WHO IS AURORA?

2016 Demographic Report | Current Census Data, Key Areas, and Comparisons

AURORA

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Preface

Who is Aurora? Following the 2010 U.S. Census, city staff found some interesting changes in Aurora. To help staff, citizens, elected officials and others answer this question and identify what had changed, staff prepared a detailed and thorough analysis of the census data and identified potential trends. The 2012 report is available on the city's website.

This latest report also seeks to answer the question, "who is Aurora,?" with some updated census data from the American Communty Survey. It is organized into three sections that dive deep into the data to find the details that make us Aurora. The first section is made up of a series of citywide snapshots that explore the main census demographic metrics across topics such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, origin, employment status, occupation, income, and housing. The second section dives in to different regions of the city to provide some context and to build a foundation for understanding each area of the city and how the parts come together to form the whole. The third section compares Aurora to peer cities in the metropolitain region and examines trends that affect our city uniquely or challenge front range communities as a whole. To maintain a high-level of usability, this updated report focuses on presenting the data and metrics most requested by city staff, elected officials, media, and citizens. If you require more specific information, please get in touch with the city's Data Services division of Planning and Development Services. We are happy to help you answer your question– with data.
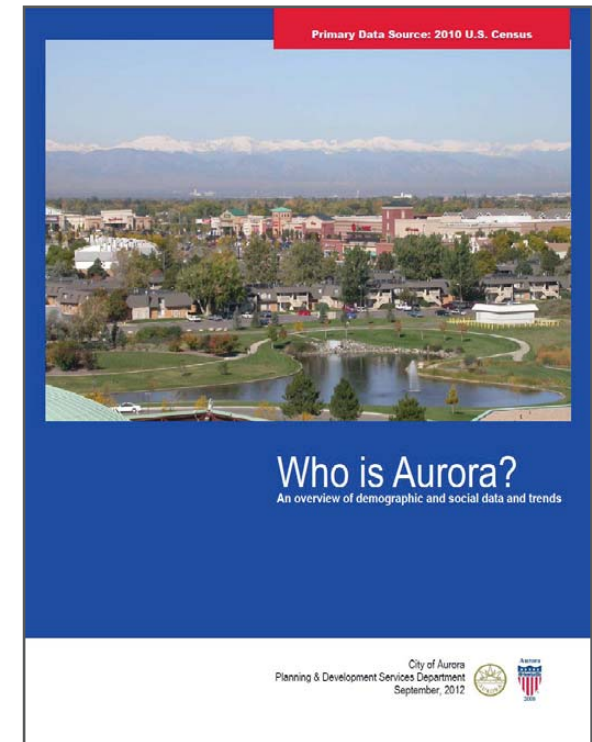
So...Who is Aurora? Aurora is the third largest city in Colorado, the second largest city in the Denver-Aurora metropolitan region, and the 54th largest city in the U.S. We have large millenial and veteran populations. We are racially and ethnically diverse and have high levels of neighborhood racial and ethnic integration. We have premier parks and open space, are a home to great restaurants, and have strong neighborhoods. If you think you know Aurora...think again.

A Note on Data
The data contained in this report is provided by American Community Survey (ACS) and in specific cases, includes data generated by city staff. Most of the data is a based on the five-year average 2010-2014, unless noted otherwise.

PART 1: AURORA SNAPSHOTS

Introduction

This section pulls together a wide range of metrics that showcase the city's diversity. These provide a snapshot of what Aurora looks like in terms of demographic groups, employment, and housing. Understanding the city at a high level will provide a foundation for understanding the key areas of the city, which we will get to in the second section of the report.

The charts and maps in this report contain information about each major American Communtiy Survey subject area. In places, several charts are combined or placed so information is available to compare side by side. The paragraphs adjacent to the charts explain the key findings and sometimes hint at the implications of a significant difference or trend. Maps will help visualize the data geographically and allow the comparison of different areas of the city.

While this report will not explore why racial, ethnic, or gender inequity exists, it will include data and vizualizations that illustrate the disparity between groups. Metrics such as educational attainment, veteran status, disability status, employment, and poverty will include information on race, ethnicity, and gender.
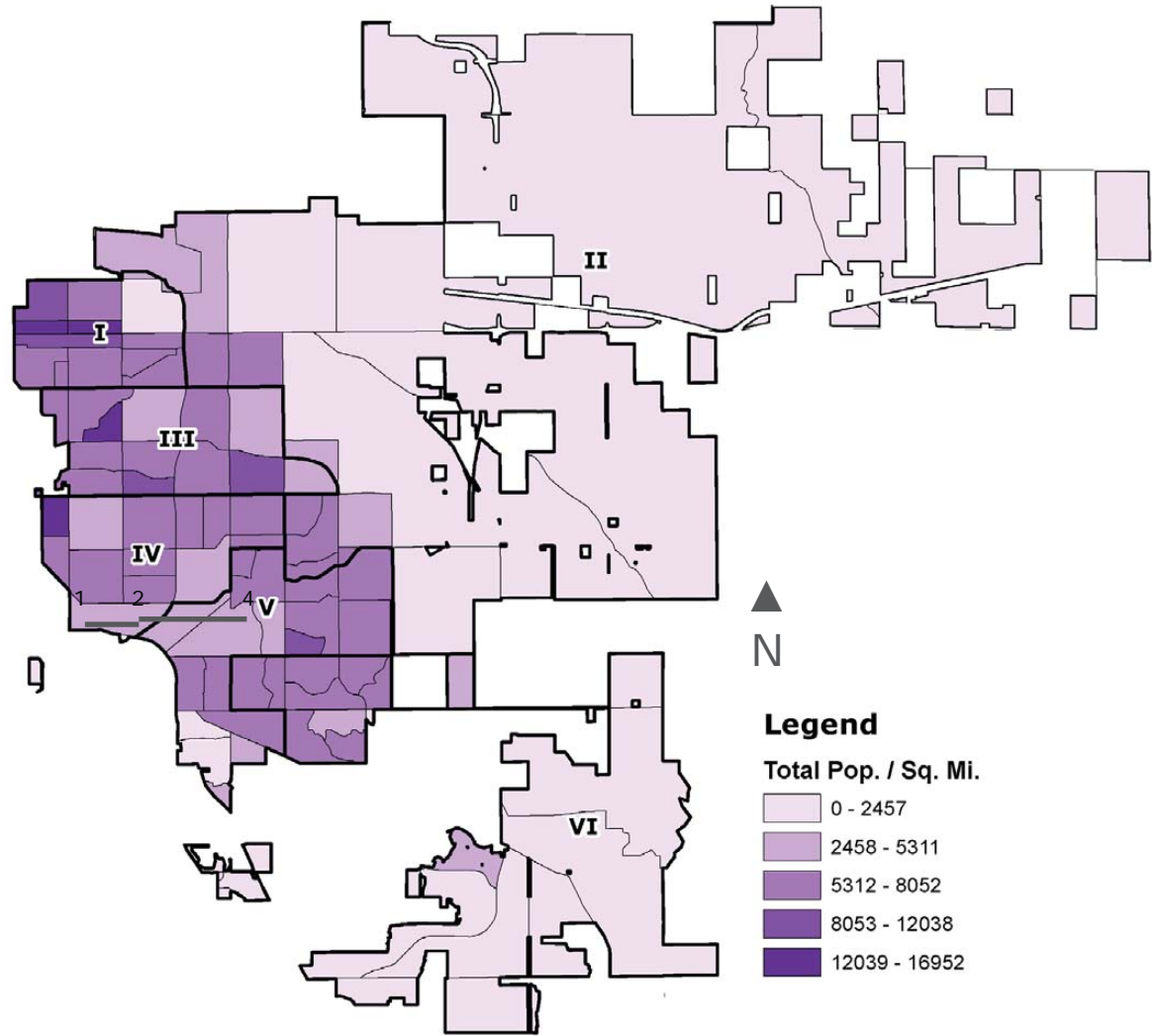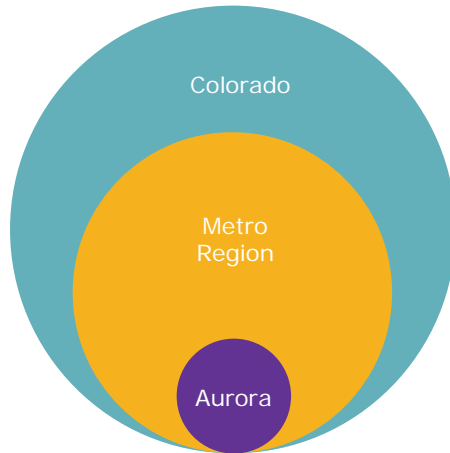
People Population Count & Geography

Aurora makes up approximately 6.5% of the state's total population and 13% of the Metro Region population.

Colorado   5,355,866

Metro Region   2,754,258

Aurora*   353,381

*This Aurora population estimate is based on the American Community Survey data. The city uses an improved methodology to create its own population estimate. For the year 2014, the official city population count is 351,200 people.
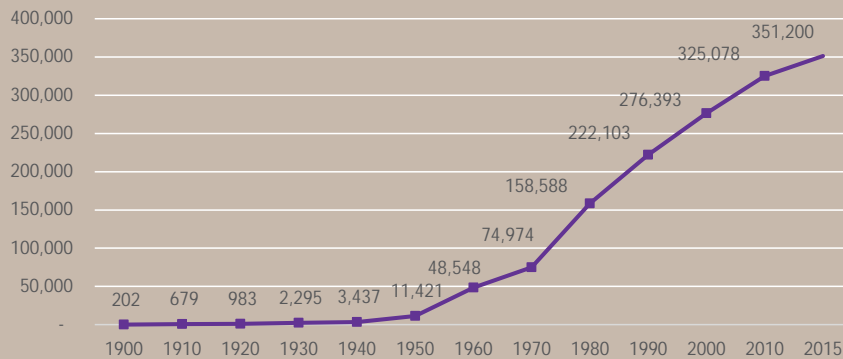

Colorado
Metro Region
Aurora

Aurora's Growth Over Time

The first 50 years of Aurora's history saw a steady increase in population, with 1950 marking the year where population started to grow rapidly. Aurora experienced the most rapid population growth in the '70s, when we added almost 90,000 people. Ever since, our population growth rate has slowed. Recently, we have been adding around 5,000 people to the city each year.

Aurora Population 1900 - 2015

Year	Population
1900	202
1910	679
1920	983
1930	2,295
1940	3,437
1950	11,421
1960	48,548
1970	74,974
1980	158,588
1990	222,103
2000	276,393
2010	325,078
2015	351,200

Legend

Total Pop. / Sq. Mi.

	0 - 2457
	2458 - 5311
	5312 - 8052
	8053 - 12038
	12039 - 16952

Generally, Aurora's population density is higher in Northwest Aurora and lower in the south and east. There are pockets of higher population density in various census tracts in central and eastern Aurora.

The history and patterns of development and infrastructure in Aurora affect many aspects of our lives. The way the city developed over time determines where employment centers are situated, where affordable and high-end housing locate, where we chose to live or shop, and how we commute to work, and even influences the city budget. As Winston Churchill said, "We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us." The same can be said for cities. We'll revisit this idea in chapter 2, when we explore the different areas of Aurora in more depth.
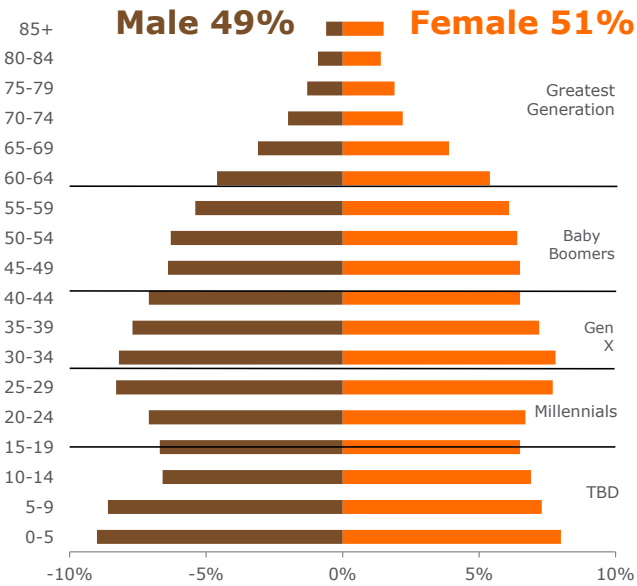
People Age & Gender

The median age in Aurora is 37.4, with males overall slightly younger than females. Compared to the metro area and the state, Aurora has a larger Millennial population. While both Generation X and Millennials are larger than the Baby Boomers in Aurora, the Boomers represent a very large generation compared to those that came before and are approaching retirement age. Those 65 and above only make up approximately 9.7% of the population; however, the total retirement-age population will continue to grow as years pass and this trend will raise a number of challenges for the city, including aging-in-place, adequate transportation and housing options, and potential decline in sales tax revenues.

Bar chart of population by age group. Category labels across the top:
29.6 % ages 0-19 | 22.7 % ages 20-34 | 37.8 % ages 35-64 | 9.7 % age 64+

Aurora, Metro Area, and State Breakdown of Population by Age and Generation

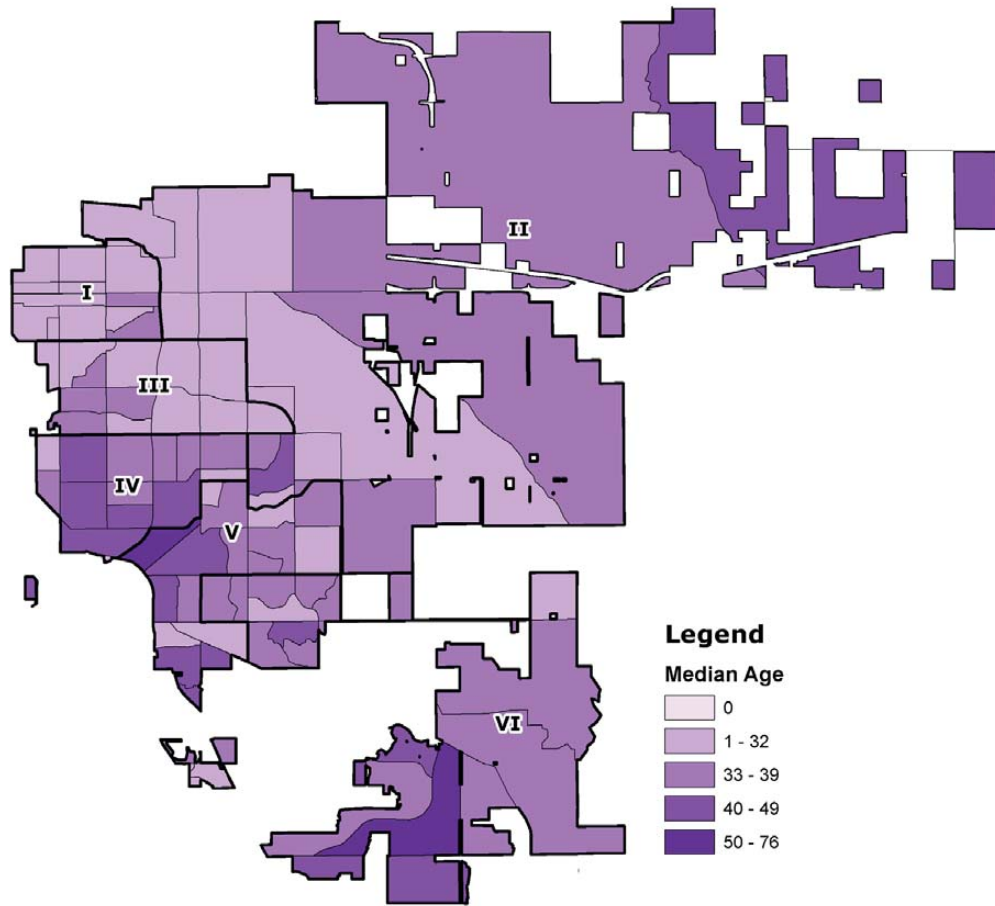| Generation	Years	Ages	Aurora Percentage		Metro Area Percentage		Colorado Percentage	
TBD *2005 or later*	2009 to 2014	Under 5	8.1%	16.0%	6.7%	13.7%	6.5%	13.3%
	2004 to 2008	5 to 9	7.9%		7.0%		6.8%	
Millennials *1982 to 2004*	2003 to 2000	10 to 14	7.0%	28.4%	6.7%	26.8%	6.6%	27.7%
	1995 to 1999	15 to 19	6.6%		6.1%		6.6%	
	1990 to 1994	20 to 24	6.8%		6.2%		7.1%	
	1985 to 1989	25 to 29	8.0%		7.8%		7.4%	
Generation X *1965 to 1984*	1980 to 1984	30 to 34	7.9%	28.6%	7.9%	29.5%	7.3%	27.7%
	1975 to 1979	35 to 39	7.4%		7.3%		6.8%	
	1970 to 1974	40 to 44	6.9%		7.3%		6.8%	
	1965 to 1969	45 to 49	6.4%		7.0%		6.8%	
Baby Boomers *1946 to 1964*	1960 to 1964	50 to 54	6.2%	20.6%	7.1%	22.9%	7.2%	23.6%
	1955 to 1959	55 to 59	5.9%		6.5%		6.6%	
	1950 to 1954	60 to 64	5.0%		5.4%		5.7%	
	1945 to 1949	65 to 69	3.5%		3.9%		4.1%	
Greatest Generation *Up to 1946*	1940 to 1944	70 to 74	2.3%	6.3%	2.5%	7.0%	2.8%	7.6%
	1935 to 1939	75 to 79	1.6%		1.8%		2.0%	
	1930 to 1934	80 to 84	1.2%		1.3%		1.4%	
	Before 1930	85 +	1.2%		1.4%		1.4%	

Females slightly outnumber males in the city, 51% to 49%. As seen below, the difference is more pronounced for the Silent Generation.

Population pyramid — **Male 49%** (brown) and **Female 51%** (orange), by age group from 0-5 up to 85+, labeled with generations: Greatest Generation, Baby Boomers, Gen X, Millennials, TBD.

Information regarding differences between men and women will be found throughout this report. Keep an eye out for brown and orange charts as this color scheme will remain constant.

People Age Maps

Population 65+ Years Old
The census tracts to the west and south of I-225 and the Aurora Line seem to have higher numbers of those 65 years and older. The ability for the elderly to get around and age-in-place are two key concerns regarding future planning of the city. The Aurora Line will open in 2016 and should provide additional mobility options for all people, including seniors.
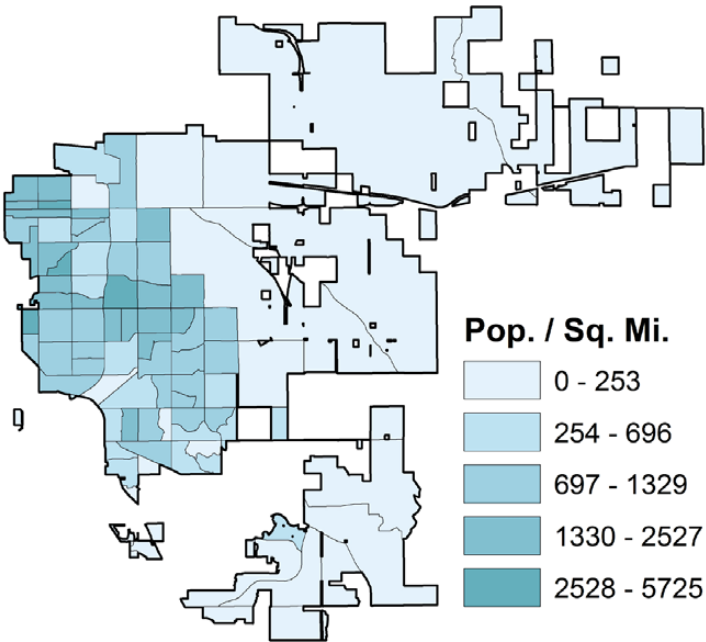
Legend

Median Age

	0
	1 - 32
	33 - 39
	40 - 49
	50 - 76

Median Age
Aurora is somewhat segregated by age. Those who are older are more densely populated closer to Cherry Creek Reservoir and in the southeast area of the city. The young are concentrated near Buckley Air Force Base, Original Aurora, and in the northern part of the city.

Legend

% Tract Pop. Over Age 65

	0% - 6%
	7% - 10%
	11% - 15%
	16% - 37%
	38% - 77%
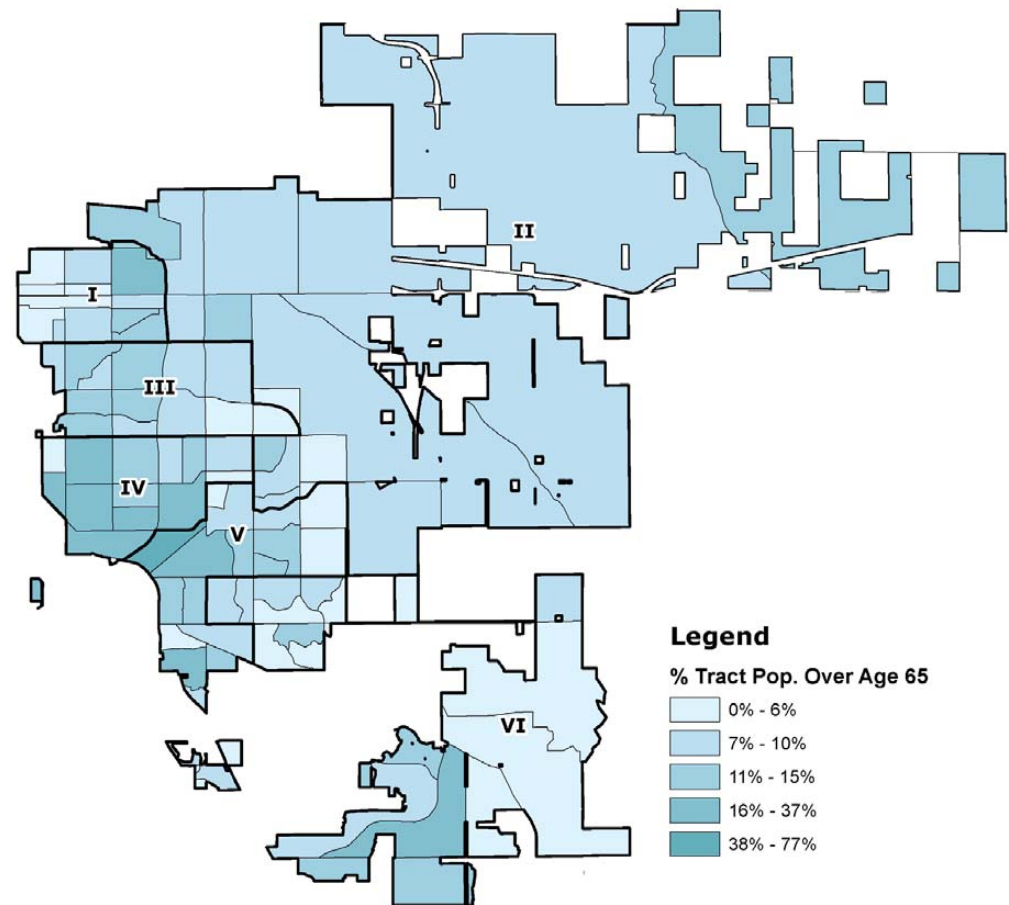
People Race & Ethnicity

Aurora is a minority-majority city, where the total population of the minority groups is larger than the white, non-Hispanic or Latino group. The following series of maps show where racial groups are concentrated and where they are more diffuse. Note that the maps show population per square mile and do not necessarily indicate that a majority of census tract's population is made up of a particualar race or ethnic background. These maps do not reflect the overall proportion of each race to one another. A dot density map will follow after these maps and better represents the racial makeup across the city and within each census tract.
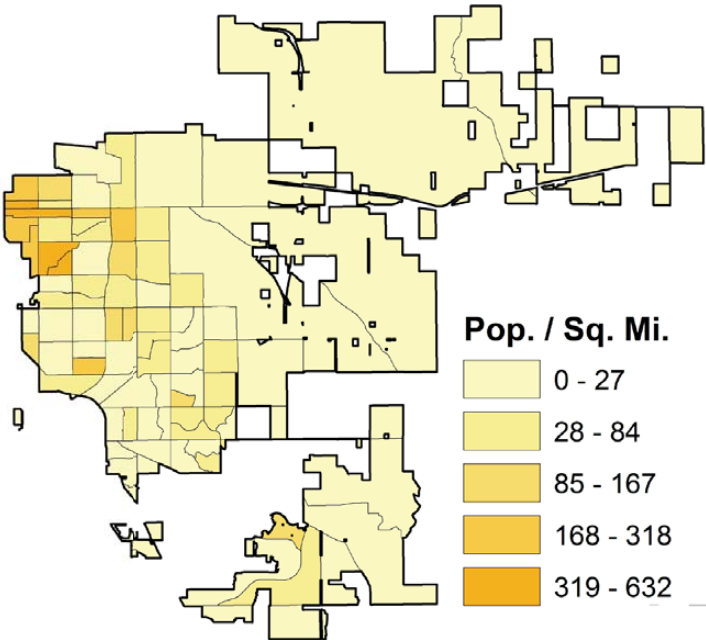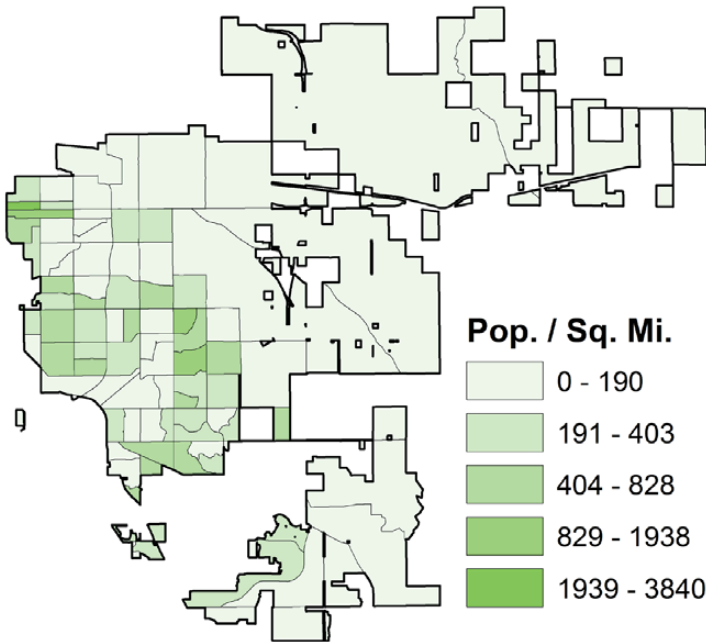
Race & Ethnicity	Percent	Count
White, Non Hispanic or Latino	46.3%	157,084
White, Hispanic or Latino	17.6%	59,734
Black or African American	16.0%	54,276
Some Other Race	8.1%	27,665
Two or More Races	5.7%	19,250
Asian	5.0%	16,958
Am. Indian & Alaskan Native	1.0%	3,376
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	0.3%	937

Black or African American

Pop. / Sq. Mi.
- 0 - 253
- 254 - 696
- 697 - 1329
- 1330 - 2527
- 2528 - 5725

Asian

Pop. / Sq. Mi.
- 0 - 190
- 191 - 403
- 404 - 828
- 829 - 1938
- 1939 - 3840

Pop. / Sq. Mi.
- 0 - 27
- 28 - 84
- 85 - 167
- 168 - 318
- 319 - 632

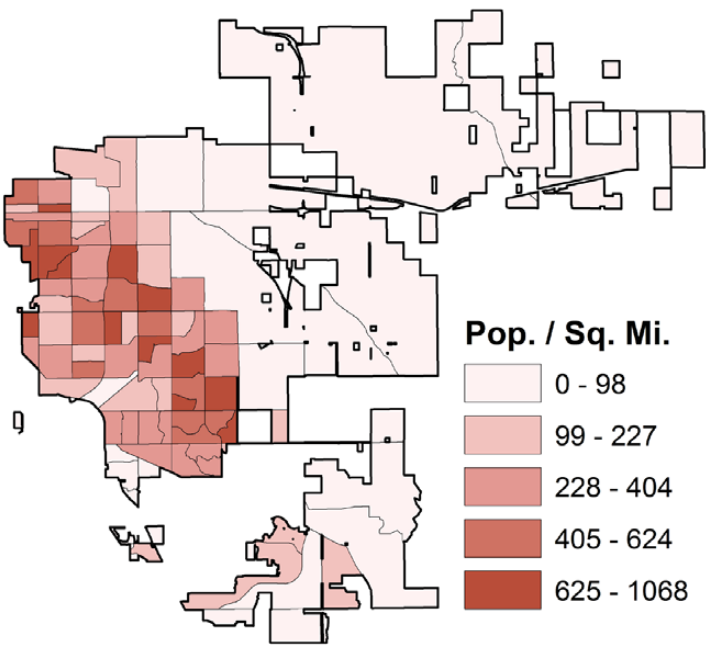Pop. / Sq. Mi.
- 0 - 6
- 7 - 30
- 31 - 73
- 74 - 144
- 145 - 255
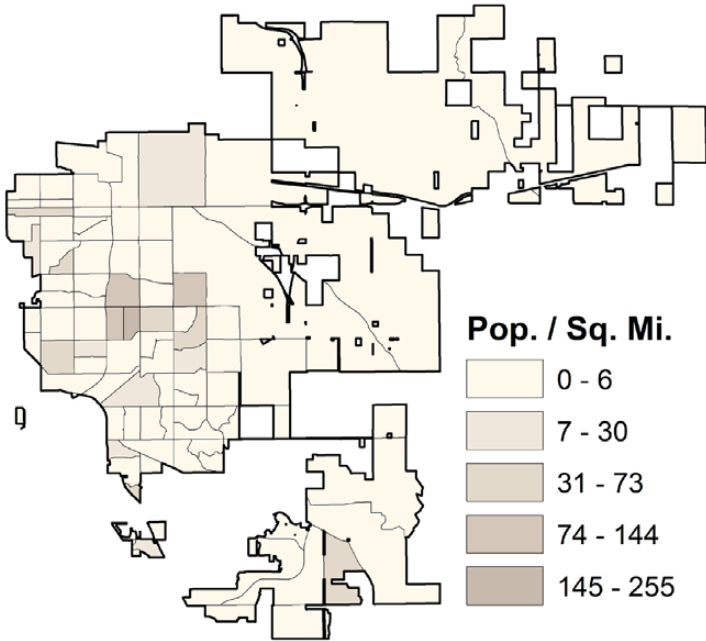
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

People Race & Ethnicity

Two or More Races

Pop. / Sq. Mi.

	0 - 98
	99 - 227
	228 - 404
	405 - 624
	625 - 1068

Other Race

Pop. / Sq. Mi

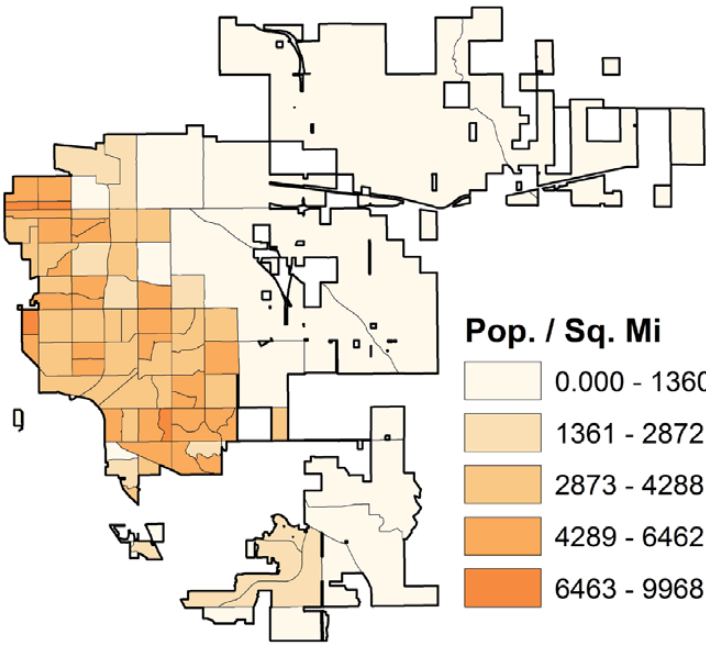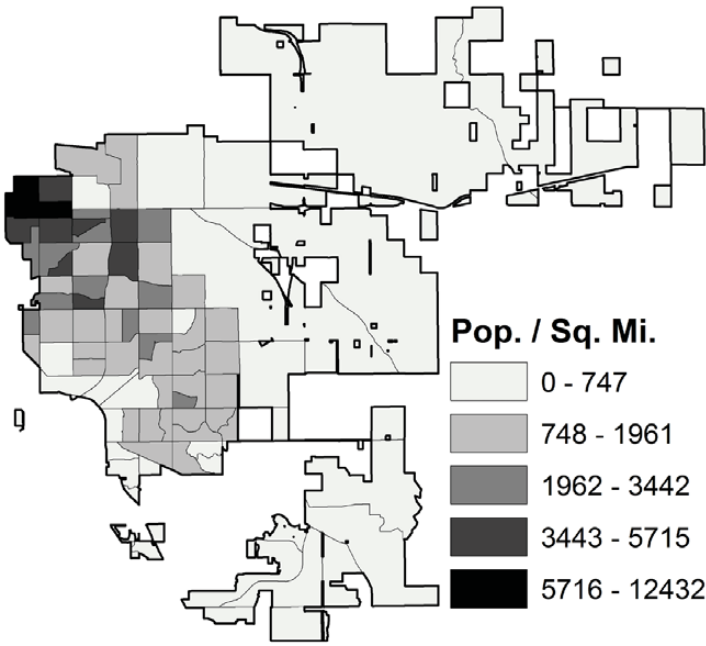|	
	0 - 196
	197 - 568
	569 - 1005
	1006 - 1844
	1845 - 3120
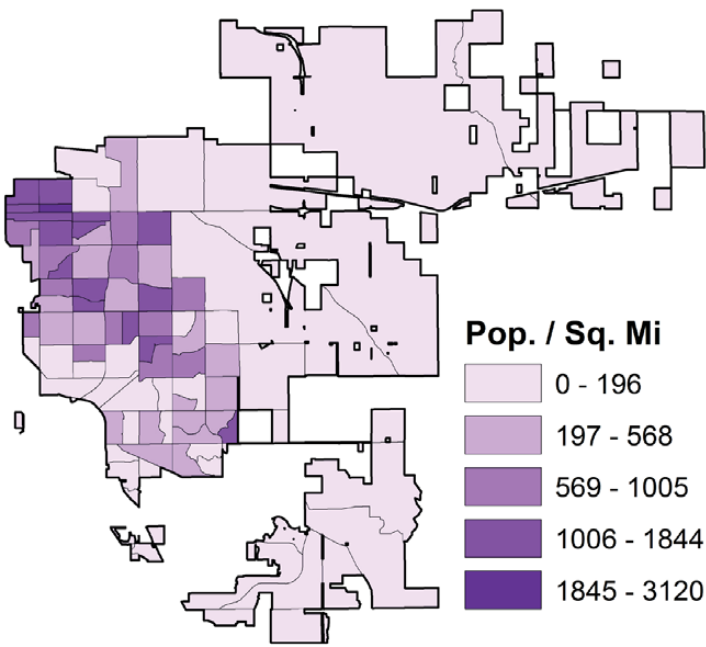
Those who are Hispanic or Latino can be of any race. In Aurora, approximately 97.6% of those who consider themselves 'Other Race' identify as Hispanic or Latino. Approximately 60.3% of American Indian and Alaska Natives, 38.6% of 'two or more races,' and 27.6% of Whites consider themselves Hispanic or Latino. Only 3.3% of Blacks and 0.8% of Asians consider themselves Hispanic or Latino.

Asians, Native American and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders, and to some extent those of Other Race are more concentrated than other race groups.

Pop. / Sq. Mi

	0.000 - 1360
	1361 - 2872
	2873 - 4288
	4289 - 6462
	6463 - 9968

White or Caucasian

Pop. / Sq. Mi.

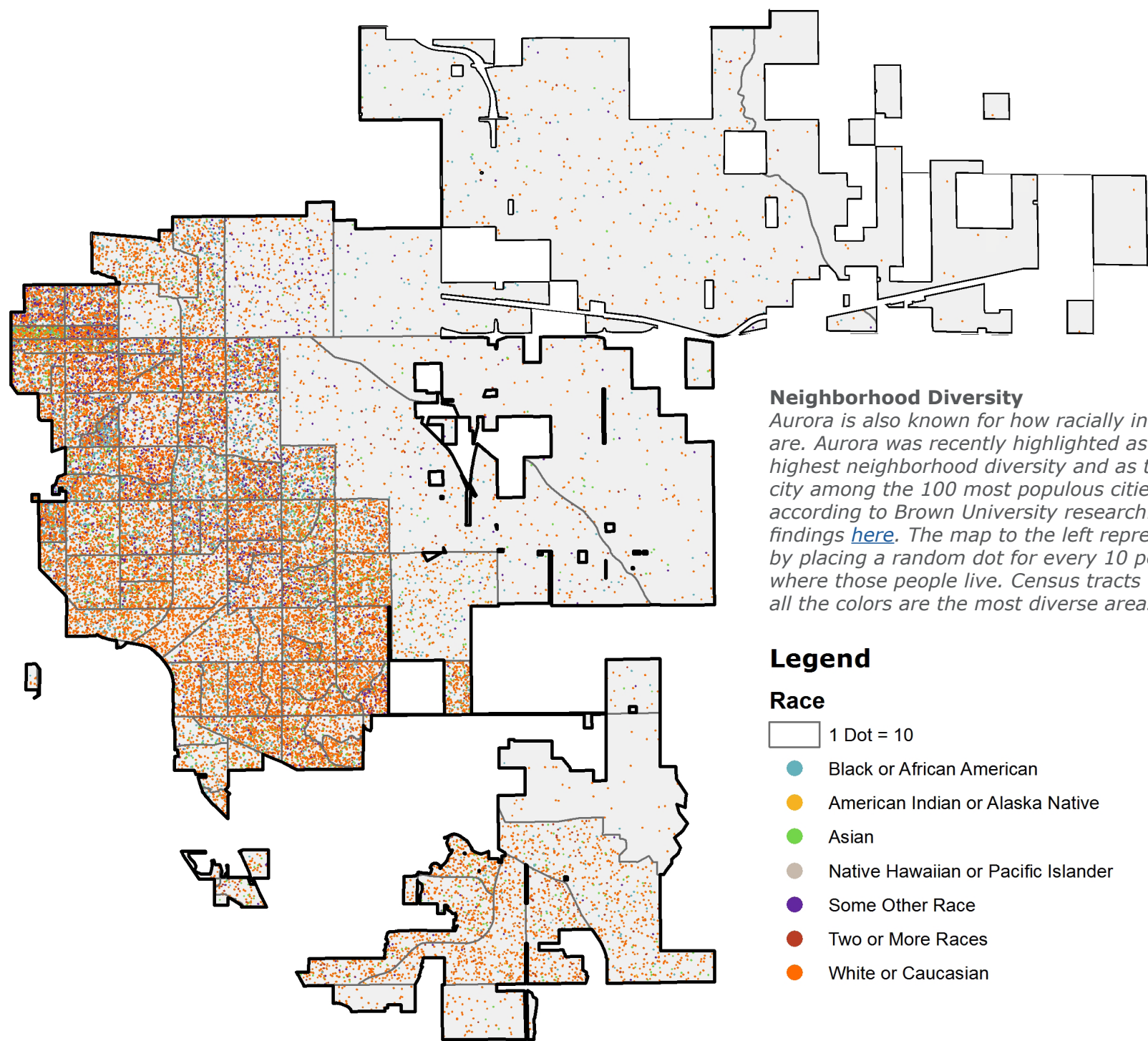|	
	0 - 747
	748 - 1961
	1962 - 3442
	3443 - 5715
	5716 - 12432

Hispanic or Latino

People Racial Diversity

Neighborhood Diversity

Aurora is also known for how racially integrated its neighborhoods are. Aurora was recently highlighted as the city with the 9th highest neighborhood diversity and as the 10th most integrated city among the 100 most populous cities in the United States, according to Brown University research. Read more about those findings here. *The map to the left represents the city's population by placing a random dot for every 10 people in the census tract where those people live. Census tracts where there are a mix of all the colors are the most diverse areas of the city.*

Legend

Race

☐	1 Dot = 10
🔵	Black or African American
🟡	American Indian or Alaska Native
🟢	Asian
⚪	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
🟣	Some Other Race
🔴	Two or More Races
🟠	White or Caucasian

People Education

Percent of Population Enrolled in School by Grade

Bar chart showing percent of population enrolled in school by grade (0% to 20%):
- Nursery school, preschool
- Kindergarten
- Elementary, grade 1 to grade 4
- Elementary, grade 5 to grade 8
- High school, grade 9 to grade 12
- College, undergraduate
- Graduate or professional school
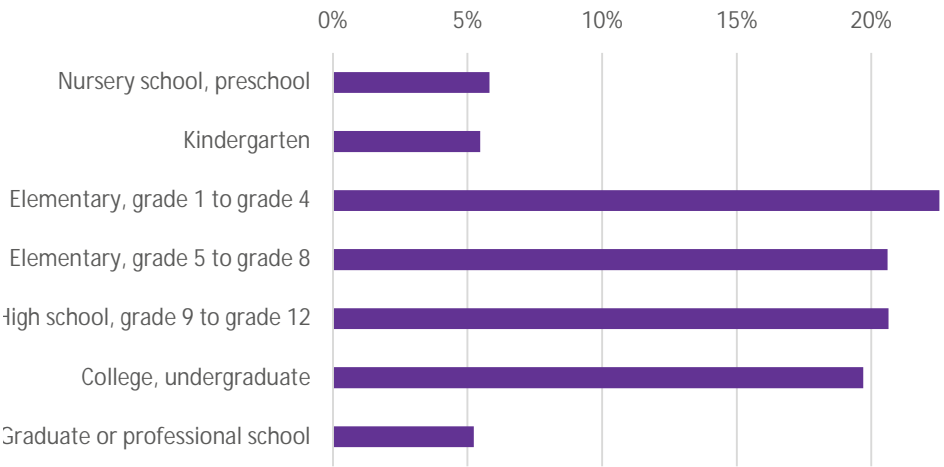
Approximately 26% of Aurora's population is enrolled in school. About 69% of these students are enrolled in K-12 and about 19% are enrolled in college. Compared to the metro area, Aurora has slightly less of its student population enrolled in preschool and graduate school. Aurora also has a slightly higher percentage of its enrolled population attending public schools as opposed to private schools.

