

New analyses of the influence of concentrated neighborhood poverty on schools, districts, and student success nationwide

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School and student research questions

- How many elementary, middle, and high schools are located in concentrated poverty neighborhoods?
- How many students do these schools serve?
- How do the elementary and middle school reading and math proficiency rates and high school graduation rates of public schools located in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty (at the 40% level) compare to rates in schools not located in these neighborhoods?
- Does this analysis provide evidence of the double burden on student success of being economically disadvantaged and living in a neighborhood of concentrated poverty (at the 40% level)?

Methods

- Map school locations and school district boundaries
- Overlay neighborhood (Census tract) boundaries
- Associate characteristics of neighborhoods with schools
- Associate and aggregate characteristics of neighborhoods with school districts
- Run descriptive analyses

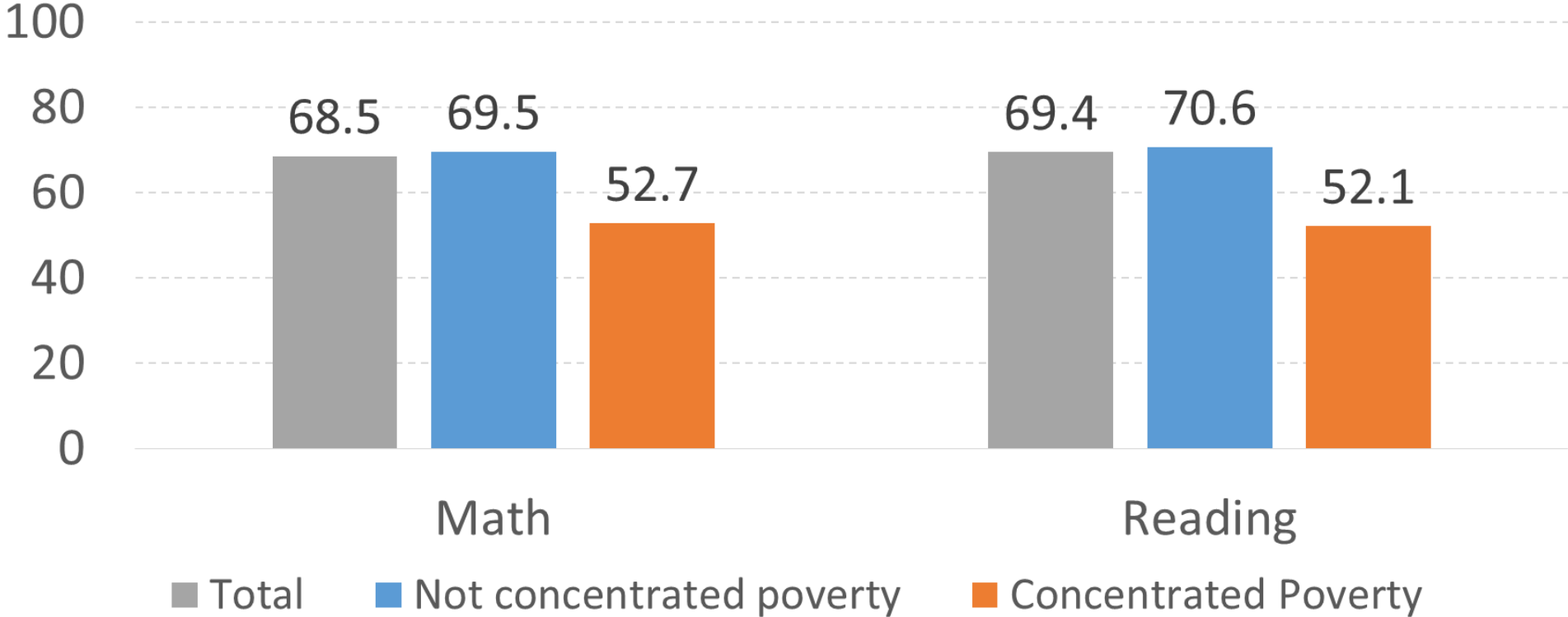
Data and Sources

- **American Community Survey (2009-13):** neighborhood poverty, number of children
- **Census TIGER/Line Shapefiles (2013):** neighborhood boundaries, elementary and unified school district boundaries
- **Common Core of Data (2012):** school locations (longitude and latitude), school level, number of students
- **EDFacts (2011-12):** school math and reading proficiency rates, graduation rates

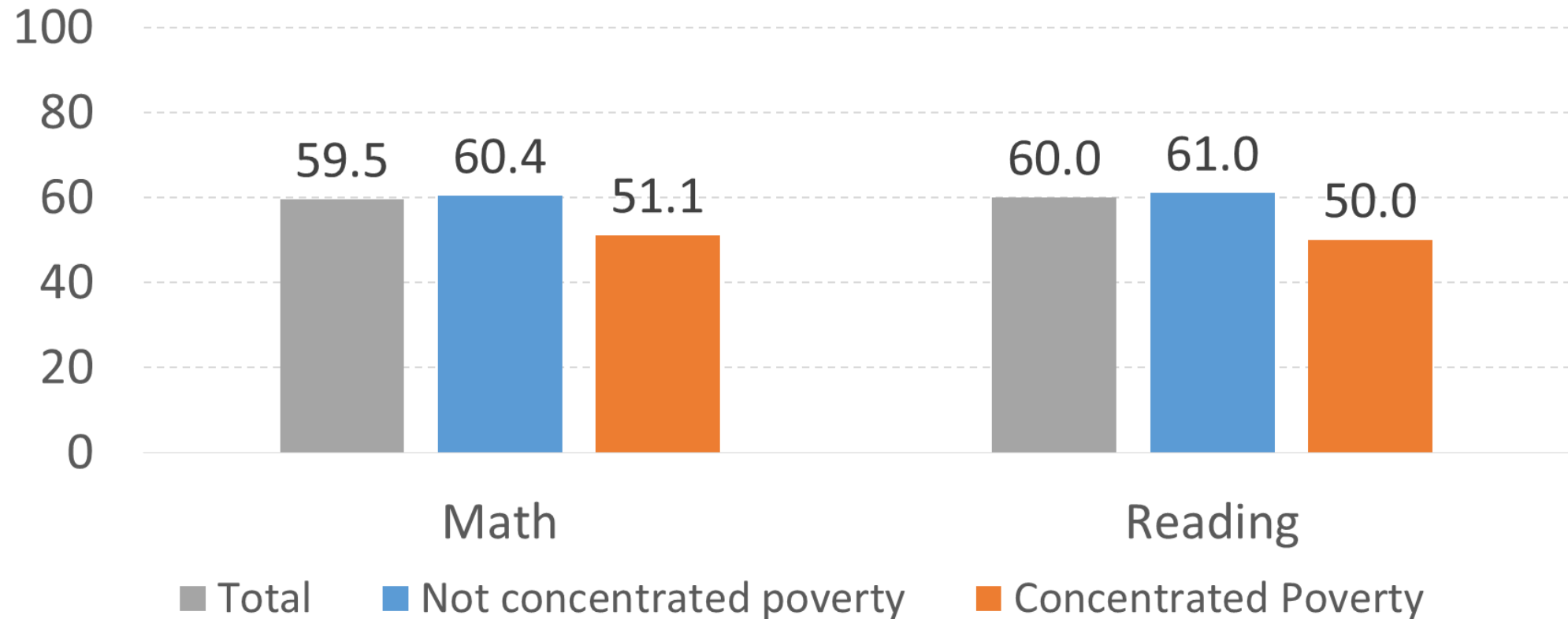
Number of schools located in
neighborhoods of concentrated poverty (at the 40% level)
and students served by these schools

School level	Schools		Students	
	N	% of total	N	% of total
Total	6,645	6.4	2,594,000	5.2
Elementary	3,453	6.4	1,403,000	5.8
Middle	847	5.0	379,000	4.0
High	1,185	5.6	609,000	4.3
Other	707	10.1	204,000	10.7

