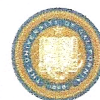


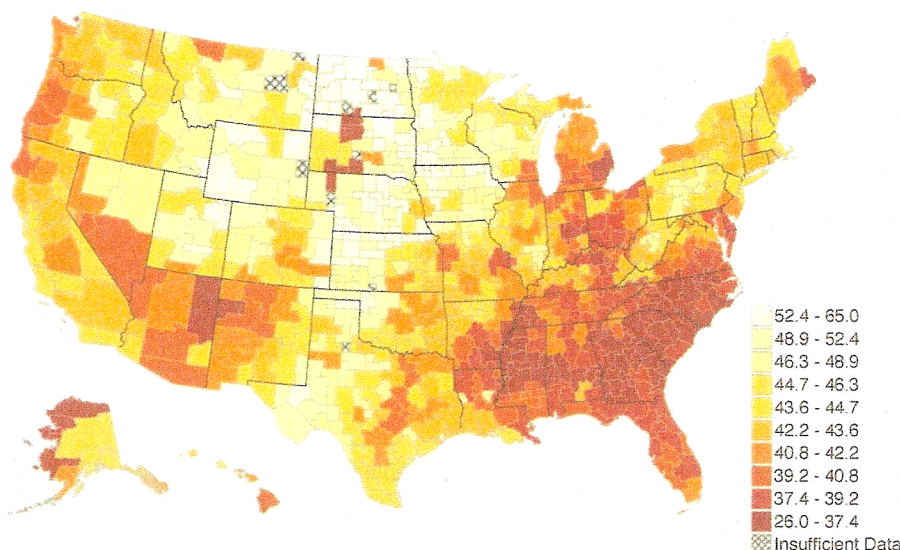


WHERE IS THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY? THE GEOGRAPHY OF INTERGENERATIONAL MOBILITY IN THE U.S.



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Is America still the “land of opportunity”? We show that this question does not have a clear answer because the economic outcomes of children from low income families vary substantially within the U.S. Some cities have rates of upward income mobility comparable to the most mobile countries in the world, while others have lower rates of mobility than any developed country. These geographical differences in upward mobility are strongly correlated with five primary factors: segregation, income inequality, local school quality, social capital, and family structure. For further information, see the [non-technical summary](#) and the [complete paper](#).



Note: This map shows the average percentile rank of children who grow up in below-median income families across areas of the U.S. (absolute upward mobility). Lighter colors represent areas where children from low-income families are more likely to move up in the income distribution. To look up statistics for your own city, use the [interactive version of this map](#) created by the New York Times.

Upward Mobility in the 50 Biggest Cities: The Top 10 and Bottom 10

Rank	Odds of Reaching Top Fifth Starting from Bottom Fifth		Rank	Odds of Reaching Top Fifth Starting from Bottom Fifth	
1	San Jose, CA	12.9%	41	Cleveland, OH	5.1%
2	San Francisco, CA	12.2%	42	St. Louis, MO	5.1%
3	Washington DC, DC	11.0%	43	Raleigh, NC	5.0%
4	Seattle, WA	10.9%	44	Jacksonville, FL	4.9%
5	Salt Lake City, UT	10.8%	45	Columbus, OH	4.9%
6	New York, NY	10.5%	46	Indianapolis, IN	4.9%
7	Boston, MA	10.5%	47	Dayton, OH	4.9%
8	San Diego, CA	10.4%	48	Atlanta, GA	4.5%
9	Newark, NJ	10.2%	49	Milwaukee, WI	4.5%
10	Manchester, NH	10.0%	50	Charlotte, NC	4.4%



LEAP



Poverty Quick Facts

FALL 2013

U.S. Census Bureau Releases Nation-Wide Poverty Numbers

Here are some quick first impressions from the new poverty data out today:

1. The Poverty Rate and Median Household Income for most age groups and races is unchanged from last year, still hovering far from 2007 levels.

Real median household income in 2012 did not significantly change from 2011. Nationally, medium household income was 8.3% lower than in 2007.

Neither the poverty rate nor the number of people in poverty changed to a degree that reached statistical significance. The 2012 level remains 2.5 percentage points higher than the poverty level in 2007. Looking more closely, the number of people living in poverty within age and race groups remained the same, except for people 65 and older, people living in the South, and people living outside metropolitan statistical areas. For these groups, the number of people in poverty increased.

2. Some populations are still suffering under extraordinarily high poverty rates, including children, African Americans, Latinos and people with disabilities.

The 2012 poverty rate for children under age 18 was 21.8%, or 16.1 million. The rate for children under age 6 was 24.4%, or 5.8 million children in the United States. Of children under age 6 in families with a female head of household, 56% lived in poverty.

For African Americans, the poverty rate was 27.2% last year. Among Hispanics the 2012 poverty rate was 25.6%. For White non-Hispanics, the number was 9.8%.

People aged 18 to 64 with a disability had a poverty rate of 28.4%, more than double the rate of their age group without disabilities (12.5%).

3. Inequality is Growing

The uneven recovery - due in part to uneven job loss, and the replacement of lost jobs with low-wage work - is showing up in the poverty rate numbers. In 1967, 18.2% of Americans had an income that was over 4 times greater than the Federal Poverty Level. That number has steadily grown to 35.7% in 2012.

The percentage of people living below the FPL has increased, too. In 1967, 14.2% had an income below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. In 2012 that number is 15%.

4. Anti-Poverty Programs are working

The official poverty estimate counts some forms of government benefits (cash benefits, like Social Security benefits and unemployment insurance benefits) but not others (SNAP, EITC). The Census Bureau tracks how much of each person's income comes from these benefits. The benefit to us is that we can see how each of these programs potentially affects the poverty rate. For 2012:

- If **Social Security** payments were excluded from income, 15.3 million more people over age 65 would have been classified as living in poverty.
- If **unemployment** benefits were excluded, 1.7 million more people would have been classified as living in poverty.
- If **SNAP** benefits were counted as income, 4 million fewer people would have fallen under the poverty line last year
- If the value of the **Earned Income Tax Credit** were counted as income, the number of children classified as living in poverty would be reduced by 3.1 million.

Source: Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2012, U.S. Census Bureau, Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, Jessica C. Smith. Issued September 2013. Available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/p60-245.pdf>.

SUMMER 2013

Summer extern Sharon Lin recently researched how the economy is disparately impacting the employment prospects of particular groups, namely: racial minorities and young people. Sharon has provided the summary of her research below.

Racial Disparities in Unemployment