

The Polish Community in Metro Chicago

a community profile of strengths and needs

**A Census 2000 Report
published by
The Polish American Association**

The Polish Community in Metro Chicago: a community profile of strengths and needs

A Census 2000 Report

**Published by
The Polish American Association**

June 2004

This study was made possible by funds from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

This report was written by Rob Paral, who is Principal of Rob Paral and Associates and a Research Fellow with the American Immigration Law Foundation.

Michael Norkewicz completed the data processing of census information for this report.

Karen Popowski, Executive Director of the Polish American Association, prepared initial analysis, charts and overview of the data.

Contents

Summary	1
Polish Americans in Illinois	2
Where Do Polish Americans Live?	4
Low-Income Polish Americans	7
Immigrants	8
Needs of Polish Immigrants	12
Learning to Speak English	12
Becoming a U.S. Citizen	12
Social and Economic Status of Polish Immigrants	13
Polish Elderly	16
Conclusion	17
Appendix	18
Statistical Snapshot of the Polish Community	18
Polish Population in Illinois Congressional Districts	19
Polish Population in Illinois State Senatorial Districts	20
Polish Population in Illinois Legislative Districts	21
Maps	
Polish Ancestry in Metro Chicago	5
Immigrants from Poland	10

Summary

This report describes the Polish American population of metropolitan Chicago using Census 2000 data in terms of the size and key characteristics of the community. The findings of this report include:

The Polish American Population

- In the year 2000 there were 933,000 persons of Polish ancestry in the state of Illinois. Some 65 percent of all Poles live in the suburbs of Chicago, 23 percent live in Chicago, and 12 percent live downstate.
- Overall, Polish Americans born in the U.S. have relatively high levels of homeownership, education, and income. However, about 62,000 Polish Americans in the metro Chicago area are below 150 percent of the poverty line. This is the equivalent of only \$22,890 in annual income for a family of three.

Polish Immigrants

- Polish immigrants have been present in Chicago for well over a century. There were 25,726 Polish immigrants in the metro area in 1890, and by 1920 the population reached 151,260.
- There are 139,000 Polish immigrants in the Chicago area, a level approaching the historical high of 165,000 reached in 1930.

- Nearly one third or 29.9 percent of all Polish immigrants in the United States live in the Chicago area.

- The Polish immigrant population in the city of Chicago, at nearly 70,000 persons, is the largest in the United States.

- Currently about 40 percent of all Polish immigrants are U.S. citizens. This citizenship rate grows steadily the longer that immigrants live here. Nearly 90 percent of metro Chicago Polish immigrants who have lived in the U.S. since 1965 are citizens

Polish Elderly

- There are more than 106,000 elderly persons in the Polish community, with about one-third of them living in the suburbs and two-thirds in Chicago. Some 83.8 percent are native born.
- Some 15 percent of Polish elderly have incomes below 150 percent of the poverty level. For an elderly person living alone, this translates into \$13,500 of income per year.

Polish Americans in Illinois

Few groups embody the spirit and history of Chicago like Polish Americans. Chicago's Polish Americans represent the great waves of immigration that have come to America. The jobs that Polish American workers have often held—such as employment in factories and small businesses—are highly representative of Chicago. The Polish communities in “bungalow belt” neighborhoods often form the archetypal Chicago street. In the years following World War II, Polish Americans made up a large part of the countless families moving into Chicago's suburbs especially southwest suburbs such as Oak Lawn and Hickory Hills, western suburbs like Berwyn and Lyons and northwestern suburbs like Norridge and Schiller Park.

Many Chicagoans today see new Polish immigrants striving to give their children a better life and can't help but be reminded of their own parents and grandparents, regardless of their ancestry. Polish immigrants have kept alive traditions such as observing traditional Polish holidays, keeping various traditional customs at Easter and Christmas and devotion to their church.

Polish persons in the Chicago area have been residing here for more than 100 years. Polish American Chicagoans helped build numerous neighborhoods in the city and surrounding suburbs. Today's Polish population is found both in Chicago neighborhoods and in suburbs throughout the metropolitan region, in suburban Cook County and in the collar counties.

Polish immigrants are one of the few immigrant groups who participated in large numbers in both the 1870-1920 and post-1965 waves of immigration. The arrival of new immigrants has brought vitality and economic development to both city and suburban neighborhoods, and Polish immigrant workers play an important role in the regional economy. The hard work and sacrifice of immigrants makes it possible for their children to gain an American education and further contribute to our nation.

