



State of Rural Minnesota Report 2014



center for **rural policy**
and development

Seeking Solutions for Greater Minnesota's Future

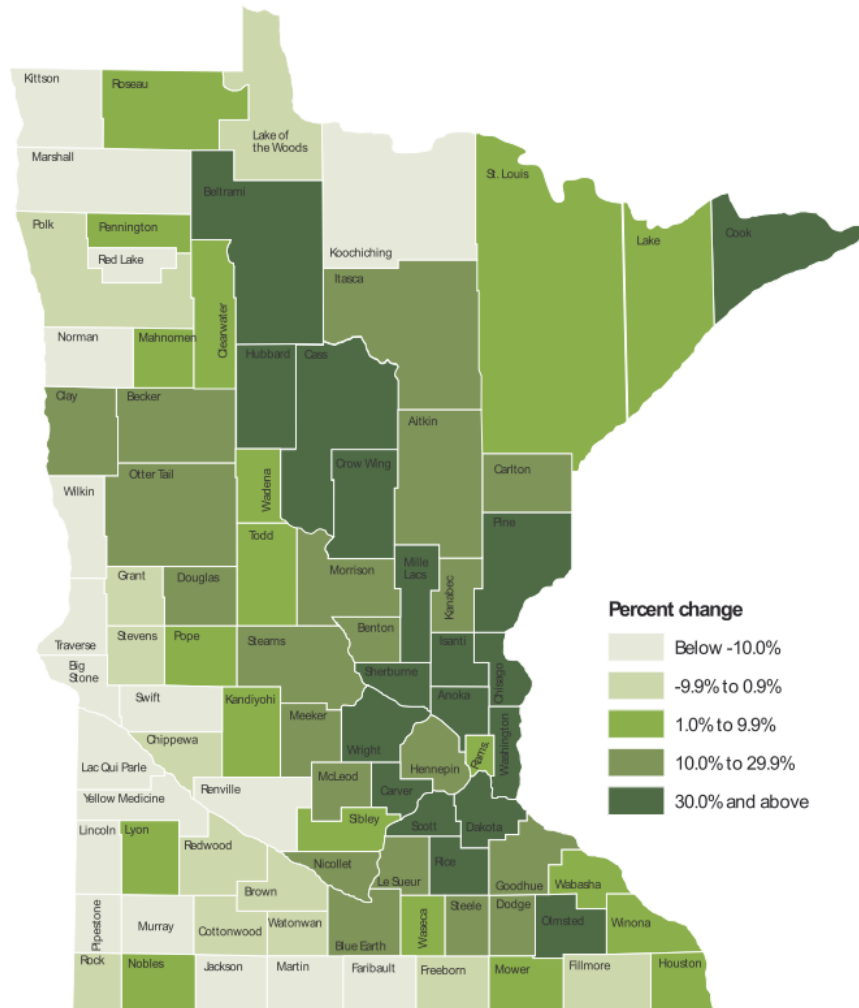
Introduction



In 1997, a group of rural Minnesota advocates came together to create a rural policy “think tank” that would provide policy makers, rural advocates and concerned citizens with an objective, unbiased and politically “unspun” examination of contemporary rural issues.

- ✓ Based in Mankato, Minn.
- ✓ Non-partisan, non-profit policy research organization
- ✓ Dedicated to providing Minnesota’s policy makers with an unbiased evaluation of issues from a rural perspective.
- ✓ The Center is recognized as a leading resource for rural policy research.

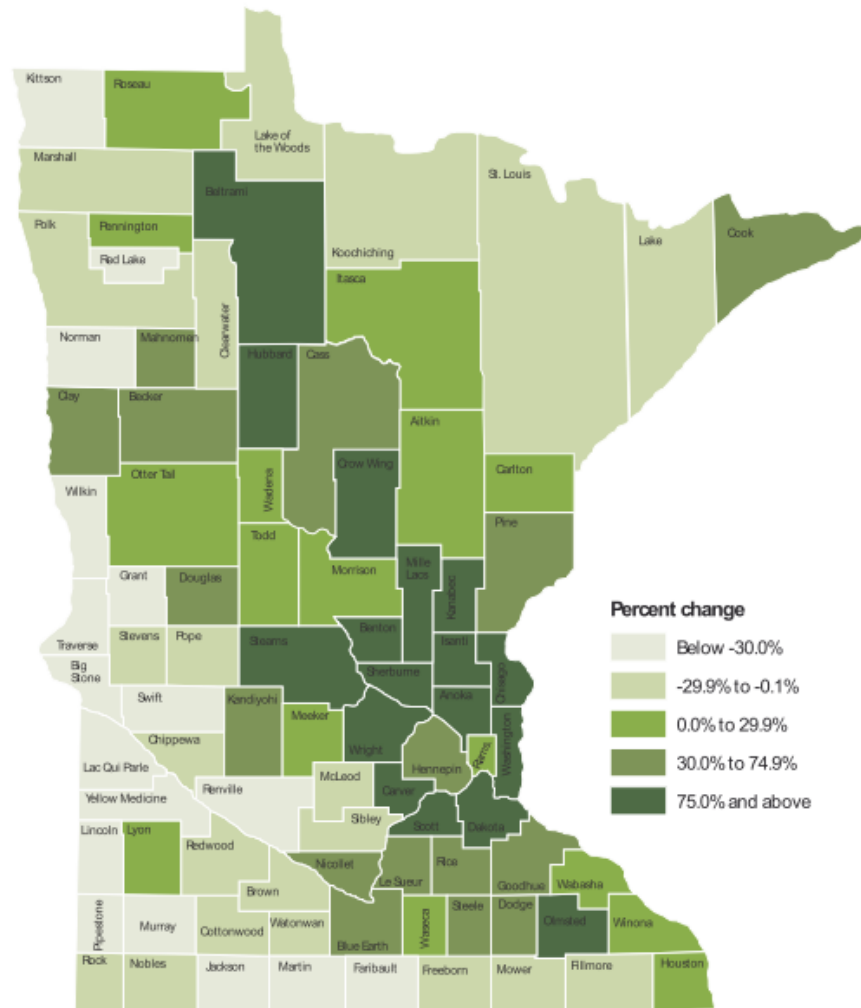
Population change, 1990-2013



- From 1990 to 2013, the state's population grew by approximately 1 million, to 5.4 million. The most dramatic growth was seen in the Twin Cities suburbs, stretching up into the Central Lakes area.

