

2007

Twin Cities Opportunity Index

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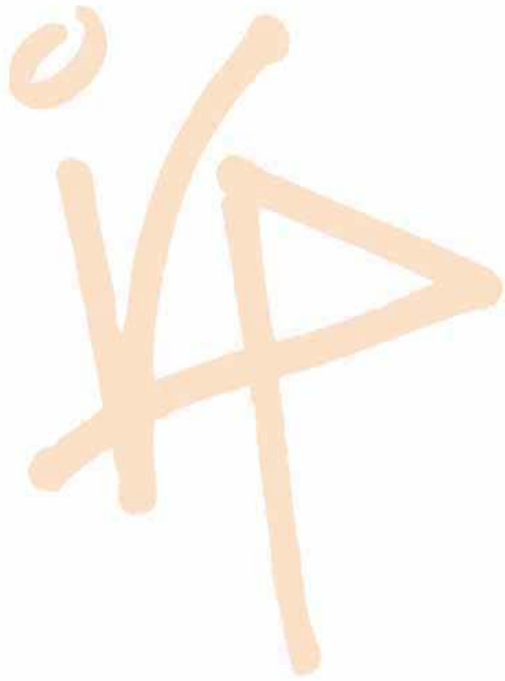


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Access to Opportunity in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area



institute on race & poverty

Research, Education and Advocacy

Opportunity Index

Objective

Quantify differences in access to opportunity across cities and townships the 11-county metropolitan area, especially for lower income workers.

The index measures local characteristics in four broad dimensions.

- Fiscal health
- Access to transportation and jobs
- Quality of life
- Education

Fiscal Health

Capacity:

- 2004 tax capacity per household
- % change in tax capacity per household from 1995-2004

Costs:

- % of population school age (2000)
- % of population over 65 (2000)
- Average age of housing stock (2000)

Transportation and Jobs

Proximity:

- City/township jobs per 100,000 residents (2000)
- City/township low-skill jobs per 100,000 residents (2000)
- Jobs within 10 miles of the city/township (2000)

Growth:

- % change in jobs within 10 miles of the city/township (1990-2000)

Access:

- Average commute times (2000)
- % of population within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of transit (2000)

Quality of Life

Safety:

- Violent crime rate per 100,000 residents (2005)
- Non-violent crime rate per 100,000 residents (2005)

Housing market health:

- Housing value appreciation (1990-2000)

Political:

- Voter participation rate (2000)

Environment/Health:

- Asthma hospitalization rate (1998-2005)
- Polluted land per 100,000 residents (2005)

Education

Quality/Outcomes:

- MN Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) reading scores (2006)
- MCA math scores (2006)
- High school graduation rate (2006)
- Attendance rate (2006)

Costs/Poverty:

- Limited English proficiency rate (2006)
- Mobility rate (2006)
- % of elementary students eligible for free or reduced cost lunch (2006)

Calculating the Index

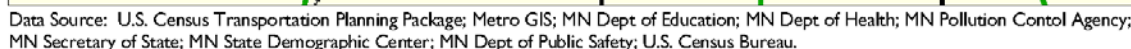
Each variable was standardized as a Z-score (which controls for scale).

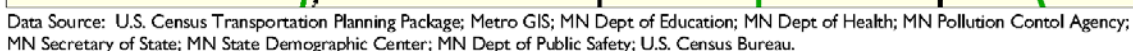
An average Z-score was calculated for each of the four broad dimensions.

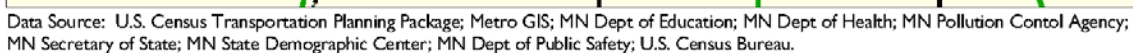
The four averages were themselves averaged to get the overall Opportunity Index.

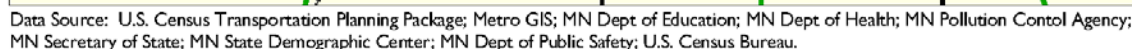
Cities/townships were divided into quintiles to get five opportunity classifications.

