



RICE UNIVERSITY
**Shell Center for
Sustainability**



HOUSTON COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

The Quality of Life Atlas

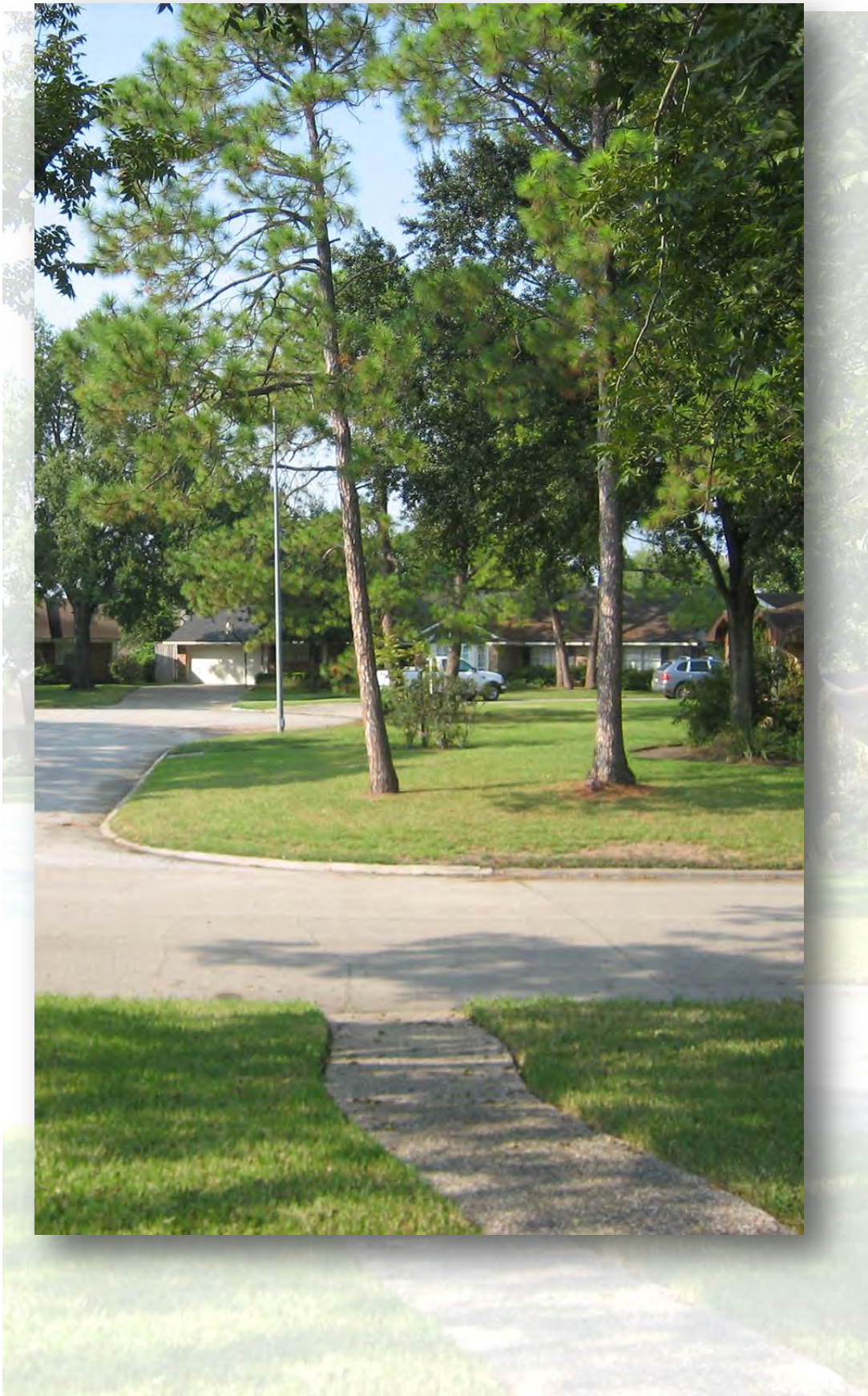
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Social Development



RICE





Houston Community Sustainability:

The Quality of Life Atlas

by

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Theme - Social Demography

Sub Theme - Population Growth

Indicator - Population Growth

Population Growth is one of the indicators of urban successes in the United States (Linneman & Saiz, 2005). Municipalities compete for population growth in different ways: ensuring adequate housing supply; quality schools; or funding beautification projects for an enhanced quality of life (Hill & Brennan, 2012). Some suggest that Houston's population growth is based on its ability to provide an affordable lifestyle for middle-class people, primarily due to low cost housing (Glaeser, 2011). Population growth has an essential impact on sustainability in that the per capita demand on non-renewable resources should be monitored to ensure supplies are available for present and future generations.

Sustainability Benefit: Houston is the 4th largest city in terms of both population and land area and the 25th most densely populated among the 63 largest cities in the country (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011). The city is attracting new residents, which suggests that these new residents perceive living in Houston as advantageous over other places to live.

Sustainability Issue: More residents require more resources. Sustainable management of natural resources in Houston is critical to ensure that the supplies are sufficient to accommodate the needs of increasing population levels. Additionally, Anglos are the only racial/ethnic group that has declined in absolute numbers since 1980, dropping 36 percent (300,000 persons) between 1980 and 2010.

Indicator Groups: Population growth among Super Neighborhoods in Houston range from -3803 to 51273. This indicator does not significantly correlate with other indicators in this analysis.

The following figures and tables represent different metrics to measure the indicator *Population Growth*:

Figure 1: City of Houston population growth

Figure 2: City of Houston race and ethnicity

Figure 3: Map of Districts by Primary Race/ Ethnicity

Figure 4: Average annual rate of growth

Figure 5: Population Growth 1990 – 2010

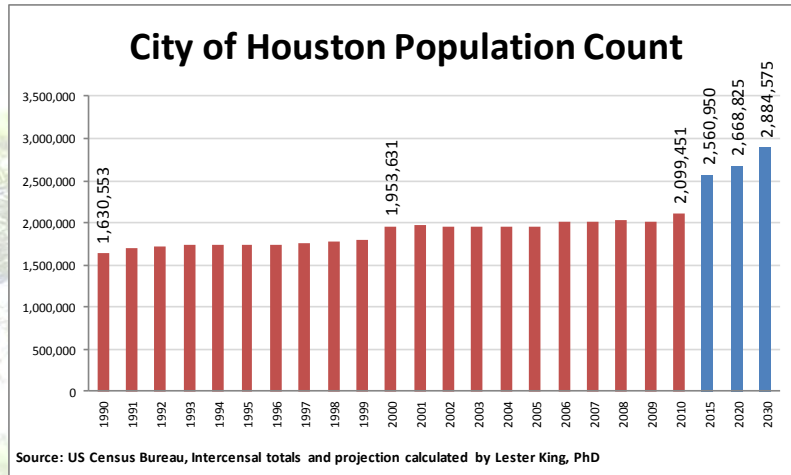


Figure 1: City of Houston population growth

- In 2010 Houston was the fourth largest city in the United States with 2,099,451 people (Census 2010). Based on the population growth trend between 1990 and 2010, the City of Houston will gain over 500,000 persons by 2020. The 2030 population is projected to be 2,884,575 persons within the city limits (Figure 1). The City of Houston average annual growth rate projection for each year between 2010 and 2020 is 1.42%.

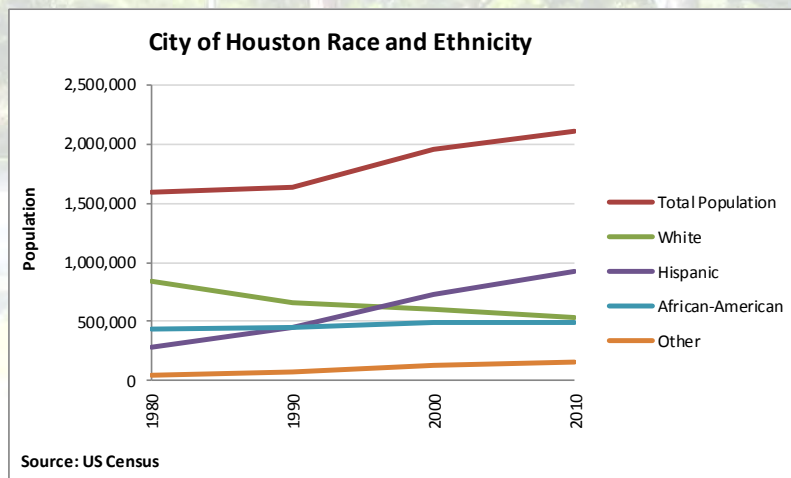


Figure 2: City of Houston race and ethnicity

- The race and ethnicity composition of the city is as follows: Hispanic 43.8%, White 25.6%, Black 23.1%, All others 7.4%. In 1980 there were at least 500,000 more Whites than Hispanics in the City of Houston. The exact counts were 834,061 White and 281,331 Hispanics. The population counts for Whites and Hispanics were approximately the same around 1996.

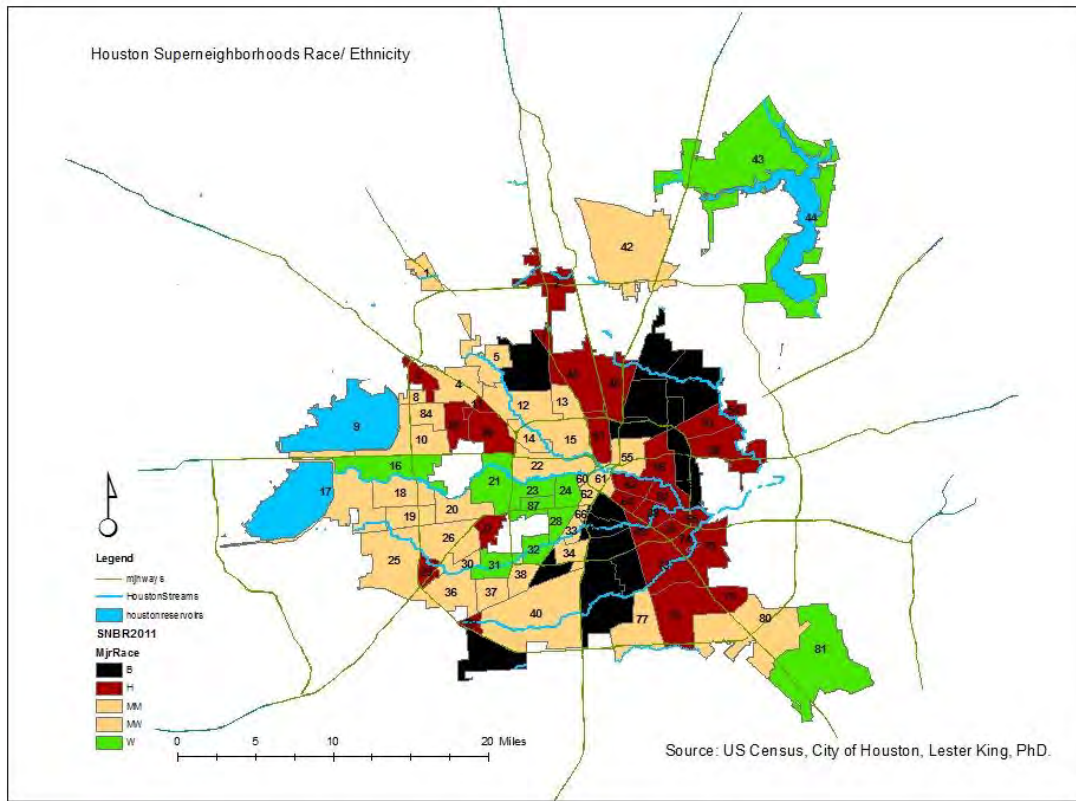


Figure 3: Map of Districts by Primary Race/ Ethnicity

- Hispanic concentrations are to the east, north, southeast, northwest and two spots in the southwest of the city.
- White concentrations are to the near-west, far-northeast, and far-southeast of the city.
- Black concentrations are to the south, north-east of the city.
- The southwest, west and north-west are mixed.
- The latest decennial census results show that there are almost 400,000 more Hispanics in the City of Houston than Whites. Exact counts are 537,901 Whites and 919,668 Hispanics. The City of Houston is losing population among the White cohort.
- In 1980, the African American population was almost half that of the White population. In the 2010 census the African American population was estimated at just over 50,000 persons less than the White population.
- Most of the growth in the City of Houston can be attributed to the Hispanic population. A look at figure 2 shows that the trend for the Hispanic population almost exactly matches the trend for the city as a whole after the 1990 census.

Ranking of Super Neighborhoods by average annual growth rate			
1	WESTBRANCH	45	SPRING BRANCH NORTH
2	WILLOWBROOK	46	EDGEBROOK AREA
3	KINGWOOD AREA	47	PARK PLACE
4	GREATER GREENSPOINT	48	UNIVERSITY PLACE
5	HUNTERWOOD	49	EASTEX - JENSEN AREA
6	FONDREN GARDENS	50	GOLFCREST / BELLFORT / REVEILLE
7	MIDTOWN	51	SPRING BRANCH EAST
8	CENTRAL SOUTHWEST	52	NEARTOWN - MONTROSE
9	DOWNTOWN	53	EAST LITTLE YORK / HOMESTEAD
10	WESTCHASE	54	OST / SOUTH UNION
11	CARVERDALE	55	AFTON OAKS / RIVER OAKS AREA
12	ELDRIDGE / WEST OAKS	56	WILLOW MEADOWS / WILLOWBEND AREA
13	CLEAR LAKE	57	SETTEGAST
14	GREENWAY / UPPER KIRBY AREA	58	MEMORIAL
15	FOURTH WARD	59	SPRING BRANCH WEST
16	MUSEUM PARK	60	BRIARFOREST AREA
17	LANGWOOD	61	CENTRAL NORTHWEST
18	GREATER HOBBY AREA	62	SUNNYSIDE
19	SOUTH BELT / ELLINGTON	63	FAIRBANKS / NORTHWEST CROSSING
20	IAH / AIRPORT AREA	64	ACRES HOME
21	LAKE HOUSTON	65	GREATER HEIGHTS
22	FORT BEND / HOUSTON	66	EL DORADO / OATES PRAIRIE
23	SOUTH ACRES / CRESTMONT PARK	67	INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS
24	MID WEST	68	PECAN PARK
25	WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION / MEMORIAL PARK	69	SOUTH PARK
26	HIDDEN VALLEY	70	SECOND WARD
27	ASTRODOME AREA	71	LAZY BROOK / TIMBERGROVE
28	GULFTON	72	DENVER HARBOR / PORT HOUSTON
29	EAST HOUSTON	73	WESTBURY
30	BRAYS OAKS	74	MEYERLAND AREA
31	WESTWOOD	75	GREATER EASTWOOD
32	GREATER UPTOWN	76	GREATER FIFTH WARD
33	BRAESWOOD PLACE	77	NORTHSIDE VILLAGE
34	SHARPSTOWN	78	PLEASANTVILLE AREA
35	MACGREGOR	79	MAGNOLIA PARK
36	SPRING BRANCH CENTRAL	80	TRINITY / HOUSTON GARDENS
37	NORTHSIDE/NORTHLINE	81	LAWNDALE / WAYSIDE
38	BRAEBURN	82	GREATER THIRD WARD
39	ALIEF	83	ADDICKS PARK TEN
40	MEADOWBROOK / ALLENDALE	84	KASHMERE GARDENS
41	NORTHSHORE	85	HARRISBURG / MANCHESTER
42	SOUTH MAIN	86	CLINTON PARK TRI-COMMUNITY
43	GREATER INWOOD	87	MINNETEX
44	GULFGATE RIVERVIEW / PINE VALLEY	88	MEDICAL CENTER AREA

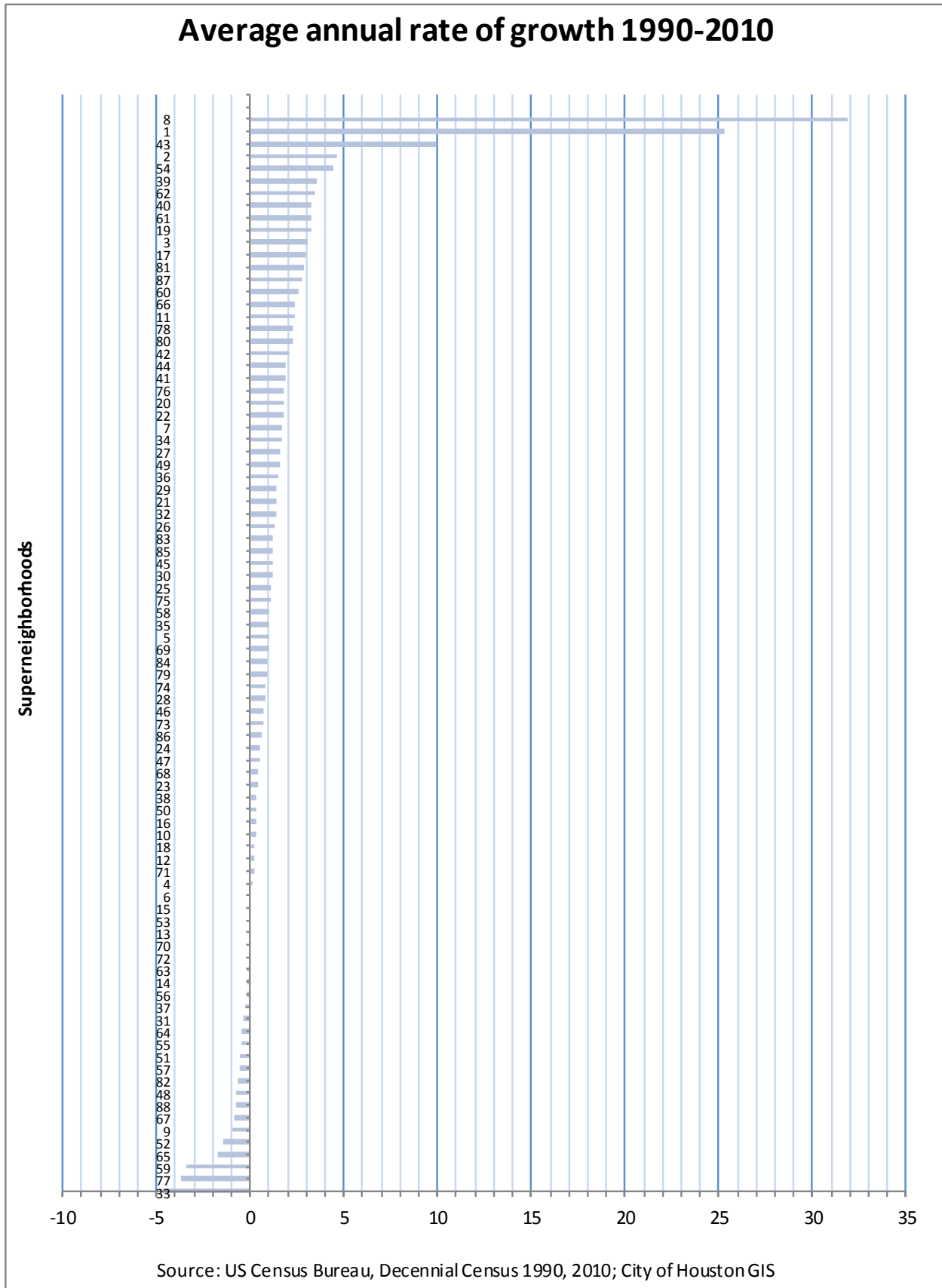


Figure 4: Average annual rate of growth

- Twenty five neighborhoods have lost population since 1990.
- Double digit average annual growth has occurred in Willowbrook and Westbranch.
- Four neighborhoods are representative of the Houston average annual growth rate of 1.2%. These neighborhoods are Braeburn, Northside/ Northline, Spring Branch Central, and Macgregor.

