

March 2023

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

*A Report for the
FutureChurch*

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March 31, 2023

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

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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.

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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 Detroit 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 Communion*	-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 Communion	-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 Communion 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.

	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.

	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 from 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).

	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 where 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 where 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 Detroit.

Archdiocese of Detroit

The diocesan - level analysis of ecclesial data found that in the Archdiocese of Detroit (note that during the analyzed period, the geographic territory of the Archdiocese of Detroit has decreased):

- The number of Catholic Marriages decreased by 88% between 1970 and 2020.
- The number of Baptisms decreased by 83% between 1970 and 2020.
- The number of faithful received into full communions decreased by 76% between 1970 and 2020.
- The number of priests decreased by 62% between 1970 and 2020.
- The number of First Communions decreased by 56% between 1990 and 2020.
- The number of Confirmations decreased by 50% between 1990 and 2020.
- The number of Catholic deaths decreased by 47% between 1970 and 2020.
- The number of parishes decreased by 38% between 1970 and 2020.
- Catholic population decreased by 29% between 1970 and 2020.
- The number of Catholics per parish increased by 15% between 1970 and 2020.
- Total population decreased by 10% 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 Detroit:

- The proportion of Hispanics/Latinos increased by 276% and shows strong negative correlation with changes in the number of identified parishes from decade to decade between 1970 and 2020 (PCC of -0.94).
- The number of Hispanics/Latinos increased by 269% and shows strong negative correlation with changes in the number of identified parishes from decade to decade between 1970 and 2020 (PCC of -0.94).
- The proportion of people below poverty line increased by 70% and shows strong negative correlation with changes in the number of identified parishes from decade to decade between 1970 and 2020 (PCC of -0.71).
- The number of people below poverty line increased by 61% and shows strong negative correlation with changes in the number of identified parishes from decade to decade between 1970 and 2020 (PCC of -0.71).
- The Catholic population size decreased by 44% and shows strong positive correlation with changes in the number of identified parishes from decade to decade between 1970 and 2020 (PCC of 0.75).
- The number of persons 16+ years old in the civilian labor force and unemployed increased by 42%.
- The proportion of Blacks/African Americans increased by 41%.
- Number of identified parishes decreased by 31%.
- The number of Blacks/African Americans increased by 29%.
- The number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians decreased by 24% and shows strong positive correlation with changes in the number of identified parishes from decade to decade between 1970 and 2020 (PCC of 0.83).
- The proportion of persons 16+ years old in the civilian labor force and unemployed increased by 18%.

- The proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians decreased by 17% and shows strong positive correlation with changes in the number of identified parishes from decade to decade between 1970 and 2020 (PCC of 0.75).
- The average household income in 2020 dollars increased by 6%.
- The general population size decreased 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 Detroit:

- There were 57 identified parishes that (re)opened/expanded, 141 that remained opened, and 146 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 27pp 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 11pp than in neighborhoods where parishes were closed/absorbed.
- The average proportion of unemployed in neighborhoods where parishes were (re)opened/expanded is lower by 6pp 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 1pp 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 Detroit. 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 Detroit. 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 Communion, 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 Detroit

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

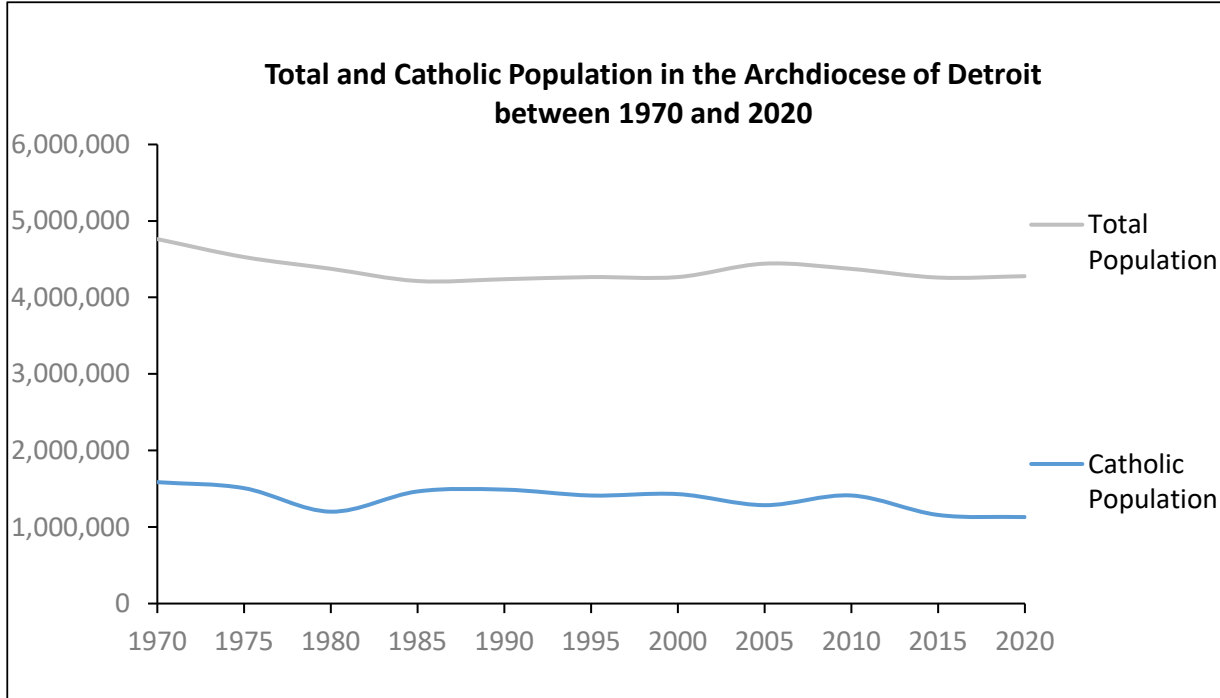
For the summary of the main findings from this analysis, see the Executive Summary at the beginning of this report.

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 Communion, 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



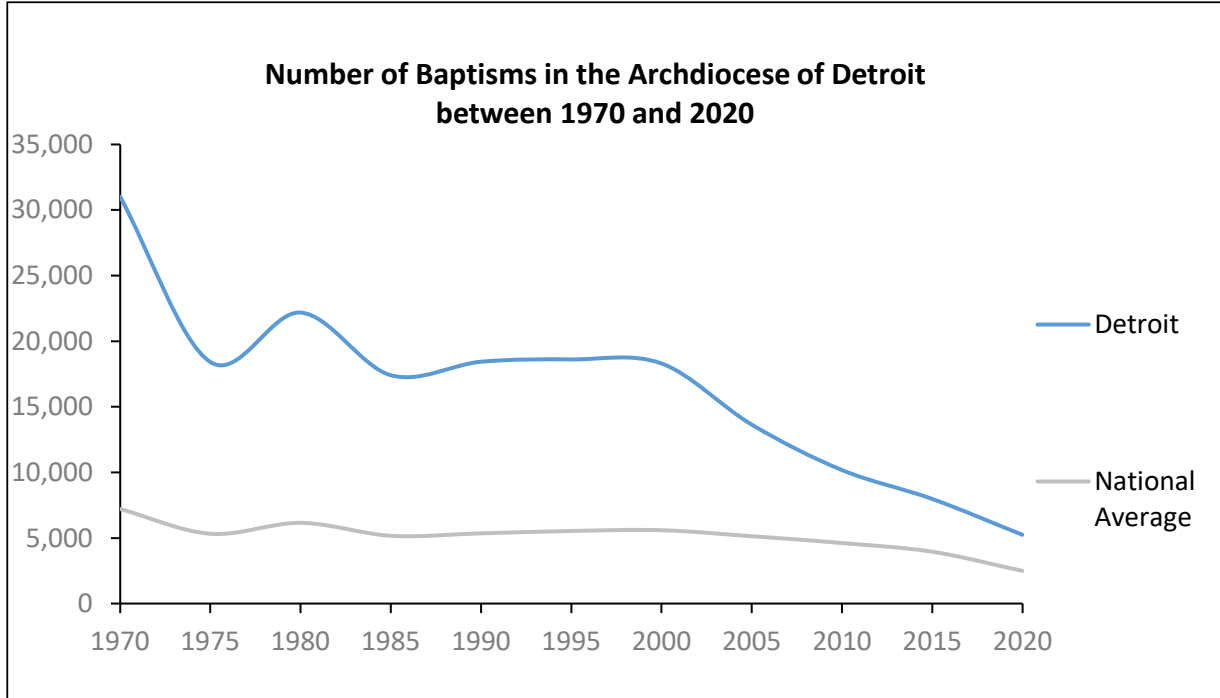
* During the analyzed period, the geographic territory of the Archdiocese of Detroit has decreased.

The number of Catholics in the Archdiocese of Detroit decreased from 1,587,334 in 1970 to 1,131,660 in 2020. This means that the number of Catholics in the archdiocese declined by 29% over those 50 years.

By comparison, the total population of the Archdiocese of Detroit decreased from 4,762,002 in 1970 to 4,278,248 in 2020. So, the overall population declined by 10% in the same period.

Total and Catholic Population in the Archdiocese of Detroit between 1970 and 2020						
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
Total Population	4,762,002	4,374,829	4,238,900	4,266,650	4,373,040	4,278,248
Catholic Population	1,587,334	1,202,131	1,490,000	1,431,565	1,413,612	1,131,660

2. Number of Baptisms

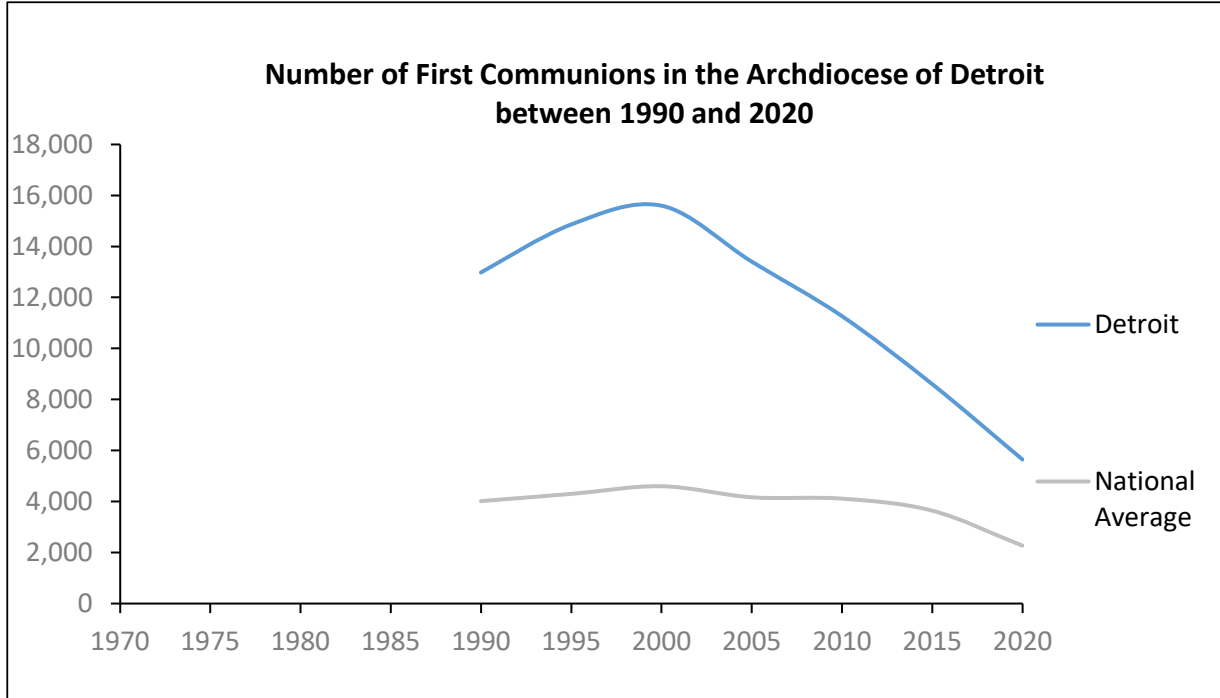


* During the analyzed period, the geographic territory of the Archdiocese of Detroit has decreased.

The number of Baptisms in the Archdiocese of Detroit decreased from 31,004 in 1970 to 5,250 in 2020. This means that, on average, there were 515 fewer Baptisms each year over those 50 years. It also means that the annual number of Baptisms in the archdiocese declined by 83% 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
Detroit	31,004	22,175	18,431	18,298	10,180	5,250

3. Number of First Communion



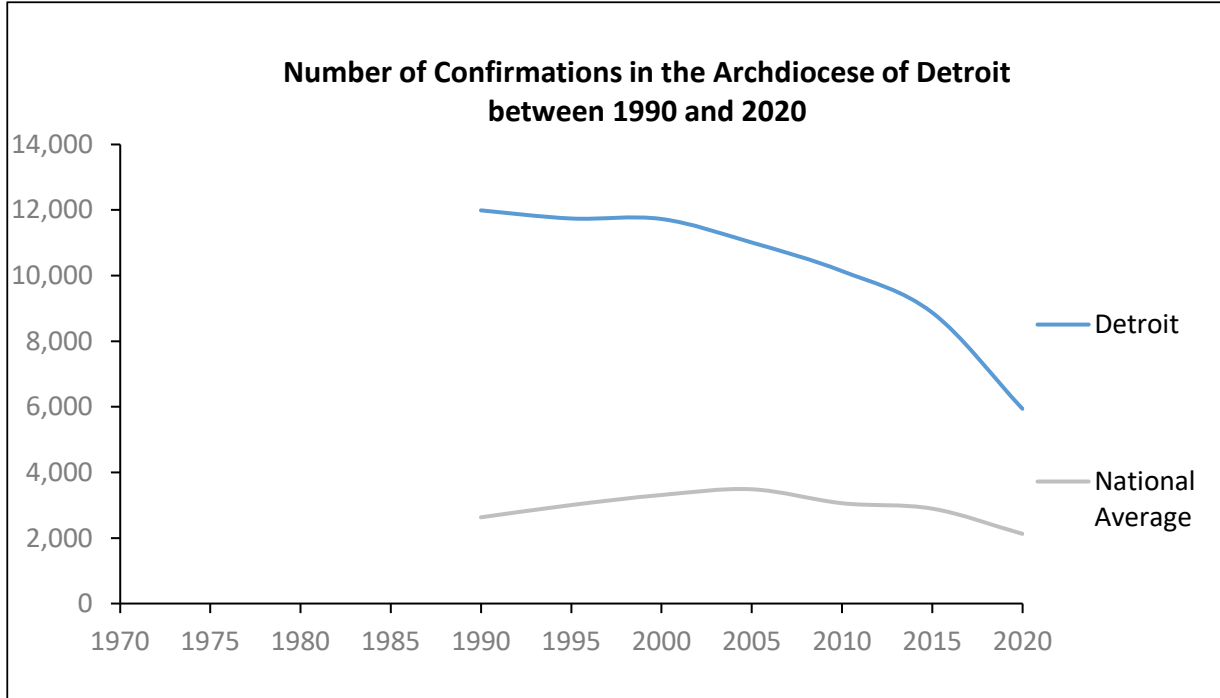
* The available data on First Communion starts in 1990.

** During the analyzed period, the geographic territory of the Archdiocese of Detroit has decreased.

The number of First Communion in the Archdiocese of Detroit decreased from 12,982 in 1990 to 5,656 in 2020. This means that, on average, there were 244 fewer First Communion each year over those 30 years. It also means that the annual number of First Communion in the archdiocese declined by 56% over the entire 30-year period. By comparison, the total annual number of First Communion in the United States declined by 39% in the same period.

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
National Average	.	.	4,020	4,602	4,117	2,279
Detroit	.	.	12,982	15,600	11,273	5,656

4. Number of Confirmations



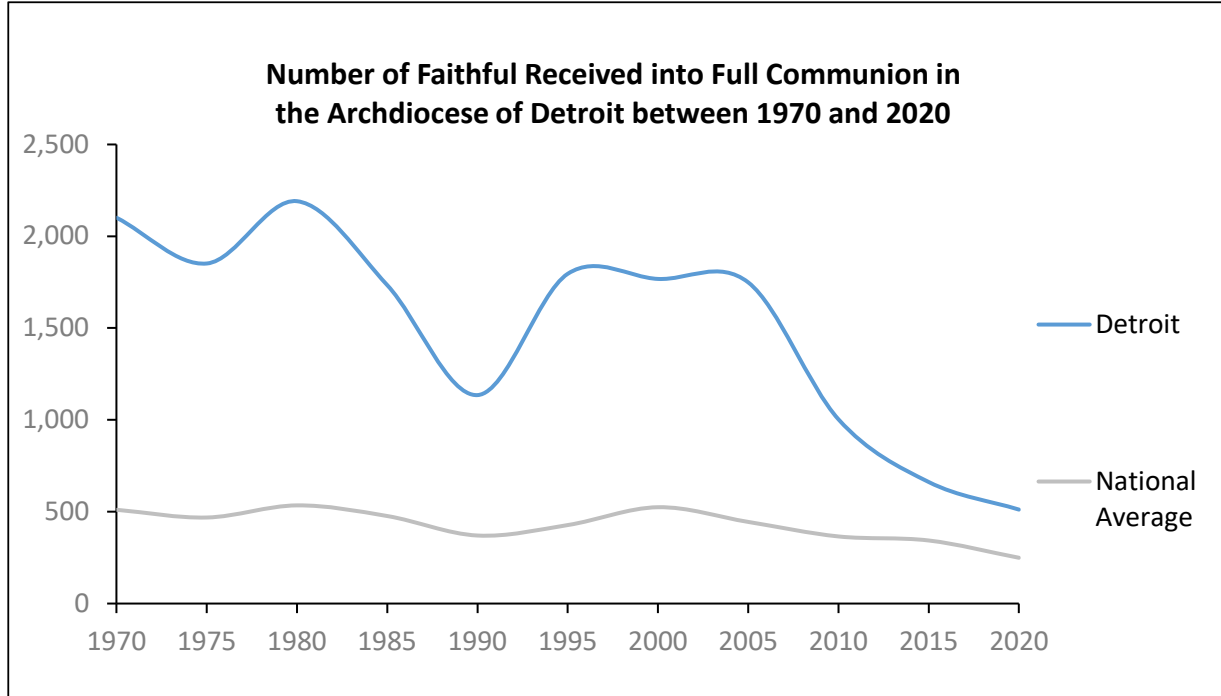
* The available data on Confirmations starts in 1990.

** During the analyzed period, the geographic territory of the Archdiocese of Detroit has decreased.

The number of Confirmations in the Archdiocese of Detroit decreased from 11,983 in 1990 to 5,941 in 2020. This means that, on average, there were 201 fewer Confirmations each year over those 30 years. It also means that the annual number of Confirmations in the archdiocese declined by 50% 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.

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
National Average	.	.	2,631	3,315	3,063	2,125
Detroit	.	.	11,983	11,720	10,134	5,941

5. Number of Faithful Received into Full Communion

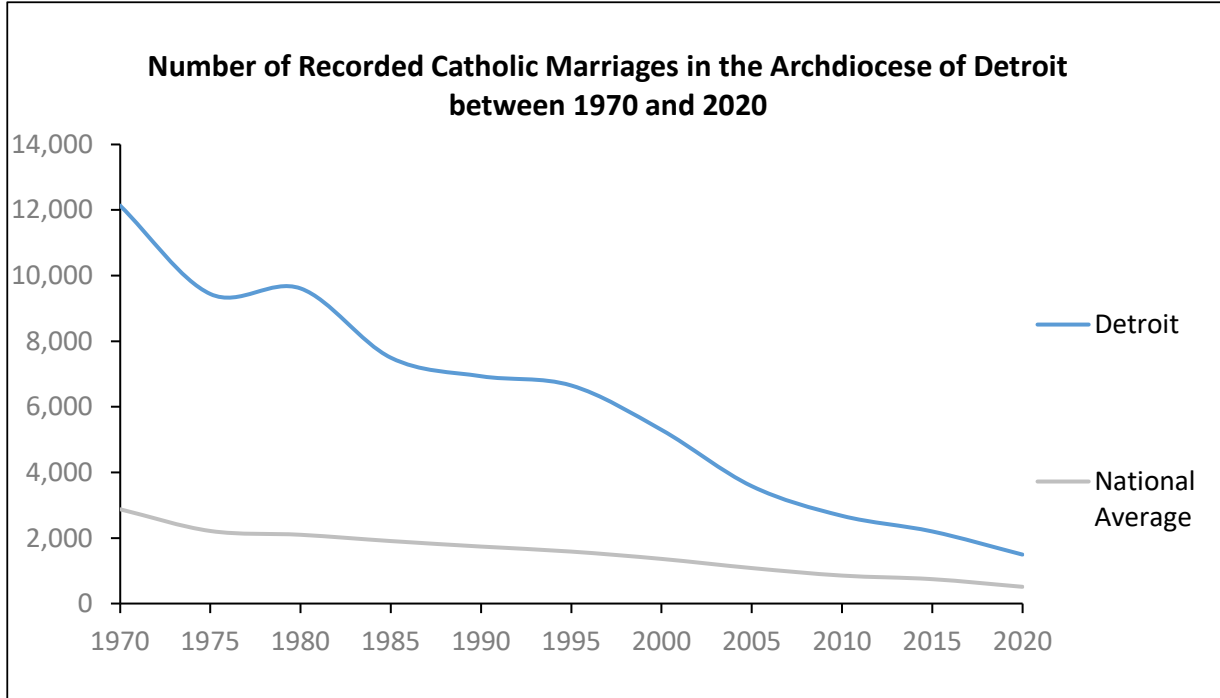


* During the analyzed period, the geographic territory of the Archdiocese of Detroit has decreased.

The number of faithful received into full communion in the Archdiocese of Detroit decreased from 2,100 in 1970 to 512 in 2020. This means that, on average, there were 32 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 76% 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.

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
National Average	511	535	371	525	366	250
Detroit	2,100	2,190	1,135	1,767	1,003	512

6. Number of Recorded Catholic Marriages

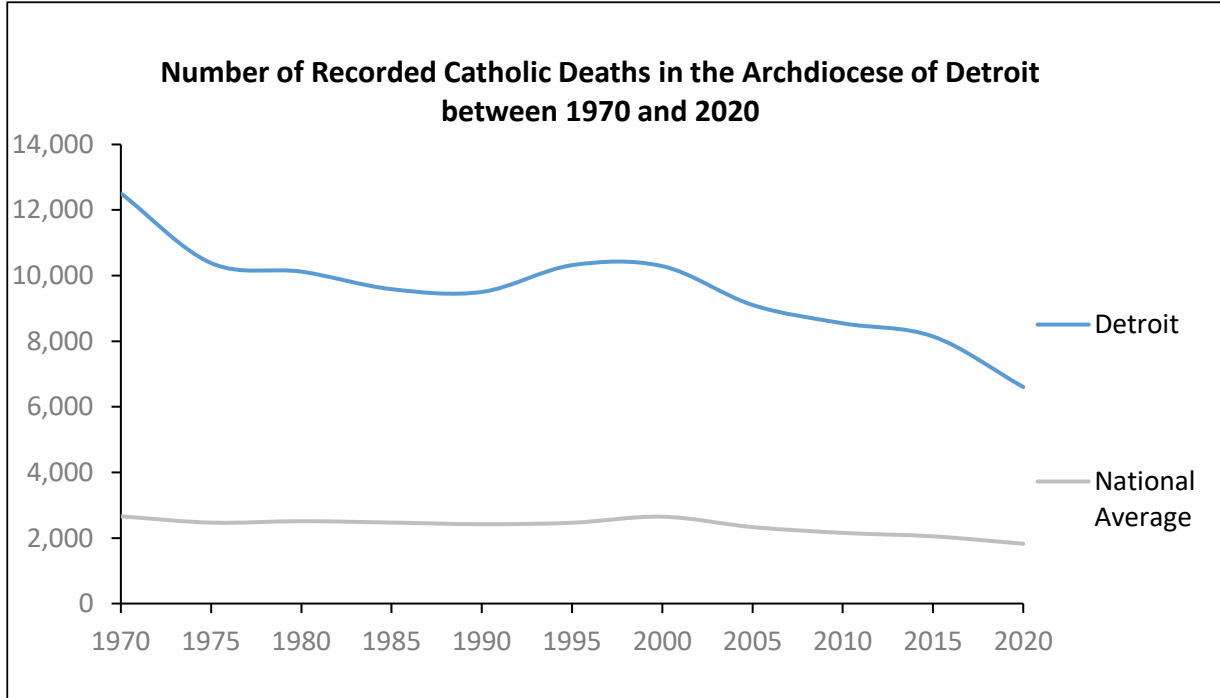


* During the analyzed period, the geographic territory of the Archdiocese of Detroit has decreased.

