

The Illinois Socio-Demographic Equity Dashboard: What are the Characteristics of Illinois Neighborhoods?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Where you live matters. The purpose of this study is to characterize the neighborhoods of Illinois using several socio-demographic variables known to have lasting impacts on residents' lives.

Data source



Census tract data from the 2019 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates

Analytic technique



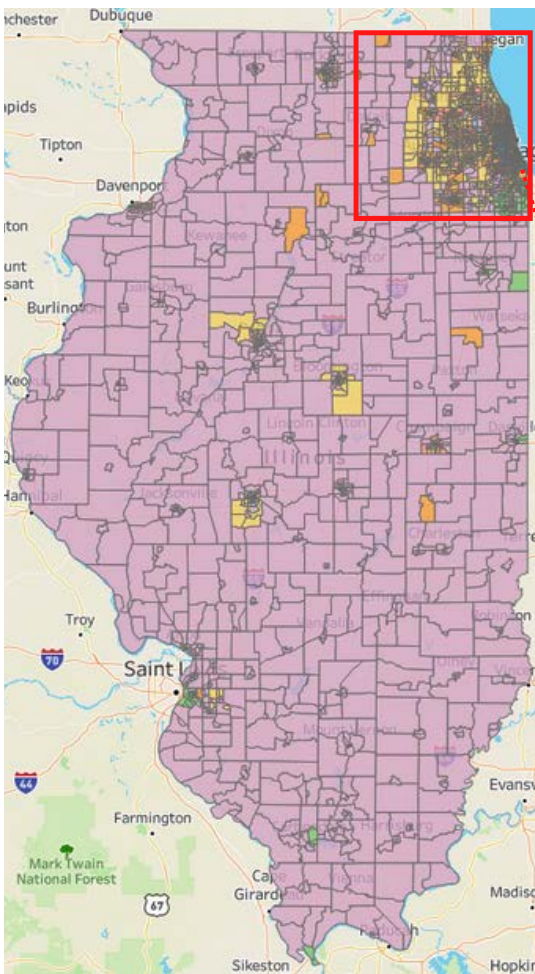
Latent profile analysis (LPA)

The following socio-demographic variables were included in the LPA to determine how many unique neighborhoods are in Illinois.

- Race and ethnic background
- Language
- Age
- Education
- Poverty rate
- Geographic mobility
- Income
- Unemployment rate
- Occupation industry

KEY FINDINGS

We found that Illinois is made up of **six distinct neighborhood types**. Each neighborhood type can be characterized by different socio-demographic variables. Moreover, these neighborhood types can be found throughout the state (see below).



Neighborhood type 1

White & Asian, multi-lingual professionals, moderately high SES (10% of tracts, 11.0% of population)

Neighborhood type 2

Young Hispanic/Latino manufacturing & service workers (7% of tracts, 7.7% of population)

Neighborhood type 3

Black workers in low-wage social service jobs or unemployed (14% of tracts, 9.8% of population)

Neighborhood type 4

Older White workers in mid-wage occupations (39% of tracts, 38.5% of population)

Neighborhood type 5

Racially diverse workers in mid-wage occupations (12% of tracts, 12.4% of population)

Neighborhood type 6

White professionals, high SES (19% of tracts, 20.5% of population)

Once we determined neighborhood type and mapped them out geographically, we analyzed the neighborhood types in a series of case studies of various locations throughout the state. These locations included: **urban centers outside of Chicago, border cities, Chicago and its surrounding suburbs, and 6 points of interest to IWERC.**



While analyzing these case studies, several patterns were observed for each of the neighborhood types as well as the towns in which they were present.

- 1. Many urban centers are highly segregated.** Neighborhood types **2**, **3**, and **5** were observed in nearly all urban centers throughout the state. More often than not, neighborhood types **2** and **3** appeared as larger concentrated areas in urban centers. Type **5** was typically observed as a border between larger areas of a neighborhood type, acting as a sort of buffer.
- 2. Neighborhood types 1 and 6 acted as traditional suburban neighborhoods.** These neighborhood types were seen on the outskirts of urban centers and were typically larger tracts, consistent with relatively less population density.
- 3. Border cities have urban and suburban neighborhoods that bleed over from other states.** Both border cities show neighborhoods that are consistent with larger cities. The cities in other states have an impact on Illinois neighborhoods.
- 4. Several of our points of interest towns share a common theme in their population decline.** These points of interest are idiosyncratic in their neighborhoods surrounded by rural neighborhood type **4**. These towns are largely Black and Hispanic/Latino communities that were once larger industrial cities in the state but have seen significant declines in their White population with the downturn of various industries.

The findings of this report provide a basis for further research into the relationship between neighborhoods and their residents. **Future projects will analyze and evaluate equitable access and opportunity to various education and workforce resources in the state.** These resources include workforce development programs, early childhood programs and services, community colleges, K-12 schools with computer science programs, K-12 schools and their evidence-based funding (EBF) tier levels, post-secondary institutions with teaching programs, internet access, and many others.



Read the full report and view interactive dashboard here:
<https://go.illinois.edu/il-equity-dashboard>