



Employment, Poverty and Economic Opportunity

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EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Month	Employed ¹	Unemployed ¹	Unemployment Rate
February 2020	2,249,353	67,120	2.9%
April 2020	2,042,032 (-207,321)	268,537 (+201,417)	11.6% (+8.7 percentage pts)
May 2022 (preliminary)	2,322,089	79,162	3.3%
NET CHANGE (May 2022 vs February 2020)	+72,736	+12,042	+0.4 percentage pts

April 2020 – May 2022	SCWOS Jobs Posted
280,057 returned to work	114,000+

Location	Unemployment Rate
United States	3.6%
Georgia	3.0%
North Carolina	3.4%

Source: Current Population Survey / Local Area Unemployment Statistics, seasonally adjusted; SC Works Online Services

SOUTH CAROLINA LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

► INDUSTRIES: The largest industries in terms of employment in the state, as of May 2022, are:

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	19.5%
Public Administration	16.6%
Professional and Business Services	13.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	12.0%
Manufacturing	11.7%
Education and Health Services	11.5%
Financial Activities	5.2%
Construction	4.7%
Other Services	3.7%
Information	1.3%

Source: Current Employment Statistics, seasonally adjusted
 Note: Data are preliminary.

SOUTH CAROLINA LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

► OCCUPATIONS: The largest occupations in terms of employment in the state are:

Occupation Group	Percent of Emp.	Occupation Group	Percent of Emp.
Office and Administrative Support	13.9%	Healthcare Support	3.6%
Sales and Related	10.3%	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	3.1%
Transportation and Material Moving	9.7%	Protective Service	2.2%
Food Preparation and Serving Related	9.5%	Computer and Mathematical	2.0%
Production	8.6%	Personal Care and Service	1.9%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	6.2%	Architecture and Engineering	1.9%
Management	5.5%	Community and Social Service	1.5%
Educational Instruction and Library	5.1%	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	0.9%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	4.4%	Legal	0.7%
Business and Financial Operations	4.3%	Life, Physical, and Social Science	0.5%
Construction and Extraction	3.9%	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	0.2%

Source: Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, May 2021

SOUTH CAROLINA AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS BY ECONOMIC SECTOR

Economic Sector	May 2020	May 2022	Change
Total Private	\$882.54	\$965.31	+9.4%
Goods Producing	\$1,092.64	\$1,250.31	+14.4%
Construction	\$1,101.06	\$1,224.55	+11.2%
Manufacturing	\$1,085.07	\$1,266.31	+16.7%
Private Service Producing	\$826.00	\$894.22	+8.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	\$767.25	\$854.12	+11.3%
Financial Activities	\$1,183.49	\$1,254.53	+6.0%
Professional and Business Services	\$1,048.32	\$1,246.90	+18.9%
Education and Health Services	\$838.43	\$936.68	+11.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	\$369.92	\$433.58	+17.2%
Other Services	\$915.04	\$765.83	-16.3%

Source: Current Employment Statistics, DEW/U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Note: Data are not seasonally adjusted. May 2022 data are preliminary.

WHAT IS LMI?

- ▶ Labor market information (LMI) consists of data, statistics, and analysis related to employment and the workforce including:
 - labor supply and demand
 - wages and income
 - labor force and unemployment figures
 - employment projections
 - labor force demographics

- ▶ All material produced by DEW's LMI Division is publicly available at <https://scworkforceinfo.com> (better website coming soon!)

ECONOMIC MOBILITY IN AMERICA

- ▶ Is America the land of opportunity?
- ▶ While people may have different answers to this question, it is possible to evaluate whether someone who is raised in poverty have a good chance of building a better life for themselves.
- ▶ This question has been studied for decades, but our level of understanding is dramatically improved, thanks to work in recent years by Raj Chetty and his research team at Harvard.

KEY FINDINGS FROM CHETTY ET AL.

