City of Tucson
Poverty and Urban Stress
2020

Poverty and Urban Stress, 2020

Tucson, Arizona

Mayor and Council

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Lane Santa Cruz

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City Manager

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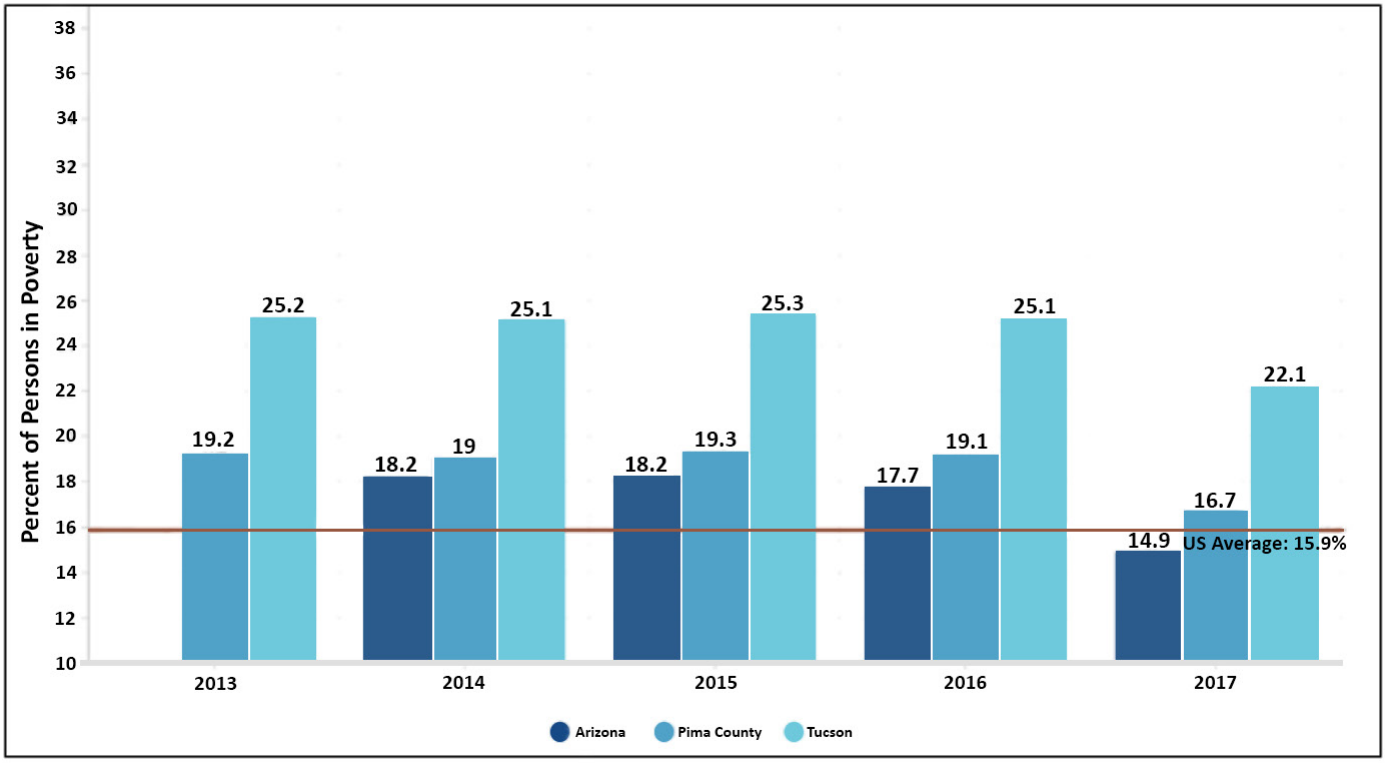
April 2020

Introduction

The first City of Tucson Poverty and Urban Stress Report was published in February 2007, prior to the start of the longest recession since the Great Depression. The Great Recession began in December 2007, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research, a private, nonprofit research group. The recession officially ended in June 2009, although lingering effects including high unemployment continued to plague our recovery both nationally and locally. During this period, unemployment in the City of Tucson, as reported by the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity, went from 3.5% in mid-2007 to a high of 10% in 2010. The most recent seasonally adjusted unemployment data for the City of Tucson is from November 2019, at which time the unemployment rate was reported to be 4.7%.

Poverty within our community continued to rise through the lasting effects of the recession, reaching a peak of 26.7% in 2012. The rate of Tucsonans in poverty then plateaued and hovered just above 25% until 2017 when it began to decline. The most recent U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year report on poverty providing 2018 data indicates a city-wide poverty rate of 21.9%. For this same year, the poverty rate in Pima County was 16.2% The following table shows annual poverty rates for the City of Tucson, Pima County and the State of Arizona between 2013 and 2017:



The one-year 2018 ACS data report that for the City of Tucson, 27.7% of all children (ages 0 to 18) live in poverty.

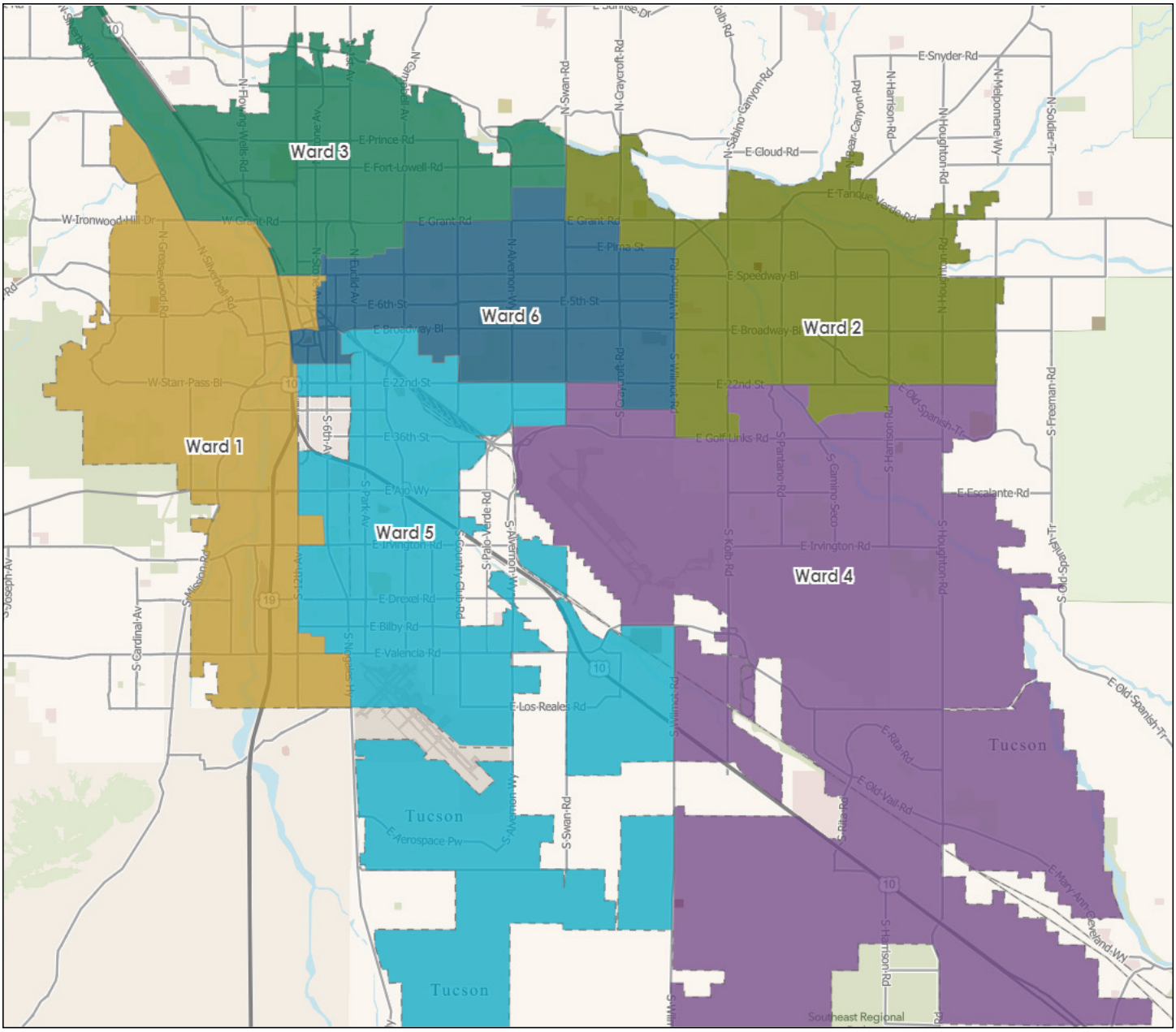
American Community Survey (ACS) data have been utilized in this report. Census tract data have been aggregated and analyzed at the ward level in order to examine poverty and urban stress indicators across the City of Tucson. As census tracts do not completely conform to city or ward geography, the city totals derived from the ward data will differ slightly from the City of Tucson ACS profile. This report is intended to update the 2012 Poverty and Urban Stress Report and provide a written supplement to new online mapping tools that allow for more a detailed and interactive visualization of the geographic trends across indicators. In order to ensure a consistent comparison across previous reports, only indicators available through ACS data are used. Data from the Tucson Police Department are used for indicators of crime.

Interactive Data Hub

Using online mapping tools, a data hub has been created as a supplement to this report. It provides links to interactive versions of the indicators included in this report as well as additional data and analyses. The data in these tools provide a baseline by which to compare areas of the city, track our community's progress over time, and identify areas still in need of concentrated investment. The tools allow individual users to drill down into geographic areas of interest and interact with the data in a new way. As additional tools are created or annual ACS data is updated, the new data can be added to the hub.

