

Economic opportunity: A Charlotte-Mecklenburg Perspective

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Charlotte-Mecklenburg is a great place to live and work

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But... ranked last in upward mobility

The Charlotte Observer

Land of opportunity? Not by a long shot

**Charlotte is nation's worst big
city for climbing out of poverty**



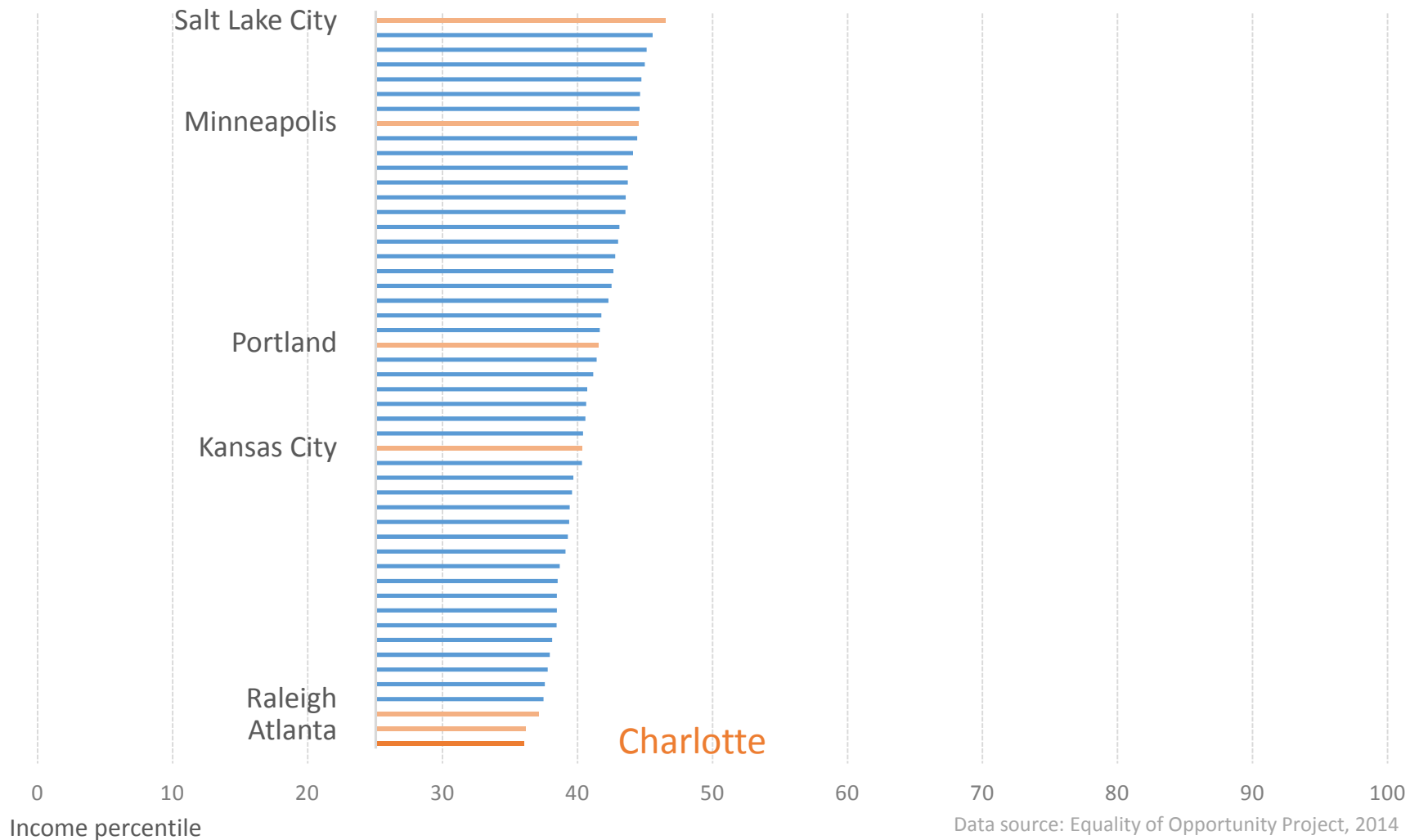
THE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY PROJECT

Raj Chetty, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, Emmanuel Saez, Nicholas Turner



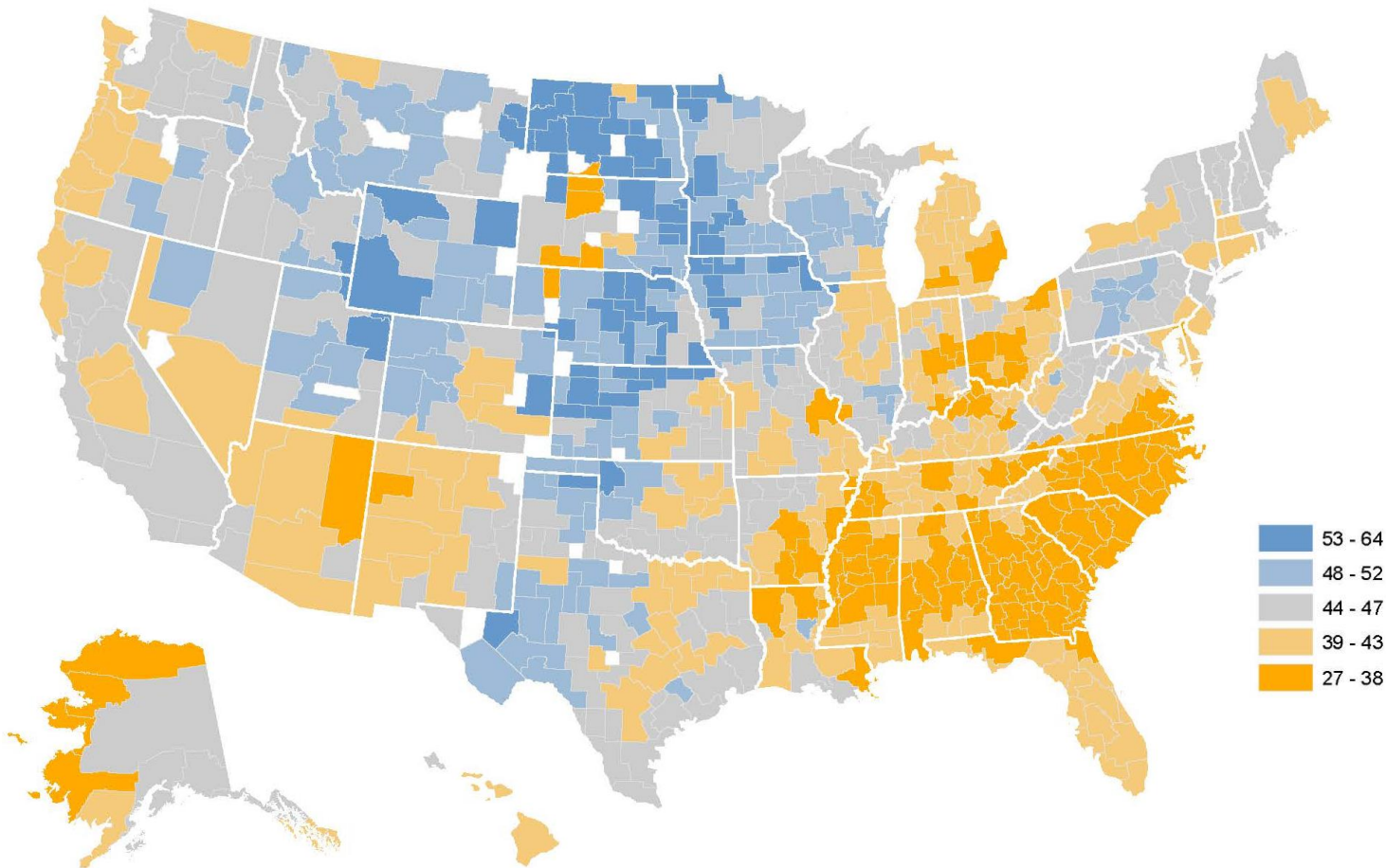
- What are the chances for a child succeeding, independently of family status and the environment where she grows up? (inter-generational mobility)
- Sample: children born 1980-1982
- Child and parent pairs coded by 741 commuting zones
- Compared adult children's positions on the national income distribution with their parents'

How do children from below-median income families fare by adulthood?

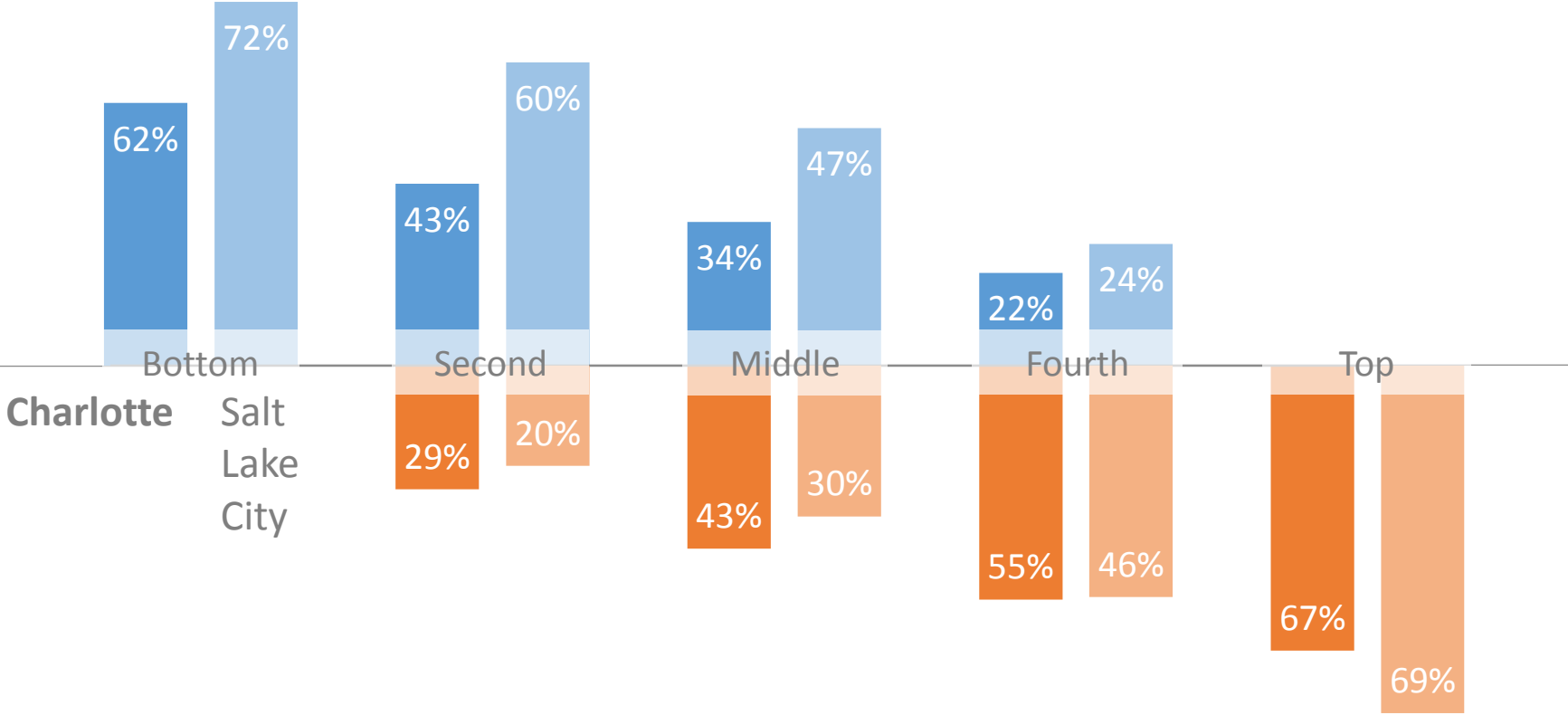


Upward mobility is especially low across the south and parts of the rust belt

Average income percentile of children whose parents were in the 25th percentile

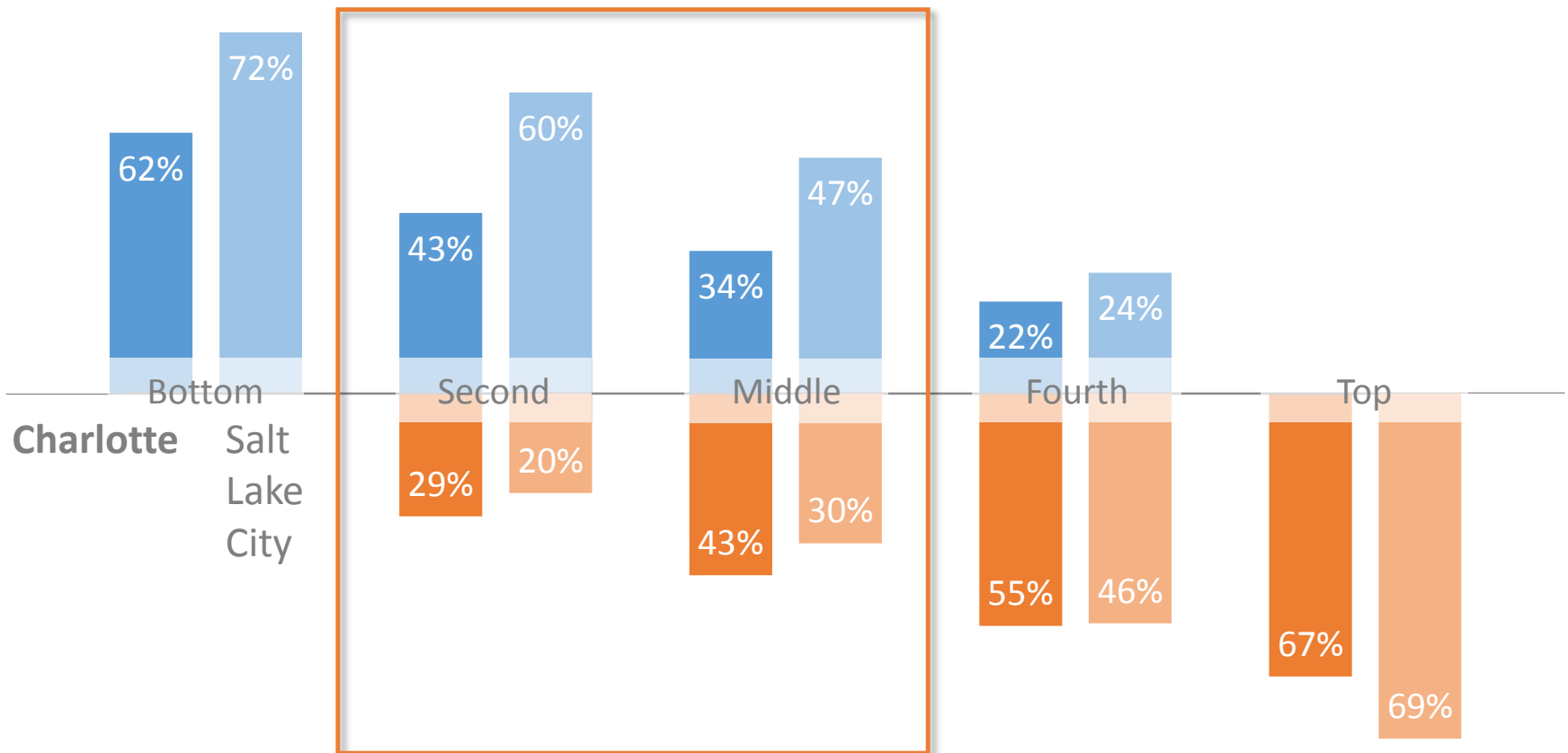


In Charlotte, it's difficult to move up and harder to stay there



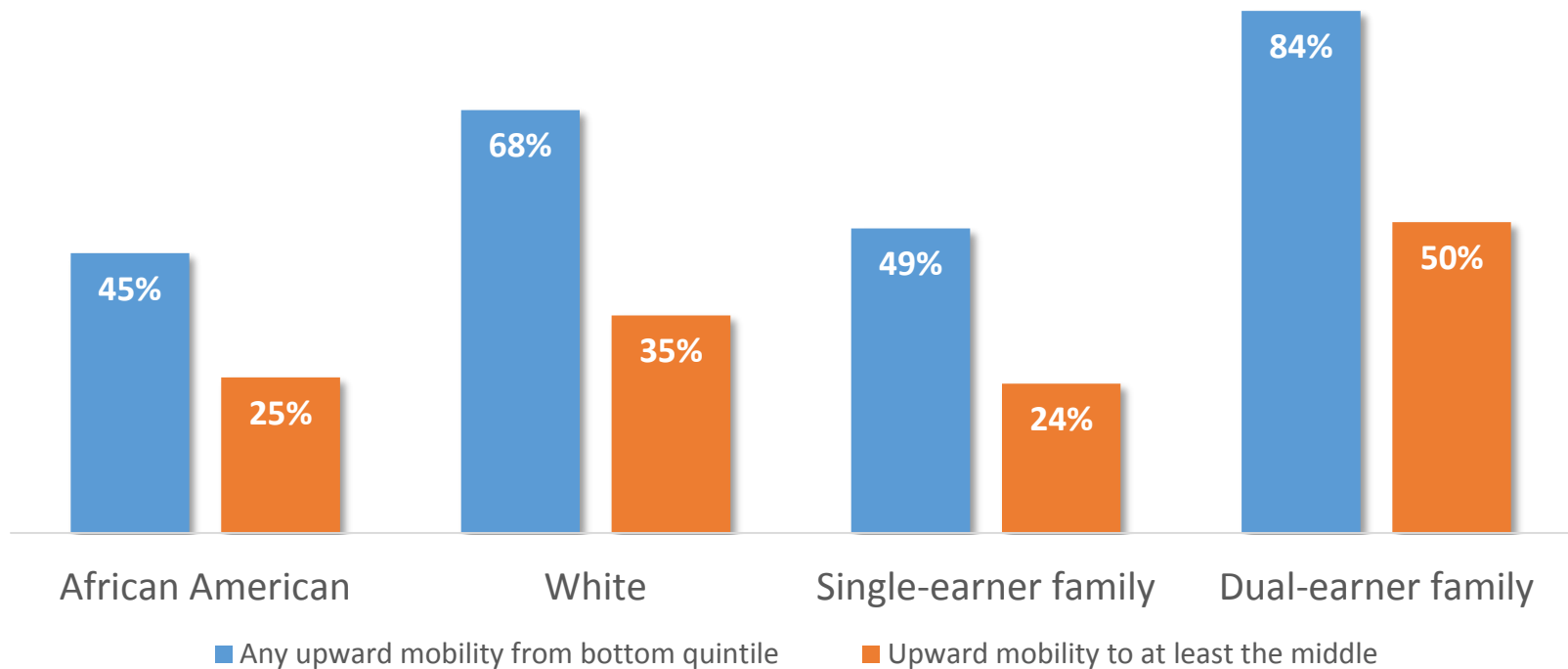
Data source: Equality of Opportunity Project, 2014

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Nationally, mobility varies by demographics

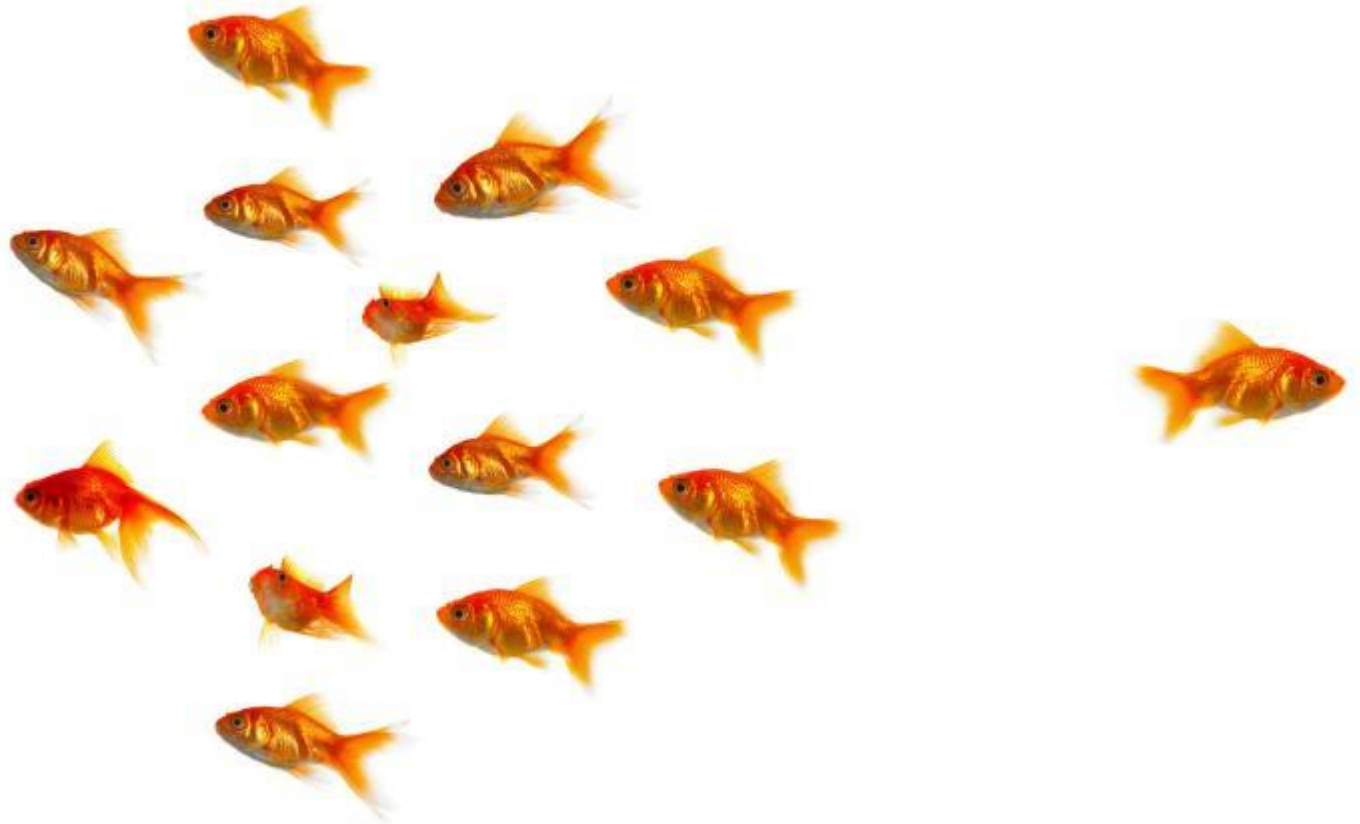
Percent of Americans who move up from the bottom of the income ladder



Land of Opportunity:

Community characteristics affect opportunity for all

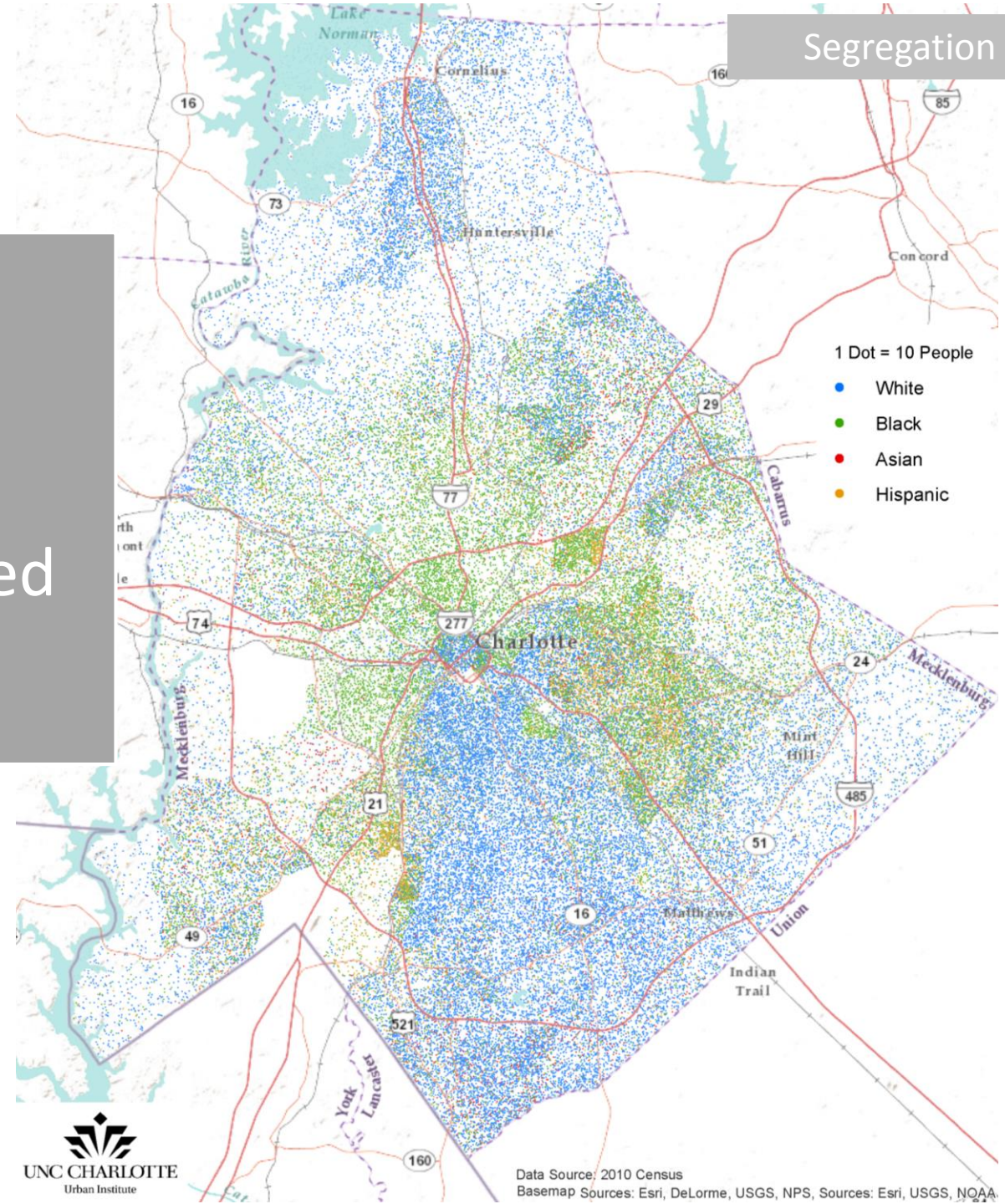
- Segregation
- Income inequality
- Quality of school system
- Social capital
- Family structure



Segregation

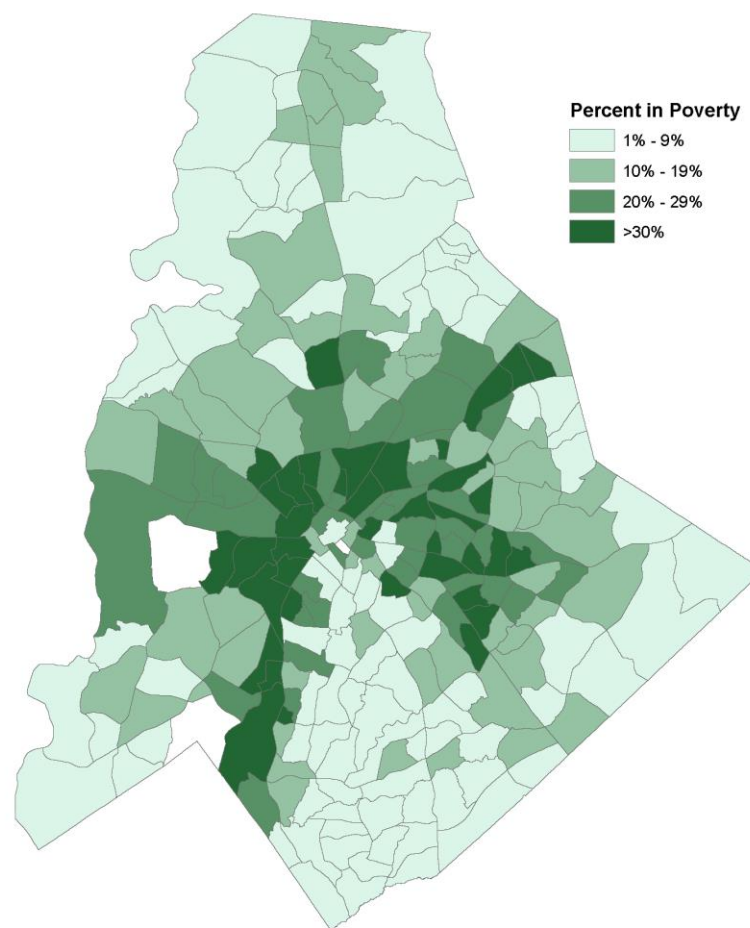
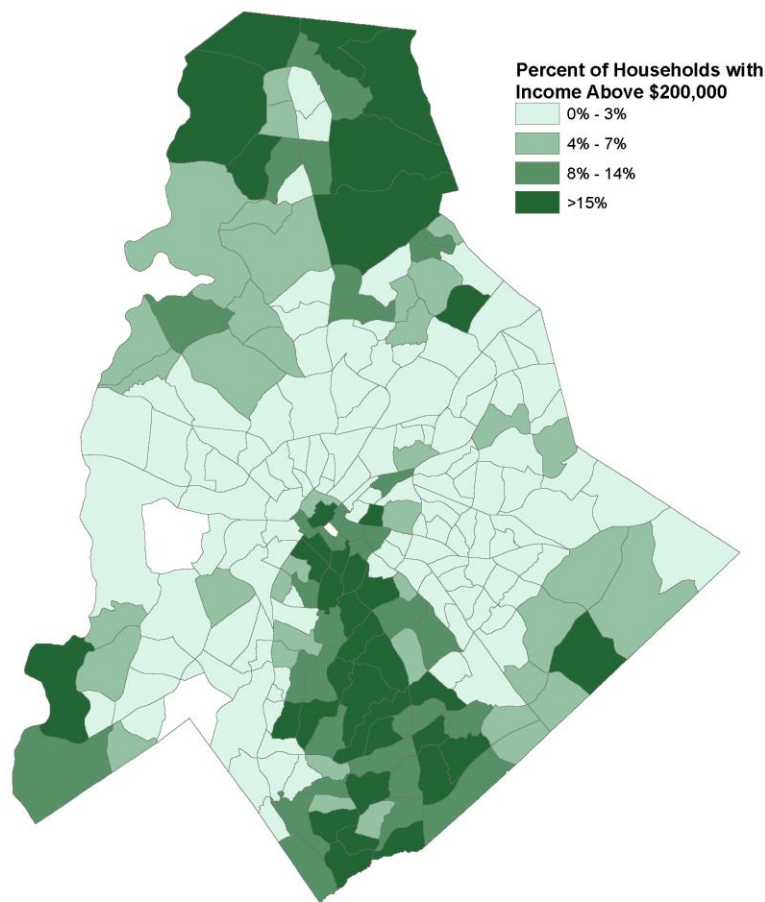
People separated from other people and living far from where they work

Charlotte-Mecklenburg is racially segregated



...and economically segregated

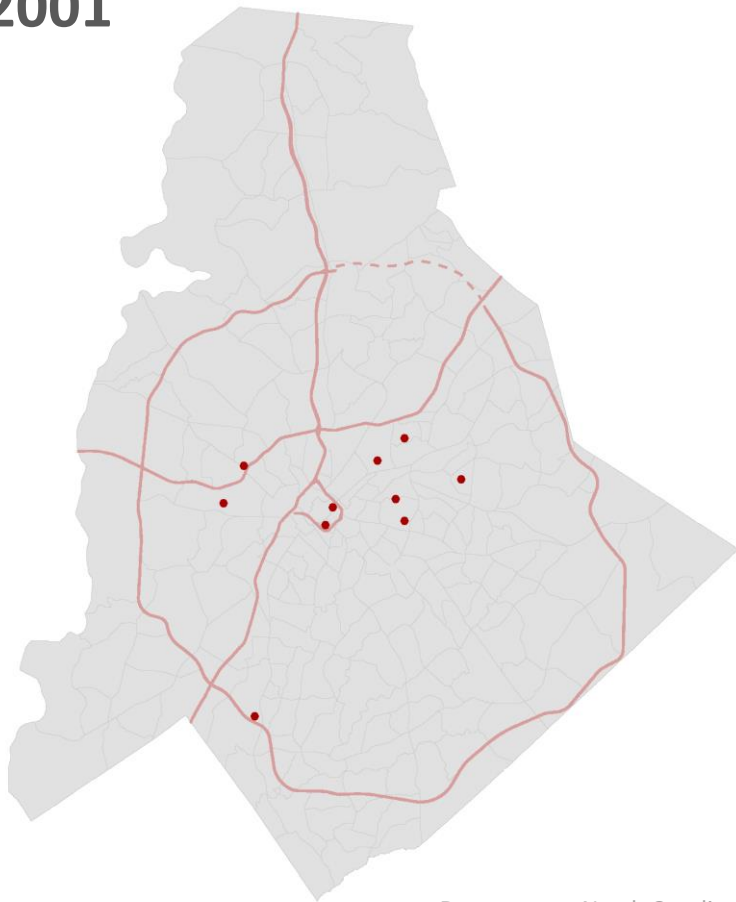
9th of large metros in segregation of the wealthy, college-educated, and working class



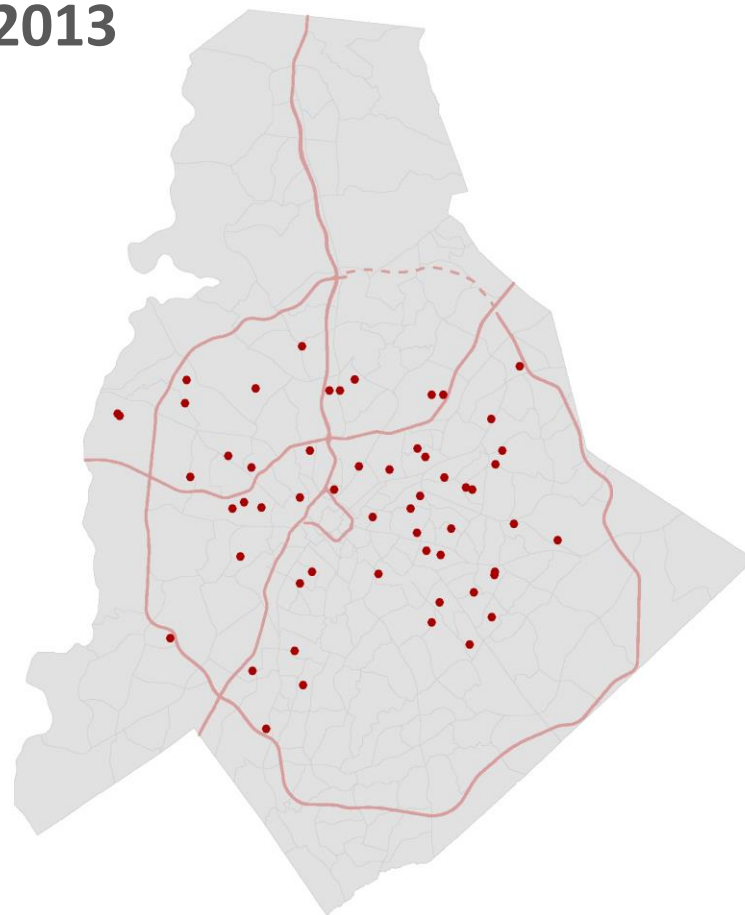
Public schools reflect the social and economic landscape

Schools with high concentrations of poverty and students of color have multiplied

2001



2013



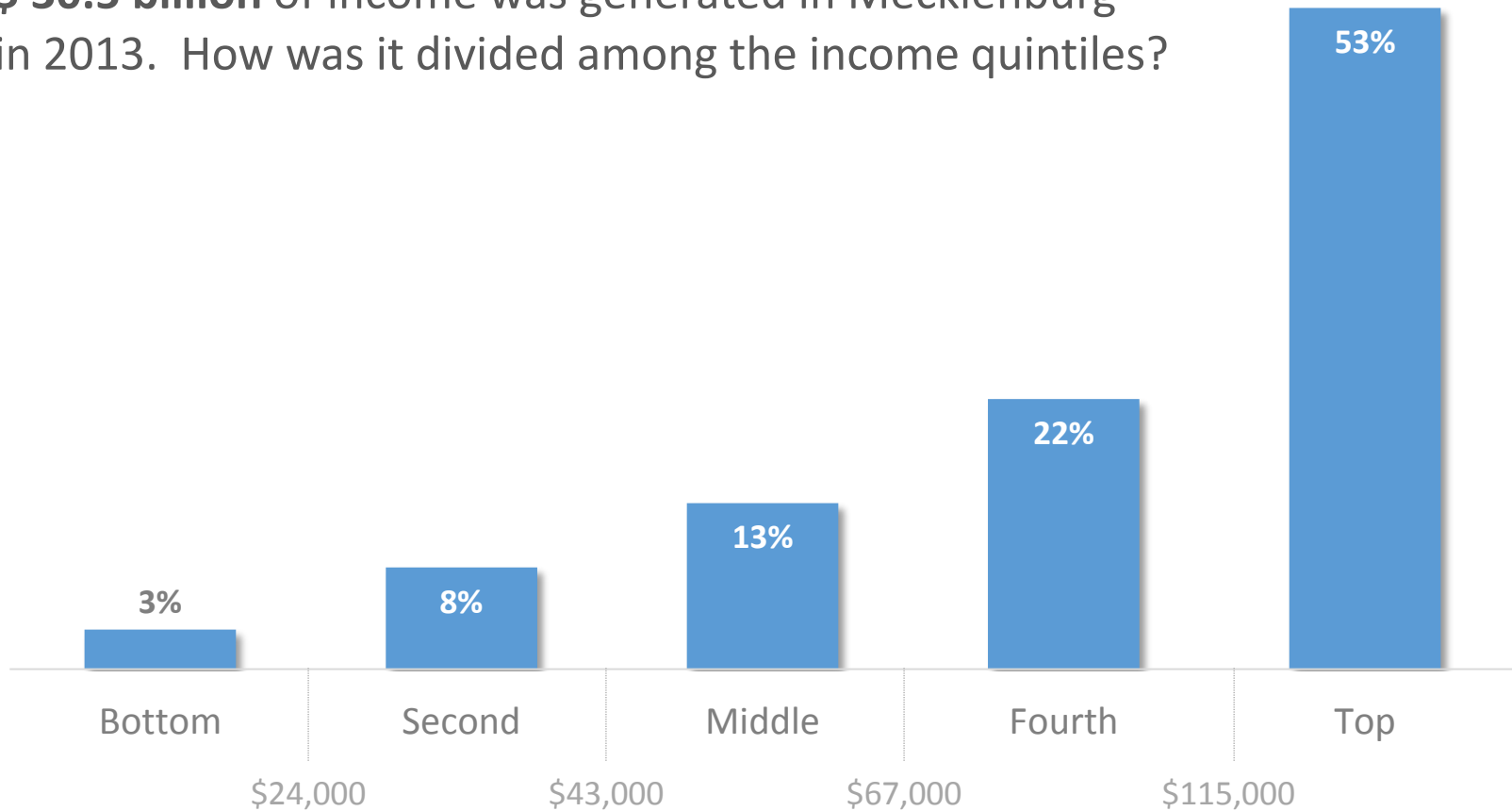


Income Inequality

How equally is income distributed across the community

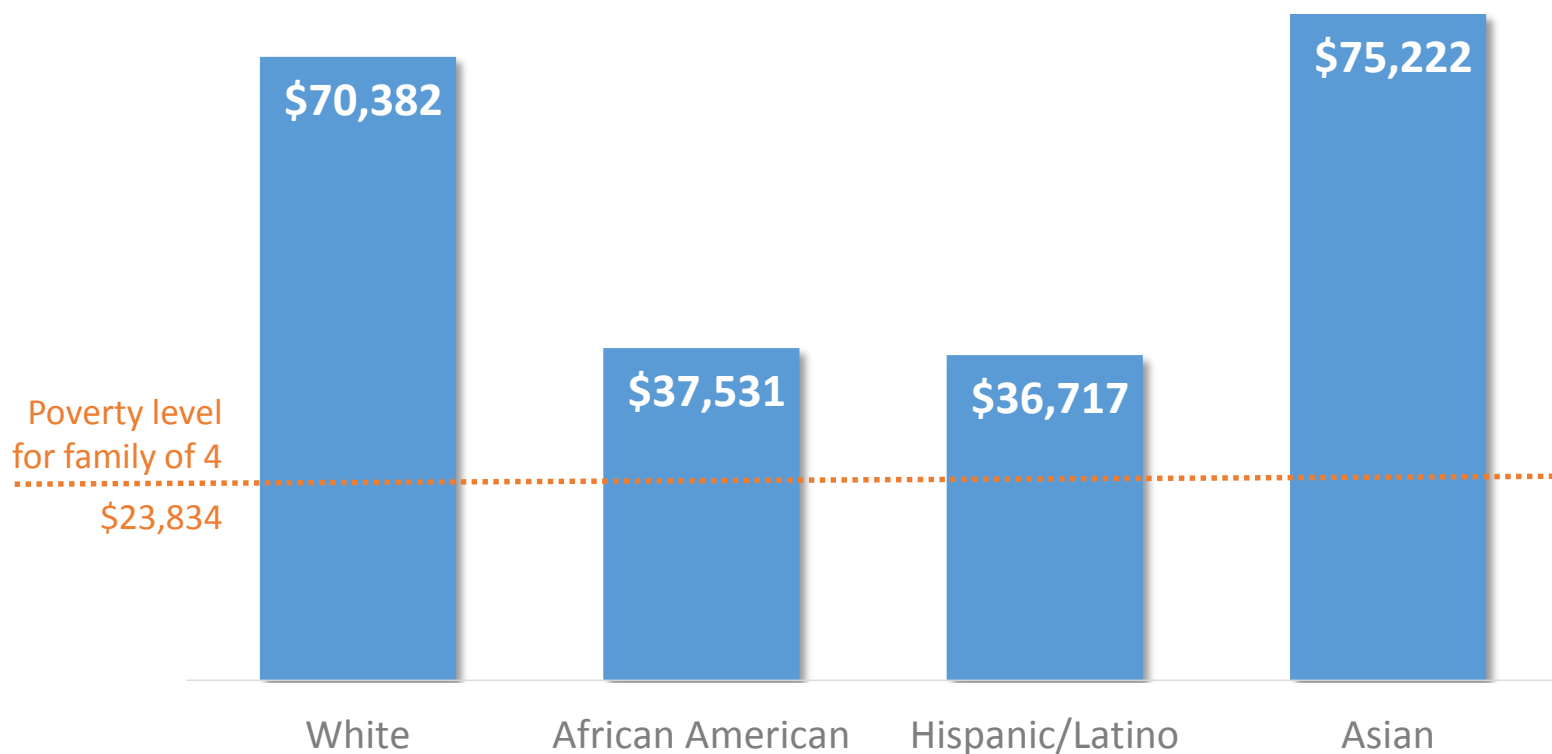
One fifth of households made more than half the income

\$ 30.5 billion of income was generated in Mecklenburg in 2013. How was it divided among the income quintiles?



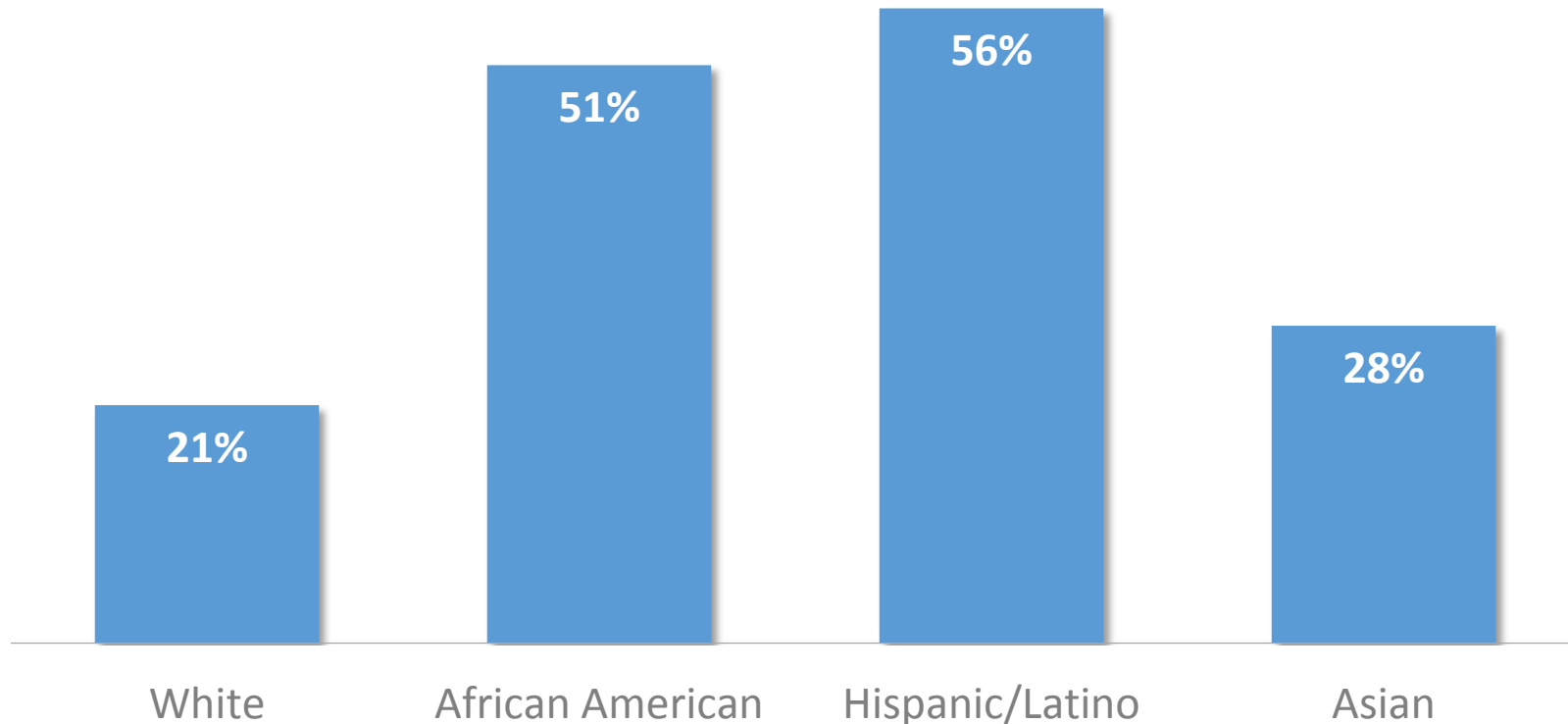
Income gap by race/ethnicity

Median Household Income



Many households would fall into poverty after 3 months without income

Asset poverty rate





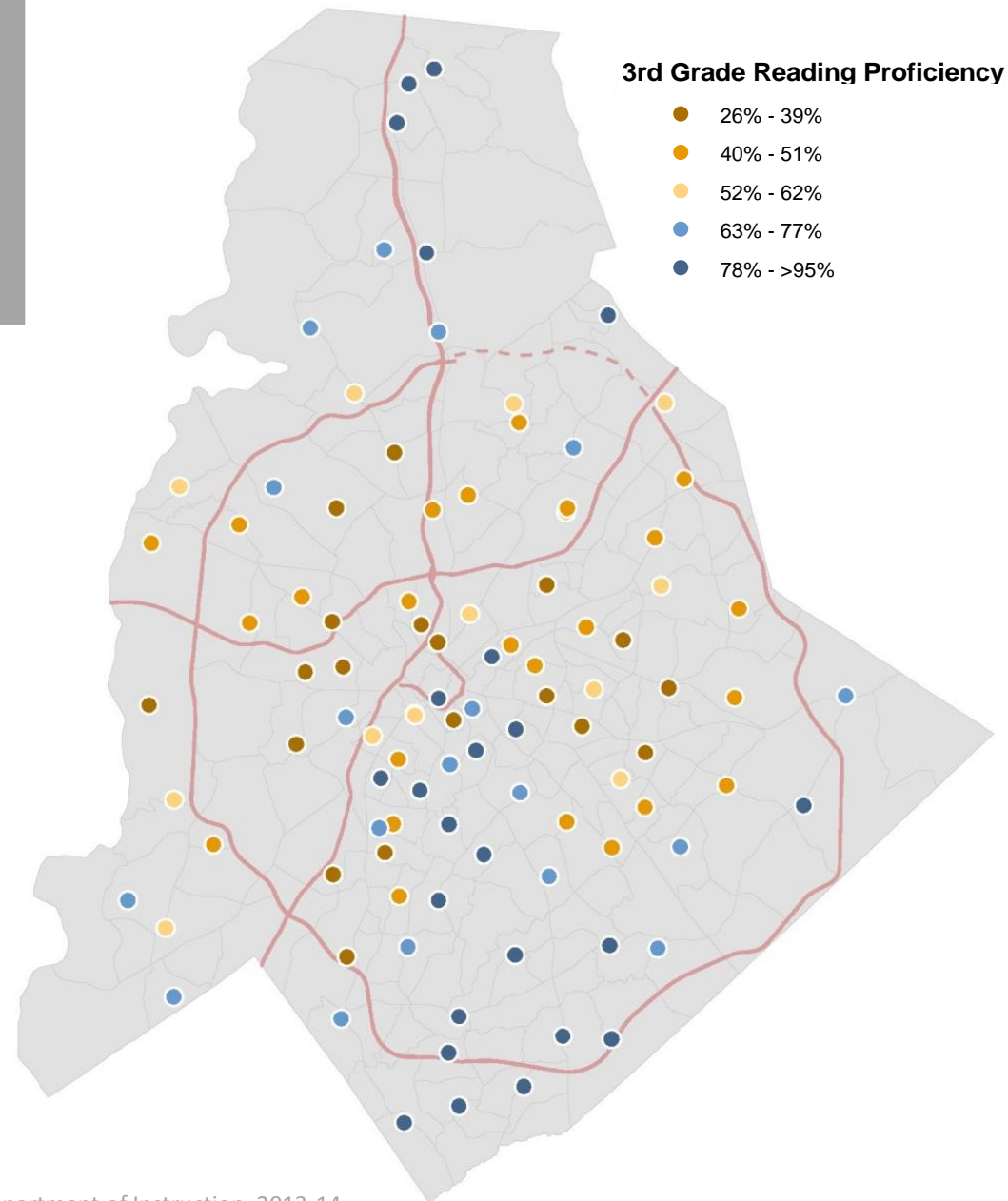
Quality of School System

Differences in mobility emerge when children are relatively young

Less than two-thirds
of CMS 3rd graders
read on grade level

62% of CMS 3rd graders were proficient on end of grade reading tests, just above state average (60%).

For economically disadvantaged students, **46%** were proficient.

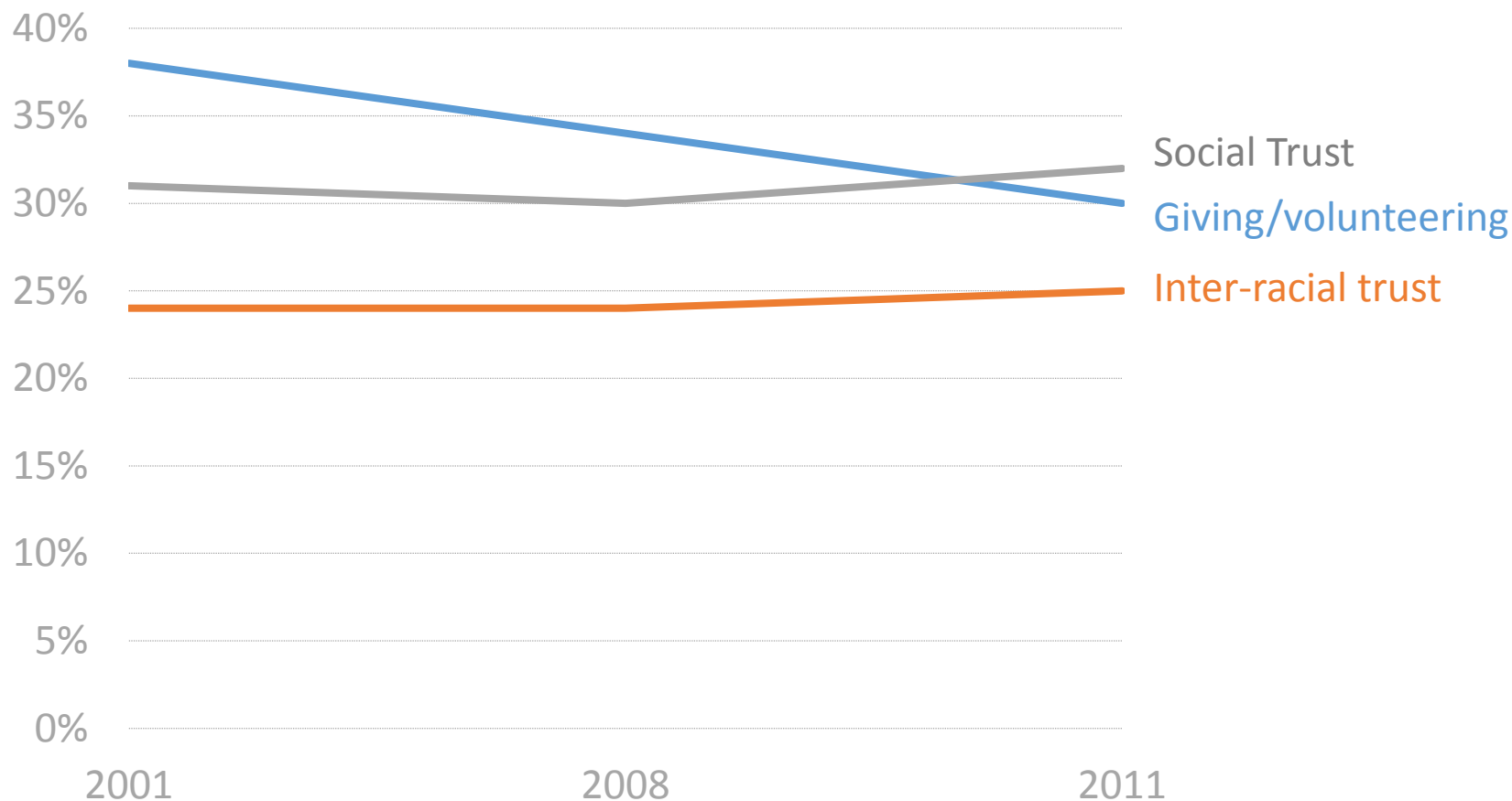




Social Capital

People connected to each other and civic institutions

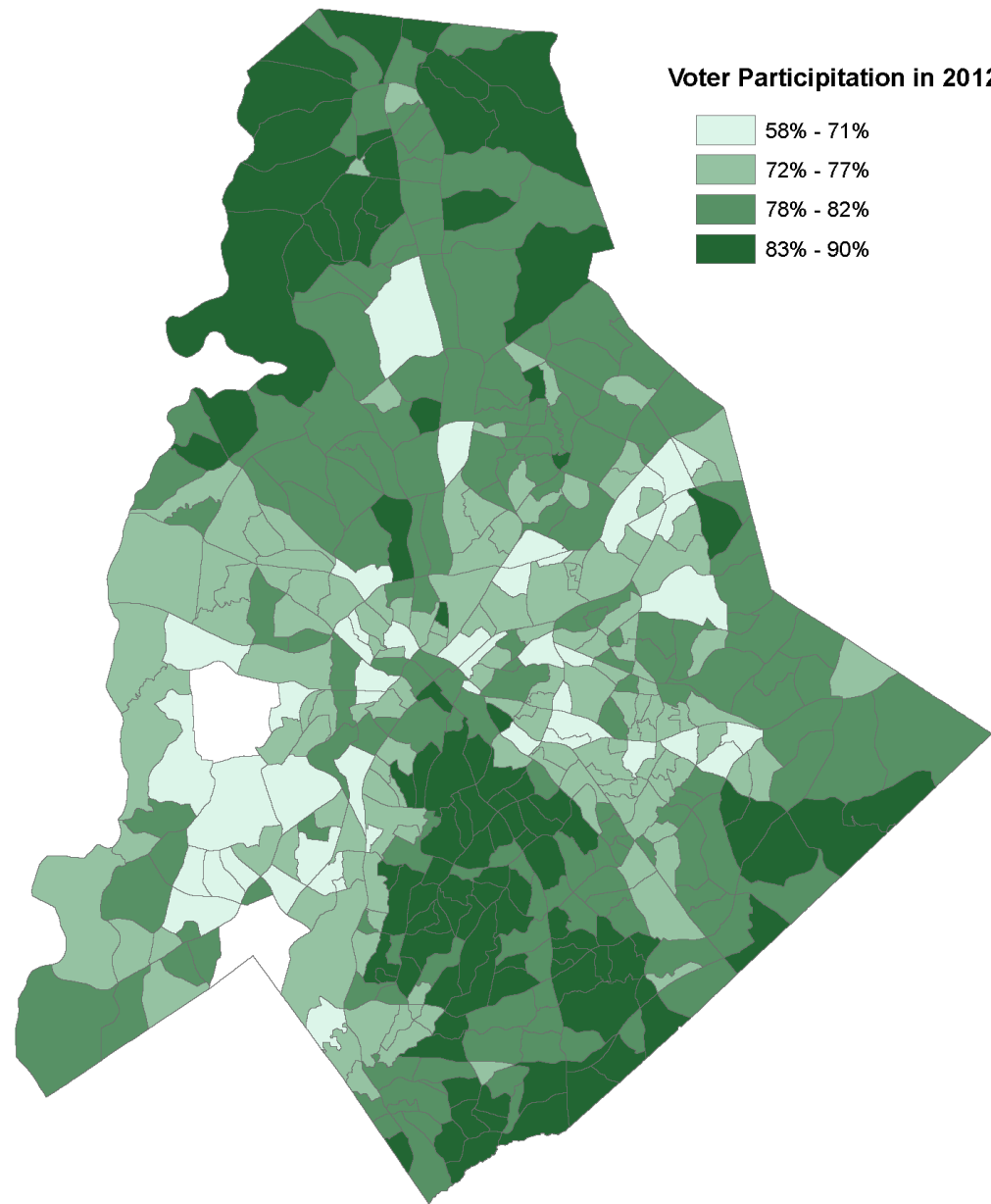
Social capital in Charlotte-Mecklenburg



More people are voting, but not everywhere

58% of Mecklenburg residents voted in 2000 election.

67% voted in 2012.





Family Structure

Single parent households experience greater mobility challenges, which then extend into the community

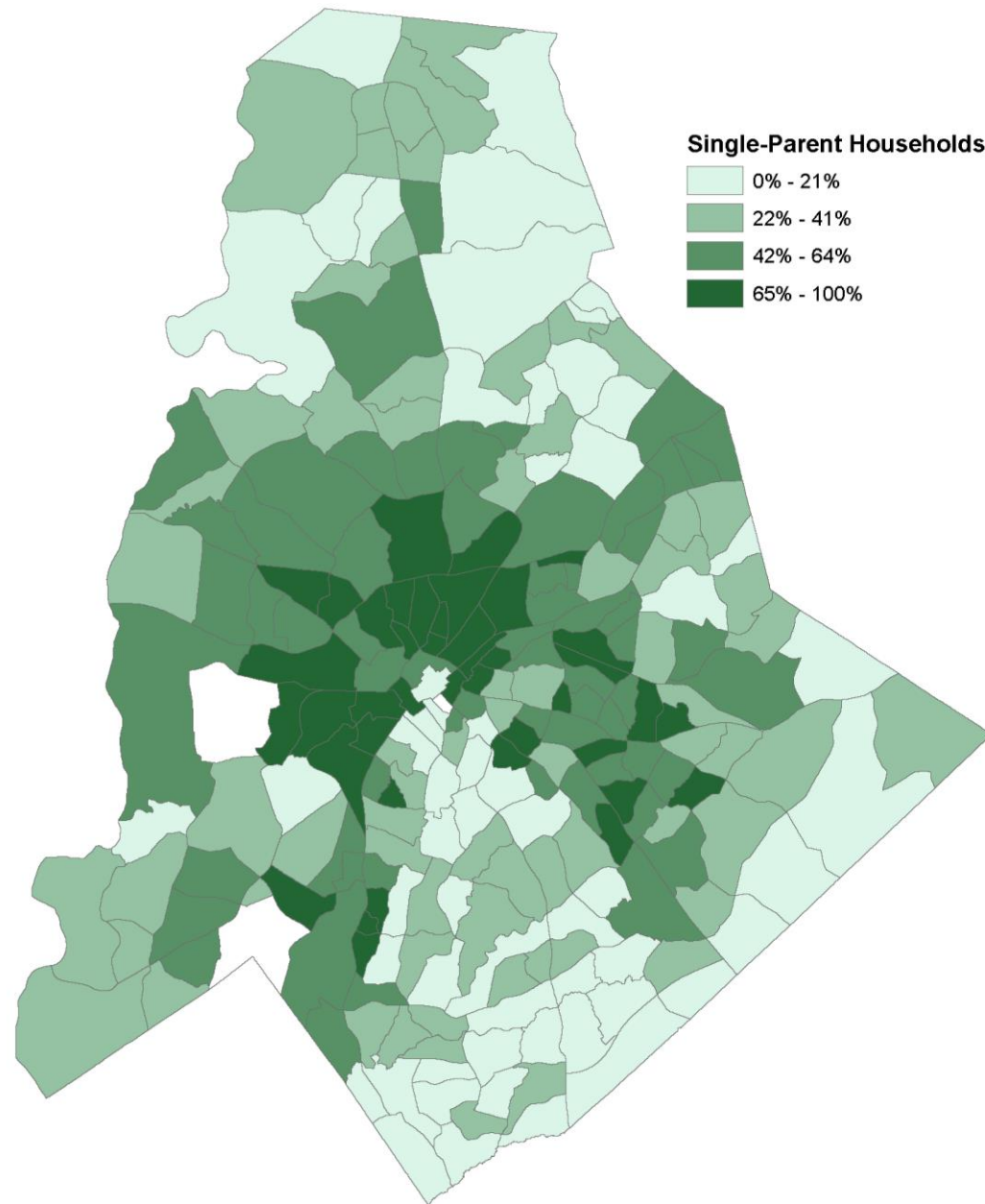
It's hard for single-parent families to make ends meet

Monthly expenses for a family of 3	
Housing	\$793
Food	\$361
Childcare	\$1,339
Healthcare	\$343
Transportation	\$377
Other necessities	\$296
Taxes (payroll and income)	\$547
Total	\$4,057
Annual total	\$48,680
Hourly wage needed	\$23

Single-parent households are growing

47,000 single-parent households in Mecklenburg.

38% of households with children are single-parent, up from 31% in 2000.



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For all or just for some?

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New Land of Opportunity

the U.S. Dec. 2014 U.S.

Best Families Sept. 2014

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Charlotte
city for