

A stylized, cartoonish illustration of a city skyline. The buildings are represented by various colored rectangles and polygons in shades of blue, red, yellow, and grey. A large, light grey circle representing the moon is in the top left corner. The skyline is reflected in a dark, horizontal band at the bottom of the image.

# How to plant a tree: An Analysis of Social Mobility in Chicago Neighborhoods

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# What to consider for yourself:



When you're starting a family, with any luck, you'll find yourself constantly dreaming about the future of your children.

How do you know if you're making the right decision for where to live?

# The "Tree" Metaphor: Social Mobility Explained:

## Roots

Neighborhood Factors  
(Education, Safety, Resources, Opportunities) - These are the foundations for growth.

## Trunk

Social Mobility - The ability to climb the economic ladder, influenced by the roots.

## Branches & Leaves

Individual Success & Community Prosperity - The fruits of strong roots and upward mobility.

## Unhealthy Soil

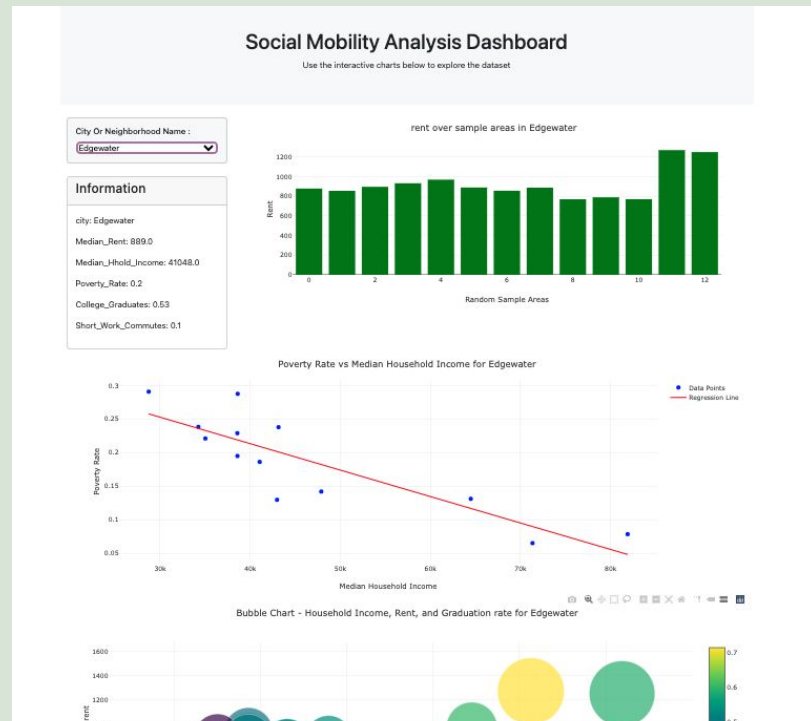
(Lack of Opportunity): Stunted growth, limited potential for the "tree" and the community.

## Healthy Soil

(Opportunity Rich): Strong growth, vibrant community, flourishing individuals.

# Project Overview: Exploring the Drivers of Social Mobility

- Purpose:
  - Analyze how metrics like median rent, income, graduation rates, commute times, and poverty rates relate to social mobility.
- Data-Driven Approach:
  - Utilizes real-world data to visualize and explore these relationships.
- Interactive Dashboard:
  - User-friendly tool to explore data for specific cities or neighborhoods.
- Focus:
  - Identifying potential correlations and patterns between metrics and social mobility.



# Goals & Objectives:



## Goal

- Analyze the relationship between neighborhoods and social mobility in Chicago.
- Examine the correlation between various social mobility factors..
- Identify key factors influencing social mobility, such as poverty and commute times.



## Questions to Consider -(Key Family Questions)

- What is the expected income of children who grew up in specific Chicago neighborhoods?
- How do real estate prices (rent) differ between high and low mobility areas?
- How does the poverty rate impact social mobility?
- How does short commutes impact social mobility?



## Key Metric Interrelationships

- Rent Variation: Visualize rent changes across different cities/neighborhoods.
- Income & Poverty: Explore the effect of median household income on poverty rates.
- Interrelation: Analyze the relationships between graduation rates, household income, and rent prices.
- Insight Generation: Provide visual insights into how these factors may impact social mobility.

