

Race and Economic Opportunity in the United States: An Intergenerational Perspective

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Project Description



Abstract

Objective: Analyze economic data to understand and address racial disparities in income mobility in the U.S.

Methods: Applied various regression techniques (e.g., Linear Regression, Lasso, Ridge, ElasticNet, Decision Tree, Random Forest, Gradient Boosting) using tools like pandas, matplotlib, and scikit-learn.

Data Exploration: Utilized libraries such as NumPy, pandas, and seaborn for data manipulation and visualization.

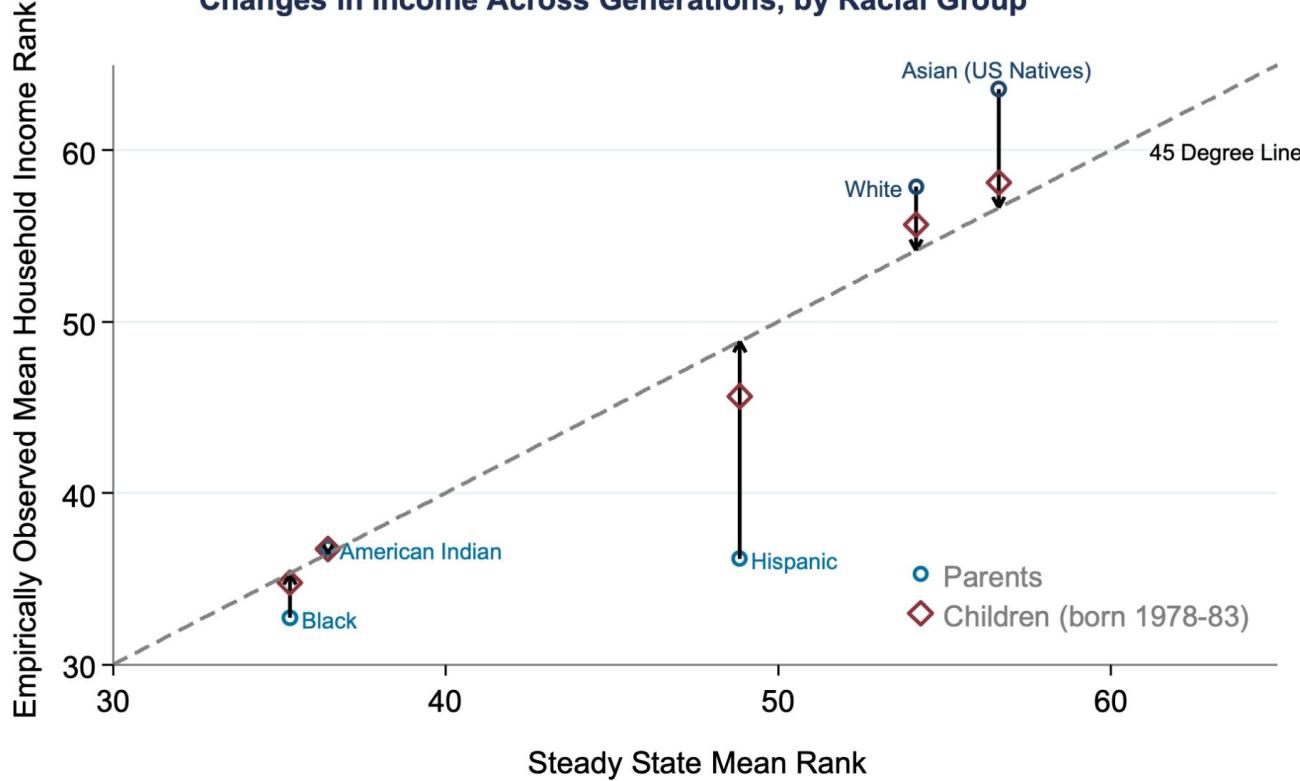
Key Findings: Significant income mobility disparities, especially among black men, persist beyond differences in parental income, education, or marital status. These gaps exist even within the same neighborhoods.

Implications: Highlights the necessity for targeted interventions addressing both systemic and neighborhood-specific factors to enhance economic mobility and reduce racial income disparities.

Significance: Emphasizes the importance of selecting appropriate regression models to analyze complex socio-economic issues accurately.



Changes in Income Across Generations, by Racial Group





Project Background

Economic mobility in the United States has long been a subject of interest among economists and policymakers. Traditional views often emphasize the role of individual effort and education in achieving economic success. However, the reality is more complex, especially when considering racial disparities. This study provides an **in-depth look at how race influences economic opportunity from an intergenerational perspective**, shedding light on persistent inequalities.

The paper highlights significant differences in economic mobility between black and white Americans.

- Black children born to parents in the bottom quintile of the income distribution are **more likely** to remain in the bottom quintile as adults compared to their white counterparts.
- This trend persists even when controlling for factors such as **parental income, education, and family structure**.

Neighborhoods play a crucial role in shaping economic outcomes.

- Black children who grow up in low-poverty, high-opportunity areas have substantially better economic outcomes than those who grow up in high-poverty, low-opportunity areas.
- However, black children are less likely than white children to grow up in such neighborhoods, even when their parents have similar incomes.



Project Background

The study also reveals that black men, in particular, face substantial barriers to economic mobility. Black women have outcomes more similar to white women, suggesting that both race and gender interact to influence economic opportunity.

Quantitative analysis is essential to understand the extent and nuances of these disparities.

By leveraging large datasets and advanced statistical techniques, the authors can control for various factors and isolate the effects of race on economic outcomes. This allows for a **more accurate and comprehensive understanding of the systemic issues at play**.

Understanding these dynamics can inform policies aimed at reducing economic disparities.

For example, targeted interventions in high-poverty neighborhoods, efforts to improve access to quality education, and policies addressing systemic discrimination in the labor market could all be informed by the findings of this research.

Ultimately, such analyses can help to **promote a more equitable society by ensuring that economic opportunity is not determined by race**.



Project Objective

The primary objective of this project is to investigate the impact of father presence in single-parent and two-parent families on the average earnings of their children, with a specific focus on variations across different racial groups within the low-income bracket. This study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of how paternal involvement influences economic outcomes, thereby contributing valuable insights to policy-making and social interventions aimed at reducing income disparities and promoting upward mobility among disadvantaged populations.

Data Description & Cleaning



Table 1

Table 1 covers outcomes by parent income percentile, child's gender and race for children born in years 1978-83. There is one row for each parent income percentile. For some only it only focus black and white children. Race-specific statistics are reported by gender (male or female) or for all children (pooled).

```
df_1 = df_1.drop_duplicates()

na_cols = ["kid_college_black_female", "kid_jail_black_female", "kid_no_hs_black_female", "kid_pos_hours_black"]

# Fill NaN values with the mean for the selected columns
df_1[na_cols] = df_1[na_cols].fillna(df_1[na_cols].mean())

# Function to remove outliers using IQR
def remove_outliers(df_1):
    for column in df_1.columns:
        if df_1[column].dtype in ['int64', 'float64']: # Adjust this to include/exclude certain types
            Q1 = df_1[column].quantile(0.25)
            Q3 = df_1[column].quantile(0.75)
            IQR = Q3 - Q1
            lower_bound = Q1 - 1.5 * IQR
            upper_bound = Q3 + 1.5 * IQR

            # You can choose to remove or replace the outliers
            df_1[column] = np.where((df_1[column] < lower_bound) | (df_1[column] > upper_bound), np.nan, df_1[column])

    return df_1

# Apply the function
df_1_clean = remove_outliers(df_1)
df_1_clean
```





Table 1

The granularity of the data seems to cover the different results between different minorities. For instance, categories such as percentage of children with college attendance by race and gender. It seems to be detailed but there are a few nan's located in dataset. Due to the size of the data frame being 100 rows and 69 columns. I would consider it to be granular since it takes into account different races and genders

Variable Name	Description
par_pctile	Parent household income rank.
count_pooled	Number of children born to parents at a given income percentile (rounded to the next 100s).
count_[race]_pooled	Number of children born to parents at a given income percentile by race.
density_[race]_pooled	Percentage of children born to parents at a given income percentile by race. Due to rounding, the total sum of percentages by race does not necessarily add up to exactly 100%.
kfr_pooled	Mean child family (household) income rank for all children.
kfr_[race]_[gender]	Mean child family (household) income rank by race and by gender.
kid_college_[race]_[gender]	Percentage of children with college attendance by race and gender.
kid_hours_[race]_[gender]	Mean number of weekly working hours over the past year by race and gender.
kid_jail_[race]_[gender]	Percentage of children incarcerated by race and gender.



Table 2

This table reports quintile-quintile intergenerational transition matrices and marginal distributions of child and parent income by race and gender for **all children in our primary analysis sample.**

We measure parent income at the household level; we present statistics measuring children's income at both the individual and household level.

Variable Name	Description
kid_race	A string categorical variable describing the race of a given child, taking on the following values: White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, AIAN
gender	A string categorical variable describing the gender of a given child, taking on the following values: F, M, P
count	A numeric variable reporting the total count of children with native mothers in a given race-gender cell.
kir_q[quintile]	The fraction of children with individual income in a given quintile.
kfr_q[quintile]	The fraction of children with household income in a given quintile.
par_q[quintile]	The fraction of children with parent household income in a given quintile of the national distribution.
kir_q[quintile i]_cond_par_q[quintile j]	The fraction of children with parents in quintile j who are in quintile i of the national distribution of individual income.
kfr_q[quintile i]_cond_par_q[quintile j]	The fraction of children with parents in quintile j who are in quintile i of the national distribution of household income.



Table 3

This table reports quintile-quintile intergenerational transition matrices and marginal distributions of child and parent income by race and gender for **children with mothers born in the U.S.**

We measure parent income at the household level; we present statistics measuring children's income at both the individual and household level.

