



# Literacy and Poverty in Greater Cleveland

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The Literacy Cooperative  
Instructors Learning Network Launch  
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# Outline

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- Poverty Overview
  - Definitions & Rankings
  - Investment Framework
- Literacy Overview
  - Summary of Findings
  - How it fits into the investment framework



## Definition of Poverty

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How the Census Bureau measures poverty:

- Family income
- Number of persons in family
- Ages of family members

In 2005, a family of four with an income of less than **\$19,350** was considered poor.

In 2007, a family of four with an income of less than **\$20,650** is considered poor.



## 2005: City of Cleveland Ranked Number 1 in Poverty

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- Cleveland's 2005 Poverty Rate = 32.4%
- Nearly 1 in 3 Cleveland residents live in poverty
- Highest poverty rate among U.S. cities with 250,000 or more residents

# Percent of Persons in Poverty for Big Cities, 2003- 2005

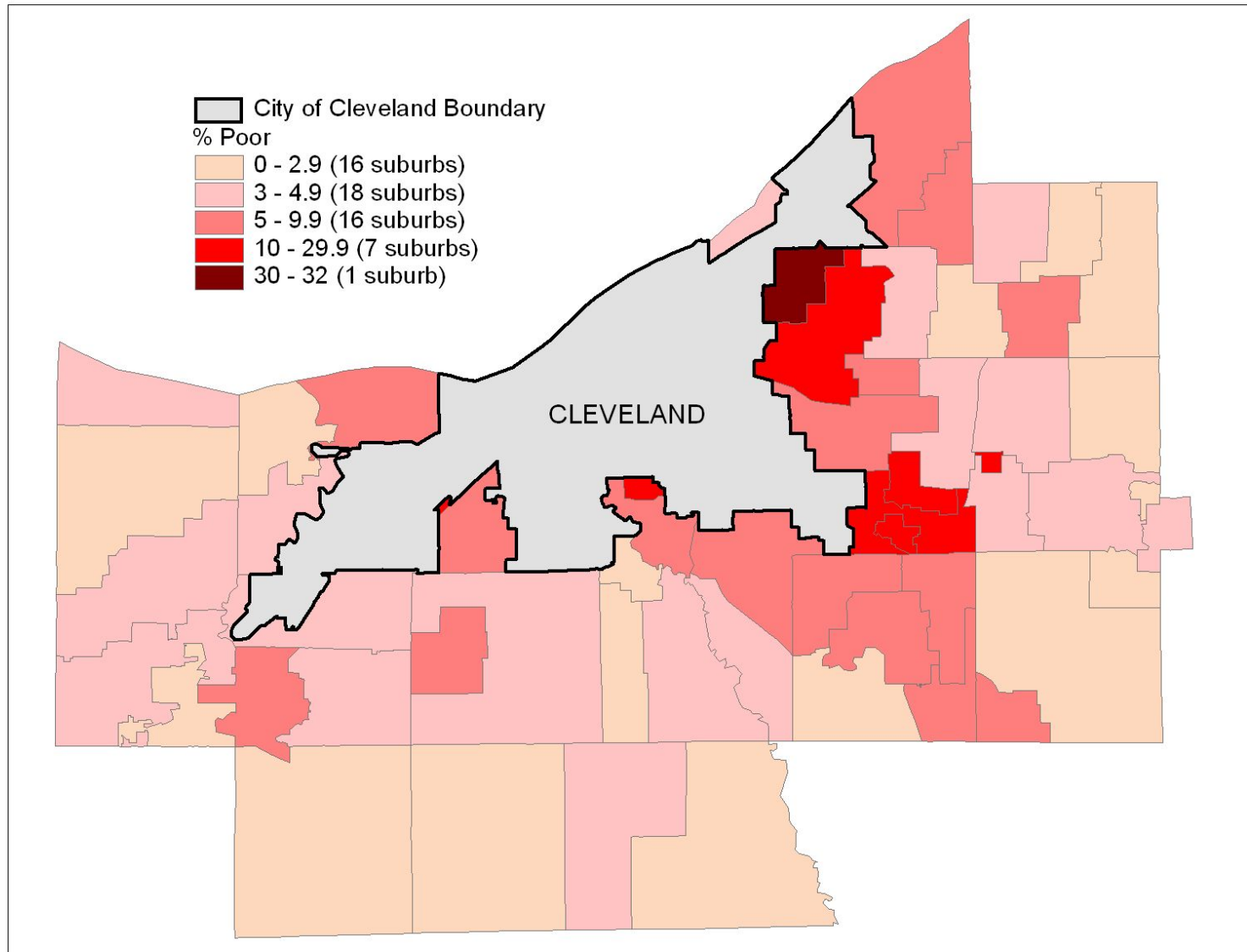
<b>Place</b>	<b>Poverty Rate, (Confidence Interval), 2003</b>	<b>Rank, 2003</b>	<b>Poverty Rate, (Confidence Interval), 2004</b>	<b>Rank, 2004</b>	<b>Poverty Rate, (Confidence Interval), 2005</b>	<b>Rank, 2005</b>
Cleveland, OH	31.3 (27.8, 34.8)	1	23.2 (19.4, 27.0)	12	32.4 (30.2, 34.6)	1
Detroit, MI	30.1 (26.8, 33.4)	3	33.6 (30.1, 37.1)	1	31.4 (29.4, 33.4)	2
Miami, FL	27.9 (23.4, 32.4)	5	28.3 (23.3, 33.3)	3	28.3 (25.9, 30.7)	3
El Paso, TX	24.5 (20.6, 28.4)	6	28.8 (25.1, 32.5)	2	27.2 (25.0, 29.4)	4
Atlanta, GA	23.5 (19.5, 27.5)	8	27.8 (23.6, 32.0)	5	26.9 (24.5, 29.3)	5
Buffalo, NY	22.0 (17.5, 26.4)	13	25.9 (21.2, 30.6)	8	26.9 (24.1, 29.7)	5
St. Louis, MO	21.8 (18.2, 25.4)	14	21.6 (17.8, 25.4)	15	25.4 (22.9, 27.9)	7
Cincinnati, OH	21.1 (16.9, 25.3)	16	19.6 (15.7, 23.5)	22	25.0 (22.3, 27.7)	8
Milwaukee, WI	22.1 (18.1, 26.1)	12	26.0 (22.8, 29.2)	7	24.9 (23.3, 26.5)	9
Newark, NJ	30.4 (24.1, 36.6)	2	28.1 (22.0, 34.2)	4	24.8 (21.7, 27.9)	10
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Plano, TX	NA	NA	NA	NA	6.3 (4.8, 7.8)	lowest

# Percent of People Living in Poverty for Selected Counties, 2005

Place	Poverty Rate, (Confidence Interval), 2005	Rank, 2005
Apache County, AZ	44.5 (37.3, 51.7)	1
Cameron County, TX	41.2 (37.5, 44.9)	2
Hidalgo County, TX	41.0 (38.7, 43.3)	3
McKinley County, NM	34.7 (27.2, 42.2)	4
Robeson County, NC	32.9 (28.7, 37.1)	5
St. Landry Parish, LA	31.7 (27.8, 35.6)	6
Webb County, TX	31.4 (27.0, 35.8)	7
Brazos County, TX	30.4 (27.5, 33.3)	8
Clarke County, GA	29.5 (26.9, 32.1)	9
Forrest County, MS	29.2 (24.8, 33.6)	10
Bronx County, NY	29.2 (27.9, 30.5)	10
El Paso County, TX	29.2 (27.2, 31.2)	10
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Cuyahoga County, OH	16.9 (15.9, 17.9)	144
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Kendall County, IL	1.2 (0.5, 1.9)	774

Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau --  
2005 American Community Survey

# Suburban Poverty Rates in Cuyahoga County, 2000

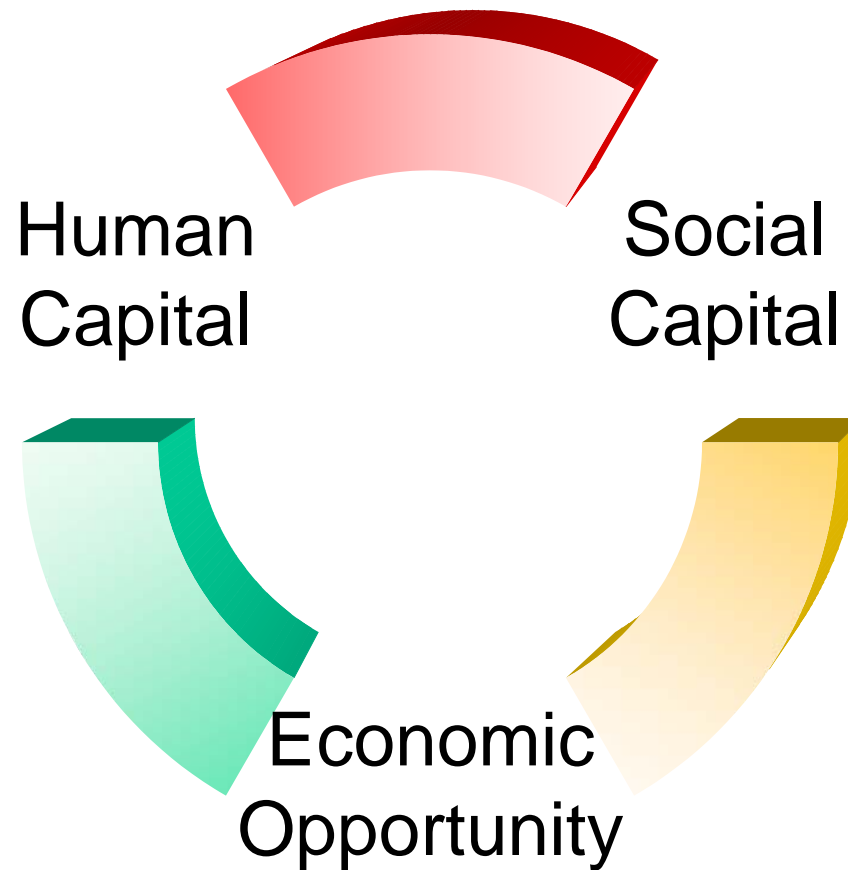


Source: Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development analysis of Census 2000 SF3 data



