

Shaping Economic Futures: The Role of Communities

Why and how
racial/ethnic equity matters

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The Neighborhood Opportunity Racial Divide

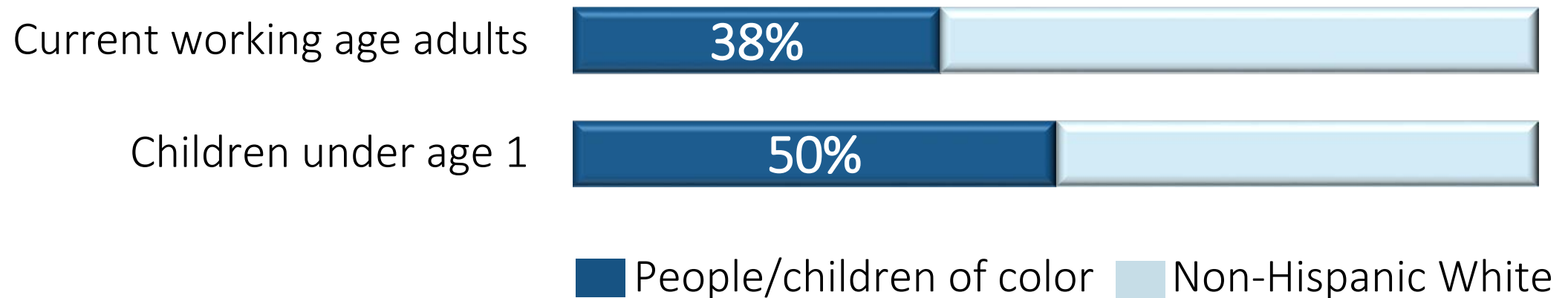
- Question: Do poor children live in poor neighborhoods?



→ Answer: Much more likely to be “yes” if you are Hispanic or Black

How does this divide shape our future?

- 1) Research is now solid: Where a child grows up has a direct effect on later earnings and mobility
- 2) Children of color represent a large and growing share of our future workforce

