

GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS: DEFINITIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

2017 GROUND LEVEL SURVEY OF MINNESOTANS

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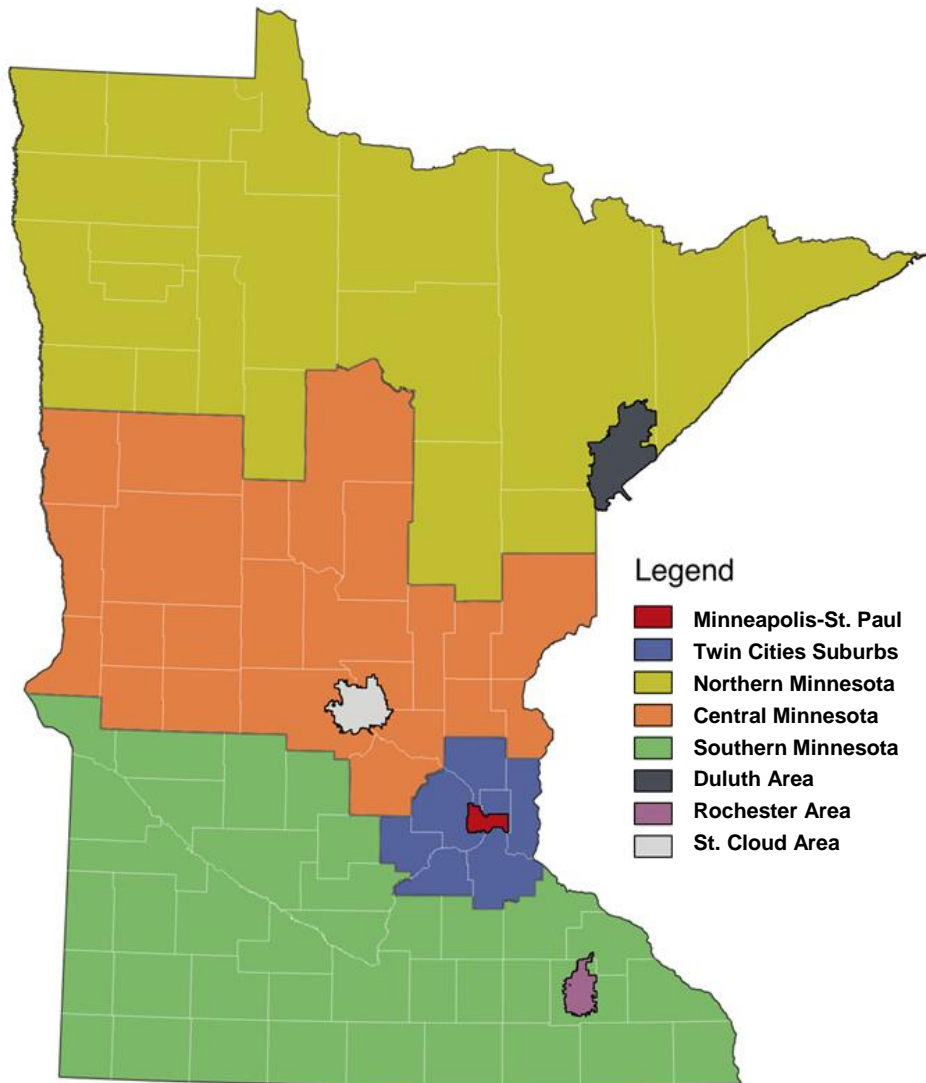
Geographic definitions of survey regions

A major goal of the MPR News | APM Research Lab 2017 Ground Level Survey was to provide a good understanding of the attitudes and opinions of Minnesotans from all parts of the state. Therefore, we designed the sample to adequately represent eight discrete geographic regions by which results will be reported. At least 200 interviews were completed within each region. Survey respondents were sorted into regions according to their self-reported zip codes. In the cases where zip codes crossed county boundaries, they were also asked for their county of residence. Each region's geographic definition is discussed below:

- 1. Duluth Area:** This region consists of the following 11 residential U.S. Postal Service zip codes in or immediately surrounding the city of Duluth, in portions of St. Louis County: 55802, 55803, 55804, 55805, 55806, 55807, 55808, 55810, 55811, 55812, and 55814. The Duluth Area region contains an estimated 117,100 residents (2% of the state population) and 47,400 households. As a point of reference, the population of the city of Duluth is just under 87,000.
- 2. Northern Minnesota:** This region comprises 19 counties in northern Minnesota, excluding the embedded geography represented by the Duluth Area region. The counties are: Aitkin, Beltrami, Carlton, Clearwater, Cook, Hubbard, Itasca, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau, and St. Louis. The Northern Minnesota region contains an estimated 379,200 residents (7% of the state population) and 158,700 households.
- 3. St. Cloud Area:** This region consists of the following 8 residential USPS zip codes in or immediately surrounding the city of St. Cloud, located in portions of Stearns, Sherburne, and Benton counties in Central Minnesota: 56301, 56303, 56304, 56369, 56374, 56377, 56379, and 56387. The St. Cloud Area region contains an estimated 126,800 residents (2% of the state population) and 48,100 households. As a point of reference, the population of the city of St. Cloud is 67,300.
- 4. Central Minnesota:** This region comprises 23 counties in central Minnesota, excluding the embedded geography represented by the St. Cloud Area region. The counties that represent this region are: Becker, Benton, Cass, Chisago, Clay, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Pine, Pope, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Todd, Traverse, Wadena, Wilkin, and Wright. The Central Minnesota region contains an estimated 834,800 residents (15% of the state population) and 321,300 households.
- 5. Minneapolis-St. Paul:** This region is represented by the actual boundaries of the adjacent cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, which are located in Hennepin and Ramsey counties. The Minneapolis-St. Paul region contains an estimated 695,000 residents (13% of the state population) and 281,400 households.

- 6. Twin Cities Suburbs:** This region comprises seven counties home or adjacent to Minneapolis and St. Paul, excluding the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The seven counties are Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington. The Twin Cities Suburbs region contains an estimated 2,257,100 residents (42% of the state population) and 868,800 households.
- 7. Rochester Area:** This region consists of the following four residential USPS zip codes in or immediately surrounding the city of Rochester, located in Olmsted county in southern Minnesota: 55901, 55902, 55904, and 55906. The Rochester Area region contains an estimated 121,700 residents (2% of the state population) and 47,800 households. As a point of reference, the population of the city of Rochester is 113,300.
- 8. Southern Minnesota:** This region comprises 38 counties located in southern Minnesota, excluding the Rochester Area region. The counties are Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Martin, Meeker, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmsted, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Rock, Sibley, Steele, Swift, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan, Winona, and Yellow Medicine. The Southern Minnesota region contains an estimated 887,400 residents (16% of the state population) and 351,300 households.

