CITIES: PLACES OF WELL BEING OR ILL BEING?
Creating a Shared Frame of Reference

The Boston Indicators Project
The Boston Foundation

3rd OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge & Policy
Busan, Republic of Korea
October 29, 2009

Click on
www.bostonindicators.org
for an enhanced website about Boston and the region—with data, maps, charts and links

Boston, Massachusetts, USA: a regional hub with global reach

Global hub of innovation: High tech, financial services, life sciences, green/clean tech

A small "big" city of 600,000: Financial & cultural capital of New England

World-class educational institutions: 260,000 students

Increasingly multicultural: 50% of color, 28% foreign-born

The Boston Indicators Project:

A partnership of the Boston Foundation, City of Boston & Metro Area Planning Council

ITS GOALS ARE TO:

1. **Democratize access to data & information;**

2. **Foster informed public discourse;**

3. **Track progress on shared civic goals.**

The Project tracks change and progress in 10 primary sectors and 6 “cross-cuts”

PRIMARY SECTORS

1. Civic Vitality
2. Arts
3. Economy
4. Education
5. Environment
6. Health
7. Housing
8. Safety
9. Technology
10. Transportation

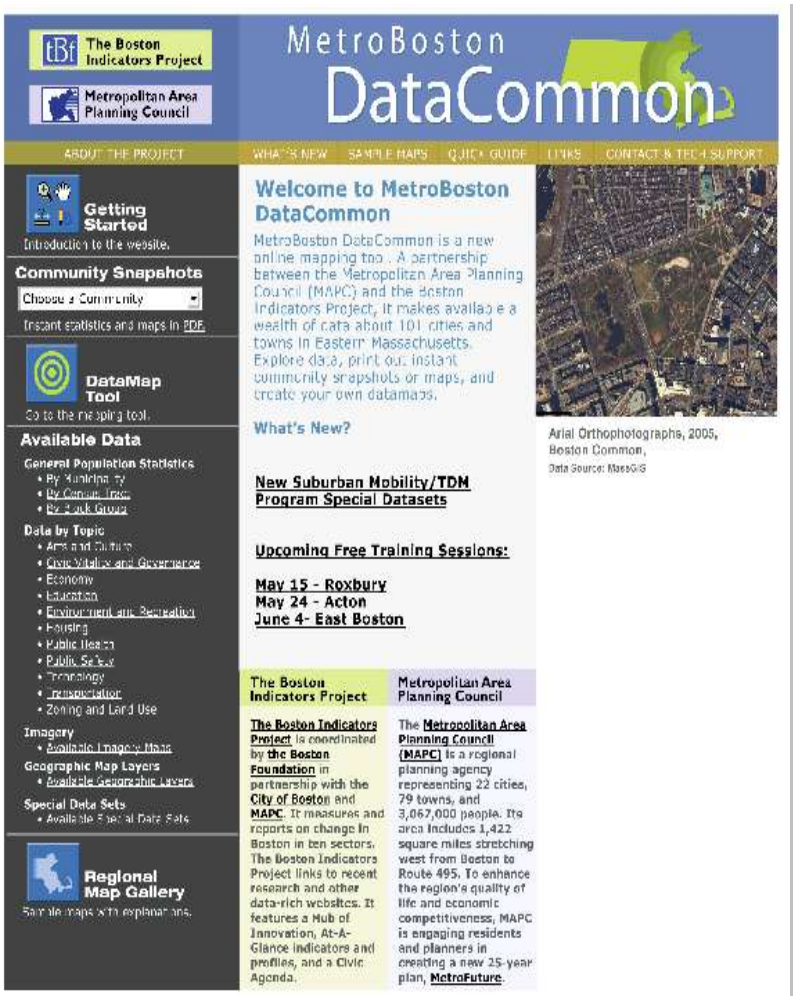
CROSS-CUTS:

- *Children & Youth*
- *Neighborhoods*
- *Racial/Ethnic Disparities*
- *Sustainability*
- *Competitiveness*
- *Fiscal Health*

The Project has a long time frame—through 2030—and two tracks:

1) Data 2) Civic Agenda

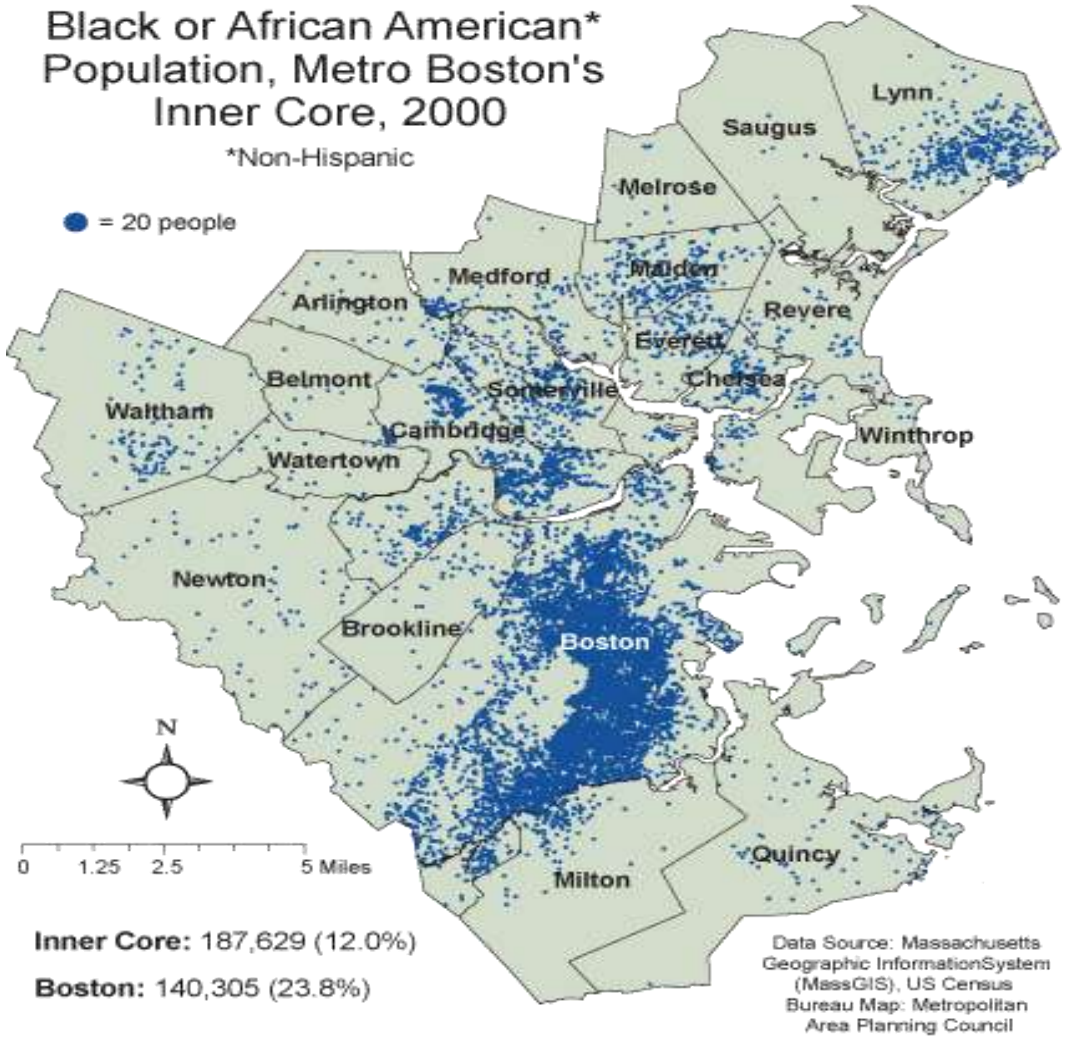
www.bostonindicators.org



A Time Like No Other:
Charting the Course of the Next Revolution

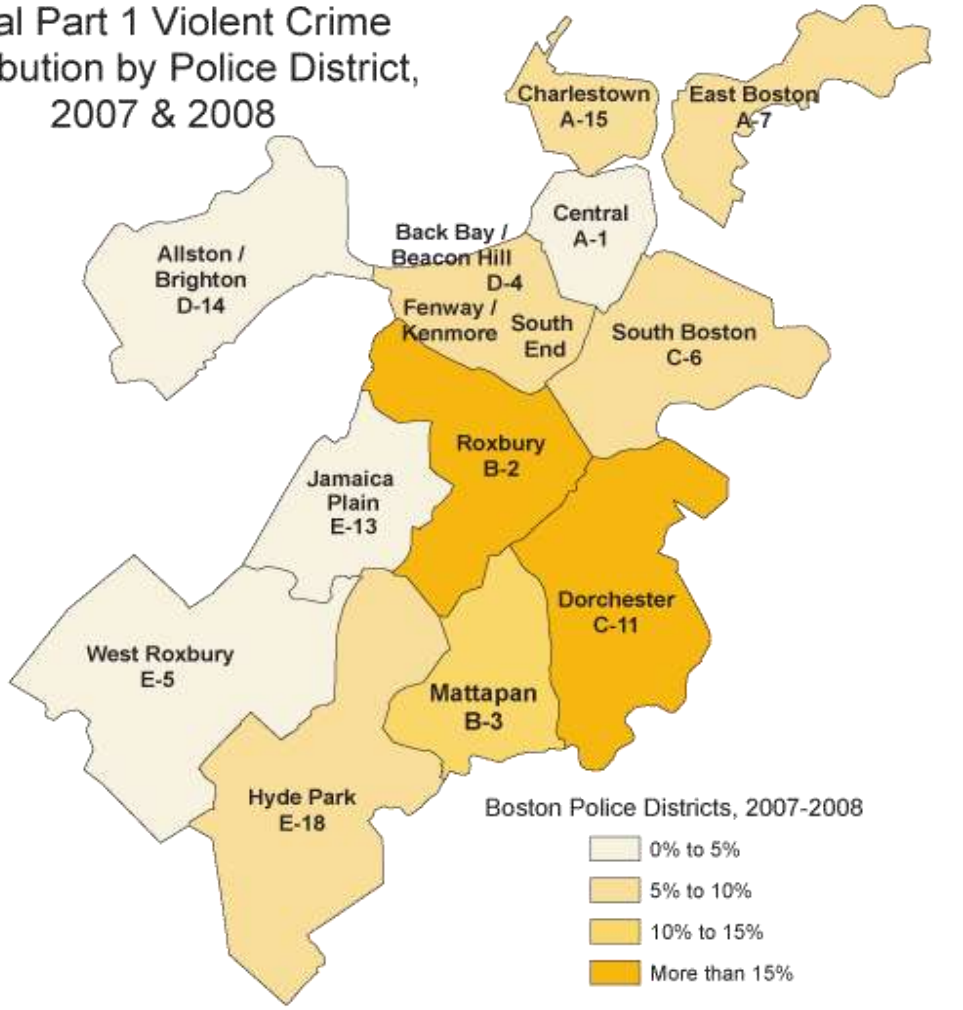
A Summary of the
Boston Indicators Report
2004 – 2006

