

EXCERPTS FROM THE MEASURE OF **AMERICA** 2013–2014

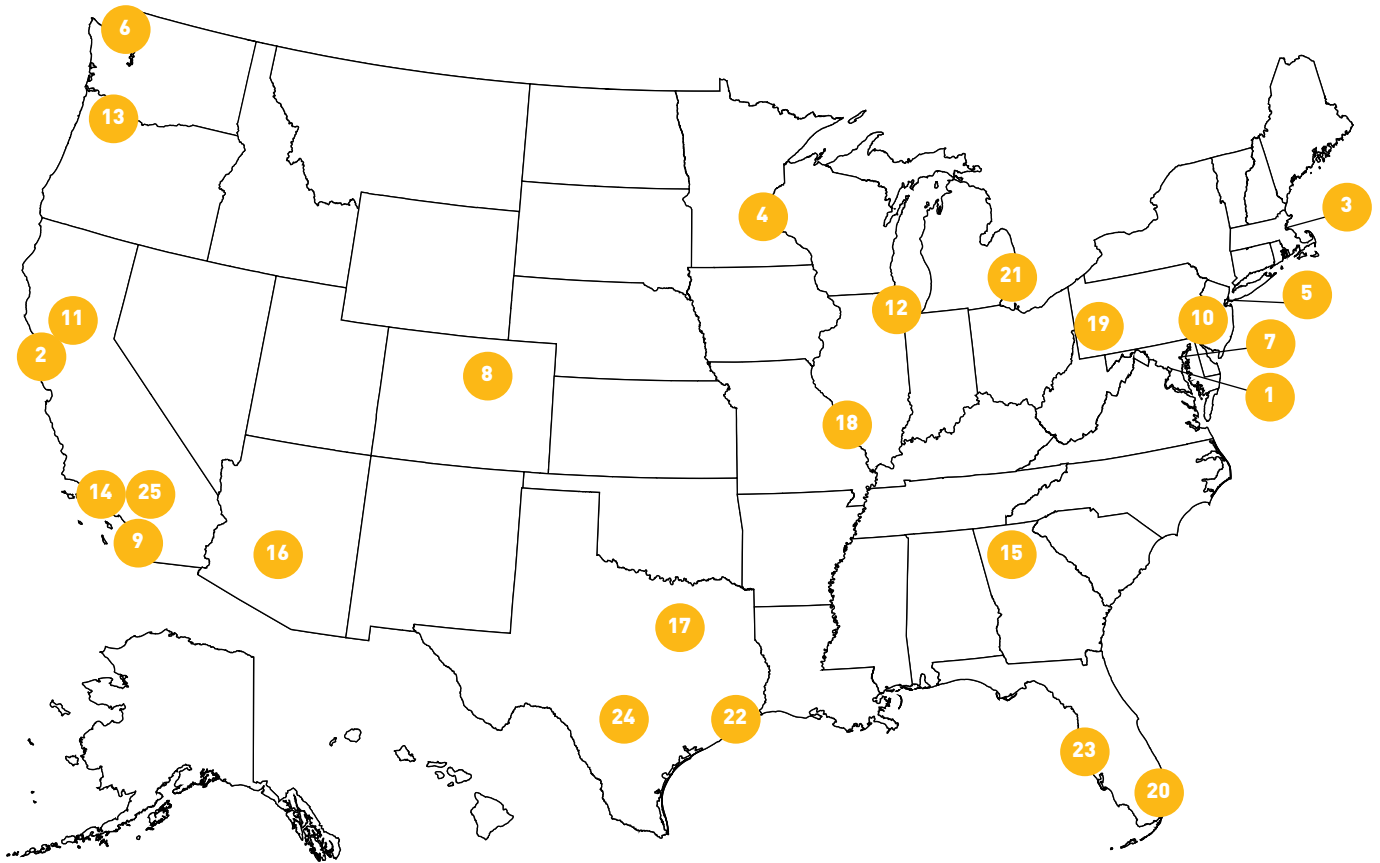
AMERICAN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Kristen Lewis and Sarah Burd-Sharps

Patrick Nolan Guyer CHIEF STATISTICIAN
Diana Tung REPORT DESIGN

Made possible through the generous support of
Conrad N. Hilton
FOUNDATION

Metro Area Snapshots



1

Washington, DC–Arlington–Alexandria Metro Area

The Washington, DC, metro area tops the well-being ranking with a score of 6.83; it is also the city in which African Americans, Latinos, and whites score the highest. People living in and around the nation's capital have a life expectancy of 81 years. The city tops both the educational index (46.8 percent of adults have a bachelor's degree) and the earnings index (median personal earnings are \$43,415).

