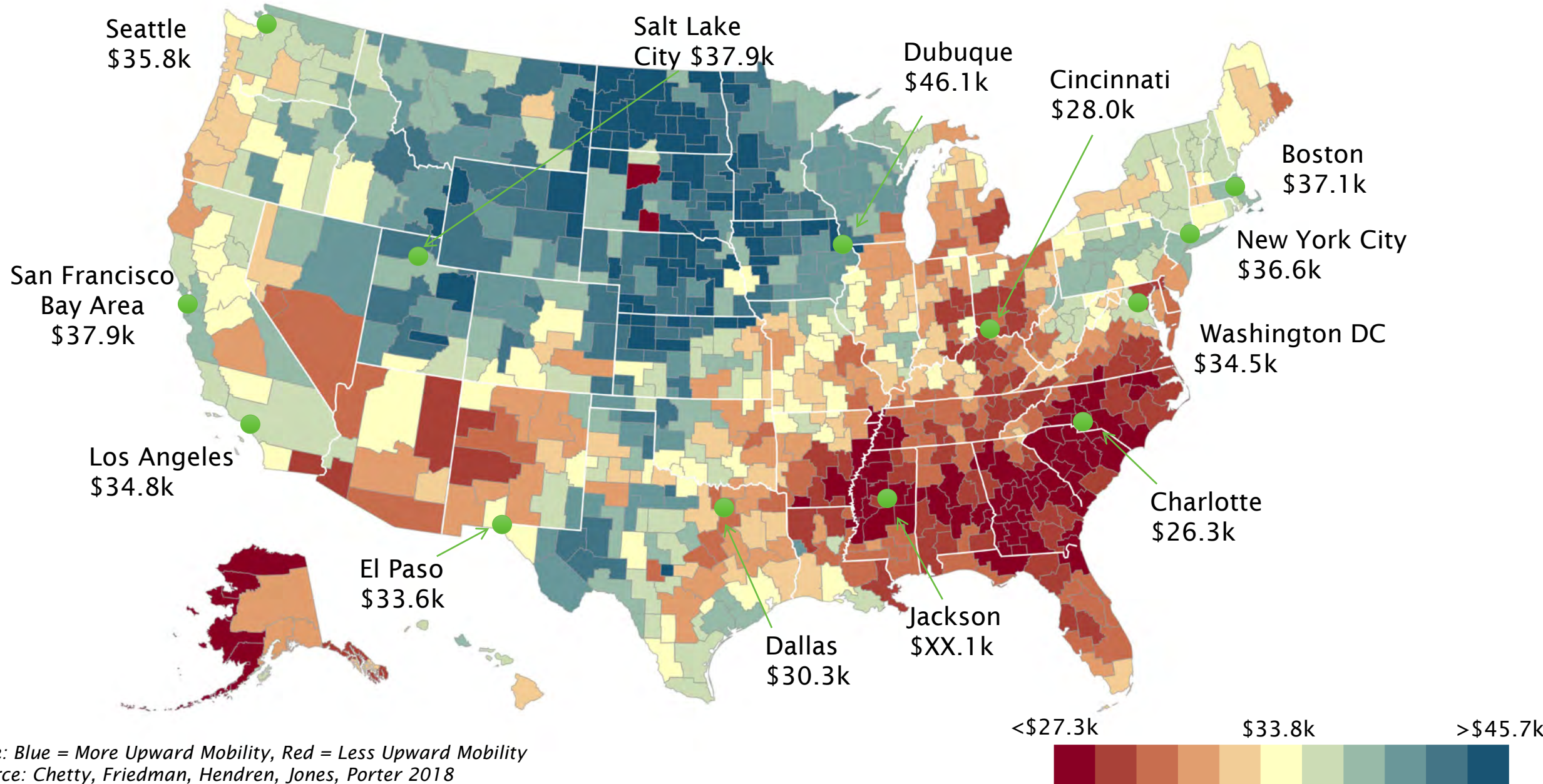




Leveraging Social Capital Networks to Advance Economic Mobility

The Geography of Upward Mobility in the United States

Average Income at Age 35 for Children whose Parents Earned \$25,000 (25th percentile)