www.bostonindicators.org

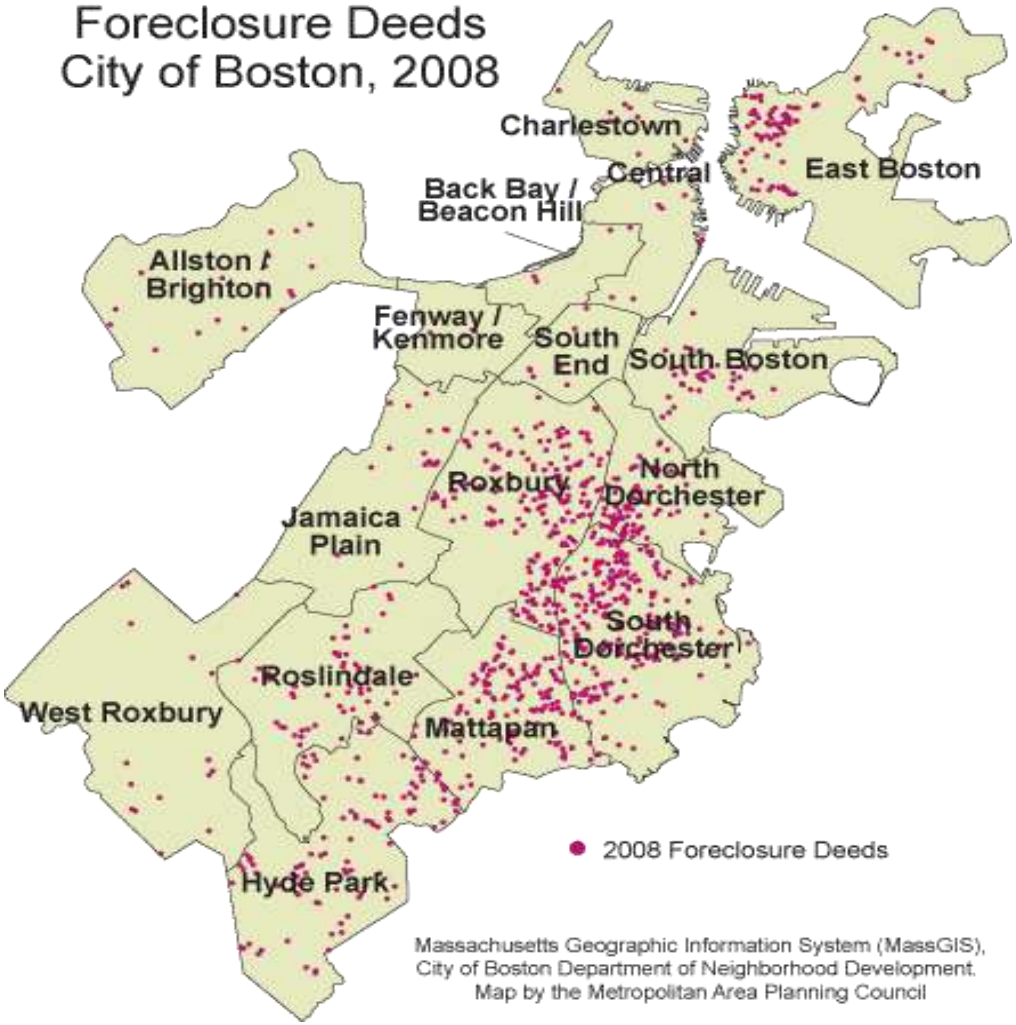

Black or African American* Population, Metro Boston's Inner Core, 2000
*Non-Hispanic
= 20 people
Lynn
Saugus
Melrose
Medford
Malden
Arlington
Revere
Everett
Belmont
Somerville
Chelsea
Waltham
Cambridge
Winthrop
Watertown
Newton
Brookline
Boston
N
0
1.25
2.5
5 Miles
Quincy
Milton
Inner Core: 187,629 (12.0%)
Boston: 140,305 (23.8%)
Data Source: Massachusetts Geographic InformationSystem (MassGIS), US Census Bureau Map: Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Location of Boston's Children with Cultural Organizations
Charlestown
East Boston
Back Bay / Beacon Hill
Central
Allston / Brighton
Fenway / Kenmore
South End
South Boston
Roxbury
North Dorchester
Jamaica Plain
South Dorchester
Roslindale
West Roxbury
Mattapan
Hyde Park
N
0
1
2
4 Miles
Boston's Children Under 18 by PUMA
7%
18.8%
21.2%
25%
28.9%
Cultural Organizations
Data Source: US Census 2005-2007 American Community Survey; NE Foundation for the Arts, MassGIS; Map by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Total Part 1 Violent Crime Distribution by Police District, 2007 & 2008



Data Source: MassGIS, City of Boston and the Boston Police Department;
Map by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council


Foreclosure Deeds
City of Boston, 2008
Charlestown
Central
East Boston
Back Bay /
Beacon Hill
Allston /
Brighton
Fenway /
Kenmore
South
End
South Boston
Roxbury
North
Dorchester
Jamaica
Plain
South
Dorchester
Roslindale
West Roxbury
Mattapan
Hyde Park
2008 Foreclosure Deeds
Massachusetts Geographic Information System (MassGIS),
City of Boston Department of Neighborhood Development.
Map by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council

RAPID CHANGE: Cities reflect and drive cascading global forces:

Population Growth

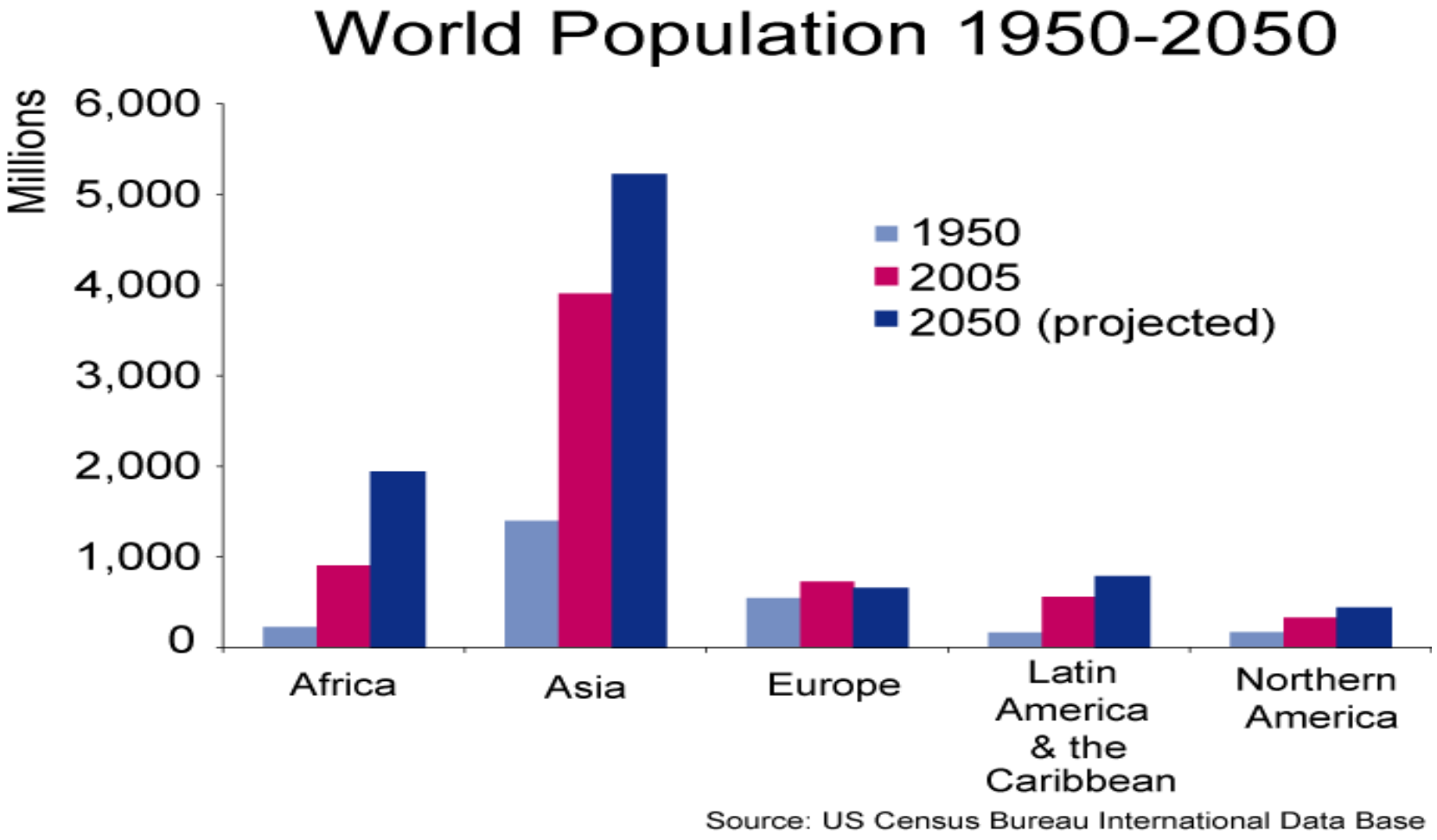
Technological Innovation

Economic Globalization

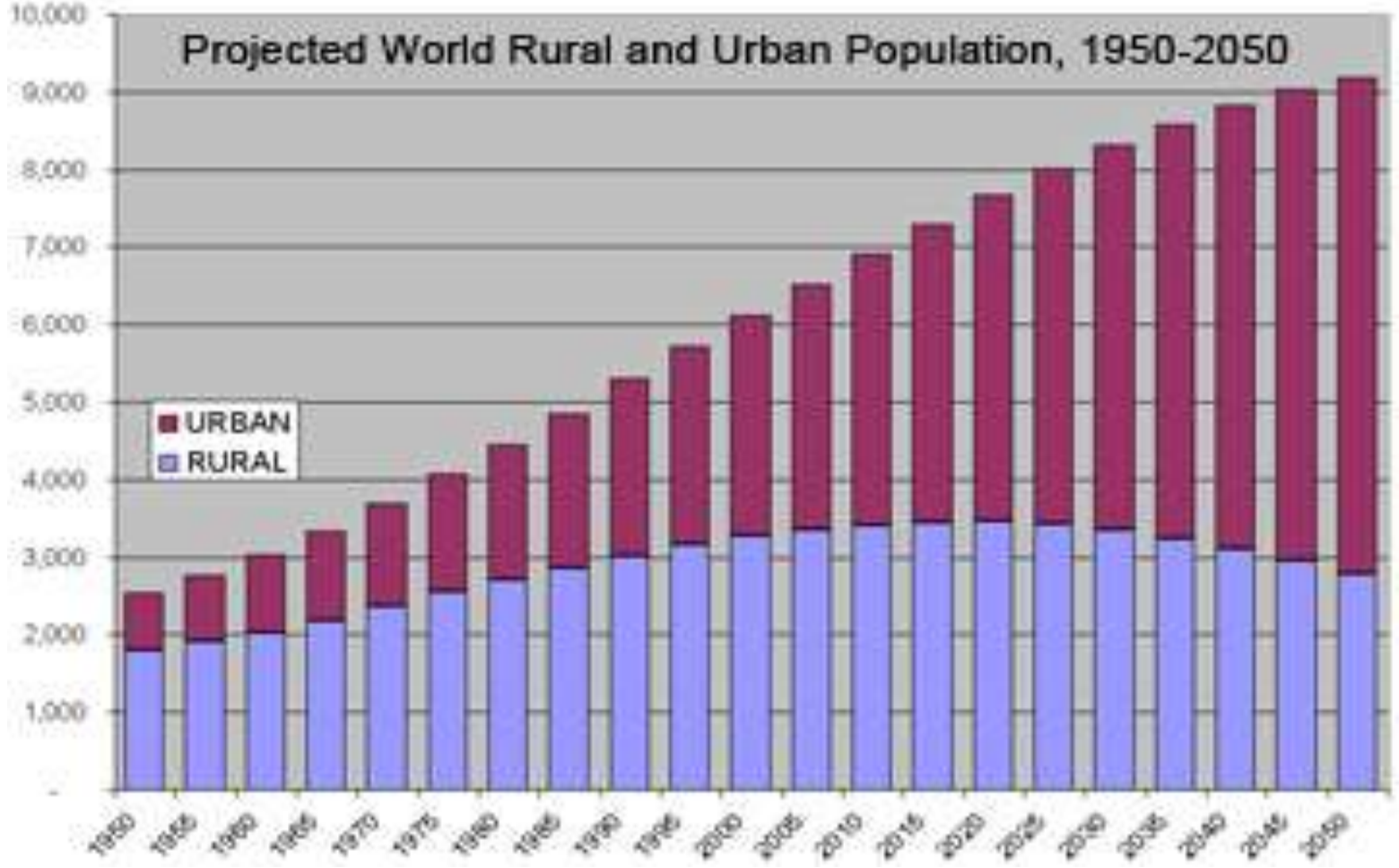
Energy Demand

Climate Change

RAPID CHANGE: Pop. growth 1950, 2005, 2050 (projected) by continent



RAPID CHANGE: Massive global population growth & a shift from rural to urban from 1950 - 2010, projected to 2050



We need new tools of analysis and visualization to transcend false dichotomies & to track common progress & fine-grained disparities

- **Local/Global**
- **Urban/Rural**
- **East/ West & North/South**
- **Economic/Environmental**
- **Objective/Subjective**

The Open Indicators Consortium

Open Source

Local

Regional

National

Global

Data Visualization Tools

developed at the University of Massachusetts–Lowell
in partnership with teams from 7 regions

Founding Open Indicators Consortium Members:

1. Metro Boston/Boston
2. Metro Atlanta/Atlanta
3. Metro Chicago/Chicago
4. Metro Central Ohio/Columbus
5. Arizona (state)
6. Connecticut (state)
7. Rhode Island (state)

- with, increasingly, national & global partners

Vision & Values:
Open Source, Open Access

- **Functionality and visualization developed in response to diverse stakeholders' needs and preferences to create a "universal" platform**

- **NGOs and governments have free access to state-of-the-art on-line tools to create their own websites, with their own & shared data for analysis and visualization**

- **Continuous improvement through *open source* innovation and collaboration globally**

GOAL: A Shared Frame of Reference

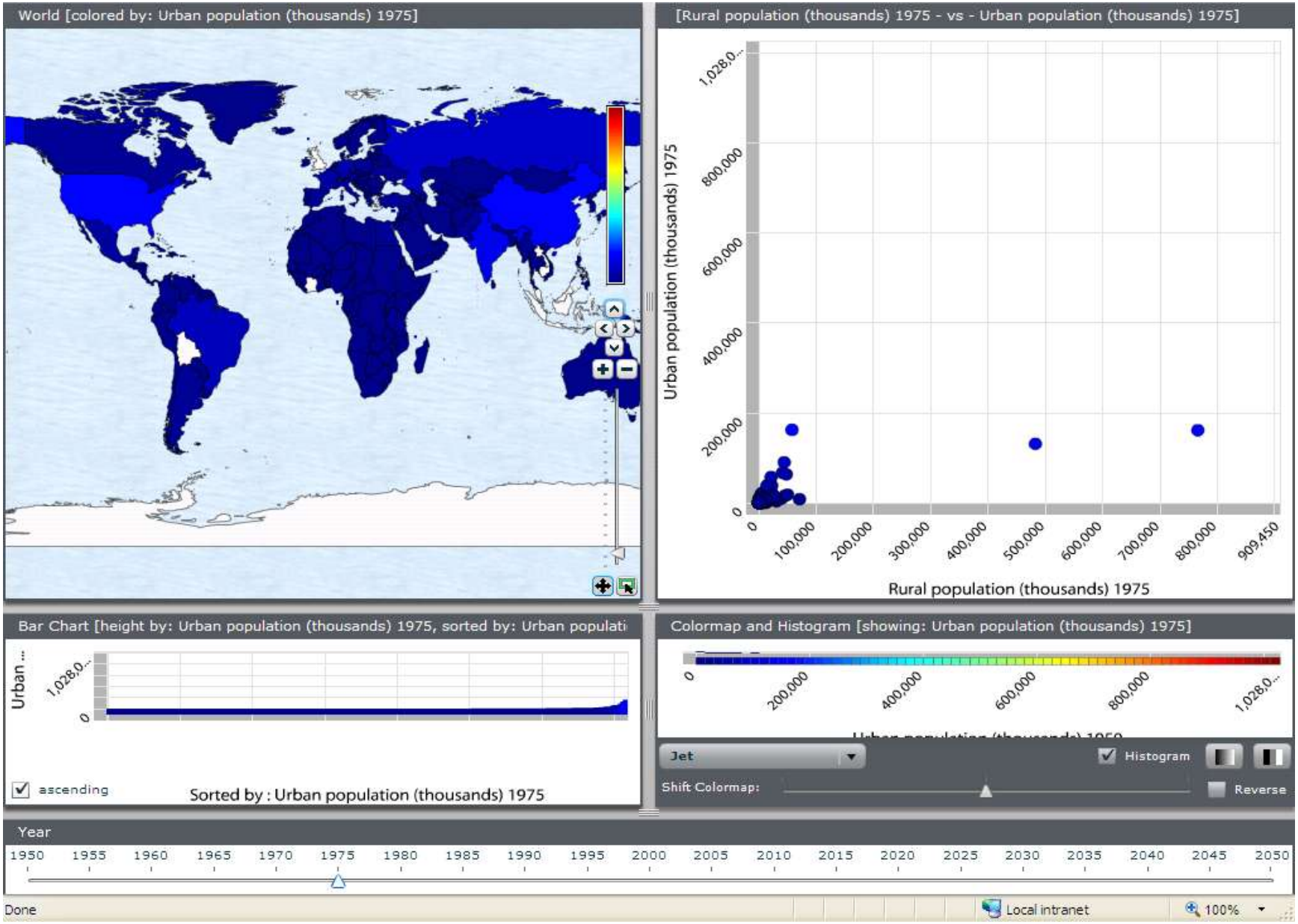
- Micro-to-macro analysis & comparisons
- Visualization, in many forms, of complex patterns
- Tools for on-line live collaboration
- Ongoing open source innovation worldwide

