



Chapter 1

Demographics

The U.S. is a nation built by immigrants. Throughout history and continuing through today, people from all places in the world have come to this country, fleeing economic hardships, religious and political oppression, and seeking opportunity. The Chicago region is no different. Northeastern Illinois has benefited from the vast economic contributions of its immigrant populations. In the early 20th Century, as the country faced the challenge of transforming its economy from an agricultural base to an industrial base, an immigrant and migrant labor force led the way, making Chicago one of the country's greatest industrial cities. Immigrants looked to Chicago for homes and jobs, at the same time knowing they could find a sense of community among its many ethnic neighborhoods. This trend is changing—today more immigrants live in the Chicago suburbs than in the City.

The Chicago region is the country's third largest metropolitan area and continues to be a top center of immigration in North America, with 19.1 percent of the regional population being foreign-born, or 1.6 million persons. The Census defines foreign-born persons as "including anyone who was not a U.S. citizen at birth. This includes respondents who indicated that they were a U.S. citizen by naturalization or not a U.S. citizen. Persons born abroad of American parents or born in Puerto Rico or other U.S. Island Areas are not considered foreign born."² While the Census uses the term foreign-born, this toolkit will use the terms "immigrant" or "newcomer" interchangeably.

The region's continued growth is largely due to immigrants. Between 2000-10, the seven-county CMAP region—Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties—grew by 285,122 people, or 3.5 percent. Immigrants accounted for more than half of the population growth during this time period. Yet, immigration has slowed in recent years. A recent report compiled for the Chicago Community Trust pointed out that during the 1990s, about 54,000 immigrants came annually to the region. From 2000-07, the annual number of average arrivals decreased to 21,000.³ This slowdown is partly a result of the recent downturn in the economy combined with a restrictive immigration environment.

Table 1. Total population and foreign-born population, 1970 - 2010

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	% CHANGE (2000-10)
Seven-county Chicago region	7,001,280	7,140,826	7,300,589	8,146,264	8,431,386	+3.5%
Seven-county Chicago region foreign-born	563,689	746,127	881,158	1,419,789	1,583,954	+11.6%
Cook	5,488,328	5,253,655	5,105,067	5,376,741	5,194,675	-3.4%
Cook foreign-born	503,106	630,401	717,317	1,064,703	1,086,881	+2.1%
DuPage	491,882	658,835	781,666	904,161	916,924	+1.4%
DuPage foreign-born	20,254	49,526	71,335	138,656	167,072	+20.5%
Kane	251,005	278,405	317,471	404,119	515,269	+27.5%
Kane foreign-born	10,212	16,062	26,100	63,516	89,802	+41.4%
Kendall	26,374	37,202	39,413	54,544	114,736	+110.4%
Kendall foreign-born	509	1,197	1,295	2,899	8,876	+206.2%
Lake	382,638	440,372	516,418	644,356	703,462	+9.2%
Lake foreign-born	18,029	29,524	41,583	95,536	125,549	+31.4%
McHenry	111,555	147,897	183,241	260,077	308,760	+18.7%
McHenry foreign-born	5,003	6,739	7,876	18,764	29,847	+59.1%
Will	249,498	324,460	357,313	502,266	677,560	+34.9%
Will foreign-born	6,576	12,678	15,652	35,715	75,927	+112.6%

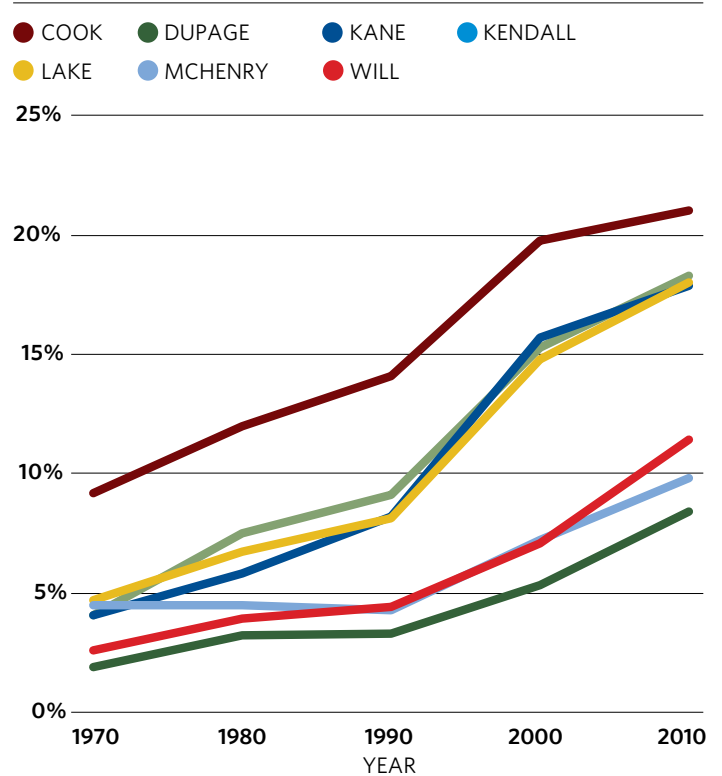
Source: U.S. Census 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010.