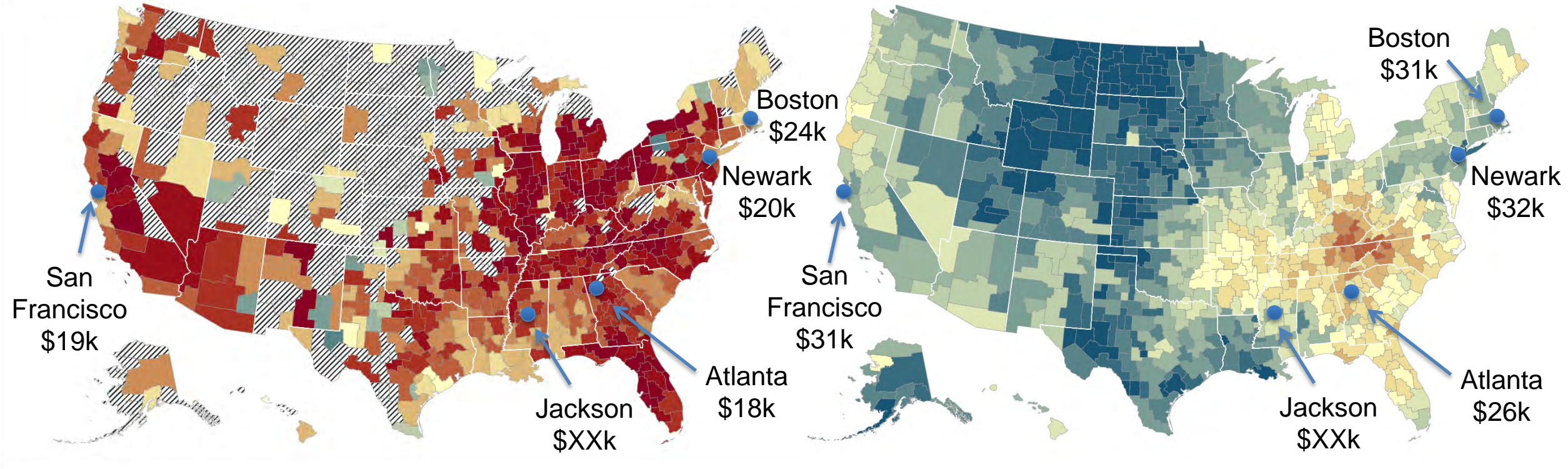
Note: Blue = More Upward Mobility, Red = Less Upward Mobility
Source: Chetty, Friedman, Hendren, Jones, Porter 2018

Two Americas: The Geography of Upward Mobility by Race

Average Individual Income Rank for Boys with Parents Earning \$25,000 (25th percentile)

Black Men

White Men



<36.5
(\$17k)

45.8
(\$25k)

>56.9
(\$35k)

Note: Green = More Upward Mobility, Red = Less Upward Mobility; Grey = Insufficient Data

