

Journal of Community Practice >

Volume 21, 2013 - [Issue 3](#)

1,318 Views | 15 CrossRef citations to date | 5 Altmetric

Articles

Data-Driven Organizing: A Community-University Partnership to Address Vacant and Abandoned Property

Samantha Teixeira  & John M. Wallace

Pages 248-262 | Published online: 05 Sep 2013

 Cite this article  <https://doi.org/10.1080/10705422.2013.811621>

Sample our
Health and Social Care
Journals
>> [Sign in here](#) to start your access
to the latest two volumes for 14 days

 Full Article  Figures & data  References  Citations  Metrics

 Reprints & Permissions [Read this article](#) [Share](#)

Abstract

Vacant and abandoned properties adversely affect the physical, mental, social, and economic health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities. This article describes a community-university partnership that combined a multimethod data collection strategy with a novel community-based participatory intervention research model (i.e., data-driven organizing) to address the vacancy problem. The project assessed the conditions of over 1,500 properties in an economically disadvantaged, predominantly African American neighborhood in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and mobilized residents to use an existing policy mechanism to ameliorate the impact of property vacancy in the community.

Keywords:

Community-based participatory research

community organizing

neighborhood

university-community partnerships

built environment

housing

[← Previous article](#)

[View issue table of contents](#)

[Next article >](#)

Notes

¹ Despite widespread attention to the problem, the definition of vacancy remains elusive and is left primarily to local discretion ([Shlay & Whitman, 2006](#)). For example, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania defines a vacant building as, “a structure which is vacant and is either unsecured, secured by other than normal means, unsafe, non-compliant with housing or building codes, illegally occupied, or unoccupied for over a year with pending code enforcement citations” ([Hirokawa & Gonzalez, 2010](#), p. 630).

² According to the [Environmental Protection Agency \(2010\)](#), the most common sources of childhood lead exposure are lead paint, commonly found in homes built prior to 1978 and lead contaminated soil. Lead contaminated dust, present in homes with lead paint and in urban air as soil sediment is diffused by wind and traffic is another common source of contamination.

Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by
15

[Addressing the Vacant and Abandoned Property Problem >](#)

John Accordino et al.
Journal of Urban Affairs
Published online: 2 Dec 2016

Information for

[Authors](#)

[R&D professionals](#)

[Editors](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Societies](#)

Opportunities

[Reprints and e-prints](#)

[Advertising solutions](#)

[Accelerated publication](#)

[Corporate access solutions](#)

Open access

[Overview](#)

[Open journals](#)

[Open Select](#)

[Dove Medical Press](#)

[F1000Research](#)

Help and information

[Help and contact](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[All journals](#)

[Books](#)

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email



Sign me up



Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited [Privacy policy](#)

[Cookies](#) [Terms & conditions](#) [Accessibility](#)

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG



Taylor & Francis
by **informa** •••