2 U.S. Census Bureau, "State & County QuickFacts: Foreign-Born Persons," Washington, DC, 2012. http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/meta/long_POP645212.htm.

3 Paral, Rob and Associates The Chicago Community Trust, "What Does the 2010 Census Tell Us About Metropolitan Chicago?" May 2011. http://robparal.com/downloads/CCT_2010CensusFindings_0511.pdf.

Together, the collar counties—DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will—are home to nearly a half-million foreign-born immigrants. The other million immigrants are split nearly evenly between the City of Chicago and suburban Cook County. From 2000-10, Kendall County experienced the greatest percentage of population growth—over 110 percent—and the largest increase in foreign-born population, with an increase of over 200 percent over the same time period. Will County’s total population grew by just over 35 percent, but its immigrant population grew by 112.6 percent. Kane, Lake, and McHenry’s population all grew by approximately 10 percent and saw immigrant communities grow by over 30 percent. (See Table 1 for details.)

Figure 1. Foreign-born persons as a percent of total population from 1970 to 2010, by county



Source: U.S. Census 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010.

Immigrants live in many communities across the region (see Appendix B: Immigrant Population in Chicago Area Municipalities). In the City of Chicago, unlike the rest of the region, the number of foreign-born residents has declined by approximately 7 percent over the past decade; yet immigrants still make up 21.2 percent of the City's total population. Table 2 shows the top 25 municipalities with the largest number of foreign-born persons in the CMAP region. Each municipality in this table has more than 10,000 foreign-born or immigrant residents.

Table 2. Top 25 northeastern Illinois municipalities with the largest number of foreign-born individuals, by count

RANK	MUNICIPALITY	TOTAL POPULATION	FOREIGN BORN	PERCENT FOREIGN BORN
1	Chicago	2,702,471	572,416	21.2%
2	Aurora	196,569	49,927	25.4%
3	Cicero	83,756	35,667	42.6%
4	Elgin	109,513	28,724	26.2%
5	Waukegan	88,982	27,871	31.3%
6	Skokie	64,588	26,540	41.1%
7	Naperville	142,143	24,042	16.9%
8	Joliet	147,098	21,922	14.9%
9	Schaumburg	74,276	19,076	25.7%
10	Mount Prospect	54,144	17,304	32.0%
11	Des Plaines	58,302	16,642	28.5%
12	Bolingbrook	73,383	16,294	22.2%
13	Wheeling	37,575	15,788	42.0%
14	Hoffman Estates	52,066	15,522	29.8%
15	Palatine	68,338	15,184	22.2%
16	Berwyn	56,376	14,161	25.1%
17	Hanover Park	37,990	13,888	36.6%
18	Arlington Heights	75,221	13,657	18.2%
19	Evanston	74,619	13,274	17.8%
20	Niles	29,720	13,136	44.2%
21	Addison	36,977	12,748	34.5%
22	Streamwood	40,201	11,809	29.4%
23	Glendale Heights	34,159	11,745	34.4%
24	Buffalo Grove	41,667	11,155	26.8%
25	Carpentersville	37,758	10,757	28.5%

Source: American Community Survey 2008-12.

Immigrants constitute more than one-third of the population in 23 municipalities throughout the Chicago metro region. Table 3 details the top 25 municipalities in the Chicago region with the highest percentage of foreign born residents. Many of these communities have populations of less than 25,000 residents and may lack the resources, civic, and non profit institutional infrastructure that larger municipalities may already have in place to assist with immigrant integration.

