



Minority Medicine in Music City

BY JOHN GOSSEN

Minority report

- ▶ Tennessee is 75% white 25% minority
- ▶ Amongst minorities 90% are Black Americans.
- ▶ Nashville is still heavily segregated.
- ▶ All minorities exhibit higher unemployment rate and lower education, wealth, income (even at equal jobs) and overall health.
(Heckler) TN.gov

Trying to beat the system

- ▶ Systemic racism has forced ghettoization and segregated Black Americans.
- ▶ Examples include restrictive covenants, redlining, urban renewal and continued income disparity.
- ▶ All of these systems have helped define Nashville's healthcare system as we know today.

A right to life?

- ▶ All minorities in Tennessee (particularly Black Americans) experience a decreased levels of overall health.
- ▶ Blacks live on average 5.2 years fewer than whites (regardless of life choices).
- ▶ Blacks 1-44 are 25% more likely to die of traumatic injury than whites.
- ▶ This is mirrored across all measures of physical and mental well being (except suicide).

Abstract

- ▶ Abstract: Systemic racism could help explain the discrepancies in racial health. Significant factors could be the quality and availability of black health care options, beyond simple genetics.
- ▶ Thesis: Systemic oppression has reduced minority health overall.

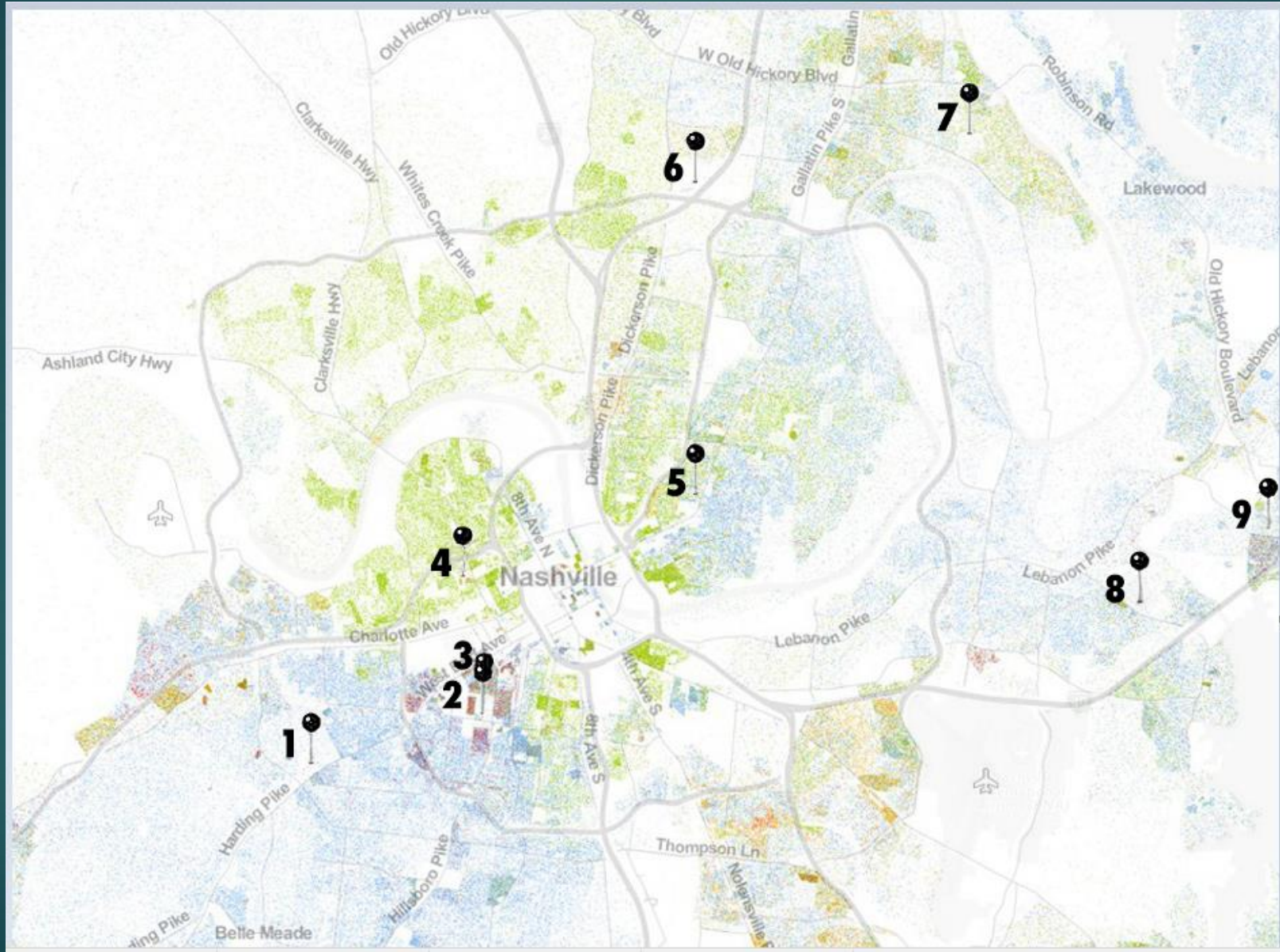
Why is the doctor shy?