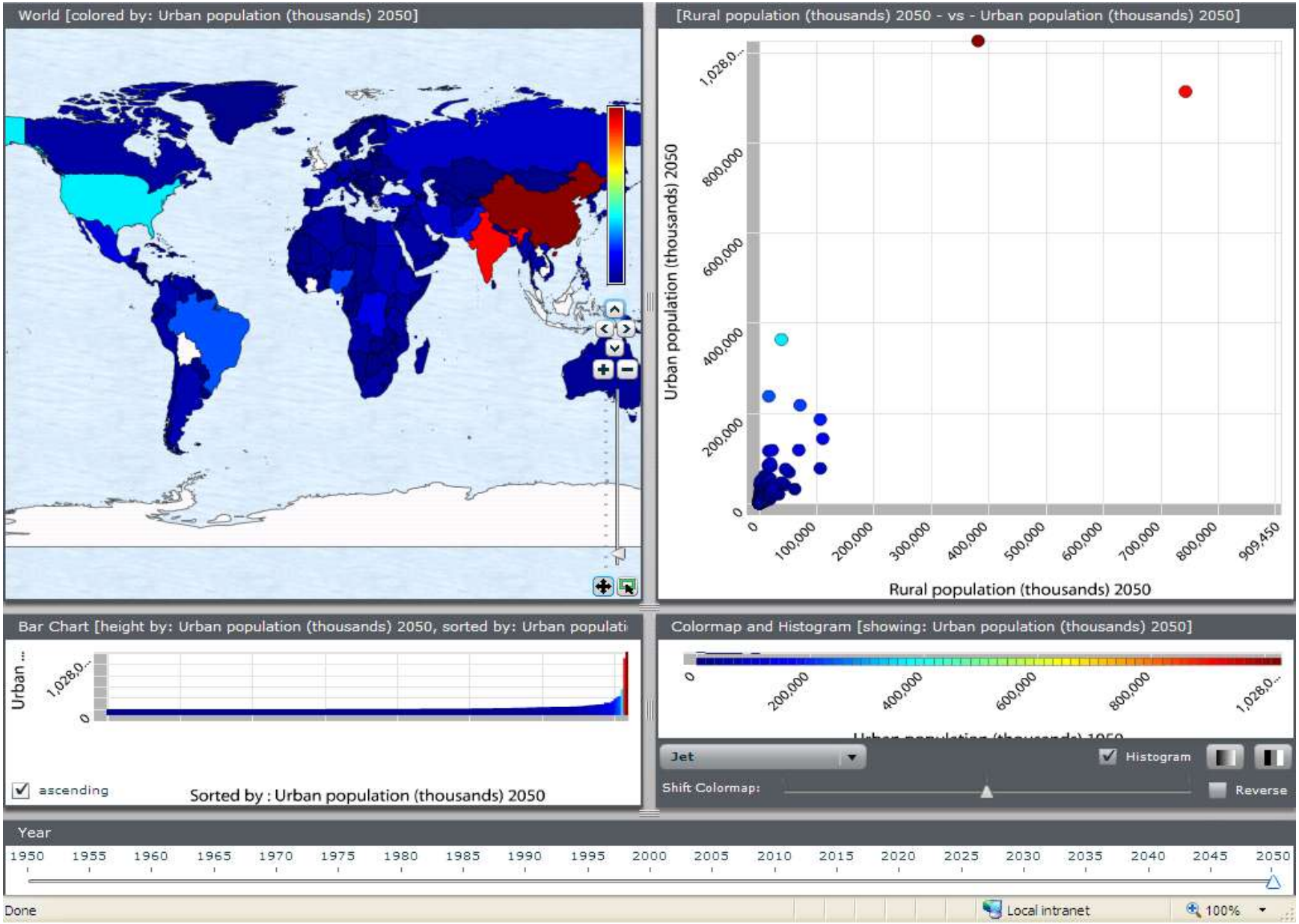
GOAL: **3 Technical Levels - Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced**

The ***Advanced*** level for researchers has been developed first

The ***Beginner*** and ***Intermediate*** levels to follow…

…with training materials to encourage experimentation and capacity building


World [colored by: Urban population (thousands) 1975]
[Rural population (thousands) 1975 - vs - Urban population (thousands) 1975]
Urban population (thousands) 1975
1,028,0...
800,000
600,000
400,000
200,000
0
0
100,000
200,000
300,000
400,000
500,000
600,000
700,000
800,000
909,450
Rural population (thousands) 1975
Bar Chart [height by: Urban population (thousands) 1975, sorted by: Urban populati
Urban ...
1,028,0...
0
ascending
Sorted by : Urban population (thousands) 1975
Colormap and Histogram [showing: Urban population (thousands) 1975]
0
200,000
400,000
600,000
800,000
1,028,0...
Jet
Histogram
Shift Colormap:
Reverse
Year
1950
1955
1960
1965
1970
1975
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
2020
2025
2030
2035
2040
2045
2050
Done
Local intranet
100%


World [colored by: Urban population (thousands) 2050]
[Rural population (thousands) 2050 - vs - Urban population (thousands) 2050]
Urban population (thousands) 2050
Rural population (thousands) 2050
0
100,000
200,000
300,000
400,000
500,000
600,000
700,000
800,000
909,450
200,000
400,000
600,000
800,000
1,028,0...
Bar Chart [height by: Urban population (thousands) 2050, sorted by: Urban populati
Urban ...
ascending
Sorted by : Urban population (thousands) 2050
Colormap and Histogram [showing: Urban population (thousands) 2050]
Jet
Histogram
Shift Colormap:
Reverse
Year
1950
1955
1960
1965
1970
1975
1980
1985
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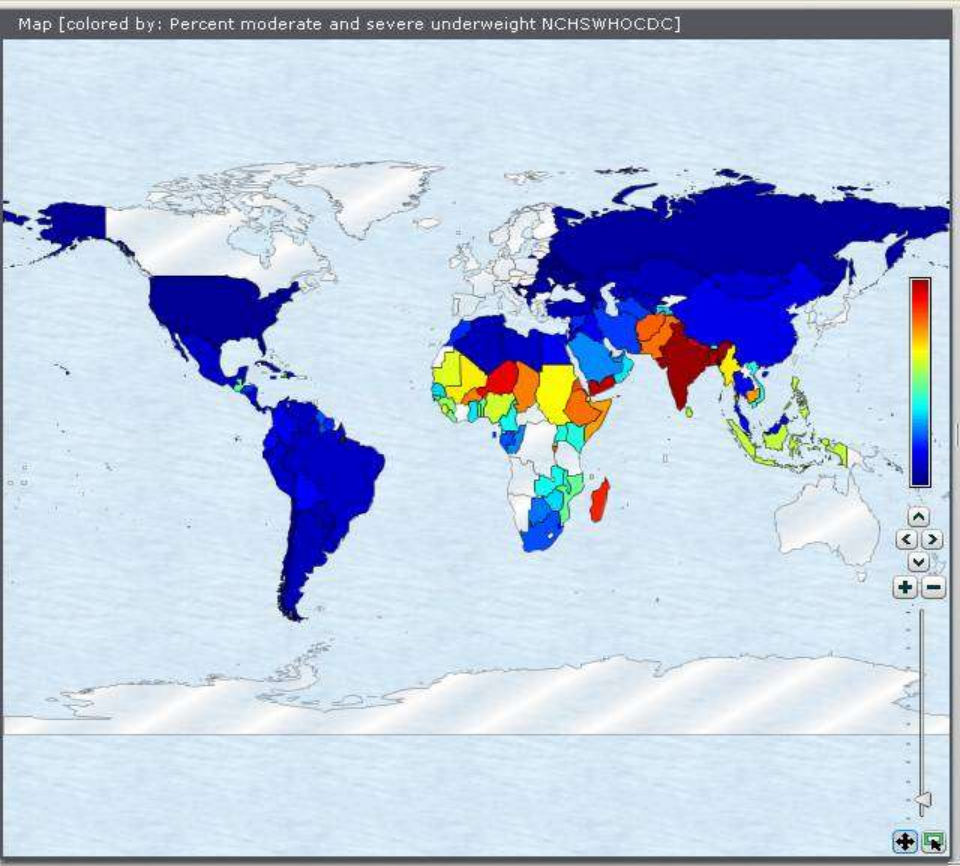
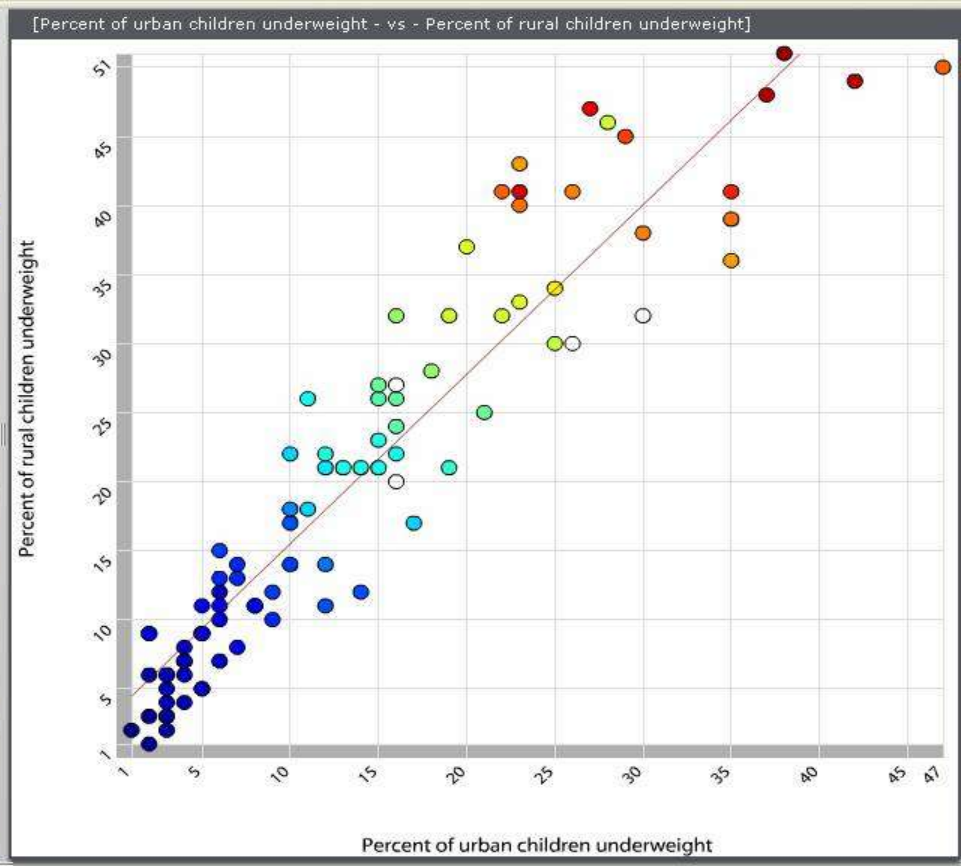
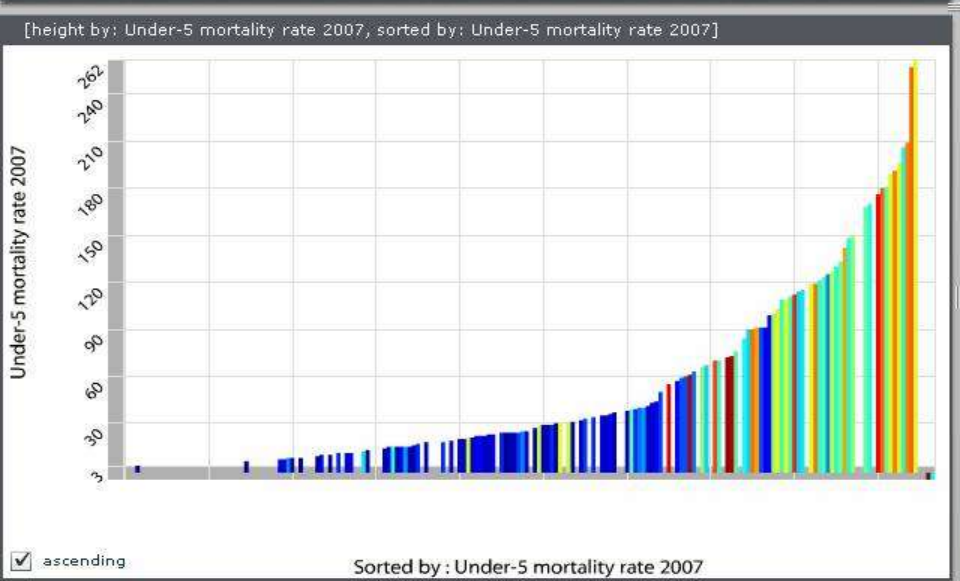
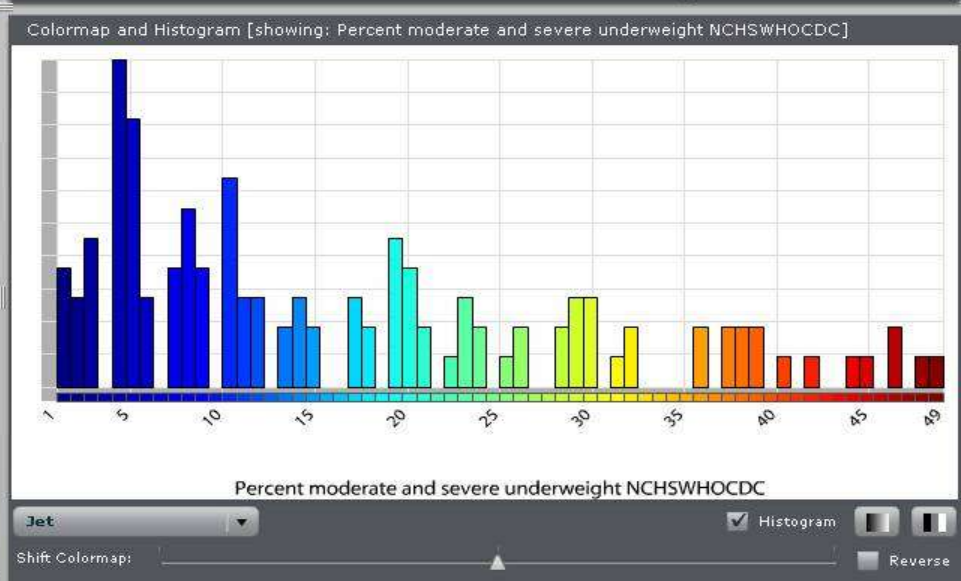
2015
2020
2025
2030
2035
2040
2045
2050
Done
Local intranet
100%


