

CHAPTER 2 – DEMOGRAPHICS

The development of physical facilities and the provision of land uses that will best meet the needs of our community are major objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. So, we begin the Comprehensive Plan by analyzing who we were and who we are. More specifically, we will examine some general demographic, social, housing, and economic characteristics of the Village.

GENERAL POPULATION AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

We should start with the basics:

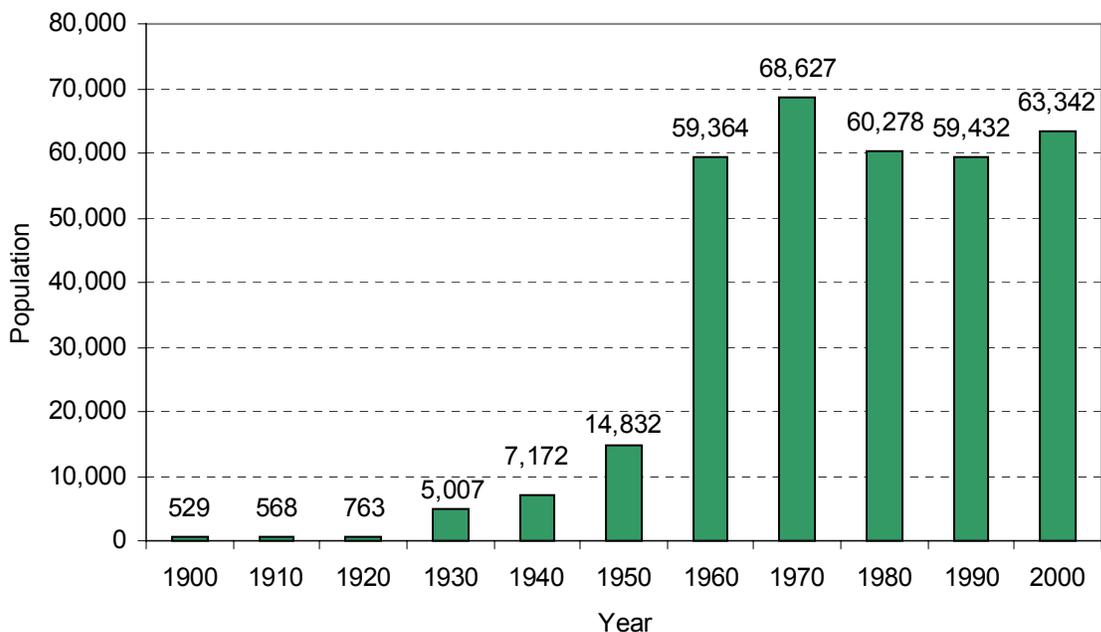
- How many of us are there?
- How old are we?
- What do we look like?
- Where do we come from?

But first, we need to put things in perspective...

Looking at the Big Picture ... Whale, Minnow, Ocean, Puddle, or Somewhere In-between

Throughout this document, we will be looking both inside and outside our Village borders. Although it's important to know about Skokie's population, it's also important to know how big of a fish (or aquatic mammal) we are relative to the size of the pond ... how we fit into the bigger picture ... regionally, statewide, or nationally.

Chart 2.1 Total Population of Skokie (1900-2000)



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

Chart 2.1 shows Skokie's population from 1900-2000. Although, the total number of people in town is only one indicator of the Village's influence, economic health, and viability as a community, this is where we'll start. The full table showing the total population of Skokie, Cook County, Northeast Illinois, Illinois, and the United States since 1900, can be found in Table A.1 in Appendix A.



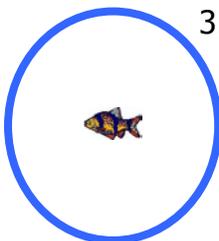
Understanding Total Population



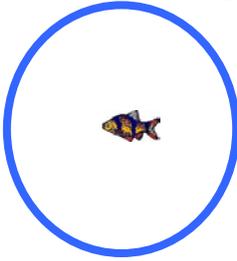
1. *SKOKIE*: After a big increase in population in the 1960s and 1970s and a decline in the 1970s and 1980s, we grew in the 1990s – in 2000, we are a nice size fish at 63,348 people. A bigger population means that we need to examine our transportation system, housing, public facilities, and services to see if there's enough to go around. It also might mean more revenue. As we will soon see, the total number of people only shows a little about our fish.



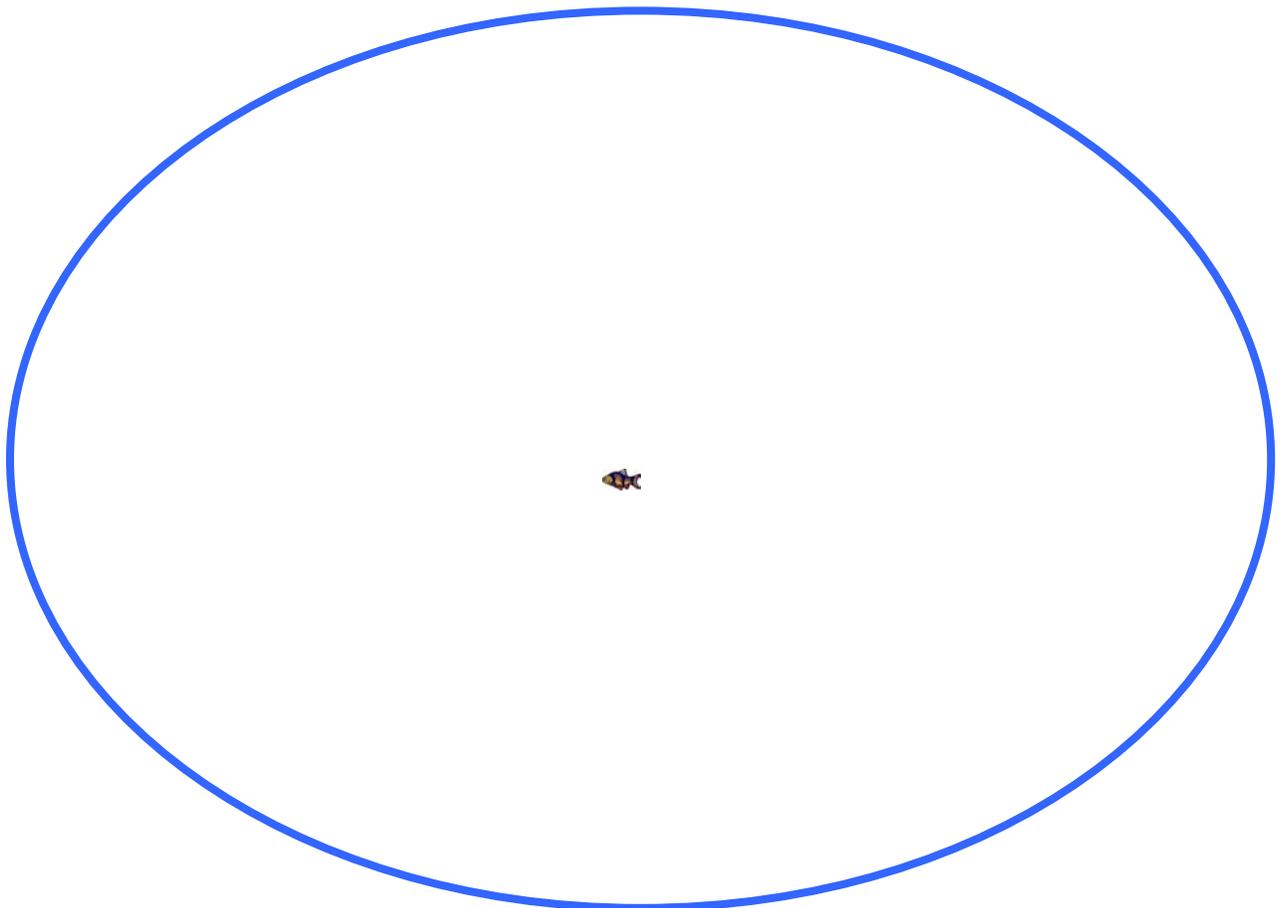
2. *SKOKIE & COOK COUNTY*: Since our peak population in 1970, the Village's population shrunk by 7.7%. Cook County's population only shrunk by 2.1% over the same period. 1 in 80 Cook County residents were Skokians in 1970 while only 1 in 89 Cook County residents were Skokians in 2000. Although we reduced some of that loss in the 1990s, we are an even smaller fish in a slightly smaller pond. Over the long term, this trend could mean less influence and representation in County government and less say in countywide policy decisions.



3. *SKOKIE & CHICAGOLAND*: Since 1970, the 6 counties that make up northeastern Illinois (Cook, DuPage, Lake, McHenry, Kane, and Will) increased in population by 15.3%. Skokie went from being the home to about 1% (5th largest municipality) of the regional population to just over ¾% (12th largest municipality). Skokie became an even smaller fish in a much bigger lake. This means we are not keeping up with absorbing our share of the region's growth, which makes it harder to retain jobs, increases competition in capturing regional sales tax revenue, and promotes urban sprawl into the surrounding farmland. Although, it may not be reasonable to have accommodated 100% of our share of growth over the last 30 years, Skokie actually shed our population, and part of our influence, into the other parts of the region.



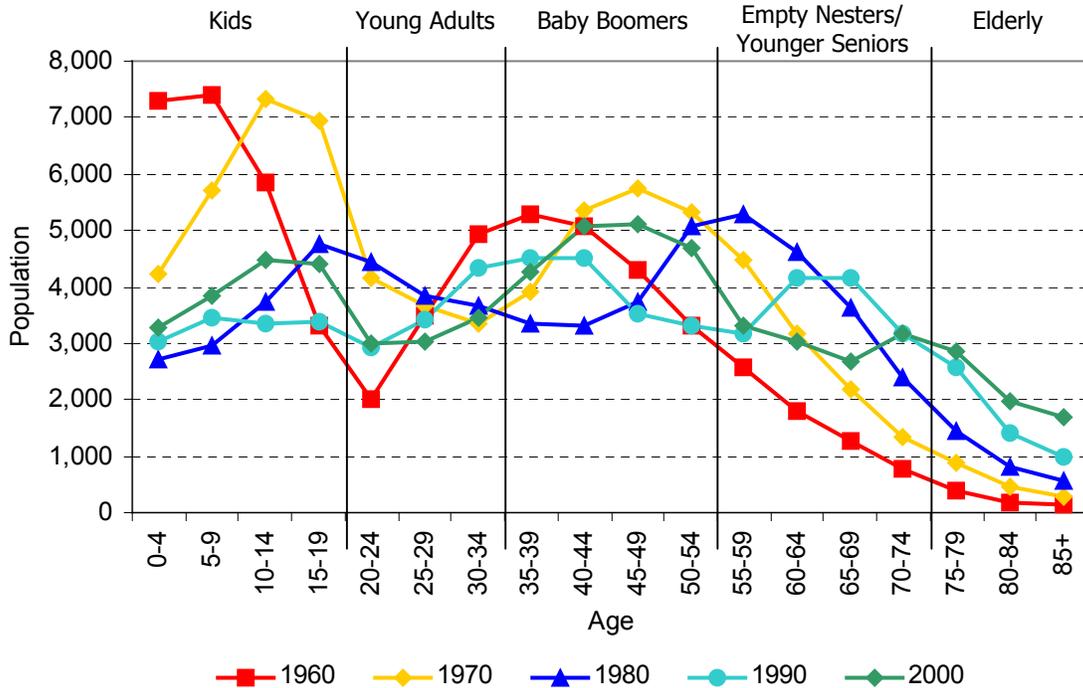
4. *SKOKIE & ILLINOIS:* The State's population grew 11.7% over the last 30 years, slower than the Chicago region. As more of the Illinois population shifted into northeastern Illinois, Skokie did not share in those gains. Not maintaining our share of the state's population means a loss of representation in the Illinois General Assembly (60% of a district in 2000) and the Illinois Senate (30% of a district in 2000). It also means a smaller share of state income and motor fuel taxes, which are distributed by population. Skokie was the 9th largest place in the state in 1970 (0.6% of the total population). In 2000 Skokie ranked 18th (0.5% of the total population). Our fish only got a little smaller, and the lake got a little bigger.
5. *SKOKIE & THE USA:* The nation's population grew over 35% since 1970 and Illinois' representation in Congress dwindled from 24 to 19 Representatives. In 1970, Skokie residents accounted for 1/7 of a congressional district. In 2000 we made up only 1/10 of a district. This makes it much harder for our very small fish to compete for federal money or even be noticed among all the other fish. Federal entitlements and other grants, such as for law enforcement, public health, and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) are determined in part by our total population.



Age

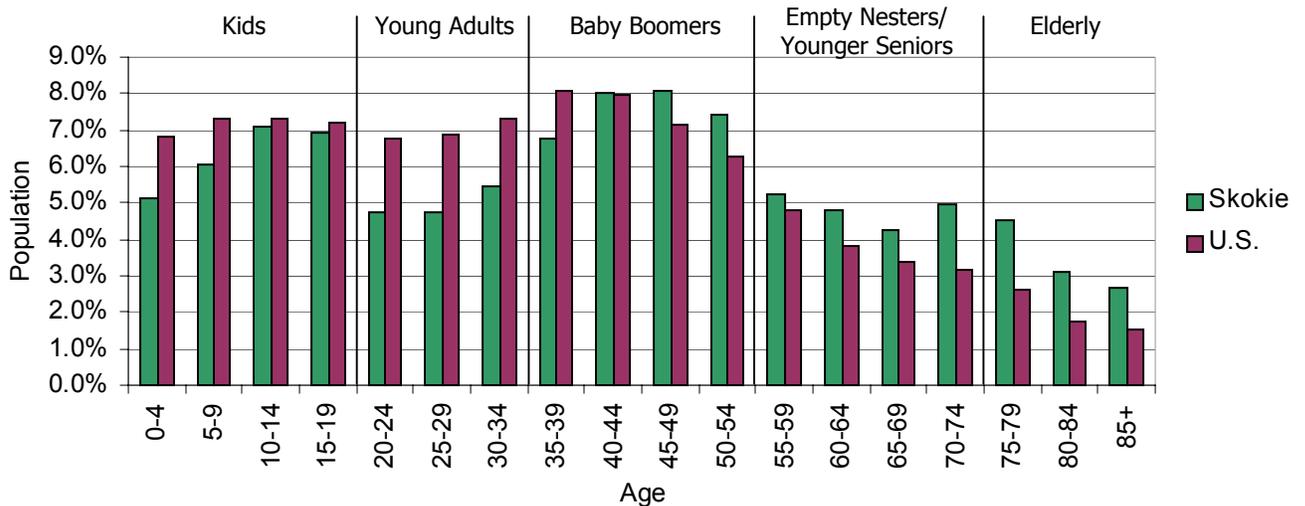
The age distribution of Village residents is important in many ways, from the services and facilities we provide to the type of housing we need to the design of our built environment. Skokie's age distribution for the last 5 censuses can be found in Chart 2.2 and our age distribution compared to the U.S. in 2000 is in Chart 2.3. The full table of Skokie's age distribution from 1960-2000 can be found in Table A.2 in Appendix A.

