

THE
PEW
CHARITABLE TRUSTS

*The Geography of Banks
and Post Offices*

*Financial Services
and the Post Office*

July 16, 2014

The landscape of financial services

- Consumer choice in financial service providers
- Banks
 - FDIC data on branch locations
 - 94,681 bank branches in study
 - Are banks closing branches?
- Credit unions
- Alternative financial services providers
- ATM networks
- Internet and mobile-based access

The un- and under-banked population in the United States

- 8.2% of households have neither a checking nor a savings account
- 20.1% of households have a bank account but also use alternative financial services
- Rates of being unbanked vary substantially across states
 - 1.9% of New Hampshire households are unbanked
 - 16.4% of Mississippi households are unbanked
- And within states
 - 7.3% of Florida households are unbanked
 - 20.1% of households in Miami are unbanked

Proximity and access to financial services

- Proximity is an important component of access, particularly for account opening
- Over 3.5 million Americans live in Census tracts more than 10 miles from the nearest bank branch
- Over 3 million Americans live in densely populated Census tracts more than one mile from the nearest bank branch

The landscape of postal locations

- Geographic distribution of post offices
- A word on ZIP codes
- Post office location data from the Postal Regulatory Commission
- 31,838 owned or leased postal facilities
- Data geocoded by Pew

Among Census tracts nationally

- About 74,000 Census tracts in the United States
- 53% of Census tracts have no bank branch
 - Among these, 17% have a post office
- 45% do not have a bank branch within one mile of their population center
 - Among these, 42% have a post office closer than the nearest bank branch
- 10% do not have a bank branch within five miles of their population center
 - Among these, 76% have a post office closer than the nearest bank branch

Mapping financial access

- A one-mile distance in a city has different social implications from one mile in the country
- Geographic access to banking services (and postal services) is affected by distance, but the role of distance is affected by:
 - Access to various modes of transportation
 - Quality of infrastructure
 - Commuting patterns
 - Habits, behaviors, and perceptions

