March 2023

Parish, Ecclesial and Socioeconomic Statistics
for the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

A Report for the
FutureChurch

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Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
Georgetown University
Washington, D.C.

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FutureChurch

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This report was commissioned by FutureChurch. The report was researched and written by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.

FutureChurch

FutureChurch was founded in 1990 to seek changes that will provide all Roman Catholics the opportunity to participate fully in Church life, ministry, and governance. FutureChurch advocates for open discussion about ending mandatory celibacy as a requirement for diocesan priesthood, advancing women in Church leadership, promoting lay participation in all levels of Church decision-making, and maintaining the spirit of Vatican II in the life of the Church. FutureChurch is committed to working for renewal within the organization and structures of the Roman Catholic Church.

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The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate is a non-profit research center that has been conducting social scientific studies about and for the Catholic Church, since 1964. CARA's mission has three aspects: to increase the Church's self-understanding, to serve the applied research needs of Church decision-makers, and to advance scholarly research on religion, particularly Catholicism.

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Executive Summary

FutureChurch (FC) commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) to conduct this study to explore parish, ecclesial, and socioeconomic characteristics of the following 11 dioceses between 1970 and 2020: Archdiocese of Baltimore, Archdiocese of Chicago, Archdiocese of Detroit, Archdiocese of Miami, Archdiocese of New Orleans, Archdiocese of New York, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Archdiocese of St. Louis, Diocese of Bridgeport, Diocese of Cleveland, and Diocese of Memphis. Those dioceses were selected to fit specific needs of FC and they are not meant to constitute a nationally representative sample.

More specifically, the purpose of this study was to explore the following research questions:
- How did the number of parishes change over time in each diocese in the context of changes to other ecclesial statistics?
- How many parishes (re)opened/expanded, remained opened, and closed/were absorbed? When did it happen? Where were those parishes located?
- What socioeconomic factors may be related to parish (re)openings/expansions on one side and parish closures/absorptions on the other?

CARA explored those questions in the fall of 2022 and spring of 2023 using several secondary data sources which include:
- Official Catholic Directory from 2021, 2016, 2011, 2006, 2001, 1996, 1991, 1986, 1981, 1976, and 1971.
- ASARB's U.S. Religious Census for 1971, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020.
- Neighborhood Change Database of normalized census tract data for 2010, 2000, 1990, 1980, and 1970.
- U.S. Census Bureau's data Decennial Census and American Community Survey for 2020.
- Census Bureau's GeoCoder database.
- MassTimes.org database of parish addresses.
- Other available sources (e.g., lists of closed parishes published on diocesan websites).

The description below summarizes the main findings organized by research question for all 11 dioceses (starting with the first question below) and for the Archdiocese of Chicago specifically.

How did the number of parishes change over time in each diocese in the context of changes to other ecclesial statistics?

The overall number of parishes nationwide decreased by 9% between 1970 and 2020. The average number of parishes per diocese decreased faster (by 27%) because new dioceses were created in this period. Among dioceses included in the study, the Archdiocese of Miami experienced the smallest decrease (2%) and the Archdiocese of Detroit the largest decrease (38%).

Over the 50-year period, the general population of all dioceses in the United States increased by 65% (according to the OCD data). The total Catholic population increased by 46% (so, 19 percentage points slower than the general population). And, the overall size of a Catholic parish increased by 60% in total (or by 59% per diocese, on average). Among dioceses included in the study, the Archdiocese of New York experienced the biggest increase in average parish size (118%) while the Archdiocese of Miami saw the biggest decrease (13%).

The table below summarizes selected diocesan - level ecclesial statistics derived from the Official Catholic Directory for each of the 11 dioceses included in the study and for all dioceses in the country altogether (as a total and on average).

Percentage Change in Ecclesial Statistics by Diocese between 1970 and 2020*

	Baltimore [%]	Bridgeport [%]	Chicago [%]	Cleveland [%]	Detroit** [%]	Memphis*** [%]	Miami** [%]	New Orleans** [%]	New York [%]	Philadelphia [%]	St. Louis [%]	National Average [%]	National Total [%]
Total Population	39	16	>-1	-10	-10	.	**104**	-4	22	6	17	39	65
Catholic Population	42	46	-14	-30	-29	.	-15	-21	**53**	-7	-4	17	46
Baptisms	-51	-71	-70	-81	**-83**	.	-34	-73	-82	-66	-69	-65	-57
First Communions*	-46	-30	-86	**-87**	-56	18	-29	-54	-63	-48	-71	-43	-39
Confirmations*	-20	-10	-64	-69	-50	86	-15	-45	-60	-70	-48	-19	-13
Full Communions	-76	-69	**-94**	-74	-76	.	-39	-12	-89	-90	-85	-51	-41
Catholic Marriages	-83	-88	-84	-84	-88	.	-79	-79	**-90**	-74	-78	-82	-78
Catholic Deaths	-33	-11	-57	-24	-47	.	-8	-43	**-60**	-32	-32	-31	-14
Priests	-51	-46	-49	-56	**-62**	.	-40	-47	-51	-60	-50	-51	-40
Parishes	-4	-7	-36	-22	**-38**	.	-2	-29	-30	-32	-29	-27	-9
Catholics per Parish	48	57	34	-10	15	.	-13	11	**118**	37	35	59	60

* Change in the number of Confirmations and First Communions is calculated for 1990-2020.
** During the analyzed period, the geographic territory of these dioceses has decreased.
*** Diocese of Memphis was established in 1970. The available data starts in 1975.
**** Biggest absolute change for each statistic is marked in bold.

How many parishes (re)opened/expanded, remained opened, and closed/were absorbed?

The breakdown of the total (i.e., actual) number of parishes is not possible due to the limitations of available data. The tables below show the number and the percentage of identified parishes (where identified parish is a parish for which census tract data could be identified) that (re)opened/ expanded (to incorporate another parish), remained opened, and closed/were absorbed (by another parish) by diocese between 1970 and 2020.

Number of Identified Parishes that .... by Diocese Between 1970s and 2010s											
	Baltimore	Bridgeport	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Memphis	Miami	New Orleans	New York	Philadelphia	St. Louis
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
(Re)opened/ Expanded	20	8	40	32	**57**	9	37	30	9	13	11
Remained Opened	108	62	244	138	141	29	51	71	**276**	183	146
Closed/ were Absorbed	23	20	**187**	80	146	2	17	45	111	104	70

* Biggest number in each category is marked in bold.

Between 1970 and 2020, there were between 218 and 352 parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit (the actual numbers reported in OCD). Of these, 344 parishes could be identified (and 8 parishes could not be identified). Among the identified parishes, 42% (146) were closed/absorbed while 17% (57) were (re)opened/expanded, and 41% (141) remained opened over the entire 50-year period. By comparison, in the Archdiocese of Miami, 35% (37 identified parishes) (re)opened/expanded, while 16% (17) closed/ were absorbed, and 49% (51) remained open.

Percentage of Identified Parishes that .... by Diocese Between 1970s and 2010s											
	Baltimore	Bridgeport	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Memphis	Miami	New Orleans	New York	Philadelphia	St. Louis
	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]
(Re)opened/ Expanded	13	9	8	13	17	23	**35**	21	2	4	5
Remained Opened	72	69	52	55	41	**73**	49	49	70	61	64
Closed/ were Absorbed	15	22	40	32	**42**	5	16	31	28	35	31

* Biggest proportion in each category is marked in bold.

What socioeconomic factors may be related to parish (re)openings/expansions on one side and parish closures/absorptions on the other?

The relationship between socioeconomic variables and parish (re)openings/expansions on one side and parish closures/absorptions was explored in two ways. The first approach focused on exploring relationships between changes in the number of identified parishes and socioeconomic changes aggregated on diocesan level. The second approach explored socioeconomic differences between neighborhoods where parishes closed/were absorbed and neighborhoods where parishes opened/expanded.

Based on the first approach, the table below summarizes percentage changes in county statistics between 1970 and 2020 aggregated by diocese. It shows, for example, that the proportion of people below poverty line (i.e., poverty rate) in counties in the Archdiocese of Detroit increased by 70% over the 50-year period while the number of identified parishes declined by 31%.

Percentage Change in County Statistics Aggregated by Diocese between 1970 and 2020

	Baltimore [%]	Bridgeport [%]	Chicago [%]	Cleveland [%]	Detroit [%]	Memphis [%]	Miami [%]	New Orleans [%]	New York [%]	Philadelphia [%]	St. Louis [%]
# Identified Parishes	-2	-15	**-34**	-21	-31	23	29	-13	-26	-32	-27
Catholic Population Size	-16	-26	-31	-27	-44	65	**160**	-4	-5	-19	-1
General Population Size	47	57	2	-3	-2	98	**151**	24	30	9	24
Average Household Income	53	56	31	7	6	21	24	29	**57**	44	26
# People Below Poverty Line	23	109	27	48	61	73	**179**	4	40	30	20
% People Below Poverty Line	-13	37	29	58	**70**	-10	13	-14	14	25	<1
# Persons Unemployed	164	293	137	98	42	263	**377**	118	158	134	52
% Persons Unemployed	40	**105**	89	63	18	49	48	32	72	74	-5
# Whites/Anglos/Caucasians	7	5	-40	-19	-24	**58**	1	-8	-23	-19	6
% Whites/Anglos/Caucasians	-21	-25	-34	-12	-17	-16	**-40**	-19	-35	-21	-9
# Blacks/African Americans	74	107	5	23	29	109	**251**	32	21	20	34
% Blacks/African Americans	27	48	14	34	41	11	**103**	15	5	18	15
# Hispanics/Latinos	1,227	708	422	327	269	**2,330**	690	233	137	530	429
% Hispanics/Latinos	839	414	411	356	276	**1,129**	215	169	82	477	338

* Analysis is limited to counties included in each diocese as of 2020, for which data were available.
** Biggest absolute change for each statistic is marked in bold.
*** The population size by county and altogether (i.e., the total population of all counties in a diocese) (that is derived from Census data) does not match the general population size found in the diocesan – level analysis (that derived from the Official Catholic Directory).

The table below shows correlations between the number of identified parishes and each socioeconomic variable by diocese, between 1970 and 2020. Those correlations are measured by Pearson's Correlation Coefficient. Negative values indicate negative correlation and positive values positive correlation. Absolute values greater than 0.7 indicate strong correlation, values between 0.5 and 0.7 indicate moderate correlation, values below 0.5 indicate weak or insignificant correlation.

Correlation between the Number of Identified Parishes and ....
by Diocese between 1970 and 2020

	Baltimore	Bridgeport	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Memphis	Miami	New Orleans	New York	Philadelphia	St. Louis
	[PCC]	[PCC]	[PCC]	[PCC]	[PCC]	[PCC]	[PCC]	[PCC]	[PCC]	[PCC]	[PCC]
General Population Size	-0.25	**-0.97**	-0.63	0.38	0.31	0.77	0.73	0.65	**-0.83**	**-0.92**	**-0.96**
Catholic Population Size	0.37	0.36	**0.95**	**0.88**	0.75	0.76	0.55	0.49	0.45	0.56	0.67
Average Household Income	-0.32	-0.48	**-0.86**	-0.49	-0.31	0.58	0.65	-0.65	-0.64	**-0.84**	-0.79
# People Below Poverty Line	-0.43	**-0.95**	-0.57	**-0.85**	-0.71	0.27	0.77	**0.88**	-0.42	**-0.85**	-0.80
% People Below Poverty Line	0.07	-0.55	-0.47	-0.80	-0.71	-0.56	**0.87**	0.72	0.02	-0.63	-0.54
# Persons Unemployed	0.27	-0.77	-0.52	-0.40	0.04	0.80	0.71	0.09	-0.33	-0.53	-0.39
% Persons Unemployed	0.53	-0.33	-0.41	-0.35	0.11	0.74	0.70	0.01	-0.06	-0.24	-0.02
# Whites/Anglos/Caucasians	**0.86**	-0.62	**0.92**	0.73	**0.83**	-0.29	0.58	0.80	0.69	**0.87**	0.55
% Whites/Anglos/Caucasians	0.37	0.73	**0.92**	0.81	0.75	-0.65	-0.50	0.37	0.72	**0.94**	**0.97**
# Blacks/African Americans	-0.16	-0.74	-0.01	-0.69	-0.36	0.76	0.72	0.59	-0.21	-0.78	**-0.91**
% Blacks/African Americans	-0.20	-0.24	-0.29	-0.76	-0.55	0.73	0.59	0.13	-0.14	-0.76	**-0.92**
# Hispanics/Latinos	-0.61	**-0.91**	**-0.95**	**-0.93**	**-0.94**	0.41	0.61	-0.79	-0.77	**-0.98**	**-0.96**
% Hispanics/Latinos	-0.60	-0.75	**-0.95**	**-0.92**	**-0.94**	0.41	0.68	**-0.85**	-0.70	**-0.97**	**-0.96**

* Statistically significant Pearson's Correlation Coefficients or PCC (p<0.05) are marked in bold.
** Analysis is limited to counties included in each diocese as of 2020, for which data were available.
*** Analysis is based on a time series limited to six observations (i.e., data for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020).

The table above shows that in 9 out of 11 dioceses included in the study, the number of parishes was positively correlated with the Catholic population size and the White/Anglo/Caucasian population (both as a number of people of this race and as a percentage of the population). On the other side, the number of parishes was negatively correlated with the:
- Hispanic/Latinos population (both as number and percentage) in 9 dioceses.
- Population living below poverty line as a number of people in 8 dioceses and as a percentage of the overall population in 7 dioceses.

Notably, some but not all of those correlations are strong. Not all of those correlations are statistically significant. Correlation does not imply causation.

A separate approach to the analysis focused on exploring socioeconomic differences between neighborhoods where parishes closed/were absorbed and neighborhoods where parishes opened/expanded. The table below summarizes those differences for selected socioeconomic variables for each diocese between 1970s and 2010s.

Caution should be exercised when drawing conclusions form those findings. It should be noted, in particular, that census tract is an approximation of a neighborhood (as opposed to a parish). And, socioeconomic characteristics (e.g., proportion of Blacks/African Americans) apply to all people living in a census tract (as opposed to all Catholics belonging to a parish).

Percentage Point Difference in the Average Proportion of .... between Neighborhoods where Parishes were Closed/Absorbed and Neighborhoods where Parishes (Re)opened/Expanded by Diocese in 1970s-2010s

	Baltimore [%]	Bridgeport [%]	Chicago [%]	Cleveland [%]	Detroit [%]	Memphis [%]	Miami [%]	New Orleans [%]	New York [%]	Philadelphia [%]	St. Louis [%]
People Below Poverty Line	16	11	10	11	11	**28**	14	12	13	16	18
Persons Unemployed	7	4	5	5	6	**13**	5	5	4	7	7
Whites/Anglos/Caucasians	-30	-24	-31	-30	-31	**-81**	-32	-28	-26	-32	-49
Blacks/African Americans	27	17	24	26	27	**81**	27	30	11	26	48
Hispanics/Latinos	3	12	10	3	1	<1	-2	2	**18**	5	<1

* Biggest absolute change for each statistic is marked in bold.

The table above shows that in each of the 11 dioceses included in the study, the average proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians was lower in those neighborhoods where parishes closed/were absorbed than in those neighborhoods were parishes opened/expanded. Conversely, in all 11 dioceses, the average proportion of people below poverty line, people unemployed, Blacks/African Americans, and Hispanics/Latinos was higher in those neighborhoods where parishes closed/were absorbed than in those neighborhoods were parishes opened/expanded with one exception (for the proportion of Hispanics/Latinos in the Archdiocese of Miami).

The table below shows correlations between different socioeconomic variables for a neighborhood and the event that transpired (i.e., parish closure/absorption into another parish as opposed to parish opening/expansion), by diocese, between 1970s and 2010s. Those correlations are measured by Point Biserial Correlation Coefficients. Negative values indicate negative correlation and positive values positive correlation.

In almost all dioceses included in the study (between 9 and 11 out of 11 dioceses), there was a negative correlation between the parish closures/absorptions and the size of White/Anglo/ Caucasian population in the neighborhoods where those parishes were located (both as number of

people of this race and as a percentage of the population). On the other side, in almost all dioceses (between 10 and 11 out of 11 dioceses), there was a positive correlation between the parish closure/absorption and the size of Black/African American population, Hispanic/Latinos population, population below poverty line, and population unemployed in the neighborhoods where those parishes were located (both as number and percentage). Notably, many but not all of those correlations were statistically significant. And, only a few were strong.

Correlation between ……. and Parish Closures/Absorptions (as opposed to Openings/Expansions) by Census Tract by Diocese in 1970s-2010s

	Baltimore	Bridgeport	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Memphis	Miami	New Orleans	New York	Philadelphia	St. Louis
	[PBC]	[PBC]	[PBC]	[PBC]	[PBC]	[PBC]	[PBC]	[PBC]	[PBC]	[PBC]	[PBC]
General Population Size	0.05	-0.10	0.02	-0.03	**0.25**	**0.68**	**0.49**	-0.05	**0.20**	**0.20**	**0.35**
Average Household Income	**-0.34**	0.11	**-0.24**	**-0.30**	**-0.33**	**-0.72**	-0.14	-0.21	0.02	**-0.37**	**-0.33**
# People Below Poverty Line	0.24	0.34	**0.20**	0.17	**0.31**	**0.78**	**0.51**	0.24	0.23	0.26	**0.35**
% People Below Poverty Line	**0.46**	**0.41**	**0.29**	**0.30**	**0.30**	**0.69**	**0.50**	**0.40**	**0.25**	**0.34**	**0.40**
# Persons Unemployed	**0.57**	0.19	**0.16**	**0.21**	**0.34**	**0.84**	**0.46**	**0.30**	**0.26**	**0.27**	**0.42**
% Persons Unemployed	**0.58**	**0.42**	**0.24**	**0.26**	**0.29**	**0.93**	**0.49**	**0.42**	**0.21**	**0.28**	**0.33**
# Whites/Anglos/Caucasians	**-0.31**	-0.34	**-0.22**	**-0.26**	-0.11	-0.51	0.12	**-0.30**	0.04	-0.10	-0.04
% Whites/Anglos/Caucasians	**-0.44**	**-0.43**	**-0.33**	**-0.41**	**-0.38**	**-0.87**	**-0.46**	**-0.38**	**-0.22**	**-0.27**	**-0.46**
# Blacks/African Americans	0.27	0.30	**0.15**	**0.22**	**0.28**	**0.86**	**0.39**	**0.31**	0.18	**0.19**	**0.37**
% Blacks/African Americans	**0.39**	0.36	**0.22**	**0.31**	**0.30**	**0.87**	**0.38**	**0.40**	0.12	**0.21**	**0.41**
# Hispanics/Latinos	0.22	0.11	0.10	0.09	0.06	0.49	0.17	0.09	**0.20**	0.10	0.13
% Hispanics/Latinos	0.21	0.28	**0.13**	0.12	0.03	0.19	-0.04	0.21	**0.20**	0.11	0.02

* Statistically significant Point Biserial Correlation Coefficients or PBC ($p<0.05$) are marked in bold.

It should be noted that correlation does not imply causation and that those correlations are limited to exploring relationships between two variables. The relationships may be different when multiple variables are considered simultaneously when, for example, using regression models.

While this type of analysis goes beyond the scope of this report, preliminary results from logistic regression models, for all 11 dioceses altogether, indicate that parish closures/absorptions (as opposed to openings/expansions) were more likely in later decades, in neighborhoods with higher poverty rates, with higher proportion of Black/African Americans, with lower proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians, and with larger populations. Notably, it appears that poverty rate is a substantially bigger predictor of parish closings than racial composition.

This concludes the comparative summary of the main findings organized by research question. The description below provides a summary of the main findings for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Archdiocese of Chicago

The diocesan - level analysis of ecclesial data found that in the Archdiocese of Chicago:
- The number of faithful received into full communions decreased by 94% between 1970 and 2020.
- The number of First Communions decreased by 86% between 1990 and 2020.
- The number of Catholic Marriages decreased by 84% between 1970 and 2020.
- The number of Baptisms decreased by 70% between 1970 and 2020.
- The number of Confirmations decreased by 64% between 1990 and 2020.
- The number of Catholic deaths decreased by 57% between 1970 and 2020.
- The number of priests decreased by 49% between 1970 and 2020.
- The number of parishes decreased by 36% between 1970 and 2020.
- The number of Catholics per parish increased by 34% between 1970 and 2020.
- Catholic population decreased by 14% between 1970 and 2020.
- Total population decreased by less than 1% between 1970 and 2020.

The county - level analysis of socioeconomic decennial census data and ecclesial parish data found that between 1970 and 2020 in the Archdiocese of Chicago:
- The number of Hispanics/Latinos increased by 422% and shows strong negative correlation with changes in the number of identified parishes from decade to decade between 1970 and 2020 (PCC of -0.95).
- The proportion of Hispanics/Latinos increased by 411% and shows strong negative correlation with changes in the number of identified parishes from decade to decade between 1970 and 2020 (PCC of -0.95).
- The number of persons 16+ years old in the civilian labor force and unemployed increased by 137%.
- The proportion of persons 16+ years old in the civilian labor force and unemployed increased by 89%.
- The number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians decreased by 40% and shows strong positive correlation with changes in the number of identified parishes from decade to decade between 1970 and 2020 (PCC of 0.92).
- The proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians decreased by 34% and shows strong positive correlation with changes in the number of identified parishes from decade to decade between 1970 and 2020 (PCC of 0.92).
- Number of identified parishes decreased by 34%.
- The Catholic population size decreased by 31% and shows strong positive correlation with changes in the number of identified parishes from decade to decade between 1970 and 2020 (PCC of 0.95).
- The average household income in 2020 dollars increased by 31% and shows strong negative correlation with changes in the number of identified parishes from decade to decade between 1970 and 2020 (PCC of -0.86).
- The proportion of people below poverty line increased by 29%.
- The number of people below poverty line increased by 27%.
- The proportion of Blacks/African Americans increased by 14%.

- The number of Blacks/African Americans increased by 5%.
- The general population size increased by 2%.

The census tract - level analysis of demographic decennial census data and ecclesial parish data found that between 1970 and 2020 in the Archdiocese of Chicago:
- There were 40 identified parishes that (re)opened/expanded, 244 that remained opened, and 187 that were closed/absorbed.
- The average proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in neighborhoods where parishes were (re)opened/expanded is higher by 31pp than in neighborhoods where parishes were closed/absorbed.
- The average proportion of Blacks/African Americans in neighborhoods where parishes were (re)opened/expanded is lower by 24pp than in neighborhoods where parishes were closed/absorbed.
- The average proportion of Hispanics/Latinos in neighborhoods where parishes were (re)opened/expanded is lower by 10pp than in neighborhoods where parishes were closed/absorbed.
- The average proportion of people below poverty line in neighborhoods where parishes were (re)opened/expanded is lower by 10pp than in neighborhoods where parishes were closed/absorbed.
- The average proportion of unemployed in neighborhoods where parishes were (re)opened/expanded is lower by 5pp than in neighborhoods where parishes were closed/absorbed.

Introduction

Across the country there is heightened awareness of historic and systemic racism within civil and religious organizations and structures in recent years. Within the Catholic community, national attention has focused on the extent to which Church entities were actively engaged and directly benefited from the enslavement of Africans (i.e., the Jesuits at Georgetown University selling over 200 enslaved persons to cover University debts). At the same time there were efforts to evangelize and educate African-Americans particularly among Catholics in southern Maryland and along the Gulf Coast that helped create an African-American Catholic community. By and large this small African-American Catholic community developed within the structures of segregation and Jim Crow laws. With the Great Migration in the early 1900s the African-American Catholic community became more geographically diverse and grew in number in major urban areas especially through Catholic schools in those areas. At the same time there was a "White flight" out of the urban neighborhoods where African-Americans were now residing. Catholic parishes and schools that had developed serving ethnic Irish, Polish and Italian immigrant Catholics now had parish neighborhoods that were African-American. The population of Catholic parishes (that are geographically defined) had rapidly changed. Beginning in the 1970s Catholic dioceses, especially in the Northeast and Midwest, began to re-align parishes because of changing populations, a decreasing number of available priests to serve as pastors, and a drop-off in parish engagement. This reconfiguration of parishes has continued to the present day.

In this context, FutureChurch (FC) commissioned Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) to conduct this study to explore parish, ecclesial, socioeconomic statistics for 11 dioceses between 1970 and 2020: Archdiocese of Baltimore, Archdiocese of Chicago, Archdiocese of Detroit, Archdiocese of Miami, Archdiocese of New Orleans, Archdiocese of New York, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Archdiocese of St. Louis, Diocese of Bridgeport, Diocese of Cleveland, and Diocese of Memphis.

The study was prepared in the fall of 2022 and spring of 2023 using several secondary data sources, which include:
- Official Catholic Directory from 2021, 2016, 2011, 2006, 2001, 1996, 1991, 1986, 1981, 1976, and 1971.
- ASARB's U.S. Religious Census for 1971, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020.
- Neighborhood Change Database of normalized census tract data for 2010, 2000, 1990, 1980, and 1970.
- U.S. Census Bureau's data Decennial Census and American Community Survey for 2020.
- Census Bureau's GeoCoder database.
- MassTimes.org database of parish addresses.
- Other available sources which primarily included lists of closed parishes published on diocesan websites.

This report provides a description of the findings from the study for the Archdiocese of Chicago. For a succinct overview of the overall research project and summary of the main findings, proceed to the **Executive Summary**.

To examine more detailed analyses, including tables and/or charts with verbose interpretation of those results, proceed to the Findings for the Archdiocese of Chicago. This part of the report consists of three sections: diocesan-level overview (Section 1), county-level overview (Section 2), and census tract-level overview (Section 3).

The **diocesan-level overview** is based on the analysis of data from the Official Catholic Directory for years 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020. The variables explored in this overview include total population and Catholic population, as well as the number of Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, faithful received into full communion, Marriages, deaths, priests, parishes, and Catholics per parish. Diocesan values over time for each variable are compared to national average (in charts and tables) and to national total (in the text description).

The **county-level overview** is based on the analysis of data from several sources: the Official Catholic Directory for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020, ASARB's U.S. Religious Census for 1971, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020, Neighborhood Change Database for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010, Census Bureau's website data for 2020, and diocesan websites / documents.

- One variable was derived from the Official Catholic Directory- the number of identified parishes by county (as opposed to the actual number of parishes shown in diocesan-level overview in Section 1). In general, the number of identified parishes only includes parishes for which addresses could be identified (see Appendix I: Methodology for more information).

- One variable was derived from the ASARB's U.S. Religious Census- the Catholic population size by county.

- Overall, 12 variables were derived from the Neighborhood Change Database and Census Bureau's website: general population size, average household income (in 2020 dollars), poverty (as a number and proportion of people below poverty line), unemployment (as number and proportion of persons 16+ years old in the civilian labor force and unemployed), Whites/Anglos/Caucasians (as a number and proportion), Blacks/African Americans (as a number and proportion), and Hispanics/Latinos (as a number and proportion).

County-level overview includes a chart(s), a map, a table, and text description for each variable to describe how values have changed over time for each county and for the entire diocese (both as a change in number and as percentage change).

The overview concludes with analysis exploring correlations between the number of identified parishes and 13 socioeconomic variables. The description includes minimum, average and maximum Pearson's Correlation Coefficients for all counties in the diocese for which data was available for the entire studied period (1970-2020). Pearson's Correlation Coefficients are also calculated for the diocese as a whole.

The **census tract-level overview** is based on the analysis of data from several sources: the Official Catholic Directory for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020, Neighborhood Change Database for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010, and diocesan websites / documents.

- The variables from the Official Catholic Directory are based on the identified parishes (as opposed to the actual number of parishes shown in diocesan-level overview in Section 1). In general, the number of identified parishes only includes parishes for which addresses could be identified (see Appendix I: Methodology for more information). The specific variables include: the number of parishes that (re)opened/expanded (i.e., merged to include another parish) during each decade, the number of parishes that remained opened over the course of each decade, and the number of parishes closed/absorbed (i.e., merged into another parish) during each decade.

- The variables from the Neighborhood Change Database include general population size, average household income (in 2020 dollars), poverty (as a number and proportion of people below poverty line), unemployment (as number and proportion of persons 16+ years old in the civilian labor force and unemployed), Whites/Anglos/Caucasians (as a number and proportion), Blacks/African Americans (as a number and proportion), and Hispanics/Latinos (as a number and proportion). Those variables are calculated for census tracts where parishes (re)opened/expanded, remained opened, and closed/were absorbed each decade.

Census tract-level overview includes a chart, a table, and text description for each variable explaining how values differ between census tracts where parishes (re)opened/expanded, remained opened, and closed/were absorbed. Additionally, two maps are included to show identified parishes in the diocese (one showing the entire diocese and the other showing a close up of the main metropolitan area).

The overview concludes with analysis exploring correlations between parishes' status (opened or closed) and each of the 12 socioeconomic variables. The description is based on Point Biserial Correlation Coefficients for all parishes / census tracts in each diocese for which data was available.

The report also includes two appendices:
- **Appendix I** describes study's methodology.
- **Appendix II** includes a brief description of CARA and its services.

Findings for the Archdiocese of Chicago

This part of the report describes findings for the Archdiocese of Chicago. This includes the diocesan-level overview (in Section 1 below), county-level overview (in Section 2), and census tract-level overview (in Section 3).

For the summary of the main findings from this analysis, see the Executive Summary at the beginning of this report.

For the description of how the analysis was prepared, see Appendix I: Methodology at the end of this report.

1. Diocesan - Level Description

The diocesan-level overview is based on the analysis of data from the Official Catholic Directory for years 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020. The variables explored in this overview include total population and Catholic population, as well as the number of Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, faithful received into full communion, Marriages, deaths, priests, parishes, and Catholics per parish. Diocesan values over time for each variable are compared to national average (in charts and tables) and to national total (in the text description).

1. Total and Catholic Population

Total and Catholic Population in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020
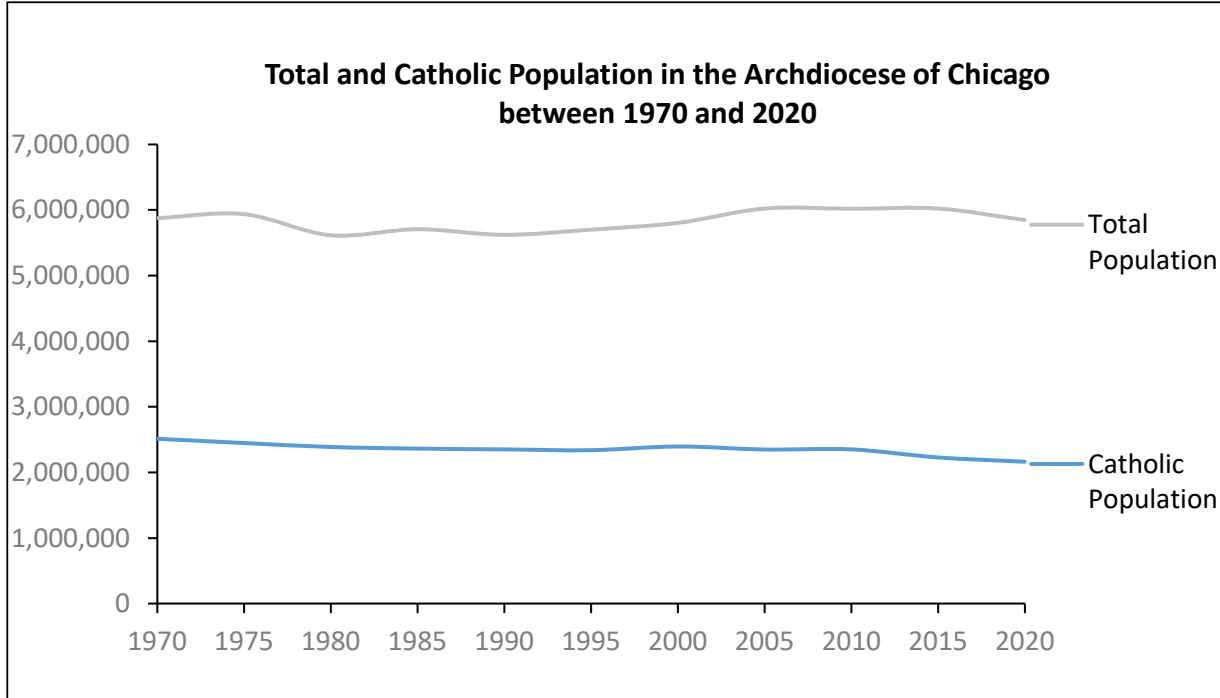
The number of Catholics in the Archdiocese of Chicago decreased from 2,510,851 in 1970 to 2,163,000 in 2020. This means that the number of Catholics in the archdiocese declined by 14% over those 50 years.

