



Freddie Mac

RURAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Collaboration Through
Insights-Driven Solutions

The Injustice of Place: Uncovering the Legacy of Poverty and Housing Hardship in America

Kathryn Edin
William Church Osborne
Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs
Princeton University



AN **ALL FOR HOME** EVENT

KATHRYN J. EDIN AND H. LUKE SHAEFER

"A remarkable book that
could very well change the
way we think about poverty
in the United States."
—*New York Times*
Book Review



\$2.00 A DAY

Living on Almost Nothing in America



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Index of Deep Disadvantage

INCOME

- Poverty
- Deep poverty (below 50% of poverty)

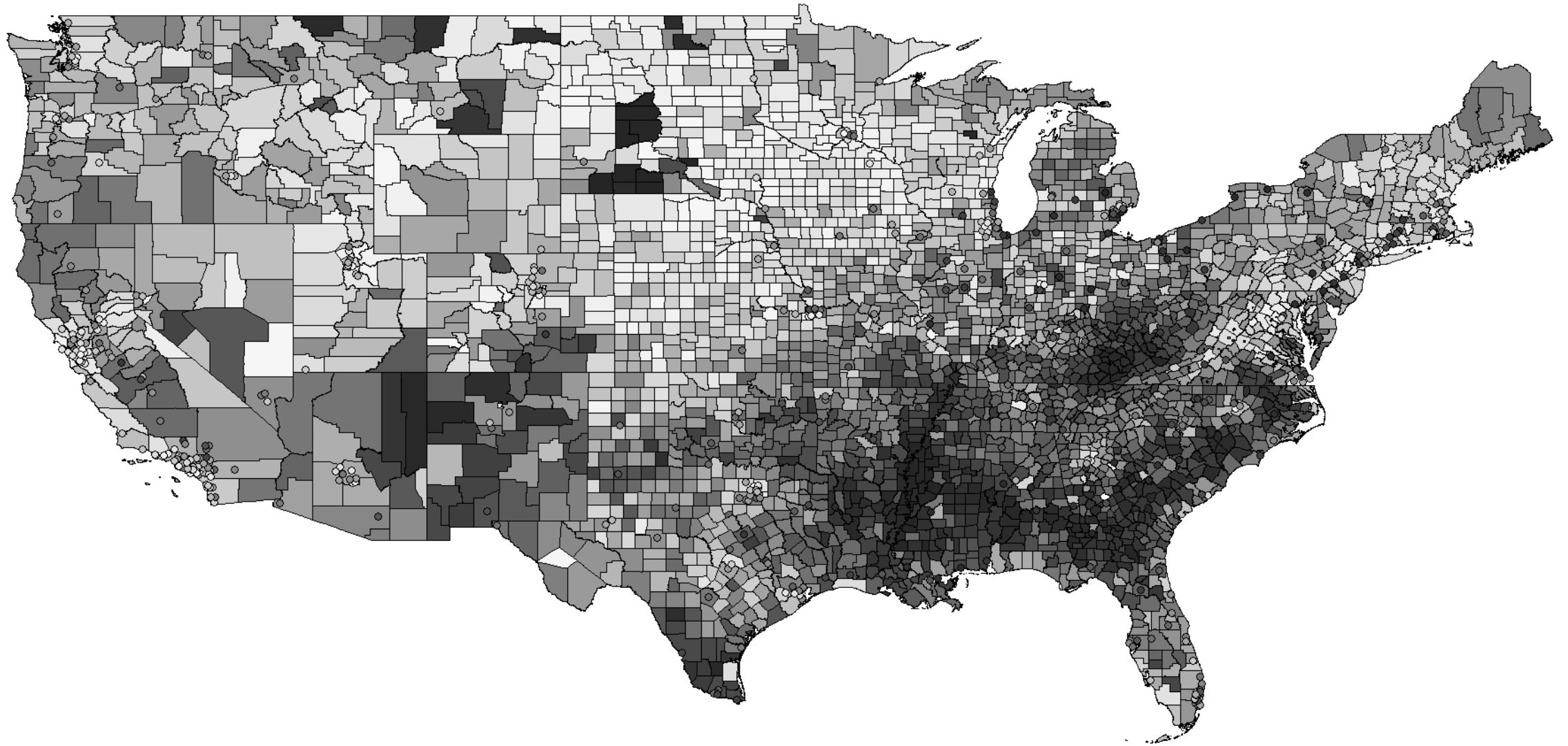
HEALTH

- Low birth weight
- Life expectancy

MOBILITY

