



# Changing Opportunity

How Changes in Children's Social Environments Have Increased Class Gaps and Reduced Racial Gaps in Economic Mobility

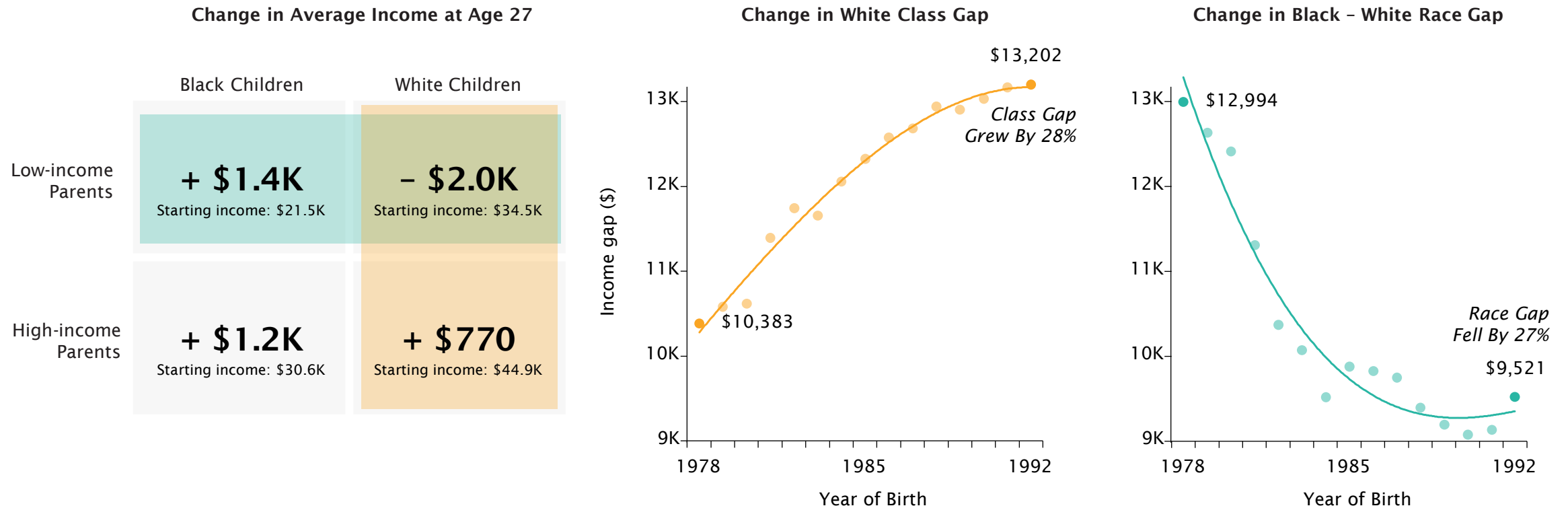
Chetty, Dobbie, Goldman, Porter, Yang

NONTECHNICAL SUMMARY FIGURES

 **OPPORTUNITY  
INSIGHTS**



# Growing Class Gaps, Shrinking Race Gaps - Changes Between Children Born in 1978 and 1992



## Figure Description

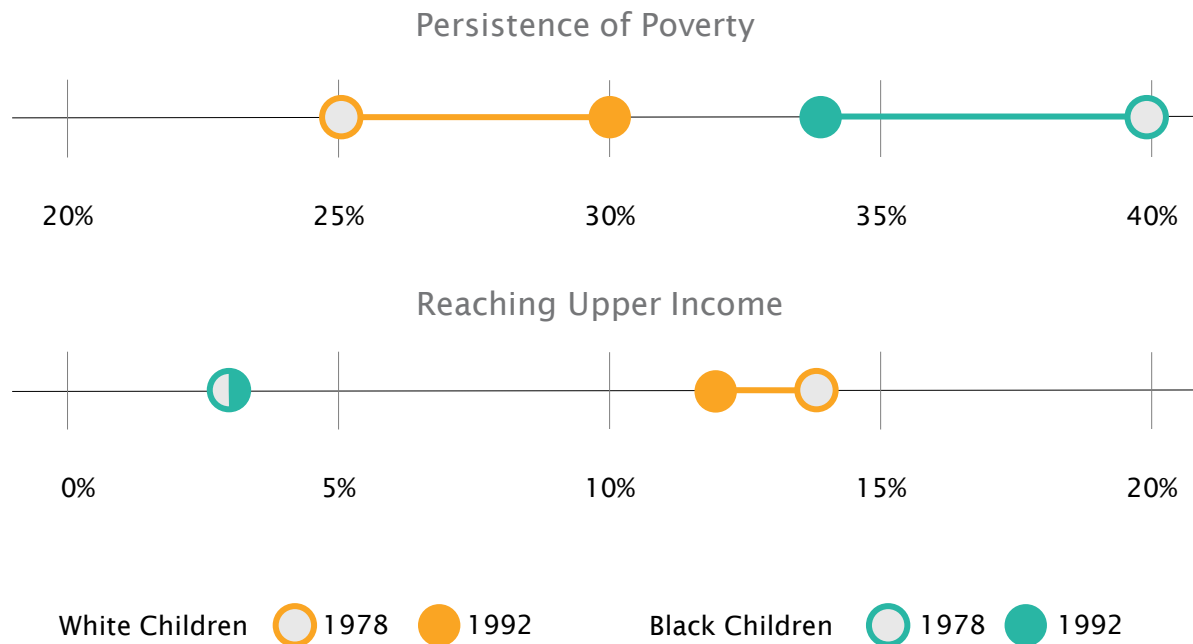
This figure shows 1) the change in average adult income for Black and white children born to high- and low-income parents in 1978 and 1992 along with the starting average incomes for children born in 1978 (left table), 2) the change in the income gap between white individuals who grew up in low- versus high-income families, or the class gap (center chart), and 3) the change in the income gap between Black and white individuals who grew up in low-income families, or the race gap (right chart).

**Source:** Chetty, Dobbie, Goldman, Porter, Yang.

*Changing Opportunity: Sociological Mechanisms Underlying Growing Class Gaps and Shrinking Race Gaps in Economic Mobility* (July 2024) | [Nontechnical Summary](#)



# The Persistence of Poverty Has Declined for Black Children and Increased for White Children; Chance of Reaching Upper Income Remain Unchanged



