Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Federation

Safe Routes to School Funding in Underserved Communities

Are Your Underserved Communities Receiving Their Fair Share of SRTS Funding?

Brent Hugh Eric Bunch Sarah Shipley
Missouri Safe Routes to School Network

MoBikeFed.org/UnderservedCommunities

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SRTS & Underserved Communities

Are underserved communities in Missouri getting their fair share of SRTS funding?

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SRTS & Underserved Communities

Executive Order

[E]ach Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies and activities on ***minority populations*** *and* ***low-income populations****.*

The President's Order for Environmental Justice, Executive Order 12898

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USDOT Guidance

Objective:

To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately ***high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects****, on minority populations and low-income populations . . .*

An Overview of Transportation and Environmental Justice, U.S. Department of Transportation

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SRTS & Underserved Communities

USDOT Guidance

Objective:

*To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the **receipt of benefits** by minority and low-income populations.*

An Overview of Transportation and Environmental Justice, U.S. Department of Transportation

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SRTS & Underserved Communities

- Defining “underserved”
- How did we collect the data?
- What did we discover?
- What can we do about it?

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Defining “Underserved”

- Low Income Students

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Defining “Underserved”

- Low Income Students

- Minority Students

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Defining "Underserved"

Why these groups?

- Low-income and minority populations are at much greater risk of obesity and inactivity
- They are historically underserved by application based funding sources
- They tend to lack the parental involvement exhibited by affluent schools
- Fewer champions
- Specifically mentioned in Executive Order

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Defining “Underserved”

- Low Income Students - % free & reduced lunch eligible students

- Minority Students - % as reported by school

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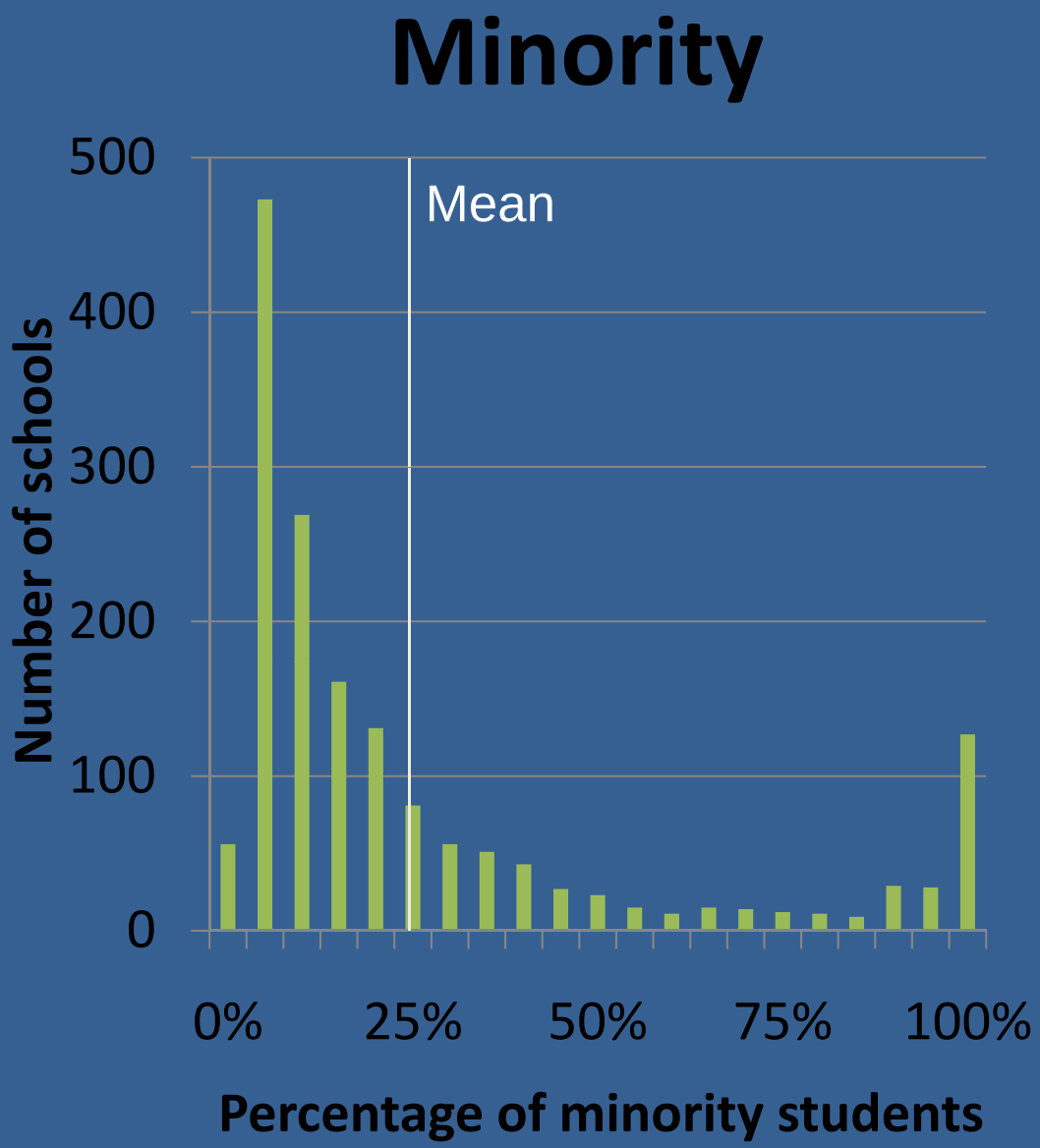
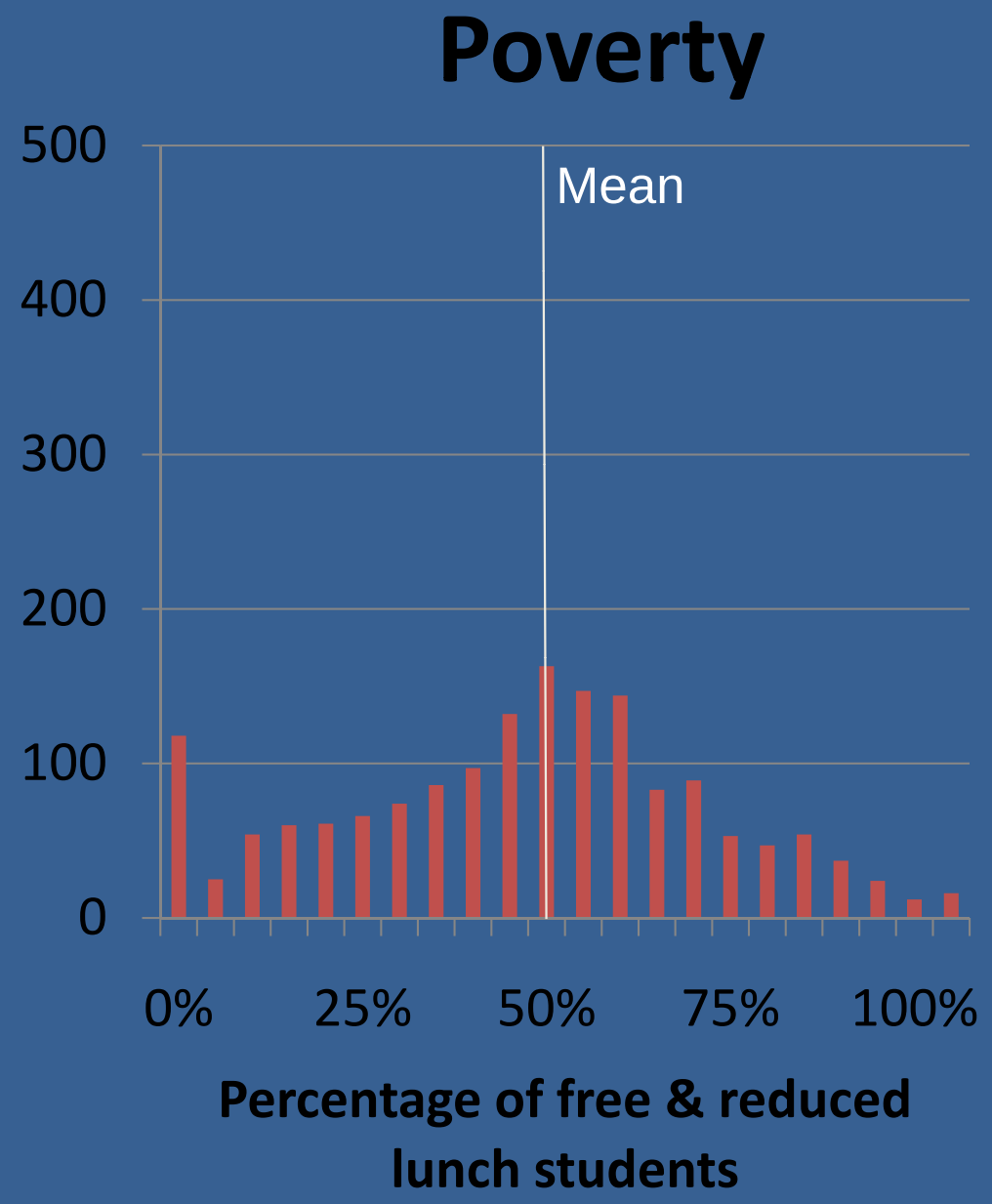
Underserved: Poverty vs. Minority





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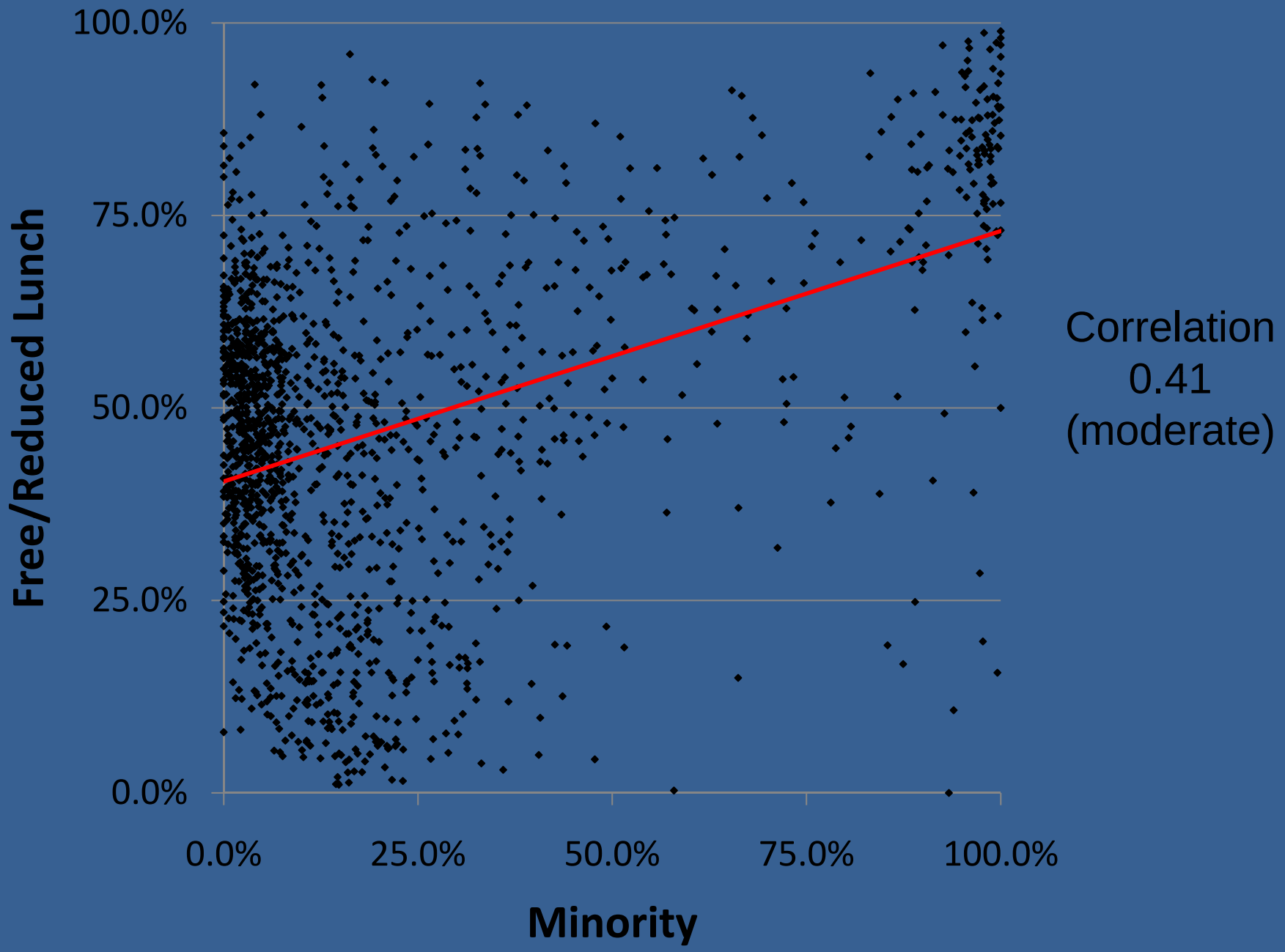
Underserved: Poverty vs. Minority



