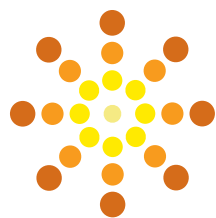
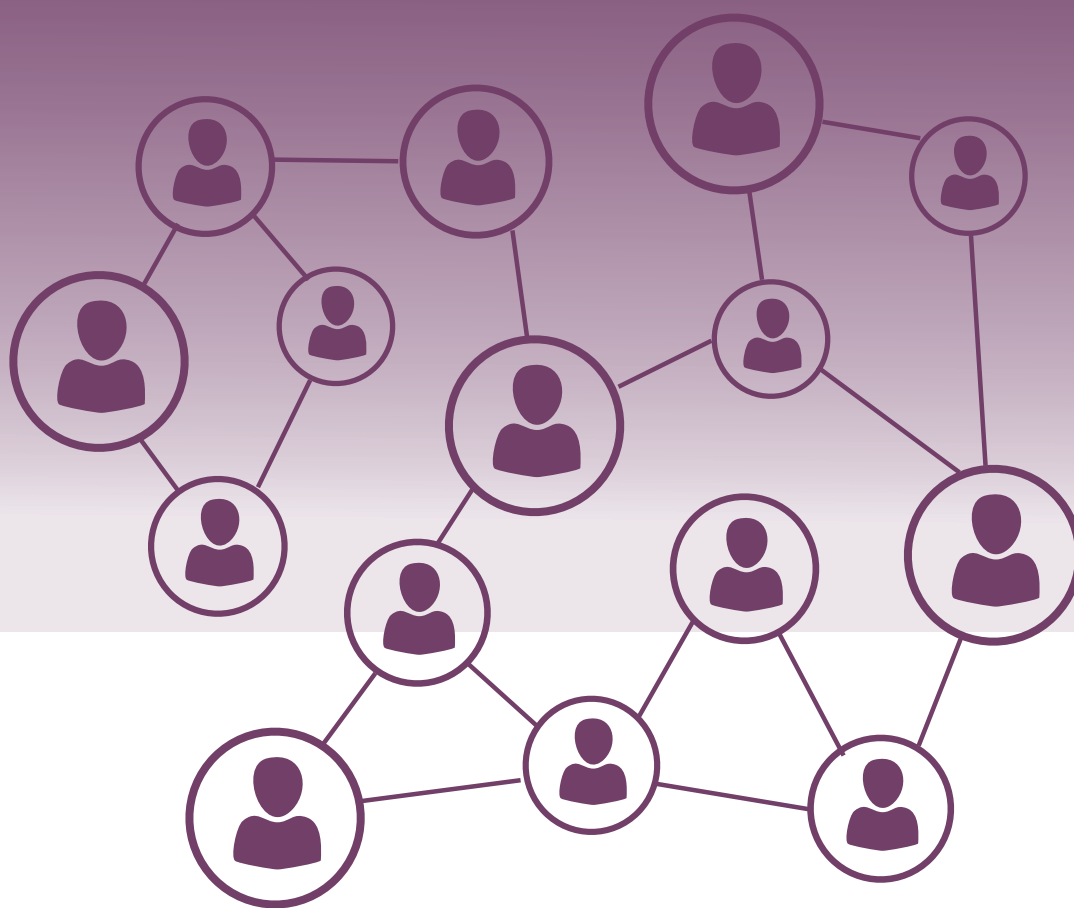


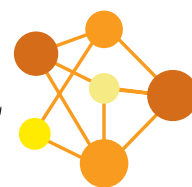
Foundations and Frameworks

A Primer on Social Capital and Why it Matters



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**SOCIAL
CAPITAL
INDEX**



FOUNDATIONS AND FRAMEWORKS

A PRIMER ON SOCIAL CAPITAL AND WHY IT MATTERS

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About the Utah Foundation

Since 1945, leaders, legislators, and community members have relied upon the **illuminating, independent, and nonpartisan public-policy research** produced by the Utah Foundation to support informed decision-making on topics that matter most. As a 501(c)3 with broad community support and a 60-member board, the Utah Foundation exists to empower **civic engagement as the foundation for enhanced quality of life for Utahns.**

INTRODUCTION

In the simplest terms, the role of a good government is to create an environment that enables its residents to thrive. This raises the question: Are Utahns thriving?