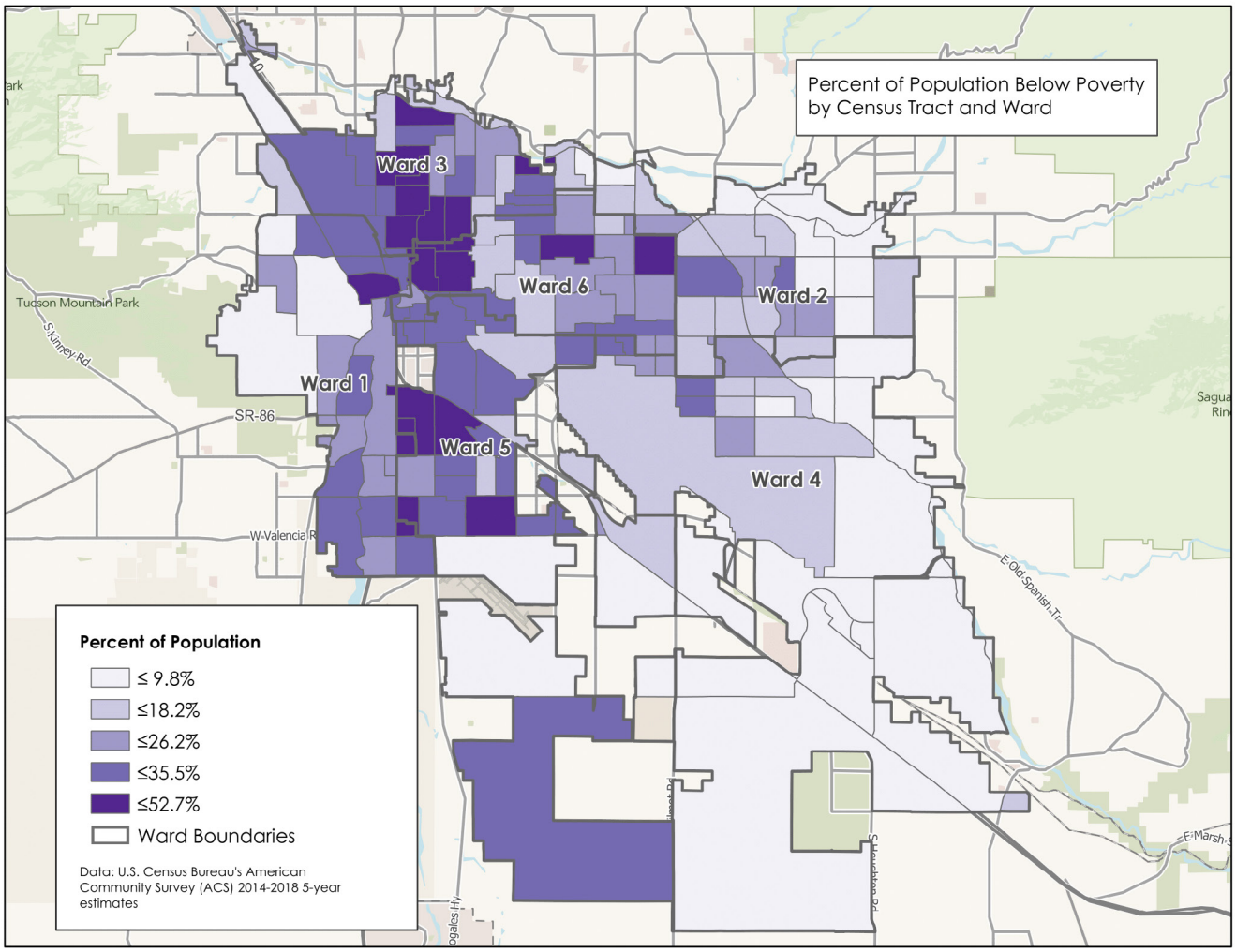
Individual tools are described below. To view the data hub, visit https://poverty-and-urban-stress-cotgis.hub.arcgis.com/.

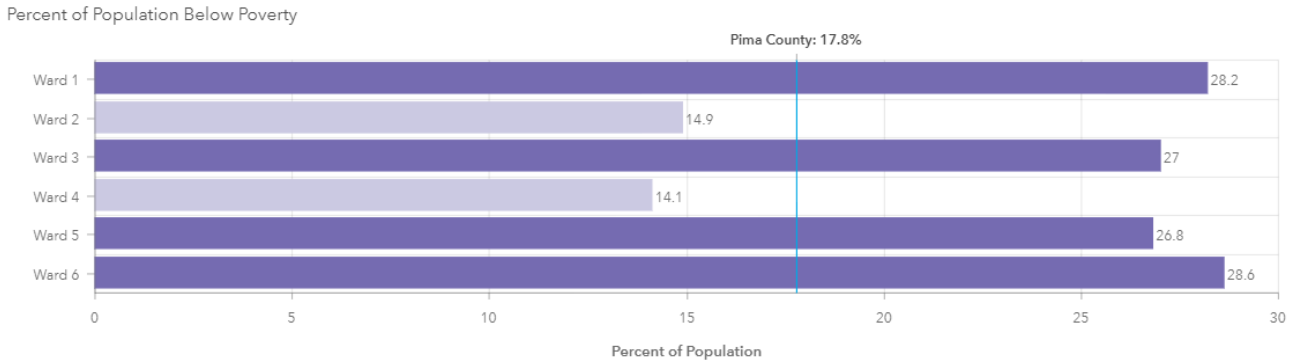
- Indicators of Poverty and Urban Stress by Ward: Use this tool to view interactive maps and comparative statistics of the key indicators included in this report. Individuals who wish to drill down to specific Census tracts can see how their neighborhood compares to City, County, and Ward data for each indicator.
- Poverty, Income, and Growth in Tucson, Arizona: This StoryMap provides a guided trip through the data. It looks at the context of poverty, race, age, and population growth across the city using maps, helpful narratives, and illustrative graphs.
- Neighborhood Vulnerability Index (NVI): The City of Tucson, Pima County, and the Economic and Business Research Center at the University of Arizona have collaborated to study housing and neighborhood vulnerability within the City of Tucson and Pima County. The NVI map classifies areas of Tucson by vulnerability level, or the ability to withstand threats such as economic downturns.
- Open Data Portal: For an even deeper dive into the city's demographic data, additional links provide access Open Data from the City of Tucson, aggregated and displayed by neighborhood. There, users have complete control to visualize the data they want to see and download the data for their own analysis and map-making.



City of Tucson Ward Map

Poverty

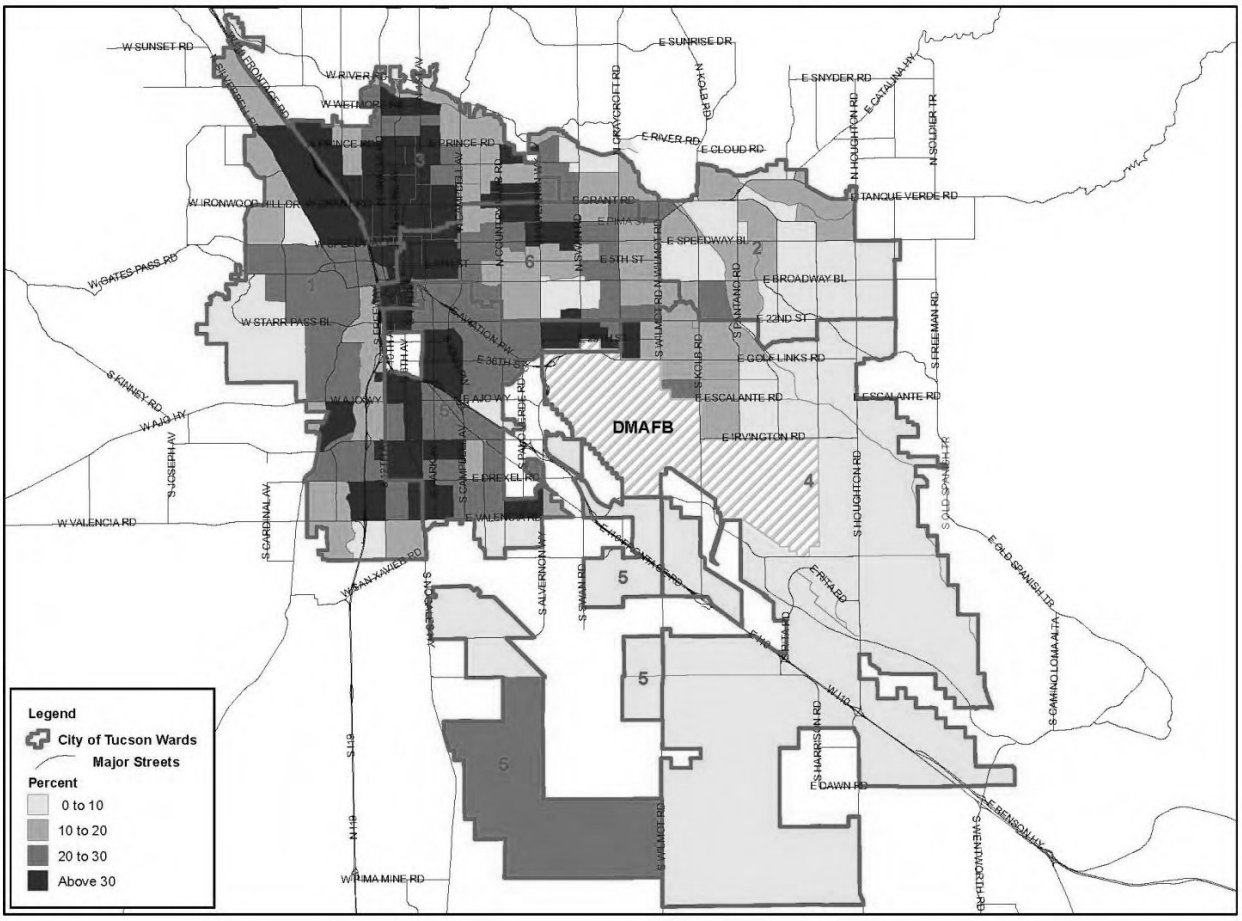




Poverty is experienced to some degree across Tucson but is especially prevalent in Wards 1, 3, 5 and 6. When we look at only those census tracts in which 35% or more of the population live below the federal poverty line, we see that the highest rates of poverty are found in a north-south band toward the west side of the city, with additional pockets of high concentration in midtown.

Compared to the estimates in the 2012 Poverty & Urban Stress report, Wards 2 and 4 which have the lowest poverty rates each experienced a 4 to 5-point increase in their poverty rates, from 10.9% to 14.9% and 9.3% to 14.1% respectively. Ward 1 saw the largest increase in its poverty rate from 22% to 28.2%. Wards 3 and 5 reported the highest poverty rates in the 2012 report, 30.5% and 31.2% respectively, and both have since seen a several point decrease to 27% and 26.8%. The Ward 6 poverty rate also increased over 5 percentage points from 23.5% to 28.6%.