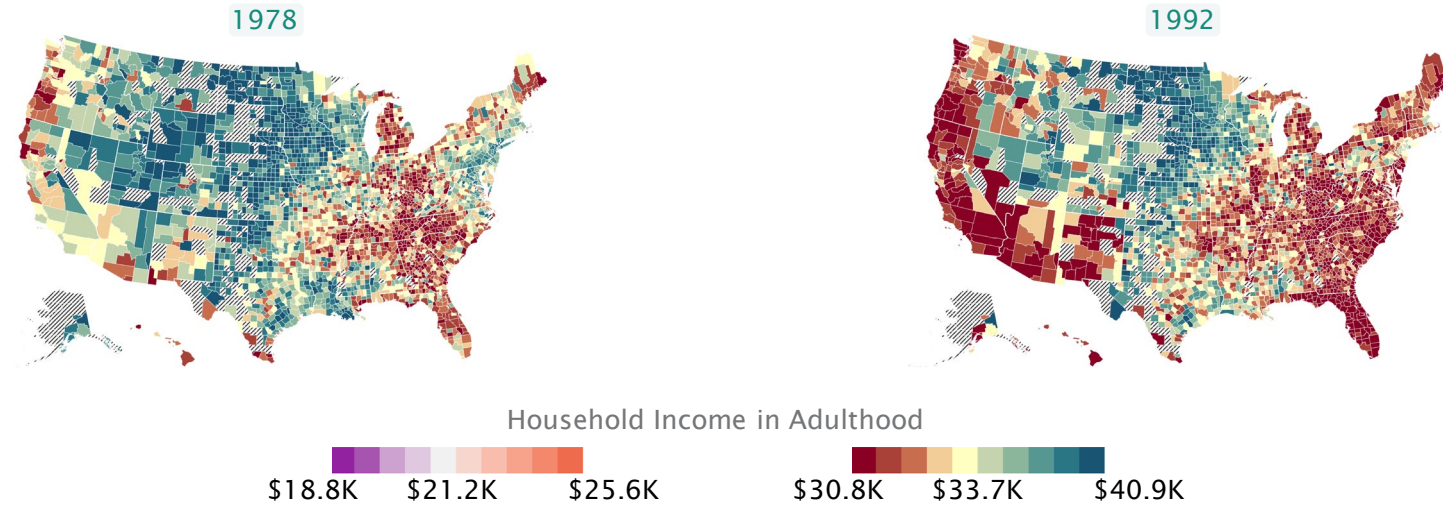
## Figure Description

This figure shows how rates of persistence of poverty – defined as the fraction of children born to parents in the bottom fifth of the income distribution who remain in the bottom fifth as adults – and rates of reaching upper income – defined as the fraction of children born to parents in the bottom fifth of the income distribution who reach the top fifth as adults – have changed for white and Black children. Black children’s chances of reaching upper income remained the same between 1978 and 1992.

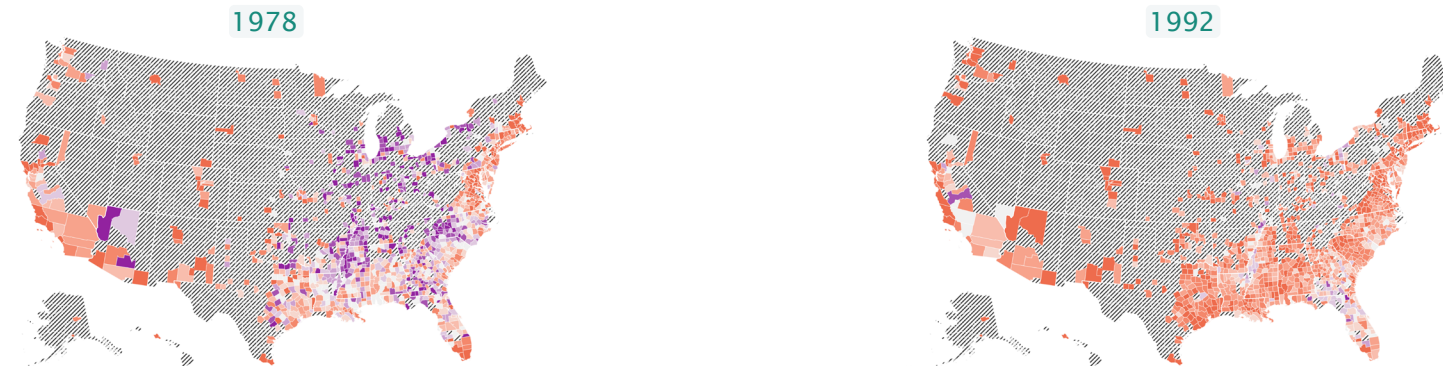


# The Changing Geography of Economic Opportunity in America

Incomes in Adulthood for White Children Born to Low-Income Parents (25th Percentile) in 1978 and 1992



Incomes in Adulthood for Black Children Born to Low-Income Parents (25th Percentile) in 1978 and 1992

