

MISSOULA COUNTY

2016 Health Equity Report: Poverty

Missoula City-County Health Department

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I. Introduction

The relationship between income and well-being is a major focus area in public health. Poverty cuts across all populations, some more than others, and may lead to increased risk of premature death, higher disease burden, and lower life expectancy.¹ Neighborhoods with persistent poverty (20% or more of individuals are in poverty for the past 30 years)² experience poor housing and health conditions, increased crime, and lower educational attainment.³ One recent national study observed over a billion tax records in the United States and found that life expectancy steadily increased with income. The study found that health behaviors, including smoking, obesity, and low rates of exercise, were highly correlated with differences in life expectancy among low-income populations, suggesting that health professionals target efforts and that communities enact policies to improve the health among the low-income populations.⁴

To create awareness and foster health for all, we need to provide and share accurate, useful data on the leading causes of death and illness at the population level.¹ By identifying which members of our community experience unhealthy behaviors and are at-risk for poor health outcomes, we can better focus our energy and resources on those community members to maximize a greater return on our services and resources.

This report looks at poverty in Missoula at the neighborhood level. It compares two census tracts – with the highest and the lowest poverty rates in Missoula – to each other, the city as a whole, the county, and the state (see Table 1). All of the data in this report came from PolicyMap (<https://www.policymap.com>). Data is summarized in tables to allow comparison of resources and health-related criteria by poverty status, and select maps of Missoula (also from PolicyMap) are provided in Appendix A. The maps show neighborhoods by poverty status, some resources, and at-risk health behaviors.

Our intention in writing and distributing this report is to promote health equity in the work of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) work groups, as well as Missoula City-County Health Department (MCCHD) programs. For more information about MCCHD and our programs, please visit our website: <http://www.missoulacounty.us/healthdept>. For information or questions about this report, please contact author Helen Russette, Performance Management Coordinator, at hrussette@missoulacounty.us.

¹ Frieden TR. CDC health disparities and inequalities report-United States, 2013. Foreword. MMWR. Surveillance Summaries (Washington, DC: 2002). 2013;62:1-2.

² Crandall, K. (2015). Persistent Poverty on a Neighborhood Scale. PolicyMap. Available at: <https://www.policymap.com/blog/2015/03/persistent-poverty-on-a-neighborhood-scale/>

³ United States Department of Agriculture. (2015). Geography of Poverty. Available at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/rural-economy-population/rural-poverty-well-being/geography-of-poverty.aspx>.

⁴ Chetty R, Stepner M, Abraham S, et al. The association between income and life expectancy in the United States, 2001-2014. JAMA. 2016;315(16):1750-1766.

I. Poverty Status by Place

Poverty Guidelines

Poverty status was determined by the U.S. Census 2014 poverty thresholds. **Table 1** includes select poverty thresholds by family size. Find a complete list of poverty thresholds here: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html>.

Table 1. 2014 U.S. Census Poverty Thresholds

Family size	Income Threshold
One person	\$12,071
Two people	\$15,379
Two people, one is child	\$19,055
Five people, three are children	\$28,252

Prevalence of Poverty by Location

Table 2 highlights poverty in the two census tracts and poverty prevalence at the city, county, and state level. One in five people in Missoula city live in poverty.

Table 2. Poverty Status for All Individuals

Place	Poverty (%)
Montana	15%
Missoula County	16%
Missoula City	20%
Non-Poverty Area (Linda Vista)	5%
Poverty Area (Downtown)	43%

Source: PolicyMap

The two maps in **Figure 1** show the census tracts in Missoula that have the highest and lowest number of individuals in poverty. Downtown Missoula (census tract 30063000300) is centrally located in Missoula and nearly half of the residents are in poverty. Linda Vista area (census tract 30063001304) is located at the southwest end of Missoula and few residents live in poverty. This report uses these two census tracts to illustrate the differences in the neighborhoods’ demographic makeup, housing, income and poverty status, quality of life, employment and workforce characteristics, and health factors.