Chart 2.2 Age Distribution of the Village of Skokie (1960-2000)



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau 100% Count Data

Chart 2.3 Age Distribution of the Village of Skokie and the United States (2000)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau 100% Count Data



Understanding Age

1. *OUR AGE DISTRIBUTION IS FLATTER:* The distribution of ages is evening out from prior decades (the green line with the diamonds is more flat than the other lines in Chart 2.2). The 2000 census revealed that Skokie now has a much more even age distribution than in 1960, 1970, or 1980 and is about the same as in was 1990. Skokie is still getting older, but very slowly. The median age has only increased 0.9 years since 1980. Our median age in 2000 was 41.9.
2. *THE KIDS ARE STARTING TO COME BACK:* Following the baby boom in the 1950s, the number of children in the Village declined in the 1960s and 1970s. In the 1990s, the kids are starting to come back, and the growth in the number of teens and pre-teens is fast outpacing the number of children under 10, after being about equal in 1990. The increase is more than the aging of children under 10 that lived here in 1990 ... families are moving here with teenage children. The total number of Skokie residents between 0-17 years old increased by 2,245 over the last 10 years (21.2%). The number of 0-19 year old residents is now 25.2% of the total population, up from 22.3% in 1990, and 23.5% in 1980. These changes affect our schools and other services that may need to be provided for this population such as daycare, entertainment, and service employment opportunities. We still have less children under 10 than the national norms, but our teen and pre-teen numbers are consistent with the country. If our population of children would normalize to national averages, we would add about 2,150 additional kids to Village, seriously affecting our ability to provide services for this population, especially schools and daycare.
3. *WHERE ARE THE YOUNG ADULTS?* Well, less and less are in Skokie. The Village's population of young adults, 20-34 year olds is at its lowest point in the last five censuses, accounting for only 15.0% of the total population, down from 17.9% in 1990, and 19.8% in 1980. 20.9% of the United States was in this age group in 2000. With the large increase in housing costs in Skokie and a lack of housing options for families just starting out, younger families with children are now less likely to be able to afford to live in the Village. Young singles and couples not planning to have children in the near future, similarly, would be less likely to locate in Skokie. The Village lacks the amenities valued by this age group, such as entertainment venues, neighborhood restaurants, clubs, and bars, and a supply of multifamily housing units with modern amenities, like multiple bathrooms, master bedroom suites, open floor plans, and central air conditioning that they are able to afford. Some of the difference for the 20-24 age group can be accounted by the fact that Skokie does not have a residential college or university, but this has little impact on the lack of 25-34 year olds.
4. *BABY BOOMERS BOOM:* The Village's population of middle adults, 35-54 year olds, is at its highest point since the 1970 census, accounting for 30.2% of the total population, up from 26.7% in 1990, and 25.6% in 1980. Almost all of the Boomer increase is in the 45-54 age group, which increased 43.5% in the last decade. Most of this increase can be

attributed to the aging of younger families that were in Skokie in 1990 and increasing housing costs that would limit new homebuyers to older, more economically established families. This demographic shift and the decrease in housing affordability would also partially account for the large increase in the number of older children, 10-19 years old. Our share of people in this age group is fairly consistent with the country as a whole.

5. *LESS EMPTY NESTERS AND YOUNGER SENIORS:* The Village's population of empty nesters (55-64 years old), and younger seniors 65-74 year olds decreased in the last decade, declining 2,480 people or 16.9%. Increasing health, quality of life, and life expectancy as well as high levels of disposable income are characteristic of this group. 55-74 year olds groups now account for only 19.3% of the population, down from 24.7% in 1990, and 26.4% in 1980. Despite the decline in the number of people in this group, 19.3% of Skokians are 55-64 years old, compared with 15.3% nationally. Some of the loss of this population might be attributed to an inability of the Village to provide an adequate supply of new multifamily housing units with modern amenities, as evidenced by rapidly selling multifamily units and a large increase in new condominium prices. Other factors include loss of population to the Sun Belt and increasing competition from new housing opportunities for empty nesters in the City of Chicago and other suburbs, which are making greater strides to meet the demand for multifamily housing.
6. *ELDERLY POPULATION SWELLS:* The Village's population of elderly, 75 years old and up, is at its highest point ever, with 6,530 people in this age group, increasing 30.7% over the last 10 years. This age group now accounts for 10.3% of Skokie's population (compared to 5.9% nationally), up from 8.4% in 1990, and 4.6% in 1980. The number of people over age 85 increased 69.3% to 1,696 people. Interestingly, the 80 year olds in 2000 were 40 in 1960, when the 35-44 age group was the largest age group in the Village. It seems that this generation of residents has had a higher tendency to remain in the Village, and we should expect the number of residents 85 and older to continue to increase to approximately 2,100-2,300 by 2010. This increase could have a profound impact in the demand for services and housing for this group of residents.

Race & Ethnicity

Throughout history, the definition of race has regularly changed. Even in the recent history of our country, the way we group ourselves and others group us is always changing. This section summarizes the method the U.S. Census Bureau has used to define race and ethnicity. Having said this, GENERALLY, races are defined by Figure 2.1 and Table 2.1.

Figure 2.1 Map of Races

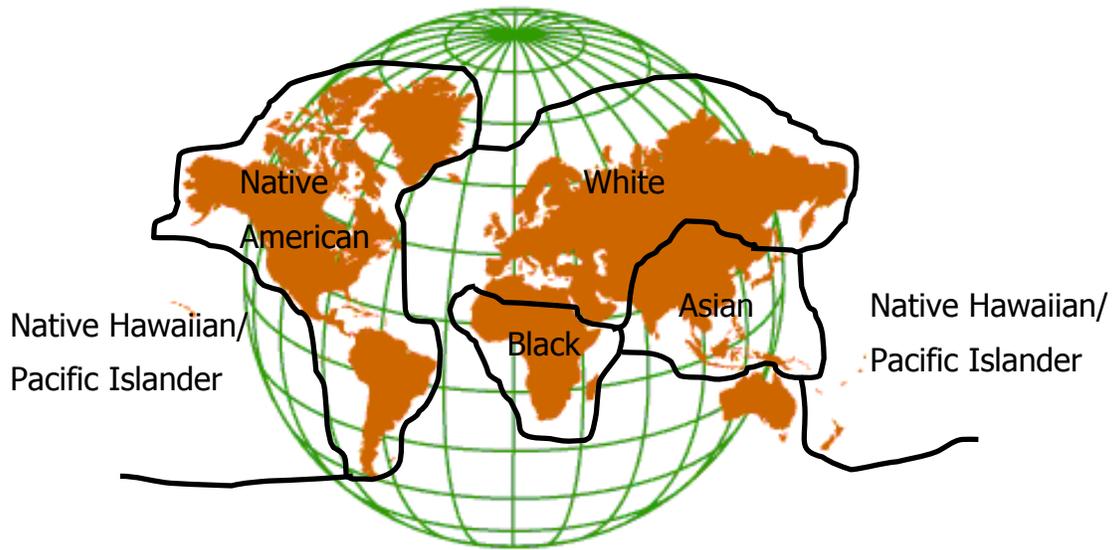


Table 2.1 Races by Area of Origin

Race	Area of Origin
White	Europe (including Russia), Middle East, North Africa
Black	Sub-Saharan Africa
Asian	Far East, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Subcontinent
Native American	North and South America
Native Hawaii and other Pacific Islander	Native Hawaii and other Pacific Islands

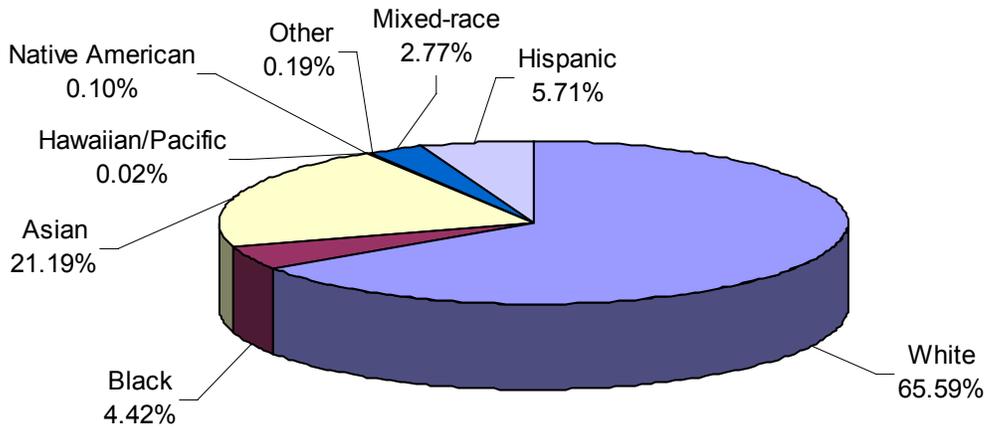
A few things to note before looking at this data.

1. In 2000, the category “two or more races” was included for the first time. Before this all respondents had to choose a single race.
2. “Hispanic” or “Latino” is NOT a race; it is an ethnicity. Members of this group may be of any race, since people from Latin American countries may be descended from European, African, Asian, and native peoples. Hispanics have only been counted separately since 1980. Remember that for the purpose of this discussion, those people who marked Hispanic are not included in the other race categories, regardless of their race.
3. Asians have only been tracked collectively since 1990; prior to that, all Asians not of specifically tracked national origins were classified as “other race”.
4. Each respondent to the census form self-identifies his or her race and Hispanic or national origin, rather than being strictly determined genetically, geographically, or by a label placed on someone from a census taker.

Table A.3 in Appendix A contains all the data for the race of individuals, adjusted for Hispanic origin. Because of the changes in race and national origin categories over the years, please refer to the footnotes below the table. OK, is everyone ready? Let's start looking at the numbers.

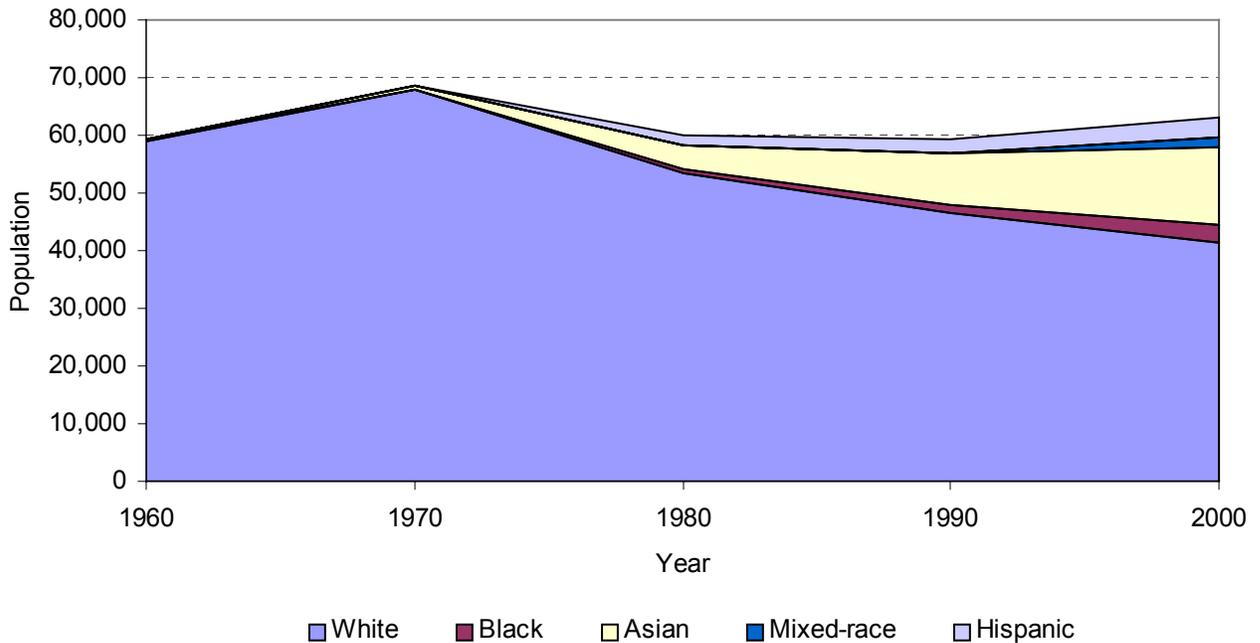
Chart 2.4 shows the current race of the people in the Village at the time of the 2000 Census. Chart 2.5 shows the relative number of people of different races, adjusted for Hispanic origin for the last five censuses. For simplicity, we've omitted the Hawaiian/Pacific, Native American, and Other categories in Chart 2.5, since their populations are very small.

Chart 2.4 Race, Adjusted for Hispanic Origin, of Skokie (2000)



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau 100% Count Data

Chart 2.5 Race, Adjusted for Hispanic Origin, of Skokie (1960-2000)



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau 100% Count Data

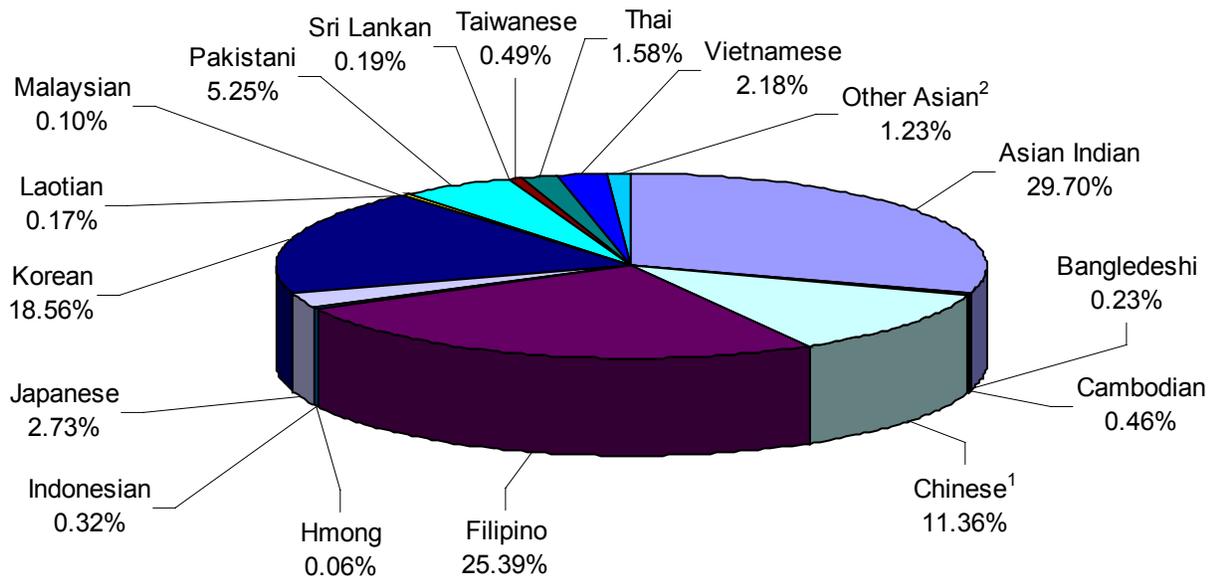


Understanding Race

1. In 2000, about 2 in 3 of us were non-Hispanic whites. Most of the Hispanics in the Village identify as white. The number of whites and Hispanics identifying racially as white continues to decrease, but at a slower rate than in the last 3 censuses.
2. In 2000, about 1 in 5 of us were non-Hispanic Asian – just under a 50% increase from the 1990 census. All tracked Asian populations continue to increase in number except those of Japanese origin. In 2000, The Asian Indian population replaced Filipinos as the largest Asian group in the Village. The Asian population is very diverse itself with no single group representing a majority of Asians in the Village.
3. In 2000, about 1 in 18 of us were Hispanic – growing about 50% per decade for the last 2 decades. We'll speak more about this in a little while.
4. In 2000, about 1 in 23 of us were non-Hispanic blacks. The non-Hispanic black population continues to increase, slightly more than doubling each decade for the last 2 decades.
5. In 2000, about 1 in 36 of us were mixed-race. This is a new category for the census, but it shows that our population is beginning to “blend” in our local melting pot.

If you really want a detailed look at our racial information, Table A.4 in Appendix A contains the core data, not adjusted for Hispanic origin. Table A.4 also includes Asians and Pacific Islander listed by country/ethnicity. Because of the changes in race and national origin categories over the years, please refer to the footnotes below the table. In order to better show the diversity of our Asian population in 2000, which is about one-fifth of the total population, we have summarized that data in Chart 2.6 on the next page.

Chart 2.6 Asian Origin in Skokie (2000)



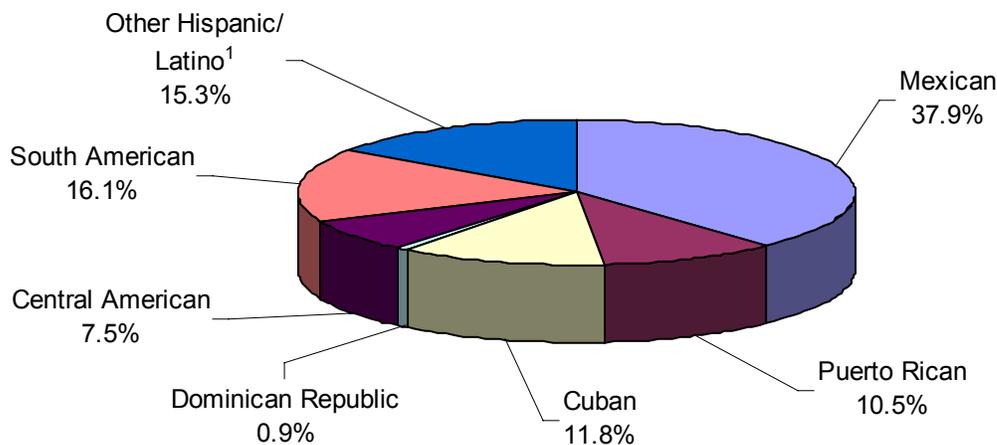
¹ Not including Taiwanese

² Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau 100% Count data

Chart 2.7 shows the makeup of our Hispanic/Latino population by country of origin. This population was not counted separately by the Census Bureau until 1980, and in 2000 very detailed data was collected. A very detailed look at the Hispanic/Latino population between 1980 and 2000 can be found in Table A.5 in Appendix A.