The number of Marriages in the Archdiocese of Detroit decreased from 12,130 in 1970 to 1,501 in 2020. This means that, on average, there were 213 fewer Marriages each year over those 50 years. It also means that the annual number of Marriages in the archdiocese declined by 88% 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 Detroit between 1970 and 2020						
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
National Average	2,873	2,096	1,737	1,361	853	511
Detroit	12,130	9,606	6,933	5,299	2,681	1,501

7. Number of Recorded Catholic Deaths



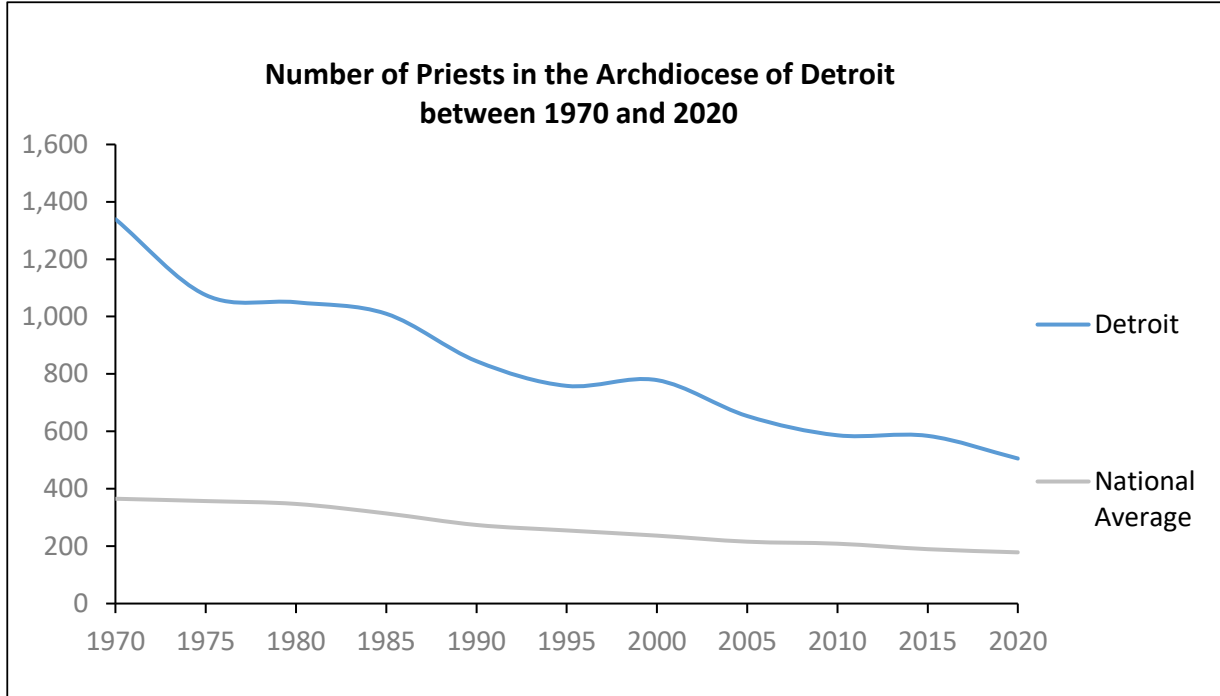
* The Archdiocese of Military Services is excluded from the national average.

** During the analyzed period, the geographic territory of the Archdiocese of Detroit has decreased.

The number of deaths (i.e., Catholic funerals) recorded in the Archdiocese of Detroit decreased from 12,500 in 1970 to 6,603 in 2020. This means that, on average, there were 118 fewer recorded deaths each year over those 50 years. It also means that the annual number of recorded deaths in the archdiocese declined by 47% 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.

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
National Average	2,662	2,514	2,422	2,651	2,158	1,827
Detroit	12,500	10,118	9,501	10,286	8,544	6,603

8. Number of Priests



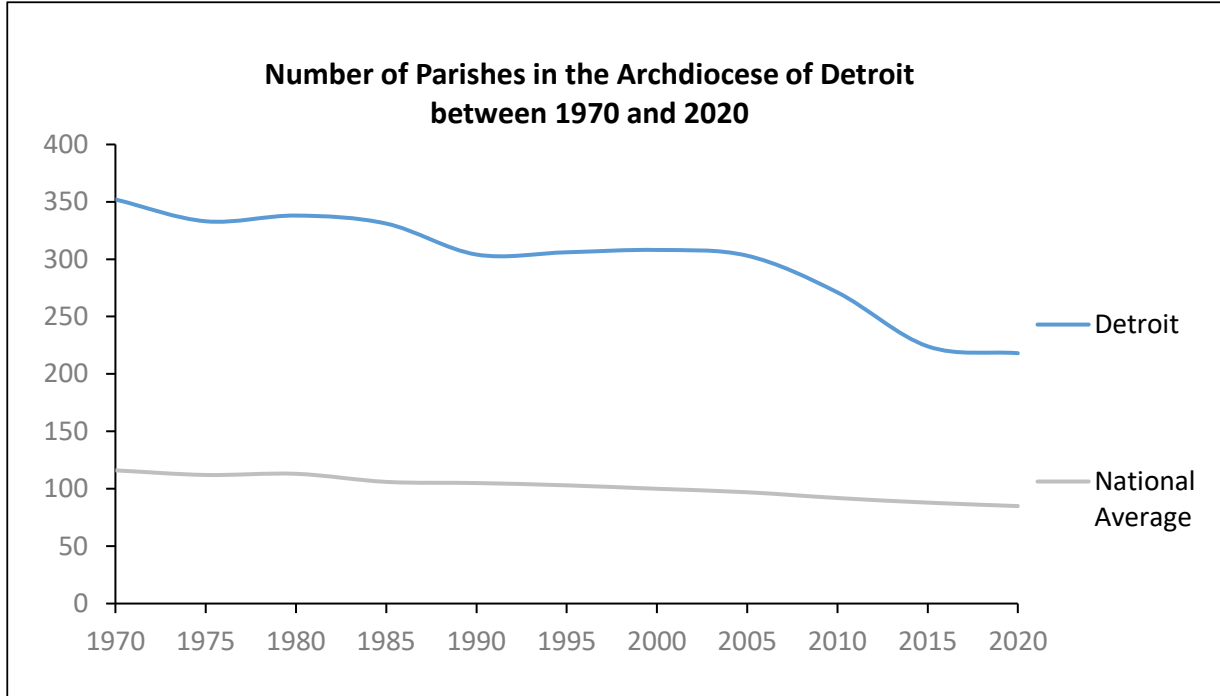
* During the analyzed period, the geographic territory of the Archdiocese of Detroit has decreased.

The number of priests in the Archdiocese of Detroit decreased from 1339 in 1970 to 506 in 2020. This means that, on average, there were 16.7 fewer priests each year over those 50 years. This also means that the number of priests in the archdiocese declined by 62% 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 Detroit
between 1970 and 2020**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
National Average	365	347	274	237	209	179
Detroit	1,339	1,050	845	779	587	506

9. Number of Parishes

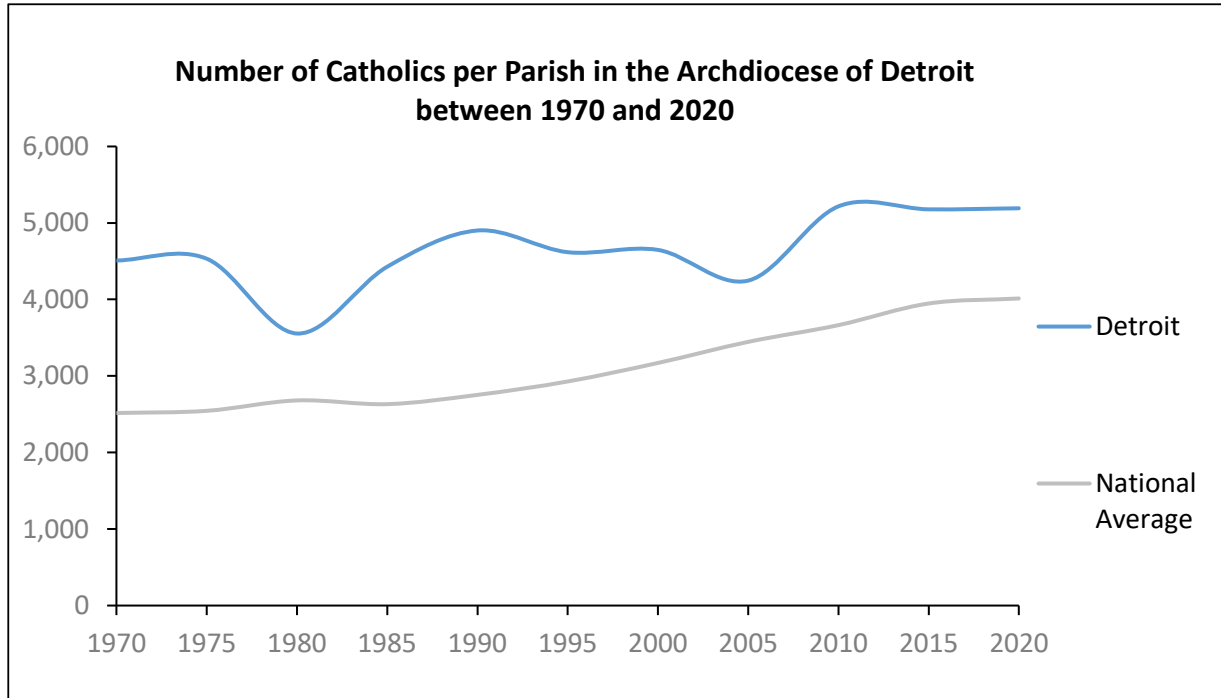


* During the analyzed period, the geographic territory of the Archdiocese of Detroit has decreased.

The number of parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit decreased from 352 in 1970 to 218 in 2020. This means that, on average, net 26.8 parishes were closed each decade over those 50 years. This also means that the number of parishes in the archdiocese declined by 38% 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.

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
National Average	116	113	105	100	92	85
Detroit	352	338	304	308	271	218

10. Number of Catholics per Parish



* During the analyzed period, the geographic territory of the Archdiocese of Detroit has decreased.

The number of Catholics per parish in the Archdiocese of Detroit increased from 4,509 in 1970 to 5,191 in 2020. This means that, on average, there were 14 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 15% 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.

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
National Average	2,516	2,680	2,753	3,170	3,664	4,012
Detroit	4,509	3,557	4,901	4,648	5,216	5,191

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.

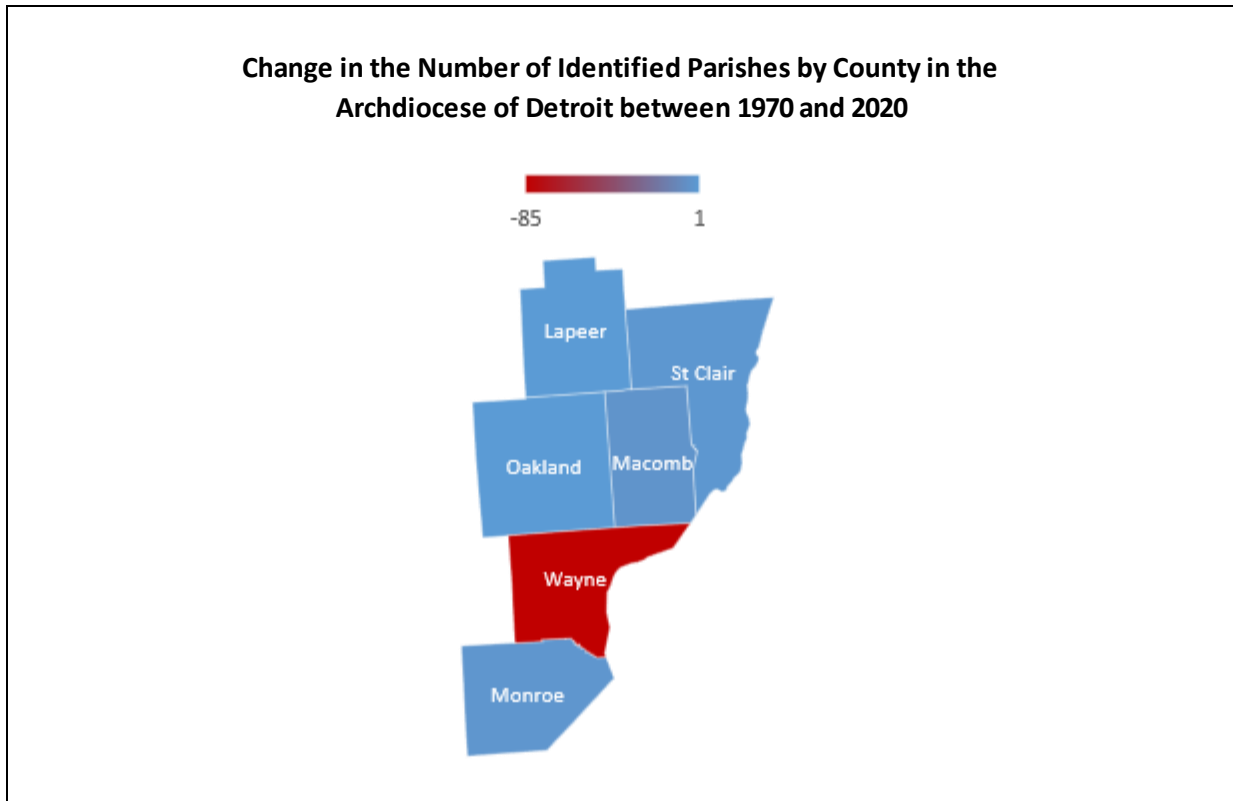
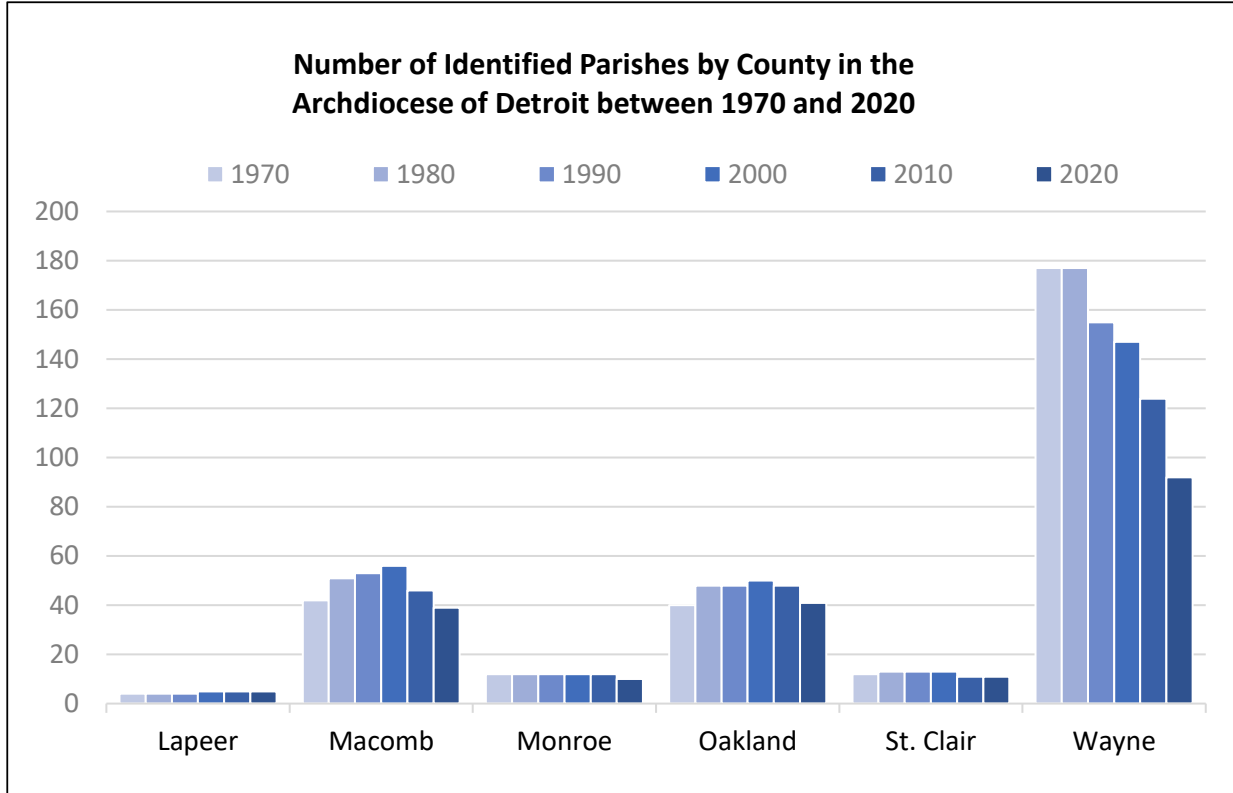
- One variable was derived from the Official Catholic Directory- the number of identified parishes by county (as opposed to the actual number of parishes shown in diocesan-level overview in Section 1). In general, the number of identified parishes only includes parishes for which addresses could be identified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

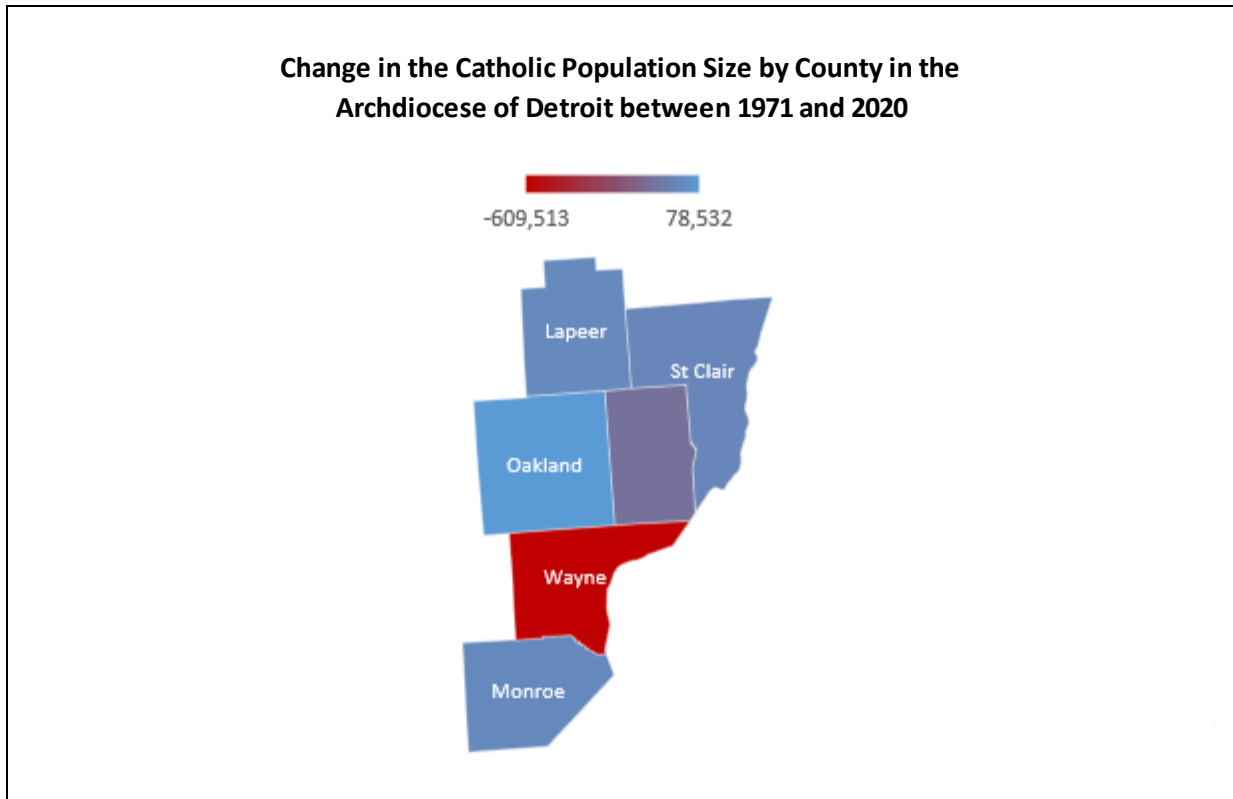
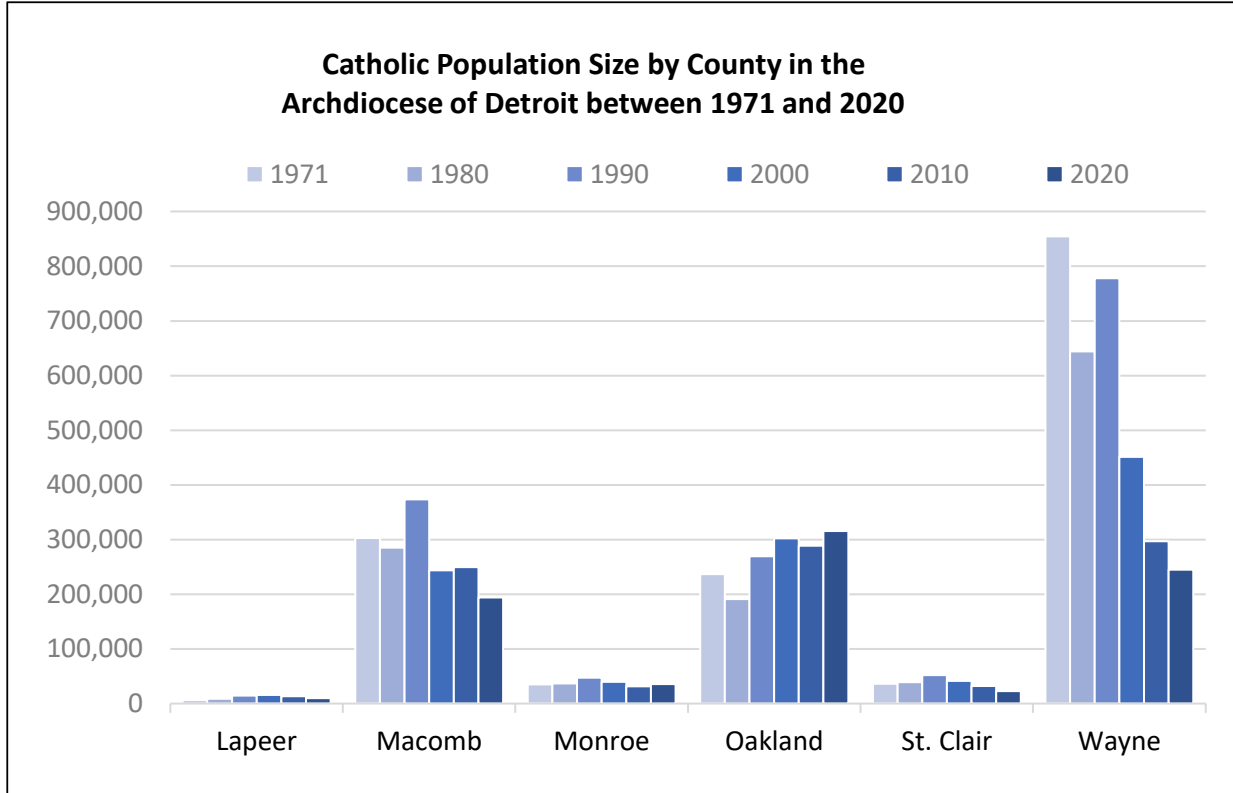


Between 1970 and 2020, the number of identified parishes (as opposed to the actual number of parishes- see Appendix I for more information) in:

- Wayne County decreased by 85 parishes (by 48%).
- Lapeer County increased by 1 parish (by 25%).
- Monroe County decreased by 2 parishes (by 17%).
- St. Clair County decreased by 1 parish (by 8%).
- Macomb County decreased by 3 parishes (by 7%).
- Oakland County increased by 1 parish (by 3%).

