Early life Exposures and Cognitive Functioning in Later Life: Findings, and a Case for More and Better Data

Rob Warren



Childhood conditions, exposures, and experiences matter for long-term cognitive functioning and decline





Measuring childhood conditions, exposures, and experiences requires one of three things:



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- 2. Following representative groups of people for many decades





Measuring childhood conditions, exposures, and experiences requires one of three things:

- 1. Perfect and detailed retrospective recall of early life (across decades)
- 2. Following representative groups of people for many decades
- 3. "Seeing" today's older people in data collected organically when they were children





ACT records will soon be linked to historical U.S. Census records















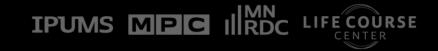
"All" of today's older Americans show up as children in old U.S. decennial census records.







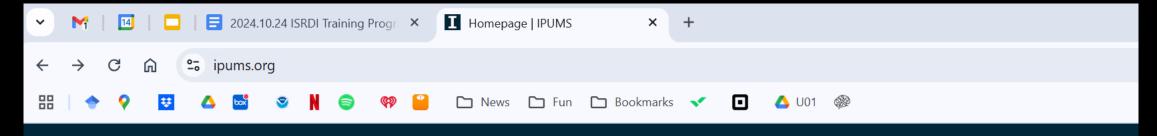
"All" of today's older Americans show up as children in old U.S. decennial census records.



"All" of today's older Americans show up as children in old U.S. decennial census records.







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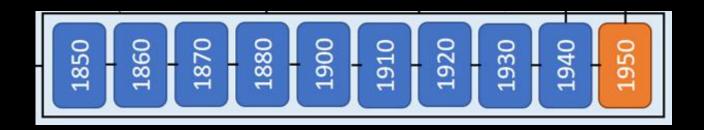






DÜRSE









CENSUS RECORDS DESTROYED BY FIRE

Department of Commerce Blaze Results in Disastrous Loss of Documents

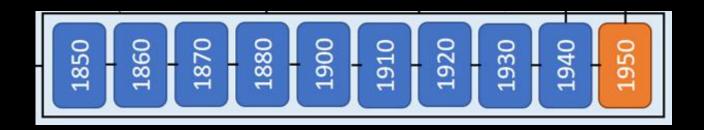
LOCATED BY WATCHMAN

Finds Basement Full of Smoke— Three Firemen Overcome by Fumes

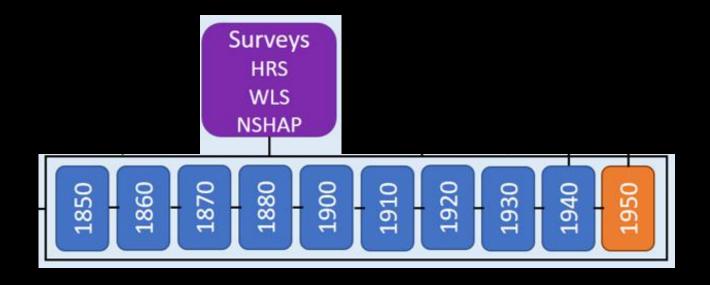
Washington, aJn. 11. — Priceless census records, dating back to 1790, when the first enumeration of the United States was taken, were destroyed last night in a fire of undetermined origin at the Department of Commerce. The records included figures from every census up to the present one and officials said that it would be days before even an estimate of the damage could be given.

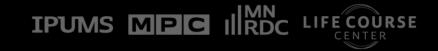
The blaze originated in the basement of the commerce building and five alarms quickly brought every piece of apparatus in downtown Washington to the scene and more than twenty lines of hose completed the damage done to the records by pouring tons of water through windows into vaults where the records were kept.