By comparison, the total population of the Archdiocese of Chicago decreased from 5,875,007 in 1970 to 5,846,758 in 2020. So, the overall population declined by less than 1% in the same period.

Total and Catholic Population in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

	1970 [#]	1980 [#]	1990 [#]	2000 [#]	2010 [#]	2020 [#]
Total Population	5,875,007	5,615,011	5,621,485	5,803,000	6,018,115	5,846,758
Catholic Population	2,510,851	2,386,322	2,350,000	2,394,000	2,350,000	2,163,000

2. Number of Baptisms

Number of Baptisms in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020
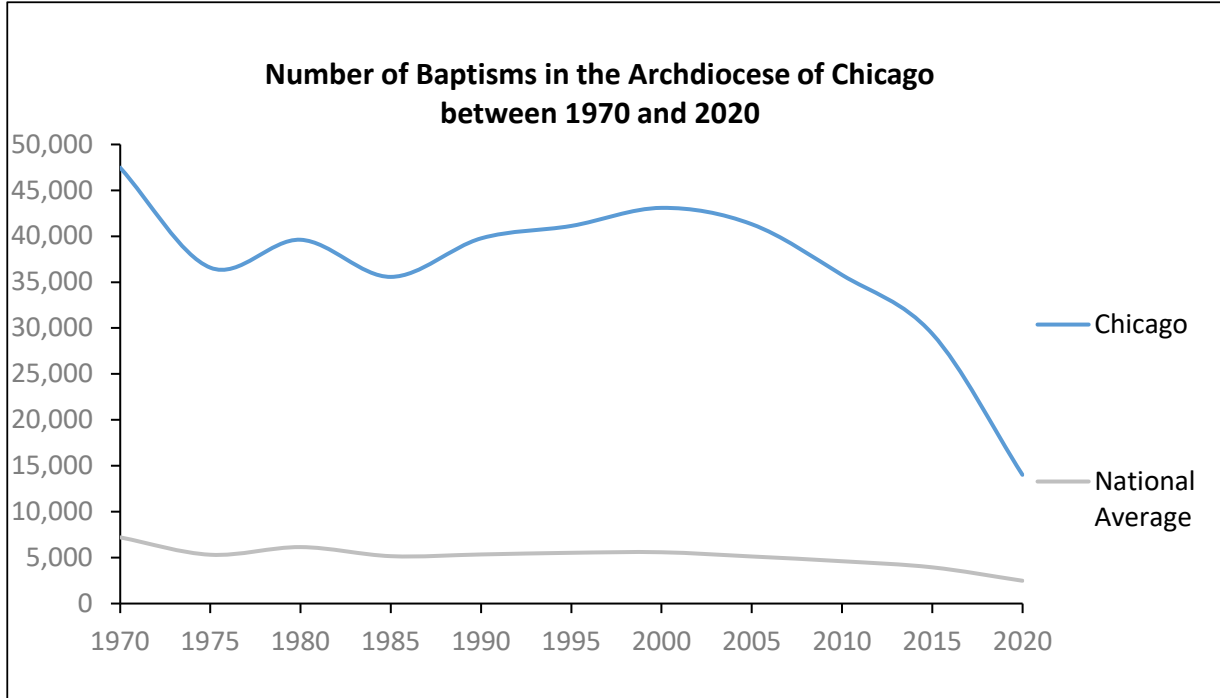
The number of Baptisms in the Archdiocese of Chicago decreased from 47,479 in 1970 to 14,010 in 2020. This means that, on average, there were 669 fewer Baptisms each year over those 50 years. It also means that the annual number of Baptisms in the archdiocese declined by 70% over the entire 50-year period. By comparison, the total annual number of Baptisms in the United States declined by 57% in the same period.

	1970 [#]	1980 [#]	1990 [#]	2000 [#]	2010 [#]	2020 [#]
National Average	7,226	6,164	5,362	5,602	4,623	2,495
Chicago	47,479	39,618	39,769	43,091	35,788	14,010

Number of Baptisms in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

3. Number of First Communions

Number of First Communions in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1990 and 2020
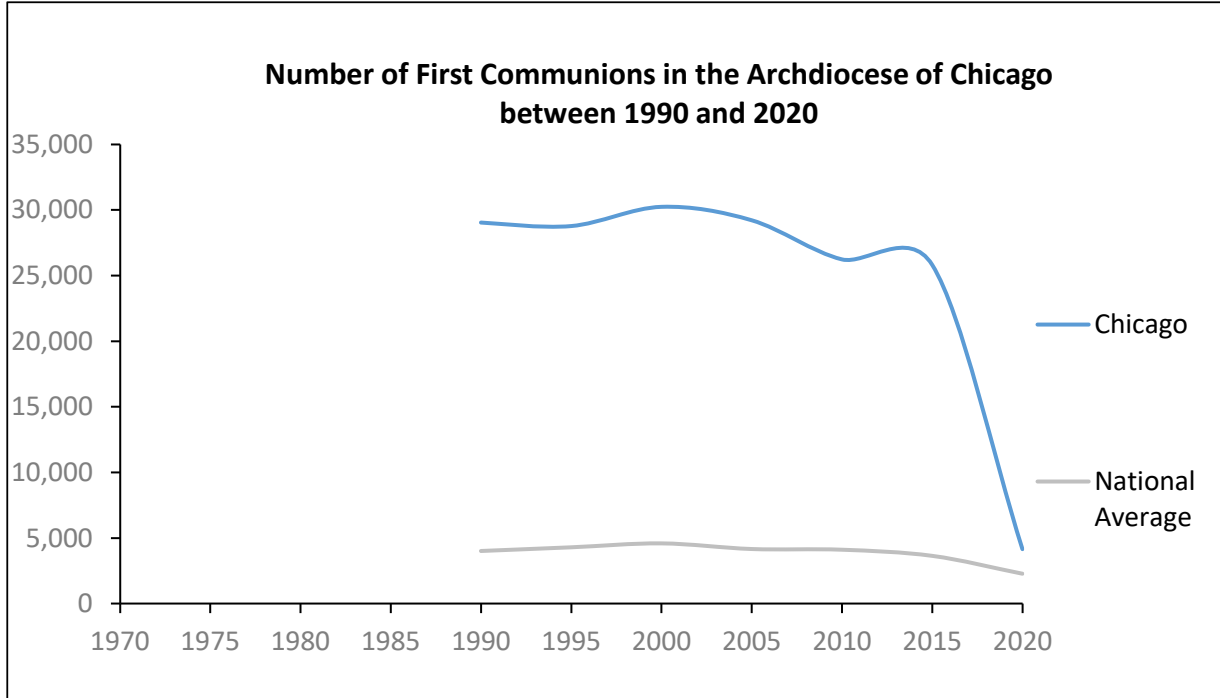
* The available data on First Communions starts in 1990.

The number of First Communions in the Archdiocese of Chicago decreased from 29,040 in 1990 to 4,150 in 2020. This means that, on average, there were 830 fewer First Communions each year over those 30 years. It also means that the annual number of First Communions in the archdiocese declined by 86% over the entire 30-year period. By comparison, the total annual number of First Communions in the United States declined by 39% in the same period.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="7">Number of First Communions in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1990 and 2020</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>1970
[#]</td><td>1980
[#]</td><td>1990
[#]</td><td>2000
[#]</td><td>2010
[#]</td><td>2020
[#]</td></tr>
<tr><td>National Average</td><td>.</td><td>.</td><td>4,020</td><td>4,602</td><td>4,117</td><td>2,279</td></tr>
<tr><td>Chicago</td><td>.</td><td>.</td><td>29,040</td><td>30,237</td><td>26,231</td><td>4,150</td></tr>
</table>

4. Number of Confirmations

Number of Confirmations in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1990 and 2020

* The available data on Confirmations starts in 1990.
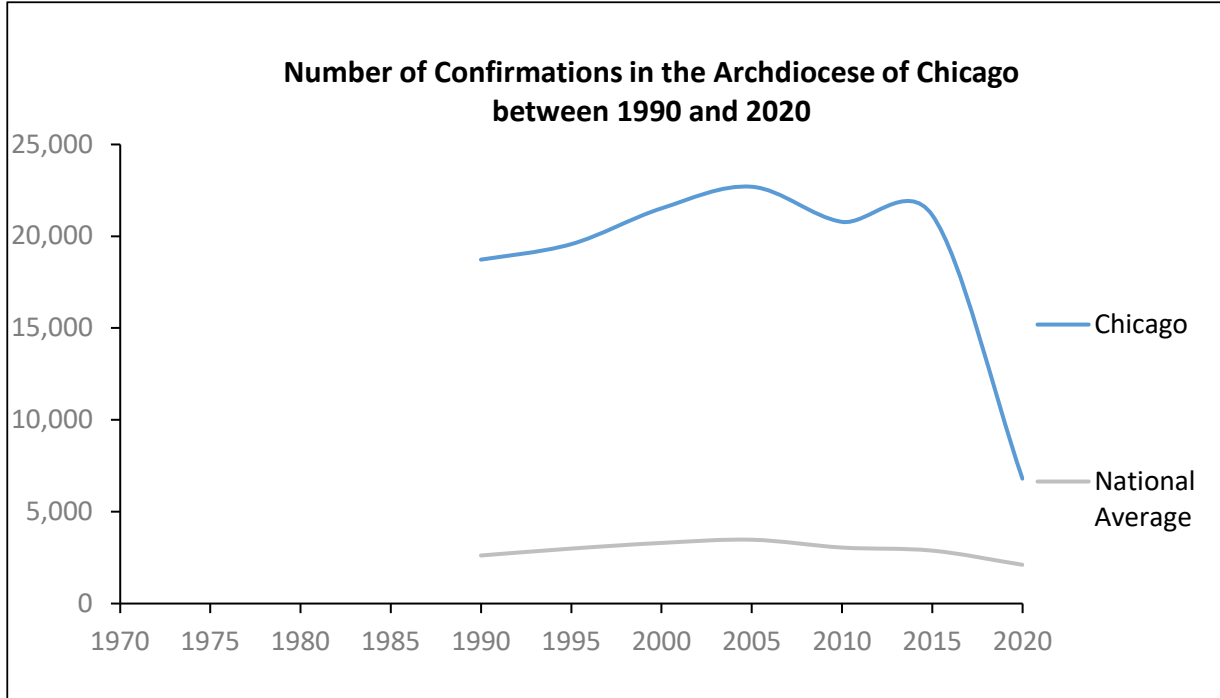
The number of Confirmations in the Archdiocese of Chicago decreased from 18,725 in 1990 to 6,800 in 2020. This means that, on average, there were 398 fewer Confirmations each year over those 30 years. It also means that the annual number of Confirmations in the archdiocese declined by 64% over the entire 30-year period. By comparison, the total annual number of Confirmations in the United States declined by 13% in the same period.

Number of Confirmations in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1990 and 2020

	1970 [#]	1980 [#]	1990 [#]	2000 [#]	2010 [#]	2020 [#]
National Average	.	.	2,631	3,315	3,063	2,125
Chicago	.	.	18,725	21,516	20,780	6,800

5. Number of Faithful Received into Full Communion
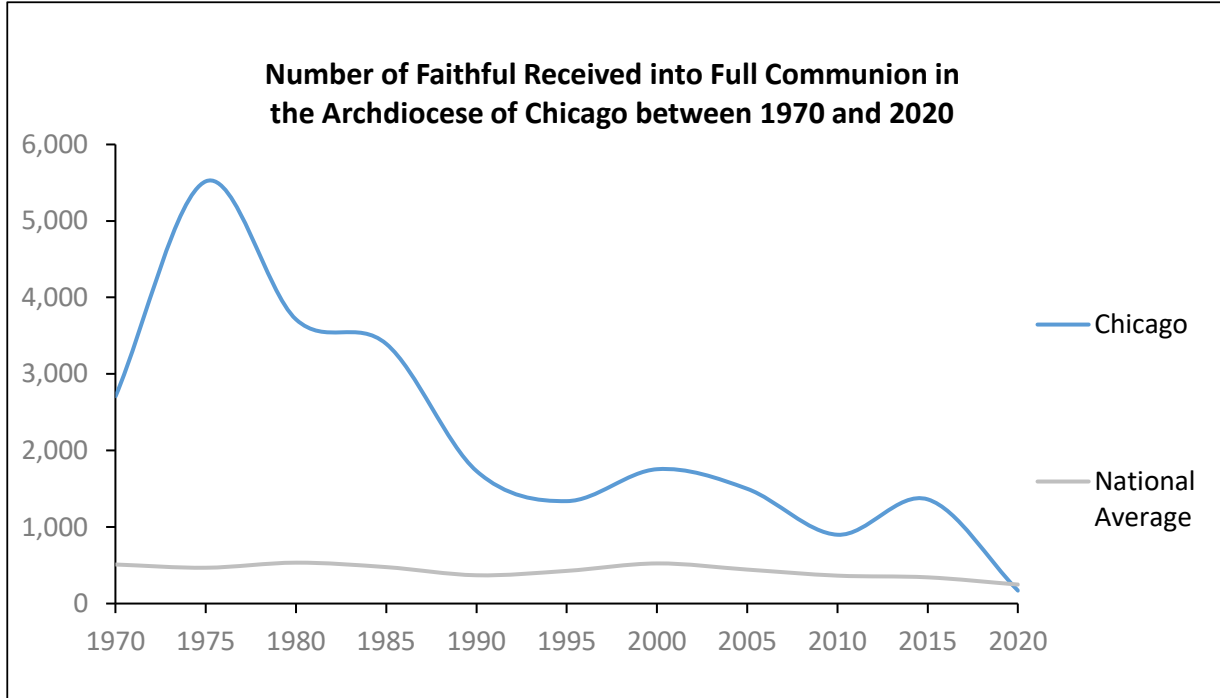
Number of Faithful Received into Full Communion in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

The number of faithful received into full communion in the Archdiocese of Chicago decreased from 2,709 in 1970 to 170 in 2020. This means that, on average, there were 51 fewer of those faithful each year over those 50 years. It also means that the annual number of faithful received into full communion in the archdiocese declined by 94% over the entire 50-year period. By comparison, the total annual number of faithful received into full communion in the United States declined by 41% in the same period.

Number of Faithful Received into Full Communion in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

	1970 [#]	1980 [#]	1990 [#]	2000 [#]	2010 [#]	2020 [#]
National Average	511	535	371	525	366	250
Chicago	2,709	3,712	1,732	1,756	900	170

6. Number of Recorded Catholic Marriages

Number of Recorded Catholic Marriages in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020
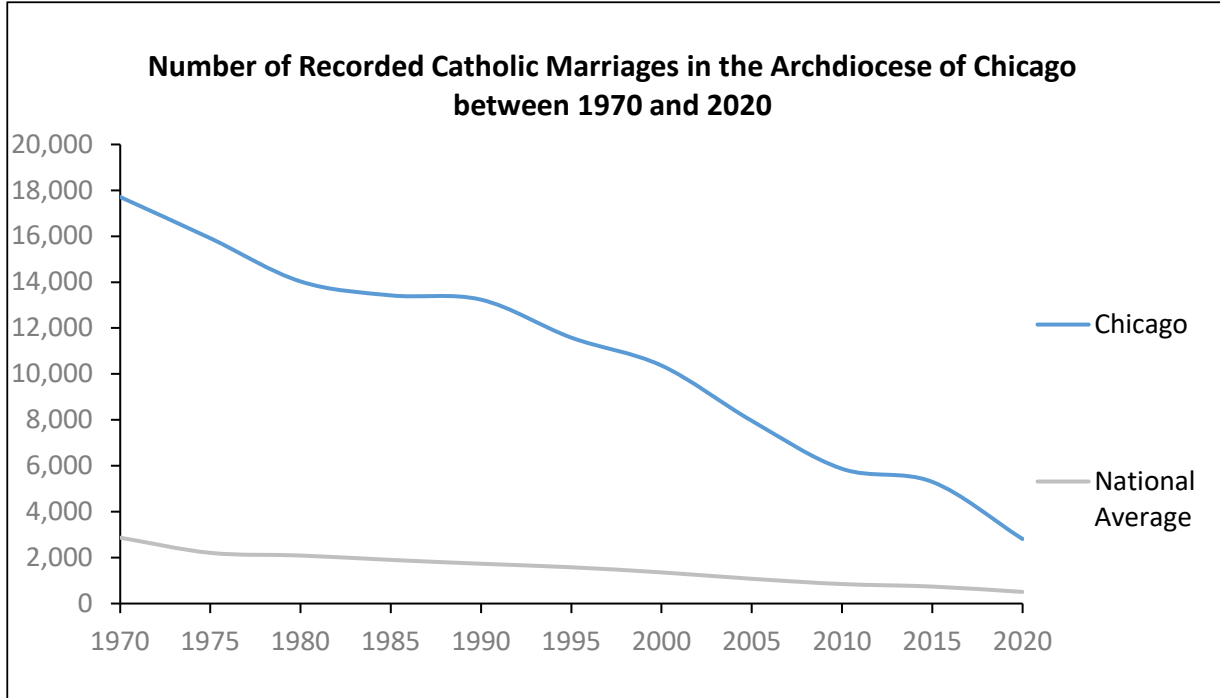
The number of Marriages in the Archdiocese of Chicago decreased from 17,704 in 1970 to 2,820 in 2020. This means that, on average, there were 298 fewer Marriages each year over those 50 years. It also means that the annual number of Marriages in the archdiocese declined by 84% over the entire 50-year period. By comparison, the total annual number of Catholic Marriages in the United States declined by 78% in the same period.

Number of Recorded Catholic Marriages in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

	1970 [#]	1980 [#]	1990 [#]	2000 [#]	2010 [#]	2020 [#]
National Average	2,873	2,096	1,737	1,361	853	511
Chicago	17,704	14,026	13,234	10,367	5,874	2,820

7. Number of Recorded Catholic Deaths

Number of Recorded Catholic Deaths in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020
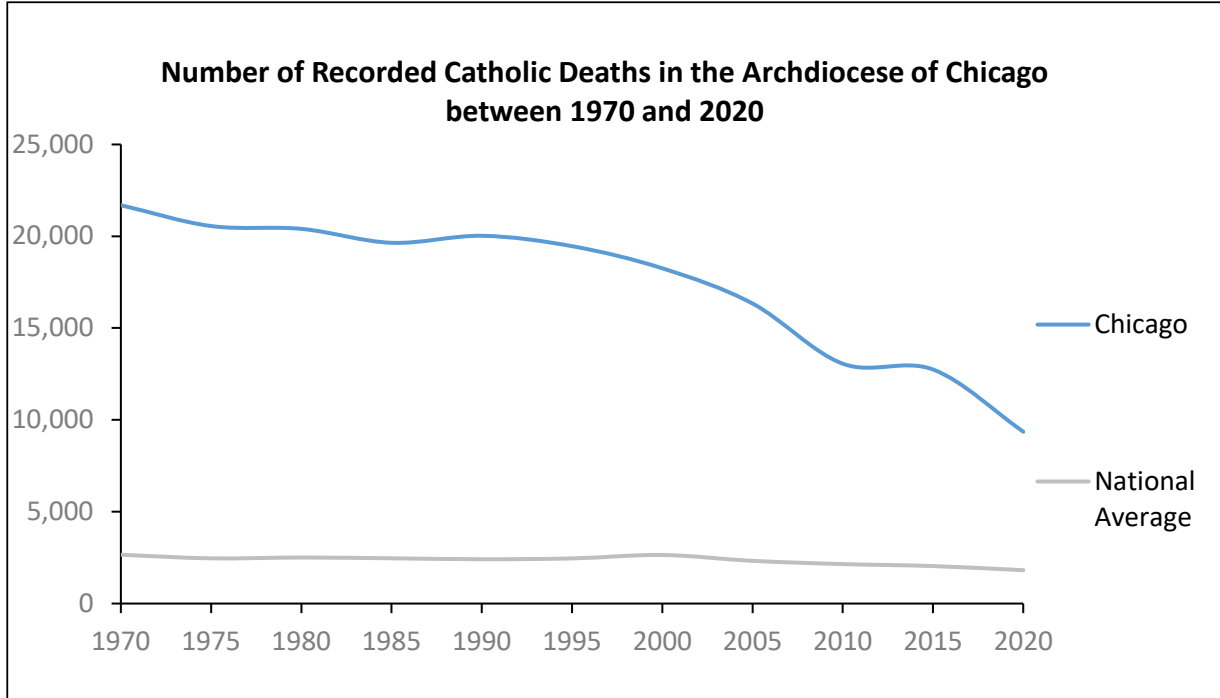
* The Archdiocese of Military Services is excluded from the national average.

The number of deaths (i.e., Catholic funerals) recorded in the Archdiocese of Chicago decreased from 21,691 in 1970 to 9,350 in 2020. This means that, on average, there were 247 fewer recorded deaths each year over those 50 years. It also means that the annual number of recorded deaths in the archdiocese declined by 57% over the entire 50-year period. By comparison, the total annual number of recorded Catholic deaths in the United States declined by 14% in the same period.

Number of Recorded Catholic Deaths in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020						
	1970 [#]	**1980** [#]	**1990** [#]	**2000** [#]	**2010** [#]	**2020** [#]
National Average	2,662	2,514	2,422	2,651	2,158	1,827
Chicago	21,691	20,403	20,026	18,252	13,054	9,350

8. Number of Priests

Number of Priests in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020
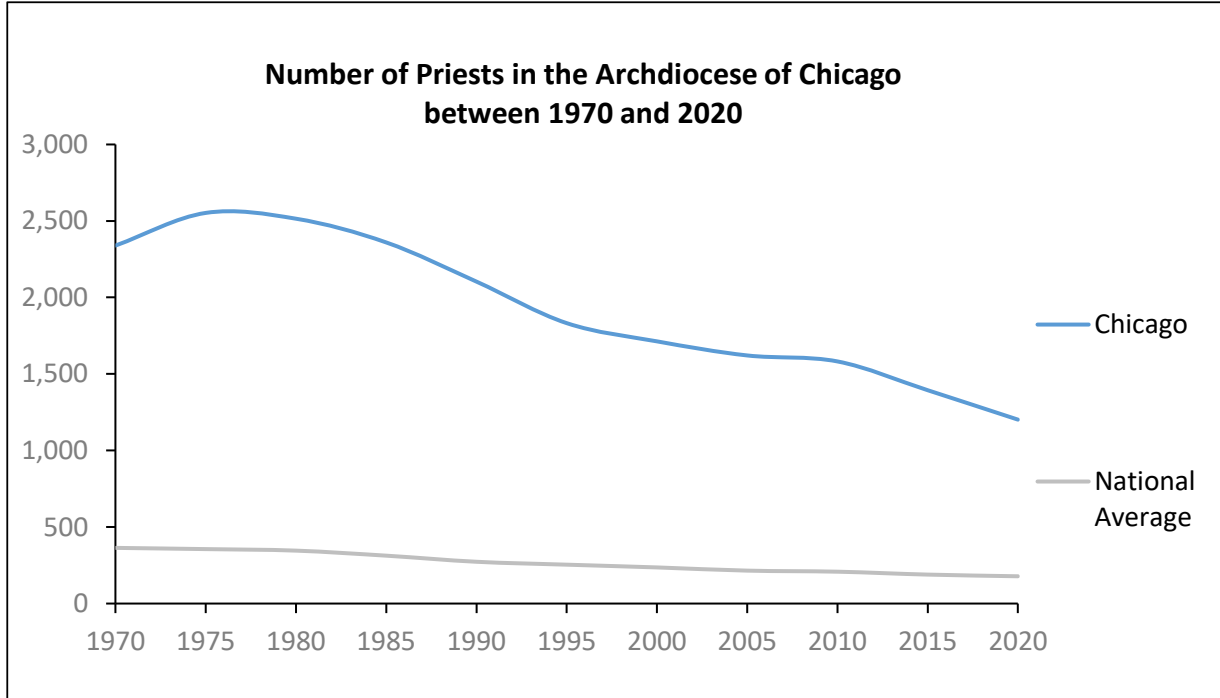
The number of priests in the Archdiocese of Chicago decreased from 2340 in 1970 to 1203 in 2020. This means that, on average, there were 22.7 fewer priests each year over those 50 years. This also means that the number of priests in the archdiocese declined by 49% over the entire 50-year period. By comparison, the total number of priests in the United States declined by 40% in the same period.

Number of Priests in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

	1970 [#]	1980 [#]	1990 [#]	2000 [#]	2010 [#]	2020 [#]
National Average	365	347	274	237	209	179
Chicago	2,340	2,515	2,104	1,714	1,583	1,203

9. Number of Parishes

Number of Parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020
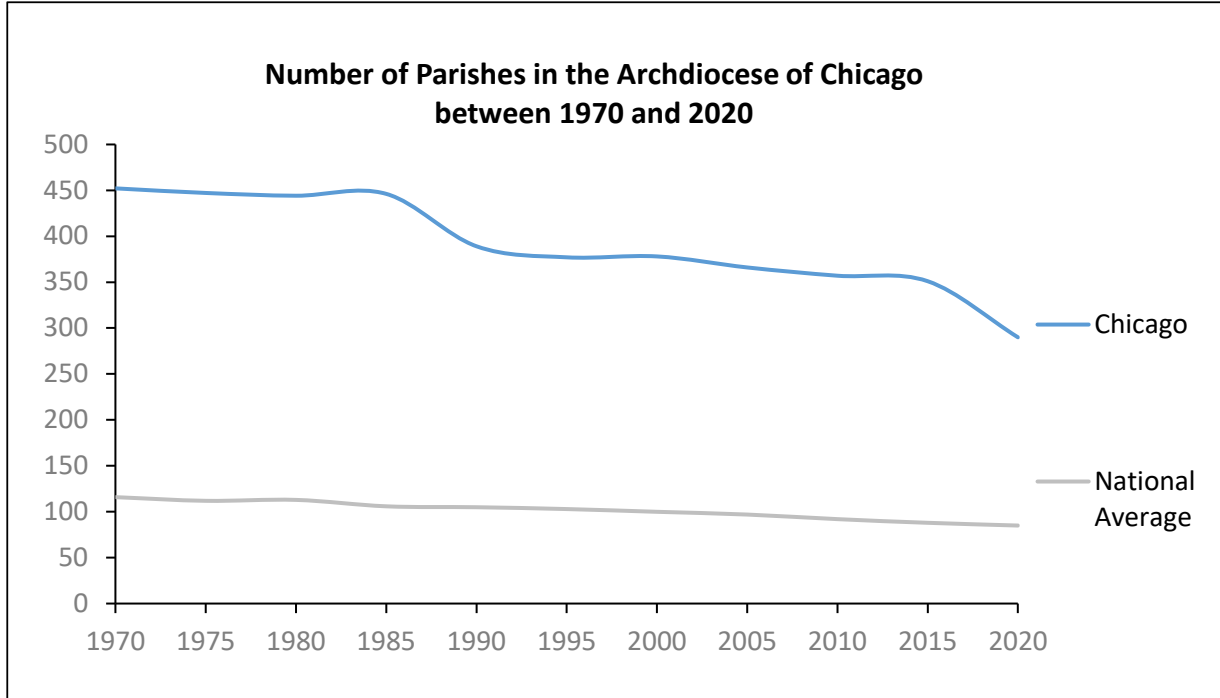
The number of parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago decreased from 452 in 1970 to 290 in 2020. This means that, on average, net 32.4 parishes were closed each decade over those 50 years. This also means that the number of parishes in the archdiocese declined by 36% over the entire 50-year period. By comparison, the total number of Catholic parishes in the United States declined by 9% in the same period.

Number of Parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

	1970 [#]	1980 [#]	1990 [#]	2000 [#]	2010 [#]	2020 [#]
National Average	116	113	105	100	92	85
Chicago	452	444	389	378	357	290

10. Number of Catholics per Parish

Number of Catholics per Parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

[Chart showing the number of Catholics per parish from 1970 to 2020. The Chicago line (blue) starts at about 5,555 in 1970, dips to about 5,250 around 1985, then rises to about 7,459 in 2020. The National Average line (gray) starts at about 2,516 in 1970 and rises steadily to about 4,012 in 2020. Y-axis ranges from 0 to 8,000. X-axis from 1970 to 2020.]
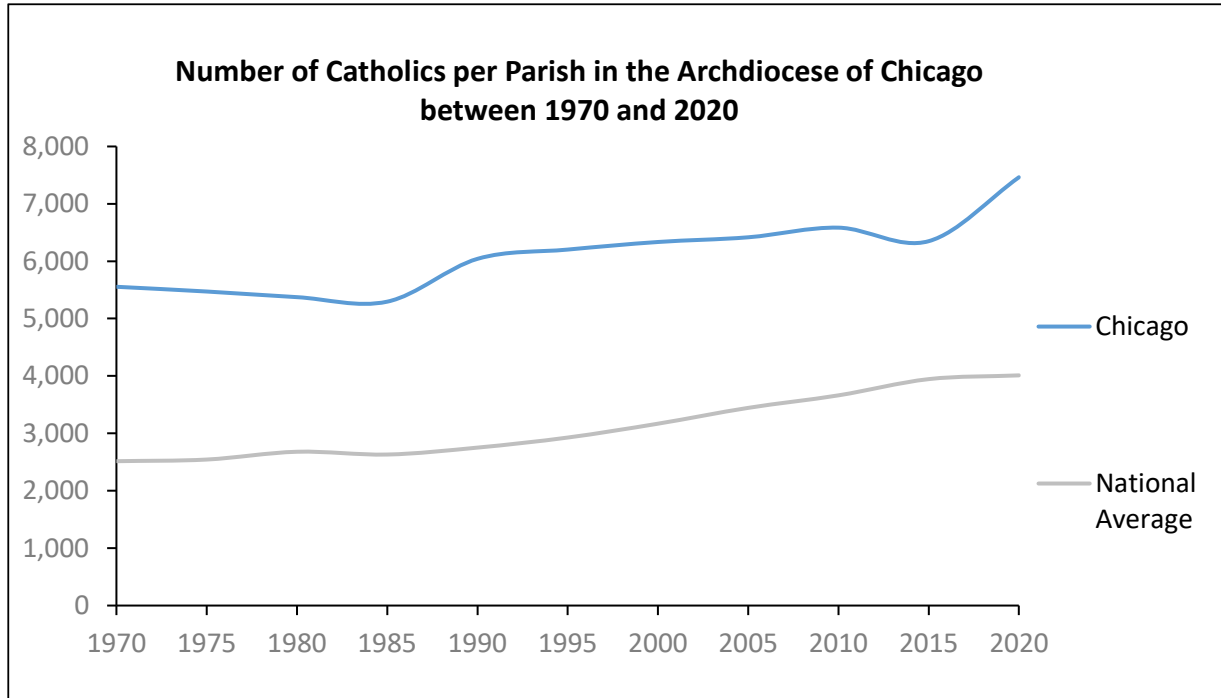
The number of Catholics per parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago increased from 5,555 in 1970 to 7,459 in 2020. This means that, on average, there were 38 more Catholics per parish each year over those 50 years. This also means that the number of Catholics per parish in the archdiocese increased by 34% over the entire 50-year period. By comparison, the total number of Catholics per parish in the United States increased by 60% in the same period.

