

Local Data Final Project

Fulton Poverty Observatory

Background

When learning about gentrification, U.S. census data suggests me gentrification is decreasing in Fulton County during the last decade but concentrated poverty is persistent and spreading. Thus, compared to analyzing gentrification, I prefer to pay attention on poverty.

In this project, I'd like to increase the public awareness that concentrated poverty is our biggest urban challenge deserving more attention. Meanwhile, I'd like to explore the reasons leading to poverty and figure out the most effective measures to alleviate poverty situation in Fulton County, by analyzing the demographic and economic changes in those poor neighborhoods.

Features

Normal analysis for poverty tracts is based on a specific time, like 2000 or 2010. However, my project focuses on the analysis for demographic and economic changes from 2000 to 2010.

On the other hand, normal analysis is for just one type of poverty tract. The [poverty tracts defined by U.S census](#) is tracts with 20 percent or more in poverty. In my project, I compare data among 4 different types of poverty tracts, based on the changing trend and degree.

- **Chronic High Poverty**
In 2000, these tracts had a 30% or greater poverty rate. By 2010, they were still high poverty.
- **Rebounding Neighborhoods**
In 2000, these tracts had more than a 30% poverty rate. In 2010, they had a poverty rate of 15% or less.
- **New Poor Neighborhoods**
In 2000, these tracts had less than a 30% poverty rate. In 2010, they had a poverty rate of 30% or more.
- **Fallen Stars**
In 2000, these tracts had less than the average poverty rate (15%). In 2010, they had a poverty rate of 30% or more.

It's based on the report - "[Lost in Place: Why the persistence and spread of concentrated poverty—not gentrification—is our biggest urban challenge.](#)"

Limitations in this project

The continual change in geography between successive censuses is a major barrier for analysis. Census tracts are fundamental enumeration units for the U.S. decennial censuses and their boundaries very often change over time. In every new census many tracts are split, consolidated, or changed in other ways from the previous boundaries to reflect population growth or decline.

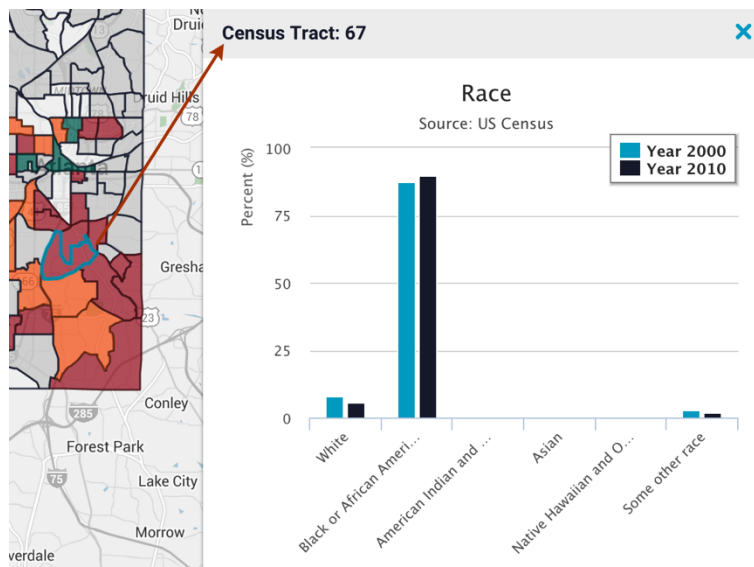
Therefore, in this project, data from 2000 in some tracts have no matching data from 2010 and these tracts are marked as white color in my project.

I've found a [project](#) that maybe help me to bridge the 2000 data with 2010 data. I would be refined in the future.