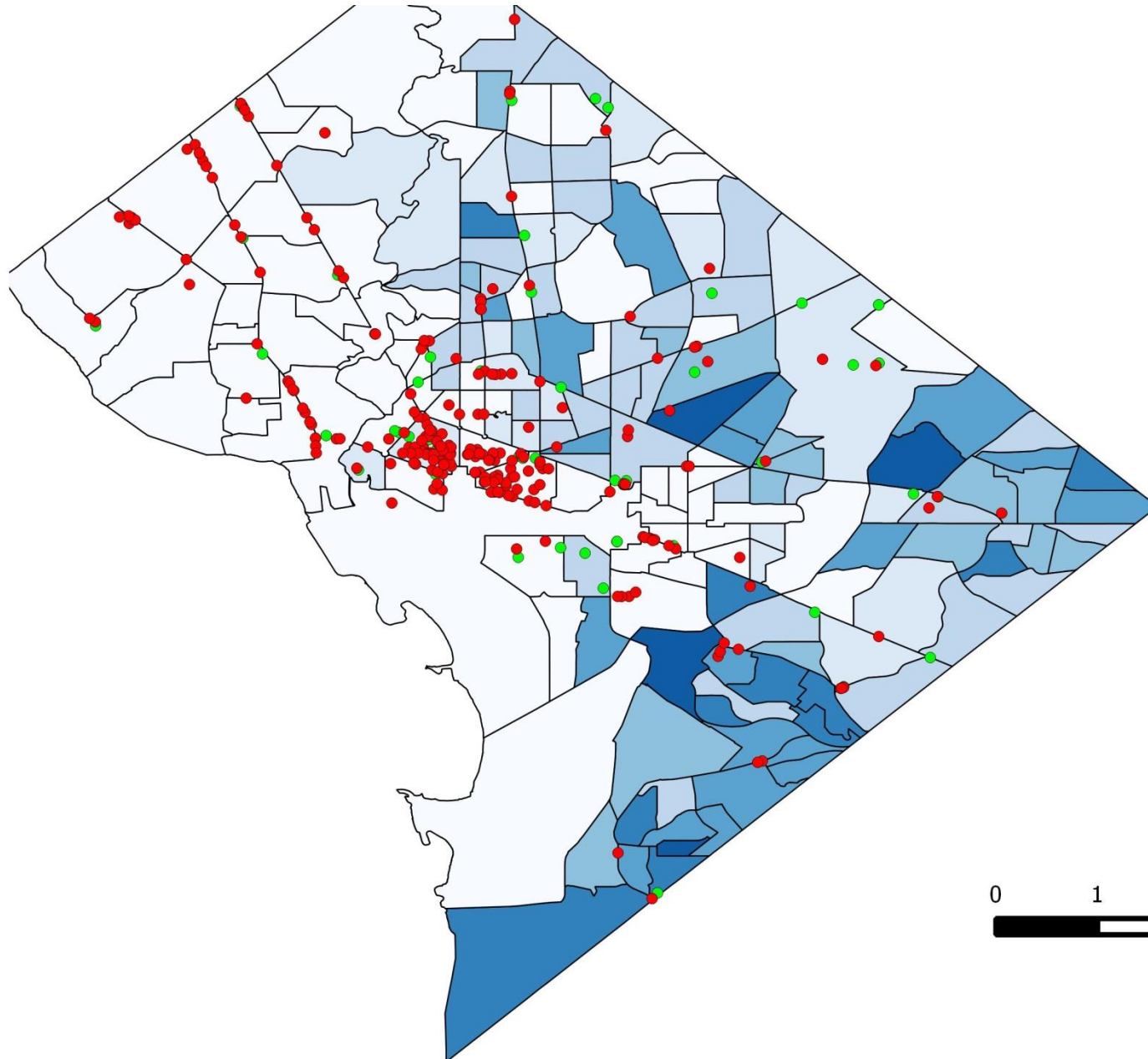
Washington, DC

Bank and Postal Locations

- Bank
- Post office

Census tracts, by % in poverty

- 0-5
- 5-10