Areas represented in Ground Level survey



Map by David Montgomery, MPR News.

Demographic and economic characteristics of residents by region

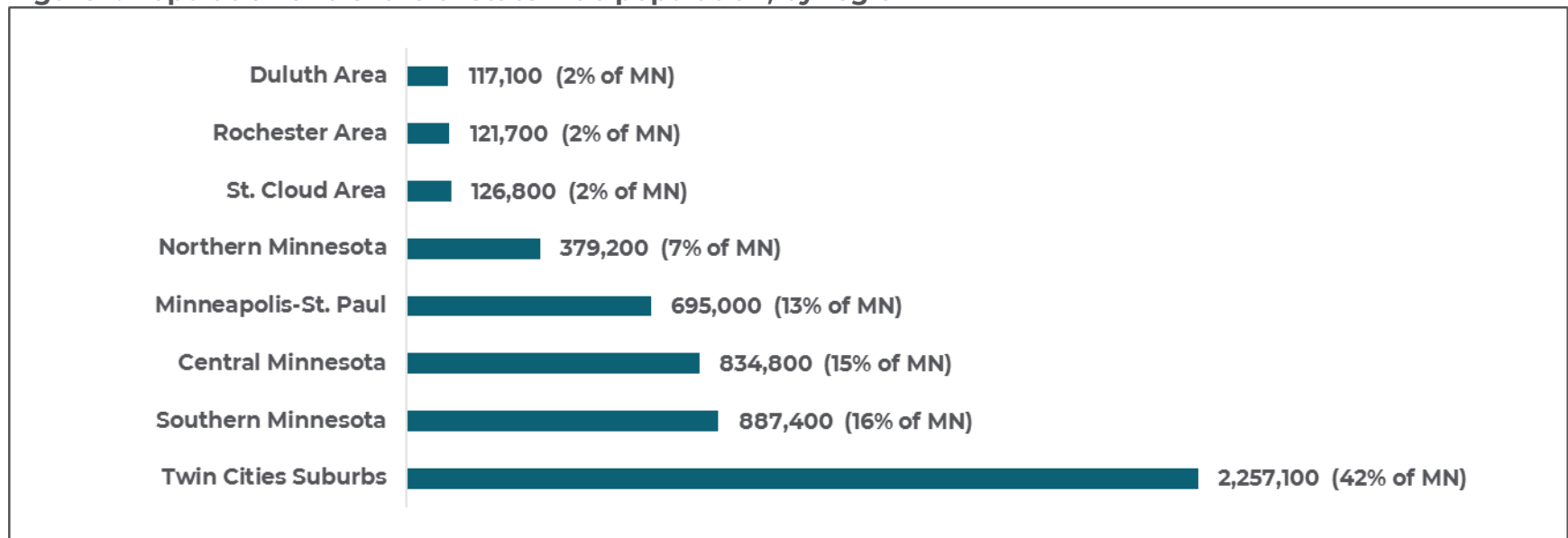
With the exception of the last section (on voting), the data used in this report come from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS) to create a demographic profile of the eight survey regions. Zip Code Tabulation Areas, Census-based geographies that best approximate USPS zip codes, were used to tabulate ACS data for the Duluth Area, St. Cloud Area, and Rochester Area regions, which were then subtracted from the county-based data used to construct the three major rural regions. Similarly, data from the combined cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul were subtracted from the data assembled to represent the Twin Cities 7-County Region to derive the Twin Cities Suburbs.

The eight regions differ both in population size as well as various demographic, economic, and social characteristics that may contribute to salient differences in perspectives among those who live in these regions.

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

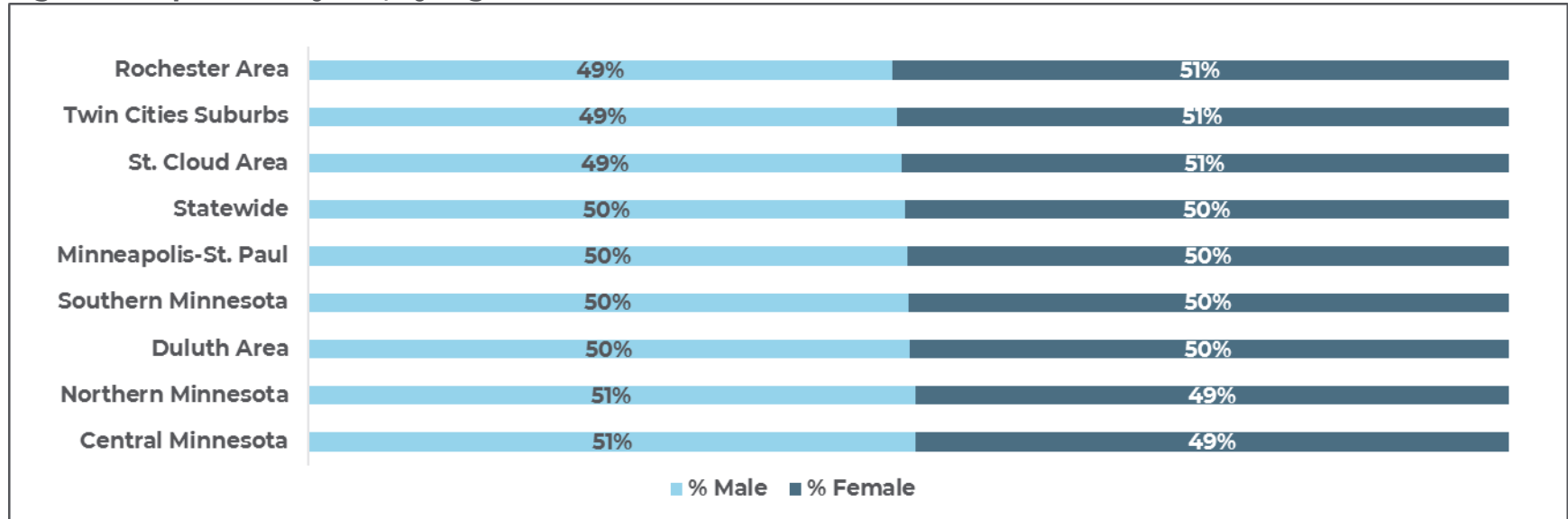
The region with the largest number of residents is the Twin Cities Suburbs, home to 2.26 million people, or 42 percent of the statewide population of 5.4 million (average during 2011-2015). The three major regional centers—the Duluth Area, Rochester Area, and St. Cloud Area—are the smallest regions represented in the survey, at roughly 120,000 people, or 2 percent of the statewide population apiece.

Figure 1: Population and share of statewide population, by region



Most regions have an even distribution of male and female residents; however, the Rochester Area, Twin Cities Suburbs, and St. Cloud Area regions contain slightly more females (51%), while Northern Minnesota and Central Minnesota regions contain slightly more males (51%).

