

# Reducing Intergenerational Poverty

The Committee on Policies and  
Programs to Reduce Intergenerational  
Poverty

September 23, 2023



# The U.S. Congress asked the National Academies to provide a non-partisan, evidence-based report that:

Identifies **key drivers** of long-term, intergenerational poverty

Identifies **evidence-based policies** and programs that have the potential to significantly reduce the effects of the key drivers of intergenerational poverty

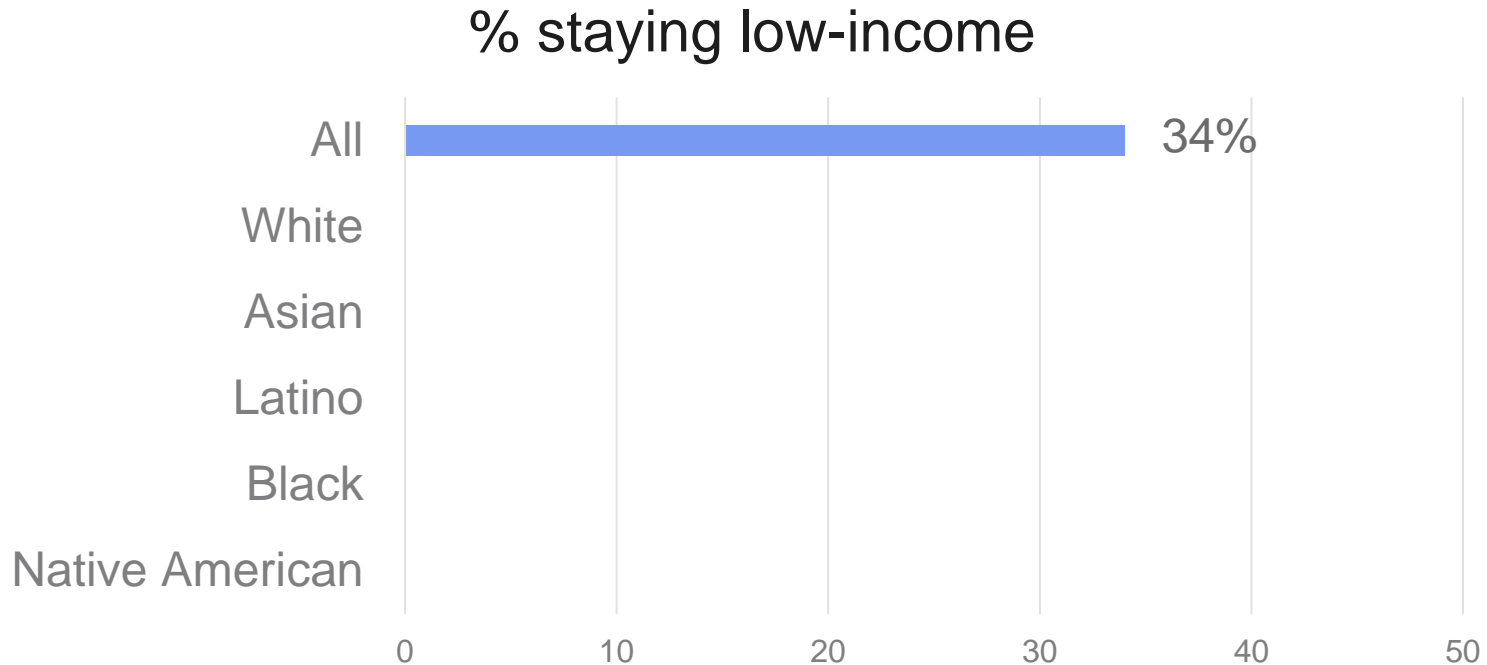
Evaluates the **racial and ethnic disparities and structural factors** that help perpetuate intergenerational poverty

Identifies key, high-priority **gaps in the data and research** needed to develop effective policies for reducing intergenerational poverty in the U.S.

