

# Why Adolescents Move and Why it Matters



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# Residential Mobility

- Many U.S. children and adolescents experience a residential move
  - 14% of children moved in 2011
- Residential mobility has been linked to detriments in youths' outcomes
  - Behavior problems (Ziol-Guest & McKenna, 2014)
  - Academic achievement (Voight, Shinn, & Nation, 2012)
  - Health (Jelleyman & Spencer, 2009)

# Are all Moves the Same?

- Who?
  - Residential mobility is particularly detrimental for poor children (Ziol-Guest & McKenna, 2014)
- When?
  - Influence may vary by developmental period (Anderson, 2014)
- Type?
  - Multiple moves (Leventhal & Newman, 2010)
  - Quality of the move (Roy, McCoy, & Raver, 2014)

# Reasons for Moving

- Decisions around moving are non-random
  - Family structure, age, homeownership, job loss, loss of income are predictors of mobility  
(Ackerman, Kogos, Youngstrom, Schoff, & Izard 1999; South & Crowder, 1998)
- Less is known about low-income families' reasons for moving
- Variability in *why* families move may have different implications for youth outcomes

# Current Study

1. What are families' reasons for leaving one residence and selecting another?
2. Are family characteristics related to reasons for moving?
3. Are youths' physical health and school absenteeism related to reasons for move?

# Sample

- Making Connections
  - A neighborhood transformation, family development initiative
  - Implemented in 10 sites (7 sites at Wave 3)
- Three waves of data collection
  - Wave 3 collected between 2008-2011
- 1,106 families with children (12-17)

# Sample

<b>N = 1,106</b>	<b>%/Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>
<b>Caregiver</b>		
Employed	59%	
< High School	41%	
= High School	25%	
Married	45%	
Age	42.14	9.55
<b>Child</b>		
Female	49%	
Age	14.59	1.76
<b>Household</b>		
Income	\$28,307	24,458
Total adults	2.02	.98
Total children	2.12	1.14

# Reasons for Moving

- Caregivers presented with 23 reasons for moving
- Asked to indicate **main** reason for
  - Leaving previous address
  - Selecting current address
- Reasons grouped into five domains
  - Family; “change in spouse partner”
  - Job; “new job or transfer”
  - Housing; “wanted to own”
  - Neighborhood; “wanted a safer neighborhood”
  - Health



# Child Outcomes

- **Asthma;** “Has a doctor, nurse, or other medical professional ever told you that [CHILD] has asthma?” Yes (1), No (0)
- **Health condition;** “Has a health professional ever told that [CHILD] has a physical, learning, mental, or chronic health condition...” Yes (1), No (0)
- **General health;** “In general, would you say [CHILD]’s health is” Excellent (5) – Poor (1)
- **School absence;** “How many days of school has [CHILD] missed in the past four weeks?”

# What are families' reasons for moving?

- On average, families had been at current address for 73.06 (SD = 96.14) months

Reason for...	Leaving	Selecting
Housing	54%	59%
Family	26%	20%
Neighborhood	12%	13%
Job	3%	4%
Health	2%	1%

- 62% had agreement between reasons for leaving and selecting

# Are family characteristics related to reasons for moving?

## Reasons for Leaving

	Family		Housing		Nbhood		
	OR	se	OR	se	OR	se	
Employed	1.05	0.03	0.95	0.04	0.99	0.02	
= HS	0.92	0.04	* 1.07	0.04	1.02	0.03	
> HS	0.99	0.04	0.99	0.04	1.00	0.03	
Married	1.01	0.04	1.02	0.04	0.97	0.03	
Caregiver Female	1.00	0.04	1.00	0.05	0.98	0.03	
Caregiver Age	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	
Chld Female	0.98	0.03	1.02	0.03	1.01	0.02	
Chld Age	1.00	0.01	1.01	0.01	0.99	0.01	
Income	1.00	0.01	1.01	0.01	1.00	0.01	
# Adults	1.00	0.02	1.00	0.02	1.01	0.01	
# Children	0.99	0.01	1.00	0.02	1.01	0.01	
Mos. at address	1.06	0.02	** 1.00	0.02	0.96	0.01	**

# Are family characteristics related to reasons for moving?

## Reasons for Selecting

	Family		Housing		*	Nbhood	
	OR	se	OR	se		OR	se
Employed	1.04	0.03	0.92	0.04	*	1.01	0.03
= HS	0.97	0.03	1.07	0.04		0.98	0.03
> HS	1.03	0.03	0.96	0.04		0.99	0.03
Married	1.02	0.03	0.98	0.04		1.01	0.03
Caregiver Female	1.00	0.04	1.02	0.05		1.00	0.03
Caregiver Age	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00		1.00	0.00
Chld Female	1.03	0.03	0.99	0.03		1.00	0.02
Chld Age	0.99	0.01	1.01	0.01		1.00	0.01
Income	1.00	0.01	1.02	0.01	*	0.99	0.01
# Adults	1.01	0.02	1.00	0.02		1.00	0.01
# Children	1.01	0.01	1.00	0.02		0.99	0.01
Mos. at address	1.06	0.02	**	0.98	0.02	0.98	0.01

# Are reasons for moving related to child outcomes?

	Asthma		Condition		Health		Absence		
	OR	se	OR	se	b	se	IRR	se	
<b>Leave</b>									
Family	1.19	.20	1.24	.19	-.03	.08	.90	.08	
Job	1.55	.40	1.08	.41	-.11	.16	.56	.13	*
Nbhood	1.10	.27	1.02	.24	-.15	.10	.85	.10	
Health	3.83	.56	* .65	.57	-.32	.26	1.03	.26	
<b>Select</b>									
Family	1.30	.22	.94	.21	-.02	.09	.86	.09	
Job	2.07	.39	.92	.39	.06	.17	.43	.12	**
Nbhood	1.29	.27	1.38	.26	-.12	.11	.98	.11	
Health	.60	1.15	.43	.97	-.45	.42	1.57	.49	

# Does recency of move matter?

- 23% (N = 236) of families moved in past 12 months
- Recent mobility related to higher school absence (IRR = 1.31, se = .11,  $p < .001$ )
- Sample limited to recent movers and examined relationships between reasons and child outcomes
  - Leaving for neighborhood reason related to lower health (b = -.44, se = .19,  $p < .05$ )
  - Health reasons dropped from model

# Conclusions

- Low income families vary in the push and pull factors motivating their moves
- Length of time at address and economic characteristics related to reasons for move
  - Longer time at address more likely to have family reasons for leaving and selecting
  - Higher income more likely to select for housing reasons; Employed less likely
- Leaving for health reason related to increased likelihood of asthma; Leaving or selecting for job reason related to lower rates of school absence

# Next Steps

- Direction of effects
  - Is residence in an unhealthy environment related to incidence of asthma or are families choosing to move because kids have asthma?
- Timing of move
  - What is the appropriate time frame to consider?
  - Does the developmental period in which the move occurs matter?
- Discrepancy between reasons for leaving and selecting
  - Are these really different? How might variability matter?



THANK YOU!