Persons in Poverty
Census Tract Data: City of Tucson
American Community Survey 2006-2010



Percent of Population Below Poverty	2000*	2010**	2018
Ward 1	18.8%	22.0%	28.2%
Ward 2	8.3%	10.9%	14.9%
Ward 3	27.6%	30.5%	27.0%
Ward 4	8.2%	9.3%	14.1%
Ward 5	29.6%	31.2%	26.8%
Ward 6	19.3%	23.5%	28.6%
City of Tucson	20.2%	21.3%	23.4%

*Data from 2007 Poverty and Urban Stress Report, using 2000 Census data
**Data from 2012 Poverty and Urban Stress Report, using 2010 ACS data

Income

Self-Sufficiency Standard for Arizona

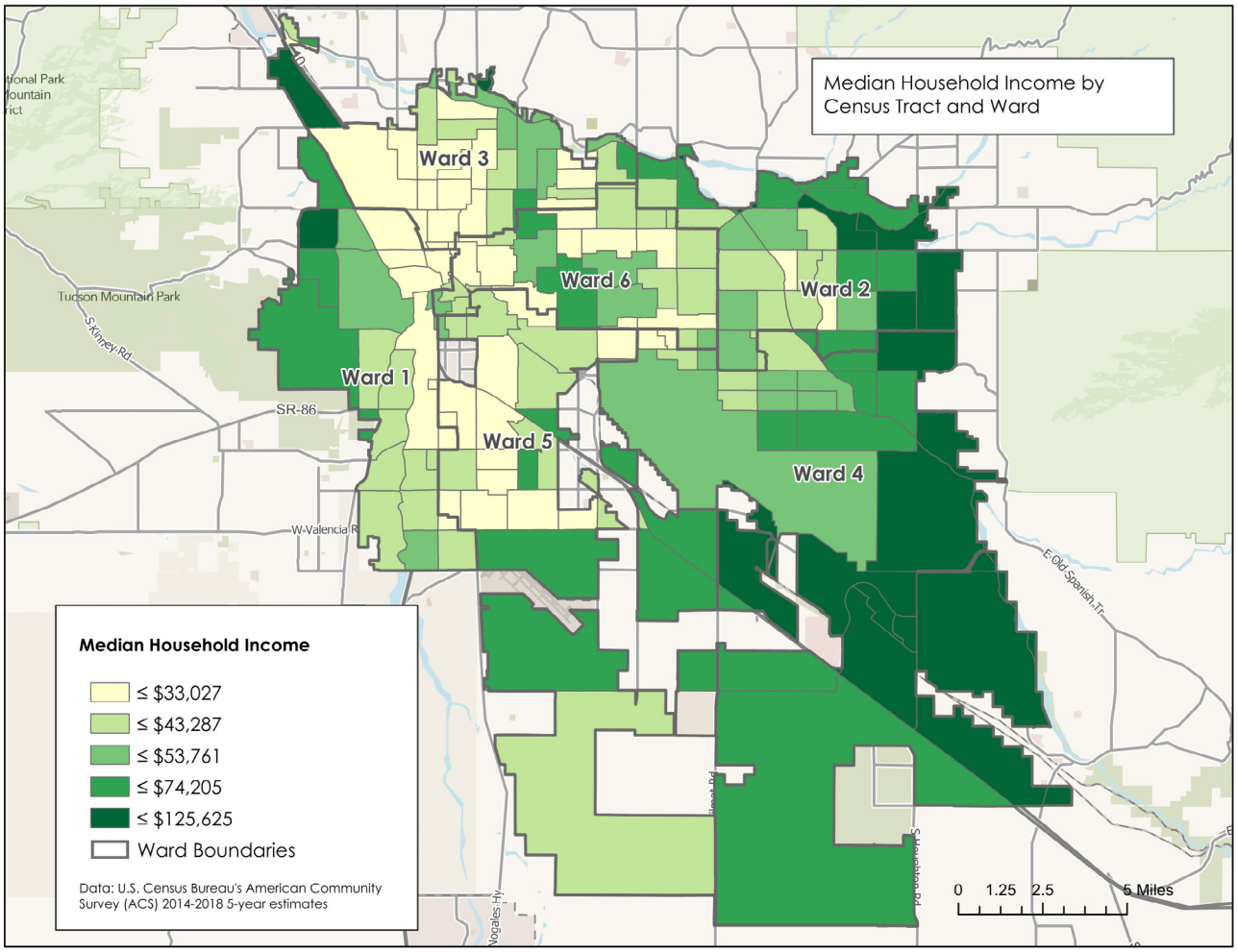
The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Arizona has been prepared through the cooperative efforts of University of Washington Center for Women's Welfare, and the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona. The report, How Much is Enough in Your County? The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Arizona 2012, was released in May 2012 and an update was published in September 2019.

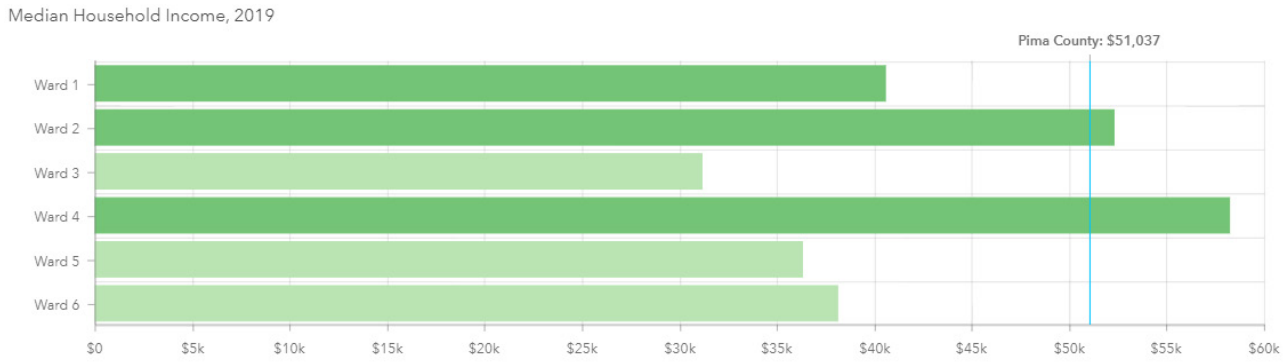
The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Arizona 2019 examines the relationship between income, the recession, and costs to determine the ability for families across Arizona to meet basic needs. It goes beyond federal poverty guidelines to show us an accurate picture of what Arizona families need to survive without assistance – and it reveals that financial hardship in Arizona is more widespread and severe than the federal government's official poverty rate statistics would suggest.

Over the past 22 years, the Standard has been calculated for all 50 states. It has changed the way policymakers and service providers evaluate programs and systems for low-income workers. By family type, the Standard calculates the amount of income necessary to meet a family's basic needs without public or private assistance. The following data elements are considered in determining an adequate income: housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, miscellaneous expenses, taxes and tax credits, and emergency savings.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Pima County indicates that a single-parent family with one preschooler and one school-age child needs to earn $22.86 per hour or an annual salary of $48,273 in order to meet its basic needs at a minimally adequate level without public assistance. This is the equivalent of nearly two full-time minimum wage jobs in Arizona at the newly implemented statewide minimum wage of $12 per hour. An analysis of 2018 ACS 5-year data for Pima County shows that 38.8% of all families make less than $50,000 annually and 48.1% earn less in the City of Tucson. That rate is down from 43.3% of Pima County families and 52.5% of City of Tucson families making less than $50,000 annually (inflation adjusted) in 2010. While further analysis into the composition of these families would be necessary, it is clear that a significant number of families in our community still do not earn an annual wage that allows them to be self-sufficient.

As policymakers make decisions on ways to positively impact poverty and urban stress in our community, this tool will be an invaluable resource. It can serve to provide a better understanding of the issues affecting income inequities and can provide guidance in evaluating the effects of proposed policy and program changes.





Median Income

Tucson's poverty levels make more sense when we consider them in the context of the city's low median income. The estimated median household income for the City of Tucson based on 2018 ACS 5-year estimates is $41,625, compared to the estimated 2010 median income of $37,025.

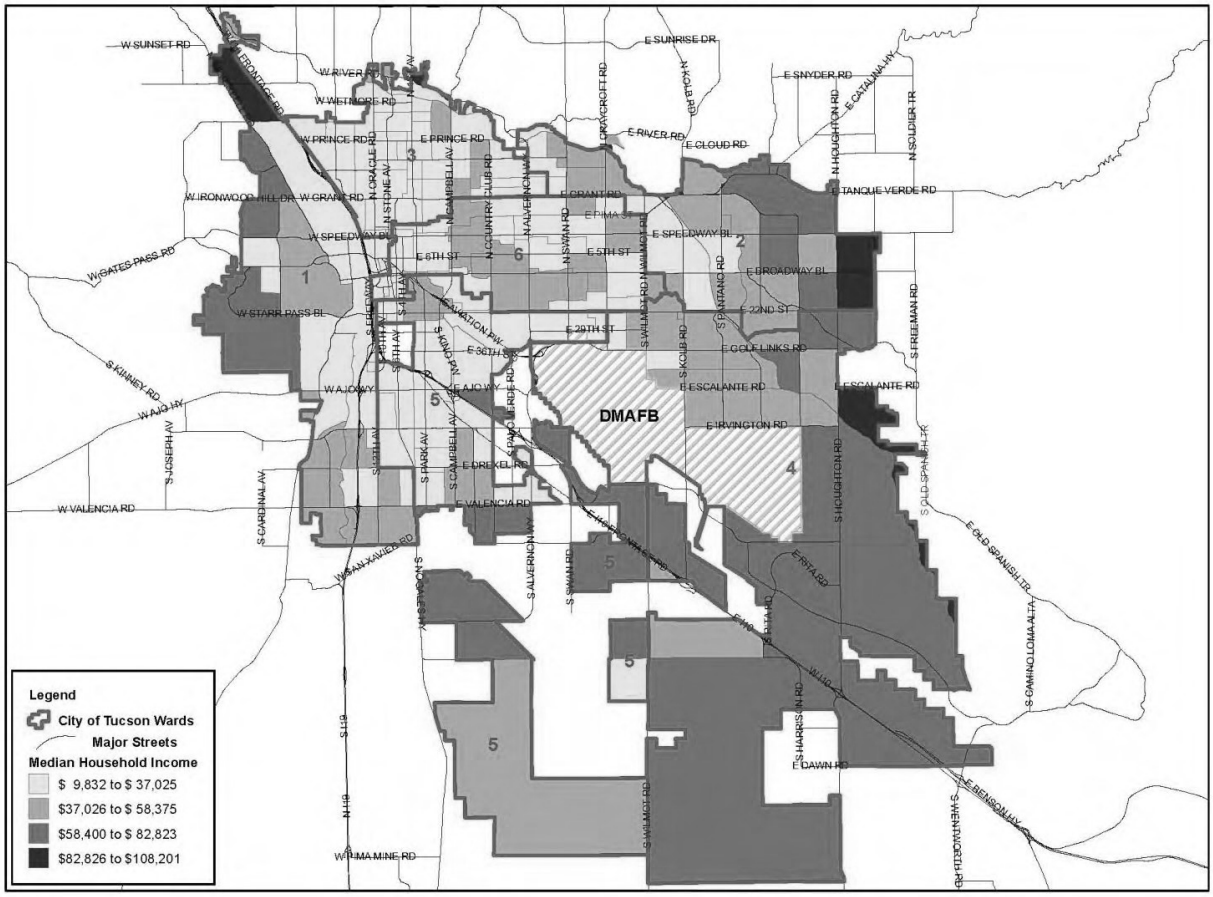
Comparatively, Tucson has a lower median income than Pima County ($51,037) and most other major metropolitan areas in the United States, including cities known for their low cost of living such as Pittsburgh, PA ($45,831) and Omaha, NE ($59,266). The average median income in the United States is $60,293, which is 44.8% more than the median household income in Tucson.

The geographic distribution of higher and lower median incomes across Census tracts in Tucson follows the

same general pattern as the pattern found in the 2012 report: higher median incomes are found along the periphery of the city, and the lowest median income Census tracts follow the same north-south band through the western end of the city and midtown.

