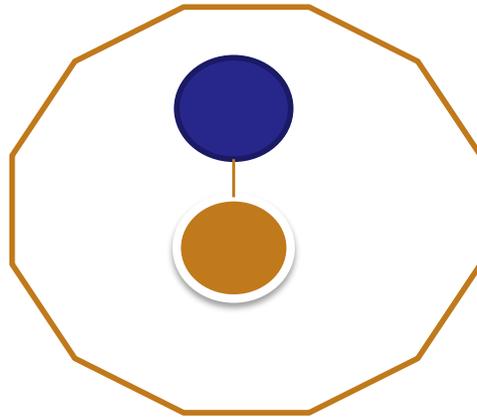


Household

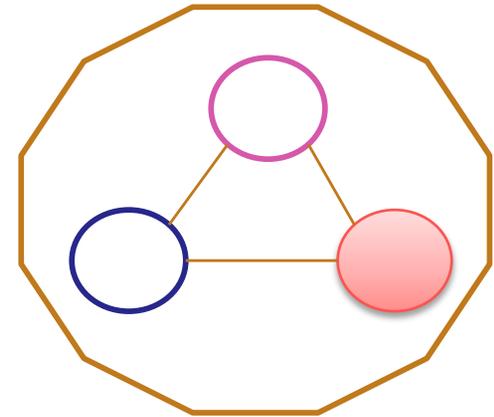
Network Individual-based Model



Household 1

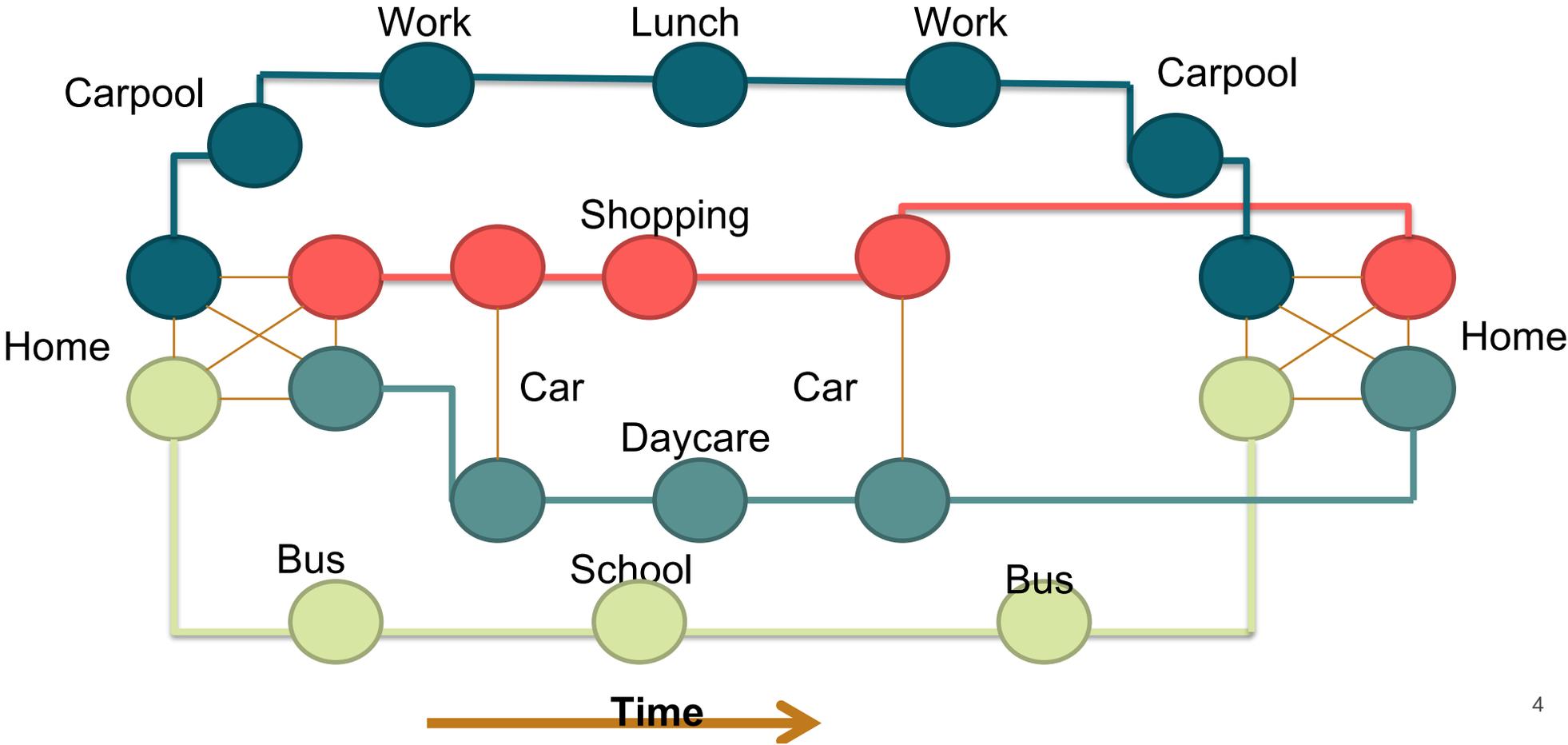


Household 2

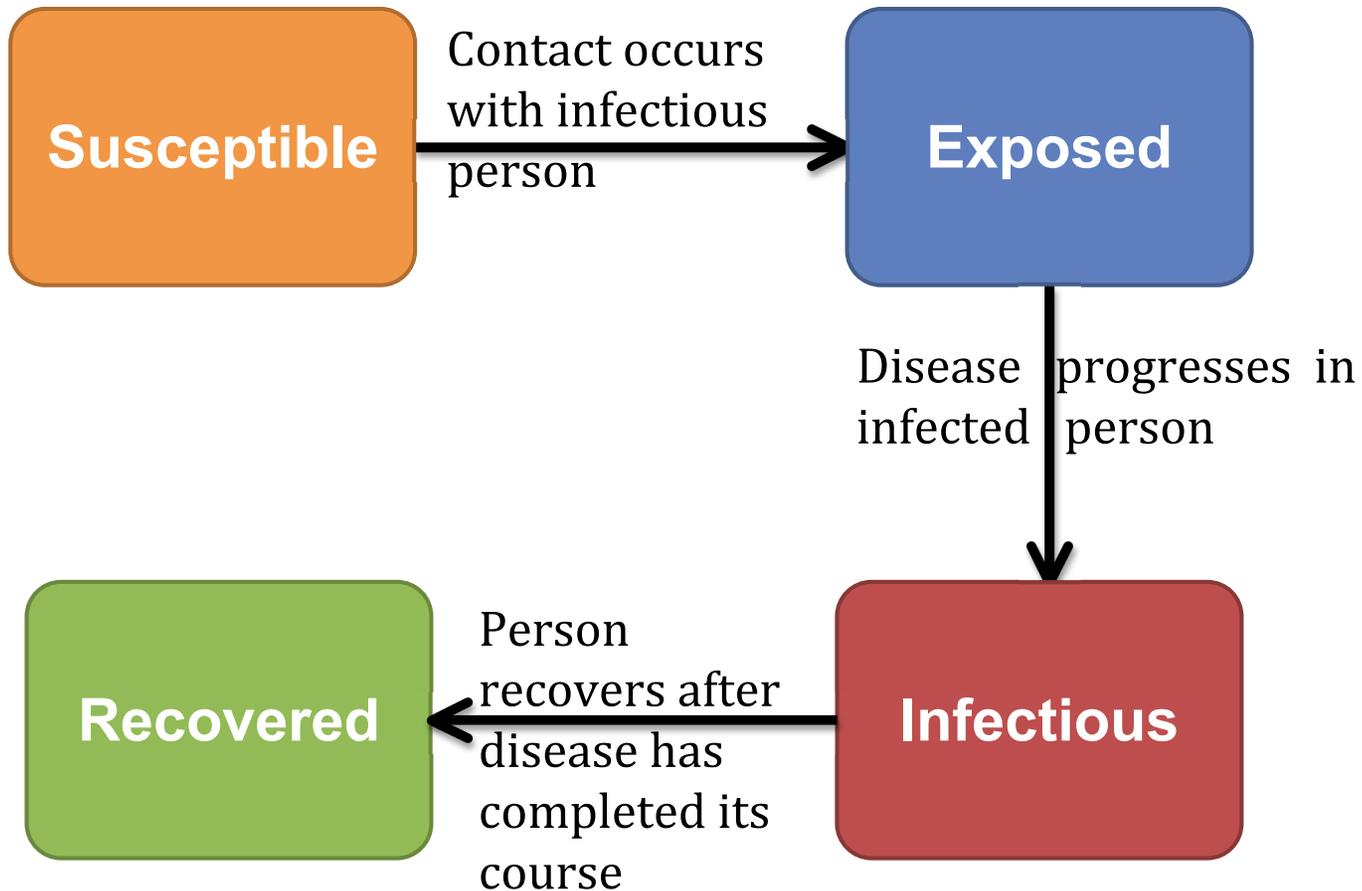


Household 3

Network Individual-based Model

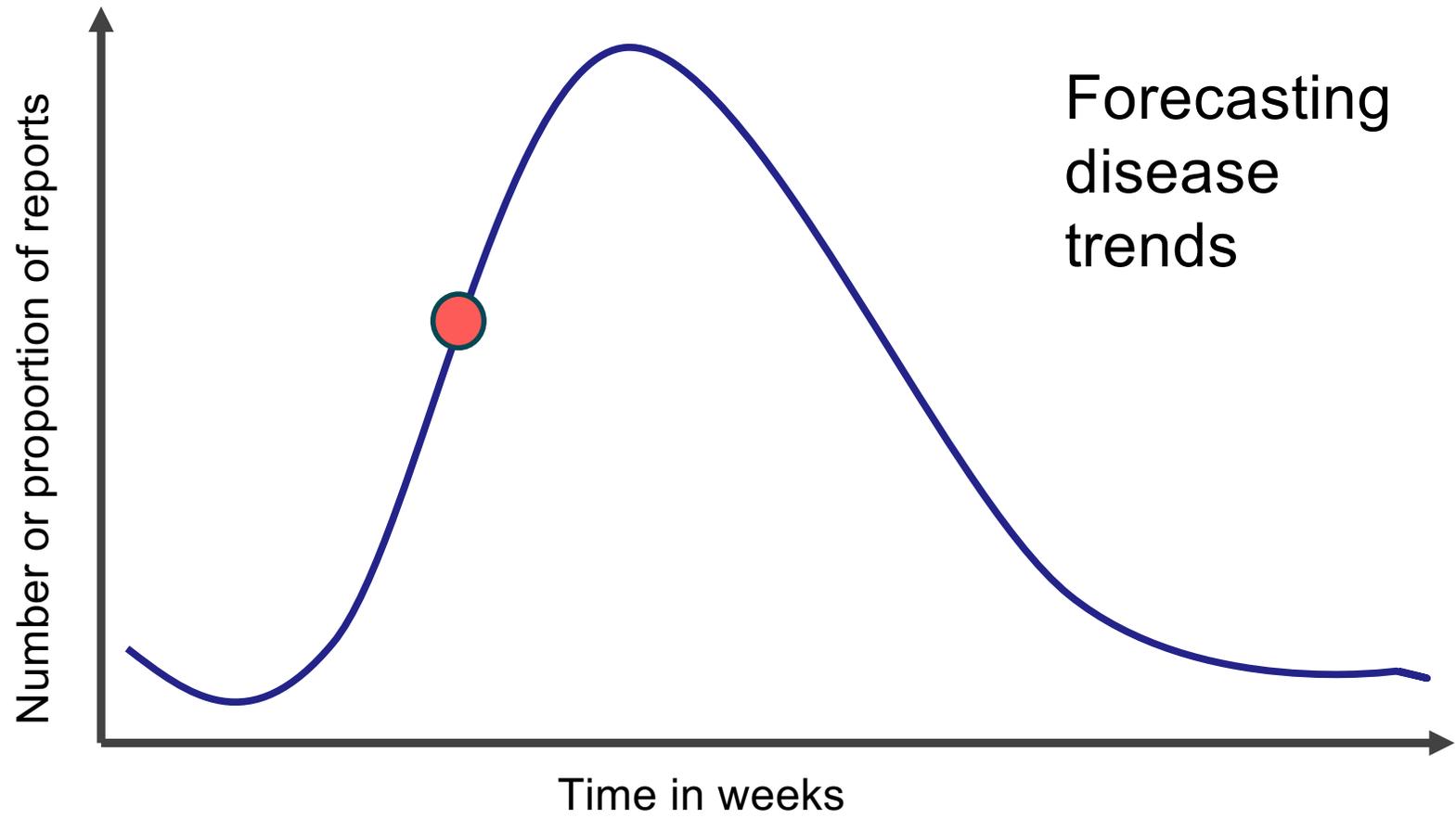


Disease model



Day: 1

Number of components: 0
Sizes: []



Digital Epidemiology: new data streams

"Got my flu shot this morning and now my throat is sore."

"Stomach flu & normal flu in the same month. I'm officially a germaphobe."



"Such an upset stomach today. I hope it's just a bug and not the Truvada."

*"My weight: 170.1 lb. 10.1 lb to go.
#raceweight @Withings scale auto-tweets my weight once a week <http://withings.com>"*

**Text
Images
Videos
Sounds
Location
Biological data
etc.**

Studies have explored a variety of health questions

How can we monitor the spread of influenza using Internet search data?

Can Instagram photos provide insights into changes in mental health?

What do postings on social media tell us about the stigma associated with women's health issues?

How does misinformation about vaccines spread through social networks?

How can discussions on radio stations lead to early identification of a Cholera outbreak?

Is there seasonality in online searches for chicken pox and can we use that to predict outbreaks?

Can postings on discussion forums reveal new insights into adverse drug events?

Are there geographical and racial differences in hospital care experiences?

Do filtered images on Instagram distort the self-image of teenagers?

Can news reports mined from online sources help us detect Ebola outbreaks faster?

