Guest Editor's Introduction

Novel Uses of Administrative Data for Policymaking

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From property tax filings and building permits to home sales and rental listings, masses of data are collected by governments and commercial organizations every day that could inform local housing solutions. By analyzing administrative data and using them to develop place-based indicators—which measure impact within a city, rural community, neighborhood, or even ZIP Code area—communities can fill knowledge gaps and surface new findings to guide housing policy and program design.

This *Cityscape* symposium highlights innovative approaches to using administrative data in local housing policy and program design. These articles trace the causes and consequences of actions by individuals—including property owners and residents—on disinvestment in certain communities, the disappearance of housing units of a certain size, and other changes in housing stock availability. Changes in federal assistance, such as the use of vouchers and tax credits, are also captured in this issue. Case studies reveal how local communities reuse administrative data to guide housing policy decisions. Across the board, these articles shed new light on how housing, health, education, safety, and natural disasters are interrelated.

The articles in this issue are grouped into the themes defined in the following headings.

Linkages with Policy Impact

These articles link various administrative datasets to generate new findings with policy impacts. Coulton et al. link various Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and Cleveland, its county seat, data sources to profile the rental market relative to the risk of lead exposure and to assess landlord capability of meeting lead safety standards. Demonstrating the utility of Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administrative data, Shcheglovitova and Lee link Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) data to HUD rental assistance and Kansas City, Missouri, parcel

data to assess flood risk. Garrison et al. link the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) with HUD data on assisted renters to examine housing as a social determinant of health. Curtis, Paulsen, and Shager describe how linkages across multiple Wisconsin state-level data increase the availability of quality data in the state. Ghorbani et al. create a Neighborhood Resource Index based on publicly available data to examine the needs for and placement of affordable housing units in New York State. These articles show how administrative data can reveal housing insights to better serve communities.

Ownership and Displacement

This section explores the impacts that displacement and disinvestment have on housing markets. Duda, Smith, and Jiao use Chicago parcel-level data to examine the loss of two- to four-unit buildings across the city, and Greenberg et al. link data on mortgage transactions, sales prices, housing maintenance violations, and marshals' evictions with affordable housing investments to analyze to measure how speculative finance affects communities and quality of life across New York City.

Evictions

This section centers on the factors that influence eviction outcomes for tenants. Griswold et al. use eviction records to examine the relationship between crime-free housing policies and evictions in four California cities. Thomas et al. describe a method that uses natural language processing to mine court record images to digitize eviction case records and a process to geocode addresses in a case study using Washington State data so they can answer questions about the characteristics of renters and units in eviction cases. Ellen, Lochhead, and O'Regan explore evictions in New York State subsidized housing using city, state, and federal administrative data sources.

Developing and Improving Datasets

Improving existing datasets through automation, analytical modeling, and machine learning can prepare new data resources that spur research across the country. Zhu, Neal, and Young analyze racial equity aspects of automated valuation models, offering a method to audit their performance based on neighborhood demographics. Deitz et al. demonstrate a method of placing subsidized housing units into tax parcels using New Jersey data to reduce overcounting subsidized units and improve knowledge about subsidy depth and duration. Torres clusters Florida property owners using tax parcel and business registry data in a graph data structure to examine spatial ownership patterns of single-family housing.

These articles will encourage greater awareness and use of administrative data for research and development of place-based indicators. Please share more administrative data linkage successes and challenges by emailing amy.ohara@georgetown.edu.

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Guest Editor

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