RENEWING OUR CALL TO ACTION

A framework for eliminating disparities for boys and young men of color and improving outcomes for all youth

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

KIRWAN INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF RACE AND ETHNICITY

The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity
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As a university-wide, interdisciplinary research institute, the **Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity** works to deepen understanding of the causes of—and solutions to—racial and ethnic disparities worldwide and to bring about a society that is fair and just for all people.

Our research is designed to be actively used to solve problems in society. Research and staff expertise are shared through an extensive network of colleagues and partners, ranging from other researchers, grassroots social justice advocates, policymakers, and community leaders nationally and globally, who can quickly put ideas into action.

RENEWING OUR CALL TO ACTION

Introduction

RECENT FOCUSING EVENTS across the United States, such as protests around the country and the tragedy in Charlottesville, have sharpened our national dialogue on race. These events all signal that as a country, and as a community, we still struggle with issues of race and justice. From historic disinvestment driven by the practices of redlining, urban renewal, and white flight, our nation's history of racial segregation and discrimination still permeates throughout our society. As dark as our reality may seem today, it nevertheless demands that we embrace it by taking an unapologetic look at our institutions, our policies, and ourselves.

"our nation's history of racial segregation and discrimination still permeates throughout our society"

Columbus is not immune from this challenge. Despite Columbus' social and economic growth over the past several decades, many of Columbus' residents are still being left behind today. As Ohio's largest city, and as the second fastest growing metropolitan area in the Midwest region,* Columbus has a responsibility to combat segregation, and the structural stressors that accompany it, to improve the lives of all residents.

The place where Columbus could have the most impact on its future is by investing in its youth. This report finds that 45% (132,900) of our 290,100 youth between the ages of 0 and 24 live in neighborhoods that experience high or very high vulnerability. Their vulnerability lies in the continued, extended, and everyday exposure to stressors such as poor performing schools, poverty, inadequate healthcare, and unsafe neighborhood environments. Furthermore, these stressors impact outcomes such as high school graduation, household income, life expectancy, and incidences of violent crime. These outcomes extend vulnerability to the next generation of youth, which will be more diverse than the current generation. As our community in Columbus continues to become more diverse, there is a greater urgency to coordinate our resolve to mend structural inequality.

Despite the impacts of stress and opportunity on all residents and youth, Renewing Our Call to Action will illustrate how these stressors disproportionately affect Youth of Color. This report finds that more than half (55%) of vulnerable youth are Youth of Color. In another comparison,

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* United States Census Bureau. Ten U.S. Cities Now Have 1 Million People or More; California and Texas Each Have Three of These Places. CB15-89. (2015, May 21). Retrieved from: https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015/cb15-89.html

KIRWAN INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF RACE AND ETHNICITY

Youth of Color are 18% more likely to live in a neighborhood experiencing high or very high vulnerability. On the other side, white youth are 62% more likely to live in an area of low or very low vulnerability.

This stark contrast, a result of historic and modern racial segregation, illustrates the need for the My Brother's Keeper Initiative. Our city recognized the urgency of the situation when it was one of the first cities in the country to heed President Obama's call to be "My Brother's Keeper" in 2014, calling on communities across the country to address the overwhelming and persistent disparities in opportunity faced by boys and young men of color and other vulnerable youth. At that time, President Obama called for collective action, noting that improving the lives of our youth will require a sustained effort from all of us. Today, here in Columbus, we continue to not only heed that call, but seek out ways to improve our response and methods, so that we provide all youth the opportunity to take advantage of the many assets our city has to offer.

RENEWING OUR CALL TO ACTION REQUIRES A RENEWED COMMITMENT FOR ALL OF COLUMBUS' RESIDENTS TO COME TOGETHER TO LIFT UP OUR YOUTH.

If Columbus seeks to be an opportunity city for all, it must recommit itself to the project of building opportunity for all of its residents. But this is not an effort that can be done by the City of Columbus alone. It requires all stakeholders to take up the call to action—from residents, to local churches, to local government.

In an effort to bring the community together around youth initiatives, the City of Columbus commissioned this report to learn more about the local landscape of youth vulnerability, and to get a better understanding of existing assets at the neighborhood level. This report provides a portrait of youth vulnerability and resources across Columbus, and outlines how we can work together to raise the bar and close achievement gaps in order to ensure that all youth in Columbus have the opportunity to succeed. *Renewing Our Call to Action* is the first step of a recommitment to building a community that provides opportunity for all.

Project Background

This report responds to the October 2015 Youth Perspective Report completed by the City of Columbus to support their expanding work in the My Brother's Keeper Initiative. As a part of that report's recommendations, the City of Columbus seeks to work with the community to collaboratively set short and long term goals with measurable targets, or common benchmarks of success. These benchmarks build off the 'Milestones,' or recommendations from the national My Brother's Keeper Initiative.

- **Entering School Ready to Learn:** All school-aged children should have a healthy start and enter school cognitively, physically, socially, and emotionally prepared to learn.

- **Reading at Grade Level by Third Grade:** All children should be reading at grade level by age 8, the age at which reading is solidified as a truly essential, foundational component of ongoing learning.

- **Graduating from High School Ready for College and Career:** All young adults should have the option to attend postsecondary education equipped with skills for continued success.

- **Completing Post-Secondary Education or Training:** All young adults should receive the education and training needed for quality jobs of today and tomorrow.

- **Successfully Entering the Workforce:** All individuals who want a job should be able to secure and sustain employment that allows them to support themselves and their families.

- **Reducing Violence and Providing a Second Chance:** All children should be safe from violent crime. Individuals who are confined should receive the education, training, and treatment they need for a second chance.

Methodology

Tne Kirwan Institute conducted four separate analyses. First, we developed the Youth Vulnerability Index. Predicated on more than ten years of work around our Opportunity Communities framework, the Youth Vulnerability Index seeks to understand youth vulnerability in the domains of education, economics, health, and safety. Second, we aggregated demographic data and analyzed it in conjunction with the Vulnerability Index. Third, we cataloged and spatially analyzed the locations of Youth Service Providers. Fourth, we surveyed existing Youth Service providers on their programs and ideas for moving youth programs forward.

VULNERABILITY INDEX ANALYSIS
See *Vulnerability Mapping, An Infographic on How it Works* (pg. 15-16). (Visit our online interactive story map for a more in-depth look at the data.)

VULNERABILITY & YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS
The Kirwan Institute analyzed demographic data in association with the 2017 Columbus Youth Vulnerability Index. Kirwan Institute staff built this analysis by using data from the most recent 5-Year Estimate data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). Demographic data was then area-corrected to Census tracts to best approximate the number of residents in a tract. In addition, we developed an Investment Priority Index.

YOUTH SERVICE PROVIDER ASSET MAPPING
The Kirwan Institute conducted the Youth Service Provider Asset Mapping Analysis as a snapshot to identify gaps in service provider coverage. Kirwan Institute staff built this data by collecting youth service program data from HandsOn Central Ohio, City of Columbus' Capital Kids Program, and Columbus Parent database. In total, we recorded 298 service providers that work with all youth. The Kirwan Institute then digitally mapped youth service providers to identify potential gaps in coverage.

YOUTH SERVICE PROVIDER SURVEY
The Kirwan Institute developed and analyzed the Youth Service Provider Survey between March and July 2017. The Youth Service Provider Survey focused on organizations that serve boys and young men of color, as well as other vulnerable youth. The survey was circulated to three email lists between April and May 2017. In total, the survey recorded 33 clean responses.

Defining Segments of Youth

When examining youth, or those residents of the City of Columbus between the ages of 0 through 24, there are several considerations at the outset:

First, data limits (for instance, age ranges and sampling approaches) can be a challenge when structuring youth cohorts and understanding the number of youth impacted. To overcome this we use the **American Community Survey 5-Year sample**, which provides high reliability in terms of the physical counts of youth aged 0–24. Furthermore, this dataset spans generations. As the last of the Millennial generation approaches high school graduation and is entering the workforce, the following generation, known as Post-Millennials, iGeneration, or Centennials, is also a focus of this report.

Second, the growth of a child from early childhood into a young adult is a time of rapid change. Because of this, simply lumping all youth into a category of residents aged 0–24 fails to capture the differences among key life stages. To combat this problem, this report splits youth into three cohorts: Early Childhood Youth aged 0–4, K–12 Youth aged 5–17, and Young Adults aged 18–24.

Third, demographic information, such as race and foreign-born status, help the Kirwan Institute further differentiate impacts on different types of youth. There are three discrete segments of Youth that this 2017 *Renewing Our Call to Action* report analyzes. The primary focus of this report is Youth of Color, the second focus is Boys & Young Men of Color, and the third focus is Youth of Columbus.