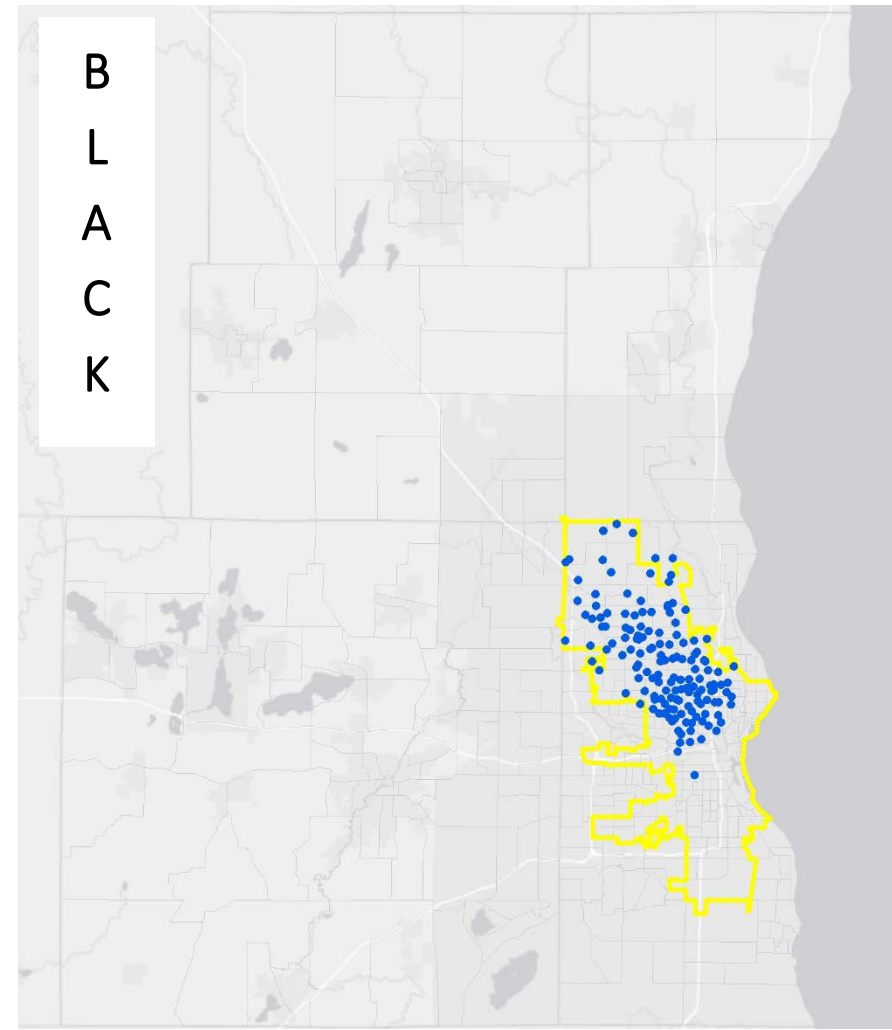
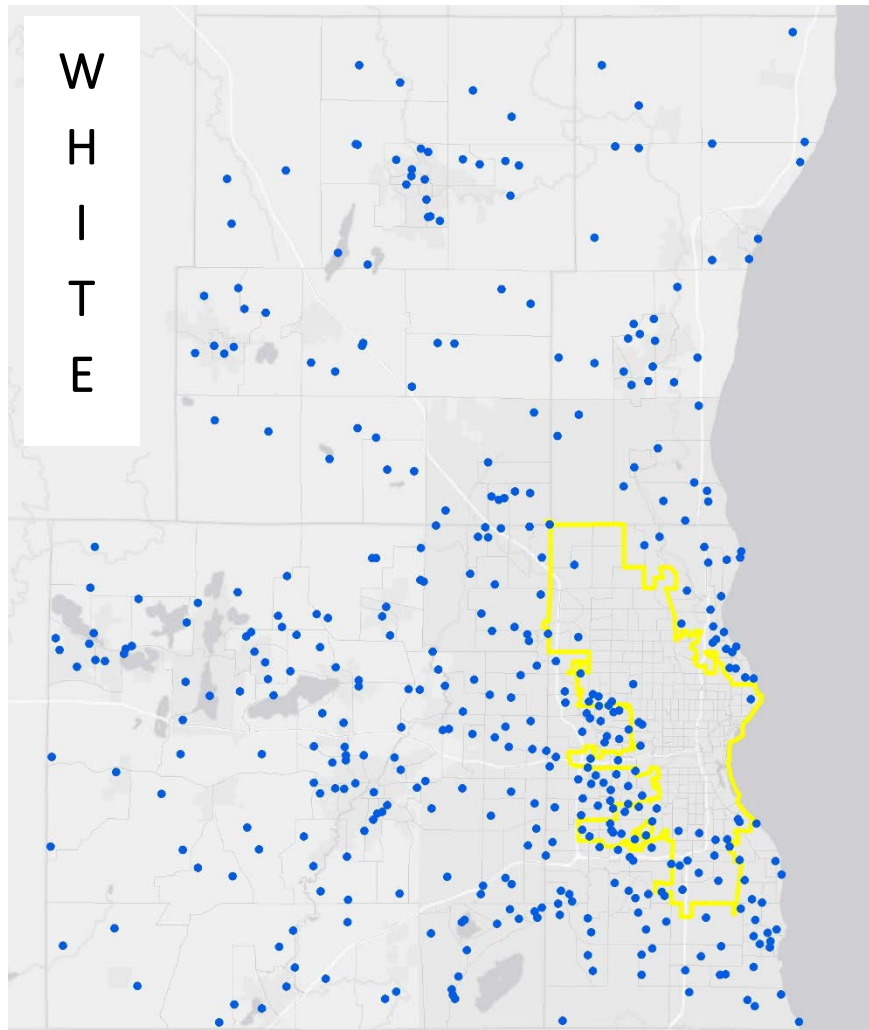


How does this divide shape our future?



- ✓ Strong evidence that community is pivotal for low-income children's later success
- ✓ We know we need as many children as possible in communities that help them thrive
- ✗ But the fastest growing segments of our future workforce are the least likely to live in these communities

What is driving the opportunity divide?



Milwaukee
Metro Area

1 dot=
500 children

→ Children of different racial/ethnic groups often live apart

What is driving the divide?



