



Addressing environmental inequities

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Minnesota ~~Nice~~ Facts

- Median income for black families in the Twin Cities is LESS THAN HALF of median income for white families
- Twin Cities has second worst income inequality for urban areas
- Minnesota as a state has the second biggest income inequality
- Black unemployment rate has been 2-3X that of white unemployment
- Black poverty rate in Twin Cities is FOUR TIMES the white poverty rate



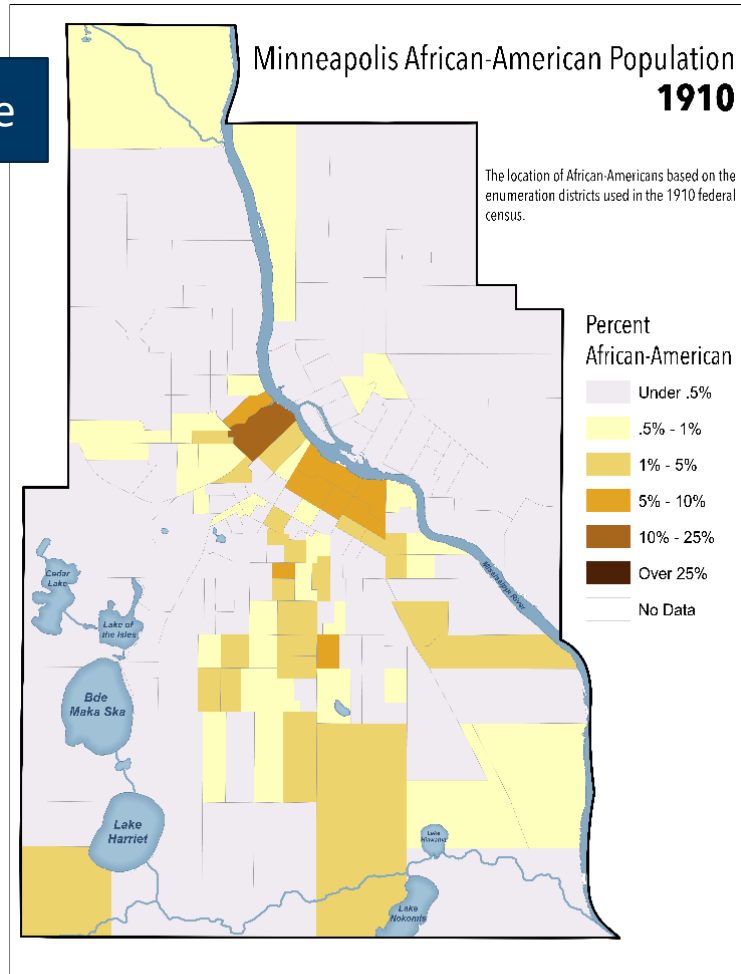
Minnesota ~~Nice~~ Facts

- Incarceration rate of blacks in Twin Cities is 11 TIMES that of whites
- Minnesota is ranked 50th in racial disparities for high school graduation rates
- Black or Native American infants has twice the chance of dying in the first year of life compared to a white baby
- 25% of black families own homes while 75% of white families own homes