Educational Attainment by Race and Sex, and by Hispanic or Latino

Grouped bar chart showing educational attainment by race and sex (0 to 25000) for categories: White, Not Hispanic; Black; Asian; Two or More Races; Other Race; Hispanic or Latino*. Each with Male and Female. Legend: No high school diploma, High school graduate (or G.E.D), Some college or Associate's degree, Bachelor's degree or higher.
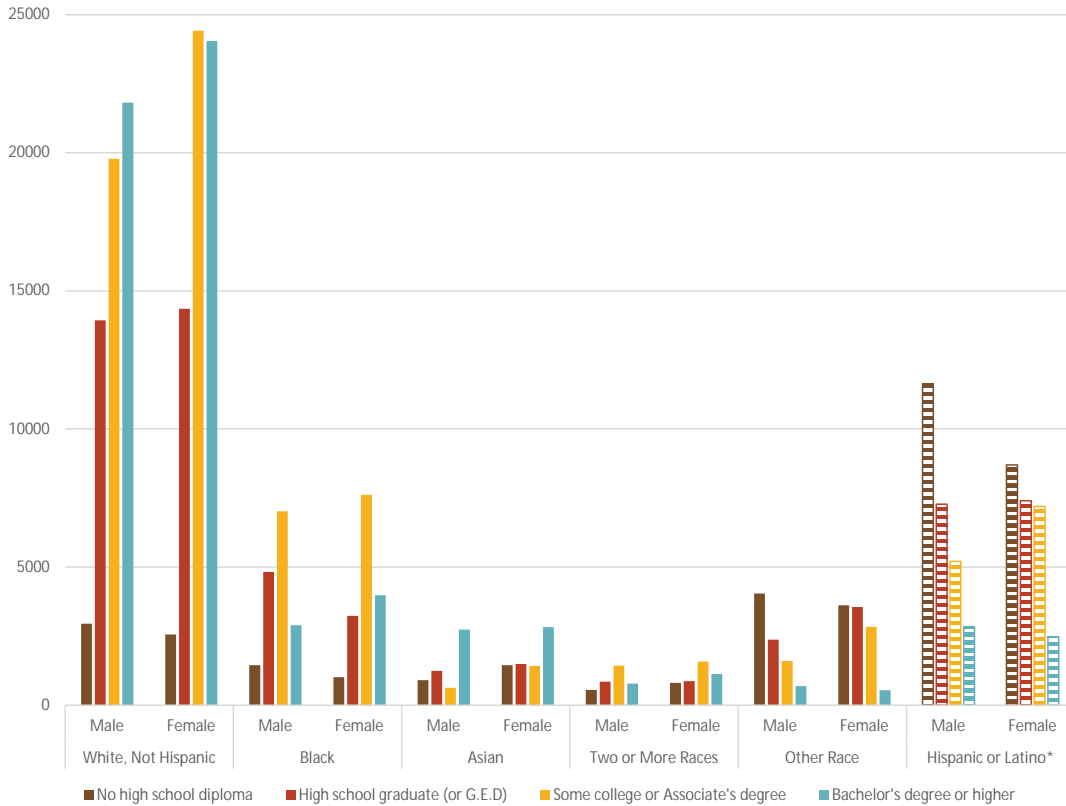
*Hispanics or Latinos can be of any race.

Educational Attainment and Gender

Overall, women in Aurora have higher levels of educational attainment when compared to men. Men have a slightly higher number of graduate or professional degrees, but more women than men hold bachelor's degrees, have associate's degrees, or have attended some college.
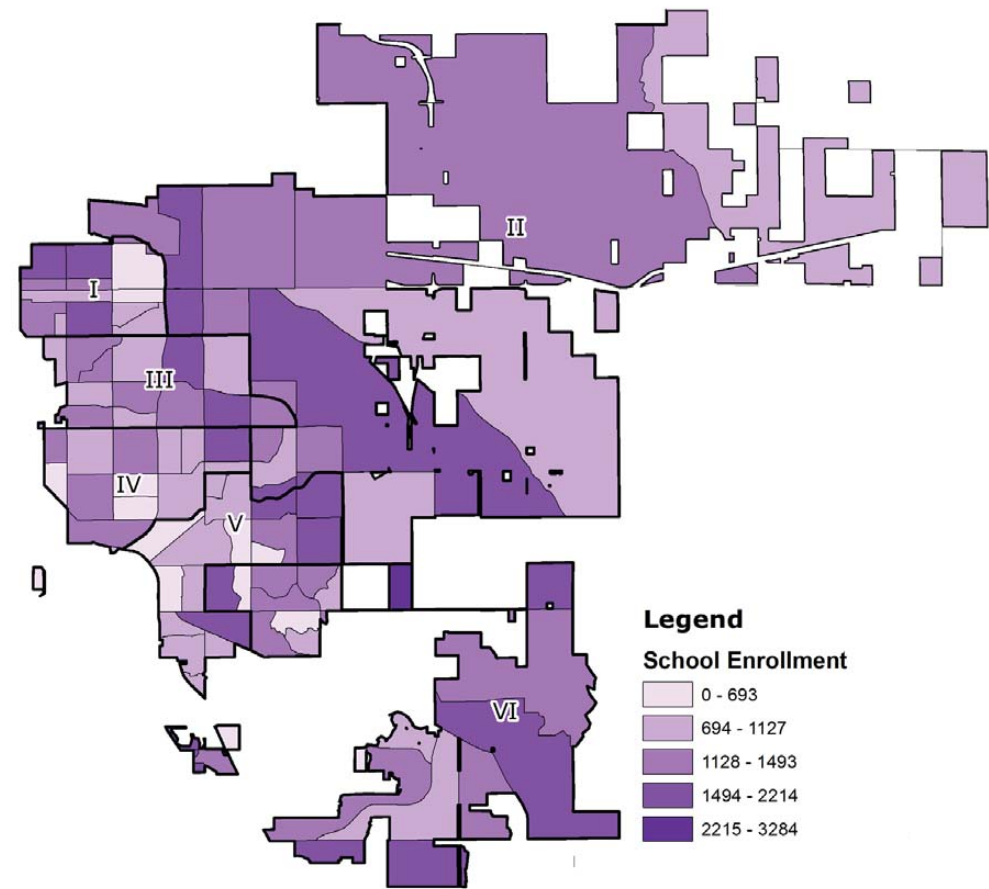
Educational Attainment in Aurora by Gender

Bar chart showing educational attainment in Aurora by gender (0 to 35,000):
- Graduate or professional degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Associate's degree
- Some college, no degree
- High school graduate (includes equivalency)
- 9th to 12th grade, no diploma
- Less than 9th grade

Legend: Female, Male
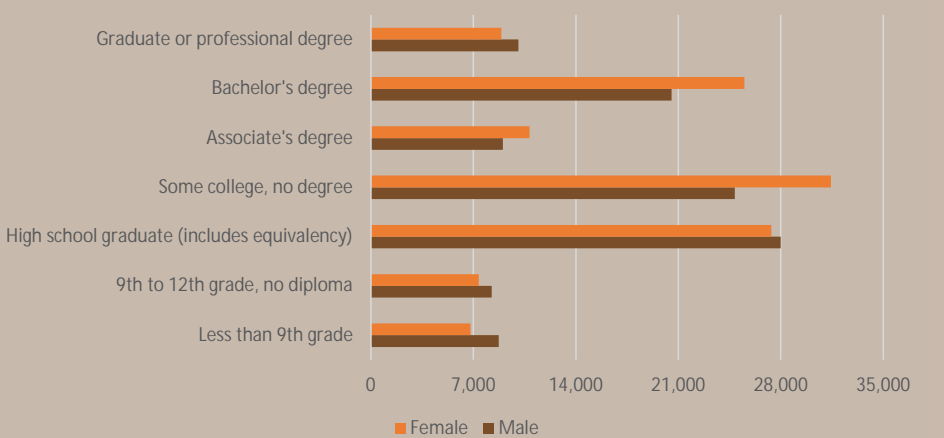
White Non-Hispanics, due to their large population size, have higher numbers of degrees overall. The distribution of degrees across each racial group varies considerably. Of note is the high difference between Hispanic and Latino students who have not completed high school versus those who hold a bachelor's degree. Also, females tend to have higher educational attainment across racial categories compared to males.

People Education Maps

Educational Attainment
Those who hold a Bachelor's, Graduate, or Professional degree are primarily reside in Southeast Aurora, near Cherry Creek State Park, and on the Anshutz Medical Campus.
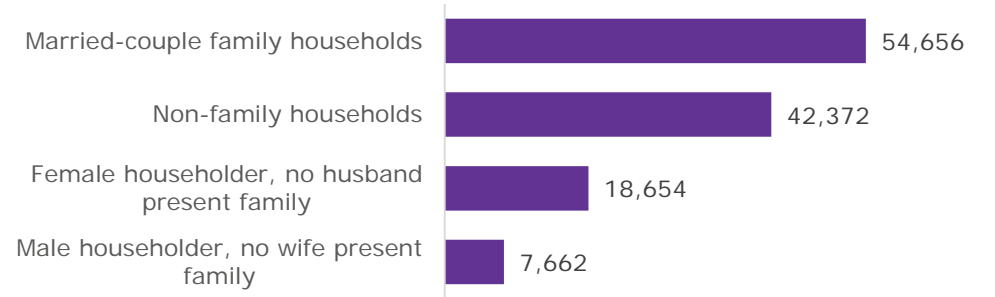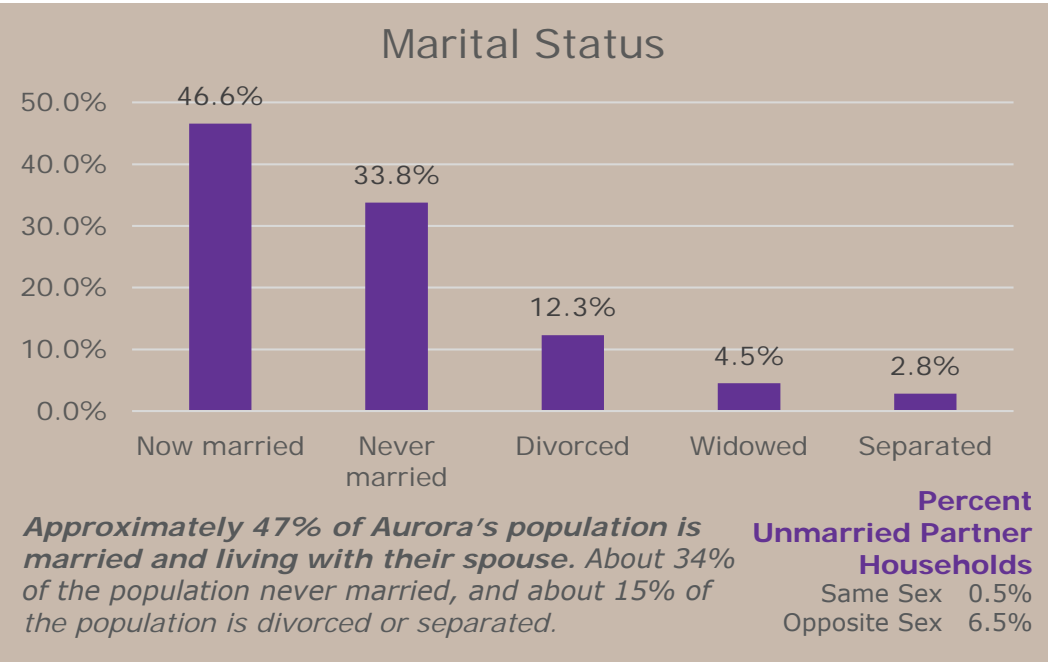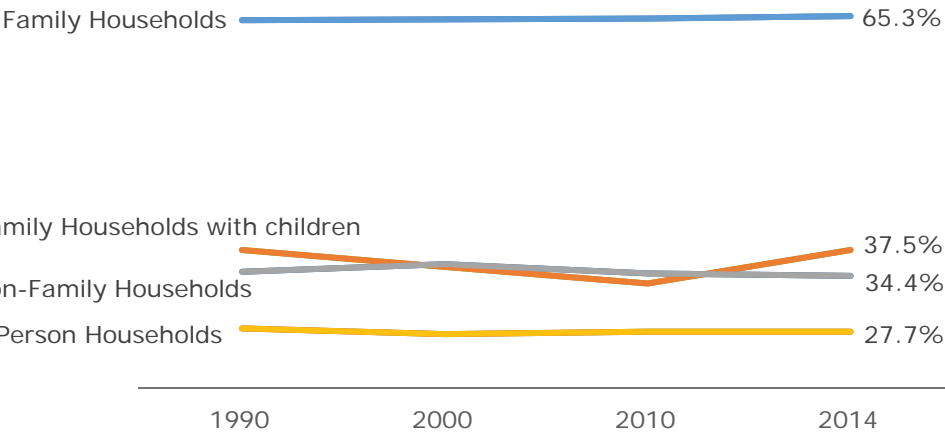
Legend

School Enrollment

	0 - 693
	694 - 1127
	1128 - 1493
	1494 - 2214
	2215 - 3284

School Enrollment
The total school enrollement by census tract varies widely across the city.

Legend

% Bachelors or Graduate Degree

	0.0 - 17.1
	17.2 - 30.5
	30.6 - 42.2
	42.3 - 55.6
	55.7 - 80.1
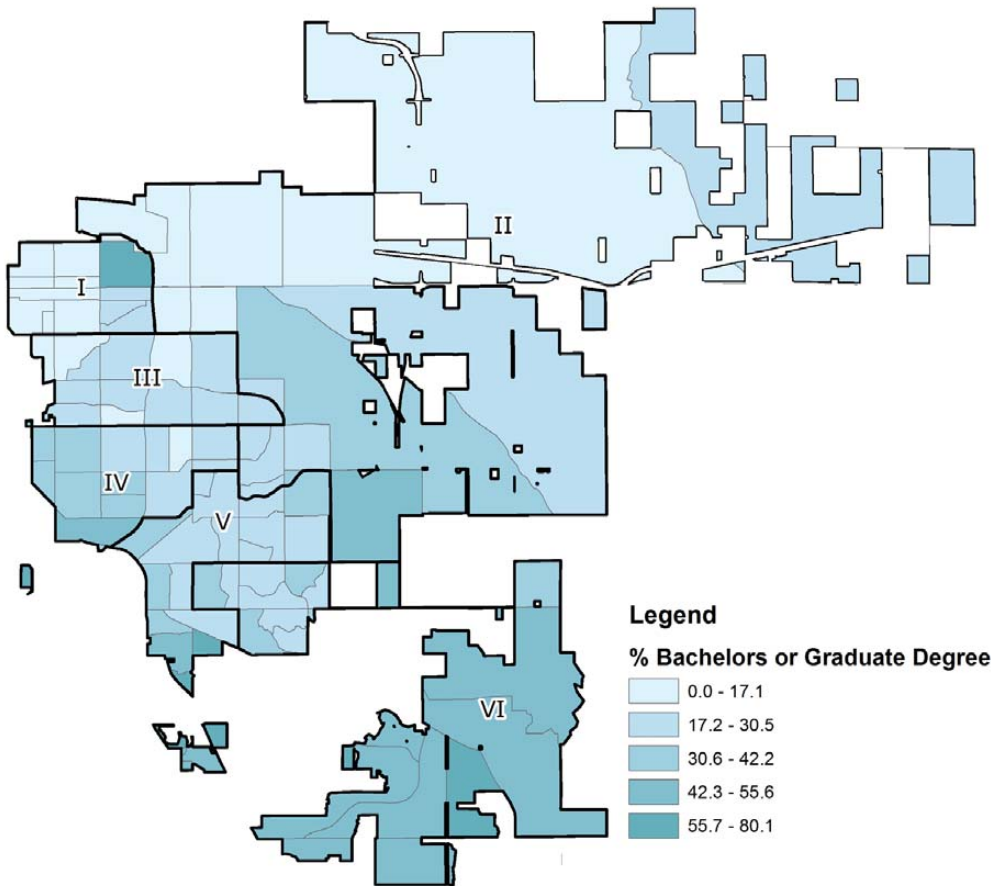
People Households & Families

Married couple family households make up the largest portion of households. *Their portion of total households has increased only slightly over the past few decades. Non-family households are a large portion of the total number of households in the city, but have seen a slight decline since 2000. Family households with children declined up until 2010, but have seen an increase within the past 4 years. One-person households have remained constant at nearly 28% of all households.*

123,344 TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS

80,972 TOTAL FAMILIES

Household Type	Count
Married-couple family households	54,656
Non-family households	42,372
Female householder, no husband present family	18,654
Male householder, no wife present family	7,662

Percentage of Household and Family Types Since 1990

Family Households — 65.3%

Family Households with children — 37.5%

Non-Family Households — 34.4%

1 Person Households — 27.7%

1990   2000   2010   2014

Marital Status

- Now married: 46.6%
- Never married: 33.8%
- Divorced: 12.3%
- Widowed: 4.5%
- Separated: 2.8%

Approximately 47% of Aurora's population is married and living with their spouse. About 34% of the population never married, and about 15% of the population is divorced or separated.

Percent Unmarried Partner Households
Same Sex   0.5%
Opposite Sex   6.5%

Average Household and Family Sizes Since 1990

	1990	2000	2010	2014
Average Household Size	2.47	2.60	2.65	2.73
Average Family Size	3.07	3.19	3.27	3.38

■ 1990 ■ 2000 ■ 2010 ■ 2014
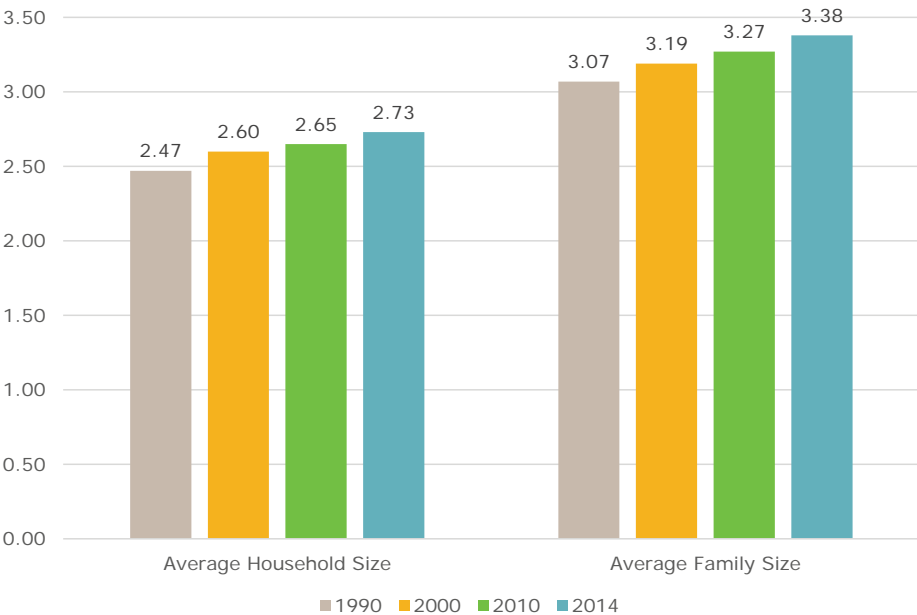
People Foreign-Born

Foreign-Born Populations over 200, Excluding Mexico

Country	Population
Ethiopia	2,984
El Salvador	2,454
Korea	2,293
Vietnam	2,151
Philippines	1,480
Guatemala	1,433
Ghana	1,084
China, ex. Hong Kong, Taiwan	1,076
Honduras	981
India	976
Ukraine	922
Peru	885
Burma	830
Nigeria	766
Germany	755
Russia	708
Eritrea	702
Other Middle Africa	605
Nepal	596
Canada	595
Thailand	577
Other South Central Asia	576
Other Eastern Africa	486
Sudan	477
Japan	475
Jamaica	445
Other Western Africa	402
Afghanistan	372
Armenia	361
Morocco	336
England	332
Colombia	314
Kenya	304
Poland	290
Iraq	266
Cambodia	259
Oceania, n.e.c.	254
Uzbekistan	231
Other Eastern Asia	227
Indonesia	224
Haiti	222
Romania	219
Pakistan	219
Taiwan	217
Bosnia and Herzegovina	213
Other Northern Africa	211
UK, ex. England and Scotland	204

Total Foreign Born

Mexico 43%

19.9% of Aurora's population is foreign-born. The Aurora foreign-born population is made up of people from many countries around the world, but **most of Aurora's foreign-born are from Mexico**.

Total Foreign Born	70,544
From Mexico	30,272
From all other countries	40,272

Between 2010 and 2014, the foreign-born population increased by about 6%, with the most notable in-migration coming from Africa and Asia. The foreign-born population from Africa grew by about 70%, and the Asian population grew by about 20%. There has actually been a decline in the foreign-born population from Mexico, which represents a significant decrease of about 2900 people or 9%. In-migration from Korea declined by 800 people or 25%.

Foreign-Born, 2014
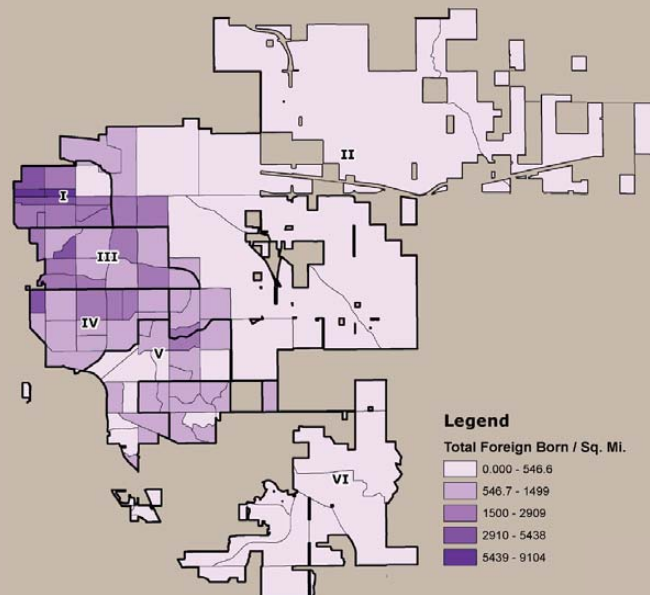
Percent Change, 2010-2014

Legend
Total Foreign Born / Sq. Mi.
- 0.000 – 546.6
- 546.7 – 1499
- 1500 – 2909
- 2910 – 5438
- 5439 – 9104

Legend
% Change Foreign Born
- -191% – -45%
- -44% – -6%
- -5% – 17%
- 18% – 47%
- 48% – 83%
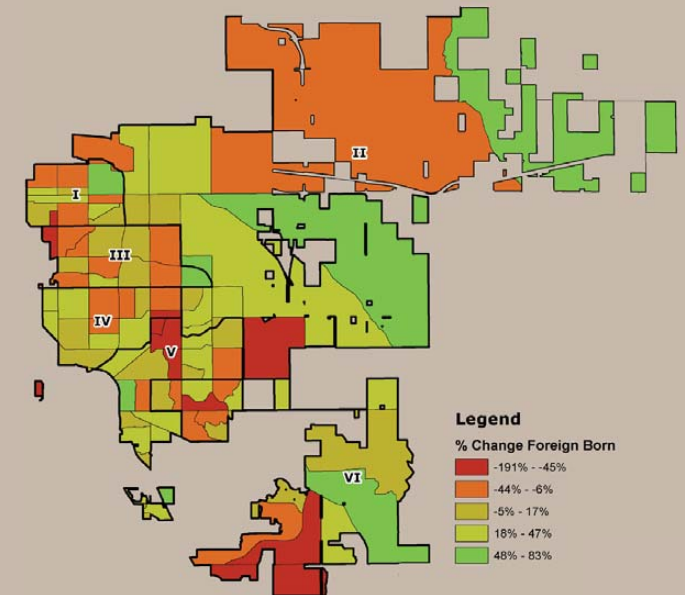
People Language Spoken at Home

***The majority of Aurorans speak only English at home**, but compared to the metro area, we have a lot fewer English-only speakers. Around 30% of our population speaks a language other than English at home. Around 20% of the population speaks Spanish at home, while both Asian and Pacific Langauges and Other Languages are also spoken at home at higher rates than the larger metro area.*

Percent of Population by Language Spoken at Home

Legend:
- Speak only English
- Spanish or Spanish Creole
- Other Indo-European languages
- Asian and Pacific Island languages
- Other languages

Metro Area: 79.9%, 13.6%, 2.7%, 2.6%, 1.1%
Aurora: 68.2%, 21.1%, 3.4%, 4.0%, 3.2%

English Proficiency by Language

Categories (top to bottom): Spanish or Spanish Creole, Other Indo-European languages, Asian and Pacific Island languages, Other languages

Legend:
- Speak English "very well"
- Speak English less than "very well"

As is common in diverse communities, some of Aurora's population either don't speak or have trouble speaking English. This varies by language spoken at home and by age. Almost 70% of those who fall under the category of 'other languages' speak English very well, while only about 45% of those who speak Asian and Pacific languages at home speak English very well. A little more than half of those who speak Spanish or other Indo-European languages at home speak English very well.

Children and young adults who speak Spanish or Spanish Creole are more likely than youth who speak other languages to have difficulty with English. Those 65 and older who speak Spanish or Spanish Creole tend to be more fluent in English than their peers who speak other languages at home.

Speak English Less Than Very Well by Age

Categories (top to bottom): Other languages, Asian and Pacific Island languages, Other Indo-European languages, Spanish or Spanish Creole

Legend:
- 5-17 years
- 18-64 years
- 65 years and over

People Veteran Status

Aurora is home to an estimated 23,589 veterans.
Veterans make up a larger percentage of the population in Aurora than the Metro Area, but fall short of the percentage of veterans in the state of Colorado.

Aurora	9.7%
Metro Area	8.6%
Colorado	10.0%

Veteran Status by Gender
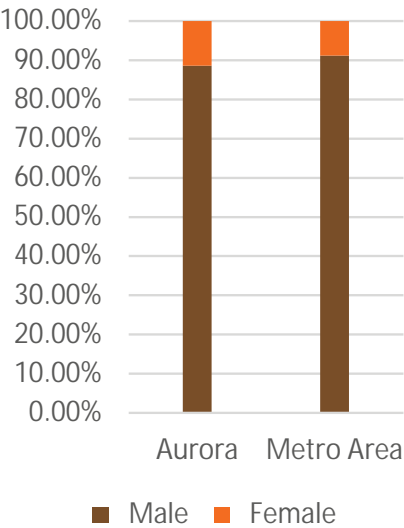
Aurora's veteran population is more diverse compared to the metro area. Aurora has approximately 10% more Black or African American veterans and has a slightly higher percentage of female veterans compared to the metro area. Aurora has fewer Hispanic and Latino veterans compared to the metro area as a whole.

■ Male ■ Female

Aurora's Veterans by Period of Service
Aurora's veteran population is largely made up of veterans from the Gulf Wars and the Vietnam War. Aurora has a larger proportion of veterans from these conflicts, by about 15%, compared to the metro area as a whole.

Period of Military Service For Civilian Veterans 18+

- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam Era
- Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001)
- Gulf War (9/2001 or later)

■ Metro Area ■ Aurora

Race & Hispanic or Latino for Civilian Veterans 18+

Category	Metro Area	Aurora
Some other race	1.90%	2.70%
Two or more races	2.00%	3.10%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	19.30%	9.70%
Black or African American	6.90%	16.60%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	69.40%	69.40%
White	87.20%	75.40%

■ Metro Area ■ Aurora

22% Yes

78% No

Is the disability status related to military service?

People Disability Status

Approximately 10.3 percent of Aurora's population have some sort of disability. This is slightly higher than the Metro Area and in line with the state.

As shown on the pie chart to the right, no particular type of disability predominates, although ambulatory and cognitive difficulties are more prevalent than other types.

Vision difficulty, 9%

Self-care difficulty, 10%

Ambulatory difficulty, 27%

Cognitive difficulty, 21%

Hearing difficulty, 16%

Independent living difficulty, 17%
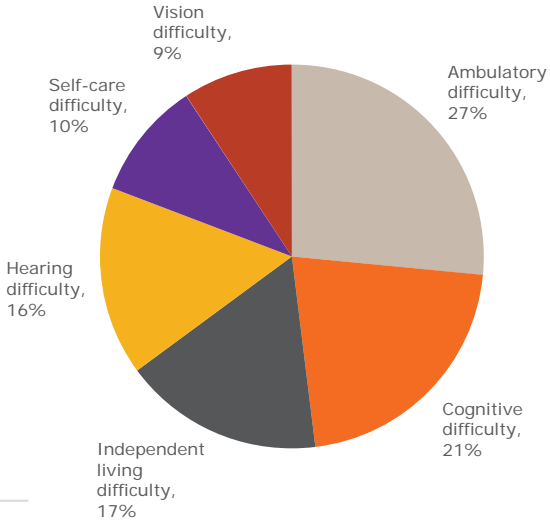
A slightly higher percentage of females are disabled compared to males. This is similar to the metro area, but not to the state. American Indian and Alaska Natives have higher levels of disability.

■ Male ■ Female

Aurora | Metro Area | Colorado

Age and Disability

While those between age 35 and 64 have disabilities in-line with the overall Aurora population, the number of disabilities increase with age. Approximately 25% of those 65-74 have at lease one disability, while approximately 50% of those over 75 have at least one disability. Ambulatory, hearing, and independent living difficulties are the most common for those 65 and older.

Although 65+ lead in percentage, the 18-64 age group is much larger and account for the most disabilities overall.

Percentage of Age Group by Number of Disabilities

35 to 64 | 65 to 74 | 75 +

■ One type ■ Two or more types ■ No disability
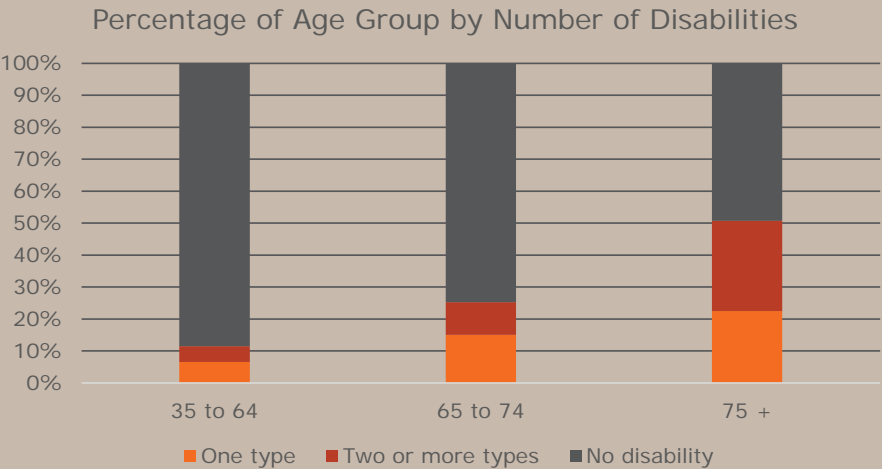
Percent of Age Group with Disability by Type of Disability

With an independent living difficulty

With a self-care difficulty

With an ambulatory difficulty

With a cognitive difficulty

With a vision difficulty

With a hearing difficulty

■ Population 65 years and older

■ Population 18 to 64 years

■ Population 5 to 17 years

■ Under 5 Years

Disability Status by Race

Am.Indian and Alaska Native
White
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino
Black or African American
Two or more races
Asian
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
Some other race
Nat.Hawaiian and Other Pac. Islander

■ Aurora ■ Metro Area

People Disability Status Maps

Percent Tract with Disability
To some extent, the tracts with higher percentages of the population with a disability align with the tracts with higher median age.

Legend
% of 65+ Pop. with Disability
- 0% - 9%
- 10% - 14%
- 15% - 18%
- 19% - 25%
- 26% - 52%

Legend
% Tract Pop. with Disability
- 0 - 4
- 5 - 8
- 9 - 12
- 13 - 18
- 19 - 33
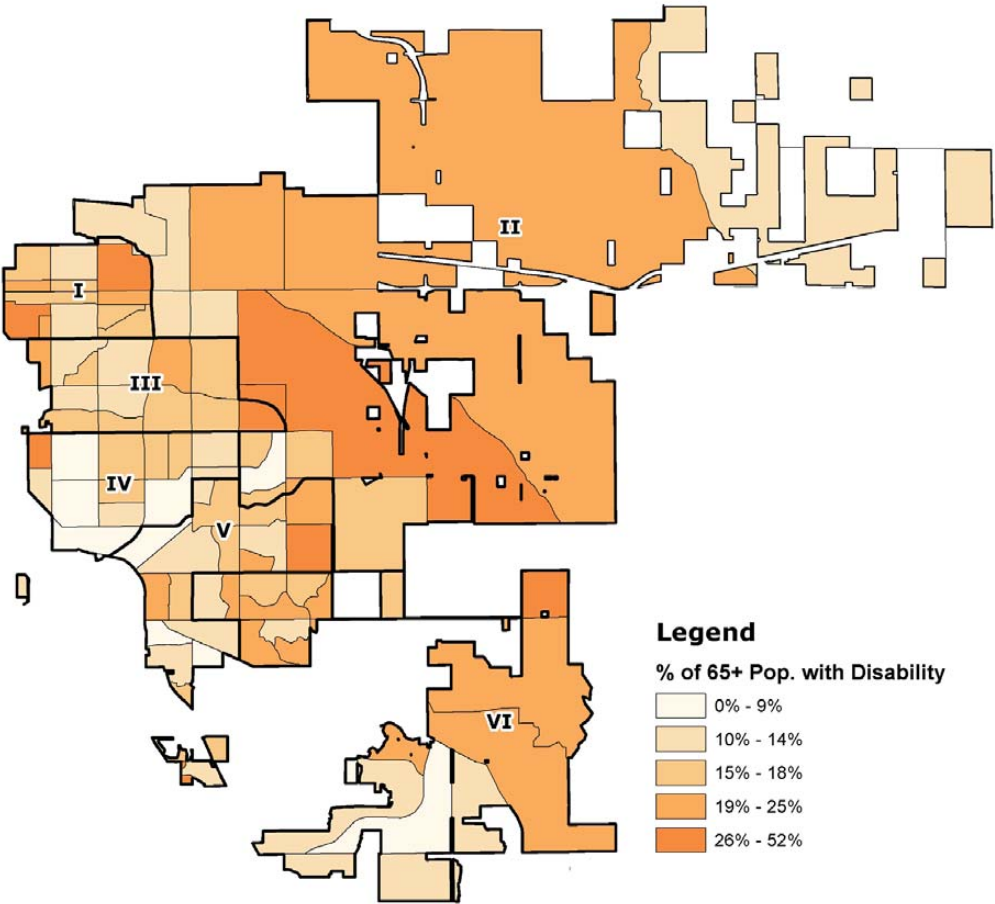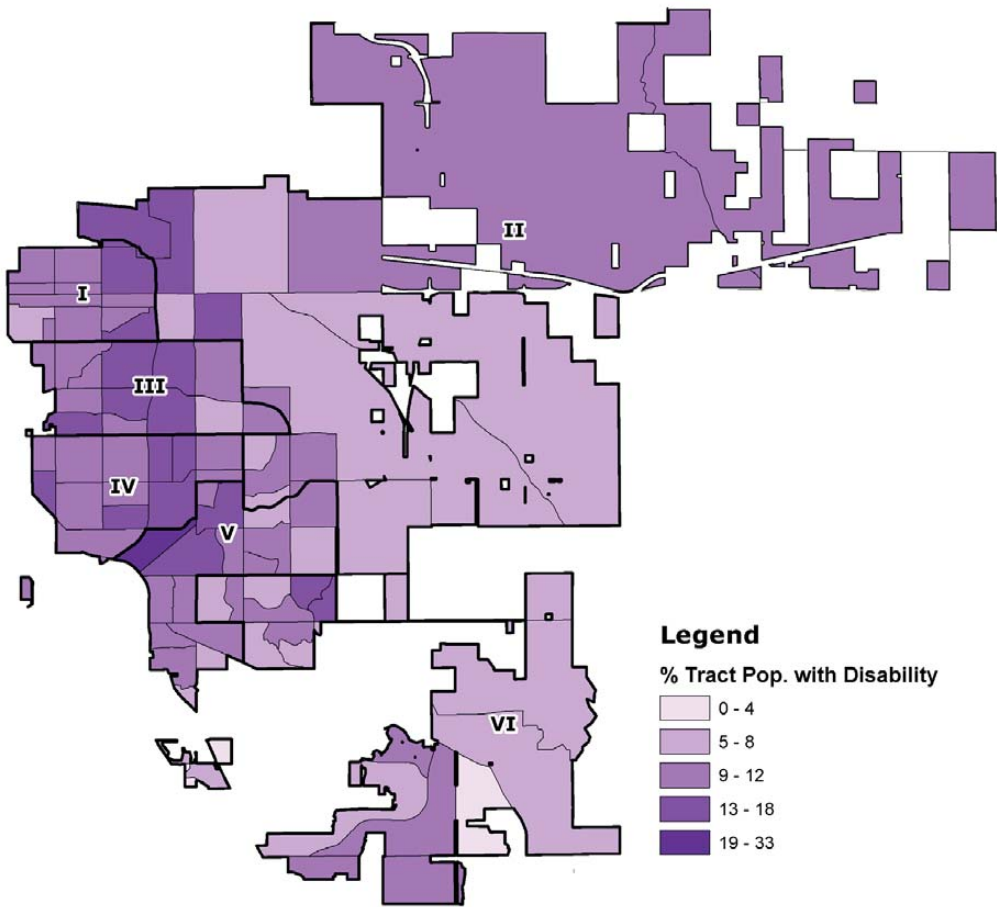
% of 65+ Population with Disability
The census tracts where those 65 and older with disabilities are a higher portion of the population are located on the edges of Aurora. Several census tracts with between 25% and 50% of the 65+ population are found along the western border of the city, while the neighborhoods in the eastern areas of the city also have high percenages.

Employment Labor Force Characteristics

We've used ACS 1-year data for these charts as opposed to ACS 5-year data to provide a sense of the recovery since the great recession. This provides a more accurate picture of employment status. Unemployment and labor force participation rates have fell significantly since 2010. Other indicators suggest unemployment has decreased since 2014. More information is available on the Aurora Economic Deveopment Council website.

While unemployment numbers have decreased drastically since 2010, the employment rate hasn't fully recovered to 2005 levels and labor force participation is down to 71.1%.

■ Employed ■ Unemployed

Unemployment Rate
- 7.1%
- 11.8%
- 6.50%

Employment Rate
- 68.2%
- 64.0%
- 66.10%

Labor Force Participation Rate
- 73.7%
- 73.3%
- 71.1%
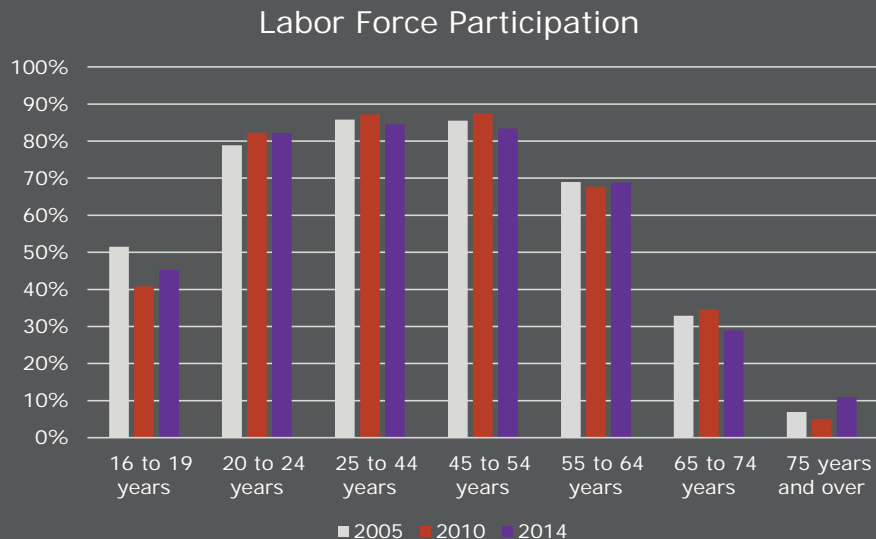
Unemployment Rate by Age 2010-2014

■ 2010
■ 2014

- 75 years and over
- 65 to 74 years
- 55 to 64 years
- 45 to 54 years
- 25 to 44 years
- 20 to 24 years
- 16 to 19 years

0.0%   10.0%   20.0%   30.0%   40.0%
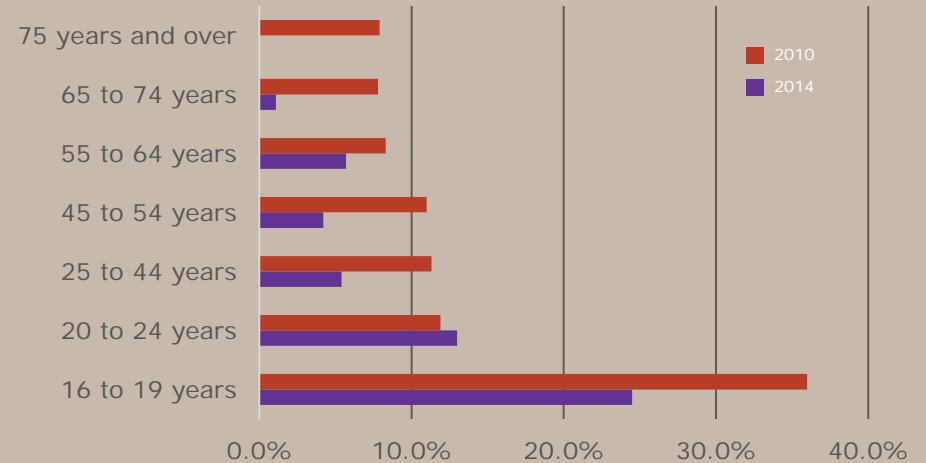
Teens make up a large portion of those still looking for work, with those in their early twenties also struggling to find work. For early twentysomethings, the unemployment rate has increased since 2010 to 13%. Those 75 years and older now have a 0% unemployment rate and labor force participation rates have surged to levels higher than 10%, which is greater than what was seen in 2005.

Labor Force Participation

100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%

16 to 19 years | 20 to 24 years | 25 to 44 years | 45 to 54 years | 55 to 64 years | 65 to 74 years | 75 years and over

■ 2005 ■ 2010 ■ 2014

The map to the right shows 5-year estimates for unemployment rates for 2010-2014. The census tracts with the highest percentages of unemployment, between 11% and 19% are located just to the east of I-225, and near the northern stretch of Havana Street. The eastern and southeastern areas of the city have lower levels of unemployment.

