

cupc highlights

January 21, 2022

CUPC's crystal ball reveals 2022 as a ground-breaking year for our affiliates, shedding light on real-world challenges in population research like never before! 4, 3, 2, 1, LIFT OFF...!

recently published papers

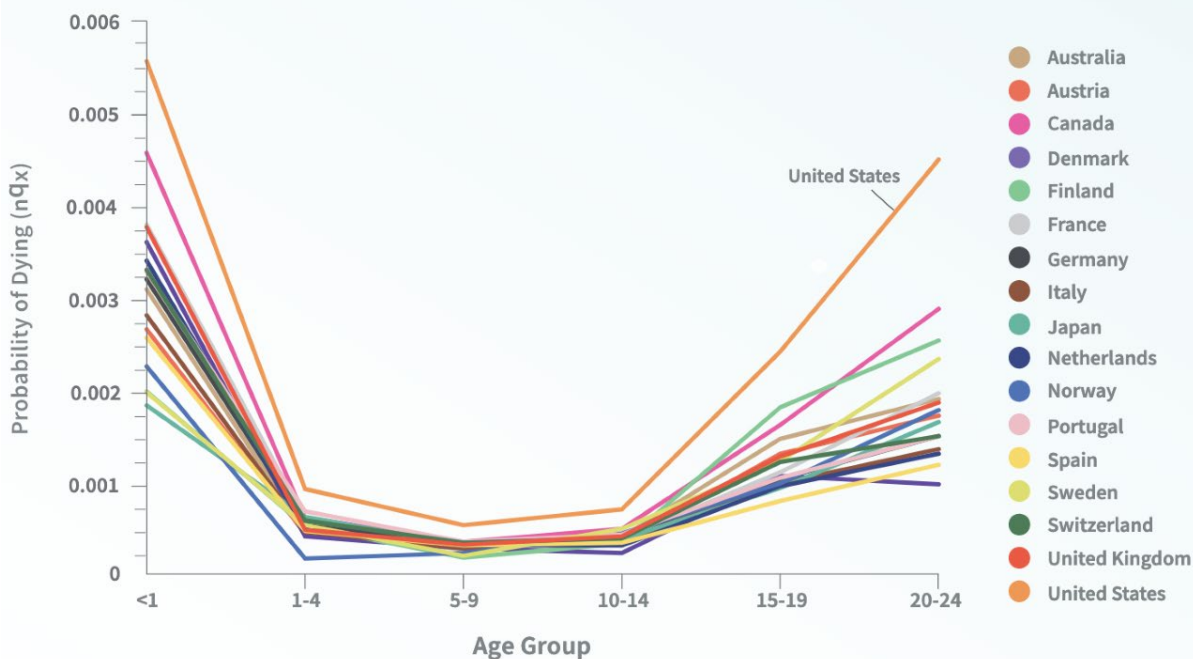
Did you know that young Americans are *twice* as likely to die as their peers in France, Germany, Japan and other wealthy nations, and that the infant mortality rate is up to 3X higher in the United States?! That's according to a new report just released by [The Population Reference Bureau \(PRB\)](#), entitled "Dying Young in the United States: What's Driving High Death Rates Among Americas Under Age 25 and What Can Be Done?". This truly fascinating paper, coauthored by [Rick Rogers](#), [Bob Hummer](#) (Carolina Population Center), [Trent Davidson](#) (SOC PhD student), and several of their colleagues, is really making waves in the media. The team's NICHD-supported study delves into a plethora of probable causes as to who is most at risk and why, and what can be done about this calamity. A noteworthy finding is that early life mortality rates may have a form of "social contagion" that can impact the broader community. For instance, the death of a child may strain families and neighborhoods and then lead to poorer mental and physical health, and a higher risk of death among survivors. Of course, early life mortality will rise as COVID-19 continues to take a toll on American children, but aside from this current driving force, the team agrees that the U.S needs to take aggressive action in reducing child poverty, eliminating racial disparities, improving health behavior of young adults, and increasing health care access for all. (check out this short [slide presentation on the PRB website.](#))

~ let's give this team a standing ovation!

FIGURE 1

AMERICANS HAVE A HIGHER LIKELIHOOD OF DYING IN EVERY AGE GROUP UNDER 25 THAN THEIR PEERS IN OTHER HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES

Probability of Dying in the United States and Peer Countries by Age Group, 2018



newly funded grants



Imagine that exhilarating feeling when an email arrives in your inbox from a sponsor and it reads:

*Dear CUPC Researcher: Congratulations! We are delighted to inform you that your proposal was **selected to be awarded** among a highly competitive pool of applications.*

Well, the following researchers just experienced that joy:

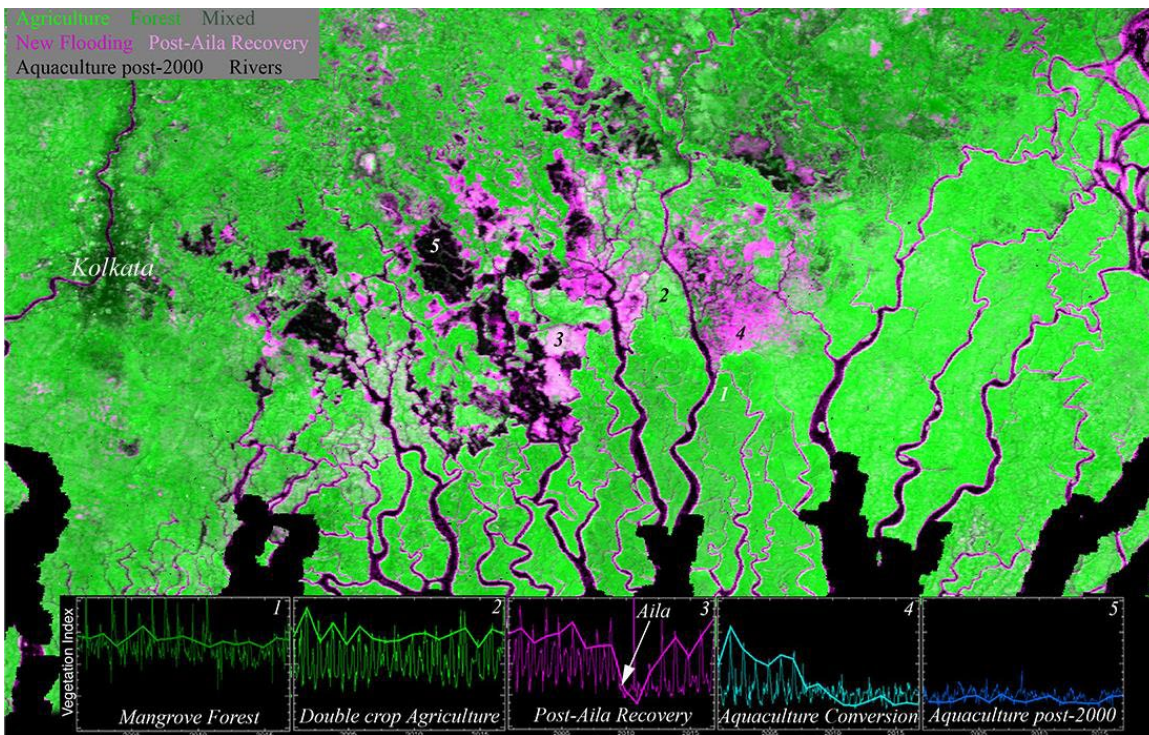
TEAM: PI [Amanda Carrico](#) (ENVS), Co-PI's: Emory U. (E. Burchfield), Georgetown U. (K. Donato), Columbia U. (C. Small), and collaborators from Germany and Bangladesh.

Project Title: "Migration, Rural Land Use, and Resilience in Coastal Bangladesh"

Sponsor: NSF HEGS (Human-Environment and Geographical Sciences)

Total Award: \$415,617 (3-year project)

Their project, which builds upon their recently funded CUPC SEED grant, will collect longitudinal follow-up data from households in 20 communities in rural Bangladesh and leverage plot-scale remote sensing data. These data will capture migration, livelihood, and land-use activities before and after the onset of the COVID pandemic and help reveal how field-scale land cover dynamics interact with household- and community-dynamics over time and during periods of stress. ~ *Bravo Amanda!*



Changes in post-monsoon land cover in southwest Bangladesh 2000-2016.

media coverage

In light of the horrific Marshall fires, [CU Boulder Today](#) sought **Lori Peek's** expertise on vulnerable populations from disasters, related to their recent article "If you really listen, survivors and emergency responders will tell you what they need." Lori emphasizes that the Marshall Fire survivors will continue to feel the toll from the natural disaster long after the TV cameras and relief groups are gone. "Continuing to listen to them and support them in the long term is so crucial," she says. ~ *such an important reminder - thanks for all that you do, Lori!*

the bigger picture



The Population Association of America (PAA) recently submitted [comments](#) to the U.S. Census Bureau regarding its newly-proposed [Post-Census Group Quarters Review](#), which will ideally improve the use of census data for scientific research, policymaking, planning, and the distribution of federal funds. However, PAA feels there are certain elements of the program that could be improved.

fun fact: following the 1880 census, the Census Bureau was collecting more data than it could tabulate. As a result, the agency held a competition in 1888 to find a more efficient method to process and tabulate data. Contestants were asked to process 1880 census data from four areas in St Louis, MO. Whoever captured and processed the data fastest would win a contract for the 1890 census. Herman Hollerith won, and thus, in 1890, the [Hollerith Machine](#) was used to tabulate Census data. Technically, this could be called the first computer device!

panel/conference participation, invited talks/presentations

[Seth Spielman](#), data expert “guru” of maps and statistics, gave a keynote speech for [The Alan Turing Institute’s](#) “Urban Analytics 2.0” conference this past November. His talk, entitled “The rise of model-based data and its implications for social science and policy” argues that data in the social sciences are undergoing a fundamental shift towards data produced as *output of models* as opposed to being rooted in *direct observation of the social world*. Seth also served on the panel “Race/Ethnicity in Public Health Epidemics” for the [National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics](#) meeting.

moving on

Speaking of **Seth**, he recently resigned as Associate Professor of CU’s Geography Department to accept a new position as Director of Metrics and Data Science for Microsoft! That’s not all - he also has a new academic affiliation with the U. of Liverpool’s Geographic Data Science Lab. Amidst all these changes, we shouldn’t forget to mention his recently accepted paper in the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*: “**A Method for Linking Individual and Area Based Social Vulnerability to Environmental Hazards,**” a timely study to apply to our own community’s experience amid the recent horrendous fires.

Seth will remain active as a scholar and “hopes to see you around.” ~ *best of luck Seth and may your future endeavors turn out better than you could even imagine!*



Mon 2/14, 12-1pm: CUPC is THRILLED to announce our first speaker of the Spring seminar series: spatial data scientist [Morteza Karimzadeh](#) (Geography Asst. Prof.) will be discussing “[Short-term Forecasting of COVID-19 using Spatiotemporal Machine Learning](#)”. **Don’t miss it!**



[Zoom](#), Passcode: email ibs-contact@colorado.edu