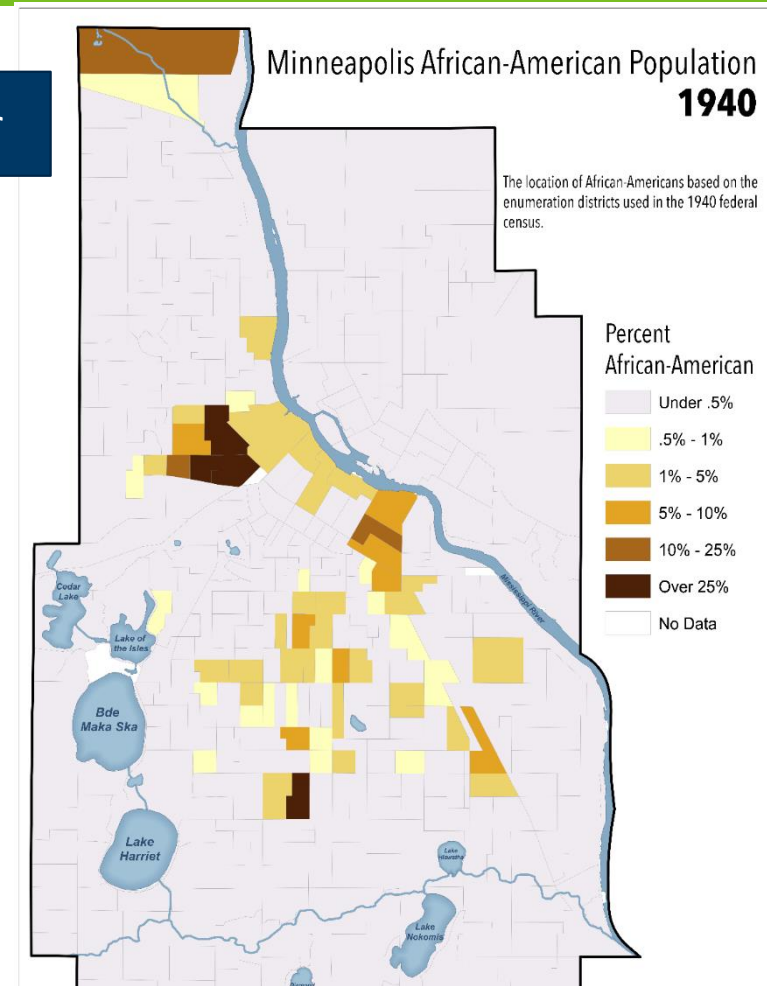


Racial Covenants in Minneapolis

Before

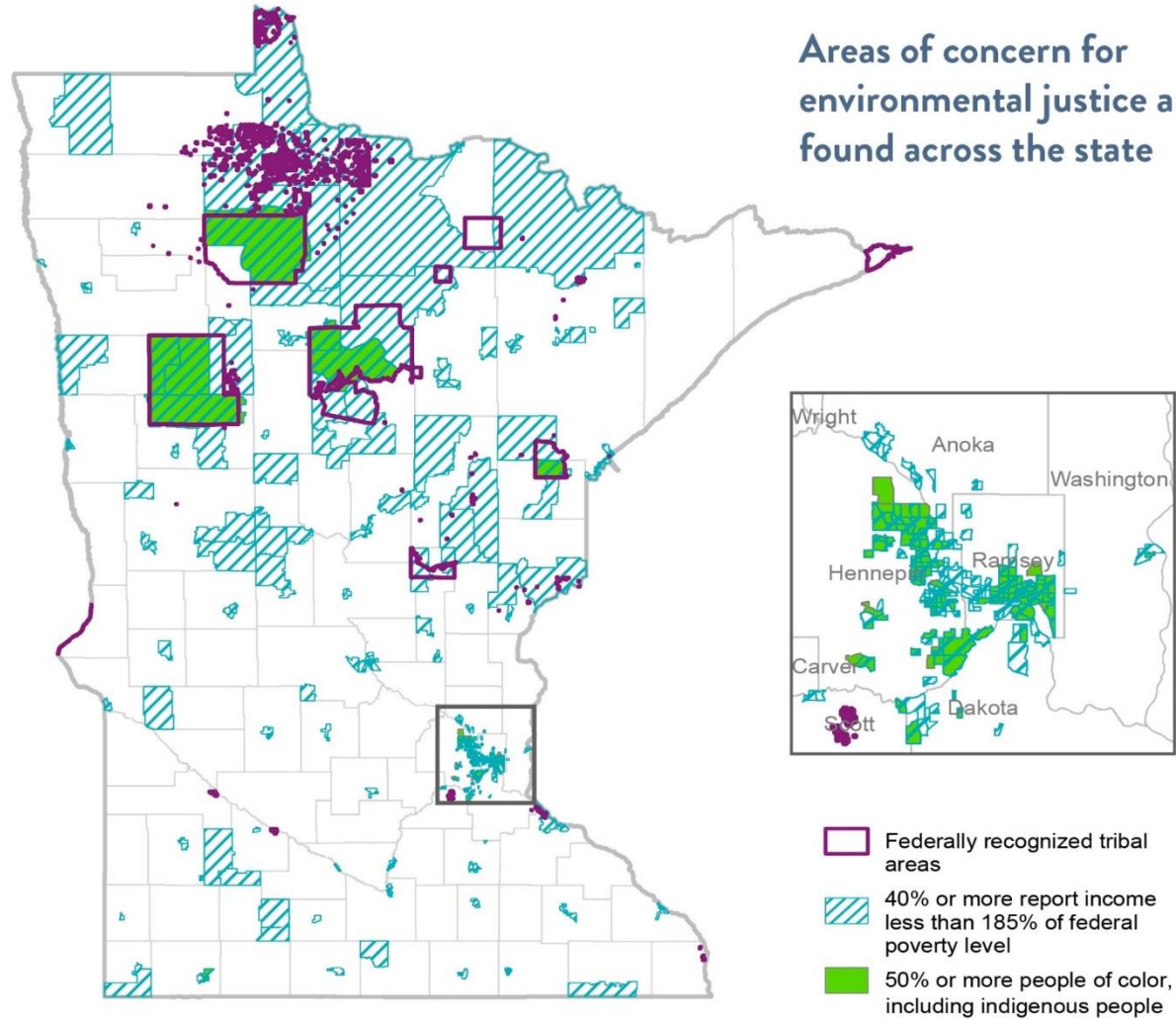


After



5. That the said land or buildings thereon shall never be rented, leased or sold, transferred or conveyed to, nor shall same be occupied exclusively by person or persons other than of the Caucasian Race.

Environmental Justice Mapping



Areas of concern for environmental justice are found across the state

“Environmental justice” means the right of communities of color, Indigenous communities, and low-income communities, to the enjoyment of a healthy environment and to fair treatment with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

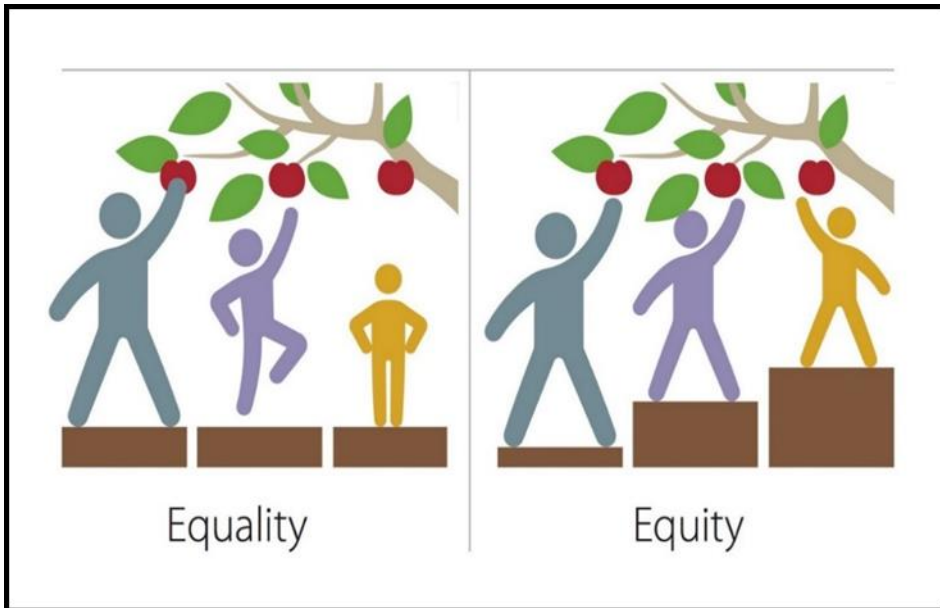
Environmental Justice at MPCA

- Environmental Justice Policy
- Strategic plan goal
- MPCA Environmental Justice Steering Team
- Commissioner's Office, Division Directors
- 2 full-time staff supporting staff of 900+
- Framework – integrate EJ into our work
- Advisory Group

MPCA Environmental Justice Policy

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) expects the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of communities of color, Indigenous communities, and low-income communities in agency actions and decisions that affect them. It is the policy of the MPCA that an outcome of its work, in addition to protecting and improving the environment and public health, must address environmental justice concerns.