Between the 2012 report and this update, each Ward's median income roughly maintains the same proportion to the city-wide median income. For instance, the two Wards with median incomes far above the City's overall median income are Ward 2 and 4. In both reports, the Ward 1 median income is very close to city-wide figure. Ward 3's average median income in the 2012 report and this update is about 74% of the city median income. Meanwhile, the median incomes for Wards 5 and 6 hover around 90% of the city figure.

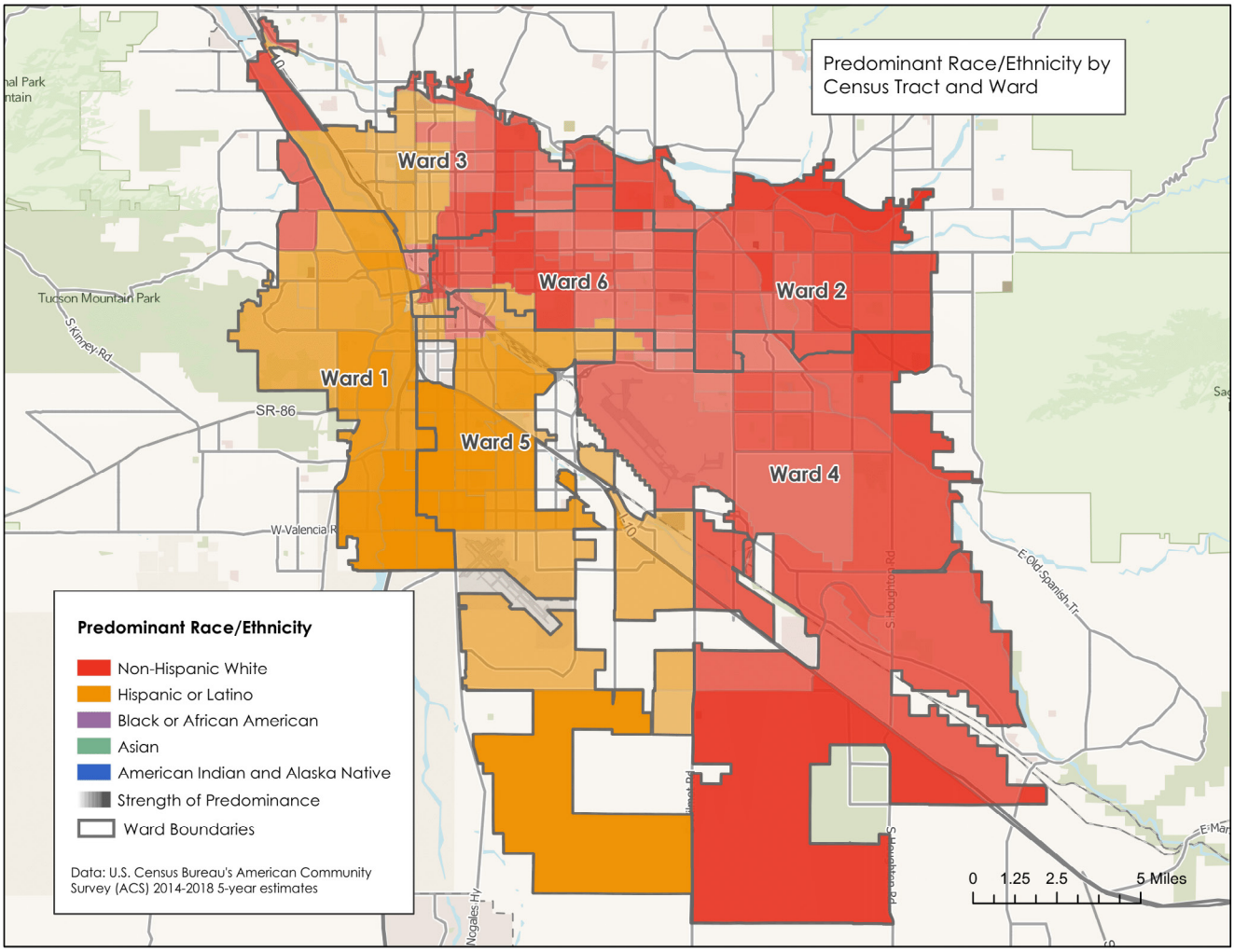
Median Household Income
Census Tract Data: City of Tucson
American Community Survey 2006-2010

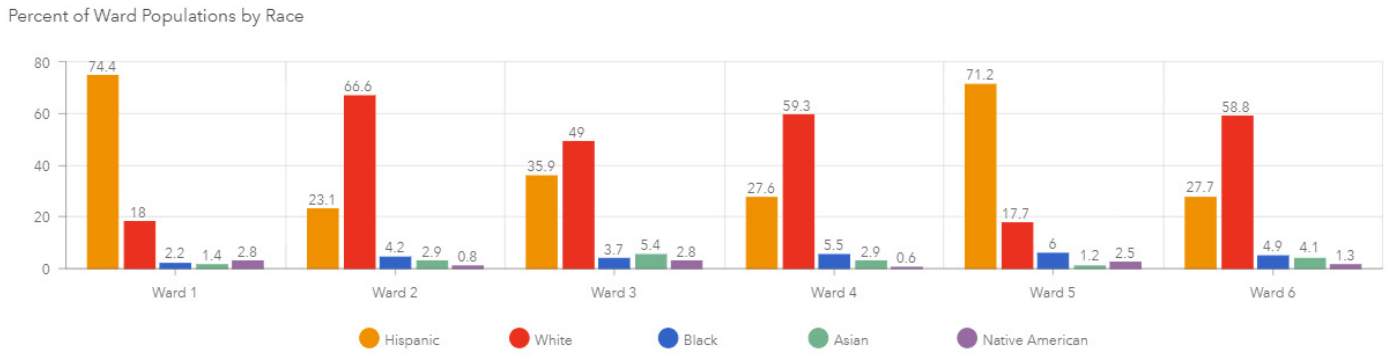


Median Income	2010*	2018
Ward 1	$39,098	$40,600
Ward 2	$48,114	$52,200
Ward 3	$27,389	$31,100
Ward 4	$57,930	$58,200
Ward 5	$34,462	$36,300
Ward 6	$33,537	$38,100
City of Tucson	$37,025	$41,625
Pima County	$45,521	$51,037
Arizona	$50,448	$56,213
United States	$51,914	$60,293

*Ward data from 2012 Poverty and Urban Stress Report, using 2006-2010 ACS 5-year estimates

Race

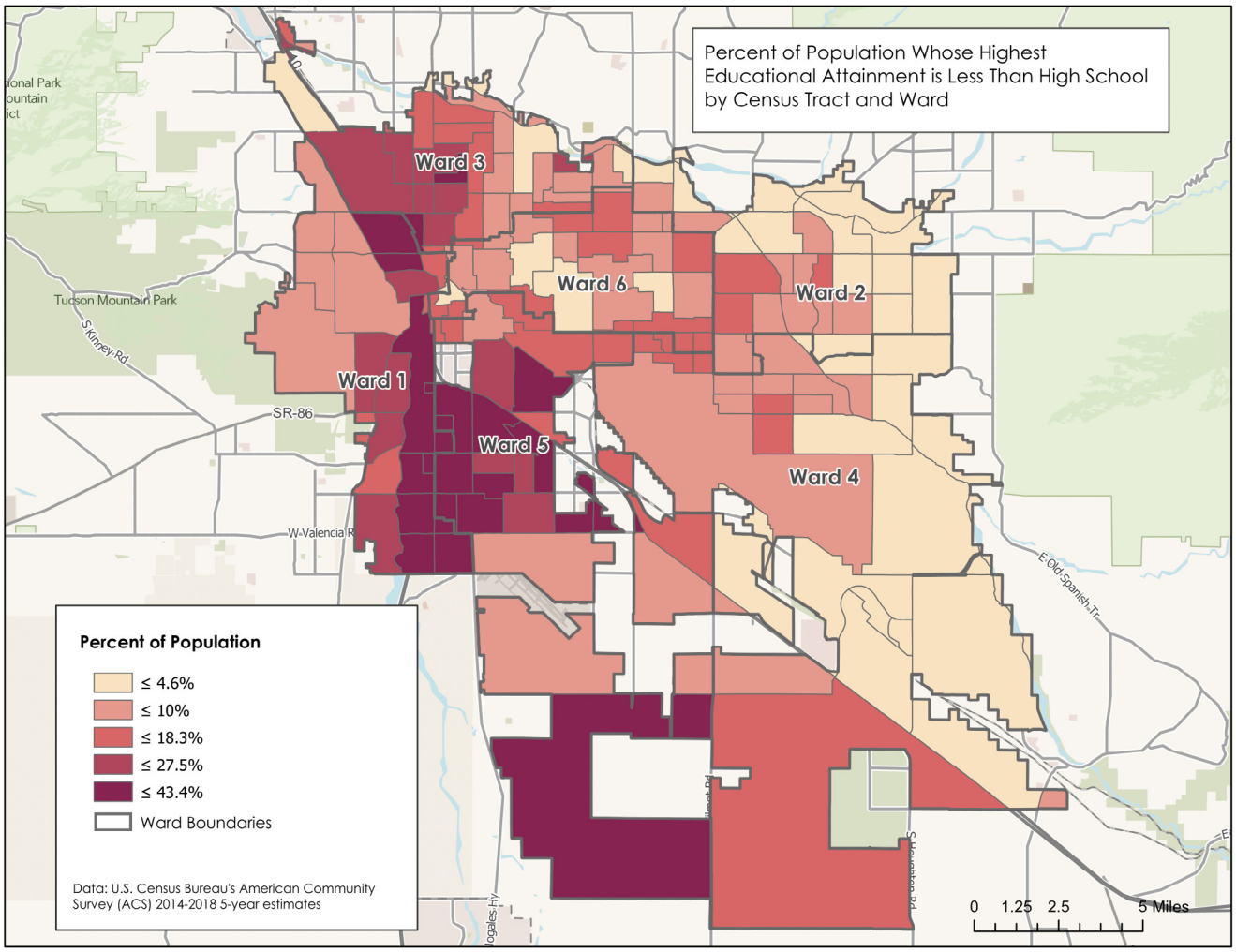


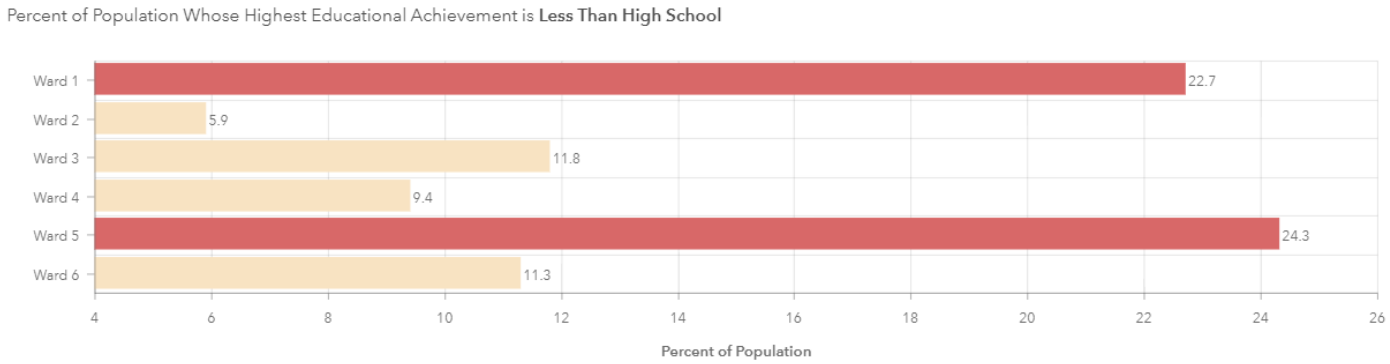


The City of Tucson has a racially diverse populous, in which non-White groups account for 54.4% of the population. The vast majority of this group is made up of individuals of Hispanic or Latino descent, which account for 40.9% of Tucson's population. Other contributing groups include Black or African American (4%), Asian-American (2.9%), and American Indian (1.8%). Members of two or more racial groups account for 2.4% of the population of Tucson.

