Opportunity Mapping

Equity, Opportunity, and Sustainability in the Central Puget Sound: A Study of the Region’s Geography of Opportunity

Fostering Social Equity Through Urban Planning
March 24, 2016
Rainier Beach High School
Opportunity Defined

• “Opportunity” is a situation or condition that places individuals in a position to be more likely to succeed or excel

• Opportunity structures are critical to helping all people lead successful lives:
  ✓ High-quality education
  ✓ Healthy and safe environments
  ✓ Good services and reliable systems
  ✓ Stable high-quality housing
  ✓ Access to employment
  ✓ Political empowerment and representation
  ✓ Building wealth channels
  ✓ Positive, strong social networks
## Central Puget Sound Region’s Indicators of Opportunity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Economic Health</th>
<th>Housing &amp; Neighborhood Quality</th>
<th>Mobility/Transportation</th>
<th>Health &amp; Environmental</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Test Scores (4th Grade)</td>
<td>Access to Living Wage Jobs</td>
<td>Housing Vacancy Rates</td>
<td>Transportation Cost; Cost per commute</td>
<td>Distance to nearest park or open space</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math Test Scores (4th Grade)</td>
<td>Job Growth Trends; % Change in Jobs from 2000-2010</td>
<td>Housing Stock Condition</td>
<td>Transit access; Proximity to Express Bus Stops</td>
<td>Toxic waste; Proximity to Toxic Waste Release</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Poverty</td>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>Foreclosure Rate</td>
<td>Average Transit Fare Cost</td>
<td>Access to healthy food; percent of tract in food desert</td>
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<td>Teacher qualifications</td>
<td></td>
<td>High Cost Loan Rate</td>
<td>Walkability; % of commutes by walking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduation Rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>Crime Index</td>
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Opportunity Index: Education

Educational Opportunity Index
- Reading Proficiency (4th grade test)
- Math Proficiency (4th grade test)
- School Poverty (% receiving free/reduced lunch)
- Teacher Qualification (% with Master's degree)
- Graduation rates (High school)

Legend:
- Very Low
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Very High
Opportunity Index: Housing and Neighborhoods
Opportunity Index: Mobility
Mapping Opportunity: Composite Regional Index

Regional inequities in access to opportunity:

- Education
- Employment
- Mobility
- Health
- Neighborhood safety

Mapping helps tell the story

Many solutions needed to address inequities:

Neighborhood, city, region, state, nation…
Who has access to opportunity?

Figure 1. Opportunity Distribution By Demographic Group

Figure 6. Opportunity By Poverty And Race
Approaches to improving access to opportunity

1. Increase accessibility of low opportunity neighborhoods to higher opportunity neighborhoods.
   Example: Transit investments and funding should seek to connect high and low opportunity neighborhoods. And where good paying jobs are.

2. Direct affordable housing investments to higher opportunity areas.
   Example: Have housing choices of all types throughout the region.

3. Direct investments in education, health, and safety to lower opportunity neighborhoods.
   Example: Focus regional public health effort on low opportunity neighborhoods.

4. Can you think of some?
For More Information

Maps online at:
psrc.org → TOD → GTC Strategy → Equity

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