Three Segments of Youth

1. YOUTH OF COLOR
Youth under the age of 25; Counts youth of Columbus that identified as anything other than white, non-Hispanic. Classified into three discrete groups:

1. Early Childhood Youth of Color: Aged 0-4
2. K-12 Youth of Color: Aged 5-17
3. Young Adults of Color: Aged 18-24

2. BOYS & YOUNG MEN OF COLOR
Youth between the ages of 0-24; Counts Youth of Color that identified as Male; Emphasis on K-12 and Adolescent Youth:

1. Early Childhood Youth of Color: Aged 0–4
2. K-12 Boys of Color: Aged 5–17
3. Young Men of Color: Aged 18–24

3. YOUTH OF COLUMBUS
Youth under the age of 25; Counts all youth of Columbus. Classified into three discrete groups:

1. Early Childhood Youth: Aged 0–4
2. K-12 Youth: Aged 5–17
3. Young Adults: Aged 18–24

City of Columbus, Racial Distribution of Youth Population
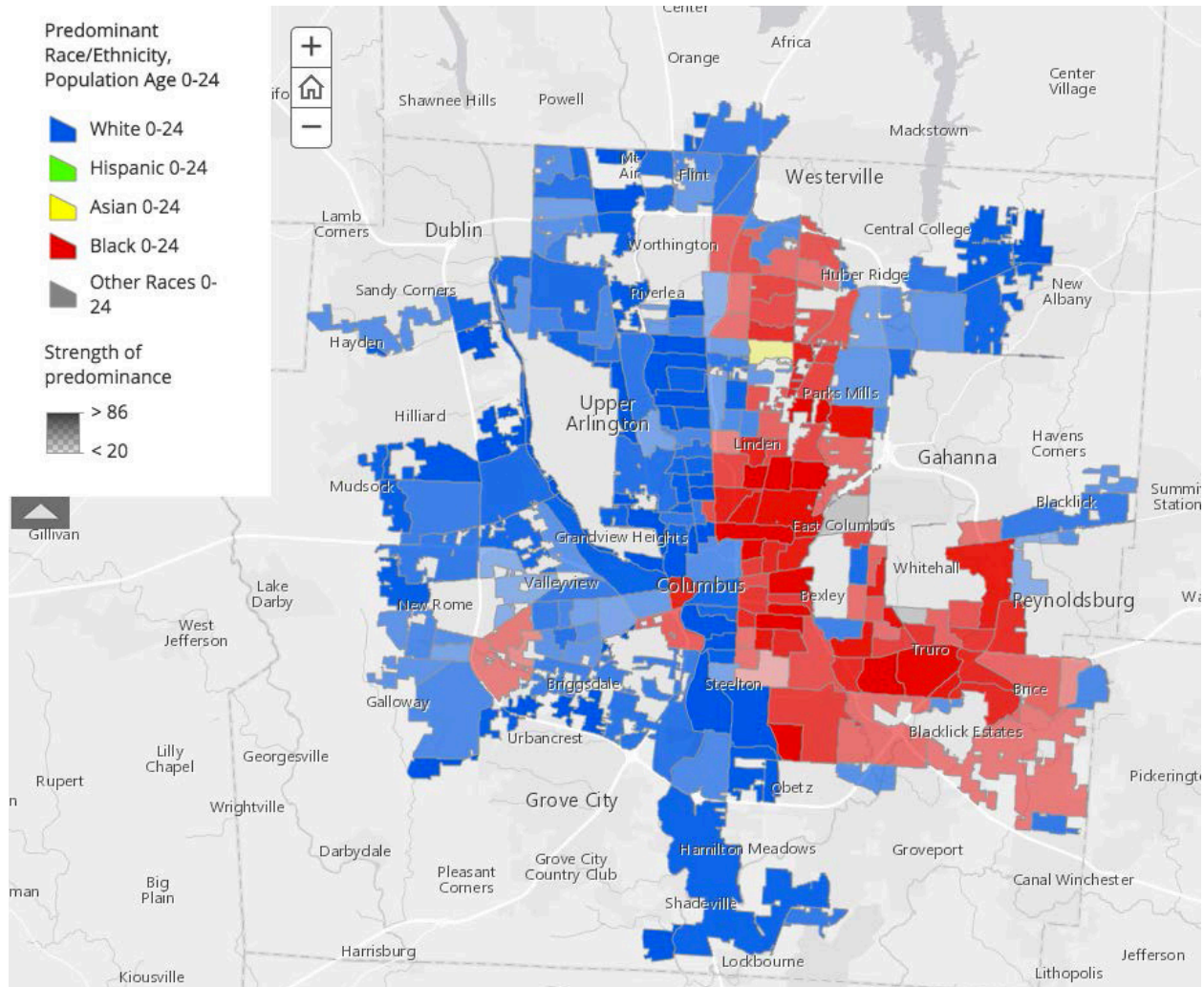
The map above, which shows the predominant race in each census tract, shows the distribution by race and ethnicity of the youth population across the City of Columbus. In Columbus, White youth and Black youth are the two most prominent race/ethnic groups. The "predominant race/ethnicity" in a census tract is defined as the race/ethnic group comprising the largest percentage of the census tract population. The areas with a higher percentage of a particular race in a census tract are shown in a darker color.

There is a clear racial divide between the east and west sides of the City of Columbus.

Defining Vulnerability

As the racial distribution map illustrates, there are striking differences in the racial representation of youth in Columbus neighborhoods—differences which are certain to be reflected in the lived experiences of youth and families. Thus, in order to strategically invest in neighborhoods to expand opportunities for vulnerable youth, it is necessary to understand the unique set of barriers and stressors they are likely to encounter—sources of vulnerability.

Vulnerability is the cumulative product of encountering environmental and interpersonal stressors. Environmentally, stressors that heighten vulnerability can be structural, institutional, and interpersonal in nature. Interpersonally, economically, socially, or racially motivated triggers, grounded in explicit or implicit bias, can also induce stress and heighten vulnerability. Research illustrates that youth are the most susceptible to these stressors.[*] While some stressors can start as early as the womb, many youth experience stress and increased vulnerability throughout their early childhood, K–12, and young adult years. These stressors can include everything from family difficulties such as divorce, parental unemployment, to food insecurity, unsafe streets, housing instability, and implicit to explicit discrimination. Youth can be vulnerable at school, at home, and in the neighborhoods where they live and play. All youth can experience these stressors, but Youth of Color experience them at a disproportionately higher rate.

Prolonged exposure to stressors during youth is like a thousand small cuts, each stressor slowly taking its toll on an individual's physical and mental health, each increasing youth vulnerability. The cumulative effect of this stress can affect an individual for a lifetime by affecting their life outcomes. Research increasingly shows that stressors experienced in youth increase the likelihood of developmental delays. Youth exposure to stress also compounds health problems. For example, youth exposure to stress increases rates of heart disease, diabetes, substance abuse, and depression.[**] Youth affected by stress may also experience reduced generational opportunity, or reduced opportunity for both themselves and their children.

When we think about how to respond to vulnerability, we need to think about how Youth utilize services and resources to mitigate stress and vulnerability in all domains of well-being. We also must assess if these same services and resources meet the demands placed on them in order to serve youth effectively. This is why taking a **trauma-informed approach** is critical.

A trauma-informed approach seeks to mitigate stress and vulnerability. A trauma-informed approach also faces the consequences of historic and current structural dynamics and institutional policies. A trauma-informed approach breaks the cycle of biased disinvestment and unequal treatment. Addressing and mitigating structural dynamics and institutional policies with a trauma-informed approach also reduces the consequences of these previous inequitable decisions. While the effects of structural dynamics and institutional policies will still be felt among all youth and most acutely by Youth of Color, a trauma-informed approach makes it possible to escape the cycle of disinvestment.

* DivesityDataKids.org. About diversitydatakids.org. 2014. Accessed At http://www.diversitydatakids.org/about.

** Stevens, Jane Ellen. "The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study—The Largest Public Health Study You Never Heard Of, Part Three," Huffington Post, October 8, 2012. Accessed June 10, 2014 at http://www.huffingtonpost.--http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jane-ellen-stevens/the-adverse-childhood-ex-p_7_b_1944199.html

Domains of Vulnerability and Why They Matter

The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity has been engaged in projects mapping social indicators of opportunity for several years, within the state and across the country, which makes the Institute uniquely positioned to help identify where vulnerability is most concentrated for youth in Columbus. To do so, the Institute developed the Youth Vulnerability Index. The index relies on data from the census tract, which reflects neighborhood-level characteristics. This method and scope of analysis can assist efforts to target individual neighborhoods and communities that would benefit most from investments directed toward improving youth outcomes.

Decades of research show that opportunities often come bundled; high household incomes correlate with high quality education; access to employment reduces incarceration; educational attainment links with unemployment rate and increased life expectancy. Each discrete aspect of opportunity in a neighborhood affects life outcomes. Conversely, aspects of vulnerability affect neighborhoods. High unemployment rates correlate with student mobility; student attendance affects high school graduation, which affects future earnings and poverty rates. In order to capture all of the potential sources of stressors throughout the life course of a child, the Institute identified four important domains that are critical for life outcomes: Education, Economic, Health, and Safety.

EDUCATION

Education is a gateway to opportunity. If the City of Columbus' educational system does not function properly and provide access to high quality education, children, families, and communities suffer. Although in-school stress certainly affects educational success, educational success correlates with neighborhood vulnerability, accounting for approximately 60 percent of a school's impact. Despite that, educators can mitigate the impacts of youth stress and youth vulnerability.[*] Specific indicators include: 1) **3rd Grade Reading Proficiency**, 2) **High School Graduation Rate**, 3) **Student Mobility Rate**, 4) **Student Attendance Rate**, 5) **Teacher Attendance Rate**, and 6) **Young Adult Educational Attainment**. Educational Vulnerability was calculated using the three closest public schools for the neighborhood to represent neighborhood access to education. Charter schools and Open Enrollment schools are not included.

ECONOMIC

Economic insecurity and the stress that comes with it is a powerful driver of neighborhood vulnerability that profoundly affects all youth. In the Economic domain, Kirwan Institute selected indicators that correlate with economic insecurity. Research illustrates that economic insecurity is more than material deprivation; it also affects access to services and resources that stimulate socio-cognitive development.[**] Specific indicators of Economic vulnerability are: 1) **Poverty Rate for Youth 0–24**, 2) **Percentage of Households Experiencing Housing Cost Burden, or spending more than 30% of their monthly income on rents or mortgages**, 3) **Median Household Income**, and; 4) **Unemployment Rate**.

HEALTH

To explore Health vulnerability, Kirwan Institute employed three main variables: 1) **Percentage of Youth with Health Insurance**, 2) **The Modified Retail Food Equity Index (mRFEI)**; and, 3) **Life Expectancy at Birth**. Access to health insurance is associated with access to preventative and acute health care services. Access to healthy food is critical, yet we know that not all youth receive the vital nutrients for healthy development. Not only are there physiological consequences (i.e. diminished health) to inadequate access to healthy foods, research shows that food insecurity and hunger impact a child's ability to learn.[***] The mRFEI provides a snapshot of access to healthy food.[****] Finally, by taking into account age-specific conditions, life expectancy at birth can provide insight into the overall health of a population.