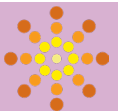
To understand that question, some of the simplest analyses may examine the financial health of individuals and households. This is a great starting place, and past Utah Foundation research highlights record growth in personal income.¹ These measures generally focus on “financial capital” – the stock of money and assets. The Utah Foundation also tracks measures of individual development or “human capital.” This could be education, health, work, and other life experiences.

The Utah Foundation’s Social Capital Index project is a series of reports that measure whether Utah is thriving in terms of its “social capital.” Put simply, social capital refers to the ways in which individuals can leverage connections between people and social networks for the benefit of themselves or their community.

This series of reports details objective measures to create an index that can help describe how social capital changes over time and varies across states. To that end, the Utah Foundation has collected over thirty measures of different aspects of social capital, covering topics such as family structure, community participation, and economic mobility. These reports and the index will help the public and policymakers better understand whether Utah is thriving socially.

This first report provides an overview of what social capital is and why it matters to Utahns. This report discusses the different forms of social capital, its importance, potential drawbacks, measurement methods, and the limitations associated with studying it.

¹ Robinson, Chandler and Christopher Collard, 2024, “Balancing the burden: Utahns’ tax burden is up from historical low,” *Utah Foundation*, <https://www.utahfoundation.org/reports/balancing-the-burden-utahns-tax-burden-is-up-from-historical-low/>.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS REPORT

- Social capital refers to the networks and social connections that advance the interests of both individuals and communities. It requires high levels of trust, reciprocity, and community interaction.
- High levels of social capital are associated with better resource allocation and social cohesion, accelerated economic development and mobility, improved education and health outcomes, stronger community engagement and disaster resilience, and reduced reliance on government services.
- Social capital encompasses three types of connections: bonding (between individuals with shared demographics or values), bridging (between individuals with different backgrounds), and linking (between individuals with different levels of power).

WHAT IS SOCIAL CAPITAL?

Social capital has been a recent focus for politicians and others in Utah.² Academics and economists have long discussed the importance of financial and human capital. It was not until the 20th century that scholars began to consider social capital, and it was only after Robert Putnam's research that this form of capital gained recognition. Putnam's *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* kicked off the modern focus on social capital by highlighting how Americans, when they struggled socially, saw declines in their economic situations and health.³ Social capital is more than simple reciprocity. An example of simple reciprocity might be where two neighbors, Samantha and Mallory, agree to collect packages or put out garbage cans when the other's family is on vacation. An example of social capital is when these types of expectations of reciprocity spread to a community level. For example, Samantha helps Mallory find a job with the expectation that, as the summer swings around, Samantha's colleague Carlton can help her son find an internship placement, even though Mallory and Carlton do not know each other.⁴

This expectation of community reciprocity fosters trust, understanding, shared values, and a sense of identity. As it does, members of those communities can leverage their social connections and the expectations of community reciprocity

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- 2 See Gehrke, Robert, 2025, "Utah needs to boost its unique 'social capital' to build its future, Gov. Spencer Cox says as he begins second term," *The Salt Lake Tribune*, <https://www.sltrib.com/news/politics/2025/01/08/utah-gov-spencer-cox-new-ag-derek/>; Reichard, Peter, et. al, 2022, "The network of relationship; Utah's social capital index," *Utah Foundation*, <https://www.utahfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/rr803.pdf>.
- 3 Putnam, Robert D., 2000, "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community," New York: *Simon and Schuster*, <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/358916.361990>.
- 4 Ibid. p.20.



Back to School - Oktoberfest -26, Image courtesy of the University of Utah under license CC BY-NC-ND

to advance their situation or enable collective action to advance a community project.⁵

Social capital is also more than just shared norms of reciprocity. It must also be accessible to individuals or communities. A community with limited social interactions may not be rich in social capital, even if the community is made up of law-abiding individuals. Social capital requires numerous social ties to create opportunities and enhance community benefits.⁶

In the past few decades, researchers shared concerns about the decline of social capital in the United States. While this decline is worrisome, Utah has maintained a relatively high level of social capital.⁷

Researchers and policymakers discuss the importance of social capital with respect to various public policy and economic concerns. Learning more about social capital opens up opportunities for individuals and communities to improve the quality of life on multiple levels.

