

Using Indicators to Drive Community Change: A Primer

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Friday, January 27, 2012

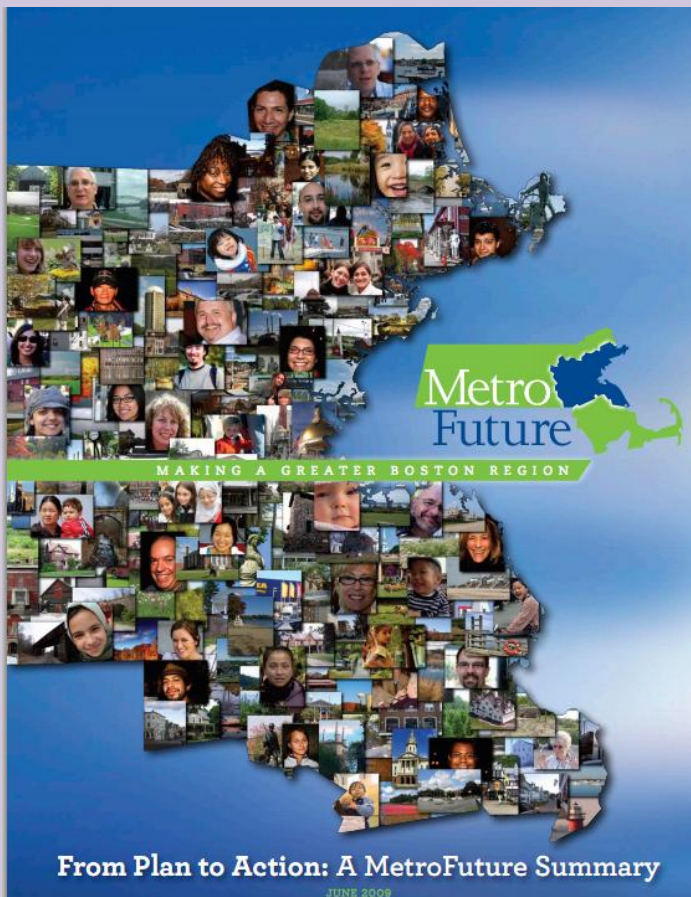


This presentation serves as a...



- Primer on indicators and the MAPC Regional Indicators Project
 - To lay the groundwork and form a common understanding of using indicators to track progress over time

Metro Boston's Regional Plan: MetroFuture



A wider diversity of housing types are built in all communities (Goal #16), helping to combat segregation based on race, ethnicity, and income (Goal #15).

Health outcomes improve for residents of historically disadvantaged communities, with increased access to healthy food (Goal #24), green space (Goal #23), better air quality (Goal #22), and medical care (Goal #26).

An indicator...



- Allows us to assess progress and track change over time
- Is measurable

How to develop an indicator



- Literature review
- Testing
- Cross-reference
- Pilot
- Convening and input from stakeholder










What makes a good indicator?



- Relevant to subject of interest
- Available
- Collected regularly
- Interpretable
- Cost effective
- Sensitive to change

Regional Indicators Project



-  Demographics
-  Economy
-  Education
-  Environment
-  Housing
-  Public Health
-  Public Safety
-  Transportation
-  Reference and Navigation

Metro Boston Indicators Project

The State of Equity in Metro Boston

An equitable region, where "all people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to attain their full potential" is one featuring a diverse labor force prepared for the region's knowledge economy; healthy residents and low health care costs; and communities where people of different ages, incomes, races and ethnicities have real options to live, work, learn and play side by side.

We credit King County, Washington with this [definition of equity](#).

[MetroFuture](#), the region's plan for growth through the year 2030, directs us to achieve this vision by eliminating unfair, preventable, and systematic differences between groups that not only harm individuals and families, but threaten the vibrancy of our region.

The **State of Equity Indicators report**, funded by the Barr Foundation is the first report in MAPC's Regional Indicators program. This report establishes a baseline for our equity-related indicators and will track the region's progress towards the MetroFuture goals. Click the preview to the right to view the report full-screen. You can also download (due to large file size it's recommended to right-click on the link and choose to download the file directly to your computer):

- [12-page executive summary \(6 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Full report for web viewing \(11 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Full report for printing \(16 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)



Thanks to the over 200 of you who joined MAPC at the report's formal release at Harvard Law School on December 13, 2011. The event featured remarks by David Harris, Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law, and Mary Skelton-Roberts, Senior Program Officer at the Barr Foundation. Six respondents, including officials from HUD and Governor Patrick's Administration provided insightful responses to a presentation of the data included in the report. To download a copy of the presentation, [click here](#).

