

# Psychosocial benefits of ethnic enclaves among Chinese immigrants in Philadelphia

Hoai-Phuong Hoang<sup>1</sup>, Carolyn Y. Fang, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Amy Auchincloss, PhD<sup>3</sup>, Marilyn Tseng, PhD<sup>4</sup>

(1) Department of Mathematics, Cal Poly; (2) Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA; (3) Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA; (4) Department of Kinesiology and Public Health, Cal Poly



## Introduction

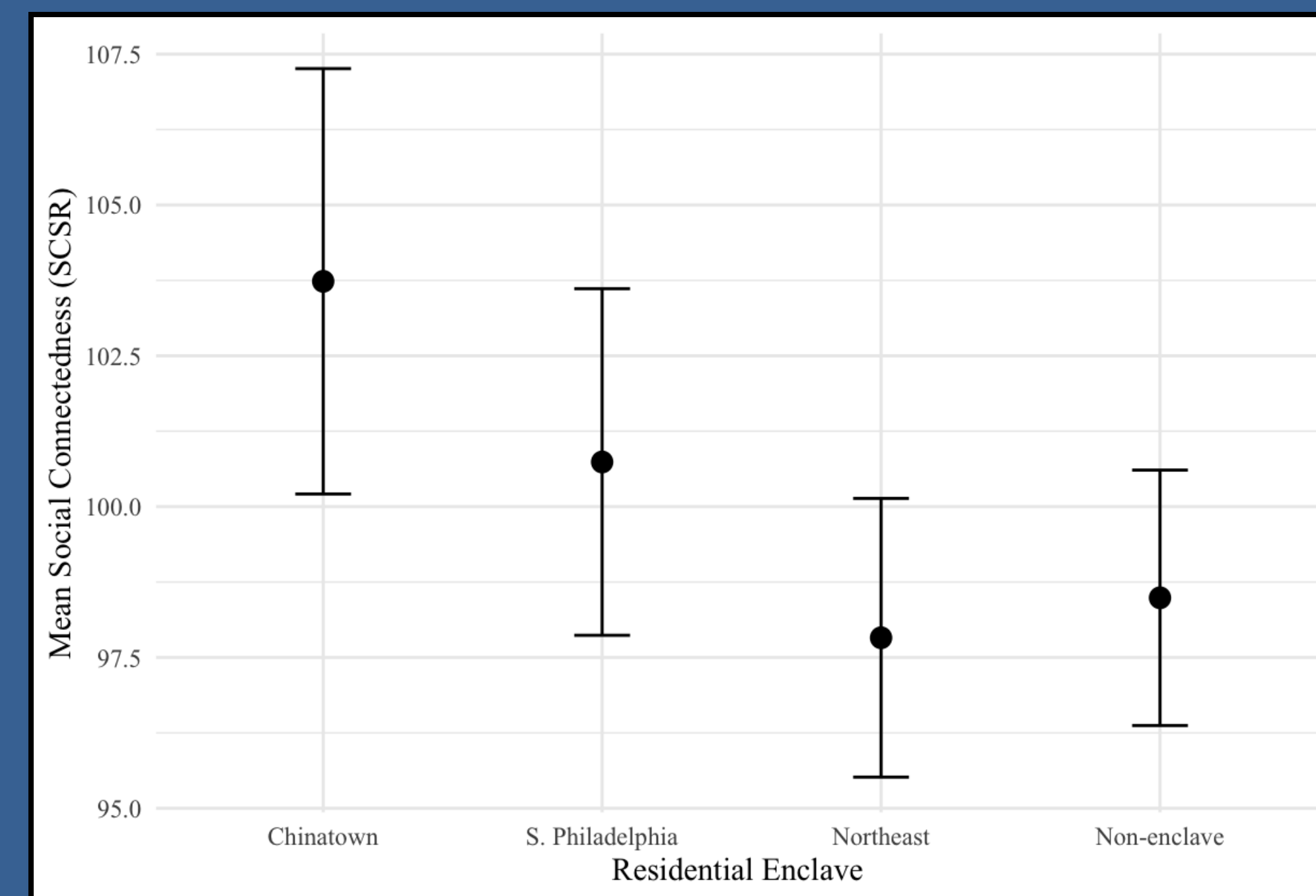
- **Enclaves:** neighborhoods with many people sharing the same ethnicity
- Enclaves offer physical and social resources (e.g. grocery stores with cultural food) that might **promote immigrant health**, but this has not been well studied

## Hypothesis

Enclave residence → more **social connectedness**, **social identification**, and **social capital**

