THE J. MCDONALD WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

Wholeness Index Briefing
Dallas City Council
Quality of Life Committee

By Dr. Timothy Bray
October 8, 2007

Key Focus Area
Economic Vibrancy

Key Focus Area
Public Safety

Key Focus Area
Clean, Healthy Environment

Discovering the pieces that make cities whole

THE J. MCDONALD WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

What is the Williams Institute?

- Created in 2005 by the Foundation for Community Empowerment
- Non-partisan, community-focused research center
- Created to bring cutting-edge research tools to the real-world problems of distressed communities
- Dedicated to improving quality of life by identifying policy approaches that will reduce disparities

THE J. MCDONALD WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

Why are we here today?

- To acquaint you with the Wholeness Index
- To provide material for discussion during the luncheon forum at Institute's annual conference on Oct. 22
- (Most importantly) because we exist to serve policy makers like you

THE J. MCDONALD WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

What is wholeness?

- In a whole city, every neighborhood offers residents an equal quality of life
- Disparity is the opposite of wholeness

Why does wholeness matter?

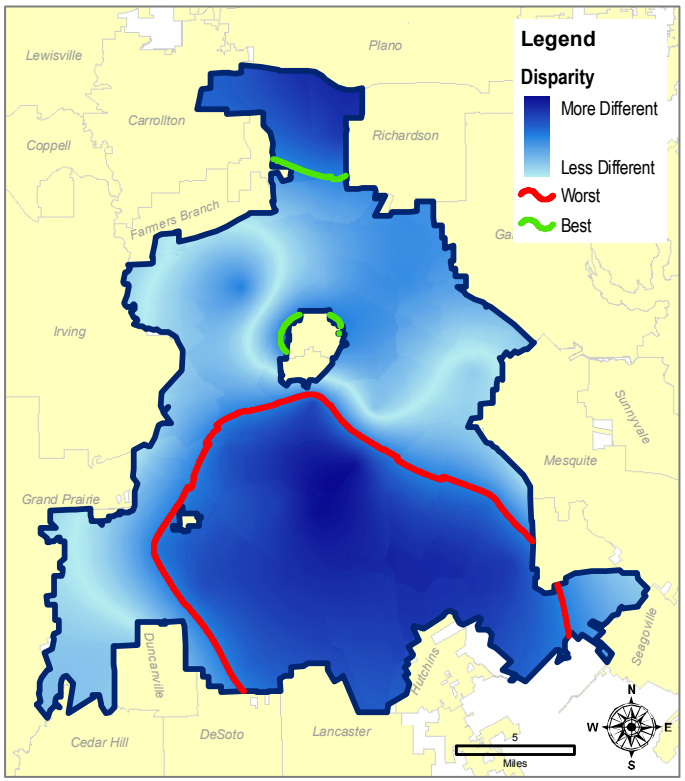
- Our nation was founded on the promise of equal opportunity for all
- Research shows that, over time, disparities sap cities' economic growth and social cohesion

THE J. MCDONALD WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

What is the Wholeness Index?

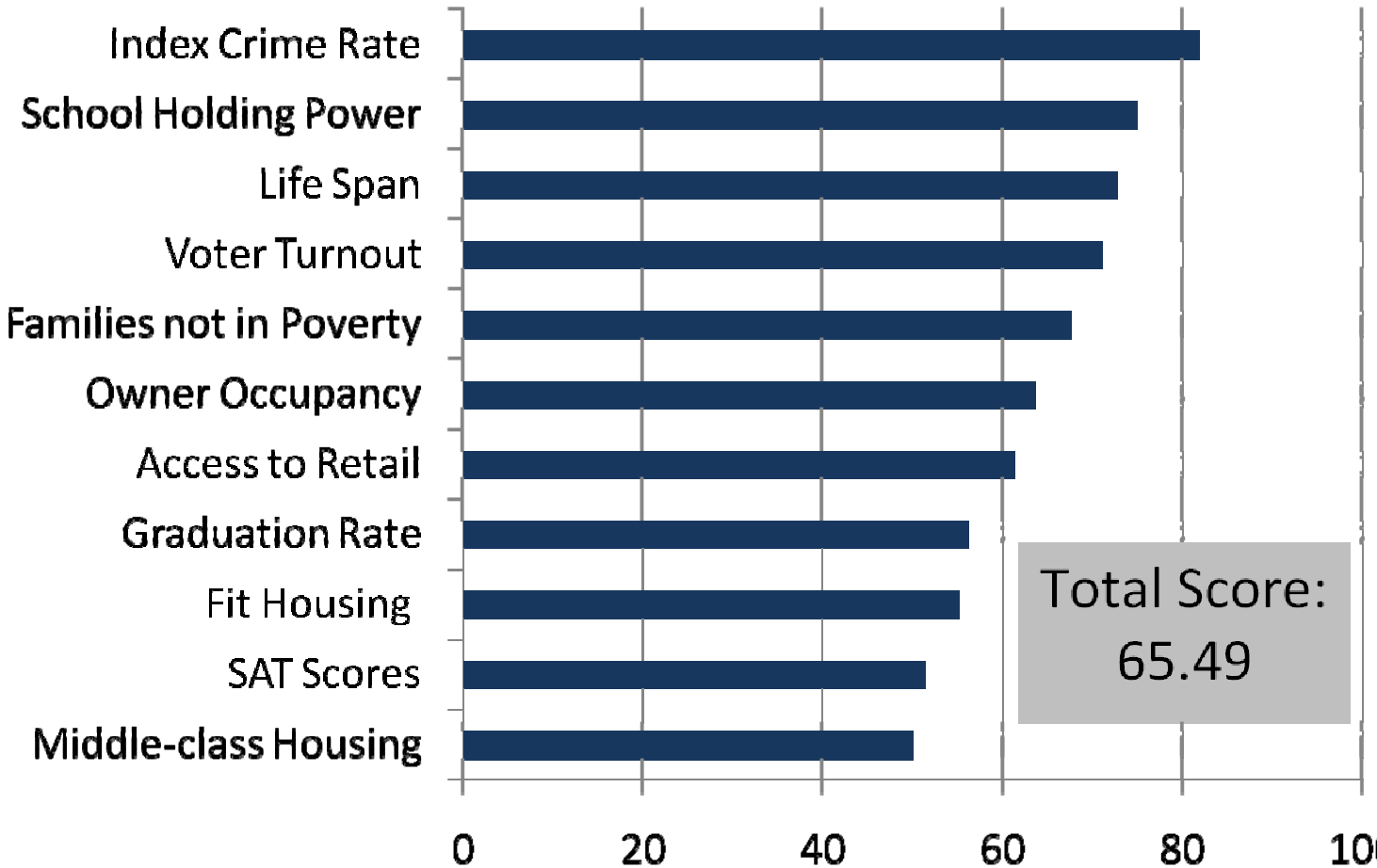
- Measures disparity, not performance
- Replicable annually and across cities
- Incorporates 12 quality-of-life indicators in 3 domains
  - Economic opportunity
  - Self-sufficiency
  - Civic engagement
- Computes wholeness on a scale of 1 to 100 for each indicator and all of them combined
- Makes data more useful by displaying them spatially

