Capturing Residential Mobility and Choice in a Longitudinal Survey

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- Project design committee includes:

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Outline

- Overview and Motivation

- Strategies

  o Cohort of neighborhoods

  o Cohort of individuals

- L.A.FANS Design

- Event History Calendars

- Discussion

Overview and Motivation

- Los Angeles Family and Neighborhood Survey (L.A.FANS):

  A longitudinal study of the relationship between neighborhood social and physical environments and adult and child welfare including:

    - Children's behavioral and cognitive development

    - Adult mental and physical health

    - Employment, economic welfare, participation in gov't. transfer programs

Overview and Motivation

Central theoretical and analytic problems:

1. Endogeneity of neighborhood choice -- choices about residential neighborhooods are likely to be affected by same (often unobserved) characteristics as outcomes

2. Individuals and households (intentionally or not) influence environments around them
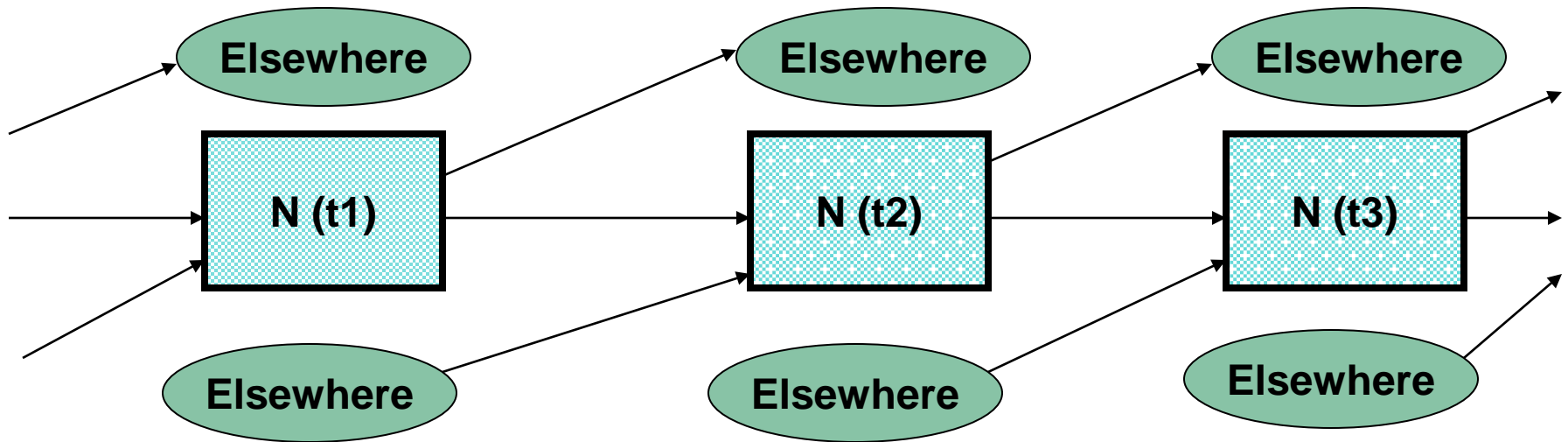
Overview and Motivation

Our approach to these problems:

- Study neighborhood choice and change at the same time and place as the effects of neighborhood environments on welfare outcomes

Strategies
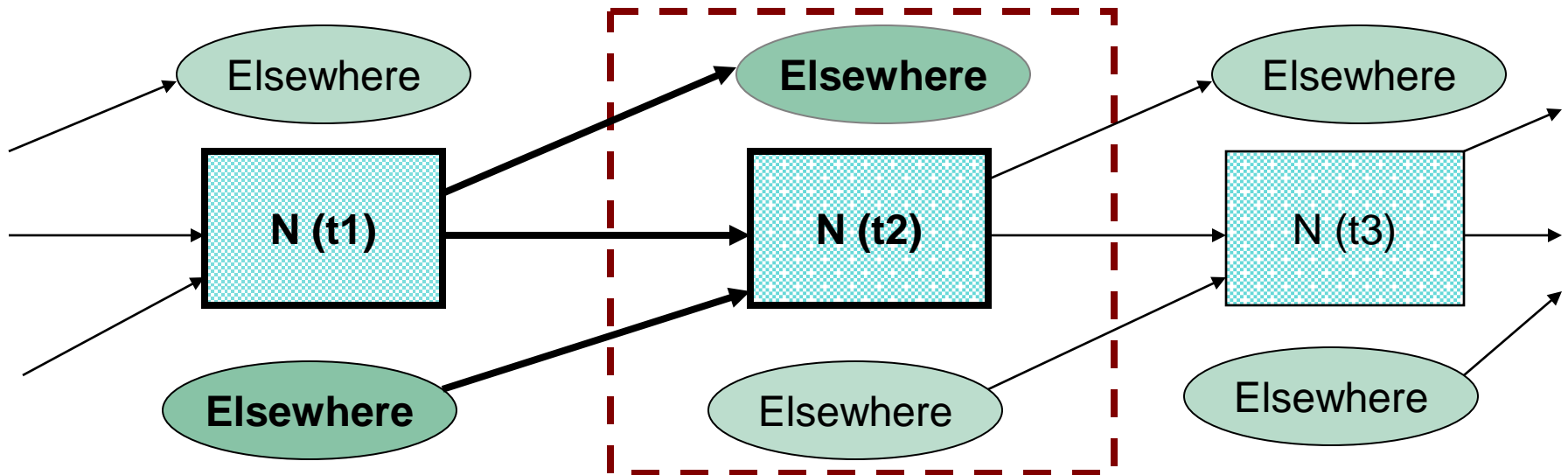
Design of L.A.FANS combines:

1. **A cohort of neighborhoods** – we observe the flow of residents (and their characteristics) into and out of neighborhoods over time

| Elsewhere | Elsewhere | Elsewhere |

| N (t1) | N (t2) | N (t3) |

| Elsewhere | Elsewhere | Elsewhere |

Strategies

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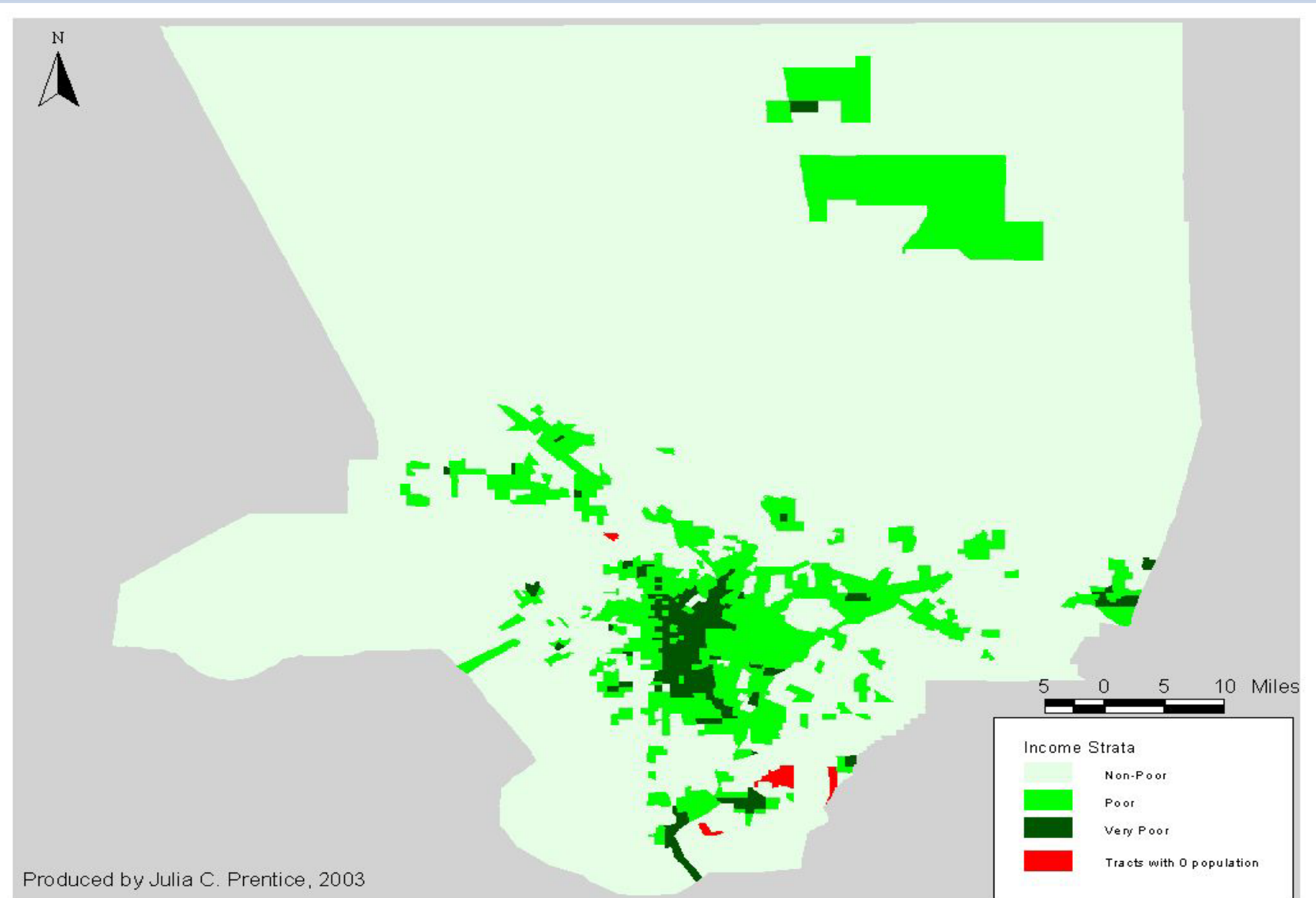
Strategies