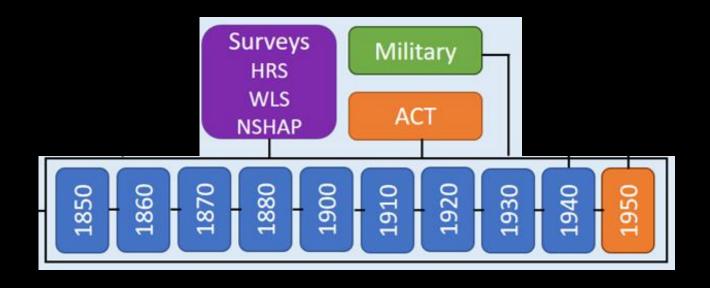


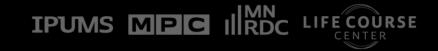


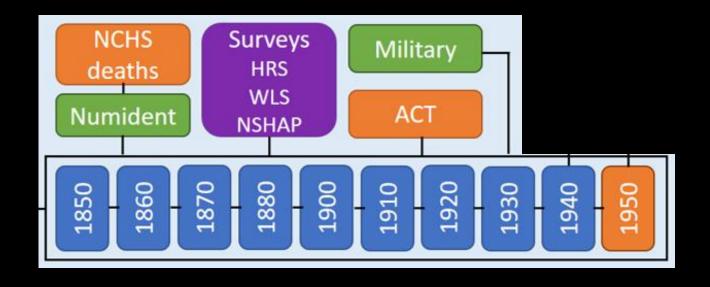




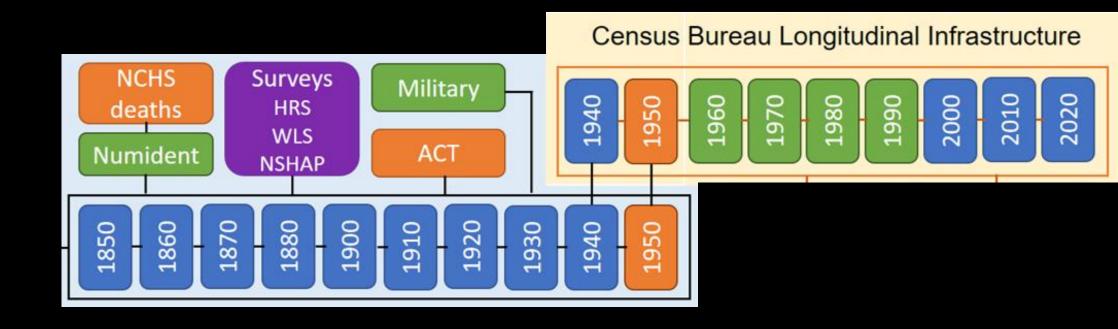






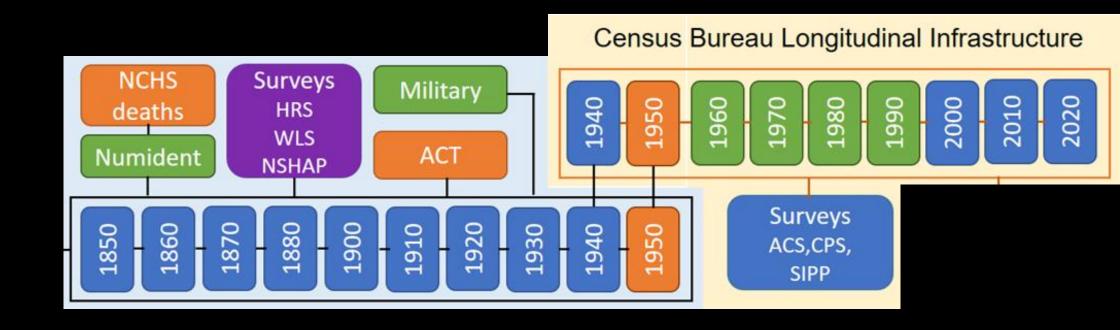






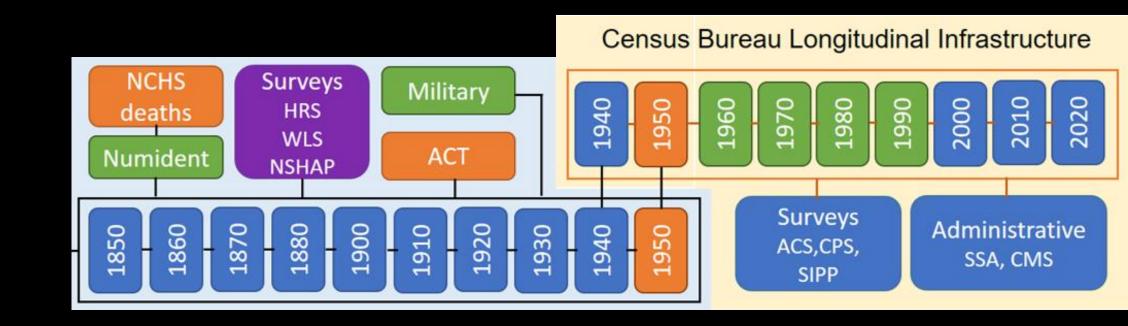






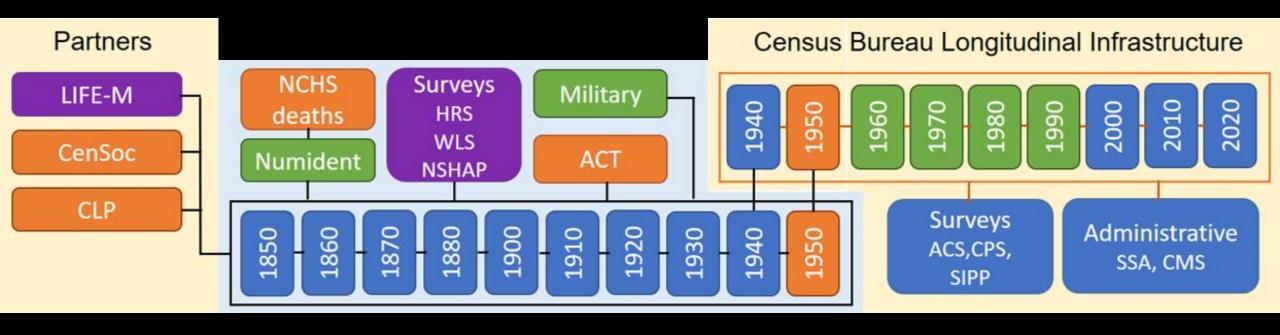






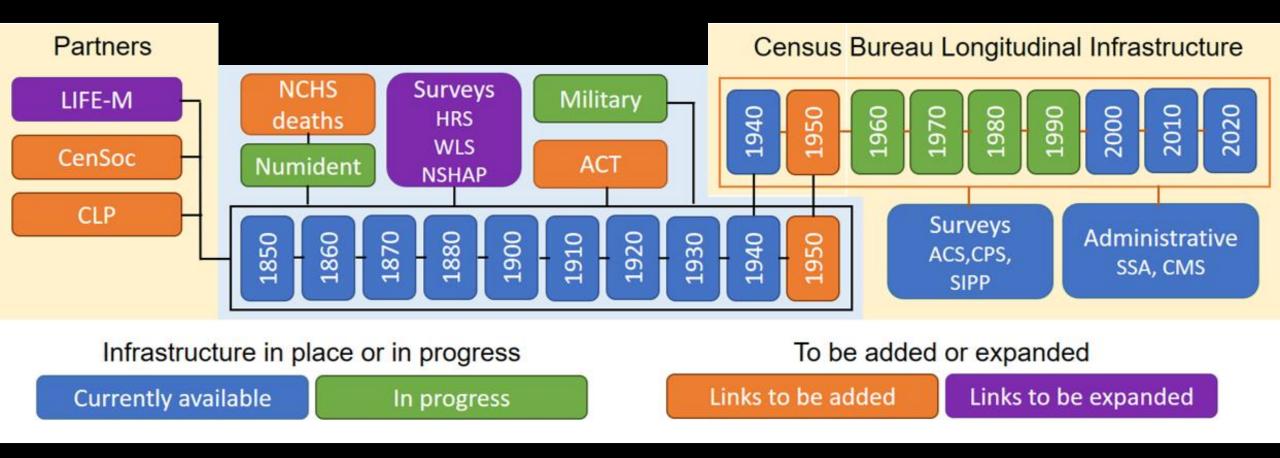
















What Can We Learn about Early Life for Today's Older People?





College, 1st to 4th year _____ C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4 College, 5th or subsequent year C-5

Indian In Kerean Ker Chinese Chi Other races, spell



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		T PRINTING			-11576		Township or other division of county			-	Block	Nos	•			Ins	titu
	-	TION	1		HOLD DA	ATA	NAME	RELATION			PERS	ONAL		EDU	CAT	ION	
Line No.	Street, avenue, road, etc.	House number (in cities and towns)	Number of household in order of visitation	Home owned (0) or rented (B)	Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented	Does this household live on a farm? (Xes or No)	Name of each person whose usual place of residence on April 1, 1940, was in this household. BE SURE TO INCLUDE: 1. Persons temporarily absent from household. Write "Ab" after names of such persons. 2. Children under 1 year of age. Write "Infant" if child has not been given a first name. Enter \(\text{\text{\text{after name of person furnishing information}} \).	household, as we daughter, fath mother-in-law,gra son, lodger, lodg wife, servant, he hand, etc.	vife, er,	Sex-Male (M), Female (F)	Color or race	Age at last birthday	Marital status— Single (S), Married (M), Widowed (Wd), Diverced (D)	Attended school or college any time since March 1, 1940? (Yes or No)	Highest grade of school completed	CODE (Leave blank)	Hb g p p p p p p p p p p p p p p p p p p
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			DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF
3	Ward of city	Unincorporated place	SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED

Block Nos. ______ Institution _____ (Name of institution and lines on which entries are made)

POPULATION SCHEDUI

ON)	PERS	ONAL	N	EDU	CATI	ON	PLACE OF BIRTH	1	CITI- ZEN- SHIP			PI										
this per- ad of the as wife, father, w,grand- lodger's t, hired	Female (F)			status— farried (M),), Divorced (D)	or college any time 1940? (Yes or No)	of school completed	k)	If born in the United States, give State, Territory, or possession. If foreign born, give coun- try in which birthplace was situated on January	k)	foreign born	IN WHAT PL For a person who, on Ap Col. 17 "Same house," town, enter, "Same ple For a person who lived directed in the Instruc- mail address.)	ACE DID THIS PER ril 1, 1935, was living and for one living i ace," leaving Cols. 18 in a different place, tions. (Enter actual	RSON LIVE ON APRIL of in the same house as a n a different house but , 19, and 20 blank, in both enter city or town, couplace of residence, which	1, 1935 t preser in the si th instar inty, an	nt, enter in ame city or nces. d State, as differ from	WORK for pay or or nonemergency or week of March (o)	rk on, or assigned RGENCY WORK etc.) during week (Yes or No)	If neith nor ass public gency ("No" 21 a	erat work signed to c emer- work. in Cols. and 22)	For pers answeri "No" to qu 21, 22, 23, 24	ng uest. and	If at private or nonemer- gency Gov- ernment work. ("Yes" in Col. 21)	
CODE (Leave pablank)	Sex-Male (M), Fer	Color or race	Age at last birthday	Marital s Single (S), M Widowed (Wd),	Attended school or since March 1, 194	Highest grade of sc	CODE (Leave blank)	l, 1937. Distinguish Canada- French from Canada- English and Irish Free State (Eire) from North- ern Ireland.	CODE (Leave blank)	Citizenship of the fe	City, town, or village having 2,500 or more inhabitants. Enter "R" for all other places.	COUNTY	STATE (or Territory or foreign country)	On a farm? (Yes or No)	CODE (Leave blank)	Was this person A7 profit in private Govt, work durin 24-301 (Yes or I)	If not, was he at work on, or as to, public EMERGENOY (WPA, NYA, CCC, etc.) durin of March 24-301 (Yes or No	Was this person SEEKING WORK? (Yes or No)	If not seeking work, did he HAVE AJOB, business, etc.? (Yes or No)	Indicate whether engaged in home housework (H), in school (S), unable to	CODE other (Ot)	Number of hours worked during week of March 24-30, 1940	
A	9	10	11	12	13	14	В	15	С	16	17	18	19	20	D	21	22	23	24	25	E	26	
																					-		

OF	COMMERCE-	-BUREAU	OF	THE	CENSUS
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S. D. No. _____ E. D. No. ____

Sheet No.

ENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940

Enumerated by me on ______, 1940.

