



Beyond “Concentrated Poverty”

Better Data Resources for Advancing Place-Based Equity



May 2023

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metro council.org

Place is an important dimension of equity

- Residents of high-poverty neighborhoods experience:
 - Higher crime victimization rates
 - More aggressive policing
 - Worse physical health
 - Worse mental health
- Effects are strongest on children
 - Lower scores on tests of letter/word recognition, reading comprehension, and math calculations
 - Lower rates of high school graduation and college attendance
 - Lower economic mobility

Place-based equity: Where you live shouldn't affect your life chances.

“The stories we tell ourselves matter. Narrative plays an important role in defining whose voice gets heard, how issues are framed, and what solutions are developed.”

~ Nelima Sitati Munene

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THE VOICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



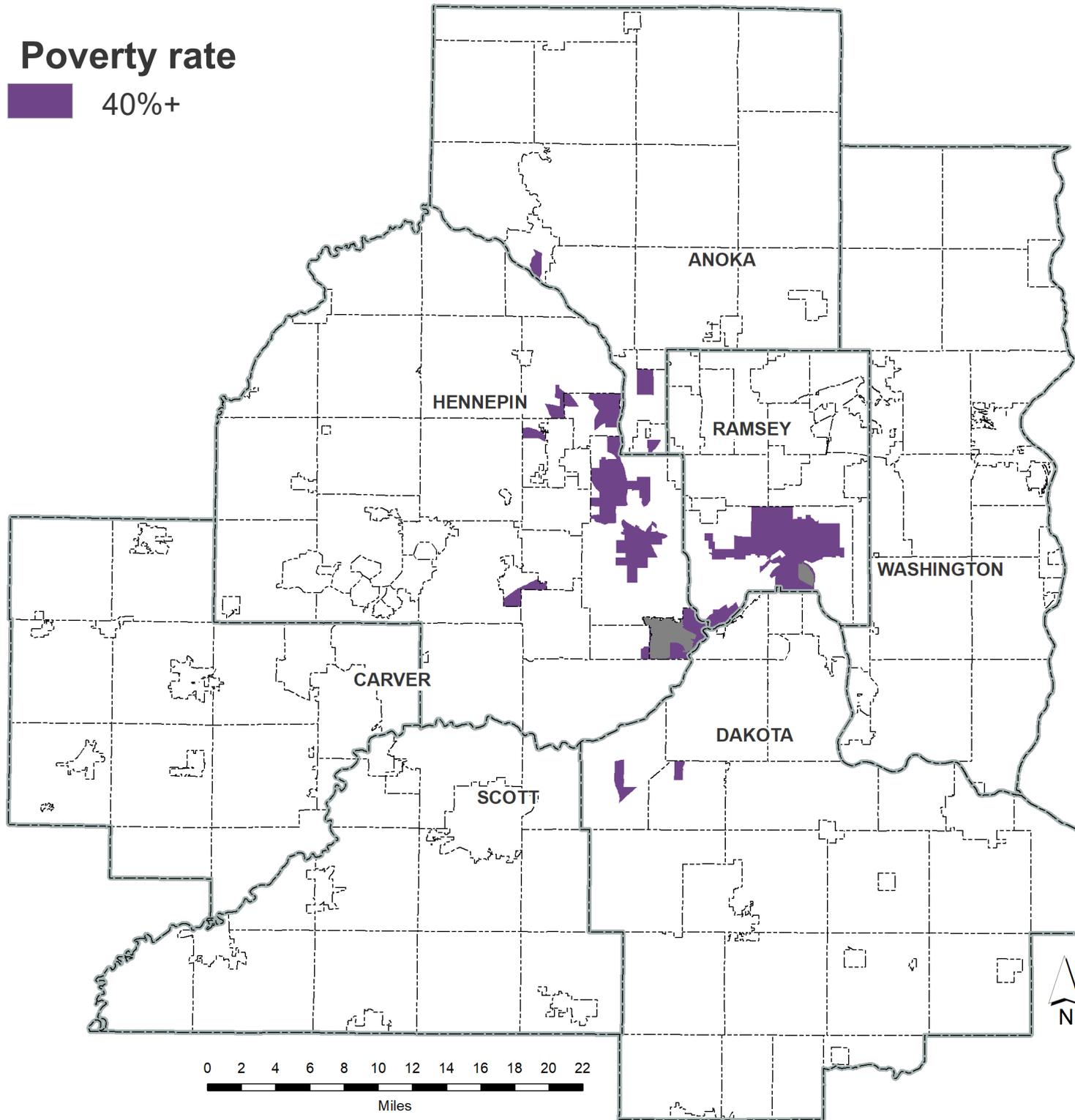
Speaking Up On Race, Housing, and Opportunity in Minnesota

Housing Nelima Sitati Munene - January 11, 2019

In the housing world, narrative plays an important role in defining whose voice gets heard, how issues are framed, and what solutions are developed. This is especially true in Minnesota.

Poverty rate

40%+



Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACPs)

Response to HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant

Census tracts where at least 40% of residents are in poverty

(Poverty = Below 185% of the federal poverty threshold)

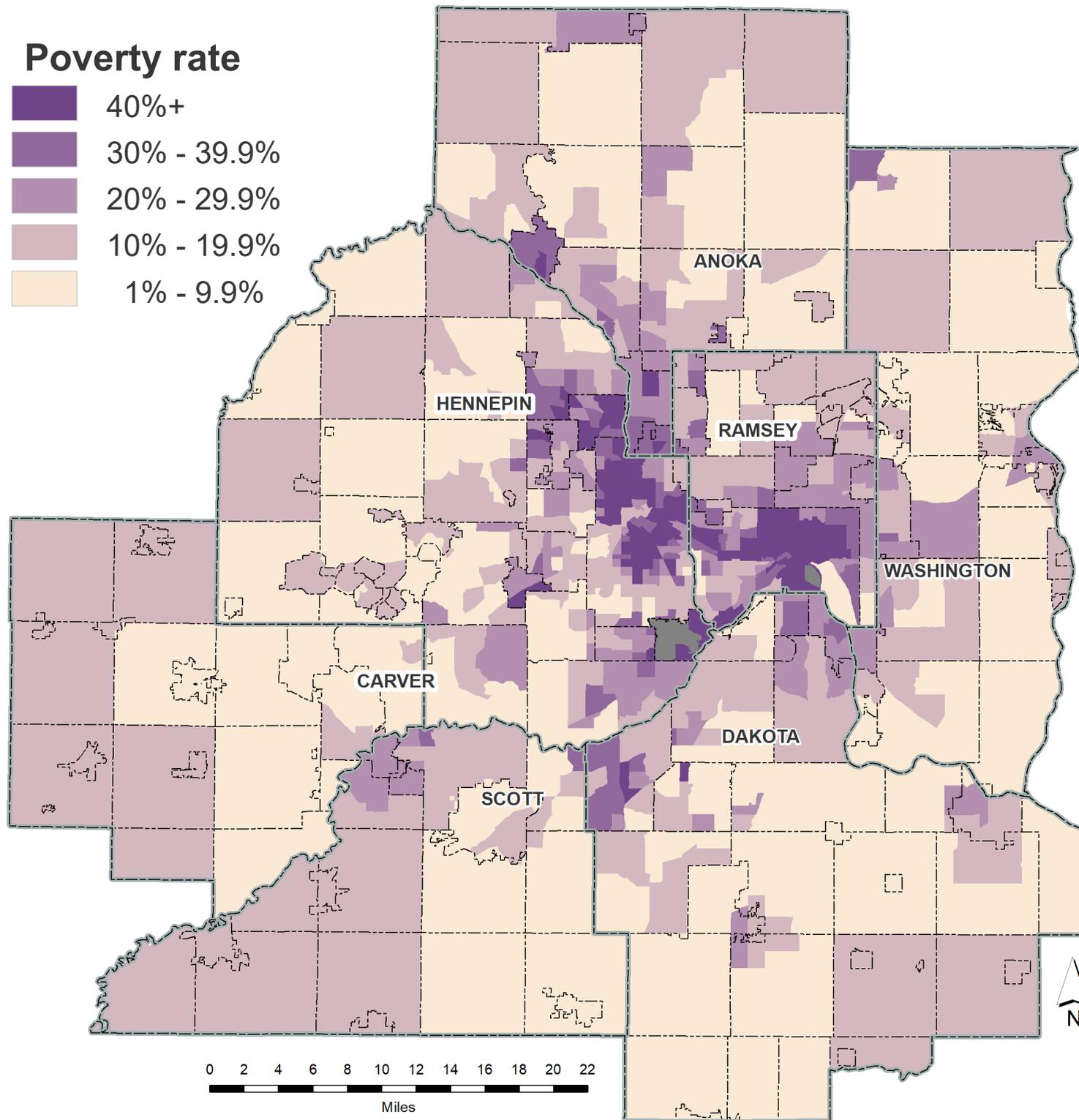
CP framework narrows scope of region's poverty

If we're trying to influence the lives of *people in poverty*...

What about the people in poverty who do not live in an ACP (71%)?

If we're trying to influence *places with high poverty*...

Why the hard cutoff at 40%?

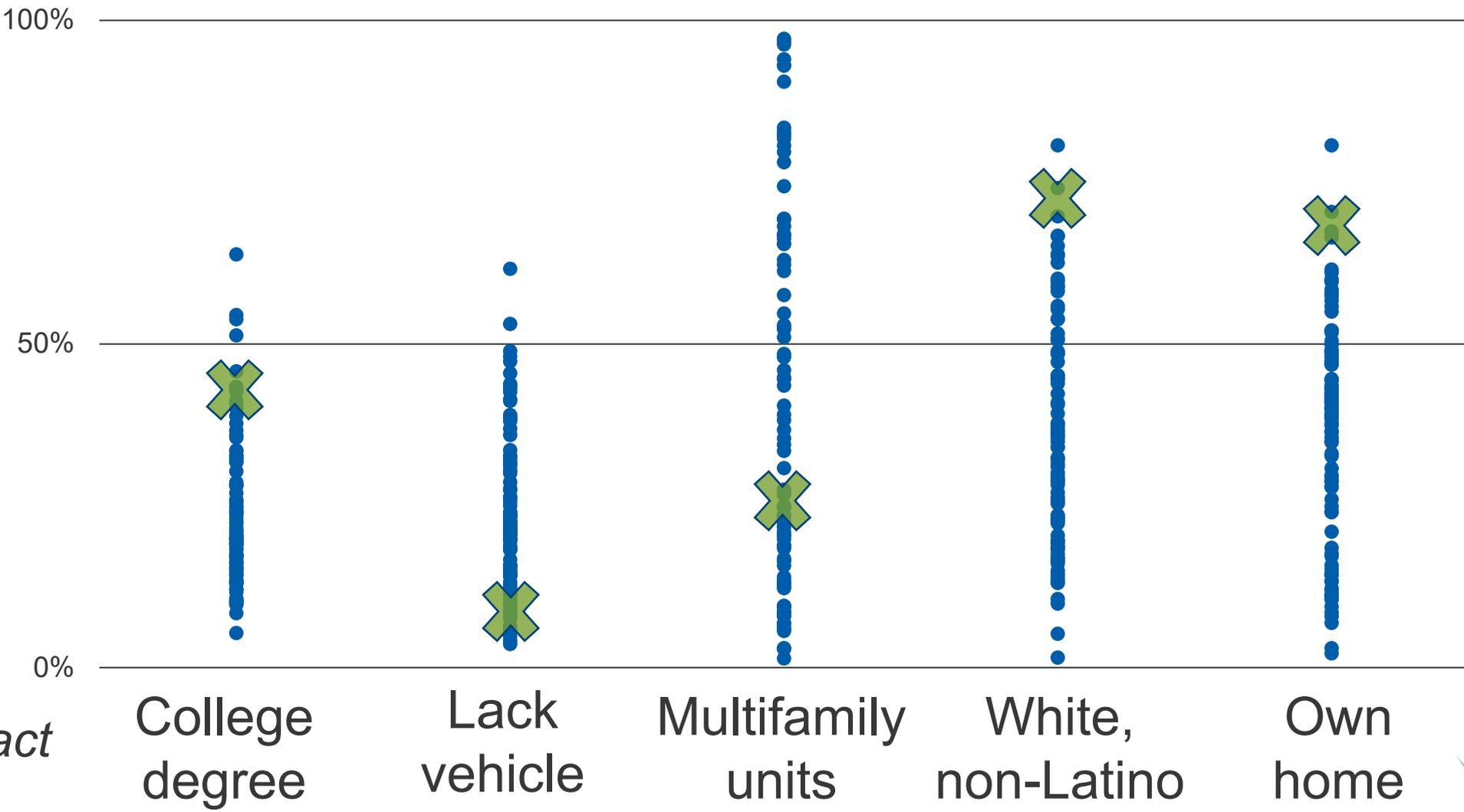


CP framework ignores wide variation across areas

ACP tracts share a poverty rate but not much else:

- Widely varying characteristics
- Some are lower than region; some are higher
- Different histories

● = One ACP census tract
 X = Twin Cities regional average



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey five-year estimates



CP framework doesn't tell the full story

Demographic data can't capture lived experience

- Community / culture
- Politics

If we're looking at place-based equity, what about:

- Buildings/ownership
- Environment and natural features
- Institutions and infrastructure
- Employers

"In the early days of opportunity mapping... it was standard to simply map race and/or poverty and call low-poverty or predominantly white neighborhoods "opportunity" areas.... Such practices confuse the idea of a geography of opportunity with the geography of people."