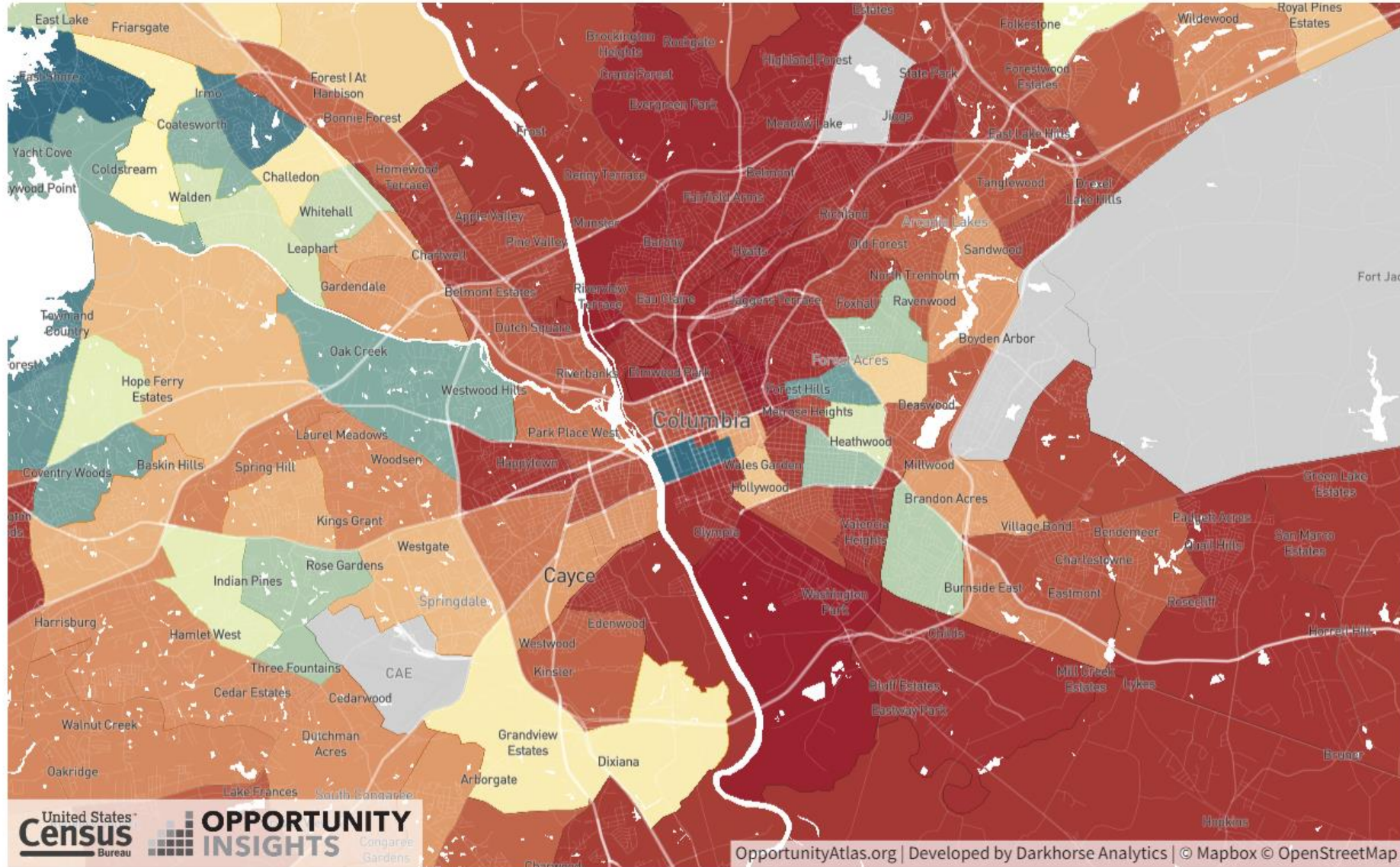
- ▶ The average American born in the bottom quintile (20 percent) of the income distribution has a 7.5% chance of ending up in the top quintile as an adult, compared with 13.5% in Canada.
- ▶ The average American born in 1980 has only a 50/50 shot of being better off economically than their parents, compared with a 90% chance for children born in 1940.
- ▶ Growing up in poverty permanently damages lifetime earnings and probability of employment, especially for boys.

Source: Reeves, R.V., & Krause, E. "Raj Chetty in 14 charts: Big findings on opportunity and mobility we should all know." Brookings Institution, 11 January 2018.
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/social-mobility-memos/2018/01/11/raj-chetty-in-14-charts-big-findings-on-opportunity-and-mobility-we-should-know/>

THE OPPORTUNITY ATLAS

- ▶ Chetty et al. assembled a massive data set using federal records from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Internal Revenue Service.
- ▶ Ultimately, this generated a sample of 20.5 million people born between 1978 and 1983 mapped to the census tract level and linked to data on their earnings at age 35.
- ▶ Yes, he had to sign his life away to see all this private data.
- ▶ The results are available at <https://opportunityatlas.org/>.

