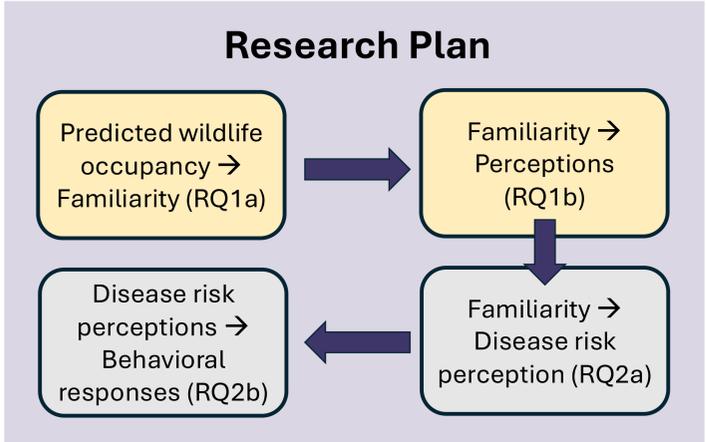


Introduction

- With wildlife encounters becoming more prevalent, the emerging coexistence framework considers both positive and negative human-wildlife interactions (Figure 3).
- **Familiarity hypothesis:** Increased exposure to wildlife may reduce perceived risks and increase perceived benefits but has not yet been tested in urban human-wildlife systems.¹
- We will use survey data, camera traps, and occupancy data to identify determinants of familiarity and test the familiarity hypothesis in four U.S. cities.



Focal Species

- Our focal species are coyotes and raccoons, which are both prevalent in cities across North America (Figure 1).
- Camera trap and occupancy data are provided by UWIN.

Figure 1. Camera trap photos from Dr. Jeffrey Haight



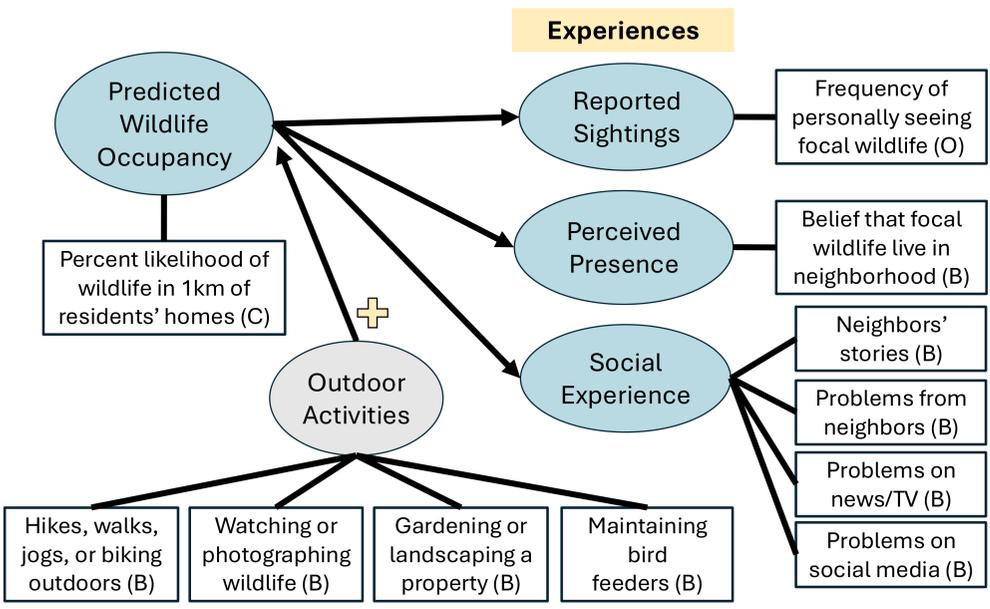
¹ Haight, Jeffrey D., Kelli L. Larson, Jeffrey A. G. Clark, Jesse S. Lewis, and Sharon J. Hall. 2023. "Social-Ecological Drivers of Metropolitan Residents' Comfort Living with Wildlife." *Frontiers in Conservation Science* 4 (November): 1248238.

Conceptual Frameworks

Figure 2. Understanding drivers of familiarity

RQ1a: Does the predicted occupancy of wildlife increase exposure to and experiences with wildlife (i.e., familiarity)?

H1a: Higher ecological presence increases exposure to wildlife.



