

# Community Development Research : Opportunities for Collaboration on Racial Equity Work



# Research: Informing the Region

Data and insights for better regional planning and policy

## Data development

- Population estimates, demographics, new development, economics, affordable housing production, parks use, greenhouse gas emissions, land use, forecasts, and more

## Research

- Demographic trends, construction activity, racial disparities, affordable housing, climate change, and more

# How we share research findings and data

- Available at <https://metro council.org/data>

**PLAYFEATURES**  
Research on the Twin Cities Regional Parks & Trails  
July 2018

**2017 Regional Parks System Annual Use Estimate**

The seven-county Twin Cities region is home to a system of regional parks and trails that are nationally renowned for their beauty, size and variety of features. The system includes 55 regional parks and preserves (totalling about 54,000 acres), approximately 400 miles of interconnected trails and eight special recreation features. It provides a wealth of opportunities for wildlife habitat.

Metropolitan Council has provided the park use estimates on this page.

**METROSTATS**  
Exploring regional issues that matter  
August 2018

**What a difference a rate makes: population growth, housing production, and vacancy in the Twin Cities region since 2010**

Introduction and key findings

## Reports

**Our findings**

The region's population is nearing 3.1 million. The region has added almost 226,000 residents since 2010, an increase of 7.9%. There was notable population growth in Urban Center and Suburban Edge communities. In contrast, however, these gains are less impressive: the region's growth is slightly below our peer metros' average.

The region's housing production has not kept pace with population growth, resulting in a housing production shortfall behind only San Francisco and Atlanta. Recent data show the region's housing production is now on the upswing, but lowering the vacancy rate to "healthy" levels will require a substantial increase in production.

"Healthy" vacancy rates—often cited as 5%—mean housing costs largely follow inflation. Low vacancy rates can result in rapidly rising costs. With a rental vacancy rate under 5% since late 2014, rents have grown three times faster than if they followed inflation since 2010. This amounts to about \$155 more per month, on average.

**We have more people (and they need housing)**

We estimate the Twin Cities region's total population was 3,075,563 on April 1, 2017, which is about 226,000 more residents than the region had in 2010 (Figure 1). Two-thirds of this population increase has come from "natural growth" (births outpacing deaths), and the remaining third is the result of net migration (more people moved into the region than moved out of it, primarily from outside the U.S.). This population growth translates to 83,100 households added region-wide since 2010. Over the same period, the region added about 63,600 housing units. Taken together, it's clear that the region's overall household growth considerably outpaced its housing production (7.4% versus 5.4%, respectively). As a result, about 20,000 new households occupied units within the existing housing supply, drawing down the region's vacancy rate to record lows.

So what does this growth mean for the Twin Cities region? We explore the implications in the following pages.

**FIGURE 1. 2017 POPULATION ESTIMATES**

	Census April 1, 2010	Estimated April 1, 2017	Change 2010-2017	Percent change 2010-2017
Population	2,849,567	3,075,563	225,996	7.9%
Households	1,117,749	1,200,840	83,091	7.4%
Housing units	1,186,986	1,250,590	63,604	5.4%

**REGIONAL PARKS TRAFFIC PATTERNS**

**COMMUNITY PROFILES**

Community Profile for Hennepin County

Each chart in the Community Profiles can be saved in JPEG format as an image, right-click on the chart and select a file name to save. You can also save multiple charts on the CHART EXPORTS tab. Click the "save" button to save the chart. Note that the data source is not included in the saved image.

Please Contact Us by Clicking Here

Select another area:  
Hennepin County

**OVERVIEW | PEOPLE | ECONOMY AND JOBS | INCOME AND WEALTH**

Housing Type  
Housing Units Permitted  
New Affordable Housing  
Housing Tenure and Vacancy

**VISUALIZING REGIONAL RACIAL DISPARITIES**

Exploring economic disparities by race and ethnicity in U.S. metros

The Community Development Research team has produced an annual analysis of disparities by race and ethnicity on key economic measures since 2013. The findings of this research are largely consistent: While the 16-county Twin Cities metro area continues to rank highly among other U.S. metros for our impressive employment and homeownership rates and low poverty rate. However, the Twin Cities metro also has 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 this overall pattern. This underscores the persistence of racial and ethnic disparities in the Twin Cities metro, and their potential to further undermine the region's prosperity and economic competitiveness.

