

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2022 WORK SESSION**

Clerk Jarrell Roe called the meeting to order at approximately 5:07pm in the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center Board Room, 7200 S. Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti Township.

Members Present: Supervisor Brenda Stumbo, Clerk Heather Jarrell Roe and Treasurer Stan Eldridge
Trustees: John Newman II, Gloria Peterson, Debbie Swanson and Jimmie Wilson, Jr.

Members Absent: None

Legal Counsel: Wm. Douglas Winters

PUBLIC COMMENTS

One public comment was given from a vendor

AGENDA

- 1. OPPORTUNITY INDEX PRESENTATIONAMANDA NOTHAFT AND LUKE SHAEFER
.....UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
- 2. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE TO THE BOARD.....KIRK PROFIT
- 3. DISCUSSION ON JUNETEENTH FIREWORKS.....SUPERVISOR STUMBO
- 4. AGENDA REVIEWSUPERVISOR STUMBO
- 5. OTHER DISCUSSION BOARD MEMBERS

DISCUSSION ON JUNETEENTH FIREWORKS.....SUPERVISOR STUMBO

Supervisor Stumbo stated that Juneteenth was made a federal holiday last year. She said she had been approached about having fireworks for that holiday and wanted to see if the board would be in agreement to bringing an ordinance amendment before the board to allow fireworks the day before, the day of and the day after Juneteenth. Clerk Jarrell Roe said she would be in support of the

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ordinance amendment. Trustee Wilson said he was in support and added he wasn't sure about the day before and day after if the holiday falls during the week. Trustee Newman agreed with restricting to one day if the holiday falls during the week. Trustee Peterson stated she was in support of the amendment and only having fireworks on that day.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE TO THE BOARD.....KIRK PROFIT

Kirk Profit spoke about activities currently happening in Lansing and the impact of COVID. He said that the state government is awash in funds mostly from COVID funds.

Mr. Profit spoke about redistricting and term limits and how these changes will affect how the additional funds will be distributed.

Mr. Profit stated that the township receives their funding primarily from property taxes and state shared revenue. He added that tax funding had been greatly reduced by proposition A and the Hedlee rollback which has drastically reduced taxes paid. He also spoke about how the state has failed on their part for state revenue sharing.

Mr. Profit also gave updates to Michigan Ave. lighting, ACM and Grove Rd.

Trustee Wilson stated he felt the money paid to GCSI is well spent.

Trustee Newman asked about taxes on the residents of the former Willow Run District and if there is any movement on relieving that tax burden. Mr. Profit stated that it needed to be addressed and that now is the time to address it with the state government having a \$14 billion general fund surplus. Discussion continued about the tax burden on the residents of the former Willow Run District and the state of Ypsilanti Community Schools. Supervisor Stumbo stated that the board would not stop trying to correct the tax inequality and Mr. Profit added that he was ready to work on this issue.

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**2. OPPORTUNITY INDEX PRESENTATIONAMANDA NOTHAFT
..... UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

Amanda Nothaft stated that she was the Senior Data and Evaluation Manager at the University of Michigan Poverty Solutions. She added that Poverty Solutions partners with non-profits to provide information. Mrs. Nothaft stated that they were approached by the county to create the opportunity index which is a tool to identify and address the high levels of disparity and segregation and plan to use this information to make policy change and to determine resource allocation.

Ms. Nothaft gave a presentation (see attached) on the factors that were used to create the opportunity index and the results for Ypsilanti Township.

Supervisor Stumbo asked Ms. Nothaft if she was familiar with the 2015 report that was completed by the county. Supervisor Stumbo stated that the report recommended that for the 48197 and 48198 that education level was increased, increases the income level, and reduce the poverty level. Supervisor Stumbo stated that the report indicated once a 30% poverty level is reached, that is the point of no return. She added that the lost revenue from the GM plant closure had greatly hurt the township and that our taxable value still has not recovered to 2008 levels and also discussed other factors that have affected the township financially.

Supervisor Stumbo spoke about the masks and test kits that had been purchased with ARPA funds that have been delivered door to door and the amount of poverty she has seen. She added that she believed ARPA funds should be spent on the residents and not broadband and focused on the opportunity index.

Trustee Swanson expressed her appreciation for the presentation. She also stated that she feels when you hurry to spend money it ends up in the same places it has always been. Trustee Swanson added that she feels it is important to wait to make sure it is going to the areas that need it the most. Mrs. Nofthaft agreed, and added that there are also federal dollars that will be in play and that a lot of agencies still do not have guidelines on how the money can be spent.

The Work Session meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:55pm.

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Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Jarrell Roe". The ink is light grey or blue.

**Heather Jarrell Roe, Clerk
Charter Township of Ypsilanti**

Washtenaw County's Opportunity Index in Ypsilanti Township



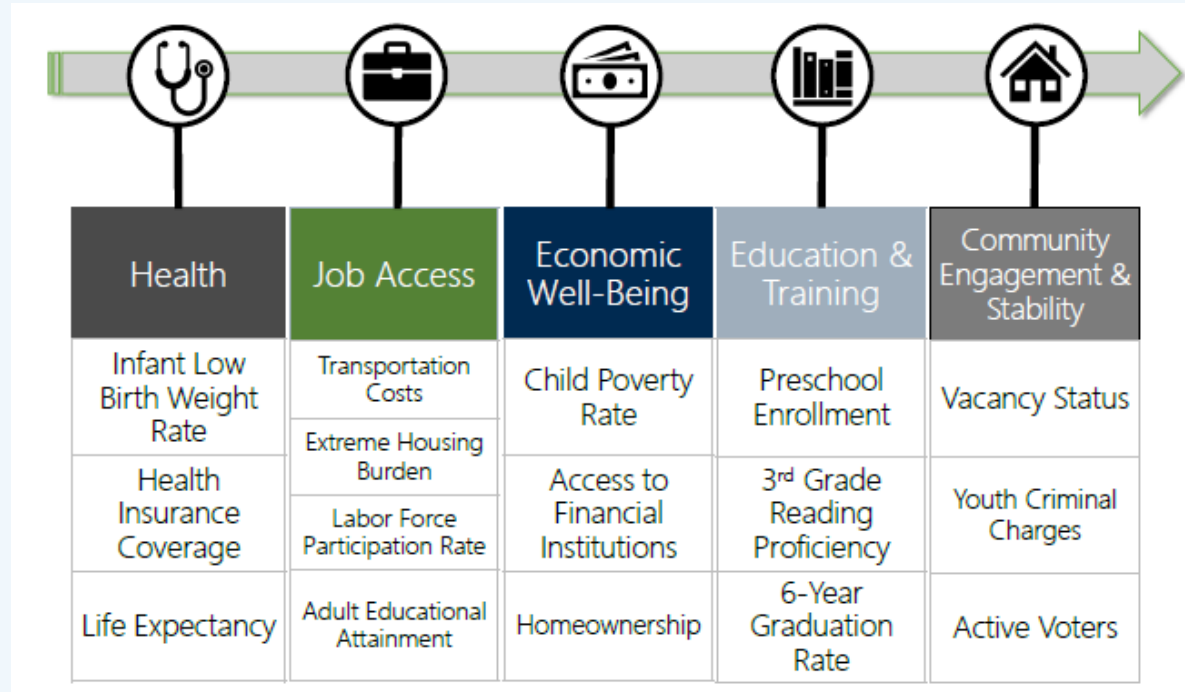
What is the Opportunity Index?

