

## **The Availability of Social Capital in Urban and Rural Communities in British Columbia\***

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### **Abstract**

This paper investigates the availability of social capital in rural and urban communities. Available social capital is conceptualized as a stock residing in formal and informal institutions or networks and measured with respect to four normative systems that predominate in those institutions or networks. The distribution and interrelations of available social capital were examined using data from 64 communities across BC, Canada – with a particular focus on differences between rural and urban communities. The results demonstrate the considerable variation in availability of social capital among communities and among normative systems. We also found that census variables are particularly insensitive to associative-based social capital in general and differentially associated with the availability of market and bureaucratic-based social capital in rural as compared to urban communities. The research suggests that the conceptualization and measurement of social capital requires considerable elaboration, especially where rural and urban comparisons are involved. It also implies that policy approaches to social capital enhancement in rural areas should be different than urban areas.

### **Keywords**

Social capital; Rural; Communities; British Columbia

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2 **Columbia**

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**Introduction**

6 Social capital research promises to be a useful framework for understanding the  
7 impacts of community-level factors on a variety of individual and group outcomes.  
8 However, recent socio-epidemiological research on the association between social capital  
9 and health often relies on an incomplete conceptualization of social capital (Kawachi and  
10 Kennedy 1999; Kawachi et al. 1997; Kawachi and Berkman 2000). Two limiting  
11 preoccupations stand out. First is the emphasis on informal rather than formal social  
12 relations (e.g., trust, relationships within voluntary associations, and family connections  
13 with community) and second, is the tendency to measure social capital only with respect  
14 to its use.

15 In contrast, a full theoretical framing of social capital should consider a much  
16 wider suite of both formal and informal relationships existing within and among family,  
17 state, public, and private sectors (Organization for Economic Co-operation and  
18 Development (OECD) 2001; Grootaert and van Bastelaer 2001; Franke 2005). Without it  
19 we are in danger of overlooking the complementarities and tradeoffs which occur among  
20 the various types of social relations on which social capital is based (Reimer et al. 2008).  
21 Similarly, the measurement of social capital should be sensitive to its availability as well  
22 as its use, for they are not often the same (Reimer 2006). Developing distinct indicators  
23 for the two will not only better represent the processes of social capital formation, but  
24 they will also enable more detailed investigations regarding the relationships between  
25 them. While the distinction between availability and use of social capital has been  
26 extensively investigated with respect to voluntary associations, it has not yet appeared on

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27 the conceptual horizon among socio-epidemiologists concerned with health. In terms of  
28 studies of rural services, availability might be a more salient issue than for urban  
29 communities given that severe resource constraints characterize many remote and rural  
30 communities (Halseth and Ryser 2006). Measuring the availability and distribution of  
31 social capital across the rural-urban continuum is therefore an important methodological  
32 step to determining the use of social capital, and subsequent health-related outcomes at a  
33 community level.

34 This research contributes to both of these issues by providing a framework for social  
35 capital that includes a variety of social relations, indicators that distinguish its available  
36 and used forms, then explores some of the implications for selected outcomes in a sample  
37 of communities in British Columbia (BC), Canada.

### 38 **Background**

39 Research arising from the New Rural Economy Project<sup>1</sup> (NRE) provides a  
40 convenient framework for overcoming the limitations identified above (Reimer et al.  
41 2008). Grounded in economic, anthropological, and sociological work (Polanyi 1944;  
42 Fiske, 1991) Reimer et al. classify social capital with respect to four normative systems  
43 that guide the social relations on which they are based. The first is based on market  
44 relations as found in the trade of goods, services, and information and the second is based  
45 on bureaucratic relations as found in government organizations, legislation, health, and  
46 educational institutions. The third normative system is based on associative relations –  
47 where people work together because they share a particular interest such as in community  
48 groups, volunteer activities, recreation, arts and culture. The fourth is based on communal

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<sup>1</sup> Based at Concordia University, The New Rural Economy Project (NRE) is a collaborative research initiative focusing on the revitalization of rural Canadian communities. Launched in 1998, the project has 32 rural field sites where, in the face of globalizing economies, researchers aim to build community capacity as economic trends shift away from resource extraction (<http://nre.concordia.ca>).

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49 relations as manifested in social interactions with family, friends, spiritual groups, and  
50 community care networks.

51         The methodologies outlined for quantifying these four types of social capital are  
52 based on the proposition that “available social capital can be measured by the institutions  
53 and organizations within which the social relations are organized” (Reimer 2006:164).  
54 This was operationalized within 20 of the rural field sites in the NRE Project.<sup>2</sup> For each  
55 community, researchers created indices of social capital by counting the number of  
56 services associated with each of the four types of social relations located within 30  
57 minutes travel time of each community, then standardizing the sum by community  
58 population. Once the density of services was calculated, statistical analyses were carried  
59 out to examine the association between the indexes of social capital (separately and  
60 together) and community characteristics, as reported by the 1996 census.

61         The results show that there are a wide range of values in available social capital  
62 across the communities. In addition, associations exist between census variables and  
63 social capital. For example, high levels of social capital are found in northwestern  
64 Canada and in communities where people tend to have lower incomes. Reimer notes that  
65 contextual characteristics for each community (i.e., integration into the global economy,  
66 stability of the local economy, metropolitan adjacency, and institutional capacity) place  
67 important conditions on the capacity a community has for accessing available social  
68 capital (Reimer 2006).

69         The objectives of this project were to adapt and extend Reimer’s work with social  
70 capital in three ways. First, in order to generate data from a larger sample of

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<sup>2</sup>         The 32 field sites of the NRE Project were selected in a systematic fashion, using five dimensions of comparison: the degree of exposure to the global economy, the relative stability of the economy, the distance to metropolitan centers, the availability of public services, and whether the economy is leading or lagging (Reimer 2002a).

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71 communities, we apply this framework to more than the 20 communities used in his  
72 study. Second, we compare available social capital in urban communities with that  
73 available in rural communities, and third, we conduct correlation analyses among the four  
74 types of social capital with socio-economic indicators for both rural and urban  
75 communities.