1	KINGWOOD AREA	45	GULFGATE RIVERVIEW / PINE VALLEY
2	CENTRAL SOUTHWEST	46	CENTRAL NORTHWEST
3	GREATER GREENSPOINT	47	BRIARFOREST AREA
4	CLEAR LAKE	48	EAST LITTLE YORK / HOMESTEAD
5	ELDRIDGE / WEST OAKS	49	SPRING BRANCH WEST
6	ALIEF	50	MUSEUM PARK
7	SOUTH BELT / ELLINGTON	51	FOURTH WARD
8	SHARPSTOWN	52	OST / SOUTH UNION
9	BRAYS OAKS	53	HUNTERWOOD
10	MID WEST	54	FONDREN GARDENS
11	WESTCHASE	55	PARK PLACE
12	NORTHSIDE/NORTHLINE	56	CARVERDALE
13	GULFTON	57	SOUTH MAIN
14	GREATER UPTOWN	58	HIDDEN VALLEY
15	FORT BEND / HOUSTON	59	AFTON OAKS / RIVER OAKS AREA
16	GREENWAY / UPPER KIRBY AREA	60	WILLOW MEADOWS / WILLOWBEND AREA
17	GREATER HOBBY AREA	61	SUNNYSIDE
18	DOWNTOWN	62	FAIRBANKS / NORTHWEST CROSSING
19	WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION / MEMORIAL PARK	63	SETTEGAST
20	WILLOWBROOK	64	EL DORADO / OATES PRAIRIE
21	GOLFCREST / BELLFORT / REVEILLE	65	ACRES HOME
22	SPRING BRANCH CENTRAL	66	INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS
23	GREATER INWOOD	67	GREATER HEIGHTS
24	SOUTH ACRES / CRESTMONT PARK	68	PECAN PARK
25	EAST HOUSTON	69	PLEASANTVILLE AREA
26	NORTHSHORE	70	SOUTH PARK
27	ASTRODOME AREA	71	LAZY BROOK / TIMBERGROVE
28	WESTBRANCH	72	SECOND WARD
29	BRAESWOOD PLACE	73	DENVER HARBOR / PORT HOUSTON
30	WESTWOOD	74	GREATER EASTWOOD
31	LAKE HOUSTON	75	WESTBURY
32	MEADOWBROOK / ALLENDALE	76	HARRISBURG / MANCHESTER
33	MIDTOWN	77	MEYERLAND AREA
34	BRAEBURN	78	ADDICKS PARK TEN
35	MACGREGOR	79	GREATER FIFTH WARD
36	EASTEX - JENSEN AREA	80	MEDICAL CENTER AREA
37	EDGEBROOK AREA	81	LAWNDALE / WAYSIDE
38	IAH / AIRPORT AREA	82	CLINTON PARK TRI-COMMUNITY
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42	SPRING BRANCH EAST	86	NORTHSIDE VILLAGE
43	MEMORIAL	87	KASHMERE GARDENS
44	UNIVERSITY PLACE	88	MINNETEX

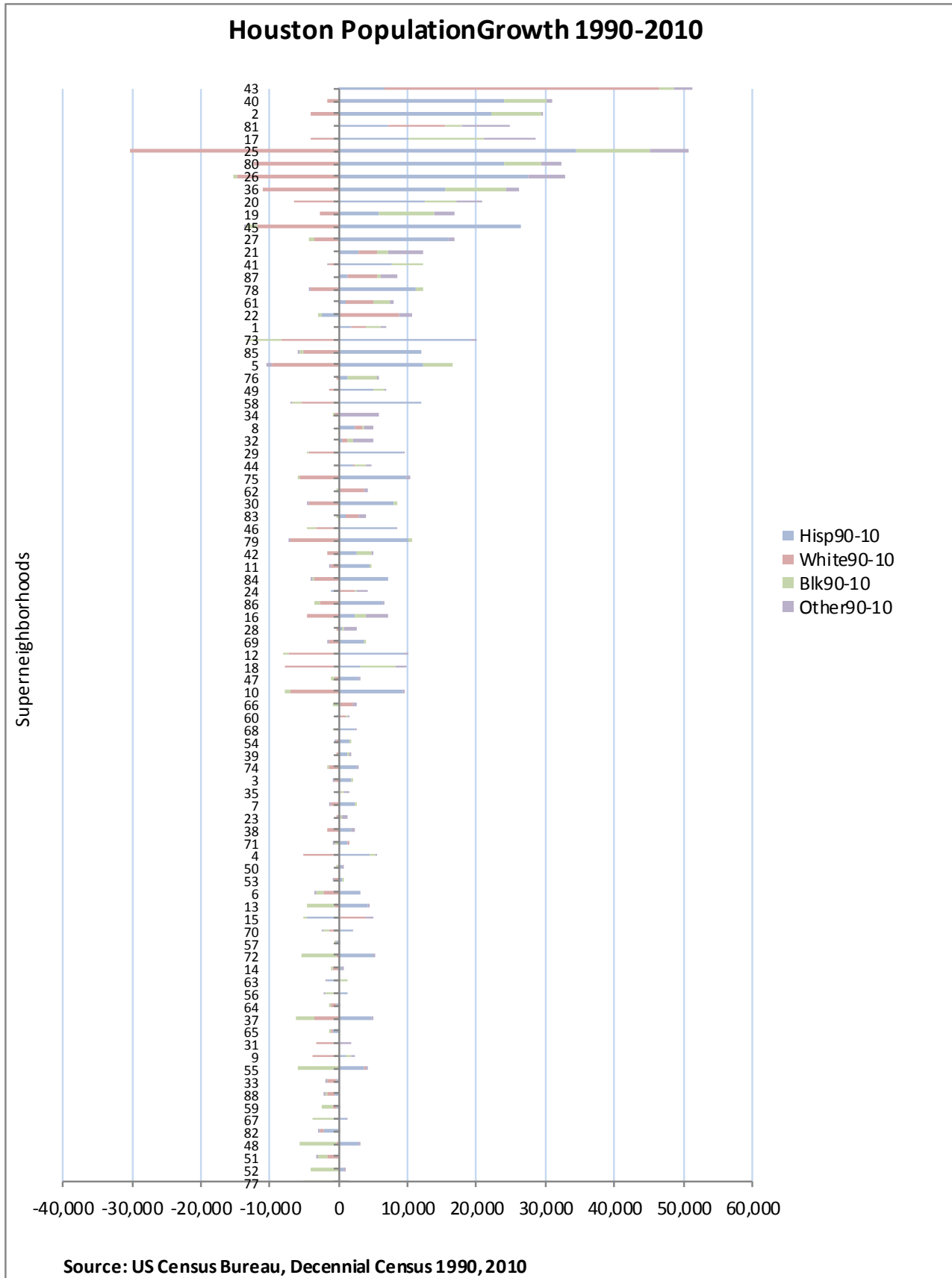
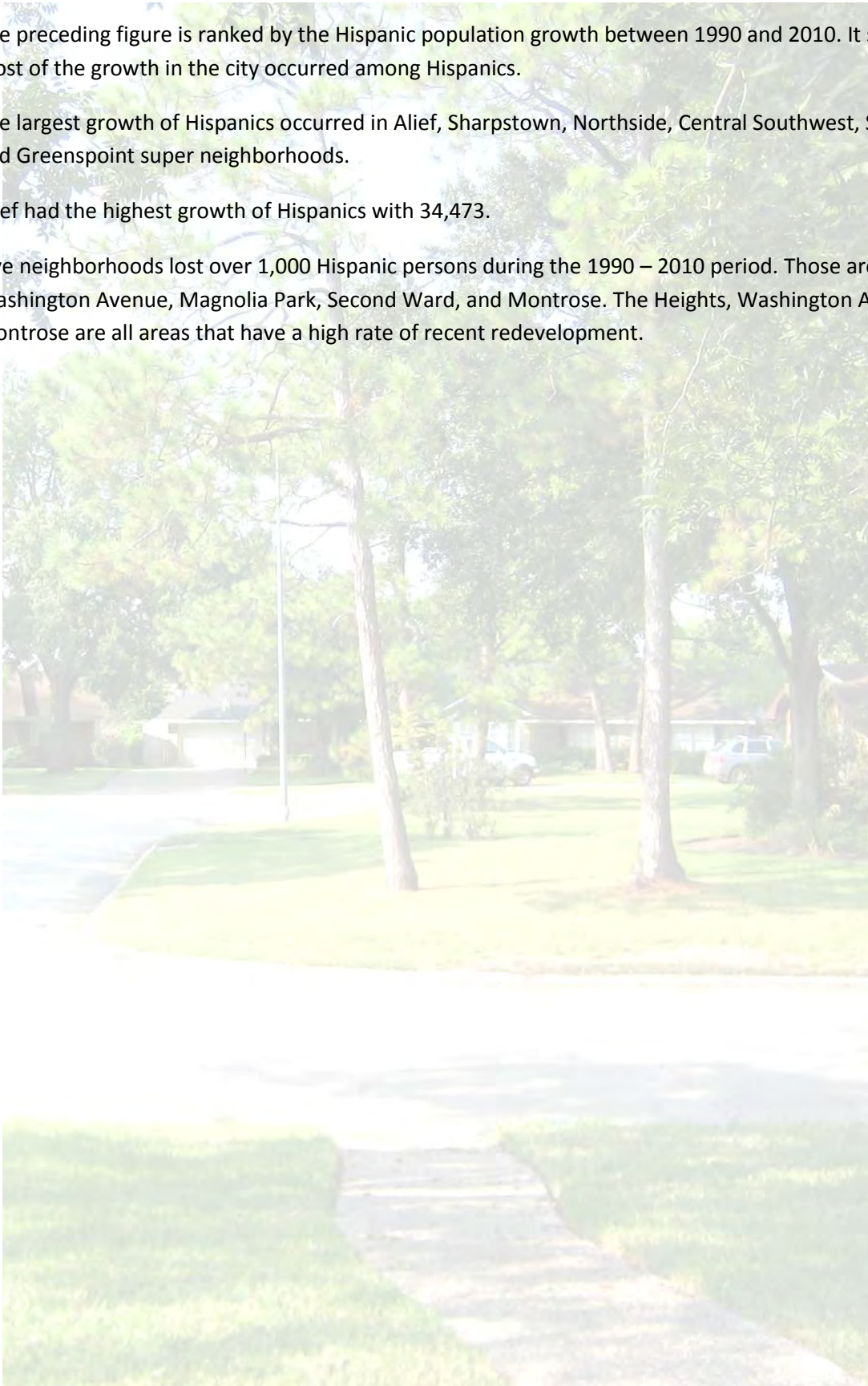


Figure 5: Population Growth 1990 – 2010

- The preceding figure is ranked by the Hispanic population growth between 1990 and 2010. It shows that most of the growth in the city occurred among Hispanics.
- The largest growth of Hispanics occurred in Alief, Sharpstown, Northside, Central Southwest, South Belt and Greenspoint super neighborhoods.
- Alief had the highest growth of Hispanics with 34,473.
- Five neighborhoods lost over 1,000 Hispanic persons during the 1990 – 2010 period. Those are Heights, Washington Avenue, Magnolia Park, Second Ward, and Montrose. The Heights, Washington Avenue and Montrose are all areas that have a high rate of recent redevelopment.



Theme - Social Demography

Sub Theme - Education

Indicator - Education Attainment

Critical to economic, civil, and personal health viability is **Education Attainment** (CFH, 2012). Higher levels of education directly produce healthier behaviors such as more exercise and enhanced nutrition; better jobs and income and higher quality neighborhoods; and more resources for healthcare (Sanborn, 2012). According to the 2010 decennial census, 38.7% of persons without a high school diploma were unemployed. In comparison to the city median unemployment rate of 10%, this suggests that a person without a high school diploma is almost four times as likely to be unemployed. Of the 61.3% of persons without a diploma that were employed, the median earnings were \$17,338 in 2010. The high school diploma is still the fundamental threshold for the achievement of enhanced quality of life, since it is very difficult to earn a decent salary without it. This study supports the prior conclusion of Blackburn (2011) that education is the number one indicator among sustainability indicator studies across the country.

Sustainability Benefit: Twenty one Super Neighborhoods have more than 50% of persons over 25 years with degrees after high school.

Sustainability Issue: A little more than half of the persons over 25 years in Houston have some level of degree after high school – 51.5%. Therefore 48.5% of the persons over 25 have no degree past high school.

Indicator Groups: Education Attainment among Super Neighborhoods in Houston was measured by the percent of persons with Masters degrees. This metric is part of the most significant group of indicators in the study. This group of indicators is titled 'Wealthy Group' since it is composed of the following indicators: Health Care spending; Income; Poverty; Housing Value; Housing and Transportation costs; Percent White; Percent Master's degrees and Unemployment rate (Poverty and Unemployment rate are negatively related).

The following metrics are used to measure the indicator *Education Attainment*.

Figure 6: Percent of the population with graduate degrees

Figure 7: Percent of population with Masters degrees

Table 2: K-12 Schools in the City of Houston



Ranking of Super Neighborhoods by percent of persons with graduate degrees			
1	UNIVERSITY PLACE	45	SHARPSTOWN
2	ASTRODOME AREA	46	SOUTH BELT / ELLINGTON
3	GREENWAY / UPPER KIRBY AREA	47	GULFTON
4	BRAESWOOD PLACE	48	GREATER EASTWOOD
5	AFTON OAKS / RIVER OAKS AREA	49	ALIEF
6	MIDTOWN	50	GREATER INWOOD
7	MEDICAL CENTER AREA	51	SPRING BRANCH CENTRAL
8	NEARTOWN - MONTROSE	52	GREATER FIFTH WARD
9	MEYERLAND AREA	53	OST / SOUTH UNION
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22	LAZY BROOK / TIMBERGROVE	66	HUNTERWOOD
23	WESTBURY	67	NORTHSHORE
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25	MID WEST	69	SOUTH PARK
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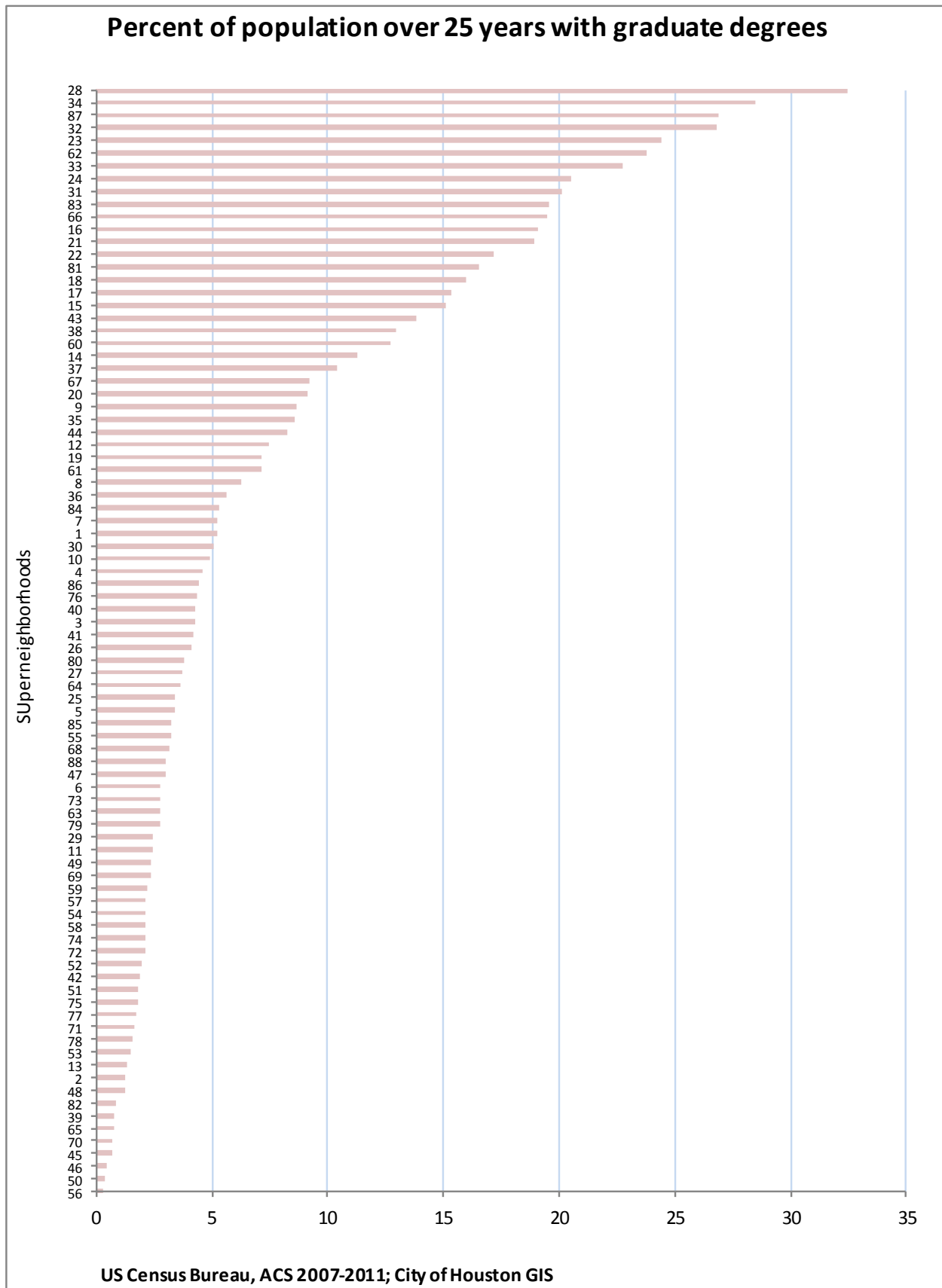


Figure 6: Percent of the population with graduate degrees

- The median earnings in 2010 based on degree were as follows:
 - High School degree - \$24,000
 - College or Associate Degree - \$30,313
 - Bachelor's degree - \$50,835
 - Graduate or professional degree - \$66,852
- Although balanced economies require different workers to perform different levels of jobs, the remuneration levels in today's societies reflect income inequality and lack of the financial means to enjoy a good quality of life. The percentage of persons with graduate degrees is monitored here to bring attention to the type of workforce that is necessary to attract and develop new technologies and innovations.
- The percentage of persons with graduate degrees in Houston ranges from 1% or less in 11 Super Neighborhoods. Four neighborhoods have more than 25% of the population with graduate degrees those are: Braeswood Place, Greenway/ Upper Kirby, Astrodome Area, and University Place.