Havana Street

% Pop. Unemployed
- 0% - 3%
- 4% - 5%
- 6% - 7%
- 8% - 10%
- 11% - 19%
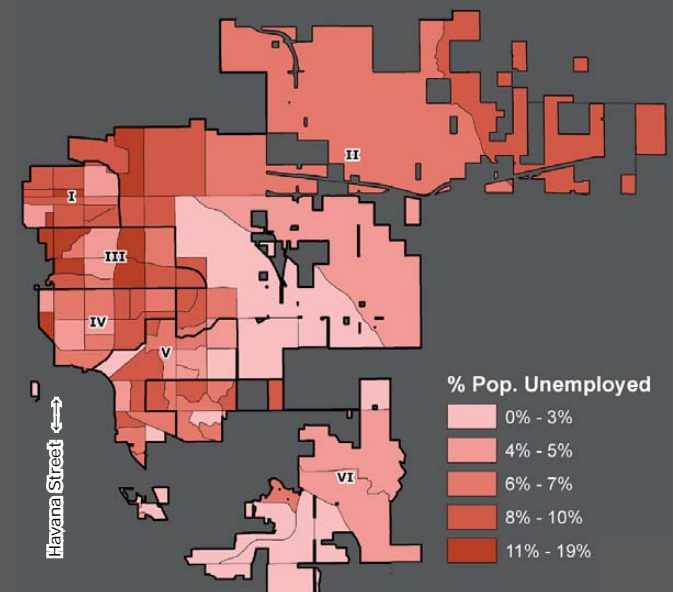
Employment Status by Gender

Legend: Male, Female, Female with own children under 6 years

Category	Male	Female	Female with own children under 6 years
In labor force	87.0%	75.6%	66.7%
Employed	81.6%	70.4%	62.5%
Unemployment rate	5.3%	6.9%	6.2%
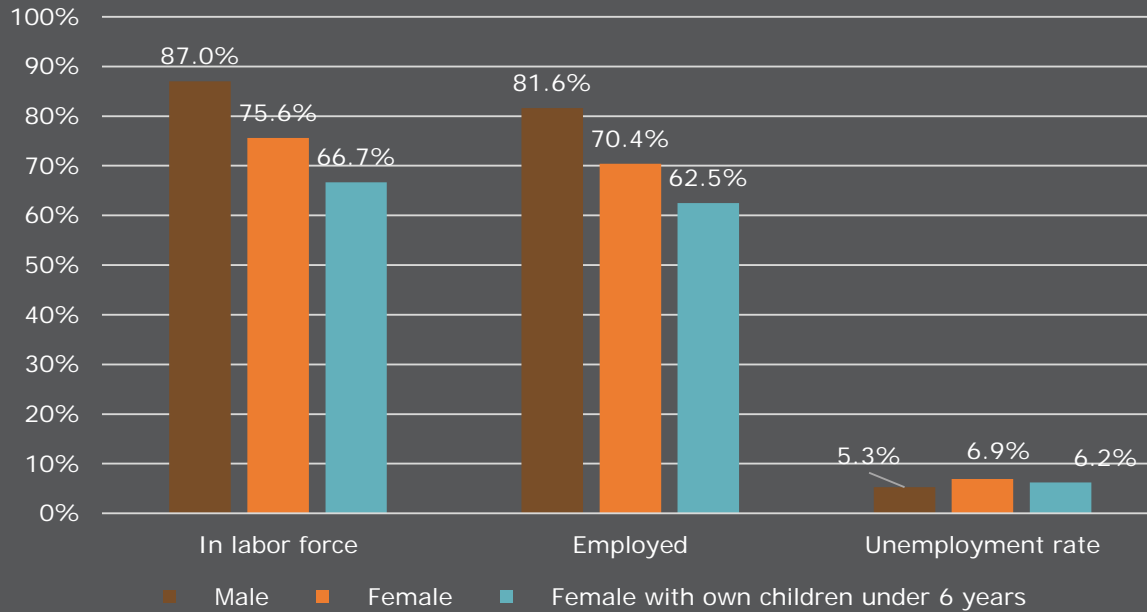
While the overall unemployment rate has declined to 6.5%, different groups have different levels of unemployment and the recovery has been uneven across the racial and ethnic categories. Hispanics or Latinos went from a 15.5% unemployment rate in 2010 to a 7.1% unemployment rate in 2014. The non-Hispanic or Latino White unemployment rate fell to 4.7%. Generally, compared to the metro area, Aurora has higher unemployment rates across all race categories.

Males have greater labor force participation and employment rates and have a lower unemployment rate. Females have lower labor force participation and employment rates, but have an equal unemployment rate unless they have children under 6 years old.

Unsurprisingly, the data suggests that the greater the level of educational attainment, the lower the unemployment rate.

2014 Labor Force Characteristics by Race and Hispanic or Latino

	Labor Force Participation		Employed		Unemployment Rate	
	Aurora	Metro Area	Aurora	Metro Area	Aurora	Metro Area
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	69.3%	71.1%	66.7%	66.9%	4.7%	3.9%
Black or African American	73.9%	69.2%	66.7%	63.3%	9.7%	8.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native		68.5%		62.0%		9.5%
Asian	66.5%	67.5%	61.6%	64.4%	6.5%	4.3%
Some other race	71.5%	71.6%	65.7%	67.3%	8.1%	6.0%
Two or more races		72.7%		65.6%		9.7%
Hispanic or Latino	74.7%	71.1%	69.3%	66.9%	7.1%	5.9%

Data for some race categories is not available for both the metro area and Aurora. Less data is available for the year 2010. Therefore, we were only able to include the race categories that have sufficient data available for comparison.

Unemployment Rate 2010 vs. 2014 by Race and Hispanic or Latino
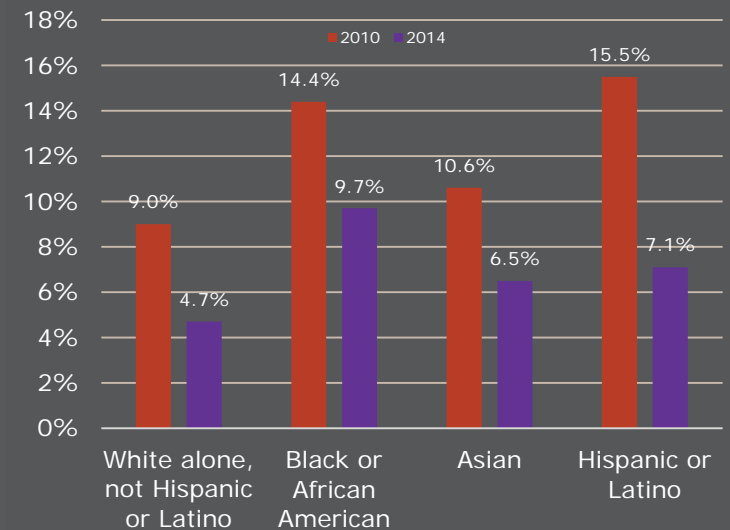
Legend: 2010, 2014

Category	2010	2014
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	9.0%	4.7%
Black or African American	14.4%	9.7%
Asian	10.6%	6.5%
Hispanic or Latino	15.5%	7.1%

Legend:
- Production, Transportation, and Material Moving Occupations
- Natural Resources, Construction, and Maintenance Occupations
- Sales and Office Occupations
- Service Occupations
- Management, Business, Science, and Art Occupations

Aurora's top employing industry is Educational Services/Health Care/Social Assistance, employing 19% of Aurora's workforce. Other top employing industries include Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services with 13%, Retail Trade with 12%, Arts and Entertainment with 12%, and Construction with 9%.

The breakdown of occupations varies by the industry. Some industries, such as retail, tend to have a higher number of sales and office occupations. Approximately 78% of Aurorans are employed in occupations are Management/ Science/Arts, Sales/Office, and Service. These three occupation categories make up approximately 83% of the metro area employment. Median earnings indicate that the level average earnings vary significantly by occupation and industry.

Management, business, science, and arts occupations are the highest paid occupation, which is also has the largest share of Aurora employees.

The highest paying industries are Finance/Insurance/ Real Estate/Rental & Leasing, Transportation/ Warehousing/Utilities, and Manufacturing. These three industries account for 20% of the employment in Aurora.

The Top 10 Employers in Aurora

1. Buckley Air Force Base
2. University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
3. Aurora Public Schools
4. University of Colorado Health
5. Children's Hospital Colorado
6. City of Aurora
7. Cherry Creek Schools
8. Raytheon Company
9. HealthONE: The Medical Center of Aurora
10. Kaiser Permanente

These businesses and organizations employ over 50,000 people in Aurora! Source: Aurora Economic Development Council

Chart — Y-axis labels: 0, 5,000, 10,000, 15,000, 20,000, 25,000, 30,000

Chart X-axis categories:
- Educational services, health care, and social assistance | Median Earnings $32,856
- Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services | Median Earnings $34,274
- Retail trade | Median Earnings $25,359
- Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services | Median Earnings $16,867
- Construction | Median Earnings $28,846
- Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing | Median Earnings $42,363
- Transportation, warehousing, and utilities | Median Earnings $40,544
- Manufacturing | Median Earnings $43,094
- Other services, except public administration | Median Earnings $22,227
- Public administration | Median Earnings $53,306
- Information | Median Earnings $50,823
- Wholesale trade | Median Earnings $39,570
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining | Median Earnings $59,191

Employment Occupation Maps

These maps show the percentage of people working in particular occupation types for all the census tracts in the city. This shows whether or not people working a particular job are concentrated in certain areas or spread out over the city.

Generally, employees for Management and related occupations are concentrated near the Anshutz Medical Campus and in southeast Aurora. Employees for Service Occupations are distributed somewhat evenly in the northwest and central areas of the city. Employees for Sales and Office occupations are clustered in the east central and southern areas of the city. Employees in Natural Resources and related occupations are primarily found in the north and northwest areas of Aurora. Finally, employees for Production, Transportation, and related occupations live all over the city, but are more concentrated in northern and central Aurora.
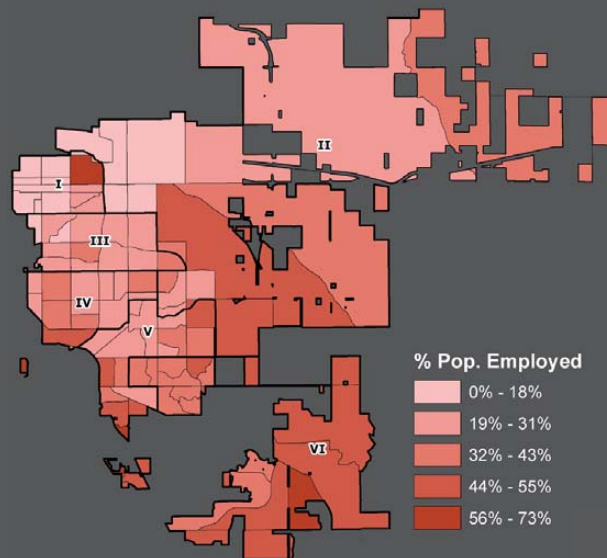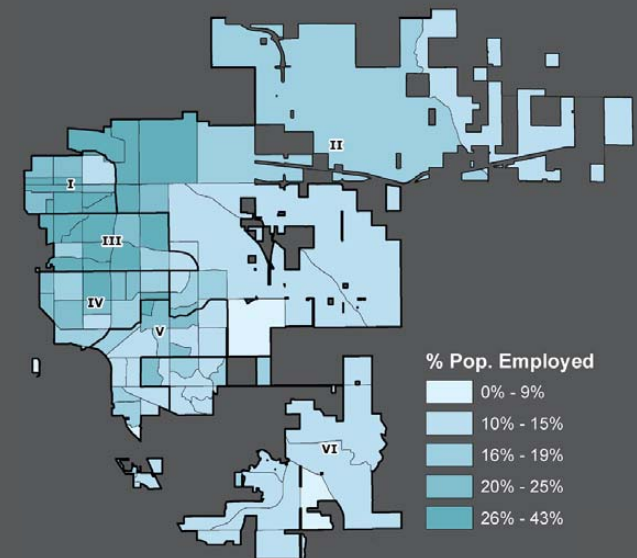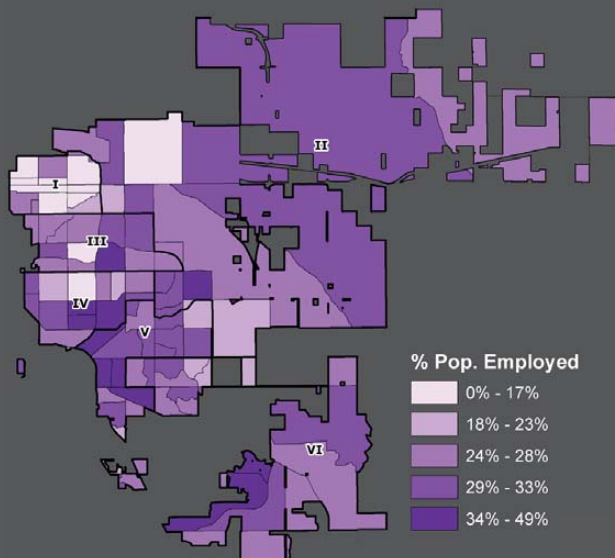
% Pop. Employed
- 0% - 18%
- 19% - 31%
- 32% - 43%
- 44% - 55%
- 56% - 73%

Management, Business, Science, and Art Occupations

% Pop. Employed
- 0% - 9%
- 10% - 15%
- 16% - 19%
- 20% - 25%
- 26% - 43%

Service Occupations

% Pop. Employed
- 0% - 17%
- 18% - 23%
- 24% - 28%
- 29% - 33%
- 34% - 49%

Sales and Office Occupations

% Pop. Employed
- 0% - 4%
- 5% - 8%
- 9% - 13%
- 14% - 21%
- 22% - 36%

Natural Resources, Construction and Maintenance Occupations

% Pop. Employed
- 0% - 4%
- 5% - 7%
- 8% - 11%
- 12% - 16%
- 17% - 24%
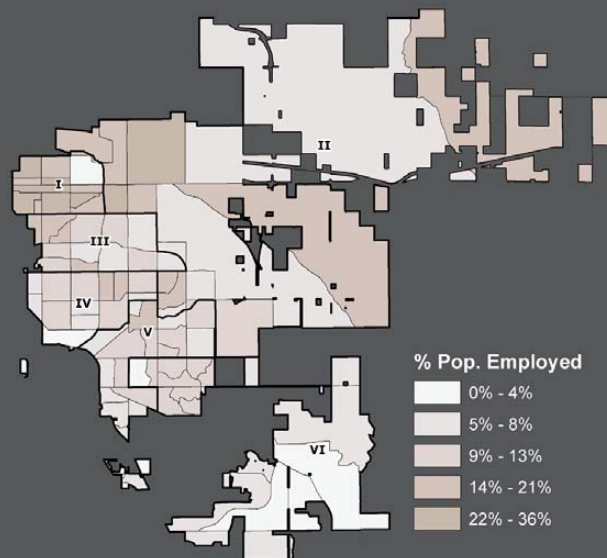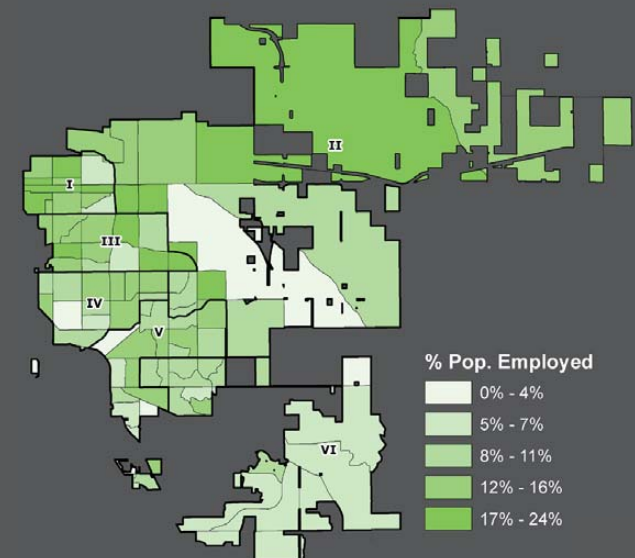
Production, Transportation, and Material Moving Occupations

Employment Income & Poverty

Aurora's median household income and median family income is lower than the metro area. Compared to the metro area, Aurora has more households and families in the income categories $50,000 to $74,999 and below and fewer above the $50,000 to 74,999 category. More Aurora households make between $50,000 and $74,999 than any other income range category.

Median Household Income = $52,275

Median Family Income = $60,314

12.3%
Families in Poverty

16.2%
Individuals in Poverty

23.5%
Children in Poverty

Household and Family Income by Income Group

Legend:
- Aurora Households
- Aurora Families
- Metro Area Households
- Metro Area Families

X-axis categories: $10,000 to $14,999 | $15,000 to $24,999 | $25,000 to $34,999 | $35,000 to $49,999 | $50,000 to $74,999 | $75,000 to $99,999 | $100,000 to $149,999 | $150,000 to $199,999 | $200,000 or more
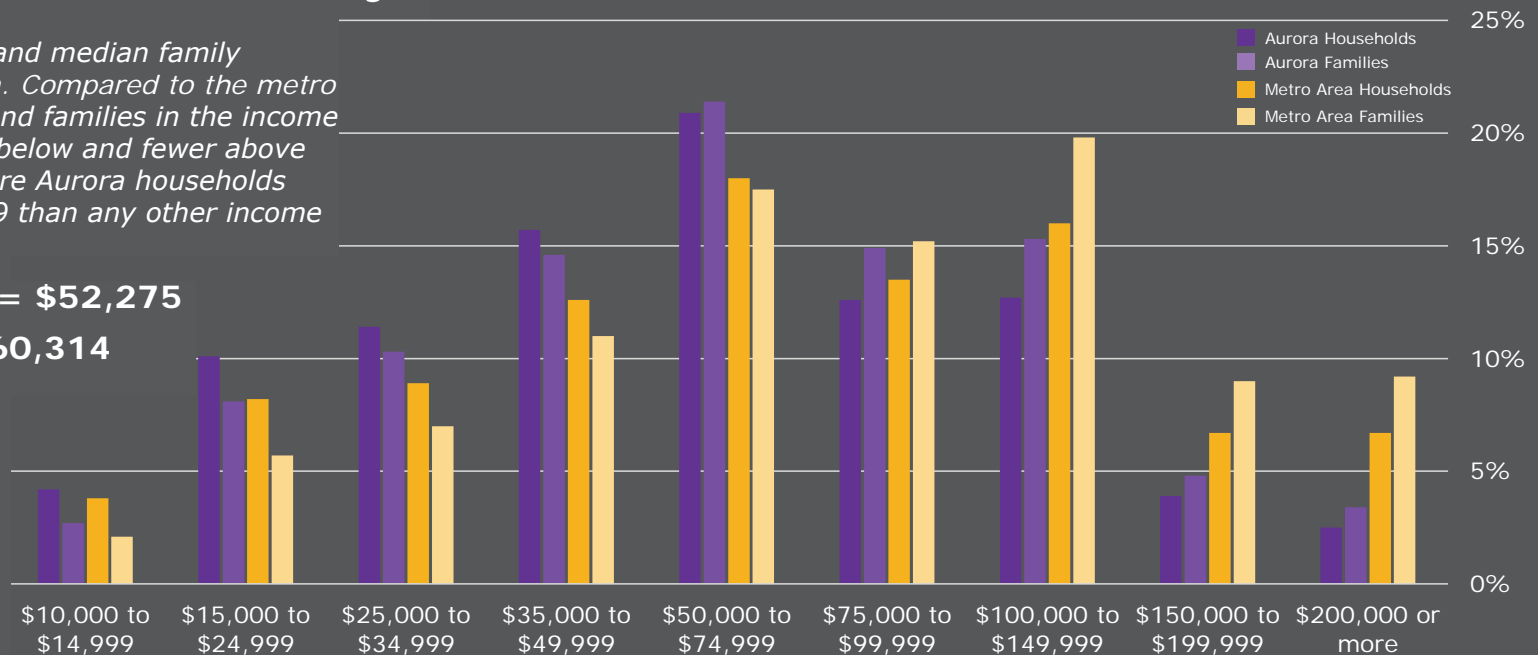
Approximately 55,000 of Aurorans live below the poverty line, up slightly from 2010. The number of Aurorans living within 200% of the poverty line has increased more dramatically since 2010. The poverty line is a Census threshold to help measure poverty and differs based upon the number of people in a household. Learn more about the 2014 thresholds at Census.gov.

Number of Aurorans at or Below Various Poverty Levels

Legend:
- 200 percent of poverty level
- 185 percent of poverty level
- 150 percent of poverty level
- 125 percent of poverty level
- 100 percent of poverty level
- 50 percent of poverty level

Poverty Level by Race

Categories: White, Black or African American, Some other race, Two or more races, Asian, American Indian or Alaska

125%
Poverty Level
50%

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders make up less than .5% of each category and are not visible when graphed at this scale.

Below Poverty Level by Educational Attainment and Sex

X-axis categories: Less than high school graduate | High school graduate (includes equivalency) | Some college, associate's degree | Bachelor's degree or higher

Legend: Male: | Female:
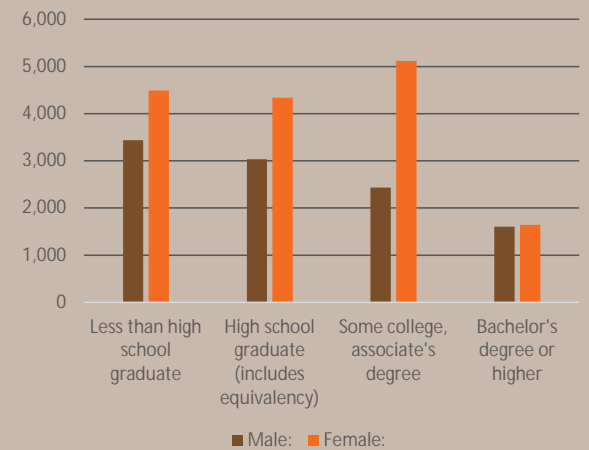
A higher educational attainment doesn't always mean lower level of poverty. For Aurora women, poverty doesn't trend with educational attainment until achieving a bachelor's degree or better.

Employment Median Income Maps

% Change 2010-2014
- -36% – -18%
- -17% – -7%
- -6% – 2%
- 3% – 12%
- 13% – 23%
- 24% – 46%
- 47% – 91%

2014 Median Income
Aurora's median houshold income is generally lower in the northeast and higher in the east and southeast. The lowest income census tracts are located just north of Colfax Avenue. in the northwest area of the city, with the highest in Southeast Aurora close to Tallyn's Reach.
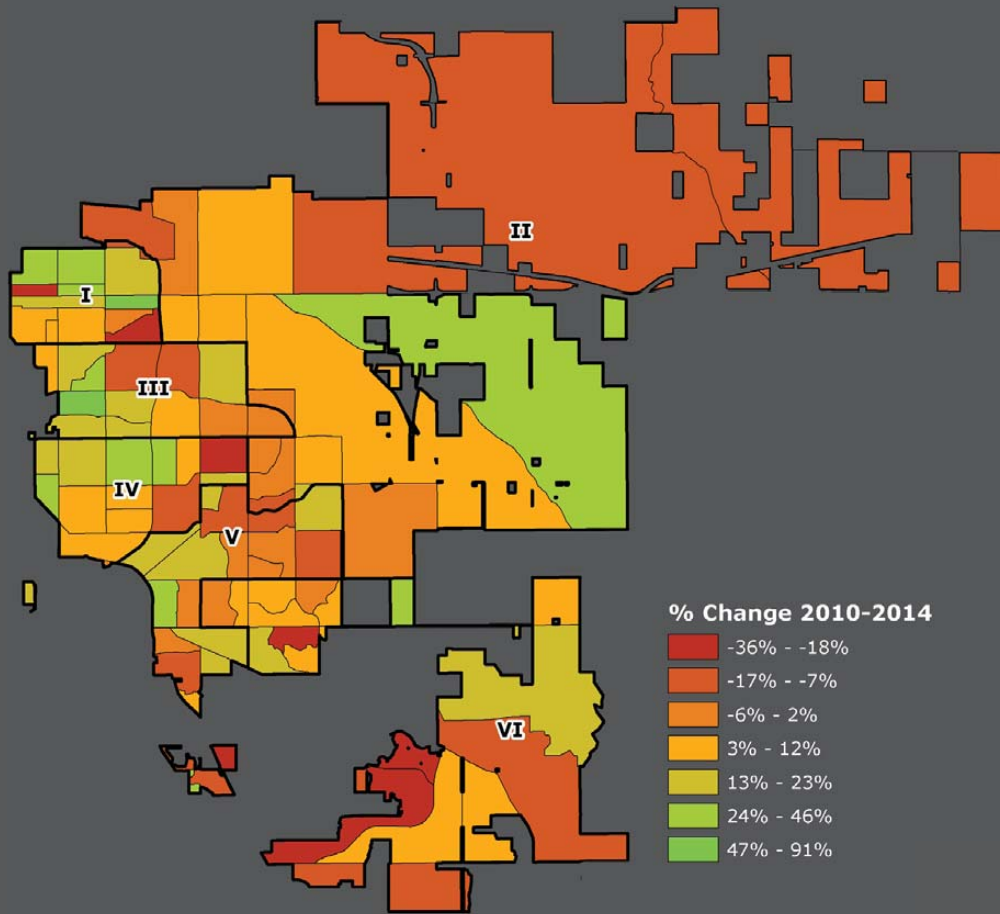
Percent Change in Median Income
Different areas of Aurora are experiencing both positive and negative changes to levels of median income. The majority of northwest Aurora is experiencing an increase in median income, while areas in central and south Aurora are experiencing a decline in levels of median income.

Median Household Income
- $0.00 - $22,583.00
- $22,583.01 - $42,143.00
- $42,143.01 - $54,659.00
- $54,659.01 - $70,161.00
- $70,161.01 - $91,956.00
- $91,956.01 - $119,609.00
- $119,609.01 - $158,086.00

Employment Means of Transportation to Work

How does Aurora get to work?

Legend: Aurora, Metro Area

Mode	Percent
Drove alone	76.4%
Carpooled:	11.5%
Public transportation	5.8%
Worked at home	3.4%
Walked	1.7%
Other means	0.6%
Motorcycle	0.2%
Bicycle	0.3%

While the majority of Aurorans drive to work, at a comparable rate to the metro area, Aurorans carpool and take public transportation with more frequency. The majority of carpooling includes two people per vehicle; however, over 25% of carpool vehicles are carrying three people or more.

Pie chart 1 labels: 2 People, 3 People, 4 People, 5 or 6 People, 7 + People

Pie chart 2 labels: Rail, Bus

Transportation by Occupation

- Worked at home:
- Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, walked, or other means:
- Public transportation (excluding taxicab):
- Car, truck, or van - carpooled:
- Car, truck, or van - drove alone:

Occupation categories:
- Management, business, science, and arts occupations
- Service occupations
- Sales and office occupations
- Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations
- Production, transportation, and material moving occupations
- Military specific occupations

Most Aurorans leave to go to work between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m.; *however, about 25% leave for work during the afternoon and evening hours. This may reflect those employed in sales and service occupations.*

Aurorans commute longer to get to work. *Few Aurorans have commutes under 20 minutes, while more Aurorans have a trip between 30 and 34 minutes compared to other trip lengths.*

Time Left to Go to Work

Time
9:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.
8:30 a.m. to 8:59 a.m.
8:00 a.m. to 8:29 a.m.
7:30 a.m. to 7:59 a.m.
7:00 a.m. to 7:29 a.m.
6:30 a.m. to 6:59 a.m.
6:00 a.m. to 6:29 a.m.
5:30 a.m. to 5:59 a.m.
5:00 a.m. to 5:29 a.m.
12:00 a.m. to 4:59 a.m.

Legend: Colorado, Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area, Aurora city, Colo
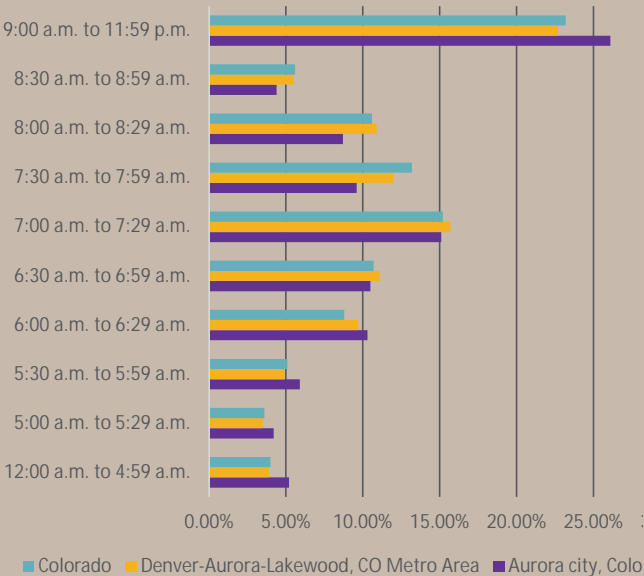
Travel Time to Work, All Modes

Time
60 or more minutes
45 to 59 minutes
35 to 44 minutes
30 to 34 minutes
25 to 29 minutes
20 to 24 minutes
15 to 19 minutes
10 to 14 minutes
Less than 10 minutes

Employment Means of Transportation to Work Maps

% Pop. Commuting
- 0%
- 1% - 61%
- 62% - 74%
- 75% - 81%
- 82% - 88%

Drive Alone

% Pop. Commuting
- 0% - 5%
- 6% - 9%
- 10% - 14%
- 15% - 21%
- 22% - 31%

Carpool

% Pop. Commuting
- 0% - 2%
- 3% - 5%
- 6% - 9%
- 10% - 14%
- 15% - 26%

Public Transportation

% Pop. Commuting
- 0% - 1%
- 2%
- 3% - 4%
- 5% - 9%
- 10% - 30%

Walk

% Pop. Commuting
- 0%
- 1%
- 2%
- 3%
- 4% - 6%

Bike

% Pop. Commuting
- 0% - 2%
- 3% - 4%
- 5% - 6%
- 7% - 10%
- 11% - 15%

Works at Home
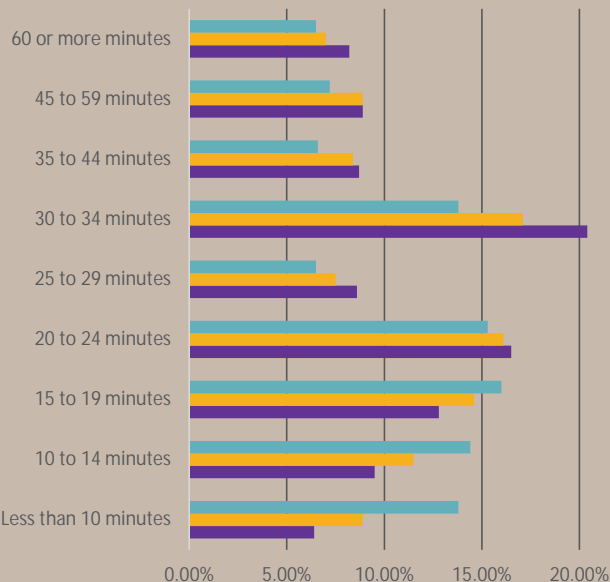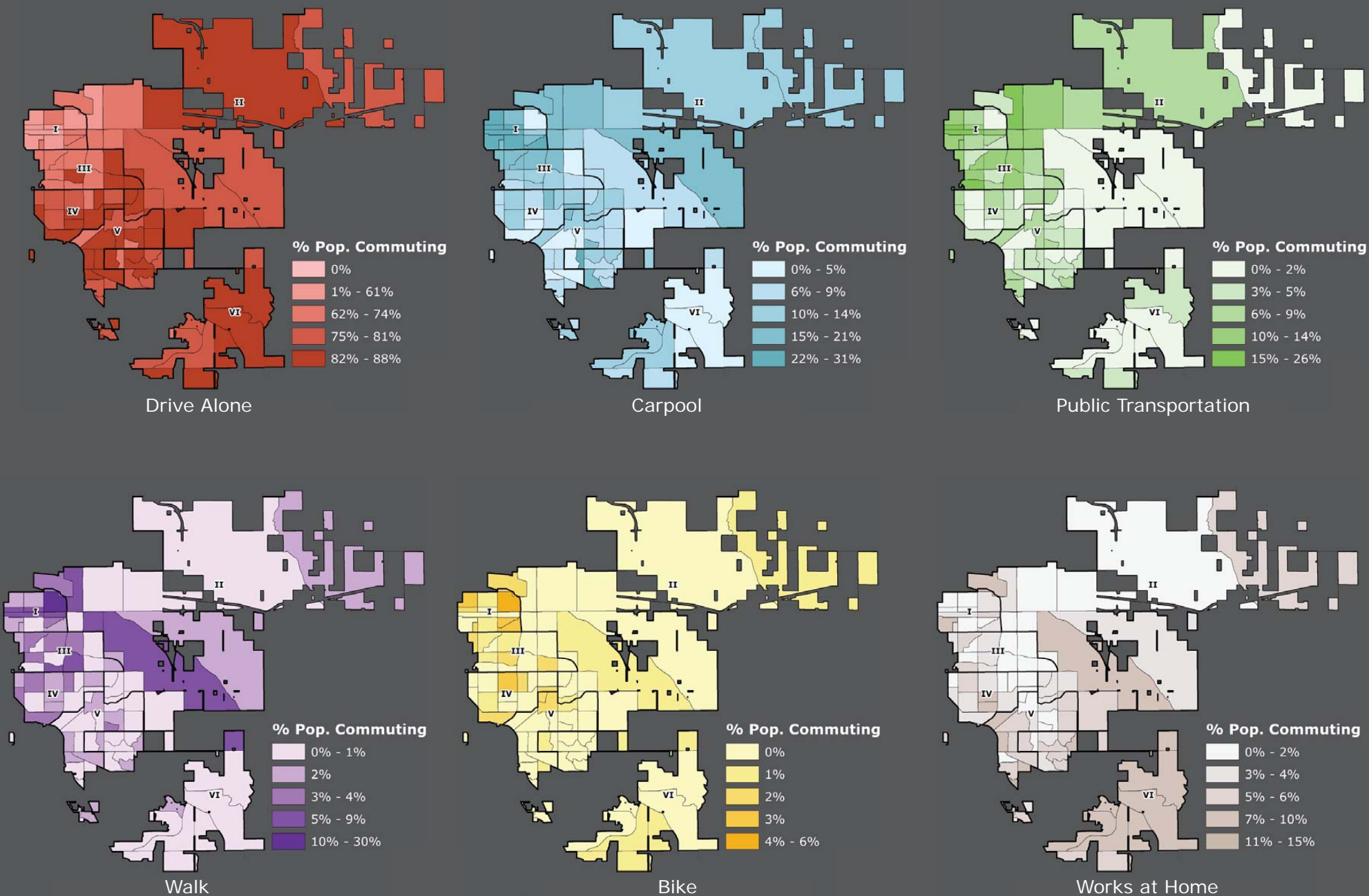
Development Activity New Employment & Economic Opportunities

Recent development trends and new light rail transportation infrastructure will affect the number and kinds of employment opportunities in the city.

With a recovery from the great recession, Aurora is experiencing a greater level of commercial building activity. Significant levels of new commercial development haven't been seen since prior to the great recession (see right chart). With new businesses coming online, there will also be new or different employment opportunities available.

The Aurora Line will create new opportunities for mixed-use development surrounding new light rail stations, with the potential for office and retail to be significant parts of these areas.
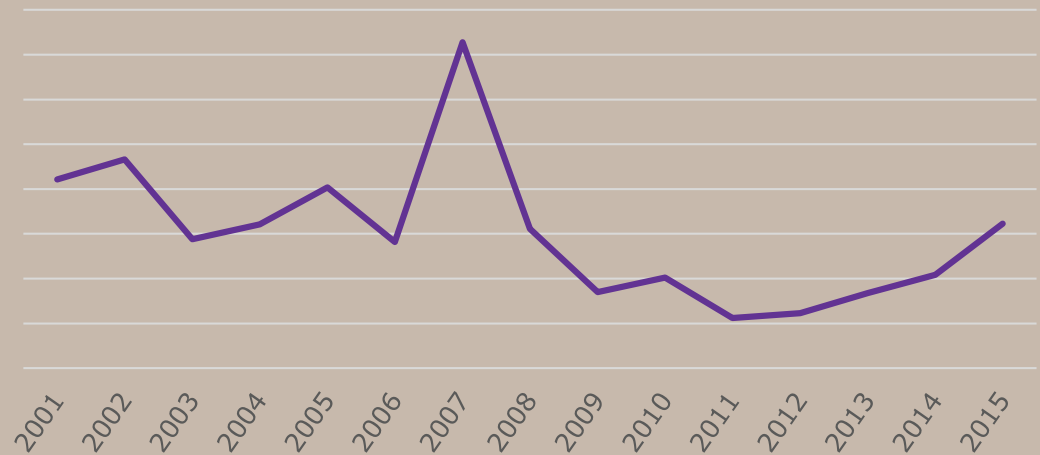
The Anschutz Medical Campus is one key driver of economic growth in Aurora and will continue to spur new development in the area. Catalytic redevelopment projects such as Stanley Marketplace and the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center are also underway and will attract new residents and businesses to the community.

Gaylord Rockies

Stanley Marketplace

The Forum ~ Fitzsimons
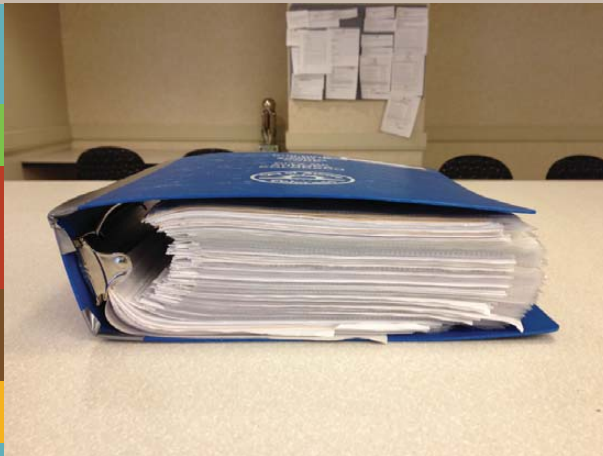
The city is currently updating its Zoning Code. By changing the menu of zoning districts, types of permitted land uses, and reworking the development standards, the city can help encourage new types of commercial and mixed-use development. Transit-oriented development near Aurora Line stations will allow and encourage new retail spaces and multifamily buildings to develop close to one other. This effort is also hoped to reduce the barriers for older declining shopping centers to reinvent themselves and to create attractive environments that will attract a broad range of professionals to the city.

Homes & Occupant Characteristics Housing Variety
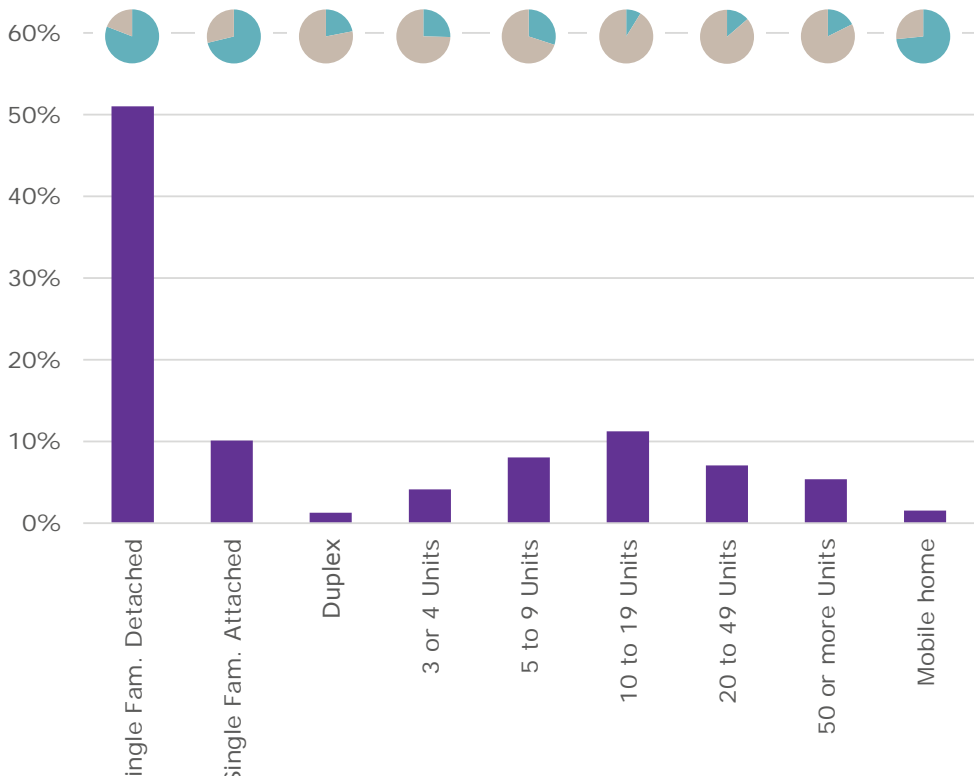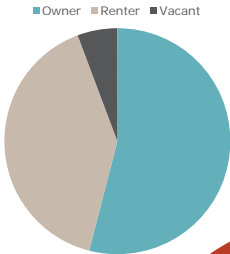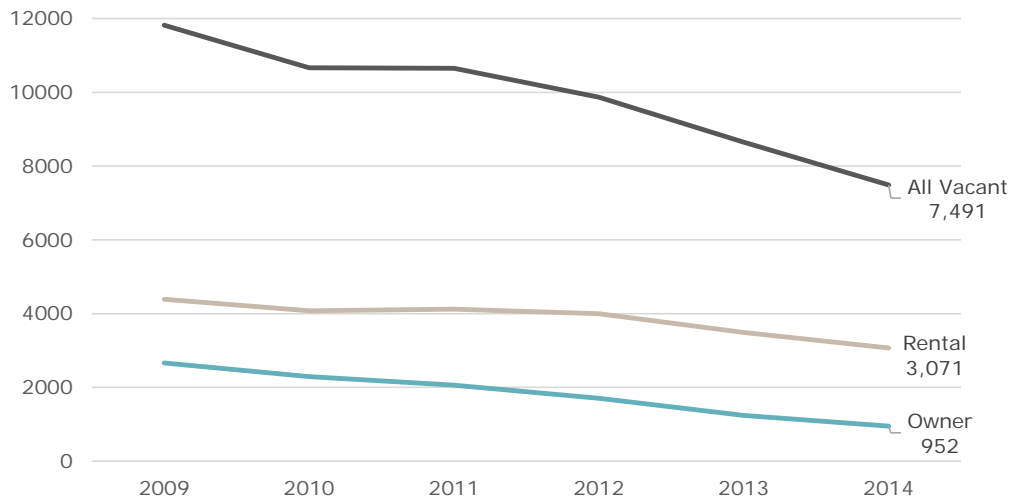
Approximately 61% percent of Aurora's dwelling units are built for a single family. Fifty-one percent are single family detached homes and approximately 10% are single family attached homes. About 37% of dwellings in the city are in mulitifamily buildings. Only 1.6% of all units are mobile homes. Approximately 54% of units are owned, with 40% rented, and 6% vacant. This represents a drop in home ownership by 3%, an increase in renting by 5.5%, and a decrease in vacancies by 2.4% between 2010 and 2014.
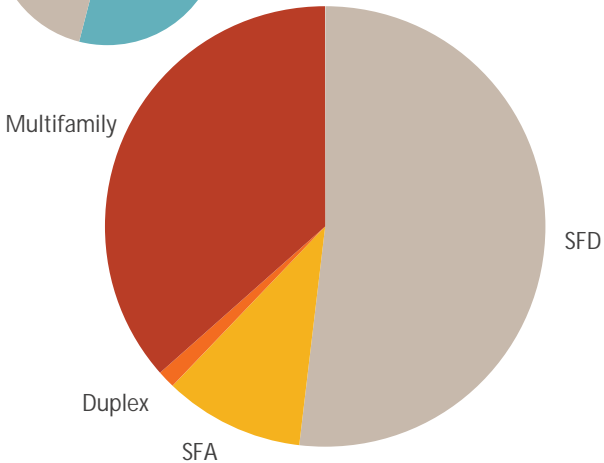
Housing units declined from 2010 to 2014 while the number of households increased. There are approximately 7,500 more units in the city than hosueholds.