2

San Francisco–Oakland–Fremont Metro Area

San Francisco is close on the heels of Washington, DC, with an Index score of 6.69. San Francisco is first in life expectancy, at 82.1 years; second in median personal earnings, at \$40,300 per year; and third in education, with more than four in ten adults holding at least a bachelor's degree. Interestingly, while San Francisco is in the top three for Latinos and whites, the Bay Area comes in ninth in terms of Asian American well-being.

3

Boston–Cambridge–Quincy Metro Area

Boston's Index score, 6.46, secures the metro area the third spot in the rankings. Bostonians can expect to live 80.9 years; more than four in ten have a bachelor's degree; and median personal earnings are \$37,348. Boston tops the charts in school enrollment and has the distinction of being the metro area where African Americans can expect to live the longest, 79.9 years.

4

Minneapolis–St. Paul–Bloomington Metro Area

The Twin Cities region ranks fourth among the twenty-five largest U.S. metro areas in terms of well-being, scoring 6.19. Minneapolis has the lowest rate of adults over age twenty-five who did not complete high school, just 7 percent—half the national rate and less than one-third the rate of Los Angeles, which performs worst on this dimension. Median earnings are \$35,118, and the life expectancy is an impressive 81.4 years. For African Americans, however, this metro area ranks eighteenth, underperforming significantly in comparison to its overall fourth-place ranking. One in five African Americans over 25 in Minneapolis–St. Paul did not complete high school. African Americans in the Twin Cities region earn less than African Americans in any other major metro area, just \$20,816.

For Asian Americans, Minneapolis is in last place among the twenty-one metro areas with a sufficiently large Asian American population to be included in this analysis. Minneapolis–St. Paul is home to a large Hmong population—nearly one in three Asian Americans here is Hmong.¹¹ Hmong people, fleeing persecution in Laos after the Vietnam War, began to arrive in the Twin Cities in 1975. With limited English, little formal education, no assets, and a recent history marked by trauma and displacement, these new Americans faced many barriers that are still reflected in the community's current Index scores.¹²

5

New York–Northern New Jersey–Long Island Metro Area

The New York City metro area ranks fifth, with a score of 6.12. Life expectancy is 81.1; median earnings are \$36,380; and 36 percent of adults age twenty-five and older have at least a bachelor's degree. Though the New York City metro area is ahead of the nation as a whole in bachelor's degree attainment, it is doing worse than the national average in terms of the share of adults who have completed high school; 15.3 percent of adult New York City–area residents lack a high school diploma or equivalent. New York City is the third-best-scoring metro area for both African Americans and whites in well-being, though the gap between these two groups—4.85 vs. 7.15, respectively—is large.

6

Seattle–Tacoma–Bellevue Metro Area

Seattle ranks sixth, with a score of 5.97. Life expectancy is 80.5 years. Only 8.8 percent of adults lack a high school diploma, significantly better than the national average of 14.4 percent and the third-best in the metro rankings; 37 percent of adults age 25 and up are graduates of a four-year college or university. Median earnings for all workers are \$36,031, about \$7,000 more than the national median. Seattle ranks near the bottom for Asian Americans—number seventeen out of the twenty-one cities with a large enough Asian American population to be included in this analysis—but near the top, fourth, for Latinos.

7

Baltimore–Towson Metro Area

Baltimore ranks seventh overall with an Index score of 5.75. Though Baltimore soars in earnings, ranking third with median earnings of \$38,629, and performs well in education, ranking ninth, it is second from the bottom in terms of life expectancy, only 77.7 years. For African Americans, Baltimore ranks number sixteen, although Maryland tops the state chart when it comes to the well-being of African Americans. Asian Americans register their second-highest score in Baltimore, whereas the metro area comes in ninth for whites.

