

The Child Opportunity Index 2.0 – Background

What is the Child Opportunity Index 2.0?

The Child Opportunity Index 2.0 (COI 2.0) measures and maps the quality of resources and conditions that matter for children to develop in a healthy way in the neighborhoods where they live. The index looks at 29 key factors that affect how children experience their neighborhoods in three domains: education, health and environment, and social and economic. This is the deepest, most extensive and rigorous dataset on neighborhood conditions for children to date. Indicators were selected based on research evidence, comprehensiveness, and quality.

What is unique about the COI 2.0?

For the first time, there is a single consistent metric of child opportunity for every neighborhood in the United States. The national Child Opportunity Score, ranging from 1-100, ranks all 72,000 neighborhoods in the U.S. on how much opportunity exists for children. The COI 2.0 report covers all neighborhoods in the 100 largest metro areas—cities and their surrounding suburbs—which are home to two-thirds of U.S. children. Subsequent reports will include analysis of data for all neighborhoods in the U.S.

The COI 2.0 builds on the COI 1.0 released in 2014. The new index includes more and stronger indicators of neighborhood quality. It is an index of contemporary neighborhood conditions that affect children's healthy development, measuring current neighborhood environment for children living today. Other neighborhood measurement efforts such as the Opportunity Atlas take a retrospective look, measuring how well adults who grew up in neighborhoods 20-30 years ago are doing economically today.

What can the COI 2.0 tell us?

- Which **metropolitan areas** have the highest and lowest levels of child opportunity.
- Which **neighborhoods** have the highest and lowest levels of child opportunity.
- The extent of inequities in neighborhood opportunity within and between metropolitan areas across the country.
- Whether all children have comparable access to higher opportunity neighborhoods or if access varies by a child's race or ethnicity.

How can this data improve neighborhood opportunity for children?

- We know from our experience with COI 1.0 that academics, local and state government agencies (housing, public health, early childhood care and education, child welfare), healthcare organizations, nonprofits, and others are using the data and are eager to build on that work with COI 2.0.
- Actions taken include starting community conversations about inequities in neighborhood opportunity, conducting community needs assessments, targeting resources to improve low-opportunity neighborhoods such as creating more green spaces and parks, and facilitating families' moves to neighborhoods of higher opportunity for their children.

What's next?

We will release more data and analysis, including:

- COI 2.0 data for all 72,000 neighborhoods
- 2010 and 2015 comparisons of how the level of neighborhood opportunity has changed over time
- How inequities in access to neighborhood opportunity changed over time.