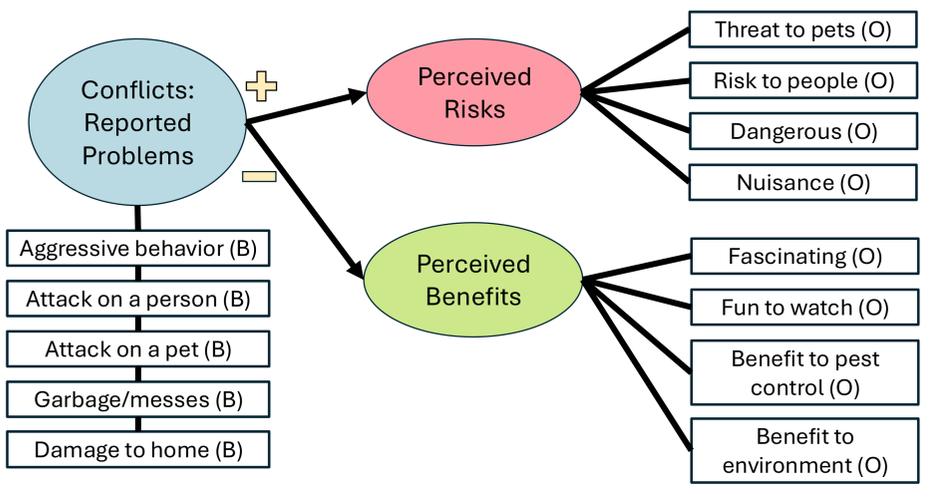
Data Type: C = Continuous, B = Binary (yes/no), O = Ordinal (number of times)

Figure 3. Testing the familiarity hypothesis

RQ1b: Does increased experience with wildlife attenuate perceived risks and amplify perceived benefits?

H1b1: Greater exposure to wildlife will decrease perceived risks and increase perceived benefits.

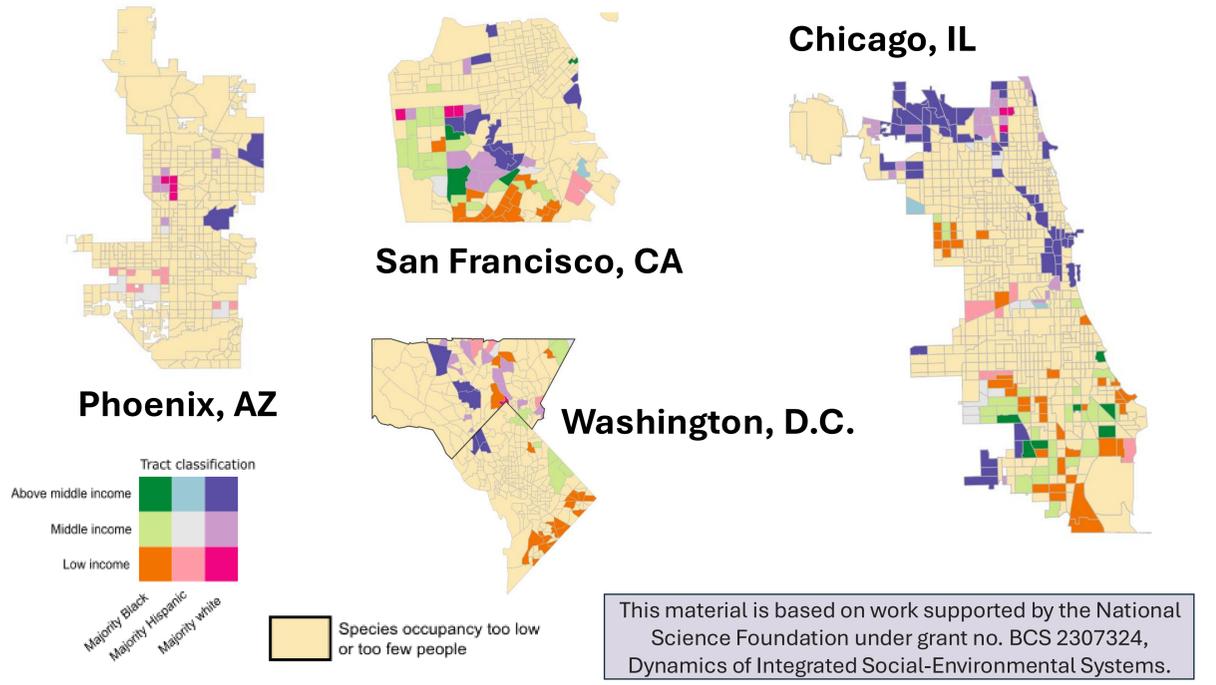
H1b2: Greater experienced conflicts increase perceived risks.



Data Type: B = Binary (yes/no), O = Ordinal (dis/agree)

Survey Implementation & Analysis

- Surveys were mailed to 4 focal cities: Phoenix, AZ, Chicago, IL, San Francisco, CA, and Washington, D.C.
- We obtained a stratified random sample with two filters to increase the chances of sampling where HWI had occurred:
 1. Above median occupancy of wildlife
 2. Above median resident population
- Residents were asked about their beliefs, experiences, attitudes, behavioral norms, and actions surrounding wildlife (Figures 2 & 3), as well as demographic information.
- **Final Dataset: N = 1804, Response Rate = 18.3%**



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