

RockfordRegion



SIGNS

Regional Plan for
Sustainable Development



THE STATE OF SOCIAL WELL-BEING
ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING

February 2013



This report was prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The contents, views, policies and conclusions expressed in this report are not necessarily those of the above agencies.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword and Introduction	Page 4
Why Equity is Important to Sustainability	Page 12
Vital Signs Social Data Analysis	Page 23
Demographics.....	Page 25
Civic Vitality and Culture	Page 29
Education.....	Page 33
Food Access.....	Page 37
Health	Page 41
Income.....	Page 43
Mobility	Page 47
Safety	Page 51
Conclusions	Page 52
Appendix: Additional Visualizations	Page 54



STATE OF SOCIAL WELL-BEING IN THE ROCKFORD REGION

FOREWORD

In 2010, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Partnership for Sustainable Communities awarded the Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning (RMAP) a \$600,000 grant to create a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD) and a "data commons" that would house regional indicators and sustainability metrics. With RMAP as the grantee, the sustainability initiative is known as the Rockford Region Vital Signs project. This report, "The State of Social Well-being of the Rockford Region" is the first of three reports that will document the research and indicator data for 16 distinct areas of sustainability, collectively representing an assessment of current conditions in Boone and Winnebago counties.

Vital Signs is led by a local consortium of over 30 regional agencies agreeing to support and align their strategic plans and long-range visions to the final sustainability plan. The RMAP Policy Committee also formed a Steering Team of nearly 100 community leaders to help develop regional goals for the sixteen areas of sustainability and to recommend a governance structure empowered to implement the RPSD upon its submission and acceptance by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Many individuals have contributed to the development of the Vital Signs project. In particular the grant management staff wish to recognize the significant contribution of the Winnebago County Geographic Information System (WinGIS) for their technical expertise and assistance with deployment of the Vital Signs website and the open data platform on which it resides.

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THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

In 2009-2010 three federal departments came together to form the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, including the Department of Transportation (DOT), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). With HUD as the lead agency this federal partnership is guided by “Livability Principles” that seek to enhance the sustainability of local communities. The principles are:

1. Provide more transportation choices

Develop safe, reliable and economical transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce the nation’s dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote public health.

2. Promote equitable, affordable housing

Expand location- and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races and ethnicities to increase mobility and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.

3. Enhance economic competitiveness

Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services and other basic needs by workers as well as expanded business access to markets.

4. Support existing communities

Target federal funding toward existing communities—through such strategies as transit-oriented, mixed-use development and land recycling—to increase community revitalization, improve the efficiency of public works investments, and safeguard rural landscapes.

5. Coordinate policies and leverage investment

Align federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy.

6. Value communities and neighborhoods

Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods—rural, urban, or suburban.



IMPORTANCE OF BEING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

The term sustainability may mean a lot of things to a lot of individuals. Yet, being a sustainable community is universal to all residents. The goal of community sustainability is for residents committing to incrementally make better decisions and habits in the short-term, with the aim to keep the social, economic, and environmental well-being of their community thriving in the long-term.

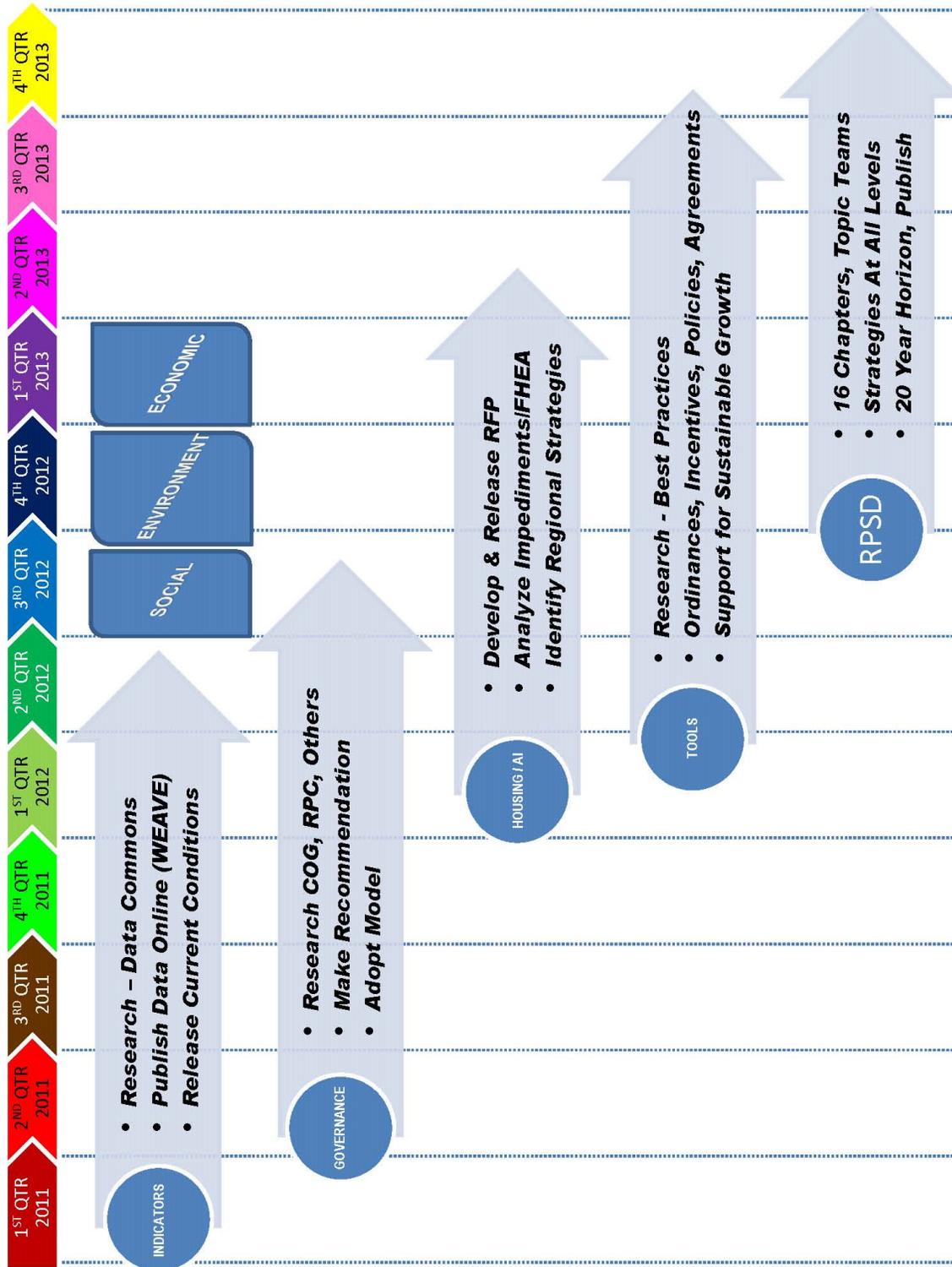
VITAL SIGNS BACKGROUND

This narrative, “State of Social Well-being in the Rockford Region”, is the first of three reports being released as a part of the Vital Signs project to help document the current conditions of the region. For the purposes of this report the Rockford region is defined by the entirety of Boone and Winnebago counties, which matches the traditional designation of the Rockford Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). All references to the “Rockford region”, “metro area” or simply “region”, mean the Rockford MSA. Any reference to the municipal jurisdiction of Rockford will be shown as the “City of Rockford”.

The Vital Signs project includes five agreed upon deliverable products to HUD, shown graphically on page 7. They are:

- An open data platform consisting of a “data commons” that contains publicly-available and privately-purchased data sets to help document the current conditions of the region and to guide future performance measurement of sustainability implementation. As of the writing of this document this work is essentially complete. The Vital Signs website is www.ourvitalsigns.com.
- A regional governance model that empowers the region to compete, receive and implement sustainability initiatives and to plan for the entire metro area. RMAP has already received “Preferred Sustainability Status” from HUD, but currently the RMAP Policy Committee is only empowered to act on behalf of the census-defined urban areas within the two counties. As of this writing the recommendation of a regional governance model is before the RMAP Policy Committee.
- A formal regional analysis of housing, defined for grantees as a “Fair Housing Equity Assessment” by HUD. Additionally, RMAP has agreed to also include a regional “Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice”. This additional work will position entitlement grantees within the region (City of Rockford, Rockford Housing Authority) to align their HUD-required plans with a regional focus.
- A toolkit of model codes, ordinances, policies, incentives and agreements known as “implementation tools” that can assist the implementation of the RPSD.
- The final Regional Plan for Sustainable Development document. This plan document will have a 20-year horizon and include strategies and action steps for all levels of the region including local governments, businesses, non-profits, neighborhoods and individual citizens.





THE PLANNING PROCESS

Sustaining a community isn't the same thing as having a sustainable community. The RPSD for the Rockford Region aims to:

- Create a higher quality of life for residents
- Establish 21st-Century economic strategies for businesses, economic development and wealth creation
- Maintain world-class sustainable environmental systems for the physical environs, including the built infrastructure

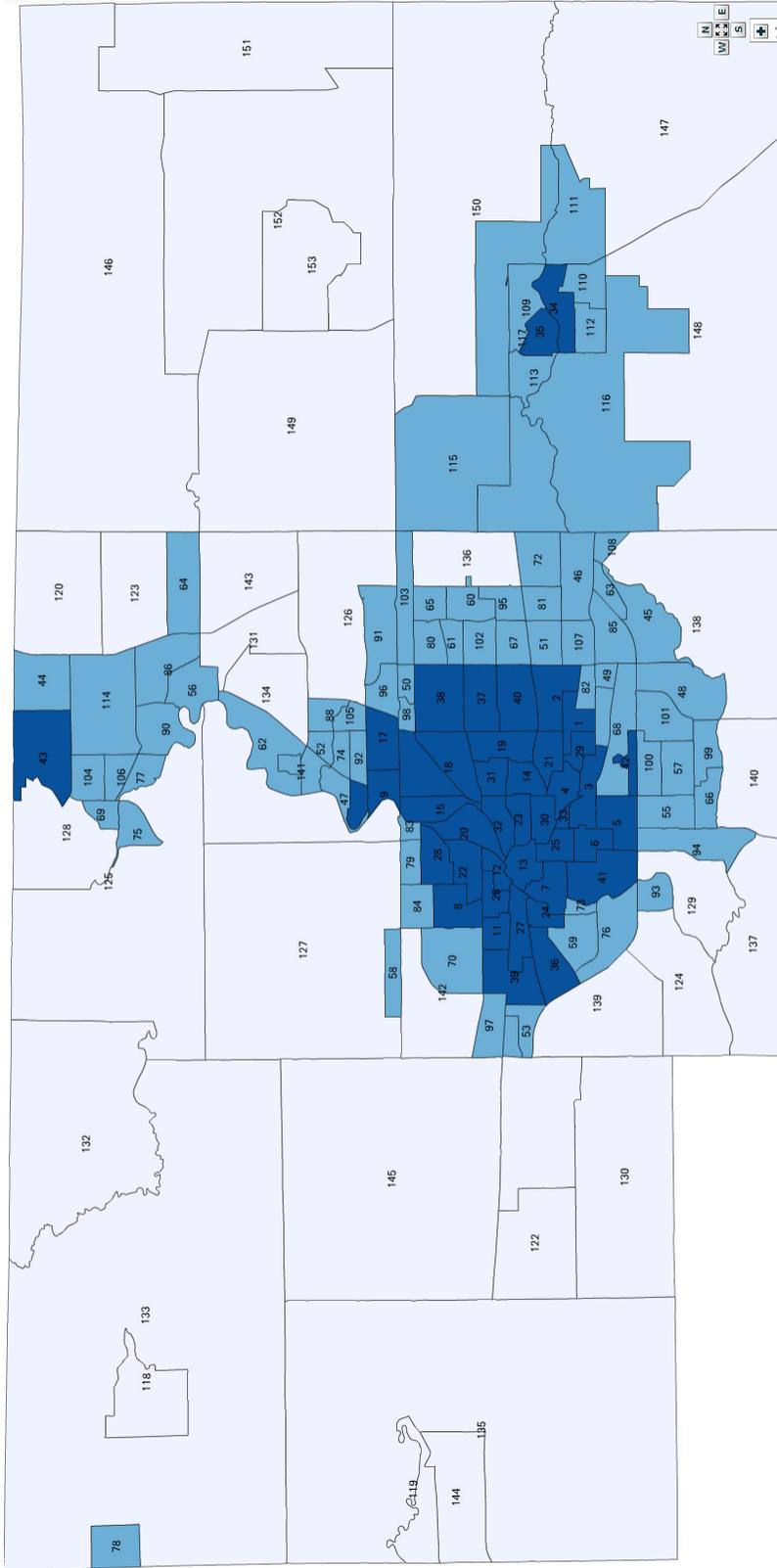
The Social report is intended to:

- Broadly explore the idea of social well-being within the greater context of community sustainability and social equity
- Engage traditionally marginalized communities including low income citizens, people of color and limited-English speaking residents
- Reference data collected by the Vital Signs grant management team to inform the regional conversation of social equity
- Reference professional journal articles to provide current research to assist the understanding of the data sets
- Lead to the formation of goals, objectives, action steps and policies to maximize the effectiveness of the RPSD
- Show relationships between indicators and suggest areas for further study, but not confirm causation

The second and third reports (The State of Economic Well-being and The Environmental Well-being, respectively) will be released by early 2013. Collectively these three reports will serve as the grant deliverable of current conditions, and inform the final RPSD. Elected officials and community leaders can use the current conditions as a benchmark to measure performance of the region's diverse initiatives and programs, and help initiate the conversation of sustainability in the greater regional context.

Sustainability "Districts" were established as the basic unit of measurement for the Vital Signs project. Districts are based on census block groups and were defined for urban, suburban and rural geographies within the region. Urban districts were formed from 2-6 census block groups combined so that they encompass approximately one square mile, which is considered the basic walkability standard. Suburban districts were formed from 1-2 block groups, and in many cases, were already one square mile in size. Rural districts were formed from one census block group. The RPSD





District Numbers

Source: Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning.
Date: 2012.

- Rural
- Suburban
- Urban



will have distinct goals, objectives and action steps for urban areas different than suburban, and suburban different than rural. A map of the Vital Signs Districts is on page 9. Urban districts can be found within the City of Rockford, the City of Loves Park, the City of Belvidere and the City of South Beloit. The area delineated by the combination of urban and suburban districts is substantially the same as the census-defined urban area that governs the traditional planning area for RMAP as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

CURRENT STATUS

This report is the beginning the region's sustainability playbook – developed by households, neighborhoods, organizations, businesses, and governments FOR the region's households, neighborhoods, organizations, businesses, and governments.

Once the three reports are released the community's leaders serving on the Vital Sign's Steering Team will develop high-level goals for the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development, or RPSD. This phase is scheduled to be completed by April of 2013. In addition, with the release of each report the data covered with the narratives will be released to the online data portal at www.ourvitalsigns.com. Several "Data Day Training Sessions" will be held for community members to understand the Vital Signs site, hear about the usefulness of community data, and learn how to explore the information online so that it is useful to the region.

Finally, Topic Teams will be formed of community members from diverse backgrounds and expertise to help shape the tasks and strategies of the playbook. Collectively these strategies will help ensure the region's sustainability goals are achieved in 20 years. This phase will be completed the fall of 2013. The RPSD plan will be finalized and adopted by early 2014.



SPEAKUP! AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

All interested parties have a role and are ambassadors for the Vital Signs project. Vital Signs is using several forms of community engagement including committees, public meetings, open houses and social media. In addition Vital Signs has secured a web-based tool called MindMixer that allows input in a “digital town hall meeting” format. Input and feedback opportunities on all aspects of the Vital Signs project are available at <http://speakup.ourvitalsigns.com>. Ideas can be for households, neighborhoods, businesses, organizations, or local governments to make the community more sustainable. The website allows interested parties to submit, vote and comment on sustainability topics. The engagement results will inform the Topic Teams that community members may join to help identify and develop targeted strategies for the region to improve sustainability and well-being.



WHY EQUITY IS IMPORTANT TO SUSTAINABILITY

Examining the social well-being of the region helps preserve and grow the people, culture, relationships, and safety of the community. Social well-being often circles around the discussion of equality. Since the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 1970s, there has been a common emphasis on equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, ethnicity or gender.

The discussion of equity is a balance between opportunity and the dispersion of income. The hope for equity points to equal access to the resources needed to be successful in life. There is a wide-body of literature stating that concentrated and generational poverty actually hinders the growth of income AND wealth for all within a region. In other words, the economic well-being of a region and all its neighborhoods are directly tied to equity.

When poverty concentrations reach a certain threshold within a neighborhood or segment of a region, generally accepted as 10%-20%, a tipping point is reached. Those living in poverty have a very difficult time. One of the greatest challenges to equity within a community is achieving a reduction of poverty while having a larger distribution of income AND sustaining high economic growth. Regions with concentrated poverty find it difficult to allocate resources across industries and occupations by creating labor specialization. These regions have difficulty with human capital accumulation that promotes entrepreneurship, risk taking, and innovation.

