

# Spatial Pattern and Determinants of Poverty: A County-Level Analysis of the United States, 1990-2020

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This study examines the spatial distribution pattern and socioeconomic determinants of poverty in the United States between 1990 and 2020. Drawing on data from the decennial census and American Community Survey, we use the Local Indicators of Spatial Association (LISA) statistics to analyze the detailed changes in county level poverty rate over the last three decades and identify the socioeconomic driving forces behind these spatiotemporal changes by employing spatial econometric models. Specifically, the techniques of Bivariate LISA and LISA Cluster Transitions are utilized to show how the highest and lowest values of poverty rate have been spreading over time. Both spatial lag and spatial error models are employed to identify the spatial effects of socioeconomic factors in determining the county level poverty.

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