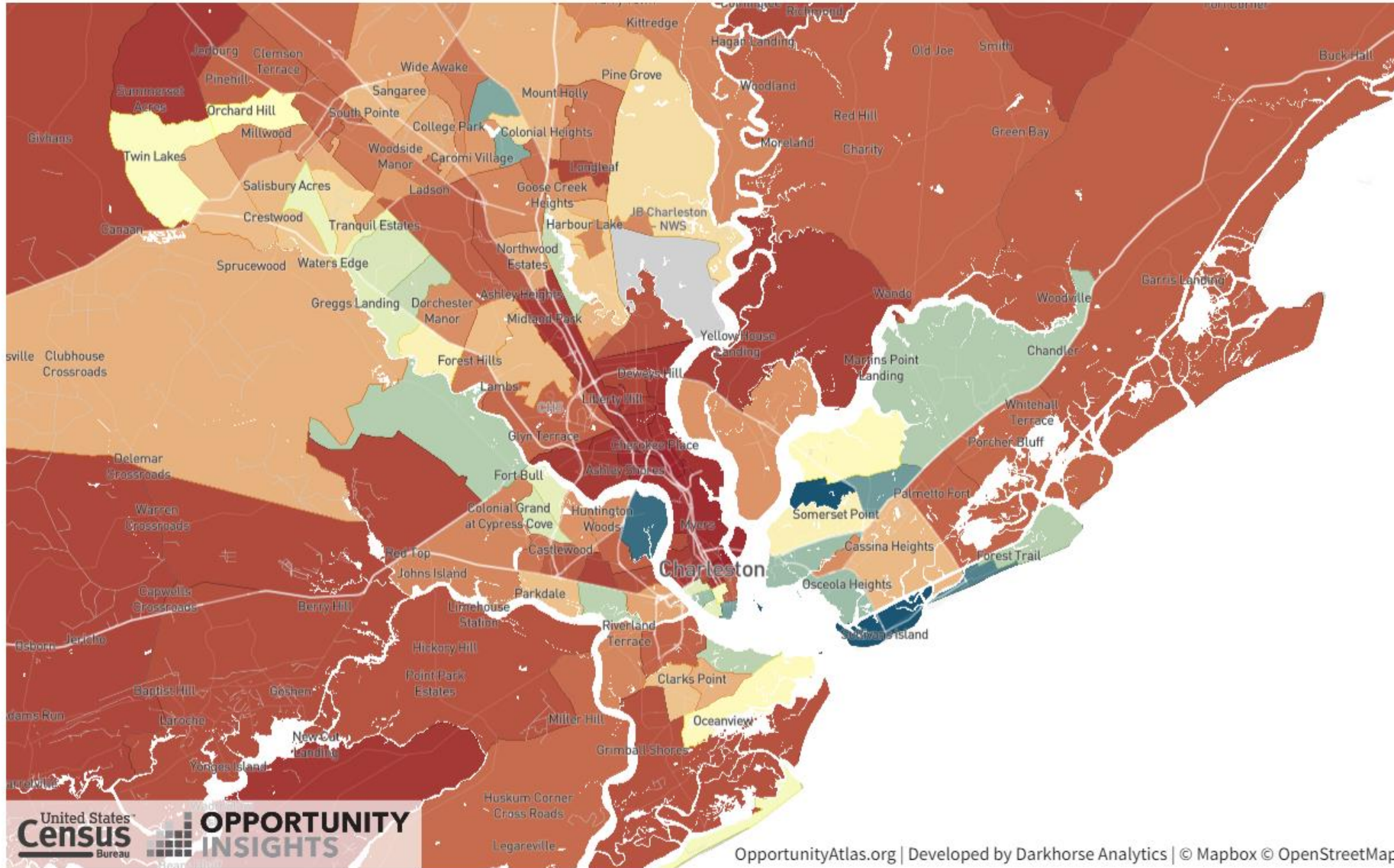
Household Income at Age 35 for Children of Low Income Parents