Map [colored by: Percent moderate and severe underweight NCHSWHOCDC]

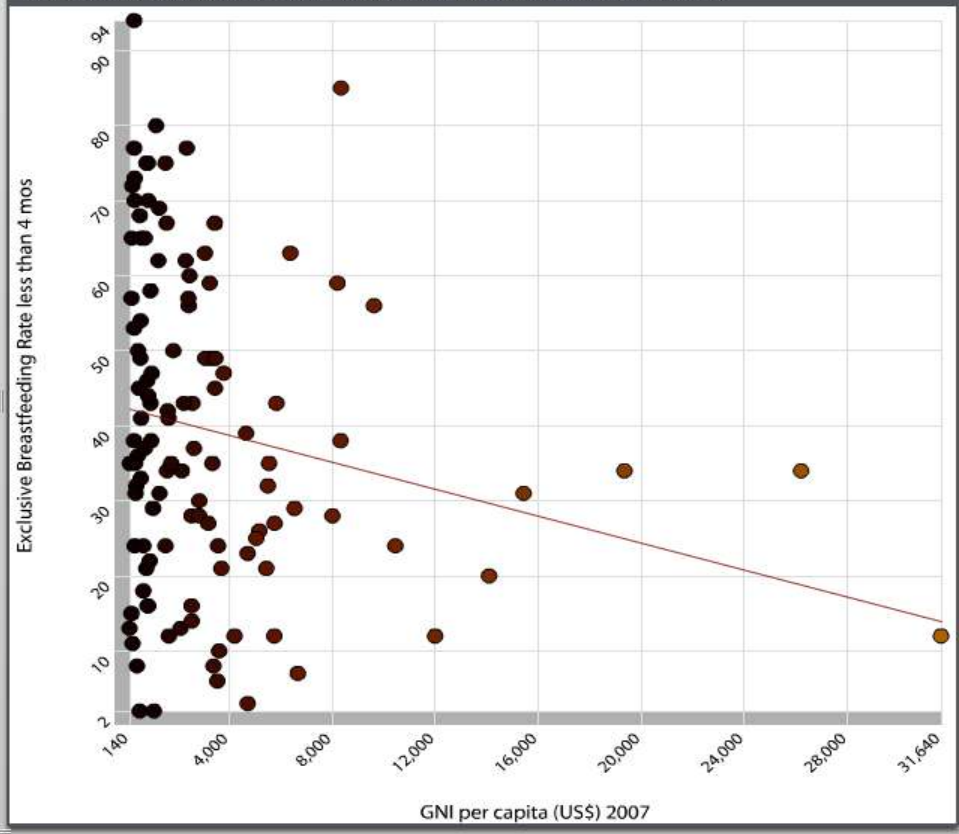

[Percent of urban children underweight - vs - Percent of rural children underweight]
Percent of rural children underweight
Percent of urban children underweight


[height by: Under-5 mortality rate 2007, sorted by: Under-5 mortality rate 2007]
Under-5 mortality rate 2007
ascending
Sorted by : Under-5 mortality rate 2007

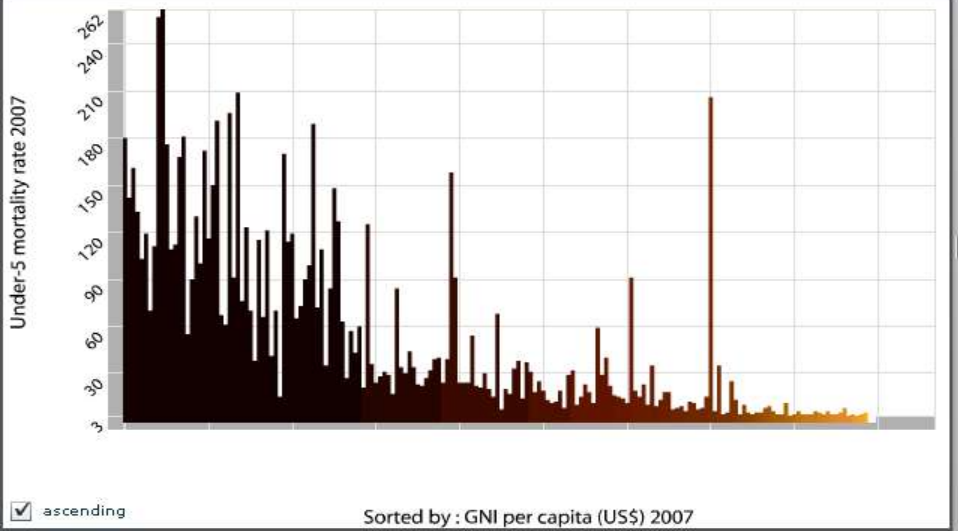

Colormap and Histogram [showing: Percent moderate and severe underweight NCHSWHOCDC]
Percent moderate and severe underweight NCHSWHOCDC
Jet
Histogram
Shift Colormap:
Reverse

Map [colored by: GNI per capita (US$) 2007]

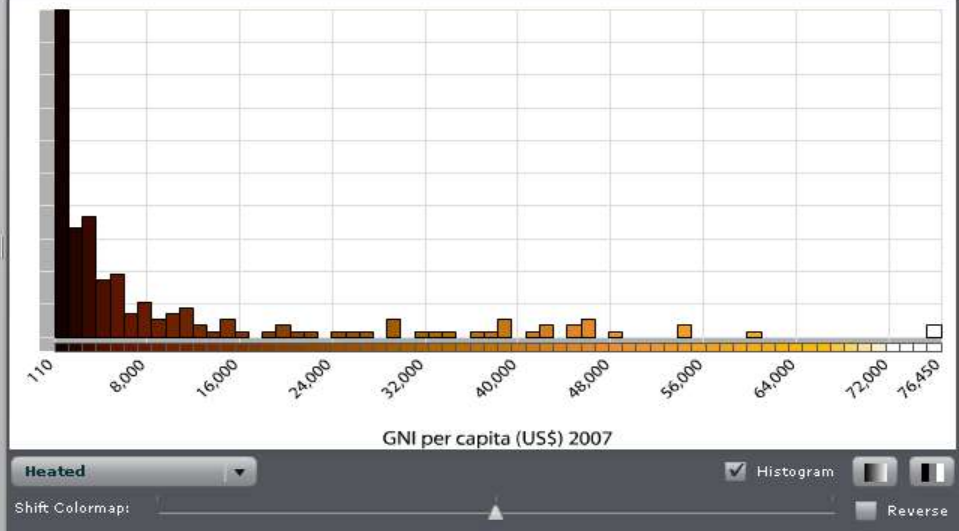
[GNI per capita (US$) 2007 - vs - Exclusive Breastfeeding Rate less than 4 mos]