Table 3. Top 25 northeastern Illinois municipalities with the largest foreign-born populations, by percent

RANK	MUNICIPALITY	PERCENT FOREIGN BORN	TOTAL POPULATION
1	Stone Park	46.5%	4,942
2	Niles	44.2%	29,720
3	Schiller Park	44.2%	11,782
4	Cicero	42.6%	83,756
5	Wheeling	42.0%	37,575
6	Skokie	41.1%	64,588
7	Prospect Heights	40.8%	16,228
8	Harwood Heights	38.8%	8,573
9	Lincolnwood	38.8%	12,538
10	Morton Grove	38.8%	23,194
11	Melrose Park	38.4%	25,241
12	Norridge	38.0%	14,656
13	Park City	37.7%	7,383
14	Highwood	37.2%	5,396
15	Hanover Park	36.6%	37,990
16	River Grove	35.5%	10,224
17	Summit	35.3%	11,166
18	Franklin Park	34.7%	18,333
19	Bensenville	34.6%	18,480
20	Addison	34.5%	36,977
21	Indian Creek	34.4%	526
22	Glendale Heights	34.4%	34,159
23	Northlake	33.5%	12,287
24	West Chicago	32.1%	27,079
25	Mount Prospect	32.0%	54,144

Source: American Community Survey 2008-12.

Among the top 25 municipalities in the region with large number of immigrants, ten rank high both in terms of number and percent of immigrants. These communities are:

- Addison
- Cicero
- Glendale Heights
- Hanover Park
- Melrose Park
- Mount Prospect
- Nilis
- Skokie
- Waukegan
- Wheeling

A key factor in the integration of immigrants is to know where they come from. Table 4 shows the top 25 places of origin for immigrants living in the Chicago region. While newcomers have come from all parts of the world, 40.4 percent, or 649,282 people, of foreign born immigrants come from Mexico. Other top countries of origin are Poland, India, the Philippines, and China. Understanding place of origin is particularly important to the delivery of services and language access for many immigrants and their families.

Table 4. Top 25 countries of origin of foreign-born in the seven-county CMAP region

RANK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	COUNT	PERCENT OF FOREIGN BORN
1	Mexico	649,282	40.4%
2	Poland	138,593	8.6%
3	India	114,971	7.2%
4	Philippines	76,790	4.8%
5	China	48,832	3.0%
6	Korea	39,485	2.5%
7	Guatemala	22,962	1.4%
8	Pakistan	20,808	1.3%
9	Germany	20,693	1.3%
10	Ukraine	20,653	1.3%
11	Italy	19,654	1.2%
12	Ecuador	16,877	1.1%
13	Vietnam	16,005	1.0%
14	Romania	15,314	1.0%
15	Russia	15,031	0.9%
16	Canada	14,692	0.9%
17	Colombia	13,256	0.8%
18	Greece	13,224	0.8%
19	Iraq	11,898	0.7%
20	Lithuania	11,780	0.7%
21	Bulgaria	10,614	0.7%
22	Other Eastern Europe	10,541	0.7%
23	Nigeria	10,401	0.6%
24	Ireland	8,679	0.5%
25	El Salvador	8,451	0.5%

Source: American Community Survey 2008-12.

As mentioned earlier, the Census' definition of foreign-born includes both naturalized individuals and those that have not been naturalized. Naturalized immigrants have gone through the extensive naturalization process to become U.S. citizens (see Chapter 2: Civic Engagement for further details). This means that these immigrants are able to fully participate in civic life in the U.S., which includes voting and all of the rights and responsibilities set forth by the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Similar to the U.S. average, a little over 45 percent of immigrants are naturalized in the seven-county Chicago region (see Table 5). This shows a clear commitment to living in the U.S. and presumably to integration.