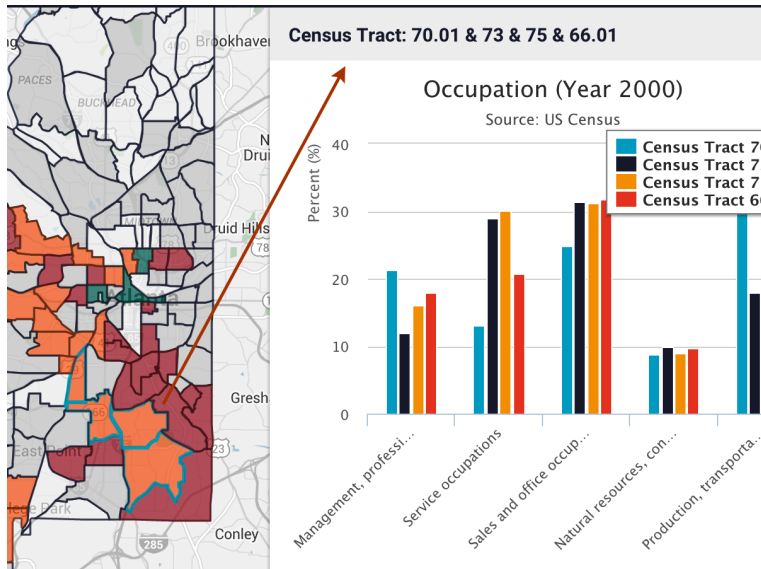
Guidance for using

There are three ways to explore data in this project

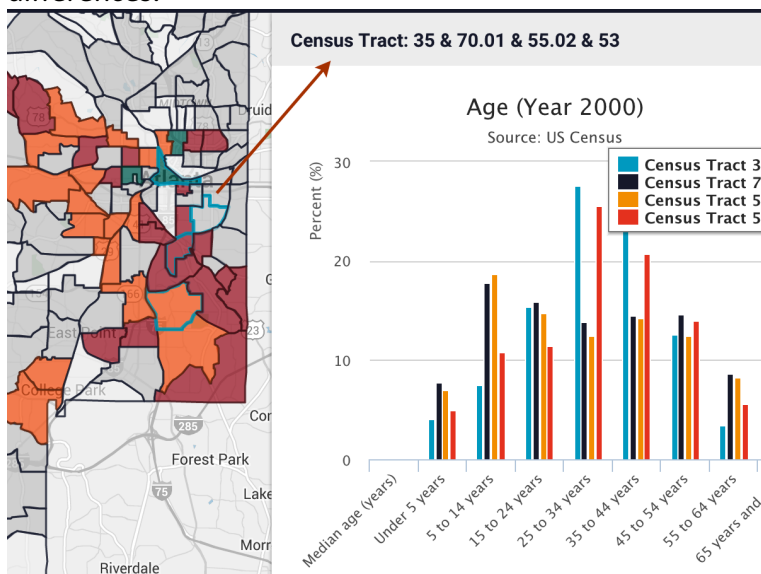
1. Choose one tract to learn the change of demographic characteristics and economic characteristics from 2000 to 2010.



2. Choose two or more same types of poverty census tracts to learn their similarities and differences.



3. Choose two or more different types of poverty census tracts to learn their similarities and differences.



Some Observations (From 2000 To 2010)

For Rebounded Tracts

- Population in 15-24 years increases significantly.
- Population percentage of White & Asian increase by about 5%.
- Percentage of workers in Management, professional occupations increases.
- Percentage of government workers increases.
- More people walk to work and work at home.

For Tracts of Chronic High Poverty

- Percentage of elderly people (age > 45) increases significantly.
- Population percentage of White & Asian increase by about 5%.
- Percentage of workers in Management, professional occupations increases.
- Percentage of government workers increases.
- More people drive to work.

For New Poorly Tracts

- No significant changes happen in Age and Race.
- Percentage of unemployment increases.
- Percentage of government workers decreases.

Data Sources

Databases from [US Census](#)

- 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
- Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000
- Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

References

- [Lost in Place](#)
- [Poverty in the United States](#) Wiki
- [Poverty Definition](#) U.S. Census Bureau
- [Poverty Thresholds](#) U.S. Census Bureau
- ["The Research Supplemental Poverty Measure"](#) U.S. Census Bureau November 2013