Those in poverty often experience:

- **Economic exclusion** - Exclusion from the formal labor market often results with informal labor market jobs (cash only or off the books of employment). Those in poverty can remain outside the connections of stable, better-paying jobs often found in the formal employment network.
- **Social exclusion** – Living in poverty makes traditional social contact difficult and reduces the ability to afford to fully participate in society. This can occur because individuals in poverty don't have a lot of resources to share.
- **Spatial exclusion** – Concentrated poverty is occurring in aging urban core neighborhoods where resources and middle-and upper class residents have left for more affluent areas. Those in poverty may experience hardship due to social and physical immobility.
- **Institutional exclusion** – Those in concentrated poverty experience exclusion from key resources and institutions for life success (i.e. quality schools). Instead those



living in poverty are forced to navigate a different set of institutions centered on social services. Capital is often not available for business starts, entrepreneurship, and overall economic growth.

For the Vital Signs project analyses of concentrated poverty a tipping point of 15% was used at the district level. All maps and visualizations on the Vital Signs website have a solid black outline showing all districts that have 15% or higher poverty rates.

When poverty levels remain high over the long-term there is lower per capita personal growth and overall community wealth (gross metro product or GMP). An upward trend to middle class often results in increased long-run economic growth because there is more human capital (i.e. education), infrastructure accumulation, and social capital. This is especially true if there is sufficient income mobility. Personal income rises and overall community wealth improves.

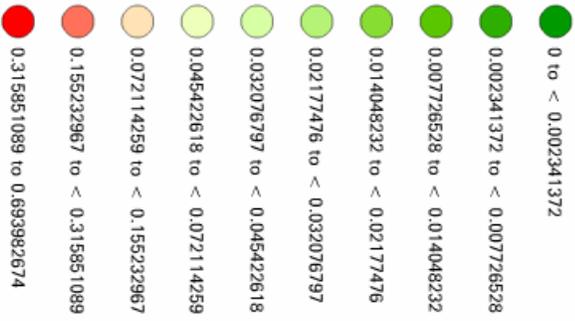
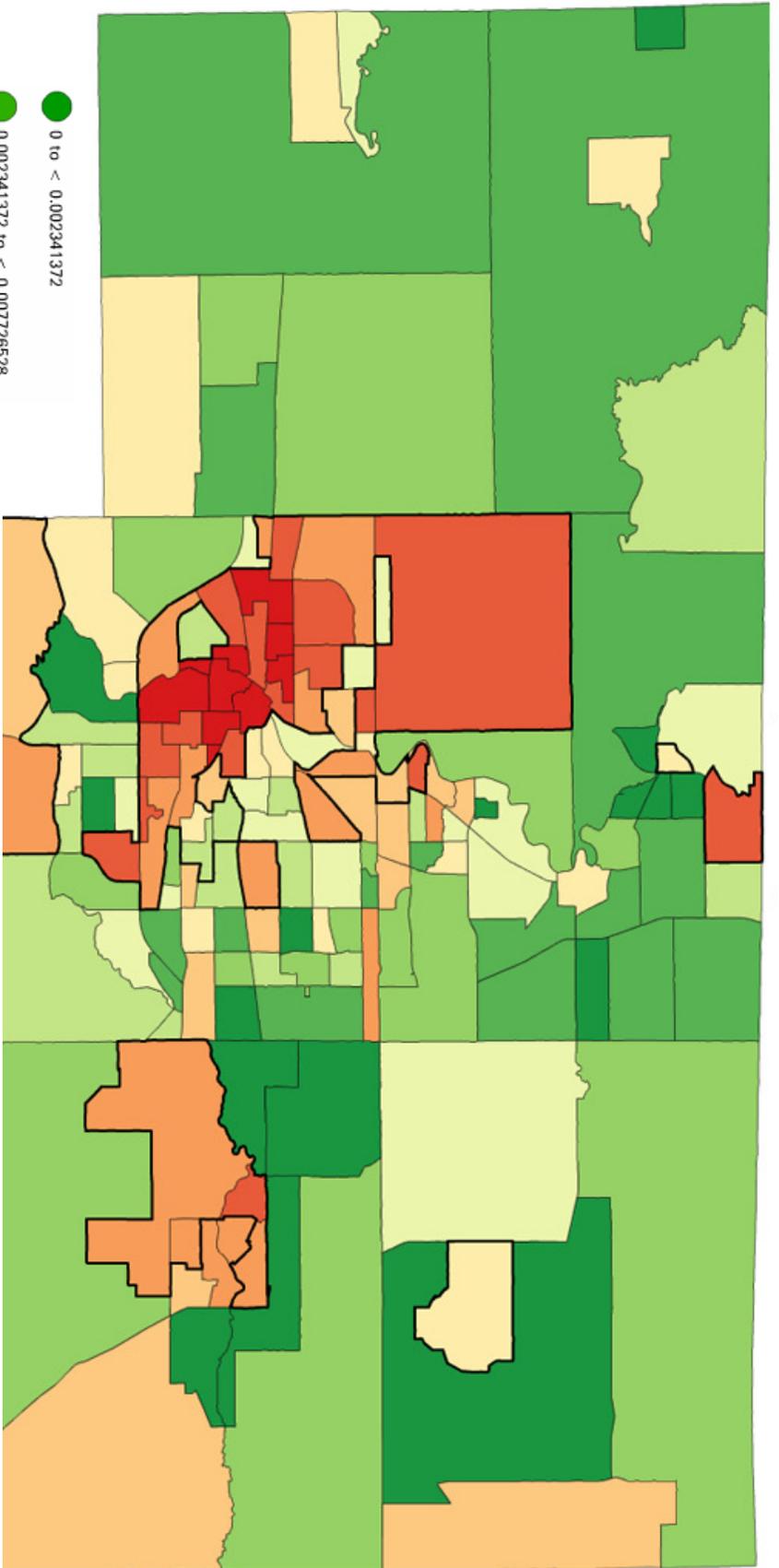
Some startling statistics of American income inequality:

- The U.S. now has the third-worst income inequality among advanced industrial nations.
- Between 1947 and 1976 the top 10% of U.S. wage earners took home 33% of the nation's pre-tax income.
- By 2008 that share had increased to 48% of the nation's pre-tax income.
- The bottom 20% of U.S. households received just 3.2% of all household income in 2011, while the top 20% of households took home 51.1%.

Beyond the challenges of getting ahead, downward mobility is a serious risk. Only 6% of children born to poor parents (those in the bottom fifth of income earners) grow up to become rich (entering the top fifth of income earners) while nearly half of them (46%) remain just as poor.

According to Business Insider, if you lose your job today, there is a 70% chance you won't find a job in the next month.





Districts with Poverty Over 15%

*The districts enclosed with a thick black line in all maps contained within this report indicate districts with poverty above 15%.

Source: US Census Bureau
Date: 2010



THE CHALLENGES BROUGHT BY CONCENTRATED POVERTY

The region experienced a 208% increase in poverty from 2000 to 2010. The Rockford Region is not alone in this pattern.

- The poverty rate for children living in the United States increased to 22% in 2010, so one out of every five U.S. children is living in poverty.
- American households led by a single mother have a 31.6% poverty rate while the poverty rate for adults overall is only 13.7%.
- Nationally, those with less than a high school diploma are nearly four times more likely to be unemployed than those with a Bachelor's degree.
- 54% of working age adults in the U.S. in extreme poverty have only a high school diploma or less.
- One out of five working-age Illinois residents living in extreme poverty work at least half the year.

The map on page 14 shows the neighborhoods in the region that are at or above the 15% threshold for household poverty. The redder the neighborhood the higher the household poverty rate. The reddest neighborhoods have poverty ranging from 31% to 69% of households. The districts enclosed with a thick black line in all maps contained within this report indicate districts with poverty rates above 15%.

Poor neighborhoods in America located in the nation's in core cities are in danger of falling into a cycle of worsening conditions. The Vital Signs initiative intends to monitor and investigate these trends over the lifetime of the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development.

The cycle of worsening conditions in a neighborhood reaching the threshold of 15% poverty or higher may include:

- Legacy of racial segregation perpetuates due to defunct policies, lack of effective support systems, and poor social norms (especially for African Americans)
- Residents in neighborhoods of poverty lack monetary resources to participate in society
- Poor residents with low and unstable income face powerful social strains
- Social networks shrink -- social isolation and dislocation ensues
- Interpersonal communications connecting folks with information and resources are broken
- These areas have a greater propensity for single-parent households with more family instability and welfare dependency
- Higher rates in teen pregnancy ensues
- Dropping out of high school common due to stress from home life
- Extensive joblessness occurs



- Higher crime rates, exposure to crime and violence become the norm
- Amount of contaminated or defunct properties grows
- Properties are assessed at lower rates
- Housing abandonment occurs more often
- Businesses disinvest from lack of suitable workforce, lack of room for expansion from older infrastructure, and access to regional transportation systems
- Buying power is diminished with falling retail demand and lack of accessible retail to live a quality lifestyle
- Stereotyping can reduce quality of resources flowing to that neighborhood
- Weak regional political support deteriorates public infrastructure and public service delivery
- Poor residents experience less access to private, non-profit or public institutions that work to improve quality of life
- Regionally higher property and retail tax rates ensue to support greater social needs, which drain resources from education, quality of life improvements, etc.
- Accelerated flight of economically and socially mobile residents
- Out-migration and separatism of higher-educated residents and those with disposable incomes reinforces segregation

Children of challenged neighborhoods can be left with little exposure to positive role models and peers both within school and within adulthood. Generations of families in poverty are exposed to very different social norms than the middle class. Upward social or economic mobility is difficult for these families. Economically speaking, areas of concentrated poverty have a more difficult attracting and retaining businesses because affluent areas can offer lower tax rates, maintained properties, lower crime rates, more affordable land, abundant parking, and access to regional transit systems.

Despite this unbalanced relationship between neighborhoods, more-affluent areas are also affected by concentrated poverty in the region. Studies have shown average income rates are lower for individuals across the region when pockets of concentrated poverty persist. Highly educated employees are difficult to attract and retain. Cultural resources and institutions suffer and a larger share of local tax revenue is needed to provide for the less fortunate.

Studies have shown that even with prolonged, extensive investment neighborhoods challenged with concentrated poverty still face an uphill battle. Federal and state financial resources are limited and it is crucial to intervene early to prevent neighborhoods from sliding past



the tipping point (neighborhoods above the 10-20% poverty rate). Organizations meant to combat poverty in neighborhoods are built on funding allocations (mainly federal) that are proportional to the amount of poverty. Communities are not rewarded for moving residents out of the cycle of poverty. Systemically, social programs are built to maintain poverty, not reduce it. The status-quo level of concentrated poverty has, in effect, established a “Poverty Standard” for the region.

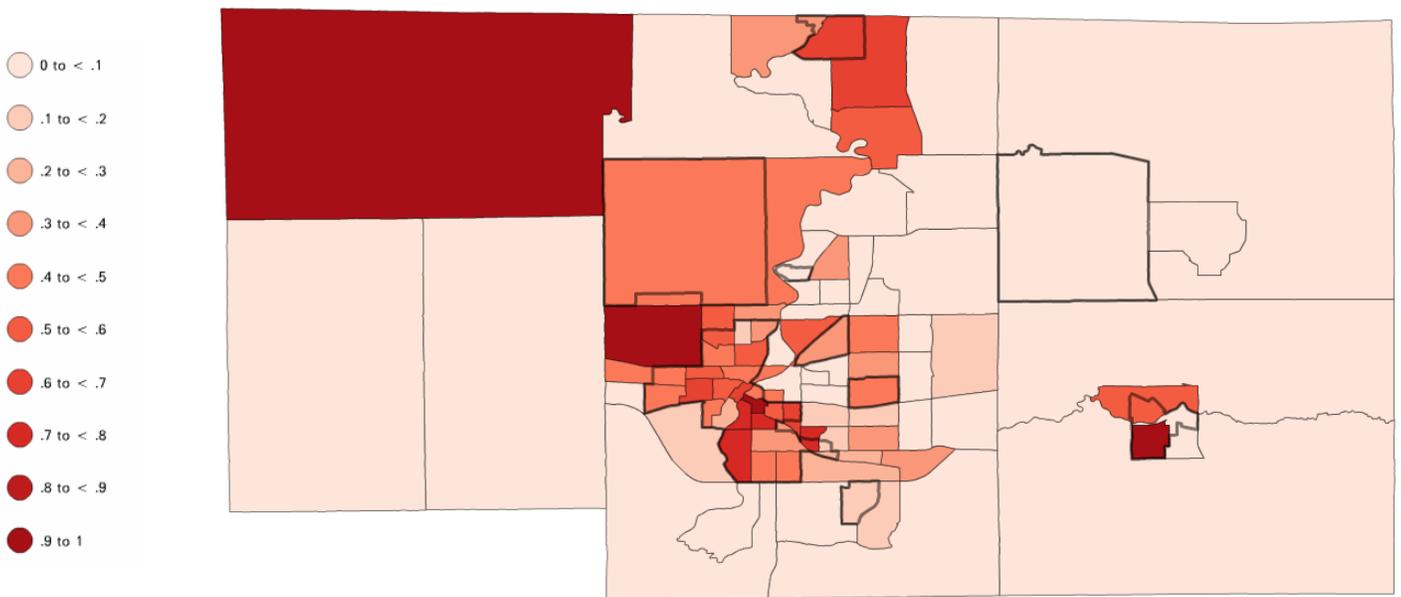
RAISING THE BAR FROM POVERTY TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Recessionary times have a disproportionate impact on lower-income families because of rising unemployment, a reduction in work hours, and the stagnation of family incomes, but also affects the middle and upper classes. Vital Signs strives to set a higher bar by establishing a “Self-Sufficiency Standard” for the region rather than a “Poverty Standard”. A Self-Sufficiency Standard starts with an assessment of the real cost of living for basic needs of housing, food, transportation, health care, household and personal items, and taxes. This “no frills” calculation does not include savings, monthly cost of debt, or emergency funds. In 2011, a minimum wage worker in the Rockford Region earning \$8.00 per hour would have to work 67 hours a week to afford an average 2-bedroom dwelling. Using the revised self sufficiency standard the minimum hourly wage would have to be \$13.81 per hour, which equates to an annual income of \$28,725. Currently 49%, or roughly half of workers within the region do not meet this revised standard of income.



CONCENTRATIONS OF POVERTY FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

Below is a map showing concentrations of poverty for African Americans in 2010 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The darker colors indicate higher concentrations for this racial group. The solid black outline indicates areas above the 15% poverty threshold. There are large concentrations of African Americans in the urban core areas and the immediate vicinity west of downtown Rockford. 47% of African Americans in the City of Rockford were in poverty in 2011, with Winnebago County and the entire region at 45%.

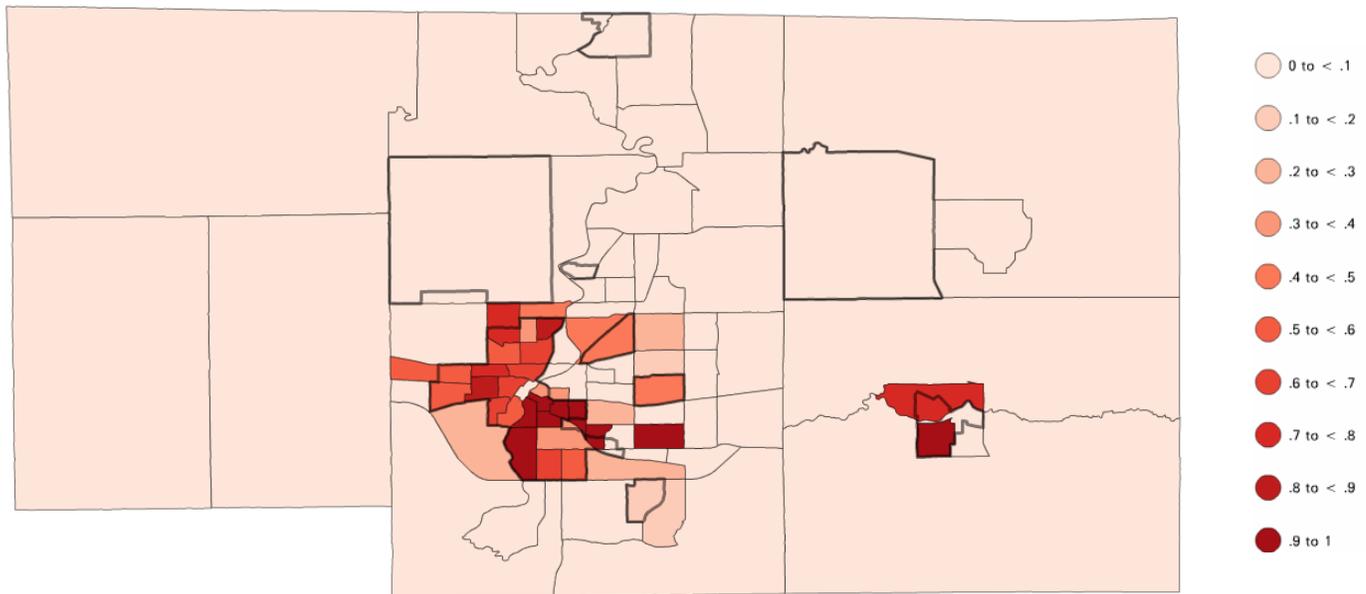


Source: US Census Bureau
Date: 2010.

CONCENTRATIONS OF POVERTY FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN

The concentration of African American children poverty is shown in the map next. There are 6 districts where all (100%) African American children live in poverty. A total of 19 districts have 60% or more of African American children in poverty.