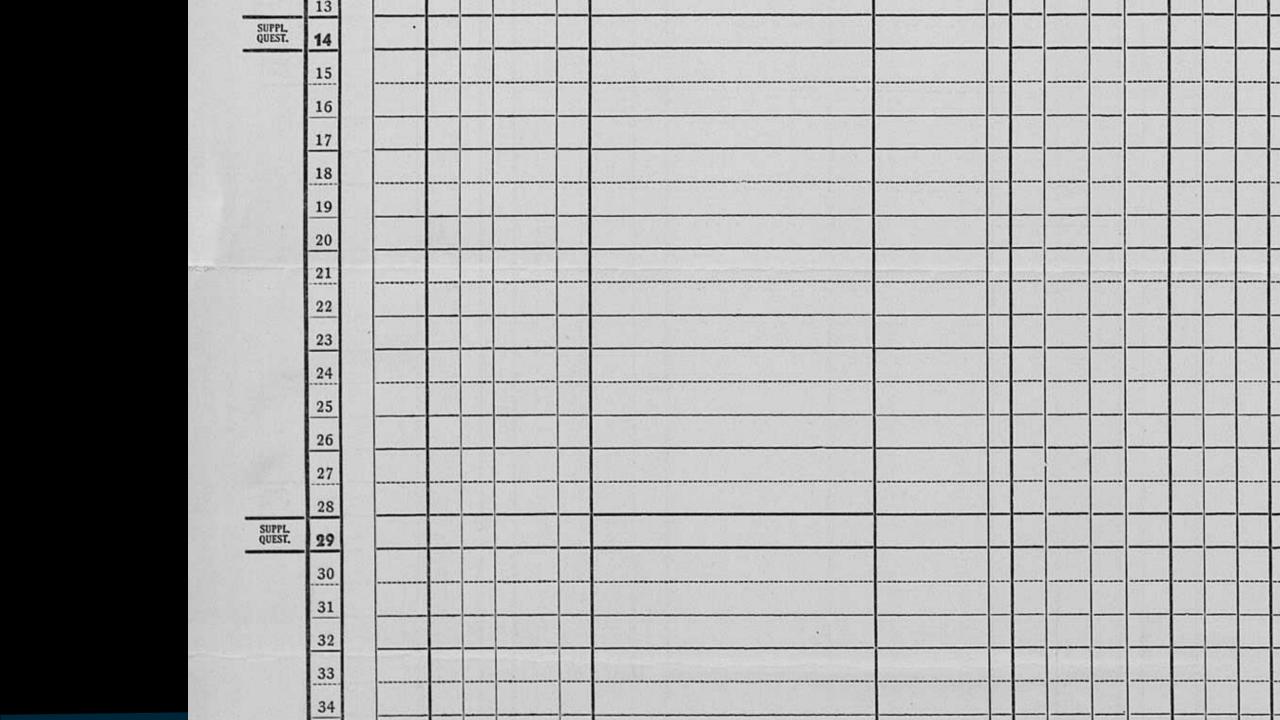
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ULATION SCHEDULE

....., Enumerator.

						PER	SONS 14	YEARS OLD AND OVER	-EMPLOYMENT STAT	υs						
reency March	NCY WORK Oduring week	public	rat work igned to emer-	For pers answeri "No" to qu	ng nest.	If at private or nonemer-	If seeking work or as- signed to	OCCUPATION For a person at work, assign Col. 21, 22, or 24), enter present	ON, INDUSTRY, AND CLASS	OF WORI	KER vith a job ("Yes" in	1939	INCOME (12 month December	31, 1939)		
VORK for noneme week of	ton, or as JENCY tc.) durin (es or No	("No" 21 an	emer- work. in Cols.	21, 22, 23,	and	gency Gov- ernment work. ("Yes" in Col. 21)	public emergency work. ("Yes" in Col.22 or 23)	For a person seeking work (" last occupation, industry, experience, enter "New work	Yes" in Col. 23): (a) If he has pand class of worker; or (b) if her" in Col. 28, and leave Cols. 29	previous v e does no and 30 bl	vorker. Fork experience, enter t have previous work ank.	rked in ne week	ages or cluding	re from money es er Ne)	Schedule	
Was this person AT WORK for pay or profit in private or nonemergency Govt, work during week of March 24-301 (Yes or No) If not, was he at work on, or assigned	If not, was he at worl to, public EMER (WPA, NYA, CCC, e of March 24-307 ()	Was this person SEEKING WORK? (Yes or No)	If not seeking work, did he HAVEA JOB, business, etc.? (Yes or No)	Indicate whether engaged in home housework (H), in school (S), unable to	CODE other (Ot)	Number of hours worked during week of March	Duration of un- employment up to March 80, 1940—in weeks,	OCCUPATION Trade, profession, or particular kind of work, as— frame spinner salesman laborer rivet heater music teacher	INDUSTRY Industry or business, as— cotton mill retail grocery farm shipyard public school	Class of worker	CODE (Leave blank)	Number of weeks worked in 1939 (Equivalent full-time weeks)	Amount of money wages or salary roceived (including commissions)	Did this person receive income of \$50 or more from sources other than money wages or salary? (Yes or No)	Number of Farm Sch	Line No.
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W Filipino Fil Neg Hindu Hin In Korean Kor Chi Other races, spell			37	MOTHER	tes, give State, Territory, or possessi hich birthplace was situated on Jar Canada-English and Irish Free State orthern Ireland	FOR P										
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1 on or after Apri 11/13 C 10/12 J 9/12 I 8/12 J 7/13 H				ildhood	n in home in	E (OR NATIVE AGE)										
October 1 Tovember December anuary Cebruary March 19			H	CODE (Leave blank)	e blank)											
939 er 1939 er 1939 1940 40			39	If so, enter	or th	-										
			40	If child, is vet- eran-father dead?	person a ed States o wife, w ear-old ch	VETE										

Illustration: Imagine That My Grandfather Was an ACT Participant



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS Jene Haute Cit Ward of cit S D No Sheet No. SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940 Enumerated by me on april 5 Township or other Harris County Vigo Block Nos 36-37 Institutio POPULATION SCHEDULE Ruth Krigsly PERSONAL DESCRIPTION HOUSEHOLD DATA NAME RELATION EDUCATION PLACE OF BIRTH RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1935 IN WHAT PLACE DID THE PERSON LIVE ON APRIL 1, 18619
For a powers who, on April 1, 1855, was living in the same bears as at present, enter in the case of the present, enter in the case of the present of the case of the present of the case of the present of the p INCOME IN 1809 Ameria of many wages or analyzone (Industria) or commenced (Industria) If foreign born, give cou try in which birthple was situated on Janua 1, 1987. BE SURE TO INCLUDE: 1. Persons temperarily absent from Write "Ab" after names of such persons. Number of huns weeked forming week of first pt-30, 180 on playment up to Nachik, 1900 - it weeks Distinguish Canada-French from Canada-English and Irish Free State (Sire) from Sorth-ern Iroland. 2. Children under 1 year of age. Write "Infa if child has not been given a live name. Enter "R" for all other 9 10 11 12 13 14 B 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 F W 14 M 26 2 50 Selinais 2 M W 16 S y H 2 20 Indians 16 h no 76 H Kress Sue 8 No No No No S 2424 75 0 4000 Hampton may PW 62 Vd No 8 8 Felinai 0 76 Me he he he H - myste @ - fucille F W 43 S No H-21 40 - - - 140 Book kuper Hotel PW210 871 F W 41 S No 8 1 Delina Clerk Hept Store PW 220 63 1 50 800 16. attendent Filling states PW 416 7V 152 880 16 Clerk 2 - - - 140 M W 24 5 10 pt 30 9 dias 20 - - - 170 - John Hay salesman gasaline 2430 76 R 20 moore steve 10 Head M W 44 M No 8 1 Delivais X 24 - - - - 1 45 PW 420 60 1 52 1800 KG Same Place - maple FW 42 M 76 44 30 Indiana ne Place 0 20 26 16 16 16 H 0 46 - John M W 20 5 44 (250) Indian Sun Class 0 x 10 10 10 10 16 S 0 Kg Son No No No H 77 0 7000 Reveal Ben Head OM W 57 M No 42 50 Indiana Jame House Inspector Railroad Co BU318 47 1 5 1950 16 FW 57 M K & 10 Vilinais E W 21 S & C 1 1 Indians & Begins Block 37 - Rose D wife 0 K K h ha ho S - mildred Daughter Here Ends Blog Head OMW 41 M X Ht 30 Andians Garrison Paul QUEST. 14 2400 78 8 27 490 - - - 72 Paint Co. 278 15 (52 2400 Ko 14 QUEST. - Florence Wife IPW 40 M No H4 30 Jelinais 0 16 Sun Place no no ha ha H Arn 2 M W 19 5 44 c 50 Illusis Head 1 M W 52 M 16 c 50 Indian Lane Place (x) 14 16 14 1/2 5 0 24 1408 79 0 5000 Freed John E Doctor Prinatorice CA V32 72452 o lo 33- - - - 11001 - margaretq @ wife | E w 44 M 26 5 % Canada - John gr. Son | M W 19 5 ya 3 60 Indiana Same House no ho ho ho H 0 16 Some Have 76 R M 14 15 0 16 Sextrude Elizabeth Claudela O F W 16 5 30 42 20 Indian No No No No H 5 0 10 24080 R 25 Head M W 28 M M 8 8 Indian Painter auto Co. PW 458 69, 52 1700 KG Hilton milbourn marshall Clark Illinis 120 M K K H - Thelma & wife I = W 28 M No 8 8 Indian Marshall Clark 0 16 - Sue ann Daughter mating 2 F W 2 5 M 0 Indiana Berry mary Mead M W 38 M 10 1 White no ho ho ho U Marshall Clark Illian 0 16 E 156 73352 2421 81 0 4200 Rhy n.4. y - - - -0 76 45 Wife 1 F W 35 M W C-1 4 ne 16 he he H 0 16 - Charles N. gr. Son " M w 12 5 2 7 ? alico - Carolyn Jane Roughter F W 8 5 1 3 3 alico Daughter FW 8 3 1 3 alio SIPPL 29 R. 2.4 2.3 29 SIRML - madgalene mother E W 69 Wa No 44 30 Olio R. n. 4. n. 3. 14 10 14 16 U State Calley M W 52 M 16 C5 Indian Teacher 2419 82 0 4500 Wellown, Ernest La Head - makel w. wife IF w 59 M Noce & Kausas Same / for 96 h h h ho H o ko Son M W 23 3 34 65 8 Daughter F W 19 5 4 6 5 no no no no s - Russell W 0 26 no hh h no s marion o Lawre martha nurse nurse M W 27 S 40 Investigator Credit Co F W 24 5 16 C4 sterographer Box Co. PW 236 12 152 1411 84 R 40 1 Burner Flancis & Head M W 28 M 16 1 Messeria - majorie @ wife F W 29 M 16 45 Illiusis R. Illinois 14 6x31 He 1/2 1/4 H SUPPLEMENTARY FOR PERSONS OF ALL AGES FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER FOR OFFICE USE ONLY-DO NOT WRITE IN THESE COLUMNS QUESTIONS PLACE OF BIRTH OF PATHER AND MOTHER TOTAL SECTION OF THE PROPERTY | Pin. | Color | Pin. | Color | Pin. | Color | Pin. | Color | Pin. | And | Pin. | And | Pin. nguage speken in home is NAME (Leave USUAL INDUSTRY H 39 40 41 I 42 43 44 Upo Upo 3 Salesman Paint Co. English no Indiana Col. 11. AGE AT LAST REXTEDAY:

Enter age of children born on or shee April 1, 1909, as follows. Bern in:

April 100. 11.1/3 Colober 1909. 475

Final 1909. 4719 December 1909. 4719

Final 1909. 4719 December 1909. 4711

August 1909. 4719 January 1909. 4711

August 1909. 7713 Fabruary 1909. 4711

Espinimber 1909. 4713 Fabruary 1909. 4711

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Espinimber 1909. 4713 Col. 51. WAS TRIS PERSON AT WORK!
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the covernment of the covernment o Col. 94. DID THIS PERSON HAVE A JOB! Enter "Yea" for a person (not seeking work) who had a job, business, or professional enterprise, but did not work during woods of March \$4-00 for any of the following reasons: Vacu-tion: temporary disease; industrial Col. 5. VALUE OF HOME, IF OWNED: Col. 10. COLOR OF RACE: Cole, 30 and 47, CLASS OF WORKER Wago or minry worker in private work White...... W
Negro....... Neg
Indian...... In Dementers echool latto the code 1. 5. etc., to 5 High school, let to 4th year...... H-1, H-2, H-3, H-4 College, let to 4th year..... 0-1, C-2, C-3, C-4 American citizen born

S.ORG

DEPARTI

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SIXTEENTE

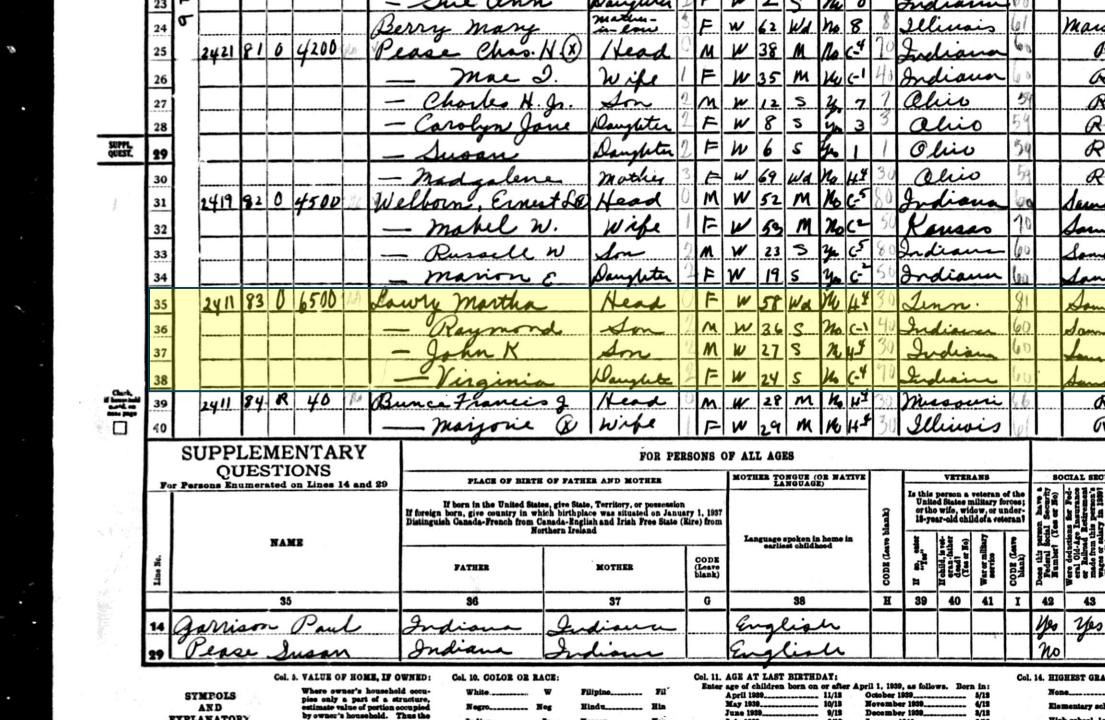
STATE (or Territory or foreign country)

19

Incorporated place June Unincorporated place
(Name of unincorporated place having 100 or more inhabitants) Township or other ownship or other Harrison Block Nos.36-37 PERSONAL HOUSEHOLD DATA NAME RELATION EDUCATION PLACE OF BIRTH LOCATION RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1935 DESCRIPTION IN WEAT PLACE DID THIS PERSON LIVE ON APRIL 1, 1989 Name of each person whose usual place of residence on April 1, 1940, was in this household. Relationship of this per-son to use head of the household, as wife, daughter, father, mother-in-law grand-ma, ledger, lodger's wife, cervant, hired hand, etc. For a person who, on April 1, 1985, was living in the same bease as at present, Col. 17 "Same house," and for one living , a a different house but in the sam town, enter, "Same place," leaving Cols. 18, 19, and 20 blank, in both instance f born in the United States, give State, Territory, or For a person who lived in a different place, enter city or town, county, and a directed in the Instructions. (Enter actual place of recidence, which may diff mail address.) If foreign born, give coun-try in which birthplace was situated on January 1, 1987. RE SURE TO INCLUDE: 1. Persons temperarily absent from household. Write "Ab" after names of su-h persons. Distinguish Canada-French from Canada-English and Irish Free State (Eire) from North-ern Iroland. City, town, or village having 2,500 or more inhabitants. Enter "R" for all other places. 2. Children under 1 year of age. Write "Infant if child has not been given a live name. COUNTY Enter @after name of person furnishing information CODE C 17 I 2430 76 R 77 0 10 11 12 9 SEPPL QUEST, 2400 16

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								1			6	0		6	1			1		- 1			- 1		12	5 1		1

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Saturalized

Bay or profit in private or nonemergency Government work. Include unpaid family workers—that is, related members with the family workers.

Col. 24. DID THIS PERSON HAVE A JOB? Enter "Yes" for a person (not seeking work) who had a job, business, or professional enterprise, but did not work during week of March 34-30 for any of the following reasons: Vaca-

B1 Cols. 30 sing or not for

wage or salary worker in private work.