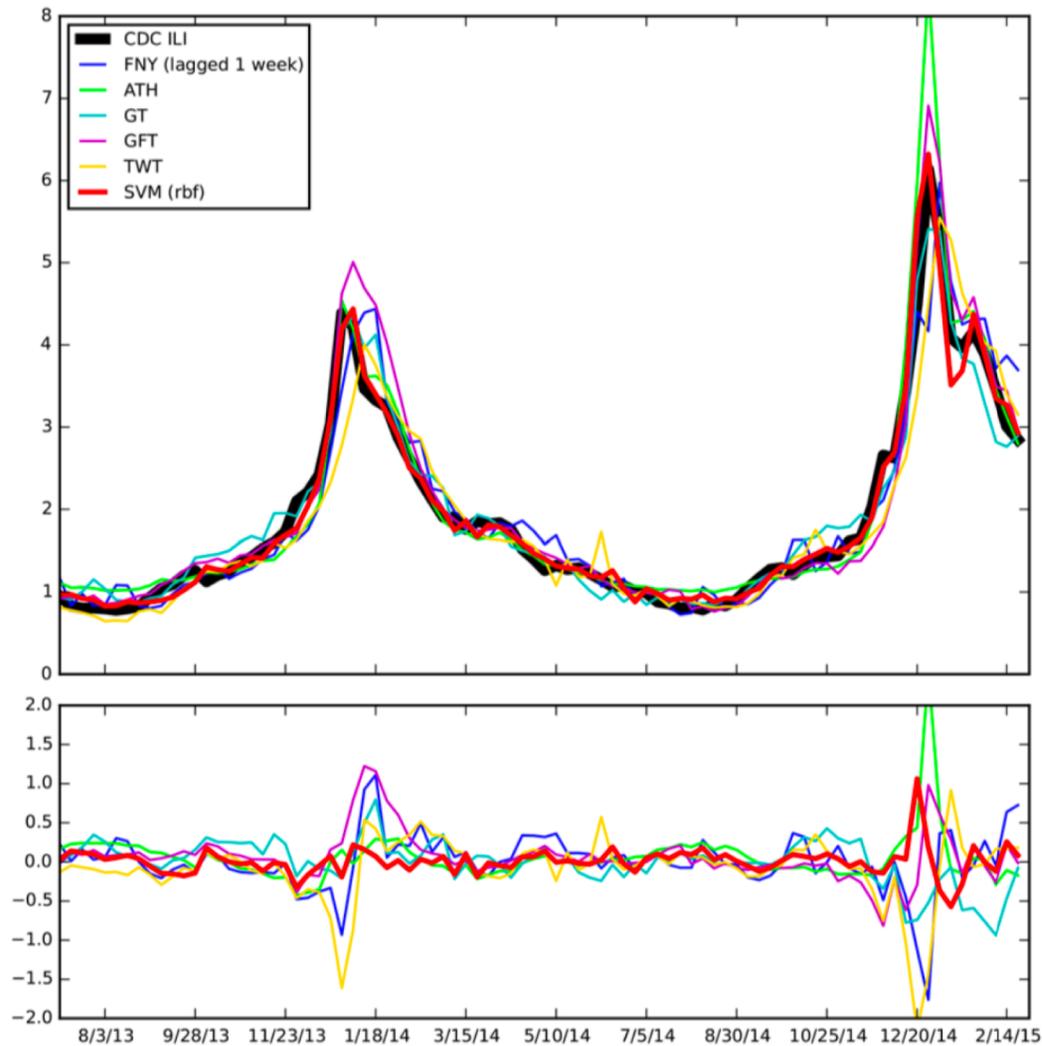


Fig 1. The CDC's %ILI (Influenza like illnesses), the performance of the 5 available predictors, the baseline predictions, and the performance of the best ensemble method for last week's predictions are displayed as a function of time (top). The errors associated with each weak predictor and the ensemble approach are shown (bottom).

CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 ILI – Influenza-like illness
 FNY – FluNearYou
 ATH – Athena Health
 GT – Google Trends
 GFT – Google Flu Trends
 TWT – Twitter





Research and Implementation

How can we use data from the Internet and digital devices to improve individual and population health?

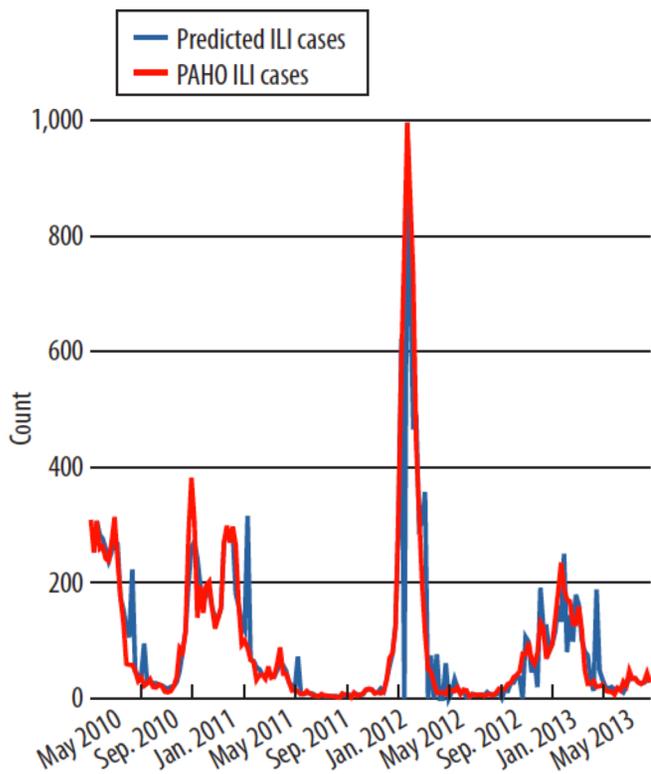
Process data and develop tools for health departments, global health organizations, and foundations for decision making.

Satellite Images

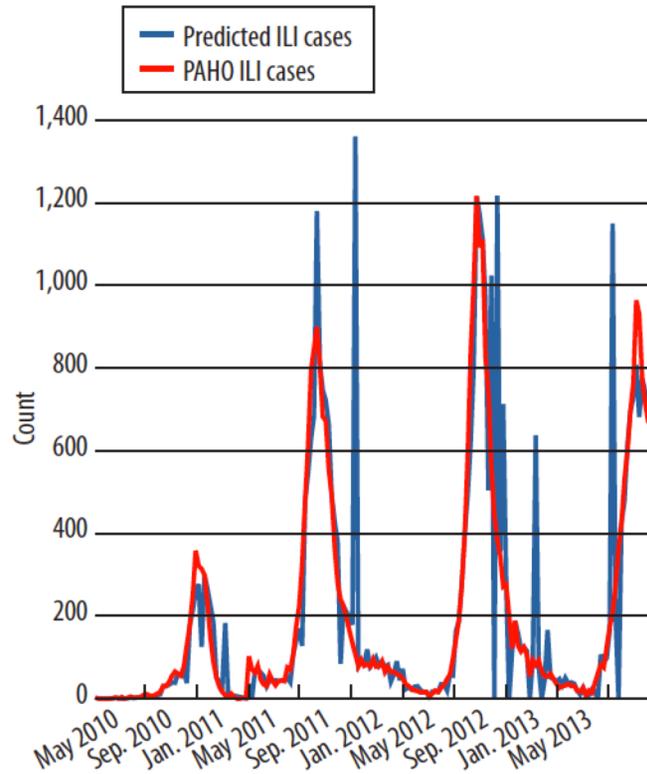
Monitoring Social Disruption in South America with Satellite Parking Data