Number of Identified Parishes by County in the Archdiocese of Detroit between 1970 and 2020						
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
Lapeer	4	4	4	5	5	5
Macomb	42	51	53	56	46	39
Monroe	12	12	12	12	12	10
Oakland	40	48	48	50	48	41
St. Clair	12	13	13	13	11	11
Wayne	177	177	155	147	124	92
Altogether	287	305	285	283	246	198

2. Catholic Population Size

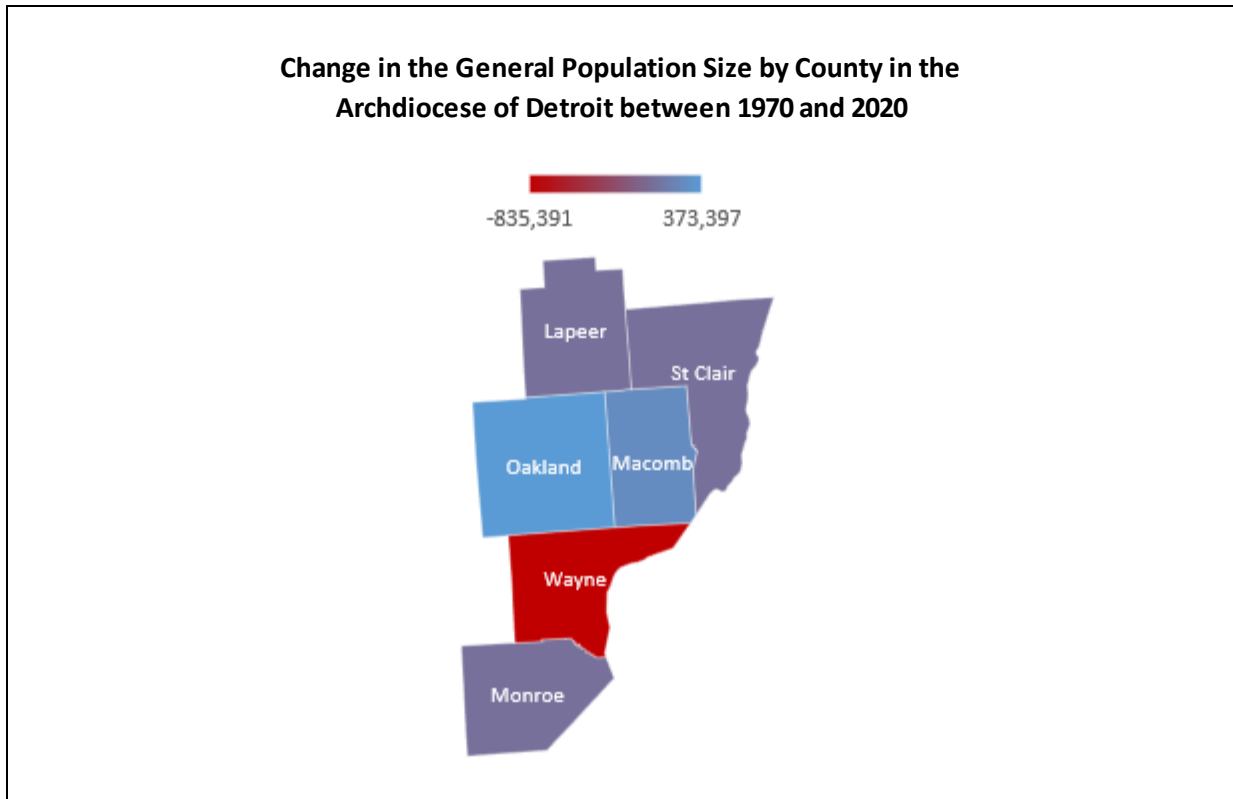
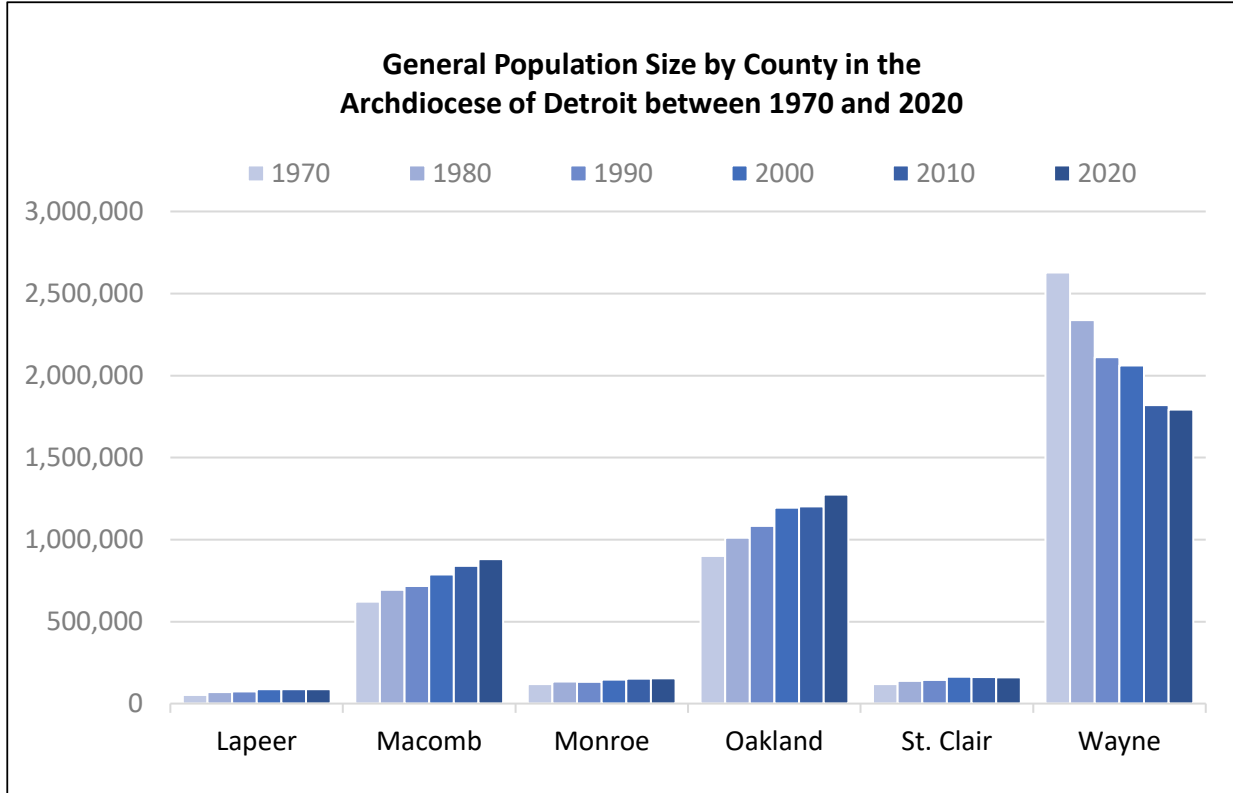


Between 1971 and 2020, the Catholic population size of:

- Wayne County decreased by 609,513 people (by 71%).
- Lapeer County increased by 3,011 people (by 44%).
- Macomb County decreased by 108,376 people (by 36%).
- St. Clair County decreased by 13,149 people (by 36%).
- Oakland County increased by 78,532 people (by 33%).
- Monroe County increased by 684 people (by 2%).

Catholic Population Size by County in the Archdiocese of Detroit between 1971 and 2020						
	1971	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
Lapeer	6,820	8,888	14,932	15,804	13,538	9,831
Macomb	302,775	285,652	373,485	243,831	249,439	194,399
Monroe	35,200	37,037	47,781	39,822	31,981	35,884
Oakland	236,968	191,474	269,878	302,201	289,116	315,500
St. Clair	36,300	39,529	52,261	41,399	32,248	23,151
Wayne	854,619	644,216	778,340	451,069	297,283	245,106
Altogether	1,472,682	1,206,796	1,536,677	1,094,126	913,605	823,871

3. General Population Size



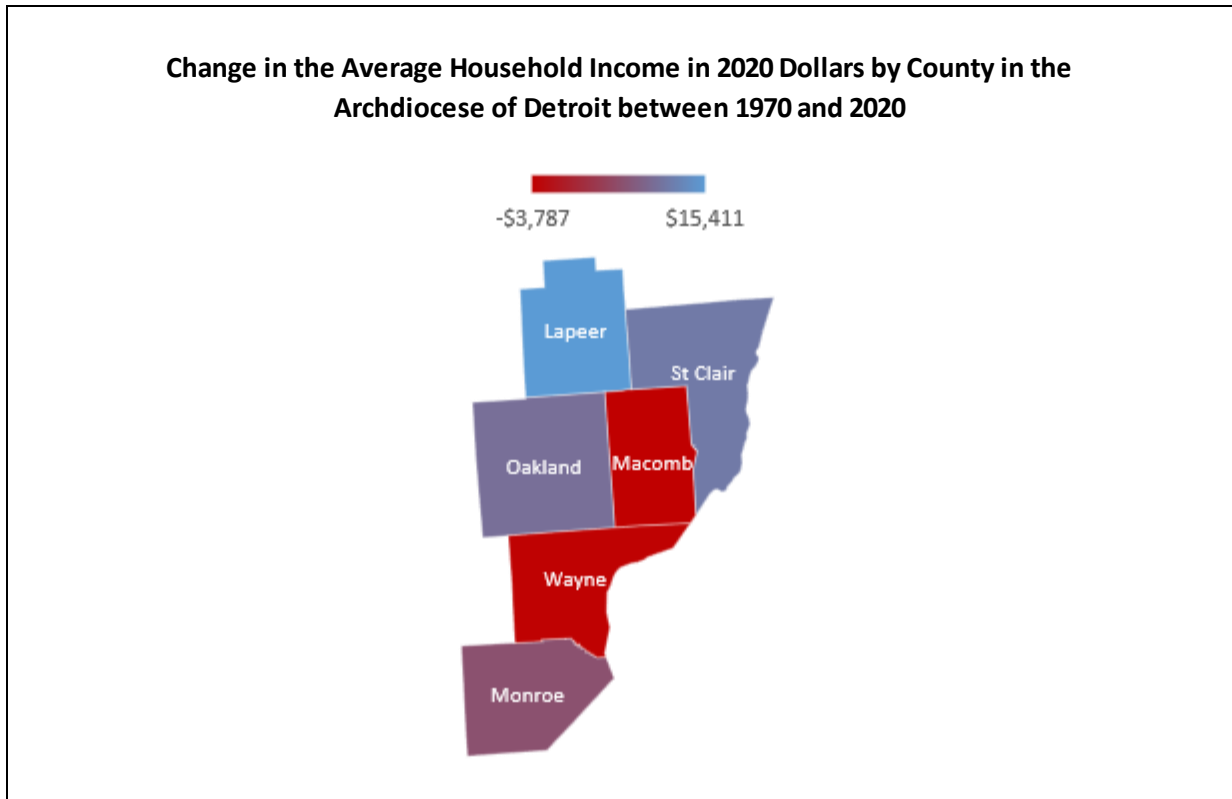
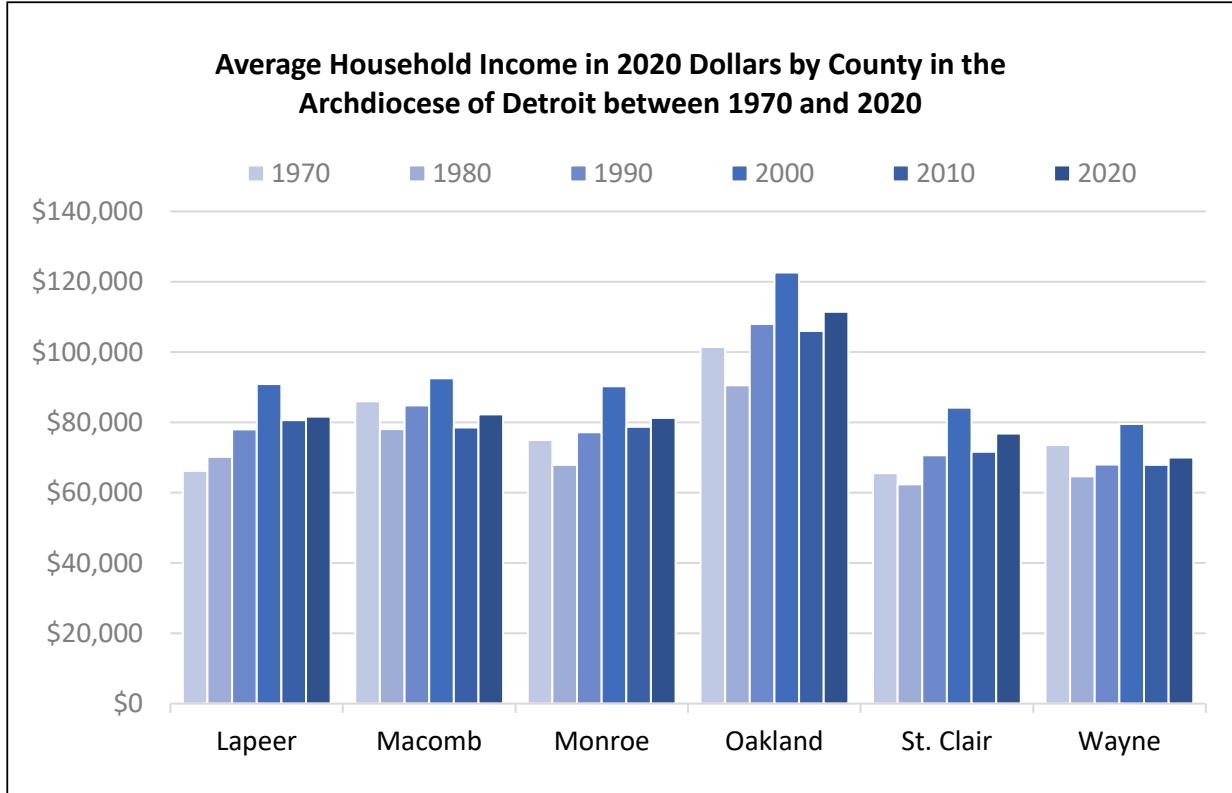
Between 1970 and 2020, the general population size of:

- Lapeer County increased by 36,301 people (by 69%).
- Macomb County increased by 258,577 people (by 42%).
- Oakland County increased by 373,397 people (by 41%).
- St. Clair County increased by 40,300 people (by 34%).
- Wayne County decreased by 835,391 people (by 32%).
- Monroe County increased by 36,330 people (by 31%).

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

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
Lapeer	52,318	70,040	74,768	87,904	88,319	88,619
Macomb	622,640	694,597	717,400	788,149	840,978	881,217
Monroe	118,479	134,650	133,600	145,945	152,021	154,809
Oakland	900,998	1,011,784	1,083,592	1,194,156	1,202,362	1,274,395
St. Clair	120,083	138,775	145,607	164,235	163,040	160,383
Wayne	2,628,952	2,337,696	2,111,687	2,061,162	1,820,584	1,793,561
Altogether	4,443,470	4,387,542	4,266,654	4,441,551	4,267,304	4,352,984

4. Average Household Income



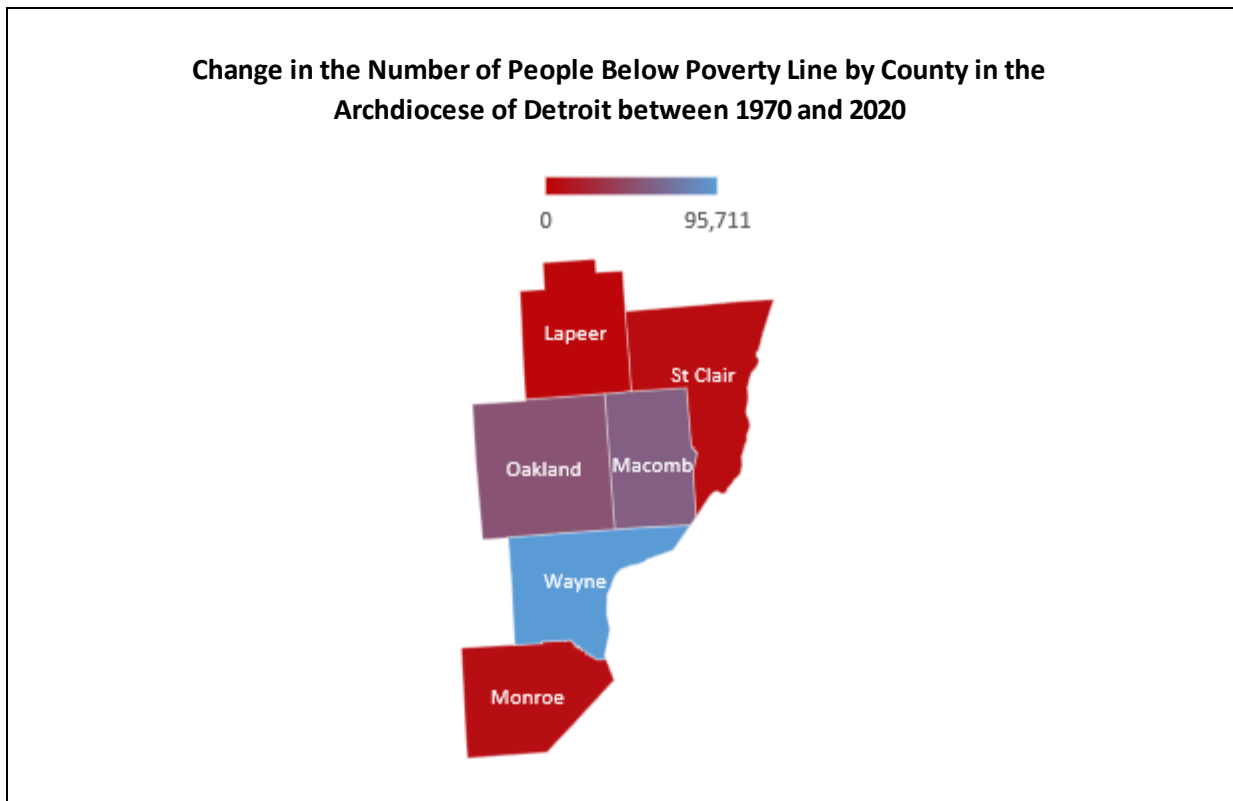
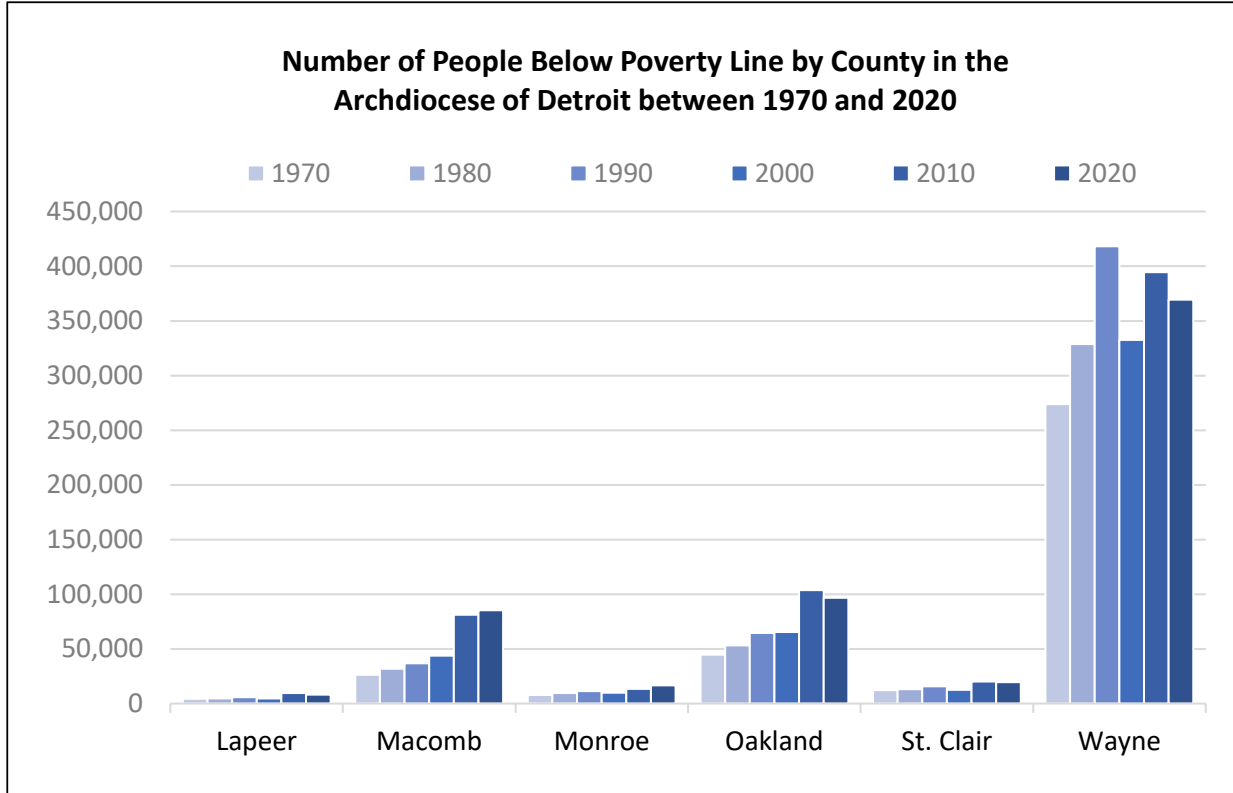
Between 1970 and 2020, the average household income in 2020 dollars in:

- Lapeer County increased by \$15,411 (by 23%).
- St. Clair County increased by \$11,308 (by 17%).
- Oakland County increased by \$9,941 (by 10%).
- Monroe County increased by \$6,262 (by 8%).
- Wayne County decreased by \$3,572 (by 5%).
- Macomb County decreased by \$3,787 (by 4%).

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

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[\$]	[\$]	[\$]	[\$]	[\$]	[\$]
Lapeer	66,247	70,205	77,987	90,973	80,682	81,658
Macomb	86,064	78,121	84,883	92,607	78,593	82,277
Monroe	75,071	67,950	77,211	90,307	78,711	81,333
Oakland	101,527	90,552	108,040	122,642	106,013	111,468
St. Clair	65,540	62,411	70,692	84,234	71,664	76,848
Wayne	73,613	64,641	67,988	79,571	67,950	70,041
Altogether	80,752	72,870	81,557	94,215	81,561	85,535

5. Number of People Below Poverty Line



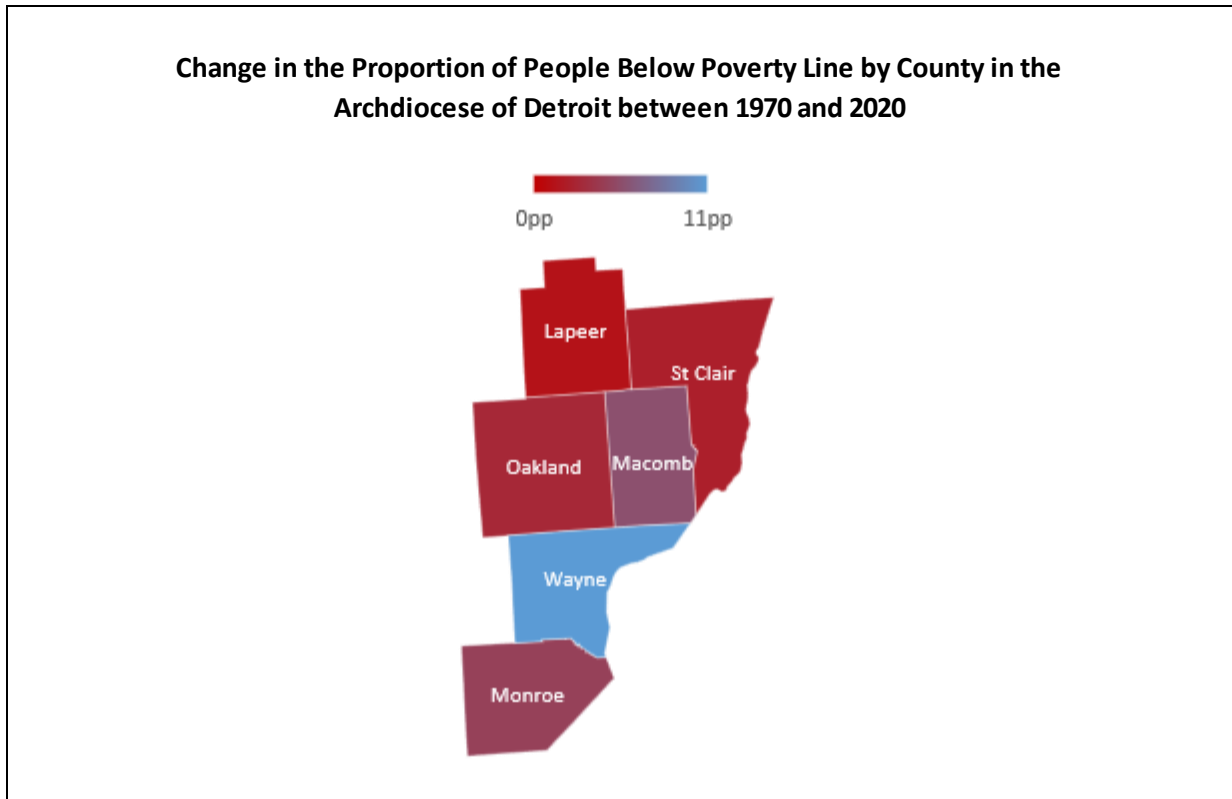
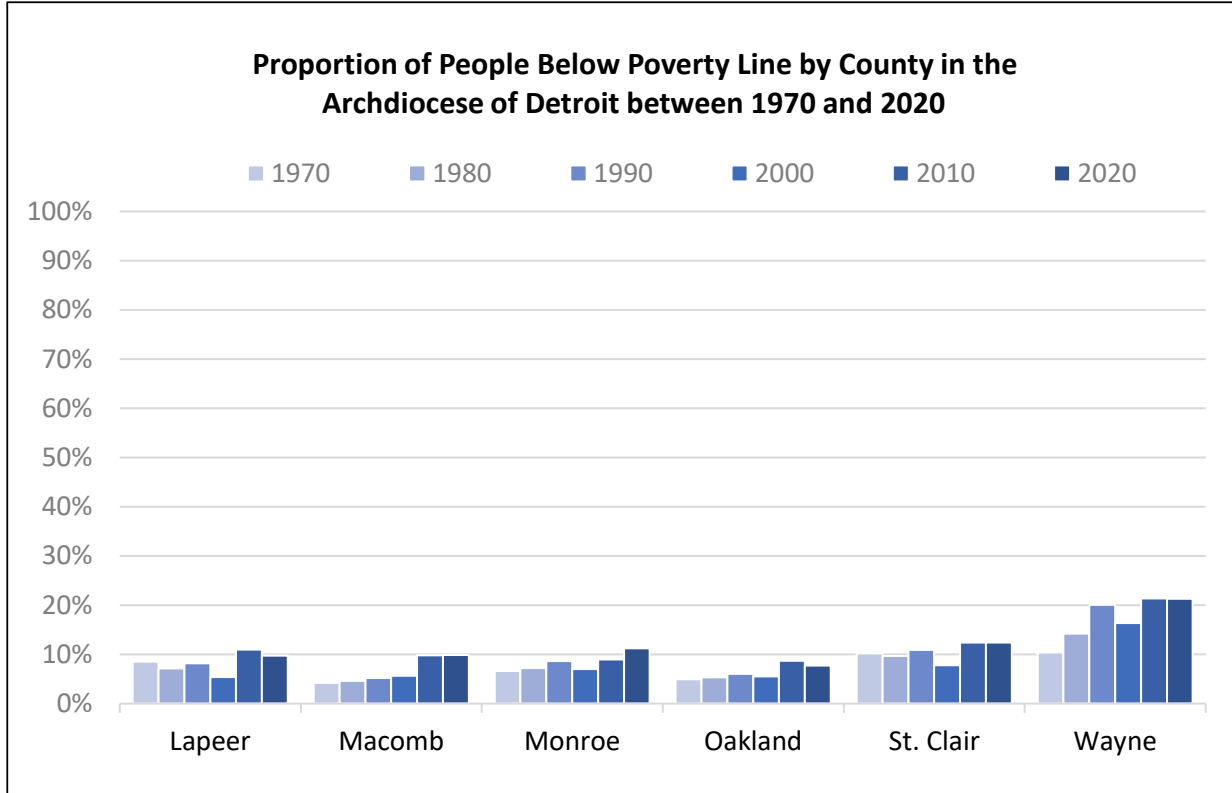
Between 1970 and 2020, the number of people below poverty line in:

- Macomb County increased by 58,967 people (by 223%).
- Oakland County increased by 51,897 people (by 116%).
- Monroe County increased by 8,771 people (by 111%).
- Lapeer County increased by 3,950 people (by 89%).
- St. Clair County increased by 7,277 people (by 59%).
- Wayne County increased by 95,711 people (by 35%).