Characteristics of High-Mobility Neighborhoods

Lower poverty rates



More stable family structure



Better school quality

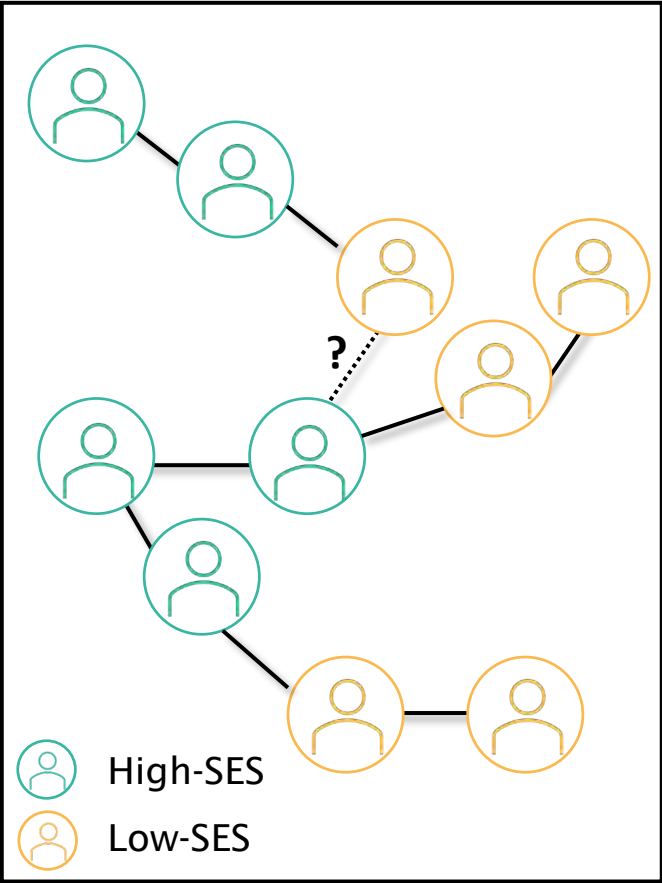


Greater social capital

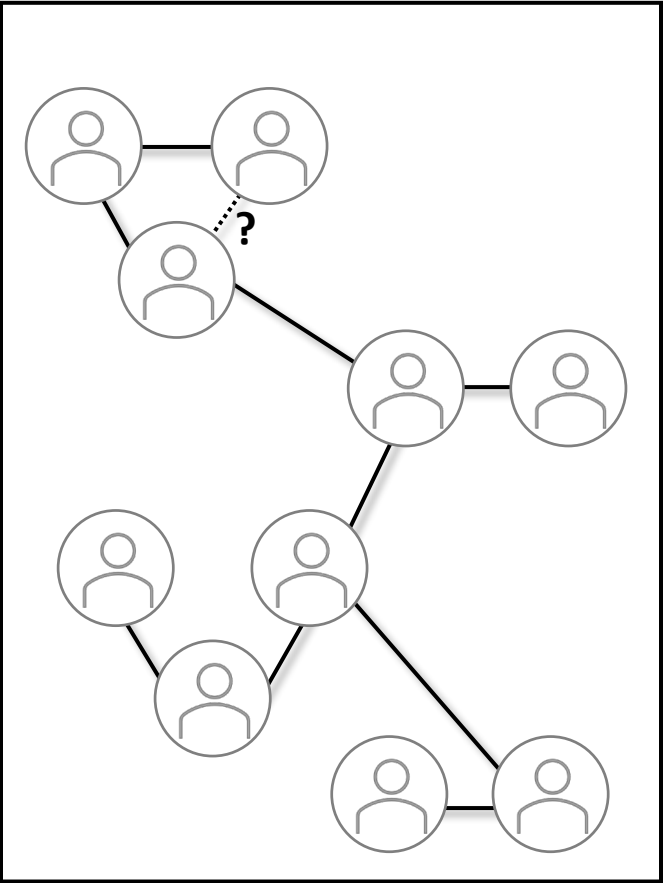


What is "Social Capital"? Three Concepts

Connectedness



Cohesiveness

