

# Challenges to segregation

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# The nature and cost of segregation

Case study: City of Houston, Texas

The map displays Harris County, Texas, with various land use designations and MVA clusters. A large, irregularly shaped area in the center is outlined in black and labeled "The ARROW". This area is predominantly purple and blue, indicating "Very Low Density" and "Nonresidential" land use. The map includes a legend for land use types (Nonresidential, Estimated Cluster, < 5 lakes and < 50 housing units) and an MVA Cluster color scale (A through I). The "The ARROW" area is primarily composed of purple (A, B, C) and blue (D, E) clusters, which correspond to "Very Low Density" and "Nonresidential" land use. The surrounding areas are mostly yellow, orange, and red, indicating higher density and residential land use.

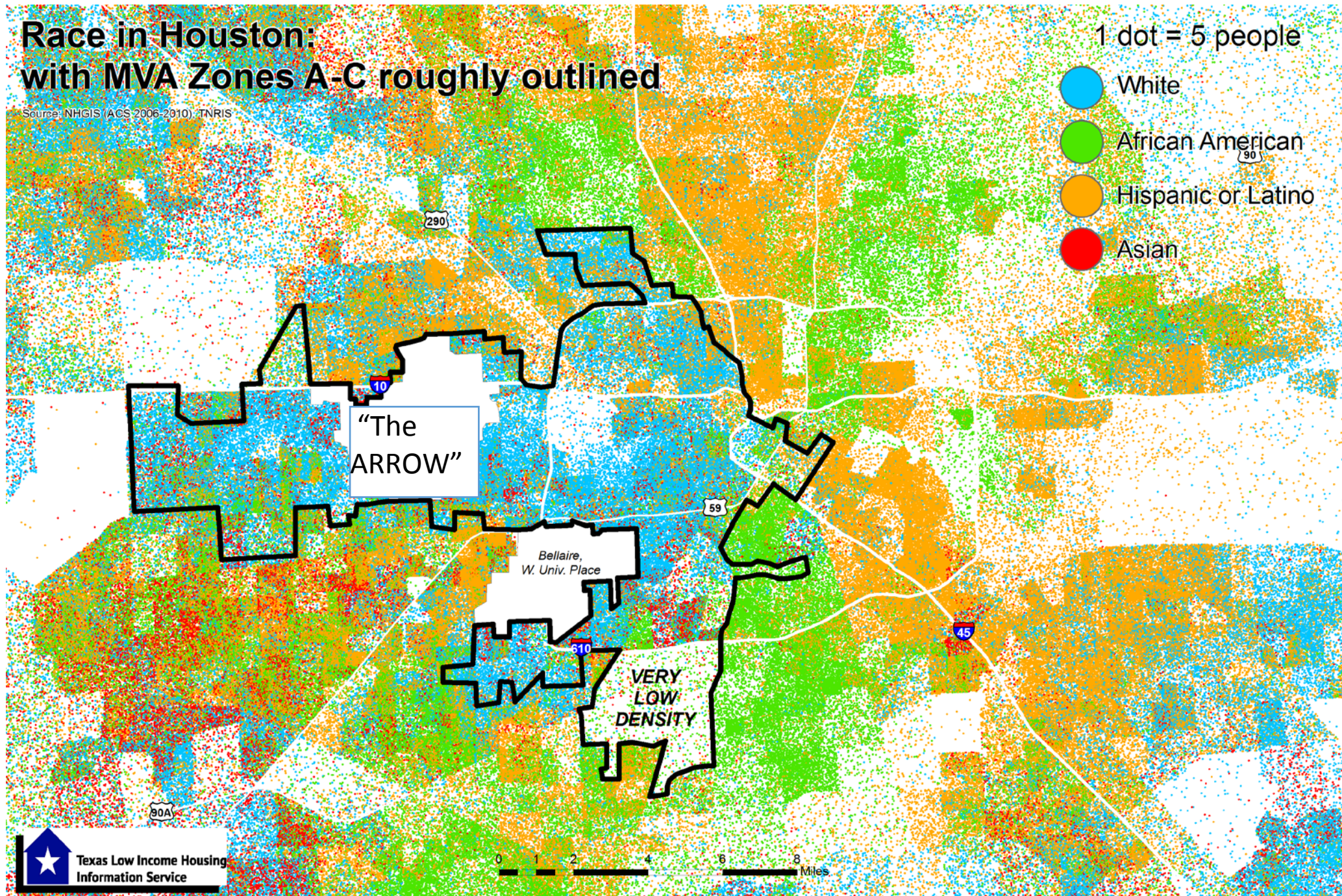


# Race in Houston: with MVA Zones A-C roughly outlined

Source: NHGIS (ACS 2006-2010), TNIRIS

1 dot = 5 people

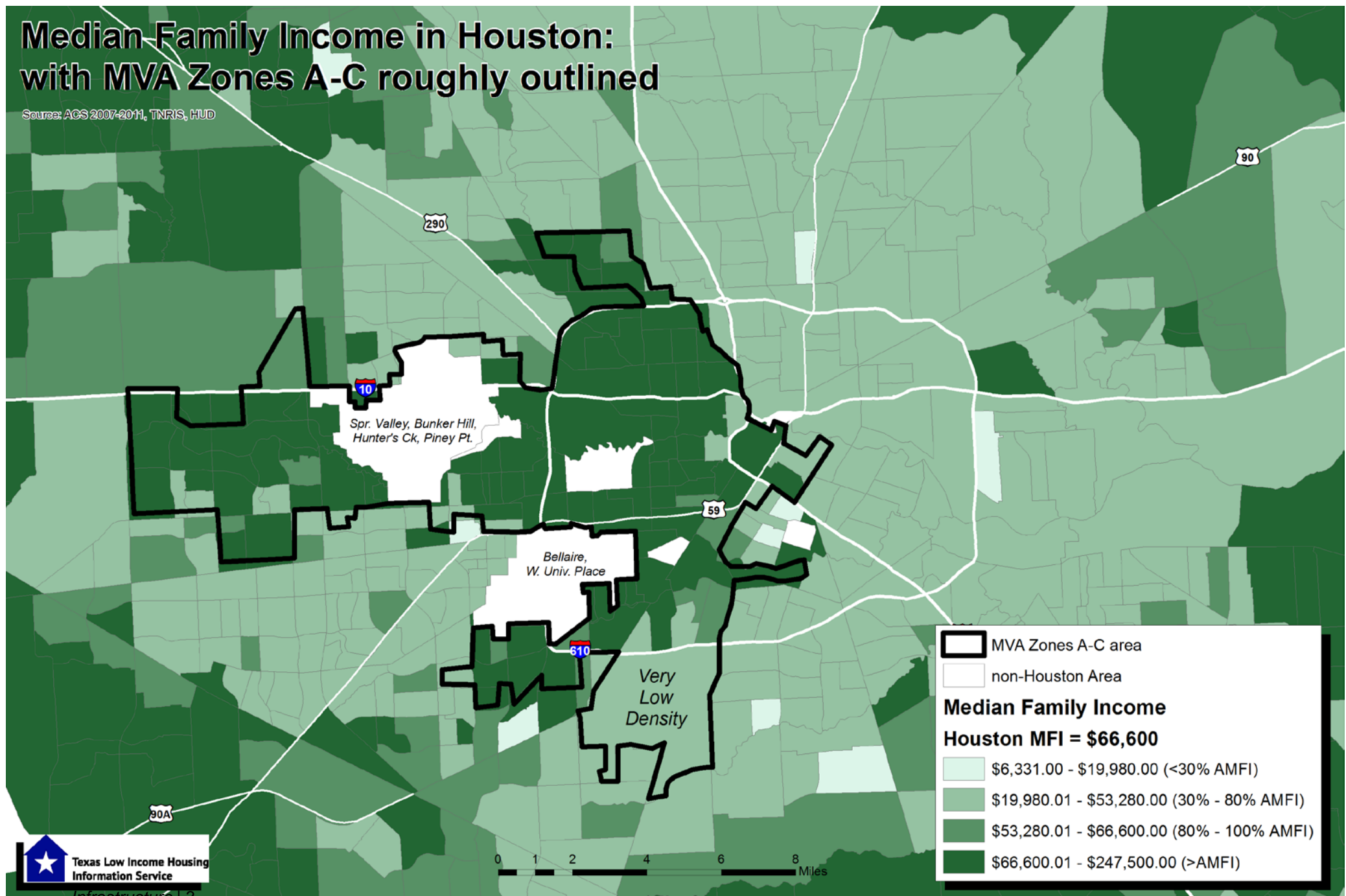
- White
- African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian





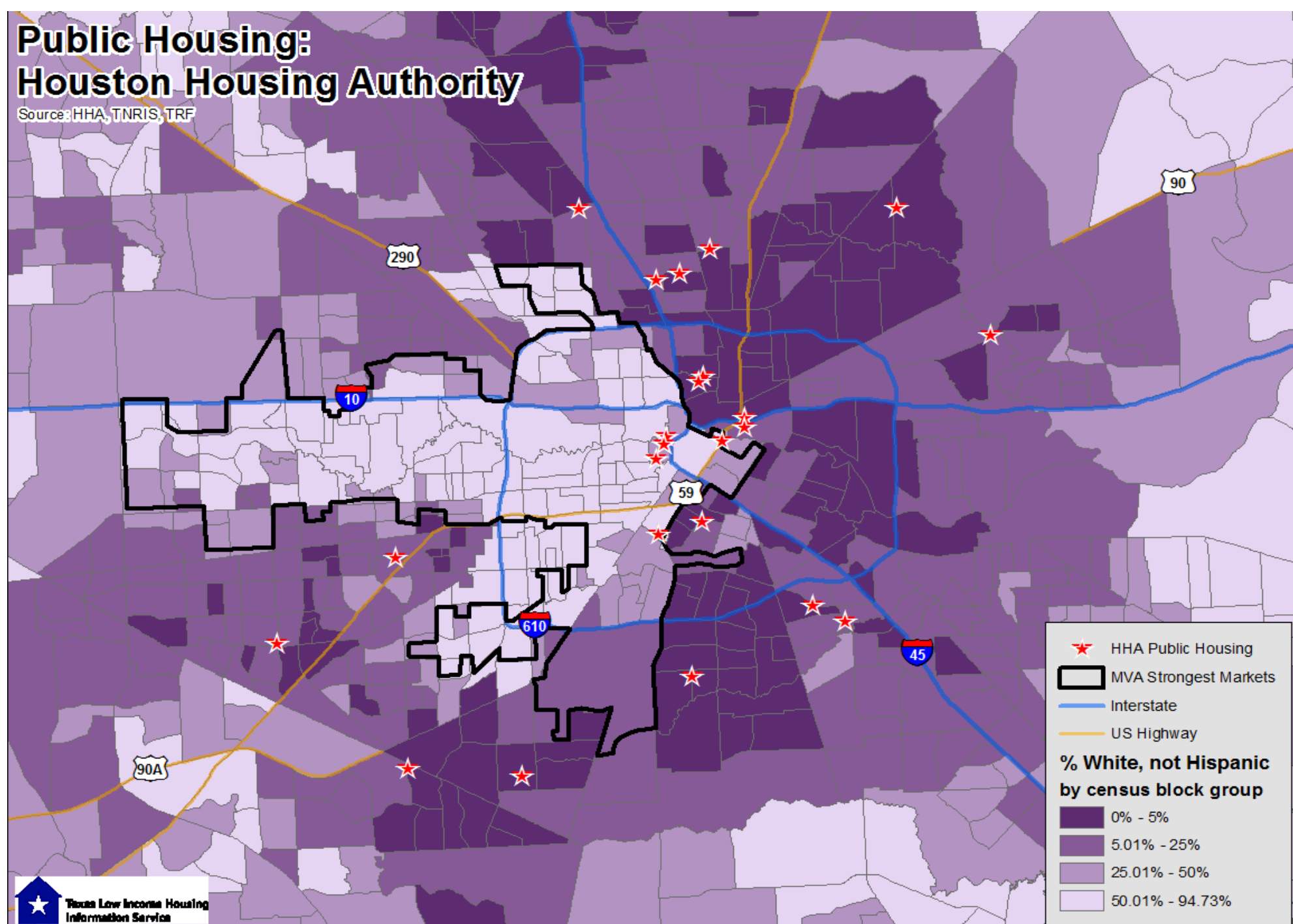
# Median Family Income in Houston: with MVA Zones A-C roughly outlined

