

Assessing Community Need in Suburban Allegheny County

May 31, 2012

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Why this Work?

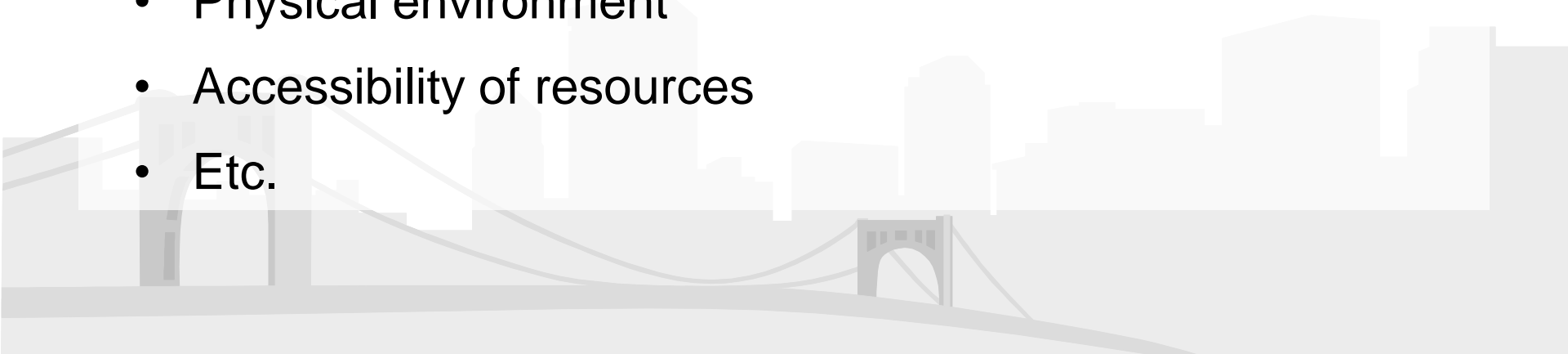
- Poverty increasing in suburban areas
 - Brookings Institution
- Important for planning service delivery
- Current methods of analysis are not capturing this need in suburban communities



Defining Community Need

Includes socioeconomic factors important to families' well-being:

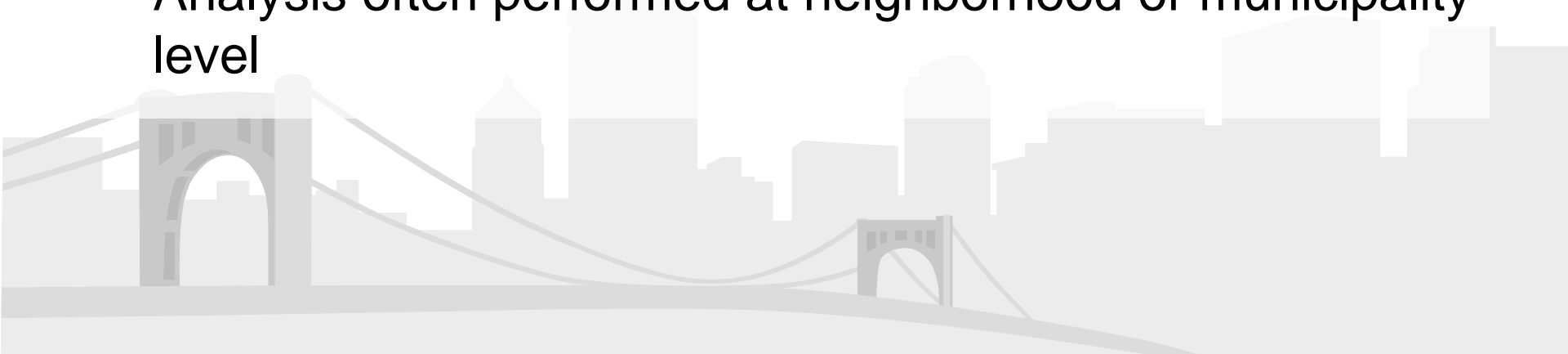
- Health
- Family structure, relationships in community
- Education
- Employment
- Physical environment
- Accessibility of resources
- Etc.