How to interpret Wholeness Index maps

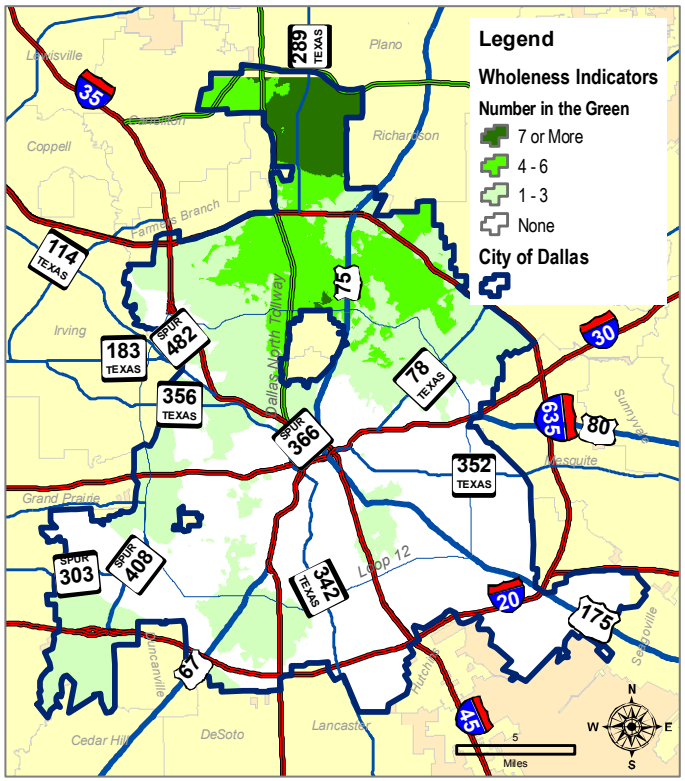


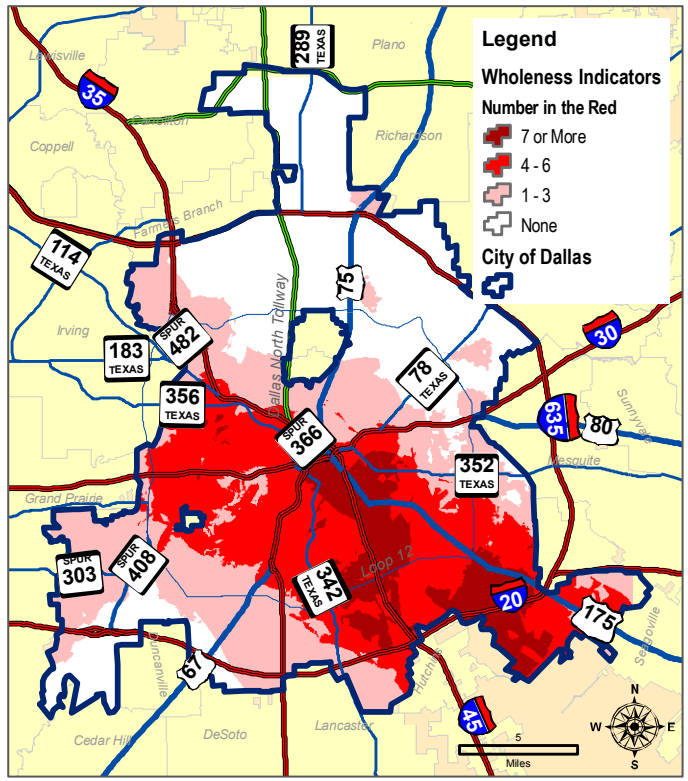
- Light blue = areas of least disparity (most like the others)
- Dark blue = areas of greatest disparity (least like the others) (Disparity can exist in either a desirable “good” direction or undesirable “bad” direction)
- Green outlined areas = “best”
- Red outlined areas = “worst”

