

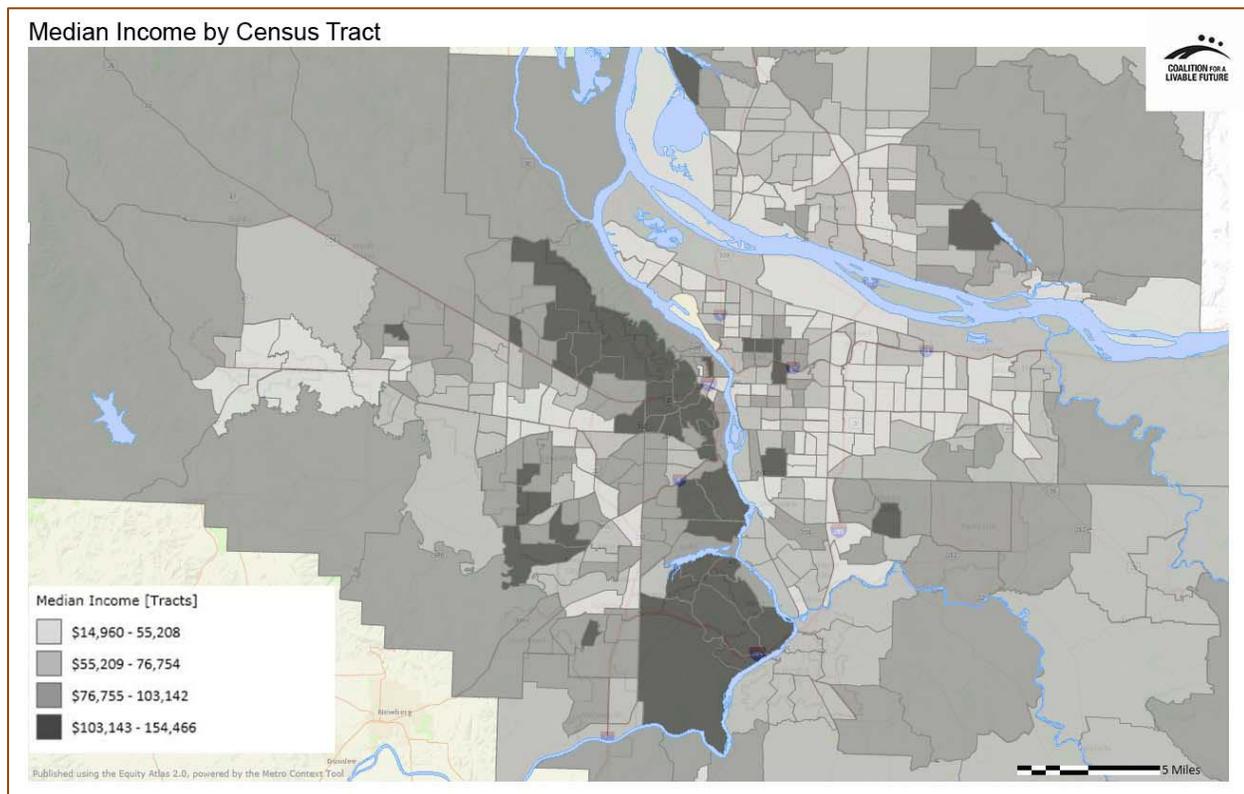
# Low Income Populations

In order to create a region where all people have the opportunity to thrive, we must assess whether there are disparities in the distribution of resources and opportunities that make it difficult for some populations to achieve their full potential. People living in poverty have historically been affected by a wide range of disparities that negatively affect their ability to meet their basic needs and advance their health and well-being. For this reason, understanding how the geographic distribution of incomes corresponds with the distribution of resources and opportunities is essential to our analysis of regional equity.

The maps in this series show the distribution of incomes throughout the region, with a particular focus on low-income populations. Comparing these maps with the Atlas' other maps highlights the region's patterns of inequity and can help to inform strategies to address disparities.

Income maps are very important in exploring equity issues, as they provide foundational information about where households with fewer financial resources are located, where childhood poverty is concentrated, and the changing income distribution of the region. They can be used in their own right, to analyze policy questions related to issues such as service delivery and displacement. They can also be used in combination with other maps to explore how the distribution of resources and opportunities relates to the region's income patterns.

