Central Puget Sound Opportunity Indicators Metadata

Note: In order to map access to opportunity at the Census tract level, all indicators have either been collected in or converted to the 2010 tract boundaries and FIPS codes. For tract-based data from the 2000 Census or the American Community Survey (ACS), data was translated to its 2010 equivalency through the parent-child relationship of the tract names, and the areal proportion of the 2010 children to the 2000 parent.¹

For data that was originally collected at another geography, (i.e. postal address, traffic analysis zone, or some other coverage) processes were employed to assign a value to each of the 2010 tracts based on the raw data, and a description of these is included in the methodology section of each of the following indicator profiles.

Education Indicators
School Reading Proficiency
  Description: The school proficiency rate on the 4th-grade reading exam (WASL)
  Field Code: EDU1
  Data Source: Washington State Report Card, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
  Geography: Point-based, School locations
  Date: 2010-2011 school year
  Methodology: Each tract was assigned the average of the reading proficiency scores of the three elementary schools nearest the tract centroid. This process also considered school district boundaries, so as to assign data to tracts only according to the district in which the tract resides.
  Correlation coefficient: 0.569806

School Math Proficiency
  Description: The school proficiency rate on the 4th-grade mathematics exam (WASL)
  Field Code: EDU2
  Data Source: Washington State Report Card, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
  Geography: Point-based, School locations
  Date: 2010-2011 school year
  Methodology: Each tract was assigned the average of the mathematics proficiency scores of the three elementary schools nearest the tract centroid. This process also considered school district boundaries, so as to assign data to tracts only according to the district in which the tract resides.
  Correlation coefficient: 0.565631

Student Poverty Rates
  Description: The percentage of elementary school students receiving free or reduced-price lunches
  Field Code: EDU3
  Data Source: Washington State Report Card, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
  Geography: Point-based, School locations
  Date: 2010-2011 school year
  Methodology: Each tract was assigned the student poverty rate of the three elementary schools nearest the tract centroid. This process also considered school district boundaries, so as to assign data to tracts only according to the district in which the tract resides.
  Correlation coefficient: -0.594176

Teacher Qualifications
  Description: The percentage of teachers who have obtained a master's degree or more
  Field Code: EDU4
  Data Source: Washington State Report Card, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
  Geography: Point-based, School locations
  Date: 2010-2011 school year

¹ This methodology assumes normal distribution throughout the tract.
Methodology: Each tract was assigned the teacher master’s achievement rate of the three elementary schools nearest the tract centroid. This process also considered school district boundaries, so as to assign data to tracts only according to the district in which the tract resides.

Correlation coefficient: 0.183252

Graduation Rates
Description: The percentage of students who graduated from high school on time
Field Code: EDU5
Data Source: Washington State Report Card, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
Geography: Point-based, School locations
Date: 2010-2011 school year
Methodology: Each tract was assigned the graduation rate of the three high schools nearest the tract centroid. This process also considered school district boundaries, so as to assign data to tracts only according to the district in which the tract resides.

Correlation coefficient: 0.292436

Economic Health Indicators
Access to Living Wage Jobs
Description: The percentage of all regional jobs that provide living wages within 15 minutes of travel time by automobile and 30 minutes via public transit.
Field Code: ECON1
Geography: Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ)
Date: 2008 - 2010
Methodology: Each tract was assigned a value based on the traffic analysis zones whose centroids are within the tract’s boundaries.

Correlation coefficient: 0.546859(% Jobs within 15Min. by Auto) 0.570737(% Jobs within 30Min. by Transit)

Job Growth Trends
Description: The change in number of jobs between 2000 and 2010
Field Code: ECON2
Data Source: Puget Sound Regional Council
Geography: Census Tract
Date: 2000 - 2010 annually
Methodology: For the 2000 tracts, data was translated to its 2010 equivalency through the parent-child relationship of the tract names, and the areal proportion of the 2010 children to the 2000 parent.

Correlation coefficient: 0.064998

Unemployment Rate
Description: The percentage of the civilian labor force who are unemployed
Field Code: ECON3
Data Source: American Community Survey (ACS)
Geography: Census Tract
Date: 2006-2010 5-year estimates
Methodology: None
Correlation coefficient: -0.359840

Housing & Neighborhood Quality Indicators
Housing Vacancy
Description: The percent of all housing units which are vacant
| Field Code: | NQ5                         |
| Data Source: | U.S. Census                  |
| Geography: | Census Tract                |
| Date: | 2010                        |
| Methodology: | none                        |
| Correlation coefficient: | 0.116735                    |

**Foreclosure Rate**
- **Description:** The estimated foreclosure rate
- **Field Code:** OVLY1
- **Data Source:** HUD User
- **Geography:** Census Tract
- **Date:** Second Quarter, 2010
- **Methodology:** none
- **Correlation coefficient:** -0.675700

**High Cost Loan Rate**
- **Description:** The percentage of high cost loan which homes is financed by a subprime mortgage related loan
- **Field Code:** OVLY1
- **Data Source:** HUD User
- **Geography:** Census Tract
- **Date:** 2010
- **Methodology:** none
- **Correlation coefficient:** -0.523992