Chart 2.7 National Origin of Hispanics in Skokie (2000)



¹ Includes Spanish, Spaniards, and Other Hispanic/Latino

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau 100% Count data



Understanding Hispanic or Latino/National Origin

1. The Hispanic population is very diverse, representing a wide range of countries and cultures.
2. Most Hispanics in Skokie, about 58%, identified themselves as racially white with 29% identifying as "other race", 8% as mixed-race, 2% as Asian, 2% as black, and 1% as Native American.
3. Among the groups that were counted since 1980, only the Cuban population is decreasing.



But ... what about everyone else?

We've seen details on Asians and Hispanics. The Census Bureau even counted people in Skokie from at least 15 Native American tribes. All this information was taken from the short form, 100% count census data, not from the long form sample data that only about 1 in 7 Skokie households were asked to complete. People from Europe, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and Africa were only counted on the long form. This presents a small problem for representing data.

Sample data is more accurate for larger populations and less accurate for smaller populations. For instance, the 2000 census sample data understated our non-Hispanic white population by 93 people out of 41,549, only 0.2% – not too bad. On the other hand, the sample data overstated the non-Hispanic black population by 39 people out of 2,798 (1.4%), the non-Hispanic mixed-race population by 99 out of 1,797 (5.6%), and the Native American population by 76 out of 65 people (117% – WHEW!). The smaller the population, the greater the possibility of error. In addition, about 12% of the sample didn't even answer the ancestry question!

Because of Skokie's diversity, there are MANY small groups. So, to list all the groups, would mean a lot of possible error in the numbers. For this reason, we need to look at the way we compare the data for other populations that weren't counted from EVERY household, like Russians, Assyrians, and Jamaicans.

Since many people find this information important ... this is what we're going to do. First, we'll mix-up the 100% count and sample data into one big list, including the mixed-race and mixed-Asians. Remember this information is only GENERALLY speaking, because the data was collected in different ways. People could also have marked up to two ancestries. Most importantly ... 7,600 people that didn't answer the question!

Table 2.2 shows the top 20 ancestries, and Table 2.3 simplifies all ancestries into regions in the 2000.

Table 2.2 Top 20 Ancestries of Skokie Residents (2000)

Ancestry	Number	% of those reporting	Ancestry	Number	% of those reporting
1. German ¹	5,903	9.0%	11. English ¹	1,728	2.6%
2. Russian ¹	5,609	8.6%	12. Greek ¹	1,706	2.6%
3. Polish ¹	4,232	6.5%	13. Chinese, except Taiwanese ²	1,702	2.6%
4. Asian Indian ²	4,142	6.3%	14. Mexican ²	1,373	2.1%
5. Irish ¹	3,852	5.9%	15. Ukrainian ¹	1,206	1.8%
6. Filipino ²	3,594	5.5%	16. Romanian ¹	822	1.3%
7. American or United States ¹	2,682	4.1%	17. Pakistani ²	804	1.2%
8. Korean ²	2,557	3.9%	18. Swedish ¹	743	1.1%
9. Assyrian/Chaldean/Syriac ¹	2,381	3.6%	19. Hungarian ¹	716	1.1%
10. Italian ¹	1,756	2.6%	20. Eastern European ¹ (unspecified)	603	0.9%

¹ Sample data² 100% Count data

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 2.3 Regional Ancestry of Skokie Residents, includes multiple reporting (2000)

Region	Number	Percent
Europe, Central/Eastern & Central Asia	15,839	25.01%
Europe, Western	14,313	22.60%
Europe, Southern	3,550	5.61%
Europe, Northern	1,382	2.18%
Europe (unspecified)	552	0.87%
North Africa/Middle East	3,567	5.63%
Subsaharan Africa	224	0.35%
Asia, South	5,004	7.90%
Asia, East	4,834	7.63%
Asia, Southeast	4,336	6.85%
Asia, Other (or unspecified)	391	0.62%
Northern America (excluding Mexico)	3,109	4.91%
Latin America (including Mexico)	2,119	3.35%
Hispanic/Latino (other or unspecified)	470	0.74%
Caribbean/West Indies	1,468	2.32%
Pacific Islands	94	0.15%
Australia/New Zealand	0	0.00%
Ancestry unclassified	222	0.35%
Ancestry not reported	7396	11.68%
Total	68,870	108.77%

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau 100% Count and Sample Data



Understanding Ancestry & Origin

Although, this data is interesting, it isn't very useful when designing programs or making planning and policy decisions. It doesn't tell us if someone's family has been in the United States for 3 years or 300 years.

There are MORE IMPORTANT things to get from this information...

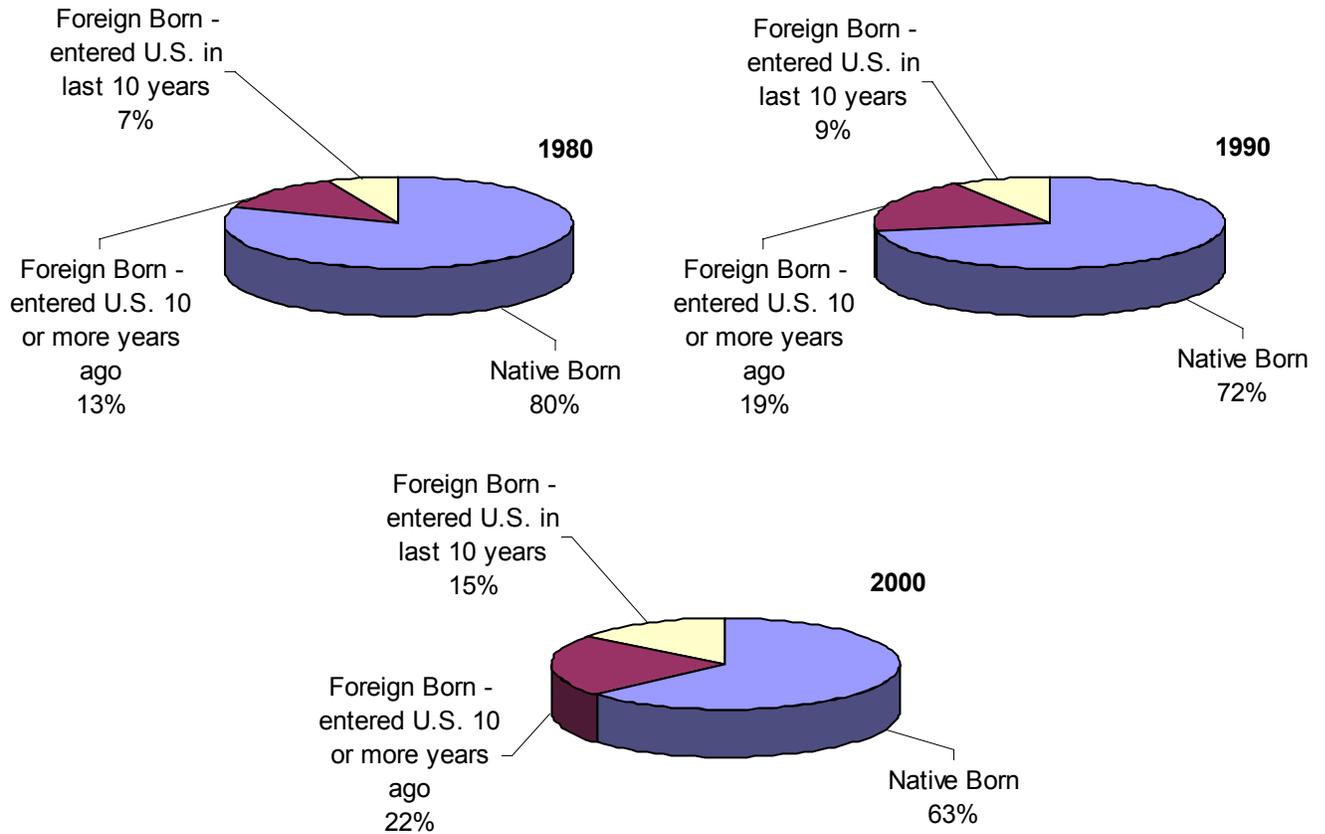
- The 2000 census numbers verify that Skokie is a VERY racially and culturally diverse place. The top 20 in Table 2.2 is less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of our population ... more than 90 groups make up the rest.
- Where someone comes from says little about their individual values or needs.

A Nation of Immigrants ... a Village of Immigrants

More important than where we came from, when we arrived provides better insight into how we plan for our future. New immigrants have a different set of needs than those of us that have been here for many generations.

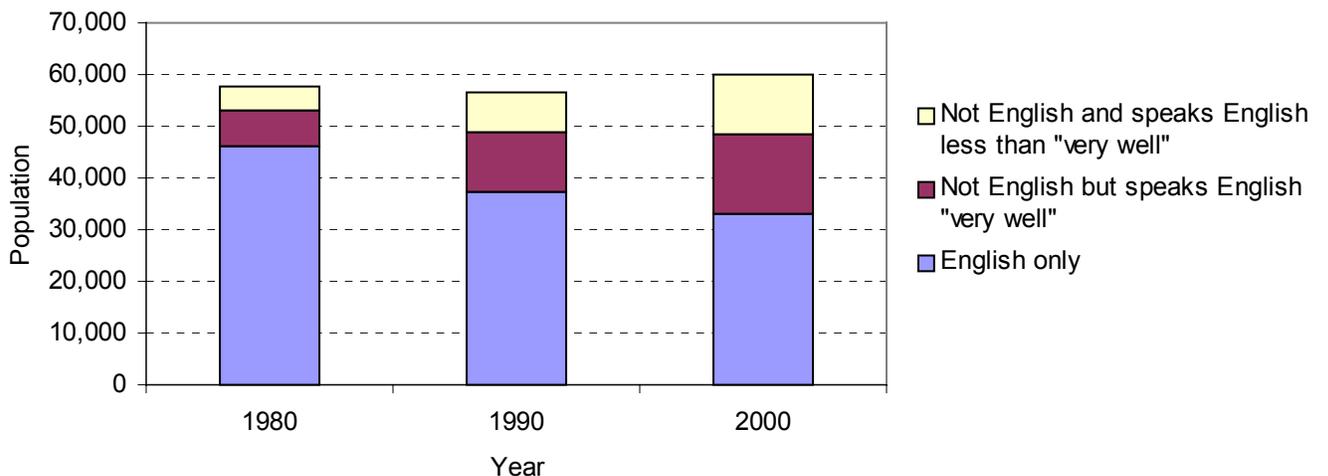
Chart 2.8 shows where Skokie residents were born and Chart 2.9 shows the number of people over 5 years old speaking English at home as reported from the sample data from the last 3 censuses. More detailed information can be found in Tables A.5 and A.6 in Appendix A.

Chart 2.8 Nativity for Skokie Residents (1980, 1990, and 2000)



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Sample Data

Chart 2.9 Language Spoken at Home in Skokie for People Over 5 Years Old (1980-2000)



NOTE: Totals may vary due to sampling

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Sample Data



Understanding Nativity, Place of Birth, and Language Spoken at Home

1. The number of immigrants in Skokie doubled over the last 20 years from about 11,900 in 1980 to about 23,400 in 2000.
2. In 2000, about 1 in 7 Skokie residents and 40% of immigrant residents (about 9,200 people) arrived in the United States in the prior decade.
3. Most immigrants are U.S. citizens. The proportion of naturalized citizens to non-citizens remained constant from 1990 to 2000, despite a large increase in new entrants ... Skokie immigrants want U.S. citizenship.
4. Almost half of us now speak a language other than English at home. The number of people who do not speak English "very well" increased 2.5 times since 1980 and doubled since 1990.
5. We need to pay special attention and make an effort to listen to the voices of these residents so that we hear and provide for their specific needs.

Finally, let's peek at the countries in which we were born. Political unrest over the last few decades has dramatically altered and increased the number of countries in the world, so for now we will look at just the region of foreign birth (Figure 2.2) and the top 10 countries of origin (Table 2.4) in 1980 and 2000. Data was not collected in 1990. More detailed information on region of foreign birth and complete list of countries of origin for 2000 can be found in Tables A.7 and A.8 in Appendix A.

Figure 2.2 Number of Foreign Born in Skokie by Region of Birth (1980 & 2000)

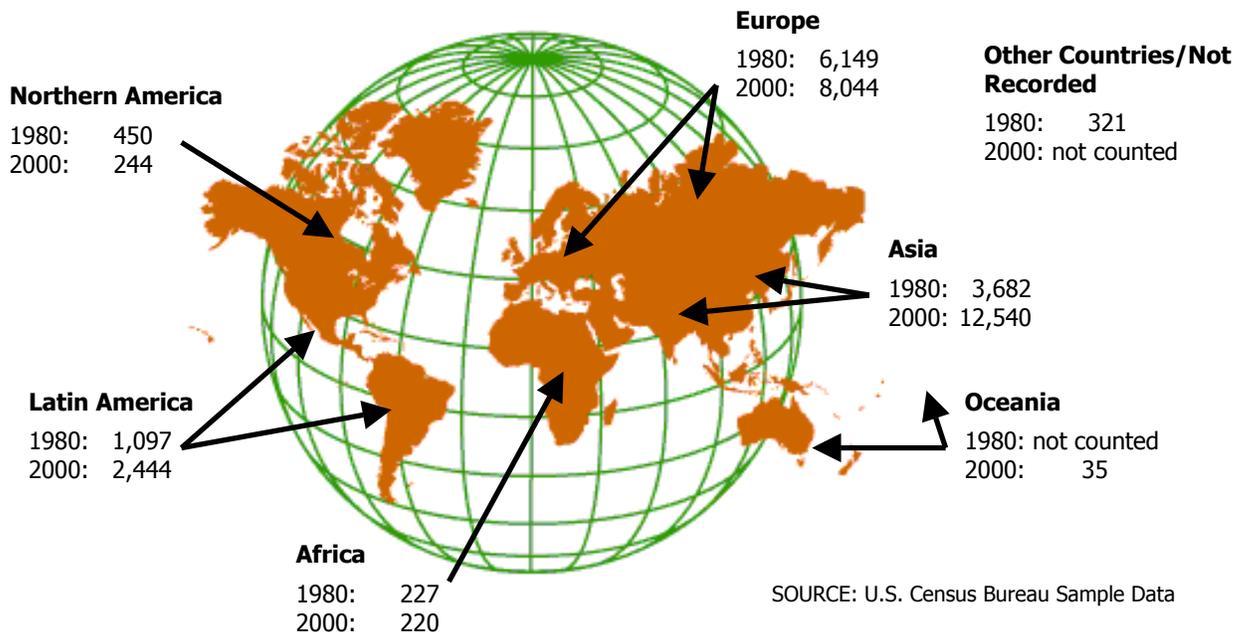


Table 2.4 Top 20 Countries of Foreign Birth of Skokie Residents (2000)

1980		
Country	Population	% of Foreign Born
1. Poland	1,253	10.5%
2. U.S.S.R	1,089	9.1%
3. Philippines	849	7.1%
4. Germany	770	6.5%
5. India	692	5.8%
6. Korea	539	4.5%
7. Greece	528	4.4%
8. Cuba	374	3.1%
9. Yugoslavia	371	3.1%
10. Canada	369	3.1%
Total Foreign Born	11,926	

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Sample Data

2000		
Country	Population	% of Foreign Born
1. India	2,656	11.3%
2. Philippines	2,398	10.2%
3. Korea	2,000	8.5%
4. Russia	1,626	6.9%
5. Ukraine	1,529	6.5%
6. Iraq	1,428	6.1%
7. China (not Taiwan)	849	3.6%
8. Poland	794	3.4%
9. Greece	720	3.1%
10. Mexico	602	2.6%
Total Foreign Born	23,437	

