Towards Equitable Investments for Addressing the Challenges and Needs of Older African Americans in Ohio

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Study Overview and Methods

- Expands upon two previous studies of older adults in Franklin County in 2014 and 2017

- Mixed methods research design

- Quantitative and spatial analyses of older adult vulnerability at neighborhood level
  - Overlay analyses of demographics and population health outcomes

- Qualitative engagement with steering committee members and older African Americans in Ohio
  - Voices of older African American Ohioans

Spatial Analysis

Key Quantitative Findings and Introduction of the Statewide Older Adult Vulnerability Mapping Tool

Older Adult Vulnerability Indicators

- 55+ In Poverty
- 65+ That Are Housing Cost Burdened
- 55+ Who Rent
- 55+ Single Person Households
- 65+ With No High School Diploma
- 65+ Persons with a Disability
- 65+ Households with No Personal Vehicle
- Average Life Expectancy at Birth

- Data Sources:
  U.S. Census 2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates
  U.S. Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP), 2010-2015

Older Adults Vulnerability Index

Vulnerability

- Normalize the data to make it comparable

- Calculate comprehensive vulnerability index

- Divide comprehensive
  data into three levels from highest to lowest
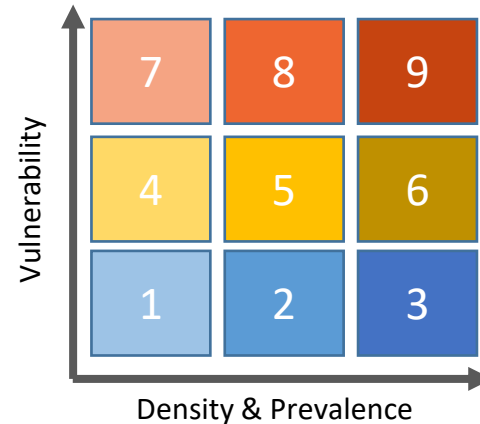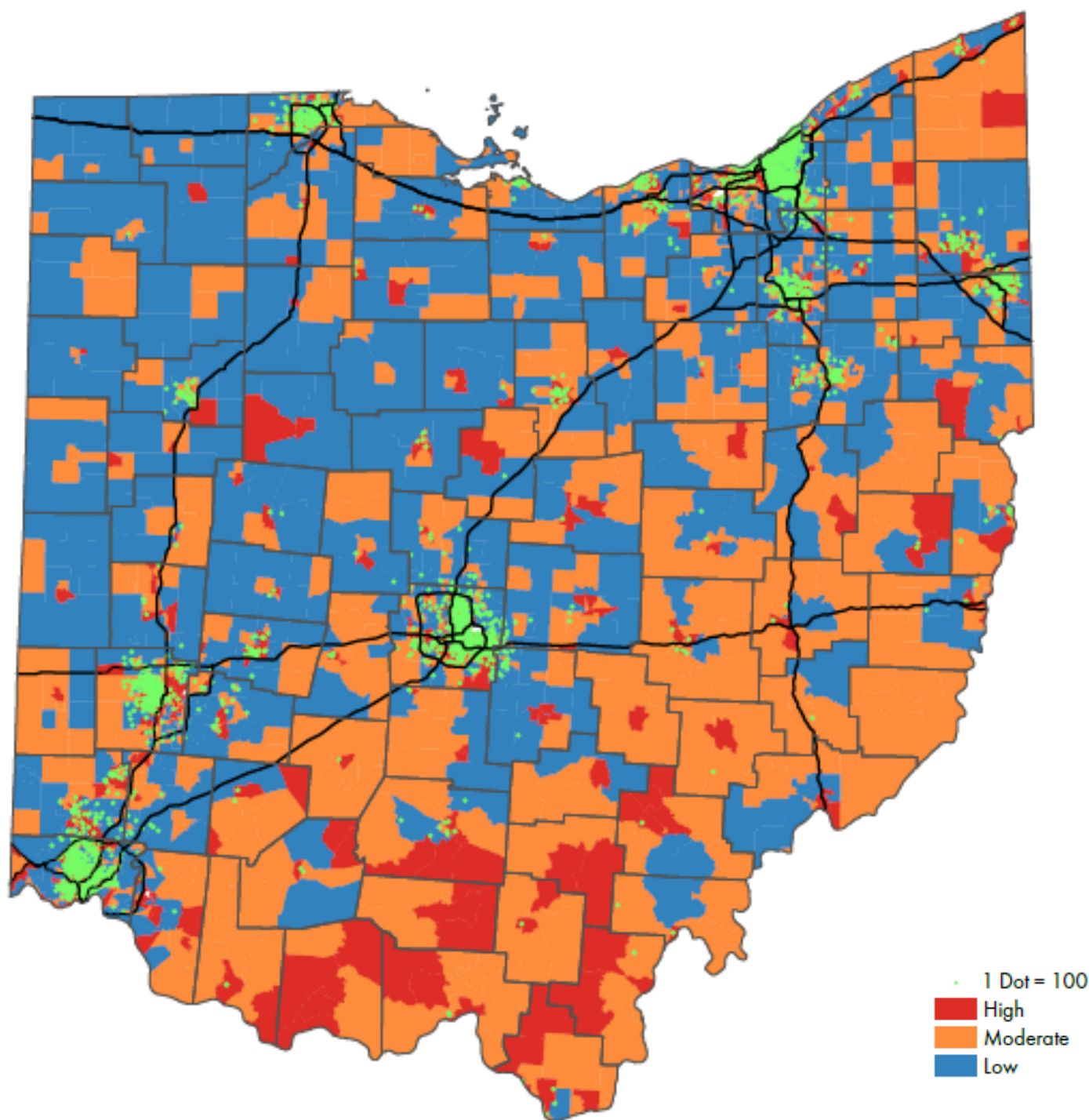

Density & Prevalence

- Density: older adults (55+) per square mile for each census tract

- Prevalence: proportion of older adults (55+) for each census tract

- Divide older adult population density and prevalence into three levels from highest to lowest

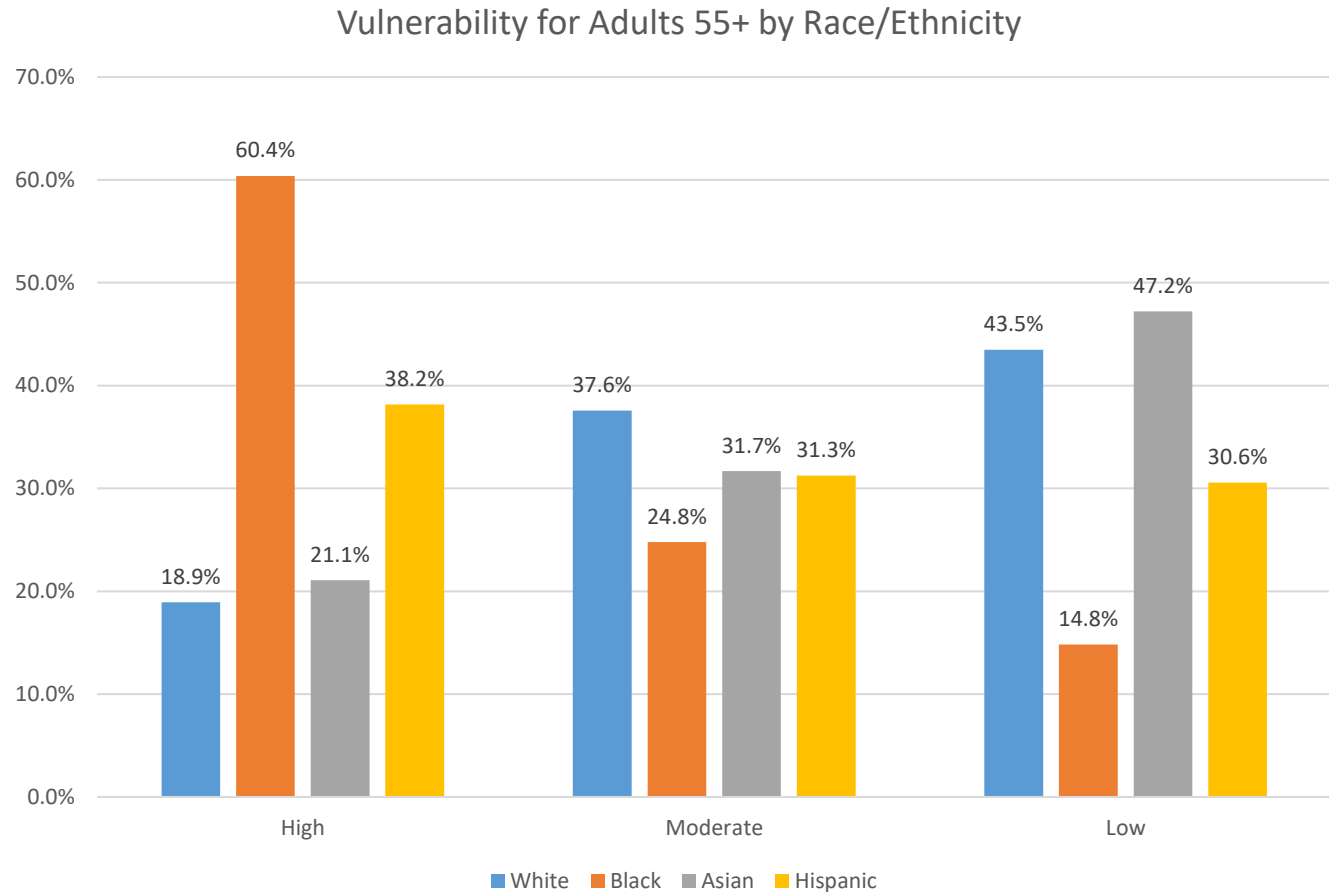## Vulnerability-Density and Vulnerability-Prevalence