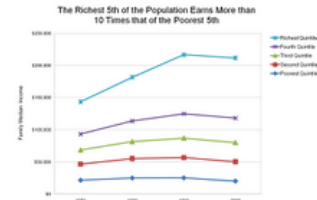
The **policy report** will be released later in 2011 and will identify key policy and programmatic recommendations to "bend the trends" towards greater regional equity. MAPC will reach out to a wide variety of stakeholders in translating our data findings to policy; stay in touch to learn more. Click [here](#) to view the MetroFuture equity-related recommendations for policy and program change.

We are Becoming More Diverse



Metro Boston is changing. The face of the region in 2030 will look substantially different than it does now.

We are Becoming Less Equal



Segregation not only harms individuals but also hinders Metro Boston's potential for equitable growth and prosperity.

Measure progress to MetroFuture



MetroFuture Goal #14: An increasing share of the housing in each municipality will be affordable to working class families and fixed-income seniors

Objective:	Objective:	Objective:	Objective:	Objective:	Objective:
The region will produce 350,000 new housing units by 2030.	The regional affordability gap will be eliminated by 2030, for households earning 80%, 100%, and 120% of regional median income.	There will be an increasing number of municipalities in which local median housing costs (ownership and rental) are equal to or less than 30% of regional median income.	Ownership housing units with monthly costs less than 30% of regional monthly median income will comprise a growing share of the region's housing stock.	Rental housing units costing less than 30% of regional median income will comprise a growing share of the region's housing stock.	There will be 97,000 new starter homes (single-family homes <1,700 square feet; single-family attached; 2-4 family homes) by 2030

Housing cost burden (households paying more than 30% of income on housing)

← **Goals** describe the MetroFuture vision in general terms.

← **Objectives** support each of the goals. They are more specific and largely numeric.

← **Indicators** are tied to as many of the objectives as possible. They are regularly collected data points.

Indicators used in the State of Equity Report



- Income
- Poverty rate
- Segregation measures
- Low birth weight
- Asthma rates
- Attendance at high poverty schools
- Dropout rates
- Access to transit
- Labor force participation
- Access to open space
- Many others

Ten Most Wanted Datasets



1. Regional Parcel database
2. Regional development database
3. Decennial household travel demand survey
4. Aerial photo surveys and derived land use information
5. Water and sewer infrastructure
6. Region-wide zoning map
7. Local Employment Dynamics program data
8. Demographic summaries of state income tax filings by municipality
9. Statewide permit tracking database
10. Brownfields database

Storytelling



December 2011



The State of Equity in Metro Boston

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To create *MetroFuture*, the region's plan for growth through the year 2030, thousands of people came together to talk about the future they wanted for their region. These "plan builders" shared a common vision of an equitable region where "all people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to attain their full potential."¹



The *MetroFuture* Equity Goals

MetroFuture directs us to achieve this vision by eliminating unfair, preventable, and systematic differences between groups that not only harm individuals and families, but threaten the vibrancy of our region. We believe that a focus on equity will make our region not only more just, but also more prosperous for all its residents.

The *MetroFuture* region is one where:

- A wider diversity of housing types are built in all communities (Goal #16), helping to combat segregation based on race, ethnicity, and income (Goal #15).
- Health outcomes improve for residents of historically disadvantaged communities, with increased access to healthy food (Goal #24), green space (Goal #23), better air quality (Goal #22), and medical care (Goal #26).
- More convenient transportation options, leading to a healthier lifestyle, are available throughout the region, particularly in traditionally under-served areas (Goal #44).
- All of the region's residents are equipped with all of the tools they need to succeed in tomorrow's economy (Goal #29), and small business owners and first-time homebuyers have the resources to build wealth for future generations (Goal #38).

So, what is the state of equity in Metro Boston?

Overview



- Goals
 - Objectives
 - Indicators
 - Policy Recommendations

How can we improve data collection for indicators research?



MetroFuture Implementation Strategy: **Democratizing Information**

- Align data collection and policymaking
- Improve state and local capacity to utilize planning and decision support tools
- Support State and Regional data intermediaries
- Build and maintain a strong “information infrastructure

Questions?



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