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Comparison of Migration Selectivity: Primary and Repeat Migration

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to examine the difference of migration selectivity between primary and repeat migration, and also to examine between onward and return migration. This study uses data from National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 79 (NLSY79), which contains information about migration history, personal characteristics and place characteristics. Preliminary results indicate that there are clear racial/ethnic differences in migration distribution pattern. For instance, while White population presents the highest primary migration rate, the primary rate of African American group is much lower than the other populations. However, African American population's onward migration rate, that means movement pattern of people who have experienced migration before is far above the onward migration rate of the other groups. These results are supposed to relate with different mechanisms by migration types to affect moving decision and destination choice.

INTRODUCTION

Migration often is repeated processes though life course of humans. The repeated migration such as onward migration keeping moving to new residence places and return moving back to a place that a migrant has lived in before account for large proportion of annual migration in the U.S. (Alexander 2005). Although many literatures have pointed the need to focus on the different form of repeat migration (DaVanzo 1983; Morrison and DaVanzo 1986; Goldstein 1995), the areas has remained little examined. This is mainly due to the complicated characteristics of repeat migration data, which requires a longitudinal approach in relatively short intervals, records on previous moving experiences, and information about residence places. For instance, Long and Boertlein (1990) states that cross sectional or long interval data can ignore the portion of return migrations and short term onward migrations.

This study will to explore the difference of migration selectivity between primary and repeat migration, and also to examine between onward and return migration using National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 79 (NLSY79), which rarely employed for migration studies. Applying established migration theories to both type migrations, I will examine how differently type migration is determined.

DATA AND METHODS

Data

This study will analyze the samples include birth cohort born between 1964 and 1949 from pooled 1983 to 2002 NLSY79. The data includes the characteristics of residential counties such as FIPS (Federal Information Processing Standard) code, moving history, industrial and race/ethnic structure of residence place as well as individual information of respondents. The

NLSY79 is a nationally representative sample of 12,686 civilian young men and women who were living in the U.S. and 14-22 years old when they were first surveyed in 1979. These individuals were interviewed annually through 1994 and are currently being interviewed on a biennial basis. Supplemental sample of 5,295 respondents of Hispanic and Black and economically disadvantaged White young civilian was oversampled. The economically disadvantaged White youths were excluded in this study because the survey for them has not been asked since 1990. Although a sample of 1,280 respondents enlisted in the military as of September 30, 1978 was sampled in original data, it is also excluded in this study.

In the analysis, two-stage procedure is used to compare the patterns of primary and repeat migration using logistic regression analysis and then to determine the differences between stay case, onward migration and return migration conducting multi nominal logistic analysis.

Measure

Dependent Variable

Migration is defined as the cases that Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) codes of residential places are different between two sequent interviews. And, in the cases that a migration is conducted by a respondent out of labor force, the case is also excluded. Migration is measured as Primary Migration, where the individual had never migrated at the beginning of the interval – age and length of residence are equal, Onward Migration, where an individual who have previously migrated moved back to a county that he/she has not lived in before – no evidence of prior residence in the county, and Return Migration, which is similar to Onward Migration – except a respondent returned to a prior residence.

Independent Variable

The independent variables categorized into three groups (e.g. demographic factors including gender, age, race/ethnicity, marital status, age, and residence area – urban/rural; S.E.S. including educational level, employment status, and house income; residential involvement factors including length of residence, home ownership, and racial/ethnic proportion).

RESULTS

Preliminary results indicate that although onward migration present increasing pattern as samples getting old, primary migration and return migration do not show any particular pattern with respect of frequencies and migration rates. There are clear racial/ethnic differences in migration distribution pattern. For instance, while White population presents the highest primary migration rate, the primary rate of African American group is much lower than the other populations (table 1). However, African American population's onward migration rate, that means movement pattern of people who have experienced migration before is far above the onward migration rate of the other groups (table 2). This might indicate fragment of migration pattern among Black population. It is consistent with previous research on Black population's migration pattern (Frey and Liaw 2005). These results are supposed to relate with different mechanisms by migration types to affect moving decision and destination choice. Although to date, this study presents only preliminary results, the completed study is expected to contribute our understanding on complicated migration determinants, particularly on the different migration selectivity by migration pattern, which has remained rarely studied.

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Table 1. Frequency of Migration (Total Population)

(): Rate

	Primary	Onward	Return
1979-1980	367 (0.078)	148 (0.437)	
1980-1981	403 (0.094)	179 (0.252)	77 (0.108)
1981-1982	474 (0.120)	162 (0.147)	124 (0.112)
1982-1983	539 (0.148)	149 (0.097)	126 (0.082)
1983-1984	443 (0.130)	132 (0.071)	120 (0.064)
1984-1985	526 (0.165)	137 (0.062)	146 (0.067)
1985-1986	644 (0.217)	151 (0.058)	211 (0.082)
1986-1987	857 (0.309)	134 (0.045)	351 (0.117)
1987-1988	509 (0.193)	80 (0.025)	199 (0.061)
1988-1989	647 (0.261)	114 (0.032)	251 (0.071)
1989-1990	522 (0.222)	79 (0.022)	265 (0.073)
1990-1991	300 (0.144)	21 (0.006)	152 (0.041)
1991-1992	260 (0.127)	25 (0.007)	106 (0.028)
1992-1993	562 (0.288)	65 (0.017)	303 (0.078)
1993-1994	344 (0.183)	46 (0.011)	218 (0.054)
1994-1996	563 (0.314)	50 (0.012)	299 (0.074)
1996-1998	468 (0.280)	71 (0.017)	234 (0.057)
1998-2000	422 (0.279)	56 (0.014)	223 (0.056)
2000-2002	358 (0.263)	33 (0.008)	167 (0.043)
Total	9,208 (0.182)	1,832 (0.033)	3,572 (0.065)

Table 2. Distribution of Migration by Race/Ethnicity

(): Rate

	Primary	Onward	Return
White	5,746 (0.301)	943 (0.029)	2,033 (0.062)
Black	2,060 (0.103)	659 (0.047)	973 (0.069)
Hispanic	1,402 (0.179)	230 (0.028)	566 (0.068)
Total	5,746 (0.301)	943 (0.029)	2,033 (0.062)