- Create a column for vulnerability-density & vulnerability-prevalence ranking

- With values ranging from 1-9

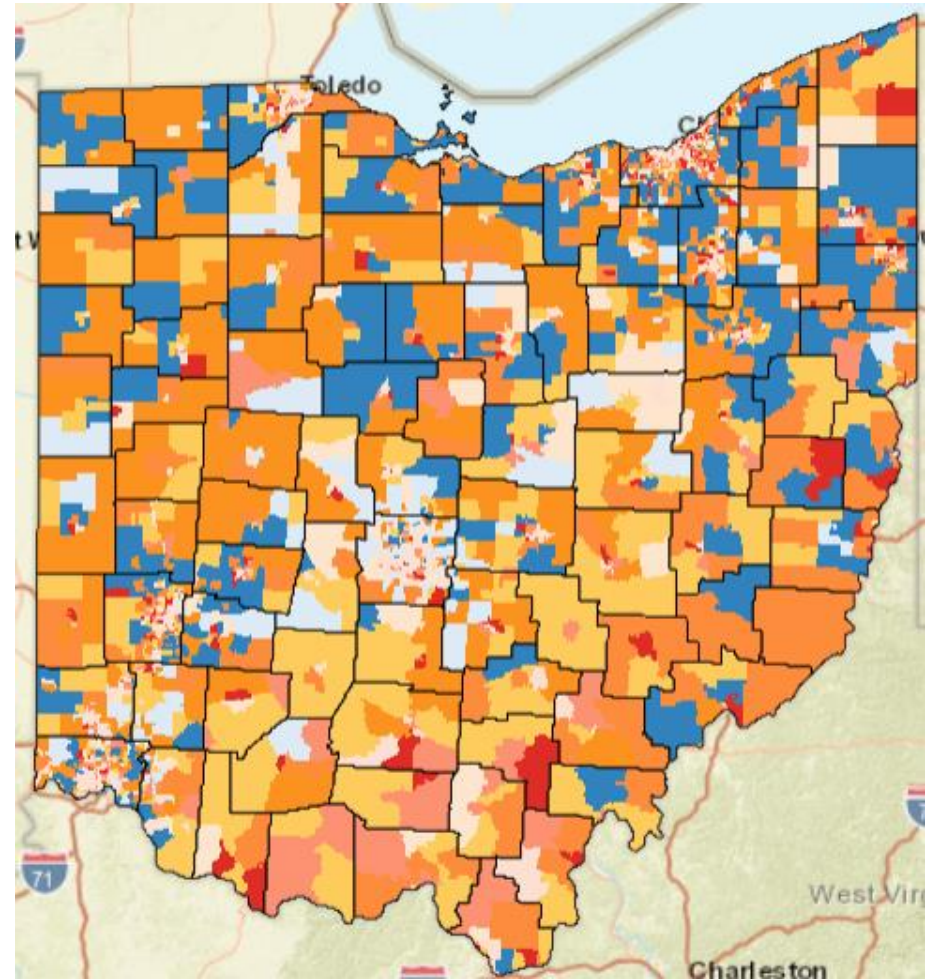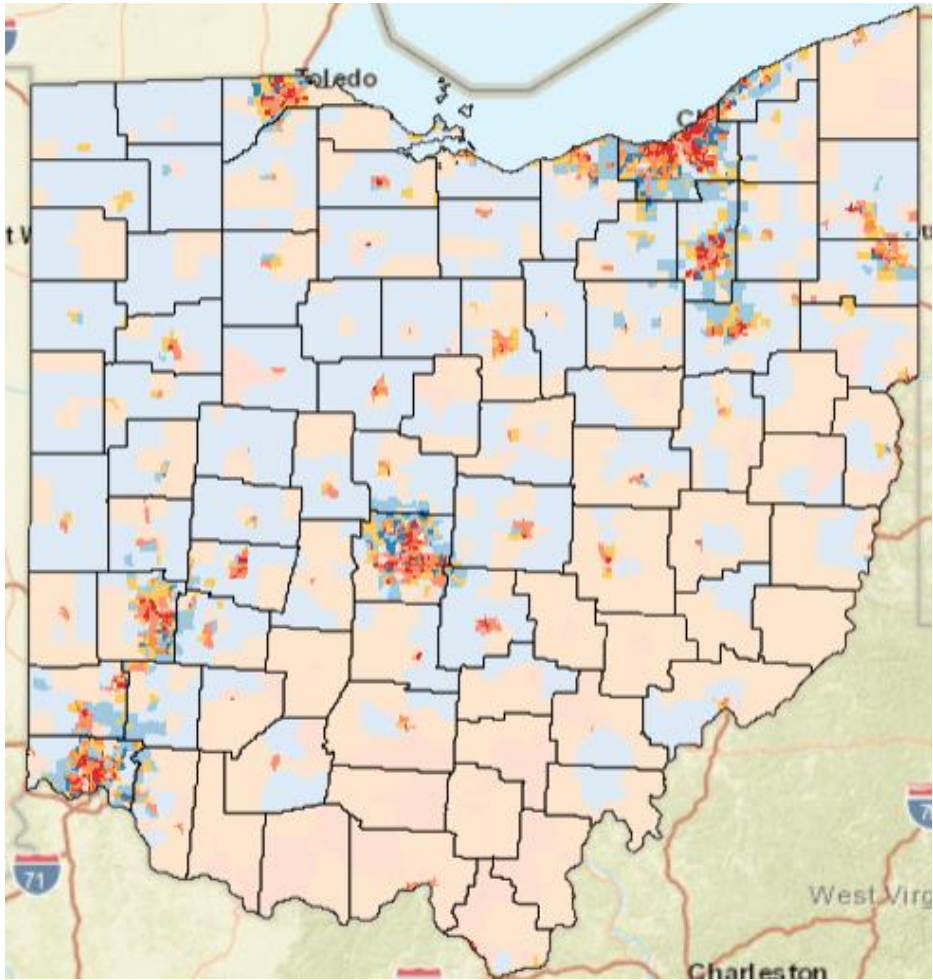# Older Adults Vulnerability Index Map

With African American older adult population overlay

1 Dot = 100

High
Moderate
Low

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6

Vulnerability by Race/Ethnicity

Vulnerability for Adults 55+ by Race/Ethnicity

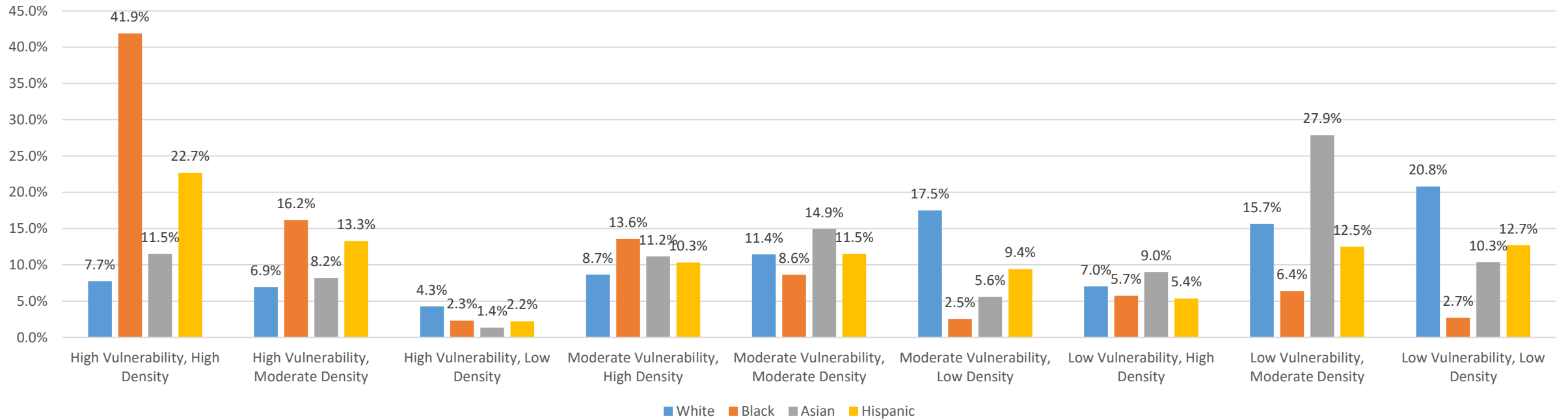THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Vulnerability and Density vs Prevalence

Vulnerability & Density by Race/Ethnicity

Vulnerability & Density by Race/Ethnicity for 55+

What Does Older Adult Vulnerability Look Like in   Your Region?