Correlation
0.41
(moderate)

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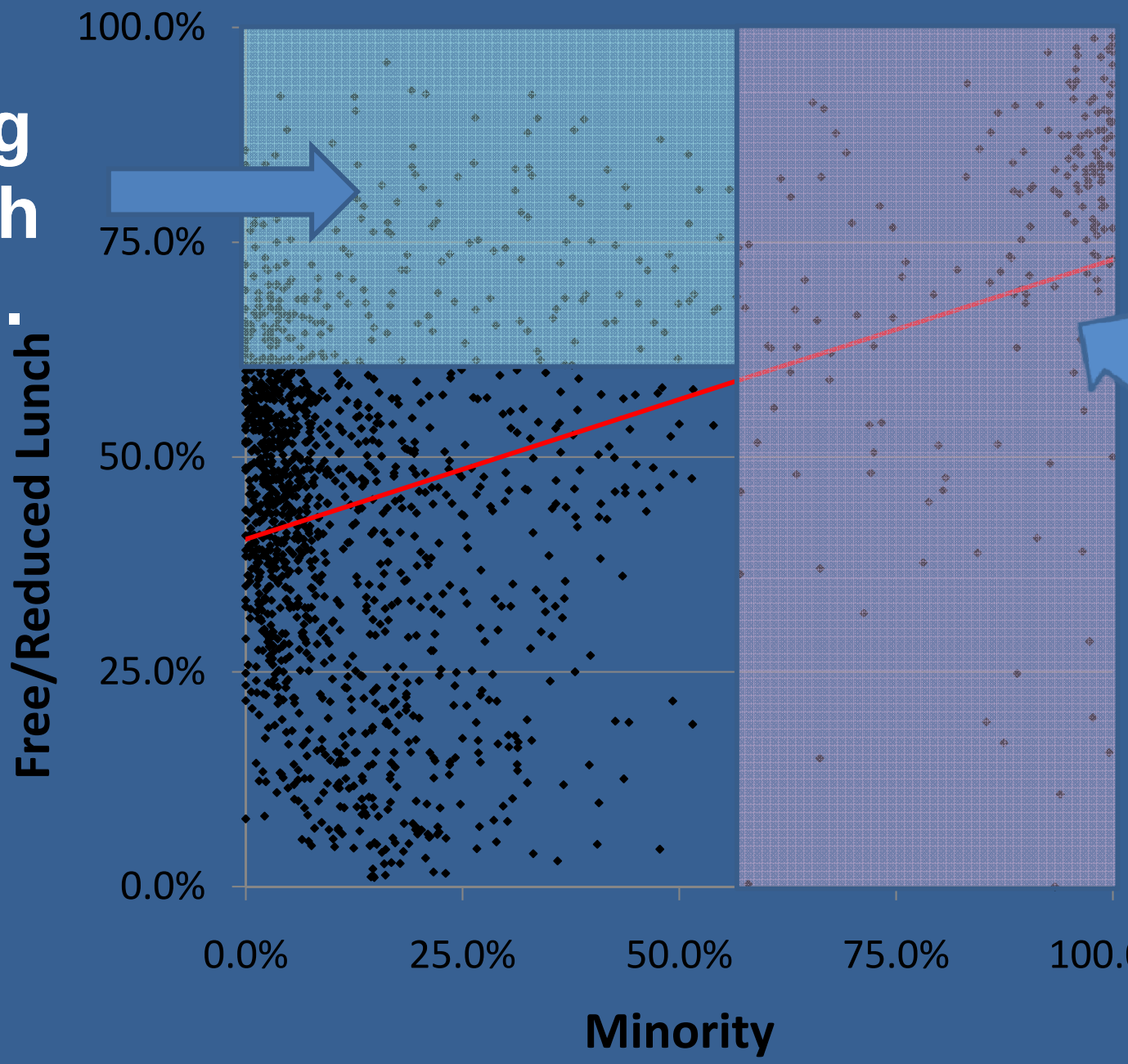
Underserved: Poverty vs. Minority

We're starting to reach this . . .



. . . but not this

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The Data

How we got the data

- General school data for the entire nation at http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/

URBAN- CENTRIC LOCALE (SCHOOL)	LOCALE - SIMPLIFIED	SCHOOL-WIDE TITLE I (SCHOOL)	TITLE I ELIGIBLE SCHOOL (SCHOOL)	CONGRESSIONAL CODE (SCHOOL)	TOTAL STUDENTS (SCHOOL)	TOTAL MINORITY STUDENTS	PERCENT MINORITY STUDENTS	AMERICAN INDIAN/ ALASKAN NATIVE STUDENTS (SCHOOL)	ASIAN/ PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDENTS (SCHOOL)(*)	BLACK STUDENTS (SCHOOL)	HISPANIC STUDENTS (SCHOOL)	WHITE STUDENTS (SCHOOL)	TWO/ MORE RACES STUDENTS (SCHOOL)	FR LUN ELIGI (SCHO
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Town: Remote	Town		No	2908	555	192	34.6%	1	2	180	9	363		
Town: Remote	Town	No	Yes	2909	321	16	5.0%	0	0	10	6	305		
Town: Remote	Town	Yes	Yes	2908	326	14	4.3%	0	0	8	6	312		
City: Large	City	No	Yes	2905	483	192	39.8%	5	16	154	17	291		
City: Large	City	No	Yes	2905	380	366	96.3%	0	0	366	0	14		
City: Large	City	Yes	Yes	2905	146	146	100.0%	0	0	146	0	0		
City: Large	City	Yes	Yes	2905	401	401	100.0%	0	1	400	0	0		

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The Data

How we got the data

- General school data for the entire nation at
  http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/
- List of Missouri SRTS awards from MoDOT
- Look up minority, free & reduced lunch data from NCES
- Specific instructions in handout

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The Data: How we analyzed it

Low Income Students – schools with

- 0-25% free/reduced lunch
- 25%-50% free/reduced lunch
- 50%-75% free/reduced lunch
- 75%-100% free/reduced lunch

Minority Students – schools with

- > State average (24.8% in Missouri)
- < State average

Safe Routes to School National Partnership Missouri Network

Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Federation

The Data: How we analyzed it

Our question: Are these groups getting their fair share of SRTS funding?

- **Example: Schools in Missouri with greater than average minority population**
- **182,337 students in those schools**
- **30% of Missouri's school population**
- **Are these schools receiving 30% of Missouri's SRTS funding?**

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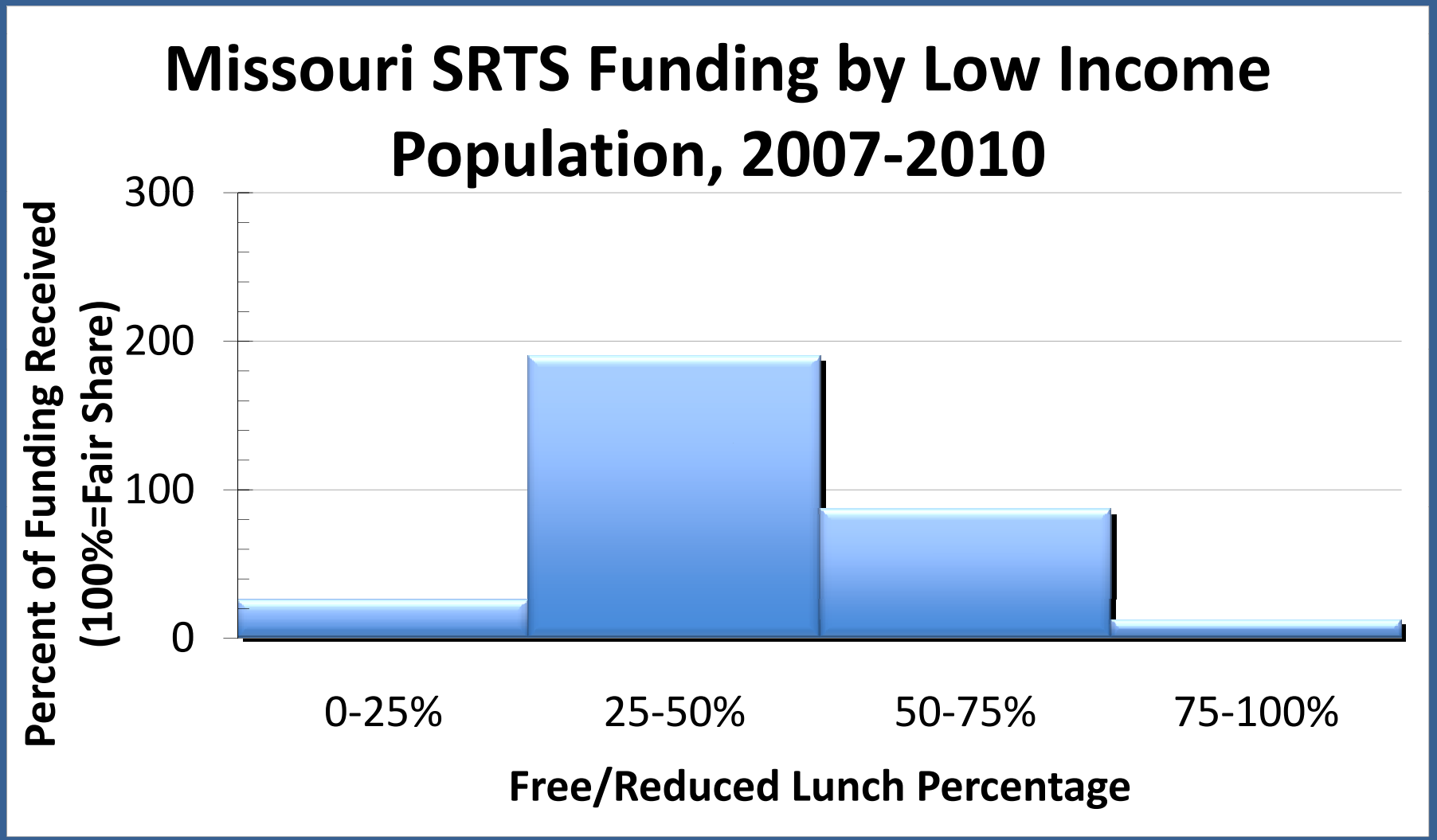
Underserved Communities: Results