Variable Name	Description
kid_race	A string categorical variable describing the race of a given child, taking on the following values: White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, AIAN
gender	A string categorical variable describing the gender of a given child, taking on the following values: F, M, P
count	A numeric variable reporting the total count of children with native mothers in a given race-gender cell.
kir_q[quintile]	The fraction of children with individual income in a given quintile.
kfr_q[quintile]	The fraction of children with household income in a given quintile.
par_q[quintile]	The fraction of children with parent household income in a given quintile of the national distribution.
kir_q[quintile i]_cond_par_q[quintile j]	The fraction of children with parents in quintile j who are in quintile i of the national distribution of individual income.
kfr_q[quintile i]_cond_par_q[quintile j]	The fraction of children with parents in quintile j who are in quintile i of the national distribution of household income.

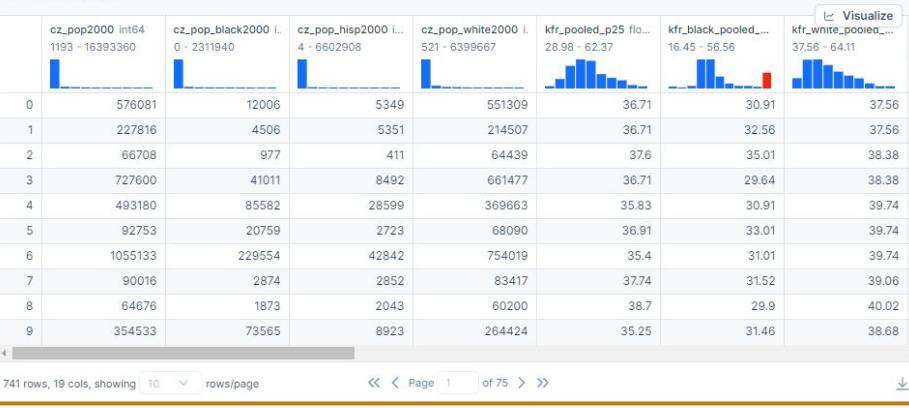


Table 4:

```

1 #Cleaning the data
2
3 #Drops the nulls
4 df_4.dropna()
5
6 #Columns cz and cz_name are unique and don't have any actual correlation
7 cleaned_df4 = df_4.drop(columns=['cz', 'cz_name'])
8
9 cleaned_df4

```



Variable Name	Description
cz_pop2000	CZ population in 2000 Census
cz_pop_[race]2000	CZ population of race/ethnicity [race] in 2000 decennial Census where race is either of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • black (non-Hispanic black) • Hispanic • white (non-Hispanic white)
kfr_pooled_p25	Mean kid household income rank in the CZ for a child with parents at the 25th percentile rank of the national income distribution (pooled across race and gender)
kfr_[race]_pooled_p[pctile]	Mean kid household income rank in the CZ for children (pooled across gender) with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [race] black or white • born to parents in the [pctile] 25th or 75th percentile of the national distribution for parents of children in the same cohort
kir_[race]_[gender]_p[pctile]	Mean kid individual income rank in the CZ for a child with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [race] black, white, or Hispanic • [gender] male, female, or pooled • born to parents in the [pctile] 25th or 75th percentile of the national distribution for parents of children in the same cohort



Table 5



Variable Name	Description
Percentile	Child or parent income percentile rank
kid_hh_income	Mean child family (household) income in 2015 dollars
kid_indiv_income	Mean child individual income in 2015 dollars
parent_hh_income	Mean parent household income in 2015 dollars



Table 6a and 6b

1 df_6a.head()						
	country object	n_kfr_P int64	kfr_P_p25 float64	kfr_P_p25_se float...	kfr_P_p75 float64	kfr_P_p75_se float...
0	ARGENTINA	1900	0.47780001	0.01094	0.6232	0.0070489999
1	AUSTRIA	2000	0.4747	0.01338	0.62199998	0.0063240002
2	BRAZIL	1300	0.52179998	0.0155	0.61320001	0.0087369997
3	CAMBODIA	1300	0.5151	0.01016	0.6153	0.01152
4	CANADA	18500	0.4639	0.0041809999	0.60640001	0.0021250001

This data is Parametric and Non-Parametric Estimates of Income Ranks for Second Generation Immigrant Children by Parent Income, Country of Origin, and Gender and is sourced from a paper titled "Race and Economic Opportunity in the United States: An Intergenerational Perspective." They based this dataset on various sources including the Census, tax returns, and American Community Surveys from 2005 to 2015. (Appendix A: Data Construction)

Variable	Meaning
country	The country of origin of the second-generation immigrant children.
n_kfr_P	Number of observations for parental income.
kfr_P_(p25...)_M/F	Income rank at the 25th (or other) percentile for parental income. Some gendered.
age_inXXXX_mom_F/M	Age of the mother in XXXX (females/males).
us_yrs_before_M/F_P	Years in the U.S. before a specific milestone for the mother/father.
kfr_P_p25_se	Standard error for the 25th percentile income rank for parental income.

The data is highly granular, providing detailed information for different percentiles (25th and 75th) of income ranks, separated by gender and country of origin. While it does not explicitly mention the time period for each data point, it includes age-related columns (e.g., age of parents in 2015), which provide temporal context for the observations.

Table 7

```

1 #5 outliers
2 # Function to remove outliers using IQR
3 def remove_outliers(df_7):
4     for column in df_7.columns:
5         if df_7[column].dtype in ['int64', 'float64']: # Adjust this to include/exclude certain types, to only get nu
6             Q1 = df_7[column].quantile(0.25)
7             Q3 = df_7[column].quantile(0.75)
8             IQR = Q3 - Q1
9             lower_bound = Q1 - 1.5 * IQR
10            upper_bound = Q3 + 1.5 * IQR
11
12            # You can choose to remove or replace the outliers
13            df_7[column] = np.where((df_7[column] < lower_bound) | (df_7[column] > upper_bound), np.nan, df_7[column])
14
15    return df_7
16
17 # Apply the function
18 df_7_clean = remove_outliers(df_7)
19 df_7_clean

```

	kid_race	gender	count	kid_edu1	kid_edu2	kid_edu3	kid_edu4	p
White	20%	F	33.3%	6400.0 - 116000.0	0.0376 - 0.1803	0.0938 - 0.42	0.2742 - 0.4132	0.0962 - 0.6223
Black	20%	M	33.3%					
3 others	60%	P	33.3%					
10	Hispanic	M	58500	0.1803	0.3251	0.3308	0.1638	
11	Hispanic	P	116000	0.1538	0.2871	0.3533	0.2057	
12	AIAN	F	6400	0.132	0.3109	0.4132	0.1439	
13	AIAN	M	6700	0.1739	0.42	0.3098	0.0962	
14	AIAN	P	13000	0.1535	0.3667	0.3604	0.1195	

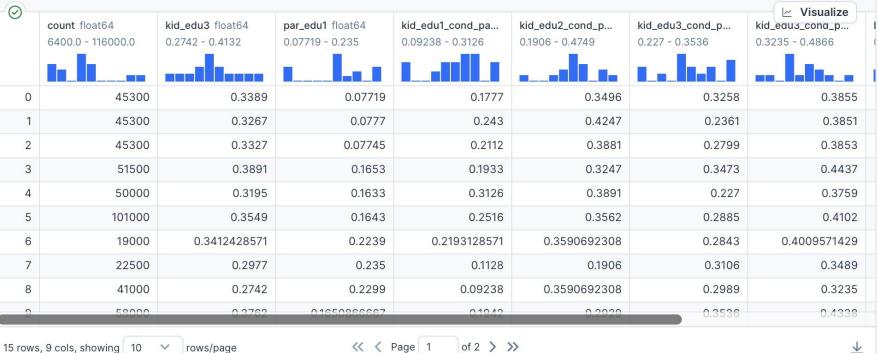
15 rows, 27 cols, showing 10 rows/page

<< < Page 2 of 2 > >>

```

1 na_cols_df_7=['count','kid_edu3','par_edu1','kid_edu1_cond_par_edu1','kid_edu2_cond_par_edu1','kid_edu3_cond_par_edu1'
2 df_7_clean[na_cols_df_7]=df_7_clean[na_cols_df_7].fillna(df_7_clean[na_cols_df_7].mean())
3 df_7_clean[na_cols_df_7]

```



```

1 df_Description=pd.DataFrame(
2     [{"kid_race": "describing the race of a given child"}, 
3      {"gender": "describing the gender of a given child"}, 
4      {"kid_edu1[k]": "children whose educational attainment is k-level"}, 
5      {"kid_edu1[p]": "parental educational attainment is p-level"}, 
6      {"kid_edu1[k].cond_par_edu1[p]": "children with parental educational attainment p whose own educational attainment is k-level"}, 
7      {"columns": ["Variable Name", "Description"]}], 
8 df_Description