Number of Catholics per Parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

	1970 [#]	1980 [#]	1990 [#]	2000 [#]	2010 [#]	2020 [#]
National Average	2,516	2,680	2,753	3,170	3,664	4,012
Chicago	5,555	5,375	6,041	6,333	6,583	7,459

2. County - Level Description

The county-level overview is based on the analysis of data from several sources: the Official Catholic Directory for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020, ASARB's U.S. Religious Census for 1971, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020, Neighborhood Change Database for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010, Census Bureau's website data for 2020, and diocesan websites / documents.
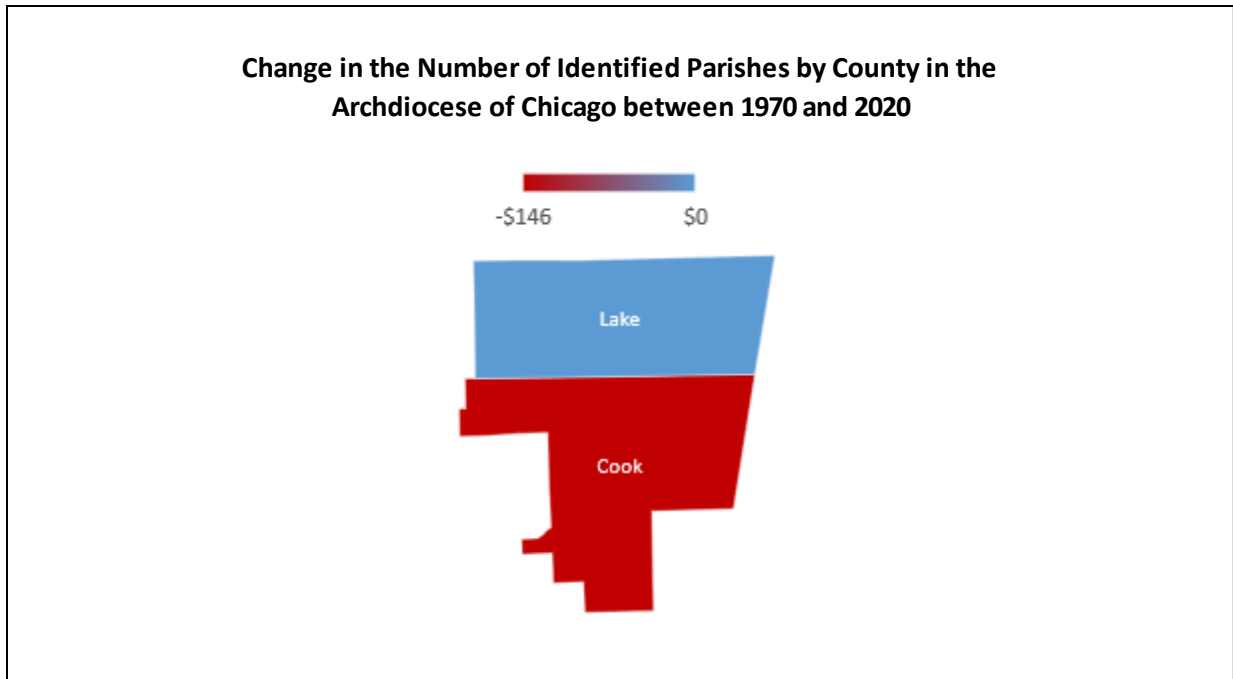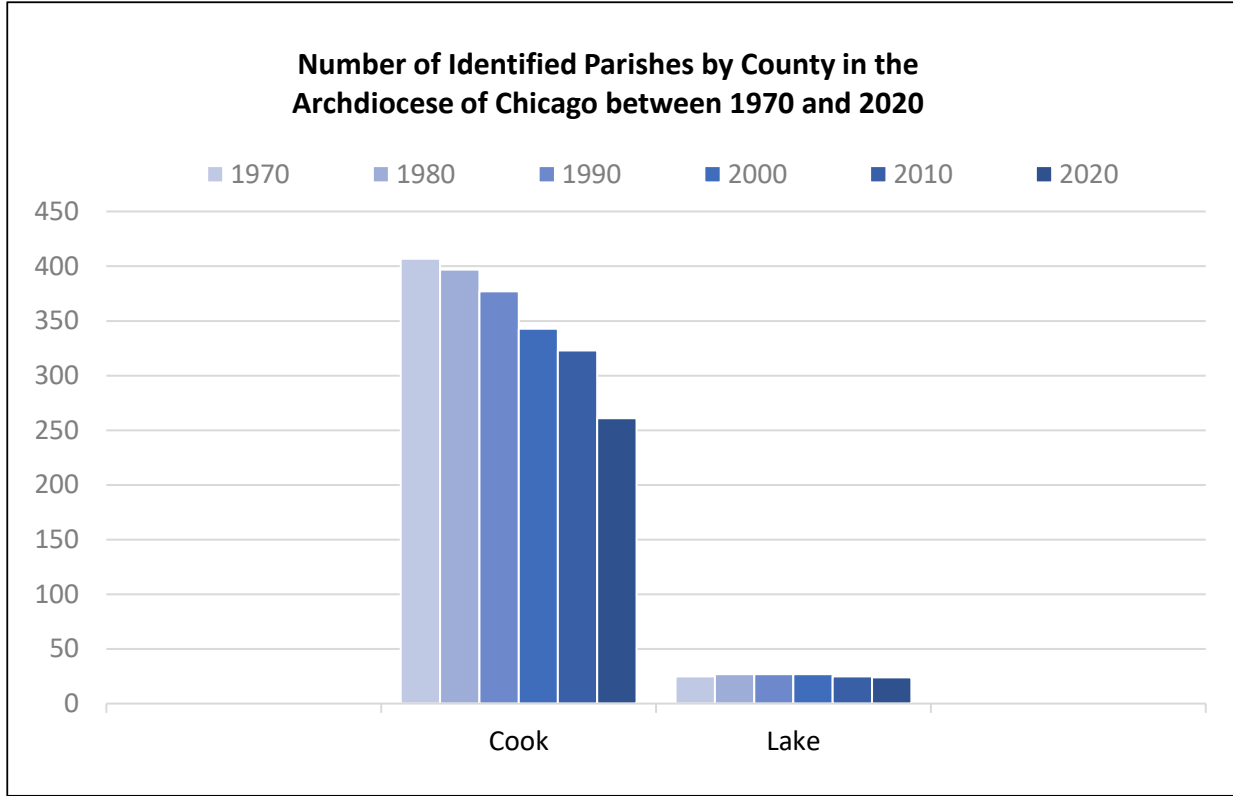
- One variable was derived from the Official Catholic Directory- the number of identified parishes by county (as opposed to the actual number of parishes shown in diocesan-level overview in Section 1). In general, the number of identified parishes only includes parishes for which addresses could be identified (see Appendix I: Methodology for more information).

- One variable was derived from the ASARB's U.S. Religious Census- the Catholic population size by county.

- Overall, 12 variables were derived from the Neighborhood Change Database and Census Bureau's website: general population size, average household income (in 2020 dollars), poverty (as a number and proportion of people below poverty line), unemployment (as number and proportion of persons 16+ years old in the civilian labor force and unemployed), Whites/Anglos/Caucasians (as a number and proportion), Blacks/African Americans (as a number and proportion), and Hispanics/Latinos (as a number and proportion).

County-level overview includes a chart(s), a map, a table, and text description for each variable to describe how values have changed over time for each county and for the entire diocese (both as a change in number and as percentage change).

The overview concludes with analysis exploring correlations between the number of identified parishes and 13 socioeconomic variables. The description includes minimum, average and maximum Pearson's Correlation Coefficients for all counties in the diocese for which data was available for the entire studied period (1970-2020). Pearson's Correlation Coefficients are also calculated for the diocese as a whole.

If instead of the detailed description, you would like to see the summary of the main findings from this analysis, please go to the Executive Summary at the beginning of this report. If you would like to better understand how the analysis was prepared, please go to Appendix I: Methodology at the end of this report.

1. Number of Identified Parishes

Number of Identified Parishes by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

Change in the Number of Identified Parishes by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

Between 1970 and 2020, the number of identified parishes (as opposed to the actual number of parishes- see Appendix I for more information) in:

- Cook County decreased by 146 parishes (by 36%).
- Lake County decreased by 1 parish (by 4%).

	1970 [#]	1980 [#]	1990 [#]	2000 [#]	2010 [#]	2020 [#]
Number of Identified Parishes by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020						
Cook	407	397	377	343	323	261
Lake	25	27	27	27	25	24
Altogether	**432**	**424**	**404**	**370**	**348**	**285**

2. Catholic Population Size

Catholic Population Size by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1971 and 2020

Change in the Catholic Population Size by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1971 and 2020
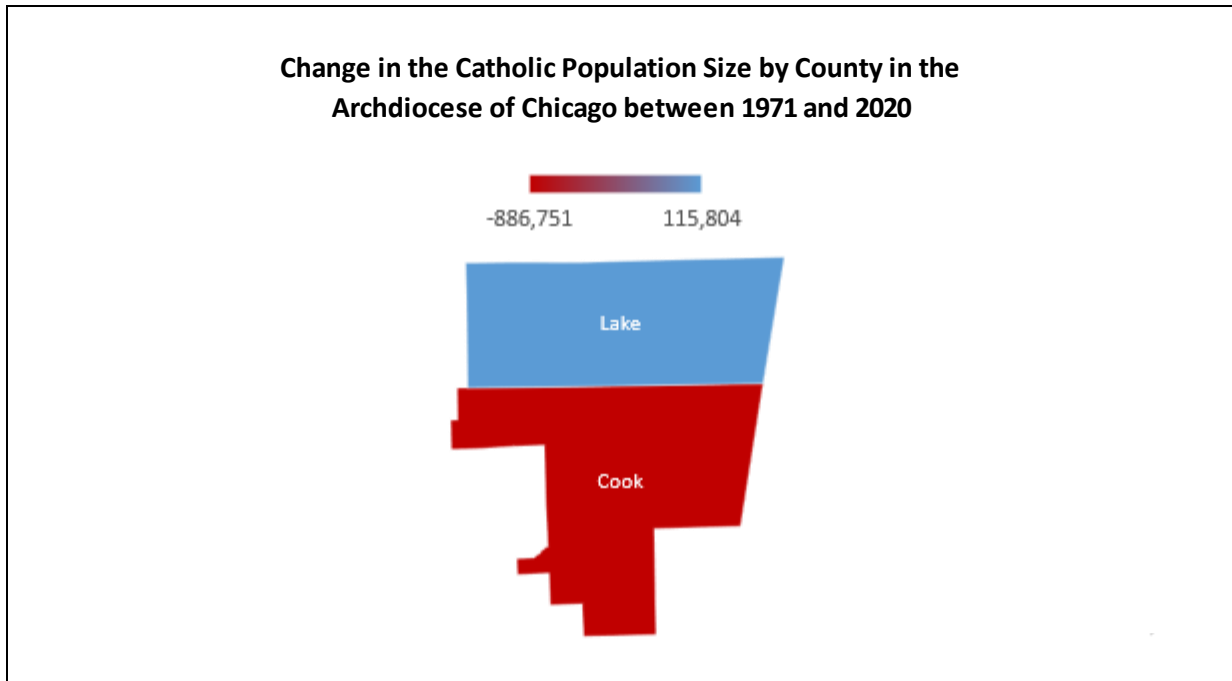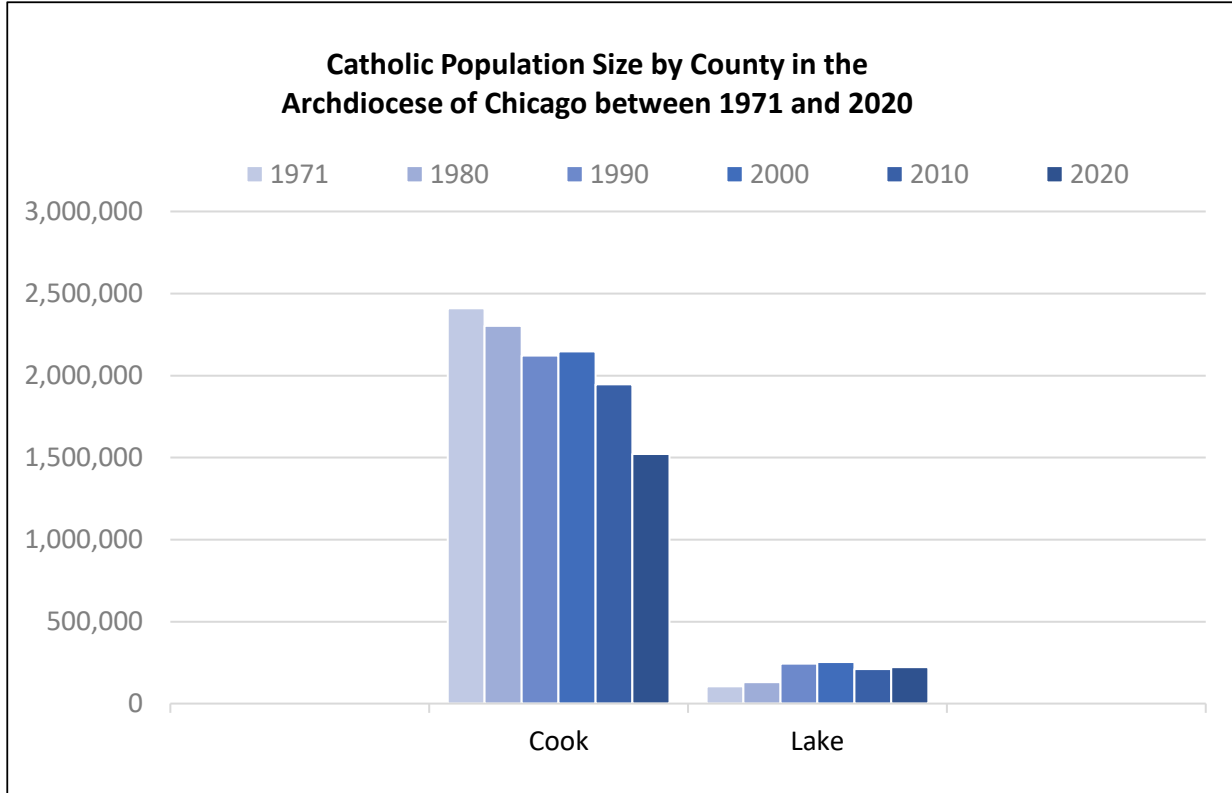
Between 1971 and 2020, the Catholic population size of:

- Lake County increased by 115,804 people (by 109%).
- Cook County decreased by 886,751 people (by 37%).

Catholic Population Size by County in the
Archdiocese of Chicago between 1971 and 2020

	1971 [#]	1980 [#]	1990 [#]	2000 [#]	2010 [#]	2020 [#]
Cook	2,409,465	2,303,743	2,121,152	2,146,961	1,947,223	1,522,714
Lake	106,154	131,478	243,350	253,000	211,380	221,958
Altogether	**2,515,619**	**2,435,221**	**2,364,502**	**2,399,961**	**2,158,603**	**1,744,672**

3. General Population Size

General Population Size by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

Change in the General Population Size by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020
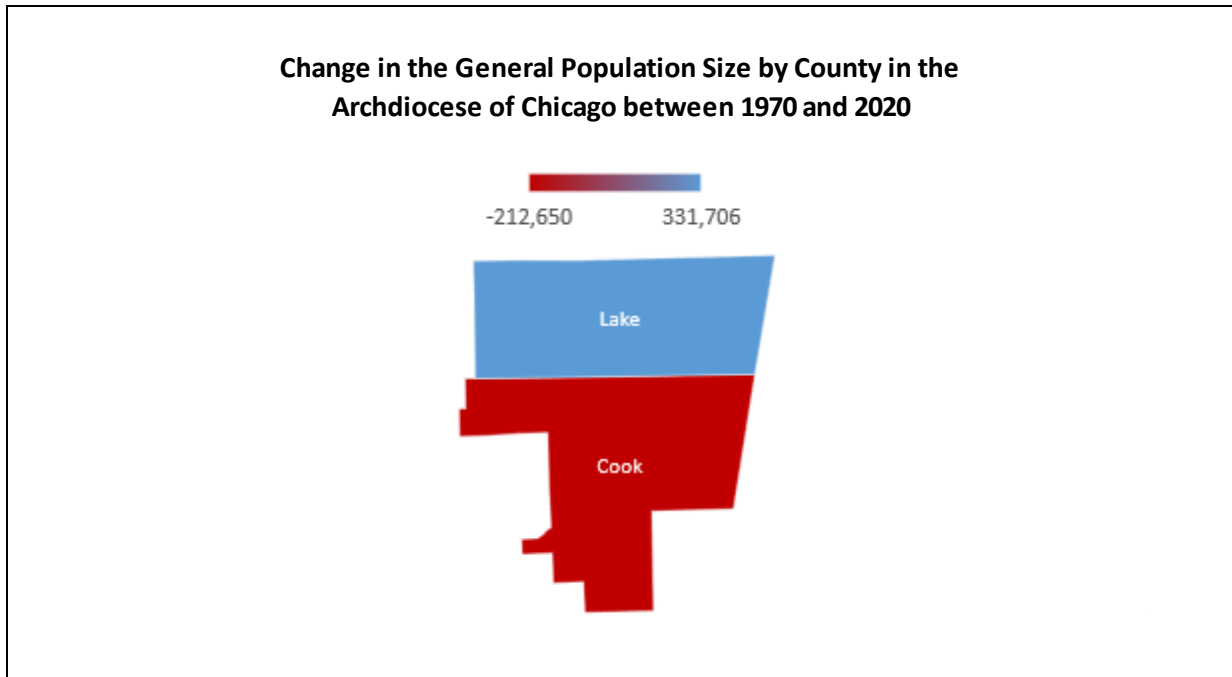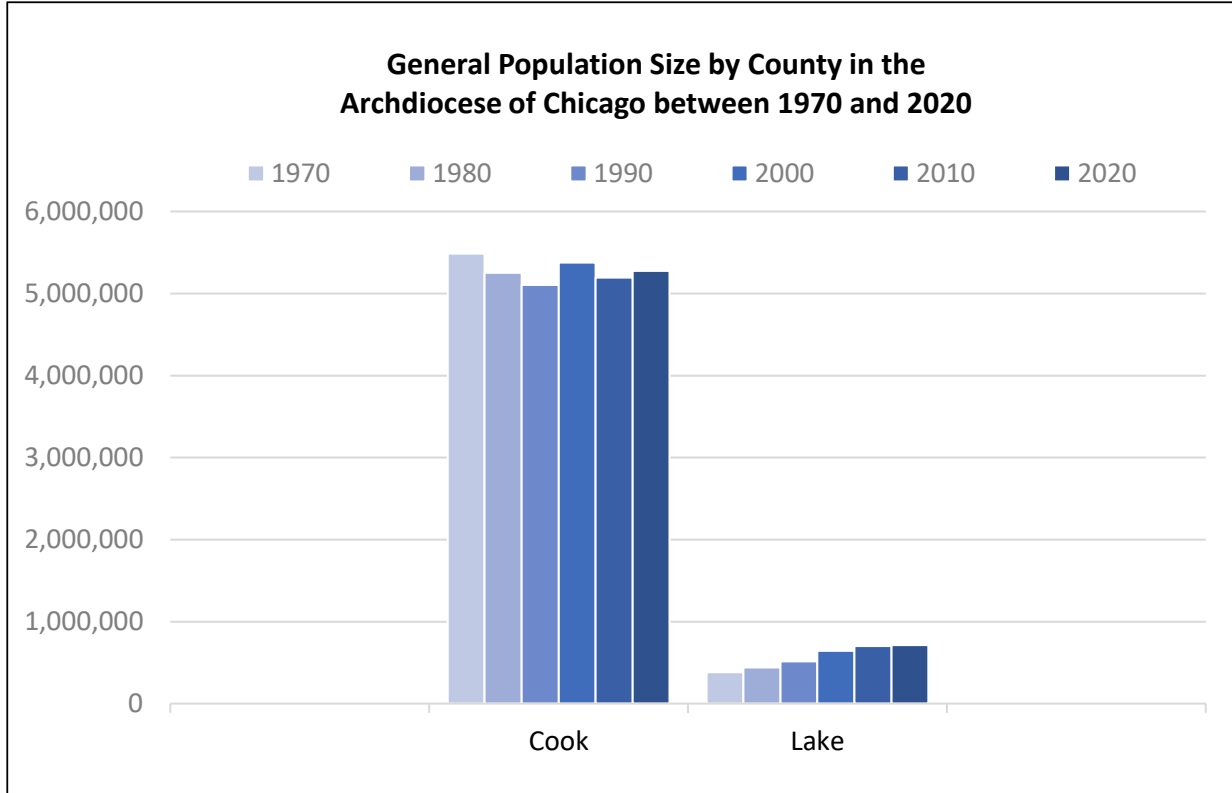
Between 1970 and 2020, the general population size of:

- Lake County increased by 331,706 people (by 87%).
- Cook County decreased by 212,650 people (by 4%).

General Population Size by County in the
Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

	1970 [#]	1980 [#]	1990 [#]	2000 [#]	2010 [#]	2020 [#]
Cook	5,488,191	5,253,146	5,105,067	5,376,741	5,194,675	5,275,541
Lake	382,636	440,229	516,418	644,356	703,462	714,342
Altogether	**5,870,827**	**5,693,375**	**5,621,485**	**6,021,097**	**5,898,137**	**5,989,883**

4. Average Household Income

Average Household Income in 2020 Dollars by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

Legend: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020

(Bar chart showing Average Household Income in 2020 Dollars by County, with categories Cook and Lake. Y-axis from $0 to $160,000.)

Change in the Average Household Income in 2020 Dollars by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

Scale: $0 to $26,538

(Map showing Lake and Cook counties.)

Between 1970 and 2020, the average household income in 2020 dollars in:

- Cook County increased by $22,323 (by 29%).
- Lake County increased by $26,538 (by 26%).

Average Household Income in 2020 Dollars by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

	1970 [$]	1980 [$]	1990 [$]	2000 [$]	2010 [$]	2020 [$]
Cook	76,932	66,914	82,297	93,543	90,427	99,255
Lake	103,816	80,838	123,703	140,552	129,517	130,354
Altogether	**78,684**	**67,991**	**86,101**	**98,574**	**95,089**	**102,964**

5. Number of People Below Poverty Line

Number of People Below Poverty Line by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

Legend: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020

(Bar chart showing Cook and Lake counties)

Change in the Number of People Below Poverty Line by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

Scale: 0 — 126,508
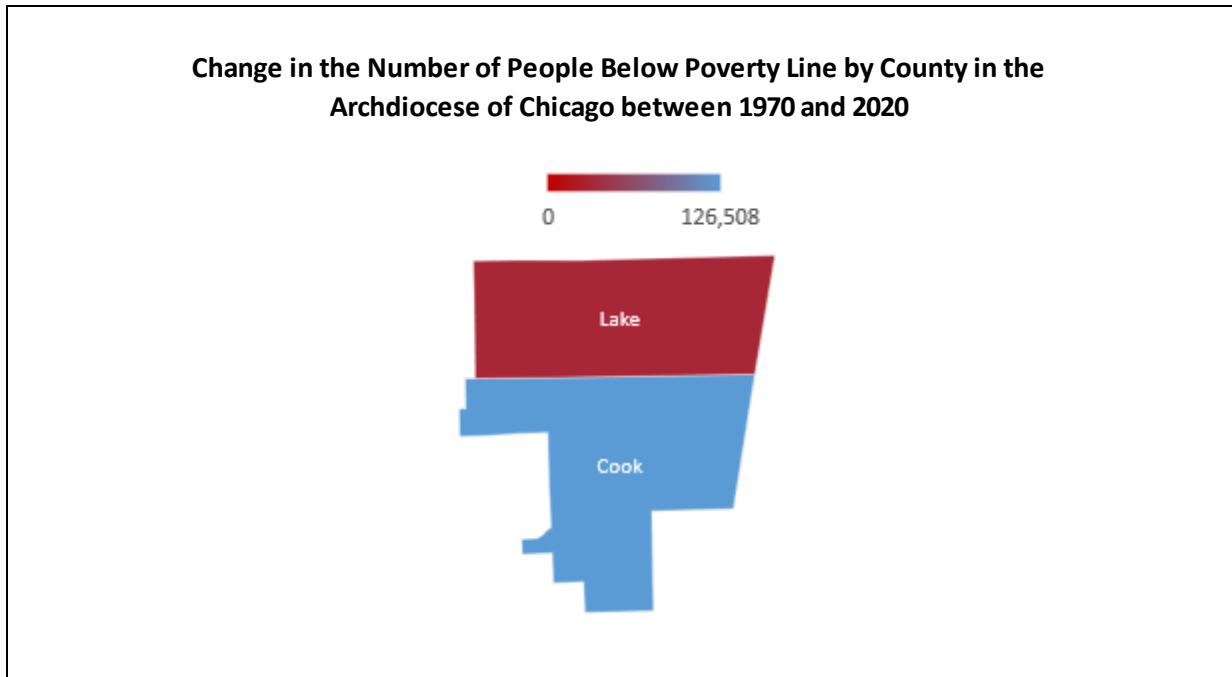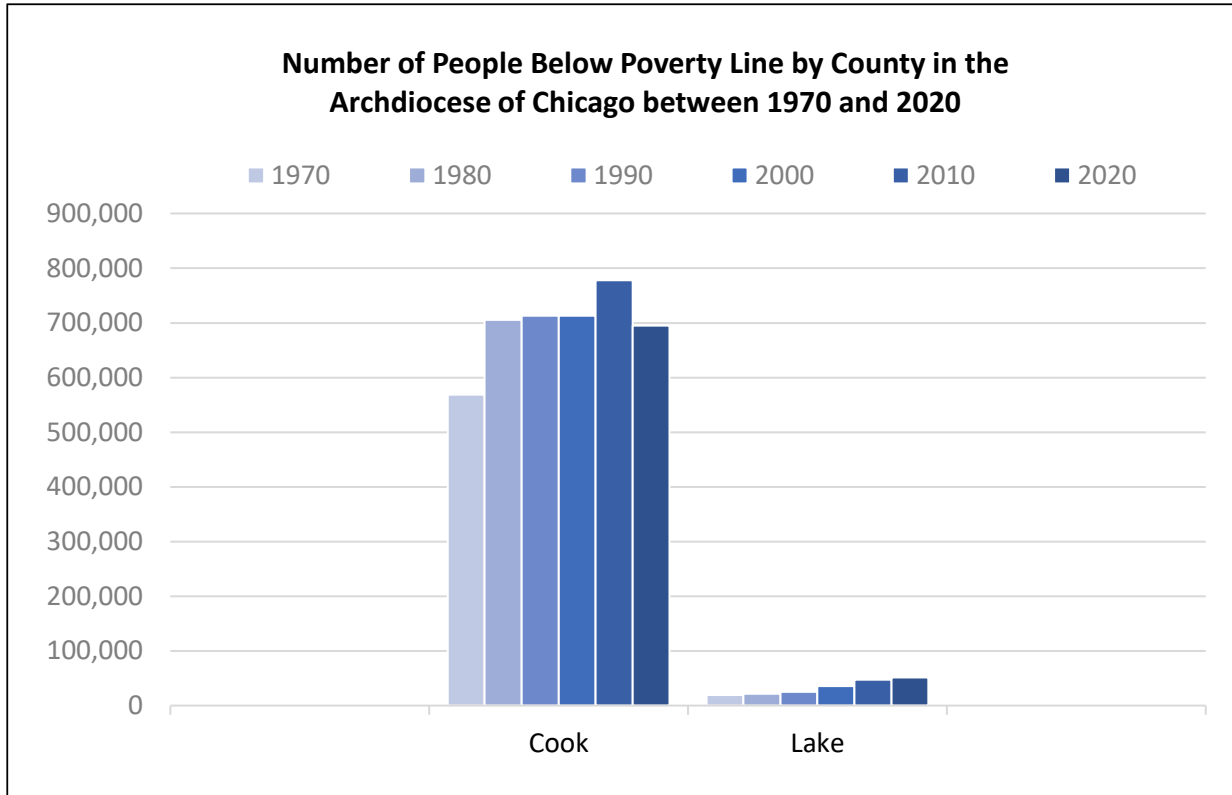
Lake

Cook

Between 1970 and 2020, the number of people below poverty line in:

- Lake County increased by 31,916 people (by 162%).
- Cook County increased by 126,508 people (by 22%).

