Miami-Dade **IDEAS** Consortium for Children

Integrating **D**ata for **E**ffectiveness **A**cross **S**ystems

PLACE MATTERS FOR CHILDREN: NEIGHBORHOOD RISKS & RESILIENCE

This brief joins community-level data sets to create a new map of child resilience in Miami-Dade County.
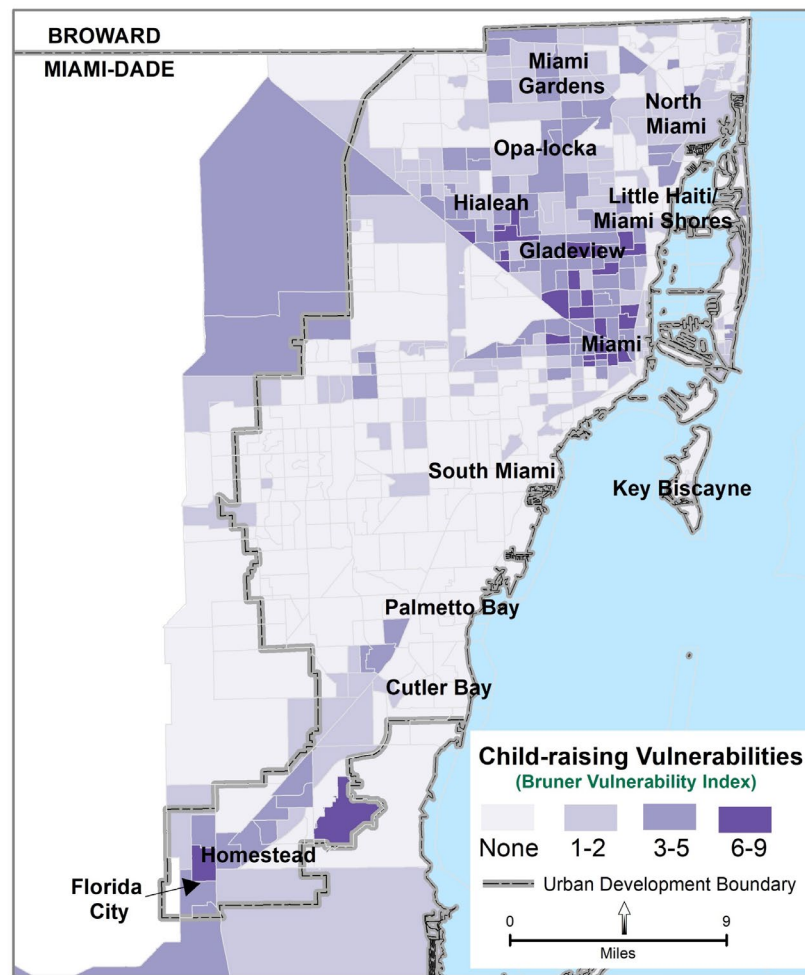
▪ The Neighborhood Risk Index (NRI) is a standardized measure for each census tract, using indicators associated with child development, such as poverty, educational proficiency, and housing.

▪ The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is a standardized measure for children's development at the kindergarten level, across physical, social, emotional, and cognitive developmental domains.

Developmental skills in kindergarten relate to the number of risks in a given neighborhood. Yet a child's ZIP code does not ensure their outcomes. On page 2, a new Child Resilience Index shows that children's development in some neighborhoods is better than expected given the risks present.

Using Child Resilience to Assess Early Learning Needs & Promising Interventions

Mapping areas of high early childhood resilience is the first step in identifying underlying assets that can improve early learning outcomes. Through the IDEAS Consortium, agencies, researchers, and community advocates are joining together to explore the implications and learn how we can work more effectively together for the benefit of our children most in need.

Neighborhood Risks Where Children Live Vary Widely across Miami-Dade County
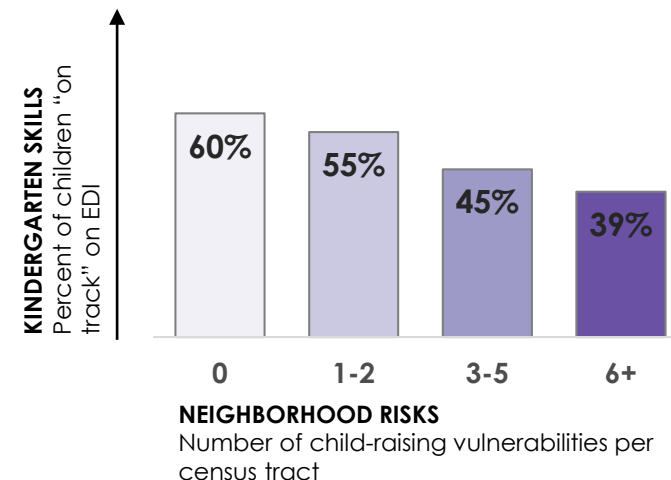

Neighborhood Risk Index (NRI) by census tract (2012-2016)
Comprised of 10 neighborhood indicators at the census tract level: single parent families, adults' limited English proficiency, disconnected youth, adults with no high school diploma, adults with less than a college degree, households with wage income, families with children in poverty, households on public assistance, owner-occupied housing, and households with interest, rent or dividend income. NRI is also referred to as the Bruner Vulnerability Index.

Higher Neighborhood Risks Are Associated with Lower Kindergarten Developmental Skills

Where children grow up is correlated with child developmental skills when they enter public schools. This graph shows the relationship countywide:

On average, the percentage of Miami-Dade kindergarteners "on track" in five key developmental domains decreases as the number of neighborhood vulnerabilities increases. However, there are many census tracts showing resilience despite risks (see page 2).