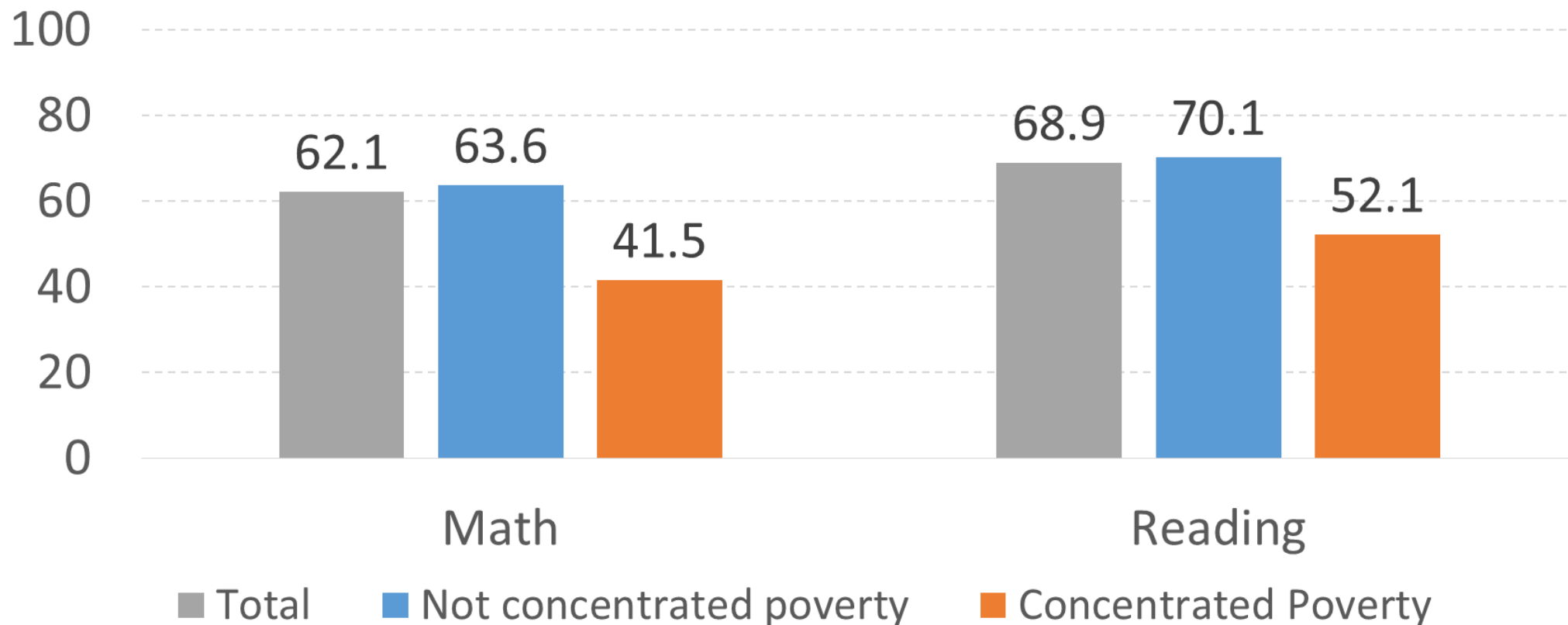
**Grade 5 math and reading proficiency rates
by neighborhood concentrated poverty (at 40% level)**



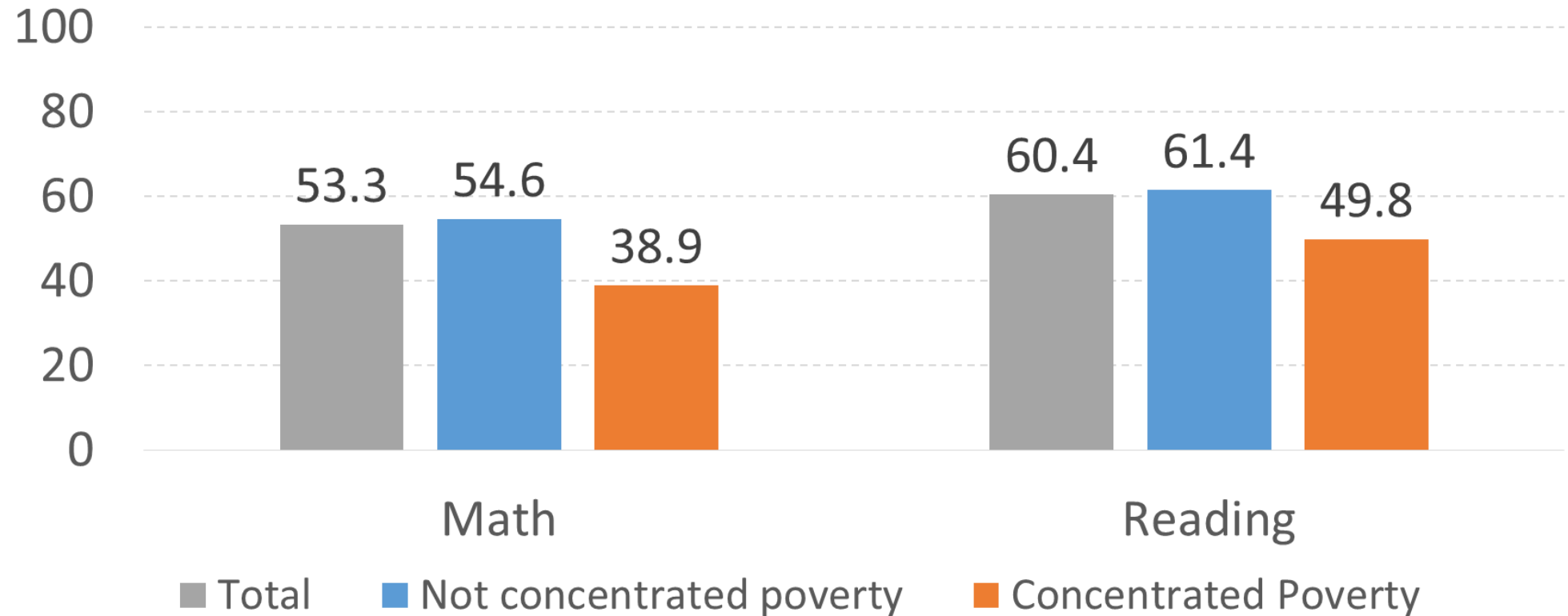
Grade 5 **economically disadvantaged** students'
math and reading proficiency rates by
neighborhood concentrated poverty (at 40% level)



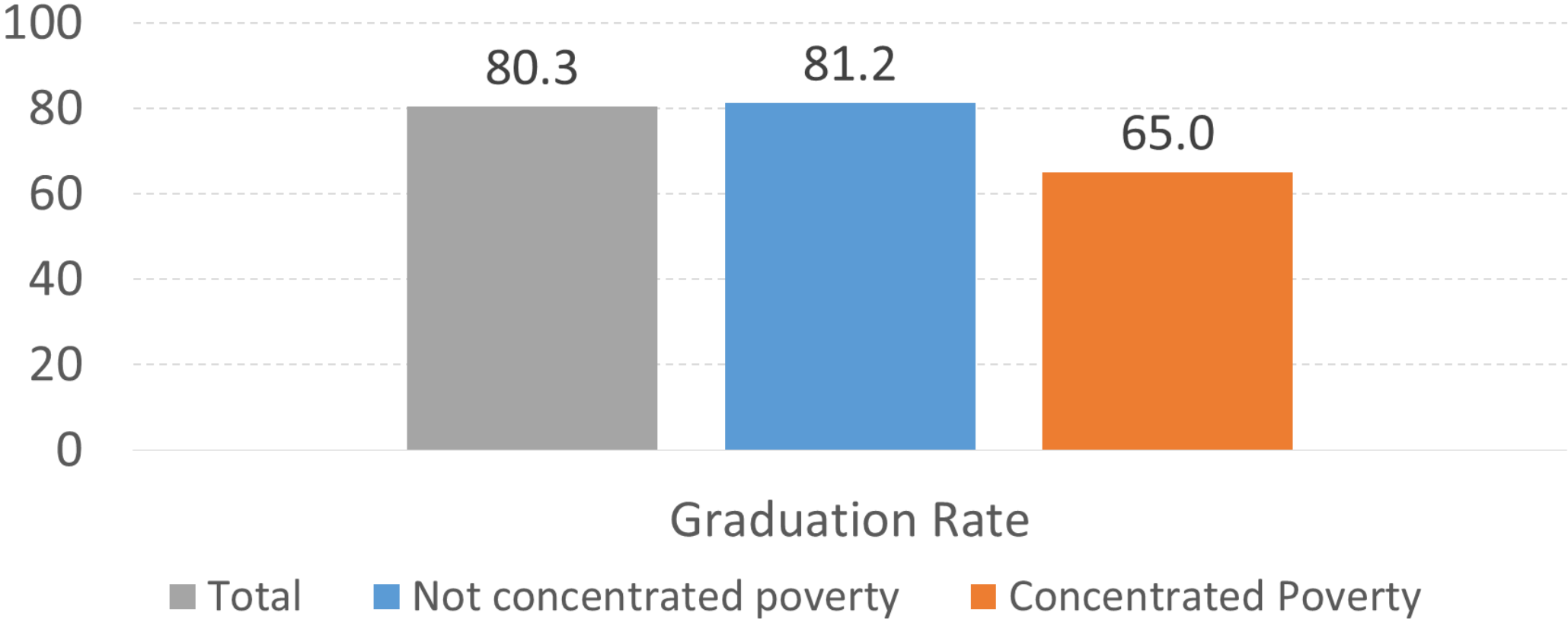
Grade 8 math and reading proficiency rates by neighborhood concentrated poverty (at 40% level)