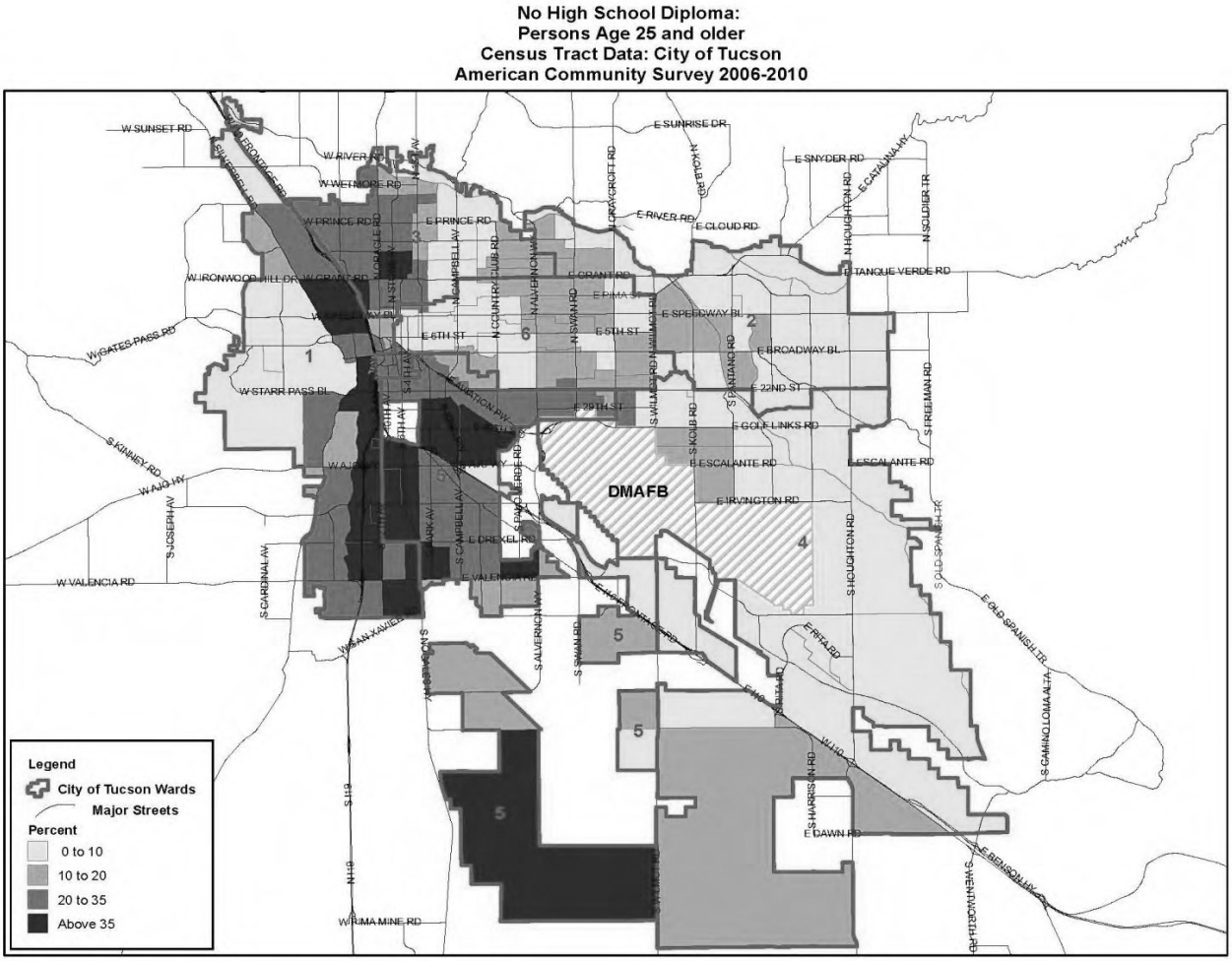
Ward 1 and Ward 5 are largely Hispanic at 74% and 71% respectively. In contrast, White populations are more abundant in Ward 2 (67%), Ward 4 (59%) and Ward 6 (59%). Ward 5 has the largest Black or African American (6%) population while Ward 3 has the largest Asian (5.4%) presence. Ward 1 and Ward 3 show the biggest representation of Native Americas at just under 3% in each ward. Ward 3 is the most diverse with 36% Hispanic, 49% White, 3.7% Black, 5.4% Asian and 2.8% Native American.

Education





Areas in Tucson that have the highest percentage of adults over the age of 25 without a high school diploma again follow the same north-south band along the Interstate 10 and Interstate 19 corridors. Wards 1 and 5 have by far the highest percentage of residents whose highest educational attainment is less than high school. Both are over half Pima County's rate of 10.4%. In Ward 1, 22.7% of residents do not have a high school degree, which is roughly the same proportion as in 2012. In Ward 5, 24.3% of residents lack a high school degree, but that number has reduced nearly 10 percentage points from the 33.8% in the 2012 report. Ward 3 has pockets of high concentration, but overall has seen a decrease of over 5% since the 2012 report. Wards 2 and 4 both report levels of educational attainment of less than high school that are below the Pima County average, 5.9% and 9.4% respectively. This represents a slight decrease over the 2012 report for Ward 2 and a slight increase for Ward 4. The proportion in Ward 6 without a high school education also increased slightly from 10.5% in the 2012 report, to 11.3% today.



Percent of Population 25 and Older Whose Highest Educational Attainment is Less Than High School	2000*	2010**	2018
Ward 1	29.6%	22.5%	22.7%
Ward 2	8.6%	7.0%	5.9%
Ward 3	19.8%	17.2%	11.8%
Ward 4	12.3%	7.8%	9.4%
Ward 5	40.5%	33.8%	24.3%
Ward 6	11.9%	10.5%	11.3%
City of Tucson	19.9%	16.3%	15.0%
Pima County	--	13.2%	10.4%
Arizona	--	15.0%	13.2%
United States	--	14.9%	12.4%

