Economically distressed neighborhoods: Akron Profile

The Fund for Our Economic Future, in partnership with business and civic leaders, seeks to advance a growing, opportunity-rich economy for all people of Northeast Ohio. We are working toward “Growth & Opportunity” through job creation, job preparation and job access strategies that aim to strengthen the connectivity between the region’s most distressed neighborhoods and the regional economy. The Fund uses two measures, labor force participation rate and median household income, to identify neighborhoods of economic distress that are at a particular disadvantage. We will pay particular attention to Akron, Ohio, given its share of people living in economically distressed neighborhoods, and strong network of partners that seek to effect long-term change.¹

¹ Economically distressed neighborhoods refer to census tracts where less than 65 percent of residents age 25-64 are connected to the labor force (working or looking for work) and median household income was in the bottom quartile, i.e. below $31,322 in 2014.
Akron by the Numbers:

- 26,305 Akron residents live in economically distressed neighborhoods located across 13 census tracts (see addendum). These neighborhoods represent:
  - 10 percent of Northeast Ohio’s distressed area population (Chart 1).
  - 13 percent of all Akron residents (Chart 2).
- Typical annual income for a household in these neighborhoods is $20,758 compared to a regional median of $51,263.
- Labor force participation (i.e., people working or looking for work) among working age adults (25 to 64) is 57 percent, compared to a regional average of 78 percent.


Chart 1. City share of people living in distressed areas in Northeast Ohio

Chart 2. Share of city population living in economically distressed neighborhoods

For more information or to access the data visit the Fund’s website at http://www.thefundneo.org/what-matters.
Economically Distressed Neighborhoods in the City of Akron

Akron Distressed Tracts 2014
Less than 65% LFP and Less than $31,322 HH Income

Created by Team NEO
Source: Census ACS 2014 5-Year