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Data Article

Q1 **Data set from the Union Army samples to study locational choice and social networks**

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ABSTRACT

We describe the publicly available data created by the NIA funded Early Indicators program project, often referred to as the Union Army data, and the subset of these data used in “Persistent Social Networks: Civil War Veterans Who Fought Together Co-Locate in Later Life” (Costa et al., Forthcoming) [1]. This data subset can be used for reproducibility and extensions and also illustrates how the original complex data derived from archival administrative records can be used.

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Specifications Table

Subject Area	Economics
More specific subject area	Social capital
Type of data	STATA
How data was acquired	The data were obtained from archival record collections.
Data format	Raw, partial analyzed and Programs to reproduce research paper tables
Experimental factors	Follow-up of random samples
Experimental features	Statistical analysis of location choice

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Data source location	United States, c. 1900
Data accessibility	The data are available at http://www.openicpsr.org as Project 100996. Underlying data are available at http://www.uadata.org

Value of the data

- The data are a rich source of information on the long-term impact of wartime social networks of Union Army veterans on geographic location at both the county and neighborhood level.
 - The data permit the study of the long-term impact of wartime social networks on older age mortality.
 - The data allow researchers to examine how a pension income transfer and health affect residential choice.
 - The data are a reference point for users of the complex data samples which comprise the complete collection
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1. Data

The Union Army samples are an unparalleled resource for the study of the first cohort of men to reach age 65 in the twentieth century. The samples provide detailed, longitudinal data from youth to death on the health, residence, family structure, pension wealth, and occupation of men who served in the Union Army during the US Civil War (1861–1865). A fortuitous cluster sampling design which led to the collection of entire Civil War military companies make the data ideally suited for the study of social capital and wartime ties. The data, collected from the 1980s to the present, represent a pioneering and still unmatched effort by the Nobel Laureate Robert Fogel to create a longitudinal database for an historical population from administrative records.¹

The Union Army samples comprise several major collections. The core collection is a sample of 39,338 soldiers, a 1.6% random sample of all whites mustered into the Union Army. A second core collection consists of two random samples of U.S. Colored Troops. Additional collections include over-samples of white Union Army recruits who enlisted in the largest U.S. cities, POWs who survived to 1900, and veterans who lived to 95 years of age or more. In addition, auxiliary data include GIS historical maps and ward characteristics for 6 major US cities.² The data used in “Persistent Social Networks: Civil War Veterans Who Fought Together Co-Locate in Later Life” come from the core sample of 39,338 white soldiers and the urban over-sample of 12,671 recruits. Because the original data come from complex administrative records and from multiple samples, this data set is a useful research tool for researchers not just for replication and extensions but also for understanding how to use the original data samples.

2. Experimental design

2.1. The core Union Army sample and the urban sample

The core sample of white soldiers and the urban oversample were drawn from white volunteer infantry regiments. The core sample comes from 330 companies, randomly drawn from the complete list of volunteer regiments found in Frederick H. Dyer's *Compendium of the War of the Rebellion* and represents 11% of all infantry regiments. Men who first entered the service as commissioned officers

¹ The data were largely collected since 1991 under NIA grant P01 AG10120, Early Indicators of Later Work Levels, Disease and Death (Robert Fogel, PI) and have continued to be cleaned and coded under NIA grant P01 AG10120, Early Indicators, Intergenerational Processes and Aging (Dora Costa, PI).

² See uadata.org for data downloads and detailed descriptions. The GIS and ward data also are available as ICPSR 35617.

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