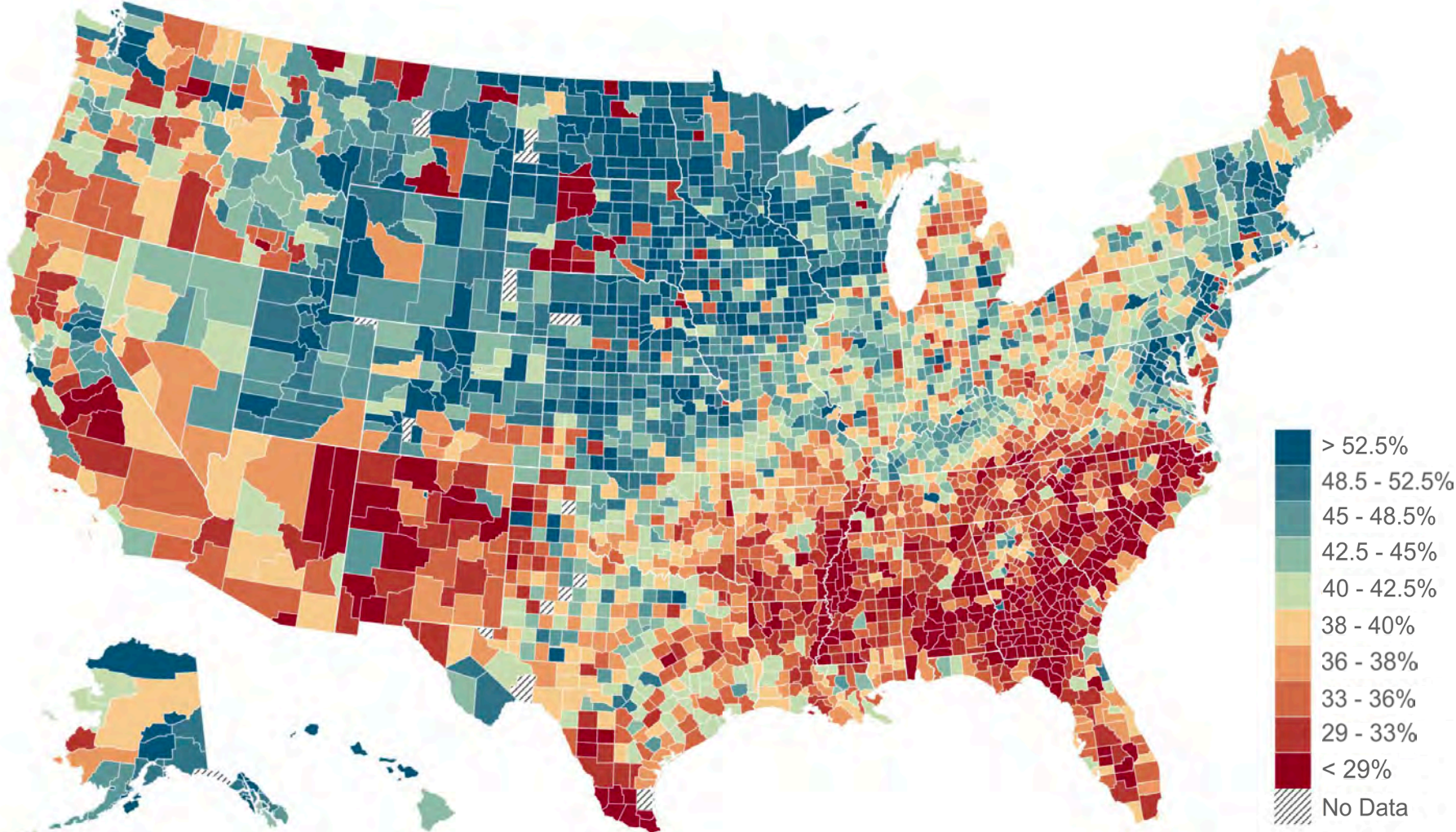


Civic Engagement



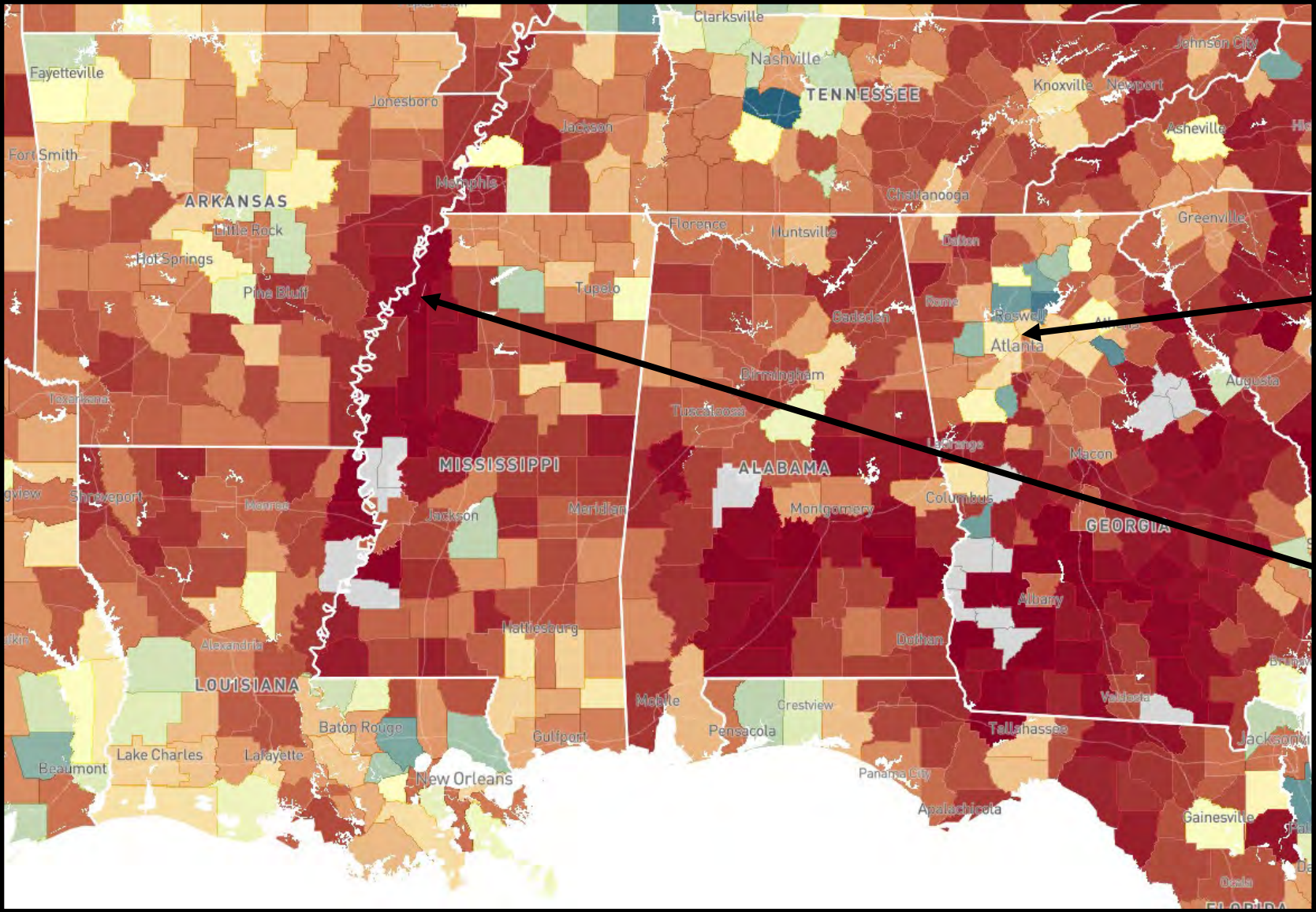
Economic Connectedness of Low-SES Individuals, by County

Share of Above-Median-SES Friends Among Below-Median-SES People in Facebook Data



Source: Chetty, Jackson, Kuchler, Stroebel et al. (Nature 2022a,b)