```

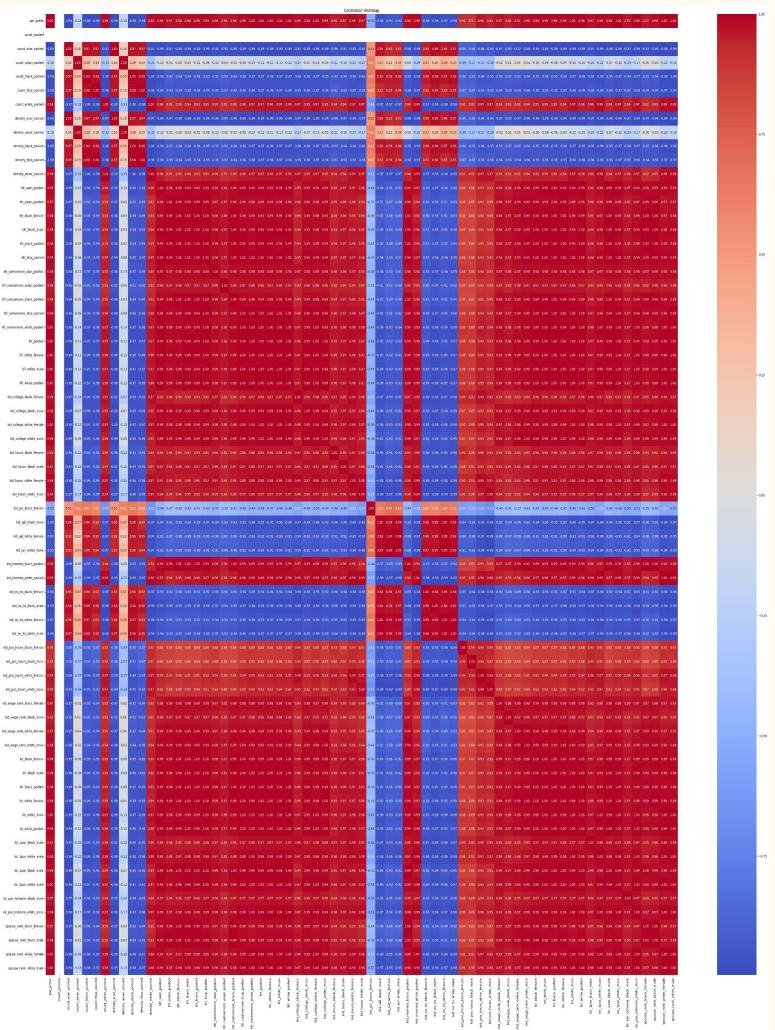
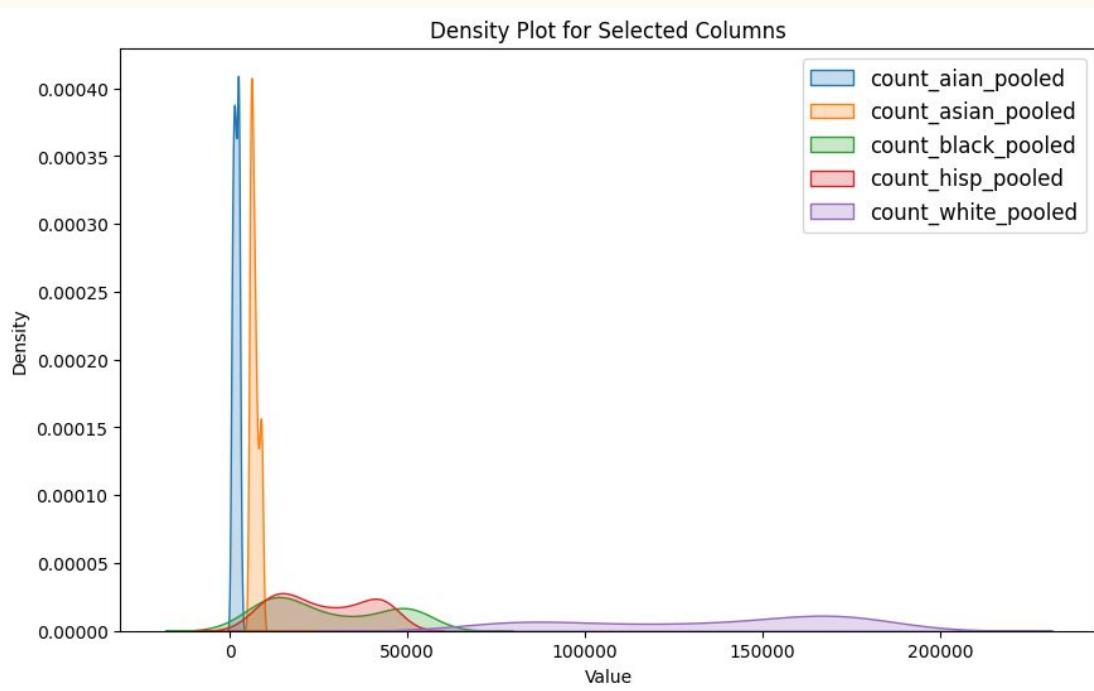
Variable Name	Description
0 kid_race	describing the race of a given child
1 gender	describing the gender of a given child
2 kid_edu1[k]	children whose educational attainment is k-level)
3 par_edu1[p]	parental educational attainment is p-level
4 kid_edu1[k].cond_par_edu1[p]	children with parental educational attainment p whose own educational attainment is k-level