- Intergenerational mobility

Disadvantage across the United States

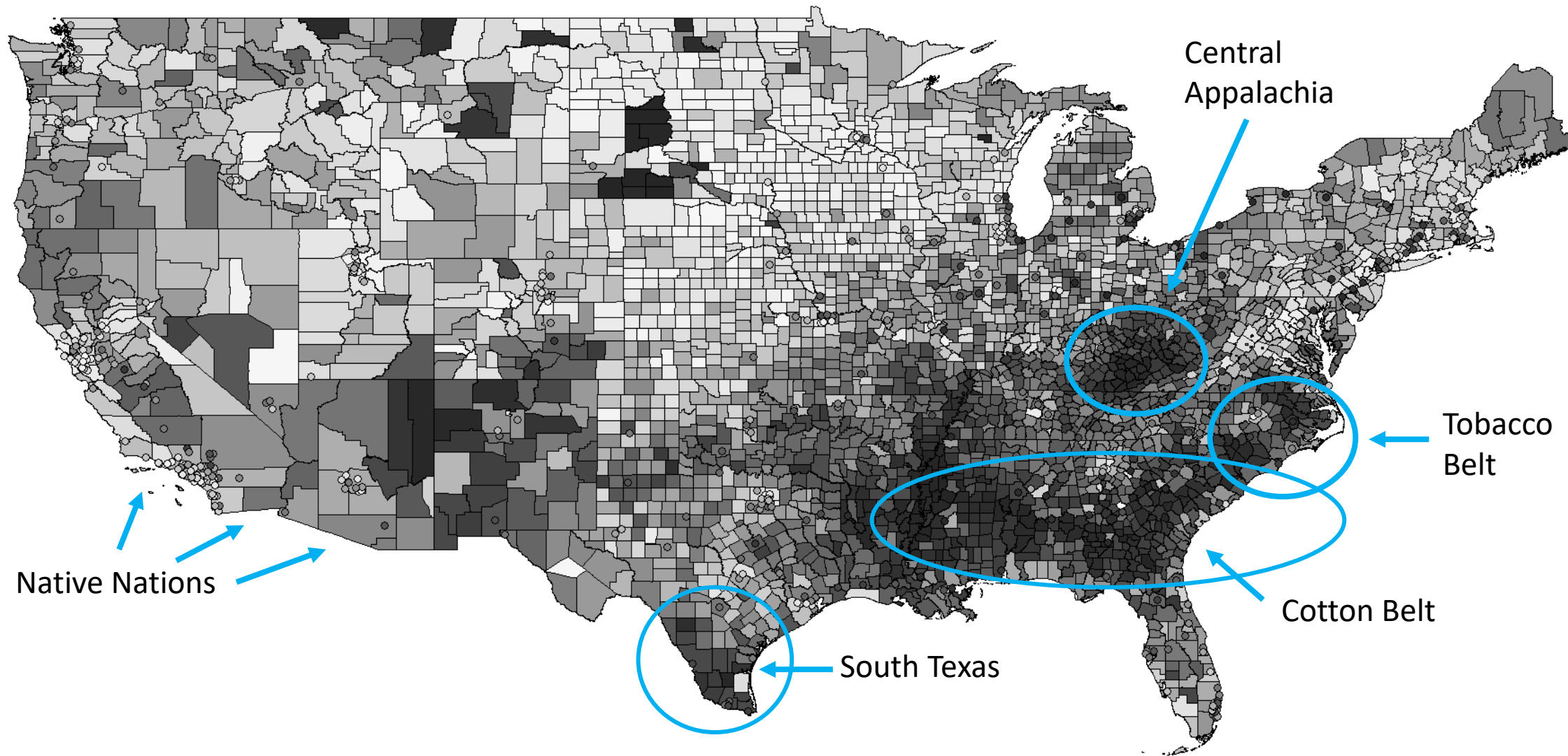


Most Disadvantaged

Most Advantaged



Disadvantage across the United States



A Deep Dive into History

- A history of **intensive resource extraction** and **profound human exploitation** not seen to the same degree elsewhere in the U.S.
- The **goal** of the landowning class was to **build vast wealth off the backs of laborers**.
- In each place, **one industry linked to national and global markets had come to dominate the economy**, a pattern which held broadly into the 1960s.
- This economic pattern had **emerged** (or, in the case of the Cotton Belt, had fully flourished) **in the late nineteenth century**, reaching its zenith in the 1920s and 30s.

5-118 230 *Palmer Cotton*



(L. O. K. M. C. O.)