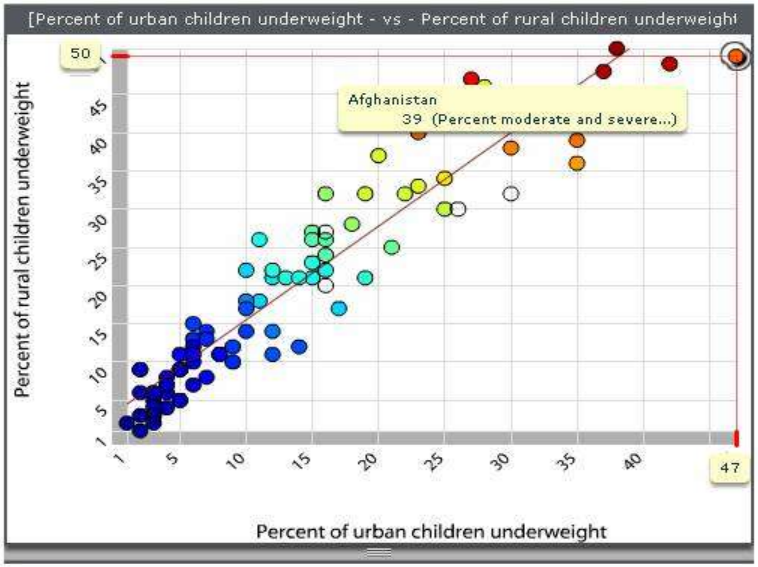
[height by: Under-5 mortality rate 2007, sorted by: Under-5 mortality rate 2007]



Colormap and Histogram [showing: GNI per capita (US$) 2007]



Childinfo - Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women



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View Page Source
View Page Info

Welcome to Childinfo!

UNICEF is committed to changing the world for children. It strives to protect their rights, improve their health, and nurture their development through sound planning and monitoring of policy results.

UNICEF plays a central role in monitoring the situation of children and women - by assisting countries in collecting and analyzing data, helping to develop methodologies and indicators, maintaining global databases, disseminating and publishing data. UNICEF is also the lead agency responsible for the global monitoring of the child-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This website contains UNICEF's statistical information, including data used in UNICEF's flagship publications, *The State of the World's Children* and *Progress for Children*. Also here are technical resources for conducting UNICEF-supported Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), which are a major source of global development data.

Access by Indicators.....

Statistics by Area

- Child Survival and Health
- Child Nutrition
- Maternal Health
- Newborn Care
- Water and Sanitation
- Education
- Child Protection
- HIV/AIDS
- Millennium Development Goals
- A World Fit for Children
- Countdown to 2015
- Statistical Profiles: Asia/Africa

Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)

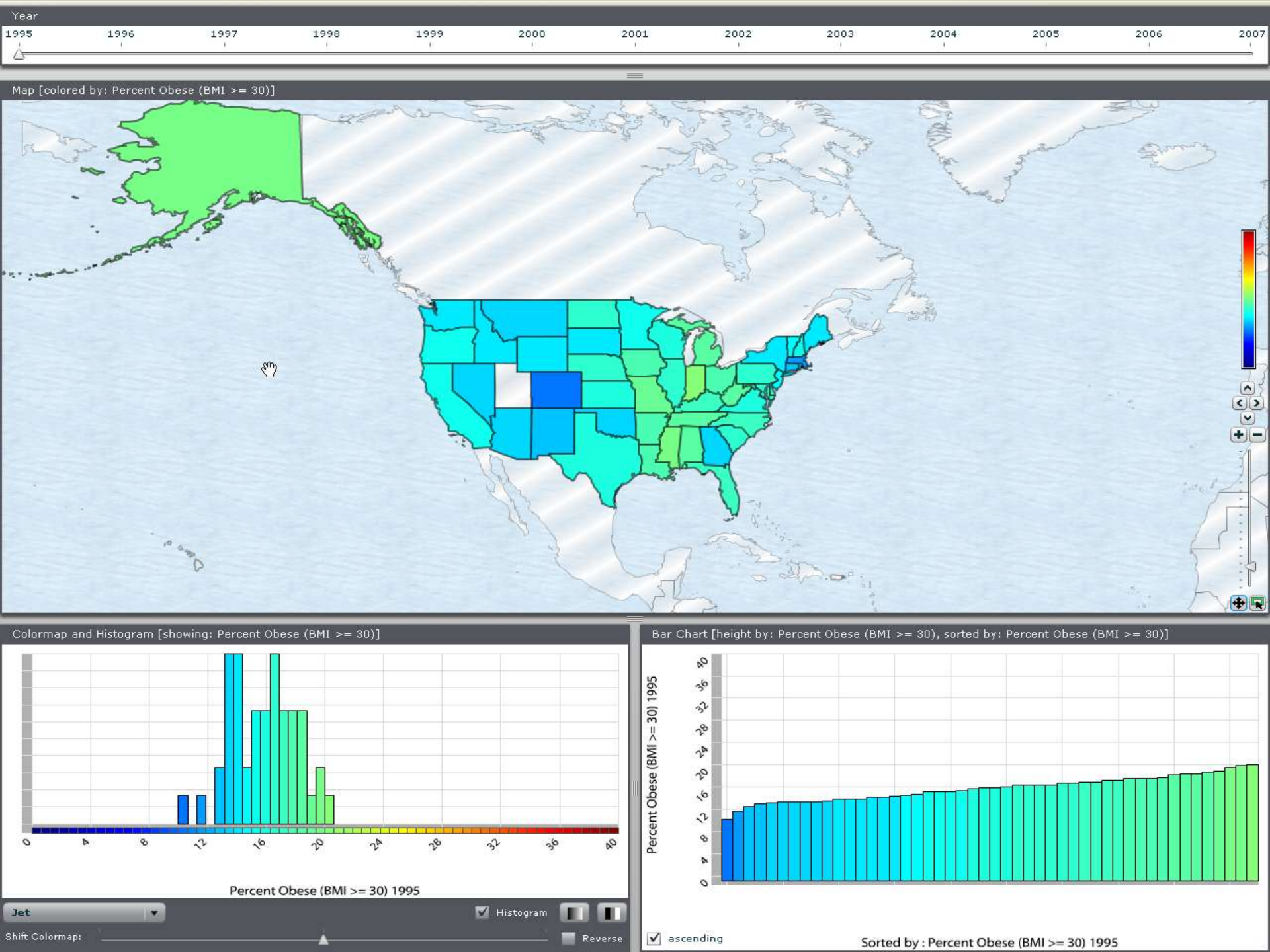
UNICEF supports countries to collect data on the situation of children and women through the MICS programme

LATEST: MICS brochure

MICS4 questionnaire and indicator list

- MICS4
- MICS3
- MICS2
- MICS1

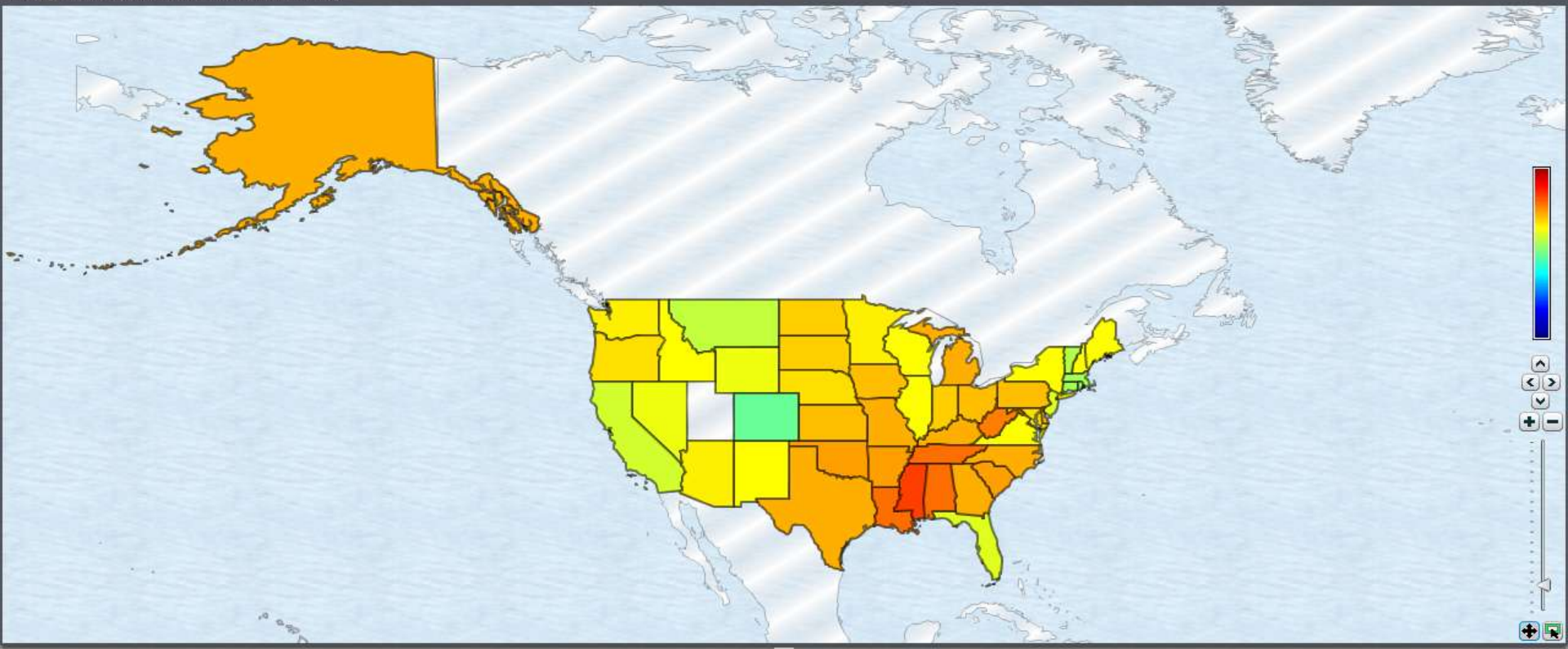
Click here to access the available MICS reports and datasets.


