Non-White Population Changes 1950-1960

Introduction

The Commission on Human Relations has prepared this special issue of Human Relations News to analyze the changes in the non-white population which occurred between 1950 and 1960 in the State, the Metropolitan Area, the Suburbs and the City. The study is based on the official figures of the U. S. Bureau of Census for 1950 and 1960. Maps are included which illustrate the distribution of Negroes in 1950 and 1960 by Census tract.

Noted in this report are shifts of population from the center of the city to outlying neighborhoods; the impact of this movement on the composition of the population in the community areas; a consideration of the comparable rates of growth between the white and non-white population (97 per cent of the non-whites in Illinois are Negro), and a comparison between the relative growth of non-whites in the state, the suburbs, the metropolitan area and the city.

Illinois

In 1910, when there were 9,800,000 Negroes in the United States, the eleven states of the Old Confederacy claimed 81 per cent of the Negroes. Today, fifty years later, these same southern states have 52 per cent of the nation's 18,900,000 Negroes. In 1960, New York led all fifty states in Negro population; Illinois with 1,037,000 ranked not far behind Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, and Louisiana. Between 1950 and 1960, Arkansas and Mississippi suffered a net loss in Negro population. Under present conditions this northbound migration of southern Negroes—and whites—is expected to continue.

Suburban Non-White Distribution

The overwhelming majority of nonwhites in Illinois, 920,001 according to the 1960 census, lives in the state's six northeastern counties, Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will, comprising the Chicago Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (CSMSA). In Cook County, including Chicago, there are 888,852 nonwhites. Excluding Chicago, Cook County has 51,196 nonwhites.

Within the six-county metropolitan area, sixteen suburbs had a Negro population of more than 1,000: Aurora (2227), Chicago Heights (6529), Dixmoor (1855), East Chicago Heights (2794), Elgin (1505), Evanston (9126), Harvey (1986), Joliet (4638), La Grange (1084), Markham (2505), Maywood (5229), North Chicago (4577), Phoenix (2744), Robbins (7410), Summit (1870), and Waukegan (4485).

Metropolitan area suburbs with a nonwhite population of more than five per cent in 1960 were Chicago Heights (19%), Dixmoor (60%), East Chicago Heights (86%), Evanston (12%), Glencoe (7%), Harvey (7%), Joliet (7%), La Grange (7%), Markham (22%), Maywood (20%), North Chicago (23%), Phoenix (65%), Robbins (90%), Waukegan (8%), and Zion (5%).

Only six suburbs with a population of 10,000 or more, Villa Park, South Holland, Rolling Meadows, North-

POPULATION OF ILLINOIS AND CHICAGO BY RACE 1950-1960

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1950</th>
<th>1960</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10,081,158</td>
<td>8,712,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>9,010,252</td>
<td>8,046,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-White</td>
<td>1,070,906</td>
<td>666,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negro</td>
<td>1,037,470</td>
<td>645,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>4,704</td>
<td>1,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>14,674</td>
<td>11,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>7,047</td>
<td>4,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>3,587</td>
<td>n.l.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other</td>
<td>4,924</td>
<td>2,842</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*not listed in 1950.
Negroes and the Suburbs

"The pattern of almost complete residential segregation is rapidly breaking up. A suburbanward movement of Negroes is only a short time away. As a lower income group, Negroes have been forced to live in older, less desirable housing. As a group of working people who must rise early and come home late and who cannot afford to pay high commuting fares, they need to live near their work. With rapid urban renewal inside Chicago and a gradual aging of suburban housing, the metropolitan area's supply of cheap, average, or invadable housing is concentrating more and more in the older suburbs.

"Moreover as the income level of Negroes rises, this group is able to compete with the white population for all but the most upperclass neighborhoods, for Negroes have long been accustomed to forking over a very large part of their income for rent. Only a few years ago, real estate operators were able to count on high rent levels to discourage potential Negro tenants. That is coming less and less to be true. Once the population pressure and the economic potential reach the 'breakthrough point' the suburban shift will very likely be remarkably rapid. This is happening in some cities now. For example, in the New York metropolitan area such former all-white suburbs as Yonkers now have very large Negro populations.

"The suburbanward drift of factories, shopping centers, and service establishments that employ Negroes in large numbers is providing an added incentive to the suburbanization of the Negro population. Many of the neat, little suburban cement-block cottages built for World War II veterans are now 20 years old, and are sufficiently depreciated 'dated,' in need of repair, and undesirable in comparison with other suburban homes to make them 'ripe' for non-white occupancy. The 1960 census will almost certainly show a sizeable upturn in the amount of Negro suburbanization when the tabulations are available. The decade of the 1960's should see an ever greater movement of this type."

From a recent address entitled "Who will live in Chicago during the 1960's?" by Prof. Donald J. Bogue of the University of Chicago at the University's Downtown Center.
center generally declined in size.

These changes are fully charted in the April 1961 Information Bulletin of the Department of City Planning entitled "Population Changes in the City of Chicago 1950-1960." The bulletin contains two maps indicating the changes by census tract and community area.

Increase of Negro Population

Between 1950 and 1960 the city's white population decreased from 3,111,525 to 2,712,748, continuing a decline which began in the 1940's; however, the city's Negro population rose from 492,265 to 812,637. The white decrease was 398,777 or 13 per cent; the Negro increase was 320,372 or 65 per cent. Thus in 1960, Negroes accounted for 23 per cent of the city's population, compared to 14 per cent in 1950.