- ▶ The Nashville hospital system gives minority users a lower quality of care.
- ▶ Minority hospitals are fewer in number (1), overburdened and offer fewer specialties.
- ▶ Meharry/ Nashville General; 116 beds. 34,000 ED visits. 4,000 admits. 10 affiliated physicians.
- ▶ Southern Hills Medical Center; 101 beds. 36,000 ED visits. 3,500 admits. 114 affiliated physicians.

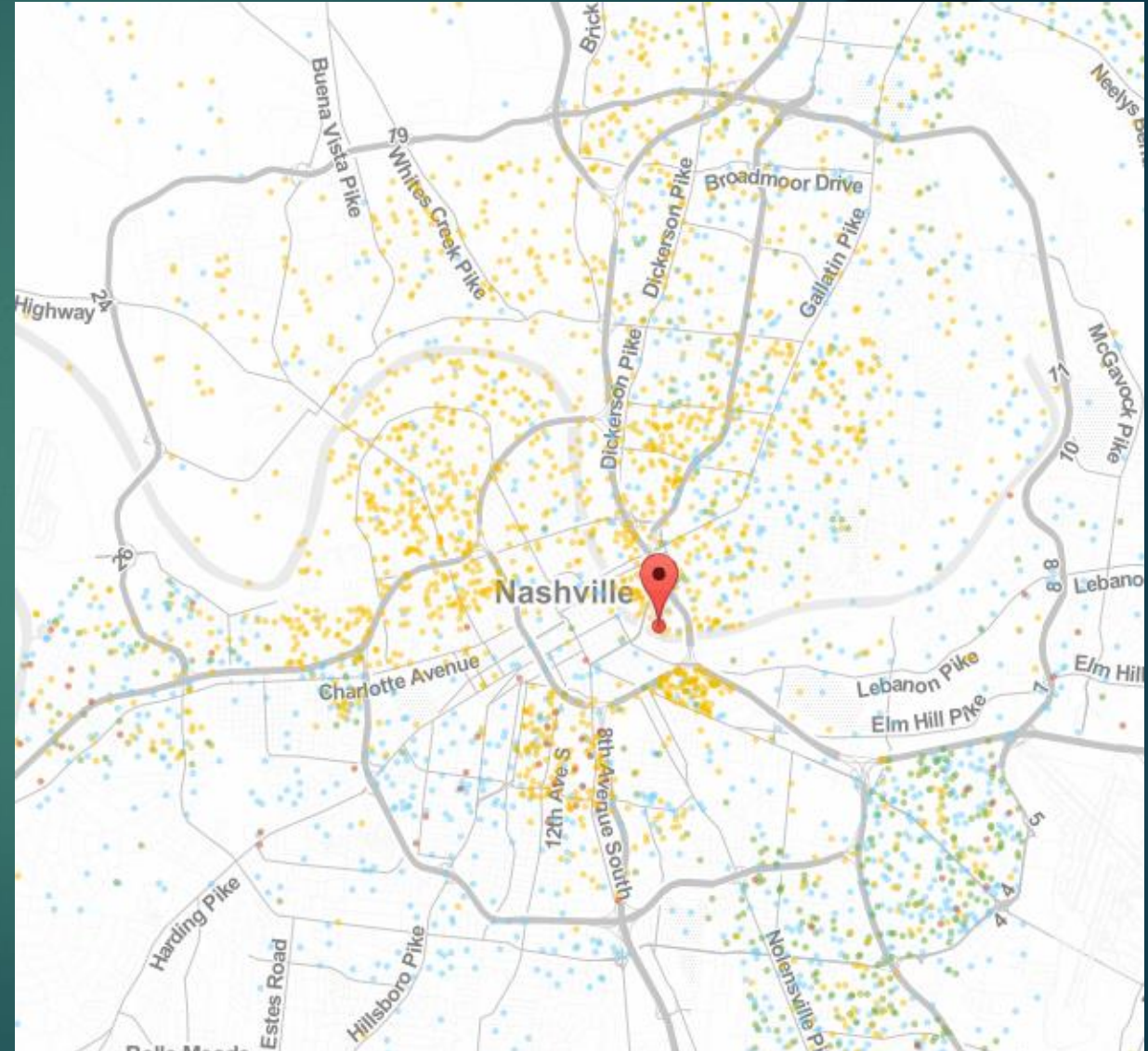
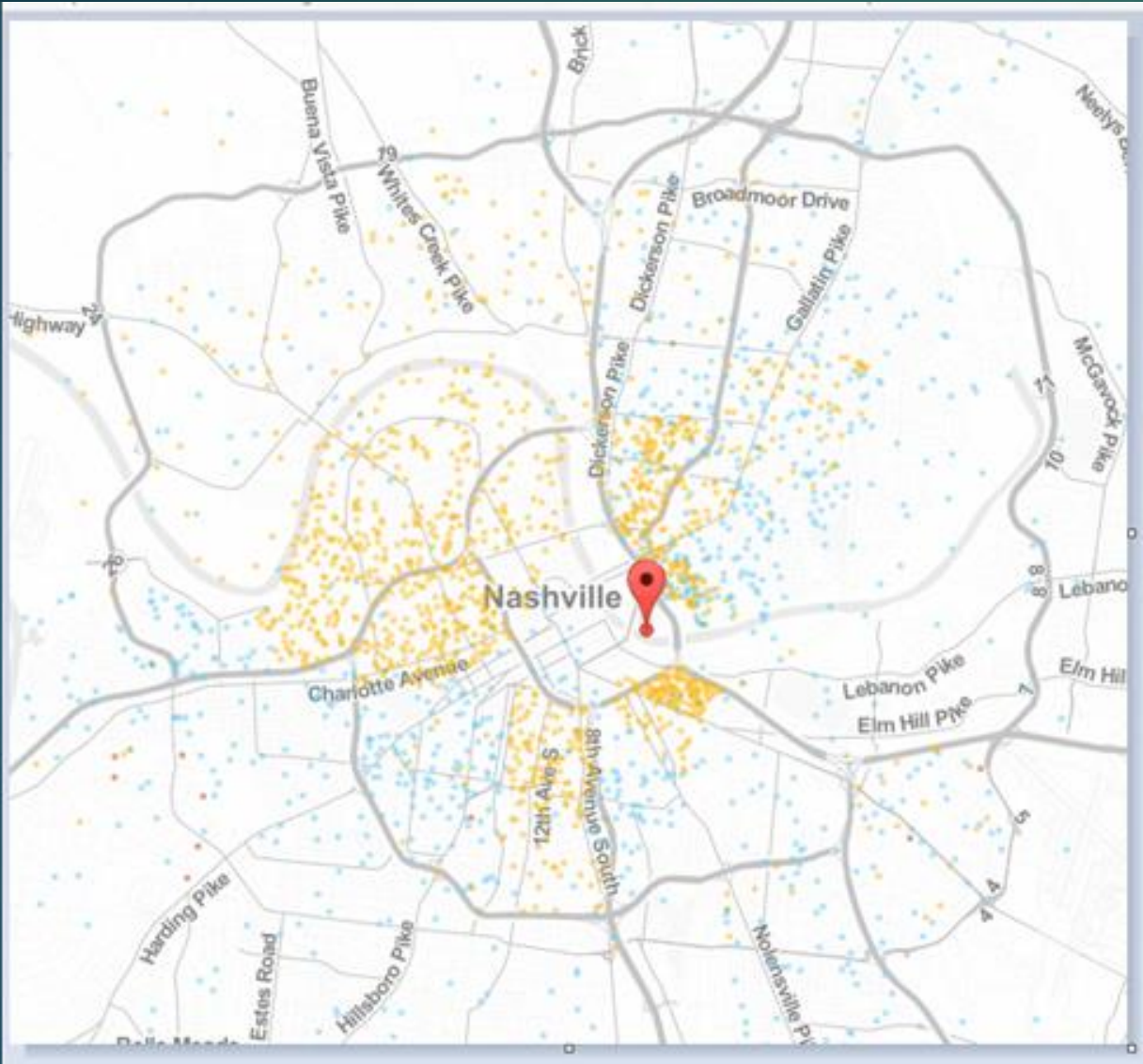
Racial motivations