Comparison: Two Adjacent Neighborhoods in Columbus

Neighborhood	A	B
Vulnerability Class	High	Low
Density Class	High	High
Total Population	2,084	2,697
Population 55+	447	974
Black 55+	306	18
Hispanic 55+	0	794
White 55+	123	149

Older Adult Vulnerability Indicators

- 55+ In Poverty
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  U.S. Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP), 2010-2015
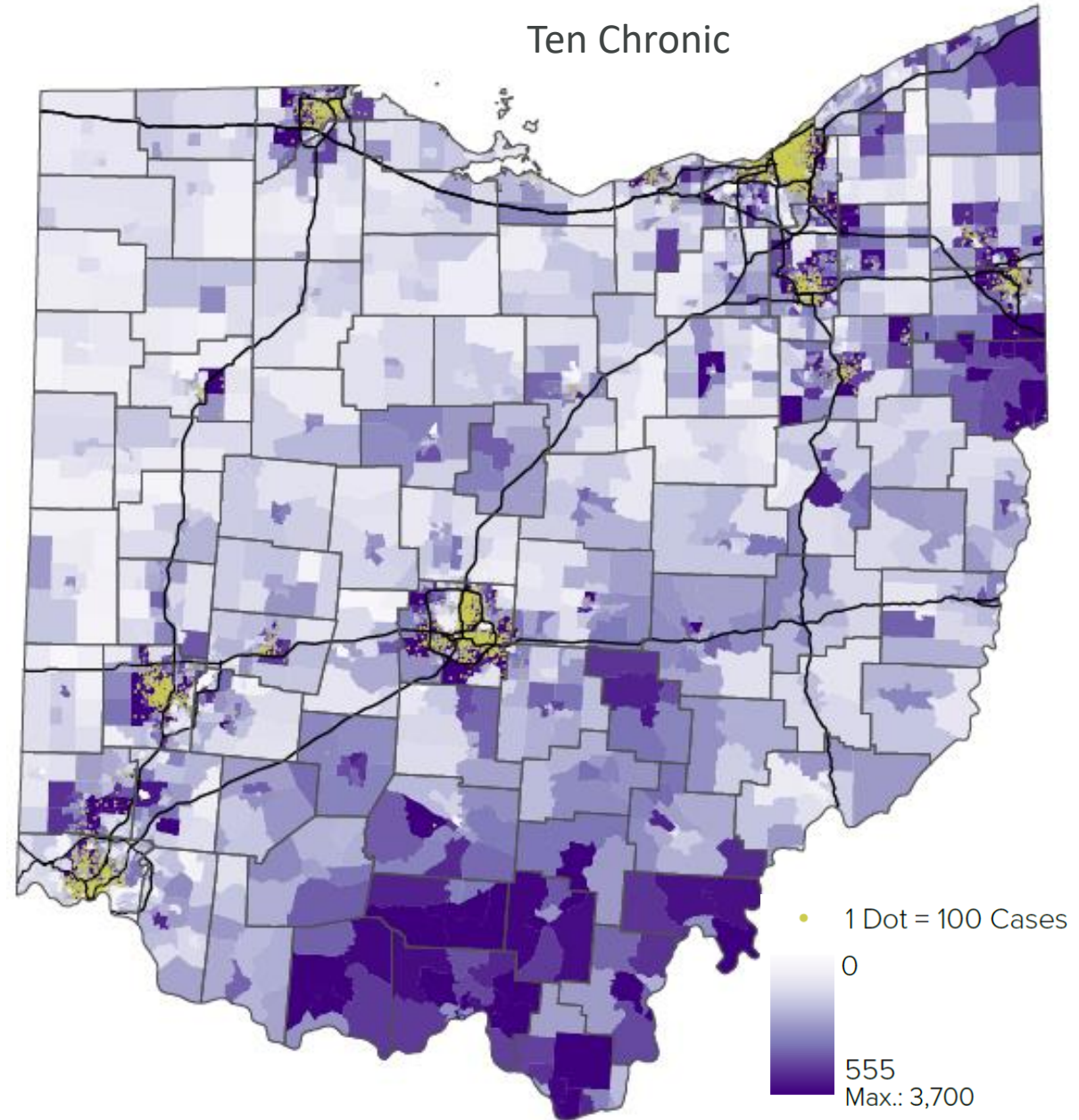
Additional Data Included in the Mapping Tool

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Medicaid Claims (2019)

