

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS AND DATA

ARCHITECTURE OF SEGREGATION

Civil Unrest, the Concentration of Poverty, and Public Policy

Paul A. Jargowsky | August 9, 2015

In most studies of segregation and concentration of poverty, census tracts serve as proxies for neighborhoods. These are small, relatively homogenous geographic areas created by the U.S. Census Bureau. The boundaries of these areas follow natural and manmade boundaries such as rivers, railroad tracks, and major streets and they are adjusted from time to time as the population grows or shrinks. Nationally, there are about 72,000 census tracts included, with a mean population of 4,200 and a standard deviation of 2,000. Census tracts are designated as high-poverty neighborhoods if 40 percent or more of the residents are poor according to the federal poverty threshold. Currently, a family of four is considered poor if its family income is less than about \$24,000. The concentration of poverty is defined as the percentage of an area's poor population that lives in high-poverty neighborhoods (that is, census tracts). The area could be a county, metropolitan area, state, or the nation as a whole.

The census tract-level data in this report are drawn from the U.S. Censuses for 1990 and 2000 (Summary File 3) and from the American Community Survey (ACS) for more recent figures. The Census figures represent a single point in time (April 15 of the Census year) and respondents were asked about their income in the previous calendar year. In contrast, the ACS samples households every month and asks the respondents about their income in the previous twelve months; to protect confidentiality, for census-tract level data these monthly surveys are aggregated over five calendar years and released annually. While these differences in survey methodology mean that the two sources are not strictly comparable, there is no alternative source of data for a national study of neighborhood-level poverty. Unless otherwise noted, all figures in this report were calculated by the author from these sources.

This report includes ACS data representing two different periods, which are referred to in this report

The corresponding Issue Brief can be found online at: <http://apps.tcf.org/architecture-of-segregation>

as “pre-recession” and “post-recession.” The pre-recession figures are drawn from the ACS release based on 60 monthly surveys conducted from January 2005 through December 2009. Thus, 2005–09 data release was based primarily on income earned before the financial crisis. The “post-recession” figures are from the 2009–13 ACS file, which primarily reflects income from the post-crisis period. There is a slight overlap in the period covered by the two surveys. However, the income-earning period that is most heavily weighted by the two surveys does not overlap. See Appendix B for a more complete discussion. The 2009–13 file is the first release of ACS census-level data that reflects the full extent of the financial crisis and the Great Recession that followed.

A consistent set of geographic boundaries was used for all years in this analysis. Metropolitan areas are defined as a core county and contiguous counties that are closely related in terms of commuting patterns and other criteria. A metropolitan area has a core urban area with a population of at least 50,000 residents. It also includes all counties containing the core urban area and any adjacent counties with a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core. Some very large metropolitan areas are split into “metropolitan divisions”, such as Dallas and Ft. Worth. I consider the metropolitan divisions as separate areas

in this analysis. Based on the criteria employed by the Census Bureau in 2010 and counting the metropolitan divisions as separate metropolitan areas, there are 384 metropolitan areas comprising 84 percent of the US population.

“Micropolitan areas” have an urban core of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 persons. These are cities like Lebanon NH, Gallup NM, and Eureka CA. As is the case with metropolitan areas, a micropolitan area includes the central counties and adjoining counties that are closely linked to it. The largest micropolitan area is Seaford DE, with a population of 194,000, and the smallest is Tallulah LA, with a population of 12,000. There are 576 micropolitan areas that include about 10 percent of the US population.

The remaining 6 percent of the US population live in small towns and rural areas not included in any metropolitan or micropolitan area. They are included in national totals but not discussed separately.

Paul A. Jargowsky is a fellow at The Century Foundation where he writes about inequality, the geographic concentration of poverty, and residential segregation by race and class.

