Neighborhood-informed approaches in early childhood to advance racial equity

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Agenda

- 1. What are neighborhood-informed policies in early childhood and how do they advance racial equity? (Erin)
- 2. The Child Opportunity Index: Why it is needed, how we built it, what it shows, and how to use it (Clemens)
- 3. Example Uses of the Child Opportunity Index: Early childhood, health applications (Clemens and Erin)

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Early Childhood Income, Work and Family Neighborhoods

Until every child thrives, every day, everywhere.

Mobilizing data for equity

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About diversitydatakids.org

- For over 10 years, we've been developing content (indicators, policy research, methodologies, website tools-maps and charts and databases)
- Our niche: We integrate our dedicated focus on children with a racial/ethnic equity-lens (structural inequality), policy expertise, and unique data power
- Our project is funded to generate content that informs and can be applied in the field, and also to be part of making our data impactful through collaborations
- Main sectors: Health, housing/community development, early care and education (ECE), parental job quality

Introductions: Project Leadership

Dolores Acevedo-Garcia, Director and Principal Investigator

 Racial/ethnic equity in child health, social determinants of health equity, residential segregation and neighborhood inequality, children in immigrant families, housing policy, immigrant policy, national poverty scholar (National Academies of Sciences *Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty*)

Pamela Joshi, Policy Research Director

 Policy equity assessment, parental job quality, child care and early education, national equity scholar (National Academies of Sciences *Exploring the Opportunity Gap for Young Children 0-8*)

Clemens Noelke, Research Director

 Lead Child Opportunity Index Scientist, structural inequality, advancing equity with neighborhood data, maternal and child health researcher Equity is not about equal, rather that all children have their specific needs met

Equitable access means the *absence* of systematic unfair disparities between population groups in access to opportunities for healthy development

Equitable policies address the ways that structural factors (e.g. segregation) shape both children's access *and* their needs/opportunities differentially along racial/ethnic lines

What are neighborhood-informed policies in early childhood, why do they matter, and how do they advance racial equity?



Why do neighborhoods matter for early childhood?

- 1. Access to early childhood programs happens at the neighborhood level
- 2. Research shows that having an early care and education (Head Start) center in the immediate neighborhood facilitates access
- 3. Ensure programs are reaching children facing the 'triple jeopardy' of poverty, low neighborhood opportunities, and low neighborhood availability of early childhood resources



What does this have to do with racial equity?

Racial residential segregation can drive unequal access to early childhood resources and to a broader set of neighborhood-based opportunities

What is residential segregation?

- Segregation is a form of **institutional racial discrimination** that has been reinforced over decades through exclusionary and discriminatory housing policies and practices (e.g. exclusionary zoning, redlining, racial covenants, steering).
- Segregation is an institutional, systemic issue that is outside of the control of any individual child or family, and it is not benign. It can negatively affect children on the basis of their race or ethnicity, above and beyond other factors such as poverty.

What does segregation look like, and how bad is it?



Milwaukee Metro Area 1 dot= 500 children

Source: diversitydatakids.org

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<u>Low-income</u> children are very racially segregated, just like children overall

Percent white in neighborhood





Low-income children

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Children ages 0-4 with family income below 200% of the federal poverty level. Source: diversitydatakids.org calculations of American Community Survey, 2013-2017 and 2010-2014.

What does this have to do with racial inequities in early childhood program access?

Average number of Head Start eligible children per center in neighborhood, 2019



The groups with the worst neighborhood access are those for whom neighborhood availability matters most (Hispanic, immigrant children)

diversitydatakids.org

Source: Hardy et al. 2020. Unequal Availability of Head Start: How Neighborhood Matters, diversitydatakids.org Research Brief.

Unequal "triple jeopardy" of poverty, low neighborhood opportunity, and low Head Start availability

% of poor 3-4 year olds in very low opportunity neighborhood with no Head Start



Intersecting family poverty, neighborhood opportunity, and Head Start availability gives a more complete picture of racial inequities

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Racial residential segregation is "bigger than me"

...as an early childhood stakeholder, what can I do about it?

Neighborhood-informed approaches in early childhood policy, programs and practice

Advancing racial equity through neighborhood informed early childhood policies

By Erin Hardy, Pamela Joshi, Madeline Leonardos, Dolores Acevedo-Garcia

09.16.2021

Read the report (PDF)

Read the Executive Summary (PDF)

https://www.diversitydatakids.org/research-library/research-report/advancing-racial-equity-through-neighborhood-informed-early

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Neighborhood-informed policies in early childhood

The local availability (defined: immediate neighborhood or within a few miles of home) shapes what children can access with reasonable effort—it is a crucial dimension of access.