Early Development Instrument (EDI)
"On track" classification on the EDI means a child scores above the 25th percentile rank on the national EDI standardization sample in at least one of five developmental domains: Physical Health and Well-being; Social Competence; Emotional Maturity; Language and Cognitive Skills; and Communication Skills and General Knowledge. EDI surveys completed in 2014-16 by Miami-Dade County Public Schools kindergarten teachers.

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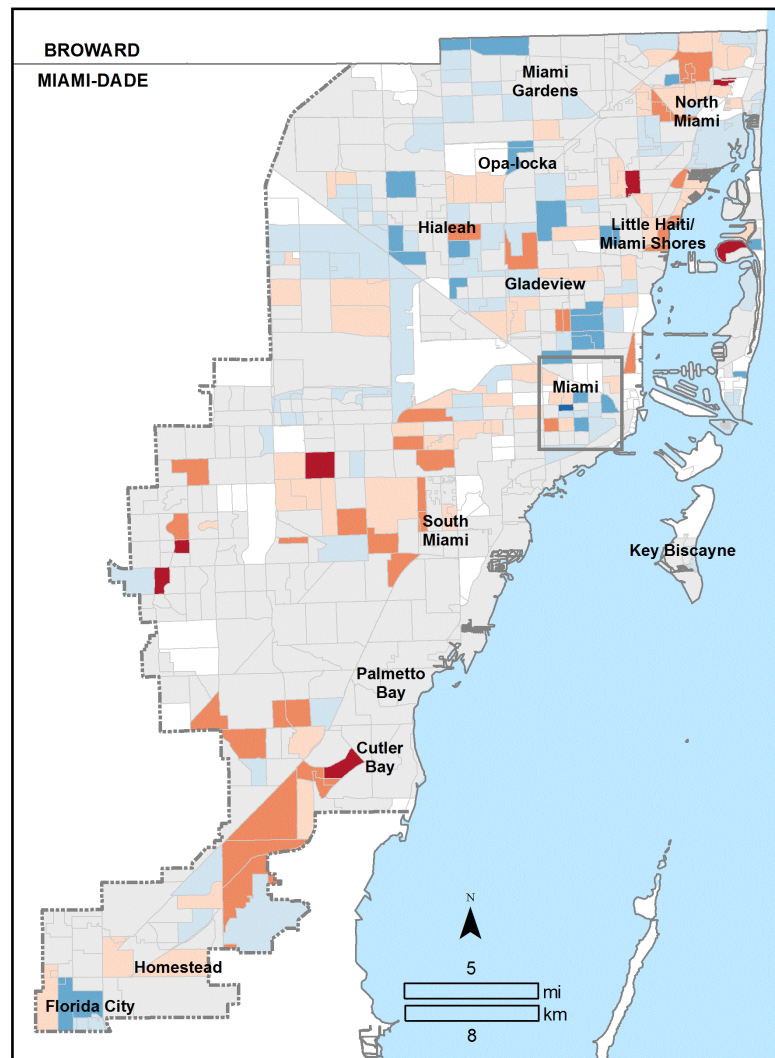# PLACE MATTERS FOR CHILDREN: NEIGHBORHOOD RISKS & RESILIENCE

Using Data to Identify Resilient Communities

The maps on this page show that some children living in areas with high neighborhood vulnerability nonetheless exhibit developmental strengths in kindergarten. The Child Resilience Index allows us to investigate areas of promise and to extend effective practices.

Recommendations for Practice & Policy

▪ Update the Resilience Index to visualize changes over time in each census tract. Collecting new EDI information will be especially useful after the COVID-19 crisis to identify areas of local need.

▪ Take a closer look at communities, in collaboration with local advisors, to learn more about what underlying factors support the positive child development noted in areas with higher neighborhood risk.

▪ Use current data and ongoing findings to improve service quality and to ensure distribution of services within areas of need.

▪ Promote the potential of integrated data as a powerful tool that provides agencies and policy makers with actionable information about service needs, effectiveness, and return on investment.

QUESTIONS?   contact **Dr. Rebecca Bulotsky Shearer**
✉ rshearer@miami.edu

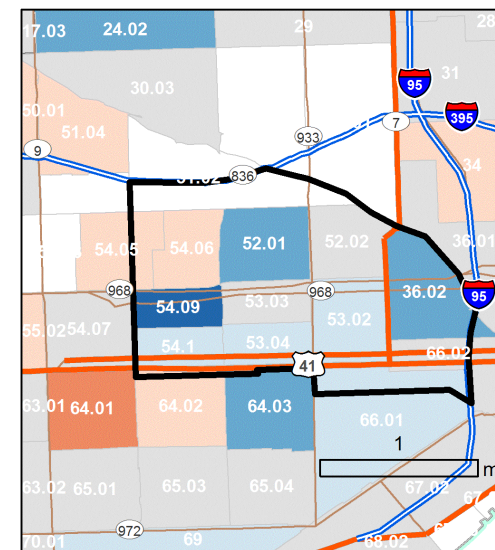# Children in Some Neighborhoods Show Resilience Despite Higher Risks

CHILD RESILIENCE INDEX, 2012-2016
By census tract within the Miami-Dade County urban boundary

An Example of Local Resilience: Areas of Promise within Little Havana

Children in some parts of Little Havana are performing better than expected based on neighborhood risks. The blue census tracts invite us to look more closely at underlying factors that support child development.
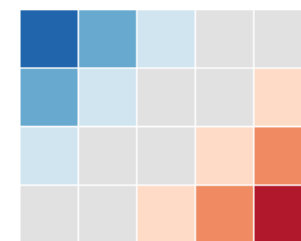

RESILIENCE
Blue means local risks are present, but children do relatively well.

RISK
Red means fewer local risks, but children do less well.

NEIGHBORHOOD RISKS (NRI)

DEVELOPMENTAL VULNERABILITY (EDI)