Fair Treatment



- All people benefit from equal levels of environmental protection and service
- Pollution does not harm one group of people more than another
- Protecting Minnesotans most at risk

Meaningful Involvement

- All people have an equal opportunity to participate in decisions that may affect their environment and/or health
- MPCA seeks out and facilitates the involvement of potentially affected communities
- Community members' concerns will be considered in the decision making process and their contribution can influence the outcome



Environmental Justice Advisory Group



- Identify areas where Minnesotans may be experiencing more harm
- Better understand sources of pollution and risks
- Prioritize and track progress for emission reductions in Environmental Justice areas
- Reduce pollution, improve livability
- Communicate early, often, and better
- Incorporate environmental justice policies in agency strategic plan and framework



Sources of Fine Particles

Indirect particle sources



Direct particle sources



Sources of Fine Particles



Indirect particle formation
(chemical and condensation process)

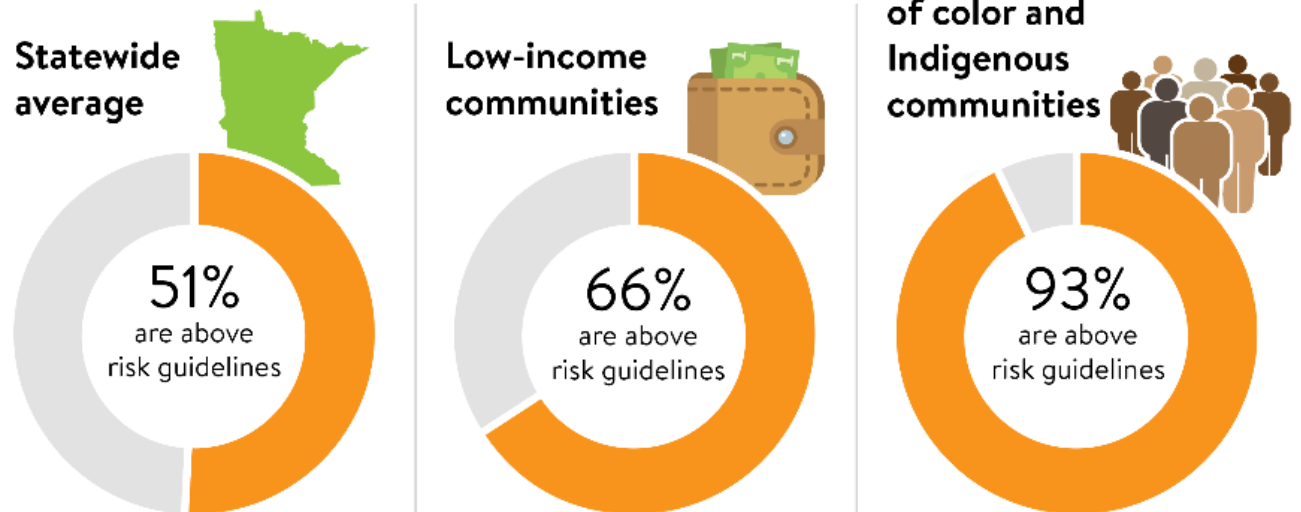
Overburdened
Community



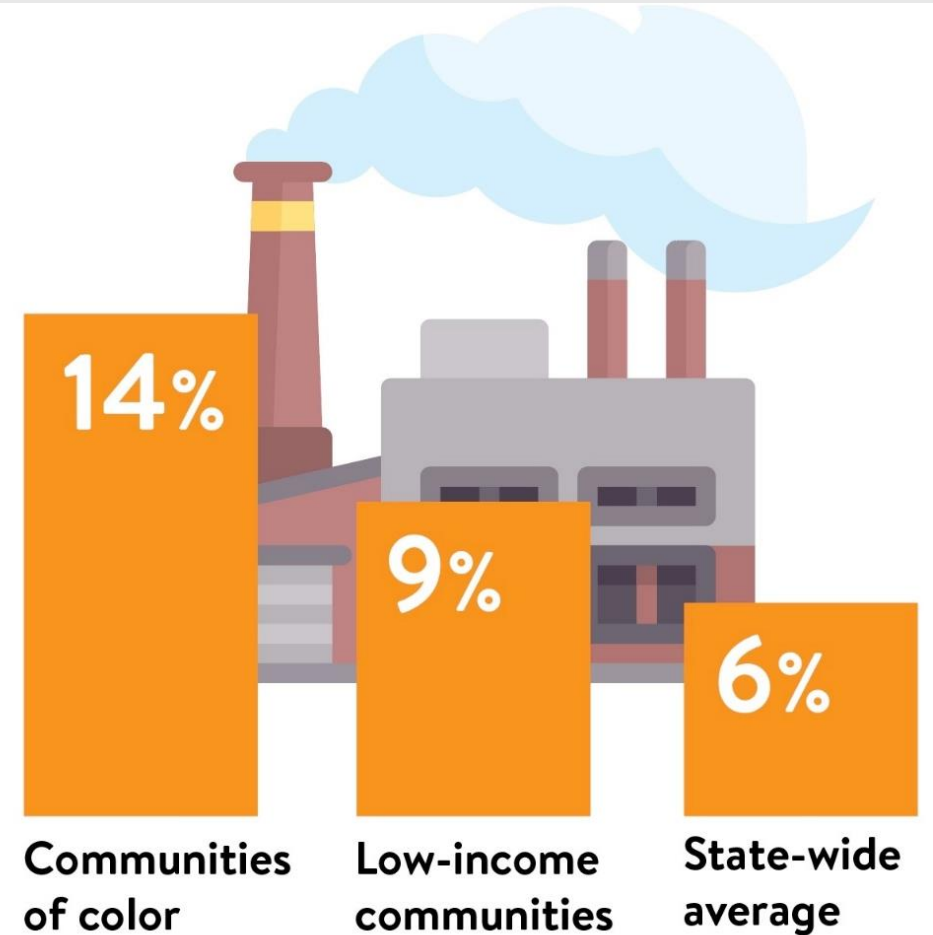
Identifying those with greatest risk for air pollution

Air quality risk

These communities are more likely to be near higher levels of air pollution.