2006 Wholeness Index scores



2006 composite Wholeness maps





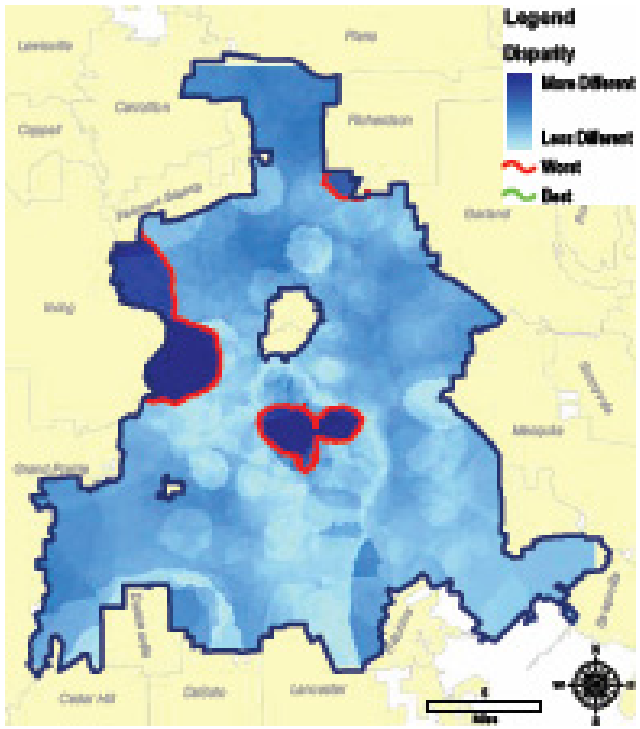
THE J. MCDONALD WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

