

Project: Moving To Work Baseline Analysis

Community Partners: Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia and the Columbus State University Social Research Center

Student Team: Douglas Allen, Jason Allen, Rachael Cofield, Anthony Gibson, Jessie Scott, Cristian Waters, Juli Yoder

Faculty: Dr. Brad Huff

Class: GEOG-3215 Intermediate GIS

Department: History and Geography, Columbus State University

Semester: Spring 2014

Overview: Columbus State University (CSU), operating through its Social Research Center (SRC), agreed to provide analysis of a Moving To Work (MTW) project that is being conducted by the Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia (HACG). The local study is one of several MTW studies sponsored by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This five-year study is focused in the three broad areas of rent reform, a voucher program, and a housing program for homeless veterans. The first area is focused on the use of incentives to increase the percentage of residents who are gainfully employed. The second explores the impact on the lives of residents of providing housing that is not tied to a public housing facility through vouchers for 120% of the average market rent in Columbus. The third examines the efficacy of taking homeless veterans off the streets and placing them in safe and decent housing before asking them to make lifestyle changes. The SRC is to provide analysis of the programs.

Outcomes: Students in GEOG-3215, Intermediate GIS, met with the director of the SRC. They were tasked with conducting baseline spatial analysis focused on two public housing facilities. The facilities were selected because they will participate in the first area of analysis and because it was felt they would provide a good baseline for the second area of analysis. Their baseline studies employed a variety of descriptive analysis and summary spatial statistical analysis of the facilities and the communities that form the facilities larger contexts. The students made a field inspection of all of HACG's properties and their surrounding communities narrated by three representatives from HACG. They also conducted lab analysis of data including 2010 Census data, ESRI consumer spending data, ESRI market segmentation data, and data collected specifically for the project including school districting, school location, and school performance data. Maps and reflection papers were generated based upon their analysis.

Results: What follows is a representative collection of maps and a final paper from the project. Students speak through these in their own voices about how their interests converged with the course's focus on GIS and the project's baseline work. Subsequent to the end of the course, the paper at the back of this summary was presented by Rachael Cofield at the SouthEastern Division of the Association of American Geographers 2014 annual conference.

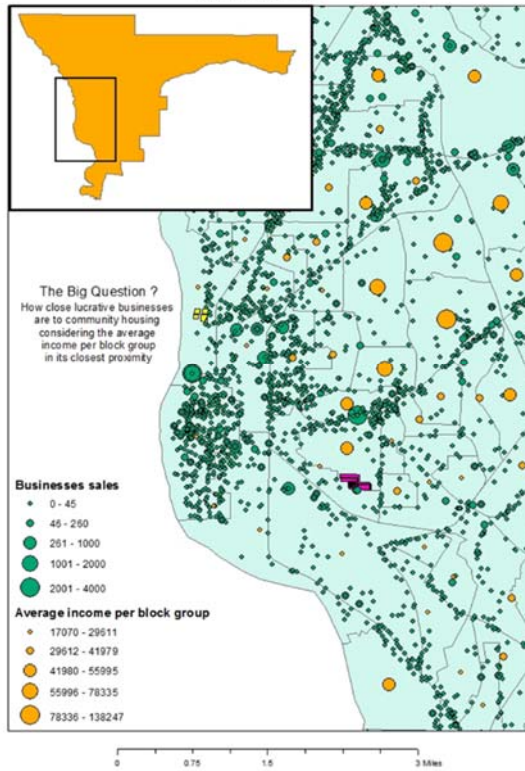
Map Project



This is a map constructed by Cristian Waters. He was interested in the influence of the spatial form of existing infrastructure on constitutive social process.

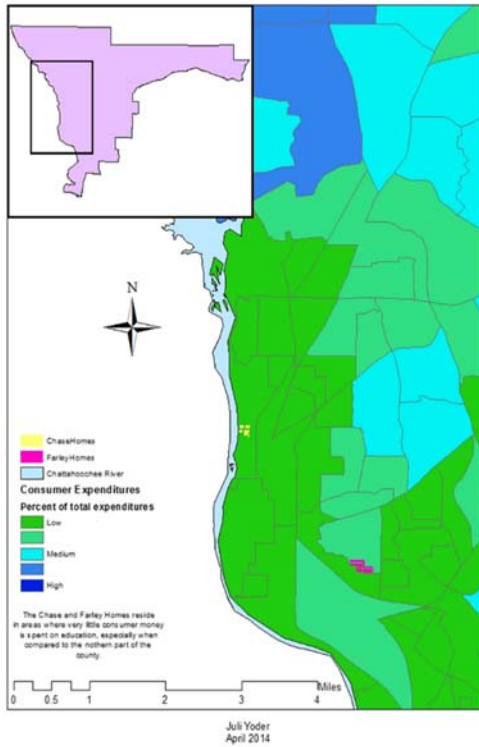
Columbus GA average income per block group and Business sales

Chase (Yellow) and Farley (Pink) community housing
Anthony Gibson 4/24/14



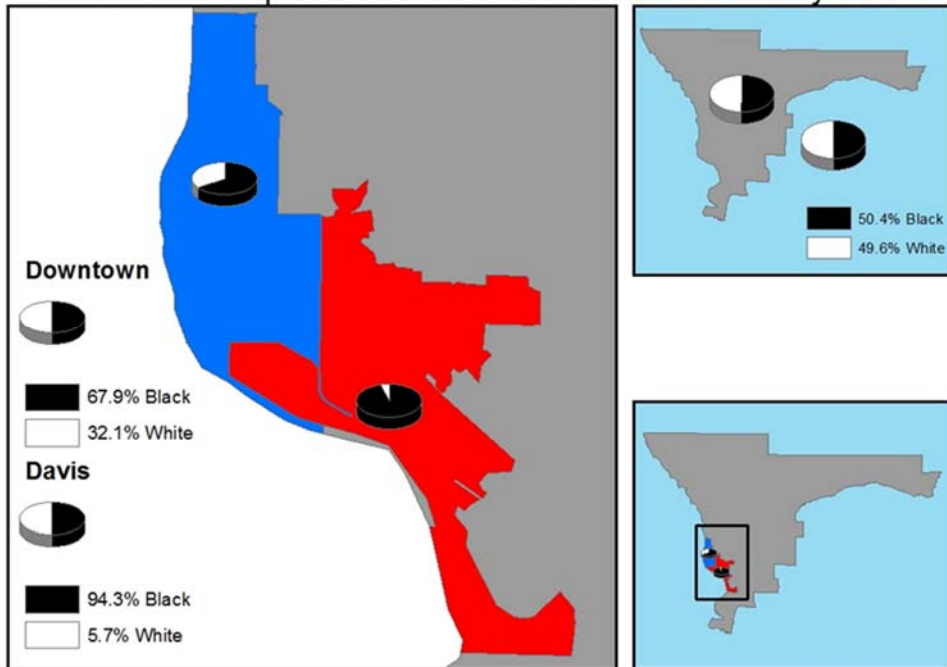
Anthony Gibson was curious about the proximity of businesses with significant sales to the Chase and Farley properties.

Percent of Total Consumer Expenditures on Education in Muscogee County, Georgia
 Percentage of consumer money spent on education near the Chase and Farley homes normalized by total percent



Juli Yoder explored the relationship between consumer expenditures for education and proximity to the Chase and Farley properties.

Racial Make-up of Downtown and Davis Elementary Zones



Doug Allen was interested in whether students living in Chase and Farley properties were apt to benefit from attending multicultural and multiracial schools.

