Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN): Systematic Social Observation, 1995

Felton J. Earls
Harvard Medical School

Stephen W. Raudenbush
Scientific Director. University of Michigan. School of Education and Survey Research Center

Albert J. Reiss Jr.
Yale University. Department of Sociology

Robert J. Sampson
Scientific Director. Harvard University. Department of Sociology

Instrument for ICPSR 13578
Start Odometer: __________

1. Street Pattern/Layout
   - Regular through-Straight: 1
   - Regular through-Curved: 2
   - Boulevard: 3
   - Divided Highway: 4
   - Cul De Sac: 5
   - Other: 6

2. Vehicular Traffic
   - One Way Only: 1
   - Two-Way: 2
   - Closed to Cars/Videotaped: 3
   - Closed to Cars/Not Videotaped: 4

3. Cars parked on block face street?
   - Yes: 1
   - No: 2

4. Volume of Traffic
   - No Traffic: 1
   - Very Light: 2
   - Light: 3
   - Moderate: 4
   - Heavy: 5
   - Very Heavy: 6

5. Rate the condition of the street
   - Under Construction: 1
   - Very Poor: 2
   - Fair: 3
   - Moderately Good: 4
   - Very Good: 5

6. Are there empty beer or liquor bottles visible in streets, yards, or alleys?
   - Yes: 1
   - No: 2

7. Are there cigarette or cigar butts or discarded cigarette packages on the sidewalk or in gutters?
   - None: 1
   - Yes, but only a few: 2
   - Yes, a fair number: 3
   - Yes, just about everywhere: 4

8. Are there any condoms on the sidewalk, in gutters, or street of the block face?
   - Yes: 1
   - No: 2

9. Are there any needles, syringes, or drug-related paraphernalia on the sidewalk, in gutters, or street of the block face?
   - Yes: 1
   - No: 2

10. Is there garbage, litter, or broken glass in the street or on the sidewalks?
    - None: 1
    - Very light: 2
    - Light: 3
    - Moderate: 4
    - Heavy: 5
    - Very heavy: 6

11. Abandoned Cars
    - One or Two: 1
    - Three or More: 2
    - None: 3

12. Parking Violations
    - Yes: 1
    - No: 2

13. How were you regarded by the people in the block face? (Circle all that apply)
    - No People Around: 1
    - Paid Little or No Attention by Those Around: 2
    - Treated with Suspicion: 3
    - Friendly Responses/Greetings/Helpful: 4
    - Polite Responses to Own Questions: 5
    - Queried About what One was Doing in Area: 6

14. Based on street-level frontage, how would you characterize the land use on this block?
    - All Residential: 1
    - All Business/Institutional: 2
    - Mixed Residential & Bus./Instit.: 3
    - All Other (parks, highways, trains, quarries, etc.): 4

End Odometer: __________

For questions concerning the videotaping contact the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods at (312) 879-0889.

CADE Inets: __________ Date: __________
1. Based on street-level frontage, how is the land used on this block? (Code all that apply)
   - Residential
   - Commercial/Business
   - Industrial, Warehouse, Manufacturing
   - Vacant Houses
   - Vacant Lots or Open Space
   - Institutional (schools, churches, etc.)
   - Recreational Facilities, Parks or Playgrounds
   - Water Front
   - Other

2. Is there any residential housing in the block face?
   - Yes
   - No (Skip to Q 9)

3. What type of residential housing is in the block face? (Code all that apply)
   - Single occupancy dwelling units/houses
   - Duplex
   - Multiple household occupancy (3-6 units)
   - Apartment building (7 or more units)
   - Housing units over commercial store fronts
   - Chicago Housing Authority Project
   - Low-rise, semi-detached units

4. What is the MAIN type of residential housing in the block face? (Code only one)
   - Single occupancy dwelling units/houses
   - Duplex
   - Multiple household occupancy (3-6 units)
   - Apartment building (7 or more units)
   - Housing units over commercial store fronts
   - Chicago Housing Authority Project
   - Low-rise, semi-detached units

5. Are most of the residential units set back from the street, i.e., is there grass between the block face sidewalk and the unit, is there a front yard?
   - All housing units are set back
   - Most housing units are set back
   - Half the housing units are set back
   - A few housing units are set back
   - None of the housing units are set back

6. In general, how would you rate the condition of most of the residential units in the block face?
   - Very well kept/good condition
   - Moderately well kept condition
   - Fair condition (peeling paint, needs repair)
   - Poor/badly deteriorated condition

7. Are there any residential units on the block face being renovated?
   - Yes
   - No

8. Are there window bars/gratings on residential doors or windows?
   - On almost all houses/apartments
   - On about half of the houses/apartments
   - On a few houses/apartments
   - On none of the houses/apartments