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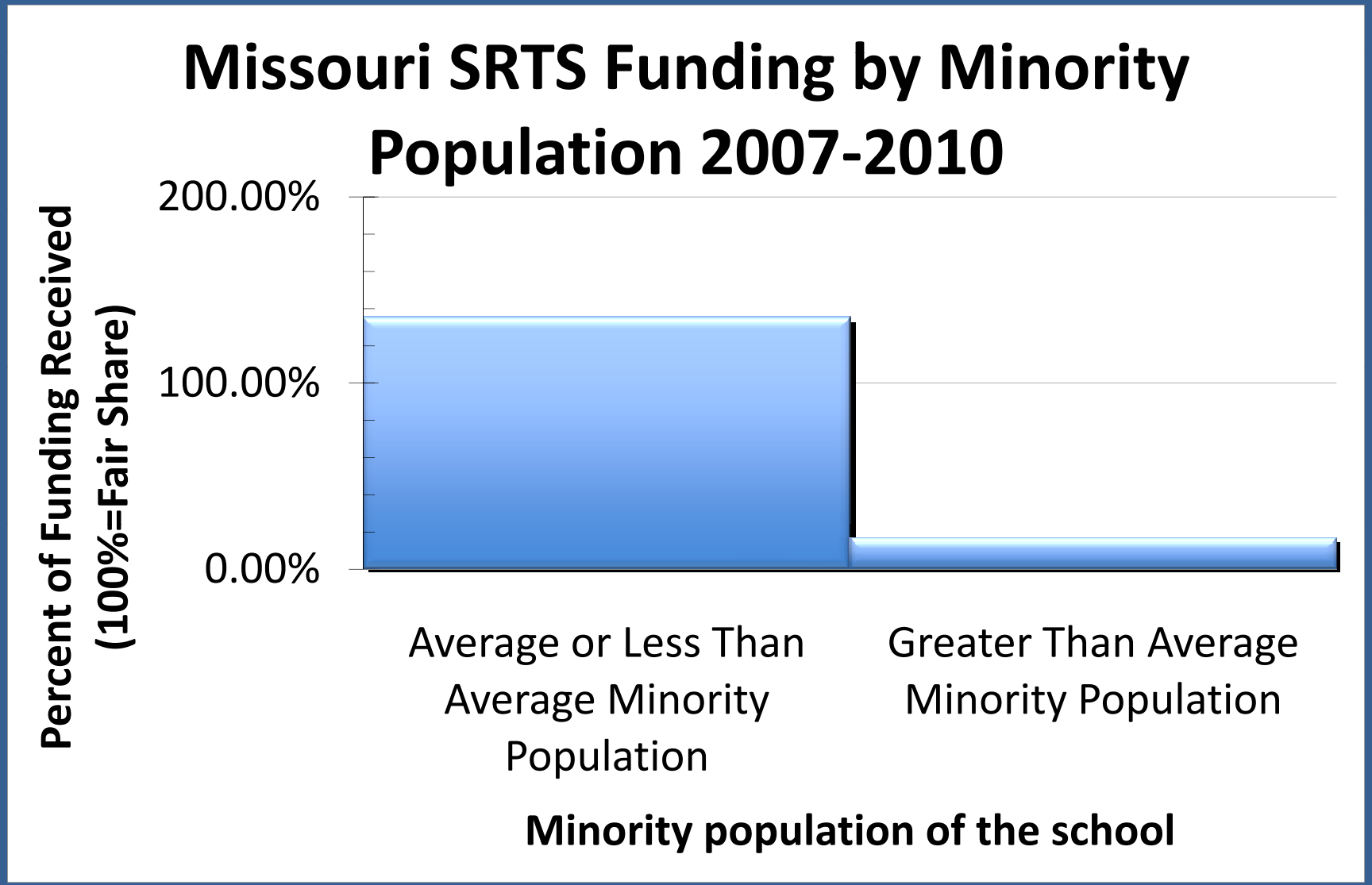
Underserved Communities: Results



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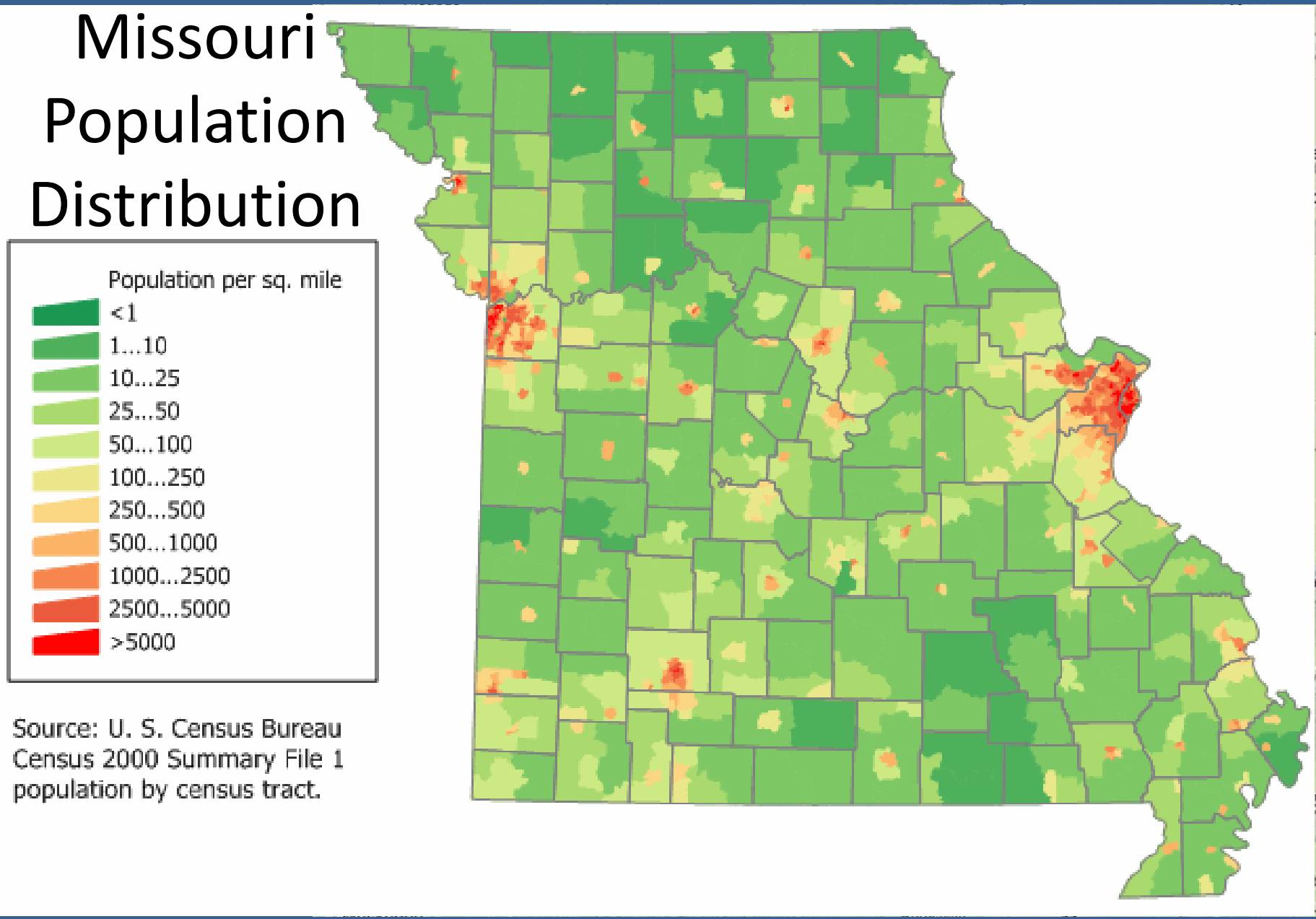
Award Distribution

Missouri Population Distribution



Source: U. S. Census Bureau Census 2000 Summary File 1 population by census tract.

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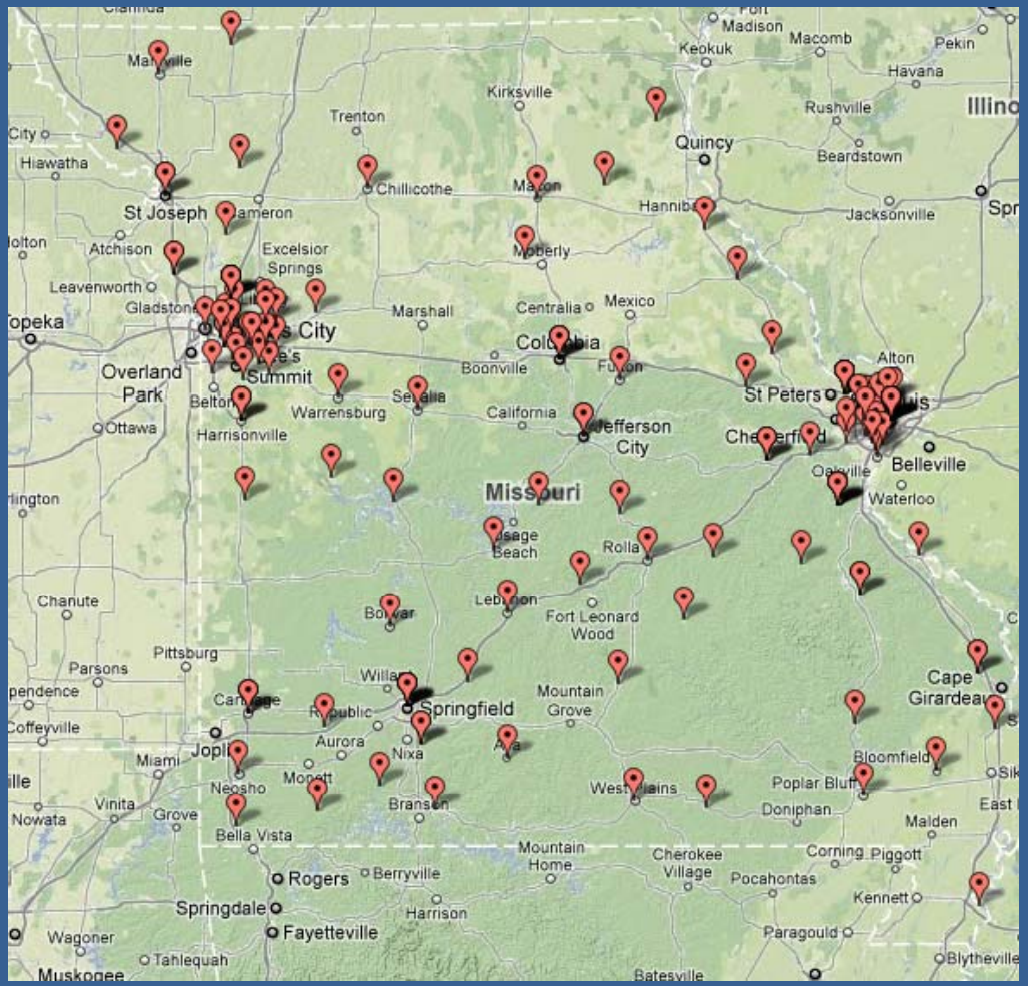
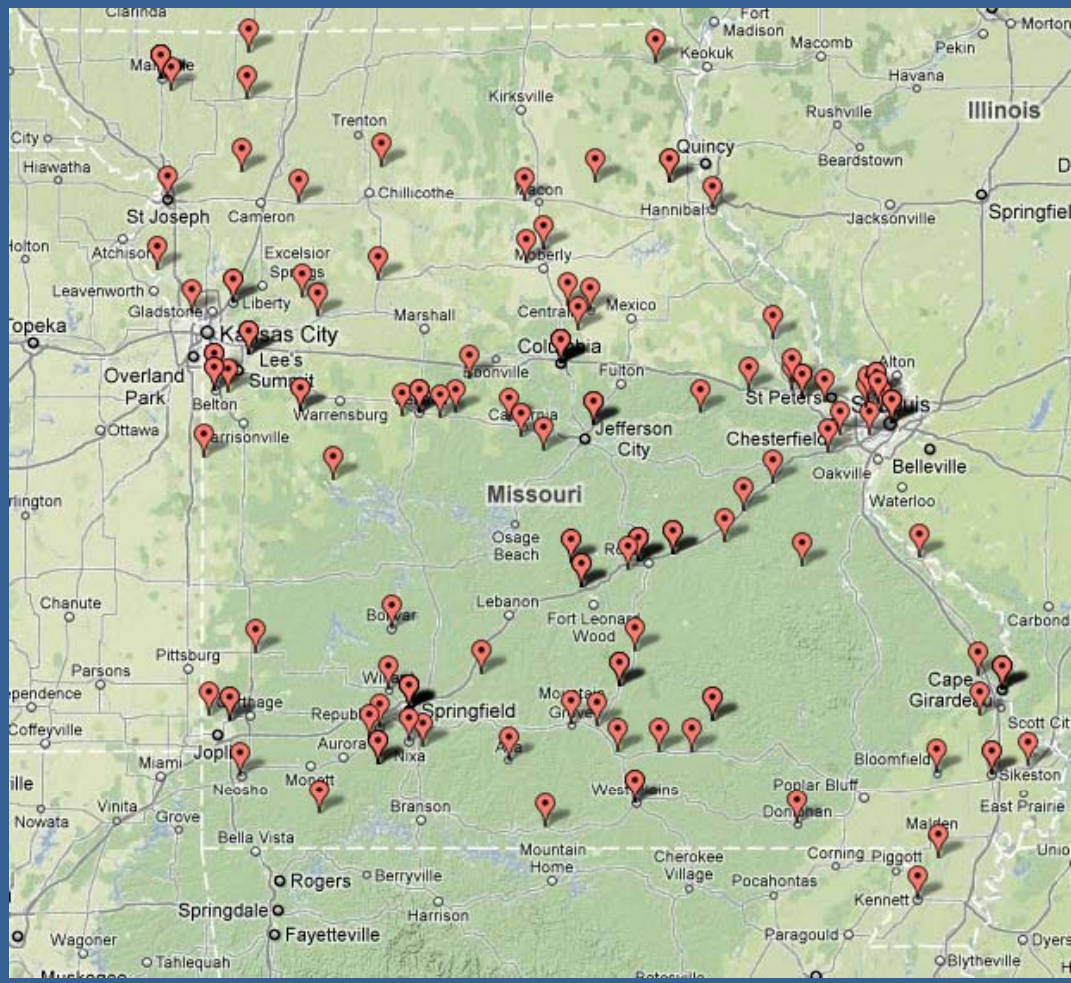
Award Distribution

