

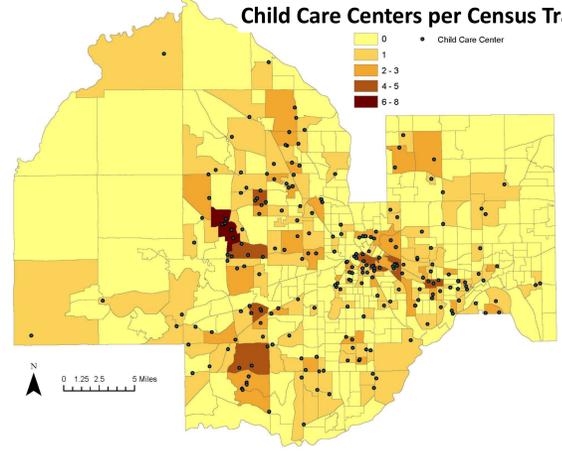
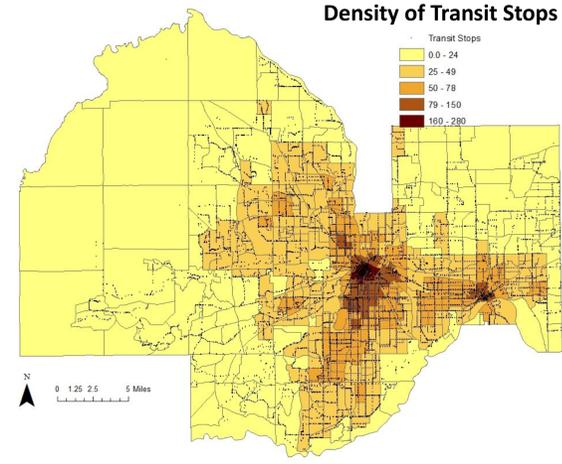
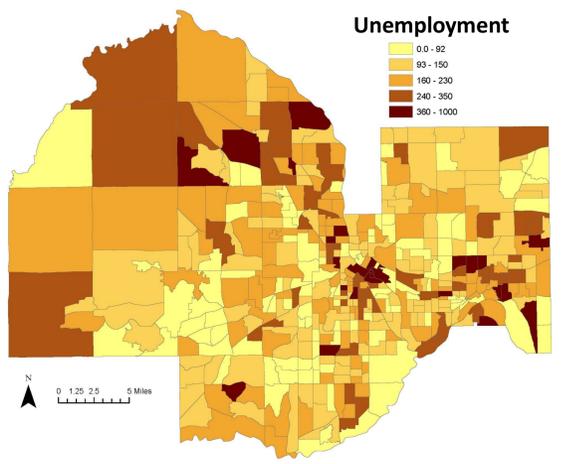
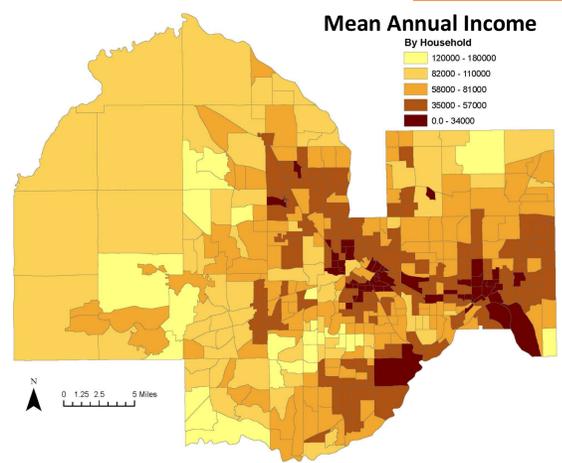
Introduction

It has been well-documented that immigrant groups are at a disadvantage when compared to non-immigrant groups, especially in cities. What is less well-documented are the gaps between advantages for immigrant groups from different places in the world. In Minneapolis/St. Paul, four major groups of immigrants—from Mexico, India, Laos, and Somalia—are clustered in different places around Hennepin and Ramsey counties. This project looked at possible differences between not only the income and unemployment rates of these groups, but factors that may be prohibitive to adults entering the workforce: access to transit and access to a child care facility. These maps compare these factors to across immigrant populations determine whether there are discrepancies, and help pinpoint groups which should be given better access to job help, transit, or child care.