# Committee

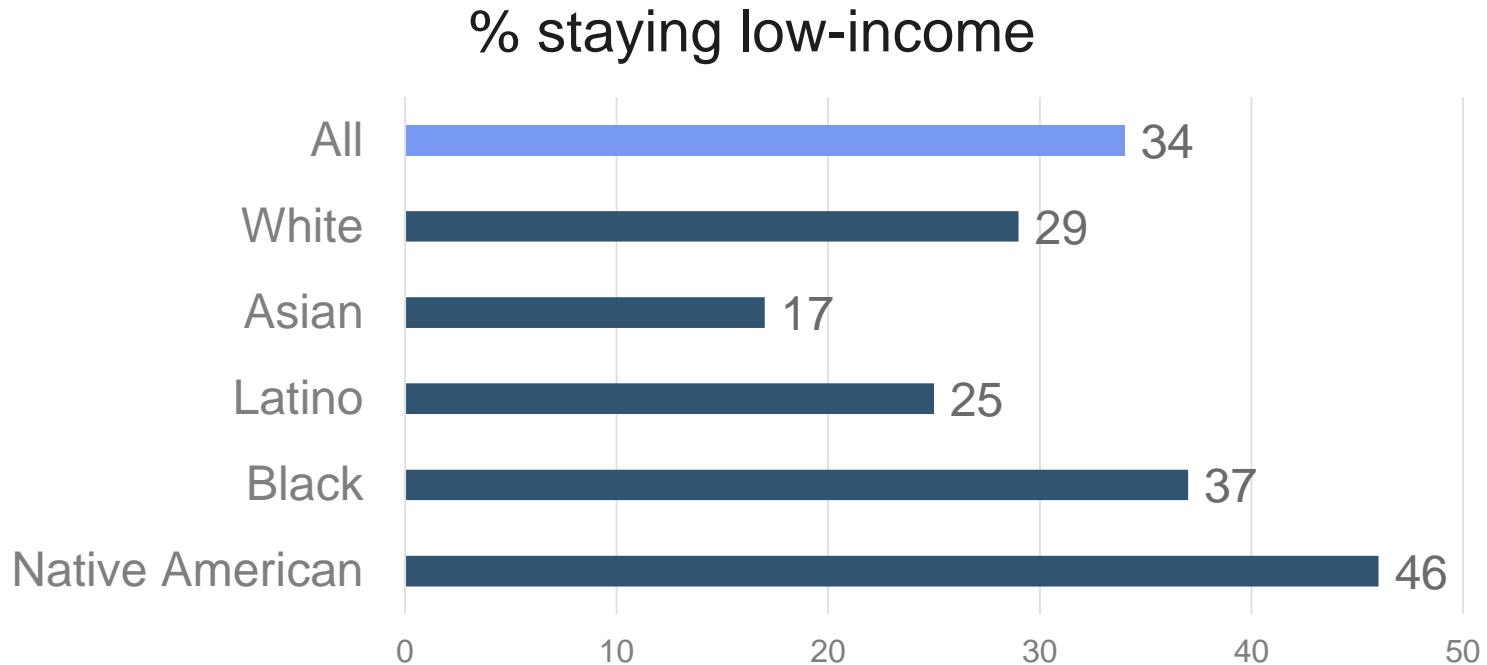
- 14 members
- Mix of academics, think-tank and community leaders
- Mix of expertise across policy areas
- Mix of political orientations