~ Edward G. Goetz

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Your "Opportunity" Map is Broken. Here Are Some Fixes

Community Development Field Edward G. Goetz - November 16, 2017

If we are truly going to reduce our housing policy objectives to the realm of goals related to "opportunity," I would like to offer some guidelines for its proper use.



Equity Considerations dataset overview

Over 300 fields of data for the region's census tracts

- Geographies
- Expanded demographics
- Migration
- Disability status
- Socioeconomic characteristics
- Housing stock, costs/affordability
- Land use
- Environment and climate
- Amenities
- Employment
- Transportation and commuting

Resource Categories Activity Stream

m MINNESOTA
GEOSPATIAL COMMONS

Equity Considerations for Place-Based Advocacy and Decisions in the Twin Cities Region

This dataset provides equity-relevant characteristics for each census tract in the Twin Cities region. Formerly known as the Areas of Concentrated Poverty dataset, it has been greatly expanded to provide a more nuanced portrait of neighborhoods, with data on: demographic and socioeconomic characteristics (including multiple income levels); racial/ethnic/cultural groups; historical data on discriminatory practices; facets of housing markets; land use, environment/climate, amenities, and employment/commuting patterns. Our intention is to call attention to broader patterns of economic segregation and their root causes, and to show that census tracts are much more multifaceted than a narrow focus on poverty rates would imply.

For more background on this file, please see our website (<https://metro council.org/research/place-basedequity>), particularly the linked StoryMap "Rethinking Areas of Concentrated Poverty."

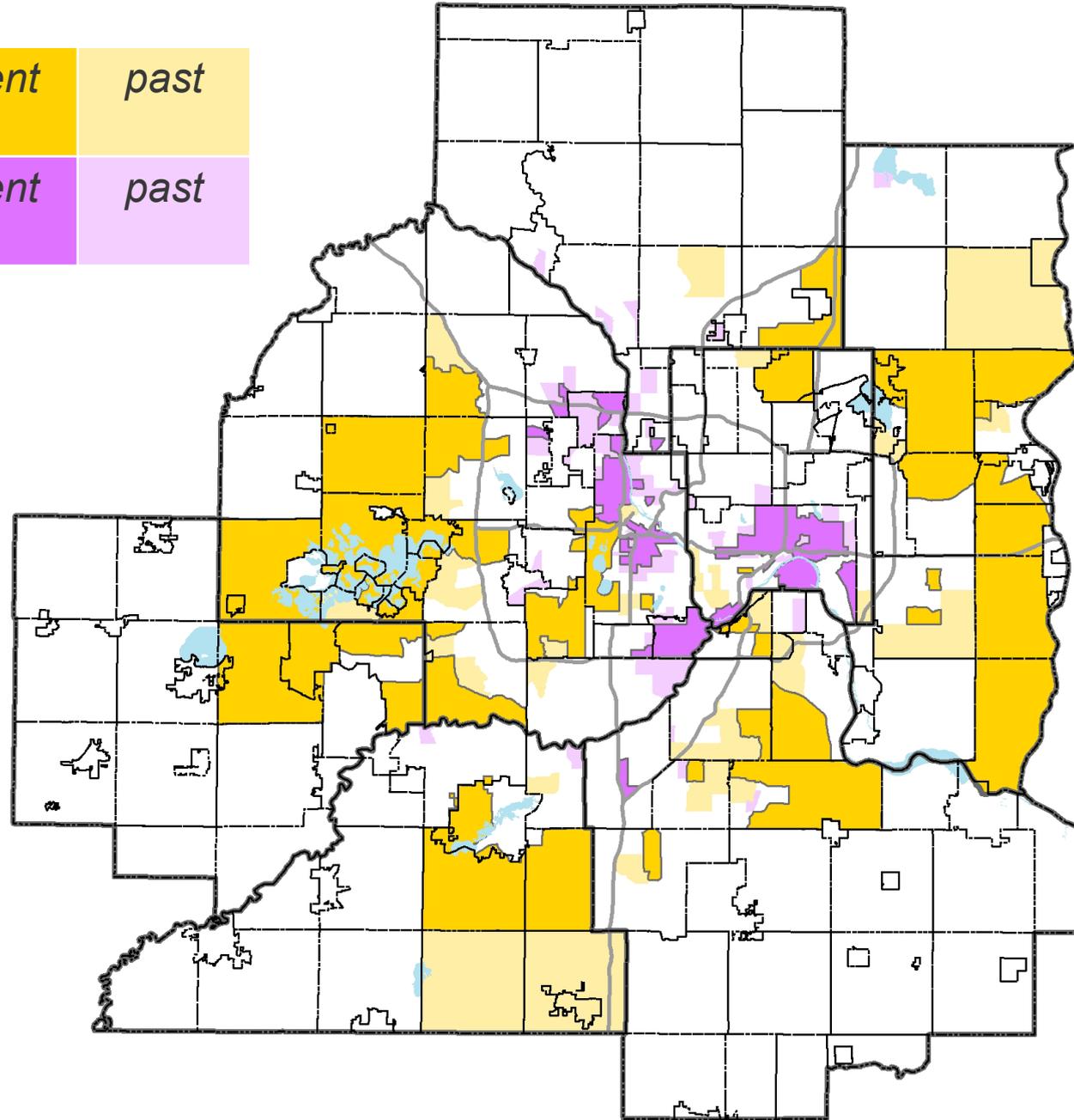
Finally, we encourage consulting the User Guide and Methodology for this dataset, available at ([https://metro council.org/Data-and-Maps/Research-and-Data/Place-based-Equity-Research/Equity-Considerations-Guide-and-Methodology-\(Febru.aspx\)](https://metro council.org/Data-and-Maps/Research-and-Data/Place-based-Equity-Research/Equity-Considerations-Guide-and-Methodology-(Febru.aspx))).

 DATA	Esri ArcGIS Server Map Service - ...	Download
 DATA	ESRI File Geodatabase	Download
 DATA	Esri ArcGIS Server Map Service - ...	Download
 DATA	Shapefile	Download
 XLS	MS Excel File	Download
 HTML	Full Metadata Record	View

[Link to website/resources](#)

Add parity, refocus on systems' outcomes

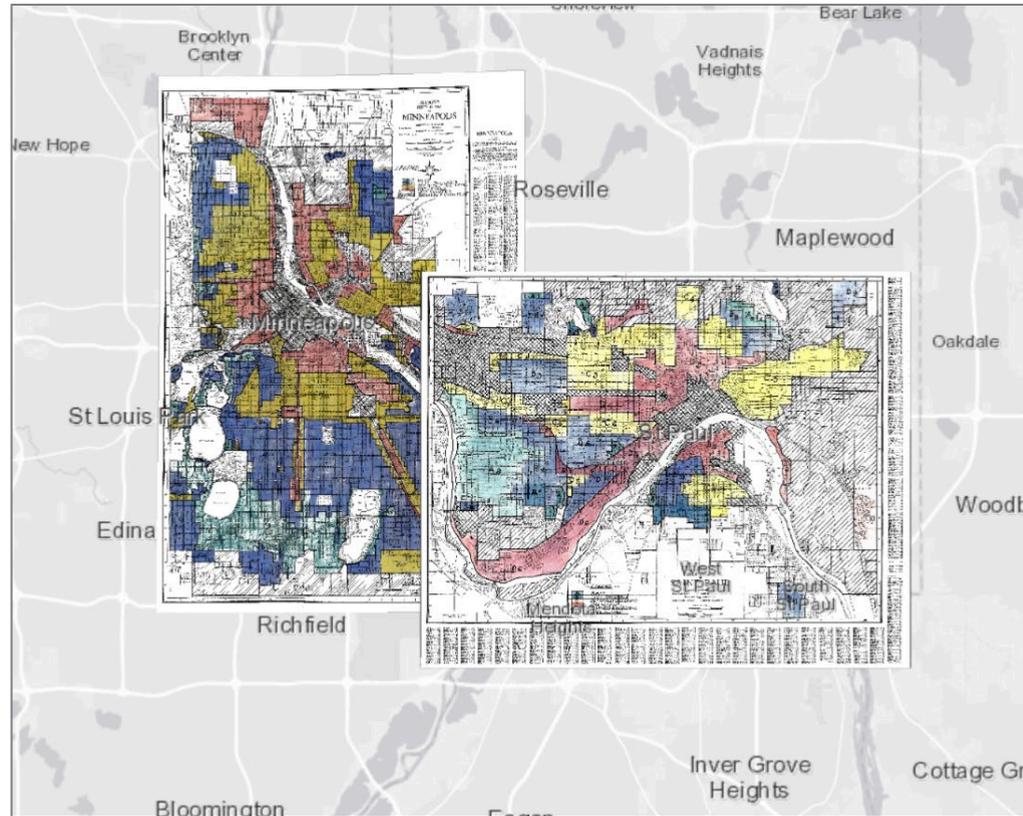
Concentrated Affluence	current	past
Concentrated Poverty	current	past



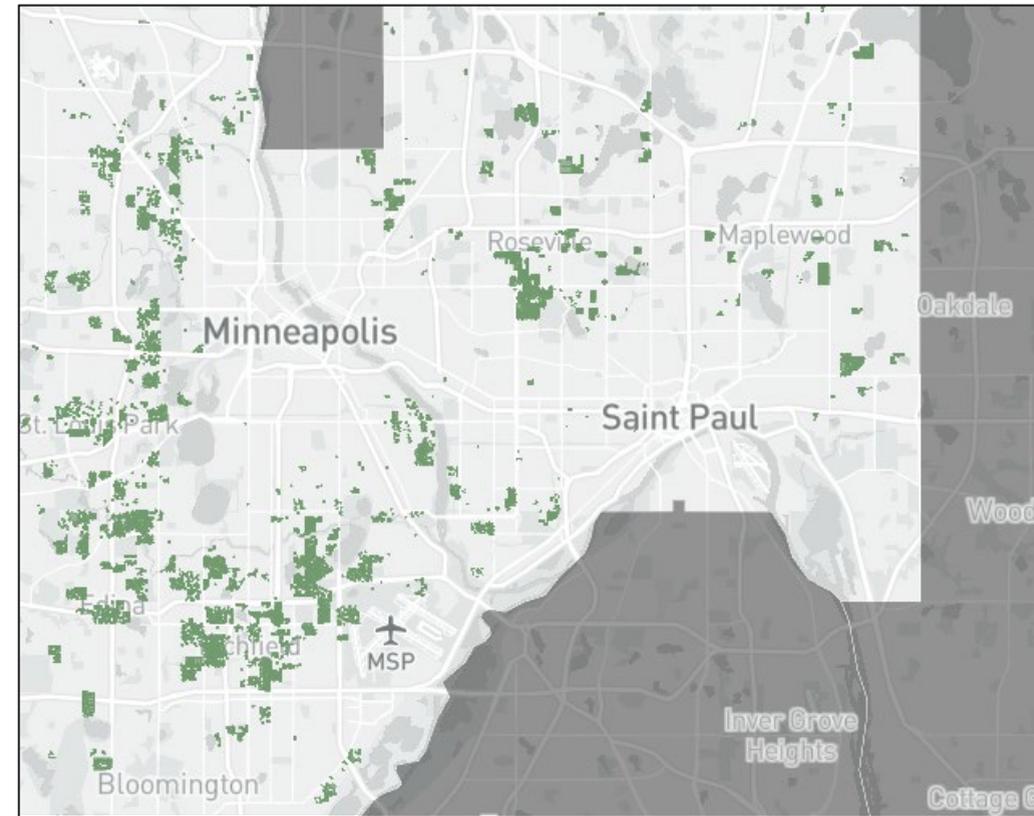
Source: Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates (2015-2019) in Metropolitan Council's Equity Considerations dataset (2021).

