Population Distribution by Race/Ethnicity

These maps display the percentage of the population in a given census tract that is of one of the three major racial/ethnic groups in Forsyth County over the period from 2015-2019:

• Black, Non-Hispanic;
• Hispanic/Latino; and
• White, Non-Hispanic.

Darker colors represent a higher percentage of the population being of the racial/ethnic group the map is showing.
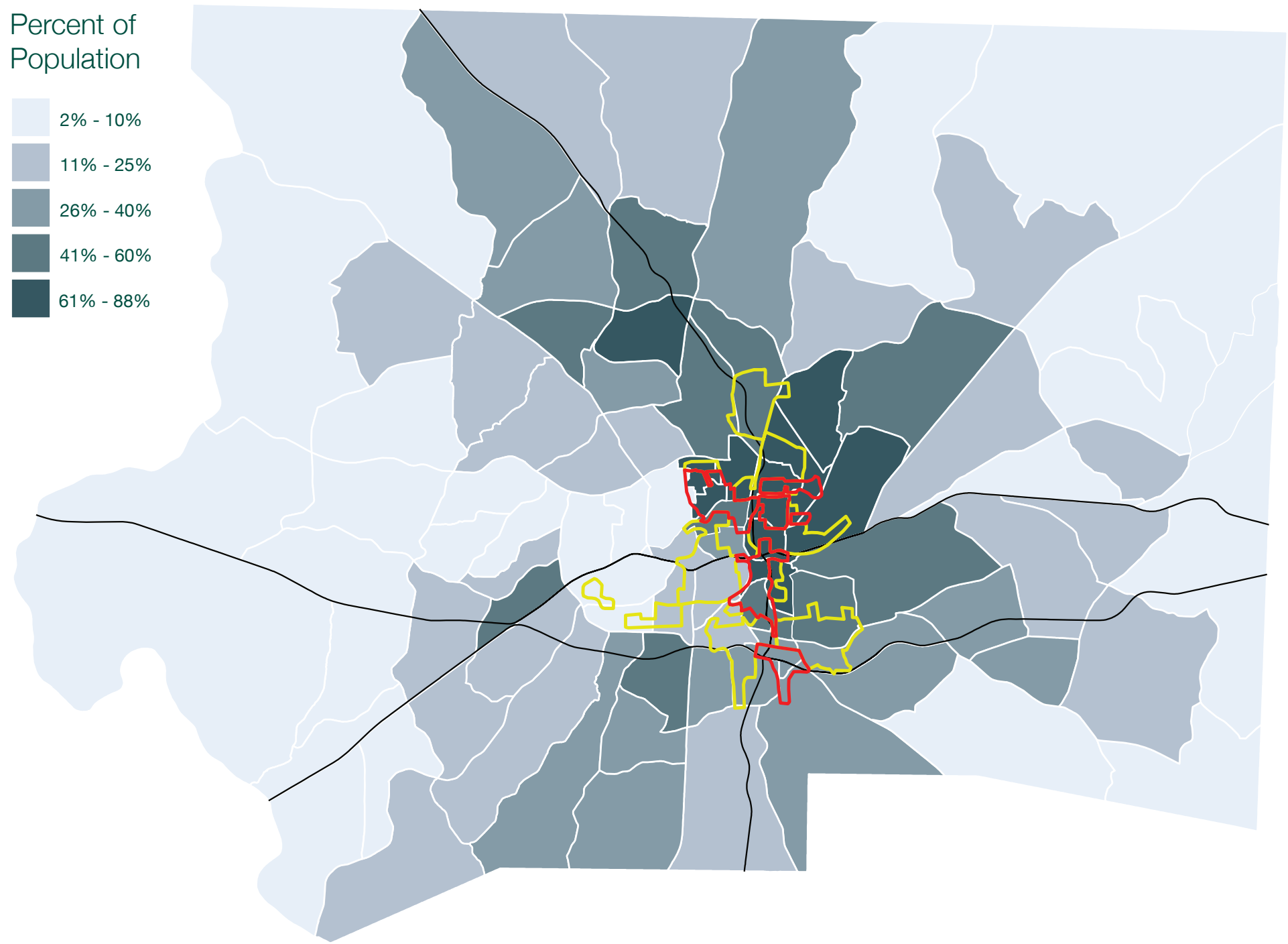
As you review this demographic data, reflect on these two questions:

• Even though the Fair Housing Act of 1968 made it illegal to discriminate against where people could live based upon race, why do you think Winston-Salem is still significantly segregated today?