Yet, most early childhood policies do not systematically require, incentivize or equip states, grantees, programs to assess what children have access to within a small mile radius.

Neighborhoods are vastly unequal for children of different race/ethnicities (even for low-income children).

Yet, neighborhood factors are not systematically accounted for in funding allocations, eligibility, prioritization, recruitment and targeting in early childhood programs.

There is a foundation to build from

We found levers across all federal early childhood policies and programs reviewed

- Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five
- Head Start / Early Head Start
- Child Care Development Fund
- Title I Preschool / ESSA
- Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

Strengthening neighborhood-informed policies in early childhood

For legislative and policy advocates:

- Support to use existing levers
- Neighborhood resources as part of eligibility criteria and priority groups
- Incentives/requirements for community needs assessments
- Data advocacy: Stronger data systems
- Consider fair access policies, like in housing policy

Advance neighborhood-informed systems and programs in early childhood

For states, grantees, TA providers:

- Systems planning, coordination and community assessments and planning conducted at neighborhood or zipcode level
- Children's needs assessed based on family resources, neighborhood resources, and programmatic access
- Programmatic levers: Program location targeting, recruitment areas within service areas, priority groups (double and triple jeopardy)
- Communities of practice, sharing of practices/evidence



Policy Equity Assessments Datasets Child Opportunity Index diversitydatakids.org About Us FAQs Impact Stories News Contact Us Q data for a diverse and equitable future Early Childhood Income, Work and Family Neighborhoods Until every child thrives, every day, everywhere. Mobilizing data for equity **Explore COI data stories** Access raw datasets Ľ **View COI maps**

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Early childhood COI use case example

Ottawa Montreal



Partnership example: MA Department of Early Education and Care

- Equity analysis of children facing 'triple jeopardy': family-, community-, and subsidy systemvulnerability
- Developed maps and neighborhood and city/town level databases for the state
- Mapped the segregation of subsidy income-eligible children statewide



The geography of children ages 0-4



Geography of child care and early education system gaps (regulated care and early education for 0-4 year olds)



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The geography of subsidy-eligible children ages 0-4



Geography of subsidy-eligible children



Geography of subsidized child care and early education system gaps (subsidized care and early education for 0-4 year olds)



n=40 high gap cities/towns

Geography of opportunity (Child Opportunity Index)



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The Child Opportunity Index 2.0: Why it is needed, how we built it, what it shows, and how to use it

Clemens Noelke, PhD

Research Director diversitydatakids.org Email: info@diversitydatakids.org | Twitter: @diversitydataki

October 13, 2021

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KIRWAN INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF RACE AND ETHNICITY

F KELLOGG FOUNDATION Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



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Two Detroit Neighborhoods

Ottawa Montreal

A few miles away, a world apart in child opportunity






Selected COI 2.0 indicators	Neighborhood A	Neighborhood B	
Neighborhood poverty rate	52%	5%	
Enrollment in early childhood education	30%	52%	E C
Lack of green space	60%	39%	
Limited proximity to healthy food	11%	0.2%	
Housing vacancy rate	28%	0.3%	

COI 2.0: A metric of child opportunity for all U.S. neighborhoods

Multi-sectoral: 29 indicators capturing three domains of opportunity (education, health and environment, social and economic)

Focus on neighborhood features that matter for children today

Granular data on nearly all U.S. neighborhoods (>72,000 census tracts)

Data comparable across neighborhoods and over time (2010, 2015) Data update in progress

Users from academia, media, health, housing, and early childhood education sectors

Why do we need the COI?

- 1. Compare neighborhood opportunity within and across states
- 2. Comprehensive measure of neighborhood quality/assets for children
- 3. One rather than 29 metrics
- 4. More predictive of outcomes than similar neighborhood metrics

8

COI 2.0: What is included

Ottawa Montreal

And how we built it



Education

Early childhood education (ECE)

ECE centers within five miles NAEYC accredited centers within five miles ECE enrollment

Primary school

Third grade reading proficiency Third grade math proficiency

Secondary and postsecondary

High school graduation rates AP enrollment College access/enrollment

Resources

School poverty Teacher experience Adult educational attainment **Health and Environment**

