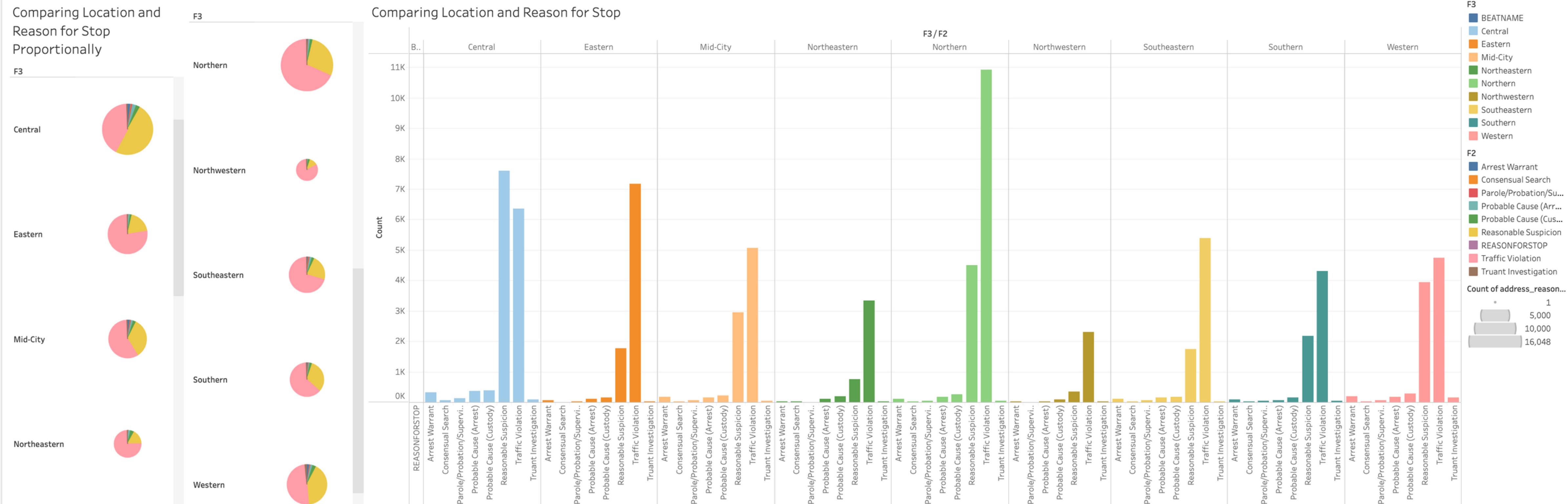
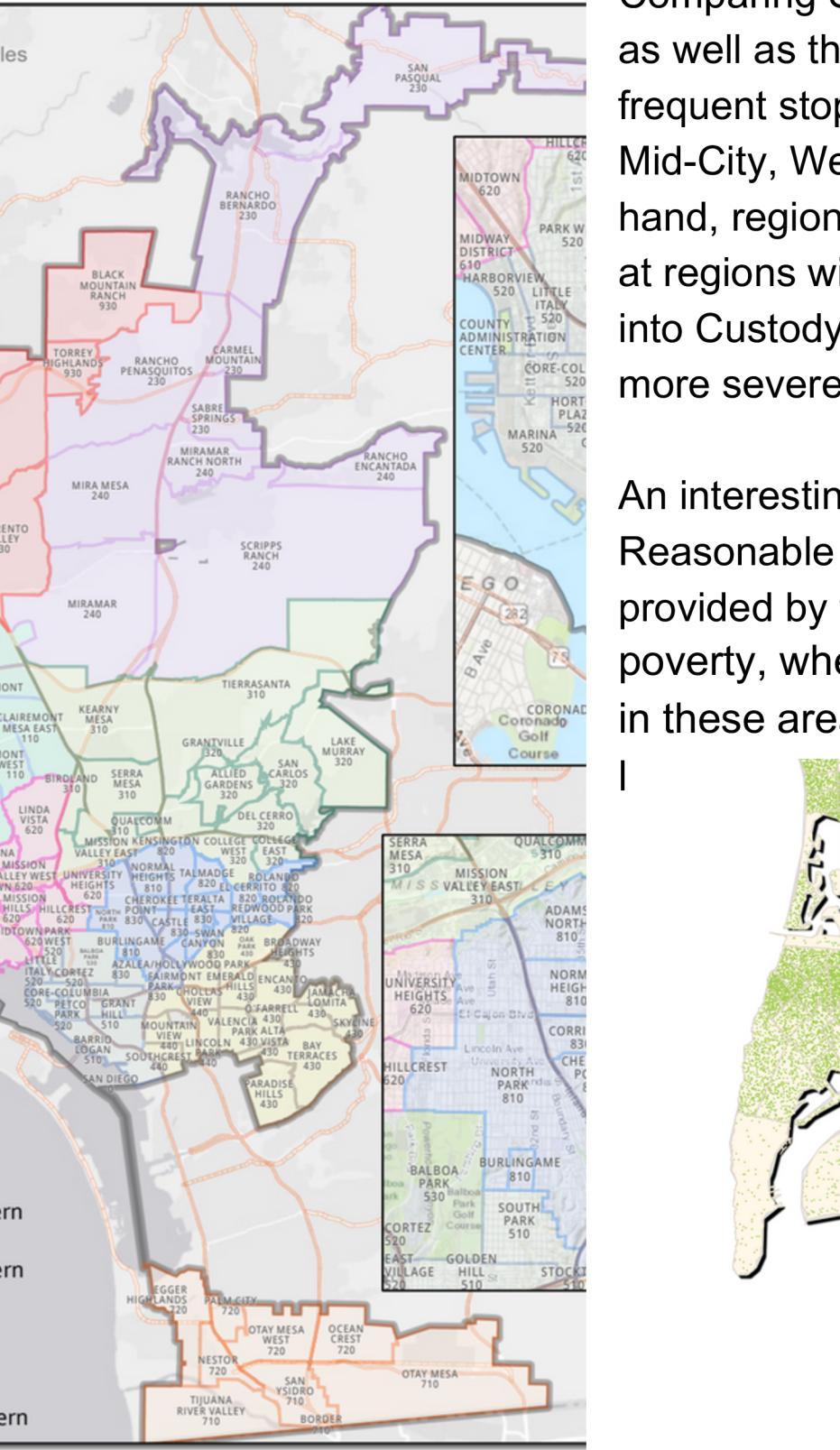
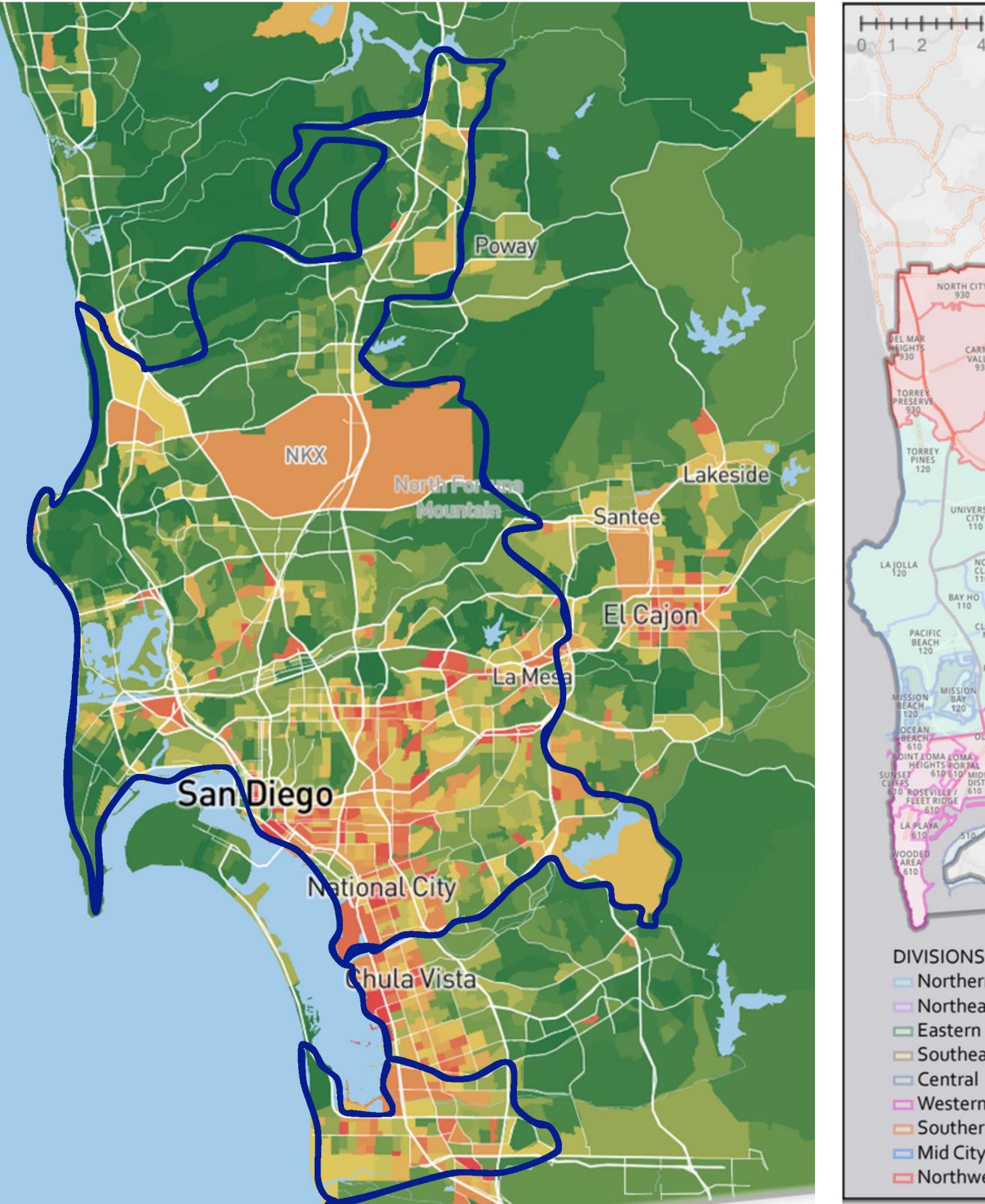


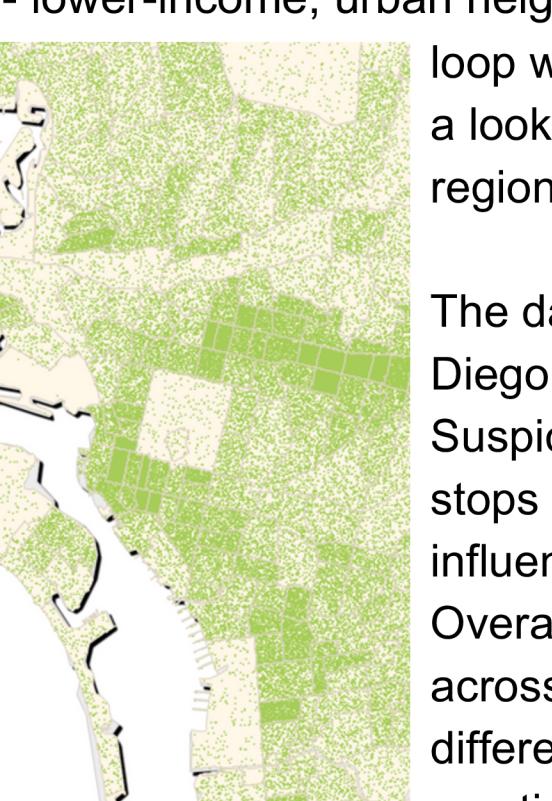
Is There a Correlation Between Most Frequent Type of Stops in Differing Regions of San Diego and Average Regional Income?





Comparing SDPD's official regional map (pictured on the right) with an income map provided by the US Census (pictured on the left), as well as the pie chart representing the proportional distribution of stop reasons per region, we initially see that the overall most frequent stops are Traffic Violations or Reasonable Suspicion. Looking closer we can see those with overall lesser income (Central, Mid-City, Western, Southern, Southeastern) are more likely to have Reasonable Suspicion stops than other regions. On the other hand, regions with overwhelmingly high incomes (Northwest, Northeast, Eastern) are much likelier to have Traffic Violations. Looking at regions with lesser income, we can also see that they