Source: ACS 2007-2011, TNRIS, HUD



# Public Housing: Houston Housing Authority

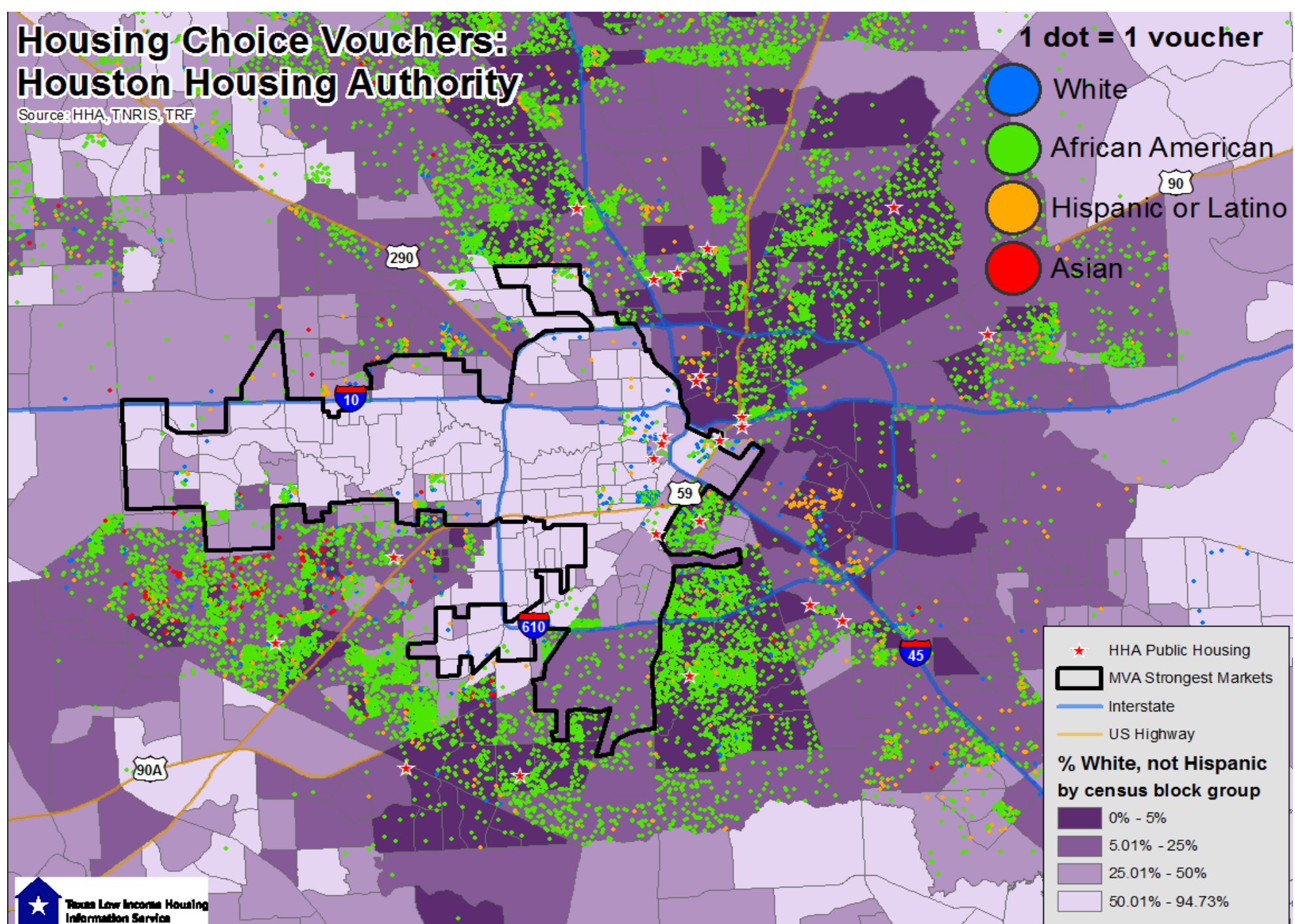
Source: HHA, TNRIS, TRF





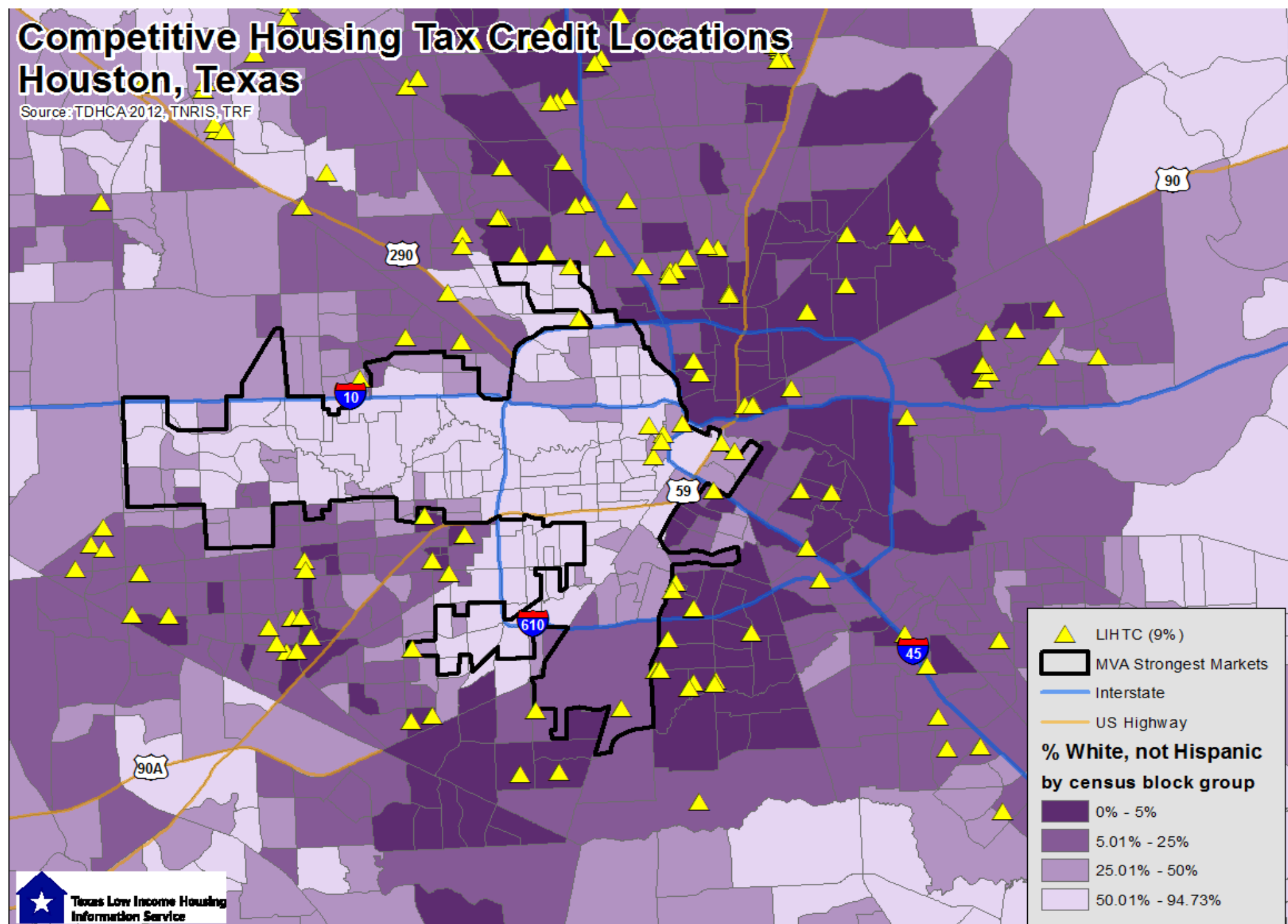
# Housing Choice Vouchers: Houston Housing Authority

