



# The Science of Economic Opportunity

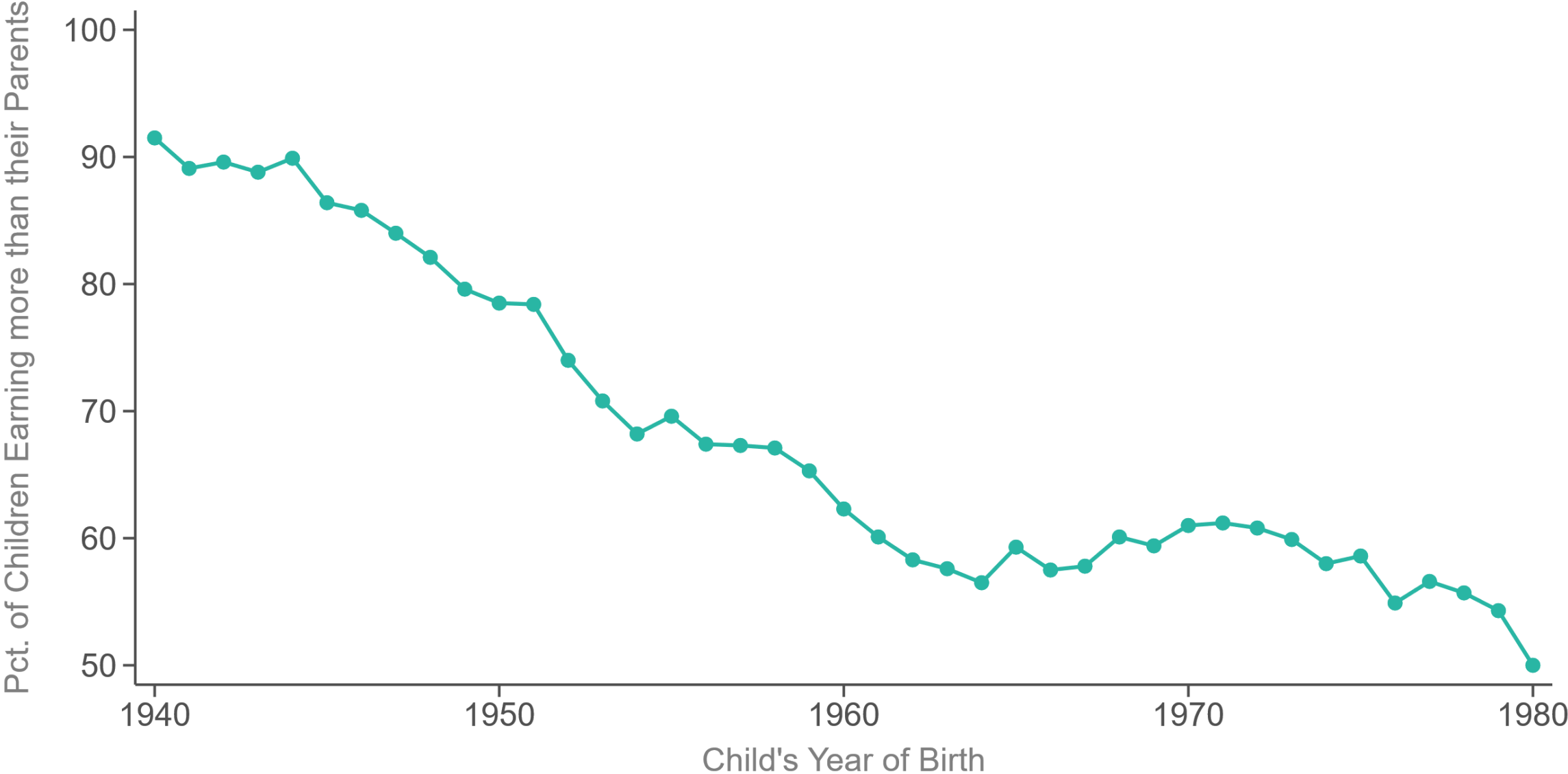
## New Insights from Big Data



Raj Chetty  
Harvard University

# The Fading American Dream

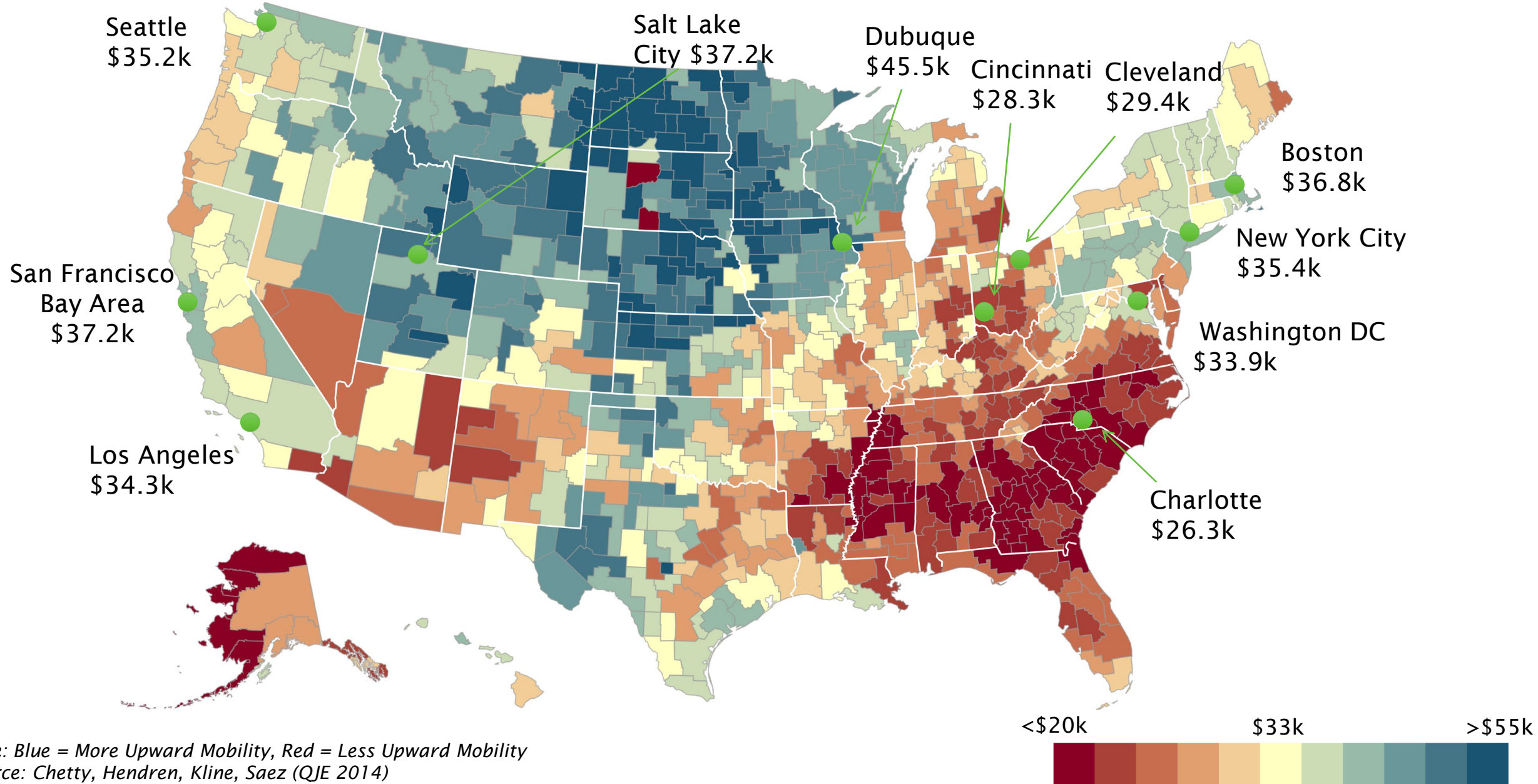
Percent of Children Earning More than Their Parents, by Year of Birth



Source: Chetty, Grusky, Hell, Hendren, Manduca, Narang (Science 2017)

# The Geography of Upward Mobility in the United States

Average Household Income at Age 35 for Children whose Parents Earned \$27k (25<sup>th</sup> pctile)