APPENDIX B: INCOME DATA IN THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

ARCHITECTURE OF SEGREGATION

Civil Unrest, the Concentration of Poverty, and Public Policy

Paul A. Jargowsky | August 9, 2015

The American Community Survey tract-level data are released in files that aggregate monthly surveys spanning 5 years. Each month, surveyed individuals are asked to report their income in the previous 12 months. For the 2005-2009 file, only respondents in January of 2005 are asked about income earned in January of 2004. Respondents in both January and February of 2005 are asked about income received in February of 2004, and so on.

Likewise, respondents in December of 2009 are the only ones asked to report income earned in November 2009. However, respondents from 12 different monthly samples are asked to report income earned from December of 2004 through December of 2008. These months are the primary support for the estimate of income, hence poverty, in the 2005-2009 ACS file (see Figure 9 on the next page).

Similarly, the primary support for the income and poverty estimates in the 2009-2013 ACS file is December of 2008 through December of 2012. While there is some overlap between the 2005-2009 and 2009-2013 ACS data releases, only one month—December of 2008—is fully weighted in both samples. Given that the financial crisis and stock market collapse began in October of 2008 and continued until March of 2009, December of 2008 was a transitional month.

Paul A. Jargowsky is a fellow at The Century Foundation where he writes about inequality, the geographic concentration of poverty, and residential segregation by race and class.

