Capturing Residential Mobility and Choice in a Longitudinal Survey

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• Project design committee includes:
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Outline

• Overview and Motivation
• Strategies
  o Cohort of neighborhoods
  o Cohort of individuals
• L.A.FANS Design
• Event History Calendars
• Discussion
Overview and Motivation

• Los Angeles Family and Neighborhood Survey (L.A.FANS):

A longitudinal study of the relationship between neighborhood social and physical environments and adult and child welfare including:

• Children’s behavioral and cognitive development
• Adult mental and physical health
• Employment, economic welfare, participation in gov’t. transfer programs
Overview and Motivation

Central theoretical and analytic problems:

1. Endogeneity of neighborhood choice -- choices about residential neighborhoods are likely to be affected by same (often unobserved) characteristics as outcomes

2. Individuals and households (intentionally or not) influence environments around them
Overview and Motivation

Our approach to these problems:

• Study neighborhood choice and change at the same time and place as the effects of neighborhood environments on welfare outcomes
Strategies

Design of L.A.FANS combines:

1. **A cohort of neighborhoods** – we observe the flow of residents (and their characteristics) into and out of neighborhoods over time
Strategies

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1. **A cohort of neighborhoods** – we observe the flow of residents (and their characteristics) into and out of neighborhoods over time.
Strategies

2. **Cohorts of individuals who live or lived in these neighborhoods** – we observe where they came from, whether or not they stay, and where they move after leaving

   • Detailed retrospective history of places of residence prior to (and at the time of) each interview

- **Sample of Neighborhoods:**
  - Probability sample of 65 neighborhoods (1990 census tracts) in L.A. County
  - Oversample poor neighborhoods (based on 1997 % in poverty distribution)

- **Sample of households and individuals:**
  - 40-50 HH per neighborhood, 70% with children
  - Adult (age 18+)
  - Child (under age 18) – up to 2 siblings per HH

- **Respondents:**
  - Sampled individuals, HH head
  - Child’s primary care giver and sibling

- **Languages:** English and Spanish

- **Data Collection:**
  - In person interviews
  - Response rates: ~85-89%

Observing Neighborhood Change

1. Trace and re-interview Wave 1 sampled adults and children (regardless of location or whether or not they live together)
   - For those in LA County: in-person interviews
   - For those outside of LA County: telephone interviews only

2. Sample and interview “new entrants” in each of the 65 neighborhoods – in person interviews
### L.A.FANS Design – Wave 2  Panel Sample Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Selected as W1 RSA</th>
<th>Selected as W1 Child</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,085</td>
<td>3,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Released</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not released</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Released</td>
<td>2,766</td>
<td>3,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,085</td>
<td>3,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Los Angeles</td>
<td>1,874</td>
<td>2,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of Los Angeles</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A (ineligible)[b]</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2,766</td>
<td>3,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Response rates</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W2 status ascertained</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Selected and Eligible</td>
<td>Interviewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Entrant Adults</strong></td>
<td>265</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Entrant Child</strong></td>
<td>377</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Event History Calendars

Observing Individual Residence Histories

• Event History Calendar (EHC) collects retrospective residential information in thirds of a month for:
  1. L.A.FANS-1 respondents: previous 2 years
  2. L.A.FANS-2 panel respondents: since the last interview
  3. L.A.FANS-2 new entrant respondents: past 6-7 years

• Thus, for panel respondents 9-10 year histories
• Seam problem
Event History Calendar

• L.A.FANS Event History Calendar (EHC) derived from the EHC developed for the PSID by Belli, Shay, and Stafford.

• Calendars based on the theory that recall is aided by context – i.e., simultaneous recall in multiple domains improves accuracy of reports in each domain

• EHC is an interactive software program used by interviewers to place changes in status (spells of a given status) in time, but thirds of a month
Event History Calendar

L.A. FANS EHC covers six domains:
1. Landmark Events
2. Residence
3. Employment (jobs)
4. Unemployment and Absences from Work
5. Receipt of Public Assistance (TANF, SSI, General Relief (GR), Food Stamps/SNAP)
6. Health Insurance
Event History Calendar

- Pop-up Question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POP-UP QUESTIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL HISTORY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Now I want to ask you about all the places you lived or stayed since [date two years before interview]. This includes any place you lived or stayed for one month or more. When did you move to your current address?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREVIOUS RESIDENCE: Where did you live before that?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time line: When did you move into that place? When did you move out of that place?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADDRESS: What was the address at that place? [Street number, street name, city, state, zip code, and country]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Location Geocoding
Discussion

• Unusual data on neighborhood change and flows
• Excellent residential histories linked to employment, program participation, and other domains

• Relocation of respondents
• Event history calendar (especially for seven years) is a significant respondent burden (and cost to the survey)
Discussion

- L.A. FANS data are public use (although geographic and other restricted data require application and procedures to protect confidentiality)

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- “L.A. FANS-2.5” in 2011 to focus on mixed-income housing and the effects of the recession