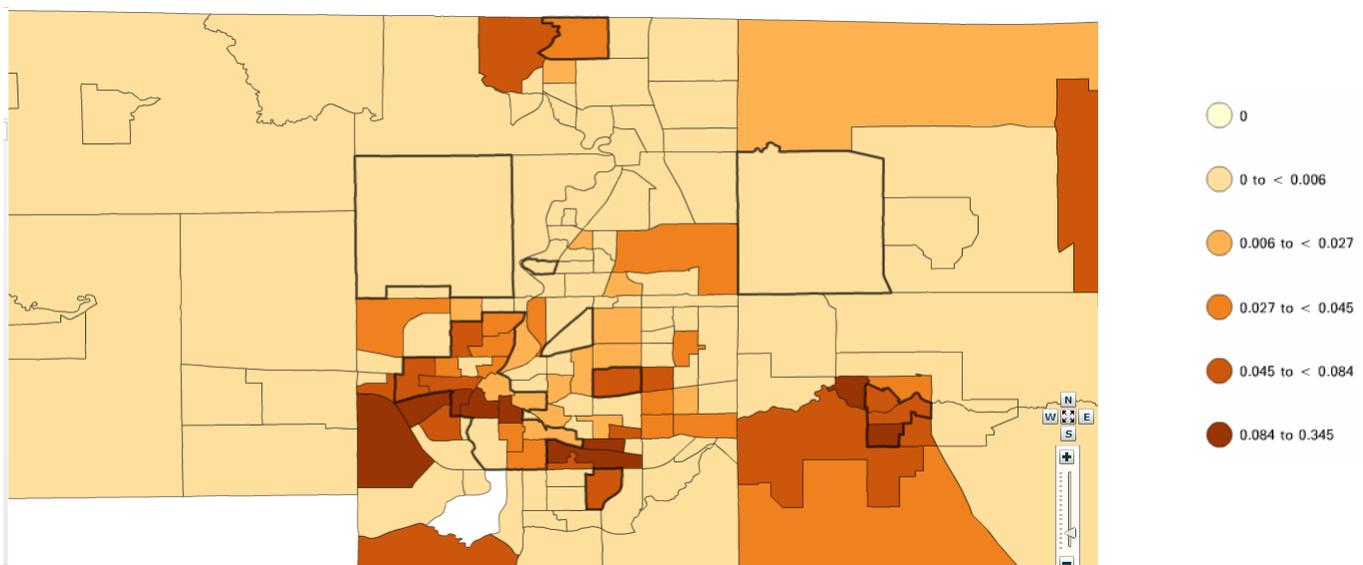




Source: US Census Bureau
Date: 2010.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Minorities in the Hispanic community also suffer from limited English proficiency problems, mostly for adults. The map below shows that in some neighborhoods up to 30% of Hispanic households have no one over the age of 14 that speaks English very well.

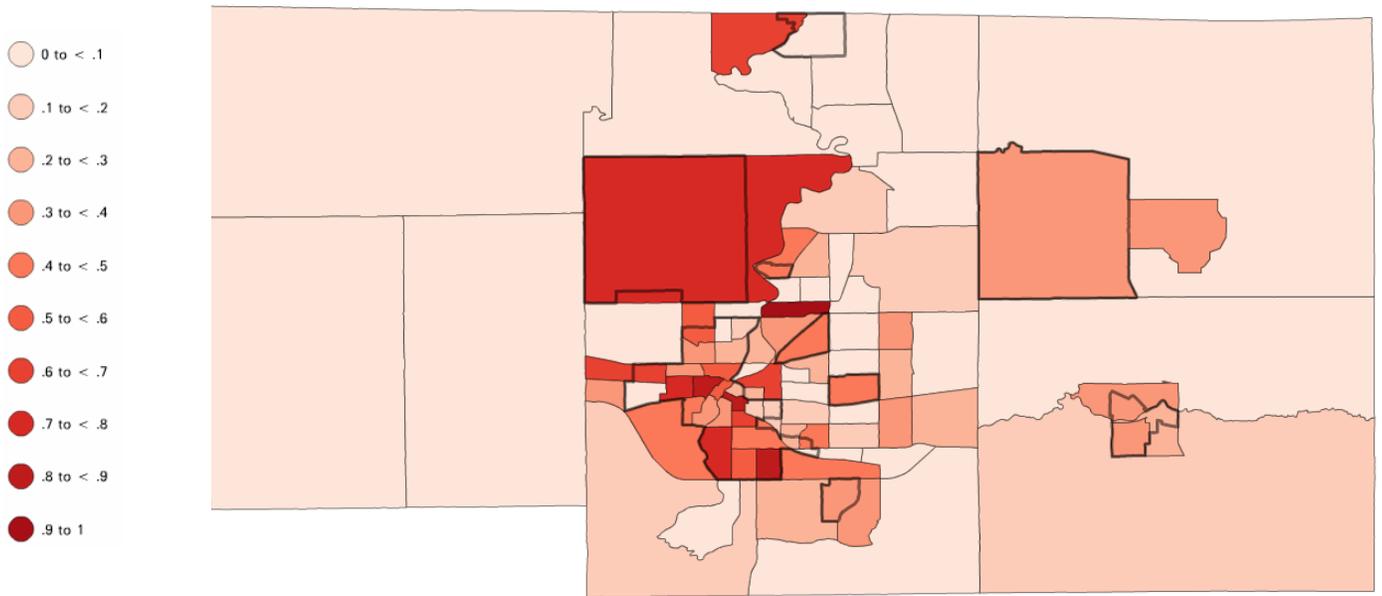


Source: US Census Bureau
Date: 2010.



CONCENTRATIONS OF POVERTY FOR HISPANICS

Below is a map showing the percent concentration of Hispanics. Comparing this to the map on page 18 showing concentration of African American poverty, Hispanic poverty concentration tends to be south of downtown Rockford. 17 districts have Hispanic childhood poverty at or above 60%. 43% of Hispanics in the City of Rockford were in poverty, in Boone County and Winnebago County the amount was 10% and 37% respectively, and the region was at 32% in 2011.



Source: US Census Bureau
Date: 2010.

For Caucasians the population in poverty was only 14% in the City of Rockford, 10% in Boone County, 11% in Winnebago County, and 11% overall in the region.



REMAINING CHALLENGES

When spatial concentration of minorities occurs in neighborhoods of poverty this can be considered segregation. A Dissimilarity Index was created by HUD as a way to measure integration levels. Regions with an index lower than 0.40 are considered to have low segregation levels for a certain race. An index between 0.40 and 0.55 indicates moderate segregation, and an index between 0.50 and 0.60 is considered high, and above 0.60 is considered extremely high segregation. In the Rockford Region African Americans have a Dissimilarity Index of 0.63. Stated another way 63% of African Americans would need to move to another part of the region to achieve an integration level consistent with the overall proportion of the total regional population. Hispanics, conversely, have a Dissimilarity Index of 0.44, or 44% of Hispanics would need to move to achieve integration.

There is much debate as to the causes of the concentration of minorities – especially African Americans -- in poorer neighborhoods in America. In the U.S. African Americans, more than any other group, have experienced generational, sustained, systemic poverty. Even in ethnic enclaves, immigrants are much less concentrated within a neighborhood as many immigrant groups are often mixed together. Immigrant groups are able to trend out of poverty at significantly higher rates than African Americans.

A large body of evidence points to the benefits of breaking the cycle of poverty and increasing equity for all. The Vital Signs initiative is a unique opportunity for local community leaders to craft long-term solutions to these challenges. Concentrated poverty affects all citizens and the economic bottom-line for the region.





Transportation



Energy



Built Environment



Housing



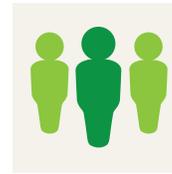
Biodiversity



Education



Waste



Civic Vitality



Health



Culture



Land



Water



Economic Development



Technology



Food



Safety

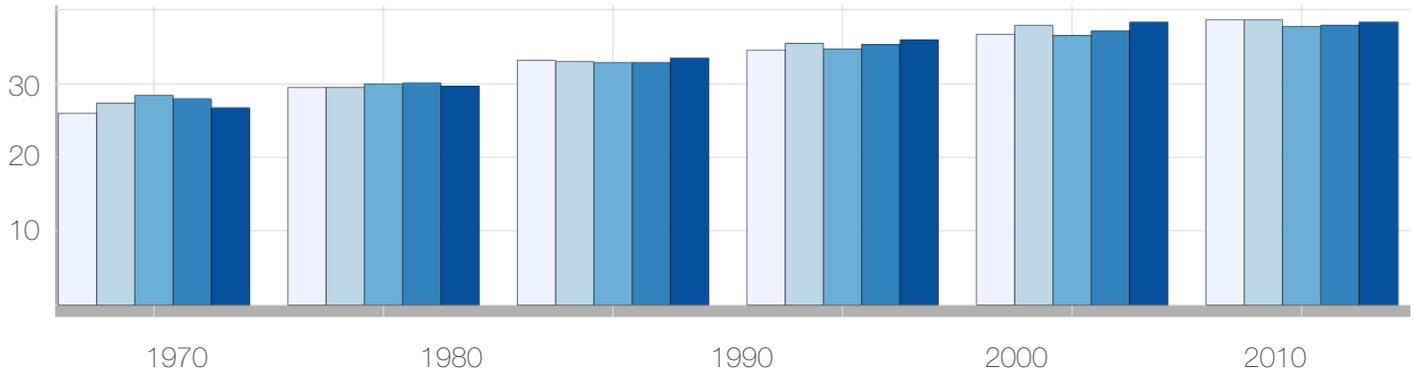


VITAL SIGNS DATA

The Vital Signs initiative established 16 areas of sustainability to study current conditions both now and over the course of the 20-year time frame, referred to as the Current Conditions Analysis. Within each of the 16 areas of sustainability the Vital Signs data analysis is using the “triple-bottom line” methodology of looking through a social lens, economic lens, and an environmental lens. For example the housing area of regional sustainability examines data on residents (social components), the financial aspects of housing (economic components), and the housing infrastructure (environmental). The data and analysis contained within this report highlight some of the main findings of the state of social well-being for the region. Additional information on the region’s social well-being as well as economic and environmental can be found on the www.ourvitalsigns.com website.

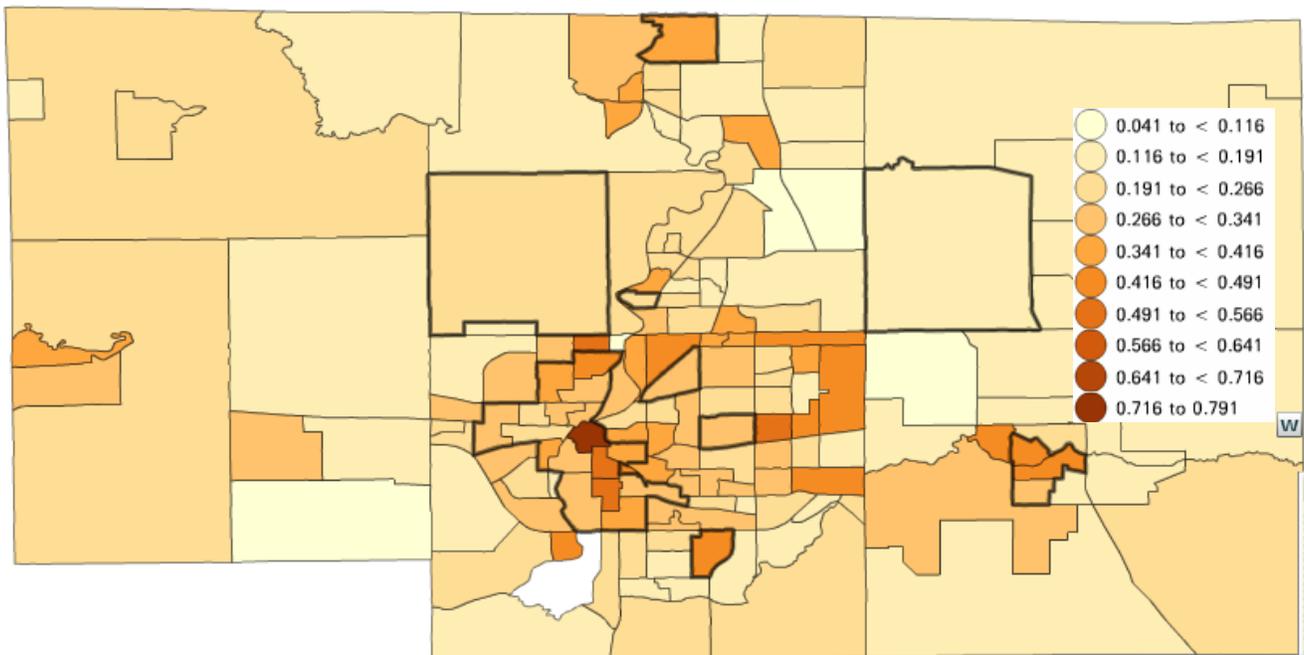


Average Age of Population



Source: US Census Bureau
Dates: 1970-2010.

Percent of Elderly Living Alone



Source: US Census Bureau
Date: 2010.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Changing demographics are altering the future social and economic base for years to come. The loss of young adults, an aging population and a diversifying population are some of the current and forecasted trends. In the U.S. residents of neighborhoods in poverty are often disconnected through place and through relationships to those with resources and connections to help them achieve greater social and economic mobility. Participation in traditional community engagement activities such as voting are low. Not surprisingly those in poverty find these demographic shifts make it more difficult to help themselves to a better social and economic mobility. And participation in traditional community participation methods such as voting have been traditionally low as well. Although not much of a surprise, together this indicates those in poverty to not have much connection or voice in helping themselves or their neighbors out of their economic situations.

AGING POPULATION

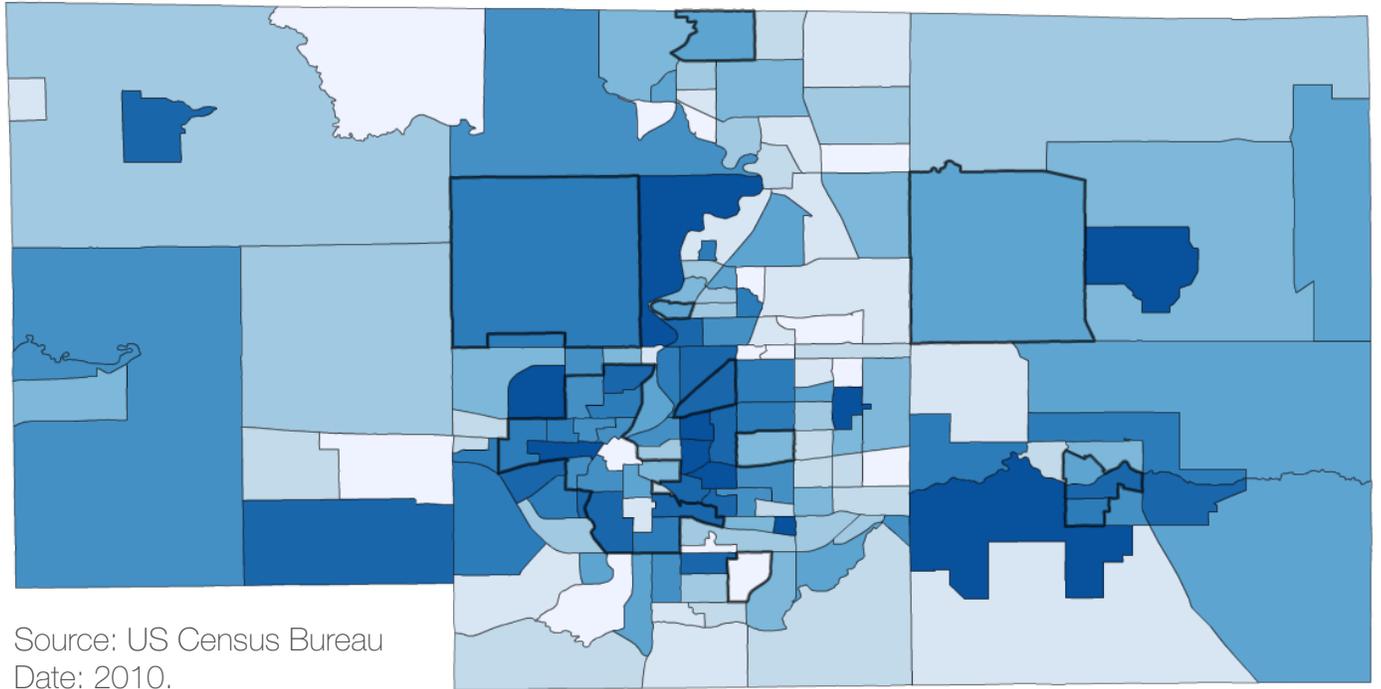
The country and the region are aging and the diversity profile shows just 20% of seniors are non-white. The average age in Winnebago County, as seen in the graphic to the left, has increased from 27 years old in 1970 to 38 years old in 2010. The average age in Boone County increased from 26 years old to 37 years old during the same time period. The Vital Signs data analyses also show that volunteerism among older adults is dwindling even though the number of seniors is growing.

