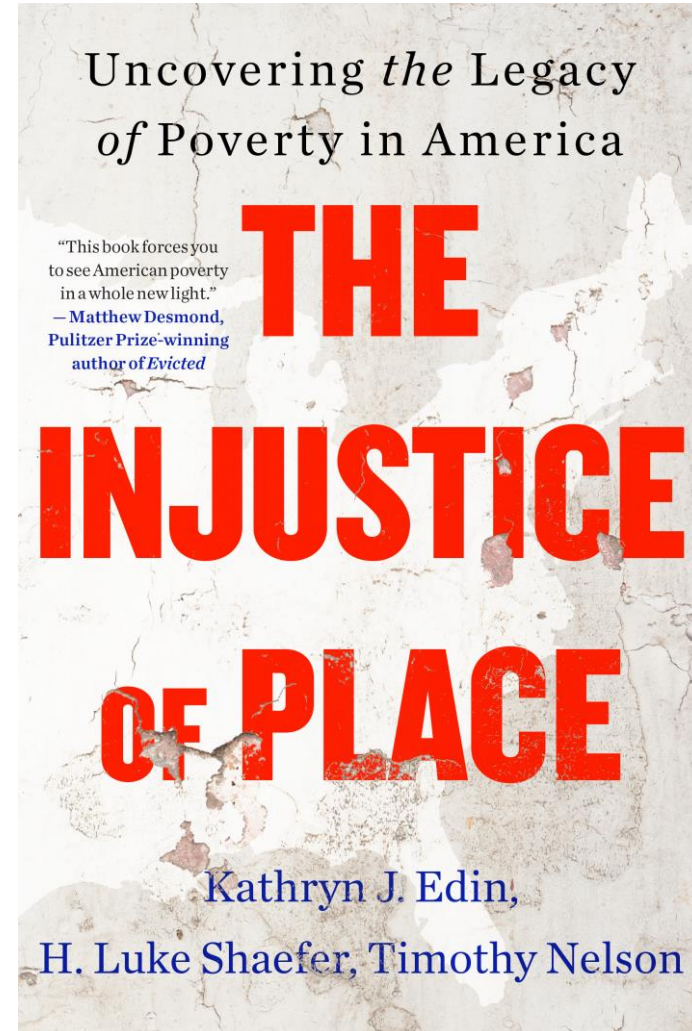


October 24, 2023



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

Index of Deep Disadvantage

INCOME

- Poverty
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HEALTH

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MOBILITY

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CYCLICAL

Index of Deep Disadvantage

INCOME

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

HEALTH

- Low birth weight
- Life expectancy

MOBILITY

- Intergenerational mobility



CUMULATIVE