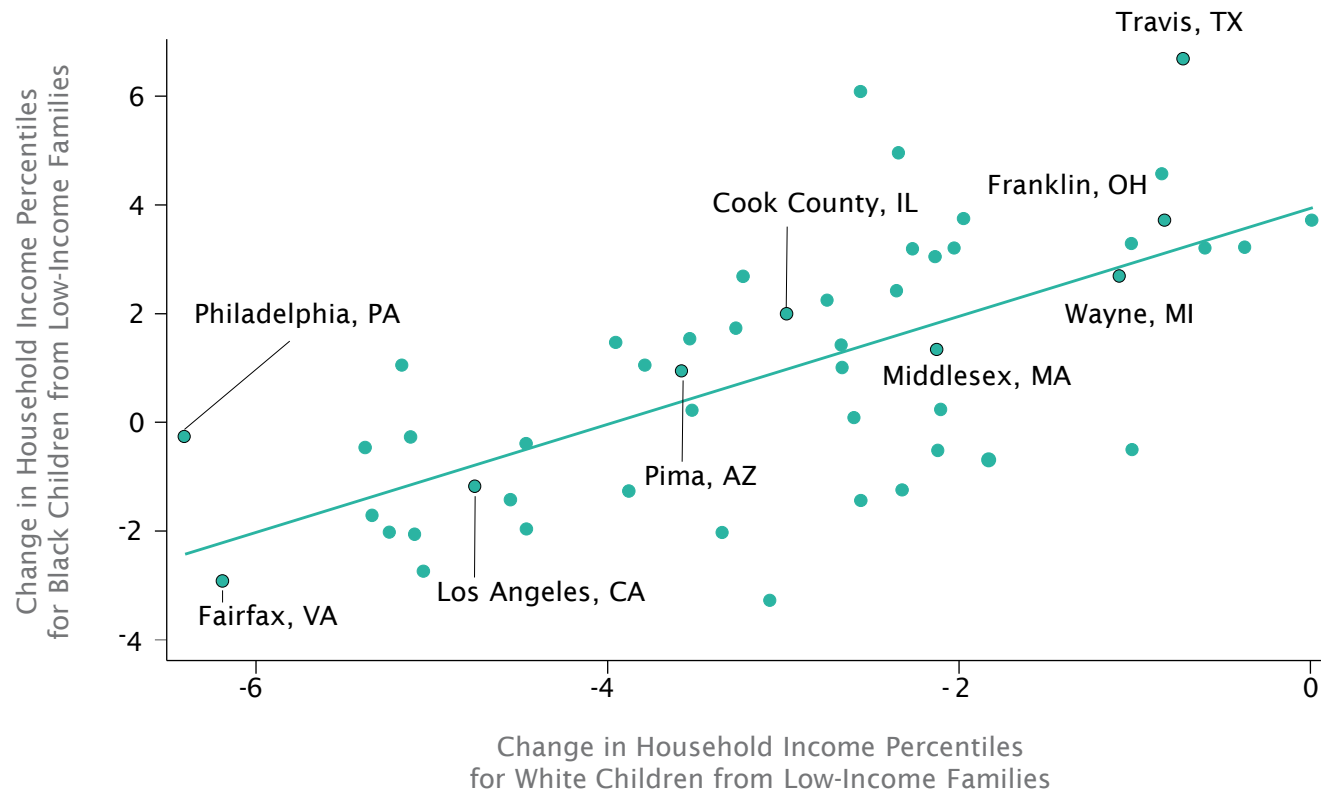


## Figure Description

These maps show how opportunity has changed across places in America for Black and white individuals born in 1978 and 1992. The color scales for the Black vs. white maps are distinct to help visualize changes for each demographic group. The fact that two color scales are necessary underscores how wide remaining racial gaps are. Dollar values are measured in 2005 and 2019 for the 1978 and 1992 birth years, respectively, and are inflation adjusted to 2023 dollars.