Figure 2: Population by sex, by region



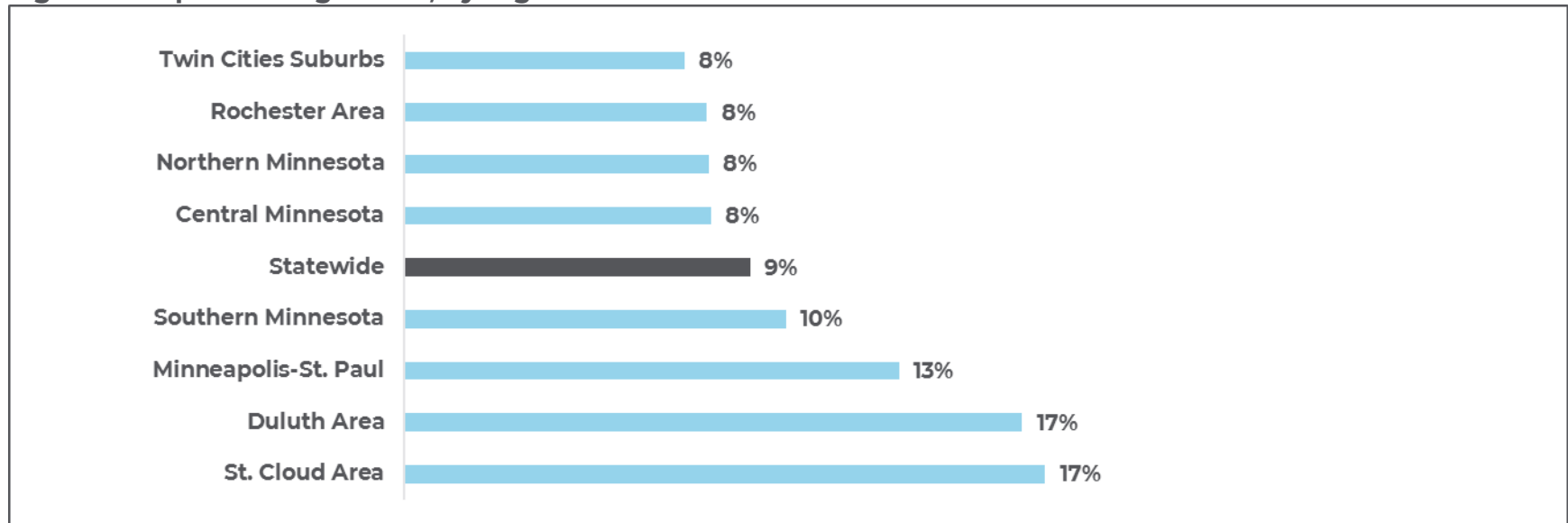
The age distribution among these eight regions varies considerably. The percentage of the population represented by children (under age 18) varies from a low of 19 percent in the Duluth Area to a high of 25 percent in Central Minnesota.

Figure 3: Population under age 18, by region



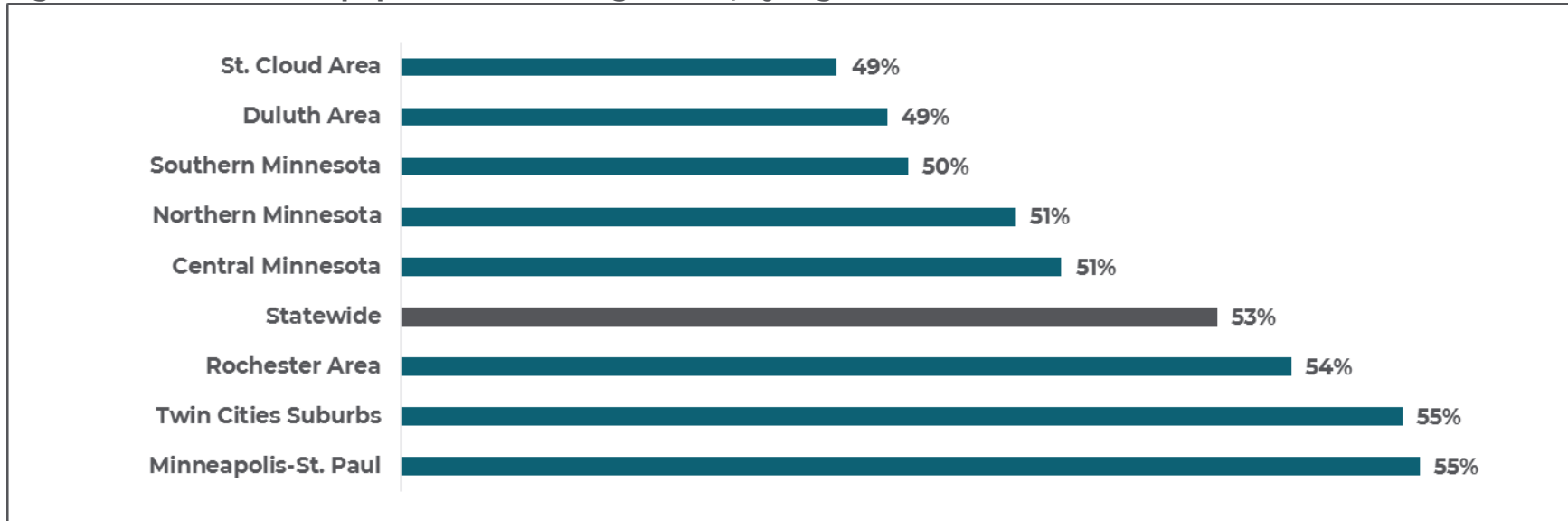
The percentage of the population comprised of young adults (age 18-24), many of whom are enrolled in post-secondary education or training, varies from a low of 8 percent in the Twin Cities Suburbs to a high of 17 percent in both the Duluth Area and St. Cloud Area regions. These two urban areas, in addition to the Minneapolis-St. Paul region, have a higher concentration of young adults than the state as a whole. The Rochester Area is the only region centered on an urban area with a lower share of young adults (8%) than the statewide average (9%).