Data source:
U.S. Census Bureau,
Population Estimates Program
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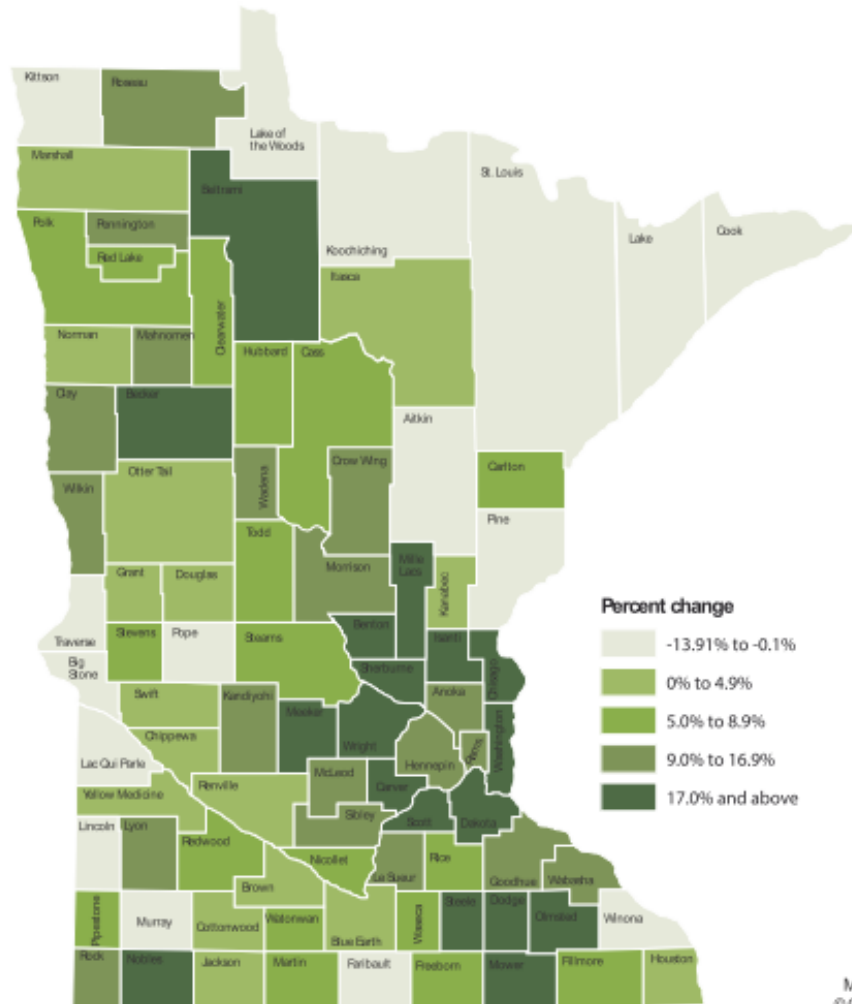
Long-term population change, 1960-2013



- Looking at how the population has changed since 1960 shows the relentless shift from the rural counties to the urban and suburban cores of the Twin Cities, St. Cloud and Rochester. Sherburne County has seen the most growth, increasing by 601%.

Data source:
U.S. Census Bureau,
Population Estimate Program
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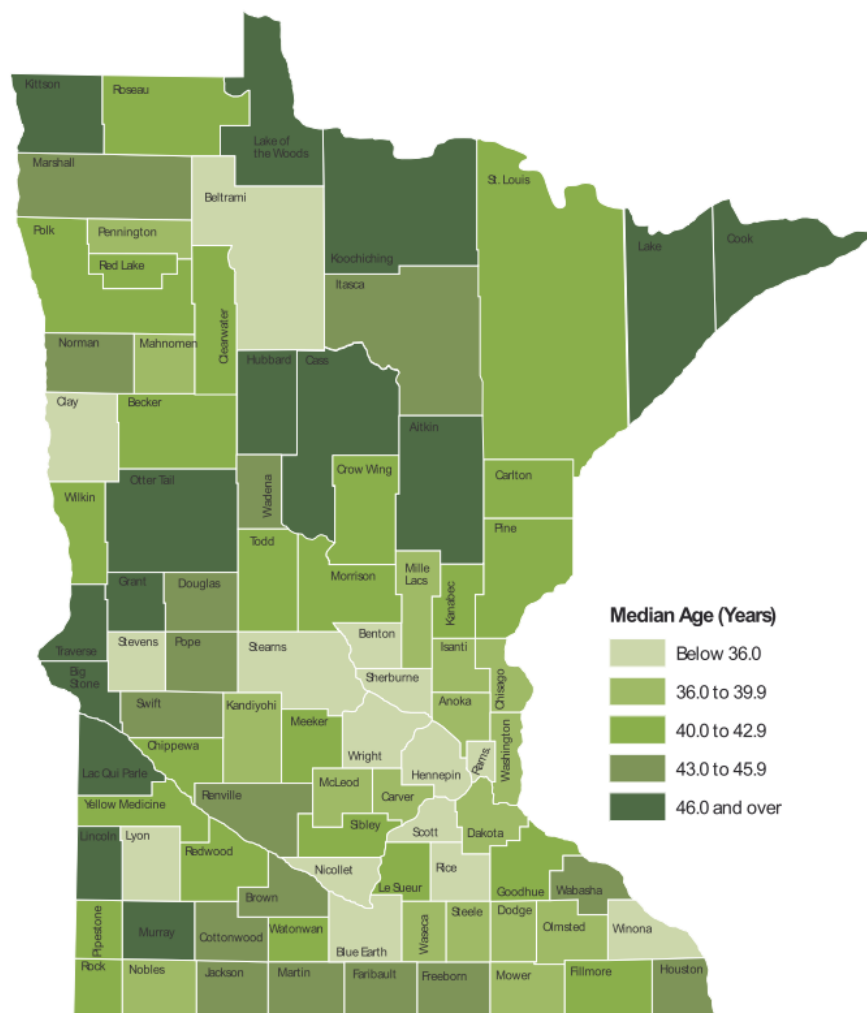
Projected population change, 2010-2045



- Northeastern and southwestern counties are expected to lose population, while growth will continue to radiate out from the Twin Cities and north into the central lakes region, with some substantial growth in southeastern Minnesota.