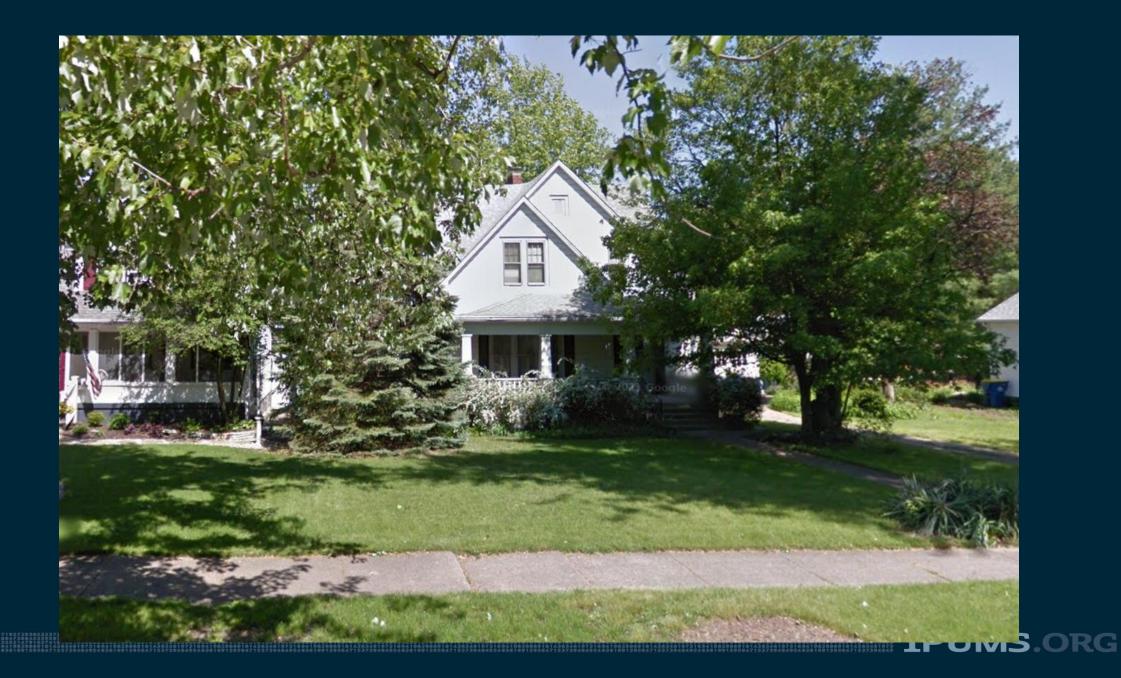
Wage or salary worker in PW

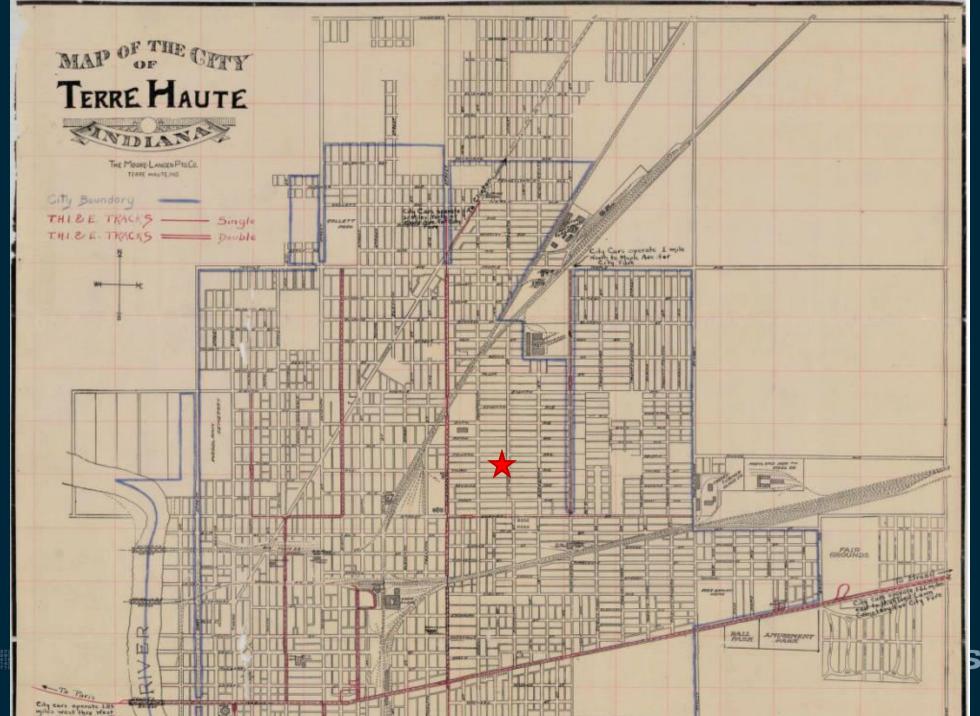
Wage or salary worker in Government work.

ol. 41. WAR OR MILITARY SERVICE:
World War.
Spanish-American War.
Philippine Insurrectica,
or Soure Rebellion.
Spanish-American War and