Year
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
Map [colored by: Percent Obese (BMI >= 30)]
Colormap and Histogram [showing: Percent Obese (BMI >= 30)]
0
4
8
12
16
20
24
28
32
36
40
Percent Obese (BMI >= 30) 1995
Jet
Histogram
Shift Colormap:
Reverse
Bar Chart [height by: Percent Obese (BMI >= 30), sorted by: Percent Obese (BMI >= 30)]
Percent Obese (BMI >= 30) 1995
ascending
Sorted by : Percent Obese (BMI >= 30) 1995

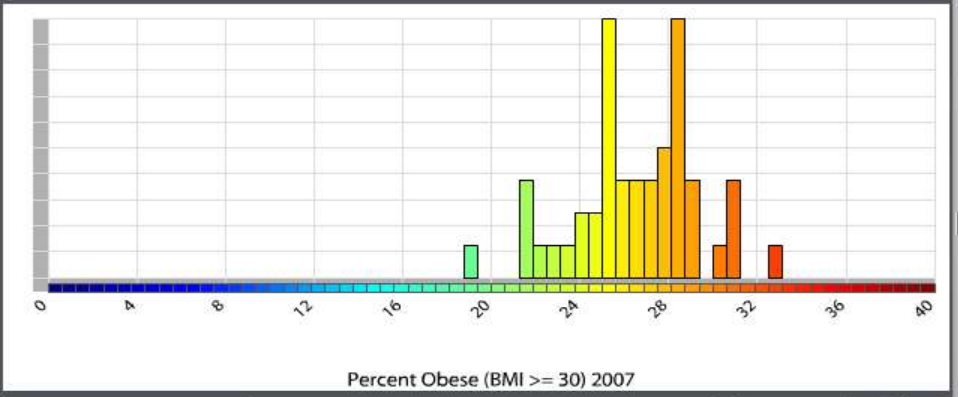
Year

1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007

Map [colored by: Percent Obese (BMI >= 30)]



Colormap and Histogram [showing: Percent Obese (BMI >= 30)]



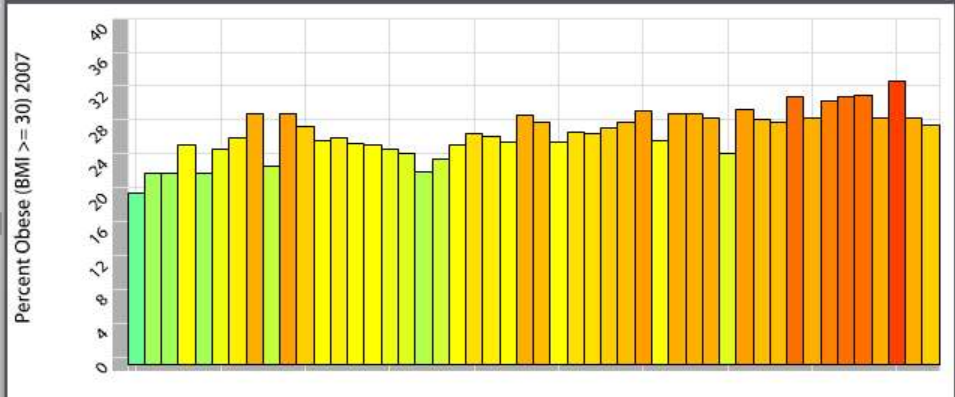
Jet

Histogram

Shift Colormap:

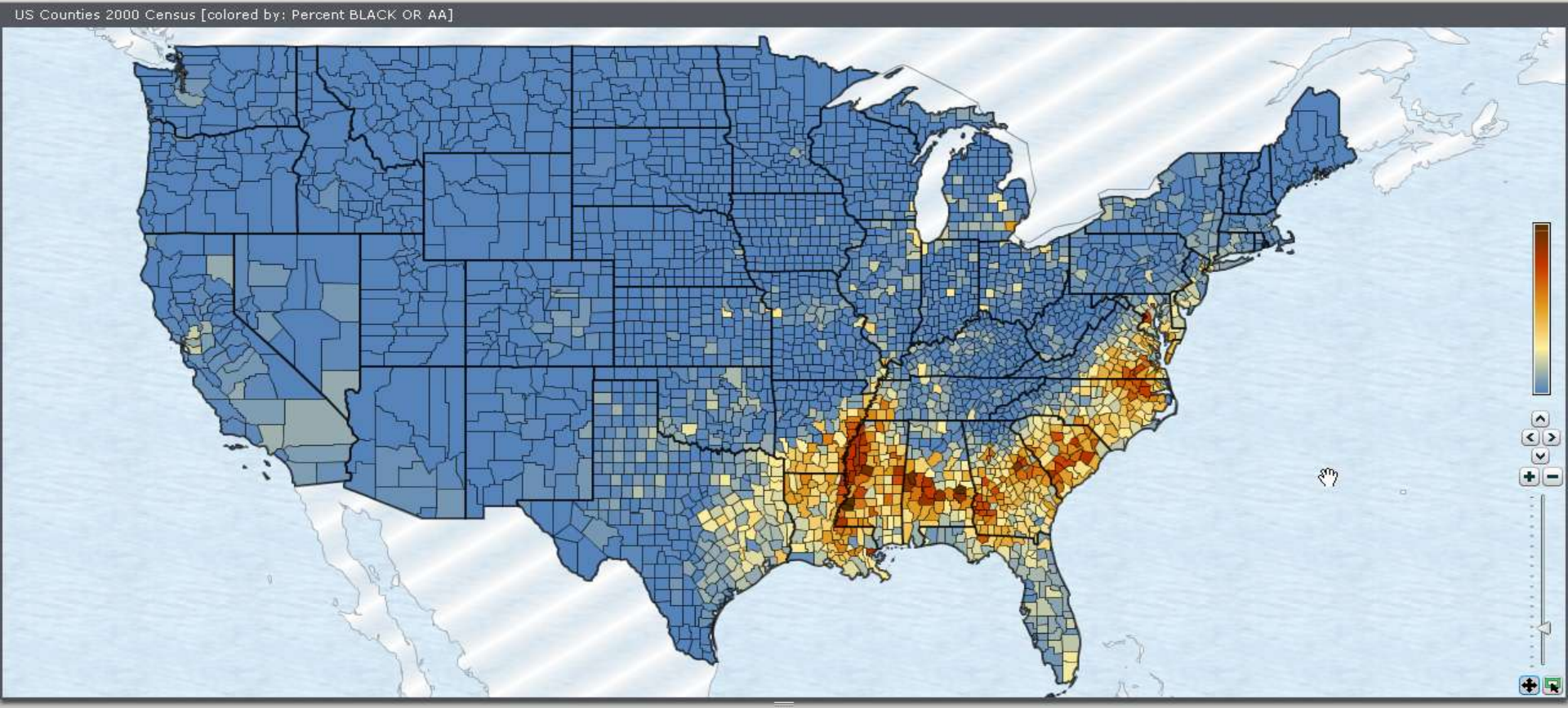
Reverse

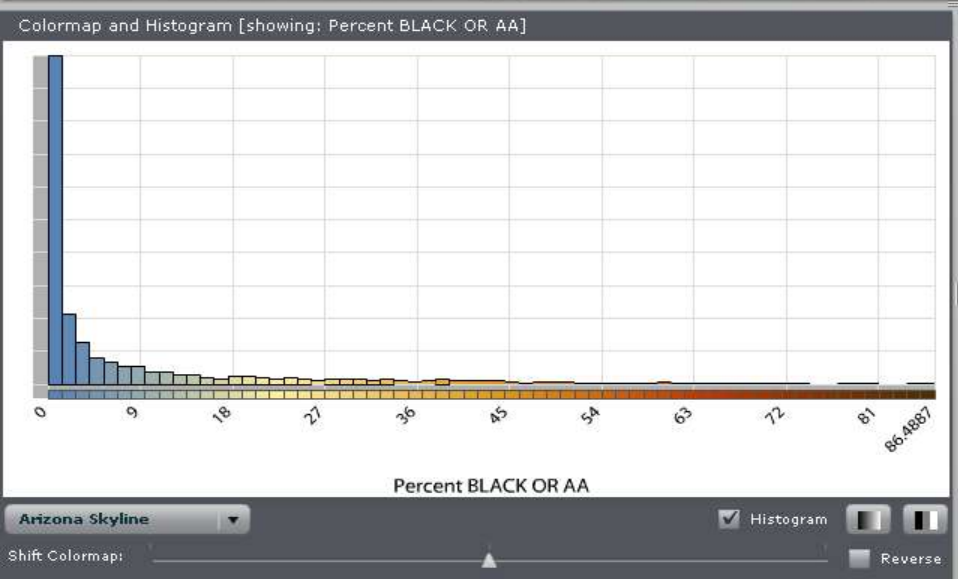
Bar Chart [height by: Percent Obese (BMI >= 30), sorted by: Percent Obese (BMI >= 30)]