Data source:
Minnesota State Demographic Center
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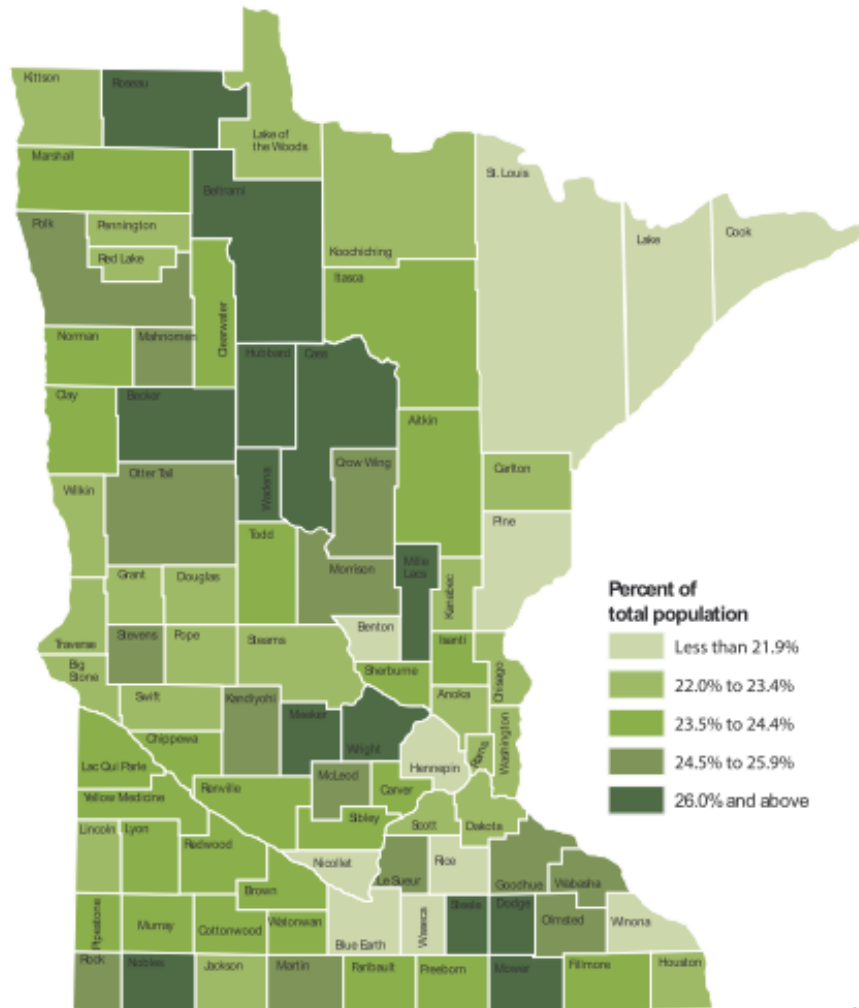
Median Age, 2013



- Fast-growing counties with young families, large institutions of higher education, or large minority populations tend to have a lower median age.

Data source:
U.S. Census Bureau
© Center for Rural Policy and Development

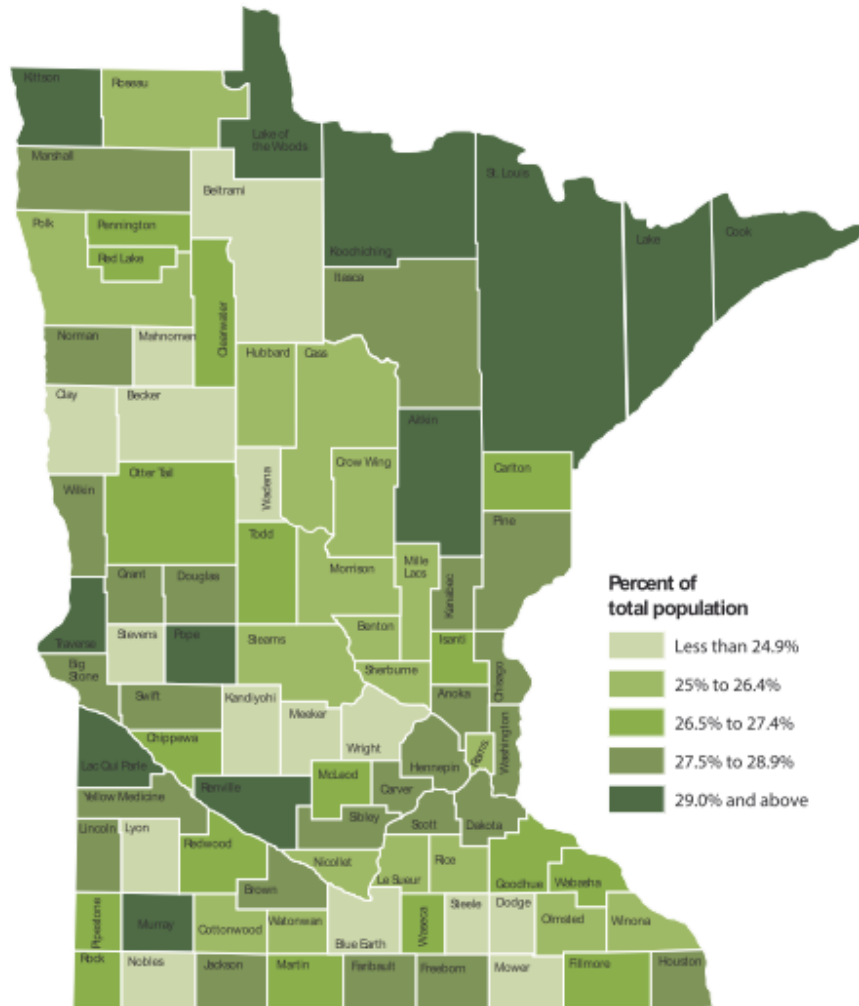
Projected population age 19 and under, 2045



- While today the youngest counties are in the Twin Cities metro area, the State Demographic Center is projecting several rural counties to have a comparatively high percentage of young people by 2045, most likely due to the presence of a college or university or a large minority population, which tends to be younger and have more children.

Data source:
Minnesota State Demographic Center
© Center for Rural Policy and Development

Projected population age 65+, 2045



- The trend in aging is expected to follow the same course as it has in rural Minnesota and even increase in counties attracting retirees.
- However, the trend appears to be offset in some southern and western counties like Blue Earth, Lyon, Clay and Nobles due to institutions of higher learning and large numbers of minorities. The highest percentages are seen in the northeastern counties of the state.