Vacant Units 2009-2014

Decline in Housing Units vs Growth in Households
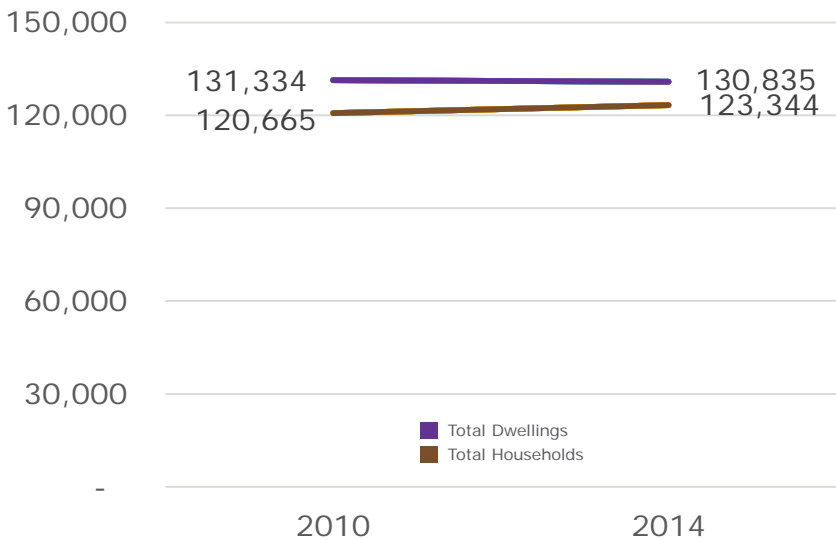
Homes & Occupant Characteristics Year Built & 2014 Value

Aurora vs. Denver: Age and Median Value of Dwelling Stock by Decade

Legend: ■ Aurora ■ Denver

Median Year Built
- No Data
- Up to 1970
- 1971 – 1981
- 1982 – 1989
- 1990 – 1996
- 1997 – 2006

Aurora Housing Stock Built by Period

Legend: ■ Single Family Homes ■ Multifamily ■ Mobile home, boat, RV, van, etc.

Categories: Built 1939 or earlier:, Built 1940 to 1959:, Built 1960 to 1979:, Built 1980 to 1999:, Built 2000 or later:

The vast majority of Aurora's housing stock was built after 1970. Only 2% of Aurora's housing was built prior to 1950. In contrast, over 25% of Denver's housing stock was built before 1950. Values for Aurora homes vary dramatically by the decade in which they were built. Those built most recently are valued higher. Denver's pre-1940 building stock, which it has a significant amount of, is valued at a similar level to housing built since the year 2000. While Aurora's lowest valued housing is that built in the 1940s and 1950s, Denver's lowest valued housing was built in the 1970s and 1980s.

Homes & Occupant Characteristics Structure Value Maps
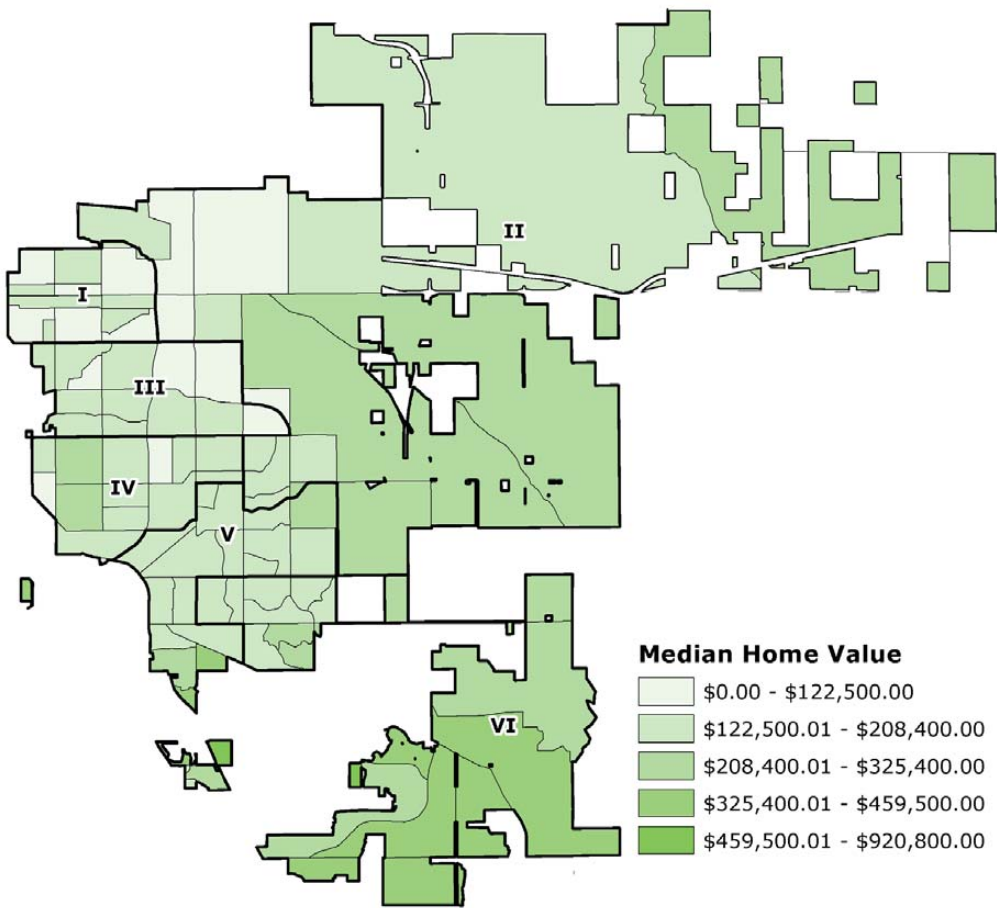
Homes built more recently tend to have higher values, based on the previous charts and maps that summarize value of structure and decade built. The upper quartile structure value differs slightly, but when mapped, it shows the level of value of the more expensive homes in each census tract. Southeast Aurora is a hotspot for high-end homes.

Median Home Value

- $0.00 - $122,500.00
- $122,500.01 - $208,400.00
- $208,400.01 - $325,400.00
- $325,400.01 - $459,500.00
- $459,500.01 - $920,800.00

Upper Quartile Home Value

- $0.00 - $151,800.00
- $151,800.01 - $249,100.00
- $249,100.01 - $365,000.00
- $365,000.01 - $542,200.00
- $542,200.01 - $901,400.00
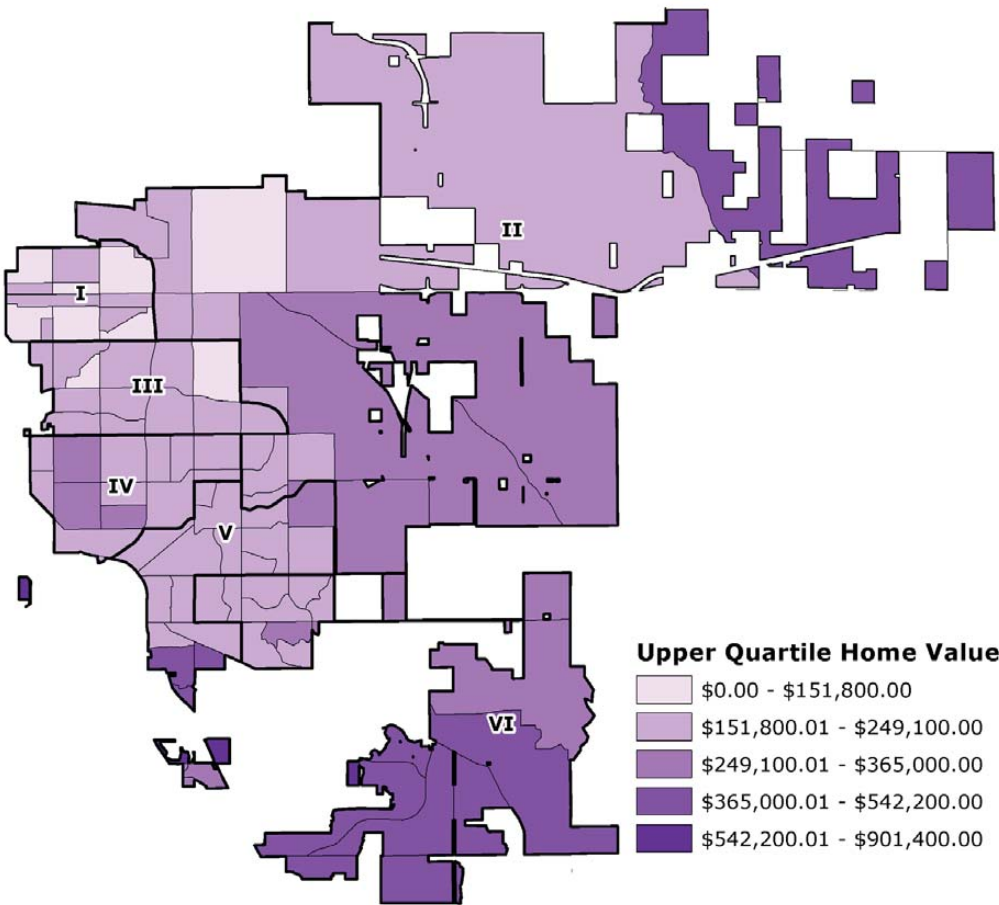
Homes & Occupant Characteristics Renters & Homeowners

% Home Ownership
- 0% - 26%
- 27% - 51%
- 52% - 68%
- 69% - 84%
- 85% - 98%

Own / Rent bar chart by race: White, Black, Am. Indian and Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, Some Other Race, Two or More Races, Hispanic or Latino

Mortgage Holders' Percent of Income Spent on Housing Costs

Categories: Less than 10.0 %, 10.0 to 14.9 %, 15.0 to 19.9 %, 20.0 to 24.9 %, 25.0 to 29.9 %, 30.0 to 34.9 %, 35.0 to 39.9 %, 40.0 to 49.9 %, 50.0+ %

Legend: Aurora / Metro Area

Renters' Percent of Income Spent on Housing Costs

Categories: Less than 10.0 %, 10.0 to 14.9%, 15.0 to 19.9%, 20.0 to 24.9%, 25.0 to 29.9%, 30.0 to 34.9%, 35.0 to 39.9%, 40.0 to 49.9%, 50.0% or more

Legend: Aurora / Metro Area

The amount mortgage holders are paying each month toward their homes varies widely, with a significant number paying 50% or more. On the other hand, approximately 70% of homeowners pay less than 15% of thier incomes on housing costs, and approximately 90% of homeowners spend less than 35% of their income on housing costs.

Development Activity Housing
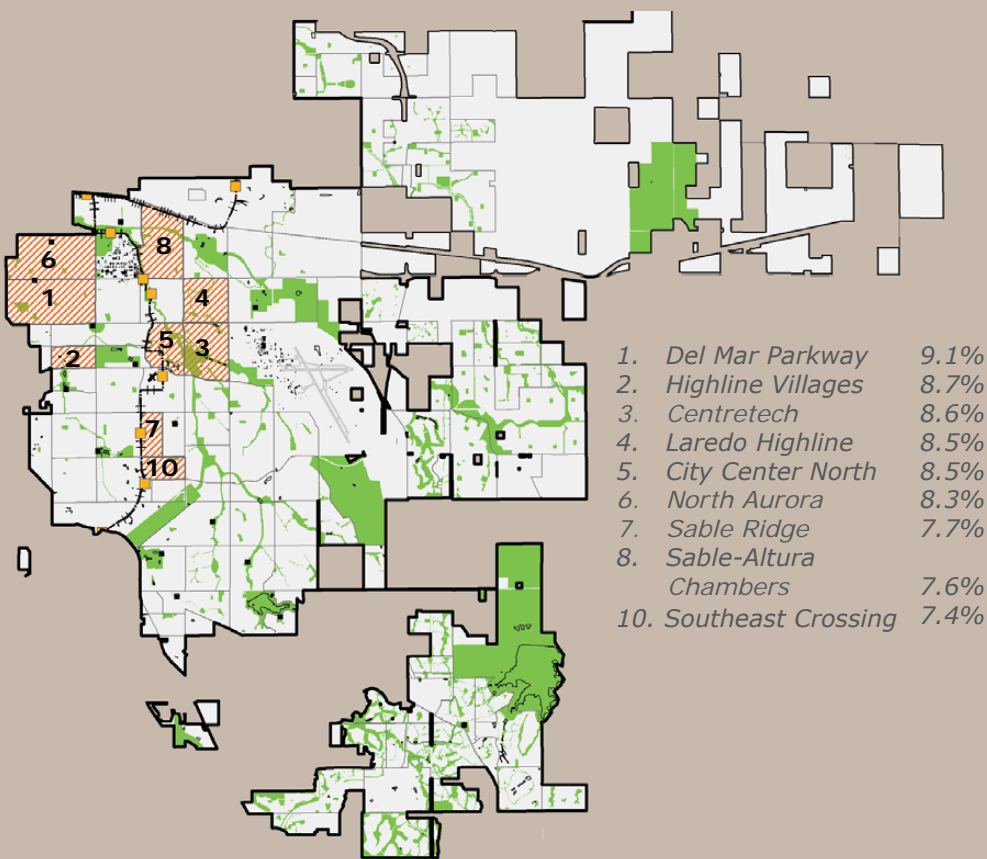
The real estate website Zillow has predicted that the Denver region will have the hottest housing market in 2016, with _Aurora leading the way._ The map and table to the left show nine of the country's top 10 hottest neighborhood housing markets and the forecasted home value growth for each one.

While the housing market in Aurora is hot, the lack of quality housing options across the full range of housing types is one big concern for the residents of Aurora. Only 1.3% of Aurora's housing stock is made up of duplex homes. Only 12.3% is made up of multifamily buildings with 3 to 9 units. As part of the current zoning code update public process, the city has heard that more options for quality housing are badly needed.

The current draft of the new zoning code is aimed to provide standards that will encourage more housing choices in the appropriate areas of the city. These include: small-lot houses, single family attached or rowhome dwellings, accessory dwelling units, multifamily housing in all sizes, garden court housing, transit-oriented development, and mixed-use development. All these efforts are intended to help attract high-quality residential units to the city.

1.	Del Mar Parkway	9.1%
2.	Highline Villages	8.7%
3.	Centretech	8.6%
4.	Laredo Highline	8.5%
5.	City Center North	8.5%
6.	North Aurora	8.3%
7.	Sable Ridge	7.7%
8.	Sable-Altura Chambers	7.6%
10.	Southeast Crossing	7.4%

Permits for Single Family and Multifamily Homes

SF units   MF units
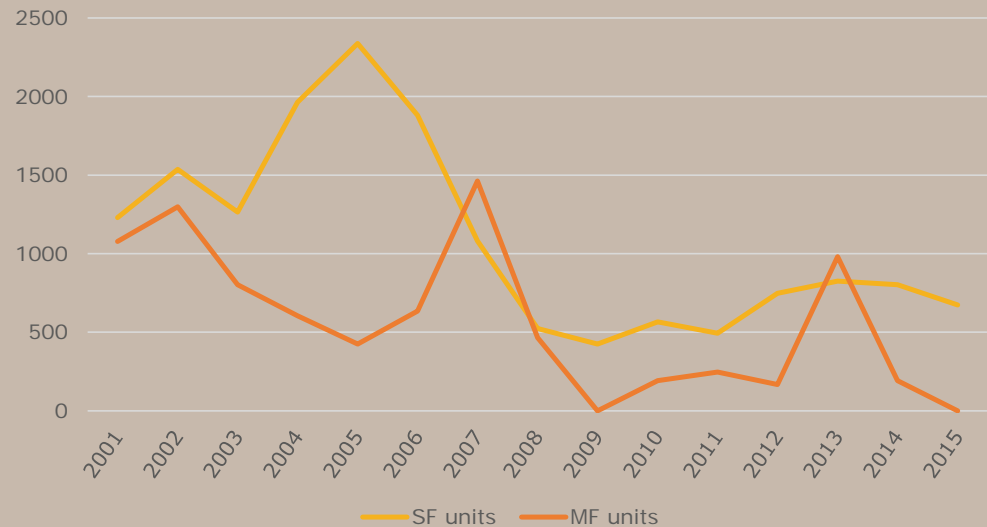
Construction Defects and the Condominium Freeze

In 2001, the State of Colorado General Assembly passed the Construction Defect Reform Act, informally known as the Construction Defects Law. One of the unintended consequences of this law was a chilling effect on the condominium market throughout the metro area and state. Fewer new condos being built means less housing choice for those looking to buy homes in Aurora. In 2015, the Aurora City Council passed an ordinance to help address some of the main issues that prevent the building of new condominium units.

Certificates of Occupancy Issued for Residential Condos
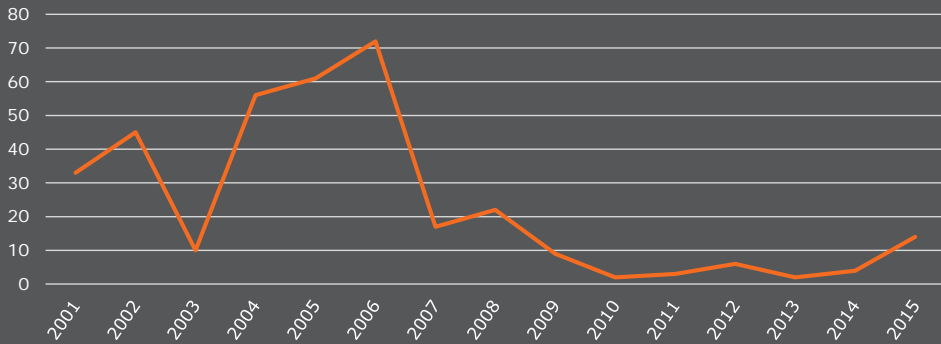
PART 2: KEY AREAS of AURORA

Introduction

This section takes a closer look at the demographics in different sections of the city. Aurora's historic development patterns, street network, parks and trails system, new light rail line, and other aspects of its urban geography have an impact on many aspects of our lives. Each key area section will begin with contextual information and list the plans, projects, and other efforts that could influence the area's demographics in the years to come. The demographic data maps will follow in an order similar to how the previous section. Data on people is presented first, followed by transportation and employment data, and housing data last.

Aurora's Key Areas

Each of the following subsections will present a series of maps with a focus on the demographics and trends for a particular area of the city. The shading of the maps reflect the value of the census tract and the numbers give the exact value. In many cases, the darker the shading, the higher the number or percent. Maps that show change over time will range in color from green to yellow to red to show increase or decrease over time.

The maps to the right show the census tract numbers, council member wards, parks and opens space, and schools.

- Ward I
- Ward II
- Ward III
- Ward IV
- Ward V
- Ward VI
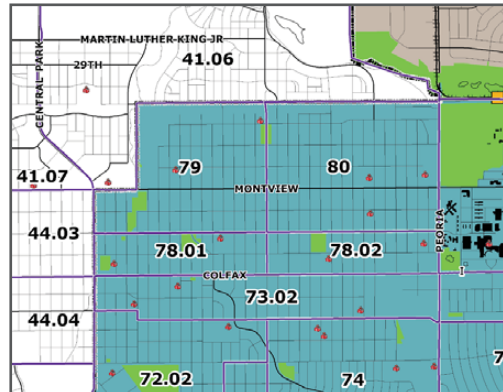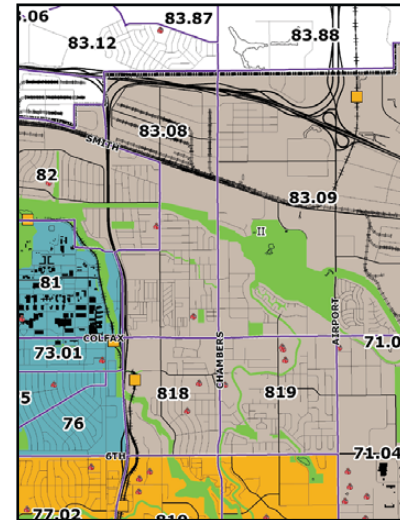
Northwest Aurora

Aurora Line North
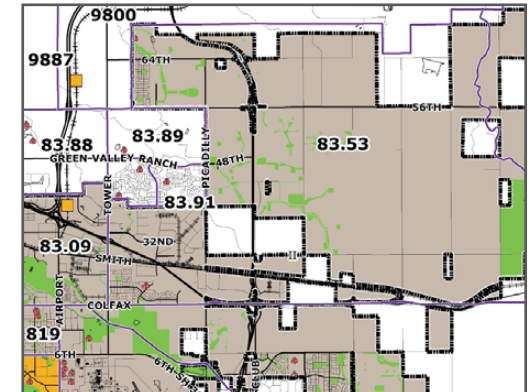
North E-470 and Northeast Plains
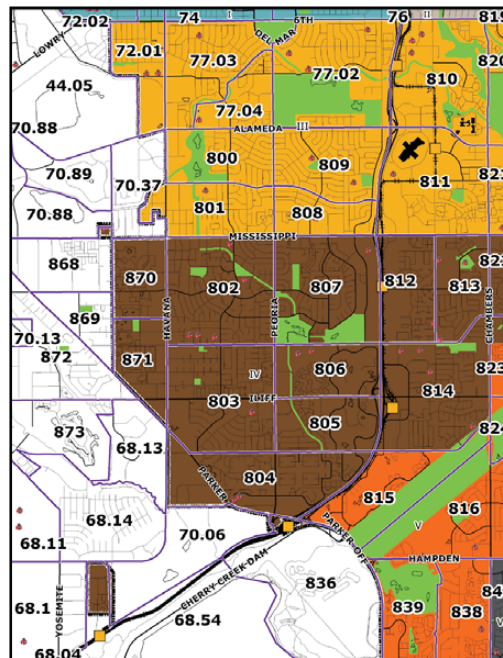
Havana Corridor & Aurora Line South
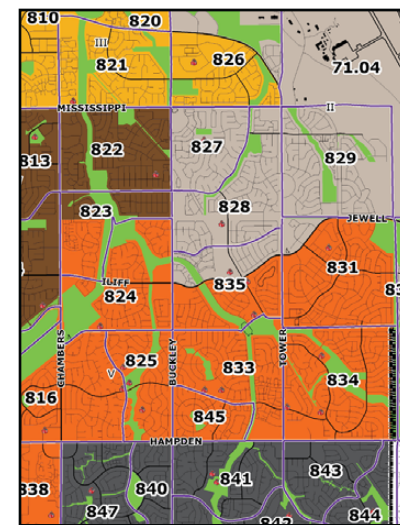
South Central Aurora
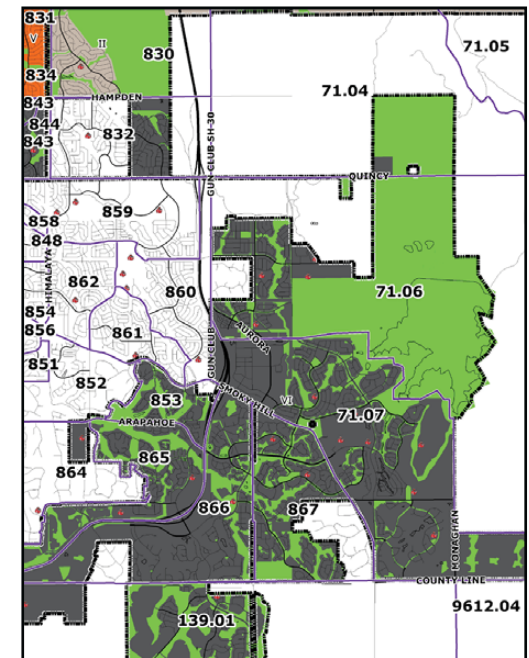
South E470 & Southeast Aurora

Northwest Aurora Context & People

Northwest Aurora is the oldest part of the city. Colfax Avenue was first a trail used by miners and adventureres as they approached Denver from the east. The area had a trolley service to Denver, was home to the Fitzsimons Army Hospital, and attracted visitors with the "Miracle Mile" of department stores. The construction of I-70 and the growing popularity of indoor shopping malls led to the area's decline as a tourist destination. In 1999, Fitzsimons Army Hospital closed. Now, Aurora's northwest neighborhoods are changing at a rapid pace following redevelopment of the Fitzsimons Army Hospital into the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and efforts to create an arts district. This area is listed as having some of the hottest neighborhood real-estate markets in the nation, which can mean reinvigorated development and business activity but also mean impacts on lower income groups and minorities.

More About the Area
Area Plans - Westerly Creek Village, Original Aurora, Fitzsimons Area
Aurora Cultural Arts District
Stanley Marketplace
Stapleton Aurora
Aurora Line Stations - Fitzsimons, Colfax, 13th Avenue

Total Population
The total population for the area's census tracts is seen on the right on the purple map. While the Stapleton and Lowry tracts have large numbers, the tracts themselves are large and are not completely pictured.
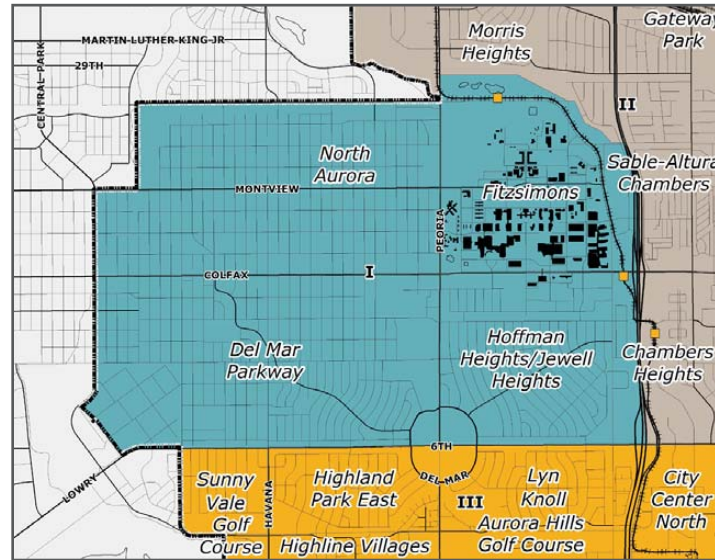
Neighborhoods and
City Council Member Wards
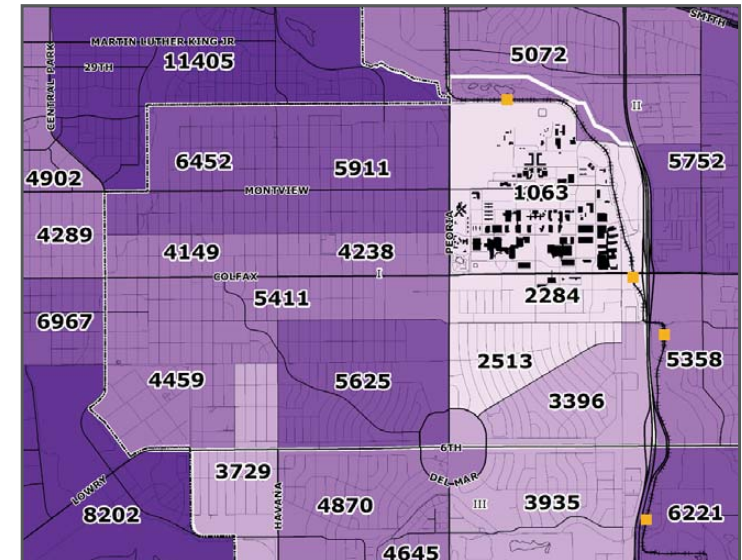
Census Tract Population
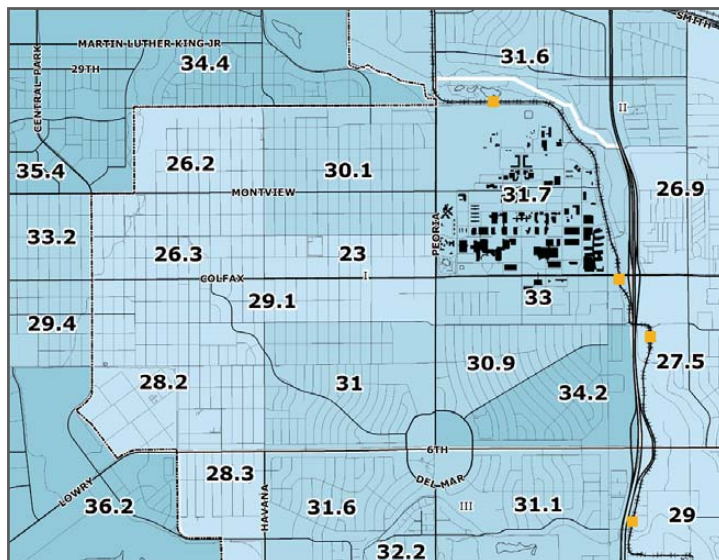
Median Age
Aurora's median ages in the census tracts for Northwest Aurora are young in comparison with other parts of the city.

Population Change 2010-2014
The area's population is changing, with tracts losing population and others gaining in population. Between 2010 and 2014, Stapleton just to the north of Aurora grew by over 2,800 people. The census tract south of Colfax Avenue also saw considerable growth, gaining almost 1,300 people.

Median Age
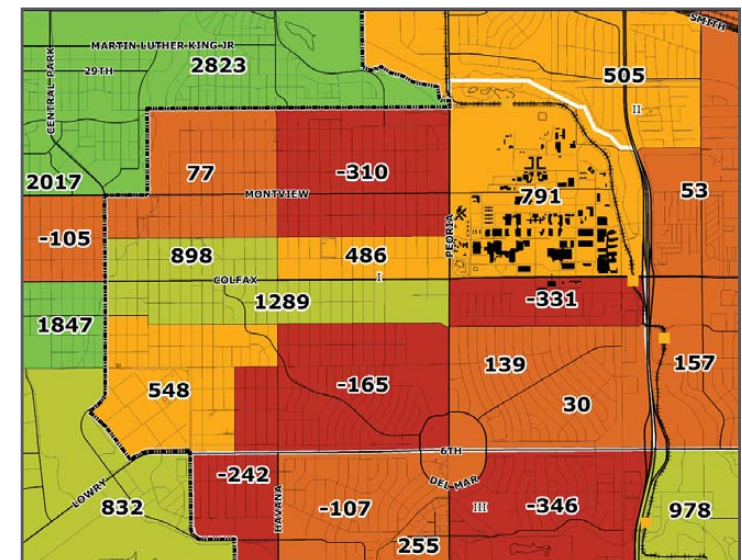
Population Change

Northwest Aurora People

Households

The total number of households for Northwest Aurora is relatively low compared to other parts of the city and to the surrounding residential areas in Denver.

% 65+ with Disability

The census tract where the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus is located has a high percentage of those 65 years old with disabilities. With the median age being fairly low, these seniors could be choosing to live in this area because of the proximity to health services.
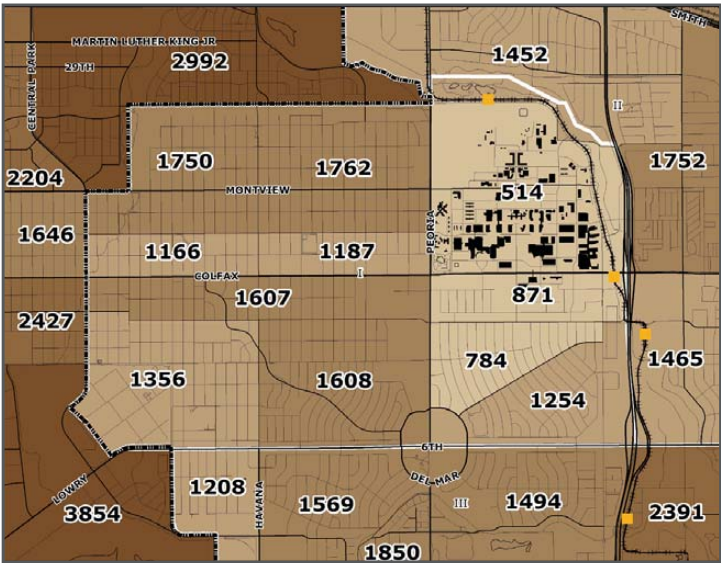
Total Households
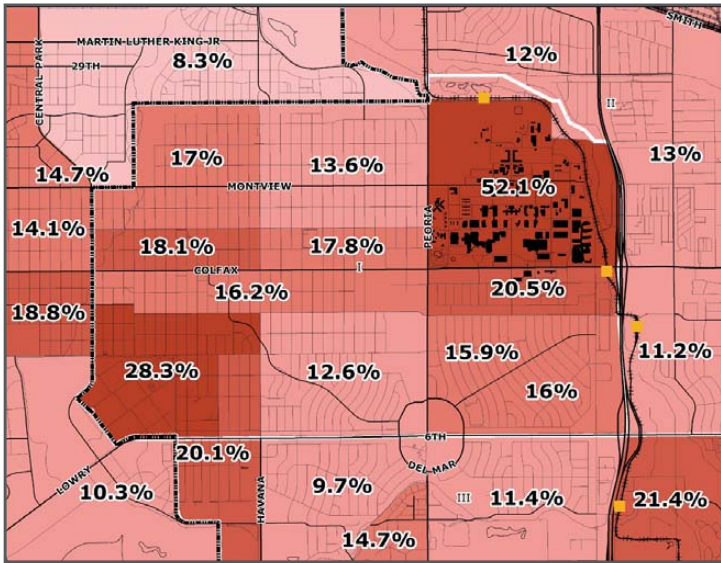
Percent 65+ Population with Disability

Foreign-Born

This area is home to a large number of foreign-born Aurora residents. While there are fewer total foreign-born residents near the Anschutz campus, there has been a significant increase since 2010. The majority are from the Americas, but many from Asia and Africa live here as well.

Legend

- Americas
- Asia
- Africa
- Europe
- Oceana
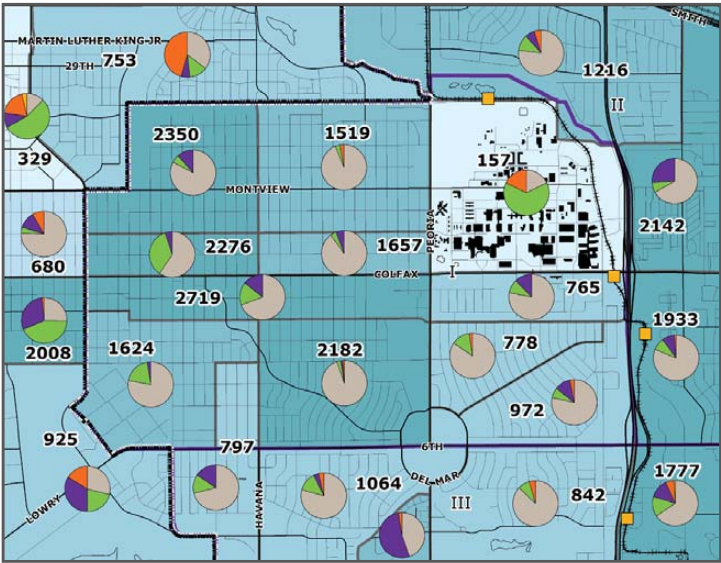
Total Foreign-Born
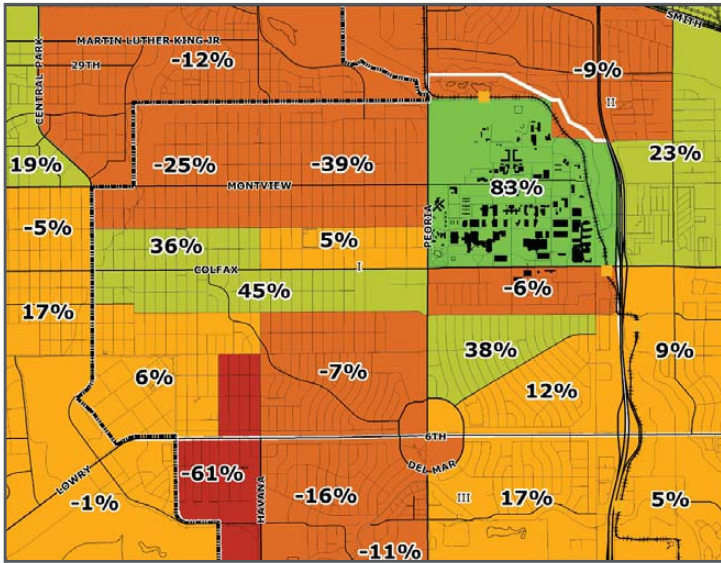
Percent Change in Foreign-Born

Labor Force Characteristics
This area has moderate to low levels of employment and moderate to high levels of unemployment. The unemployment rate for most of the census tracts in the area is near or above 10%.

Between 2010 and 2014, Census tracts to the south of Colfax Avenue have higher levels of employment, but several census tracts near Havana Street. have high levels of unemployment.
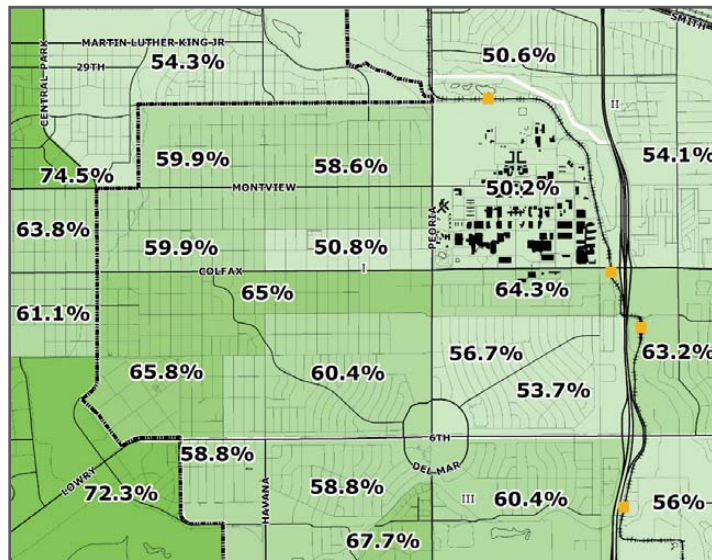
Percent Employed
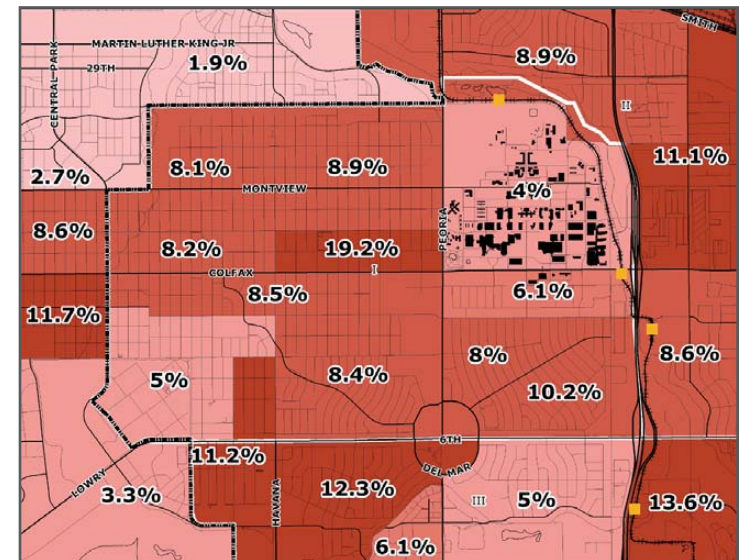
Percent Unemployed, ACS 5-Year Data 2010-2014
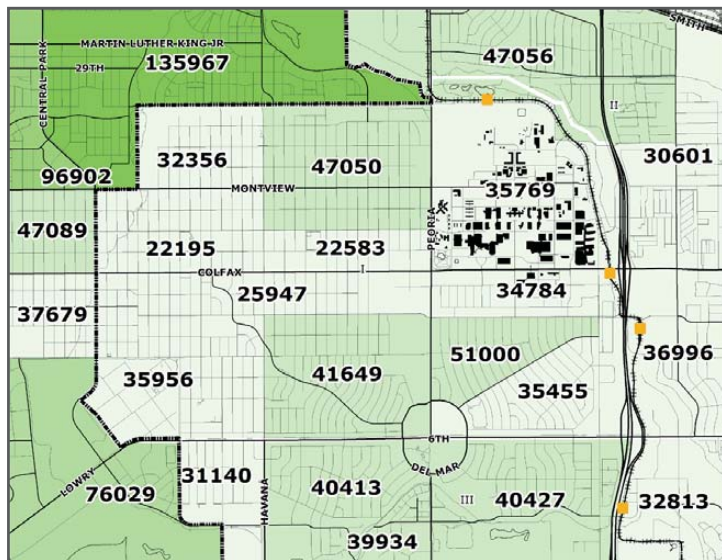
Median Household Income
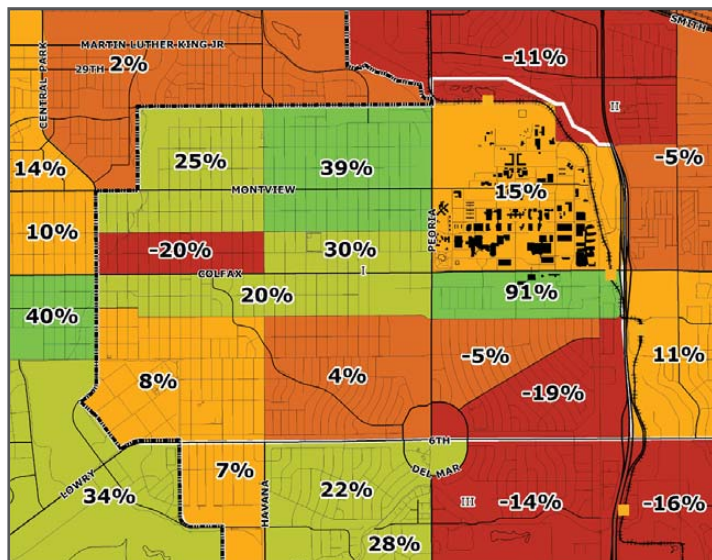
Percent Change in Median Income

Median Income
Overall, median household income for Northwest Aurora is low; however, the trend since 2010 is an increase in the median income for many of the census tracts in this area.