- Same systems that create concentrated poverty also produce concentrated affluence
- Shifts focus from concentrated poverty to these patterns across places

Make historic data accessible, relevant



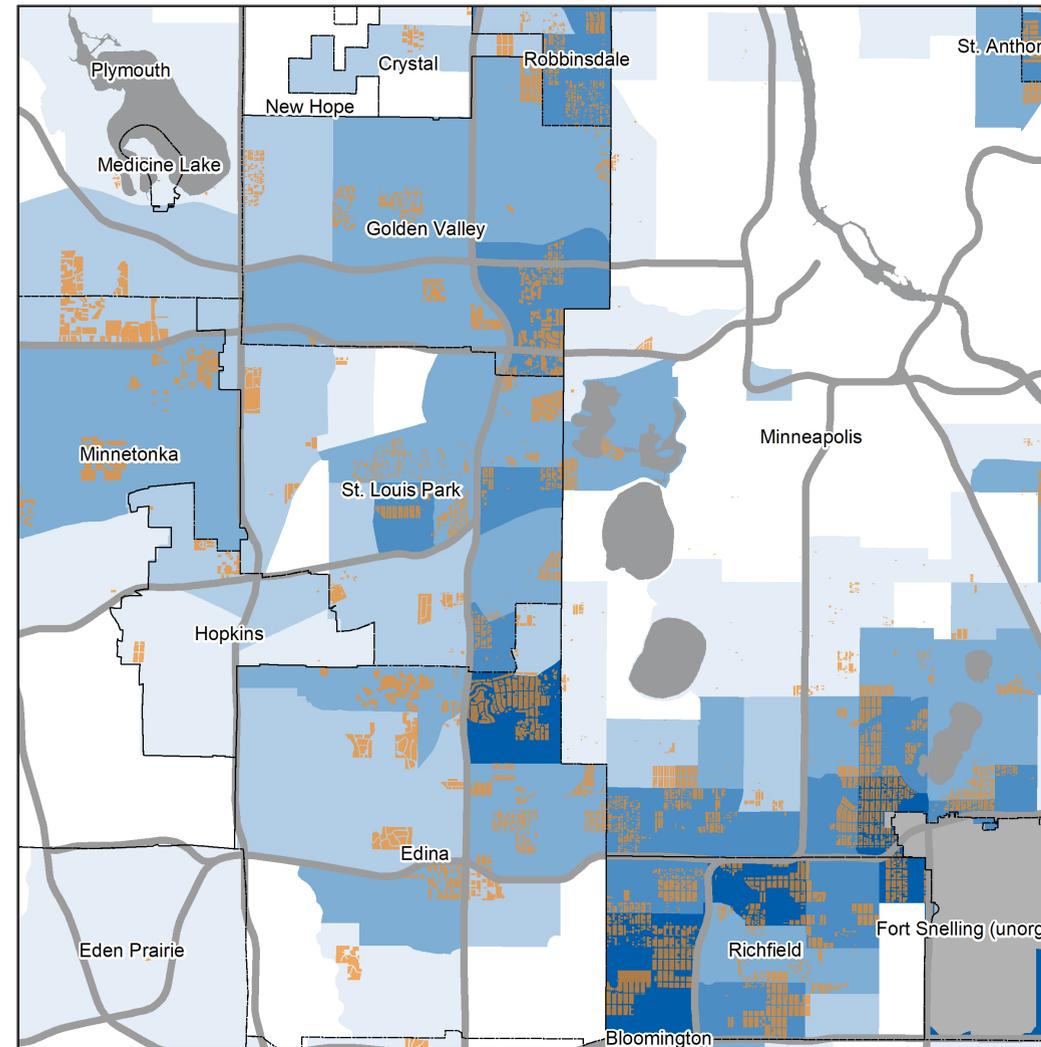
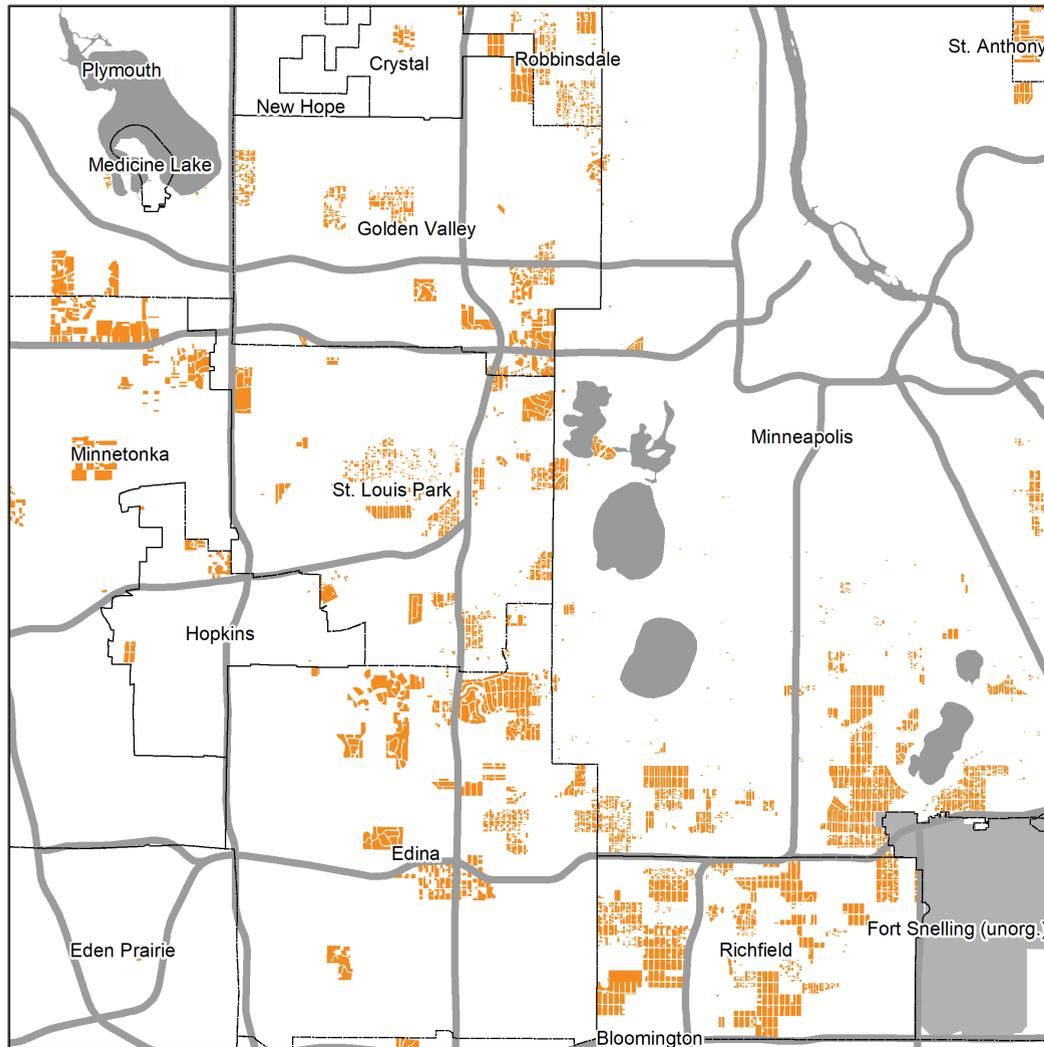
- [Home Owners Loan Corporation](#) (HOLC) "grades" as share of census tract area
- Minneapolis and Saint Paul



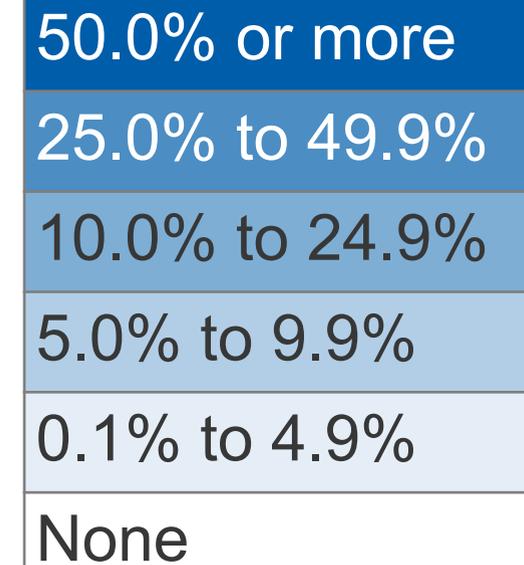
- Racially restrictive covenants ([Mapping Prejudice Project](#))
- Hennepin and Ramsey Counties