Mental & Beh. Health

Ten Chronic

1 Dot = 100 Cases

0

3,500
Max.: 17,000

1 Dot = 100 Cases

0

555
Max.: 3,700
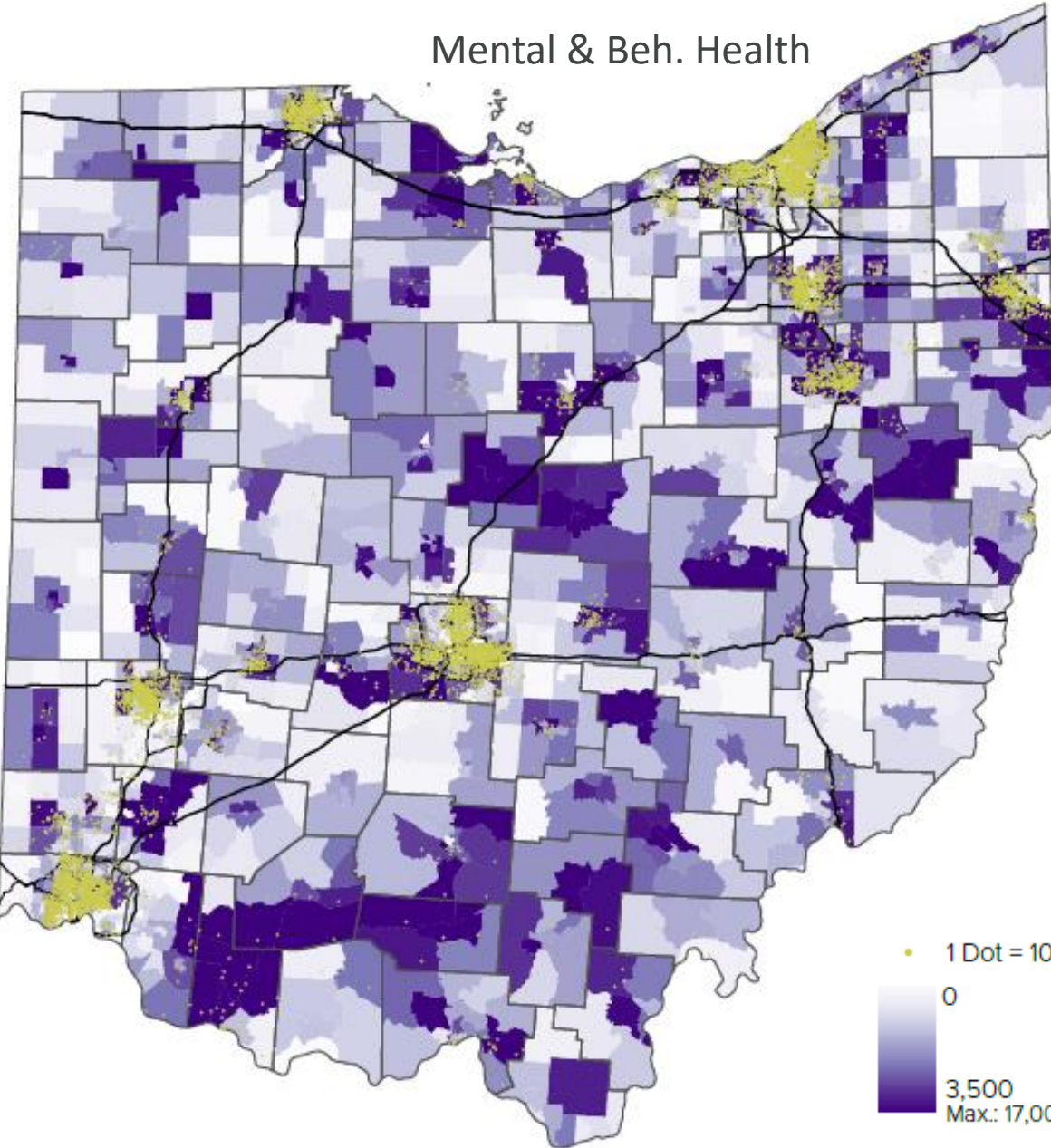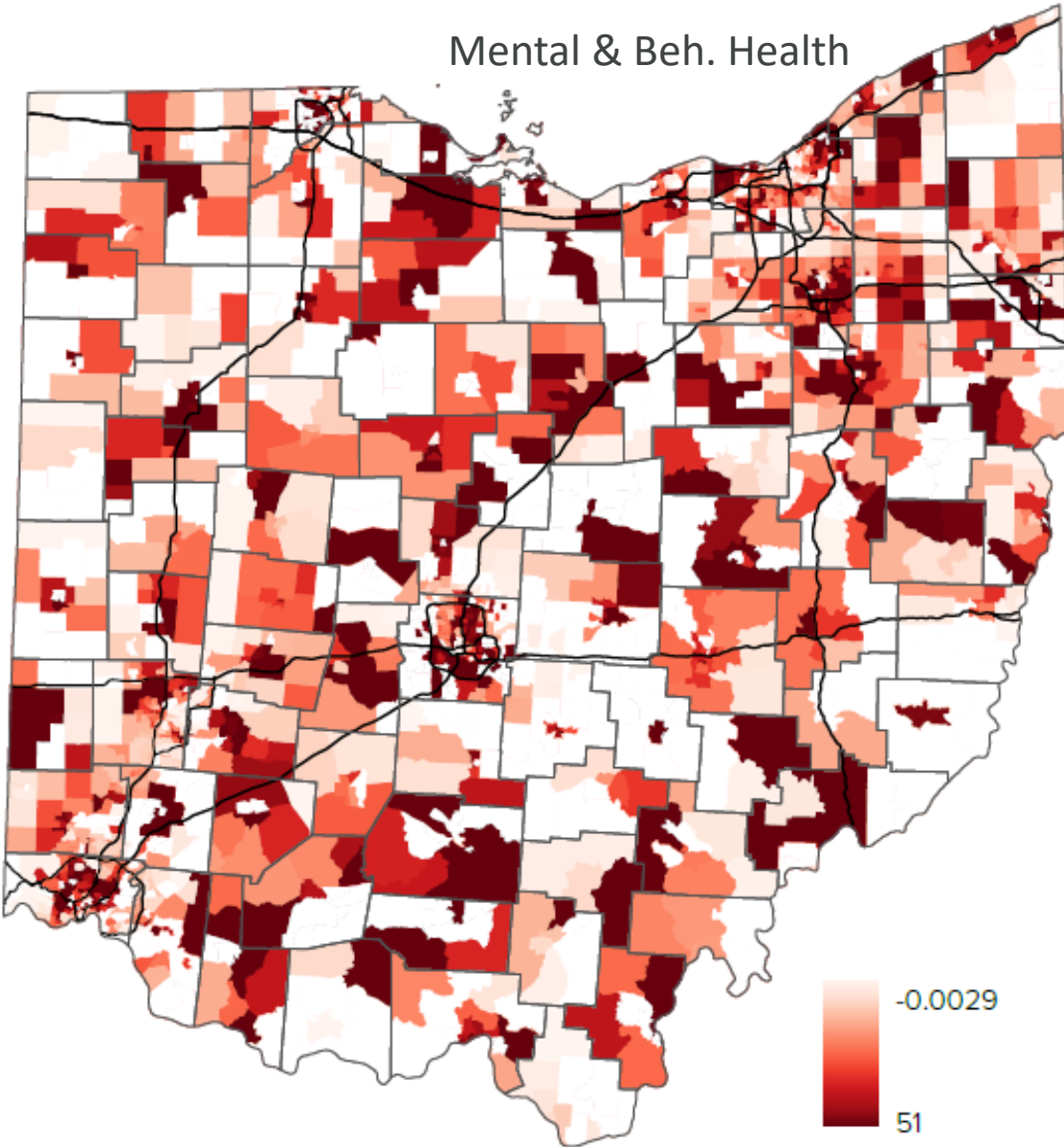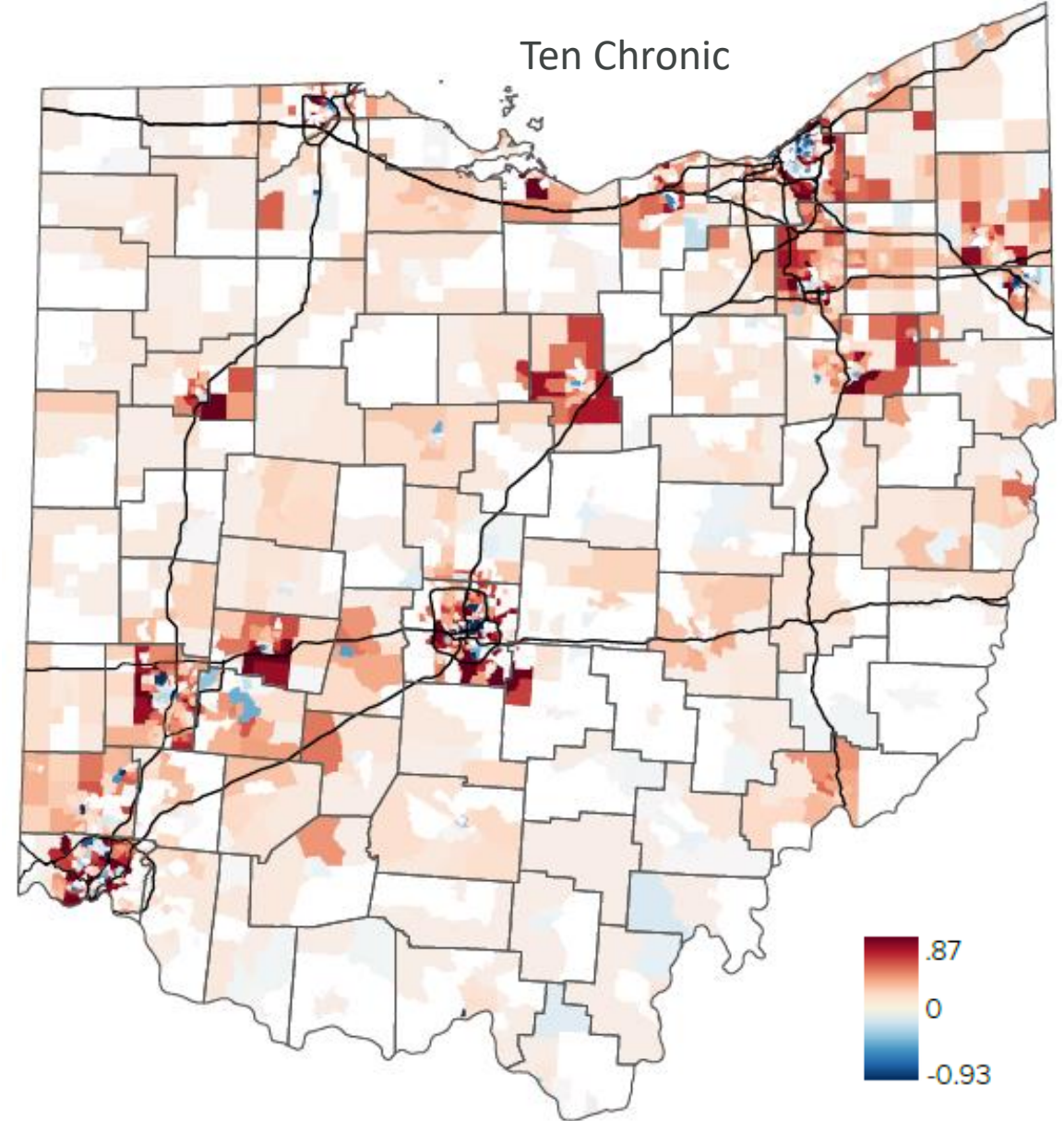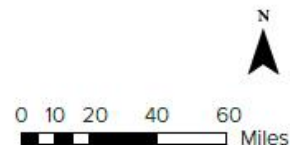
Medicaid Claims – Racial Disparity