# Intergenerational Persistence of Low-Income Status Differs Sharply by Race



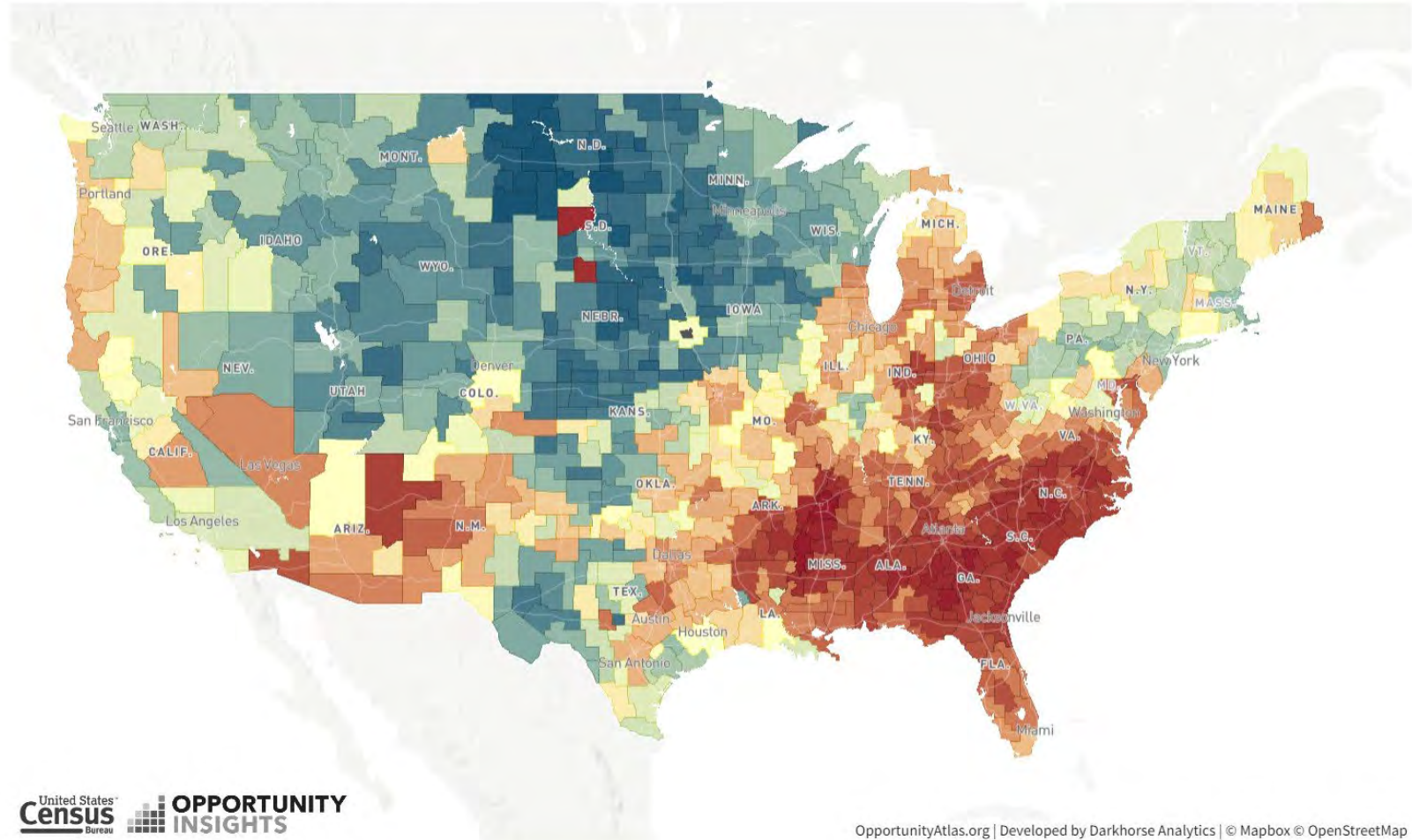
Chetty et al. (2020)