Economic Connectedness Across Counties Southeast



Percentage of High-Income Friends Among Low-Income People

78.7%

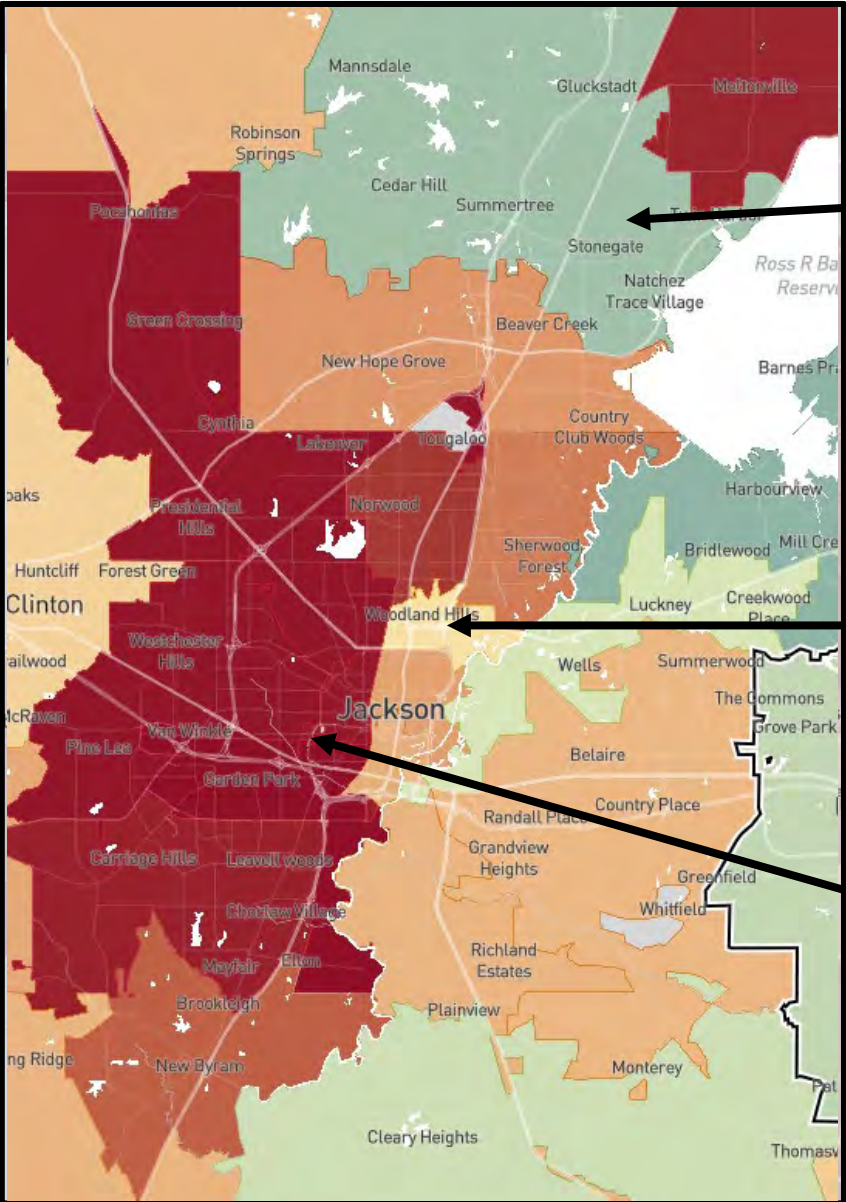
*Atlanta, GA:
40% Economic
Connectedness*

