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SES (Un)Stable Communities in Pierce County Since 1980

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Purpose/Objectives

- Understand temporal change in communities
- Understand how each of these separate communities have changed while maintaining their stability over time
- Project seeks to understand how communities have sustained their individuality
- Also seeks to compare the communities' socio-economic statuses in comparison to each other

- Objectives were to find the answers to how, and if, communities have remained stable over 30 years.
- The hypothesis suggested that based on high income, high home ownership, low high school dropout, and low unemployment rate, it would dictate the surrounding areas where they have stayed rich and areas that have stayed poor.
- Seek to find characteristics of stability in areas of surrounding cities

Results

My results from this project shows the change from each decade in one map by adding the raster's of change between each decade, compiled into one map. This shows the variables with two standard deviations away from the mean where blue represents the more stable communities and red represents the more unstable communities. Since 1980, communities have fluctuated through communities, . According to my index, my outcomes have been directed to stability being focused on high median income and high home ownership, low high school dropout rate, and low unemployment status, implying that those who are rich are staying rich, and those who are poor are staying poor, in the stable areas, and in the unstable areas show a lot of movement according to the variables of my index.

Data Provided: Census Data, WAGDA, Missouri Census Center, Tacoma City Census Data.

Key Literature: Chamberlain, T. E. (2006/7). Relationship of Economic Stability to Social and Economic Rights. Social Science Research Network, 1-9.

Kleniewski, Nancy. (2006). Cities, Change, and Conflict. Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth.