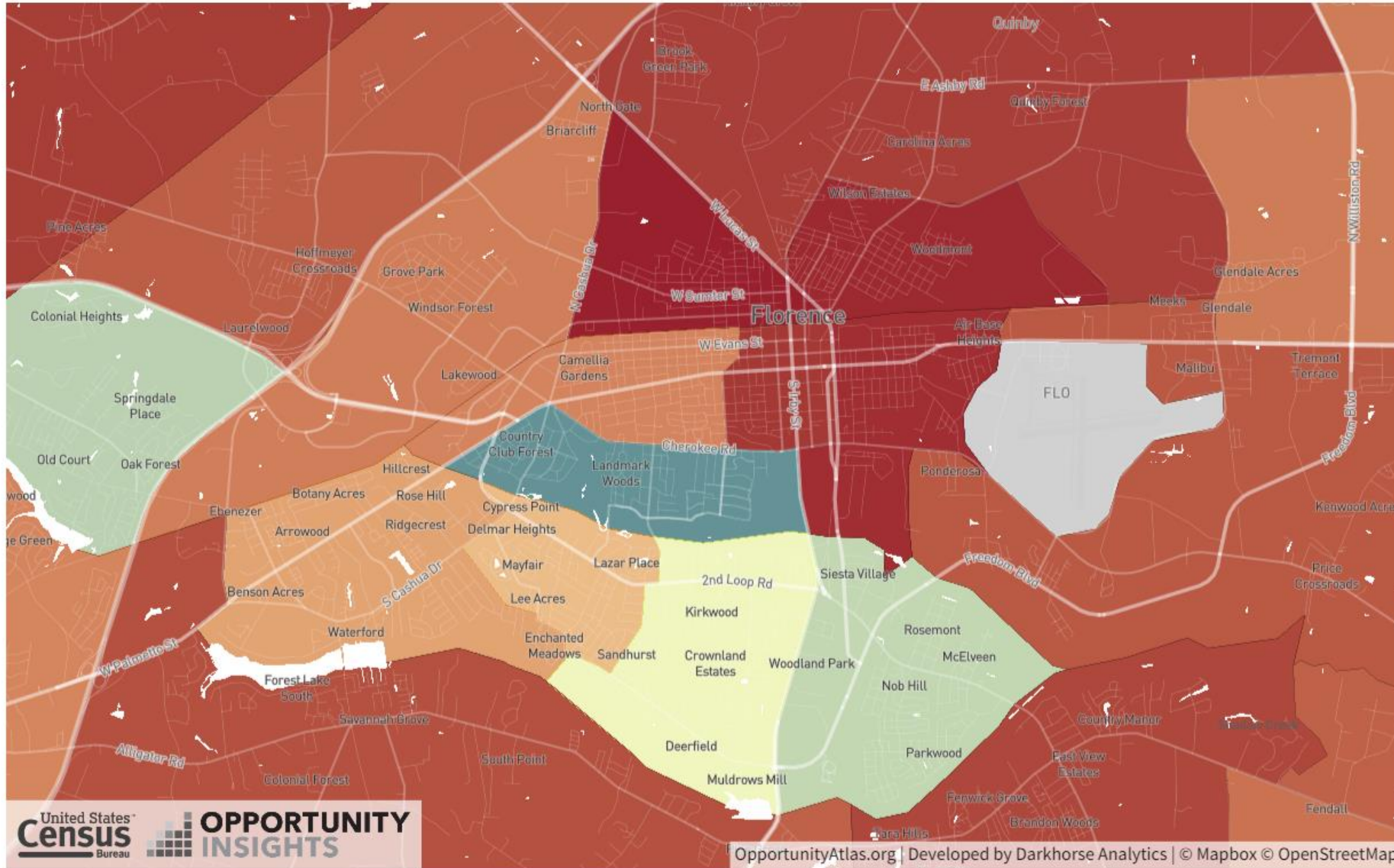
MAPPING OPPORTUNITY IN COLUMBIA

- ▶ Even among children who grew up in low-income households, their adulthood earnings are radically higher in wealthier areas.
- ▶ Similar patterns appear with other sociological outcomes, e.g., rates of incarceration and teenage birth.
- ▶ The tool allows for subdividing results by race and gender.
- ▶ Let's look at some other locations around the state ...