Source: HHA, TNRIS, TRF



# Competitive Housing Tax Credit Locations Houston, Texas

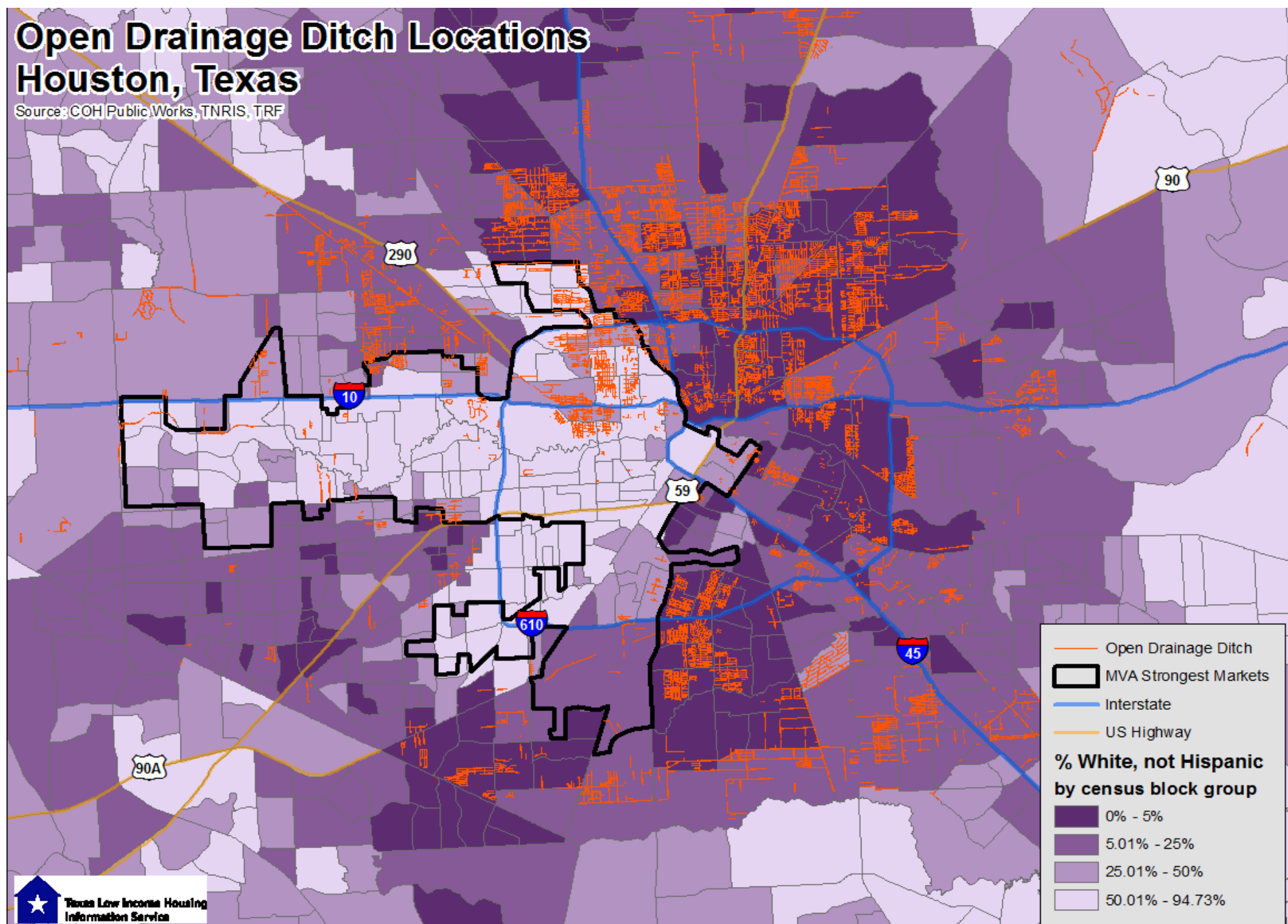
Source: TDHCA 2012, TNRIS, TRF





# Open Drainage Ditch Locations Houston, Texas

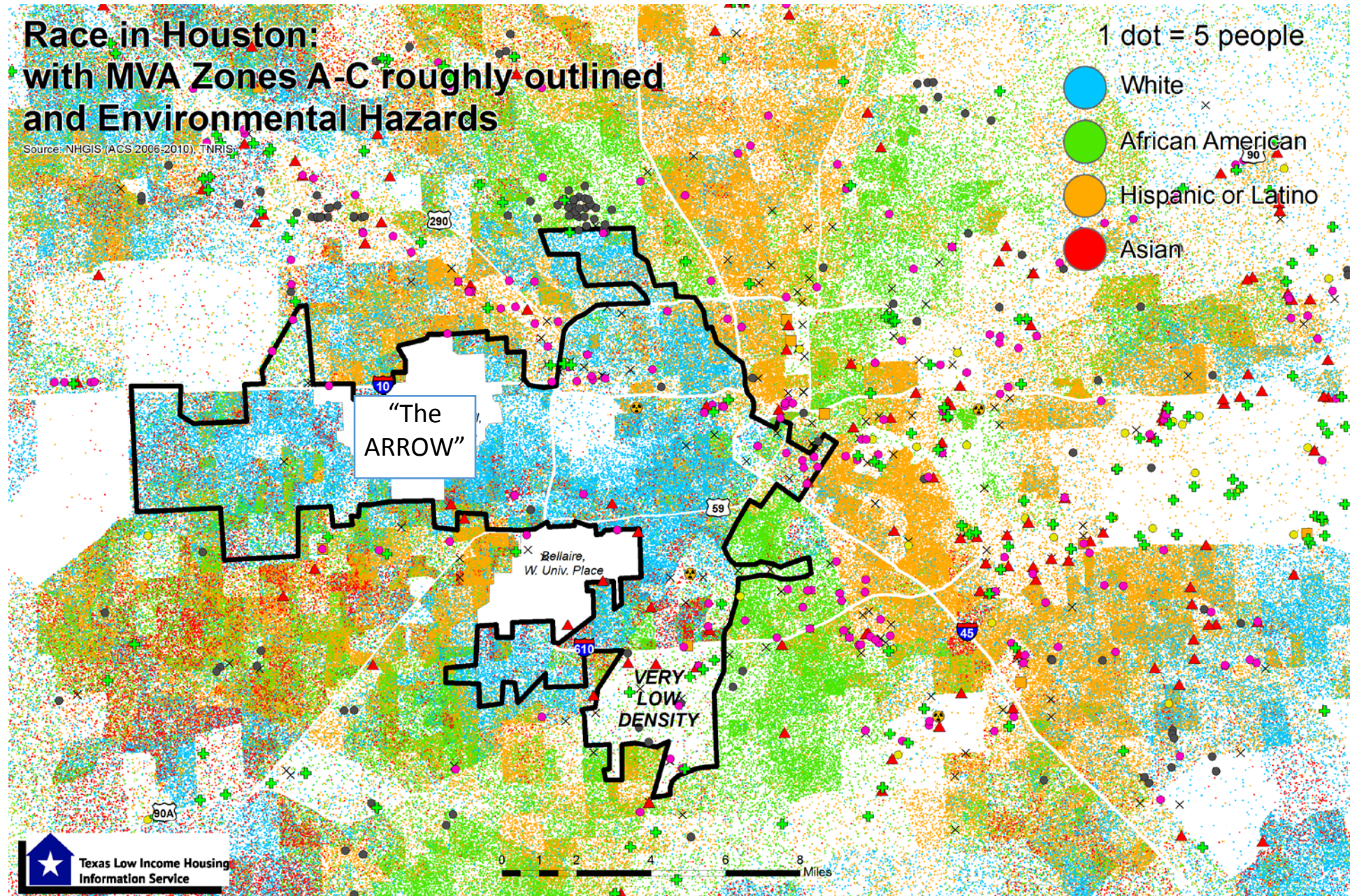
Source: COH Public Works, TNIRIS, TRF





# Race in Houston: with MVA Zones A-C roughly outlined and Environmental Hazards

Source: NHGIS (ACS 2006-2010), TNRIS





# 3 strategies to overcome segregation

1. Expand subsidized housing choices outside racially segregated high poverty neighborhoods,
2. Reinvest in public facilities and services and remediate problems in racially segregated high poverty neighborhoods to improve the quality of life for existing residents; and
3. Maintain affordable housing opportunities in gentrifying neighborhoods to achieve stable, racially and economically integrated communities.



