

# Examining Spatial Mismatch in the Twin Cities Metro

Urban GIS Seminar  
Macalester College, St. Paul  
in association with the  
Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis  
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# Spatial Mismatch Hypothesis

- Kain, 1968
  - African American men
- Expanded focus to include all minorities and gender

# Approaches to Studying SMH

- **Commuting distance/time**
  - Journey-to-work data used to measure distance or time between work and home
- **Job availability**
  - Link between type of worker, employment, and wage rate
- **Job accessibility**
  - e.g. Density of jobs per worker within commuting zones
- **Labor market “tightness”**
  - Incidence of lower vacancy rates and lower wages in areas affected by spatial mismatch

# Research Questions

- What is the extent of spatial mismatch in the Twin Cities?
- What is the level of spatial mismatch for different areas and for different groups?
- How does transportation in the Twin Cities shape the spatial mismatch?

# Data Sources

- MN Dept of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
  - Residential Area Characteristics (RAC)
  - Worker Area Characteristics (WAC)
  - Origin-Destination (OD)
- HousingLink
  - Affordable housing (rent or mortgage payment is 30% or less of gross household income)
    - Public housing
    - Section 8 housing choice voucher
    - Project-based Section 8 housing
- U.S. Census 2000
- Metropolitan Council

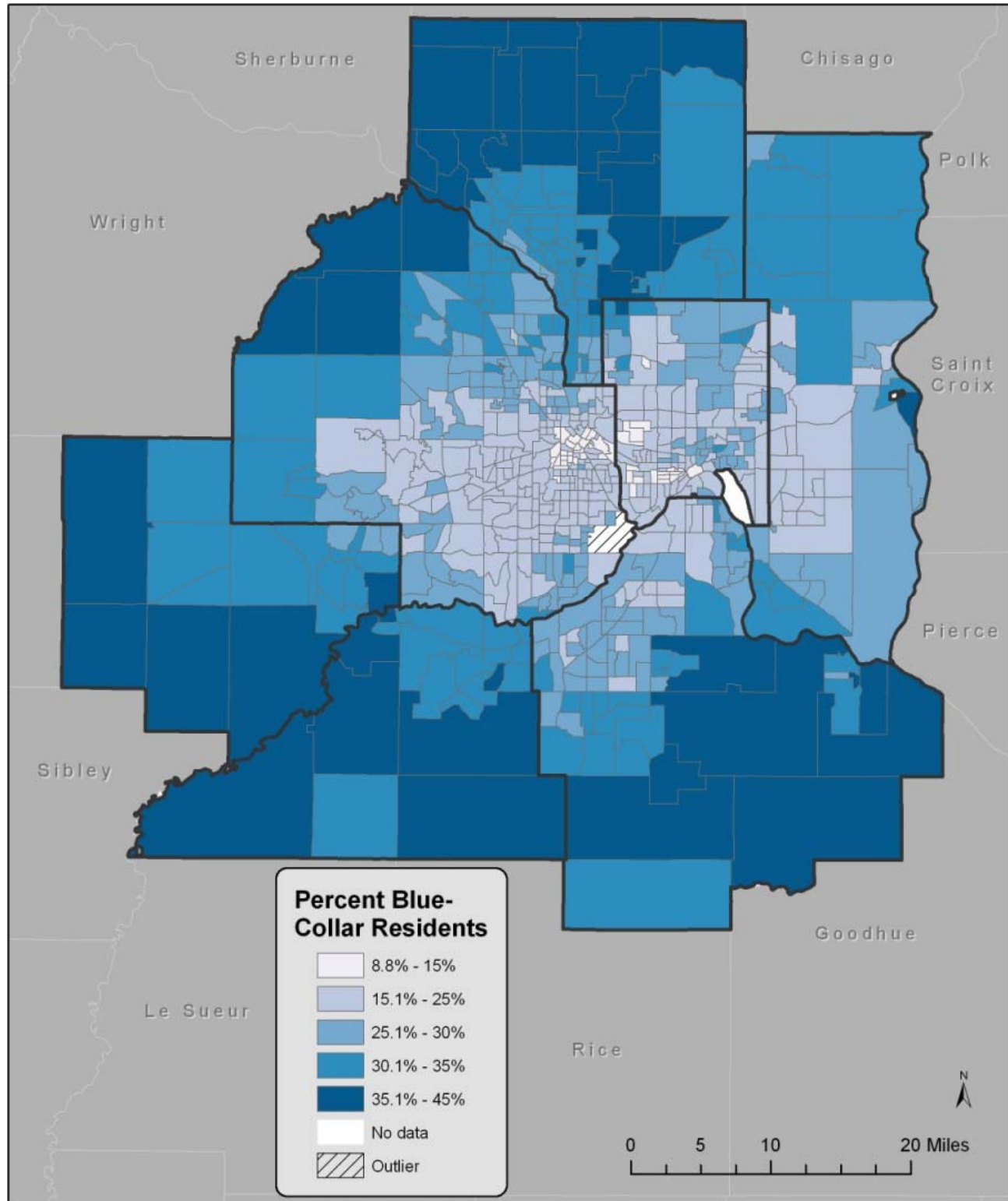
# What is the extent of spatial mismatch in the Twin Cities?