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

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
Lapeer	4,451	4,886	6,009	4,654	9,688	8,401
Macomb	26,439	31,835	36,883	44,010	81,239	85,406
Monroe	7,886	9,680	11,429	10,161	13,552	16,657
Oakland	44,823	53,279	64,714	65,478	103,874	96,720
St. Clair	12,299	13,334	15,754	12,674	20,356	19,576
Wayne	273,861	328,772	418,266	332,598	394,631	369,572
Altogether	369,759	441,786	553,055	469,575	623,340	596,332

6. Proportion of People Below Poverty Line



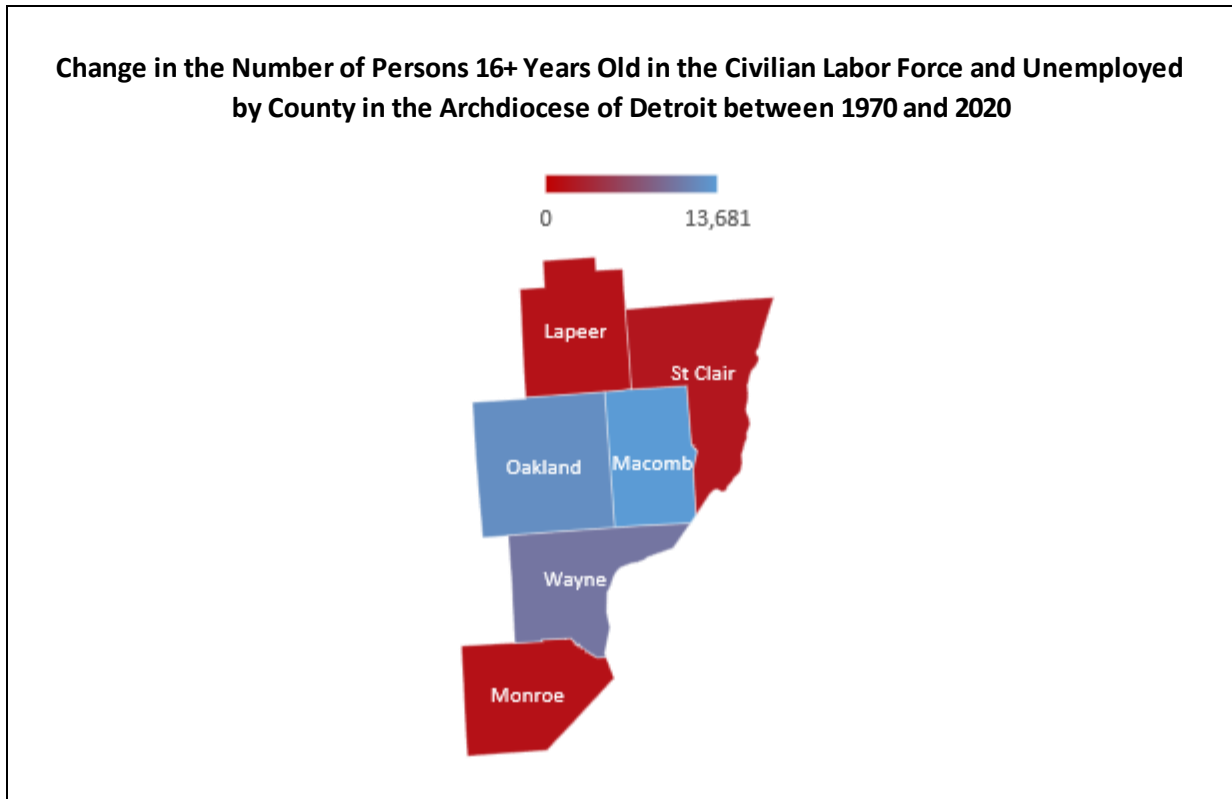
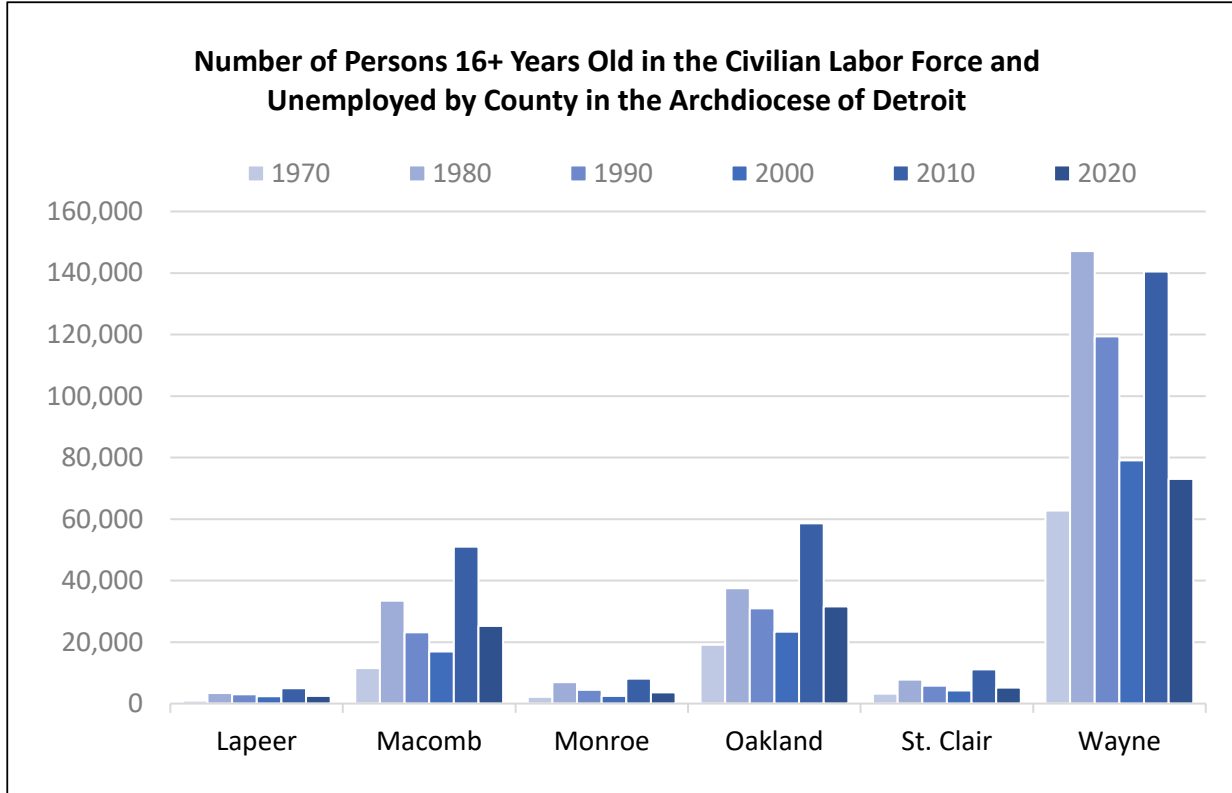
Between 1970 and 2020, the proportion of people below poverty line in:

- Wayne County increased by 11pp.
- Macomb County increased by 6pp.
- Monroe County increased by 5pp.
- Oakland County increased by 3pp.
- St. Clair County increased by 2pp.
- Lapeer County increased by 1pp.

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

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]
Lapeer	9	7	8	5	11	10
Macomb	4	5	5	6	10	10
Monroe	7	7	9	7	9	11
Oakland	5	5	6	6	9	8
St. Clair	10	10	11	8	12	12
Wayne	10	14	20	16	21	21
Altogether	8	10	13	11	15	14

7. Number of Unemployed People



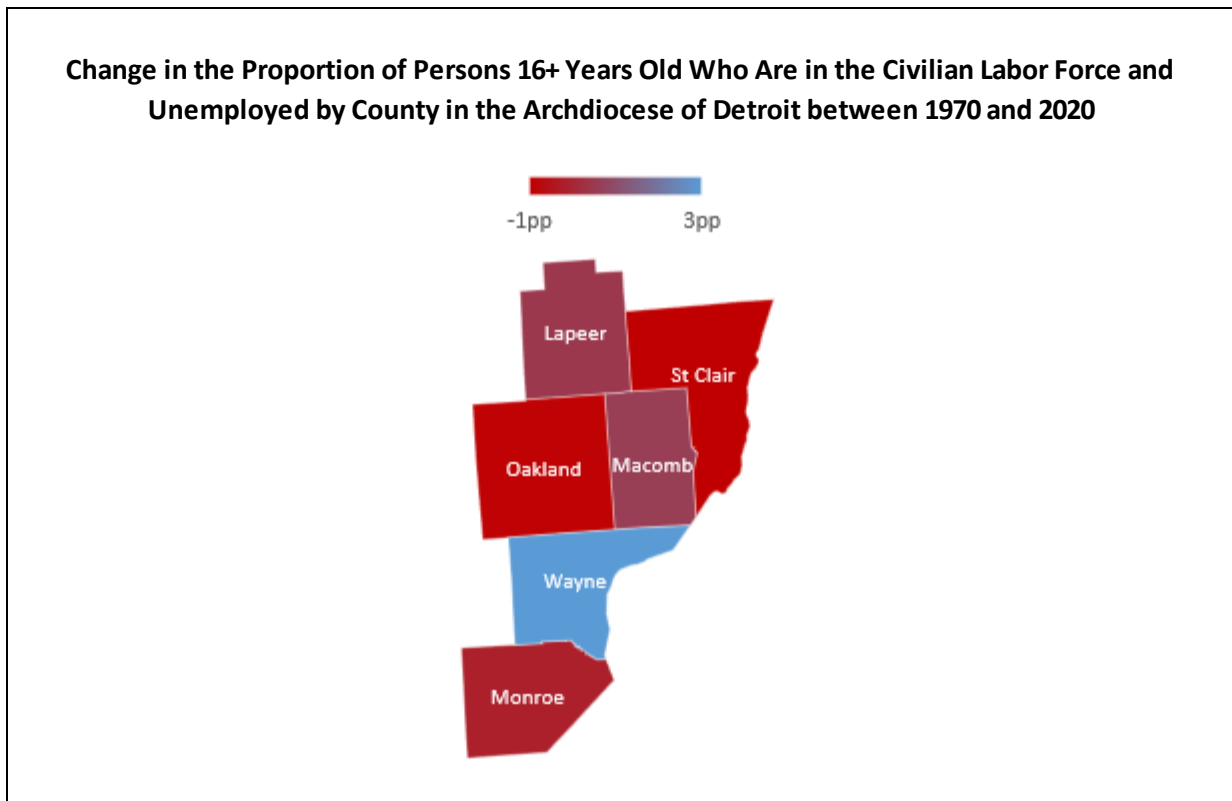
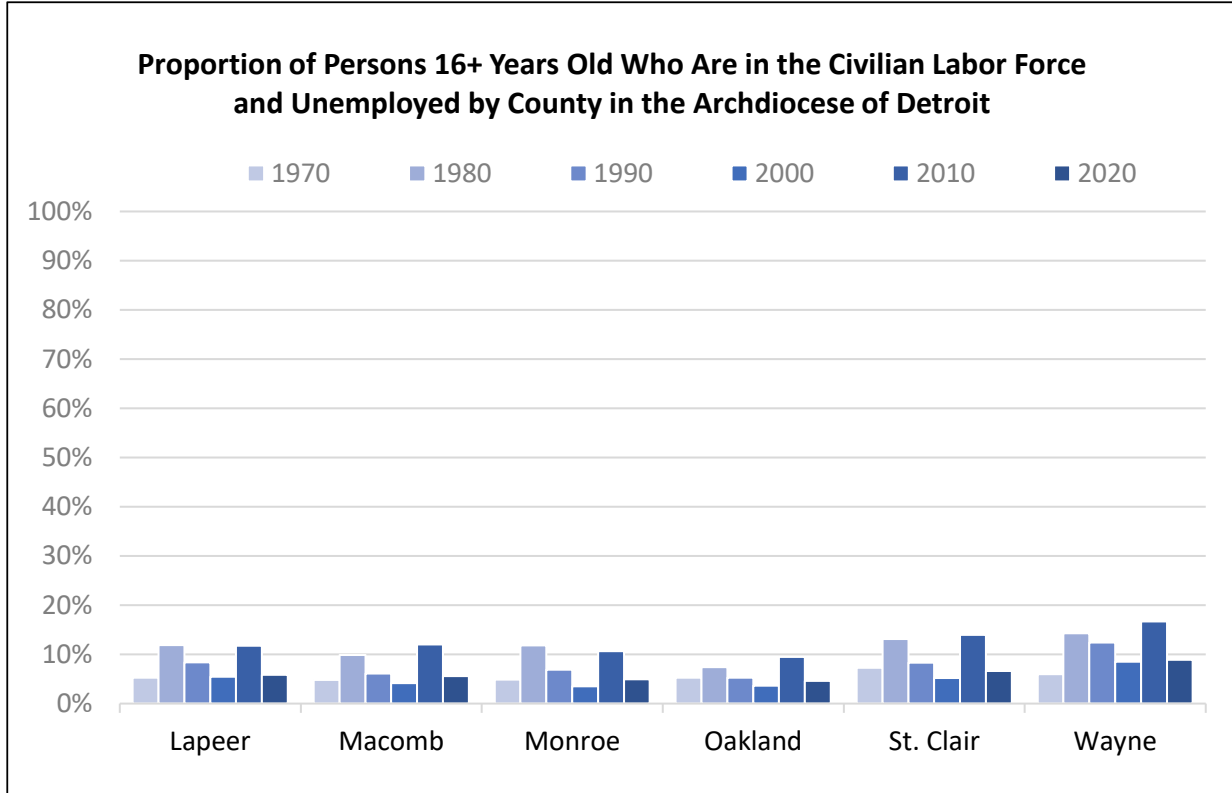
Between 1970 and 2020, the number of unemployed people in:

- Lapeer County increased by 1,555 people (by 164%).
- Macomb County increased by 13,681 people (by 119%).
- Monroe County increased by 1,505 people (by 70%).
- Oakland County increased by 12,492 people (by 65%).
- St. Clair County increased by 1,928 people (by 59%).
- Wayne County increased by 10,336 people (by 16%).

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

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
Lapeer	949	3,494	3,005	2,371	5,021	2,504
Macomb	11,545	33,503	23,214	16,925	50,994	25,226
Monroe	2,162	7,005	4,523	2,552	8,086	3,667
Oakland	19,116	37,556	30,990	23,436	58,655	31,608
St. Clair	3,250	7,818	5,814	4,306	11,126	5,178
Wayne	62,748	147,176	119,374	79,109	140,459	73,084
Altogether	99,770	236,552	186,920	128,699	274,341	141,267

8. Proportion of Unemployed People



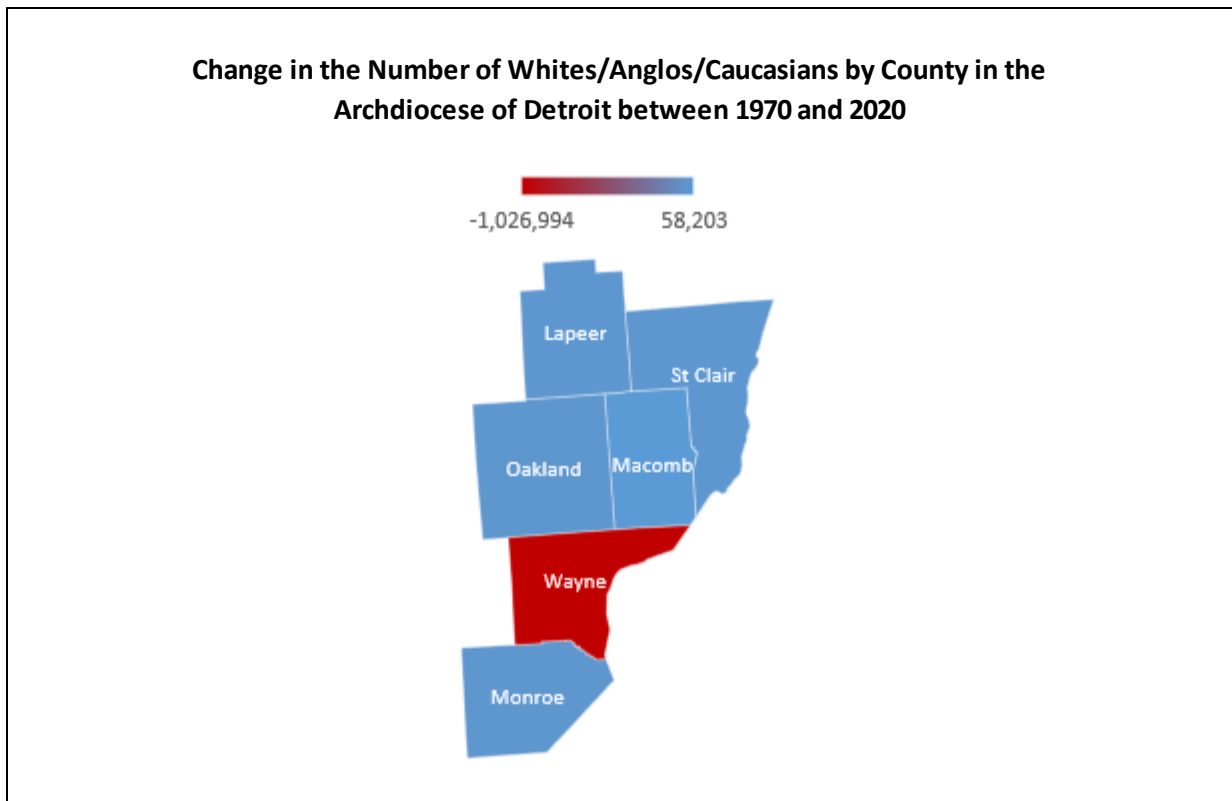
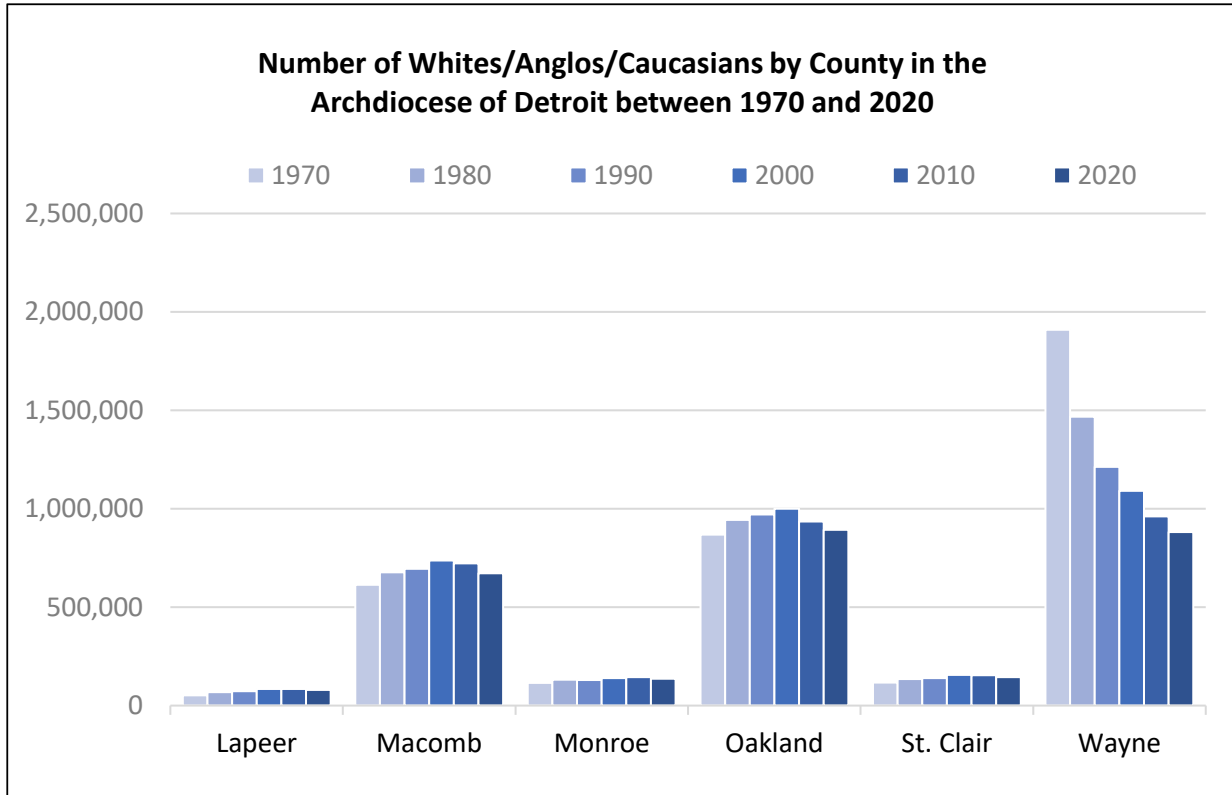
Between 1970 and 2020, the proportion of unemployed people in:

- Wayne County increased by 3pp.
- Macomb County increased by 1pp.
- St. Clair County decreased by 1pp.
- Oakland County decreased by 1pp.
- Lapeer County increased by 1pp.
- Monroe County increased by less than 1pp.

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

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]
Lapeer	5	12	8	5	12	6
Macomb	5	10	6	4	12	6
Monroe	5	12	7	4	11	5
Oakland	5	7	5	4	10	5
St. Clair	7	13	8	5	14	7
Wayne	6	14	12	9	17	9
Altogether	6	12	9	6	13	7

9. Number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians



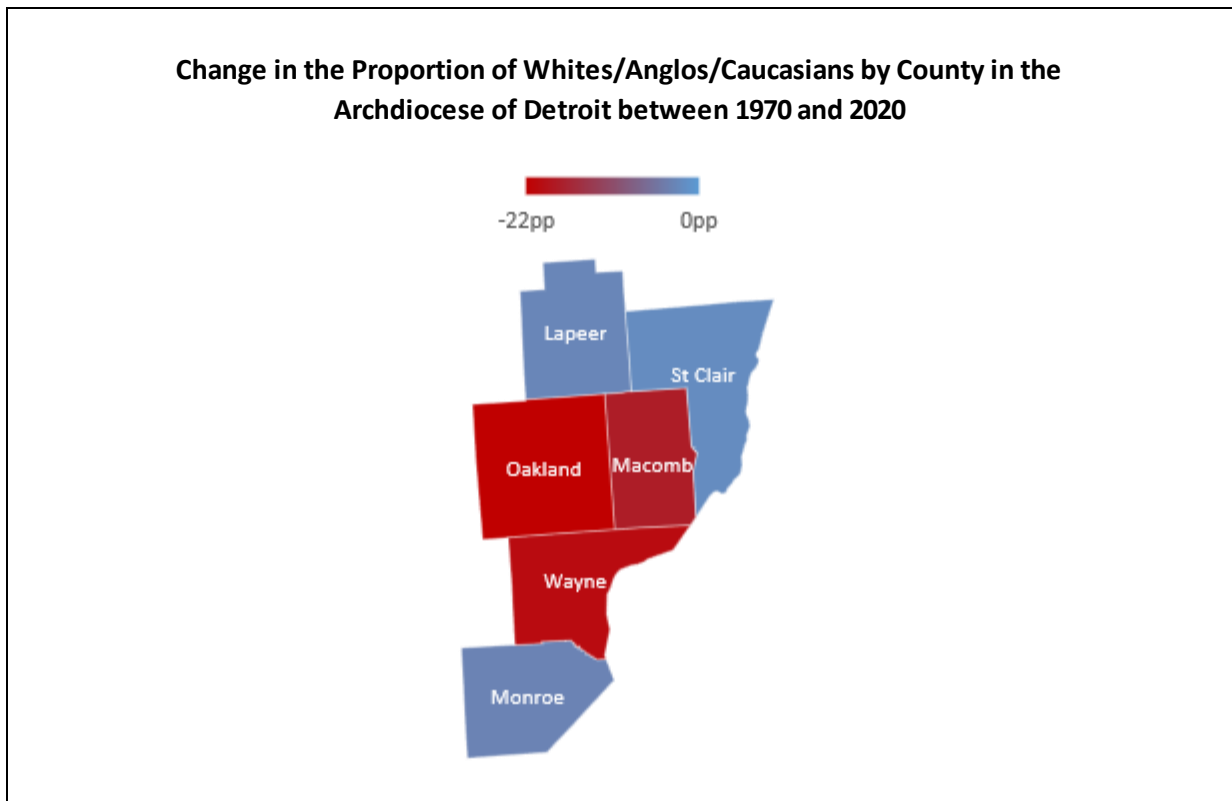
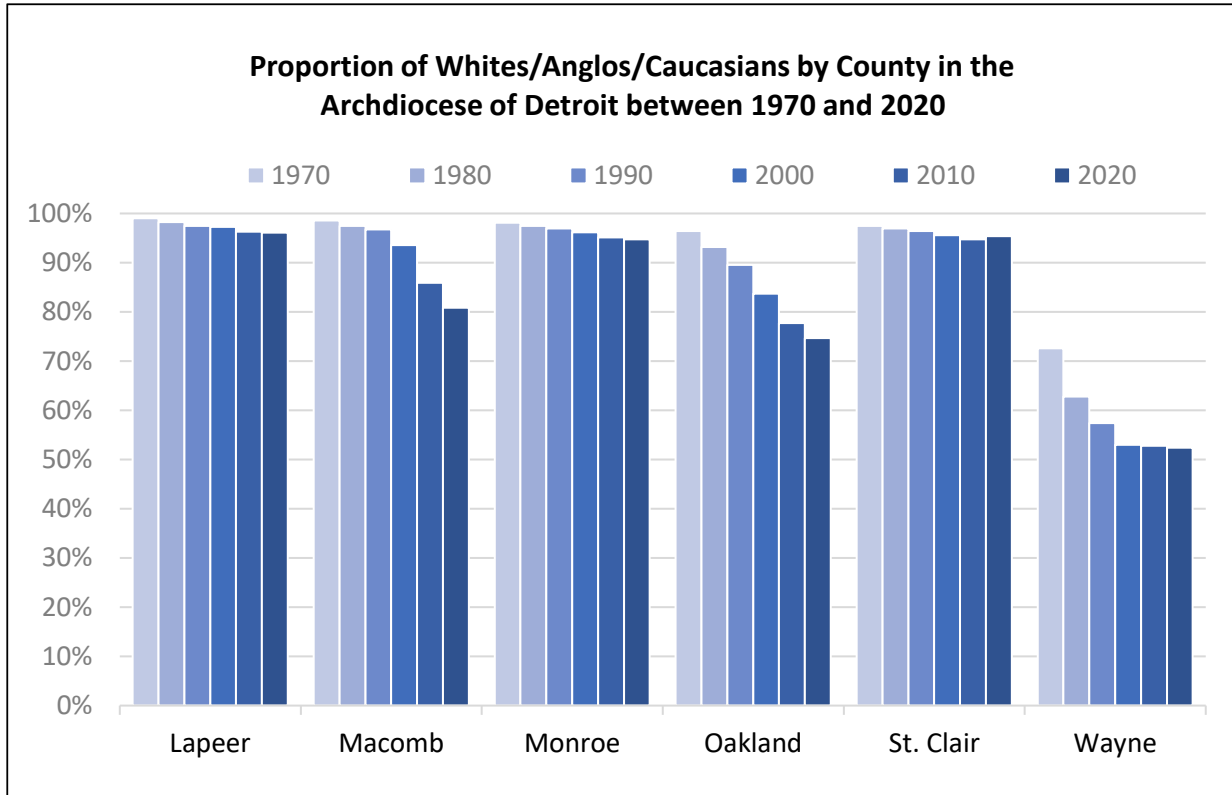
Between 1970 and 2020, the number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in:

- Lapeer County increased by 28,419 people (by 55%).
- Wayne County decreased by 1,026,994 people (by 54%).
- St. Clair County increased by 27,370 people (by 23%).
- Monroe County increased by 21,306 people (by 18%).
- Macomb County increased by 58,203 people (by 9%).
- Oakland County increased by 24,078 people (by 3%).

