



Identifying Communities of Opportunity Pre and Post Katrina

Social Justice Mapping Working Meeting

Sponsored by PRRAC

March 31st 2006

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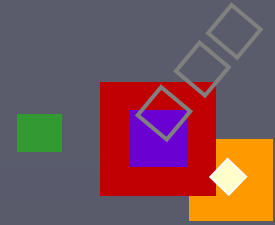
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— K I R W A N —

I N S T I T U T E

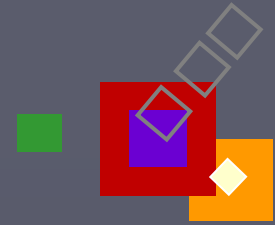
— for the Study of Race and Ethnicity —

Overview



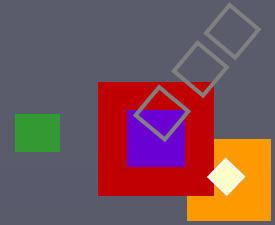
- ▶ The communities of opportunity framework
- ▶ Why apply this framework to New Orleans?
- ▶ Methodology and early results
- ▶ Next steps

The Communities of Opportunity Approach



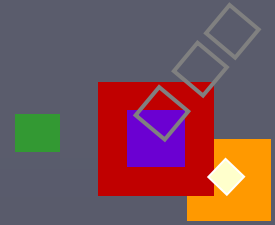
- ▶ Where you live is more important than what you live in...
 - Housing, in particular its location, is the primary mechanism for accessing opportunity in our society
 - Housing location determines the quality of schools children attend, the quality of public services, access to employment and transportation, and public safety

The Communities of Opportunity Approach



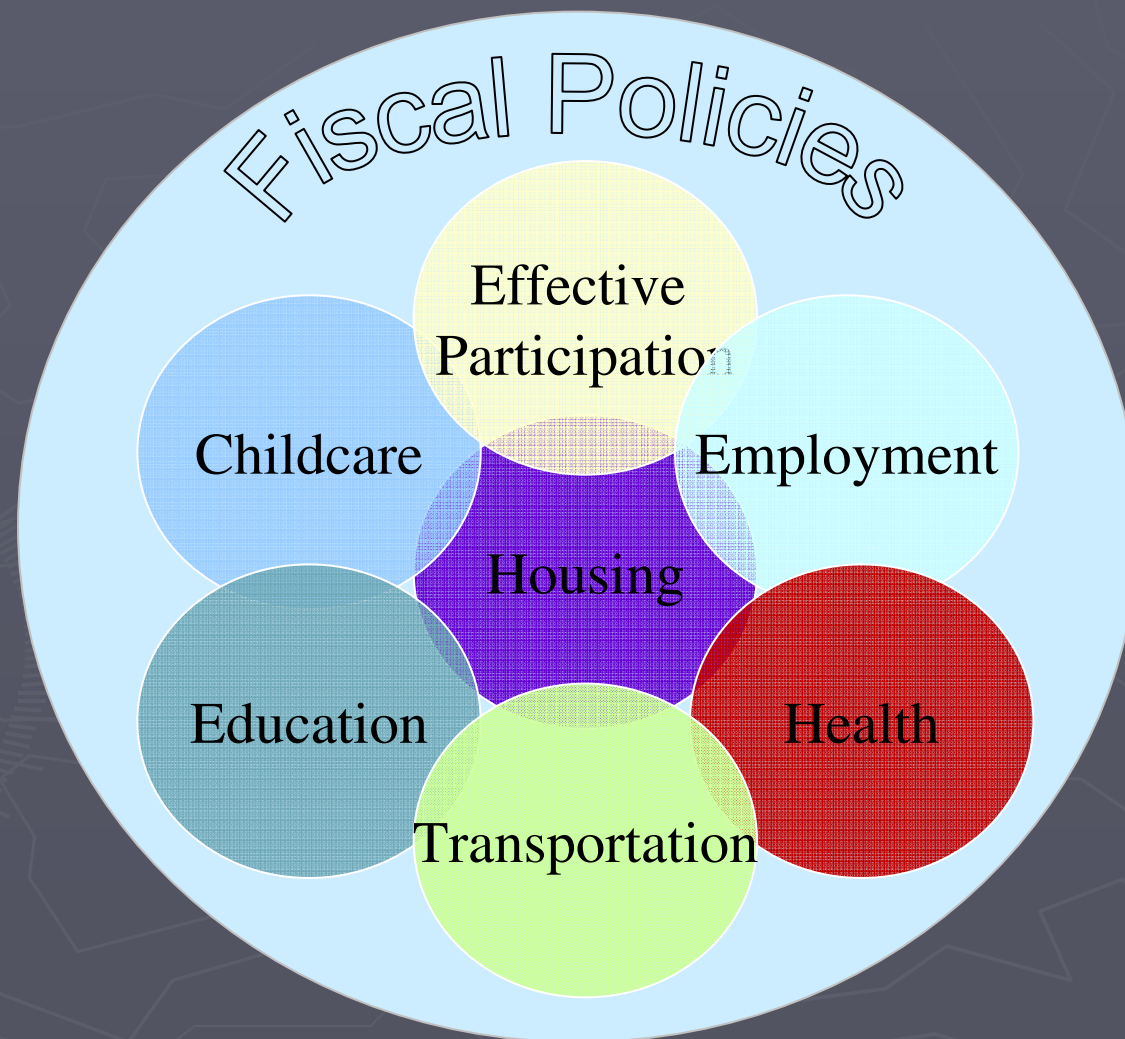
- ▶ The “opportunity based housing” model was proposed by Kirwan Institute Executive Director John Powell
- ▶ The model is based on an extensive body of research and literature related to concentrated poverty, regional equity, metropolitan dynamics, spatial racism, housing mobility, segregation, etc.