SAFETY

Safety, as defined by the Center for Disease Control, is "...the extent to which a child is free from fear and secure from physical or psychological harm within their social and physical environment."[*****] A sense of safety comes from experiencing a predictable world, one of order and consistency. Unfortunately, too many of our youth are growing up in unsafe neighborhoods. Increased exposure to violence may lead to stress and heightened vulnerability. The three components of the safety index are: 1) **Prison Incarceration Rate**, 2) **Violent Crime Rate** and; 3) **Gun Crime Rate**.

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[*]   Dana Goldstein, "Can Teachers Alone Overcome Poverty? Steven Brill Thinks So," The Nation. August 10, 2011. Available at http://www.thenation.com/article/162695/can-teachers-alone-overcome-poverty-steven-brill-thinks-so?page=full#

[**]   Dearing, Eric. "Psychological Costs of Growing Up Poor," Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences 1136: 324-332 (2008).

[***] For example, hunger can result in children struggling to concentrate in school or other social activities, or inhibit them from staying alert and aware throughout their day. See Dr. Larry J. Brown, "The Consequences of Hunger and Food Insecurity for Children: Evidence from Recent Scientific Studies," Center on Hunger and Poverty, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University. June 2002. Citing Alaimo, K. et.al, "Food Insufficiency and American school-aged children's cognitive, academic, and psychosocial development," Pediatrics 108(1): 44-53. July 2001. Showing that one study found that low-income children under 12, living in food insecure households, were more likely to have frequent colds, ear infections, and other health problems compared to their counterparts living in food secure households.

[****] We do note that proximity does not fully equate to access. Issues of affordability also matter

[*****] Center for Disease Control. "Children Benefit When Parents Have Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships. Center for Disease Control (2017) Accessed at https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ssnrs-for-parents.pdf

Vulnerability Mapping

An Infographic on How it Works

The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University (Kirwan Institute) pioneered a process called Opportunity Mapping. Opportunity Mapping was designed to show what decades of research have proven: that opportunities are bundled in places. It illustrates that where you live matters. Vulnerability, or the exposure to stressors, is the opposite of Opportunity. To illustrate how different neighborhoods are exposed to stressors, Kirwan Institute created a process called Vulnerability Mapping. This infographic explains the basics of Vulnerability Mapping in a step-by-step process, and answers many of the frequently asked questions Kirwan Institute receives.

THE VULNERABILITY MAPPING PROCESS

STEP 1:

A stakeholder asks,

"Is there Vulnerability in *my* community?"

Stressors impact us all: from financial to family. While stress impacts everyone differently, some people live in communities or neighborhoods that experience more stress than others. Examples of stress at the neighborhood level include crime, distressed housing, and chronic unemployment. The more stress a person is exposed to the more likely they are to experience vulnerability.

Stress affects everyone, but living in a stressful enviornment creates new challenges.

STEP 2:

Kirwan Institute

Seeks and finds the *data..*

Kirwan Institute prefers using government sourced data, such as information from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). As a core dataset of most Vulnerability indices's, Kirwan Institute prefers the 5-Year ACS Estimates, because of its scale advantages.

*While Kirwan Institute prefers the US Census ACS, we are also able to incorporate other data into a Vulnerability Index. For Example, the **City of Columbus Youth Vulnerability Index** includes data from ESRI's Business Analyst on Food Retail outlets.*

*Kirwan Institute likes using US Census Tracts as the closest **representation of a neighborhood.** A typical Census Tract has between 1000 and 5000 residents, just like many neighborhoods.*

	1 Year ACS Estimates	3 Year ACS Estimates	5 Year ACS Estimates
Data Collected	12 Months	36 Months	60 Months
Best Scale	Areas of 65,000+	Areas 20,000+	Areas 1,000+
Best Geographic Application	Nation, State, & County	Nation, State, County, & Cities	Nation, State, County, Cities, & Neighborhood
Advantages	Most Current Data	Somewhat Current Data Moderately Reliable	Best Geographic Scale High Reliability
Disadvantages	Low Reliability Collected for Large Communities	Collected for Mid-Sized Communities	Least Current Data

Kirwan Institute

Collects and Cleans the *data* to create *indicators.*

Kirwan Institute collects and cleans the data, with Stakeholders, into categories. Using research to inform smart choices, Kirwan Institute first selects and collects data. Kirwan Institute then cleans data to turn data into indicators at the neighborhood, or US Census Tract level. Indicators in the 2017 City of Columbus Youth Vulnerability Index include:

Indicators are linked together by tying them to geographic spaces, like Census Tracts. In some instances Kirwan Institute has to calculate and modify data to fit it into the appropiate geographic space.

| Education	Economic	Health	Safety

Kirwan Institute

Normalize the *indicators* to create *z-scores.*

After data selection, sorting, and cleaning, Kirwan Institute normalizes the indicators, by measuring how far away each individual data point is from the mean, or average, of all data points. This measurement is either positive (+) or negative (-) and is the a measurement of the number of standard deviations (or, the data spread of all data points) between that data point and the average. This is referred to as the **z-score.**
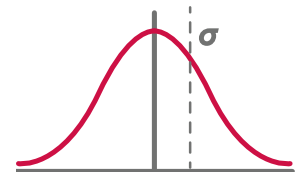
Indicators with a **'normal distribution'** of data work best for Vulnerability Mapping.

Kirwan Institute

Averages *z-scores* to create a category *sub-index.*

The z-score for each indicator within a category, for example: housing, is averaged. This new Housing sub-index helps stakeholders see the cumulative impact of inequality in specific categories.

DATA
LIMIT
+/-
5%

*While sub-indexes help qualtify vulnerability, **data limits** do exist; not all stressors can be accounted for in a model.*

Kirwan Institute

Averages all *sub-indices* to create a *Vulnerability Index; Then we map it!*

Each sub-index is averaged together. This does two things; 1) it ensures that no component is more important than another, and; 2) it allows Kirwan Institute to map Comprehensive Vulnerability. Kirwan Institute uses the 'Quintile' approach to equally portion the total number of neighborhoods, or US Census Tracts into Very High, High, Moderate, Low, and Very Low Vulnerability. For example: if there is a city with 101 neighborhoods, or Census Tracts, 20 would be Very High; 20 would be High, 21 would be Moderate, 20 would be Low, and 20 would be very low. For odd breaks, Moderate Vulnerability absorbs the uneven tracts.

Shades of Vulnerability

■	*Very High*
■	*High*
■	*Moderate*
■	*Low*
■	*Very Low*
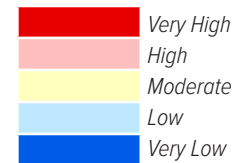
The above colors are the offical Kirwan Institute color pallette for Vulnerability Mapping; they represent the shades of Vulnerability in communities.

Youth Vulnerability in Columbus, Ohio
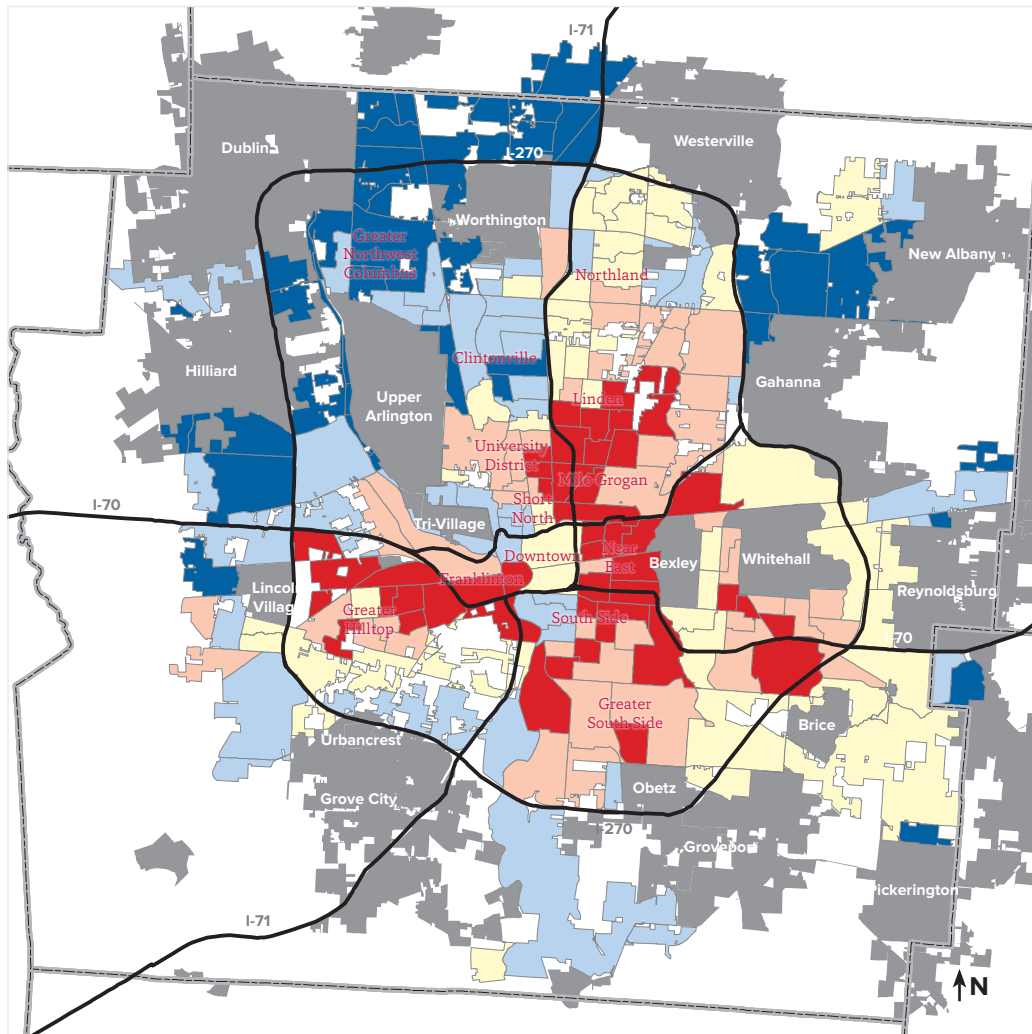
This map is based on the 16 indicators of youth vulnerability. The youth vulnerability map highlights the census tracts in which youth experience the highest rates of multiple barriers and cumulative disadvantage.

