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The Evolution and Landscape of Under-Resourced Communities in U.S. Metropolitan Areas

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Outline

Introduction

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Introduction

- Concentrated disadvantage within metropolitan areas has been a focus of scholarship and policy interventions for decades

- Landscape of metropolitan areas has changed drastically, due to demographic shifts and economic restructuring

- We examine incidence, location, and concentration of under-resourced communities over the past forty years and the ways in which these trends vary by race/ethnicity

Under-Resourced Community (URC) Definition

An under-resourced community is a group of two or more tracts with a minimum population of at least 8,000 people, located in a metropolitan statistical area of at least 250,000 people. Each tract must meet the following criteria:

- $Student\ Population\ \%_{tract} \leq 65\%$
- $Group\ Quarters\ Population\ \%_{tract} \leq 65\%$
- $Area_{tract} \leq 15\ mi^2$
- $Population\ Density_{tract} \geq 100\ people/mi^2$
- $Primary\ commuting\ flow\ to\ an\ urbanized\ area\ (RUCA = 1)$
- $Household\ Median\ Income_{tract} < Household\ Median\ Income_{US}$

And must meet one of the following criteria:

Poverty rate ≥ 20%	OR	Poverty rate ≥ 18% and contiguous to a 20% poverty rate tract

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Data and Methods

- Descriptive statistics using tract-level data from the 1980, 1990, 2000 Census and 2008-2012, 2015-2019 5-Year ACS from Social Explorer with consistent (2010) tract boundaries

- Metro areas with a population of at least 250,000 in all five time periods (188 metros)

- Central city and suburb definitions developed by Kneebone and Garr (2010)

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Findings

Proportion of Population Living in URC Grows Over the Past Four Decades

Trends in URC Population and Poverty Rate

	Proportion of Population in URC	URC Poverty Rate	Non-URC Poverty Rate	URC Poverty Rate/Non-URC Poverty Rate
1980	.147	.302	.079	3.841
1990	.160	.317	.082	3.876
2000	.172	.294	.082	3.590
2008-2012	.213	.310	.099	3.136
2015-2019	.180	.289	.094	3.082

Note: Weighted by total population

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Proportion of URC Population Living in Suburbs Grows

Central City Population and Poverty Trends

	Proportion in URC	URC Poverty Rate	Non-URC Poverty Rate	URC Poverty Rate/Non-URC Poverty Rate
1980	.320	.312	.164	1.895
1990	.350	.330	.180	1.832
2000	.374	.302	.178	1.701
2008-2012	.430	.321	.206	1.555
2015-2019	.366	.297	.181	1.638

Suburban Population and Poverty Trends

	Proportion in URC	URC Poverty Rate	Non-URC Poverty Rate	URC Poverty Rate/Non-URC Poverty Rate	Proportion of URC Population in Suburbs
1980	.043	.265	.081	3.289	0.178
1990	.058	.276	.086	3.198	0.227
2000	.070	.263	.088	2.992	0.252
2008-2012	.112	.277	.114	2.443	0.349
2015-2019	.094	.262	.104	2.524	0.346

Note: Weighted by total population

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Non-Hispanic Blacks Plurality of URC Population from 1980 to 2000, Hispanics Plurality of URC Population Starting in 2008-2012

Racial Composition of URC Population

	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Non-Hispanic Asian	Hispanic or Latino
1980	.350	.446	.027	.169
1990	.333	.395	.040	.223
2000	.286	.368	.045	.271
2008-2012	.302	.300	.052	.319
2015-2019	.273	.298	.056	.336

Proportion of Racial Group Living in URC

	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Non-Hispanic Asian	Hispanic or Latino	Overall Proportion of Metro Population Living in URC
1980	.057	.539	.143	.376	.147
1990	.067	.478	.157	.393	.160
2000	.065	.444	.162	.394	.172
2008-2012	.104	.456	.162	.398	.213
2015-2019	.085	.393	.122	.319	.180

Note: Weighted by total population

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Hispanics or Latinos Largest Demographic Group Suburban URCs Starting in 2015-2019

Racial Composition of URC Population, Central Cities

	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Non-Hispanic Asian	Hispanic or Latino
1980	.312	.461	.026	.192
1990	.297	.404	.040	.249
2000	.258	.362	.049	.301
2008-2012	.265	.303	.059	.346
2015-2019	.236	.299	.064	.359

Racial Composition of URC Population, Suburbs

	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Non-Hispanic Asian	Hispanic or Latino
1980	.441	.359	.022	.169
1990	.438	.293	.033	.228
2000	.353	.303	.035	.277
2008-2012	.379	.232	.042	.320
2015-2019	.345	.228	.048	.346