The Communities of Opportunity Approach

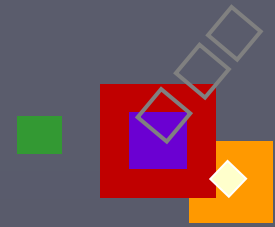


- ▶ The central principle of opportunity based housing is that residents of metropolitan regions are situated within a complex, interconnected web of opportunity structures (or lack thereof) that significantly shapes their quality of life
 - Further, affordable housing must be located in proximity to opportunity
 - Identifying communities of opportunity is a central component of the model

Opportunity Structures



Opportunity Mapping



- ▶ Opportunity mapping is a research tool used to understand the dynamics of “opportunity” within metropolitan areas
- ▶ The purpose of opportunity mapping is to illustrate where opportunity rich communities exist (and assess who has access to these communities)
 - Also, to understand what needs to be remedied in opportunity poor communities

Why Apply this Framework to New Orleans?



- ▶ Opportunity mapping can assist in connecting marginalized or displaced residents of the region to opportunity rich areas, and assist advocates in assuring new housing opportunities are provided in opportunity rich areas
- ▶ Opportunity mapping also provides information to aid the reconstruction/rehabilitation of areas most severely impacted by Hurricane Katrina
 - Identifying what opportunities were missing in these neighborhoods prior to Hurricane Katrina (e.g. employment opportunities or high quality educational opportunities)
- ▶ We hope this information can aid community leaders in remedying these deficiencies to assure reconstruction creates opportunity rich neighborhoods that are accessible to all people

Why Apply this Framework to New Orleans?



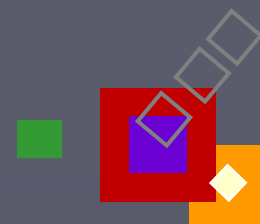
- ▶ As redevelopment and rehabilitation plans for areas impacted from Katrina and strategies to house those displaced by the storm are developed, several critical questions need to be addressed:
 - Will strategies to provide immediate housing and shelter to those displaced by the storm, provide these housing options in opportunity rich areas, instead of re-concentrating the displaced in isolated or marginalized communities?

Why Apply this Framework to New Orleans?



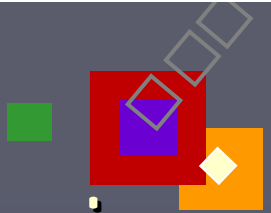
- Will redevelopment and rehabilitation recreate the concentrated poverty, segregated opportunity poor neighborhoods that preceded Katrina? Or will redevelopment remedy the factors impeding access to opportunity in these neighborhoods, to create livable opportunity rich neighborhoods that are accessible to all?
- Will redevelopment remedy the public health risks and environmental risks that disproportionately impact low income communities of color, in order to create environmentally sound and healthy/safe neighborhoods?