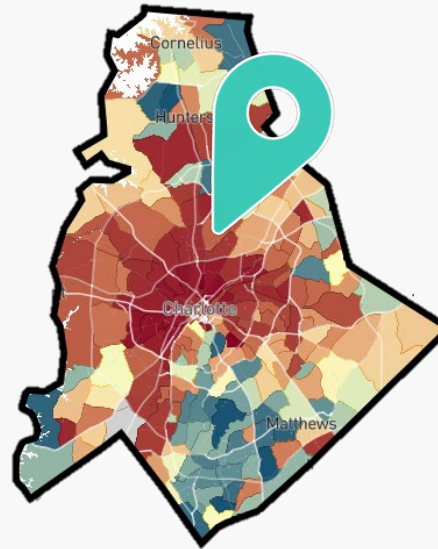
# Three Policy Approaches to Increasing Upward Mobility

## Reducing Segregation



Help Low-Income Families Move to High-Opportunity Areas

## Place-Based Investments



Increase Upward Mobility in Low-Opportunity Areas

## Improving Higher Education



Amplify Impacts of Colleges on Mobility

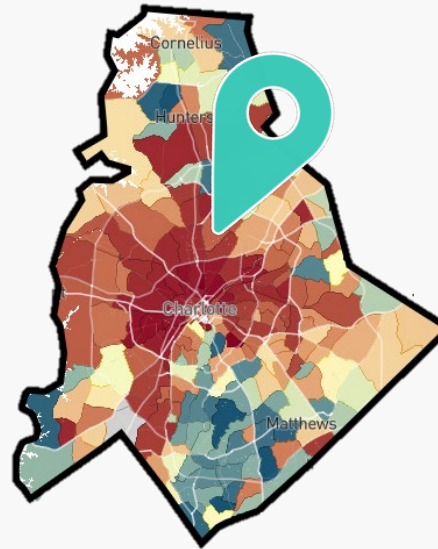
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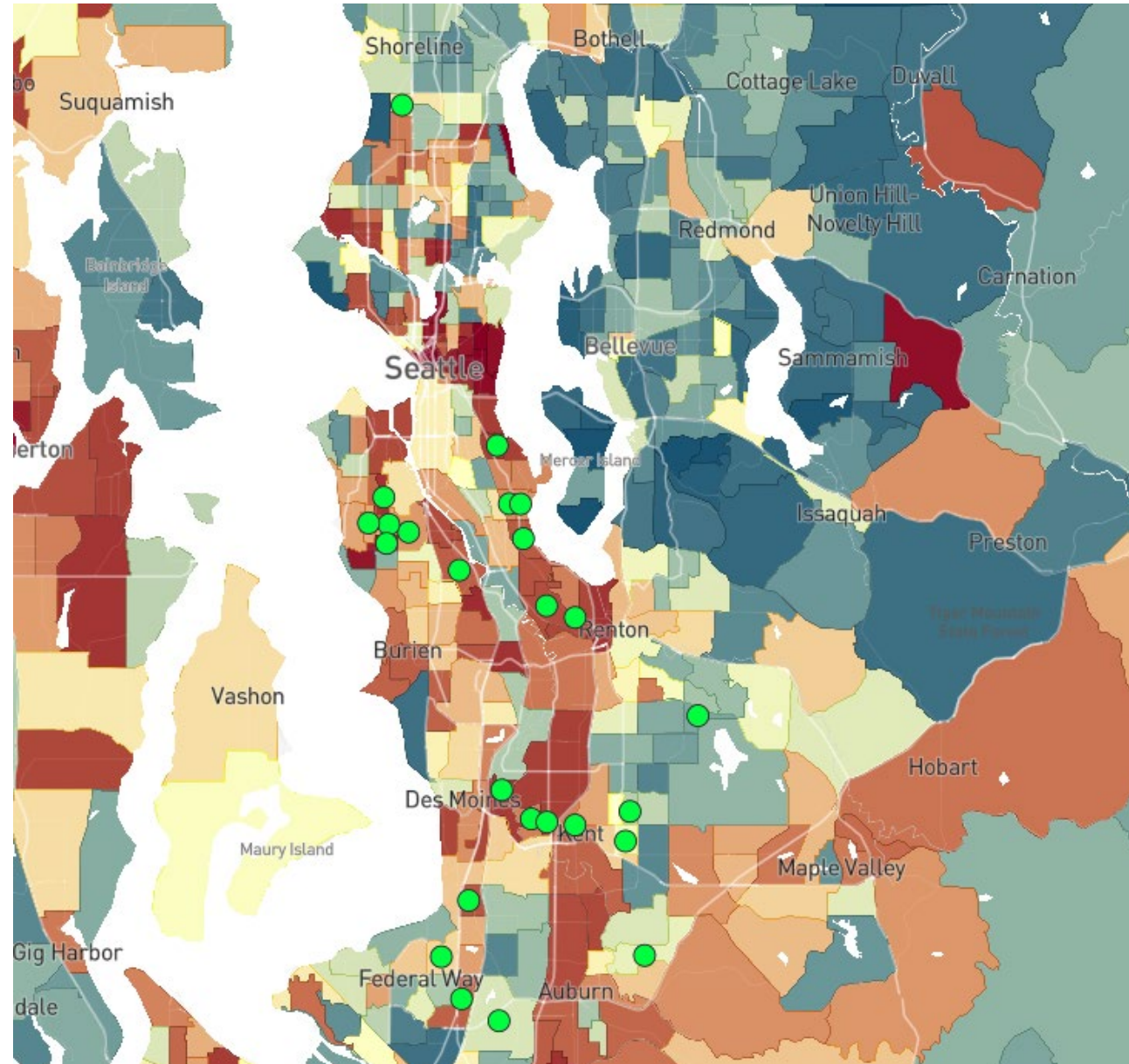
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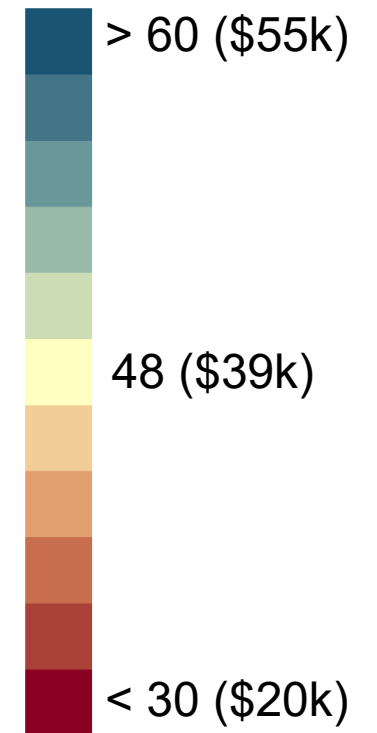
# The Geography of Upward Mobility in Seattle