# Community Revitalization Areas (CRA) in Houston, Texas

Source: City of Houston, TNRIS, TRF

1 dot = 5 people

- White
- African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian

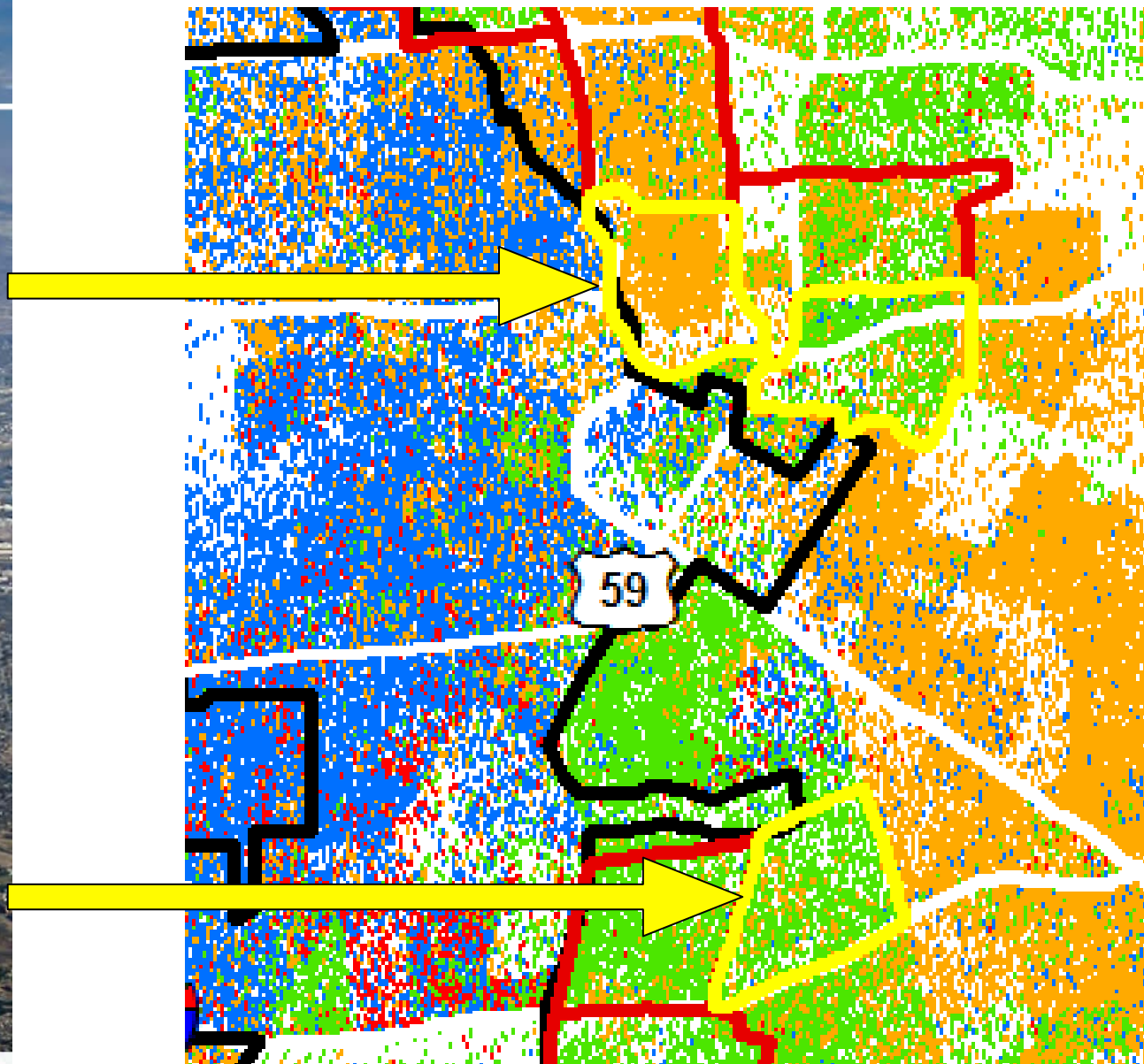
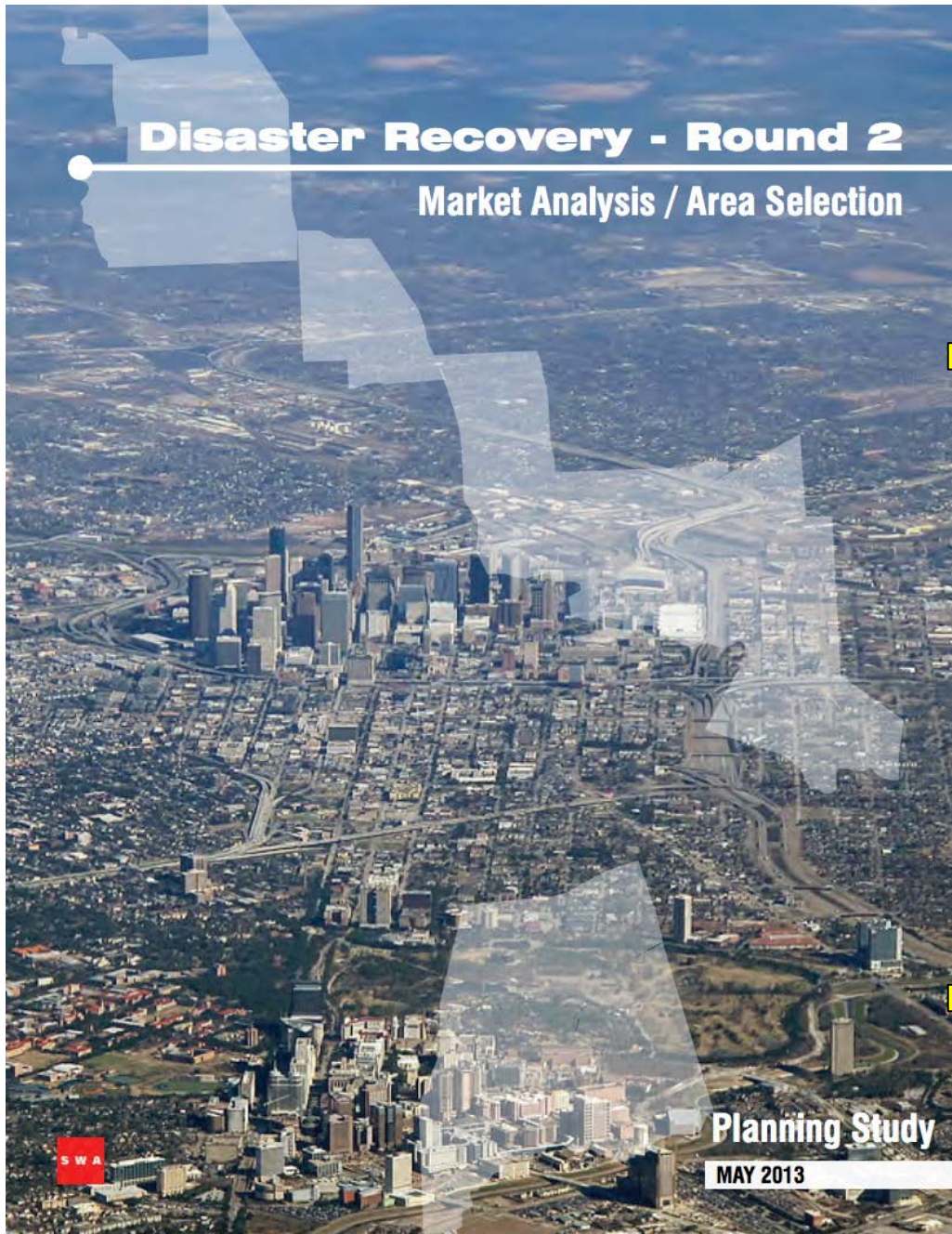
Opportunity  
Areas