KING COTTON AND HIS SLAVES

King Cotton and his slaves. Newwood mine









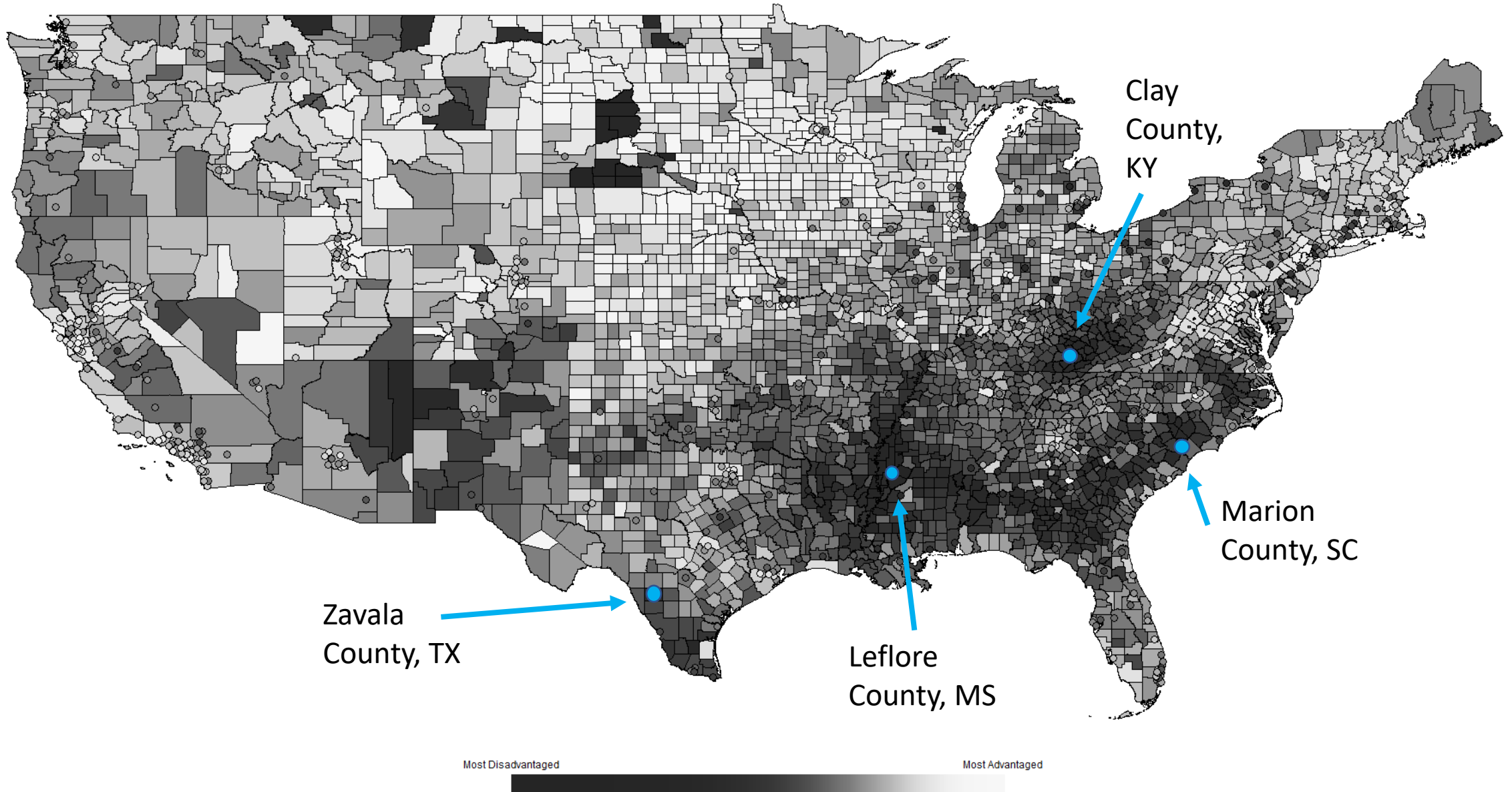




This Pattern was not New!

- Not only were these places scarred by the deep resource extraction and human exploitation of the distant past, but...
- These were the very places that gave the war on poverty its face
- If we did not uncover the mechanisms linking the present to the past, we might be looking at the same map in the future

Disadvantage across the United States

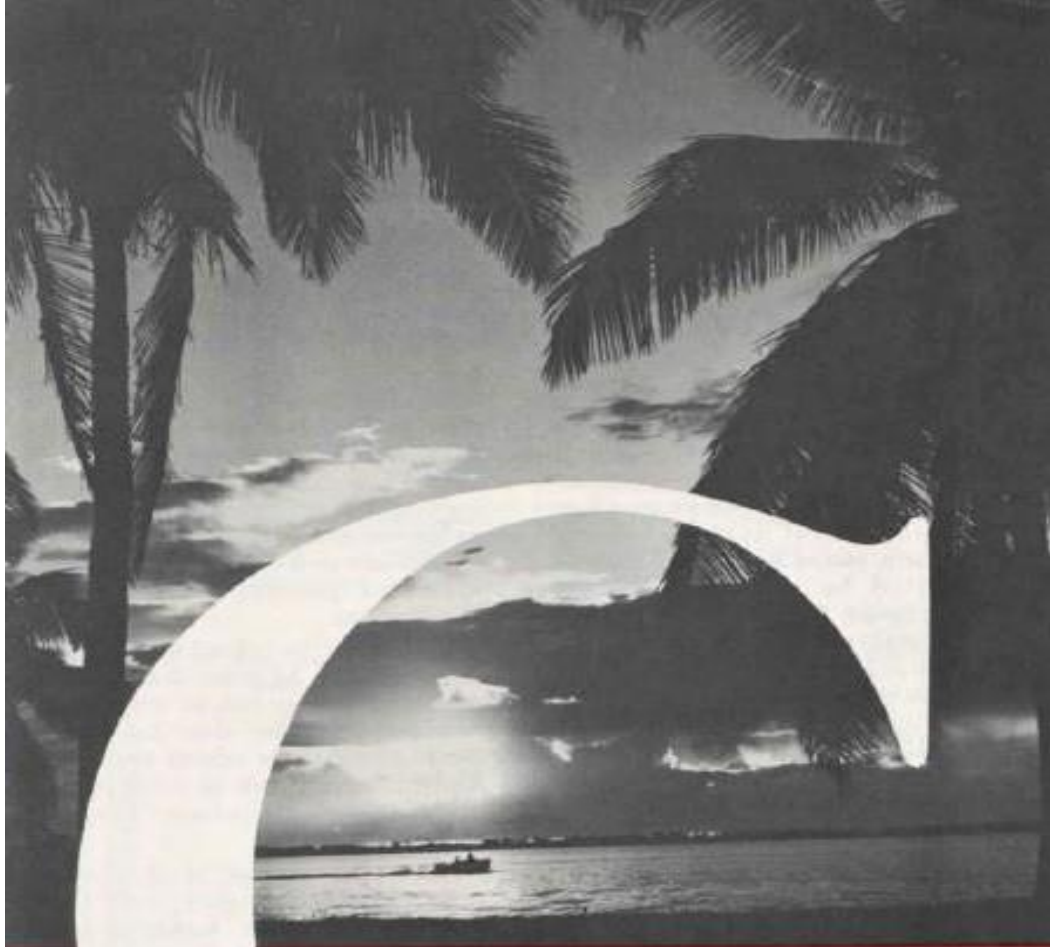


Mechanisms:

- Separate and highly unequal schools
- Loss of social infrastructure
- Violence
- Corruption
- Systemic racism in government policy
- Elite backlash (Zavala County)
- Social reproduction (Leflore County)

Mechanisms:

- **SEPARATE AND HIGHLY UNEQUAL SCHOOLS**
- Loss of social infrastructure
- Violence
- Corruption
- Systemic racism in government policy
- Elite backlash (Zavala County)
- Social reproduction (Leflore County)



