

Political Science
Working Group on Interlocal Services
Cooperation

Wayne State University

Year 2005

Patterns of Interlocal Services
Collaboration: A Preliminary Analysis

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CRC's Survey of Local Government Services
Patterns of Local Government Collaboration on Services:
A Preliminary Analysis

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Joint Services Measures

- Function Indices
 - All Services (113 possible functions)
 - Police (13 functions)
 - Fire (8 functions)
 - Parks & Recreation (11 functions)
- Possible Partners
 - Local general purpose governments: county, city, village, or township

Demographic, Fiscal Variables (Years 2000, 2001, or 2002)

- Measures
 - Unit Population
 - Pop Chg 1990-2000
 - County Population
 - City FOG (C-M, M-C)
 - Total Govs in County
 - City Pop as % of Cnty Pop
 - Total Revenues
 - Total Expenses
 - PCPI
 - Number of Persons below Poverty Level
- Four Groups
 - All local governments
 - Cities Only
 - Villages Only
 - Townships Only
- Four Function Indices
 - All functions shared w/another general purpose gov
 - Police, Fire, Parks & Recreation

Findings:

Correlation Analysis

- Modest to no association between the demographic and fiscal measures for all four groups of local governments.
- Absence of links between collaboration and FOG, population growth, numbers of governments is surprising.
- Service decisions are more complex than these simple bivariate measures. Also, financial measures do not reflect fiscal stress.

Descriptive Statistics (All local governments)

- Index of All functions
 - 113 possible functions
 - 371 valid responses
 - Min: 0, Max: 79
 - Mean: 30.54
 - Median: 29.00
 - Percentiles:
 - 25: 19 (8 responses)
 - 50: 28 (14 responses)
 - 75: 41 (6 responses)
- Index of Police Servs
 - 12 possible functions
 - 425 valid responses
 - Min: 0, Max: 18
 - Mean: 5.23
 - Median: 5.00
 - Percentiles:
 - 25: 1 (45 responses)
 - 50: 4 (39 responses)
 - 75: 7 (43 responses)

Descriptive Statistics— Continued

- Index of Fire Services
 - 8 possible functions
 - 433 valid responses
 - Min: 0, Max: 14
 - Mean: 3.03
 - Median: 2.00
 - Percentiles:
 - 25: 1 (73 responses)
 - 50: 2 (71 responses)
 - 75: 5 (30 responses)
- Index of Parks & Rec
 - 11 possible functions
 - 423 valid responses
 - Min: 0, Max: 13
 - Mean: 1.34
 - Median: 0
 - Percentiles:
 - 25: 0
 - 50: 0 (231)
 - 75: 2 (42)

Analysis of Differences in Mean Levels of Services Collaboration

- City vs. Village
 - No difference in total number of functions unit cooperates on.
 - Villages show higher levels of collaboration on police and fire services.
 - Cities show higher levels of collaboration on parks and recreations.
- City vs. Township
 - Townships cooperated on larger numbers of functions than do cities.
 - Townships show higher levels of collaboration on police, fire, and parks and recreation services.

Difference in Mean Levels— Continued

- General Law Township vs. Charter Township
 - No difference in total number of functions unit cooperates on.
 - No difference in levels of cooperation on police and parks and recreation.
 - General Law Townships show higher levels of collaboration on fire.