Helping covenant data play nicely with others

Area covered by covenants

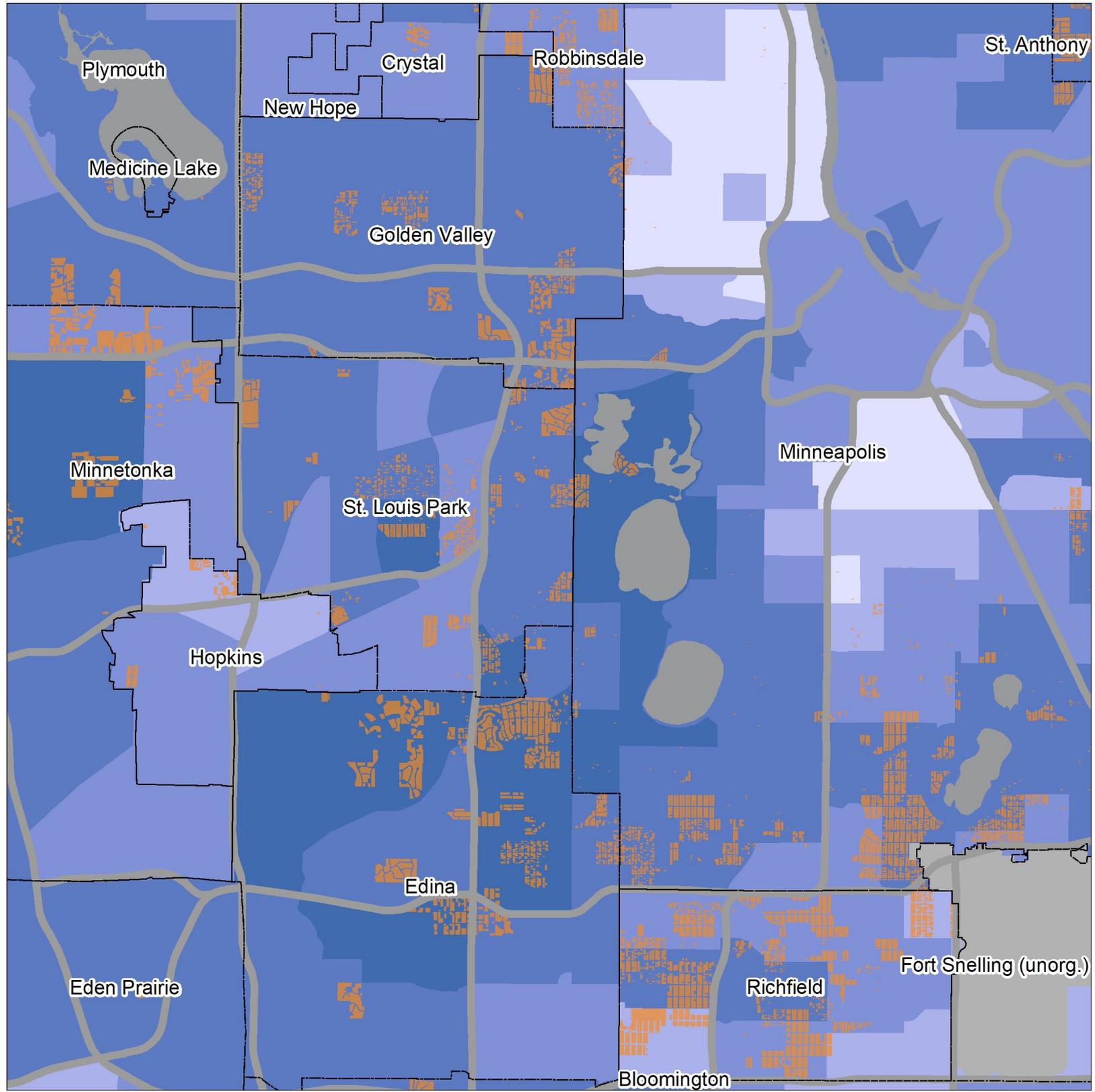


Percent homes with covenants



Source: Ehrman-Solberg, Kevin et al. (2020). *Racial Covenants in Hennepin County*. Retrieved from the Data Repository for the University of Minnesota, <https://doi.org/10.13020/a88t-yb14>. Hereafter cited as “Mapping Prejudice Project.”

Source: Analysis of Mapping Prejudice Project data in Metropolitan Council’s Equity Considerations dataset (2021).



Areas with covenants tend to have higher % white

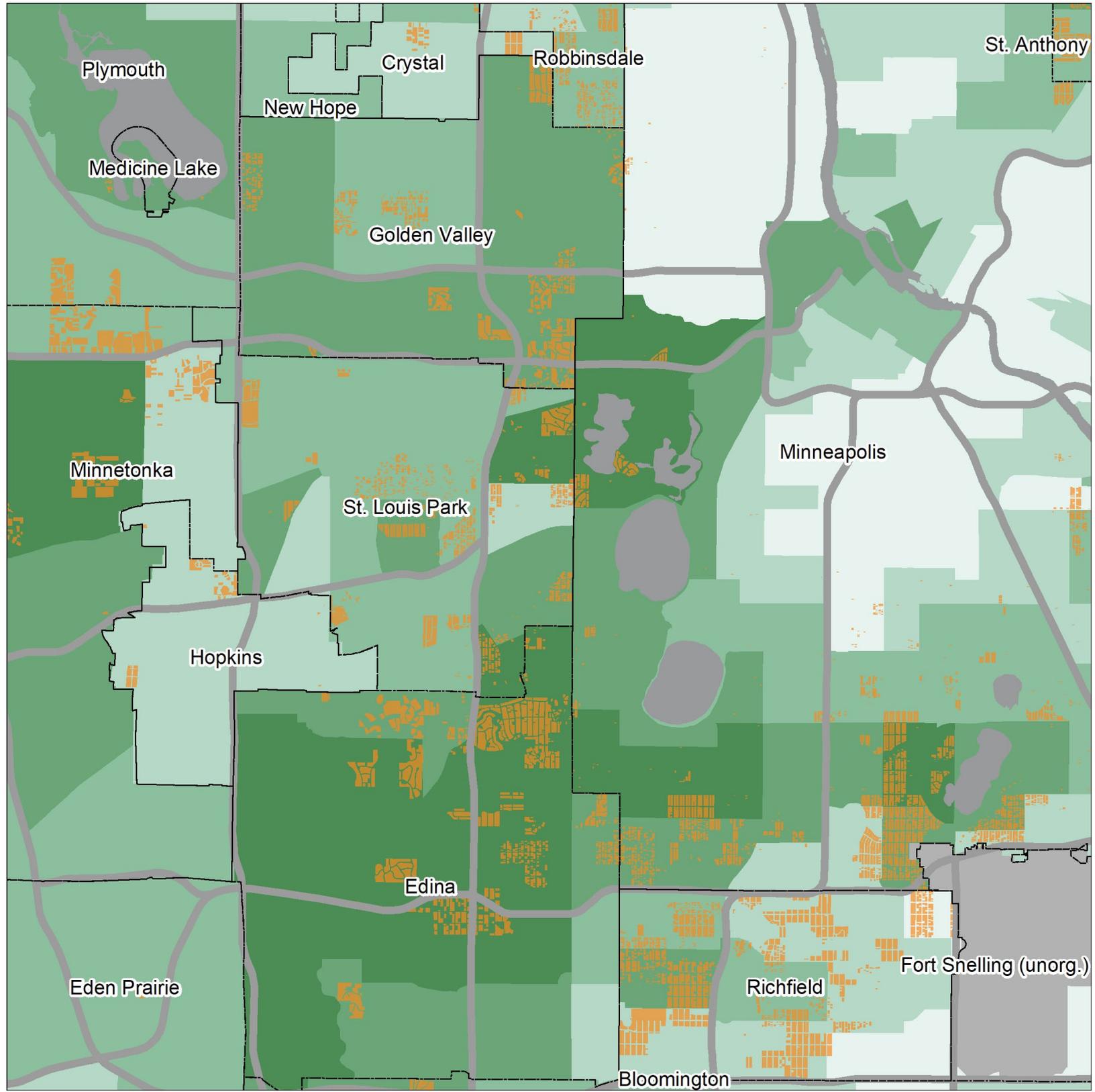
Area covered by covenants

Percent white, non-Latino

- 90.0% or more
- 75.0% to 89.9%
- 50.0% to 74.9%
- 25.0% to 49.9%
- Under 25%

Source: Analysis of Mapping Prejudice Project data and U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates (2015-2019) in Metropolitan Council's Equity Considerations dataset (2021).





Areas with covenants tend to have higher % affluent

Area covered by covenants

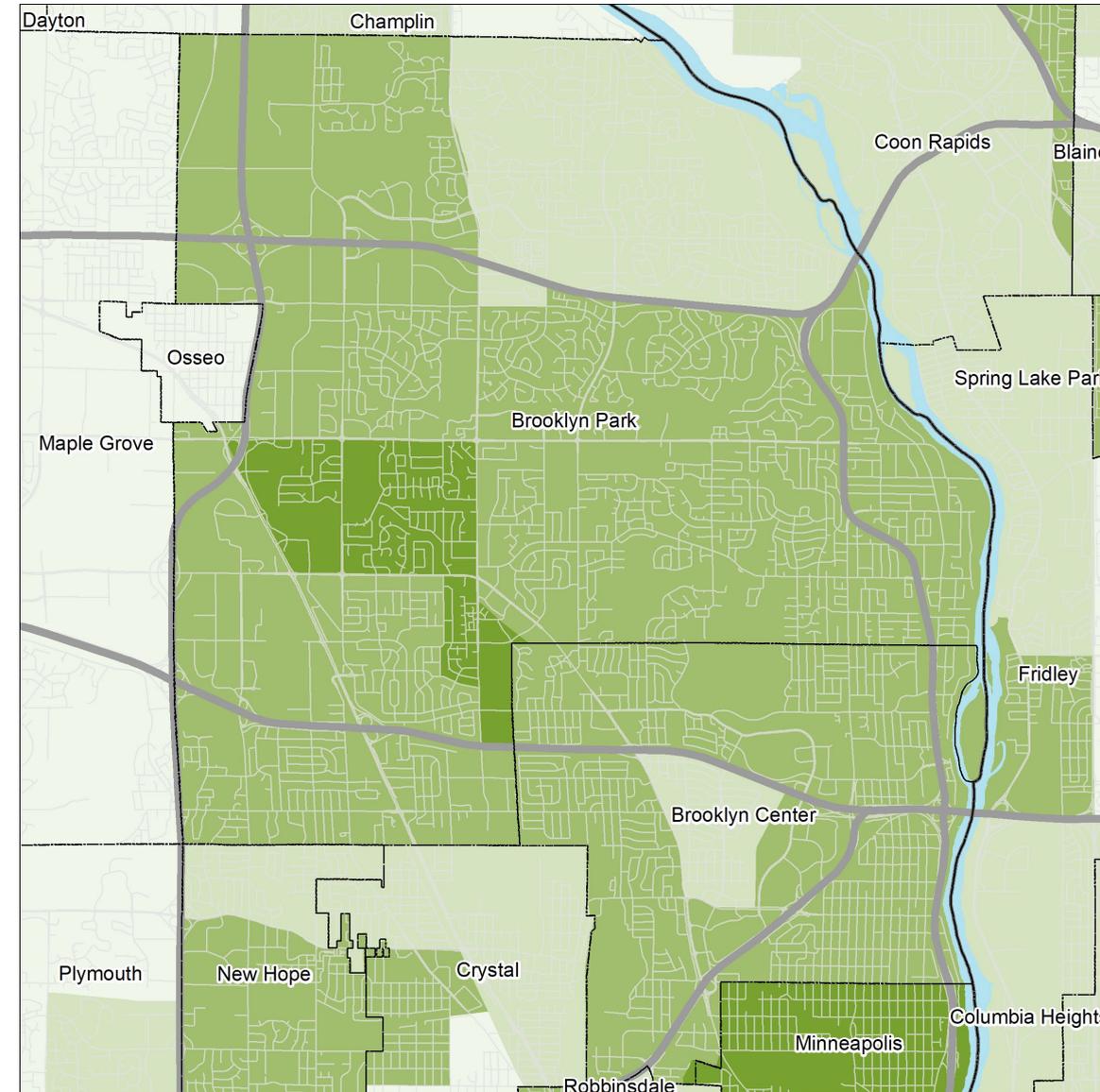
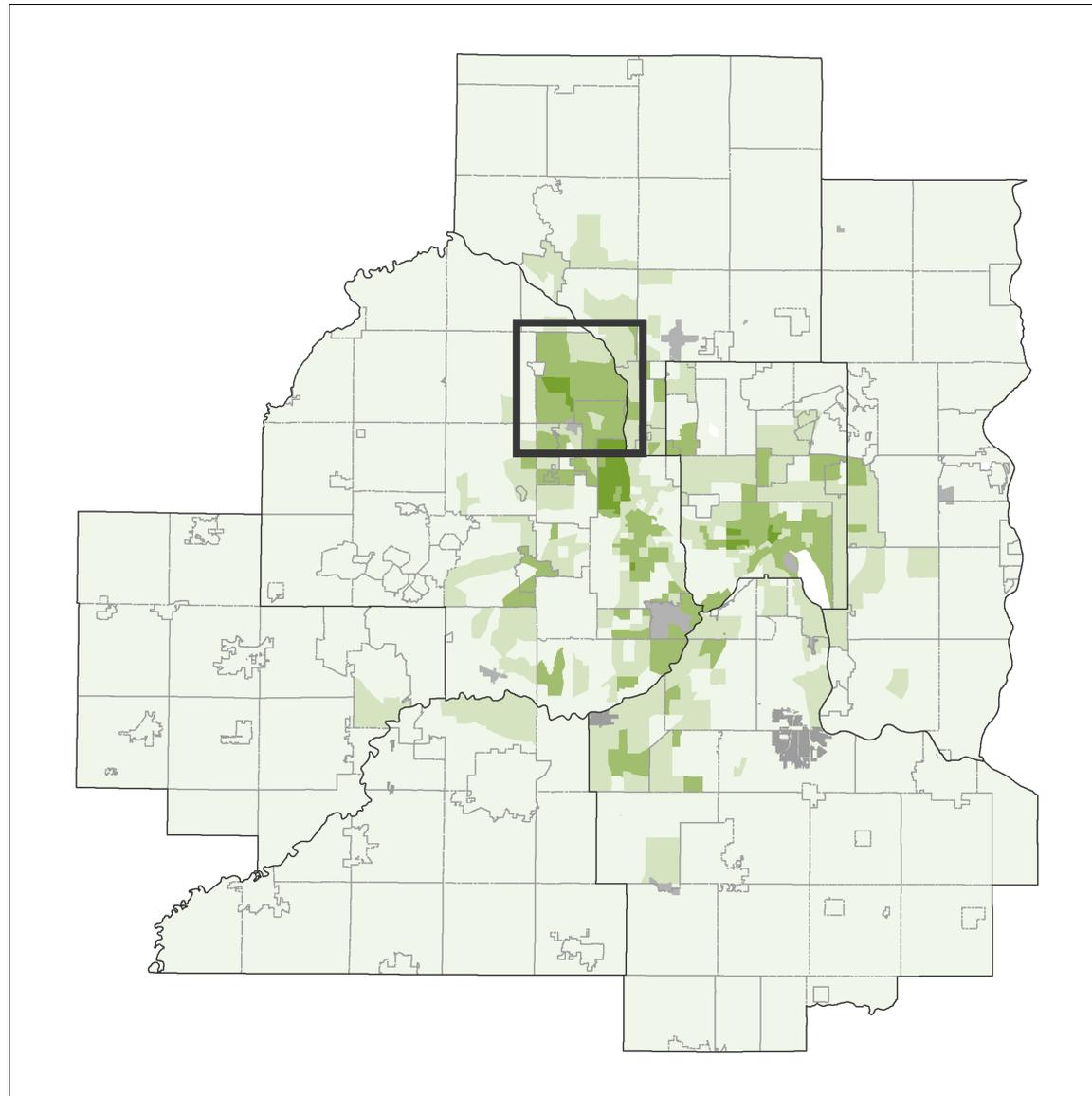
Percent affluent