# Our Data Foundation: The Opportunity Atlas

- Source:
  - Harvard University & U.S. Census Bureau
- What it Shows:
  - Expected childhood outcomes (e.g., income, incarceration rates) based on where they grew up.
- Granularity:
  - Data at the Census Tract level -highly localized neighborhood insights.
- Key Metrics
  - for Us: Child income at age 35, poverty rates, commute times, neighborhood demographics.
- Credibility:
  - Rigorous academic research and robust data.

## THE OPPORTUNITY ATLAS

Which places in America offer children the best chance to rise out of poverty?

The Opportunity Atlas answers this question using anonymous data following millions of Americans from childhood to adulthood.

Now you can trace the roots of today's opportunity back to the neighborhoods where people grew up.

See where and for whom opportunity has been missing, how it is changing, and use this data to inform local solutions to help more children rise out of poverty.

### ATLAS MODULES

#### MODULE 2

COUNTY & METRO  
MOBILITY TRENDS



[Chetty, Dobbie, Goldman, Porter, Yang](#)

#### MODULE 1

NEIGHBORHOOD  
MOBILITY OUTCOMES



[Chetty, Hendren, Friedman, Jones, Porter](#)

The Opportunity Atlas is a collaboration between researchers at the U.S. Census Bureau and Opportunity Insights at Harvard University. Any opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not represent the views of the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Census Bureau has ensured appropriate access and use of confidential data and has reviewed these results for disclosure avoidance protection (Project 7519874: CBDRB-FY18-319, CBDRB-FY23-0375, CBDRB-FY24-0143).

Designed and developed by





# Our Data Visualization:

## Types and usages

### Bar Chart

The first graph, a bar graph, will visualize rent across neighborhoods within the city.

### Scatter Plot

The second graph, a scatter plot, will explore the relationship between median income and poverty rates.

### Bubble Chart

Finally, the bubble chart will illustrate the interrelationship between graduation rates, household income, and rent prices..

### Neighborhood Comparison Data

The next few slides represent four sample neighborhoods across the North, South, East, and Westside of Chicago



# Rent Comparison:

## Across four areas: South Chicago, Lincoln Park, West Town, and Streeterville

City Or Neighborhood Name :

South Chicago

### Information

city: South Chicago

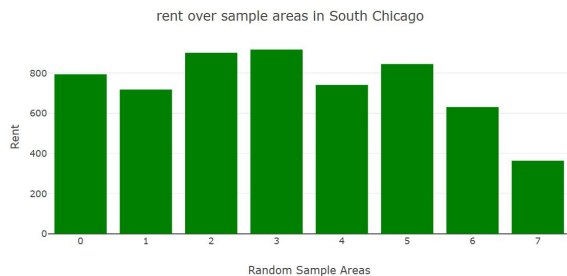
Median\_Rent: 767.5

Median\_Hhold\_Income: 28817.0

Poverty\_Rate: 0.38

College\_Graduates: 0.14

Short\_Work\_Commutes: 0.09



City Or Neighborhood Name :

Lincoln Park

### Information

city: Lincoln Park

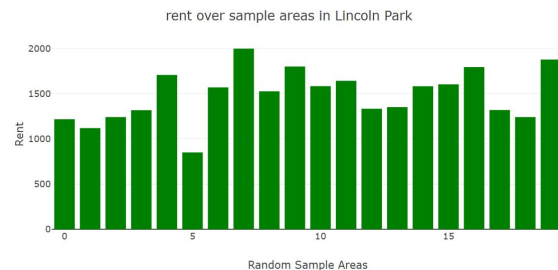
Median\_Rent: 1547.5

Median\_Hhold\_Income: 103710.0

Poverty\_Rate: 0.11

College\_Graduates: 0.83

Short\_Work\_Commutes: 0.1



City Or Neighborhood Name :