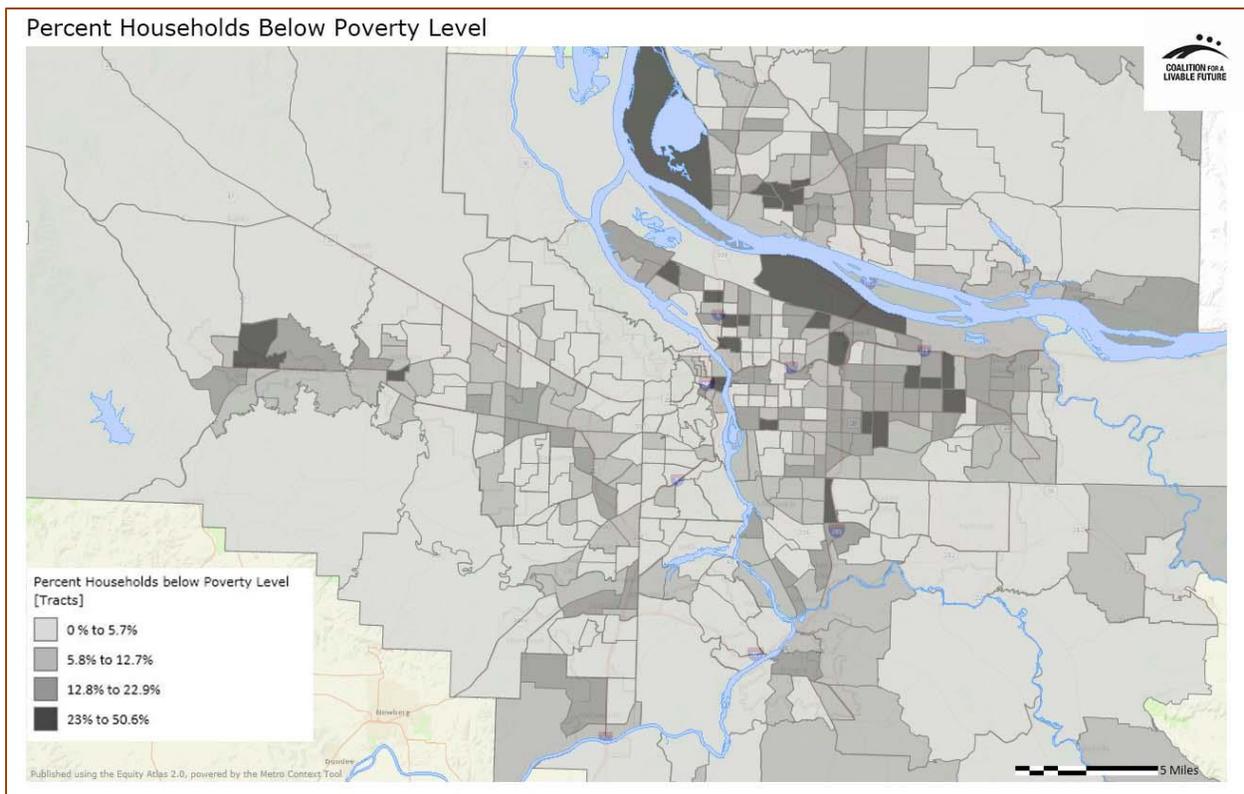
## MEDIAN INCOME BY CENSUS TRACT



The **Median Income by Census Tract** map indicates that census tracts with lower median incomes are located in older suburban areas on the east and north side of the region (including portions of outer northeast and southeast Portland and throughout Clark County) and in west Washington County. Specifically, census tracts with low incomes are found in north Portland, outer east Portland, Gresham, Fairview, Wood Village, Milwaukie, Forest Grove, Cornelius, Hillsboro, Beaverton, Canby and Vancouver.

High income areas tend to be located near natural amenities (hills and lakes) and in a few older urban neighborhoods with historic character. Census tracts with the highest median income (\$103,143-\$154,466 per household) in Clackamas County include portions of Happy Valley, Lake Oswego, West Linn, and nearby unincorporated areas. In Washington County, high-income areas include portions of Tigard, Beaverton and the unincorporated area adjacent to these cities. In Multnomah County, high income census tracts are located in Portland’s west hills neighborhoods near and including Forest Park, as well as in the east side neighborhoods of Alameda, Irvington, Laurelhurst, and Eastmoreland. The high income census tracts in Clark County include a portion of Camas and an unincorporated area on the west side of the county.