Artist: Duncan Tonatiuh

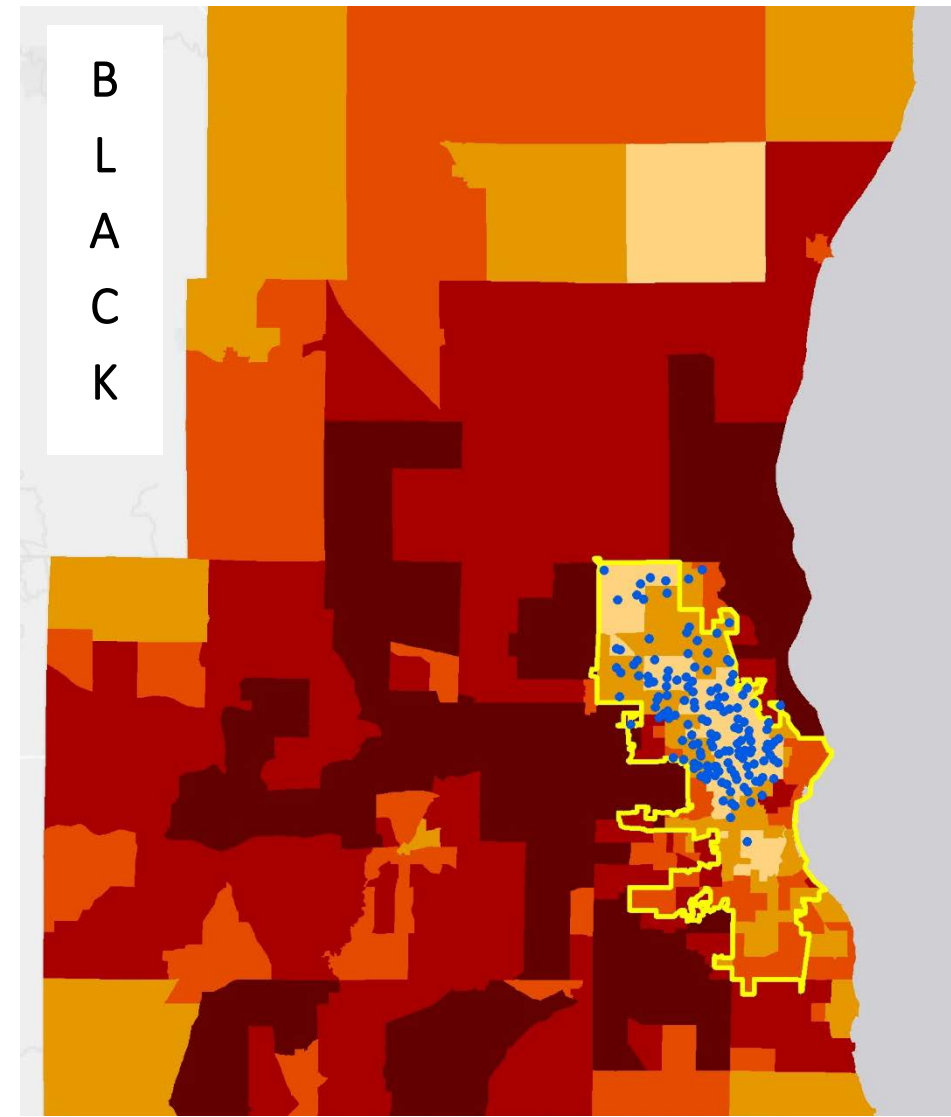
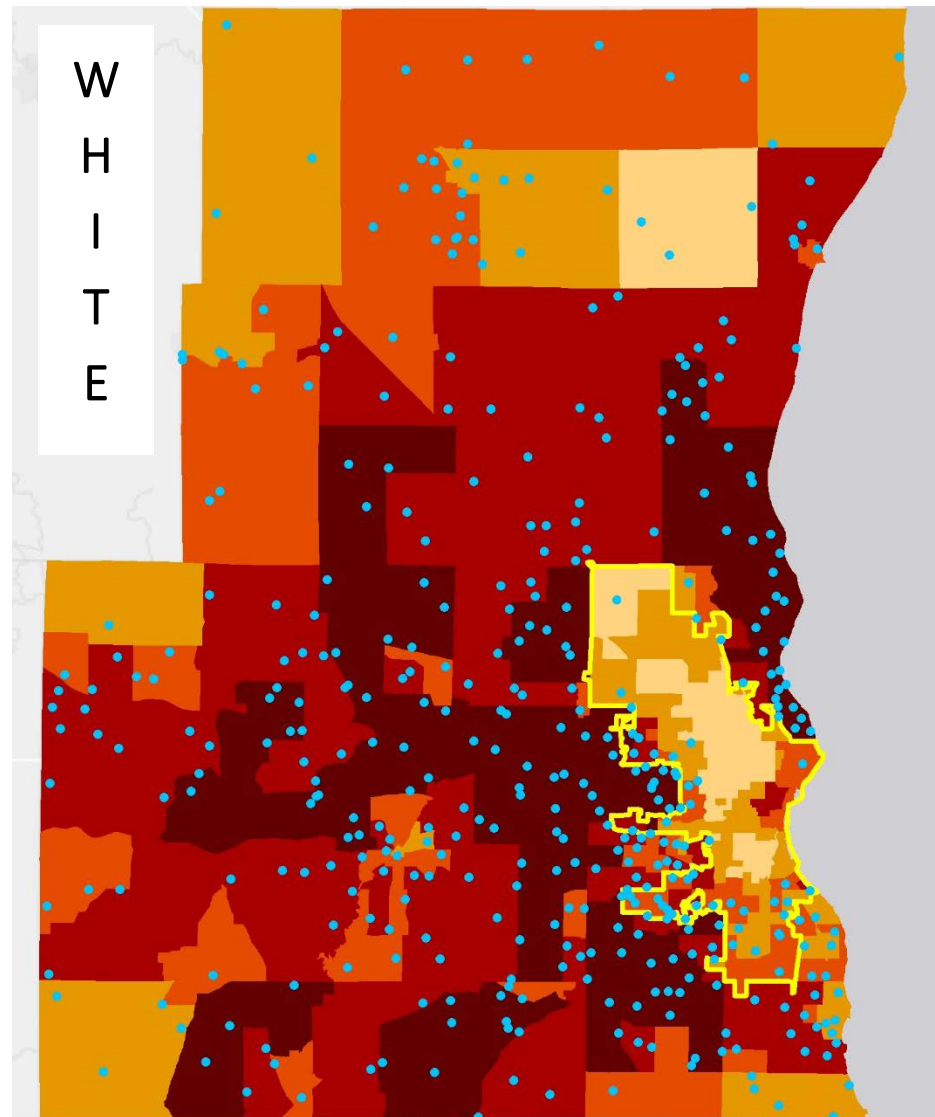
- Children are living separately, so we asked: “Is separate equal” ?
- Knowing the “geography of children” is patterned by race/ethnicity, we compare with the “geography of opportunity”
- We created **The Child Opportunity Index** to look for answers