- Workers overview
- Jobs overview
- Comparison of jobs to affordable housing
- Comparison of jobs and other housing characteristics
- Comparison of jobs to workers

# Workers Overview

Residential Area  
Characteristics (RAC)

# Percent Blue-Collar Residents

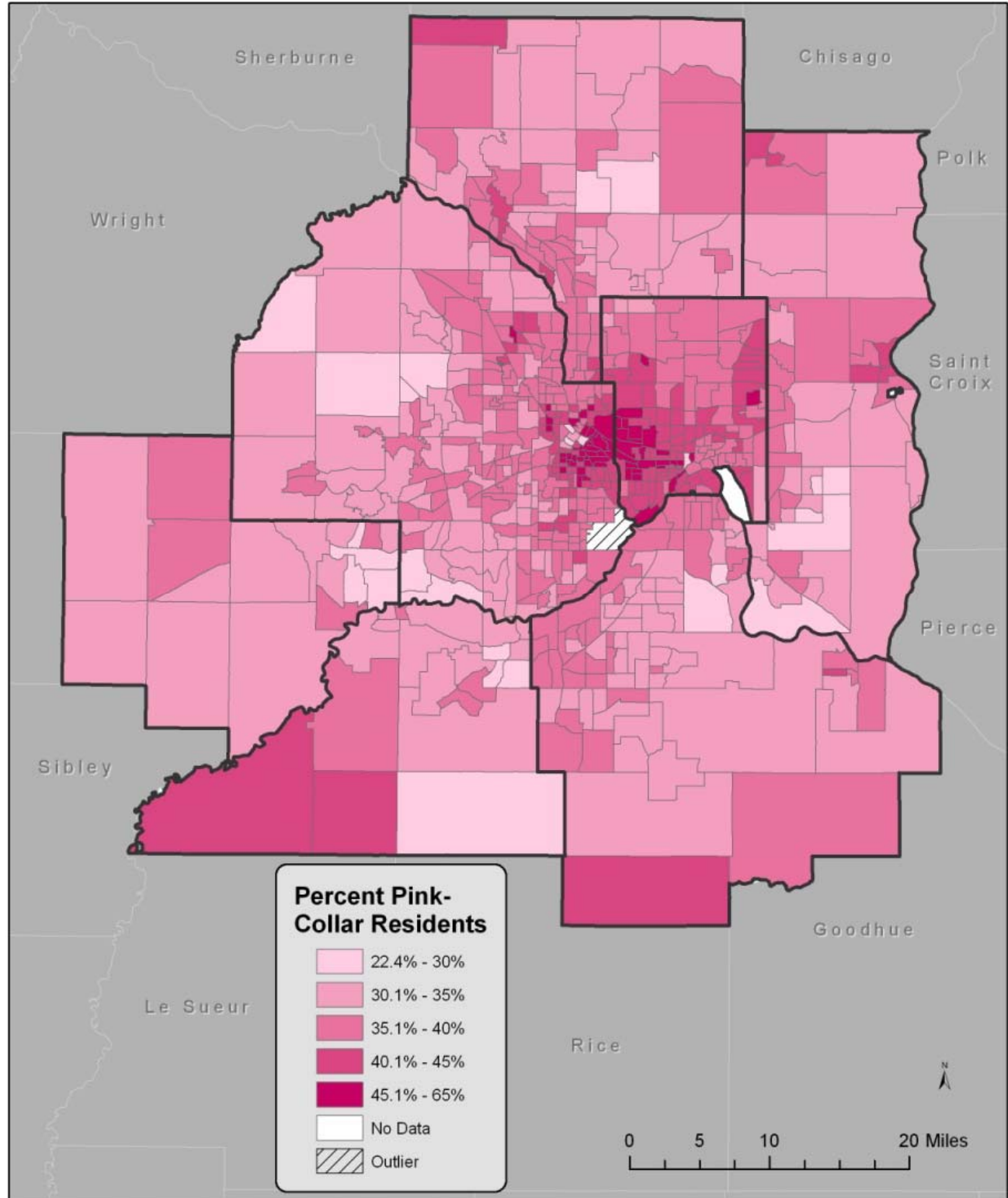


Elana Dahlberg, Megan Grinde, Ellie Messenger, Petra Norlund, U.S. Census Bureau, and LEHD Program, MN Dept of Employment and Economic Development, April 10, 2008