- 66.7% or more
- 50.0% to 66.6%
- 33.4% to 49.9%
- 20.0% to 33.3%
- Under 20%

Source: Analysis of Mapping Prejudice Project data and U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates (2015-2019) in Metropolitan Council's Equity Considerations dataset (2021).



Detailed demographics: Percent African American



Percent Black/
African American

25.0% or more

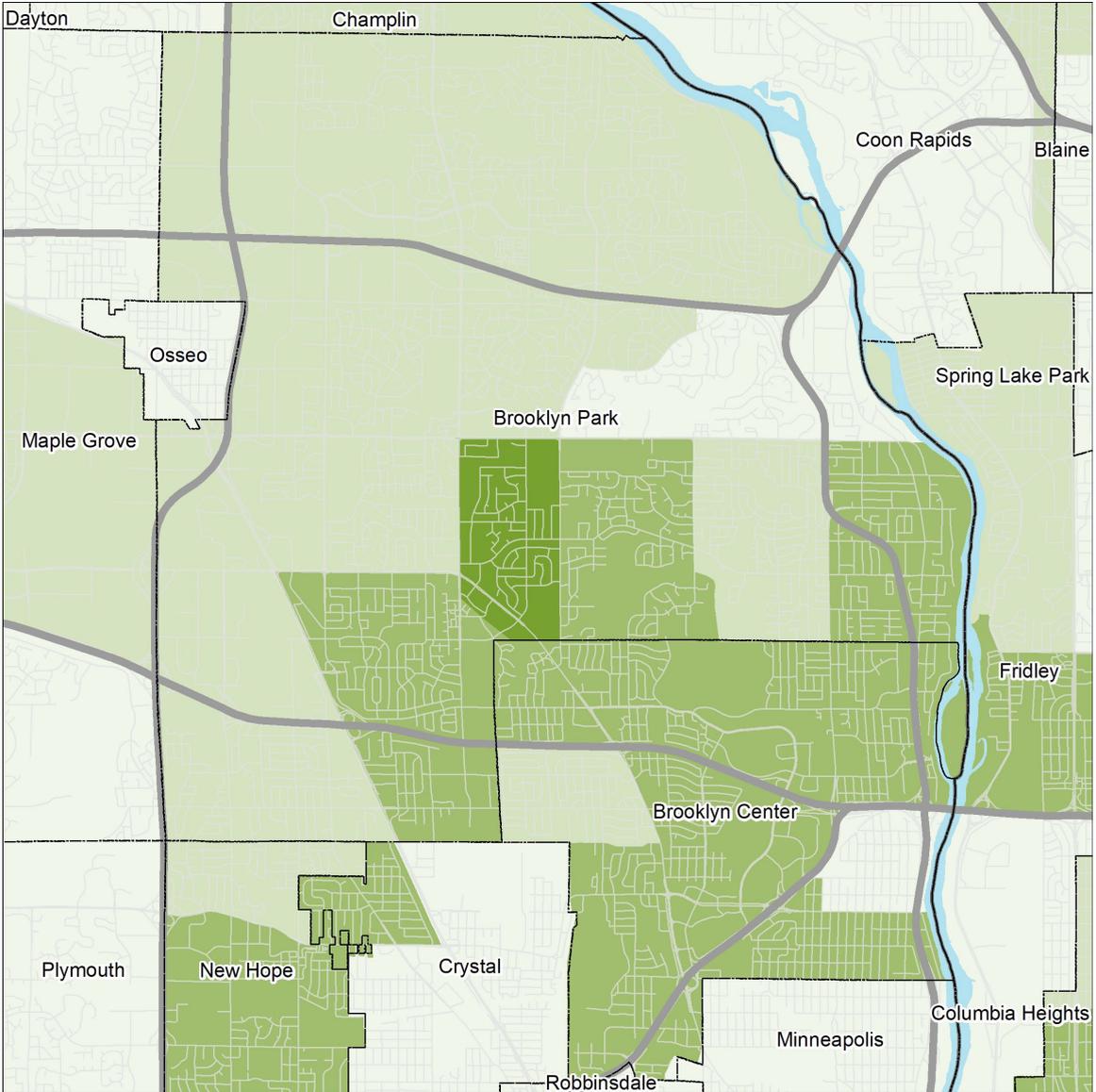
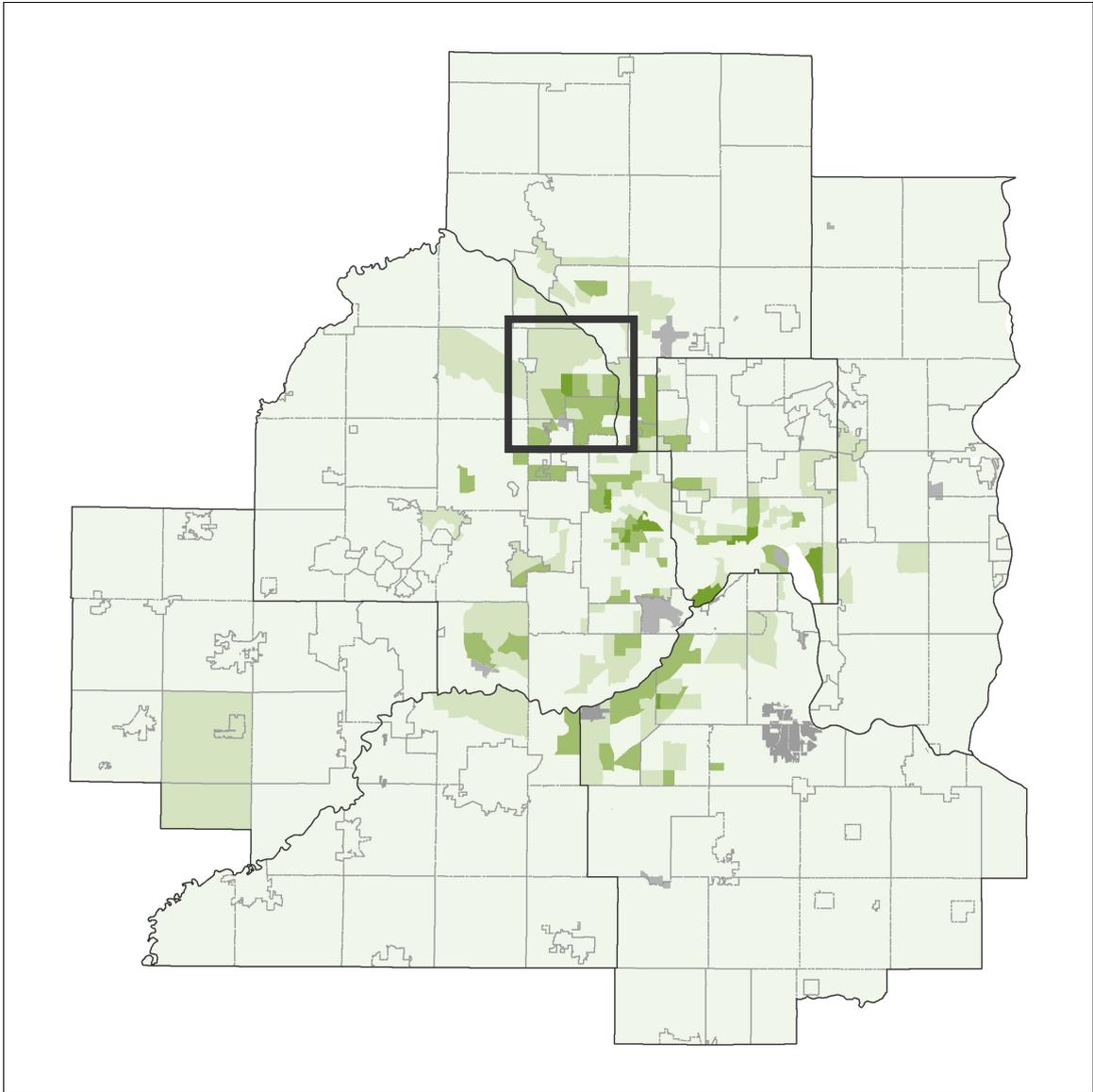
10.0% to 24.9%

5.0% to 9.9%

Less than 5.0%

Source: Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates (2015-2019) in Metropolitan Council's Equity Considerations dataset (2021).