Tool developed by Poverty Solutions in partnership with Washtenaw County

- Designed to identify disparities in access to:
 - Safe and affordable housing
 - Quality education
 - Employment
 - Adequate health care
 - Stable neighborhoods
- Focus on underlying structural issues
- Guide for future policy decisions and resource allocation

How is the Index Constructed?

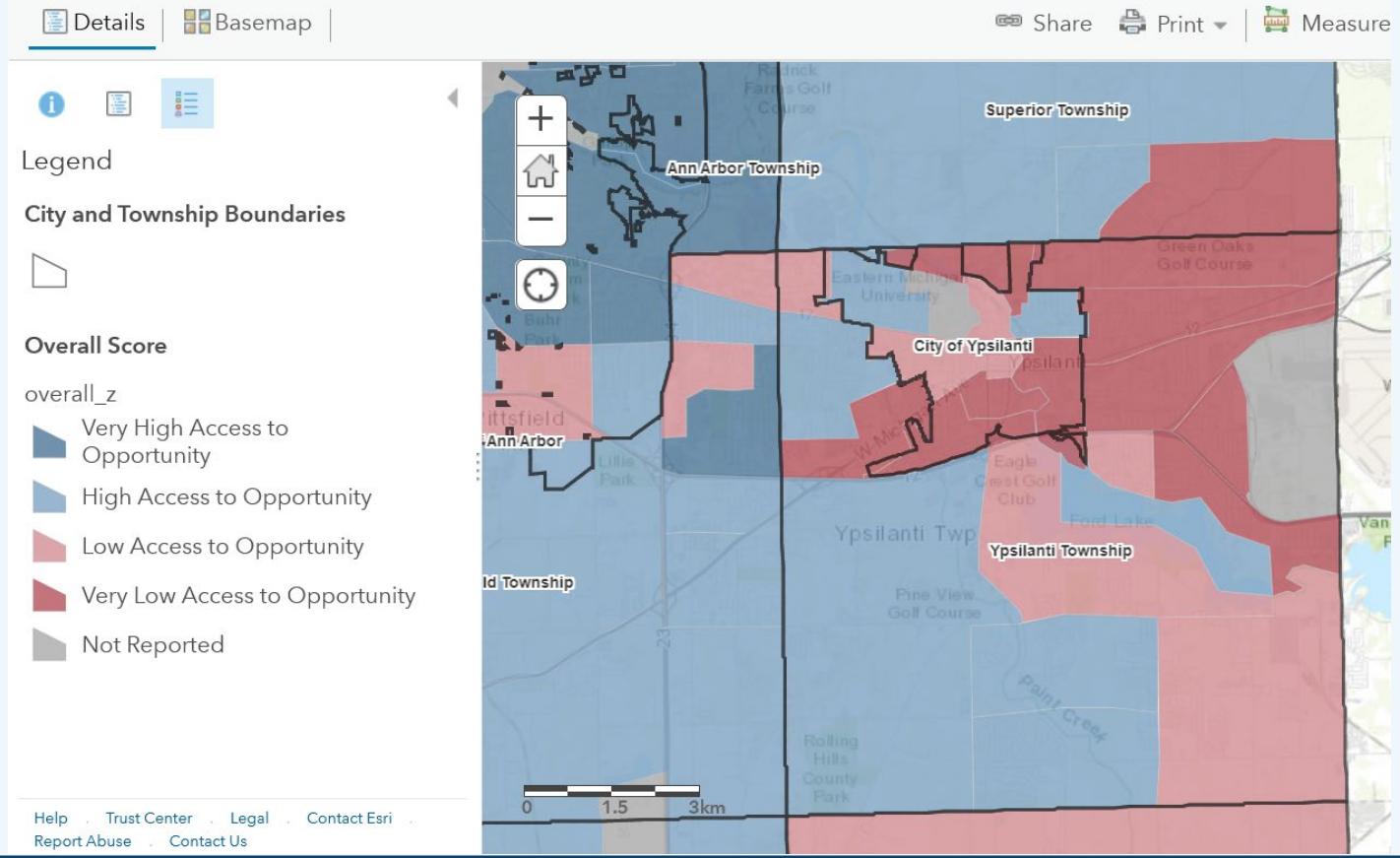
- Combines 16 measures of opportunity into 5 categories