Previous Mapping Limitations

Methods used to measure community health have not captured needs of non-urban areas:

- Geographic concentrations of poverty in urban settings
- Indicators based on challenges in urban settings
- Severity thresholds skewed by conditions in urban settings
- Analysis often performed at neighborhood or municipality level



Ways We Have Mapped

Severely Distressed Neighborhoods

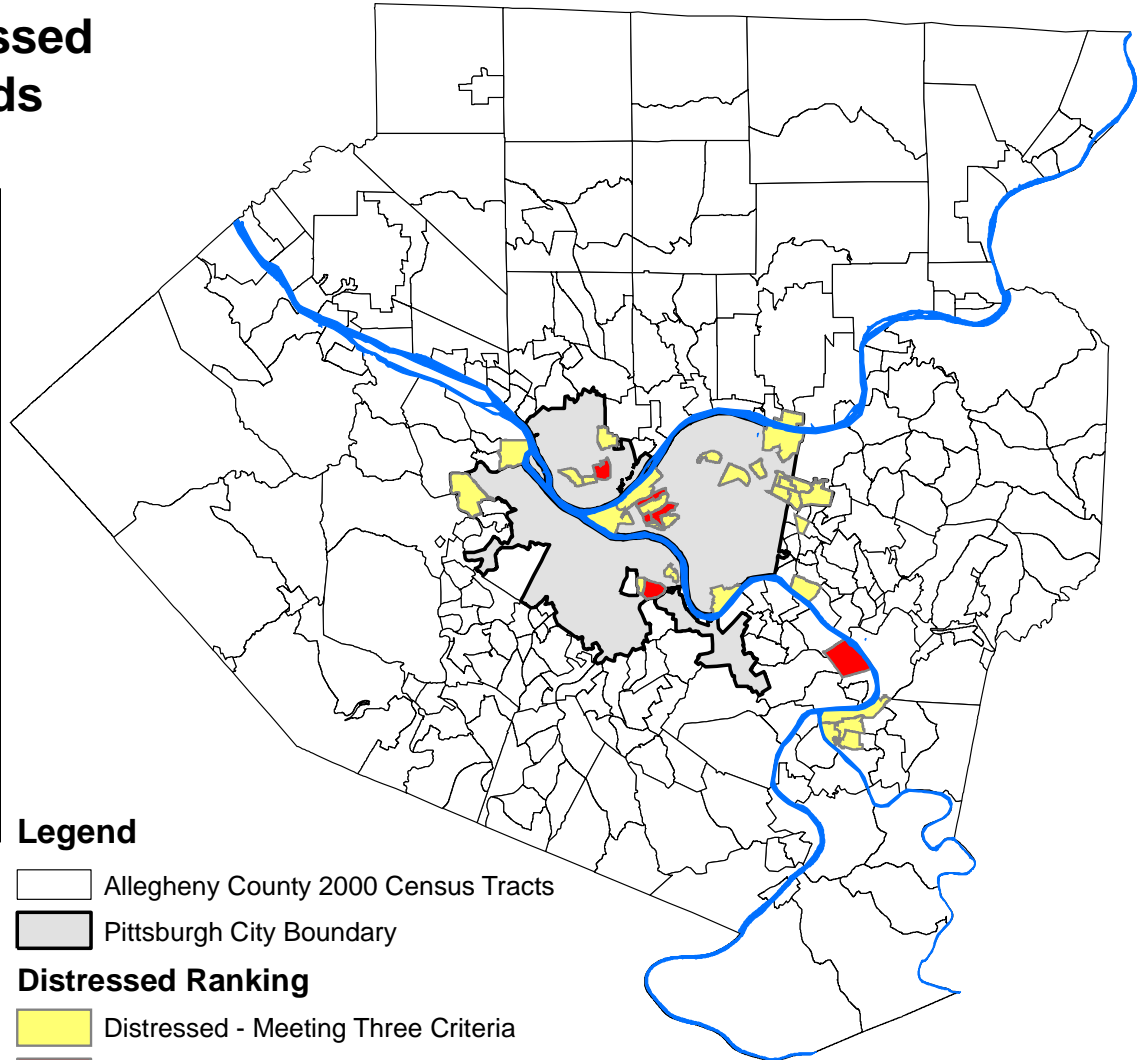
- Percentage of population below 100% of the federal poverty line
- Percentage of families headed by single females
- Percentage of youth ages 16 to 19 without a high school diploma or equivalent, and not enrolled in school
- Percentage of civilian males ages 16-64 who are unemployed or not in the labor force

Threshold = One standard deviation above the mean

The Growing Number of Kids in Severely Distressed Neighborhoods: Evidence from the 2000 Census

