

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: September 19, 2016

Subject: New issue of *MetroStats* on demographic variation by race and ethnicity

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Information only

Staff Prepared/Presented: Matt Schroeder, Senior Researcher (651-602-1513)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Policy and Research

Proposed Action

None, information and discussion only

Background

On September 19, Regional Policy and Research will release a new *MetroStats* report based on the Census Bureau's recent release of new American Community Survey data. The report will describe how the 16-county Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington metropolitan statistical area fares on three quality of life indicators (employment, poverty, and homeownership) and how our region's racial and ethnic disparities in these three indicators compare with other large metropolitan areas across the nation. This *MetroStats* will update our popular *MetroStats* reports from last year ([Disparities Unmasked: The Twin Cities Metro in 2014](#)) and two years ago ([Imbalanced Prosperity: the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area in 2013](#)). The primary message of all reports is largely the same: Our metro area is successful, but not all residents are sharing in the success.

The report will also include a more explicit examination of trends between 2000 and 2015 in the set of peer regions identified by GREATER MSP for their Regional Indicators Dashboard: Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, San Francisco, and Seattle. This can help identify regions from whom the Twin Cities may be able to learn as we seek to close disparities.

Key findings from the new analysis are:

- Overall, the Twin Cities MSA has some of the highest rates of employment and homeownership, and the second-lowest poverty rate in the U.S.
- Among the 25 most populous metro areas, the Twin Cities area has the largest disparities between persons of color and White, non-Latinos in employment, poverty rates, and homeownership.
- The Twin Cities area's disparities between African Americans and White, non-Latinos are the largest or second-largest among the top 25 metros.
- Within the Twin Cities area, the largest disparities are in 1) poverty rates and homeownership between African Americans and White, non-Latinos, and 2) employment between American Indians and White, non-Latinos.
- Except for a significant increase in Black employment, there is no statistical evidence of changes in employment, poverty, or homeownership for Blacks, Latinos, Asians, or American Indians between 2014 and 2015 in our region.
- In some peer regions, income and homeownership for Blacks, Latinos, and Asians have improved since 2000 more than they have in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.