Figure 4: Population age 18-24, by region



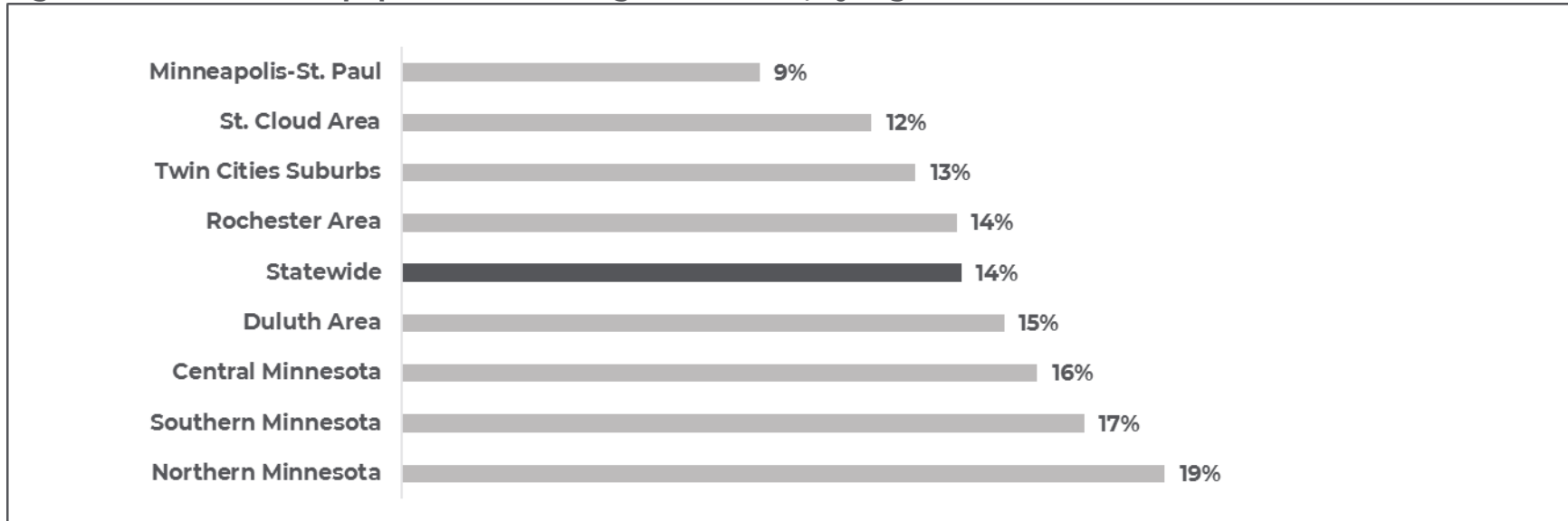
At 55 percent apiece, Minneapolis-St. Paul and the adjacent Twin Cities Suburbs lead the state in the share of their population that is age 25-64, followed closely by the Rochester Area. At just under half, the St. Cloud Area and Duluth Area regions have the lowest percentage of their population in this “typical working-age” group.

Figure 5: Percent of the population that is age 25-64, by region



Across the regions, the proportion of the population represented by older adults (age 65 and above) varies greatly. At 19 percent of its residents, Northern Minnesota is home to the highest share of older adults, more than double the share in Minneapolis-St. Paul (9%), the lowest share.

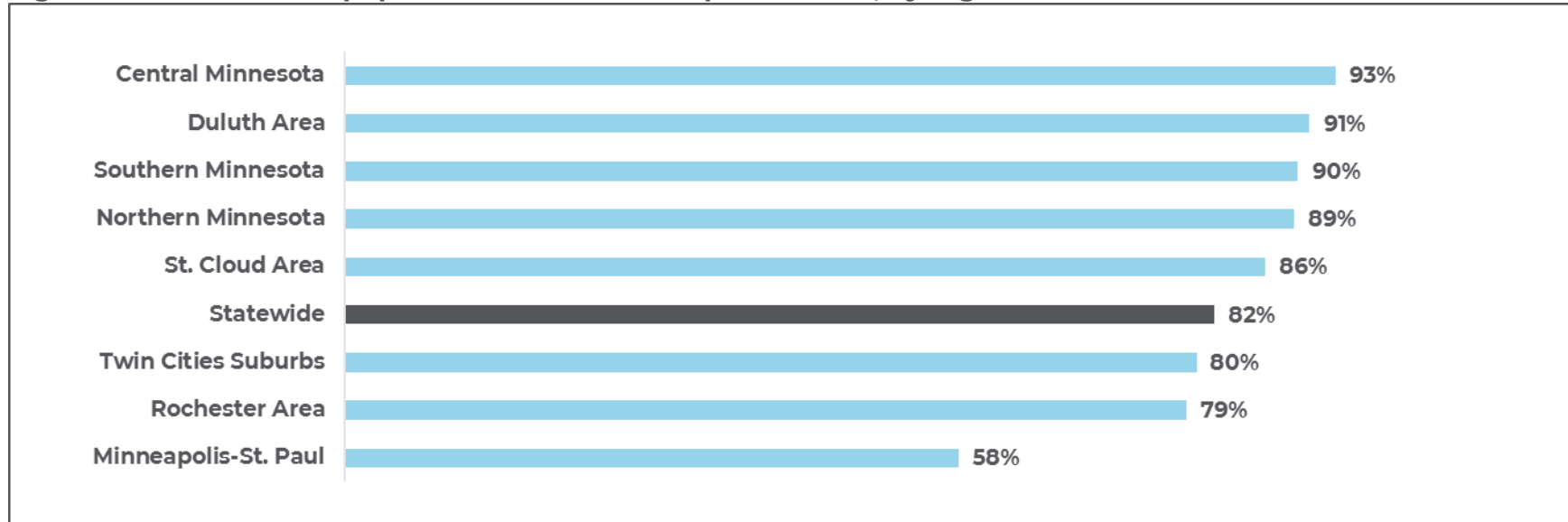
Figure 6: Percent of the population that is age 65 or older, by region



POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

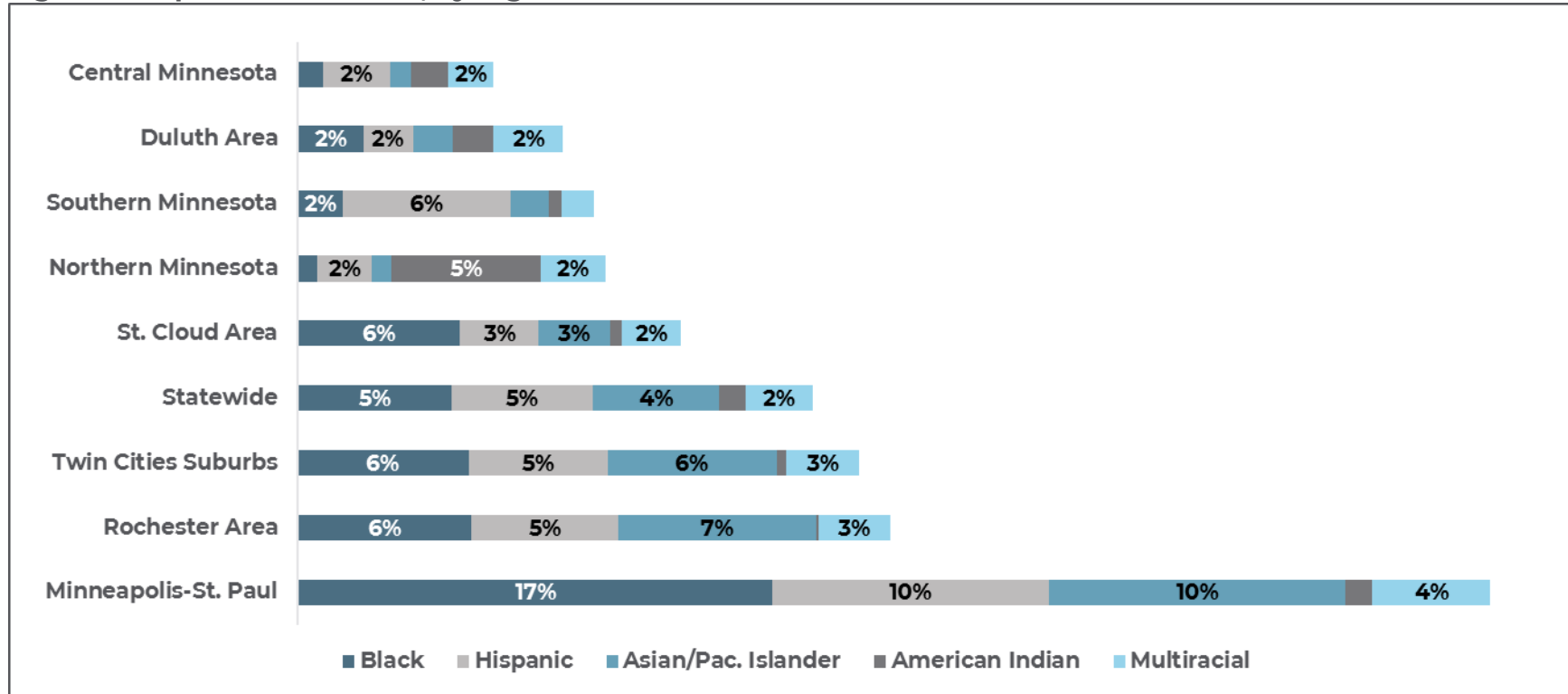
The racial composition of the regions differs widely. The Minneapolis-St. Paul region is the most diverse in that it has the lowest percent of its population represented by non-Hispanic White residents, at 58 percent. All other regions have roughly 80 percent or more White residents. The Central Minnesota and Duluth Area regions are the most racially homogeneous, with 93 percent and 91 percent White residents, respectively.

Figure 7: Percent of the population that is non-Hispanic White, by region



The graph below shows the percentage that “Populations of Color” (all those who identify as a race other than non-Hispanic White) represent in each region. While the Black or African-American group is the largest in Minneapolis-St. Paul, the Asian and Pacific Islander group is the largest in the Rochester Area, and the Hispanic group is the largest in Southern Minnesota. In Central Minnesota, where Whites account for 93 percent of the population, no single population of color represents more than 2 percent of the total population.

Figure 8: Populations of Color, by region



Notes: All race groups (except Hispanic) are non-Hispanic. Groups representing 1 percent or less of the population are not labeled. Individuals identifying as “Other race” are not graphed, as that group represents less than 0.1 percent of the population in all regions.

The complete racial/ethnic distribution is shown in the two tables below.

REGIONS	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	American Indian	Multiracial	Other Race
Central Minnesota	93%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	0.04%
Duluth Area	91%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	0.04%
Southern Minnesota	90%	2%	6%	1%	0%	1%	0.06%
Northern Minnesota	89%	1%	2%	1%	5%	2%	0.03%
St. Cloud Area	86%	6%	3%	3%	0%	2%	0.04%
Statewide	82%	5%	5%	4%	1%	2%	0.12%
Twin Cities Suburbs	80%	6%	5%	6%	0%	3%	0.18%
Rochester Area	79%	6%	5%	7%	0%	3%	0.03%
Minneapolis-St. Paul	58%	17%	10%	10%	1%	4%	0.19%

REGIONS	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	American Indian	Multiracial	Other Race
Central Minnesota	776,900	7,300	20,000	6,000	11,000	13,300	300
Duluth Area	106,100	2,700	2,100	1,700	1,700	2,900	100
Southern Minnesota	794,300	14,200	52,400	12,100	4,000	9,900	500
Northern Minnesota	338,000	2,600	7,300	2,700	19,900	8,700	100
St. Cloud Area	109,600	7,200	3,500	3,200	500	2,600	-
Statewide	4,427,800	293,800	271,000	241,200	51,800	127,200	6,400
Twin Cities Suburbs	1,805,900	135,900	111,400	134,200	8,000	57,700	4,000
Rochester Area	96,200	7,500	6,300	8,500	100	3,100	-
Minneapolis-St. Paul	400,900	116,500	68,000	72,800	6,500	29,000	1,300

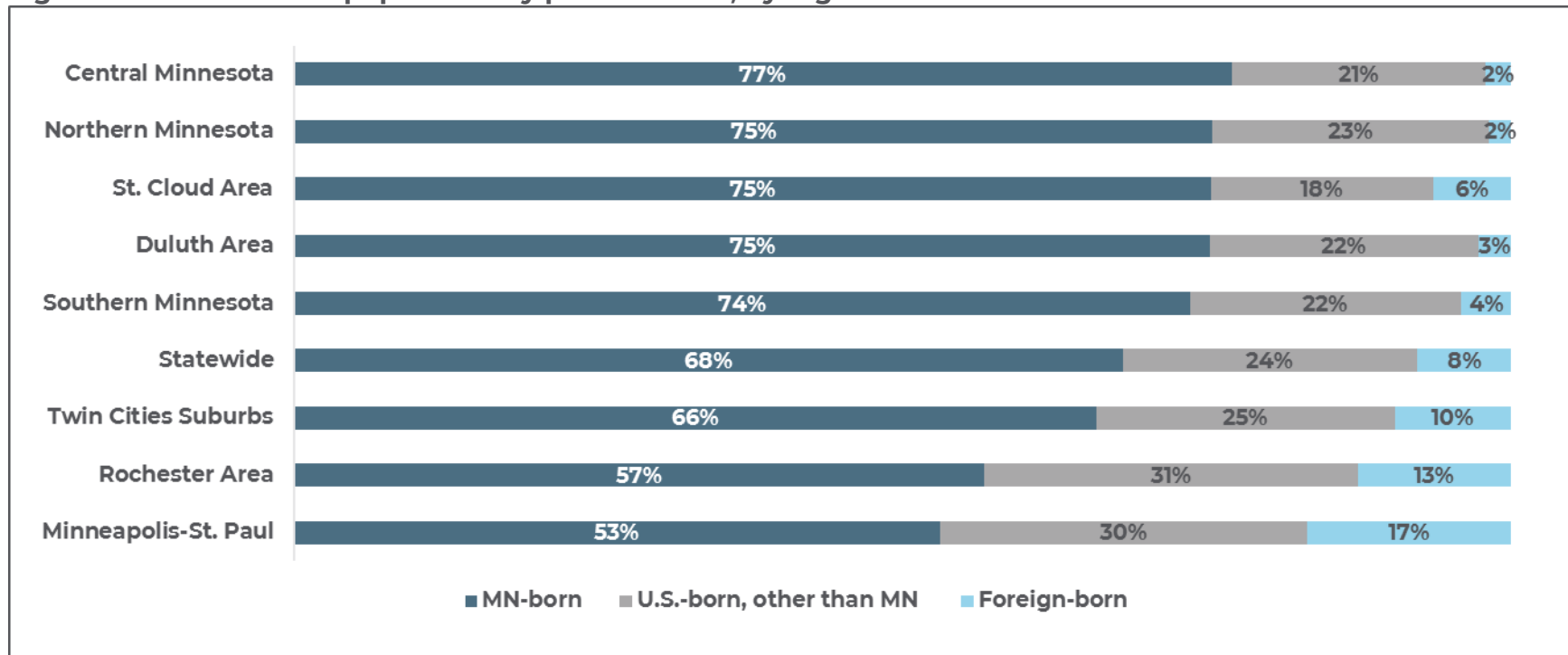
Note: All groups (except Hispanic) are non-Hispanic, so that percentages sum to 100. Estimates rounded to the nearest hundred.