Note: Weighted by total population

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Case Studies

Austin, TX Metropolitan Area
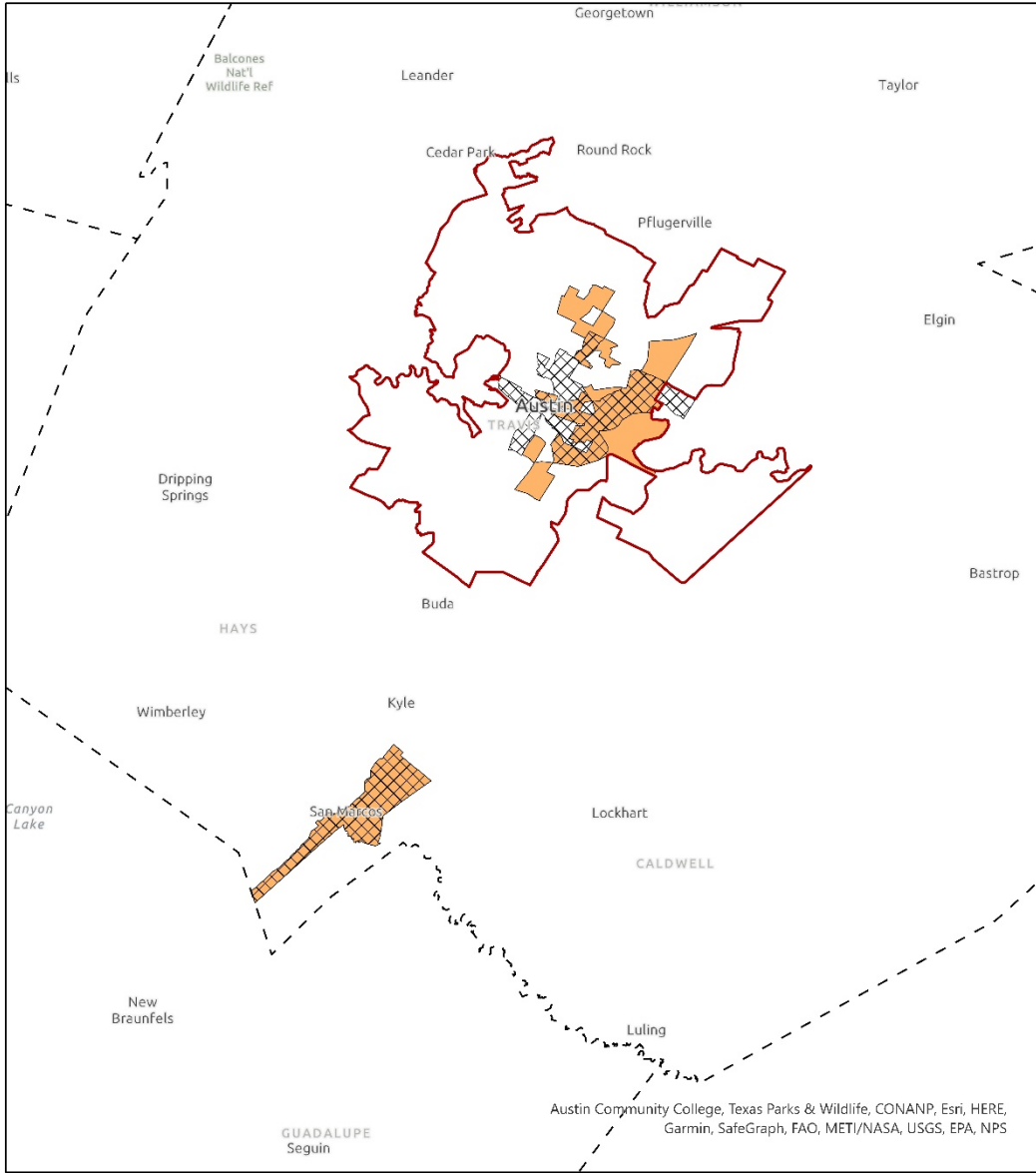
Legend (left map):
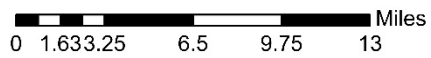- 2010 CBSA Boundaries
- 2015-2019 Under-Resourced Community
- 1980 Under-Resourced Community
- 2010 Central City Boundaries