*Special In This Issue—
How To Start
A Private School!*

the **CITIZEN**

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF AMERICA

SEPTEMBER 1964

30 CENTS







U.S. Skills Map: State and County Indicators of Adult Literacy and Numeracy

Map of Percentage At or Below Level 1 Literacy

MAP FILTER

County | State

Find counties

Literacy | Numeracy

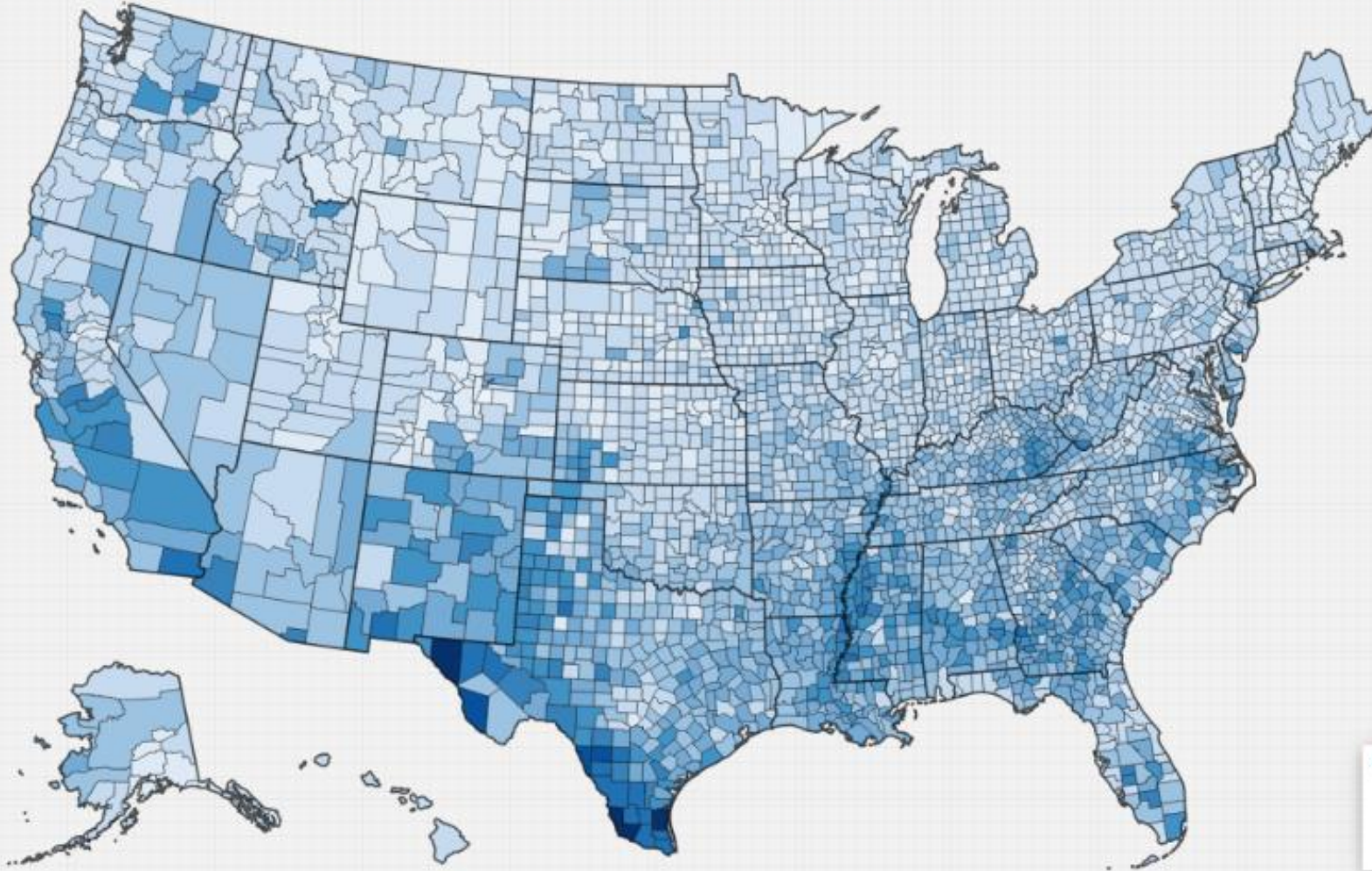
Percentages ⓘ
Select options below to filter data on the map.
Hover or tap on info icons to learn more.

- At or Below Level 1 ⓘ
- At Level 2 ⓘ
- At or Above Level 3 ⓘ
- Average Scale Score ⓘ

More Details ▾

Compare Counties

Download Data



+
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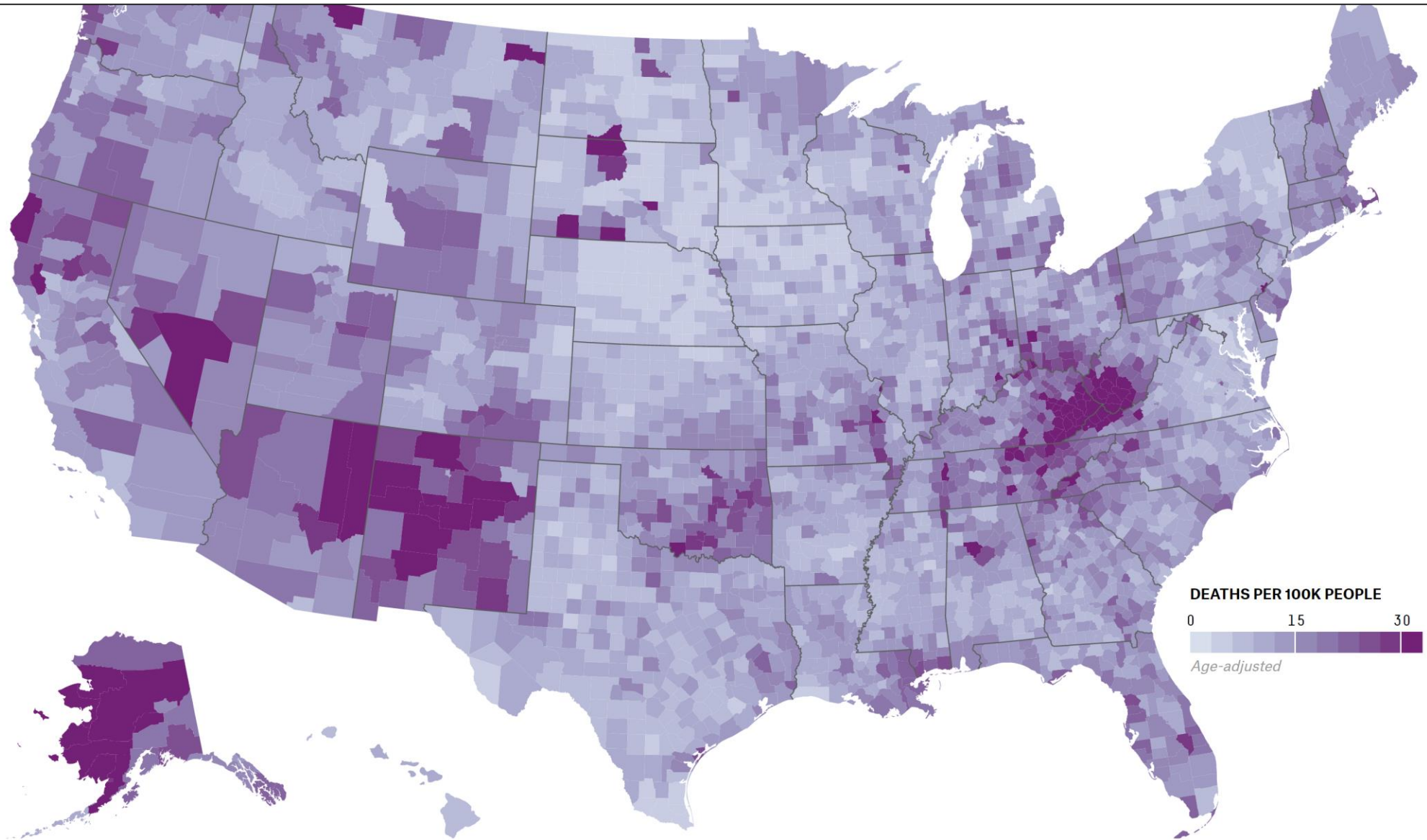