5 rows, 2 cols, showing 10 rows/page << < Page 1 of 1 > >>

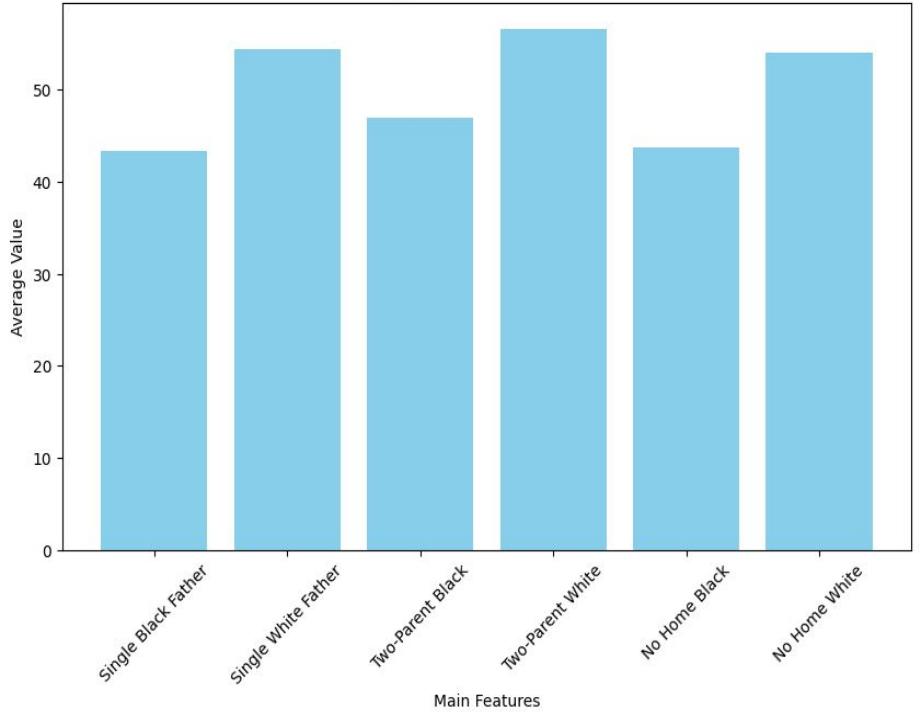
EDA



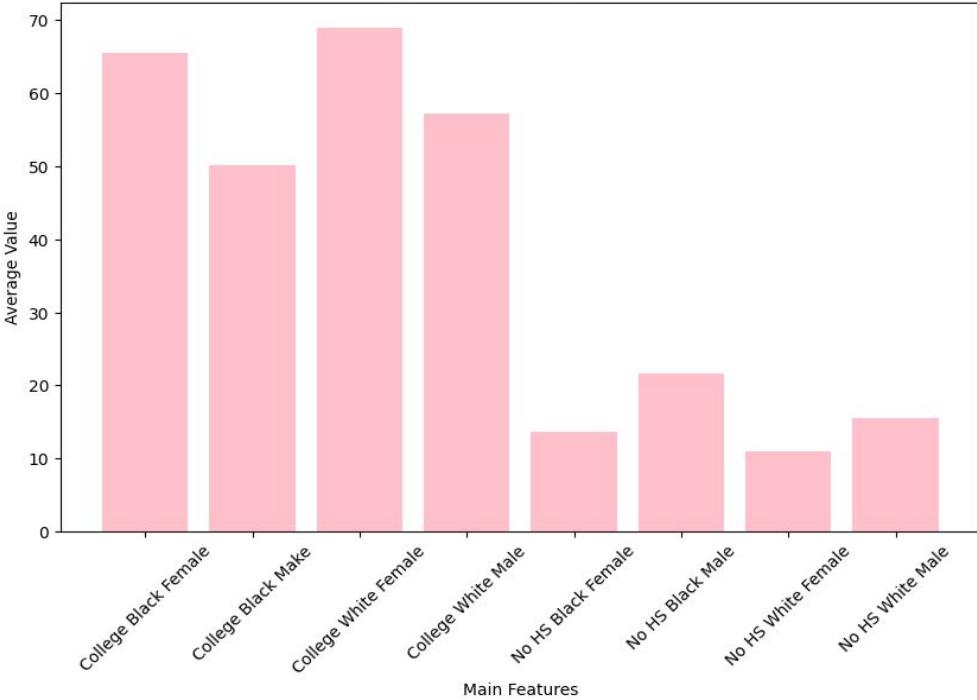
Table 1



Average Value of Main Features



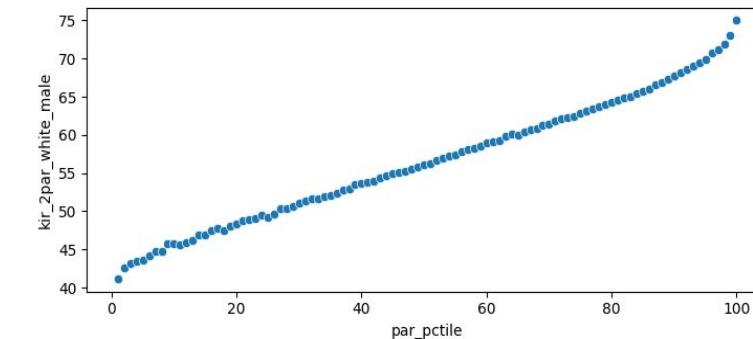
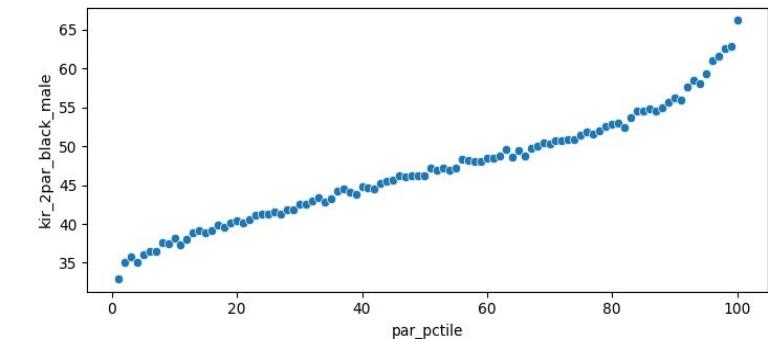
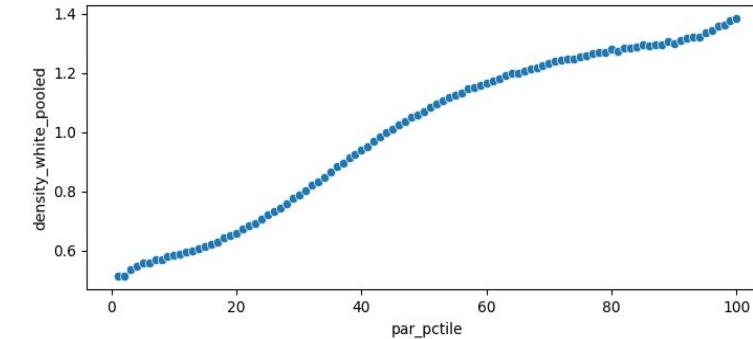
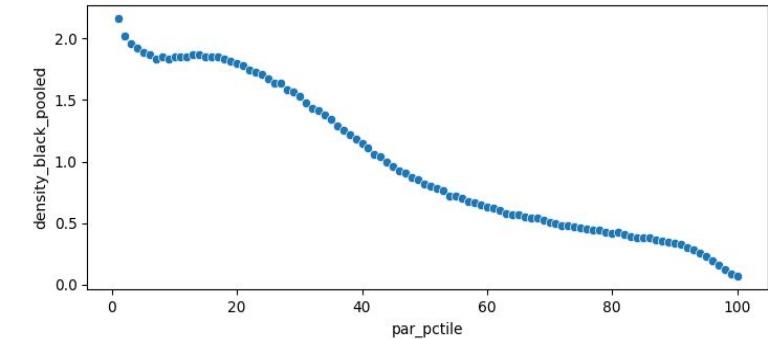
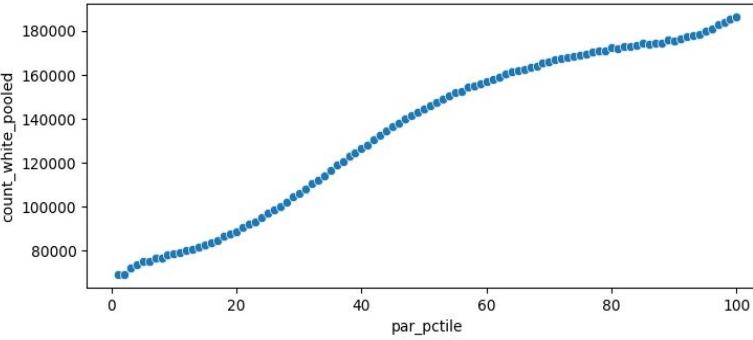
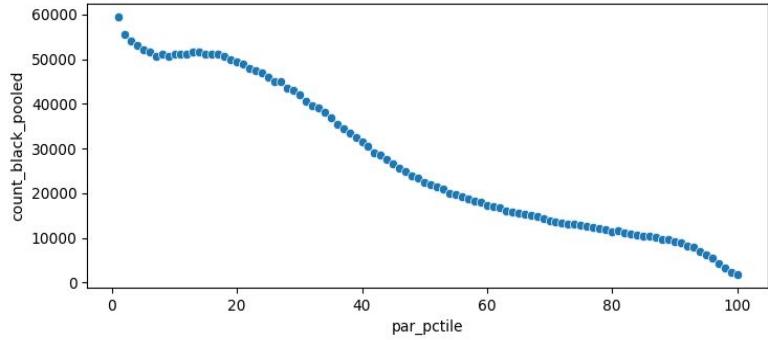
Average Value of College Attendance



Mean child individual income rank for children based on

Percentage of children with college attendance by race and gender

Relationship between Parent Income Percentile and Various Outcomes



Shows the distribution of parent household income rank by race



Table 2

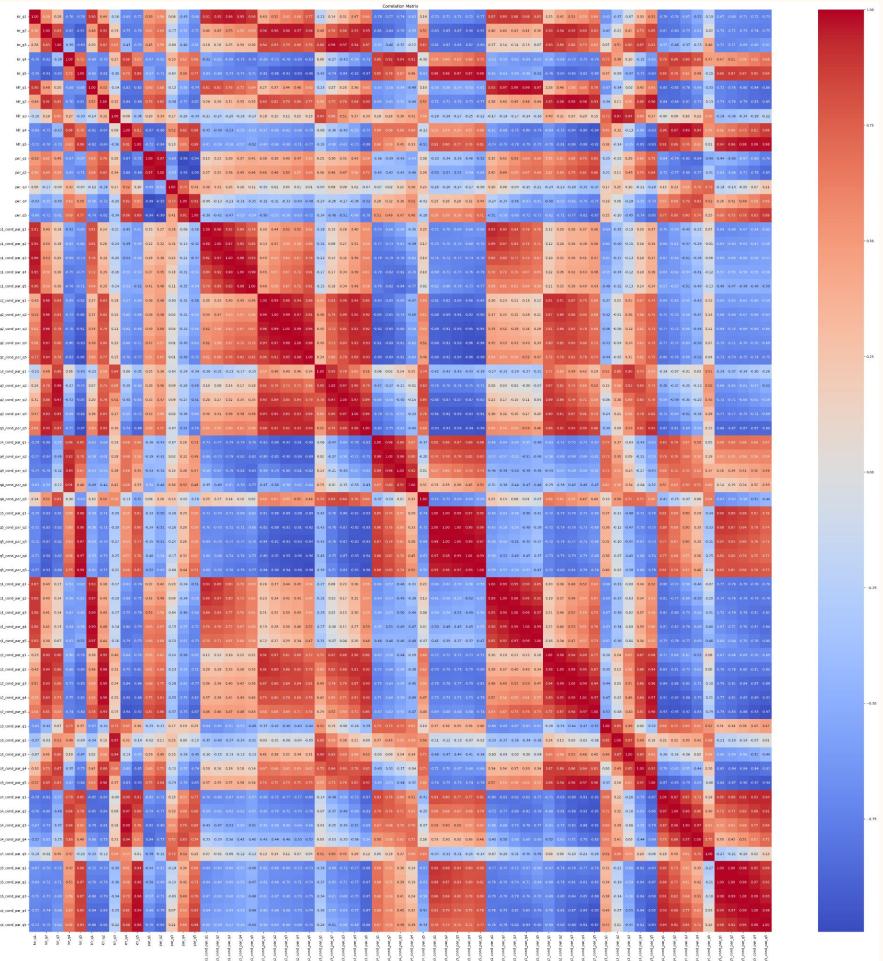
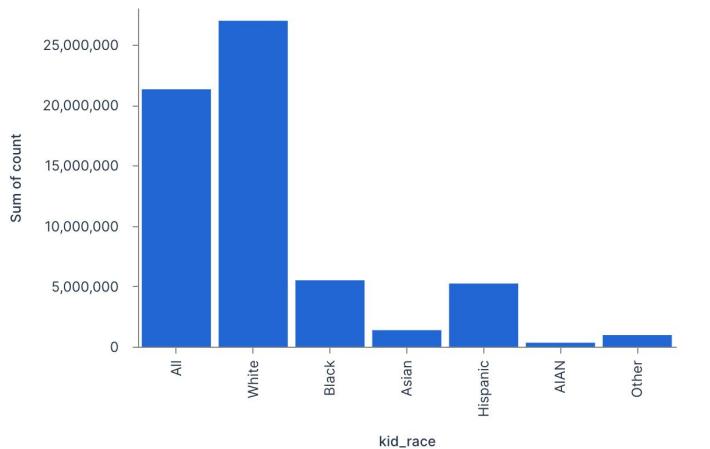




Table 3

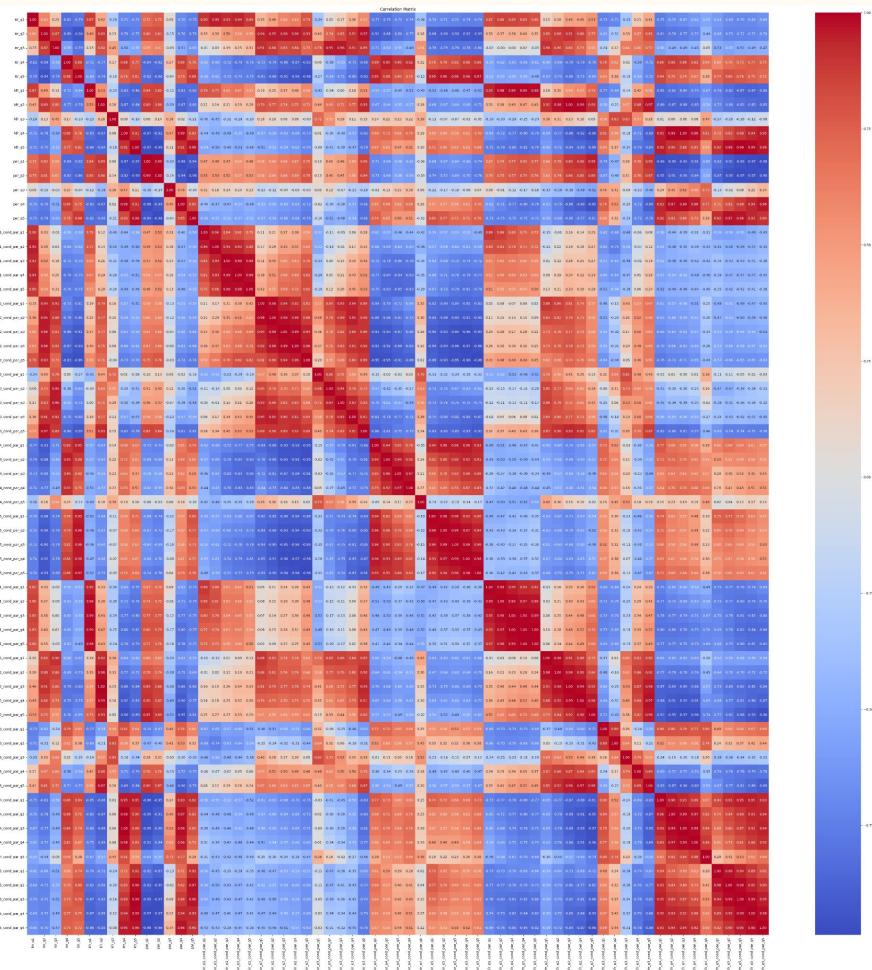
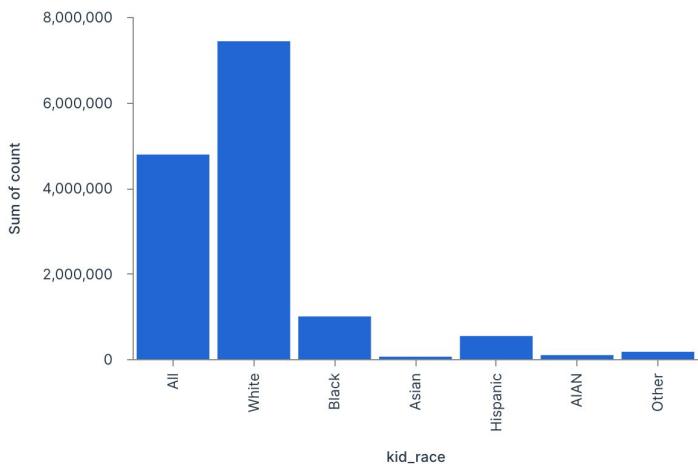




