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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.