West Town

### Information

city: West Town

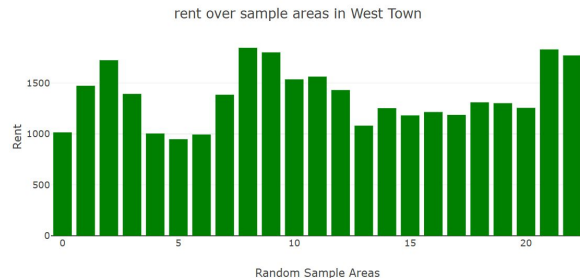
Median\_Rent: 1311.0

Median\_Hhold\_Income: 89761.0

Poverty\_Rate: 0.12

College\_Graduates: 0.63

Short\_Work\_Commutes: 0.15



City Or Neighborhood Name :

Streeterville

### Information

city: Streeterville

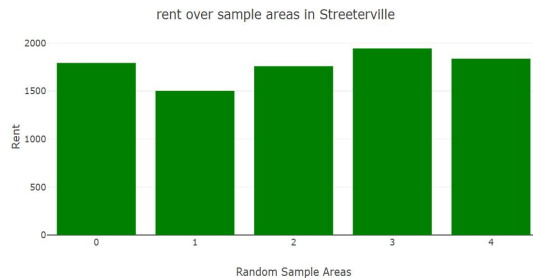
Median\_Rent: 1793.0

Median\_Hhold\_Income: 86171.0

Poverty\_Rate: 0.08

College\_Graduates: 0.84

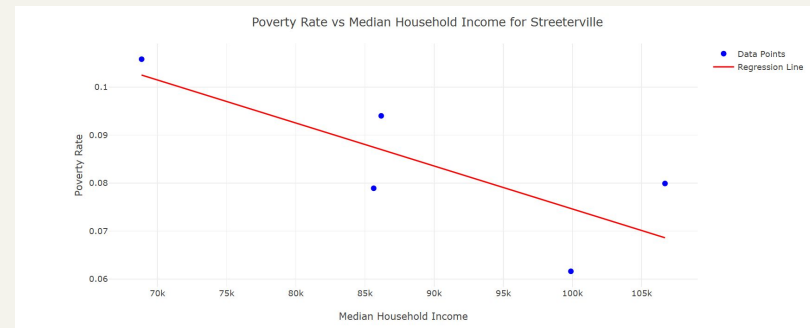
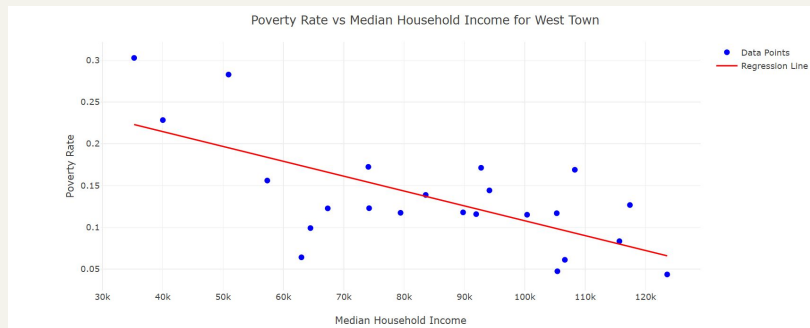
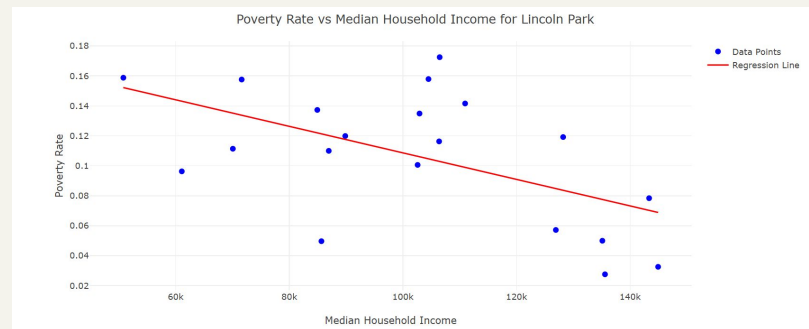
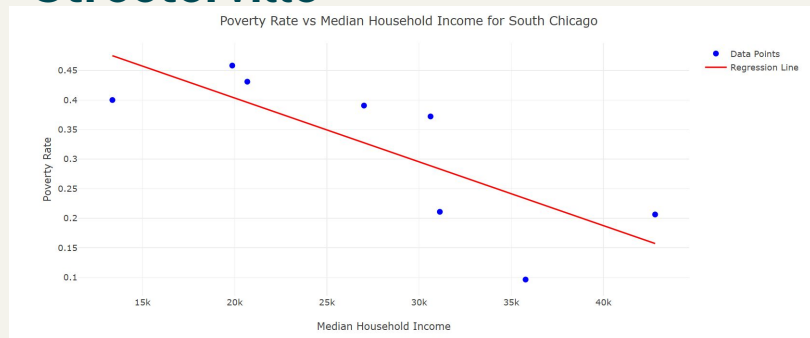
Short\_Work\_Commutes: 0.22