- 10-20
- 20-30
- 30-40
- 40-50
- 50+



0 1 2 3 miles



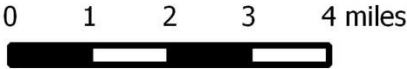
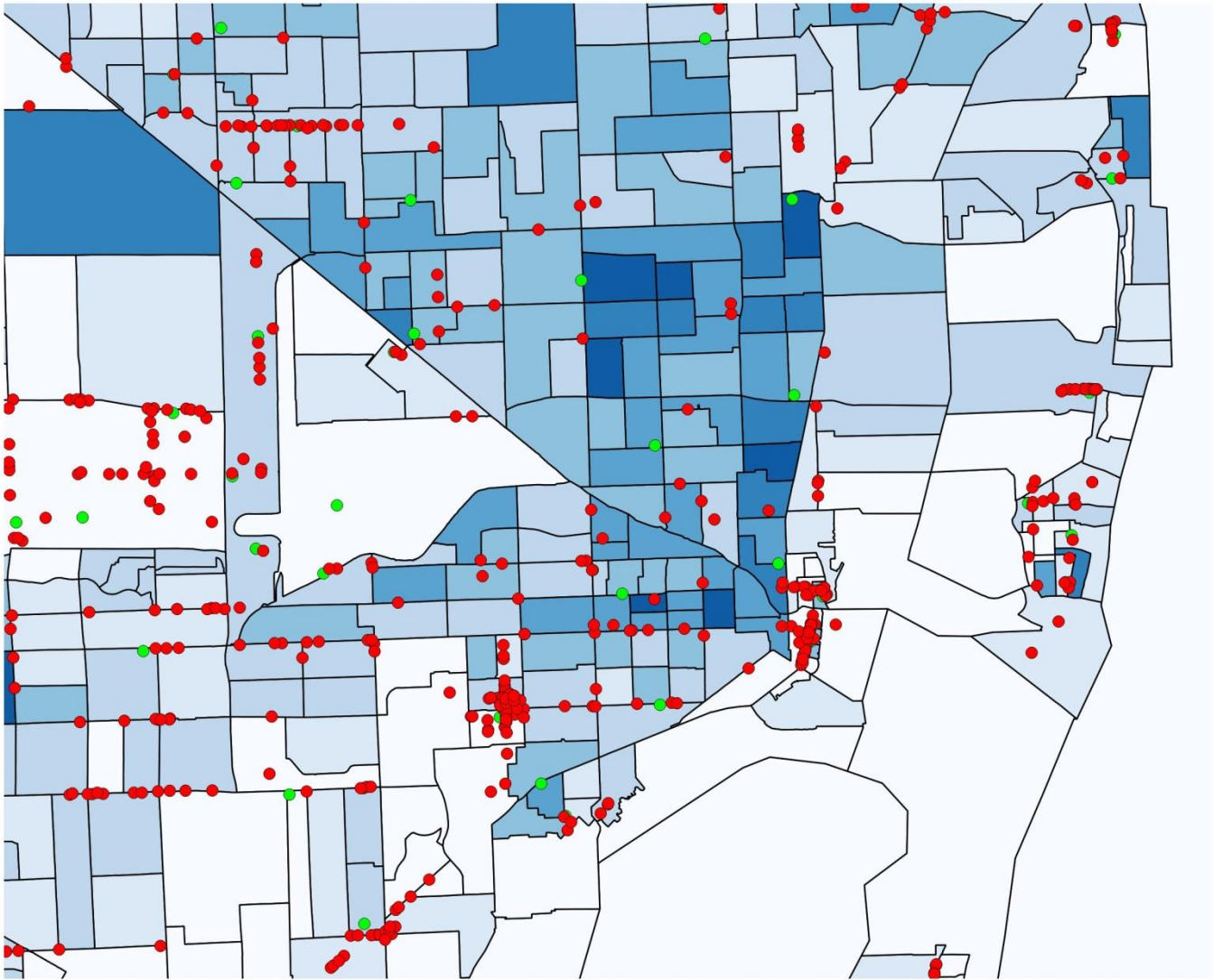
Miami

