

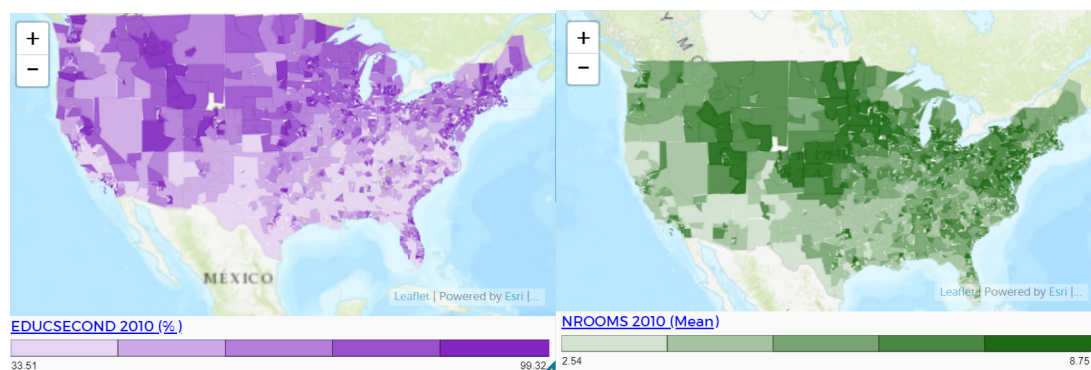
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### Project 3: Making an Argument With Data Visualizations

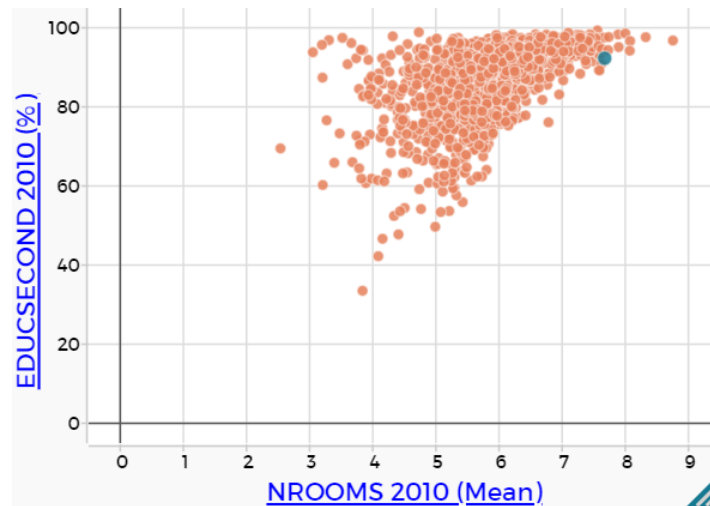
Defining wealth is nearly an impossible task that society has tried to do for its entire existence. While it is hard to pinpoint exactly what determines the wealth and status of a person, a good thing to look at is the person's living situation or form of shelter. Whether it is a mansion, a skyscraper apartment, or a yurt, people want space and are willing to do a lot to have it. Owning or renting a lot of square footage or rooms is often seen as a sign of wealth, especially in more suburban areas, but in large cities as well in penthouse apartments and beyond.

Shelter is one of the basic necessities of human life and yet it is probably the most expensive investment that people make in their lives. Often the way people earn their money is by working either for themselves or bigger corporations that pay them a salary. A commonly known way of getting said jobs and making a proper income is by attending high school or some other form of secondary education. More education in a county leads to homes or other forms of shelter that contain a higher average number of rooms. Obviously home pricing fluctuates often and depends heavily on the area that people choose to live in, but the same thing goes for income. Places that cost more to live in often have people making more money, evening things out.



The map on the left (purple) displays the range of the percentages of each county that have graduated from secondary school. The darker purple areas have a higher percentage graduating and the lighter purple areas have a much smaller percentage of people graduating from high school. Graduating from high school often says a lot about the person and determines a lot of outcomes in someone's life which is why this is the comparing variable later on.

The map on the right (green) displays the mean number of rooms per household in each particular county. The darker green areas have homes with much more rooms and the lighter green areas represent homes with much fewer average number of rooms. Homes with more rooms are typically bigger and likely represent more wealth because the bigger the home the more expensive it is.



This graph displays the distribution of counties in the United States graphed on the percent of the population that attended post-secondary educational institutions with the mean number of rooms in the households in the county. This graph shows that more education leads to the ownership of more rooms in their living situations. The lower the percentage of people who have post-secondary education, the fewer rooms they have in their shelter. Similarly, the higher the percentage of residents, the more rooms the average home has in that county.

When the two maps are compared there is a clear relationship between where the dark areas and light areas are for each. With changing style preferences and living condition choices, the number of rooms determining wealth is not perfect, but can give a good estimate of wealth in a county and throughout the entire country. In this current time people value open concept homes which may reduce the number of rooms. A better estimate would be either the price of housing or the squarefootage owned. It would also be interesting to compare mean income in different areas to determine wealth in an area.