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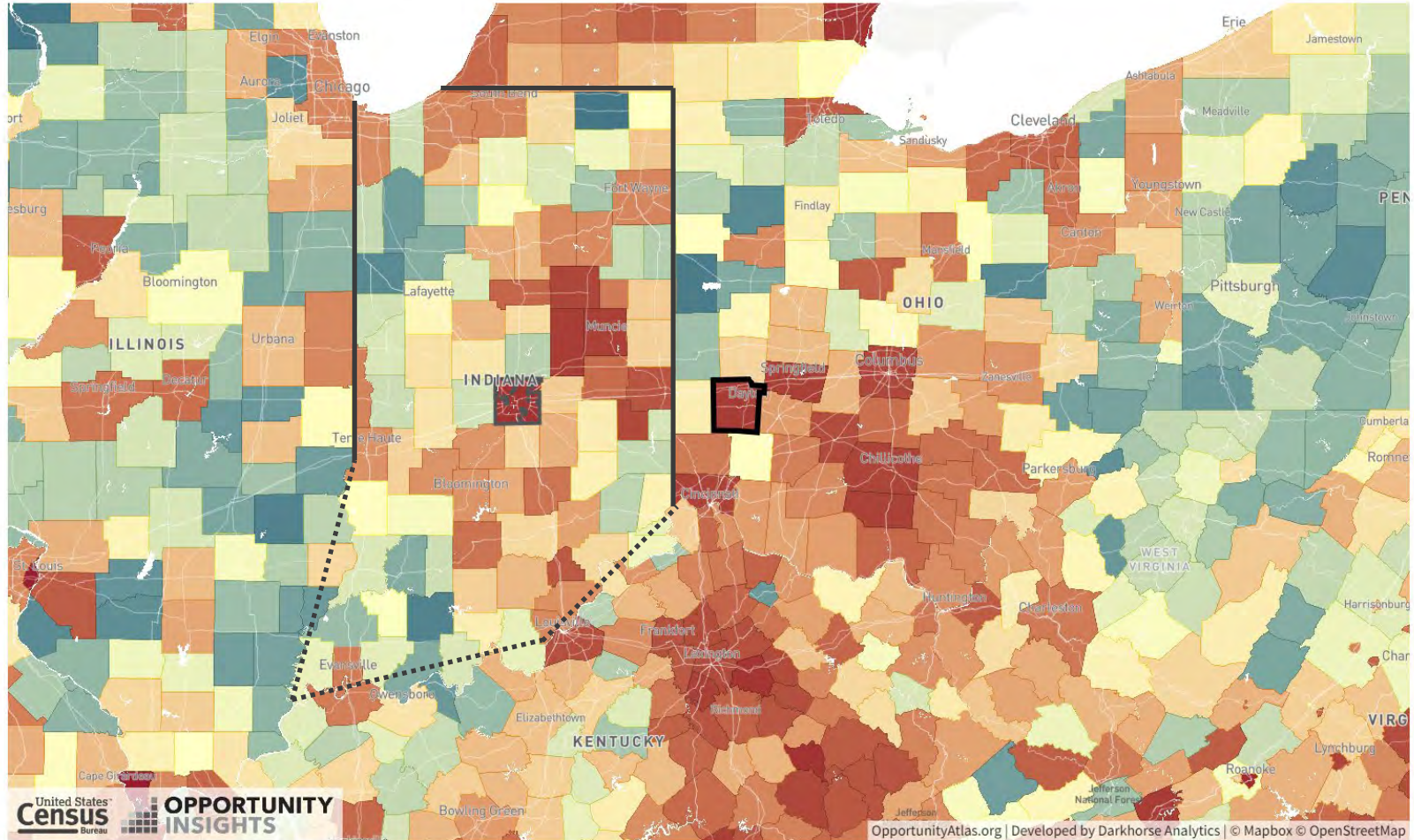