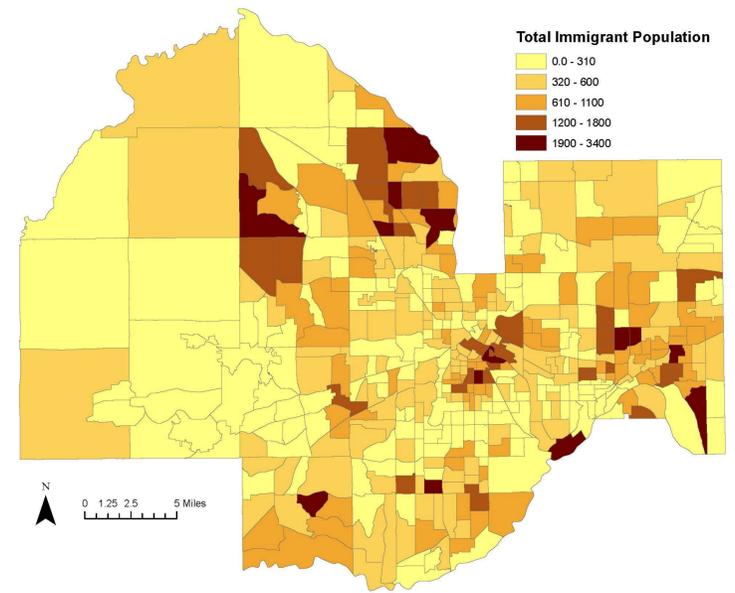
Methods

Census Data by tract was gathered about Hennepin and Ramsey counties, and the distribution of each of the four major immigrant groups was mapped according to natural distribution of the data. Total Immigrant Population, Mean Annual Household Income and Unemployment were also mapped in this way. Average number of child care centers per tract and density of transit stops were also mapped by tract. After this, separate lists of the Census Tracts with the highest number of each immigrant group were made. This included the top three divi-

The American Dream? Disparities Between Immigrant Groups in Minneapolis/St. Paul



sions of each immigrant group, plus the top three divisions of Total Immigrant Population. Using this list, the income, unemployment, child care access, and transit access were averaged for those tracts for each group, including Total Immigrant Population and Population overall.



	All	Immigrant	Mexico	India	Laos	Somalia
Income	\$63,656	\$51,697	\$48,861	\$71,586	\$47,993	\$37,595
Unemployed	161	235	211	194	253	256
Child Care Facilities	0.56	0.71	0.55	1.03	0.33	0.92
Transit Stop Density	43	37	36	32	32	29