# Poverty: An Investment Framework

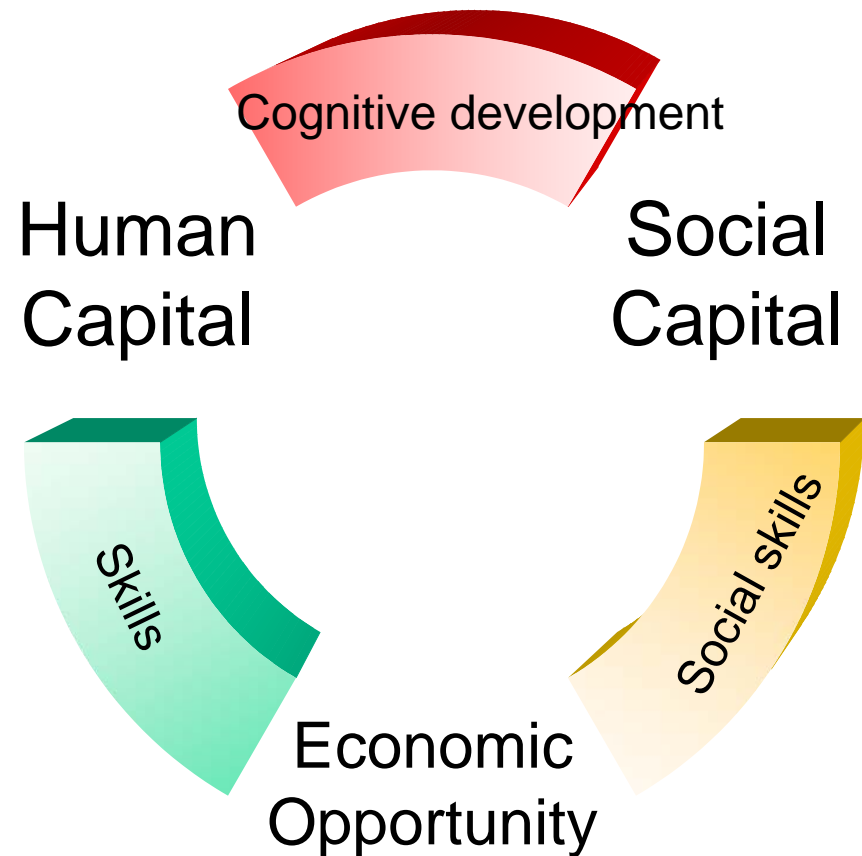
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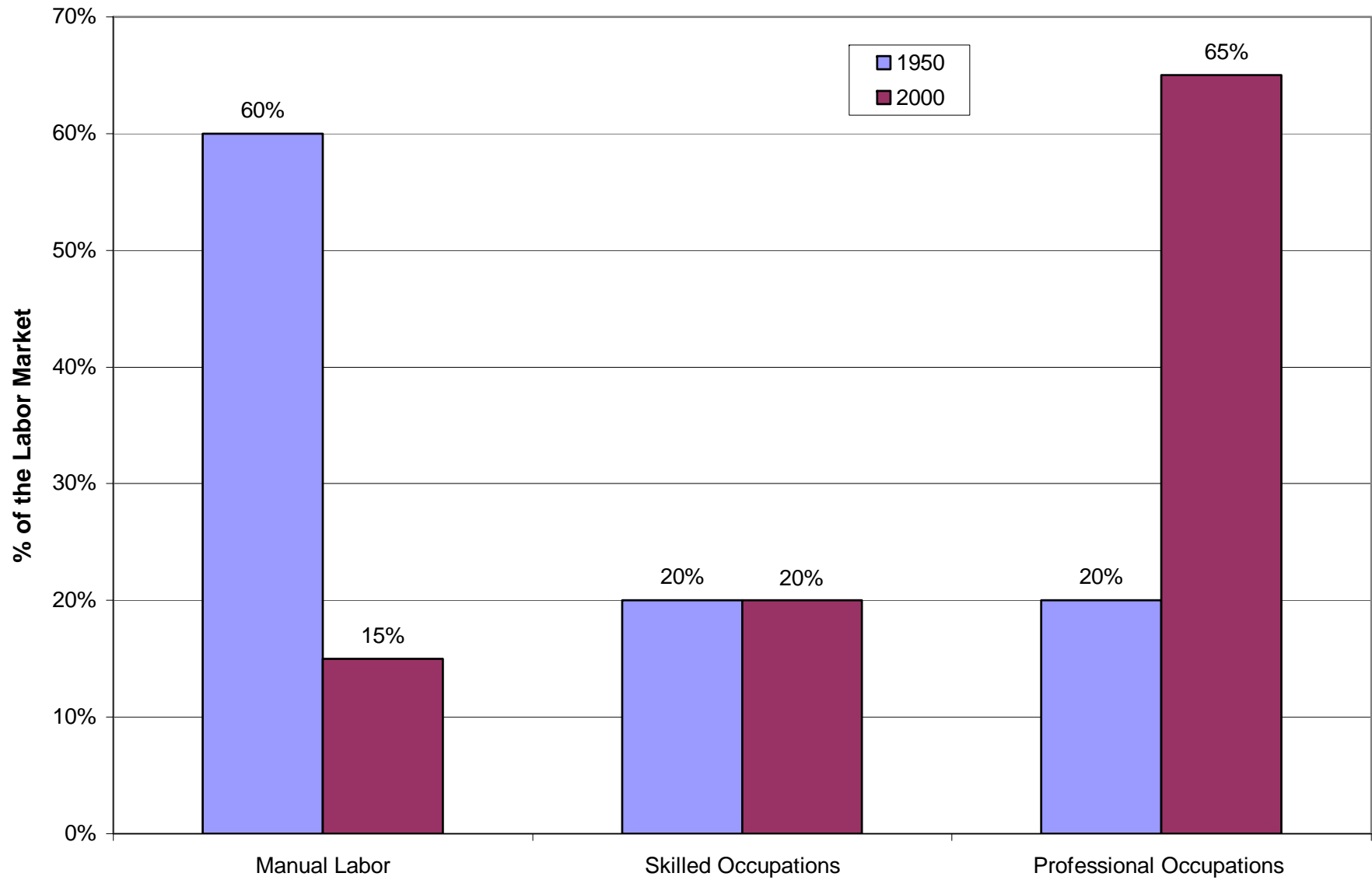
# Human Capital: Being Able to Compete in Today's Economy

New jobs require complex thinking and behavioral qualifications

Development of these capacities starts early



## Labor Market Shifts in the United States, 1950 vs. 2000





## Literacy Defined

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“...an individual's ability to read, write, speak in English, compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job, in the family of the individual, and in society.”