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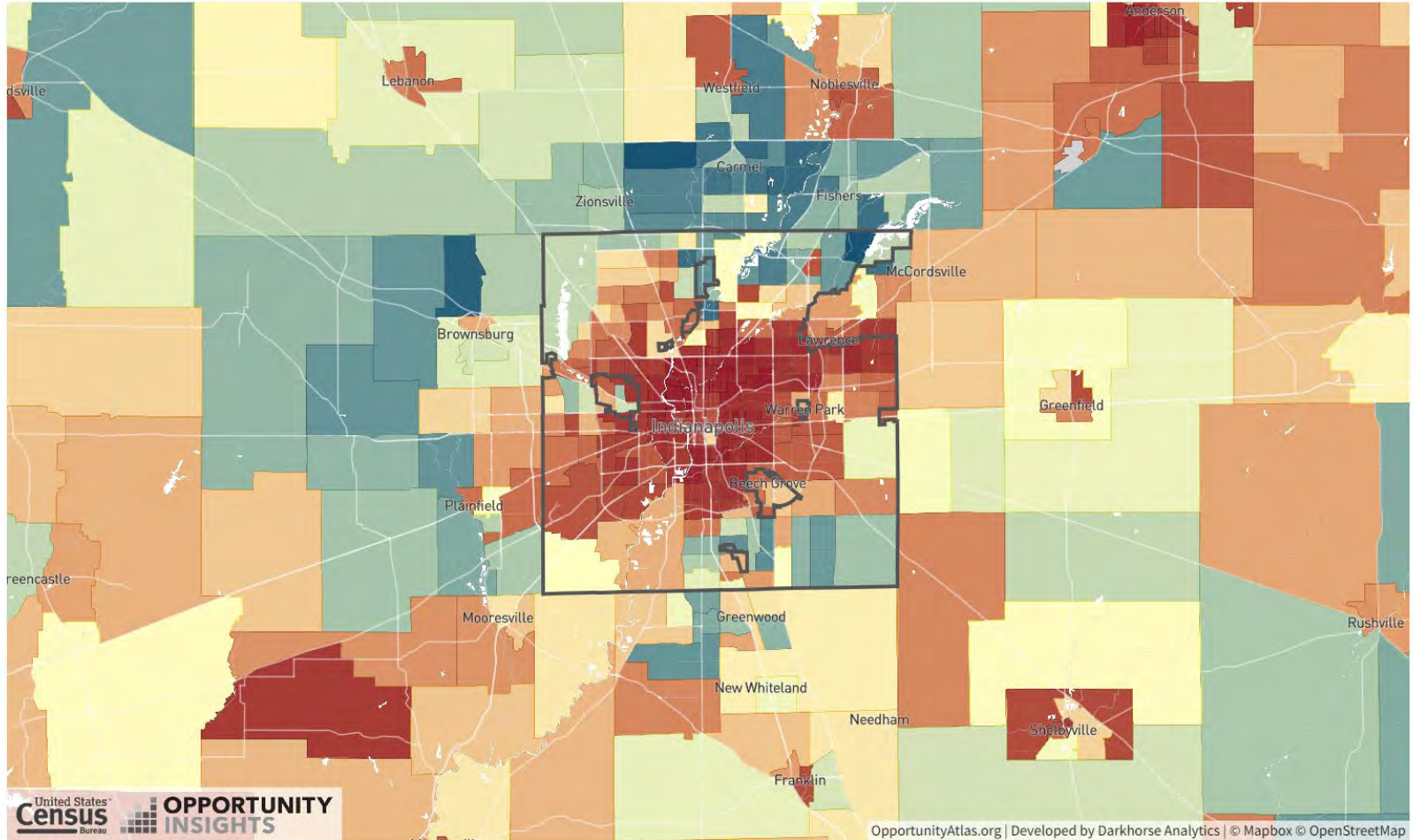
# Household Income at Age 35 for Children of Low Income Parents



