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# Adding and Subtracting Schools: <br> Examining School Change for Students and Communities 

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# Adding and Subtracting Schools: Examining School Change for Students and Communities 

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## Motivation for this study



## School is the unit of analysis



We characterize students in schools


Students

## We characterize areas around schools

## Community



Students

## How common are school closures?

## Almost 2\% of schools closed between 2012 and 2013

## $2 \%=1,888$ schools

## About 2,000 schools close annually



Source: National Center for Education Statistics Common Core of Data, Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Data 2003-04 through 2013-14

## Minority of closures are in urban areas



## Majority of closures are in suburban areas



Sources: National Center for Education Statistics Common Core of Data, Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Data 2003-04 through 2013-14; American Community Survey 2012 5-year estimates

Characteristics of students affected by school closures

## 1,888 schools $=274,362$ students

## Closures: Disproportionately black students



Source: National Center for Education Statistics Common Core of Data, Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Data 2003-04 through 2013-14

## Closures: Disproportionately poor students (eligible for FARMs)

 $100 \%$$80 \%$


Source: National Center for Education Statistics Common Core of Data, Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Data 2003-04 through 2013-14

Characteristics of communities affected by school closures

## Closures: Disproportionately urban



## Closures: Disproportionately Northeast, Midwest



[^0]
## Closures: Higher tract poverty rate



Sources: National Center for Education Statistics Common Core of Data, Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Data 2003-04 through 2013-14; American Community Survey 2012 5-year estimates

## Closures: Higher share with less than college in tract



Sources: National Center for Education Statistics Common Core of Data, Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Data 2003-04 through 2013-14; American Community Survey 2012 5-year estimates

## Closures: Higher share black residents in tract



Sources: National Center for Education Statistics Common Core of Data, Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Data 2003-04 through 2013-14; American Community Survey 2012 5-year estimates

Are closed schools replaced?

## Most closed schools are not replaced



## Summary

- Many students affected, across the country
- Majority of closures in suburban areas
- Closures disproportionately occurring in urban areas, in Northeast and Midwest
- Closures disproportionately affect black and poor neighborhoods and students
- After schools close, few are replaced
- We need to learn more about factors driving closures and what happens to communities and students afterward


## Questions?

Please contact Megan Gallagher: mgallagh@urban.org


[^0]:    Sources: National Center for Education Statistics Common Core of Data, Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Data 2003-04 through 2013-14; American Community Survey 2012 5-year estimates