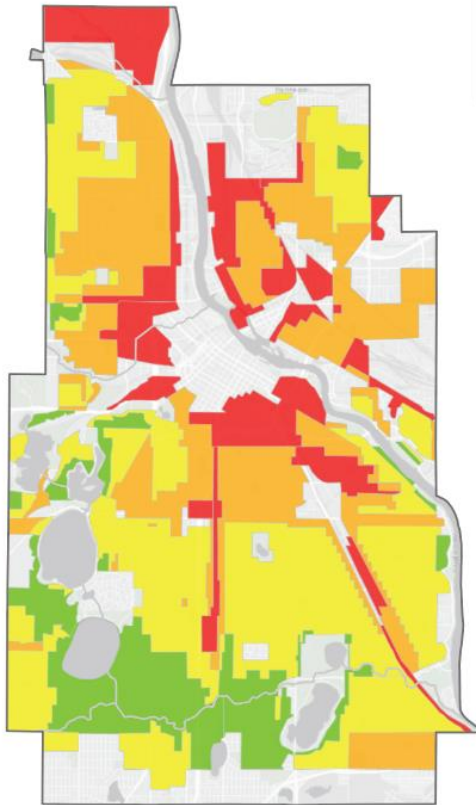


Living near permitted emissions sources

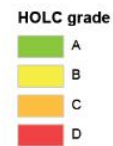


Health Risks from Air Pollution

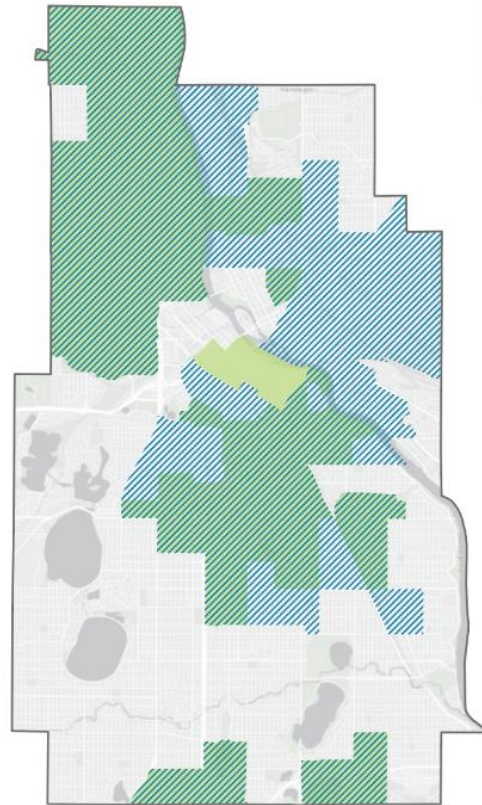
1945 Racist policies



Ratings by the Home Owners Lending Cooperation, a federal agency in the 1940s.