# Changes in Income for Black and White Children with Low-Income Parents Are Positively Correlated

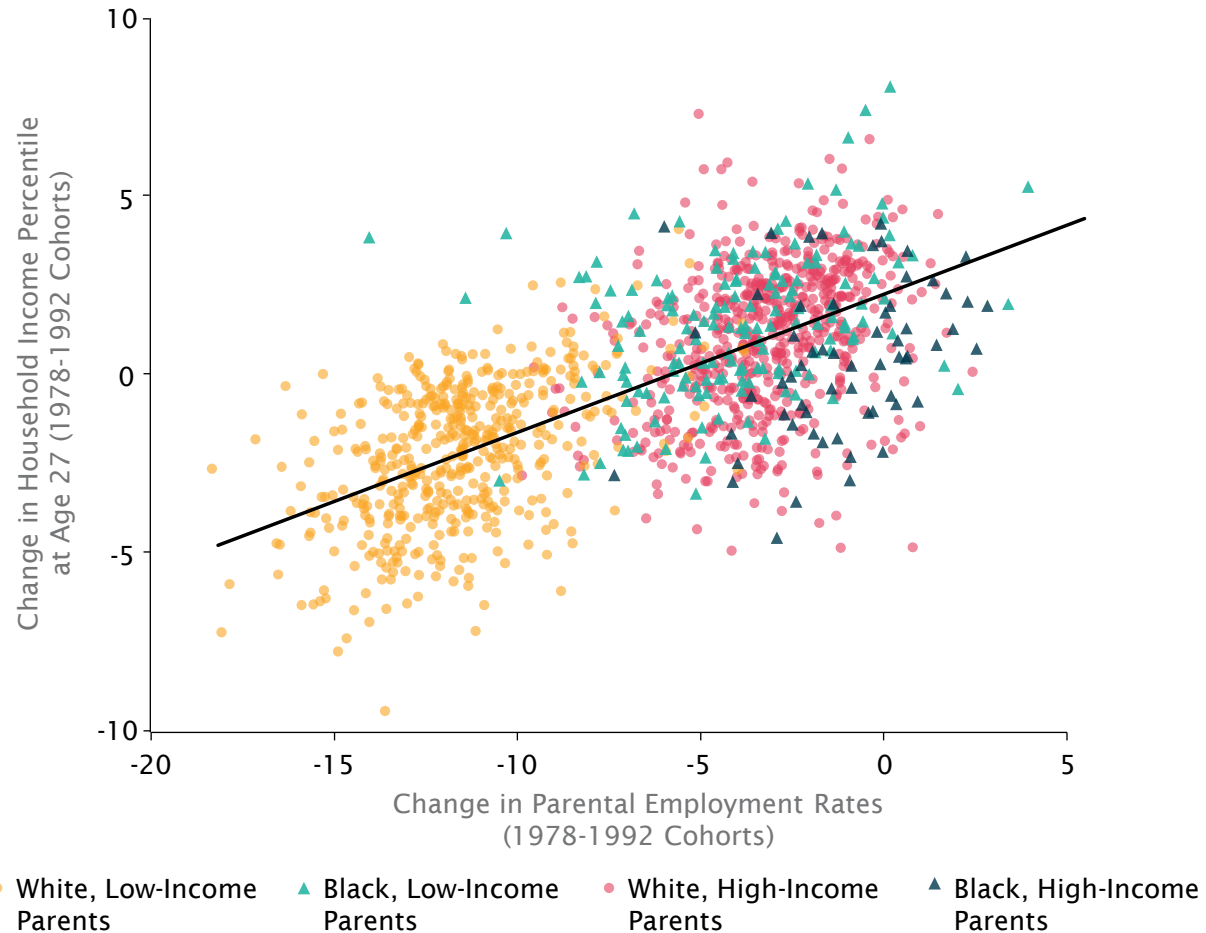


## Figure Description

This figure shows the relationship between income changes in adulthood for Black children and their white peers from low-income families for the 50 most populous U.S. counties based on their population size in 2022.