The Child Opportunity Index

- Measures the neighborhood as a “whole”
- Multi-item index | 19 individual indicators
- Institutions and conditions
- Race-neutral
- Relative measure



The Opportunity Divide: Separate is not equal

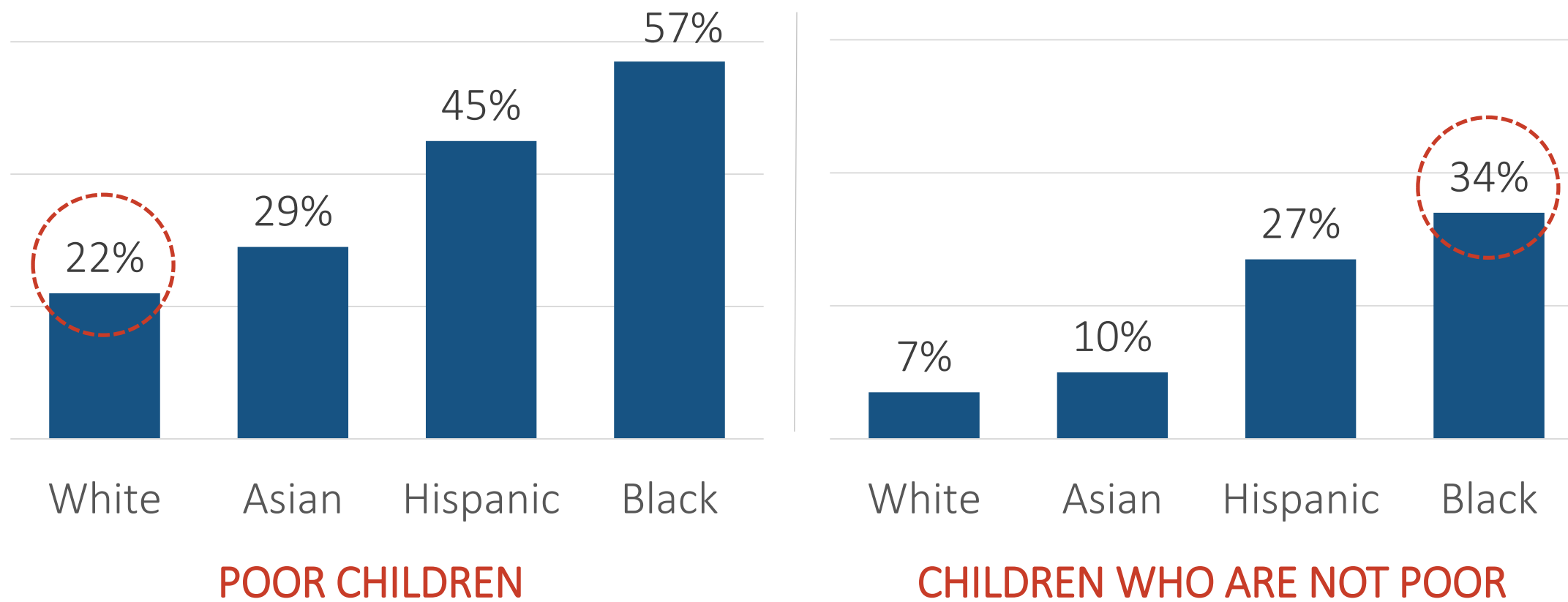


