



THE OPPORTUNITY INDEX

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I. BACKGROUND

Fundamental to the idea of opportunity is the notion that the zip code into which you are born does not determine your life chances. Yet in America today, too often it does. Research shows that there is less mobility in the United States today than there is in Germany, Sweden, or France. Children born into the lowest 20 percent of the income distribution are five times more likely to find themselves there as adults as are children born into the top 20 percent of the income distribution (Haskins and Sawhill, 2010).

When people talk about economic opportunity and security, the measures that frequently come up are the federal poverty rate and the unemployment rate. While it is important to understand how many people fall below a barebones income threshold (the poverty rate) and how many people who are looking for work cannot find it (the unemployment rate), these indicators alone tell only part of the story. The Opportunity Index allows for a far more comprehensive approach to understanding access to opportunity in America by including non-economic as well as economic indicators. The result is a measure that can help local communities identify concrete solutions to complex problems.

Many factors influence the opportunities open to people. Some are *things individuals cannot change*-- such as the level of education of our parents, our racial or ethnic heritage or whether we were born into a poor household or not. Another set of factors that is also very important for opportunity is *personal characteristics and attributes*. These factors, such as drive, ambition, persistence, or charm, are very difficult to measure as they reside at the level of the individual. The Opportunity Index measures a third set of factors, the *opportunities present in different communities*. The choice to focus on this third set of factors was made because these areas of opportunity are amenable to change; some communities have characteristics that open many windows of opportunity for their residents; others offer few footholds on which residents can gain purchase for the climb to a better life.

What is the value of constructing an index?

The places where people live are pivotal to the opportunities open to them. Neighborhoods matter for employment, education, housing quality and stock, public goods such as transportation and green space, health care, law enforcement and public safety, community organizations, political processes and more. And all these areas are interlinked. While many people intuitively know whether the place in which they live has many job opportunities, or alternatively, high levels of high school dropouts or food deserts, bringing this complex reality into one index—using objective data from official sources— can be a helpful way to understand and take concrete action on opportunity in communities. Opportunity is a complex, multidimensional concept. An index can help to capture these various dimensions that cannot be measured using one single indicator alone.

While other economic indices and rankings exist, the Opportunity Index is different from other existing economic measures because it measures both economic factors, such as jobs and wages, and non-economic factors like access to education, the availability of health care, and community safety. While measures like GDP and the poverty rate tell you where you are, the Opportunity Index tells you how close you are to getting where you want to be.

A second difference between the Opportunity Index and existing indexes is that while solid research and good indices exist to measure individual opportunity, this Index focuses on opportunity at the community level. It reflects the reality that the environment into which a person is born and grows up plays a large role in a person’s chances for upward mobility. The Opportunity Index is an action-oriented measure that pinpoints areas that communities can work together to improve, thus removing barriers against social and economic mobility.

II. CONSTRUCTING THE INDEX

The data used to construct the index were selected based on robust research that has shown these community assets have a direct impact on expanding economic opportunity and increasing upward mobility. Because different types of opportunity are important to different people at different times in their lives, the Index does not attempt to assign greater or lesser value to some indicators than others through a weighting system. The Index measures opportunity at the state and county level in three dimensions:

- **JOBS AND LOCAL ECONOMY**
- **EDUCATION**
- **COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CIVIC LIFE**

JOBS AND LOCAL ECONOMY

The availability of jobs is critical to opportunity, and today’s high unemployment rates have put the need for jobs center stage. Nonetheless, a job is not the only ingredient necessary for a prosperous and sustainable economy that allows for economic security and mobility; an abundance of low-wage jobs, for instance, do not create optimal conditions for long-term opportunity. In addition, local residents must be prepared for today’s and tomorrow’s jobs, and also must be in a position to accumulate savings to weather life’s inevitable ups and downs and to make the large expenditures—a house in a good school system, a car to get to work, college tuition—necessary for upward mobility. Finally, internet access is becoming the default expectation for banking, government services, job applications, and work—part and parcel of life’s essential infrastructure. **The areas measured in the Opportunity Index in the dimension of JOBS AND LOCAL ECONOMY are:**

AREA	INDICATOR	SOURCE
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JOB	Unemployment Rate (%)	Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics tables and news releases.
WAGES	Median Household Income (\$)	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2005-2009
POVERTY	Poverty (% of population below poverty line)	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2005-2009
ASSETS	Banking Institutions (commercial banks, savings institutions, and credit unions per 1,000 residents)	U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2009 and CDC WONDER Bridged-Race July 1, 2009 Population Estimates (Vintage 2009)
AFFORDABLE HOUSING	Renters Spending Less than 30% of Household Income on Housing Costs (%)	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2005-2009
INTERNET ACCESS	High-Speed Internet (% of households)	Federal Communications Commission Internet Access Services, March 2011

EDUCATION

In a globalized economy in which knowledge is paramount, education is a key factor in expanding opportunity and protecting people from the most severe consequences of economic downturns. During the last quarter of the Great Recession, the combined unemployment and underemployment rate of college graduates was 10 percent; among those without a high school diploma, it was more than triple this rate, at 35 percent (Burd-Sharps and Lewis, 2010). At every stage along the educational journey, a quality educational experience is vital. Research has consistently identified a quality preschool to be the most cost-effective intervention to enable every child to enter school on an equal footing. (Heckman, 2004). High school and college graduates earn significantly more over their lifetimes than high school and college dropouts, respectively. Many students live in communities with “dropout factory” high schools – those schools graduating only 60 percent or fewer of their students every year (Balfanz, 2011). Community matters because the quality of a public school is typically tied closely to the socioeconomic status of the families it serves, and subsequently, the neighborhood in which it is located. Several studies show positive outcomes for children and adolescents from low-income families who live in the same community as more affluent neighbors, including increased childhood IQ and developmental test scores and a decrease in leaving school prematurely (Brooks-Gunn, Duncan, Klebanov, & Sealander, 1993; Klebanov, Brooks-Gunn, McCarton, & McCormick, 1998). **The areas measured in the Opportunity Index in the dimension of EDUCATION are:**

AREA	INDICATOR	SOURCE
PRESCHOOL	Preschool (% ages 3 and 4 in school)	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2005-2009
K-12	On-Time High School Graduation (% of freshmen who graduate in four years)	County Health Rankings analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings 2011
POST-SECONDARY FUNDING	State Higher Education Subsidy (% of annual average per pupil education and related costs covered by state subsidy) [STATE-LEVEL ONLY]	Delta Cost Project analysis of the Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics IPEDS State Database

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION	Bachelor's Degree or Higher (% of adults 25 and over)	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2005-2009
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COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CIVIC LIFE

Evidence shows that the level of community institutions, networks and norms, together known as social capital, play an important role in expanding people's opportunities, including the opportunities to attend good schools and find good jobs, and to collectively solve problems such as crime, unhealthy environmental conditions, and others (Putnam, 2000). Volunteerism and group membership are two important measures of social capital because they can make important contributions to community trust and connectedness and to the building of networks and other vital social infrastructure. Community safety is included in this dimension as a proxy both for its contribution to social capital and for its vital role in community health. Communities with high levels of crime, including drug abuse, lack the environment in which schools and businesses can thrive—two key pillars of economic mobility—and in which residents feel safe to establish the links and connections for cohesive social networks. Violent crime has an obvious impact on victims' health directly, and the chronic stress of danger and its effects on the ability of children to get exercise have longer-term deleterious effects on health. Communities with limited healthy food options and a dearth of medical personnel can contribute to unhealthy lifestyles and ultimately, poor health. **The areas measured in the Opportunity Index in the dimension of COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CIVIC LIFE are:**

AREA	INDICATOR	SOURCE
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT	Group Membership (% of adults 18 and over involved in social, civic, sports, and religious groups) [STATE-LEVEL ONLY]	American Human Development Project analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, DataFerrett, Current Population Survey, Civic Engagement Supplements for 2008 and 2009
VOLUNTEERISM	Volunteerism (% of adults ages 18 and older) [STATE-LEVEL ONLY]	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2005-2009
YOUTH ECONOMIC AND ACADEMIC INCLUSION	Teenagers Not in School and Not Working (% ages 16-19) [STATE-LEVEL ONLY]	American Human Development Project analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, DataFerrett, Current Population Survey, Volunteering Supplements for 2009 and 2010
SAFETY	Violent Crime (per 100,000 population) or Homicide (per 100,000) for counties where violent crime rates were not available.	State data from the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics (www.ucrdatatool.gov); county data from the County Health Rankings analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Justice, FBI Criminal Justice Information Services
ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE	Primary Care Providers (per 100,000 population)	County Health Rankings analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Area Resource File. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings 2011
ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD	Grocery Stores and Supermarkets (% of zip codes with at least one)	County Health Rankings analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings 2011

How was the scoring calculated?

The Opportunity Index shows how states and counties perform on a set of indicators that measure access to opportunity in communities relative to the average performance of U.S. states and counties within three dimensions of opportunity: jobs and local economy, education, and community health and civic life. The index comprises a total of 16 indicators for states. Because of the unavailability or inapplicability of four indicators at the level of county data, the county Index includes 12 indicators.

State scoring is calculated on a 0-100 scale, with the top-scoring state, Connecticut, receiving a score of 89. The bottom-ranked state, Nevada, receives a score of 21.3. In addition to an overall score for each state out of 100, it is also possible to understand how a state does in terms of opportunity within each of the three dimensions. State dimension scores are divided into 10 categories, with 10 being the best average performance in each dimension and 1 the worst.

Counties were given letter grades from A to F. Owing to their generally smaller populations, data for counties tend to be more unstable than data for states. Because of this, only five categories are presented for counties as compared with ten for states in order to minimize the risk of over-stating small or insignificant differences. These five categories, A, B, C, D, and F, reflect reasonable distinctions among the approximately 2,400 counties ranked. As with states, it is also possible to understand how a county does in terms of opportunity within each of the three dimensions. County dimension scores are divided into 5 categories, with 5 being the best average performance in each dimension and 1 the worst. Counties with fewer than 10,000 residents are excluded from the Index because data for many of the indicators are either unavailable or unreliable for these low-population counties. Please see “Opportunity Index: Note on Methodology and Sources” for detailed information.

The Opportunity Index is part of a larger campaign aiming to bring opportunity and mobility into the mainstream debate and to ignite a grassroots effort to spur policymakers to action. We want to leverage the upcoming presidential election to highlight these issues in a bipartisan national discussion, and to create a climate that spurs legislative action. The Opportunity Index is the starting point for this movement, and was launched in conjunction with a [national summit](#), co-convened by the Ford Foundation, TIME Magazine, United Way Worldwide, AARP Foundation and AARP, on November 4th, 2011.

The Opportunity Index was developed by the American Human Development Project of the Social Science Research Council in close collaboration with Opportunity Nation. A number of leading scholars advised us on this project, including Isabel Sawhill from The Brookings Institution and Ken Prewitt, Former Director of the United States Census Bureau.

III. KEY FINDINGS OF THE INDEX

Various types of opportunity strongly reinforce one another

This section presents select findings of the Opportunity Index by state and by county. One important finding that both the state and county results share is that states or counties at the top—and those at the bottom—show a balanced performance across the three dimensions of the index, jobs and local economy; education; and community health and civic life. The top three states on the Opportunity Index, Connecticut, Minnesota, and Massachusetts, perform well across the board. Though Connecticut gets the highest possible score, a 10, on the education dimension, it scores 8 on both the jobs and local economy dimension and the community health and civic life dimension. Likewise, Minnesota and

Massachusetts register scores of 7, 8, and 9 on the various dimensions; all of them are relatively high scores, but none is the highest score possible.

The same trend is seen in the bottom three states, West Virginia, Mississippi, and Nevada. Nevada's score of 4 on the jobs and local economy dimension, though a middle-range score, is not sufficient to offset its score of 1 on both education and community health and civic life. West Virginia and Mississippi register a mix of 1's, 2's, 3's, and 4's. Similarly, the 47 counties that received an "A" registered scores that are high (all 5's and 4's) on all the dimensions of the Index; and all the 22 counties that receive an "F" received scores of 1 and 2 on all the dimensions of the Index.

What these results show is that even a fairly strong performance in one area is insufficient to creating broad-based opportunity if performance in other dimensions is weak. It also shows that the various types of opportunity appear to strongly reinforce one another; people living in healthy communities are more likely to have adequate incomes and access to financial services, for instance, and areas that invest in education appear to reap rewards in the form of civic engagement and economic security.

The range of achievement across America's communities on basic indicators is wide

Another noteworthy finding for both states and counties is that there is a tremendous range of achievement across communities in America on basic indicators of opportunity. For example, in Nevada, only about half of all high school students graduate within four years, whereas in Wisconsin and Vermont, nearly 90 percent do. For counties, in the area of college degrees, about 28 percent of American adults have a four-year college degree. But this ranges by county from Falls Church County in Virginia where nearly 70 percent do, to Greensville County, also in Virginia, where fewer than five percent of adults have a four-year college degree. See Tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1 Indicator Ranges by State

Dimension	Indicator	Minimum	Maximum
Jobs and Local Economy	Renters Spending Less than 30 percent of Household Income on Housing Costs	42.9 percent in Florida	64.8 percent in Wyoming
Education	On-Time High School Graduation (percentage of freshmen who graduate in four years)	52 percent in Nevada	89 percent in Wisconsin and Vermont
Community Health and Civic Life	Group Membership of adults 18 and over (social, civic, sports, and religious groups)	24.4 percent in Nevada	46.2 percent in Alaska

Table 2 Indicator Ranges by County

Dimension	Indicator	Minimum	Maximum
Jobs and Local Economy	Unemployment	1.0 percent in Williams County, ND	32.8 percent in Imperial County, CA
Education	Bachelor's Degree or Higher (adults)	4.8 percent in Greensville County, VA	69.5 percent in Falls Church County, VA

	25 and over)		
Community Health and Civic Life	Violent Crime (per 100,000)	9.7 per 100,000 in Buffalo County, Wisconsin	2,243.7 per 100,000 in St. Louis County, MO

There is a strong relationship for states between Opportunity Index scores and lower health risk factors

Analysis shows that the higher the Opportunity Score, the lower the rates of a set of health risk factors, ranging from obesity and smoking to diabetes and low-birth-weight infants that are contributors to the leading causes of death in America today. The rate of diabetes shows the strongest correlation, followed by obesity and smoking. See Table 3 for the full list:

Table 3: Health risk factors that correlate strongly with the Opportunity Index

Indicator	Coefficient of Correlation with Opportunity Index
Obesity (% age 20 and older)	-.597
Smoking (% age 18 and older)	-.596
Diabetes (% age 18 and older)	-.726
Low-Birth-Weight Infants (%)	-.498

Sources: American Human Development analysis. Health risk factors data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

States that score lower on the Opportunity Index tend to have a higher burden of undesirable social outcomes.

States that exhibit lower levels of opportunity tend to have higher rates of negative social outcomes, including the rate of births to teenage girls, the child poverty rate, and the incarceration rate. See Table 4.

Table 4: Social outcomes that correlate strongly with the Opportunity Index

Indicator	Coefficient of Correlation with Opportunity Index
Births to Teenage Girls (per 1,000 age 15-19)	-.799
Child Poverty (% living in families below the poverty line)	-.765
Incarceration Rate	-.667

Sources: American Human Development Analysis. Health outcome data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey; U.S. Department of Justice.

Income is not the strongest correlate with the Opportunity Index

Most people associate opportunity with jobs and wages. But neither the unemployment rate nor median household income, two of the indicators that make up the Index, are among the indicators that correlate most strongly with the overall Index. There is a positive association between median

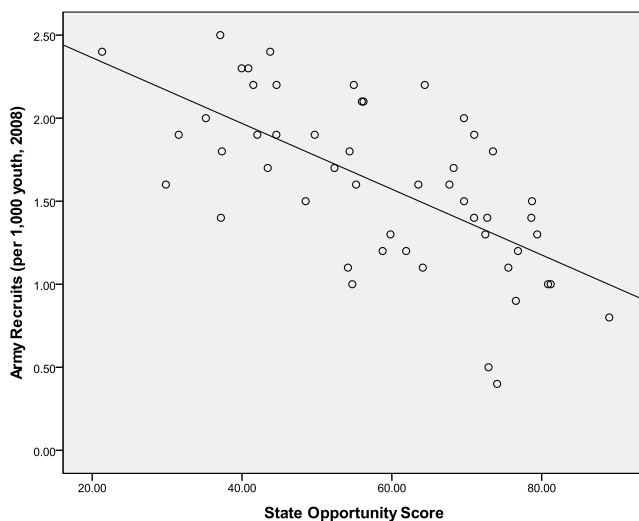
household income and state Opportunity Scores ($r = .662$), meaning that states that do well on the Index overall also tend to have higher median household incomes. However, Nevada, the bottom-ranked state on the rankings does relatively well in terms of income, with median household income above that of the nation (\$55,500 to \$51,500). Poverty is relatively low in Nevada as well. What scuttles the state's score is high unemployment coupled with low scores in the Education and Community Health and Civic Life dimensions.

Of all the indicators included in the Index, three in particular have the strongest correlation with the final Opportunity Score. The percentage of teenagers not in school and not working, the poverty rate, and the percentage of adults with bachelor's degrees, all have stronger correlations with the overall Opportunity Score than median household income.

States with low opportunity scores tend to have higher military recruitment rates

The bottom-ranked state for opportunity, Nevada, ties with Georgia for the second-highest military recruiting rate per one thousand 15-24 year-olds. Alabama, which ranks number 47 on the Index with a score of only 37, has the highest recruiting rate, 2.5 per one thousand. In comparison, top-ranked Connecticut has a recruiting rate of only 0.8 per 1,000 people. Alabama's rate is more than triple Connecticut's rate. See Figure 1. In states with many opportunities, military service is one of many, whereas in areas with fewer opportunities, military service is one of few and those who live in low-opportunity states are more likely to choose military service.

Figure 1: Military recruitment rates and Opportunity Index Scores

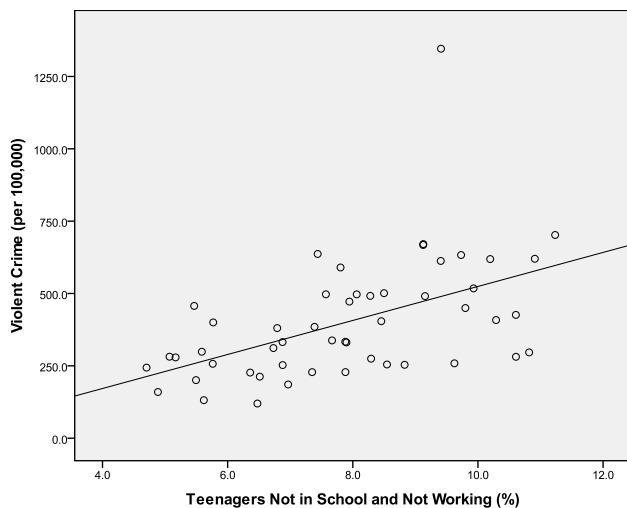


Source: American Human Development Analysis. Military recruitment data from National Priorities Project Database.

States with a higher incidence of disconnected youth tend to have higher violent crime rates

There is a fairly strong positive relationship between states with larger shares of teenagers who are neither in school nor working—often referred to as disconnected youth—and rates of violent crime in those communities ($R = .506$). Figure 2 shows this relationship; the outlier is Washington, D.C.

Figure 2: Disconnected youth and violent crime



Regional Trends

The fifteen highest scoring states are fairly evenly distributed across the nation. Five are from the Northeast, five are from the Midwest, three are in the South Atlantic region, and 2 are Western states. Of the lowest-scoring 15 states, 12 are located in America's South. The remaining three are Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada.

Of the 22 counties receiving an opportunity grade of "F", all but one, Lake County in Michigan, are in Southern states.

Select State-Level Findings

- Utah has the highest rate of volunteerism among adults (42.4%) and one of the lowest crimes rates in the nation, nearly half that of the national average.
- California scores just above average in Education, but average or below in the other two dimensions. It is one of nine states with incomes higher than \$60,000, but California also has the second highest unemployment rate in the nation.
- Florida has the largest percentage of renters in the nation who are burdened by heavy housing costs, defined as the percentage of renters who spend more than 30 percent of household income on rent and utilities .
- Washington D.C and New York are the only two states (DC is considered a state for the purposes of this analysis) with incomes higher than the national average that also have higher poverty rates than the nation. Both have relatively low on-time high school graduation rates. Washington DC also has the highest violent crime rate in the nation, at 1345.9 per 100,000, which is almost three-and-a-half times that of New York, at 384.7 per 100,000.

- Washington DC scores extremely well in the Education dimension, with a score of 9 out of a possible 10, but performs average in Jobs, and Community Health and Civic Life, with a score of 6 in each. It has the highest bachelor's degree attainment of any state in the nation today.
- New York performs much better in the Education dimension than in the other two dimensions, at 9 points versus 5 in Jobs and in Community Health and Civic Life. New York has the second lowest rate of volunteering among adults of any state, at 19.1 percent, after Nevada.
- In the area of Jobs and the Local Economy, North Dakota scores the highest, with a 10, and has the highest rate of banking institutions per 1,000 residents in the nation. However, scores in Education and Community Health and Civic Life are significantly lower.

Select County-Level Findings

Shared characteristics of “A” Counties: Forty-seven counties earned a grade of A on the Opportunity Index for U.S. counties. Those states with the most “A” counties are: Virginia with 12, Colorado and New Jersey with four each, and Massachusetts with three. What did the “A” counties have in common? For one thing, all but four of them are part of a major metropolitan area (Metropolitan Statistical Area). The remaining four include: Grand County, Colorado, Dukes (mostly Martha’s Vineyard) and Nantucket Counties in Massachusetts, and San Juan County in Washington.

Of the “A” counties, a majority are in the northeast, but they are also found in other regions. In addition to several in Virginia there are “A” counties in the South (Fayette and Forsyth in Georgia), Mid-West (DuPage in Illinois, Hamilton in Indiana, Delaware in Ohio, Ozaukee and Waukesha in Wisconsin), South-West (Los Alamos in New Mexico, Gillespie in Texas), and West (four in Colorado as well as Marin in California, Summit in Utah, San Juan in Washington).

Shared characteristics of “F” counties: Twenty-two counties score an “F” on the Opportunity Index. Of these, all but Lake County, Michigan are located in the southeastern and Appalachian states, particularly Mississippi with five, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida with three each, and South Carolina and Tennessee with two each. Of these 22 counties, 13 are part of smaller metropolitan areas and the rest are predominantly rural.

Top 10 Most-Populous Counties: The ten most populous counties in the United States as of the 2010 Census, listed in Table 5 below, reveal a mixed picture of opportunity in America’s big cities. The ten biggest counties mostly represent part or all of the urban cores of the Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Phoenix, San Diego, New York, Miami, and Dallas metropolitan areas. Encouragingly, none of these counties receives a score lower than “C.” However, only three, Orange County in the Los Angeles area and Kings (Brooklyn) and Queens Counties in New York City receive grades higher than a C; all 3 receive B’s. This finding seems to contrast with the finding above that the characteristic the “A” counties have in common is that they are mostly part of a major metropolitan area. The important distinction is that while almost all of these “A” counties are part of a major metro area, none are in the core city of the metro area of which they are a part.

What helps pull these three urban counties pull ahead of the rest? **Orange County, California** enjoys very high median household earnings—more than \$20,000 higher than those of the typical American household; the share of adults with a Bachelor’s degree is over 7 percentage points higher than the national average; and the violent crime rate and access to healthy foods are both much more favorable than the national averages for those indicators. **Kings County, New York**, which is the borough of

Brooklyn in New York City, is the only county of these ten major population centers to score a 5 in any dimension; in Brooklyn’s case, that high achievement comes in the Education dimension. Preschool enrollment is about 62 percent in Kings County, compared to 47 percent for the nation overall. Post-secondary degree attainment among Brooklynites is also higher than the national average. **Queens County, New York** also scores 4’s in the Education and Community Health and Civic Life dimensions. In addition to strong preschool enrollment and post-secondary attainment scores, almost every zip-code in Queens has at least one supermarket, farmer’s market, or produce stand.

Table 5: Opportunity in the ten most populous counties

County	City	Opportunity Grade	Dimension Scores (Econ / Ed / Civic)
Los Angeles County, LA	Los Angeles	C	3 / 3 / 3
Cook County, IL	Chicago	C	3 / 4 / 3
Harris County, TX	Houston	C	3 / 3 / 3
Maricopa County, AZ	Phoenix	C	3 / 3 / 3
San Diego County, CA	San Diego	C	3 / 4 / 3
Orange County, CA	Los Angeles	B	4 / 4 / 4
Kings County, NY	New York	B	2 / 5 / 4
Miami-Dade County, FL	Miami	C	2 / 3 / 3
Dallas County, TX	Dallas	C	3 / 3 / 3
Queens County, NY	New York	B	3 / 4 / 4

- Of the 2,444 counties in the Index, a total of 17 scored a 5 in all three dimensions of the Opportunity Index. Of these 17 counties, all but one, Dukes County, MA (Martha’s Vineyard), are part of a major metropolitan area. Parts of several major and some smaller metropolitan areas are represented in this list of “A+” counties, including Indianapolis (Hamilton County, IN), Philadelphia (Montgomery County, PA), Salt Lake City (Summit County, Utah), Nashville (Williamson County, TN), Baltimore (Howard County, MD), Milwaukee (Ozaukee and Waukesha, WI), and Virginia Beach (James City and Poquoson County, VA) in addition to counties near Boston, New York, and Washington DC and the scientific hub of Los Alamos, New Mexico.
- Two counties score a 1 in all three dimensions. They are Dooly County, Georgia and Carroll County, Mississippi.
- Household income in Falls Church, Virginia, \$113,000, is more than twice the national figure of \$51,000, and almost six times greater than the county with the lowest income, Breathitt, Kentucky, at \$19,000.
- The only two counties with income lower than \$20,000 are both in Kentucky: Magoffin, and Breathitt.
- Sumter, Alabama, has a low score in Jobs (1), but quite a high score in Education, with a 4. Household income is the 7th lowest of the 2,444 counties, while the poverty rate is 7th highest, with four in ten residents living in poverty.

- The county of St. Louis City, Missouri has the highest rate of violent crime in the nation, at 2,243.7 crimes per 100,000 residents, more than five times the national rate.
- Two counties in the U.S. have zero banking institutions per 1,000 residents: Shannon, South Dakota, and Manassas Park, Virginia. Income in Manassas Park is almost two and a half times higher, and it has an unemployment rate one third that of Shannon. Despite these vast differences, both counties score similarly in the Education dimension.

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