

Metropolitan Council

Meeting date: October 17, 2018

Subject: Visualizing Regional Racial Disparities

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference:

Staff Prepared/Presented: Krysten Ryba-Tures, Senior Researcher (651-602-1821); Nicole Sullivan, Data Scientist (651-602-1385)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Policy and Research

Proposed Action

None. Information only.

Background

The Community Development Research team has produced an annual *MetroStats* report on the Twin Cities metro's racial and ethnic disparities in employment, homeownership, and poverty rates since 2013. These analyses have shown one consistent finding: while the Twin Cities metro continues to rank highly among other U.S. metros for our impressive employment and homeownership rates and low poverty rate, we also have the nation's largest disparities between white residents and residents of color in these measures. Despite gains for some groups on some measures, there have been no notable changes in the overall pattern of these racial and ethnic disparities, underscoring their persistence in the Twin Cities metro. Further, this lack of substantive progress is unique: other metros have shown that they are closing gaps while we are falling behind.

In lieu of a static report that updates and reiterates these findings, the Research team will instead publish an online interactive data visualization that includes the most recent American Community Survey data (2017). This online, interactive "story" will be published on metro council.org. Users can explore:

- Select U.S. metros' rankings in poverty, income, employment, and homeownership between 1990 and 2017
- Select U.S. metros' rankings in racial and ethnic disparities by poverty, income, employment, and homeownership between 1990 and 2017
- Economic outcomes by race and ethnicity
- What the Twin Cities region stands to gain from resolving racial and ethnic disparities in these measures

Thrive Lens Analysis

This tool directly supports the Council's commitment to Equity and Prosperity as outcomes of *Thrive MSP 2040*. Accurate, timely data about the racial and ethnic disparities in key economic outcomes provides a shared understanding for the region's policymakers and communities to act.

Funding

Analyzing U.S. Census data is part of the Community Development Division budget.

Known Support / Opposition

None.