• What are some reasons that the redlining maps from the 1930s are still relevant when looking at a wide spectrum of inequities in our community?
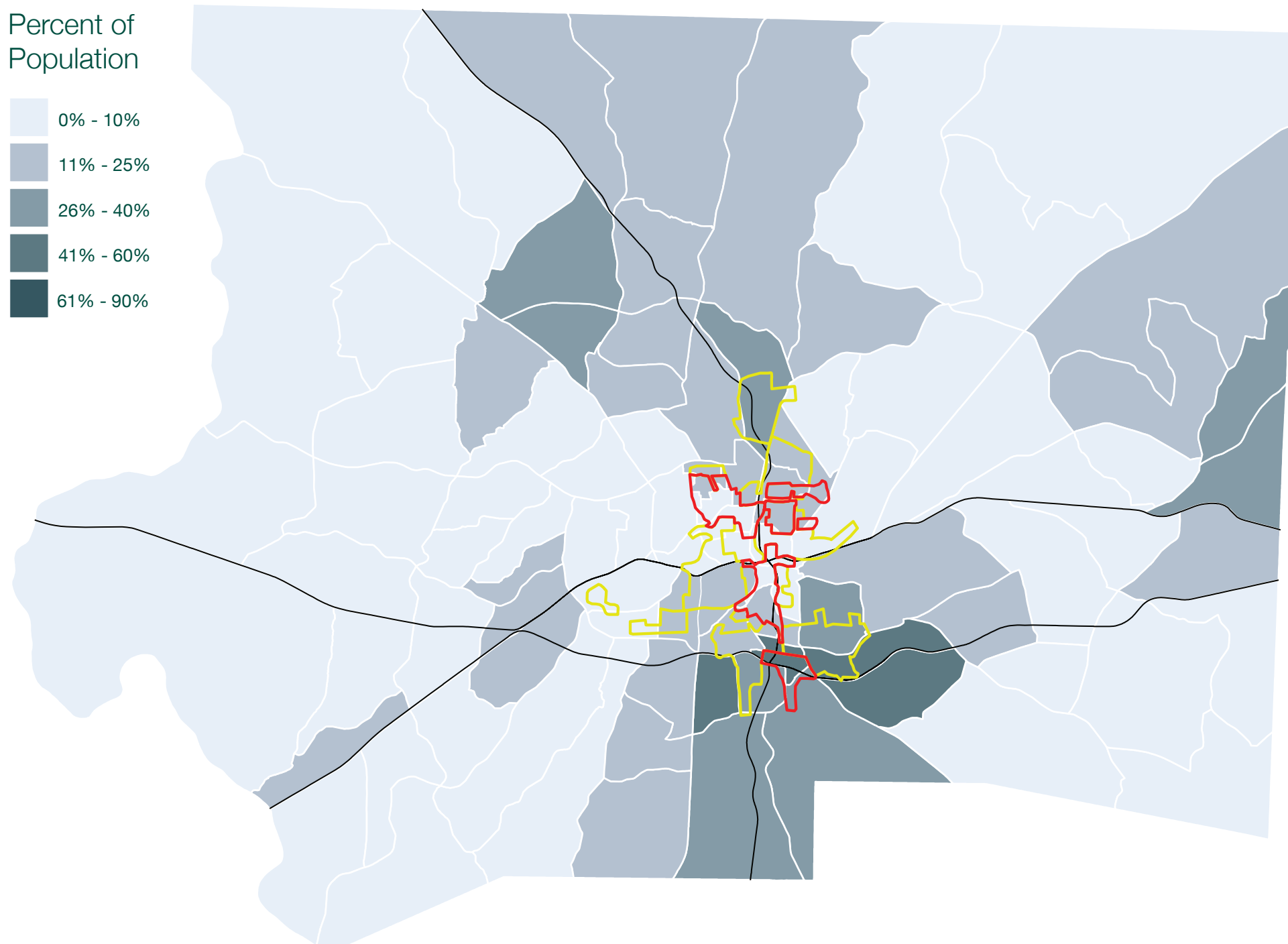
Black/African American