43.8%

*Clarksdale, MS:
22% Economic
Connectedness*

17.2%

Economic Connectedness in Jackson, MS



Percentage of High-Income Friends Among Low-Income People

*Madison:
50% Economic
Connectnedness*

78.7%

*Fondren:
42% Economic
Connectnedness*

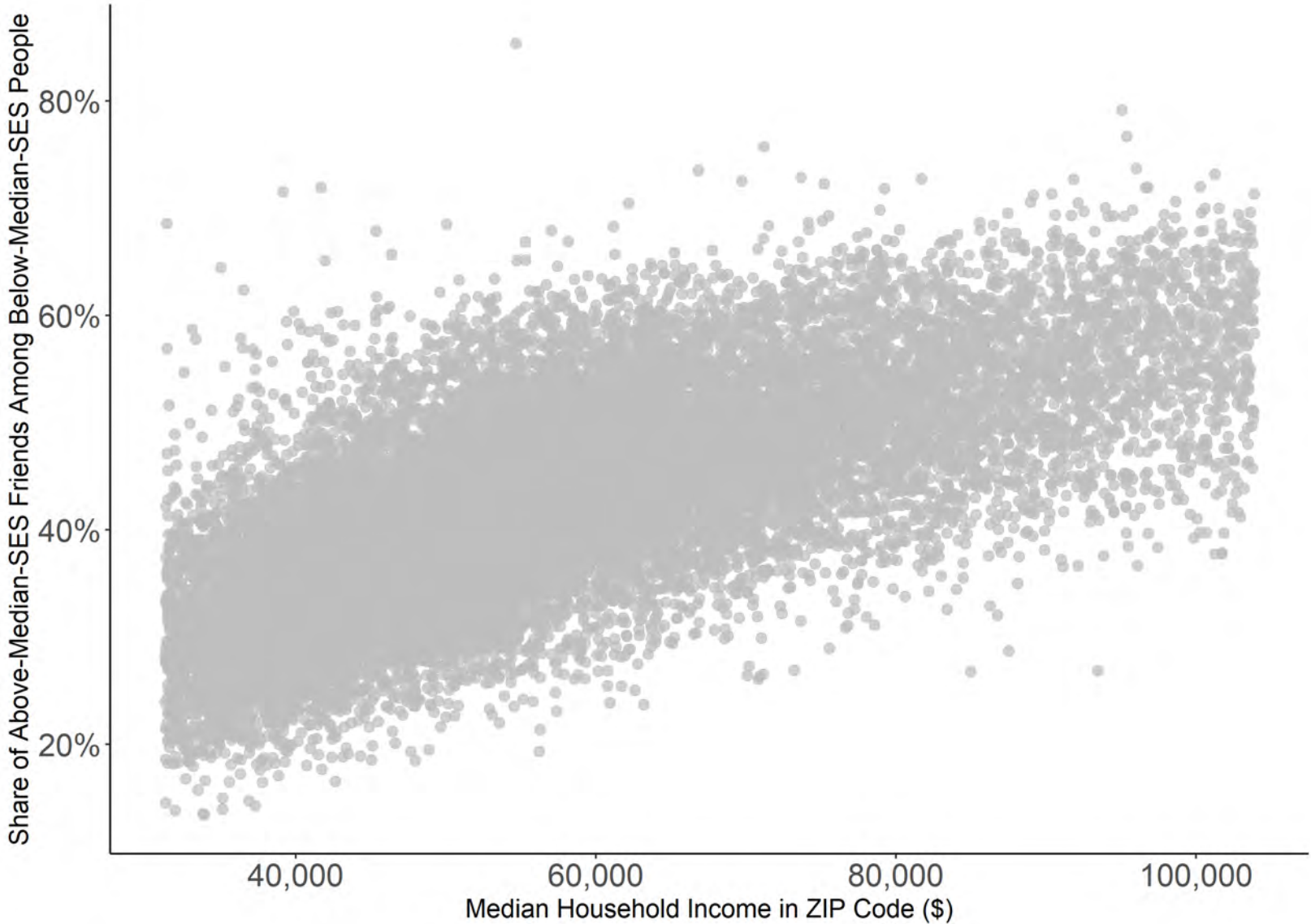
43.8%

*Jackson:
24% Economic
Connectnedness*

17.2%



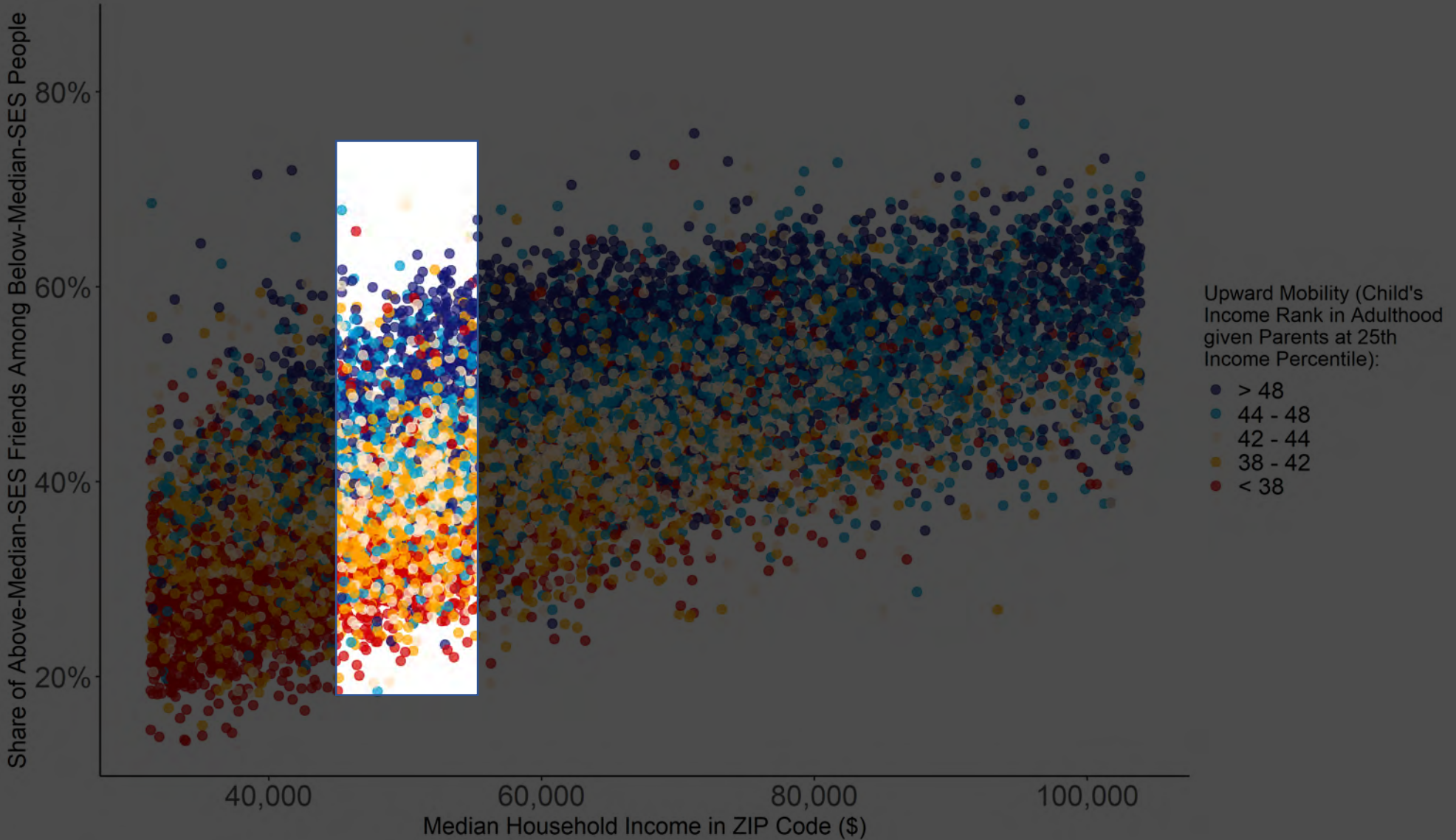
Economic Connectedness vs. Household Median Income, by ZIP Code