	1970 [#]	**1980** [#]	**1990** [#]	**2000** [#]	**2010** [#]	**2020** [#]
Cook	568,568	705,593	713,255	713,040	778,340	695,076
Lake	19,704	21,883	25,557	35,714	47,543	51,620
Altogether	**588,272**	**727,476**	**738,812**	**748,754**	**825,883**	**746,696**

Number of People Below Poverty Line by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

6. Proportion of People Below Poverty Line

Proportion of People Below Poverty Line by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

Change in the Proportion of People Below Poverty Line by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020
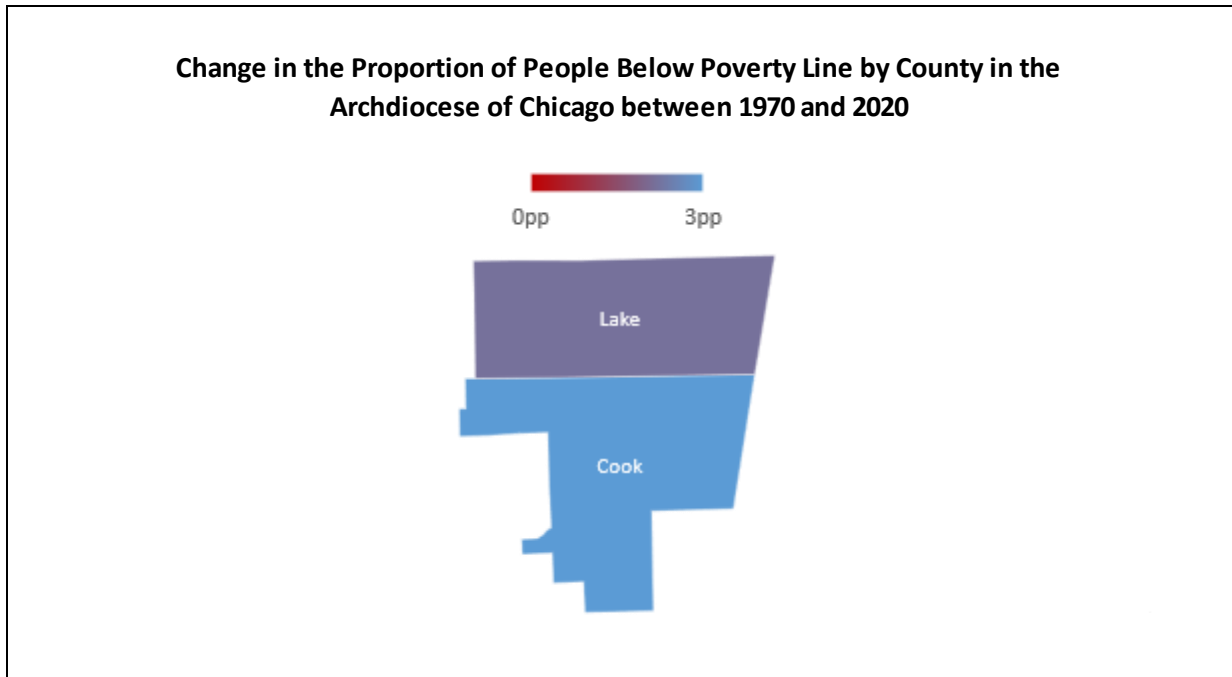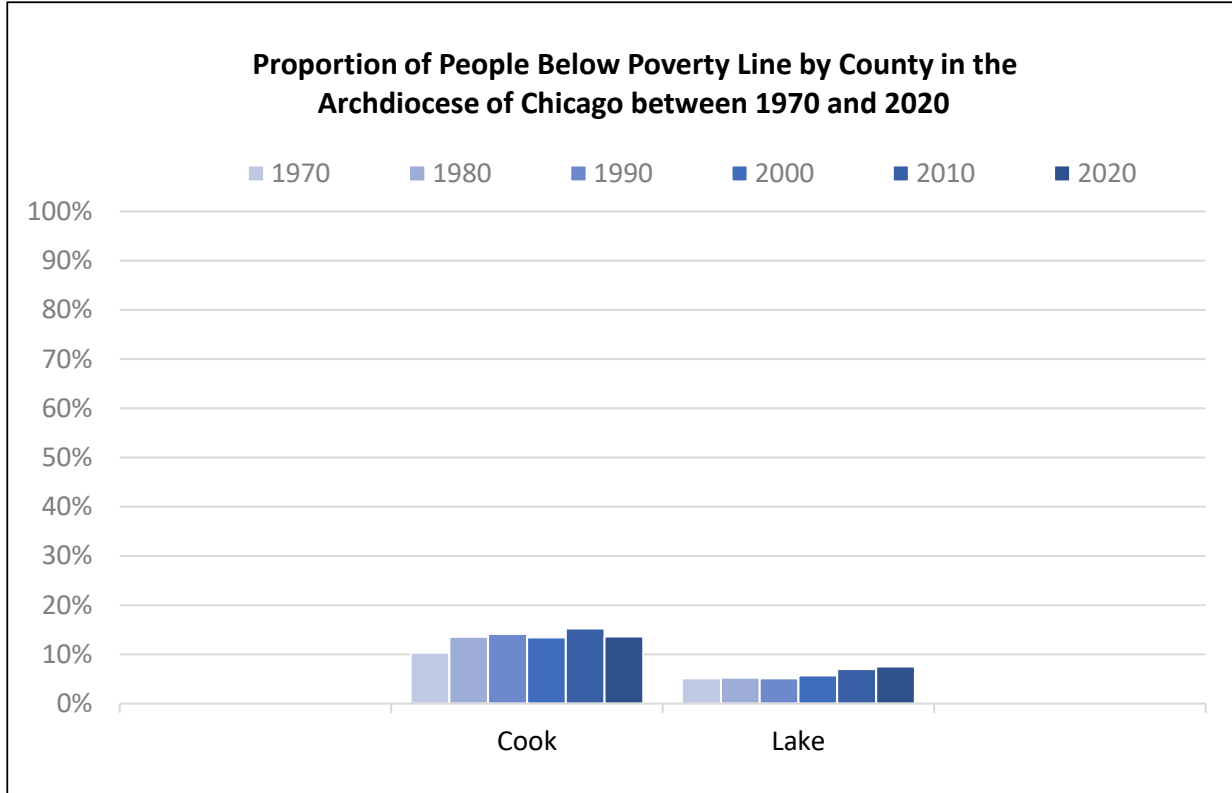
Between 1970 and 2020, the proportion of people below poverty line in:
- Cook County increased by 3pp.
- Lake County increased by 2pp.

Proportion of People Below Poverty Line by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

	1970 [%]	1980 [%]	1990 [%]	2000 [%]	2010 [%]	2020 [%]
Cook	10	14	14	13	15	14
Lake	5	5	5	6	7	8
Altogether	**10**	**13**	**13**	**13**	**14**	**13**

7. Number of Unemployed People

Number of Persons 16+ Years Old in the Civilian Labor Force and Unemployed by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago

Legend: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020

Change in the Number of Persons 16+ Years Old in the Civilian Labor Force and Unemployed by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020
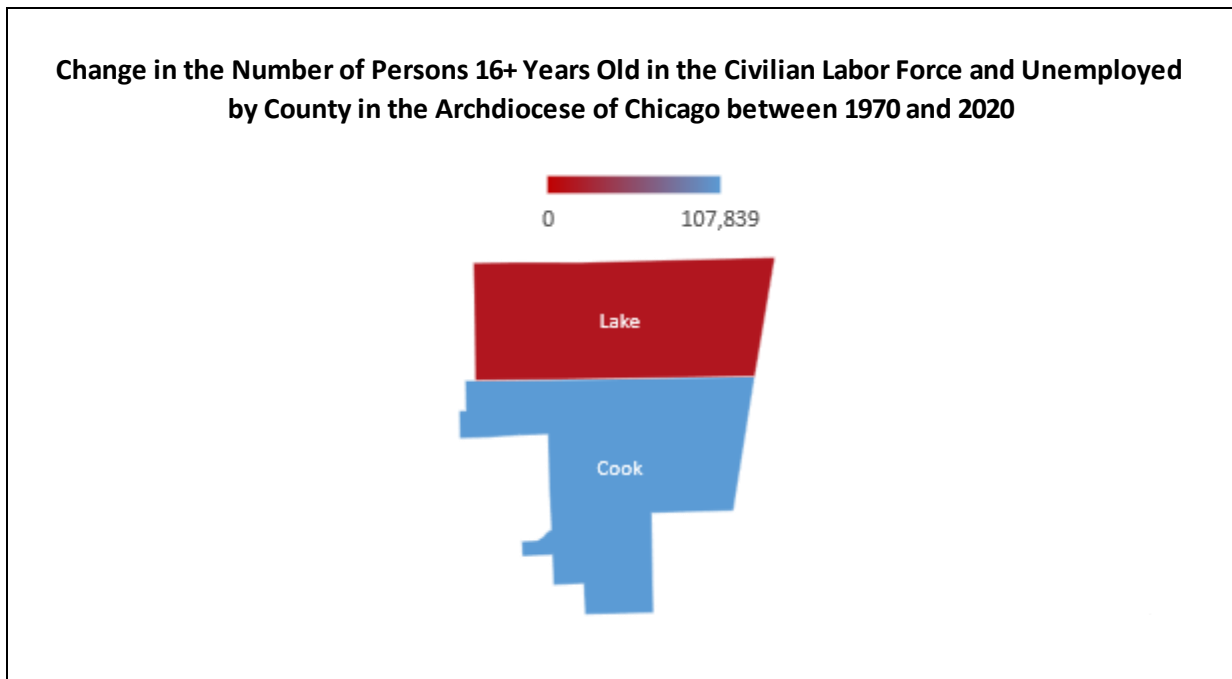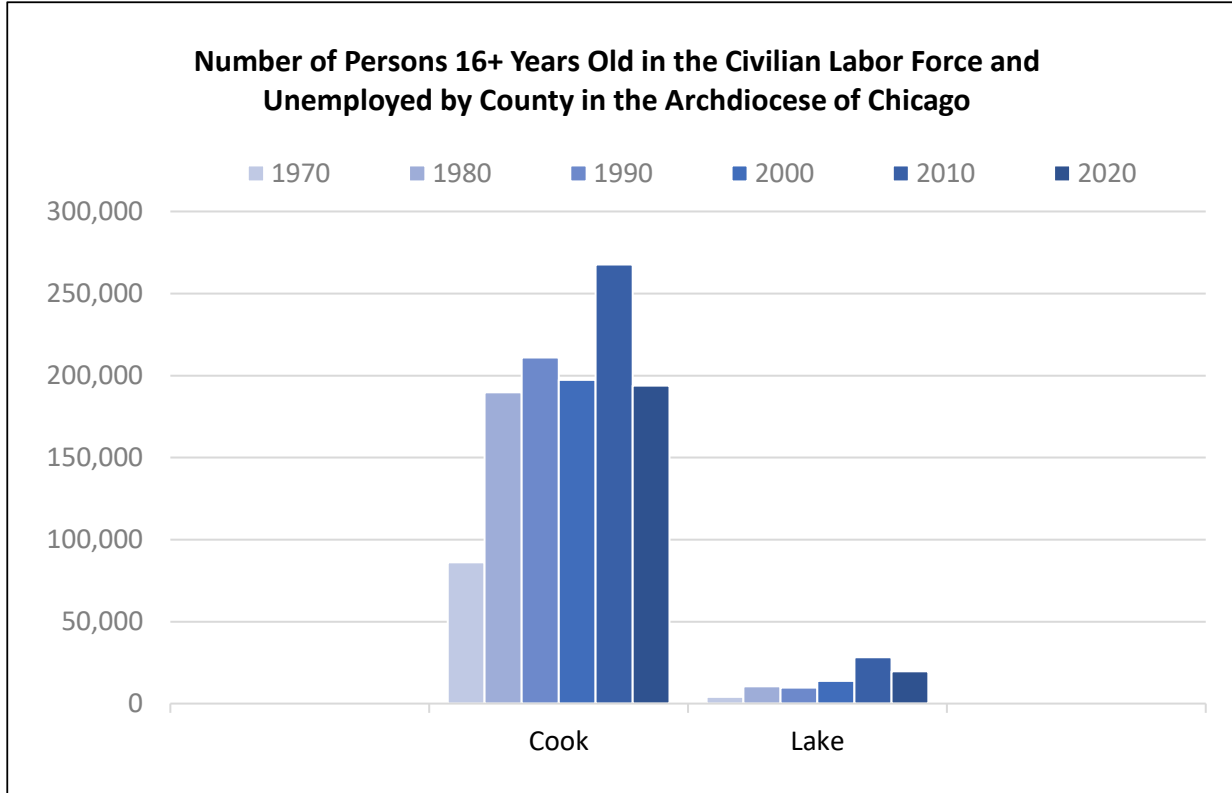
0   107,839

Between 1970 and 2020, the number of persons 16+ years old in the civilian labor force and unemployed in:

- Lake County increased by 15,553 people (by 367%).
- Cook County increased by 107,839 people (by 125%).

Number of Persons 16+ Years Old in the Civilian Labor Force and Unemployed by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago

	1970 [#]	1980 [#]	1990 [#]	2000 [#]	2010 [#]	2020 [#]
Cook	86,113	189,876	211,084	197,487	267,681	193,952
Lake	4,242	10,549	9,821	13,957	28,207	19,795
Altogether	**90,355**	**200,425**	**220,905**	**211,444**	**295,888**	**213,747**

8. Proportion of Unemployed People

Proportion of Persons 16+ Years Old Who Are in the Civilian Labor Force and Unemployed by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago

Legend: ■ 1970 ■ 1980 ■ 1990 ■ 2000 ■ 2010 ■ 2020

(Bar chart showing values for Cook and Lake counties, y-axis from 0% to 100% in 10% increments.)

Change in the Proportion of Persons 16+ Years Old Who Are in the Civilian Labor Force and Unemployed by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

Scale: 0pp — 3pp

Map showing Lake and Cook counties.

Between 1970 and 2020, the proportion of persons 16+ years old who are in the civilian labor force and unemployed in:
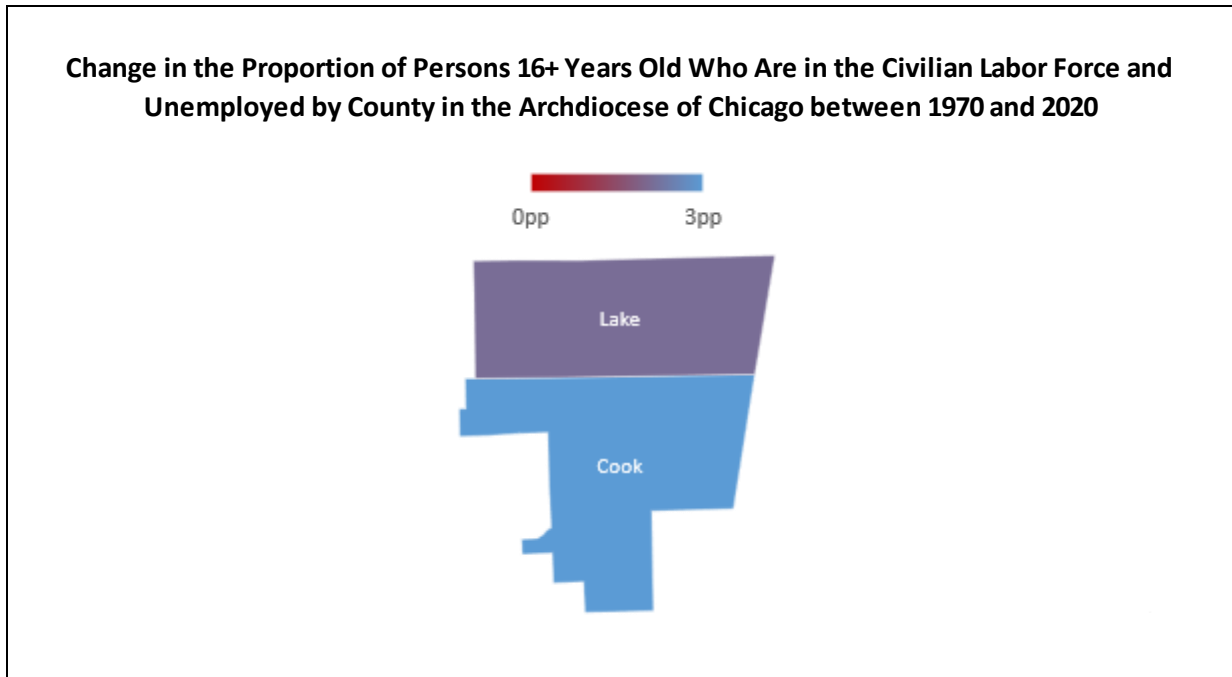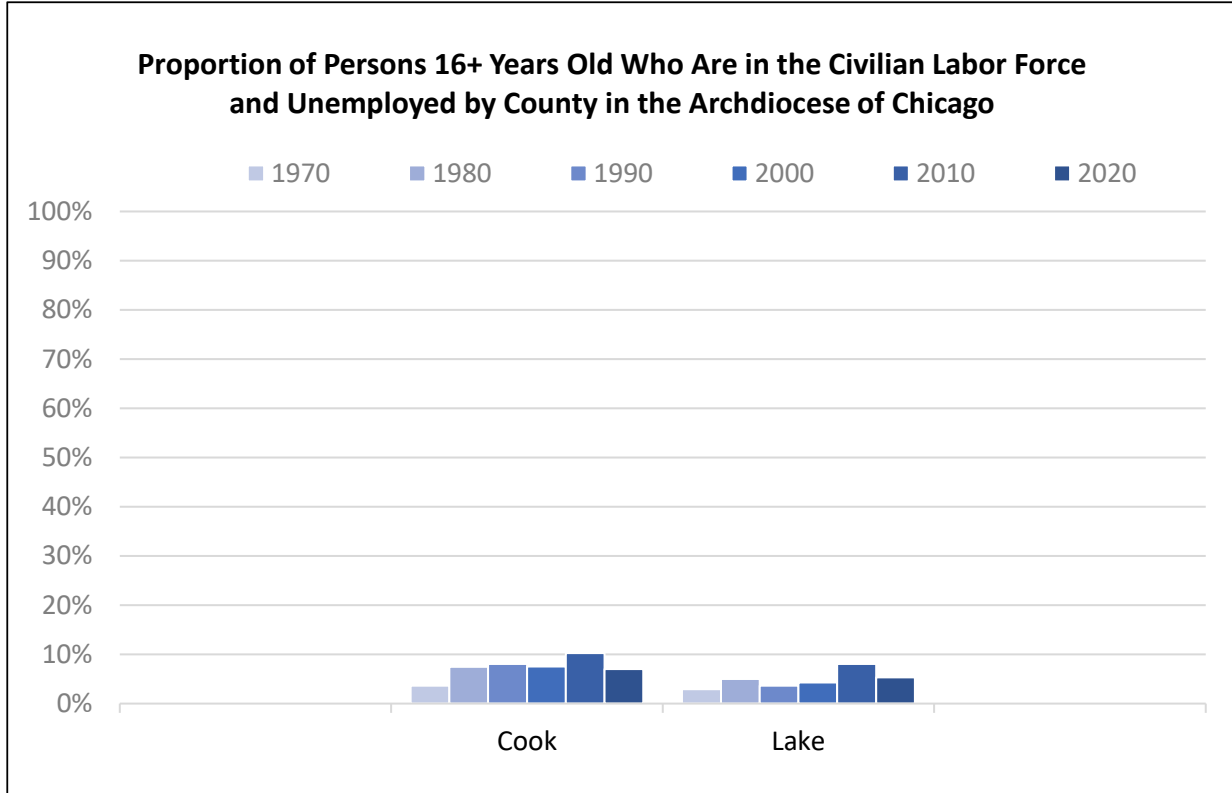
- Cook County increased by 3pp.
- Lake County increased by 2pp.

Proportion of Persons 16+ Years Old Who Are in the Civilian Labor Force and Unemployed by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago

	1970 [%]	1980 [%]	1990 [%]	2000 [%]	2010 [%]	2020 [%]
Cook	4	7	8	8	10	7
Lake	3	5	4	4	8	5
Altogether	**4**	**7**	**8**	**7**	**10**	**7**

9. Number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians

Number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

■ 1970　■ 1980　■ 1990　■ 2000　■ 2010　■ 2020

Change in the Number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020
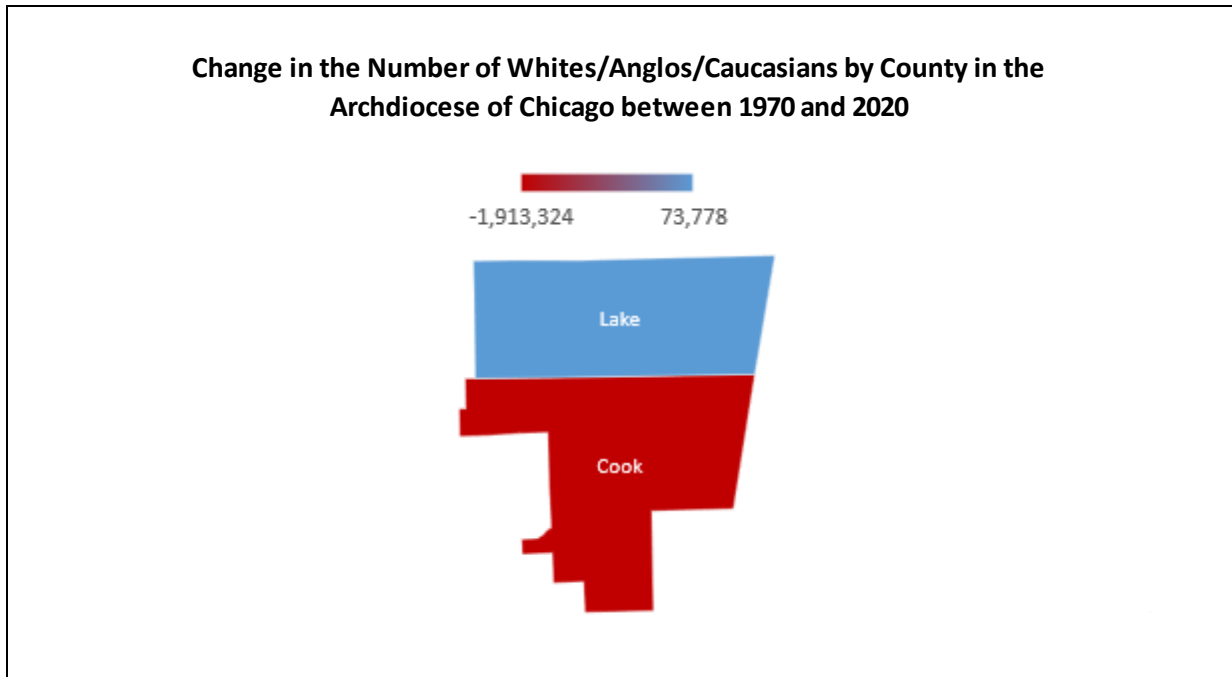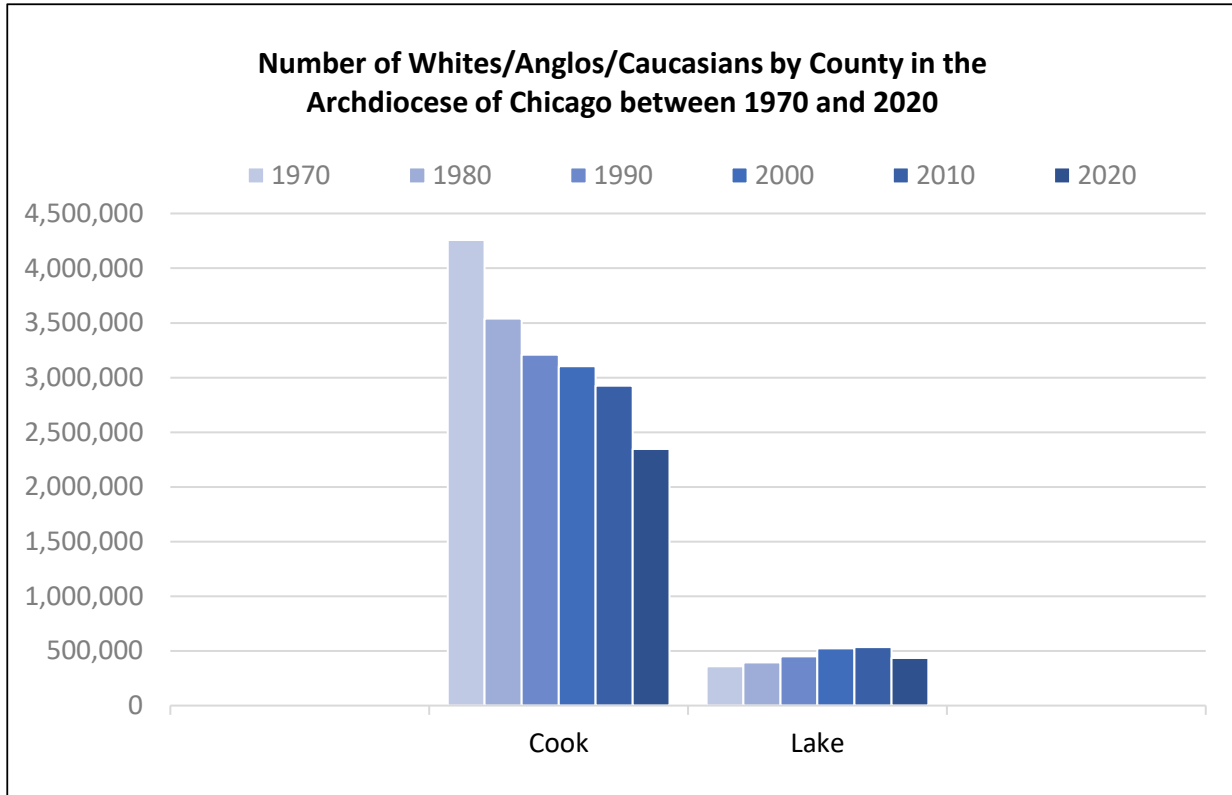
-1,913,324　　73,778

Between 1970 and 2020, the number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in:
- Cook County decreased by 1,913,324 people (by 45%).
- Lake County increased by 73,778 people (by 20%).

	1970 **[#]**	**1980** **[#]**	**1990** **[#]**	**2000** **[#]**	**2010** **[#]**	**2020** **[#]**
	Number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians by County in the **Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020**					
Cook	4,259,307	3,539,571	3,208,117	3,104,880	2,925,417	2,345,983
Lake	361,617	395,715	451,157	522,486	534,664	435,395
Altogether	**4,620,924**	**3,935,286**	**3,659,274**	**3,627,366**	**3,460,081**	**2,781,378**

10. Proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians
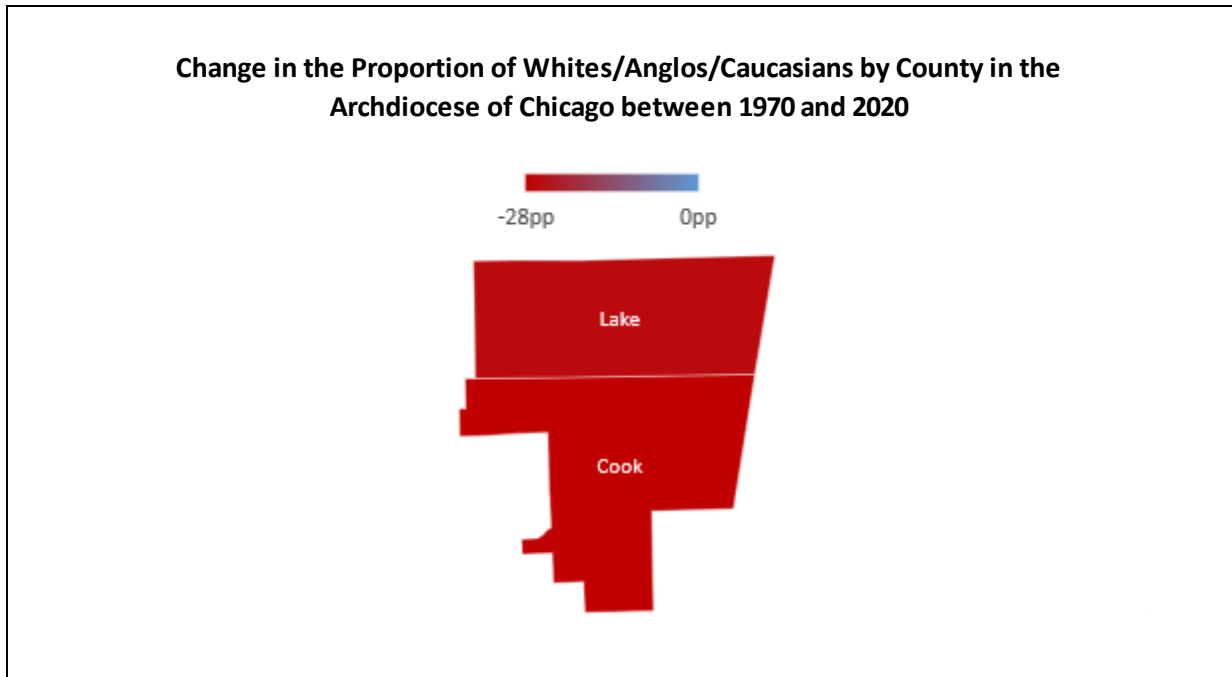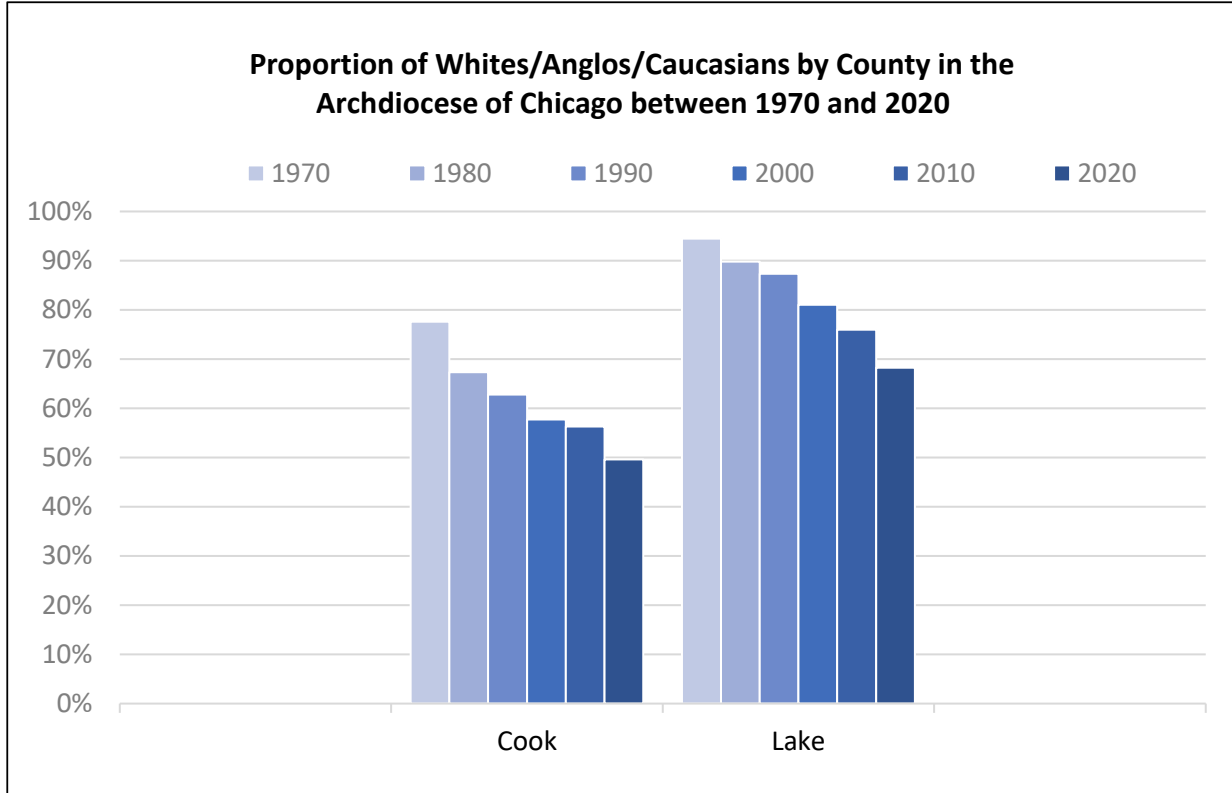
Proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

Change in the Proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

Between 1970 and 2020, the proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in:

- Cook County decreased by 28pp.
- Lake County decreased by 26pp.

**Proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians by County in the
Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020**

	1970 [%]	1980 [%]	1990 [%]	2000 [%]	2010 [%]	2020 [%]
Cook	78	67	63	58	56	50
Lake	95	90	87	81	76	68
Altogether	**79**	**69**	**65**	**60**	**59**	**52**

11. Number of Blacks/African Americans

Number of Blacks/African Americans by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

■ 1970 ■ 1980 ■ 1990 ■ 2000 ■ 2010 ■ 2020

Change in the Number of Blacks/African Americans by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020
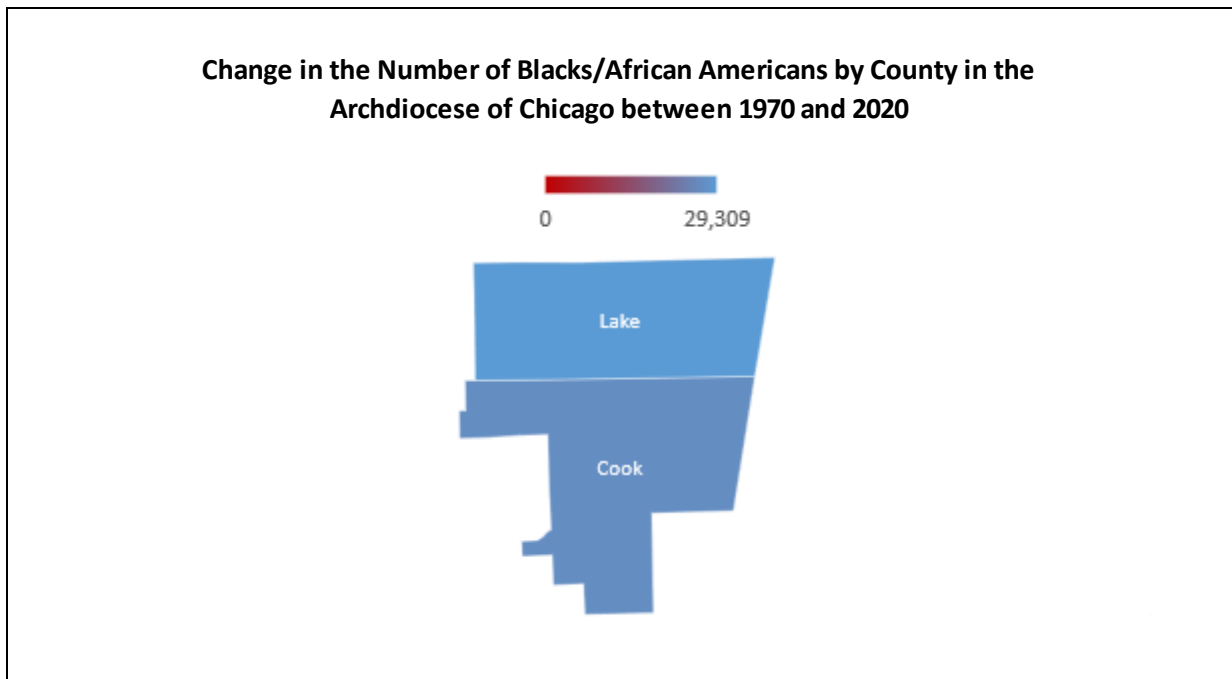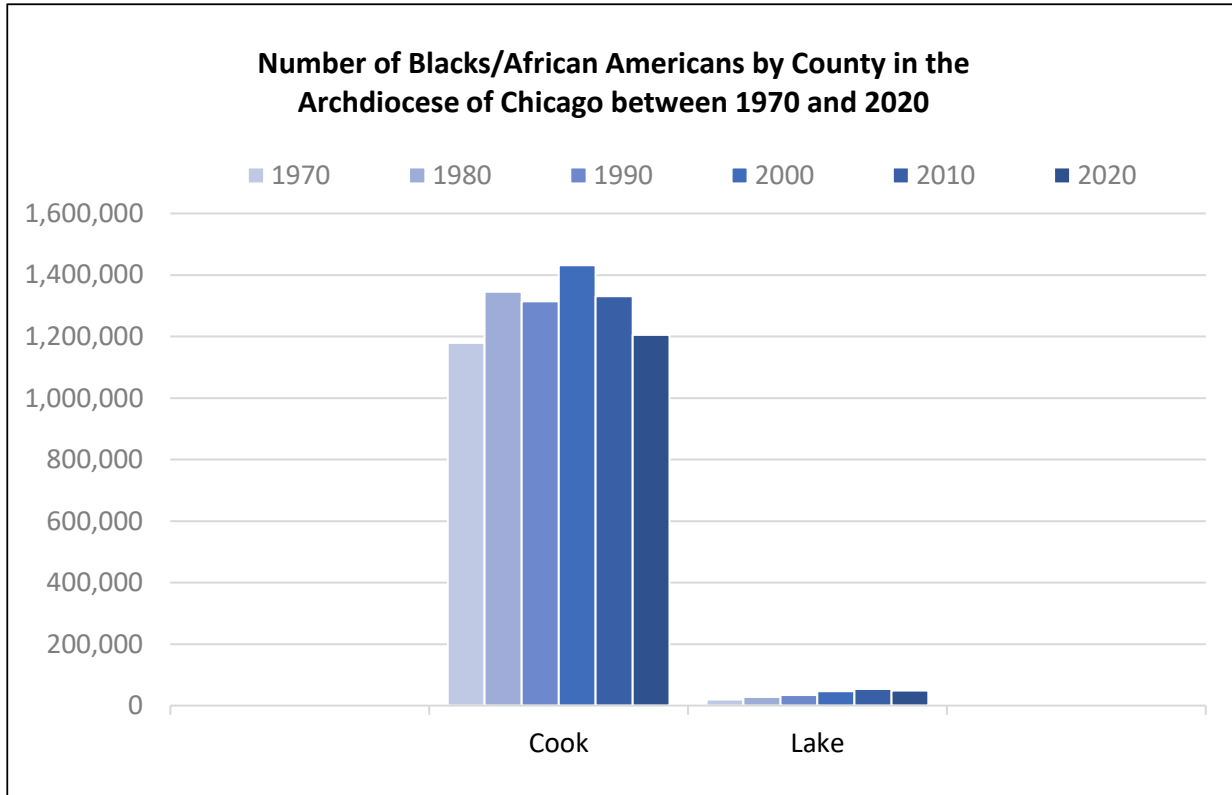
0   29,309

Between 1970 and 2020, the number of Blacks/African Americans in:

- Lake County increased by 29,309 people (by 149%).
- Cook County increased by 26,714 people (by 2%).

	1970 [#]	1980 [#]	1990 [#]	2000 [#]	2010 [#]	2020 [#]
Number of Blacks/African Americans by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020						
Cook	1,179,110	1,346,162	1,314,857	1,432,090	1,331,016	1,205,824
Lake	19,726	28,413	34,701	46,876	54,533	49,035
Altogether	**1,198,836**	**1,374,575**	**1,349,558**	**1,478,966**	**1,385,549**	**1,254,859**

12. Proportion of Blacks/African Americans

Proportion of Blacks/African Americans by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

Change in the Proportion of Blacks/African Americans by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020
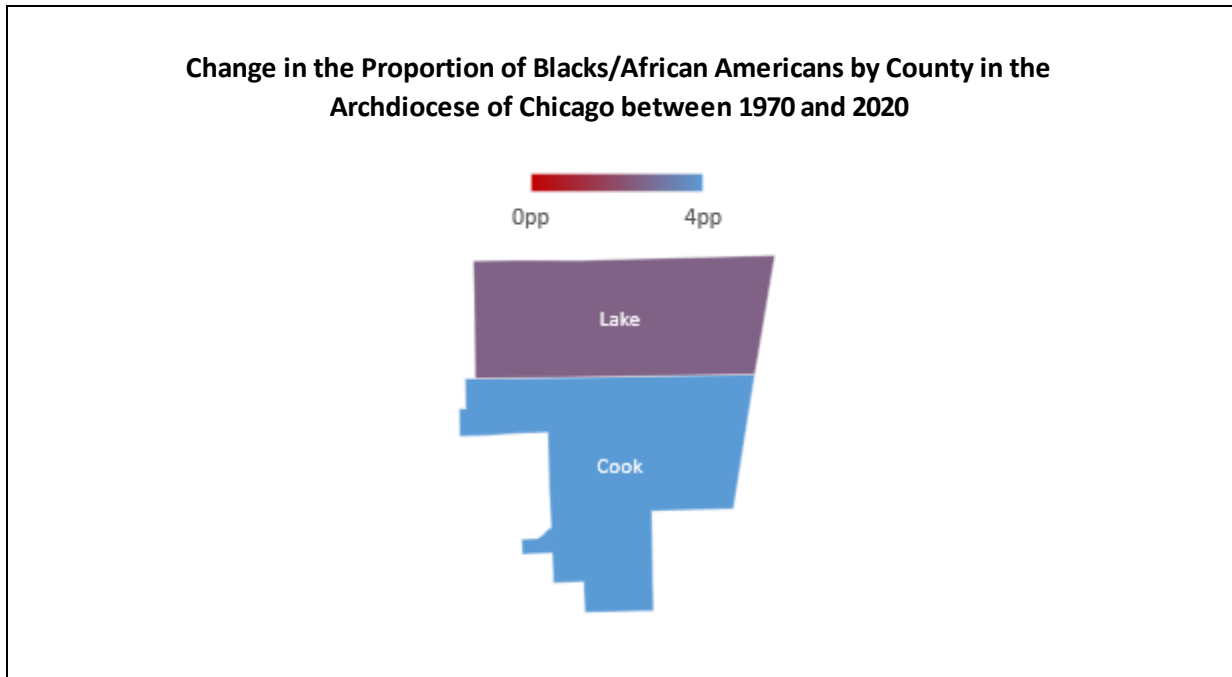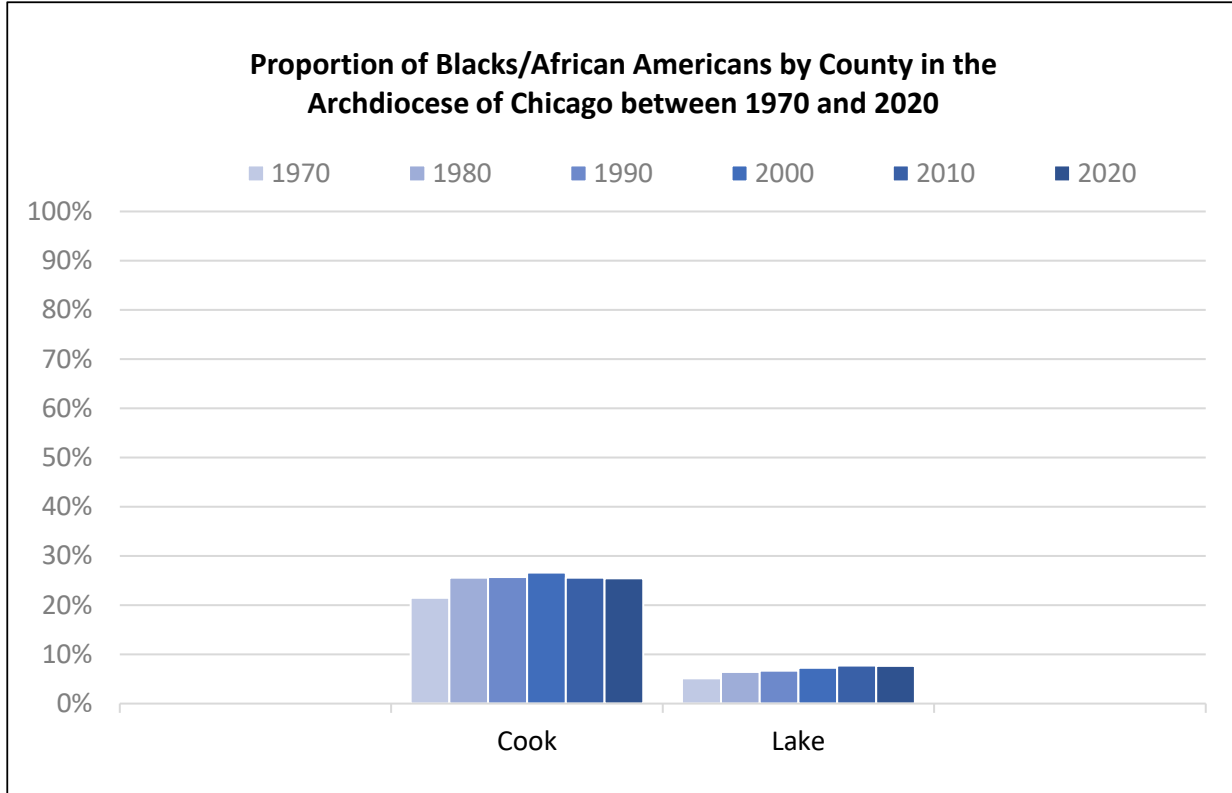
Between 1970 and 2020, the proportion of Blacks/African Americans in:

- Cook County increased by 4pp.
- Lake County increased by 3pp.

	1970	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**	**2010**	**2020**
Proportion of Blacks/African Americans by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020						
	[%]	**[%]**	**[%]**	**[%]**	**[%]**	**[%]**
Cook	21	26	26	27	26	25
Lake	5	6	7	7	8	8
Altogether	**20**	**24**	**24**	**25**	**23**	**23**

13. Number of Hispanics/Latinos

Number of Hispanics/Latinos by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

Legend: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020

Y-axis values: 1,600,000 / 1,400,000 / 1,200,000 / 1,000,000 / 800,000 / 600,000 / 400,000 / 200,000 / 0

X-axis categories: Cook, Lake

Change in the Number of Hispanics/Latinos by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

Scale: 0 to 1,095,920

Map labels: Lake, Cook
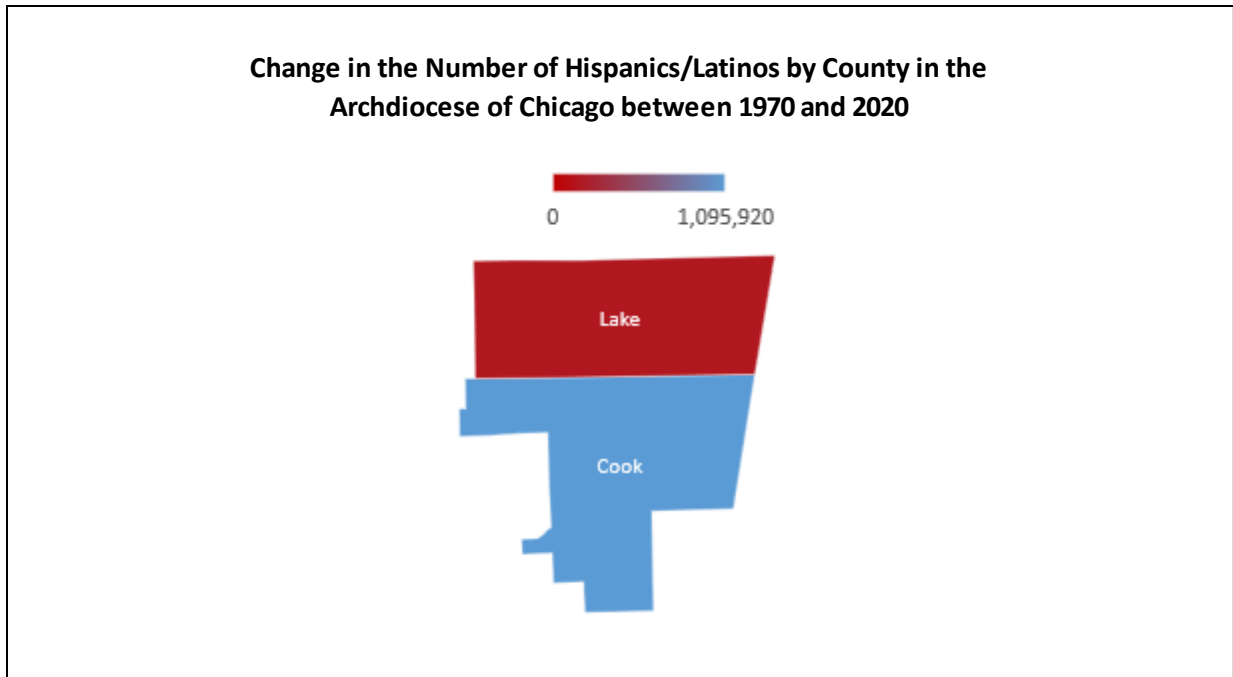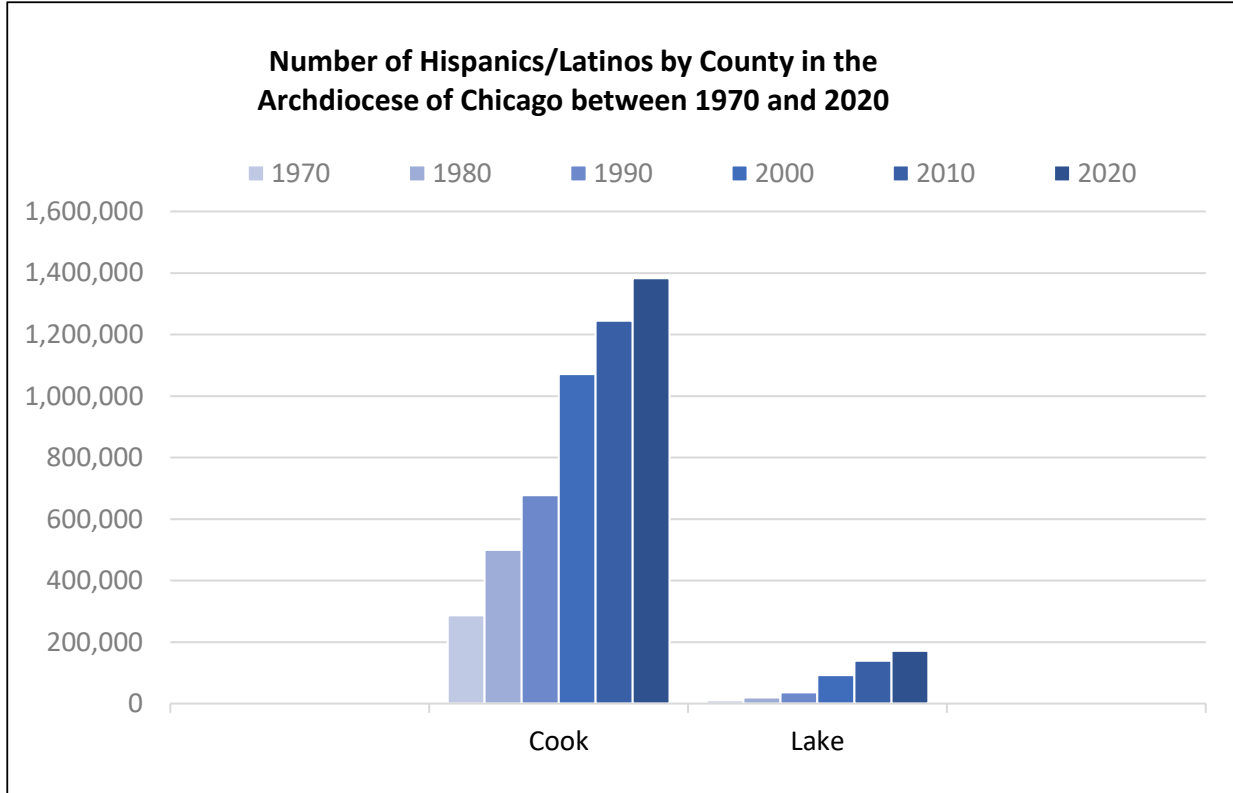
Between 1970 and 2020, the number of Hispanics/Latinos in:

- Lake County increased by 160,886 people (by 1,453%).
- Cook County increased by 1,095,920 people (by 382%).

Number of Hispanics/Latinos by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020						
	1970	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**	**2010**	**2020**
	[#]	**[#]**	**[#]**	**[#]**	**[#]**	**[#]**
Cook	286,858	499,540	677,950	1,071,241	1,244,762	1,382,778
Lake	11,076	20,470	36,734	93,075	139,987	171,962
Altogether	**297,934**	**520,010**	**714,684**	**1,164,316**	**1,384,749**	**1,554,740**

14. Proportion of Hispanics/Latinos
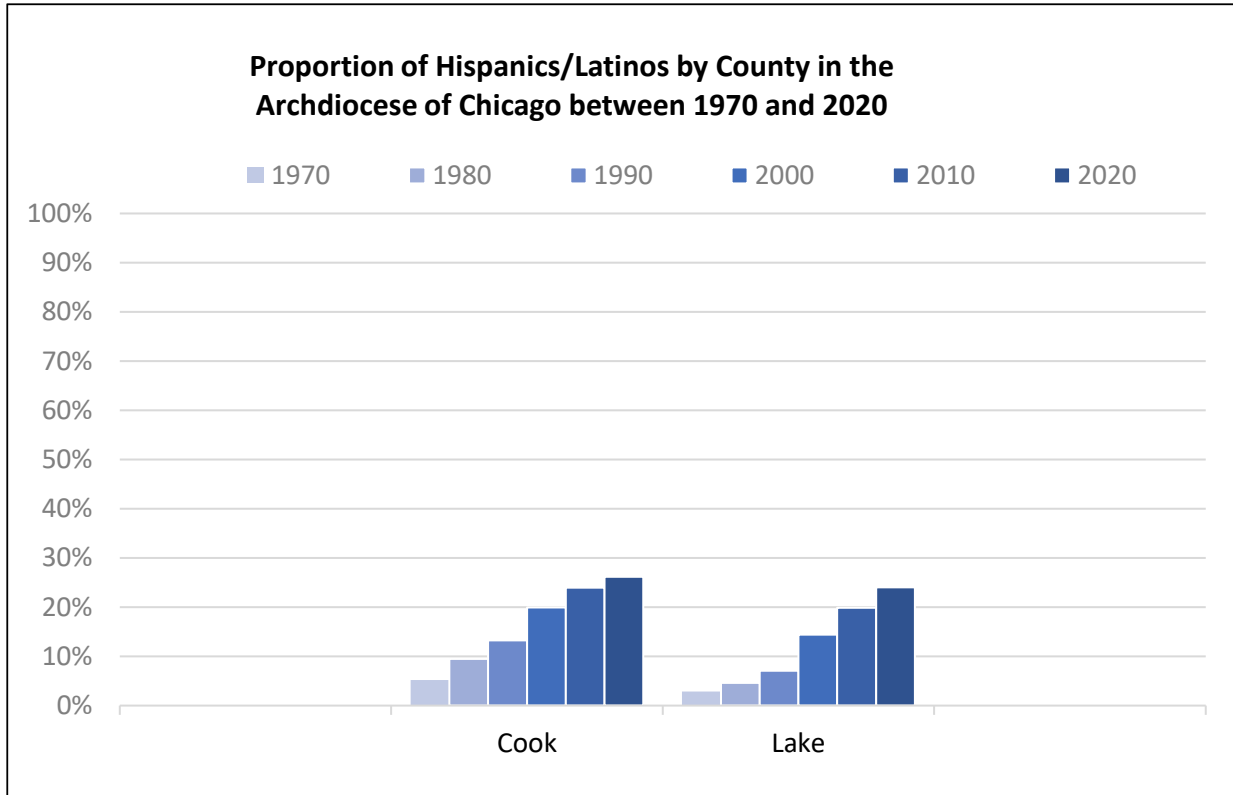
Proportion of Hispanics/Latinos by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

Legend: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020

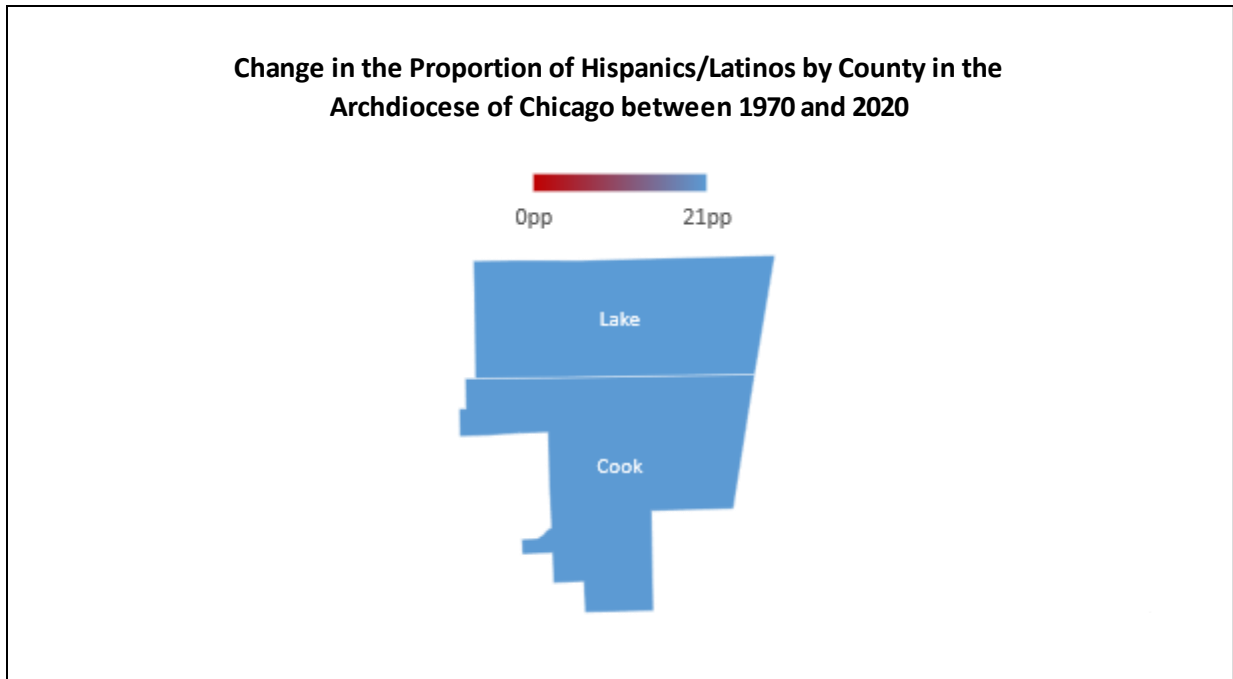**Change in the Proportion of Hispanics/Latinos by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020**

0pp — 21pp

Between 1970 and 2020, the proportion of Hispanics/Latinos in:

- Lake County increased by 21pp.
- Cook County increased by 21pp.

Proportion of Hispanics/Latinos by County in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

	1970 [%]	1980 [%]	1990 [%]	2000 [%]	2010 [%]	2020 [%]
Cook	5	10	13	20	24	26
Lake	3	5	7	14	20	24
Altogether	**5**	**9**	**13**	**19**	**23**	**26**

15. Correlation Between the Number of Identified Parishes and Diocese's Socioeconomic Characteristics

Correlation between the Number of Identified Parishes and .... for the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1971 and 2020

Characteristic	Correlation
Catholic Population Size	0.95
Proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians	0.92
Number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians	0.92
Number of Blacks/African Americans	-0.01
Proportion of Blacks/African Americans	-0.29
Proportion of Unemployed People	-0.41
Proportion of People Below Poverty Line	-0.47
Number of Unemployed People	-0.52
Number of People Below Poverty Line	-0.57
General Population Size	-0.63
Average Household Income in 2020 Dollars	-0.86
Proportion of Hispanics/Latinos	-0.95
Number of Hispanics/Latinos	-0.95

The chart above shows correlations measured by Pearson's Correlation Coefficient. Negative values indicate negative correlation and positive values positive correlation. Absolute values greater than 0.7 indicate strong correlation, values between 0.5 and 0.7 indicate moderate correlation, values below 0.5 indicate weak or insignificant correlation. Note that this analysis is based on a time series limited to six observations (i.e., data for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020).

Correlation between the Number of Identified Parishes and .... for the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1971 and 2020

	County			Diocese
	Minimum [PCC]	Average [PCC]	Maximum [PCC]	Altogether [PCC]
Catholic Population Size	0.15	0.56	**0.97**	**0.95**
General Population Size	-0.37	-0.08	0.21	-0.63
Average Household Income in 2020 Dollars	**-0.88**	-0.55	-0.21	**-0.86**
Number of People Below Poverty Line	-0.60	-0.53	-0.46	-0.57
Proportion of People Below Poverty Line	**-0.74**	-0.61	-0.49	-0.47
Number of Unemployed People	-0.49	-0.45	-0.41	-0.52
Proportion of Unemployed People	-0.41	-0.37	-0.32	-0.41
Number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians	0.12	0.52	**0.92**	**0.92**
Proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians	0.53	**0.73**	**0.92**	**0.92**
Number of Blacks/African Americans	-0.26	-0.09	0.09	-0.01
Proportion of Blacks/African Americans	-0.45	-0.30	-0.15	-0.29
Number of Hispanics/Latinos	**-0.95**	**-0.77**	-0.60	**-0.95**
Proportion of Hispanics/Latinos	**-0.94**	**-0.75**	-0.57	**-0.95**

* Strong correlations (i.e., Pearson's Correlation Coefficients or PCC above 0.70 and below -0.70) are marked in bold.
** This analysis is based on 2 counties for which data were available.

Changes in the number of identified parishes from decade to decade (between 1970 and 2020) show strong positive correlation with the changes in the:
- Catholic population size (0.95).
- proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians (0.92).
- number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians (0.92).

Changes in the number of identified parishes from decade to decade (between 1970 and 2020) show strong negative correlation with the changes in the:
- number of Hispanics/Latinos (-0.95).
- proportion of Hispanics/Latinos (-0.95).
- average household income in 2020 dollars (-0.86).

3. Census Tract - Level Description

The census tract-level overview is based on the analysis of data from several sources: the Official Catholic Directory for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020, Neighborhood Change Database for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010, and diocesan websites / documents.

- The variables from the Official Catholic Directory are based on the identified parishes (as opposed to the actual number of parishes shown in diocesan-level overview in Section 1). In general, the number of identified parishes only includes parishes for which addresses could be identified (see Appendix I: Methodology for more information). The specific variables include: the number of parishes that (re)opened/expanded (i.e., merged to include another parish) during each decade, the number of parishes that remained opened over the course of each decade, and the number of parishes closed/absorbed (i.e., merged into another parish) during each decade.

- The variables from the Neighborhood Change Database include general population size, average household income (in 2020 dollars), poverty (as a number and proportion of people below poverty line), unemployment (as number and proportion of persons 16+ years old in the civilian labor force and unemployed), Whites/Anglos/Caucasians (as a number and proportion), Blacks/African Americans (as a number and proportion), and Hispanics/Latinos (as a number and proportion). Those variables are calculated for census tracts where parishes (re)opened/expanded, remained opened, and closed/were absorbed each decade.

Census tract-level overview includes a chart, a table, and text description for each variable explaining how values differ between census tracts where parishes (re)opened/expanded, remained opened, and closed/were absorbed. Additionally, two maps are included to show identified parishes in the diocese (one showing the entire diocese and the other showing a close up of the main metropolitan area).

The overview concludes with analysis exploring correlations between parishes' status (opened or closed) and each of the 12 socioeconomic variables. The description is based on Point Biserial Correlation Coefficients for all parishes / census tracts in each diocese for which data was available.

If instead of the detailed description, you would like to see the summary of the main findings from this analysis, please go to the Executive Summary at the beginning of this report. If you would like to better understand how the analysis was prepared, please go to Appendix I: Methodology at the end of this report.