## 76 **Methods**

### 77 **The Sample of Communities**

78 Our sample consists of 64 communities from across BC, ranging in population  
79 size from 1,600 to 96,000, with an average population of approximately 12,000. The  
80 communities were selected in a non-random, non-systemic way, largely because we drew  
81 information from two separate community-health related studies already in existence.<sup>3</sup> In  
82 terms of the urban-rural continuum, however defined (as further discussed in section 3.4),  
83 the sample represents a full range of community types and sizes.

84

85 Figure 1.1 highlights the 64 selected CSDs. Geographically, the municipalities are  
86 distributed fairly evenly across the southern and north central regions of the province but  
87 include only one community from the far north (Fort Nelson) and two communities from  
88 the central Interior (Williams Lake and Quesnel).

89

90 < INSERT FIGURE 1.1 >

91

### 92 **Measuring the Availability of Social Capital**

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<sup>3</sup> Communities were operationalized using the Census Subdivision (CSD) as the geographical unit of analysis. CSDs represent municipal boundaries where they exist, with unincorporated regions and rural areas forming their own CSDs in such a manner that all the territory is included. The 64 CSDs in our sample are all municipalities.

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93           Following Woolcock (2001) and others we define social capital as the social  
94 networks and their associated norms<sup>4</sup> that may facilitate the achievement of individual or  
95 collective outcomes.<sup>5</sup> This approach treats social capital as a property of the inter-  
96 relationships among people or groups rather than an individual characteristic: inter-  
97 relationships that may provide information, support, or other resources for the  
98 accomplishment of tasks (Tiepoh and Reimer 2004). The inter-relationships are not  
99 always used, however, but may exist only as potential resources for action—available for  
100 use only if the need, conditions, or individual characteristics make it possible. Churches,  
101 schools, businesses, and family networks may all be available sources of social capital,  
102 for example, but if they are inaccessible due to belief, age, income, or disease, they  
103 cannot be used. Much of the work in health services and community development is  
104 directed to identifying available sources of such capital and finding ways to reduce  
105 barriers to its use. For this reason it is critical to develop measures that are sensitive to the  
106 difference between availability and use.

107           Reimer et al. (2008) and Tiepoh and Reimer (2004) argue that available social  
108 capital can be seen as a stock residing in formal and informal institutions or networks.  
109 These organizations, institutions, or networks are the empirical manifestations of social  
110 capital—containing relationships coordinated in systems of norms that can provide the  
111 information, contacts, support, and resources associated with such capital. They suggest  
112 that although an organization contains many types of normative systems, it is possible to  
113 identify one or two that predominate. In hospitals, for example, bureaucratic norms  
114 predominate, whereas in sporting clubs or other volunteer groups, associative norms

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<sup>4</sup> Norms are a key element of social capital since they coordinate social behavior through incentives and sanctions.

<sup>5</sup> According to Franke (2005) this is a ‘meso’ or ‘structural’ (Grootaert and van Bastelaer 2001) approach to the understanding of social capital (Burt 1984; Lin 2000; Portes 1998; Reimer 2002b).

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115 guide most of the behaviour. Using these institutional manifestations, therefore, we are  
116 able to measure the extent to which social capital is available in the community.

117         The numbers of market, bureaucratic, associative, and communal-based services  
118 in each community were counted in the fall of 2005 and spring of 2006 using methods  
119 similar to those outlined by Reimer (2002b). Each community was visited by the same  
120 research assistant in order to conduct the counts. See Table 1.1 for a description of the  
121 services counted within each of the four types of social capital. The two main differences  
122 from the NRE approach were that the services within a CSD boundary (as designated by  
123 Statistics Canada) were counted, as opposed to those within 30 minutes travel time of a  
124 field site. This means that our index values will be smaller in comparison to those found  
125 in the NRE Project. In addition, we counted a slightly different suite of services within all  
126 four types of social capital than in the NRE project.

127

128 < INSERT TABLE 1.1 >

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131

### 132 **Calculation of the Density of Available Social Capital in Each Community**

133         Once service counts for all communities were obtained, these raw counts were  
134 summed and standardized by the CSD population (per 1,000 individuals) reported in the  
135 2001 census, producing indices of social capital for each community. We then added the  
136 four indices together to find the total social capital score for every community. Table 1.2  
137 is an example of how indices were calculated for the Municipality of Armstrong, BC.

138

139 < INSERT TABLE 1.2 >

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141           Because each type of social capital is based on a different number of services, it is  
142 not valid to compare scores between the four types of social capital as they will partly be  
143 based on the number of services counted within each social capital type. Making  
144 comparisons among the quantities for the different types of social capital available in a  
145 given community will first require both a level of theoretical and methodological  
146 sophistication that is beyond our analysis at this stage. It will also require a standardized  
147 methodology which either counts the same number of services within each type of social  
148 capital or standardizes the measures. However, even with this limitation, we are able to  
149 make valid comparisons with respect to the variation within each of the four types of  
150 social capital across urban and rural CSDs since the list of services considered is the  
151 same.

152

### 153 **Defining Rural and Urban Communities**

154           There is no consensus in rural research on how to define rurality (du Plessis,  
155 Beshirir, and Bollman 2001; Pitblado 2005; Pong and Pitblado 2001). However there are  
156 several empirical methods in use, developed for different purposes by various groups of  
157 researchers. These definitions have been developed by organizations such as Statistics  
158 Canada, the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development), and  
159 Canada Post.

160           We chose to use the Standard Area Classification (SAC) Codes (developed by  
161 Statistics Canada), because: 1) SAC codes are provided at the same level of geography as  
162 our analyses – the CSD level, 2) they are commonly used in rural health research, and 3)  
163 the definition considers multiple levels of information, such as metropolitan adjacency,  
164 population size, and the influence that metropolitan zones have on a community as



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165 reflected in the commuting characteristics of the labour force. It is, therefore, more  
166 nuanced than most other definitions which rely solely on population counts or density.

167         The SAC Codes incorporate the extent to which a CSD contains a substantial  
168 number of people who commute on a regular basis into a neighbouring urban center.  
169 Using SAC's Metropolitan Influenced Zone (MIZ) methods, Statistics Canada  
170 categorizes all CSDs in Canada as one of seven SAC types, ranging from large  
171 metropolitan areas to small rural communities (where less than 40 residents commute  
172 outside of their home municipality to work). Table 1.3 lists the seven SAC categories,  
173 their definitions, and shows the number of communities in or sample of 64 that fall in  
174 each category.