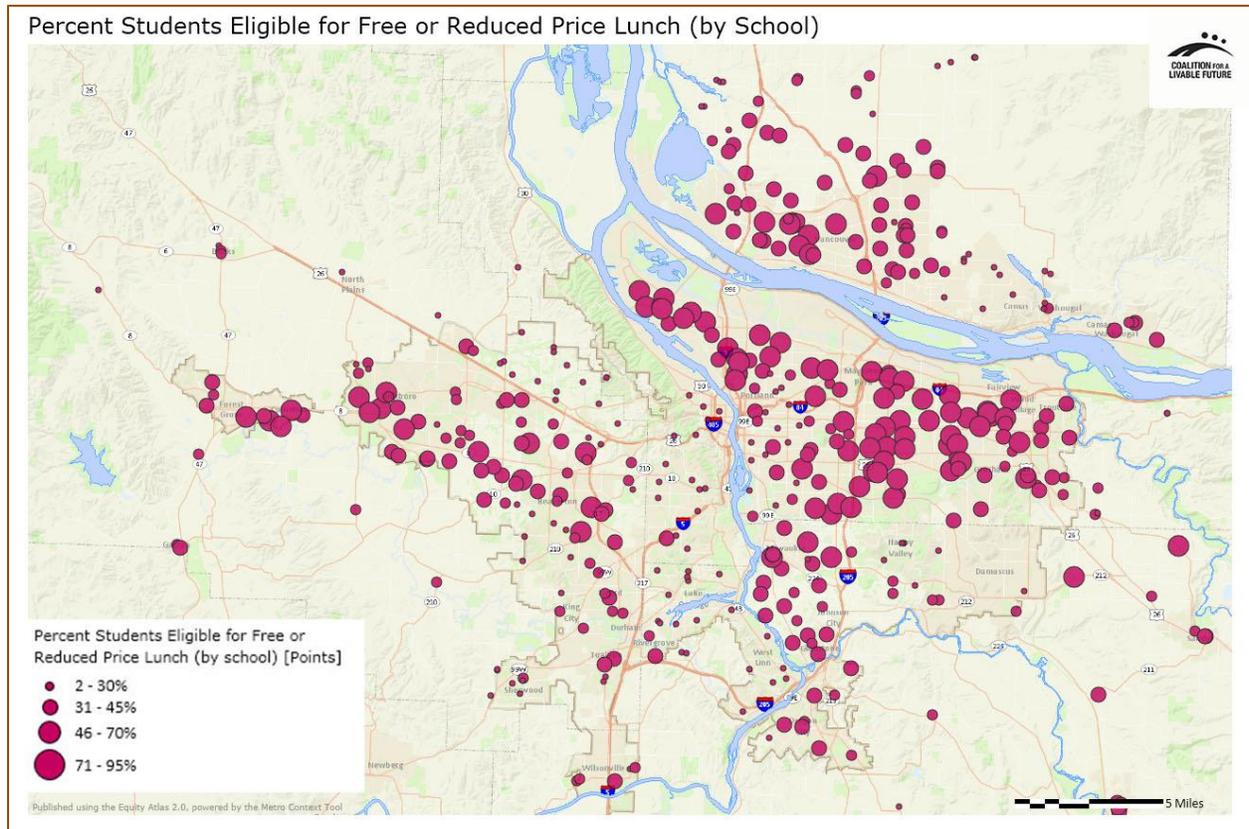
## PERCENT HOUSEHOLDS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL



The **Percent Households Below Poverty Level** map shows that areas with the highest concentrations of people living in poverty are in west Vancouver and an adjacent unincorporated area of Clark County, in a

few census tracts scattered throughout the east side of Portland and west Gresham, and in northeast Forest Grove and the adjacent unincorporated area of Washington County.