South of the medical campus, the median income has risen by over 90%, while the census tract to the west of the campus increased by almost 40%. The census tract where the Stanley Marketplace will be located increased median income by approximately 25%.
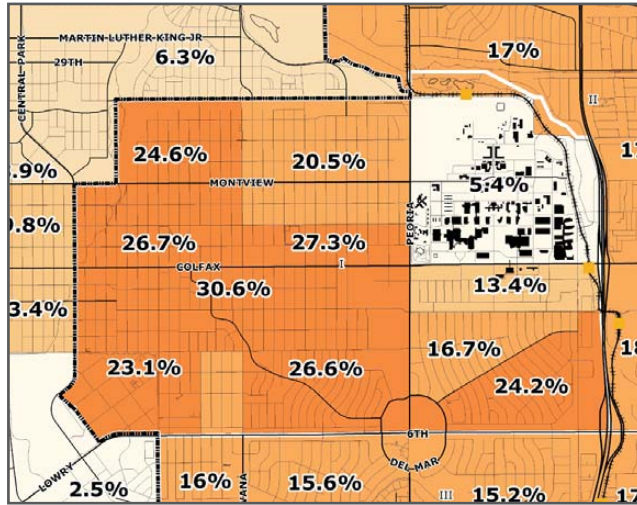
% Carpool to Work *Northwest Aurora has some of the highest census tract values for carpooling to work.*
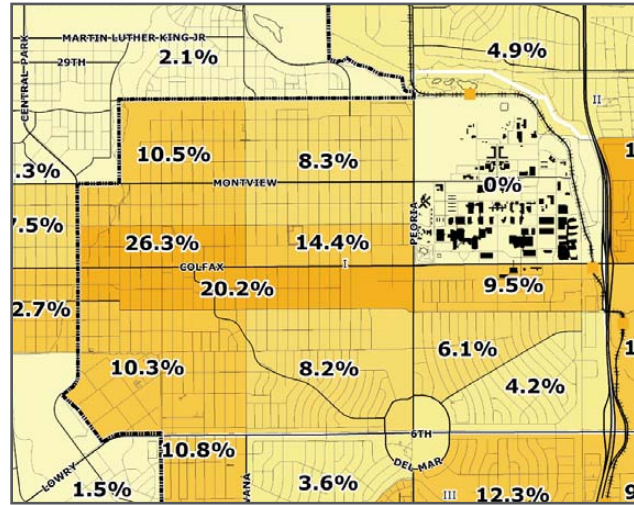
% Public Transit to Work *Northwest Aurora also relies heavily on public transit compared to other census tracts in the city.*
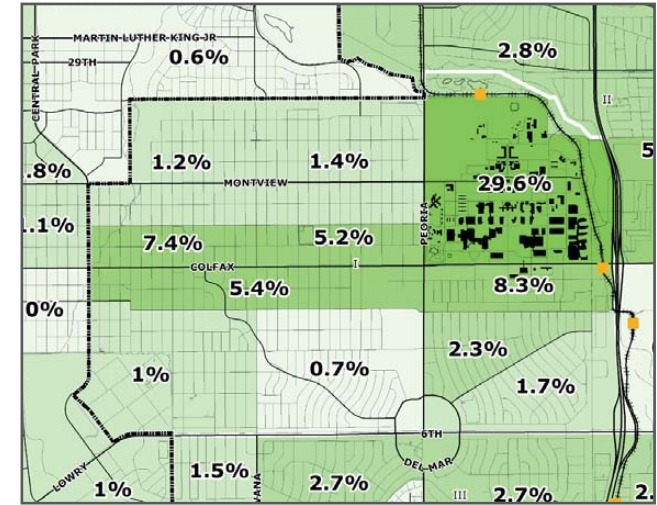
% Walk to Work *The Anschutz campus has the highest walking to work percentage in the city.*
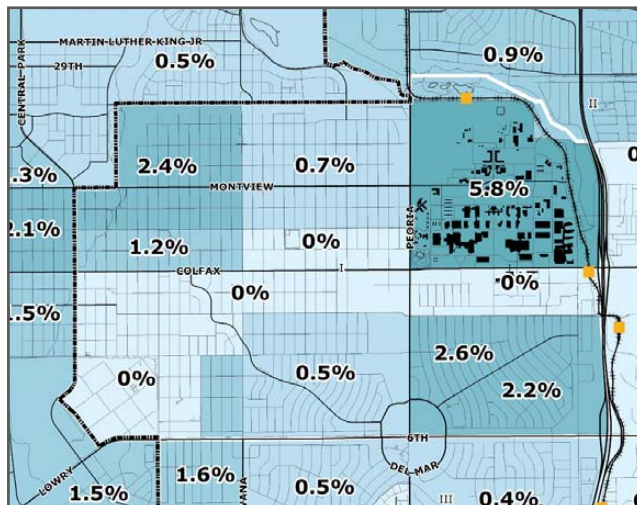
% Bike to Work *The Anschutz campus has the highest biking to work percentage in the city.*

Service Occupations
A significant portion of the population in Northwest Aurora work in service occupations. The highest percentages are in census tracts near Colfax Avenue.
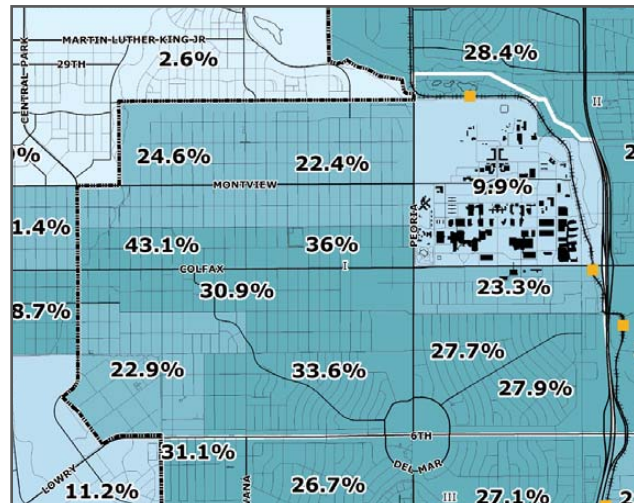
Natural Resources, Construction, and Maintenance Occupations
Between 18% and 36% of the population work in these types of occupations. The census tract just northwest of Colfax and Peoria has the highest percentage value at 36%.
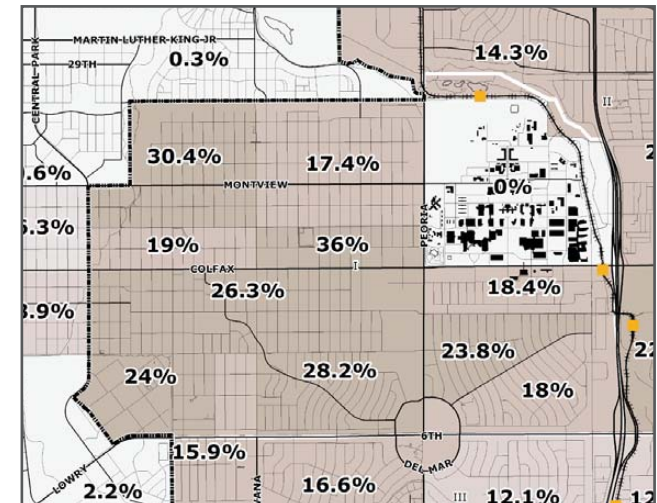
Home Ownership
Home ownership is low in a number of the census tracts in the area, especially along Colfax Avenue. Several census tracts within proximity to the Anschutz campus have ownership rates nearing 60%.

Year Built
Many of the homes in Northwest Aurora were built in the 1950s and 1960s. Newer Aurora residences are found near the medical campus.
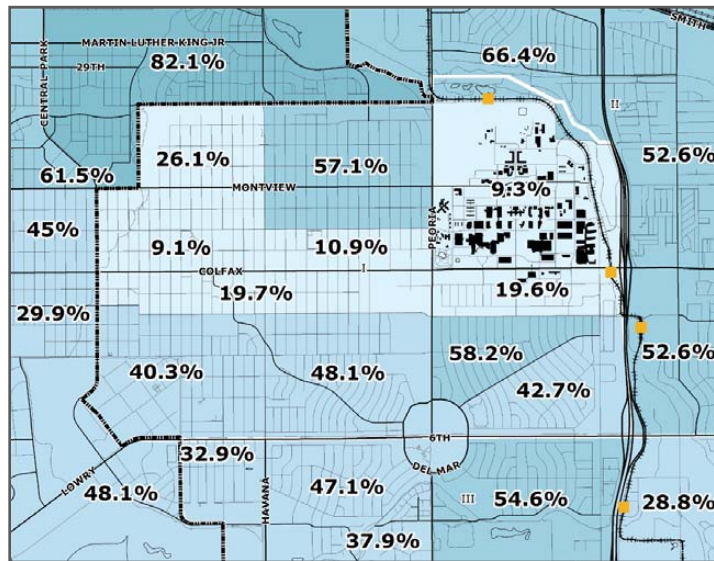
Percent Home Ownership
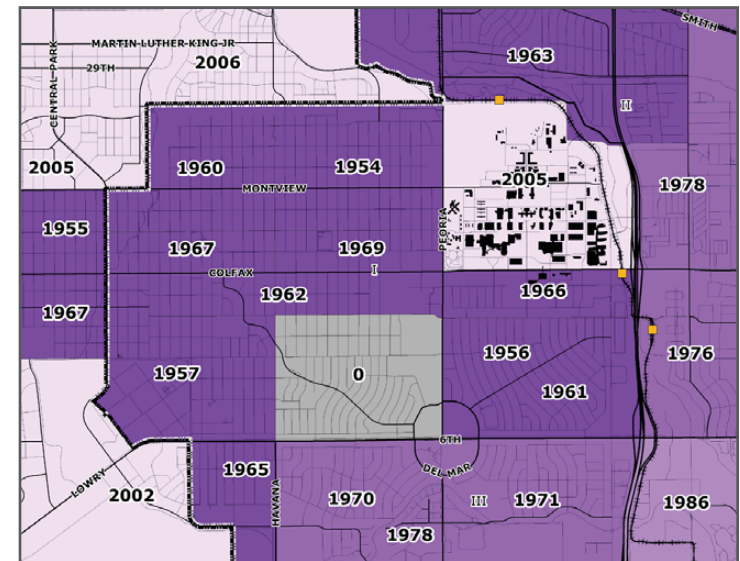
Median Year Built
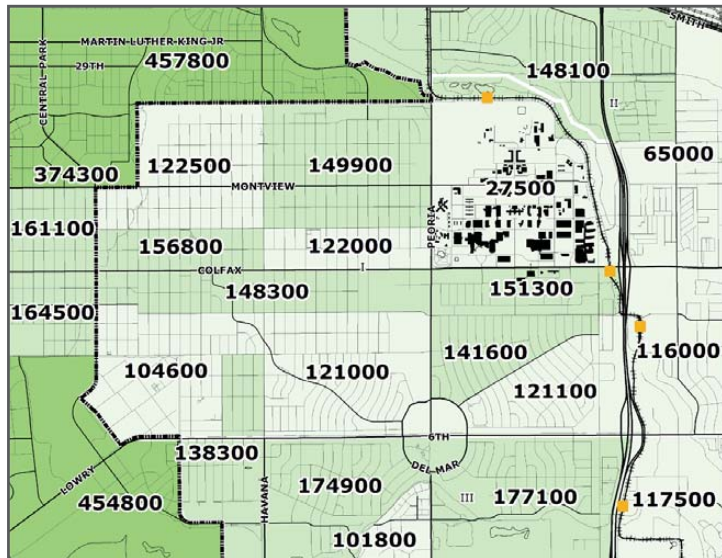
Median Home Value
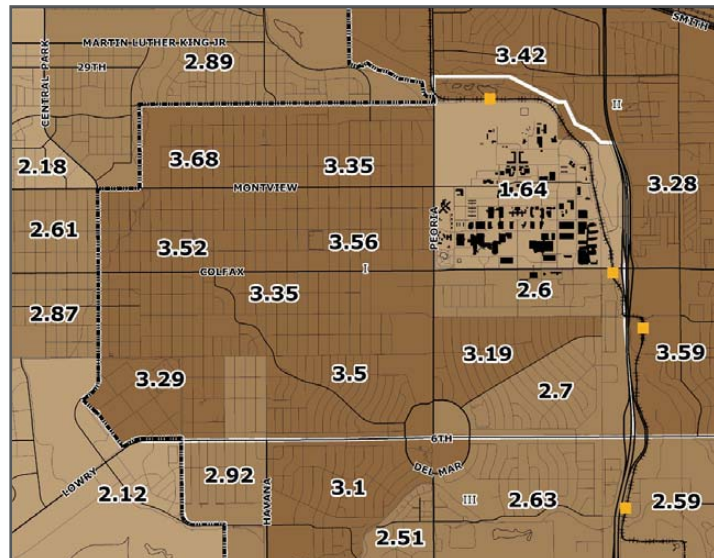
Average Household Size

Median Home Value
The 2014 median home value in the Northwest is low compared to other parts of the city. This is expected to change as the housing market heats up in this area.

Average Household Size
The average household size is high in the area, ranging from under 2 people per household on the medical campus to above 3.5 in Original Aurora.
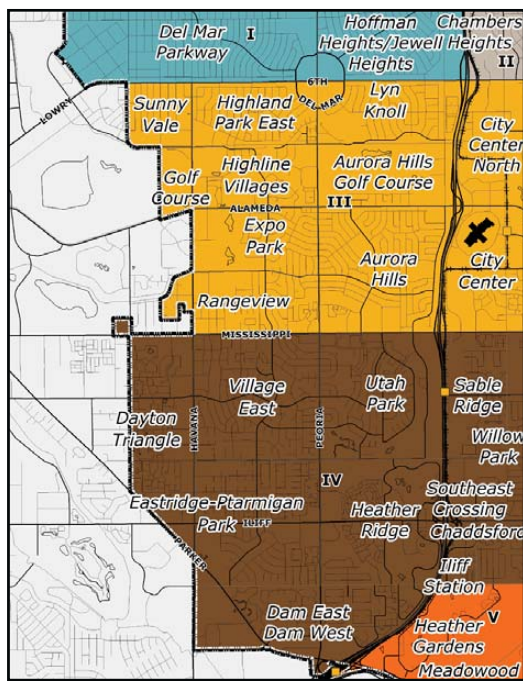
The Havana Corridor and the I-225 and Aurora Line Corridor are major north-south corridors in the city. Havana Street is a major commercial corridor in the city and serves as the city boarder between Aurora and Denver. The Havana Business District is an ongoing effort to create attractive commercial areas for shopping. Approximately two miles to the east of Havana Street is the Interstate 225 Highway and the southern portion of the Aurora Line. Six light rail stations are located along this section of the Aurora Line, and these are expected to redevelop and have the potential to affect the demographics in the area. You can learn more about the area with the links to the right.

More About the Area
Comprehensive Plan Excerpt for Havana District, Lowry, and Buckingham
Comprehensive Plan Excerpt for I-225 and City Center
Havana Business Improvement District
Aurora Line Stations - Dayton, Nine Mile, Iliff, Florida, City Center, 2nd & Abilene
Fan Fare Redevelopment
Regatta Plaza Redevelopment

Neighborhoods and City Council Member Wards
This area is split up between Wards III, IV, and V. The census tracts in white are outside of the city of Aurora.

Median Age
The median age for the census tracts near the Havana Corridor gradually ranges from under or near 30 years old in the north to over 40 years old in the south, with some pockets of older census tracts in the north and pockets of younger census tracts in the south.
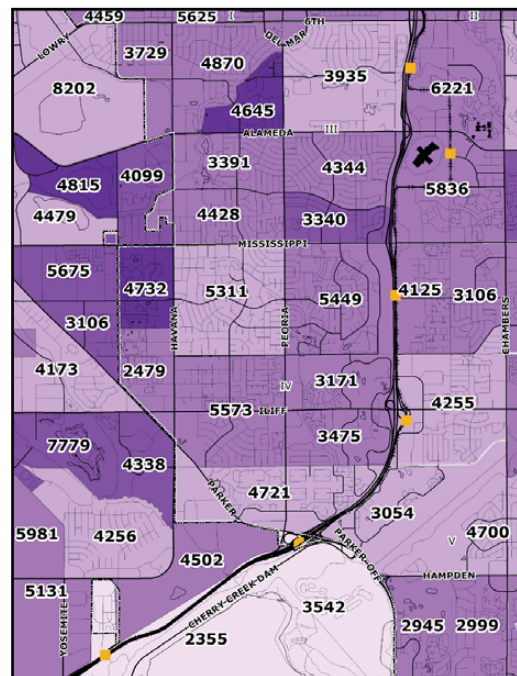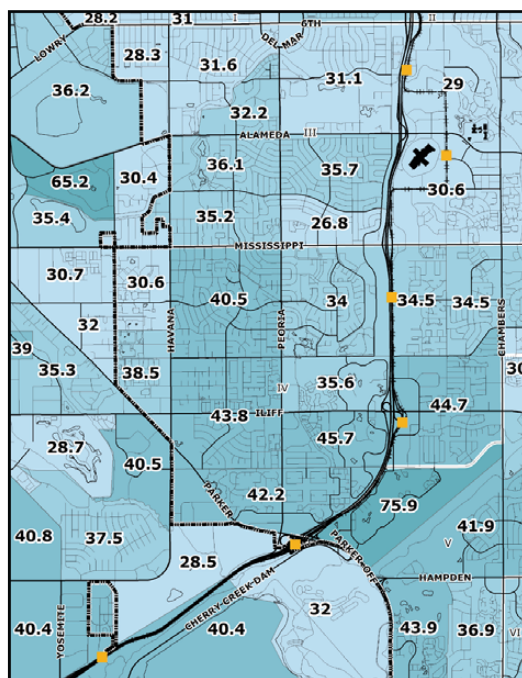
Census Tract Population
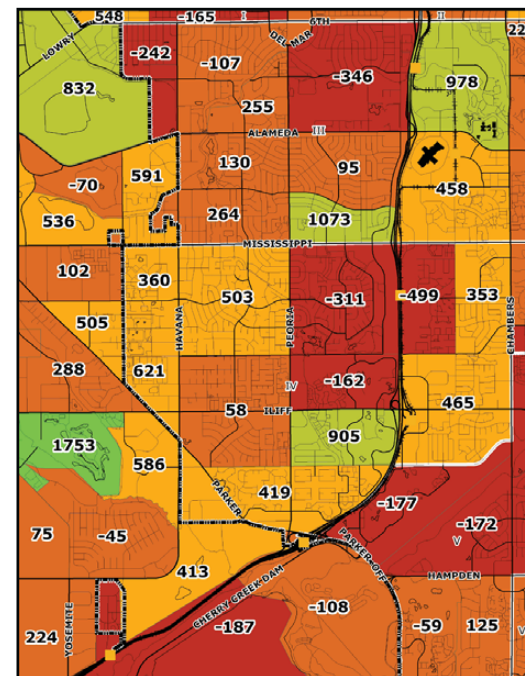
Population Change 2010-2014

Population
Census tracts near the Havana Corridor have moderate population figures and are seeing low levels of population growth since 2010. Further to the east, census tracts are losing population in some areas and gaining population along Mississippi Avenue and southwest of Illiff and I-225.

Havana Corridor & Aurora Line South People
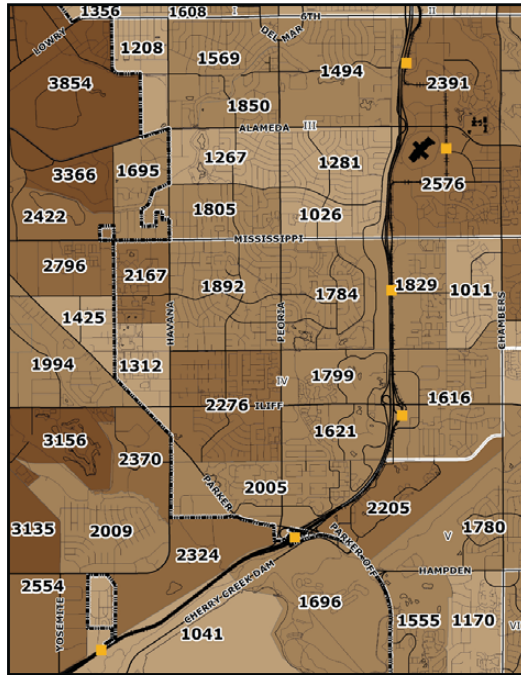
Total Households

Total Households
Because of higher average household sizes, there are only moderate levels of total households in these census tracts. Census tracts in communities to the west and southwest show higher numbers of households.
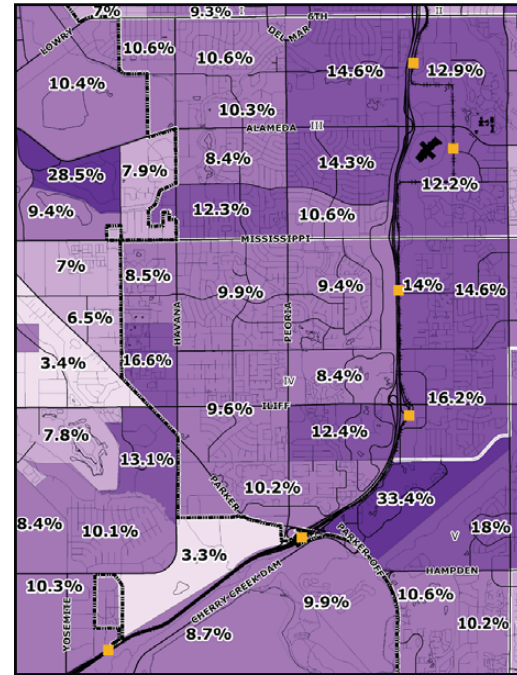
Percent with a Disability

Percent of Tract with a Disability
Just to the east of the Havana Corridor are census tracts with moderate levels of the population with disabilities, most below or near the city average of 10.3 percent. Several census tracts show higher percentages of the population with a disability along the corridor. Northeast of Havana Street and Mississippi Avenue is an Aurora census tract with 12.3% of the population with a disability.

Foreign-Born
The census tracts near the Havana Corridor have moderate numbers of foreign-born people. The change in population since 2010 is more interesting. Several census tracts in the north portion of the Havana Corridor have lost foreign-born population while census tracts in the south portion of the corridor have gained foreign-born population. The census tracts that are growing are growing by fairly large numbers, ranging up to 30 percent in Aurora and 40 percent in Denver.
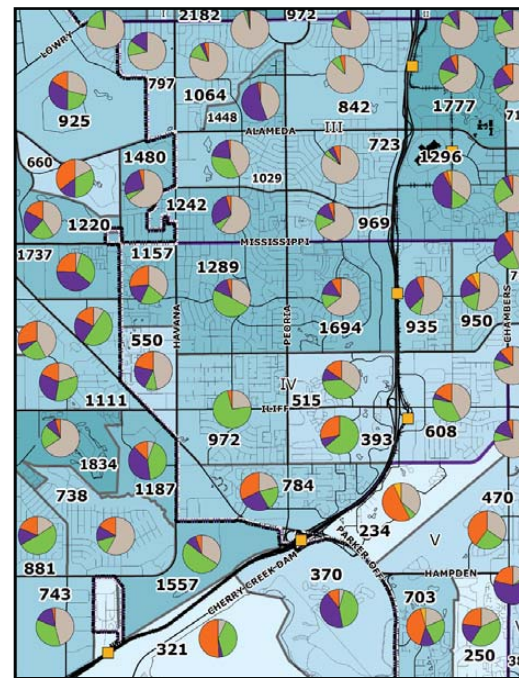
2014 Foreign-Born
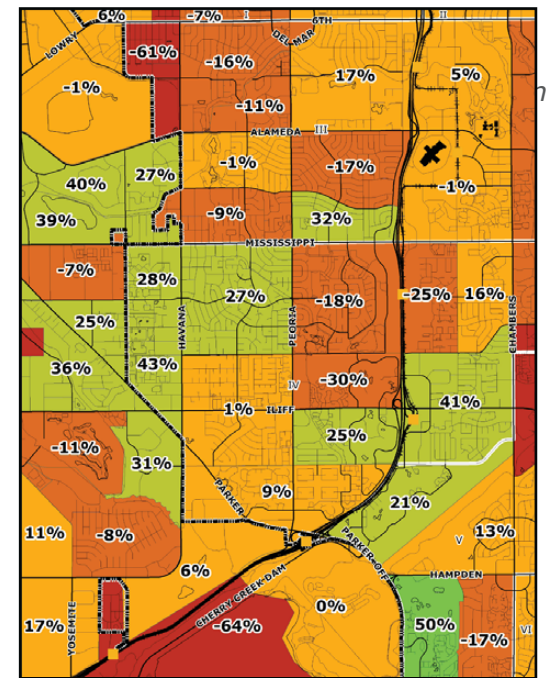
Legend
- Americas
- Asia
- Africa
- Europe
- Oceana

2010-2014 Foreign-Born Change
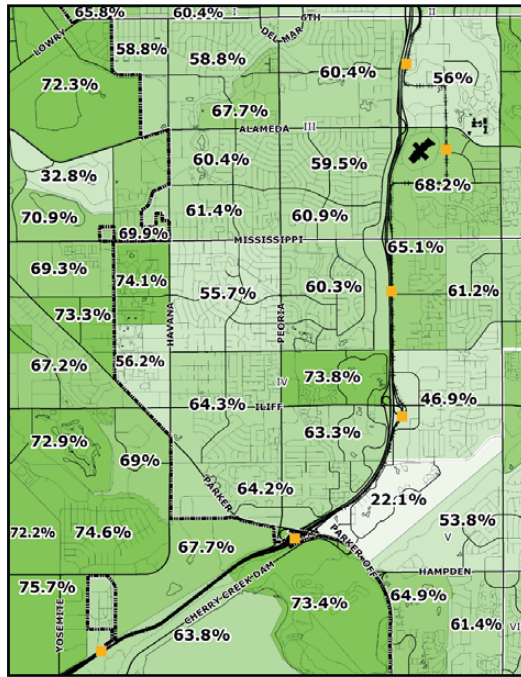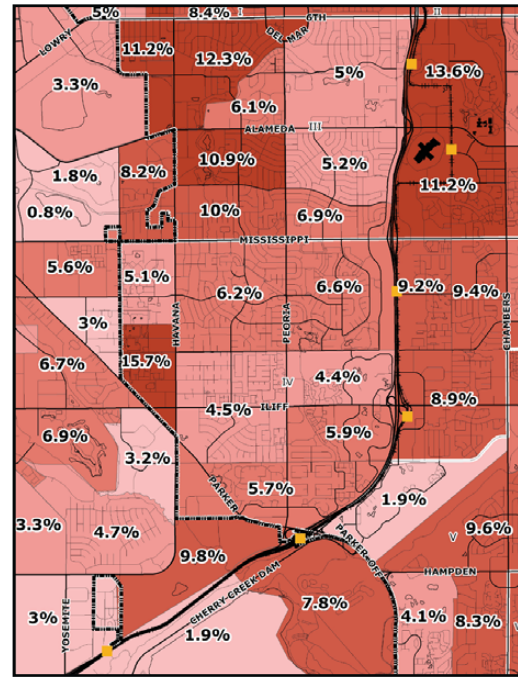
Percent Employed

Percent Unemployed, ACS 5-Year Data 2010-2014

Labor Force Characteristics

Census tracts in the northern portion of the corridor have had relatively high levels of unemployment based on estimates for 2010-2014. Census tracts in the southern portion have low unemployment, except for one census tract, northwest of Iliff Avenue and Havana Street, which has almost 16% unemployment. This tract is split between Aurora and Denver.

Median Income

The median income along the Havana Corridor is generally in the low-to-middle income range for households. Those census tracts in the southern half of the corridor are higher than the northern half and the census tracts on the other side of Havana Street to the west. Since 2010, there have been small growths in median income along southern and middle sections of the corridor, with greater increases in median income in the census tracts along the northern section of the corridor.
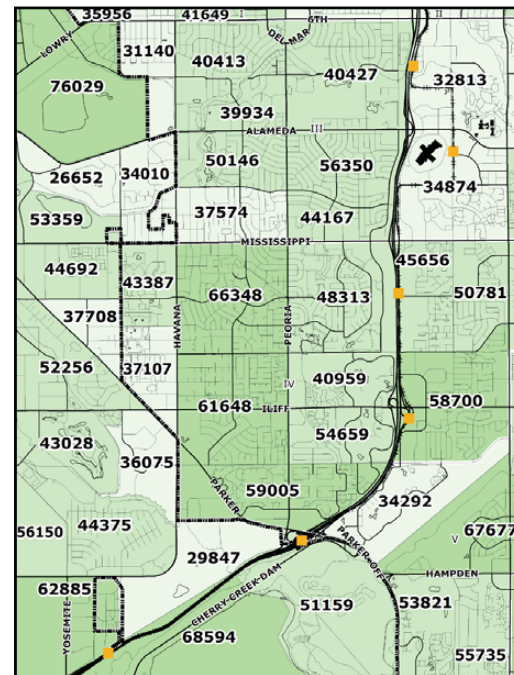
Median Income
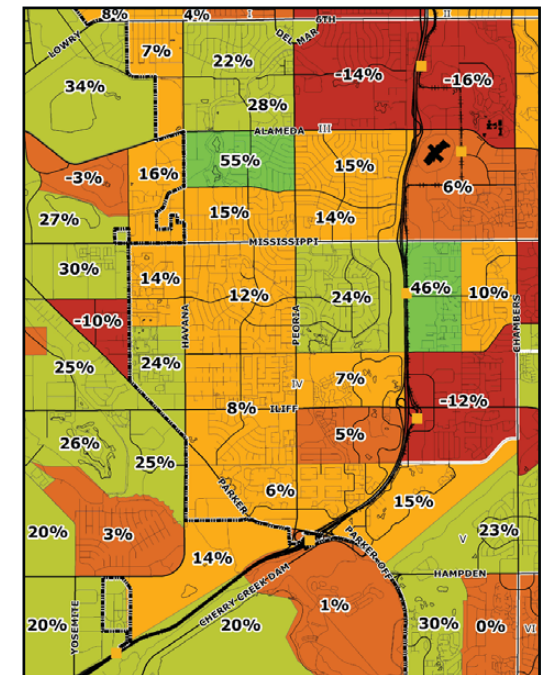
2010-2014 Change in Med. Income

Drive to Work
Higher percentages of the census tracts along the southern portion of the corridor drive to work.

Carpool to Work
Higher percentages of the low-to-moderate income census tracts along the north portion of the corridor carpool to work.

Public Transit to Work
Higher percentages commute by public transit in the central and northern census tracts.
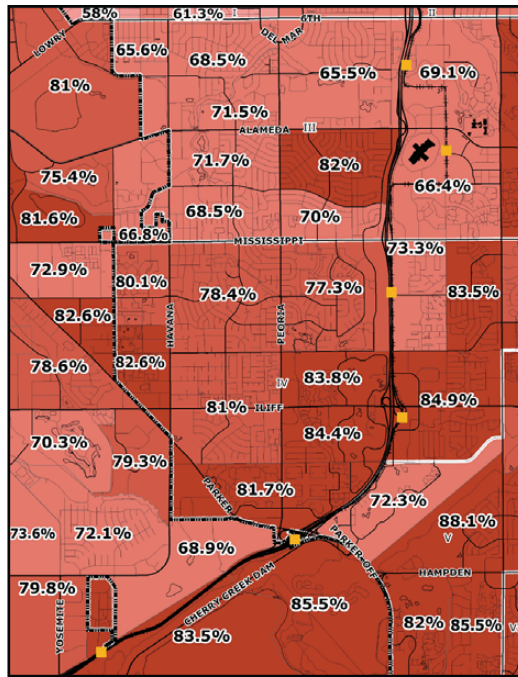
% Drive to Work
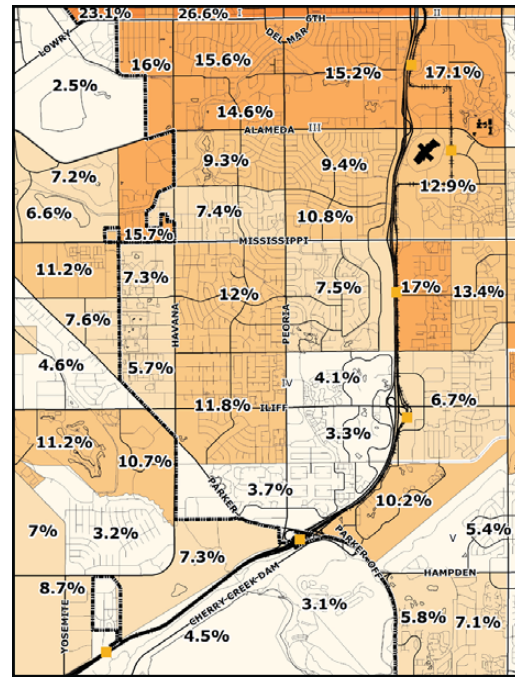
% Carpool to Work
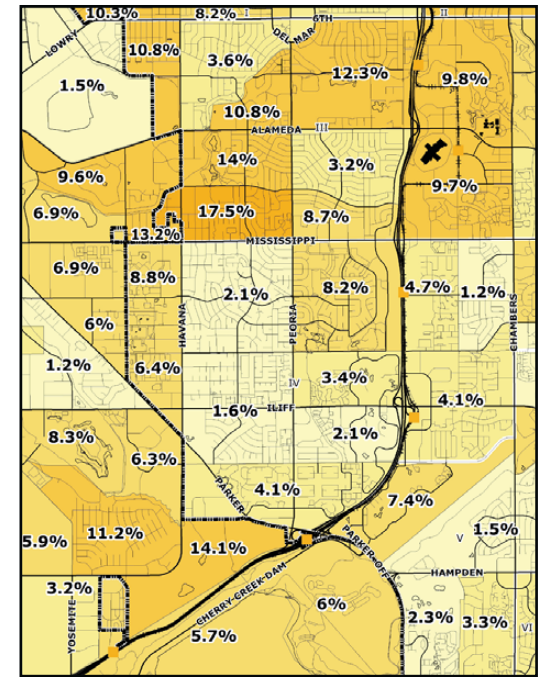
% Public Transit to Work
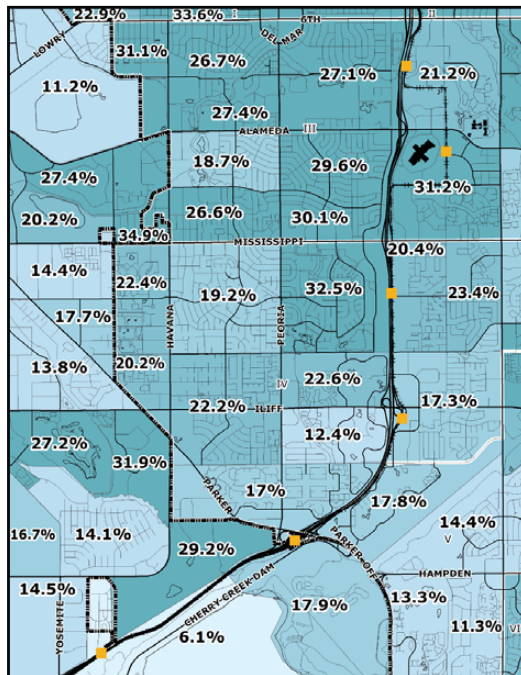
Service Occupations
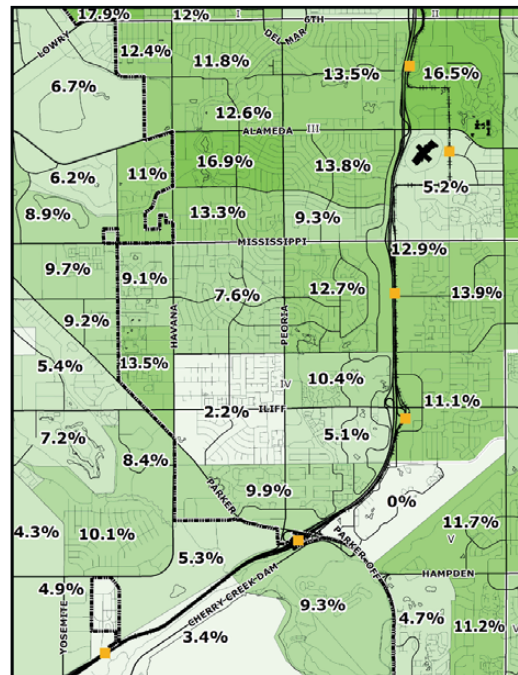
Production and Related Occupations

Occupations
The two primary occupations for census tracts along the Havana Corridor are service occupations and production, transport, and material moving occupations. Greater percentages of the population in the area work in service occupations. Moderate percentages of the census tracts in the southern portion of the corridor work in management, business, science, and art related occupations.

Havana Corridor & Aurora Line South Housing
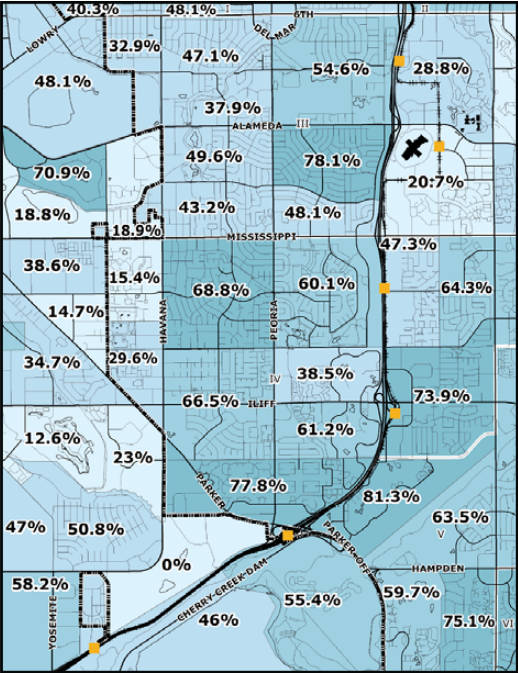
Home Ownership
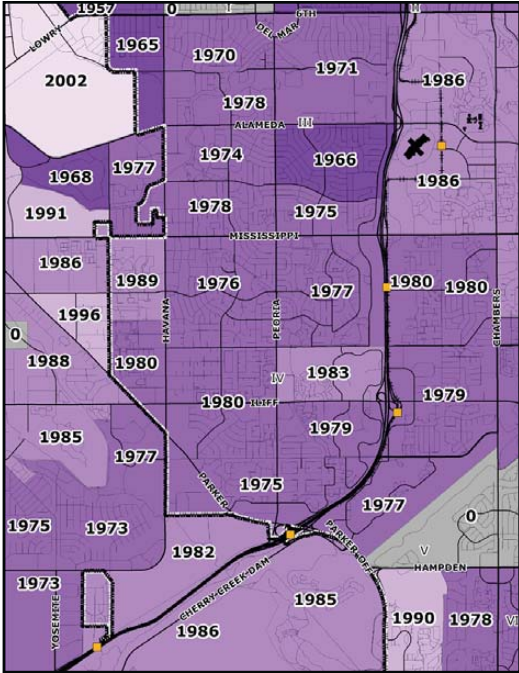
Median Year Built

Ownership
Housing ownership is greater in the southeast portions of the Havana Corridor, with moderate percentages of ownership in the northern census tracts. Renters dominate on the western side of Havana.

Median Year Built
Homes in the census tracts along and near the Havana Corridor were generally built in the late 1970s and 1980s.

Median Home Value
The median home value is low for census tracts in the northern portions of the corridor and higher in the southern portions.

Average Household Size
Average household sizes are higher in the northern portions and lower in the southern portions of the corridor.
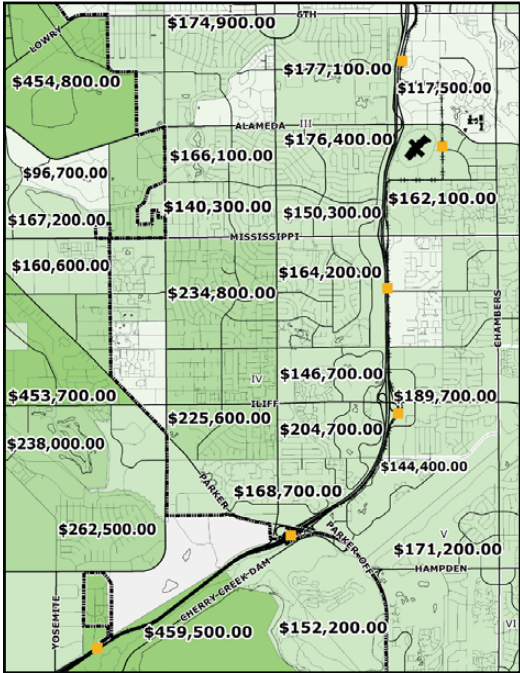
Median Home Value
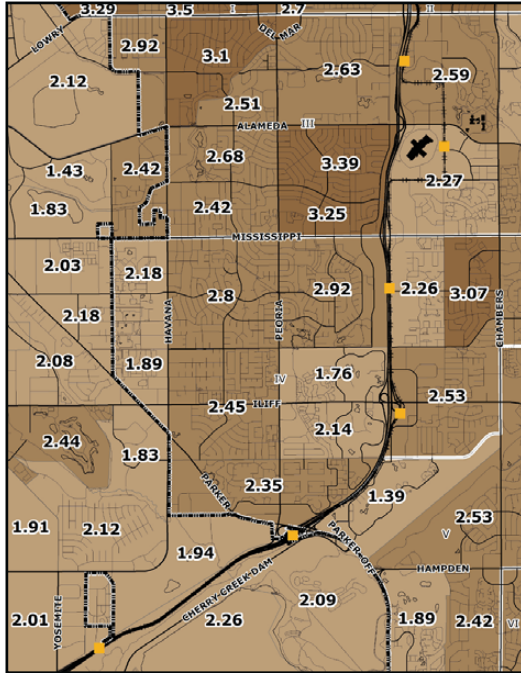
Average Houshold Size
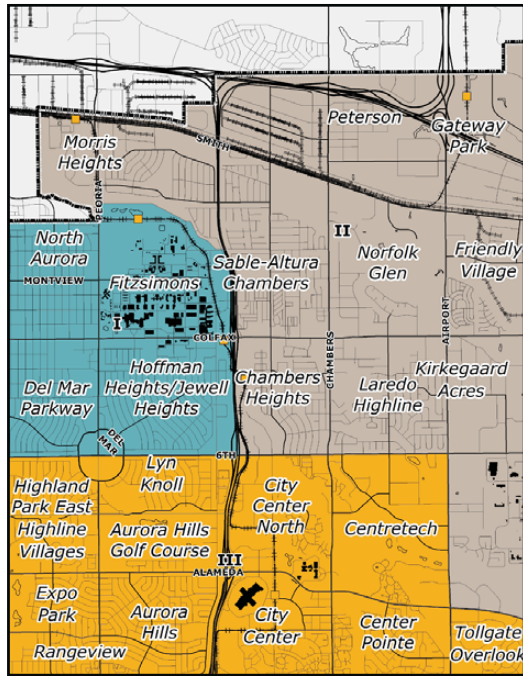
This area overlaps with Northwest Aurora and with the Northeast Plains area. With new development expected in the commercial areas around the city's new light rail stations along the "Aurora Line," understanding the diversity of these census tracts is important. There are places in this area where high population density meets low, where a loss of population is next to population gain, and where a rise in median income is adjacent to a decrease in median income.

More About the Area
Comprehensive Plan Excerpts for Fitzsimons, I-225 Corridor and City Center, and Buckley Air Force Base Area
Aurora Line Stations - City Center, 2nd & Abilene, 13th Avenue, Colfax, Fitzsimons, Peoria, and Airport & 40th

Neighborhoods and City Council Member Wards
This area is made up of sections of Ward I, II, and III.