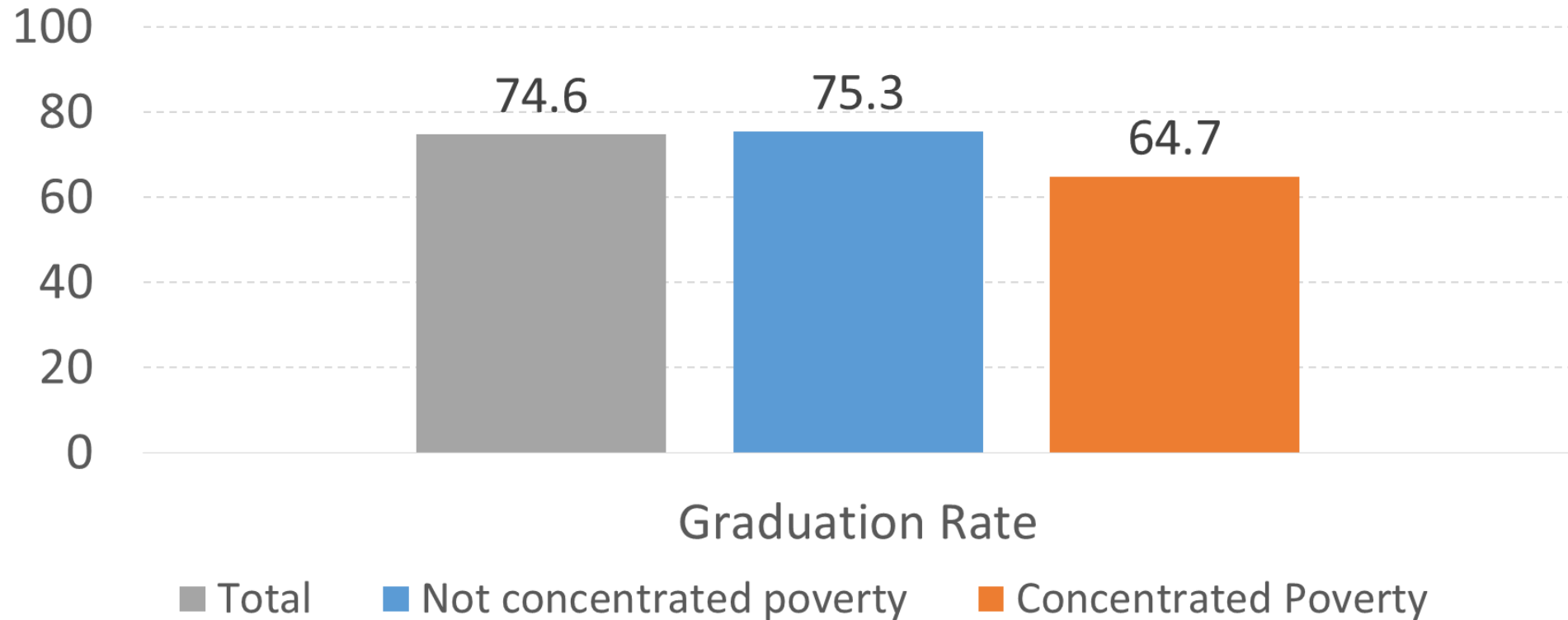
Grade 8 **economically disadvantaged** students'
math and reading proficiency rates by
neighborhood concentrated poverty (at 40% level)



High school graduation rates by neighborhood concentrated poverty (at 40% level)



Economically disadvantaged students' high school graduation rates
by neighborhood concentrated poverty (at 40% level)



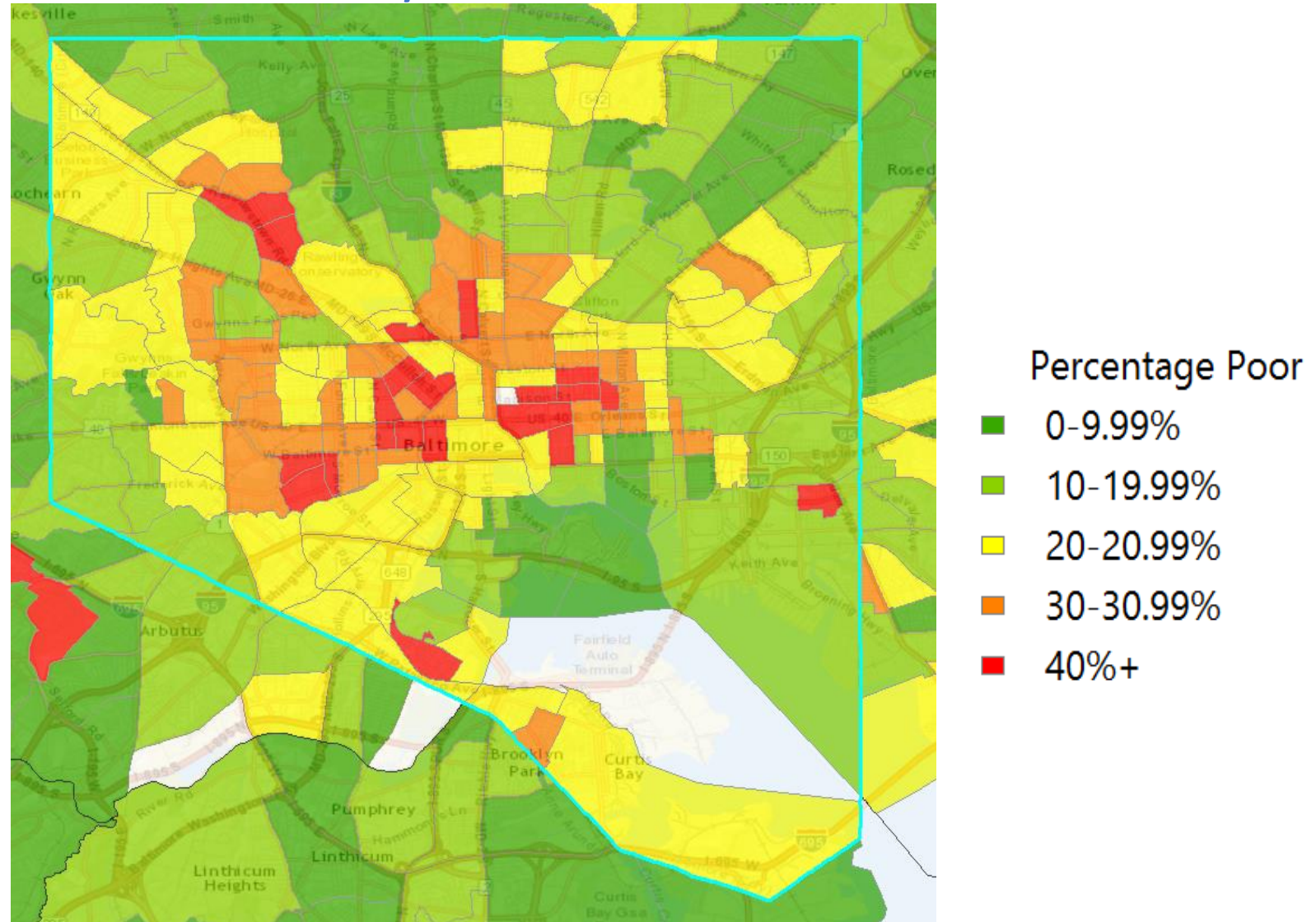
School district research questions

- Across the nation, what levels of neighborhood poverty do school districts face?
- Which school districts serve children in concentrated poverty, and where are the districts located?
- Which school districts serve large numbers or percentages of students living in concentrated poverty?