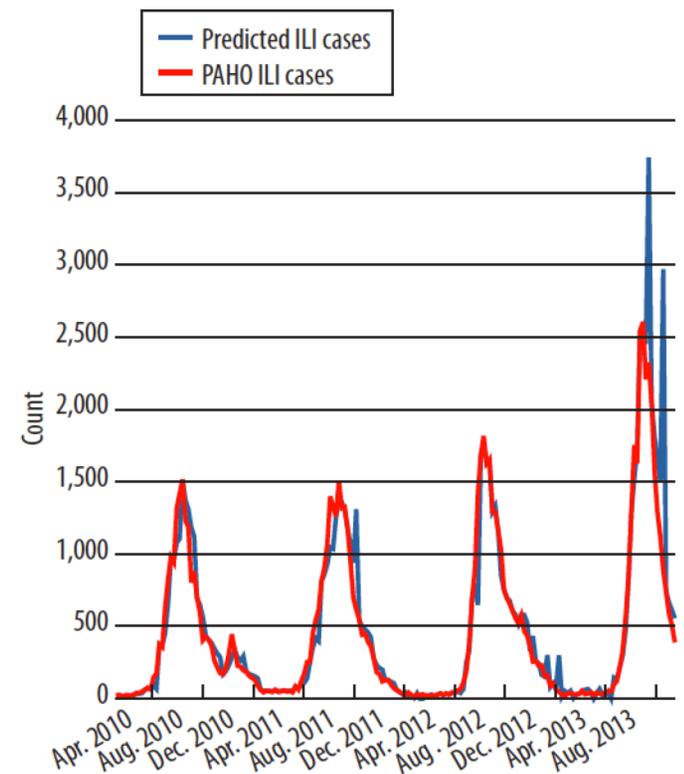
Monitoring Social Disruption in South America with Satellite Parking Data



(a) Mexico

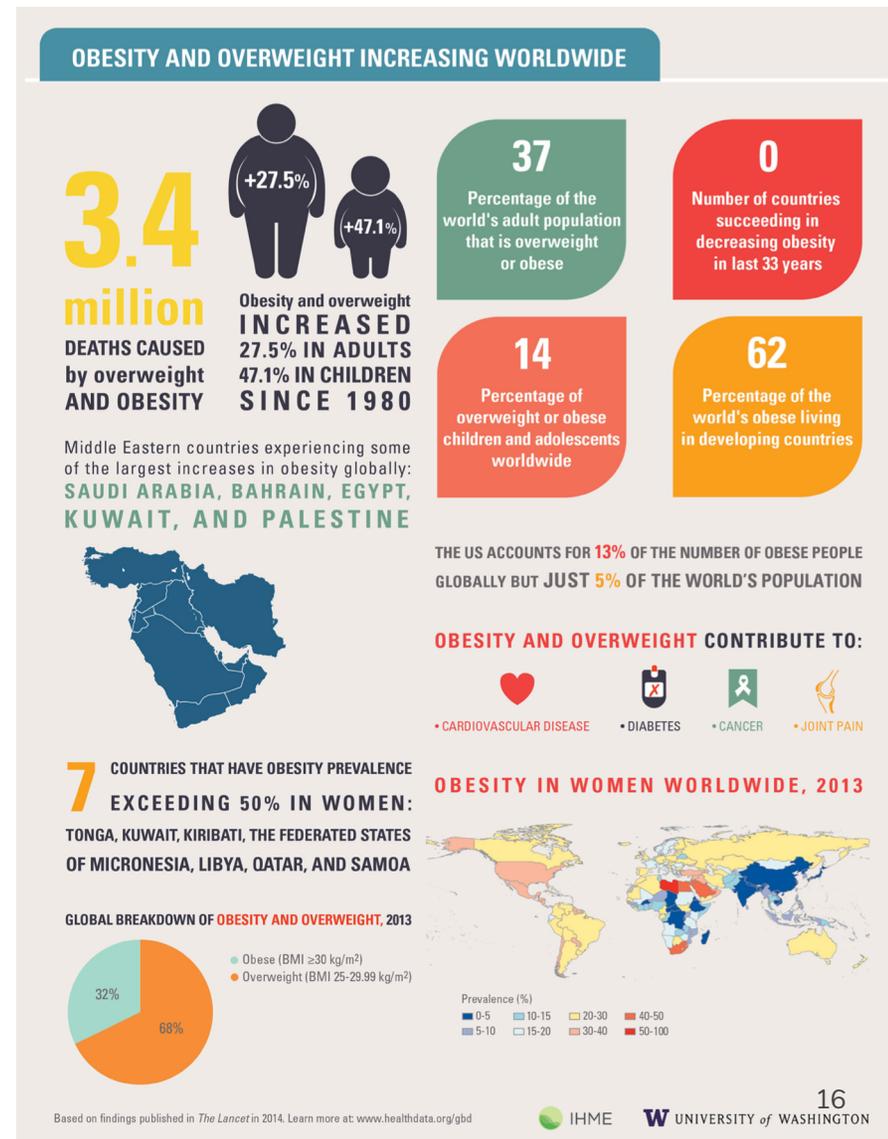


(b) Chile



(c) Argentina

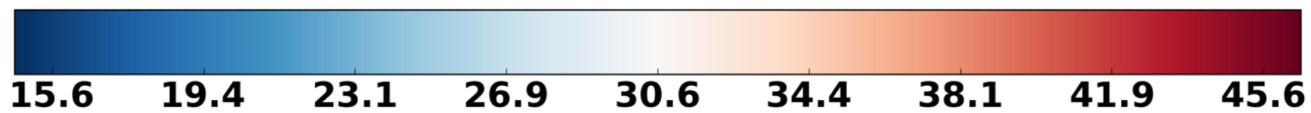
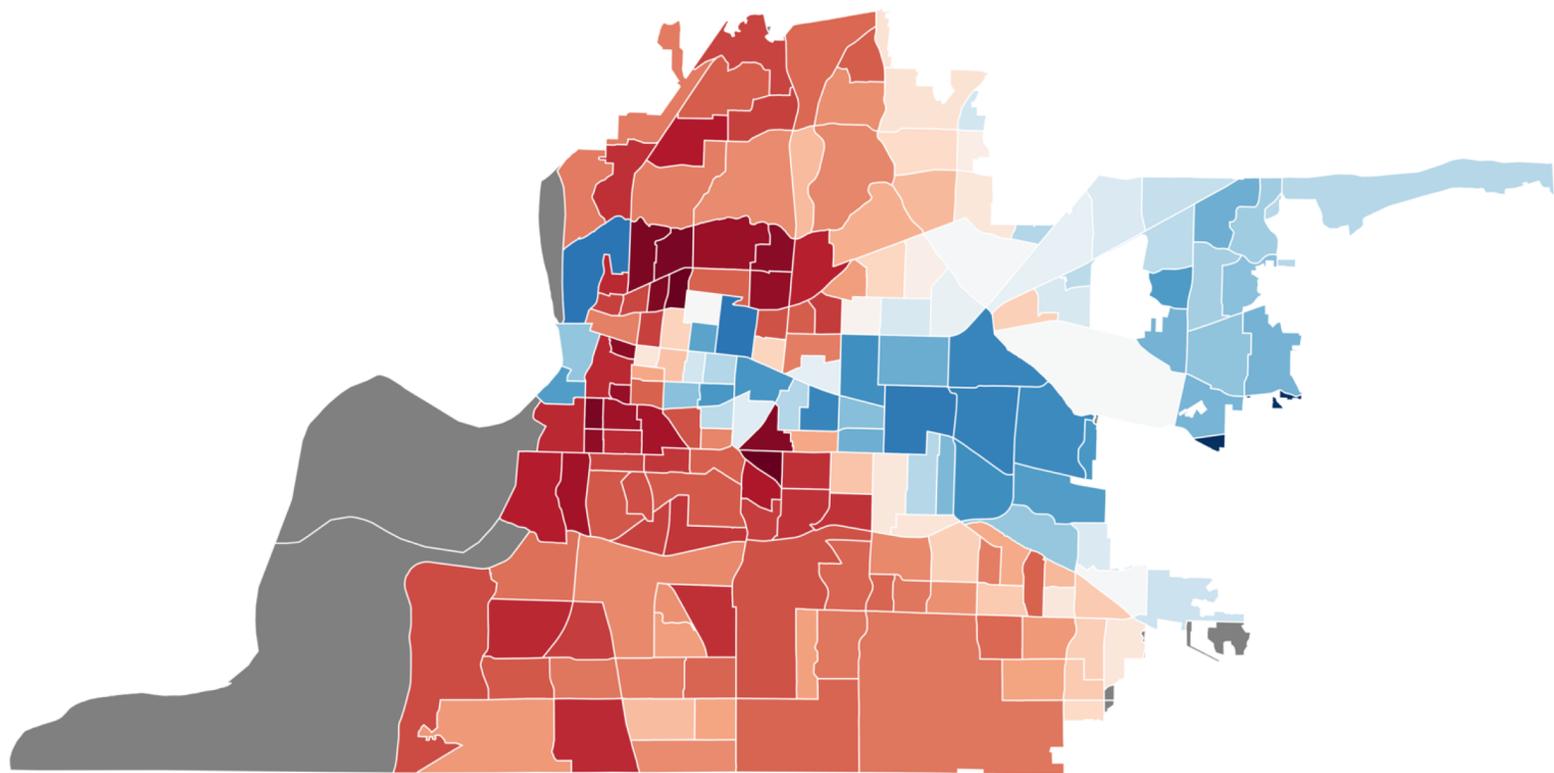
- Obesity is a complex health issue
- Multiple factors have been linked to obesity
- In the US, obesity affects about one-third of the adult population