Detailed demographics: Percent sub-Saharan African

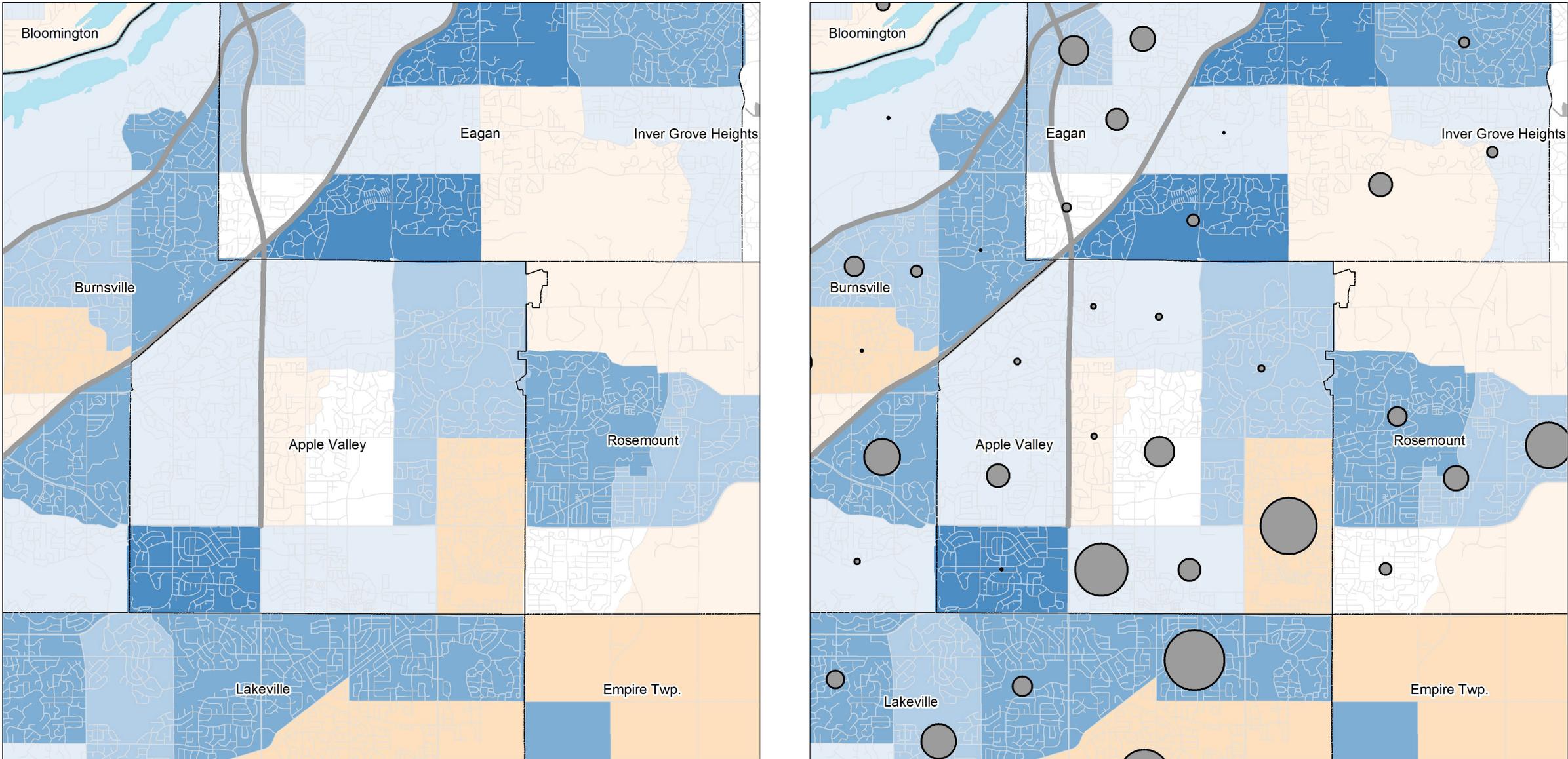


Percent sub-Saharan African

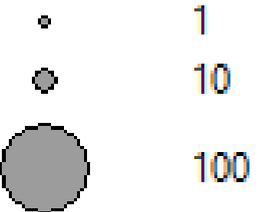
- 25.0% or more
- 10.0% to 24.9%
- 5.0% to 9.9%
- Less than 5.0%

Source: Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates (2015-2019) in Metropolitan Council's Equity Considerations dataset (2021).

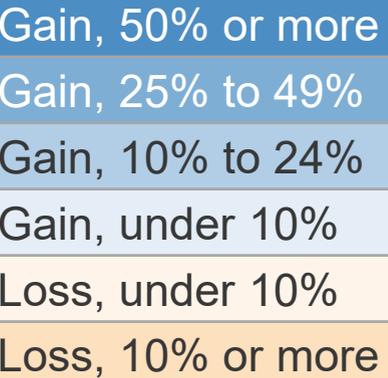
Patterns: Rent change and residential construction



Change in housing units, 2010-2019

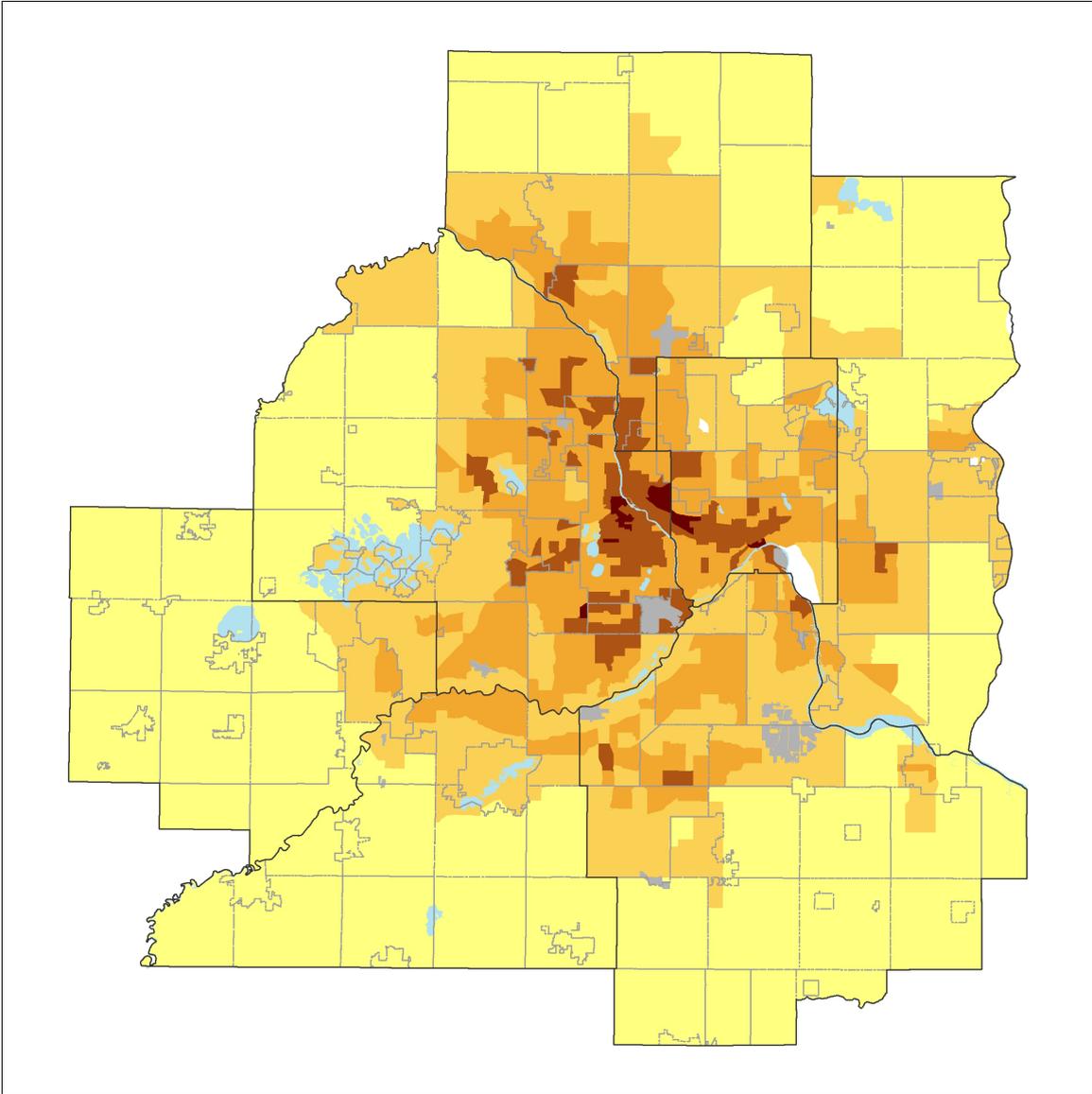
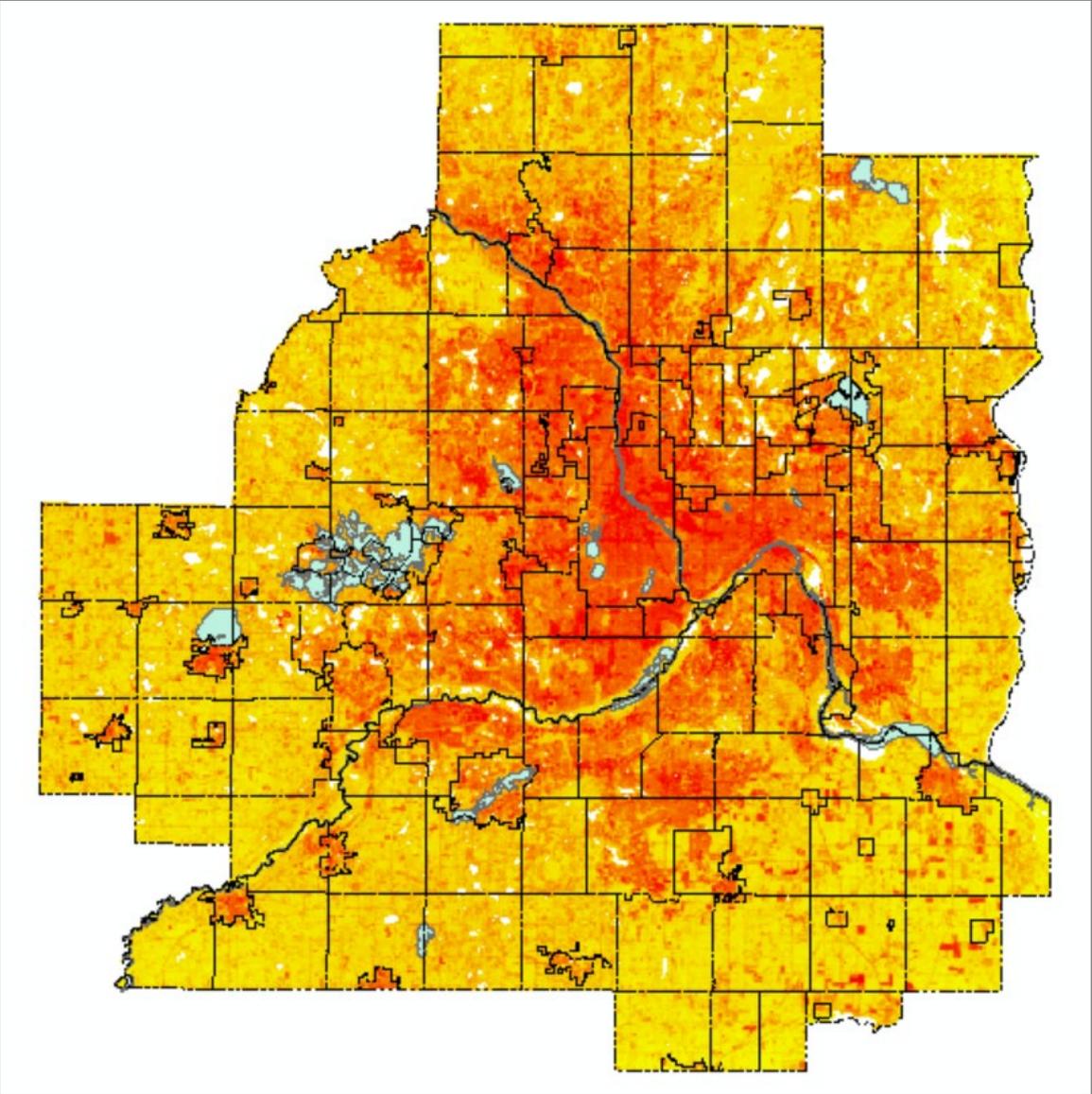


Change in gross rent, 2010-2014 period to 2015-2019 period



Source: Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates (2015-2019) in Metropolitan Council's Equity Considerations dataset (2021).