ELDERLY LIVING ALONE

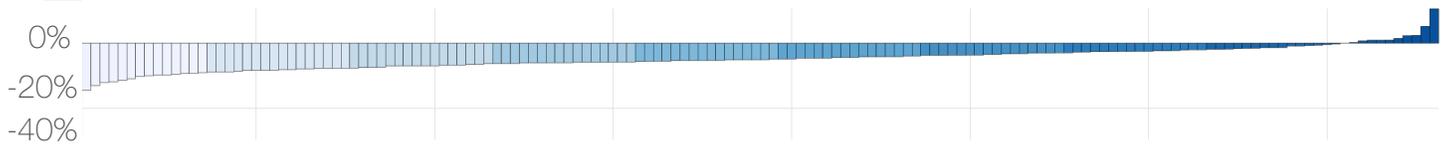
Elderly persons living alone are concentrated in the urban core of Rockford and Belvidere, and also the far east side of Rockford. While the urban core areas are considered “walkable” the level is pedestrian activity among seniors is low. Elderly residents outside the urban core have limited access to fixed-route transit and are not within a walkable distance of needed services. Therefore it is forecast that more elderly residents will move closer to basic services.



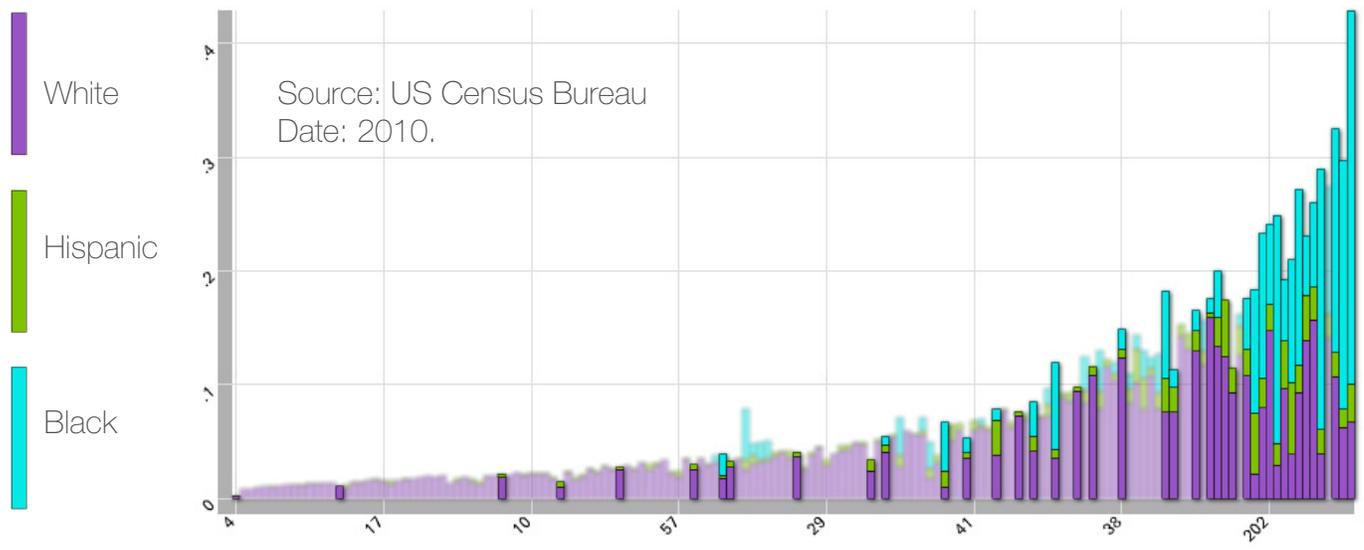
Percent Decrease in Young Adults



Source: US Census Bureau
Date: 2010.



Percent of Female-Led Households with No Husband Present



YOUNG ADULTS

The number of young adults leaving the region is troublesome.. As seen in the images below, almost all districts experienced a loss of population aged 18 to 39 years old. The future workforce of the community, if given the opportunity, is choosing to leave instead of grow roots. Of those young adults who choose to stay in the region there is a large percentage of single female-led households, especially in neighborhoods of poverty. As seen in the graphic below, the columns highlighted have the highest concentrations of poverty; high rates of African American (teal), white (purple), and Hispanic (green) female-led households.

Within the Rockford Region there is a high propensity for female-led single households, especially in neighborhoods of poverty. As seen in the graphic below, the columns highlighted have the highest concentrations of poverty; high rates of black (teal), white (purple), and Hispanic (green) female-led households are present in these neighborhoods.

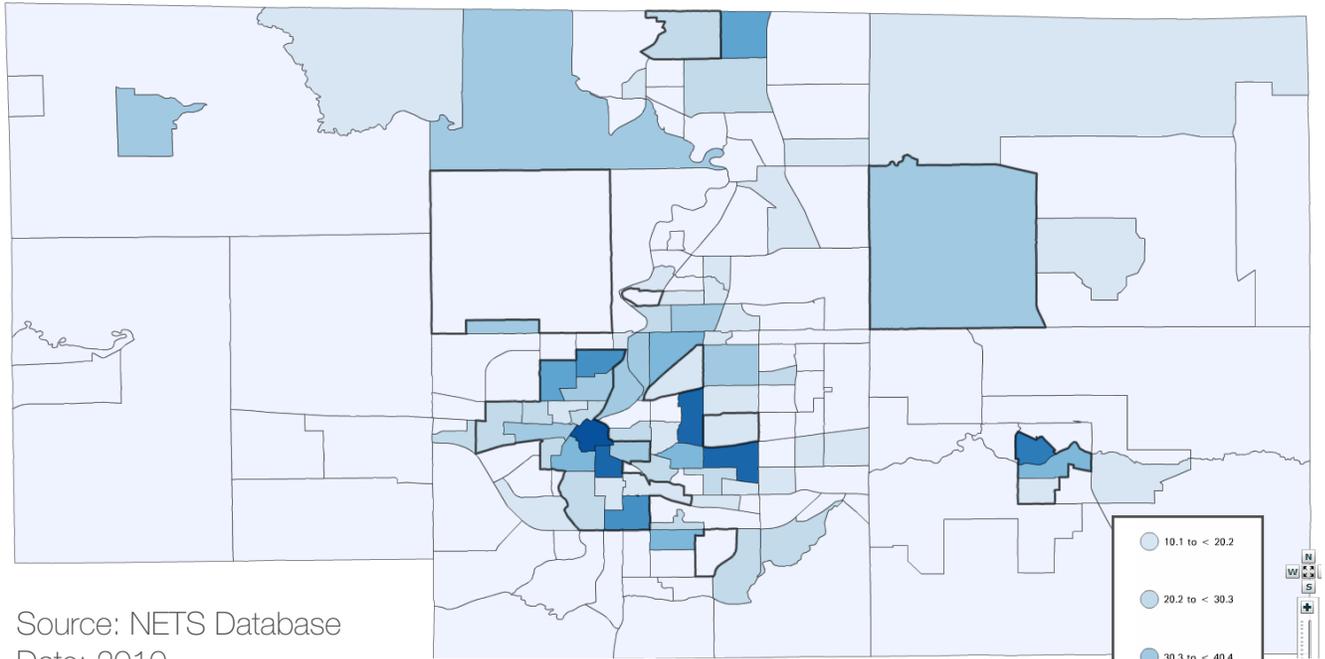
Data for single female-led households with children is even more telling. In Winnebago County 84% of African American infants are born to unwed mothers. There are direct correlations between minority female-led households and households in poverty. The relationship is reversed for white female-led households.

In the U.S., marriages fell to a record low in 2009, with just 52% of adults 18 and over married, compared to 57% in 2000. In the region there is a much greater occurrence of non-family households in African American families, especially in neighborhoods with poverty. The opposite appears to be true with Hispanic households, where married household units are the norm. For white households it is more common to have married families intact, but there is a much smaller relationship between neighborhoods in poverty and non-family households.

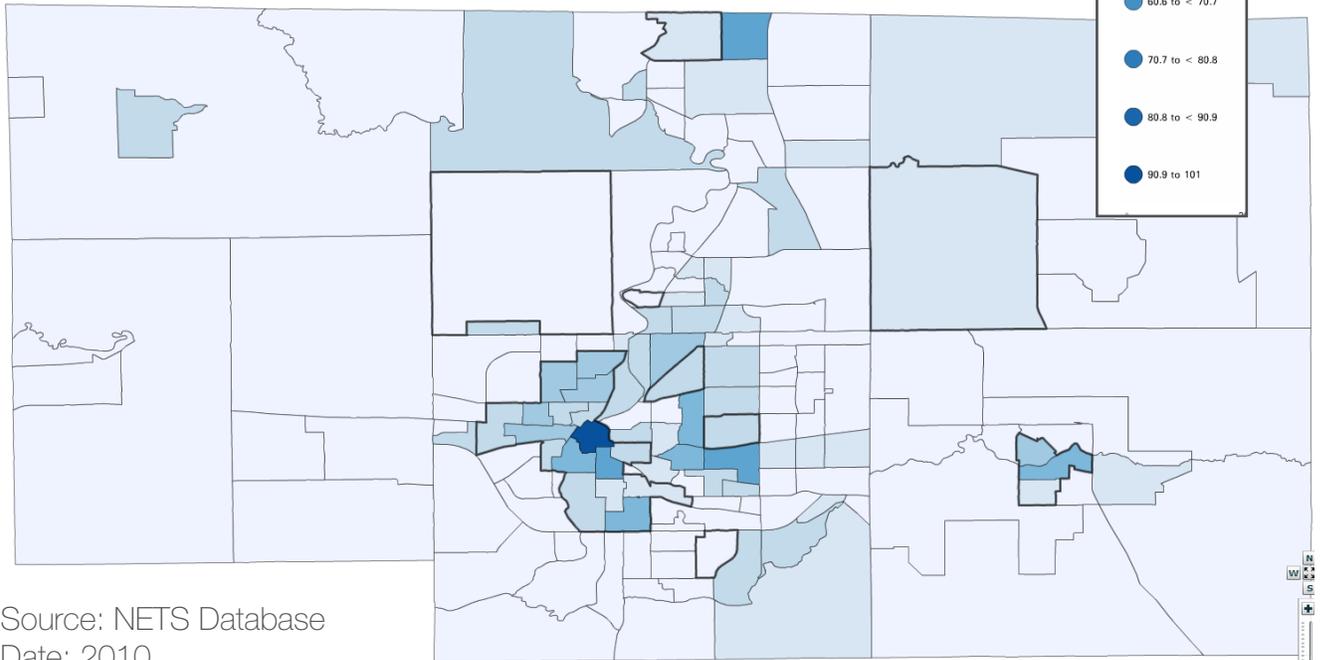
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Third Places in 2000



Third Places in 2010



CIVIC VITALITY & CULTURE

The social component of civic vitality in the Rockford Region is about how individual relationships, networks, groups, institutions, and organizations are connected and working to improve the community. This means how well folks trust each other, work on initiatives collaboratively, and are well-connected.

It is in the region's best interest from a sustainability perspective to grow involvement in the community. Residents' participation in social networks, groups, organizations, and gathering places promote leadership and provide the opportunity to engage. This opportunity helps keep talent within the region, and connect people and businesses to the resources they need. It gives a forum for governments to interact with the electorate. Communities with high civic participation are able to better address issues as they arise. Broad disparities between the "have's" and "have-nots" also results in an undermining of consensus building. The unfortunate reality is when residents are economically challenged they often become excluded and are not represented in the community decision-making process.

IMPORTANCE OF THIRD PLACES IN THE REGION

Socializing is a vital component to the well-being of a region. And, having quality spaces and places (called Third Places) empowering residents to socially connect with one another is an additional important component of the built environment. The number of third places that residents can walk to (informal community gathering spaces and places) have shown to increase social capital and the level of participation within the community itself. The more engaged residents are, the greater the likelihood that solutions to neighborhood and community challenges will be found.

To the left are two maps showing the concentration of third places within the region. Lighter blues indicate anywhere from 10 to 30 third places (cafes, local restaurants, libraries, pubs, etc.) while darker blues indicate upwards of 100+ third place locations per District. As seen, in the last decade there has been a loss of third places within the region as a whole, especially within the east side of Rockford and in Belvidere.



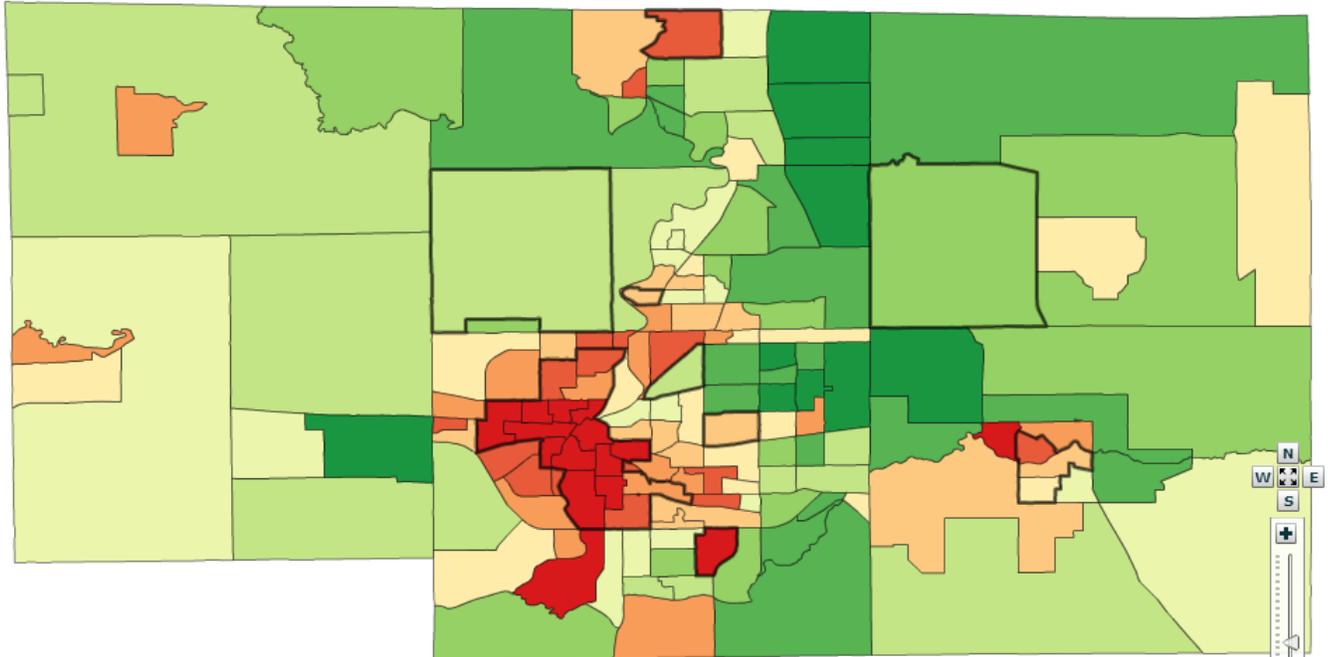
Civic Vitality



Culture



Average Household Expenditures on Active Entertainment Sources



- 198.85 to < 406.89
- 406.89 to < 523.07
- 523.07 to < 563.32
- 563.32 to < 604.35
- 604.35 to < 702.35
- 702.35 to < 775.51
- 775.51 to < 824.43
- 824.43 to < 912.63
- 912.63 to < 1208.21
- 1208.21 to 2455.91

Source: Consumer Expenditure Survey, ESRI
Date: 2010.

Studies have shown more walkable neighborhoods are traditionally better-off economically, have lower crime rates, and have lower transit costs. Yet they also traditionally have higher housing value as the demand rises. The higher quality of life afforded within a functioning walkable neighborhood means non-drivers (seniors, youth, and those without a car) can get around and be more social. Children can walk to the library or pool, the elderly can visit neighbors more easily, and those who cannot afford a car get to education and employment. Plus they have higher housing value because the property is in demand. The higher quality of life afforded by a functioning walkable neighborhood means non-drivers (seniors, youth, and those without a car) can get around and be more social.

However, the most walkable neighborhoods in the community are those experiencing the highest levels of poverty. These neighborhoods have historical infrastructure amenable to walking, but the number of third places in these areas declined between 2000 and 2010.



AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURES ON ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment is a large component of community culture. An index was developed to show household expenditures on active forms of entertainment. Expenditures included in the index include fees for participant sports and recreational lessons, recreational vehicles, and sports/recreation/exercise equipment. As seen below, households spending the most on active entertainment are largely in the suburban growth areas, while the neighborhoods spending the least amount on active entertainment are the neighborhoods with the largest percentage of youth.

