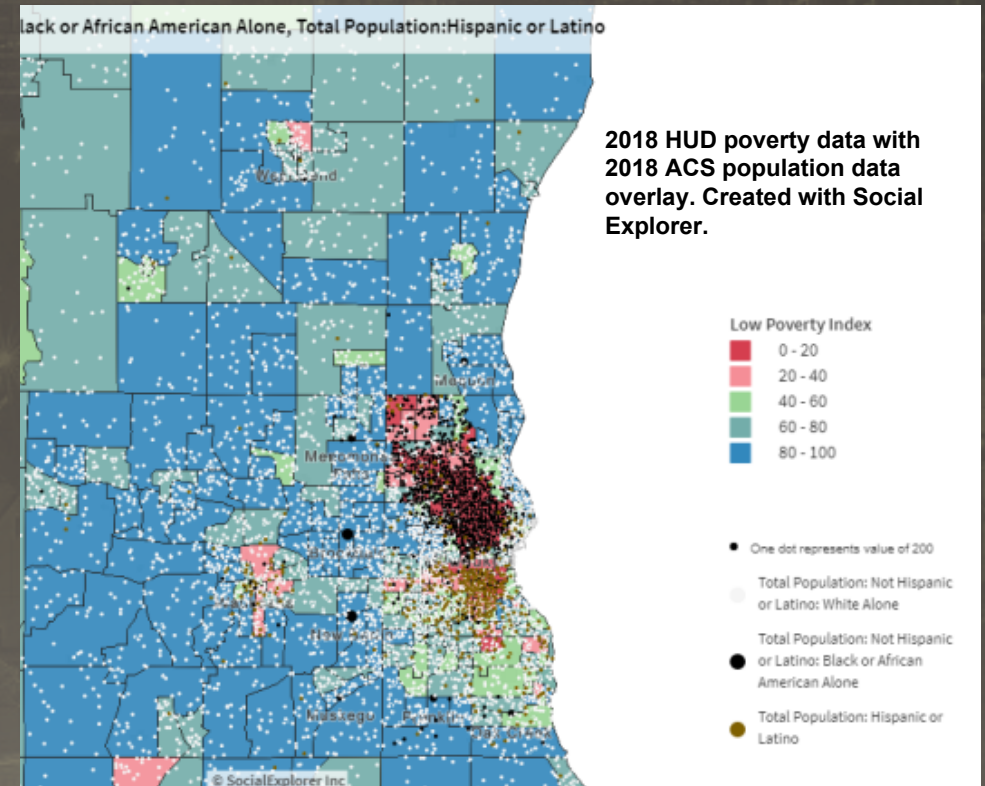


Race and Poverty Deconcentration in Metropolitan Milwaukee Housing Plans

Urban Studies 600 – Capstone Seminar, Jordan Villegas

- One of Milwaukee's greatest challenges is its hypersegregation and lack of opportunity, especially for the city's African American community
- Analysis and comparison of regional housing plans' recognition and goals to address race and poverty concentration in metropolitan Milwaukee
- Suggestions for improvements of regional efforts to more effectively address race and poverty concentration in the metropolitan area through housing plans

