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The Changing Geography of Poverty & Opportunity in Nevada

Elizabeth Kneebone
The Brookings Institution

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CONFRONTING SUBURBAN POVERTY IN METROPOLITAN LAS VEGAS


Elizabeth Kneebone and Alan Berube
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

Percent Change in Population, Las Vegas Region, 2000 to 2014

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subprime Loans</th>
<th>Loans in Foreclosure or Lost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>69%</td>
<td>72%</td>
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</table>

Share of Loans outside of Las Vegas, Las Vegas Region

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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cities</th>
<th>Suburbs</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
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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.

- **Housing**
  - Emergency Food and Shelter Program
  - Tenant-based Rental Assistance
  - Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program
  - Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Family Self-Sufficiency
  - Housing Counseling Assistance

- **Job Training**
  - Job Corps
  - WIA Dislocated Worker Program
  - Employment and Training Activities
  - WIA Youth Appropriation
  - WIA Adult Program
  - National Emergency Grants
  - YouthBuild
  - Learn and Serve America
  - School and Community Based Programs
  - Supported Employment Programs
  - Work Opportunity Tax Credit
  - Child Care and Development Block Grant

- **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)

- **Health**
  - Consolidated Health Centers (Community Health Centers, Migrant 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

- **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 State Grants
  - TRIO: Upward Bound
  - Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)
  - Teacher Readiness for Undergraduate Programs
  - College Access Incentive Fund
  - TRIO: Student Support Services
  - Mathematics and Science Challenge Grant Program
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- **Economic Development**
  - New Markets Tax Credit
  - Renewal Community Tax Incentives
  - Community Development Financial Institutions Program
  - ARRA: Investments for Public Works and Economic Development Facilities Recovery Zone Bonds
  - ARRA: Economic Adjustment for Planning Organizations Community Development: Technical Assistance
  - Economic Development: Technical Assistance
  - Economic Assistance: Bank Enterprise Award
  - Economic Development: Community Services Block Grant
  - Economic Assistance: Community Services Block Grant
  - Economic Development: Community Services Block Grant
  - Economic Development: Community Services Block Grant
  - Discretionary Awards
Yet innovators across the country are finding creative ways to navigate this system.
Achieve Scale

Collaborate and Integrate

Fund Strategically
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

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STORIES OF SUBURBAN POVERTY

East Contra Costa County  Lakewood  Tukwila

www.ConfrontingSuburbanPoverty.org