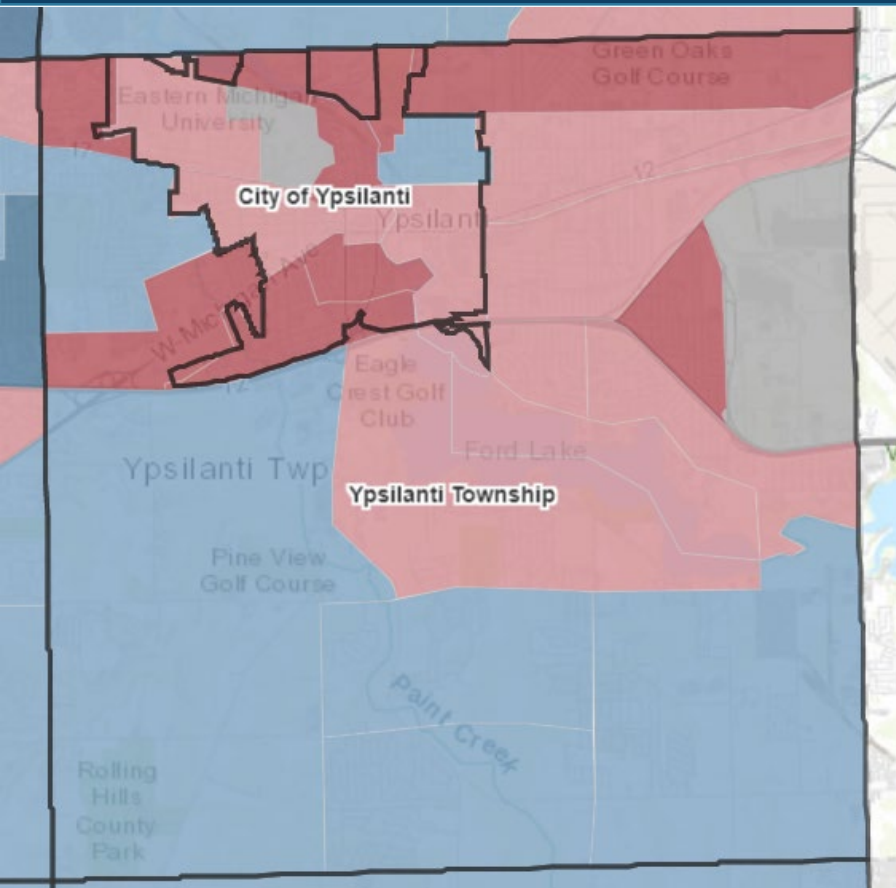
How can the index help Ypsi Township?

- Highlights and quantifies areas of low and high opportunity in Township
 - While none of these areas come as a surprise to life long residents, it can help focus energy and resources for both the Township and County
- Identifies strengths and weakness to target interventions and policy changes
- Provides Township and County a baseline to measure outcomes

Opportunity Index in Ypsi Township: Overall



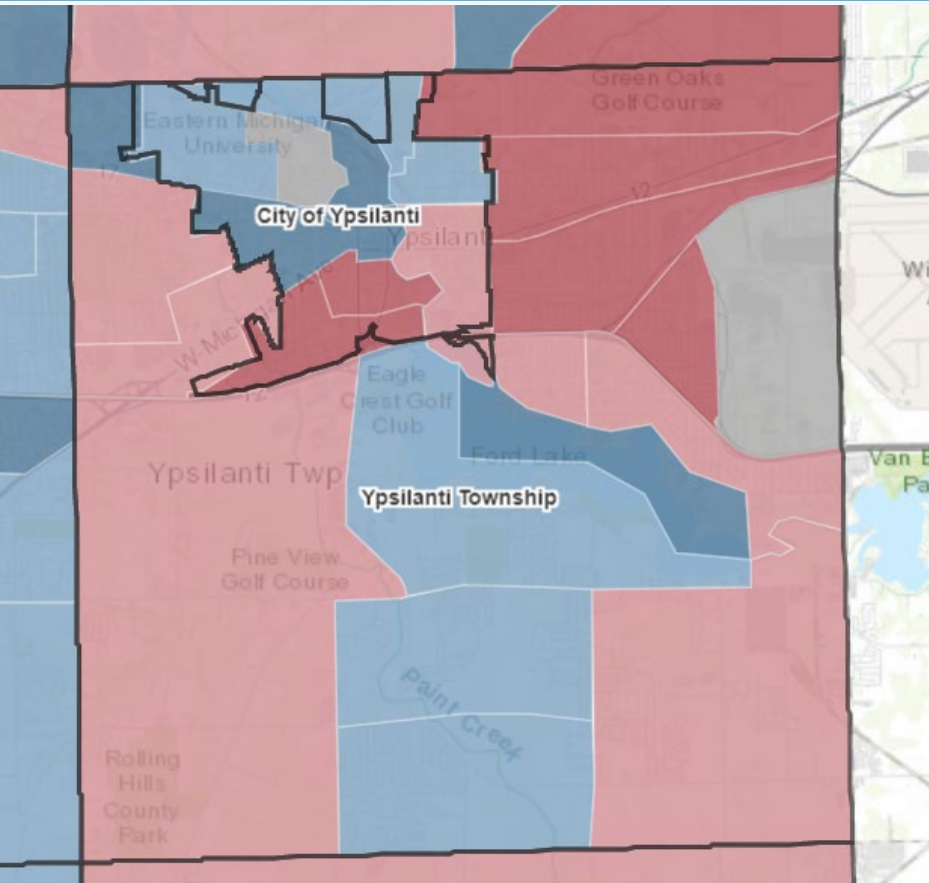
Health



Low Opportunity Tracts have:

- Greater numbers of Low Birth Weight births
- Fewer people with health insurance
- Lower life expectancy: Social Determinants of Health