Source: Chetty, Jackson, Kuchler, Stroebel et al. (Nature 2022a,b)

Economic Connectedness vs. Household Median Income, by ZIP Code

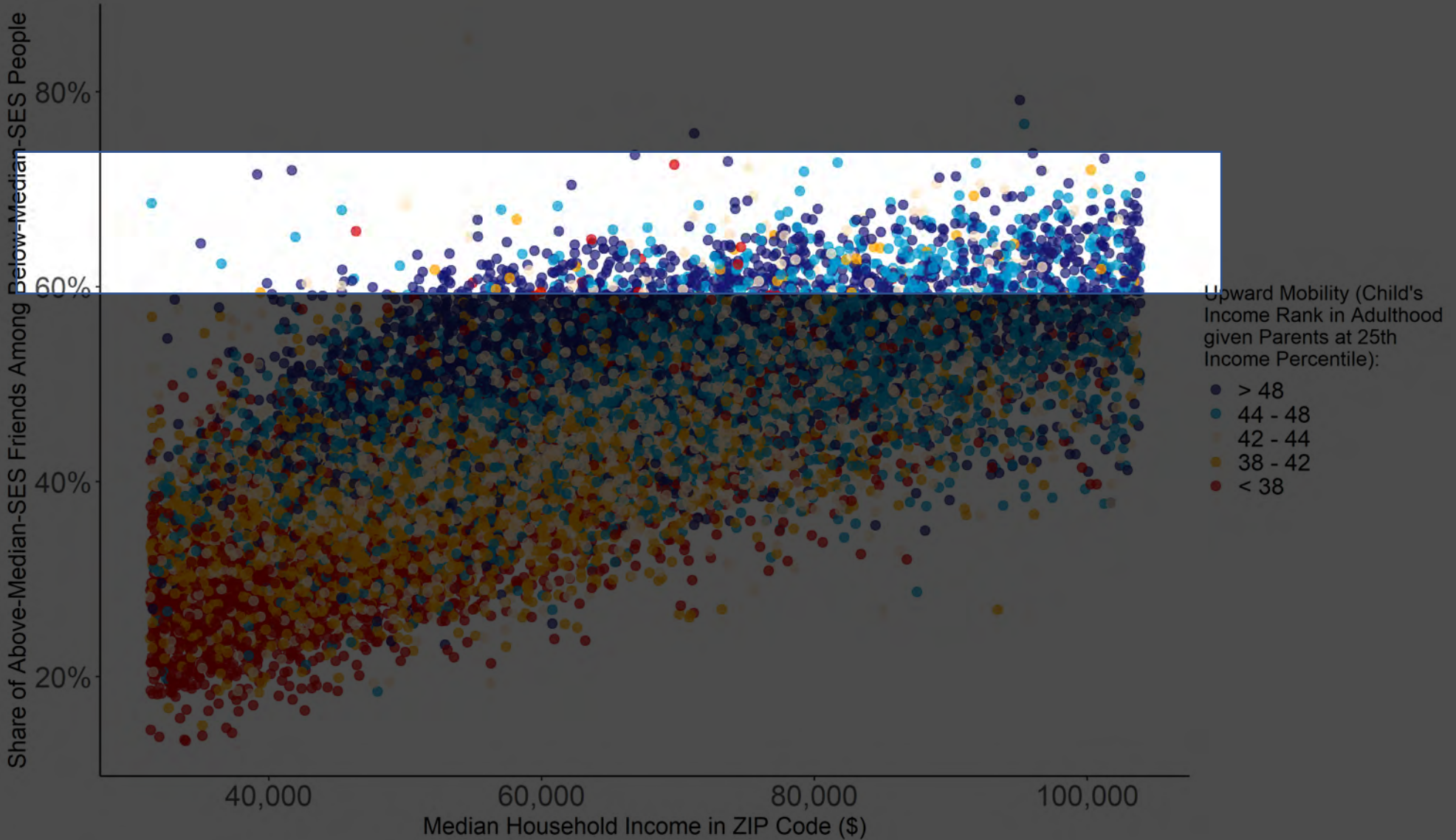
Colored by Rate of Upward Mobility



Source: Chetty, Jackson, Kuchler, Stroebel et al. (Nature 2022a,b)

Economic Connectedness vs. Household Median Income, by ZIP Code

Colored by Rate of Upward Mobility



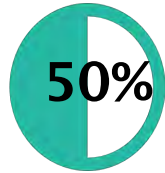
Source: Chetty, Jackson, Kuchler, Stroebel et al. (Nature 2022a,b)

Determinants of Economic Connectedness

Segregation

vs.