- ▶ Racial motivations have contributed to the discrepancies in available resources.
- ▶ Nashville General and Meharry merger/ timing.
- ▶ Private hospitals are built in predominantly white areas.
- ▶ Hospital expansion occurs in predominantly white areas.

Nashville hospitals 2011



1980/2000 Dot Diversity

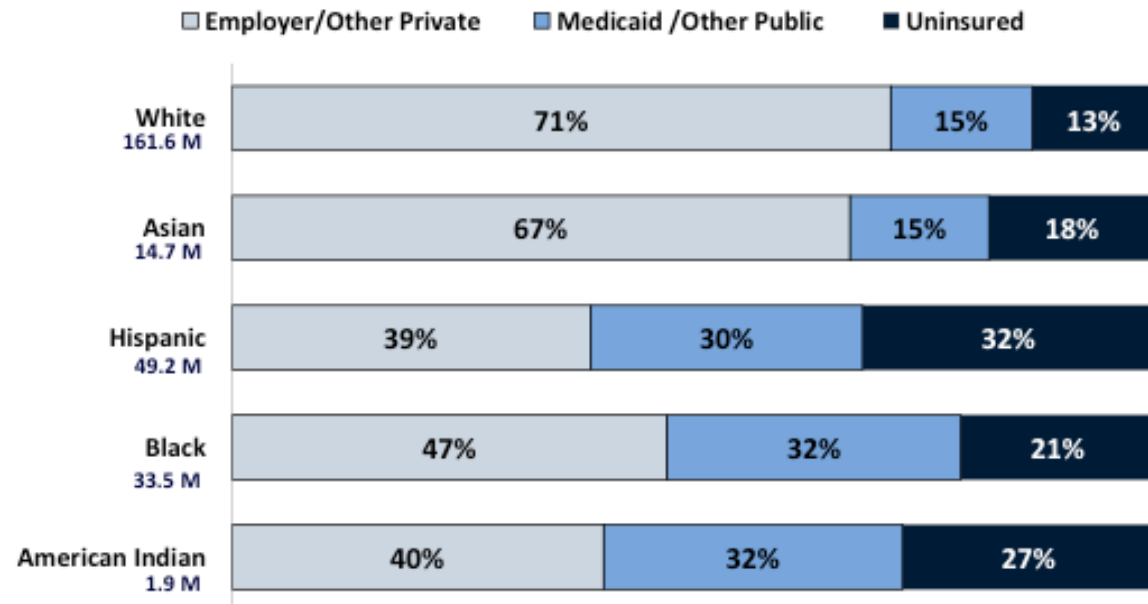


A matter of money

- For profit hospital companies dominate healthcare today.
- Minorities are significantly less insured than whites.
- Income disparity limits access to privately owned hospitals both geographically and economically.
- Lower overall health because less access to system. (X% of blacks said they could not see doctor due to monetary constraints compared to Y% of whites.

Figure 6

Insurance Coverage of Nonelderly by Race/Ethnicity, 2011



Asian group includes Pacific Islanders. American Indian group includes Aleutian Eskimos. Two or more races excluded. Data may not total 100% due to rounding.

SOURCE: KCMU/ Urban Institute analysis of 2012 ASEC Supplement to the CPS.

Conclusions

- Systemic racism decreases minority health by reducing the availability and quality of health facilities
- Private corporations partly responsible
- Not just a Nashville trend, but a national one