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Sample Data



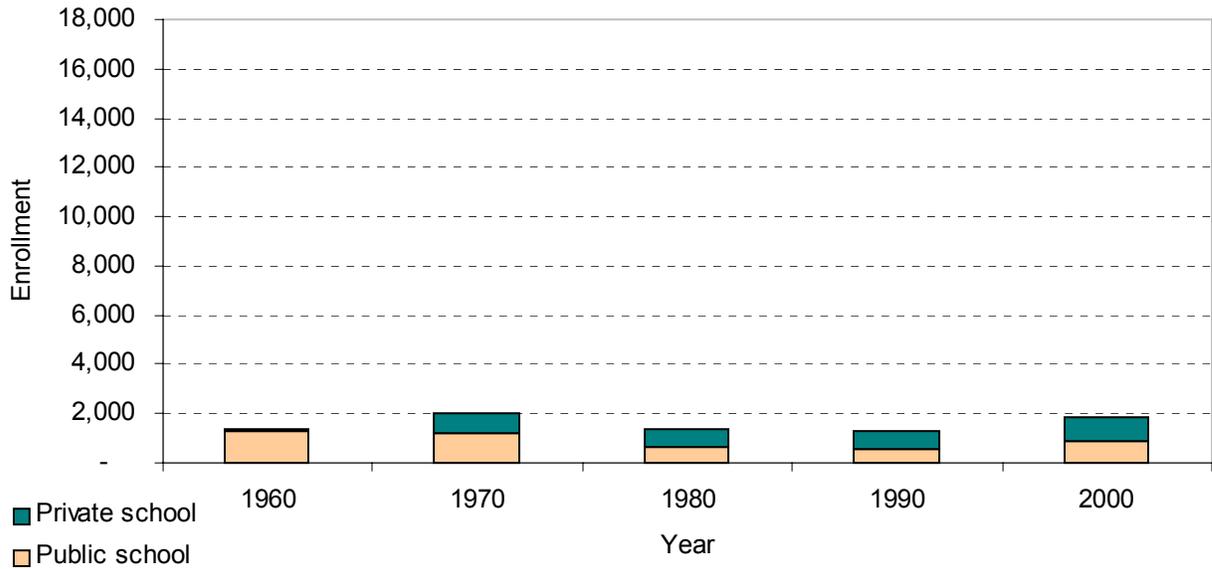
Understanding Region and Country of Foreign Birth

1. The number of foreign-born residents doubled from 1980 to 2000.
2. The real number of immigrants from Asia, Europe, and Latin America increased significantly from 1980 to 2000, but Asians are now the majority of foreign born Skokie residents.
3. The number of residents in 2000 born in countries that had once made up the U.S.S.R is actually significantly higher than the number of people born in India.
4. Some foreign-born residents may need assistance in learning to adjust to their new home in Skokie. More assessment is necessary to determine the extent of this assistance.

Education

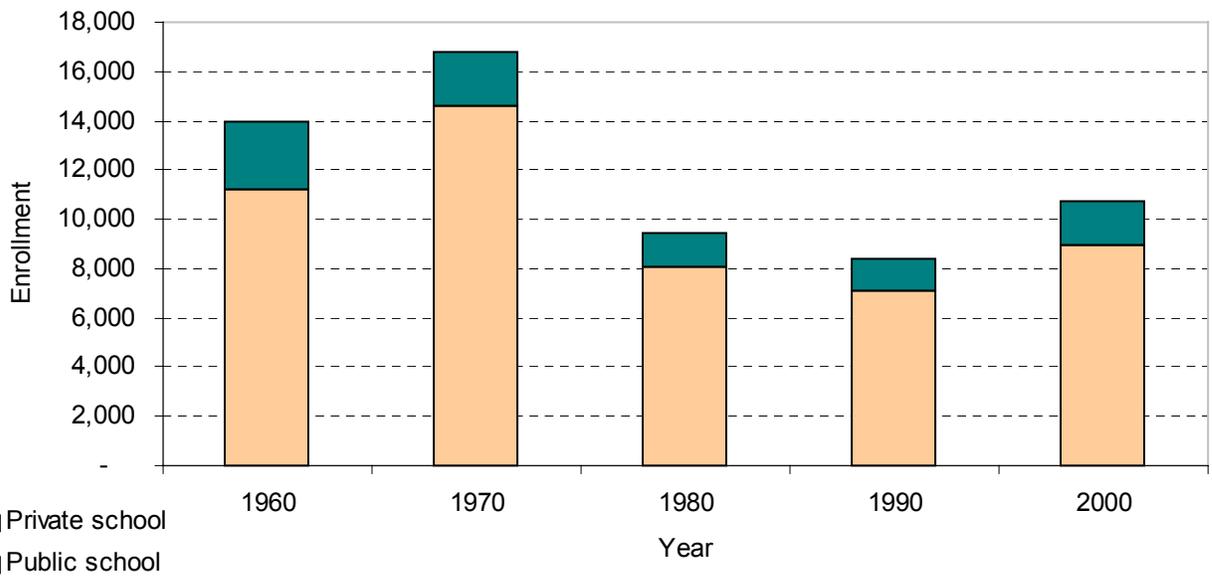
The impacts of education levels of the members of a community are numerous, and this document is not going to delve into the complexities of those impacts, most of which are beyond the scope of this Plan. What is of immediate concern is whether we can accommodate those that need to be educated. The next set of charts (2.10, 2.11, 2.12, and 2.13) will examine educational enrollment of Skokie residents and Chart 2.14 will look at the level of education of the adult population. More detailed information can be found in Tables A.10 and A.11 in Appendix A.

Chart 2.10 Enrollment of Skokie Residents in Nursery School, Pre-kindergarten, or Kindergarten (1960-2000)



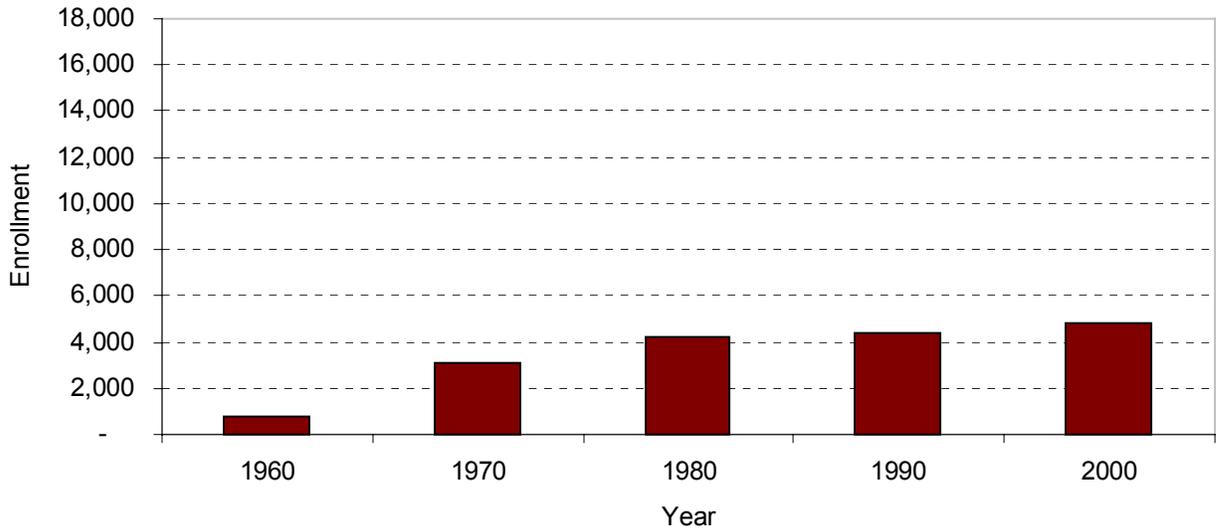
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Sample Data

Chart 2.11 Enrollment of Skokie Residents in Grades 1-12 (1960-2000)



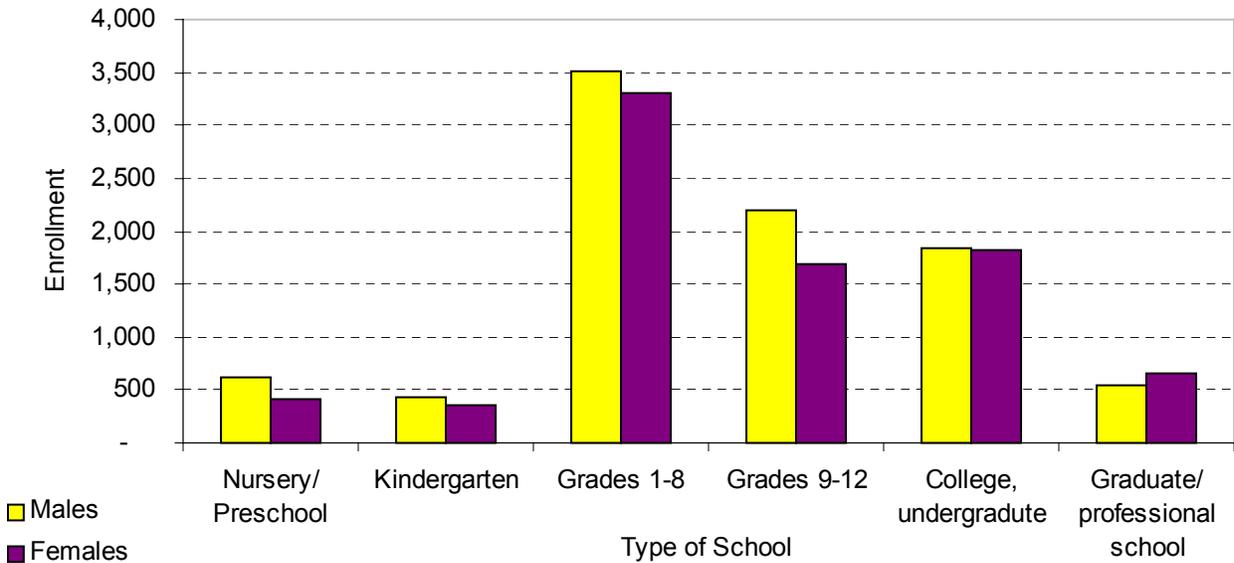
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Sample Data

Chart 2.12 Enrollment of Skokie Residents in College, Graduate School, or Professional School (1960-2000)



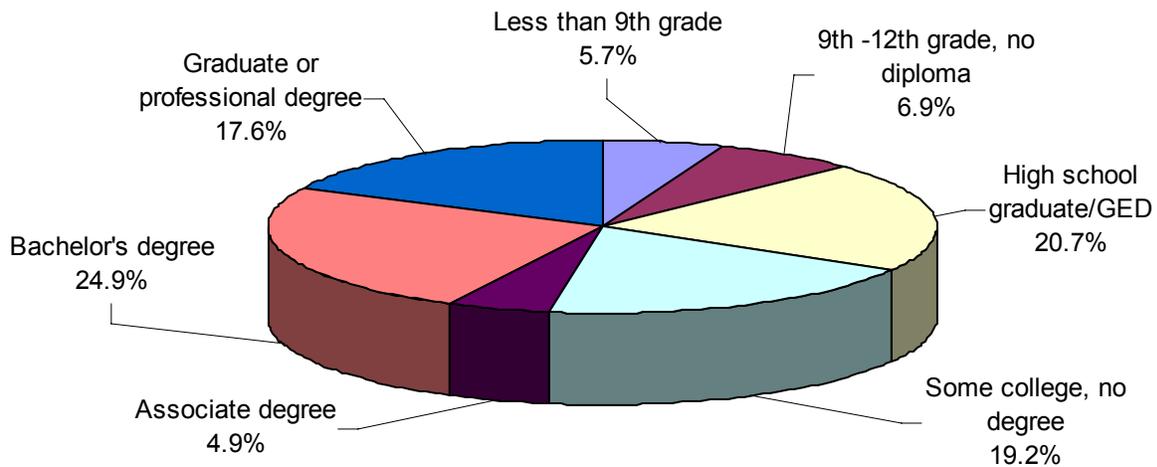
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Sample Data

Chart 2.13 Enrollment of Skokie Residents by School Type by Gender (1960-2000)



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Sample Data

Chart 2.14 Highest Educational Attainment for Skokie Residents at Least 25 Years Old (2000)



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Sample Data



Understanding Education

1. The number of students enrolled in nursery school, pre-kindergarten, or kindergarten is on the rise, with more and more students (50%) enrolled in private schools. Interestingly, in 2000, boys were 34% more likely than girls to be enrolled in these school types, while there were less than 6% more boys than girls in this age range in the Village. It is generally accepted that early childhood education is an important foundation for future academic success. So ... why aren't girls in school?
2. The number of students enrolled in grades 1 through 12 in 2000 was at its highest level since before the 1980 census. About 16% of students were enrolled in private school in 2000, the highest level since the 1960 census, when 20% of these students were in private schools. There were still more boys than girls enrolled in grades 1 to 8 (about 712 more), but the proportion of boys to girls is consistent with the proportion of boys and girls in the Village in this age range. The proportion of boys to girls in grades 9 to 12 is *greatly* inconsistent with the proportion of boys and girls in the Village in this age range, and the disparity is HUGE! There were over 18% more boys age 15-18 than girls in the Village, but there were almost 30% more boys in high school, 34% more in public high school! Actual enrollment counts at Niles Township District 219 high schools in the fall of 1999 showed a disparity of only 9.2%. One reason for the difference could be that District 219's boundaries are not the same as the Village's boundaries. District 219 includes all of Lincolnwood and Golf, as well as parts of Morton Grove and Niles, but doesn't include northeastern Skokie. Also, there might be many high school students, girls in particular, who live out of district attending Niles Township high schools (legally or illegally), boys might move to Skokie specifically to attend Evanston or Niles Township

high schools, girls might have higher drop-out rates (the census was taken at the end of the school year but the enrollment numbers were taken at the beginning) or ... there might be a problem with the sample data. However, it is unlikely that the sample data number for a population of almost 4,000 can have such a large error. We might need to revisit this issue later.

3. The number of people that were enrolled in college, graduate school, or professional school (like law or medical school) in 2000 is at an all time high compared with previous censuses, with over 4,800 students enrolled. This is underscored by the fact that the number of Skokians in the traditional college ages was at its lowest point since the 1960 census. About the same number of men and women were enrolled in college in 2000, but women were about 18% more likely to be in graduate or professional school than men.
4. Skokie residents 25 years or older have a high degree of education, with over 87% having a least a complete high school education, over 42% with a bachelor's degree, and over 17% with a graduate or professional degree in 2000.

Disability

Census statistics on disabilities have not been consistently kept in a comparable fashion, so we are going to focus just on the 2000 numbers. Here are some definitions to start:

- Sensory disability: Blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment
- Physical disability: A condition that severely limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying
- Mental disability: Difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating
- Self-care disability: Difficulty dressing, bathing, or getting around outside the home
- Go-outside-home disability: Difficulty going outside the home to shop or go to a doctor's office
- Employment disability: Difficulty working at a job or business

We aren't going to draw any conclusions from this information right now, but present it for future planning purposes.

