Title of Dataset: Proposed Locations for FEMA Trailers in Post-Katrina New Orleans, 2005-2006.

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Abstract:

The purpose of this study, *Proposed Locations for FEMA Trailers in Post-Katrina New Orleans, 2005-2006*, is to understand the factors affecting decision makers who sought to place travel trailers in the New Orleans, LA area post-Hurricane Katrina.

This data set captures the number of temporary trailers and temporary trailer sites per zip code that were proposed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in conjunction with the New Orleans city government. Based on the *TAC-RC-IA Priority Sites Report (Master Copy)* dated 29 June 2006, this data set also provides demographic, socioeconomic, geographic, political, and civil society measures for 114 zip codes in and around metropolitan New Orleans, Louisiana where those trailers could have been placed.

Demographic information includes population, voting age population, elderly population, and population density per zip code. Geographic measures include the area of the zip code in square miles along with three different measures for water damage and flooding per zip code. Socioeconomic indicators include median house prices, income, percentage of individuals attending college, percentage non-white, percentage of families below the poverty line, and percentage unemployed per zip code. Following Hamilton (1993), we measure civil society mobilization potential through voter turn out.

Note that this data set does not capture the areas that, in the end, received trailers. Rather, it can be used to test the siting heuristics used by decision makers in the post-Katrina environment when many local communities in the area publicly expressed their opposition to have trailers and trailer parks put in their back yards. The list of proposed sites can be analyzed to understand which areas city and government planners believed would be most amenable to these controversial facilities in the post-Katrina environment.

Keywords: NIMBY, trailer parks, New Orleans, Hurricane Katrina, housing

Overview:

This dataset contains political, demographic, socioeconomic, geographic, and civil society information through 20 variables on 114 zip code observations. The unit of analysis for the dataset is the zip code bloc as defined by the US government. While the trailer siting information covers the period 2005-2006 immediately following Hurricane Katrina, the demographic, political, socioeconomic, and civil society information draws on earlier measures between 2000 and 2004, as shown in our sources.

The dataset contains those zip codes in and around New Orleans where FEMA and city government planners could have placed temporary travel trailers and other forms of housing following Hurricane Katrina.

Sampling methods:

Data on the 114 zip codes were obtained through the US census, the Louisiana Secretary of State, publicly available GIS maps, the C&C Technologies LIDAR plot, and the *TAC-RC-IA Priority Sites Report (Master Copy)* as detailed in the data sources section below.

Technical Information about the Files:

The dataset has 114 observations across 20 variables. The codebook accompanying this documentation has full descriptions of each of the variables, including information on the formulas used to calculate its value (if any), the number of recorded and missing observations, and minimum and maximum values.

Funding sources:

Funding for this dataset was provided in part by the Program on US-Japan Relations at Harvard University.

Sources for this Overview

Hamilton, James. (1993). Politics and Social Costs: Estimating the Impact of Collective Action on Hazardous Waste Facilities. *RAND Journal of Economics*, Vol. 24 Issue 1 pp 101-125.

Data sources

Trailer Sites:

TAC-RC-IA Priority Sites Report (Master Copy). Dated 29 June 2006. Provided by New Orleans Housing Department and the Governor's Hurricane Housing Task Force officials.

Demographic Data:

United States Census Website (www.census.gov)

Political Data:

Louisiana Secretary of State Website (http://www.sec.state.la.us/).

Geographic Data:

ESRI Data and Maps, Louisiana. Tiger 95 Louisiana Voting District Polygons.

Flood Levels:

C&C Technologies LIDAR points (direct communication with Scott Croft). Harvard University Center for Geographic Analysis (CGS) 10-hour analysis of C&C LIDAR point blocs. Lorena Iniguez (Los Angeles Times) (undated) Times Picayune map. ITS FEMA Map dated 9/8/05.

Studies, Articles, Working Papers, and other Publications Using this Dataset:

"Strong Civil Society as a Double-Edged Sword: Siting Trailers in Post-Katrina New Orleans," Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Working Paper No. 06-11, December 2006.