Vulnerability

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low
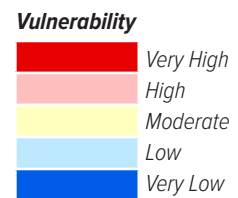
Vulnerability at the Neighborhood Level

We analyzed the Vulnerability Index to understand what domains of vulnerability most impact youth. We identified two key findings:

Vulnerability is highest in the Linden, Hilltop, East Side, and South Side neighborhoods, but different types of vulnerability drive overall vulnerability.

Vulnerability is concentrated in four parts of the city: North East Neighborhoods (Linden, Milo-Grogan), West Neighborhoods (Hilltop), East Side Neighborhoods (King-Lincoln Bronzeville, Eastgate, and South-of-Main) and South Side neighborhoods (Innis Garden Village, Milbrook, and Southern Orchards). The greatest concentration of high vulnerability tracts within Columbus are in North East Neighborhoods and extend along the Cleveland Avenue corridor in the Linden neighborhood. Each tract in the North East Neighborhoods of North and South Linden scores high among all four vulnerability domains. In the Westside Neighborhood of Hilltop, high health vulnerability drives the comprehensive vulnerability index. Nearly all tracts in the Westside Neighborhood of Hilltop experience very high health vulnerability. East Side Neighborhoods, such as King-Lincoln Bronzeville, Eastgate, and South-of-Main are also experiencing high vulnerability in each of the four domains. South Side Neighborhoods, such as Innis Garden Village, Milbrook, and Southern Orchards are also experiencing high comprehensive vulnerability. In these neighborhoods, very high educational vulnerability drives high comprehensive vulnerability. The ability to pinpoint which domain is driving the overall score should allow stakeholders to target interventions accordingly.

Concentrations of high and low vulnerability illustrate a contrast between centrally located neighborhoods and outlying suburbs.

Concentrations of high and low vulnerability illustrate a city that is divided and separate between the central city and suburbs. This modern segregation illustrates how historic and modern policies of disinvestment manifest in vulnerability. Historic disadvantages of Redlining, Urban Renewal, and White Flight continue to impact youth outcomes today. Specifically, Redlining enabled neighborhoods with white middle class populations to access credit and build equity, while disabling neighborhoods with black populations from accessing credit and building equity. Neighborhoods with highest vulnerability (North East Neighborhoods of Linden and Milo-Grogan, Westside Neighborhood of Hilltop, East Side Neighborhood of King-Lincoln Bronzeville, and South Side Neighborhood of Southern Orchards) were also neighborhoods that had limited access to credit. Conversely, North Central Neighborhoods (Clintonville, Beechwold, and Northwest Area) have the lowest vulnerability; these neighborhoods (North Central Neighborhoods of Clintonville) had high concentrations of white adults, and access to credit. This enabled these residents to build equity and wealth.

Target Investment Priority Areas

Youth Vulnerability & Density Map
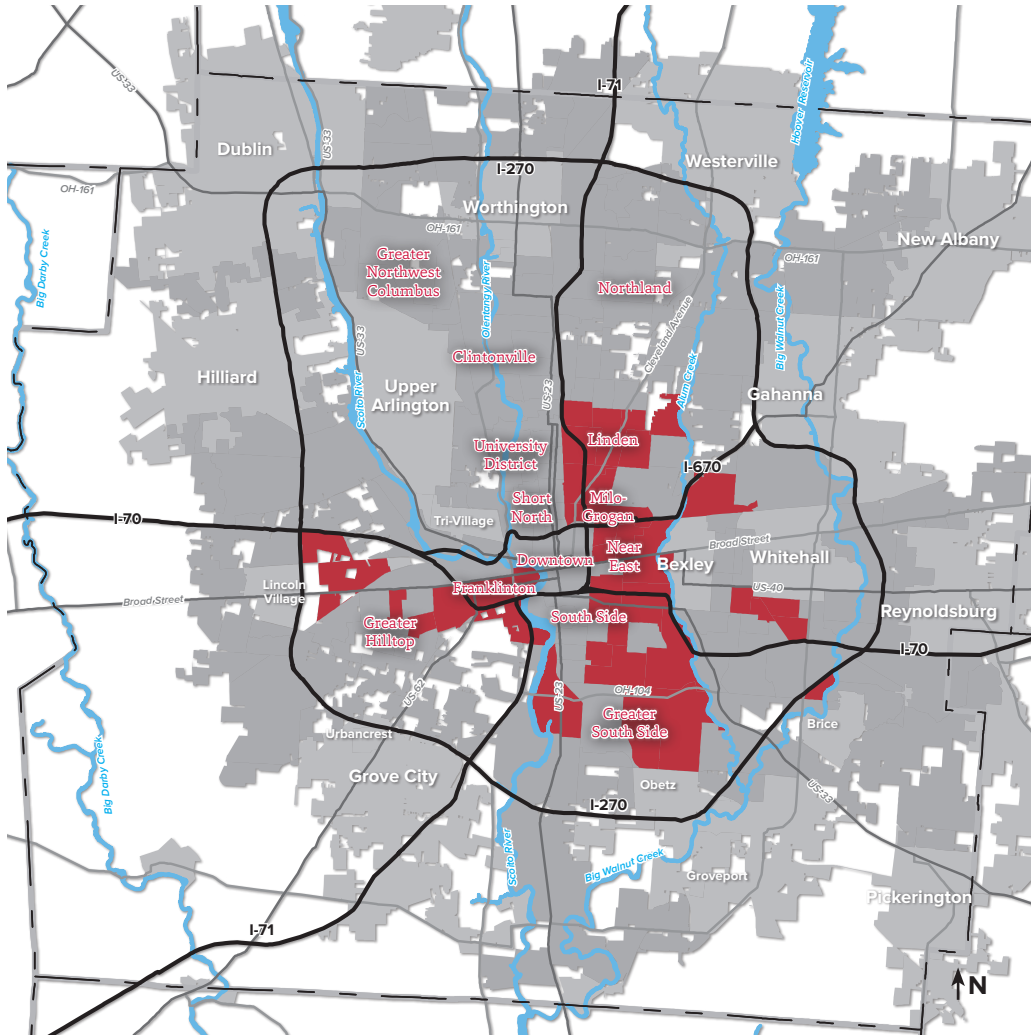
This map combines the Youth Vulnerability Map with youth density in order to highlight the areas where investments have the potential to impact the greatest number of our most vulnerable youth. The areas highlighted here – such as Linden, the Near East Side, Hilltop, Franklinton, and the South Side – represent the highest concentrations of vulnerable youth in Columbus.

Vulnerability & Youth Demographics

We analyzed the Youth Vulnerability Index in conjunction with Demographic data to understand how vulnerability impacts youth of differing demographics. We identified several key findings:

- **Youth of Color are 18% more likely to live in a neighborhood experiencing high or very high vulnerability.**

- **White youth are 62% more likely to live in an area of low or very low vulnerability**

- **1 in 10 White Early Childhood and K–12 Youth live in neighborhoods with very high vulnerability.**

- **1 in 5 Early Childhood and K–12 Youth of Color live in neighborhoods with very high vulnerability.**

Vulnerability of Youth of Columbus, By Race and Ethnicity

Vulnerability	White	Youth of Color	Foreign Born
Very High	14%	26%	13%
High	23%	28%	31%
Moderate	18%	26%	25%
Low	21%	10%	16%
Very Low	24%	10%	15%

Vulnerability of All Youth, Youth of Color, and Boys & Young Men of Color

	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
Total Youth Population	57,500	75,400	63,400	45,700	48,100
Percent	**20%**	**26%**	**22%**	**16%**	**17%**
Total Youth of Color Population	34,400	38,300	35,000	14,000	12,900
Percent	**26%**	**28%**	**26%**	**10%**	**10%**
Total Boys and Young Men of Color Population	17,200	18,200	16,800	7,700	6,400
Percent	**26%**	**27%**	**25%**	**12%**	**10%**

The Kirwan Institute and Champion of Children Initiative

Providing research to galvanize the central Ohio community for the well-being of our children

Since 2013, Kirwan has provided research support to the Champion of Children initiative of United Way of Central Ohio. This initiative seeks to educate and mobilize the central Ohio community by elevating community awareness and understanding of the issues that affect the well-being of our children and their families. Over the years, this research has covered topics such as the role neighborhoods play in youth development (2013), how toxic stress threatens childhood success (2014), and the importance of neighborhood social fabric for supporting children's (and their family's) success (2017). The research provided through this report series has become a community rallying cry, sounding the alarm on the most pressing challenges faced by Central Ohio youth.