Table 2.5 Skokie Residents with Disabilities (2000)

Persons in Skokie with Disabilities	5-15 years old	% of population in age range	16-64 years old	% of population in age range	over 65 years old	% of population in age range
Total population in age range	9,295	100.0%	38,402	100.0%	12,386	100.0%
Sensory disability	37	0.4%	372	1.0%	1,384	11.2%
Physical disability	77	0.8%	1,431	3.7%	3,186	25.7%
Mental disability	276	3.0%	1,471	3.8%	1,137	9.2%
Self-care disability	37	0.4%	613	1.6%	1,145	9.2%
Go-outside-home disability			3,033	7.9%	2,444	
Employment disability			4,060	10.6%		

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Sample Data
Adopted by the Village Board 12/1/2003

HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING

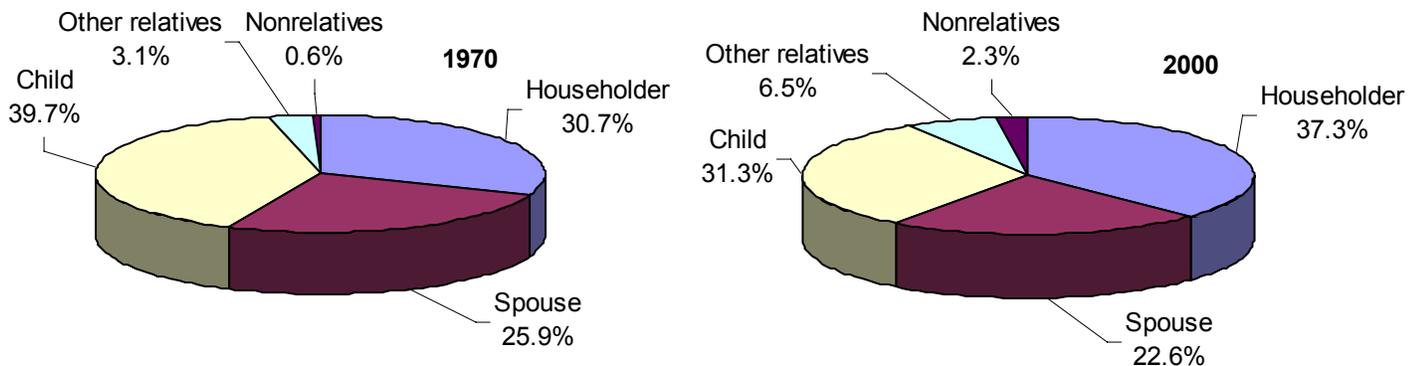
The previous data described who lives in Skokie. This section will look at who lives in our homes, how long we've lived there, and how much we pay for our housing.

Households

The basic unit of measure for describing how we live is the "household", which is everyone living in a dwelling unit. The Census Bureau has collected a lot of household data about Skokie over the years.

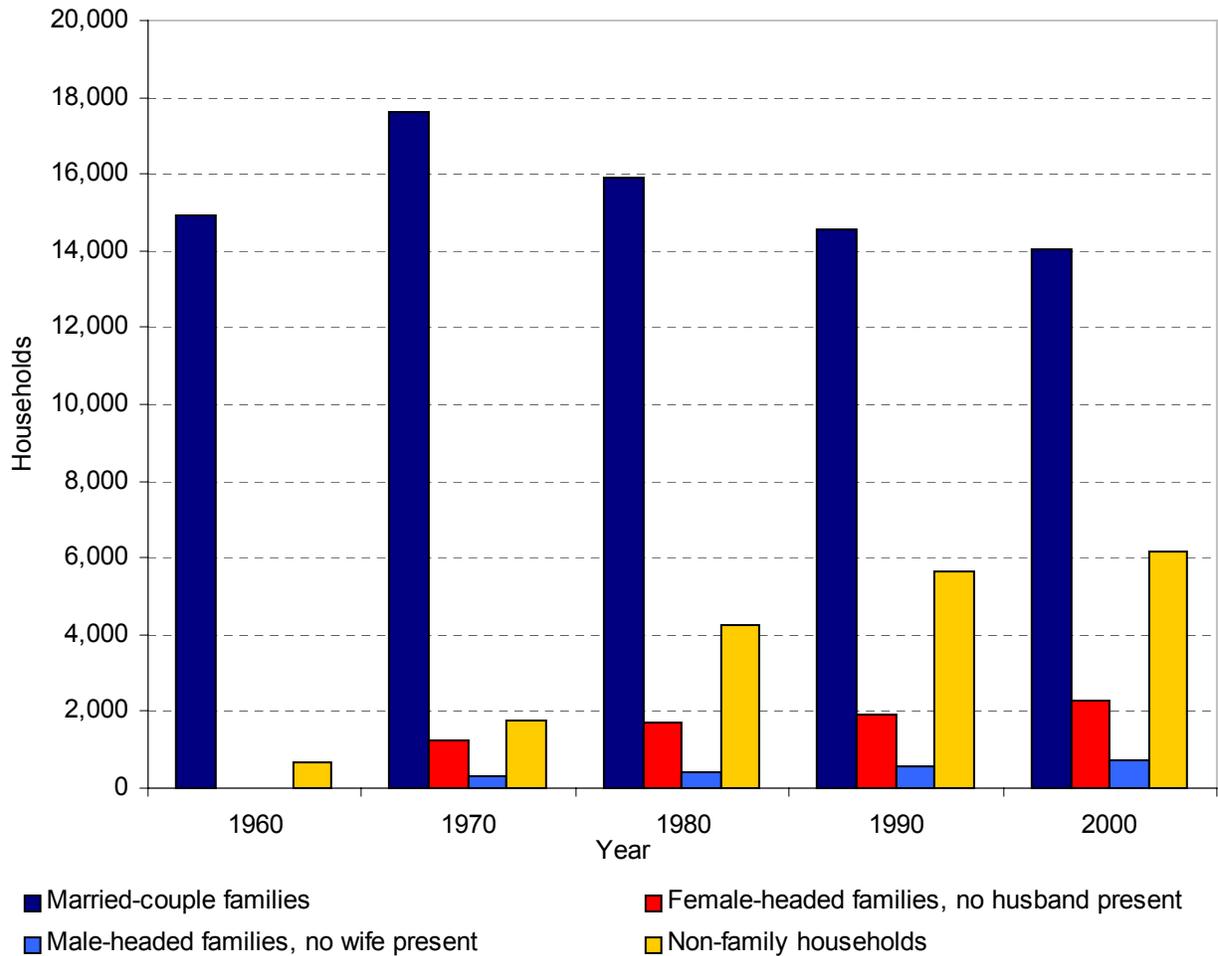
First, we will examine how everyone in a household is related to one another. Chart 2.15 shows the relationships of people living in households in 1970 and 2000. Chart 2.16 looks at the number and types of family (people legally related) and non-family (people living alone or legally unrelated people) households in the Village since 1960. Chart 2.17 shows households with people under 18 and over 65 years old for 1980, 1990, and 2000. Finally, Chart 2.18 looks at average household size for all households and family households since 1960. The points in Understanding Household Relationships and Characteristics interpret these charts as well as more detailed information on household relationships, type, and size found in Tables A.12 and A.13 in Appendix A.

Chart 2.15 Relationships of Persons in Households in Skokie (1970 & 2000)



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau 100% Count Data

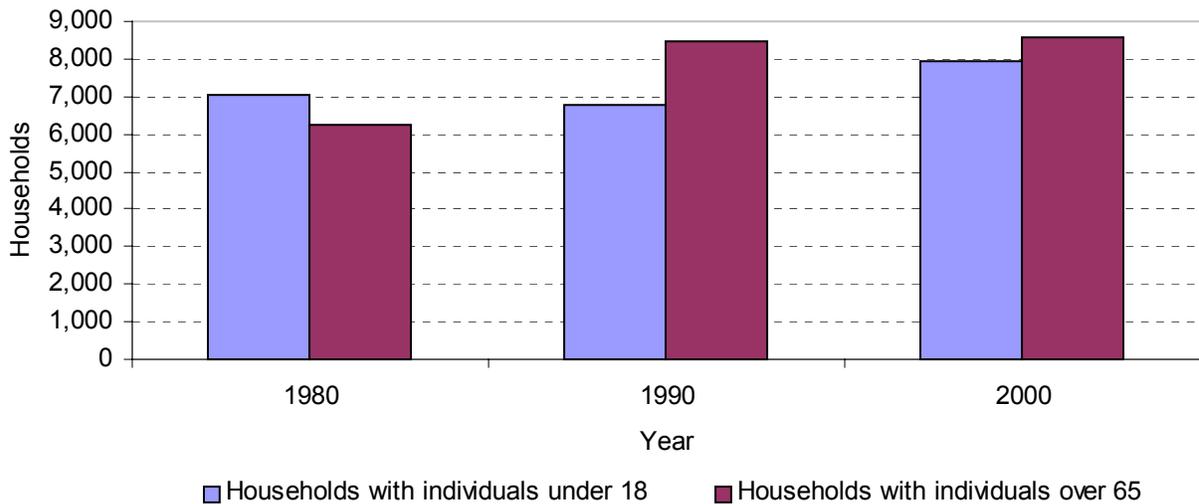
Chart 2.16 Households by Type in Skokie (1960-2000)



NOTE: Non-married family households were not counted in 1960

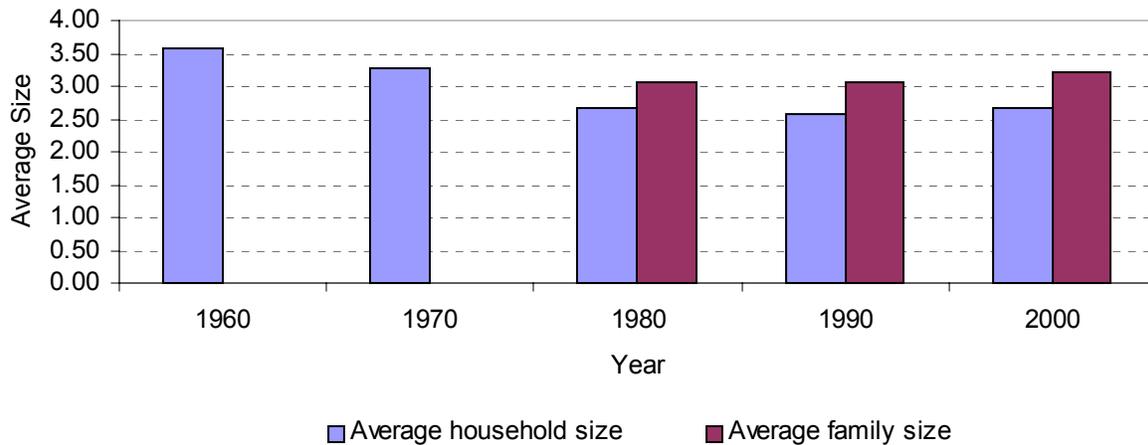
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau 100% Count Data

Chart 2.17 Skokie Households with Persons Under 18 and Over 65 (1980-2000)



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau 100% Count Data

Chart 2.18 Average Household and Family Sizes in Skokie (1960-2000)



NOTE: Average family size was not counted or reported in 1960 & 1970

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau 100% Count Data



Understanding Household Relationships and Characteristics

1. The overwhelming majority (98.2%) of people living in Skokie live in households, while only 1.8% of us live in some type of group-quarters, like nursing homes and congregate living facilities.
2. The number of people in households has grown to its highest level since the 1970s. The number of households has reached a new high of 23,223. The increase of 515 households is the result of the creation of housing units through new construction and a reduction in the vacancy rate.
3. The proportion of people identifying as "householder" (formerly, "head of household") increased dramatically from 1970 to 2000. This is due to a combination of a reduction of spouses and children and an increase in other relatives, non-relatives, and single person households.
4. A "spouse" is a husband, wife, or other person in a common law marriage who is not a "householder". The proportion of us identifying as "spouse" is at its lowest rate since at least the 1960s due to an increase in non-traditional families and an increase in the number of widowed seniors. The total number of married-couple families decreased by 538 since 1990.
5. The total number of minor children living with at least one parent and the total number of households with minor children both increased in the last census, reversing a previous decline.
6. The number of married-couple households continues to decline and the number of non-family households (singles, widows, and non-married couples) continues to increase.

The number of single-mom and single-dad family households has increased dramatically, totaling just over 3,000 families in 2000.

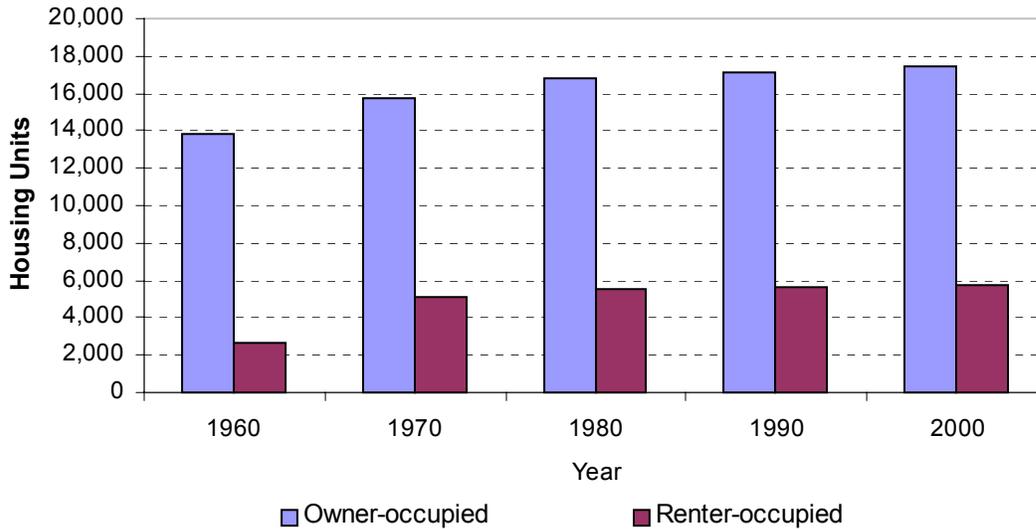
7. The composition of families in the Village is very diverse, too. There were over 6,000 adult children living with at least one parent on April 1, 2000. Single mothers with minor children head 981 families. Women without minor children who live with adult children or other family members head over 1,300 families. There are over 4,000 relatives that are not the spouse or child of the head of household living in families. Almost 5,492 people live alone (3,147 of which are 65 years old or older) and 529 households have two or more unrelated people.
8. For the first time, the census counted "unmarried partners". These are people not legally married that do not consider themselves in a common law marriage and who identify as an opposite-sex or same-sex partner of the householder. There were 532 households that contained an unmarried partner in 2000, 91 of which identified on the census form that they contained a same-sex partner.
9. The number of people living in group quarters increased almost 50% from 1990 to 2000 due to the opening of one additional nursing home (institutionalized) and a 300% increase in the number of people in group homes (non-institutionalized).
10. In 2000, 1159 more households contained people under 18 than in 1990, while the number of households with people 65 and over increased by only 237 over the same period.
11. The average household size grew in 2000 to 2.68 people, up 0.1 people, returning to its 1980 level. The average family size in 2000 grew to 3.20 people, up 0.15 people. Family household size was not calculated separately prior to 1980.

Just a little bit of interesting hypothesizing ... if the average household size returned to its 1960 level, the Village's population in 2000 would have been 83,371 ... over 20,000 more people!!! If just 1 person is added or lost for every 10 homes, about one side of a block of single family homes, the population would change by about 2,325 people. If we assume that most of those extra or lost people on your block are school-aged children, it becomes clearer how the school population dropped off so much in the 1970s and 1980s. More importantly for us now, it's worth pondering about decisions we made to close our schools over the past decades if one or two or three or four more kids start becoming neighbors again on your block.

HOUSING OCCUPANCY AND TENURE

This section will look at detailed information about housing occupancy, vacancy, and ownership information. Chart 2.19 looks at total number of owner- and renter-occupied housing units for the last 5 censuses. The points in Understanding Housing Occupancy and Tenure interpret this chart as well as more detailed information found in Table A.14 in Appendix A.

Chart 2.19 Housing Occupancy and Tenure in Skokie (1960-2000)



SOURCE U.S. Census Bureau 100% Count Data



Understanding Housing Occupancy and Tenure

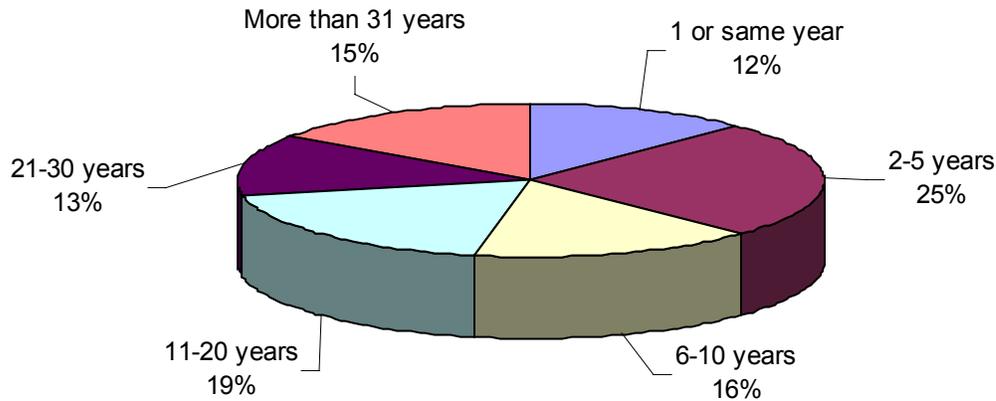
1. The total number of housing units (occupied and vacant) increased by 532 from 1990 to 23,702.
2. Housing vacancy remained constant at 2%. Vacant housing includes unoccupied units for sale or rent, or units owned by “snow birds” that were unoccupied on census day. Of the vacant units, 66 were used seasonally, recreationally, or occasionally.
3. The percentage of owners vs. renters has remained constant since the 1970s with 3 of every 4 units being owner-occupied.
4. Although household sizes increased for both owner- and renter-households since 1990, the rate of increase for renter-households doubled the Village-wide average. This could partially be explained by the number of owner-occupied condominiums added to the housing mix through new construction and rental conversions, which generally have smaller household sizes, dwarfing the growth of owner-occupied household size. In 2000, the average owner-occupied household size was 2.77 people and average renter-occupied household size was 2.41 people.