In the year 2000 there were 933,000 persons of Polish ancestry in the state of Illinois, constituting the second largest Polish population in the United States.¹ In percentage terms, Illinois is the fourth most Polish state in the U.S., with some 7.0 percent of all Illinois residents reporting Polish ancestry.² In metropolitan Chicago, Polish Americans represent 9.0 percent of Chicago-area residents, or almost one in ten persons.

The Chicago area has a large Polish American population of 821,000 persons. These include both recent immigrants and persons whose grandparents or great-parents emigrated from Poland to Chicago.

Census data from the first half of the 1990s tell us the size of the Polish “foreign stock,” i.e., persons who either were born in Poland or who had at least one parent born in Poland. These are first- and second-generation Polish Americans.

In 1930 there were close to half a million or 471,000 Polish foreign stock persons in Illinois. The statewide number of Polish foreign born declined during the middle of the twentieth century as immigration fell steadily, following severe immigration restrictions instituted in the 1920s. By 1970 the number of Polish foreign stock fell to 299,000. In Chicago, the foreign stock population similarly declined during the 1930-1970 period.

The foreign stock population does not include third- and fourth-generation Polish Americans, and thus it excludes many Polish Americans. In 1980, however, the Census Bureau began to enumerate persons reporting Polish ancestry. This included persons with a Polish ancestor regardless of when that ancestor came to the U.S. By this measurement, the Polish ancestry population in Illinois peaked at 963,000 persons in 1990, a number that fell somewhat to 933,000 Polish Americans living in Illinois in the year 2000. In Chicago, the Polish foreign stock population peaked in 1980, at 301,000, rather than in 1990 as for the state.

¹ The largest Polish American population is in New York State.

² Other major centers include nearby Michigan, which is 7.9 percent Polish, Wisconsin, at 7.7 percent Polish, and Connecticut, 7.1 percent.

This reflects the shift of Polish population from Chicago to other parts of the state in the last few decades.

The foreign stock and ancestry data show a shift over the 1930-2000 period from Chicago as the center of Polish population to a majority of Polish Americans in Illinois living outside the city. In the 1930-1950 period, more than 80 percent of Polish foreign stock individuals resided in Chicago, but by 1970 the Chicago portion had fallen to 64 percent. By 2000, Polish ancestry data shows that only about a quarter of persons of Polish ancestry reside in Chicago.

The Polish Population: An Historical View

Foreign Stock

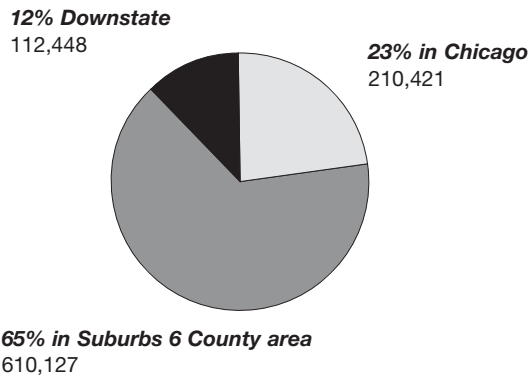
	Illinois	Chicago
1930	470,832	401,316
1940	422,500	359,984
1950	384,361	315,504
1960	358,916	258,657
1970	299,316	191,955

Polish Ancestry

	Illinois	Chicago
1980	892,009	301,551
1990	962,827	261,899
2000	932,996	210,421

Where Do Polish Americans Live?

Distribution of Polish Americans in Illinois, 2000



Today the majority of Poles in Illinois reside in the suburban portion of metro Chicago, where 65 percent of all Poles or 610,127 persons live. Nearly one quarter live in Chicago, home to 210,421 persons of Polish ancestry. Slightly more than one of ten or 12 percent of Illinois Poles live in the downstate area.

In counties of the metro Chicago area, Poles are most numerous in Cook County where 530,645 reside. DuPage County has a Polish population of 110,425 persons, followed by Will County (61,235), Lake County (57,249), McHenry (32,974) and Kane (28,020). Persons of Polish ancestry form the highest percentage of the population in McHenry County, which is 12.7 percent Polish. Poles are more than 12 percent of the population in DuPage and Will Counties.