Median Age
The median age along the north section of the Aurora Line is young. Census tracts are generally in the upper 20s or low 30s. Several census tracts on the west side of the line have median ages in the mid-thirties.
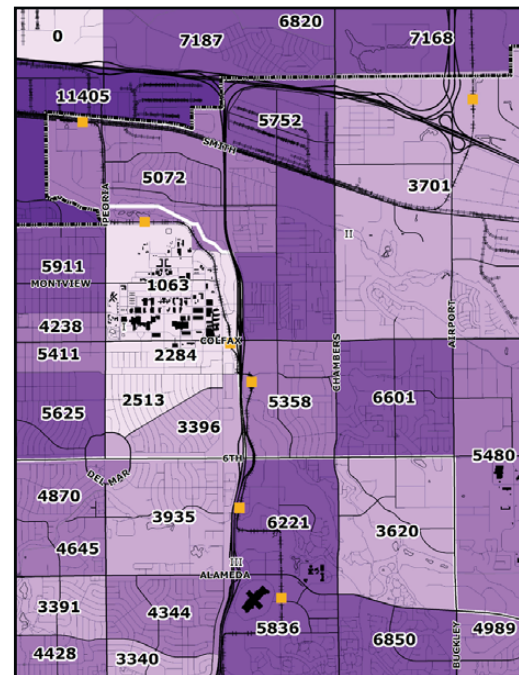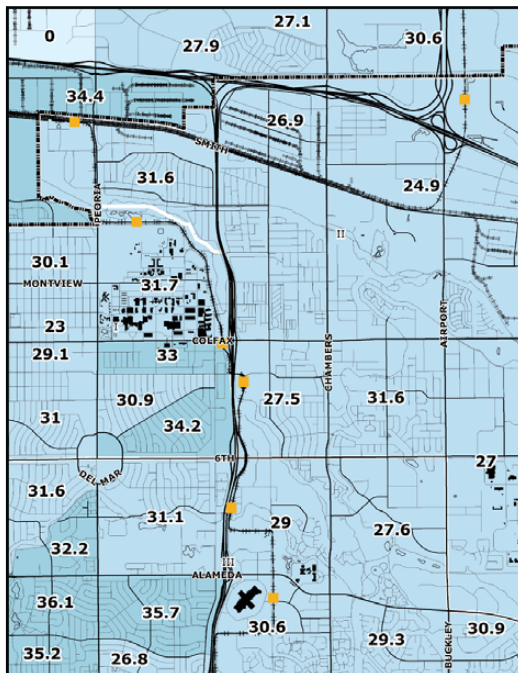
Census Tract Population
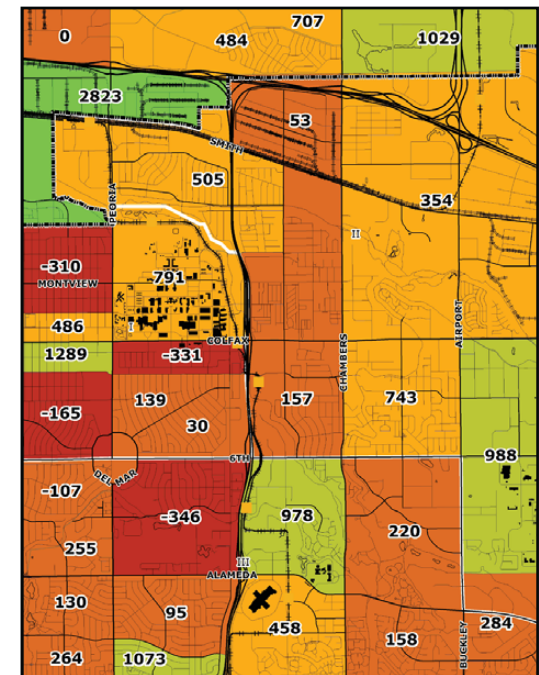
Population Change 2010-2014

Population
The census tracts along the north section of the Aurora Line have moderate numbers of residents to the east and west. While this may not seem like a great number of people, all together, the census tracts with close proximity to the light rail stations represent over 30,000 people in the north section alone. Most of the census tracts along the northern section of the Aurora Line have seen either a slight decrease or moderate increase in population. The census tract to the northwest of Alameda Avenue and Chambers Street saw almost 1,000 people in growth.

Households

The total number of households along the northern section of the Aurora Line is lower within close proximity to the Anschutz campus, but generally higher in the census tracts south of 6th Avenue on the east side of the rail.

Disability

With 10.3 percent of Aurora's total population having some type of disability, the census tracts in close proximity to the Aurora Line have higher percentages of their total population with a disability when compared to the city overall.

Foreign-Born Population

Accounting for the census tract size, the census tracts south of 6th Avenue along the east side of the line have low numbers of foreign-born, while those census tracts surrounding the medical campus have higher densities of foreign-born. The census tracts along the north section of the Aurora Line have, for the most part, seen low levels of growth in the foreign-born population. Important exceptions to that are the medical campus, and several census tracts to the west of the Aurora Line seeing increases in foreign-born over 30%.
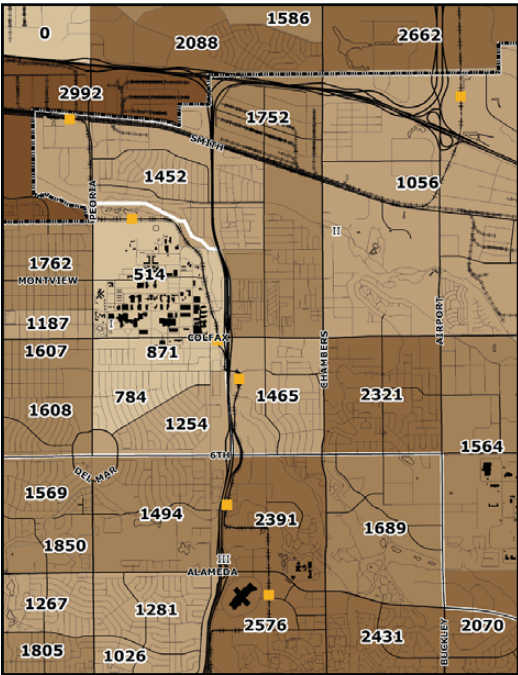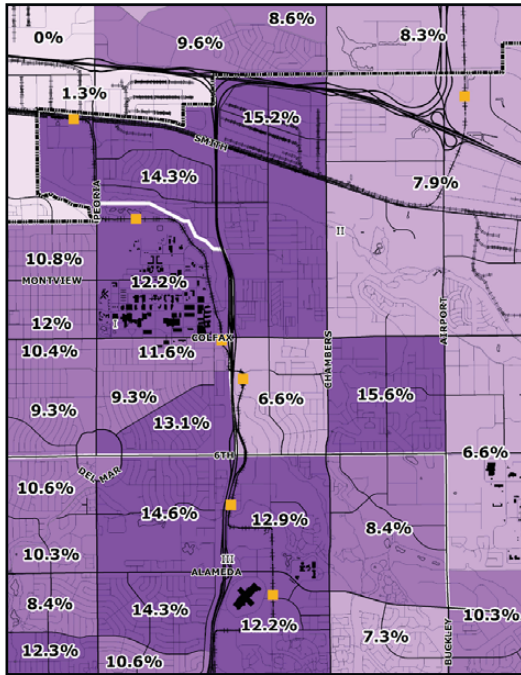
Total Households

Percent with a Disability

Legend

- Americas
- Asia
- Africa
- Europe
- Oceana
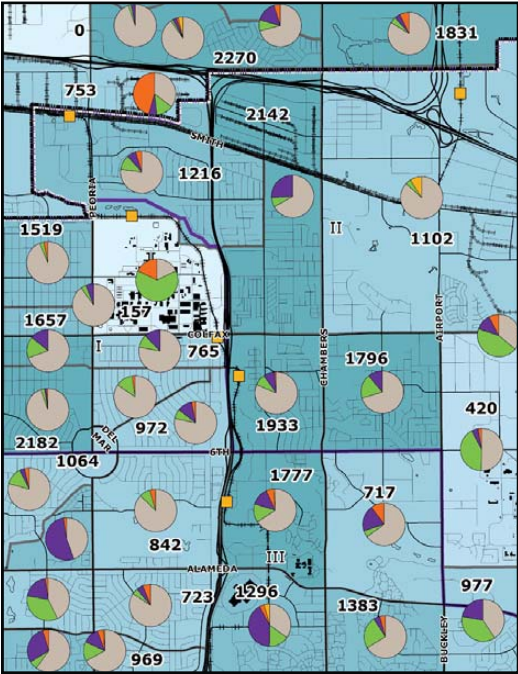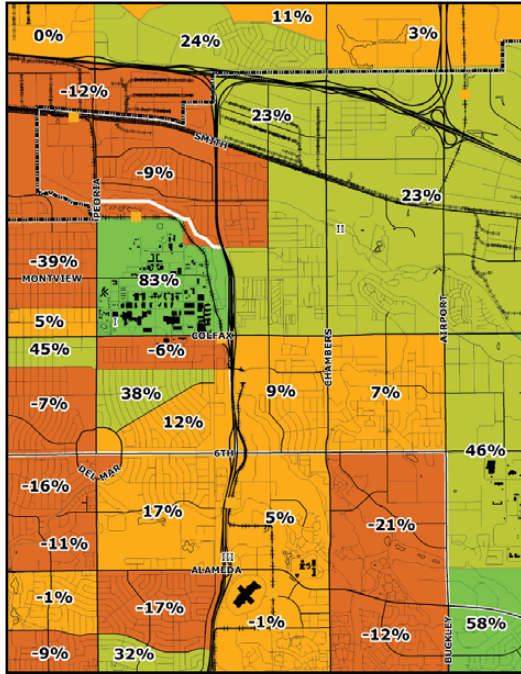
2014 Foreign-Born

2010-2014 Foreign-Born Change
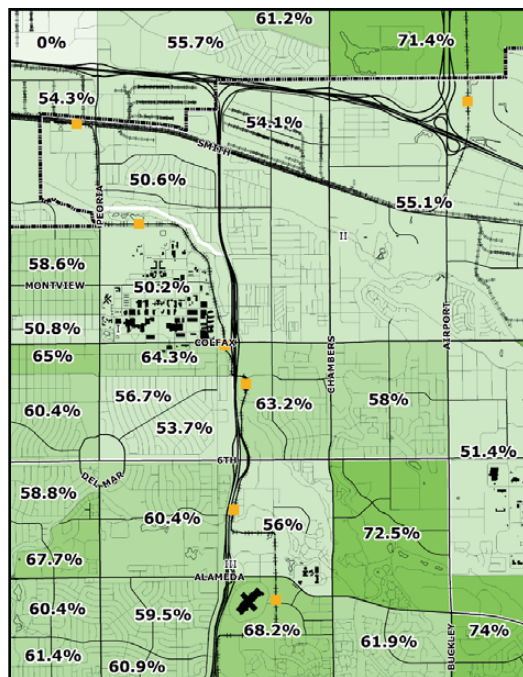
Percent Employed, ACS 5-Year Data
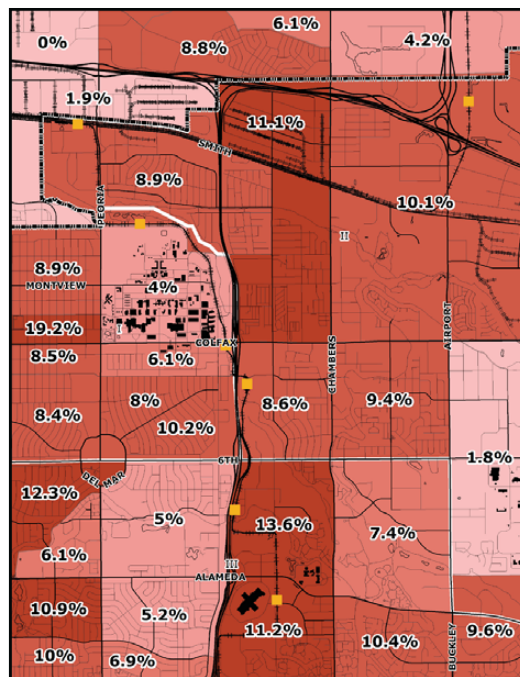
Percent Unemployed, ACS 5-Year Data 2010-2014

Employment

Levels of employment along the Aurora Line are moderate. The unemployment rates for some of the census tracts on the east side of the line are high, but are lower than the Aurora city rate of 10.3% on the west side of the Aurora Line. Generally, the percent of the population employed in the census tracts along the north section of the Aurora Line is lower in the northernmost census tracts and higher in the census tracts closer to Alameda Avenue.

Median Income

Median incomes for the census tracts along the northern stretch of the Aurora Line are lower than the overall Aurora median income. Generally, higher median incomes are seen to the west of the Aurora Line. Several census tracts with close proximity to the Aurora Line have seen significant decreases in median income, 10% to 20%, between 2010 and 2014. Fewer census tracts have seen significant growths in median income, but the magnitude of growth in median income is greater. The census tracts bordering the medical campus have increased their median incomes by between 20% and 91%.
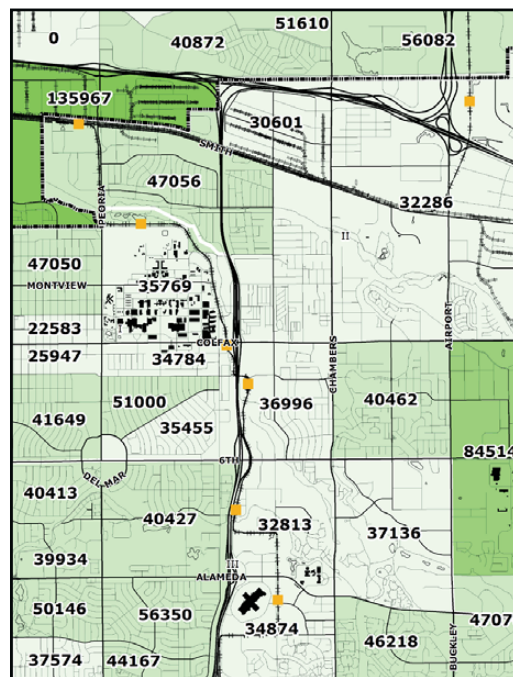
Median Income
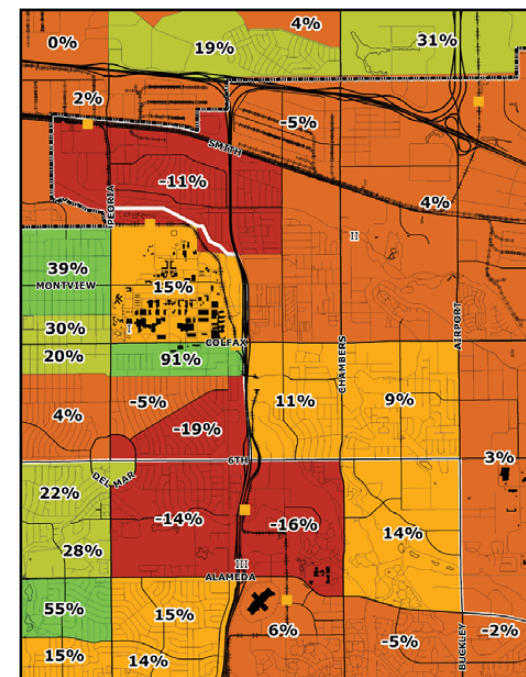
2010-2014 Change in Med. Income

Aurora Line North Transportation & Top Occupations

Transportation

Driving alone is the predominant mode of getting to work for those who live in the census tracts along the northern section of the Aurora Line. Around 10% take public transit to work in several of the station areas. With the overall Aurora mode share for cyclists at 0.3%, the numbers in this area indicate biking to work is a significant transportation mode.
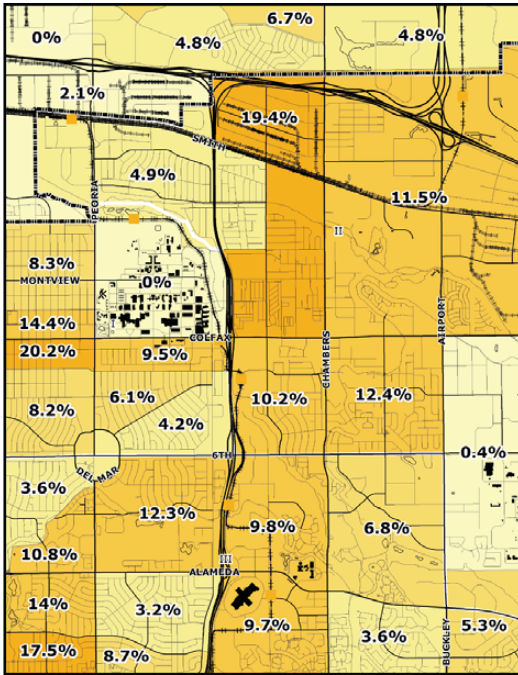
% Public Transit to Work
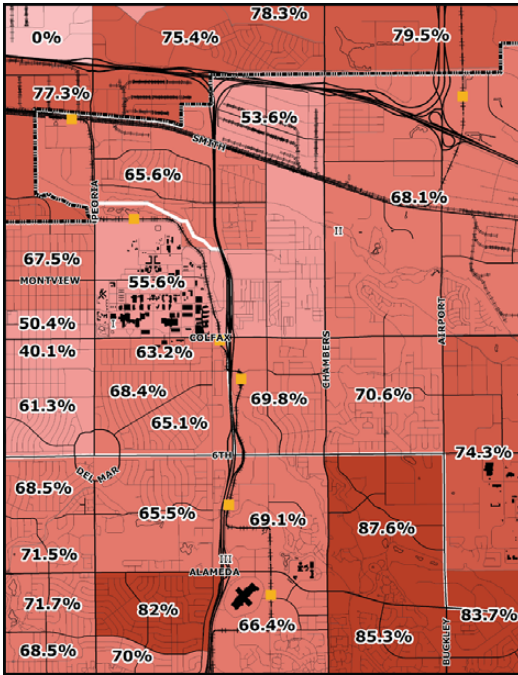
% Drive to Work
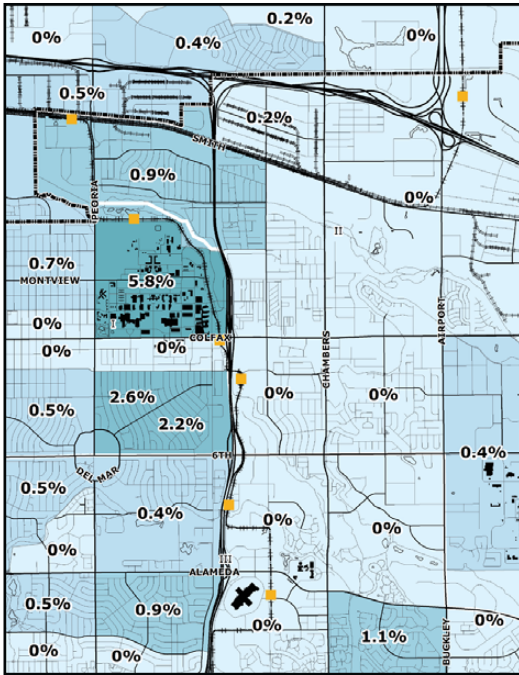
% Bike to Work
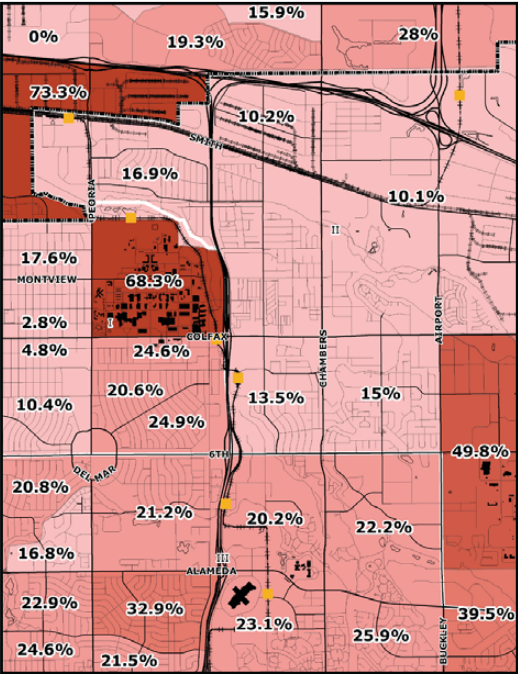
Management and Related Occupations
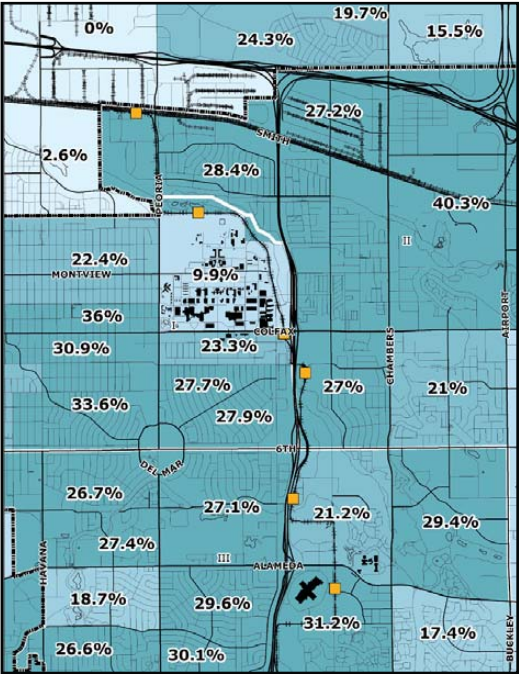
Service Occupations

Occupations

The Anschutz campus and a couple of the census tracts to the northeast have high numbers of people who work in Management, Science, and Art related occupations. These tend to have higher incomes than other occupations. Many of the other census tracts in this area of the city have higher percentages of the population, between 20% and 30%, working in service related occupations.
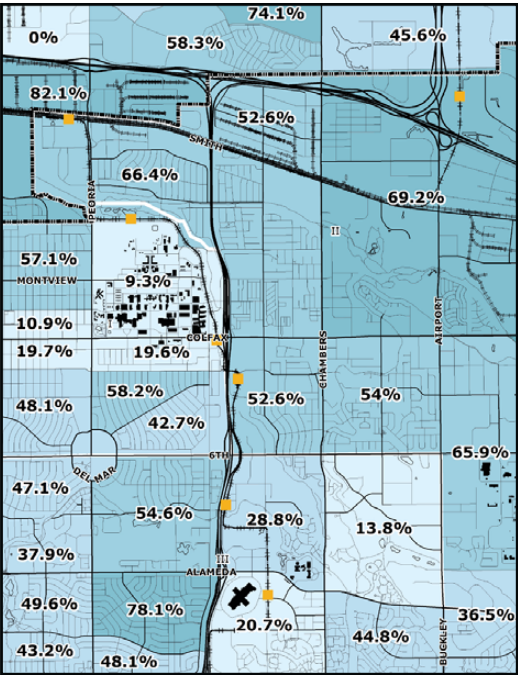
Ownership
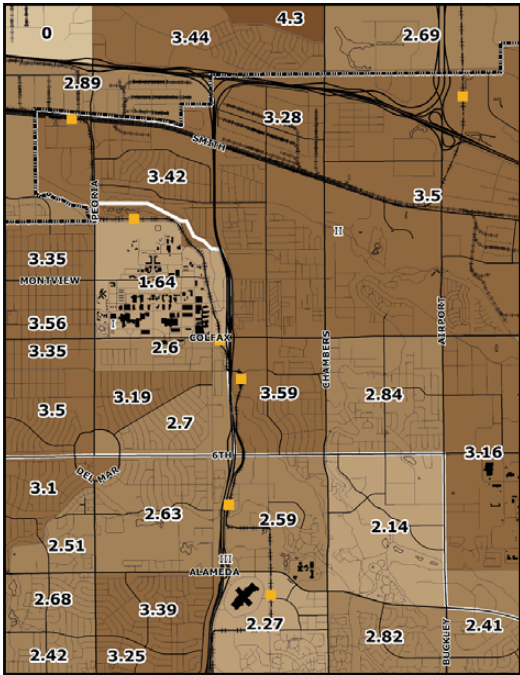
Average Household Size

Tenure and Household Size
In the census tracts close to the medical campus but further from Colfax Avenue, there is a mix of owners and renters. Along Colfax Avenue, renters predominate. Along the Aurora Line south of Colfax Avenue, proportions of renters to homeowners vary by census tract. West of the line, there are census tracts with more owners than renters.

Home Value
Excepting the medical campus, the homes built in the northernmost census tracts along the Aurora Line were built in the 1950s and 1960s. Those homes built east and south of 6th Avenue and I-225 were built in the 1970s and 1980s. The median value of homes in the area is low compared to the newer homes built further south in Aurora.
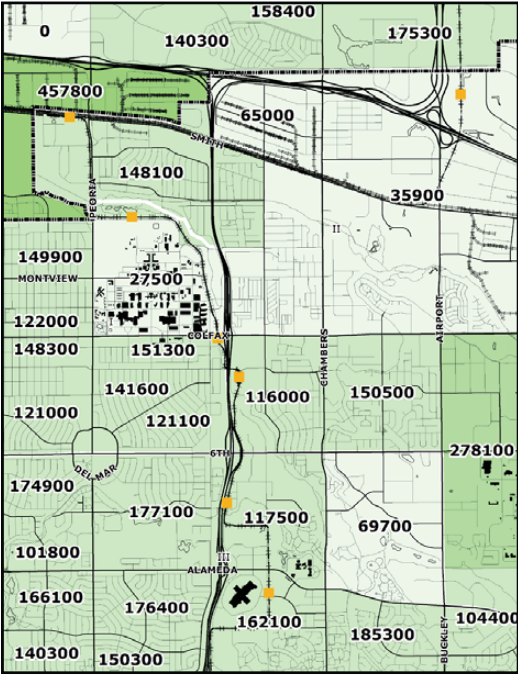
Median Home Value
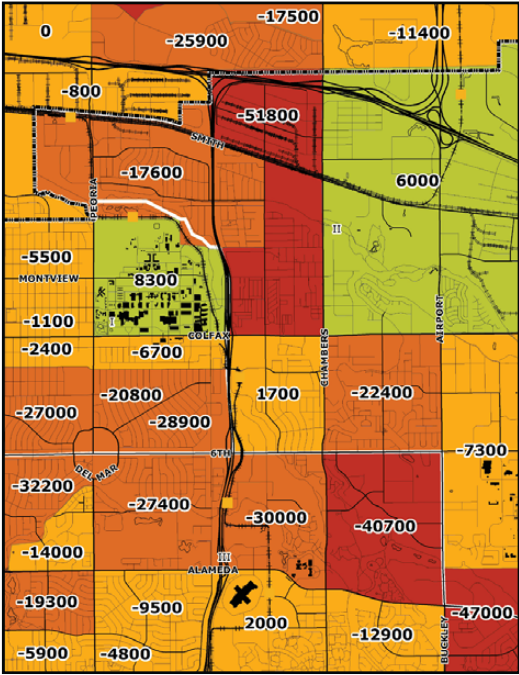
Change in Median Value '10-'14
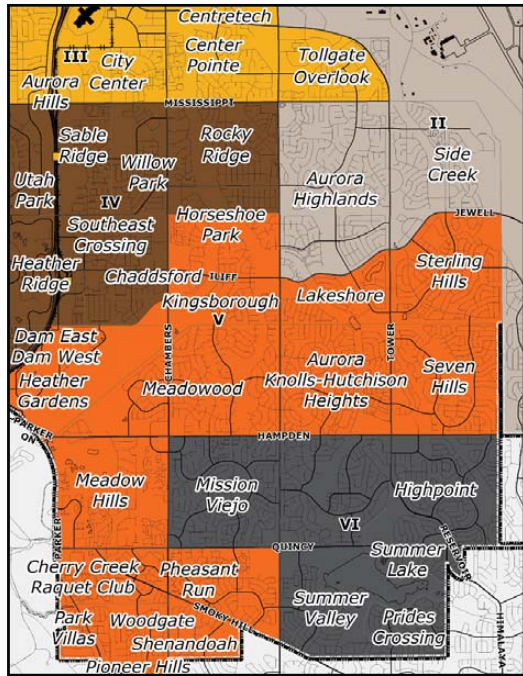
South Central Aurora was primarily developed in the 1970s and 1980s. It is experiencing some significant population changes, with some areas losing population and others gaining, with some areas losing foreign-born population and with others gaining, with median incomes decreasing in certain areas and increasing in others. Census tracts between the Iliff and Florida stations are included in Zillow's list of hottest neighborhood housing markets and are forecasted to have high home value growth rates.

More About the Area
Comprehensive Plan Excerpt for the Parker Road Corridor
Aurora Line Stations - Iliff, Florida, City Center

Census Tract Numbers and City Council Member Wards
This area is touched by five of the six City Council Member wards.
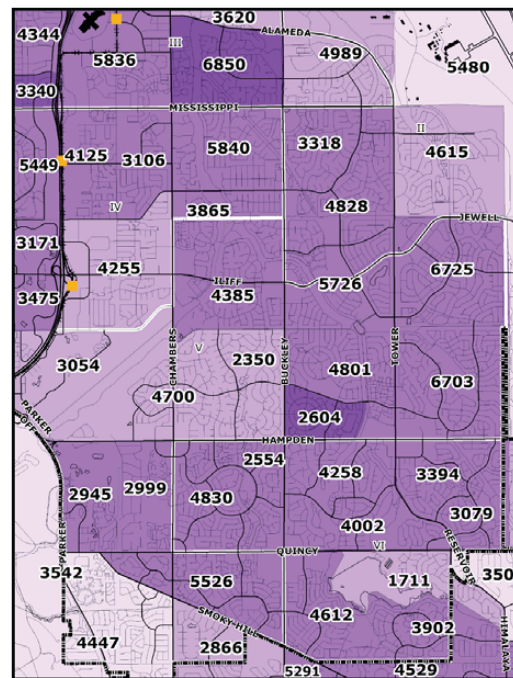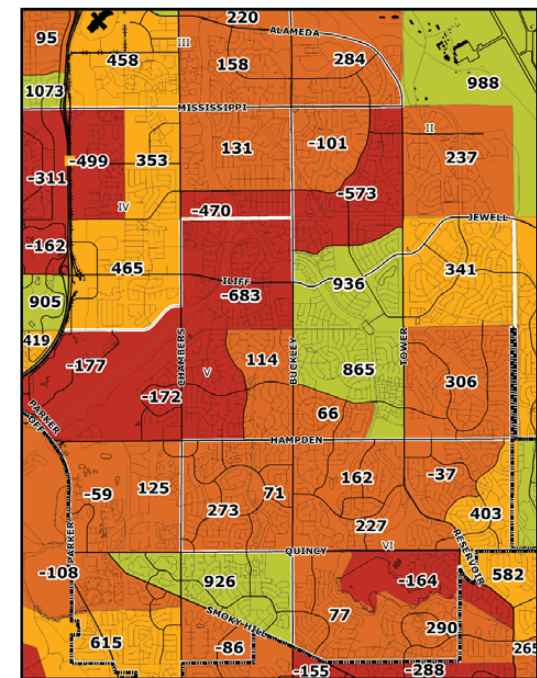
Median Age
The median ages for the census tracts in South Central Aurora are older than those along the northern parts of the Aurora line. South of Mississippi Avenue, the median ages are generally in the low-to-mid 30s. The census tract where the age-restricted Heather Gardens residential community is located has a high median age of 75.9 years old.

Census Tract Population

Population Change 2010-2014
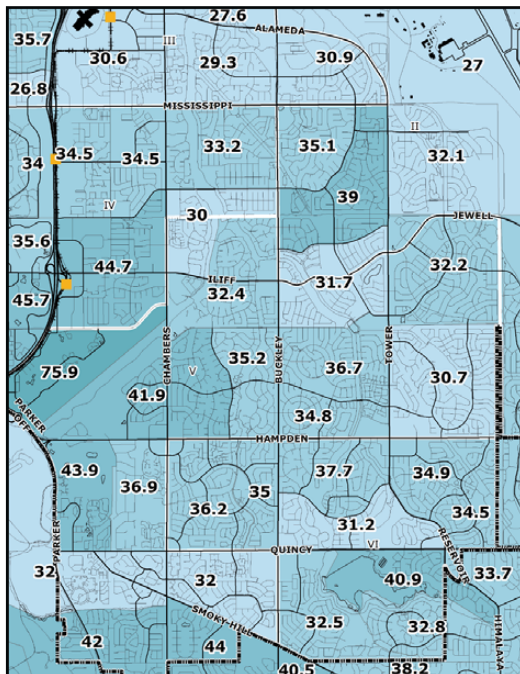
Population
The census tracts in South Central Aurora generally have lower population counts compared to those in Northwest Aurora but are still moderately dense compared to the census tracts to the southeast. Generally, the census tracts in South Central Aurora have either lost population or gained less than 1,000 people. Those tracts that did gain the most people are along Smoky Hill Road or between Buckley and Tower roads.

Total Households and Percent with a Disability

The census tracts in South Central Aurora have moderate to low numbers of households compared to the northern areas of Aurora. The percentage of census tract population with disabilities is greater than the overall Aurora figure in many of the census tracts in South Central Aurora. The percentages are especially high along the Aurora Line and to the southeast of Hampden Avenue and Himalaya Street.
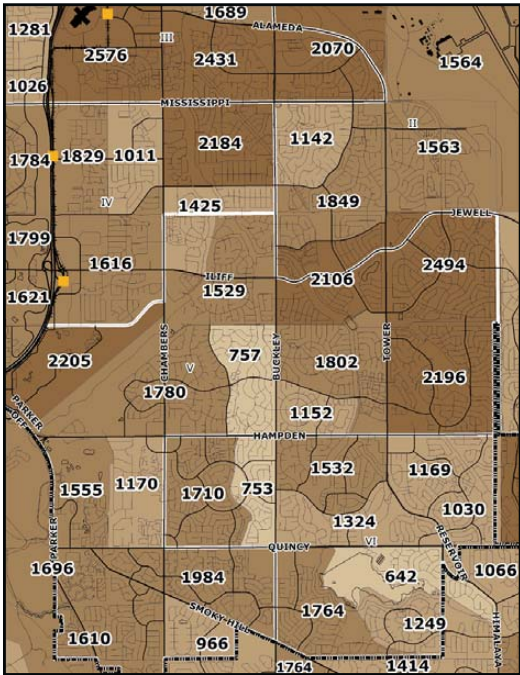

Total Households
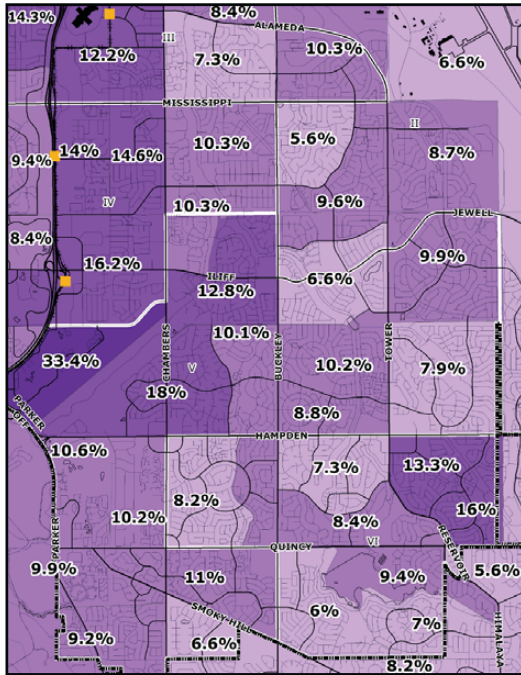
Percent with a Disability

Foreign-Born Population

There are moderate to low numbers of foreign-born in the census tracts along the southern portion of the Aurora Line. Some of the census tracts between Chambers Street and Buckley Street have lost between 50% and 80% of their foreign-born populations, but census tracts to the south, east, and west have increased their foreign-born populations.

Legend

- Americas
- Asia
- Africa
- Europe
- Oceana
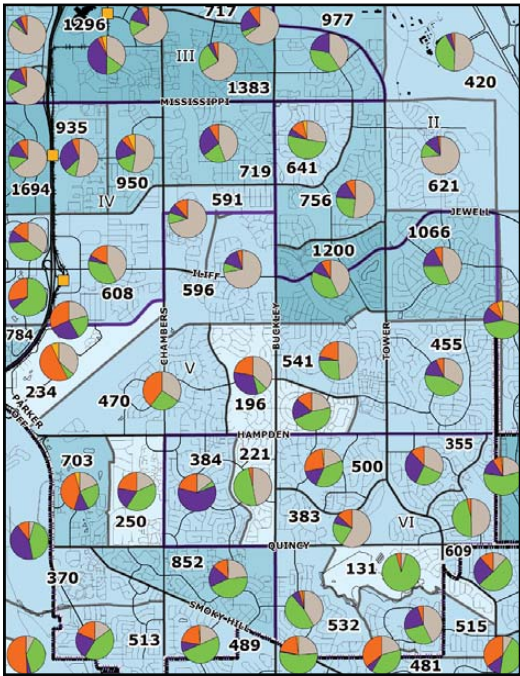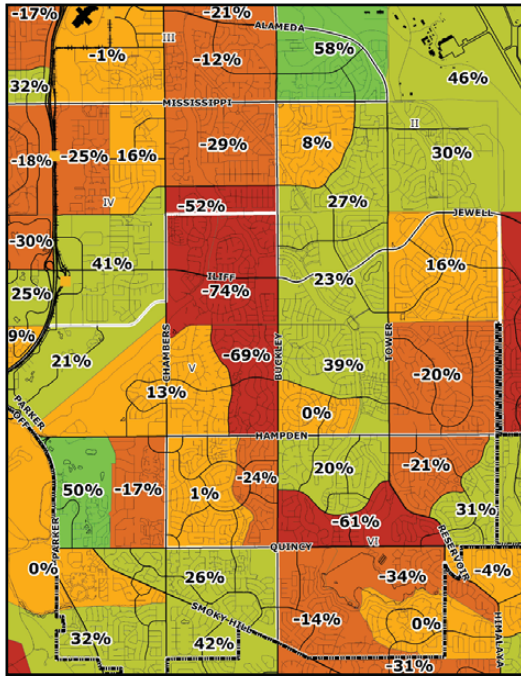
2014 Foreign-Born

2010-2014 Foreign-Born Change

South Central Aurora Employment & Income
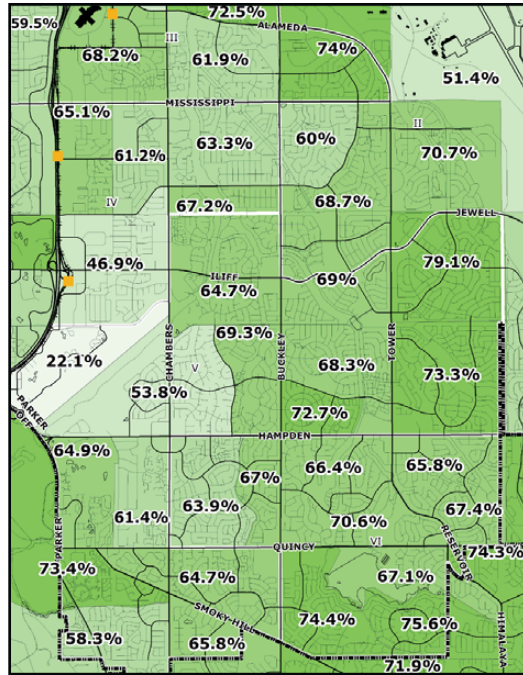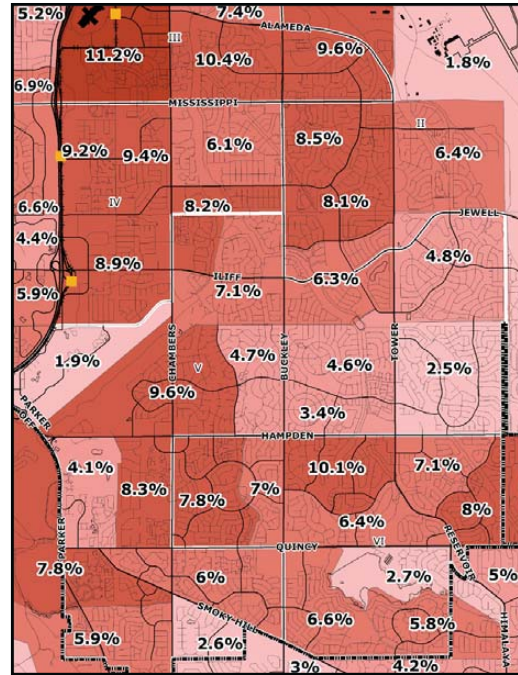
Percent Employed

Percent Unemployed, ACS 5-Year Data 2010-2014

Employment
Higher percentages of people are employed in the census tracts along the southern portions of the Aurora Line and to the east close to Buckley Air Force Base. Although the unemployment rate hovers below 10% on the eastern side of the Aurora Line, unemployment is lower in the census tracts to the east and southeast. Labor force participation rates are lower in this area compared to other parts of the city, especially true for those census tracts with low employment and low unemployment.