By Population



Actual Awards



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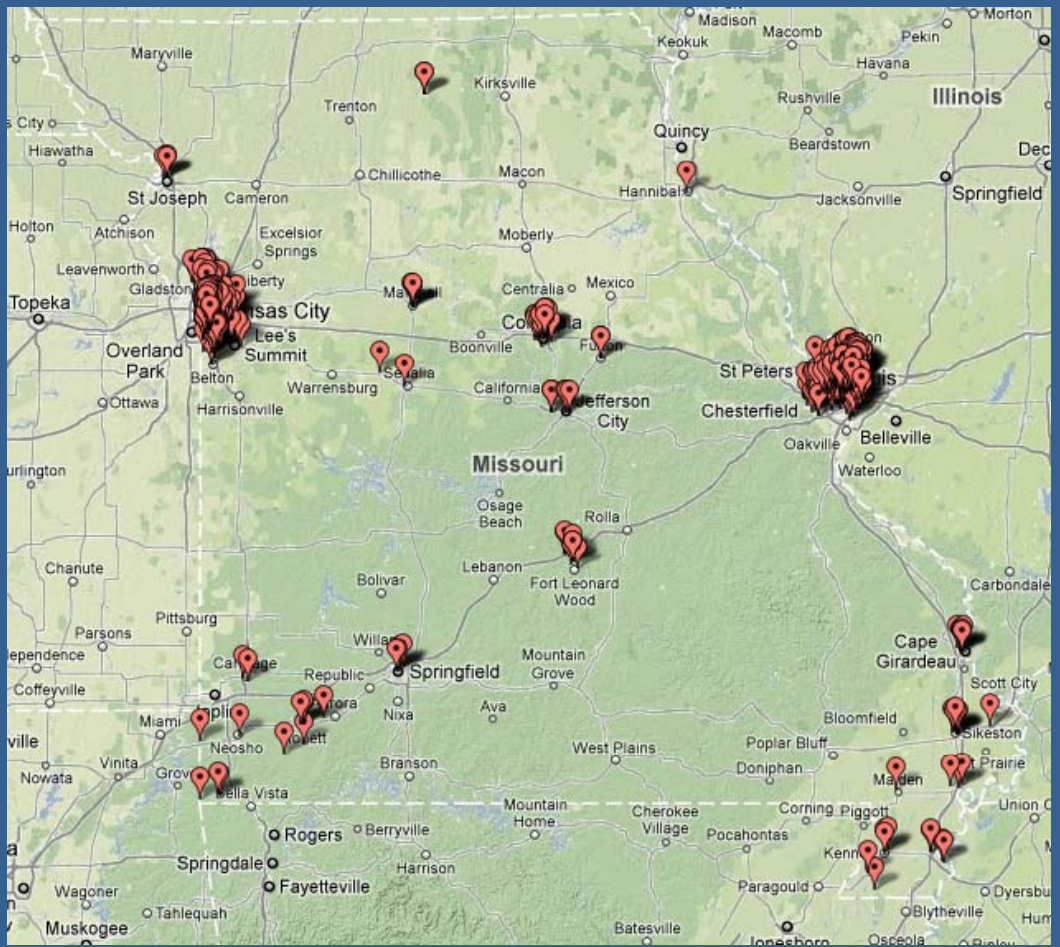
Population Distribution

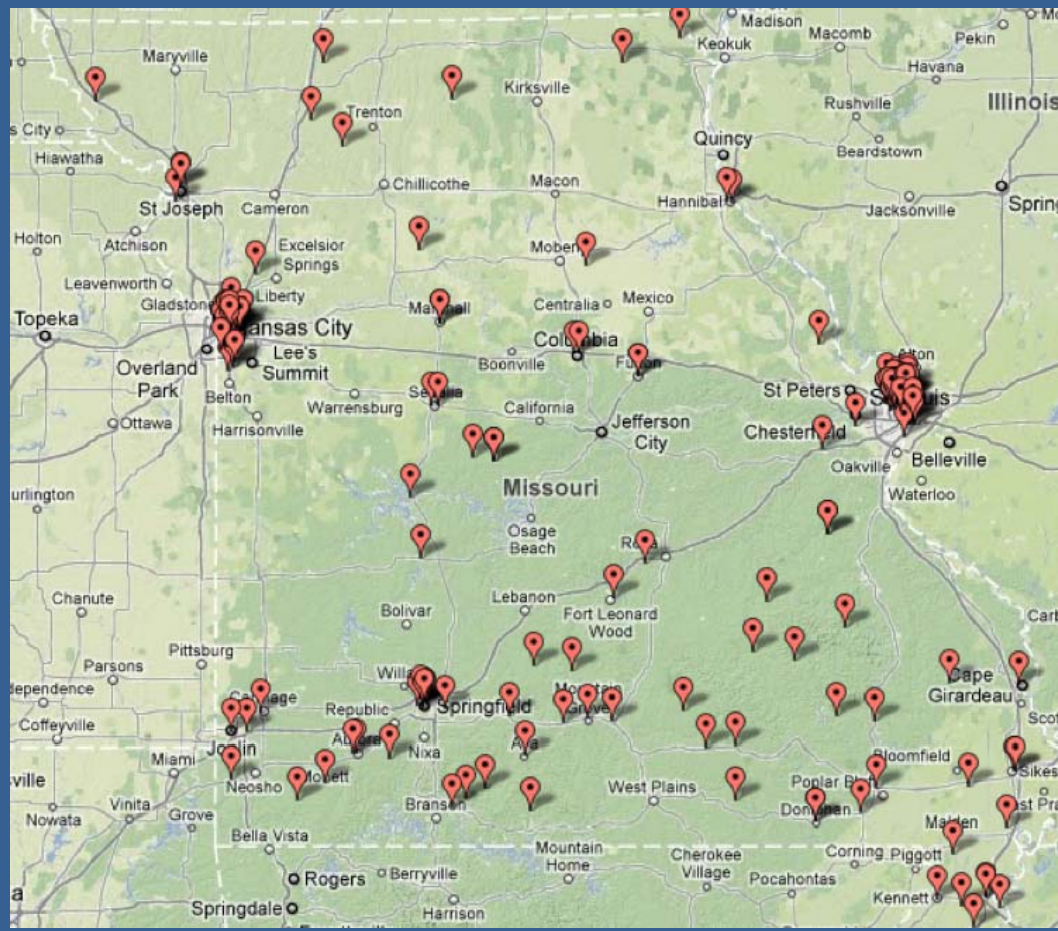
Minority

(Top 25% of schools ranked by minority pop.)



Poverty

(Top 25% of schools ranked by FRL%)



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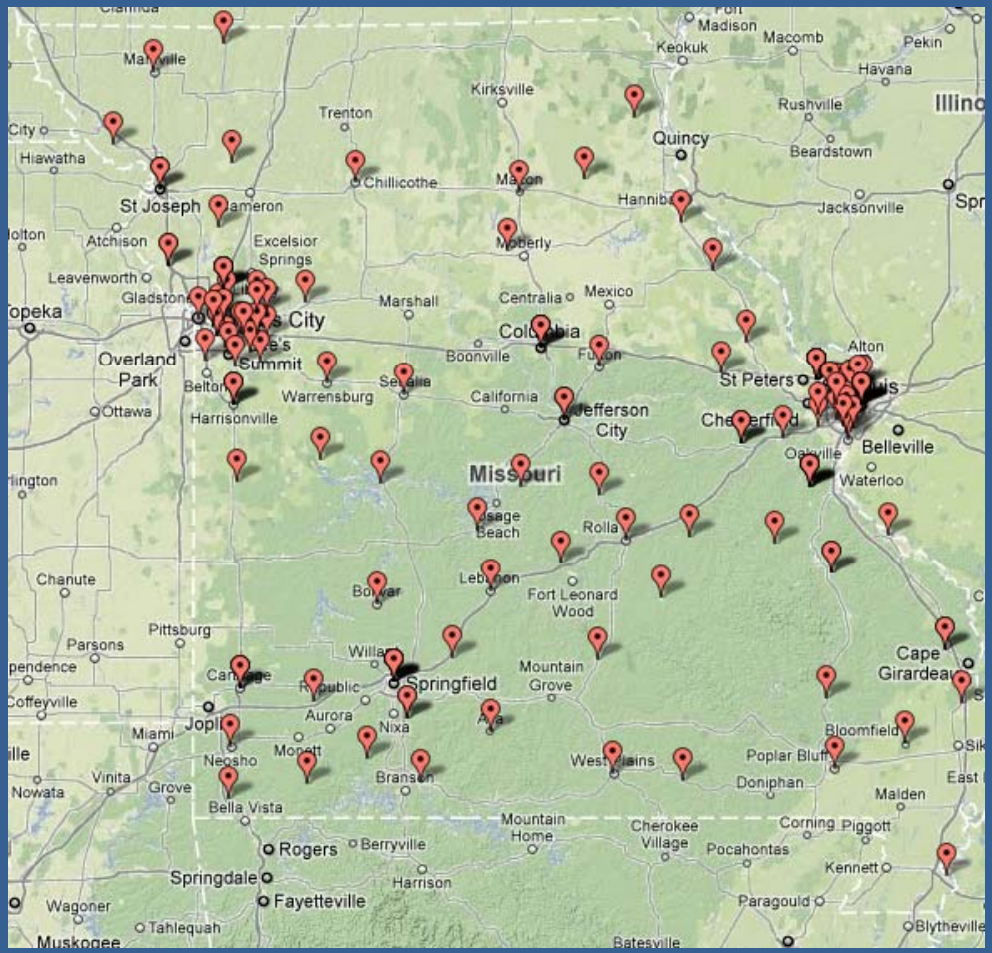
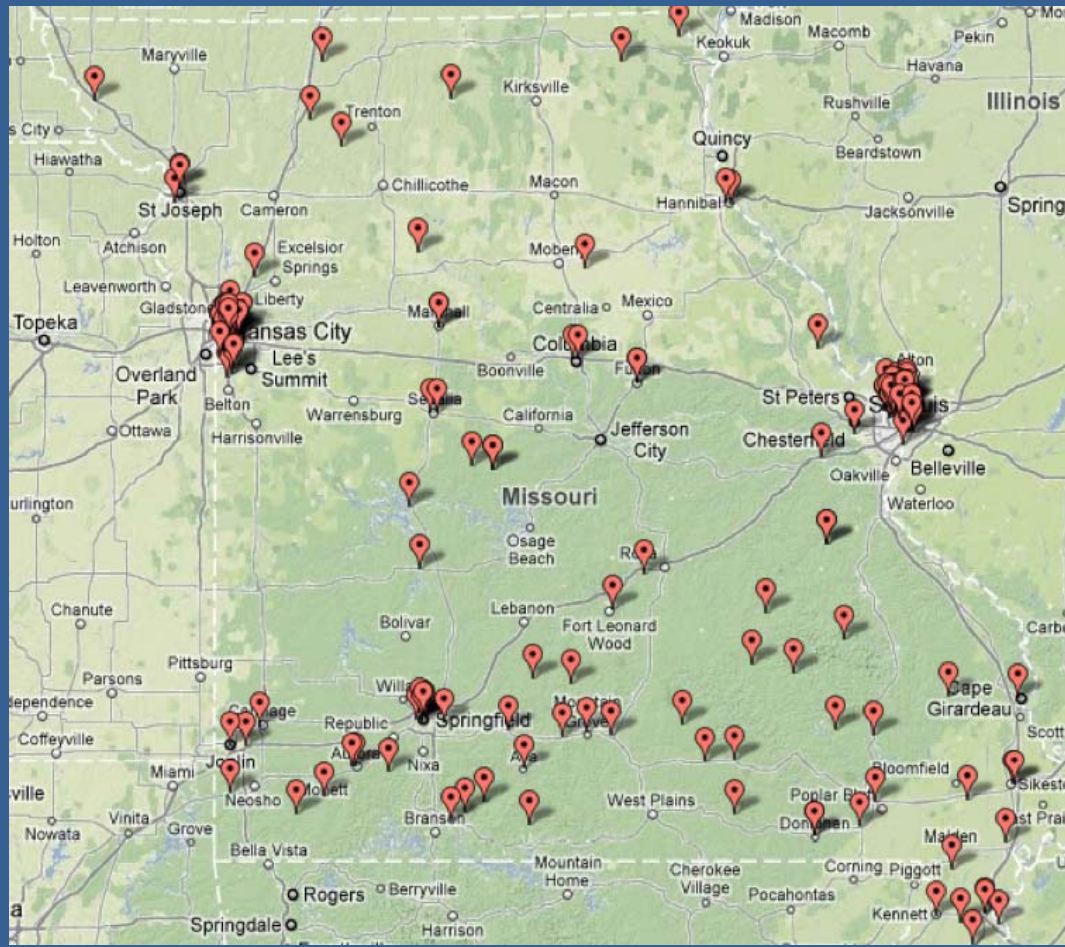
Population Distribution