2. **Cohorts of individuals who live or lived in these neighborhoods** – we observe where they came from, whether or not they stay, and where they move after leaving

    - Detailed retrospective history of places of residence prior to (and at the time of) each interview

L.A.FANS Design – Wave 1 (2000-2001)

- Sample of Neighborhoods:
  - Probability sample of 65 neighborhoods (1990 census tracts) in L.A. County
  - Oversample poor neighborhoods (based on 1997 % in poverty distribution)
- Sample of households and individuals:
  - 40-50 HH per neighborhood, 70% with children
  - Adult (age 18+)
  - Child (under age 18) – up to 2 siblings per HH
- Respondents:
  - Sampled individuals, HH head
  - Child's primary care giver and sibling
- Languages: English and Spanish
- 3090 HHs, 3140 children, 3570 adults
- In person interviews
- Response rates: ~85-89%

Produced by Julia C. Prentice, 2003

Income Strata

- Non-Poor
- Poor
- Very Poor
- Tracts with 0 population

L.A.FANS Design – Wave 2 (2006-2008)

Observing Neighborhood Change

1. Trace and re-interview Wave 1 sampled adults and children (regardless of location or whether or not they live together)

    •   For those in LA County: in-person interviews

    •   For those outside of LA County: telephone interviews only

2. Sample and interview "new entrants" in each of the 65 neighborhoods – in person interviews

L.A.FANS Design – Wave 2 **Panel Sample Results**

	Selected as W1 RSA	Selected as W1 Child
Total	3,085	3,682
Released		
Not released	319	375
Released	2,766	3,307
Total	3,085	3,682
Location		
In Los Angeles	1,874	2,306
Out of Los Angeles	426	579
Unknown	319	391
N/A (ineligible)[b]	147	31
Total	2,766	3,307
Response rates		
W2 status ascertained	64%	66%

L.A.FANS Design – Wave 2 **New Entrant Results**

	Selected and Eligible	Interviewed	Response Rates
New Entrant Adults	265	199	75%
New Entrant Child	377	308	82%

Event History Calendars

Observing Individual Residence Histories

- Event History Calendar (EHC) collects retrospective residential information in thirds of a month for:

  1. L.A.FANS-1 respondents: previous 2 years
  2. L.A.FANS-2 panel respondents: since the last interview
  3. L.A.FANS-2 new entrant respondents: past 6-7 years

- Thus, for panel respondents 9-10 year histories

- Seam problem

Event History Calendar

- L.A.FANS Event History Calendar (EHC) derived from the EHC developed for the PSID by Belli, Shay, and Stafford.

- Calendars based on the theory that recall is aided by context – i.e., simultaneous recall in multiple domains improves accuracy of reports in each domain

- EHC is an interactive software program used by interviewers to place changes in status (spells of a given status) in time, but thirds of a month

Event History Calendar

L.A.FANS EHC covers six domains:

1. Landmark Events

2. Residence

3. Employment (jobs)

4. Unemployment and Absences from Work

5. Receipt of Public Assistance (TANF, SSI, General Relief (GR), Food Stamps/SNAP)

6. Health Insurance

UCLA

Event History Calendar

- Pop-up Question

POP-UP QUESTIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL HISTORY

Now I want to ask you about all the places you lived or stayed since [*date two years before interview*]. This includes any place you lived or stayed for one month or more. When did you move to your current address?
PREVIOUS RESIDENCE: Where did you live before that? Time line: When did you move into that place? When did you move out of that place?
ADDRESS: What was the address at that place? [Street number, street name, city, state, zip code, and country]

- Location Geocoding

Discussion

- Unusual data on neighborhood change and flows
- Excellent residential histories linked to employment, program participation, and other domains

- Relocation of respondents
- Event history calendar (especially for seven years) is a significant respondent burden (and cost to the survey)

Discussion

- L.A.FANS data are public use (although geographic and other restricted data require application and procedures to protect confidentiality)

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- "L.A.FANS-2.5" in 2011 to focus on mixed-income housing and the effects of the recession