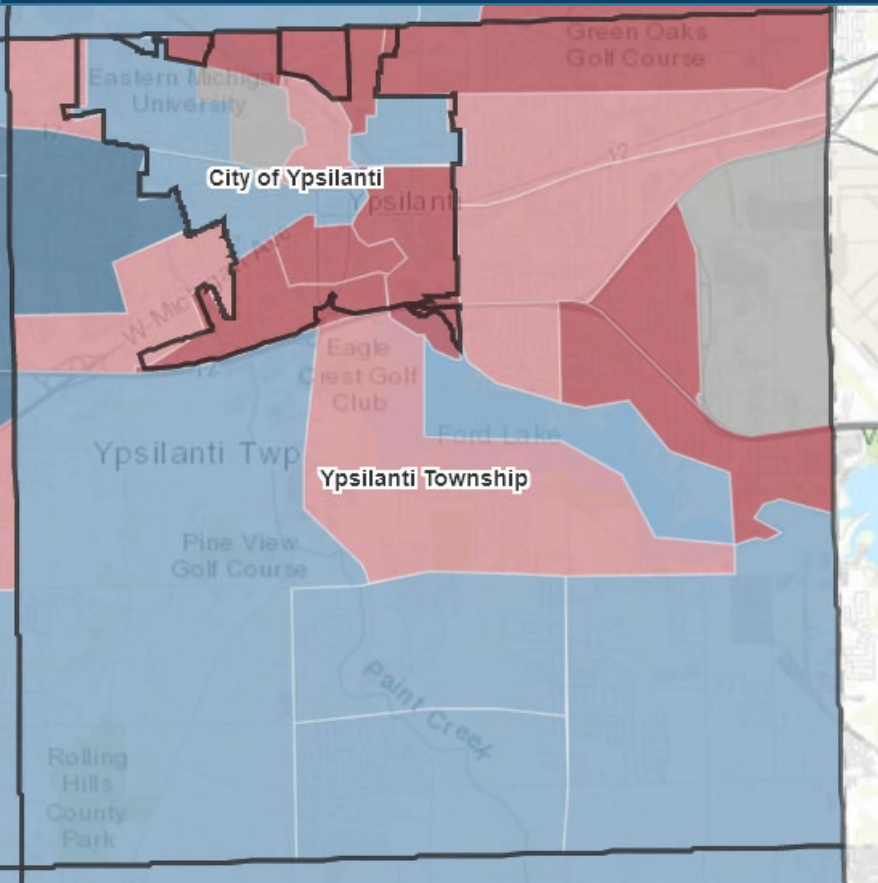
Jobs Access



Low Opportunity Tracts have:

- Higher transportation costs
- More people paying 50% or more on housing
- Lower labor force participation
- Lower educational attainment

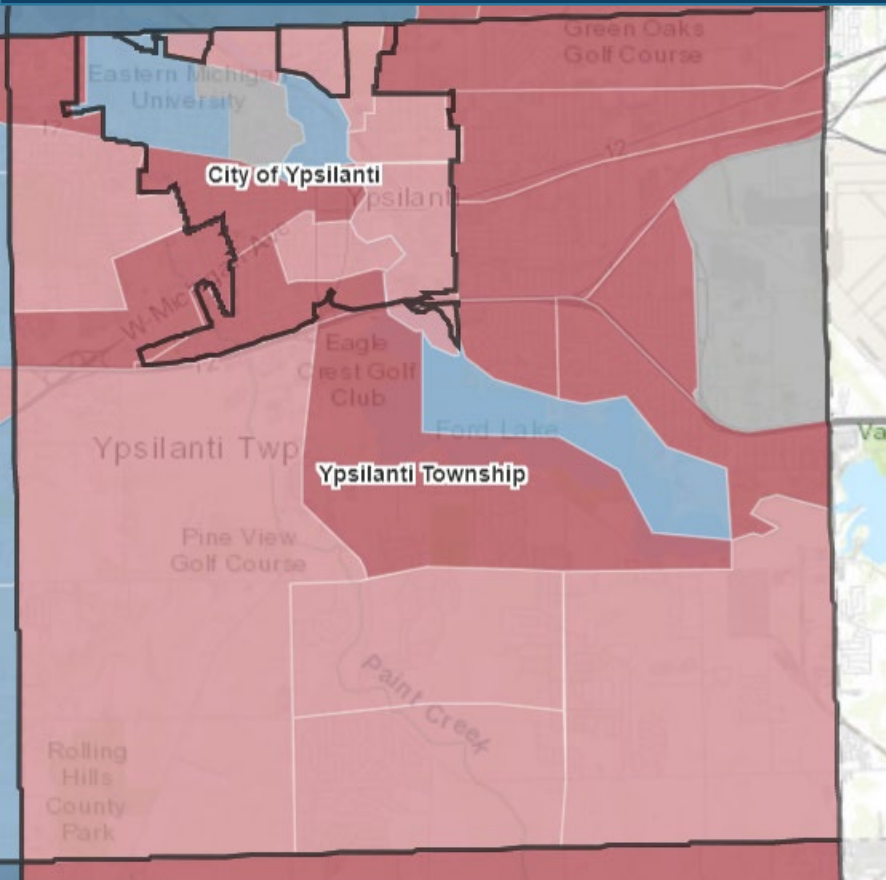
Economic Well-Being



Low Opportunity Tracts have:

- Less access to financial institutions
- Higher rates of child poverty
- Lower rates of homeownership

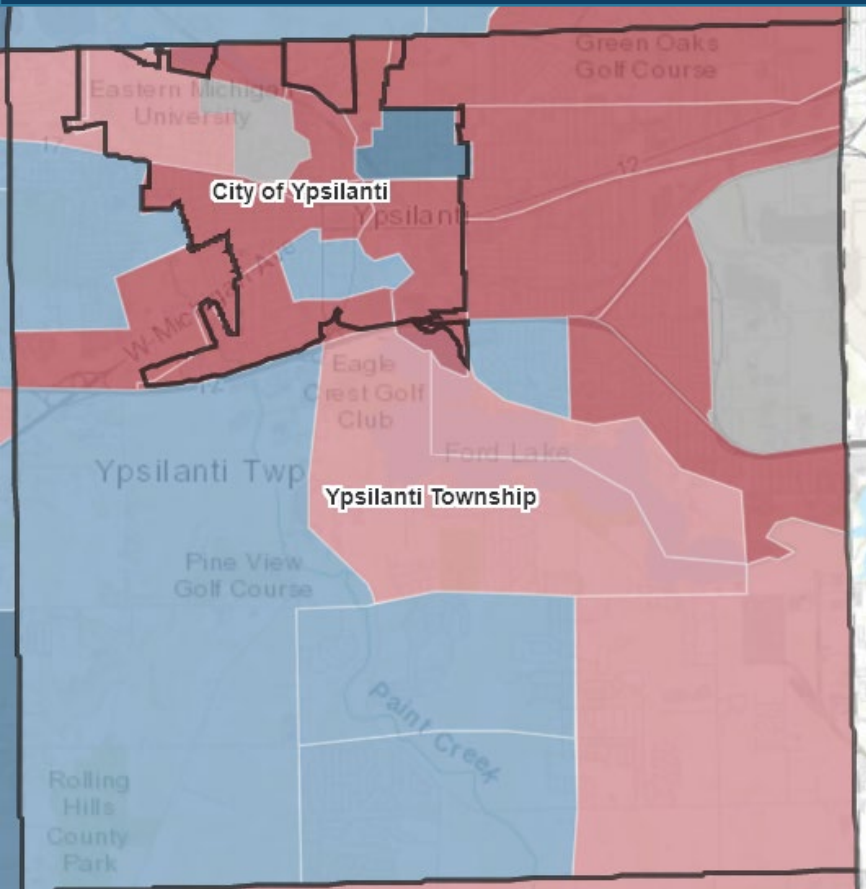
Education and Training



Low Opportunity Tracts have:

- Fewer 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in preschool
- Lower rate of 3rd grade reading proficiency
- Lower rates of high school graduation within a 6 year window

Community Engagement and Stability



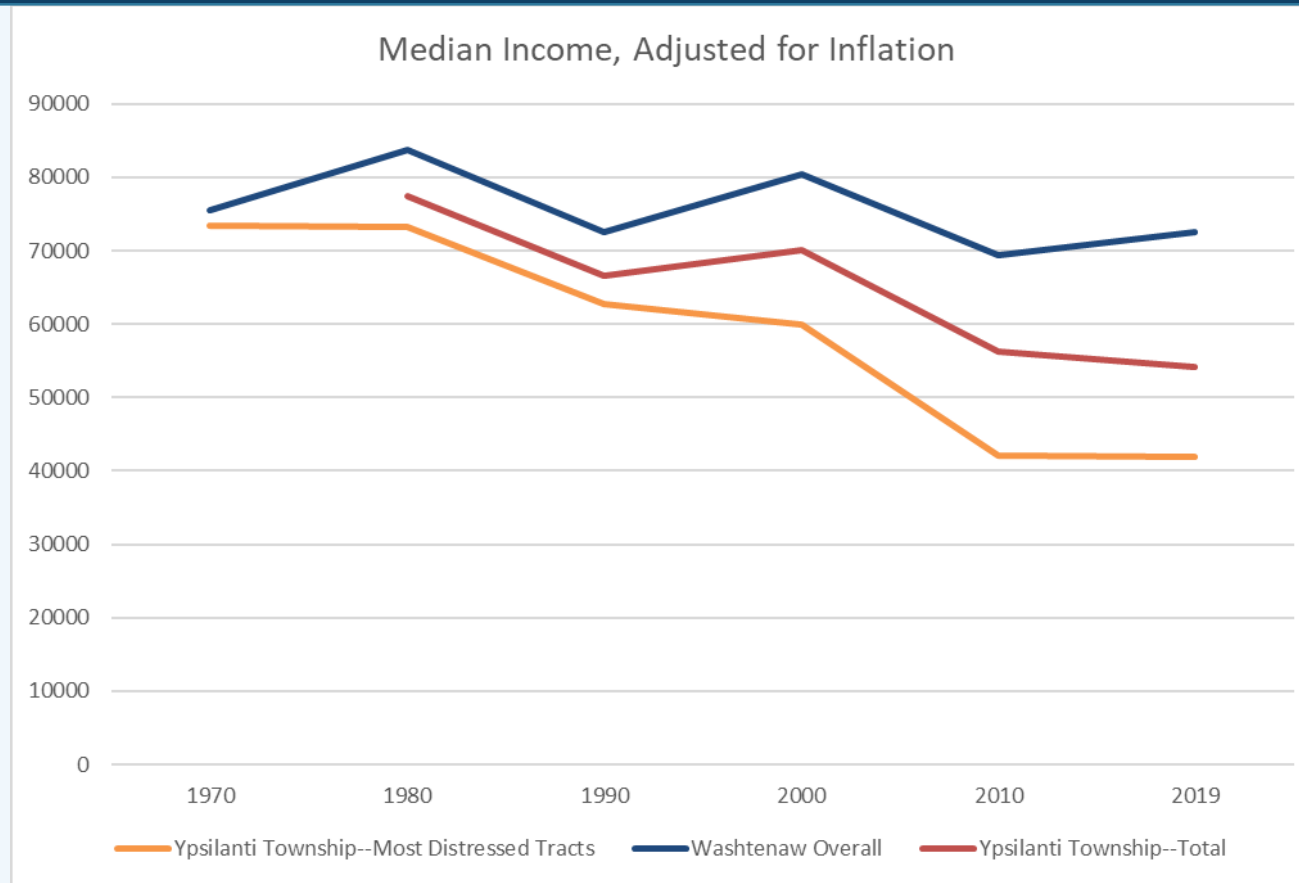
Low Opportunity Tracts have:

- Higher proportion of residential properties vacant for 36 months or longer
- Higher rates of youth crime
- A lower proportion of active voters

Quick history of Ypsi Township

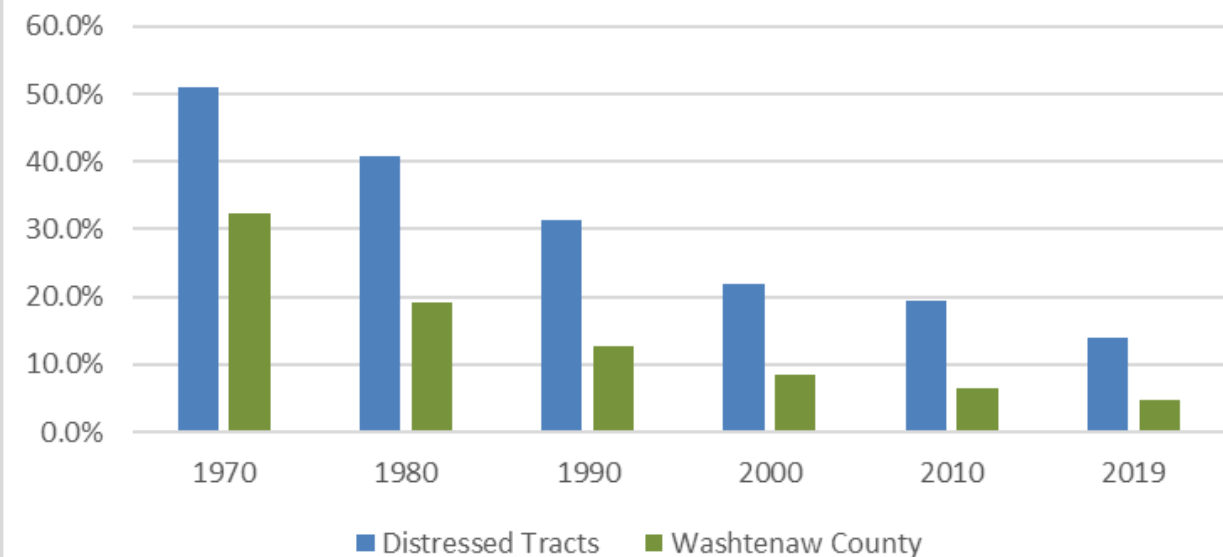
- History is an important backdrop for current situation
- Helps identify the structural causes and barriers to interventions
- Eliminates the trope of low opportunity areas being an intractable problem