Methodology and Early Results



- ▶ Opportunity mapping methodology
 - Requires a comprehensive assessment of local indicators related to opportunity
 - ▶ Economic conditions, education, neighborhood health etc.
 - Would be extremely difficult with Geographic Information Systems technology
 - Use z scores to standardize indicators for comparison
 - Average z scores across multiple indicators to create opportunity index
 - ▶ Break Census Tracts into quintiles (based on opportunity index score) to distinguish between various opportunity categories (very low, low, moderate, high, very high)

Opportunity Indicators and Categories for New Orleans Analysis



- ▶ Twenty-six indicators broken into five sub-categories
 - Education:
 - ▶ Educational attainment, school poverty, student performance, teacher qualifications...and others
 - Environmental Risk:
 - ▶ Post storm toxicity and mold, proximity to open space, flood risk
 - Public Health:
 - ▶ Proximity to hospitals, health professionals proximity, medically underserved areas
 - Economic Opportunity and Mobility:
 - ▶ Unemployment, public assistance, employment proximity, employment trends, commute time...and others
 - Housing and Neighborhoods:
 - ▶ Property values, vacancy, housing cost burden, poverty, population trends, home ownership
- ▶ Comprehensive opportunity map represents all 26 indicators

Educational Opportunity and the African American Population

Opportunity mapping, New Orleans City and Surrounding Areas, LA

Opportunity Distribution (by census tracts) based on Education Indicators

Source: Census 2000; SchoolMatters.com; NCES; LDOE; NRDC; ESRI; CBP; HRSA; USGS; FEMA; Neighborhood Change Database | Date: 01.17.06