WHY SOCIAL CAPITAL IS IMPORTANT

Social capital is a key measure of whether Utahns are thriving. It enables individuals to benefit by accessing resources through their networks, and these cumulative individual benefits ultimately produce expansive societal benefits.

Improved Access to Resources. The most apparent benefit of social capital is that it improves access to government and community resources. Communities with substantial social capital can provide information-related resources to those who may otherwise lack access to them.⁸ For example, if a person is facing problems getting enough food or finding adequate housing, the more people who are aware of the predicament, the greater the chance that someone will know of resources or opportunities to help meet those needs.

As a specific example, Samantha loses her job and suddenly struggles to pay her mortgage. Mallory suggests that Samantha dial 2-1-1 for assistance. 2-1-1 offers Utahns a comprehensive directory of local resources and services, including assistance with housing, food, physical health, mental health, and other essential needs.⁹

Stronger Societal Cohesion. Along with creating economic opportunities and mobilization, social capital fosters social integration and cohesion, thereby im-

5 Jeannotte, M. Sharon, 2005 "Just showing up: Social and cultural capital in everyday life," in Andrew, Caroline, Monica Gattinger, M. Sharon Jeannotte, and Will Straw, eds., *Accounting for Culture (Canada: University of Ottawa Press, 2005)*, pp. 125. https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/192/oa_monograph/chapter/252465.

6 Putnam, Robert D., 2000, "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community," p.19 New York: *Simon and Schuster*, <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/358916.361990>.

7 Reichard, Peter, et al., 2022, "The network of relationship; Utah's social capital index," *Utah Foundation*, <https://www.utahfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/rr803.pdf>.

8 Sablik, Tim and Stephanie Norris, 2023, "The importance of social capital," *Speaking of the Economy*, https://www.richmondfed.org/podcasts/speaking_of_the_economy/2023/speaking_2023_09_20_social_capital.

9 United Ways of Utah, 2025, "About 211 Utah," <https://211utah.org/about/>.

proving the quality of life both within and outside the workplace.¹⁰ Social cohesion enhances cooperation and helps individuals to address collective action problems more effectively.¹¹

Social capital also creates a positive feedback loop. Those who experience social capital improve their well-being and, in turn, reinforce their social network and develop further opportunities.¹²

Social capital also provides essential support systems for individuals and communities. Social capital widens one's awareness of the interconnectedness of networks. These strong networks build a sense of community, camaraderie, and belonging.

Accelerated Economic Development. Building social capital and expanding social networks can provide policymakers and communities with the tools necessary to boost economic opportunity and mobility.

Utah is often recognized as a top state for small businesses.¹³ Strong networks are key in helping a small business get off the ground. In addition, a community with a strong sense of social cohesion and trust helps “grease the wheels” of society, thereby reducing business transaction costs and expanding opportunities for business partnerships.

Expanded Economic Mobility. Harvard economist Raj Chetty highlights the significance of economic connectedness and its connection to economic mobility. Chetty found that, although social networks are highly segregated, children who grew up in communities with greater economic connectedness were more likely to rise out of poverty. These findings underscore the action and importance of bridging capital.¹⁴

Similarly, though people may possess adequate talent, skills, and training for specific jobs, their chances of obtaining well-paying jobs are significantly reduced if they lack access to current information and available opportunities.¹⁵

10 Requea, Felix, 2003, “Social capital, satisfaction and quality of life in the workplace,” *Social Indicators Research*, vol. 61, pp. 331-360. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1021923520951>.

11 Putnam, Robert D., 2000, “Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community,” p.288 New York: *Simon and Schuster*, <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/358916.361990>.

12 Requea, Felix, 2003 “Social capital, satisfaction and quality of life in the workplace,” *Social Indicators Research*, vol. 61, pp. 331-360. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1021923520951>.

