

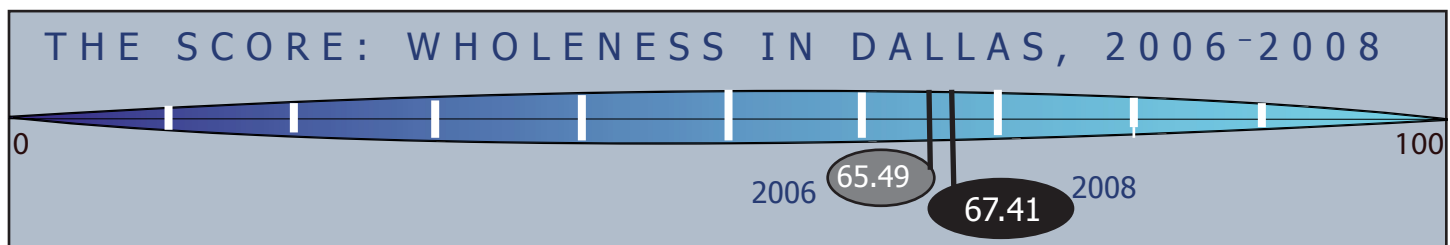
# 2008 Wholeness Index Highlights

## WHAT IS WHOLENESS?

Wholeness means that each person in a city has a chance to enjoy an equally productive and satisfying life, regardless of where in the city he or she lives. In a whole city, residents in every part of town have equal economic opportunity, are equally self-sufficient, and participate equally in political and civic life. Disparity is the opposite of wholeness.

## WHAT DOES THE WHOLENESS INDEX MEASURE?

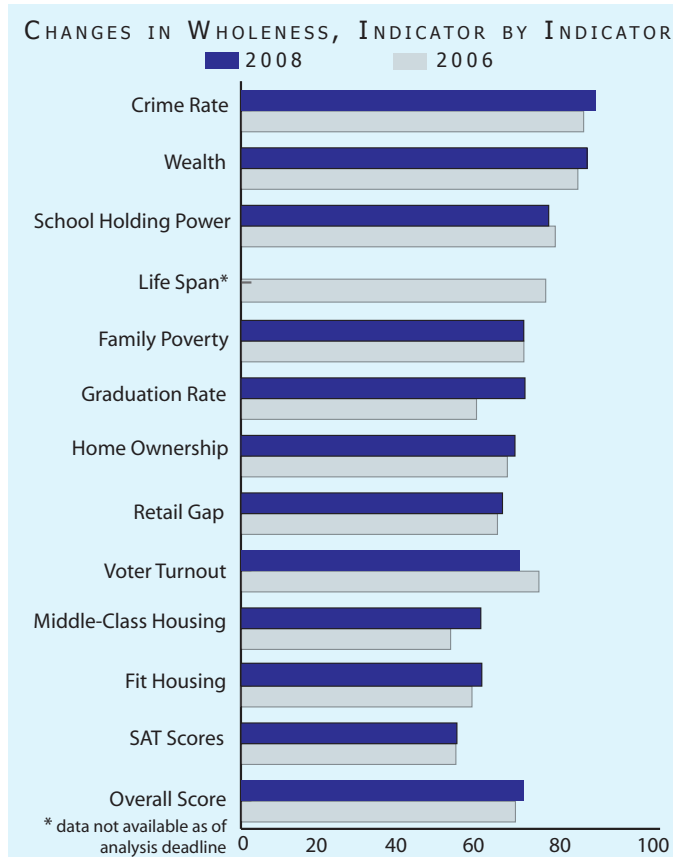
The Wholeness Index, first deployed in Dallas in 2006, measures and maps the disparities that exist within a city on 12 quality-of-life indicators. It then aggregates those individual wholeness scores into a single score. Over time, the scores and the maps show whether the gaps in quality of life are becoming larger or smaller, and where things are improving or deteriorating.



## DRILLING DOWN BY INDICATOR, 2006 - 2008

Wholeness scores range from zero to 100. A score of zero represents how whole the city would be if all neighborhoods were as different as possible. Conversely, a score of 100 represents how whole the city would be if all neighborhoods were as similar as possible.

Wholeness in Dallas has increased steadily, if not dramatically, since the Institute began measuring it in 2006. Looking at the individual indicators, performance is mixed. On some, including graduation rates and middle-class housing, there has been marked progress. On others, including voter turnout and school holding power (which measures the willingness of middle-class parents to send their children to the local public schools), wholeness has declined (or,



to put it another way, disparity has increased).

Although wholeness scores are expressed as numbers between 0 and 100, it is incorrect and misleading to interpret them as percentages. In fact, although a perfect score of 100 is theoretically possible, we do not know in practice how far it is possible to eliminate disparity for any given indicator. The value of the Wholeness Index is that, over time, it will reveal trends—and the trends are important.

Wholeness is a moral and ethical imperative. It is also an economic imperative because, over time, cities with the greatest disparities

in quality of life tend to show slower economic growth.