Percent of Population
- 2% - 10%
- 11% - 25%
- 26% - 40%
- 41% - 60%
- 61% - 88%

Hispanic/Latino

Percent of Population
- 0% - 10%
- 11% - 25%
- 26% - 40%
- 41% - 60%
- 61% - 90%

White, Non-Hispanic

Percent of Population
- 1% - 10%
- 11% - 25%
- 26% - 40%
- 41% - 60%
- 61% - 97%

Historic Redline Boundaries
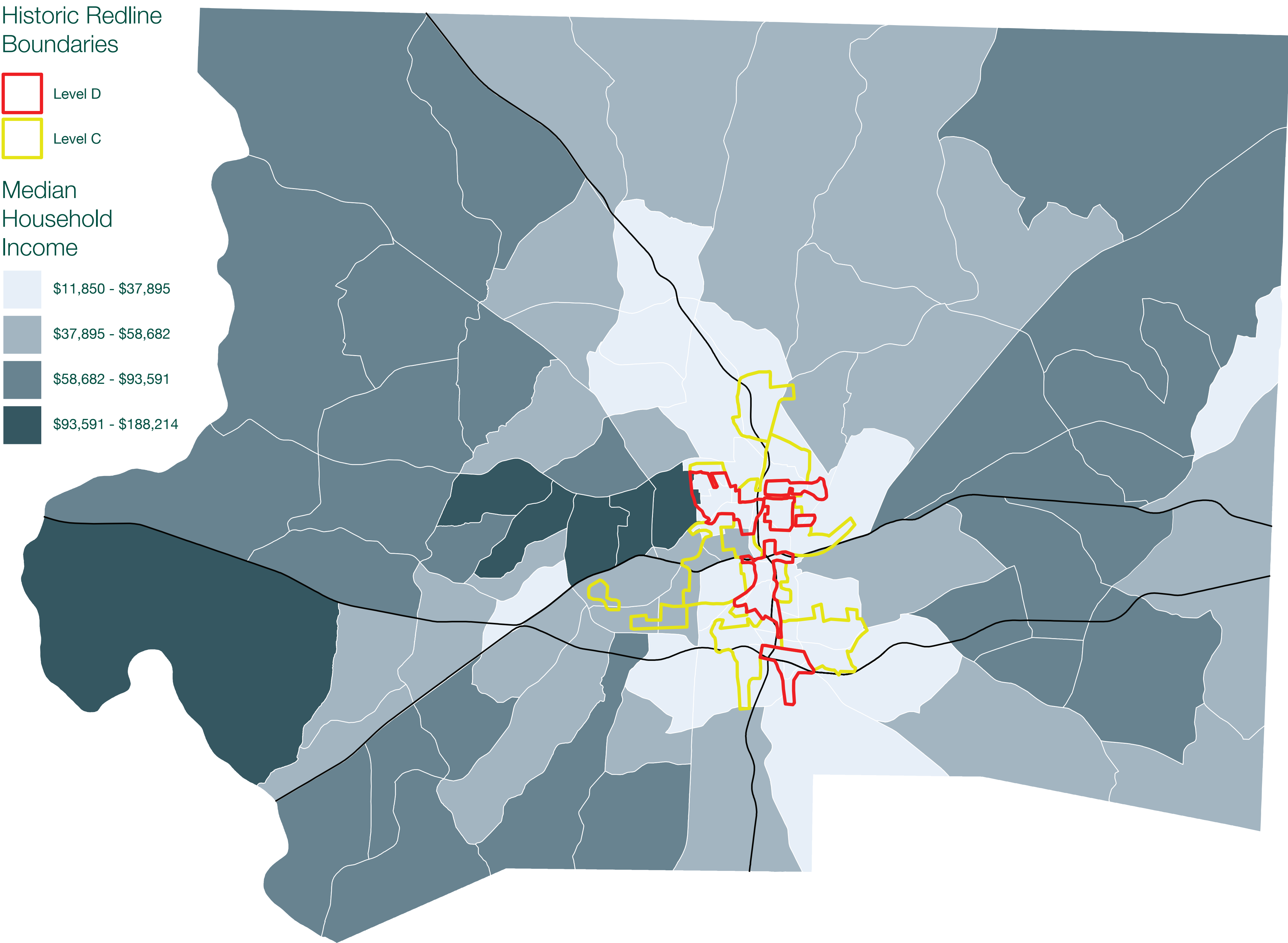
- Level D
- Level C
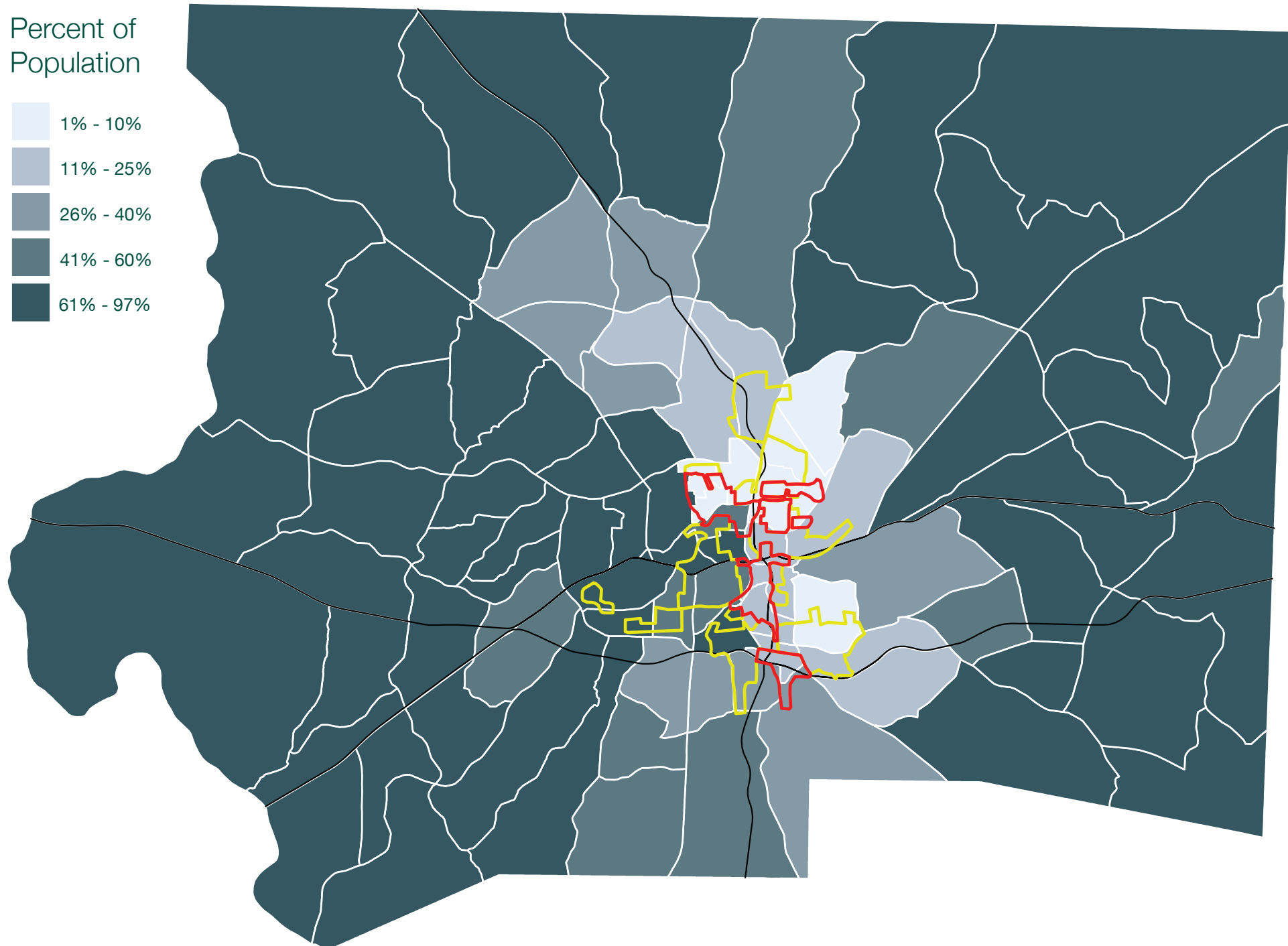
Forsyth Futures