175

176 < INSERT TABLE 1.3 >

177

178 We divided our sample into two groups, urban or rural, based on the SAC codes. Any  
179 CSD that Statistics Canada has classified in 2001 as a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA),  
180 or a Census Agglomeration (CA) area, we consider urban communities (n=25); whereas  
181 all other CSDs we deemed rural (n=39). As shown in Figure 1.2, the spatial distribution  
182 of rural and urban communities is fairly even, and the SAC-generated categories are  
183 intuitively consistent with a provincial-level perspective.<sup>6</sup>

184

185 < INSERT FIGURE 1.2 >

186

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<sup>6</sup> Local citizen's perceptions of rural and urban frequently vary considerably from the province-wide perspective we have adopted since they often include considerations of isolation, access to services, and political influence in their judgments.

187 **Determining Correlations between the Four Types of Social Capital and Selected**  
188 **Census Variables**

189 We selected 25 census variables from the 2001 census for our 64 communities.  
190 These are variables that are typically used to summarize the socio-economic well being  
191 of communities and provide potential census proxies reflecting the availability of social  
192 capital (Table 1.4) (Rupasingha, Goetz, and Freshwater 2006). We used the year 2001  
193 since this was the closest census data available at the time, to the years in which the  
194 social capital data was collected (2005-2006).

195

196 < INSERT TABLE 1.4 >

197

198 Once these census variables were identified, we added the available social capital scores  
199 to the dataset and calculated the Pearson correlation coefficient to measure the  
200 associations between each census variable and the four types of social capital and total  
201 social capital. This correlation analyses was conducted separately for our urban and rural  
202 communities.

203

204

**Results**

205 The basic descriptive statistics for market, bureaucratic, associative, communal,  
206 and total social capital (adjusted per 1,000 population) are shown for all 64 study  
207 communities in Table 1.5.

208

209 < INSERT TABLE 1.5 >

210

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211 Market-based social capital shows the highest score, and communal-based the  
212 lowest score. As noted in the methods section, these scores are partly a function of the  
213 number of services utilized in each index. This means that scores should not be used to  
214 compare the relative amounts across the four types of social capital. However,  
215 comparisons within each type of social capital across communities are valid.  
216 Accordingly, the greatest variability in social capital across our study communities occurs  
217 in the associative-based relations category, as indicated by the standard deviation scores.  
218 Figure 1.3 is a histogram depicting the scores by the four types of social capital in all 64  
219 communities.

220

221 < INSERT FIGURE 1.3 >

222

223

224 The blue bars representing the amount of associative-based social capital vary the  
225 most among the communities, along with the green bars which represent market-based  
226 social capital. In contrast, the yellow and orange bars, depicting bureaucratic and  
227 communal-based social capital respectively, are fairly constant across the sample. There  
228 is great variability in total social capital among the sample communities, ranging from  
229 scores of 3.49 (Coldstream) to 124.9 (Duncan).

230

231 We applied the independent samples t-test to compare rural and urban  
232 communities on the social capital values. Table 1.6 shows that the availability of all four  
233 types of social capital was higher in rural areas than it was in urban communities and,  
234 except in the case of bureaucratic-based social capital, these differences were statistically

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235 significant. Among the four types of social capital, the greatest difference between urban  
236 and rural communities was noted for associative-based social capital.

237 < INSERT TABLE 1.6 >

238

239

240 Detailed results for the correlation analyses are shown in table 1.7 and summary  
241 results are shown in table 1.8. The correlations vary significantly both among the types of  
242 social capital and across the urban-rural continuum. For example, market and  
243 bureaucratic-based social capital share the greatest number of correlations with census  
244 variables. The census variables Unattached Individuals, Divorce Rates, Low Income  
245 Households, Male Youth Unemployment, and the proportion of Lone Parent Families all  
246 demonstrate relatively high positive correlations with these two types of social capital.  
247 The proportion of Census Families in the CSD shows a negative correlation with  
248 bureaucratic and market-based social capital. The pattern of correlations between these  
249 census variables and bureaucratic and market-based social capital is similar within the  
250 urban communities with the addition of the proportion of the population in Government  
251 Professions (positive) and the Female Labour Force Participation Rate (negative).

252

253

254 < INSERT TABLE 1.7 >

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257 < INSERT TABLE 1.8 >

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260           In rural communities, the census variables that correlate with the various types of  
261 social capital are frequently dissimilar from urban ones. Where they are similar relative to  
262 the correlations with urban communities (e.g., Unattached Individuals, Low Income  
263 Households), these correlations are weaker. In rural communities, the Female Youth  
264 Labour Force Participation, the proportion in Managerial Positions, and 5-Year Migration  
265 variables emerge as the most highly correlated census variables.

266           In addition, the pattern of common correlations found within urban centers is not  
267 replicated within rural CSDs. In rural areas, only two of the census variables are shared  
268 between market and bureaucratic-based social capital (cf. a), for example, while two  
269 others are shared between bureaucratic and communal-based social capital (cf. b) and two  
270 different ones are shared between market and communal-based social capital (cf.  
271 asterisks) (Table 7.8). The availability of associative-based social capital shows no  
272 correlations with the census variables we have chosen. In contrast, all six census  
273 variables correlated with market-based social capital are found to be correlated with  
274 bureaucratic-based social capital in urban areas (cf. a).

275

276           ***Limitations.*** These results limit the analysis in a number of ways. First, the 64  
277 communities are not necessarily representative of urban and rural communities in the  
278 province. Second, the indices of social capital utilize different numbers of services so the  
279 scores for the different types of social capital are not directly comparable. Third, in  
280 relation to the correlation analysis, census variables were measured in 2001 yet  
281 availability of social capital was measured for 2005/06. This may be a problem for small  
282 communities undergoing rapid change and could skew our results accordingly.

283

284

## Conclusions

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285           We conclude, first, that there is considerable variation in the density of all types  
286 of available social capital across the 64 BC study communities. Although we are unable  
287 to compare directly across the various types of social capital, we see that communities  
288 vary immensely with respect to the availability within each type of social capital. The  
289 census variable analysis suggests that the factors contributing to this variation are likely  
290 to be different within rural and urban communities.

