Vacant Buildings and Vacant Lots, the need for Project VITAL

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Baltimore Data Data
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Outline

1. Vacants: buildings and lots
2. Vacant Building Removal’s study (brief)
3. Vacant Lot Stewardship
4. Project VITAL
Baltimore: Vacancy

~17,000 Vacant Homes

~14,000 Vacant Lots
The Cost of Baltimore’s Vacant Housing

Direct operating costs
• $100 million in lost revenue
• $50 million in depressed property values
• $22 million in nearby property values

Revenue lost
• $24 million in income tax revenue
• $12 million water and sewer fees

Quality of life
• Immeasurable?

https://21cc.jhu.edu/research/current-baltimore-research/the-costs-of-baltimores-vacant-housing/
... many programs and projects to demolish and deconstruct vacant buildings

Do they *also* decrease crime?
Vacant Building Removals Associated with Relative Reductions in Violent and Property Crimes in Baltimore, MD 2014–2019

- Total crimes ↓ 1.4% per mi² (CrI: 0.5 – 2.3%)
  - ~ 2.6 total crimes per mi² / year
- assaults ↓ 4.9% (CrI: 3.4 – 6.3%)
- violent crimes ↓ 3.0% (CrI: 1.9 – 4.1%)

Vacant Buildings → Vacant Lots
Vacant lots: diverse & have varied transformations
Vacant lots: diverse & have varied transformations

2007

2019
Vacant lots: diverse & have varied transformations
Vacant lots: diverse & have varied transformations

2007, 2014, 2020
Vacant lots are diverse and varied

May provide positive (or negative effects)

• Crime, mental health, violence, trauma
• Food security
• Cost effectiveness

Prior studies have largely neglected youth

Project VITAL
Project VITAL
Vacant lot improvement to transform adolescent lives

Can restoring vacant lots improve adolescent health disparities?

People living near vacant lots and abandoned buildings exhibit poor health... But, growing evidence suggests that when vacant lots are greened and restored, the health of nearby residents improves.

https://bniajfi.org/projectvital/
Questions? Thank you!

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