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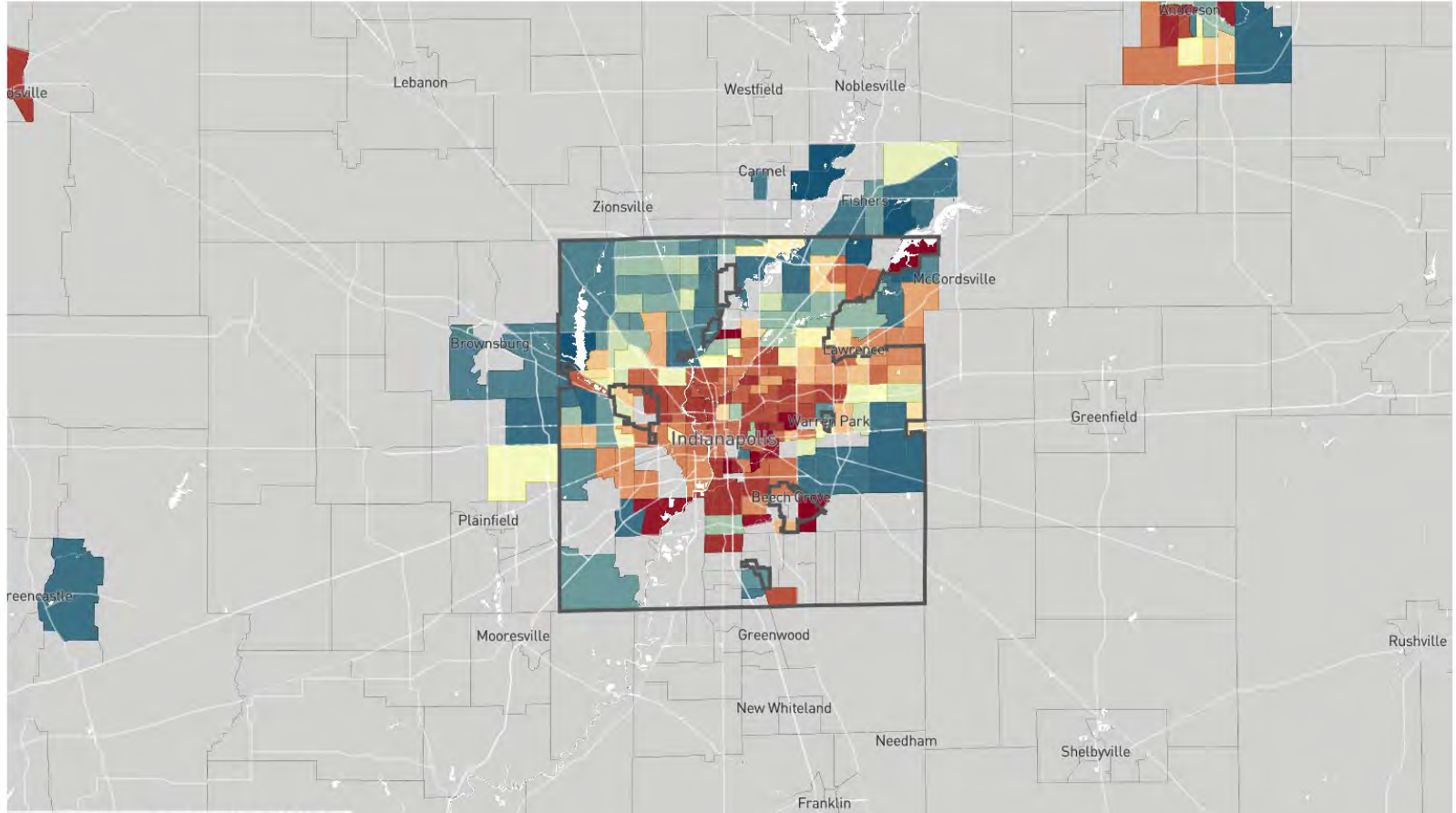


# Household Income at Age 35 for Children of Low Income Parents





# Household Income at Age 35 for Black Children of Low Income Parents



# Key Drivers of Intergenerational Poverty



# Seven Potential Drivers of Intergenerational Poverty

Children's  
**Education**  
and the  
Education System

Child **Health**  
and the  
Health Care  
System

Family **Income**  
and **Wealth**  
and Parental  
**Employment**

**Family  
Structure**

**Housing,**  
Residential Mobility,  
and Neighborhood  
Conditions

**Neighborhood  
Safety** and the  
Criminal Justice  
System

**Child  
Maltreatment**  
and the Child  
Welfare System

# Evidence-Based Policy and Program Ideas



## From the Committee's Statement of Task

The committee will **identify policies and programs** ... for which there is strong evidence that they will reduce multi-generational poverty

- Our definition of “strong evidence”
- Our list of policy and program ideas

# Key Limitations of our Strict Standards of Evidence

- Many worthy policies and programs may not make our list because they lack strong, long-run evidence

# Child and Maternal Health

## Family Planning

- Increase funding for Title X family planning programs
- Ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have access to family planning services

## Health Insurance

- Expand access to Medicaid with continuous 12-month eligibility and 12-month post-partum coverage

## Nutrition

- Expand child access to SNAP program benefits for legal permanent residents and undocumented parents

# Education

## K-12

- Increase K-12 school spending in the poorest districts
- Increase teacher workforce diversity
- Reduce exclusionary school discipline

## Post secondary

- Expand effective financial aid programs for low-income college students
- Increase campus supports such as tutoring and case management