Table 4

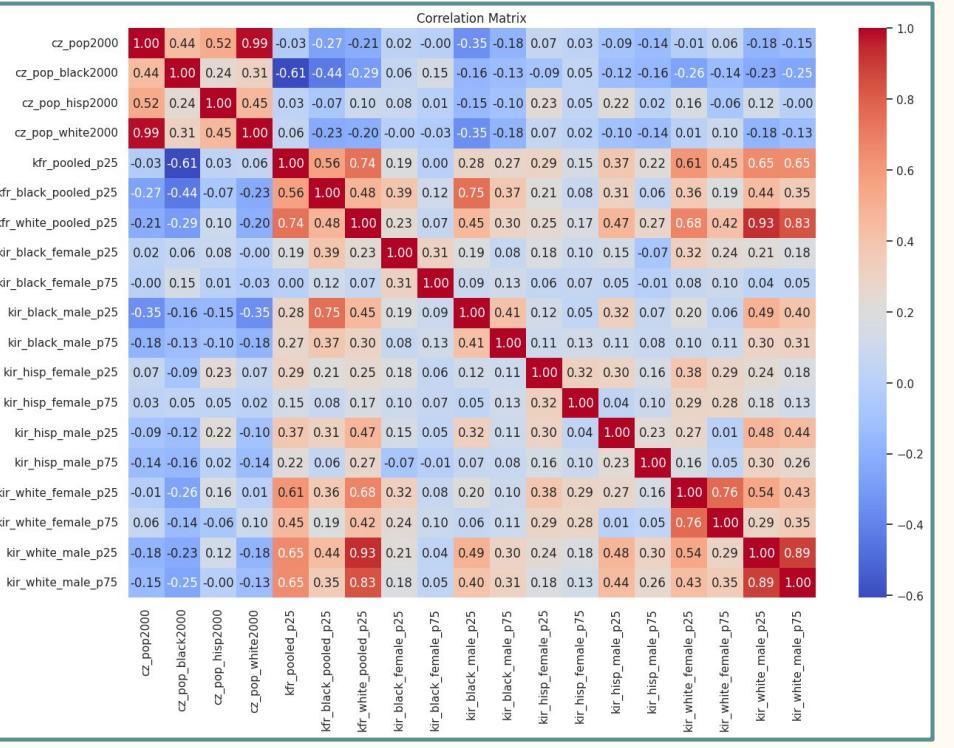




Table 5

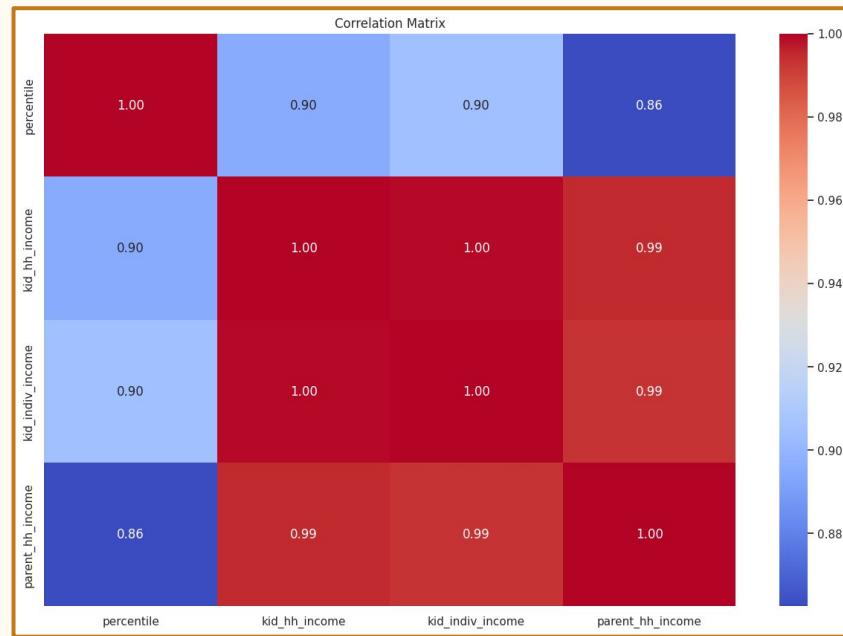
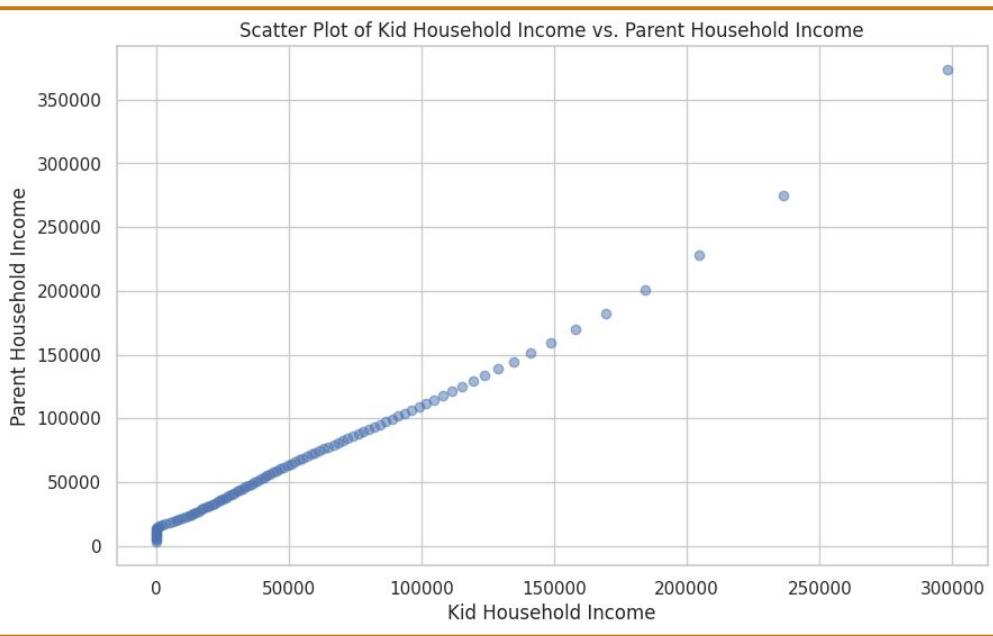


Table 6a

The histograms are useful for understanding the distribution characteristics of income rank across different percentiles and potentially different groups within a population. The P75 distributions appear slightly more spread out than the P25 ones, indicating more variability in the higher percentile ranks.

The heatmap was useful for identifying relationships between different socioeconomic and demographic variables. For instance, understanding how the presence of parents or their duration in the U.S. correlates with income rank was crucial for the paper's arguments on social mobility.

The kfr_P_p25 and kfr_P_p75 (parents' income rank in the commuting zone for children) show strong correlations with kir_F_p25, kir_F_p75, kir_M_p25, kir_M_p75, etc. This implies a significant relationship between the economic status of parents and their children, aligning with the intergenerational transmission of economic status.