Healthy environments

Access to healthy food Access to green space Walkability Housing vacancy rates

Toxic exposures

Superfund sites Industrial pollutants Microparticles Ozone Heat

Health care access

Health insurance coverage

Social and Economic

Economic opportunities

Employment rate Commute duration

Economic resource index

Poverty rate, public assistance rate, high skill employment, median household income, home ownership

Family structure

Single parenthood

How we built the index

Indicators standardized (converted to z-scores) so that they are on a common scale

Standardized indicators averaged into three domain scores

Weights capture how strongly each indicator predicts four different health and socioeconomic outcomes

Domain scores averaged into one overall score

Scores converted into two easily interpretable metrics

Child Opportunity Scores, Child Opportunity Levels

COI 2.0 metrics

Child Opportunity Scores

Vary from 1 to 100

To construct them,

we ranked all neighborhoods on domain and overall scores,

grouped neighborhoods into 100 groups containing 1% of the child population each,

and assigned each group a score from 1 (lowest) to 100 (highest)



COI 2.0 metrics

Child Opportunity Levels

5 categories: very low, low, moderate, high, very high

To construct them,

we ranked all neighborhoods on domain average or overall average z-scores and grouped neighborhoods into 5 categories containing 20% of the child population each



COI 2.0 metrics

Metro-, state- and nationally normed opportunity scores and levels

To compare neighborhoods within one metro area, use metro normed metrics To compare neighborhoods within one state, use state normed metrics For all other use cases, use nationally normed metrics

COI 2.0 data and analyses

More data stories at

diversitydatakids.org/child-opportunity-index

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Child Opportunity Index (COI) 2.0

Child Opportunity Levels Metro normed

Source: diversitydatakids.org. Child Opportunity Index 2.0 Database.



Black children's access to neighborhood opportunity

COI 2.0 Child Opportunity Levels (metro normed)

Black or African American children aged 0-17 years



White children's access to neighborhood opportunity

COI 2.0 Child Opportunity Levels (metro normed)

Non-Hispanic White children aged 0-17 years



Percent of children by race/ethnicity and Child Opportunity Level

Child Opportunity Levels (metro normed)

Children ages 0-17

1,286 census tracts



UNITED STATES

Percent of children by race/ethnicity and Child Opportunity Level

50 -

Child Opportunity Levels (nationally normed)

Children ages 0-17

72,213 census tracts



UNITED STATES

Life expectancy by Child Opportunity Level

The average number of years a person can be expected to live at birth

Child Opportunity Levels (nationally normed)

65,662 census tracts

Sources: diversitydatakids.org, Child Opportunity Index 2.0 Database; National Center for Health Statistics, United States Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP), World Bank.



PREDICTIVE VALIDITY OF FOUR NEIGHBORHOOD METRICS

Percent variance explained across different outcomes

R² statistics from bivariate OLS regressions of neighborhood outcomes on COI 2.0 overall average z-score and three other neighborhood metrics

72,213 US census tracts

SVI = Social Vulnerability Index

Sources: diversitydatakids.org, Child Opportunity Index 2.0 Database. Chetty et al., Opportunity Atlas. NCHS, 500 Cities and USALEEP. CDC/ATSDR).



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Sources: diversitydatakids.org, Child Opportunity Index 2.0 Database. Chetty et al., Opportunity Atlas. NCHS, 500 Cities and USALEEP. CDC/ATSDR).



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Moderate

High

Very high

Journal of Pediatrics 2017, 190:200-6

0

Very low

Low

PEDIATRICS[®]

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

The Child Opportunity Index 2.0 and Hospitalizations for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions

Molly K. Krager, Henry T. Puls, Jessica L. Bettenhausen, Matt Hall, Cary Thurm, Laura M. Plencner, Jessica L. Markham, Clemens Noelke and Andrew F. Beck

ACSC hospitalization rate per 1,000 children **79.9** in very low opportunity tracts and **31.2** in very high opportunity tracts



80

60·

40.