8

Denver–Aurora–Bloomfield Metro Area

Denver ranks eighth, with a score of 5.69. Residents of the Mile High City and its environs can expect to live 79.9 years and have median earnings of \$32,756. Thirty-eight percent of adults have at least a bachelor's degree, ten percentage points higher than the national average. Although Denver is seventh for whites, it places fifteenth for African Americans, eighteenth (out of twenty-one) for Asian Americans, and last for Latinos.

9

San Diego–Carlsbad–San Marcos Metro Area

San Diego ranks ninth. Life expectancy in San Diego is 81.3 years, the fourth-best among the twenty-five largest metro areas; its fellow Californian neighbors to the north, San Francisco and Los Angeles, occupy first and second place. California has a larger share of residents who identify as Latino or Asian American than most U.S. states, and these are the two racial and ethnic groups that have the longest life expectancies. Earnings in San Diego are \$31,354. San Diego has about the same share of adults who lack a high school diploma as the country as a whole, nearly one in seven, but a larger share of adults who hold a bachelor's degree, about one in three. San Diego ranks fourth for African American well-being. For whites San Diego ranks tenth and for Latinos, San Diego ranks ninth.

10

Philadelphia–Camden–Wilmington Metro Area

Coming in tenth is the Philadelphia Metro Area. Philly ranks twentieth in health, with a life expectancy of 78.4 years, eighth in income, and an impressive fifth when it comes to education. One in three metro residents holds a four-year college degree. Philadelphia ranks poorly for African Americans (twenty-first). African Americans in Philadelphia have a life expectancy of 73.7 years, the sixth shortest life span for all racial groups in all twenty-five cities.

11

Sacramento–Arden–Arcade–Roseville Metro Area

The Sacramento metro area comes in eleventh with a score of 5.54. Life expectancy is 80.1, median earnings \$31,811, and the share of the adult population with at least a bachelor's degree is just shy of 30 percent. Sacramento is second-to-last for Asian Americans, and sixteenth for whites, but both African Americans and Latinos are doing relatively well in comparison to those groups in other metro areas.

12

Chicago–Joliet–Naperville Metro Area

The Windy Cindy comes in number twelve, with a score of 5.51. Residents of the Chicago metro area can expect to live 79.3 years, have median earnings of \$31,757, and perform better than the national average in terms of the share of adults who hold at least a high school diploma (86.4 percent), a bachelor's degree (34 percent), or a graduate degree (12.8). Though Chicago, on average, has a middle-of-the-pack ranking, disaggregating by race and ethnicity reveals a city of extremes. For Asian Americans, Chicago is in the top five for overall well-being and second for bachelor's degree attainment (63.7 percent of Asian Americans in Chicago complete a four-year degree). For African Americans, Chicago ranks twentieth on the Index overall, twenty-first in health. A life expectancy gap of fourteen years separates Asian Americans and African Americans in Chicago.

13

Portland–Vancouver–Hillsboro Metro Area

Portland ranks thirteenth, with a score of 5.46. Life expectancy is 80.1 years; nine in ten adults have at least a high school diploma, and one in three has a bachelor's degree; and median earnings are

\$30,281, about \$1,400 more than the national average. Like Chicago, Portland's middle-of-the-road ranking obscures significant differences among racial and ethnic groups. The city ranks eleventh for both African Americans and Latinos, but nineteenth for Asian Americans and twentieth for whites. Although Asian Americans and whites are doing less well in Portland than members of their racial and ethnic groups in most other metro areas, however, they still have higher scores than their African American and Latino neighbors.

14

Los Angeles–Long Beach–Santa Ana Metro Area

With a score of 5.40, the LA metro area ranks fourteenth. Life expectancy is 81.4 years, and median personal earnings are \$29,280. In education, LA performs a bit better than the national average in terms of the share of adults with bachelor's degrees (31 percent) and graduate degrees (10.7 percent), but much worse when it comes to the share of adults with at least a high school diploma; 22.5 percent of LA adults did not complete high school, the highest percentage of the major metro areas. For whites, Los Angeles ranks fourth overall, sixth in earnings, and fifth in the share of adults with at least a bachelor's degree, much better than the showing for the city as a whole. For other groups, Los Angeles was a metro area with mostly average rankings relative to the scores of each group in other metros.