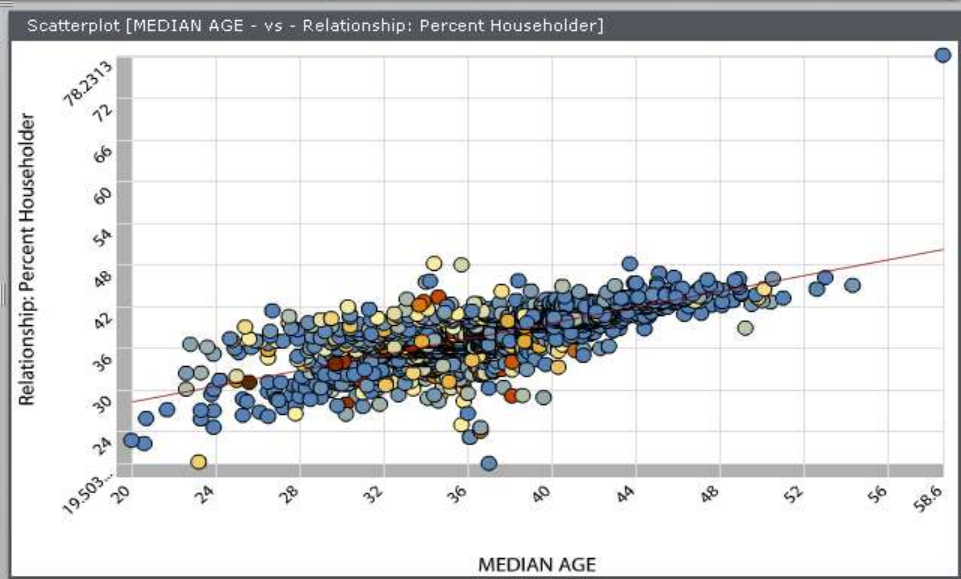


ascending

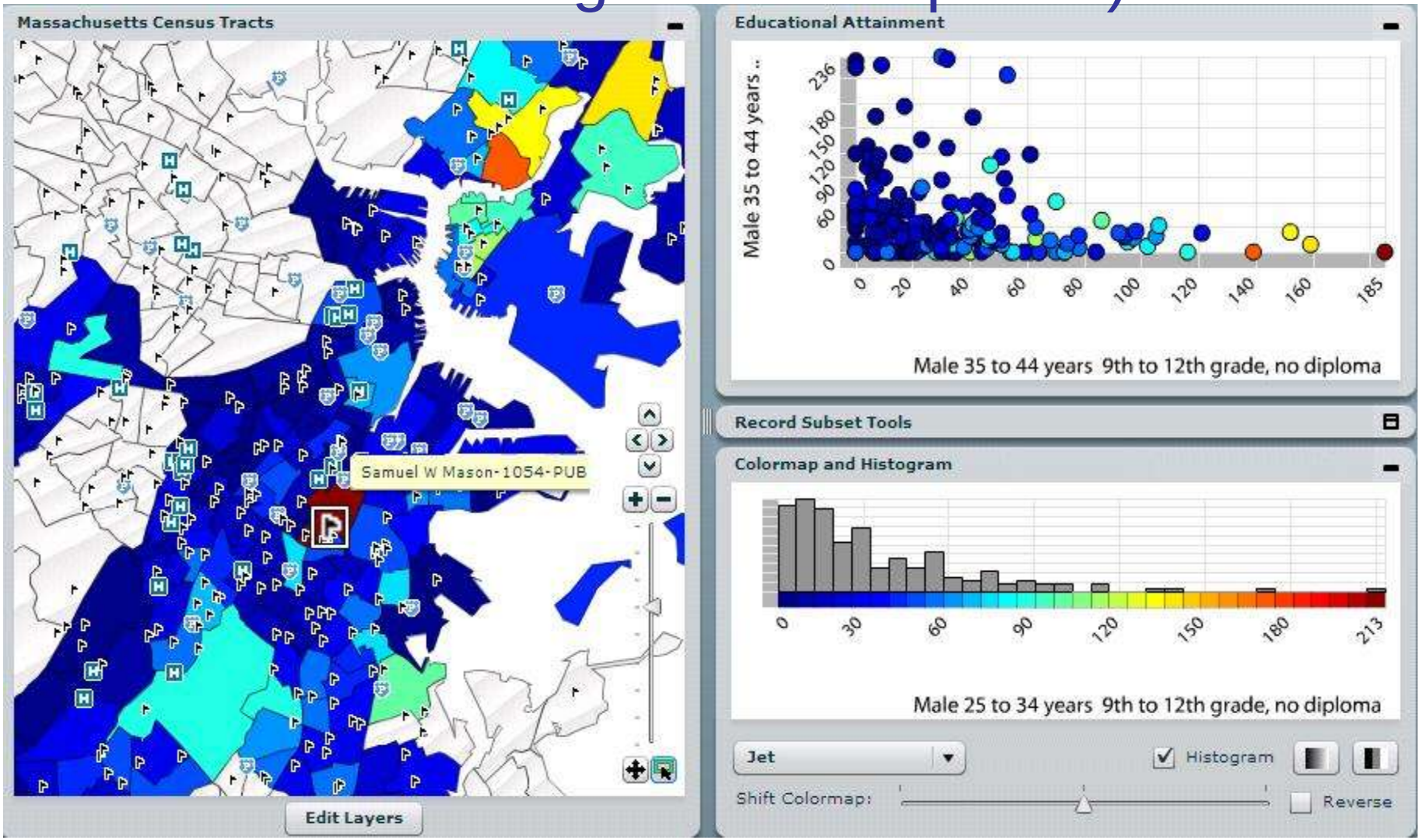
Sorted by : Percent Obese (BMI >= 30) 1995


US Counties 2000 Census [colored by: Percent BLACK OR AA]

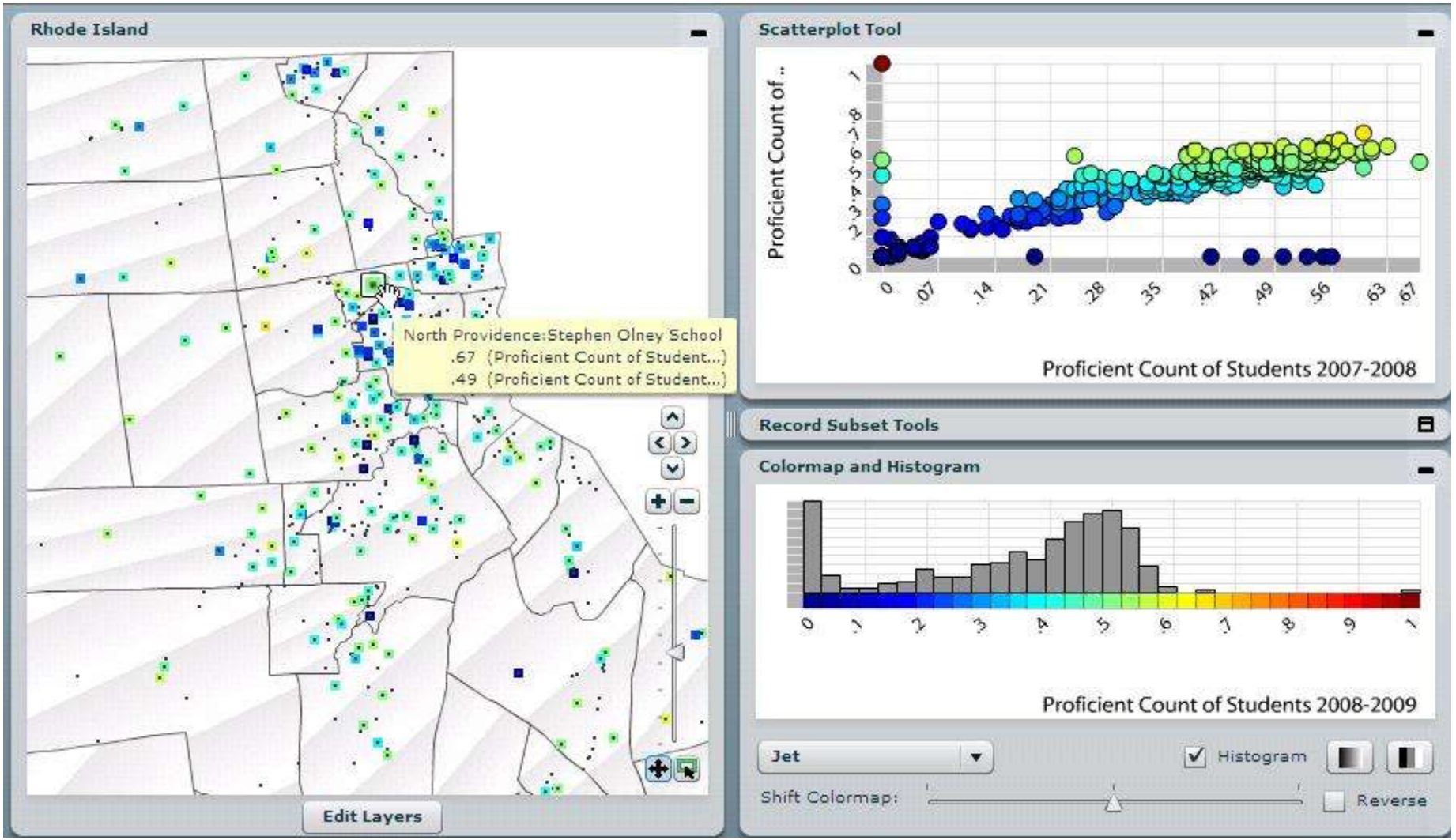

Colormap and Histogram [showing: Percent BLACK OR AA]
0
9
18
27
36
45
54
63
72
81
86.4887
Percent BLACK OR AA
Arizona Skyline
Histogram
Shift Colormap:
Reverse


Scatterplot [MEDIAN AGE - vs - Relationship: Percent Householder]
Relationship: Percent Householder
78.2313
72
66
60
54
48
42
36
30
24
19.503...
20
24
28
32
36
40
44
48
52
56
58.6
MEDIAN AGE

Point data (schools, hospitals) overlaid on demographic data (% men age 35 - 44 with no high school diploma)



Point data :
School Characteristics & Student Performance



BOTTOM LINE: Tools for Shared Frames of Reference & Collaboration

The Open Indicators Consortium (OIC):
shared open source tools

The Community Indicators Consortium (CIC):
a global community of practice

Thank you!