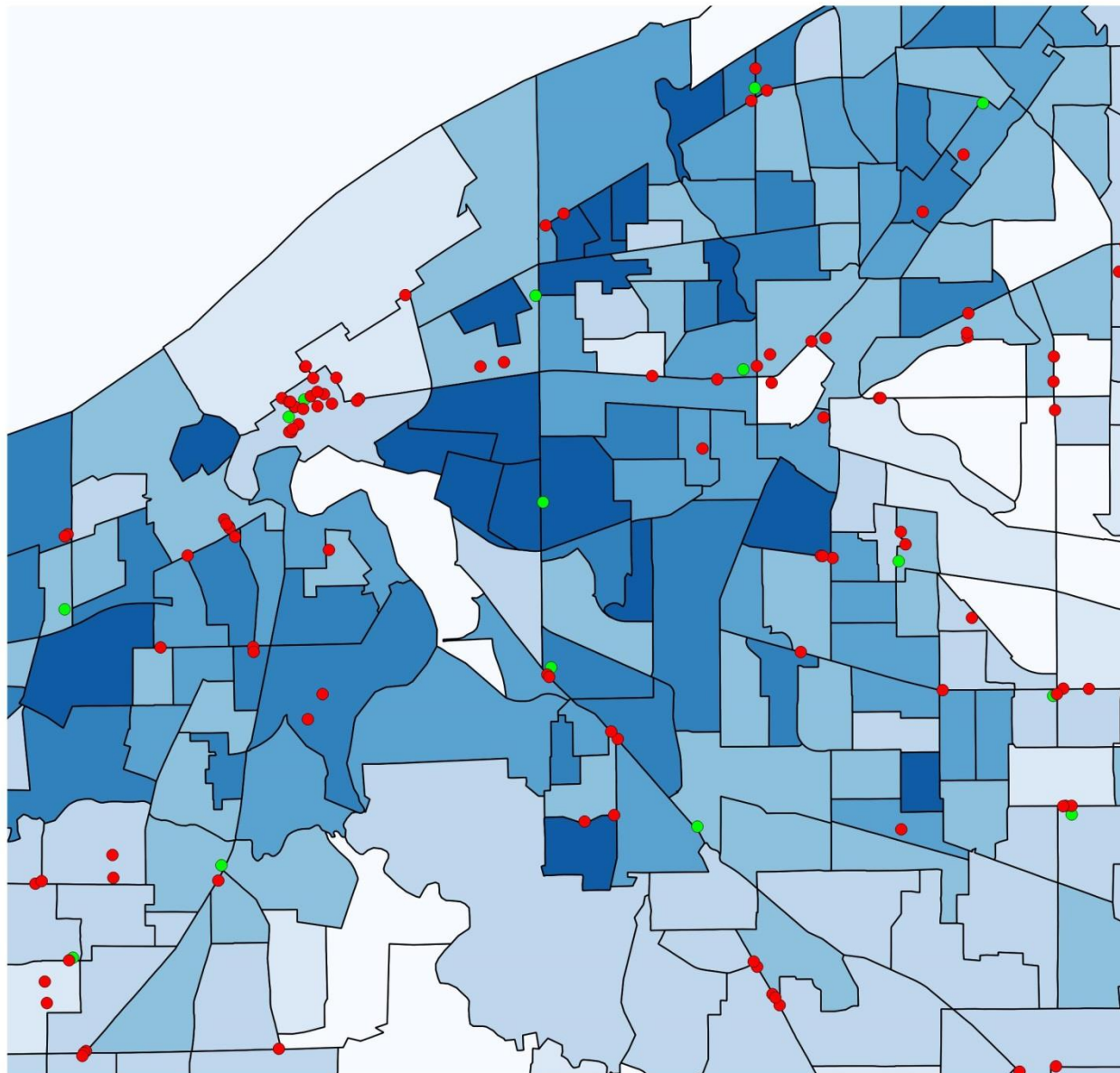
Bank and Post Office Locations

- Bank
- Post office

Census tracts, by % in poverty

- 0-5
- 5-10
- 10-20
- 20-30
- 30-40
- 40-50
- 50+