Changes in Income: 1970 to 2019

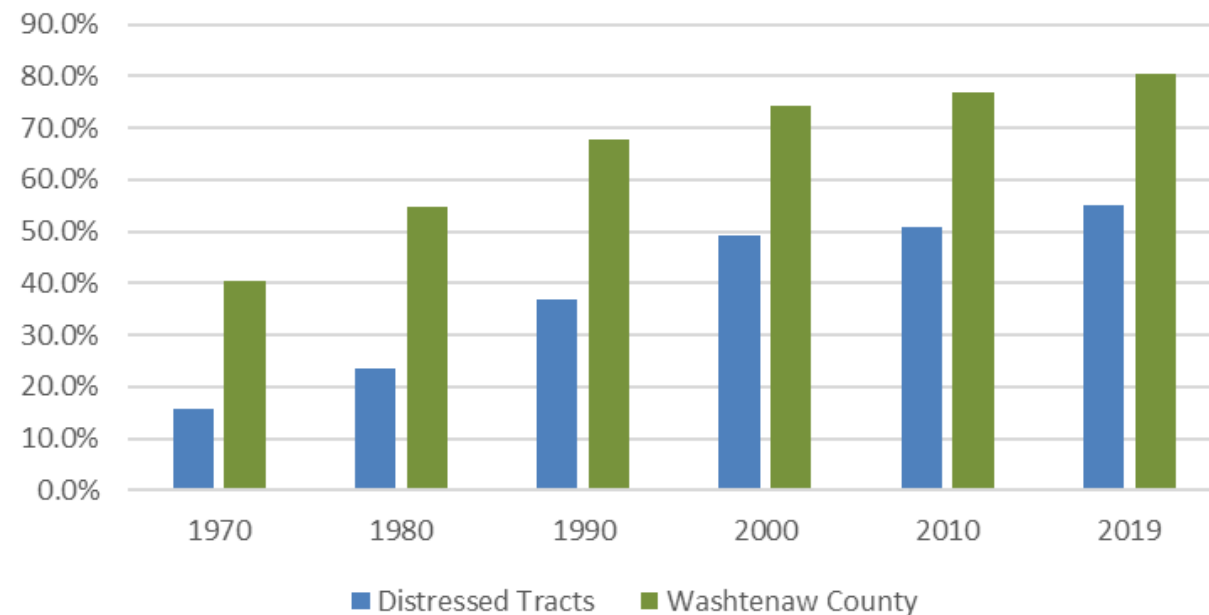


Changes in Education: 1970 to 2019

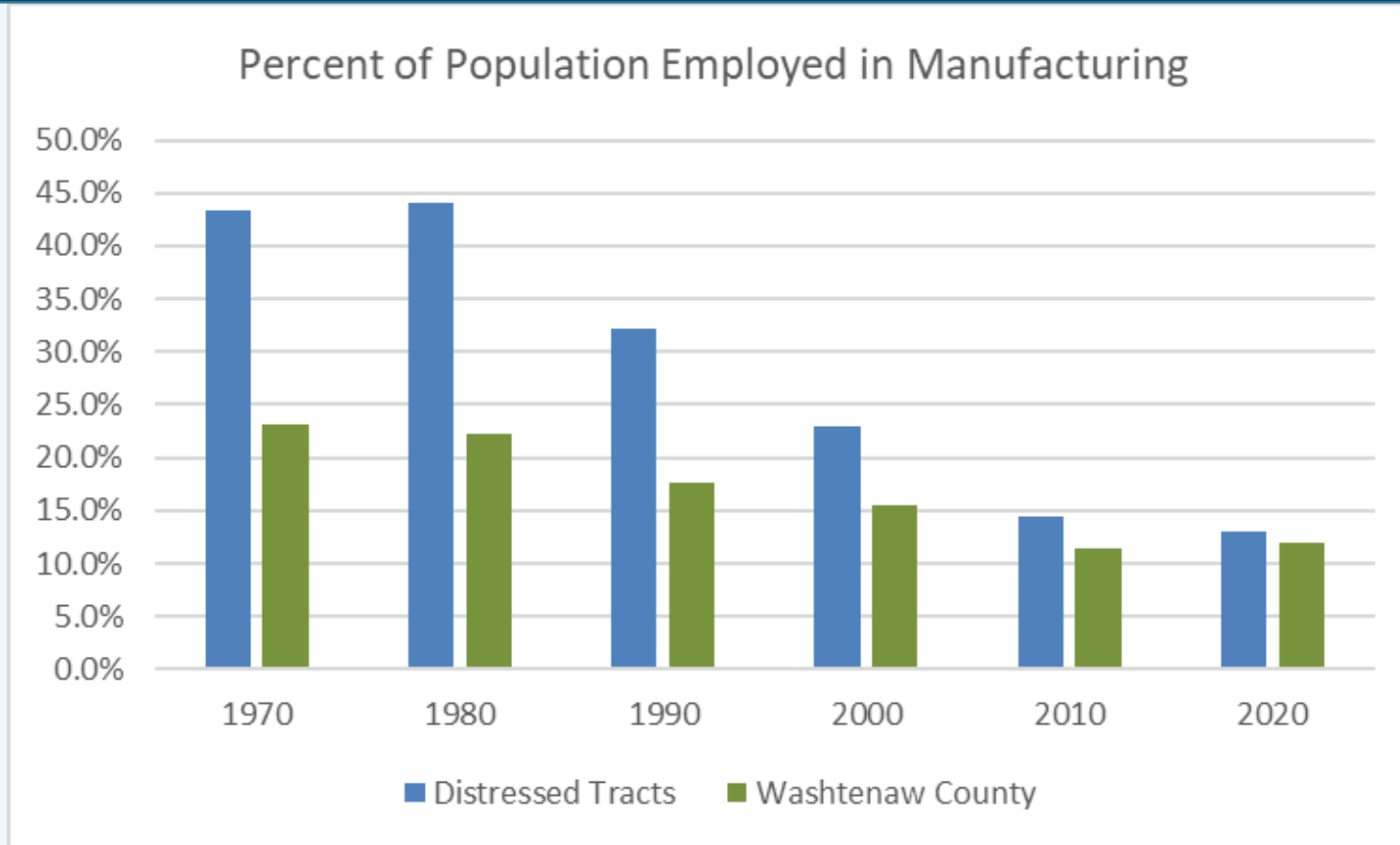
Percent of Population without HS Diploma