13 Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity “Accolades & Rankings,” <https://business.utah.gov/accolades/>
14 Chetty, Raj, et al., 2022, “Social Capital I: Measurement and Associations with Economic Mobility,” *Nature*, Vol. 608, pp. 108-121. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-022-04996-4>

15 Putnam, Robert D., 2000, “Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community,” p.289 New York: *Simon and Schuster*, <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/358916.361990>.



Credit: UVU Marketing & Communications

Improved Educational Outcomes. Support from parents, family, and community members can help students achieve better educational outcomes. Additionally, most educational institutions offer additional resources to help students navigate their academic experience.¹⁶ These interactions have proven to be successful in improving students' grades, high school completion rates, and college enrollment rates.¹⁷ Students also gain access to mentorships and networks that help them navigate academic challenges.

Enhanced Physical and Mental Health. A sense of belonging makes it easier for individuals to provide emotional or mental support to one another during life challenges. People with higher social capital fight illness more effectively and cope better with traumas as they have an emotional support system.¹⁸ Additionally, neighborhoods with high levels of social cohesion and trust can help ease the challenges that children in poverty face, specifically regarding their mental health.¹⁹

An increase in social connections helps individuals experience better psychological and physical well-being. Higher levels of trust, social participation, and civic engagement are associated with lower mortality rates.²⁰ Areas and communities that prioritize building trust also exhibit lower levels of psychological distress and demonstrate overall improvements in self-rated health.²¹

16 Mishra, Shweta, 2020, "Social networks, social capital, social support and academic success in higher education: A systematic review with a special focus on 'underrepresented' students," *Educational Research Review*, Vol. 29, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.edurev.2019.100307>.

17 Perna LW and Titus M., 2005, "The relationship between parental involvement as social capital and college enrollment: An examination of racial/ethnic group differences," *The Journal of Higher Education*, 2016;76(5):485-518, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00221546.2005.11772296>.

18 Putnam, Robert D., 2000, "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community," p.289 New York: *Simon and Schuster*, <https://doi.org/10.1145/358916.361990>.

19 van der Linden, Jikke, et al., 2003, "Children's mental health service use, neighbourhood socio economic deprivation, and social capital," *Social Psychiatry & Psychiatric Epidemiology*, Vol. 38, pp. 507-14, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00127-003-0665-9>.

20 Choi, M. et al., 2014 "Social capital, mortality, cardiovascular events and cancer: a systematic review of prospective studies," *International Journal of Epidemiology*, Vol. 43, No. 6, pp. 1895-1920, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyu212>.

21 Steptoe, Andrew and Pamela Feldman, 2001, "Neighborhood problems as sources of chronic stress: Development of a measure of neighborhood problems, and associations with socioeconomic status and health" *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, Vol. 23, No. 3, pp. 177-185, https://doi.org/10.1207/S15324796ABM2303_5.

Streamlined Community Action. Creating a sense of trust, social cohesion, and support also makes it easier for communities to take action together. Broader networks connect more people to the project. Higher levels of trust allow faster responses. Individuals with specialized skills in the community can be organized more quickly. This might look like a community banding together to clean up a polluted canal and establish a land trust to preserve the benefits for the community.²²

Strengthened Disaster Resilience. Strong networks can also help individuals and communities recover more quickly after individual and community disasters. For example, areas of Chicago with higher social capital saw fewer deaths during the 1995 heat wave.²³ Other research shows that social support improves rates of recovery with some types of cancer.²⁴

22 Stanchich, M., 2017, "People power in Puerto Rico: how a canal community escaped gentrification," *The Guardian*, <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2017/jan/18/people-power-puerto-rico-canal-community-escaped-gentrification>

23 Klinenberg, E., 2015, "Heat Wave; A social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago; Second Edition," *The University of Chicago Press*, <https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/H/bo20809880.html>.

24 Nausheen, B., et al, 2009, Social support and cancer progression: A systematic review," *Journal of psychosomatic Research*, Vol 67, Issue 5, Nov 2009, pp. 403-415, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0022399909000038?via%3Dihub>.



Clean Up Day by Flickr User, U.S. Department of State under license CC BY-NC 2.0

Reduced Reliance on Government. Another possible benefit of social capital is that it may reduce a community's reliance on government. If a community has networks to connect individuals to necessary government resources, then the government has less work to do in publicizing those resources. If individuals can leverage community resources when facing personal disasters and financial hardships, they may be less reliant on government resources.²⁵ If a community can come together after a natural disaster, there will be a reduced need for government emergency management funds.