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

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
Lapeer	51,830	68,835	72,893	85,541	85,048	80,249
Macomb	614,061	677,086	694,497	737,532	722,653	672,264
Monroe	116,255	131,299	129,595	140,383	144,660	137,561
Oakland	869,240	943,333	970,711	1,000,119	935,037	893,318
St. Clair	117,106	134,584	140,474	157,066	154,464	144,476
Wayne	1,909,478	1,467,996	1,212,541	1,092,149	961,854	882,484
Altogether	3,677,970	3,423,133	3,220,711	3,212,790	3,003,716	2,810,352

10. Proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians



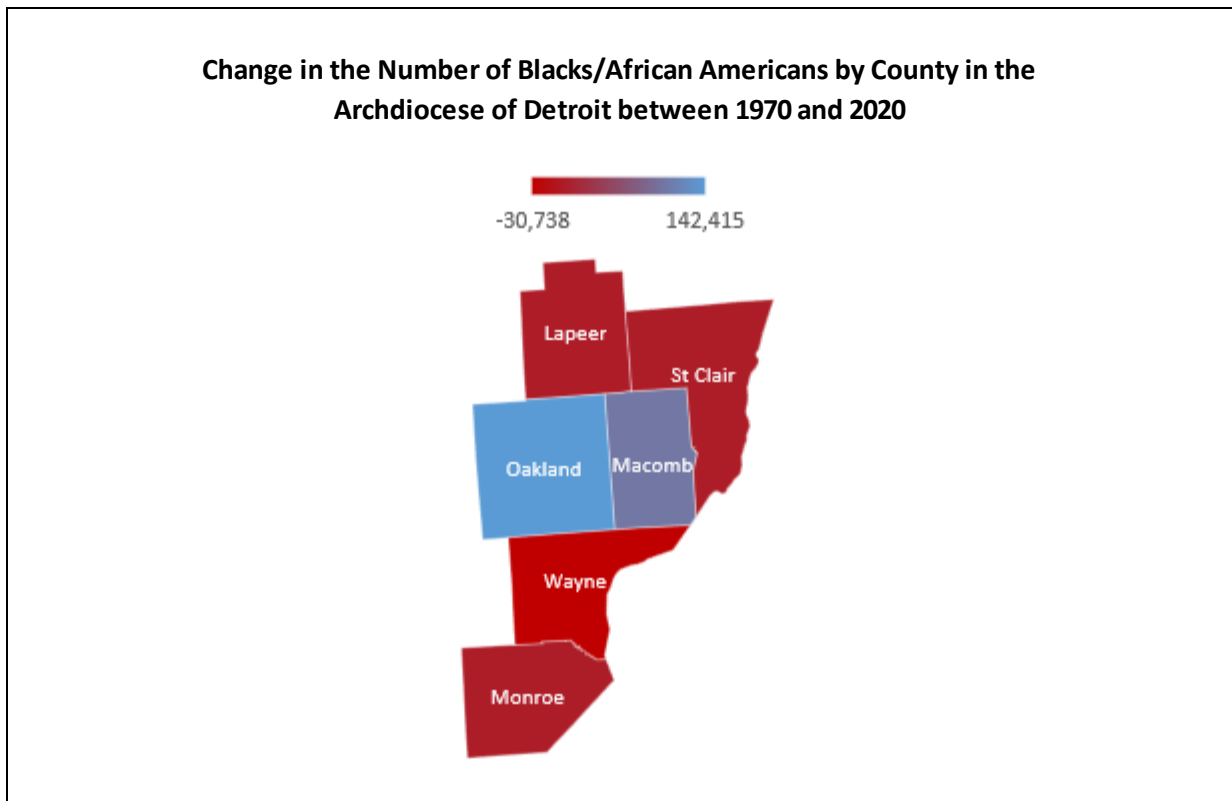
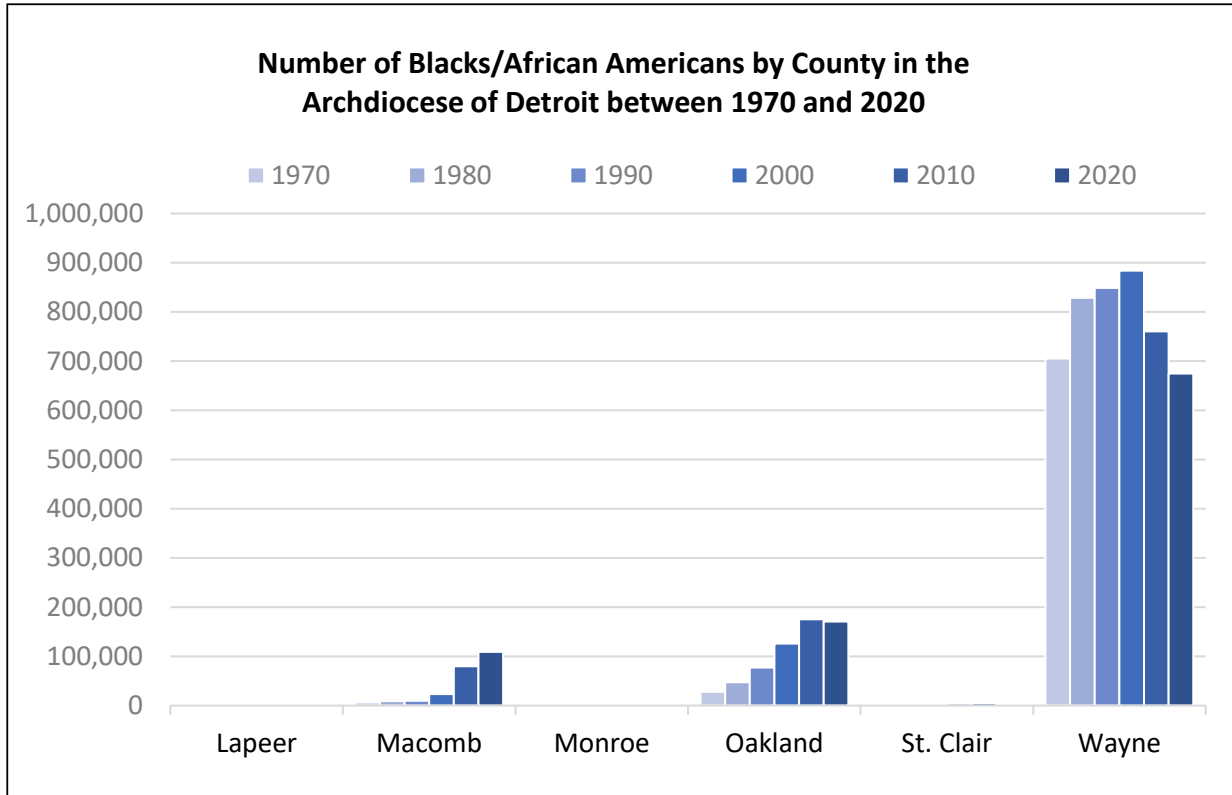
Between 1970 and 2020, the proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in:

- Oakland County decreased by 22pp.
- Wayne County decreased by 20pp.
- Macomb County decreased by 18pp.
- Monroe County decreased by 3pp.
- Lapeer County decreased by 3pp.
- St. Clair County decreased by 2pp.

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

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]
Lapeer	99	98	97	97	96	96
Macomb	99	97	97	94	86	81
Monroe	98	98	97	96	95	95
Oakland	96	93	90	84	78	75
St. Clair	98	97	96	96	95	95
Wayne	73	63	57	53	53	52
Altogether	83	78	75	72	70	69

11. Number of Blacks/African Americans



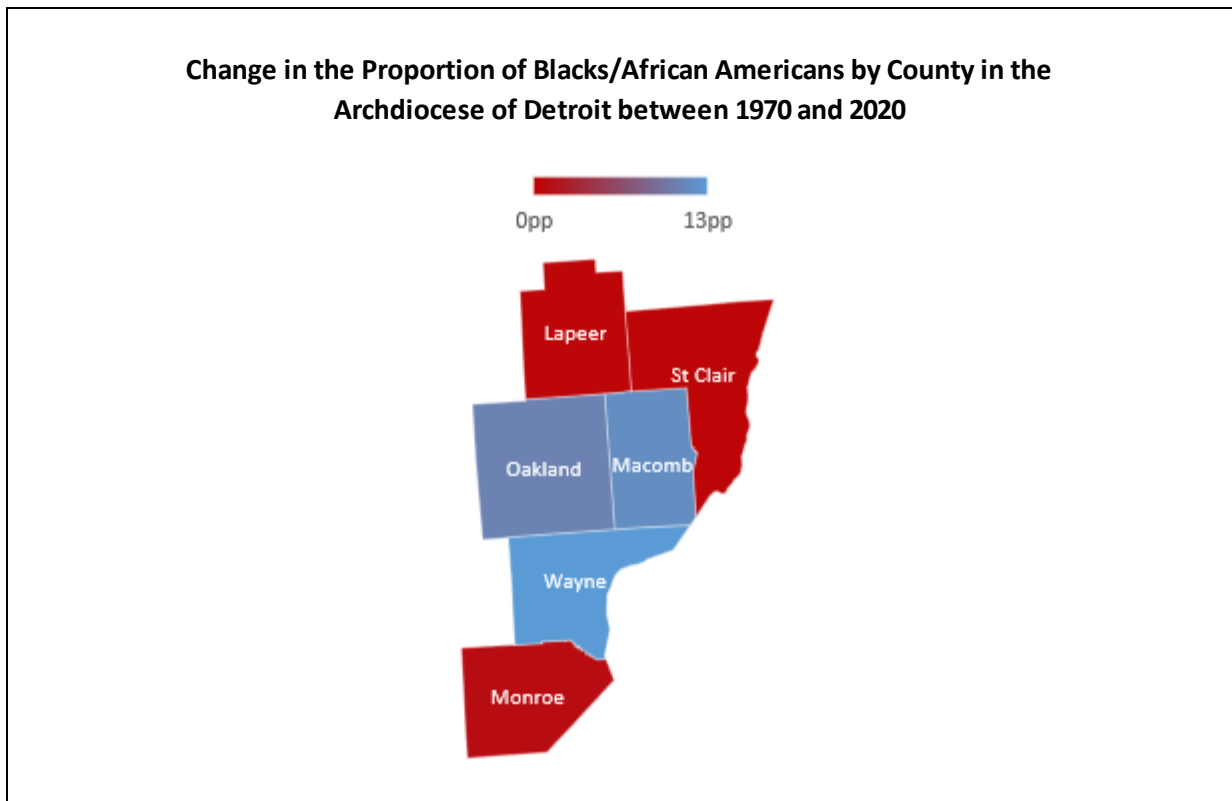
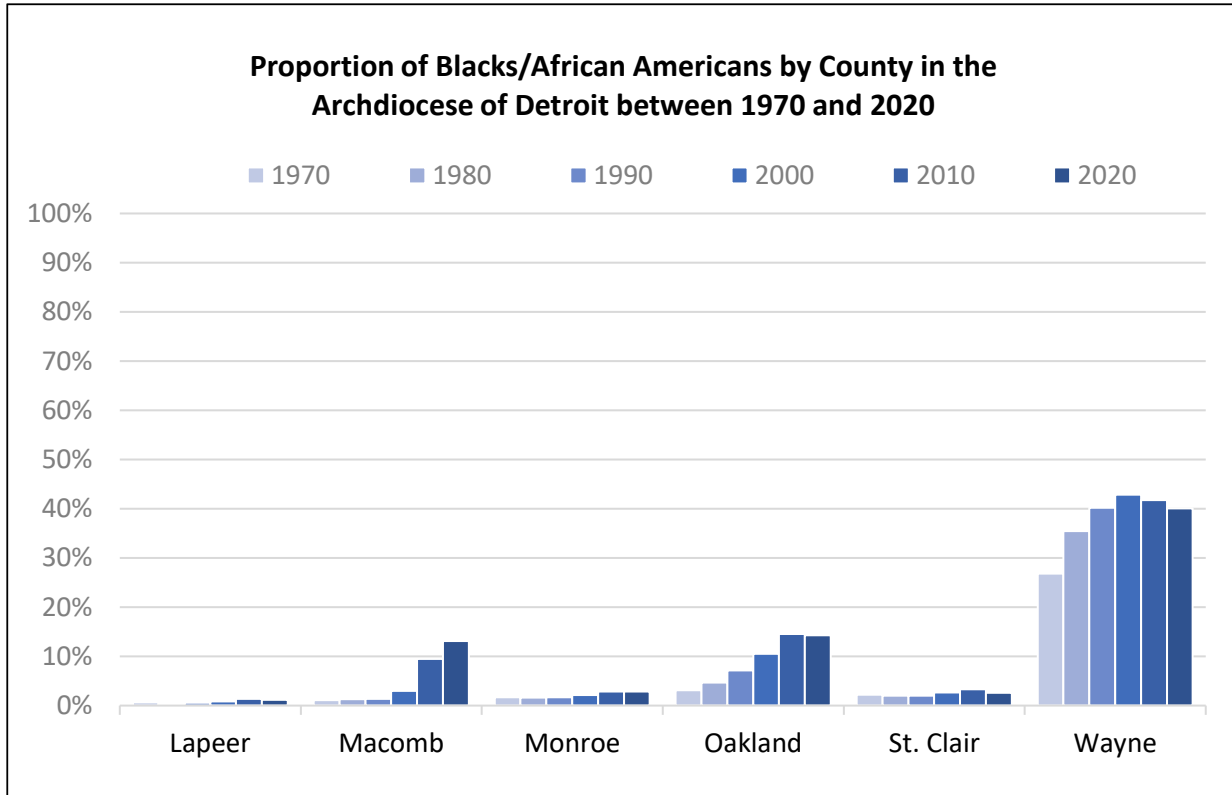
Between 1970 and 2020, the number of Blacks/African Americans in:

- Macomb County increased by 102,676 people (by 1510%).
- Oakland County increased by 142,415 people (by 503%).
- Lapeer County increased by 625 people (by 174%).
- Monroe County increased by 2,106 people (by 104%).
- St. Clair County increased by 1,268 people (by 48%).
- Wayne County decreased by 30,738 people (by 4%).

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

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
Lapeer	359	213	454	767	1,242	984
Macomb	6,800	9,059	10,054	23,495	80,122	109,476
Monroe	2,032	2,240	2,271	3,127	4,372	4,138
Oakland	28,338	47,654	77,254	126,105	175,395	170,753
St. Clair	2,669	2,810	2,934	4,404	5,432	3,937
Wayne	705,520	829,002	848,896	884,119	760,835	674,782
Altogether	745,718	890,978	941,863	1,042,017	1,027,398	964,070

12. Proportion of Blacks/African Americans



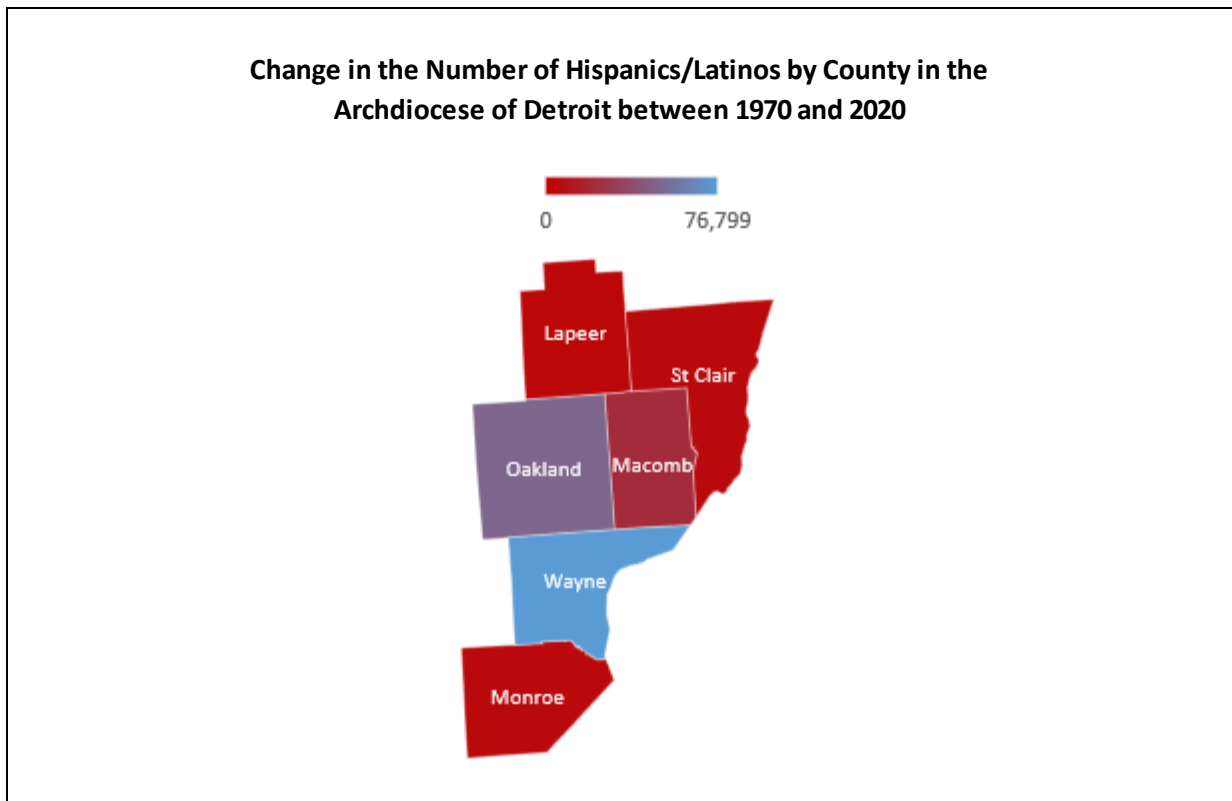
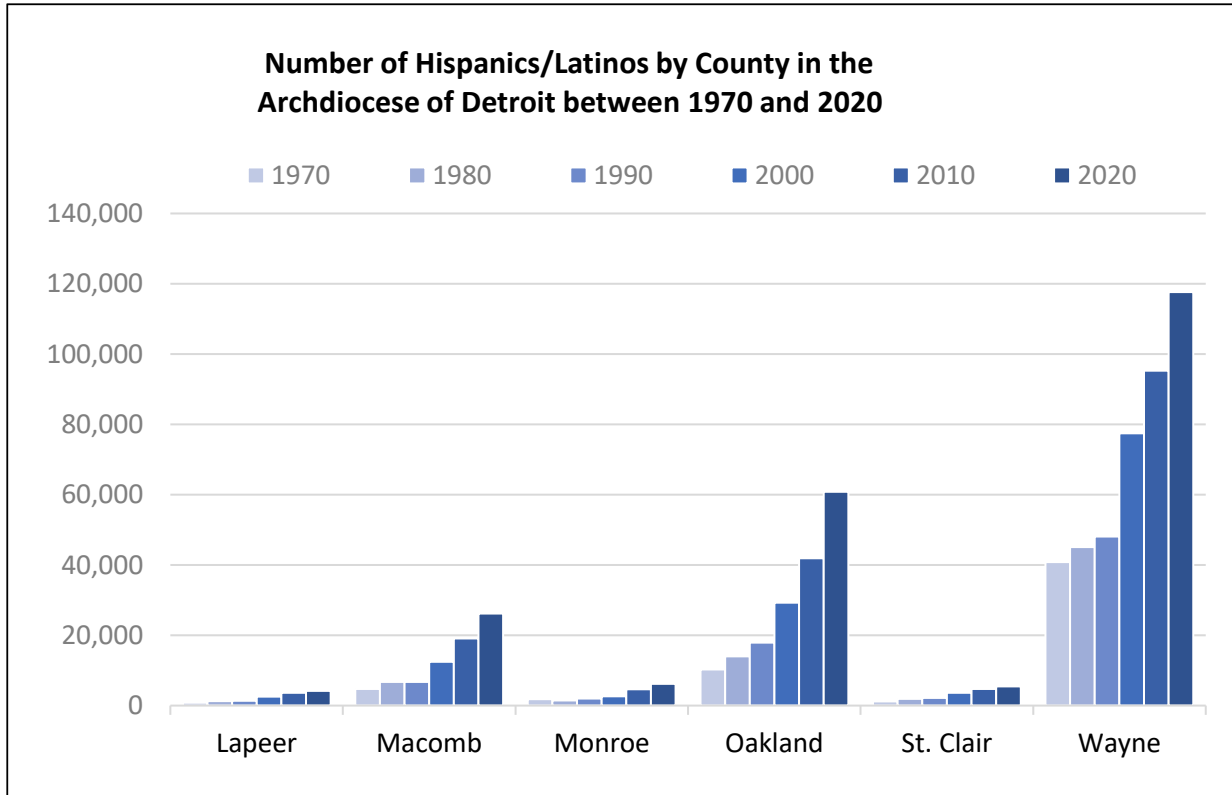
Between 1970 and 2020, the proportion of Blacks/African Americans in:

- Wayne County increased by 13pp.
- Macomb County increased by 12pp.
- Oakland County increased by 11pp.
- Monroe County increased by 1pp.
- Lapeer County increased by less than 1pp.
- St. Clair County increased by less than 1pp.