# Changes in Children's Outcomes Are Closely Related to Community-Level Changes in Parental Employment Rates

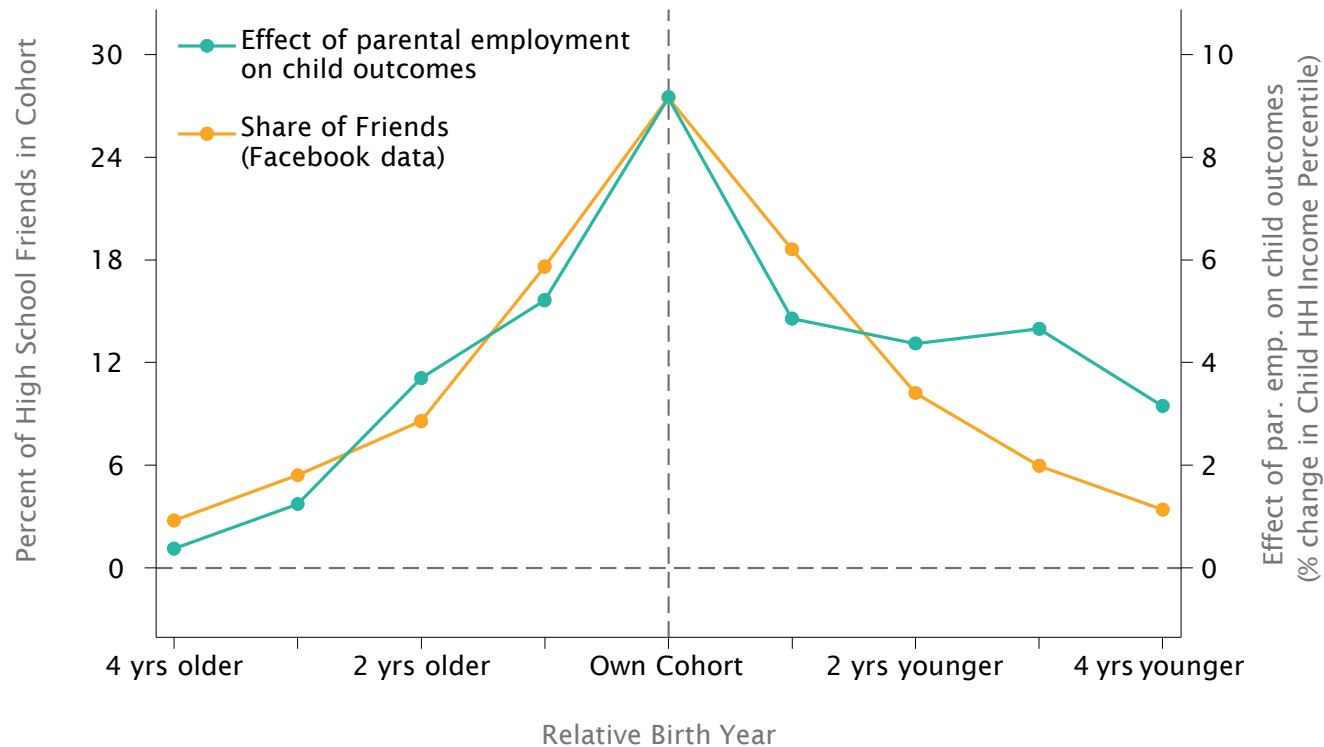


## Figure Description

This figure shows the relationship between changes in childhood environment (on the x-axis) and changes in average household income rank (on the y-axis) across large metropolitan areas with at least 10K children within each race and parental income demographic set.



# Social Interaction Matters — Children’s Outcomes Are Influenced by Changes in Employment Rates of Parents of Other Children in Their Own Grade Rather than Surrounding Grades



## Figure Description

The teal line shows the impacts of changes in the employment rates of parents of children in their own birth cohort vs. surrounding birth cohorts. The orange line shows the share of high school friends that children have in their own grade vs. other surrounding grades.