*-- Workforce Investment Act of 1998, U.S. Congress*

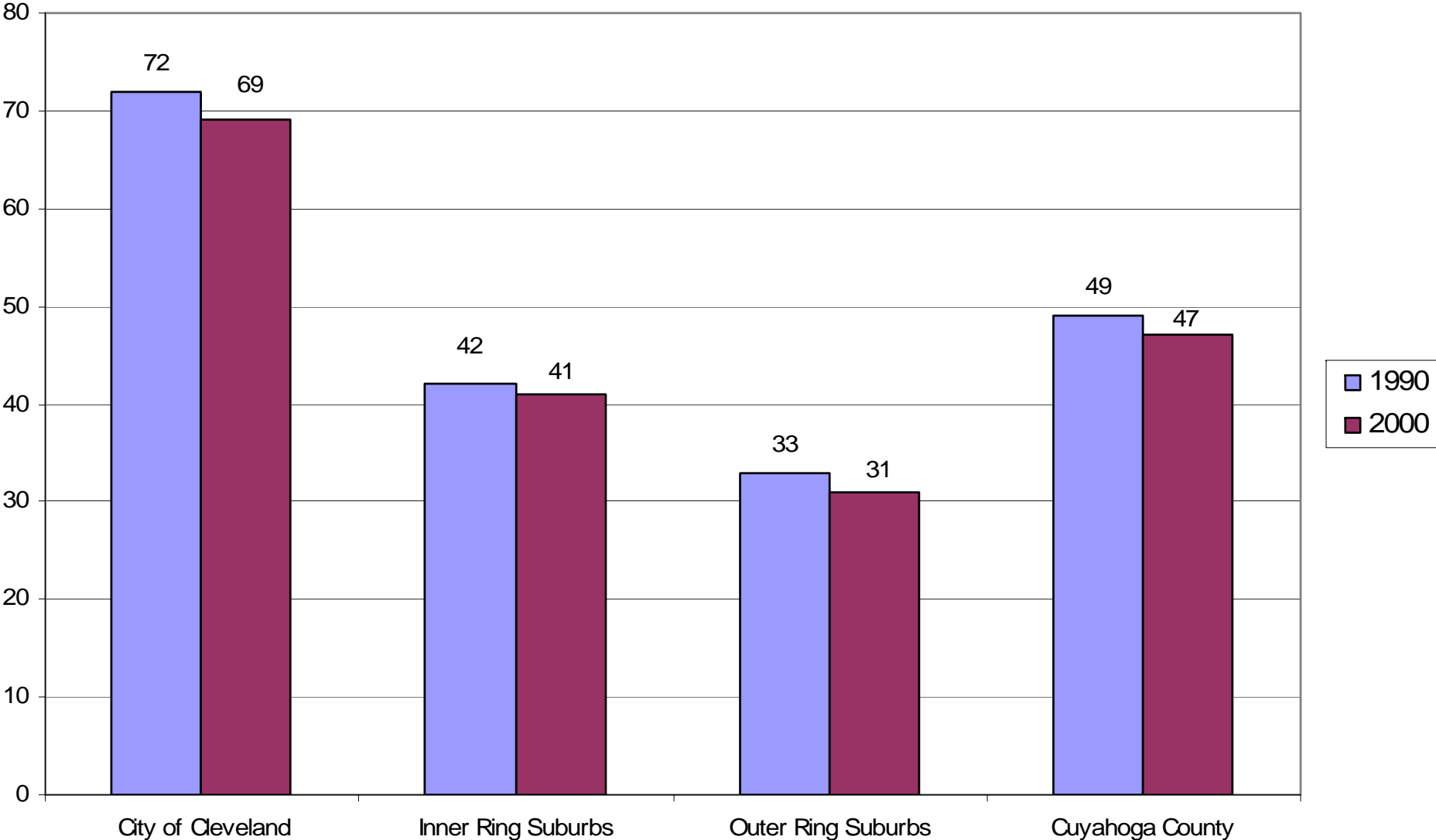


# Levels of Literacy

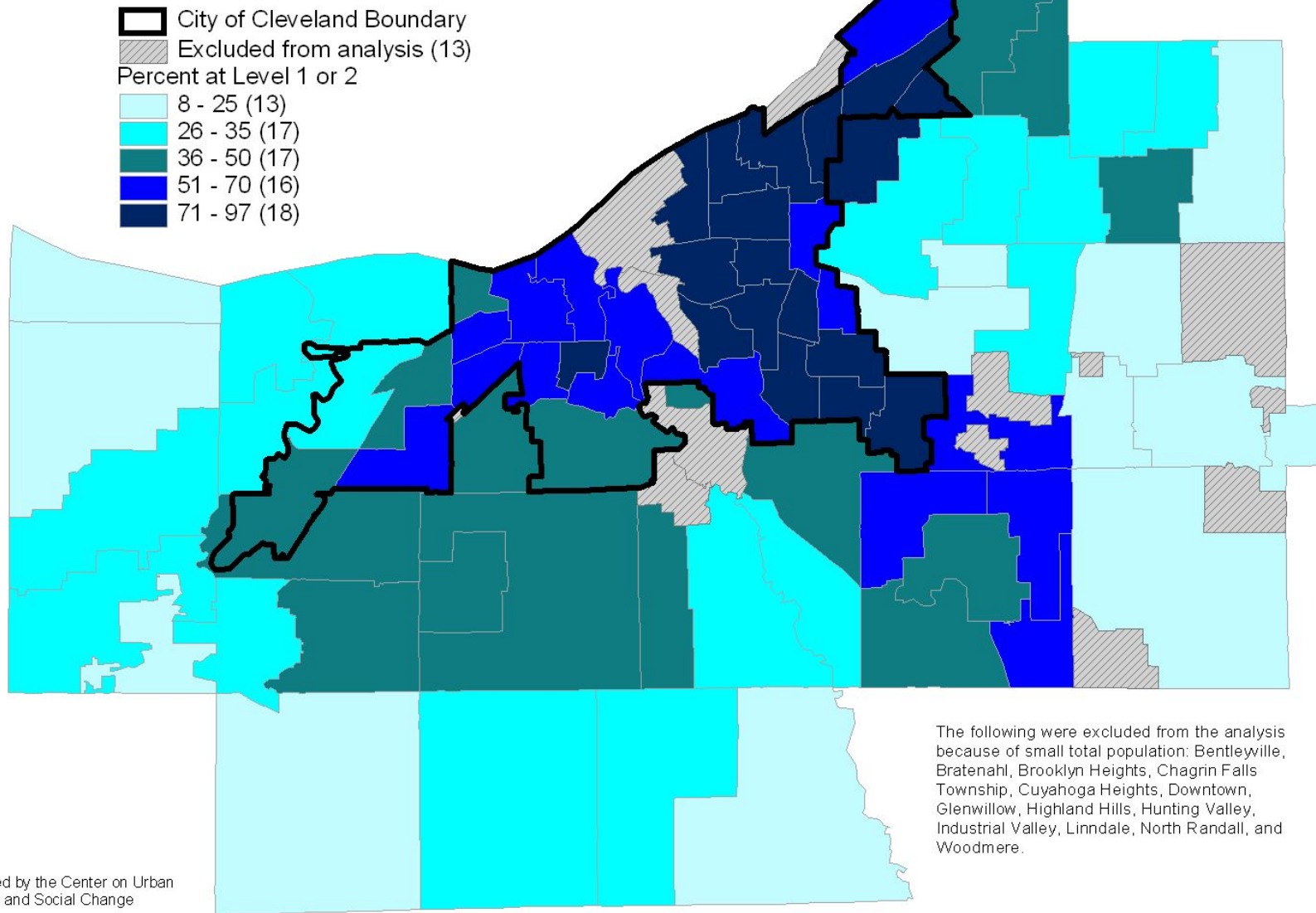
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- Level 1
  - Locate the expiration date on a driver's license
- Level 2
  - Locate an intersection on a street map
- Level 3
  - Use a bus schedule to choose the correct bus to take to get to work on time
- Level 4
  - Explain the difference between two types of benefits at work
- Level 5
  - Compare and summarize different approaches lawyers use during a trial

# Percent at Level 1 or Level 2 Literacy, 1990 vs. 2000



# Estimates for the Percent at Level 1 or Level 2 Literacy, 2000





# Why Do Low Literacy Levels Matter?

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- Costs Associated with Low Literacy:
  - Lost earning power
  - Lost family stability
  - Lack of ability to help children learn
  - Reduced productivity
  - Increased costs to society
- Nationally, low literacy skills cost businesses \$20 billion in lost wages, profits, and productivity annually.



# Literacy Factors: Early Childhood Population

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- Mother's Educational Attainment
  - Cuyahoga County, 1998 – 2002:
    - 16,593 babies born, or 18% of the births, were to mothers with less than a high school degree
- Children Living in Poverty
  - Cuyahoga County, 2005:
    - 28% of children under age 5 and their families live in poverty



# Literacy Factors: School-Age Children

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- Passage rate for 4th grade reading proficiency by school building, 2003-2004 school year:
  - 119 out of 193 Cuyahoga County public schools not meeting state requirement of 75% for 4th grade reading proficiency
    - 72 of 119 are in the Cleveland Municipal School District.

# Percent of People Aged 25 and Older Who Have Completed High School for Selected Places, 2003 - 2005

<b>Place</b>	<b>Percent</b> (Confidence Interval), <b>2003</b>	<b>Rank, 2003</b>	<b>Percent</b> (Confidence Interval), <b>2004</b>	<b>Rank, 2004</b>	<b>Percent</b> (Confidence Interval), <b>2005</b>	<b>Rank, 2005</b>
Seattle, WA	93.4 (92.2, 94.7)	1	89.9 (87.8, 92.0)	5	91.9 (90.7, 93.1)	3
Virginia Beach, VA	92.7 (91.3, 94.1)	2	92.7 (90.8, 94.6)	1	92.5 (91.7, 93.3)	1
Colorado Springs, CO	92.1 (90.1, 94.1)	3	90.7 (88.7, 92.7)	4	92.0 (90.9, 93.1)	2
Anchorage, AK	90.9 (89.5, 92.3)	4	91.9 (91.0, 92.8)	2	91.7 (90.5, 92.9)	4
Raleigh, NC	90.9 (88.7, 93.2)	4	91.4 (89.4, 93.4)	3	90.7 (89.5, 91.9)	5
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Long Beach, CA	73.7 (70.1, 77.4)	59	74.8 (71.1, 78.5)	60	75.9 (74.0, 77.9)	58
<b>Cleveland, OH</b>	<b>73.3 (71.0, 75.6)</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>76.5 (73.0, 80.0)</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>74.2 (72.8, 75.6)</b>	<b>60</b>
Houston, TX	72.9 (71.5, 74.4)	61	71.8 (70.6, 73.0)	64	72.2 (71.4, 73.0)	61
Dallas, TX	72.0 (70.1, 73.8)	62	70.5 (68.6, 72.4)	65	71.1 (69.9, 72.3)	64
Los Angeles, CA	71.1 (69.9, 72.4)	63	70.1 (68.8, 71.4)	67	72.0 (71.3, 72.7)	62
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Santa Ana, CA	49.4 (43.9, 54.9)	70 of 70	51.4 (45.6, 57.2)	70 of 70	50.1 (47.4, 52.8)	70 of 70

Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau --  
American Community Surveys in 2003, 2004, and 2005