Mental & Beh. Health

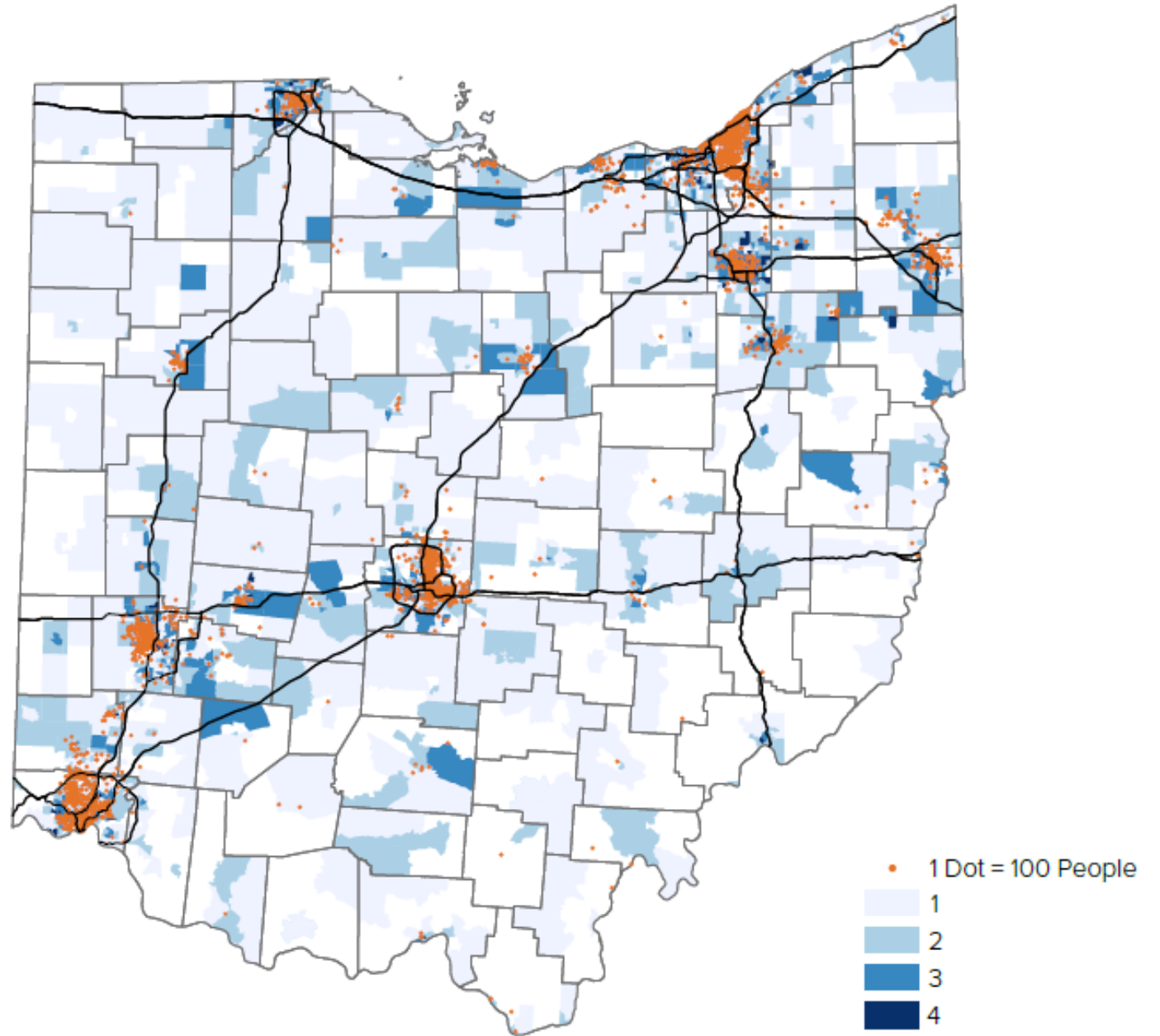Ten Chronic

Digital Connectivity for Older Ohioans

Broadband Score
65+ with Computer & Broadband

High
Low

Low   High
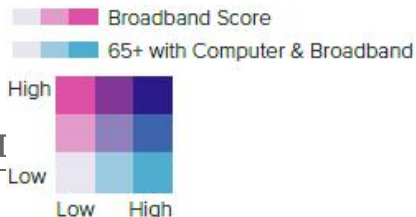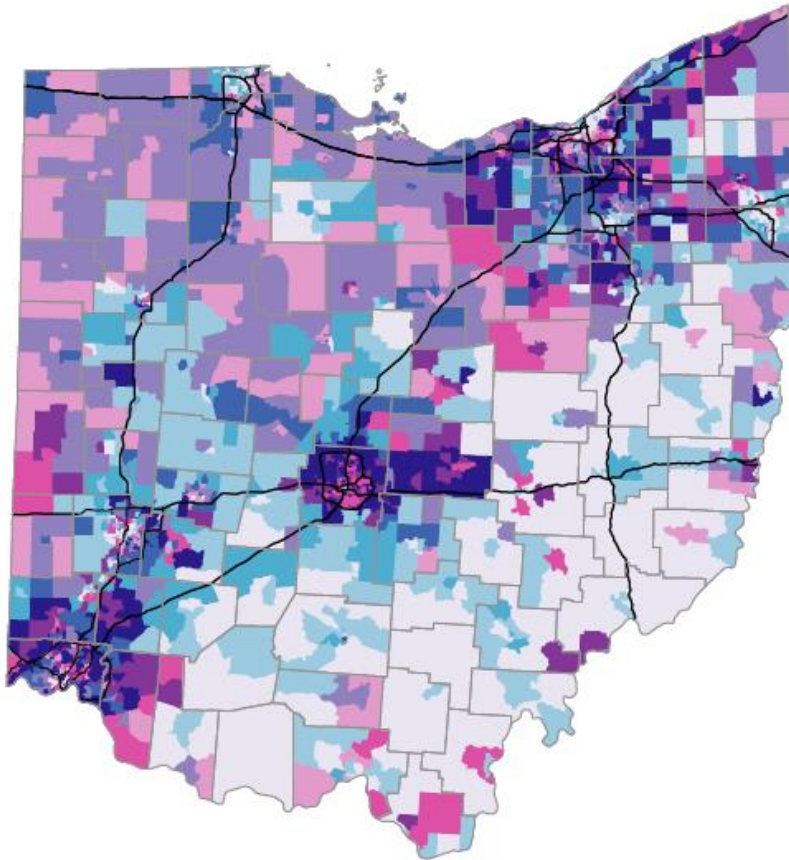
- Digital connectivity is increasingly important for daily life, ensuring that older adults can access the internet when needed, is increasingly important to their wellbeing

- Visualize the relationship between the supply and demand of digital connectivity.

- Areas for intervention
  - Lower broadband score and higher computer ownership & internet subscription)
  - Where higher speed connection is unavailable despite of higher percentages of older adults intending to utilize the technology

- Addressing multiple aspects of digital connectivity
  - Availability, affordability, adoption, and utilization

N

0 10 20   40   60
Miles

Areas of Multiple and Complex Needs

With African American older adult population overlay

Legend: 1 Dot = 100 People
1
2
3
4

More than 44% of Ohio Census Tracts

Facing at least two of the four challenges identified

Multiple Complex Needs Census Tracts (total 1,302)	Cumulative Percentage of Multiple Complex Needs Tracts	Vulnerability-Density Index	Ten Chronic Conditions	Mental & Behavioral Health Needs	Broadband Supply & Demand
295	22.6%	✓		✓	
204	15.7%	✓			✓
160	12.3%	✓	✓	✓	
160	12.3%			✓	✓
154	11.8%	✓		✓	✓
91	7.0%		✓	✓	
79	6.1%		✓	✓	✓
69	5.3%	✓	✓	✓	✓
48	3.7%	✓	✓		
22	1.7%	✓	✓		✓
20	1.5%		✓		✓

# Using The Statewide	Mapping Tool

An Overview of how to use the Statewide Older Adult Mapping Tool to inform place-based programming and policies

How to use the Statewide Older Adult Mapping Tool

https://go.osu.edu/statewideolderadultmap

Engaging Older African American Ohioans

Key Findings from Focus Group Discussions with Older African American Ohioans

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Qualitative Approach

- Six Focus Groups in Three Cities
  Akron, Toledo, Columbus

- Proposed a mix of in-person and virtual

- COVID Impact
  Planned 9 focus groups, unable to schedule in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton, Mansfield, and Youngstown

- 28 Older African American Ohioans Engaged between August and September of 2022

- Each 90-minute focus group was recorded, transcribed, and coded in NVivo.

- 13 interconnected themes emerged
  9 themes connected to Systems and Trust and 3 themes focused on key supports

Systems and Trust

"But it's just one of the things that it really did to these two individuals was, ah, the disbelief, because, I went and served my country, I did everything that you asked me to do. And when I get back, you said you'd take care of me. And they don't!"

– Male, Toledo

- Participants were acutely aware of the role of systems in creating and perpetuating inequality and had strong opinions about which systems were trustworthy and which were not. This extends to systems offering services for them beyond the medical.

- Trusted systems were viewed as supports for wellbeing.

- Some participants expressed disappointment in the government, particularly related to the cost and quality of health care they were able to access.

- Participants overwhelmingly expressed trust for Area Agencies on Aging and Senior Options.

- Trust is an overarching theme connecting most of the themes

Themes Connected to Systems and Trust

Health Care Systems

Mental Health

The Issue of Respect

Racism and Ageism

The Two Sides of Technology

Communication

Isolation

Safety

Lack of Resources

Themes Connected to Supports that Help Older African American's Thrive

Purpose

Relationships

Meeting Them Where They Are

Recommendations

Select Recommendations for Supporting Older African Americans in Ohio

Approach

- Recommendations organized into five categories
- *Improving Access* focuses on strengthening access to the resources already available to Older African Americans in Ohio
- *Expanding Access* focuses on enhancing the amount and quality of access older African Americans have to care resources
- *Increasing Inclusion* responds to the isolation and lack of respect articulated by focus group participants and is a call for including the voices and needs of older African Americans in decision making
- *Enhancing Experiences* refers to the need across agencies for improved understanding of and relationship to the older African American Ohioan community
- *Strengthening Place* refers to place-specific planning and policy decisions that can improve outcomes for older African American Ohioans
- We will highlight **four** recommendations today
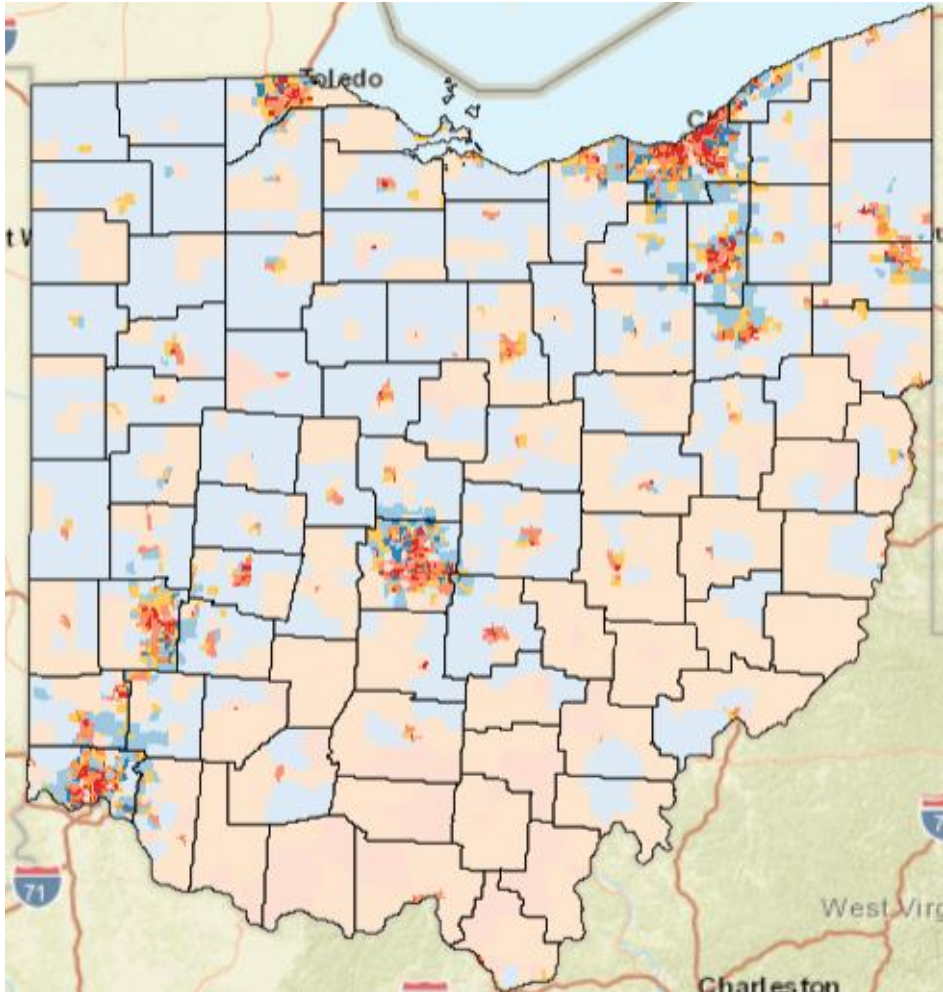
1. **Utilize the Statewide Older Adult Vulnerability Mapping Tool to Inform Place-based Programming and policies aimed at addressing the needs of vulnerable older African Americans**

2. **Utilize Statewide Older Adult Mapping Tool to Site affordable and low-income older adult housing in high opportunity neighborhoods**

3. Conduct state-wide listening sessions with vulnerable older African Americans

- The purpose of which should be fourfold:
  - Learn what sources of information are trusted by them to enhance communication
  - Understand the most acute barriers to thriving they experience
  - Understand what supports they most need to thrive and how to deliver them
  - Gain insight into how to better meet older African Americans where they are

4. Review Existing policies and programs through the lens of meeting older adults where they are

Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

Next Steps

Statewide Listening Series

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Statewide Listening Series

Engaging Older African American Ohioans and Service Providers who Engage this Population

- To dig into supports that facilitate and barriers that prohibit thriving for vulnerable older African Americans and better understand how to communicate with this population

- A one-hour cultural competency training covering the statewide mapping tool and what we hear from vulnerable older African Americans followed by a one-hour listening session focused on understanding what supports providers need to better serve these elders

Thank You! Questions?