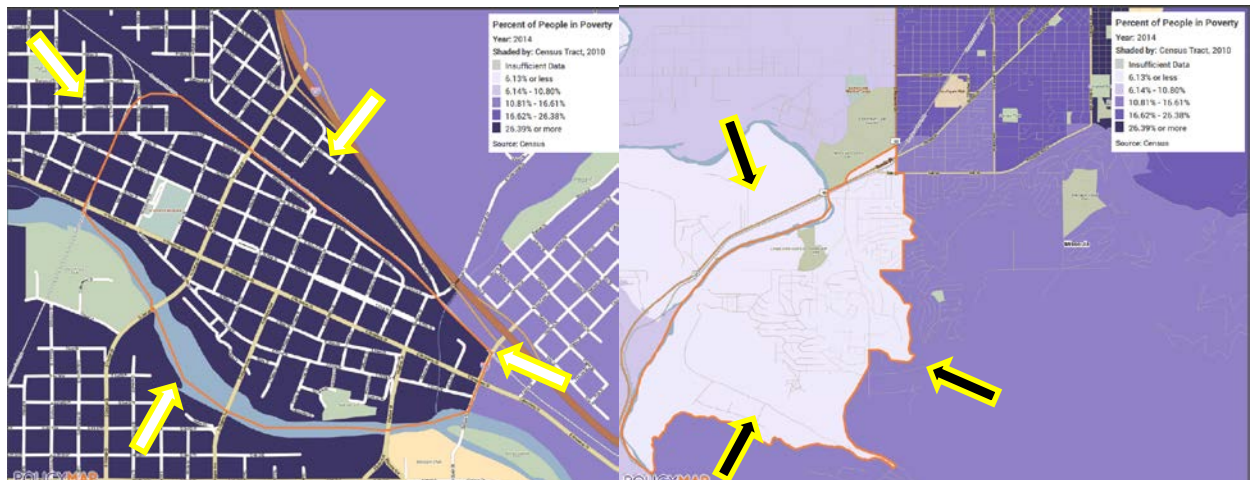


Figure 1. Poverty Area (left) and Non-Poverty Area (right) in the City of Missoula **Source:** Policy Map

II. Experiences and Health-Related Outcomes by Poverty

Tables 3 through 14 show demographic information, housing criteria, criteria on income and poverty, quality of life criteria, employment and workforce characteristics, and health factors for the Poverty Area (Downtown Missoula census tract), the Non-Poverty Area (Linda Vista census tract), Missoula city and county, and Montana.

Table 3 highlights age categories, sex, race and ethnicity, language, disability, veterans, and number of foreign-born individuals. Over half of the residents in the Poverty Area were between the ages of 18-34, compared to just under a quarter of Non-Poverty Area residents. More people aged 18-34, males, people in poverty and who were unemployed while living with disability, and who were foreign-born reside in the Poverty Area compared to the Non-Poverty Area.

Table 3. Demographics: Populations

Category	Criteria	Poverty Area	Non-Poverty Area	Missoula City	Missoula County	Montana
Age Groups	Less than 18 Years	2%	28%	18%	20%	22%
	18-34 Years	56%	24%	37%	31%	22%
	65 Years or Older	12%	10%	12%	12%	16%
Sex	Female	46%	51%	50%	50%	50%
	Male	54%	49%	50%	50%	50%
Race/Ethnicity	White	87%	92%	92%	93%	89%
	AIAN	1%	0%	3%	3%	6%
	All Hispanics	0%	7%	3%	3%	3%
Language	Non-English Speaking	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%
	Spanish Speaking	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Disability	Total	20%	7%	11%	11%	13%
	Disabled in Poverty	23%	12%	26%	22%	21%
	Disabled + Employed	6%	5%	5%	6%	6%
	Disabled Not Employed	69%	17%	58%	57%	59%
	Hearing Difficulty	7%	2%	4%	4%	5%
	Vision Difficulty	6%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Veterans	Total (%)	10%	12%	8%	10%	12%
Foreign Born	Total (freq.)	5%	3%	3%	3%	2%

Source: PolicyMap **AIAN** = American Indians and Alaskan Natives

Table 4 highlights housing information by families and household sizes. More families with children live in the Non-Poverty Area, but more single parents with children tended to live in the Poverty Area.

Table 4. Demographics: Families & Household

Category	Criteria	Poverty Area	Non-Poverty Area	Missoula City	Missoula County	Montana
Families	Married with Children	5%	38%	28%	29%	28%
	Single Parent with Children	17%	7%	16%	13%	12%
Household Size	Occupants by Renters (avg.)	1.68	2.72	2.04	2.14	2.28
	Occupants by Homeowners (avg.)	1.68	2.82	2.45	2.49	2.45

Source: PolicyMap Household Size criteria

Table 5 includes income and spending criteria by families, household type (renter, homeowner), and aggregate income by public assistance and salary and wages. Aggregate income indicates the total dollars by income type for all residents in a given location. The Poverty Area had almost a third of the median family income and a sixth of the total salary and wages compared to the Non-Poverty Area. Homeowners and renters both reported less income compared to the Non-Poverty Area.