## Percent of People Aged 25 and Older Who Have Completed a Bachelor's Degree for Selected Places, 2003 - 2005

Place	Percent	Rank, 2003	Percent	Rank, 2004	Percent	Rank, 2005
	(Confidence Interval), 2003		(Confidence Interval), 2004		(Confidence Interval), 2005	
Seattle, WA	51.6 (49.0, 54.3)	1	51.3 (48.1, 54.5)	1	52.7 (51.4, 54.0)	1
Raleigh, NC	49.5 (46.0, 53.0)	2	49.7 (46.0, 53.4)	3	50.1 (48.3, 51.9)	2
San Francisco, CA	48.6 (47.5, 49.7)	3	51.0 (49.9, 52.1)	2	50.1 (48.8, 51.4)	2
Washington, DC	44.2 (43.0, 45.3)	4	47.7 (46.4, 49.0)	4	45.3 (44.2, 46.4)	4
Minneapolis, MN	42.5 (39.2, 45.7)	5	41.1 (37.7, 44.5)	7	43.2 (41.1, 45.3)	6
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Miami, FL	18.0 (15.4, 20.5)	64	20.2 (16.7, 23.7)	59	20.2 (18.2, 22.2)	60
El Paso, TX	17.0 (14.8, 19.1)	65	21.8 (19.3, 24.3)	55	19.1 (17.7, 20.5)	62
Stockton, CA	15.0 (11.6, 18.4)	66	15.8 (12.7, 18.9)	65	17.0 (15.3, 18.7)	66
Cleveland, OH	14.3 (11.9, 16.6)	67	14.3 (12.1, 16.5)	67	12.6 (11.7, 13.5)	67
Newark, NJ	11.4 (8.2, 14.6)	68	10.2 (6.2, 14.2)	69	12.6 (10.7, 14.5)	67
Santa Ana, CA	10.7 (7.8, 13.6)	69	7.7 (5.6, 9.8)	70 of 70	10.2 (8.3, 12.1)	70 of 70
Detroit, MI	10.5 (9.1, 11.9)	70 of 70	10.6 (9.0, 12.2)	68	12.1 (11.3, 12.9)	69

Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau --  
American Community Surveys in 2003, 2004, and 2005



# Ways to Invest in Human Capital

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- **Healthy births** and newborn home visits to reach families early
- **Early Childhood Programs** for at-risk children pay off ten fold
  - **Quality child care**
  - **Home visiting and parent programs** from birth to three
  - **Universal preschool of high quality**



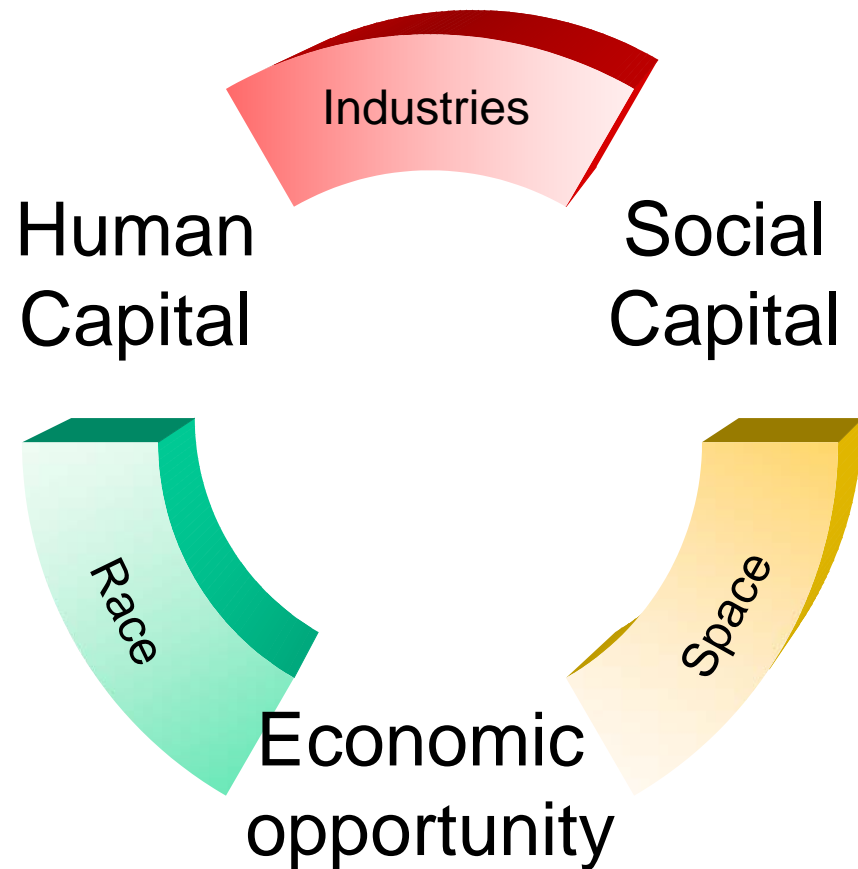
## Ways to Invest in Human Capital, cont.

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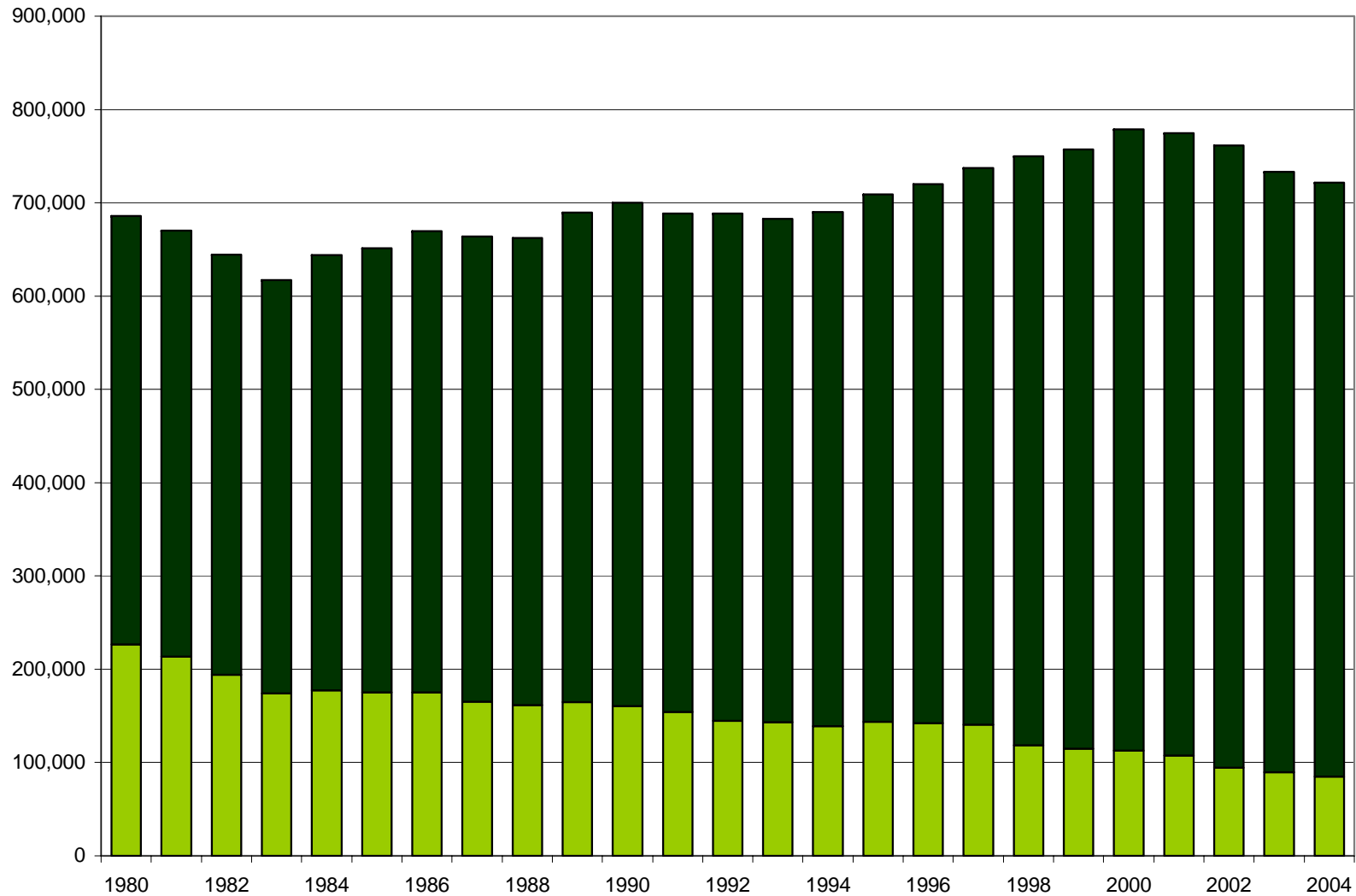
- **Adult job education and training** can raise employment rates
- **Attract and retain** educated workers and invest in their continued development

# Economic Opportunity: Enables Individuals to Earn Their Way Out of Poverty

Industrial structure determines who gets jobs, what they pay, where they lead.