That is not to say that there is no role for government in social capital. Local, state, and federal governments will always have a crucial role to play, particularly in creating environments that enable their residents to thrive. Higher levels of social capital merely mean that communities are essential partners with the government in creating an environment in which their residents can thrive. As communities step up, governments can, to some degree, step back.

Forms of Social Capital

Social capital develops at individual and community levels, as well as through both informal and formal settings.²⁶ For example, an informal individual network may be a student contacting a professional to learn more about a career opportunity. A formal community-level form of networking is exemplified by a Parent Teacher Association at the local elementary school.

Researchers broadly categorize social capital into three forms: bonding, bridging, and linking. These are not exclusive categories, but they do highlight different purposes of social capital.²⁷

Bonding Social Capital. Bonding social capital emerges from community connections, where members share common characteristics. These characteristics may be physical, such as similar demographics or shared resources. Other factors might include shared beliefs or values. This type of social capital creates communities with strong traits that foster group morale and promote solidarity.

Examples of bonding social capital include family members, close friends, and neighbors. These groups display strong networks. Other groups with strong ties to bonding social capital include religious groups and ethnic fraternal organizations. These groups may provide the social and emotional support specific to that community, helping individuals navigate the unique challenges they face.²⁸

25 Knack, Stephen. 2000. Social Capital and the Quality of Government : Evidence from the United States. Policy Research Working Paper; No. 2504. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/19750> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.

26 Putnam, Robert D., 2000, "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community," p.20 New York: *Simon and Schuster*, <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/358916.361990>.

27 Claridge, T., 2018, "Functions of social capital-bonding, bridging, linking," *Social Capital Research*, <https://www.socialcapitalresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Functions-of-Social-Capital.pdf>.

28 Putnam, Robert D., 2000, "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community," p.22 New York: *Simon and Schuster*, <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/358916.361990>.



Housing Lifestyle - 172, Image courtesy of the University of Utah under license CC BY-NC-ND

Putnam describes bonding social capital as a means of “getting by.” This idea suggests that these relationships provide everyday support, helping individuals navigate their existing circumstances without the need to expand their networks.

However, while bonding social capital strengthens the ties within groups of individuals who share common traits, it also faces limitations. Due to its close-knit nature, bonding social capital may promote uniformity rather than encourage diverse networks.²⁹ Also, bonding social capital limits opportunities for collaboration across groups.³⁰

Furthermore, tightly bound networks can prevent outsiders from joining and create an “us versus them” mentality. When networks become restricted, it may hinder broader social cohesion and promote rejection. Individuals can also utilize trusted networks and shared norms of reciprocity to exploit outsiders, restrict the sharing of resources with outsiders, or commit crimes.³¹ Gangs and organized crime are extreme examples of how bonding social capital can create adverse outcomes for society more broadly.

Bridging Social Capital. While family and friends are often categorized as bonding social capital, these relationships also cultivate bridging relationships when family and friends from different social divides come together. Relationships

29 Putnam, Robert D., 2000, “Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community,” p.22 New York: *Simon and Schuster*, <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/358916.361990>.

30 Ibid, p.23.

31 Claridge, Tristan, 2018, “Functions of social capital-bonding, bridging, linking,” *Social Capital Research*, p.3, <https://www.socialcapitalresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Functions-of-Social-Capital.pdf>.

formed across these divides produce valuable social capital by uniting people with common goals. While bonding social capital is often built through shared community traits, bridging social capital forms through common interests and goals despite different characteristics.³²

Examples of bridging social capital include community sports leagues or activities hosted at the local community center, where groups from different backgrounds come together for everyday activities. Benefits from bridging include increased access to information, resources, and societal influence.³³ Bridging social capital also fosters tolerance and understanding among individuals from diverse backgrounds and beliefs. Connecting people from different societal divisions may address the drawbacks of bonding social capital, such as prejudices. Putnam describes this form of social capital as “getting ahead.” This means networks formed beyond immediate circles can produce new sources of information, opportunities, and resources. Bridging social capital requires individuals and communities to overcome social, political, and professional divides in order to interact with people who are unlike themselves.³⁴

Note that bridging social capital is not always beneficial to society either. Bridging social capital may cause groups to share bad ideas (leading to the 2008 financial crisis), engage in more widespread schemes against consumers (like organizing a cartel), or get overly committed to one position over another (such as sports enthusiasts starting fights with the opponents’ fans).³⁵

32 Claridge, Tristan., 2018, “Functions of social capital-bonding, bridging, linking,” *Social Capital Research*, p.3, <https://www.socialcapitalresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Functions-of-Social-Capital.pdf>.