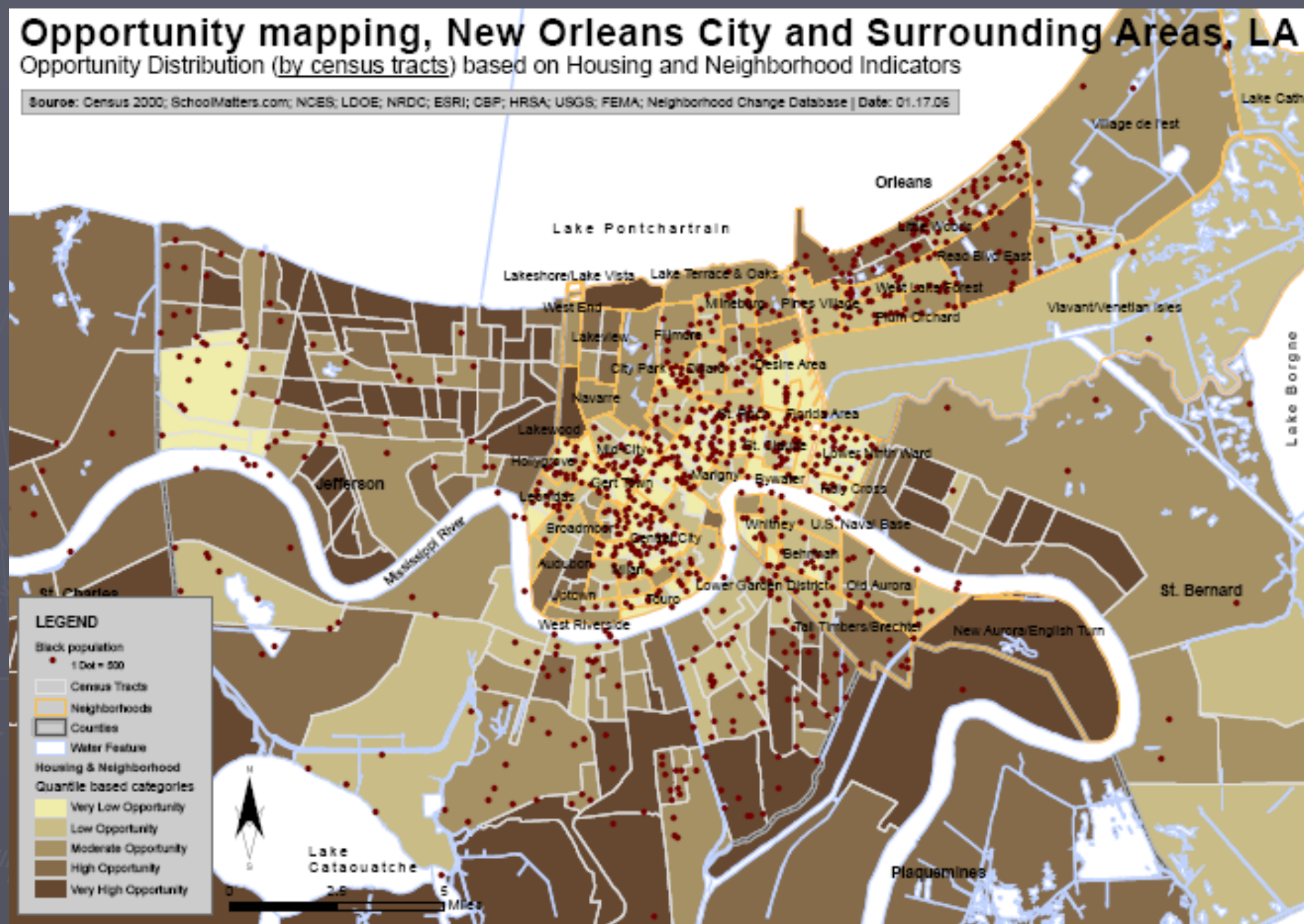


Neighborhood Health and the African American Population

Opportunity mapping, New Orleans City and Surrounding Areas, LA

