Assessing Community Need in Suburban Allegheny County

May 31, 2012

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Why this Work?

• Poverty increasing in suburban areas
  – Brookings Institution

• Important for planning service delivery

• Current methods of analysis are not capturing this need in suburban communities
Defining Community Need

Includes socioeconomic factors important to families’ well-being:

• Health
• Family structure, relationships in community
• Education
• Employment
• Physical environment
• Accessibility of resources
• Etc.
Previous Mapping Limitations

Methods used to measure community health have not captured needs of non-urban areas:

- Geographic concentrations of poverty in urban settings
- Indicators based on challenges in urban settings
- Severity thresholds skewed by conditions in urban settings
- Analysis often performed at neighborhood or municipality level
Ways We Have Mapped

Severely Distressed Neighborhoods

- Percentage of population below 100% of the federal poverty line
- Percentage of families headed by single females
- Percentage of youth ages 16 to 19 without a high school diploma or equivalent, and not enrolled in school
- Percentage of civilian males ages 16-64 who are unemployed or not in the labor force

Threshold = One standard deviation above the mean

Legend

- Allegheny County 2000 Census Tracts
- Pittsburgh City Boundary
- Distressed Ranking
  - Distressed - Meeting Three Criteria
  - Distressed - Meeting Four Criteria

The Growing Number of Kids in Severely Distressed Neighborhoods: Evidence from the 2000 Census
By William O. Hare and Mark Mather
October 2003
Annie E. Casey Foundation, Population Reference Bureau
New Methodology

- Create new Community Need Index
- Evaluate at Census tract level
- Compare suburban communities to each other
Community Need Index

- Population below 100% of the federal poverty line†
- Families headed by single females†
- Youth ages 16 to 19 without a high school diploma or equivalent, and not enrolled in school†
- Civilian males ages 16-64 who are unemployed or not in the labor force†
- Population below 200% of the federal poverty line
- Houses vacant
- Households with no available vehicle

* All indicators are Census variables measured as percentages
† Indicators included in Hare and Mather’s criteria for severely distressed neighborhoods
Results

OLD METHOD

NEW METHOD
40% of Suburban Communities with Highest Level of Need, 2005-2009
Results

OLD METHOD


NEW METHOD

40% of Suburban Communities with Highest Level of Need, 2005-2009

Legend

Allegheny County Rivers
Pittsburgh_City_Limits
Percent Below Poverty Line
< 7.6%
7.7 - 16.8%
16.9 - 30.4%
30.5 - 48.9%
> 48.9%
Municipalities and Neighborhoods
## Conditions in These Communities

### Average Values per Quantile, 2005-2009 ACS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantile</th>
<th>Pov100</th>
<th>Pov 200</th>
<th>FemHF</th>
<th>NoVehicle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Value</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 – 60%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 – 70%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71 – 80%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81 – 90%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91 – 100%</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
<td>59.6%</td>
<td>58.1%</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next Steps

Use as starting point for planning

• Challenge/confirm findings
• Change the view
  – Customize Community Need map to suit smaller populations
  – Look at need relative to service utilization
• Examine over time
Example: Community Contrast Map

Communities with Least Need (blue) Geographic Relationship to Communities in Highest Need (red)

Legend:
- Lowest Need (0-9%)
- Low Need (10-19%)
- Low Need (20-29%)
- Low Need (30-39%)
- Low Need (40-49%)
- Moderate Need (50-59%)
- Moderate Need (60-69%)
- High Need (70-79%)
- Very High Need (80-89%)
- Distressed (90-100%)
- Pittsburgh_Boundary

Created: 12/01/2011; Data Source: AC Medical Examiner
Allegheny County Department of Human Services Office of Data Analysis, Research and Evaluation
Example: Older Adults

Community Need in Neighborhoods with Large Concentrations of Older Adults (Age 65+)

Legend
- County Municipalities
- Pittsburgh_City_Limits

Percent Seniors 65+
- < 22%
- 22 - 29.9%
- 30 - 54%

Community Need Index
- Low - Moderately Low Need
- Moderate Need
- High - Very High Need
Questions?