Towards Equitable Investments for Addressing the Challenges and Needs of Older African Americans in Ohio

Glennon Sweeney, MCRP
Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

To Access the Full Report, please go to https://go.osu.edu/olderaa

If you would like to know more about this research report or schedule a presentation of the results, please contact Glennon Sweeney, Kirwan's Community Outreach Senior Representative: sweeney.270@osu.edu.

Local Example Slides to Switch Out Based on Location

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Comparison: Two Adjacent Neighborhoods in Cleveland
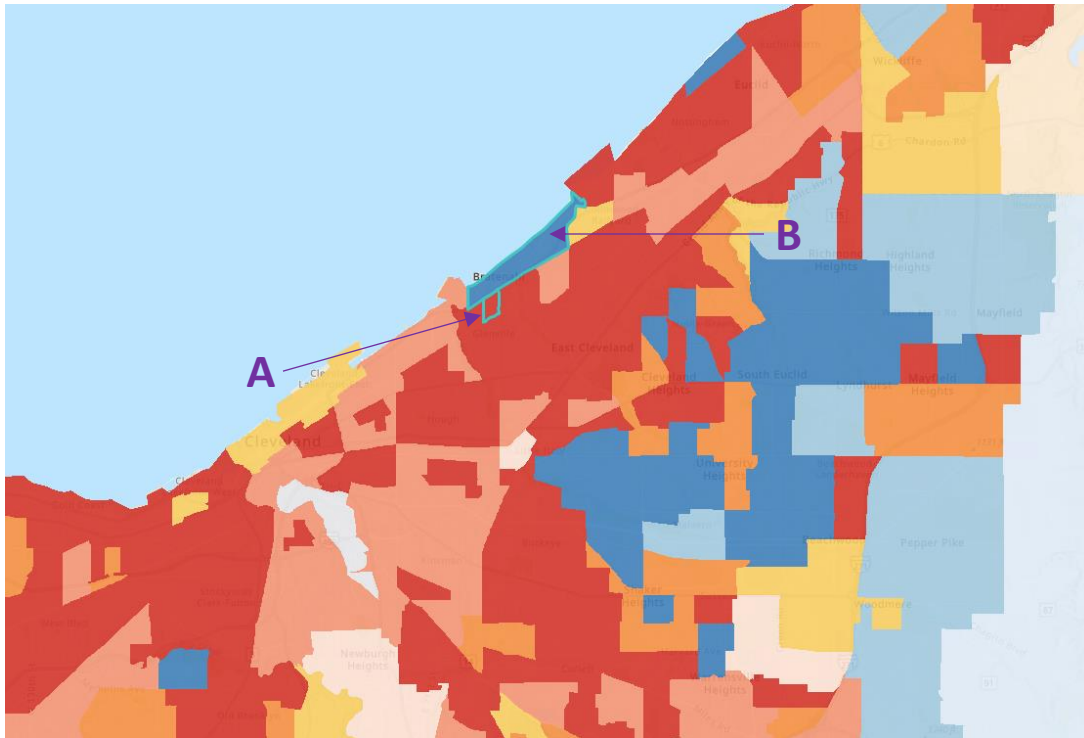
Neighborhood	A	B
Vulnerability Class	High	Low
Density Class	High	High
Total Population	897	1,379
Population 55+	215	907
Black 55+	204	82
Hispanic 55+	0	15
White 55+	11	807

Comparison: Two Adjacent Neighborhoods in Cincinnati
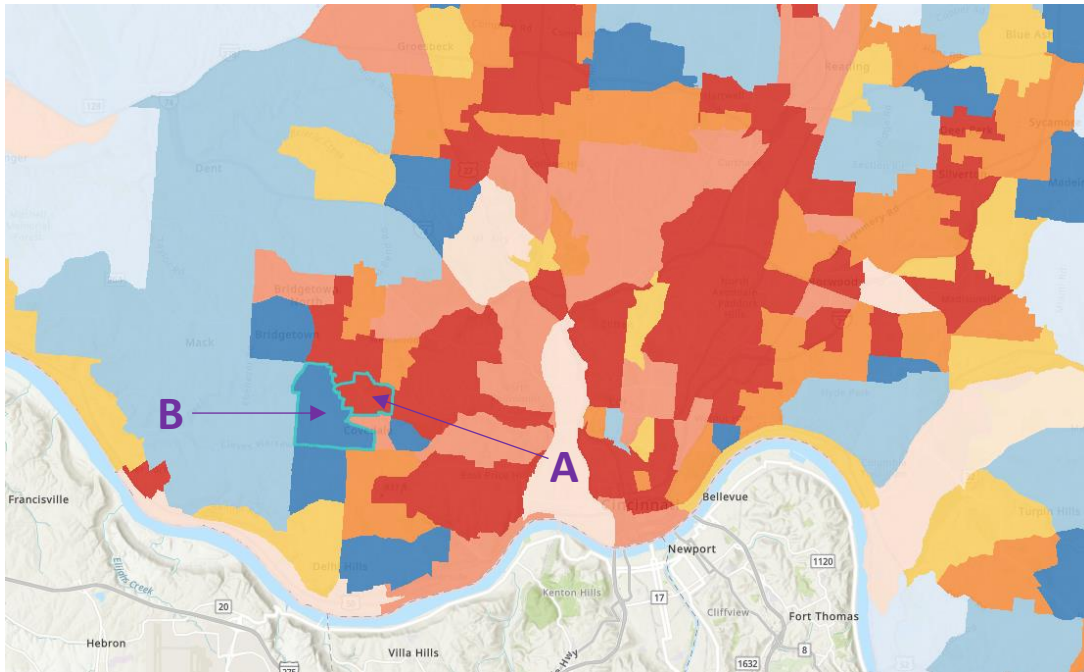
Neighborhood	A	B
Vulnerability Class	High	Low
Density Class	High	High
Total Population	2,656	5,210
Population 55+	759	1,912
Black 55+	233	108
Hispanic 55+	27	0
White 55+	514	1,754

Comparison: Two Adjacent Neighborhoods in Dayton
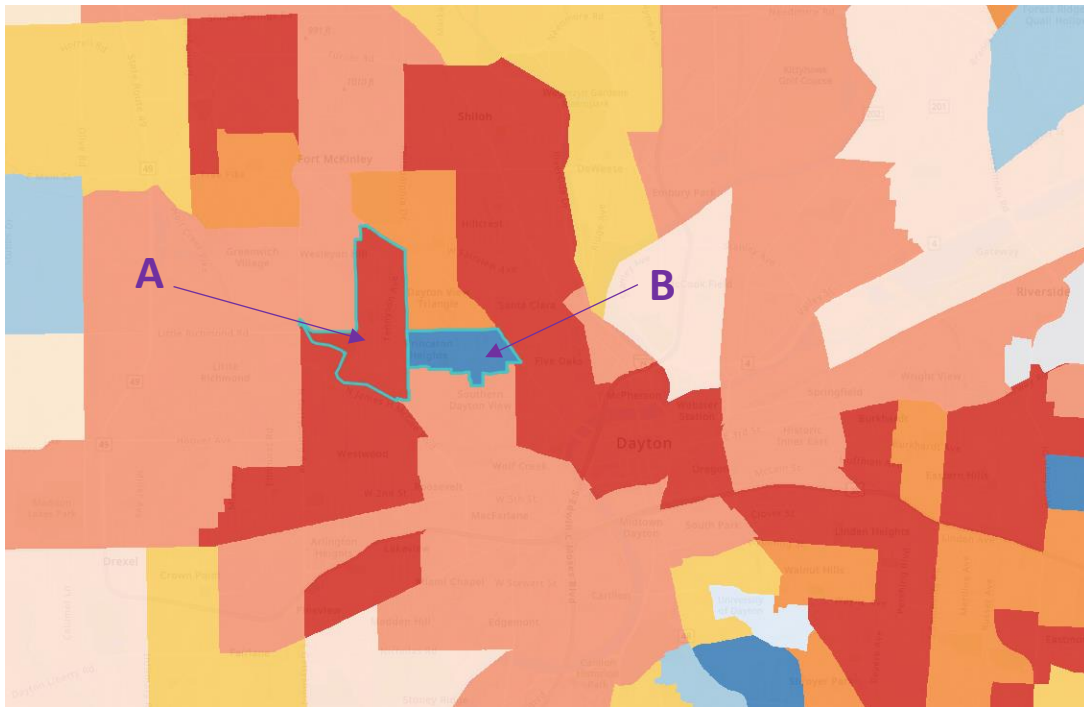
Neighborhood	A	B
Vulnerability Class	High	Low
Density Class	High	High
Total Population	3,795	1,489
Population 55+	1,313	577
Black 55+	1,047	492
Hispanic 55+	0	0
White 55+	161	72