9. Are any commercial or industrial units in the block face?
   - Yes
   - No (Skip to Q 16)

10. Are any commercial/industrial buildings being renovated?
    - Yes
    - No

11. In general, how would you rate the condition of most of the commercial or industrial buildings in the block face?
    - Very well kept/good condition
    - Moderately well kept condition
    - Fair condition (peeling paint, needs repair)
    - Poor/badly deteriorated condition

12. Is there any fencing on the commercial/industrial properties? (Code all that apply)
    - High mesh fencing with barbed wire or spiked tops
    - At least six feet high metal or board fencing
    - Low fencing (under six feet)
    - No fencing

13. Are pull-down metal security blinds or iron gates on the fronts of commercial/industrial properties?
    - Almost all (90% or more)
    - Most (50%-89%)
    - Fewer than half (49%-11%)
    - Only a few (10%-1%)
    - None (0%)
14. Are there security bars/gratings or boards on the windows of commercial/industrial buildings?
   - On almost all buildings: 1
   - On about half of the buildings: 2
   - On a few buildings: 3
   - On none of the buildings: 4

15. What types of drinking establishments are on the block face? (Code all that apply)
   - Upscale restaurants/lounges: 1
   - Regular cocktail lounges: 2
   - Live music/dance clubs: 3
   - Local bar: 4
   - Run down bar: 5
   - Stripper/show bar: 6
   - Biker bar: 7
   - Coffee house/était: 8
   - Sports bar: 9
   - Teen bar/jeu bar: 10
   - Other alcohol related establishment: 11
   - No drinking establishments: 12

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

16*. Are there any recreational facilities in the block face?
   - Yes: 1
   - No (Skip to Q 19): 2

   What kinds of recreational facilities or equipment are in the block face? (Code all that apply)
   - Park: 1
   - Playground: 2
   - Playground equipment (i.e., slide, swings): 3
   - Sports/playing fields/courts: 4
   - Sports equipment (i.e., goal posts, basketball nets): 5
   - Sports stands/seating: 6
   - Pools: 7
   - Picnic tables and/or grills: 8
   - Bike/walking trails: 9

18. In general, how would you rate the condition of the recreational facility in the block face? (Code only one)
   - Very well kept/good condition: 1
   - Moderately well kept condition: 2
   - Fair condition (peeling paint, needs repair): 3
   - Poor/badly deteriorated condition: 4

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE BLOCK FACE

19. Are there trees lining the street of the block face?
   - Most or all of the block face: 1
   - Some: 2
   - A few trees: 3
   - None: 4

20. Is there a public telephone visible in the block face?
   - Yes: 1
   - No: 2

21. Is there public transportation available in the block face?
   - Yes: 1
   - No: 2

22. Is there graffiti on buildings, signs or walls? (Code all that apply)
   - Gang: 1
   - Tagging: 2
   - Political message: 3
   - Other: 4
   - No visible graffiti: 5

23. Is there evidence of graffiti that has been painted over?
   - Yes: 1
   - No: 2

24. What kind of signs are visible? (Code all that apply)
   - Cultural Events (i.e., art fairs, concerts): 1
   - Popular Entertainment (i.e., comedy, rock band): 2
   - Local Athletic Events: 3
   - Political Events/Gatherings: 4
   - Neighborhood/Social Events (i.e., block party): 5
   - Neighborhood or Crime Watch: 6
   - Community Helper/Helping Hand: 7
   - Security Warning Signs: 8
   - No Trespassing/Beware of Dog: 9
   - Unreadable Sign(s): 10
   - Other: 11
   - No Signs visible: 12

25. Is there a place for local people to post personal notices like yard sales, places for rent, lost animals, etc?
   - Yes: 1
   - No: 2

26. Can you hear loud music from cars on the sound track?
   - Yes: 1
   - No: 2

PEOPLE ON THE BLOCK FACE

27*. Are there any people at all visible on the block face?
   - Yes: 1
   - No (Skip to the Tally Sheet): 2

28. Is there a police officer visible? (Code all that apply)
   - Foot Patrol: 1
   - Mobile Patrol: 2
   - Horse Patrol: 3
   - Traffic Patrol: 4
   - No Police Visible: 5

29. Are private security guards visible?
   - Yes: 1
   - No: 2
CHILDREN

30*. Are there any children visible?
   Yes ................................ 1
   No (Skip to Q 35) ................. 2

31. Are children playing in front private yards?
   Yes ................................ 1
   No .................................. 2

32. Are children playing on the sidewalk or in the street?
   Yes ................................ 1
   No .................................. 2

33. Are children under adult supervision/accompanied by an adult?
   Yes ................................ 1
   No .................................. 2

34. Are children arguing, fighting, acting hostile or threatening?
   Yes ................................ 1
   No .................................. 2

ADULTS

44*. Are there any adults visible on the block face?
   Yes ................................ 1
   No (Skip to Q 49) ................. 2