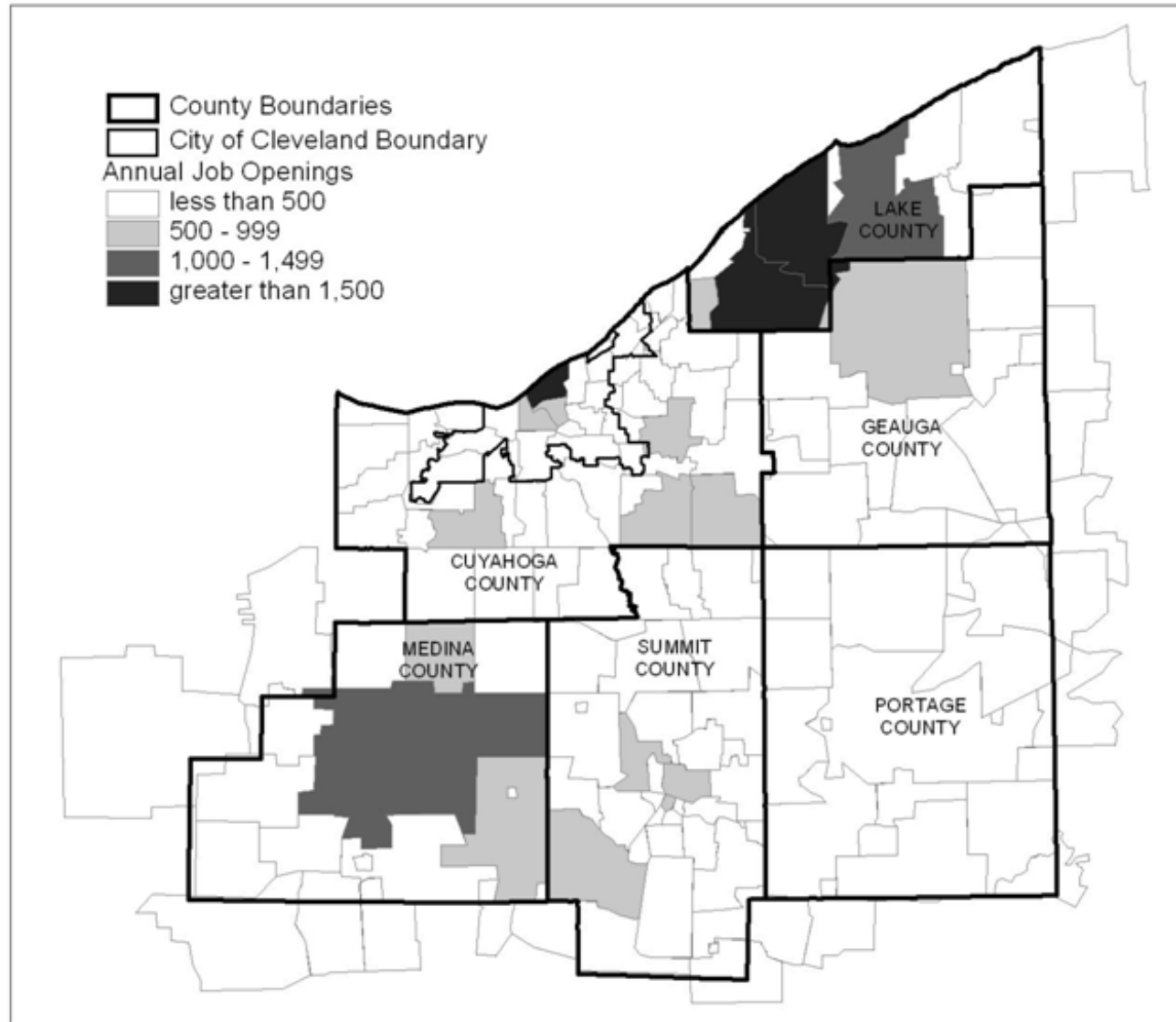


# Trends in Employment and Manufacturing Employment in Cuyahoga County, 1980 - 2004



Source: Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development Analysis of Labor Market Information from ODJFS and County Business Patterns data retrieved February 24, 2005 from the University of Virginia, Geospatial and Statistical Data Center  
<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/cbp/>

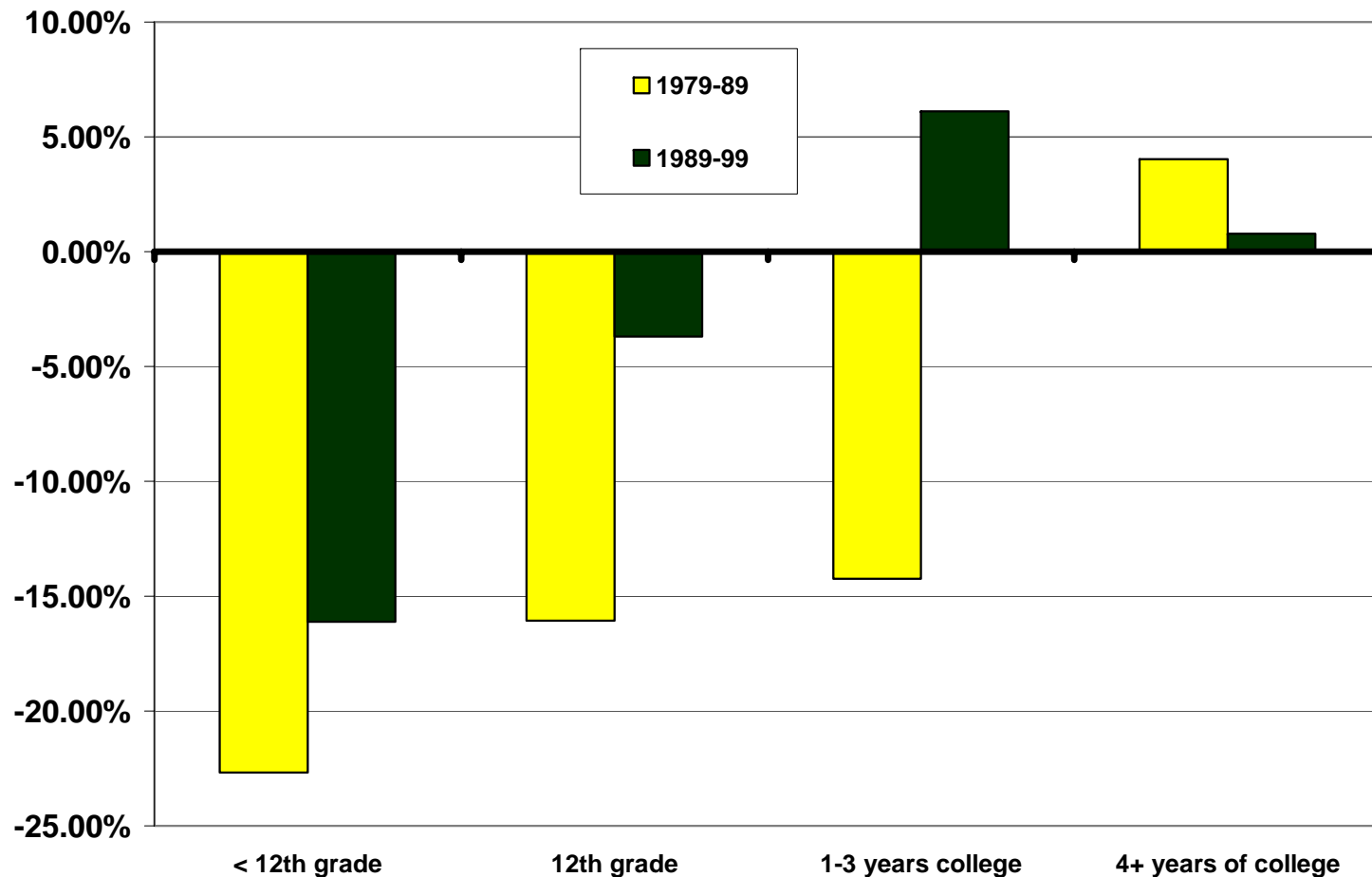
# Annual Job Openings, 1995-2005 Cleveland-Akron Metropolitan Area by ZIP Code



Prepared by the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development based on analysis conducted by Leete and Bania (1995)

# Percent Change in Median Hourly Wages for Men by Education Level in Cuyahoga County, 1979 - 1999

(Adjusted to 1999 constant dollars)



Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development analysis of the Census Bureau's Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).

Extracted from the University of Minnesota's Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS)



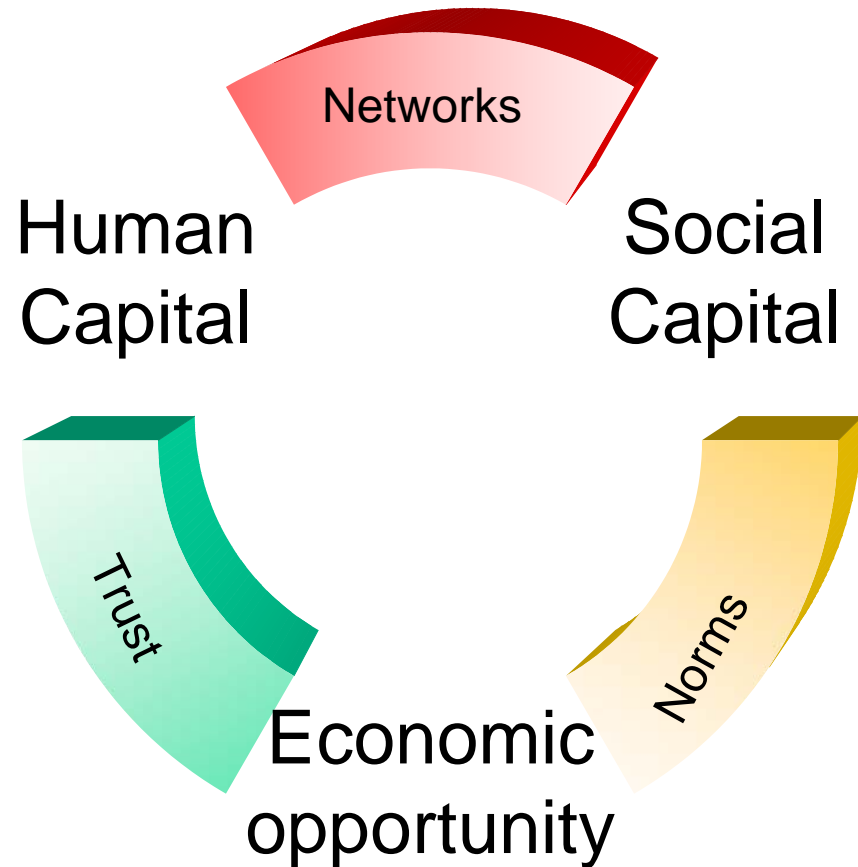
# Ways to Invest in Economic Opportunities