POPULATION BY PLACE OF BIRTH

Examining the birthplace of residents by region provides one lens through which we can see the degree of cultural diversity in a given geography. Among the regions, Central Minnesota has the highest shares of residents who were born in Minnesota, at 77 percent, followed closely by Northern Minnesota, St. Cloud Area, and Duluth Area. Three-quarters of the residents in these three regions are Minnesota-born.

The foreign-born (immigrant) population share is greatest in Minneapolis-St. Paul, representing 17 percent of all residents. Immigrants are next most common in the Rochester Area (13%) and the Twin Cities Suburbs (10%). In each of these three regions, the share of U.S.-born residents who are not Minnesota-born is 25 percent or higher. In each of the non-urban regions of Greater Minnesota—Northern, Central, and Southern Minnesota—as well as the Duluth Area region, fewer than 5 percent of residents are foreign-born.

Figure 9: Percent of the population by place of birth, by region



The table below show the distribution of residents by place of birth. More than half of all the state’s total immigrant population lives in the largest region represented in the survey, the Twin Cities Suburbs, and an additional 28 percent live in the Minneapolis-St. Paul region.

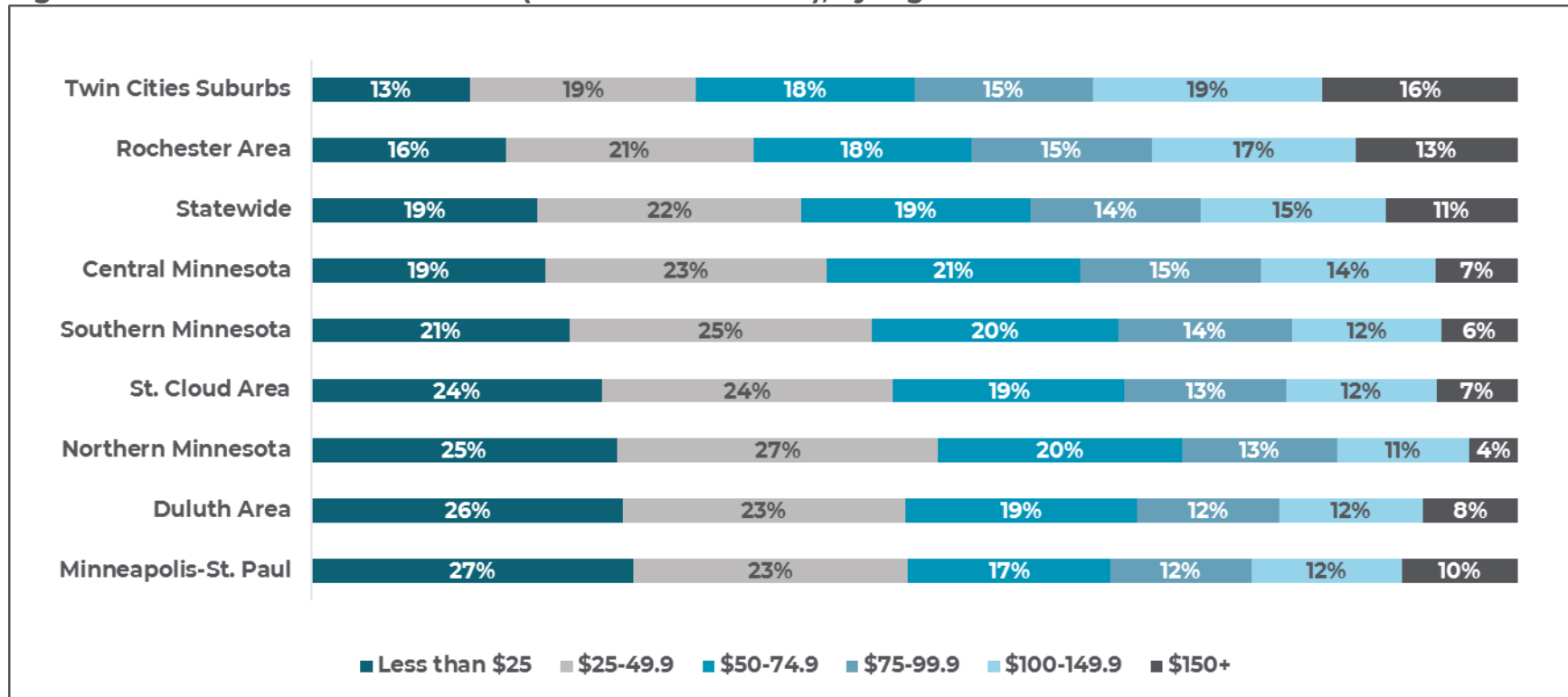
REGIONS	Minnesota-born	U.S.-born, other than MN	Foreign-born
Minneapolis-St. Paul	369,100	209,500	116,400
Rochester Area	69,100	37,400	15,300
Twin Cities Suburbs	1,488,200	553,600	215,300
Statewide	3,693,300	1,307,200	418,700
Southern Minnesota	653,700	197,400	36,300
Duluth Area	88,200	25,800	3,100
St. Cloud Area	95,500	23,300	8,000
Northern Minnesota	286,200	86,200	6,800
Central Minnesota	643,400	174,000	17,400

HOUSEHOLDS BY ANNUAL GROSS INCOME

Household income data allow us to examine the relative economic situation between each region. The Twin Cities Suburbs are the wealthiest region, as measured by having the smallest share of households earning less than \$25,000 (13%) and the greatest share of households earning more than \$150,000 annually (16%). Both the Duluth Area and Minneapolis-St. Paul regions have twice the share of households earning below \$25,000 as in the Twin Cities Suburbs.