1. Number of Identified Parishes

Number of Identified Parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020
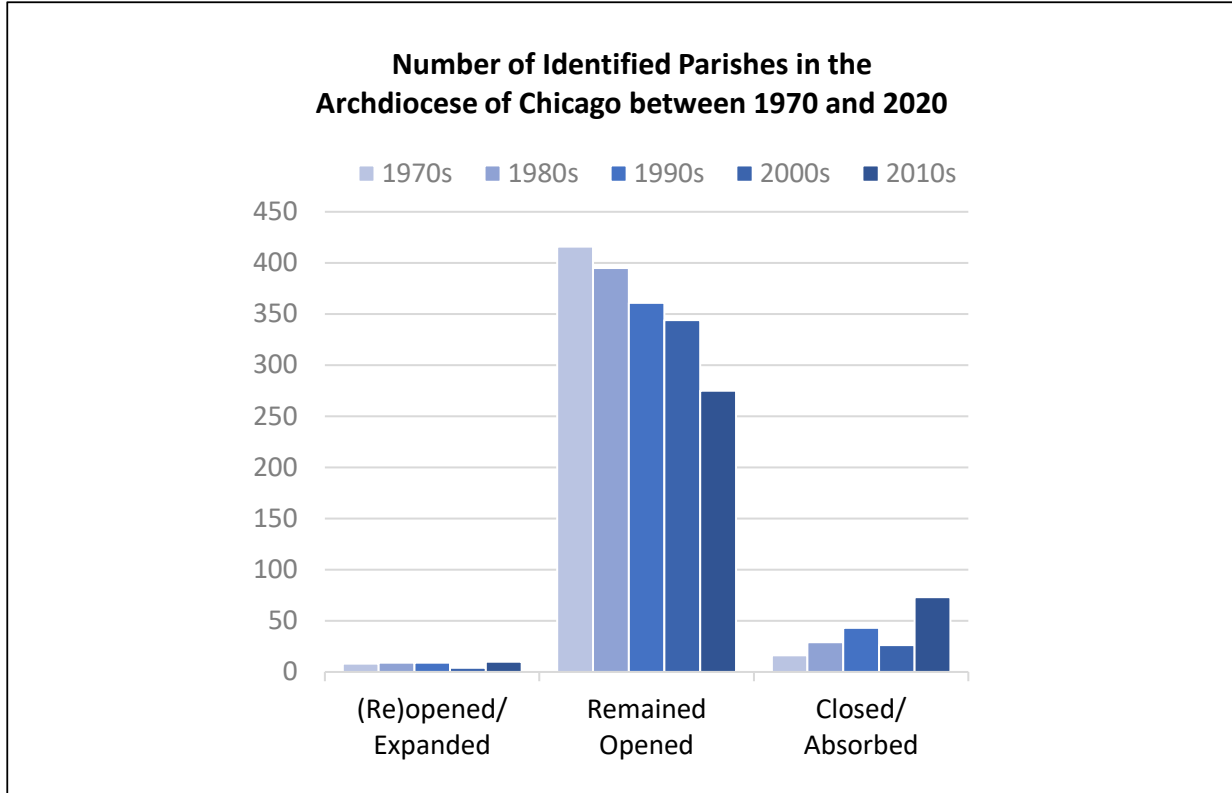

Over the entire 50-year period, a total 471 parishes were identified in the Archdiocese of Chicago (the actual number of parishes may be higher- see Appendix I for more information). This includes:

- 244 parishes that remained opened.
- 187 closed/absorbed parishes.
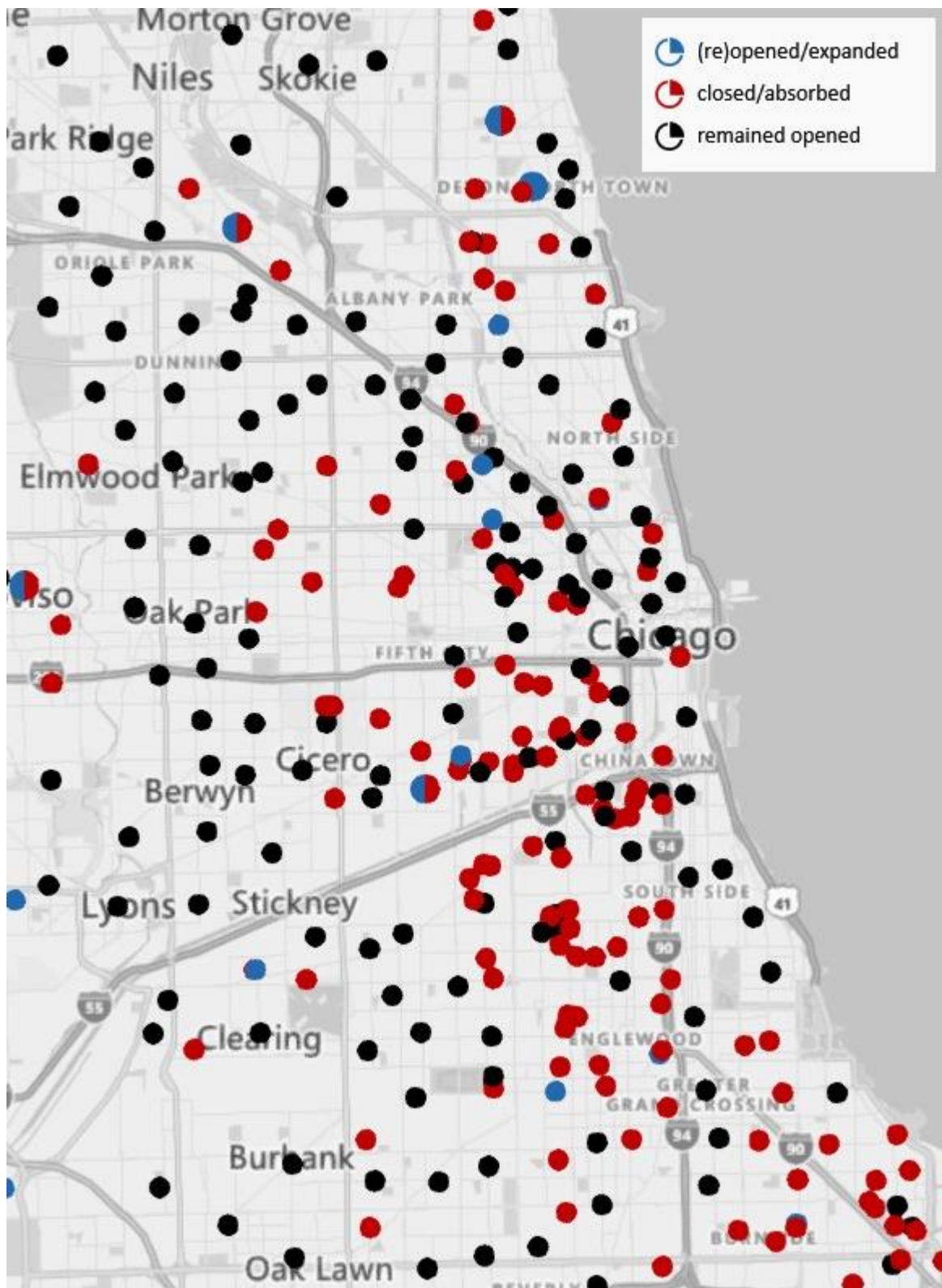- 40 (re)opened/expanded parishes.

Number of Identified Parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020

|	1970s [#]	1980s [#]	1990s [#]	2000s [#]	2010s [#]	All [#]
(Re)opened/Expanded	8	9	9	4	10	**40**
Remained Opened	416	395	361	344	275	**244**
Closed/Absorbed	16	29	43	26	73	**187**
Altogether	**440**	**433**	**413**	**374**	**358**	**471**

Identified Parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020
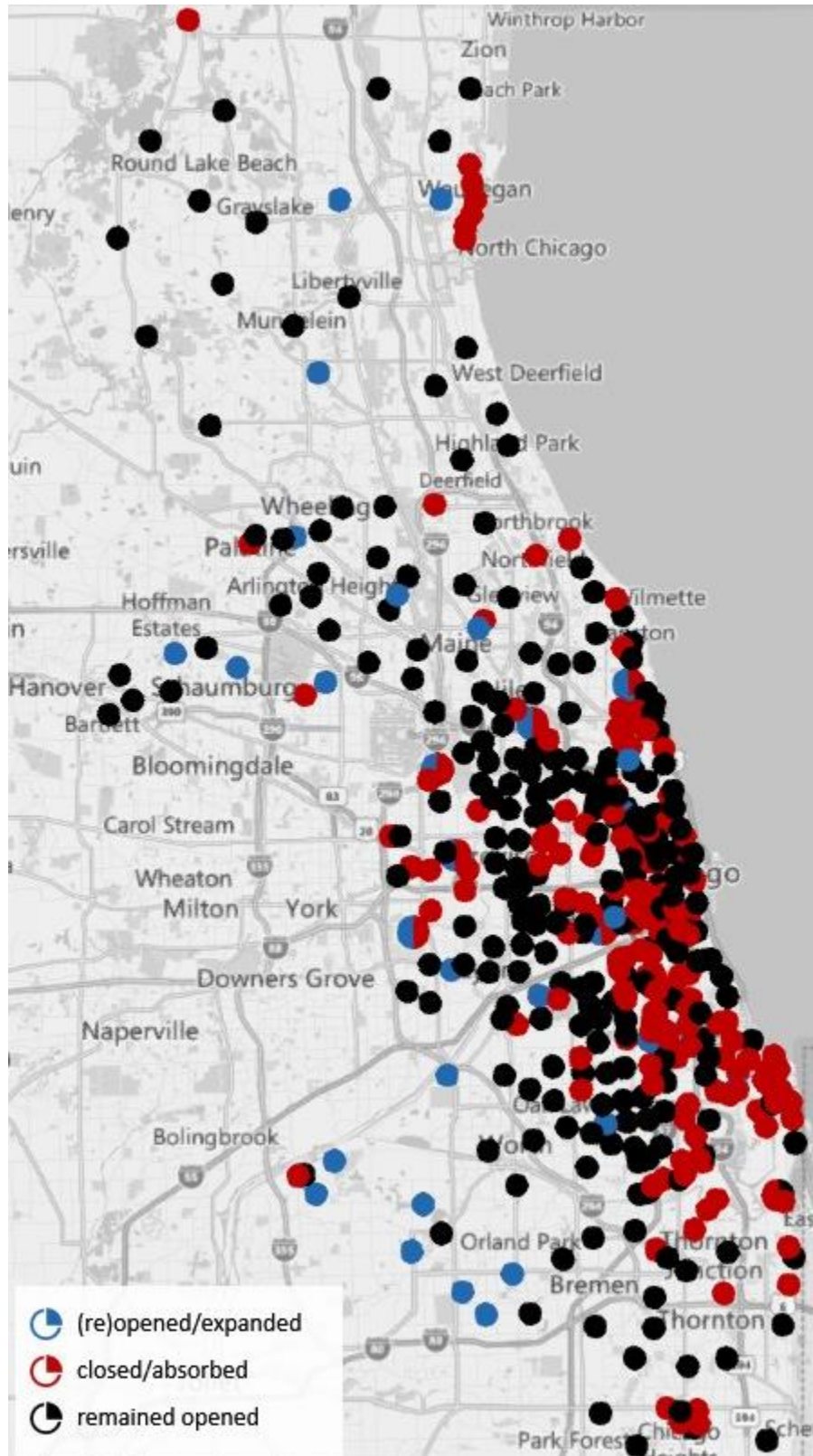
Identified Parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1970 and 2020
(Close Up)

2. Average General Population Size

Average General Population Size of those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...
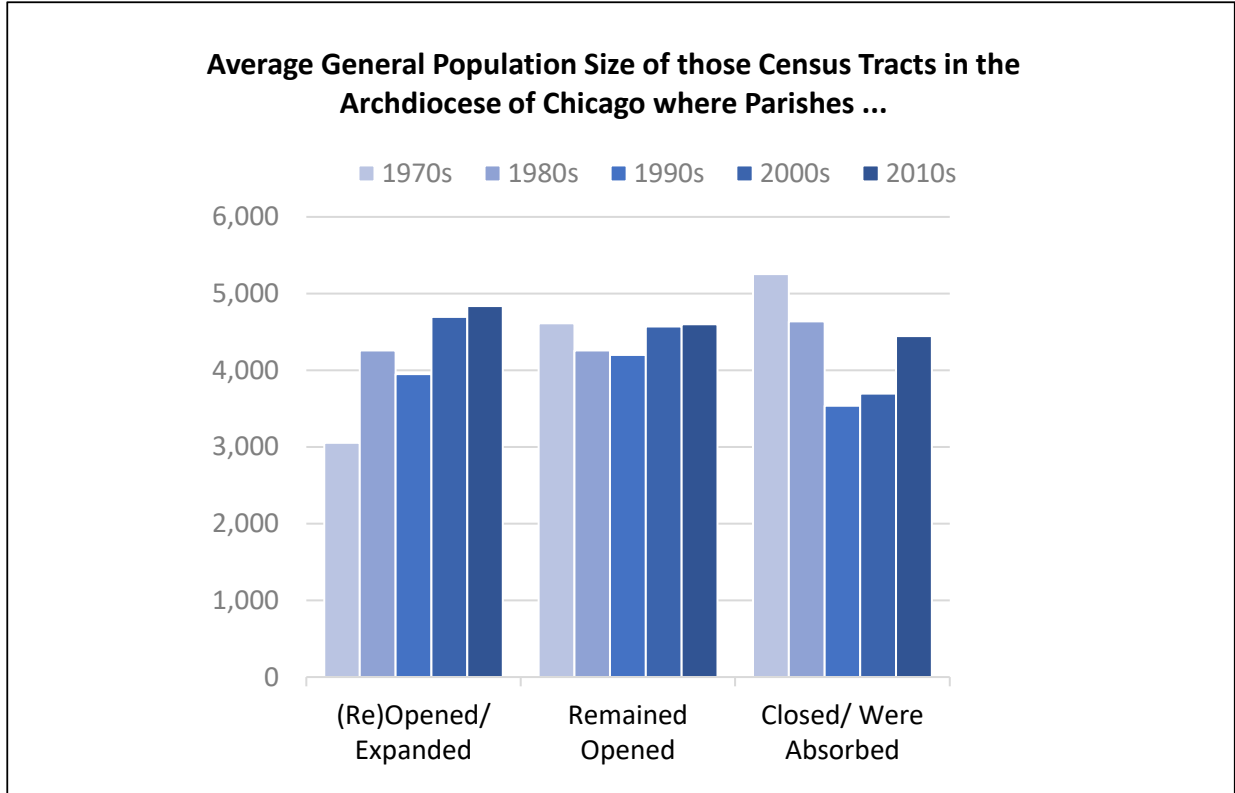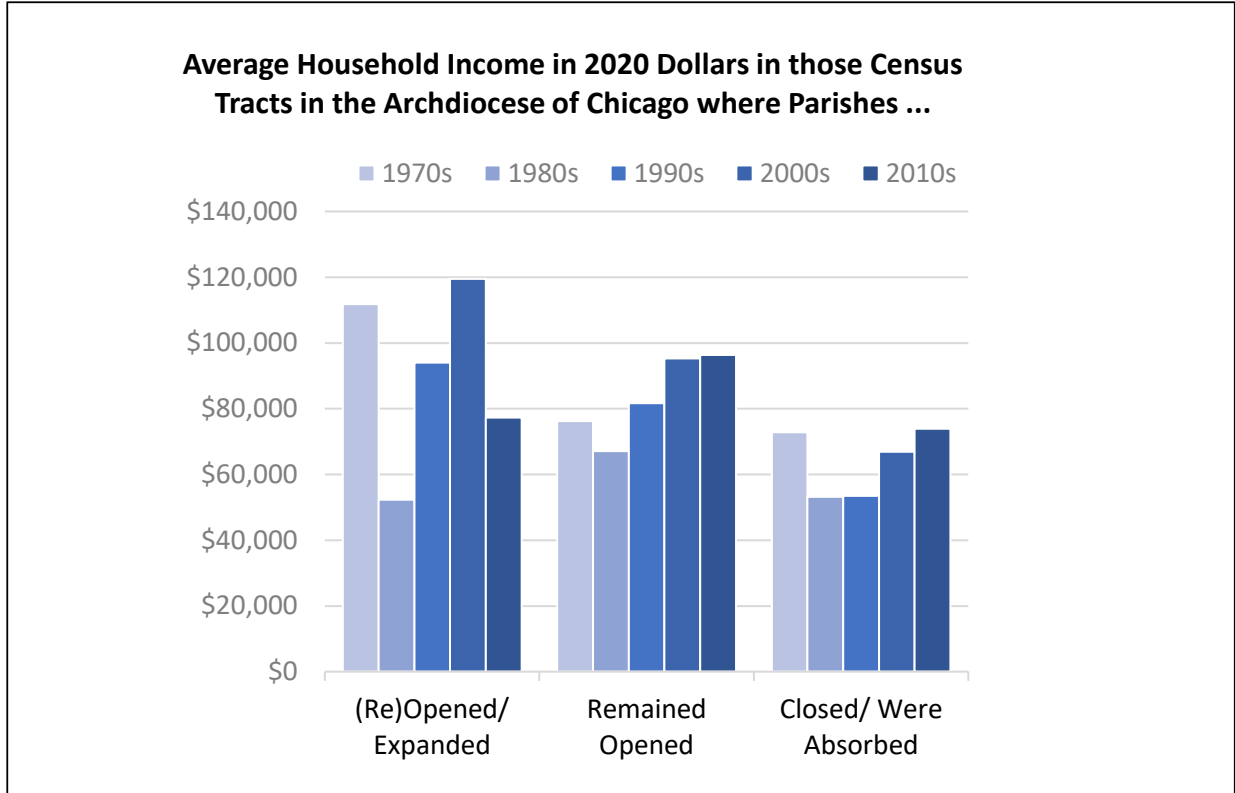
Between 1970 and 2020, there were, on average 4,441 people in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where parishes remained opened. By comparison, the general population size in those census tracts where parishes were:

- (Re)opened/expanded was lower by 305 people (by 7%).
- Closed/absorbed was lower by 209 people (by 5%).

Average General Population Size of those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...

	1970s [#]	1980s [#]	1990s [#]	2000s [#]	2010s [#]	All [#]
(Re)opened/Expanded	3,052	4,257	3,952	4,695	4,836	**4,136**
Remained Opened	4,611	4,256	4,201	4,572	4,600	**4,441**
Closed/Were Absorbed	5,255	4,638	3,539	3,694	4,445	**4,232**
Altogether	**4,606**	**4,282**	**4,126**	**4,512**	**4,575**	**4,416**

3. Average Household Income

Average Household Income in 2020 Dollars in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...
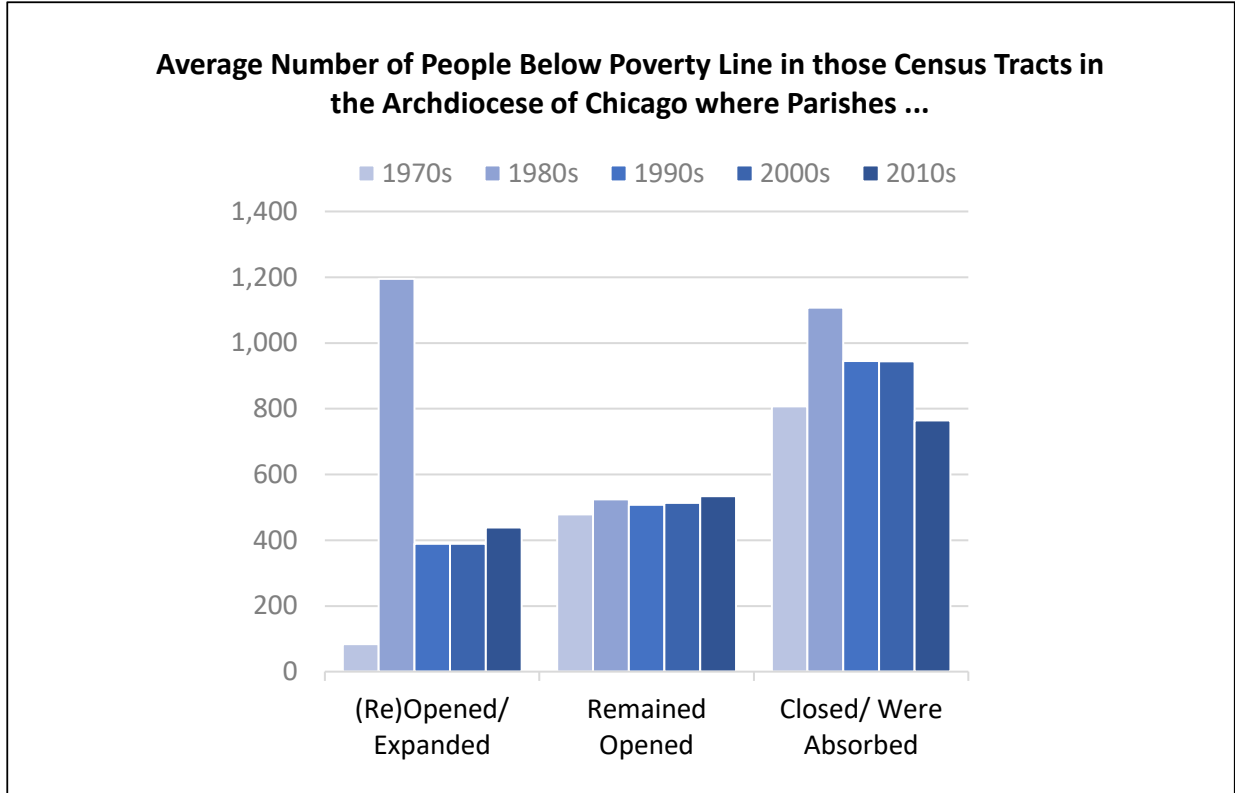
■ 1970s ■ 1980s ■ 1990s ■ 2000s ■ 2010s

Over the entire 50-year period, the average household income in 2020 dollars in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where parishes remained opened equaled $82,180. By comparison, the household income in 2020 dollars in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was lower by $17,210 (by 21%).
- (Re)opened/expanded was higher by $5,275 (by 6%).

Average Household Income in 2020 Dollars in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...

	1970s [$]	1980s [$]	1990s [$]	2000s [$]	2010s [$]	All [$]
(Re)opened/Expanded	111,808	52,350	94,016	119,548	77,318	**87,456**
Remained Opened	76,300	67,090	81,736	95,345	96,351	**82,180**
Closed/Were Absorbed	72,846	53,237	53,544	66,897	73,950	**64,970**
Altogether	**76,822**	**65,861**	**79,069**	**93,626**	**91,252**	**80,679**

4. Average Number of People Below Poverty Line

Average Number of People Below Poverty Line in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...
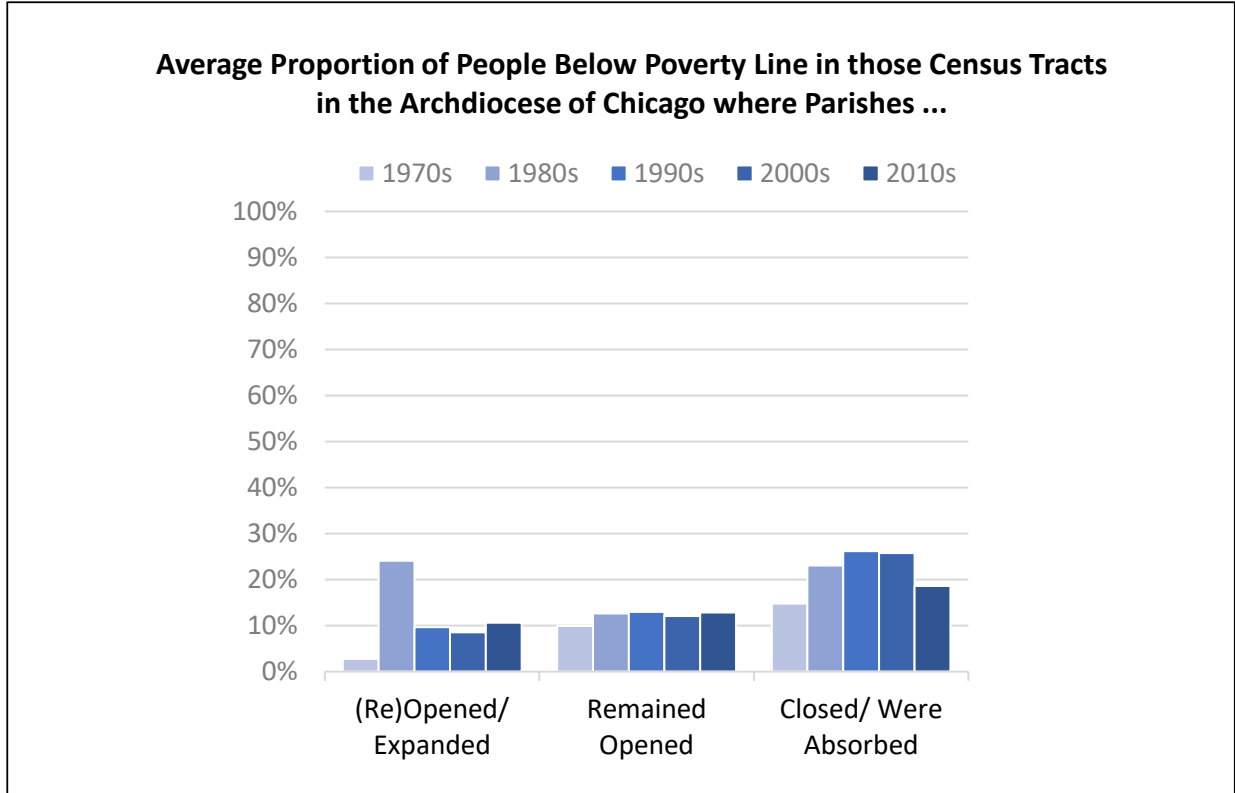
Legend: ■ 1970s ■ 1980s ■ 1990s ■ 2000s ■ 2010s

Between 1970 and 2020, there were, on average 510 unemployed people in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where parishes remained opened. By comparison, the number of people below poverty line in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was higher by 378 people (by 74%).
- (Re)opened/expanded was higher by 12 people (by 2%).

Average Number of People Below Poverty Line in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...

	1970s [#]	1980s [#]	1990s [#]	2000s [#]	2010s [#]	All [#]
(Re)opened/Expanded	84	1,195	389	389	439	**522**
Remained Opened	478	524	508	514	534	**510**
Closed/Were Absorbed	807	1,107	945	944	764	**887**
Altogether	**483**	**577**	**550**	**542**	**578**	**545**

5. Average Proportion of People Below Poverty Line

Average Proportion of People Below Poverty Line in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...
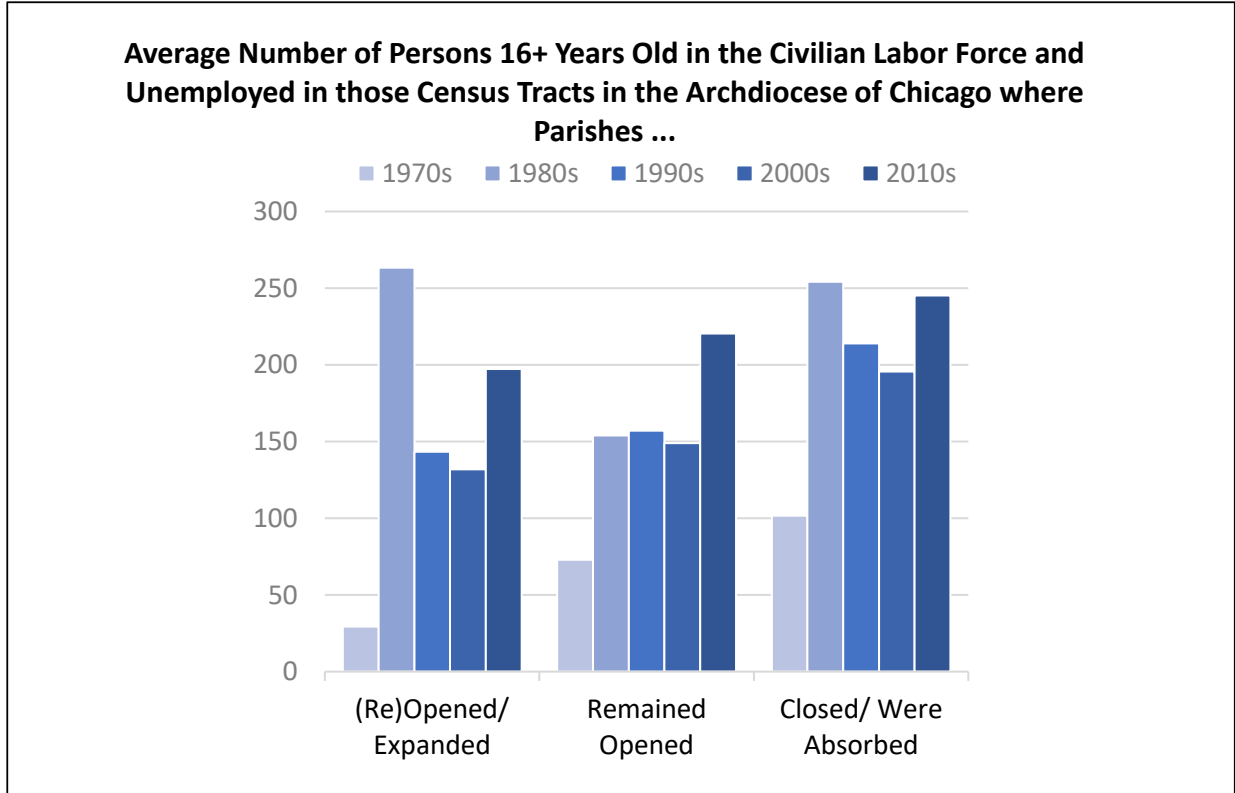
■ 1970s ■ 1980s ■ 1990s ■ 2000s ■ 2010s

Over the entire 50-year period, the average proportion of people below poverty line in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where parishes remained opened equaled 12%. By comparison, the proportion of people below poverty line in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was higher by 10pp.
- (Re)opened/expanded was lower by less than 1pp.

Average Proportion of People Below Poverty Line in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...

	1970s [%]	1980s [%]	1990s [%]	2000s [%]	2010s [%]	All [%]
(Re)opened/Expanded	3	24	10	9	11	**12**
Remained Opened	10	13	13	12	13	**12**
Closed/Were Absorbed	15	23	26	26	19	**22**
Altogether	**10**	**14**	**14**	**13**	**14**	**13**

6. Average Number of Unemployed People

Average Number of Persons 16+ Years Old in the Civilian Labor Force and Unemployed in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...
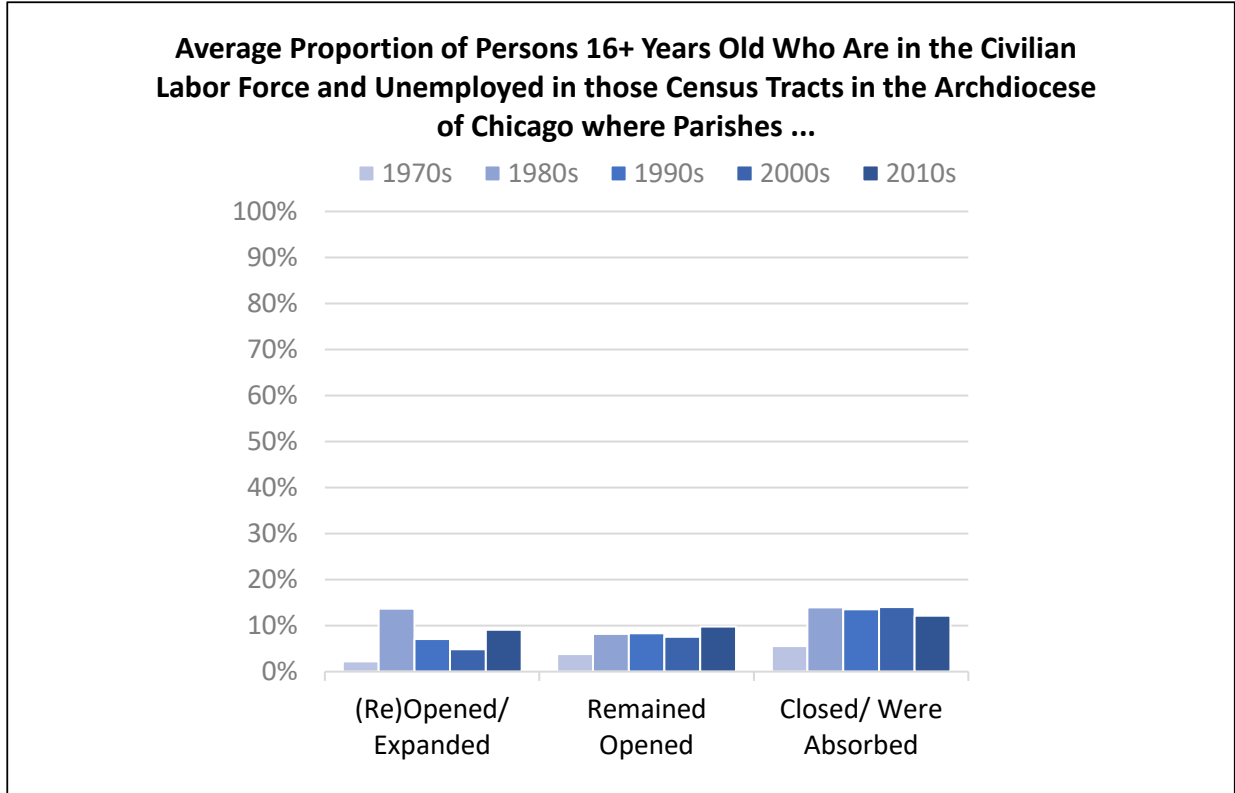
■ 1970s ■ 1980s ■ 1990s ■ 2000s ■ 2010s

Between 1970 and 2020, there were, on average 145 unemployed people in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where parishes remained opened. By comparison, the unemployment in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was higher by 75 people (by 52%).
- (Re)opened/expanded was higher by 15 people (by 10%).

