



City of Helsinki
Urban Facts



Comments & reflections

Segregation: drivers, dynamics and intervention strategies

Katja Vilkama
Helsingin kaupungin tietokeskus

Erillään kaupungissa
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Three points

1) Segregation and inequality processes in HMA

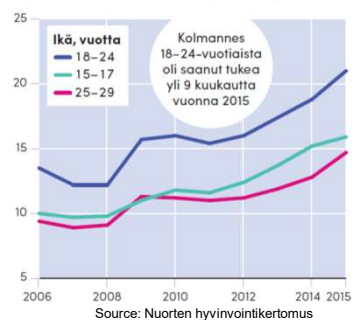
Point 1

- Indeed, Helsinki is one of the least segregated capital cities in Europe, but **income inequality and segregation patterns are clear** and, to some extent, segregation levels are going up.
 - Some examples...

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Welfare allowance dependency among youth

Toimeentulotukea saaneiden nuorten osuus ikäluokasta, %

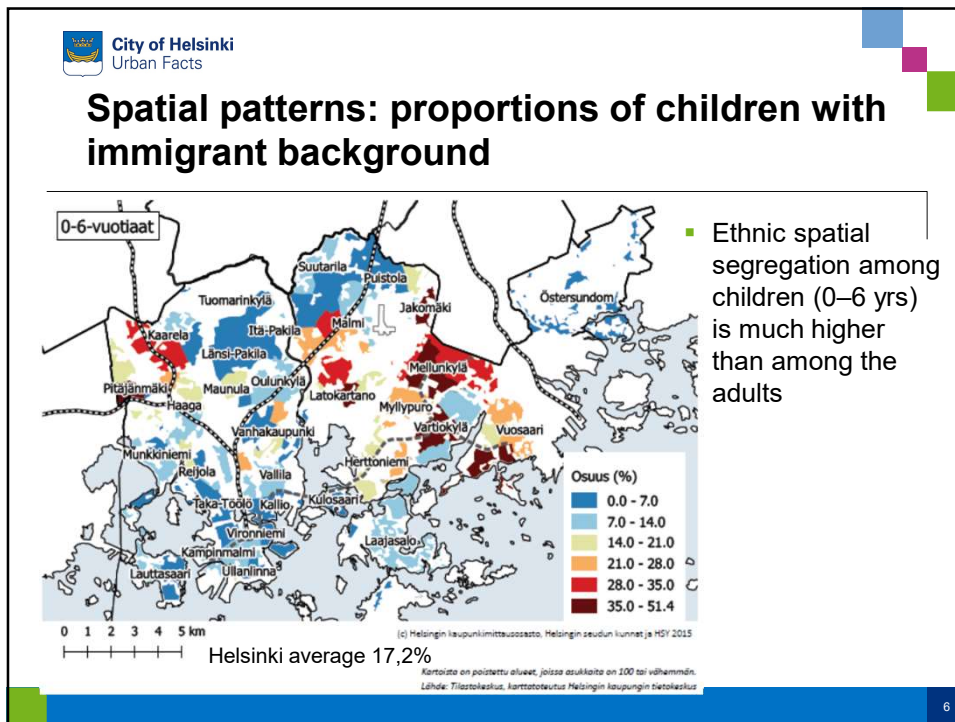
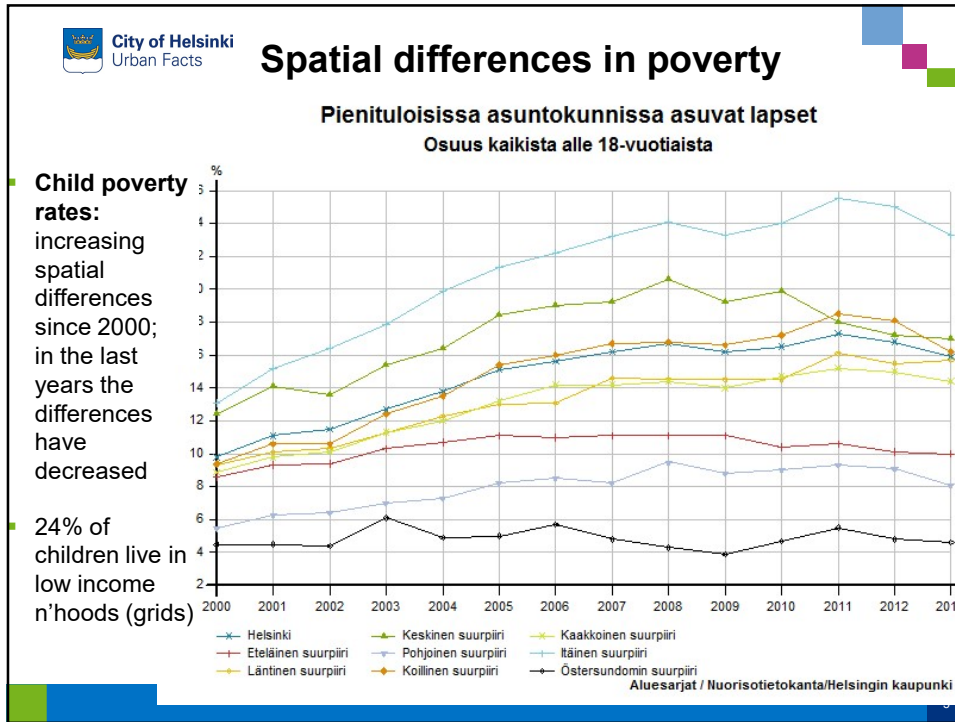


- **Intergenerational transmission of poverty: 45 % of the youth, whose parents have received welfare allowance, have themselves also needed welfare support**

Source: Nuorten hyvinvointikertomus

- Welfare dependency among the youth has increased since 2008

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2) Housing market structures influence segregation patterns and processes

Point 2

- Segregation is **not a "neighbourhood problem"**, but becomes visible in neighbourhoods through the influence of housing market structures
- **Housing market-related reasons** are not the root cause for segregation – inequality and poverty are – but they strongly **influence the spatial layout** of segregation
 - Some examples...

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- Example 1: Study on socioeconomic segregation in HMA:
 - up to 51% of the spatial variance of neighbourhoods' socioeconomic status can be predicted by the tenure structure (housing and tenure type) (Vilkama et al. 2014)
- Example 2: Nordic comparative study:
 - Although tenure segmentation of immigrants is high in Helsinki, ethnic spatial segregation is lower than in Oslo, Copenhagen and Stockholm due to tenure mixing (Skifter Andersen et al 2015)

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3) Mixture of policies is needed to tackle segregation

Point 3

- We need different policies at different stages of segregation development and for different desired outcomes
 - **preventing** segregation
 - solving the **causes** of segregation
 - tackling the **consequences**
- There is also a need for shared responsibility between different stakeholders
 - Housing policies and urban planning
 - Employment policies
 - Social policies and income redistribution
 - Youth and education policies
 - Immigration and integration policies
 - Area-based (or school-based) development projects
 - Grassroot-level neighbourhood work
 - Etc.

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Current challenges in Finland / HMA

- Major administrative restructuring at the national level: state – county – municipality → new roles and responsibilities
- Increasing housing prices and lack of reasonable-priced housing
- Vast spatial differences in housing prices within the metropolitan area
- Changes in housing allocation systems: stricter income controls for social housing tenants
- Labour market restructuring: relatively high unemployment levels and a growing number of long-term unemployment
- Increasing flows of asylum-seekers, risks for homelessness
- Challenges of immigrant integration

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