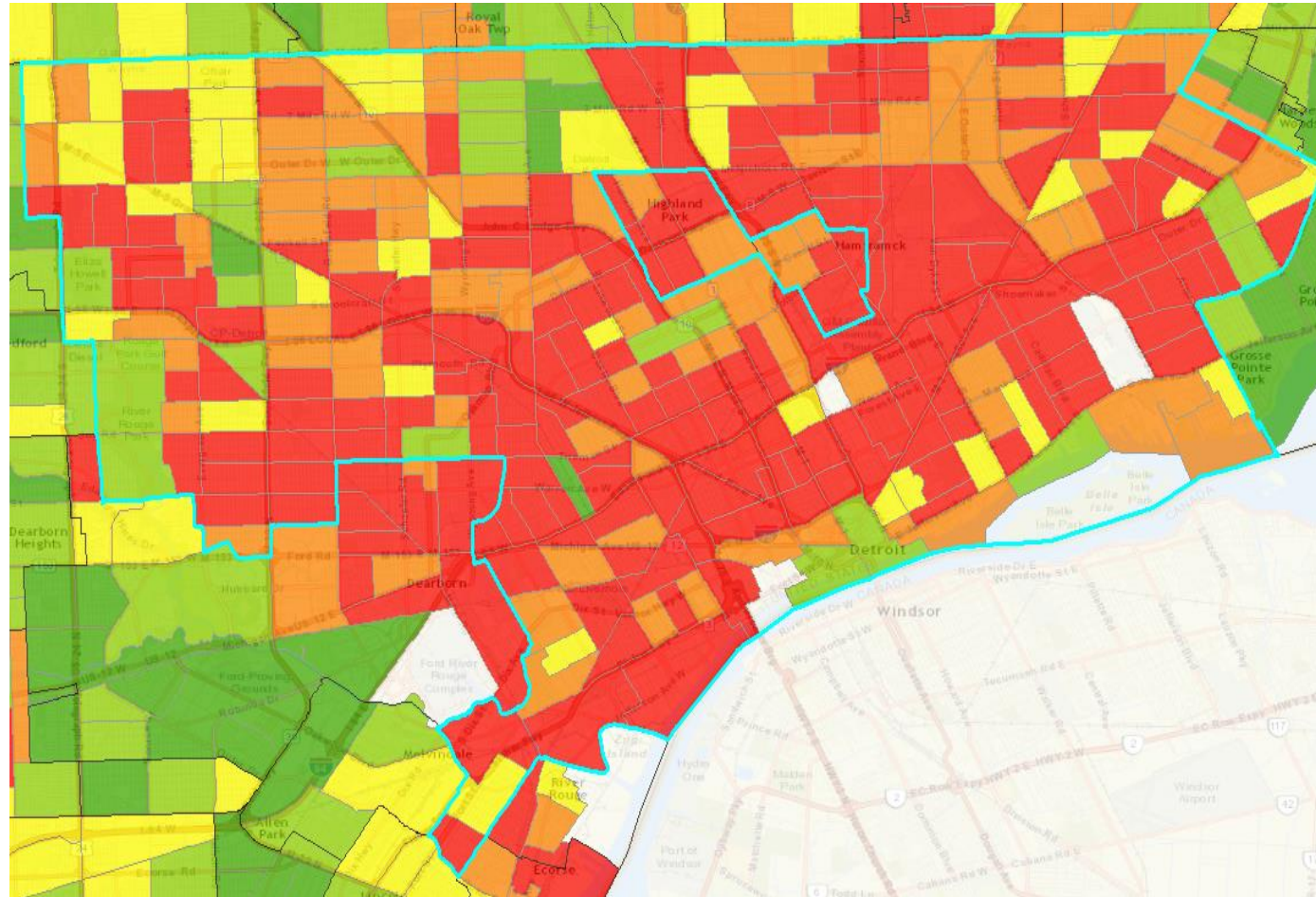
Percentage of school districts facing various levels of neighborhood poverty

- **47 percent** of districts have at least one neighborhood with **20%+** poverty
- **21 percent** of districts have at least one neighborhood with **30%+** poverty
- **10 percent** of districts have at least one neighborhood with **40%+** poverty (concentrated poverty)

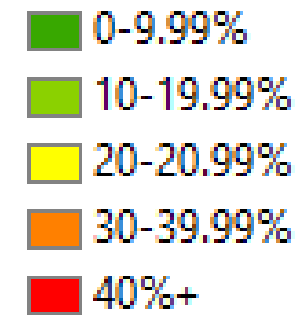
Neighborhood poverty levels in Baltimore City Public School district



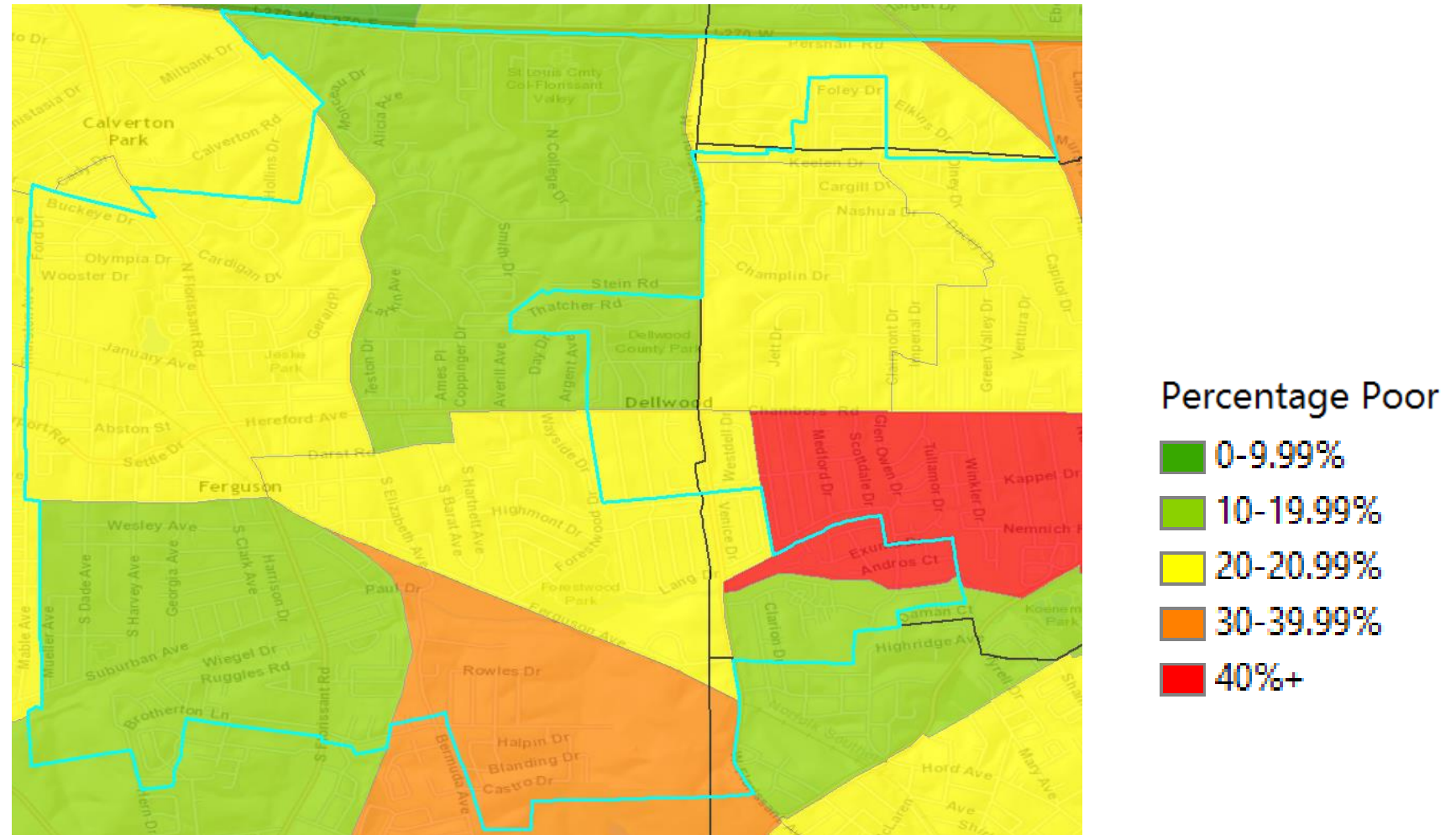
Neighborhood poverty levels in Detroit Public Schools district