Mobility

One way we measure how often we move from home to home is to look at how long it has been since we moved into our house from census day. Keep in mind, this is sample data from the Census Bureau so the totals may not match other numbers in this report. In

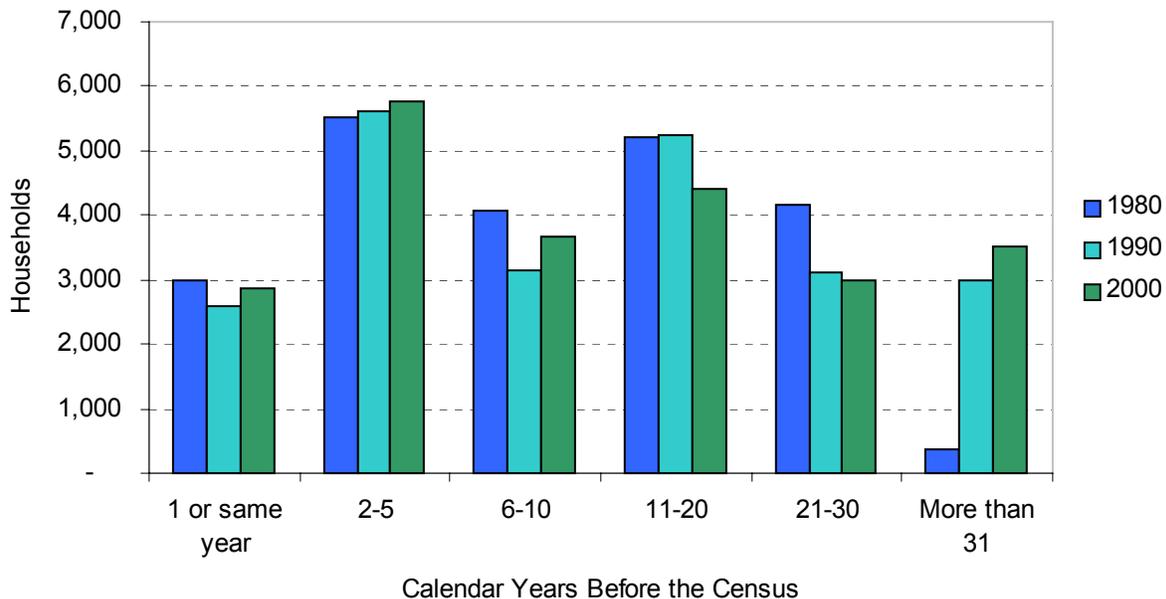
general, though, the numbers show some interesting trends (actually a LACK of a trend) that surprised even your number-crunching planners. Charts 2.20 and 2.21 describe our mobility. More detailed information on mobility for 1960-2000 can be found in Table A.15 in Appendix A.

Chart 2.20 Years Before the Census That the Householder Moved Into the Unit in Skokie (2000)



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Sample Data

Chart 2.21 Years Before the Census That the Householder Moved Into the Unit in Skokie (1980-2000)



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Sample Data



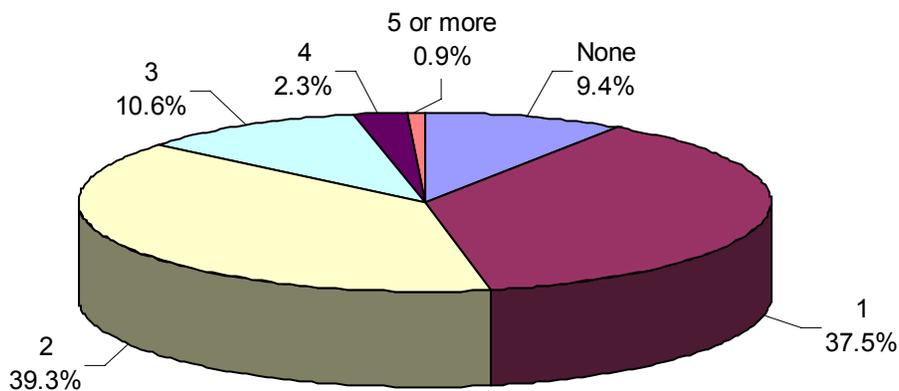
Understanding Mobility

1. Just over 1 in 3 of us who were here in 2000 moved into our home within about 5 years before the census. Actually ... more than 1 in 3 of us who were here during each of the last 4 censuses moved into our home within about 5 years before the census. So, about the same amount of newcomers to Skokie are moving to Skokie as in the past. There is NOT the surge in housing turnover that some people perceive.
2. Conversely, this also debunks commonly held misperceptions that we move here and almost never leave and that the community isn't transient. In fact, Skokie, it seems, has always had a lot of people moving in and out with at least ½ the housing units turning over every 10 years for the last 50 years!

Vehicles Available

America's obsession with the automobile is firmly embedded in our culture with the automobile drastically changing our lifestyles, our homes, and the physical environment around us. On-street parking, private parking, public parking, where you can park, when you park, even what you can park is a frequent concern of our residents, our businesses, our Boards and Commissions, and our elected officials. Having said all of that, here are the numbers on cars, trucks, motorcycles, SUVs, etc. per household. What you see may be contrary to what you think. Remember that this is sample data from the Census Bureau so the totals may not match other numbers in this report. Chart 2.22 shows the number of vehicles per household in Skokie in 2000. More detailed information on vehicles for 1960-2000 can be found in Table A.16 in Appendix A.

Chart 2.22 Vehicles Available to Skokie Households (2000)



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Sample Data



Understanding Vehicles Available

1. The number and proportion of households in Skokie without a car has been on the *rise* for the last 50 years, with 2,170 carless households in 2000. So, then, how are these people getting around? We often don't think about pedestrians and public transit users, but about half of the homes in Skokie have had either one or no car since the 1960s.
2. The number of **1-car households is up by almost 500 homes** in 2000 from 1990 to 8,705, after a decline of 40 years, while the number of **2-car households dropped by about 675**, to 9,119.
3. OK ... here's the counterintuitive part ... the number of households with 3 or more cars increased only 507 households between 1990 and 2000, less than the number of new households created. The percentage of homes with 3 or more cars was only 13.8% in 2000, to 3,207, up from 11.9% in 1990 and 11.8% in 1980 – hardly cause for a parking panic!

Housing Costs

Now we will look at some housing cost data for renters and owners in Tables 2.6 and 2.7. Again, this is sample data reported by the people living in each unit, but it still says a lot about what we spend on housing. Since inflation affects costs and income, we've adjusted for Chicago regional inflation so that we can compare prices and costs over time. We will examine these numbers more closely in later chapters from more statistically accurate sources as well as geographically throughout the Village.

Table 2.6 Rental Housing Median Gross Monthly Rent in Skokie and Northeast Illinois, 2000 dollars (1960-2000)

Year	1960 ¹	1970 ¹	1980 ¹	1990 ¹	2000	1960-2000 change	1990-2000 change
Northeast Illinois ²	\$ 457	\$ 576	\$ 533	\$ 651	\$ 680	+48.7%	+4.5%
Skokie	\$ 789	\$ 858	\$ 725	\$ 851	\$ 800	+1.4%	- 6.0%

¹ 2000 inflation adjusted dollars

² Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties

SOURCE U.S. Census Bureau Sample Data

Table 2.7 Owner Occupied Housing Costs in Skokie and Northeast Illinois, 2000 dollars (1960-2000)

Year	1960 ¹	1970 ¹	1980 ¹	1990 ¹	2000	1960-2000 change	1990-2000 change
Median Value							
Northeast Illinois ²	\$106,338	\$111,250	\$139,336	\$144,767	\$165,012	+55.2%	+14.0%
Skokie	\$156,077	\$163,971	\$177,183	\$196,366	\$217,500	+39.4%	+10.8%
Median Monthly Homeowner Costs							
With mortgage							
Northeast Illinois ²			\$ 935	\$ 1,184	\$ 1,377		+16.3%
Skokie			\$ 1,004	\$ 1,271	\$ 1,533		+20.6%
Without mortgage							
Northeast Illinois ²			\$ 372	\$ 376	\$ 424		+12.7%
Skokie			\$ 427	\$ 392	\$ 486		+24.0%

¹ 2000 inflation adjusted dollars

SOURCE U.S. Census Bureau Sample Data

² Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties



Understanding Housing Costs

1. Rents in Skokie have been stable over the last 40 years, contrary to conventional wisdom, while the average rent for Northeastern Illinois increase by almost 50%! Possible reasons for this might be an aging rental housing stock, condominium conversion of higher price units, a regional increase in home ownership fueled by low mortgage interest rates with a corresponding decrease in demand for rental units, many longer-term renters slowing rental increases, and an increase in the low-income population, who are unable to pay higher rents (which we'll see later).
2. Skokie's median rent was still almost 18% higher than Northeastern Illinois.
3. In inflation adjusted dollars, appreciation in value of Skokie's owner-occupied housing stock has not kept pace with the region. Possible reasons for this might be a different construction mix of owner-occupied single-family, townhome, condominium, and co-op units than the region over the last 40 years, but that doesn't tell the whole story. In 2000, many of the new condominium and townhouse units in Skokie were priced at or well above the median value of the Village. Another possible reason is that Skokie is not keeping pace with the region's new construction, but the cost of housing in many of the rapidly growing suburbs on the suburban fringe is significantly lower, not higher.
4. Median owner-occupied monthly housing cost rose faster than the region, even though value rose slower. Possible reasons might be that Skokie residents take out bigger mortgages or have less initial equity than others in the region. These costs include

mortgage and deed payments, taxes, utilities, insurance, and condominium or association fees where appropriate.

Housing Affordability

Housing cost data is important. The impact of cost is measured by whether we can or cannot afford where we are living. Charts 2.23 and 2.24 show how much of what we earn that we spend on housing. Again, this is sample data reported by the people living in each unit. Like so much of the census data in 2000, the statistical findings surprised our planners. The numbers are for 1989 and 1999, since that was the last full calendar year of income before each census. The points in Understanding Housing Affordability interpret these charts as well as more detailed information about Skokie and Northeastern Illinois in Table A.17 in Appendix A.

Chart 2.23 Percent of Household Income Spent on Gross Rent in Skokie (1989 & 1999)

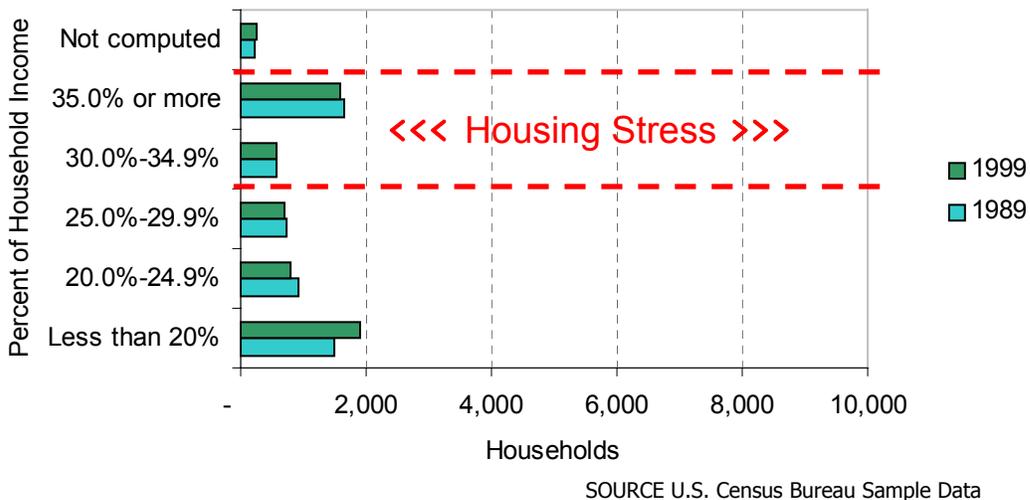
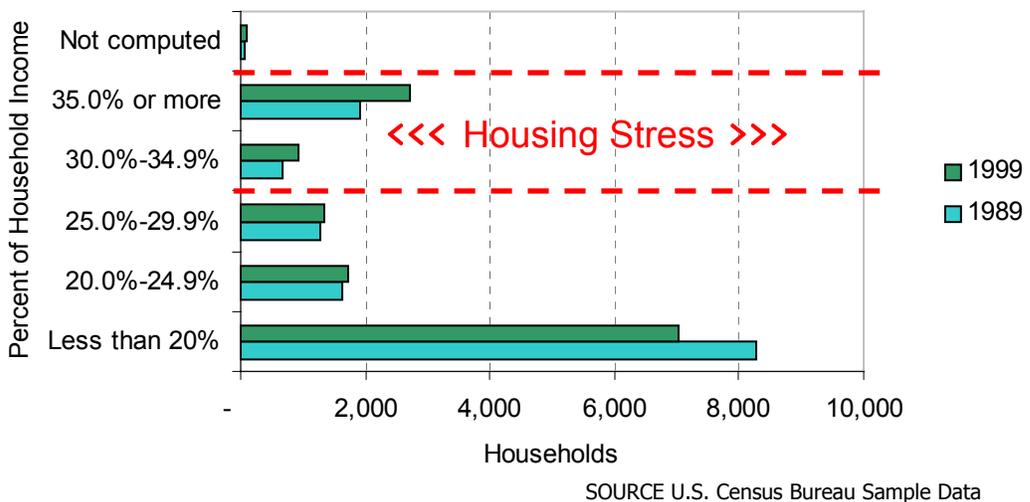


Chart 2.24 Percent of Household Income Spent on Homeowner Costs in Skokie (1989 & 1999)





Understanding Housing Affordability

1. Skokie rental units had become MORE affordable from 1989 to 1999, as well as in the region, but still are less affordable to their occupants than owner-occupied units. The increase in Skokie's rental affordability levels has outpaced the region with larger shares of households paying less than 20% of their income for housing and larger decreases in shares paying more than 20% of their income for housing. The distribution of affordability levels for rental housing in Skokie is now about even with the region.
2. In 1999, 404 more renters paid less than 20% for housing than in 1989, while 243 fewer renters paid more than 20% for housing than in 1989. Even with this progress, over 2,150 renters (37.3% of rental units) were housing stressed in 1999, paying more than 30% of their income for housing.
3. Possible reasons for this gain in rental affordability comes from an increase in subsidized housing vouchers for families (80 in 2000) and especially senior citizens and the disabled (217 in 2000) in the Village, the construction of 2 new subsidized housing facilities for senior citizens in the Village during the 90s, and the stabilization of rental rates.
4. The cost of owner-occupied housing in Skokie had become significantly LESS affordable from 1989 to 1999. Smaller shares of Skokie households are paying less than 20% of their income for housing and larger shares are paying more than 20% of their income for housing. Possible reasons for this loss in affordability might be home prices rising more rapidly than income, home refinancing that absorbs consumer debt into mortgages, higher-turn over of homes with paid mortgages, and the decreases in income of current homeowners.
5. 1,240 fewer homeowners paid less than 20% for housing in 1999 than in 1989, while 1,225 additional owners paid more than 20% for housing for the same period. Almost all of the increase in loss of housing affordability came from owners who are now housing stressed. Over 3,600 owners (26.2% of owner units) were housing stressed in 1999, paying more than 30% of their income on housing, an increase of 1,045 units, a 41% increase!
6. Paying a lower share of income on housing means a better ability to spend on consumer goods like food, clothes, and washing machines, health care, etc. This helps our local economy to stay healthy. Paying a higher share has the opposite effect. We should also note that consumer spending has a major impact on the Village's revenue – SALES TAX – especially since the Village lowers its municipal property tax rate every year. The money for our continued high level of services has to come from somewhere, right?