Average Number of Persons 16+ Years Old in the Civilian Labor Force and Unemployed in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...

	1970s [#]	1980s [#]	1990s [#]	2000s [#]	2010s [#]	All [#]
(Re)opened/Expanded	29	263	143	132	197	**160**
Remained Opened	73	154	157	149	220	**145**
Closed/Were Absorbed	102	254	214	196	245	**220**
Altogether	**73**	**163**	**163**	**152**	**225**	**152**

7. Average Proportion of Unemployed People

Average Proportion of Persons 16+ Years Old Who Are in the Civilian Labor Force and Unemployed in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...

Over the entire 50-year period, the average unemployment rate in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where parishes remained opened equaled 7%. By comparison, the unemployment rate in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was higher by 5pp.
- (Re)opened/expanded was higher by 1pp.

Average Proportion of Persons 16+ Years Old Who Are in the Civilian Labor Force and Unemployed in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...

	1970s [%]	1980s [%]	1990s [%]	2000s [%]	2010s [%]	All [%]
(Re)opened/Expanded	2	14	7	5	9	**8**
Remained Opened	4	8	8	8	10	**7**
Closed/Were Absorbed	6	14	14	14	12	**12**
Altogether	**4**	**9**	**9**	**8**	**10**	**8**

8. Average Number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians

Average Number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes …
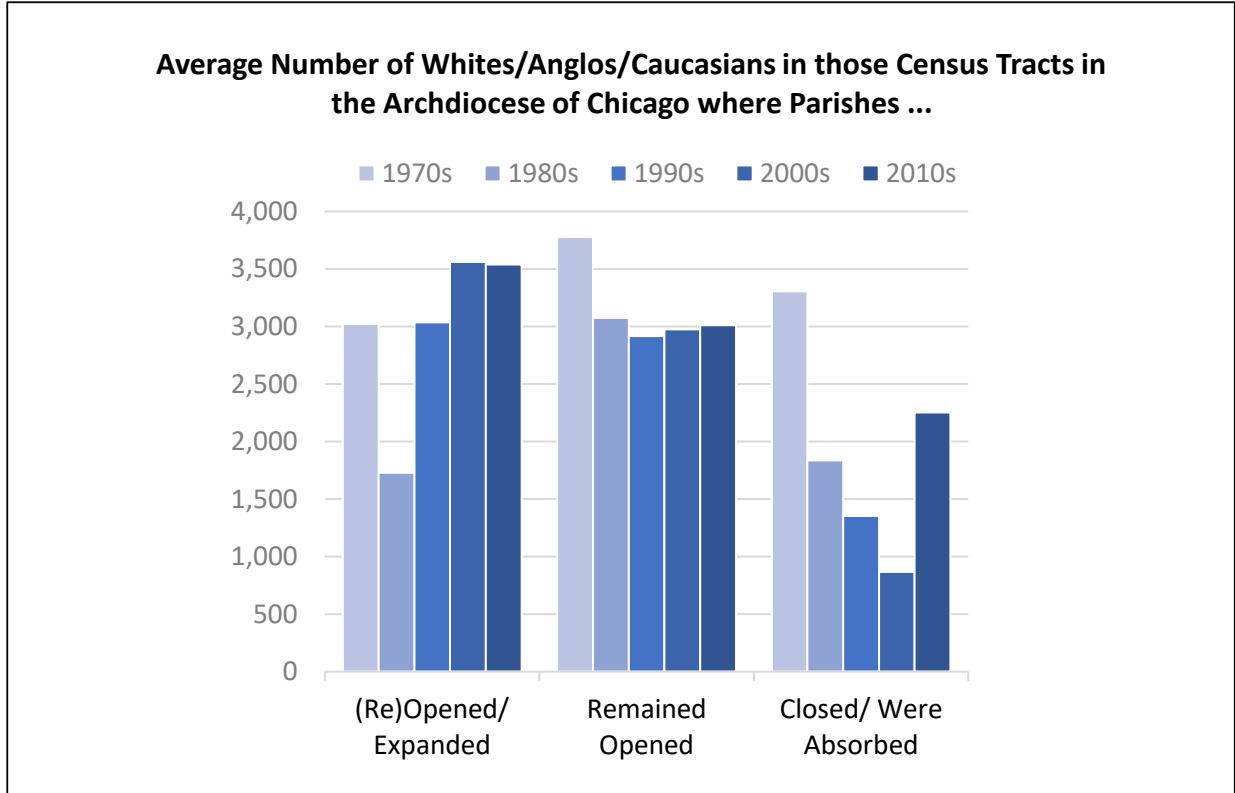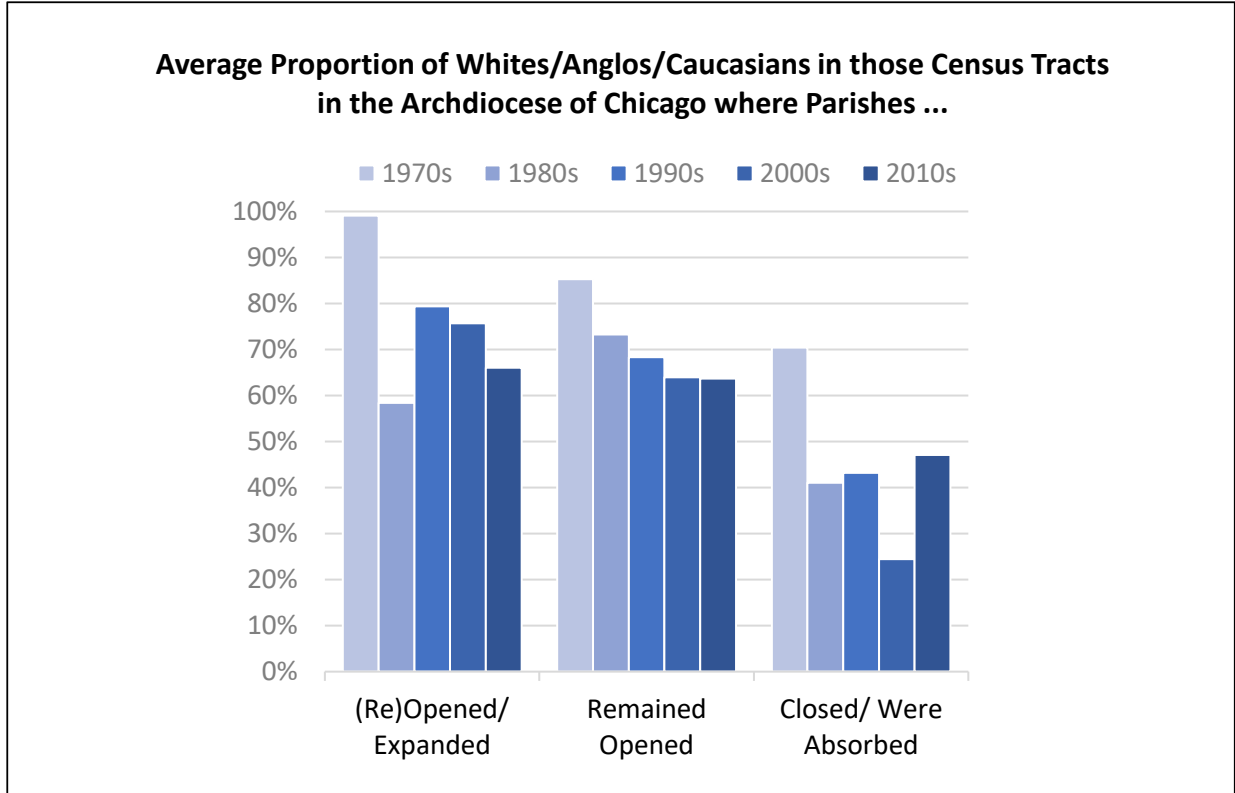
Between 1970 and 2020, there were, on average 3,179 Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where parishes remained opened. By comparison, the number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was lower by 1,299 people (by 41%).
- (Re)opened/expanded was lower by 261 people (by 8%).

Average Number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes …

	1970s [#]	1980s [#]	1990s [#]	2000s [#]	2010s [#]	All [#]
(Re)opened/Expanded	3,022	1,729	3,038	3,561	3,541	**2,918**
Remained Opened	3,779	3,077	2,917	2,977	3,011	**3,179**
Closed/Were Absorbed	3,307	1,838	1,354	868	2,255	**1,880**
Altogether	**3,748**	**2,968**	**2,755**	**2,837**	**2,872**	**3,054**

9. Average Proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians

Average Proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...

Legend: 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, 2010s

Categories: (Re)Opened/Expanded, Remained Opened, Closed/Were Absorbed
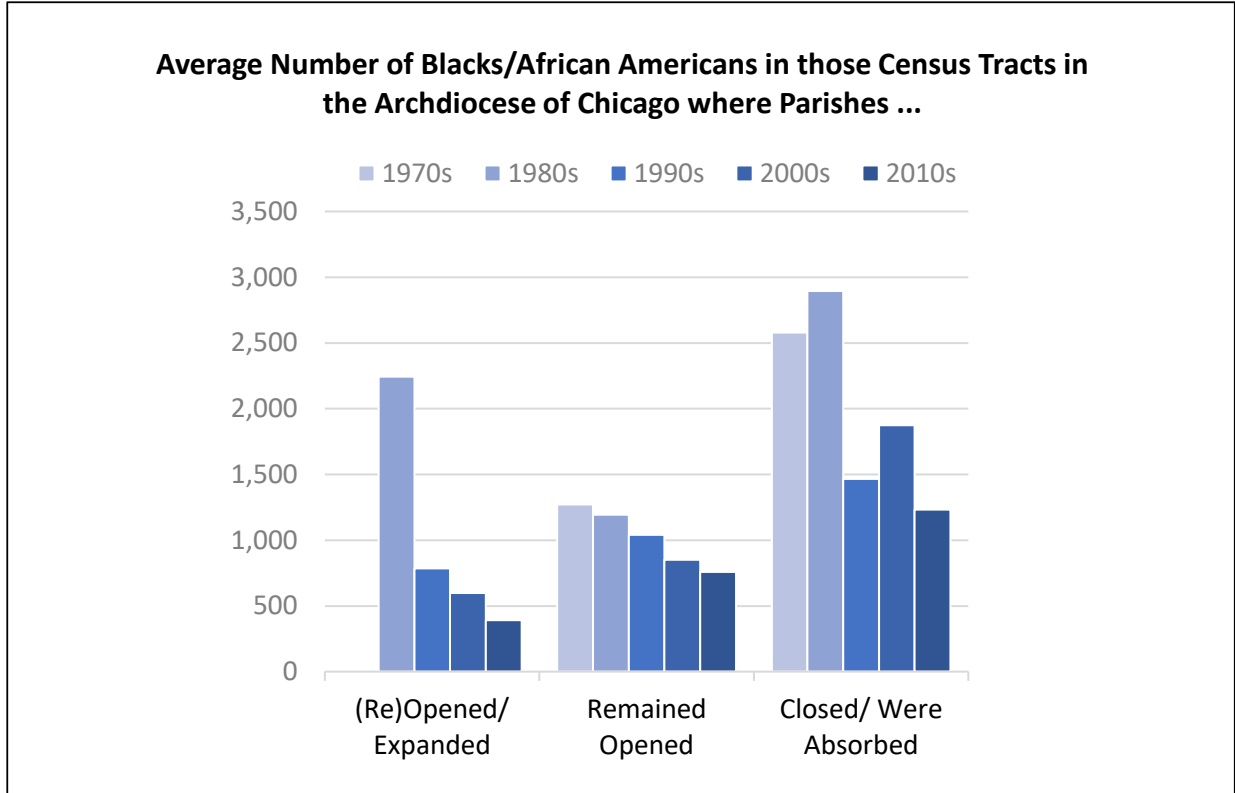
Over the entire 50-year period, the average proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where parishes remained opened equaled 72%. By comparison, the proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was lower by 28pp.
- (Re)opened/expanded was higher by 3pp.

Average Proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...

	1970s [%]	1980s [%]	1990s [%]	2000s [%]	2010s [%]	All [%]
(Re)opened/Expanded	99	58	79	76	66	**75**
Remained Opened	85	73	68	64	64	**72**
Closed/Were Absorbed	70	41	43	24	47	**44**
Altogether	**85**	**71**	**66**	**61**	**60**	**69**

10. Average Number of Blacks/African Americans

Average Number of Blacks/African Americans in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...

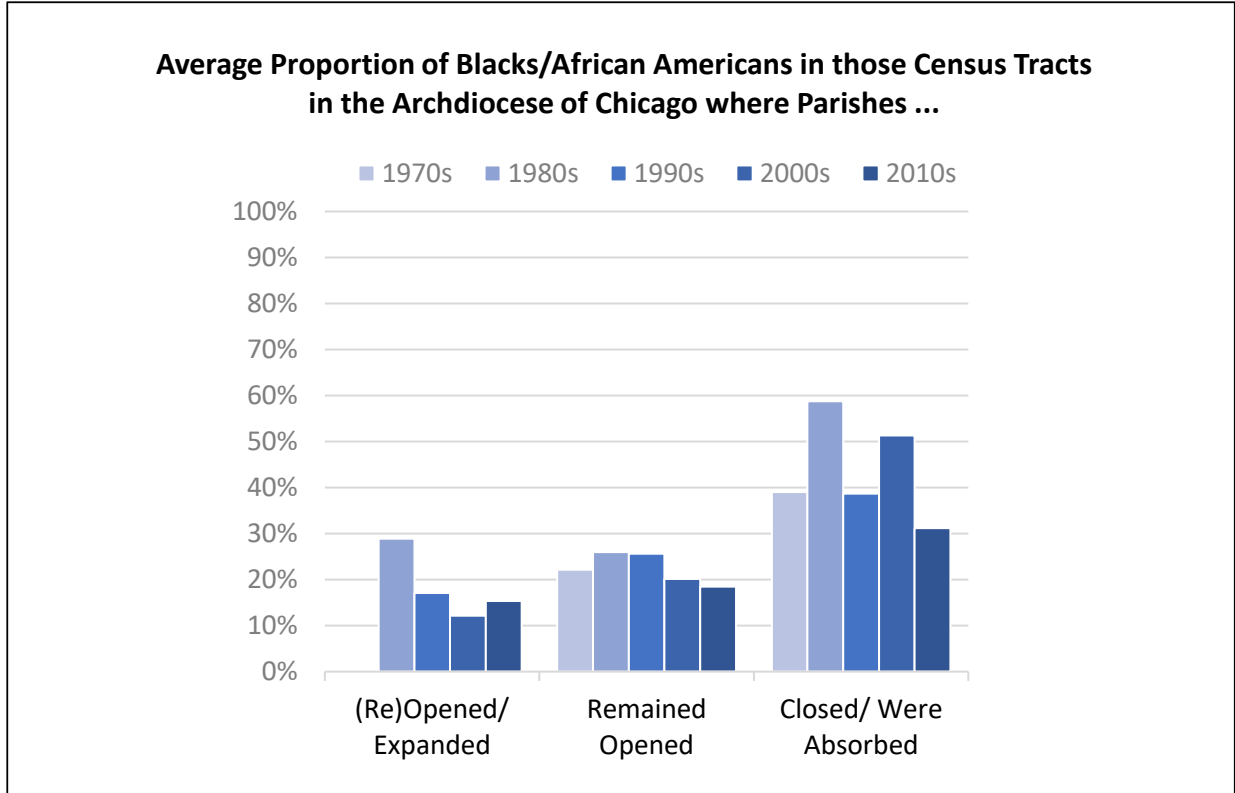■ 1970s ■ 1980s ■ 1990s ■ 2000s ■ 2010s

Between 1970 and 2020, there were, on average 1,012 Blacks/African Americans in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where parishes remained opened. By comparison, the number of Blacks/African Americans in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was higher by 697 people (by 69%).
- (Re)opened/expanded was lower by 177 people (by 17%).

Average Number of Blacks/African Americans in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...

	1970s [#]	1980s [#]	1990s [#]	2000s [#]	2010s [#]	All [#]
(Re)opened/Expanded	8	2,243	786	599	391	**835**
Remained Opened	1,273	1,194	1,041	852	759	**1,012**
Closed/Were Absorbed	2,579	2,896	1,467	1,874	1,233	**1,709**
Altogether	**1,307**	**1,354**	**1,083**	**920**	**845**	**1,082**

11. Average Proportion of Blacks/African Americans

Average Proportion of Blacks/African Americans in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes …
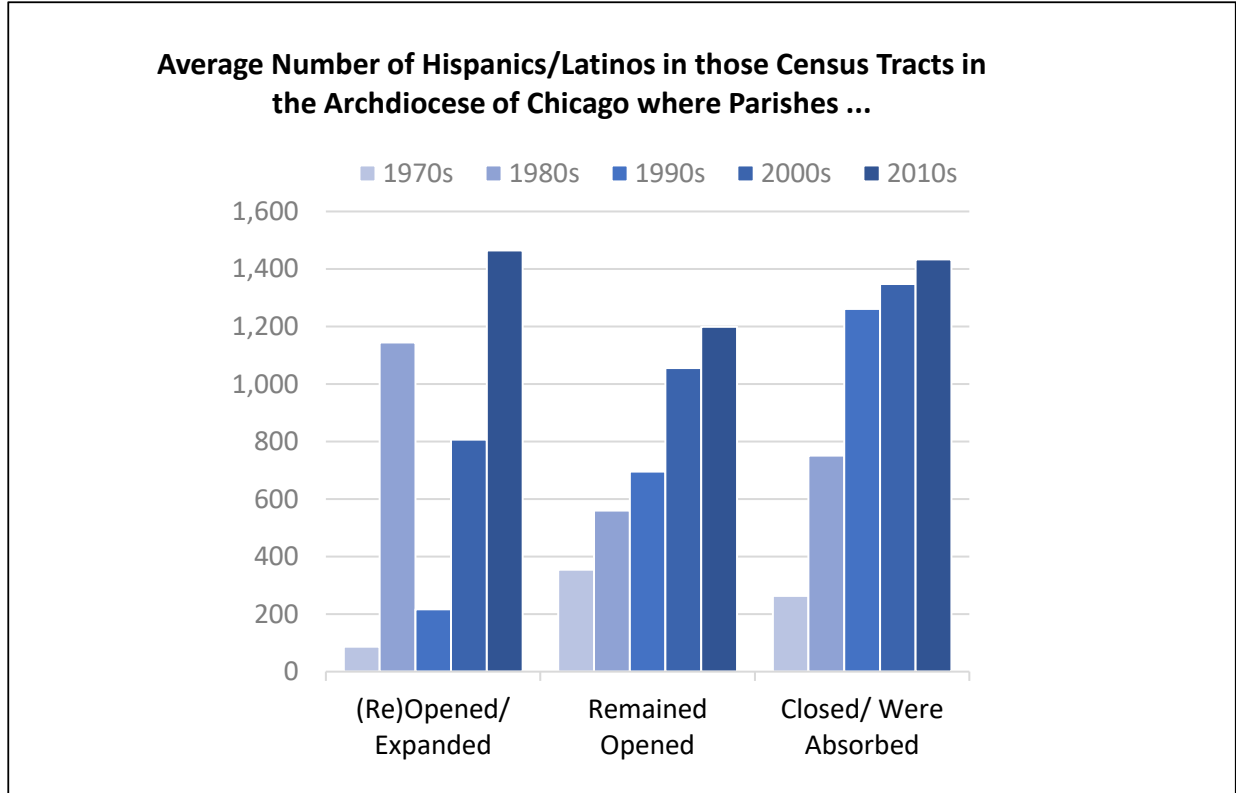
Legend: 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, 2010s

Over the entire 50-year period, the average proportion of Blacks/African Americans in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where parishes remained opened equaled 22%. By comparison, the proportion of Blacks/African Americans in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was higher by 18pp.
- (Re)opened/expanded was lower by 6pp.

Average Proportion of Blacks/African Americans in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes …

	1970s [%]	1980s [%]	1990s [%]	2000s [%]	2010s [%]	All [%]
(Re)opened/Expanded	<1	29	17	12	15	**16**
Remained Opened	22	26	26	20	19	**22**
Closed/Were Absorbed	39	59	39	51	31	**40**
Altogether	**23**	**29**	**27**	**22**	**21**	**24**

12. Average Number of Hispanics/Latinos

Average Number of Hispanics/Latinos in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...
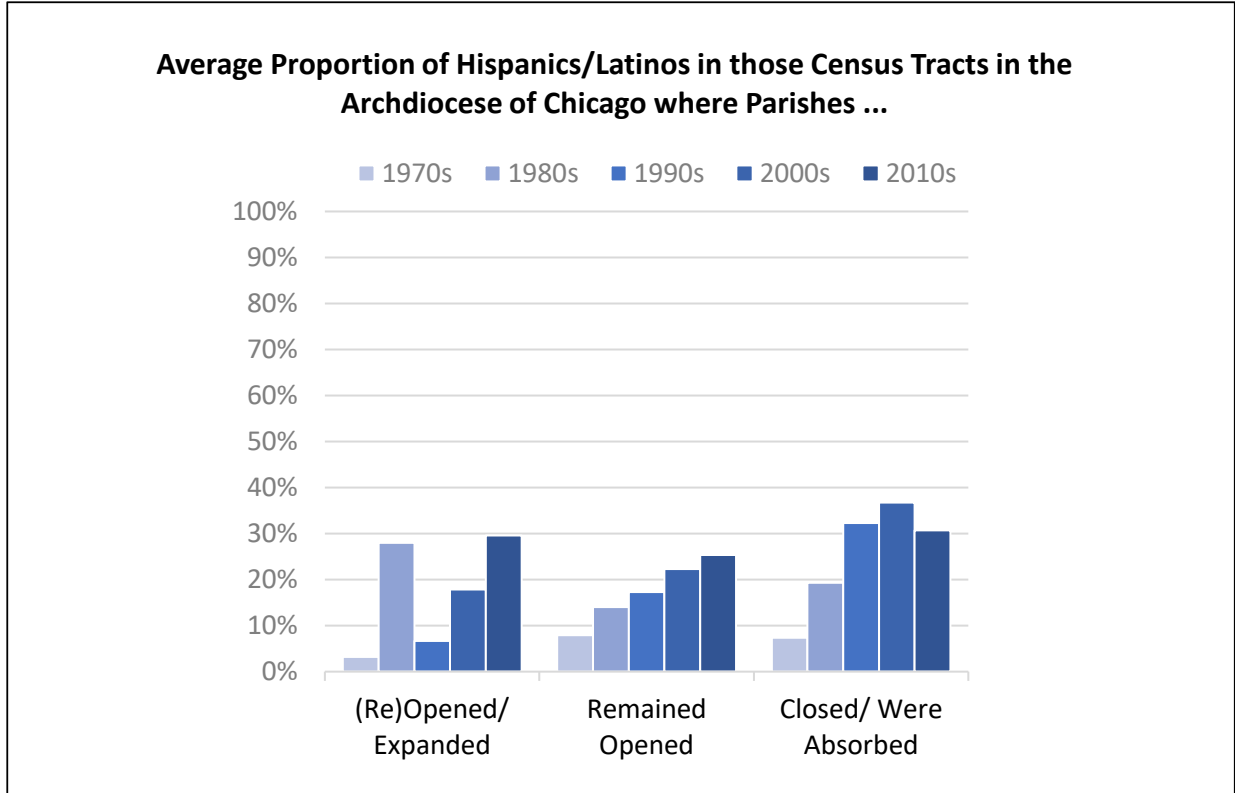
■ 1970s ■ 1980s ■ 1990s ■ 2000s ■ 2010s

Between 1970 and 2020, there were, on average 737 Hispanics/Latinos in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where parishes remained opened. By comparison, the number of Hispanics/Latinos in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was higher by 441 people (by 60%).
- (Re)opened/expanded was higher by 47 people (by 6%).

Average Number of Hispanics/Latinos in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...

	1970s [#]	1980s [#]	1990s [#]	2000s [#]	2010s [#]	All [#]
(Re)opened/Expanded	87	1,144	217	807	1,465	**785**
Remained Opened	354	561	696	1,056	1,199	**737**
Closed/Were Absorbed	263	752	1,261	1,348	1,434	**1,178**
Altogether	**346**	**586**	**746**	**1,072**	**1,254**	**779**

13. Average Proportion of Hispanics/Latinos

Average Proportion of Hispanics/Latinos in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...
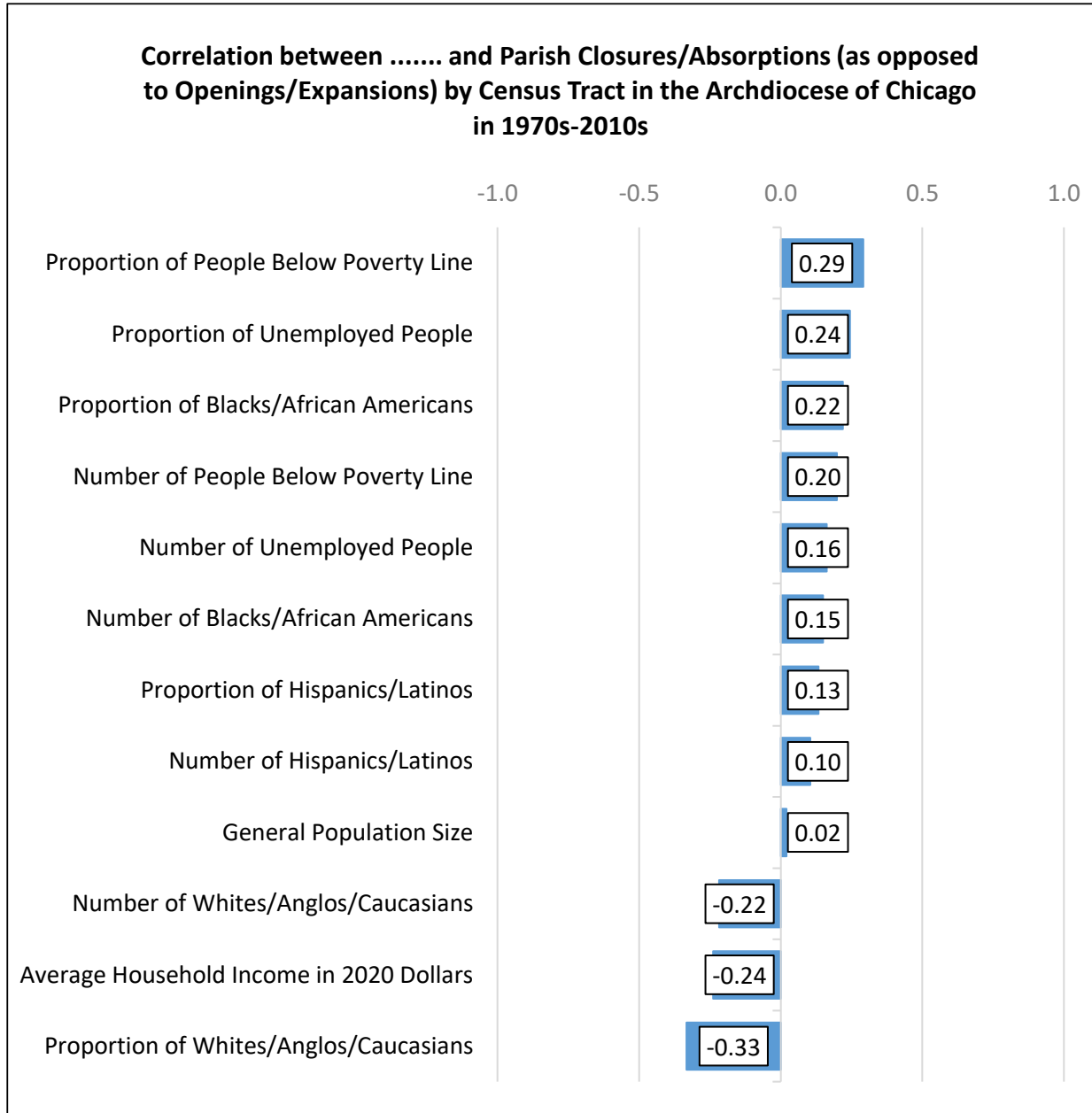
■ 1970s ■ 1980s ■ 1990s ■ 2000s ■ 2010s

Over the entire 50-year period, the average proportion of Hispanics/Latinos in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where parishes remained opened equaled 17%. By comparison, the proportion of Hispanics/Latinos in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was higher by 11pp.
- (Re)opened/expanded was higher by 1pp.

Average Proportion of Hispanics/Latinos in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Chicago where Parishes ...

	1970s [%]	1980s [%]	1990s [%]	2000s [%]	2010s [%]	All [%]
(Re)opened/Expanded	3	28	7	18	30	**18**
Remained Opened	8	14	17	22	25	**17**
Closed/Were Absorbed	7	19	32	37	31	**28**
Altogether	**8**	**15**	**19**	**23**	**27**	**18**

14. Correlation Between Parish Closures/Absorptions and Census Tracts' Socioeconomic Characteristics

Correlation between .... and Parish Closures/Absorptions (as opposed to Openings/Expansions) by Census Tract in the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1970s-2010s

	Correlation
Proportion of People Below Poverty Line	0.29
Proportion of Unemployed People	0.24
Proportion of Blacks/African Americans	0.22
Number of People Below Poverty Line	0.20
Number of Unemployed People	0.16
Number of Blacks/African Americans	0.15
Proportion of Hispanics/Latinos	0.13
Number of Hispanics/Latinos	0.10
General Population Size	0.02
Number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians	-0.22
Average Household Income in 2020 Dollars	-0.24
Proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians	-0.33

The chart above shows correlations measured by Point Biserial Correlation Coefficient. Negative values indicate negative correlation and positive values positive correlation.