Opportunity Maps

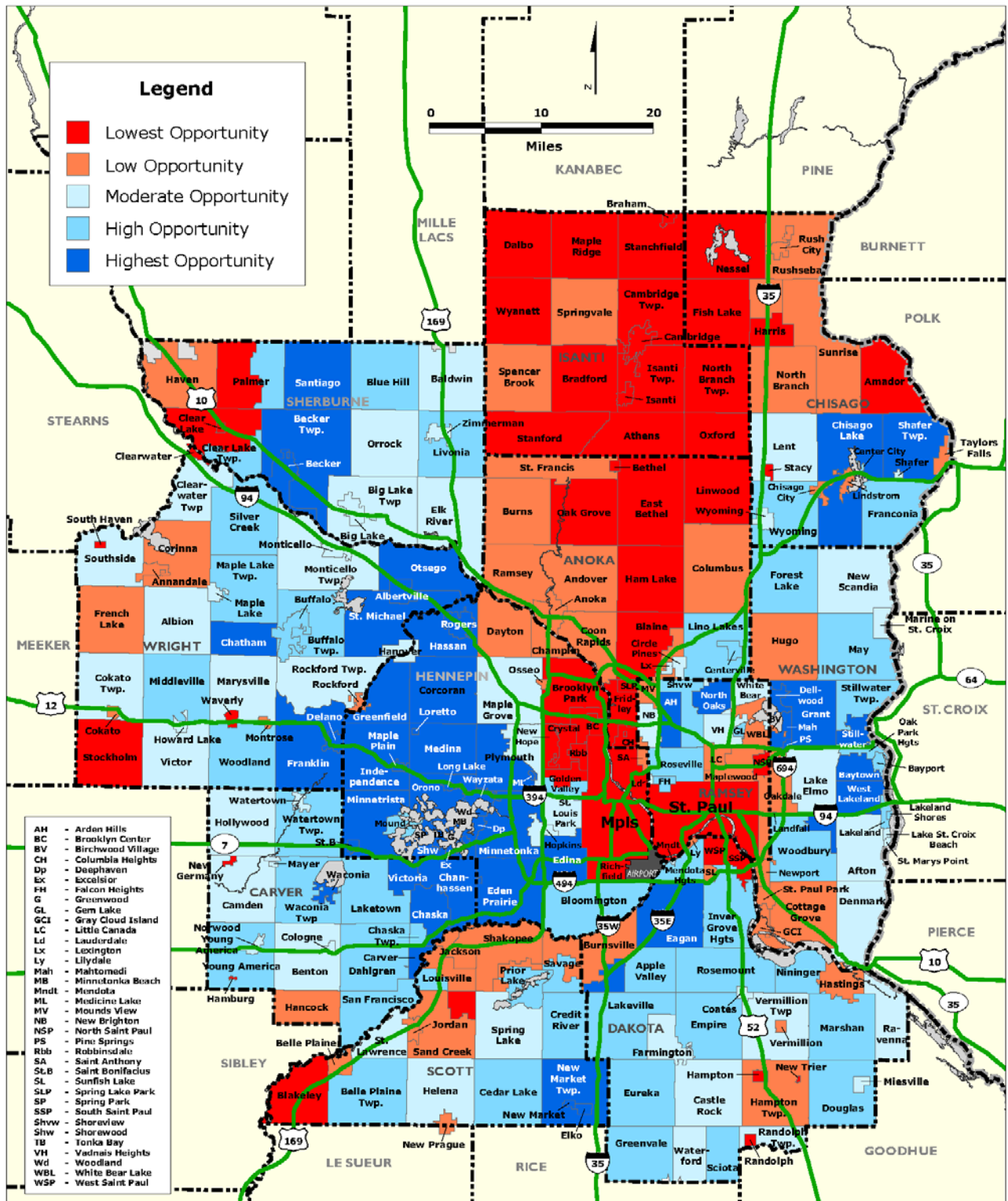








Opportunity Index: Summary Measure (Schools, Quality of Life, Jobs/Trans., Fiscal)



The “lowest opportunity” places are concentrated in the core and to the north in Anoka and Isanti Counties.

The “highest opportunity” places are concentrated in the suburbs along the I-494, I-394, North I-94, and South I-35 corridors.

Characteristics of Opportunity Groups

83% of the region's black population lives in lowest and low opportunity places. Less than half of the white population lives in these places.