The low amount of aggregate public assistance dollars reported in the Poverty Area is noteworthy. The reasons for this are unclear and would need to be investigated.

Table 5. Income & Income Sources

Category	Criteria	Poverty Area	Non-Poverty Area	Missoula City	Missoula County	Montana
Family	Median Family Income	\$26,948	\$72,552	\$64,184	\$65,066	\$60,581
Household	Homeowners	\$52,000	\$86,806	\$66,177	\$64,387	\$58,190
	Renters	\$20,934	\$33,366	\$26,173	\$27,606	\$29,167
Aggregate Income	Public Assistance	\$89,900	\$248,700	\$2,220,300	\$2,996,100	\$30,050,600
	Salary and Wage	\$26,847,800	\$162,580,700	\$1,225,018,800	\$2,052,250,100	\$16,950,545,100

Source: PolicyMap

Table 6 provides additional poverty and income criteria for race and ethnicity, poverty status of families, persistent poverty status, and additional income. Median household income data is organized into groups: 1) very low income means less than or equal to 30% of area median income; 2) low income is less than or equal to 50% of area median income; 3) moderate income is less than or equal to 80% of area median income; 4) middle income is less than or equal to 120% of area median income; 5) upper income is equal to or more than 121% of area median income. Median income for Missoula County is \$47,029.

American Indians and Alaskan Natives (AIAN) have very high rates of poverty in both areas. Poverty among single-headed families with children was highest in the Non-Poverty Area. The Poverty Area was below this amount by about 50% (\$22, 382), and the Non-Poverty Area was nearly 150% (\$68,618) above this amount.

Table 6. Poverty & Income

Category	Criteria	Poverty Area	Non-Poverty Area	Missoula City	Missoula County	Montana
Poverty by Race/Ethnicity	White	44%	5%	19%	15%	14%
	AIAN	75%	100%	24%	26%	37%
Families in Poverty	All	8%	4%	11%	9%	10%
	Single Headed Families with Children	15%	46%	41%	35%	36%
Persistent Poverty Income Level	Persistent Poverty	Yes	No	---	No	---
	Comparison to Median Household Income	50%	149%	---	---	---

Source: PolicyMap **AIAN** = American Indians and Alaskan Natives

Table 7 describes homeowner status and cost burdens. Cost burdened households are those who pay more than 30% of their income for housing. Extremely cost burdened households pay more than 50% of income for housing. More homeowners reside in the Non-Poverty Area, and more residents in the Poverty Area experience cost burdens.

Table 7. Homeowner Status & Cost Burden

Category	Criteria	Poverty Area	Non-Poverty Area	Missoula City	Missoula County	Montana
Homeowners Cost Burdens	Total (%)	12%	69%	48%	59%	68%
	Median Owner Costs as a Percent of Income	23%	18%	20%	20%	18%
	Cost Burdened Households	28%	21%	27%	27%	24%
	Extremely Cost Burdened Households	8%	9%	10%	11%	9%

Source: PolicyMap

Table 8 focuses on renter status: median rent, proportion of renters, cost burdens, and subsidized housing. In the Non-Poverty Area, rent was found to be higher, but the number of renters was about only a third of the population. The Poverty Area has more cost-burdened renter households, extremely cost-burdened rental households, and subsidized housing, compared to the Non-Poverty Area.

Table 8. Renter Status, Housing Type & Cost Burden

Category	Criteria	Poverty Area	Non-Poverty Area	Missoula City	Missoula County	Montana
Median Rent	All	\$648	\$729	\$765	\$769	\$696
Number of Renters	Total (%)	88%	31%	52%	41%	32%
Cost Burdens	Median Renter Cost as a Percent of Income	38%	27%	33%	33%	29%
	Cost Burdened Households	69%	36%	55%	53%	42%
	Extremely Cost Burdened Households	35%	9%	27%	26%	20%
Subsidized Housing	As a percentage of renter households	17%	4%	9%	9%	9%
Subsidized Housing by Demographic	Female Head of Household with Children	1%	48%	27%	29%	29%
	Person with Disability	29%	22%	27%	27%	27%
	Native American	4%	10%	9%	9%	12%

Source: PolicyMap

Table 9 includes quality of life indicators for commute to work and food access. The Poverty Area had more households with zero vehicles and more fast food and takeout restaurants (measured per 100,000 population) compared to the Non-Poverty Area.