In 2015, Champion of Children (CoC) focused on the risk factors for boys of color. Understanding how systemic inequities contribute to disparate outcomes is necessary to move forward as a united community. We must deal directly with the fact that the outcomes for boys of color have been so dismal for so long that we have gone through a process of what noted scholar and New York University professor Dr. Pedro Noguera refers to as "normalization." As a society, we've grown accustomed to the fact that certain groups will be overrepresented in domains associated with failure, such as incarceration and unemployment, and underrepresented in domains associated with success, like higher education and gainful employment. While the challenges are deep, so too is the potential of boys of color. As such, CoC 2015 outlined a framework for tapping into this potential:

- Ensure healthy neighborhoods
- Support strong and resilient families
- Embrace a new narrative of resilience and high expectations
- Invest in evidence-based mentoring programs and coaching to support youth
- Challenge our implicit biases as individuals within our institutions and our communities, and
- Repair the pipeline for educational success

We returned in 2016 with a special focus on the voices and experiences of Latino boys, in recognition that the data available capturing such experiences for this cohort is incomplete, at best. Multiple engagements with Latino parents and boys highlighted the limited time and resources available to parents to help prepare their children for the future; language barriers at home and in the community that presented difficulties; and documentation status and the stress that goes along with that, as well as the biases around immigration status in the larger community. Despite these challenges, hope was ever-present, as was a sense of curiosity, perseverance, and openness that our larger community would do well to emulate. Towards that end—promoting inclusion—we recommended the following:

- Build a diverse teacher pipeline to match the child demographic pipeline
- Promote emotional and cultural intelligence in the classroom and in service provision
- Provide dedicated ambassadors or mentors to help children and families navigate unfamiliar systems, and
- Create a dedicated space where affordable resources are available to children and their families

The 2017 Champion of Children's Report can be accessed on the Kirwan Institute website, at htttp://go.osu.edu/B63G

Raising the Bar &
Closing the Gap

Using Data to Set Goals and Measure Success

The disparities between children living in areas of low and high vulnerability are significant and alarming. This is especially true for youth of color, who disproportionately live in areas of high vulnerability.

To better understand how to eliminate these disparities and improve outcomes for all youth, communities can use data to set goals and track progress. The following section provides a detailed look at how Columbus' youth fare in the four domains that make up the vulnerability index. In addition, we highlight a few key indicators that are core components of each domain.

Community stakeholders can track these indicators for two main purposes:

- **Raise the bar for all youth:** By comparing how youth in Columbus fare on selected indicators to the national, state, and county averages, the community can work to raise the bar.

- **Close the gap:** By tracking the disparities between youth living in low and high vulnerability neighborhoods and by focusing on disaggregated data by race and gender, the community can work to eliminate disparities and close achievement gaps.

Education: Raising the Bar

Raising the Bar

	Year	Source	United States Mean	Ohio Mean	Franklin County Mean	Columbus City Mean
Total Population	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	324,118,800	11,614,200	1,264,500	860,100
Total Youth Population	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	105,052,500	3,758,500	418,600	290,100
Total Youth of Color Population	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	33,536,200	864,000	161,800	134,600
Total Boys and Young Men of Color Population	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	17,062,900	437,100	81,200	66,300
Indicator	Year	Source	United States Mean	Ohio Mean	Franklin County Mean	Columbus City Mean
3rd Grade Reading Proficiency	2016	Ohio Department of Education	68%	55%	51%	41%
High School Graduation Rate	2016	Ohio Department of Education	83%	83%	67%	81%
Student Mobility Rate	2016	Ohio Department of Education	-	14%	19%	17%
Student Attendance Rate	2016	Ohio Department of Education	-	94%	92%	92%
Teacher Attendance Rate	2016	Ohio Department of Education	-	95%	95%	93%
Young Adult Educational Attainment	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	56%	55%	64%	54%

Key Indicator

Third Grade Reading Proficiency is a key metric by which a child's future academic success can be measured. In order to raise the bar in Education, special attention should be placed on **third grade reading proficiency,** as Columbus lags behind the county, state, and national averages.

Education: Closing the Gap

Closing the Gap

	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
Total Youth Population **Percent**	57,500 **20%**	75,400 **26%**	63,400 **22%**	45,700 **16%**	48,100 **17%**
Total Youth of Color Population **Percent**	34,400 **26%**	38,300 **28%**	35,000 **26%**	14,000 **10%**	12,900 **10%**
Total Boys and Young Men of Color Population Percent	17,200 **26%**	18,200 **27%**	16,800 **25%**	7,700 **12%**	6,400 **10%**
Indicator	**Very High**	**High**	**Moderate**	**Low**	**Very Low**
3rd Grade Reading Proficiency	**21%**	30%	35%	49%	68%
High School Graduation Rate	**73%**	74%	78%	84%	94%
Student Mobility Rate	**23%**	23%	19%	14%	8%
Student Attendance Rate	**88%**	90%	91%	93%	97%
Teacher Attendance Rate	**92%**	92%	93%	93%	94%
Young Adult Educational Attainment	**37%**	51%	55%	65%	63%

Key Findings

- **Third grade reading proficiency:** There is a **47% difference** in the third grade reading proficiency rates of very low and very high vulnerability neighborhoods. The third grade reading proficiency rates in very high vulnerability neighborhoods is **21%**, compared to **68%** in very low vulnerability neighborhoods.

- **High school graduation rate:** There is a **21% difference** in the high school graduation rates of very low and very high vulnerability neighborhoods. The high school graduation rate in very high vulnerability neighborhoods is **73%**, compared to **94%** in very low vulnerability neighborhoods.

- **Young Adult Educational Attainment:** There is a **26% difference** in the young adult educational attainment rate of very low and very high vulnerability neighborhoods. The young adult educational attainment in very high vulnerability neighborhoods is **37%**, compared to **63%** in very low vulnerability neighborhoods.

Economic: Raising the Bar

Raising the Bar

	Yea	Source	United States Mean	Ohio Mean	Franklin County Mean	Columbus City Mean
Total Population	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	324,118,800	11,614,200	1,264,500	860,100
Total Youth Population	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	105,052,500	3,758,500	418,600	290,100
Total Youth of Color Population	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	33,536,200	864,000	161,800	134,600
Total Boys and Young Men of Color Population	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	17,062,900	437,100	81,200	66,300
Indicator	Year	Source	United States Mean	Ohio Mean	Franklin County Mean	Columbus City Mean
Poverty Rate for Youth 0–24	2015	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	23%	24%	28%	32%
% of Households Experiencing Housing Cost Burden	2015	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	16%	13%	15%	18%
Median Household Income (In 2015 Dollars)	2015	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	$53,900	$49,450	$52,350	$48,860
Unemployment Rate	2017	Bureau of Labor Statistics	4.4	5.0	4.4	3.7

Key Indicator

Youth Poverty Rate is a key indicator as it is interrelated with other domains of life. Research shows a negative relationship between neighborhood poverty and physical and mental health. Neighborhood poverty also has a negative relationship to student graduation rates and future earnings. Lowering the youth poverty rate in Columbus will lead to improved outcomes in other areas of life.

Economic: Closing the Gap

Closing the Gap

	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
Total Youth Population	57,500	75,400	63,400	45,700	48,100
Percent	**20%**	**26%**	**22%**	**16%**	**17%**
Total Youth of Color Population	34,400	38,300	35,000	14,000	12,900
Percent	**26%**	**28%**	**26%**	**10%**	**10%**
Total Boys and Young Men of Color Population	17,200	18,200	16,800	7,700	6,400
Percent	**26%**	**27%**	**25%**	**12%**	**10%**

Indicator	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
Poverty Rate for Youth 0–24	**60%**	45%	28%	18%	8%
% of Households Experiencing Housing Cost Burden	**29%**	23%	15%	13%	9%
Median Household Income (In 2015 Dollars)	**$23,850**	$34,200	$45,500	$60,100	$80,650
Unemployment Rate (2015)	**19%**	10%	7%	5%	4%

Key Findings

- **Poverty Rate for Youth (0–24):** There is a **52% difference** in the youth poverty rates of very low and very high vulnerability neighborhoods. The youth poverty rate in very high vulnerability neighborhoods is **60%**, compared to **8%** in very low vulnerability neighborhoods

- **Median Household Income:** There is a more than **$57,000 difference** in the median household income of very low and very high vulnerability neighborhoods. The median household income in very high vulnerability neighborhoods is **$23,850**, compared to **$80,650** in very low vulnerability neighborhoods.

- **Unemployment Rate:** There is a **15% difference** in the unemployment rate of very low and very high vulnerability neighborhoods. The unemployment rate in very high vulnerability neighborhoods is **19%**, compared to **4%** in very low vulnerability neighborhoods.

Health: Raising the Bar

Raising the Bar

	Year	Source	United States Mean	Ohio Mean	Franklin County Mean	Columbus City Mean
Total Population	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	324,118,800	11,614,200	1,264,500	860,100
Total Youth Population	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	105,052,500	3,758,500	418,600	290,100
Total Youth of Color Population	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	33,536,200	864,000	161,800	134,600
Total Boys and Young Men of Color Population	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	17,062,900	437,100	81,200	66,300
Indicator	Year	Source	United States Mean	Ohio Mean	Franklin County Mean	Columbus City Mean
Percentage of Youth (Ages 0–24) with Health Insurance	2015	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	89%	92%	91%	90%
mRFEI (% of Healthy Food Retailers withi 1/4 mile of Neighborhood, or County)	2017	ESRI Business Analyst	-	-	25%	19%
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	2016	Ohio Department of Health	79	78	78	76

Key Indicator

Life expectancy at birth is an overall measure of population health as it "summarizes the mortality pattern that prevails across all age groups - children and adolescents, adults and the elderly." Columbus falls behind the county, state, and national averages in life expectancy.

Health: Closing the Gap

Closing the Gap

	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
Total Youth Population **Percent**	57,500 **20%**	75,400 **26%**	63,400 **22%**	45,700 **16%**	48,100 **17%**
Total Youth of Color Population **Percent**	34,400 **26%**	38,300 **28%**	35,000 **26%**	14,000 **10%**	12,900 **10%**
Total Boys and Young Men of Color Population Percent	17,200 **26%**	18,200 **27%**	16,800 **25%**	7,700 **12%**	6,400 **10%**

Indicator	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
Percentage of Youth (Ages 0–24) with Health Insurance	**86%**	89%	87%	93%	95%
mRFEI (% of Healthy Food Retailers within 1/4 mile of Neighborhood, or County)	**14%**	18%	17%	24%	35%
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	**72**	74	76	76	80

Key Findings

- **Modified Retail Food Environment Index (mRFEI):** There is a **21%** difference in the mRFEI rates of very low and very high vulnerability neighborhoods. The mRFEI rate in very high vulnerability neighborhoods is **14%**, compared to **35%** in very low vulnerability neighborhoods.

