

Bridging the Gap Between Research & Policy

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About the Urban Institute

Founded in 1968

Mission: To open minds, shape decisions, and offer solutions through evidence-driven economic and social policy research.

Over 450 employees in 11 research centers and groups work to understand the problems facing America's cities

POLICY CENTERS

Center on International Development and Governance

Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population

Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy

Health Policy Center

Housing Finance Policy Center

Income and Benefits Policy Center

Justice Policy Center

Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center

Policy Advisory Group

Statistical Methods Group

Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center

Challenges to effectively communicating social and behavioral science research

Research needs to be:



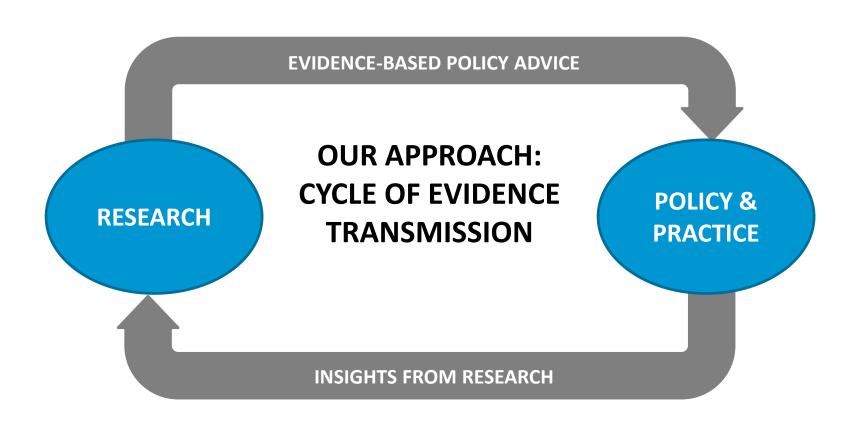
Opportunity to position research to have impact

Appetite for evidence-based solutions

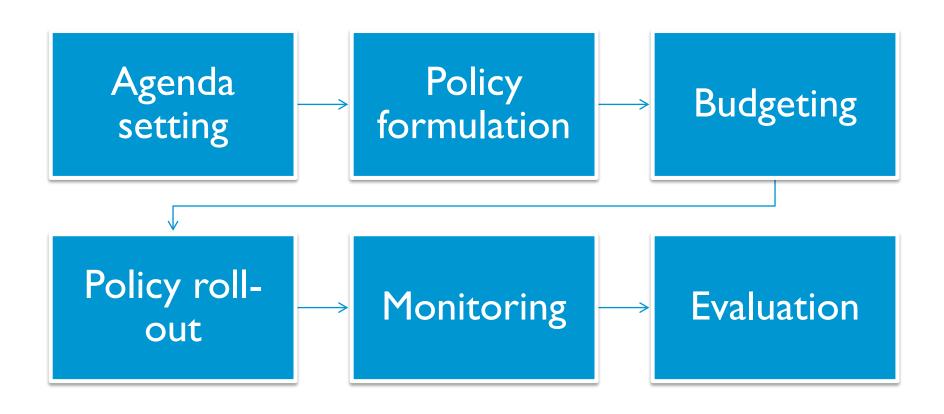
POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

Maximizing the impact of research in urban policy decision-making

Successful communication of research requires a continuous feedback loop



Consider what stage of the policymaking process you are trying to inform



Cycle in Action: How Housing Matters initiative

Using research to help set the agenda

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation funded a \$25 million research initiative to expand evidence on the effects that decent, stable affordable housing has on education, employment, health and other outcomes.

MacArthur Foundation



Urban's role:

- 1. Conduct research as a grantee
- 2. Maximize the policy impact of the 40+ research projects

