

Margery Austin Turner

Margery Austin Turner is director of the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute and Susan J. Popkin is a Principal Research Associate in the Center, where her research focuses on spatial and racial dimensions of anti-poverty policies within urban regions. Ms. Turner served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research at the Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1993 through 1996, where she focused HUD's research agenda on the problems of racial discrimination, concentrated poverty, and economic opportunity in America's metropolitan areas. She co-authored a national housing discrimination study, which used paired testing to determine the incidence of discrimination against African-American and Hispanic home seekers, and applied the paired testing methodology to employment, producing the first direct statistical evidence of discrimination against young African-American jobseekers. Ms. Turner also directed research on racial and ethnic steering and conducted an exploratory study of differential real estate marketing practices in minority and white neighborhoods.

Ms. Turner's recent work includes her co-authorship of the "Housing in the Nation's Capital" series of reports. The 2007 report is the sixth in a series of annual reports about housing in the Washington metropolitan region. It assembles and analyzes the most current data on housing conditions and trends in the District of Columbia and the surrounding suburbs. The 2006 report focused on linkages between housing and schools in the District of Columbia and the metropolitan region; the 2007 report took a regional perspective, examining how the region addresses housing for special needs populations. More specifically, the 2007 report assessed the housing options and services available to the elderly, disabled, and homeless and explored the consequences and opportunities for housing policy across the region.