Miles
0   2.9   5.8   11.6   17.4   23.2

N

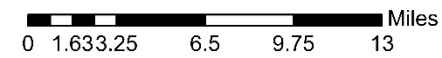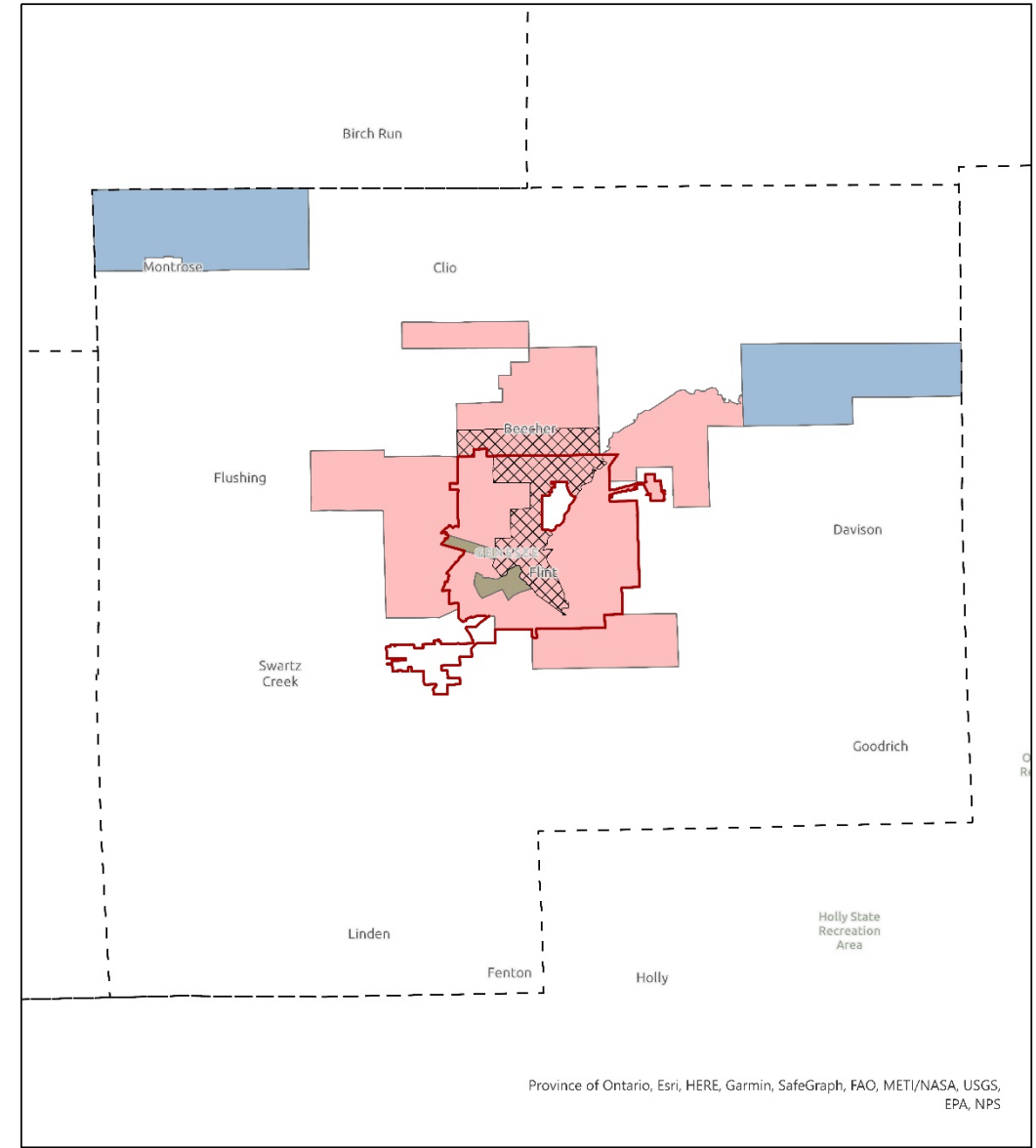# Austin, TX Metropolitan Area

Legend (right map):
- 2010 CBSA Boundaries
- 1980 Under-Resourced Community
- 2010 Central City Boundaries
- 2015-2019 High-Poverty, not URC
- 2015-2019 High Poverty and URC
- 2015-2019 URC, not High-Poverty

Miles
0   2.9   5.8   11.6   17.4   23.2

N

Austin Community College, Texas Parks & Wildlife, CONANP, Esri, HERE,
Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS

Flint, MI Metropolitan Area (left map)