*Ward data from 2007 Poverty and Urban Stress Report, using 2000 Census data

** Ward data from 2012 Poverty and Urban Stress Report, using 2006-2010 ACS 5-year estimates

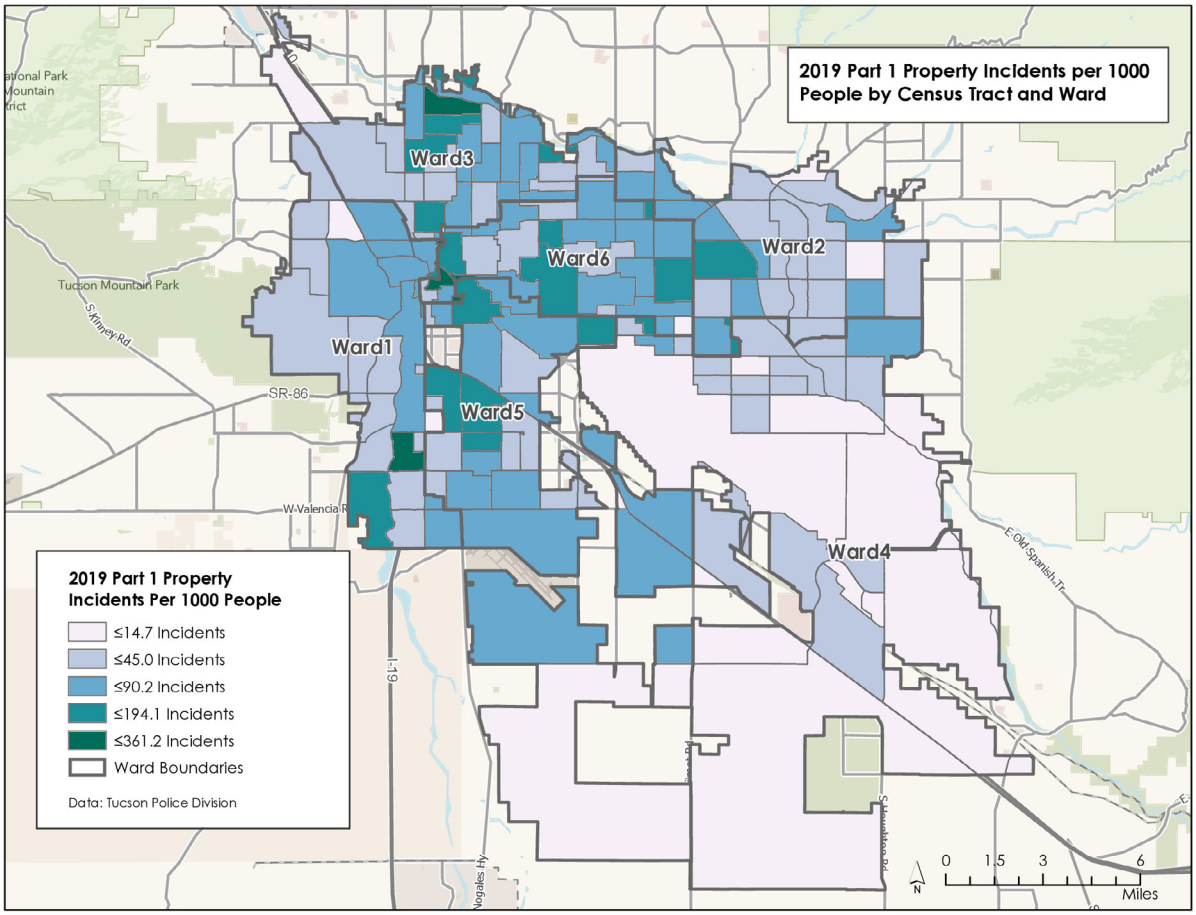
Crime

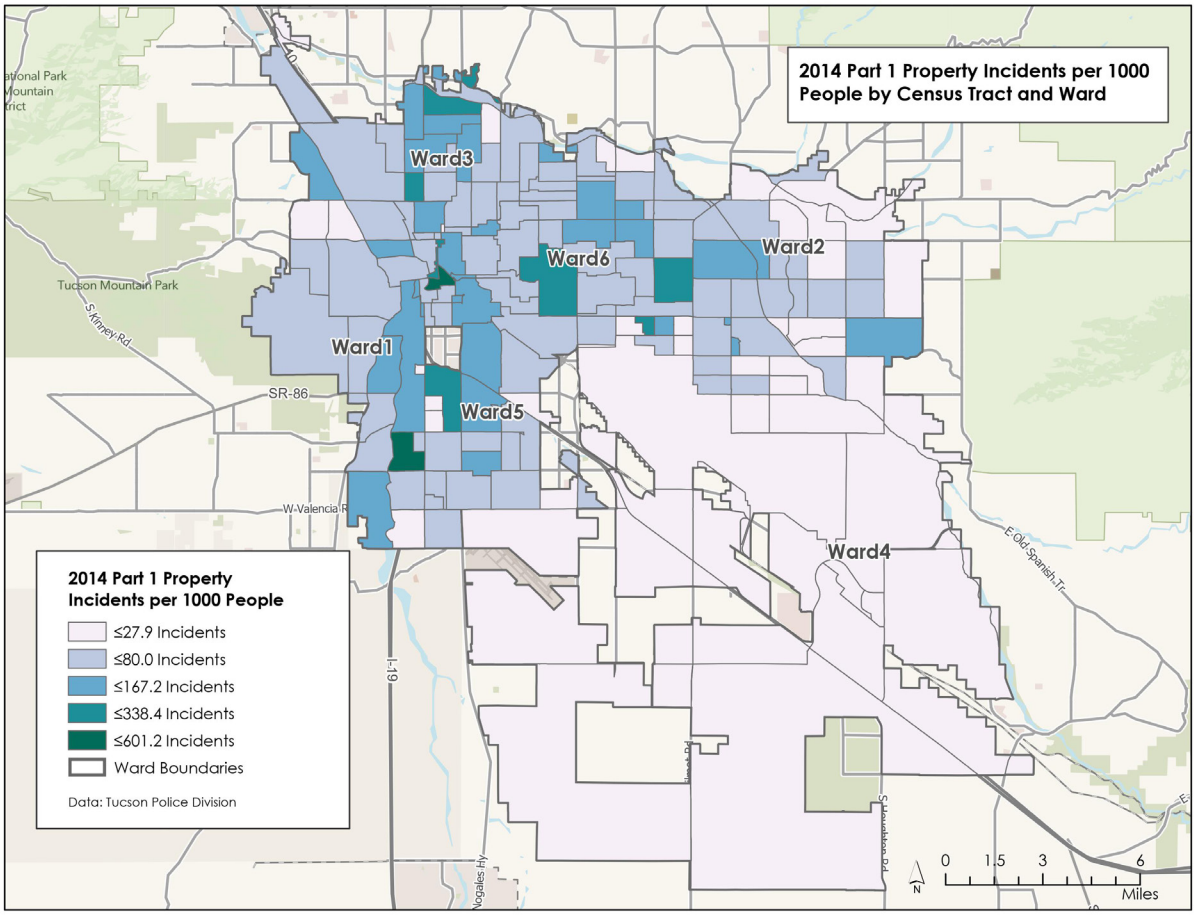
About Part I and Part II Crimes

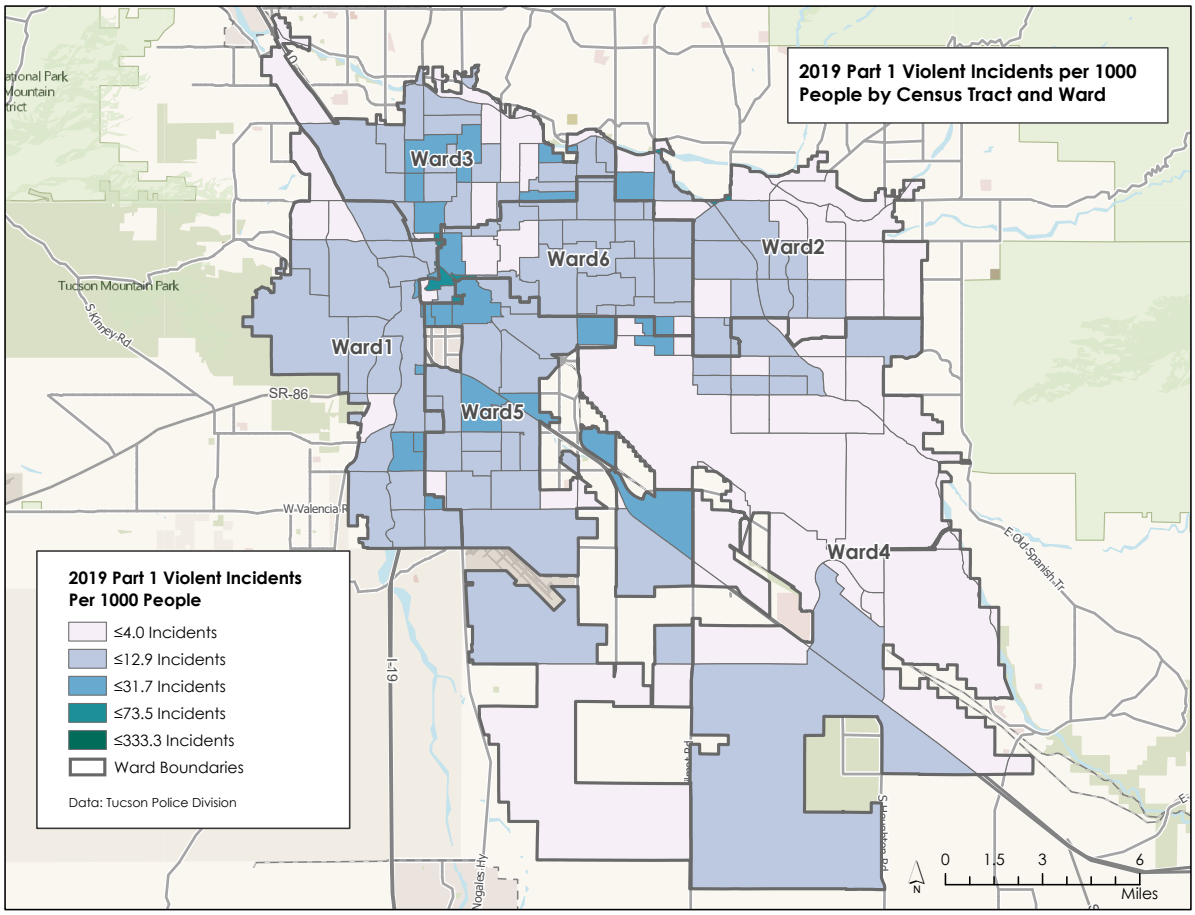
Uniform crime reporting is a collective effort on the part of city, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies to present a nationwide view of crime. The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program divides offenses into two groups, Part I and Part II crimes. Agencies throughout the country participating in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program provide summarized reports on eight Part I offenses known to law enforcement and reports on persons arrested.

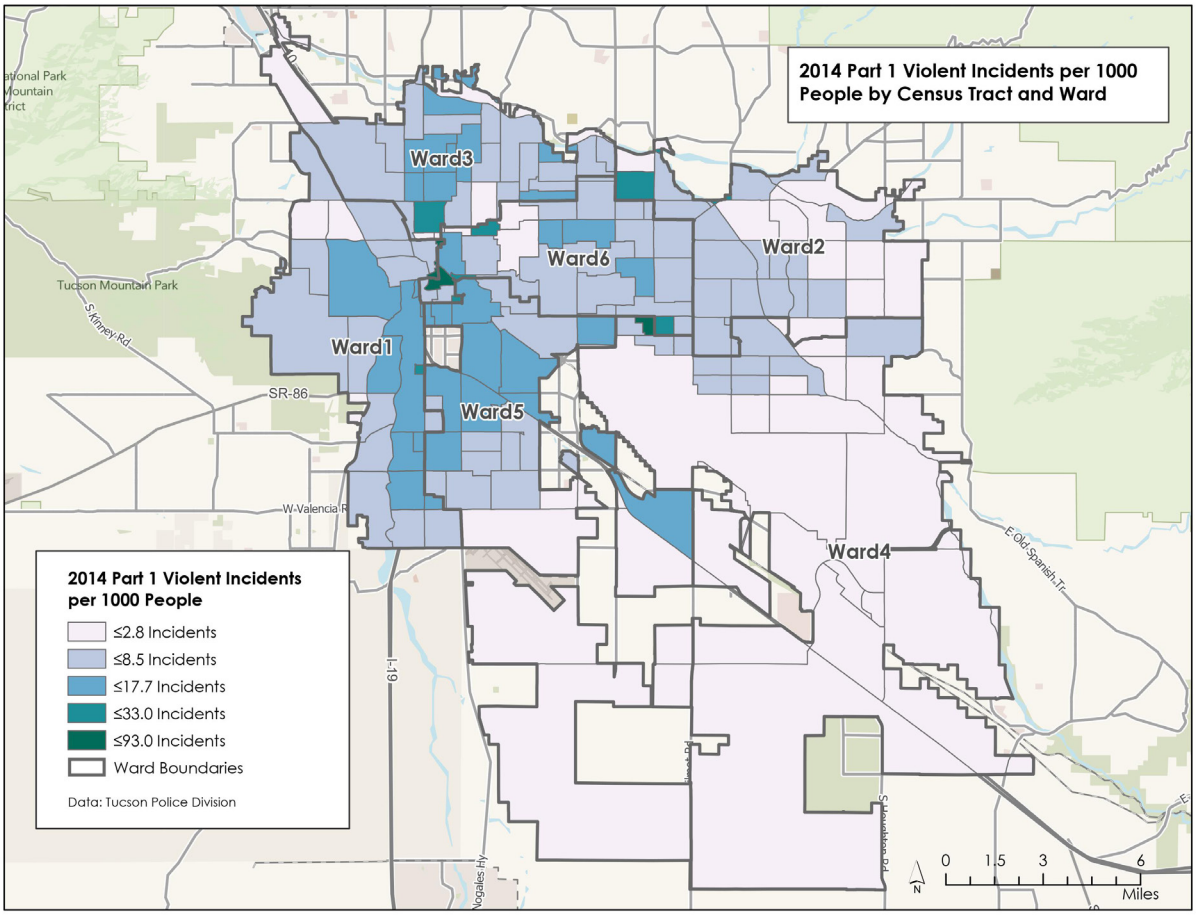
Part I offenses included in this report are separated into two categories: Part I Property Crimes and Part I Violent Crimes. Part I Property Crimes include: Robbery, Burglary, Larcey-theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson. Part 1 Violent Crimes include: Criminal Homicide, Forcible Rape, and Aggravated Assault.

