

The Multidisciplinary Architecture of Metropolitan Equity Studies

David D. Troutt
Rutgers Law School
Center on Law in Metropolitan Equity

Structural Inequality through a Framework of Opportunity

- To be structural is to be embedded institutionally where effects often follow patterns that seem systematic
- Law and policy are common frameworks of structure
- They instantiate norms and values
- Often for the sake of some idea of opportunity

Place-Based Opportunity Applications

From the head of a pin to the tip of an iceberg:

- Achievement gaps (educational equity)
- Diabetes, asthma or violence (public health, crim j)
- Inaccessibility/mismatch, social networks (transportation, labor force dynamics, sociology)
- Foreclosure rates (economics, public finance, banking, economic development, discrimination)
- Joblessness (labor econ., sociology, gender studies)

Essential equality, perennial disparity

- Localism
- Public choice rationality
- Regional competition and interlocal conflict

Distinction:

Inequality (measurable difference)

Inequity (the fairness of process)

Black & Hispanic (k-12)

Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible (k-12)

	1999-2000	2011-2012	% change 1999-2012	1999-2000	2011-2012	% change 1999-2012
--	-----------	-----------	-----------------------	-----------	-----------	-----------------------

West Orange	47%	67%	20%	20%	38%	18%
Belleville	40%	69%	29%	24%	44%	20%
Bloomfield	37%	60%	23%	25%	33%	8%
South Orange-Maplewood	54%	45%	-9%	13%	19%	6%
Montclair	51%	41%	-10%	19%	12%	-7%
Irvington	99%	99%	0%	75%	63%	-12%
Millburn	3%	5%	2%	1%	1%	0%
Livingston	3%	6%	3%	1%	1%	0%
Roseland	4%	11%	7%	3%	3%	0%

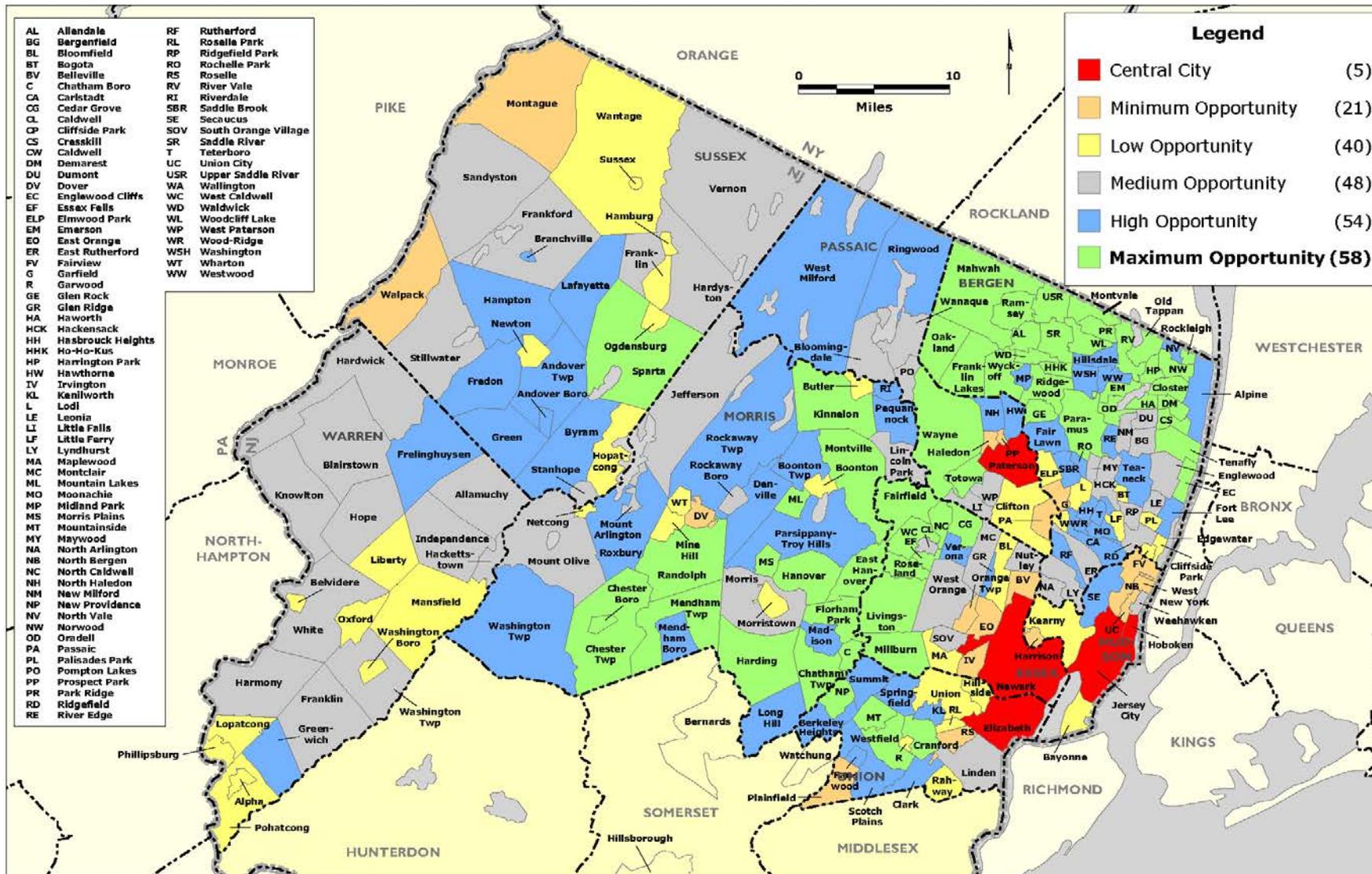
Data from NJ Department of Education and Education Law Center

A geography of opportunity

The Municipal Opportunity Index for the
Northern New Jersey metro area

- Based on
1. Job opportunity data
 2. School quality data
 3. Municipal services quality ratings
 4. Median income
 5. Family poverty rates

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY: Opportunity Types of Municipalities



Ways to think of COSTS

Normative thinking:

- The problem of argument
- The argument of the problem

Critical interactions

Ferguson, MO

Law as a servicer