Much of our work focuses on the country’s 100 largest metropolitan statistical areas, which house two-thirds of the nation’s population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Metropolitan areas are statistical representations of “commuter sheds” and, by extension, labor markets

**PRIMARY CITY** in the 100 largest metro areas: First city in the MSA name; Any other named city with a population over 100,000

**SUBURBS** in the 100 largest metro areas: Remainder of the MSA outside the primary city or cities

**SMALL METRO AREA**: Any other MSA not in the top 100

**RURAL**: Any county not in an official MSA

*Source: Brookings Institution analysis of Census 2000 data*
Today, suburbs are home to the nation’s largest and fastest growing poor population

**NOTE:** The federal poverty threshold for a family of four was $24,230 in 2014

Source: Brookings analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data
Between 2000 and 2014, the suburban poor population increased in 92 of the top 97 metros.

Source: Brookings Institution analysis of ACS and decennial census data
By 2014, 65 of the top 97 metros found the majority of their region’s poor located in the suburbs.

Source: Brookings Institution analysis of ACS data
In metro Las Vegas, the suburban poor population grew by almost 123 percent between 2000 and 2014.

A similar share of urban and suburban residents in the Las Vegas region live below the poverty line.

Poverty has moved beyond inner ring suburbs

Source: Brookings Institution analysis of 2000 decennial census data
Poverty has moved beyond inner ring suburbs

Source: Brookings Institution analysis of 2010-14 ACS data
Many factors drive suburbanizing poverty

Population Change
Immigration
Housing
Job Location
Regional Economy
Overall population grew faster in the suburbs

Source: Brookings Institution analysis of ACS and Decennial Census data
Immigrants contributed to the growth

Contribution to Growth in Suburban Poor Population, 2000 to 2014

Immigration

- Foreign-born population: 22%
- Native-born population: 78%

Source: Robert Suro, Jill Wilson, and Audrey Singer “Immigration and Poverty in America's Suburbs”
Shifts in the regional housing market helped shape these trends

Source: Brookings Institution analysis of HUD “Picture of Subsidized Housing” data
Shifts in the regional housing market helped shape these trends

Source: Chris Shildt, Naomi Cytron, Elizabeth Kneebone and Carolina Reid, “The Subprime Crisis in Suburbia: Exploring the Links between Foreclosures and Suburban Poverty”
Jobs are shifting away from the urban core

Share of Las Vegas Region Jobs Located within 3 Miles of Downtown

Source: Elizabeth Kneebone, “Job Sprawl Stalls: The Great Recession and Metropolitan Employment Location”
The economic downturn left many unemployed in the suburbs

Source: Brookings Institution analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics LAUS data
Suburban poverty brings added challenges

- Transit Access
- Strained Local Services
- Limited Philanthropic Resources
- Change in School Populations
Suburban commuters with transit can’t reach as many jobs

Share of Las Vegas Region Jobs Accessible to Low-income Neighborhoods within 90 Minutes via Transit

Las Vegas: 66%
Suburbs: 58%

Source: Tomer, Kneebone, Puentes, and Berube, “Missed Opportunity” (Brookings, 2011)
Suburban non-profit providers are stretched thin

Number of Low-Income Serving Registered Nonprofits, Las Vegas Region, 2012*

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics.
Schools are seeing low-income populations multiply.

Percentage of Students Enrolled in Free and Reduced Price Lunch, Outside of Las Vegas, Las Vegas Region 2005-6 to 2009-10

Source: Brookings analysis of National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) data
Suburbs face additional challenges

Lack of Capacity

Governance Challenges

Inflexible, Unreliable Funding
The legacy system of place-based anti-poverty programs does not map easily onto the suburban landscape.

**Food Assistance**
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Summer Food Service Program
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)

**Social Services**
- Substance Abuse Treatment Block Grant
- Social Services Block Grant
- Substance Abuse Prevention Block Grant
- Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHSBG)
- Access to Recovery (ATR)

**Economic Development**
- New Markets Tax Credit - Renewal Community Tax Incentives
- ARRA: Investments for Public Works and Economic Development Facility Recovery Zone Bonds
- ARRA: Economic Adjustment Assistance
- Economic Development: Technical Assistance
- Bank Enterprise Award: Economic Development: Technical Assistance

**Education**
- Title I — Improving The Academic Achievement Of The Disadvantaged
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Improving Teacher Quality State Grants
- Adult Basic and Literacy Education
- Teacher Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)
- Teacher Readiness for Undergraduate Programs
- Challenge Grant Program
- Mathematics and Science Challenge Grant Program
- Race to the Top — Early Partnerships
- TRIO: Talent Search
- Parental Information and Learning Challenge
- TRIO: Educational Opportunity Centers
- TRIO: Upward Bound Math Science
- Parental Information and Learning Challenge
- School Leadership Program
- Innovative Approaches to Grants
- School Leadership Program
- Assets for Independence (AFI)
- IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program
- Advanced Child Care Access Incentive Program Grants
- Qualified zone academy bonds (QZAB)
- Charter Schools Program

**Health**
- Consolidated Health Centers
- Health Care for the Homeless
- Public Housing Primary Care, and School Based Health Centers
- Affordable Care Act (ACA) Grants for Capital Development in Health Centers
- Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant
- Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program
Yet innovators across the country are finding creative ways to navigate this system.
Neighborhood Centers
Metropolitan Houston

- Has an annual budget of more than $275 million, 70 different sites, and a staff of over 1,000
- Coordinates resources from 35 federal programs, state, local, and private sources to provide a seamless continuum of services
- Collaborates with other area providers
Neighborhood Opportunity Network
Montgomery County, MD

- A collaboration between the County, nonprofits, faith based community, and local philanthropy
- Targets high need areas with integrated and culturally competent services
- Builds awareness and community networks through door knocking, Neighbors Exchange, and Neighbor Circles
The Road Map Project
South Seattle and South King County suburbs

• Uses a collective impact, cradle to career model to close achievement gaps and improve outcomes, and relies on a consortium of public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders

• Works across seven school districts, including the city of Seattle and six suburban districts

• Employs a common set of metrics to track progress toward agreed upon goals
A New Perspective on Poverty in America

GET THE BOOK

STORIES OF SUBURBAN POVERTY

East Contra Costa County

Lakewood

Tukwila

www.ConfrontingSuburbanPoverty.org