Results

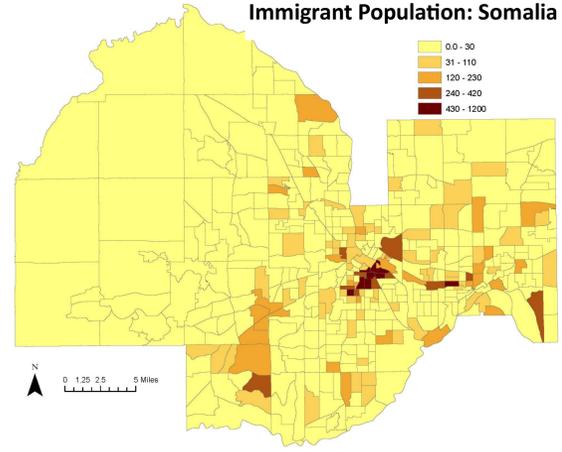
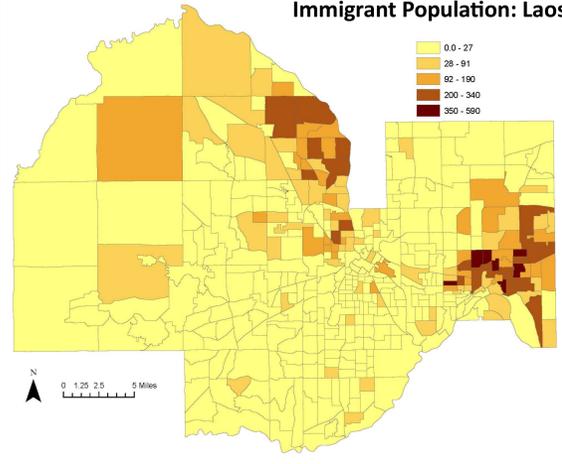
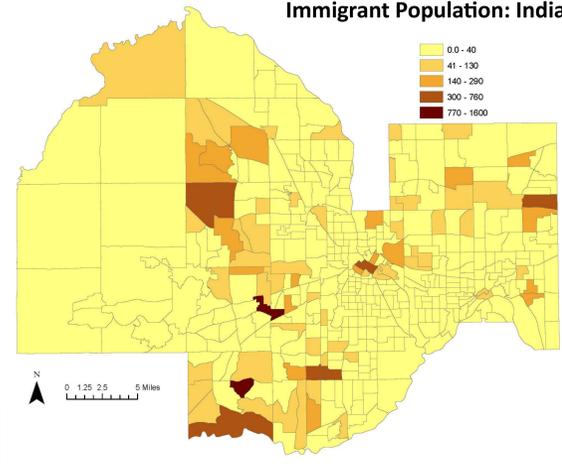
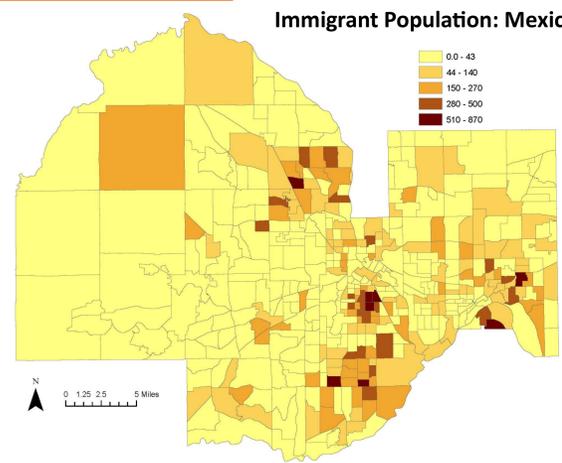
This chart shows the average value in each category for all Census Tracts, all tracts with an immigrant population greater than 600, and the tracts with the highest number of immigrants from Mexico (> 150), India (> 140), Laos (> 91), and Somalia (> 109).

Income is Mean Income for the selected tracts, Unemployed is number of unemployed adults over 16, child care is the number of child care facilities that can be expected to be found in each tract selected, and transit stop density is the average number of transit stops in each selected tract.

Conclusions

Even before the chart is examined, it is clear that there are correlations between those tracts where immigrants are clustered and tracts where unemployment is above average and income is below average. Immigrant groups who are clustered near downtown Minneapolis (Somalian, Mexican) or downtown St. Paul (Laotian) also live in areas with higher unemployment and lower income, but also in places with higher density of transit stops. Indian immigrants fare much better than other immigrant groups in income, unemployment, and child care.

These differences are important, and hopefully better understanding of the inequality between immigrant groups and in certain areas in the MSP metro area will spur local governments to look into ways to improve livelihoods among immigrant groups overall, but especially among those from Somalia and Laos.



Sources:
Social Explorer ACS 5-year survey, 2014
MN Geospatial Commons, 2015
Reference USA
Scale 1:250,000
Coordinate System/Projection: NAD 1983 State Plane MN South in Meters; Transverse Mercator Projection

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