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Chicago Community Area Data, 1930-2010

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Chicago Community Area Data, 1930-2010

Nate Falling, Jacob Nelson, Miguel Torres and Richard T. Melstrom

In 1920, sociologists from the University of Chicago divided Chicago into 75 community areas based on historic settlement patterns, local identities and institutions, and natural and artificial barriers, including the Chicago River and railroad lines. Unlike political units such as wards, community area boundaries do not change over time. Two exceptions include the addition of a community area for O'Hare and the separation of Edgewater from Uptown as an own community area. Since 1970, Chicago has been divided into 77 community areas (Keating 2008).

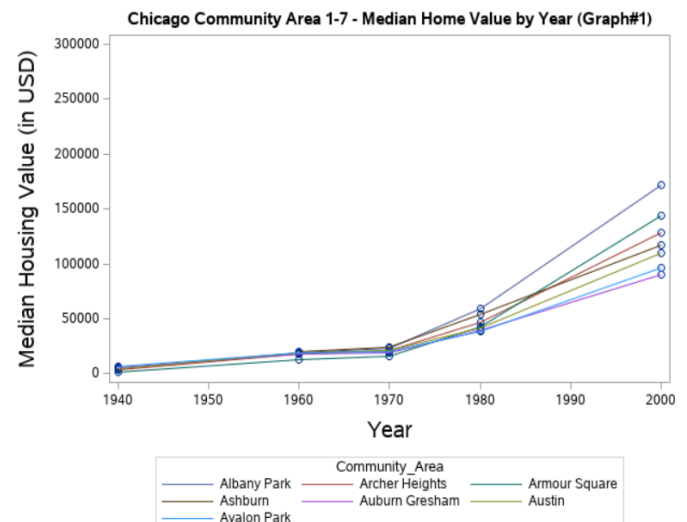
The purpose of a community area is to make socioeconomic and demographic comparisons over time and between parts of the city easier. Clearly marked, stable boundaries are essential to tracking data over time.

In 1938, the first community area fact book was published containing statistics on 75 community areas. Additional books, known as the Local Community Fact Book series, followed each subsequent census, every ten years until 1990. The City of Chicago has published Community Area Census Profiles since 2000.

We are releasing a set of community area statistics collected from fact book and census profile data series. These statistics are in the file `Chicago_Community_Area_Data_1930-2010`, which is available on the Loyola eCommons website. The statistics do not reflect all of the data contained in the historical sources. Additional digitized data can be found at <https://robparal.com/chicago-data/>. Our data relate to household income, the housing stock and racial demographics. A list of the statistics contained in this release can be found in the table on the back page of this fact sheet.

In addition to the data, we are providing the SAS code used to organize the data. This code is available in the file `ChicagoCommunityAreaFactbook.sas`.

To provide a demonstration of how the data can be used, the figure below shows median home values between 1940 and 2000 for the first seven community areas. All dollar-denominated values in the data are unadjusted for inflation. Each line shows the trend in a community area. Note that the data does not include median home values in 1930, 1934, 1950, 1990, and 2010. The code used to create this figure is available in the SAS file above.



Additional variables, and missing data in 1990 and 2010, may be added as they become available. To see how community area data can be used to understand neighborhood change, see Melstrom and Mohammadi (2022). Questions about the data should be directed to Richard T. Melstrom.

References

- Keating, A.D. (Ed.) (2008). *Chicago Neighborhoods and Suburbs: A Historical Guide*. The University of Chicago Press.
- Melstrom, R. T., & Mohammadi, R. (2022). Residential Mobility, Brownfield Remediation, and Environmental Gentrification in Chicago. *Land Economics*, 98(1), 62-77.

Variable (name in file)	1930	1934	1940(1)	1950	1960	1970(2)	1980	1990	2000	2010
Total population (totpop)										
Percent of population that is black (pctblack)										
Percent of population that race is non-white (pctothernonwhite)										
Percent of population that is race other than white (pctotherrace)										
Percent of population that is Hispanic (pcthispanic)										
Median family income (medfaminc)			(3)		(4)					
Total housing units (housingunits)										
Percent of housing units that are owner occupied (pctownerocc)										
Median value of housing units (medianvalue)			(5)		(6)	(7)	(8)			
Median rent of housing units (medianrent)										
Median number of rooms in housing units (medrooms)										
Additional variables	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)
	Available						Not Available			

(1) Norwood Park (Area 10) missing (totalsalaries),
(housingunits), (medianvalue), (medianrent)

(2) O'Hare (Area 76) and Edgewater (Area 77) Introduced

(3) Data from Norwood Park (Area 10) Missing

(4) Data from Loop (Area 32) Missing

(5) Data from Norwood Park (Area 10), Loop (Area 32),
Near South Side (Area 33), Ashburn (Area 70) Missing

(6) Data from Loop (Area 32) & Near South Side (Area 33)
Missing

(7) Data from Loop (Area 32) & Near South Side (Area 33)
Missing

(8) Data from Loop (Area 32) & Near South Side (Area 33)
Missing

(9) Total Homes Owned (ownhomes)

(10) Total Homes Owned (ownhomes)

(11) Total Population Black (toblack), Total Other Races
(totherraces), Total Salaries (totalaries), Total
Households (tohouseholds),

(12) Total population black (toblack), Total Other Races
(totherraces)

(13) Percent of Population Puerto Rican (pctpuertorican)

(14) Percent Speaking Spanish Language (pctspanishlang)

(15) Percent Speaking Spanish Language (pctspanishlang)

(16) Total Population Black (toblack), Total Population Asian
(totasian), Total Other Races (totherr), Total Other Non-White
(totalothernonwhite), Total Population Hispanic (tothisp)

(17) Total Population Black (toblack), Total Population Asian
(totasian), Total Other Races (totherr), Total Other non-white
(totalothernonwhite), Total Population Hispanic (tothisp)

(18) Total Population Black (toblack), Total Population American
Indian (totamerind), Total Population Asian (totasian), Total
Population Pacific Islander (totpacificisland), Total Population
Something Other than White (totsomeother), Total Population
Two or More Races (tot2ormore), Total Other Races
(totherraces), Total population Hispanic (tothisp)