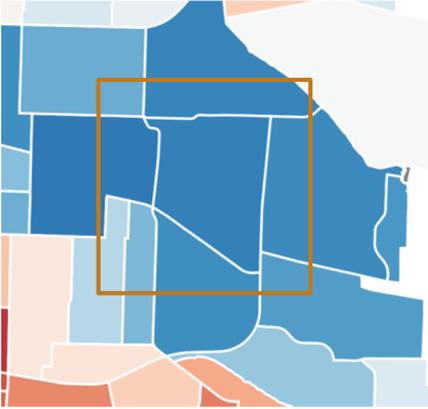




Many environmental factors have been linked to obesity

But there are differences in measures and measurements making it difficult to compare findings across cities

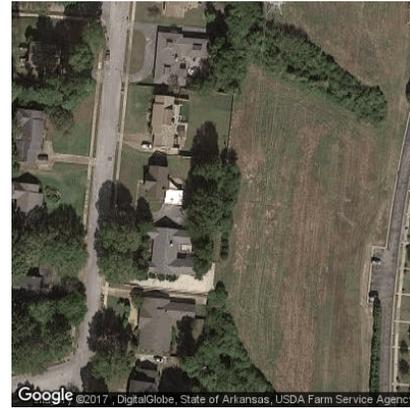




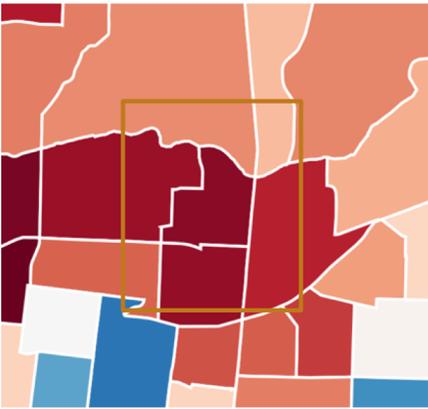
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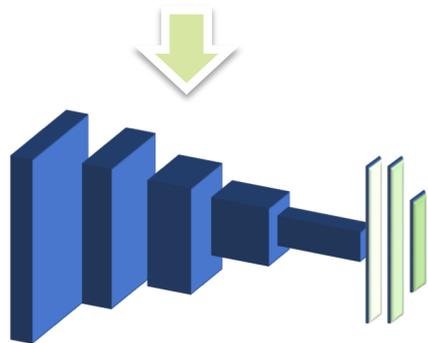


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Transfer Learning with VGG-CNN-F



Model trained for Domain A



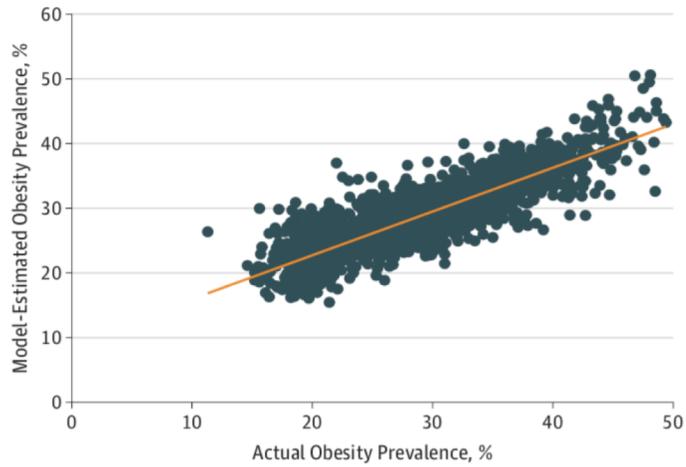
Feature Maps for Domain B



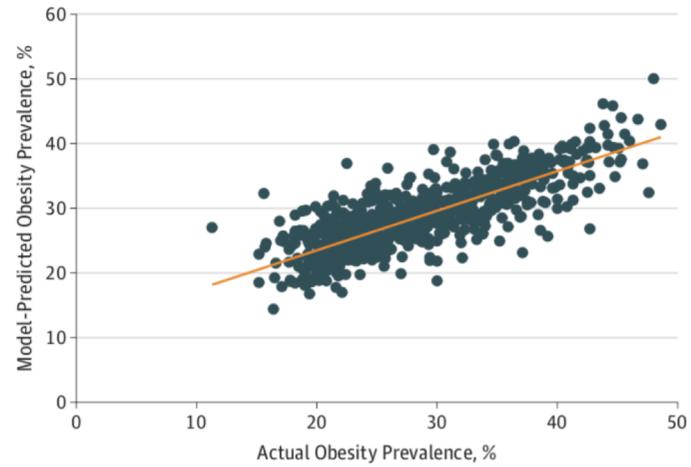
Predictive Model



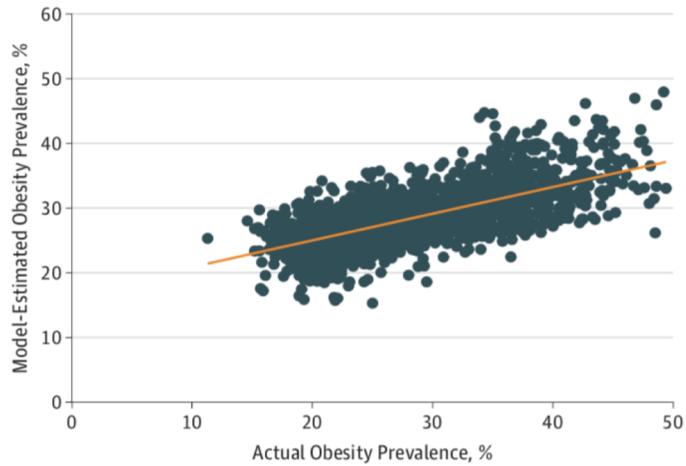
A Cross-validated model estimates based on built environment