**Housing Stock Condition**
- **Description:** The percentage of all households that are in poor condition (have 1.01 or more occupants per room with complete plumbing facilities or lacking complete plumbing facilities)
- **Field Code:** NQ10
- **Data Source:** American Community Survey (ACS)
- **Geography:** Census Tract
- **Date:** 2006-2010 5-year estimates
- **Methodology:** none
- **Correlation coefficient:** -0.282007

**Crime Index**
- **Description:** An estimated index based on all personal and property crimes relative to total population
- **Field Code:** NQ3
- **Data Source:** Tetrad Computer Applications, Inc. PCensus Dbx
- **Geography:** Census Tract, 2000 boundaries
- **Date:** 2010
- **Methodology:** Data was translated to its 2010 equivalency through the parent-child relationship of the tract names, and the areal proportion of the 2010 children to the 2000 parent.
- **Correlation coefficient:** 0.197745

**Transportation and Mobility Indicators**

**Transportation Cost**
- **Description:** The cost of the average commute to work at $0.50 per mile
- **Field Code:** MT2
- **Data Source:** Puget Sound Regional Council
- **Geography:** Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ)
Date: 2010
Methodology: Each tract was assigned a value based on the traffic analysis zones whose centroids are within the tract’s boundaries.
Correlation coefficient: -0.543292

Access to Transit
Description: The percentage of the total area that is within 1/4-mile of an Express Bus stop
Field Code: MT3
Data Source: Puget Sound Regional Council
Geography: Point, Bus Stop locations
Date: 2010
Methodology: Each tract was assigned a value based on the percentage of the tract’s total area that is within a .25-mile buffer of the express bus stops.
Correlation coefficient: 0.561872

Transit Cost
Description: The cost of the average transit fare
Field Code: MT4
Data Source: Puget Sound Regional Council
Geography: Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ)
Date: 2010
Methodology: Each tract was assigned a value based on the traffic analysis zones whose centroids are within the tract’s boundaries.
Correlation coefficient: -0.016901

Walkability
Description: The percentage of all commuters who walk to work
Field Code: HE4
Data Source: American Community Survey (ACS)
Geography: Census Tract
Date: 2005-2009 5-year estimates
Methodology: none
Correlation coefficient: 0.444555

Health and Environmental Indicators
Parks and Open Space
Description: The distance to the nearest park or open space
Field Code: HE1
Data Source: Puget Sound Regional Council
Geography: Polygon, Park and Open Space locations
Date: 2006
Methodology: Each tract was given a value based on the distance between the tract’s centroid and the nearest park or open space.
Correlation coefficient: -0.227054

Toxic Waste Release
Description: Pounds of toxic release emitted from toxic waste sites
Field Code: HE2
Data Source: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Geography: Point, Locations of Toxic Release Sites
Date: 2010
Methodology: The indicator is based on the proportion of each site’s toxic release within a 2-mile area. Tracts received a value if they were within 2 miles of at least one toxic release site. 
Correlation coefficient: -0.306450

Access to Healthy Food
Description: Percentage of tract that is within a food desert
Field Code: HE3
Data Source: Puget Sound Regional Council, Regional Food Policy Council & University of Washington (Identifying Food Deserts Access to Healthy Food in the Puget Sound Food System Assessment)
Geography: Census tract
Date: 2011
Methodology: The indicator is based on the percentage of tract area that is within a qualified food desert.
Correlation coefficient: -0.096407

Overlay Data
Subsidized Housing
Description: The number of housing vouchers and public housing units
Field Code: OVLY2
Data Source: HUD User
Geography: Census Tract
Date: 2008
Methodology: none

Housing Cost Burden
Description: The percentage of all households with income under $75,000 annually, that spent 30% or more of household income on housing costs
Field Code: NQ8
Data Source: American Community Survey (ACS)
Geography: Census Tract
Date: 2006-2010 5-year estimates
Methodology: None

Disability Status
Description: The percent of the population that has a disability
Field Code: OVLY4
Data Source: American Community Survey (ACS)
Geography: Census Tract
Date: 2005-2009 5-year estimates
Methodology: none

Race
Description: The population of Whites, Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and Native Americans
Field Code: OVLY5
Data Source: U.S. Census (SF1)
Geography: Census Tract
Date: 2010
Methodology: none

Population
Description: The total number of people living in each census tract
Field Code: OVLY6
Data Source: U.S. Census (SF1)
Geography: Census Tract
Date: 2010
Methodology: none

**Poverty Rate**
Description: The percentage of people living below the poverty level
Field Code: OVLY9
Data Source: American Community Survey (ACS)
Geography: Census Tract
Date: 2006-2010 5-year estimates
Methodology: none

**Public Assistance Rate**
Description: The percent of the population receiving public assistance
Field Code: OVLY10
Data Source: American Community Survey (ACS)
Geography: Census Tract
Date: 2006-2010 5-year estimates
Methodology: none

**Transit Routes**
Description: The location of existing and future light rail lines and stations.
Field Code: none
Data Source: Puget Sound Regional Council
Geography: points, polylines
Date: 2008
Methodology: none