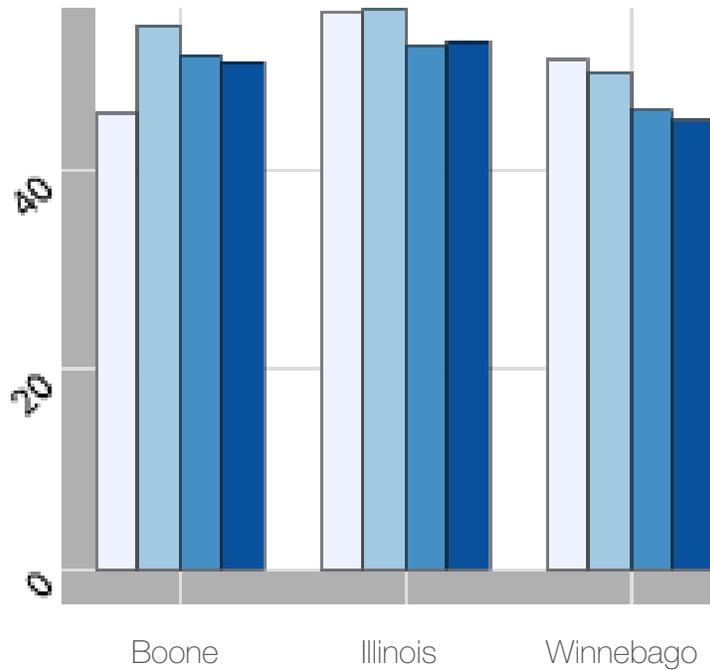
IMPORTANCE OF CULTURE

Tourism, ethnic and neighborhood identities, visual art, and performance art make up cultural life. Festivals, parades, and museums also add experiences and education. Together these create jobs, bring visitors to town, and make the Rockford Region an attractive place to live and work. The social component of this topic measures how the amount of culture affects the ability of the region to attract and retain jobs and overall community wealth.

Sustained private and public sector support of the arts and culture can be a major contributor to a region's economy. Creative class employees are entrepreneurs and innovators. And, they often willing to work in unique places and can be a vital part of community revitalization. Creative workers tend to gravitate to other creative workers. It is critical that the region embrace an effort to attract and retain the growth of its culture and creative class.

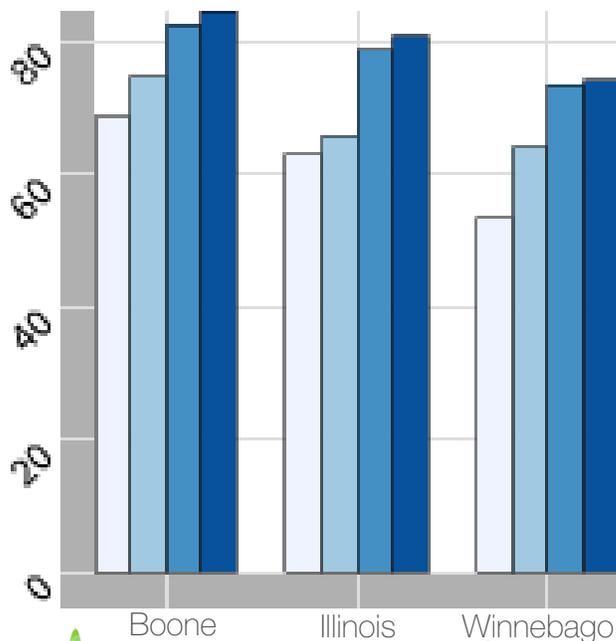


Percent Students Meeting or Exceeding Reading, Math, and Science in PSAE Exams



Source: Illinois Student Report Card
Date: 2010.

Percent Students Meeting or Exceeding Reading, Math, and Science in ISAT Exams



Source: Illinois Student Report Card
Date: 2010.



EDUCATION

Educational attainment and educational equity in a region are important indicators of community sustainability. The overall educational level of residents affects regional economic indicators such as unemployment rates, the consumer markets, and the degree to which a region can attract and retain quality businesses and higher paying jobs. Equity in education enhances a region's overall competitiveness. Local schools give students the opportunity to succeed in life and quality education helps grow the workforce pipeline. Simply changing the educational level of college graduates from the region to the national average would raise community wealth by \$1 Billion dollars annually.

An important indicator of secondary education is the region's ISAT scores. When Boone and Winnebago ISAT test scores are combined, half of the region's students are below state standards in reading, writing and science - 93% are below in writing – and 32% of the region's children score below the academic warning for math.

In the 1980s many communities made significant improvement in school desegregation. Unfortunately many urban public school districts, including School District 205, became less and less integrated as those who were socially and economically mobile moved to other parts of the region or sought private school opportunities. Many social ills plague segregated schools in poorer neighborhoods, including:

- Lower average test scores
- Fewer students in advanced placement courses
- More limited curricula
- Less qualified teachers
- Less access to serious academic counseling
- Fewer connections with colleges and employers
- More deteriorated buildings
- Higher levels of teen pregnancy
- Higher dropout rates



Education



2002



2005



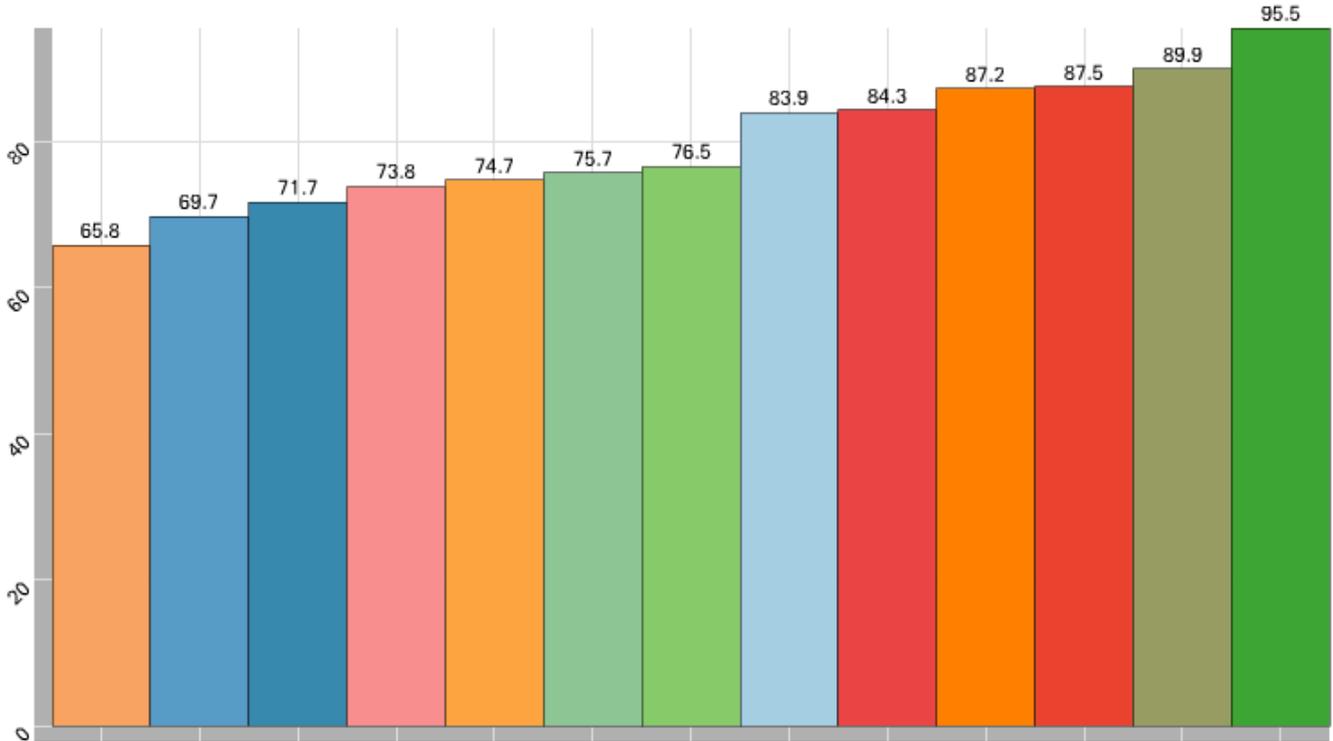
2008



2010

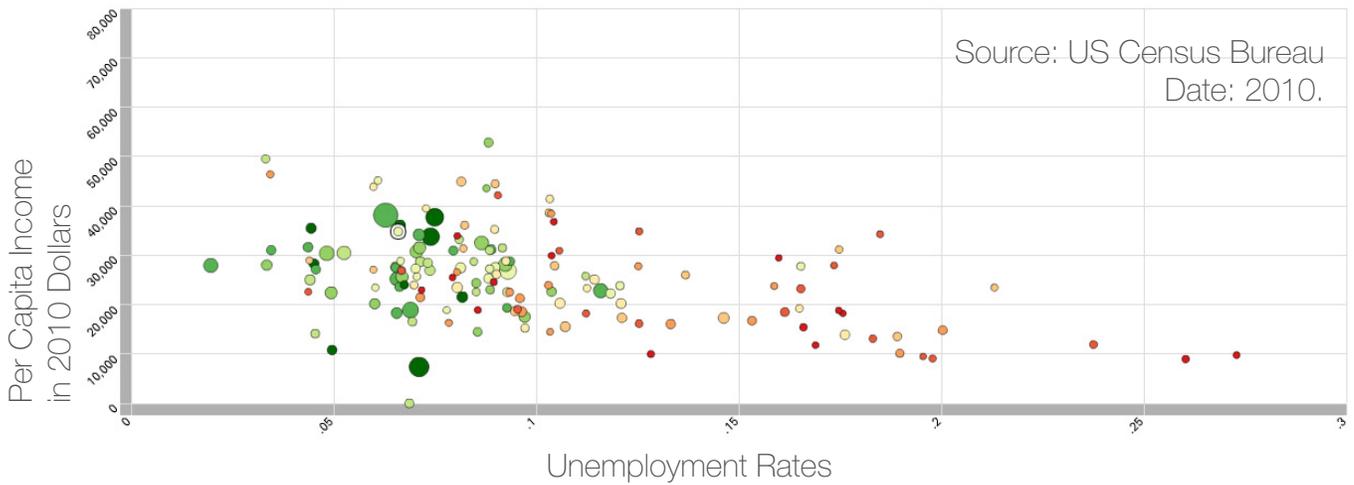


Percent Students Meeting or Exceeding Reading, Math, and Science in ISAT Exams



Source: Illinois Student Report Card
Date: 2010.

Unemployment and Bachelors Degrees



- ACADEMIC CAREER ED HIGH SCHOOL
- AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL
- BELVIDERE HIGH SCHOOL
- BELVIDERE NORTH HIGH SCH
- GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL
- HARLEM HIGH SCHOOL
- HONONEGAH HIGH SCHOOL
- JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL
- NORTH BOONE HIGH SCHOOL
- PECATONICA HIGH SCHOOL
- ROCKFORD EAST HIGH SCHOOL
- SOUTH BELOIT SR HIGH SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES BY SCHOOL

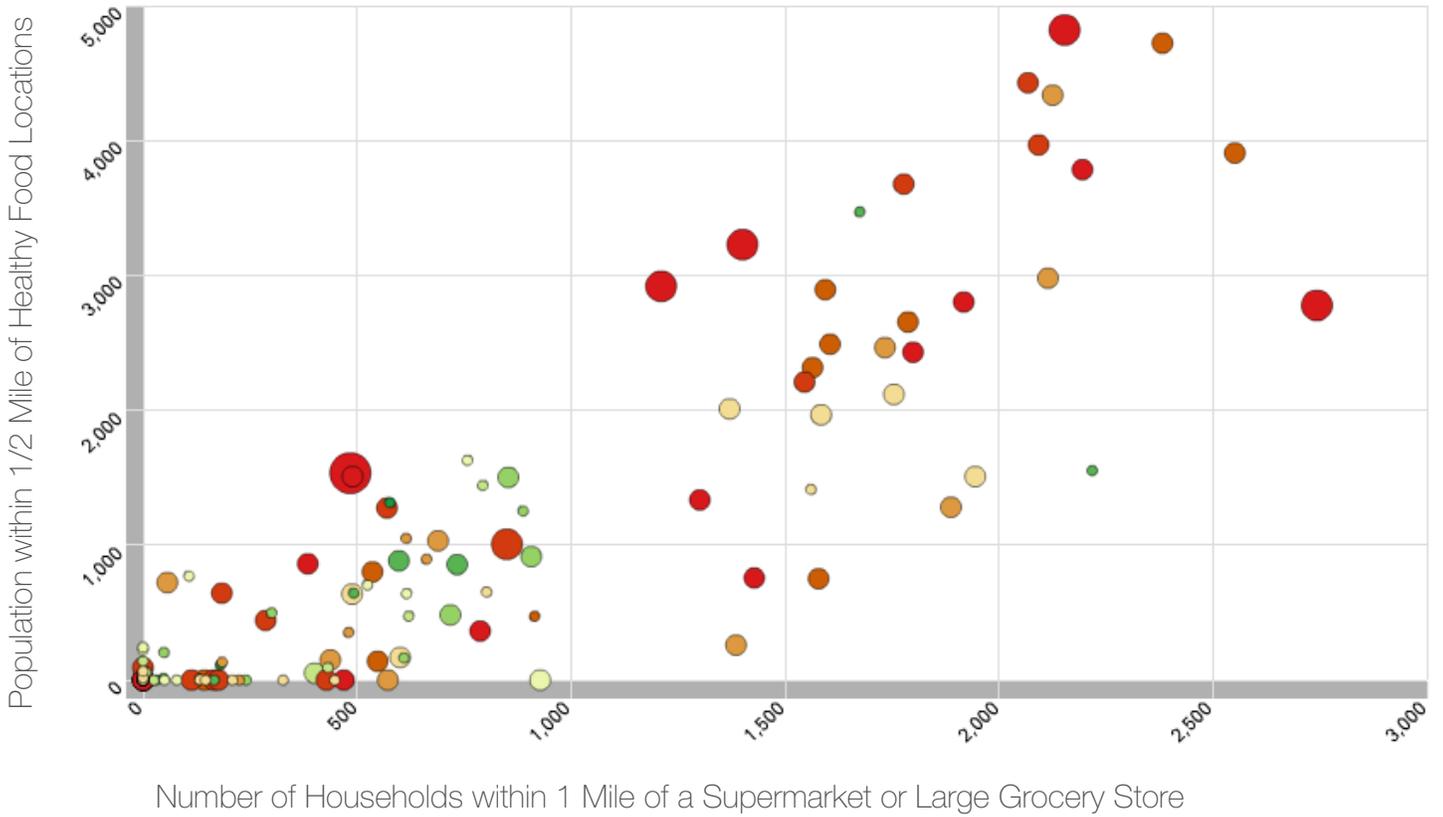
One indicator of regional educational equity is the high school graduation rates sorted by income, race and gender. Regionally, graduation rates of low income students steadily increased over the last decade – except for Boone County in 2011 and Winnebago County in 2008. The graduation rates of males and females remained relatively consistent from 2002. However, educational disparity can be seen in the graduation rates indicator by race. Although graduation rates for Asians have been relatively stable, the graduation disparity between whites, blacks and Hispanics in both counties are significant.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Educational attainment impacts a region’s health and wealth. As expected the 2010 data shows that districts with higher percentages of residents with Bachelor’s degrees have lower unemployment rates and those areas with the highest unemployment rates had few, if any, residents with Bachelor’s degrees. In the graphic to the left, the greener the dot the larger the number of residents with bachelor degrees.



Number of Households within One Mile of a Supermarket or Large Grocery Store



Source: NETS Database and the US Census Bureau
Date: 2010.



FOOD ACCESS

From growing to production, and from distribution to consumption, food systems are being recognized internationally as having a large effect on community health. Food processing and local food systems are both opportunities for job creation but also for community well-being. A mature local food system is capable of attracting and retaining jobs and improving overall community wealth. The social component of food to the regional well-being is how residents have access to healthy food in the region.

Food security isn't just about getting enough food; it's about getting enough of the right food. Food deserts currently affect several low-income neighborhoods. Residents of food deserts have poor access to a supermarket or large grocery store. And often the food they do have access to is not healthy and predominantly processed food. The understanding of the relationship between fresh food and overall health is not well known. Problems related to obesity, diabetes and poor health are symptoms of processed food, eating habits and lack of fresh food in the diet.

ACCESS TO FOOD

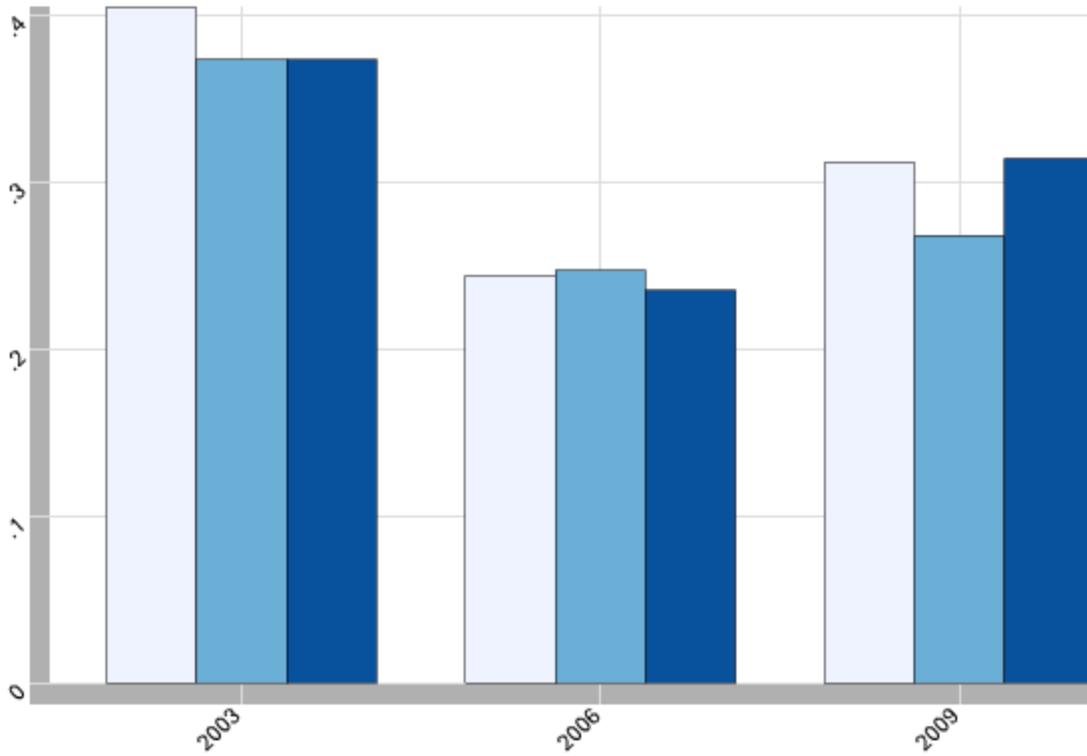
According to Gallup the region has the fourth highest obesity rate in the nation. Below is a scatterplot showing the relationship between district population within a ½ mile radius of a healthy food location, and the number of households within 1 mile of a supermarket or large grocery store. The size of the dot corresponds to the amount of food purchases spent on fruits and vegetables. Below is a corresponding map showing each district's average household amount spent on food prepared at home; the redder the colors in the two graphics the lower the average expenditure spent on food prepared at home.