Median Household Income

Access to adequate financial resources is necessary for economic self-sufficiency and to build wealth. Median household income is a measurement that helps indicate the financial resources available to households in our community.

Median household income refers to the specific income level that is halfway between the highest-earning households and the lowest-earning households. Darker colors represent higher levels of median income in a given census tract.

Historic Redline Boundaries

- Level D
- Level C

Median Household Income

- $11,850 - $37,895
- $37,895 - $58,682
- $58,682 - $93,591
- $93,591 - $188,214

Forsyth Futures
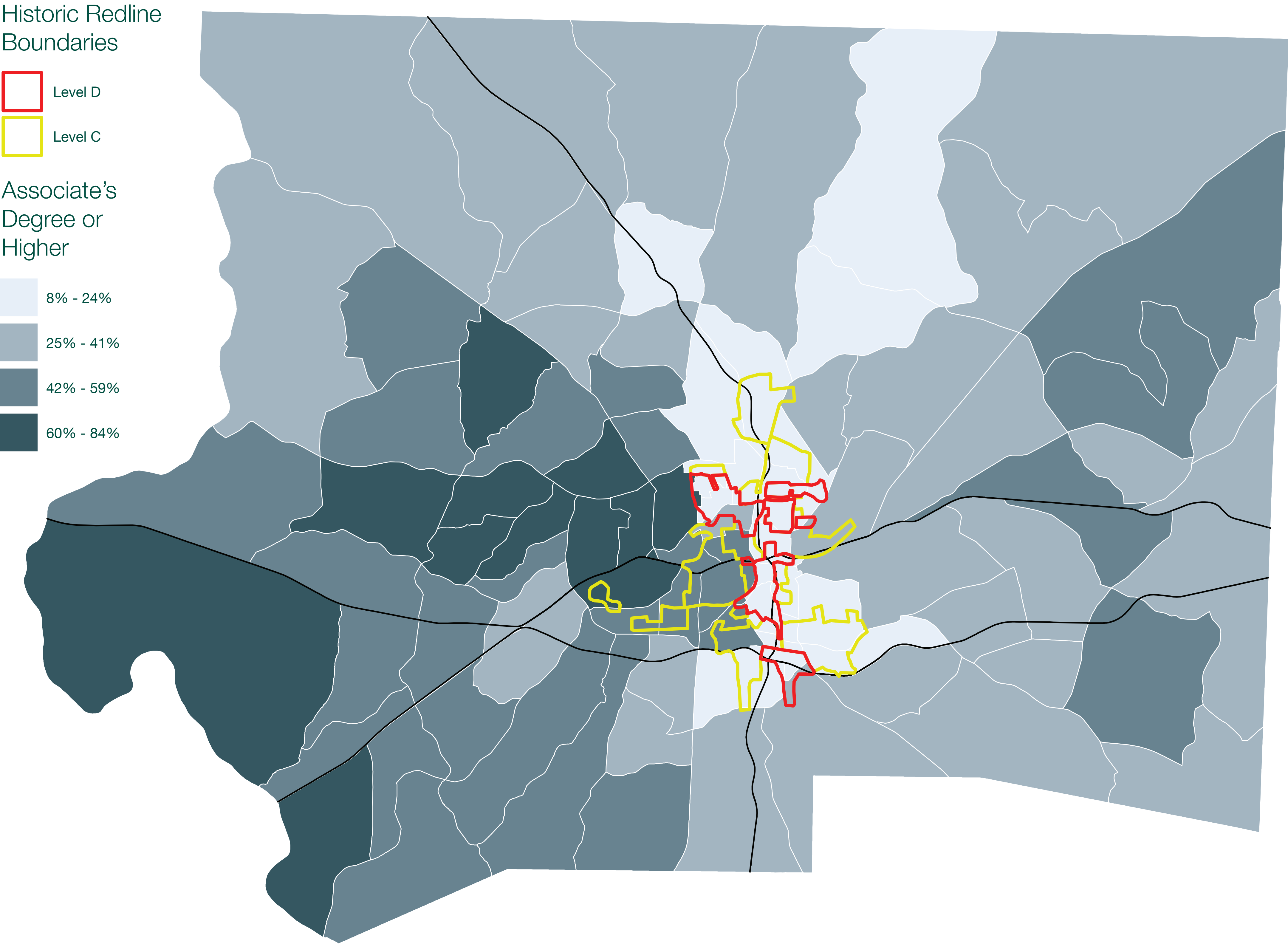
Educational Attainment

Associate's Degree or Higher

Post-secondary education (education attained after high school) is a significant indicator for upward mobility and for the avoidance of poverty. Even though the ongoing student debt crisis threatens this trend, graduating from college or community college still increases the likelihood of an individual's economic success.

This data represents the percentage of the population, 25-years-old and older, with at least an Associate's Degree. Darker colors represent higher percentages of adults who have an Associate's Degree or higher.

Historic Redline Boundaries

- Level D
- Level C

Associate's Degree or Higher

- 8% - 24%
- 25% - 41%
- 42% - 59%
- 60% - 84%

Forsyth Futures

Physical Health

Residents of redlined communities have worse physical health and lower life expectancy than residents of non-redlined communities. Factors that have an impact on health include higher pollution, more landfills and highways, as well as disinvestment in public resources such as parks and green spaces. These factors contribute to conditions such as asthma, diabetes, hypertension, and obesity.