FIGURE 9
TIME FRAME OF SUPPORT FOR ACS INCOME ESTIMATES

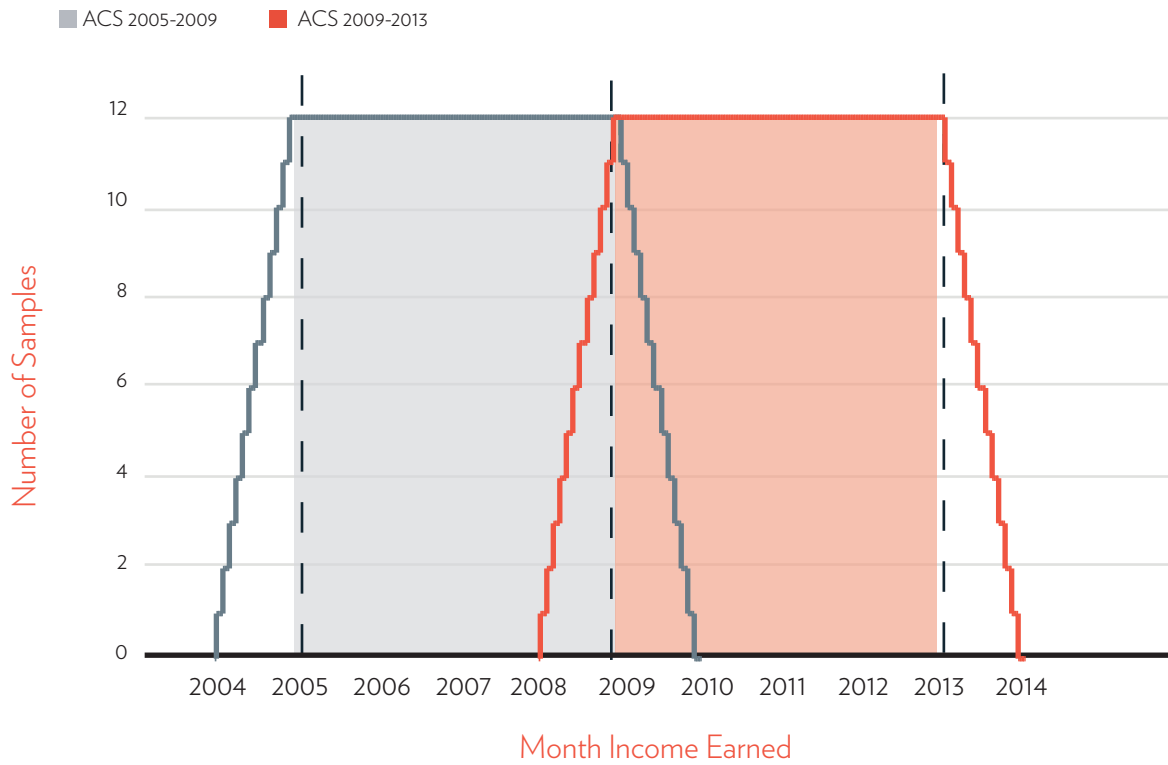


TABLE 6
CONCENTRATION OF POVERTY, 25 LARGEST METROPOLITAN AREAS

RANK	METROPOLITAN AREA/ METROPOLITAN DIVISION	POPULATION		CONCENTRATION OF POVERTY											
				Non-Hisp. White				Black				Hispanic			
		2000	2009-13	Chg	2000	2009-13	Chg	2000	2009-13	Chg	2000	2009-13	Chg		
1	New York-White Plains-Wayne, NY-NJ	11,511,842	18.3	+8.0	31.4	26.3	-5.1	29.0	23.2	-5.8					
2	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA	9,738,370	5.1	+0.2	21.3	18.8	-2.5	16.9	16.6	-0.3					
3	Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL	7,795,415	2.8	+1.1	26.9	35.0	+8.1	5.0	8.6	+3.6					
4	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX	6,009,932	0.8	+3.4	16.7	18.3	+1.6	2.8	16.9	+14.1					
5	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	5,270,229	1.2	+1.6	19.8	16.7	-3.1	2.5	7.7	+5.2					
6	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	4,389,065	2.6	+0.9	16.6	15.5	-1.1	0.5	0.5	--					
7	Dallas-Plano-Irving, TX	4,285,700	1.0	+5.3	14.0	20.7	+6.7	3.6	11.4	+7.8					
8	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	4,203,950	3.4	+2.7	12.3	14.7	+2.4	8.9	15.8	+6.9					
9	Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale, AZ	4,192,754	4.1	+5.3	15.4	27.9	+12.5	12.2	34.2	+22.0					
10	Philadelphia, PA	3,925,213	6.2	+4.9	23.8	34.2	+10.4	53.7	54.0	+0.3					
11	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	3,266,581	4.5	+3.2	13.0	22.6	+9.6	5.9	14.8	+8.9					
12	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	3,057,308	2.8	+1.7	13.0	14.8	+1.8	12.5	10.8	-1.7					
13	Santa Ana-Anaheim-Irvine, CA	3,014,416	0.6	+1.5	0.0	0.2	+0.2	0.1	4.3	+4.2					
14	Nassau-Suffolk, NY	2,791,283	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	--	0.0	0.0	--					
15	St. Louis, MO-IL	2,783,415	1.8	-0.2	23.8	29.5	+5.7	5.0	6.4	+1.4					
16	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	2,775,342	0.9	+2.5	17.8	24.0	+6.2	4.7	10.2	+5.5					
17	Baltimore-Towson, MD	2,665,888	2.5	-0.8	21.5	15.8	-5.7	3.5	3.5	--					
18	Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA	2,660,299	1.8	+1.3	3.5	3.9	+0.4	1.3	0.9	-0.4					
19	Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, CO	2,568,818	0.5	+1.3	2.1	9.6	+7.5	2.4	7.0	+4.6					
20	Oakland-Fremont-Hayward, CA	2,563,490	5.3	-1.2	9.1	5.5	-3.6	2.6	1.6	-1.0					
21	Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall, FL	2,502,559	2.8	+5.2	30.6	29.6	-1.0	7.0	11.6	+4.6					
22	Warren-Troy-Farmington Hills, MI	2,468,809	0.3	+2.4	6.6	15.1	+8.5	1.8	15.9	+14.1					
23	Edison-New Brunswick, NJ	2,309,848	9.3	+0.1	5.2	8.5	+3.3	4.0	7.7	+3.7					
24	Pittsburgh, PA	2,300,034	3.4	+2.1	24.6	21.3	-3.3	9.2	11.3	+2.1					
25	Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	2,226,981	2.0	+0.7	1.9	2.7	+0.8	0.6	9.4	+8.8					

Source: 2000 Census, 2009-2013 ACS. Changes greater than 10 percentage points highlighted.