are more likely to have stops for Arrest warrants or Probable Cause to take into Custody or Arrest. Generally, the trend shows that lower income → likelier to have lesser stops for Traffic Violations, and more for more severe stops such as Arrest Warrants, Probable Cause to take into Custody/Arrest, or Parole.

An interesting region to note is the Central region, the only one where the majority stop reason isn't Traffic Violation, but rather Reasonable Suspicion. This anomaly may reflect the more densely populated nature of the Central area, as seen by the density map provided by the US Census (pictured below). This could be tied to higher reported crime rates in areas with concentrated poverty, where police activity might be more frequent in general. It's also worth considering the role of community-police relations in these areas - lower-income, urban neighborhoods may face more frequent interactions with law enforcement, creating a sort of loop where increased police presence → likelihood of stops regardless of traffic violations. Take a look at the Northwestern region, the affluent suburban neighborhoods of the La Jolla area, the region with the highest proportion of Traffic Violations, arguably the least severe type of stop.



The data shows a clear correlation between income levels and the nature of police stops in San Diego. Regions with lower incomes are more likely to experience stops based on Reasonable Suspicion, Arrest Warrants, or Probable Cause, while higher-income areas tend to see more stops related to Traffic Violations only. These findings suggest that economic disparities might influence the type of law enforcement interactions in different neighborhoods across the city. Overall, these patterns point to significant differences in how police practices are distributed across income levels, prompting the need for further investigation of the factors driving these differences, and how they can be addressed to advocate for fairer and more equitable policing practices.