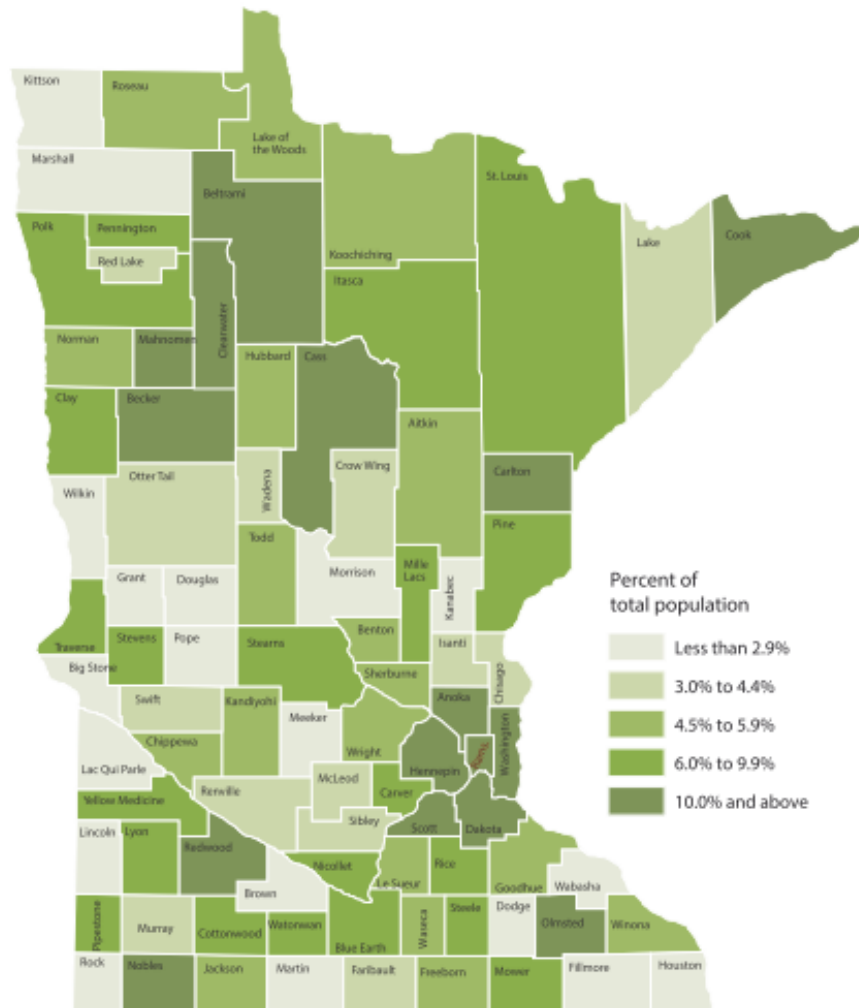
Data source:
U.S. Census Bureau
MN State Demographic Center
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County	Decrease in white population	Increase in minority population	Change in total population
Clearwater	-130	493	363
Fillmore	-148	251	110
Hennepin	-43,955	169,563	125,608
Lyon	-1,257	2,182	925
Mahnomen	-1,070	1,468	398
Mower	-695	2,425	1,730
Nobles	-1,643	2,894	1,251
Ramsey	-60,800	85,920	25,120
St. Louis	-5,874	7,847	1,937

Nine counties experienced population growth between 1990 and 2012 due to growth in their minority populations (U.S. Census Bureau, 2012). Six of them are not in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

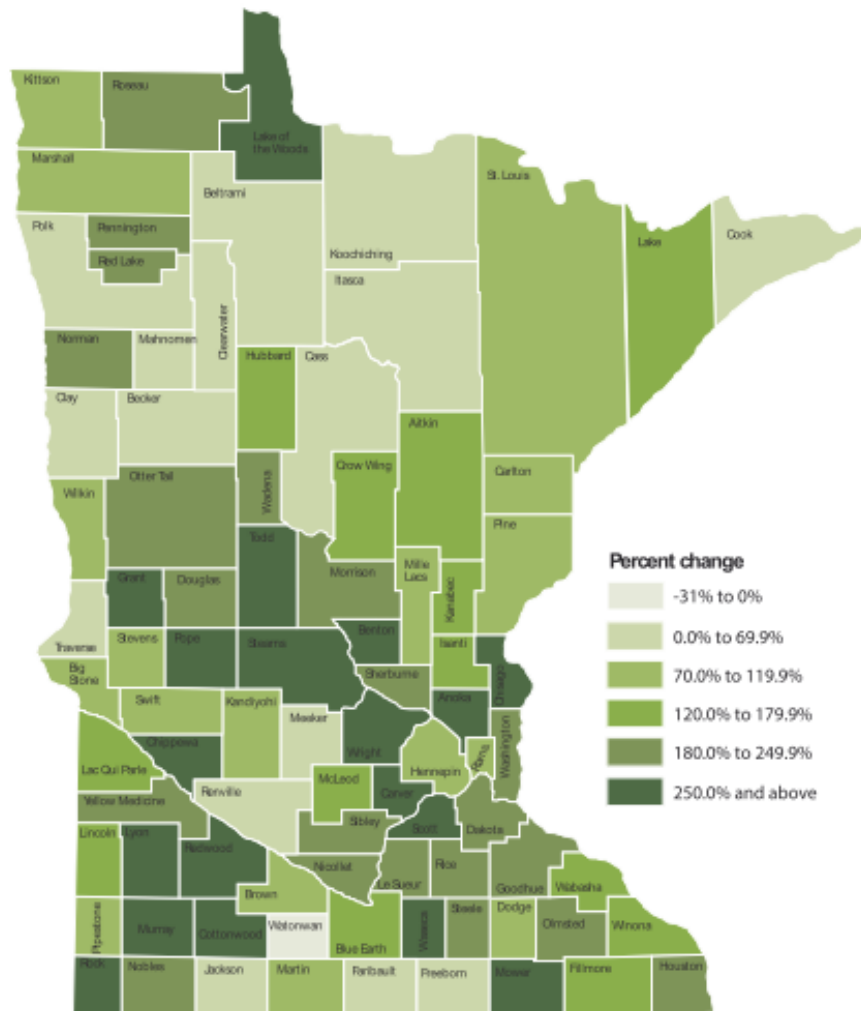
Distribution of people of color, 2012



- While the vast majority of Minnesota's population is still Caucasian, the state's population of color has now more than doubled since the 1990 Census, increasing from 6.3% of the population to an estimated 14.5% in 2012.
- Cities in the north tend to have large Native American populations; Latinos and Somalis make up the largest minority groups in western and southern Minnesota.

Data source:
U.S. Census Bureau Population Division
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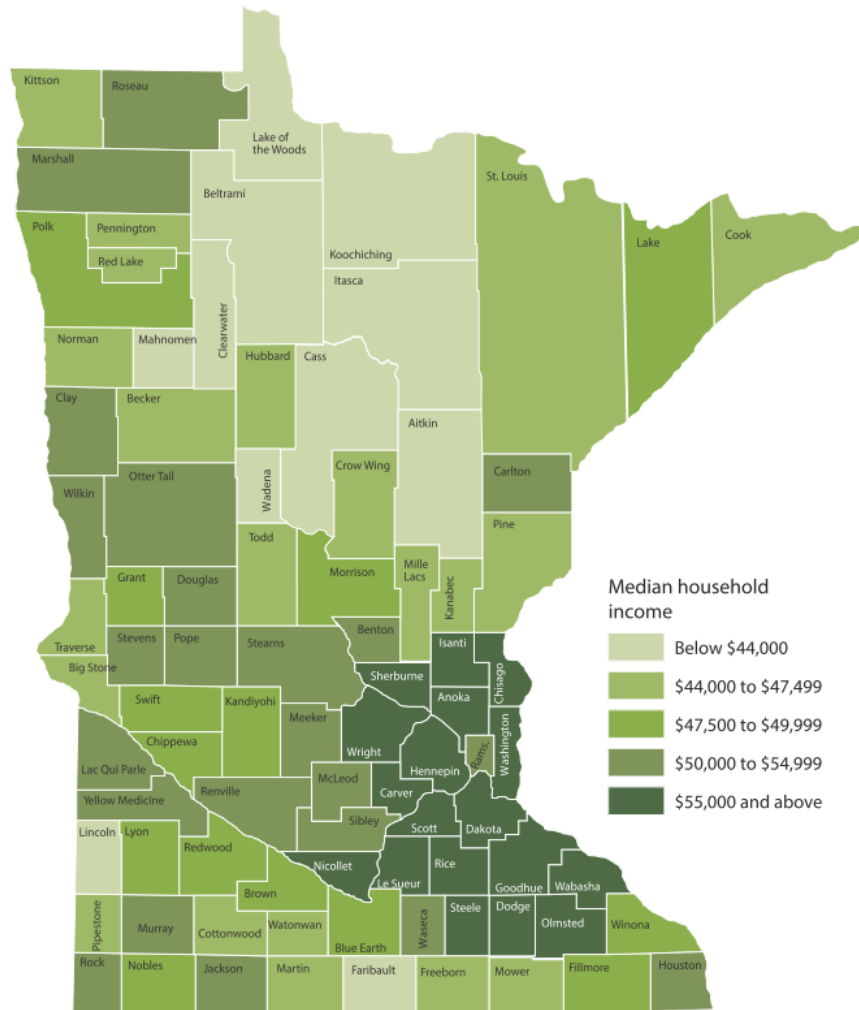
Change in the distribution of people of color, 1990-2012



