

# Skokie, IL

**Open Communities'** mission is to educate, advocate and organize to promote just and inclusive communities in north suburban Chicago.

Founded in 1972 by north suburban residents and congregations, we are a nonprofit, membership-based organization dedicated to fostering economically and culturally diverse communities.

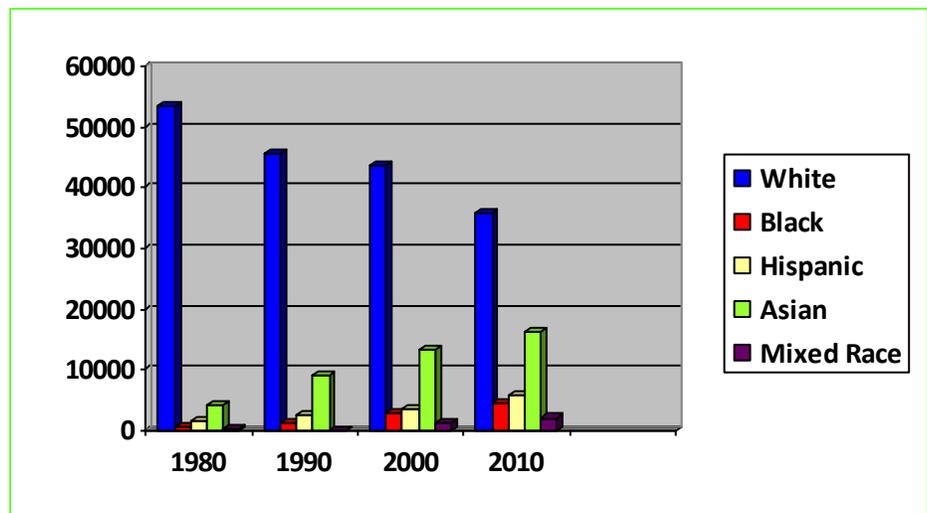
The programs we offer include Fair Housing Discrimination Investigation and Education, Foreclosure Prevention Counseling, Landlord/Tenant Advice, Homesharing, Immigrant Leadership Development, Affordable Housing Advocacy, and Community Organizing.

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Skokie is located in Cook County, 16 miles northwest of downtown Chicago. The Village's proximity to Chicago enables residents to directly utilize the Chicago Transit Authority, notably the Yellow Line (also known as the Skokie Swift). Skokie has been ranked among the 80 fastest-growing suburbs in the country.

As of the 2010 Census, Skokie is reported to have a total of 64,784 residents. Out of this total, 28,829 are non-white, which means minorities make up 44.5 percent of Skokie's population. African Americans make up the smallest overall percentage at seven percent.

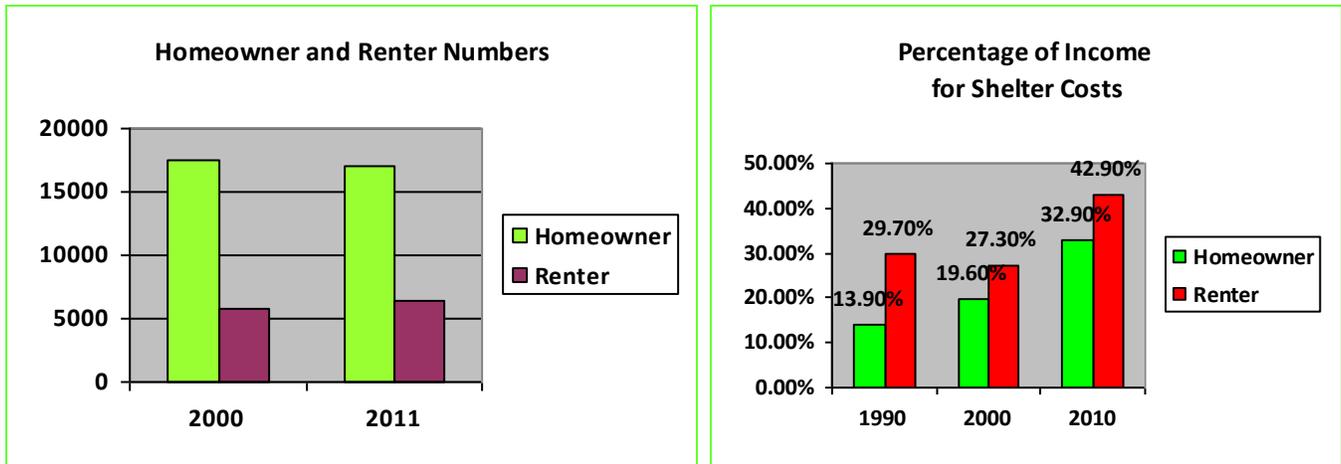
The graph<sup>1</sup> below shows demographic trends in Skokie from 1980-2010.



<sup>1</sup>Graph data available at [www.open-communities.org](http://www.open-communities.org)

## Homeownership and Renter Trends

These graphs<sup>2</sup> map homeownership and renter trends in Skokie between 1990 and 2011. The left graph shows that renters make up a relatively small percentage of residents in Skokie. For 1990, 2000, and 2010 the graph on the right shows renters consistently using far more than 35 percent of income on shelter costs.



## Seniors (according to the Census between 2008-2012)

- ◆ 597 out of 1125 (53%) of seniors 65 and older spent more than 35 percent of household income on rent.
- ◆ 32 percent of about 5600 seniors aged 65-75 polled still had a mortgage

## Affordable Housing Stock

Skokie's 2010 Community Development Block Grant Action Plan discusses the Village's willingness to increase affordable housing in addition to density bonuses for development of low-income housing units. However, the plan also acknowledges there are "limited [housing] opportunities for ... very low and low-income, non-elderly and families"<sup>3</sup> due to zoning restrictions and housing costs among other challenges.

According to a 2013 report from the Illinois Affordable Housing Planning and Appeal Act, Skokie offers 3337 affordable housing units out of a total of 22,700 (14.7%) homes in the community.

<sup>2</sup>Graph data available at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

<sup>3</sup>Full document available at

[http://www.egovlink.com/public\\_documents300/skokie/published\\_documents/Community%20Development/CDBG%20Action%20Plan.pdf](http://www.egovlink.com/public_documents300/skokie/published_documents/Community%20Development/CDBG%20Action%20Plan.pdf)