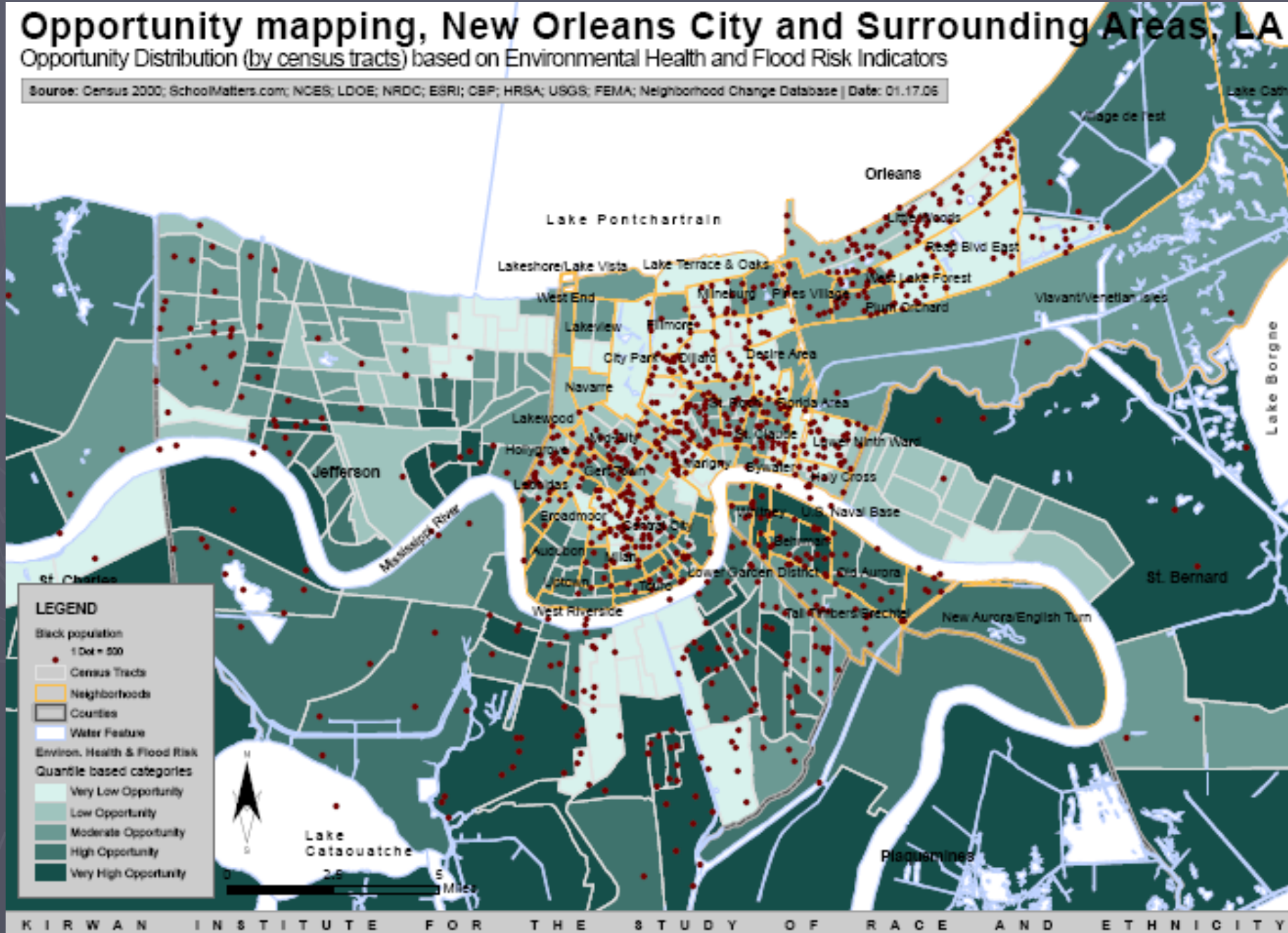
Opportunity Distribution (by census tracts) based on Housing and Neighborhood Indicators

