Atlas of Minority and Low-Income Populations in the Capitol Region

Prepared by the Capitol Region Council of Governments as part of its Environmental Justice & Title VI Challenge Grant

January 2003
In 2002, the Capitol Region Council of Governments received an Environmental Justice and Title VI Challenge Grant, to address environmental justice and social equity issues in its transportation planning program. As part of that effort, CRCOG developed a series of maps identifying minority and low-income populations throughout the Capitol Region. These maps were used as a basis in analyzing the distribution of transportation benefits and burdens, particularly as they relate to the EJ target groups. The maps developed in that effort are presented here.

**REGIONAL OVERVIEW**

The Capitol Region is composed of 29 municipalities in the Hartford metropolitan area. Hartford is the core city of the Capitol Region and also is the capital city of Connecticut. Hartford contains 28% of the region’s jobs and 17% of its population, but its land area is very small (18 square miles).

The region includes approximately 760 square miles, has a population of just over 720,000, and an employment base of about 440,000 jobs. Figure 1 shows the 29 towns and cities in the Capitol Region.

**THE CAPITOL REGION OF CONNECTICUT**

- 29 municipalities
- 760 square miles
- 440,000 jobs
- 720,000 total population
- 27.5% minority population
- 9.0% below poverty level
- 14.2% below 150% of poverty level
- 11% without access to automobile

**HARTFORD (central city)**

- 18 square miles
- 124,000 population
- 124,000 jobs
MINORITY POPULATIONS

Minority groups in the Capitol Region comprise about 27.5% of the entire population. The racial and ethnic composition of the minority population in the Capitol Region is shown in Table 1.

The predominant minority groups in the Capitol Region are African-Americans and Hispanics. These groups comprise 12.2 percent and 10.7 percent of the region’s population, respectively. Combined they account for almost 84% of the minority population within the Capitol Region.

In an effort to better understand the geographic distribution of the minority communities in the Capitol Region, we color-coded and plotted the percentage of minority population in each Census block group within the region. These maps show a concentration of minority populations in the central city and within the “inner ring” communities.

African-Americans. African-Americans make up 12.2% of the total Capitol Region population and are about 45% of the Capitol Region minority population. Geographically, the African-American population is concentrated in the northern part of Hartford and the towns to the north of Hartford. There are also significant numbers of African-Americans in the southern part of Hartford and to the east of Hartford. (see Figure 2).

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RACIAL OR ETHNIC GROUP</th>
<th>POP.</th>
<th>PCT.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>523,281</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American or Black</td>
<td>88,252</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</td>
<td>77,259</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian, Native Hawaiian, &amp; other</td>
<td>18,357</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian &amp; Alaska Native</td>
<td>1,115</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Other Race</td>
<td>1,561</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>11,495</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>721,320</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2
African-American Population

Includes any person who identifies as African American or Black, including blacks of any race.

Capital Region Average = 12.2%

Data based on block group geography.

Prepared by The Capitol Region Council of Governments

Source: Census2000 SF1 P001 Census TIGER Line file, 2000
November 3, 2002
FOR REFERENCE ONLY
Hispanics. Hispanics make up 10.7% of the total Capitol Region population, and comprise 39% of the Capitol Region minority population. As shown in Figure 3, the Hispanic population is concentrated in the southern and northeastern sections of Hartford. There are also significant numbers of Hispanic residents in the southeastern corner of West Hartford, and the central section of East Hartford.
All Minorities. When all minority populations are combined, they comprise 27.5% of the Capitol Region population. The geographic distribution of all minorities is shown in Figure 4. There is a high concentration (where minorities comprise 50% or more of a block group’s population) in Hartford and the inner suburbs – especially those north and east of Hartford. Minority residential areas in the suburbs include southeastern West Hartford, southern Bloomfield, southern Windsor, eastern East Hartford and a portion of Manchester.

LOW-INCOME POPULATION

While the federal government provides an official definition of poverty, there is no officially accepted definition of low-income. For purposes of this report, we have provided statistics for two possible definitions of low-income: the federally defined ‘poverty’ level, and another less strict definition based on households earning up to 50 percent more income than allowed under the poverty definition. Both definitions have the advantage of readily available data published by the Census. The income cutoff levels for both definitions are provided in Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Poverty Level (1)</th>
<th>150% Poverty Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>$8,500</td>
<td>$12,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 persons</td>
<td>$10,800</td>
<td>$16,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 persons</td>
<td>$13,290</td>
<td>$19,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 persons</td>
<td>$17,000</td>
<td>$25,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 persons</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$30,150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Poverty level defined by federal government.
Based on these definitions, the region’s low-income population is significantly smaller than its minority population. Nine percent of our residents live at or below the poverty level, and 14.2 percent of our residents have incomes at or below the 150-percent poverty level. By comparison, the percentage of minority residents is 27.5 percent, or nearly twice that of low-income residents.

While the numbers of low-income residents are much smaller than those of minority residents, there is some similarity, but not a close correlation in the distributions of the two populations. The greatest commonality is a concentration of both low-income and minority residents in the central city of Hartford. However, the low-income population is more dispersed with a scattering of low-income residents in many of the region’s towns. The distributions are discussed in more detail below.

_Below the Poverty Level._ The percentage of persons living in households with an income below the poverty level threshold for each Census block group is shown in Figure 5. The greatest concentration of residents living below the poverty level is within the City of Hartford, with some smaller clusters in the older more urban sections of suburban towns like East Hartford, Manchester, and Vernon.

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**Figure 5**

_Persons Below Poverty Level_

*Information on back.*
Below 150% of the Poverty Level. The second definition of *low-income* is based on a household earning up to 50 percent more than the federally defined poverty level. The distribution of low-income persons based on this higher threshold is shown in Figure 6. While there is still a concentration of low-income persons in Hartford, the distribution of is more dispersed given this higher income threshold. In addition to the older suburban areas, there are also small numbers (10-20%) of low-income persons in some outer suburban and even rural areas.
TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED – NO ACCESS TO A CAR

While the primary focus of the CRCOG’s Environmental Justice and Title VI program is on two target groups (minority and low-income populations), there is also a third group of interest – those persons without access to an automobile. This transportation-disadvantaged group comprises about 11.1 percent of the region’s households. The distribution is very similar to that of the low-income population in that there is a concentration within Hartford, but also clusters throughout the region. The distribution is shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7
Occupied Housing Units Without Access to a Car

Preparation of this report has been financed in part through a grant from the U. S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration and a grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation.

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