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

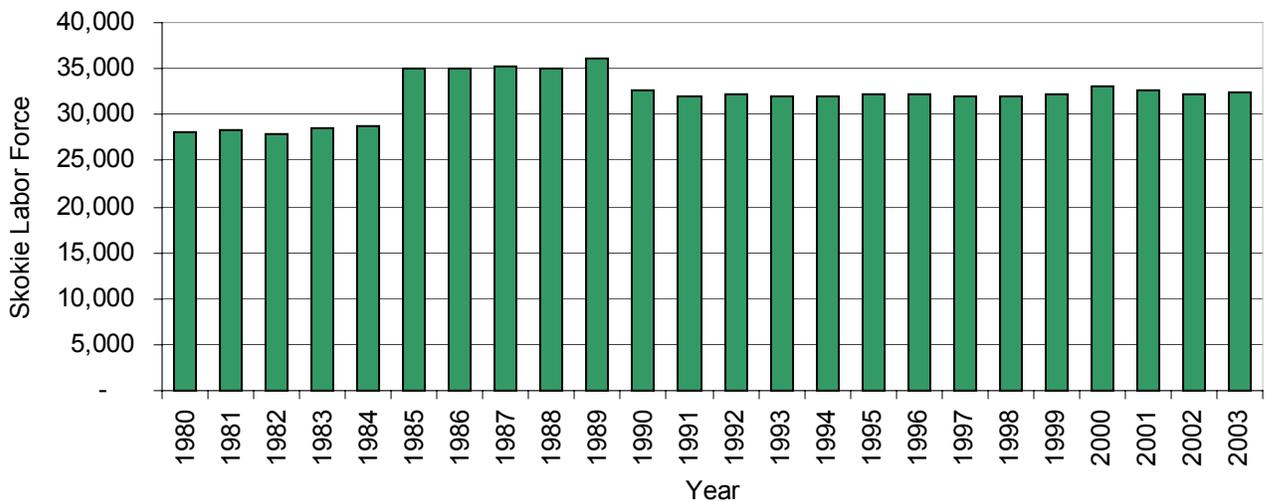
So far, we've looked at our population, social, and housing statistics. The final areas we will analyze have to do with economics, that is, employment, income, and poverty.

Employment Status

Most people get money from employment earnings. These earnings allow households to purchase housing, consumer goods, and investments. So let's look at the size of our workforce and unemployment rate over time. Our workforce is made up of the number of people who are working combined with the number of people who want to work but are unemployed.

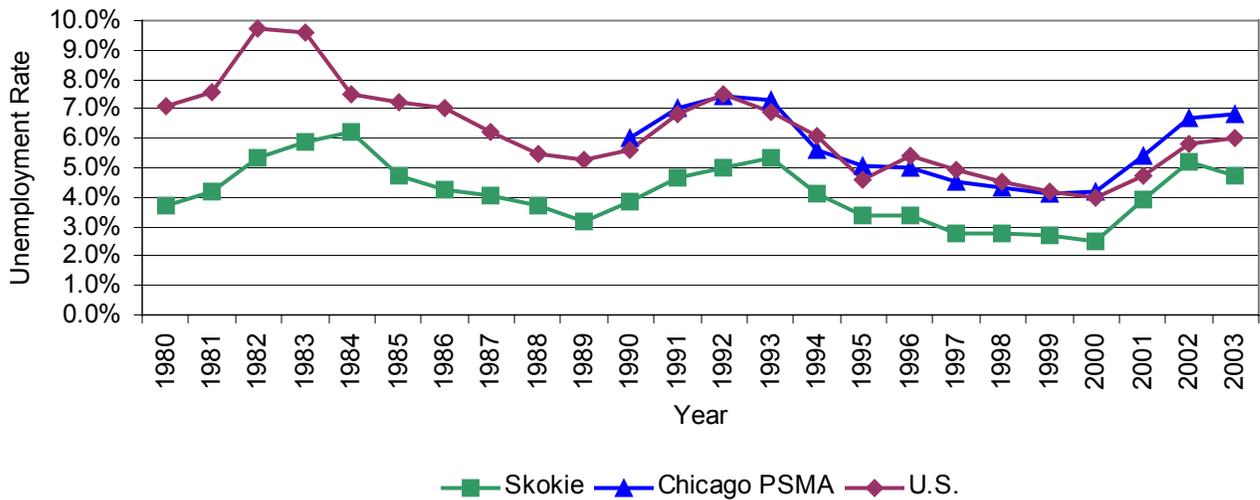
Chart 2.25 shows Skokie's workforce from 1980-2003, and Chart 2.26 shows the unemployment rates for Skokie, the Chicago Area, and the U.S., also from 1980-2003. Chicago Area unemployment is only from 1990-2003 because the counties that were included in the definition are not consistent with the current Chicago Area boundary. The full table showing the workforce and unemployment data can be found in Table A.18 in Appendix A.

Chart 2.25 Skokie Workforce for Skokie Residents 16 Years Old or Older (1980-2003)



SOURCE: Illinois Department of Employment Security

Chart 2.26 Skokie, Chicago PSMA¹, and U.S. Unemployment for Persons 16 Years or Older (1980-2003)



¹ The Chicago Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) consists of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties, all in Illinois. The Chicago PMSA consisted of a different combination of counties prior to 1990.

SOURCE: Illinois Department of Employment Security, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



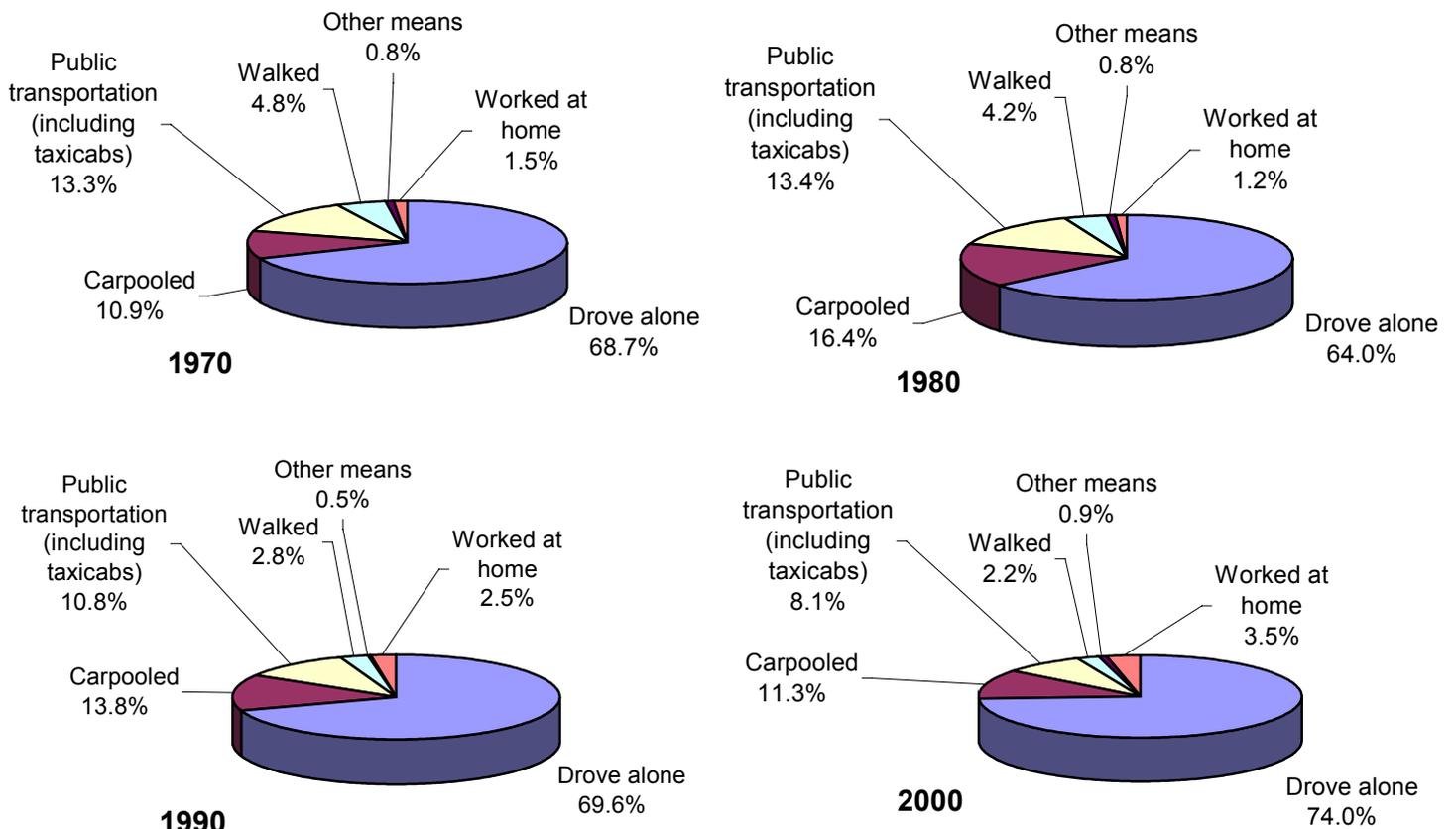
Employment Status

1. *SIZE OF THE LABOR FORCE IS FAIRLY CONSISTANT OVER TIME:* Since 1990, the size of our workforce has been about 32,300, varying very little from year to year. Although the population 20-64 years old increased by about 1,100 people from 1990 to 2000, our labor force in 1990 was 32,729 and in 2000 was 33,158 – an increase of only 429, despite a rather significant *decrease* in unemployment.
2. *IT'S NOT THE SENIOR CITIZENS, BUT MAYBE IT'S THE KIDS:* Just in case you're assuming that the increase in our population over 65 is the reason for slower increase in our total workforce, remember that the total population 65 and older increased only 60 people from 1990 to 2000. The bulk of the population increase was children. The 2000 census reported that 61.7% of households with their own children under 6 had all parents in the workforce. In 1990, 68.3% of moms (single and married) with kids under 6 were in the labor force (the Census Bureau didn't track stay-at-home dads and single dads living with kids in 1990). When you consider that there were 3,752 families with kids under 6 in 2000 and only 1,784 moms with kids under 6 in 1990 ... it seems that more stay-at-home parents explains the only marginal increase in workforce.

Commuting to Work

How we get back and forth to work helps us plan for appropriate transportation systems and efficiently locate places of employment. Keep in mind that these data DO NOT describe how much we use any particular mode of transit, just getting back and forth to work. Although statistics were not necessarily kept constantly over the years, we've grouped the modes by category from 1970 through 2000 to illustrate the general trend (Chart 2.27). However, all the data from 1960 to 2000 will be discussed. The more detailed data can be found in Tables A.19 and A.20 in Appendix A.

Chart 2.27 Commuting to Work for Workers 16 Years of Age and Over (1970 - 2000)



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Sample Data



Understanding Commuting

1. People's commuting can be affected by many things ... the cost of different modes of transportation, access to transportation at the start of the trip (at home), and access to transportation at the end of the trip (at work). As we'll see in a little while

where jobs are located has a big impact on the way workers move around Skokie and the region.

2. Not surprisingly, the proportion of workers getting to work in a car, truck, or van has increased over the censuses to about 85% of workers in 2000. What is surprising, though, is that 26% of workers DID NOT drive to work alone.
3. Interestingly, even though the number and proportion of drivers driving to work has been generally increasing over the years, there was a noticeable drop in the number of workers driving alone (64% of workers) and a sharp increase in carpoolers (16.4% of workers) reported in the 1980 census. Just before this period there was a national gas shortage and gas prices skyrocketed. By 2000 carpooling has dropped, and driving alone again has increased.
4. Skokie residents getting to work by bus or "L"-train has been declining while Metra usage seems to be increasing slightly. Skokie Swift "L" ridership declined by over 220,000 boardings at Dempster Street from 1990 levels following the closure of the Skokie Swift "L" for about 7-months for upgrades in 1991 to about 637,500 in 1992 – 26%! Some these riders switched to Metra trains and others stop taking public transit completely. Ridership never recovered, only slowly increasing to a peak of 680,000 in 2001. During the relocation and remodeling of the old Skokie Swift station in 2002-2003, ridership declined again to a new low of only 634,500 in 2003. The first 4 months after this second disruption (the latest available data) showed even larger monthly declines of 6%-12% in just one year, not the increases we had expected. It seems that Skokie residents are open to public transit use but are very sensitive to being inconvenienced. Overall, Skokie's use of public transit for work trips has declined but was still the way to work for about 1 in 12 workers in 2000.
5. Although the number was too small to even notice on the chart 89 people got to work on a bike in 2000. This was a 27% increase over 1990 when the statistic was first kept.
6. The number of workers walking has declined from its peak in the 1970 census of 1,460 workers to 633 workers in the 2000 census. Although it's only 2.2% of the workers, it's still a large number of people.
7. With all the buzz about telecommuting and home-based businesses, for Skokie workers, it seemed to be more hype than reality. Only 1,025 workers worked at home in 2000 compared to 481 in 1960. Although the number more than doubled, 96.5% of workers left home to go to work in 2000.
8. Skokie's location or our choice of work location also seems to be bucking the trend of greatly increased travel times to work, only increasing from 26.6 to 28.7 minutes between 1980 and 2000.

Occupation vs. Jobs Available

As you might guess, the workforce has changed a lot since Skokie's building boom in the 1960s and 1970s. As you might also guess, comparable statistics in this area are

difficult to come by. So for simplicity's sake, we'll just take a snapshot of employees in 1999, the last full year before the 2000 census, and Village jobs in 2001, the earliest year the categories were used by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (Table 2.8). We know it's not a perfect match, but it'll paint a good picture. For those of you that are interested in specific occupations of Skokie residents in 1999, see Table A.21 in Appendix A.

Table 2.8 Employed Skokie Residents 16 years and over (1999) & Skokie Employment (2001)

Industry	Skokie Residents	Skokie Employment	Difference
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	7	0	7
Mining	2	0	2
Construction	899	2,144	(1,245)
Manufacturing	4,076	11,621	(7,545)
Wholesale trade	1,370	1,881	(511)
Retail trade	3,888	5,507	(1,619)
Transportation and warehousing	867	565	302
Utilities	92	14	78
Information	955	1,208	(253)
Finance and insurance	1,857	755	1,102
Real estate and rental and leasing	676	603	73
Professional, scientific, and technical services	2,610	3,920	(1,310)
Management of companies and enterprises	27	802	(775)
Administrative and support and waste management services	927	3,828	(2,901)
Educational services	2,889	164	2,725
Health care and social assistance	4,468	4,922	(454)
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	486	478	8
Accommodation and food services	1,308	2,086	(778)
Other services (except public administration)	1,820	1,732	88
Public administration	852	3,111	(2,259)
Total	30,076	45,341	(15,265)

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Sample Data and Illinois Department of Employment Security



Understanding Occupation and Jobs Available

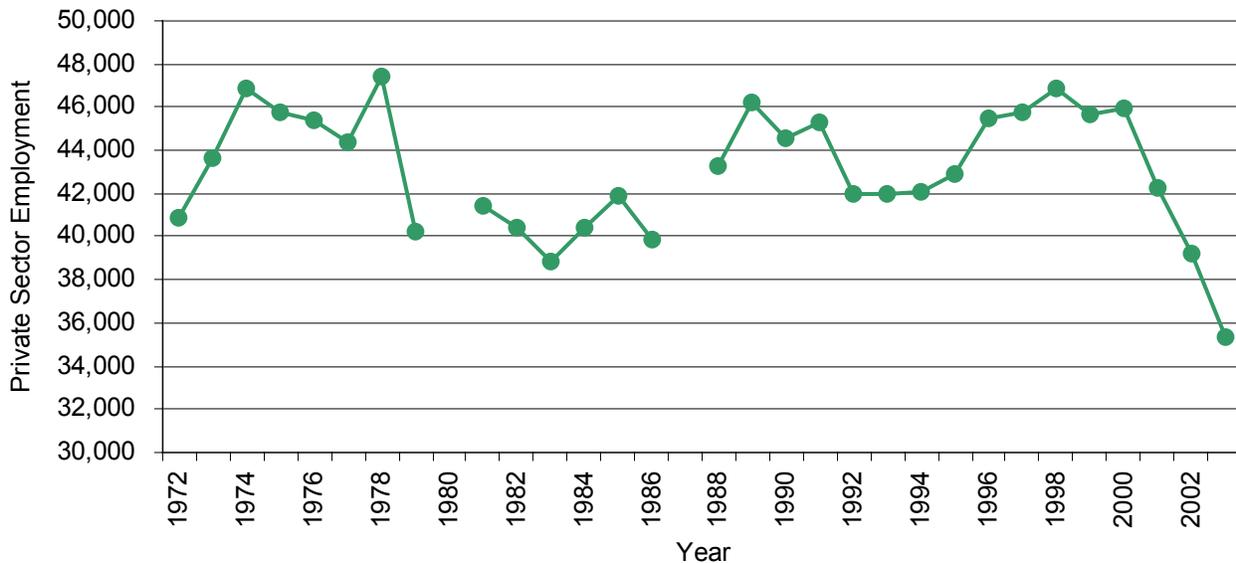
You may ask yourself, "Why does it matter?" Besides the obvious point about seeing what people do for a living and what industries operate in the Village, the differences are more important ... especially if we see a BIG difference. For example, there were over 7,500 more jobs in manufacturing than Skokie residents employed in manufacturing. Of course, not all Skokie residents work in the Village. Where are

these employees coming from? How do they get here? Do employers in Skokie have access to the type of workers they need? Can people who work in Skokie afford to live in Skokie? Do people who work in Skokie *want to live* in Skokie ... if not, why?