Maximizing the policy impact of research



Convening power

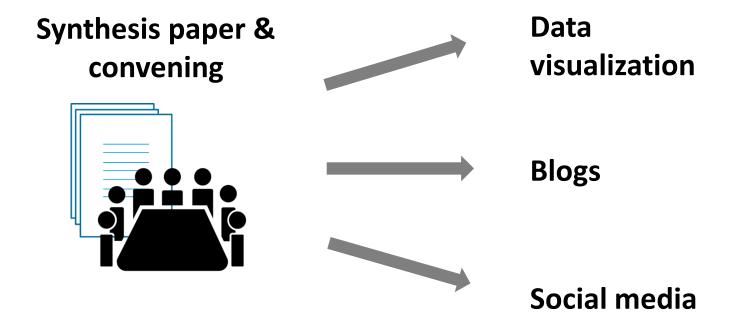


Synthesis paper



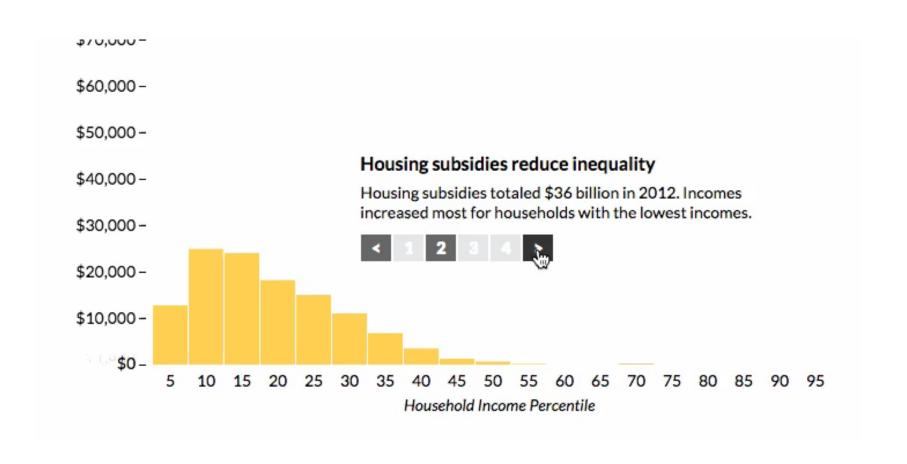
Amplifying tools to build and broaden the conversation





Bringing analysis to life through data visualization





http://www.urban.org/urban-wire/visualizing-housing-policys-impact-inequality

Succinctly stating key takeaways of research through blog posts

ohn McGinty

September 30, 2015







Opportunity is intimately tied to place in the United States. Where you live determines school quality, available transportation options, proximity to jobs, and community assets. Because place is so closely linked to access to opportunity, housing policy provides important and effective strategies for promoting economic opportunity and upward mobility.

Our new report samples the variety of housing policy tools at our disposal to promote economic mobility, particularly for disadvantaged populations. We set forth a menu of evidence-driven federal, state, and local policy tools that can help families climb the ladder. We believe, with the right policies in place, people can have both choices about where they live and opportunities wherever they choose to call home.

Housing Policy Toolbox



POLICY

Tax expenditures LIHTC program Property taxes



BLOCK

HOME
Housing trust funds



ASSISTANCE

Federal assistance State assistance Preservation

Fair Housing Act
Land use
regulations

Affordable housing requirements



FAIR HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAMS

FHA loan insurance State

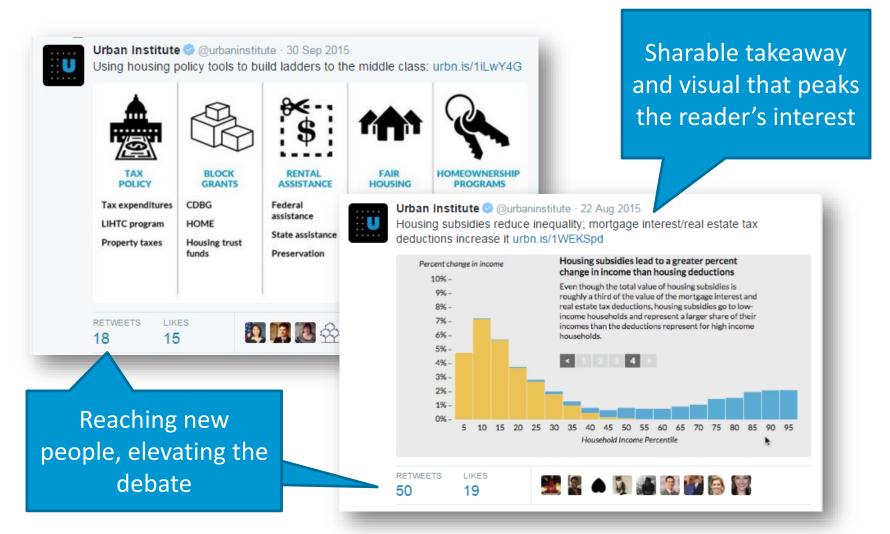
homeownership programs Housing counseling

Many of the federal housing policy levers involve providing incentives for state and local action. But even without federal policy changes, states and their local jurisdictions have numerous opportunities to improve the economic mobility of their residents.

Simple visual rolls up and buckets complex policy levers

Reaching wider audiences through social media





Concluding thoughts

- 1. Research must be accessible, digestible, and actionable.
- 2. Consider the decisions policymakers must make, the information they need, and at what point in the policymaking process they need that information.
- 3. Building in support for communicating and lifting up insights from research is critical.