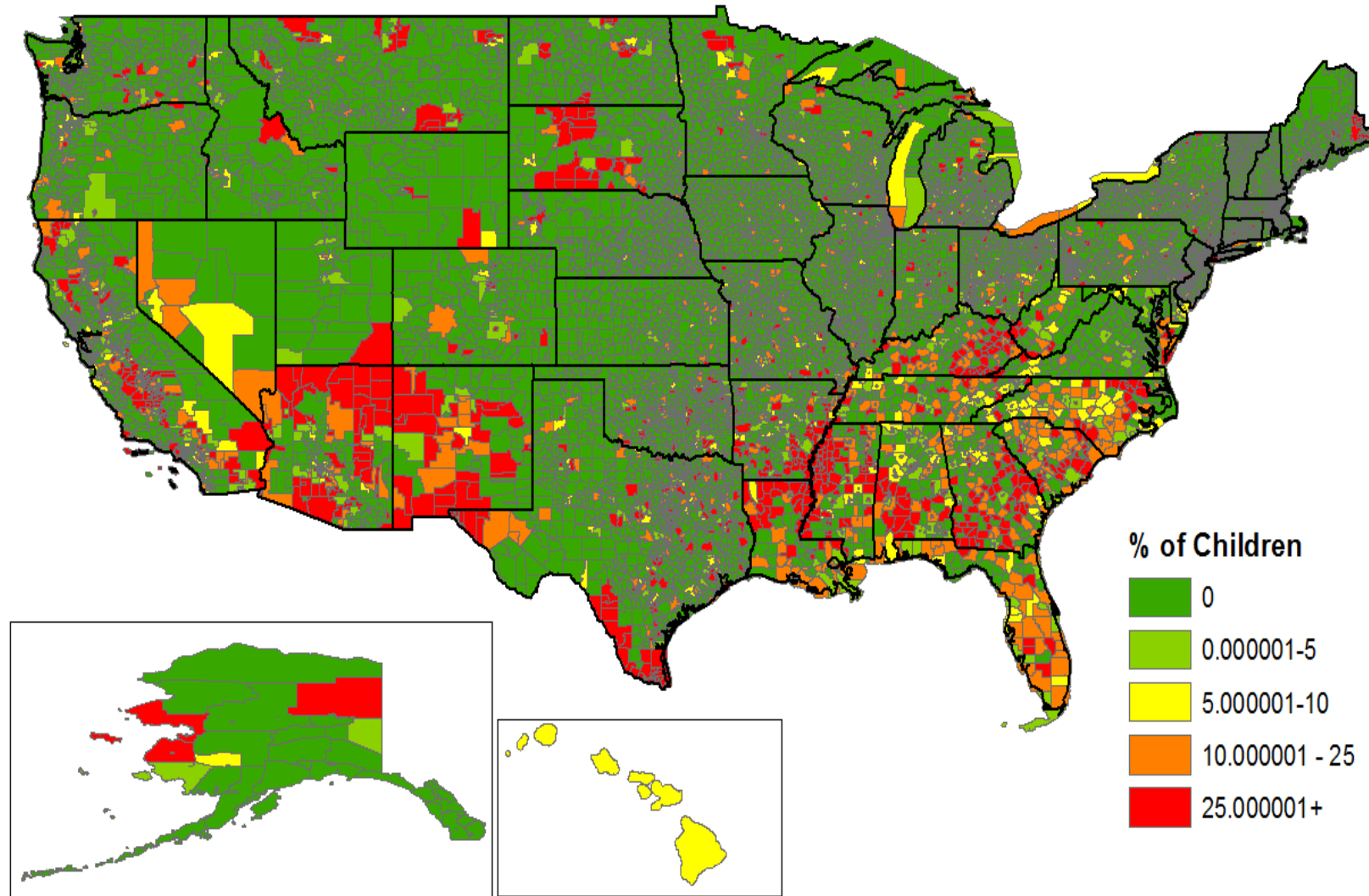
Percentage Poor



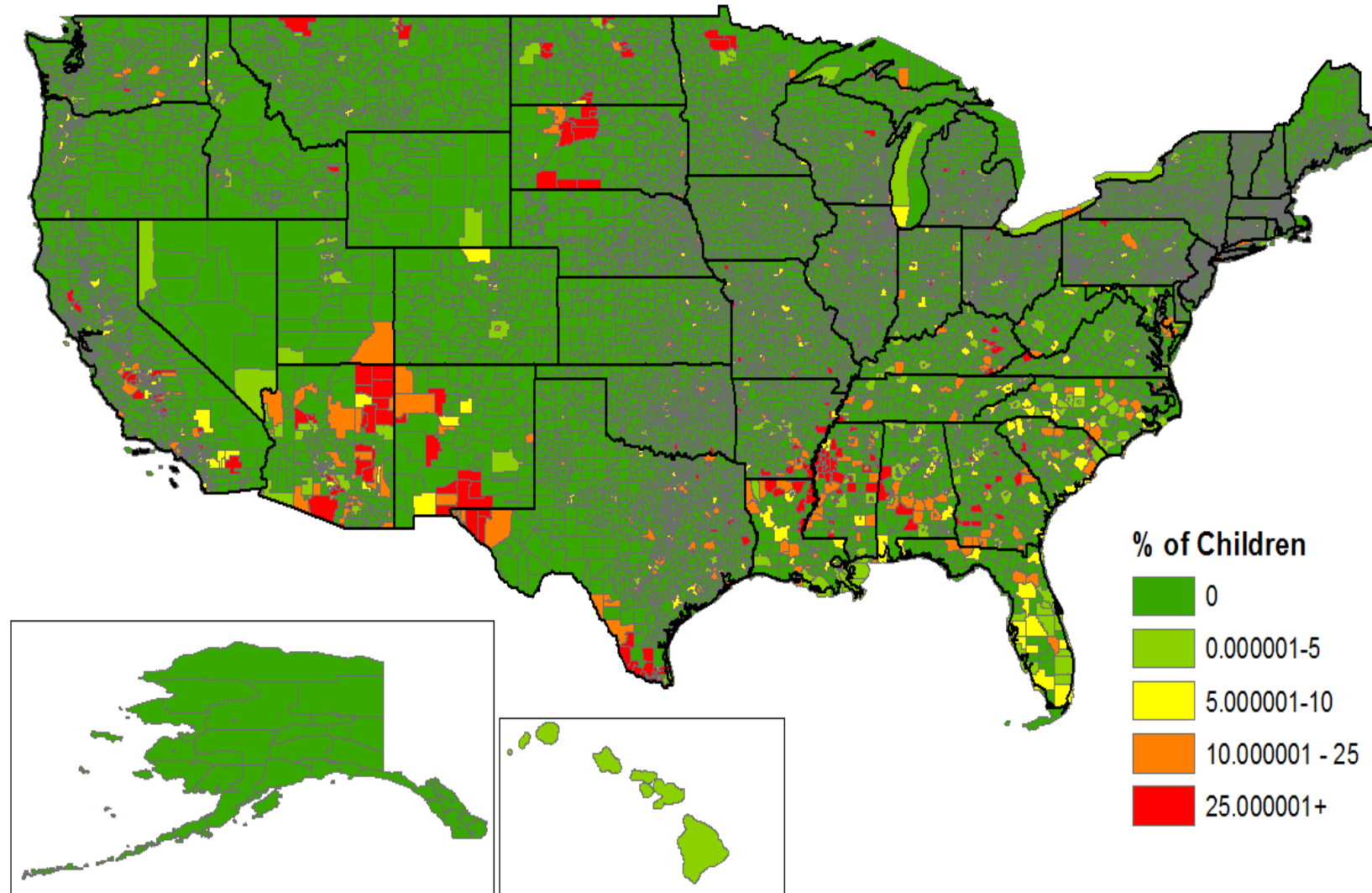
Neighborhood poverty levels in Ferguson, MO