Example: Heat wave temperatures

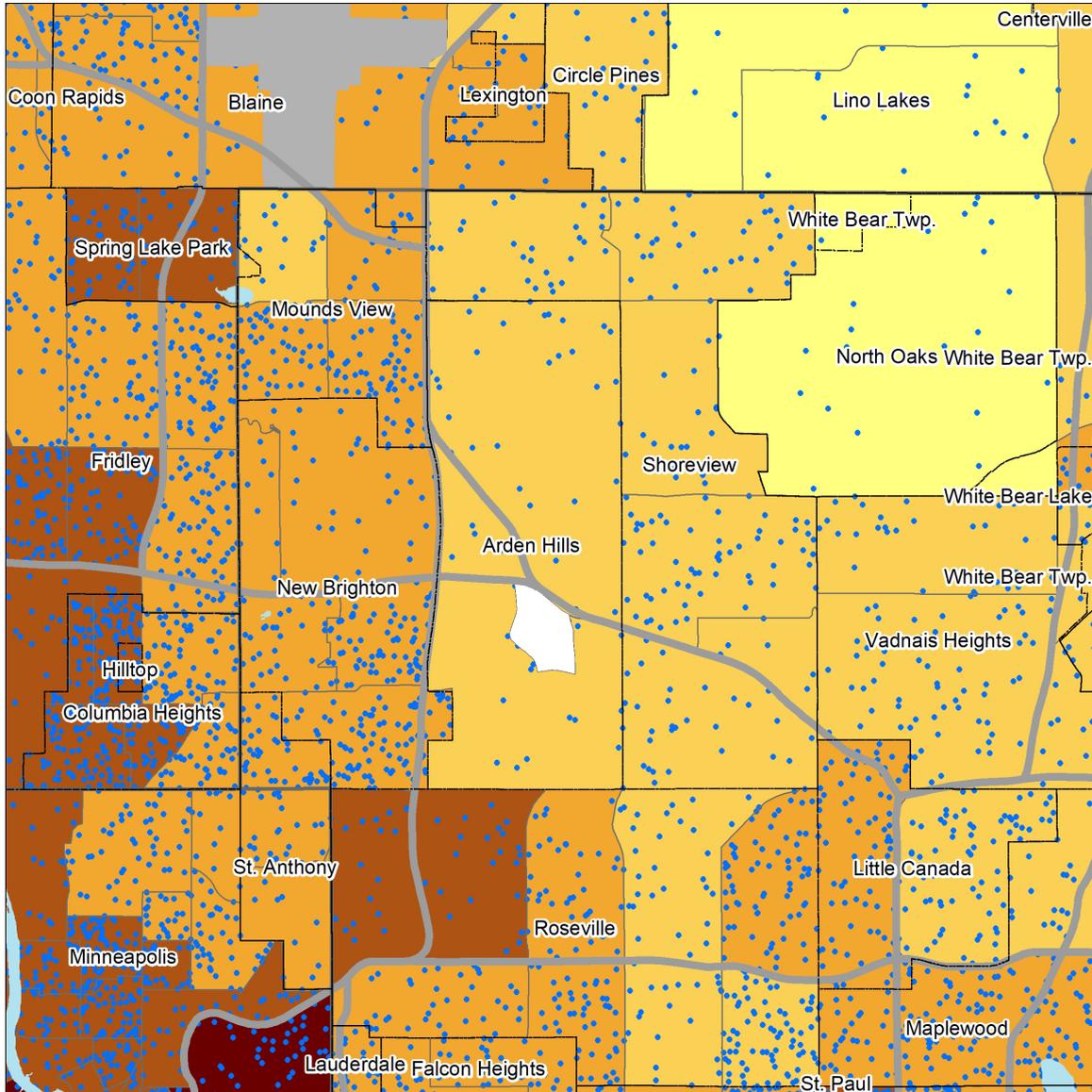
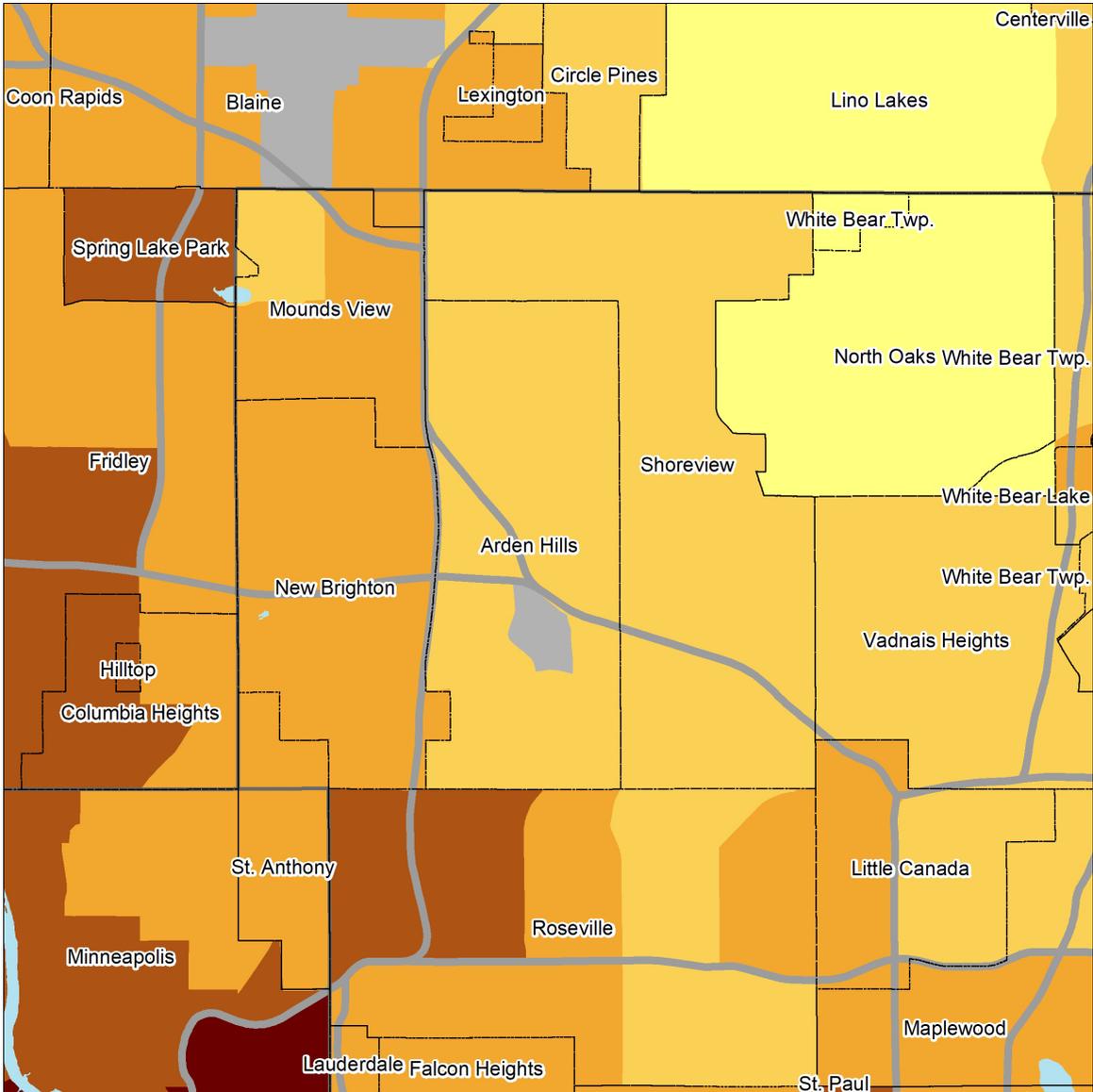


Temperature
in degrees
Fahrenheit

- 100 or more
- 95.0 to 99.9
- 90.0 to 94.9
- 85.0 to 89.9
- Under 85.0

Source: Analysis of
Metropolitan
Council's Land
Surface
Temperature data
in Metropolitan
Council's Equity
Considerations
dataset (2021).

