

Introduction and Background

A large proportion of the foreign born are recent arrivals. Among the 31.1 million foreign born in the United States in 2000, 8.5 million entered during the 1980s and 13.2 million entered during the 1990s (U.S. Census Bureau 2001). The influx of immigrants, particularly to metropolitan areas, changes the demographics of America's neighborhoods. Immigration has fueled a rise in the minority population, as less than a quarter of the foreign-born population in 2000 identified as non-Hispanic White alone, the majority group in the United States (U.S. Census Bureau 2001). Although still heavily concentrated in a few traditional gateway states, immigrants are settling into a larger number of metropolitan areas (Singer 2004).

The changing demographic composition has implications both for individuals and the communities in which they live. Neighborhoods serve as an indicator of social status, in addition to being associated with school quality and exposure to crime, delinquency, and social cohesion (Logan and Molotch 1987; Morenoff, Sampson, and Raudenbush 2001; Sampson 1997). Locational attainment studies have examined the relationship between individual factors and neighborhood residence. In general, research finds racial and ethnic differences in the types of neighborhoods in which group members reside. While differences in socioeconomic status account for some of the disparity, gaps in neighborhood advantage persist, albeit to a varying extent among groups (Adelman et al. 2001; Alba, Logan, and Stults 2000; Friedman and Rosenbaum 2007; White and Sessler 2000; Timberlake and Iceland 2007). For example, while Blacks tend to live in areas with higher rates of poverty than Whites even when accounting for their lower overall socioeconomic status (Adelman et al. 2001), additional work has shown that some

immigrant groups, particularly Black immigrants, live in more advantaged neighborhoods than their native-born counterparts (Friedman and Rosenbaum 2007).

Research on the relationship between individual characteristics and neighborhood residence has been limited because of a dearth of publicly available data containing both individual-level information and neighborhood identifiers. Most studies are limited to a few metropolitan areas, making indirect inferences, or using data from 1990 or earlier. This poster is part of a broader project using internal 1990 and 2000 Census data to provide information on the locational attainment and residential segregation of race, ethnic, and immigrant groups in the United States. The poster will focus on the relationship between individual race/ethnicity, nativity, and human capital characteristics with levels of neighborhood economic advantage within metropolitan neighborhoods using data from Census 2000. The poster will address the following research questions:

1. How does the probability of living in an advantaged neighborhood differ among Whites, Blacks, Asians, and Hispanics?
2. Are immigrants and racial minorities with higher socioeconomic status residing in more advantaged neighborhoods than individuals with lower levels of education and income?
 - a. How strong are the residential returns to human capital and how do they vary by race/ethnicity and immigrant status?
 - b. Does the impact of nativity on locational attainment vary by race? For instance, are Black immigrants and U.S.-born Blacks living in the same or equally comparable neighborhoods, or does the higher level of

SES among Black immigrants place them in more advantaged neighborhoods than their native-born counterparts?

Data and Methods

The poster will present descriptive information on individual and neighborhood characteristics by race, Hispanic origin, and nativity, and show results from individual-level locational attainment models. Ordinary least square (OLS) models will be used to regress indicators of neighborhood advantage on individual characteristics. Models will be run for the following groups: non-Hispanic White alone, non-Hispanic Black alone, non-Hispanic Asian alone, and Hispanic (of any race). Four locational attainment neighborhood characteristics will be used as dependent variables. They include median household income, proportion of population in poverty, proportion employed, and proportion with a college degree. Stepwise regression will be used to show the impact of nativity, socioeconomic status, and individual-level control variables.

The main independent variables of interest are race and Hispanic origin, nativity, and socioeconomic status. As noted, race and Hispanic origin groups include non-Hispanic White alone, non-Hispanic Black alone, non-Hispanic Asian alone, and Hispanic (of any race). Nativity will be represented by a dummy variable with a value of one indicating that the person is an immigrant. For the purpose of this analysis immigrants are classified as persons who are born in Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories, are naturalized, or are not a U.S. citizen regardless of legal status. Although citizens at birth, persons born in Puerto Rico or other outlying U.S. territories have experiences that more closely approximate those of immigrants than those of U.S. citizens born within the 50 United States or the District of Columbia.

The third group of independent variables are indicators of socioeconomic status and acculturation. They include variables for education, the ratio of income to the poverty threshold, homeownership, and English language proficiency.

Control variables include gender, age, marital status, parental status, and residence five years ago.

Summary

In conclusion, the poster will present information on the relationship of individual demographic and socioeconomic characteristics with neighborhood residence. The poster will update and supplement the current locational attainment literature.

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