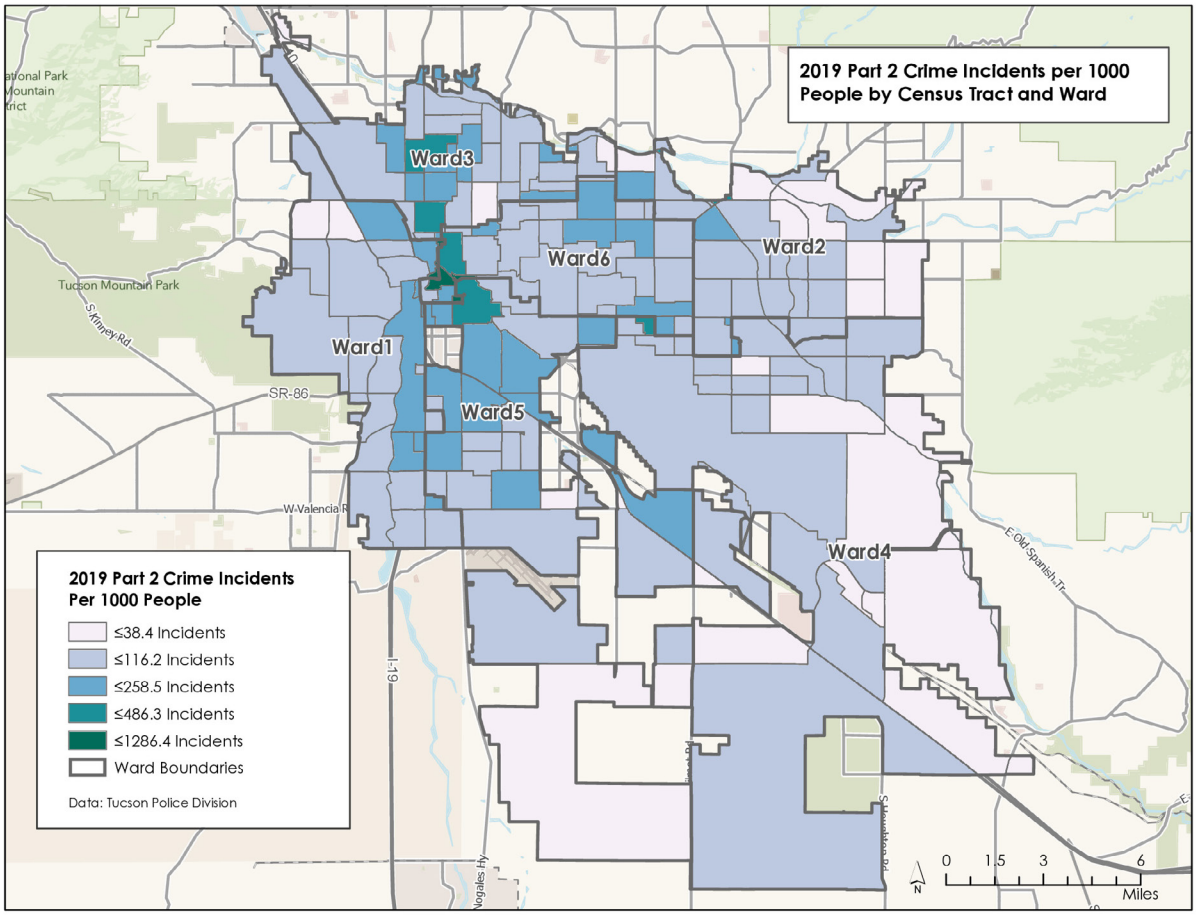
Part II offenses encompass all other reportable classifications outside those defined as Part I, including: Other Assaults, Forgery and Counterfeiting, Fraud, Embezzlement, Stolen Property (Buying, Receiving, Possessing), Vandalism, Weapons (Carrying, Possessing, etc.), Prostitution and Commercialized Vice, Sex Offenses, Drug Abuse Violations, Gambling, Offenses Against the Family and Children, Driving Under the Influence, Liquor Laws, Drunkenness, Disorderly Conduct, Vagrancy, All Other Offenses, Curfew and Loitering Laws (Persons under 18), Runaways (Persons under 18).

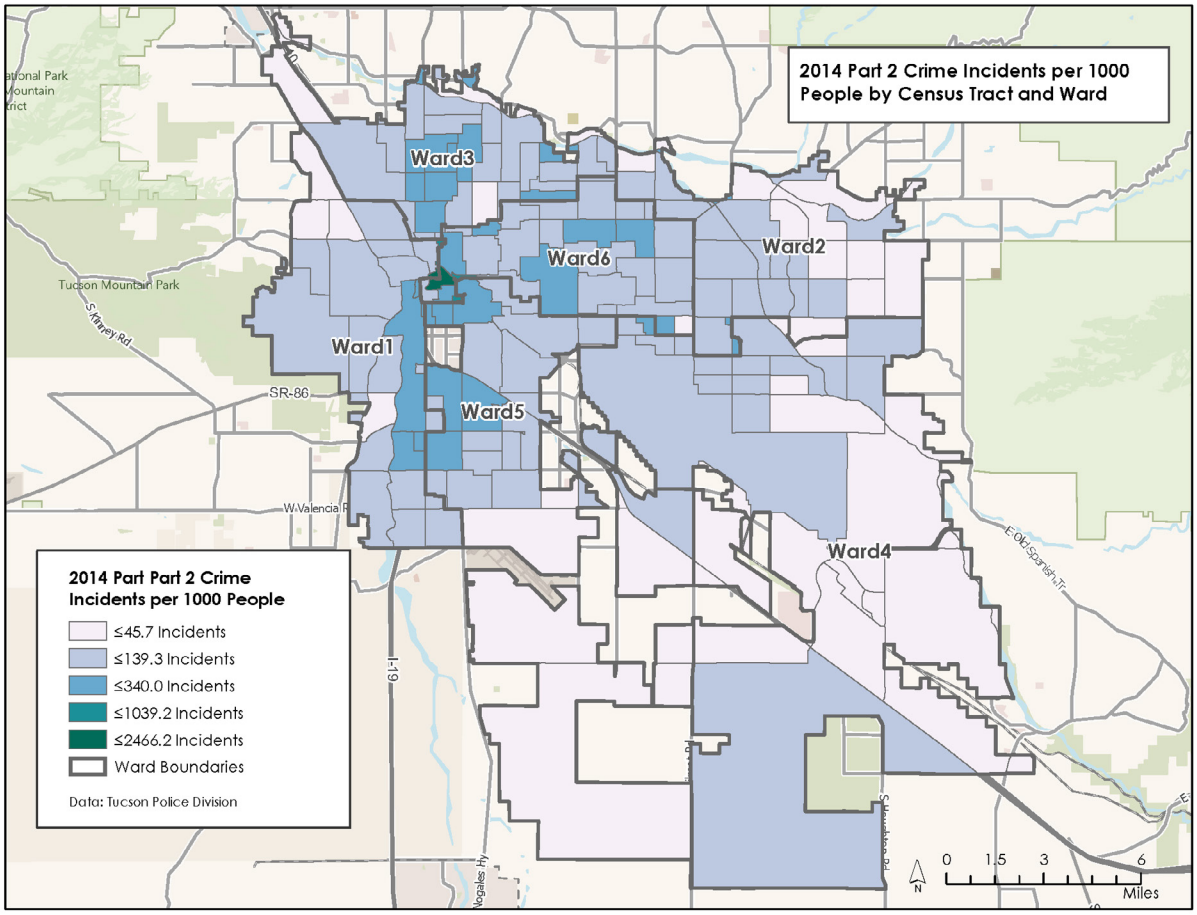

2019 Part 1 Property Incidents per 1000 People by Census Tract and Ward
Ward1
Ward2
Ward3
Ward4
Ward5
Ward6
Tucson Mountain Park
S Kinney Rd
SR-86
W Valencia R
E Old Spanish Tr
I-19
Nogales Hy
2019 Part 1 Property Incidents Per 1000 People
≤14.7 Incidents
≤45.0 Incidents
≤90.2 Incidents
≤194.1 Incidents
≤361.2 Incidents
Ward Boundaries
Data: Tucson Police Division
0 1.5 3 6
Miles

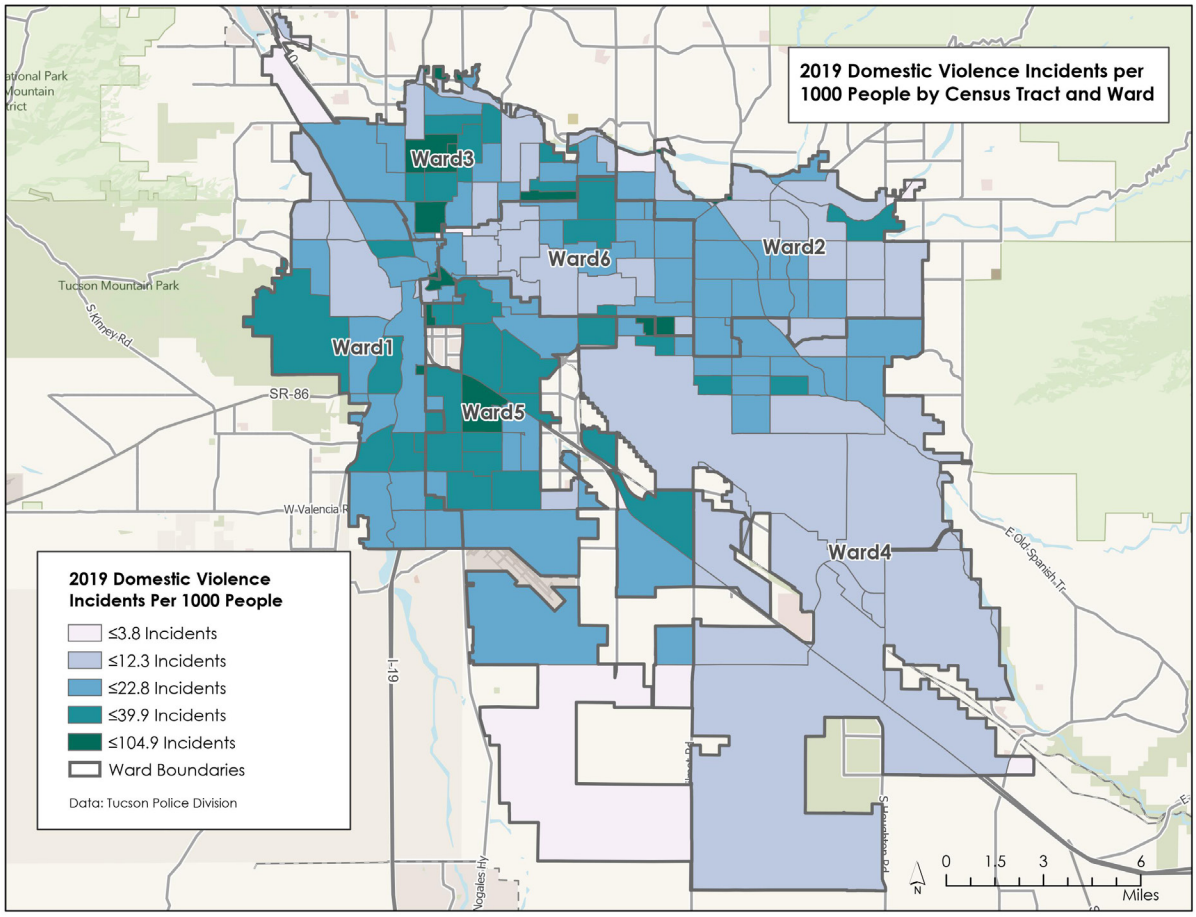

2014 Part 1 Property Incidents per 1000 People by Census Tract and Ward
Ward1
Ward2
Ward3
Ward4
Ward5
Ward6
Tucson Mountain Park
S Kinney Rd
SR-86
W Valencia R
E Old Spanish Tr
I-19
Nogales Hy
2014 Part 1 Property Incidents per 1000 People
≤27.9 Incidents
≤80.0 Incidents
≤167.2 Incidents
≤338.4 Incidents
≤601.2 Incidents
Ward Boundaries
Data: Tucson Police Division
0 1.5 3 6
Miles