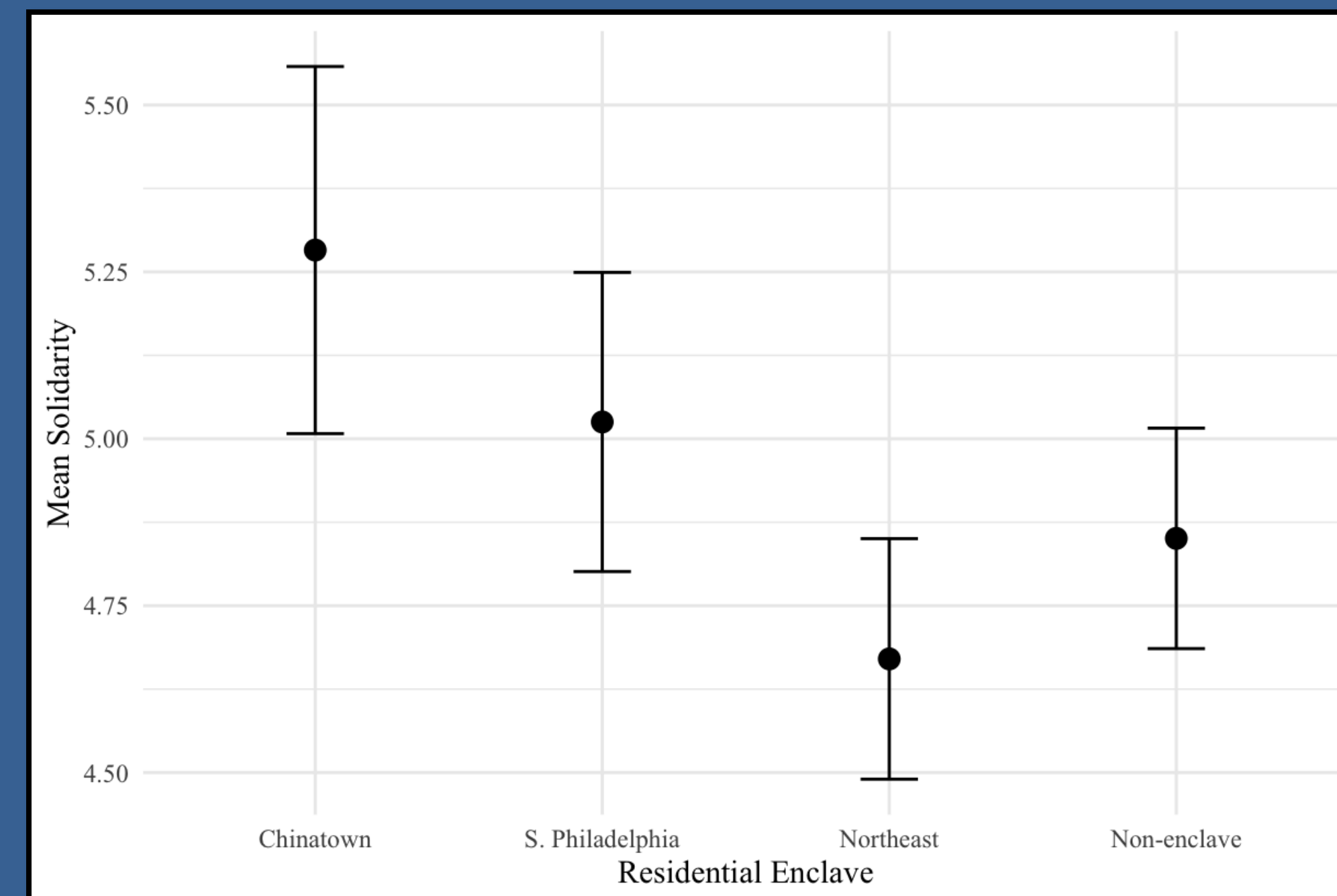
## Methods

- Sample of 601 Chinese immigrants from **established** enclaves (Chinatown, South Philadelphia), **emerging** (Northeast), and **non-enclave**
- **Questionnaire** on social connectedness, identification, support, capital, isolation, and activity locations
  - **Social connectedness:** closeness, identity/common bond, engagement, acceptance/support, social connectedness
  - **Social identity:** solidarity, satisfaction, centrality, self-stereotyping, in-group homogeneity
- **Bivariate analyses** of enclave residence with psychosocial factors using:
  - ANOVA
  - Chi-square
- **Post-hoc pairwise comparisons:**
  - Tukey's HSD
  - Pairwise Nominal Independence