# Poverty Rate vs Median Household Income Comparison:

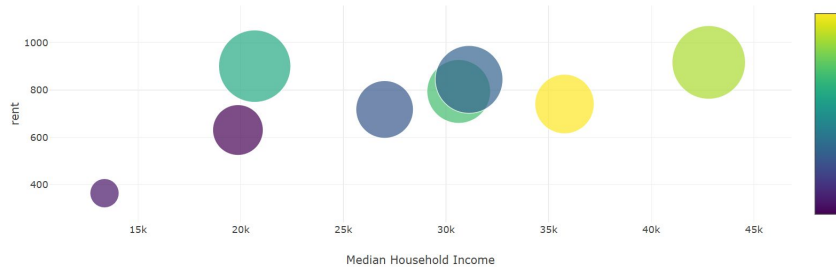
## Across four areas: South Chicago, Lincoln Park, West Town, and Streeterville



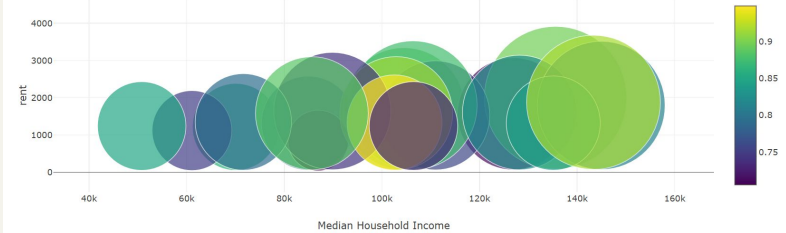
# Household Income, Rent, and Grad Rates Comparison:

## Across four areas: South Chicago, Lincoln Park, West Town, and Streeterville

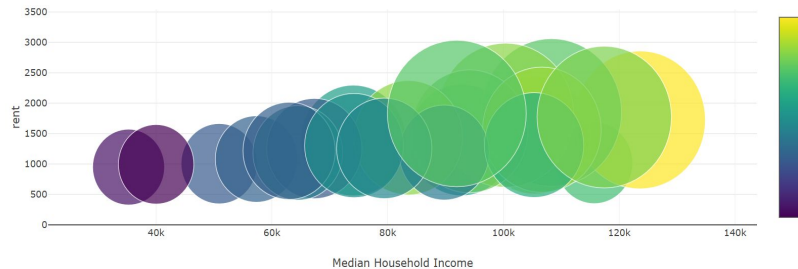
Bubble Chart - Household Income, Rent, and Graduation rate for South Chicago



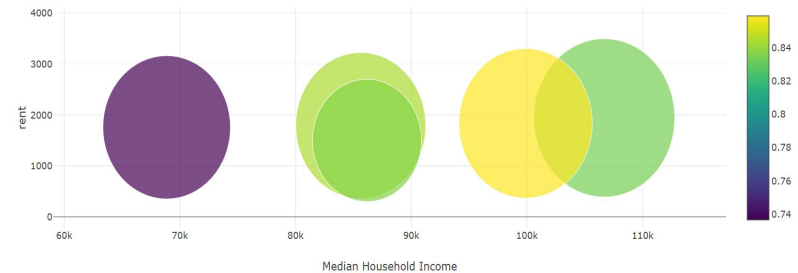
Bubble Chart - Household Income, Rent, and Graduation rate for Lincoln Park