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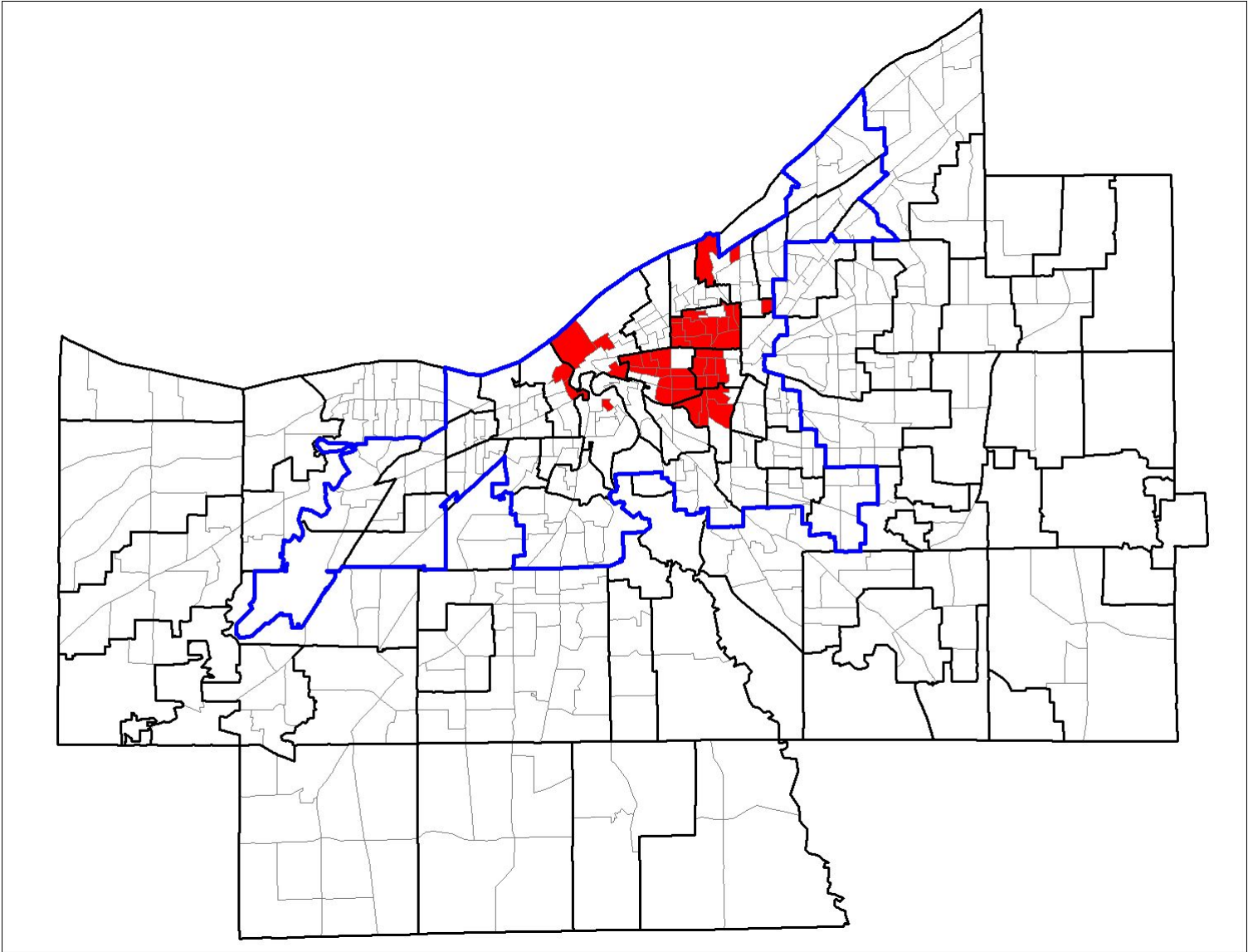
- **Inclusionary housing** development allows lower skill workers to live near jobs
- **Regional economic development** reduces non productive competition, promotes winners
- **Bridges to work** programs overcome spatial and racial divide

# Social Capital: Enables Individuals and Communities to Reach Goals

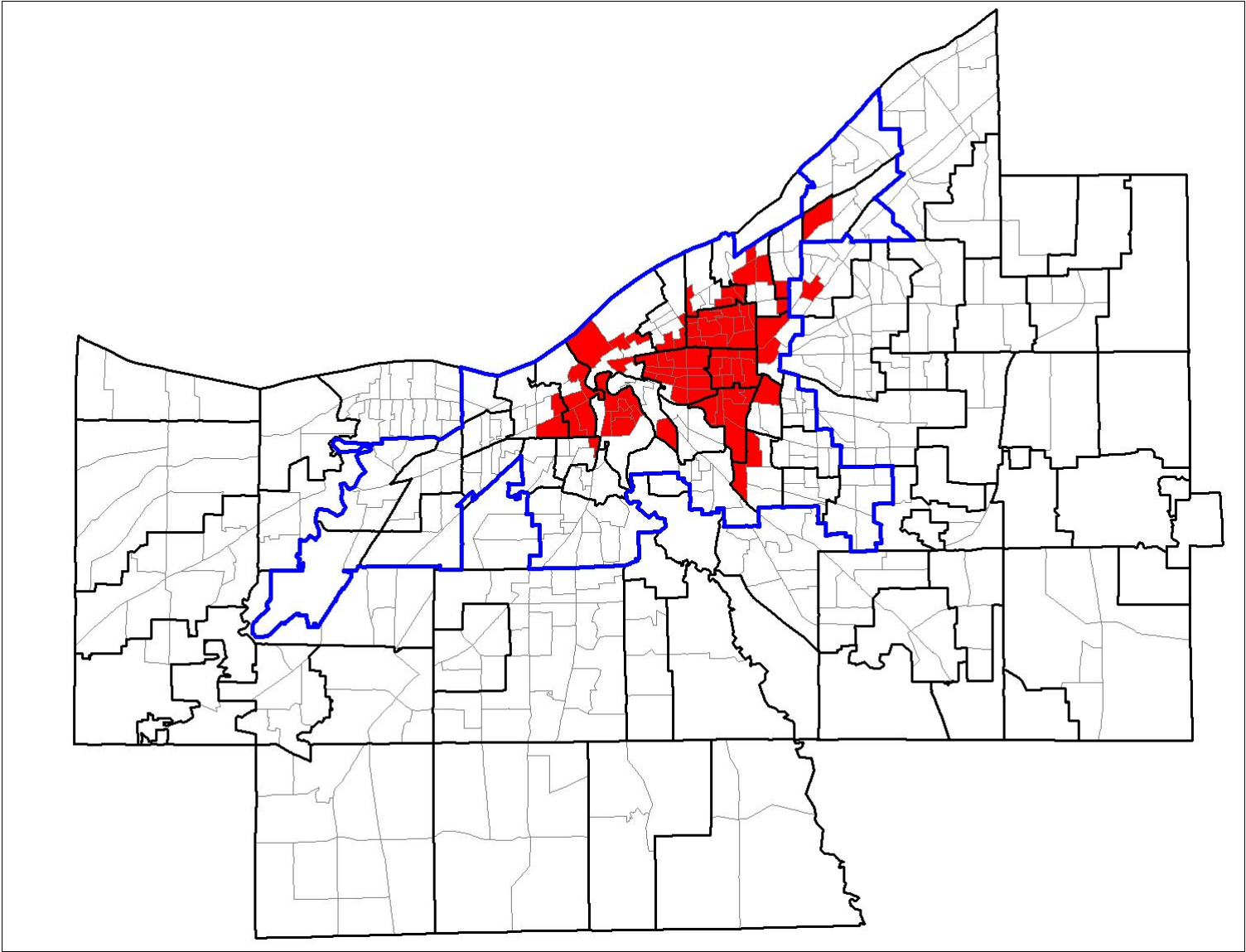
Poverty undermines social capital, especially in high concentrations