Average Income at Age 35 for Children with Parents Earning \$27,000 (25th percentile)



● 25 most common tracts where voucher holders lived in 2015-17

Percentile Rank in Adulthood

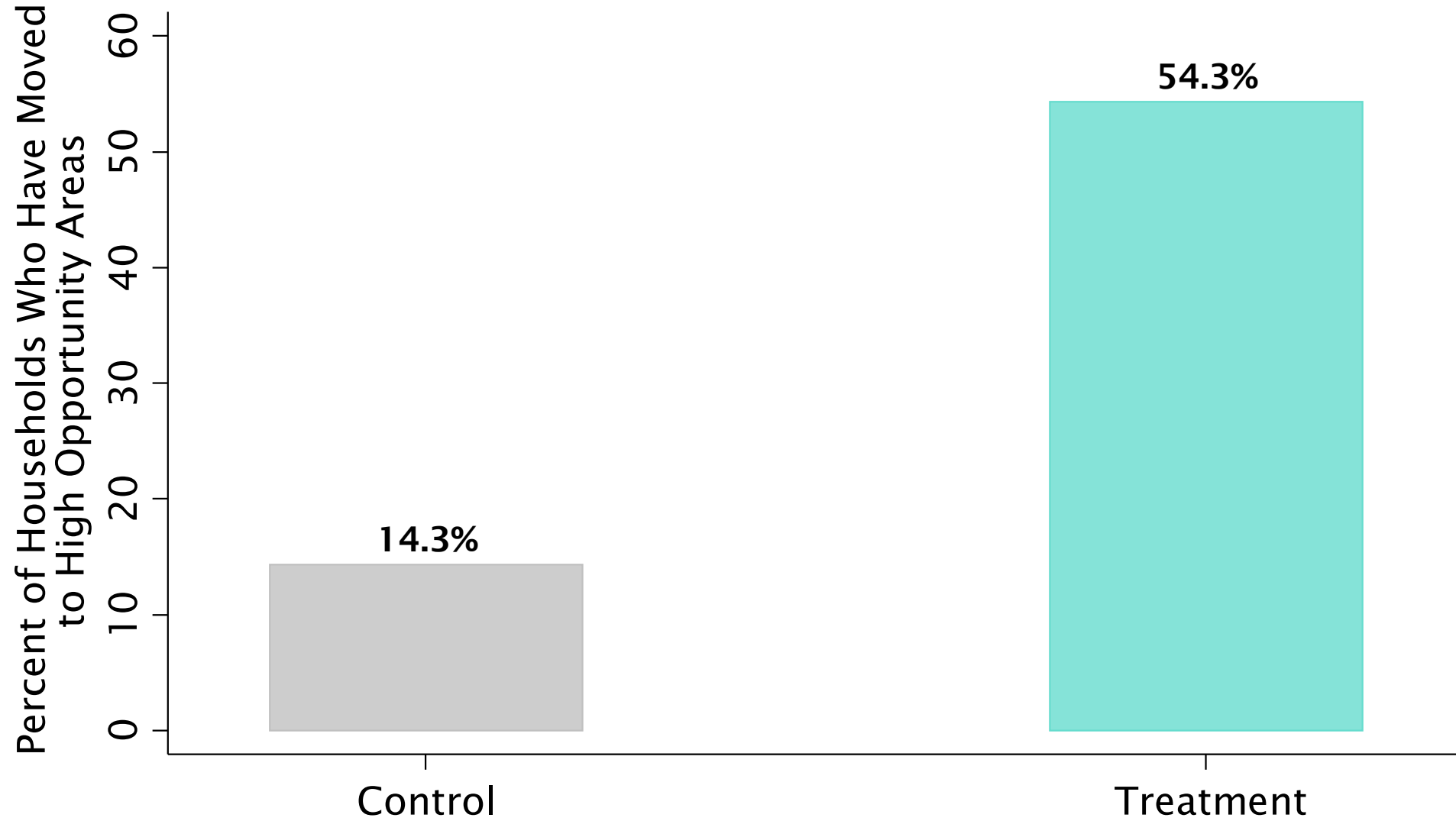


# Creating Moves to Opportunity in Seattle

*Randomized trial to help families with housing vouchers move to high-opportunity neighborhoods by providing customized counseling, connections to landlords, and liquidity*



# Fraction of Families Who Leased Units in High-Opportunity Areas



Difference: **40.0 pp**  
SE: (5.2)

Source: Bergman, Chetty, DeLuca, Hendren, Katz, Palmer (AER 2023)



# From Research to Policy: Impacts on Federal Affordable Housing Policies

## Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration Act (2018)

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

### H. R. 5793

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 11, 2018

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

### AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving such voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act (2023)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

### S. 1257

To authorize a new type of housing choice voucher to help achieve the goals of ending homelessness among families with children, increasing housing opportunities, and improving life outcomes of poor children.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2023

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

### A BILL

To authorize a new type of housing choice voucher to help achieve the goals of ending homelessness among families with children, increasing housing opportunities, and improving life outcomes of poor children.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**
- 4 This Act may be cited as the “Family Stability and
- 5 Opportunity Vouchers Act of 2023”.

