

ICPSR 4547

**Geographies of Urban Crime in
Nashville, Tennessee, Portland,
Oregon, and Tucson, Arizona,
1998-2002**

Description

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Bibliographic Description

ICPSR Study No.: 4547

Title: Geographies of Urban Crime in Nashville, Tennessee, Portland, Oregon, and Tucson, Arizona, 1998-2002

Principal Investigator(s): Meagan Elizabeth Cahill, University of Arizona

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Scope of Study

Summary: This research involved the exploration of how the geographies of different crimes intersect with the geographies of social, economic, and demographic characteristics in Nashville, Tennessee, Portland, Oregon, and Tucson, Arizona. Violent crime data were collected from all three cities for the years 1998 through 2002. The data were geo-coded and then aggregated to block groups and census tracts. The data include variables on 28 different crimes, numerous demographic variables taken from the 2000 Census, and several land use variables.

Subject Term(s): assault, census tract level, crime mapping, geographic information systems, homicide, larceny, neighborhoods

Smallest Geographic Unit: latitude and longitude

Geographic Coverage: Arizona, Nashville, Oregon, Portland, Tennessee, Tucson, United States

Time Period: • 1998 - 2002

Date(s) of Collection: • 1998 - 2002

Unit of Observation: census block group

Universe: All crimes committed in Nashville, Tennessee, Portland, Oregon, and Tucson, Arizona, between 1998 and 2002.

Data Type: census/enumeration data, aggregate data, and administrative data

Data Collection Notes: The files are provided in a WinZip archive with 43 files in three folders. The Geographical Data folder provides provides the Nashville, Portland, and Tucson data in geographic files for use with mapping software. The Statistical Data folder provides the Nashville, Portland, and Tucson data in SPSS for Windows 14.0 system files. The Report Files folder contains the final report and a data dictionary for use with the SPSS for Windows 14.0 system files.

Methodology

Purpose of the Study: The purpose of the study was to explore how the geographies of different crimes intersect with the geographies of social, economic, and demographic characteristics in urban places and to develop an understanding of the implications of specific contexts of crime and the spatial relationships between those contexts.

Study Design: This research examined violent crime data collected from the Metro Nashville Police Department, the Portland Police Bureau, and the Tucson and South Tucson Police Departments for the years 1998 through 2002. The location and date of each crime was collected, and the data were geo-coded and aggregated to block groups and census tracts. Frequencies of crime for each category were averaged over the five years in the study period to control for anomalous years when there may have been an unexplained spike or fall in crime. Rates were then calculated using the population figures taken from 2000 Census data. Land use data for each city were obtained from the Metro Nashville government, the Portland Metro government, and the Pima County (AZ) Department of Transportation.

Sample: Data are included for 445 block groups and 143 census tracts in Nashville, 457 block groups and 160 census tracts in Portland, and 427 block groups and 126 census tracts in Tucson

Weight: none

Sources of Information: The crime data were collected from the records of the Metro Nashville Police Department, the Portland Police Bureau, and the Tucson and South Tucson Police Departments. Demographic information for Nashville, Portland, and Tucson were collected from 2000 Census data. Land use data for each city were collected from the Metro Nashville

government, the Portland Metro government, and the Pima County Department of Transportation.

Mode of Data Collection: record abstracts

Description of Variables: These data contain 28 crime variables including: homicide, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, other assaults, stolen property, criminal damage, weapons, commercialized sex, sex offenses, narcotic drug laws, offenses against family and children, driving under the influence (DUI), liquor law, disorderly, and juvenile violations. Several demographic variables are included, such as median family income, percent of families with one parent and children under 18, percent of the population over 25 with a college degree, percent of the population living below the poverty level, percent of population unemployed, percent of the population who are African American, percent of the population who are Latino, percent of the population under age 18, and percent of households with five or more members. The data also include land use variables such as the percent of land in commercial uses, the percent of land in high intensity multifamily housing, and the percent of land in multiple land uses.

Response Rates: Not applicable

Presence of Common Scales: none

Access and Availability

Note: A list of the data formats available for this study can be found in the [summary of holdings](#). Detailed file-level information (such as record length, case count, and variable count) is listed in the [file manifest](#).

Original ICPSR Release: 2006-08-31

Dataset(s):

- DS1: Geographies of Urban Crime in Nashville, Tennessee, Portland, Oregon, and Tucson, Arizona, 1998-2002

Publications

Final Reports and Other Publication Resources: A list of publications related to, or based on, this data collection can be accessed from the study's download page on the NACJD Web site or through the ICPSR Bibliography of Data-Related Literature at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/citations/index.html>. The list of citations includes links to abstracts and publications in Portable Document Format (PDF) files or text files when available.

Final reports and other publications describing research conducted on a variety of criminal justice topics are available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS). NCJRS was established in 1972 by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), an agency of the U.S. Department of Justice, to provide research findings to criminal justice professionals and researchers. NCJRS operates specialized clearinghouses that are staffed by information specialists who supply a range of reference, referral, and distribution services. Publications can be obtained from NCJRS at NIJ/NCJRS, Box 6000, Rockville, MD, 20849-6000, 800-851-3420 or 301-519-5500. TTY Service for the Hearing Impaired is 877-712-9279 (toll-free) or 301-947-8374 (local). The URL for the NCJRS Web site is:

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/>

NIJ Data Resources Program

About the DRP: The National Institute of Justice Data Resources Program (DRP) makes datasets from NIJ-funded research and evaluation projects available to the research community and sponsors research and training activities devoted to secondary data analysis. Datasets are archived by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan.

The NACJD maintains a World Wide Web site with instructions for transferring files and sending messages. Criminal justice data funded by the Department of Justice are available via the Internet at this site at no charge to the user. NACJD may be contacted at NACJD/ICPSR, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI, 48106-1248, 800-999-0960. The URL for the NACJD Web site is:

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/>