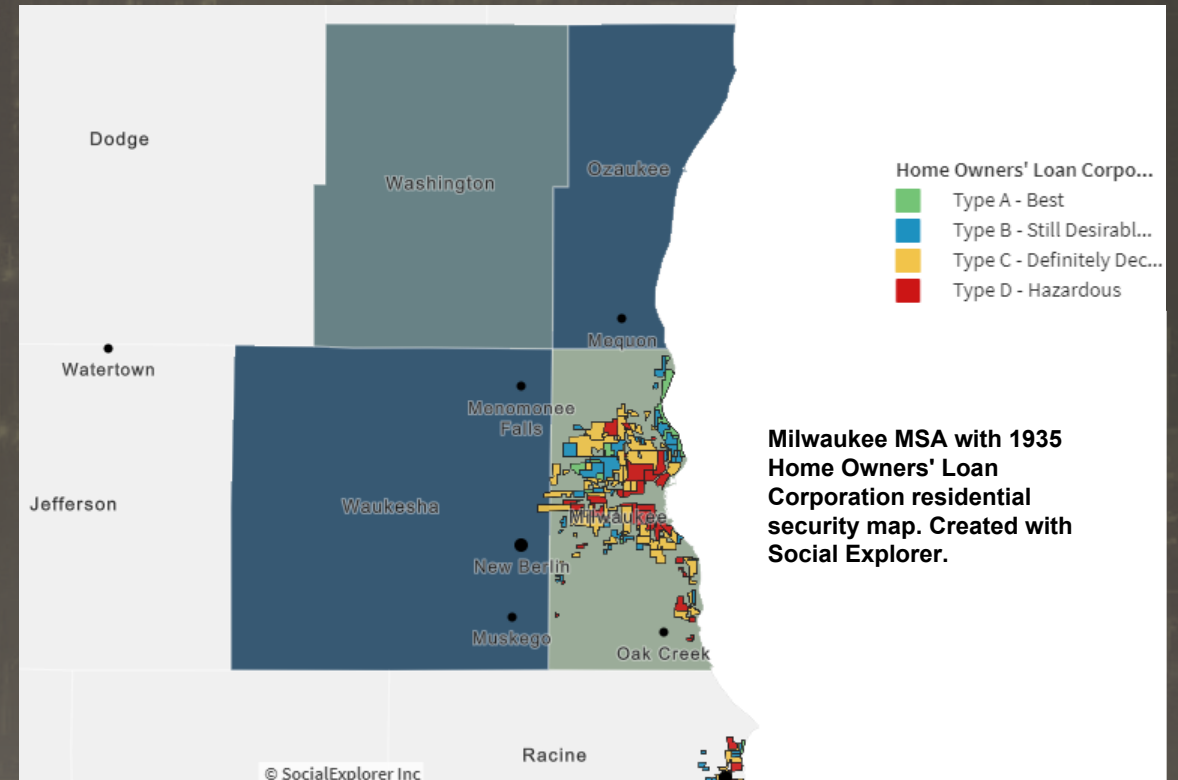


Research Questions & Framework

- Primary question: How are metropolitan Milwaukee counties addressing race and poverty deconcentration through housing plans?
- Secondary questions: Are there differences between the planning language, framing, and efforts throughout the metropolitan area? Do suburban communities have a regional outlook in their housing plans?
- The study hypothesizes suburban counties are engaged in minimal efforts compared to Milwaukee, there is minimal regional cooperation, therefore limited potential for current housing plans to alleviate race and poverty concentration
- Theoretical models of segregation; assimilation and racial stratification
- Residential mobility framework; voluntary and involuntary moves; the role of race in residential location; examples of housing mobility programs

Context of Study

- Historic residential segregation, deindustrialization, and white flight produced today's divided landscape
- Current socioeconomic barriers, disparities, and discrimination perpetuate segregation, poverty concentration, and the divided city/region
- Spatial mismatch of joblessness and jobs combined with hypersegregation makes effective integrative housing a regional issue
- Housing programs have the capacity to deconcentrate poverty by assisting households to move to areas with low poverty and high opportunity
- Therefore, metropolitan Milwaukee serves the setting of this study



Methods, Data, & Research Design

- Inductive, comparative case study method of analysis using archival research
- Case study of metropolitan Milwaukee's degree of recognition and action towards residential integration through housing plans
- Suburban county level Comprehensive Plans, Milwaukee's Citywide Policy Plan, and SEWRPC's Regional Housing Plan
- Identification of key themes
- Categorization of plans
 - Level of recognition of race and poverty concentration
 - Level of action plan to address race and poverty concentration

Literature Review

- African Americans suffer the most extreme residential segregation (Logan, Alba, & Leung, 1996)
- Those who grow up in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty and racial segregation are at a disadvantage for attaining socioeconomic mobility (Chetty & Hendren, 2018; Massey, 1990)
- Contemporary housing audits find racial steering and discrimination still prevalent while deed restrictions and exclusionary zoning maintain economic segregation (DeLuca Wood, & Rosenblatt, 2011; Rosenblatt & DeLuca, 2012)
- Some research has found that rather than in-group preference, blacks often choose to live in less white areas because of fears of racial hostility and preference for more racially hospitable neighborhoods (DeLuca et al., 2011)
- Two main theoretical approaches to segregation and residential location research: assimilation and racial stratification (Logan et al., 1996)

Analysis & Findings

- City of Milwaukee Comprehensive Plan is the only to explicitly mention regional race and poverty concentration and have regional based goals to address the problem; more on SEWRPC on next slide
- Waukesha County's Plan briefly mentions the "need for increased understanding regarding the connection between the housing and community and regional economics" but lacks a goal to address that need
- WOW counties have varying goals for creating more affordable housing in general as well as specifically for people who work in the county but cannot afford to live in the county
 - While these goals could serve to deconcentrate race and poverty in the region, they are not directly

Plans	Recognition of Regional Race & Poverty Concentration in Housing Plans				Goals to Address Regional Race & Poverty Concentration Through Housing Plans		
	Explicitly Mentioned	Implicitly Mentioned	No Mention		Action-Based Goals	Goals	None
Milwaukee	X				X		
Ozaukee			X				X
Washington			X				X
Waukesha		X					X
SEWRPC	X				X		

Conclusion

- SEWRPC is included because it is the metropolitan area's regional planning body and served as a frame of reference. Also, the WOW counties and Milwaukee plans each reference SEWRPC's Regional Housing Plan, therefore are knowledgeable about the region's race and poverty concentration and SEWRPC's recommendations to address the issues through housing
- Yet, out of the WOW counties, only Waukesha County's plan (briefly) mentions the need for an increased regional perspective to address economic and housing issues
- The residential segregation theoretical model of racial stratification can be applied to these findings as it assumes that racial and ethnic segregation will persist as it is supported by robust historical and structural mechanisms
- These comprehensive plans are medium-to-long-term (15 to 30 years) but are revised every 5 years
- The region would benefit from collaboration with Milwaukee and SEWRPC in addressing regional race and poverty concentration through housing and should do so in their next planning process to create more robust action-based goals to address these deeply embedded issues