Comparison: Two Adjacent Neighborhoods in Toledo
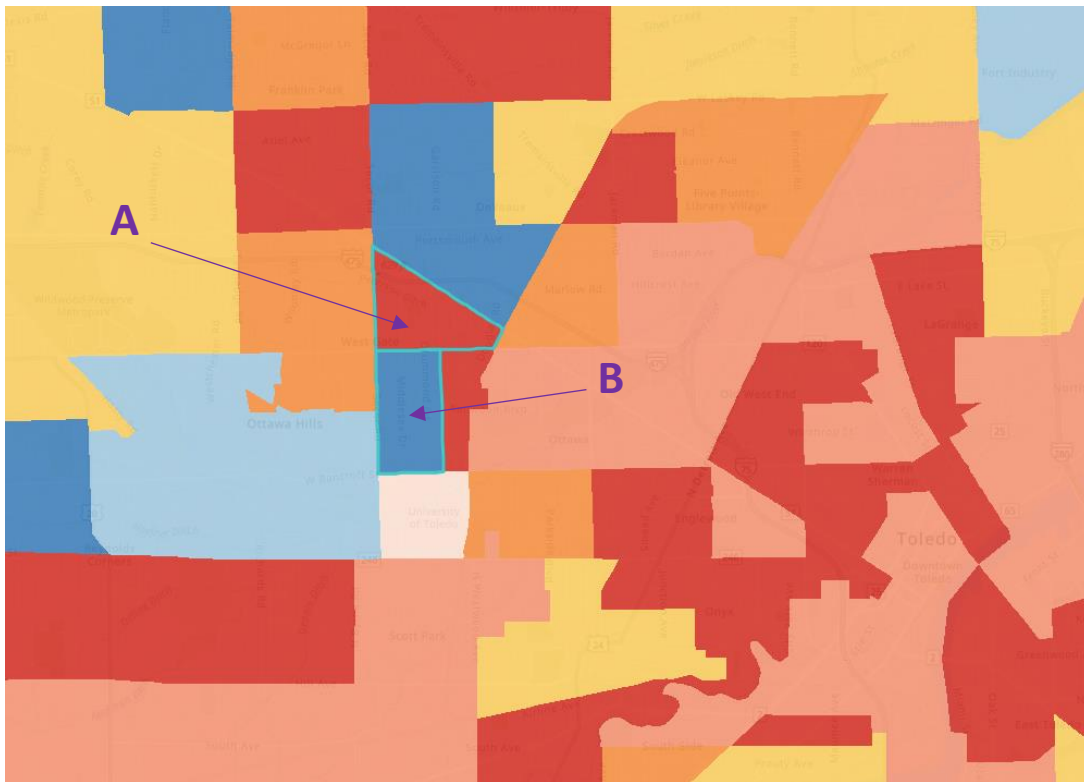
Neighborhood	A	B
Vulnerability Class	High	Low
Density Class	High	High
Total Population	2,393	2,776
Population 55+	629	1,034
Black 55+	233	89
Hispanic 55+	9	8
White 55+	386	924

Comparison: Two Adjacent Neighborhoods in Lima
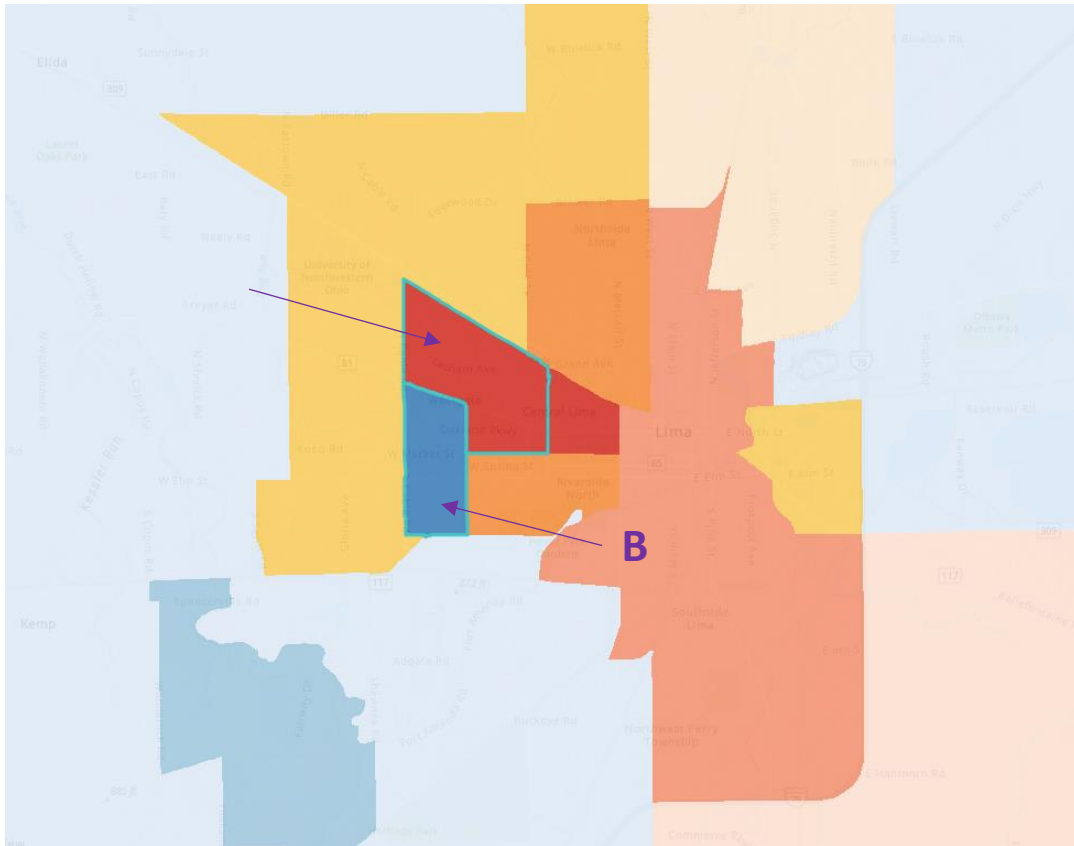
Neighborhood	A	B
Vulnerability Class	High	Low
Prevalence Class	Moderate	Moderate
Total Population	4,185	2,523
Population 55+	1,283	789
Black 55+	209	185
Hispanic 55+	0	16
White 55+	1,060	573

Comparison: Two Adjacent Neighborhoods in Akron
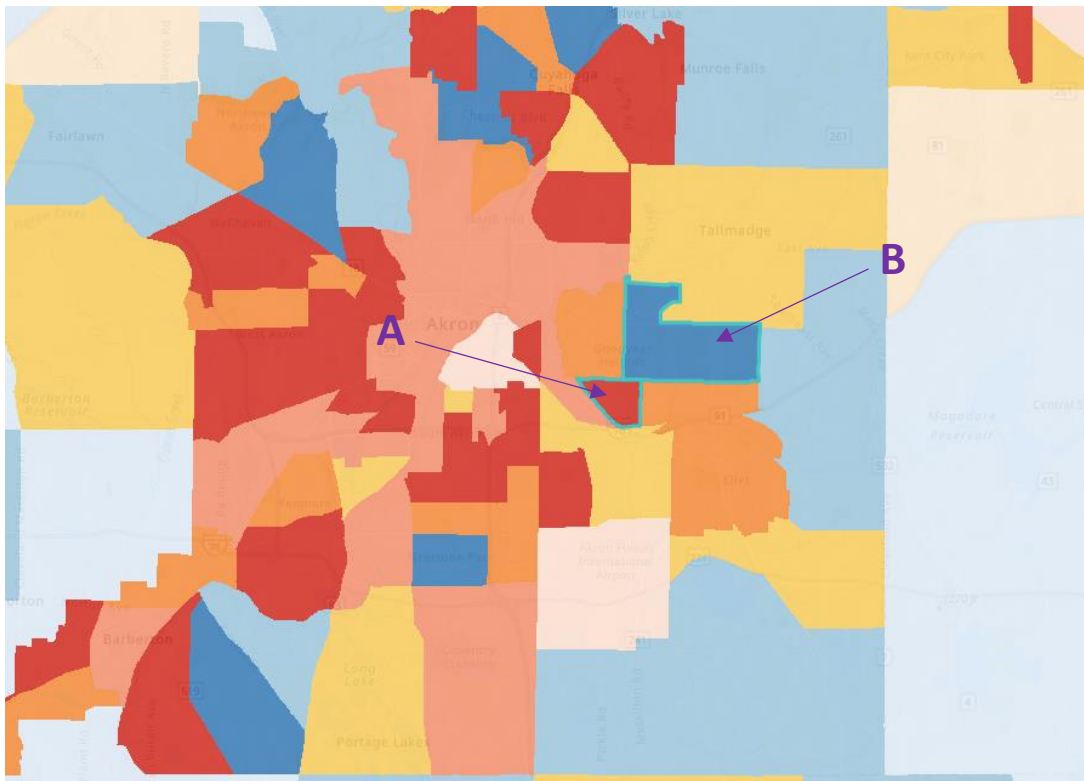
Neighborhood	A	B
Vulnerability Class	High	Low
Density Class	High	High
Total Population	2,695	7,323
Population 55+	632	2,041
Black 55+	32	137
Hispanic 55+	22	0
White 55+	561	1,885