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

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]
Lapeer	1	<1	1	1	1	1
Macomb	1	1	1	3	10	13
Monroe	2	2	2	2	3	3
Oakland	3	5	7	11	15	14
St. Clair	2	2	2	3	3	3
Wayne	27	35	40	43	42	40
Altogether	17	20	22	23	24	24

13. Number of Hispanics/Latinos



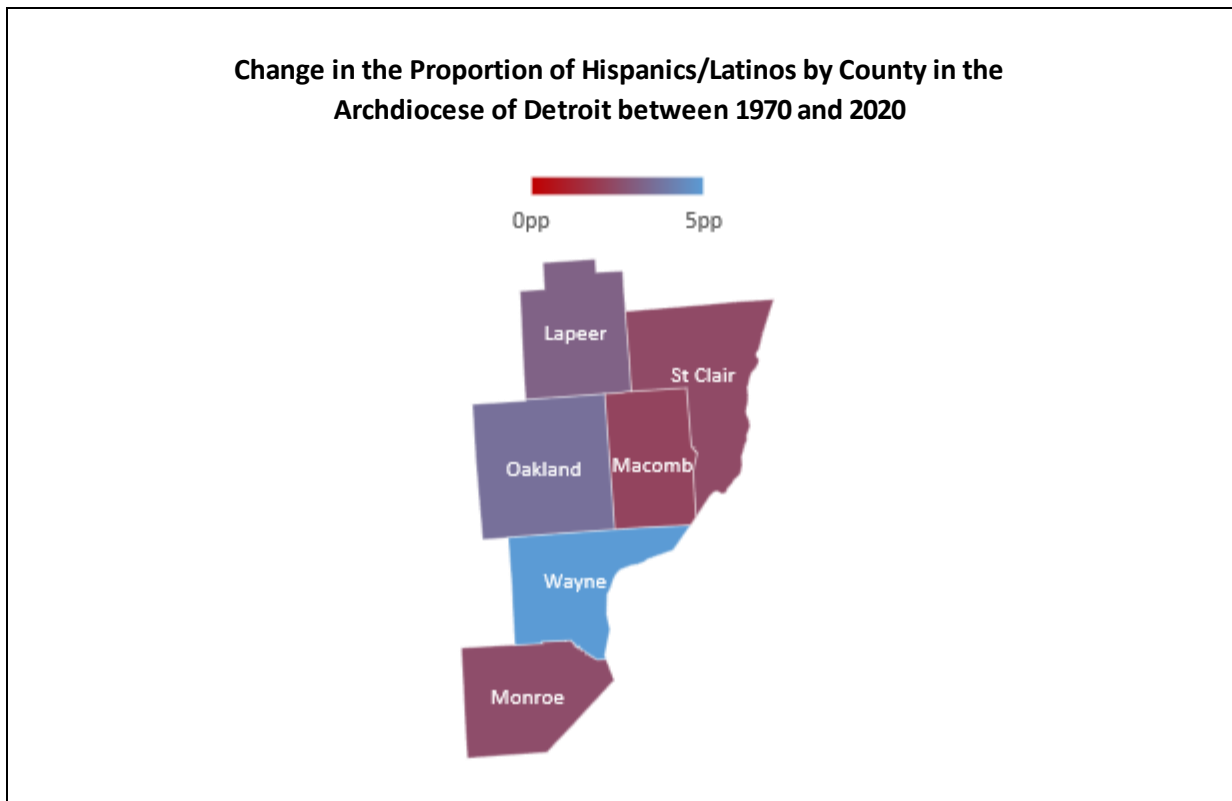
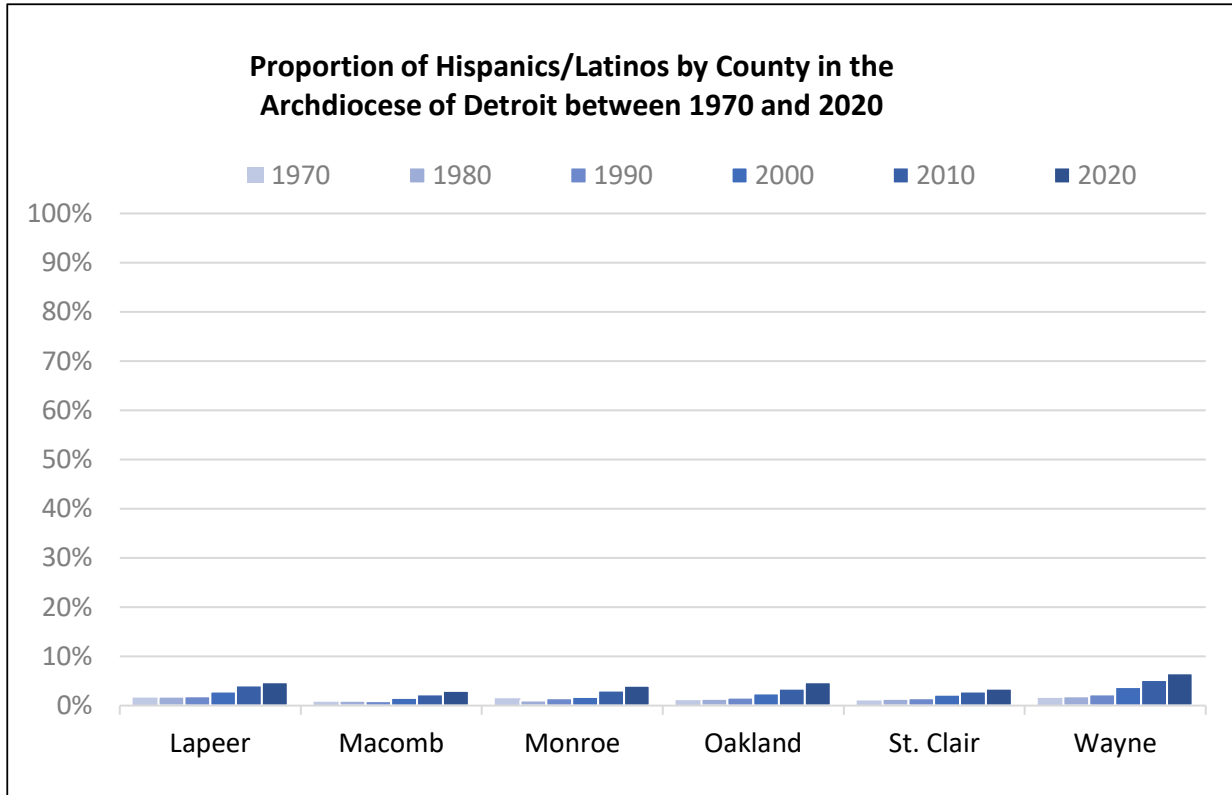
Between 1970 and 2020, the number of Hispanics/Latinos in:

- Oakland County increased by 50,538 people (by 491%).
- Macomb County increased by 21,431 people (by 448%).
- Lapeer County increased by 3,390 people (by 397%).
- St. Clair County increased by 4,255 people (by 340%).
- Monroe County increased by 4,409 people (by 242%).
- Wayne County increased by 76,799 people (by 188%).

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

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
Lapeer	854	1,276	1,420	2,538	3,622	4,244
Macomb	4,783	6,747	6,708	12,510	19,095	26,214
Monroe	1,822	1,456	2,028	2,626	4,667	6,231
Oakland	10,300	13,991	17,949	29,327	41,920	60,838
St. Clair	1,250	1,949	2,226	3,643	4,708	5,505
Wayne	40,850	45,081	48,124	77,501	95,260	117,649
Altogether	59,859	70,500	78,455	128,145	169,272	220,681

14. Proportion of Hispanics/Latinos



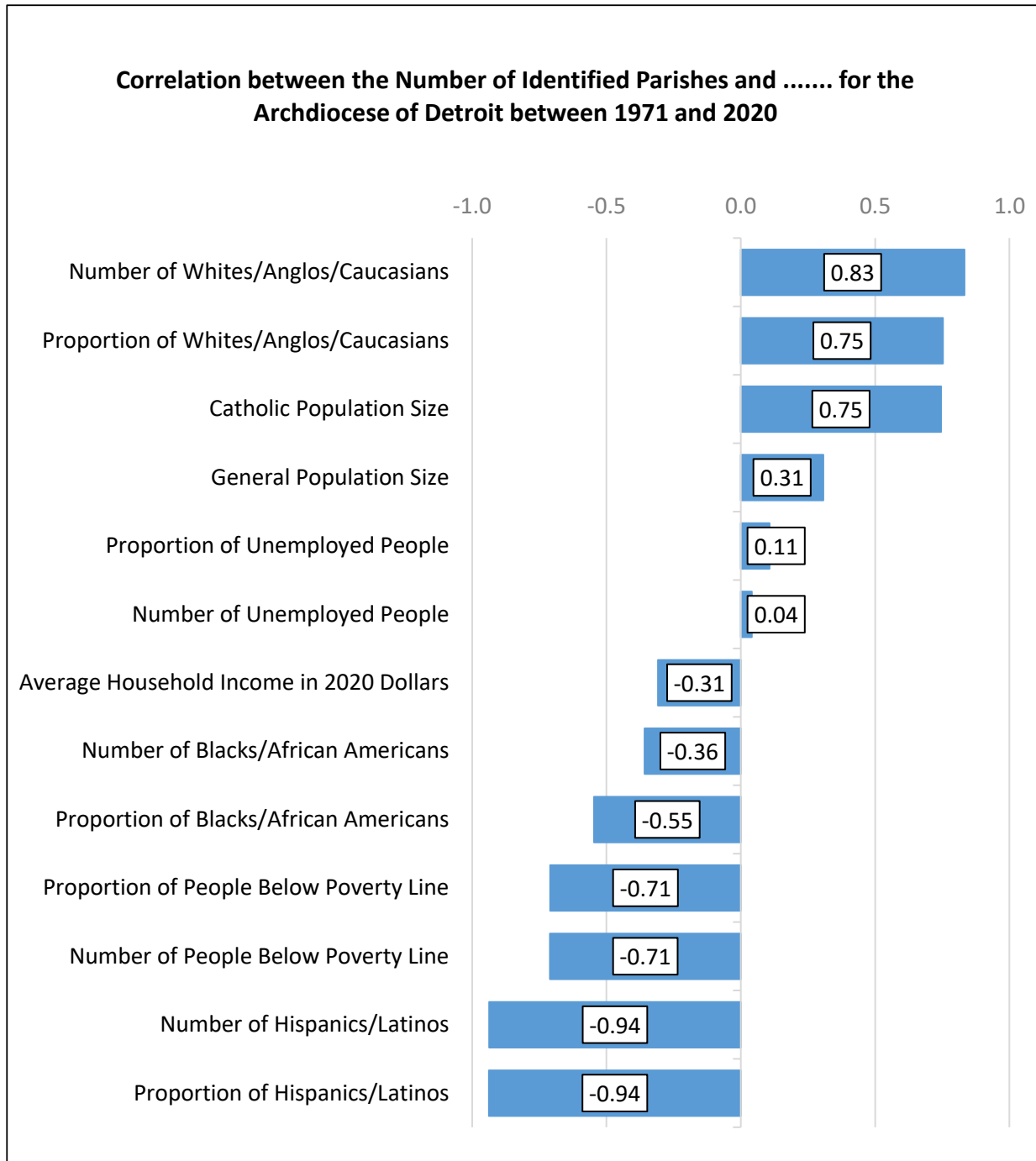
Between 1970 and 2020, the proportion of Hispanics/Latinos in:

- Wayne County increased by 5pp.
- Oakland County increased by 4pp.
- Lapeer County increased by 3pp.
- Monroe County increased by 2pp.
- St. Clair County increased by 2pp.
- Macomb County increased by 2pp.

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

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]
Lapeer	2	2	2	3	4	5
Macomb	1	1	1	2	2	3
Monroe	2	1	2	2	3	4
Oakland	1	1	2	2	3	5
St. Clair	1	1	2	2	3	3
Wayne	2	2	2	4	5	7
Altogether	1	2	2	3	4	5

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



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 Detroit between 1971 and 2020**

	County			Diocese
	Minimum [PCC]	Average [PCC]	Maximum [PCC]	Altogether [PCC]
Catholic Population Size	-0.02	0.46	0.87	0.75
General Population Size	-0.53	0.16	0.89	0.31
Average Household Income in 2020 Dollars	-0.19	0.18	0.81	-0.31
Number of People Below Poverty Line	-0.80	-0.32	0.62	-0.71
Proportion of People Below Poverty Line	-0.84	-0.46	0.22	-0.71
Number of Unemployed People	-0.33	0.12	0.37	0.04
Proportion of Unemployed People	-0.17	0.02	0.31	0.11
Number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians	-0.21	0.48	0.94	0.83
Proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians	-0.82	0.26	0.77	0.75
Number of Blacks/African Americans	-0.61	-0.03	0.90	-0.36
Proportion of Blacks/African Americans	-0.68	-0.25	0.85	-0.55
Number of Hispanics/Latinos	-0.97	-0.37	0.91	-0.94
Proportion of Hispanics/Latinos	-0.98	-0.38	0.89	-0.94

* 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 6 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:

- number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians (0.83).
- proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians (0.75).
- Catholic population size (0.75).

Changes in the number of identified parishes from decade to decade (between 1970 and 2020) show strong negative correlation with the changes in the:

- proportion of Hispanics/Latinos (-0.94).
- number of Hispanics/Latinos (-0.94).
- number of people below poverty line (-0.71).
- proportion of people below poverty line (-0.71).

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.

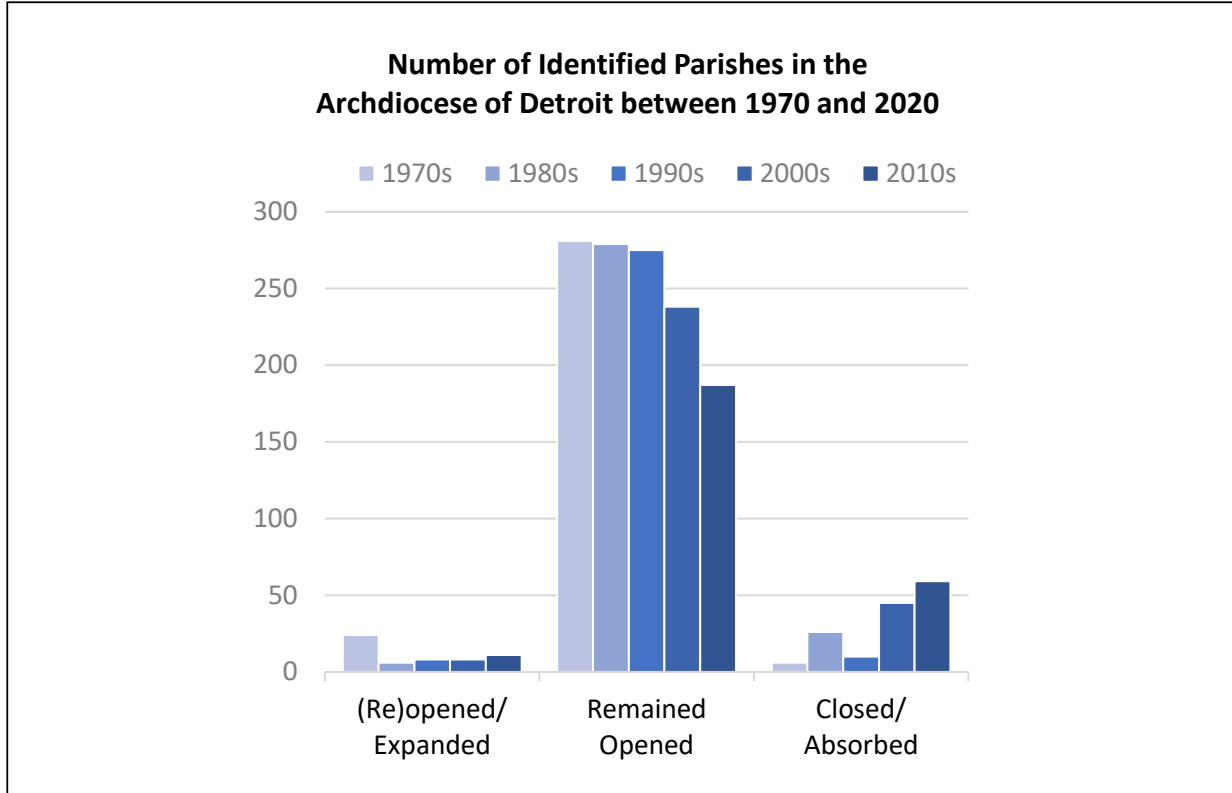
- The variables from the Official Catholic Directory are based on the identified parishes (as opposed to the actual number of parishes shown in diocesan-level overview in Section 1). In general, the number of identified parishes only includes parishes for which addresses could be identified (see Appendix 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



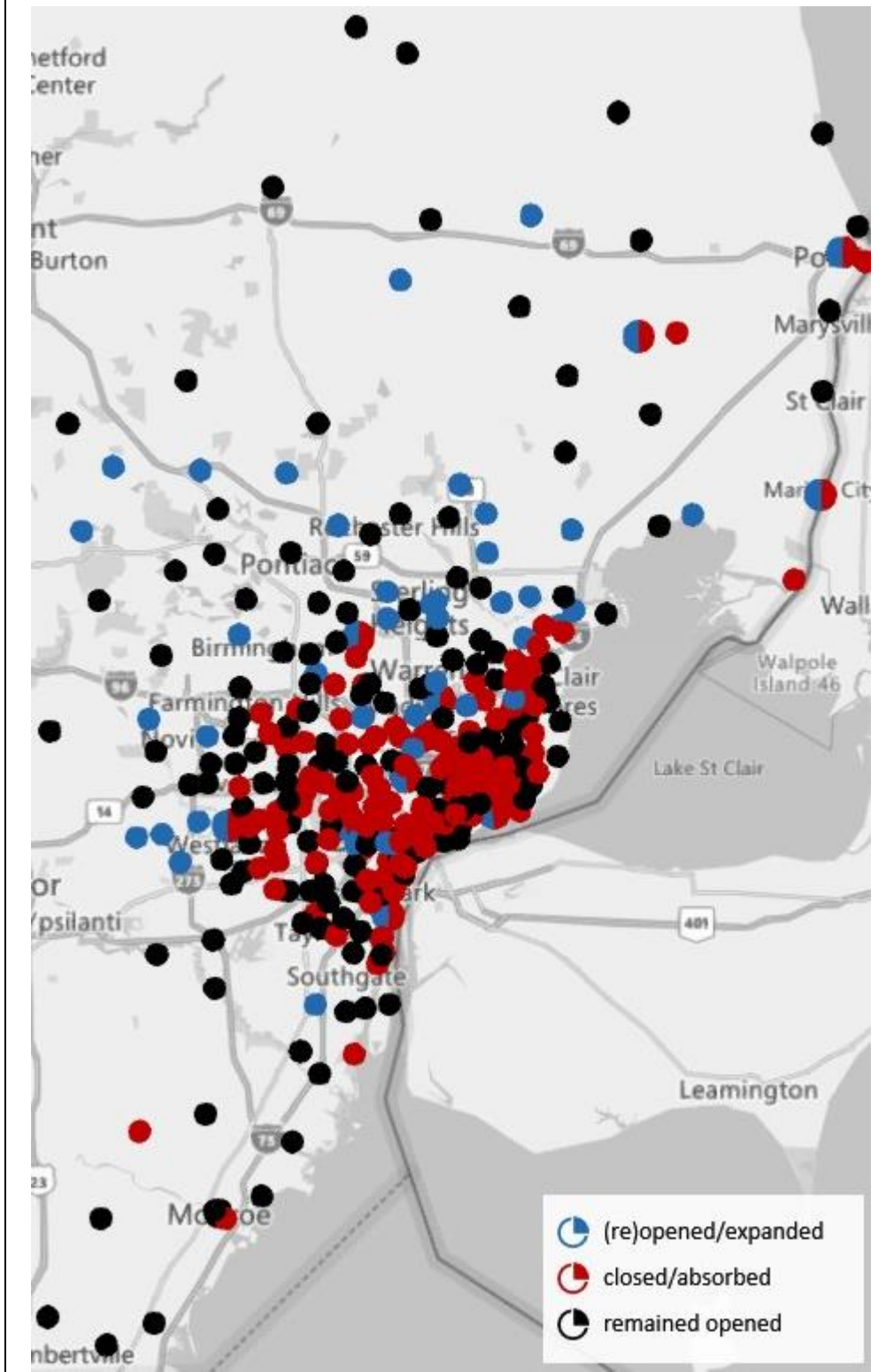
Over the entire 50-year period, a total 344 parishes were identified in the Archdiocese of Detroit (the actual number of parishes may be higher- see Appendix I for more information). This includes:

- 146 closed/absorbed parishes.
- 141 parishes that remained opened.
- 57 (re)opened/expanded parishes.

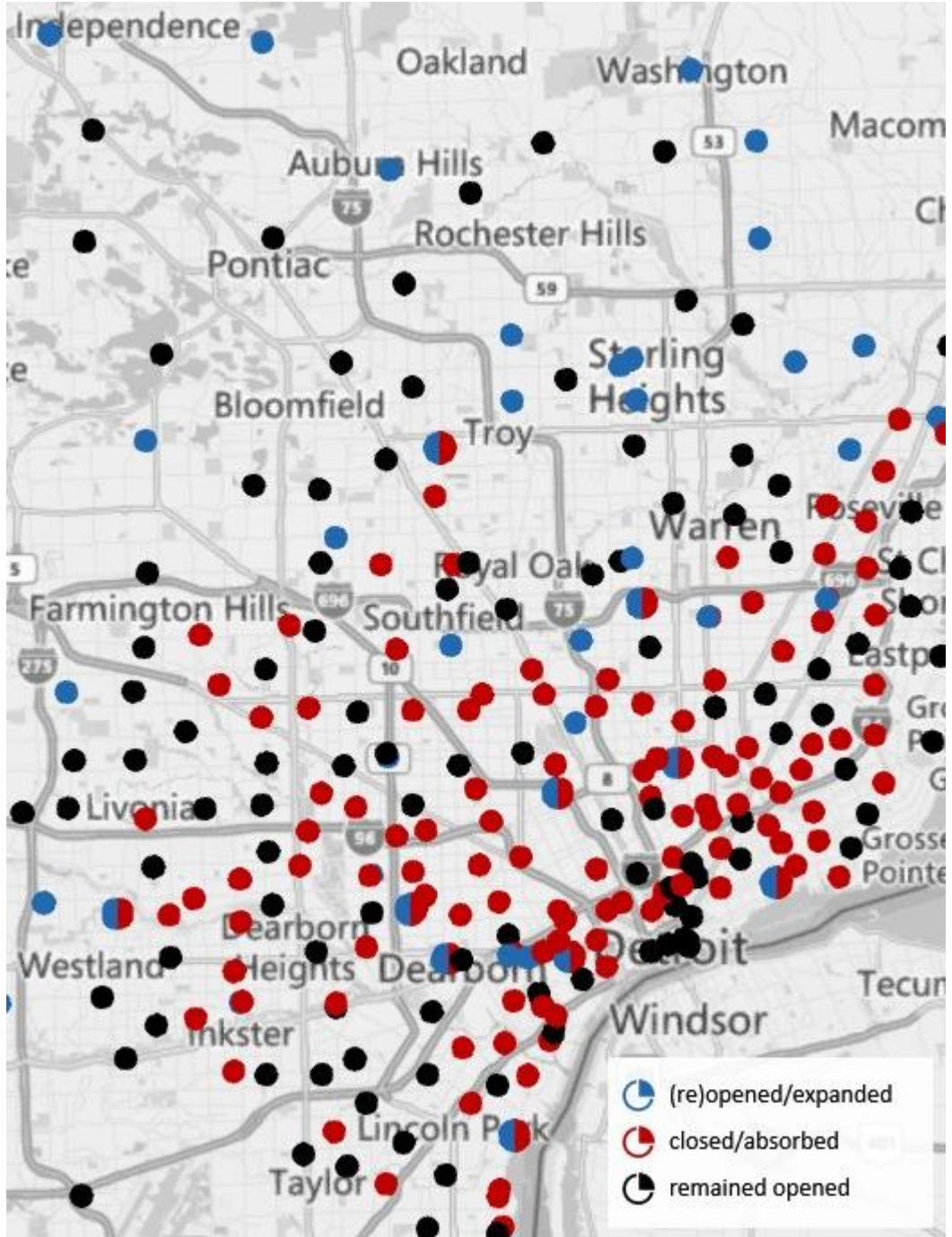
**Number of Identified Parishes in the
Archdiocese of Detroit between 1970 and 2020**

	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	All
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
(Re)opened/Expanded	24	6	8	8	11	57
Remained Opened	281	279	275	238	187	141
Closed/Absorbed	6	26	10	45	59	146
Altogether	311	311	293	291	257	344

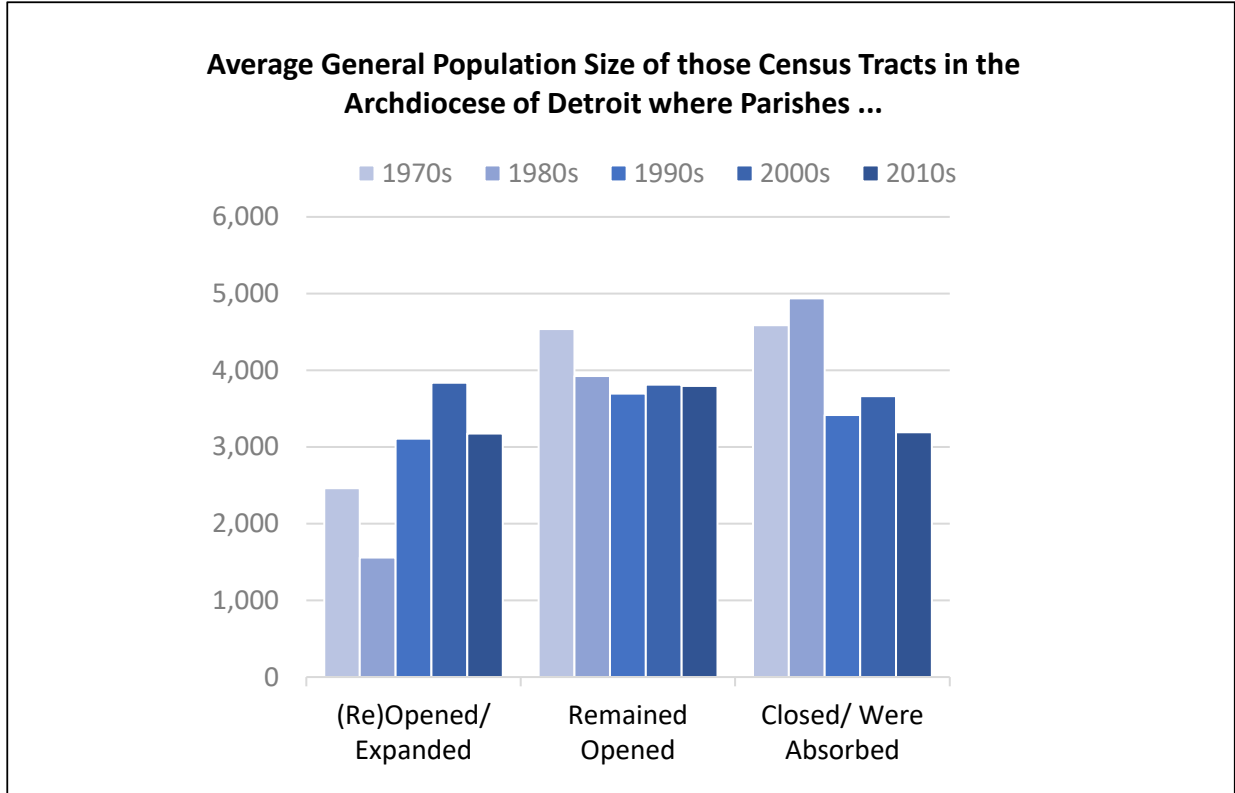
Identified Parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit between 1970 and 2020



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



2. Average General Population Size



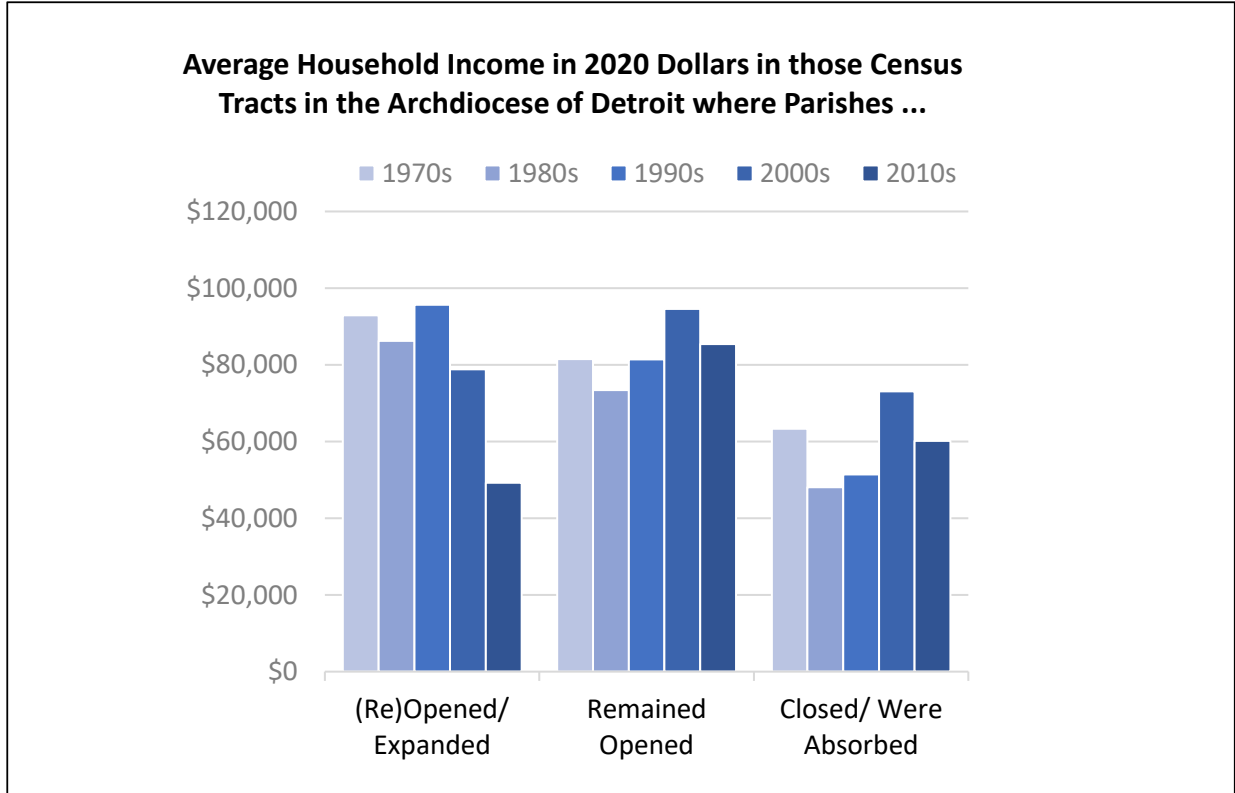
Between 1970 and 2020, there were, on average 3,971 people in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Detroit where parishes remained opened. By comparison, the general population size in those census tracts where parishes were:

- (Re)opened/expanded was lower by 1,182 people (by 30%).
- Closed/absorbed was lower by 252 people (by 6%).

