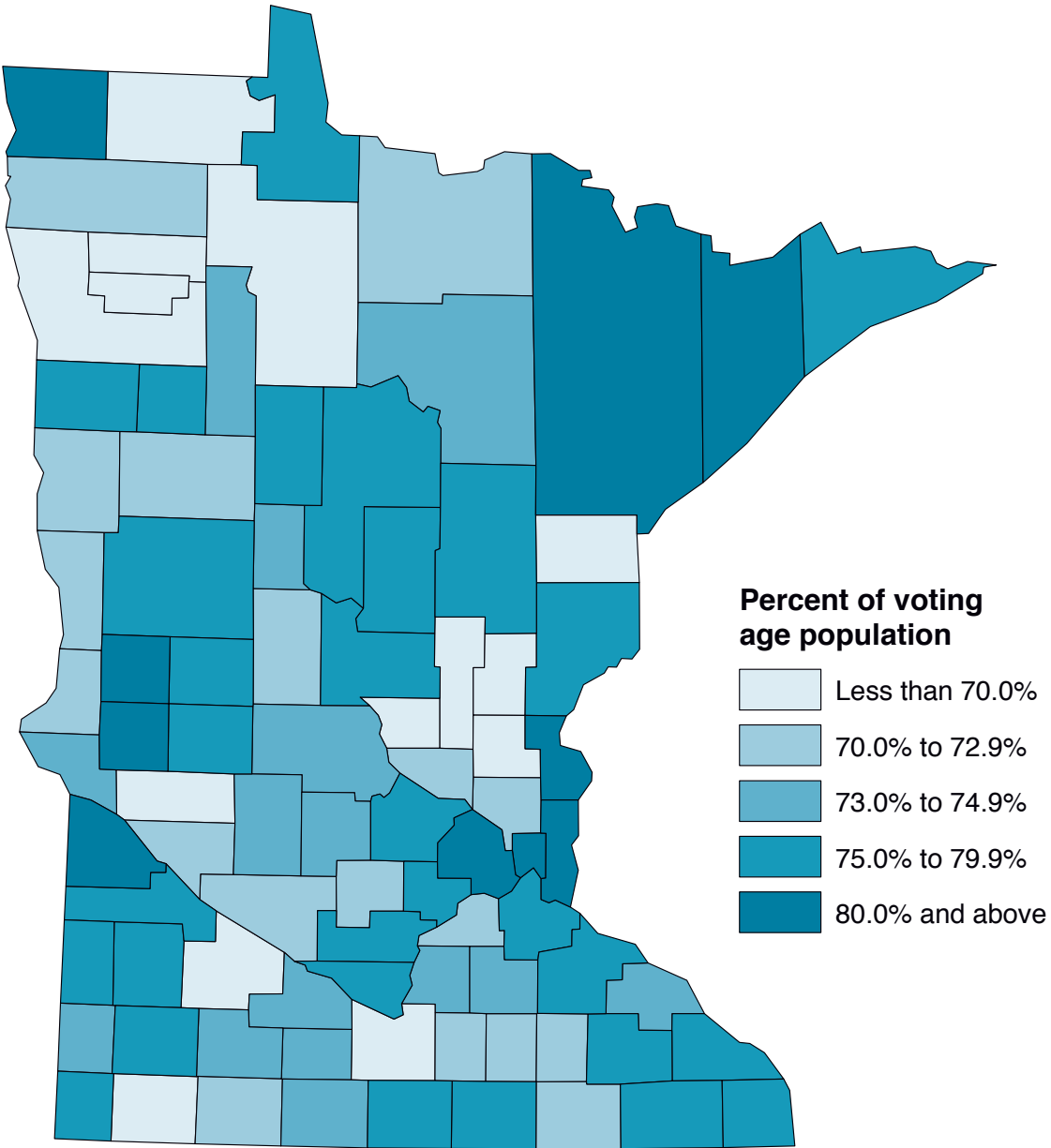


Voter Registration, 2004

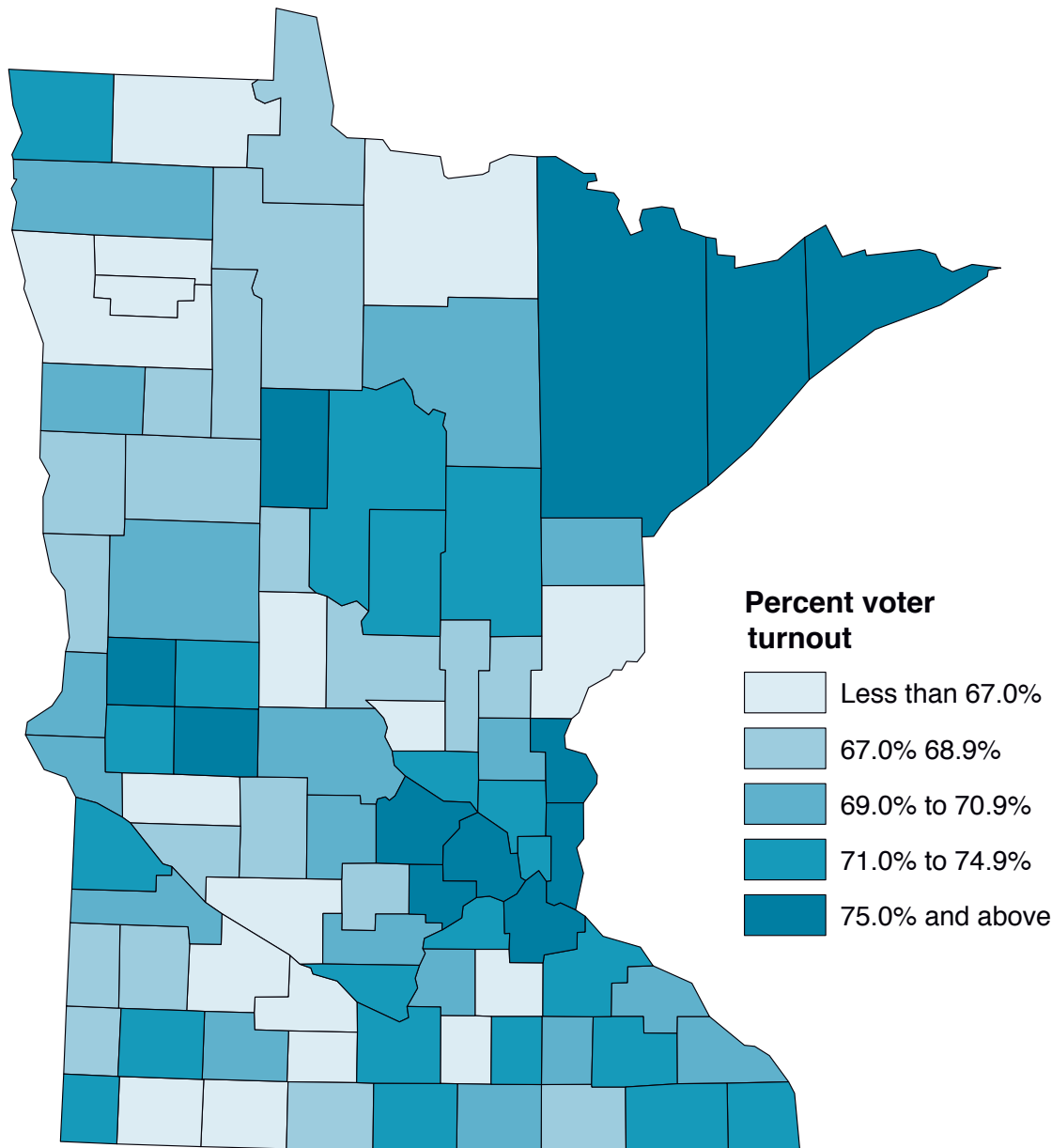
While it is often understood that the highest concentrations of registered voters are found in urban areas, the map shows that registered voters are spread fairly evenly throughout the state. Registration efforts in Greater Minnesota are often seen as more difficult since it can take more time to seek out and register a single voter in sparsely populated areas. However, older voters tend more to be registered, giving many rural counties a higher concentration of registered voters. Also, 2004 was a presidential election year, which may have increased voter registration across the state.