By William O. Hare and Mark Mather
October 2003

Annie E. Casey Foundation, Population Reference Bureau



New Methodology

- Create new Community Need Index
- Evaluate at Census tract level
- Compare suburban communities to each other



Community Need Index

- Population below 100% of the federal poverty line[†]
- Families headed by single females[†]
- Youth ages 16 to 19 without a high school diploma or equivalent, and not enrolled in school[†]
- Civilian males ages 16-64 who are unemployed or not in the labor force[†]
- Population below 200% of the federal poverty line
- Houses vacant
- Households with no available vehicle

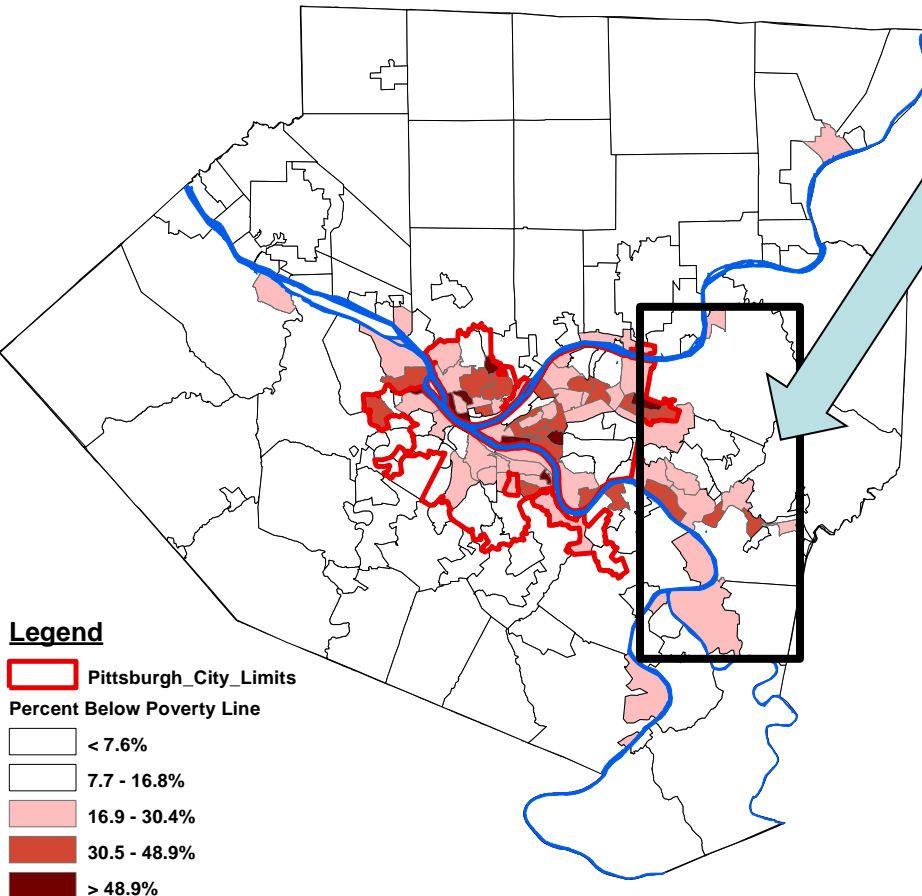
* All indicators are Census variables measured as percentages

[†] Indicators included in Hare and Mather's criteria for severely distressed neighborhoods