Table 9. Commute & Healthy Food

Category	Criteria	Poverty Area	Non-Poverty Area	Missoula City	Missoula County	Montana
Work Commute	No Vehicle per Household	26%	3%	7%	5%	5%
Food Access and Local Foods	Fast Food and Takeout Restaurants by Zip Code (Rate per 100,000 population)	136.2	18.0	N/A	80	72

Source: PolicyMap

Table 10 includes employment status and workforce characteristics in terms of unemployment status, having more than one job, earnings, and education. The Poverty Area had a higher prevalence of residents earning less than \$15,000 annually and having no high school diploma or college degree.

Table 10. Employment Status & Workforce Characteristics

Category	Criteria	Poverty Area	Non-Poverty Area	Missoula City	Missoula County	Montana
Unemployment	Civilians Unemployed	9%	8%	9%	9%	7%
	Veterans not Employed	5%	10%	12%	12%	6%
Multiple Jobholders	Total (%)	9%	7%	8%	7%	8%
Earnings and Education	Earn less than \$15,000 per year	38%	21%	26%	25%	25%
	No High School Diploma	12%	9%	9%	9%	9%
	High School Diploma	33%	30%	32%	32%	33%
	Some College or Associates Degree	34%	35%	33%	34%	34%
	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	21%	27%	26%	26%	23%

Source: PolicyMap

Table 11 includes health status in terms of chronic conditions and perceived health status. Poverty Area residents were more likely to report having diabetes and fair to poor general health, mental health, and physical health compared to Non-Poverty Area residents.

Table 11. Health Status

Category	Criteria	Poverty Area	Non-Poverty Area	Missoula City	Missoula County	Montana
Chronic Conditions	Diabetes	9%	7%	7%	8%	8%
Perceived Health Status	Fair or Poor Health	20%	12%	16%	15%	15%
	Very Good or Excellent Health	47%	60%	54%	56%	55%
	Poor Mental Health Days (7 or more past 30 days)	26%	18%	22%	21%	19%
	Poor Physical Health Days (7 or more past 30 days)	28%	18%	23%	22%	22%

Source: PolicyMap

Table 12 includes health status by healthcare access in terms of health uninsured status and preventative care access. Poverty Area residents had a higher prevalence of being uninsured and lower prevalence of having a personal doctor and receiving a routine checkup within the past year.

Table 12. Healthcare Access

Category	Criteria	Poverty Area	Non-poverty Area	Missoula City	Missoula County	Montana
Healthcare Uninsured	Total Uninsured	23%	15%	15%	16%	17%
	Earn less than \$25,000	16%	39%	27%	28%	26%
	Earn less than \$50,000	22%	30%	25%	24%	24%
	Earn less than \$100,000	22%	24%	19%	19%	19%
	Employed	24%	19%	18%	19%	19%
Preventative Care	Unemployed	20%	17%	17%	18%	17%
	Have Personal Doctor or Healthcare Provider	65%	75%	69%	75%	70%
	Routine Checkup in Past Year	58%	61%	58%	61%	62%

Source: PolicyMap

Table 13 includes health status by risk factors such as weight status, exercise, healthy food intake, and substance use. Residents in the Poverty Area had a higher prevalence of obesity, physical inactivity, eating less than one fruit or vegetable per day, and smoking, as compared to the Non-Poverty Area. These risk factors raise considerable concern, as smoking, obesity, and lack of exercise have major implications for life expectancy.