This interactive tool is an invitation to the region's stakeholders to explore this metro-area data in new ways to inform strategies and solutions toward advancing equity and eliminating racial and ethnic disparities.

## Interactive, online tools and policy dashboards

**TRENDS BY RACE & ETHNICITY**

Despite gains for some groups on some measures, most metros show disparities between white residents and residents of color in these four economic measures.

Notice that gaps differ by metro, by group, and by measure.

**Employment rate**

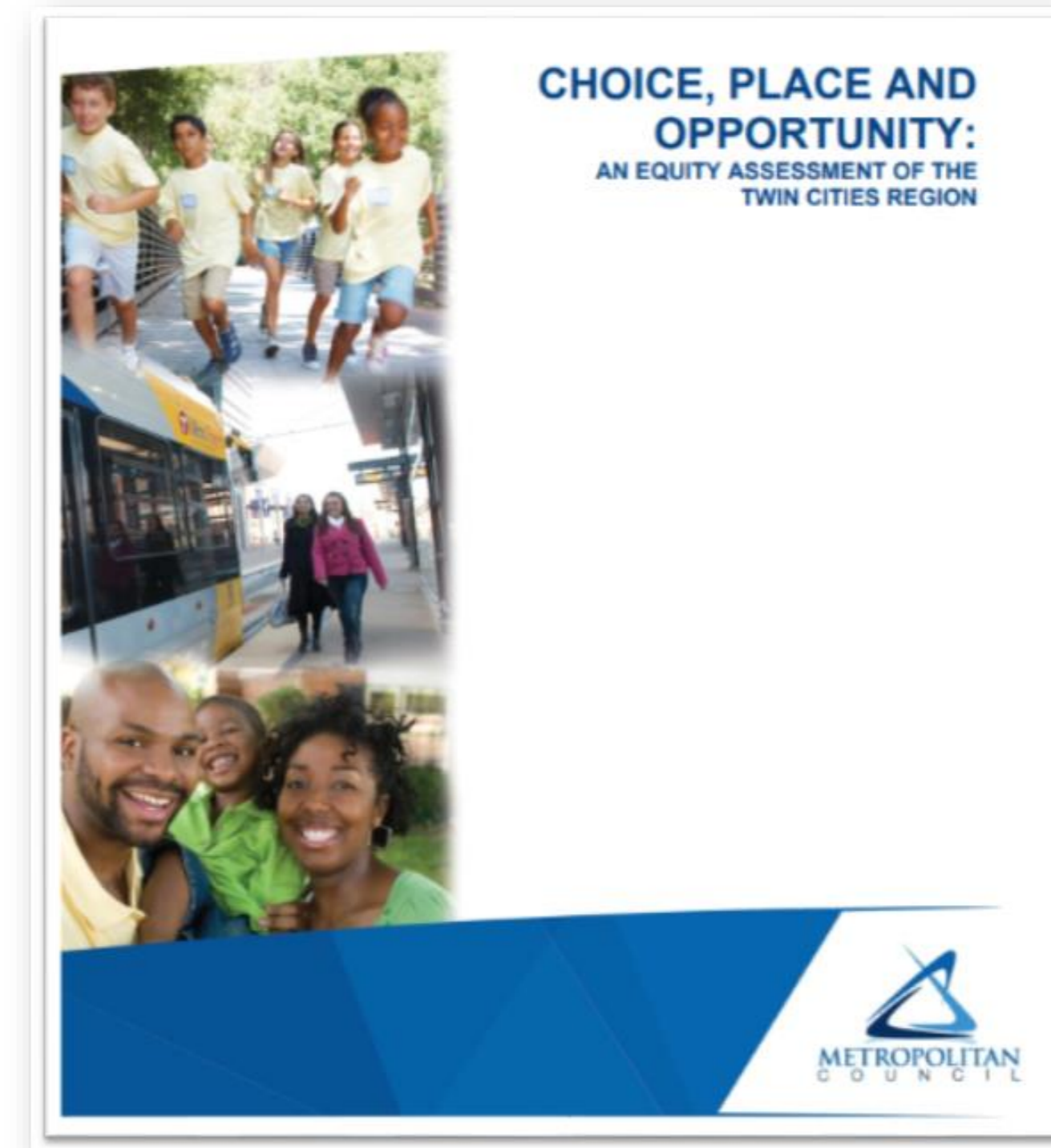
**Homeownership rate**

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

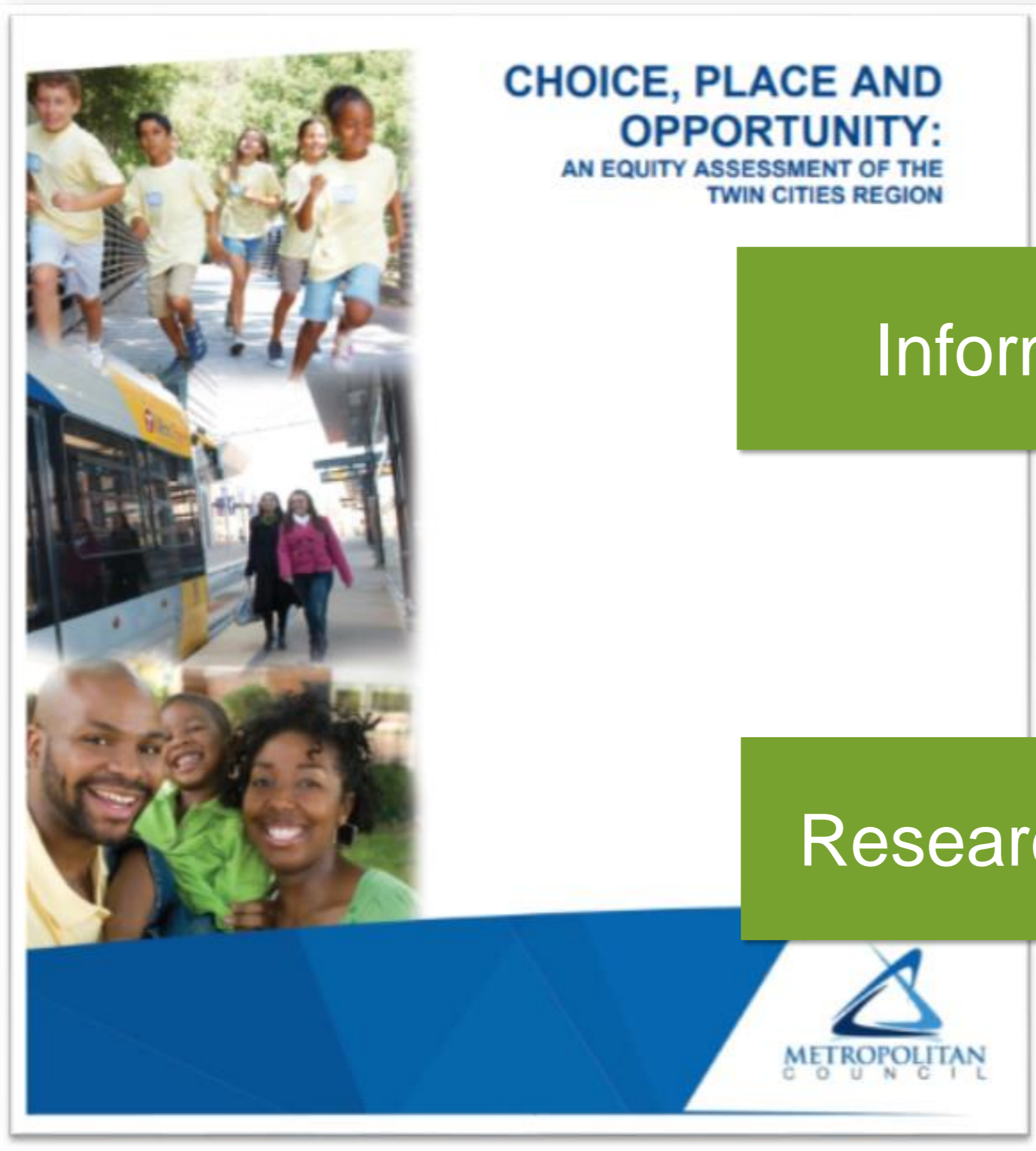
# Fair Housing and Equity Assessment (2014)

## Main findings

- Our region has some of the largest disparities by race and ethnicity in the U.S.
- Our region is spatially segregated by income and race, and has many persistently high-poverty areas.
- People of color face barriers to housing choice **above and beyond** income.