Index of Deep Disadvantage

INCOME

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

HEALTH

- Low birth weight
- Life expectancy

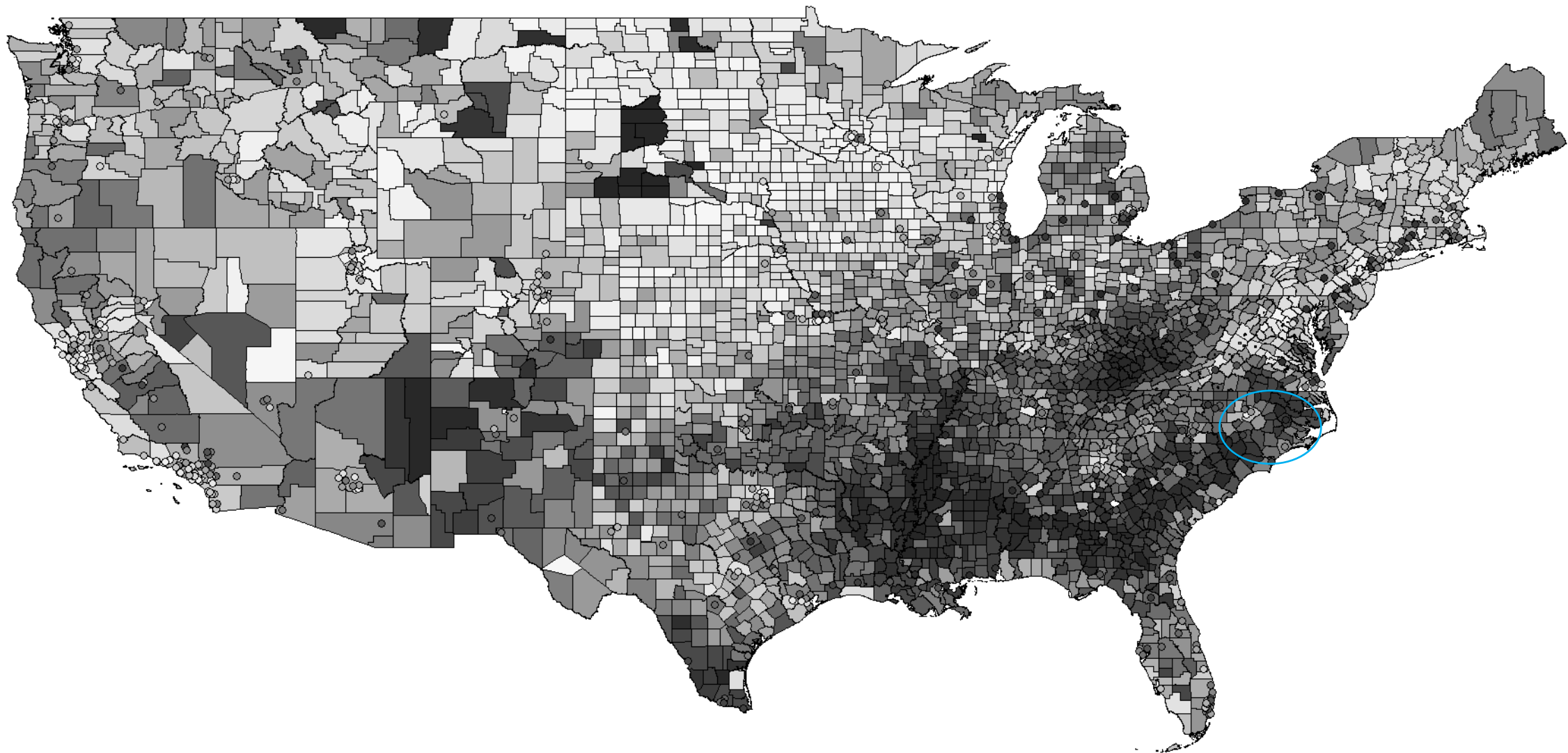
MOBILITY

- Intergenerational mobility



STRUCTURAL

Disadvantage across the United States

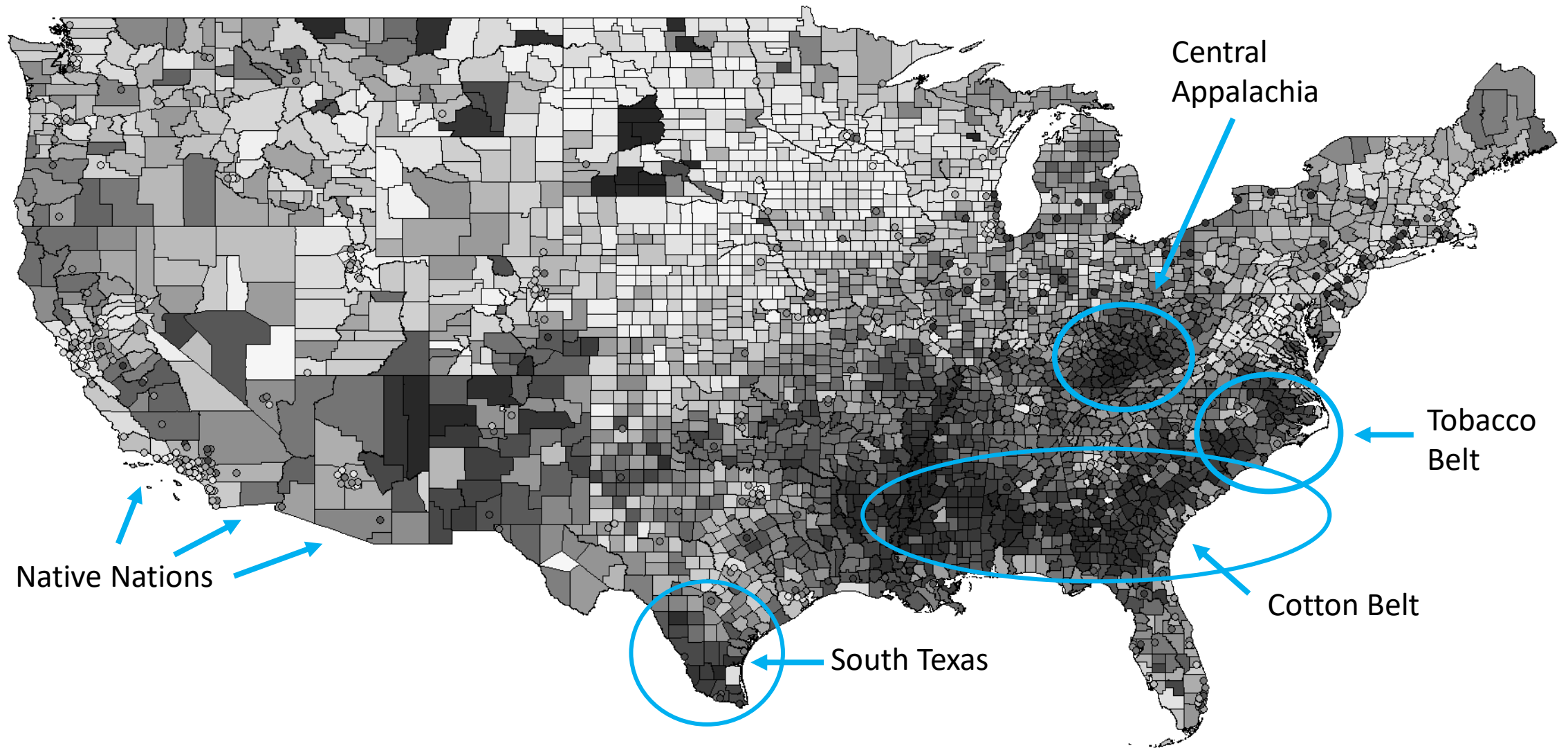


Most Disadvantaged

Most Advantaged



Disadvantage across the United States



A Deep Dive into History



- A history of intensive resource extraction.
- In each place, one industry linked to national and global markets quickly dominated the economy.



A Deep Dive into History

- Profound human exploitation not seen to the same degree elsewhere in the U.S.

A Deep Dive into History

- This economic pattern had emerged (or, in the case of the Cotton Belt, fully flourished) in the late nineteenth century, reaching its zenith in the 1920s and 30s.



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 in the 1960s

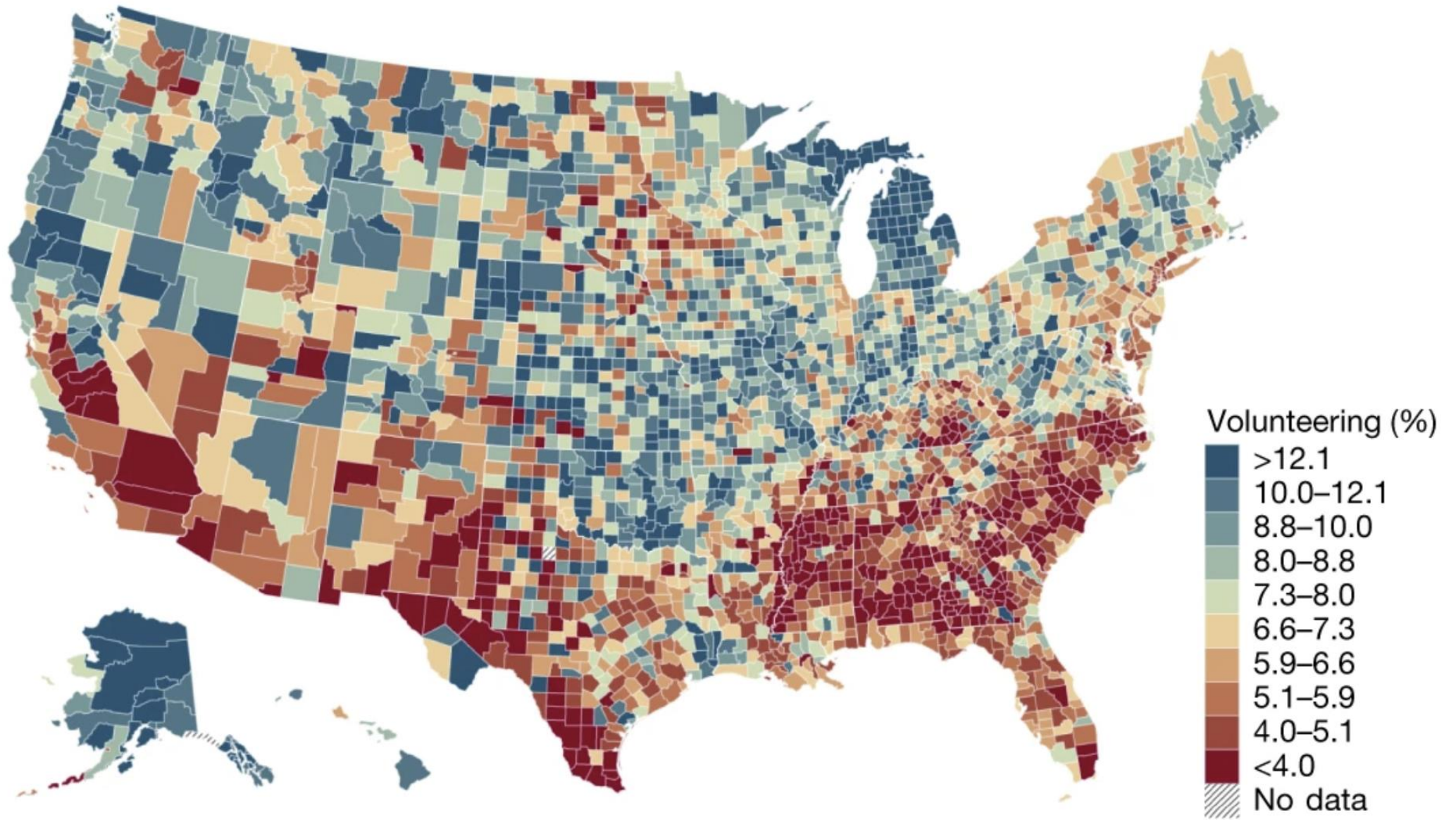


Mechanisms:

- Separate and highly unequal schools
- **LOSS OF SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE**
- Violence
- **CORRUPTION**
- Systemic racism in government policy
- Elite backlash
- Social reproduction

- “There’s really nothing around here, for kids. That’s why they go to drugs.” (Sweet Pea)
- “There’s nothing [there] anymore, since their skating rink burned, and burned out all the movie [theaters], they don’t got anything except one movie theater.” [Clay resident]
- “I just want things to change. I mean, better for the kids, better for the teenagers; stuff that the teenagers can do instead of getting on drugs. Parks for the little kids, something for the teenagers to do to get them out of trouble. Stuff that they can do.” [Dolly]
- “There’s nothing really here for kids and then they wonder why they get on drugs. Because there’s nothing for them to do. Like we had the movies a long time ago. And like I said, it’s turned into a church. And there ain’t nothing here really for young’uns to do.” [Crystal]
- “There ain’t nothing around here to do....One time when I was younger, we was [hanging out] in Walmart’s parking lot, just listening to our stereos and stuff, [and] the cops come and run us off.... That’s the big flaw around here. That’s why I think everybody turns to drugs around here....” [Travis]
- Down here, they just want to build roads and...drug stores, so it’s not nothing that you can really do down here.” [Marie]

e



Chetty et al. 2022

Mechanisms:

- Separate and highly unequal schools
- **LOSS OF SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE**
- Violence
- **CORRUPTION**
- Systemic racism in government policy
- Elite backlash
- Social reproduction

Brett Favre on welfare scandal: 'I have done nothing wrong'



by **Mississippi Today**

October 11, 2022



NEWS > TEXAS

This Texas town might be the most corrupt little town in America



Former Crystal City mayor Ricardo Lopez, who faces federal indictment, is shown outside his home in Crystal City. (For The Washington Post)

Louisville Division

Home • Louisville • Press Releases • 2009 • Clay County Board of Election Officials Arrested and Indicted for Racketeering and V

Info This is archived material from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) website. It may contain outdated information and links may no longer function.

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Clay County Board of Election Officials Arrested and Indicted for Racketeering and Voter Fraud Conspiracy

U.S. Attorney's Office
March 19, 2009

Eastern District of Kentucky
(859) 233-2661

LEXINGTON—The United States Attorney's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation jointly announced today that five Manchester, Ky. officials, including the circuit court judge, the county clerk, and election officers were arrested pursuant to a federal indictment that accused them of using corrupt tactics to obtain political power and personal gain.

The 10-count indictment, unsealed today, accused the defendants of a conspiracy from March 2002, until November 2006, that violated the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO). RICO is a federal statute that prosecutors use to combat organized crime. The defendants were also indicted for extortion, mail fraud, obstruction of justice, conspiracy to injure voters' rights and conspiracy to commit voter fraud.

U.S. Attorneys » Eastern District of Kentucky » News

Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

Eastern District of Kentucky

SHARE 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 7, 2013

Former Clay County Officials Admit To Racketeering Conspiracy

LEXINGTON, KY - Former public officials from Manchester, KY., admitted in federal court that they conspired to organize a long running criminal enterprise to achieve personal gain and control over the politics in Clay County.

Former longtime Clay County Circuit Judge, Russell Cletus Maricle; schools superintendent, Douglas C. Adams; county clerk, Freddy W. Thompson; democratic election commissioner, Charles W. Jones; and election officer William E. Stivers pleaded guilty to a racketeering conspiracy before U.S. District Judge Karen Caldwell on Wednesday.

The defendants admitted that starting in 2002 they conspired to gain control of the Clay County board of elections and corruptly used the board's authority to control the outcome of elections in the county. In order to carry out this scheme, the defendants acknowledged that they pooled their money together to bribe voters and that they also appointed corrupt election officers who ensured that the bribed voters delivered for the slate of candidates that the members of the conspiracy wanted to win.

Three other co-defendants, Stanly Bowling, and Debra and Bart Morris previously pleaded guilty to the same charge.

Mechanisms:

- Separate and highly unequal schools
- Loss of social infrastructure
- Violence
- Corruption
- Systemic racism in government policy
- Elite backlash
- Social reproduction
 - LeFlore and Marion—ever evolving company towns, exploitation of H2-A visas
 - Clay County—extraction of people, not coal
 - Zavala County—extraction due to fracking, elite “hunting lodges”

Takeaways

- **History** casts a long shadow.

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- By combining **big data**, **history**, and **ethnography**, the *mechanisms* connecting past to present may be revealed.

Takeaways

- **History** casts a long shadow.
- By combining **big data**, **ethnography**, and **history**, the *mechanisms* connecting past to present may be revealed.
- Uncovering the mechanisms can lead to innovative, specific, and tractable **policy** solutions.

Policy

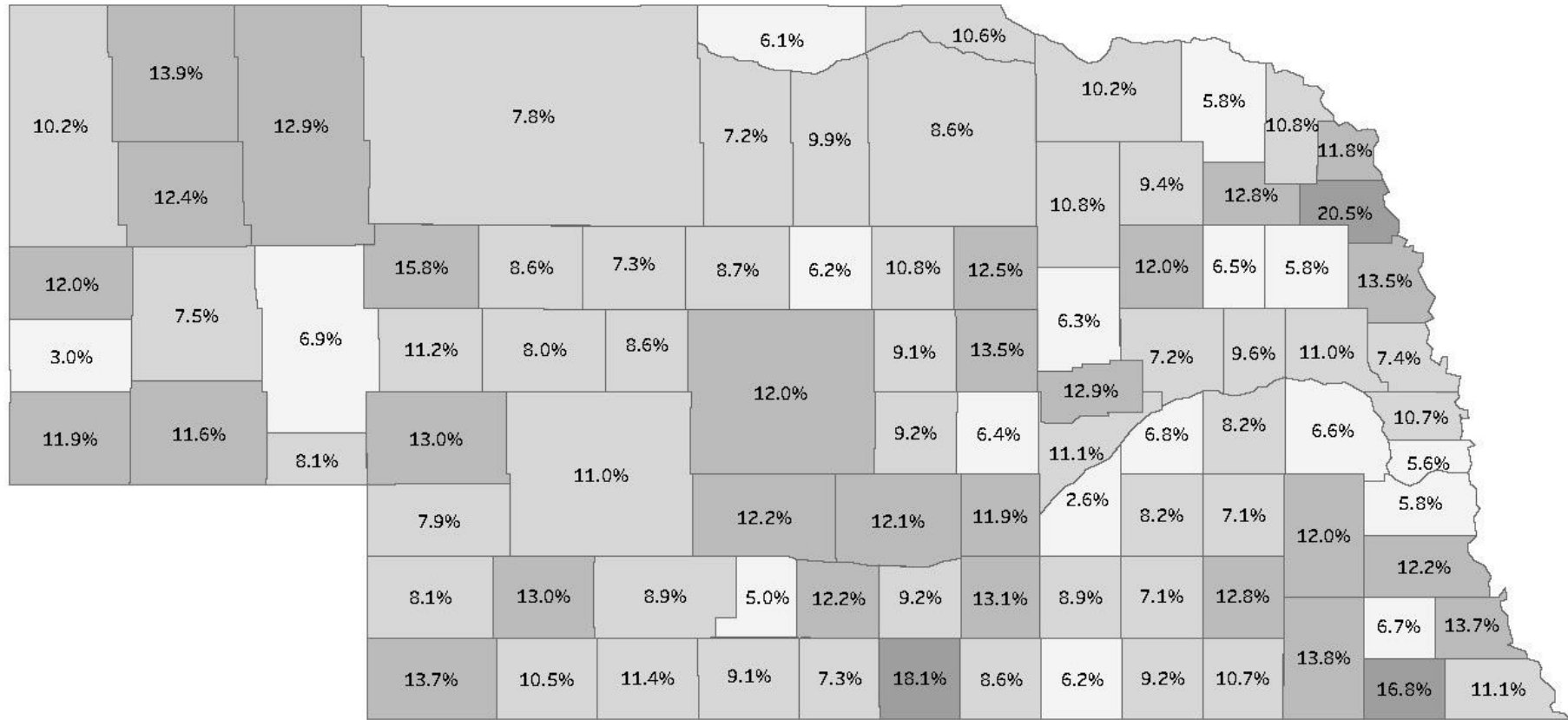
- Invest in social infrastructure
 - Root out corruption

Nebraska

Index of Greatest Advantage

Index of Deep Disadvantage - Updated									
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	rank1	fips	placefips	name	index	mobility	mobility.zscore	pct_belowpov	pct_belowpov.zscore
3599	3598	49029		Morgan County, UT	3.578790929	0.600930452	2.668099036	2.75	1.923455127
3600	3599	31149		Rock County, NE	3.585742856	0.592818379	2.519254989	4.99	1.560432608
3601	3600	27125		Red Lake County, MN	3.593212519	0.62663728	3.139779737	10.21	0.714460489
3602	3601	46003		Aurora County, SD	3.602643554	0.623506427	3.082333403	5.24	1.519916702
3603	3602	27149		Stevens County, MN	3.613975992	0.575274348	2.197349034	6.62	1.296268901
3604	3603	46083		Lincoln County, SD	3.627142237	0.549531639	1.725009953	4.11	1.703048598
3605	3604	20179		Sheridan County, KS	3.634602262	0.622188866	3.058158193	5.48	1.481021432
3606	3605	30019		Daniels County, MT	3.639601561	0.691038847	4.321449319	4.74	1.600948515
3607	3606	48243		Jeff Davis County, TX	3.669655194	0.484240532	0.527018687	3.93	1.73222005
3608	3607	31063		Frontier County, NE	3.726027383	0.655017197	3.660507514	8.91	0.925143201
3609	3608	46117		Stanley County, SD	3.744787286	0.520673633	1.195509982	4.23	1.683600963
3610	3609	38065		Oliver County, ND	3.772239139	0.574638247	2.185677564	8.28	1.027243284
3611	3610	8113		San Miguel County, CO	3.788333914	0.501378238	0.841469207	11.53	0.500536505
3612	3611	38011		Bowman County, ND	3.798468035	0.694915295	4.392576165	7.47	1.15851482
3613	3612	8111		San Juan County, CO	3.802208246	0.602672756	2.70006762	5.34	1.50371034
3614	3613	19119		Lyon County, IA	3.819879392	0.617125809	2.965258895	4.35	1.664153328
3615	3614	19167		Sioux County, IA	3.822107299	0.610141933	2.837115521	6.26	1.354611805
3616	3615	38087		Slope County, ND	3.931381419	0.668154299	3.901553109	7.8	1.105033824
3617	3616	31039		Cuming County, NE	4.031926993	0.616147041	2.947300012	6.56	1.305992718

Population below Poverty: 2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Nebraska History

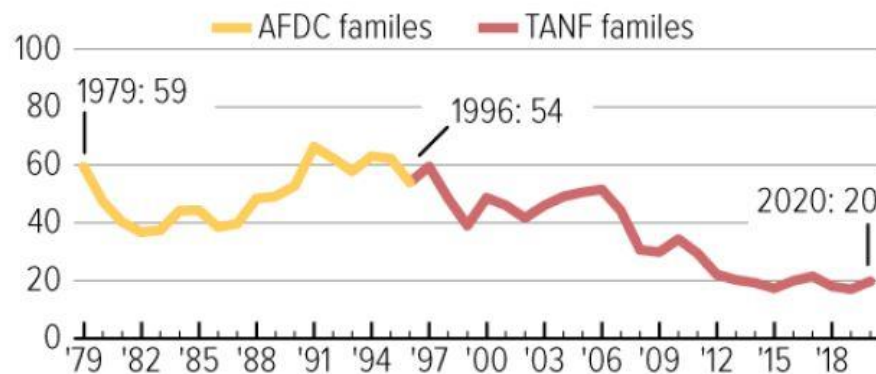
TANF Cash Assistance Should Reach Many More Families in Nebraska to Lessen Hardship



In 2019-20, for every 100 families living in poverty in Nebraska, only 20 received TANF cash assistance. This “TANF-to-poverty ratio” has fallen 34 points since 1995-96. If TANF reached the same share of families in poverty that its predecessor AFDC did in 1996, 8,587 more families in Nebraska would be helped by TANF now.

TANF-to-poverty ratio	1995/96	2019/20
Nebraska	54	20
National	68	21

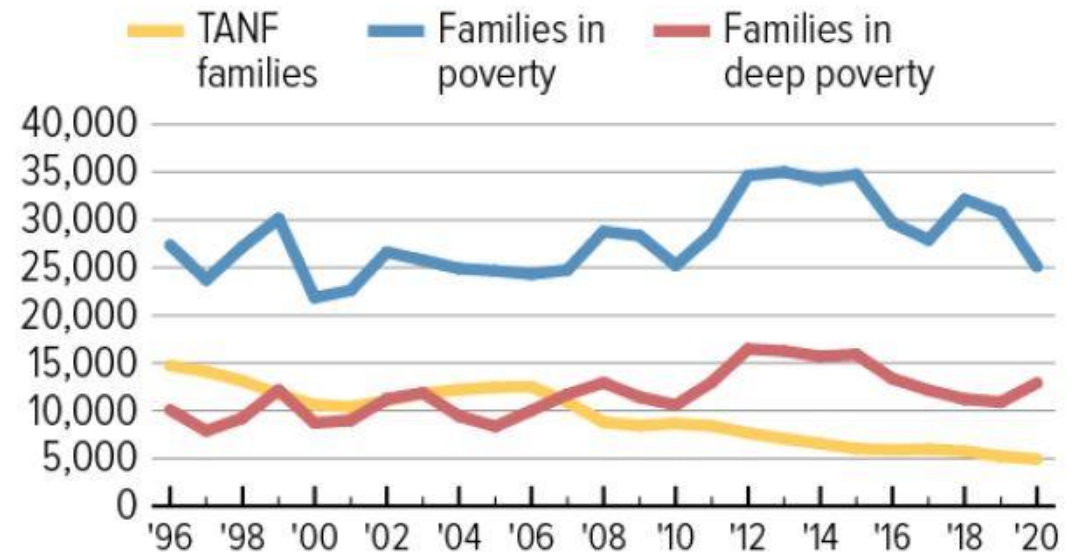
Number of Families in Nebraska Receiving AFDC/TANF Cash Assistance for Every 100 Families With Children in Poverty



Families with children

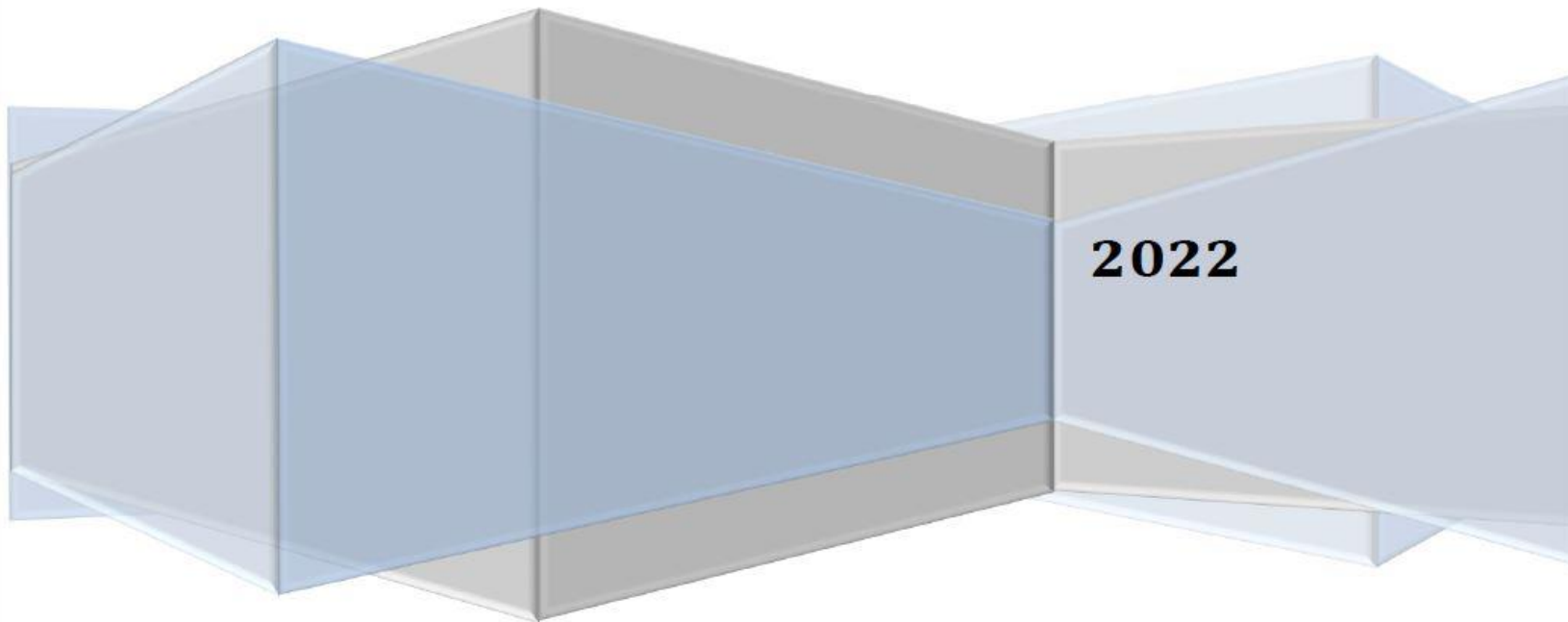
	1995/96	2019/20
Receiving AFDC/TANF	14,726	4,941
In poverty	27,334	25,111
In deep poverty	10,082	12,901

Changes in AFDC/TANF Cases and the Number of Families With Children in Poverty and Deep Poverty in Nebraska



LR 407 2022 Update on TANF Funds

Liz Hruska



Rainy Day or Carryover Funding

States may use the unused TANF balance in subsequent years. The carryover balance could only be used for ADC payments in the past, but that restriction has been lifted. The carryover funds are also referred to as Rainy Day funds. Nebraska has had a carryover balance since the start of the TANF Block Grant. The block grant amount was determined using the base year of 1994 when public assistance caseloads in Nebraska and all states were at an all-time high. As welfare reform measures were implemented, caseloads declined significantly. Cash assistance covered approximately 15,000 families in 1994 and as of August 2022, 2,787 families were receiving cash assistance.

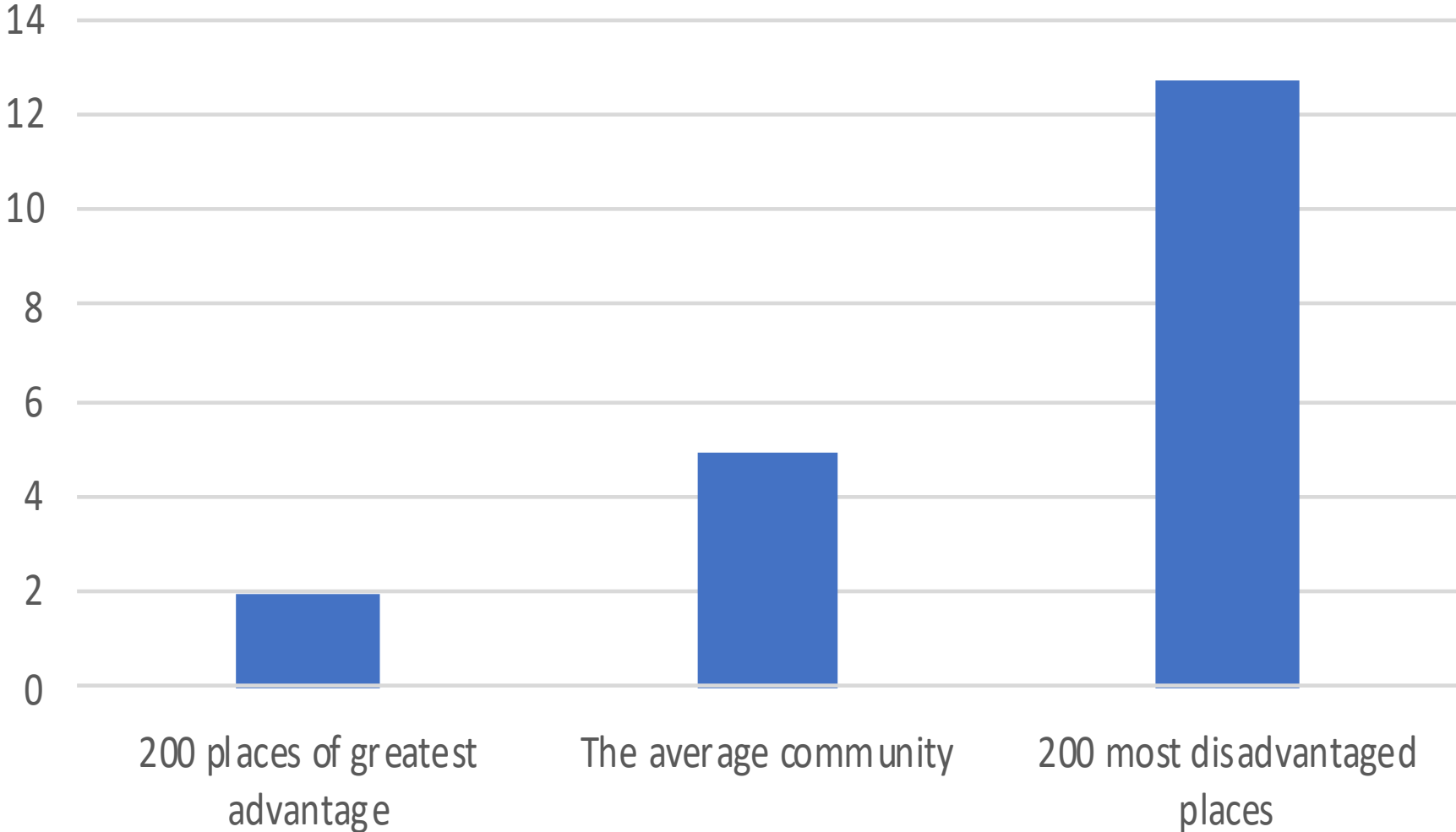
The following chart shows annual TANF balance projections as prepared by the Department of Health and Human Service.

TANF BLOCK GRANT BALANCES	
FFY 2022 - 2028 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	
Total Available TANF Grant as of Sept 30, 2021	\$ 108,461,983
FFY 22 TANF Grant Award	\$ 56,627,234
Estimated Expenditures	(54,321,736)
Unobligated Reserves	\$ 108,461,983
FFY22 TANF Balance - Sept 30, 2022	\$ 110,767,481

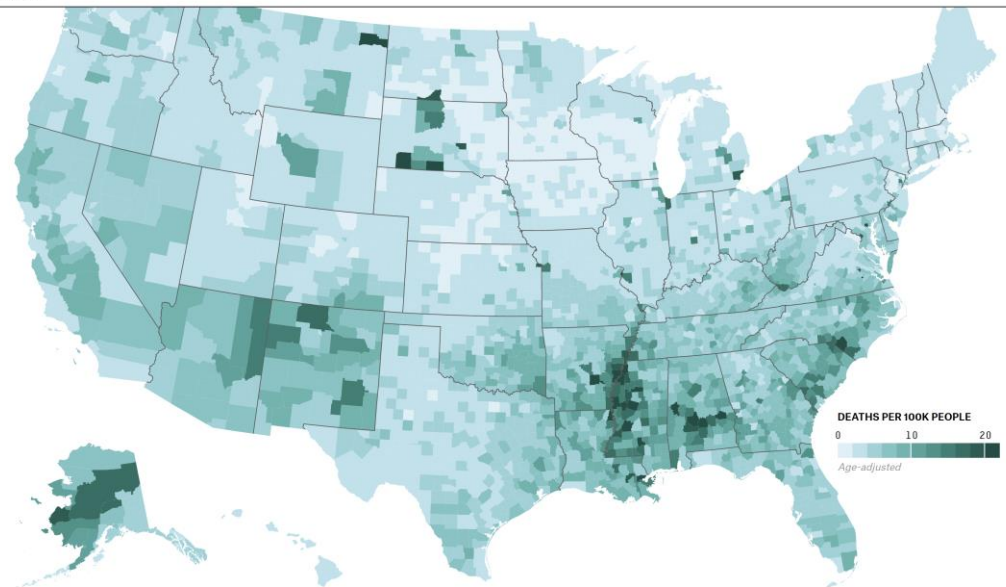
Mechanisms:

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

Deaths by Interpersonal Violence Deaths in American Communities



- “That’s why I don’t really associate with nobody because you don’t know who to associate with. Everybody is beefing with everybody. So, there’s no need to put myself in that, in their way.” [Frederick]
- “I don’t go to [church] picnics and stuff because, to me, these outings and stuff [are dangerous]. When you get around a lot of folks, it’s going to be trouble.” [Ebony]
- “I don’t participate in a lot of things in Greenwood... I don’t participate because I’m scared of the violence. A lot of things they have downtown, the Christmas parades and all that, I don’t participate because I’m scared somebody might get to shooting or something might happen. When something is going on outside and the public is invited, I do not participate.” [Evangeline]
- Operation Peace Treaty organizer Lavoris Weathers insisted it was not about the beefs or the drugs—there just wasn’t enough money in drugs to spark the level of violence seen in the community, which he characterized as “worse than Chicago in the 80s.” No, he says, the cause of the violence is “mostly hunger”—hunger a metaphor for lack of opportunity.



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%