Ranking of Super Neighborhoods by percent of persons with Masters degrees			
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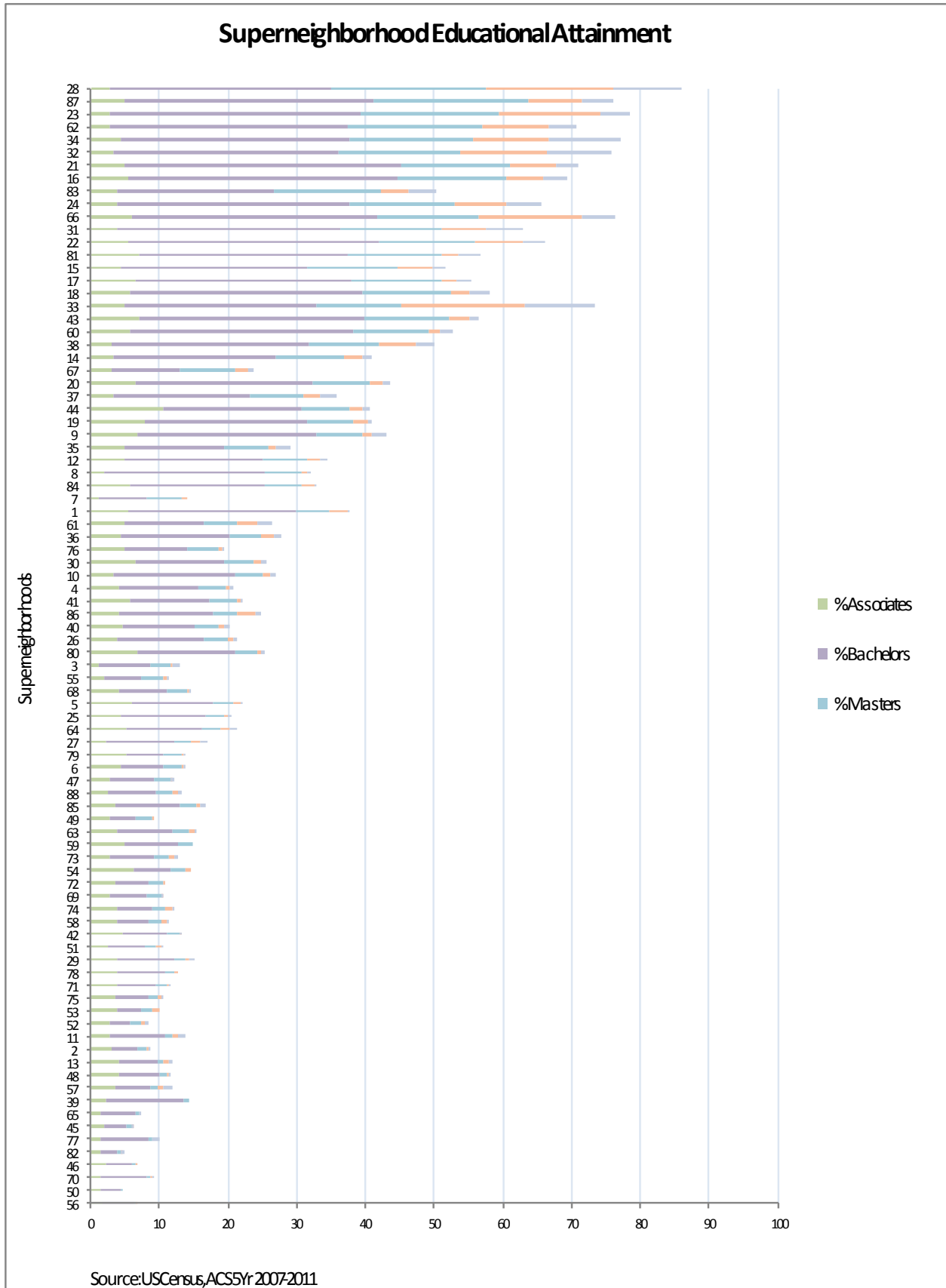


Figure 7: Percent of population with Masters degrees

- The percentage of Associate degrees range from 1% to 10%
- The percentage of Bachelors degrees range from 2% to 40%.
- The percentage of persons with graduate level Masters degrees ranges from 0 to 23% across Super Neighborhoods in Houston.
- The percentage of Doctoral degrees range from 0 to 10%.

Houston k-12 Schools				
	Elementary	Middle	High	Total
Public Schools	351	116	118	585
Private Schools	14	52	41	107
Total	365	168	159	692

Note: Schools are classified based on highest grade available, therefore schools that serve k-12 grades will be classified as High Schools.
 Source: Texas Education Agency; Texas Private School Accreditation Commission; Lester King, PhD.

Table 2: K-12 Schools in the City of Houston

- The City of Houston has approximately 692 public and private K-12 schools. Of this number, 585 are public schools and about 15 percent or just over 100 are private schools.
- There are approximately 26 separate independent school districts that overlap the administrative boundary of the City of Houston. These independent school districts all have their own Boards of Directors and are separately administered outside of the City of Houston jurisdiction.
- The Houston Independent School District is the 7th largest in the country with a budget of approximately \$2 Billion. The district serves 200,000 students and employs over 22, 300 people (Texas Education Agency, 2011). The budget for the City of Houston is \$4 Billion (City of Houston, 2011).
- Approximately half of all Houstonians have no degree past high school. Major intervention is needed in our high schools to encourage students to graduate and pursue further degrees so they can position themselves for higher salaries.

Theme - Social Demography

Sub Theme - Community Involvement

Indicator - Voter Participation

Voter participation is a sign that citizens are involved in their community. Participation leads to a sense of community (Julian, Reischl, Carrick, & Katrenich, 1997). Societies which have higher voter participation also tend to have enhanced livability and high social capital since residents are more involved in the management of their neighborhoods and communities. The State of Texas has empowered local neighborhoods with enforcement capabilities called 'Deed Restrictions', to allow citizens to develop and enforce their own neighborhood building and design standards. This is an excellent model for the empowerment of citizens and their sense of local neighborhood (Julian, Reischl, Carrick, & Katrenich, 1997). As a result, arguably, residents have focused their limited time and attention on the administration of neighborhood needs and devolved management of the city commons, outside of neighborhoods, to elected officials. An increase in voter participation is a good indicator of the degree of public interest with the comprehensive management of the City of Houston.

Sustainability Benefit: Voting in Houston is conducted in a democratic format.

Sustainability Issue: Very few people vote in the local elections.

Indicator Groups: Voter participation among Super Neighborhoods in Houston was measured by the percent of persons who voted in the local election of 2011. This indicator correlates with the indicators Percent low-medium development and Percent of adequate storm sewers. This group is titled Bedroom Communities since the low-medium development type is primarily the single family neighborhoods in Houston, where one will find housing exclusive of other services such as stores. Persons who live in these communities make up the majority of voters and the city has done a relatively good job with maintaining storm sewers in the bedroom communities. This form of community type is against the contemporary planning and development model, which calls for mixed use development. In mixed use developments, local services such as dry cleaners, banks, hair salons etc, would be in walking distance to homes. The benefits of a mixed use community are less transportation pollution and congestion and more neighborhood and community interaction.

The following metrics are used to measure the indicator *Voter Participation*.

Figure 8: Voting by Super Neighborhood

Figure 9: Voter Participation in Houston



Ranking of Super Neighborhoods by percent of persons who voted in local elections 2011			
1	PLEASANTVILLE AREA	45	SPRING BRANCH EAST
2	MEYERLAND AREA	46	PARK PLACE
3	MACGREGOR	47	MEDICAL CENTER AREA
4	UNIVERSITY PLACE	48	SOUTH MAIN
5	SOUTH ACRES / CRESTMONT PARK	49	SECOND WARD
6	MEMORIAL	50	MIDTOWN
7	AFTON OAKS / RIVER OAKS AREA	51	BRAEBURN
8	BRAESWOOD PLACE	52	MAGNOLIA PARK
9	EAST LITTLE YORK / HOMESTEAD	53	INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS
10	NEARTOWN - MONTROSE	54	DENVER HARBOR / PORT HOUSTON
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39	GREATER INWOOD	83	GREATER GREENSPPOINT
40	GREATER EASTWOOD	84	WILLOWBROOK
41	NORTHSIDE VILLAGE	85	GULFTON
42	HIDDEN VALLEY	86	WESTWOOD
43	CLINTON PARK TRI-COMMUNITY	87	ADDICKS PARK TEN
44	GOLFCREST / BELLFORT / REVEILLE	88	FORT BEND / HOUSTON

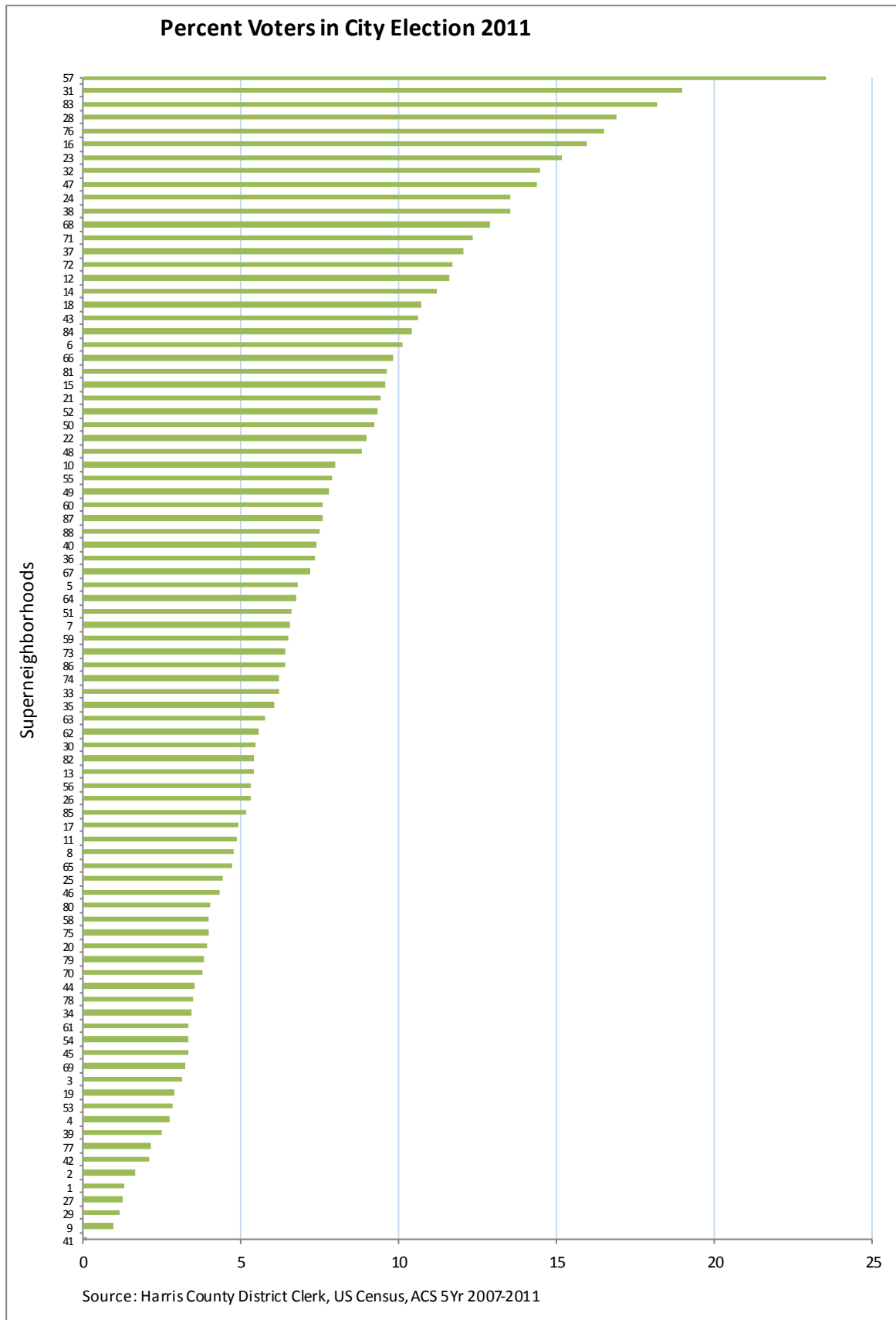


Figure 8: Voting by Super Neighborhood

- The above figure shows comparative voter participation among the Super Neighborhoods.

- The Pleasantville Area Super Neighborhood had the highest participation rate among voters of 23.52%. Thirty eight (38) Super Neighborhoods had less than 5% of the voting age population participating in the local election of 2011.

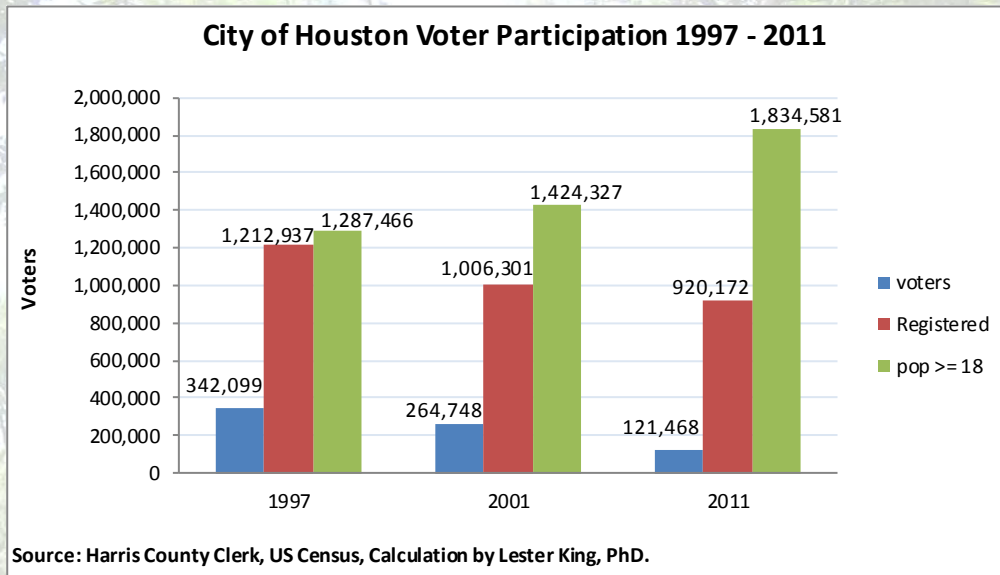


Figure 9: Voter Participation in Houston

- In this analysis we look at voting participation as a percentage of persons of eligible age, and as a percentage of registered voters.
- Only 7% of the Houston voting age population voted in the local election of 2011. This was the lowest voter participation rate in comparison to 1997 and 2001. The number of people who voted also constituted 13% of the registered voters.
- The figure shows that over the last 14 years, as the population in Houston increased. Fewer persons registered to vote and fewer persons actually voted, which indicates a decrease in social capital.

Theme - Poverty

Sub Theme - Inequality

Indicator – Income Inequality

Income inequality has an effect in the broad social capital of a city since it gives rise to separate cultures of poverty. Persons in poverty are unable to prioritize spending on maintenance of physical living spaces, which leads to blighted neighborhoods. They are unable to contribute properly to the tax base, which makes it more difficult for public agencies to supply public services. Income disparities are greater today than at any other time since the 1920s in Harris County and greater in America than in any other country (Klineberg, 2005)

Growth in income is an important summary indicator that shows the rate at which private gains increase over time. This is especially important in an environment where municipalities compete for population and economic growth, as well as more basic things such as keeping up with the rate of inflation. The City of Houston ranked 45th out of the largest 63 cities in the country in terms of median household income in 2010. The median household income in Houston was \$42,962 in 2010. New York City ranked 16th highest in terms of median household income and California had 9 cities in the top 20 highest household income ranking, with San Jose City as the highest in the country with a median household income of \$79, 405 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011).

Sustainability Benefit: Median household income earnings in Houston have increased over time.

Sustainability Issue: The top 20 percent of earners report fluctuating incomes.

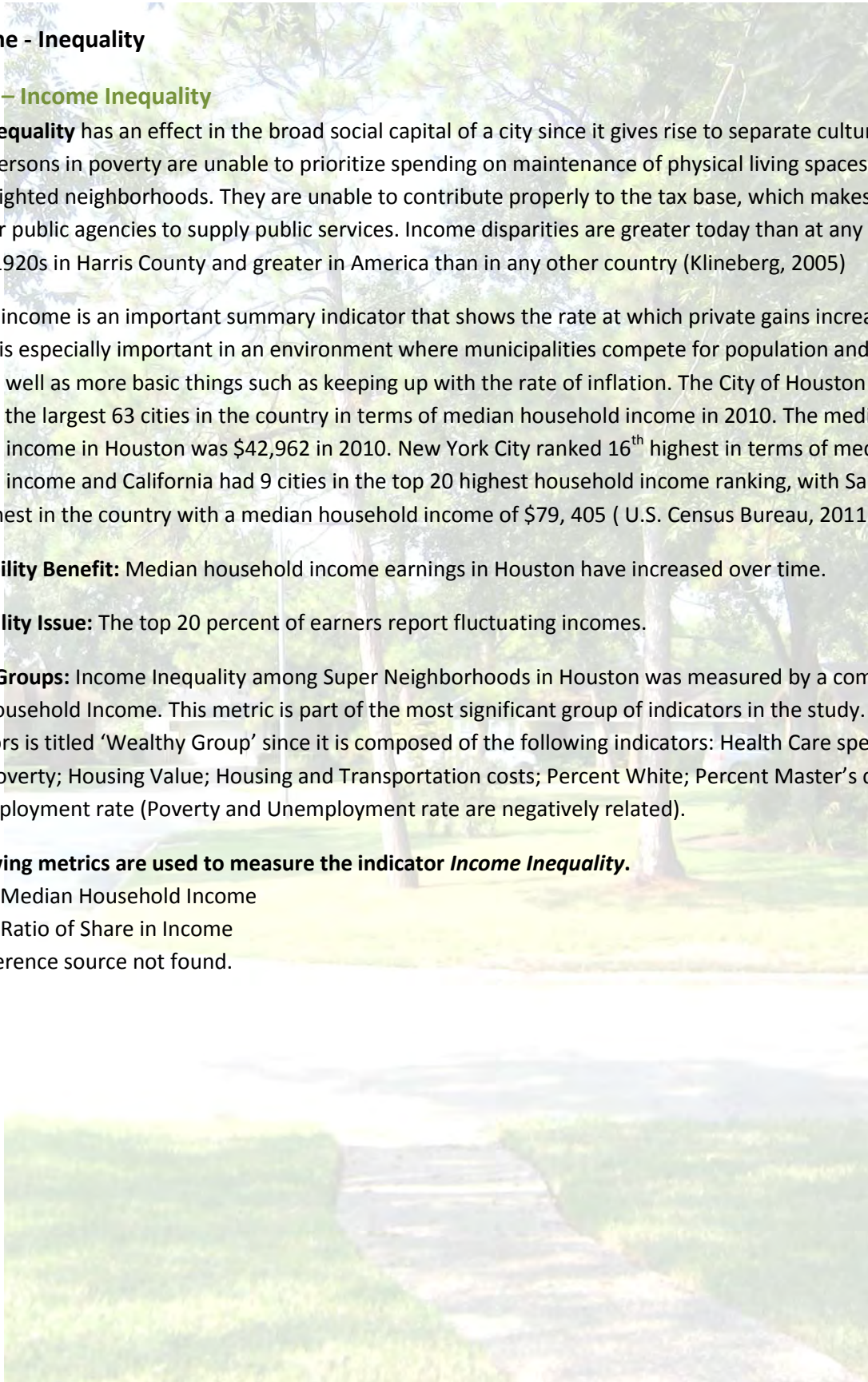
Indicator Groups: Income Inequality among Super Neighborhoods in Houston was measured by a comparison of Median Household Income. This metric is part of the most significant group of indicators in the study. This group of indicators is titled ‘Wealthy Group’ since it is composed of the following indicators: Health Care spending; Income; Poverty; Housing Value; Housing and Transportation costs; Percent White; Percent Master’s degrees and Unemployment rate (Poverty and Unemployment rate are negatively related).

