Chapter IV: How many “Sandtowns” are there nationwide?

How many “Sandtowns” are there nationwide?

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Step 1: Choose a data source
Data source: American Community Survey

- Nationwide coverage
- Data at the “neighborhood” (Census tract) level
- Recent: 2009-13 (5-year average)
- Contains wide array of data
- Publicly available
Step 2: Identify indicators that distinguish Sandtown from other neighborhoods in Baltimore City and Maryland
Indicators to flag “Sandtowns”

• Examined over 1,500 potential indicators

• Identified 15 indicators that:
  • Showed substantial differences between Sandtown (weighted average of 6 Census tracts), Baltimore City, and Maryland
  • We judged as important
  • Addressed various aspects of community
Indicators distinguish between Sandtown and other geographies, but—for some indicators—substantial variation exists within Sandtown
Percentage of total population that is female

- Sandtown Census Tracts:
  - 150100: 57%
  - 150200: 57%
  - 160100: 51%
  - 160200: 53%
  - 160300: 54%
  - 160400: 55%

- Balt. City: 56%
- MD: 52%
Percentage of total population that is white

![Bar chart showing the percentage of total population that is white for Sandtown, Balt. City, and MD. Sandtown has 4%, Balt. City has 28%, and MD has 54%.]
Percentage of households with one or more child headed by a married couple

- Sandtown: 14%
- 150100
- 150200
- 160100
- 160200
- 160300
- 160400
- Balt. City: 35%
- MD: 64%
Percentage of adults age 25 and above with a bachelor’s degree or higher
Percentage of population age 16 and above that is employed
Percentage of employed population age 16 and up working in white collar occupations

![Percentage of employed population age 16 and up working in white collar occupations](image)
Median household income

Median household income for Sandtown Census Tracts:
- 150100: $21,083
- 150200: $26,739
- 160100: $17,268
- 160200: $35,551
- 160300: $26,296
- 160400: $27,241

and for Baltimore City and MD:
- Baltimore City: $45,704
- MD: $80,127
Percentage of households with interest, dividends, or net rental income

Sandtown Census Tracts

- Sandtown: 0, 5, 3, 1, 13, 2, 3
- Balt. City: 13
- MD: 24
Income per capita

Sandtown Census Tracts

- Sandtown
- Balt. City
- MD

11,535 13,052 14,158 16,498 11,275 12,136 13,629 24,750 36,354
Percentage of housing units that are vacant and not for rent or sale

Sandtown Census Tracts

150100 150200 160100 160200 160300 160400

Sandtown 34 31 27 33 41 32
Balt. City 12
MD 7

17
Median value of owner-occupied housing units

Sandtown Census Tracts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tract</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>150100</td>
<td>82,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150200</td>
<td>56,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160100</td>
<td>82,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160200</td>
<td>95,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160300</td>
<td>126,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160400</td>
<td>51,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>177,112</td>
<td>82,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>325,867</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sandtown

Balt. City

MD
Percentage of children ages 0-17 living in poverty

Sandtown Census Tracts

- 150100: 54
- 150200: 42
- 160100: 82
- 160200: 39
- 160300: 10
- 160400: 45
- Balt. City: 34
- MD: 13

Sandtown

Balt. City

MD
Percentage of total population living at or above 200 percent of poverty
Percentage of the population under age 17 with private health insurance

Sandtown Census Tracts

Balt. City

MD
Percentage of commuters ages 16 and above who travel to work in 30 minutes or less

Sandtown Census Tracts:
- 150100: 33%
- 150200: 35%
- 160100: 45%
- 160200: 40%
- 160300: 40%
- 160400: 34%

Sandtown:
- 40%

Baltimore City:
- 56%

Maryland:
- 50%
Step 3: Choose thresholds for each indicator
Threshold: penultimate maximum example

Percent of households with one or more child under age 18 headed by a married couple

Threshold: Any neighborhood with an estimate less than or equal to the Sandtown tract “penultimate” maximum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>150100</th>
<th>150200</th>
<th>160100</th>
<th>160200</th>
<th>160300</th>
<th>160400</th>
<th>Sandtown</th>
<th>Balt. City</th>
<th>MD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Thresholds (penultimate max/min)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Threshold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>&gt;= 53.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>&lt;= 0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Parents, Married</td>
<td>&lt;= 18.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA or higher</td>
<td>&lt;= 6.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>&lt;= 42.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Collar</td>
<td>&lt;= 17.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Income</td>
<td>&lt;= 27,241.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have Investments</td>
<td>&lt;= 5.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Threshold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income / Capita</td>
<td>&lt;= 14,158.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant Housing</td>
<td>&gt;= 27.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median House Value</td>
<td>&lt;= 95,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Poverty</td>
<td>&gt;= 38.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200% Poverty or Up</td>
<td>&lt;= 39.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Private Health Insurance</td>
<td>&lt;= 22.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commute under 30 minutes</td>
<td>&lt;= 40.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 4: Choose a criteria for being a “Sandtown”
What percentage of neighborhoods meet individual thresholds?
Percentage of neighborhoods meeting individual “Sandtown” thresholds:

- Female: 23
- White: 1
- 2 Parents, Married: 3
- BA or higher: 10
- Employed: 11
- White Collar: 11
- Median Income: 10
- Have Investments: 9
- Income / Capita: 11
- Vacant Housing: 5
- Median House Value: 21
- Child Poverty: 19
- 200% Poverty or Up: 13
- Child Priv. Health Ins.: 9
- Commute < 30 min.: 8
“Sandtown” Criteria

• Meet thresholds for 12 out of 15 (80 percent) indicators
“Sandtowns” nationwide

• 177 “Sandtowns” out of 73,285 neighborhoods
• 0.24% of all neighborhoods
• Located in 81 counties
• Located in 25 states/territories

• For comparison: 3,570 concentrated (40%+) poverty neighborhoods
“Sandtowns” nationwide
“Sandtowns” by state
Top 11 “Sandtown” counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>“Sandtowns”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wayne County, Michigan</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook County, Illinois</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuyahoga County, Ohio</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesee County, Michigan</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Juan Municipio, Puerto Rico</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore city, Maryland</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kings County, New York</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake County, Indiana</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby County, Tennessee</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Clair County, Illinois</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary & takeaways

• Few neighborhoods face the specific constellation of challenges that Sandtown does

• Comparable neighborhoods do exist, in some cases in even higher numbers than in Baltimore (e.g., Chicago, Detroit)

• Analysis underscores:
  • The multitude of challenges facing communities
  • The importance of unpacking poverty