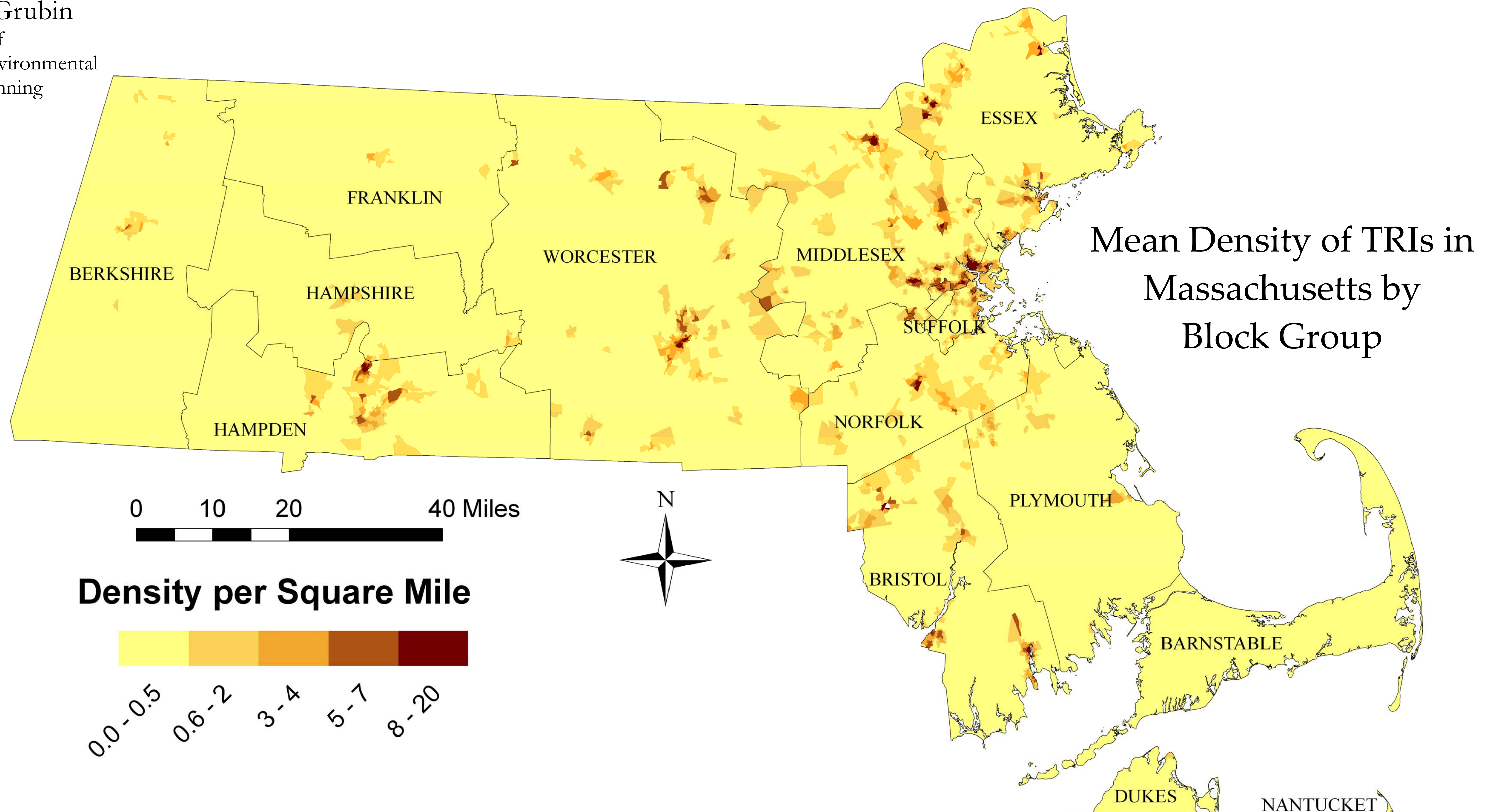


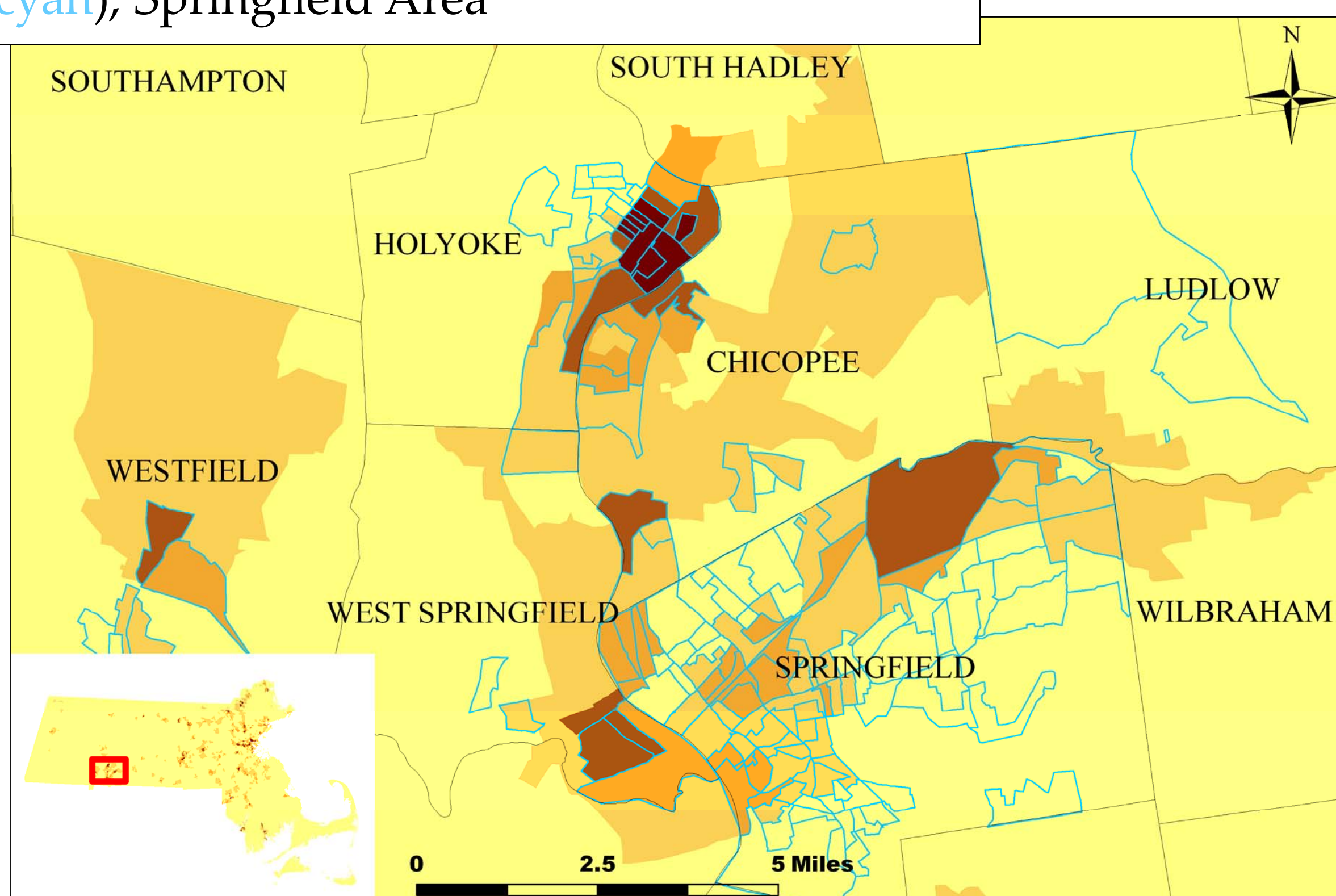
Communities Most Burdened by Toxic Release Facilities