Median Income
The median incomes for the census tracts in South Central Aurora are generally higher than those in the northern sections of the Aurora Line. A number of census tracts saw a decrease in median income. Some census tracts between Mississippi Avenue and Yale Avenue saw dramatic decreases in median income, while several others saw significant growth between 2010 and 2014. The majority of census tracts in the area saw increases or decreases in median income by less than 15%.
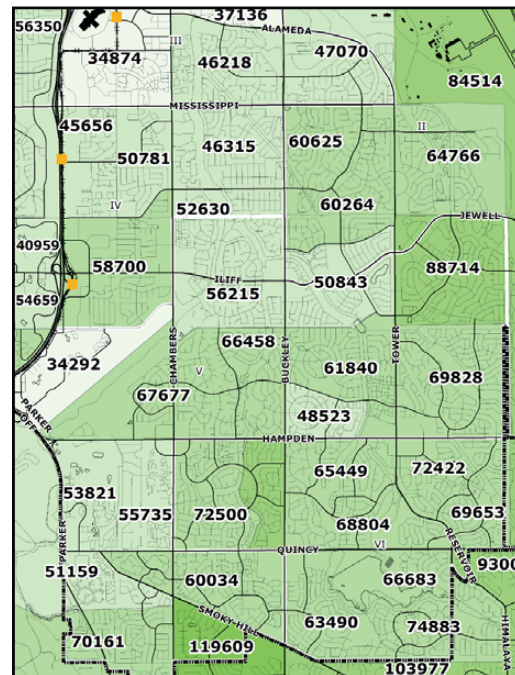
Median Income
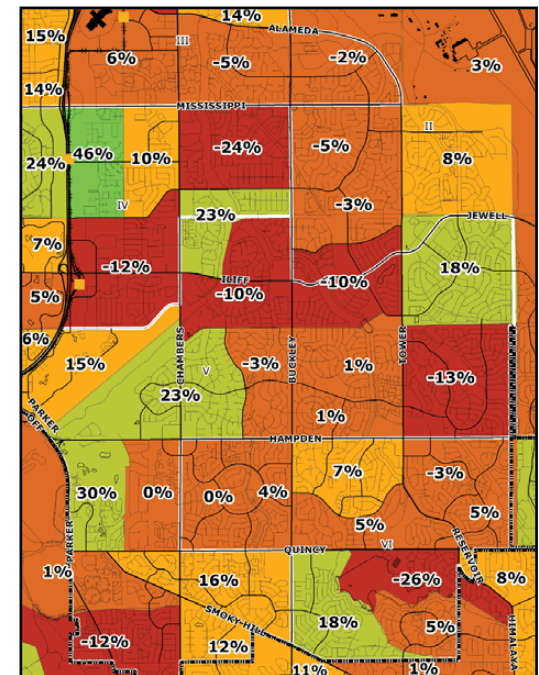
2010-2014 Change in Med. Income

South Central Aurora Transportation & Top Occupations

Transportation

The majority of the people in census tracts in this area of the city drive alone to work. Many of the census tracts in the area have low percentages of those who take public transit or work at home, but some of these tracts stand out for those transportation modes.
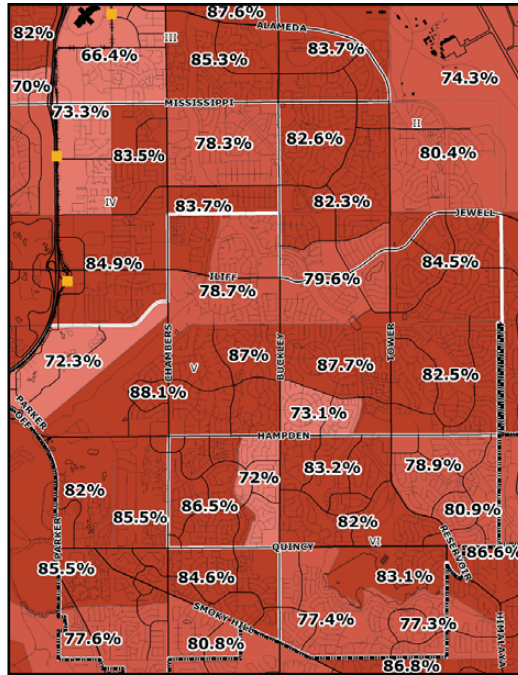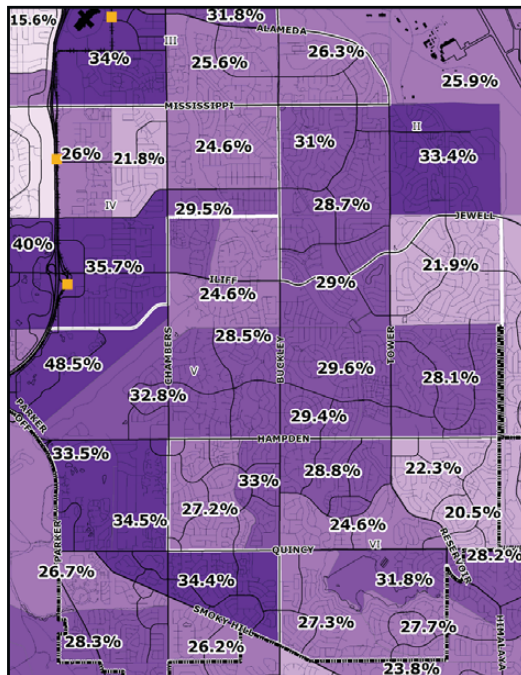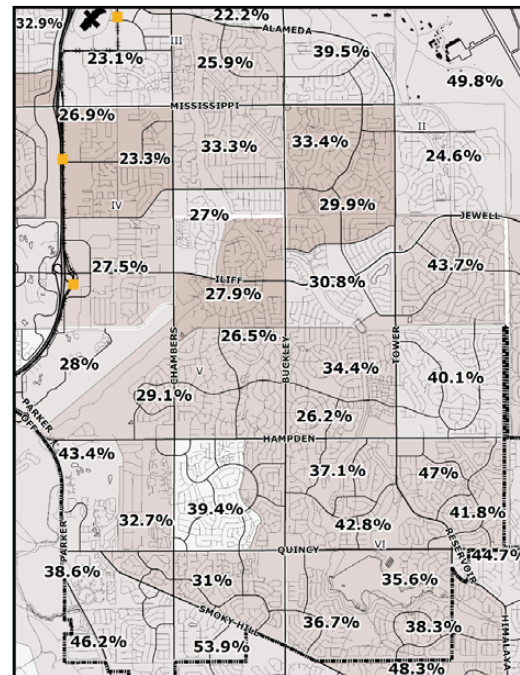

% Drive to Work
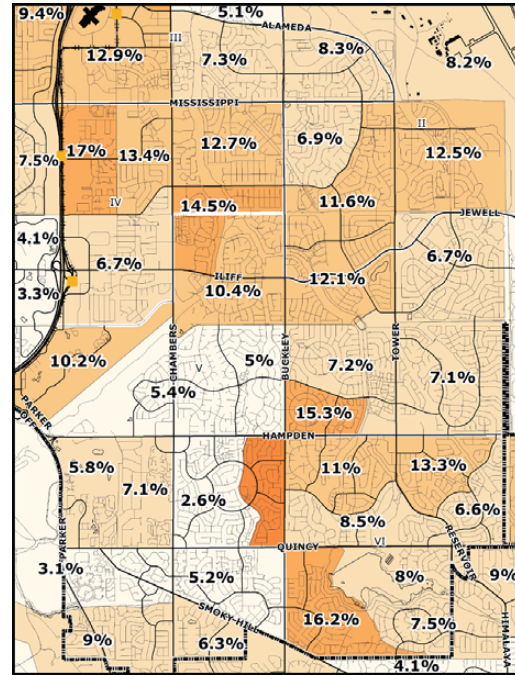
% Carpool to Work
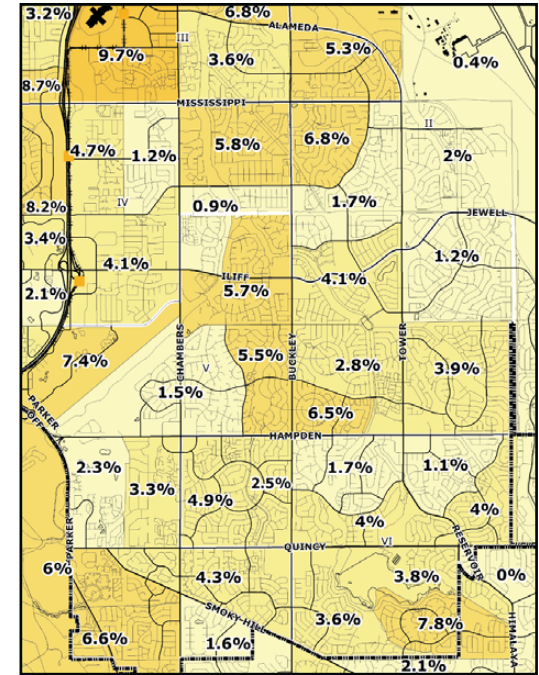

% Public Transit to Work

% Sales and Related Occupations

% Construction and Related Occupations

Occupations

Sales and Offfice occupations and Management, Business, Science, and Art occupations make up the two top occupation groups for this area of the city. These occupations tend to have higher levels of earnings. Also a significant occupation group is the Production, Transportation, and Material Moving occupations.
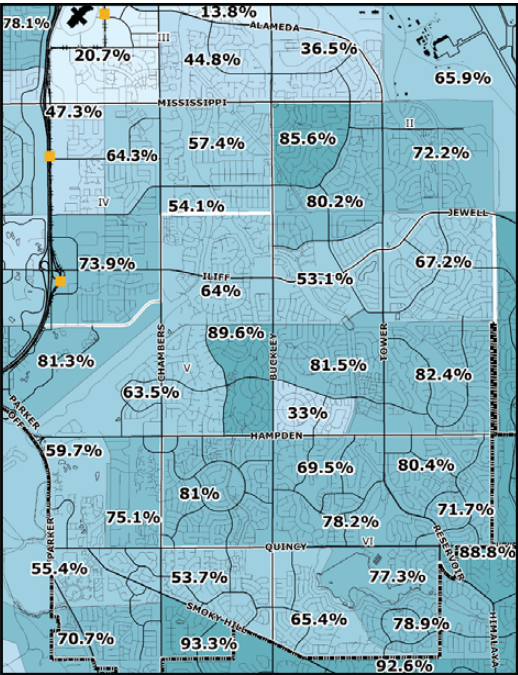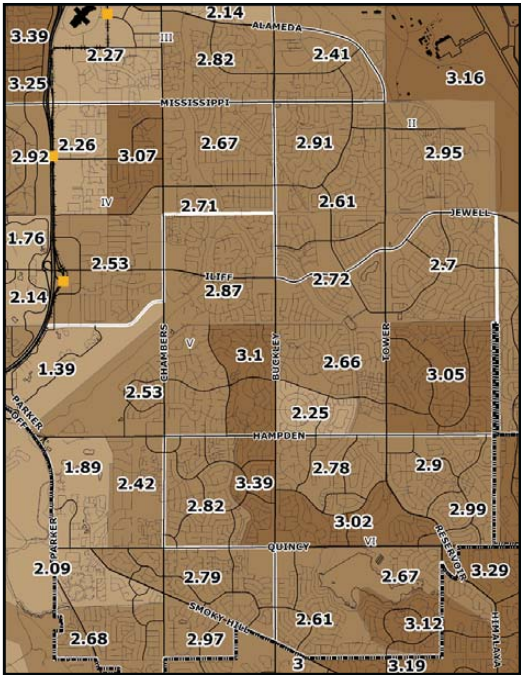
Ownership

Average Houshold Size

Ownership and Household Size

Ownership levels census tracts along the southern sections of the Aurora Line is generally higher than census tracts along the northern sections. South of Mississippi Avenue, between Havana Street and Chambers Street, the ownership percentages of census tracts are rarely lower than 60%. Average household size is lower than the overall city level in most of the census tracts in the area, although there are a few exceptions along Mississippi Avenue.

Year Built and Home Value

Many of the homes built in this area were built in the late 1970s to early 1980s. Home values along the Aurora Line are generally below $200,000, with some of the census tracts to west side of Peoria Street at higher values.
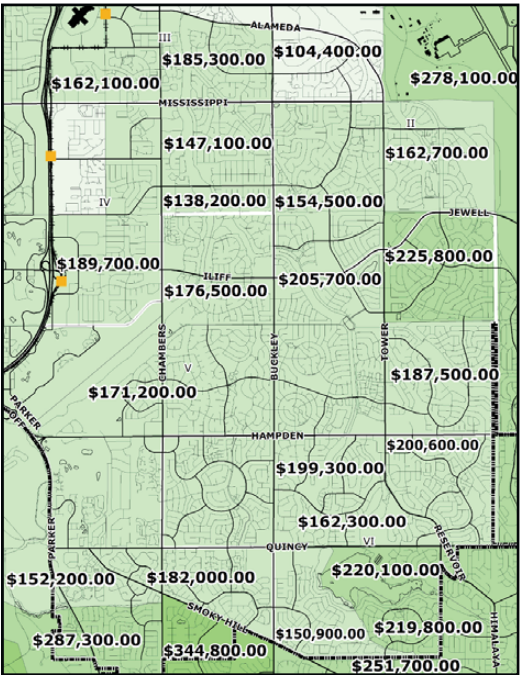
Median Home Value
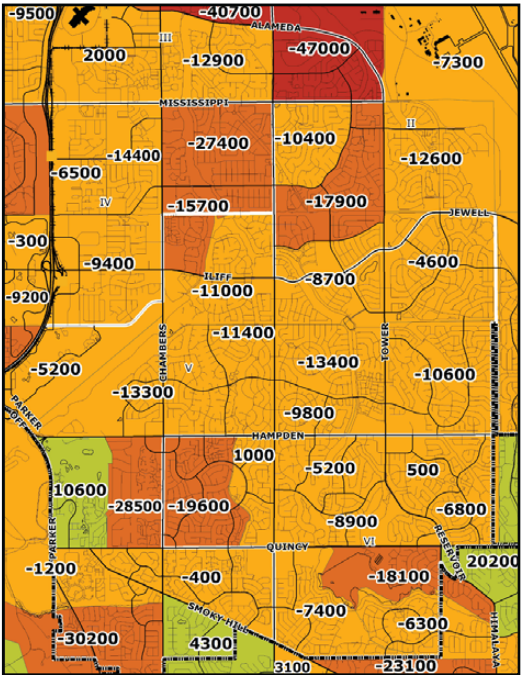
Change in Home Value '10-'14

E-470 & Northeast Plains People

The northern portions of E470 and the Northeast Plains are more suburban and rural in nature. This area contains a large portion of the undeveloped residential and commercial land in the city. As the national economy and local economy improve, development activity in this area may increase. Buckley Air Force Base, in the southwest portion of this area, is a major part of Aurora, and has spurred aerospace business activity in the vicinity. New residential communities have been planned or are being built along the E-470 corridor and a new resort called Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center is opening in late 2018.

More About the Area
Comprehensive Plan Excerpt for Buckley Air Force Base Area, the E-470 Corridor, and the Northeast Plains and Front Range Airport Areas
Gaylord Rockies Resort
Aurora Line Stations - Airport & 40th
6th Avenue Extension

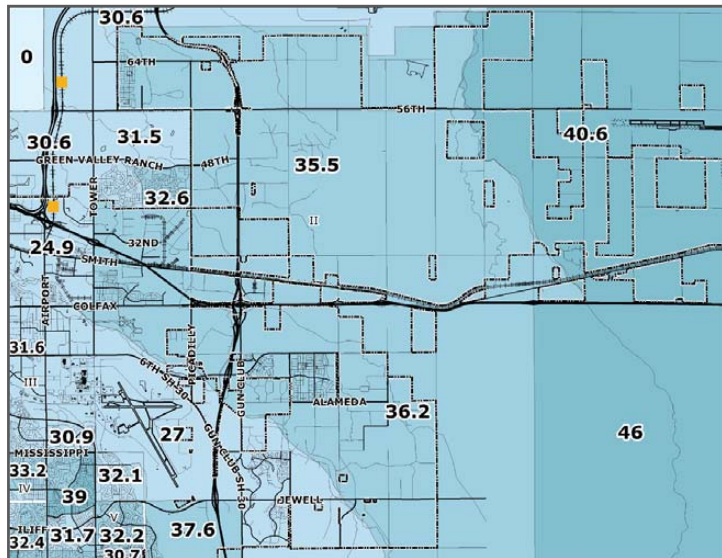**Neighborhoods and City Council Member Wards**
The southeast portion of the city is primarily made up of Ward II. The census tracts in white are unincorporated Arapahoe County or Denver.
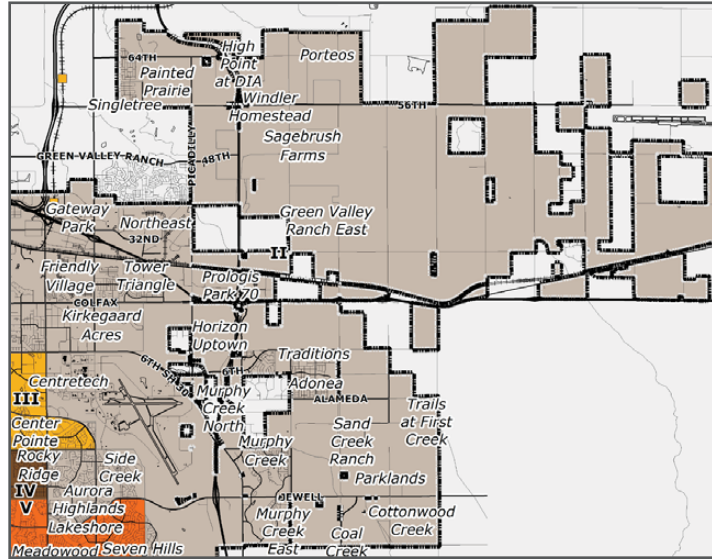
Census Tract Numbers & Council Wards
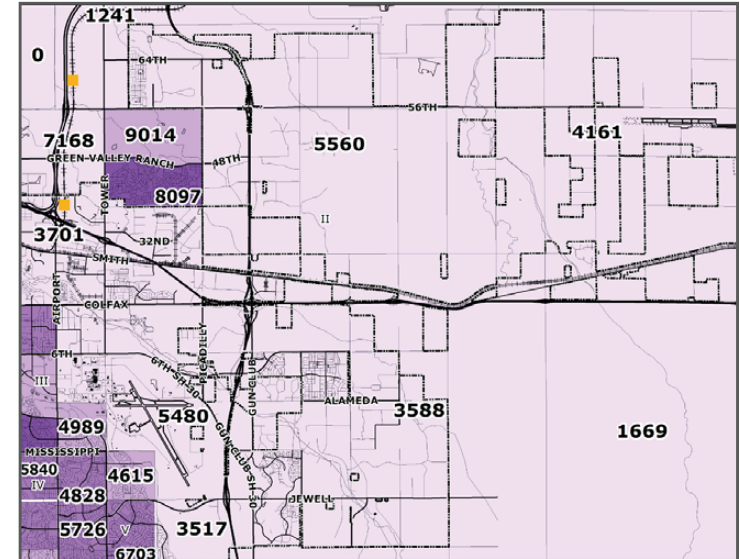
Census Tract Population

Median Age

Population
The census tract populations in this area are low, relative to the size of the census tract. Most of the census tracts in this area have increased population between 2010 and 2014, but the census tract at Aurora's northernmost extent saw a decrease of almost 1,000 people.

Median Age
The median age in this area ranges from 30 years old in the western census tracts to over 40 years old in the eastern census tracts.
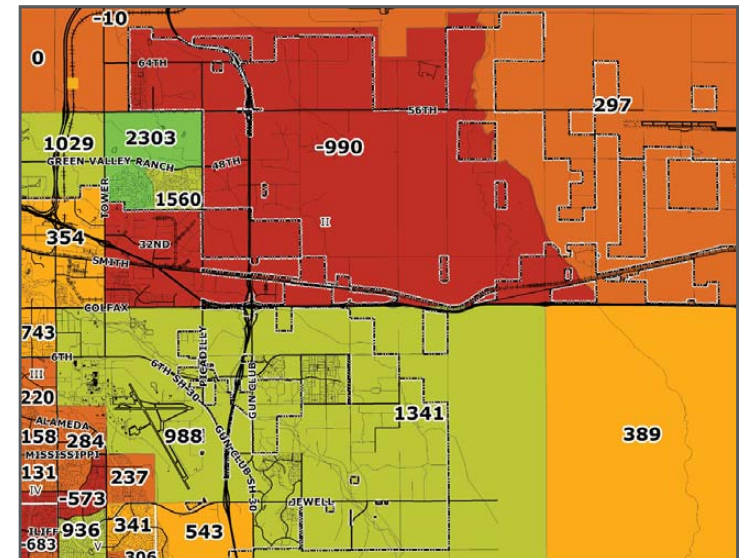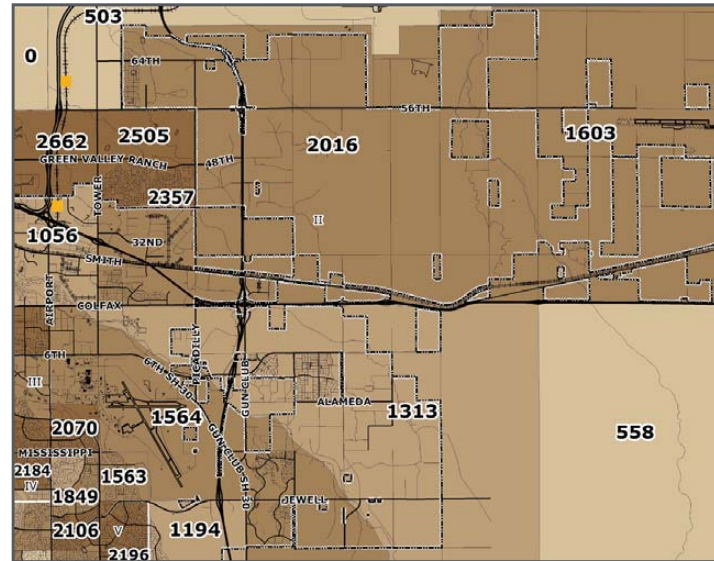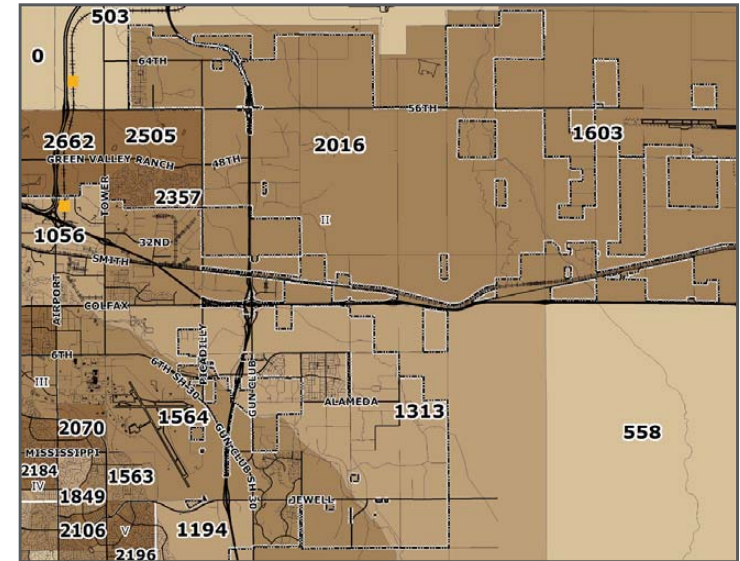

Population Change

E-470 & Northeast Plains People

Households

As this area has lower densities of development, the total number of households is low compared to other parts of the city. As development proceeds in this area, the total number of households is expected to increase.
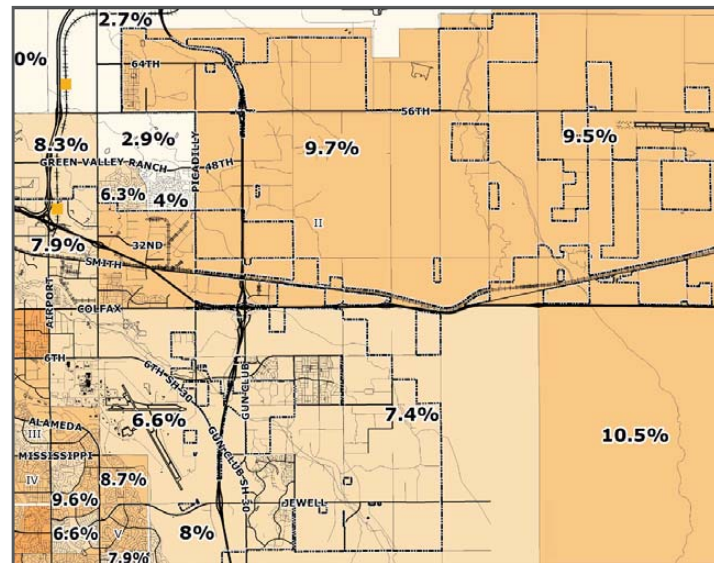

Total Households

2014 Foreign Born

Disability

The census tracts in this part of the city have slightly lower percentages of people with disabilities, compared to the city overall at 10.3% of the population. These census tracts also have lower levels of disability for those 65 years and older when compared to the city overall.


Percent of Population with Disability
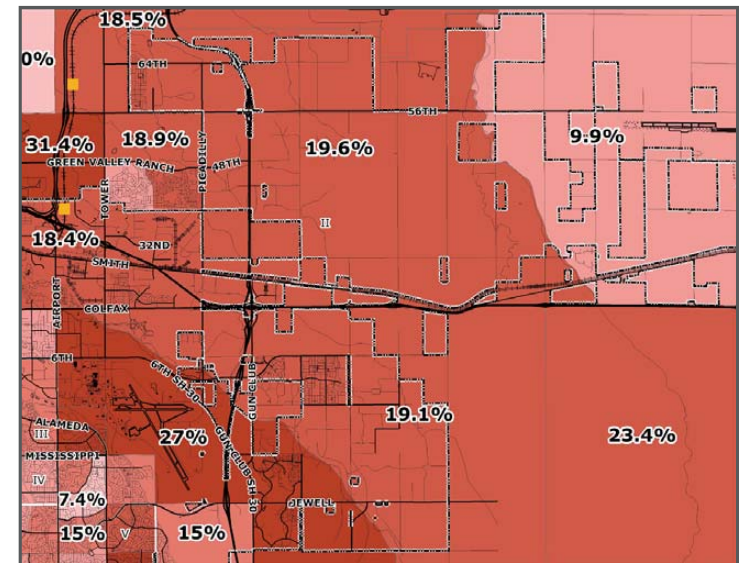
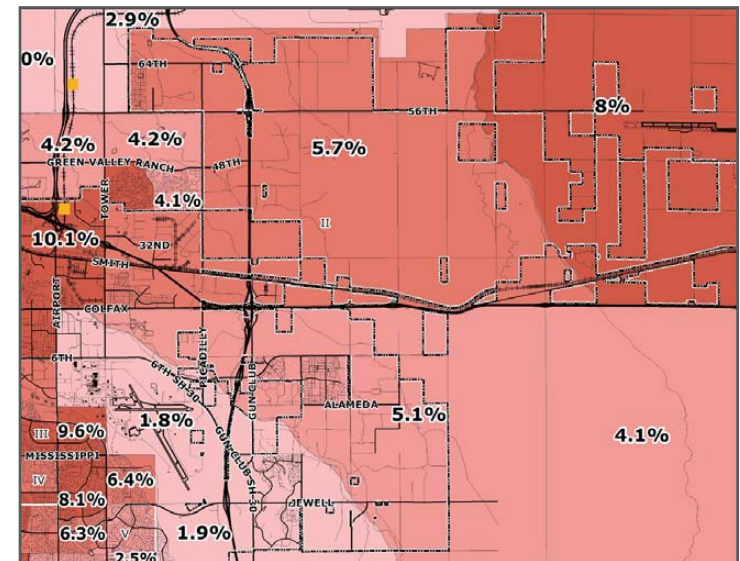Percent of 65+ Population with a Disability

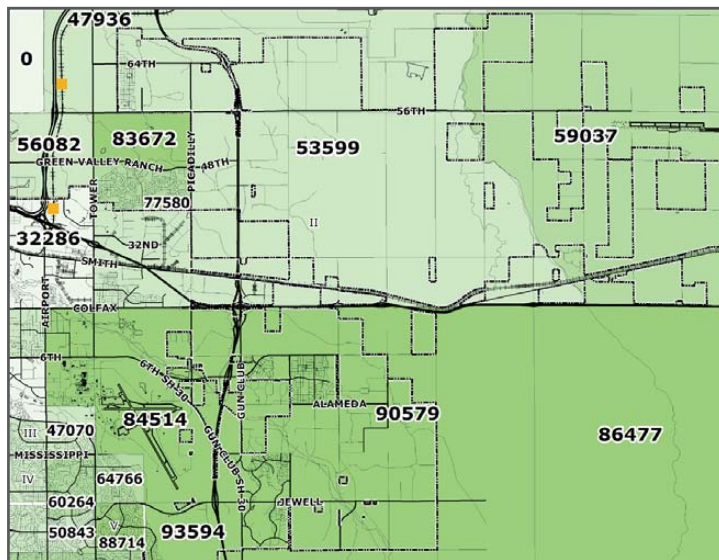# E-470 & Northeast Plains Employment & Income

Employment
This area of the city generally has higher percentages of employment and lower percentages of unemployment. The far northeast census tract in the city, near the Front Range Airport, does have a moderate level of unemployment at 8%.
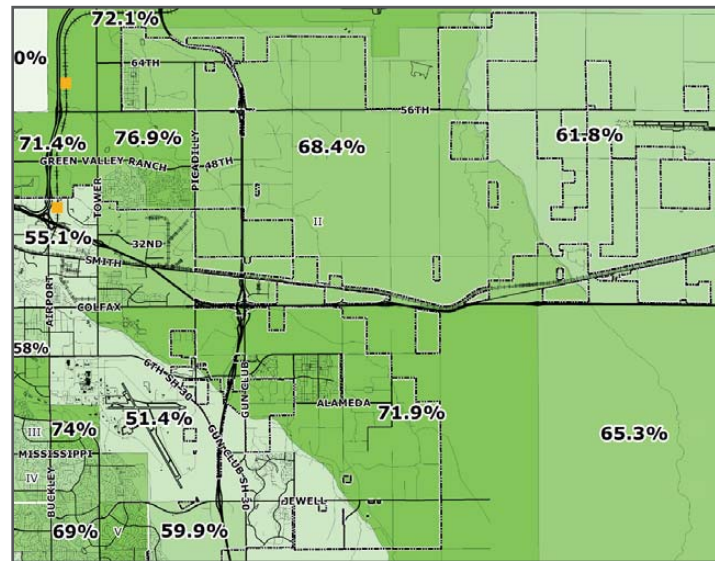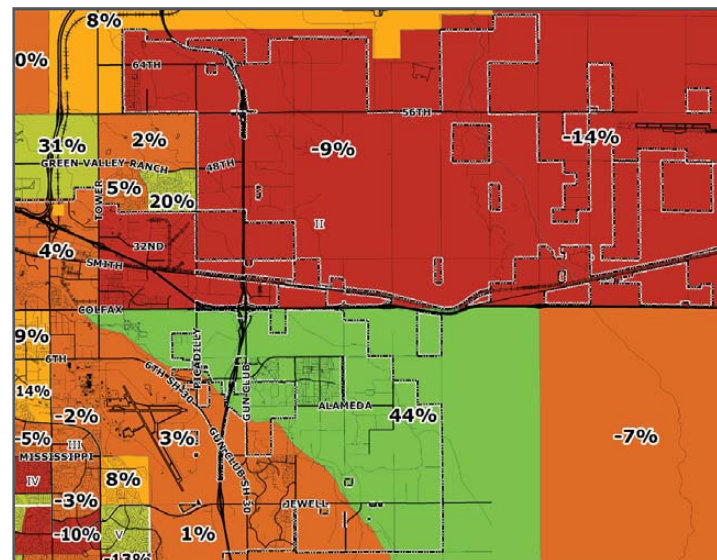

Percent Employed

Percent Unemployed, ACS 5-Year Data 2010-2014


Median Income

% Change in Median Income

Median Income
The median income in these census tracts is generally higher than the census tracts further to the west. Several census tracts have seen slight declines in median incomes between 2010 and 2014. The large census tract south of Colfax and east of Highway 30 saw in increase in median income by over 40% during that period.
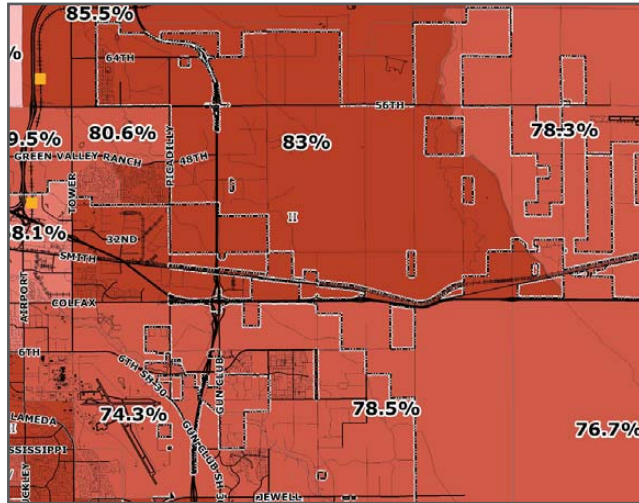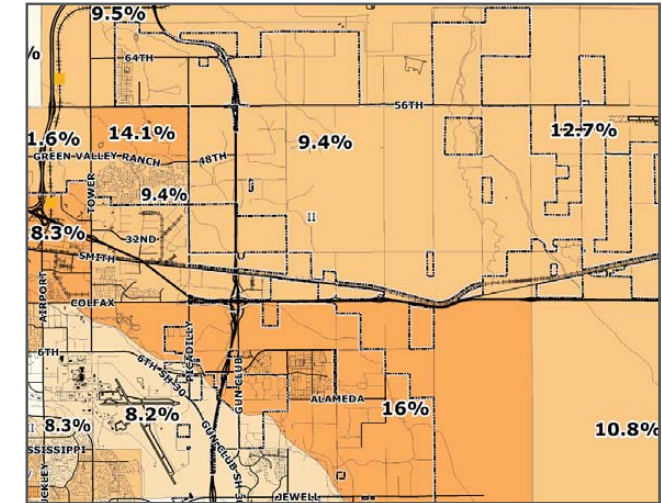
% Drive to Work *The majority of the population in these census tracts drive alone to work.*
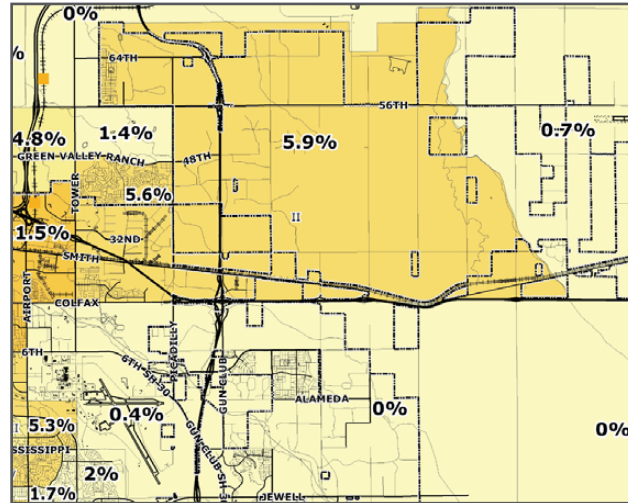
% Public Transit to Work *Few people in this area take public transit to work. The northernmost census tract in the city does have a moderate rate for public transit as a transportation mode to work.*

% Carpool to Work *A significant portion of people in this area carpool to work.*
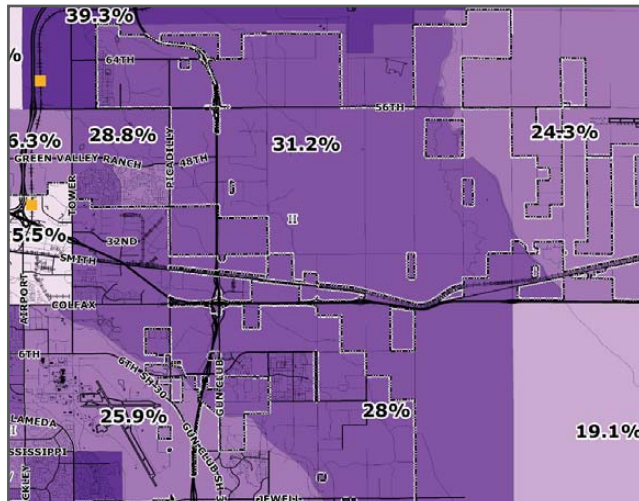
Percent Sales and Office Occupations
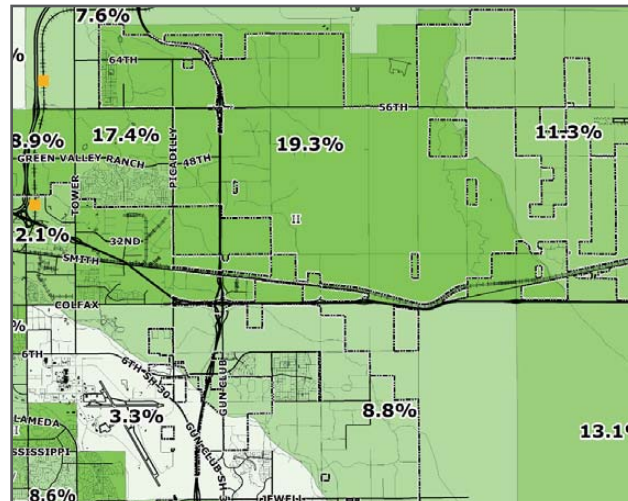
Percent Production and Related Occupations

Top Occupations
The two primary occupations for this part of the city are Sales and Office related occupations and Production, Transportation, and Material Moving occupations. Sales and Office occupations range between 20% and 30% of the population and Production, Transportation, and Material Moving occupations make up between 10% and 20% of the occupations.

Ownership
Home ownership rates are high for the census tracts in this area of the city. The majority of census tracts have near or greater than 70% home ownership.

Average Household Size
Household sizes are slightly lower in this area of the city compared to the census tracts found to the west.
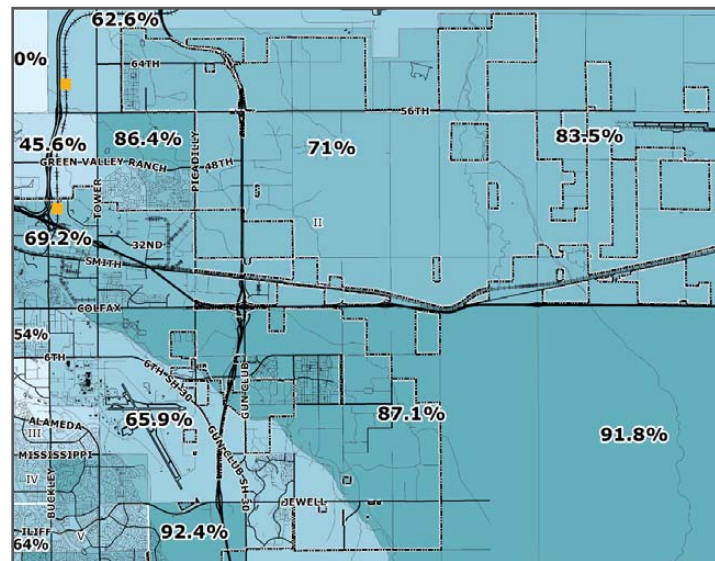
Percent Home Ownership
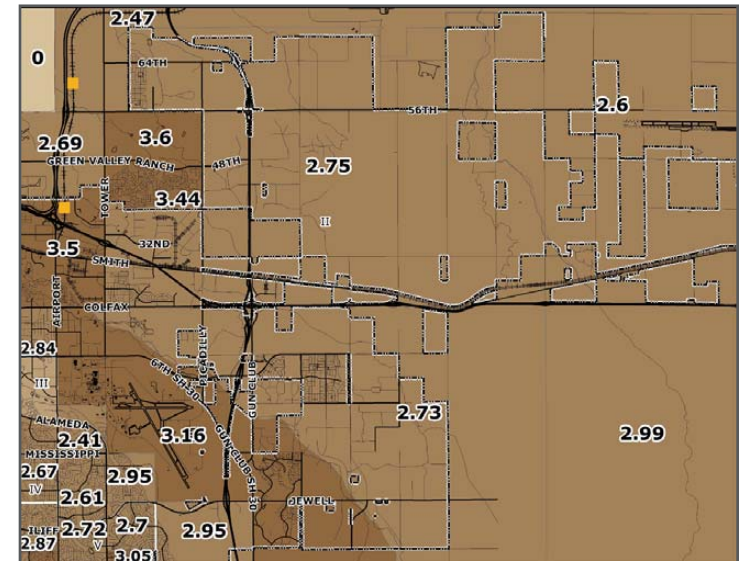
Average Household Size
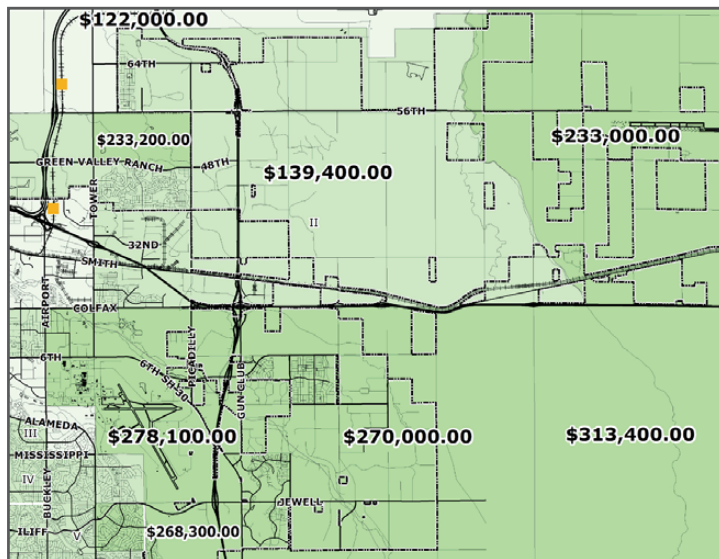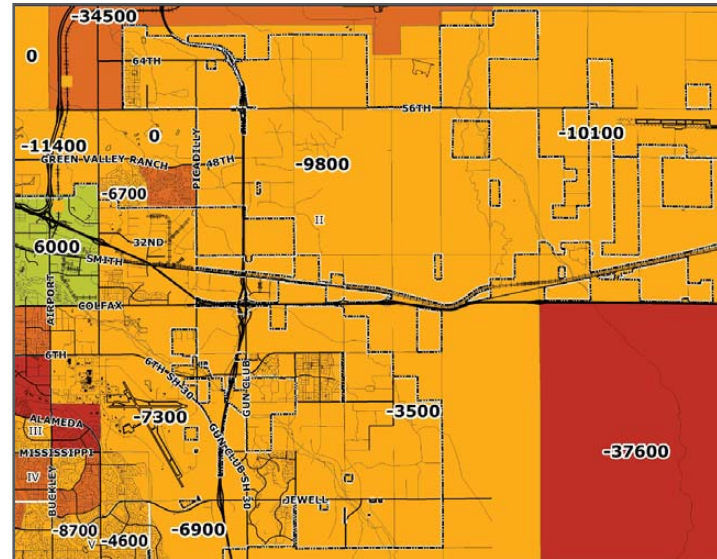
Median Home Value

Change in Home Value '10-'14

Median Home Value
*Home values in these census tracts are, for the most part, higher than those in census tracts further to the west. Several census tracts have median home values of over $300,000. Between 2010 and 2014, this area has seen declining home values. The one exception is the census tract close to the 40th and Airport Boulevard * Gateway Park station on the University of Colorado A-Line. Aurora Line station. This census tract saw median home values increase by $6,000.*

Southeast Aurora is a rapidly developing area of the city close to the Aurora Reservoir and the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds. The E-470 beltway passes through this area as it curves around the Metro Area. Additional residential and commercial development is expected in this area into the future. Home values and incomes in this area are high compared to the rest of the city. As this area has seen population growth between 2010 and 2014, these figures have increased slightly for some of the census tracts in this area and decreased for others.

More About the Area
Comprehensive Plan Excerpt for the E-470 Corridor

Havana Corridor & Vicinity

Median Age

Neighborhoods and City Council Member Wards
The southeast portion of the city is primarily made up of Ward VI.

Median Age
The median ages for the census tracts in Southeast Aurora vary widely. Census tracts close to Hampden Avenue have median ages in the low-to-mid 30s, while census tracts south of Smoky Hill Road have median ages over 40 years old.
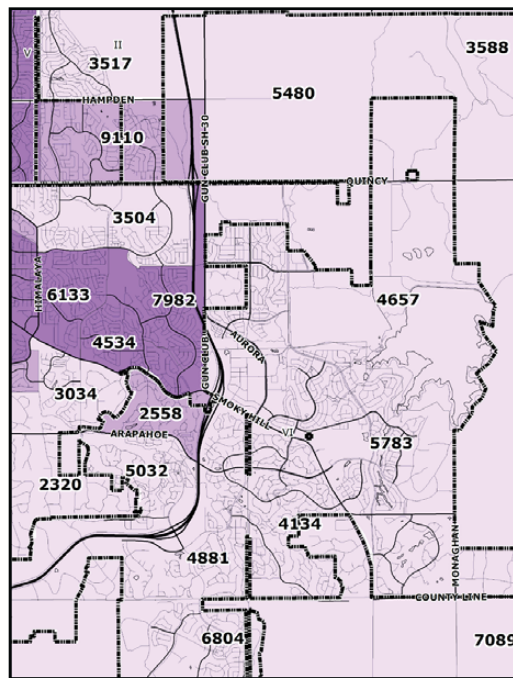
Census Tract Population
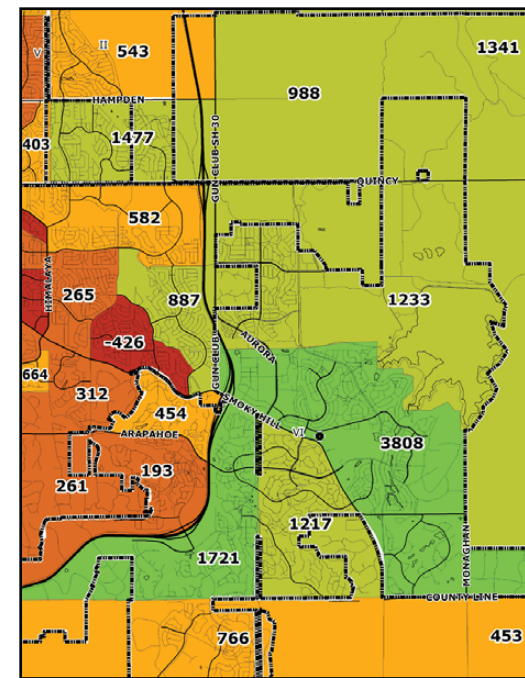
Population Change 2010-2014

Population
The census tracts in Southeast Aurora have moderate-to-high numbers of residents, and are growing rapidly. Most of the census tracts to the east of Gun Club Road and Highway 30 are grew by more than 1,000 people between 2010 and 2014. Some of the census tracts to the north of Smoky Hill Road near Himalaya Street are losing population or experiencing slower rates of growth.

Southeast Aurora People

Total Households

Southeast Aurora's census tracts show moderate numbers of households. The higher density census tracts have greater numbers of households compared to the lower-density development typical in this part of the city.