As colors get darker, opportunity levels get higher | Data for your area at diversitydatakids.org

Racial/ethnic divide is not all about income

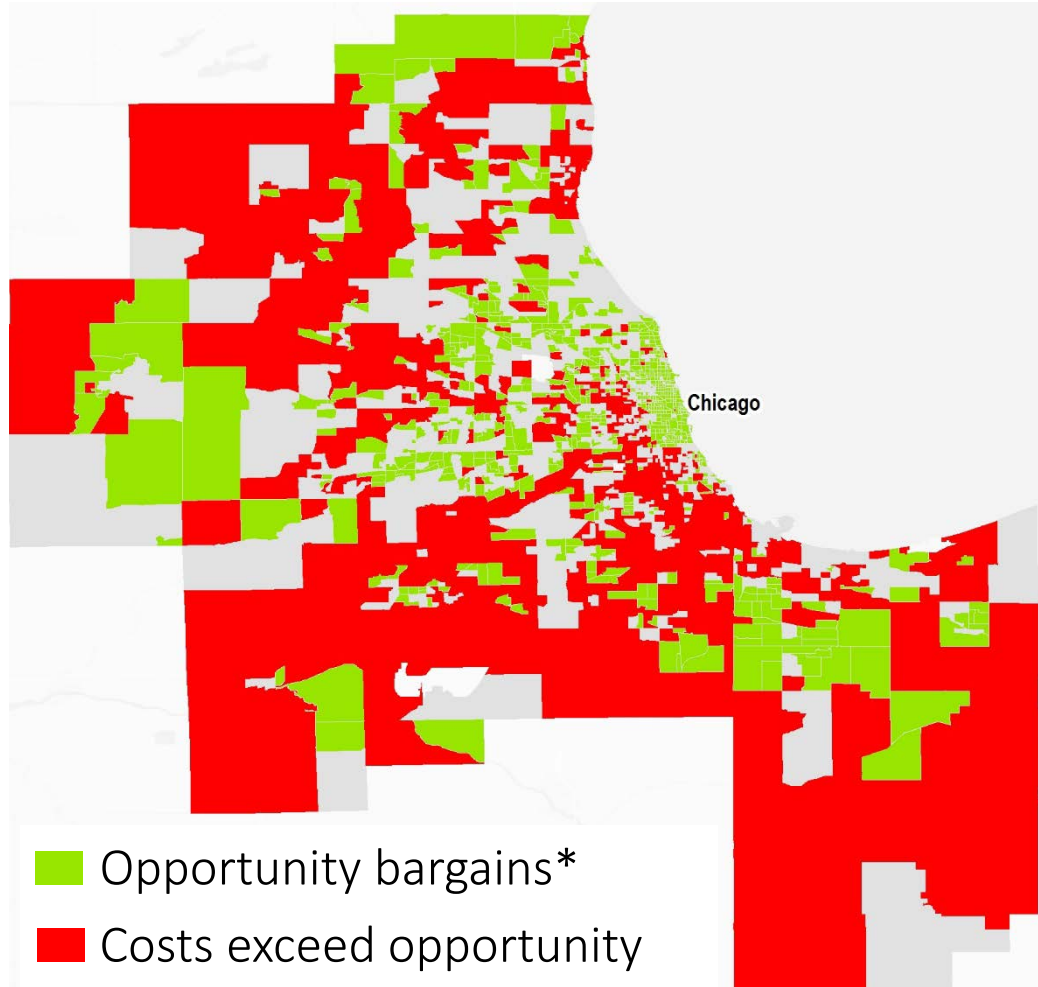
Share in very low opportunity neighborhoods