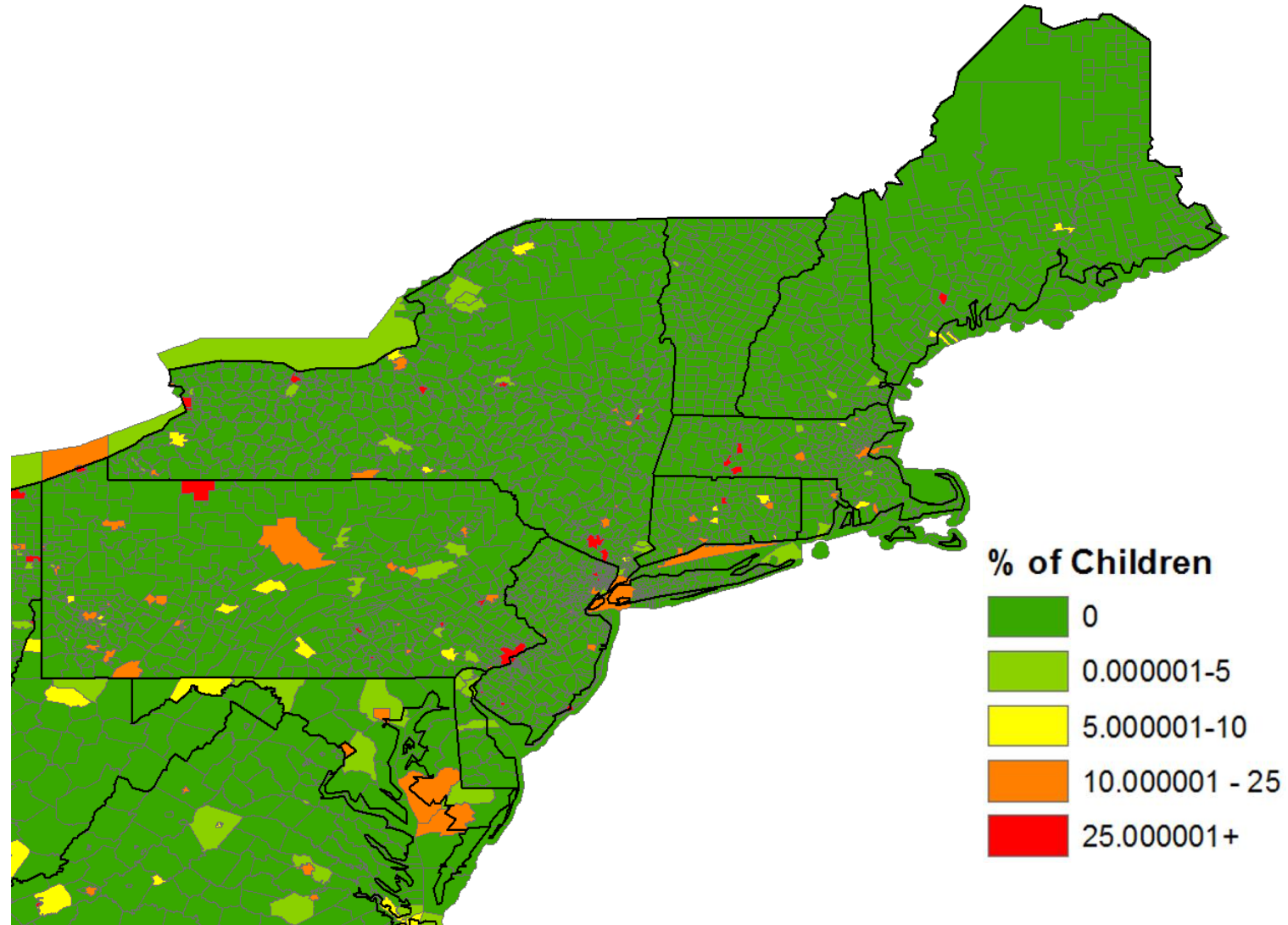
School districts by the percentage of children in **30%+ poverty** neighborhoods



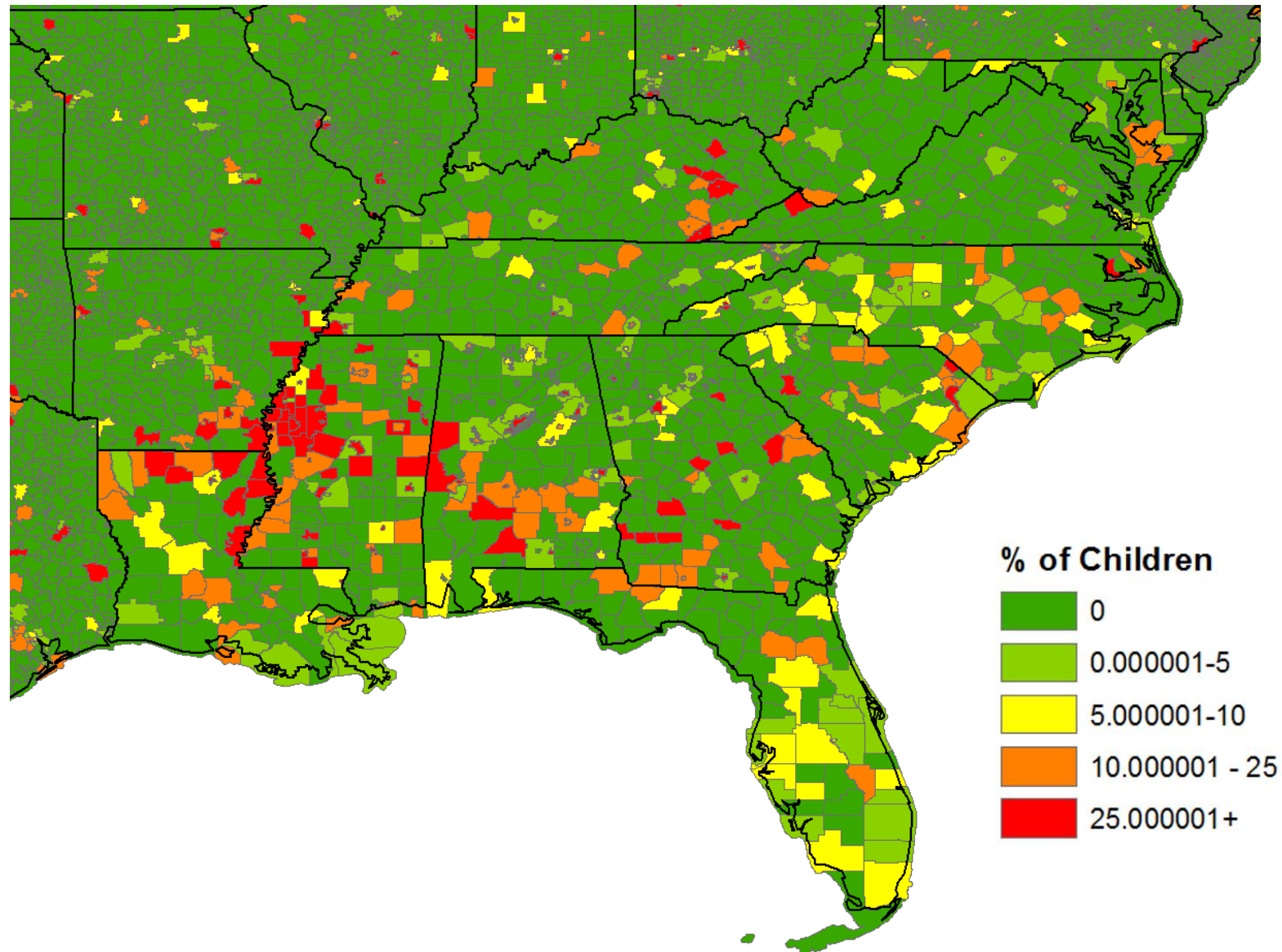
School districts by the percentage of children in **concentrated (40%+) poverty** neighborhoods