Stability in Pierce County from 1980-2010

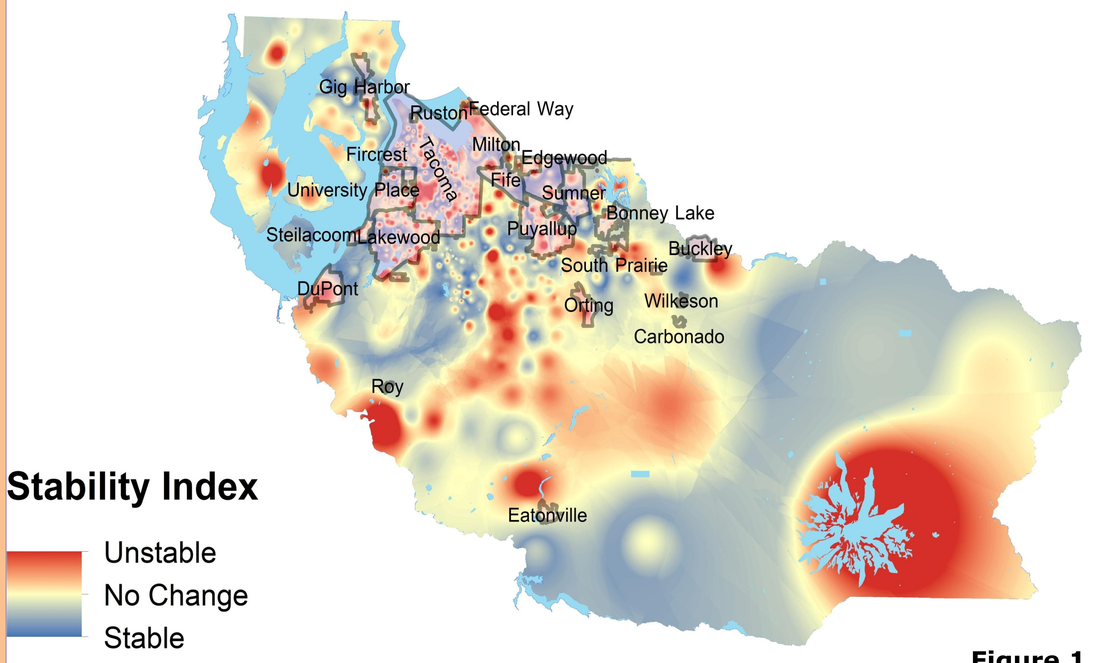

Figure 1

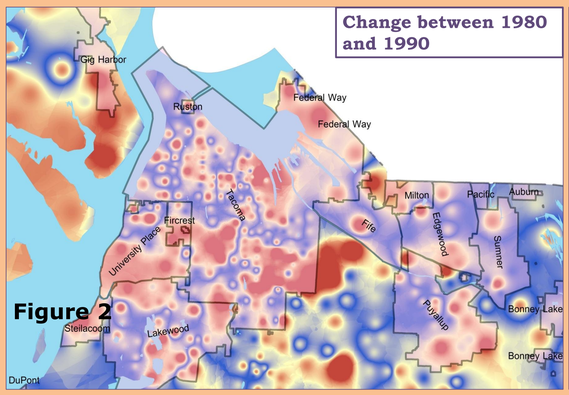

Figure 2

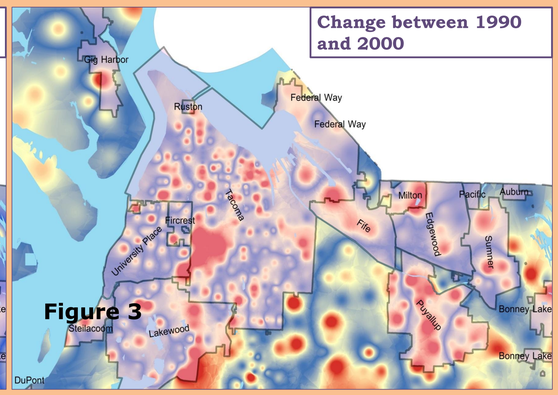

Figure 3

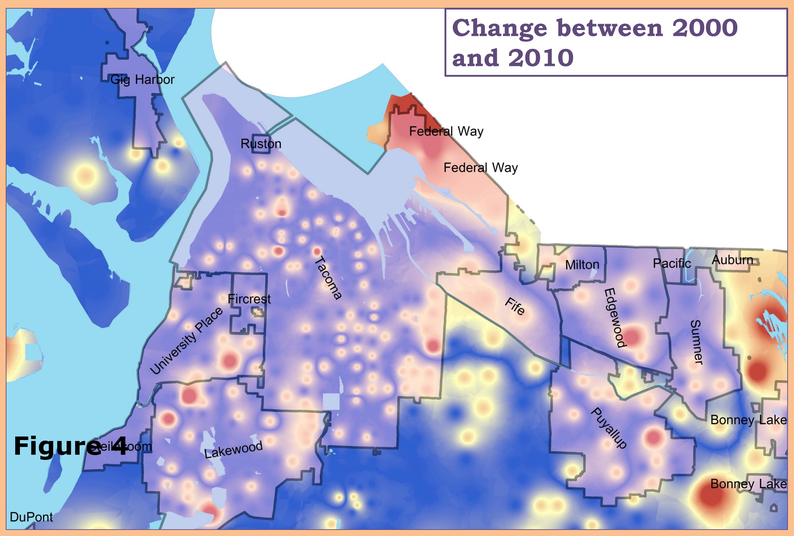

Figure 4

Methods

I gathered census data from each decade starting from 1980 to 2010. Once I found the data I had to concatenate the state, county, tract, and block group fields in order to create the GEOIDS to join to the polygon layers. When I had all the data spatially joined to each polygon for each year, I then had to create ratios of each indicator for each year e.g. median income, home ownership, unemployment rate, and high school dropout rate, to create z-scores. By using the z-scores of each variable, I was able to index the block groups according to the z-scores, where **stable includes high median income, high home ownership, low high school dropout rate, and low unemployment rate.** Once the indexing was complete; I turned those feature classes into points in order to interpolate the data. I added the raster's in **figure 2**, **figure 3**, and **figure 4** to show the absolute change in one map, as you can see in **figure 1.**

Stability Based on:

- High Median Income
- High Home Ownership
- Low Unemployment Rate
- Low High School Dropout Rate

Acknowledgements

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