Preliminary

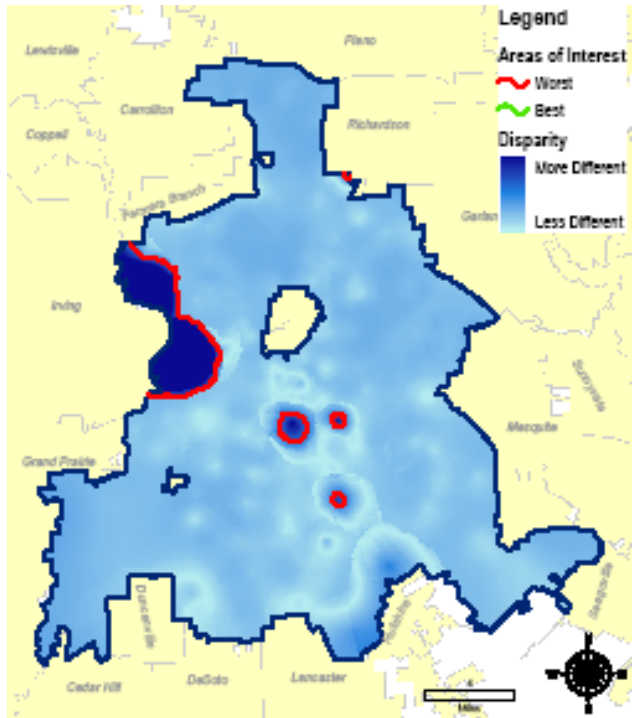
2007 Wholeness Index findings

Index Crime Rate: more whole

2006 Score: 81.76

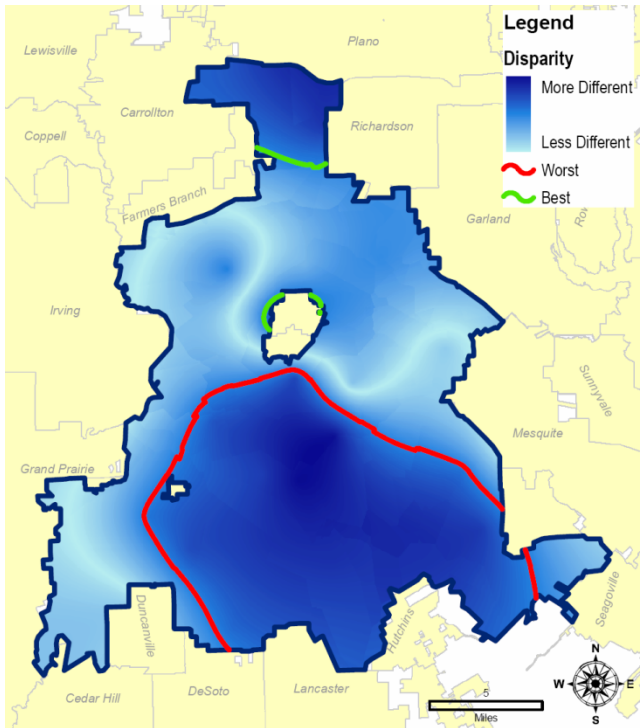


2007 Score: 89.20

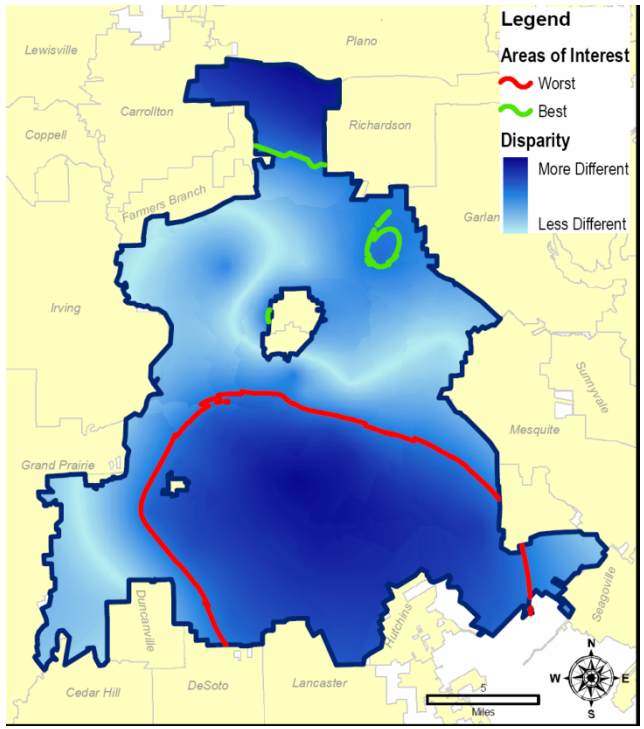


SAT Scores: more whole

2006 Score: 51.28

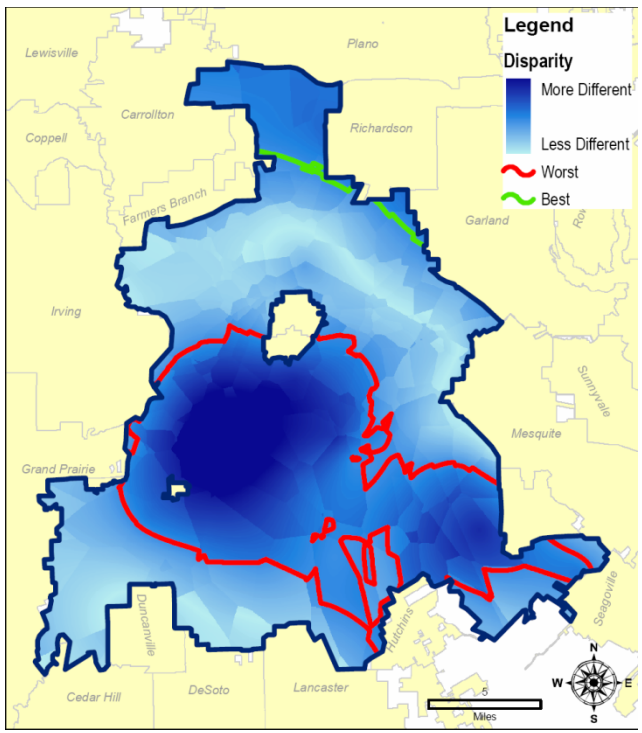