- High concentrations of blue-collar residents in outer suburbs



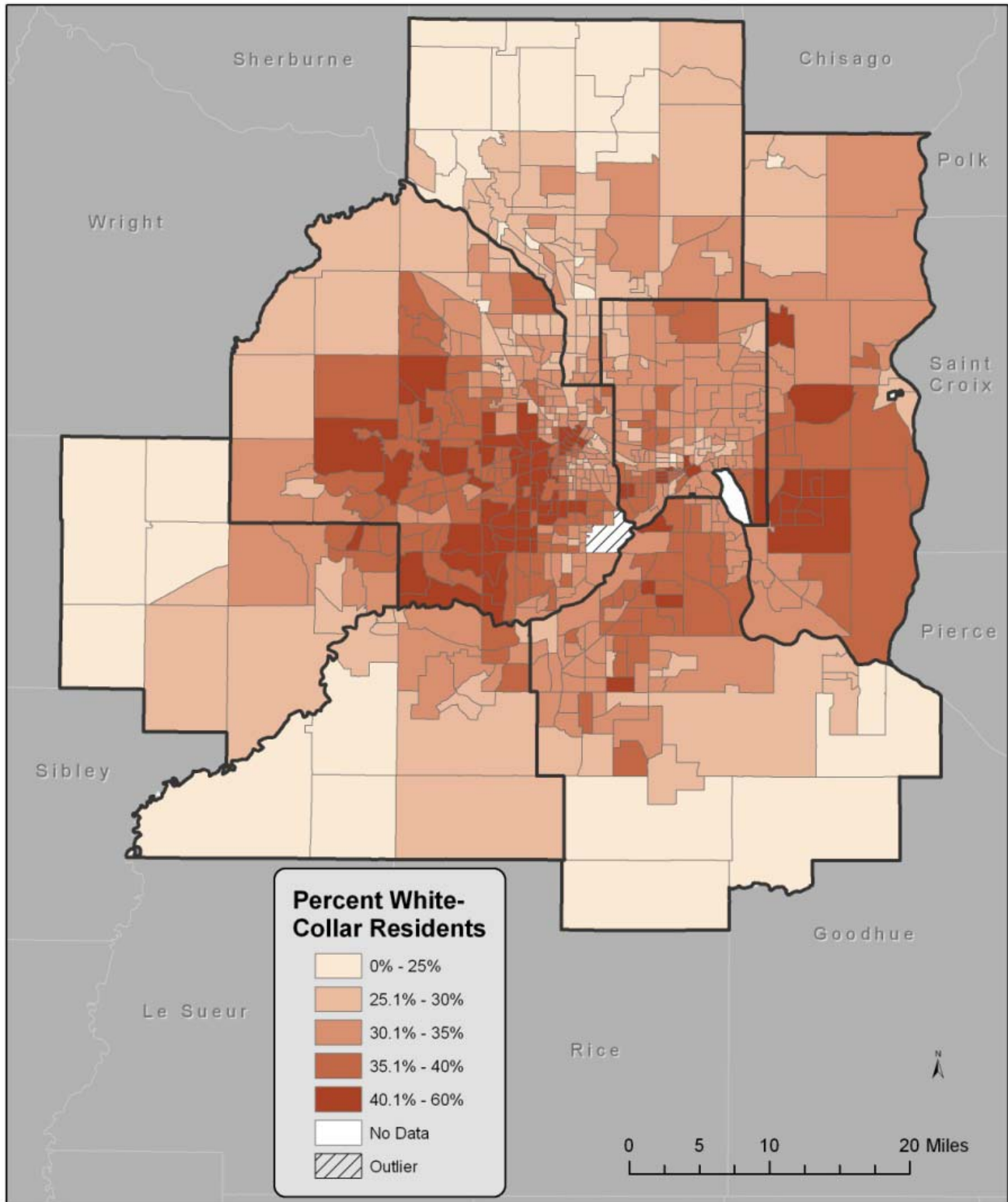
# Percent Pink-Collar Residents



Elana Dahlberg, Megan Grinde, Ellie Messenger, Petra Norlund, U.S. Census Bureau, and LEHD Program, MN Dept of Employment and Economic Development, April 10, 2008