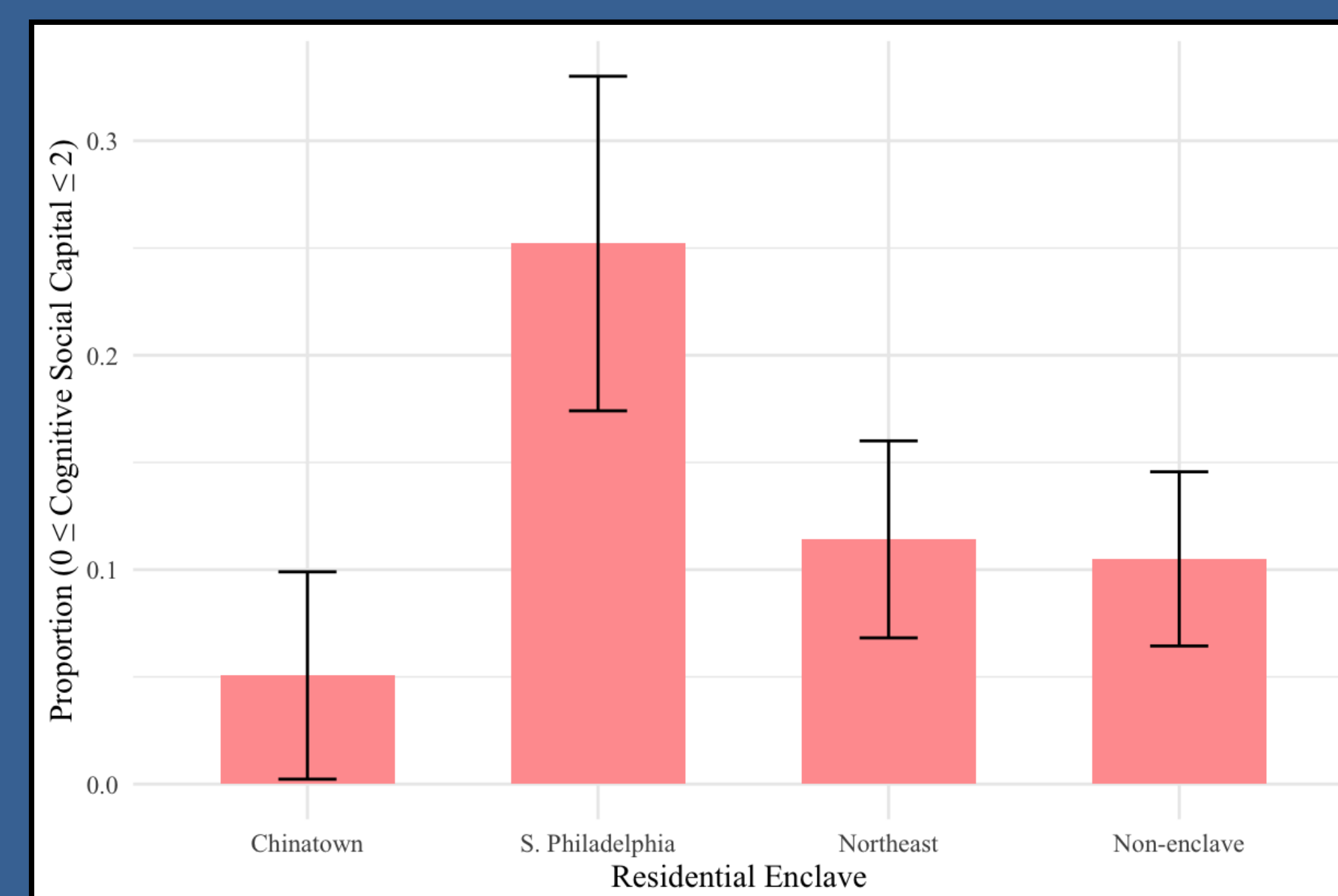
## Social Connectedness by Residential Enclaves

- Chinatown residents had significantly higher social connectedness than Northeast residents



## Solidarity by Residential Enclaves

- Chinatown residents have significantly greater solidarity than Northeast or non-enclave residents
- Example of one component of social identity; Chinatown similarly has greater centrality, self-stereotyping, and in-group homogeneity



## Proportion of Low Cognitive Social Capital (0-2) by Residential Enclaves

- South Philadelphia had a significantly higher proportion of participants with lower cognitive social capital vs. Chinatown, non-enclave, and Northeast residents

## Results

- **Chinatown** residents had significantly higher mean scores for:
  - Three of five components of **social identity** and greater **cognitive social capital** than non-enclave residents
  - **Social connectedness** and four of five components of **social identity** than Northeast residents
- **Chinatown** residents → more **engagement** with enclave-based institutions/activities → associated with **higher social connectedness, social identity, and social capital**

## Results (continued)

- **Social support and isolation** did not differ significantly across enclaves
- Non-enclave residents were **more engaged** in citizenship activities than the Northeast or S. Philadelphia, unexpectedly

## Conclusions

- Enclave residents have **higher scores** on some, but not all, psychosocial variables related to wellbeing
- **Chinatown** residents → more **social connectedness, solidarity, and cognitive social capital**

## Next Steps

- **Adjust** for potential confounders
- Explore whether enclave engagement **mediates association** between residence and psychosocial benefits

## Implications

- These findings can be used to:
  - Invest in resources to effectively **support immigrant health and neighborhoods**
  - Learn if enclave engagement **causes better psychosocial outcomes**

## Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge funding from the National Institutes of Health grant R01 MD018511.