- **Life expectancy:** There is an **8 year difference** in the life expectancy rate of very low and very high vulnerability neighborhoods. In very high vulnerability neighborhoods, the average life expectancy is **72 years old**. In contrast, the life expectancy in very low vulnerability neighborhoods is **80 years old**.

KIRWAN INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF RACE AND ETHNICITY

Safety: Raising the Bar

Raising the Bar

	Year	Source	United States Mean	Ohio Mean	Franklin County Mean	Columbus City Mean
Total Population	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	324,118,800	11,614,200	1,264,500	860,100
Total Youth Population	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	105,052,500	3,758,500	418,600	290,100
Total Youth of Color Population	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	33,536,200	864,000	161,800	134,600
Total Boys and Young Men of Color Population	2016	US Census ACS, 2011–2016	17,062,900	437,100	81,200	66,300
Indicator	Year	Source	United States Mean	Ohio Mean	Franklin County Mean	Columbus City Mean
Jail Incarceration Rate (Per 1000)	2016/2008	US Department of Justice/Justice Atlas	3.4	2.4	2.9	4.4
Violent Crime Incidences (Per 1000)	2016/2015	US Department of Justice/City of Columbus	3.0	2.9	4.2	6.7
Gun Crime Incidences (Per 1000)	2015	City of Columbus	-	-	-	2.2

Key Indicator

Violent Crime Rate: Higher rates of violence are associated with neighborhood instability. Columbus should focus on reducing the violent crime rate in order to ensure that all children and communities have the opportunity to live to their full potential and live safe, healthy lives.

Safety: Closing the Gap

Closing the Gap

	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
Total Youth Population	57,500	75,400	63,400	45,700	48,100
Percent	**20%**	**26%**	**22%**	**16%**	**17%**
Total Youth of Color Population	34,400	38,300	35,000	14,000	12,900
Percent	**26%**	**28%**	**26%**	**10%**	**10%**
Total Boys and Young Men of Color Population	17,200	18,200	16,800	7,700	6,400
Percent	**26%**	**27%**	**25%**	**12%**	**10%**

Indicator	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very Low
Jail Incarceration Rate (Per 1000)	**9.3**	5.6	3.6	2.8	0.6
Violent Crime Incidences (Per 1000)	**16.1**	7.2	5.1	3.3	1.7
Gun Crime Incidences (Per 1000)	**5.6**	2.6	1.7	0.8	0.3

Key Findings

- **Violent Crime Incidences (Per 1000):** There is nearly a **15 point difference** in the violent crime rates in very low and very high vulnerability neighborhoods. The violent crime rate in very high vulnerability neighborhoods is **16.1** incidences (per 1000), compared to **1.7** incidences in very low vulnerability neighborhoods.

- **Gun Crime Incidences (Per 1000):** There is more than **15 times** the number of gun crimes in very high vulnerability neighborhoods when compared with very low vulnerability neighborhoods. The gun crime rate in very high vulnerability neighborhoods is **5.6** incidences (per 1000), compared to **.3** incidences in very low vulnerability neighborhoods.

Leveraging Community Assets

Columbus has significant community assets in the domains of education, economic, health, and safety that can be leveraged to address disparities and improve outcomes for vulnerable youth. In order to better understand where resources exist and the environment of the surrounding areas, the Institute developed an asset map of local youth programs, initiatives, and services.

This asset map is not an exhaustive list of all of the youth services that exist in Columbus, but rather provide a snapshot of the landscape of services, initiatives, and programs that are currently available to youth. While it is challenging to assess the reach and efficacy of service providers solely based on their location, trends about service provider locations point to interesting concentrations, or clusters, of service providers and may indicate the areas in which the need is perceived to be the highest.

The Institute identified six main categories of services: after school, mentoring, workforce development, trauma intervention, violence intervention, and anti-recidivism.

Classification and Counts of Cataloged Service Providers

Vulnerability Classification		
Youth Service Classification	Count	%, of Total
Educational Vulnerability	**187**	**63%**
After School Services	151	51%
Mentoring Services	36	12%
Safety Vulnerability	**24**	**8%**
Anti-Recidivism Services	5	2%
Violence Intervention Services	19	6%
Health Vulnerability	**43**	**14%**
Trauma Intervention Services	43	14%
Economic Vulnerability	**44**	**15%**
Workforce Development Services	44	15%
Total Services	**298**	**100%**

Our snapshot of assets in Columbus highlights 298 youth service providers. Of these 298, the most common youth service providers are those that provide after school services. The second most common youth service providers in the City of Columbus are Workforce Development service providers. Service providers address educational vulnerability the most and economic vulnerability the second most. The least common type of service provider are those that provide Anti-Recidivism services to youth. The second least common type of service provider are violence intervention service providers. Safety is the least addressed area of vulnerability by existing youth service providers.

Location and Density of All Youth Service Providers
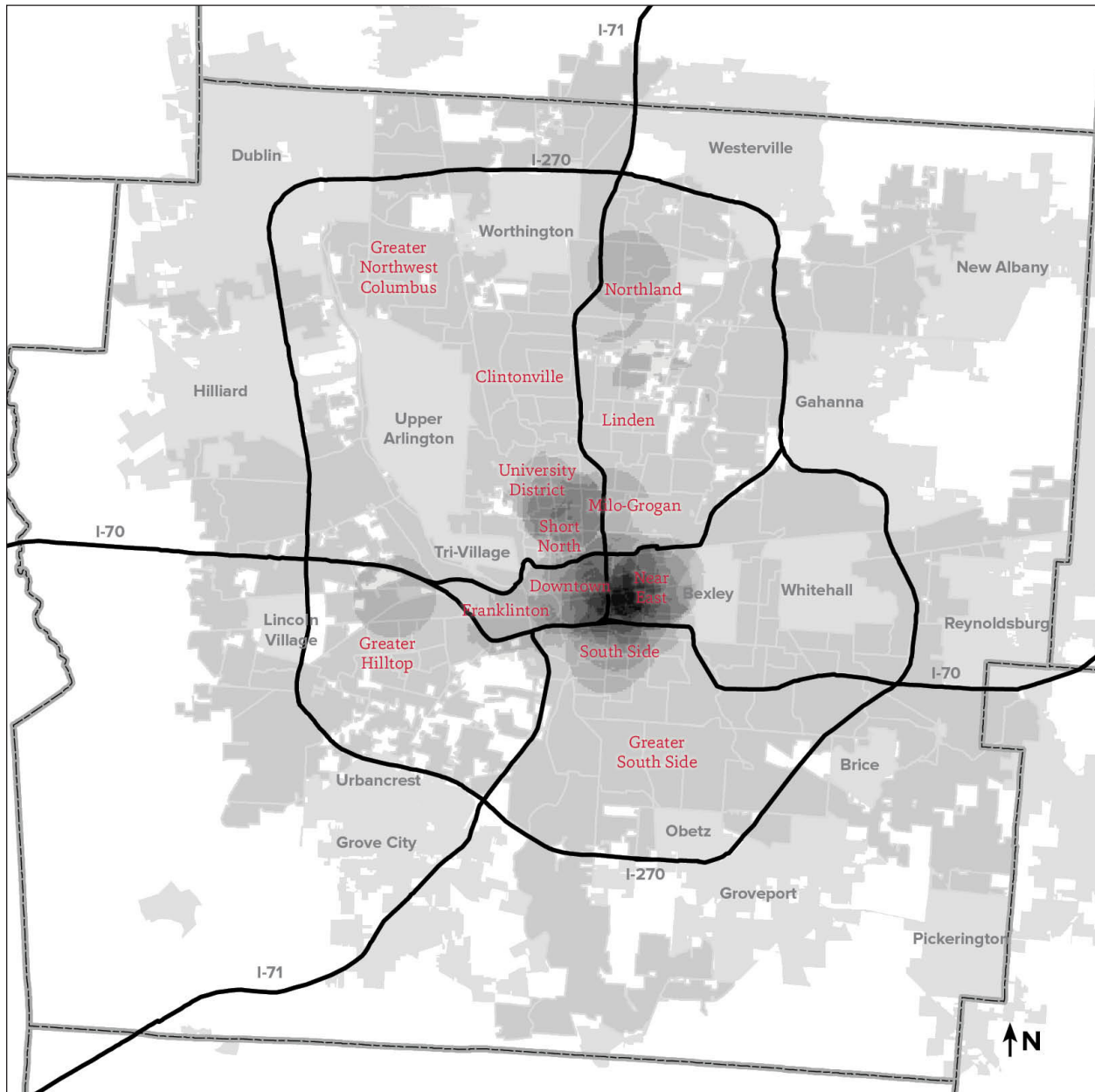
The highest concentration of youth service providers addressing all types of vulnerability is located in the Olde Towne East area. There are also clusters of service providers in the Weinland Park, Victorian Village/ Italian Village/Short North, and South Side neighborhoods. There are few to no service providers in the North and South Linden, Northland, Hilltop, and greater South Side neighborhoods. There are limited to no concentrations of youth service providers in the northwest, east, west, and south regions. Points are not included to increase map readability (*Visit our online interactive story map to view service locations*).

Youth Service Asset Mapping Findings

Despite the highest concentration in Downtown Columbus and Near East neighborhoods, youth service providers concentrate in different neighborhoods.