Despite having the greatest proportion of lowest-income households, Minneapolis-St. Paul also has a greater share (10%) of the highest-income households (with an annual income of \$150,000 or more) than all but two regions—the Twin Cities Suburbs and the Rochester Area.

Figure 10: Annual household income (shown in thousands), by region



The table below shows the complete distribution of households by annual income.

REGIONS	Less than \$25,000	\$25,000-49,999	\$50,000-74,999	\$75,000-99,999	\$100,000-149,999	\$150,000+	All Households
Twin Cities Suburbs	114,200	162,900	156,900	128,600	164,800	141,300	868,800
Rochester Area	7,700	9,800	8,600	7,200	8,100	6,400	47,800
Statewide	398,800	464,100	402,800	299,700	326,700	232,700	2,124,700
Central Minnesota	62,300	74,900	67,600	48,000	46,500	22,000	321,300
Southern Minnesota	75,300	87,700	71,800	50,600	43,400	22,400	351,300
St. Cloud Area	11,600	11,600	9,200	6,500	6,000	3,300	48,100
Northern Minnesota	40,300	42,100	32,200	20,300	17,300	6,500	158,700
Duluth Area	12,200	11,100	9,100	5,600	5,600	3,800	47,400
Minneapolis-St. Paul	75,100	64,000	47,300	32,800	35,100	27,100	281,400

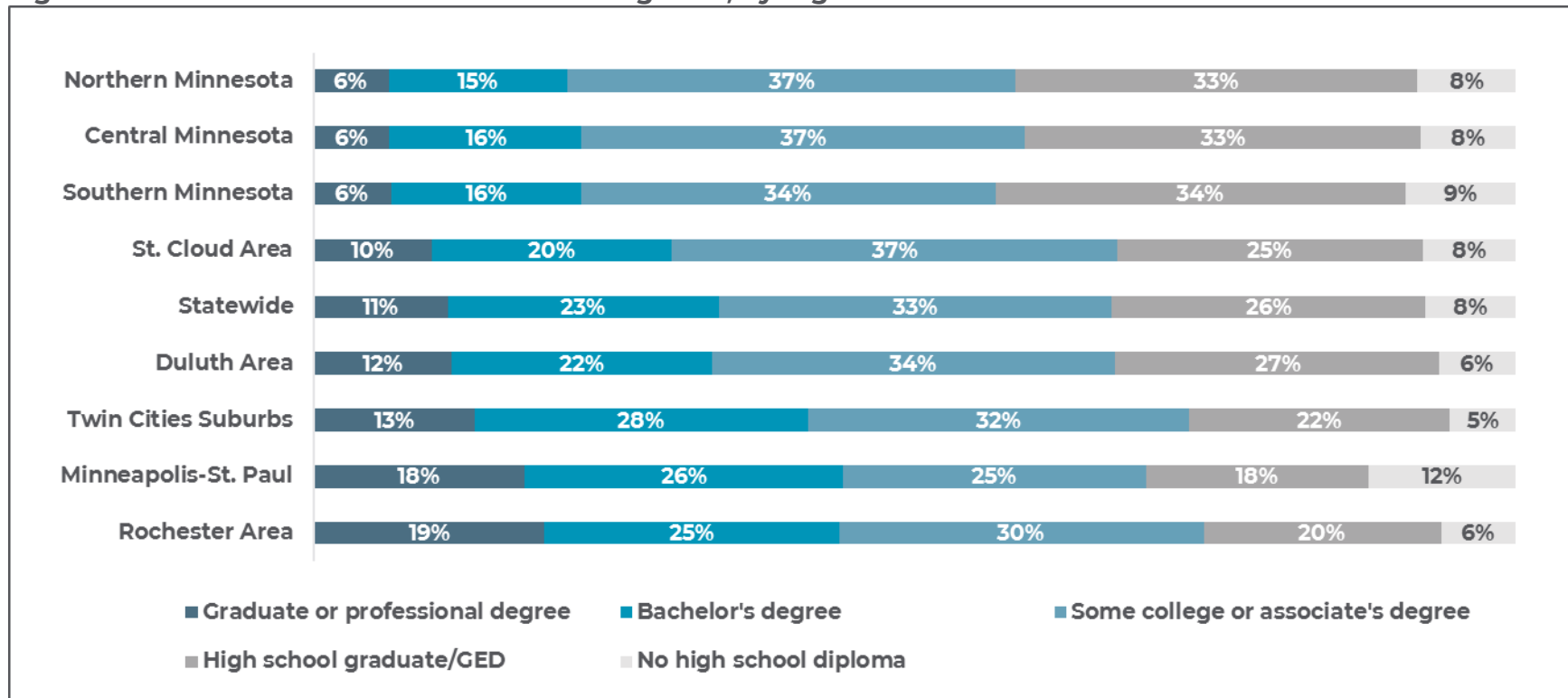
Note: The above household estimates by annual income have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Household income is not adjusted for family size.

POPULATION AGE 25 AND ABOVE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The regions exhibit wide differences in educational attainment among the 25 and older population. In each of the rural regions of Greater Minnesota—Northern, Central, and Southern Minnesota—residents holding a graduate or professional degree represent just 6 percent of the population, while the rate doubles for the Duluth Area and Twin Cities Suburbs, and roughly triples for Minneapolis-St. Paul, and the Rochester Area. At 10 percent, the St. Cloud Area region has the lowest percentage of residents with a graduate/professional degree among the urban-centered regions.

While the Minneapolis-St. Paul region has a high share of adult residents with an advanced degree, it also has the largest share of residents who have not completed high school, at 12 percent. No other region exceeds 10 percent of residents lacking a high school diploma. The Twin Cities Suburbs, Rochester Area, and Duluth Area each have the lowest shares of residents with this lowest level of education, at 5 to 6 percent apiece.