Foreign-Born

This area of the city has relatively low counts of foreign-born residents. While the census tract to the southwest of Gun Club Road and Hampden shows a higher number of foreign-born, the percentage of foreign-born is similar to the census tracts surrounding it.
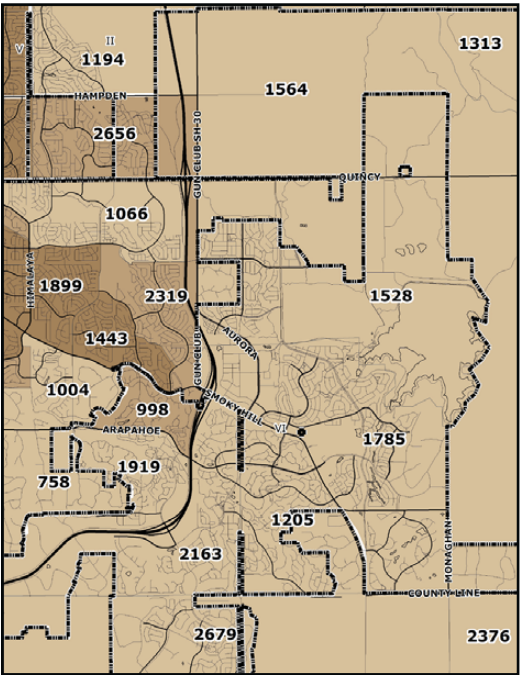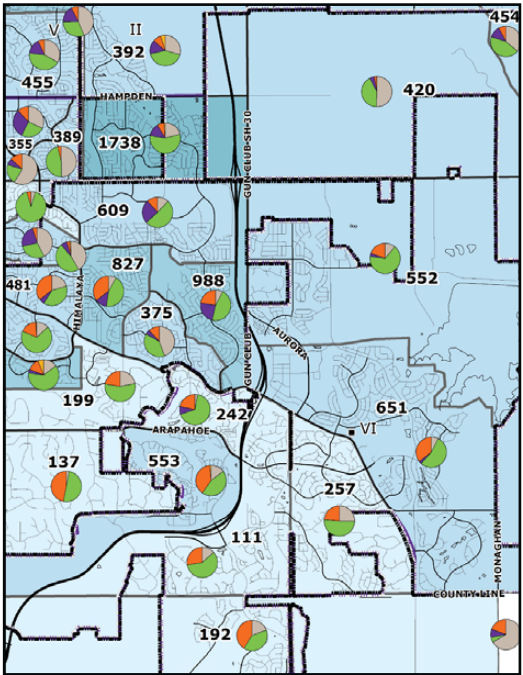
Disability

While the percent of the overall population with a disability in this area is low compared to the city as a whole, those 65 years and older have moderate to high percentages of their total population with a disability. The percentages over 20% are not found in any one part of Southeast Aurora, but are distributed throughout the area. Those census tracts at the southernmost edges of the city have lower rates of disability.

Total Households

2014 Foreign-Born

Legend

- Americas
- Asia
- Africa
- Europe
- Oceana
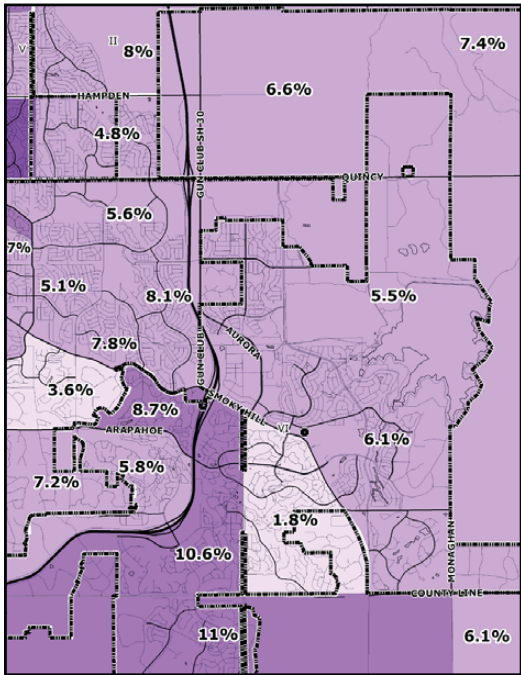
% of Tract Population with Disability
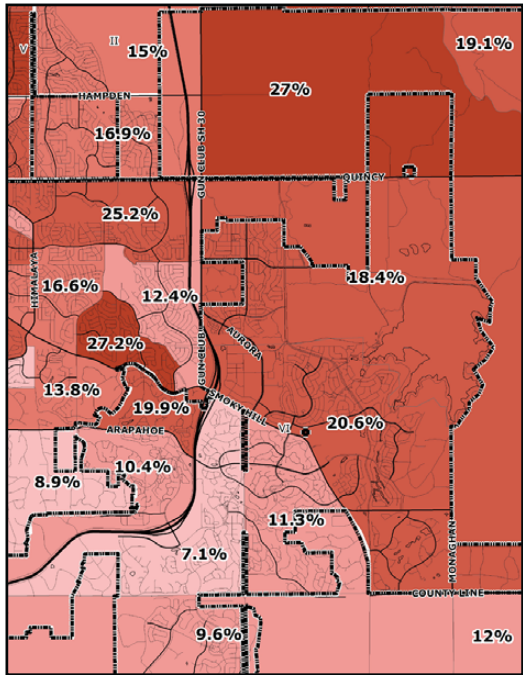
Percent 65 and Over with Disability

Southeast Aurora Employment & Income
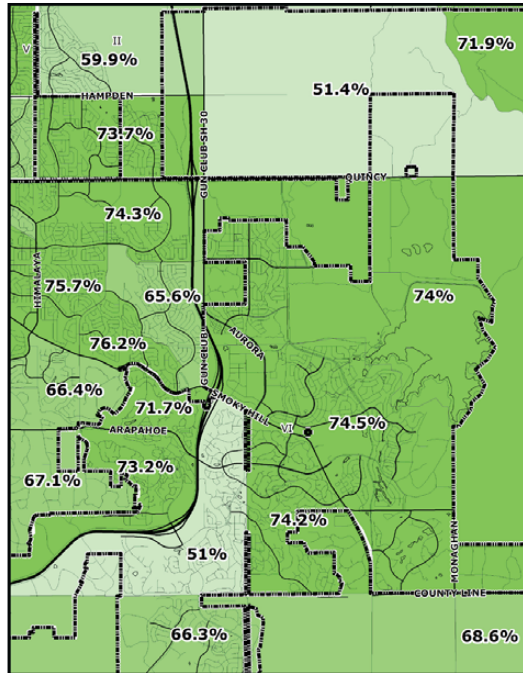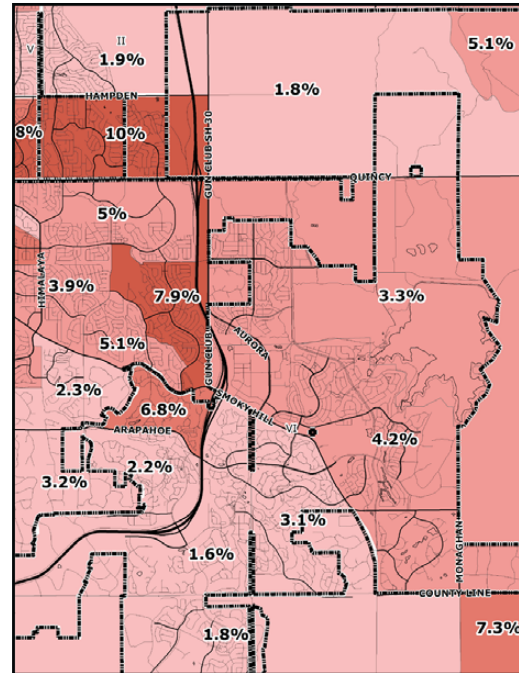
Percent Employed

Percent Unemployed, ACS 5-Year Data 2010-2014

Employment
While this area of the city has only moderate levels of employment, there are generally low levels of unemployment as well. Several of the census tracts along the interior of E-470 have higher levels of unemployment, but none of these surpass the city's overall 5-year estimate of unemployment at 10.1%.

Median Income
This area of the city has the highest median incomes in the city, ranging from $60,000 to upwards of $130,000. The overall area has seen a mix of changes in median incomes between 2010 and 2014. Most notably, census tracts further to the south are experiencing a decline in median income, while those to the north of Smokey Hill Road are experiencing slight declines or slight increases in median income.
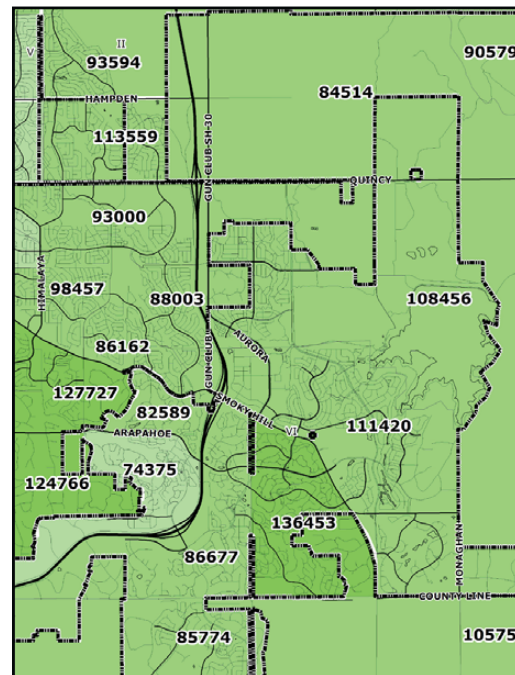
Median Income
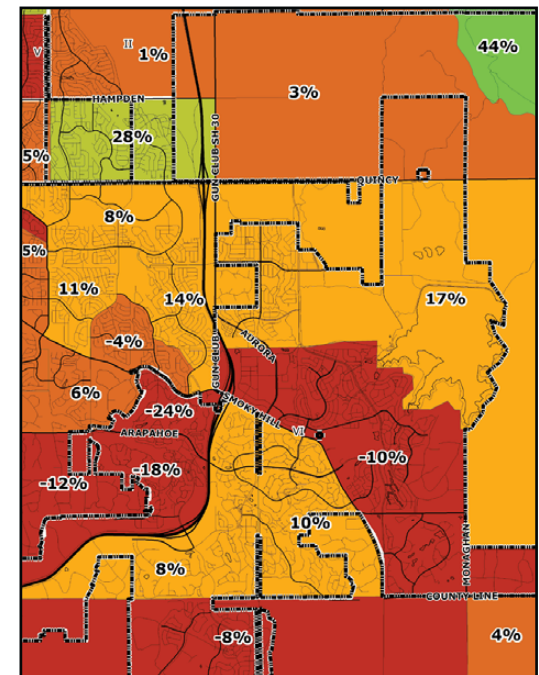
2010-2014 Change in Med. Income

Southeast Aurora Transportation & Top Occupations

Transportation
Driving is the predominate mode of transportation to work for the population in Southeast Aurora. Carpooling is a popular option for census tracts near E-470 and Arapahoe Road. Public transportation is an option more popular in census tracts to the north of Smoky Hill Road and west of Himalaya Street.
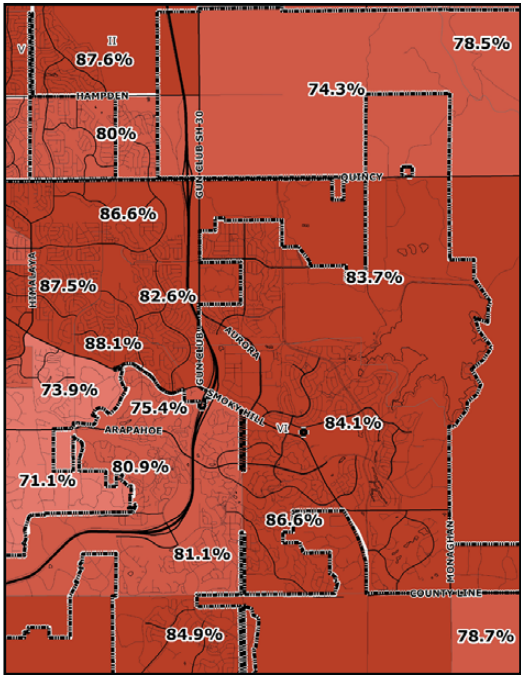
% Drive to Work
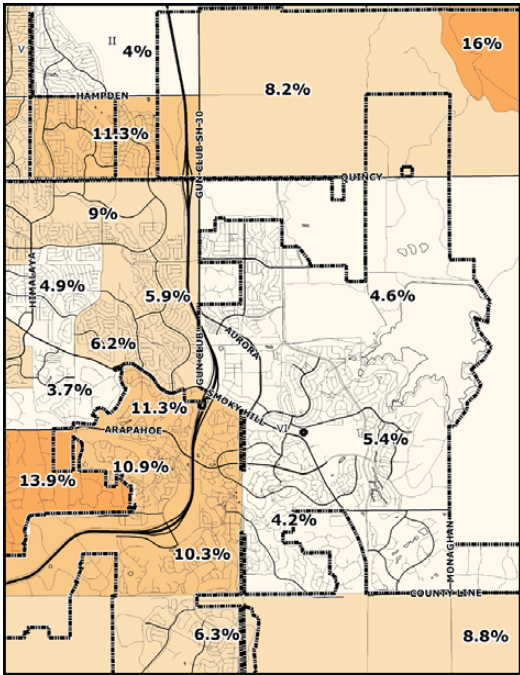
% Carpool to Work
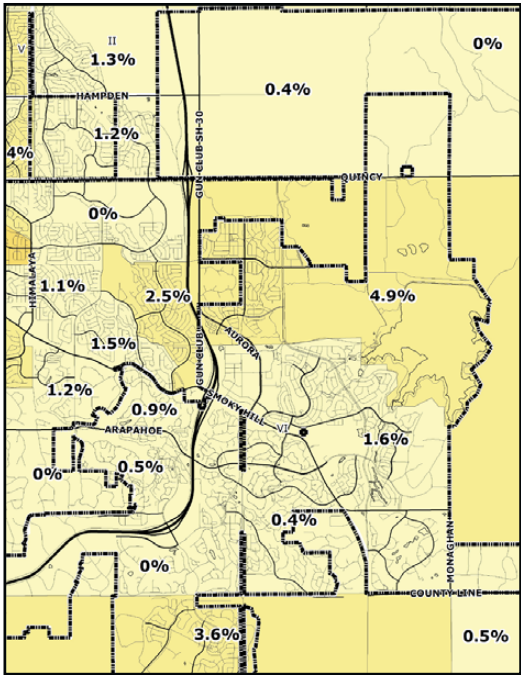
% Public Transit to Work
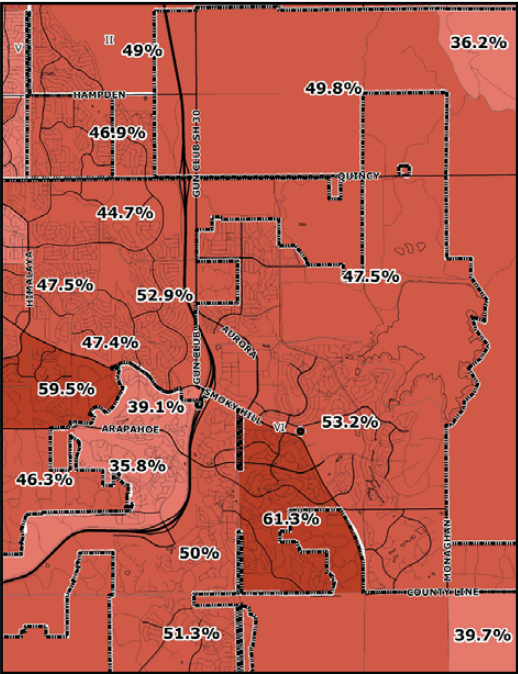
Management and Related Occupations
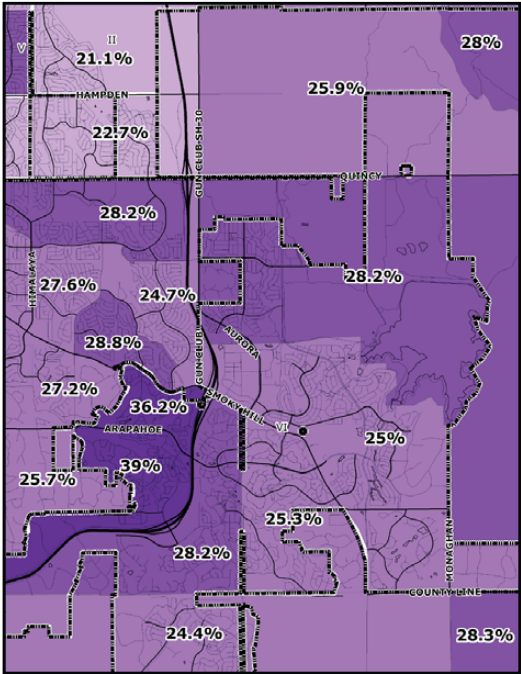
Sales and Office Occupations

Top Occupations
Management, Business, Science, and Art related occupations make up almost half of the occupations held by residents in Southeast Aurora. Sales and Office positions are also a major occupation, making up between 20% and 30% of the total occupations in the majority of census tracts.

% Home Ownership

Map labels: 92.4%, 87.1%, 65.9%, 93.2%, 88.8%, 88.4%, 76.2%, 89.5%, 90.7%, 93.8%, 52.2%, 79.9%, 97.1%, 72.5%, 97.8%, 75.3%, 77.6%, 93%

Average Household Size

Map labels: 2.95, 2.73, 3.16, 3.43, 3.29, 3.23, 3.44, 3.05, 3.14, 3.01, 2.56, 3.06, 2.62, 3.24, 3.43, 2.26, 2.54, 2.98
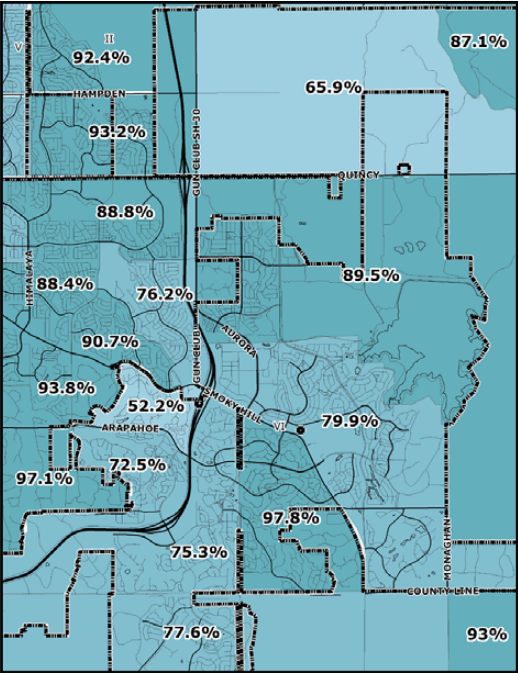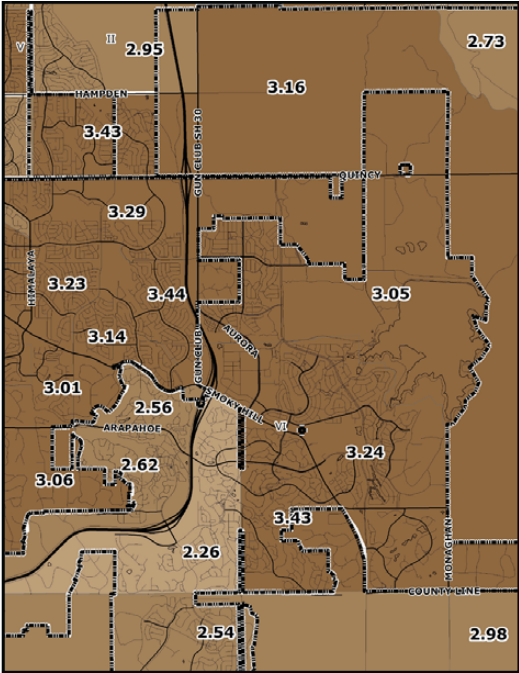
Ownership
Southeast Aurora has very high levels of home ownership, ranging upwards of 90% in some census tracts.

Average Household Size
This area has a moderately high average household size compared to other portions of the city.

Median Home Value
Home values in these census tracts are, for the most part, higher than those elsewhere in the city. Several census tracts have median home values of over $400,000.

Average Household Size
Household sizes are relatively large in this area of Aurora. Many of the census tracts have an average household size greater than 3.

Median Home Value

Map labels: 268300, 270000, 278100, 253300, 271100, 234500, 255800, 295900, 235900, 374200, 439800, 396100, 580000, 303400, 425100, 367400, 390800, 354400
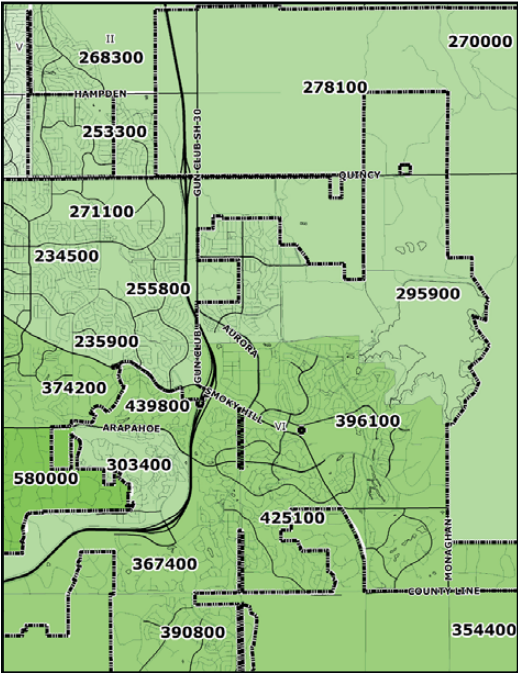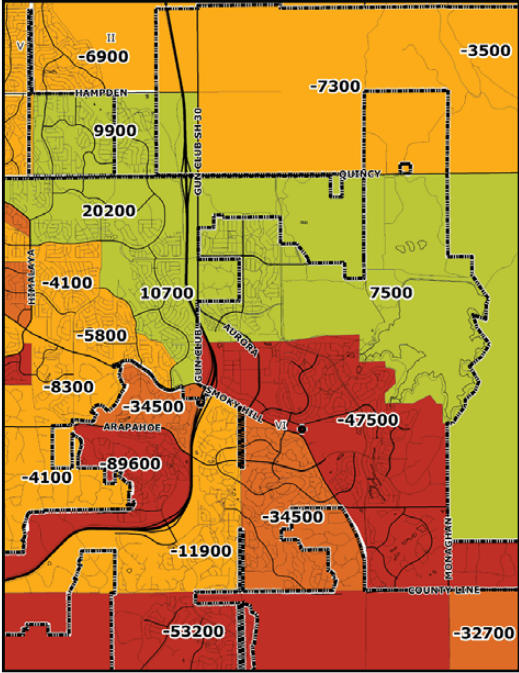
Change in Median Home Value '10-'14

Map labels: -6900, -3500, -7300, 9900, 20200, -4100, 10700, 7500, -5800, -8300, -34500, -47500, -4100, -89600, -34500, -11900, -53200, -32700

PART 3: AURORA *and* PEER CITIES

Introduction

The Aurora Snapshots section of this report looked at overall city demographics with some comparisons to the metro area as a whole. The Key Areas section took a closer look at the demographics in some important areas of Aurora to get a better idea of how the different areas of Aurora come together to form the overall picture. This section provides some high-level comparisions between Aurora and its peer cities in the metro area, with an eye toward the future. By comparing Aurora with its peers, we can gain insights into how Aurora fits into the story of the metro area, how we are different or similar to other communities, and what unique challenges and opportunities we face in light of the fact that cities are in competition with one another.

We'll take a close look at five key statistics: total population, educational attainment, median income, total dwelling units, and labor force characteristics.

Population Total

Aurora is the second largest city in the metropolitain area. We grew approximately 8% between 2010 and 2014. This is more total population growth than most of the cities in the metro area. Based on percentage of the population, several cities grew at faster rates than Aurora. Commerce City, Thornton, and Denver grew by 10% or more during this period.
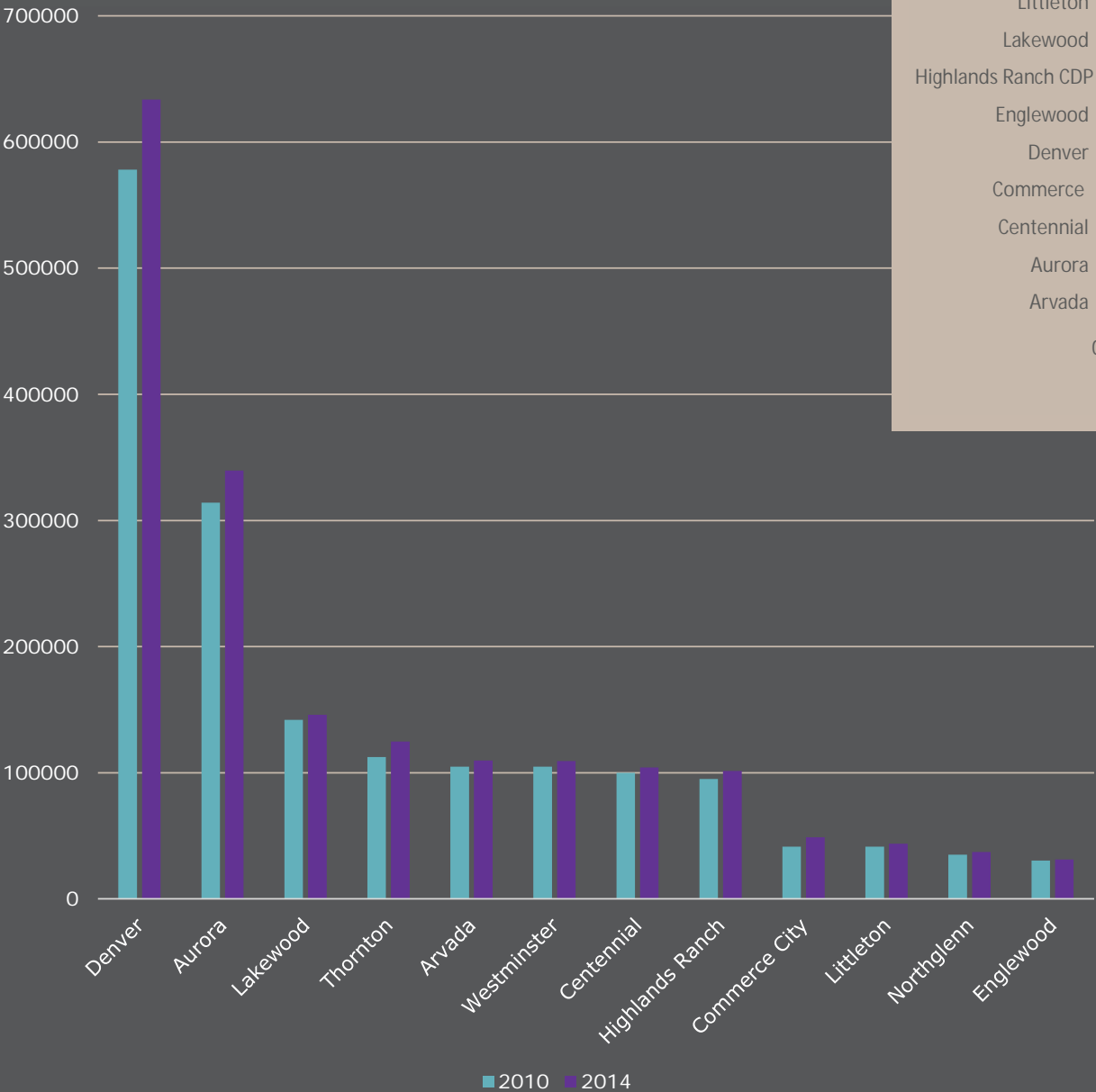
For the most part, women outnumber men in the metro area. Other than Aurora, Littleton, Commerce City, Centennial, and Arvada have higher numbers of women.

Male / Female bar chart:

City	Male	Female
Westminster		
Thornton		
Northglenn		
Littleton		
Lakewood		
Highlands Ranch CDP		
Englewood		
Denver		
Commerce		
Centennial		
Aurora		
Arvada		

Population Total bar chart (2010 / 2014):

City	2010	2014
Denver	~580000	~632000
Aurora	~315000	~340000
Lakewood	~143000	~147000
Thornton	~113000	~125000
Arvada	~105000	~110000
Westminster	~105000	~110000
Centennial	~100000	~105000
Highlands Ranch	~96000	~102000
Commerce City	~42000	~48000
Littleton	~42000	~44000
Northglenn	~36000	~38000
Englewood	~31000	~32000

Population Growth as % of 2010 Population

City	Growth
Commerce City	18%
Thornton	11%
Denver	10%
Aurora	8%
Highlands Ranch	7%
Littleton	6%
Northglenn	6%
Arvada	5%
Westminster	4%
Centennial	4%
Englewood	3%
Lakewood	3%
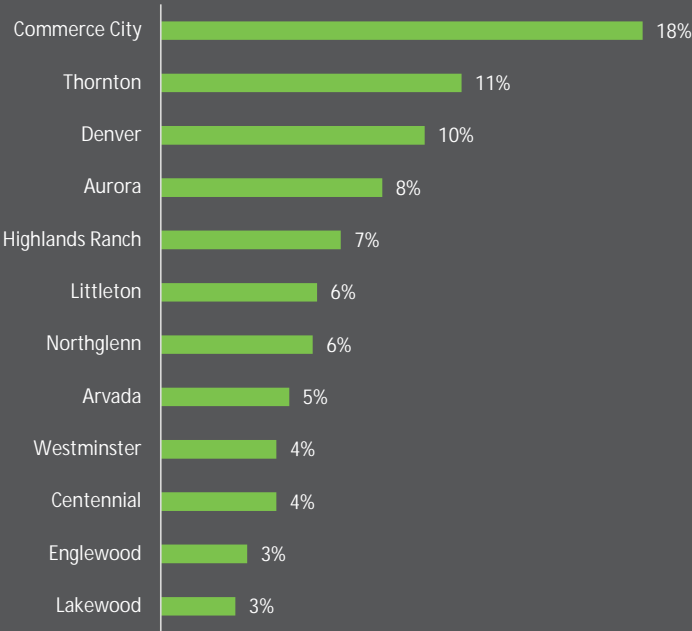
Educational Attainment

Compared to other cities in the metro area, Aurora has relatively low levels of educational attainment, but is close to the middle of the pack. Approximately 26.6% of Aurorans have a bachelor's degree or higher. Highlands Ranch has the highest levels of educational attainment, with more than 60% of the population holding a Bachelor's Degree or higher. Commerce City, Englewood, Thornton, and Northglenn have higher numbers of people who only completed high school.

Aurora and Northglenn have the highest numbers of people who have some college or an associate's degree. Denver has a smaller portion of its population in the educational attainment levels below a bachelor's degree and greater portions of its population with bachelor's degrees and graduate or professional degrees.

Legend:
- ■ Less than 9th Grade
- ■ No High School Diploma
- ■ High School Diploma or G.E.D.
- ■ Some College No Degree
- ■ Associates Degree
- ■ Bachelor's Degree
- ■ Graduate or Professional Degree

% with High School Diploma or G.E.D.

Cities (left to right): Commerce City, Denver, Northglenn, Aurora, Thornton, Englewood, Westminster, Lakewood, Arvada, Littleton, Centennial, Highlands Ranch

% with Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Cities (left to right): Commerce City, Northglenn, Thornton, Aurora, Englewood, Lakewood, Westminster, Arvada, Denver, Littleton, Centennial, Highlands Ranch

Stacked bar chart cities (top to bottom): Arvada, Aurora, Centennial, Commerce, Denver, Englewood, Highlands Ranch, Lakewood, Littleton, Northglenn, Thornton, Westminster

Income

Historically, Aurora has had a low median income compared to other cities in the metro area. This trend has been a major challenge for the city and continues to be an issue today. Since 1979, Aurora's median income has fallen the furthest compared to other peer cities, and since the great recession, has recovered the slowest.

In 2014, Aurora's median income is higher than Denver and Englewood, but it is still close to the bottom of the list. Aurora's median income has increased by over $2,500 between 2010 and 2014, but this gain is being outpaced by other metro area communities, who have increased their median incomes by upwards of $8,000. Aurora has increased its median income more than Northglenn and Thornton, who saw increases below $2,000 and $1,000 respectively.

Relative Median Family Income, Selected Cities

Legend: Arvada, Aurora, Denver, Highlands Ranch, Lakewood, Thornton, Westminster, Metro Region
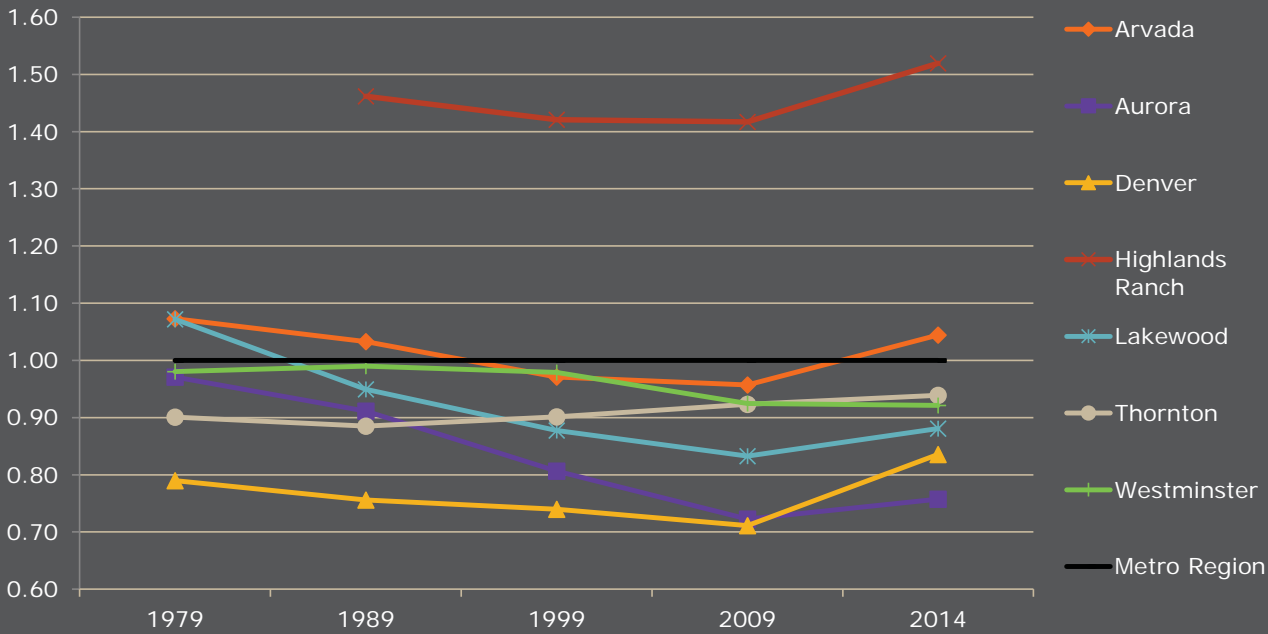
Increase in Median Income 2010-2014

Legend: 2010, 2014
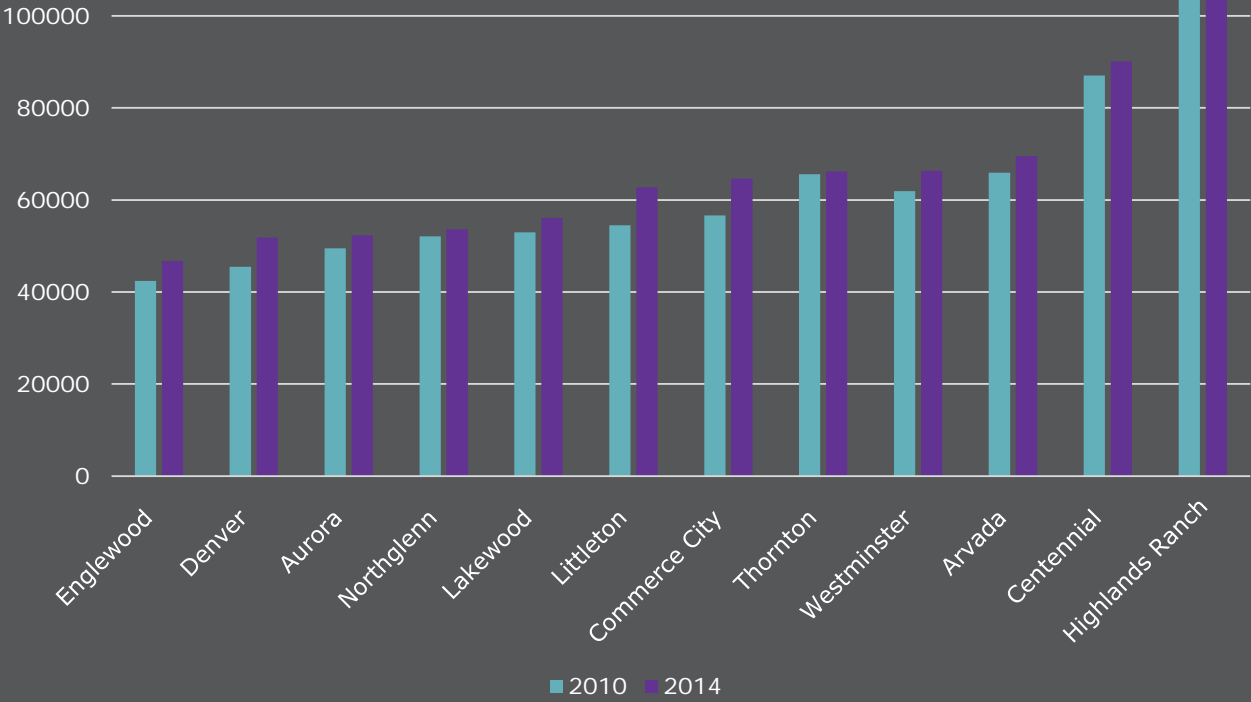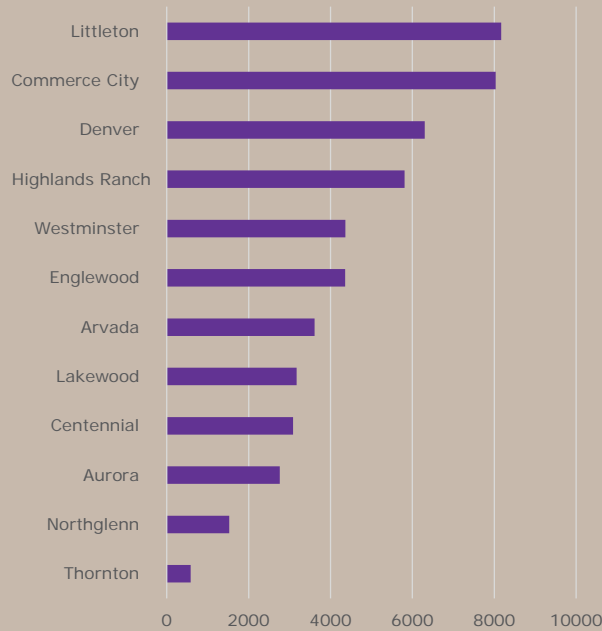
Housing Units

Aurora has the second most number of dwellings in the region, behind Denver. Lakewood, the community with the third largest population in the metro area, has approximately half the number of housing units that Aurora has. The smallest communities in the metro area are Commerce City, Englewood, and Northglenn, all with less than 20,000 homes.

One way to tell if residential development is keeping pace with the number of people in the metropolitain area is to compare households with the number of dwellings. Aurora experienced a slight decrease in dwellings between 2010 and 2014, while experiencing an increase in the number of households. These additional households helped fill the gap in vacant housing stock. All other communities in the metro area, excepting Englewood, saw growth in both the number of total households and the total number of dwelling units.

Total Housing Units 2010 & 2014

Denver, Aurora, Lakewood, Arvada, Westminster, Thornton, Centennial, Highlands Ranch CDP, Littleton, Commerce, Englewood, Northglenn

■ 2010 ■ 2014

Change in Households vs. Change in Dwelling Units

Denver, Thornton, Aurora, Arvada, Northglenn, Westminster, Highlands Ranch, Commerce, Littleton, Centennial, Lakewood, Englewood

■ Change in Number of Households   ■ Change in Dwelling Units

% Change in Housing Units 2010-2014

Thornton, Northglenn, Littleton, Highlands Ranch CDP, Denver, Commerce, Arvada, Centennial, Westminster, Lakewood, Aurora, Englewood

-3.0% -2.0% -1.0% 0.0% 1.0% 2.0% 3.0% 4.0% 5.0% 6.0% 7.0%

Employment

Five-year ACS data for labor force characteristics show the impact of the great recession across the metro area from 2010 to 2014. The recovery from the great recession isn't visible in these numbers, but the extent of change during the economic crisis is easy to see. If one-year ACS numbers become available for these geographic areas, then we will update this portion of the report to show the economic recovery as well.

Labor Force Participation Rate by Metro Area City

Cities (top to bottom): Highlands Ranch, Thornton, Westminster, Englewood, Aurora, Commerce, Denver, Arvada, Northglenn, Centennial, Lakewood, Littleton

Axis: 60, 65, 70, 75

Legend: 2014, 2010

Percent Employed by Metro Area City

Cities (top to bottom): Highlands Ranch, Thornton, Westminster, Centennial, Englewood, Arvada, Commerce, Denver, Northglenn, Aurora, Littleton, Lakewood

Axis: 55, 60, 65, 70

Legend: 2014, 2010

Unemployment Rate by Metro Area City

Cities (top to bottom): Aurora, Northglenn, Englewood, Westminster, Lakewood, Denver, Thornton, Commerce, Arvada, Littleton, Centennial, Highlands Ranch

Axis: 0, 5, 10

Legend: 2014, 2010

Aurora had the fifth largest labor force participation rate among the selected metro area peer cities. It lost only half a percent of the labor force between 2010 and 2014. Commerce City experienced the largest decease in labor force participation since 2010, with Highlands Ranch, Centennial, and Northglenn also seeing a decrease in labor force participation by more than 2%.

Most of the larger suburban cities in the metro area saw decreases in employment between 2010 and 2014. Aurora saw a large decrease in the percentage of people employed, with a gain in the number of unemployed. Other communities show greater labor force decreases, suggesting retirement or other ways of leaving the labor force.

Aurora saw the greatest increase in unemployment between 2010 and 2014, with Westminster and Thornton also experiencing large increases. Northglenn is the other peer city at the top of the list for unemployment rate, with just under 10% of the population unemployed.

Moving Aurora Forward

This report explored the main census demographics metrics for the city as a whole, for key areas of Aurora, and for the peer cities in the metro area. In these pages, there are many visualizations that help pull the messages hidden in the numbers to the surface and make the information a bit easier to understand. Maps that focus on one area, and show the data visually, can help verify aspects of a community's story or bring light to an issue that needs to be addressed.

At its core, this report is still about answering the question, "who is Aurora?" Knowing just that Aurora is a diverse place isn't enough to hang our identity on, let alone grasp the gravity of exising challenges or the possibility in our future. It is in knowing the finer details that Aurora becomes a unique place, a strong place, and a city that one is proud to live in and fight for. Aurora isn't just diverse; it's among the most integrated large cities in the nation and 20% of our population is foreign-born. Aurora has a larger proportion of its population made up of younger generations than the metro area or the state. Aurora has historically had a lower median income than the rest of the metro area, but could make great strides in turning that around as the city is pursuing transit-oriented development at nine new light rail stations. These are the types of facts that make Aurora a real place. And they help us answer the question, "who is Aurora?"