Data source: Minnesota Secretary of State's Office
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Voter Turnout, 2004

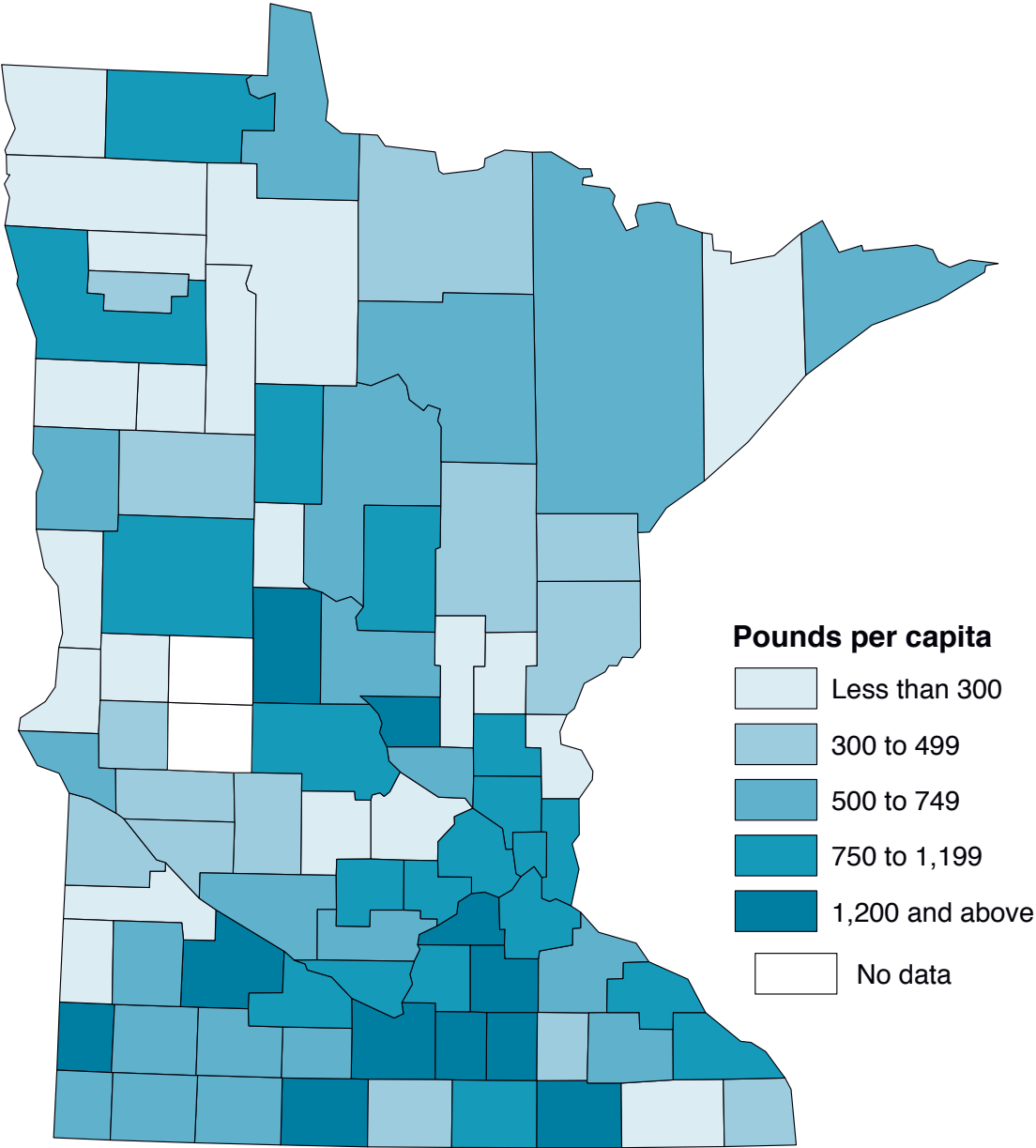
Voter turnout is measured as the number of ballots cast divided by the voting-age population. While the number of people registered to vote in Greater Minnesota tends to be lower than in urban areas, people in Greater Minnesota also tend to show up to vote in higher percentages.



