WHERE ARE BALTIMORE CITY’S OPPORTUNITY YOUTH?

USING MAPPING TO CHARACTERIZE AREAS OF BALTIMORE CITY WITH HIGH RATES OF YOUTH DISCONNECTION

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Terminology
- Project Introduction & Overview
- Methods
- Findings
- Discussion
- Limitations & Challenges
- Acknowledgements
- References
WHAT ARE “OPPORTUNITY YOUTH?”

• Youth between the ages of 16-24 years of age who are neither in school nor working
• Commonly called “disconnected youth” HOWEVER…..

From a public health perspective, “opportunity youth” is better phrasing in order to represent the potential for large economic, social, and public health gains to be had with reengaging youth at this level.
PROJECT INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW
Nationally, one out of seven young people between 16-24 are disconnected from education and employment.\textsuperscript{1,3}

Maryland alone has an estimated 85,000 youth out of work and school.\textsuperscript{3}

Baltimore City has one of the highest rates of OY in the state of Maryland\textsuperscript{3,6}

It is important to know where in Baltimore City most OY are in order to target reengagement efforts and identify factors associated with youth disconnection.
The San Diego Youth Opportunity Pathways Initiative was implemented to address the crisis of disconnected youth in San Diego, California. Used geospatial data and mapping to identify areas of the city with high youth disconnection based on educational and economic indicators. Successfully implemented pilot reengagement program in areas with high OY density.
AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- Conduct landscape review of OY mapping projects
- Use map model from San Diego Youth Pathways Initiative to analyze youth-related cross-sectoral data
- Compose Esri story map in ArcGIS
- Identify areas in Baltimore City with highest density of opportunity youth
- Compose technical report documenting findings
METHODS & DATA SOURCES
METHODS: OY MAPS

- Upload ACS Living Atlas Shapefiles into ArcGIS
- Calculate OY Count Data per tract
- Calculate OY Percent per tract Data
- Upload BNIA CSA files
- Join features
- Repeat for Education & Demographic variables
- Extract graphs and statistics from spatial data
DATA SOURCES

- US Census Data 2010
- American Community Statistical Survey (ACS 2014-18): Youth School, Work, and Activity Variables
- Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance – Education and Youth 2015
- BNIA Community Statistical Areas to Census Tracts
FINDINGS
• A total of **17,910** opportunity youth (ages 16-24) in Baltimore City according to data from the American Community Survey 2008-12

HIGHEST OY DENSITIES BY CENSUS TRACT AND COMMUNITY STATISTICAL AREA
Community Statistical Areas (CSAs) with highest percentages of OY

- Midtown (69.80%)
- Greater Govans (59.40%)
- Southern Park Heights (42%)
- Parts of Mt. Washington Colespring (38.90%)
- Dickeyville/Franklintown (37.10%)
- Penn North/Reservoir Hill (37.00%)
- Midway Cold-Stream (33.50%)
- Beechfield/Ten Hills/West Hills (31.50%)
- Southwest Baltimore (29.90%)
- Pimlico/Arlington/Hilton (24.40%)
DISCUSSION

- Proximity of high OY density areas suggest spatial relationship between youth disconnection and neighborhood indicators.

- Over half of 16 to 19-year olds in some CSAs of Baltimore City (Greater Govans, Midtown) are experiencing youth disconnection. These areas should be prioritized for youth reengagement.

- Further research is needed to characterize relationship between geospatial factors contributing to youth disconnection.
LIMITATIONS & CHALLENGES

• ACS Estimates limited to 16 to 19 age range
  • Instead of 16-24 which typically used for characterizing OY
• Baltimore Neighborhood boundaries consistently changing
• Cross-sectional analysis so cannot establish temporality or causality
• Time Constraints
• COVID-19
  • Changes to project
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Questions?