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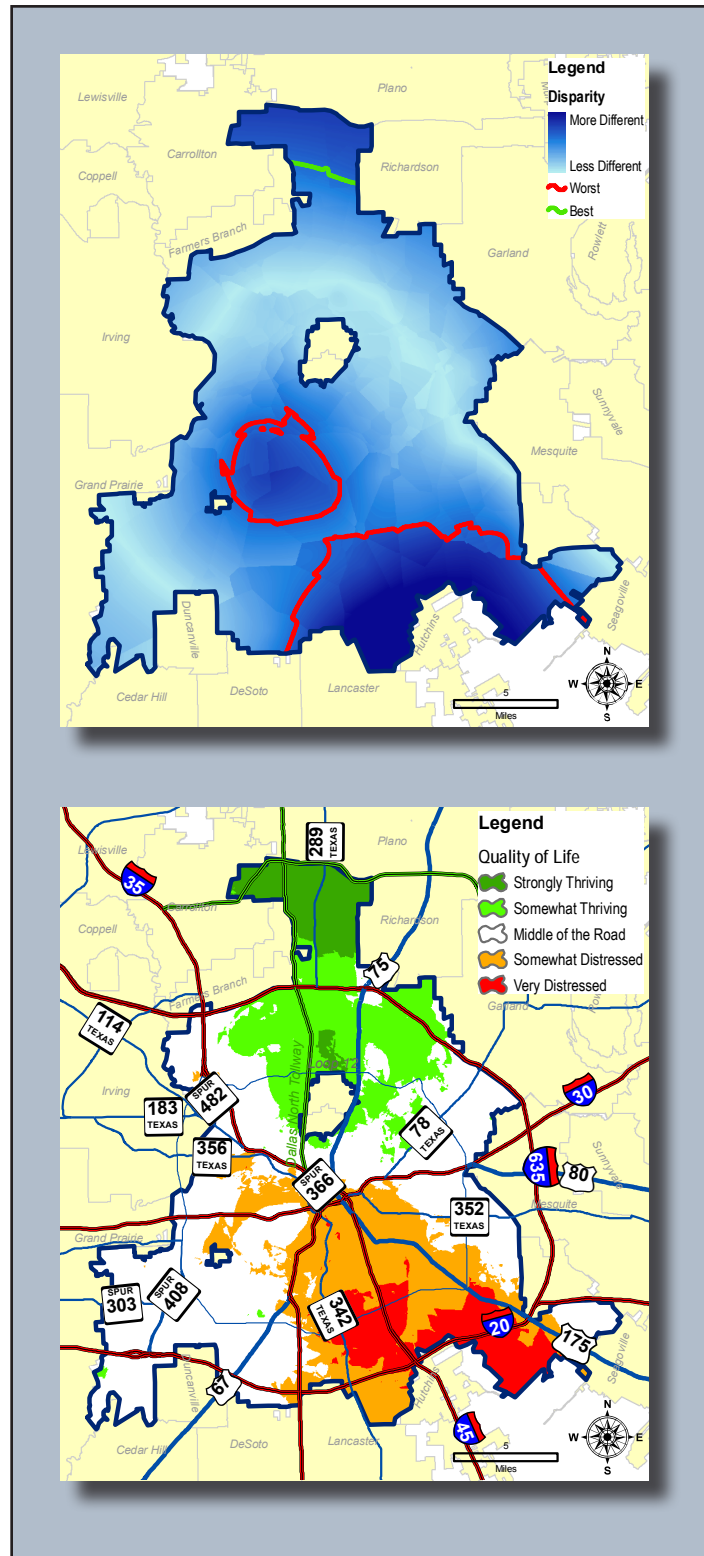
### PLACE MATTERS: DRILLING DOWN BY NEIGHBORHOOD

Wholeness scores tell part of the story, but because wholeness is about variations from place to place, maps tell even more. Each indicator is mapped individually (the maps look like the sample at the right).

Areas bounded in green are where conditions are best; areas bounded in red are where conditions are worst. Overlaying those maps on one another creates a composite image of wholeness in which thriving areas are shaded green and distressed areas are shaded red. (To see all the maps for 2006–2008, visit [www.wholenessindex.org](http://www.wholenessindex.org)).

The map on the lower right shows, for 2008, where the aggregate quality of life is best and worst. Neighborhoods in North Dallas, and in particular in Far North Dallas, are generally classified as thriving, while areas of Southeast Dallas, particularly along I-45 and I-20 in Pleasant Grove, are strongly distressed. Much of the rest of Southern Dallas is distressed, but less dramatically.

The good news, which will be addressed in detail in forthcoming reports, is that the dark red area in Southern Dallas is notably small-



er than it was in 2006—a welcome indication that the areas of town most in need of improvement are, in fact, improving.

And that, in the end, is what wholeness is about: giving every resident a chance for a happy, safe, and productive life.

#### READING THE MAPS

Basic Wholeness maps like the one on the top show, for each indicator, which areas of town are most like the average (light blue) and which are least like the average (dark blue). Areas bounded in green are where conditions are best. Areas bounded in red are where conditions are worst.

The map below aggregates the data for all 12 indicators. It shows which areas are thriving (falling in the green zone for several indicators and in the red zone for few or none). And it shows which areas are distressed (falling in the red zone for several indicators and in the green zone for few or none).

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