

GSURC Project Proposal: **Metropolitan Atlanta and the Concentration of Poverty**

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Abstract: More poor individuals today live in suburbs than in cities, a significant shift from 2000, when the urban poor outnumbered suburban residents living in poverty. This shift of poverty from urban areas into surrounding suburbs has happened unevenly, resulting in concentrated pockets of people living in “poverty areas.” Individuals living in distressed, high-poverty neighborhoods face worse health outcomes, higher crime rates, failing schools, and fewer job opportunities. These disadvantages are compounded over time and across generations and greatly diminish the likelihood of upward mobility for poor individuals. The purpose of this study is to analyze poverty trends in the 20-county Metropolitan Atlanta area.

Method of Study: The study defines poverty according to the US Official Poverty Measure. Using data from the American Community Survey, we will visualize changes in the general poverty rate from 2000 to 2014. In addition, we will utilize census bureau data from the Geolytics Neighborhood Change Database in order to track concentrations of poverty throughout Metro-Atlanta. We will also track poverty concentrations based on race in order to examine disparities between White, Black, Asian, and Hispanic/Latino populations. These concentrations will be visualized in ArcGIS mapping software. We will then investigate the location and demographic make-up of poverty areas to determine any patterns.

keywords: poverty, metropolitan Atlanta, suburbanization