Results

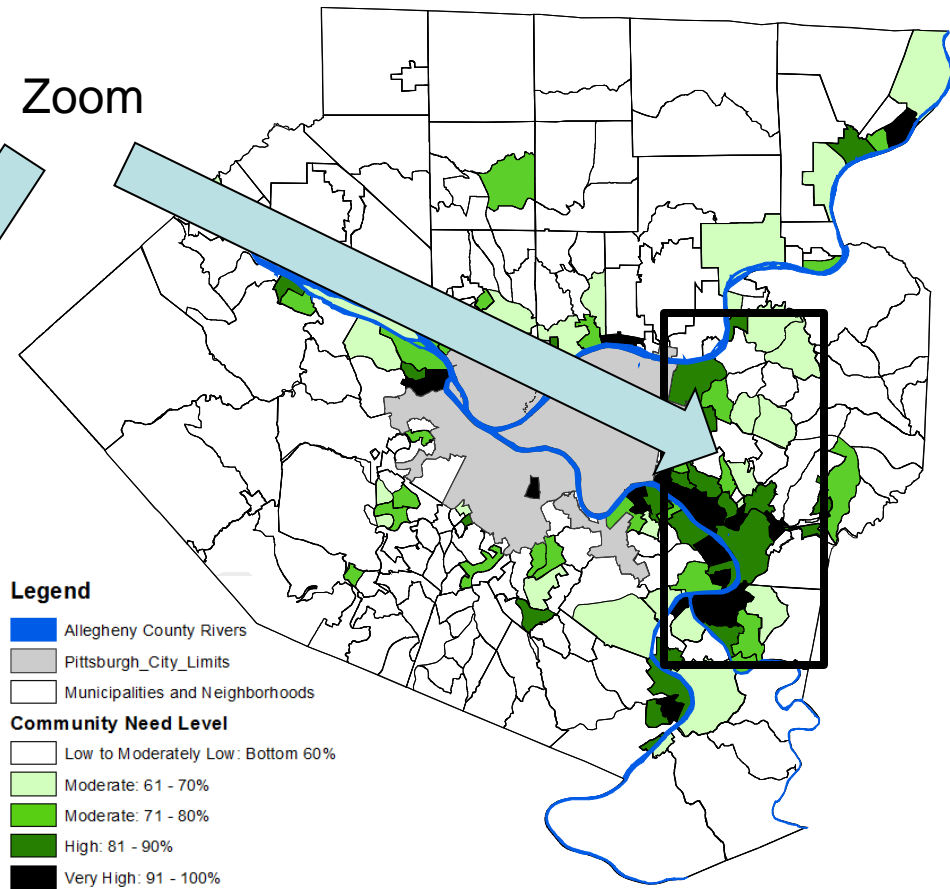
OLD METHOD

Population Below Federal Poverty Line, 2005-2009



NEW METHOD

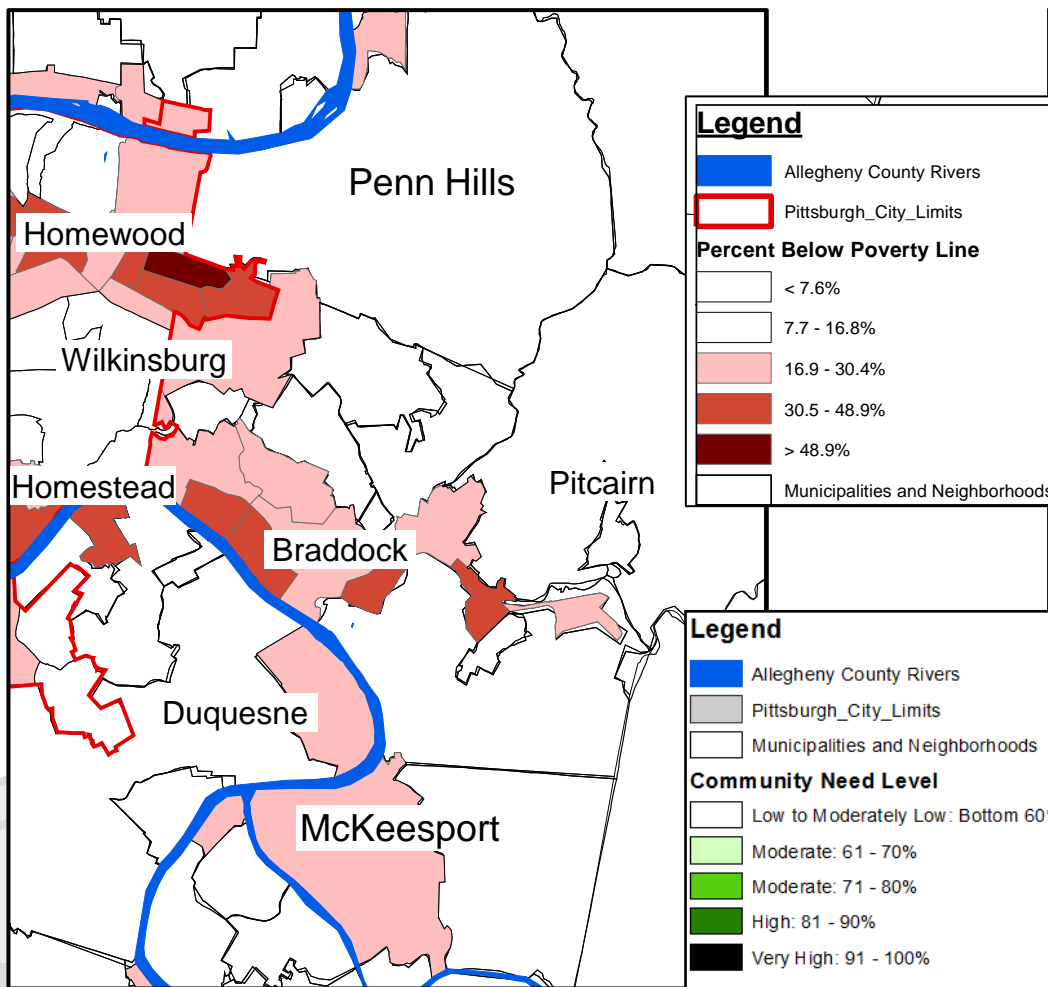
40% of Suburban Communities with Highest Level of Need, 2005-2009