Mechanisms:

- Separate and highly unequal schools
- **LOSS OF SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE**
- Violence
- Corruption
- Systemic racism in government policy
- Elite backlash (Zavala County)
- Social reproduction (Leflore County)

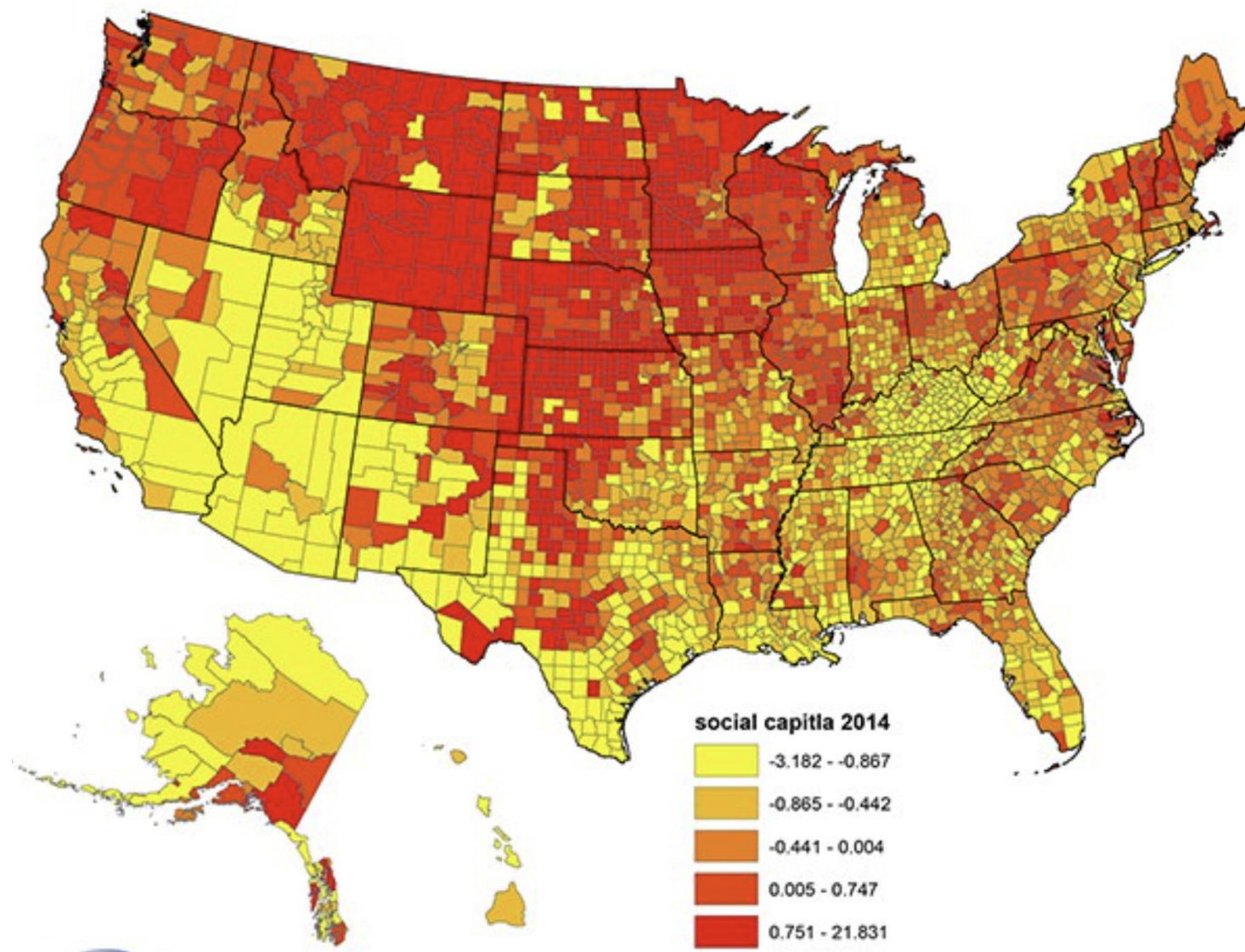
DEATHS DUE TO MENTAL OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDERS

FiveThirtyEight



Mortality rates are age adjusted to account for higher mortality in older populations and geographic variations in the ages of county populations.