Source: Census 2000; SchoolMatters.com; NCES; LDOE; NRDC; ESRI; CBP; HRSA; USGS; FEMA; Neighborhood Change Database | Date: 01.17.06



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Environmental Health and the African American Population

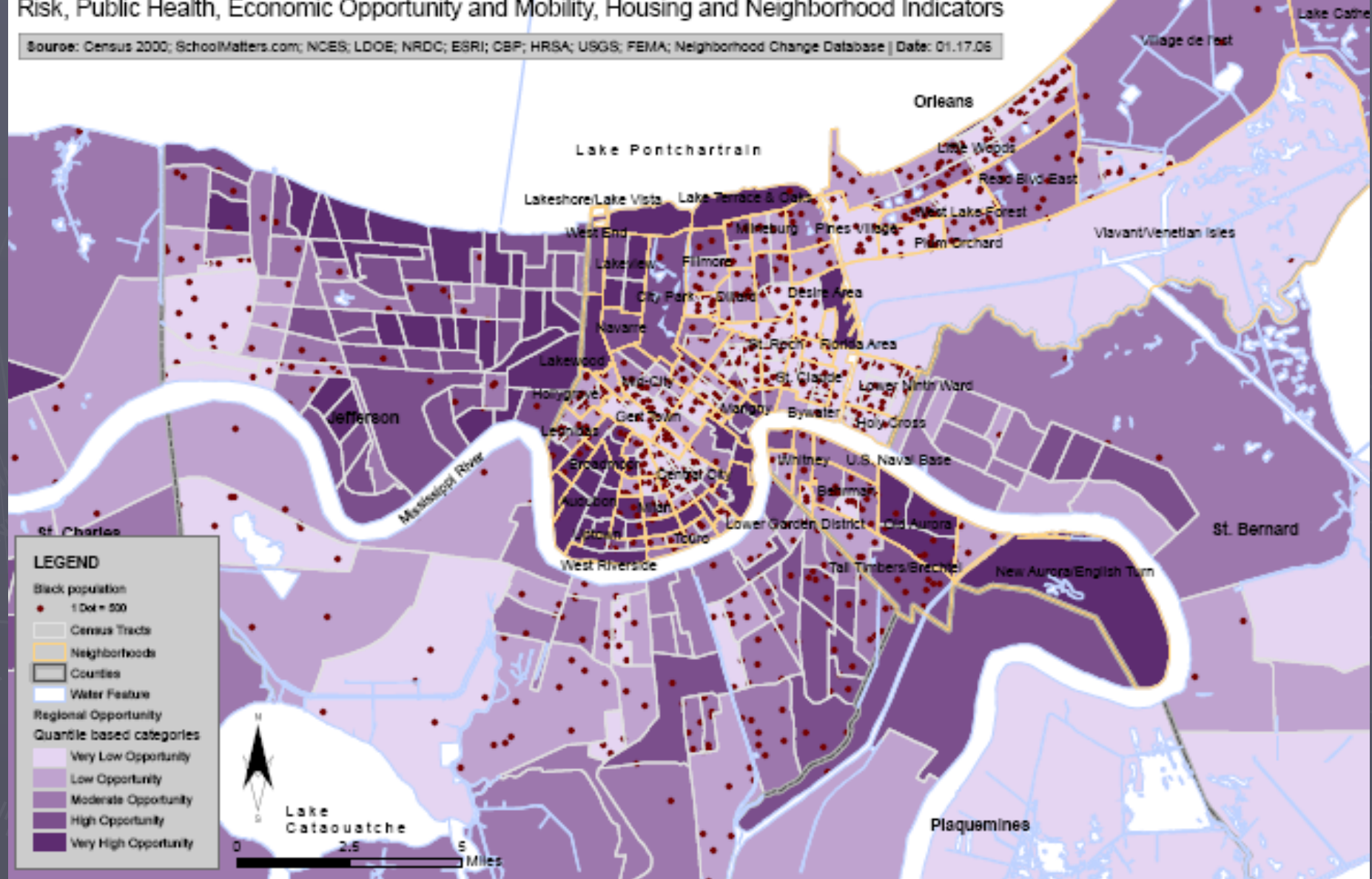


Comprehensive Opportunity Map and the African American Population

Opportunity mapping, New Orleans City and Surrounding Areas, LA

Opportunity Distribution (by census tracts) based on Education, Environmental Health and Flood Risk, Public Health, Economic Opportunity and Mobility, Housing and Neighborhood Indicators