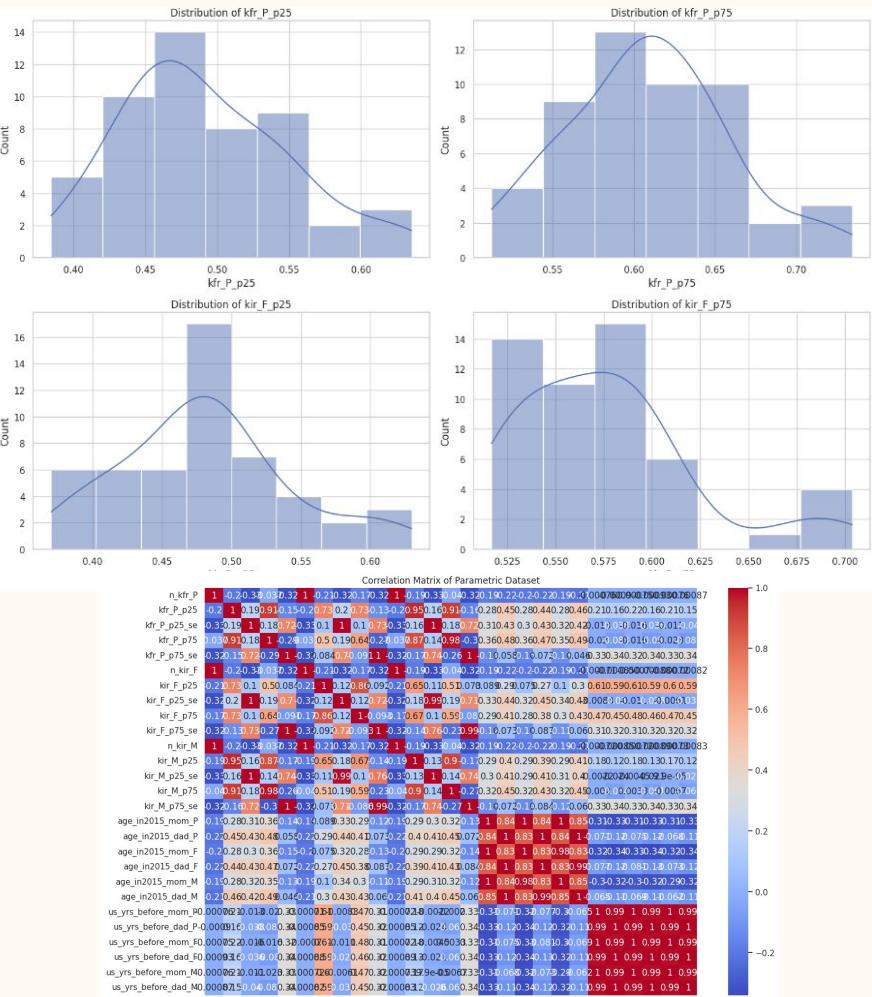
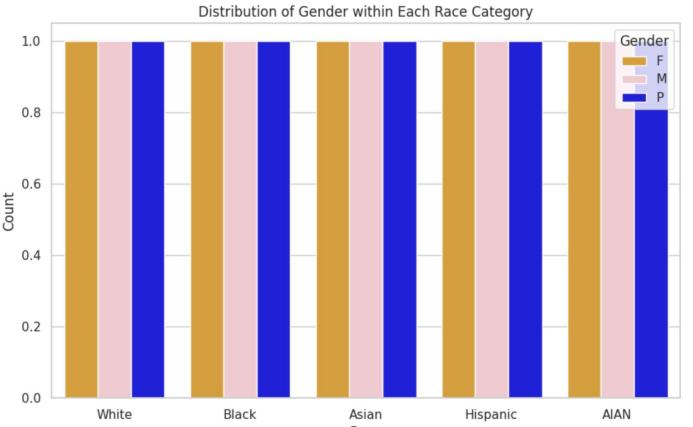


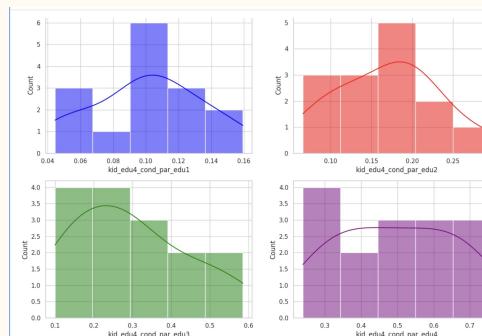
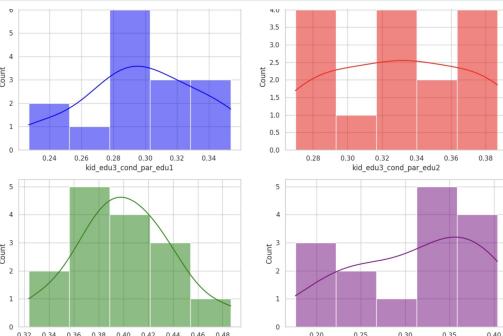
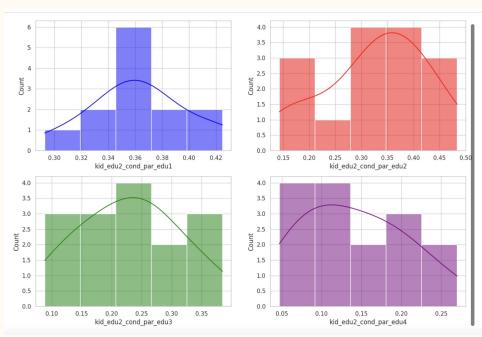
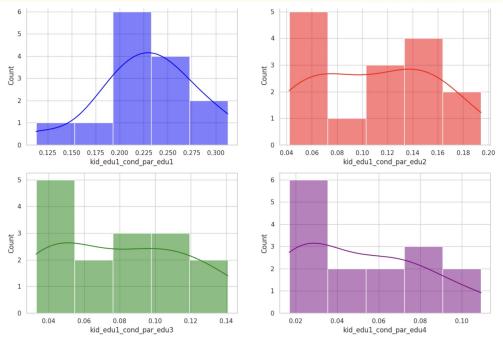
Table 7

parental educational attainment[p]
levels:
 1. Less than high school
 2. High school
 3. Some college/associate degree
 4. Bachelor degree or higher



American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN)

	Gender			
count	1	0.2	0.0	0.0
kid_edu1	1	0.1	0.05	0.05
kid_edu2	0.0288	1	0.2	0.05
kid_edu3	0.0765	1	0.1	0.05
kid_edu4	0.1516	0.3	0.1	0.05
par_edu1	0.0173	0.0	0.0	0.0
par_edu2	0.2189	0.02	0.01	0.01
par_edu3	0.1938	0.03	0.01	0.01
par_edu4	0.2028	0.04	0.01	0.01
kid_edu1_cond_par_edu1	0.0557	0.05	0.05	0.05
kid_edu1_cond_par_edu2	0.2722	0.27	0.27	0.27
kid_edu1_cond_par_edu3	0.0997	0.09	0.09	0.09
kid_edu1_cond_par_edu4	0.1519	0.18	0.18	0.18
kid_edu2_cond_par_edu1	0.0554	0.05	0.05	0.05
kid_edu2_cond_par_edu2	0.2722	0.27	0.27	0.27
kid_edu2_cond_par_edu3	0.0997	0.09	0.09	0.09
kid_edu2_cond_par_edu4	0.1519	0.18	0.18	0.18
kid_edu3_cond_par_edu1	0.0554	0.05	0.05	0.05
kid_edu3_cond_par_edu2	0.2722	0.27	0.27	0.27
kid_edu3_cond_par_edu3	0.0997	0.09	0.09	0.09
kid_edu3_cond_par_edu4	0.1519	0.18	0.18	0.18
kid_edu4_cond_par_edu1	0.0554	0.05	0.05	0.05
kid_edu4_cond_par_edu2	0.2722	0.27	0.27	0.27
kid_edu4_cond_par_edu3	0.0997	0.09	0.09	0.09
kid_edu4_cond_par_edu4	0.1519	0.18	0.18	0.18

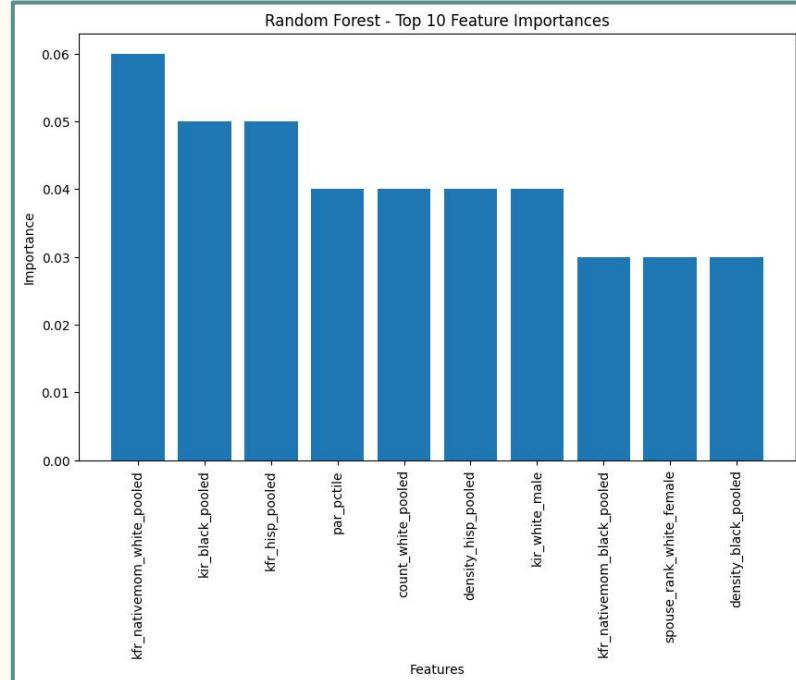


children with parental educational attainment at each levels whose own educational attainment is *Bachelor Degree or Higher*

Modeling

Feature Importance

Feature	Importance
kfr_nativemom_white_pooled	0.06
kir_black_pooled	0.05
kfr_hisp_pooled	0.05
par_pctile	0.04
count_white_pooled	0.04
density_hisp_pooled	0.04
kir_white_male	0.04
kfr_nativemom_black_pooled	0.03
spouse_rank_white_female	0.03
density_black_pooled	0.03



Comparison to Paper

Table II
Association Between Black Father Presence and Black Men's Upward Mobility Across Census Tracts: OLS Regression Estimates



Model 1

Results for regression 1:

OLS Regression Results						
Dep. Variable:	kir_black_male	R-squared:	0.999			
Model:	OLS	Adj. R-squared:	0.999			
Method:	Least Squares	F-statistic:	3.864e+04			
Date:	Thu, 27 Jun 2024	Prob (F-statistic):	1.33e-38			
Time:	20:06:24	Log-Likelihood:	33.564			
No. Observations:	25	AIC:	-63.13			
Df Residuals:	23	BIC:	-60.69			
Df Model:	1					
Covariance Type:	nonrobust					
	coef	std err	t	P> t	[0.025	0.975]
const	-0.3548	0.183	-1.936	0.065	-0.734	0.024
kir_1par_black_male	1.0233	0.005	196.571	0.000	1.013	1.034
Omnibus:	3.648	Durbin-Watson:	1.753			
Prob(Omnibus):	0.161	Jarque-Bera (JB):	1.997			
Skew:	0.430	Prob(JB):	0.368			
Kurtosis:	4.085	Cond. No.	490.			