Analysis illustrates that there are very high concentrations of youth service providers in Downtown Columbus and the Near East neighborhoods. Smaller clusters of service providers do exist throughout the City of Columbus, but their concentrations shift by youth service type. Youth mentoring services are concentrated in University District and the Victorian Village/Italian Village/Short North neighborhoods. Youth after school services are concentrated in the Greater Hilltop, Northland, and University District and the Victorian Village/Italian Village/Short North neighborhoods. Youth trauma intervention services are centralized in University District and the Victorian Village/Italian Village/Short North neighborhoods. Youth violence intervention services are concentrated in both the Hilltop and University District and the Victorian Village/Italian Village/Short North neighborhoods. Youth workforce development services have small concentrations in North Linden, Victorian Village/Italian Village/Short North, and Fifth-by-Northwest neighborhoods.

Gaps in youth service providers exist, particularly in the Greater Linden, Northland, Hilltop, and South Side neighborhoods.

There are gaps in youth service infrastructure in the Greater Linden, Northland, Hilltop, and South Side neighborhoods. Greater Linden and Hilltop have services from each category, but their number and concentration are less than other areas. Greater Northland has few youth services and less proximate access to youth services than other communities. Greater South Side neighborhoods have few youth services south of Old Oaks and Driving Park; communities such as Merion Village, Vassor Village, Innis Gardens, Hungarian Village, and Edgewood have no proximate access to youth services.

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MY BROTHER'S KEEPER - COMMUNITY SURVEY OF YOUTH SERVICE PROVIDERS IN COLUMBUS
Looking at the aggregate landscape of community assets is only the first step of being able to form linkages between organizations to reduce the presence of vulnerability in the neighborhoods youth live in. To get a more comprehensive perspective of how to shift this landscape, the Kirwan Institute surveyed community youth service providers throughout Columbus, garnering results that depicted much of what has been missing from prior engagements. This engagement hoped to uplift the experience of the organizations and programs that are interacting directly with vulnerable youth.

Service Provider Overview

The Kirwan Institute defined large, medium, and small non-profits based on their relative size of staff, number of youth services, and prescribed service areas.

Overall, survey respondents were most concerned with barriers as indicated by their longer responses. Major themes are the lack of human and financial resources; lack of cooperation between service providers, and; institutional and structural barriers. Below are key findings that illustrate the differences, approaches, and challenges youth service providers face.

Differences exist between how service providers perceive their community roles.

Survey results show that the perceived community roles of large service providers differ from small and medium service providers. Service providers in each of these groups identify differing community goals, needs, and challenges.

Service providers view community engagement as a strength.

Service providers of all sizes identified community engagement as one of their largest strengths as well as one of the main areas they wished for continued help in.

Challenges to Serving Boys & Young Men of Color

Service provider talent recruitment, development, and retention is a challenge to reaching boys and young men of color with programs.

Professional Staff and Volunteers are critical to providing services to youth, but most service providers note the difficulty in recruiting, developing and retaining talent.

Securing funding/resources for medium and small non-profits is a challenge to reaching boys and young men of color with programs.

Both medium and small nonprofits cite the need for increased funding and resources. Comments from these organizations point to the desire to increase service provision. Nonprofits point to either cuts in federal and state funding or the inability to secure funds given their existing funding levels.

Large nonprofits identify institutional and structural bias as a barrier to reaching boys and young men of color with programs.

Large nonprofits are sensitive to the institutional and structural bias within the larger community. They note that there are 'preconceived' ideas that they must combat, as well as issues of employment, criminal justice, and the unwelcoming nature of institutions.

Lack of a clear vision and strategy is a barrier to reaching boys and young men of color with programs.

Service providers note that programs addressing boys and young men of color lack a clear vision or strategy. Some large non-profit service providers note the scale and complexity of institutional and structural systems as barriers.

Relationship-building can be a barrier to reaching boys and young men of color with programs.

Several survey respondents note that breakdowns in relationships between volunteers and the program they serve. Some organizations note their inability to build high-quality relationships with participants due to the lack of interaction and time spent. Some organizations also struggle to identify the youth with the most significant need.

Transportation is a barrier to reaching boys and young men of color with programs.

Some medium and small non-profits note that transportation is a significant barrier as many boys and young men of color are isolated in their communities

Moving Programs for Boys & Young Men of Color Forward

Service providers want to expand indirect exposure.

Large nonprofits want to expand indirect exposure to "jobs, careers, lifestyles, education opportunities." Many survey respondents view exposure to existing programs as valuable and believe that more effort should be developed in "enjoyable settings."

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Service providers want to expand direct mentoring and intervention efforts.

Several large and medium non-profits mention direct mentoring as a way to move programs forward. Other medium to small non-profits pointed to more direct investment efforts in neighborhoods where boys and men of color reside, but also stress that scale and programming is critical. Examples include entrepreneurial training, career centers, apprentice programs, and programming.

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Medium to Small nonprofits want increased networking, resource assistance, and funding.

Medium and Small nonprofits noted a desire for increased resource assistance and funding to support programming. Examples provided are over-booked meeting spaces and a lack of networking opportunities.

"Setting city-wide goals—with timelines—for what changes we'd like to see as a community and providing opportunity to learn from one another/building upon what works. Identifying and filling service gaps. Working with institutions and decision-makers to modify policies to meet the goals we set."

—Columbus City Schools

Next Step Recommendations

1) Use this document to frame new equitable and inclusive community conversations that develop actionable solutions

Youth of Color disproportionally live in areas of High to Very High Vulnerability. Building off of the above findings, Kirwan Institute recommends that this document should frame new equitable and inclusive community conversations that develop actionable solutions. These new community conversations should engage more than just the City of Columbus, but all types of community stakeholders – from large non-profits to small groups of concerned residents. These community conversations should also strive to be as equitable and inclusive as possible by allowing each to provide insight and feedback on how to begin combating structural problems. (See *The Principles for Equitable and Inclusive Civic Engagement*, next page.)

2) Use and Share the Youth Vulnerability Maps and Data Dashboard with a broad array of community stakeholders to help develop deliverable-based actions that Raise the Bar and Close the Gap for all youth.

In addition to our first recommendation, to better understand the severity of disparities, we have created a **Youth Data Dashboard** (See page 40) using indicators from the Vulnerability Mapping analysis to enable community stakeholders to have conversations about each of the four domains of Education, Economics, Health, and Safety.

The Kirwan Institute cautions against using the Data Dashboard alone to set measurable numeric goals or Targets. These new conversations should be more than just discussing individual indicators; instead, Kirwan Institute recommends that these conversations focus on developing equitable and inclusive actions that address persistent disparities in all domains of well-being.

The Principles for Equitable and Inclusive Civic Engagement*

These six principles are necessary to create an equitable civic engagement environment best suited to bolster civic opportunity for everyone—particularly those who are often left out.

1. Embracing the Gifts of Diversity

A healthy and equitable civic engagement environment is built around gifts that community members contribute and their ability to capitalize on the benefits of creative gifts. Communities tend to have many different people who take on leadership roles at various times. Social capital can be a powerful source of wealth for communities by making more resources available throughout the community, encouraging neighbor-to-neighbor connections.

2. Realizing the Role of Race, Power, and Injustice

Communities are stronger when they recognize and acknowledge the roles that racism and inequality play in the engagement experiences of community members. When community members become aware of the power imbalances in their community, they are more able to change those power dynamics by validating the experiences of traditionally less powerful community members. Addressing power imbalances within the community often requires significant and challenging changes that will most likely be resisted by those who are the most powerful in the community.

3. Radical Hospitality: Invitation and Listening

We have found that the best engagement environments strive for a direct and meaningful impact on the concerns of residents from every walk of life, and are undertaken in a manner that is relevant and respectful of all community members. For a community to be truly inclusive, community members must be intentional about including the most vulnerable members of the community in a manner that is both inviting and empowering. Diverse groups of community members such as young people, new immigrants, returning citizens, and people of color can face tremendous resource barriers to engagement and as a result, many communities fail to incorporate their voices. Providing community members a forum for listening to each other's concerns in a healthy, respectful way is key to an understanding and supportive community engagement environment.

4. Trust-Building and Commitment

When community members are able to witness a program or initiative creating real change, they are more likely to stay involved in the community engagement environment. When those who are the least privileged in the community are able to demonstrate their skills and abilities in a meaningful way, the community engagement environment becomes a setting where mutual trust can grow. Lasting mutual accountability cannot be created by using punitive means to bind stakeholders to promises. Instead the willingness to share power and responsibility builds trust among stakeholders because it signals that all community members are seen as valuable, equitable partners in creating the community.

5. Honoring Dissent and Embracing Protest

The strength of the diversity in our communities relies on our ability to accept and respect our differences. When communities avoid controversial topics for fear of conflict, they tend to produce the very conflict they hoped to avoid. Strong oppositional activities such as protests and boycotts may be able to highlight issues that are difficult to discuss in more traditional engagement settings. An engagement environment that supports a space for long-term dialogue and disagreement can help stakeholders stay focused on new possibilities, even while holding different views on issues.

6. Adaptability to Community Change

A healthy civic engagement environment can provide space for people to negotiate the challenging time between when one set of circumstances ends and the other begins. In order to create a supportive environment for community change, community members must be willing to try to forgo comfort for truth, and to give up old roles for new roles. Honest conversations about civic power, and the potential for abuse and what constitutes legitimate and illegitimate power are important components of ensuring that community changes are equitable and meaningful.

* Holley, Kip. "Civic Engagement: A Transformative Guide," Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race & Ethnicity, May 23, 2016.

Raise the Bar

Raise the Bar refers to improving the lives of Youth of Color and All Youth. Stark differences exist between those living in neighborhoods with Very High and Very Low Vulnerability. Simply Closing the Gap doesn't address that many who live in Low or Moderately Vulnerable neighborhoods still experience stresses of Violent Crime or lower Life Expectancy at Birth than that of the City, County, State, or National average. Further, simply Closing the Gap may not be the only standard we want to aspire to as a community. By Raising the Bar, the city can improve outcomes for all youth.