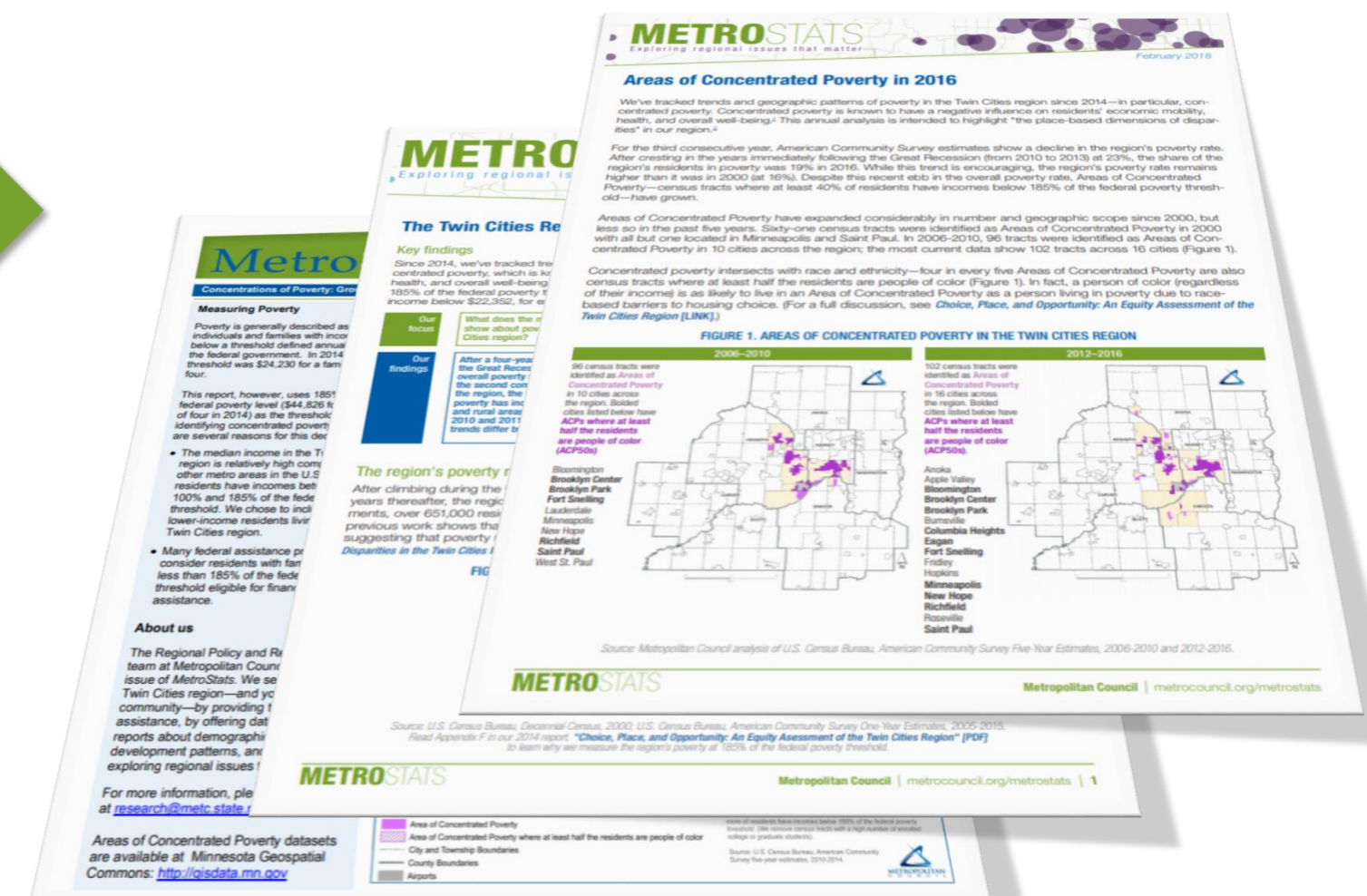


# The influence of *Choice, Place & Opportunity*



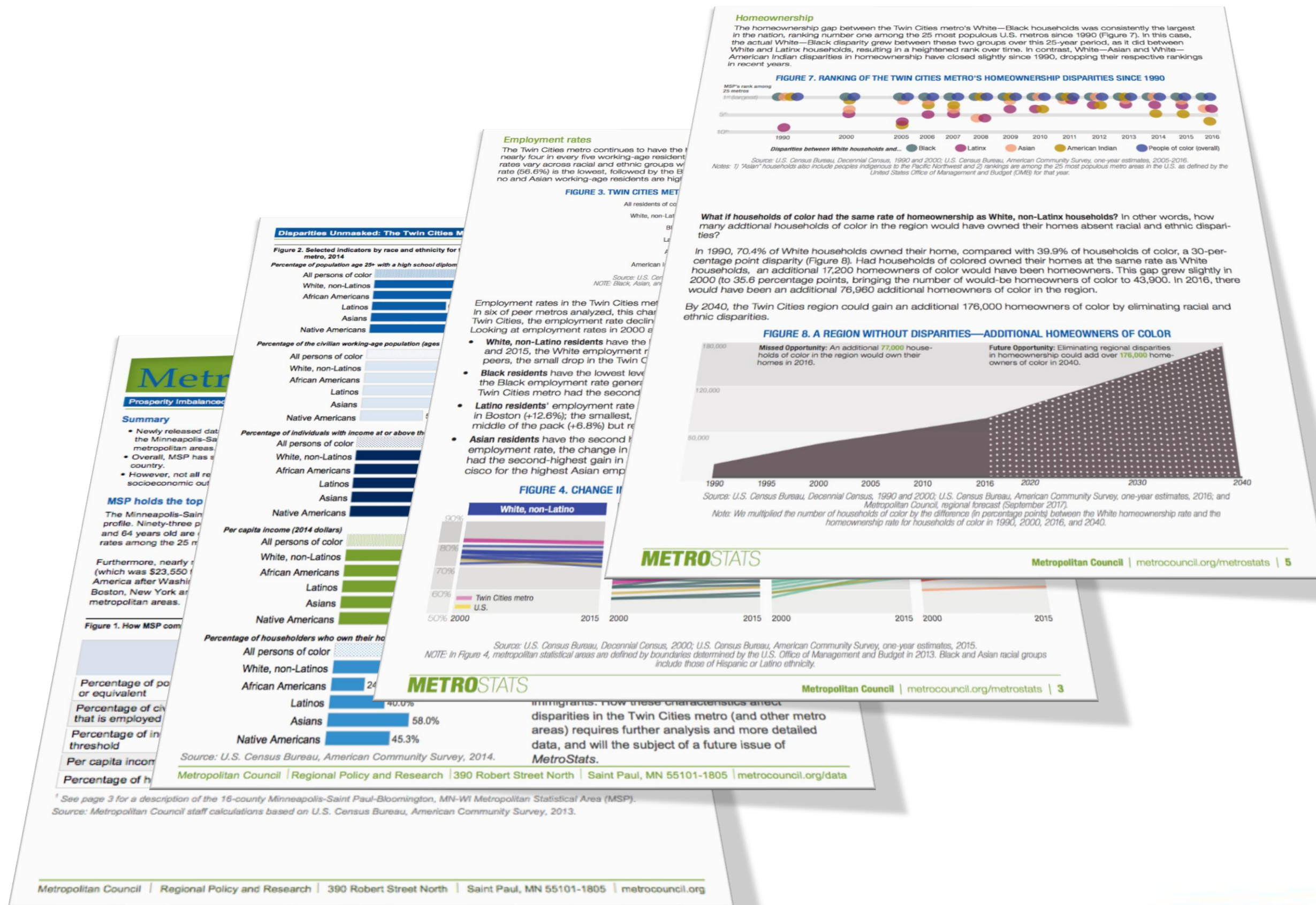
Inform policy

Research agenda



# Annual reports on metro's racial disparities

- **Narrative:** The Twin Cities metro has the largest (or among the largest) racial disparities in U.S.
- **Analysis to add context**
  - Disaggregate race data
  - Disparities in other metros
  - Removing influence of other demographics
  - Opportunities missed