Food



Percent Obese Adults



Source: CDC
Date: 2003, 2006, 2009.

○ Boone County, Illinois

● Illinois

● Winnebago County, Illinois



OBESITY RATES AND NUTRITION

According to 2011 data from Gallup the region had 35.5% of residents with a Body Mass Index score is 30 or higher. Also according to Gallup only half of residents eat produce frequently and less than half frequently exercise. This is a 160% increase from 2009 data with only 66% of adult residents meeting the U.S.D.A. activity guidelines.

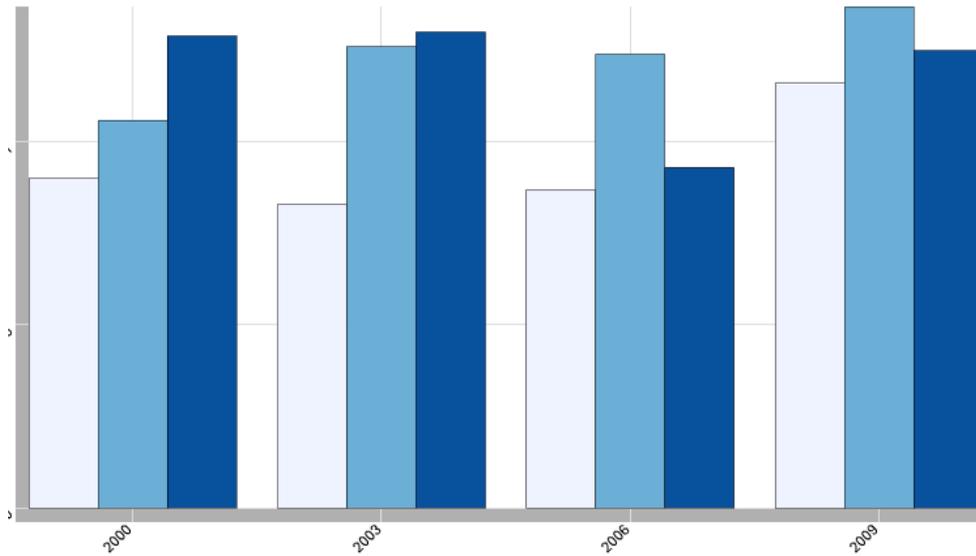
The graphics to the left and on the Vital Signs website present data on obesity for both counties, consumption of fruits and vegetables, diabetes and those at risk for acute or binge drinking. According to the data, only 24% of high school students within the MSA were considered physically active. And obesity rates for low-income preschoolers was 18.6% for Boone County and 13.7% for Winnebago County.

DIABETES

The presence of diabetes has shown growth since 2000. The increase occurred at the state level as well as within both counties in the Vital Signs region. Winnebago County experienced the biggest change in the percent of the population with diabetes, increasing from 4% to 9% of the population.

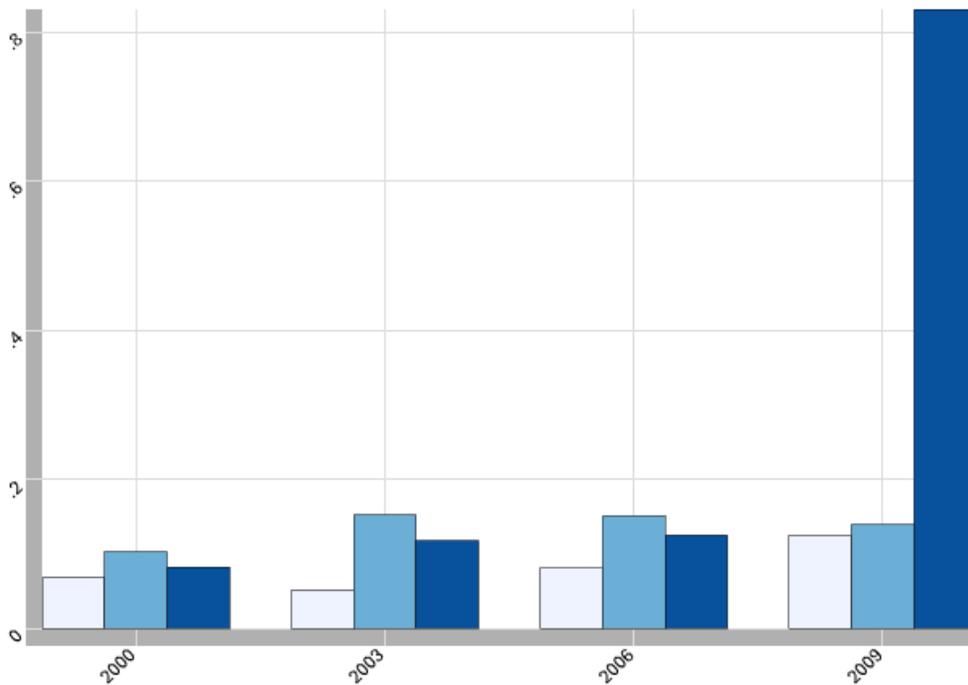


Percent Suffering 8-30 Days of Poor Physical Health



Source for both: CDC
Date: 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009.

Percent Without Health Coverage



Boone County, Illinois

Illinois

Winnebago County, Illinois



HEALTH

Health indicators in Vital Signs include life expectancy, incidence of chronic disease, obesity, and diet. The Rockford Health Council has initiated a comprehensive look at both individual health and health equity. For Vital Signs health equity is measured by access to health care and health status, and includes some regional comparisons with other geographic regions.



Health

POOR HEALTH

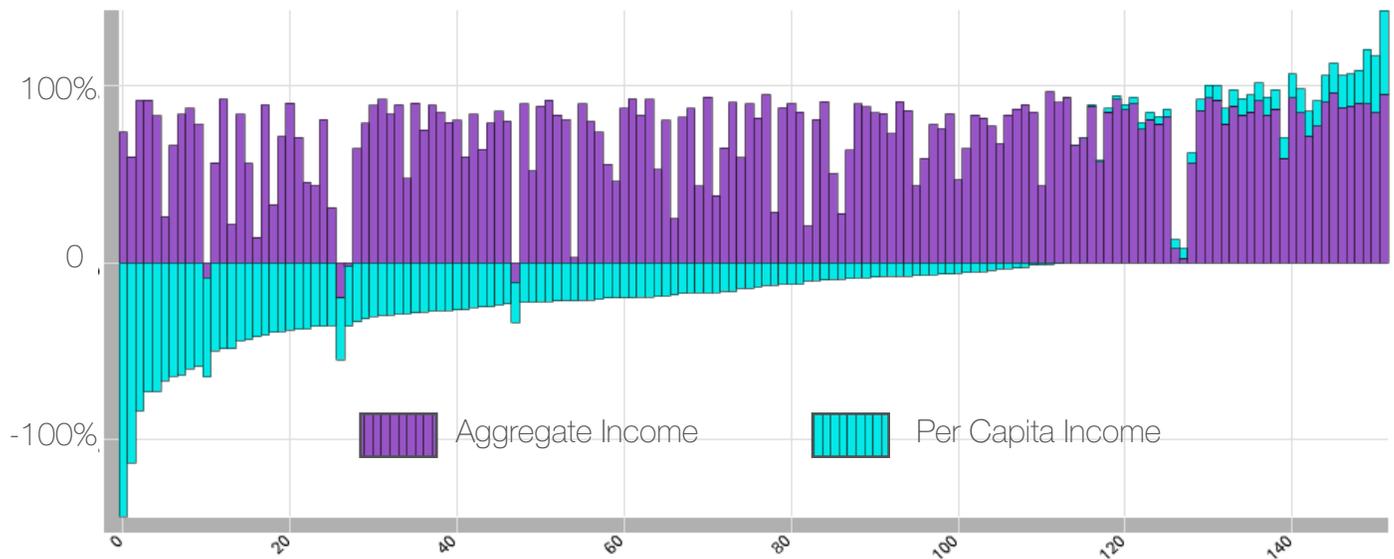
One indicator of a region's health is the percent of the population reporting periods (8-30 days) of poor physical health. Boone County data suggests a lower incidence of poor health than Winnebago County or the State of Illinois average. Winnebago County data is variable over time with the rate higher than the State in 2000 but lower in 2009.

ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE

Primary indicators of access to health care include the percent of the population with health insurance and the availability of a regular primary care physician. The percent of the population within the Vital Signs region without health insurance has historically been below the state average but has improved in recent years. A similar pattern exists with the percent of the population that has a regular health care provider. In 2003, 95% of the Boone county population had a regular health care provider but that rate has declined to 84% in 2009. In comparison, the State of Illinois average increased from 82% to 86% in the same time period and the average in Winnebago County increased from 78% to 92%.

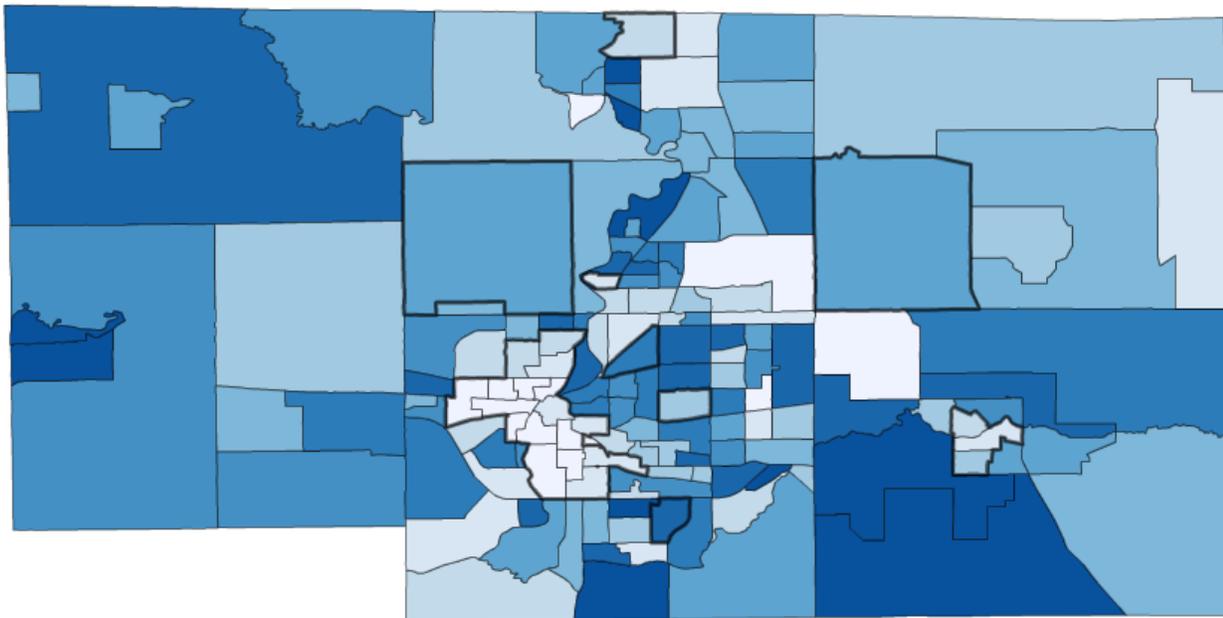


Per Capita Income Versus Aggregate Income in 2010 Dollars Since 2000



Source: US Census Bureau
Date: 2000-2010.

Per Capita Income in 2010 Dollars



Source: US Census Bureau
Date: 2010.



INCOME

Vital Signs is using indicators to help measure entrepreneurship, skilled labor, and workforce growth. Personal income earned by residents determines how much they are able to participate in the regional economy and influences the level of economic activity that can be sustained, including the purchase of consumer goods. On the other hand income distribution can have a wide range of impacts. The ability to attract and retain business, the amount sales taxes that are generated, the level of human services and other social programs can be influenced by the regional distribution of income. For many communities in the region the ability to fund public infrastructure is directly tied to the generation of sales taxes. In addition the movement away from manufacturing jobs to service jobs has had a profound effect in the last 20 years.

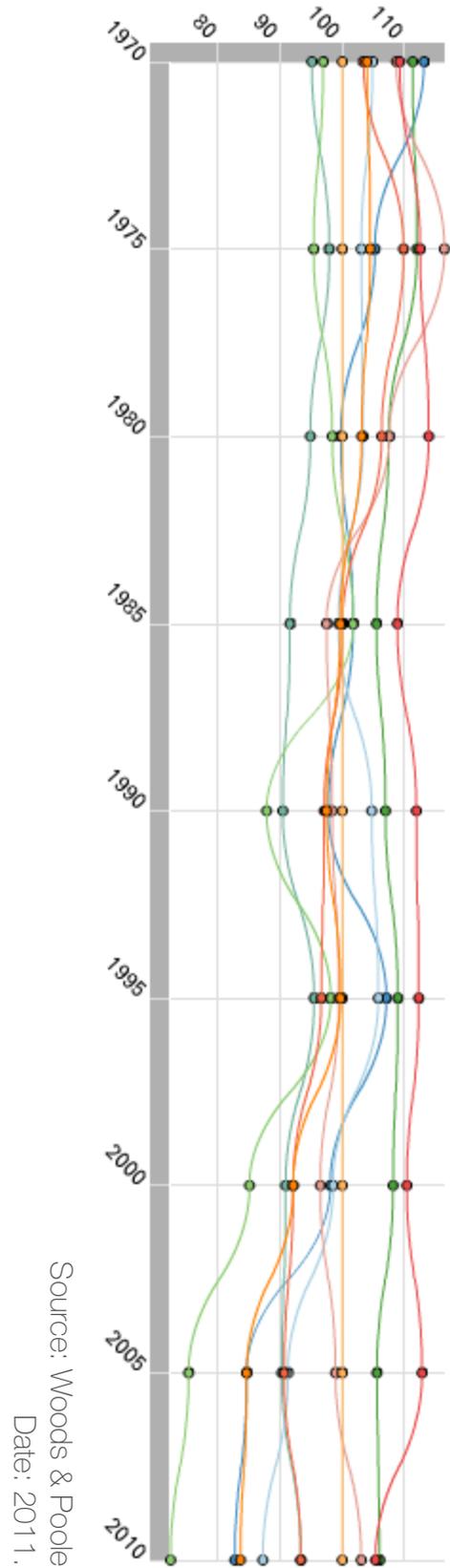
The map to the left shows the per capita income in 2010 dollars by district. The areas of concentrated poverty, especially in Belvidere and the west side of Rockford, are experiencing anywhere from 1/3 to 1/5th the average income of other districts in the region. Per capita income in districts in the region ranged from a low of \$ 14,819 to a high of \$ 52,806 in 2010. Forty districts had per capita income of less than \$20,000 and 15 districts had per capita income of greater than \$40,000. The districts that had the lowest per capita income in 2010 are also the districts that experienced the greatest loss in real per capita income between 2000 and 2010. Median household income declined for City of Rockford residents by 27% in the last decade. Winnebago County declined by nearly 24% in the same time period.



