NRES 598: Human Dimensions of the Neighborhood Environ, Fall 2016  
**Neighborhood Civic Life Tool**.

# **Statistical Data**. Begin with some online resources. We will use them to estimate some of the statistical data for our neighborhoods. If we were doing this under contract, for publication, for a thesis, etc., data from other sources such as the census, GIS data, police reports, etc., would be used thanks to their greater validity and reliability. The collection of the ideal data, however, is both costly and time consuming and expensive, and some online sources will give us close estimates of the ideal data.

## House price, crime, and demographic data.

### Use trulia.com

#### Everyone should use the same source so that the data are comparable across all of the neighborhoods we use.

#### In trulia.com:

##### Type in the address of a house in the neighborhood.

##### Victorian Style Home on Liberty Street: 745 Liberty Street

House near Buffalo Street (farthest road from river): 635 Egbert Avenue

House on Elk Street (beside the river): 430 Elk Street

##### Record the estimated value (or price, if for sale).

##### Victorian Style Home on Liberty Street: $125,000

House near Buffalo Street: $38,000

House on Elk Street: $84,900

##### Scroll to the Property Details section and note the average list price for similar homes for sale in this neighborhood and in this zip code.

##### Victorian Style Home on Liberty Street: $128,690

House near Buffalo Street: $35,010

House on Elk Street: $91,660

##### Scroll to “See businesses, schools, and crimes near this home” section.

###### Record the number of major crimes (violent, non-violent crimes) near the home in 2016. (Sometimes more than one year’s data is shown; we need only 2016.) If listed, omit traffic citations from the crime tally.

Victorian Style Home on Liberty Street: No recent crimes

House near Buffalo Street: No recent crimes

House on Elk Street: No recent crimes

###### Record the median age, percent married, percent college graduates for the area.

Victorian Style Home on Liberty Street: Median age is 48, 51% married, 32% college graduates in this area

House near Buffalo Street: Median age is 42, 62% married, 32% college graduates in this area

House on Elk Street: Median age is 48, 51% married, 32% college graduates in this area

###### Record the schools (and their quality) and distance to schools.

Victorian Style Home on Liberty Street: Franklin Area High School 1.83 miles

House near Buffalo Street: Franklin Area High School 1.61 miles

House on Elk Street: Franklin Area High School 1.69 miles

#### Repeat, if necessary, so that all parts of the neighborhood are included. You can tell this from the map that trulia.com displays.

### Use walkscore.com

#### For each house or apartment included above, type the same address into walkscore and record the resulting walkscore and transit score.

Victorian Style Home on Liberty Street: Walkability score is 51/No transit score

House near Buffalo Street: Walkability score is 36/No transit score

House on Elk Street: Walkability score is 17/No transit score

### Population Density.

#### Divide the city population by the city’s area in square miles. This data can be found in most city web sites. If not, use the census. Record results (population, area, density) as well as noting the source (city, census, etc.).

Population: 6,545 http://www.census.gov/

Area: 4.68 mi2 http://www.census.gov/

Density: 1,399.4 http://www.census.gov/

## Average length of residence (turnover rate). How often do people leave the neighborhood?

### Realtors tend to know this. One simple way is to call a realtor and ask.

### Alternatively, find the number of residences in a neighborhood and lookup the number of home sales in the neighborhood that month (usually published in the newspaper, but also available on realtor.com, trulia.com, etc.) Add up the sales over the year, then divide by the number of homes.

#### The annual houses sold/total homes ratio is the turnover rate.

22/694 = 0.032

#### Average length of residence can be estimated by 1/turnover (where annual turnover rate is given as a probability) or 100/turnover (when turnover is expressed as a percentage).

1/0.032= 31.25

# **Political Activity Measures**

## Using a map or google maps, determine (and record) all street names in your neighborhood. If large streets/boulevards that cross into multiple neighborhoods, find the address range restricted to your neighborhood bounds (ex. 1000 block of Xyz Blvd.)



The blue line indicates the boundaries of Franklin neighborhood. Franklin stretches from 3rd street to route 62 lengthwise and Buffalo street to Elk street width wise. All the street names include Route 62, Buffalo, Elk, Liberty, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th streets.

## Using the city web site (in most cases) or public library resources, Look up home addresses of the members of city boards for your city.

84% board members live within the Franklin neighborhood

## Find out if your neighborhood has an Elks, Moose, or Eagle Lodge within or near it.

Elk Lodge is near Franklin neighborhood

## Find out if your neighborhood as a Home Owners Association or a Neighborhood Association.

None of these associations are in the Franklin neighborhood

## Drive or walk through the streets of your neighborhood.

### Record number of homes with yard signs for candidates and political or social causes (examples include “My house pays Carle’s Property Tax” signs, “We Support the Community Broadband” signs, etc.,). Record the number of homes with “little libraries” and “little pantries” in their front yards.

Political signs: 33

Social Causes signs: 4

Little Libraries: 0

Little Pantry: 0

### Report the numbers of homes for each of the above; convert this to a percentage of homes and report percentage as well.

Political signs: 33/694= 4.8%

Social Causes: 4/694= 0.6%

Little Libraries: 0%

Little Pantry: 0%

# **Non-Political Engagement**.

## Drive or walk through the streets of your neighborhood. (You are doing this already for part II; don’t make more work than needed: obviously you can record this on the walkthrough noted above!)

### Using a checklist, record the numbers of the following within the neighborhood and within a ten minute walk of the neighborhood. Keep lists separate (for within neighborhood and within a ten minute walk.

\_\_\_\_X\_\_ Schools (Seventh Street School)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Restaurants (including coffee shops)

\_\_\_X\_\_\_ Parks

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Libraries

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Open Markets (Farmer’s Markets, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Retail Stores

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Community service organizations (ex: neighborhood watch, gardeners’ club, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Community sports organizations (community softball league, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Availability of local newspaper subscriptions (record number available)

\_\_X\_\_\_\_ Churches / religious centers

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Community centers

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Theatres

## Drive or walk through the streets of your neighborhood. For this, evening (dusk) or slightly after dark is best. May be combined with the above, but actually this is usually easier if done on a separate walkthrough or drive-through.

### Record the numbers of homes with outside holiday decorations and no decorations on each street. 517 decorated houses in Franklin Neighborhood out of 694

### Report by street, and for neighborhood as a whole.

#### It is not uncommon to find streets with no decorations and streets with many decorations in the same neighborhood.

Buffalo Street: 79 decorated houses out of 107

Liberty Street: 218 decorated houses out of 269

Elk Street: 112 decorated houses out of 160

3rd Street: 8 decorated houses out of 12

4th Street: 7 decorated out of 11

5th Street: 18 decorated houses out of 25

6th Street: 12 decorated houses out of 20

7th Street: 24 decorated houses out of 30

8th Street: 13 decorated houses out of 17

9th Street: 8 decorated houses out of 17

10th Street: 18 decorated houses out of 26

#### This is worth collecting at the street or block level; we may or may not us it at this level, but collecting it at that level now is better and easier because aggregating up is simpler than going back to collect the low level of aggregation data.