15

Atlanta–Sandy Springs–Marietta Metro Area

Atlanta ranks fifteenth, with a score of 5.27. Life expectancy is 78.4 years, just below the national average of 78.9 years and a nineteenth place ranking among the country's largest metropolitan areas. In education, 87.5 percent of adults over 25 have a high school degree, 34.1 percent have a bachelor's degree, and 11.8 have a graduate degree, all slightly above the national average. Median personal earnings are \$30,611, also higher than the national figure. More than one in four African American adults over 25 have a bachelor's degree in Atlanta, giving the city second place in this category.

16

Phoenix–Mesa–Glendale Metro Area

Phoenix ranks sixteenth, with a score of 5.20. Life expectancy is 80.2 years, and median earnings are \$30,532. Educational performance lags in comparison to that of other major metro areas, but is on par with the national average, with 86 percent of adults holding at least a high school diploma and 27.2 percent holding at least a bachelor's degree. Although Phoenix has an average performance overall, Latinos register their third-lowest score, 3.78, in this metro area; Asian Americans score 7.17, whites score 5.85, and African Americans score 4.31.

17

Dallas–Fort Worth–Arlington Metro Area

The Dallas metro area ranks seventeenth, with a score of 5.18. Life expectancy is 78.8 years, median earnings are \$30,930, and educational attainment among adults is near the national average; 83.6 percent of adults have at least a high school diploma, and 31.1 percent of adults have at least a bachelor's degree. Like Phoenix, Dallas registers some of the lowest scores for Latinos; 45.9 percent of adults lack a high school diploma, and median earnings are just \$20,973, on par with national earnings in the mid 1960s. In contrast, Asian Americans register their sixth-highest overall score and third-highest life expectancy in this city.

18

Saint Louis Metro Area

St. Louis ranks eighteenth, with a score of 5.17. Life expectancy is 77.9 years, nearly nine in ten adults 25 and older have at least a high school diploma and three in ten hold a bachelor's degree, and median earnings are \$30,513. African Americans register their second-lowest score in this metro area, 3.42; their life expectancy is just 73.8, and median earnings are \$22,112, comparable to national earnings in the late 1960s. Whites, in contrast, have median earnings of \$31,995.

19

Pittsburgh Metro Area

Pittsburgh, with a score of 5.16, comes in nineteenth. Life expectancy is 78.2 years, and median earnings are \$28,983. Pittsburgh performs near the national average for the share of adults with at least bachelor's and graduate degrees, but is far ahead in terms of the share that has completed high school. Only 8.7 percent of adults lack a high school diploma, an impressive second-place showing. Pittsburgh registers the lowest score for African Americans among the twenty-five largest U.S. metropolitan areas, just 3.29; this is the lowest score of any group in any of the metro areas. Life expectancy for African Americans in Pittsburgh, 72.4 years, is likewise the lowest value for any group in any metro area. Median earnings for whites are lower in Pittsburgh than for whites in any other major metro area.

20

Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach Metro Area

The Sunshine State's largest metro area, Miami, ranks twentieth, with a score of 5.10. Life expectancy is 80.9 years, two years above the national average. Both earnings and education, however, are below national levels. Median earnings are \$26,447, the lowest among the twenty-five largest metro areas. The shares of adults over 25 with at least a high school and bachelor's degree are 82.7 percent and 28.1 percent, respectively. A bright spot: Miami has the fifth-highest score for Latinos overall, and their top score for education.

21

Detroit-Warren-Livonia Metro Area

The Motor City and its environs rank twenty-first, with a score of 5.06. Life expectancy is 77.6 years, and median earnings are \$30,382. In education, 88.1 percent of adults over 25 have at least a high school degree, 27.3 hold a bachelor's degree, and 10.5 hold a graduate or professional degree, figures on par with the national average. Interestingly, despite its twenty-first-place finish overall, Detroit tops the charts for Asian American well-being, with a score of 8.83. The majority of Asian Americans in Detroit trace their heritage to the Indian sub-continent, with 41 percent reporting Indian ancestry, and others having roots in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.¹³ Detroit vies for last place among the twenty metro areas ranked for Latinos, third-to-last for African Americans, and fourth-to-last for whites. African American life expectancy is only 72.9 years.

22

Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown Metro Area

With a score of 5.02, the Houston metro area ranks twenty-second. Life expectancy is 78.6 years and earnings are \$30,586; the share of adults lacking a high school diploma is 19.4 percent, worse than the national average, but the shares of adults with bachelor's and graduate degrees are on par with the national average. A large percentage of Latino adults in Houston did not complete high school, just over 44 percent, and Latino earnings are also quite low, \$21,295, similar to nationally prevailing wages in the United States in the mid-1960s.