Table 13. Risk Factors

Category	Criteria	Poverty Area	Non-Poverty Area	Missoula City	Missoula County	Montana
Weight Status	Obese Adults	25%	24%	25%	25%	25%
	Overweight Adults	35%	37%	37%	37%	37%
Exercise	Physically Active	20%	24%	22%	22%	23%
	Physically Inactive	32%	25%	29%	27%	27%
Healthy Food Intake	Less than 1 fruit/vegetable per day	13%	7%	10%	8%	7%
	5 or more fruits or veggies/day	13%	16%	14%	16%	17%
Alcohol	Binge Drinking	22%	22%	23%	22%	21%
Tobacco	Current Smoker	27%	19%	23%	22%	19%

Source: PolicyMap

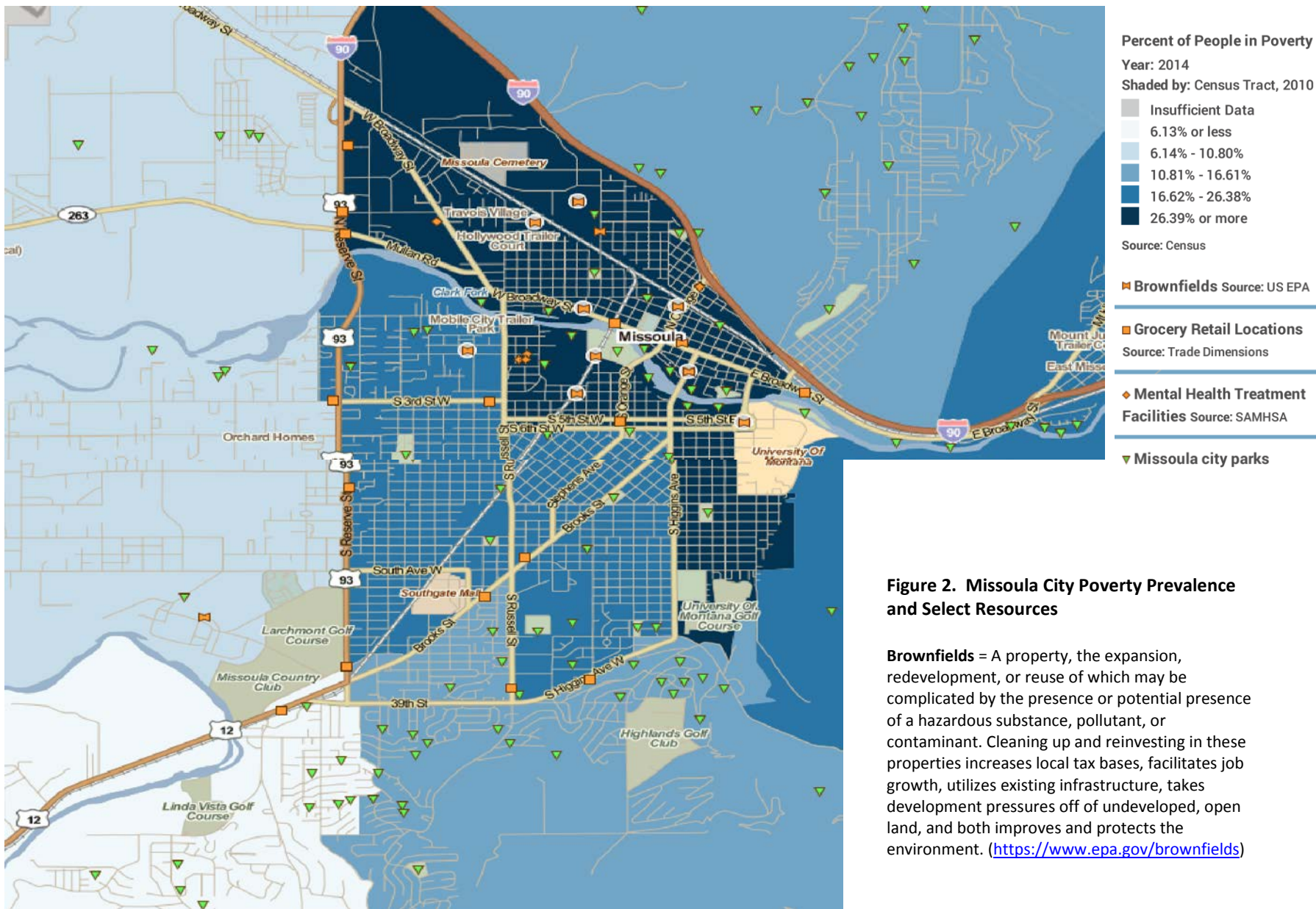
Table 14 includes one data indicator on housing and urban development. Four low-income housing tax credits (LIHTC) sites were located in the Poverty Area, and none were located in the Non-Poverty Area.