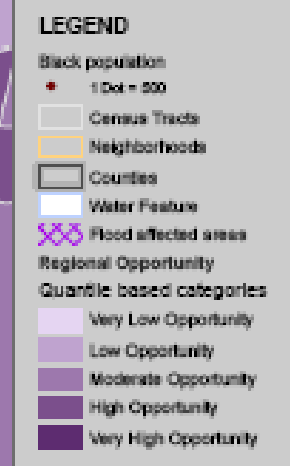
Source: Census 2000; SchoolMatters.com; NCES; LDOE; NRDC; ESRI; CBP; HRSA; USGS; FEMA; Neighborhood Change Database | Date: 01.17.06



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Opportunity mapping, New Orleans City and Surrounding Areas, LA

Source: Census 2000; SchoolMatters.com; NCES; LDOE; NEDC; ESR; CBF; HRSA; USGS; FEMA; Neighborhood Change Database | Date: 01.17.06



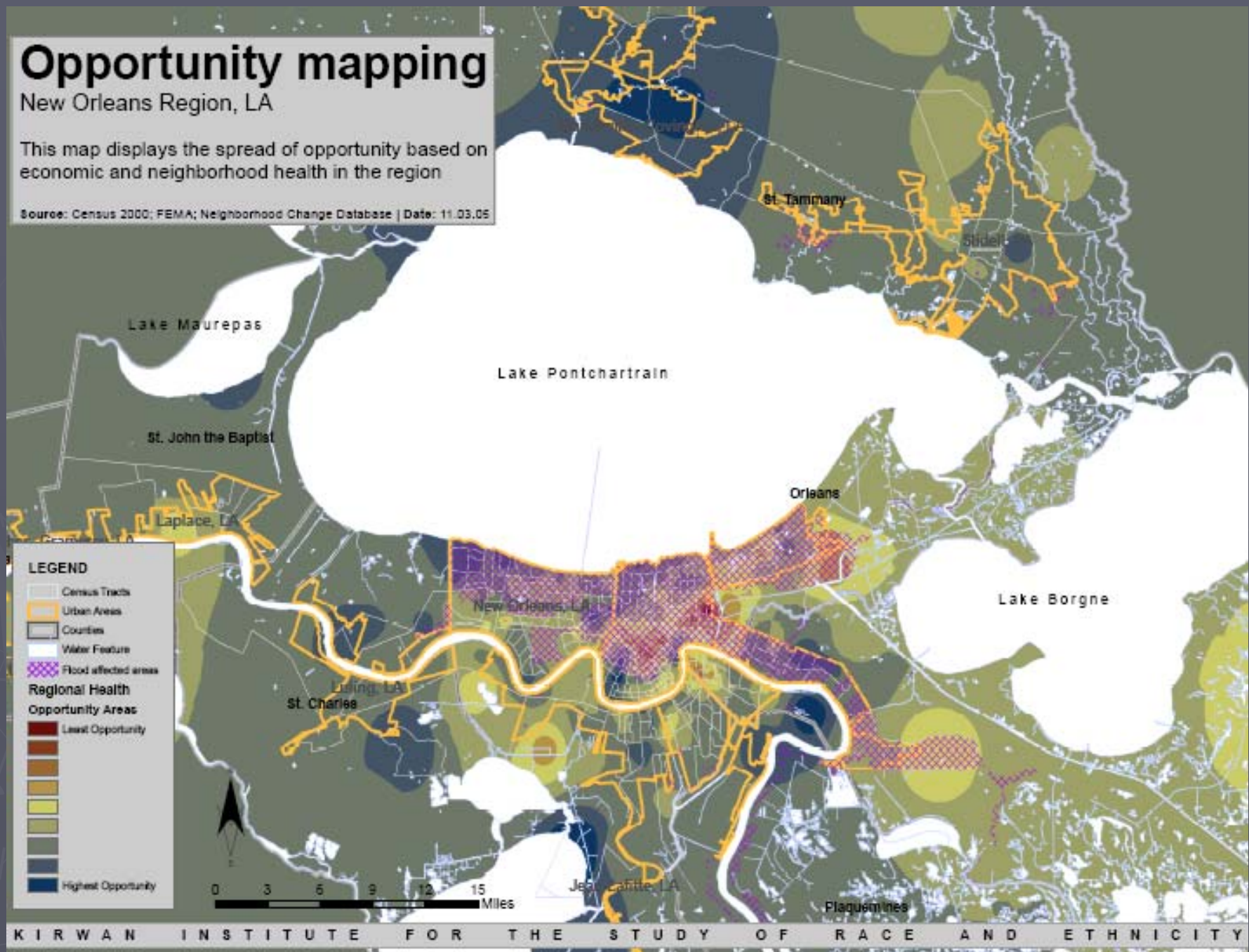
Comprehensive Opportunity Map for Greater New Orleans Region