Results

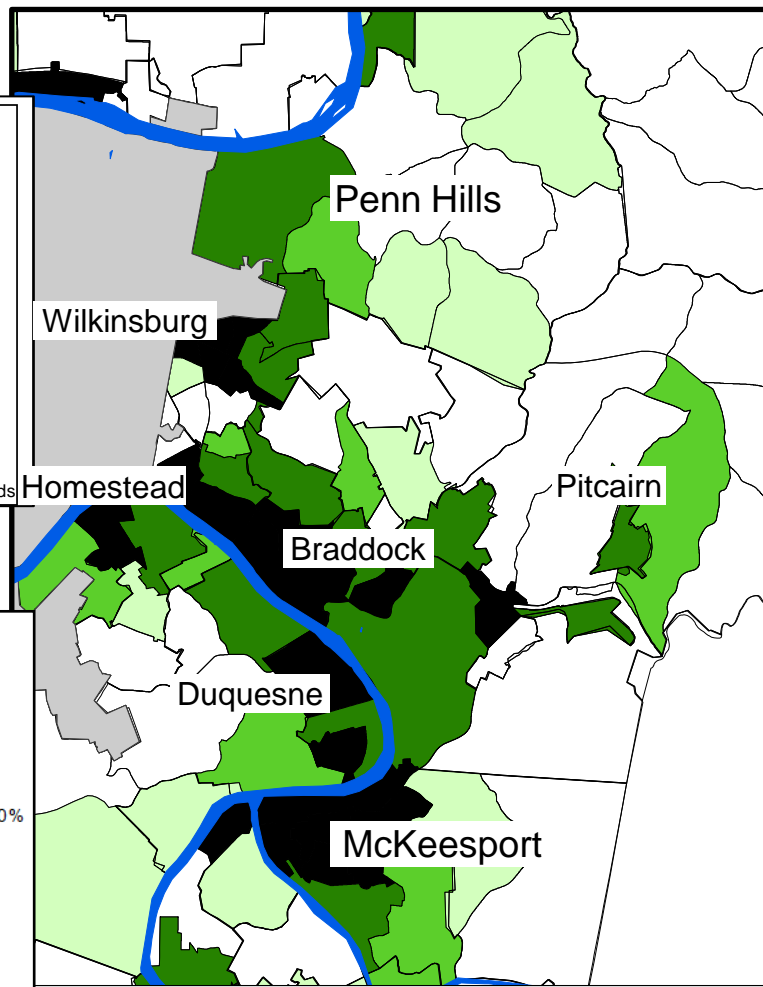
OLD METHOD

Population Below Federal Poverty Line, 2005-2009



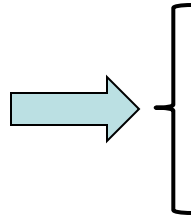
NEW METHOD

40% of Suburban Communities with Highest Level of Need, 2005-2009



Conditions in These Communities

Average Values per Quantile, 2005-2009 ACS



	Pov100	Pov 200	FemHF	NoVehicle
Median Value	7.8%	23.3%	20.9%	7.8%
51 – 60%	7.3%	23.5%	21.5%	9.5%
61 – 70%	9.9%	30.2%	27.9%	9.8%
71 – 80%	13.5%	32.4%	38.5%	15.5%
81 – 90%	21.0%	44.3%	44.9%	20.1%
91 – 100%	31.9%	59.6%	58.1%	39.2%