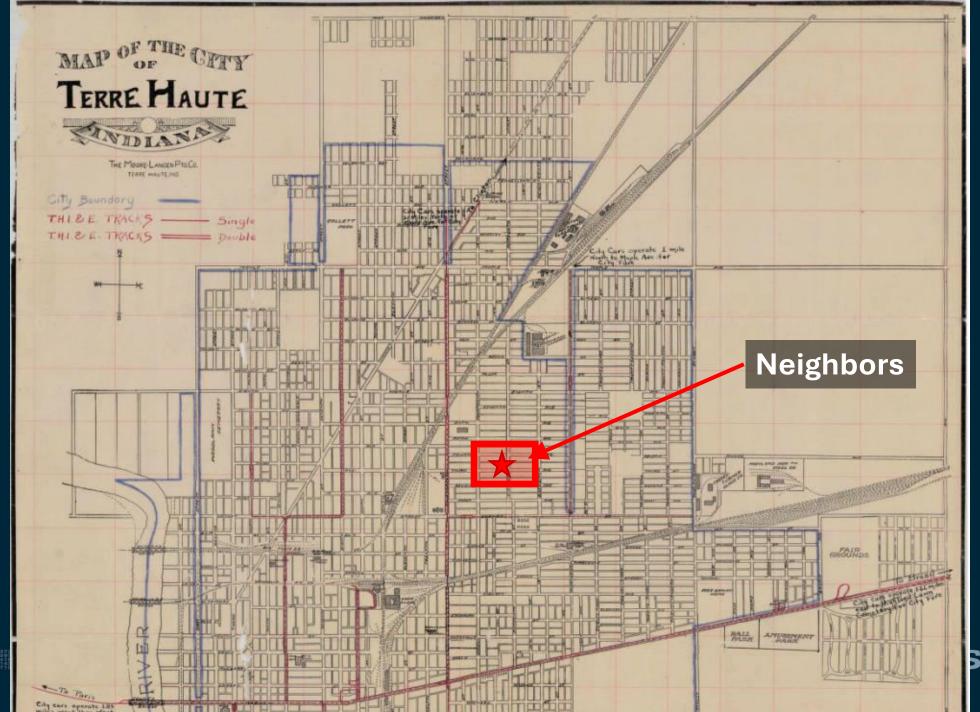
S.ORG

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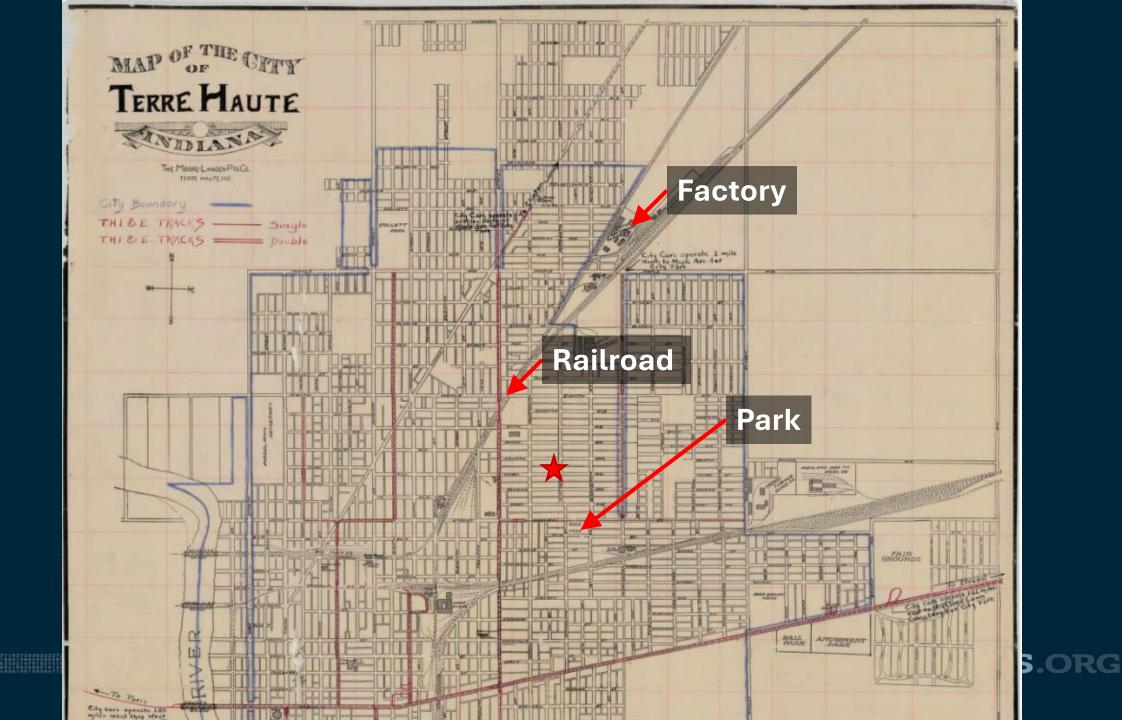


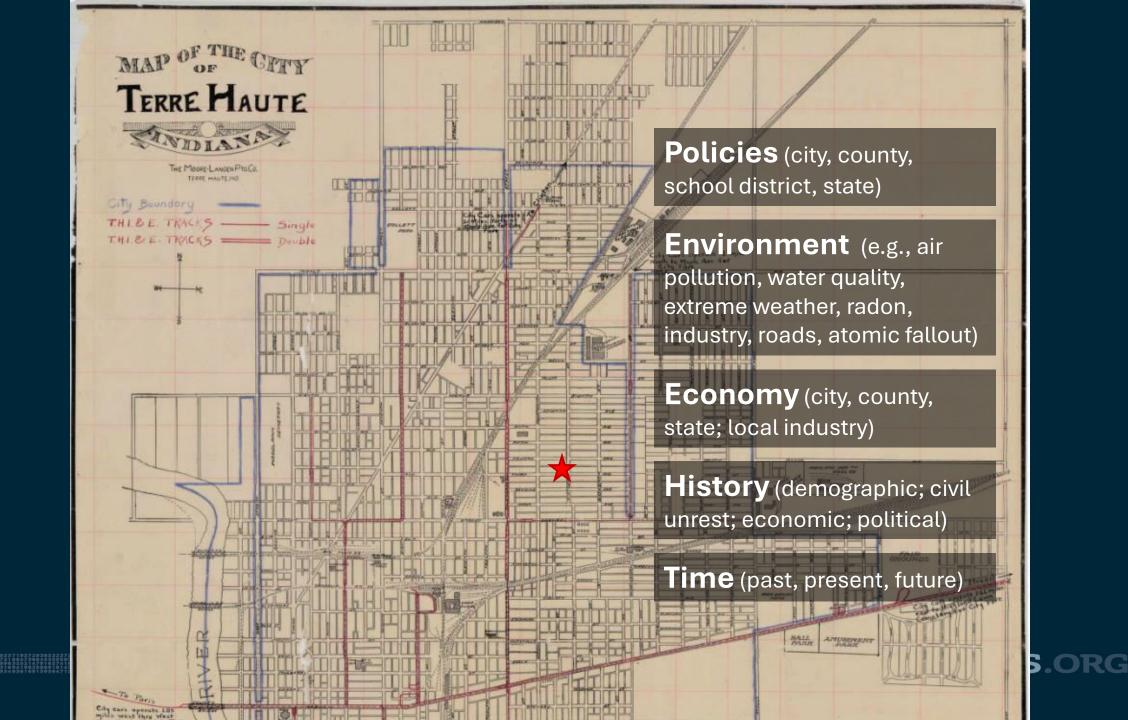


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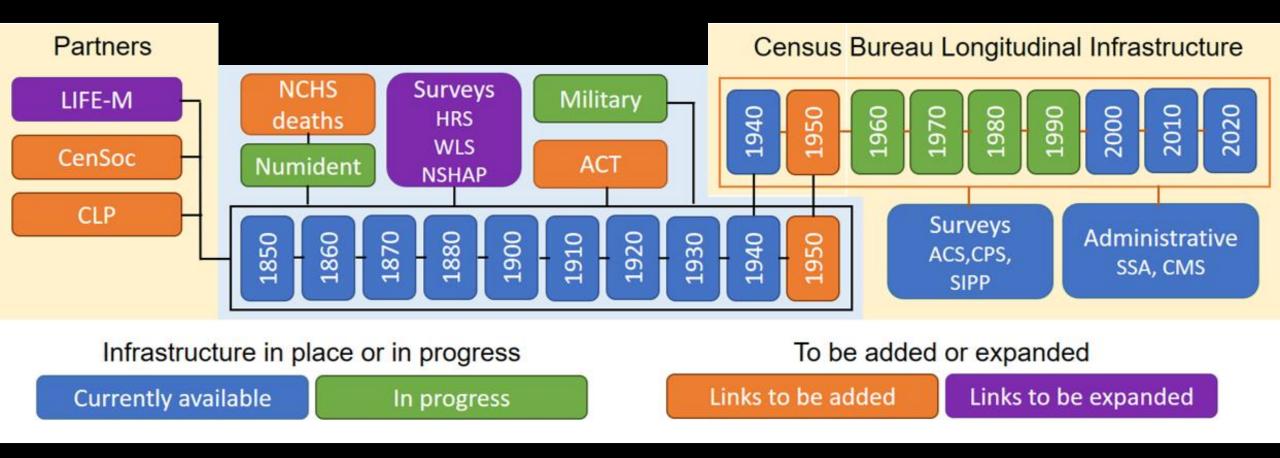




And that's all just from one Census...



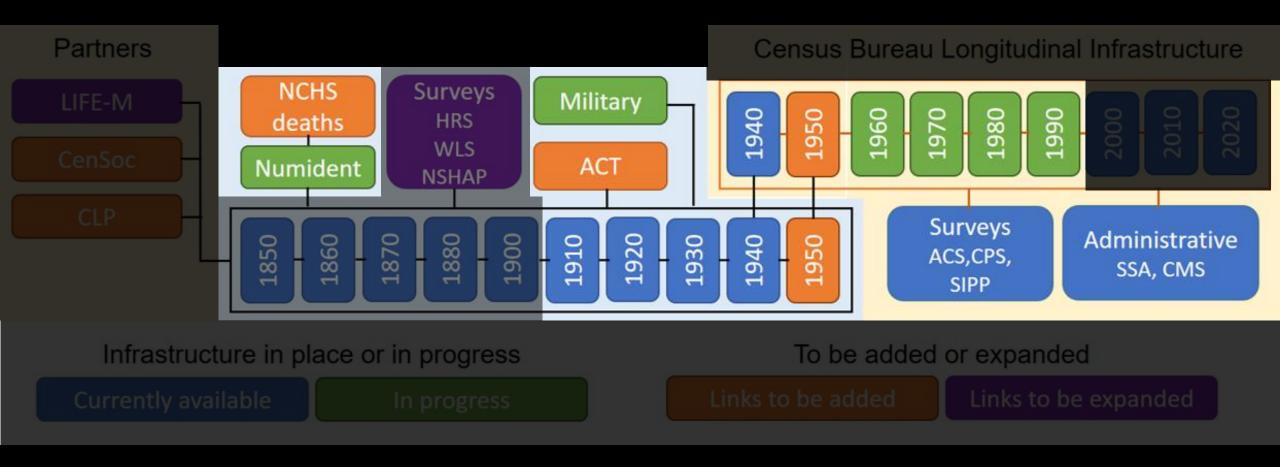
IPUMS Multigenerational Longitudinal Panel







IPUMS Multigenerational Longitudinal Panel







Take Home Message

Everything we can know about my grandfather...

...we can also know about any older American who has appeared in...