# Visualizing Regional Racial Disparities

## VISUALIZING REGIONAL RACIAL DISPARITIES

Exploring economic disparities by race and ethnicity in U.S. metros

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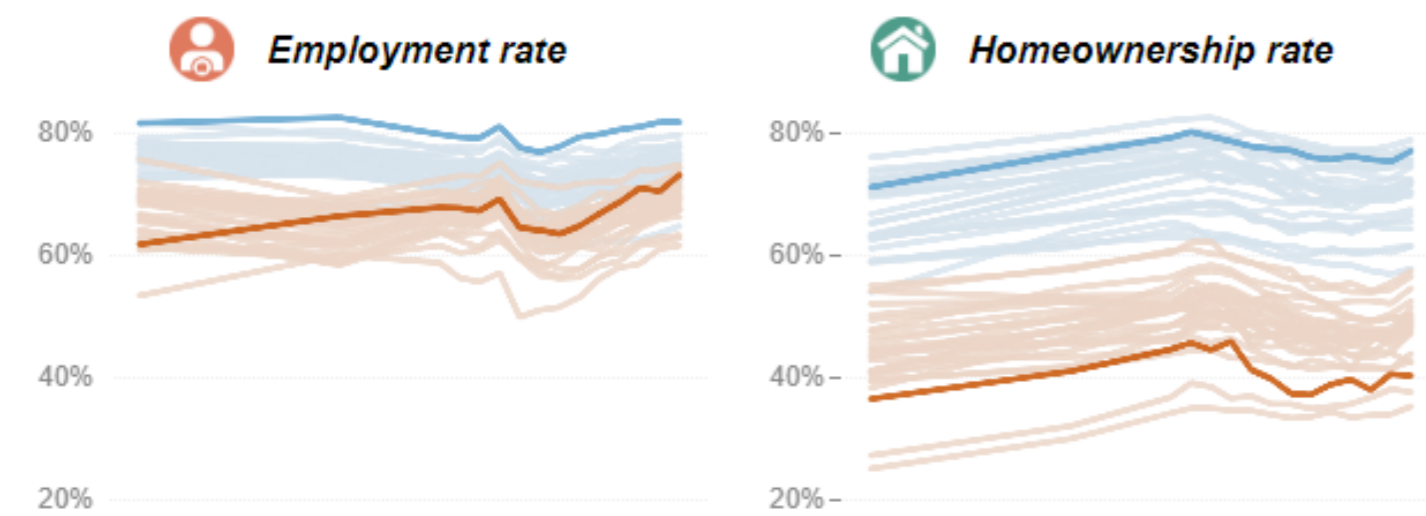
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### TRENDS BY RACE & ETHNICITY