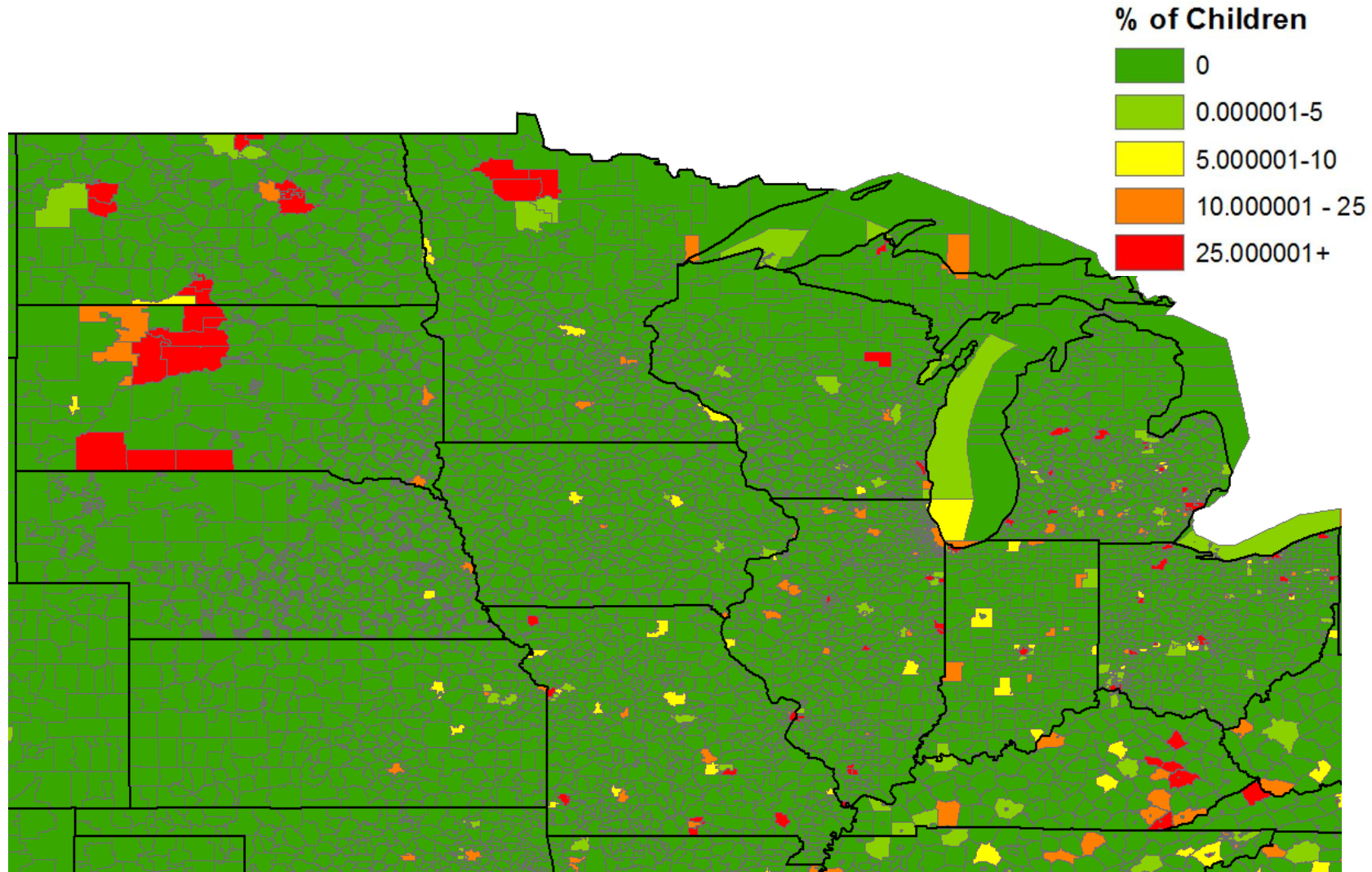
Northeastern districts by the percentage of children in **concentrated (40%+) poverty** neighborhoods



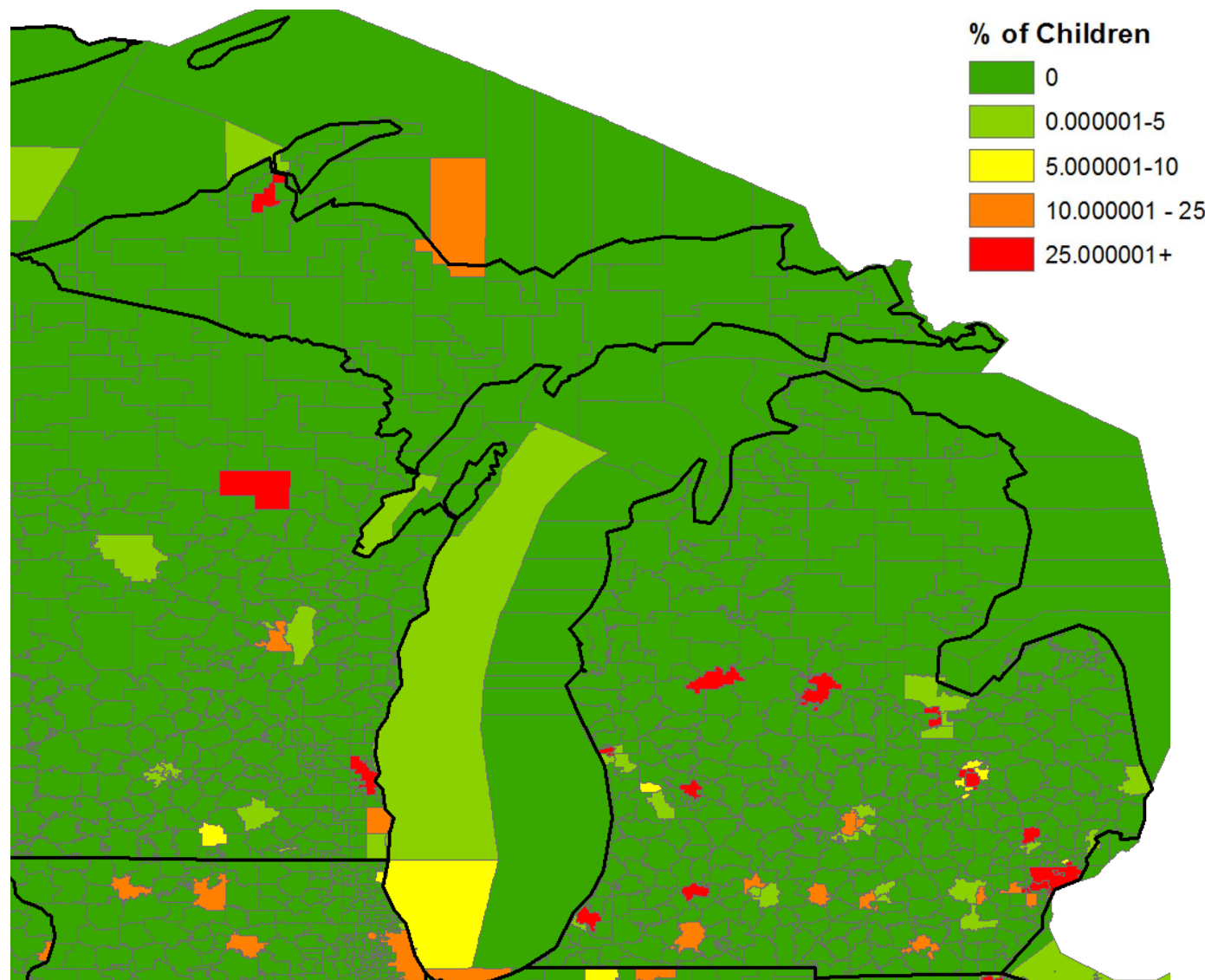
Southeastern districts by the percentage of children in **concentrated (40%+) poverty** neighborhoods



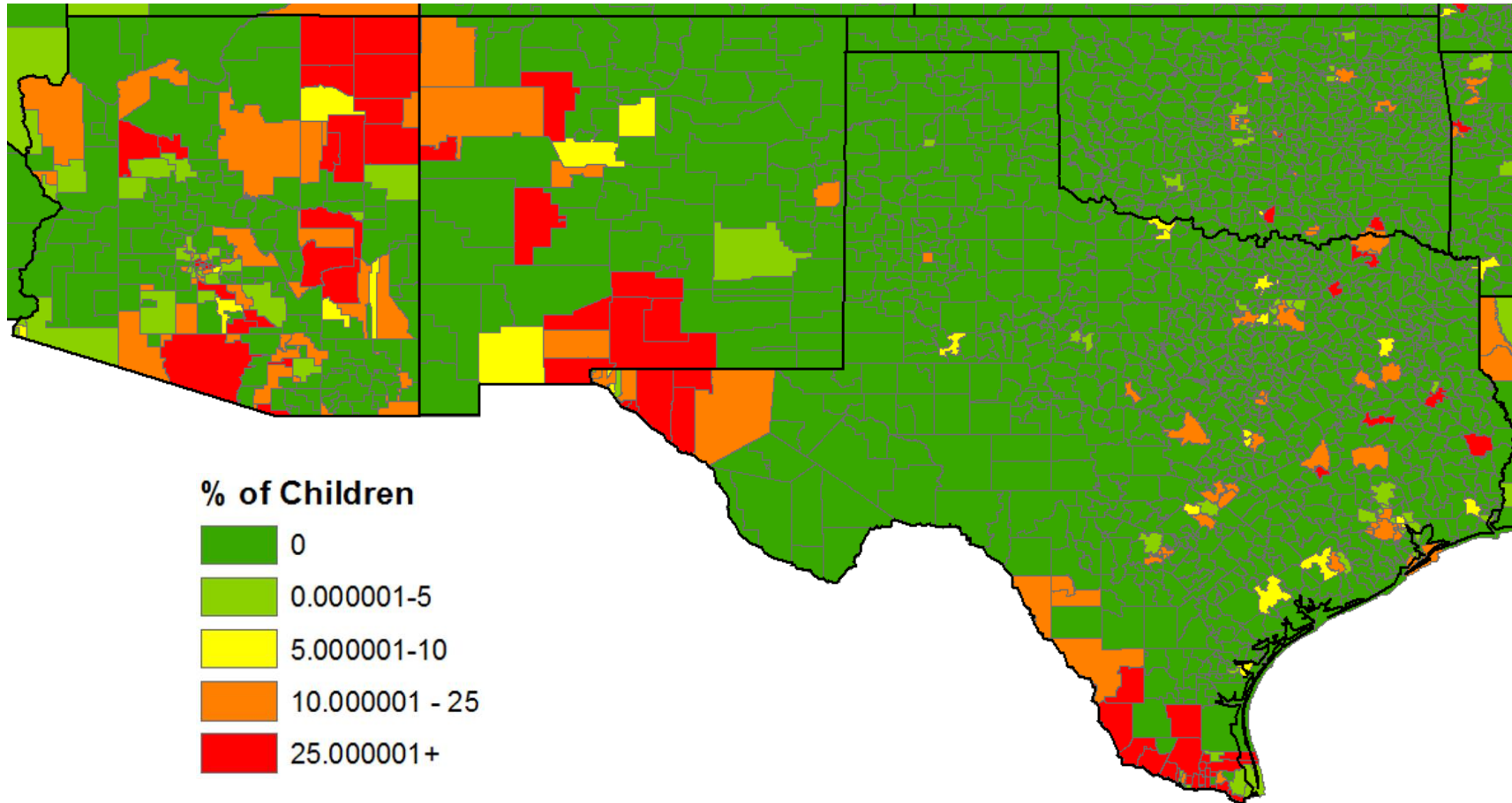
Midwestern districts by the percentage of children in **concentrated (40%+) poverty** neighborhoods