- Northern counties saw little change as their Native American populations remained relatively stable. Numerous western and southern counties have seen dramatic growth with the in-migration of Latinos, Laotians, Somalis, Sudanese, Hmong and other groups. However, some of the highest growth was in the ring suburbs of the Twin Cities.

Data sources:
U.S. Census Bureau
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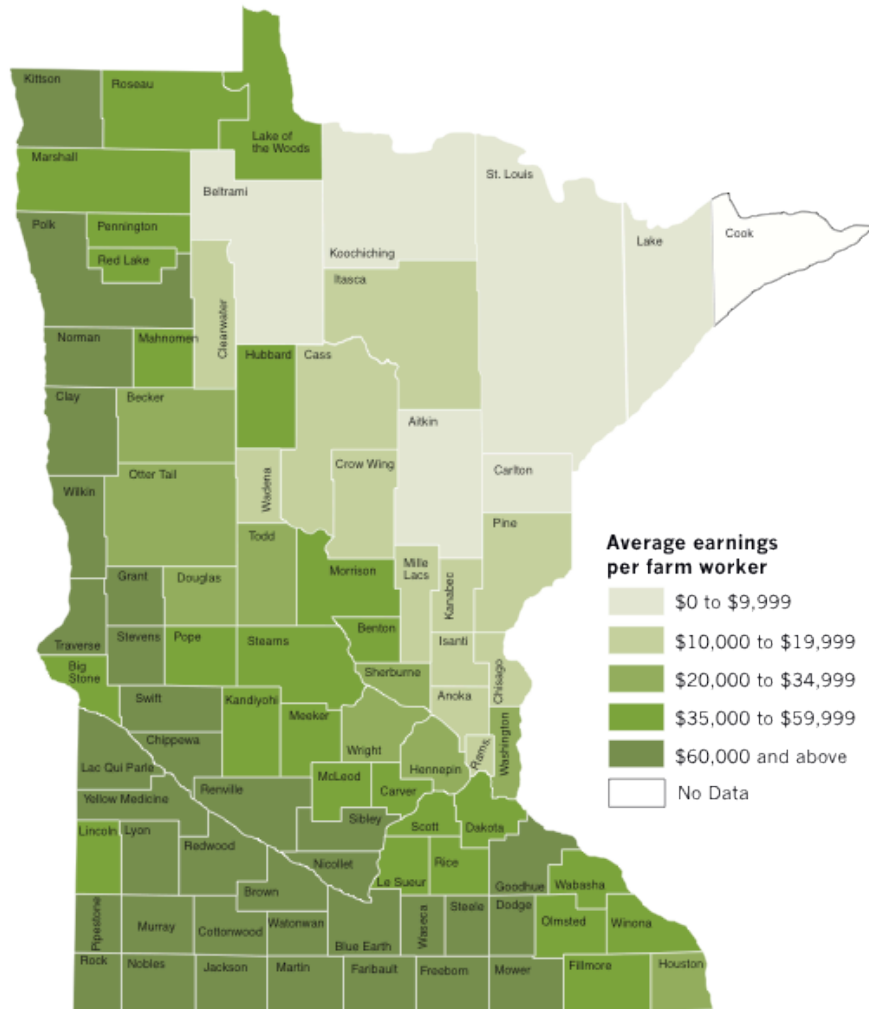
Median household income, 2012



- In 2012, Minnesota's estimated median household income was \$58,828.
- In Minnesota, incomes are highest around the Twin Cities metro area, especially in the more affluent suburbs that ring the core cities. Scott County had the highest estimated median household income, at \$86,324, while Wadena County recorded the lowest, at \$37,577.

Data source:
U.S. Census Bureau
Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates
© Center for Rural Policy and Development

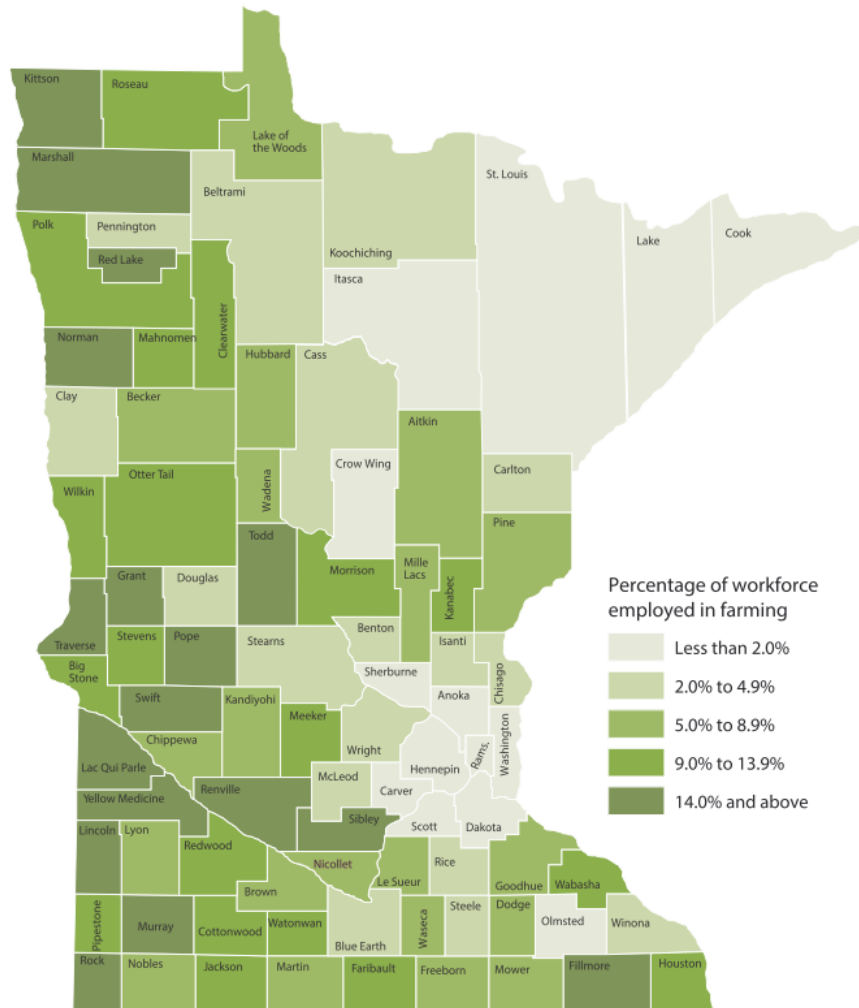
Average earnings in farming, 2011



- Farming has had a strong presence in Minnesota historically and continues to do so today. The distribution of earnings from farming is apparent.