2007 Score: 52.59

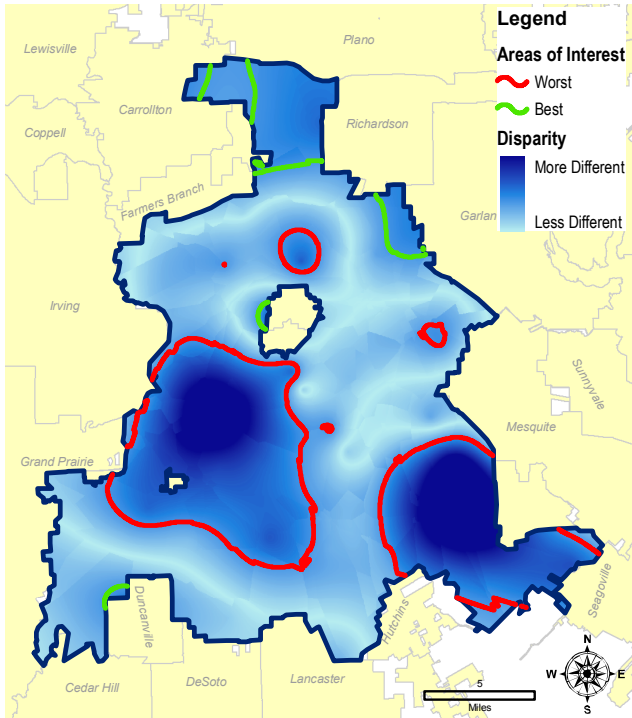


Graduation Rate: more whole

2006 Score: 56.2

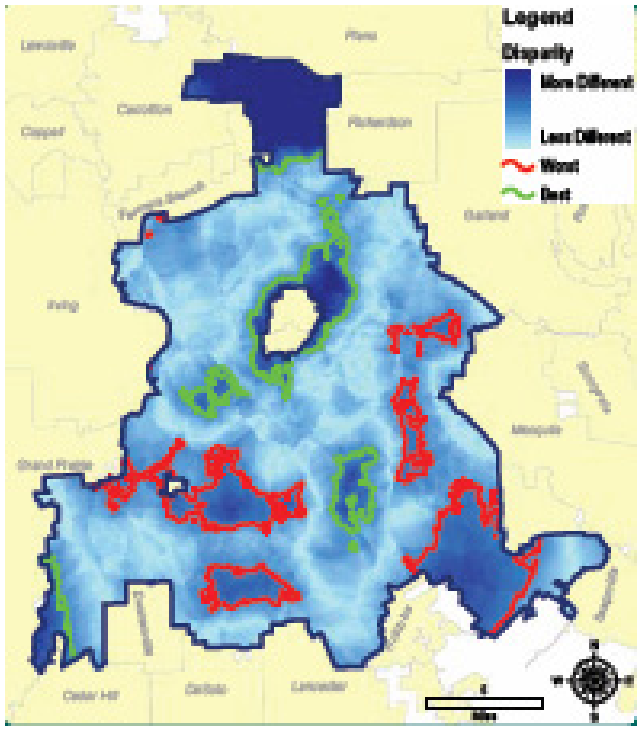


2007 Score: 66.99

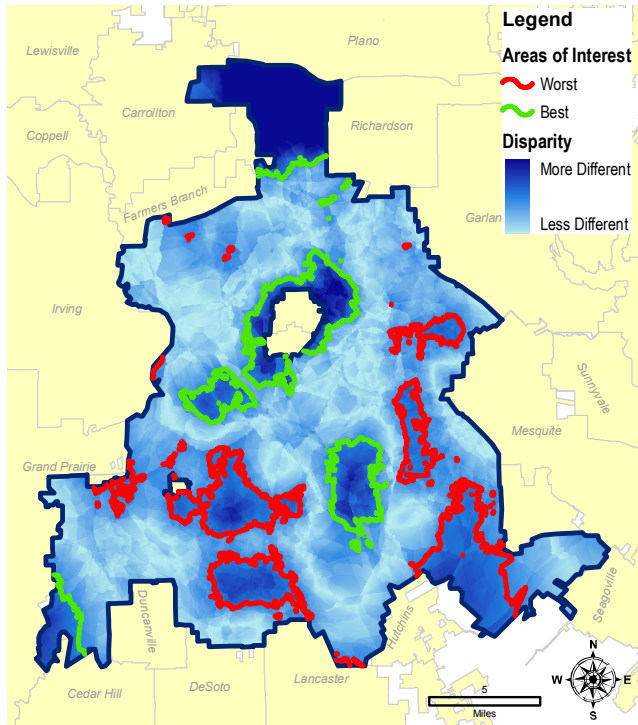


School Holding Power: static

2006 score: 74.99

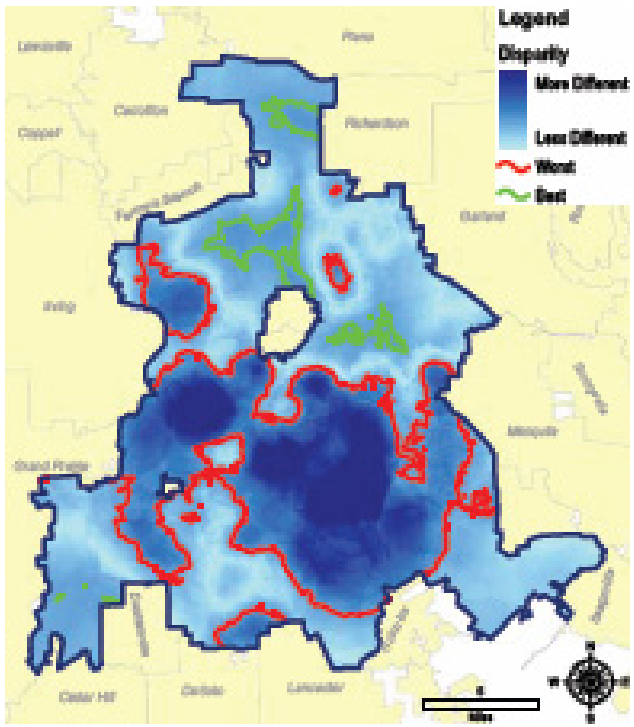