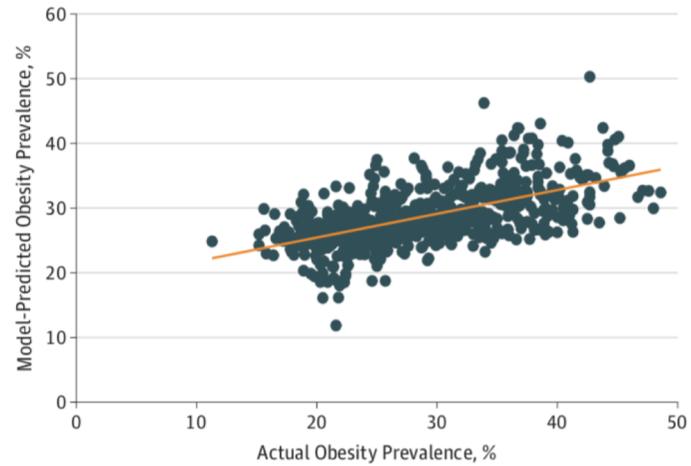
B Out-of-sample prediction based on built environment



C Cross-validated model estimates based on density of POI data



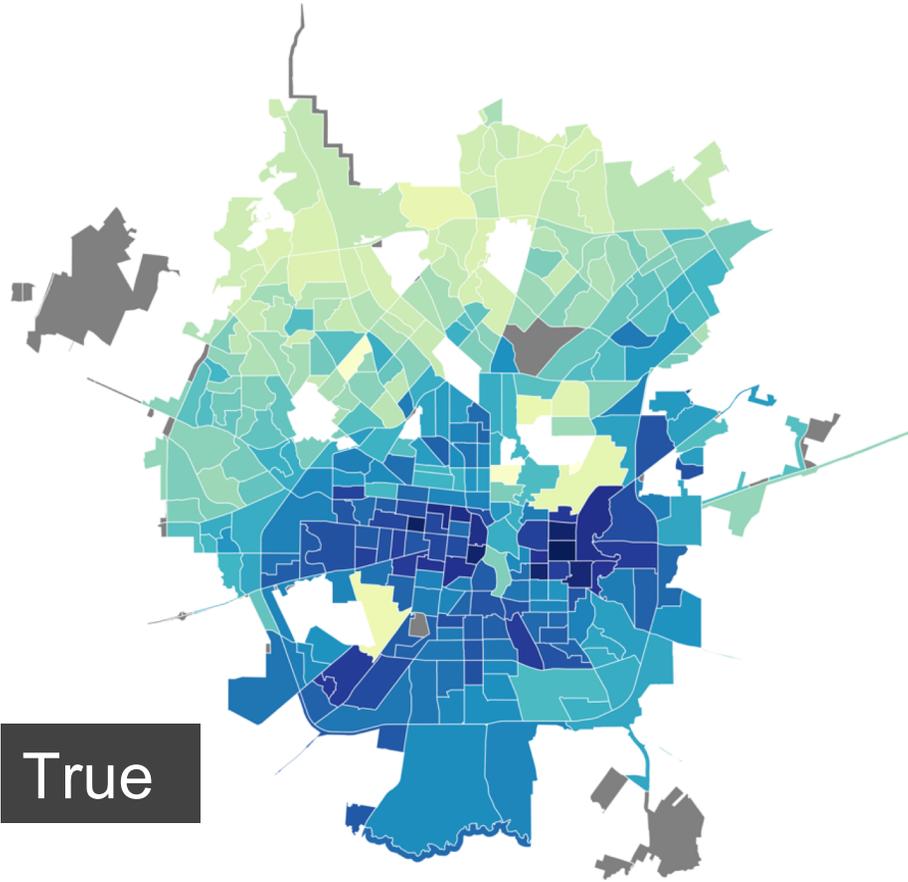
D Out-of-sample predictions of obesity prevalence based on density of POI data



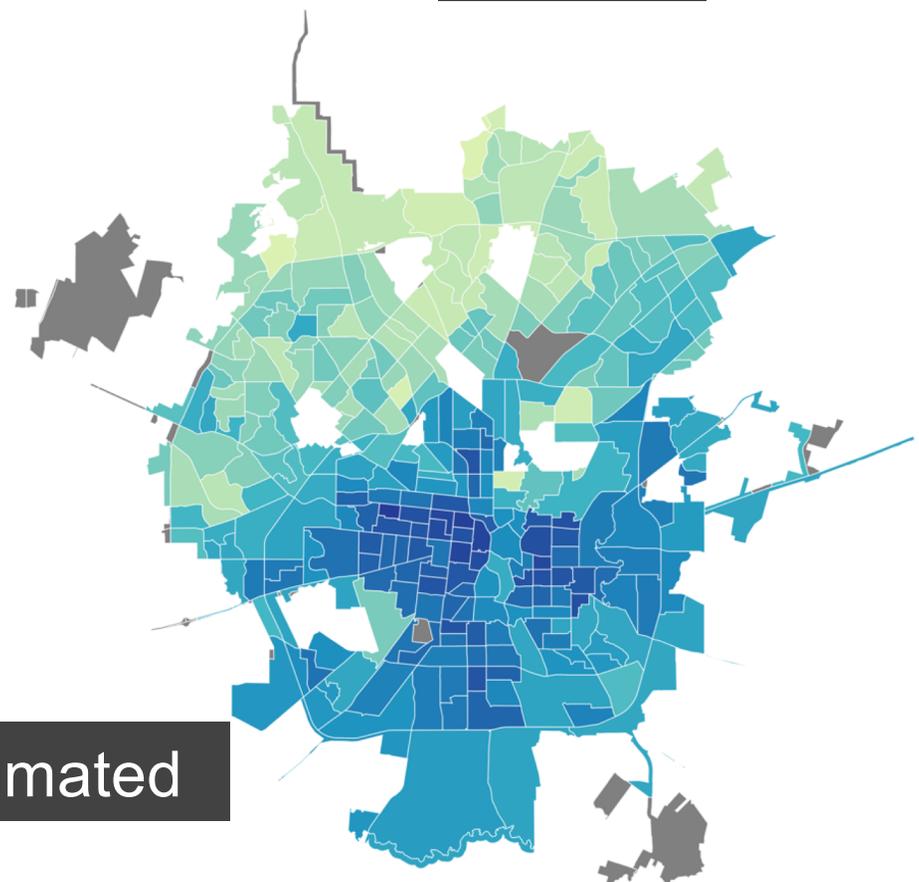
Built environment information is extracted from satellite images. POI indicates point of interest.

San Antonio, Texas

n = 311



True



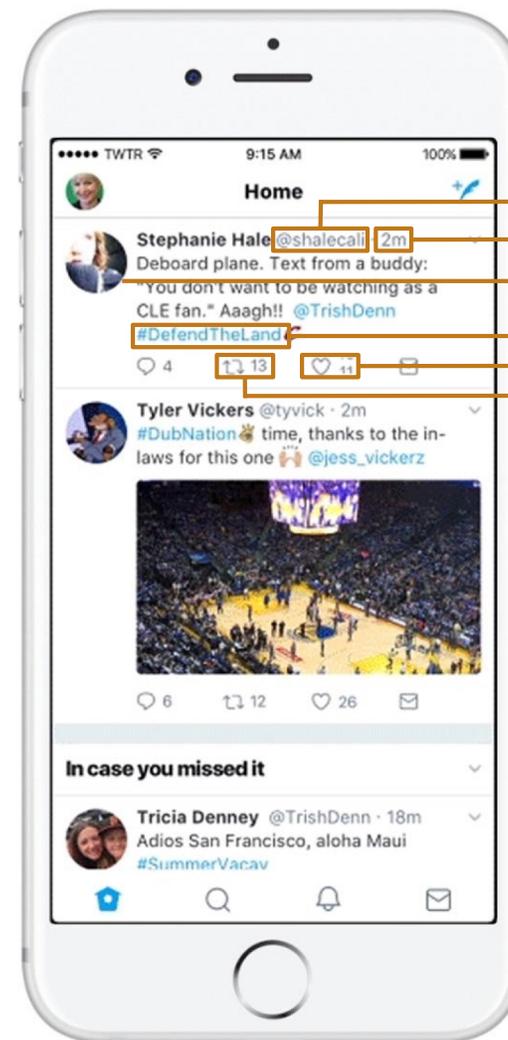
Estimated



Social Media

Social media provides a window into the **built environment, interactions, access, likes/dislikes, lifestyle, behaviors, choices**