Skokie – Regional Employment Center

Skokie has traditionally been one of the largest employment centers in the region with a diversified employment base. There are many benefits to having many jobs in town. The more commercial and industrial land and buildings, the less we have to tax the people who live here. Also, lots of people coming in and out of the Village each day also means a lot of people spending money on food and goods while they are here. This makes living here cost less. It also makes it cheaper for companies to locate here. But as the region grows and employment changes, can Skokie meet the challenge of maintaining our place as a regional employment center? Do we even want to remain a regional employment center? Table 2.9 shows employment by municipality over the last three decades. Chart 2.28 shows private sector employment in the Village from 1972 to 2003.

Chart 2.28 Skokie Private Sector Employment (1972-2003)



NOTE: Statistics were not available for 1980 and 1987

SOURCE: Illinois Department of Employment Security

Table 2.9 Top 20 Total Private Sector Employment by Municipality (1972, 1982, 1992, 2002)

1972		1982	
1 Chicago	1,346,703	1 Chicago	1,167,555
2 Cicero	53,420	2 Des Plaines	41,800
3 Skokie	40,921	3 Skokie	40,405
4 Joliet	36,345	4 Evanston	37,148
5 Evanston	31,379	5 Joliet	36,346
6 Des Plaines	30,962	6 Elk Grove	34,420
7 Aurora (Kane only)	29,656	7 Cicero	32,638
8 Melrose Park	29,552	8 Aurora (Kane only)	30,525
9 Waukegan	27,200	9 Northbrook	28,879
10 Franklin Park	26,382	10 Schaumburg	27,937
11 Chicago Heights	21,625	11 Franklin Park	27,571
12 Elk Grove	20,519	12 Melrose Park	26,046
13 Elgin (Kane/Cook-NW)	20,003	13 Oakbrook	24,964
14 Niles	19,303	14 Arlington Heights	23,043
15 Bedford Park	16,286	15 Waukegan	22,710
16 Northlake	16,080	16 Elgin (Kane/Cook-NW)	19,610
17 Oak Park	15,662	17 Chicago Heights	19,610
18 Oakbrook	14,017	18 Niles	18,480
19 McCook	13,196	19 Oak Lawn	17,243
20 Harvey	12,770	20 Elmhurst	16,516

1992		2002	
1 Chicago	1,096,100	1 Chicago	1,101,827
2 Schaumburg	61,700	2 Schaumburg	78,535
3 Elk Grove	51,052	3 Naperville (DuPage/Will)	62,371
4 Des Plaines	49,589	4 Elk Grove	60,099
5 Naperville (DuPage only)	44,883	5 Aurora (Kane/DuPage)	55,094
6 Arlington Heights	42,940	6 Arlington Heights	50,330
7 Skokie	42,022	7 Des Plaines	45,817
8 Northbrook	41,178	8 Oakbrook	44,829
9 Oakbrook	40,147	9 Elgin (Kane/Cook-NW)	44,669
10 Joliet	39,162	10 Joliet	44,304
11 Evanston	37,189	11 Northbrook	42,142
12 Elgin (Kane/Cook-NW)	32,921	12 Evanston	39,308
13 Aurora (Kane only)	30,739	13 Skokie	39,202
14 Downers Grove	30,220	14 Downers Grove	38,083
15 Elmhurst	28,514	15 Oak Lawn	30,723
16 Franklin Park	27,270	16 Elmhurst	28,502
17 Melrose Park	27,099	17 Addison	28,158
18 Oak Lawn	25,544	18 Lombard	26,971
19 Waukegan	23,687	19 Waukegan	26,186
20 Lombard	22,974	20 Rolling Meadows	23,621

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Sample Data and Illinois Department of Employment Security



Understanding Employment in Skokie

1. Once the 3rd largest employment center in Northeastern Illinois (we were actually 2nd behind Chicago in the late 1970s), Skokie has lost some of its prominence over the last 30 years, despite a fairly stable number of jobs within the Village.
2. Of the top employment centers, 15 of the 20 were in Cook County in 1972, while only 10 were in Cook County in 2002 ... and ... the share of Cook County jobs is significantly smaller. In general, property taxes and land cost in the collar counties are less expensive. Housing costs are also significantly less. Are the jobs following the people to the collar counties or vice versa?
3. In the last few years, there has been a loss of employment in Skokie. Much has been in the manufacturing sector, which has consistently provided the largest number of jobs in the Village. Computer and electronic products manufacturing; administrative and support services; professional, scientific, and technical services; and management of companies and enterprises seem to be the worst hit. Accommodation and food services indicated gains.

Going forward, we should think about our role in the region's employment. We should also consider the impact of the decisions we make if we wish to ... or if we are even able to ... remain a regional employment center.

Income

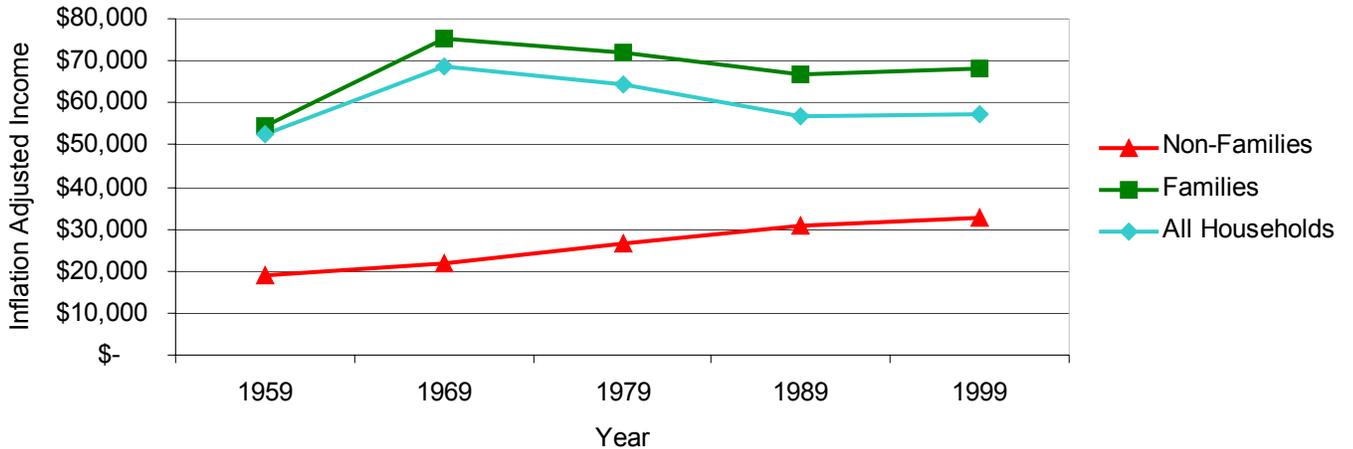
We have been discussing a lot about working ... if we work, how we get to work, what we do for work. However, how much are we actually making? The answer to the question needs a bit of explaining, and what it tells us may not be what you think.

The census tracks median household income. If you line up all the households in order of income, the median is the one in the middle. It is not the average. So, if we have 3 households the Smiths, the Patels, and the Chos, and they make \$50,000, \$60,000, and \$70,000, the median is \$60,000. Similarly, if they make \$22,000, \$60,000, and \$61,000 or \$59,000, \$60,000 and \$157,000 ... the median is still \$60,000. All three scenarios have the same median income, but illustrate very different income groups. Median income is worth discussing, though, because we have good data, and it still gives us one piece of our economic puzzle.

One more thing before we begin. More important than income is what a household can actually buy with it, how much is spent on necessities, and how much is disposable. A single person in good health living in a household with a paid off mortgage and no need for a car making \$25,000 might be more financially well off than a 2-wage family of 5 with a large mortgage, 2 kids in college, and 3 cars making \$100,000.

Chart 2.29 shows the median income for the Village as a whole for the last 5 censuses. The incomes cover the last full year before each census. We have adjusted the amounts for Chicago area inflation so that they are comparable. The actual unadjusted incomes can be found in Table A.22 in Appendix A. Table 2.10 shows the household income by race and Hispanic origin. Figure 2.3 shows the distribution of median incomes across the Village by census block groups.

Chart 2.29 Median Household Income in Skokie, Adjusted for Regional Inflation (1959-1999)



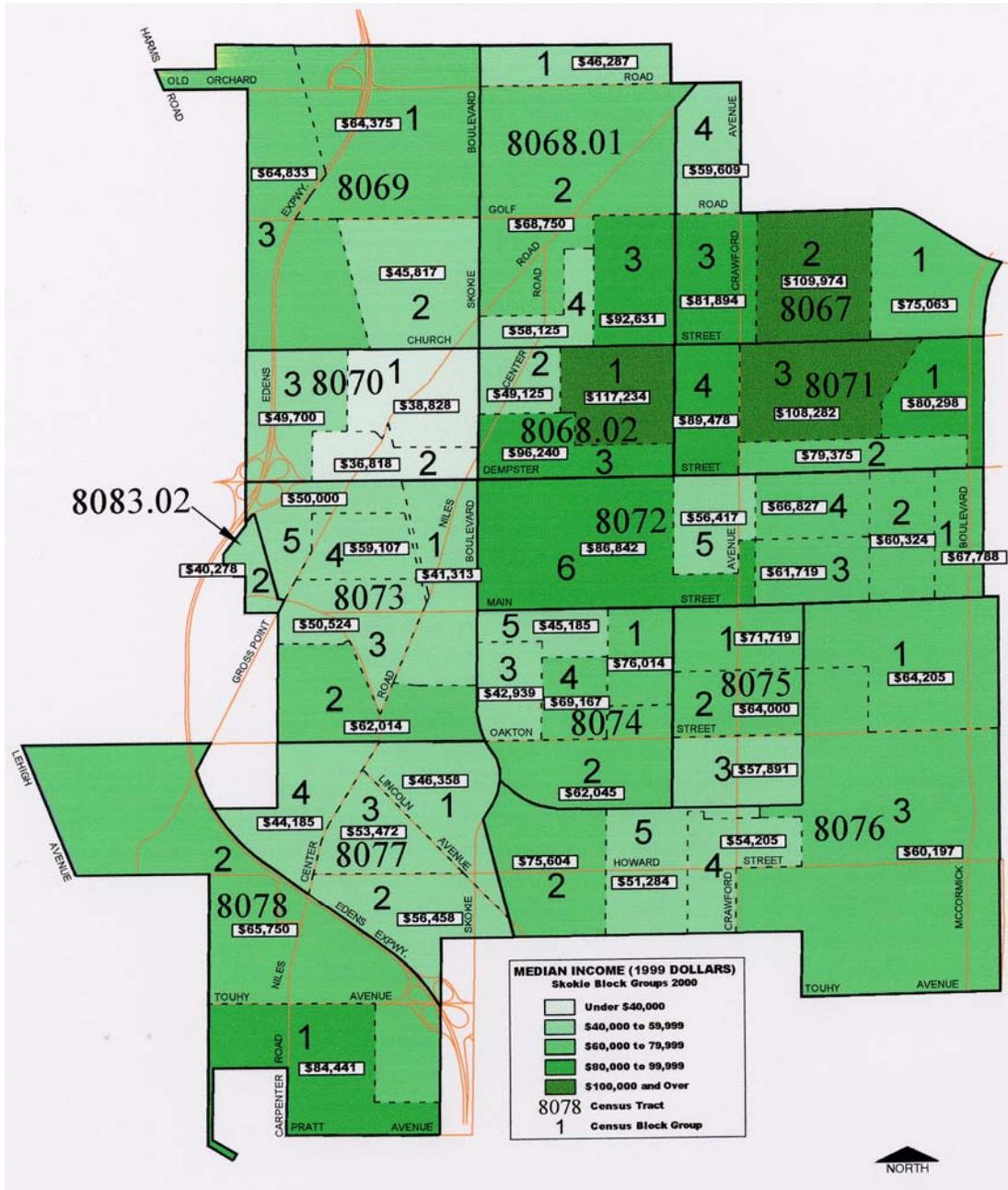
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Sample Data

Table 2.10 Median Household Income in Skokie by Race and Hispanic Origin of the Householder (1999)

Race/Hispanic	1999 Household Income
White alone, not Hispanic	\$54,909
Asian alone	\$68,372
Hispanic any race	\$52,298
Black alone	\$54,375
Two or more races	\$54,917
ALL SKOKIE HOUSEHOLDS	\$57,375

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau Sample Data

Figure 2.3 2000 Census Block Groups by Median Income (1999)





Understanding Income

1. Contrary to conventional wisdom, median income in Skokie has been relatively flat to decreasing over the last 30 years.
2. Non-family households, which include singles and non-married couples without kids in Skokie have had a real increase in household income by over 70% over the last 40 years.
3. Race and Hispanic origin do not seem to be correlated with income in Skokie, except that median household income for Asians is almost 30% higher than the Village median household income.
4. Households with higher median incomes tend to be in the northeastern part of the Village. Households with lower incomes tend to be in the east central part of the Village.
5. The block group with the highest median income is over 3 times higher than the lowest, and they are only 3 blocks apart.
6. Looking back at the workforce and population statistics earlier, part of the stagnation in income growth might be due to the increase in the number of families with children and stay-at-home parents.

We will revisit income throughout the different sections of the plan in more detail.

Poverty

The last section we will look at is poverty. Poverty is measured using 48 different thresholds that vary by family size and the number of children in the family. Age of the householder is also a factor. People in institutions, group quarters, and military personnel are not part of the calculations. The full statistics over time are in Table A.23 in Appendix A. Rather than try to describe this information graphically, we're simply going to bullet the facts. We should note that these statistics do not explain why or how long people are in poverty, but provide a glimpse of who is in poverty at one point in time.



Understanding Poverty

- The number of people in poverty in Skokie increased almost 50% through the 1990s to 3,380 individuals, or 5.4% of the population in 1999, up from 3.9% in 1989, and 2.5% in 1979.

- In 1999, 933 of those in poverty were children under 18 years old, while 628 were 65 years old and older. The rate of increase in poverty from 1989 to 1999 of children under 18 years old was 4 times higher than for senior citizens over the same time period.
- 1 in 10 families headed by a female without a husband present is in poverty.
- 1 in 6 families headed by a female without a husband present with a related child under 18 is in poverty.
- More than 1 in 5 families headed by a female without a husband present with a related child under 5 is in poverty.

CONCLUSIONS

If what you've read has you thinking about things differently, we've achieved one of our goals. This chapter only provides a basis for the decisions that need to come – decisions based on good information, further analysis, and participation from the community.

Next, we need to combine this data to plan for our future transportation network, housing needs, services provided, and use of our land. Most important our plans need to be implementable. They need the support of the community. They need funding.

Now that we know some of the basic facts about Skokie, let's move forward and start planning.