

# Neighbourhood Effects

Sociology

Whether a place itself changes outcomes, and why that is so hard to establish.

## The claim

- Place affects outcomes beyond household traits
- Collective efficacy predicts lower violence
- Peer, norm and network channels proposed
- Institutional quality varies by area
- Exposure over years, not at one moment

## The difficulty

- Selection: people are not assigned to areas
- Household traits predict both area and outcome
- Moving to Opportunity: mixed adult results
- Later analysis found gains for young children
- Effects vary by outcome, age and country

### THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

The strongest evidence is for long childhood exposure. Broad claims about adults have not held up as well.

Educational reference. Findings are actively contested and depend heavily on design; treat single-study claims with care.