County-level Social Capital Levels, 2014

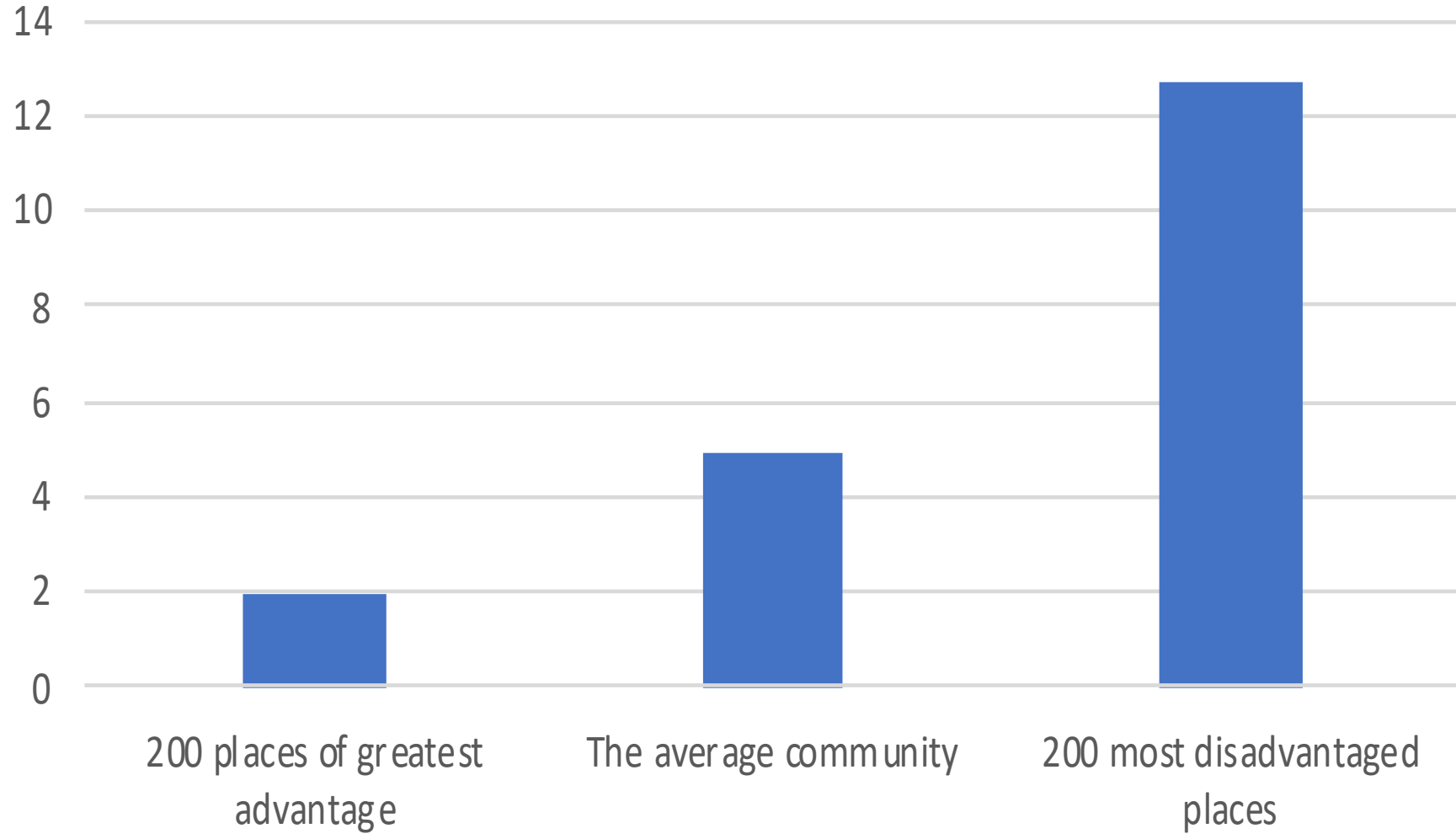


<https://aese.psu.edu/nercrd/community/social-capital-resources/us-maps-showing-county-social-capital-levels>