Data source:
U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of Economic Analysis
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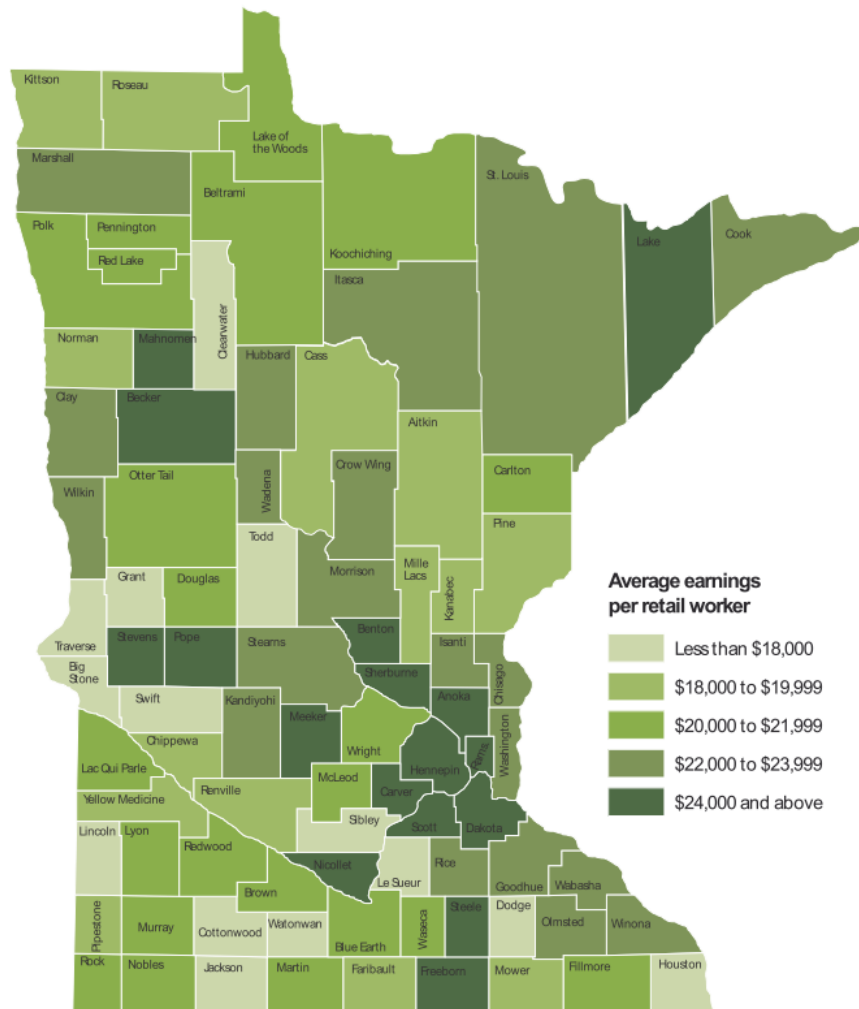
Workforce in farming, 2011



- Only about 2.6% of Minnesota's workforce is employed directly in farming, but that figure varies significantly across the state. Some counties have 20% or more of their workforce working directly in farming.

Data source:
U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of Economic Analysis
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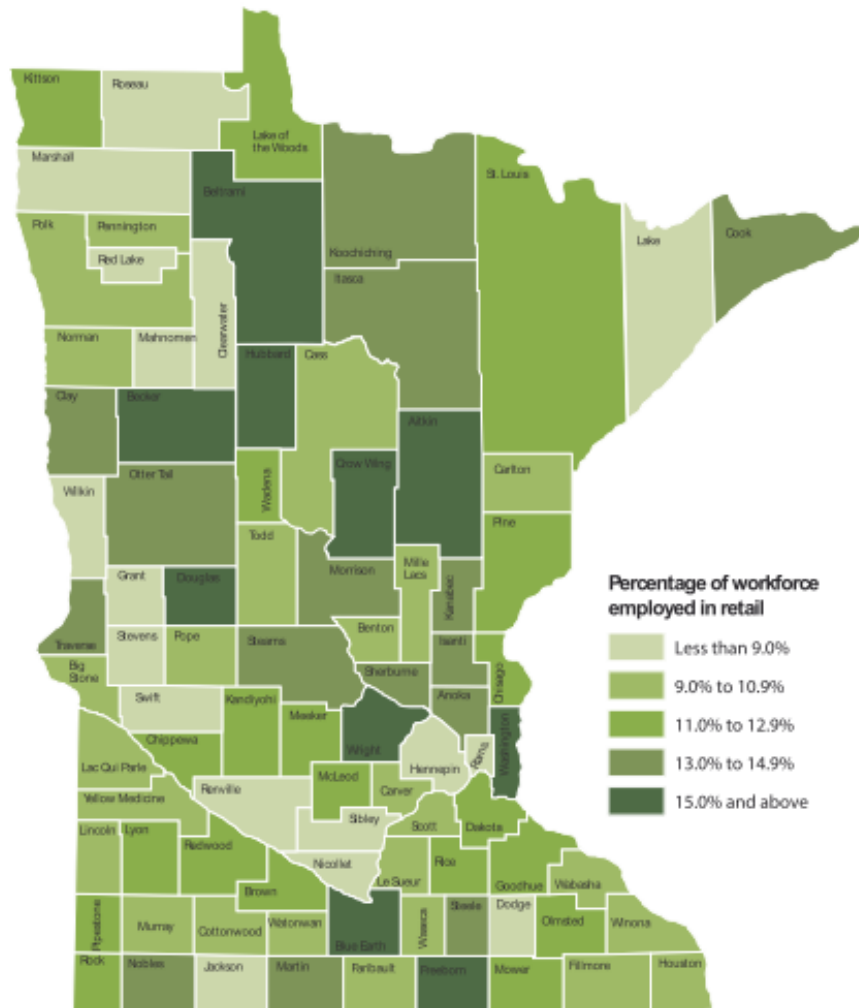
Average earnings in the retail sector, 2012



- Earnings from retail tend to be some of the lowest of any industry. The highest retail earnings cluster around the Twin Cities. The average earnings from retail for the state in 2012 were \$25,341.

