

Metro Nature & Human Health ES

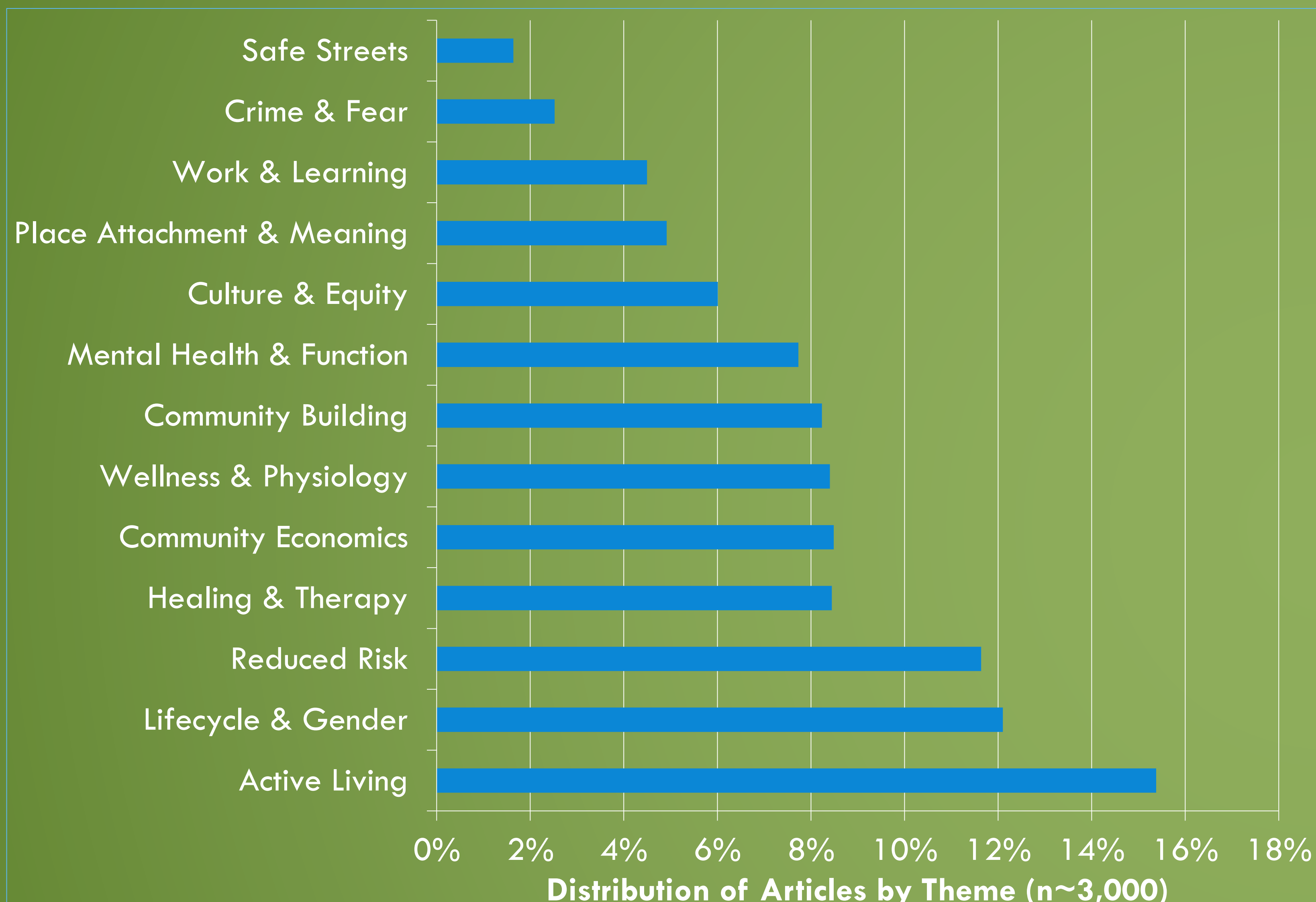
:: Valuation Challenges ::

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1. Health and Well-being Research

- Contact with metro nature (trees, parks, gardens, open space etc.) generates varied ecosystem services including psychosocial, cognitive, and physiological dimensions of human health and wellness benefits
- Literature review spanning >3,000 articles :: Green Cities – Good Health