This map represents the percentage of adults who had poor physical health in the 30 days prior to completing the Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System Survey. Darker colors represent higher percentages of adults who reported poor physical health.
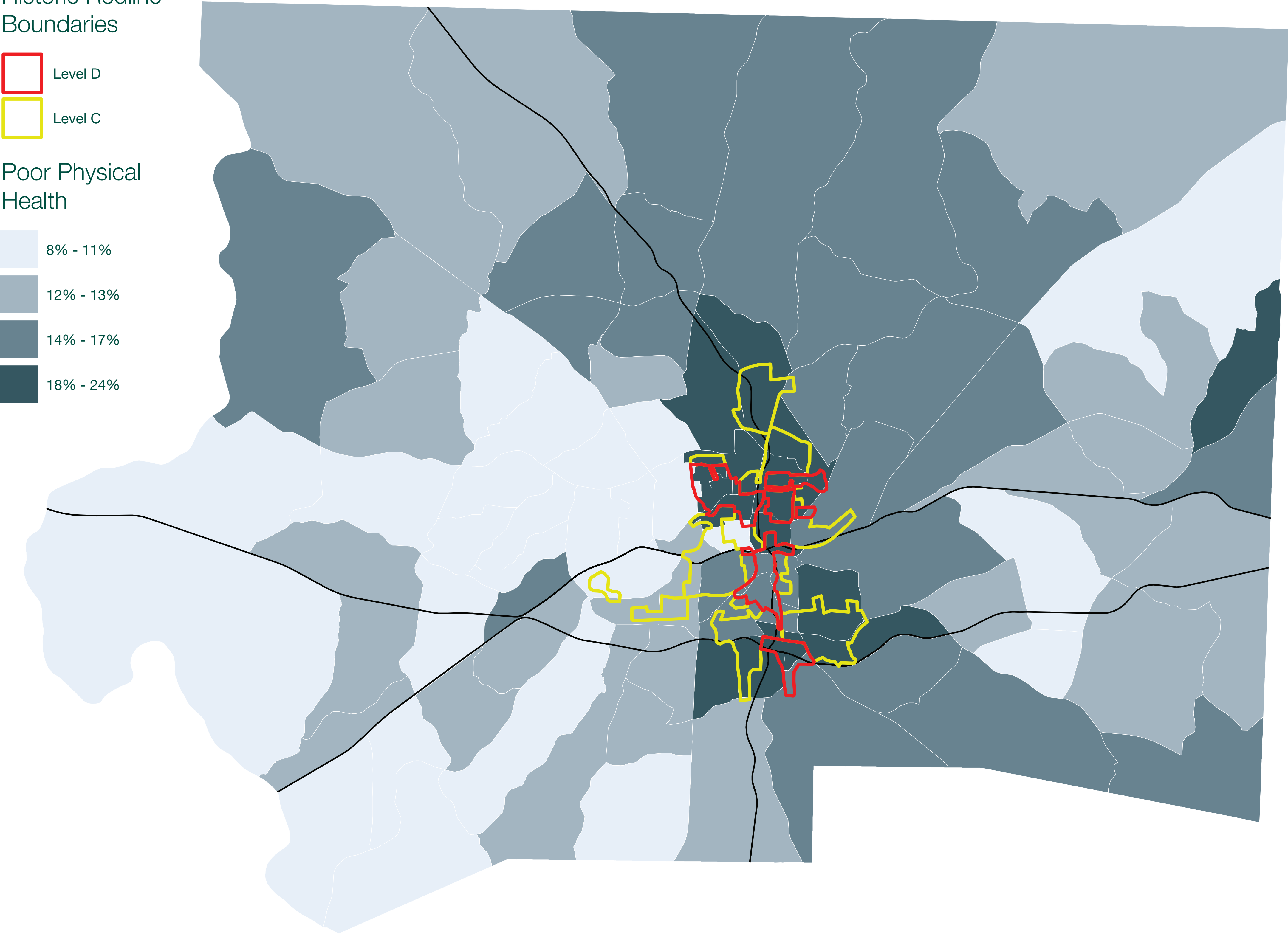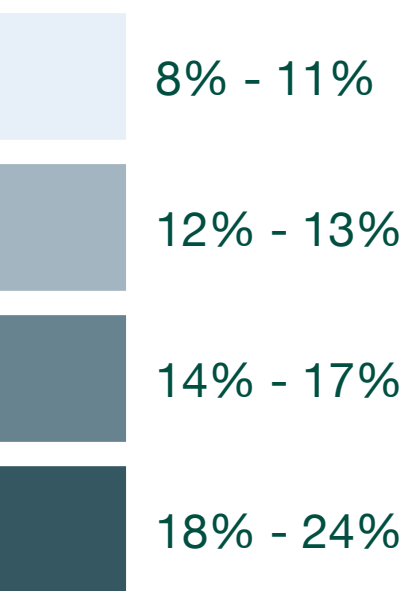
Data Source

CDC, 2018 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Data Note: *This data is captured at the state level and is modelled at the census tract level using census tract demographics.*