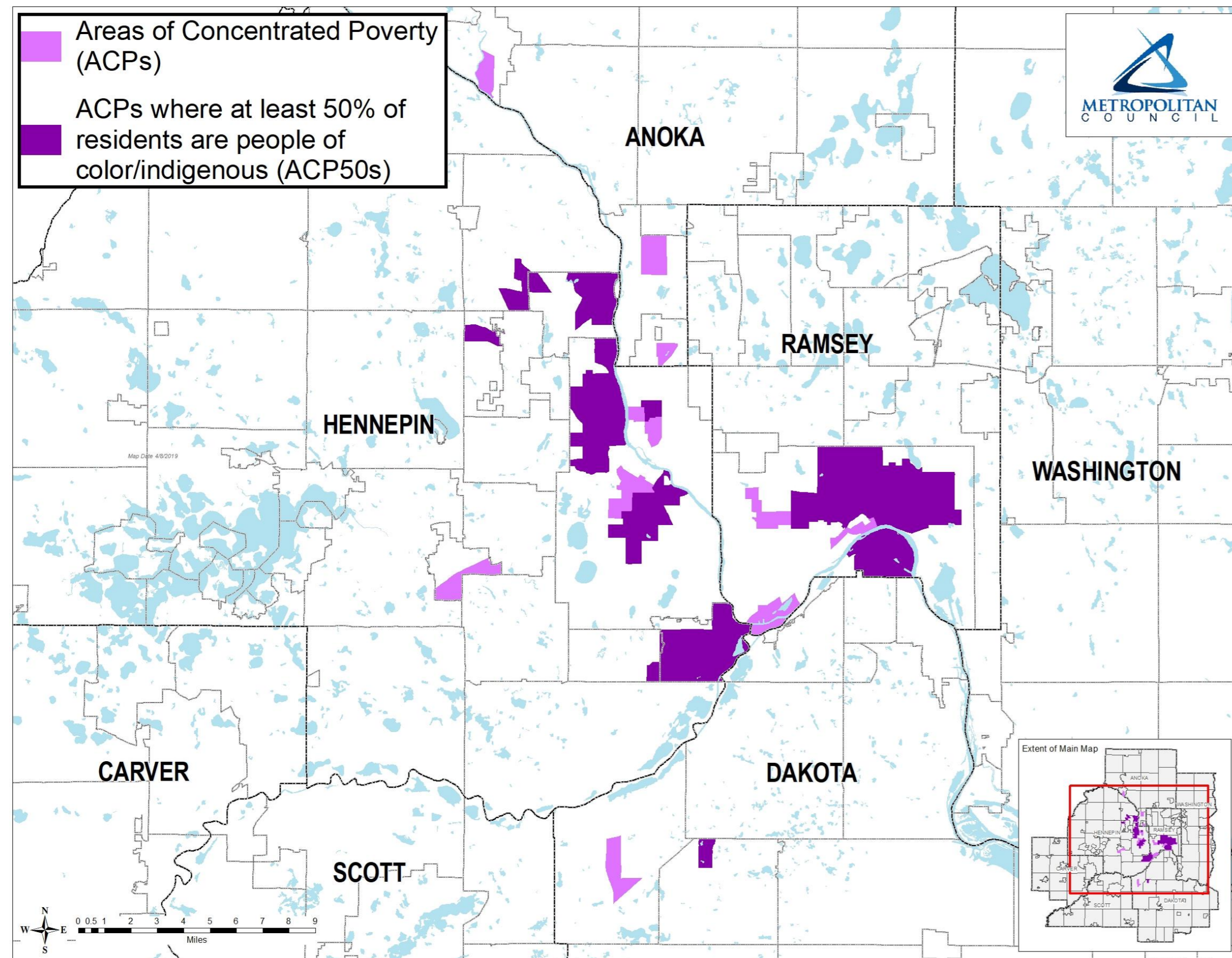
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- Interactive, online dashboard
- Available at <https://metro council.org/visualizedisparities>
- Pulls together key data from previous reports and allows users to ask & answer questions

# Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACPs)



- Concentrated poverty continues to expand, especially in the suburbs
- ACPs vary widely in their characteristics
- ACP50s seem to be “persistent”



# We want to level-up our ACP analysis

We've heard (and share) concerns that our ACP work...

- Only considers poverty (not inequality more broadly)
- Omits decades of history and root causes
- Discusses the harms of ACPs, neglecting their assets
- *What else?*

Without addressing these, we worry that current ACP narrative could promote...

- A deficit-based narrative that problematizes people and places (rather than discrimination and disinvestment)
- Investments that don't reflect the needs/wishes of residents and risk displacing them
- A focus on dispersing poverty (not ending it)
- *What else?*

## SHELTERFORCE

THE VOICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Speaking Up On Race, Housing, and Opportunity in Minnesota

Nelima Sitati Munene - January 11, 2019



'City Sidewalk, Saint Paul, Minnesota.' Photo by Tony Webster via flickr, CC BY 2.0

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.

The year 2018 marked 50 years since the Fair Housing Act was passed, and a big question among housing advocates was, are we closer to achieving fairness and equity when it comes to housing?



METROPOLITAN  
COUNCIL

# Research team's 2019 engagement initiative



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK *of* MINNEAPOLIS

MINNESOTA COMPASS | [mncompass.org](http://mncompass.org)

Measuring progress. Inspiring action.



# Collaboration with EAC

- Topics for future research
  - What questions should we be asking?
- Narrative and language
  - How can our work better reflect community voices?
- Data tools
  - How can our dashboards be more useful?
- Policy indicators
  - How are we measuring success?