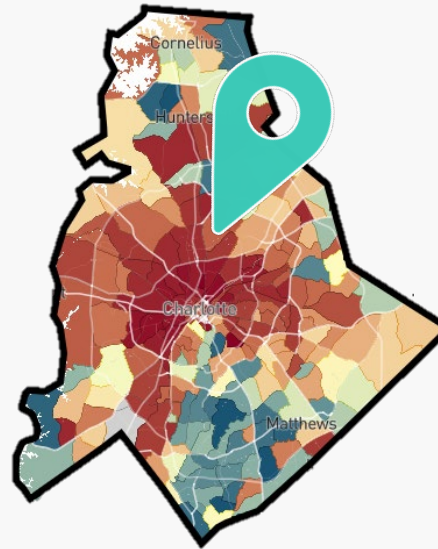
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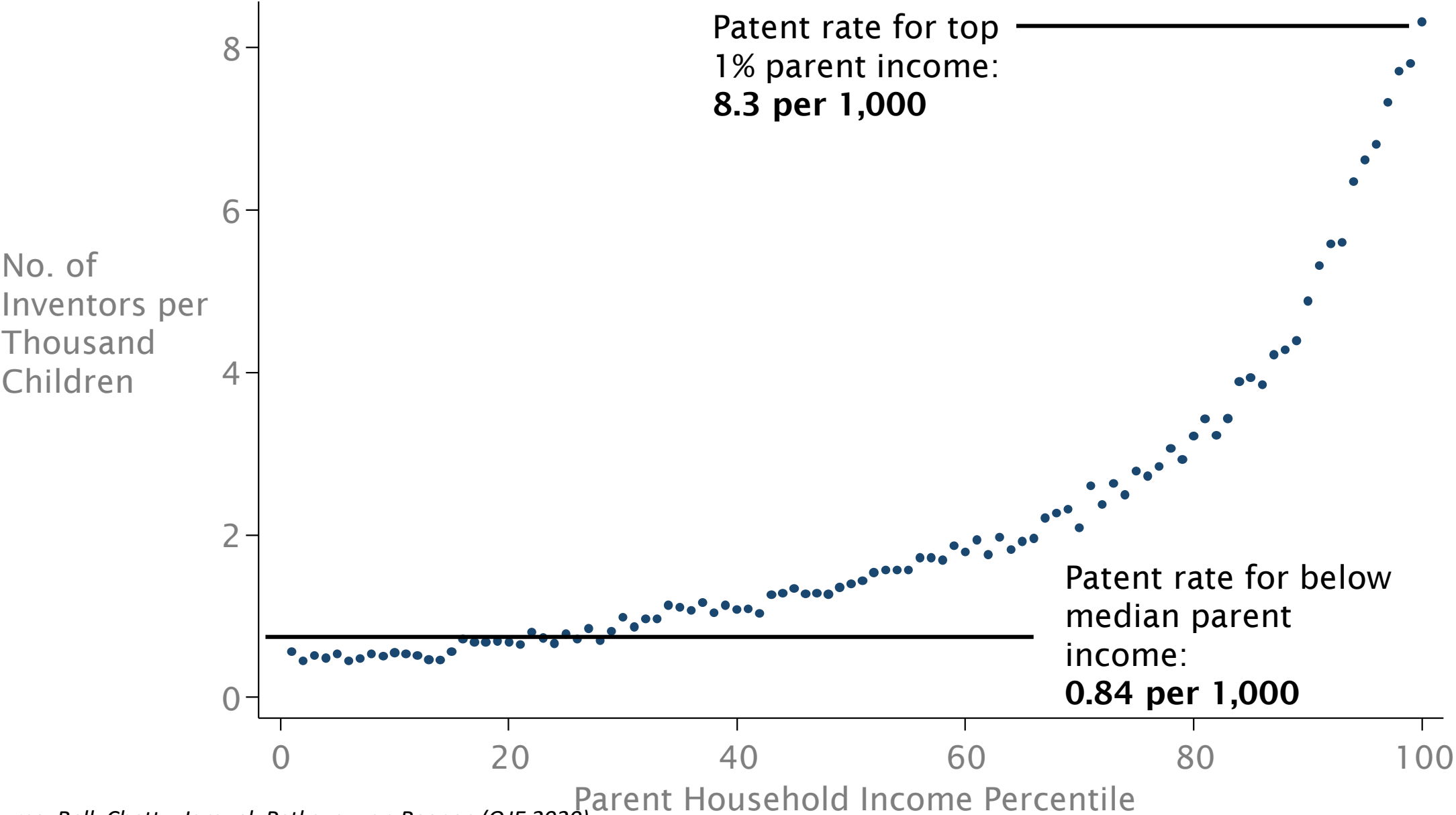
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## Improving Higher Education



Amplify Impacts of Colleges on Mobility

# Patent Rates vs. Parent Income



Source: Bell, Chetty, Jaravel, Petkova, van Reenen (QJE 2020)

# Lost Einsteins



4x

If women, minorities, and children from low-income families invent at the same rate as high-income white men, **the innovation rate in America would quadruple**



*From Jasmine, 7 years old, whose family moved to a high-opportunity area in Seattle in the Creating Moves to Opportunity study*



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