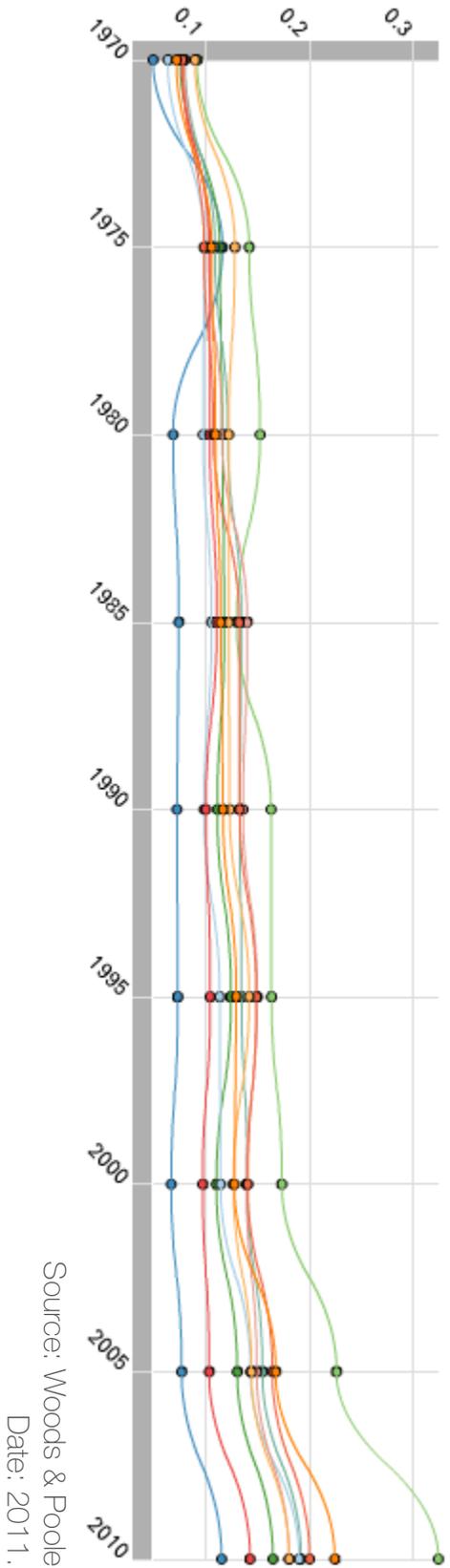
Economic
Development



Wealth Index



Portion of Income from Transfer Payments



For purposes of economic equity Vital Signs is using the Woods and Poole Wealth Index and the percent of personal income received from transfer payments as primary indicators. The Wealth Index is a measure of personal income weighted by the source (wages and salary, investment and dividends, transfer payments) compared to the national average. Since 2000 the Wealth Index has significantly deteriorated. The wealth index hit its lowest point in 2009 while showing slight improvement in 2010.

A second regional indicator is the percent of income earned from transfer payments. A region that has a large percentage of residents who are dependent on transfer payments will find it more difficult to achieve economic sustainability. Since 2000 Boone County has been below the national and state rates for the percent of personal income received from transfer payments. Winnebago County was closer to the state and national rate in 2000 but the dependence on transfer payments grew in the following decade (2000-2010).

COMPARISON COUNTIES

 UNITED STATES

 DUBUQUE, IA

 ILLINOIS

 POLK, IA

 ALLEN, IN

 GENESEE, MI

 BOONE, IL

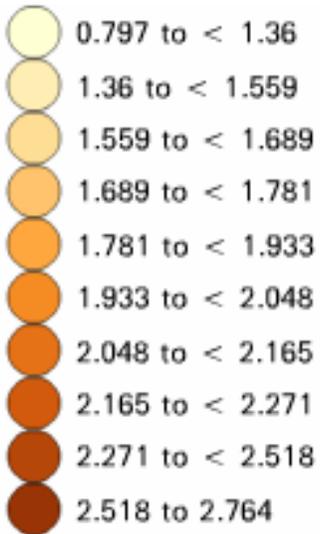
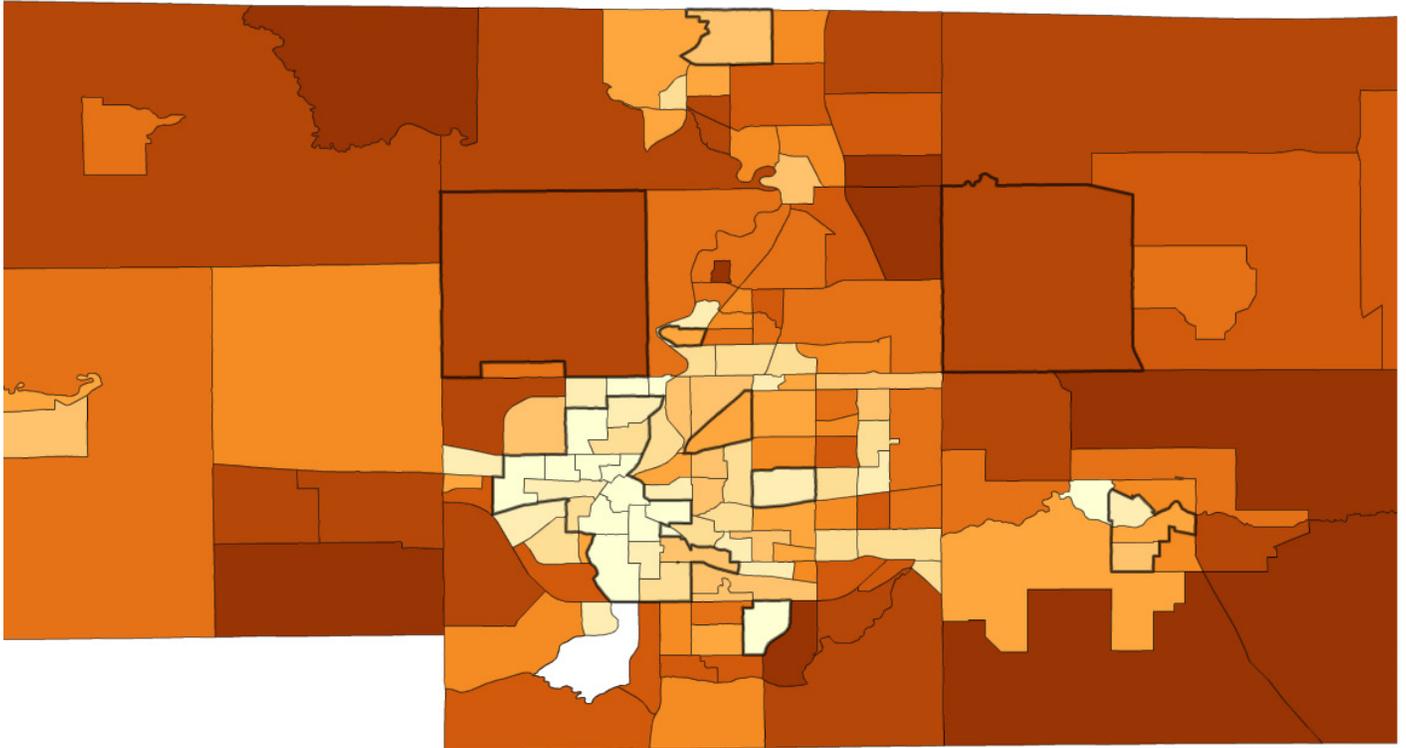
 ROCK ISLAND, IL

 PEORIA, IL

 WINNEBAGO, IL



Average Number of Cars Per Household



Source: US Census Bureau
Date: 2010.



MOBILITY

Transportation options are critical to regional mobility, and non-automobile modes have an increasing role for both work-related travel as well as leisure-related travel. Unfortunately current transit trip times can often exceed 60 minutes for a home to job commute, and transit is predominantly used by transit-dependent residents of the Rockford region, most often low-income residents.

HUD developed a Job Accessibility Index as a part of its larger Dissimilarity Index to allow national comparisons. Currently, the Rockford Region scores in the 50th percentile nationally for all of its neighborhoods. Residents in poverty score in the 58th percentile, and residents in public housing score in the 79th percentile. A larger percentage indicates poor performance against the nation.

HUD also an Opportunity Index as a part of its larger Dissimilarity Index to determine how well local residents have opportunity to find employment compared to others in the nation. Currently, the Rockford Region scores in the 48th percentile nationally for all of its neighborhoods. Residents in poverty score only in the 28th percentile, and residents in public housing score only in the 18th percentile.

The series of maps below show the modal split of work trips for the region. The darkest purples represent anywhere from 3% to 8% utilizing transit to get to work. However, the vast majority of residents outside of the neighborhoods in poverty drive alone to work. The neighborhoods in poverty have much greater rates of carpooling to work (anywhere from 15% to 31%)

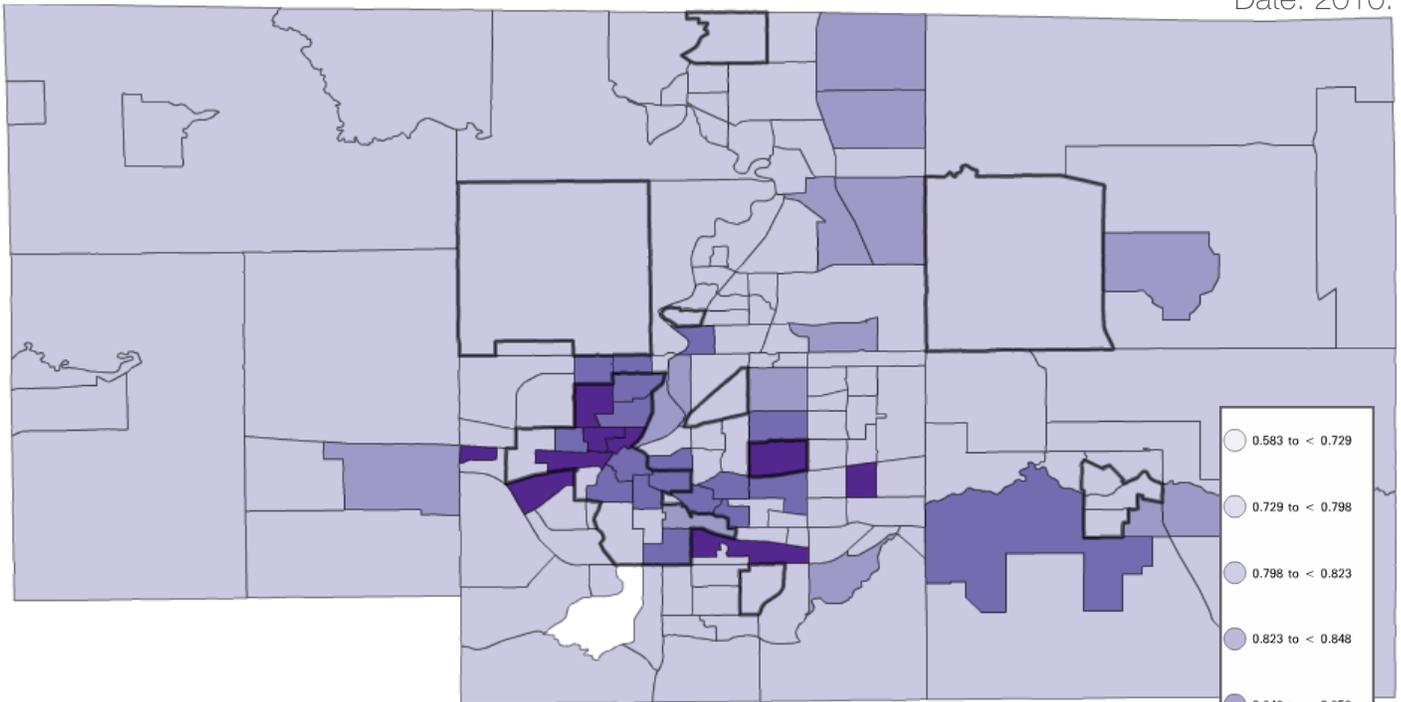


Transportation

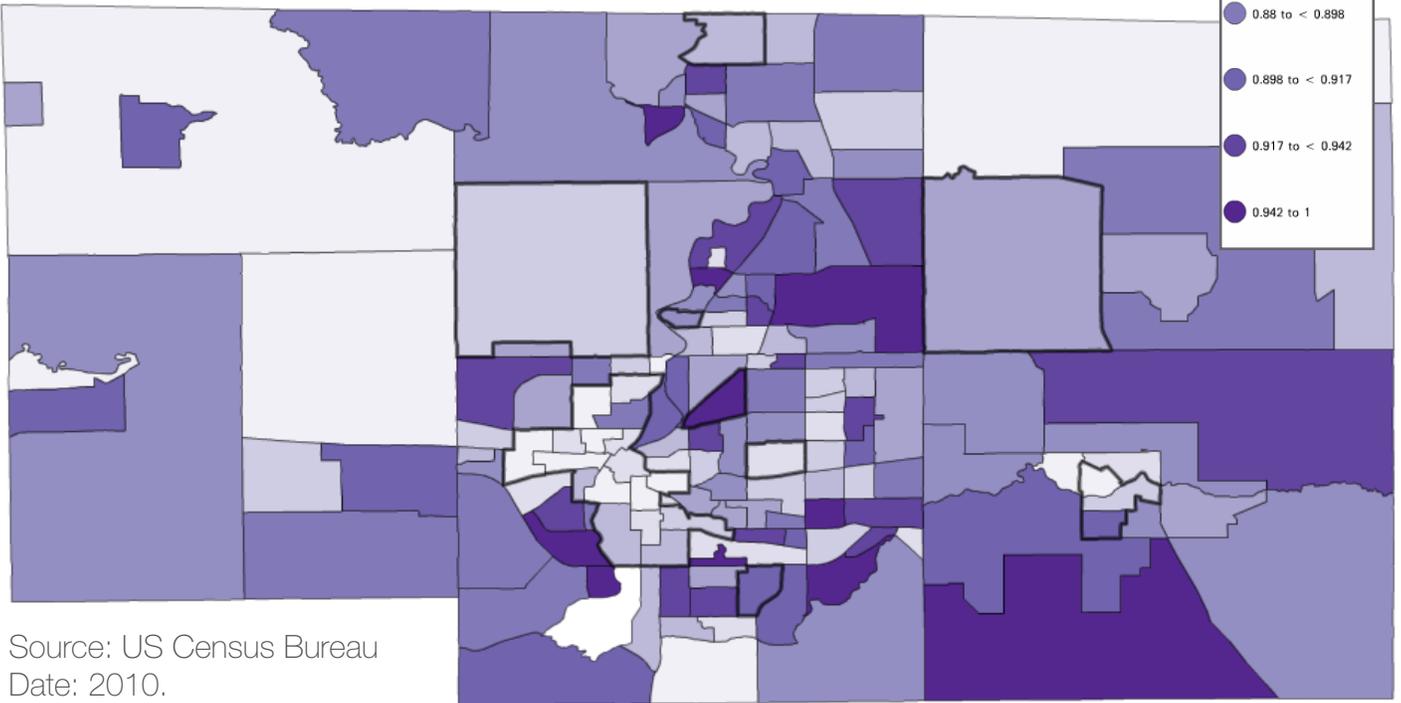


Takes Public Transportation to Work

Source: US Census Bureau
Date: 2010.