Data source: Minnesota Secretary of State's Office
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Recycling, 2003

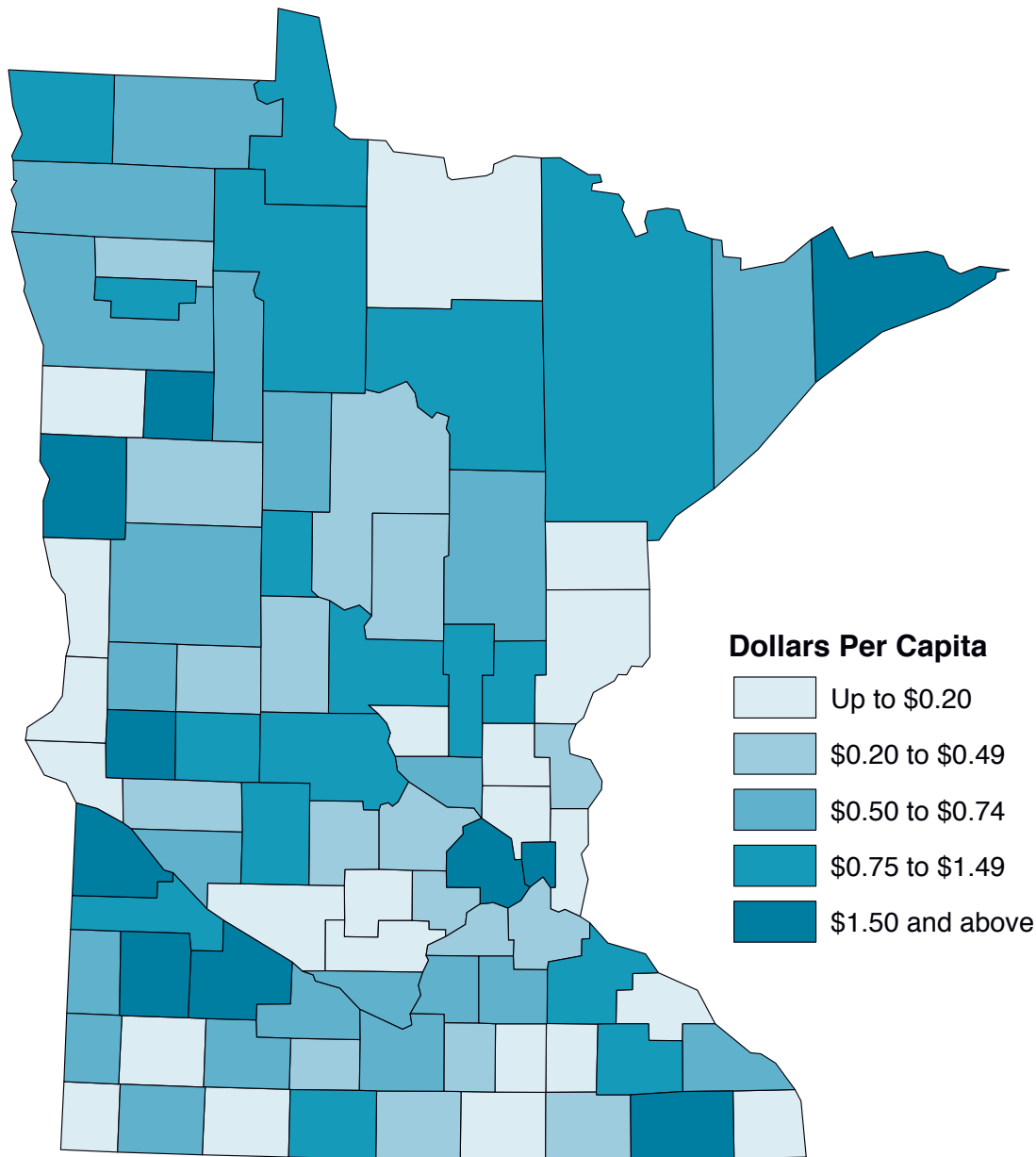
An important factor in recycling is economies of scale: the sparser the population, the more difficult it is to collect recyclables, especially when it comes to curbside pickup. Other key factors can be the commitment of the recycling staff, how convenient the program is, and whether it employs convenient drop-off sites, curbside pickup and public education, which may explain why several of the top recycling counties do not have large population centers.



Datat source: Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance
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Funding by the Minnesota State Arts Board, 2005

Several of the counties with the highest funding contain either large cities, a college or university campus or both. Minnesota operates a decentralized system of funding the arts: the Minnesota State Arts Board and eleven regional arts councils work together to ensure that arts dollars are available in every county, supporting individual artists, arts organizations, arts in education programs and community arts festivals and events.



Data source: Minnesota State Arts Board, 2005 Annual Report
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