Cleveland

Bank and Postal Locations

- Bank
- Post office

Census tracts, by % in poverty

- 0-5
- 5-10
- 10-20
- 20-30
- 30-40
- 40-50
- 50+

0 1 2 3 Miles



Chicago, north and west suburbs

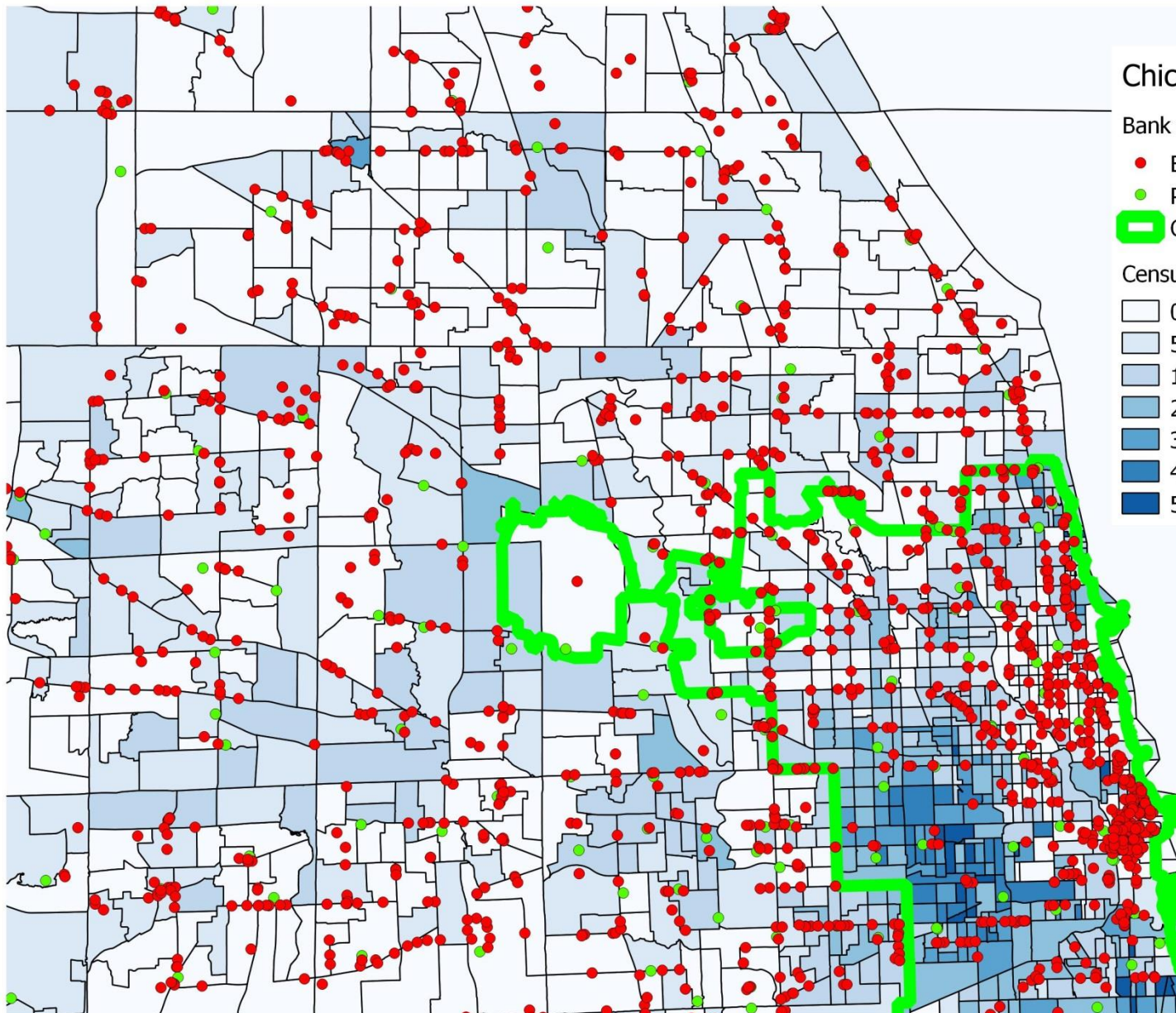
Bank and Post Office Locations

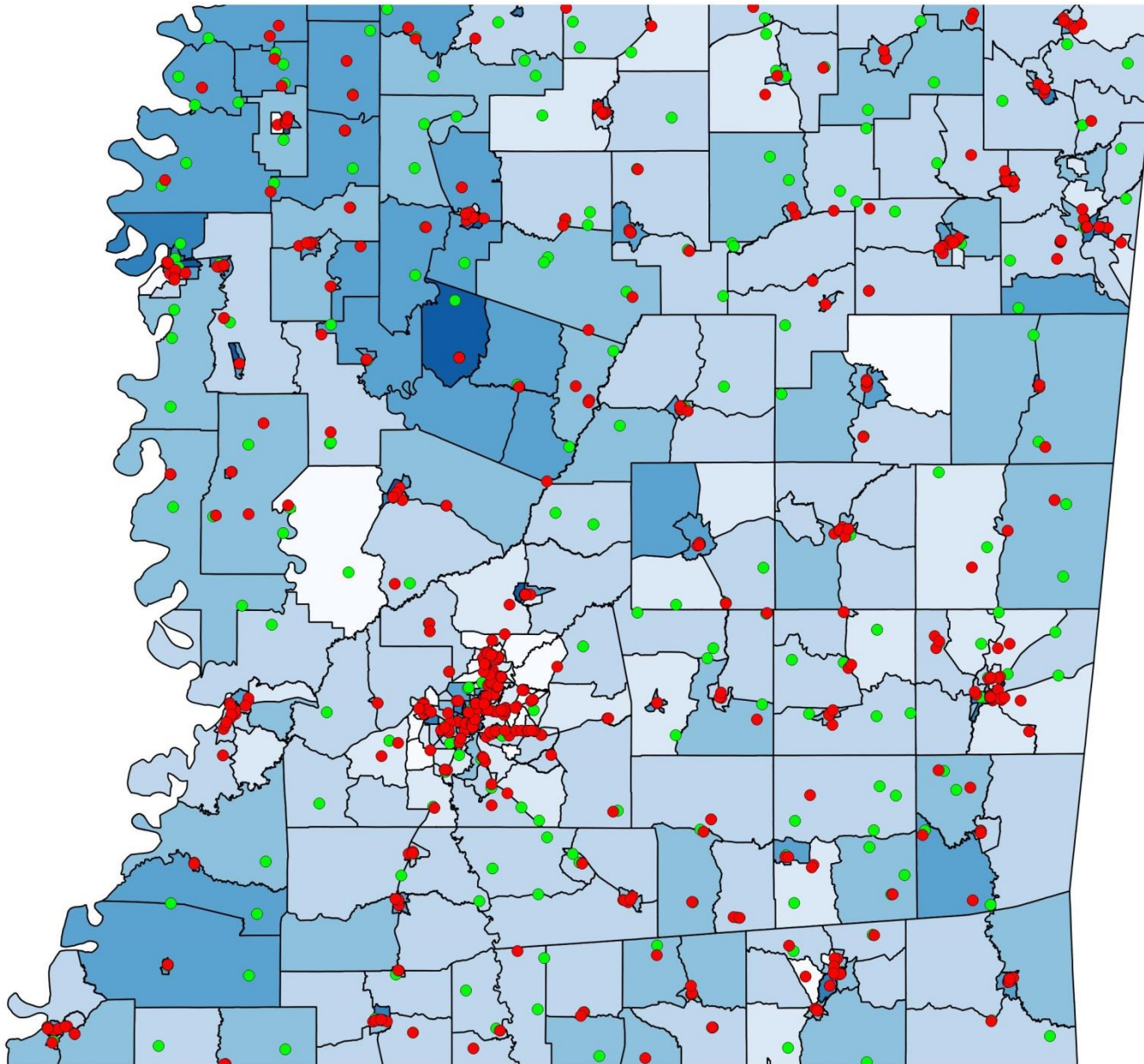
- Bank
- Post office
- ▭ Chicago city boundary