Bubble Chart - Household Income, Rent, and Graduation rate for West Town



Bubble Chart - Household Income, Rent, and Graduation rate for Streeterville



# Key Findings:

## Rent Comparison

- Positive Correlation:
  - Generally, neighborhoods with higher social mobility do have higher rent prices.
- Premium for Opportunity:
  - Renters are likely paying a premium to live in areas with better prospects for upward mobility.
- Access Barrier:
  - High rents can create a barrier to entry for lower-income families seeking opportunity-rich neighborhoods.

## Poverty Rate vs Median Household Income Comparison

- Inverse Relationship:
  - Neighborhoods with higher poverty rates tend to have lower social mobility.
- Concentrated Poverty:
  - The maps likely show significant overlap between high-poverty areas and low-mobility areas, especially on the South and West Sides.
- Cycle of Disadvantage:
  - High poverty environments can create systemic barriers to opportunity (under-resourced schools, fewer job opportunities, etc.).

# Conclusion: A Tale of Two Cities?

## North/East Side and Suburbs:

- Wealthier Neighborhood
  - Higher property values, higher property taxes.
- Investment in Public Schools:
  - More funding per student, better resourced schools.
- Outcomes:
  - Wealth attracts investment, which further enhances neighborhood quality and opportunity.

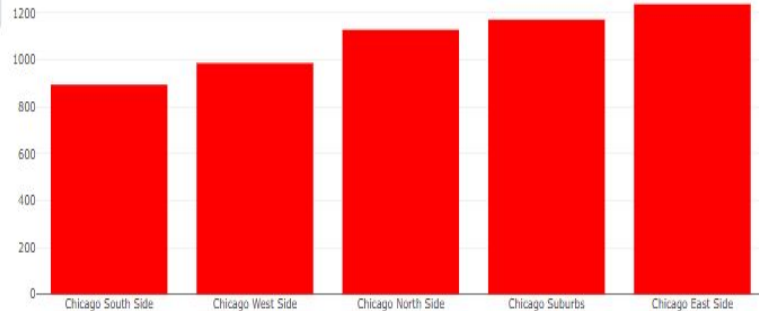
## South/West Side:

- Less Wealthy Neighborhoods:
  - Lower property values, lower tax base.
- Under-Resourced Schools:
  - Less funding per student, fewer resources.
- Gentrification Pressures:
  - Vulnerable to gentrification as investors seek affordable properties, potentially displacing long-term residents.
- Outcomes:
  - Gentrification can increase property taxes (good for schools in theory) but can displace existing homeowners unable to afford rising costs.

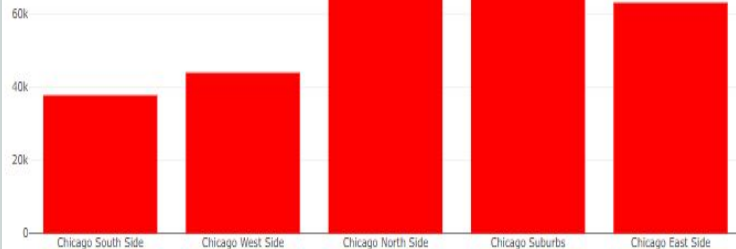


## Conclusion Cont. : Neighborhood Comparison Across Key Family Questions

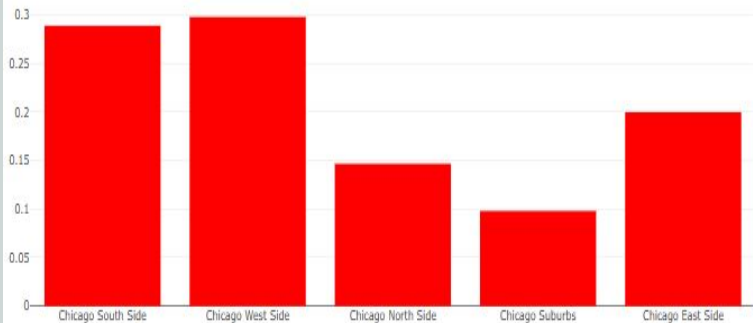
Cities/ Chicago Neighborhoods Median\_Rent



