Supplementary Materials for

Documenting decline in U.S. economic mobility

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This PDF file includes

Table S1 legend
References

Other Supplementary Material for this manuscript includes the following:
(available at www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/science.aan3264/DC1)

Table S1 as an Excel file
Table S1. Income mobility comparison and educational attainment. Worksheet 1: Mobility and income. Worksheet 2: Education: Mean years of completed schooling at age 30 by year of birth and sex of U.S.-born census-surveyed people (Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Commerce) for the 1876 to 1982 birth cohorts, where “at age 30” is an average from ages 29, 30, and 31 for the 1976 to 1982 birth cohorts. We use figure 7 of (9) for the 1876 to 1975 birth cohorts, and we use the Current Population Survey Merged Outgoing Rotation Groups (CPS MORG) for 2005–2013 (23) from the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) time-consistent extracts of the CPS MORG files for the 1976 to 1982 birth cohorts.

References and Notes
2. The cohort series of absolute mobility moves equally closely with the proportional gap (log ratio) of child-to-parent median real incomes ($r = 0.996$; see SM). This is a scale-free measure that could be a useful proxy for mobility rates across groups and time periods with quite different levels of income.
3. Result of bivariate ordinary least squares regression (see SM). The $44,000 decline in the child-parent difference in median real income from the 1940 to the 1984 cohort predicts a 41% drop in absolute mobility, close to the actual decline documented by Chetty et al.
4. The share of children in a cohort earning more than the median parent can be computed from Chetty et al.’s table S7 using the rank in the child income distribution required to earn more than the 50th percentile of the parental income distribution at http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/data/. See SM.
8. Estimates of mean years of schooling at age 30 for the U.S. born by birth cohort are from [see figure 7 in (9)] updated through the 1982 birth cohort using the Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Groups. See SM.


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