

While the association between affordable housing and social capital has been widely discussed in academic circles, the analysis of this relationship has often been limited to the same neighborhood or geographic area. Social capital could be built through networks beyond the boundaries of a particular neighborhood or community. Thus, affordable housing developments might have direct or indirect effects on the social capital in surrounding neighborhoods. To examine such connections, this study utilizes the Spatial Autoregressive (SAR) model and draws on data from the American Community Survey, National Housing Preservation Database, and the Opportunity Insights dataset, with the zip code serving as the unit of analysis. Preliminary results indicate a small yet statistically significant positive relationship between the number of affordable housing units per one hundred low-income households in surrounding neighborhoods and people's social activities, even after including relevant controls. This finding has policy implications regarding location decisions that result in the geographic concentration in the construction of public housing.