### PERCENT STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH (BY SCHOOL)

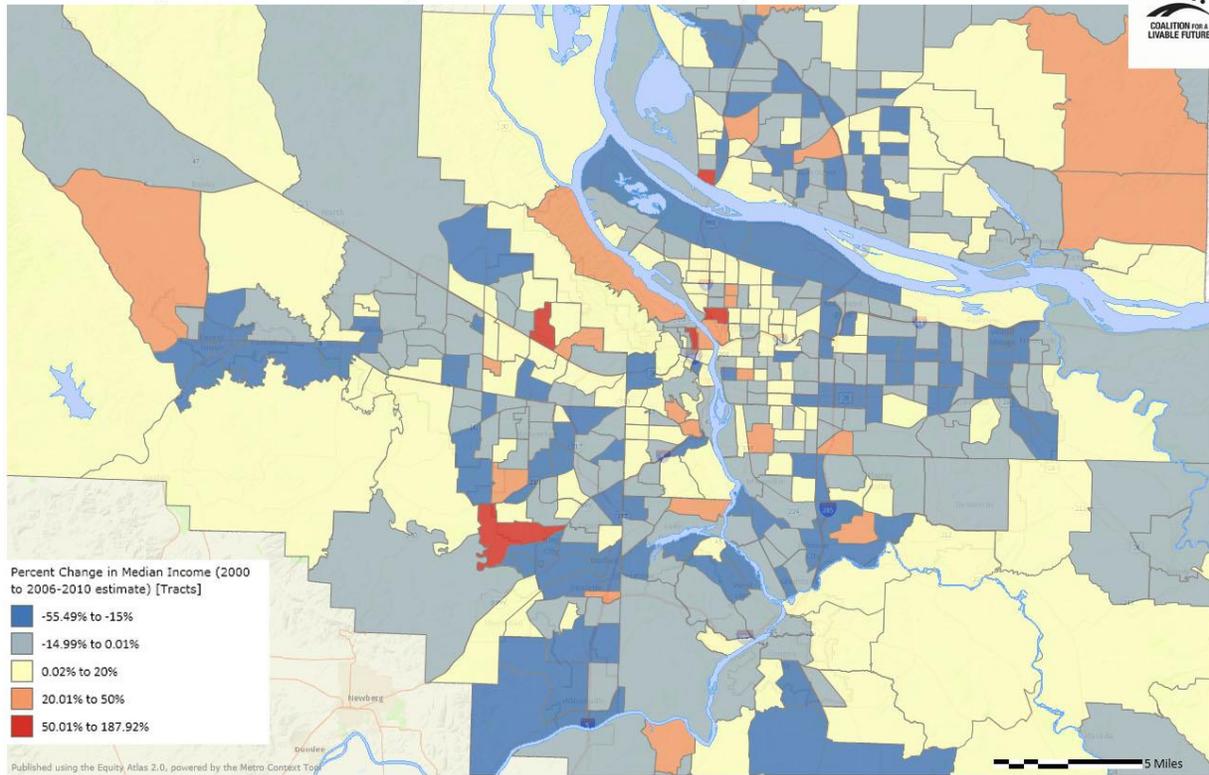


The *Percent Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch* map—an indicator of childhood poverty—shows that areas in north Portland, outer east Portland, the cities of east Multnomah County, Hillsboro, Cornelius and west Vancouver have a higher share of this population. Distant rural areas tend to have moderate incomes and relatively low poverty rates.

This map shows the percentage of K-12 students eligible for the free or reduced price lunch program, by school, for the 2011-2012 academic year. This indicator is often used as a proxy for childhood poverty.

Poverty Level Guidelines <http://aspe.hhs.gov/2015-poverty-guidelines>

Percent Change in Median Income (2000 to 2006-2010 estimate)



According to the *Percent Change in Median Income* map, median incomes declined or remained the same in 63% of the region's census tracts between the 2000 Census and the 2006-2010 American Community Survey estimate. Median income increased from 50% to nearly 200% in census tracts that include the neighborhoods of Cedar Hills/Cedar Mills and Bull Mountain in Washington County, Esther Short in Clark County, and the Pearl District and the northern part of the Eliot neighborhood in Multnomah County. Census tracts where median income decreased during the last decade are found in east Multnomah County, throughout most of the portion of Washington County inside the Urban Growth Boundary, and throughout much of Clackamas County and much of the City of Vancouver.