Comparison: Two Adjacent Neighborhoods in Youngstown
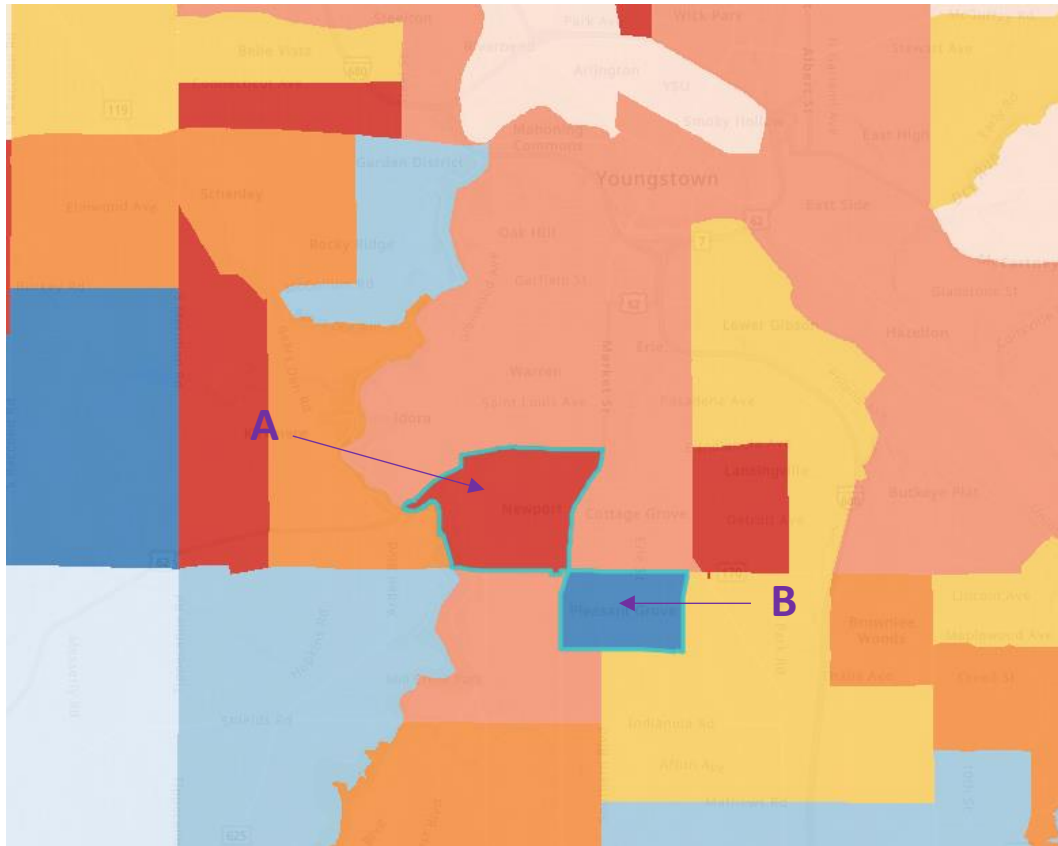
Neighborhood	A	B
Vulnerability Class	High	Low
Density Class	High	High
Total Population	2,733	2,071
Population 55+	796	721
Black 55+	583	200
Hispanic 55+	11	4
White 55+	172	469

Comparison: Two Adjacent Neighborhoods in Mansfield
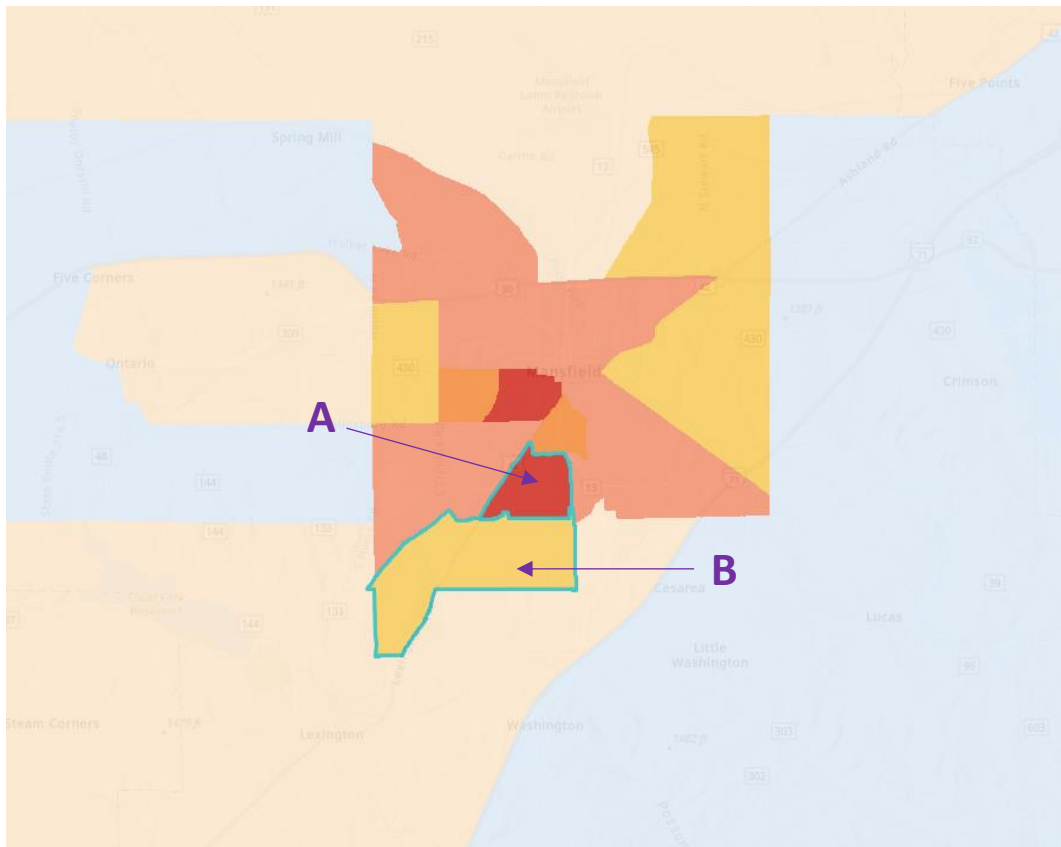
Neighborhood	A	B
Vulnerability Class	High	Moderate
Density Class	High	Moderate
Total Population	2,669	5,222
Population 55+	1,065	2,222
Black 55+	85	219
Hispanic 55+	0	0
White 55+	980	1,898

Comparison: Two Adjacent Neighborhoods in Athens
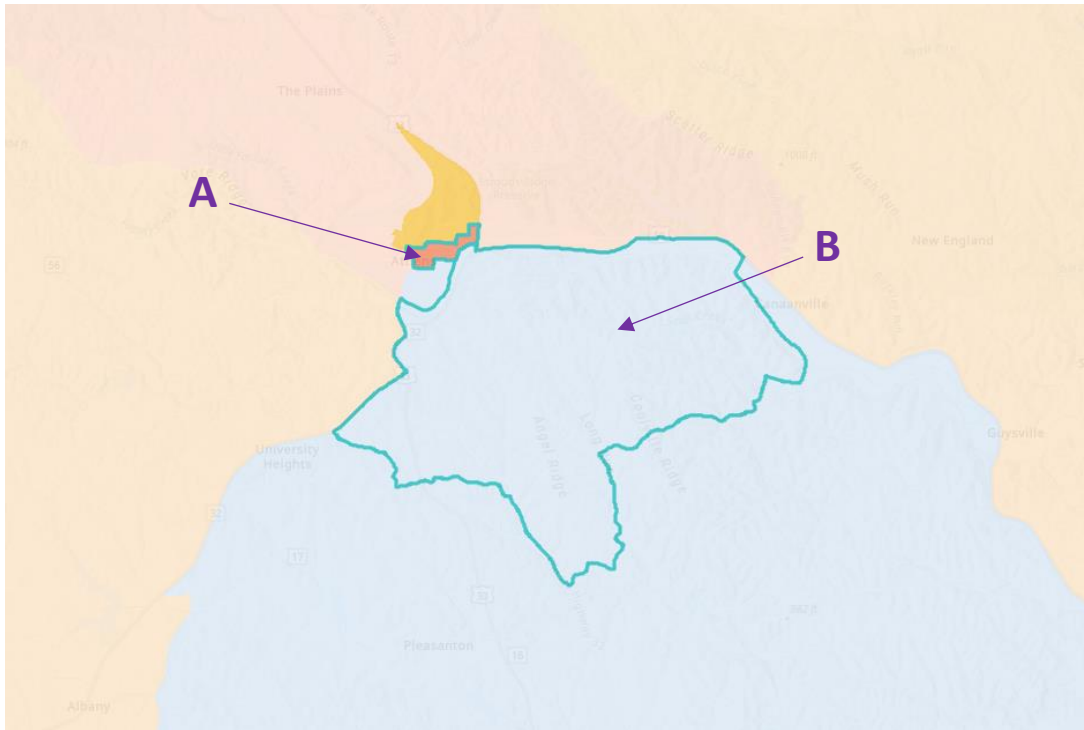
Neighborhood	A	B
Vulnerability Class	High	Low
Prevalence Class	Low	Moderate
Total Population	3,566	3,682
Population 55+	177	1,104
Black 55+	0	45
Hispanic 55+	0	0
White 55+	177	1,011