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

	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	All
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
(Re)opened/Expanded	2,464	1,559	3,109	3,839	3,174	2,789
Remained Opened	4,539	3,925	3,697	3,811	3,796	3,971
Closed/Were Absorbed	4,588	4,935	3,417	3,661	3,191	3,719
Altogether	4,380	3,964	3,671	3,788	3,630	3,900

3. Average Household Income



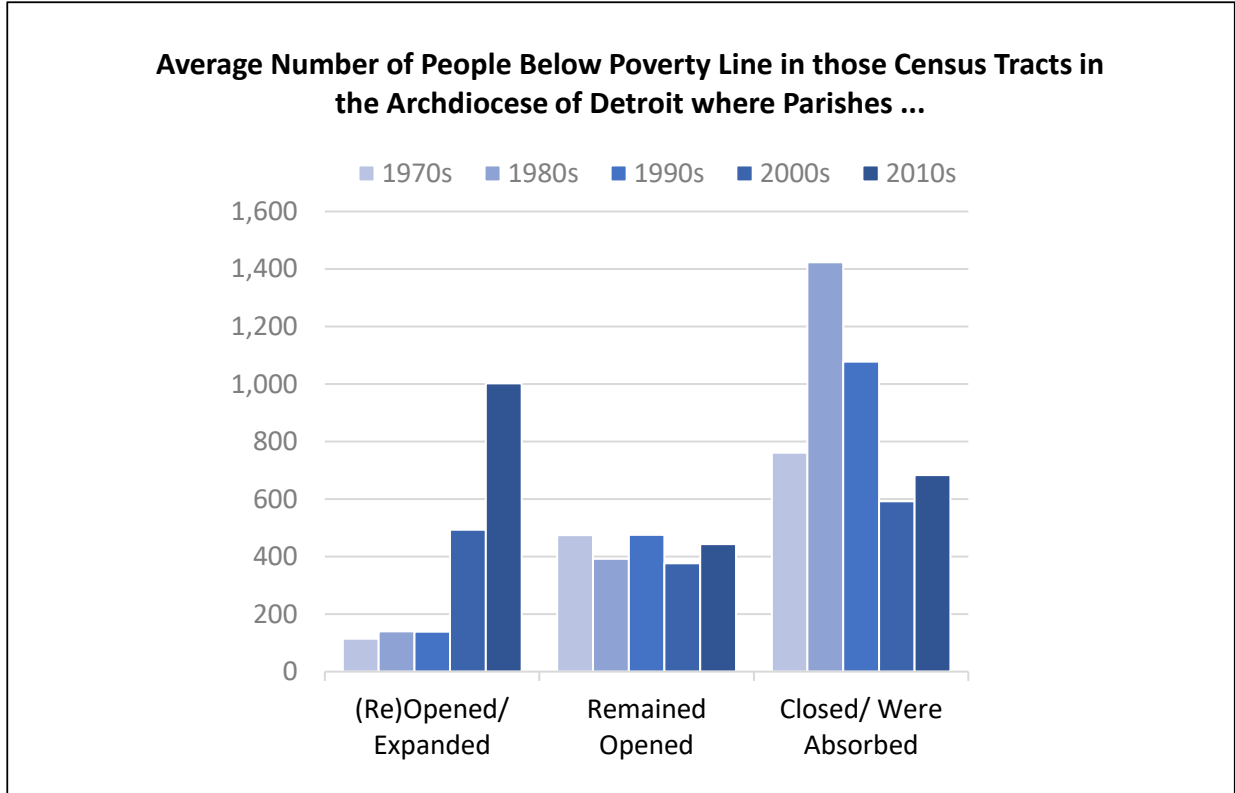
Over the entire 50-year period, the average household income in 2020 dollars in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Detroit where parishes remained opened equaled \$82,770. By comparison, the household income in 2020 dollars in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was lower by \$21,236 (by 26%).
- (Re)opened/expanded was lower by \$550 (by 1%).

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

	1970s [\$]	1980s [\$]	1990s [\$]	2000s [\$]	2010s [\$]	All [\$]
(Re)opened/Expanded	92,927	86,272	95,718	78,832	49,302	82,221
Remained Opened	81,544	73,404	81,406	94,626	85,454	82,770
Closed/Were Absorbed	63,343	48,127	51,448	73,087	60,156	61,534
Altogether	82,071	71,533	80,775	90,861	78,099	80,628

4. Average Number of People Below Poverty Line

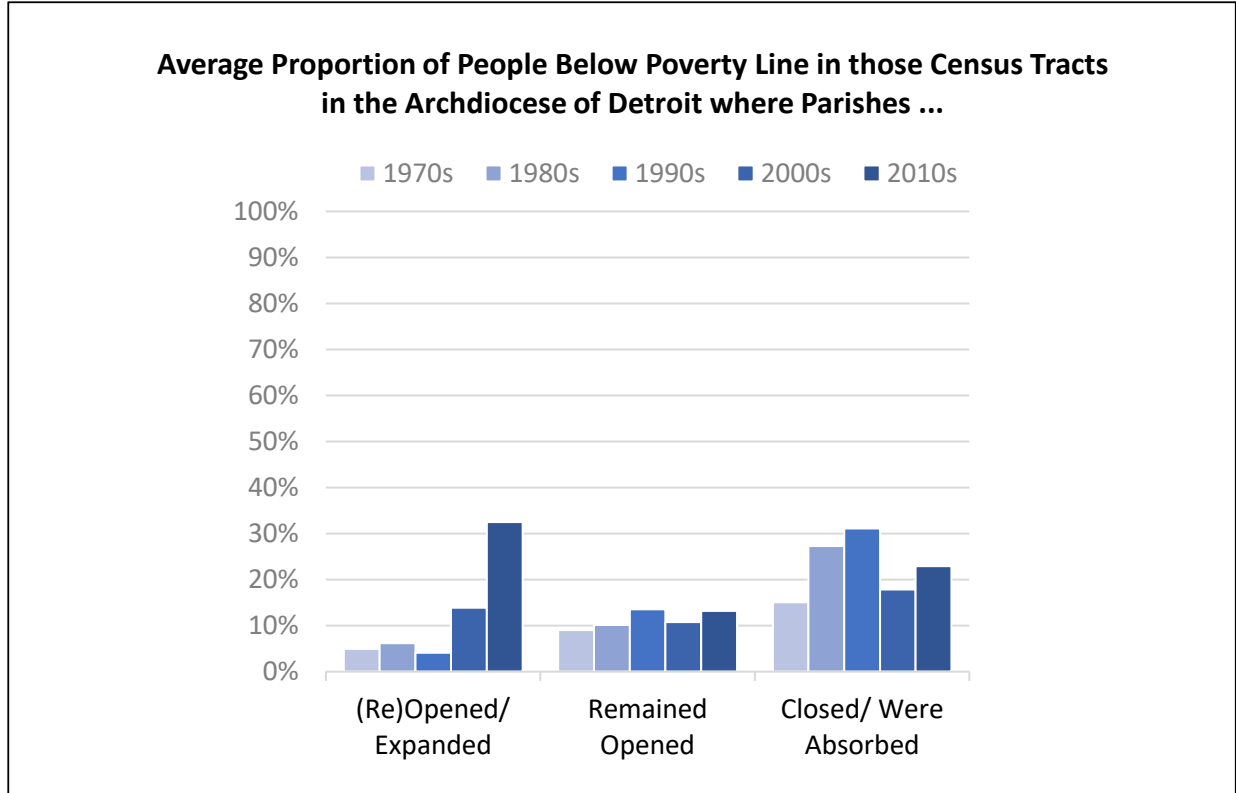


Between 1970 and 2020, there were, on average 434 unemployed people in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Detroit where parishes remained opened. By comparison, the number of people below poverty line in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was higher by 384 people (by 89%).
- (Re)opened/expanded was lower by 88 people (by 20%).

Average Number of People Below Poverty Line in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Detroit where Parishes ...						
	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	All
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
(Re)opened/Expanded	114	140	139	493	1,003	345
Remained Opened	474	393	475	377	444	434
Closed/Were Absorbed	762	1,423	1,078	592	683	817
Altogether	452	474	487	414	523	468

5. Average Proportion of People Below Poverty Line



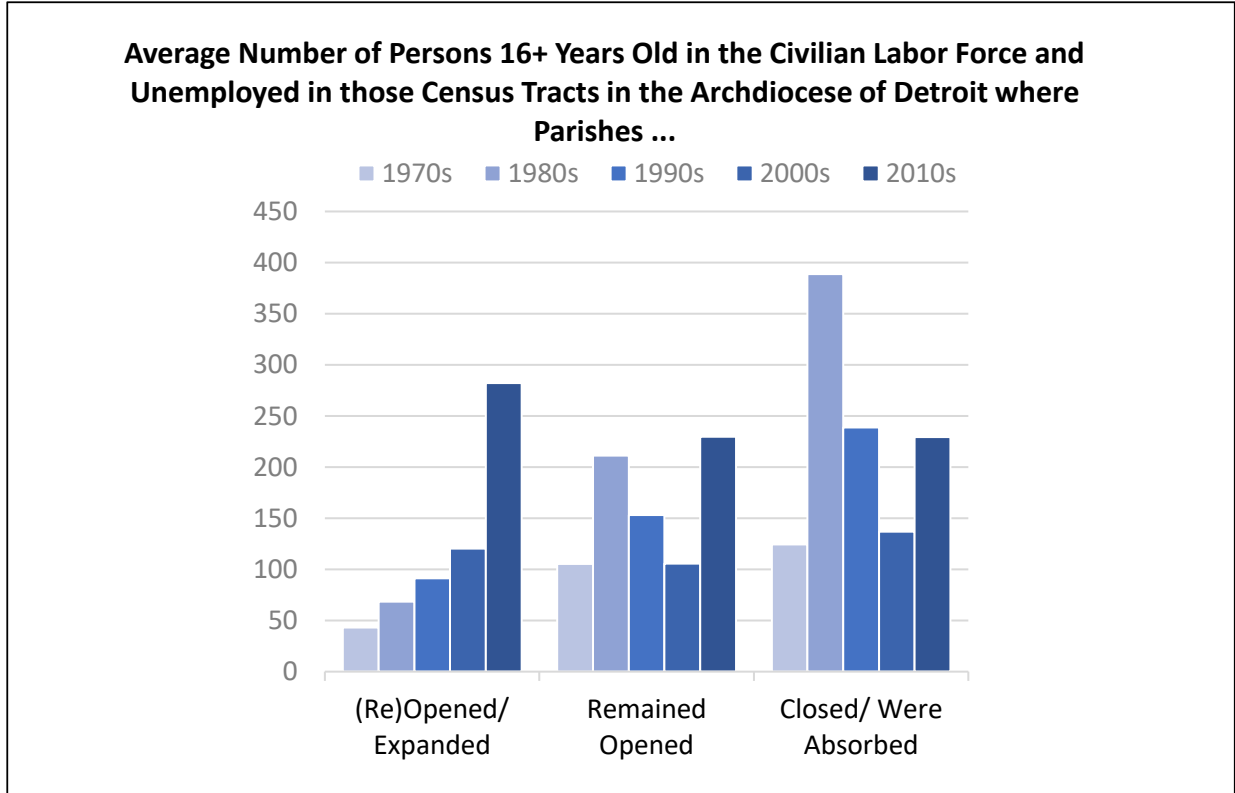
Over the entire 50-year period, the average proportion of people below poverty line in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Detroit where parishes remained opened equaled 11%. By comparison, the proportion of people below poverty line in those census tracts where parishes were:

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

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

	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	All
	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]
(Re)opened/Expanded	5	6	4	14	33	12
Remained Opened	9	10	14	11	13	11
Closed/Were Absorbed	15	27	31	18	23	22
Altogether	9	12	14	12	16	12

6. Average Number of Unemployed People



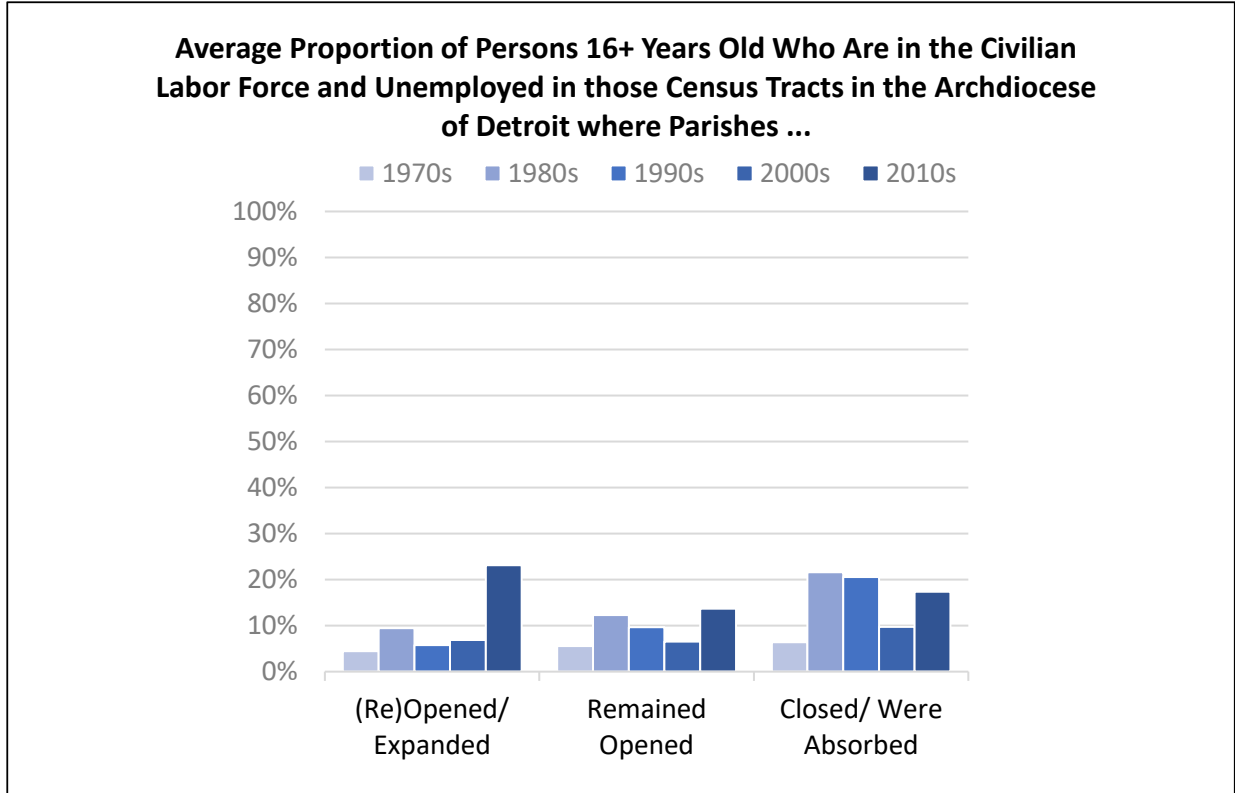
Between 1970 and 2020, there were, on average 158 unemployed people in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Detroit where parishes remained opened. By comparison, the unemployment in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was higher by 68 people (by 43%).
- (Re)opened/expanded was lower by 48 people (by 31%).

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

	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	All
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
(Re)opened/Expanded	43	69	91	121	282	110
Remained Opened	105	211	153	106	230	158
Closed/Were Absorbed	125	389	239	137	229	226
Altogether	101	223	155	111	232	163

7. Average Proportion of Unemployed People



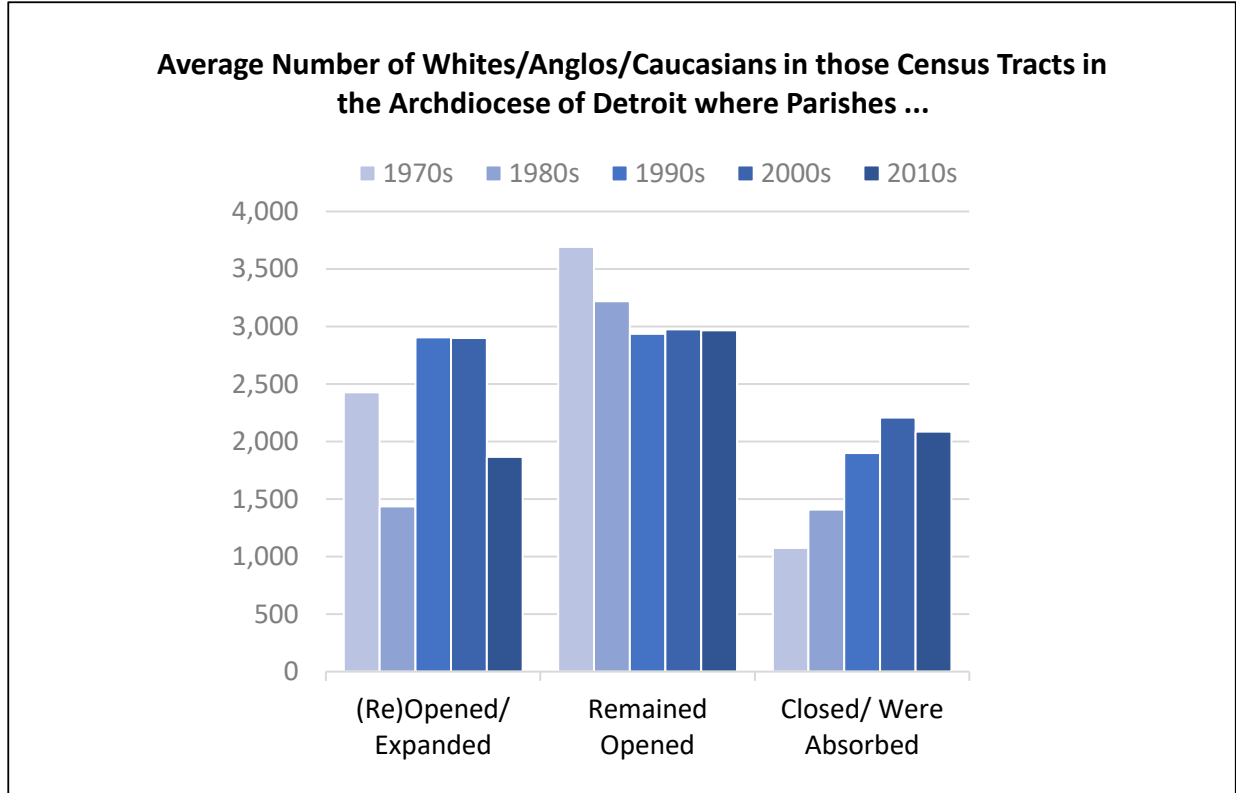
Over the entire 50-year period, the average unemployment rate in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Detroit where parishes remained opened equaled 9%. By comparison, the unemployment rate in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was higher by 6pp.
- (Re)opened/expanded was lower by less than 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 Detroit where Parishes ...

	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	All
	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]
(Re)opened/Expanded	4	9	6	7	23	9
Remained Opened	6	12	10	7	14	9
Closed/Were Absorbed	6	22	21	10	17	16
Altogether	6	13	10	7	15	10

8. Average Number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians



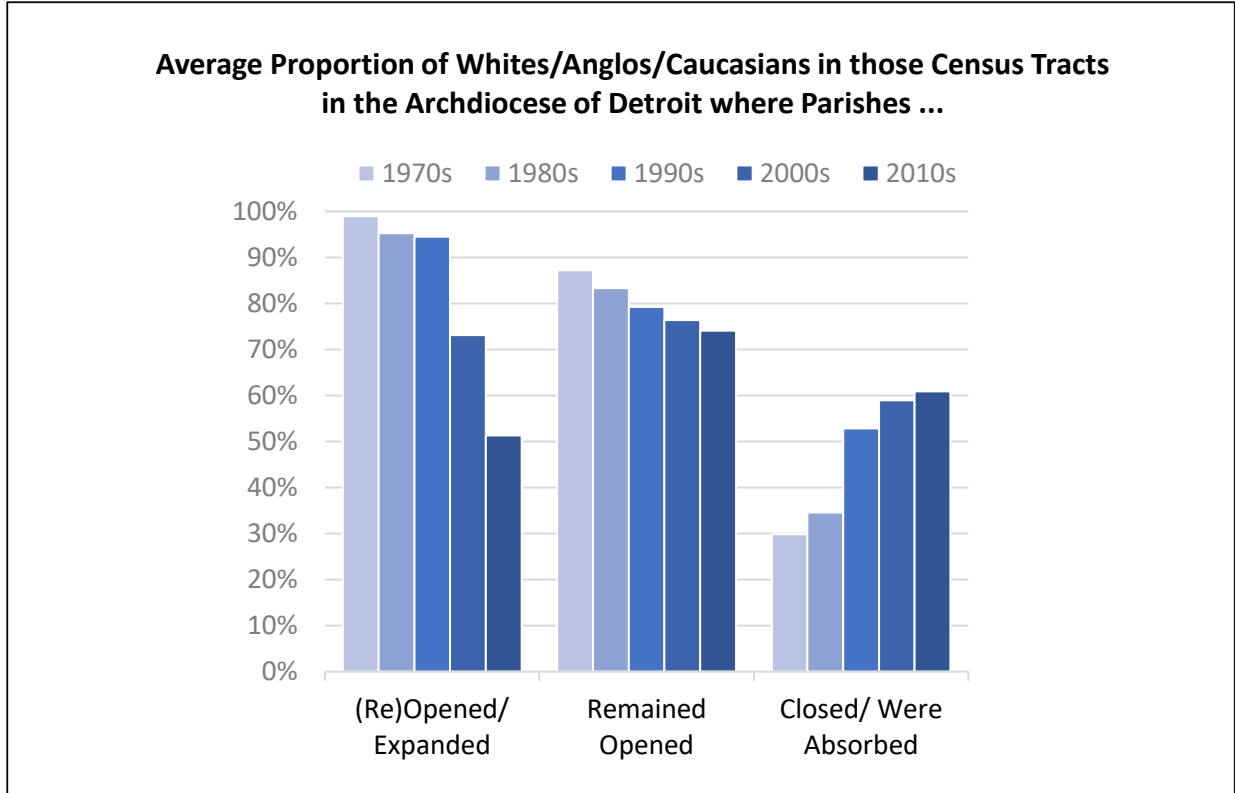
Between 1970 and 2020, there were, on average 3,181 Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Detroit where parishes remained opened. By comparison, the number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was lower by 1,233 people (by 39%).
- (Re)opened/expanded was lower by 831 people (by 26%).

Average Number of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Detroit where Parishes ...

