The Deepening Divide in Chicagoland

Nathalie P Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement

Janet L Smith, Associate Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago, 11 April 2014.
It was the best of times, it was the worst of times…

a tale of two cities…
best of times!

Thousands of NEW market-rate apartments
• Growing gap between rich and poor
• Real income has declined
• Population lost, not gaining
• Segregation continues
• Crime is higher than ever
• Schools are in turmoil

worst of times?
Chicago's richest 5 percent earned $201,460, while those in the poorest 20 percent earned $16,078.

Brookings Institute 2014
Change 2000-2010
- 200,000 people
- 90% African American
- 8.8% Families
- 9.2% Non-families

Region grew 0.3% 2012-13
segregation

African American 2010

Latinos 2010
homicide

Final 2013 Totals
Shot & Killed: 372
Shot & Wounded: 1778
Total Homicides*: 448

Year To Date Totals
Shot & Killed: 57
Shot & Wounded: 263
Total Homicides*: 75

11.8% Female
88.2% Male
18.5% Hispanic
79.7% Black

2013
83% from Gunshot
where is Chicagoland heading?

“Rahm Emanuel is building a Second City. **Two cities** really…One white, one black. One for the rich, one for the poor. One for private schools, one for closed schools. A new Chicago for the saved and the damned. Gold coast heavens and low-end hells. It's biblical, binary.”  

*Kevin Koval, Poet & Author, Founder Louder Than A Bomb: The Chicago Youth Poetry Festival, April 3, 2014*
Alan Voorhees was concerned with “economic colonization” – clusters of poor people in neighborhoods that have little access to adequate housing and transportation.

“It’s a nationwide problem. I saw it around the university some time ago and I felt UIC should get involved.”
income inequality 1970-2010

Chicago and metro region
### Average Individual Income, City of Toronto, Relative to the Toronto CMA, 1970-2005

**Legend:**
- **High:** More than 20% Above
- **Middle:** 20% Below to 20% Above
- **Low:** More than 20% Below

#### Census Tract Average Individual Income, Relative to the Toronto CMA Average, 1970-2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>High Income: More than 20% Above</th>
<th>Middle Income: 20% Below to 20% Above</th>
<th>Low Income: More than 20% Below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td># 77, % 15</td>
<td># 341, % 66</td>
<td># 97, % 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td># 69, % 13</td>
<td># 311, % 61</td>
<td># 134, % 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td># 86, % 17</td>
<td># 264, % 51</td>
<td># 164, % 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td># 88, % 17</td>
<td># 190, % 37</td>
<td># 236, % 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td># 93, % 18</td>
<td># 165, % 32</td>
<td># 257, % 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td># 94, % 18</td>
<td># 149, % 29</td>
<td># 271, % 53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
1. Based on census tract boundaries 2001 held constant over time; 2. Table counts exclude census tracts with no income published for 1970; 3. Table counts include census tracts with income published in 1970 but unpublished in one or more years after 1970.
Change in Average Individual Income, City of Toronto, 1970 to 2005

Average Individual Income from all sources, 15 Years and Over, Census Tracts

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1971, 2006

Change in the Census Tract Average Individual Income as a percentage of the Toronto CMA Average, 1970-2005

- Increase of 20% or More (100 Census Tracts, 19% of the City)
- Increase or Decrease is Less than 20% (208 Census Tracts, 40% of the City)
- Decrease of 20% or More (206 Census Tracts, 40% of the City)

Note: Census Tract 2001 boundaries shown. Census Tracts with no income data for 1970 or 2005 are excluded from the analysis. There were 527 total census tracts in 2001.
“While all cities can be divided into various groupings, the important finding in this research is the consistent trend over time: the three groups of neighbourhoods are changing at different rates and moving further apart.”
MAP 1: CHANGE IN MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME, CITY OF CHICAGO RELATIVE TO METRO AREA, 1970-2010

City #1
+ 20% or more
157 Census Tracts
20% of metro area

City #2
+ / - 20%
175 Census Tracts
22% of metro area

City #2
- 20% or more
468 Census Tracts
58% of metro area
Chicago

Neighborhoods by Median Household Income

- High Income
- Middle Income
- Low Income


1,691,718
1,860,672
1,860,660
2,052,107
1,829,630

0 1,000,000 2,000,000 3,000,000 4,000,000
Chicago metro area 1970-2010


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>High Income: More than 20% Above</th>
<th>Middle Income: 20% Below to 20% Above</th>
<th>Low Income: More than 20% Below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td># 655</td>
<td>% 33%</td>
<td># 593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td># 699</td>
<td>% 33%</td>
<td># 744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td># 593</td>
<td>% 30%</td>
<td># 744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td># 510</td>
<td>% 26%</td>
<td># 716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td># 498</td>
<td>% 25%</td>
<td># 841</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**City #1**
+ 20% or more
335 Census Tracts
17% of metro area

**City #2**
+ / - 20%
658 Census Tracts
33% of metro area

**City #2**
- 20% or more
988 Census Tracts
50% of metro area
Outside Chicago

Neighborhoods by Median Household Income

- High Income
- Middle Income
- Low Income

Data highlights:
- Median Household Income:
  - 1970: 1,634,878
  - 1980: 1,849,678
  - 1990: 2,050,501
  - 2000: 2,348,841
  - 2010: 2,213,488

Graph showing trends over time.
expansion & contraction

Neighborhoods (census tracts)
neighborhood change 1970-2010
Chicago community areas
After an increase in 1970-80, the South Side’s population decreased while the North Side remained about the same or increased. The Loop has been growing since 1970 and expanded beginning in the 1990s.
The North Side filled up units over time while the South and West Side units emptied out. This includes the Loop, Near West Side and South Loop where most new development has taken place since 1990 and continues to today.
School Age Children 1970-2010

The north side has seen a lower than average increase in school age children every decade beginning in 1970. The south and west sides have stayed relatively steady, though in 2010 we see the near west side having fewer children as well.
Higher income households expand in the Loop and North Side, where population has increased while lower income households decrease on the South Side where population is declining.
West Side Communities had the highest rates of poverty since 1970. Poverty rates go down in and around the Loop.
North Side communities have consistently had the highest educated people since 1970, though this has shifted south to include the Loop and South Loop.
Some communities (East and West Garfield Park, Englewood, Riverdale, Grand Boulevard, Washington Park) have maintained the highest levels of unemployment since 1970.
Public Heath Indicators 2004-2008

Cancer, Stroke and Diabetes-Related Mortality by Community Area

Infant Mortality Rate by Community Area

Cancer, Stroke and Diabetes-Related Mortality Per 100,000 residents (age adjusted)

- 196 - 241
- 242 - 282
- 283 - 324
- 325 - 372
- 373 - 487

Infant Mortality Rate Per 1,000 live births

- 2 - 5
- 6 - 8
- 9 - 12
- 13 - 19
- 20 - 28
Chicago is two cities, maybe three…

Lost:
- African Americans
- Middle income
- Families
- School age children

Gained:
- Higher income
- Lower income
Chicago’s future?
Questions?

UIC Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement
What gap should we focus on: Poor and affluent? Poor and middle? 
Redistribution of...Wealth? Opportunity? Power? 
How do we increase mobility? 
Where do we begin?