Opportunity mapping

New Orleans Region, LA

This map displays the spread of opportunity based on economic and neighborhood health in the region

Source: Census 2000; FEMA; Neighborhood Change Database | Date: 11.03.05

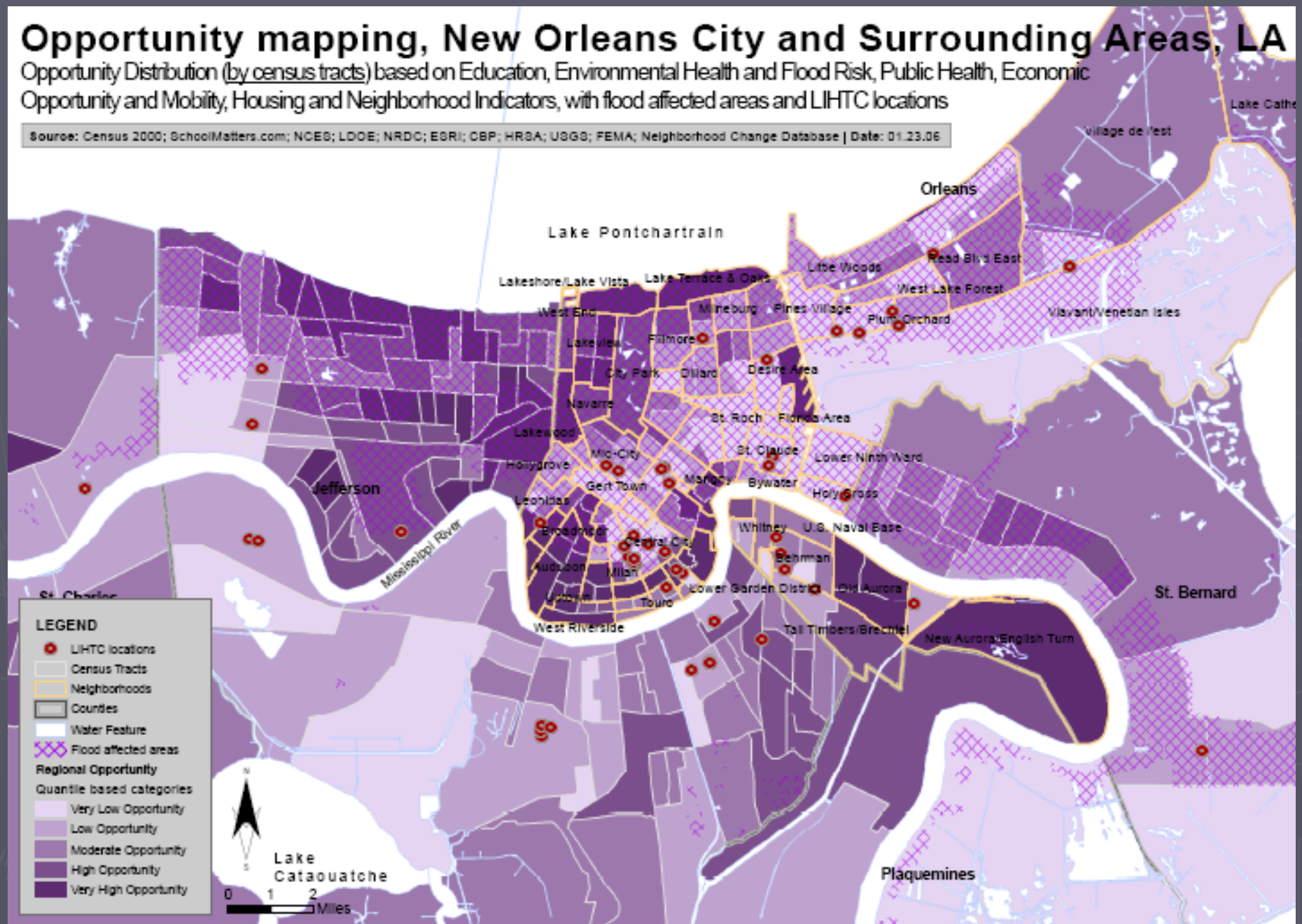


Comp. Opportunity Map and Low Income Housing Tax Credit Projects

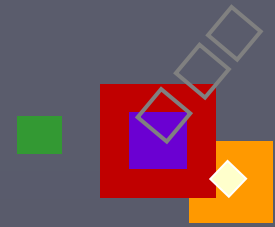
Opportunity mapping, New Orleans City and Surrounding Areas, LA

Opportunity Distribution (by census tracts) based on Education, Environmental Health and Flood Risk, Public Health, Economic Opportunity and Mobility, Housing and Neighborhood Indicators, with flood affected areas and LIHTC locations

Source: Census 2000; SchoolMatters.com; NCES; LDOE; NRDC; ESRI; CBP; HRSA; USGS; FEMA; Neighborhood Change Database | Date: 01.23.06



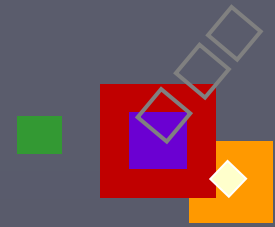
General Results/Findings



► General Results/Findings

- High opportunity areas can be found in the City of New Orleans, but much of the City consists of very low opportunity neighborhoods
 - Conversely, many of the region's high opportunity suburbs are found in the surrounding region
- Flooding damage impacted both high and low opportunity areas, but low opportunity areas were impacted more
 - Most of the region's lowest opportunity (very low opportunity) neighborhoods were directly impacted by flooding
- African American neighborhoods were more likely to be low opportunity areas and these neighborhoods were also more likely to be impacted by Katrina related flooding

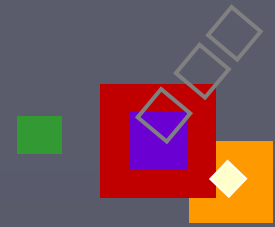
General Results/Findings



► Implications?

- Redevelopment will need to remedy many “opportunity impediments” in the most heavily impacted neighborhoods
- Many higher opportunity areas are not as impacted and should be locations for providing replacement housing opportunities

Next Steps



► Research:

- Update the data in the analysis to reflect post-Katrina conditions (to be more reflective of economic opportunity, demographics, public services available in impacted areas)
- Expand to the entire Gulf Region?

► Policy: Utilize the opportunity framework to...

- Review specific policies and proposals
 - Where to site new housing, where redevelopment will occur, subsidized housing and other government assisted housing
- Analyze the location of the displaced

Questions or Comments? For More Information Visit Us On-Line: www.KirwanInstitute.org

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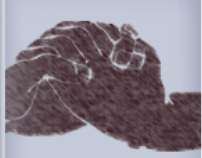




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despite many differences, human destinies are intertwined...

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



☐ search WWW ☒ search Kirwan Institute

Kirwan Institute to [host a lecture](#) with Professor Sheryll D. Cashin, author of *The Failures of Integration: How Race and Class are Undermining the American Dream*.

Tuesday, October 19, 2004 from noon until 1p.m
Michael E. Moritz College of Law
Saxbe Auditorium
55 W. 12th Avenue

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