100 Largest US Metros

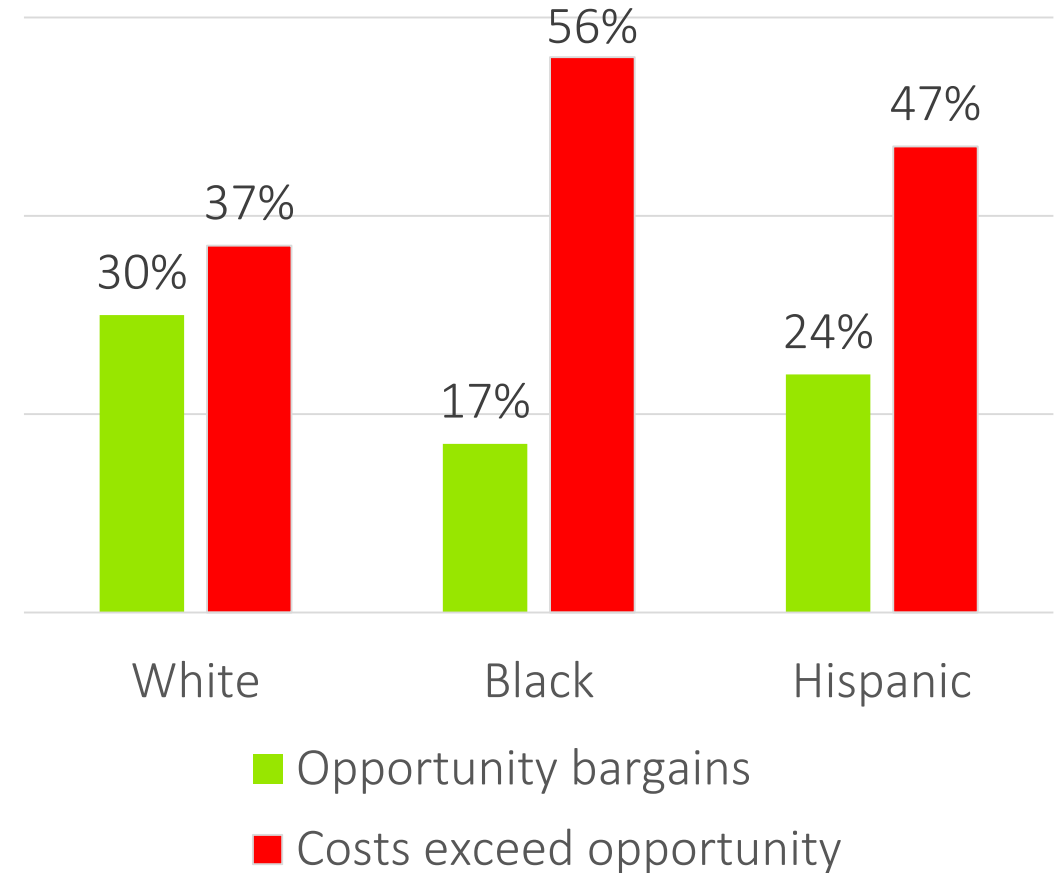


Affordability issues exacerbate equity issues

The cost of opportunity in Chicago



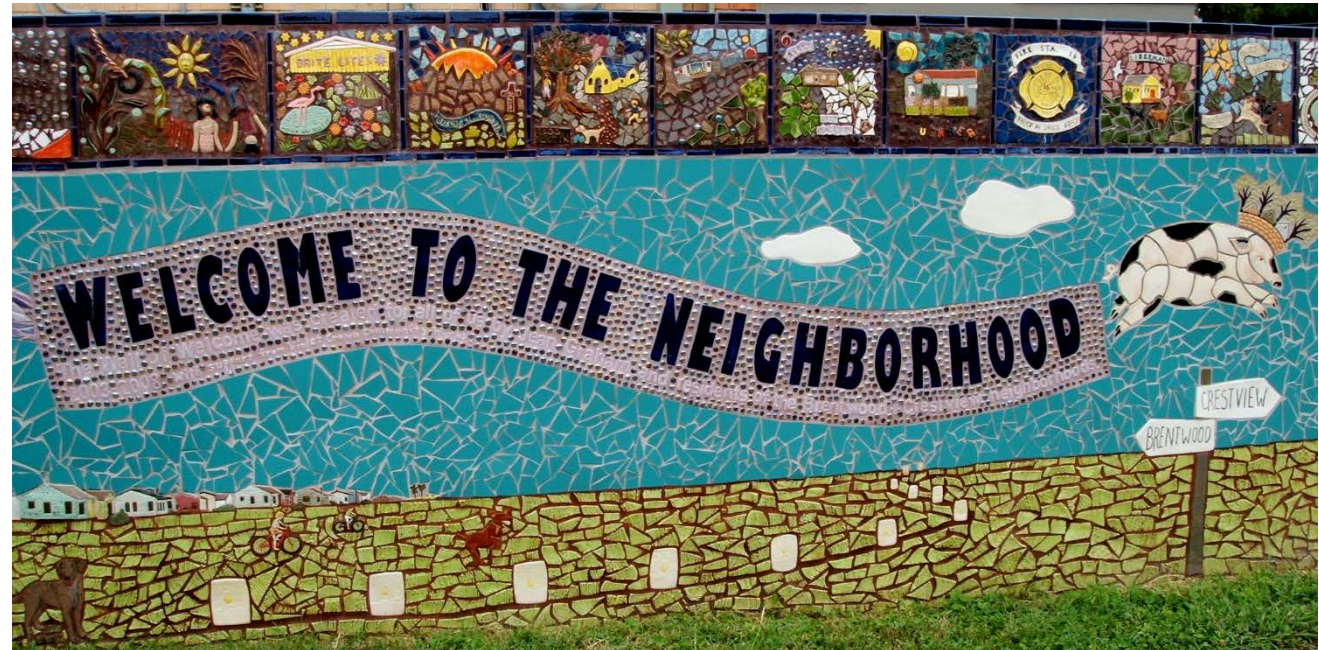
Cost-opportunity balance in Chicago by Race/Ethnicity



*Term from Chetty et al. (2016)

What strategies hold the most potential?

- Strategies that improve opportunities for all low-income children and that are race/ethnicity-conscious
- Mobility strategies or place strategies or a mosaic?
 - Research in a good place to back mobility approaches
 - For place approaches: institutions? conditions?



Opportunities and Challenges

- Reduce family-level barriers to access: mobility programs, zoning
- Incentivize affordable housing in opportunity areas
- Use locational strategies in policy areas that influence distribution of community resources (e.g. early childhood education programs)
- Enforce fair housing laws: Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing
- Attach research/evaluation to place-based approaches
- **Leverage (and protect) vast data infrastructure in place that is critical to all of these opportunities**

Acknowledgements

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- Please visit diversitydatakids.org to view data for your area
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