Polish Americans in Metro Chicago

	1990	2000	# Change	% Change
Illinois	962,827	932,996	-29,831	-3.1%
Metro Chicago	853,742	820,548	-33,194	-3.9%
Cook County	610,027	530,645	-79,382	-13.0%
Chicago	261,899	210,421	-51,478	-19.7%
Cook (suburban)	348,128	320,224	-27,904	-8.0%
DuPage	105,565	110,425	4,860	4.6%
Kane	21,552	28,020	6,468	30.0%
Lake	54,580	57,249	2,669	4.9%
McHenry	22,519	32,974	10,455	46.4%
Will	39,499	61,235	21,736	55.0%

The Polish population fell slightly in Illinois over the 1990s, by 3.1 percent, with declines of 19.7 percent in Chicago and 8.0 percent in suburban Cook County. At the same time, the number of Polish Americans grew in each of the collar counties of metro Chicago, by 55.0 percent in Will County, for example, and by 46.4 percent in McHenry County.

One hundred years ago the center of the Polish community in Chicago was near the intersection of Milwaukee, Ashland, and North Avenues on the city's Northwest Side. The Polish community on the city's north side moved in a northwest direction. Today there remains a hub of new immigrants still located along Milwaukee Avenue in an area bounded by Milwaukee, Central Park and Belmont. This neighborhood is known in the community as "Jackowo" and is centered around St. Hyacinth church. A flourishing area of Polish settlement and commerce is found further west, around Belmont and Central Avenues. The largest Polish community area in Chicago is in Portage Park on the city's northwest side, bounded roughly by Lawrence and Belmont Avenues on the north and south, and Cicero Avenue and Nagle on the east and west. Some 20,854 persons of Polish origin live in Portage Park. Immediately to the west of that area is the Dunning neighborhood, home to 15,216 Polish Americans. The Polish American Association has its main office and Learning Center located in the heart of Portage Park.

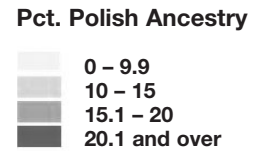
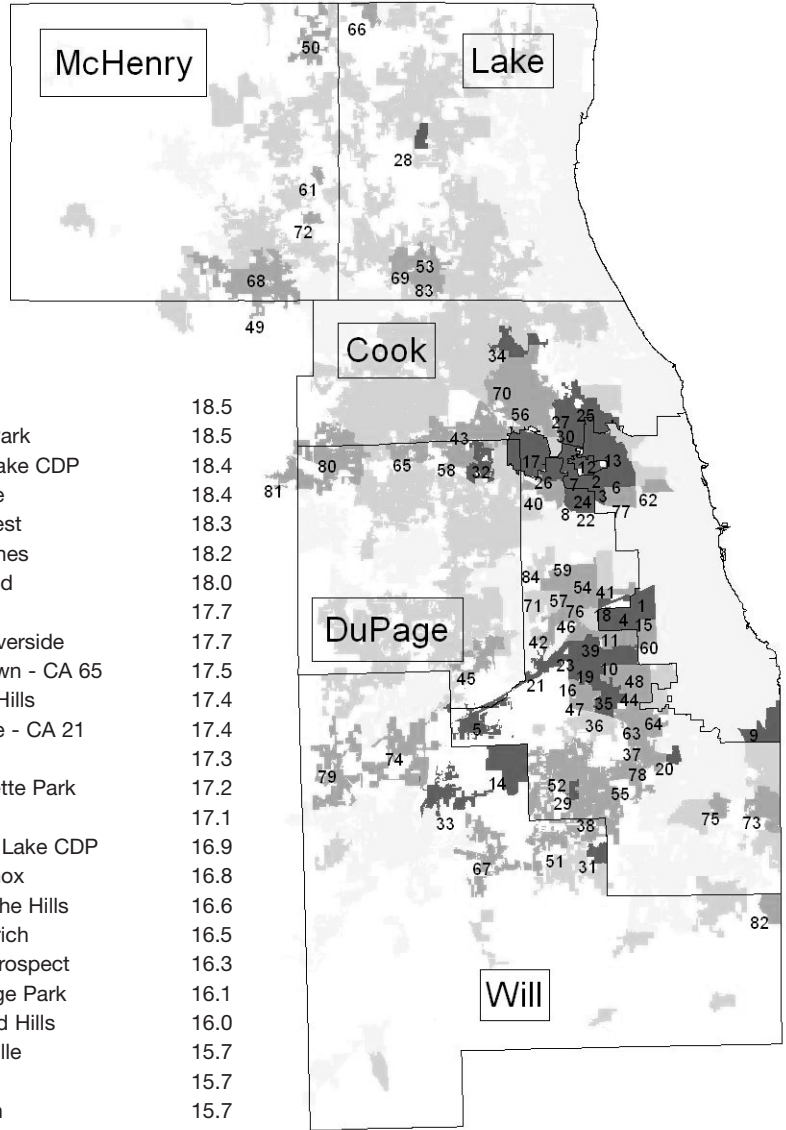
The south side of Chicago has been home to many Poles for much of Chicago's history. Polish immigrants at the beginning of the Twentieth Century could be found in the Lower West Side (Pilsen) area, and below the south branch of the Chicago River in community areas near the Union StockYards such as Bridgeport, McKinly Park, and Back of the Yards (New City). Today a substantial Polish community resides along Archer Avenue on the city's southwest side in the Garfield Ridge area, home to 12,578 Polish persons. Garfield Ridge is located north of 59th Street and west of Cicero Avenue. A satellite office of the Polish American Association is located in Garfield Ridge on Archer Avenue.