The following metrics are used to measure the indicator *Income Inequality*.

Figure 10: Median Household Income

Figure 11: Ratio of Share in Income

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Ranking of Super Neighborhoods by median household income			
1	UNIVERSITY PLACE	45	GREATER EASTWOOD
2	AFTON OAKS / RIVER OAKS AREA	46	FAIRBANKS / NORTHWEST CROSSING
3	KINGWOOD AREA	47	BRAYS OAKS
4	MEMORIAL	48	ALIEF
5	LAKE HOUSTON	49	SPRING BRANCH CENTRAL
6	WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION / MEMORIAL PARK	50	MACGREGOR
7	GREATER UPTOWN	51	EL DORADO / OATES PRAIRIE
8	CLEAR LAKE	52	IAH / AIRPORT AREA
9	BRAESWOOD PLACE	53	PECAN PARK
10	MIDTOWN	54	GOLFCREST / BELLFORT / REVELLE
11	GREENWAY / UPPER KIRBY AREA	55	GREATER INWOOD
12	GREATER HEIGHTS	56	EAST LITTLE YORK / HOMESTEAD
13	MEYERLAND AREA	57	SOUTH ACRES / CRESTMONT PARK
14	BRIARFOREST AREA	58	LAWNDALE / WAYSIDE
15	NEARTOWN - MONTROSE	59	WILLOWBROOK
16	WESTBRANCH	60	EAST HOUSTON
17	ELDRIDGE / WEST OAKS	61	SOUTH PARK
18	MUSEUM PARK	62	HARRISBURG / MANCHESTER
19	WESTBURY	63	NORTHSIDE/NORTHLINE
20	DOWNTOWN	64	PARK PLACE
21	MEDICAL CENTER AREA	65	BRAEBURN
22	WILLOW MEADOWS / WILLOWBEND AREA	66	DENVER HARBOR / PORT HOUSTON
23	ADDICKS PARK TEN	67	SHARPSTOWN
24	CARVERDALE	68	ACRES HOME
25	HIDDEN VALLEY	69	PLEASANTVILLE AREA
26	SOUTH BELT / ELLINGTON	70	SOUTH MAIN
27	LAZY BROOK / TIMBERGROVE	71	LANGWOOD
28	FOURTH WARD	72	NORTHSIDE VILLAGE
29	CENTRAL NORTHWEST	73	MAGNOLIA PARK
30	FORT BEND / HOUSTON	74	SECOND WARD
31	SPRING BRANCH WEST	75	CLINTON PARK TRI-COMMUNITY
32	CENTRAL SOUTHWEST	76	EASTEX - JENSEN AREA
33	WESTCHASE	77	GULFTON
34	SPRING BRANCH NORTH	78	TRINITY / HOUSTON GARDENS
35	GREATER HOBBY AREA	79	OST / SOUTH UNION
36	FONDREN GARDENS	80	GREATER GREENSPPOINT
37	ASTRODOME AREA	81	SUNNYSIDE
38	HUNTERWOOD	82	SETTEGAST
39	MID WEST	83	WESTWOOD
40	NORTHSHORE	84	KASHMERE GARDENS
41	SPRING BRANCH EAST	85	INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS
42	MEADOWBROOK / ALLENDALE	86	MINNETEX
43	EDGEBROOK AREA	87	GREATER FIFTH WARD
44	GULFGATE RIVERVIEW / PINE VALLEY	88	GREATER THIRD WARD

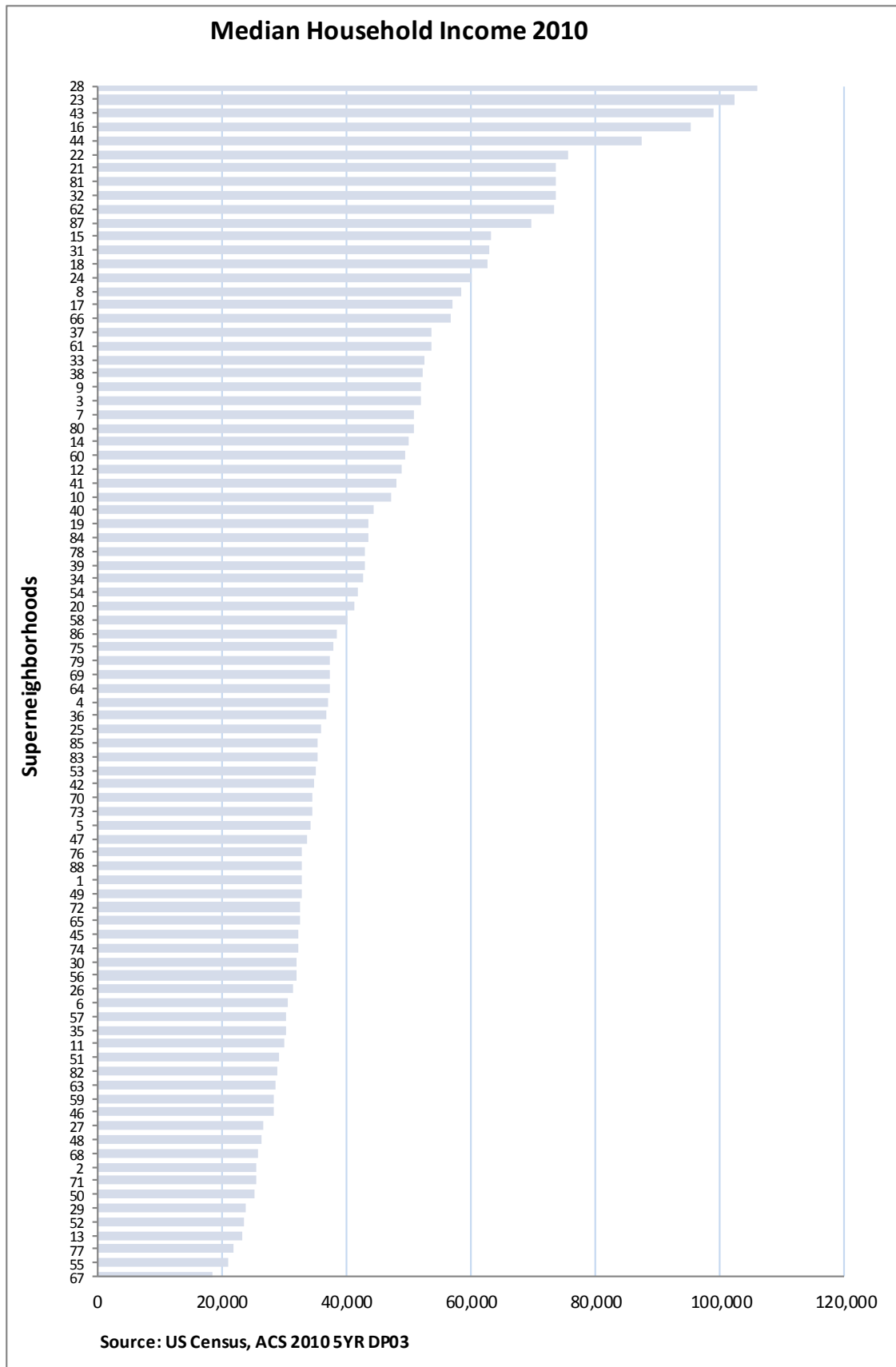


Figure 10: Median Household Income

- The median household income among Super Neighborhoods ranges from \$18,386 in the Third Ward Super Neighborhood to \$106,079 in University Place.
- The median household income in Houston of \$42,355 is below that for Harris County, which is \$50,422 and the MSA Region (\$53,942) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011).

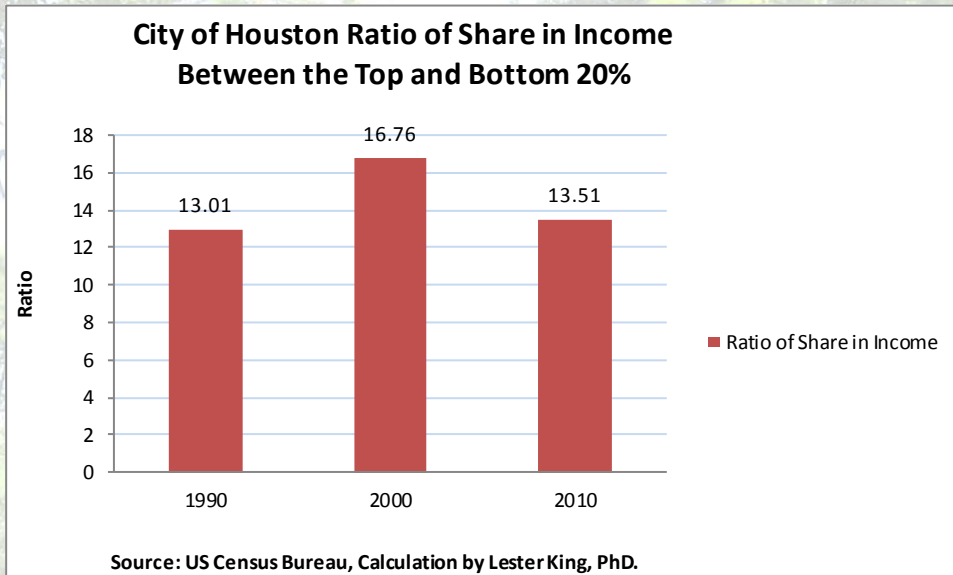


Figure 11: Ratio of Share in Income

- In 2010 the income disparity in the City of Houston, measured by the ratio of the top 20% divided by the bottom 20% median household incomes, was 13.51.

Theme - Poverty

Sub Theme - Poverty Level

Indicator – Poverty Rate

High **Poverty rates** lead to development of social cultures, which by necessity favor private survival needs over involvement in public affairs. This suggests that public facilities, such as schools, parks, sidewalks, streets and neighborhood businesses will suffer from neglect due to pervasive poverty. Reduction in poverty rates is important because it helps households become self-sufficient. Access to good jobs, good schools, and shopping does not occur in poor neighborhoods (McClure, 2008).

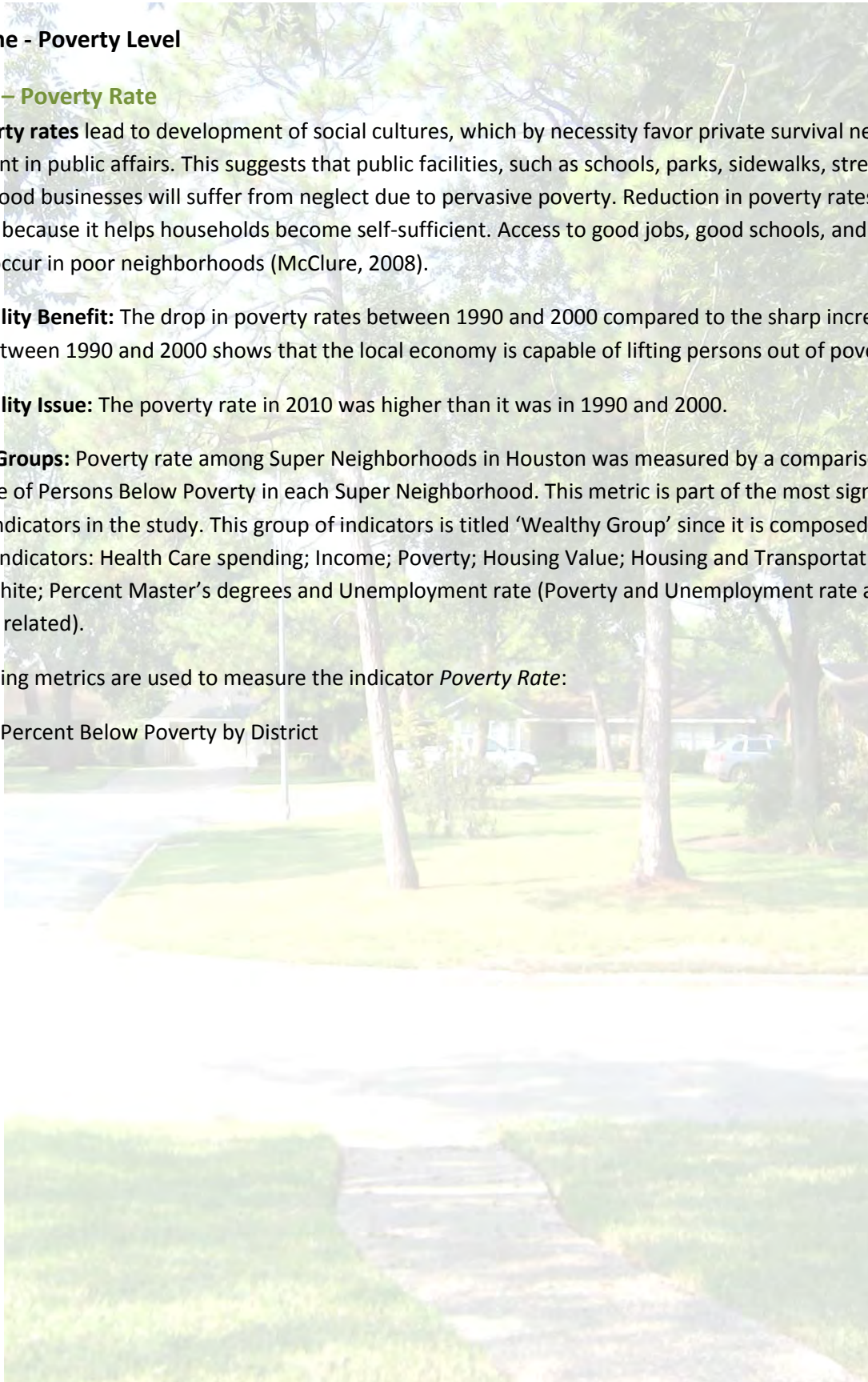
Sustainability Benefit: The drop in poverty rates between 1990 and 2000 compared to the sharp increase in income between 1990 and 2000 shows that the local economy is capable of lifting persons out of poverty.

Sustainability Issue: The poverty rate in 2010 was higher than it was in 1990 and 2000.

Indicator Groups: Poverty rate among Super Neighborhoods in Houston was measured by a comparison of the Percentage of Persons Below Poverty in each Super Neighborhood. This metric is part of the most significant group of indicators in the study. This group of indicators is titled 'Wealthy Group' since it is composed of the following indicators: Health Care spending; Income; Poverty; Housing Value; Housing and Transportation costs; Percent White; Percent Master's degrees and Unemployment rate (Poverty and Unemployment rate are negatively related).

The following metrics are used to measure the indicator *Poverty Rate*:

Figure 12: Percent Below Poverty by District



Ranking of Super Neighborhoods by percent of persons in poverty			
1	WESTWOOD	45	ASTRODOME AREA
2	GREATER FIFTH WARD	46	ALIEF
3	GREATER THIRD WARD	47	GREATER EASTWOOD
4	KASHMERE GARDENS	48	BRAYS OAKS
5	SETTEGAST	49	PLEASANTVILLE AREA
6	GREATER GREENSPPOINT	50	EDGEBROOK AREA
7	INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS	51	NORTHSHORE
8	LANGWOOD	52	MID WEST
9	OST / SOUTH UNION	53	SPRING BRANCH NORTH
10	GULFTON	54	HIDDEN VALLEY
11	SECOND WARD	55	MEADOWBROOK / ALLENDALE
12	DOWNTOWN	56	CENTRAL SOUTHWEST
13	SUNNYSIDE	57	EL DORADO / OATES PRAIRIE
14	NORTHSIDE VILLAGE	58	FAIRBANKS / NORTHWEST CROSSING
15	EASTEX - JENSEN AREA	59	CENTRAL NORTHWEST
16	MINNETEX	60	WESTBURY
17	TRINITY / HOUSTON GARDENS	61	WILLOW MEADOWS / WILLOWBEND AREA
18	LAWNDALE / WAYSIDE	62	MIDTOWN
19	ACRES HOME	63	WILLOWBROOK
20	SOUTH PARK	64	LAZY BROOK / TIMBERGROVE
21	GREATER INWOOD	65	WESTCHASE
22	EAST LITTLE YORK / HOMESTEAD	66	FONDREN GARDENS
23	NORTHSIDE/NORTHLINE	67	SOUTH BELT / ELLINGTON
24	DENVER HARBOR / PORT HOUSTON	68	FORT BEND / HOUSTON
25	IAH / AIRPORT AREA	69	GREATER HEIGHTS
26	SHARPSTOWN	70	MEDICAL CENTER AREA
27	SPRING BRANCH CENTRAL	71	CARVERDALE
28	EAST HOUSTON	72	NEARTOWN - MONTROSE
29	SOUTH MAIN	73	ADDICKS PARK TEN
30	FOURTH WARD	74	MUSEUM PARK
31	PARK PLACE	75	MEYERLAND AREA
32	BRAEBURN	76	WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION / MEMORIAL PARK
33	GREATER HOBBY AREA	77	ELDRIDGE / WEST OAKS
34	SOUTH ACRES / CRESTMONT PARK	78	WESTBRANCH
35	GULFGATE RIVERVIEW / PINE VALLEY	79	BRAESWOOD PLACE
36	MAGNOLIA PARK	80	CLEAR LAKE
37	CLINTON PARK TRI-COMMUNITY	81	BRIARFOREST AREA
38	SPRING BRANCH EAST	82	LAKE HOUSTON
39	HARRISBURG / MANCHESTER	83	GREATER UPTOWN
40	SPRING BRANCH WEST	84	GREENWAY / UPPER KIRBY AREA
41	GOLFCREST / BELLFORT / REVEILLE	85	UNIVERSITY PLACE
42	MACGREGOR	86	MEMORIAL
43	HUNTERWOOD	87	KINGWOOD AREA
44	PECAN PARK	88	AFTON OAKS / RIVER OAKS AREA

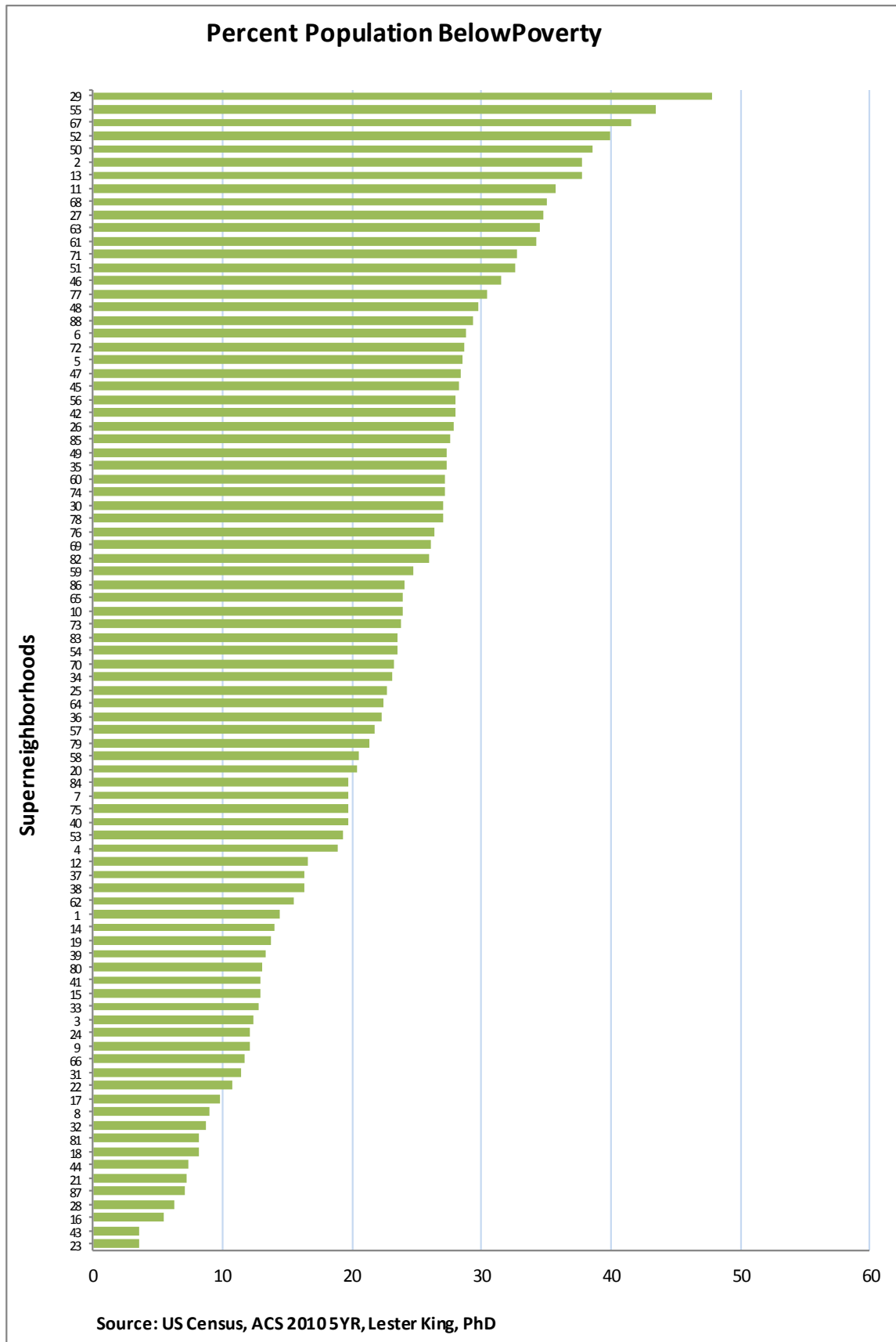


Figure 12: Percent Below Poverty by District

- The percentage of persons below the poverty line was higher in Houston (23%) than it was in Harris County and Texas (16.8% for both). The percent of people below the poverty line in the United States was 13.8% (US Census Bureau, 2010).
- The percentage of persons in poverty ranges from 3.6 % in Afton Oaks/ River Oaks to 48% in Westwood.