291           Second, we see that the greatest variation occurs in the availability of associative-  
292 based social capital. At the same time, it is this type of social capital that seems  
293 particularly unrelated to the census variables considered. Only in urban areas is  
294 associative-based social capital correlated to local industry employment. The higher the  
295 proportion of people employed in local industries, the more likely there is to be a high  
296 density of associative-based social capital. This suggests that traditional census variables  
297 are unlikely to provide reliable proxies for the availability of this type of social capital.

298           Third, the availability of all four types of social capital is higher in rural as  
299 compared to urban communities. This is likely to be a result of our standardization on the  
300 basis of community population. Whereas the absolute number of services and  
301 opportunities available in large communities is higher, once we standardize the values for  
302 the community population, the availability of those services per capita is smaller.

303           Fourth, the types of census variable indicators associated with the availability of  
304 market and bureaucratic-based social capital differ depending on whether a community is  
305 rural or urban. For market and bureaucratic-based capital, family, income, and  
306 employment variables show the strongest correlations in urban areas, whereas in rural  
307 areas, it is migration, gender, and age-structured labour force participation that show the  
308 stronger correlations.

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309 Fifth, we find correlations between many socio-economic indicators and  
310 communal-based social capital in rural areas, but fewer (and quite different) ones in  
311 urban ones. In rural areas, communal-based social capital appears to be highest in  
312 communities experiencing economic stress with low education, income, and  
313 employment; whereas in urban areas only unemployment and divorce appear correlated.

314 Finally, we find that the census indicators correlated with market and  
315 bureaucratic-based social capital in urban areas are very similar, whereas in rural areas  
316 the indicators vary across market, bureaucratic, and communal-based social capital.  
317 These results suggest that quite different processes may underlie the availability of social  
318 capital in rural areas as compared to urban ones.

319 This analysis supports and advances a multidimensional interpretation of social  
320 capital. Rather than treating social capital as an homogeneous characteristic, we have  
321 distinguished its availability from its use and identified four types of capital based on the  
322 nature of the social relations and norms involved. The data analysis confirms that these  
323 differences matter for community socio-economic characteristics, family structures, age,  
324 and gender relations. It also shows that the various types of available social capital show  
325 different relations within urban and rural settings, thereby suggesting important  
326 qualifications for policies and programs addressing these settings.

327 In urban regions, available social capital shows the strongest relations to socio-  
328 economic and family conditions. Both market and bureaucratic-based social capital show  
329 a similar pattern: they are most dense within those communities with a high proportion of  
330 single and divorced people, low incomes, single-parent families, and youth  
331 unemployment – all symptoms of economic and social stress. The direction of influence  
332 between these factors is impossible to determine from our data, but it suggests some  
333 valuable directions for exploration in the future. Are stressed people and families more

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334 likely to seek out places with high levels of market and bureaucratic-based social capital,  
335 or do they contribute to the conditions where these resources are more likely to emerge?  
336 Does this mean that associative and communal-based social capital are largely  
337 unavailable to these stressed groups in urban regions? Would policies or programs  
338 supporting these latter two types of social capital be wasted or would they generate new  
339 opportunities for social support among stressed populations?

340         According to our results, the policy approach to social-capital enhancement in  
341 rural areas should be different than in urban areas. In rural communities, the availability  
342 of social capital is much more diverse, gendered, and age-related. Market-based social  
343 capital is more available where young women and men participate in the labour force,  
344 people are more mobile, managerial positions predominate, and female incomes are  
345 higher. This is considerably different than the pattern found in urban regions: where  
346 indicators of social stress show the highest correlations with market-based social capital.  
347 In rural areas, only the labour force participation of young women and migration  
348 characteristics are found within communities with high levels of available bureaucratic  
349 social capital. Instead of high female incomes and managers, we find low household  
350 incomes and male unemployment. This suggests that several distinct factors may be at  
351 work in rural areas—one related to regions with enhanced economies and another to  
352 those that are depressed.

353         The patterns of interrelations among the census variables suggest that further  
354 multivariate analysis will be beneficial in the search for census proxies for social capital.  
355 Market and bureaucratic-based social capital appear to be inter-correlated with census  
356 variables, as is communal-based capital—at least in rural areas. The complexity of the  
357 shared correlations suggests, however, that zero-order values may be misleading without  
358 the controls available through more advanced methods. In using more advanced methods,



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359 we would be better able to control for the multiple relationships found, and select out the  
360 key variables related to the various types of social capital. The existence of somewhat  
361 distinct correlations for the various types also suggests that a multivariate approach  
362 would identify distinguishing variables for each of them—except for the availability of  
363 associative-based social capital.

364         Such a conclusion is reinforced by the relatively important role of communal  
365 relations in lagging rural communities. Communities with high levels of available  
366 communal relations are also those with low education, unemployment, and low income  
367 households: all signs of severe stress. It appears that in stressed rural areas, when faced  
368 with such challenges, people may seek places with more communal-based social capital.  
369 In stressed urban areas on the other hand, it is market and bureaucratic-based social  
370 capital that seem to be more available. Once again we are faced with important questions  
371 to answer, questions that have significant implications for policy and program options.  
372 Are available communal social relations merely a correlate of stressed rural communities  
373 or is this relationship the result of choices and policies? Can increasing the support for  
374 available market-based social capital act as a significant community development action?  
375 Does available associative-based social capital have no impacts on rural areas, or are the  
376 census indicators selected merely insensitive to the effects? What is the interdependence  
377 among the underlying factors reflected in these correlations?

378         These results also suggest that a re-evaluation of the traditional focus on  
379 associative-based social capital is particularly important. Measuring the availability of  
380 associative-based social capital has yielded few significant correlations with the census  
381 variables selected. Several interpretations are possible. It may be that availability of this  
382 type of social capital is much less important than its use. Such a conclusion would be  
383 suggested by the relatively low inter-correlations between availability and use (Reimer

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384 2006). It may also be that the particular census variables chosen are insensitive to the  
385 importance of associative-based availability. Cultural, organizational, and social factors  
386 may be more critical than the socio-economic and demographic ones predominant in the  
387 census. If so, then the individual-based nature of census data may be inappropriate for  
388 measuring these community-level characteristics (Raudenbush and Sampson 1999). It  
389 may be that our measures of available associative-based social capital are relatively  
390 insensitive to the ways in which it is manifested. Formal voluntary groups and  
391 organizations, for example, may be less important than the informal networks that  
392 support these types of social relations. All of this points to the need for more detailed and  
393 longitudinal analysis.