20-

PEDIATRICS

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Pediatric Firearm-Related Hospital Encounters

During the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic

Kelsey A.B. Gastineau, MD, Derek J. Williams, MD, MPH, Matt Hall, PhD, Monika K. Goyal, MD, MSCE, Jordee Wells, MD, MPH, Katherine L. Freundlich, MD, Alison R. Carroll, MD, Whitney L. Browning, MD, Kathleen Doherty, MD, Cristin Q. Fritz, MD, MPH, Patricia A. Frost, MD, Heather Kreth, PsyD, Carlos Plancarte, MD, MSc, Shari Barkin, MD, MSHS

Fire-arm related injury ED/hospital encounters in 2020 2020 data from 44 U.S. children's hospitals, patients aged 0-18

48.9% of patients from **very low** opportunity neighborhoods **5.1%** of patients from **very high** opportunity neighborhoods



15.2

22.3

Pediatrics, doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-050223

48.9

30

20

10

0

40

How to access COI 2.0 data

Questions? Email info@diversitydatakids.org

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Interactive map: diversitydatakids.org/maps



Census tract data: data.diversitydatakids.org

Datasets Child Opportunity Index Maps Policy Equity Assessments

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Topic

Child Opportunity Index (1) Demographics (193) Early childhood (16) Education (38) Family (16) Health (9) Housing (49) Income (65) Neighborhoods (103) Work (50)

Subtopic

Adults (47) Age structure (4) American origin (2) Ancestry (40) Arab origin (2) Asian origin (10) Car ownership (10) Children (52) Citizenship status (6) College degree (12) College or graduate school enrollment (3) Commuting (20)

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Child Opportunity Index 2.0 database

The Child Opportunity Index 2.0 (COI 2.0) is a composite index measured at the census tract level that captures neighborhood resources and conditions that matter for children's... Year(s): Data available for 2010 & 2015.

Working adults who are eligible for FMLA unpaid leave (percent) by race/ethnicity

Share of working adults who are estimated to be eligible for unpaid leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), for each specified race/ethnicity category.

Workers commuting 45+ minutes, ages 16+ (percent)

The number of workers aged 16 years and older who did not work at home with a mean travel time from home to work of 45 minutes or longer divided by the number of workers aged 16... Year(s): Data available for 2009-2017, except for city neighborhoods (2010-2017), ZIP code tabulation areas (2011-2017), and census tracts (2012 & 2017).

Using the COI to increase equity

Share your own story at

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		Torreón Monterrey	Gulf of Mexico	- Solari	diversitydatakids

e future

Using the COI

Research

Measuring community assets, needs, and opportunities Measuring inequities in access to neighborhood opportunity

Raising awareness

Advocacy

Decision making

Place-based targeting of investments, services, purchases, hiring, and more

Opportunity and subsidized housing

Brick-and-mortar subsidized housing tends to cluster in struggling neighborhoods. And so do the Section 8 housing vouchers that can, in theory, be used anywhere.

How healthy is your neighborhood for your child? Take a look

A new report shows stark inequities in neighborhood conditions for children across the country, holding serious implications for later in

NEIGHBORHOOD

OPPORTUNITY LEVEL LOWELL CHELSEA CHELSEA BOSTON RANDOLPH-BROCKTON

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by Sandee LaMotte, CNN

NEWS

Childhood Opportunity Varies

Dramatically by Neighborhood

US.News

life.

OPPORTUNITY INDEX

Just 9 percent of brick-and-mortar subsidized housing is in very high opportunity neighborhoods, with the best access to jobs, healthy food, and quality schools:



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The enormous racial opportunity gap in America's metro areas

The Washington Post Democracy Dies in Darkness

Economy

What shapes a kid's opportunities? Researchers say look to the neighborhood.

TIME



We Tried to Find the Most Equal Place in America. It Got Complicated



SALUD INFANTIL

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Cuando tu vecindario marca tu futuro: el mapa que retrata la gran desigualdad en EEUU

AXIOS

Jan 22, 2020

America's hardest places to grow up

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NATIONAL

In Nearly Every U.S. Metro Area, New Data Show Opportunity Lags For Kids Of Color December 18, 2019 - 3:18 PM ET

California cities rank among country's best and worst places to raise kids, study says



Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs)

Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires non-profit hospitals to conduct CHNAs every three years

CHNAs must include an assessment of community health needs and identify strategies for health improvement

Growing focus on social determinants of health and health equity

Lurie Children's Hospital, Chicago, 2019 CHNA

Focus on health equity and social determinants of health in CHNA and implementation plan

Map geography of opportunity and highlight racial/ethnic inequities in access to opportunity

Discuss and quantify link between neighborhood opportunity and pediatric health outcomes

Identify neighborhoods that are both low opportunity and have a high burden of disease for investment

Source: https://www.luriechildrens.org/en/serving-the-community/magoon-institute-for-healthy-communities

LURIE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, CHICAGO, 2019 COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Geography of opportunity