3. Research Limitations

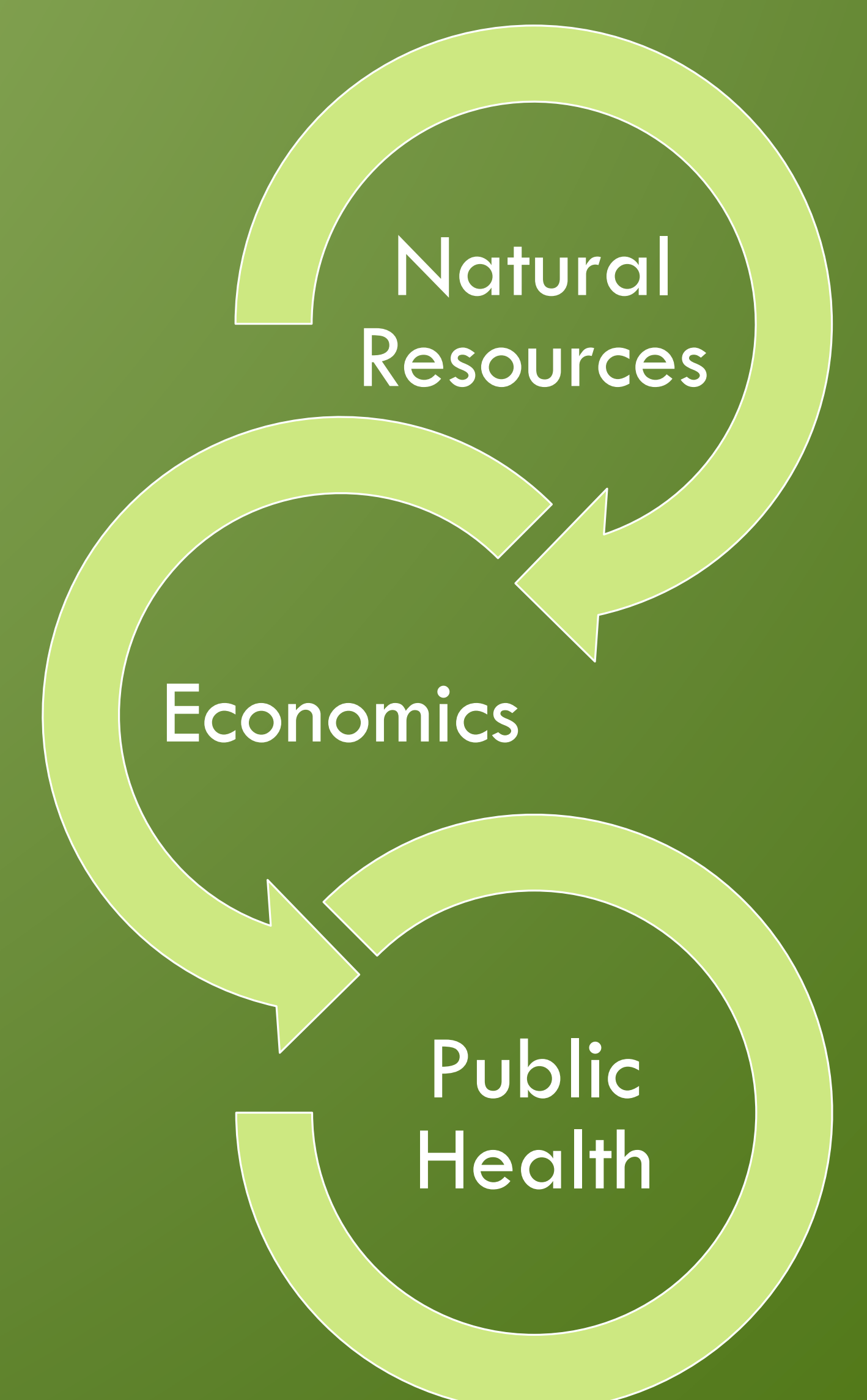
- Geographic scope or scale of measurement
- Outcome measures vary substantially
- Acknowledgment of potential confounding factors
- Others: sample sizes, human populations studied, cultural boundaries, etc.
- No integration between metro nature and public health fields

2. Health Economic Valuation

- U.S. annual health spending is ~ 18% of G.D.P.
- Health and wellness benefits are associated with health promotion and disease prevention
- Few benefits translated into economic values (i.e., U.S. Forest Service i-Tree models)
- Increasing (but limited) studies associated with the linkages between metro nature benefits and public health/epidemiology (PHE) benefits and valuations

4. Future, Integrated Research

- Increasing urban populations worldwide
- High costs of health decline and disease
- Needed! New interdisciplinary approach that combines urban natural resources, economic valuations, and public health/epidemiology



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