394         Finally, our research points to the need for further work on all aspects related to  
395 social capital. Perhaps the most pressing would be the need to examine the relationship  
396 between the availability of social capital and its use. Most policy and program actions  
397 focus on the former since governments have little control over the latter. If there is a big  
398 gap between the two, then the relative influence and importance of these policies are  
399 likely to be severely compromised. Investigating the extent and nature of this relationship  
400 is, therefore, critical. We also need more focus on the processes that lie behind the  
401 correlations we found. If community stresses lead to the generation of various types of  
402 social capital, our interpretation of the latter will be very different from a situation where  
403 the availability of these various types contributes to the stresses. In the former, social  
404 capital may be seen as an asset to deal with those stresses, while in the latter, it becomes a  
405 liability.

406         In all cases we need to be sensitive to the urban and rural distinction. This is  
407 particularly important with respect to the role of market, bureaucratic, and communal-  
408 based social capital. In urban regions, the first two seem to operate in concert, whereas in

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409 rural areas, they may function in a complementary fashion. In rural areas, communal  
410 relations take on a more important role—particularly within stressed communities.  
411 Policies and programs that do not recognize these differences are bound to fail,  
412 exacerbate the challenges they are designed to overcome, or miss opportunities inherent  
413 in local assets.

414         Social capital remains an important enigma for understanding community  
415 functioning, development, and sustainability. Our work has approached this challenge by  
416 clarifying several elements of its meaning and measurement. In the process we have  
417 identified several specific empirical results that can help to distinguish the social  
418 processes underlying its operation and direct future research into its effects. These results  
419 should also provide important cautions for policy-makers and those implementing  
420 programs within local communities, once again reinforcing the importance of local  
421 conditions for the impacts of general policies.

422

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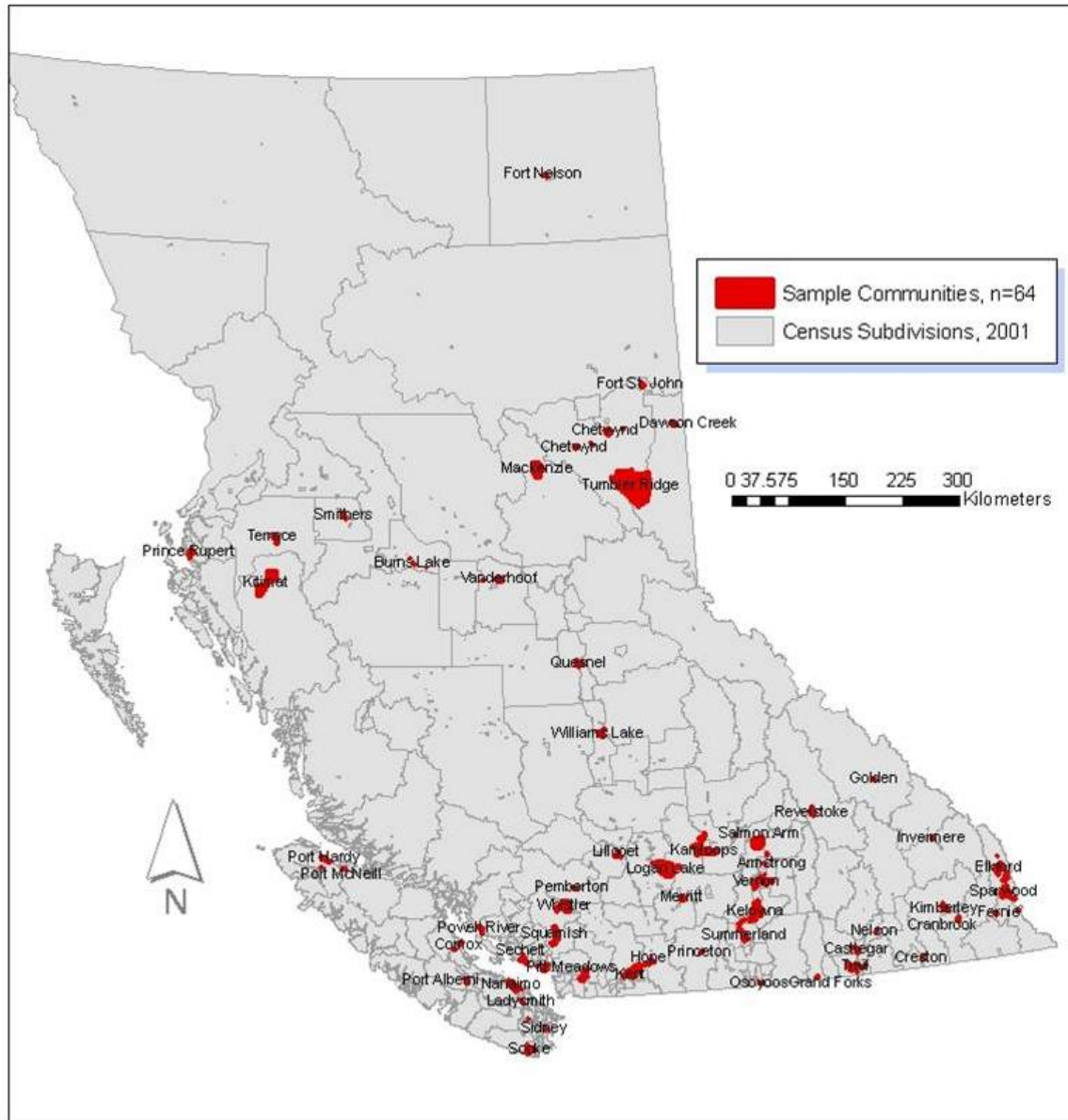
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- 488
- 489