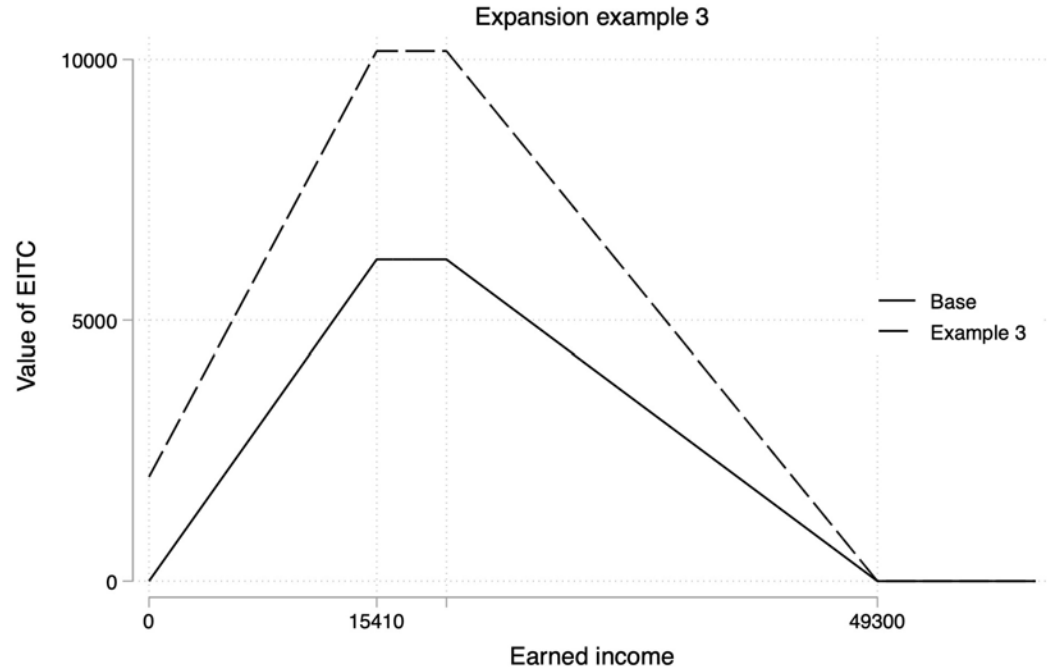
## Occupational training

- Expand high-quality career and technical education programs in high school
- Expand occupational training programs for adults and youth



# Family Income, Employment, and Wealth

Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) by increasing payments along some or all portions of the schedule and possibly by providing a credit to families with no earnings

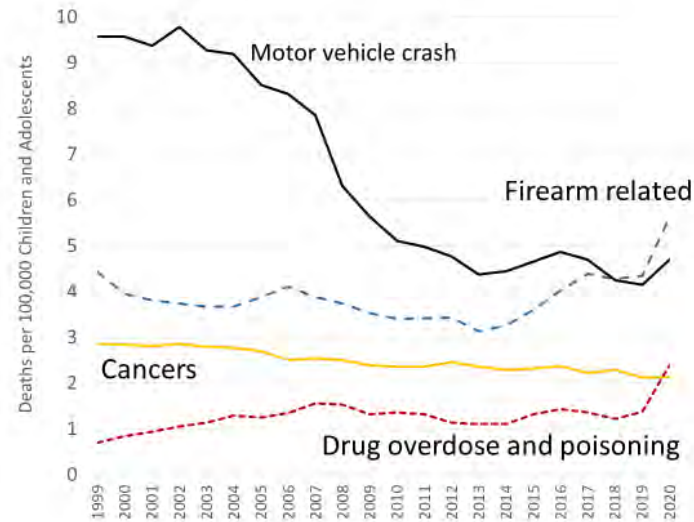


# Neighborhood Crime and the Criminal Justice System

- Juvenile Confinement
  - Use juvenile confinement only for youth who pose a serious and immediate threat to public safety
- Reducing Victimization and Crime
  - Scale up programs that abate vacant lots and abandoned homes
  - Increase grants to community-based organizations
  - Expand funding for policing in high-crime neighborhoods
  - Expand use of effective strategies like community policing

# Neighborhood Crime and the Criminal Justice System (con't)

- Reducing Gun Violence
  - Improve gun safety in ways that pass constitutional review
  - Promote child access prevention laws and restrictions on right-to-carry laws, limit access to guns by domestic abusers
  - Promote sentencing add-ons for violence involving firearms



# The Good News: Diverse Drivers AND Diverse Policies Supported by Strong Evidence

Children's  
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and the  
Education System

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and the  
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and Wealth**  
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**Neighborhood  
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# Thank You!

Link to free PDF download of the full report and related summary products:

<https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/27058/reducing-intergenerational-poverty>

Search “NAS intergenerational poverty”