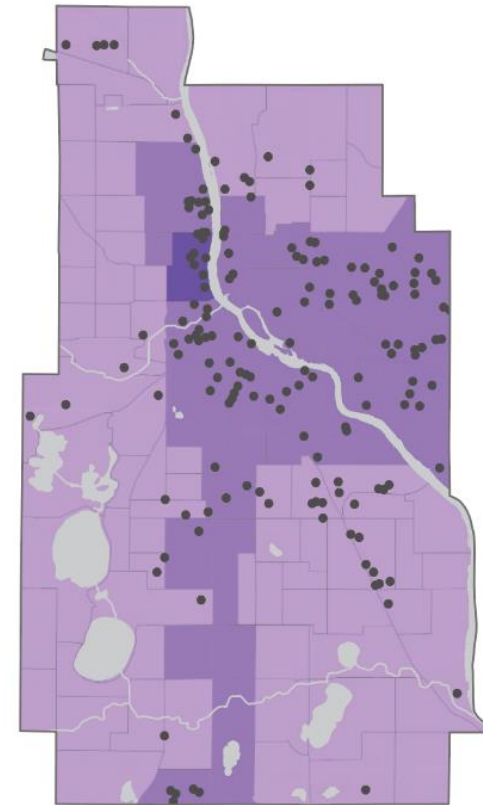


2019 Income and race



▨ Consider for poverty issues
▨ Over 50% people of color

2019 Air Pollution and health



MPCA air pollution score

Higher scores mean less healthy air

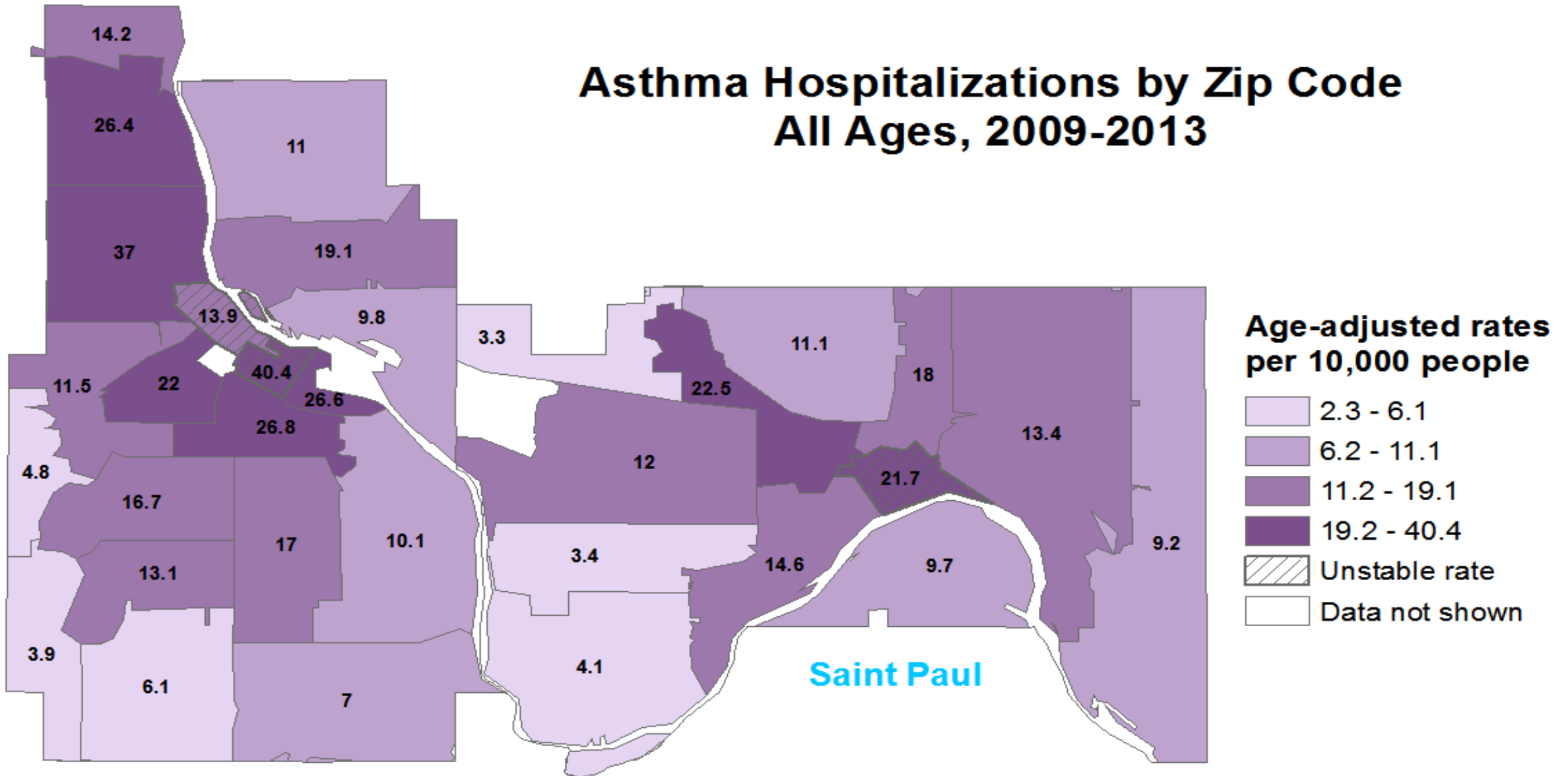
- 0 - 1
- > 1 - 2
- > 2 - 3
- > 3 - 6
- > 6 - 15

● Facilities with air permits

Minneapolis

Health effects of concern

Asthma Hospitalizations by Zip Code All Ages, 2009-2013



Air regulatory and non-regulatory strategies



Inform and involve public early and often in permitting process



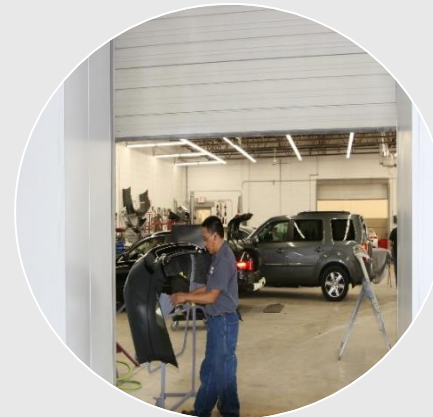
Identify ways to reduce risk and improve quality of life



Encourage facilities to be engaged with their neighbors, even outside of permit action



Engage with MN Tribal Nations early and often



Grants to businesses in environmental justice areas of concern

Water regulatory and non-regulatory strategies



Invite Tribes to participate in watershed planning work including monitoring for state standards development



Municipal stormwater compliance inspections commit to conduct at least 50% in environmental justice areas of concern



Watershed and subsurface sewage treatment systems grants and loan programs include additional scoring for environmental justice areas of concern



Ensure higher percentage of current wastewater permits in environmental justice areas of concern

Feedlots program strategies



High Risk Inspection
Criteria gives the highest
emphasis to
environmental justice
areas of concern



Proposed to amend
rules/statutes to enable
Tribal wellhead
protection plans to be
considered in
environmental review

Thank you!

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