491

492

493 **Figure 1.1 Map of 64 Sample Communities in BC**

494

495 **Table 1.1 List of Services by Four Types of Social Capital**

496

<b>Market Relations</b>	<b>Bureaucratic Relations</b>	<b>Associative Relations</b>	<b>Communal Relations</b>
<b>Market Services</b>	<b>Institutional</b>	<b>Community Services</b>	Community care
Grocery stores	Fire halls	Food Bank	Children's daycares
Auto sales	Neighborhood Watch,	Harvest box, good food	Churches
Auto repair and service	Citizens on Patrol	box, Second hand	Organized Religious
Car wash	Rural Watch	stores	institutions
Gas stations	Police, RCMP stations	Youth drop-in	Fairgrounds
Real estate offices	Libraries	Seniors drop-in	
Liquor outlet	Post office outlets	Halfway house	
Clothing stores	Accountants	Women's resource	
Furniture	Lawyers	centre	
Restaurants		Women's safe house,	
Fast food outlets	<b>Education</b>	shelter	
Pharmacy	Elementary, middle,		
Security service (guards and	high, independent	<b>First Nations</b>	
patrols)	schools	<b>Institutions</b>	
Hotel	Community colleges,	Societies, clubs	
Laundry, self service	universities	Youth, family	
Wal Mart	Child daycare		
Canadian Tire, Home	Public adult education	<b>Sports, Recreation,</b>	
Hardware	services	<b>Culture</b>	
Banks and credit unions		Service organizations	
Insurance agents and brokers	<b>Health Care</b>	Sports organizations,	
# of internet service	Long term,	clubs	
providers	intermediates,	Curling rink	
	community care	Indoor swimming pool	
<b>Producer Services</b>	Physicians	Outdoor swimming	
Farm equipment (sales and	Physiotherapists	pool	
service)	Dentists	Indoor skating rink	
Forestry equipment	Home care, home	Outdoor skating rink	
Mining equipment	support	Community gym	
Contractors, equipment and	Home making	Community centre, hall	
supplies	Hospitals	Theatre	
General contractors	Does hospital have ER?	Cinema	
Business services	Optometrists	Museum	
Transport, trucking services	Ambulance services	Municipal parks	
Logging companies and	911 service (yes or no)	Provincial parks	
contractors	Chiropractors	National parks	
	Councilors,	Skiing trails	
	psychologists	Walking, hiking trails	
		Golf courses	
		Campgrounds	

497



498 Table 1.1 (Continued) List of Services by Four Types of Social Capital

<b>Market Relations</b>	<b>Bureaucratic Relations</b>	<b>Associative Relations</b>	<b>Communal Relations</b>
	<p><b>First Nations Institutions</b></p> <p>Band, Government Offices Financial Services, employment Health</p> <p><b>Government Agencies</b> Service BC Access Centre Town, city hall Federal Provincial</p> <p><b>Transport Services</b> Car rental Taxi companies Bus services Public transit Passenger train</p>		

499

500

The Availability of Social Capital

501

502 **Table 1.2 Market, bureaucratic, associative, and communal social capital in**

503 **Armstrong, 2005/6\***

<b>Type of social capital</b>	<b>Total number of services</b>	<b>Number of services per 1,000 people</b>
Market	71	16.7
Bureaucratic	39	9.2
Associative	91	21.4
Communal	15	3.6
Total	216	50.8

504

505 \*The population of Armstrong in 2001 was 4,256.

506 Source: Statistics Canada, 2001

507

508

509 **Table 1.3 Standard Area Classification (SAC) code descriptions**

510

**Urban CSDs n=25**

**Standard Area Classification Code Descriptions - Statistics Canada**

SAC code	Census Geography	Description	Count in Sample
1	Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	pop > 100,000	4
2	Tracted Census Agglomeration Area (CA)	pop >10,000	5
3	Non-Tracted Census Agglomeration Area (CA)	pop >10,000	16
4	Strongly-influenced MIZ	>30% residents commute	1
5	Moderately-influenced MIZ	5-30% residents commute	11
6	Weakly-influenced MIZ	0-5% residents commute	26
7	Not Influenced	fewer than 40 residents commute	1

*n=64*

**Rural CSDs n=39**

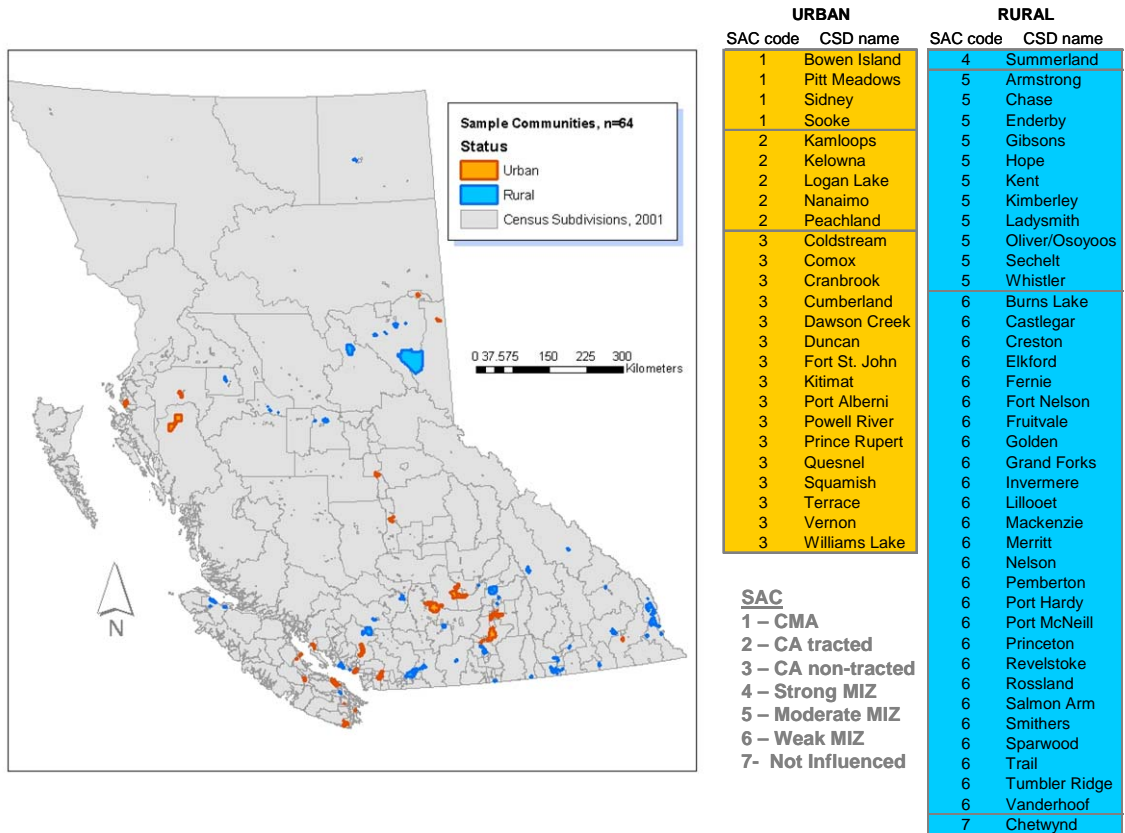
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# The Availability of Social Capital