Theme - Poverty

Sub Theme - Healthcare Delivery

Indicator – Health Coverage

Health coverage is essential in this country to access quality care. In measuring access to healthcare, one can measure the physical access such as the distance and difficulty to get from home or work to a healthcare institution. However, in the U.S., there is a major barrier to access, which is the need to have healthcare insurance before adequate care can be offered. The provision of healthcare is normally offered by employers to employees in the U.S. and as a result persons without jobs are vulnerable to not having access to healthcare. In 2010, the Affordable Care Act was signed into law to improve the delivery of affordable health care services (Office of the Legislative Counsel, 2010). In terms of the size of the local economy for healthcare, in 2013 Houstonians spent \$3,120,272,327. This is made up of medical care spending and health insurance spending. Houstonians spent \$1,380,298,407 on medical care such as office visits, prescriptions and procedures. Another \$1,739,973,920 was spent on health insurance including private plans and medicare payments (ESRI Business Analyst 2013).

Sustainability Benefit: The Texas Medical Center in Houston is the largest medical center in the world. This suggests that the availability of doctors per capita should be higher than other comparable places.

Sustainability Issue: The percentage of persons without health insurance has increased in Harris County.

Indicator Groups: Health coverage among Super Neighborhoods in Houston was measured by a comparison of the Average Household Spending on Health Care in each Super Neighborhood. This metric is part of the most significant group of indicators in the study. This group of indicators is titled 'Wealthy Group' since it is composed of the following indicators: Health Care spending; Income; Poverty; Housing Value; Housing and Transportation costs; Percent White; Percent Master's degrees and Unemployment rate (Poverty and Unemployment rate are negatively related).

The following metric are used to measure the indicator *Health Coverage*:

Figure 13: Average healthcare spending by neighborhood



Ranking of Super Neighborhoods by average Healthcare spending by household			
1	AFTON OAKS / RIVER OAKS AREA	45	GREATER HOBBY AREA
2	MEMORIAL	46	MEADOWBROOK / ALLENDALE
3	UNIVERSITY PLACE	47	EDGEBROOK AREA
4	KINGWOOD AREA	48	SOUTH PARK
5	LAKE HOUSTON	49	SPRING BRANCH CENTRAL
6	MEYERLAND AREA	50	FAIRBANKS / NORTHWEST CROSSING
7	BRAESWOOD PLACE	51	LAWNDALE / WAYSIDE
8	CLEAR LAKE	52	ALIEF
9	GREATER UPTOWN	53	ASTRODOME AREA
10	WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION / MEMORIAL PARK	54	NORTHSIDE VILLAGE
11	MEDICAL CENTER AREA	55	GREATER EASTWOOD
12	BRIARFOREST AREA	56	GOLFCREST / BELLFORT / REVELLE
13	GREATER HEIGHTS	57	GULFGATE RIVERVIEW / PINE VALLEY
14	GREENWAY / UPPER KIRBY AREA	58	PLEASANTVILLE AREA
15	WILLOW MEADOWS / WILLOWBEND AREA	59	ACRES HOME
16	MUSEUM PARK	60	NORTHSHORE
17	NEARTOWN - MONTROSE	61	PECAN PARK
18	ELDRIDGE / WEST OAKS	62	SETTEGAST
19	LAZY BROOK / TIMBERGROVE	63	EAST HOUSTON
20	MIDTOWN	64	TRINITY / HOUSTON GARDENS
21	CENTRAL NORTHWEST	65	CLINTON PARK TRI-COMMUNITY
22	DOWNTOWN	66	DENVER HARBOR / PORT HOUSTON
23	SPRING BRANCH NORTH	67	NORTHSIDE/NORTHLINE
24	WESTBRANCH	68	BRAEBURN
25	WESTBURY	69	HARRISBURG / MANCHESTER
26	HUNTERWOOD	70	SECOND WARD
27	EL DORADO / OATES PRAIRIE	71	LANGWOOD
28	SPRING BRANCH EAST	72	PARK PLACE
29	SPRING BRANCH WEST	73	MAGNOLIA PARK
30	ADDICKS PARK TEN	74	SHARPSTOWN
31	MACGREGOR	75	OST / SOUTH UNION
32	WILLOWBROOK	76	IAH / AIRPORT AREA
33	SOUTH BELT / ELLINGTON	77	GREATER THIRD WARD
34	FORT BEND / HOUSTON	78	SUNNYSIDE
35	FOURTH WARD	79	FONDREN GARDENS
36	MID WEST	80	SOUTH MAIN
37	CARVERDALE	81	MINNETEX
38	HIDDEN VALLEY	82	INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS
39	CENTRAL SOUTHWEST	83	EASTEX - JENSEN AREA
40	BRAYS OAKS	84	KASHMERE GARDENS
41	WESTCHASE	85	GREATER FIFTH WARD
42	GREATER INWOOD	86	GULFTON
43	EAST LITTLE YORK / HOMESTEAD	87	GREATER GREENSPOINT
44	SOUTH ACRES / CRESTMONT PARK	88	WESTWOOD

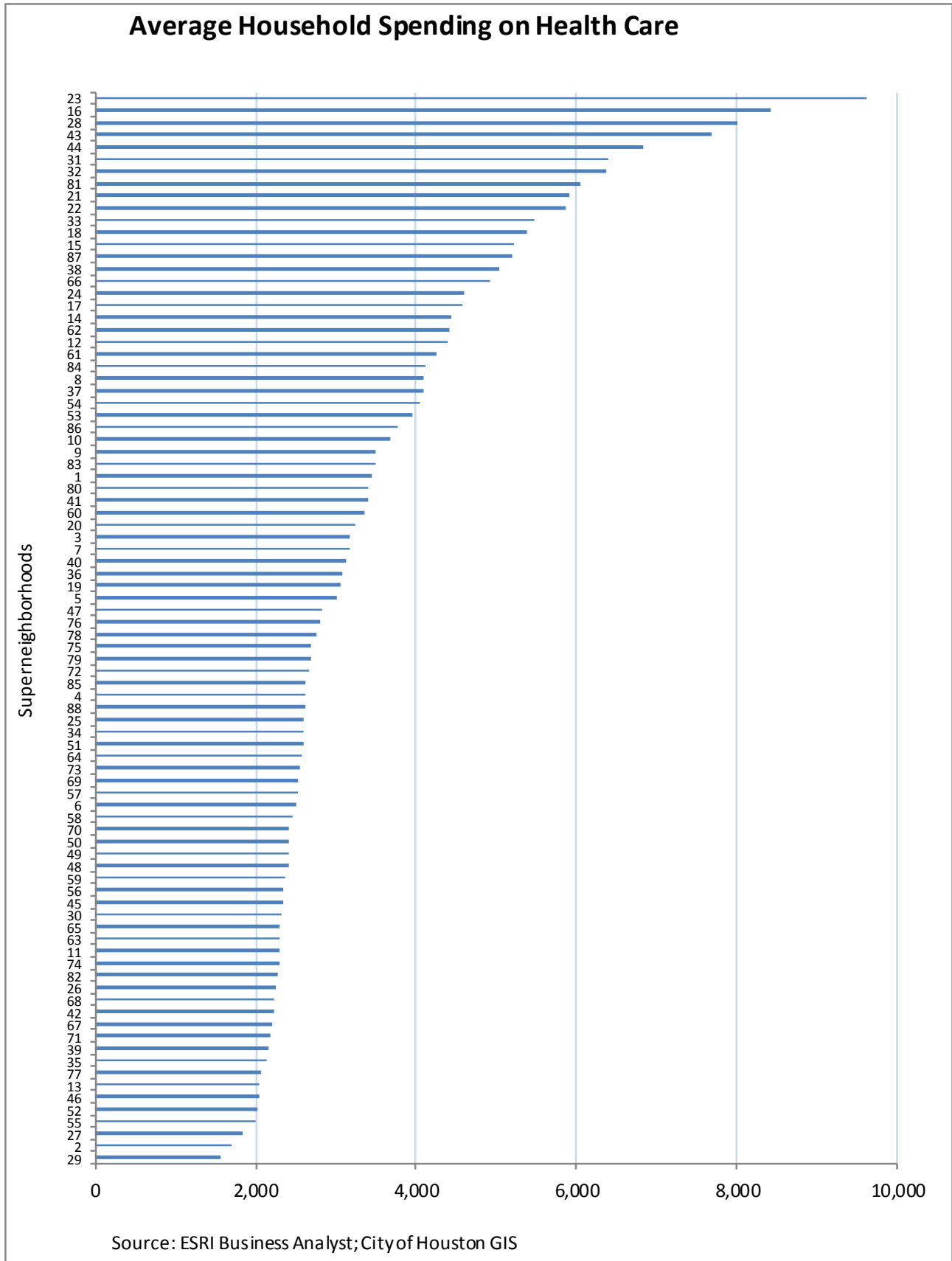


Figure 13: Average healthcare spending by neighborhood

- The percentage of uninsured persons in the City of Houston (30.9%) was higher than in Harris County (27.9%) in 2010.
- The average household in the City of Houston spent \$3,862.16 on Health Care costs in 2013.
- Four neighborhoods spent below \$2,000 on average. Those neighborhoods are Westwood, Greater Greenspoint, Gulfton and Greater Fifth Ward.
- Four neighborhoods spent on average above \$7,000 per household in 2013. Those neighborhoods are Afton Oaks/ River Oaks, Memorial, University Place, and Kingwood Area.



Theme - Livability

Sub Theme - Cost of Living

Indicator - Affordability

Housing is a basic need. Ensuring that housing is affordable may correlate strongly with home ownership but neither of these are in absolute terms a basic necessity. The basic necessity is met with the supply of homes not with the cost. That said, it is a good policy for local governments to supply affordable homes. This helps to enhance the quality of life of citizens and to bolster their economic well-being, which ensures a more sustainable financial future (Blackburn, 2011). Housing affordability can be defined as relative, subjective, a product of family budget, a ratio, or residual. This would explain the gamut of definitions of housing affordability, but spending less than 30% of income on housing (Ratio standard) has taken the fore as the definition of affordability in the U.S. (Stone, 2006).

The relationship between the Cost of Gasoline and Housing Costs is also used to measure Affordability in this study. These two price indicators are selected based on the theory that travel costs (including time) and affordability of housing are two of the primary factors which influence where people live in urban areas. In the study of Urban Economics, households will maximize their bid-rent capability by locating close to the jobs commensurate to their ability to afford housing in the area (Stegman, 1969). Housing will probably always be more affordable the farther one travels from the central city, but gasoline prices influence the affordability to travel increasingly longer distances from the city. When comparing cities in the country with more than 250,000 people, Houston ranks 26th for affordability, with 46% of income going to housing and transportation costs. Philadelphia was first with 33%; New York was 4th with 37%; Chicago was 14th with 42%; and Los Angeles was 51st with 52% of income going to housing and transportation cost (Center for Neighborhood Technology, 2010).

Sustainability Benefit: On average, Houston is not affected by housing value decreases at the same rate as the rest of the country. Real estate prices are relatively stable.

Sustainability Issue: More people are spending more than 30% of their income on housing.

Indicator Groups: Affordability among Super Neighborhoods in Houston was measured by a comparison of the Households spending more than 30% of income on housing costs in each Super Neighborhood. This metric is not correlated with any other group of indicators in the study. It is also measured by a second metric, 'Housing and Transportation Costs as a percentage of income'. This second metric is part of the most significant group of indicators in the study. This group of indicators is titled 'Wealthy Group' since it is composed of the following indicators: Health Care spending; Income; Poverty; Housing Value; Housing and Transportation costs; Percent White; Percent Master's degrees and Unemployment rate (Poverty and Unemployment rate are negatively related).

The following metrics are used to measure the indicator *Affordability*:

Figure 14: Housing Affordability

Figure 15: Housing and transportation costs as percentage of income

Ranking of Super Neighborhoods on percentage of households spending more than 30% income on housing costs			
1	HUNTERWOOD	45	IAH / AIRPORT AREA
2	ALIEF	46	TRINITY / HOUSTON GARDENS
3	FORT BEND / HOUSTON	47	OST / SOUTH UNION
4	MINNETEX	48	NORTHSIDE VILLAGE
5	GREATER GREENSPOINT	49	ADDICKS PARK TEN
6	WILLOWBROOK	50	GOLFCREST / BELLFORT / REVEILLE
7	HIDDEN VALLEY	51	LANGWOOD
8	FOURTH WARD	52	CARVERDALE
9	CENTRAL SOUTHWEST	53	LAKE HOUSTON
10	SOUTH MAIN	54	SECOND WARD
11	GREATER THIRD WARD	55	WESTBRANCH
12	MACGREGOR	56	ASTRODOME AREA
13	SETTEGAST	57	ELDRIDGE / WEST OAKS
14	NORTHSIDE/NORTHLINE	58	NORTHSHORE
15	CLINTON PARK TRI-COMMUNITY	59	AFTON OAKS / RIVER OAKS AREA
16	BRAEBURN	60	CENTRAL NORTHWEST
17	PARK PLACE	61	BRIARFOREST AREA
18	PLEASANTVILLE AREA	62	SPRING BRANCH CENTRAL
19	SOUTH ACRES / CRESTMONT PARK	63	MUSEUM PARK
20	LAWNDALE / WAYSIDE	64	MID WEST
21	SOUTH BELT / ELLINGTON	65	SPRING BRANCH WEST
22	KASHMERE GARDENS	66	GREATER EASTWOOD
23	PECAN PARK	67	WESTCHASE
24	SHARPSTOWN	68	WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION / MEMORIAL PARK
25	EASTEX - JENSEN AREA	69	SPRING BRANCH EAST
26	INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS	70	WESTBURY
27	EDGEBROOK AREA	71	GREATER HEIGHTS
28	GREATER INWOOD	72	MAGNOLIA PARK
29	EAST HOUSTON	73	MEMORIAL
30	ACRES HOME	74	DOWNTOWN
31	GREENWAY / UPPER KIRBY AREA	75	MEDICAL CENTER AREA
32	MEADOWBROOK / ALLENDALE	76	SPRING BRANCH NORTH
33	GREATER FIFTH WARD	77	HARRISBURG / MANCHESTER
34	SOUTH PARK	78	UNIVERSITY PLACE
35	WESTWOOD	79	DENVER HARBOR / PORT HOUSTON
36	EAST LITTLE YORK / HOMESTEAD	80	WILLOW MEADOWS / WILLOWBEND AREA
37	GREATER HOBBY AREA	81	BRAESWOOD PLACE
38	SUNNYSIDE	82	KINGWOOD AREA
39	GREATER UPTOWN	83	CLEAR LAKE
40	MIDTOWN	84	MEYERLAND AREA
41	FAIRBANKS / NORTHWEST CROSSING	85	EL DORADO / OATES PRAIRIE
42	GULFGATE RIVERVIEW / PINE VALLEY	86	LAZY BROOK / TIMBERGROVE
43	NEARTOWN - MONTROSE	87	FONDREN GARDENS
44	BRAYS OAKS	88	GULFTON



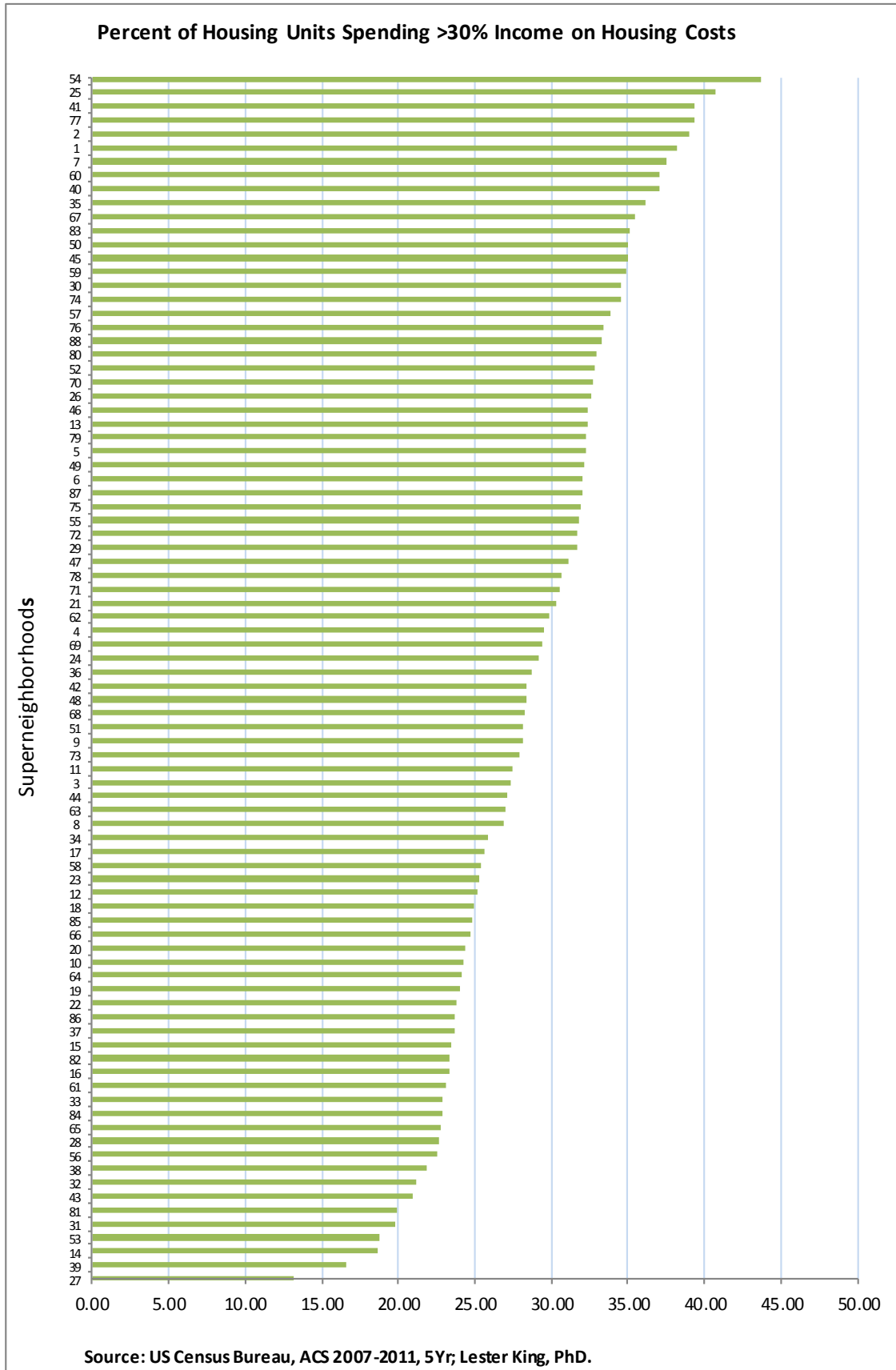


Figure 14: Housing Affordability

- The percentage of housing units in Houston where tenants spent more than 30% of their incomes on housing costs increased almost 50% in 2010 from 1990 and 2000 levels, which were relatively similar in percentage. In 2010, 30% or 104,140 housing units cost tenants more than 30 percent of their incomes.
- Super Neighborhoods in Houston range from 13% in Gulfton to 44% in Hunterwood with regards to the percentage of households which spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs.