Linear Regression R-squared: 0.999, MSE: 0.011

Lasso Regression R-squared: 0.998, MSE: 0.021

Ridge Regression R-squared: 0.999, MSE: 0.011

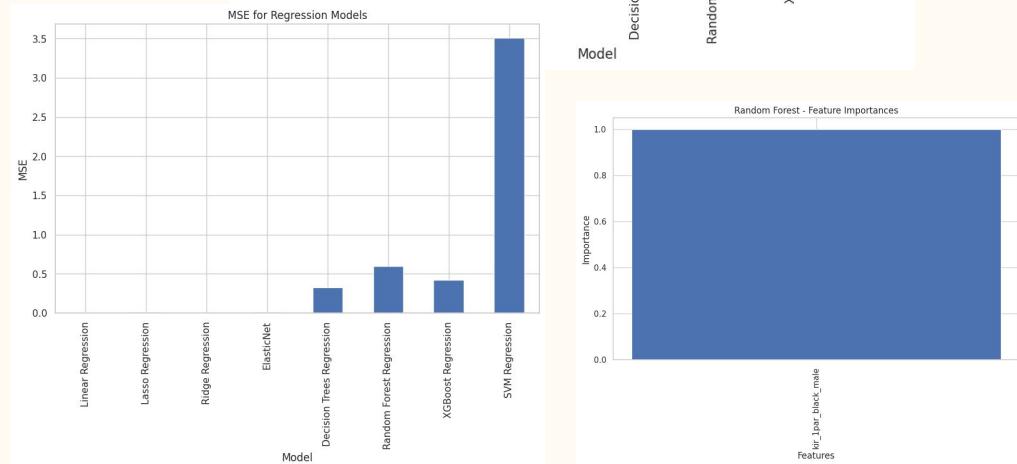
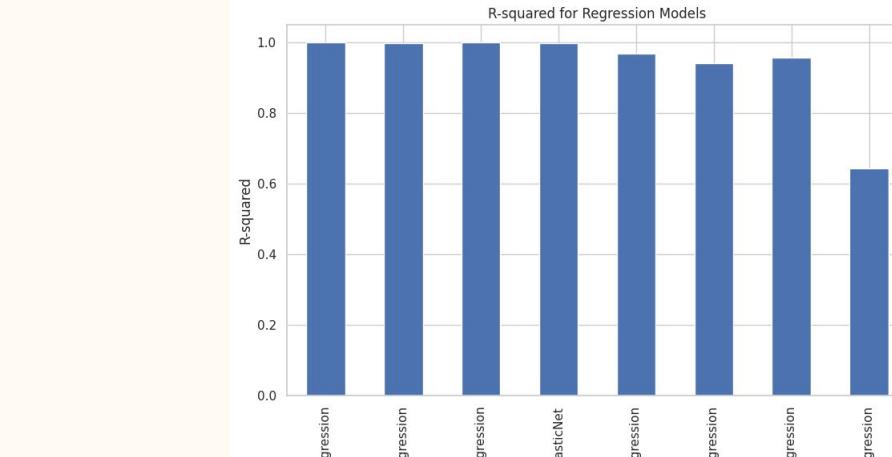
ElasticNet R-squared: 0.998, MSE: 0.021

Decision Trees Regression R-squared: 0.966, MSE: 0.332

Random Forest Regression R-squared: 0.939, MSE: 0.598

XGBoost Regression R-squared: 0.957, MSE: 0.426

SVM Regression R-squared: 0.644, MSE: 3.510



Model 2

Results for regression 2:

OLS Regression Results									
Dep. Variable:	kir_black_male	R-squared:	1.000						
Model:	OLS	Adj. R-squared:	1.000						
Method:	Least Squares	F-statistic:	2.709e+04						
Date:	Thu, 27 Jun 2024	Prob (F-statistic):	4.93e-38						
Time:	20:06:24	Log-Likelihood:	38.340						
No. Observations:	25	AIC:	-70.68						
Df Residuals:	22	BIC:	-67.02						
Df Model:	2								
Covariance Type:	nonrobust								
coef	std err	t	P> t	[0.025	0.975]				
const	-0.8650	0.222	-3.892	0.001	-1.326	-0.404			
kir_1par_black_male	0.9138	0.034	26.498	0.000	0.842	0.985			
kir_1par_white_male	0.0980	0.031	3.200	0.004	0.034	0.162			
Omnibus:	1.643	Durbin-Watson:		2.184					
Prob(Omnibus):	0.440	Jarque-Bera (JB):		1.120					
Skew:	0.231	Prob(JB):		0.571					
Kurtosis:	2.071	Cond. No.		1.14e+03					

Linear Regression R-squared: 0.999, MSE: 0.006

Lasso Regression R-squared: 0.999, MSE: 0.009

Ridge Regression R-squared: 1.000, MSE: 0.004

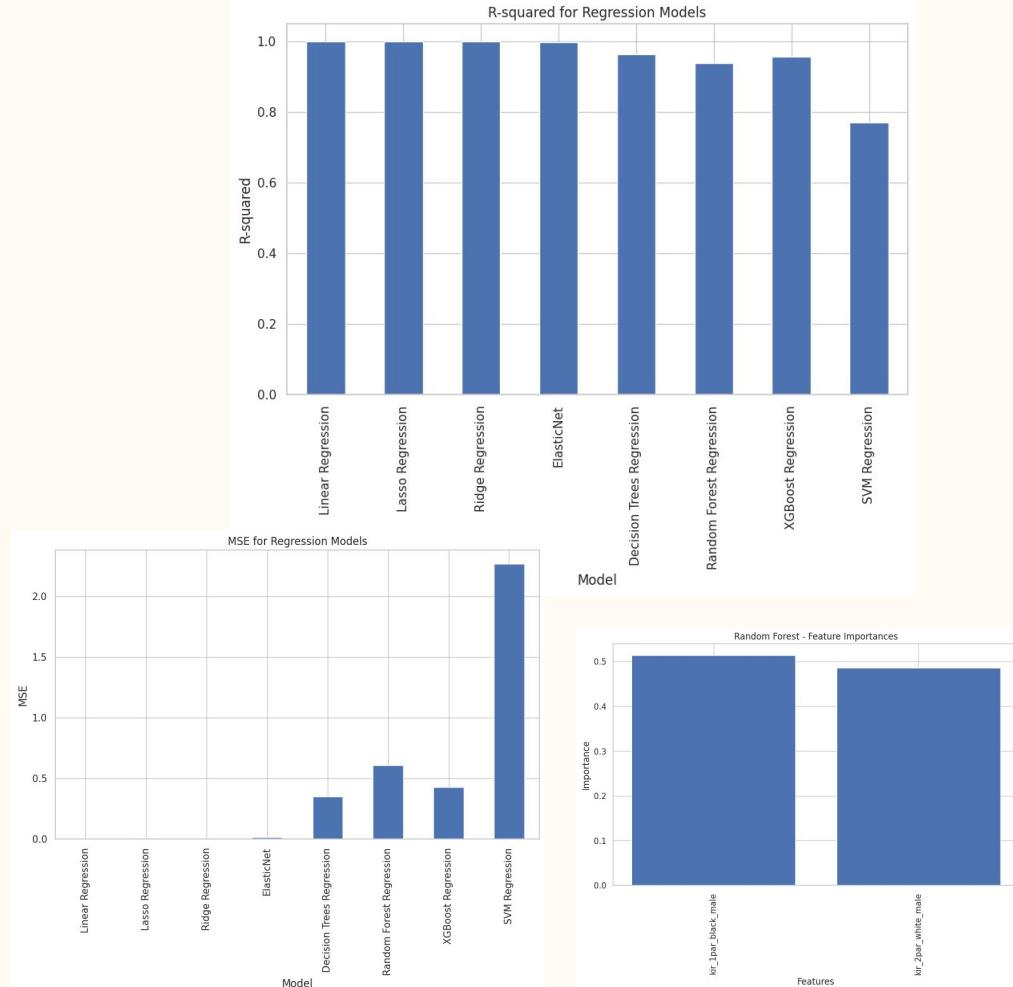
ElasticNet R-squared: 0.998, MSE: 0.016

Decision Trees Regression R-squared: 0.964, MSE: 0.351

Random Forest Regression R-squared: 0.938, MSE: 0.611

XGBoost Regression R-squared: 0.957, MSE: 0.426

SVM Regression R-squared: 0.770, MSE: 2.265



Model 3

Results for regression 3:

```
OLS Regression Results
=====
Dep. Variable: kir_black_male R-squared:      1.000
Model: OLS Adj. R-squared:      1.000
Method: Least Squares F-statistic: 1.020e+05
Date: Thu, 27 Jun 2024 Prob (F-statistic): 2.29e-44
Time: 20:06:24 Log-Likelihood:      54.911
No. Observations: 25 AIC:      -103.8
Df Residuals: 22 BIC:      -100.2
Df Model: 2
Covariance Type: nonrobust
=====

            coef    std err          t      P>|t|      [0.025      0.975]
-----
const     -1.4953   0.139     -10.720   0.000     -1.785     -1.206
kir_1par_black_male  0.9103   0.012     78.786   0.000      0.886      0.934
kir_2par_black_male  0.1335   0.013      9.968   0.000      0.106      0.161
-----
Omnibus:      5.809 Durbin-Watson:      1.415
Prob(Omnibus): 0.055 Jarque-Bera (JB): 3.817
Skew:         0.737 Prob(JB):        0.148
Kurtosis:     4.222 Cond. No. 1.27e+03
=====
```