Table 14. Housing & Urban Development

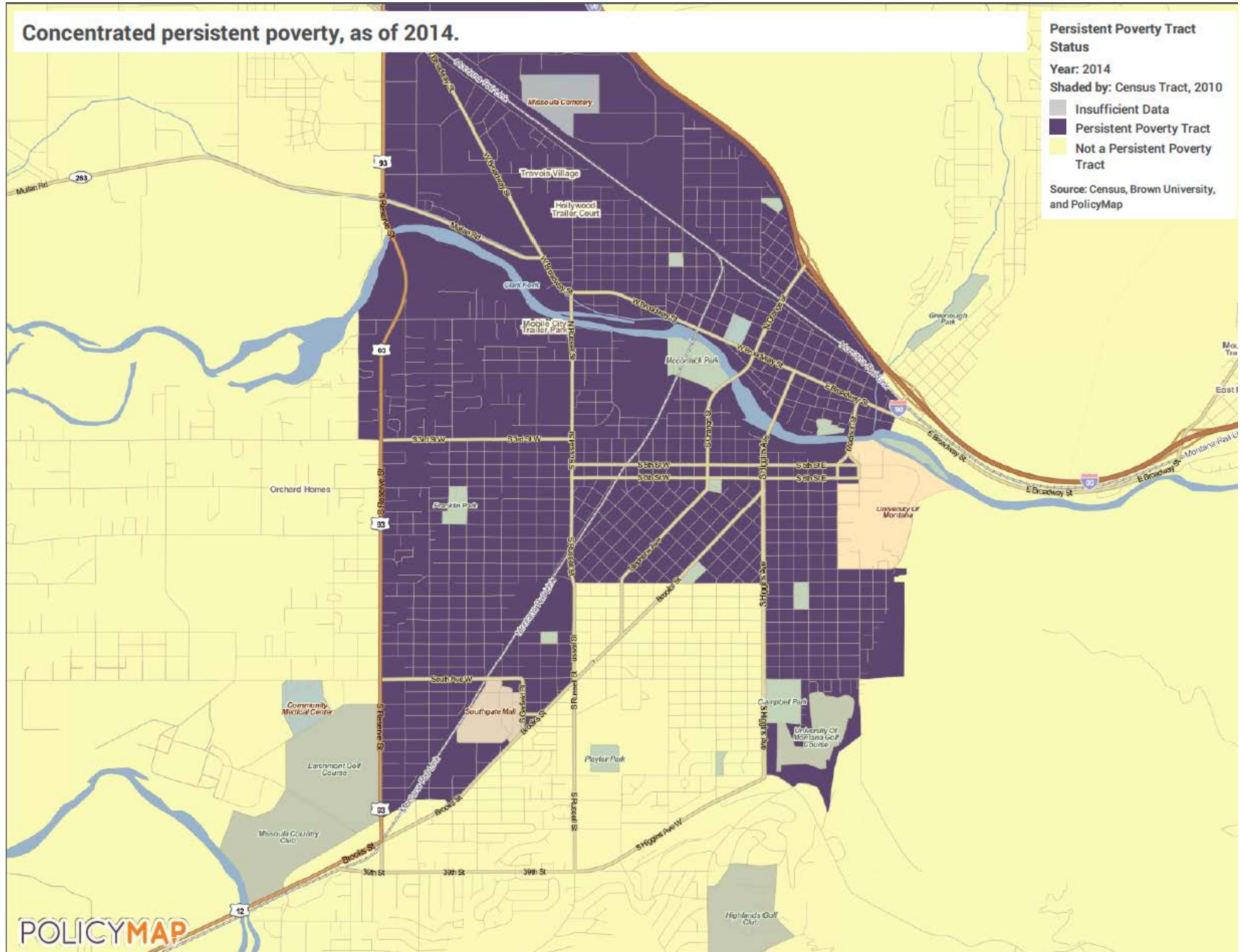
Category	Criteria	Poverty Area	Non-Poverty Area	Missoula City	Missoula County	Montana
Housing/Urban Development	LIHTC (Freq.)	4	0	---	---	---