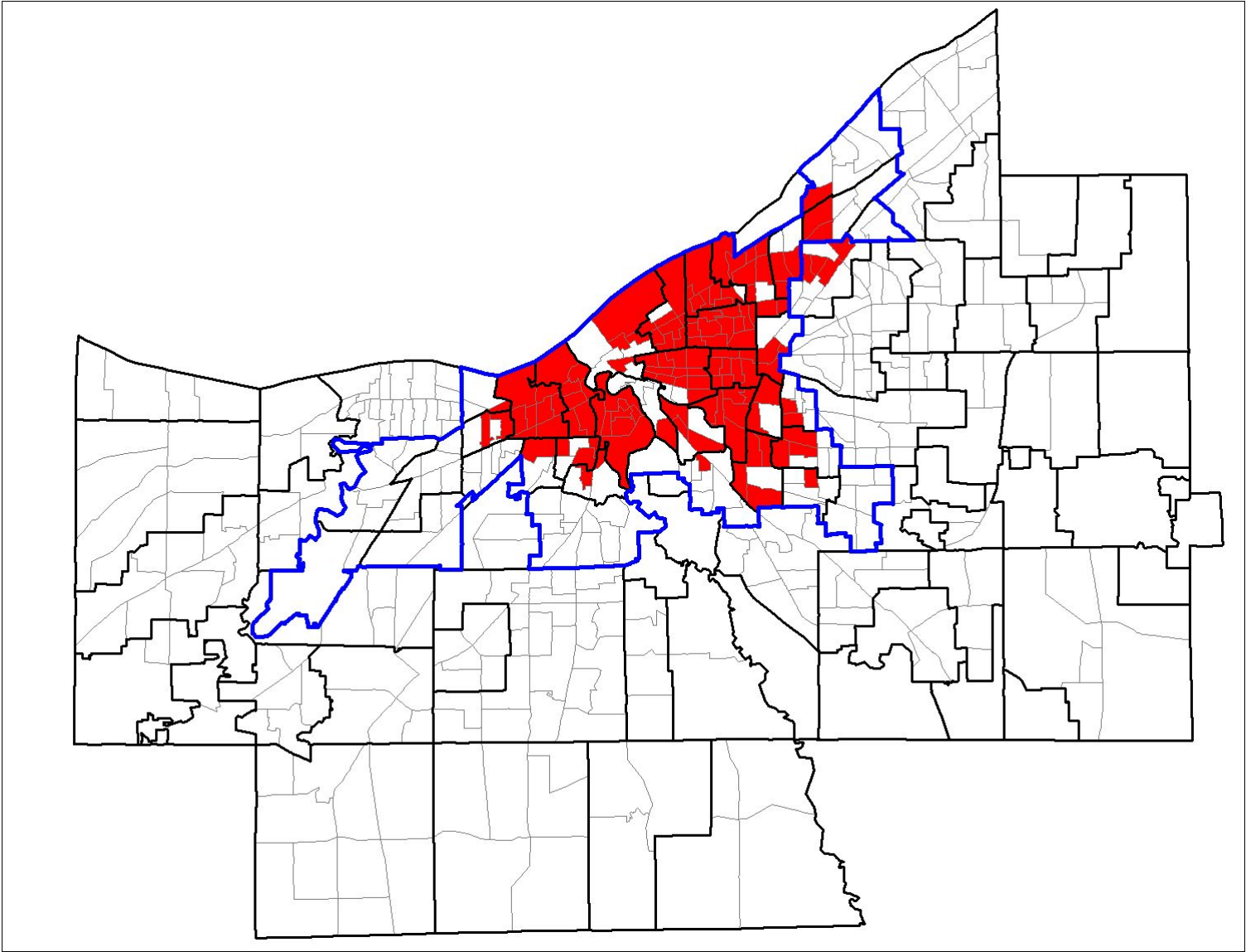
# Concentrated Poverty in High Poverty Tracts, 1970



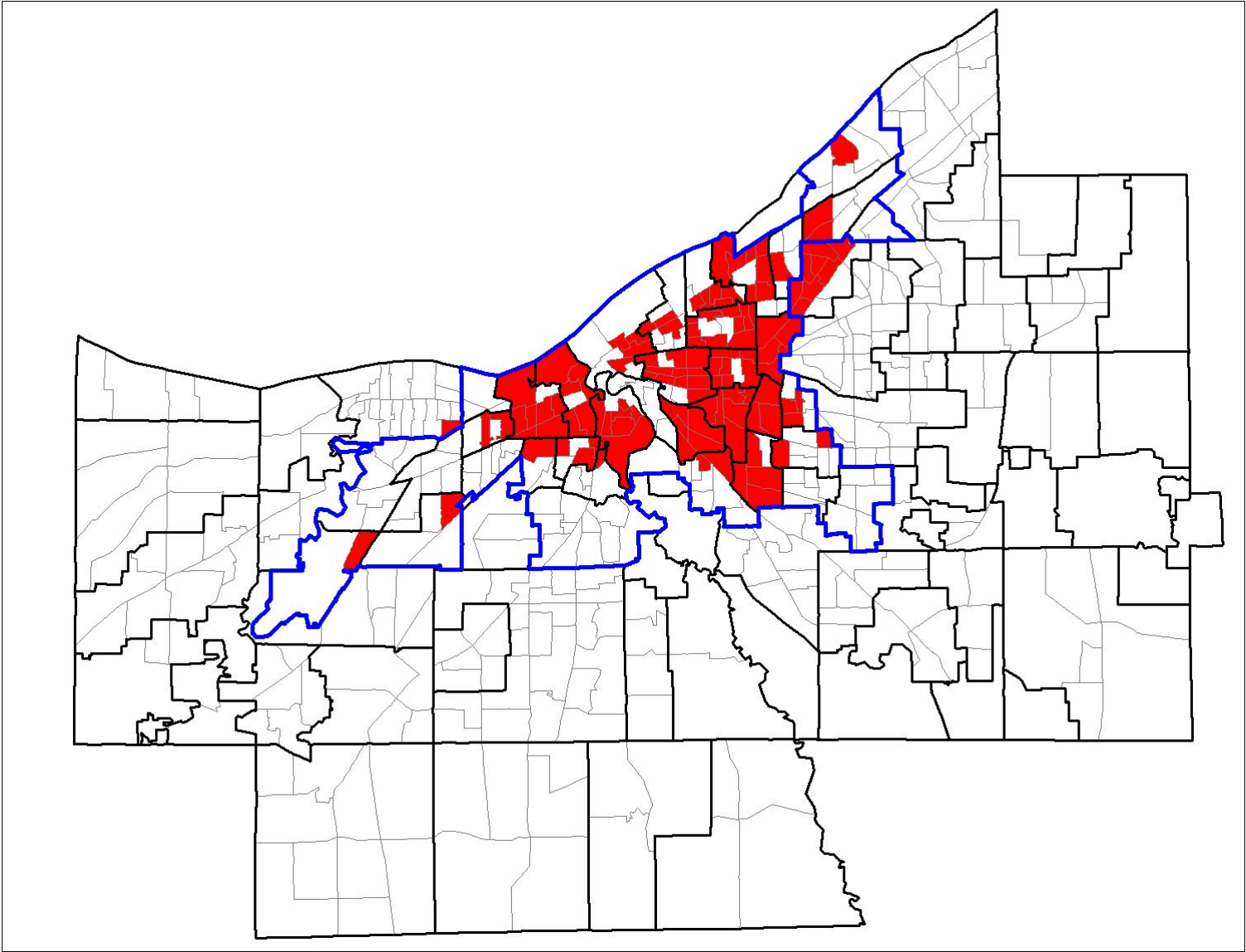
# Concentrated Poverty in High Poverty Tracts, 1980



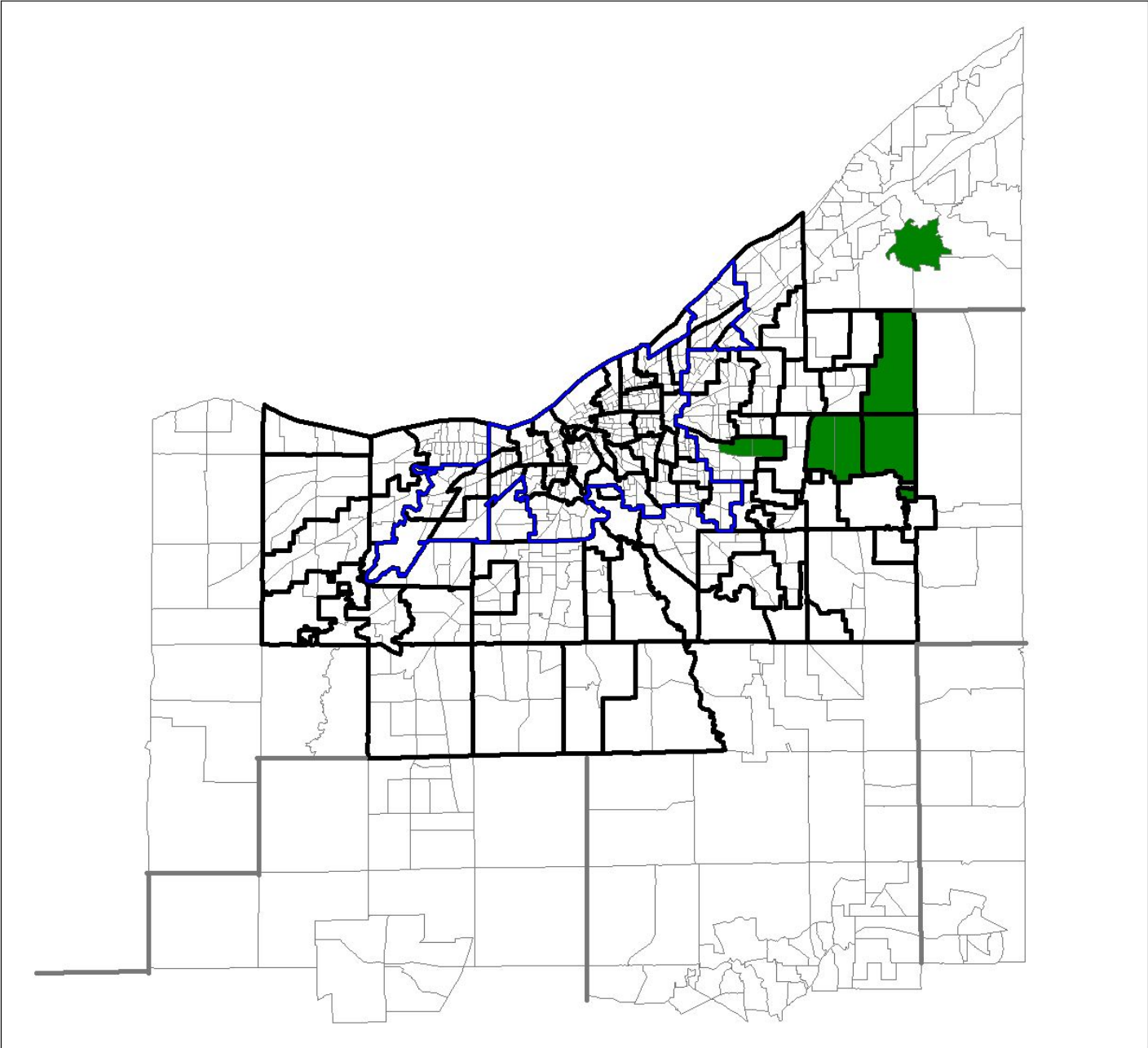
# Concentrated Poverty in High Poverty Tracts, 1990