Award Distribution
(if by population)



Poverty Distribution
(Top 25% of schools ranked by FRL%)



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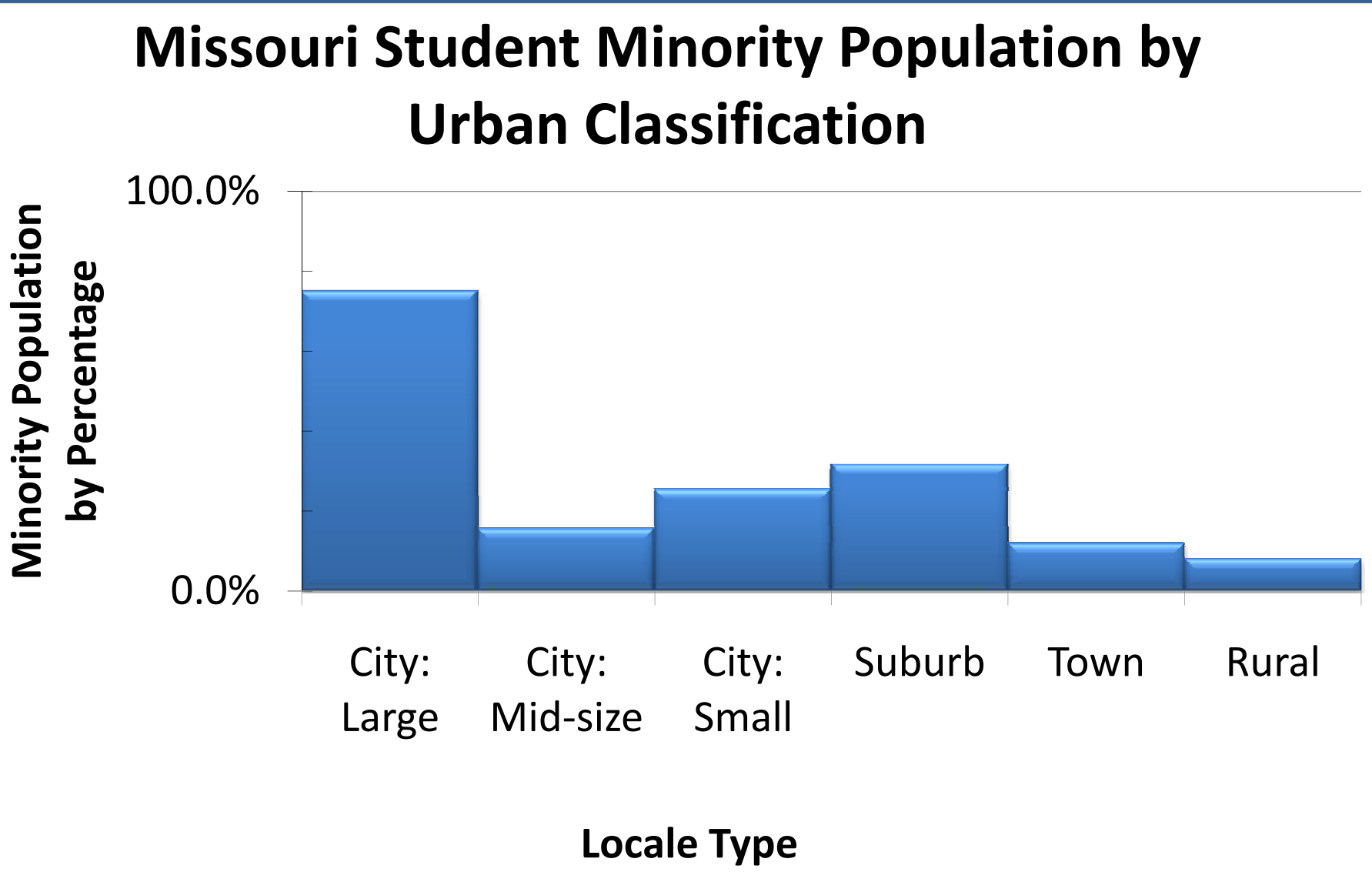
Population Distribution



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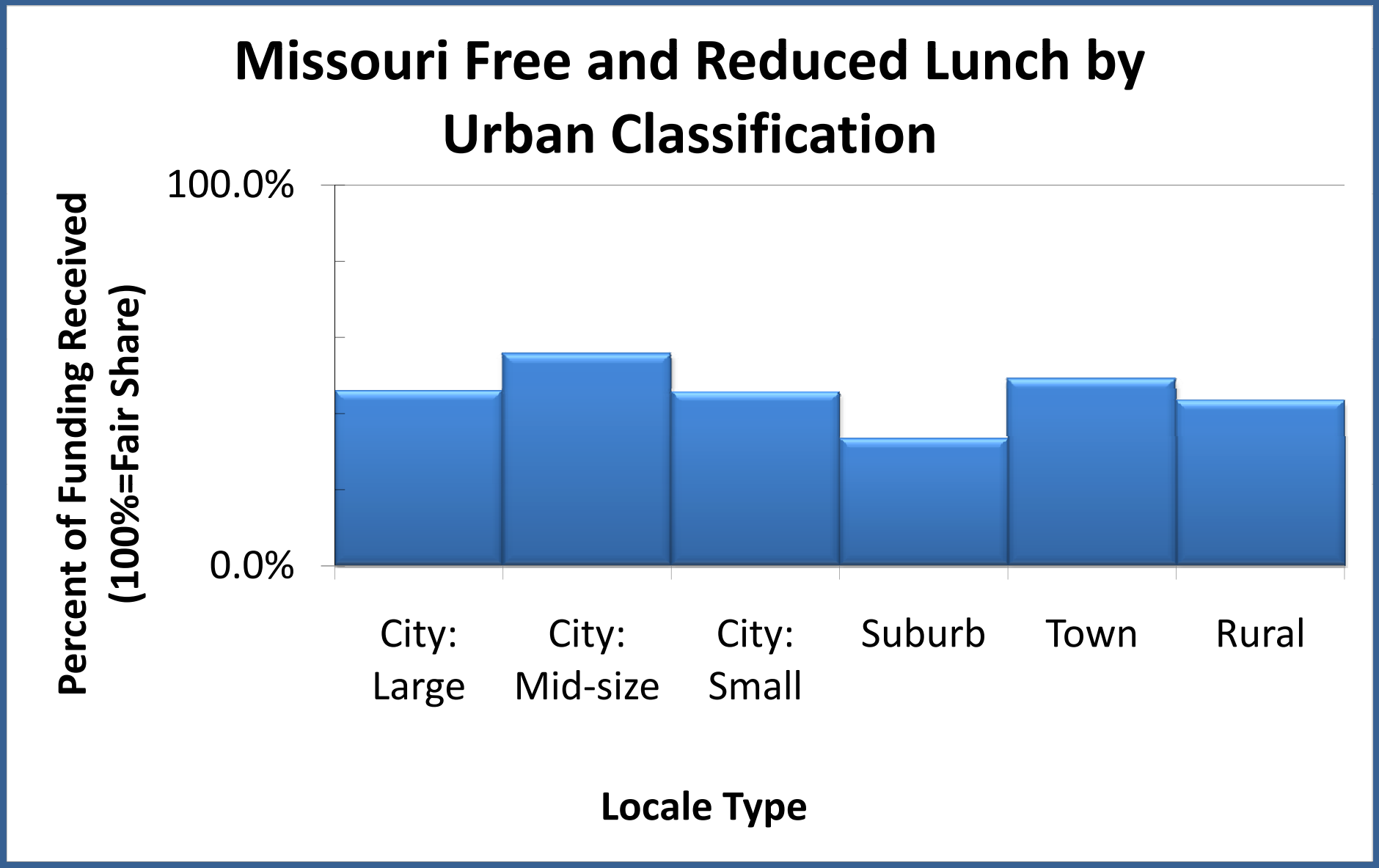
Population Distribution