Example: Heat wave temperatures + BIPOC residents



Temperature in degrees Fahrenheit

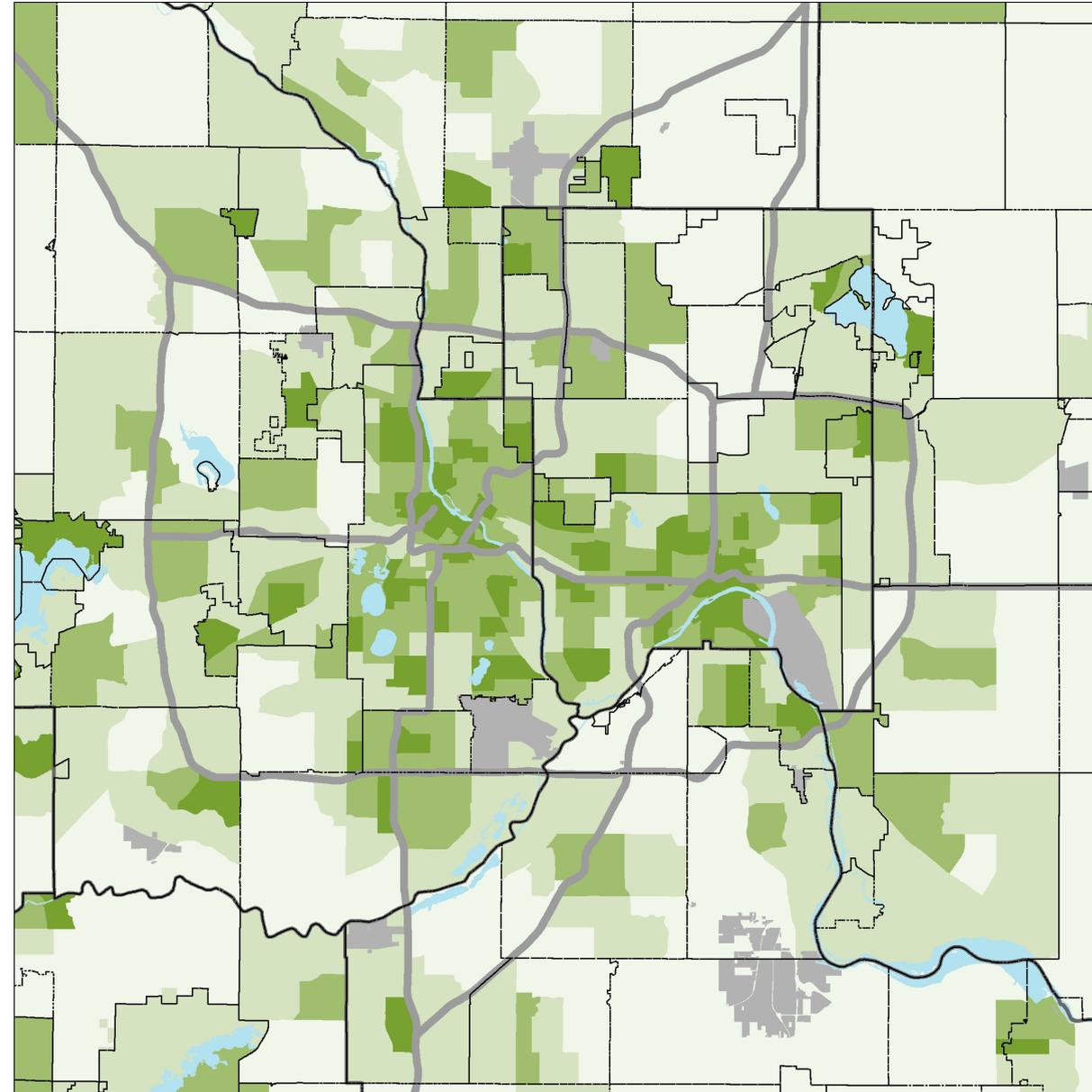
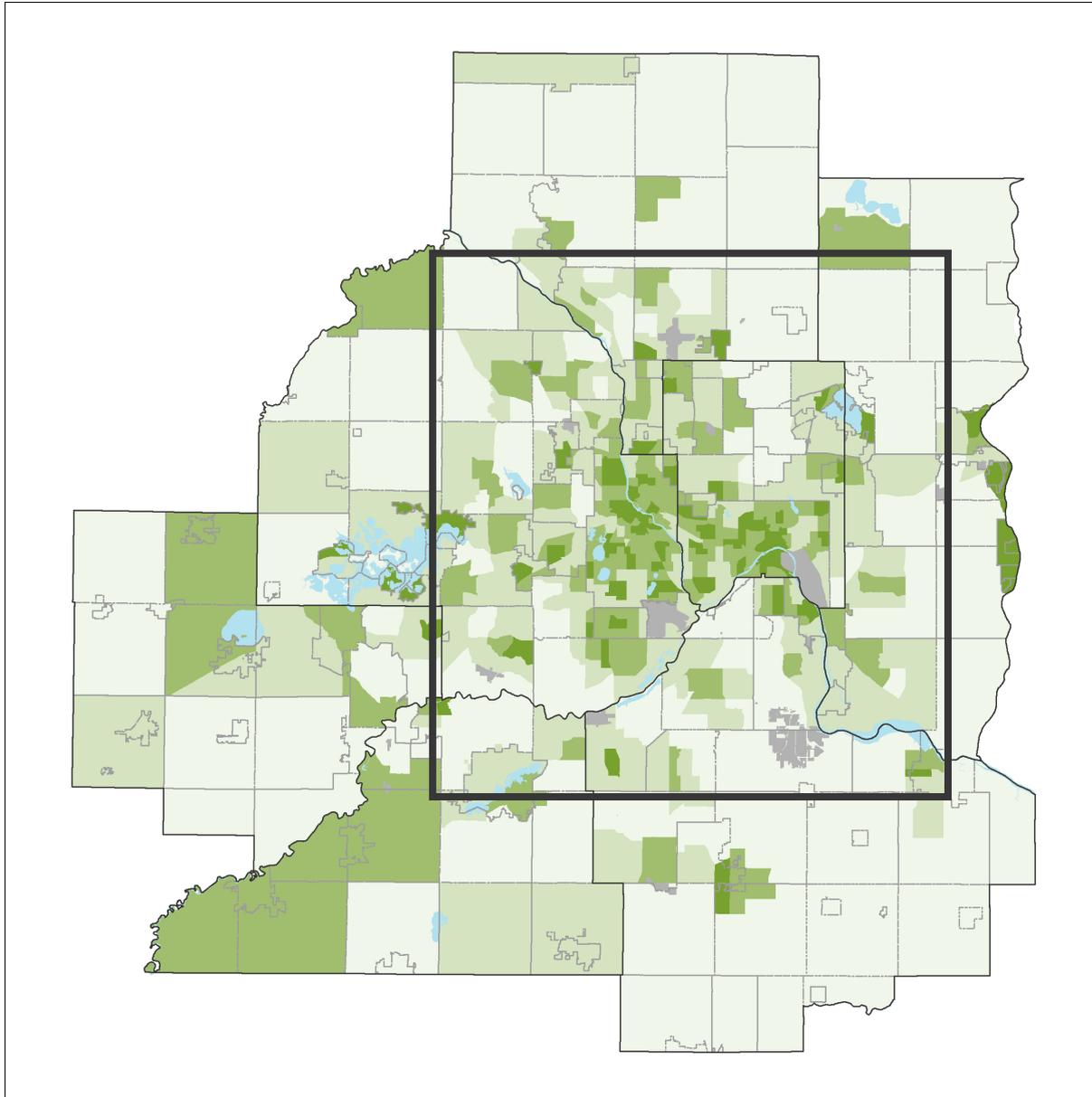


Number of BIPOC residents
 ■ = 25 BIPOC residents

Metropolitan Council

Source: Analysis of Metropolitan Council's Land Surface Temperature data and U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates (2015-2019) in Metropolitan Council's Equity Considerations dataset (2021).

Amenities: Proximity to libraries



The average tract resident lives this far from the closest library:

Less than 0.5 miles

0.50-0.99 miles

1.00-1.99 miles

2+ miles

Source: Analysis of Metropolitan Council's landmark data in Metropolitan Council's Equity Considerations dataset (2021).

Data resources available outside the Twin Cities region

- [Evictions](#)
- [Land parcels](#) (?)
- [Pollution sources](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Housing affordability](#)
- [EJSCREEN](#) (EPA)

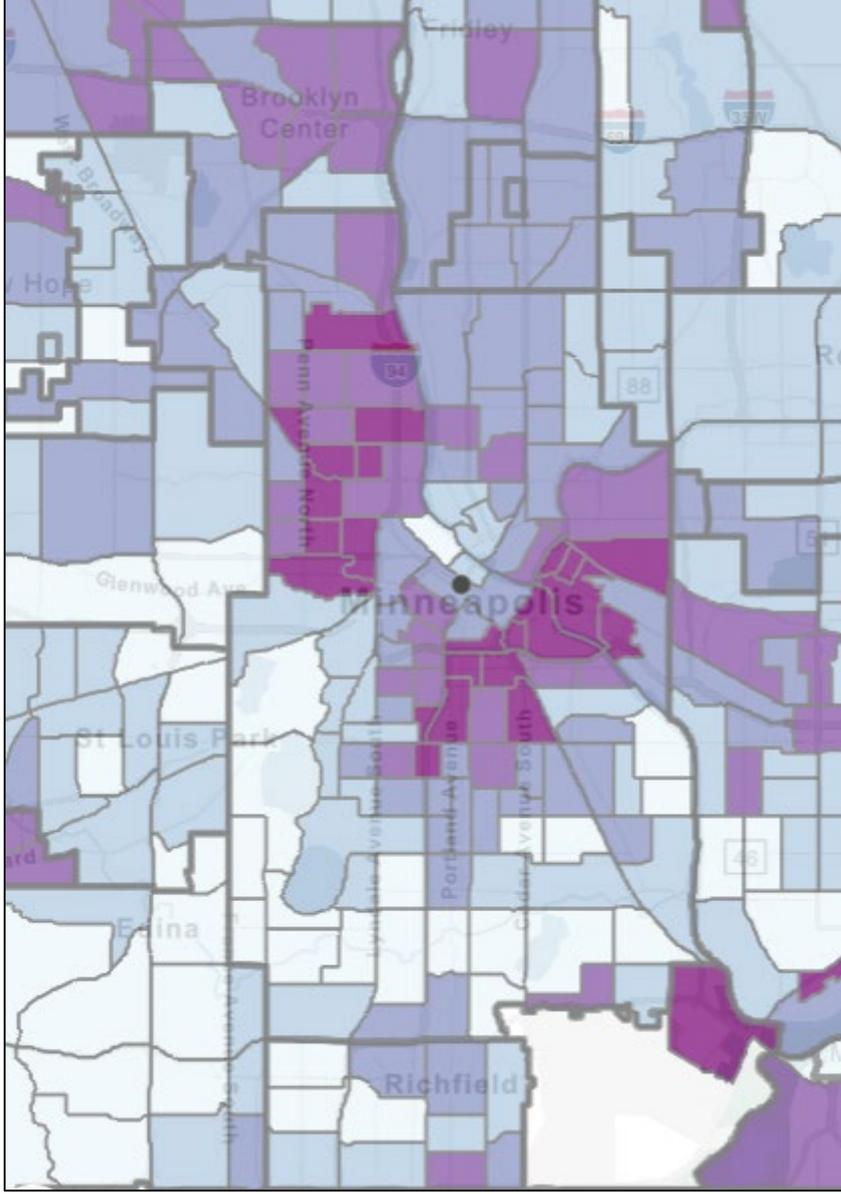
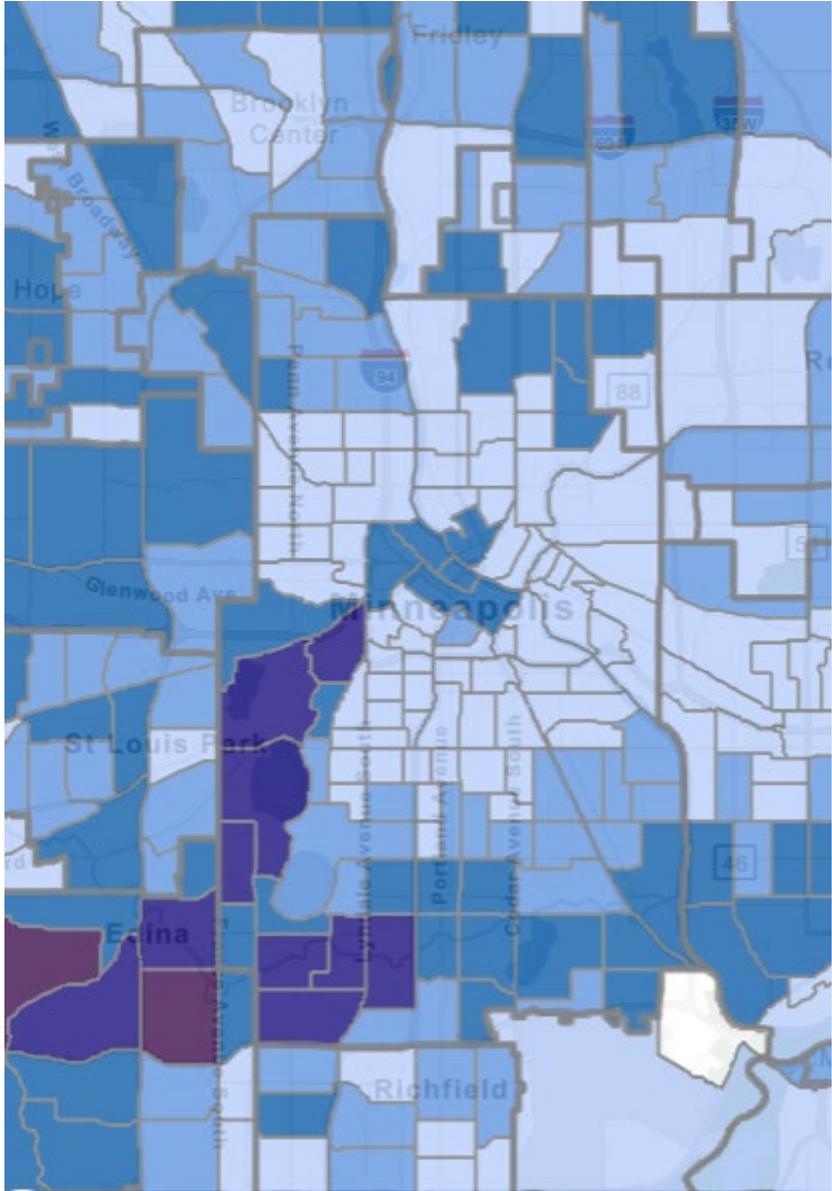
Coming soon: Investments data

DRAFT

Single-family loans (via HMDA)

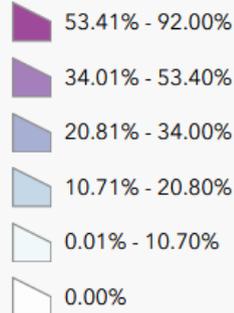
All Originations Loan Amount Per Business

Total Loan Amount Per Business



Poverty Rate, 185% (2016-2020)

Percent of Population at 0-185% of Poverty Threshold



Thanks!



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