

## NEIGHBORHOODS

### PF 3.1 RESIDENTIAL STABILITY: PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 WHO HAVE MOVED WITHIN THE LAST YEAR

Recent research has demonstrated a strong relationship between residential stability and child well-being, with frequent moves being associated with a number of negative outcomes including dropping out of high school, delinquency, depression, and non-marital teen births. Some researchers theorize that these negative associations may result from a lack of rootedness in the local community and its institutions on the part of frequent movers.<sup>4</sup>

The United States has long been a highly mobile society. In 1960, one in five children under the age of 18 had moved to a new residence during the previous year. As Table PF 3.1.a shows, the general trend since that time has been towards somewhat lower rates of mobility, to a low of 17 percent in 1994.

Table PF 3.1.b shows mobility rates separately for whites, blacks, and Hispanics, and across age groups as well for the period 1990-1994. Young children were the most mobile of any age group. In 1994, 22 percent of children under the age of 5 had changed residences in the previous year, compared to 17 percent among children ages 5-9, 13 percent for ages 10-14 and 15 percent for youth ages 15-17. These age-specific patterns hold equally for white, black and Hispanic children, although whites were the least mobile of the three regardless of age group. For all children under age 18 in 1994, 16 percent of white children moved during the previous year compared to 20 percent of black children and 21 percent of Hispanic children.

<sup>4</sup>Coleman, J. 1988. "Social Capital and the Creation of Human Capital." *American Journal of Sociology*. 94: s95-s120.

POPULATION, FAMILY AND NEIGHBORHOOD

Table PF 3.1.A PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 WHO HAVE MOVED WITHIN THE LAST YEAR: 1960 - 1994

	1960	1970	1981	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Total <sup>a</sup>	21	19	18	18	17	18	17	17

Note: <sup>a</sup>Total children refers to all children between the ages of 1 and 17.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Reports, Series P-20, Geographical Mobility, various years. Tabulations for 1994 by Child Trends Inc., from March 1994 Current Population Survey.

Table PF 3.1.B PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 WHO HAVE MOVED WITHIN THE LAST YEAR, BY AGE AND RACE/ETHNICITY: 1990 - 1994

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
All Children					
Total <sup>a</sup>	18	17	18	17	17
1-4 years	24	23	22	23	22
5-9 years	19	18	18	17	17
10-14 years	15	14	15	14	13
15-17 years	15	15	14	14	15
White					
Total <sup>a</sup>	18	17	17	16	16
1-4 years	23	22	21	22	21
5-9 years	18	17	17	16	16
10-14 years	14	13	15	13	12
15-17 years	14	14	14	14	13
Black					
Total <sup>a</sup>	21	21	21	20	20
1-4 years	26	26	27	26	25
5-9 years	22	22	22	20	22
10-14 years	19	17	18	17	16
15-17 years	18	16	16	14	18
Hispanic					
Total <sup>a</sup>	25	21	24	23	21
1-4 years	32	27	27	28	26
5-9 years	28	20	25	24	20
10-14 years	18	19	21	19	15
15-17 years	21	19	19	20	21

Note: <sup>a</sup>Total children refers to all children between the ages of 1 and 17.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Reports, Series P-20, Geographical Mobility, various years. Tabulations for 1994 by Child Trends Inc., from March 1994 Current Population Survey.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

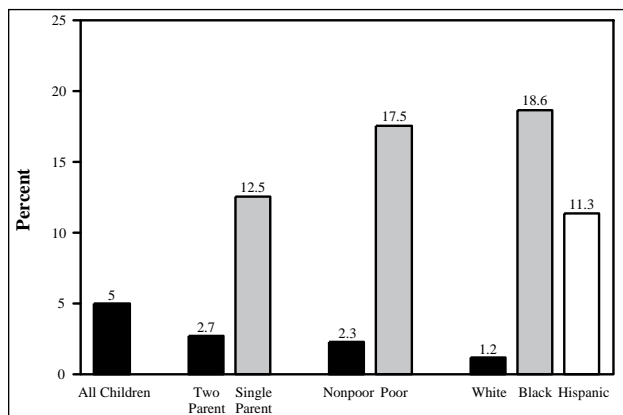
### PF 3.2 CHILDREN IN POOR AND VERY POOR NEIGHBORHOODS

Recent research has demonstrated a significant relationship between neighborhood quality and the well-being of the children and youth who live in them. Even after controlling for relevant personal and family background characteristics in multi-variate analyses, residence in low income neighborhoods has been shown to negatively affect early childhood development, and to be positively associated with higher rates of high school drop out and teen parenthood.<sup>5</sup>

Figure PF 3.2 presents data for 1990 on the proportion of children living in very poor neighborhoods, defined as census tracts in which 40 percent or more of the residents live in poor families. Estimates are presented for all children and separately for subgroups defined by family structure, poverty status, and race/ethnicity. Overall, one in 20 American children lived in very poor neighborhoods in 1990. Rates were higher for children in single parent households than for those in two parent households (12.5 percent versus 2.7 percent). More than one in six poor children (17.5 percent) lived in such neighborhoods compared to 2.3 percent of nonpoor children. Finally, the largest contrasts in exposure to very poor neighborhoods presented in Figure PF 3.2 are across race/ethnicity groups. Black children were the most likely to live in such neighborhoods at 18.6 percent compared to 11.3 percent for Hispanic children and 1.2 percent for non-Hispanic white children.

<sup>5</sup>Brooks-Gunn, J., Duncan, G., Klebanov, P., and Sealand, N. 1994. "Do Neighborhoods Influence Child Adolescent Behavior?" *American Journal of Sociology*, 99(2), 353-395. See also Crane, J., 1991. "The Epidemic Theory of Ghettos and Neighborhood Effects on Dropping Out of High School and Teenage Childbearing." *American Journal of Sociology*, 96(5), 1126-1159.

Figure PF 3.2 PERCENT OF CHILDREN WHO LIVE IN VERY POOR (40+ % Poverty) NEIGHBORHOODS: 1990



Note: Neighborhoods are defined as census tracts and block-numbering areas. Both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas are included. The poverty rate is the percent of all persons in the neighborhood living in families below the poverty line in 1990.

Source: Tabulations by Paul A. Jargowski from 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3A (CD-ROM version).

Table PF 3.2 PERCENT OF CHILDREN WHO LIVE IN POOR NEIGHBORHOODS: 1990

	Neighborhood Poverty Level	
	20+% Poor	40+% Poor
Total	22.9	5.0
Age of Child		
0-4	23.5	5.3
5-17	22.7	4.9
Family Structure		
Two parent	17.3	2.7
Single parent	41.2	12.5
Race/Ethnicity		
White non-Hispanic and Other	12.2	1.2
Black	56.4	18.6
Hispanic	46.6	11.3
Family Poverty		
In poverty	54.6	17.5
Not in poverty	16.0	2.3

Note: Neighborhoods are defined as census tracts and block-numbering areas. Both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas are included. The poverty rate is the percent of all persons in the neighborhood living in families below the poverty line in 1990.

Source: Tabulations by Paul A. Jargowski from 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3A (CD-ROM version)