Ranking of Super Neighborhoods by the average spend on housing + transportation costs as percentage of income			
1	AFTON OAKS / RIVER OAKS AREA	45	SPRING BRANCH NORTH
2	NEARTOWN - MONTROSE	46	ACRES HOME
3	BRAESWOOD PLACE	47	SOUTH BELT / ELLINGTON
4	GREATER UPTOWN	48	SOUTH MAIN
5	GREENWAY / UPPER KIRBY AREA	49	NEAR NORTHWEST
6	UNIVERSITY PLACE	50	GREATER EASTWOOD
7	MUSEUM PARK	51	ALIEF
8	WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION / MEMORIAL PARK	52	SHARPSTOWN
9	MEYERLAND AREA	53	SETTEGAST
10	GULFTON	54	EL DORADO / OATES PRAIRIE
11	MEMORIAL	55	CENTRAL SOUTHWEST
12	SPRING BRANCH EAST	56	FAIRBANKS / NORTHWEST CROSSING
13	WILLOW MEADOWS / WILLOWBEND AREA	57	EDGEBROOK AREA
14	FOURTH WARD	58	FONDREN GARDENS
15	MACGREGOR	59	FORT BEND / HOUSTON
16	LAKE HOUSTON	60	GOLFCREST / BELLFORT / REVELLE
17	ELDRIDGE / WEST OAKS	61	LAWNDALE / WAYSIDE
18	KINGWOOD AREA	62	PECAN PARK
19	GREATER HEIGHTS	63	CARVERDALE
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21	MIDTOWN	65	EAST HOUSTON
22	DOWNTOWN	66	GULFGATE RIVERVIEW / PINE VALLEY
23	BRIARFOREST AREA	67	MEADOWBROOK / ALLENDALE
24	GREATER THIRD WARD	68	SOUTH ACRES / CRESTMONT PARK
25	LAZY BROOK / TIMBERGROVE	69	KASHMERE GARDENS
26	SPRING BRANCH WEST	70	SECOND WARD
27	ADDICKS PARK TEN	71	LANGWOOD
28	BRAEBURN	72	NORTHSIDE VILLAGE
29	WESTCHASE	73	ASTRODOME AREA
30	WILLOWBROOK	74	EAST LITTLE YORK / HOMESTEAD
31	IAH / AIRPORT AREA	75	HARRISBURG / MANCHESTER
32	WESTBRANCH	76	NORTHSIDE/NORTHLINE
33	MID WEST	77	NORTHSHORE
34	GREATER HOBBY AREA	78	HIDDEN VALLEY
35	CLEAR LAKE	79	SUNNYSIDE
36	SPRING BRANCH CENTRAL	80	MAGNOLIA PARK
37	GREATER FONDREN SOUTHWEST	81	OST / SOUTH UNION
38	PARK PLACE	82	TRINITY / HOUSTON GARDENS
39	WESTWOOD	83	EASTEX - JENSEN AREA
40	MINNETEX	84	GREATER FIFTH WARD
41	HUNTERWOOD	85	PLEASANTVILLE AREA
42	WESTBURY	86	DENVER HARBOR / PORT HOUSTON
43	GREATER INWOOD	87	CLINTON PARK TRI-COMMUNITY
44	GREATER GREENSPOINT	88	SOUTH PARK

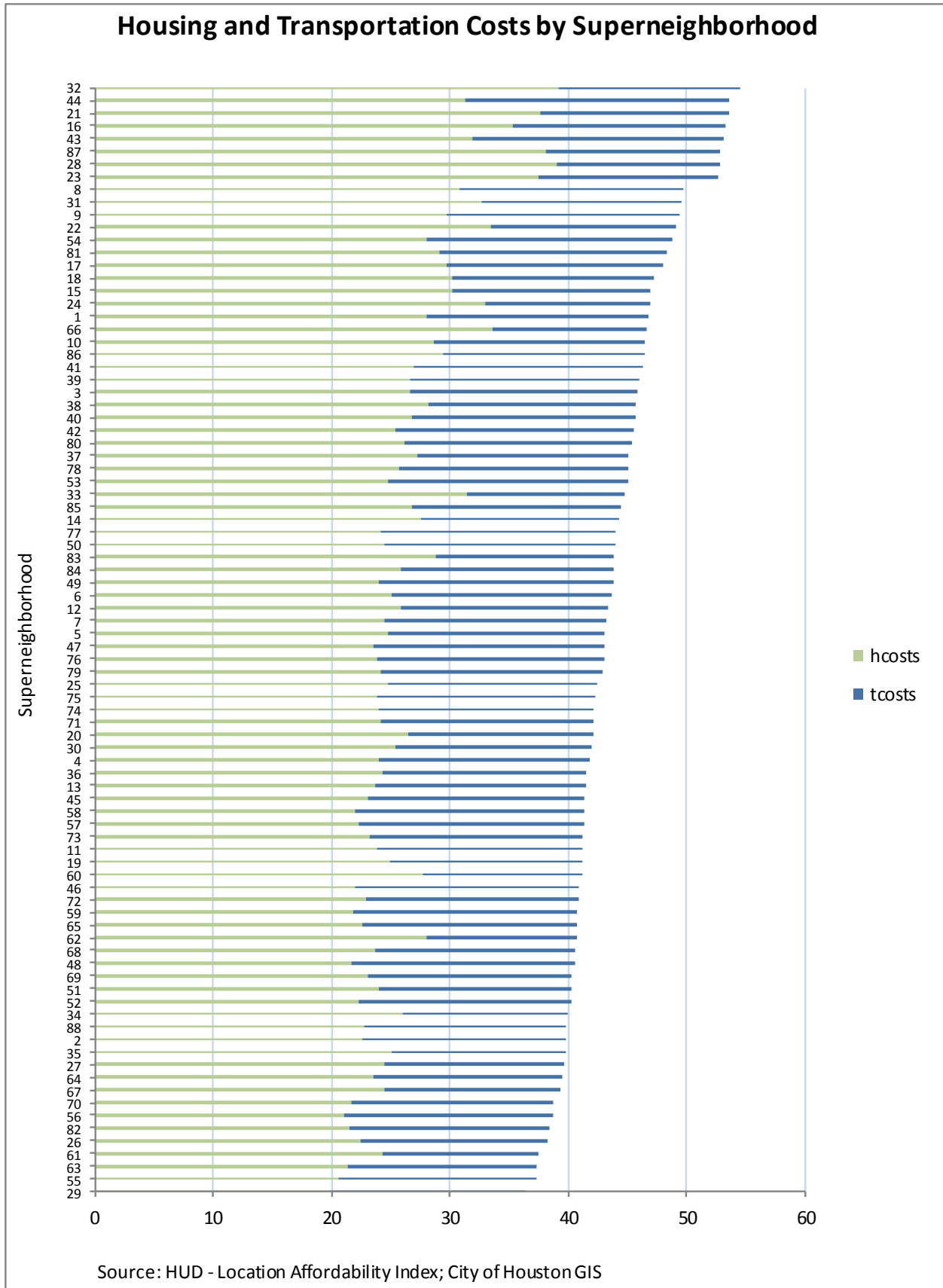


Figure 15: Housing and transportation costs as percentage of income

- The above figure shows that the range of Housing and Transportation costs among Houston neighborhoods is from 33.6% to 54.46% of household income. This is defined by a typical annual income of \$55,207, 2.87 person household and 1.29 commuters driving 17,534 miles annually.
- The average for Houston is 43% of income going to housing and transportation costs. The housing contribution is 26% and the transportation commitment is 17% of income.
- The average household in the neighborhoods of Westwood, Fifth Ward, Second Ward, Downtown, Sharpstown, Magnolia Park, Denver Harbor, Pecan Park, Third Ward and Eastwood all spend less than 40% of income on housing and transportation costs.
- The average household in the neighborhoods of Meyerland, Afton Oaks/ River Oaks, University Place, Greenway/ Upper Kirby, Kingwood, Memorial, Uptown, Lake Houston and Braeswood Place all spend more than 50% of income on transportation costs.



Theme - Livability

Sub Theme - Quality of Life

Indicator - Accessibility of Public Spaces

Quality of Life is difficult to measure since the City of Houston has a diverse number of cultures and persons with individual differences within those cultures. However access to nature and open space has been proven effective in combating health and behavioral problems (Mitchell & Popham, 2008). Accessibility of public spaces enhances quality of life by offering a physical space for the interaction of people to form community and neighborhood networks (Alexander, Ishikawa, & Silverstein, 1977). Places where we want to encourage a high level of accessibility, and hence frequency of use such as commercial centers, transit lines, and community facilities such as parks should be no more than ¼ mile walking distance from population residences (Ewing, 1999). Houston ranked 32nd among the 63 largest cities in the country for pedestrian activity and incentives to walking (Walkscore, 2012). According to the Trust for Public Land (TPL), Houston ranked 21st among the 63 largest cities in the country, in terms of percentage of area devoted to parks with 13% (The Trust for Public Land, 2011).

Sustainability Benefit: Small public parks are relatively well dispersed across the city.

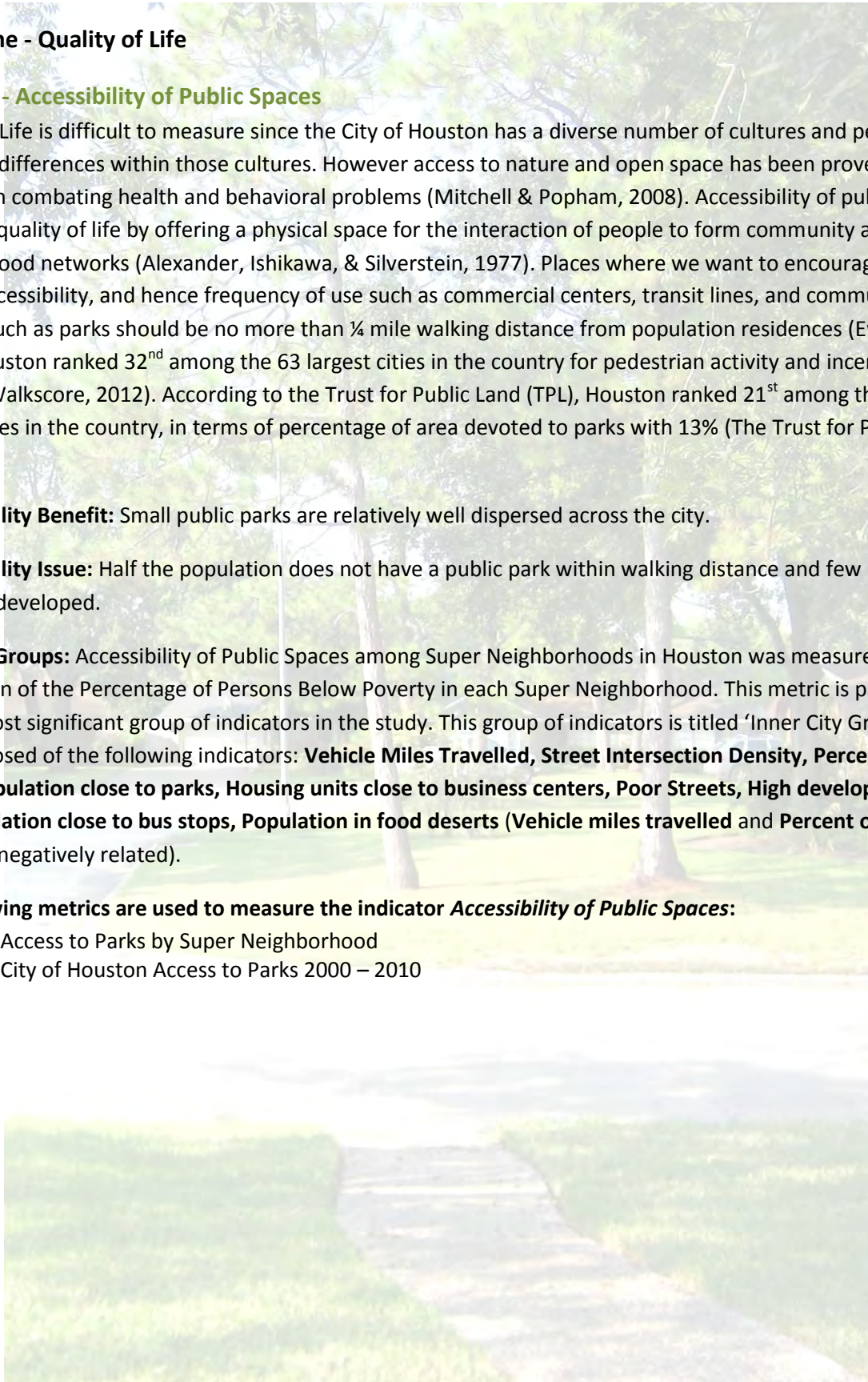
Sustainability Issue: Half the population does not have a public park within walking distance and few new parks are being developed.

Indicator Groups: Accessibility of Public Spaces among Super Neighborhoods in Houston was measured by a comparison of the Percentage of Persons Below Poverty in each Super Neighborhood. This metric is part of the second most significant group of indicators in the study. This group of indicators is titled 'Inner City Group' since it is composed of the following indicators: **Vehicle Miles Travelled, Street Intersection Density, Percent of open Space, Population close to parks, Housing units close to business centers, Poor Streets, High development land use, population close to bus stops, Population in food deserts** (Vehicle miles travelled and Percent of open space are negatively related).

The following metrics are used to measure the indicator *Accessibility of Public Spaces*:

Figure 16: Access to Parks by Super Neighborhood

Figure 17: City of Houston Access to Parks 2000 – 2010



Ranking of Super Neighborhoods by percent of population ¼ mile to parks			
1	FOURTH WARD	45	GREATER THIRD WARD
2	ADDICKS PARK TEN	46	INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS
3	MEDICAL CENTER AREA	47	GULFTON
4	WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION / MEMORIAL PARK	48	EAST LITTLE YORK / HOMESTEAD
5	LAWNDALE / WAYSIDE	49	EDGEBROOK AREA
6	MACGREGOR	50	WILLOW MEADOWS / WILLOWBEND AREA
7	AFTON OAKS / RIVER OAKS AREA	51	TRINITY / HOUSTON GARDENS
8	BRAEBURN	52	BRIARFOREST AREA
9	MAGNOLIA PARK	53	GREENWAY / UPPER KIRBY AREA
10	NORTHSHORE	54	SPRING BRANCH EAST
11	GREATER HEIGHTS	55	MEADOWBROOK / ALLENDALE
12	MEYERLAND AREA	56	SHARPSTOWN
13	ELDRIDGE / WEST OAKS	57	NORTHSIDE/NORTHLINE
14	GREATER FIFTH WARD	58	SOUTH ACRES / CRESTMONT PARK
15	GREATER EASTWOOD	59	MID WEST
16	PECAN PARK	60	DENVER HARBOR / PORT HOUSTON
17	WESTBURY	61	ALIEF
18	MUSEUM PARK	62	CENTRAL SOUTHWEST
19	DOWNTOWN	63	EAST HOUSTON
20	UNIVERSITY PLACE	64	BRAYS OAKS
21	PARK PLACE	65	GREATER UPTOWN
22	BRAESWOOD PLACE	66	SOUTH MAIN
23	FONDREN GARDENS	67	PLEASANTVILLE AREA
24	LANGWOOD	68	GREATER GREENSPOINT
25	NEARTOWN - MONTROSE	69	WESTWOOD
26	MIDTOWN	70	ACRES HOME
27	KINGWOOD AREA	71	CLEAR LAKE
28	NORTHSIDE VILLAGE	72	SETTEGAST
29	GULFGATE RIVERVIEW / PINE VALLEY	73	GREATER INWOOD
30	KASHMERE GARDENS	74	CLINTON PARK TRI-COMMUNITY
31	SUNNYSIDE	75	SOUTH BELT / ELLINGTON
32	SOUTH PARK	76	FORT BEND / HOUSTON
33	ASTRODOME AREA	77	HIDDEN VALLEY
34	HARRISBURG / MANCHESTER	78	WESTBRANCH
35	CENTRAL NORTHWEST	79	FAIRBANKS / NORTHWEST CROSSING
36	SPRING BRANCH CENTRAL	80	WESTCHASE
37	SECOND WARD	81	CARVERDALE
38	OST / SOUTH UNION	82	LAKE HOUSTON
39	SPRING BRANCH NORTH	83	EL DORADO / OATES PRAIRIE
40	GOLFCREST / BELLFORT / REVEILLE	84	MINNETEX
41	EASTEX - JENSEN AREA	85	GREATER HOBBY AREA
42	SPRING BRANCH WEST	86	IAH / AIRPORT AREA
43	LAZY BROOK / TIMBERGROVE	87	HUNTERWOOD
44	MEMORIAL	88	WILLOWBROOK