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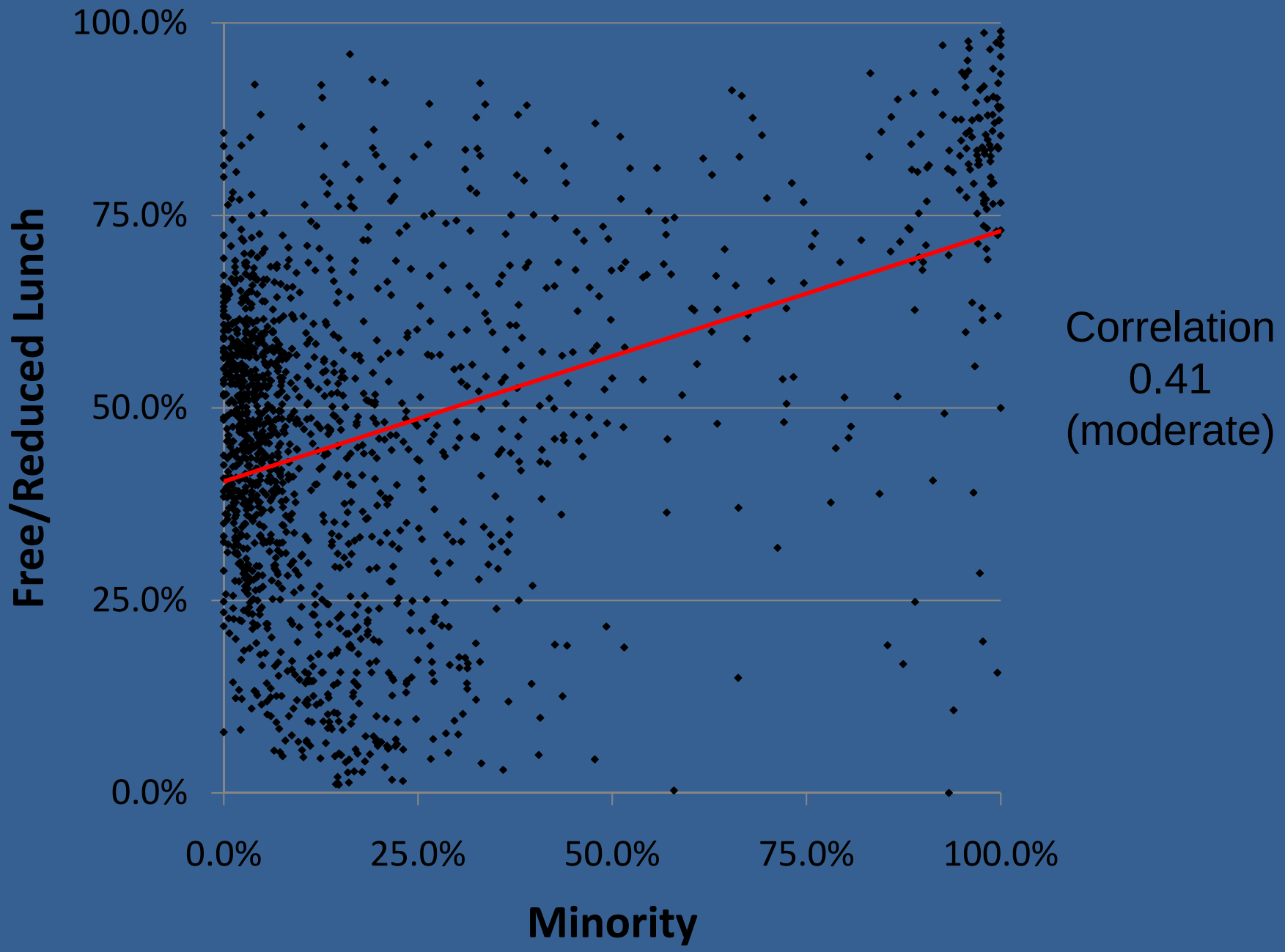
Underserved: Poverty vs. Minority



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Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Federation

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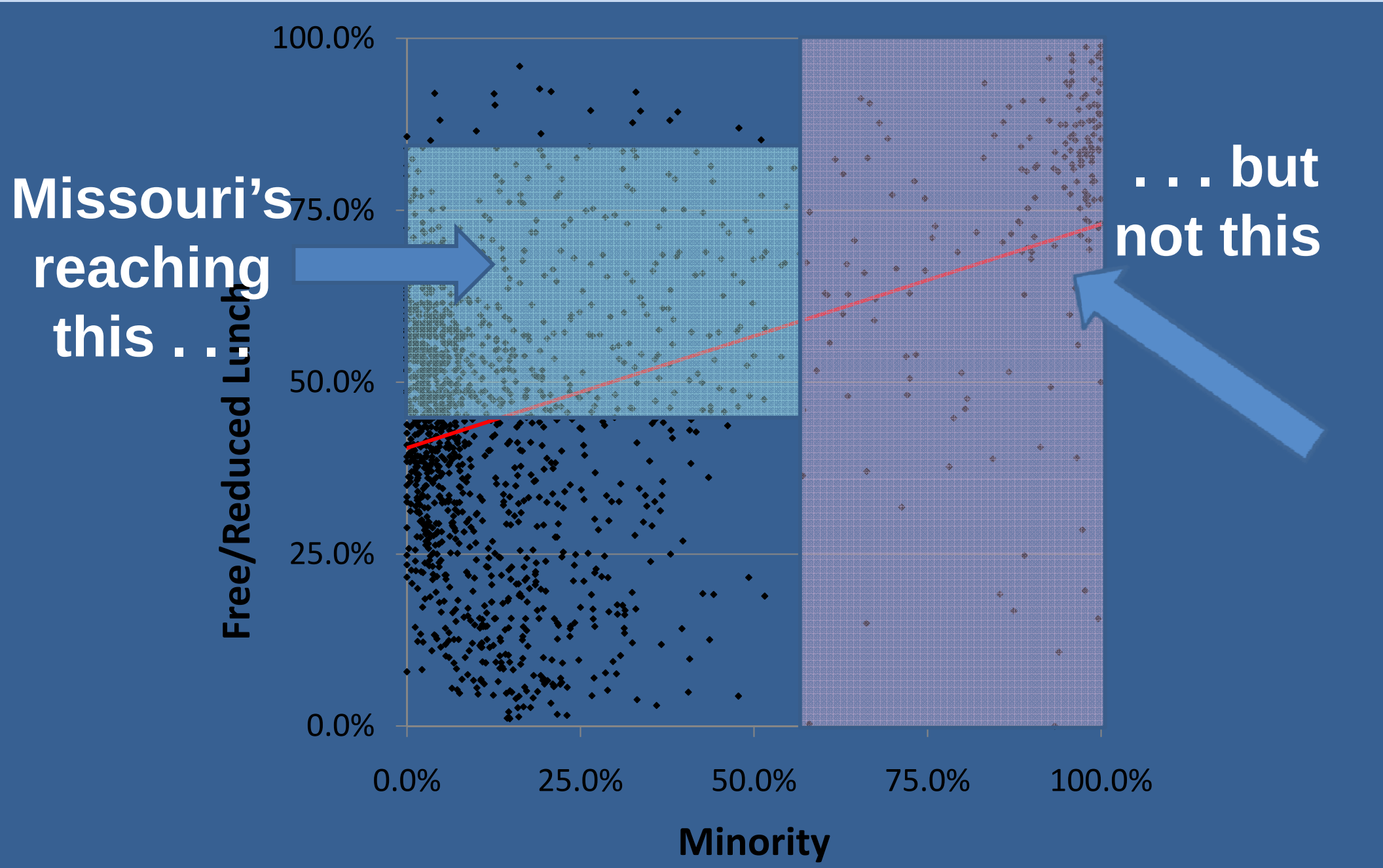

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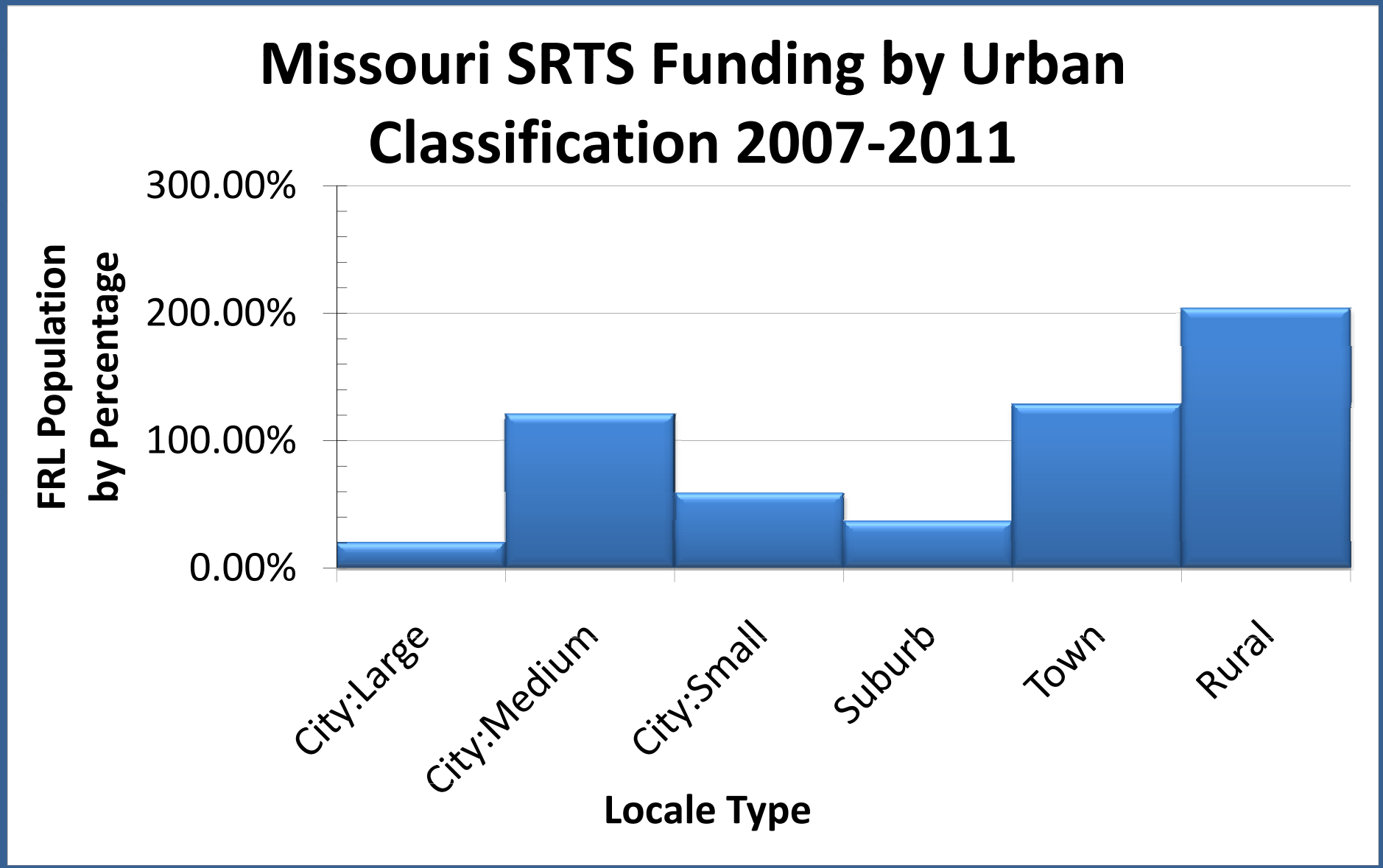
Underserved Communities: Results