Data source:
U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of Economic Analysis
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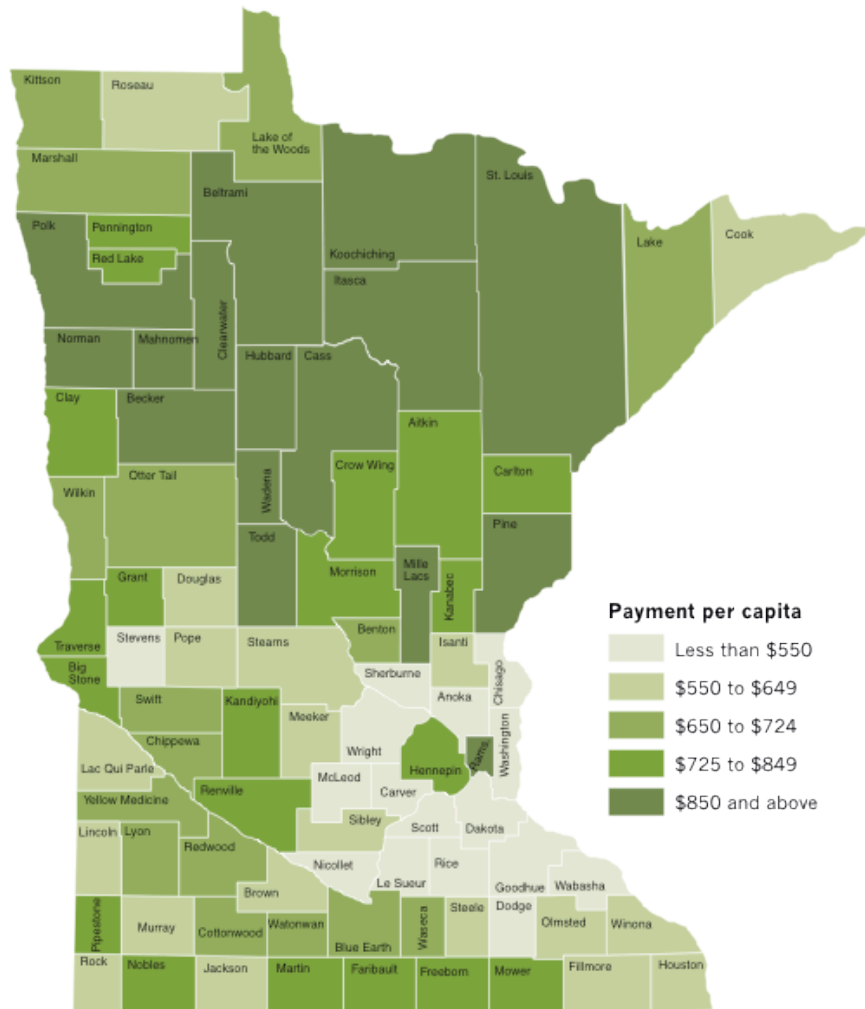
Workforce in the retail sector, 2012



- In Minnesota, approximately 10.7% of the workforce works in the retail sector. Retail centers can be seen around the state. Although the Twin Cities has some of the highest total earnings in retail, its low percentage of workforce in retail compared to the rest of the state shows a more diversified economy.

Data source:
MN Department of Employment
& Economic Development
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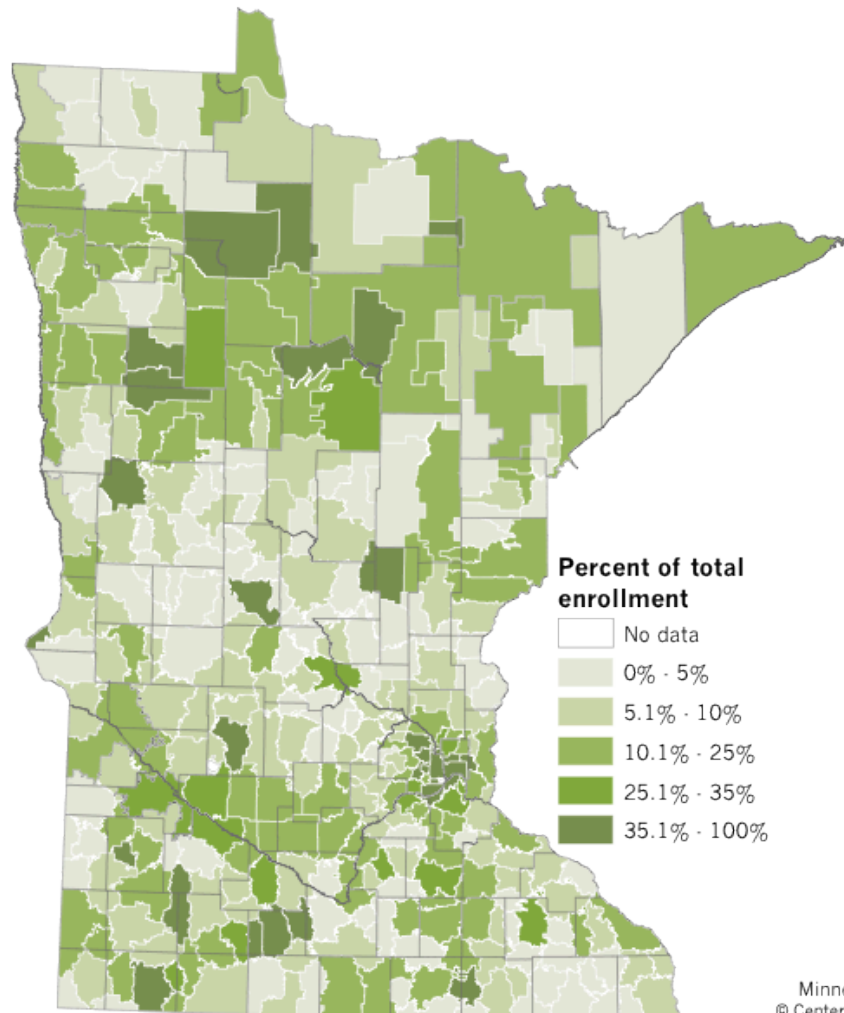
Public assistance payments per capita, 2011



- The average public assistance payment for Minnesota was \$705 in 2011.
- ✓ For the purposes of this report, public assistance includes family assistance, food stamps (SNAP), general assistance, supplemental security payments, and other income maintenance benefits. It does not include medical payments or farm program payments.