- High concentrations of pink-collar residents in the inner cities

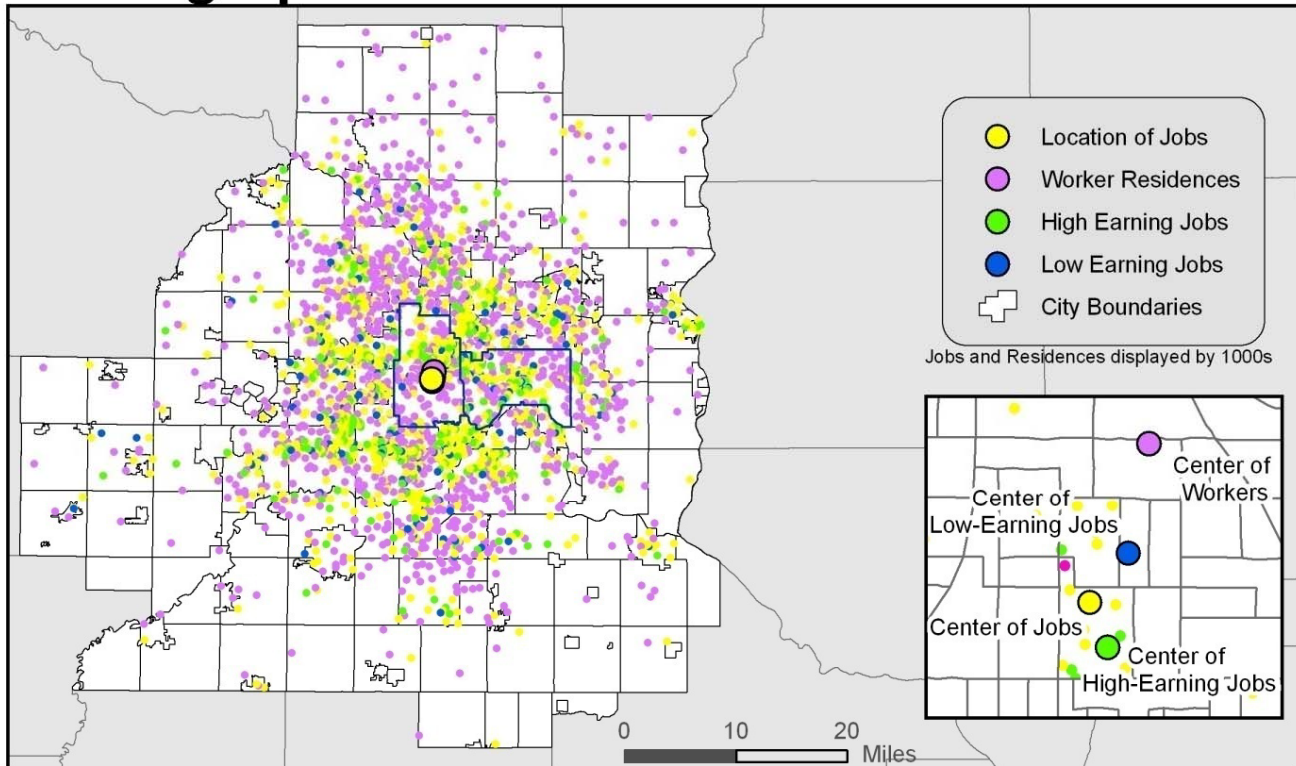
# Percent White-Collar Residents



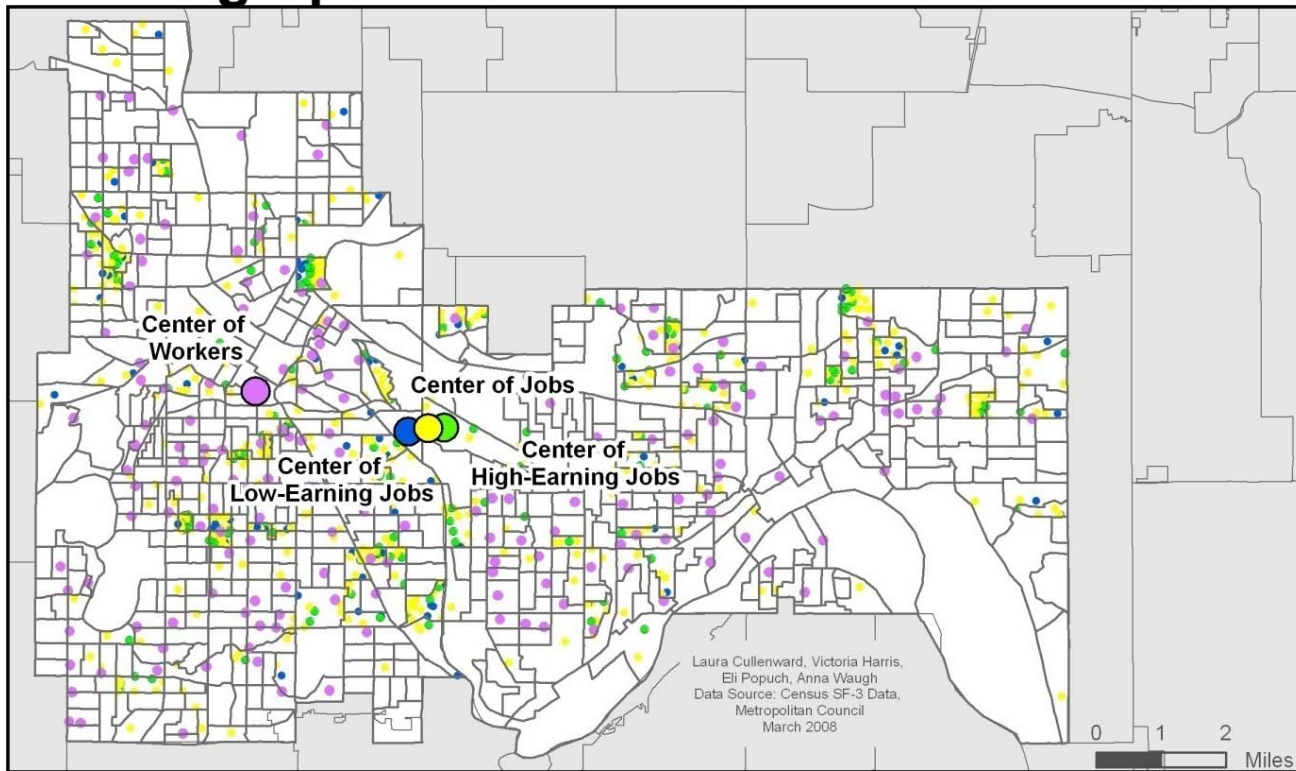
Elana Dahlberg, Megan Grinde, Ellie Messenger, Petra Norlund, U.S. Census Bureau, and LEHD Program, MN Dept of Employment and Economic Development, April 10, 2008

- High concentrations of white-collar residents in the wealthier suburbs

# Geographical Centers of Workers and Jobs



# Geographical Centers in the Twin Cities



- In Minneapolis-St. Paul, the mean center of workers is weighted more heavily to the west than the mean center of jobs