Next Steps

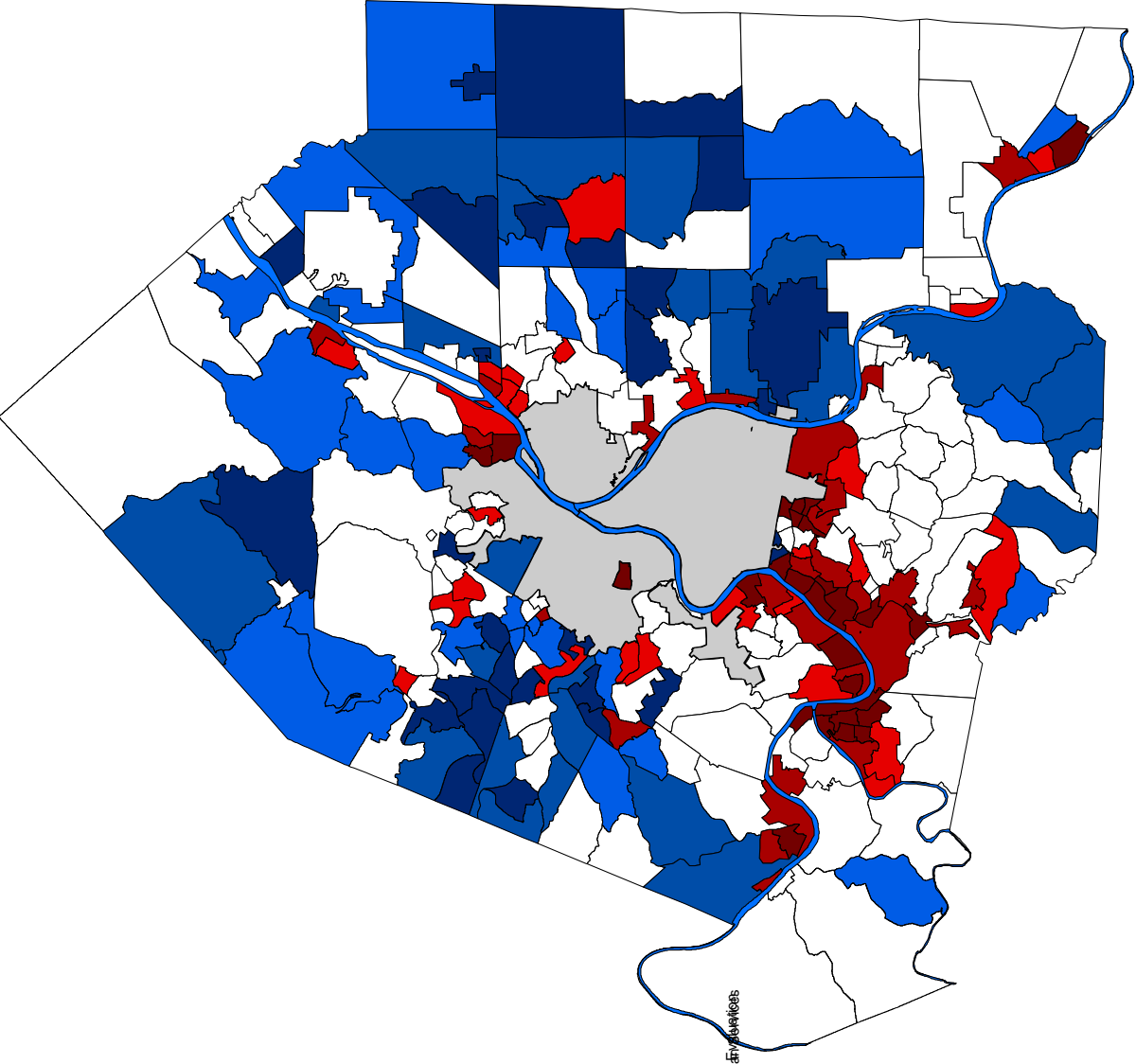
Use as starting point for planning

- Challenge/confirm findings
- Change the view
 - Customize Community Need map to suit smaller populations
 - Look at need relative to service utilization
- Examine over time



Example: Community Contrast Map

- Lowest Need (0-9%)
- Low Need (10-19%)
- Low Need (20-29%)
- Low Need (30-39%)
- Low Need (40-49%)
- Moderate Need (50-59%)
- Moderate Need (60-69%)
- High Need (70-79%)
- Very High Need (80-89%)
- Distressed (90-100%)
- Pittsburgh_Boundary