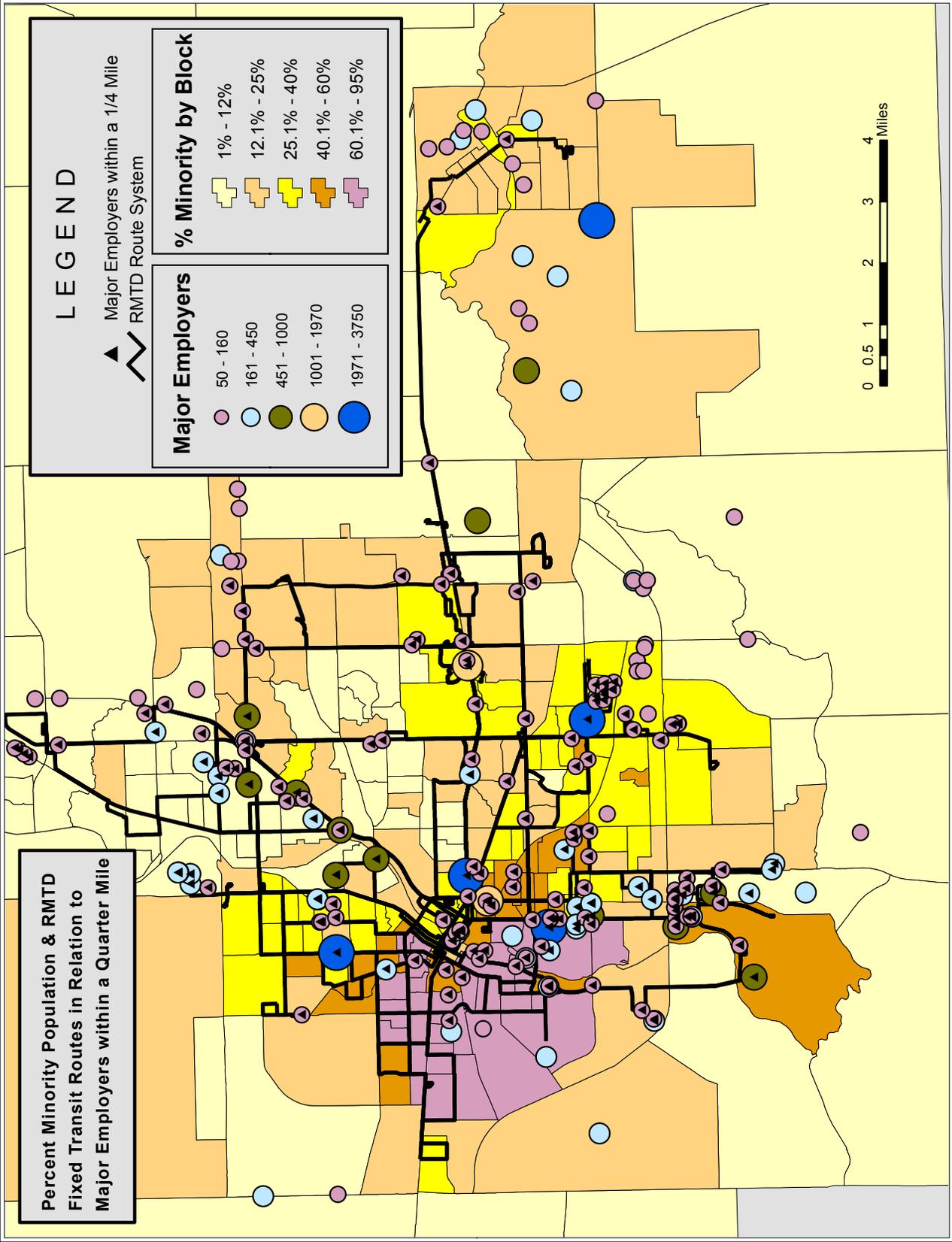


Drives to Work Alone

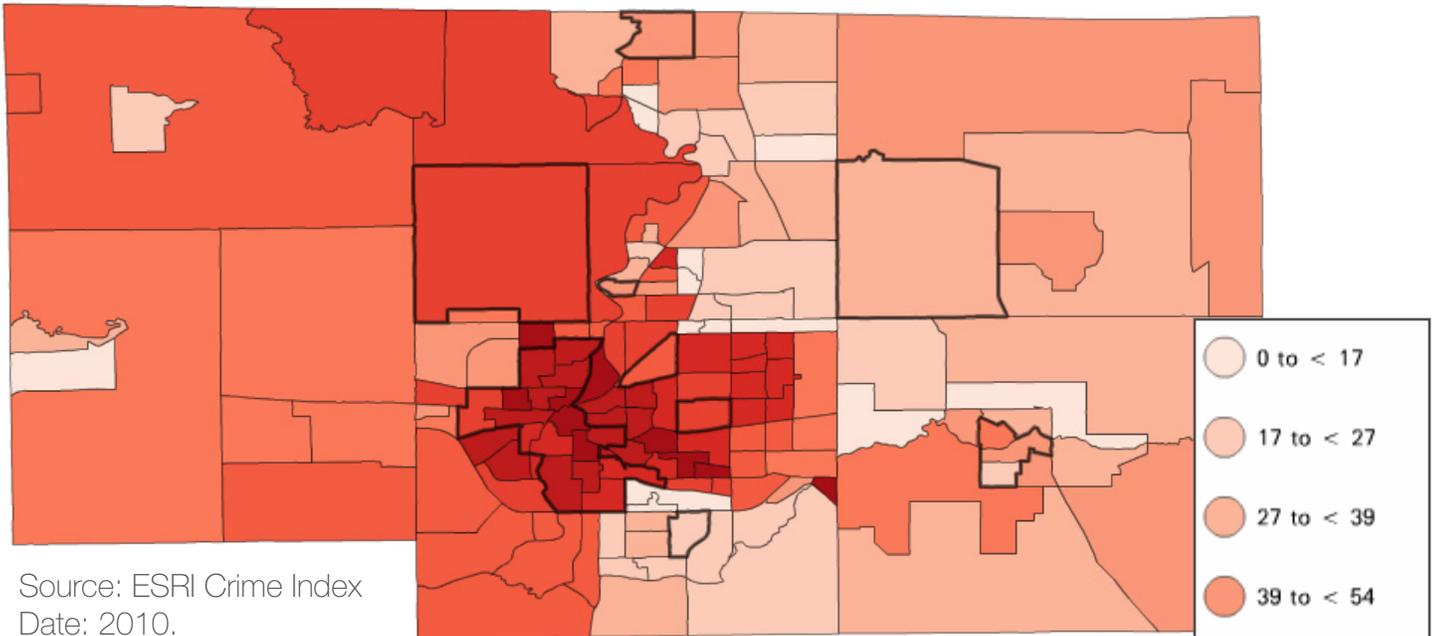


Source: US Census Bureau
Date: 2010.

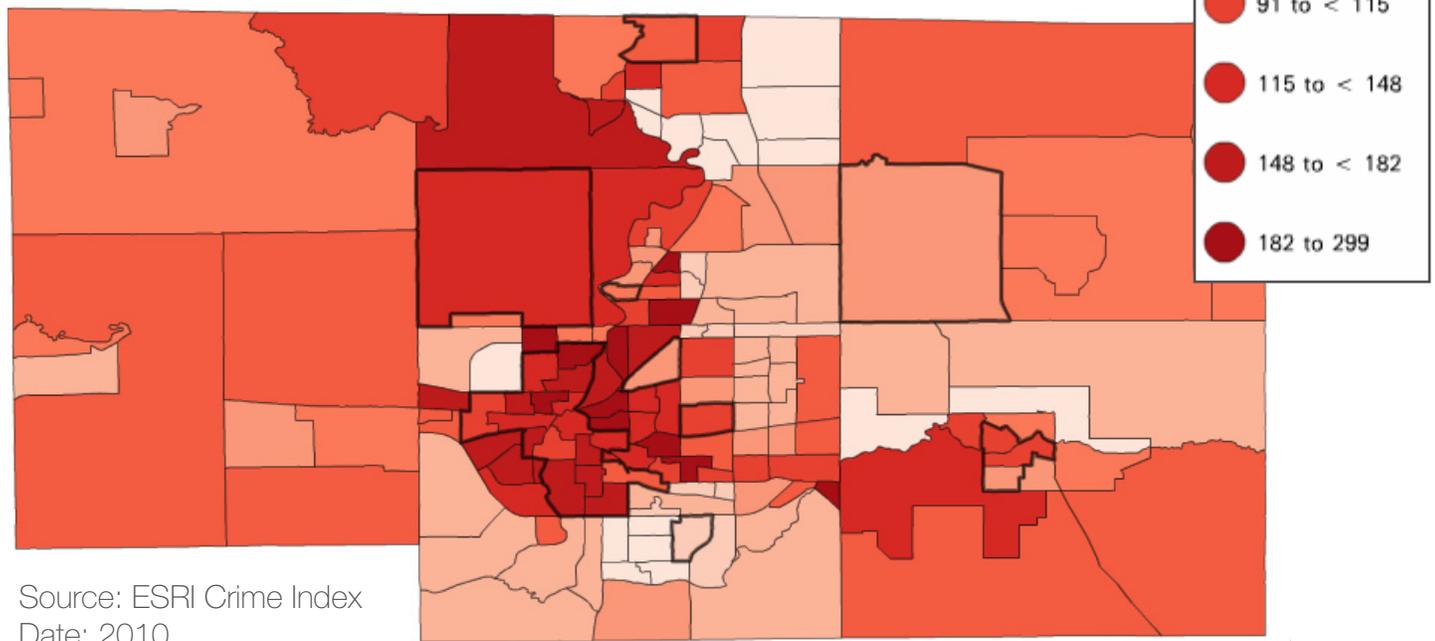




Crime Index



Larceny Index



SAFETY

Using 2011 data Forbes recently released a report reviewing violent crime trends in the nation from the FBI Informed Crime Reports. While violent crime has decreased 4% nationwide, this decrease is taking place the most in smaller cities. The City of Rockford has been documented to be in the top 10 list of worst violent crime rates for several years. From 2010 to 2011 the violent crime rate decreased by about 7%, and the region is no longer in the top ten most violent cities in America.

The two maps to the left show rates for different crime types in 2010. Any district exceeding the "100" threshold has a higher propensity for that crime type than the nation as a whole. Collectively these maps demonstrate the effect of crime on neighborhoods of concentrated poverty. Crime propensity was then compared to other indicators and is presented on the maps. The core of the City of Rockford is 1.5x or 2x (or more) as likely to experience crime than the national average.

The first map shows the total propensity for crime. The second map shows a similar analysis for the Larceny crime type, which is the wrongful acquisition of personal property of another person. The deep red indicates a larceny rate from 2.5x to 10x more than the national average.



Safety



CONCLUSIONS

To remain competitive, it is in the best interest of the Rockford Region to address high poverty levels, and in particular the concentration of poverty for certain neighborhoods. The effects of poverty have been particularly acute for minorities and those of low educational attainment.

In summary,

- The built environment is not conducive to connecting those in greatest need to the resources, information, and support they require to gain additional social and economic mobility
- Social, economic, institutional, and spatial exclusion is preventing those in poverty from achieving self-sufficiency
- Adequate access to healthy food and proper diet of those in poverty is a regional concern
- Single-parent families, especially among African Americans in the region, is a troubling indicator that is related to many of the sustainability metrics Vital Signs is tracking
- The reversal of the impact of high school dropouts and low educational attainment is crucial for the economic and social well-being of the community

Raising the measurement of success from a “poverty standard” to a “self-sufficiency” should be the goal of any implementation effort of Vital Signs regardless of the funding source.

The Rockford Region Vital Signs initiative is a unique opportunity for local elected officials and community leaders to work together to craft goals, objectives, tactics, programs and policies that increase regional sustainability, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for all residents.





APPENDIX: ADDITIONAL SOCIAL VISUALIZATIONS

The following is a list of additional social visualizations available at www.ourvitalsigns.com. These provide a deeper insight in to the State of Social Well-being for the Rockford Region.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Public Spaces with Amenities
- Brownfield Sites
- Land Available for Recreation
- Third Places

CIVIC VITALITY

- Mobility from the US Census Bureau
- Voter Turnout
- Single Parents and Children in Poverty from the US Census Bureau
- Linguistic Isolation from the US Census Bureau
- Ability to Speak English from the US Census Bureau
- Moved to Region and City Optimism
- Strength of Family Households from the US Census Bureau
- Segregation RCAP Index from the Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Change White vs Minority Population 2000 to 2010 from the US Census Bureau
- Percent Change of Young Adults Residents 2000 to 2010 from the US Census Bureau
- Elderly Characteristics from the US Census Bureau
- Black Population Characteristics from the US Census Bureau
- White Population Characteristics from the US Census Bureau
- Hispanic Characteristics from the US Census Bureau
- Average Household Expenditures on Communications Technology from the Consumer Expenditures Survey
- Armed Forces from the US Census Bureau

CULTURE

- Average Household Expenditures on Passive Entertainment from the Consumer Expenditure Survey
- Average Household Expenditures on Active Entertainment from the Consumer Expenditure Survey



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Households in Poverty from the US Census Bureau
- County Income From Transfer Payments from Woods and Poole
- Elderly Financial Stability from the US Census Bureau
- Portion of Income Coming from Transfer Payments from Woods and Poole
- Income by Gender from the US Census Bureau
- Male Households in Poverty from the US Census Bureau
- Female Households in Poverty from the US Census Bureau
- Unemployment by Race from the US Census Bureau
- Self Sufficiency Wage from Heartland Alliance
- Per Capita Income from the US Census Bureau
- Change in Per Capita Income from the US Census Bureau
- Household Income by Race from the US Census Bureau
- Population Lacking Self Sufficiency from the US Census Bureau and HUD
- Concentrations of Poverty from the US Census Bureau
- Percent Change White Collar Employees 2000 to 2010 from the US Census Bureau
- Population Lacking Self Sufficiency
- Income Characteristics by Race from the US Census Bureau
- Average Household Expenditures on Children from the Consumer Expenditures Survey
- Child Expenditures from the US Census Bureau
- Unemployment and Educational Attainment from the US Census Bureau
- Welfare Recipients from the US Census Bureau
- Women and Minority Owned Businesses from the NETS Database
- Income and Unemployment from the US Census Bureau
- Age Characteristics from the US Census Bureau
- Transfer Payments from Woods and Poole
- Percent Households with Children Below Poverty from the US Census Bureau
- Unemployment Characteristics by Race and Education in 2000 from the US Census Bureau
- Unemployment Characteristics by Race and Education in 2010 from the US Census Bureau
- Additional Unemployment Characteristics by Race and Education in 2010 from the US Census Bureau
- 2011 Unemployment Rates for Metro from the US Census Bureau
- No Retirement Income from the US Census Bureau



EDUCATION

- ISAT Scores from the Illinois Student Report Card
- Unemployment Map vs Bachelors Degrees from the US Census Bureau
- High School Graduation Rates by School from the Illinois Student Report Card
- Graduation Rates with Truancy and Dropping Out and Low Income from the Illinois
- Enrollment by Race to Low Income from the Illinois Student Report Card
- Attendance and Truancy by School from the Illinois Student Report Card
- Enrollment by Race and School Type
- Educational Attainment by Gender and Race from the US Census Bureau
- Educational Make Up by Race from the Illinois Student Report Card
- Unemployment vs High School Diplomas and Bachelors from the US Census Bureau
- Class Size vs Test Scores of High Schoolers from the Illinois Student Report Card
- Minority Enrollment and Low Income Students from the Illinois Student Report Card
- High School Graduation Rates from the Illinois Student Report Card
- Test Scores Below Standard by Socioeconomic Status from the Illinois Student Report
- Test Scores Exceeding Standards by Socioeconomic Status from the Illinois Student Report Card
- Test Scores Exceeding Standards by Gender from the Illinois Student Report Card
- Comparative Test Scores from the Illinois Student Report Card
- Dropout Rates, Graduation, and Attendance from the Illinois Student Report Card
- Change in Enrollment by School Type from the Illinois Student Report Card
- Percent Public School Attendance by Race from the Illinois Student Report Card
- Percent Attending Public and Private Schools from the Illinois Student Report Card
- Test Scores below Standard by Gender from the Illinois Student Report Card
- Percent Change College Graduates 2000 to 2010 from the US Census Bureau
- Selected Characteristics of Dropouts from the US Census Bureau

FOOD

- Proximity to Healthy Food
- Average Household Fruit and Vegetable Expenditures from the Consumer Expenditures Survey
- Unhealthy Food Index from the Consumer Expenditures Survey
- Analysis of Average Household Food Consumption Patterns as Percent of Total Food Expenses from the CES

HEALTH

- Health Insurance Coverage by Race from the Illinois Department of Health
- Average Household Expenditures on Smoking Products from the Consumer Expenditure Survey



- Average Household Expenditures on Alcohol Products from the Consumer Expenditure Survey
- Birth Statistics from the Illinois Department of Health
- Causes of Death from the Illinois Department of Health
- Obesity Statistics from the Illinois Department of Health
- Healthcare and Wellbeing from the Illinois Department of Health
- Health Conditions from the Illinois Department of Health
- Birth Statistics from CDC
- Selected Health Characteristics from the CDC

HOUSING

- Loan Denial Rate by Race
- HUD Disparity Indices from HUD
- Owner Occupied Units vs Public Housing from the US Census Bureau
- Owner Occupied
- Minority Owner Occupied
- Population Change in Built Area from the US Census Bureau
- Subsidized Housing by Neighborhood from the Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Family Poverty Statistics from the US Census Bureau
- Characteristics of Average Household Size from the US Census Bureau
- Characteristics of Household Income from the US Census Bureau
- Housing Type by Minority Concentration from the US Census Bureau
- Housing Vacancies
- Subsidized Housing Characteristics from the Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Subsidized Housing Additional Facts from Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Subsidized Housing Additional Facts from Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Total Households from the US Census

LAND

- Proximity to Recreational Space

SAFETY

- Arrests and Jail Data from the Department of Justice
- Perceived Safety from the Healthy Communities Survey Study
- Crime vs Education and Income from the ESRI Crime Index and the US Census



Bureau

- Crime vs Income from the ESRI Crime Index and the US Census Bureau
- Crime vs Population Characteristics from the ESRI Crime Index and the US Census Bureau
- Crime vs Race from the ESRI Crime Index and the US Census Bureau
- Crime vs Housing vs Expenditures from the ESRI Crime Index, US Census Bureau, and the Consumer Expenditures Survey
- Characteristics of Crime Propensity from the ESRI Crime Index

TECHNOLOGY

- Wifi Sites

TRANSPORTATION

- Accidents from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Accessibility of Cultural Resources
- Means of Transportation to Work from the US Census Bureau
- Number of Cars Per Household from the US Census Bureau



METRO-WIDE SOCIAL DATA VISUALIZATIONS

- Community Race and Ethnicity from the US Census Bureau
- Community Age Distributions from the US Census Bureau
- County Income From Transfer Payments from Woods and Poole
- County Income From Transfer Payment Bar Chart from Woods and Poole
- Wealth Index Line Chart from Woods and Poole
- Portion of Income Coming from Transfer Payments Bar Chart from Woods and Poole
- Age Distribution from the US Census Bureau
- Black Population from the US Census Bureau
- Income and Poverty from the US Census Bureau
- Hispanic Population from the US Census Bureau
- Community Snapshot Educational Attainment from the US Census Bureau
- Race Distribution from the US Census Bureau
- Gender Distribution from the US Census Bureau
- Population Growth Trends from the US Census Bureau
- Winnebago County Origins and Destination from the IRS Migration Data
- Child Poverty and Educational Attainment by Community from the US Census Bureau
- Disparity Index from the Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Poverty by Race from the US Census Bureau
- Population Ages by Decade from Woods and Poole
- Race by Decade from Woods and Poole
- Age Projections from Woods and Poole
- Demographic Projections from Woods and Poole
- One County Origins and Destination from the IRS Migration Data
- Migrant Trends Inbound from the IRS Migration Data
- Migrant Trends Outbound from the IRS Migration Data
- Unemployment Rates for Metro from the US Census Bureau





Transportation



Energy



Built Environment



Housing



Biodiversity



Education



Waste



Civic Vitality

ourmap

Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning



Health



Culture



Land



Water



Economic Development



Technology



Food



Safety

