



Areas of Concentrated Poverty by Census Tract, 2011-2015

- Area of Concentrated Poverty
- Area of Concentrated Poverty where at least half the residents are people of color
- Cities and townships
- Counties
- Airports

Source: Metropolitan Council analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2011-2015.



Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACP) are census tracts where 40% or more of the residents live with incomes below 185% of the federal poverty threshold. (We remove census tracts that meet this poverty threshold but have a high number of enrolled college or graduate students.) For context, 185% of the federal poverty threshold in 2015 was \$44,863 for a family of four.

Just over 370,000 people (about 12.6% of the region's population) lived in the 108 census tracts identified as Areas of Concentrated Poverty in 2011-2015. The number of residents living in the region's Areas of Concentrated Poverty has more than doubled since 2000.

People of color face race-specific barriers that can limit their housing choices (see Metropolitan Council's report, *Choice, Place and Opportunity: An Equity Assessment of the Twin Cities region* for a full discussion). As a result, people of color are more likely to live in Areas of Concentrated Poverty. Eighty-three of the 108 census tracts identified as Areas of Concentrated Poverty are majority people of color (ACP50s).

Areas of Concentrated Poverty are not just census tracts—they are neighborhoods with unique histories and built environments that people call home. That many residents living in Areas of Concentrated Poverty are low-income does not diminish the vibrancy or strength of these communities. Nonetheless, Areas of Concentrated Poverty are different from other places: research consistently links high-poverty places to negative effects on people's physical and mental health. Studies also find living in high-poverty neighborhoods reduces the cognitive abilities of children, making them more likely to have lower incomes as adults than their parents, and more likely to live in poverty across generations. For these reasons, Areas of Concentrated Poverty remain a concern.

We promote a balanced approach to Areas of Concentrated Poverty: 1) creating options for safe, stable, and affordable homes to people of all economic means, 2) investing in Areas of Concentrated Poverty and in their residents, and 3) improving how low-income residents access opportunities across the Twin Cities region.