Census data for 1960 and the latest figures on births and deaths from the Chicago Board of Health destroyed a popular misconception about the major reason for Negro population growth in the city between 1950 and 1960.

Negro births in Chicago increased from 15,705 in 1950 to 30,764 in 1960. In 1960, 33 per cent of all Chicago births were Negro compared to 20 per cent in 1950.

The natural increase of Negroes (births minus deaths) for the 1950-1960 decade totaled 170,468. Thus 53 per cent of the decade's Negro gain came from natural increase. For the same decade the total Negro population increase as a result of in-migration was 149,904 or 47 per cent. The comparable figures for 1940-1950 were 43,346 or 20 per cent from natural increase and 171,188 or 80 per cent from in-migration.

From these figures, two conclusions may be drawn:

1. For the first time, since the beginning of the major migration of Negroes to Chicago, natural increase rather than in-migration has become the major factor in Negro population growth.

2. Negro in-migration to Chicago, which had reached a peak in the 1940-1950 decade, began to taper off during the 1950-1960 period averaging out to a net increase of 13,000 Negroes a year. However, despite an annual in-migration of about 30,000 persons of all races (an estimate from the best sources available), the city lost population because of the movement of Chicagoans, mostly whites, from the city.

Race and Geographic Distribution

Census figures show that in 1950, 435,761 or 89 per cent of the Negroes lived in 105 census tracts of high Negro concentration (tracts 40 per cent or more Negro). In 1960, 769,532 or 95 per cent of the total Negro population resided in 194 tracts of high Negro concentration. However, in these same tracts the number of white residents also increased: from 55,436 or 2 per cent of the total white population in 1950 to 94,965 or 4 per cent of the white population in 1960.

(Continued on page four)
In 1960, Negroes were residing in 554 or 64 per cent of the city's 862 census tracts; whites in 860 tracts. Of the city's 75 community areas Negroes lived in all but six. At least 300 whites were found in each community area.

In 1950, Negro residents were generally concentrated south along State Street from the center of the city to 71st Street and west along Roosevelt Road to Ashland Avenue. By 1960 some of these areas decreased substantially in Negro population because of urban renewal, for example, Washington Park (—12,868), Armour Square (—5,960), Douglas (—28,390), and Grand Boulevard (—33,837). The largest increases in Negro population occurred in North Lawndale (+100,681), Englewood (+57,359), Greater Grand Crossing (+50,682), and Woodlawn (+41,068) communities. In 1950 other areas of Negro residence were located on the Near North Side, East Garfield Park, and in the southside community areas of Riverdale, Roseland and Morgan Park; except for East Garfield Park, Negro population in these communities grew slowly but steadily during the decade.

In the past, areas of Negro concentration in Chicago have been identified with the southside of the city. Today, because of population shifts and growth more than 250,000 Negroes reside on the west side and near north side. In the ten year period, while many whites moved to the suburbs, many Negroes moved farther South (from 71st to 101st Streets), Westward (between Grand Avenue and Cermak Road west of Western Avenue), and North (along the River north of Chicago Avenue). Most of the expansion during this decade occurred largely adjacent to the traditional Negro-occupied areas.

The nine community areas (East Garfield Park, Near West Side, North Lawndale, Fuller Park, Kenwood, Woodlawn, Chatham, Englewood, and Greater Grand

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations has published a table showing white, Negro, and other non-white population in each of the city's 75 community areas for 1950 and 1960. Copies are available upon request. Actually, the Census Bureau designated 76 community areas in 1960. But in area 76, the site of O'Hare Airport, no population was recorded.

The nine community areas (East Garfield Park, Near West Side, North Lawndale, Fuller Park, Kenwood, Woodlawn, Chatham, Englewood, and Greater Grand Crossing) where the majority population by 1960 had shifted from white to Negro extended the existing areas of Negro concentration. Fifteen of the city's 75 community areas now have a majority of Negro residents. In some other community areas (Near North Side, Lincoln Park, West Garfield Park, South Lawndale, South Shore, Garfield Ridge, West Englewood, and Washington Heights) Negro population growth was impressive.

Several areas close to Lake Michigan and to the city's center have become established as interracial communities, Douglas (Lake Meadows and Prairie Shores developments), Kenwood, and Hyde Park; making this possible were various programs of urban renewal.

There is some movement of Negroes into predominantly white areas not adjacent to the traditional southside and westside Negro concentrations. Some are located north along the Chicago River, and some are public housing projects, for example, Lathrop Homes on Diversey Avenue. A few census tracts, such as 298, 299, and 309 in the West Town community on the near northwest side and census tract 23 in the Uptown community, have had relatively stable bi-racial populations over many years.

Other Non-Whites

The increase in the non-white population other than Negro, i.e., "other races," has not been large. "Other races," mostly Orientals, gained 7,911 or 46 per cent during the decade to a total of 25,019. Within the city there has been a definite dispersal of Orientals from the Near North side, Oakland, Kenwood and Hyde Park communities, into one southside community (South Shore) and into three northside communities (Lincoln Park, Lakeview, and Uptown). In 1960 non-whites other than Negroes were located in 718 census tracts and in all but one community area.

The population designated as non-white consists of such races as the Negro, American Indian, Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Asian Indian, and Malay groups. Persons of Mexican or Puerto Rican birth or ancestry who are not definitely of Indian or another non-white race are classified as white in the 1960 U. S. Census.

Prepared by the Department of Social Research, Chicago Commission on Human Relations.