Close the Gap

Close the Gap refers to narrowing the disparity between youth living in low and high vulnerability neighborhoods. While disparity is a central tenet of a Vulnerability Index, Closing the Gap aides All Youth by leveling the playing field. All Youth of Columbus are vulnerable, but some experience more opportunity than others. By Closing the Gap, all youth have an opportunity to succeed.

YOUTH DATA DASHBOARD

	Year	Source	United States Mean	Ohio Mean	Franklin County Mean	Columbus City Mean	Columbus City — Very High Vulnerability	High Vulnerability	Moderate Vulnerability	Low Vulnerability	Very Low Vulnerability
Total Population[1]	2016	US Census ACS, 2011-2016	324,118,800	11,614,200	1,264,500	860,100	146,600	182,000	206,000	164,600	160,900
Percent							17%	21%	24%	19%	19%
Total Youth Population[1]	2016	US Census ACS, 2011-2016	105,052,500	3,758,500	418,600	290,100	57,500	75,400	63,400	45,700	48,100
Percent							20%	22%	22%	16%	17%
Total Youth of Color Population[1]	2016	US Census ACS, 2011-2016	33,536,200	864,000	161,800	134,600	34,400	38,300	35,000	14,000	12,900
Percent							26%	28%	26%	10%	10%
Total Boys & Young Men of Color Population[1]	2016	US Census ACS, 2011-2016	17,062,900	437,100	81,200	66,300	17,200	18,200	16,800	7,700	6,400
Percent							26%	27%	25%	12%	10%
Education											
3rd Grade Reading Proficiency[2]	2016	Ohio Department of Education	68%	55%	51%	41%	21%	30%	35%	49%	68%
High School Graduation Rate[3]	2016	Ohio Department of Education	83%	83%	67%	81%	73%	74%	78%	84%	94%
Student Mobility Rate	2016	Ohio Department of Education	***	14%	19%	17%	23%	23%	19%	14%	8%
Student Attendance Rate	2016	Ohio Department of Education	***	94%	92%	92%	88%	90%	91%	93%	97%
Teacher Attendance Rate	2016	Ohio Department of Education	***	95%	95%	93%	92%	92%	93%	93%	94%
Young Adult Educational Attainment (Beyond High School Diploma)	2015	US Census ACS, 2011-2016	56%	55%	64%	54%	37%	51%	55%	65%	63%
Economic											
% of Households Experiencing Housing Cost Burden	2015	US Census ACS, 2011-2016	16%	13%	15%	18%	29%	23%	15%	13%	9%
Poverty Rate for Youth 0-24	2015	US Census ACS, 2011-2016	23%	24%	28%	32%	60%	45%	28%	18%	8%
Median Household Income (In 2015 Dollars)[3]	2015	US Census ACS, 2011-2016	$53,900	$49,450	$52,350	$48,860	$23,850	$34,200	$45,500	$60,100	$80,650
Unemployment Rate	2015	US Census ACS, 2011-2016	8%	8%	7%	9%	19%	10%	7%	5%	4%
Health											
mRFEI (% of Healthy Food Retailers within 1/4 mile of Neighborhood, or County)	2017	ESRI Business Analyst	****	****	25%	22%	14%	18%	17%	24%	35%
% of Youth (Ages 0-24) with Health Insurance	2015	US Census ACS, 2011-2016	89%	92%	91%	90%	86%	89%	87%	93%	95%
Life Expectancy at Birth (In years)	2016	Ohio Department of Health	79	78	78	76	72	74	76	76	80
Safety											
Jail Incarceration Rate (Per 1000)	2016/2008	US Department of Justice/Justice Atlas	3.4	2.4	2.9	4.4	9.3	5.6	3.6	2.8	0.6
Violent Crime Incidences (Per 1000)	2016/2015	US Department of Justice/City of Columbus	3.0	2.9	4.2	6.7	16.1	7.2	5.1	3.3	1.7
Gun Crime Incidences (Per 1000)	2015	City of Columbus	***	***	***	2.2	5.6	2.6	1.7	0.8	0.3

1: All Population Data Rounded to nearest 100
2: Data for National level collected at 4th Grade, not 3rd.
3: Data for National level collected as % On Time Completion
4: Rounded to Nearest $50 Increment
*** Data Not Available
**** Data Cannot Be Computed

Conclusion

Affecting structural change is a challenging goal. No one institution or organization is responsible for these problems, nor should the responsibility to devise solutions fall on one institution or organization. Furthermore, communities across the United States are recognizing the urgency of the situation and are fighting the normalization of racial inequality. This is especially true when it comes to improving outcomes for Youth of Color. Youth of Color are the future of Central Ohio, yet our current systems and structures are failing to prepare them for this role. Despite the legacy of racial inequality in Central Ohio, the City of Columbus, Franklin County, and the State of Ohio are primed for the opportunity to become leaders in combatting these structural problems. Now is not the time for tepid action; now is the time to make a bold statement, to claim that solving these problems is our modern 'Moonshot.' Now is the time to Renew our Call to Action, together.

Appendix

Indicators & Data

#	Indicator	Rationale & Definition	Data Source
V01	Reading proficiency	Research has documented a positive relationship between higher proficiency in reading and college success. Studies also show that students with higher grades in reading are more likely to attend college and have greater opportunities to study the major of their choice. Calculated as percentage of students that scored proficient or better on 3rd grade reading test, calculated as the average for the three nearest in-district schools.	Ohio Department of Education, Ohio School Report Cards
V02	High school graduation rate	Research supports a positive relationship between high school graduation and a person's opportunity to find a job. Lack of a high school diploma is a significant barrier for high school drop outs seeking jobs that pay living wages. Cohort graduation rate, four-year adjusted, calculated as the average for the three nearest in-district schools.	Ohio Department of Education, Ohio School Report Cards
V03	Student mobility	Studies tend to agree that frequent moves are disadvantageous to students. Student mobility indicates a lack of security in surroundings and that the neighborhood is undergoing rapid social change. Calculated as the percent of students in a building (school) less than a full academic year, calculated as the average for the three nearest in-district schools.	Ohio Departments of Education, Ohio School Report Cards
V04	Student attendance rate	National Center for Educational Statistics emphasizes the importance of attendance in student achievement and states that "A missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn." Calculated as student attendance rate, from the average for the three nearest in-district schools.	Ohio Departments of Education, Ohio School Report Cards
V05	Teacher attendance rate	Along with teacher quality and effectiveness, teacher attendance rate is an important indicator of student achievement as good teachers can only have an impact on their students if they are present in the classroom. Calculated as teacher attendance rate, using the average for the three nearest in-district schools.	Ohio Departments of Education, Ohio School Report Cards
V06	Young adult educational attainment	Research documents a positive relationship between healthy child development and exposure to adults with higher educational attainment and exposure to community norms that support educational attainment. Calculated as the percentage of young adults aged 18 to 24 with post-secondary educational attainment (beyond high school).	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015 (5-Year Estimates)
V07	Poverty rate for population aged 0-24	Research shows a negative relationship between neighborhood poverty and physical and mental health. Neighborhood poverty also has a negative relationship to student graduation rates and future earnings. Calculated as the percentage of population aged 0-24 under poverty.	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015 (5-Year Estimates)

V08	Extreme housing cost burden	In many communities even full-time workers can be priced out of the housing market. Families are forced to choose between a high housing cost burden and commuting distance. Futhermore, low income housing does not guarantee that residents will be able to afford their rent. Even though programs exist to help reduce rents, many residents are still paying more than 30% of their income toward housing. Calculated as percentage of households with extreme housing cost burden, 50% or more of household income spent on housing cost.	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015 (5-Year Estimates)
V09	Median household income	The impact of childhood socioeconomic status are very well-documented ranging from how it affects their cognitive skills in school years. Calculated as median household income.	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015 (5-Year Estimates)
V10	Unemployment rates	Research shows the negative effects of parent unemployment on child health, academic performance, and behavior. Unemployment can affect both mental and physical health. The effects tend to be greater among individuals with lower levels of education. The effects of job loss are greater in regions that experience high unemployment. Percentage of the civilian labor force who are unemployed. Calculated as employment status for total population 16 years and over.	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015 (5-Year Estimates)
V11	Health insurance rate for population aged 0-24	Health insurance coverage is strongly associated with access to healthy primary care and preventive health care and this is particularly true for children. Calculated as the percentage of people aged 0-24 with health insurance coverage (including both public health coverage or private health insurance).	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015 (5-Year Estimates)
V12	Modified Retail Food Environment Index (mRFEI)	Research supports a negative relationship between children's health problems and obesity and their access to healthy food. In general, greater geographic proximity to grocery stores and restaurants, compared to convenience stores and fast foods, increases children's opportunity to access healthy foods. Calculated as the percentage of healthy food retailers located within a half mile buffer from tract boundary.	ESRI Business Analyst 2016
V13	Life expectancy (at birth)	Life expectancy at birth is an overall measure of population health as it "summarizes the mortality pattern that prevails across all age groups - children and adolescents, adults and the elderly." Calculated as life expectancy at birth, by ZIP Code.	Ohio Department of Health Birth Certificate Data 2008-2012
V14	Incarceration rate	The prison admission rates are linked to social and public-health outcomes of the neighborhood such as physical and mental outcomes of those incarcerated and their family or heightened likelihood of attending schools with zero-tolerance policies. Calculated as prison admissions rate (2008) by ZIP code.	Justice Atlas of Sentencing and Corrections
V15	Violent crime rate	Violence is associated with the low socioeconomic status and neighborhood instability. Higher levels of perceived neighborhood safety are also associated with lower levels of physical inactivity. Calculated as the number of violent crimes per 1,000 population.	Columbus Police Department Incident Reports, 2014
V16	Gun violence (and youth/young adult gun violence victims)	Being a leading cause of premature death in the U.S., gun violence is a major threat to the public health and safety. Calculated as the number of gun violence per 1,000 population.	Columbus Police Department Incident Reports, 2014

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