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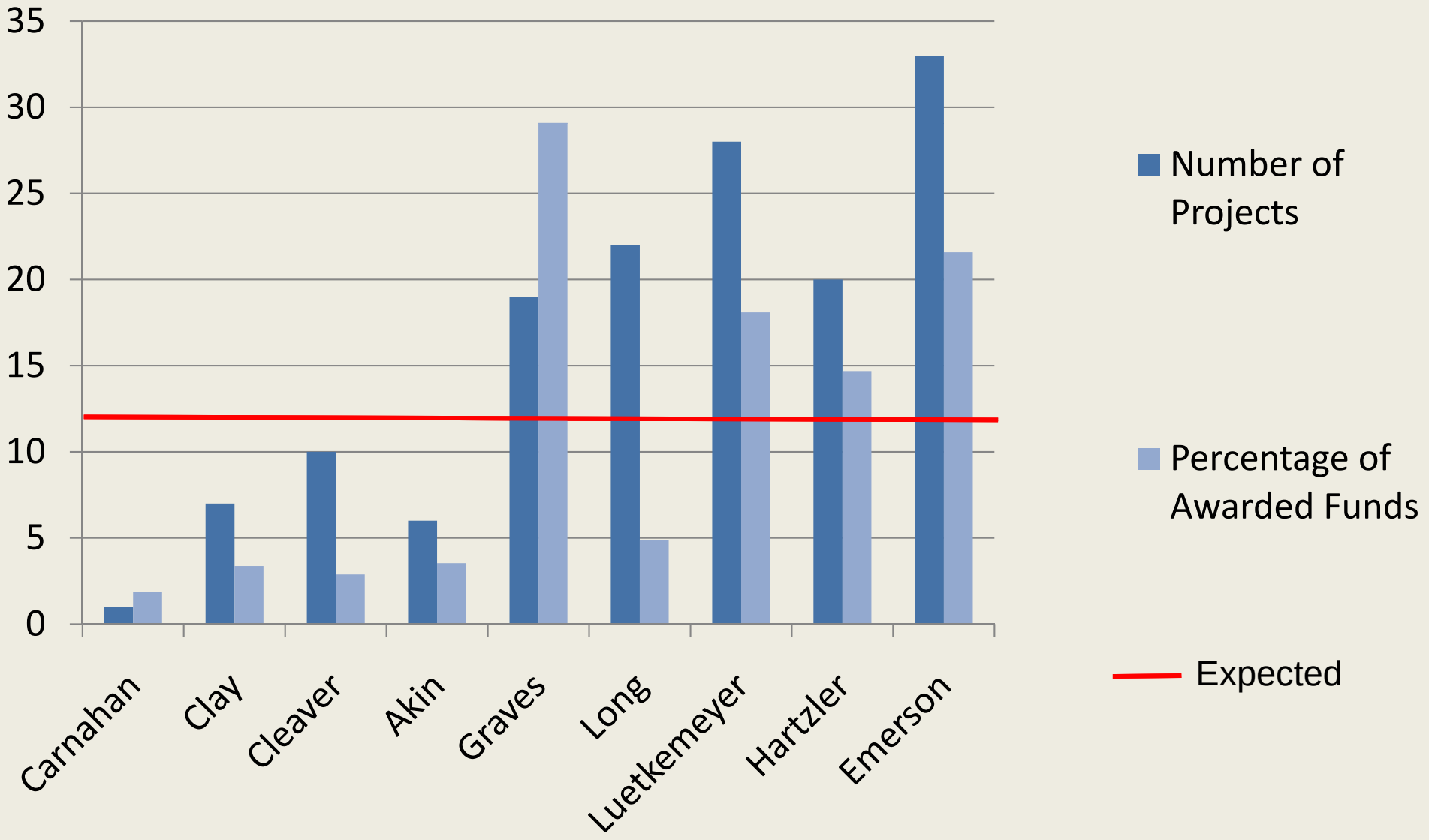
Underserved Communities: Results

SRTS Funding by Congressional District



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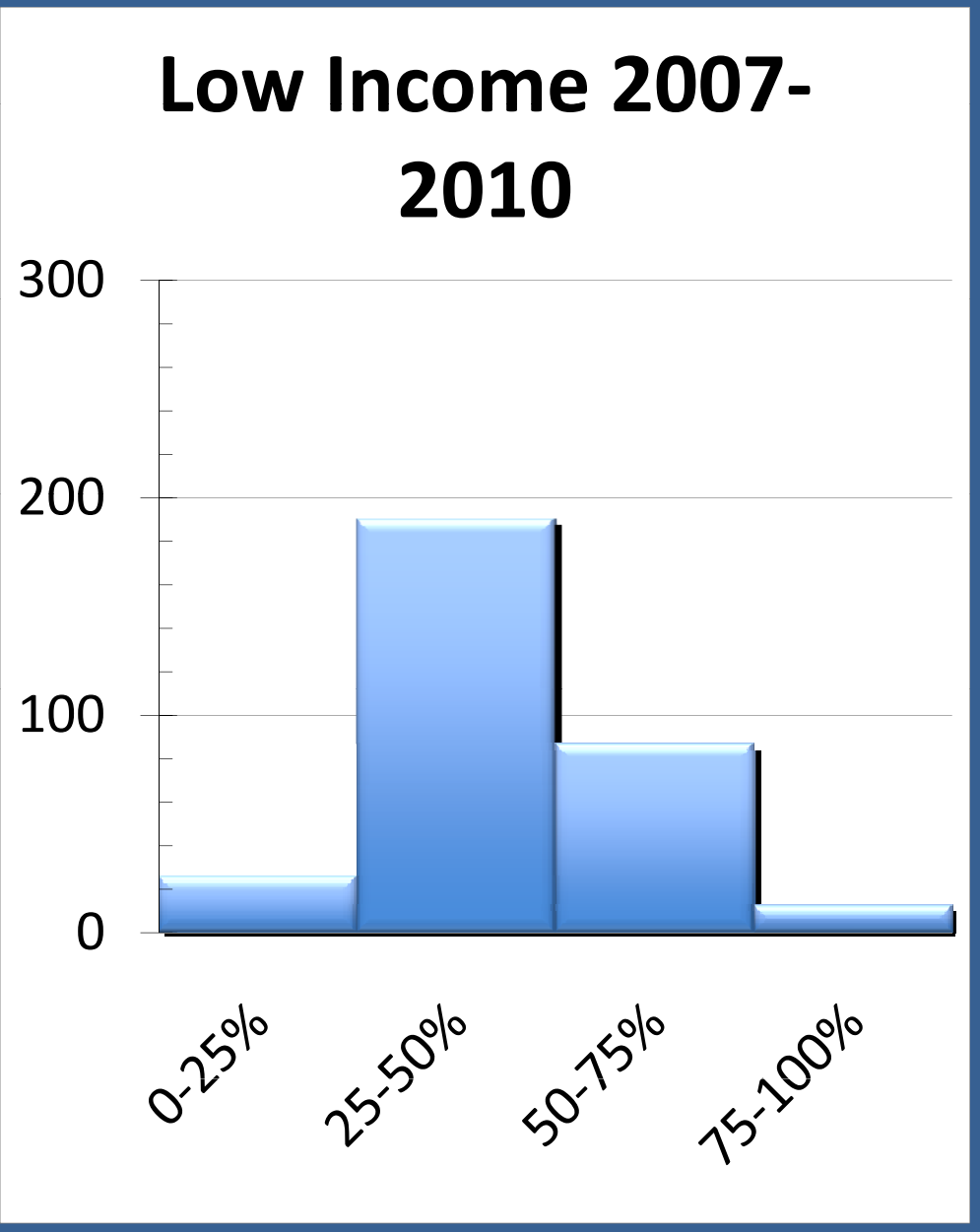
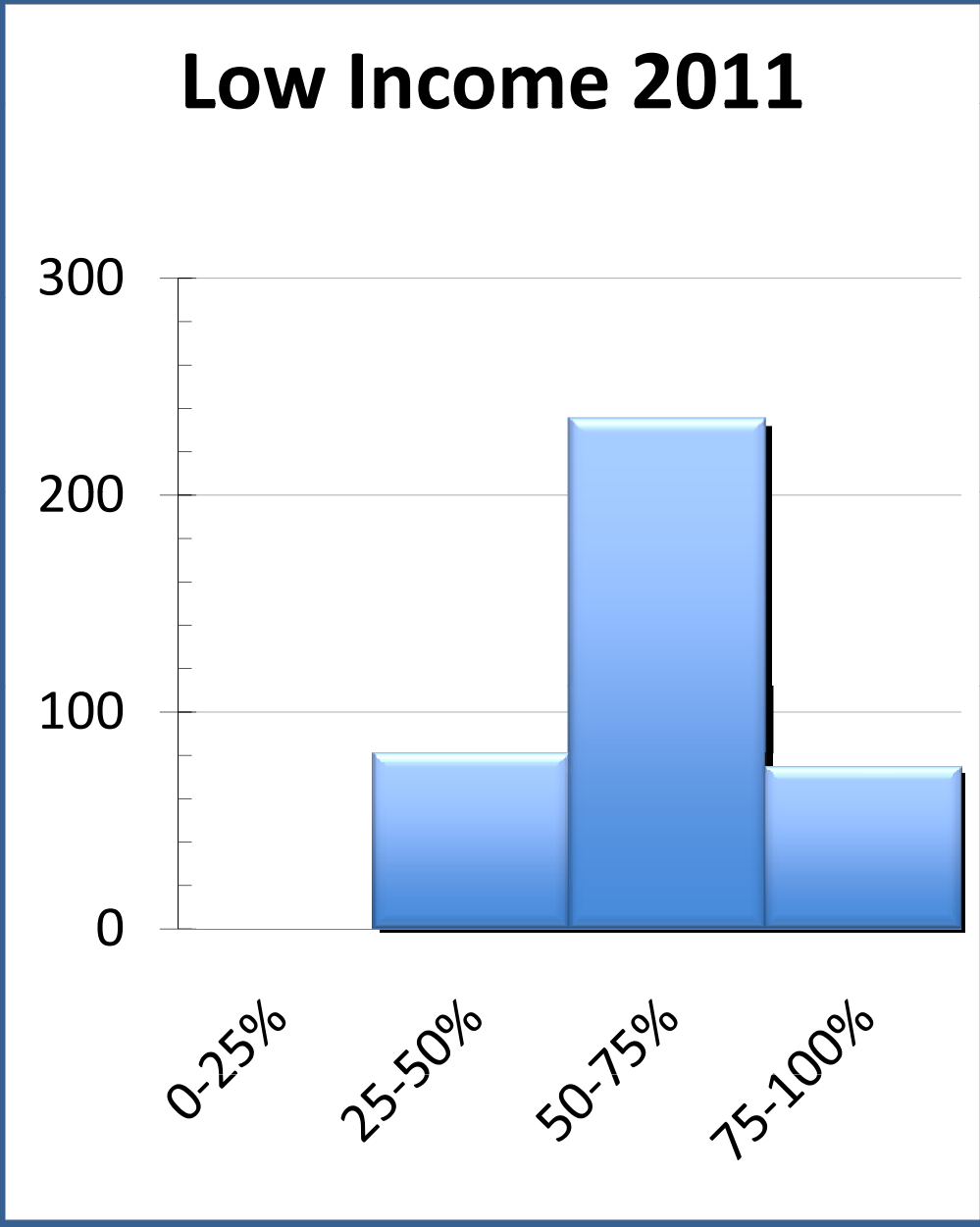
Underserved Communities: Results