Reinvestment  
Areas

Manage  
Gentrification  
Areas

- CRA Primary
- CRA Outreach
- MVA Strongest Markets
- Interstate
- US Highway









Our team meets every week to research, study and coordinate the Houston Fair Housing & Neighborhood Rights campaign.

We are grassroots leaders, organizers, civil rights attorneys, researchers, policy advocates



# HOUSTON FAIR HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

## 1. THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE

**All people have a right to live in a decent home and to have a choice of different neighborhoods**

**Examples of possible action steps**

1. Analyze and carry out effective action steps to overcome impediments to fair housing.
2. Carry out housing discrimination testing and enforcement to reduce discrimination to less than 10% by 2020.
3. By 2030 provide subsidized housing across the city and give residents a choice of neighborhoods.
4. Project-based HHA residents given a right to use a housing voucher.

## 2. THE RIGHT TO STAY

**Gentrifying neighborhoods revitalized for the benefit of existing residents without displacement**

**Examples of possible action steps**

1. Honor the City's commitment to redevelop and prevent gentrification of the Community Reinvestment Areas.
2. Establish Homestead Preservation Districts to stabilize property taxes and improve housing quality.

## 3. THE RIGHT TO EQUAL TREATMENT

**End discrimination, disinvestment and policies harming our neighborhoods**

**Examples of possible action steps**

1. Neighborhood benefits agreements required of developers and contractors receiving public funds.
2. Reduce substandard housing in target areas to less than twice the citywide rate by 2030.
3. Increase minority homeownership rates to at least 45 percent in each target neighborhood by 2030.
4. Inventory, license and monitor hazardous incompatible land uses in target neighborhoods by 2015.
5. Neighborhood environmental protection ordinance.
6. Equalize public infrastructure.
7. Correct substandard living environments in existing subsidized housing developments by 2025.
8. Equalize school performance across the region by 2025.
9. Section 3 program that works to produce real jobs for people with lower incomes.

## 4. THE RIGHT TO HAVE A SAY

**Residents have a say in what happens in their neighborhoods**

# 10 action steps to combat residential segregation

1. Expose the effects of deeply entrenched and historical practices
2. Help the city to acknowledge the problem and understand how to fix it
3. Know how to ask HUD for help
4. Reject the false frame of either neighborhood revitalization OR individual mobility
5. Offer real options to subsidized housing residents: not just “Do you want your placed fixed up?”
6. Focus equally on neighborhoods and families
7. Address disinvestment and environmental racism that historic communities of color face
8. Recognize that multifamily subsidized housing is not a good neighborhood revitalization tool
9. Nurture, value and protect racially and economically diverse neighborhoods
10. Challenge biased public participation laws to determine subsidized housing locations (NIMBY)