Data source:
U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of Economic Analysis
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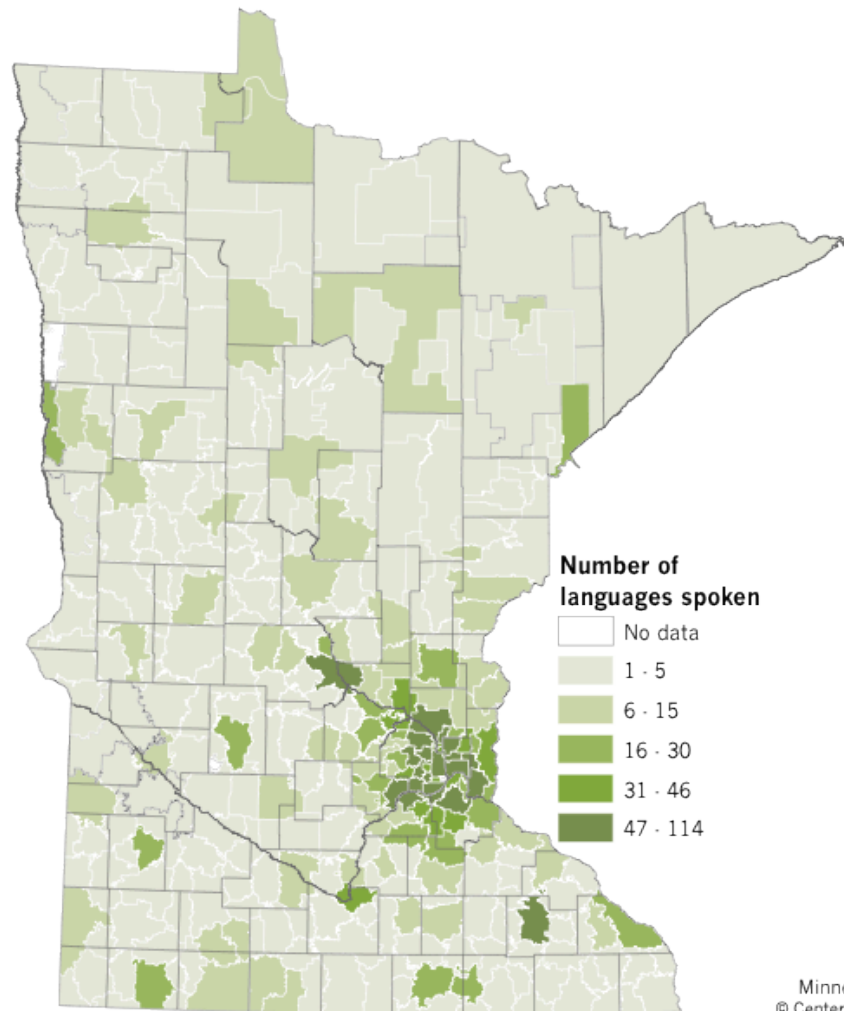
Students of color, 2011-2012



- The diversity of students continues to rise in the core Twin Cities districts and in suburban districts. While most of rural Minnesota remains white, pockets of diversity can be found around the state. Native American students make up this population in the northern districts, while southern districts are home to largely immigrants of Latino, African, and Asian origin.

Data source:
Minnesota Department of Education
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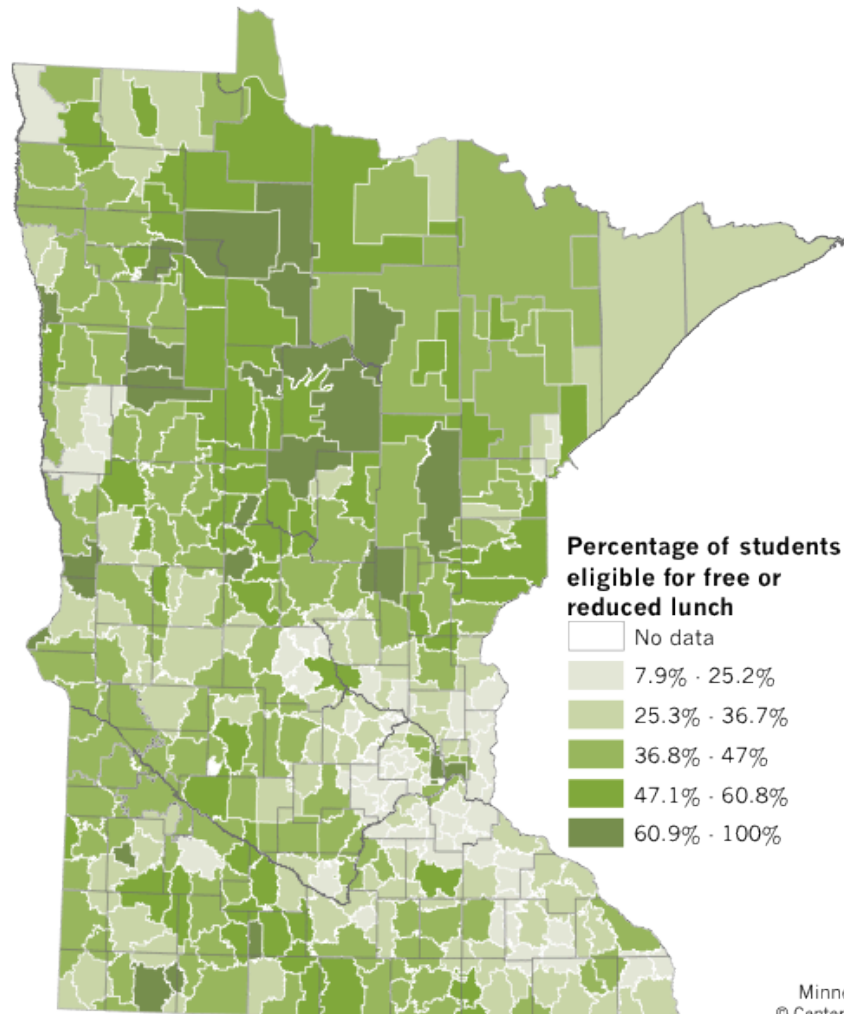
Languages spoken at home, 2011-2012



- Understanding the variety of languages spoken at home is important for effective curriculum design. St. Paul and Anoka-Hennepin had the largest number of languages spoken at home (114 and 96 respectively), followed by Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan (85).

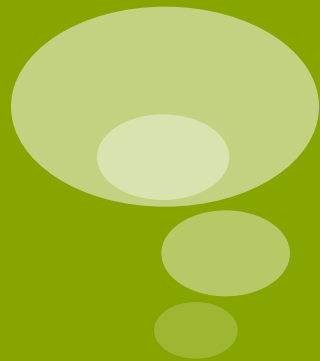
Data source:
Minnesota Department of Education
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Free lunch eligibility, 2010-2011



- For the state of Minnesota, 37.2% of students were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch in the 2010-2011 school year. Since recipients' families must meet certain income guidelines to qualify, free and reduced-price lunch can be a good proxy for poverty rates.

Data source:
Minnesota Department of Education
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Thank You!

Atlas of Minnesota
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www.ruralmn.org