...any recent aging survey, EHR record, and/or administrative record

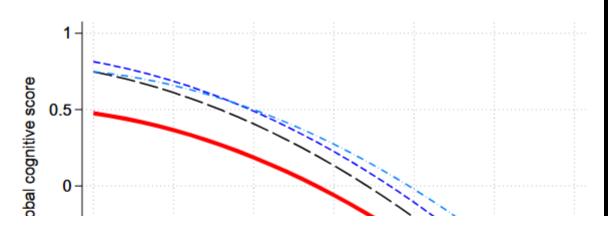




Scientific Uses?







The Flint, Michigan water crisis renewed concern about lead toxicity in drinking water. While lead in drinking water has been shown to negatively affect cognition among children, much less is known about its long-term consequences for late-life cognition. Using a nationally representative sample of U.S. older adults linked to historical administrative data from 1940, we find that older adults who lived as children in cities with lead pipes and acidic or alkaline water—the conditions required for lead to leach into drinking water—had worse cognitive functioning but not steeper cognitive decline. About a quarter of the association between lead and late-life cognition was accounted for by educational attainment. Within the next 10 years, American children exposed to high levels of lead during the 1970s will enter older ages. Our evidence highlights the need for stronger actions to identify interventions to mitigate long-term damage among people at high risk.

Fig. 4. Trajectories of cognitive functioning by childhood lead exposure. Trajectories are calculated using estimates from model 1 in Table 2, HRS, 1998 to 2016 (n = 7432 person-wave observations).

Nonlead pipes & acidic/alkaline water

Lee et al., Sci. Adv. 8, eabn5164 (2022) 9 November 2022

Lead pipes & neutral water





Long-Term Effects of Local-Area New Deal Work Relief in Childhood on Educational, Economic, and Health Outcomes Over the Life Course: Evidence From the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study

Sepideh Modrek, Evan Roberts, John Robert Warren, and David Rehkopf

ABSTRACT The economic characteristics of one's childhood neighborhood have been found to determine long-term well-being. Policies enacted during childhood may change neighborhood trajectories and thus impact long-term outcomes for children. We use individual-level data from the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study to examine the endur-

obtain at least a bachelor's degree. We find enduring benefits for midlife income and late-life cognition for males who grew up in areas with a moderate amount of work relief. We find mixed results for males who grew up in the most disadvantaged areas

outcomes as those in the most advantaged districts with the lowest work-relief activity but had higher adult smoking rates. Our findings provide some of the first evidence of the long-term consequences of New Deal policies on children's long-term life course outcomes.

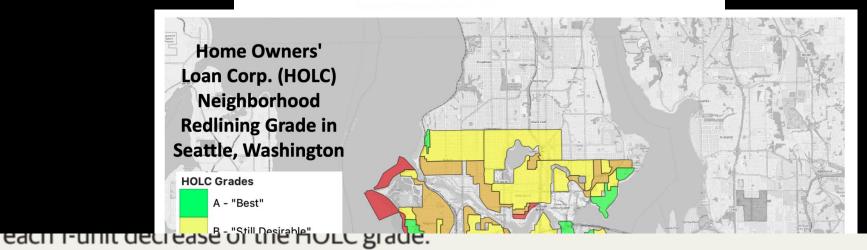
KEYWORDS Childhood neighborhood • Cognition • Socioeconomic status • Health behaviors • Mortality

Introduction

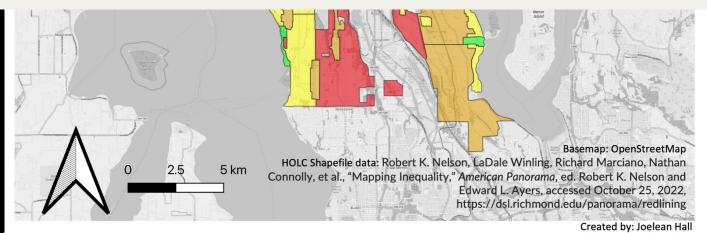
Over the last several decades, the relationship between childhood circumstances and educational attainment, economic well-being, and health over the life course has been established across economics, demography, epidemiology (Almond et al. 2018; Campbell et al. 2014; Hayward and Gorman 2004), and other fields. Furthermore, studies have documented positive long-term consequences for children whose households benefited from social safety net programs, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) (Chetty and Friedman 2011), supplemental nutrition programs

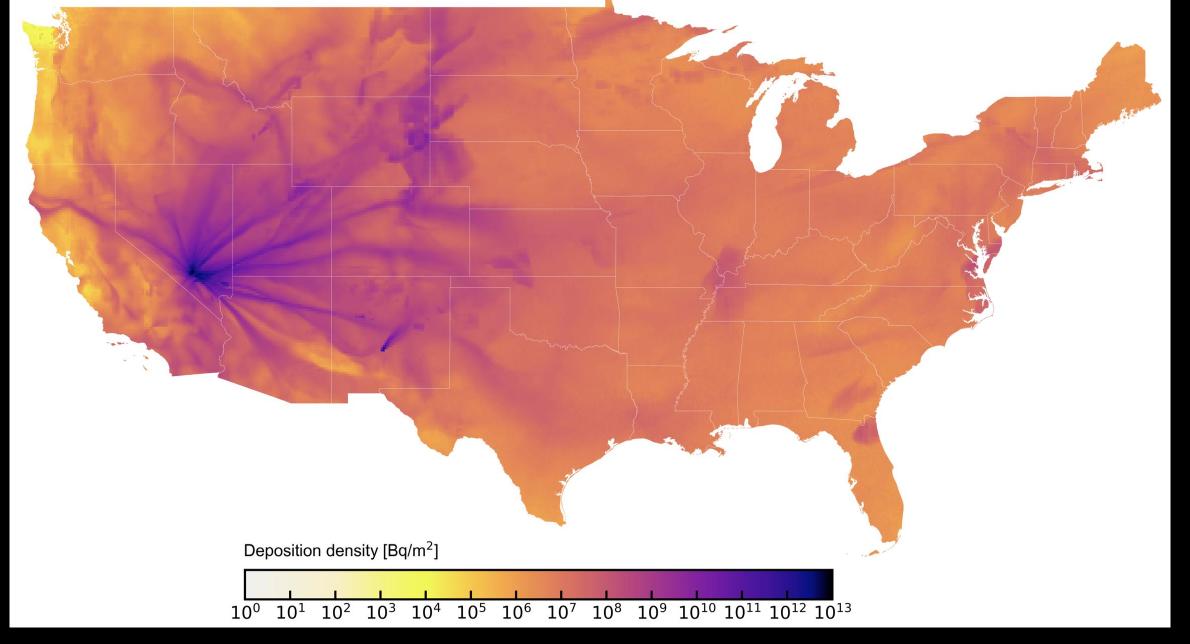
ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL The online version of this article (https://doi.org/10.1215/00703370 -10111856) contains supplementary material.

11624580/1489modrek.pdf by guest on 12 May 2025



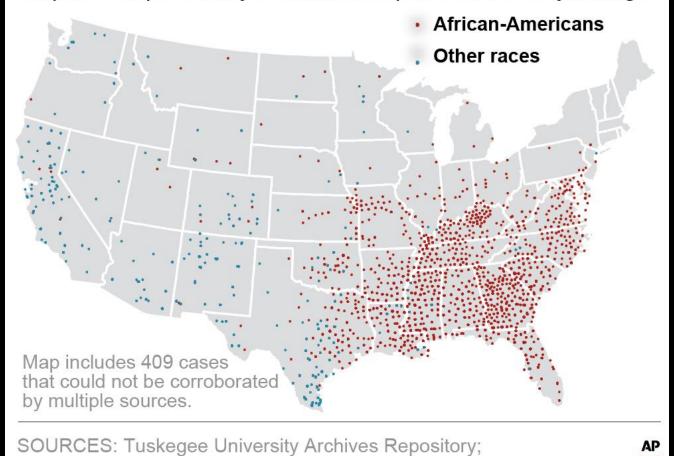
CONCLUSION This study found that individuals who resided within redlined neighborhoods in 1940 had lower life expectancy later in life than individuals who resided within other HOLC-graded areas.





5,000-plus known lynchings

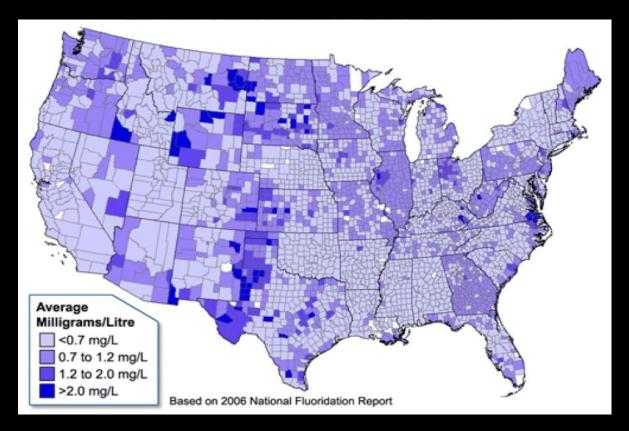
Each dot locates a county where a victim was killed by mobs, 1835 to 1964. Some dots represent multiple victims. For example, Phillips County, Arkansas reports over 200 lynchings.