Appendix I:
Methodology

This appendix describes the research question as well as data collection and data analysis methodology used in the diocesan – level, county – level, and census tract – level overviews.

Research Question

FutureChurch (FC) commissioned Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) to conduct this study to explore parish, ecclesial, and socioeconomic statistics for 11 dioceses between 1970 and 2020. More specifically, the purpose of this study was to explore the following research questions:

- How did the number of parishes change over time in each diocese in the context of changes to other ecclesial statistics (e.g., prevalence of sacraments)?

- How many parishes (re)opened/expanded (to incorporate another parish), remained opened, and closed/were absorbed (by another parish)? When did it happen? Where were those parishes located?

- What socioeconomic factors may correlate with parish (re)openings/expansions on one side and parish closures/absorptions on the other?

FC selected the following 11 dioceses for the study: Archdiocese of Baltimore, Archdiocese of Chicago, Archdiocese of Detroit, Archdiocese of Miami, Archdiocese of New Orleans, Archdiocese of New York, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Archdiocese of St. Louis, Diocese of Bridgeport, Diocese of Cleveland, and Diocese of Memphis. Those dioceses were selected to fit specific needs of FC and they are not meant to constitute a nationally representative sample.

To investigate the research questions, CARA prepared diocesan – level overview, county – level overview, and census tract – level overview. The data collection methodology and data analysis methodology for each is described below.

Diocesan – Level Analysis

Diocesan – Level Data Collection Methodology

The dataset for diocesan – level analysis (included the first section in the overview of each diocese) was prepared in the following way:
- CARA compiled an electronic dataset including all (arch) dioceses and (arch) eparchies in the United States.
- The data came from 11 volumes of the Official Catholic Directory: 2021, 2016, 2011, 2006, 2001, 1996, 1991, 1986, 1981, 1976, and 1971.
- The variables in the dataset include: total population and Catholic population, as well as the number of parishes, priests, Baptisms, First Communions, receptions into full communion, Confirmations, Marriages, and deaths.
- The table below shows the total number of parishes by decade and diocese.

	1970 [#]	1980 [#]	1990 [#]	2000 [#]	2010 [#]	2020 [#]
	Total Number of Parishes by Decade and Diocese (Aggregated Parish Data from OCD)					
Baltimore	143	150	154	155	153	137
Bridgeport	84	87	90	87	87	78
Chicago	452	444	389	378	357	290
Cleveland	236	246	241	235	174	185
Detroit	352	338	304	308	271	218
Memphis	29	43	41	42	42	41
Miami	111	134	107	108	100	109
New Orleans	157	135	145	146	108	111
New York	407	409	411	412	370	285
Philadelphia	315	307	302	283	267	214
St. Louis	249	246	245	228	188	178
Sum	2,535	2,539	2,429	2,382	2,117	1,846

Diocesan – Level Data Analysis Methodology

The diocesan-level analysis includes the exploration of change over time (as a number and percentage) for 11 variables for each diocese as compared to the national average (i.e., the average of values from all dioceses around the country) (which is shown in charts and tables) and national total (i.e., the sum of values from all dioceses around the country) (which is referenced in the text description).

The variables included in this analysis are:
- Total population.
- Catholic population.
- Number of Baptisms.
- Number of First Communions.
- Number of Confirmations.
- Number of faithful received into full communion.
- Number of Marriages.
- Number of recorded deaths (i.e., Catholic funerals).
- Number of priests (both diocesan and religious priests altogether).
- Number of parishes.
- Number of Catholics per parish.

County – Level Analysis

County – Level Data Collection Methodology

The dataset for county – level analysis (included in the second section in the overview of each diocese) was prepared in the following way:
- CARA aggregated the number of parishes by county using census tract database (that was prepared by CARA as described in the next section).
- CARA aggregated county-level socioeconomic data for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010 using Neighborhood Change Database. Out of 7,088 variables included in this database, CARA selected 125 variables most relevant to the analysis.
- CARA compiled county-level socioeconomic data for 2020 using U.S. Census Bureau's data from Decennial Census and American Community Survey.
- CARA compiled county-level dataset for the number of Catholics by diocese for 1971, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020 based on the U.S. Decennial Religious Census published by the Association of Statisticians for American Religious Bodies (ASARB).
- The four datasets described above were combined into one. And, all the counties that are not a part of the 11 dioceses included in the study were removed (as determined by data from the Official Catholic Directory 2021).
- The final county – level dataset includes data for 85 counties (as well as civil parishes, cities, and boroughs) for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020.

County – Level Data Analysis Methodology

The county – level analysis provides a description of parish data and of census data for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020. The variables included in this analysis are:
- The number of identified parishes by county and altogether (i.e., the sum of all identified parishes in all the counties of a diocese). Notably, the number of identified parishes here does not match the actual number of parishes found in the diocesan – level analysis. See the section on the census tract – level data collection methodology to see how exactly the number of identified parishes was established.
- The Catholic population size (i.e., the Catholic population of all counties in a diocese). Notably, the Catholic population size here (that is derived from the U.S. Religious Census data) does not match the Catholic population size found in the diocesan – level analysis (that derived from the Official Catholic Directory).
- The population size by county and altogether (i.e., the total population of all counties in a diocese). Notably, the general population size here (that is derived from the U.S. Census data) does not match the general population size found in the diocesan – level analysis (that derived from the Official Catholic Directory).
- The average household income in 2020 dollars by county and altogether (i.e., the average income for all counties in a diocese weighted by counties' population size).
- The number of people below poverty line by county and altogether (i.e., the total number of those people across all counties in a diocese).
- The proportion of people below poverty line by county and altogether (i.e., the average proportion for all counties in a diocese weighted by counties' population size).

- The number of persons 16+ years old in the civilian labor force and unemployed by county and altogether (i.e., the total number of those people across all counties).
- The proportion of persons 16+ years old in the civilian labor force and unemployed by county and altogether (i.e., the average proportion for all counties in a diocese weighted by counties' population size).
- The number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians by county and altogether (i.e., the total number of those people across all counties in a diocese).
- The proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians by county and altogether (i.e., the average proportion for all counties in a diocese weighted by counties' population size).
- The number of Blacks/African Americans by county and altogether (i.e., the total number of those people across all counties in a diocese).
- The proportion of Blacks/African Americans by county and altogether (i.e., the average proportion for all counties in a diocese weighted by counties' population size).
- The number of Hispanics/Latinos by county and altogether (i.e., the total number of those people across all counties in a diocese).
- The proportion of Hispanics/Latinos by county and altogether (i.e., the average proportion for all counties in a diocese weighted by counties' population size).

County-level overview includes a chart(s), a map, a table, and text description for each variable to describe how values have changed over time for each county and for the entire diocese altogether (both as a change in number and as percentage change).

The overview concludes with analysis exploring correlations between the number of identified parishes and each of the 13 socioeconomic variables. The description includes minimum, average and maximum Pearson's Correlation Coefficients for all counties in the diocese for which data was available for the entire studied period (1970-2020). Pearson's Correlation Coefficients are also calculated for the diocese as a whole (if available data is incomplete, some counties are excluded from this calculation).

Notably, a correlation marked as strong in the report points out an important finding but it should be carefully interpreted. It should be noted that correlation does not imply causation and that correlations are limited to exploring relationships between two variables. Those relationships may be different when multiple variables are considered simultaneously.

Census Tract – Level Analysis

Census Tract – Level Data Collection Methodology

The dataset for overview by census tract (included in the third section in the overview of each diocese) was prepared in the following way:
- CARA compiled an electronic dataset including all parishes in the 11 dioceses. The data came from six volumes of the Official Catholic Directory: 2021, 2011, 2001, 1991, 1981, and 1971. The parish records were matched between volumes. CARA identified numerous inconsistencies, errors and missing data points between different dioceses and between different volumes.[1] Those problems were manually resolved whenever possible.

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[1] Examples of problems with parish records include the following:

To reduce the likelihood of introducing new errors during transcription, CARA manually double checked all the records.

- Separately, CARA compiled an electronic dataset of parishes for the 11 dioceses from other available sources. Those sources primarily included lists of closed parishes published on diocesan websites. Those sources were cross-checked against the main dataset. Wherever possible, parish records were manually matched between different sources and inconsistencies were resolved. The resulting dataset included 3,000 parishes.

- Out of this number, 33 parishes were removed because they were closed before 1970 or opened after 2020.

- The parish address information in the Official Catholic Directory often includes the address of the residence (rather than address of the church). To increase the validity of address information, CARA accessed the database of all parishes in the United States from MassTimes.org. This database was cross-checked against the main dataset. Wherever possible, parish addresses were matched between the two sources and inconsistencies were resolved.

- CARA identified duplicate parish records. This includes records for parishes located in the same diocese that share the same address. This also includes records for parish located in the same ZIP code that share the same parish name. The reasons for those duplicates could sometimes be identified (e.g., an ethnic parish sharing the same church

1. In most dioceses, parish records included opening year. But, in some dioceses, opening year was missing for some parishes or for virtually all parishes (e.g., Chicago). In those cases, CARA had to infer the opening year based on whether a particular parish was listed in consecutive volumes. For example, St. Felicitas in Chicago is listed in OCD 2011 but not in OCD 2021, thus it is inferred that this parish was closed in 2010s.
2. Sometimes, opening dates are inconsistent from one OCD volume to another (e.g., Mary, Mother of the Church in St. Louis, MO was opened in 1981 according to OCD 2021 and in 1971 according to OCD 2011).
3. Some parishes appear only once (across the five decades) without enough information to compile a complete record (e.g., St. Agnes in St. Louis appears without address or year in OCD 2001 and not in other volumes).
4. Some dioceses had different ways of denoting that a parish is closed or merged, which caused delays in coding.
5. Most parish records include information about address of residence (as opposed to address of the church). Changes to the address of residence created difficulty with matching parish records across OCD volumes.
6. Parish records outside the main city are organized by the town where they are located. Over decades some of those towns got absorbed, which created difficulty with matching parish records across OCD volumes.
7. Sometimes, the same church is listed in two different cities (e.g., in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, St. Joseph church is listed under the city of Neier in Franklin County but the full address for this church indicates that it is located in Union).
8. Sometimes parishes share the same address. This may be due to one of these parishes serving ethnic populations (e.g., St. Matthew and Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Stanislaus Kostka- Polish are both located at 616 Warburton Ave., Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706).
9. Sometimes the name of the same parish does not match exactly across OCD volumes (e.g., St. Mary of the Angels in Chicago in OCD 1991 is just called St. Mary).
10. Some records are not parishes as defined for the purpose of this study (e.g., Our Lady of Loreto at Terminal 2 of O'Hare Airport Listed in OCD 1981).
11. Some parishes are listed twice in the same volume of OCD (e.g., St. Joseph in Odenton at the Archdiocese of Baltimore is listed twice in OCD 2021).
12. Sometimes OCD listings are incorrect (e.g., St. Francis of Assisi in Brunswick at the Archdiocese of Baltimore is listed as open in OCD 2021 but it is closed according to diocesan website).
13. Some parishes are missing (e.g., Holy Korean Martyrs in Baltimore is listed in OCD 2021 as opened in 1989 but these parishes cannot be found in OCD 1991).
14. Often OCD would describe a parish as closed if it closed the same year for which data was collected (e.g., St. Lawrence in Cleveland is marked as closed in OCD 2011 for 2010 and it was closed in 2010).

building with an English-speaking parish). The duplicate records were merged, which reduced the number of parishes by 140 from 2,967 to 2,827.

- The geographical jurisdiction of some dioceses changed between 1970 and 2020. CARA identified counties that no longer belong to the 11 dioceses. CARA removed parishes located in those counties from the dataset. This reduced the number of parishes by 86 from 2,827 to 2,741.

- Wherever possible, CARA used the Census Bureau's GeoCoder database to increase the validity of address information. In order to match parish data with census tract data, GEOIDs had to be identified for each parish. CARA was unable to assign GEOIDs to 221 records, reducing the number of parishes from 2,741 to 2,520.

- CARA acquired the Neighborhood Change Database[2] that includes normalized census tract data for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010. This database includes 7,088 variables. Out of this number, CARA selected 125 variables most relevant to the analysis.

- All the parishes could be matched to the census tract database. So, the final dataset includes 2,520 parishes.

- The table below shows the number of identified parishes by decade and diocese, in the final dataset.

Total Number of Parishes by Decade and Diocese
(Final Dataset)

	1970 [#]	1980 [#]	1990 [#]	2000 [#]	2010 [#]	2020 [#]
Baltimore	126	136	141	138	138	128
Bridgeport	79	81	83	80	80	70
Chicago	428	421	401	368	346	285
Cleveland	221	237	235	225	194	176
Detroit	287	305	285	283	246	198
Memphis	31	37	38	39	39	38
Miami	67	82	94	96	87	88
New Orleans	112	127	136	136	100	101
New York	381	378	381	380	361	285
Philadelphia	282	278	275	263	244	196
St. Louis	214	215	211	195	163	157
Sum	2,228	2,297	2,280	2,203	1,998	1,722

Census Tract – Level Data Analysis Methodology

The census tract – level analysis provides description of census tract data tabulated by three parish subgroups: parishes that (re)opened/expanded to incorporate other parishes, parishes that

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[2] This database appears to incorrectly assign 0 values to missing values. In the analysis for this report, 0 values are treated as missing values.

closed/were absorbed by other parishes, and parishes that remained open over the course of each decade (i.e., 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, and 2010s).

The dataset consists of normalized census tract data from the beginning of each decade (e.g., data for 1970s is taken from the 1970 census) calculated for those census tracts where parishes (re)opened/expanded, remained opened, and closed/were absorbed for the following variables:
- The number of identified parishes. Notably, the number of identified parishes here is equal or lower than the actual number of parishes found in the diocesan – level analysis. See the section on the census tract – level data collection methodology to see how exactly the number of identified parishes was established.
- The population size. Notably, the general population size here (that is derived from Census data) does not match the general population size found in the diocesan – level analysis (that derived from the Official Catholic Directory).
- The average household income in 2020 dollars.
- The number of people below poverty line.
- The proportion of people below poverty line.
- The number of persons 16+ years old in the civilian labor force and unemployed.
- The proportion of persons 16+ years old in the civilian labor force and unemployed.
- The number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians.
- The proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians.
- The number of Blacks/African Americans.
- The proportion of Blacks/African Americans.
- The number of Hispanics/Latinos.
- The proportion of Hispanics/Latinos.

Census tract-level analysis overview includes two maps to show identified parishes in the diocese (one showing the entire diocese and the other showing a close up of the main metropolitan area). Additionally, the overview includes a chart, a table, and text description for each variable explaining how values differ between census tracts where parishes (re)opened/expanded, remained opened, and closed/were absorbed.

The overview concludes with analysis exploring correlations between parishes' status (opened or closed) and each of the 12 socioeconomic variables. The description is based on Point Biserial Correlation Coefficients for all parishes / census tracts in each diocese for which data was available.

The census tract-level analysis comes with several caveats. Notably, the underlying census tracts data are normalized by adjusting the boundaries and characteristics of each tract. In general, this allows for valid comparisons of socioeconomic characteristics between different census years. However, it's important to keep in mind that there are some limitations to comparing census tract data over time:
- Changes in the methods used to collect and tabulate census data, as well as changes in the questions asked on the census, can affect the comparability of data collected in different census years.
- Some census tracts may be split or combined during the normalization process, which can also affect the comparability of data collected in different census years.

Caution should be exercised when interpreting the findings for "number" variables such as the number of Blacks/African Americans (as opposed to "proportion" variables such as the proportion of Blacks/African Americans) included in the text description. This text description makes a comparison of census tract data aggregated over time and, for example, it may give disproportionately higher weight to more recent years (if population was growing and if there were more parishes at the beginning of the studied period).

Caution should be exercised when drawing the implications of the findings from Census data for the Catholic dioceses. For instance:
- Census tract is an approximation of a neighborhood (as opposed to a parish).
- Socioeconomic characteristics (e.g., proportion of Blacks/African Americans) apply to all people living in a census tract (as opposed to all Catholics belonging to a parish).

Caution should be exercised when trying to generalize findings from 11 dioceses included in the study to all the dioceses in the United States. The dioceses included in the study were selected at the discretion of FutureChurch based on their particular interests. These dioceses are not meant to constitute a nationally representative sample.

Caution should be exercised when trying to generalize findings for the relationship between two variables (e.g., difference between the average proportion of Blacks/African Americans in census tracts where parishes were closed/absorbed and the average proportion of Blacks/African Americans in census tracts where parishes were opened/expanded in the Diocese of Cleveland or, another example, correlation between proportion of Blacks/African Americans in a census tracts and parish's status: opened/expanded or closed/absorbed in the Diocese of Cleveland). Those type of generalizations would benefit from more sophisticated statistical analysis that is beyond the scope of this report.

Preliminary examples of such analysis for all 11 dioceses altogether would be logistic regression models aimed to predict whether a parish closes/gets absorbed (as opposed to opens/expands) (see the table below). Overall, the results from those two models indicate that parish closures are more likely in later decades, in census tracts with higher poverty rates, with higher proportion of Black/African Americans, with lower proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians, and in larger populations. Notably, it appears that poverty rate is a substantially bigger predictor of parish closures than racial composition.

For example, in the first model, the odds of parish closing (as opposed to opening) are predicted to:
- Grow about 1.02 times larger with each additional 1pp increase in the proportion of Blacks/African Americans in a neighborhood (while controlling for decade, poverty rate, and population size).
- Grow about 1.04 times larger with each additional 1pp increase in poverty rate (while controlling for proportion of Blacks/African Americans, poverty rate, and population size).
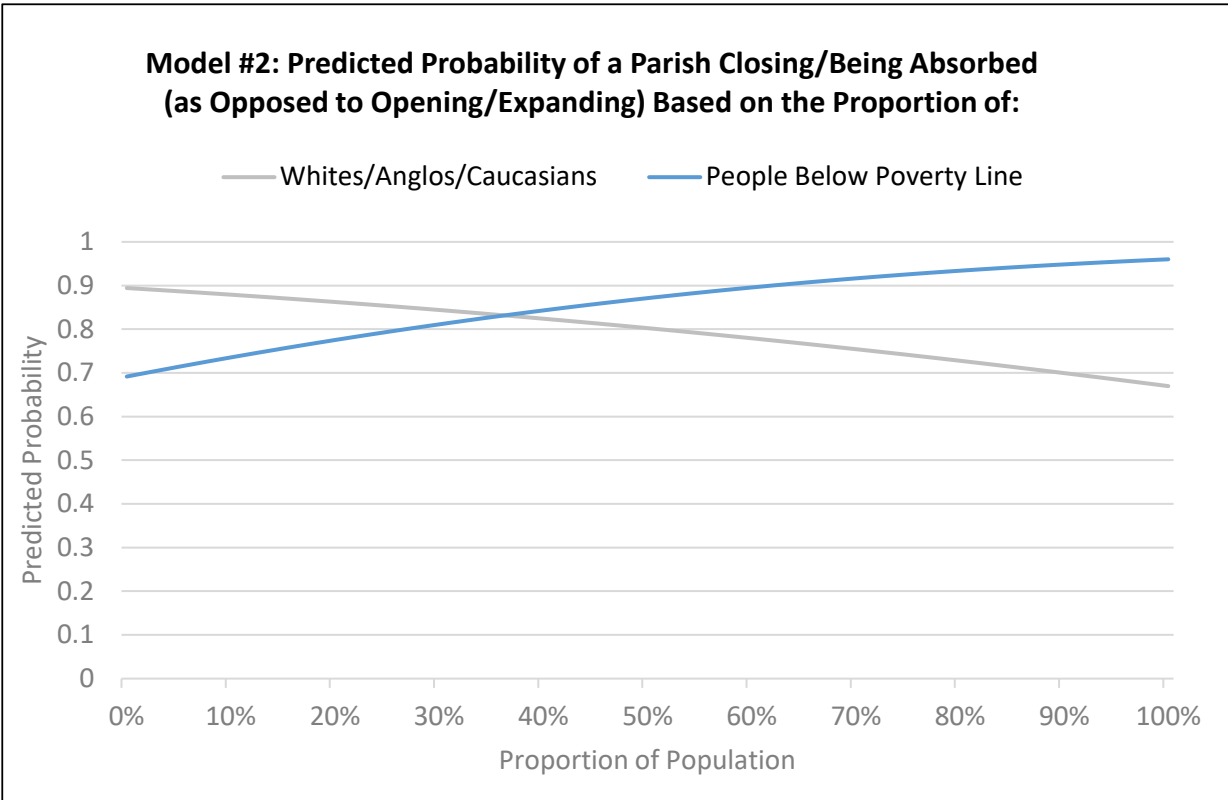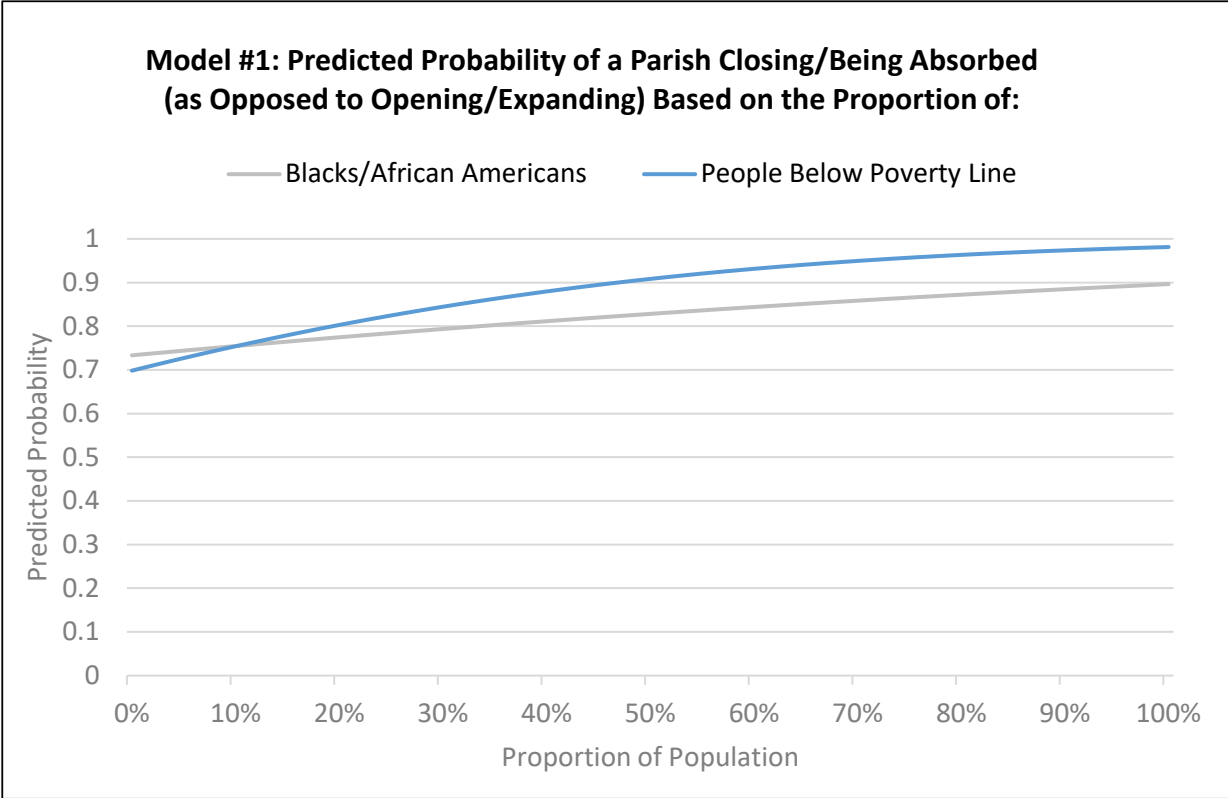
In the second model, the odds of parish closing (as opposed to opening) are predicted to:
- Shrink by a factor of about 0.02 with each additional 1pp increase in the proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in a neighborhood (while decade, poverty rate, and population size are constant/ unchanged).
- Grow about 1.03 times larger with each additional 1pp increase in poverty rate (while controlling for proportion of Whites, poverty rate, and population size).

	Model #1	Model #2
Odds Ratios for Parish Closing/Being Absorbed as Opposed to (Re)opening/Expanding		
Decade (1970s)		
1980s	1.4364	1.3972
1990s	4.3588 **	3.5141 **
2000s	8.6180 **	8.2607 **
2010s	9.5232 **	8.3210 **
Proportion of		
People Below Poverty Line	1.0373 **	1.0307 **
Blacks/African Americans	1.0147 **	
Whites/Anglos/Caucasians		0.9819 **
Other		
Population Size	1.0002 **	1.0002 **
Constant	0.1442 **	0.7836
Model Assessment		
Number of Observations	993	1,055
AIC	780.5190	833.1605
BIC	819.7248	872.8508
Proportion of Correctly Classified Observations	85.50%	85.02%
Pseudo R^2	0.2576	0.3011
Wald test	χ2(7)=187.30 (p=0.0000)	χ2(7)=232.24 (p=0.0000)
Max VIF	4.45	4.01
Mean VIF	2.68	2.61

* p<0.05, **p<0.01

The charts below show different predicted probabilities at different proportions of Blacks/African Americans and different poverty rates (for Model #1) as well as different proportions of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians and different poverty rates (for Model #2).

Model #1: Predicted Probability of a Parish Closing/Being Absorbed (as Opposed to Opening/Expanding) Based on the Proportion of:

Blacks/African Americans — People Below Poverty Line

Model #2: Predicted Probability of a Parish Closing/Being Absorbed (as Opposed to Opening/Expanding) Based on the Proportion of:

Whites/Anglos/Caucasians — People Below Poverty Line

Appendix II:
About CARA

The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) is a non-profit research center that has been conducting social scientific studies about and for the Catholic Church since 1964. CARA's mission has three aspects: to increase the Church's self-understanding, to serve the applied research needs of Church decision-makers, and to advance scholarly research on religion, particularly Catholicism. To this end, CARA provides assistance through custom-tailored research programs for various stakeholders:

Services to dioceses: include a number of rigorously designed and empirically proven programs, such as:

- Cultivating Unity: A program offered by CARA in collaboration with the National Organization for Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy (NOCERCC), to strengthen solidarity among priests and their bishop. The centerpiece is a convocation where presbyteral unity is fostered through presentations, group discussions, prayer and reflection.
- Diocesan Demographic Review: A comprehensive demographic summary illustrating socio-economic characteristics of the Catholic and total population in a diocese. The report presents data on the size and distribution of the Catholic population in the diocese overall and within counties, deaneries, or vicariates.
- Diocesan-wide Parish Life Studies: A survey based on an extensive database of tested questions. The survey is administered in-pew to some or all parishes in the diocese. The data collected captures information about parish life and vitality.
- Presbyterate Surveys: Studies intended to assist dioceses with pastoral planning and understanding their priests' needs. Surveys are conducted among active and retired diocesan priests and religious priests active in parish ministry. Questions are adapted to meet diocesan needs.
- Priest Personnel Projections: Used in more than 75 dioceses over the past 40 years. Known for their precise methodology, these projections are an invaluable tool for clergy planning. The report presents likely projections of the number of diocesan priests available to serve in the future.

Services to religious institutes: CARA conducts a variety of studies for religious institutes (congregations, provinces, and monasteries). Those projects may include a combination of member surveys, focus groups, membership projections, and ministry site studies. They are often used in strategic or pastoral planning processes.

- Membership Surveys and Focus Groups are designed to assess attitudes, priorities, and needs in areas such as mission, ministry, charism, prayer, spirituality, community life, vocation promotion, initial formation, ongoing formation, and retirement.
- Custom Studies are designed to provide insight in areas such as sponsorship, mission integration as well as collaboration with associates and colleagues in sponsored institutions and works.

Services to individual parishes: For more than 20 years, CARA has served the research and planning needs of over 900 parishes. CARA provides its Parish Life Survey to help parishes develop

information-based pastoral plans that are attentive to the needs of the people of the parish community.

Services for Catholic Media and Publishers: CARA is a national leader in the study of Catholic media use. CARA regularly includes questions regarding media use in its CARA Catholic Polls series. CARA has also conducted studies specifically focused on media use including surveys and analysis of other national data sources.

- Diocesan Level Surveys: Assist in the analysis of subscription trends over time and map subscription areas. Using survey research and/or focus groups, CARA collects information about readers and subscribers as well as their attitudes and preferences for a publication. Those surveys can be used to make decisions about content and format as well as produce the information needed to attract potential advertisers. CARA can provide comparisons between readers, diocesan newspaper readers nationally, adult Catholics nationally, and/or the general U.S. adult population.
- Research for Catholic Publishers: CARA utilizes surveys, focus groups, and interviews to understand readers' and educators' interests in and satisfaction with material. These studies are typically custom designed to evaluate a product in development or already out in the marketplace. CARA helps publishers understand their markets and refine their products from religious education textbooks to online media.

Services for Catholic Schools: CARA offers different approaches for Catholic schools to surveying their community, depending on how they plan to use the resulting data:

- Surveys of Parents of enrolled students: In consultation with school staff, CARA can design a questionnaire for parents of students enrolled in the school. This questionnaire covers such topics as satisfaction with school administration, opinions of parents on the school facilities, the likelihood of parents to recommend the school to family and friends, and other topics useful for planning.
- Surveys of Parents in the Parish: CARA surveys all people in the pews on a given weekend. These surveys can be designed to ask specific questions of those parents in the parish who do not have their children enrolled in the parish school.

Services for Catholic Higher Education: CARA offers a number of services focusing specifically on the needs of those working in higher education:

- Surveys of Students: CARA conducts surveys designed to meet the unique needs of campus ministry. A combination of in-pew surveys of Mass attenders and/or residence hall surveys can be used to collect information for use in pastoral planning, in evaluations of programming, and in understanding the unique ways that college students express their spirituality. Additionally, for residence hall surveys, special survey items can be included for those of other faith traditions or denominations.
- Surveys of Faculty, Staff, and Boards: conducts surveys of faculty and staff at Catholic colleges and universities to evaluate the expressions of mission found on campus. These surveys include program-specific issues, staff development, and the unique charism of the institution, and are developed in collaboration with key stakeholders, including mission officers, campus ministers, and senior administrative leaders.
- Surveys of Alumni: CARA prepares surveys of alumni of colleges and universities. For Catholic colleges and universities, surveys focus on faith change over time, reflection on

time at the university, and the impact of attending a Catholic college or university, as well as development and other issues pertinent to alumni.

Services for Catholic Organizations and Institutions: CARA offers many research services custom-tailored to specific needs of different Catholic organizations and institutions. Some of those projects involve handling of mission-central and highly confidential information. For example:

- CARA helped Catholic Charities USA maintain an accurate record of the size and scope of services provided by its approximately 175 member agencies and affiliates.
- CARA collected data from all U.S. dioceses and eparchies for the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to document the response of bishops to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.
- CARA carried out a survey of salary and benefits for priests and lay personnel for the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators and the National Federation of Priests' Councils.
- CARA carried out a program evaluation for L'Arche USA that involved a national survey of assistants and staff.

CARA provides those services as one-time projects that address decision needs at a specific point in time or as multi-year studies that allow tracking trends and provide up-to-date insights on changing needs and emerging opportunities.

To learn more about how CARA may be able to assist you, contact: cara@georgetown.edu or visit cara.georgetown.edu.

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