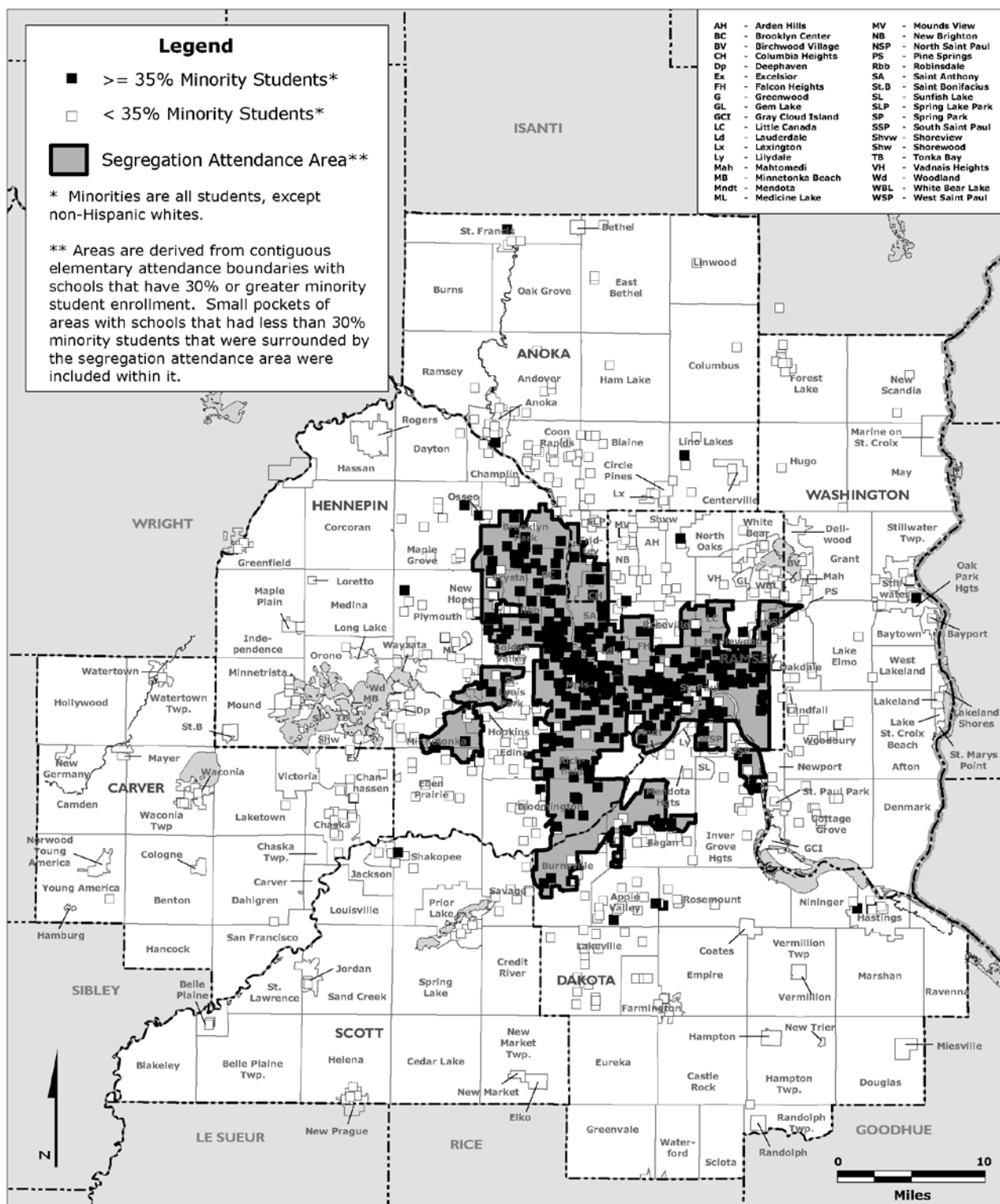
The equivalent shares for Hispanics, Asians and Native Americans are 74%, 70% and 74%.

Distribution of Population by Race

	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Asian</u>	<u>Nat. Amer.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lowest Opportunity	32	79	66	63	61	38
Low Opportunity	17	4	8	7	13	15
Moderate Opportunity	15	5	8	7	9	14
High Opportunity	19	7	10	13	10	18
Highest Opportunity	17	5	7	10	6	16

MINNEAPOLIS - SAINT PAUL REGION

Schools With Minority Shares > 35% in 2005



Data Source: Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Land Management Information Center

Characteristics of Opportunity Groups

Three out of four housing units affordable at very low incomes are in lowest and low opportunity places, compared to just one out of two of all housing units.

Distribution of Affordable Housing by Opportunity Scores and % RMI

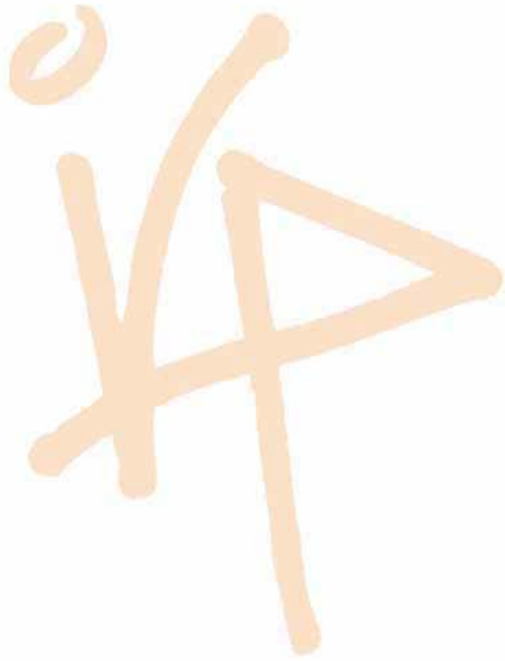
	% of Affordable Housing			All Housing
	<u>30%</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>80%</u>	<u>Units</u>
Lowest Opportunity	60	64	50	39
Low Opportunity	14	12	15	14
Moderate Opportunity	9	9	12	14
High Opportunity	10	10	14	17
Highest Opportunity	7	6	9	15

Characteristics of Opportunity Groups

The % of housing units affordable at very low and low incomes is roughly four times higher in the lowest opportunity places than in the highest opportunity places.

% of Housing Affordable by Opportunity Scores and % of RMI

	% of Housing Affordable		
	<u>30%</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>80%</u>
Lowest Opportunity	11	42	80
Low Opportunity	7	22	66
Moderate Opportunity	5	16	56
High Opportunity	4	15	50
Highest Opportunity	3	10	39



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