

Comments/Response to

Geographic Exclusion: Spatial Analysis for Evaluating the Implications of Megan's Law

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Fit with Existing Knowledge

- Paper adds to growing body of literature on residential locations of RSOs
- Review of existing literature is lacking
 - Social disorganization theory is central to literature
 - No discussion of *why* or *where* RSOs relocate

Findings (and resulting questions)

- Significant %s are in violation of school exclusion zones
 - But, what types of neighborhoods are these?
- 92% of block groups have mean rents \leq \$750
 - But, this is not necessarily good; most of these will be soc disorg'd neighborhoods; so undesirable
- Analysis looks at movement, but does not address types of neighborhoods move from and to
 - Emerging lit suggests most RSOs move downward

Questions about Methods

- What did you do with the RSOs with addresses listed as “missing/unknown”?
- What do with RSOs in residential facilities?
- Central argument is need to measure distances using paths of travel, not straight lines
 - But, statutes call for straight lines.
 - So, as evaluation of policy must do straight lines

Discussion/Conclusion

- Findings show 31% to 45% of RSOs are in violation of school zones
 - This should not be surprising, there is no enforcement mechanism!
- These results show % in violation, but nothing more
 - In order to inform policy we need to know why, and what are the conditions where RSOs are more/less likely to be
 - Clear need for sociological analysis

What IS known:

- Developing literature is showing:
 - RSOs most likely in socially disorganized neighborhoods
 - Largely relegated there
 - Large range of collateral consequences are experienced by RSOs (housing, economic, social, familial, etc.)
 - Residential restrictions laws create many problems
 - No research shows these are effective at prevention
 - Child- and Non-child-abusing RSOs suffer equally
 - White RSOs suffer the least