Lab 2: Illustrating City Growth and Demographics

Chicago is the third-most populous city in the United States. It is considered to be a hub of the business and entertainment centers in the world. Chicago, as a city, grew quickly from its incorporation in 1937 near a portage between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River watershed. In 1871, a fire broke out, which was commonly referred to as the “Great Chicago Fire”. This incident demolished many square miles and brought thousands to the street. The effort and drive to rebuild the City of Chicago saw itself attracting an immense number of people. This made Chicago one of the five largest cities in the world by 1990. This time period saw Chicago making solid contributions to the planning of the urban structures and standards. For example, the Chicago School of architecture, the City Beautiful Movement, and the steel-framed skyscraper. The three pictures below depict the same city but in 1870, 1970 and 2018 respectively. The infrastructure growth and urban development is evident through these images.

1870 - Chicago in the early years  
1970 - Michigan Avenue from Prudential building  
2018 – the hub of the city of Chicago overlooking its river
Demographics can be defined as statistical data that relates to the population and related group within that population. Understanding the demographics of a particular region goes a great way in figuring out patterns and applying these patterns to the world can help solve real problems. The three maps below depict the Median Household Income, the percentage of black population, and the percentage of female population, all by Census Tract. Four categories are used for the representation of data. These four categories are 0-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, 76-100%.

The first map, the one that depicts Median Household Income, shows how the distribution of wealth across the region of Chicago is unequal. The South-West part of the map has the most financially strong people living. As we move East, financial strength decreases.

The second map, the one that depicts the percentage of black population, shows how the black population generally tend to live together in blocks. This means that they have a tightly knit community and do not prefer to spread out in this region.

The third map, the one that depicts the percentage of females, shows how females are almost distributed all around the region of Chicago. Some regions have a higher population of females, while the others have a higher male population.

Among the three maps, many comparisons can be made. Each map demonstrates the statistic of its particular category. We observe that whatever the criteria be, many blocks of similar people are found. In an area, there may be many blocks with similar minded and looking people. For example, as we noticed, people with a particular range of income tend to stay in the nearby surroundings. The blacks live in a community, in which they do not prefer to spread out and live. The distribution of females in Chicago may be somewhat more even compared to the other two maps because the different genders and more or less equally divided and distributed.
Map demonstrating Median Household Income by Census Tracts

Map demonstrating Black Population by Census Tracts
Map demonstrating Female Population by Census Tracts
Bibliography