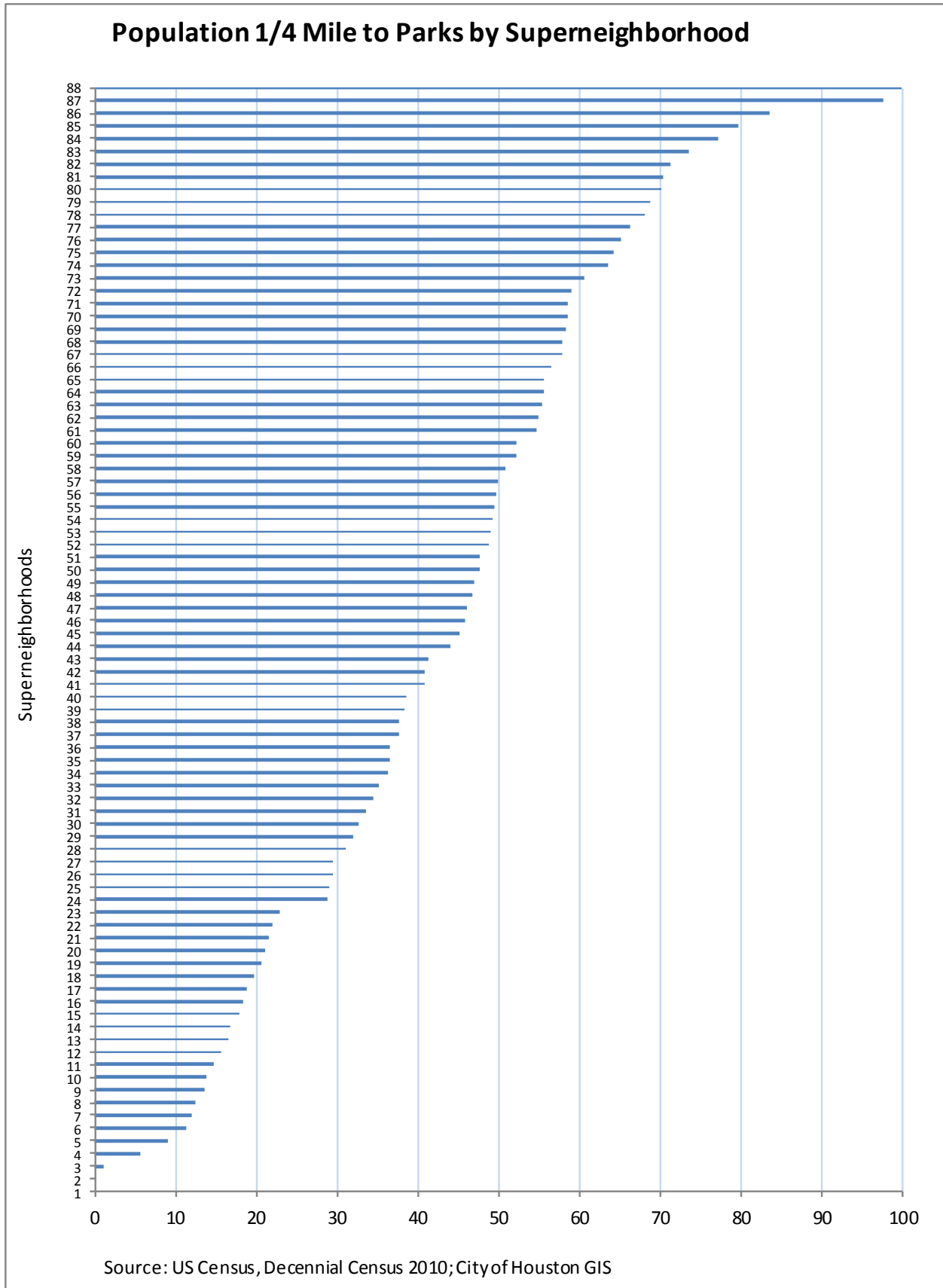


Figure 16: Access to Parks by Super Neighborhood

- Good access to park spaces within Super Neighborhoods in Houston ranges from 0% in Hunterwood and Willowbrook to 100% in the Fourth Ward. The Houston average is 40.7% of the population in walking distance to parks.

City of Houston Access to Parks 2000 - 2010

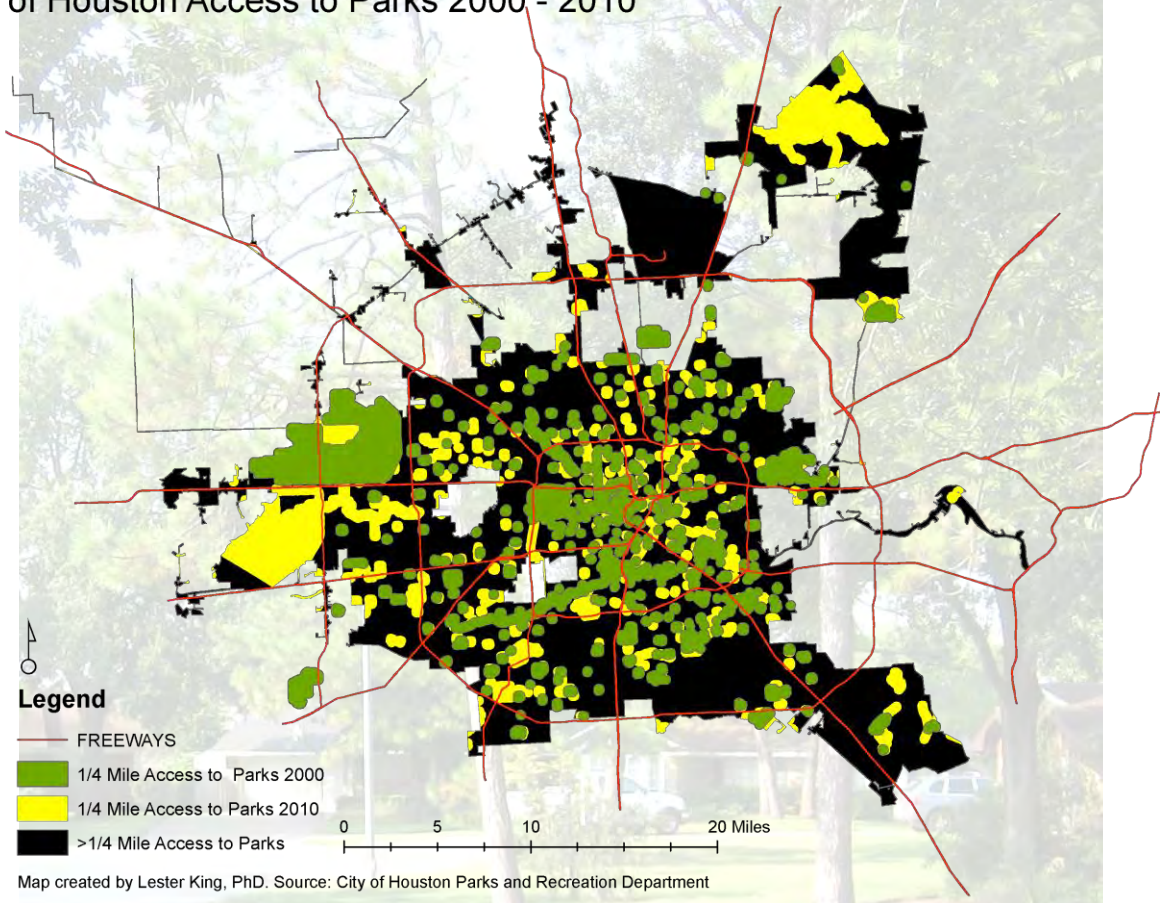


Figure 17: City of Houston Access to Parks 2000 – 2010

- A map of existing parks in 2000 superimposed on a map of existing parks in 2010, shows the new areas classified as parks in 2010. These areas include pedestrian and bike trails, school parks shared by neighboring communities, and county parks.
- In 2010, there were 918,882 persons living within a quarter mile of parks in Houston.
- That figure represents 44% of the population living within walking distance of a park.
- Demographic analysis of access to parks in 2010 shows the following figures by race and ethnicity. White cohort 48%; Black cohort 41%; Hispanic cohort 44% living within ¼ mile to a park or open space.

Theme - Livability

Sub Theme - Health & Nutrition

Indicator - Food Deserts

Food deserts are correlated with low-income neighborhoods, health and nutrition deficiencies, and fast food restaurants. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), food deserts are defined as 'areas that lack access to affordable fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lowfat milk, and other foods that make up the full range of a healthy diet' (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2012). The CDC also states that there is no standard definition of food desert, however the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines a food desert as a census tract more than 1 mile from a supermarket with at least \$2 million in annual sales (urban definition), and that at least 20% of the people living there are poor (US Department of Agriculture, 2012). This report uses the definition of any area more than 1 mile from a grocery store selling fresh fruits and produce as being in a food desert. The reason is because some small stores also sell produce that meet the CDC's definition and also some areas that are not necessarily poor, but are not within a mile to supermarkets will not be covered by the USDA definition.

Texas has the lowest number of supermarkets per capita in comparison to other states in the country (Manon, Giang, & Treering, 2010). The economic model that finds it strategic to locate a fast food store in a food desert is clearly different from the model that is used to locate grocery stores. Low income persons have to shop more frequently for retail items since they do not have enough stored wealth or storage space to stock up on consumer goods. Recently there has been an emergence of several Farmer's Markets across the city (Turner, 2012). The increase of Farmer's Markets suggests that there is a local demand, which traditional grocery stores are not meeting. There are also reportedly more than 125 community and school gardens across the city (Blackburn, 2011).

Sustainability Benefit: The Food Desert in Houston is getting smaller.

Sustainability Issue: More than 700,000 people in Houston do not live within a mile of a grocery store selling fresh fruits and vegetables.

Indicator Groups: Food deserts among Super Neighborhoods in Houston was measured by a comparison of the Percentage of population in food deserts in each Super Neighborhood. This metric is part of the second most significant group of indicators in the study. This group of indicators is titled 'Inner City Group' since it is composed of the following indicators: **Vehicle Miles Travelled, Street Intersection Density, Percent of open Space, Population close to parks, Housing units close to business centers, Poor Streets, High development land use, population close to bus stops, Population in food deserts (Vehicle miles travelled and Percent of open space are negatively related).**

The following metrics are used to measure the indicator *Food Deserts*:

Figure 19: Houston Food Desert 2010

Figure 18: Percent of population in food desert

Ranking of Super Neighborhoods by the percentage of persons living in a food desert			
1	SETTEGAST	45	MEDICAL CENTER AREA
2	MINNETEX	46	SPRING BRANCH WEST
3	FONDREN GARDENS	47	WILLOW MEADOWS / WILLOWBEND AREA
4	KINGWOOD AREA	48	GREATER HEIGHTS
5	HUNTERWOOD	49	GREATER UPTOWN
6	IAH / AIRPORT AREA	50	BRAYS OAKS
7	HIDDEN VALLEY	51	SPRING BRANCH EAST
8	EL DORADO / OATES PRAIRIE	52	NORTHSORE
9	CLINTON PARK TRI-COMMUNITY	53	NORTHSIDE/NORTHLINE
10	ACRES HOME	54	KASHMERE GARDENS
11	LAKE HOUSTON	55	UNIVERSITY PLACE
12	ADDICKS PARK TEN	56	BRAEBURN
13	WESTBRANCH	57	MEMORIAL
14	CENTRAL SOUTHWEST	58	LAZY BROOK / TIMBERGROVE
15	GREATER HOBBY AREA	59	WILLOWBROOK
16	MACGREGOR	60	FAIRBANKS / NORTHWEST CROSSING
17	GREATER INWOOD	61	EASTEX - JENSEN AREA
18	WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION / MEMORIAL PARK	62	SPRING BRANCH CENTRAL
19	SOUTH ACRES / CRESTMONT PARK	63	GULFTON
20	ELDRIDGE / WEST OAKS	64	ALIEF
21	SUNNYSIDE	65	LAWNDALE / WAYSIDE
22	EAST LITTLE YORK / HOMESTEAD	66	INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS
23	EAST HOUSTON	67	CENTRAL NORTHWEST
24	DENVER HARBOR / PORT HOUSTON	68	OST / SOUTH UNION
25	FORT BEND / HOUSTON	69	WESTCHASE
26	WESTBURY	70	DOWNTOWN
27	SHARPSTOWN	71	AFTON OAKS / RIVER OAKS AREA
28	HARRISBURG / MANCHESTER	72	WESTWOOD
29	CLEAR LAKE	73	GULFGATE RIVERVIEW / PINE VALLEY
30	GREATER THIRD WARD	74	PARK PLACE
31	SOUTH BELT / ELLINGTON	75	BRIARFOREST AREA
32	TRINITY / HOUSTON GARDENS	76	GREATER EASTWOOD
33	MEADOWBROOK / ALLENDALE	77	FOURTH WARD
34	NORTHSIDE VILLAGE	78	MEYERLAND AREA
35	CARVERDALE	79	SPRING BRANCH NORTH
36	GREATER FIFTH WARD	80	MUSEUM PARK
37	GREATER GREENSPOINT	81	NEARTOWN - MONTROSE
38	MAGNOLIA PARK	82	PECAN PARK
39	SOUTH MAIN	83	MID WEST
40	LANGWOOD	84	EDGEBROOK AREA
41	PLEASANTVILLE AREA	85	BRAESWOOD PLACE
42	GOLFCREST / BELLFORT / REVEILLE	86	ASTRODOME AREA
43	SOUTH PARK	87	Greenway/ Upper Kirby Area
44	SECOND WARD	88	Midtown



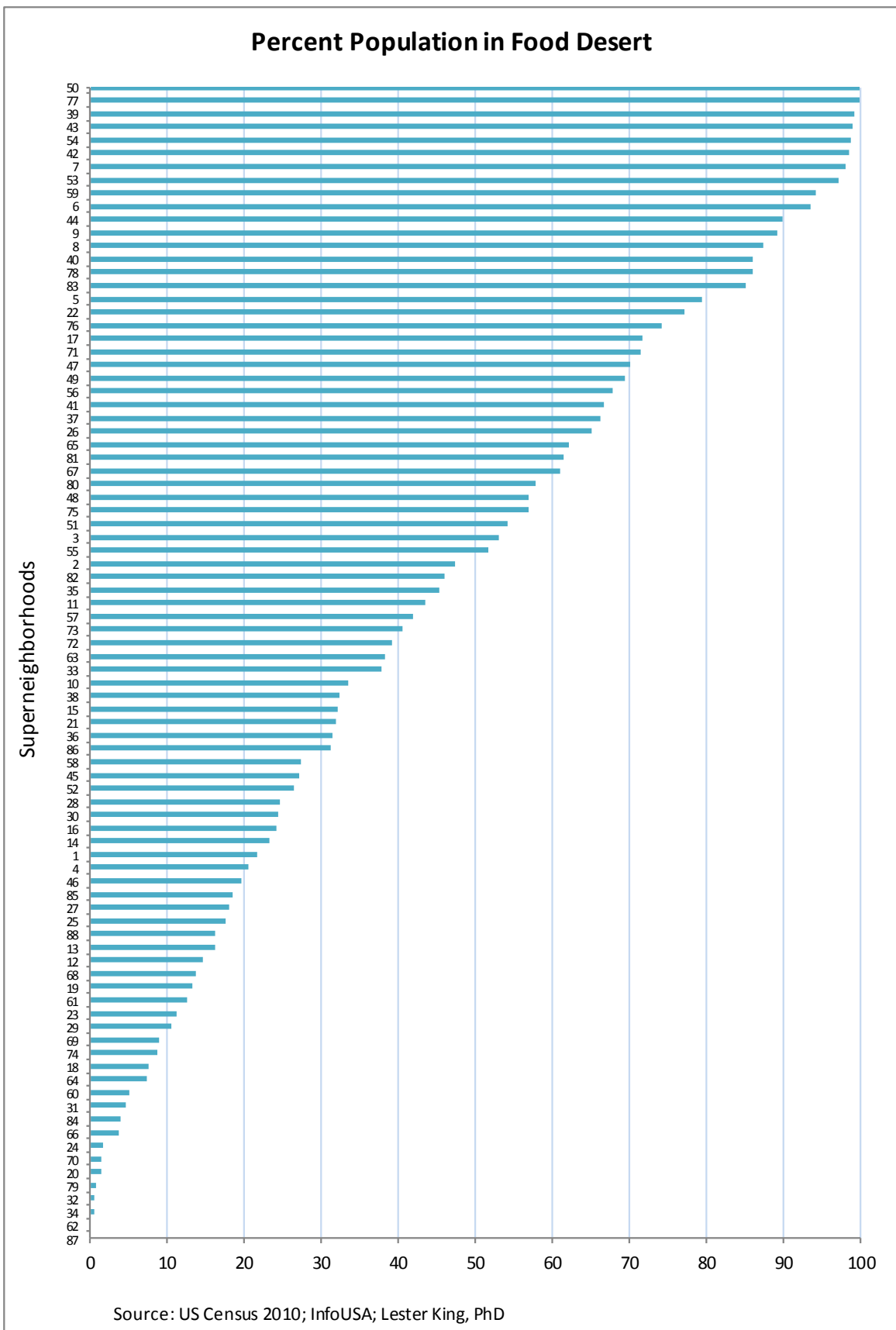
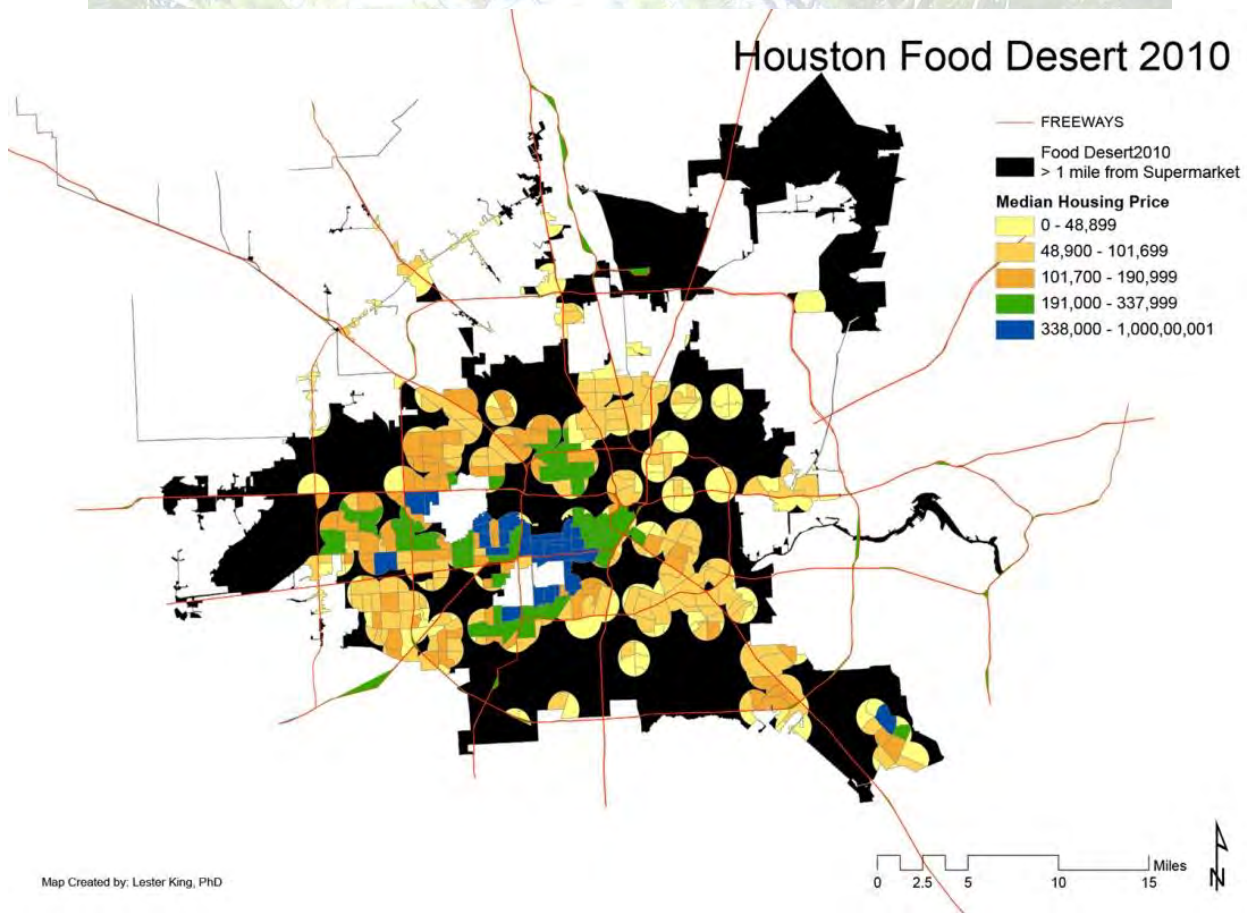


Figure 18: Percent of population in food desert

- The figure above shows that neighborhoods in Houston affected by food deserts range from 0% affected in Greenway/ Upper Kirby Area and the Midtown Super Neighborhood communities to more than 95% of the population being in food deserts in the neighborhoods of El Dorado/ Oates Prairie, Hidden Valley, Airport Area, Hunterwood, Kingwood, Fondren Gardens, Minnetex and Settegast.