45. Are adults stopping to talk or greet one another?
   Yes ................................ 1
   No .................................. 2

46. Are adults arguing, fighting, acting hostile or threatening?
   Yes ................................ 1
   No .................................. 2

47*. Are adults loitering, congregating or hanging out on the block face?
   Yes ................................ 1
   No (Skip to Q 49) ................. 2

48. What is the gender make-up of the adults who are loitering/hanging out? (Code all that apply)
   Males only ........................... 1
   Females only ........................ 2
   Mixed male and female group .............. 3

49. Are there homeless or begging people on the block face?
   Yes ................................ 1
   No .................................. 2

50. Are there prostitutes on the block face?
   Yes ................................ 1
   No .................................. 2

51. Are people selling illegal drugs on the block face?
   Yes ................................ 1
   No .................................. 2

52. Are people drinking alcohol openly on the block face?
   Yes ................................ 1
   No .................................. 2

53. Are there drunken or otherwise intoxicated people?
   Yes ................................ 1
   No .................................. 2

54. Are people smoking?
   Yes ................................ 1
   No .................................. 2

55. Are people carrying and/or playing boom boxes?
   Yes ................................ 1
   No .................................. 2
As you view the video tape, keep a tally of all the following categories on the line provided to the left. When you are done viewing the video tape, add up the total tally for each category and write it between the brackets. If none for a category, leave the brackets blank.

58. [ ] Appliance sales, rentals, repair
59. [ ] Automobile repair/body shops/garages
60. [ ] Automobile sales and rentals: New
61. [ ] Automobile sales and rentals: Used
62. [ ] Banks/check cashing services
63. [ ] Barber shops and beauty salons
64. [ ] Bars and alcoholic beverage services
65. [ ] Business services: Printing, copying
66. [ ] Clothing store
67. [ ] Churches/Religious Centers
68. [ ] Churches/store front
69. [ ] Criminal Justice Facilities: Courts, jails, detention centers
70. [ ] Day care centers, nursery schools, children's centers
71. [ ] Drug stores/pharmacy
72. [ ] Dry cleaning/tailoring services
73. [ ] Eating places/restaurants
74. [ ] Electronics store
75. [ ] Employment and manpower offices
76. [ ] Fast-food and Take-out places
77. [ ] Fire Station
78. [ ] Funeral homes/mortuary/undertaking
79. [ ] Furniture stores: New furniture
80. [ ] Gasoline stations
81. [ ] Public libraries
82. [ ] Green grocer/delicatessens
83. [ ] Health/medical/mental health clinics
84. [ ] Home repair/hardware/lumber 
85. [ ] Hospitals
86. [ ] Laundromats
87. [ ] Liquor stores
88. [ ] Manufacturing: Light, e.g., machine
89. [ ] Manufacturing: Heavy
90. [ ] Movie Houses/Cinemas
91. [ ] Massage Parlors/masseurs, etc.
92. [ ] Parking lots (Commercial)
93. [ ] Parks
94. [ ] Playgrounds with recreational equipment/space
95. [ ] Police Station: Community/precinct
96. [ ] Professional offices: Doctors, dentists, lawyers, accountants
97. [ ] Public Schools: Kindergarten and Elementary
98. [ ] Public Schools: Junior High/Middle
99. [ ] Public Schools: High/Secondary
100. [ ] Public Schools: Technical
101. [ ] Real Estate sales and Property
102. [ ] Schools: Parochial or religious
103. [ ] Schools: Colleges and universities
104. [ ] Schools: Private Non-Parochial
105. [ ] Second Hand Stores/Pawn Shops
106. [ ] Seven-Eleven/convenience stores
107. [ ] Sex entertainment/porn
108. [ ] Specialty retailers, e.g., books, software
109. [ ] Supermarket/grocery store
110. [ ] Large retailers/department store
111. [ ] Travel agents and transportation offices
112. [ ] Utilities: Gas, water, electric co.
113. [ ] Variety Store
114. [ ] Video games/pool halls
115. [ ] Warehouses
116. [ ] Welfare: Private organizations, e.g., Good Will, Salvation Army, etc.
117. [ ] Welfare offices: Public benefits
118. [ ] Other commercial/industrial buildings not listed above.

**SIGNS**

119. [ ] Signs advertising tobacco products
120. [ ] Signs advertising beer, whiskey or other alcohol

**BURNT OUT UNITS**

121. [ ] Burned out, boarded up or abandoned houses
122. [ ] Burned out, boarded up or abandoned commercial/industrial buildings

**FOR SALE SIGNS**

123. [ ] Houses with FOR SALE signs

124. Names of the realty company(ies) on houses:
   A. 
   B. 
   C. 

125. [ ] Commercial/industrial buildings with FOR SALE signs

126. Names of the realty company(ies) on commercial/industrial buildings:
   A. 
   B. 
   C. 

Charge to Project 4709 Component A Task 445