For Services

Example: Older Adults

Community Need in
Neighborhoods with Large
Concentrations of Older
Adults (Age 65+)

Legend

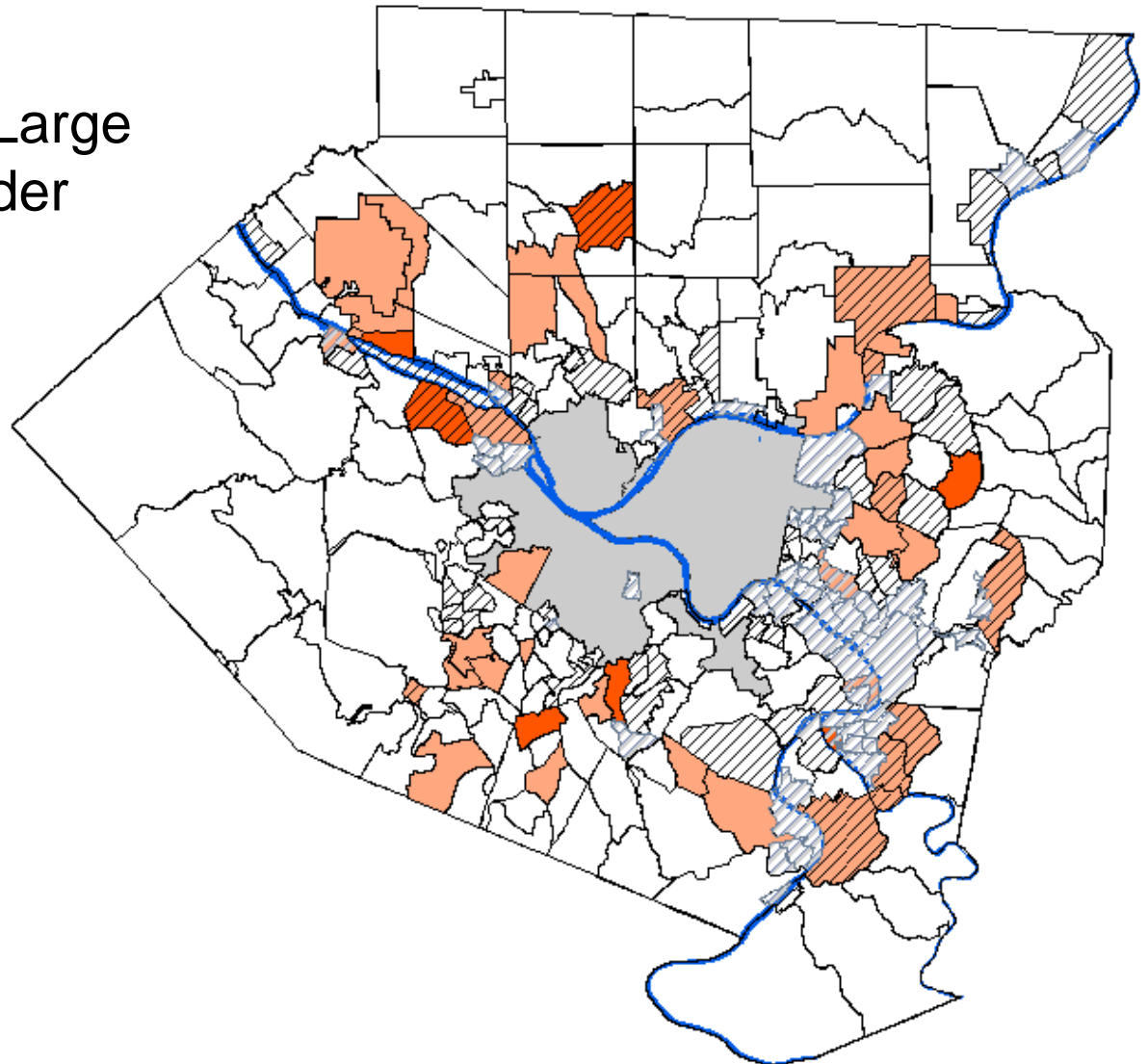
- County Municipalities
- Pittsburgh_City_Limits

Percent Seniors 65+

- < 22%
- 22 - 29.9%
- 30 - 54%

Community Need Index

- Low - Moderately Low Need
- Moderate Need
- High - Very High Need



Questions?