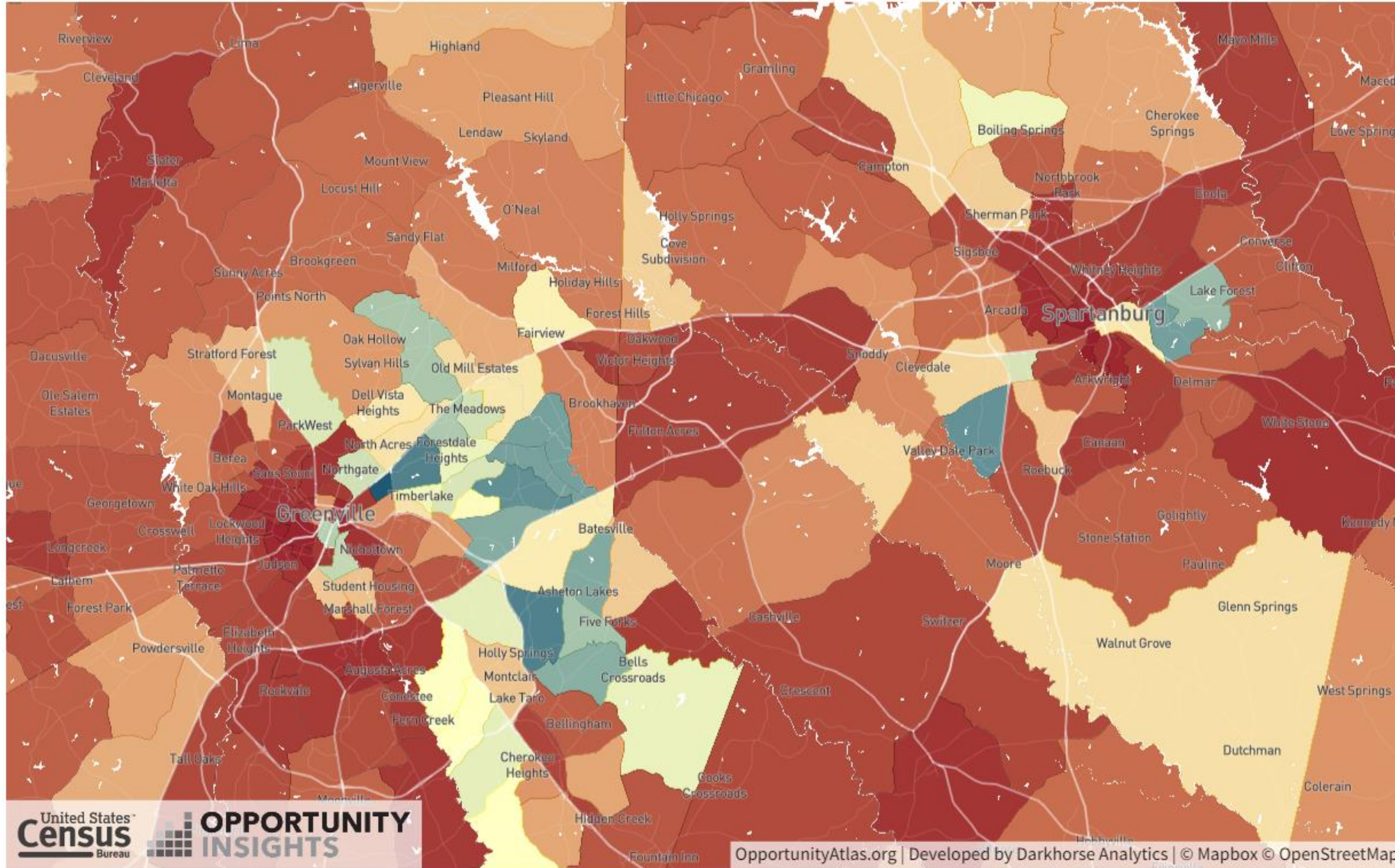
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MAPPING OPPORTUNITY STATEWIDE

- ▶ In Charleston, Florence, and the Upstate, the pattern holds.
- ▶ Not only are the areas with better childhood outcomes those with higher household incomes, but those areas also have:
 - Higher percentage of white non-Hispanic population
 - Lower percentage of single-parent households
 - Higher density of employment opportunities
- ▶ Remember, all of this is controlling for parental income!

CONCLUSION

- ▶ The Opportunity Atlas lays out in numbers and maps what was already known anecdotally: The neighborhood you grow up in is associated with socioeconomic outcomes long after childhood.
- ▶ Other data sets come to similar conclusions. CDC data show that life expectancy for children born in 2010 to 2015 varies widely by neighborhood (e.g., from 67 to 85 in Richland County alone).
- ▶ This rapidly growing field of research can help clarify the ways in which poverty is transmitted from one generation to the next.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Health Statistics: Life Expectancy at Birth for U.S. States and Census Tracts, 2010-2015.
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data-visualization/life-expectancy/>

CONTACT US!

- ▶ If you need help finding data or analysis about our state's workforce, whether it's on our website or not, please don't hesitate to contact LMI.
- ▶ Email address: lmicustomerservice@dew.sc.gov
- ▶ Website: <https://scworkforceinfo.com>

Thank you for your time!