

The Women of Logan Square

Social Networks and Resilience for
Evacuation Mobility

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- Transit and intercity rail (a lack of service for those without cars) (Renne 2005)
- Relocation problem (refugee status, fear or lack of possible destinations outside of the region (Washington Post/Harvard University/Kennedy Foundation 2008)
- Disruption of/gaps in localized helping behavior or supra regional networks (Airress et al 2007)

Supra-Regional Networks—destinations and mobility *outside of the region*

Regional Networks—destinations and mobility *outside of neighborhood*

Local helping networks—preparation & everyday interaction

- Caregiving=parenting, babysitting, eldercare undertaken for both family and friends or as part of your job.

- 300 interviews
- Spatially determined sample, oversampling one immigrant community (Logan Square) and one community with more native-born residents near technological hazards
- 82 interviews in Spanish; 102 interviews with foreign-born residents; 60 caregivers, 50 female caregivers
- Remainder with native-born residents; another 120 caregivers in the sample

Female caregivers report their expectation that they plan to use their “everyday” modes and routes when leaving work or home during an evacuation.

My family would go together, maybe on train. I do not want to get lost, it would be frightening. Some parts of this city are bad *[pause]* with lots of crime. There would be crime, maybe stealing, maybe violence. The north...those places are safer. We could go to a place there. *[Interviewer asks why respondent chose the northern part of the Chicago region]* My husband works there, in construction on new houses on the north side. Those places are safe even if we don't know people there. (FB, Married mother of 1 year-old, nondriver)

I suppose I might take a train out there *[to her in-laws in an outer suburb]* but I've never taken the train there before. My son has done it...If I really thought I could trust the *[the train]* service, but I don't right now. With an emergency, with all the craziness, I think...I think I'd want to do what I was used to doing, and *[longer pause]* I'd want some control. (NB: Married mother of 14 and 12 year-olds., driver)

Foreign-born caregivers in the sample were far more likely to be dependent on transit and rides from friends and neighborhood knowledge

- Expectations of help—who gets and who gives
- Knowledge of routes and destinations

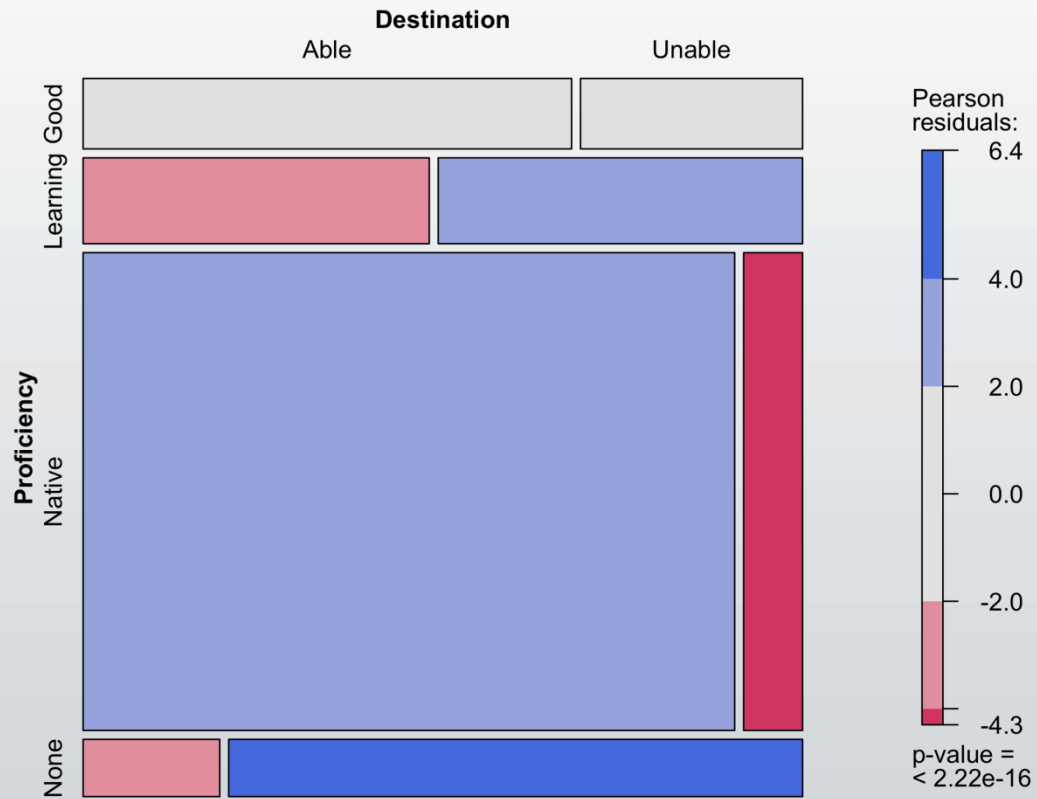
- I'd call my husband or my brother if we had to leave. *[Interviewer prompts respondent that cell phone might not work. There is a pause of roughly five seconds, though this is a lively, engaging respondent]* I would wait for them to come get us. They'd be looking for me, me and our sons. *[Interviewer asks what if her husband or brother is unable to get back to the neighborhood; the respondent again struggles for an answer and furrows her brows]* my husband would find a way to come get us. (FB, married mother of a 4 and 7 year-old, nondriver)

- My husband works all the way out in Naperville [*a western suburb of Chicago*]...I'd try to call him, but I wouldn't wait to hear from him or anything. I'd have to get me and her [*her daughter*] out with my car. I have all her stuff...the car seat and toys...those are in my car anyway. (NB: *married mother of 2 year old, driver*)

- My oldest girl would help me get everybody out. She is tough, this girl. She came with me from Mexico—all the way to Texas on buses, on foot, when she was so young. Nine. Then we move here. She always say “Mommy I help you.” She speaks English like you or anybody... She is not driving yet, but she will help carry her sister with me to the bus. (married mother of three children, aged 12, 10, and 3, nondriver)

- We just moved here...I just had a baby. I would need somebody to help me. *[Interviewer prompts respondent with a potential location in the northern suburbs]* I don't know where that is. *[Interviewer asks about where she might expect to get information on where to go]* One of my neighbors might hear it *[instructions]* on the radio. I would need a ride from somebody. *[Pause of about 10 seconds]* My neighbors take us, if I ask. They would know where to go. (FB married mother of 2-month old, nondriver)

English Proficiency and Ability to Identify Safe Destination



- I'd go get my son from the university if we had to leave. *[Interviewer asks respondent if son has a car]* Oh, yeah, he has a car, but the university makes them park really far from his dorm. *[She pauses.]* And he's just not going to be able to handle something like this. He can barely do his laundry. (NB: married mother of 19 and 18 year-olds).

- Emergency travel demand is a lot like everyday travel demand: it is informed by infrastructure supply and traveler's relationships and knowledge of the system.
- Caregiving is both a bridging and isolating factor social networks; it can both cause and lessen multiple dimensions of vulnerability and resilience.
- The conversations we had about these subjects were in many respects transformative—talking about emergencies is a way of planning for them.

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