515

516 **Figure 1.2 Map of study communities by urban/rural status**

517 Source: Statistics Canada, 2001

518

519

520

521

522 **Table 1.4 Census variables for correlation with available social capital**

523

Variable	Definition
<i>Population</i>	Total population of CSD in 2001
<i>Employment in Primary Industries</i>	Percent of labour force employed in industries related to primary industries (agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, mining, and oil and gas extraction)
<i>Employment in Global Industries</i>	Percent of labour force employed in industries tied to the global economy (Managerial, administrative, and related; primary industries; and occupations unique to processing, manufacturing, and utilities)
<i>Employment in Local Industries</i>	Percent of labour force employed in industries tied to the local economy (Clerical, medicine, health, teaching, technological professions, social service, religious, artistic, sales and service, trades, transport, and equipment operators)
<i>Male Unemployment</i>	Rate of unemployed males in labour force
<i>Female Unemployment</i>	Rate of unemployed females in labour force
<i>Male Youth Unemployment</i>	Rate of unemployed males 15-24 years of age in labour force
<i>Female Youth Unemployment</i>	Rate of unemployed females 15-24 years of age in

## The Availability of Social Capital

	labour force
<i>Male Participation rate</i>	Rate of total male population 15 years and older in the labour force
<i>Female Participation rate</i>	Rate of total female population 15 years and older in the labour force
<i>Male Youth Participation</i>	Rate of total male population 15-24 years of age in labour force
<i>Female Youth Participation</i>	Rate of total female population 15-24 years of age in labour force
<i>Households made up of Census Families</i>	Rate of the total number of private households comprised of census families
<i>Divorced Population</i>	Rate of total population 15 years and older, ever divorced
<i>Lone Parent Population</i>	Rate of total census families identified as single parent families
<i>Male Income</i>	Median male income
<i>Female Income</i>	Median female income
<i>Low Education rates</i>	Rate of population 15 years and older with less than a grade 9 education
<i>High Education rates</i>	Rate of population 15 years and older with a trades degree or certificate, or any postsecondary education
<i>Migration</i>	Rate of total population that have moved within 5

## The Availability of Social Capital

	years
<i>Self-Employment</i>	Rate of labour force members that are self-employed
<i>Managerial Professions</i>	Rate of labour force that are occupied in managerial professions
<i>Governmental Professions</i>	Rate of labour force that are occupied in governmental professions
<i>Low Income Households</i>	Rate of private households that are below the low-income cutoff
<i>Unattached Individuals</i>	Rate of total population comprised of unattached individuals

524

525 Source: Statistics Canada, 2001

526

527

The Availability of Social Capital

528

529 **Table 1.5 Availability of four types of social capital per 1,000 population for all**

530 **communities (N=64)**

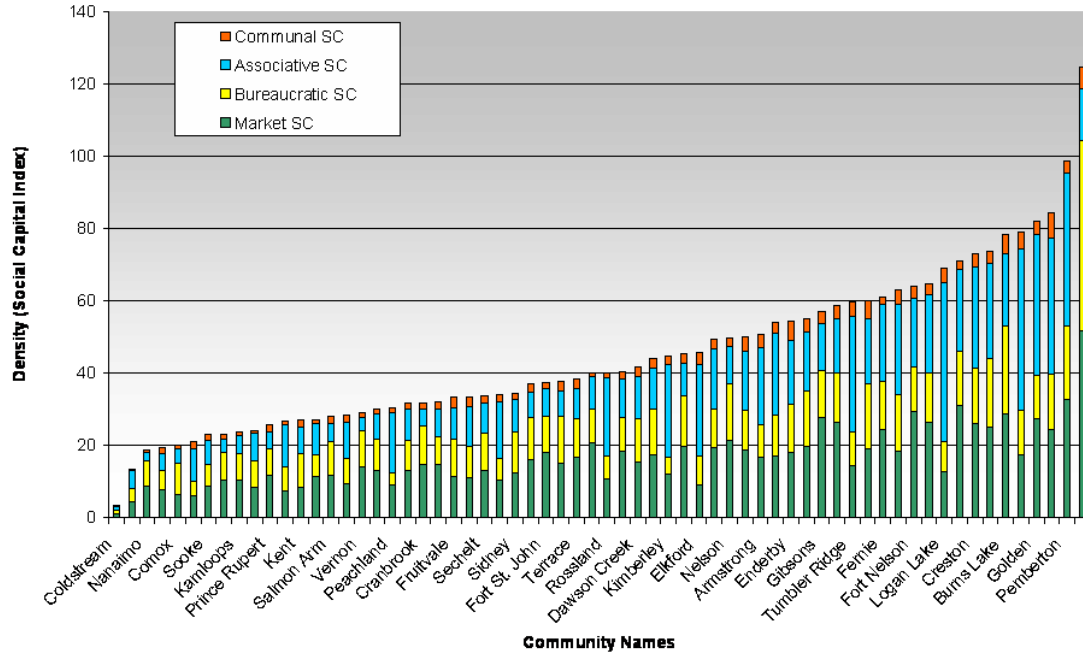
	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard dev.</b>
Market	1.31	51.71	13.18	8.28
Bureaucratic	0.88	52.78	9.11	6.73
Associative	0.99	44.64	8.43	10.54
Communal	0.31	6.79	1.73	1.38
Total	3.49	124.9	34.45	22.17