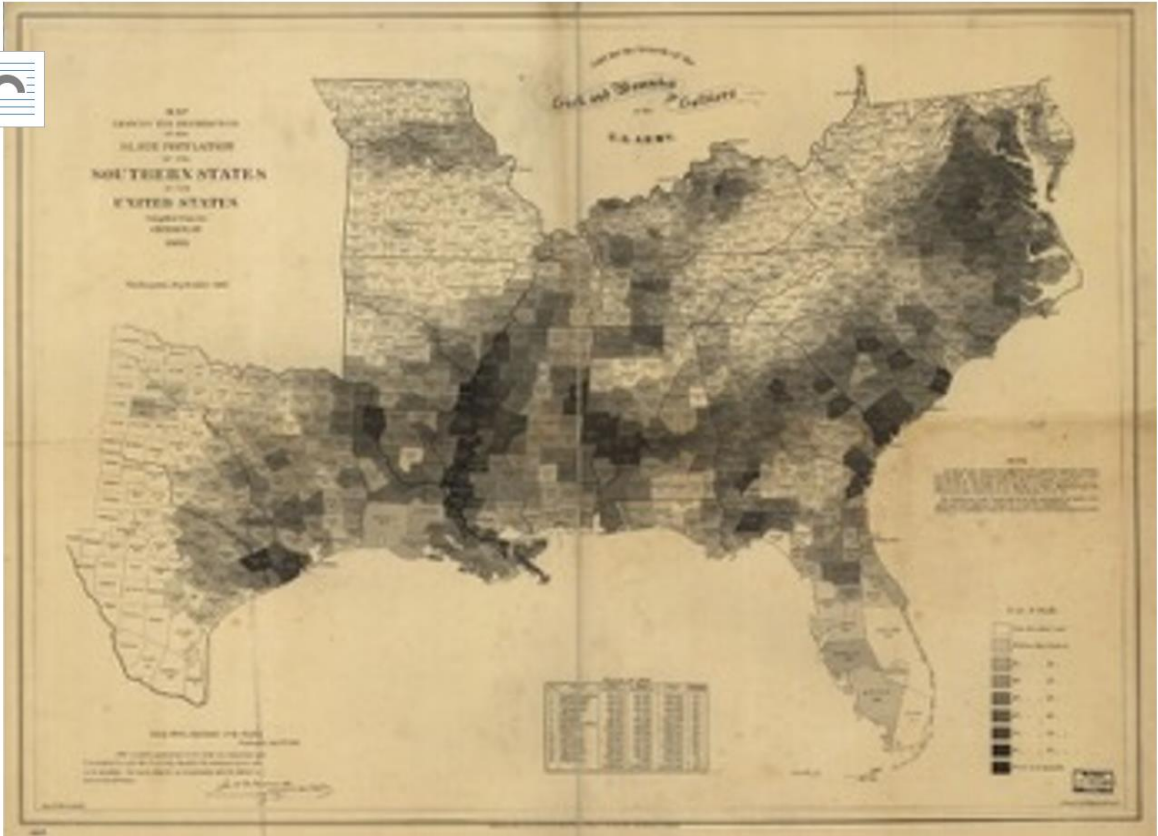
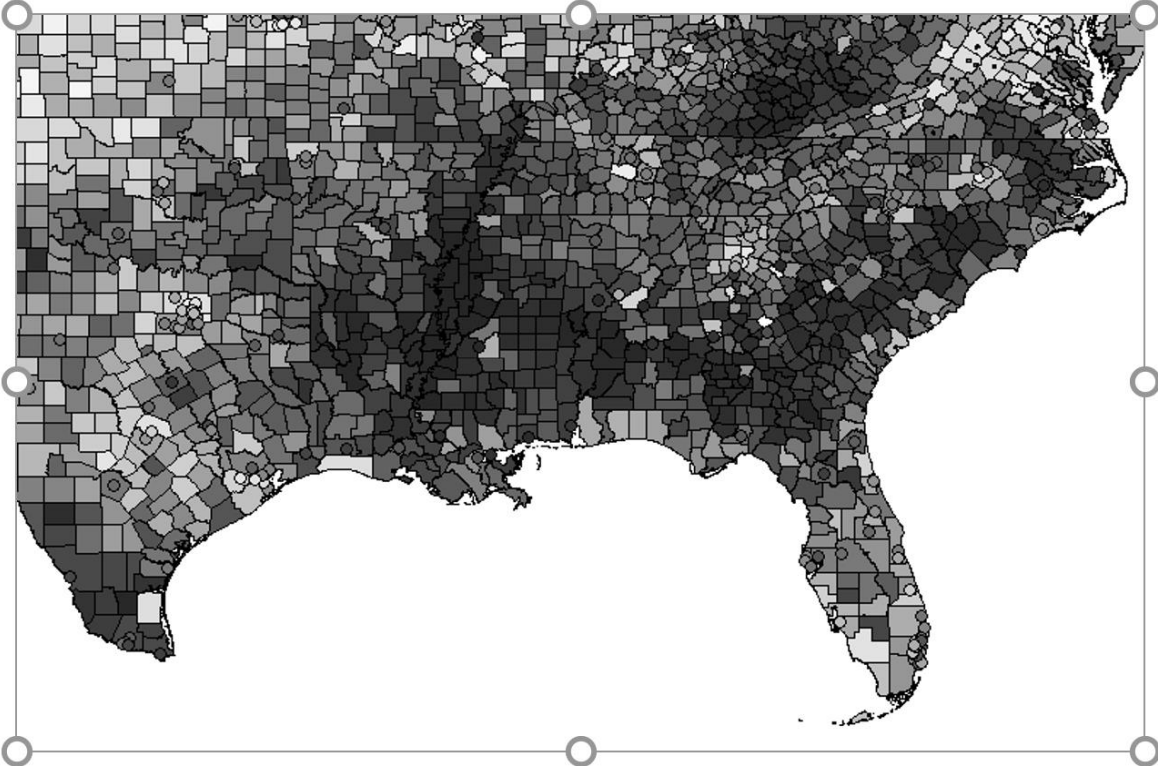
Mechanisms:

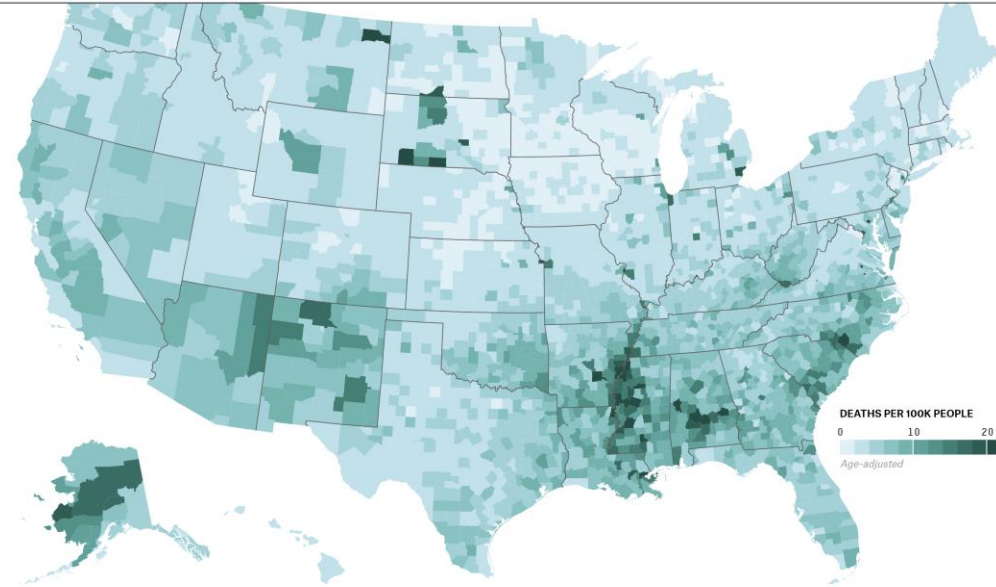
- Separate and highly unequal schools
- Loss of social infrastructure
- **VIOLENCE**
- Corruption
- Systemic racism in government policy
- Elite backlash (Zavala County)
- Social reproduction (Leflore County)