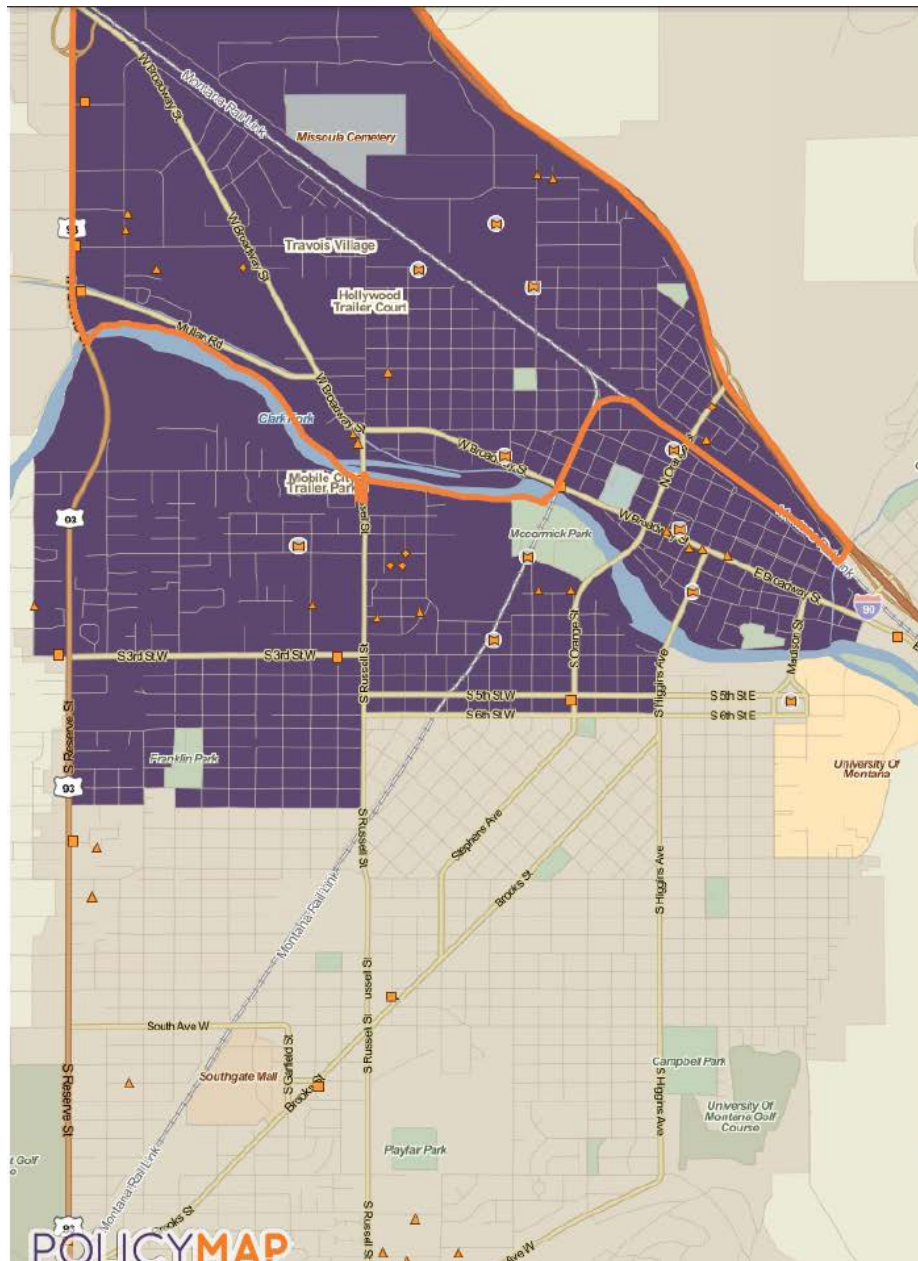
Source: PolicyMap LIHTC = Low-income housing tax credits

Appendix A: City of Missoula Maps



Concentrated persistent poverty, as of 2014.





■ Purple areas on the map meet the following criteria:

Estimated percent of all people that are living in poverty as of 2010-2014.

Year: 2014

Shaded by: Census Tract, 2010

Range: 25% - 100%

Source: Census

Estimated percent of adults reporting to smoke cigarettes regularly in 2013.

Year: 2013

Shaded by: Census Tract, 2010

Range: 25% - 45.66%

Source: CDC BRFSS & PolicyMap

Estimated percent of adults reporting to be physically inactive in the past 30 days in 2013.

Year: 2013

Shaded by: Census Tract, 2010

Range: 25% - 59%

Source: CDC BRFSS & PolicyMap

■ Brownfields Source: US EPA

■ Grocery Retail Locations

Source: Trade Dimensions

◆ Mental Health Treatment Facilities Source: SAMHSA

▲ LIHTC Source: LIHTC

