Below are clips from an interactive mapping prototype developed by the Justice Mapping Center. The “Incarceration Explorer” enables us to cut through large jurisdictions like states and counties, to apprehend neighborhood clusters of high concentrations of prison admissions. It brings together our extensive prison admissions by residence data with a unique census-track level querying system, all layered onto the power of Google maps. The map below is a clip from the interactive online site that identifies clusters of census tracts across 25 states (for which we have prison admissions data) where at least 20 residents were admitted to prison from a tract at a rate of at least 10 people per 1000 residents. Color indicates the number of clusters in each area—red representing the highest numbers, yellow intermediate, and blue smaller number.
The clip below shows the more detailed account of high incarceration neighborhood clusters at a zoomed in view of the region encompassing the Atlantic Coast, Midwest, and North Texas areas. The data table at the left provides extensive information about each individual tract (much of which is not in view of the clip, including estimated prison expenditure), which can be sorted by any of the variables listed. Moreover, the system allows for the accumulation of any number of variables and other datasets, including jail admissions, releases, etc...
The clip below shows what happens when we change the criteria for eligible neighborhoods to those having at least 30 admissions to prison at a rate of at least 30 people per 1000 residents. There are many fewer of these ‘hyper-concentrated’ incarceration sites. The querying system enables us to quickly and easily identify these exceptional places. An interesting finding here is that Indianapolis has the highest cluster of hyper-concentrated incarceration neighborhoods (18 tracts).
The clip above uses the querying system to identify those neighborhoods where 50% of all people sent to prison from Indianapolis live, but which are home to only 20% of the City’s residents.
This clip shows the neighborhoods with hyper-concentrated incarceration levels of at least 30 people admitted to prison at a rate of 3% of the adult population; whereas the citywide average is 1.1% of adults.
This clip identifies the information related to a particular neighborhood in Indianapolis, “United Northwest,” where 78 people were admitted to prison at a rate of nearly 60 people per 1000 residents.

Neighborhood: United Northwest
Statistics for the United Northwest neighborhood are shown in the maps’ popup, including prison expenditure of over $2 million a year, where over 95% of the residents are Black and nearly half have no high school diploma. More astonishingly, the charts to the right indicate that nearly 22% of Black men under 35 are sent to prison from this neighborhood each year.
The clip below shows just one example of how the context of a place can be portrayed visually alongside highly granulated geographic data.