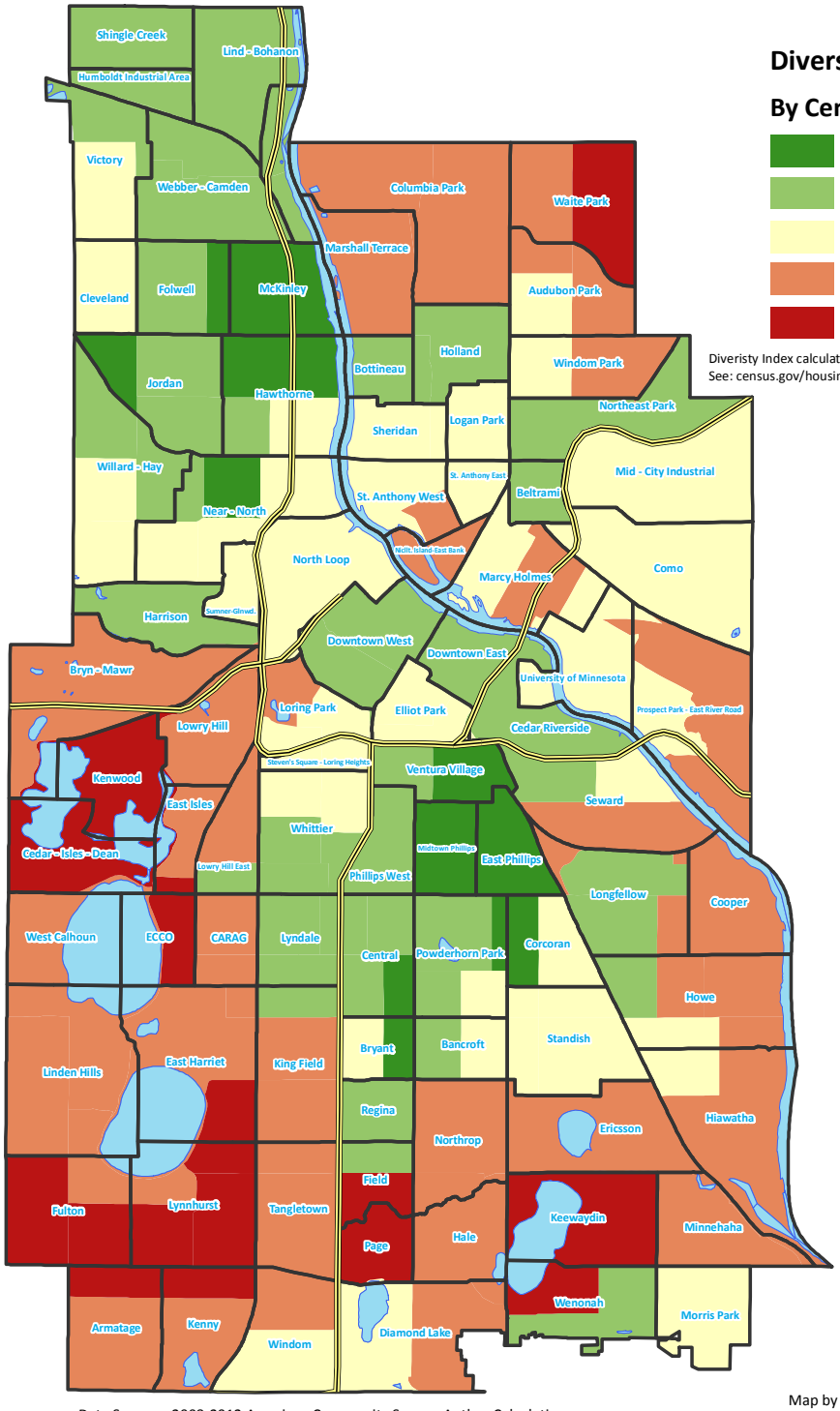
Minneapolis Racial/Ethnic Diversity Index



Data Sources: 2008-2012 American Community Survey, Author Calculations

Diversity Score

By Census Tract

- Most Diverse
- Average
- Least Diverse

Diveristy Index calculated using Theil's Information Theory Index
See: census.gov/housing/patterns/about/multigroup_entropy.pdf

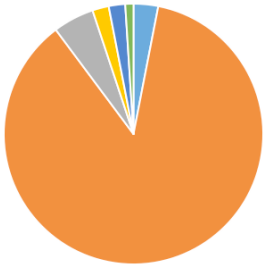
Map by CURA Staff May 2015
Corrected from earlier April 2015 version

What does this map show?

This map shows the diversity score* of Minneapolis neighborhoods. "Diversity" refers to the relative proportions of racial and ethnic groups in an area (here, census tracts). An area has a high diversity score if it has more equal proportions of different racial and ethnic groups. An area with a low score has a high percentage of people from a single (or a few) racial/ethnic groups.

High Diversity Score

Low Diversity Score



Why did we make this map?

Maps tend to consistently paint certain neighborhoods as good or bad. These narratives shape how we see ourselves as residents of these neighborhoods, or how we see our fellow residents who live in those neighborhoods. They are often missing historical, political and structural context about how we got here. These maps also depend on how we measure "good" / "bad" and "asset" / "deficit". All neighborhoods have assets and deficits, some of which are subjective and some of which are objective.

Questions we are asking

Here are some questions we had as we made this map:

- Is racial and ethnic diversity in a place an asset to you?
- What are other ways of visualizing racial and ethnic diversity? (Take a look at this map to see the diversity of Minneapolis neighborhoods in a different way.)
- What does this map mean for the City of Minneapolis, especially as our region becomes more diverse?
- Who defines what measures we use to describe neighborhoods?
- What other measures can we use to describe neighborhoods? (coming soon… a map of economic diversity)

What do you think? What questions does it raise for you? Write to us at curatech@umn.edu and let us know.

*We used a common statistical method to calculate the diversity score, which is the relative share of various racial and ethnic groups within a census tract. A census tract is more diverse if there is not a single (or a few) racial/ethnic groups who live there. The more equal the proportions of the groups, the higher the score. See https://www.census.gov/housing/patterns/about/multigroup_entropy.pdf (p. 7) for Diversity Index methodology.

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