	1970s [#]	1980s [#]	1990s [#]	2000s [#]	2010s [#]	All [#]
(Re)opened/Expanded	2,429	1,438	2,906	2,901	1,869	2,350
Remained Opened	3,692	3,220	2,938	2,977	2,968	3,181
Closed/Were Absorbed	1,077	1,410	1,901	2,209	2,086	1,948
Altogether	3,544	3,034	2,902	2,858	2,718	3,026

9. Average Proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians



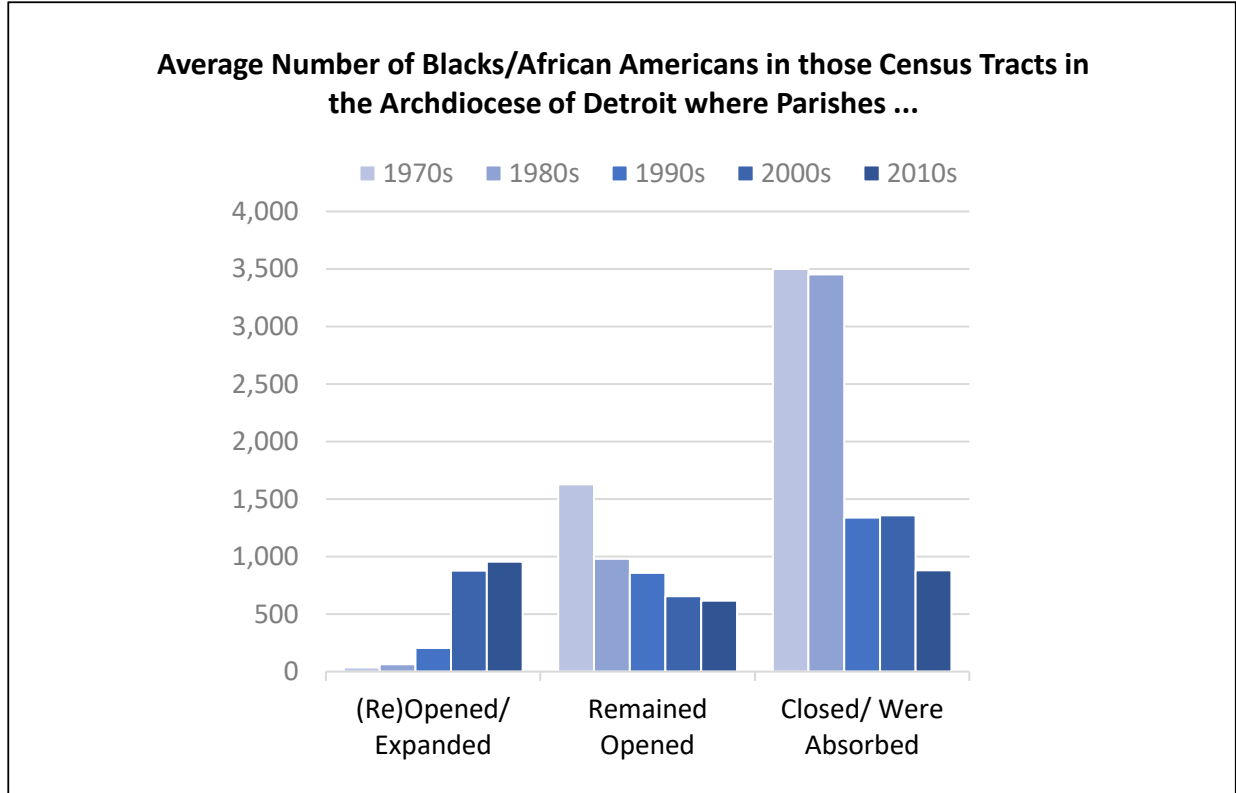
Over the entire 50-year period, the average proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Detroit where parishes remained opened equaled 81%. By comparison, the proportion of Whites/Anglos/Caucasians in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was lower by 27pp.
- (Re)opened/expanded was higher by 5pp.

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

	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	All
	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]
(Re)opened/Expanded	99	95	95	73	51	85
Remained Opened	87	83	79	76	74	81
Closed/Were Absorbed	30	35	53	59	61	54
Altogether	87	80	79	74	70	78

10. Average Number of Blacks/African Americans



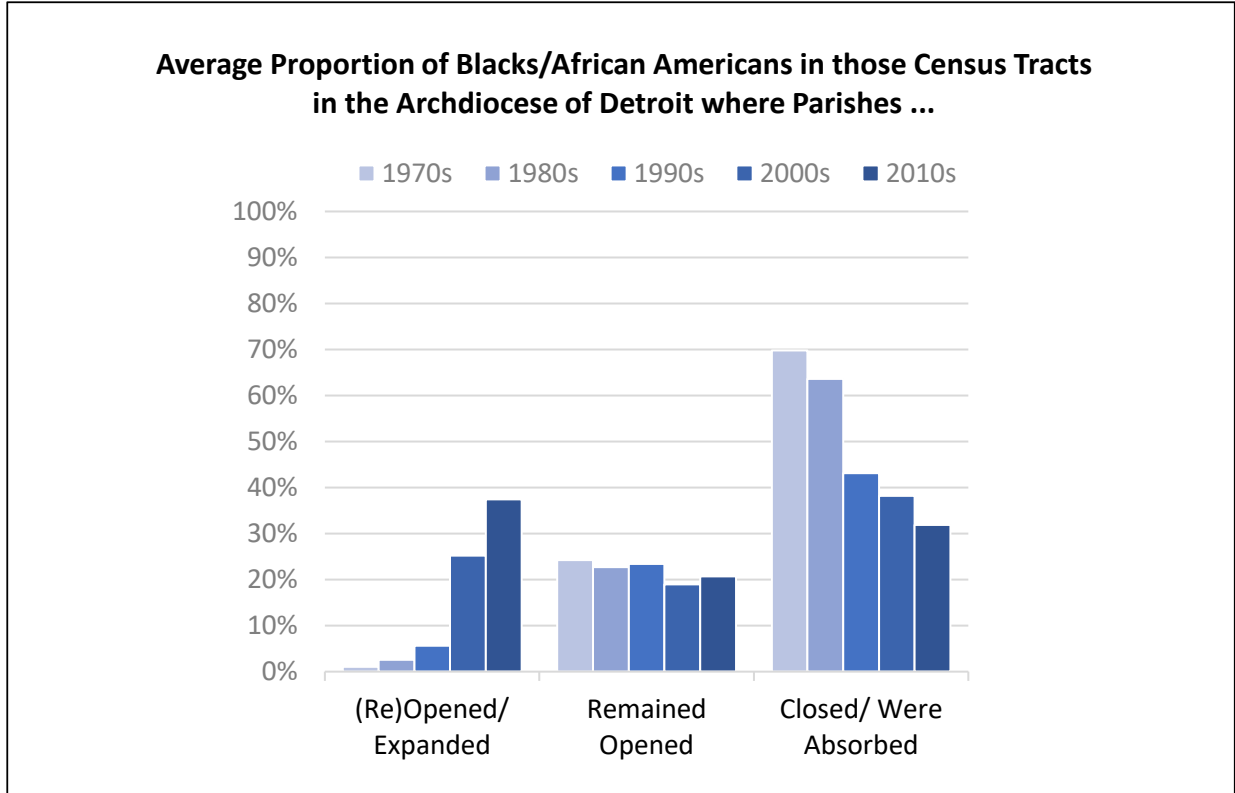
Between 1970 and 2020, there were, on average 899 Blacks/African Americans in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Detroit where parishes remained opened. By comparison, the number of Blacks/African Americans in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was higher by 727 people (by 81%).
- (Re)opened/expanded was lower by 456 people (by 51%).

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

	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	All
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
(Re)opened/Expanded	37	64	207	878	958	442
Remained Opened	1,628	981	858	657	619	899
Closed/Were Absorbed	3,501	3,454	1,340	1,359	881	1,625
Altogether	1,550	1,265	865	772	693	974

11. Average Proportion of Blacks/African Americans



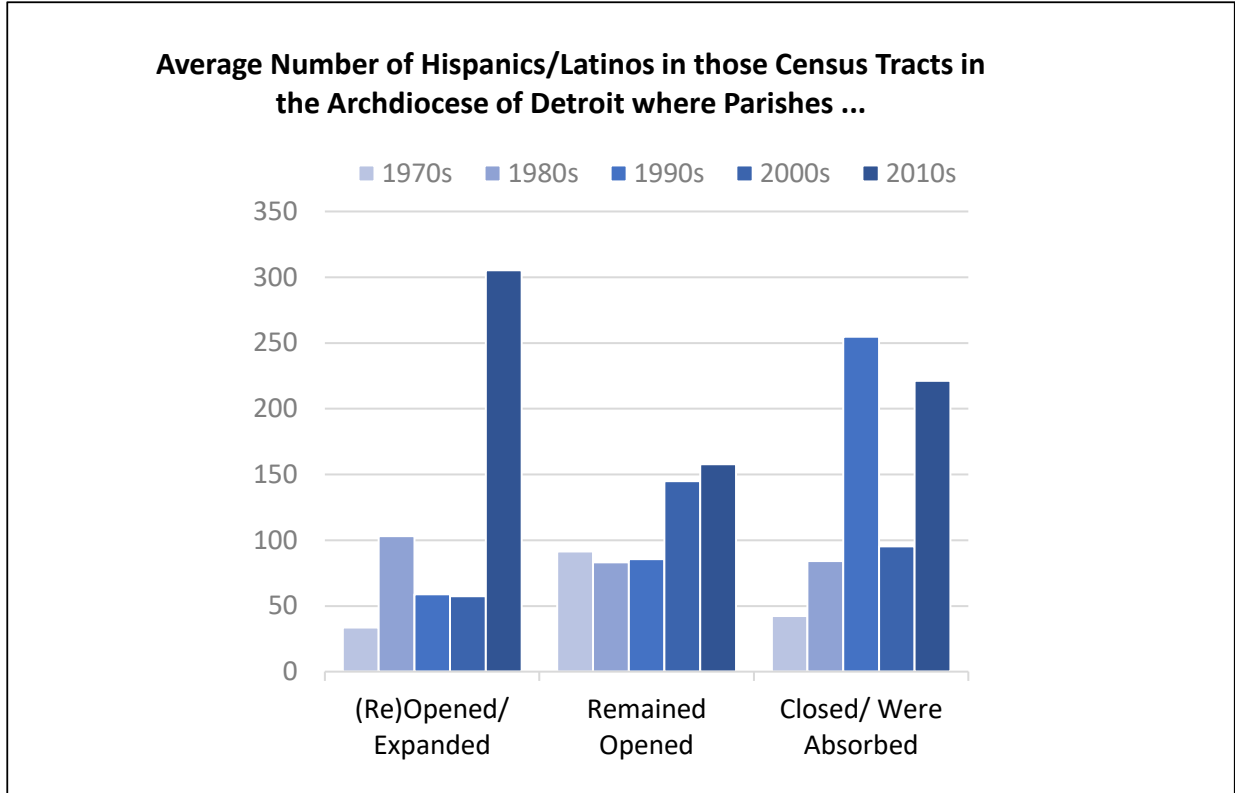
Over the entire 50-year period, the average proportion of Blacks/African Americans in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Detroit where parishes remained opened equaled 22%. By comparison, the proportion of Blacks/African Americans in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was higher by 20pp.
- (Re)opened/expanded was lower by 7pp.

Average Proportion of Blacks/African Americans in those Census Tracts in the Archdiocese of Detroit where Parishes ...

	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	All
	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]
(Re)opened/Expanded	1	3	6	25	37	15
Remained Opened	24	23	23	19	21	22
Closed/Were Absorbed	70	64	43	38	32	42
Altogether	24	27	24	22	24	24

12. Average Number of Hispanics/Latinos



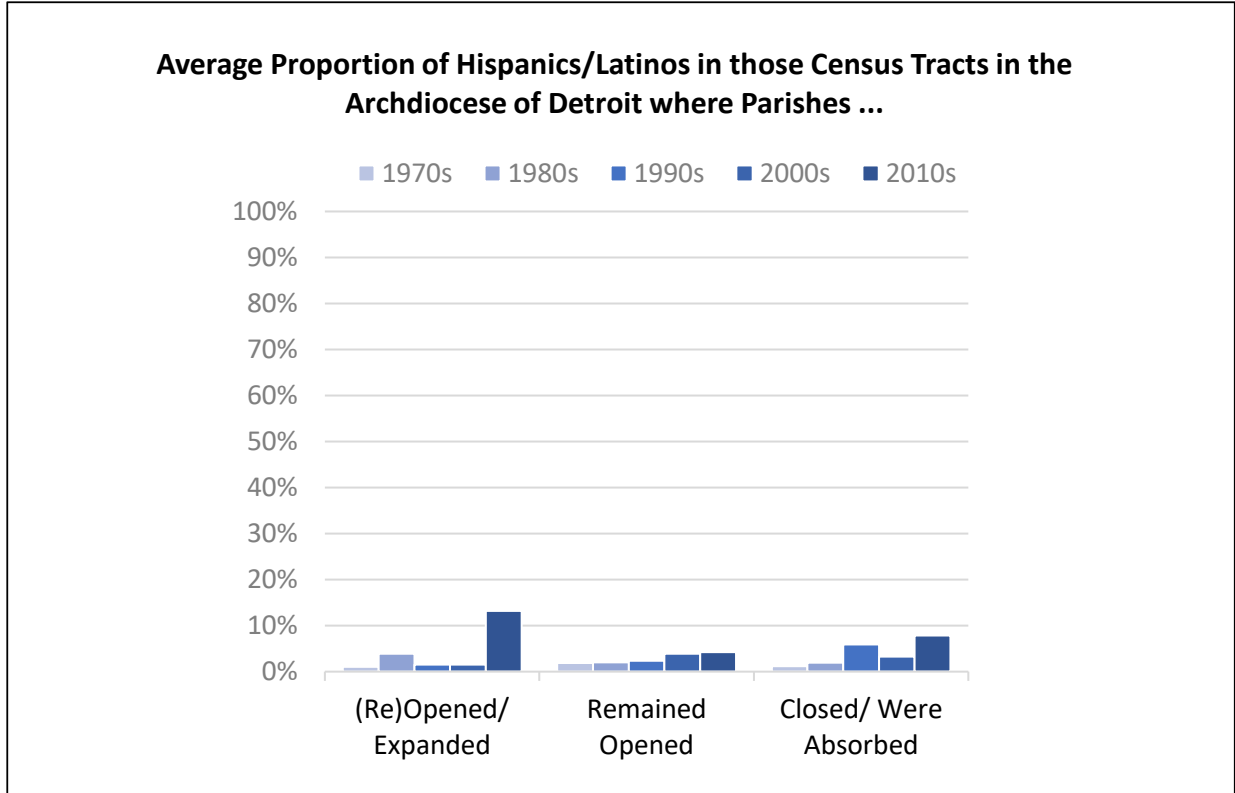
Between 1970 and 2020, there were, on average 110 Hispanics/Latinos in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Detroit where parishes remained opened. By comparison, the number of Hispanics/Latinos in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was higher by 48 people (by 43%).
- (Re)opened/expanded was lower by 0 people (by less than 1%).

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

	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	All
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
(Re)opened/Expanded	34	103	59	57	305	109
Remained Opened	91	83	86	145	158	110
Closed/Were Absorbed	42	84	255	95	221	157
Altogether	87	84	91	135	179	114

13. Average Proportion of Hispanics/Latinos



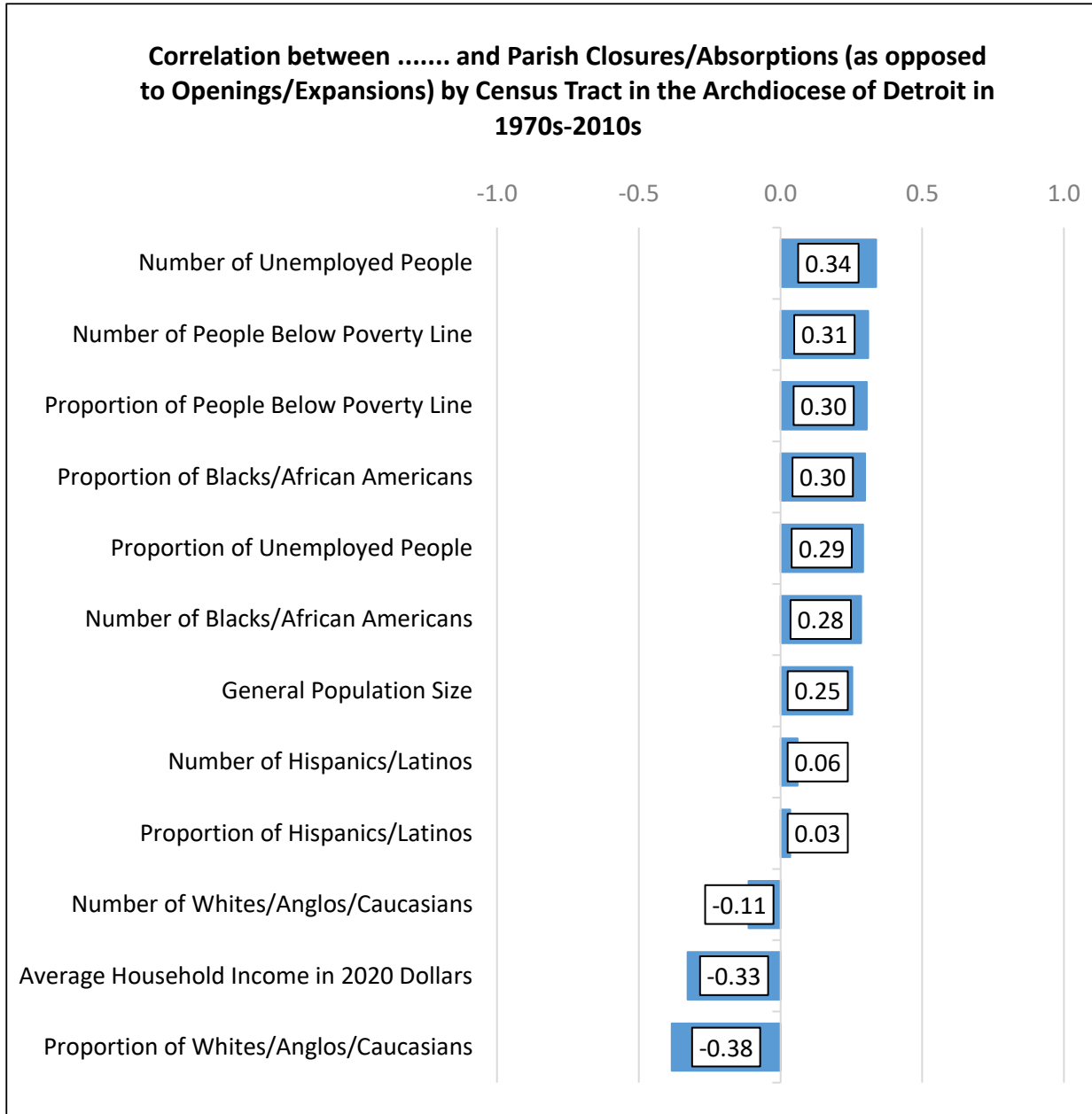
Over the entire 50-year period, the average proportion of Hispanics/Latinos in those census tracts in the Archdiocese of Detroit where parishes remained opened equaled 3%. By comparison, the proportion of Hispanics/Latinos in those census tracts where parishes were:

- Closed/absorbed was higher by 2pp.
- (Re)opened/expanded was higher by 1pp.

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

	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	All
	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]	[%]
(Re)opened/Expanded	1	4	2	2	13	4
Remained Opened	2	2	2	4	4	3
Closed/Were Absorbed	1	2	6	3	8	5
Altogether	2	2	2	4	5	3

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



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 Communion, receptions into full communion, Confirmations, Marriages, and deaths.
- The table below shows the total number of parishes by decade and diocese.

Total Number of Parishes by Decade and Diocese (Aggregated Parish Data from OCD)						
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]	[#]
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 Communion.
- 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.

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

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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 Database² 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.

	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

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).

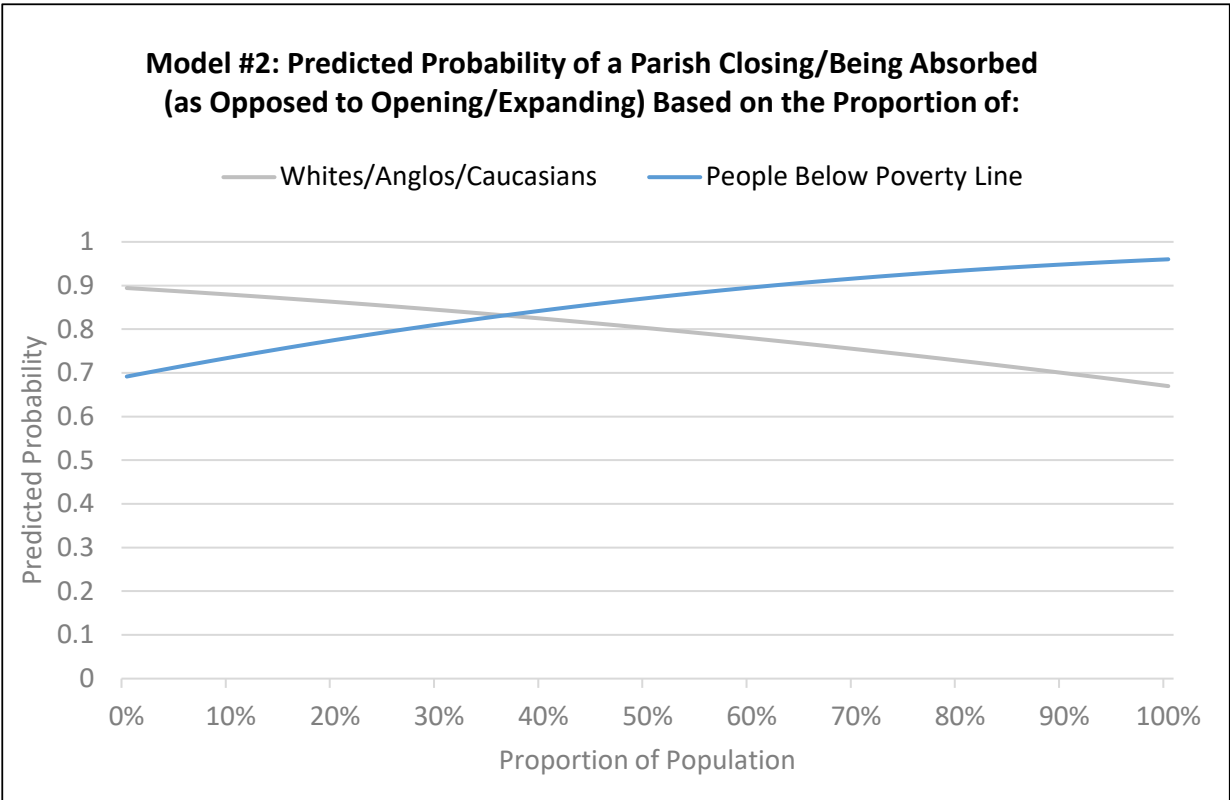
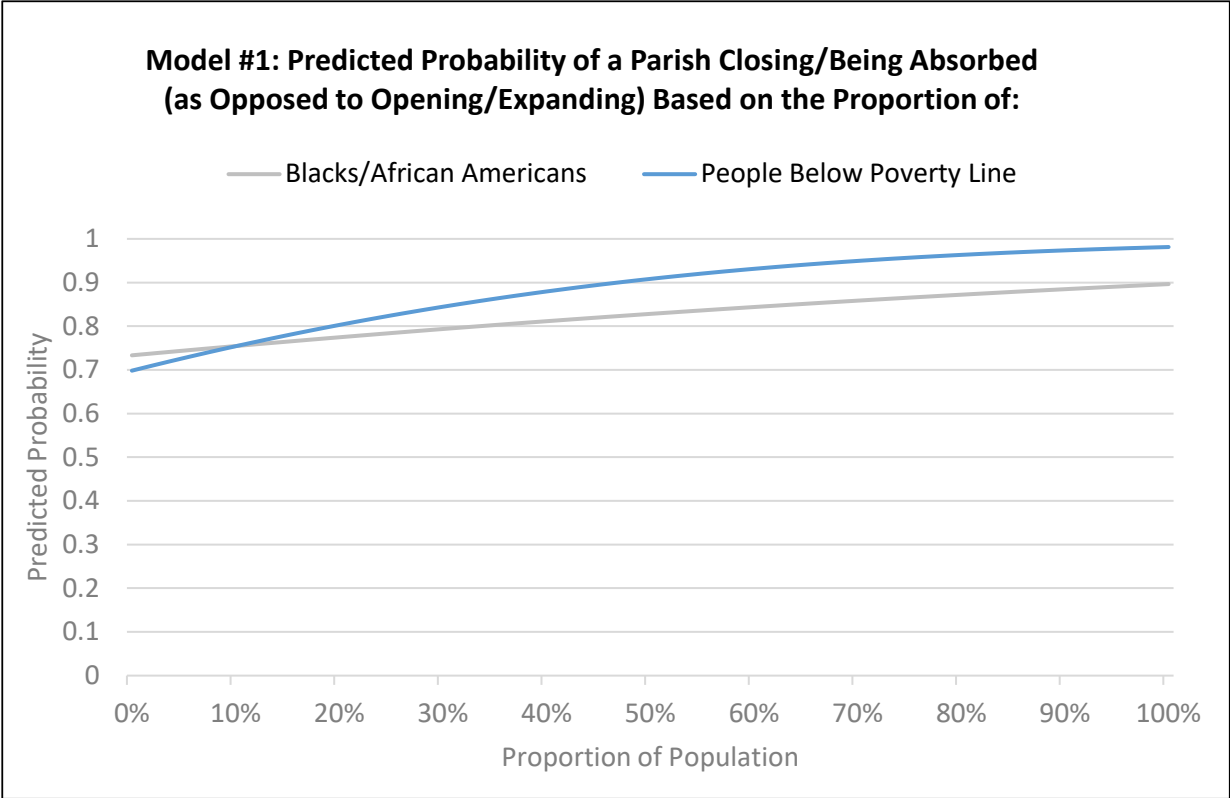
In the second model, the odds of parish closing (as opposed to opening) are predicted to:

- 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).

Odds Ratios for Parish Closing/Being Absorbed as Opposed to (Re)opening/Expanding		
	Model #1	Model #2
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	$\chi^2(7)=187.30$ (p=0.0000) $\chi^2(7)=232.24$ (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).



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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