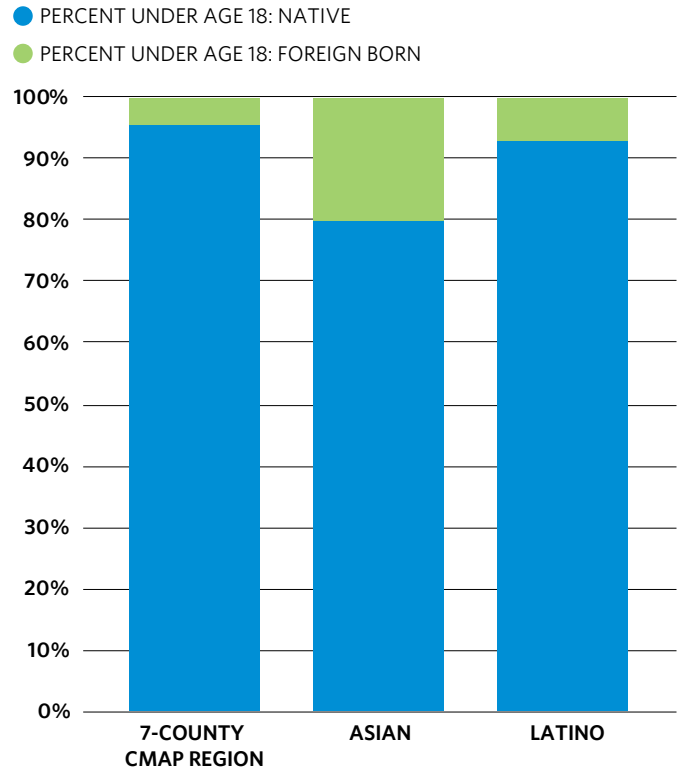
Table 5. Population including foreign-born persons as a percent of total population and foreign-born naturalized citizens

	TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL FOREIGN BORN	PERCENT FOREIGN BORN	PERCENT FOREIGN-BORN WHO ARE NATURALIZED CITIZENS
United States	309,138,711	39,784,305	12.9%	44.3%
Illinois	12,823,860	1,768,305	13.8%	45.4%
Seven-county Chicago region	8,432,516	1,606,470	19.1%	45.9%
Cook	5,197,677	1,099,425	21.2%	45.5%
DuPage	918,608	167,467	18.2%	53.0%
Kane	514,891	92,569	18.0%	34.3%
Kendall	114,226	10,228	9.0%	57.4%
Lake	701,282	128,065	18.3%	45.4%
McHenry	308,163	29,176	9.5%	46.4%
Will	677,669	79,540	11.7%	49.5%

Source: American Community Survey 2008-12.

Children of immigrants matter greatly to the region's future. In the Chicago region, the total population under 18 is 2,108,864, of which 95.5 are native-born. This population will take on a greater role as the U.S. workforce ages. Table 6 shows the percentage of total native population under 18 compared to two of the region's largest foreign born groups, Asians and Latinos. Both these groups have significant native born populations under 18; Asians at 80 percent, and Latinos at 92.5 percent. This share of immigrant-origin youth will be fully eligible for college admission, financial aid, and employment.

Figure 2. Seven-county CMAP region: percent Asian and Latino population who are native vs. foreign-born



Source: American Community Survey 2008-12.

Table 6. Total, Asian, and Latino population by region and county, including percent native and foreign-born

	TOTAL POP	POP UNDER 18 YEARS	PERCENT POP UNDER 18 YEARS: NATIVE	PERCENT POP UNDER 18 YEARS: FOREIGN BORN
Seven-county CMAP region	8,432,516	2,108,864	95.5%	4.5%
Asian	525,343	116,058	80.0%	20.0%
Latino	1,823,033	641,465	92.5%	7.2%
Cook	5,197,677	1,228,714	95.2%	4.8%
Asian	328,072	63,869	78.8%	21.2%
Latino	1,245,329	420,471	92.8%	7.2%
DuPage	918,608	226,428	94.7%	5.3%
Asian	93,861	23,486	81.5%	18.5%
Latino	122,069	44,248	90.2%	9.8%
Kane	514,891	148,403	95.9%	4.1%
Asian	17,335	4,684	81.3%	18.7%
Latino	157,032	60,724	92.6%	7.4%
Kendall	114,226	35,533	98.0%	2.0%
Asian	3,527	1,109	85.9%	14.1%
Latino	18,090	7,495	93.9%	6.1%
Lake	701,282	190,857	95.5%	4.5%
Asian	43,978	11,632	83.1%	16.9%
Latino	139,349	53,000	90.8%	9.2%
McHenry	308,163	83,478	97.0%	3.0%
Asian	7,927	2,244	71.7%	28.3%
Latino	35,265	13,937	90.3%	9.7%
Will	677,669	195,451	97.2%	2.8%
Asian	30,643	9,034	80.9%	19.1%
Latino	105,899	41,590	94.4%	5.6%

Source: American Community Survey 2008-12.