23

Tampa–St. Petersburg–Clearwater Metro Area

Tampa–St. Pete ranks twenty-third, with a score (4.75) that trails that of the nation as a whole. Life expectancy is 78 years, and median personal earnings are \$27,365. Among adults age 25 and up, 86.9 percent hold at least a high school degree, 26.2 percent hold a bachelor's degree, and 8.4 percent hold a graduate degree. Among the twenty-five largest U.S. metropolitan areas, Tampa ranks last in terms of the well-being of whites. Nonetheless, whites in Tampa, with a score of 5.12, are still doing better than their African American (3.67) and Latino (4.23) neighbors. A comparative bright spot is the education score for Latinos, the third highest for this group.

24

San Antonio–New Braunfels Metro Area

The San Antonio metro area ranked twenty-fourth, with a score of 4.71. Life expectancy, 79 years, is on par with the national average, but median personal earnings, \$26,678, are over \$2,000 less than the national median. The region has a high rate of adults without a high school degree, 17.5 percent. One in four adults holds at least a bachelor's degree. School enrollment for all people ages 3 to 24 is low, just 75.9 percent, the third lowest of any of the major metro areas. The good news is that San Antonio, last-place-finisher in 2008 and second-to-last in this analysis, is gaining ground on the strength of small improvements in all three dimensions of the Index.

25

Riverside–San Bernardino–Ontario Metro Area

Riverside–San Bernardino is in last place among the twenty-five largest metro areas in terms of human well-being, with an Index score of 4.60. Life expectancy, 79.3 years, is slightly higher than the national average, but median personal earnings, \$26,967, are about \$2,000 less than the national median. In terms of education, about one in five adults over 25 did not complete high school. In contrast to the metro areas ranking overall, Asian Americans have relatively high levels of well-being compared to their Inland Empire neighbors; Riverside–San Bernardino ranks twelfth for Asian Americans.

Measure of America provides easy-to-use yet methodologically sound tools for understanding well-being and opportunity in America and stimulates fact-based dialogue about issues we all care about: health, education, and living standards.

Through hard copy and online reports, custom-built dashboards, and evidence-based research and analysis, Measure of America breathes life into numbers, using data to identify areas of need, pinpoint levers for change, and track progress over time.

Policymakers, businesses, philanthropists, and nonprofit boards increasingly want an answer to this question: are our efforts translating into social, economic, or environmental impacts on the ground? Several tools for measuring impact exist, but they tend to focus heavily on inputs (such as the number of loans approved or philanthropic dollars delivered) and direct, short-term results. Measure of America moves beyond inputs to identify indicators and approaches for community-level change and works with organizations to design performance metrics, monitor and evaluate progress, and present the results.

PUBLICATIONS



Measure of America's reports provide authoritative data-based analysis on well-being and access to opportunity at the national, state, and local levels.

Reports are frequently cited by journalists and researchers. Organizations such as Catholic Charities USA and United Way use MOA's work to evaluate programs, implement policy changes, and more.

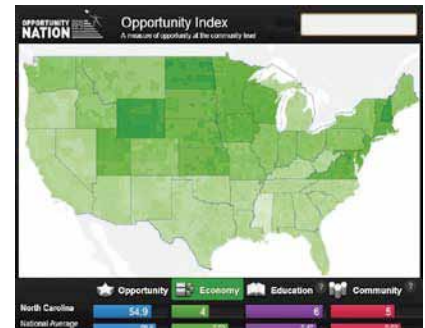
INTERACTIVE TOOLS



Measure of America develops innovative and engaging online tools to explore the latest data. They are excellent for classroom use.

In *Mapping the Measure of America*, users can play with over 100 indicators. They can calculate their personal well-being score on the *Well-O-Meter* and delve into the impact of education on communities with *The Common Good Forecaster*.

SERVICES



Need help with data? MOA's custom services help clients better understand their constituents, measure social impact, and present data in an engaging manner.

We can help you identify the right indicators; analyze, visualize, and communicate data; and write about your findings. Our clients include government, nonprofit, service delivery, and philanthropic organizations.

To obtain copies of reports and use an array of interactive maps and tools, please visit:

www.measureofamerica.org