Miles
0 1.63 3.25 6.5 9.75 13

N
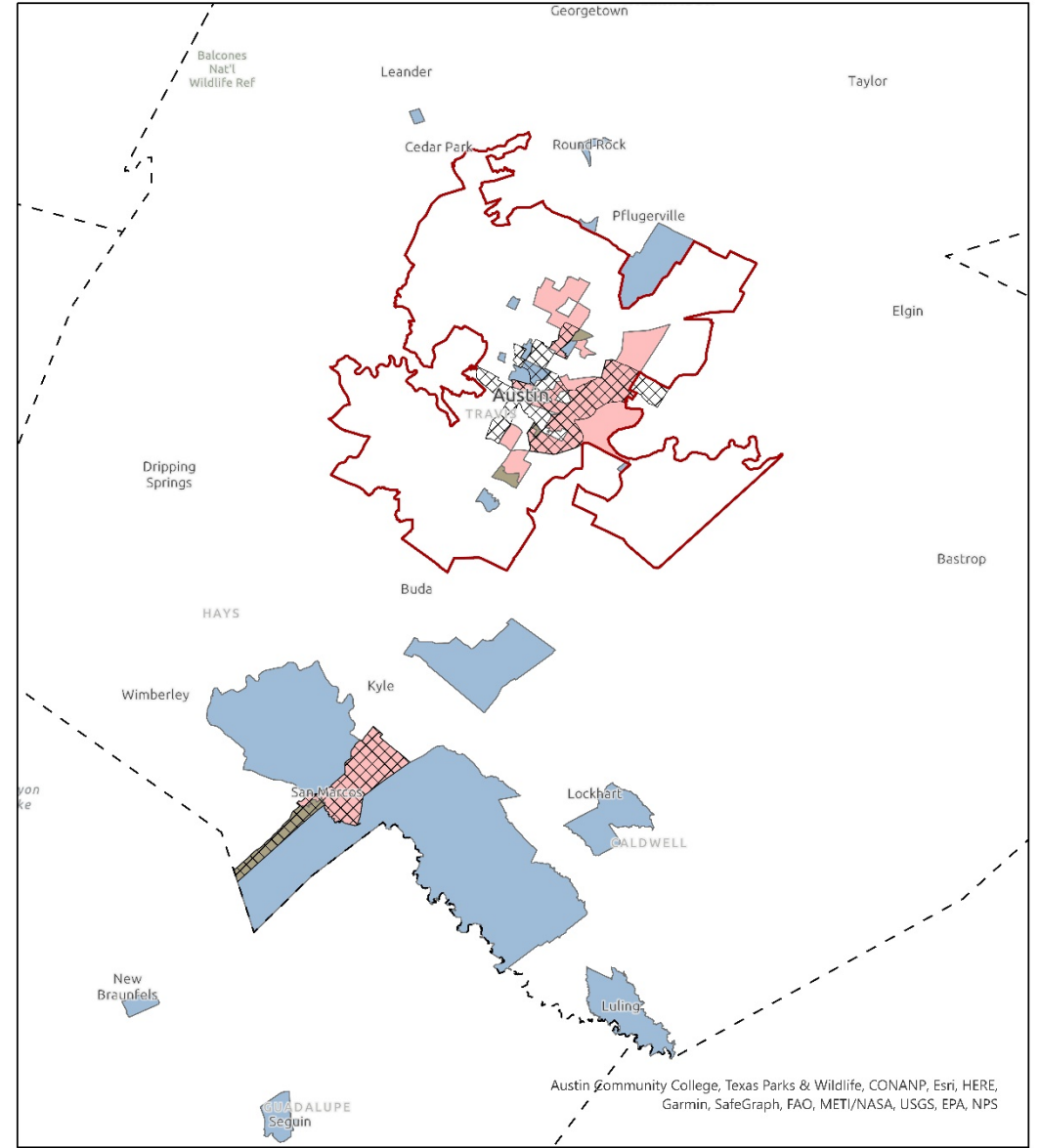
☐ 2010 CBSA Boundaries
■ 2015-2019 Under-Resourced Community
▨ 1980 Under-Resourced Community
▢ 2010 Central City Boundaries

Flint, MI Metropolitan Area (right map)

Miles
0 1.63 3.25 6.5 9.75 13

N

☐ 2010 CBSA Boundaries
▨ 1980 Under-Resourced Community
▢ 2010 Central City Boundaries
■ 2015-2019 High-Poverty, not URC
■ 2015-2019 High Poverty and URC
■ 2015-2019 URC, not High-Poverty

Province of Ontario, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS

Conclusion

- Growth in the proportion of metro residents living in a URC
- Growth in proportion of suburban residents living in a URC
- Concentrations of poverty in central city URCs continue to be disproportionately Black and Hispanic/Latino
- Hispanic/Latinos are the largest group in URC suburbs at the end of the time period

References

Kneebone, E., Garr, E. (2010). The suburbanization of poverty: Trends in metropolitan America, 2000 to 2008. Washington: Brookings Institution.

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