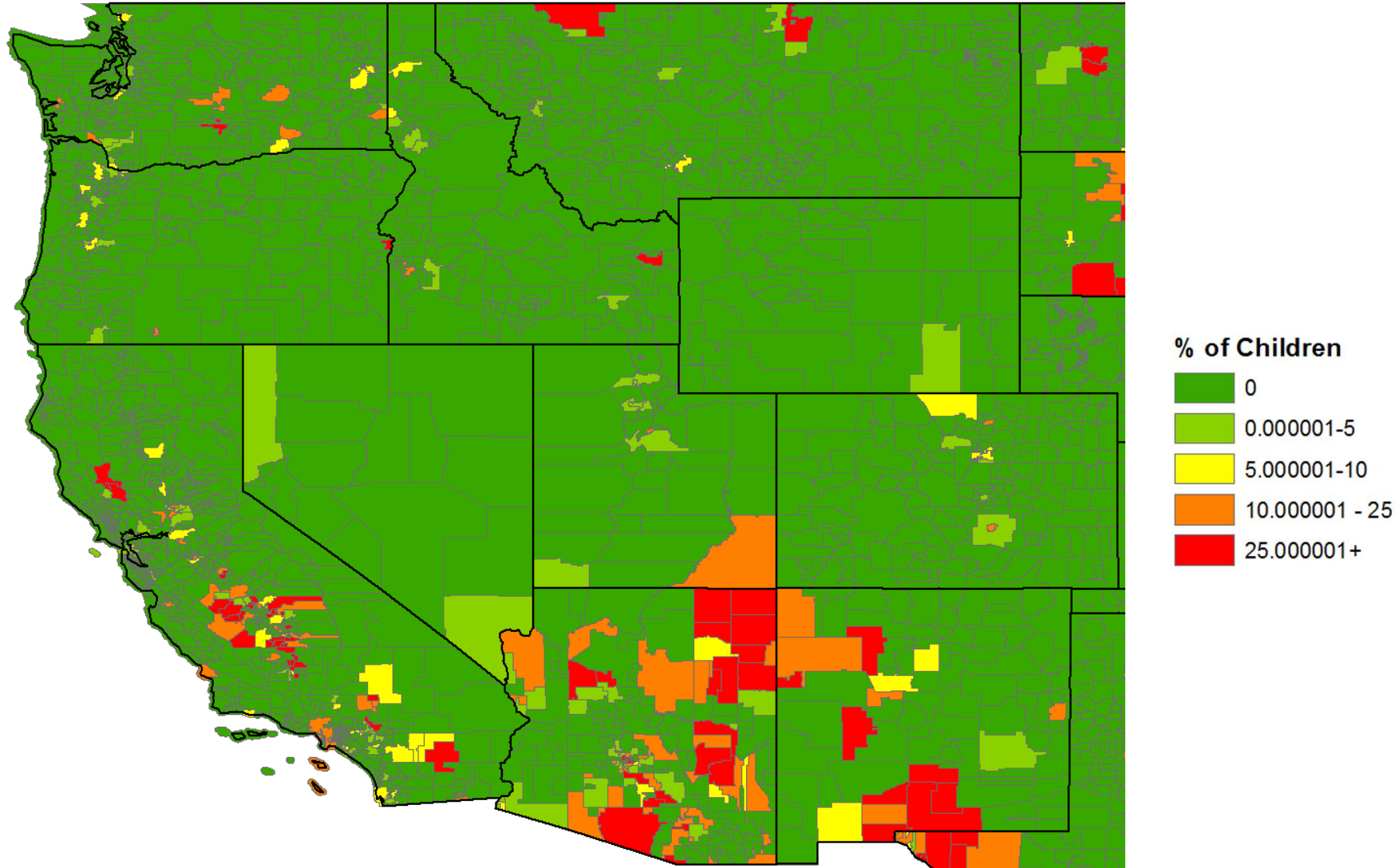
Michigan districts by the percentage of children in **concentrated (40%+) poverty** neighborhoods



Southwestern districts by the percentage of children in **concentrated (40%+) poverty** neighborhoods



Western districts by the percentage of children in **concentrated (40%+) poverty** neighborhoods



Top 10 school districts with the **highest numbers** of in-boundary children in concentrated (40%+) poverty

District	State	Total N	40%+ Poverty	
			%	N
New York City Department Of Education	NY	1,240,861	14.5	180,176
Los Angeles Unified School District	CA	759,389	11.6	88,065
Chicago Public School District 299	IL	427,892	18.4	78,690
Detroit City School District	MI	134,302	54.0	72,587
Philadelphia City School District	PA	239,992	25.8	61,933
Milwaukee School District	WI	112,748	32.0	36,042
Fresno Unified School District	CA	78,385	45.3	35,484
Houston Independent School District	TX	218,462	14.3	31,292
Dade County School District	FL	394,228	7.9	31,023
Memphis City School District	TN	116,494	25.0	29,174

Most children living in concentrated poverty are in a very small number of districts

- The **top 10 school districts** with the highest numbers of children living in concentrated poverty contain **23 percent** of the nation's total
- Just **69 school districts** contain more than **half** the nation's children living in concentrated poverty
- That said, there are small pockets of concentrated poverty (40%+) throughout the country
- About **1,250 school districts** have at least some concentrated poverty
- Some of these districts face very substantial poverty rates

Top 10 school districts with the **highest percentages** of in-boundary children in concentrated (40%+) poverty

			40%+ Poverty	
District	State	Total N	%	N
Kiryas Joel Village Union Free School District	NY	5,309	100.0	5,309
Shannon County School District 65-1	SD	3,669	100.0	3,669
Earlimart Elementary School District	CA	2,692	100.0	2,692
Whiteriver Unified District	AZ	2,587	100.0	2,587
Fabens Independent School District	TX	2,233	100.0	2,233
Zuni Public Schools	NM	1,559	100.0	1,559
Tornillo Independent School District	TX	1,397	100.0	1,397
Sacaton Elementary District	AZ	1,188	100.0	1,188
La Villa Independent School District	TX	845	100.0	845
Progreso Independent School District	TX	720	100.0	720

Top 10 school districts (highest n) with **more than half** of
in-boundary children in concentrated (40%+) poverty

			40%+ Poverty	
District	State	Total N	%	N
Detroit City School District	MI	134,300	54	72,600
Laredo Independent School District	TX	22,000	69	15,100
Alhambra Elementary District	AZ	22,400	61	13,600
Syracuse City School District	NY	23,000	57	13,200
La Joya Independent School District	TX	23,500	55	13,000
Donna Independent School District	TX	18,900	66	12,400
Dearborn City School District	MI	22,400	52	11,600
Flint City School District	MI	18,500	56	10,400
Reading School District	PA	18,800	54	10,200
Coachella Valley Unified School District	CA	19,700	50	9,900

Key Takeaways

- National evidence consistent with idea of double burden exists
- Geography of concentrated poverty is a patchwork quilt across our nation
- A small number of districts faces substantial levels of concentrated poverty
- A very small identifiable subset of districts makes up the bulk of the problem