531

532



# The Availability of Social Capital



533

534 **Figure 1.3 Histogram of study communities by social capital scores**

535

536

537

538 **Table 1.6 Comparison of social capital scores in urban and rural study communities**

	<b>Urban (n=25)</b>	<b>Rural (n=39)</b>
Market	11.7 *	16.9
Bureaucratic	8.4	10.8
Associative	5.5*	15.8
Communal	1.3*	2.7
Total Social Capital	26.9*	46.3

539 \* p<0.05

540

541

The Availability of Social Capital

542 **Table 1.7 Statistically significant correlations between available social capital and**  
 543 **census variables**

544

		Market	Bureaucratic	Associative	Communal	Total Social Capital
Population	ALL	-.281(*)		-.404(**)	-.410(**)	-383(**)
	RURAL					
	URBAN					
Employment in Primary Industries	ALL				.253(*)	
	RURAL					
	URBAN					
Employment in Global Industries	ALL				.267(*)	
	RURAL					
	URBAN					
Employment in Local Industries	ALL					
	RURAL					
	URBAN			.441(*)		
Male	ALL		.280(*)		.262(*)	
Unemployment	RURAL		.349(*)		.471(**)	
	URBAN					
Female	ALL				.304(*)	
Unemployment	RURAL				.480(**)	
	URBAN					
Male Youth	ALL					

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Unemployment	RURAL				
	URBAN	.445(*)	.417(*)		
Female Youth	ALL				
Unemployment	RURAL				
	URBAN			.406(*)	
Male	ALL				
Participation	RURAL				
rate	URBAN				
Female	ALL				
Participation	RURAL				
rate	URBAN		-.417(*)		
Male Youth	ALL	.282(*)			
Participation	RURAL	.422(**)			.328(*)
	URBAN				
Female Youth	ALL	.253(*)			
Participation	RURAL	.515(**)	.440(**)		.378(*)
	URBAN				
% Households	ALL	-.519(**)	-.512(**)		-.359(**)
made up of	RURAL	-.372(*)			
Census Families	URBAN	-.629(**)	-.683(**)		-.529(**)
Divorced	ALL		.320(*)		
Population	RURAL				
	URBAN	.612(**)	.587(**)	.398(*)	.512(**)
Lone Parent	ALL		.301(*)	-.254(*)	

The Availability of Social Capital

Populations	RURAL			
	URBAN	.437(*)	.458(*)	
Male Income	ALL			
	RURAL			
	URBAN			
Female Income	ALL			-.279(*)
	RURAL	.413(**)		-.331(*)
	URBAN			
Low Education	ALL			.373(**)
rates	RURAL			.486(**)
	URBAN			
High Education	ALL			-.395(**)
rates	RURAL			-.555(**)
	URBAN			
Migration (5	ALL	.317(*)		.296(*)
year)	RURAL	.427(**)	.379(*)	.367(*)
	URBAN			
Self-	ALL			
Employment	RURAL			
	URBAN			
Managerial	ALL	.247(*)		
Professions	RURAL	.444(**)		-.321(*)
	URBAN			
Governmental	ALL			

The Availability of Social Capital

Professions	RURAL				
	URBAN		.497(*)		.446(*)
Low Income	ALL	.300(*)	.448(**)	.261(*)	
Households	RURAL		.358(*)	.380(*)	
	URBAN	.510(**)	.573(**)		.402(*)
Unattached	ALL	.490(**)	.428(**)		.320(**)
Individuals	RURAL	.395(*)			
	URBAN	.620(**)	.686(**)		.525(**)

545

546

547

548

The Availability of Social Capital

549 **Table 1.8 Summary of statistically significant associations with social capital by**  
 550 **rural/urban community status**

551

552 **Urban**

553

554 *Market*

555	Unattached Individuals <sup>a</sup>	0.620
556	Divorce Rate <sup>a</sup>	0.612
557	Low Income Households <sup>a</sup>	0.510
558	Male Youth Unemployment <sup>a</sup>	0.445
559	Lone Parent Families <sup>a</sup>	0.437
560	Census Families <sup>a</sup>	-0.629

561

562 *Bureaucratic*

563	Unattached Individuals <sup>a</sup>	0.686
564	Divorce Rate <sup>a</sup>	0.587
565	Low Income Households <sup>a</sup>	0.573
566	Government Professions	0.497
567	Lone Parent Families <sup>a</sup>	0.458
568	Male Youth Unemployment <sup>a</sup>	0.417
569	Female Participation Rate	-0.417
570	Census Families <sup>a</sup>	-0.683

571

572 *Associative*

573	Local Industry Employment	0.441
-----	---------------------------	-------

## The Availability of Social Capital

574

575

576 *Communal*

577 Female Youth Unemployment 0.406

578 Divorce Rate<sup>a</sup> 0.398

579

580

---

581

582 **Rural**

---

583

584 *Market*

585 Female Youth Participation<sup>a</sup> 0.515

586 Managerial Professions<sup>c</sup> 0.444

587 Migration (5 Years)<sup>a</sup> 0.427

588 Male Youth Participation 0.422

589 Female Income<sup>c</sup> 0.413

590 Unattached Individuals 0.395

591 Census Families -0.372

592

593 *Bureaucratic*

594 Female Youth Participation<sup>a</sup> 0.440

595 Migration (5 Years)<sup>a</sup> 0.379

596 Low Income Households<sup>b</sup> 0.358

597 Male Unemployment<sup>b</sup> 0.349



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598

599 *Communal*

600	Low Education	0.486
601	Female Unemployment	0.480
602	Male Unemployment <sup>b</sup>	0.471
603	Low Income Households <sup>b</sup>	0.380
604	Managerial Professions <sup>c</sup>	-0.321
605	Female Income <sup>c</sup>	-0.331
606	High Education	-0.555

607

608

609

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610

611

612           Superscript a, b, and c indicate shared characteristics within Urban and Rural

613 CSDs, as further discussed in this section.

614