Historic Redline Boundaries

- Level D
- Level C

Poor Physical Health

- 8% - 11%
- 12% - 13%
- 14% - 17%
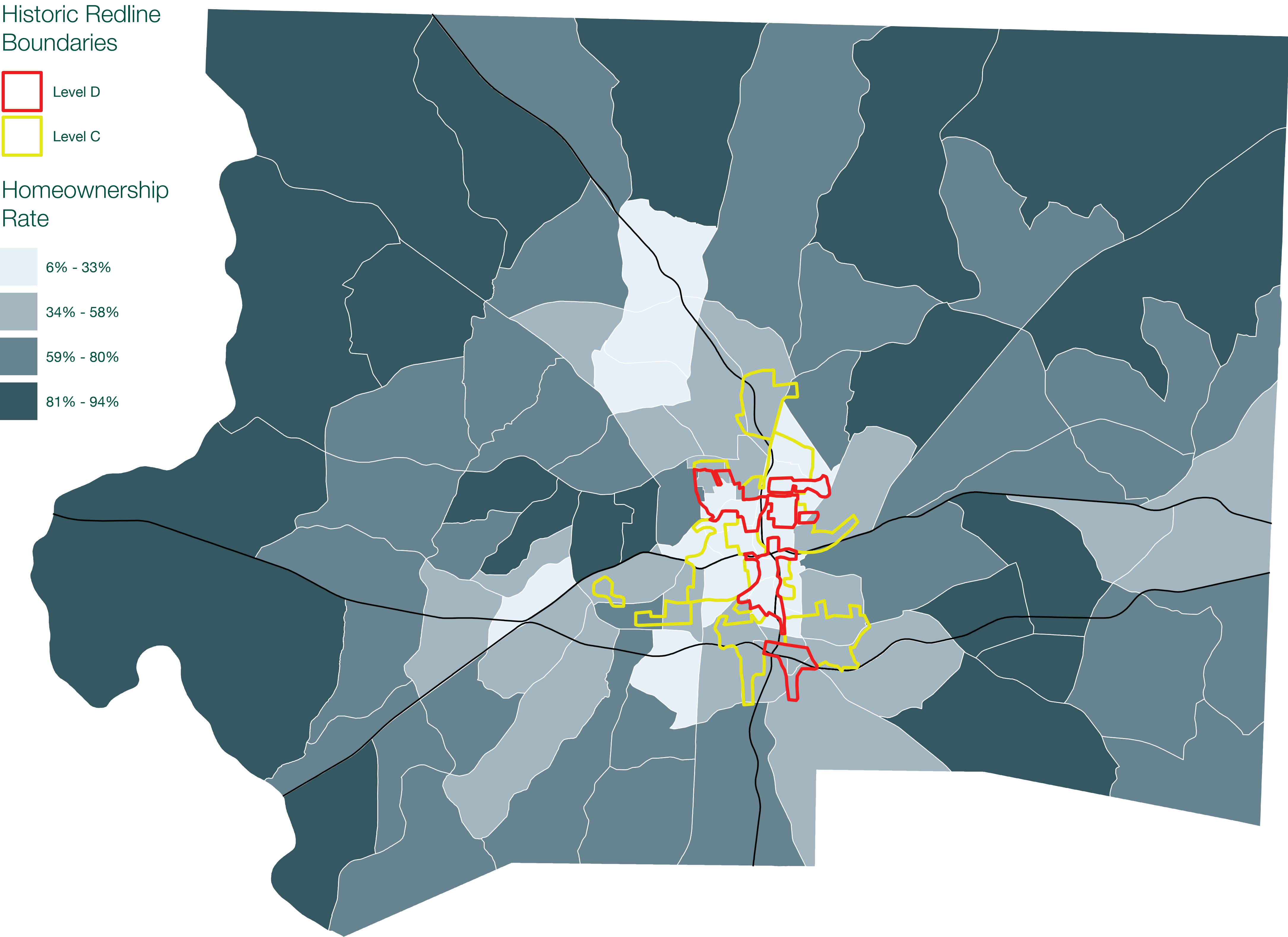- 18% - 24%

Forsyth Futures

Homeownership

Homeownership is a key mechanism of building intergenerational wealth in the United States. Owning a home and other assets (such as savings accounts, investments, and vehicles) provide financial security that can protect households from unexpected expenses. While homeownership rates do not indicate overall wealth, or even the value of homes, they do decrease the likelihood of a family experiencing poverty.

The homeownership rate describes the percent of households within a census tract who own their home. Darker colors represent higher rates of homeownership in a given census tract.