Figure 11: Educational attainment for adults age 25+, by region

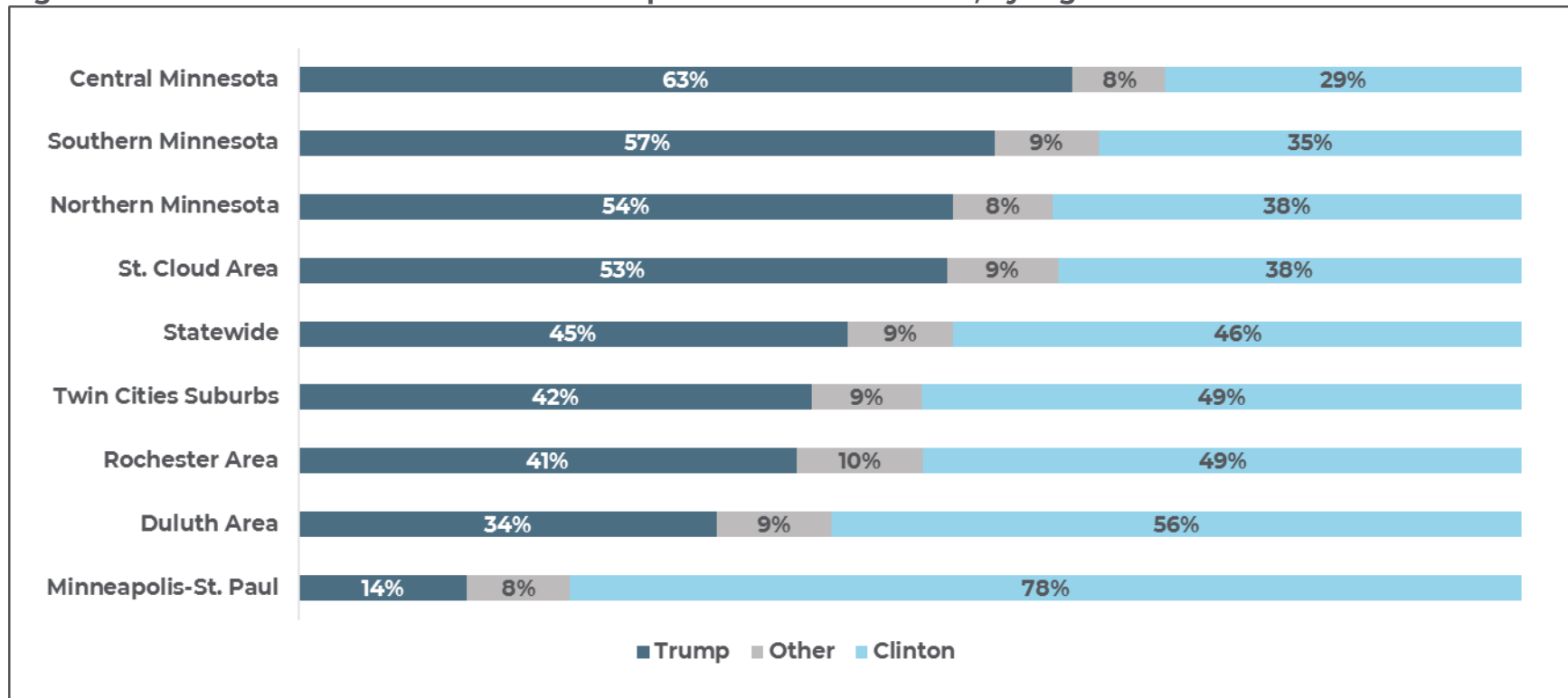


ACTUAL VOTES CAST FOR U.S. PRESIDENT DURING 2016 ELECTION

The data that follow reflect actual vote counts from the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, with the Duluth, St. Cloud, and Rochester areas represented as closely as possible using precinct-level voting data.

Statewide, Hillary Clinton edged Donald Trump by a narrow margin. Geographic differences by the regions represented in the survey were very pronounced. Trump decisively won the popular vote in four survey regions—Central Minnesota (63% of votes cast for Trump), Southern Minnesota (57%), Northern Minnesota (54%), and the St. Cloud Area (53%). Clinton received less than 40 percent of the votes cast in these regions. Clinton won by a landslide in Minneapolis-St. Paul. The Duluth Area was the only other region whose voters gave more than 50 percent of their votes to Clinton. While both the Rochester Area and Twin Cities Suburbs favored Clinton more than Trump, she earned just under 50 percent of the vote in these regions.

Figure 12: Percent of actual votes cast for U.S. presidential candidates, by region



Summary tables

Summary of presented data not shown in earlier tables, by region.

REGIONS	Population	Percent of MN	Households	Percent male	Percent female	Percent under age 18	Percent age 18-24	Percent age 25-64	Percent age 65+
Central Minnesota	834,800	15%	321,300	51%	49%	25%	8%	51%	16%
Duluth Area	117,100	2%	47,400	50%	50%	19%	17%	49%	15%
Minneapolis-St. Paul	695,000	13%	281,400	50%	50%	22%	13%	55%	9%
Northern Minnesota	379,200	7%	158,700	51%	49%	22%	8%	51%	19%
Rochester Area	121,700	2%	47,800	49%	51%	24%	8%	54%	14%
Southern Minnesota	887,400	16%	351,300	50%	50%	23%	10%	50%	17%
St. Cloud Area	126,800	2%	48,100	49%	51%	22%	17%	49%	12%
Twin Cities Suburbs	2,257,100	42%	868,800	49%	51%	24%	8%	55%	13%
Statewide	5,419,200	100%	2,124,700	50%	50%	24%	9%	53%	14%

REGIONS	MN-born	U.S.-born, other than MN	Foreign-born	Less than high school (25+)	High school incomplete (25+)	High school graduate/GED (25+)	Some college, no degree (25+)	Associate's degree (25+)	Bachelor's degree (25+)	Graduate or professional degree (25+)
Central Minnesota	77%	21%	2%	3%	5%	33%	24%	13%	16%	6%
Duluth Area	75%	22%	3%	2%	5%	27%	24%	10%	22%	12%
Minneapolis-St. Paul	53%	30%	17%	7%	6%	18%	18%	7%	26%	18%
Northern Minnesota	75%	23%	2%	3%	6%	33%	25%	12%	15%	6%
Rochester Area	57%	31%	13%	3%	3%	20%	20%	11%	25%	19%
Southern Minnesota	74%	22%	4%	4%	5%	34%	23%	12%	16%	6%
St. Cloud Area	75%	18%	6%	3%	4%	25%	24%	13%	20%	10%
Twin Cities Suburbs	66%	25%	10%	2%	3%	22%	21%	10%	28%	13%
Statewide	68%	24%	8%	3%	4%	26%	22%	11%	23%	11%

REGIONS	Percent of presidential votes cast for Trump	Percent of presidential votes cast for Clinton	Percent of presidential votes cast for another candidate
Central Minnesota	63%	29%	8%
Duluth Area	34%	56%	9%
Minneapolis-St. Paul	14%	78%	8%
Northern Minnesota	54%	38%	8%
Rochester Area	41%	49%	10%
Southern Minnesota	57%	35%	9%
St. Cloud Area	53%	38%	9%
Twin Cities Suburbs	42%	49%	9%
Statewide	45%	46%	9%



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