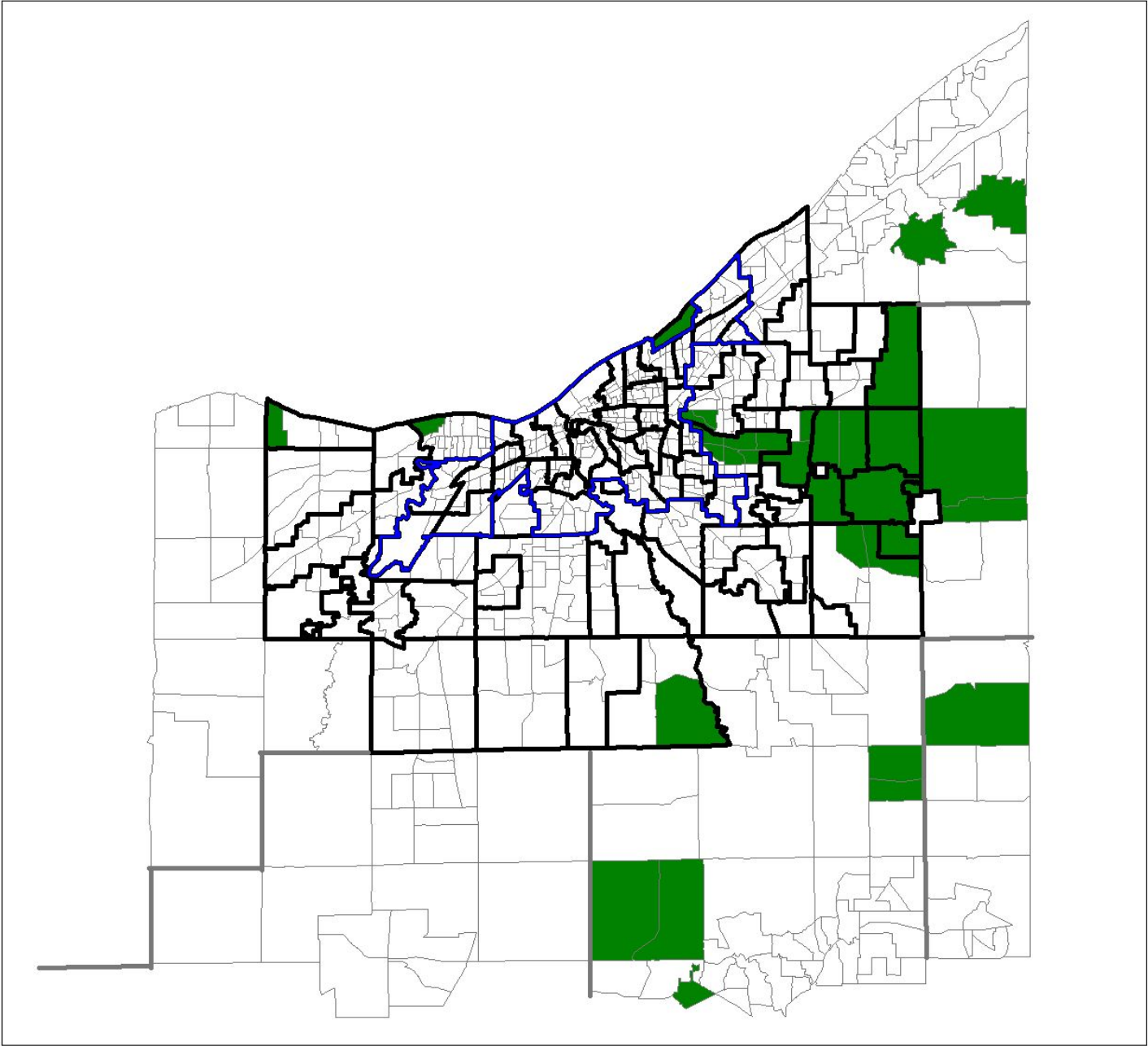
# Concentrated Poverty in High Poverty Tracts, 2000



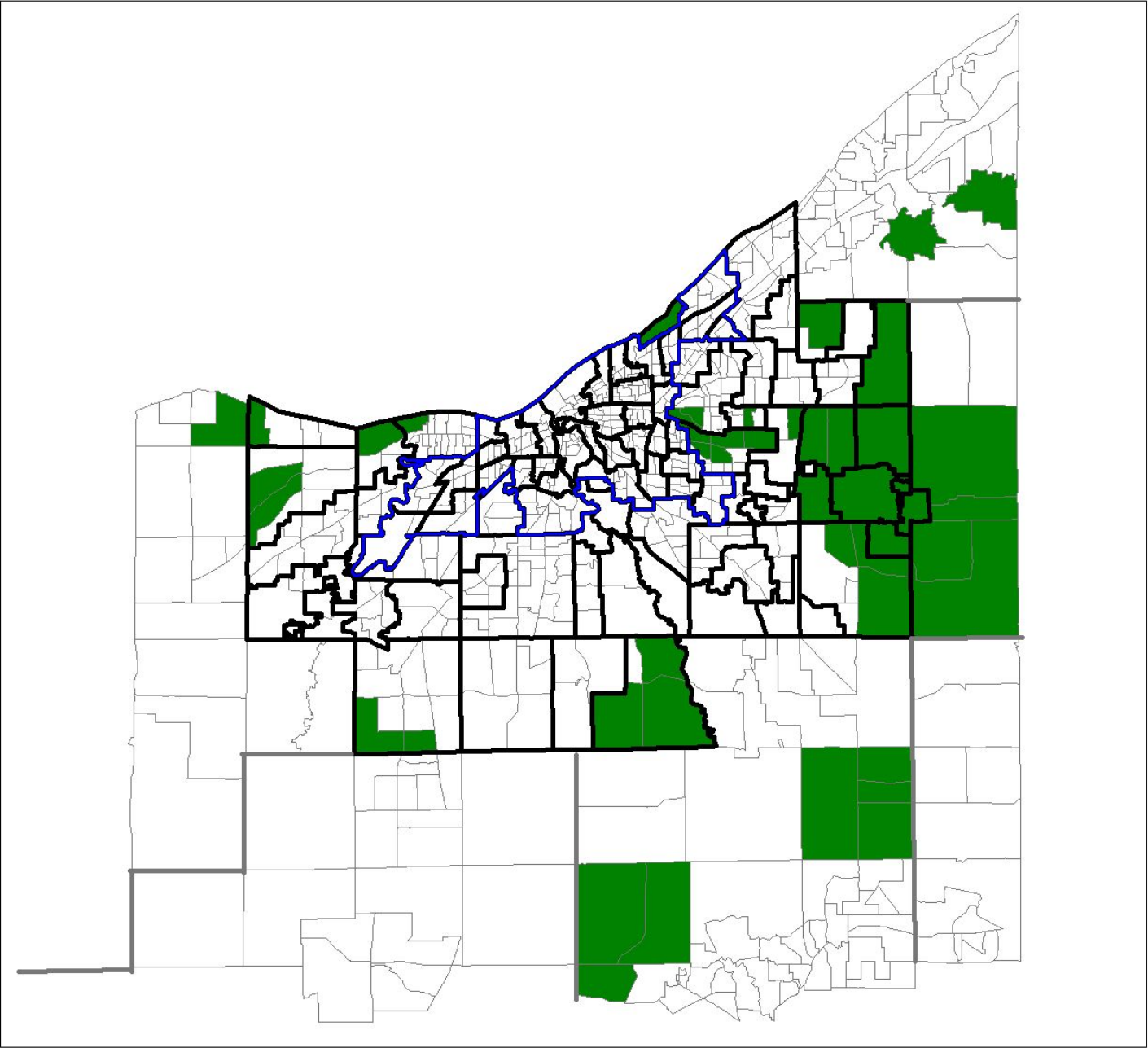
# Concentrated Affluence in Extreme Affluence Tracts, 1980



# Concentrated Affluence in Extreme Affluence Tracts, 1990



# Concentrated Affluence in Extreme Affluence Tracts, 2000





## Ways to Invest in Social Capital

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- **Community development** creates more stable and mixed income neighborhoods
- **Community building** strengthens networks and relationships within and between neighborhoods
- **Civic society** engages people and builds trust
- **Social control** promotes order and enables goal achievement



## Decades of Change in Cleveland

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- Education of workforce has not kept pace
- Manufacturing declines – jobs move to suburbs
- Poverty concentration grows and spreads
- Affluence concentrates at outskirts
- Population spreads, leaves poor behind



# Conclusions

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- In 1960, Cleveland *was* the region.
- Number 1 ranking in poverty resulted from 40 years of losses.
- Must invest in human and social capital and rebuild the opportunity structure of the region.
- Given the enormity of the problem, must adopt strategies with the greatest promise.



# Contact Information

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