

Our North Suburban Region at a Glance

Changes in Population

- The number of persons of color in the northern suburbs rose from 10% of the population in 1980 to 26% in 2010 (1 in 4 persons). The total population, at 429,598 in 2010, only grew by 4%.
- The increase in persons of color is primarily due to growth in Asian and Hispanic/Latino populations.
- The Hispanic/Latino population rose 265% since 1980, with increases in every suburb. Highwood is now majority Hispanic, at 56.9% of the population. In Evanston, Highland Park, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles and Skokie the range is from 6% to 9%.
- The Asian population is up 310% since 1980, with increases in all suburbs. 1 in 4 in Skokie, Morton Grove and Lincolnwood are Asian. Glenview, Niles, Northbrook, and Wilmette are at 10% to 12%.
- The Black population constitutes only 4.7% of the population and in fact, declined 7.2% since 2000. Only in Evanston and Skokie does the Black population exceed 1%.
- The White population declined 15% since 1980. However, they continue to exceed 90% of the population in Deerfield, Glencoe, Kenilworth, Northfield, Park Ridge and Winnetka.

Immigrant Population, Economic Contribution and Integration

- An estimated 35,000 immigrants have moved from their native home directly to Chicago's northern suburbs since 2000.
- 2008 data suggests about 147,500 foreign born residents live in our service area, a 19% increase since 2000. At the same time, native born residents decreased 3% to about 422,700.
- Over 50% of the population speak a language other than English at home in Morton Grove, Skokie, Highwood, Niles and Lincolnwood. Highwood had the most at 60.2% and Winnetka the least at 8.8%*
- Communities such as Highwood, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles and Skokie (where at least a third of residents were foreign born in 2000) are more accessible than other communities for immigrants. Only Deerfield, Glencoe and Winnetka had immigrant populations below 10%.
- In 2006, nearly all working age immigrants (approximately 97,700) were employed in the region.
- Combined employment and spending economic contribution in 2006 of immigrants was \$6.5 billion.
- Immigrant workers disproportionately tied to the housing industry in 2006 as construction workers, landscapers and realtors made them the most foreclosure vulnerable during economic downturn.
- Despite the growing presence of immigrants, relatively few are active in local government.

Fair and Affordable Housing Environment

- The housing burden (those paying over 35% of income in housing) has more than doubled in the last 30 years. In 1990, 22,444 homes surpassed the threshold and in 2010 it was at 50,232. This translates into 1 in 3 homeowners and nearly half of renters struggling to afford their homes.

- Since 1990, 26,700 homes and condos were built. Rentals experienced a net loss of 4,000 rentals.
- Home sale prices increased an average of 83% since 1994 ranging from 37.5% in Skokie to 169% in Kenilworth. Skokie had the lowest average home sale price at \$256,111 and Kenilworth the highest at \$1,675,536. Highwood had the lowest home ownership at 51% in 2011.
- 19.5% of the housing stock is rental. Of that, 4% equaling some 1,200 renters, are low-income with government vouchers to help cover housing costs. Most voucher holders live in Evanston or Skokie.
- Open Communities fair housing testing consistently reveals that realtors and landlords deny housing to qualified African Americans in more than half of all showings.

Individual and Household Income

- Communities with the highest number of people living below the poverty level are Evanston at 11.8%, Highwood at 10.8% and Skokie at 8.6%. Evanston has the most living in poverty, estimated at 8,900, but Skokie had a 51% poverty increase from 2000 to 2008 while Evanston's declined 17%.
- At \$47,495, Niles had the lowest median household income in 2011. Highwood, Evanston and Morton Grove were the next lowest with incomes between \$61,000 and \$73,000. Winnetka was the highest at \$208,750.*

School Environment and Academic Achievement

- Skokie, Evanston and Niles grammar school districts had the most low-income students in 2012, ranging from 53.1% in one Skokie School to 33.2% in Niles. Morton Grove, Highland Park, Highwood, Glenview, Lincolnwood and Northfield ranged from 10% to 30%. All other districts were under 6%.
- In 2012, over 10% of the student body spoke limited English in grammar schools in Evanston, Skokie, Glenview, Northfield, Lincolnwood, Highland Park, Highwood, Morton Grove, West Northfield and Lincolnwood. At two Skokie schools, over 20% were limited English speaking students.
- Of the four high school districts, Evanston and Niles Township have the most low-income students at 40.8% and 31.8% respectively. They are also more academically challenged with combined math and reading scores in Evanston at 67.5% and in Niles at 61%. 85% is the national threshold.
- 26.5% of Highwood residents and 29% of Niles residents received a bachelor's degree. College graduates in Park Ridge, Skokie, Morton Grove and Lincolnwood ranged from 41% to 51.4%. The remaining communities were above 60% with the most graduates in Winnetka at 87.9%.*

Sources:

U.S. Census

Natalie P. Voorhees Center, University of Illinois at Chicago, *Open to All? Different Cultures, Same Communities*, 2011

Brookings Institution, *Suburbs in Need: Rising Suburban Poverty and Challenges for Suburban Safety Nets*, 2010

Illinois Interactive Report Card, 2012

Chicago Magazine, 2011

Note: Open Communities service area includes: Deerfield, Evanston, Glencoe, Glenview, Highland Park, Highwood, Kenilworth, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Skokie, Northbrook, Northfield, Park Ridge, Wilmette, and Winnetka

*Kenilworth data not available