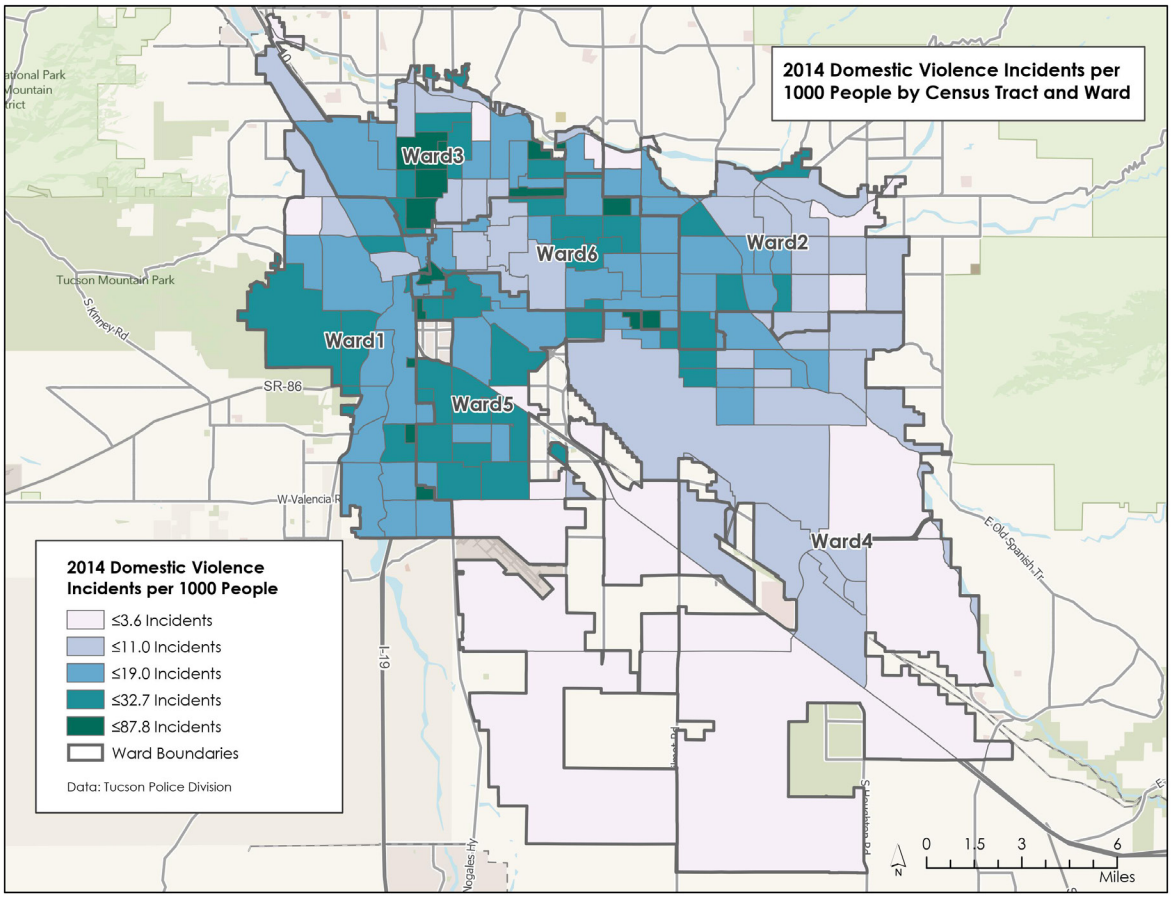

2019 Part 1 Violent Incidents per 1000 People by Census Tract and Ward
Ward1
Ward2
Ward3
Ward4
Ward5
Ward6
Tucson Mountain Park
S Kinney Rd
SR-86
W Valencia R
E Old Spanish Tr
I-19
Nogales Hy
2019 Part 1 Violent Incidents Per 1000 People
≤4.0 Incidents
≤12.9 Incidents
≤31.7 Incidents
≤73.5 Incidents
≤333.3 Incidents
Ward Boundaries
Data: Tucson Police Division
0 1.5 3 6
Miles


2014 Part 1 Violent Incidents per 1000 People by Census Tract and Ward
Ward1
Ward2
Ward3
Ward4
Ward5
Ward6
Tucson Mountain Park
S Kinney Rd
SR-86
W Valencia R
E Old Spanish Tr
I-19
Nogales Hy
2014 Part 1 Violent Incidents per 1000 People
≤2.8 Incidents
≤8.5 Incidents
≤17.7 Incidents
≤33.0 Incidents
≤93.0 Incidents
Ward Boundaries
Data: Tucson Police Division
0 1.5 3 6
Miles


2019 Part 2 Crime Incidents per 1000 People by Census Tract and Ward
Ward1
Ward2
Ward3
Ward4
Ward5
Ward6
Tucson Mountain Park
SR-86
W Valencia R
E Old Spanish Tr
I-19
Nogales Hy
2019 Part 2 Crime Incidents Per 1000 People
≤38.4 Incidents
≤116.2 Incidents
≤258.5 Incidents
≤486.3 Incidents
≤1286.4 Incidents
Ward Boundaries
Data: Tucson Police Division
0 1.5 3 6
Miles


2014 Part 2 Crime Incidents per 1000 People by Census Tract and Ward
Ward1
Ward2
Ward3
Ward4
Ward5
Ward6
Tucson Mountain Park
SR-86
W Valencia R
E Old Spanish Tr
I-19
Nogales Hy
2014 Part Part 2 Crime Incidents per 1000 People
≤45.7 Incidents
≤139.3 Incidents
≤340.0 Incidents
≤1039.2 Incidents
≤2466.2 Incidents
Ward Boundaries
Data: Tucson Police Division
0 1.5 3 6
Miles


2019 Domestic Violence Incidents per 1000 People by Census Tract and Ward
Ward1
Ward2
Ward3
Ward4
Ward5
Ward6
Tucson Mountain Park
S Kinney Rd
SR-86
W Valencia R
E Old Spanish Tr
I-19
Nogales Hy
2019 Domestic Violence Incidents Per 1000 People
≤3.8 Incidents
≤12.3 Incidents
≤22.8 Incidents
≤39.9 Incidents
≤104.9 Incidents
Ward Boundaries
Data: Tucson Police Division
0 1.5 3 6
Miles


2014 Domestic Violence Incidents per 1000 People by Census Tract and Ward
Ward1
Ward2
Ward3
Ward4
Ward5
Ward6
Tucson Mountain Park
S Kinney Rd
SR-86
W Valencia R
E Old Spanish Tr
I-19
Nogales Hy
2014 Domestic Violence Incidents per 1000 People
≤3.6 Incidents
≤11.0 Incidents
≤19.0 Incidents
≤32.7 Incidents
≤87.8 Incidents
Ward Boundaries
Data: Tucson Police Division
0 1.5 3 6
Miles

	Number of Offenses		Percent of Offenses	
Part 1 Property Crime*	**2014**	**2019**	**2014**	**2019**
Ward 1	5913	4118	17.4%	14.8%
Ward 2	3771	3326	11.1%	11.9%
Ward 3	7044	5910	20.7%	21.2%
Ward 4	2433	1860	7.2%	6.7%
Ward 5	5741	5389	16.9%	19.3%
Ward 6	7937	6408	23.3%	23.0%
City of Tucson	34005	27855		

*Part I Property Crimes include: Robbery, Burglary, Larcey-theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson.

	Number of Offenses		Percent of Offenses	
Part 1 Violent Crime*	**2014**	**2019**	**2014**	**2019**
Ward 1	561	578	17.3%	15.5%
Ward 2	339	384	10.5%	10.3%
Ward 3	678	822	20.9%	22.0%
Ward 4	249	345	7.7%	9.2%
Ward 5	617	780	19.1%	20.9%
Ward 6	648	710	20.0%	19.0%
City of Tucson	3238	3730		

*Part 1 Violent Crimes include: Criminal Homicide, Forcible Rape, and Aggravated Assault

	Number of Offenses		Percent of Offenses	
Part 2 Crime*	**2014**	**2019**	**2014**	**2019**
Ward 1	7144	7201	14.9%	14.8%
Ward 2	5080	5416	10.6%	11.2%
Ward 3	9615	10896	20.0%	22.5%
Ward 4	4332	4442	9.0%	9.2%
Ward 5	8334	9154	17.4%	18.9%
Ward 6	11904	10399	24.8%	21.4%
City of Tucson	47969	48525		

*Part II offenses encompass all other reportable classifications outside those defined as Part I, including: Other Assaults, Forgery and Counterfeiting, Fraud, Embezzlement, Stolen Property (Buying, Receiving, Possessing), Vandalism, Weapons (Carrying, Possessing, etc.), Prostitution and Commercialized Vice, Sex Offenses, Drug Abuse Violations, Gambling, Offenses Against the Family and Children, Driving Under the Influence, Liquor Laws, Drunkenness, Disorderly Conduct, Vagrancy, All Other Offenses, Curfew and Loitering Laws (Persons under 18), Runaways (Persons under 18).

	Number of Offenses		Percent of Offenses	
Domestic Violence	**2014**	**2019**	**2014**	**2019**
Ward 1	1293	1457	16.1%	16.4%
Ward 2	1042	1028	13.0%	11.6%
Ward 3	1775	1878	22.1%	21.2%
Ward 4	920	1144	11.5%	12.9%
Ward 5	1585	1943	19.7%	21.9%
Ward 6	1237	1287	15.4%	14.5%
City of Tucson	8029	8868		