EXPLICIT DATA ABOUT USER	EXPLICIT DATA ABOUT TWEET	EXTRACTABLE DATA ABOUT USER	EXTRACTABLE DATA ABOUT TWEET
Twitter handle	Time/date of tweet	Disease state	Content
Language	Hashtag	Gender	Sentiment
Time zone	URL	Marital status	Image Analysis
Location	Geotag	Political party	Language
Date account created	App used to send tweet	Race/ethnicity	
User profile	Number of retweets	Occupation	
User profile photo	Number of favorites	Interests	
Number of followers	Total number of tweets	Religion	
Number following	Linked images	Income	



- Twitter handle
- Date/time of tweet
- User profile picture
- Hashtag
- Number of likes
- Number of retweets

It's complicated.

Social media data raises important ethical and regulatory questions.

The Impact Health of Misinformation on Public Health

- Fake audio warning against the dangers of the yellow fever vaccine contributed to vaccine hesitancy in Brazil
- Misinformation about the spread of 2014-2016 Ebola epidemic in West Africa
- Increased incidence of measles outbreaks in the US and Europe linked to misinformation on vaccines



<https://www.wired.com/story/when-whatsapps-fake-news-problem-threatens-public-health/>

Using Twitter Data to Monitor Reports of Foodborne Illness in US Cities



HealthMap Foodborne Illness: St. Louis Cities - 2

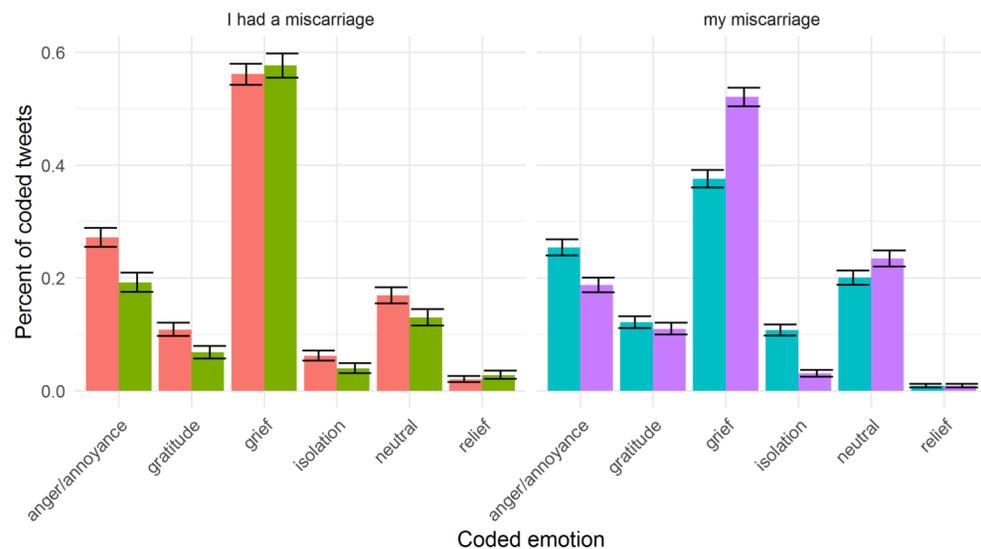
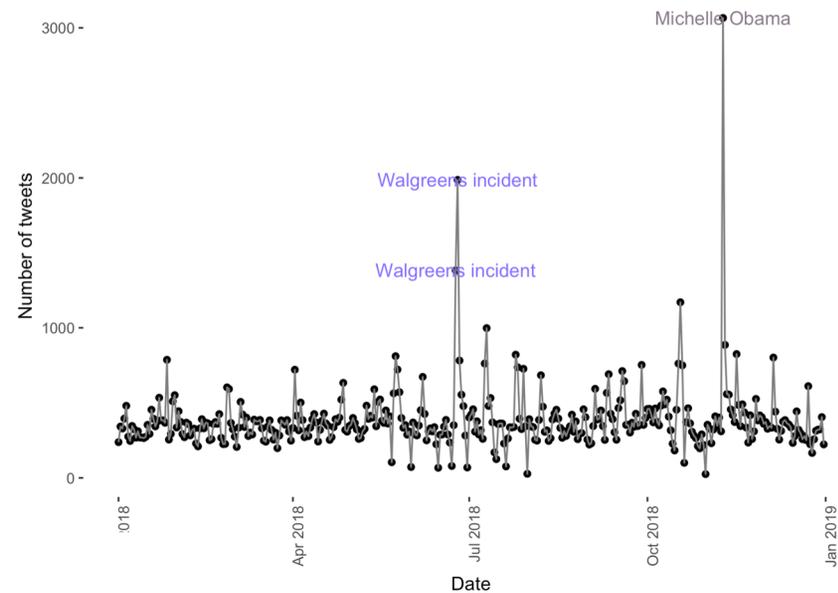
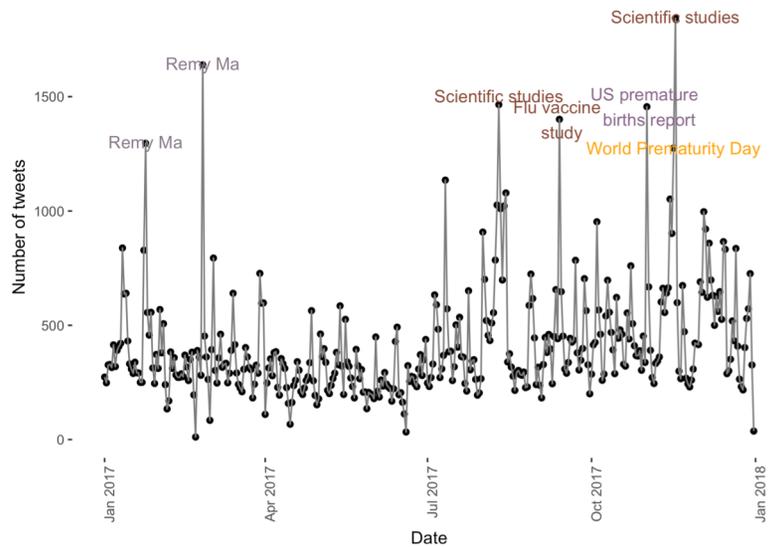
validated	🗑️ ? 🚗	10.25.15	@toddyrockstar I rewatched ur shows on my birthday, I got sick(food poisoning from the restaurant)& it cheered me up. Music makes me happy.Ty	details 🔍	respond
validated	🗑️ ? 🚗	10.25.15	before I got food poisoning 🙄 https://t.co/D646YUWKr8	details 🔍	respond
validated	🗑️ ? 🚗	10.24.15	Hey it might not even be my gallbladder I could have food poisoning this is so bad though LOL way to cheat day yesterday!	details 🔍	respond
validated	🗑️ ? 🚗	10.23.15	Via @NPR: Yelp Reviews Can Take Food Poisoning Viral https://t.co/yCWtJH6Zig Ok, so this may be the single redeeming aspect of Yelp.	details 🔍	respond
validated	🗑️ ? 🚗	10.22.15	@ky_iamme yeah food poisoning is a bitch.. I swear my body is so stiff I can barely move	details 🔍	respond
validated	🗑️ ? 🚗	10.22.15	#FoodSafety and the #Internet can be your best friend or worst enemy https://t.co/yWRHH8Txo	details 🔍	respond
validated	🗑️ ? 🚗	10.22.15	I'll never eat fast food again.. Make my words!! Food poisoning is a MF	details 🔍	respond

3

Matthew Kissel @STLMANIAC · Oct 15
Hey @ChickfIA thank you. Thank you for the food poisoning. All I wanted was a nice chicken sandwich dinner and you do me like this. Wow.