2007 score: 74.97

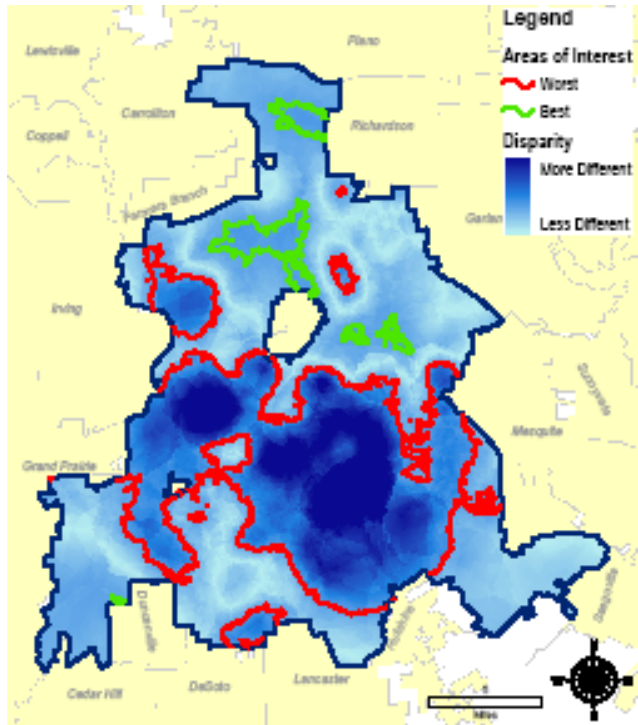


Families not in Poverty: static

2006 Score: 67.50



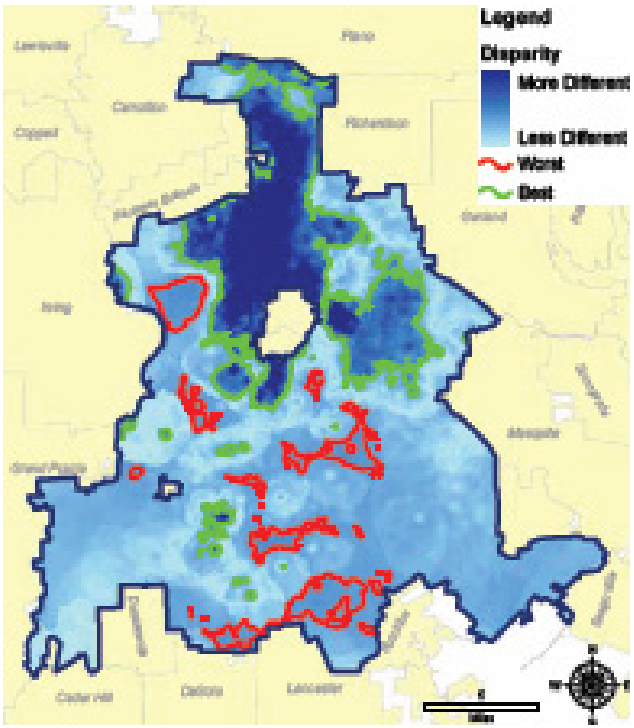
2007 Score: 67.21



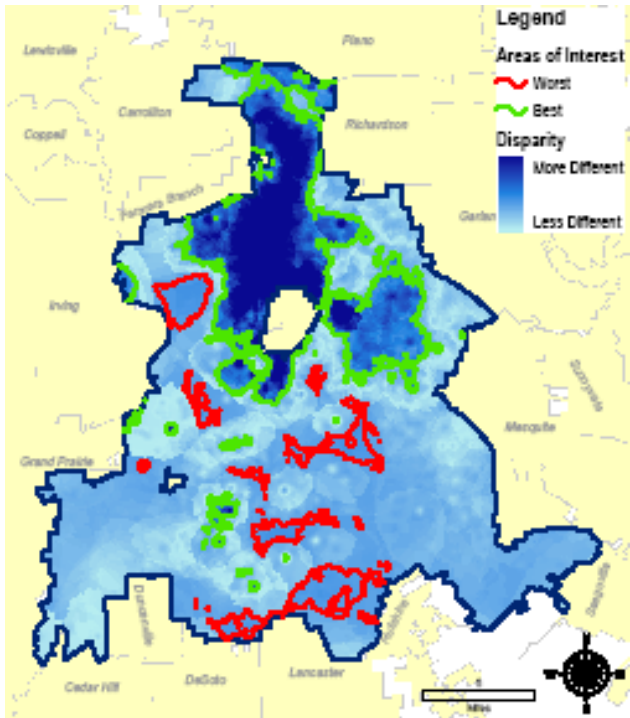
THE J. MCDONALD WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