Data Source

Historic Redline Boundaries

- Level D
- Level C

Homeownership Rate

- 6% - 33%
- 34% - 58%
- 59% - 80%
- 81% - 94%

Forsyth Futures

Redlining in Forsyth County, North Carolina

Starting in the 1930s, the federal government, local governments, and financial institutions implemented policies to systematically allocate resources to neighborhoods based upon their racial makeup. Communities where Black and other minorities resided were denied access to capital and public services, and these resources were instead diverted to predominantly affluent White communities.
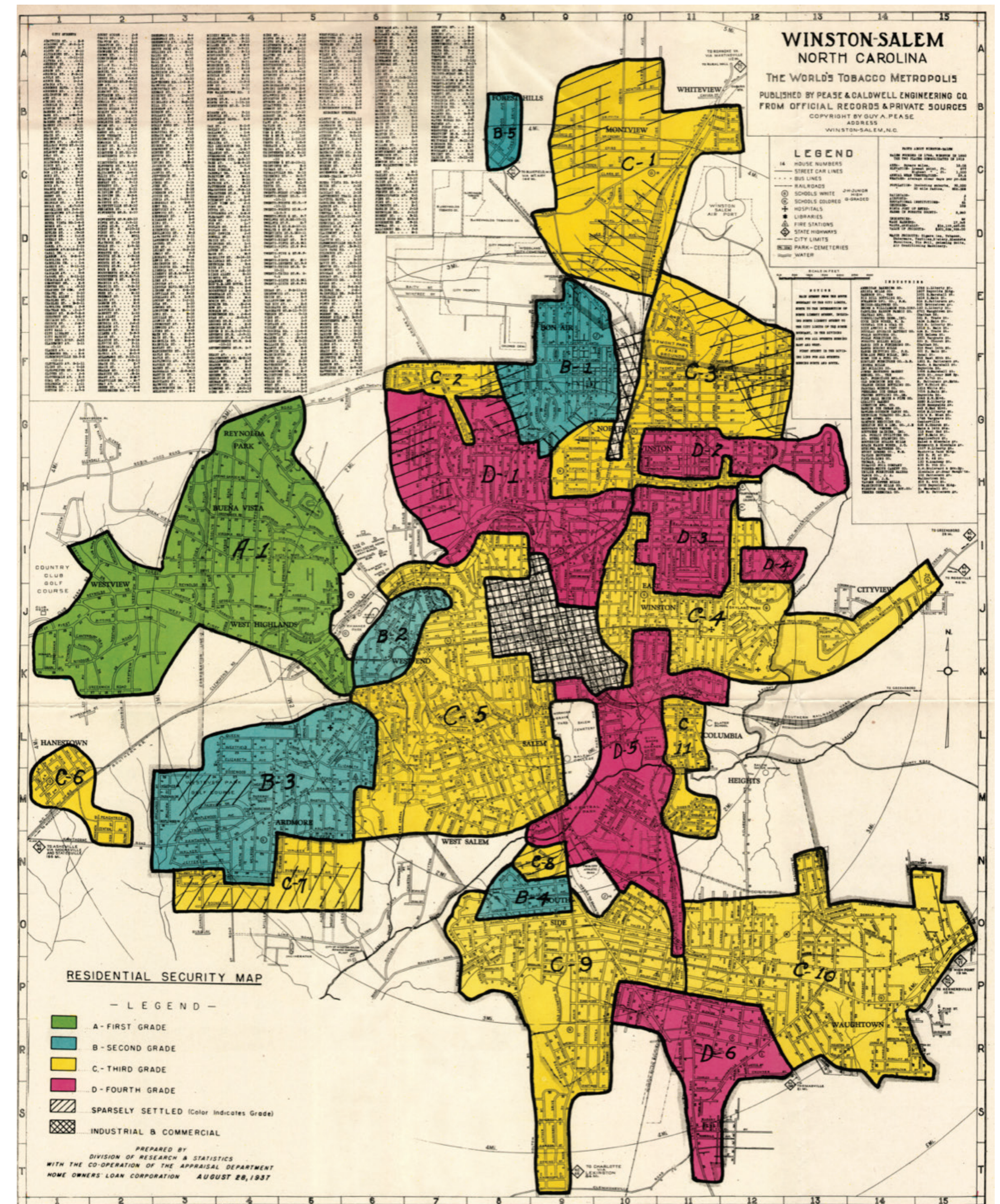
In the 1960s, sociologist John McKnight coined the term "redlining" to describe these government-sanctioned practices of segregating neighborhoods for disinvestment. Banks and insurance companies would avoid providing services in these areas, which undermined the ability of other services (such as grocery markets and healthcare facilities) to also operate. The services that were offered in these redlined neighborhoods were at higher prices than other areas. Redlining was based purely upon the basis of race and not economic status. For example, in Atlanta in the 1980s, a Pulitzer Prize-winning series of articles by investigative reporter Bill Dedman demonstrated how banks would often lend to lower-income whites but not to middle-income or upper-income blacks.

The term redlining comes from a series of maps that the Federal Home Loan Bank Board (FHLBB) commissioned in 1935. The Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) surveyed 239 cities and created "residential security maps" to indicate the level of risk for real-estate investments. They used the racial makeup of neighborhoods to categorize them into one of four different colors.

"Type A" were colored green and were typically affluent White suburbs on the outskirts of cities. These areas were considered most desirable for lending purposes. "Type B" neighborhoods were colored blue and were also comprised of only White residents. They considered "Still Desirable" for loans, but they were rated lower because they were geographically closer to Black communities.

"Type C" neighborhoods were colored yellow and labeled "Declining." These neighbhorhoods were often racially mixed. "Type D" neighborhoods were colored in red and were predominantly comprised of Black residents, who were then denied access to federal backed mortgages. Even decades after redlining was made illegal, these maps were used by private and public entities to deny loans to people in Black communities.

(Home Owners' Loan Corporation, 1937)

References:

1. Jackson, Kenneth T. (1985), Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States, New York: Oxford University Press, ISBN 0-19-504983-7
2. Home Owners' Loan Corporation. (1937) Residential Security Map [Map]. http://cdiwsnc.org/project/spatial-justice-studio-maps/

Forsyth Futures