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UP 494-AG: *Neighborhood Analysis*

Reflection #4

* *What types of questions do you have about the structure and function of neighborhoods?*
* *What forms of analysis do you see as being useful to your own work?*
* *What types of analytic approaches do you see as being useful to your own work?*

I’m not sure if this question clarifies things we need to know in this context, but who can actually define what the neighborhood does? I’m not sure these can be narrowed down to places with distinct functionality. On the more productive end for this course, how do we mitigate the uncertainty coming from an imperfect transfer of neighborhood boundaries to a Census Tract? I’ve seen overpaid consultants advise on neighborhood impacts and determinants using a Census Tract that left out at least 100 parcels of the neighborhood. Can anything be done to add these individual parcels to the tract in an individual analysis? Is it even possible? I wonder if the Census Tract is an ethically passable summary or if this frustration is warranted.

The most useful forms of analysis to the neighborhood work I seek to do are qualitative, prescriptive, and predictive. Nothing can be meaningful without speaking to the users of a neighborhood and trying to go ahead without having them involved must be avoided. I think prescriptive analyses have to help decide what can be done based on what is observable. Without knowing how to begin understanding an area, we have no sense of where to go. And the reason for looking at a place now involves taking steps forward. Using the present and past to move forward helps keep the work meaningful for recipients.

The approaches helping these methods include tracked patterns in human responses, through interviews or surveys. Density plots or line graphs can give a sense of where the analyses might take us in the future. And comparisons to the community averages at any point in time can push us to understanding where to begin. I’ve definitely fallen behind in these pursuits but am excited to bounce back in the next few weeks!