

1990 Census Measures
Year 3

Fast Track Project Technical Report Update
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Citation

Report

Malone, P. S. (2000). 1990 Census Measures: Year 3 (Technical Report) [On-line]. Available: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org/>

Variable Definitions

Sampson, R. J., Raudenbush, S. W., & Earls, F. (1997). Neighborhoods and violent crime: A multilevel study of collective efficacy. Science, 277, 918-924.

Census Data

U.S. Census Bureau. (1992). Census of Population and Housing, 1990: Summary Tape File 3 on CD-ROM [Electronic data files]. Washington, DC: Author.

I. Scale Description

Target child home addresses from the Family Information Form (FIF, PxB) in each study year have been coded with respect to state, county, and tract/block numbering area codes from the U.S. Census, and can thereby be linked to summary information from the Census on households and individuals in the respective areas (see Addendum to this report for details). Ten selected variables have been derived at the level of Census tract¹ from the 1990 Census summary files for each student in each study year. These variables were drawn from Sampson, Raudenbush, and Earls (1997), and are intended to reflect concentrated disadvantage, immigrant concentration, and residential stability. Variable values are proportions of individuals (or households, as applicable) in a census tract that meet defined criteria (e.g., individuals below poverty line, individuals born outside the U.S., households occupied by the owner).

II. Report Sample

This report is based on 1990 Census data for Year 3 addresses for all cohorts, including both high-risk ($n = 891$) and normative samples ($n = 387$ including overlap, total $N = 1199$). Address matches to the Census data were unsuccessful for 94 students (8% of sample), including 32 normative students (8%) and 68 high-risk students (8%). The non-matches included 10 students (3%) from the Durham site, 25 students (8%) from Nashville, 31 students (10%) from Pennsylvania, and 28 (10%) students from Seattle. The 1,105 matched addresses were located in 232 tracts in 16 states (see Table 1). The unit of analysis in this dataset is the census tract; analyses are based on the tract-level sample, except where otherwise noted. Also, because the variables are measured at the level of tract, and because the data are from a fixed point in time (1990), analyses are based on the entire sample (treatment, high-risk control, and normative students), except where otherwise noted.

Among students with coded addresses in Year 2 ($n = 1144$), 244 (21%) had addresses in different tracts

¹ Typically, Census tracts have only been identified for relatively urban counties. A block numbering area [BNA] is analogous to a census tract in rural counties. This report uses the term "tract" for either.

in Year 3, and 57 (5%) had no valid coded address in Year 3 (total = 301; 26%). Among students with coded addresses in Year 1 ($n = 1188$), 484 (41%) had addresses in different tracts or no valid coded address in Year 3. These are estimates of the number of participants who moved between FIF collections: participants who moved within Census tract are not included, and it is possible that the lack of a Year 3 address is due to other reasons than a move. Also, the possibility of an individual student moving more than once between years is not reflected.

Table 1. Matches to Tracts

	All Sites	DURH	NASH	PENN	WASH
Number of Addresses	1105	295	270	278	262
Number of Tracts	232	46	68	37	81
Number of States	16	7	4	2	5
Addresses/Tract					
Mean	4.76	6.41	3.97	7.51	3.23
SD	6.71	7.68	7.08	8.52	3.76
Min	1	1	1	1	1
Mdn	2	4	1	3	1
Max	40	34	40	33	15
Proportion Moved					
Vs. Year 2	.263	.295	.301	.198	.258
Vs. Year 1	.407	.451	.456	.300	.425

IV. Differences Between Groups

Differences in neighborhood between normative and high-risk control groups were tested by a mixed logistic regression model in SAS PROC NL MIXED, in which tract was modeled as a predictor of group membership at the level of the individual child. Census tract was not associated with significant variance in predicting high-risk status, $p > .09$.

Among non-treatment participants, the likelihood of moving (as defined above) between Year 2 and Year 3 or between Year 1 and Year 3 was not related to high-risk status, χ^2 's < 1.