33 Ibid.

34 Putnam, Robert D., 2000, “Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community,” p.411 New York: *Simon and Schuster*, <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/358916.361990>.

35 Baycan, Tuzin and Ozge Oner, 2022, “The dark side of social capital: A contextual perspective,” *The Annals of Regional Science*, vol 70, pp 779-798, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00168-022-01112-2>.



USU Gymnastics by Utah State University

Linking Social Capital. Bonding and bridging social capital may lead to the formation of linking social capital. Linking social capital describes the interaction among people at different levels of power, prestige, influence, or authority. While bridging social capital crosses horizontal gaps, linking social capital crosses vertical gaps.³⁶ These relationships can emerge from deliberate efforts made by formal institutions of power or authority, such as elected officials reaching out to understand the needs of their constituencies.³⁷ Other linking relationships can emerge in less formal ways, such as a patron-client relationship or a mentor-mentee relationship.³⁸

Linking social capital sometimes includes an intermediary.³⁹ An example includes nonprofit organizations working with communities to implement government or community initiatives.⁴⁰ Linking social capital helps people from different social classes to access opportunities and resources that might not have been available without these relationships.

36 Claridge, Tristan, 2018, "What is linking social capital?," *Institute for Social Capital*, <https://www.socialcapitalresearch.com/what-is-linking-social-capital/>.

37 Claridge, Tristan, 2018, "Functions of social capital-bonding, bridging, linking," *Social Capital Research*, p.4, <https://www.socialcapitalresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Functions-of-Social-Capital.pdf>.

38 Schneider, Jo Anne, 2006, *"Social Capital and Welfare Reform: Organizations, Congregations, and Communities,"* Columbia University Press, <https://doi.org/10.7312/schn12650>.

39 Ibid.

40 Claridge, T., 2018, "Functions of social capital-bonding, bridging, linking," *Social Capital Research*, p.5, <https://www.socialcapitalresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Functions-of-Social-Capital.pdf>.



Community Round Table, Flickr User, Province of British Columbia under license CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Though linking social capital can create meaningful solutions, some limitations should be considered. When there is limited accountability, these relationships can create unfair systems, such as insider trading and political favoritism. In some extreme cases, this form of social capital may foster nepotism and corruption when connections benefit certain individuals or groups.⁴¹ These limitations undermine the purpose of linking social capital to facilitate collaboration across social classes and to provide equitable outcomes.

Despite these challenges, linking social capital creates economic opportunities and improves relationships between government officials and their constituents.⁴² Establishing trust in these relationships often requires time and effort. However, these interactions can create lasting linked social capital. For example, linking social capital can provide steps to help promote upward mobility for many communities.

Limitations to Social Capital Research

While social capital is linked to positive benefits for individuals and communities, studying this concept has limits. As mentioned before, there are varied definitions of social capital. Additionally, it is unclear which – or whether – indicators fully explain levels of social capital. Sometimes it is not clear whether indicators may be the result, rather than the cause, of the social capital itself. Moreover, data that best define the strength of networks is not readily available across broad geographies and over time. The lack of appropriate data and a well-established theoretical framework can reduce the consistency of findings, leaving much room for interpretation.⁴³

Furthermore, individual benefits may not accurately reflect community benefits. For example, when someone uses their network to secure a new job or a student uses their parents' social network to obtain educational opportunities, they benefit from social capital. However, it is unclear whether there is a direct benefit to the community in these cases. Another candidate would have filled the job, and a similarly qualified student would have taken advantage of the educational opportunity. In this way, social capital may be more of a club benefit (benefiting those with expansive networks) rather than a public benefit (which benefits the entire community).⁴⁴

41 Szreter, Simon and Michael Woolcock, 2004, "Health by association? Social capital, social theory, and the political economy of public health," *International Journal of Epidemiology*, Vol. 33, No. 4, pp. 650-667. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyh013>.