Linear Regression R-squared: 1.000, MSE: 0.003

Lasso Regression R-squared: 0.998, MSE: 0.020

Ridge Regression R-squared: 1.000, MSE: 0.002

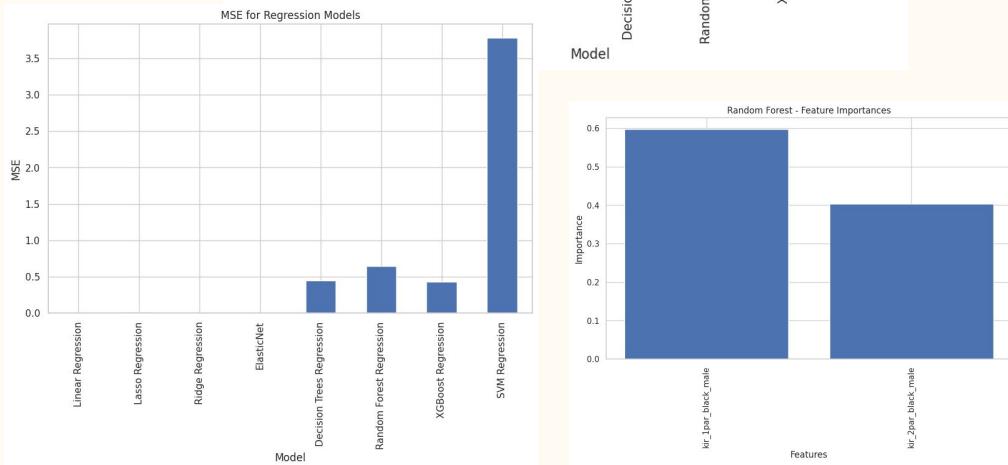
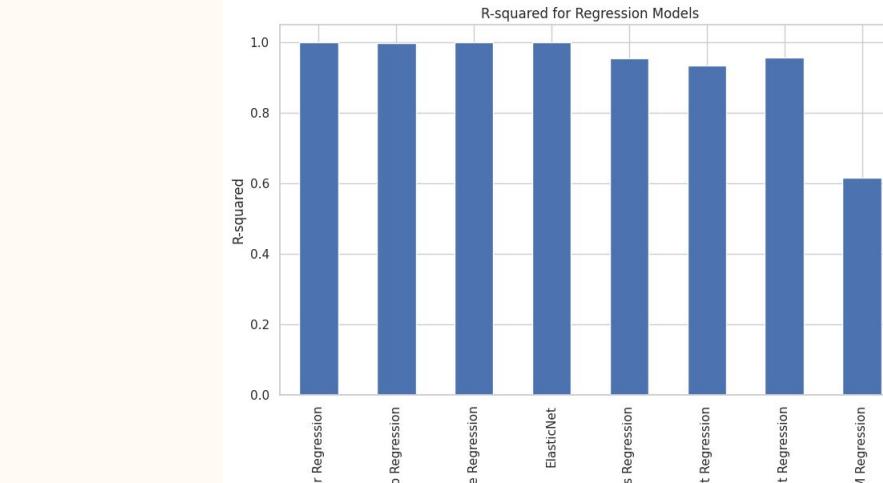
ElasticNet R-squared: 1.000, MSE: 0.004

Decision Trees Regression R-squared: 0.955, MSE: 0.447

Random Forest Regression R-squared: 0.935, MSE: 0.642

XGBoost Regression R-squared: 0.956, MSE: 0.431

SVM Regression R-squared: 0.616, MSE: 3.781



Model 4

Results for regression 4:

OLS Regression Results									
Dep. Variable:	kir_black_male	R-squared:	1.000						
Model:	OLS	Adj. R-squared:	1.000						
Method:	Least Squares	F-statistic:	3.044e+04						
Date:	Thu, 27 Jun 2024	Prob (F-statistic):	1.37e-38						
Time:	20:06:24	Log-Likelihood:	39.799						
No. Observations:	25	AIC:	-73.60						
Df Residuals:	22	BIC:	-69.94						
Df Model:	2								
Covariance Type:	nonrobust								
	coef	std err	t	P> t	[0.025	0.975]			
const	-1.8693	0.427	-4.375	0.000	-2.755	-0.983			
kir_1par_black_male	0.9368	0.023	40.210	0.000	0.888	0.985			
kir_2par_white_male	0.0985	0.026	3.772	0.001	0.044	0.153			
Omnibus:	0.574	Durbin-Watson:	2.064						
Prob(Omnibus):	0.751	Jarque-Bera (JB):	0.357						
Skew:	0.281	Prob(JB):	0.836						
Kurtosis:	2.837	Cond. No.	2.37e+03						

Linear Regression R-squared: 0.999, MSE: 0.006

Lasso Regression R-squared: 0.998, MSE: 0.021

Ridge Regression R-squared: 1.000, MSE: 0.005

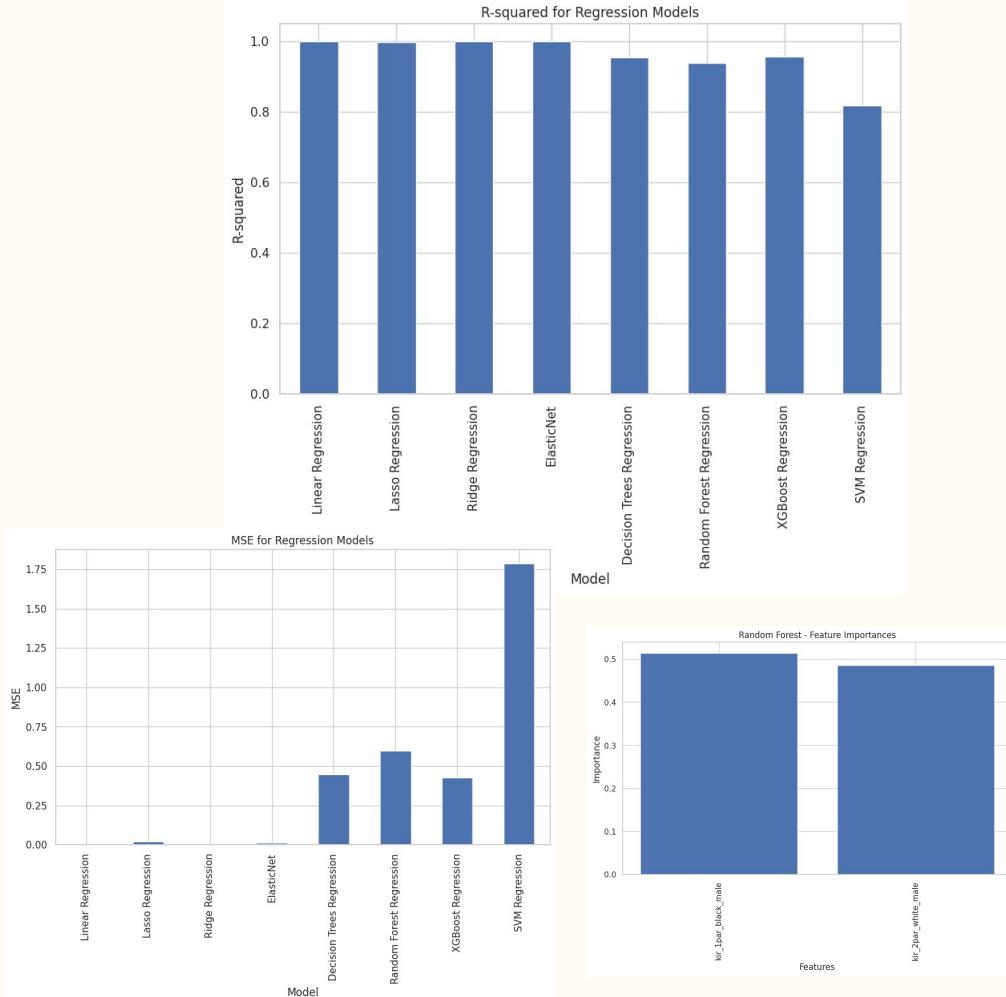
ElasticNet R-squared: 0.999, MSE: 0.012

Decision Trees Regression R-squared: 0.955, MSE: 0.447

Random Forest Regression R-squared: 0.939, MSE: 0.597

XGBoost Regression R-squared: 0.957, MSE: 0.425

SVM Regression R-squared: 0.819, MSE: 1.786



Interpretations and Conclusion



Interpretation

Persistent Income Disparities:

- Significant income mobility disparities persist among black men, unaffected by differences in parental income, education, or marital status, and are evident even within the same neighborhoods.

Influence of Parental Presence:

- Analysis using a Random Forest model shows that the presence of one or two parents (`kir_1par_black_male` and `kir_2par_black_male`) significantly influences the income rank outcomes for black males, with both factors having nearly equal importance.



Caveats

Data Limitations Impact Model Accuracy:

- Challenges arose during modeling due to the unavailability of mergeable data sets from the original authors, restricting us to limited data for each predictive question. This led to difficulties in accurately modeling the income rank of black children based on parental presence, highlighting discrepancies in social mobility across different races in America due to the use of disjointed government data collected over various years and states.

Analysis of R-squared Values:

- R-squared values for different regression models, such as Linear Regression, Lasso, Ridge, and ElasticNet, approach 1, indicating high explained variability. However, lower R-squared values in the SVM Regression model suggest it explains less variability in income rank. These high values across most models may indicate overfitting, stressing the need for careful model evaluation and the inclusion of more comprehensive data to prevent misleading results.



Conclusion

Implications:

- Had our results have been reliable, specifically around the significant positive impact of parental presence on income rank, policymakers should invest in programs that support single-parent and two-parent families. This could include financial assistance, parenting support programs, and community resources aimed at strengthening family units. Understanding the factors that influence the income rank of black males is crucial for addressing economic disparities. The results highlight the importance of family structure in economic outcomes, guiding policymakers in designing effective interventions to foster socio-economic mobility and reduce income inequality.

Significance

- Understanding the factors that influence the income rank of black males is crucial for addressing economic disparities. The results highlight the importance of family structure in economic outcomes.

Thank You!