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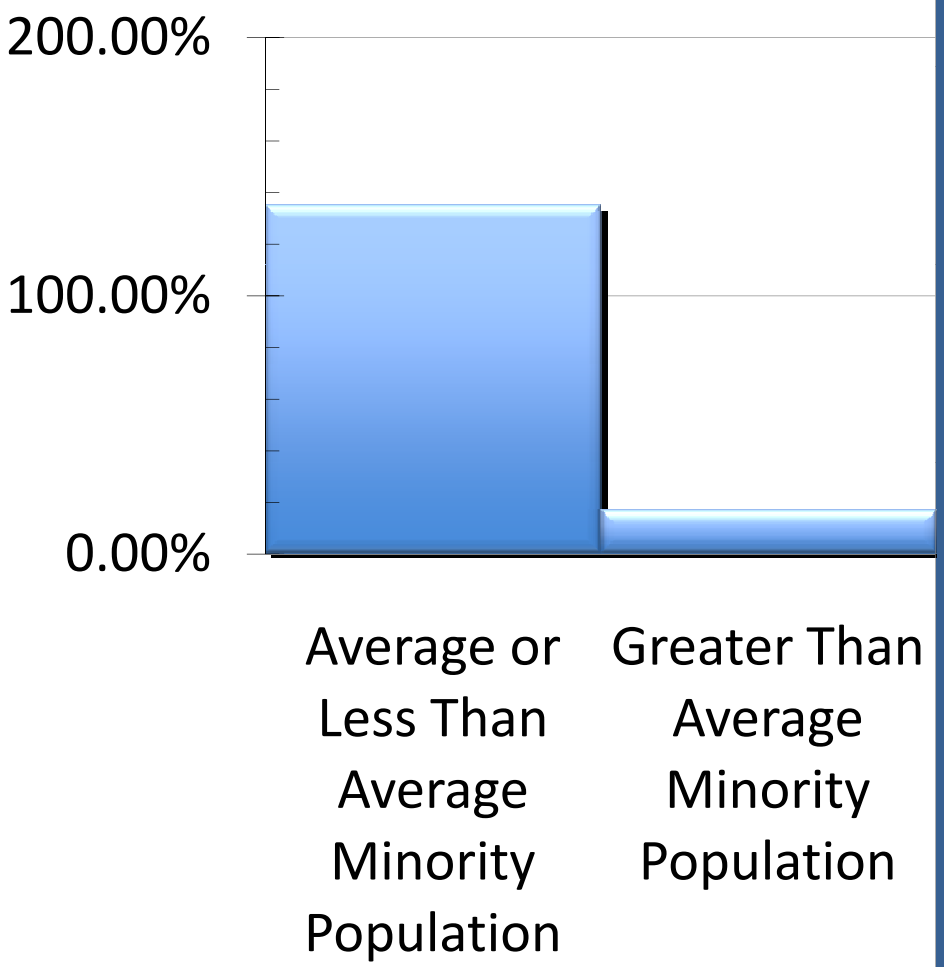
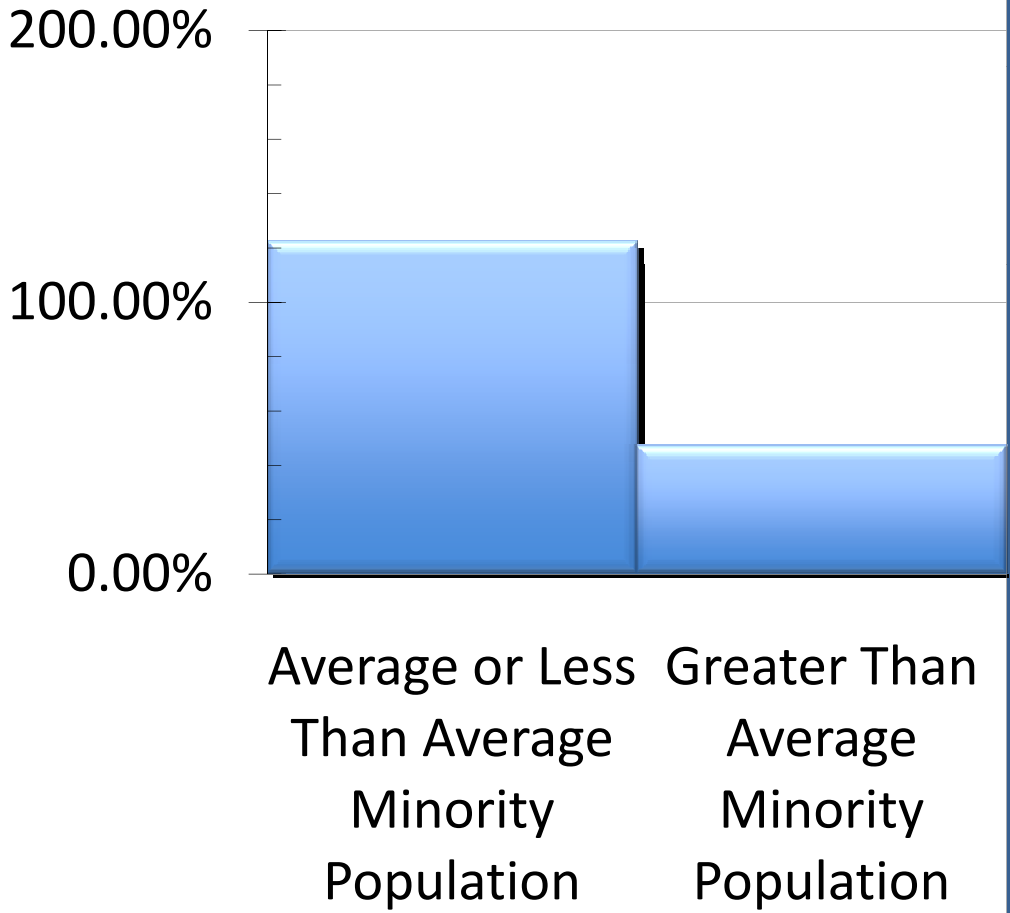
Underserved Communities: Results

Minority Pop. 2007-2010



Minority Pop. 2011



Underserved Communities: Results

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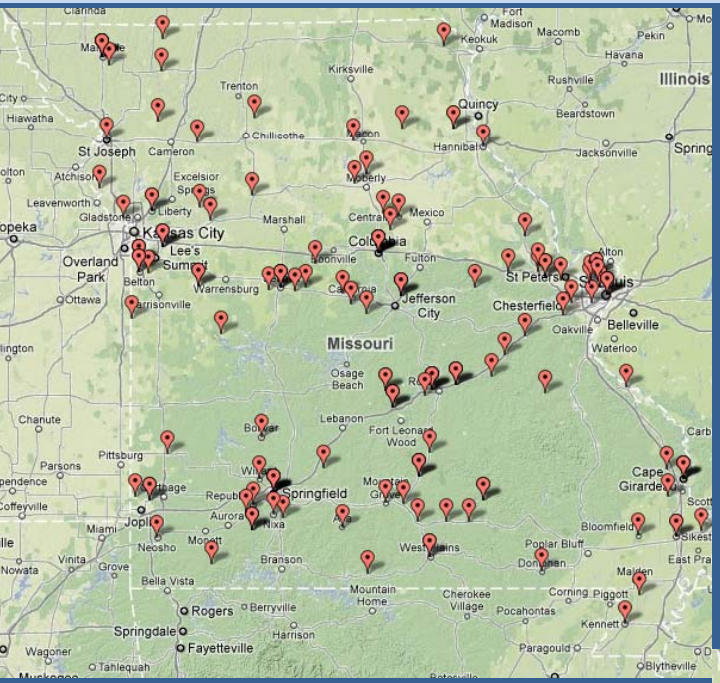
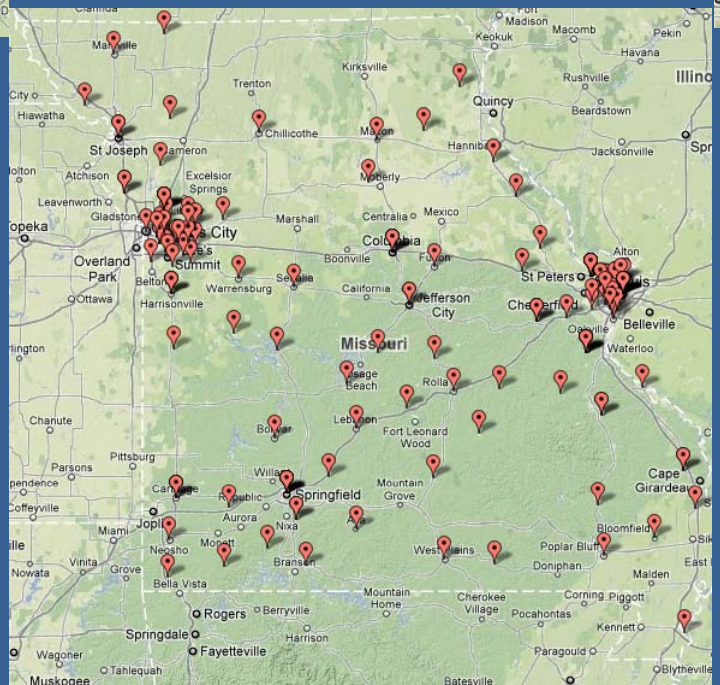
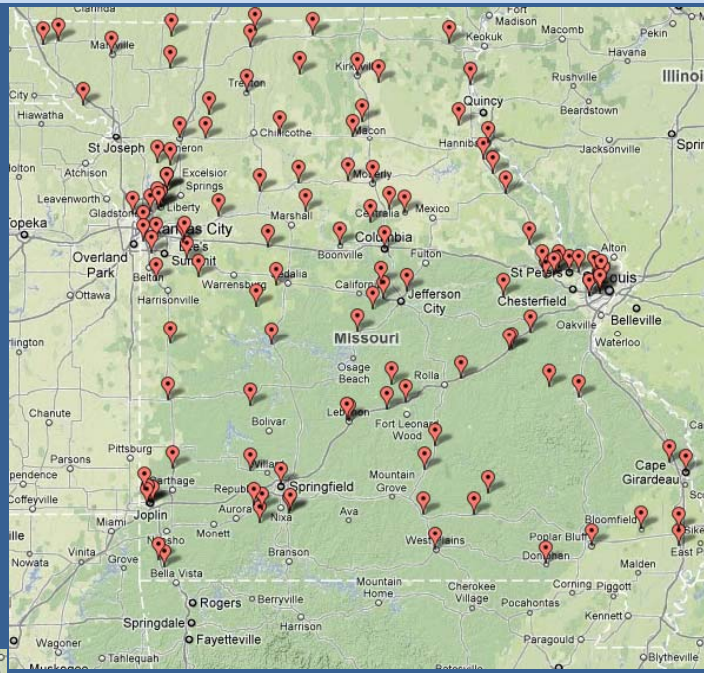


Awards 2007-2011

Ideal Distribution (population)





Applications 2011

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Underserved Communities: Results

Conclusions

- Prior to 2011, Missouri SRTS funding wasn't reaching poor or minority schools
- Significant improvement in 2011
  - Our simple interventions worked
- More success reaching poor schools than minority schools
- Few funds going to urban populations
- Lack of applications from underserved areas is part of the problem (but not all)

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Underserved: What can we do

Our simple interventions worked—so do more of the same:

- Need people from these communities on the Network & SRTS Advisory Committee
- Provide SRTS grant application workshops & assistance to underserved areas
- Outreach/application training via teleconference
- Mentor – pick a school, any school
- We can use the E' to encourage that they apply
- Educate community leaders and elected officials about the SRTS program and about the disparity
- Show success stories from other states
- Encourage districts to hire someone for SRTS urban outreach
- MoDOT should spend a small % of SRTS funds supporting this type of work in underserved areas

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Underserved: What can we do

- Recommendations to the DOT:
  - Analyze data on poor & minority schools, share with SRTS scoring committee, FHWA
  - Consider implementing funding quotas, ie:
    - 15% of funds for schools with 75% or greater free/reduced lunch
    - 40% of funds for schools with greater than average minority population
  - Application limits do limit SRTS in large cities
  - Analyze by *population* not *geography*

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Underserved: What can we do?

What did California do?

Create or adapt and publicize resources and website content addressing the needs low-income communities and schools to improve participation in the SR2S and SRTS programs

Conduct a outreach campaign to ensure that low-income communities are aware of Safe Routes to School opportunities and available technical assistance

Provide technical assistance to currently-funded projects on the federal aid process to increase the number of low-income communities that are able to successfully complete projects and be competitive for future funding

Conduct a needs assessment in low-income communities to identify barriers to applying for and successfully completing SR2S and SRTS projects and utilizes this information to provide targeted technical assistance to low-income schools and communities

Conduct a survey to determine what strategies are being employed at the local and District levels to increase participation of low-income communities.

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Missouri Safe Routes to School Network Funders

Safe Routes to School National Partnership

The Missouri Foundation for Health
The Incarnate Word Foundation, St. Louis

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Region VII
Office of Minority Health.

Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Kansas City

Daughters of Charity Foundation of St. Louis

Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis

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Special thanks to the members of the Missouri SRTS Network's Underserved Communities Action Team, for helping to prepare, analyze, and act on this data

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Brent Hugh
Eric Bunch
Sarah Shipley
Missouri Network Organizers
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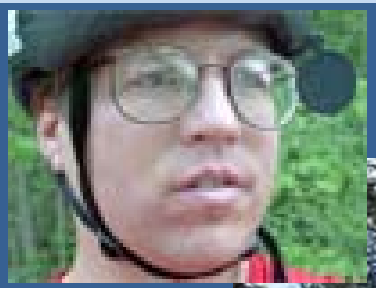

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