42 Claridge, T., 2018, "Functions of social capital-bonding, bridging, linking," *Social Capital Research*, p.5, <https://www.socialcapitalresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Functions-of-Social-Capital.pdf>.

43 Andriani, Luca and Asumina Christoforou, 2015, "Social capital: A roadmap of theoretical and empirical contributions and limitations," *Journal of Economic Issues*, Vol. 50, No. 1, pp. 4-22. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/42136045.pdf>.

44 Ibid. p. 12; Westlund, Hans, 2006. "Social capital in the knowledge economy: Theory and empirics," *Springer Science & Business Media*, <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-540-35366-9>.

Another limitation of social capital research is reverse causality, where indicators of social capital may be the result, rather than the cause, of the capital itself. As this report aims to measure overall levels of social capital, it is unclear whether indicators are causes or effects of social capital. This would be a concern for studies seeking to establish causal effects related to social capital.⁴⁵

The Utah Foundation has chosen to address these limitations primarily by casting as wide a net as possible, using more than 30 factors to measure the strength of social capital.

Measuring Social Capital

Social capital's flexible nature poses challenges to research. Perhaps the greatest challenge is that there are multiple ways to measure the relationship between social capital and community outcomes.⁴⁶

Researchers have been developing indices to measure social capital since the later part of the 20th century. For example, Robert Putnam uses 14 indicators in five categories: community organizational life, engagement in public affairs, community volunteerism, informal sociability, and social trust.⁴⁷

The World Bank Group used six dimensions to examine social capital: people's groups and networks, trust and solidarity, collective action and cooperation, information and communication, social cohesion and inclusion, and empowerment and political action.⁴⁸

More recently, Raj Chetty's work on social capital and economic mobilization focuses on connectedness, social cohesion, and civic engagement to understand economic connectedness.⁴⁹

Using research from these researchers, the Utah Foundation developed indices in seven categories to measure social capital in Utah over time and compared them to other states. The categories are:

45 Portes, Alejandro, and Vickstrom, Erik, 2011, "Diversity, Social Capital, and Cohesion," *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 37, pp.461-479. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-soc-081309-150022>

46 Andriani, Luca, and Christoforou, Asimina, 2015, "Social Capital: a Road Map of Theoretical and Empirical Contributions and Limitations," *Journal of Economic Issues* Vol. 50, No. 1, pp. 4-22. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/42136045.pdf>.

47 Claridge, Tristan, 2004. Social Capital and Natural Resource Management: An important role for social capital? Unpublished Thesis, *University of Queensland*, <https://www.socialcapitalresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Social-Capital-and-NRM.pdf>; Vălsan, Călin, Zizi Goschin, and Elena Druică, 2023. "The measurement of social capital in America: A reassessment," *Social Indicators Research*, 165(1), 135-161. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11205-022-03007-3>.

48 Grootaert, Grootaert, Deepa Narayan, Veronica Nyhan Jones and Michael Woolcock, 2004, "Measuring social capital: An integrated questionnaire." World Bank Working Paper; No. 18, *World Bank*, <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/15033>.

49 Chetty, Raj, et al., 2022 "Social capital I: Measurement and associations with economic mobility," *Nature*, Vol. 608, pp. 108-121. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-022-04996-4>.

- Civic engagement
- Social trust
- Community life
- Family life
- Social cohesion
- Future focus
- Social mobility

Focusing on indicators in these areas will help provide a comprehensive review of the state of social capital in Utah and nationwide.

Conclusion

Social capital remains vital to a thriving community. Understanding the dimensions, indicators, benefits, drawbacks, and limitations of social capital is essential for developing effective strategies to improve overall well-being and community prosperity.

This series of reports will help the public and policymakers understand where Utah stands in terms of social capital compared to its neighboring states and the rest of the nation. For further insights into the Utah Foundation's research on social capital, please read the whole series of reports from the Utah Foundation's Social Capital Index project.



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