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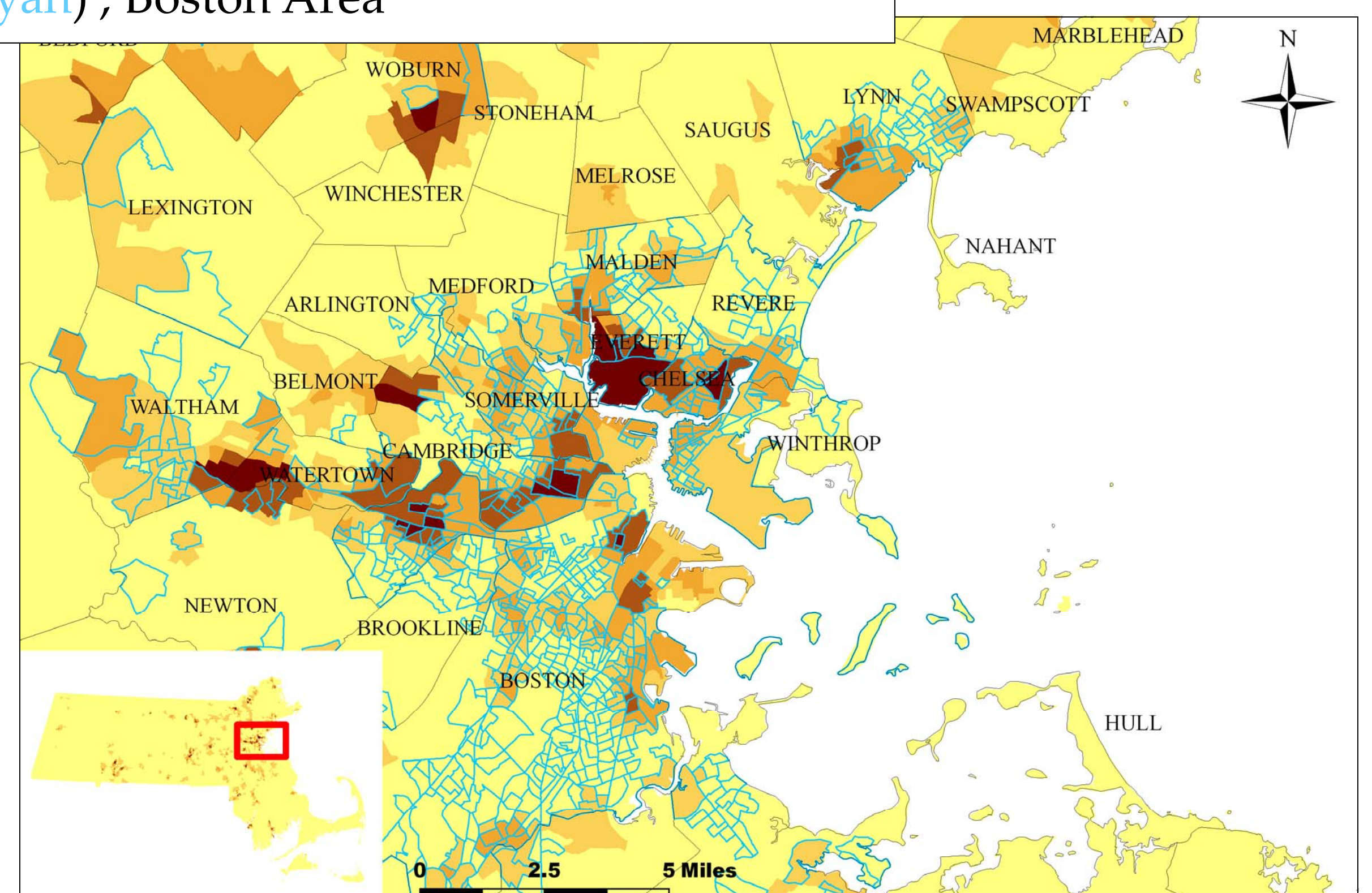


Mean Density of TRIs in
Massachusetts by
Block Group

Relationship of TRI Facilities and
Environmental Justice Populations
(cyan), Springfield Area



Relationship of TRI Facilities
and Environmental Justice Populations
(cyan), Boston Area



Project Description: This project explores the relationship between facilities documented by the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) and the communities in Massachusetts in which they are located. The TRI records the location and release of toxic chemicals from businesses and industries throughout the United States.

The hypothesis was that TRI facilities would be more commonly located in low-income areas, thus exposing those populations to the negative impacts associated with living in close proximity to toxic waste and emissions.

Results: The results indicate that as the average density of TRIs increases, the number of people living in poverty increases as well. At the same time, the minority population and number of non-English speaking households also increase. Median household income, however, decreases. These findings indicate that many areas with higher densities of TRIs are classified as environmental justice communities. TRI facilities have the potential to increase risks to public health as well as incidence of neighborhood blight, adding to the challenges that these communities already face.