Deaths by Interpersonal Violence Deaths in American Communities



Our Map of Deep Disadvantage Compared to a Map of Enslavement from 1860

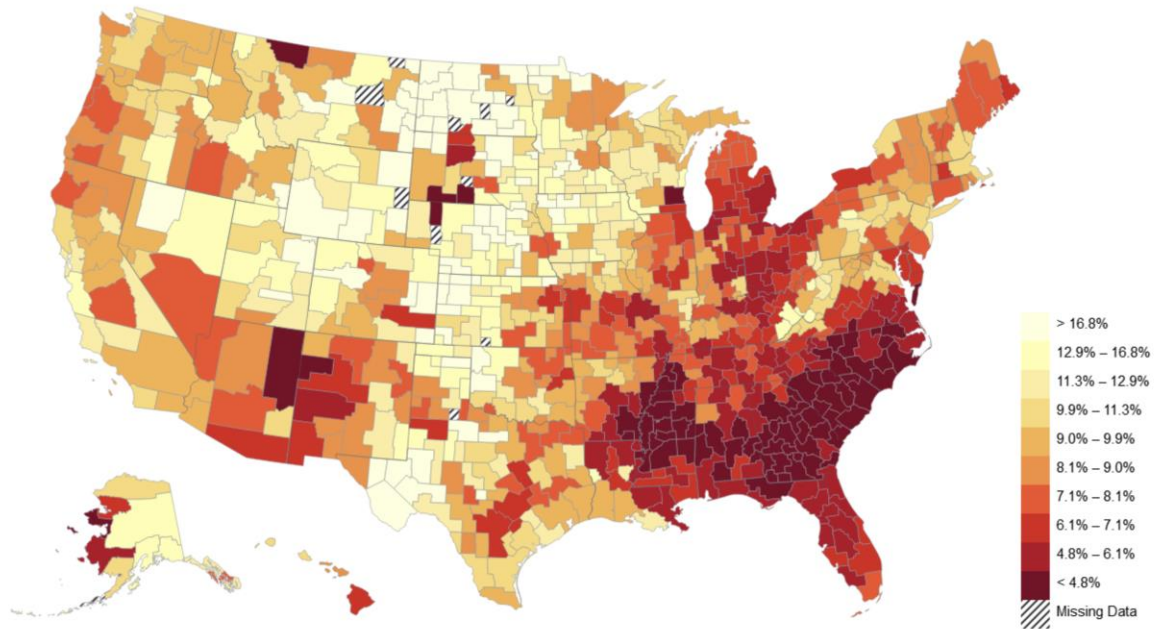




Mortality rates are age adjusted to account for higher mortality in older populations and geographic variations in the ages of county populations.

The Geography of Upward Mobility in America

Children's Chances of Reaching Top 20% of Income Distribution Given Parents in Bottom 20%



Mechanisms:

- Separate and highly unequal schools
- Loss of social infrastructure
- Violence
- **CORRUPTION**
- Systemic racism in government policy
- Elite backlash (Zavala County)
- Social reproduction (Leflore County)





Most and Least Corrupt States

| Illegal Corruption | | Legal Corruption | |
|--------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Most Corrupt | Least Corrupt | Most Corrupt | Least Corrupt |
| Arizona | Idaho | Kentucky | Massachusetts |
| | Maine | | |
| ★ California | Massachusetts | Illinois | Michigan |
| ★ Kentucky | New Hampshire | Nevada | Oregon |
| | North Dakota | | Vermont |
| ★ Alabama | South Dakota | ★ Mississippi | Iowa |
| Illinois | Vermont | ★ New Jersey | Minnesota |
| ★ New Jersey | | Alabama | Nebraska |
| | Michigan | ★ New Mexico | North Dakota |
| ★ Georgia | Oregon | New York | Wyoming |
| New Mexico | | | |
| ★ Pennsylvania | Hawaii | ★ Georgia | South Dakota |
| | Maryland | ★ Pennsylvania | |
| Florida | Wyoming | Wisconsin | Idaho |
| Indiana | | | Tennessee |
| ★ Rhode Island | | | |
| Texas | | | |

Mechanisms:

- Separate and highly unequal schools
- Loss of social infrastructure
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- Corruption
- **Systemic racism in government policy**
- Elite backlash (Zavala County)
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Housing Assistance from the FEMA Individual and Households Program (IHP) in Nichols and Sellers, South Carolina

| | Nichols, SC (Zipcode 29581) | Sellers, SC (Zipcode 29592) |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Hurricane Matthew (2016) | | |
| | 495 | 118 |
| Total Homes Inspected | (21.2%) | (29.3%) |
| Ave FEMA Inspected Damage | \$9,676 | \$2,916 |
| Inspected Homes that received FEMA aid | 65.0% | 49.2% |
| Total IHP Assistance Approved | \$3,299,895 | \$344,072 |
| Hurricane Florence (2018) | | |
| | 266 | 68 |
| Total Homes Inspected | (10.5%) | (19.1%) |
| Ave FEMA Inspected Damage | \$9,309 | \$1,244 |
| Inspected Homes that received FEMA aid | 68.5% | 38.2% |
| Total IHP Assistance Approved | \$1,439,704 | \$57,960 |
| Total Assistance Both Hurricanes | \$4,739,599 | \$428,664 |
| Assistance Per Home Inspected | \$6,228 | \$2,305 |

Takeaways

- **History** casts a long shadow.
 - Housing conditions and needs often reflect decades' old economic and social relations within a place.
- By combining **big data**, **ethnography**, and **history**, the *mechanisms* connecting past to present are revealed.
- Uncovering the mechanisms can lead to innovative **policy** solutions.

Policy

- Separate and unequal schooling must end
 - To end violence, spark mobility
 - Invest in social infrastructure
 - Root out corruption
- Make structural racism visible, confront it









Thank you



#RuralResearchSymposium



Closing Remarks

Cindy Waldron, Vice President of Housing Insights and Solutions, Single-Family Mission and Community Engagement, Freddie Mac