Wealth: more whole

2006 Score: 80.38

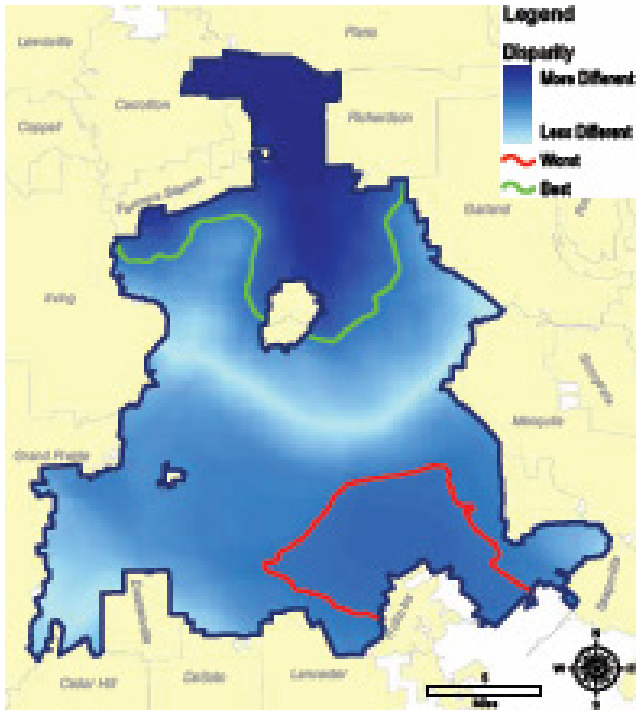


2007 Score: 82.58

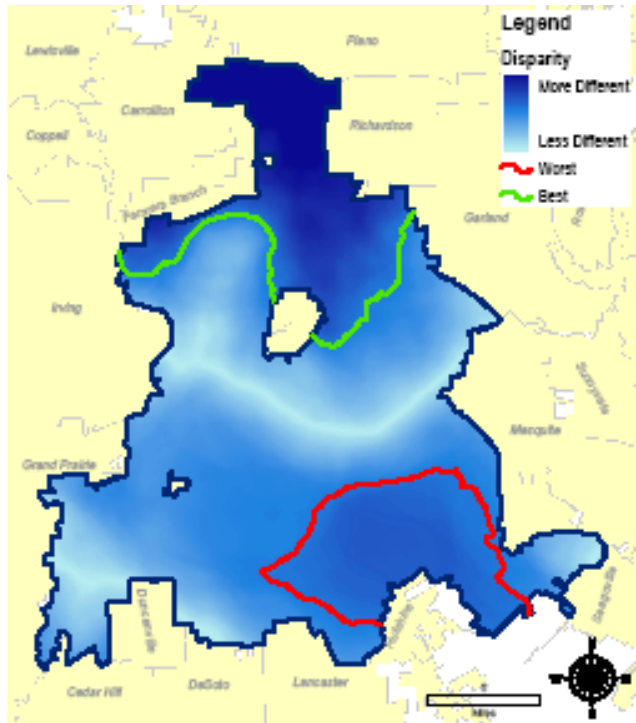


Middle-class Housing: more whole

2006 Score: 50.02

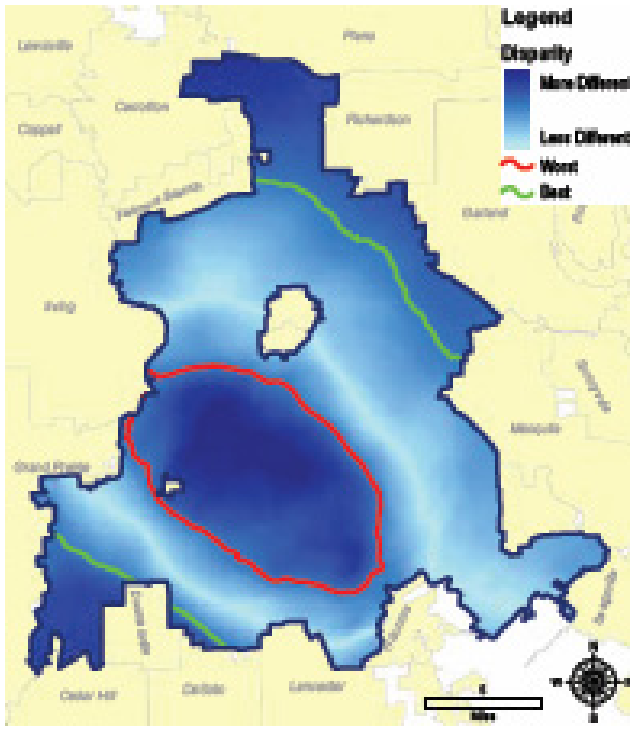


2007 Score: 55.86

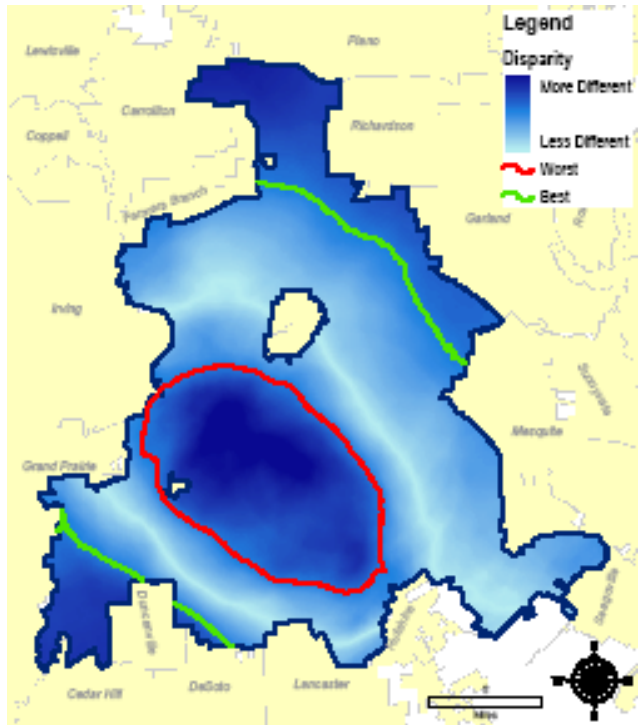


Fit Housing: static

2006 Score: 55.12

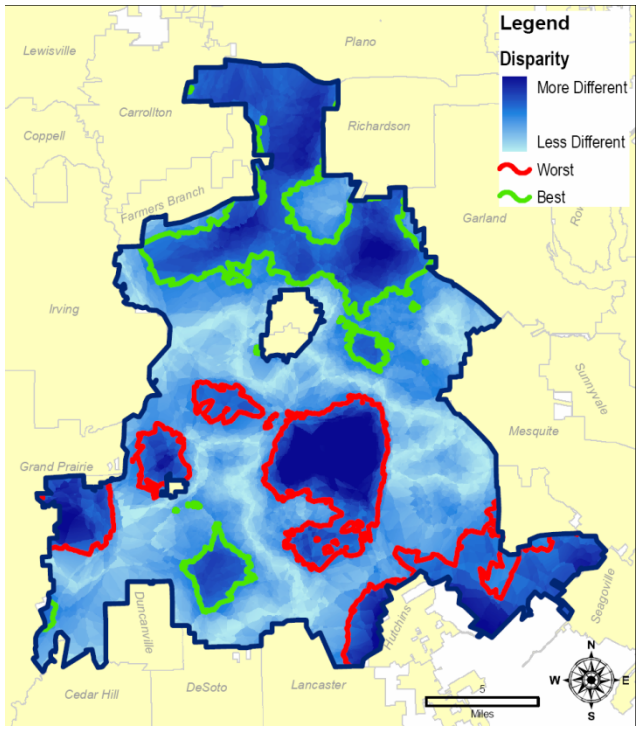


2007 Score: 55.72

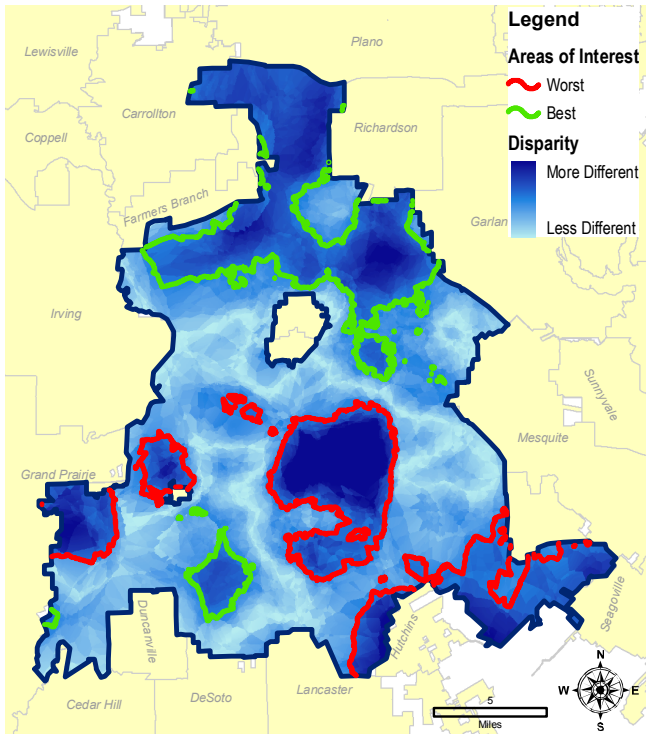


Owner Occupancy: static

2006 Score: 63.56

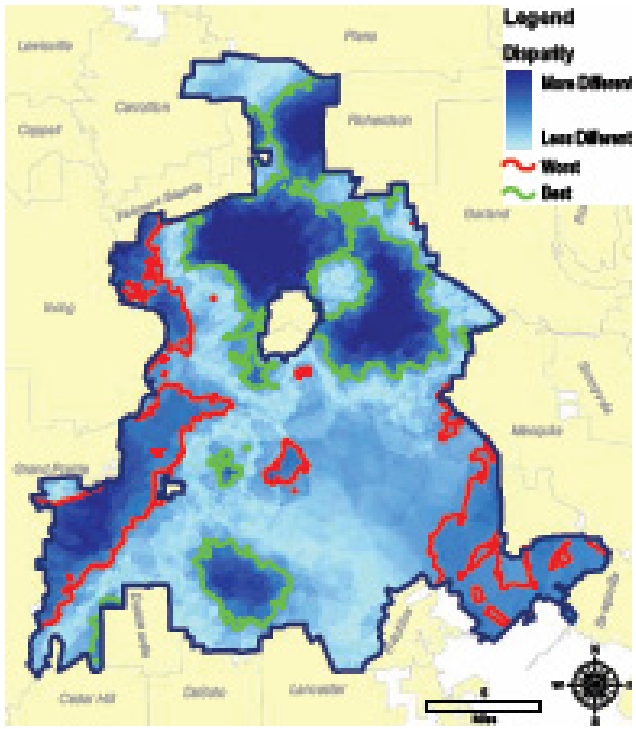


2007 Score: 63.83



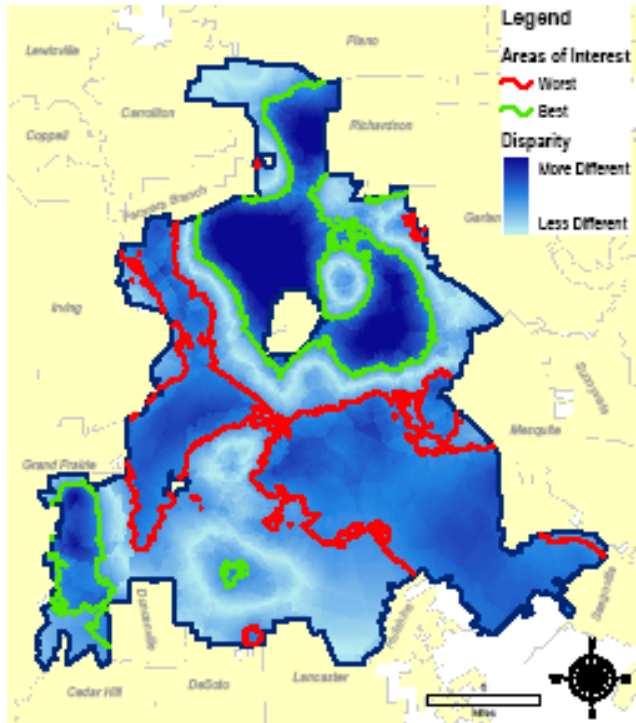
Voter Turnout: less whole

2006 Score: 71.09



November 2005 election

2007 Score: 60.09



November 2006 election

THE J. MCDONALD WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

Still in process

- Access to Retail
- Life Span (although the state database has not been updated since last year's Wholeness Index)
- Composite maps
- Total Score

THE J. MCDONALD WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

Preliminary insights

- As intended, the indicators we selected are ones that can experience change from year to year – although some may be more easily moved than others
- That means greater wholeness is achievable
- We've achieved more wholeness in crime and graduation rates, but less in voter turnout
- Overall, we may see greater wholeness

THE J. MCDONALD WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

What to expect next

Oct. 11: 2007 Wholeness Index bus tour (10 a.m. – noon)

Oct. 18: Delivery of completed Wholeness Index Report

Oct. 22: We look forward to hosting you at the Williams Institute's Third Annual Conference and hearing your thoughts on what we can do, working together, to foster wholeness

We also urge you to make use of the 5 complimentary seats we're offering to your constituents. (Erin Dowd of Carol Reed Associates is coordinating. Please have one of your assistants email edowd@carolreedassociates.com with the names of those who'll attend.)

Got questions? E-mail tbray@thewilliamsinstitute.org