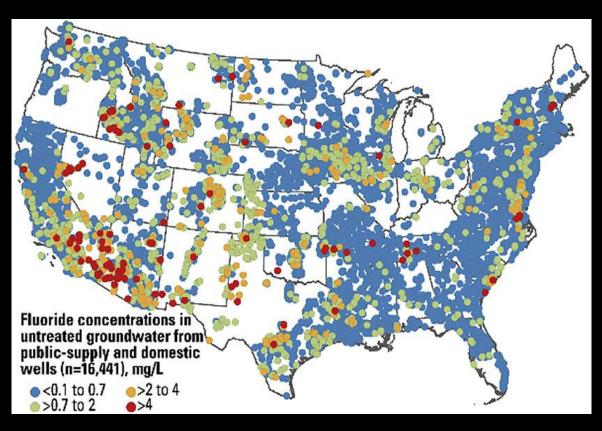


Auut Studio; www.monroeworktoday.org





Fluoride from Municipal Water Systems



Fluoride from Untreated Drinking Water

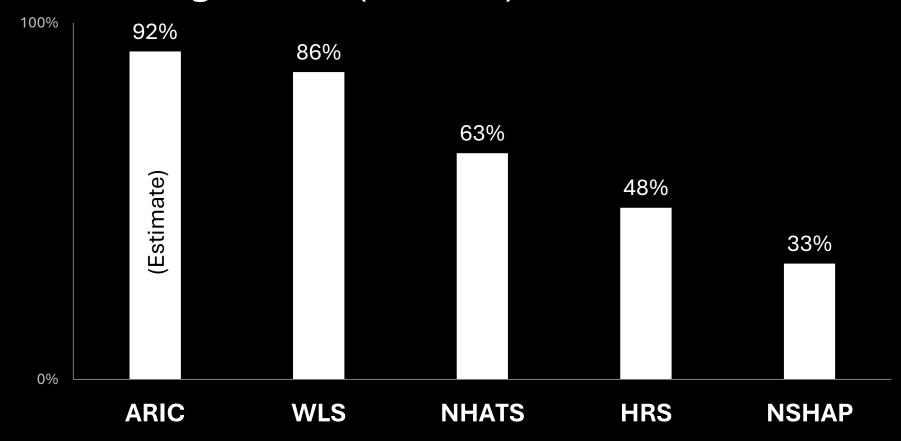




How many people can be linked?











Why Do Linking Rates Vary?

Availability and quality of names

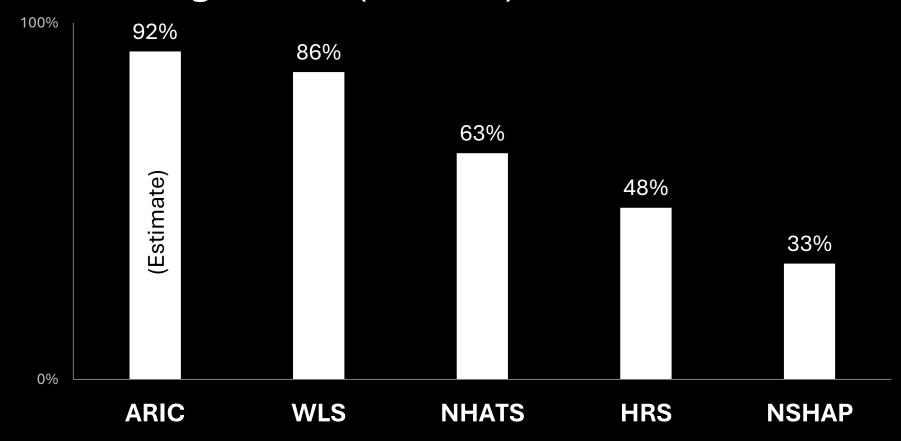
Availability of geographic measures

Availability of "tie breaking" information

Linking method (e.g., Ancestry.com)

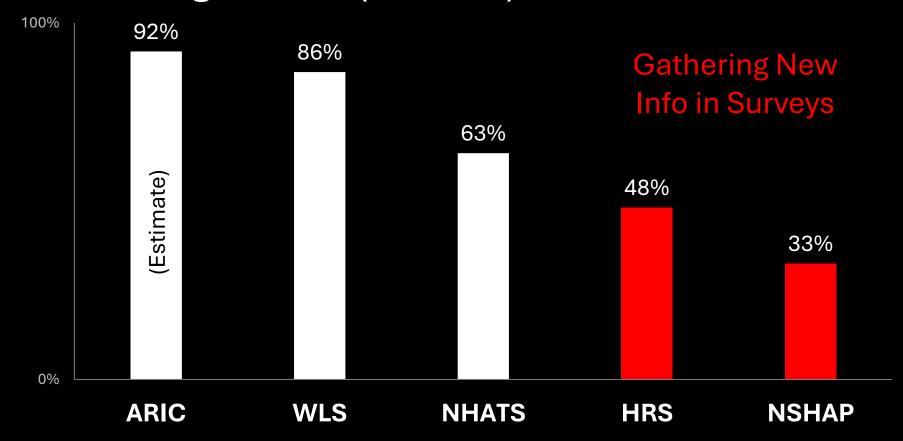






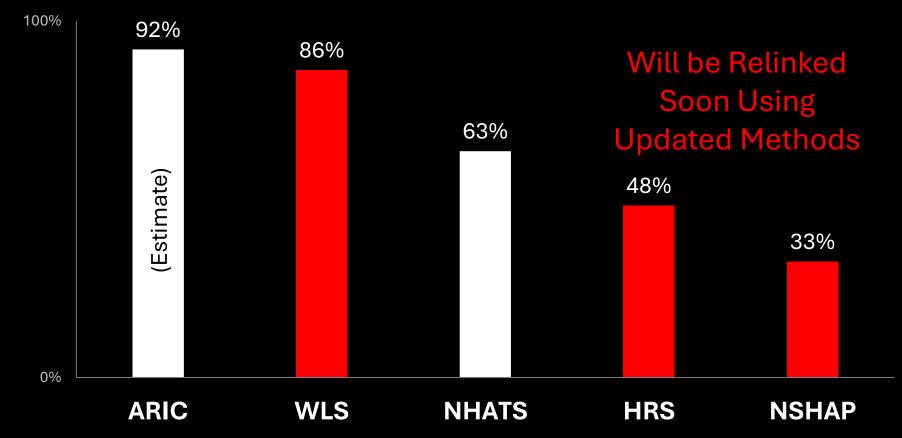






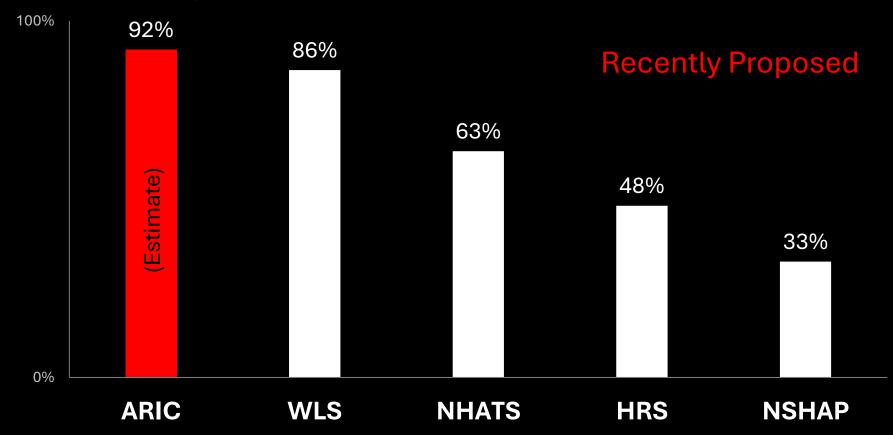
















ACT records will soon be linked to IPUMS-MLP





Thank you

- MLP receives support from NIA (R01AG057679)
- The U. of Minnesota Life Course Center receives support from NIA (P30AG066613)
- The U. of Minnesota Population Center receives support from NICHD (P2CHD041023)

ipums.org