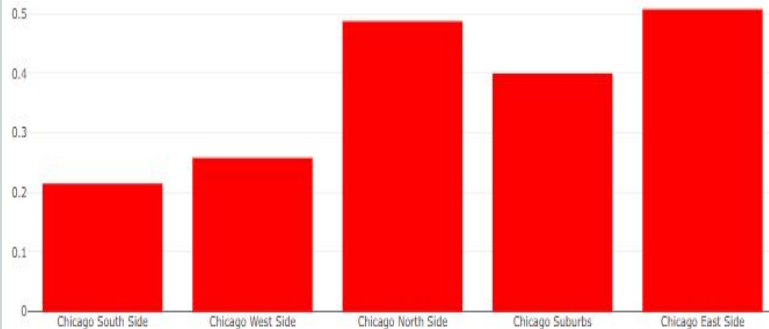
Cities/ Chicago Neighborhoods Median\_Hhold\_Income



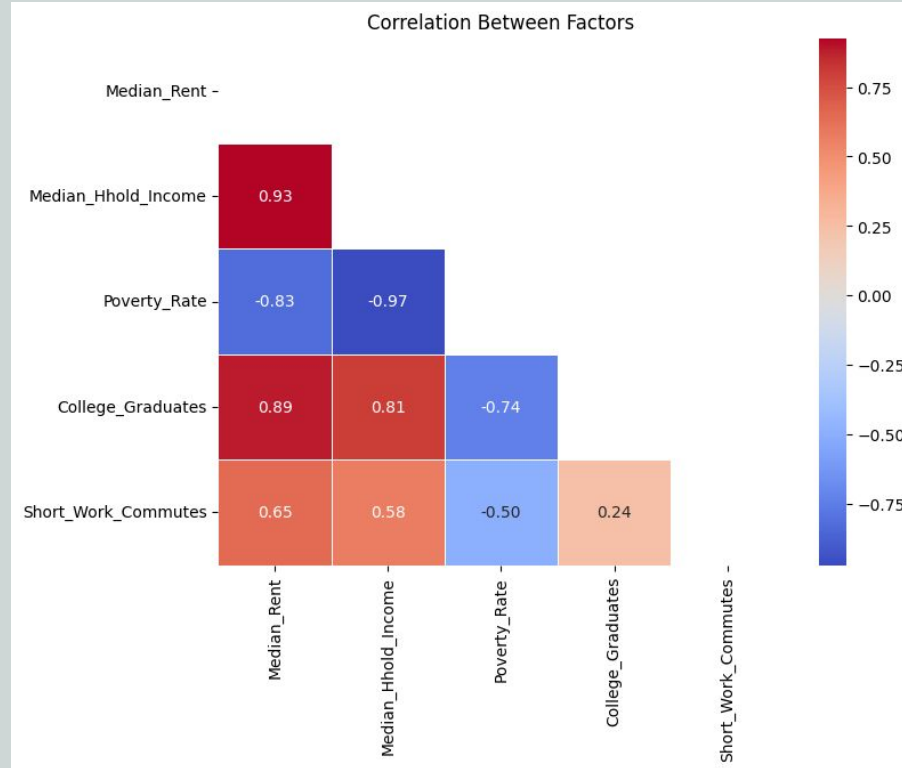
Cities/ Chicago Neighborhoods Poverty\_Rate



Cities/ Chicago Neighborhoods College\_Graduates



# Conclusion Cont. : Correlation Between Factors





# Data Limitations



## Not for Critical Decisions

- Advise against making significant decisions solely based on this project's visualizations.

## Limited Data

- The data used may be limited or not fully comprehensive, potentially impacting reliability.
- The project focuses on basic relationships between metrics, not an exhaustive social mobility model.

## External Factors

- Many other factors influence social mobility not included in this analysis.

## Unusual Graphs

- Due to data limitations, some graphs for certain locations may appear unusual or unexpected.

# Q&A