FoodSafetySTL @FoodSafetySTL · Oct 16
@STLMANIAC Sorry to hear you're ill. The City of STL Dept. of Health can help. Report here: <http://foodborne.healthmap.org/requestinfo?tw...>

Targeted restaurant inspections and surveillance



How do people talk about women's health and infertility on social media? And why does it matter?

Using digital data for health applications in Africa requires a rethinking of who, what and how.

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Dar es Salaam, showing a large harbor with several ships and a dense urban area with many high-rise buildings. The text 'Health in African Cities' is overlaid on the image in white. The background of the slide is a teal color with decorative circular and vertical bar patterns.

Health in African Cities

Dar es Salaam
Travel Advisor

About 55% of the world's population lives in urban areas. This number is expected to increase to 68% by 2050.

United Nations

The field of urban health started around the turn of the 21st century is focused on the study of how and why cities influence health.

The foods we have access to



The foods we eat

Images from unsplash.com

All neighborhoods are not created equal





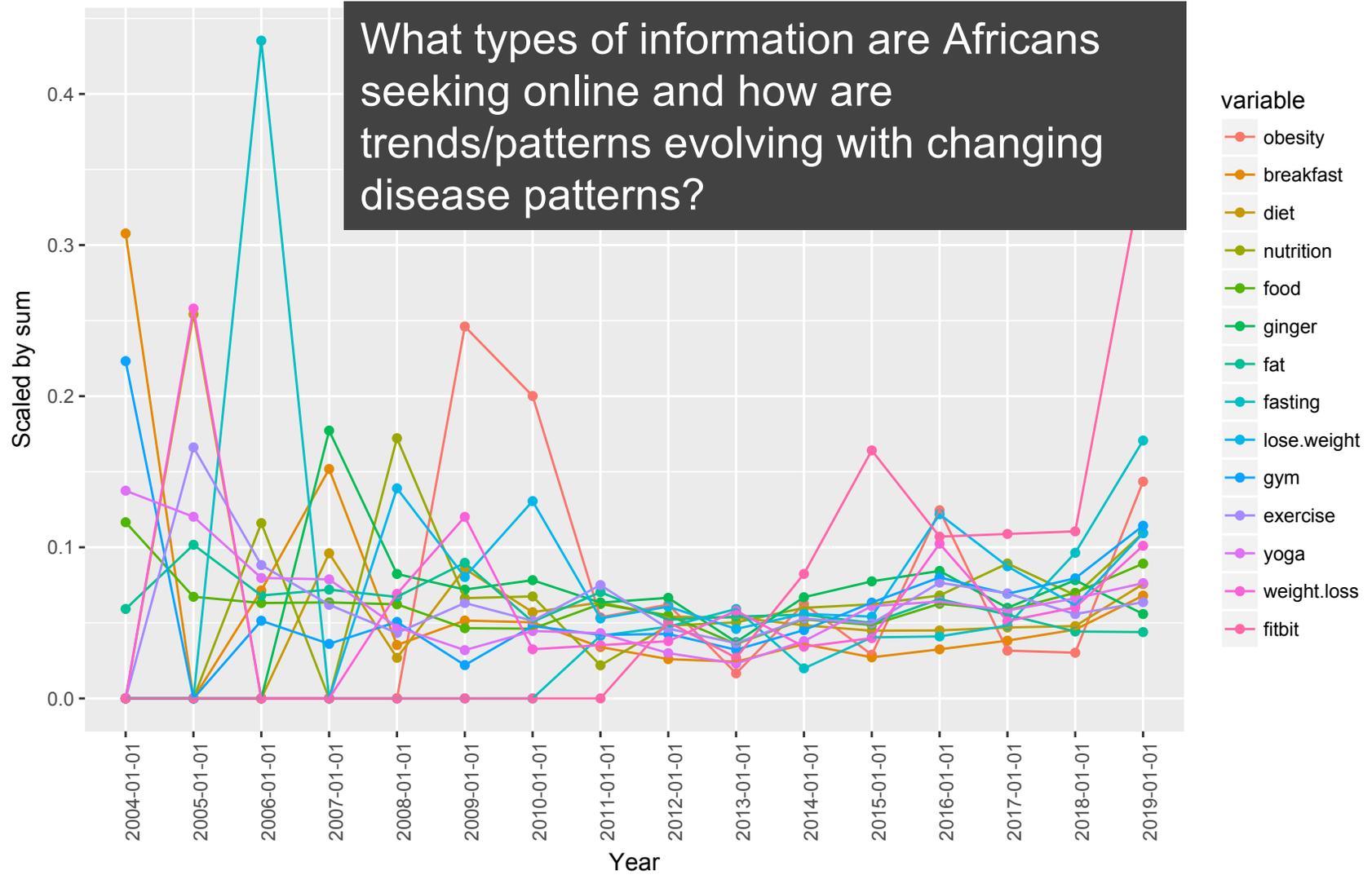
Drivers of health in cities

The physical environment

The social environment

Access to health and social services

Angola



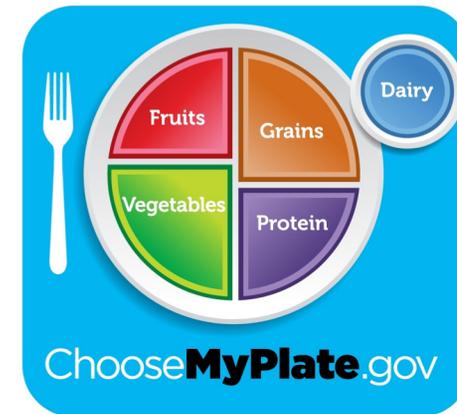
Food & Beverage on Instagram

Nutritional Composition

- 34% bread, cereal, rice, pasta, potatoes
- 26% fruits, vegetables
- 22% desserts, candy, cakes, ice cream
- 20% dairy, milk, cheese
- 18% chicken, eggs, poultry
- 13% lamb, beef, pork
- 6% fish, seafood, shellfish
- 4% snacks, chips, pretzels
- 6% soda
- 4% juice
- 12% alcohol

Nutritional Composition

- 21% homemade/fresh
- 23% heavily processed
- 24% fried, heavy oil content, butter
- 23% heavy salt content



Call for collaborators

Contributors

Nina Cesare, Boston University

Pallavi Dwivedi, University of Maryland

Quynh Nguyen, University of Maryland

Adyasha Maharana, SCIOME

Bryan Lewis, University of Virginia

Boston University Spark!

John Brownstein & Jared Hawkins, Harvard Medical School

Olubusola Oladeji, Boston University

Kadija Ferryman, Data & Society

Raina Merchant, University of Pennsylvania

Thank you!

Contact

Email: onelaine@bu.edu

Twitter: [@ensoesie](https://twitter.com/ensoesie)