

Abstract

Residential mobility in urban China remains a mystery until recently. Based on retrospective histories derived from a sample survey of 1500 respondents in mid 2001 in Guangzhou, we estimate the changing rate of residential mobility over the period 1980-2001. We find a rising mobility trend in the city over the period, which remains equally pronounced after taking into account the cohort effect inherent in retrospective histories. Discrete-time logit regression analysis shows that among all the factors impacting on residential mobility, change in marital status and change in job are of utmost significance. Education and membership in the Chinese Communist Party enhance mobility. While owned-*danwei* (i.e., house bought from work unit) is associated with substantially lower mobility than other owned categories, rented-*danwei* is associated with higher mobility than other rented categories. Age exhibits the usual curvilinear effects and sex is an important differentiator.