Census tracts, by % in poverty

- 0-5
- 5-10
- 10-20
- 20-30
- 30-40
- 40-50
- 50+

0 1 2 3 4 miles





Central Mississippi

Bank and Postal Locations

- Bank
- Post office

Census tracts, by % in poverty

- 0-5
- 5-10
- 10-20
- 20-30
- 30-40
- 40-50
- 50+

0 10 20 30 miles



West Texas

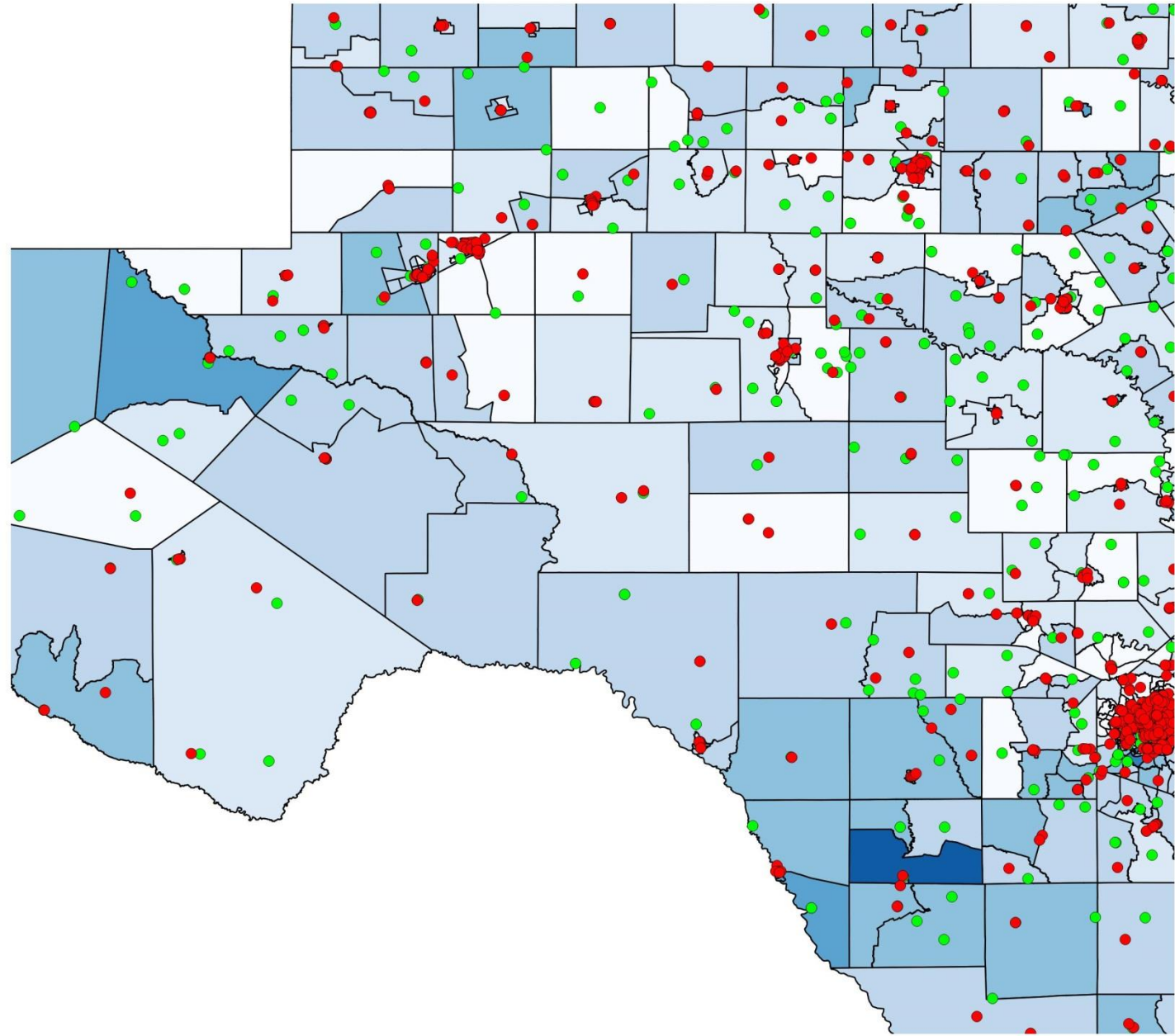
Bank and Post Office Locations

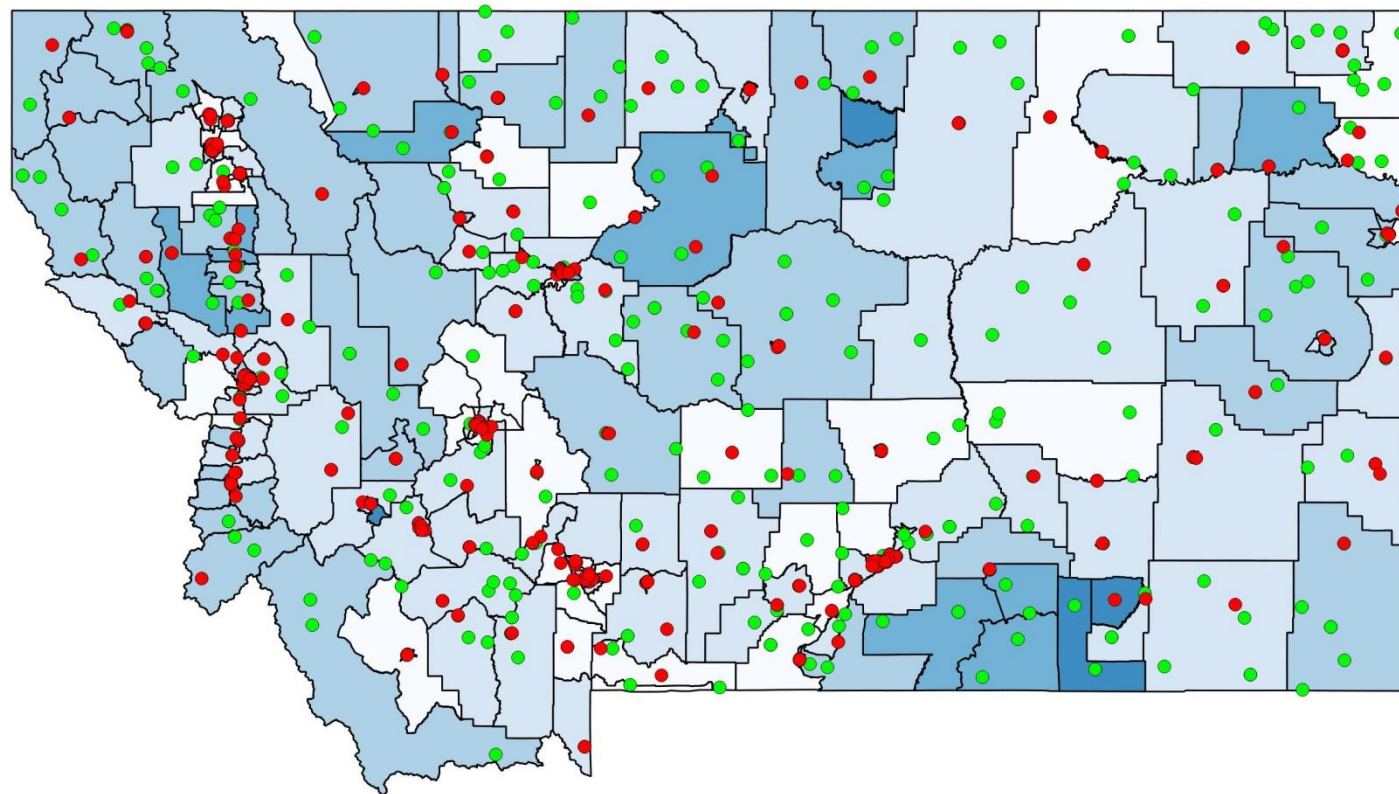
- Bank
- Post office

Census tracts, by % in poverty

- 0-5
- 5-10
- 10-20
- 20-30
- 30-40
- 40-50
- 50+

0 10 20 30 40 miles





Montana

Bank and Postal Locations

- Bank
- Post office

Census tracts, by % in poverty

- 0-5
- 5-10
- 10-20
- 20-30
- 30-40
- 40-50
- 50+

0 100 miles



Concluding thoughts

- Proximity is one important aspect of access
- Some areas in the United States have few or no bank branches
- Some of these areas have post offices that are closer than bank branches
- The significance of distance varies from place to place