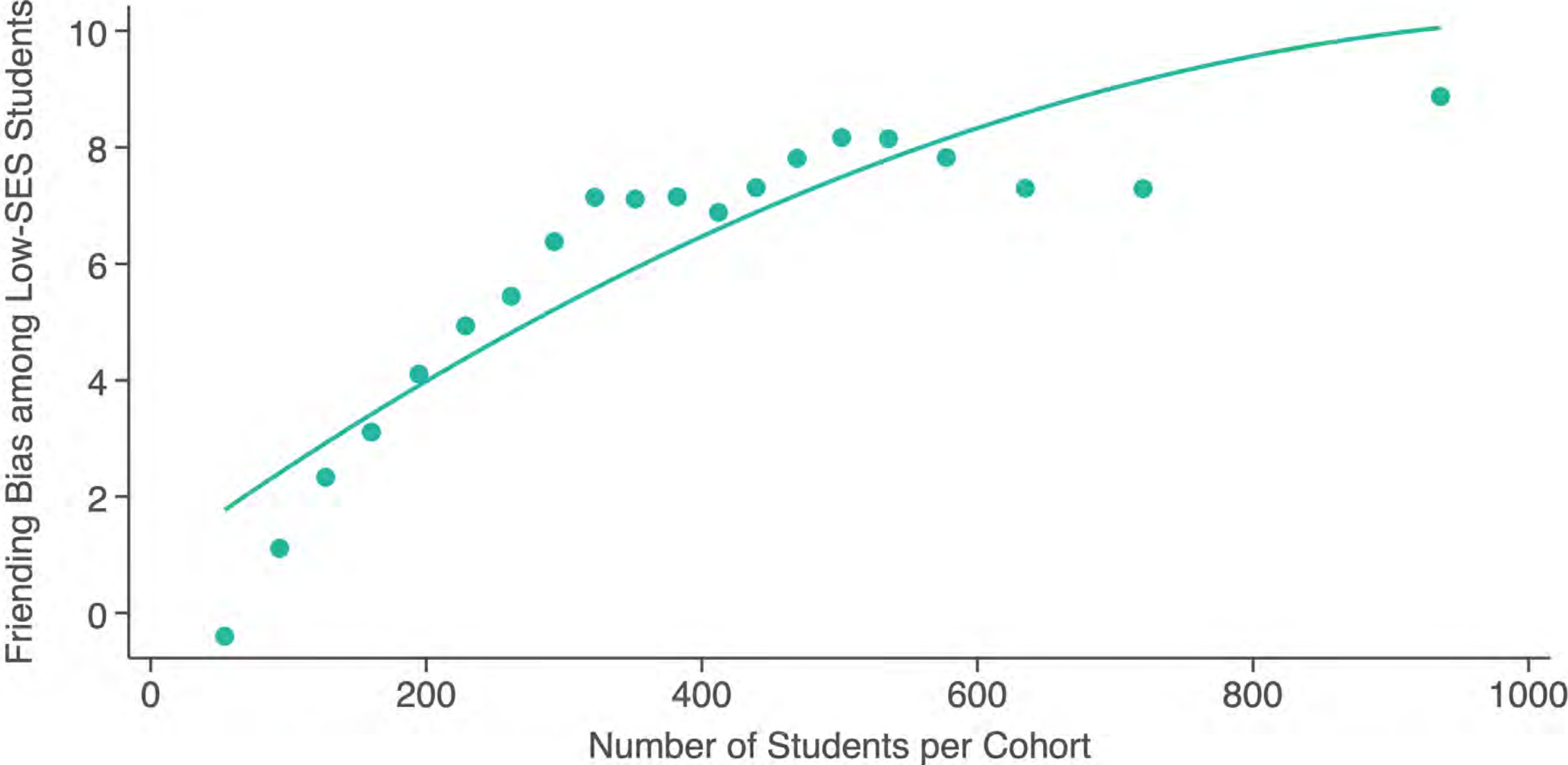
Bias



*“Every time I walked across Eutaw Street, I witnessed the exchange of realities. As I grew older, I’ve come to learn that this was how Baltimore works. Millionaires could live on one side of a street, and the projects could be on the other side. **Those two worlds would never cross, never make friends, never acknowledge each other.** Everybody was OK with it, especially the rich.*

- Carmelo Anthony (2021), *Where Tomorrows Aren’t Promised*

Friending Bias in High Schools vs. School Size



Implications for Improving Economic Opportunity



Local **childhood environment** plays a central role in shaping prospects for upward mobility



Social capital and connections are central: financial institutions can provide **social support** beyond financial resources



Big data can help us **target interventions** to specific schools, colleges, and neighborhoods



**OPPORTUNITY
INSIGHTS**
SOCIAL CAPITAL ATLAS

Social capital – the strength of our relationships and communities – has been shown to play an important role in outcomes ranging from income to health. Using privacy-protected data on **21 billion friendships** from Facebook, we measure three types of social capital in each neighborhood, high school, and college in the United States:



Economic Connectedness

The degree to which low-income and high-income people are friends with each other



Cohesiveness

The degree to which social networks are fragmented into cliques



Civic Engagement

Rates of volunteering and participation in community organizations

Use this tool to find where these different forms of social capital are lacking or flourishing; explore their connection to children's chances of rising out of poverty; and develop solutions to increase social capital in your community.

[EXPLORE THE DATA](#)

Chetty, Jackson, Kuchler, Stroebel, et al. *Nature* 2022 >

socialcapital.org



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



Web: www.opportunityinsights.org



Twitter: [@OppInsights](https://twitter.com/OppInsights)



Email: info@opportunityinsights.org