Source: Highways, City outline by City of Houston. Address locations of supermarkets by InfoUsa. Calculation of Food Desert by author.

Figure 19: Houston Food Desert 2010

- In 2010 there were about 750,000 persons living in a food desert accounting for 36% of the population. This is a big decrease in the number of food deserts compared to previous years.
- In the south central portion of the city, between Highway 288 and Interstate 45-South, the food desert continues to exist when comparing data from 1990 to 2010. This area is known as the Greater Third Ward neighborhood and is home to University of Houston and Texas Southern University.
- Some of the 1-mile regions around supermarkets show that the median housing value is under \$50,000, therefore the food deserts in Houston cannot be explained by lower income levels alone.

Theme - Livability

Sub Theme – Environmental Justice

Indicator - Waste Exposure

In the United States, there were 250 million tons of municipal solid waste generated in 2010. Paper and paperboard constituted 28.5% of this total and another 28% was organic wastes such as food scraps, and yard trimmings (US Environmental Protection Agency, 2010). The data presented here covers waste generation. However, the other sustainability component of waste is the environmental justice issue of where landfills are located. There has historically been a higher rate of poorer communities located close to landfills (Bullard, 2000).

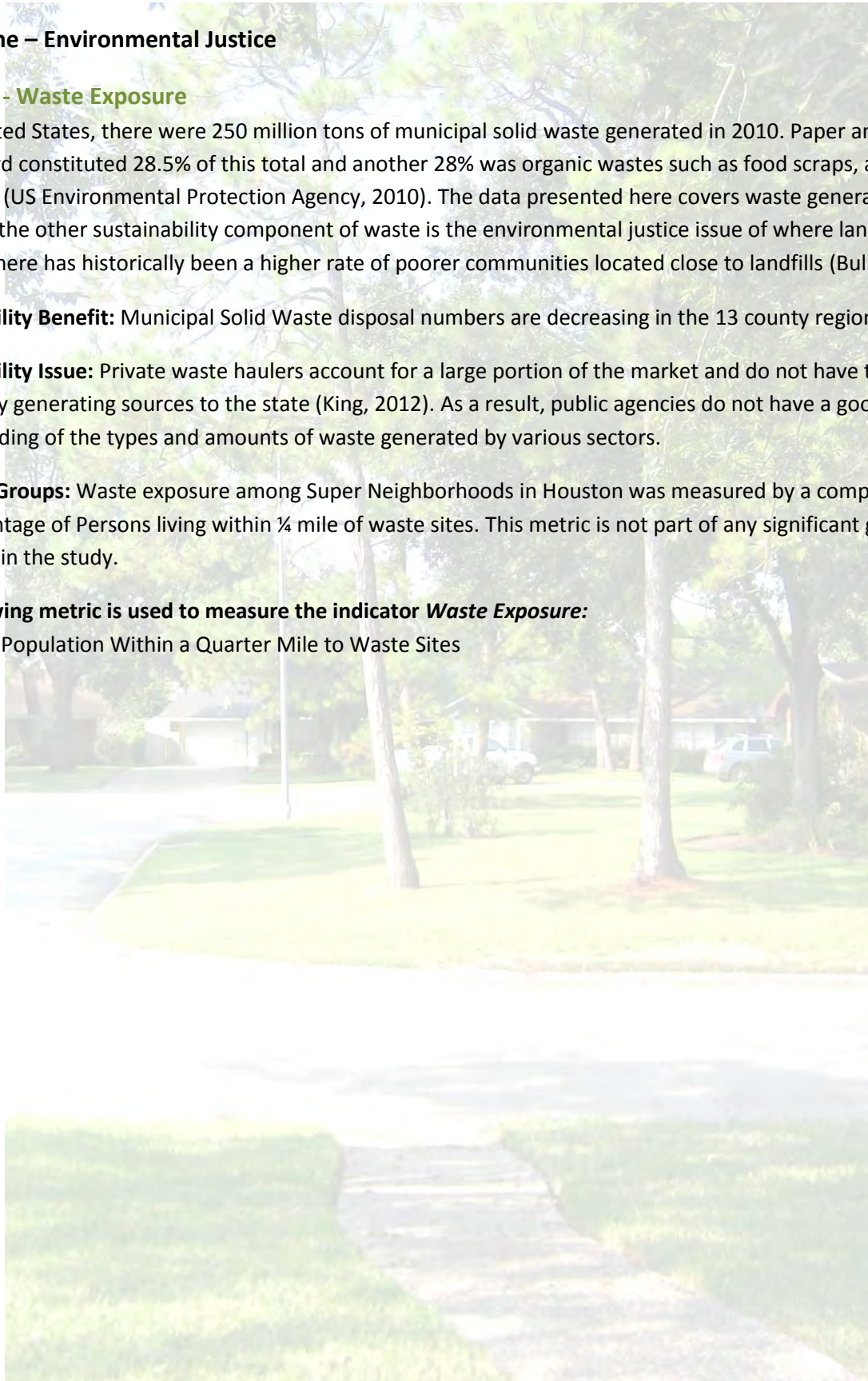
Sustainability Benefit: Municipal Solid Waste disposal numbers are decreasing in the 13 county region.

Sustainability Issue: Private waste haulers account for a large portion of the market and do not have to report tonnage by generating sources to the state (King, 2012). As a result, public agencies do not have a good understanding of the types and amounts of waste generated by various sectors.

Indicator Groups: Waste exposure among Super Neighborhoods in Houston was measured by a comparison of the Percentage of Persons living within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of waste sites. This metric is not part of any significant group of indicators in the study.

The following metric is used to measure the indicator *Waste Exposure*:

Figure 20: Population Within a Quarter Mile to Waste Sites



Ranking of Super Neighborhoods by percent of population living ¼ to waste sites			
1	CARVERDALE	45	NORTHSIDE/NORTHLINE
2	HARRISBURG / MANCHESTER	46	MID WEST
3	HUNTERWOOD	47	CENTRAL NORTHWEST
4	GREATER FIFTH WARD	48	IAH / AIRPORT AREA
5	MEDICAL CENTER AREA	49	LAKE HOUSTON
6	KASHMERE GARDENS	50	CLEAR LAKE
7	GULFTON	51	SPRING BRANCH CENTRAL
8	EL DORADO / OATES PRAIRIE	52	KINGWOOD AREA
9	PLEASANTVILLE AREA	53	WESTWOOD*
10	SOUTH MAIN	54	MACGREGOR*
11	ASTRODOME AREA	55	GREATER HEIGHTS*
12	MEADOWBROOK / ALLENDALE	56	SPRING BRANCH NORTH*
13	WESTCHASE	57	ADDICKS PARK TEN*
14	SOUTH BELT / ELLINGTON	58	AFTON OAKS / RIVER OAKS AREA*
15	PECAN PARK	59	BRAEBURN*
16	ACRES HOME	60	BRIARFOREST AREA*
17	MAGNOLIA PARK	61	EAST LITTLE YORK / HOMESTEAD*
18	LAZY BROOK / TIMBERGROVE	62	EASTEX - JENSEN AREA*
19	OST / SOUTH UNION	63	EDGEBROOK AREA*
20	SECOND WARD	64	FONDREN GARDENS*
21	FAIRBANKS / NORTHWEST CROSSING	65	FOURTH WARD*
22	UNIVERSITY PLACE	66	GREATER GREENSPOINT*
23	DENVER HARBOR / PORT HOUSTON	67	GREATER INWOOD*
24	LAWNDALE / WAYSIDE	68	GREATER THIRD WARD*
25	BRAYS OAKS	69	GREATER UPTOWN*
26	WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION / MEMORIAL PARK	70	Greenway/ Upper Kirby Area*
27	CLINTON PARK TRI-COMMUNITY	71	GULFGATE RIVERVIEW / PINE VALLEY*
28	EAST HOUSTON	72	HIDDEN VALLEY*
29	SPRING BRANCH EAST	73	INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS*
30	NORTHSHORE	74	LANGWOOD*
31	CENTRAL SOUTHWEST	75	MEYERLAND AREA*
32	GREATER HOBBY AREA	76	Midtown*
33	DOWNTOWN	77	MUSEUM PARK*
34	PARK PLACE	78	NEARTOWN – MONTROSE*
35	SPRING BRANCH WEST	79	SETTEGAST*
36	FORT BEND / HOUSTON	80	SHARPSTOWN*
37	MINNETEX	81	SOUTH ACRES / CRESTMONT PARK*
38	ALIEF	82	SOUTH PARK*
39	BRAESWOOD PLACE	83	SUNNYSIDE*
40	GREATER EASTWOOD	84	TRINITY / HOUSTON GARDENS*
41	GOLFCREST / BELLFORT / REVEILLE	85	WESTBRANCH*
42	NORTHSIDE VILLAGE	86	WESTBURY*
43	MEMORIAL	87	WILLOW MEADOWS / WILLOWBEND AREA*
44	ELDRIDGE / WEST OAKS	88	WILLOWBROOK*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0% of population ¼ mile to waste sites 			

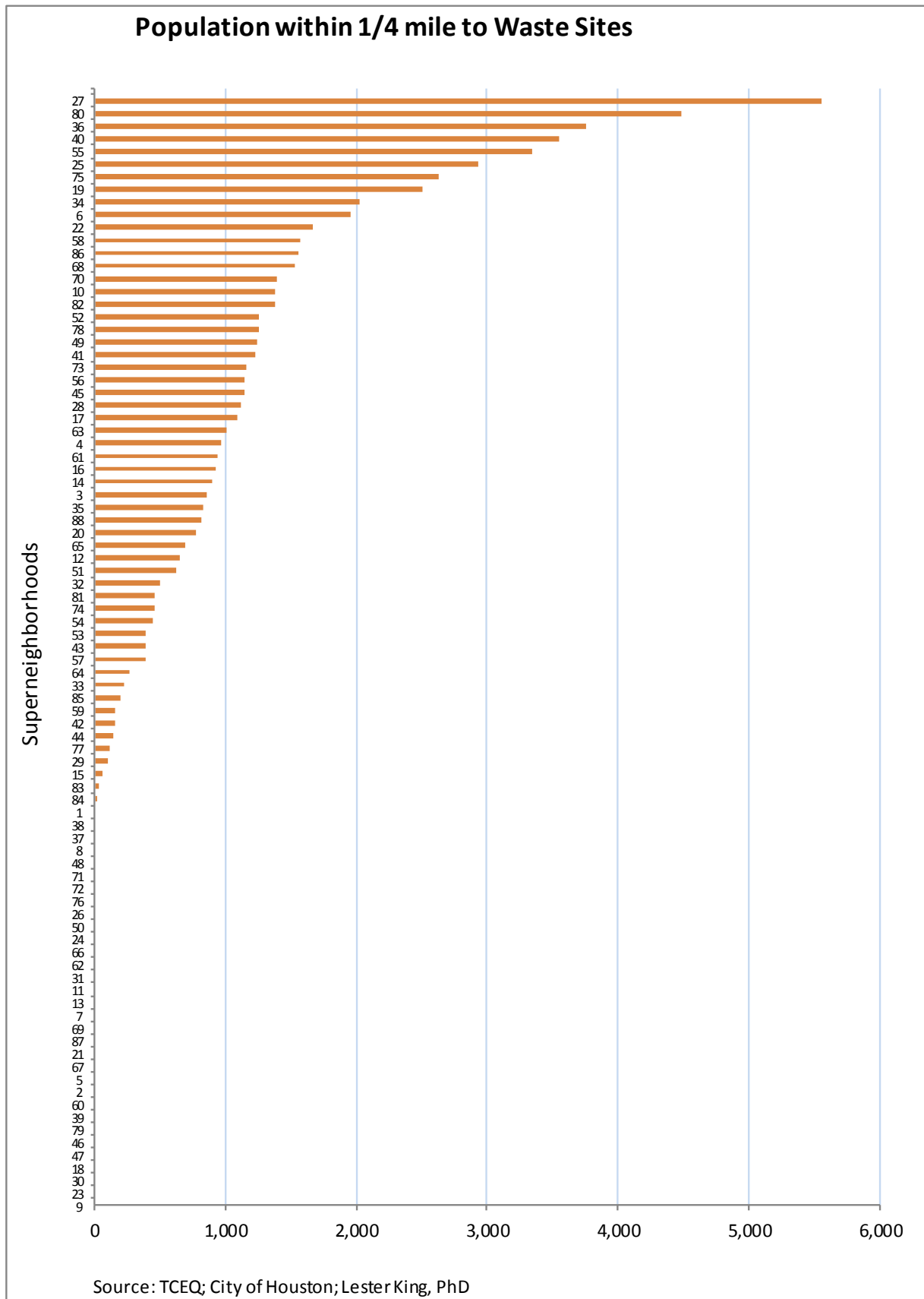


Figure 20: Population Within a Quarter Mile to Waste Sites

- The above figure shows the population living within a quarter mile of municipal solid waste sites and permitted hazardous waste sites.
- Gulfton has the highest number of persons living in close proximity to waste sites with 5,559 people.



Social Development Policy Recommendations

THEME – Social Demography

Sub Theme – Population Growth: Indicator – Population Growth



- We need to encourage more **population growth within the City** through incentives to develop in the city as opposed to the suburbs.
- Population forecasts for the City of Houston should be based on the City of Houston boundaries and not the region.
 - Citizens can do the following:
 - Contact elected officials.
 - Organize in community groups.
 - Participate in the electoral process.
 - Local government can do the following:
 - Retrofit infrastructure including Complete Streets model for street design.
 - Provide incentives to market for diverse housing choices.
 - Provide more resources to improve schools.
 - Create areas for mixed-use development and reduce permit processing time.
 - Improve community facilities.
 - Long range planning.
 - Businesses can do the following:
 - Supply quality and diversity in housing choices.
 - Non-profit groups can do the following:
 - Advocate and educate for improved quality of life.

Sub Theme – Education: Indicator – Education Attainment



- Major actions and interventions are needed to **reduce the education gap** among students of color and whites.
- Structure K-12 to **develop vocational tech training** that provides blue collar jobs.
 - Citizens can do the following:
 - Provide better at home education.
 - Demand accountability.
 - Local government including school districts can do the following:
 - Adjust school hours around work hours and provide public daycare options.
 - Universal pre-school and Montessori options.
 - Raising teacher performance.
 - Reduce separation of kids by achievement level and integrate active learning.
 - Reduce charter school starts.
 - Improve quality of learning environment.
 - Non-profit groups can do the following:
 - More extra curricular activities.
 - Educate citizens on home education responsibilities.
 - More cultural enrichment opportunities.

Sub Theme – Community Involvement: Indicator – Voter Participation



- We need to strive to **increase voting** since it is a major cornerstone to any democracy.
- Elected officials need to find ways to **demonstrate accountability to citizens, adoption of a comprehensive sustainability indicators program** will aid this goal.
 - Citizens can do the following:
 - Vote
 - Local government can do the following:
 - Implement Saturday voting.
 - Offer incentives to vote.
 - Reduce language barriers.
 - Offer on-going government classes.
 - Non-Profit groups can do the following
 - Educate community in culture of civic participation.
 - Increase voter registration activity.

THEME – Poverty

Sub Theme – Inequality: Indicator – Income Inequality



- **Improved skills and training** needs to be developed to reduce income inequality.
- A **local or state taxing structure to reduce income inequality** would allow for systematic approach to this issue.
 - Local government and school districts can do the following:
 - Integrate more vocational training in middle and high school levels.
 - Bridge gap between market demand and concentrations at colleges.
 - Integrate businesses in curriculum development.
 - Tax incentives for businesses to offer internships and apprenticeships.
 - Businesses can do the following:
 - Offer internships and apprenticeships.

Sub Theme – Poverty Level: Indicator – Poverty Rate



- Need to **establish a commission on the root causes of poverty** which often link back to underperforming schools, and inadequate job skills.
 - This is an effort, which should be led by the local government with opportunities to participate by citizens, businesses and non-profit groups.

Sub Theme – Healthcare Delivery: Indicator – Health Coverage



- Need to **attract more jobs that offer healthcare and livable wages.**
 - Local government can do the following:
 - Establish more wellness programs.
 - Develop more healthy infrastructure such as trails, parks and sidewalks.
 - Work with businesses to increase participation in wellness programs.
 - Education for wellness in schools.
 - Citizens and Non-profits should advocate for more wellness programs.

THEME – Livability

Sub Theme – Cost of Living: Indicator – Affordability



- Citizens in Houston pay more for transportation as a percentage of income than other cities of comparable size. **Improving transit options** would help to alleviate this burden.
 - Citizens can do the following:
 - Use public transit where possible.
 - Advocate for more funding.
 - Form conservancies to advocate for parks.
 - Local government can do the following
 - Funding infrastructure for multimodal travel options.
 - Incentivize mixed-Use development.
 - Incentivize the use of jitney services for flexible destinations. Jitneys are an alternative bus service, where private operators choose flexible routes to meet the demands of their riders.
 - Businesses can do the following
 - Provide facilities to encourage biking/ walking.
 - Educate employees on the benefits of alternative travel.
 - Offer flex-time and other alternative options to 9 – 5 workday.

Sub Theme – Quality of Life: Indicator – Accessibility of Public Spaces



- Houston needs to **aggressively develop more parks and green space**.
 - Citizens can do the following:
 - Form conservancies to advocate for parks.
 - Local government can do the following
 - Develop interlocal co-op agreements.
 - Educate developers on incentives to build parks.
 - Reduce development in flood prone areas and convert land to parks.
 - Long range planning for parkland acquisition.
 - Establish Transfer-of-Development Rights program.
 - Non-Profit groups can do the following
 - Advocate for more parks

Sub Theme – Health & Nutrition: Indicator – Food Deserts



- City of Houston needs to actively **attract more grocery stores selling fresh fruits and vegetables in food deserts** across the city.
 - Citizens can do the following:
 - Send letters to local elected officials.
 - Establish co-op enterprises
 - Local government can do the following
 - Reduce parking requirements for supermarkets.
 - Tax incentives for more supermarkets.
 - Incentivize co-op options.
 - Market analysis showing alternative resources to businesses.







**Houston Community
Sustainability:**

The Quality of Life Atlas

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