Neighborhoods with low and very low opportunity are predominantly found on Chicago's South and West sides

https://www.luriechildrens.org/en/serving-thecommunity/magoon-institute-for-healthycommunities/community-health-needs-assessment/

Figure 10. Child Opportunity Index (COI) by Chicago community area



CITY OF CHICAGO

Geography of opportunity and residential segregation

Black children are 15 times more likely than White children to live in very low opportunity neighborhoods

https://www.luriechildrens.org/en/serving-thecommunity/magoon-institute-for-healthycommunities/community-health-needs-assessment/



LURIE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, CHICAGO, 2019 COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Link between opportunity and pediatric health outcomes

All priority health outcomes show a strong opportunity gradient

https://www.luriechildrens.org/en/serving-thecommunity/magoon-institute-for-healthycommunities/community-health-needs-assessment/

ED visits and hospitalization rates per 100,000 for children aged 0-19



complex chronic conditions



child maltreatment





intentional injury





Lurie Children's Hospital, Chicago, 2019 CHNA

Implementation plan identifies strategic priorities for health improvement

Neighborhoods: Belmont Cragin, Austin

Priorities: Social determinants of health, care access, chronic conditions, mental health, violence

Proposes specific strategies and investments

For example, "increase 'anchor mission' activities – hiring, purchasing, investment, and workforce development."

Examples of investments and programs

Hiring: health care internship program for 200 high school students; hired 275 staff members from low/very low opportunity neighborhoods

Procurement: tracked spending by ZIP code, spent \$1.5m on vendors/suppliers in low/very low opportunity neighborhoods; raised \$500k in small business grants

Impact investing: Raised \$6m with local Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs)

Try our interactive map at diversitydatakids.org/maps

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Outcomes used for constructing weights

Socio-economic outcomes from Opportunity Atlas (Chetty et al.), 2015

- Mean household income rank in adulthood (parents at median of parent income distribution)
- Probability of living in a low poverty census tract in adulthood (parents at median of parent income distribution)

Summary health outcomes from 500 Cities Project (CDC, RWJF), 2015

Mental health not good for 14 or more days among adults Physical health not good for 14 or more days among adults

INDICATOR WEIGHTS

Indicator weights by domain

Weights sum to one in each domain

Sources: diversitydatakids.org

Adult educational attainment	0.1			
School poverty	0.14			
Reading proficiency		0.12		
Math proficiency		0.12		
High school graduation rate		0.09		
AP course enrolment	(80.0		
ECE enrolment	C	.08		
College access and enrolment	0	.08		
Teacher experience	0.0	6		
ECE centers	0.05			
High-quality ECE centers	0.05			



Employment rate

Commute duration

Education

Health & Environment

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Social & Economic

0.32

Life expectancy by Child Opportunity Score

The average number of years a person can be expected to live at birth

Child Opportunity Scores (nationally normed)

65,662 census tracts

Sources: diversitydatakids.org, Child Opportunity Index 2.0 Database; National Center for Health Statistics, United States Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP), World Bank.



44

UNITED STATES

Limited physical activity

Percentage respondents aged 18+ not reporting leisure time physical activity in past month

Child Opportunity Scores (nationally normed)

26,889 census tracts

Sources: diversitydatakids.org, Child Opportunity Index 2.0 Database; NCHS, 500 Cities.



UNITED STATES

Obesity

Percentage respondents aged 18+ with a BMI \ge 30

Child Opportunity Scores (nationally normed)

26,889 census tracts

Sources: diversitydatakids.org, Child Opportunity Index 2.0 Database; NCHS, 500 Cities.



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UNITED STATES

Diabetes prevalence

Percentage respondents aged 18+ ever diagnosed with diabetes

Child Opportunity Scores (nationally normed)

26,889 census tracts

Sources: diversitydatakids.org, Child Opportunity Index 2.0 Database; NCHS, 500 Cities.



Child Opportunity Index (COI) vs. Opportunity Atlas

Child Opportunity Index

Composite index based on 29 indicators covering three domains

Focus on contemporary features of neighborhoods linked to healthy child development by previous research

Incorporates OA (and 500 Cities data) to improve predictive validity

Opportunity Atlas (Chetty et al. 2018)

Estimates of long-term effects of growing up in different neighborhoods on, e.g., household income rank, marital status, and incarceration in adulthood

Effects of neighborhoods as they were 15-20 years ago

No information about features of neighborhoods generating these effects