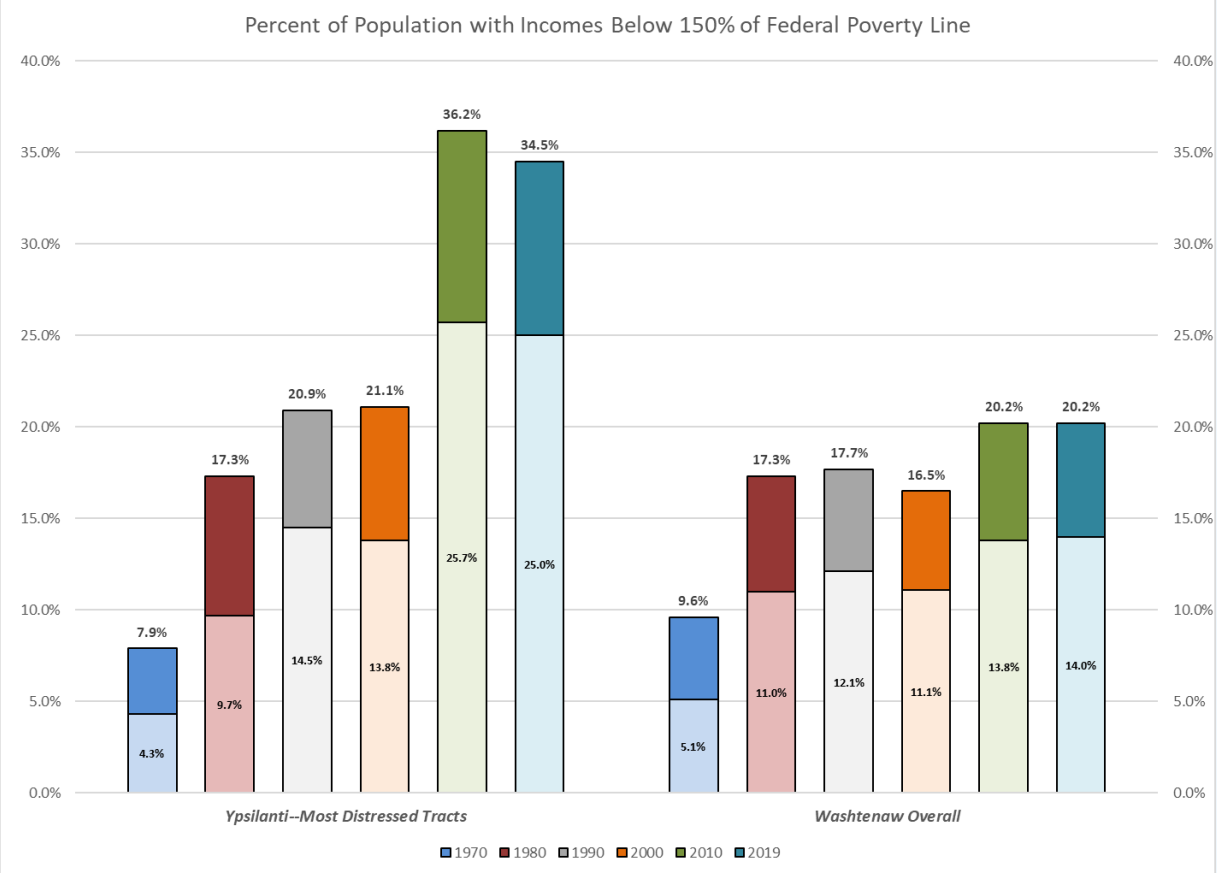
Percent of Population With Some College



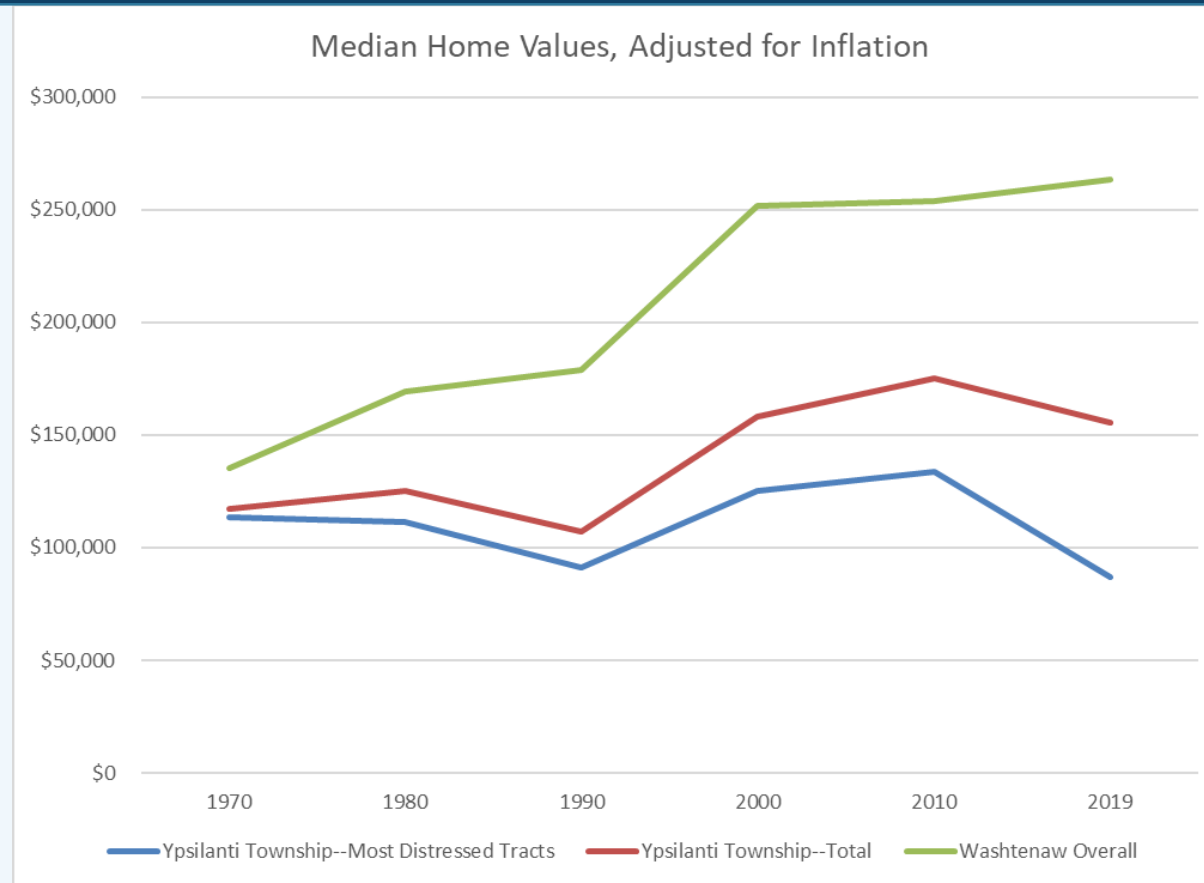
Changes Employment Sector: 1970 to 2019



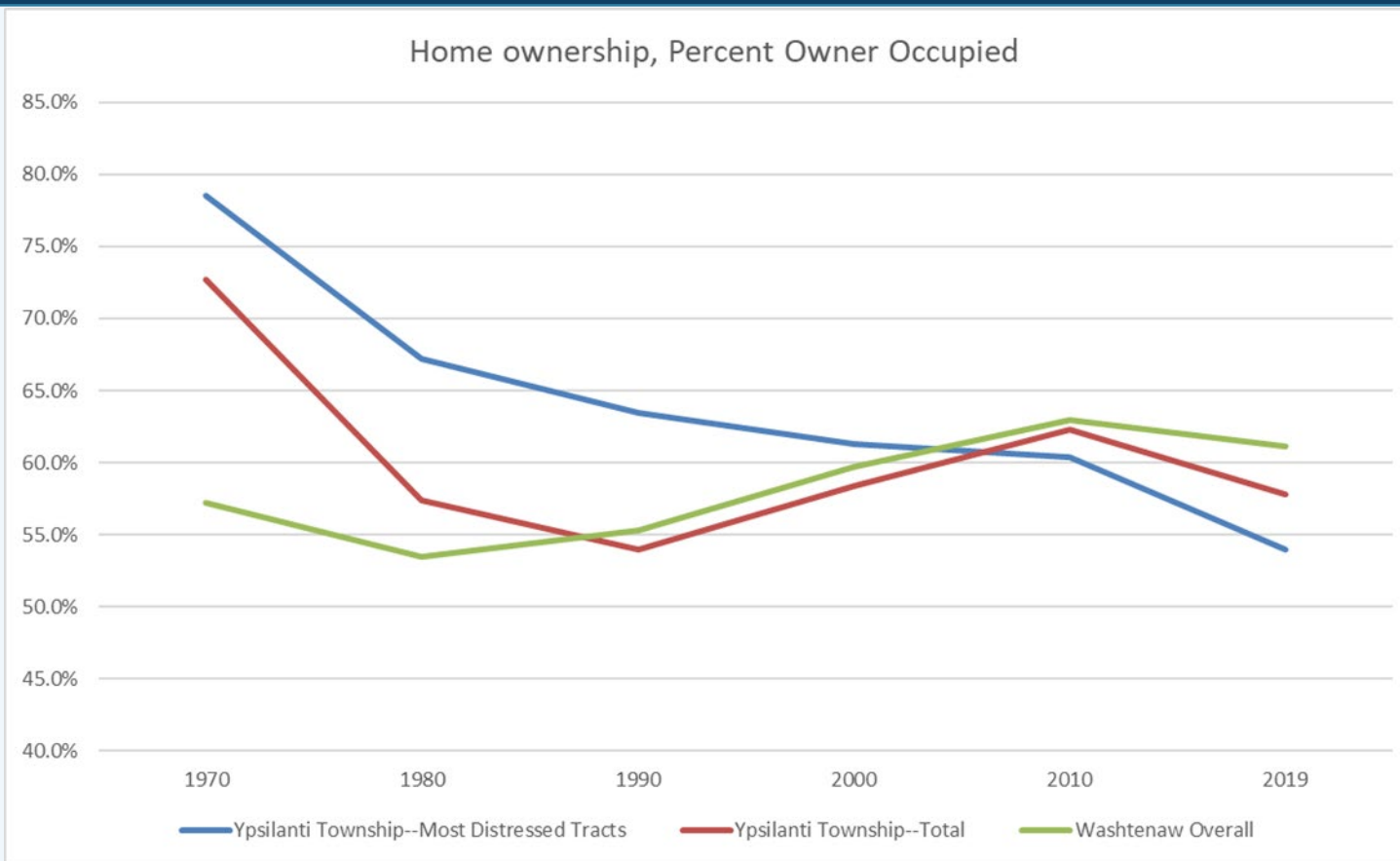
Changes in Poverty Rates: 1970 to 2019



Changes in House Values: 1970 to 2019



Changes in Home Ownership: 1970 to 2019



ARPA Strategies

- Can lean into history and Opportunity Index to guide ARPA spending decisions
- Importance of addressing issues in Low Opportunity Tracts vs Township as a whole
- Education and training, infrastructure, health care



THANK
YOU

Contact:
Amanda C. Nothhaft, PhD
202-360-3475



POVERTY SOLUTIONS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN