



# OPEN COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

*Embracing Diversity to Strengthen Connecticut*

## Welcoming Diversity

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# OPEN COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

*Embracing Diversity to Strengthen  
Connecticut*

**The Alliance** is a new Connecticut-based civil rights non-profit that is developing an urban-suburban interracial coalition to advocate for access to opportunity, particularly through promoting affordable housing development in thriving communities.



SOMETIMES  
YOU JUST  
HAVE TO  
TALK ABOUT  
RACE...

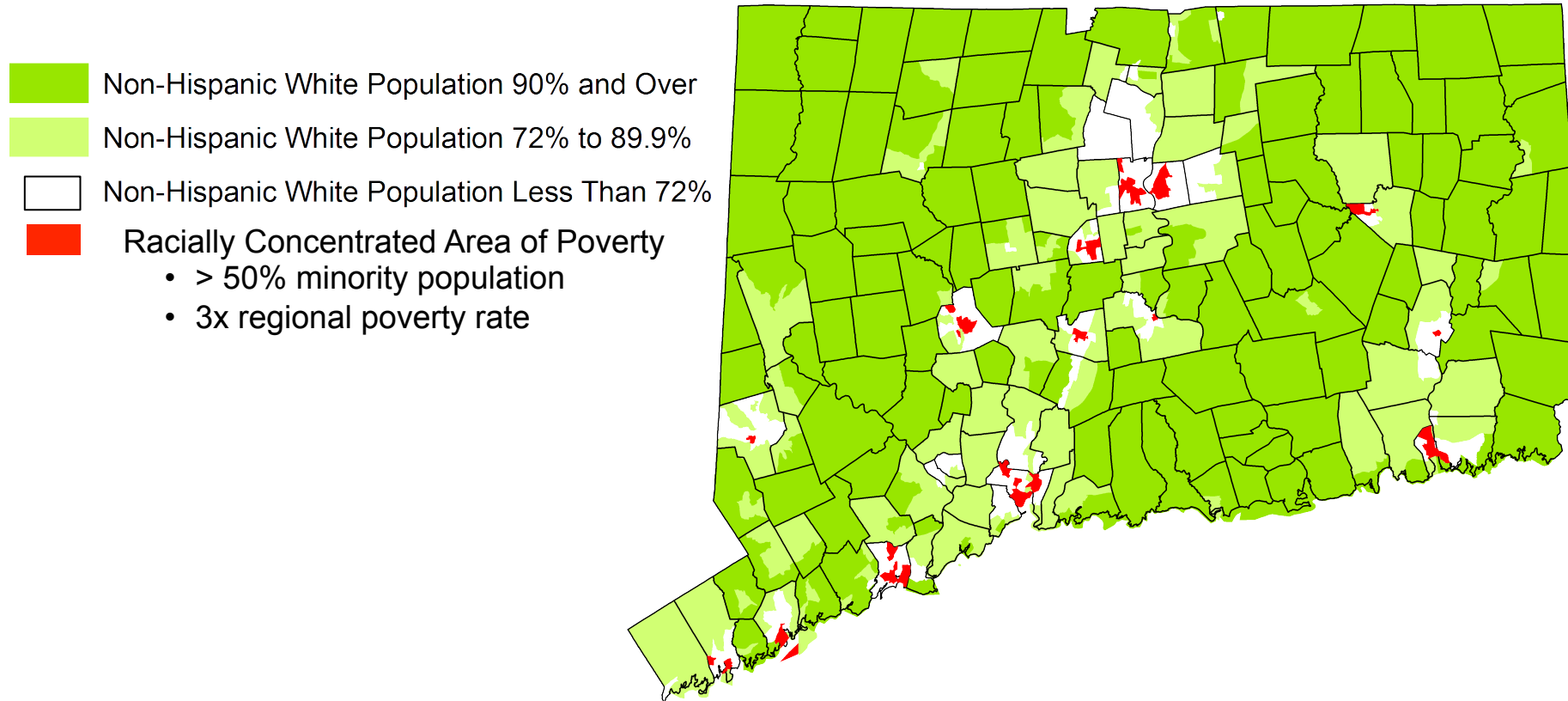
<http://thedailyshow.cc.com/videos/g65t3j/the-r-word>

# GROUND RULES

When talking about race, ethnicity, and income, we ask that you:

- Be respectful.
- Be forgiving of others in the audience in order to create a safe space for discussion.
- Share your opinion.

# CT IS ONE OF THE MOST RACIALLY, ETHNICALLY, AND ECONOMICALLY SEGREGATED STATES IN THE COUNTRY.



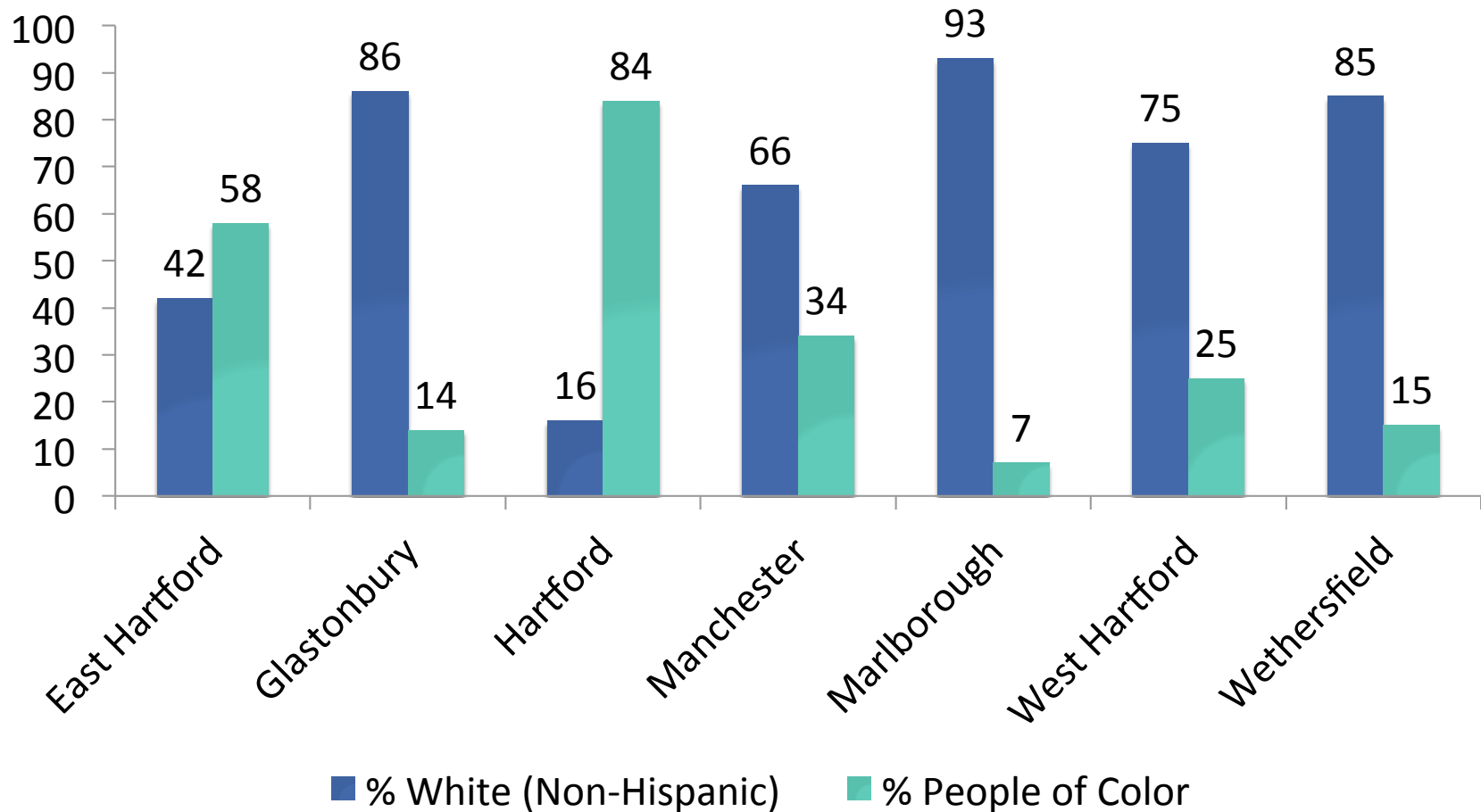
RCAPS = < 1% of the areas of Connecticut  
(39 square miles)

# EXPLAINING SEGREGATION

## Racial/Ethnic Segregation in CT by Land Area and Density

Analysis Category		Percentage of Connecticut Land Area	People per Square Mile
Disproportionately White Areas (72% White or greater)	=	93.5%	506
Disproportionately Minority Areas (30% minority or greater)	=	5.8%	3,948
High Poverty Areas (Poverty greater than 9.2%)	=	10.5%	2,940
Racially Concentrated Areas of Poverty (50% or greater minority + 3x regional poverty)	=	< 1%	7,400

# RACE & ETHNICITY BY TOWN



# WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT WHERE PEOPLE LIVE?

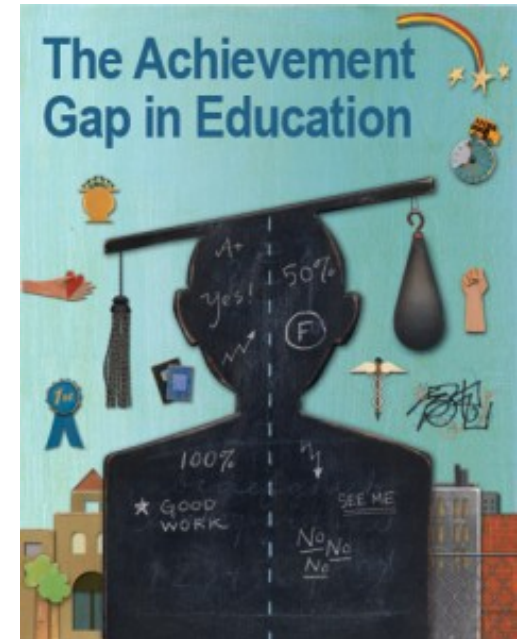
## Reason 1: Outcomes



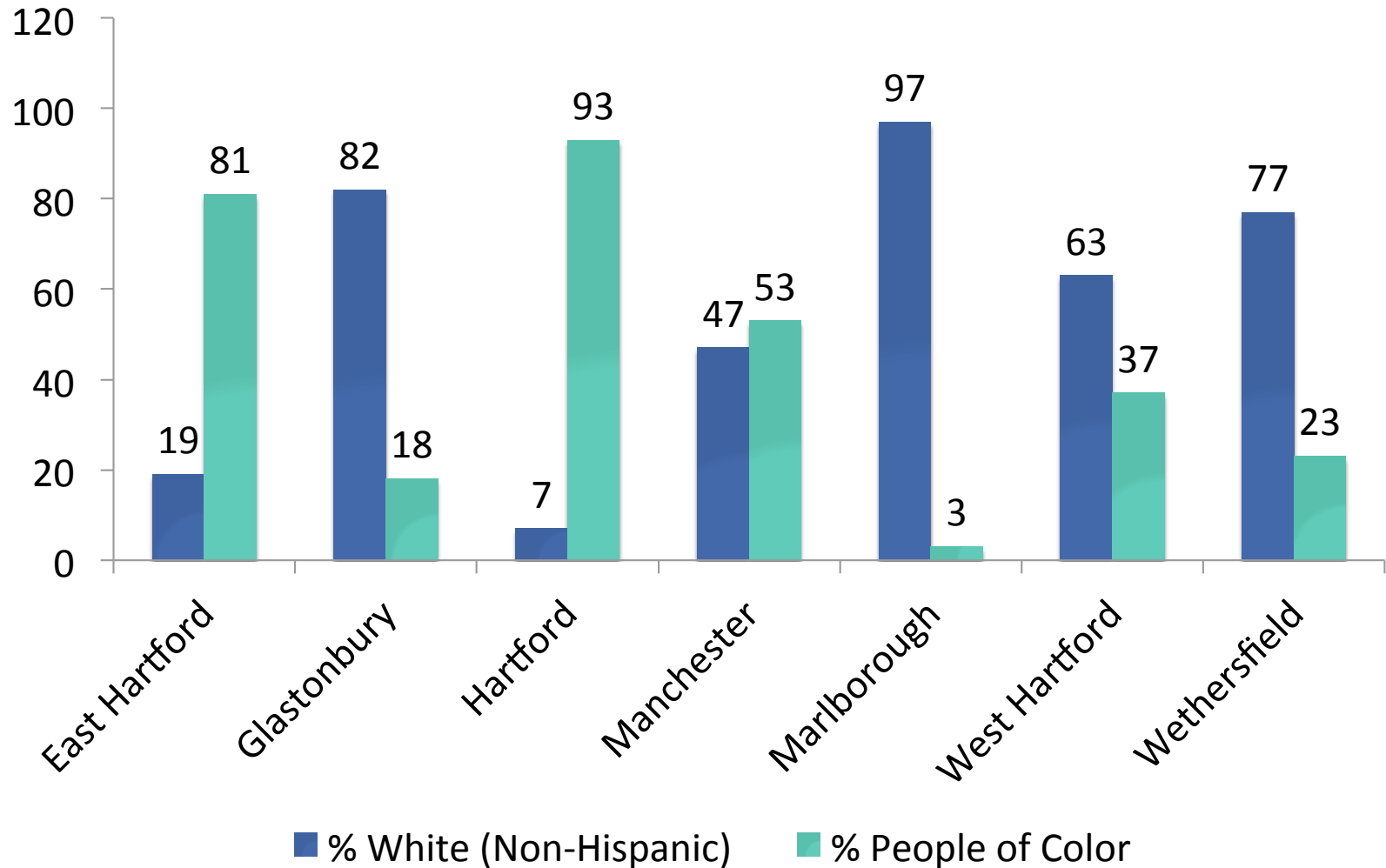


# OUTCOMES: EDUCATION

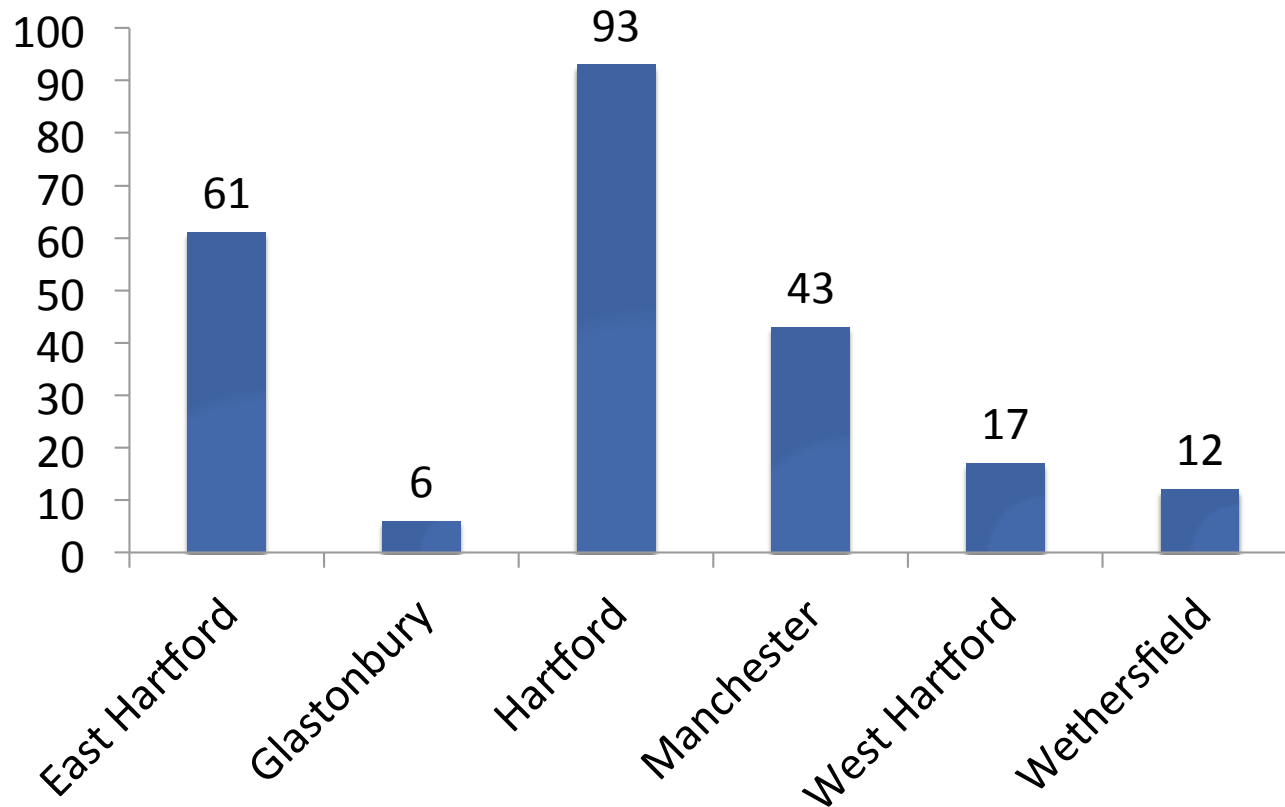
Connecticut is home to some of the most severe disparities in school performance between White children and Latino and Black children in the nation.



# RACE IN SCHOOLS



# PERCENT FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH IN SCHOOLS



# OUTCOMES: UNEMPLOYMENT



Connecticut has some of the widest gaps in unemployment rates by race and ethnicity in the country.

- While the unemployment rate for Whites was around 8.4% in 2012, it was about 17.3% for Latinos and 17% for Blacks.
- Connecticut has the second widest gap in the U.S. in unemployment rates between Latinos and Whites and the 10<sup>th</sup> widest gap between Blacks and Whites.

# CONNECTICUT BY THE NUMBERS: INCARCERATION

Connecticut has some of the highest incarceration rates by race and ethnicity in the country.

- With 12 Blacks incarcerated for every White inmate, Connecticut has the fourth highest Black/White ratio in the country.
- Connecticut has *the highest* Latino/White incarceration rate in the country – 6.6 Latinos are incarcerated for every White inmate



# CONNECTICUT BY THE NUMBERS: HEALTH

Starkly different health outcomes for Black and Latinos and Whites are longstanding and cut across health indicators.

- For example, in Connecticut, infant mortality rates for Blacks and Latinos are three and two times greater, respectively, as compared to Whites.
- In 2009, Connecticut asthma hospitalization rates for Blacks and Latinos were almost five times that for White non-Latinos.



# CONNECTICUT BY THE NUMBERS: INCOME DISPARITY

Race and income are almost inextricably intertwined and the income gap between the rich and poor is growing in Connecticut. Since the 1970s, Connecticut has experienced the greatest increase in the income disparity between the top 20% and bottom 20% of income earners in the nation.



# WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT WHERE PEOPLE LIVE?

## **Reason 2: Access to Opportunity**

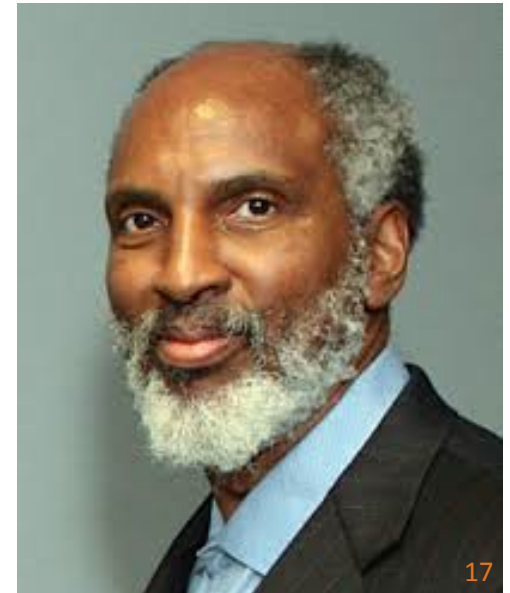




# ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY

50 years of social science research demonstrates that where we live dictates the opportunities we have access to such as thriving schools, safe neighborhoods and social networks that lead to jobs.

john powell, of Berkeley and his colleagues have developed a system to measure opportunity.

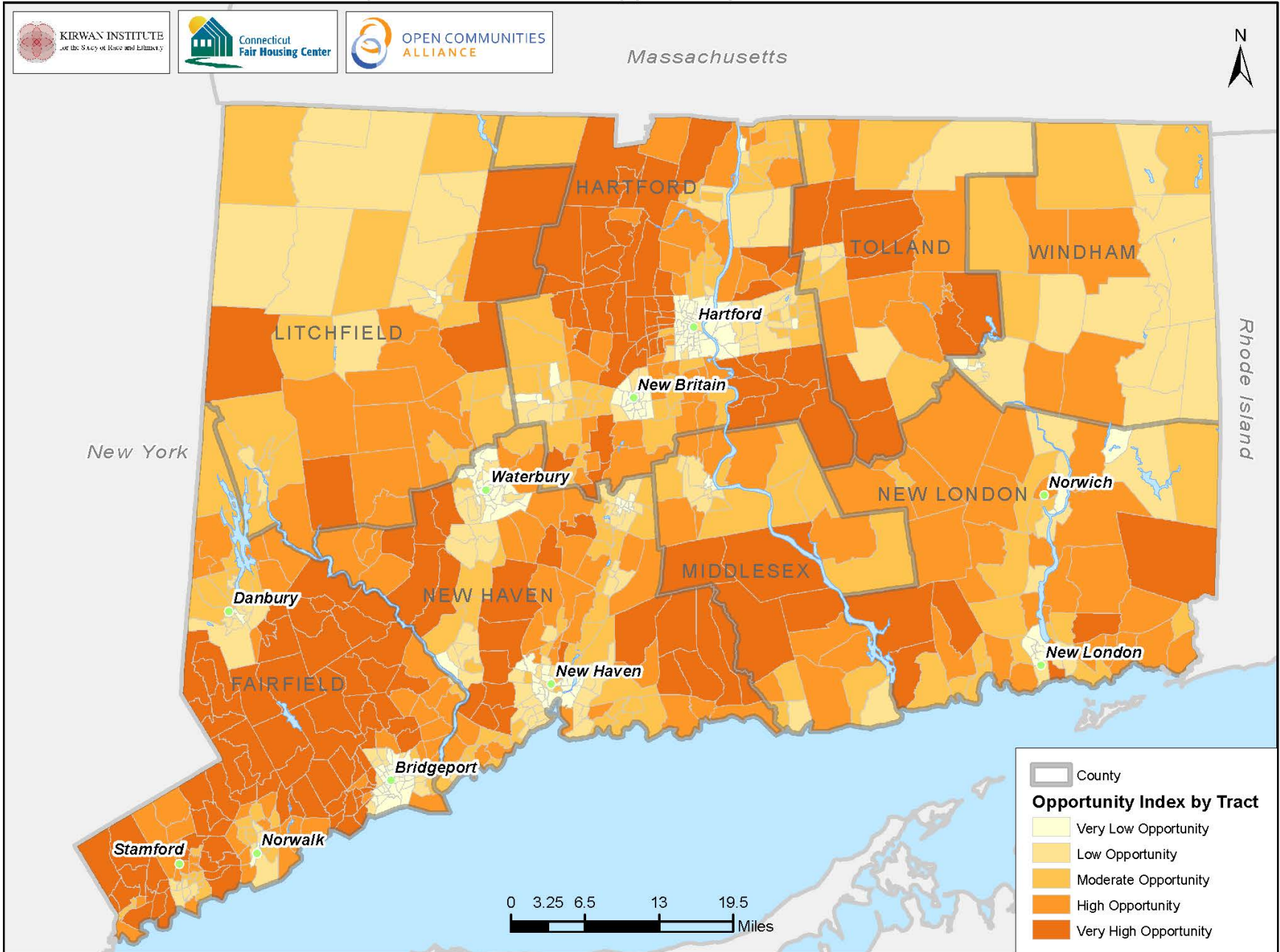


# IMPACT ON OPPORTUNITY

Educational Indicators	Economic Indicators	Neighborhood/Housing Quality Indicators
Students Passing Math Test scores	Unemployment Rates	Neighborhood Vacancy
Students Passing Reading Test scores	Population on Public Assistance	Crime Rate
Educational Attainment	Job Growth	Neighborhood Poverty Rate
	Employment Access	Homeownership Rate
	Job Diversity	

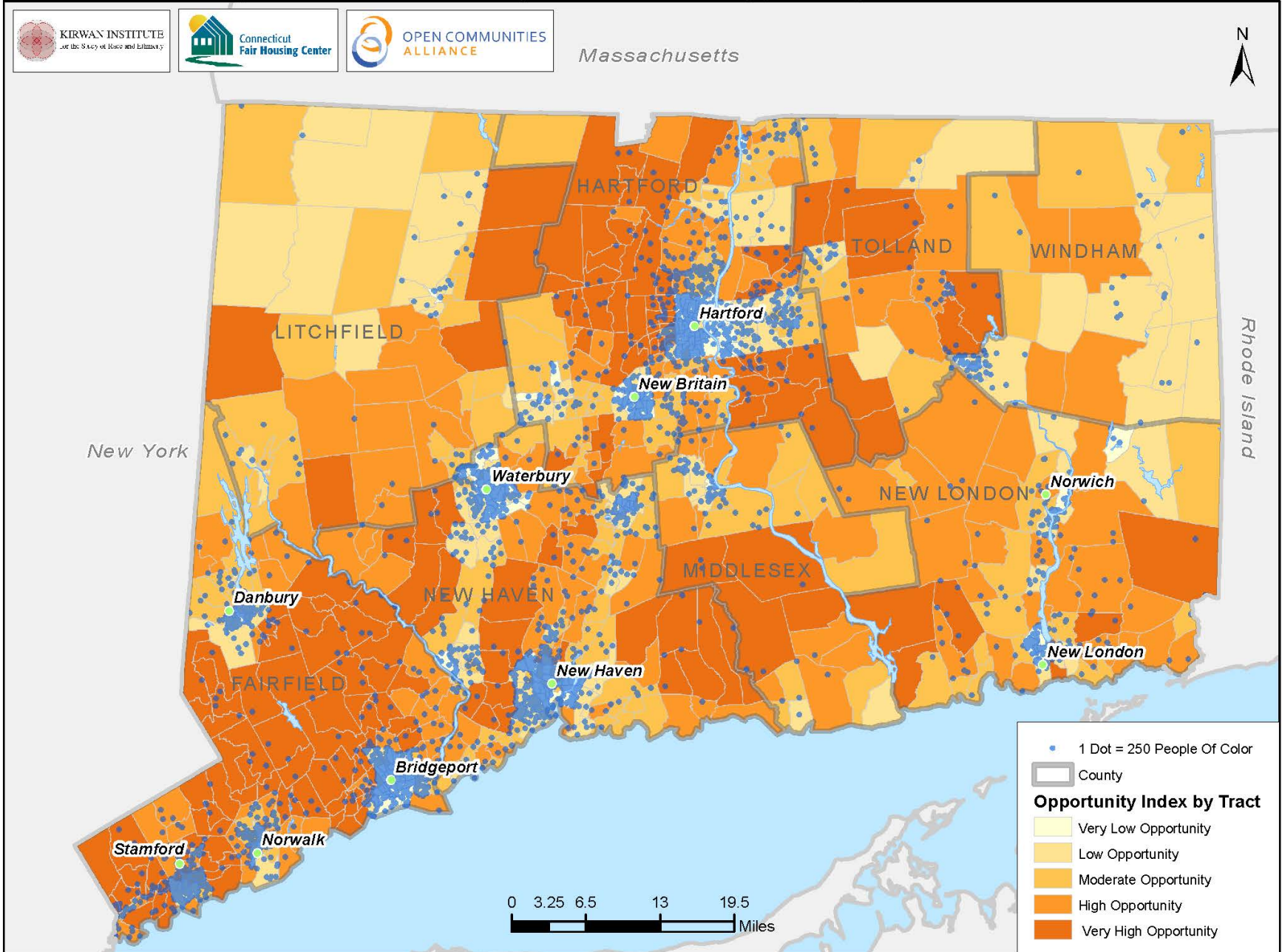


# Map of Distribution of Opportunity in Connecticut





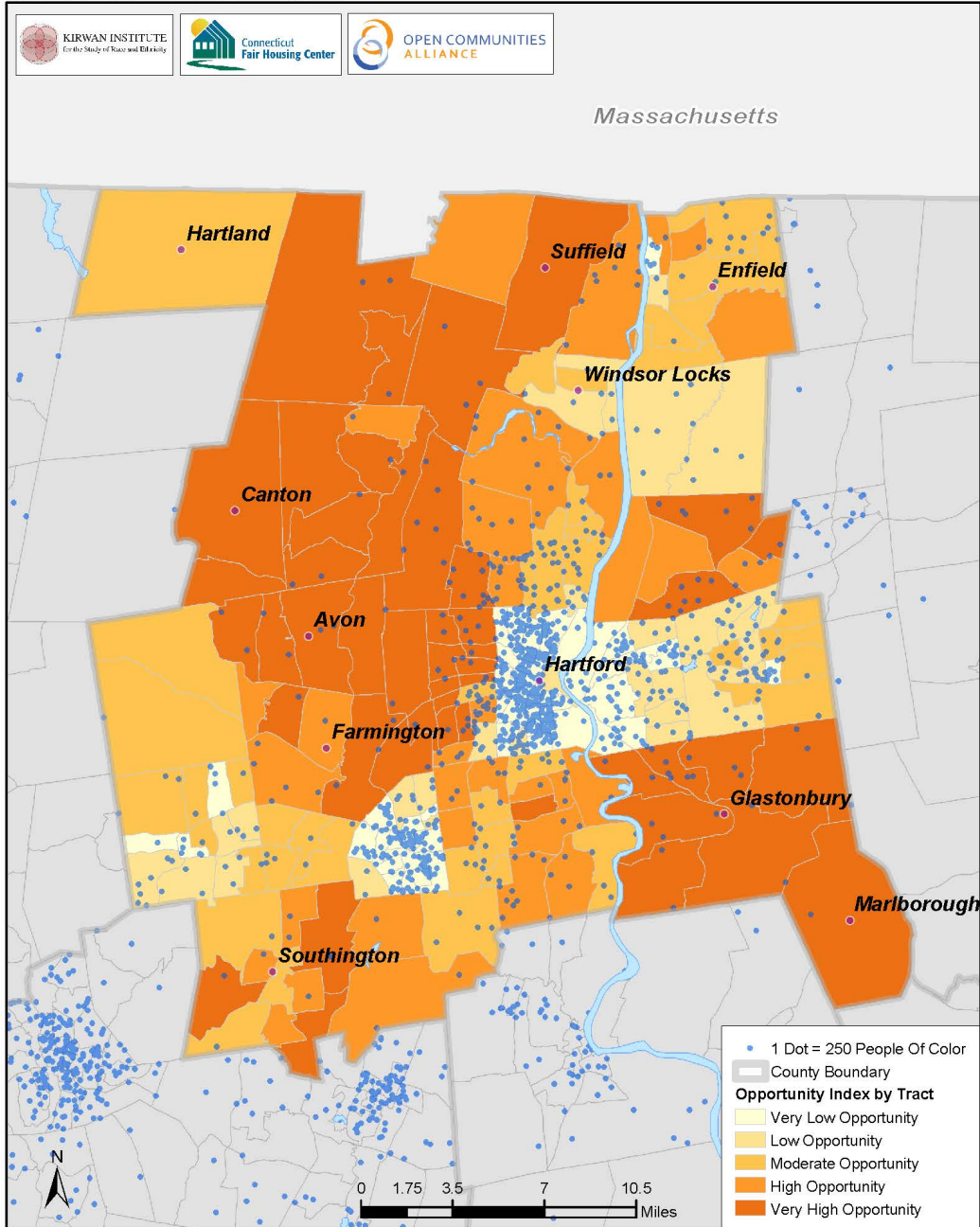
# Map of Distribution of People of Color and Opportunity in Connecticut



Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, MAGIC. Date: December 13, 2014.

## Map of Distribution of People of Color and Opportunity in Hartford County

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, MAGIC, CT State Data Center.



# WHERE DO WE LIVE?

## OPPORTUNITY BY RACE AND ETHNICITY IN CT

% of People by Race & Ethnicity Living in  
Lower Opportunity Areas

Blacks:	73%
Latinos:	73%
Whites:	26%
Asians:	36%

# WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT WHERE PEOPLE LIVE?

## Reason 3: Diversity



# BENEFITS OF DIVERSITY

- The more separated we are, the more we fall back on stereotypes.
- "Diverse schools are linked to a host of positive learning outcomes for white students. These include more robust classroom discussions, the promotion of critical thinking and problem-solving skills and higher academic achievement." (National Coalition on School Diversity)
- "Diversity is essential to growth and prosperity of any company: diversity of perspectives, experiences, cultures, genders, and age. Why? Because diversity breeds innovation. And innovation breeds business success." (Forbes)



# WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT WHERE PEOPLE LIVE?

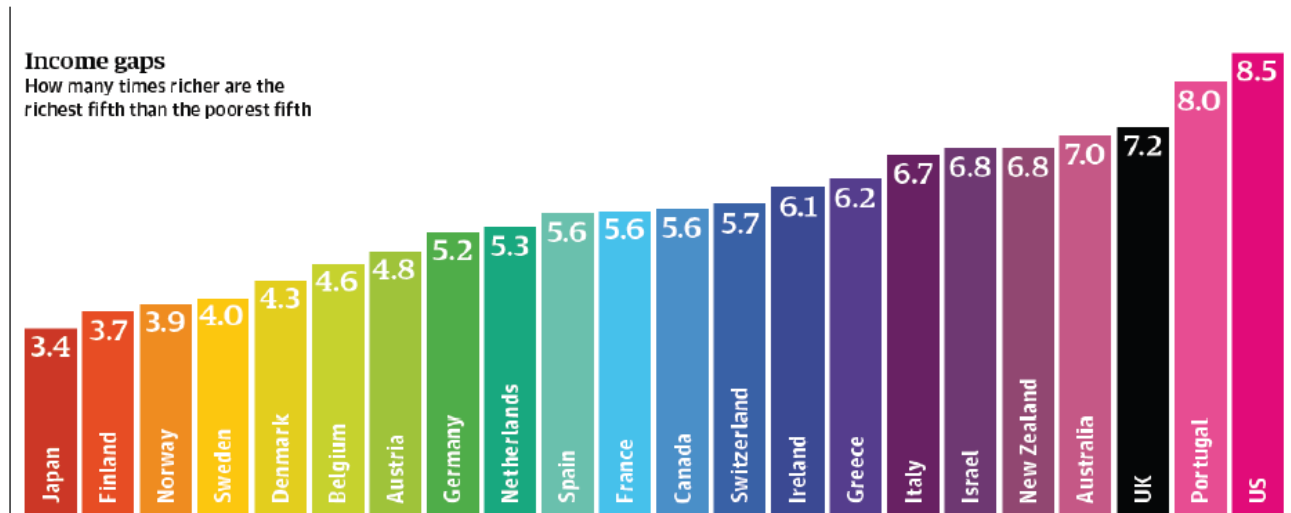
## **Reason 4: We All Benefit from Equality**



# EQUALITY IS STRENGTH

- More unequal societies have more problems with general health, mental illness, infant mortality, drug use, obesity, imprisonment rates, teenage pregnancies and homicides.
- More equal societies have better education and general health, more innovation, higher social mobility and more trust

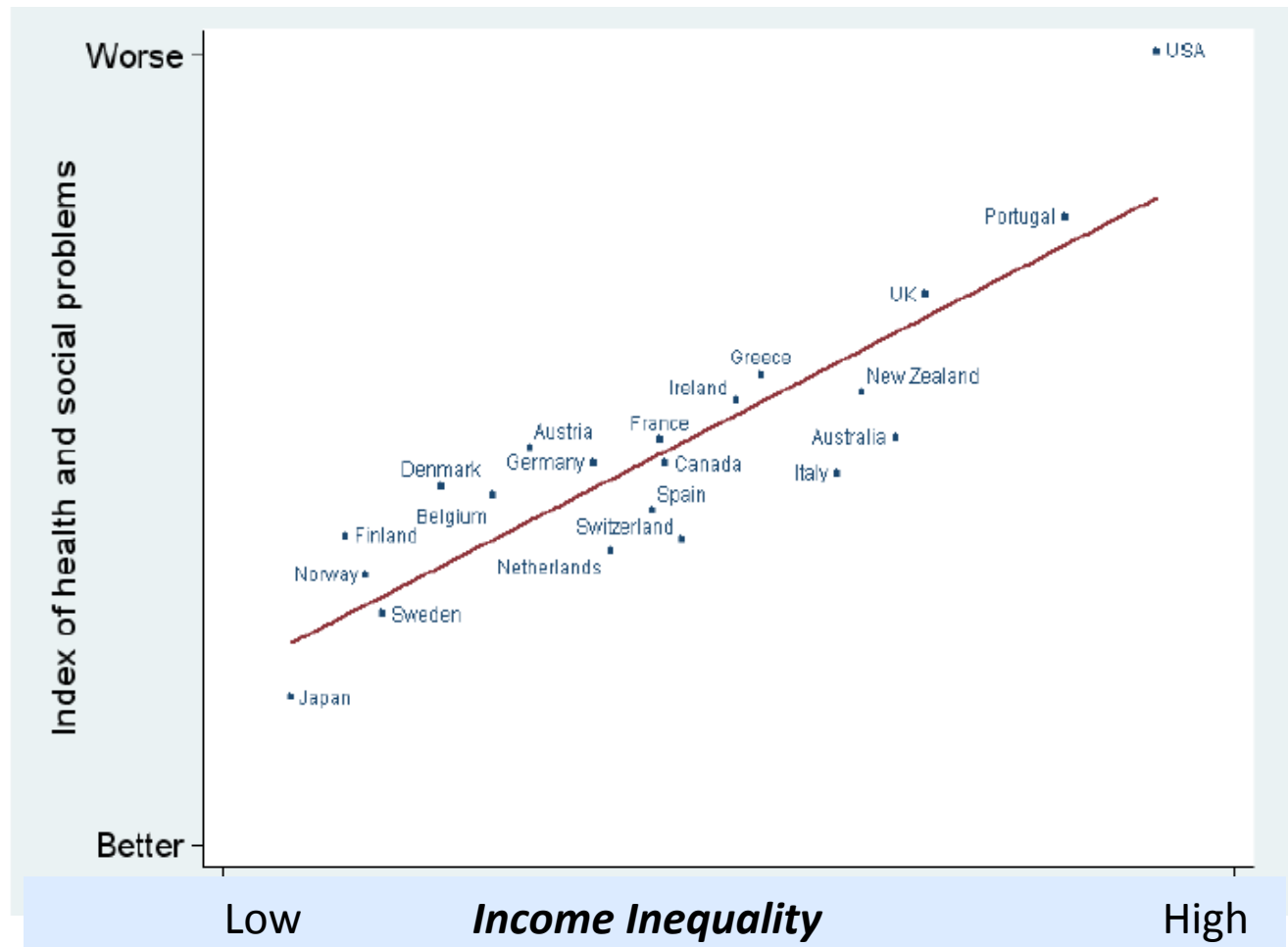
## How much richer are the richest 20% than the poorest 20%?



# EQUALITY IS STRENGTH

## Index of:

- Life expectancy
- Math & Literacy
- Infant mortality
- Homicides
- Imprisonment
- Teenage births
- Trust
- Obesity
- Mental illness – incl. drug & alcohol addiction
- Social mobility



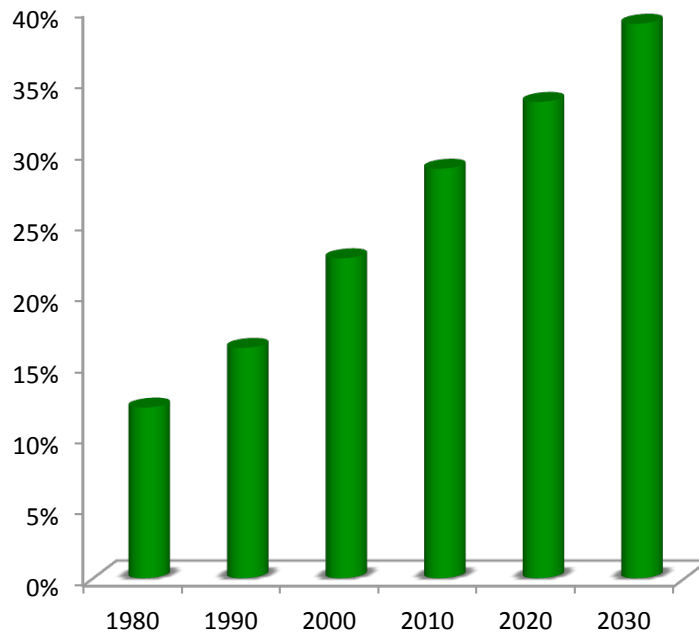
# WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT WHERE PEOPLE LIVE?

## Reason 5: The Future of Our Economy



# SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS: GROWTH IN POPULATION OF COLOR

**% People of Color in CT by Year**



**BUT**

Majority-minority schools  
have fewer resources.

Voices for Children report:

Disproportionately minority  
schools have larger  
kindergarten class sized and  
fewer experienced teachers.

# BIG PICTURE SOLUTIONS

- Bring resources to areas that are struggling.
  - This has been happening for years, but we can do it better.
- Link people in groups that have been isolated from opportunity to higher opportunity areas. Through:
  - Housing
  - Education
  - Transportation



# SOLUTIONS

- **FAIR SHARE:** Plan for all towns in Connecticut to take on their fair share of affordable housing.
- **BALANCE:** Bringing balance to the location of hard units of government-supported housing.
- **CHOICE:** Ensuring true housing choice through enforcing fair housing laws and promoting mobility counseling.
- **DATA:** Requiring the collection and analysis of appropriate data to measure progress.
- **CITY LIFT:** Promoting policies that work to lift up struggling areas.

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Join Open Communities Alliance
- Support OCA
- Volunteer OCA
- Hold a meeting in your home
- Work with us to create changes on the state and municipal level



DO SOMETHING!