In the suburbs, the largest Polish populations are in Naperville (13,936 persons) Schaumburg (11,109) and Arlington Heights (11,001). Substantial Polish populations are also found in suburbs in north Cook County such as Park Ridge, Palatine and Niles, and in southwestern Cook including Tinley Park, Orland Park, Burbank and Lemont.

Polish Ancestry in Metro Chicago: Census 2000

Rank	Place	Pct. Polish Ancestry
1	Archer Heights - CA 57	38.5
2	Harwood Heights	37.4
3	Dunning - CA 17	36.1
4	Garfield Ridge - CA 56	34.9
5	Lemont	32.8
6	Portage Park - CA 15	31.9
7	River Grove	31.8
8	Norridge	31.8
9	Hegewisch - CA 55	31.0
10	Burbank	30.3
11	Clearing - CA 64	29.5
12	Norwood Park - CA 10	29.2
13	Jefferson Park - CA 11	28.5
14	Goodings Grove CDP	28.2
15	West Elsdon - CA 62	27.1
16	Hickory Hills	26.9
17	O'Hare - CA 76	26.0
18	Forest View	25.9
19	Bridgeview	25.7
20	Posen	25.7
21	Willow Springs	25.3
22	Elmwood Park	24.7
23	Justice	24.2
24	Montclare - CA 18	23.0
25	Niles	22.8
26	Schiller Park	22.2
27	Edison Park - CA 09	22.2
28	Hainesville	21.8
29	Orland Hills	21.7
30	Park Ridge	20.8
31	Frankfort Square CDP	20.7
32	Wood Dale	20.6
33	Lockport	20.5
34	Prospect Heights	20.4
35	Chicago Ridge	20.3
36	Worth	20.3
37	Crestwood	19.8
38	Tinley Park	19.7
39	Franklin Park	19.6
40	Bedford Park	19.6
41	Stickney	19.5
42	Countryside	19.4
43	Oak Lawn	19.3
44	Elk Grove Village	19.3
45	Darien	19.2
46	Palos Hills	18.9
47	McCook	18.9
48	Hometown	18.8
49	Algonquin	18.6
50	Spring Grove	18.6

51	Mokena	18.5
52	Orland Park	18.5
53	Forest Lake CDP	18.4
54	Riverside	18.4
55	Oak Forest	18.3
56	Des Plaines	18.2
57	Brookfield	18.0
58	Itasca	17.7
59	North Riverside	17.7
60	West Lawn - CA 65	17.5
61	Holiday Hills	17.4
62	Avondale - CA 21	17.4
63	Alsip	17.3
64	Merrionette Park	17.2
65	Roselle	17.1
66	Channel Lake CDP	16.9
67	New Lenox	16.8
68	Lake in the Hills	16.6
69	Lake Zurich	16.5
70	Mount Prospect	16.3
71	La Grange Park	16.1
72	Oakwood Hills	16.0
73	Romeoville	15.7
74	Lansing	15.7
75	Thornton	15.7
76	Lyons	15.6
77	Belmont Cragin - CA 19	15.6
78	Plainfield	15.4
79	Midlothian	15.4
80	Bartlett	15.3
81	Willowbrook CDP	15.2
82	Wayne	15.2
83	Kildeer	15.1
84	Westchester	15.0



CA=Chicago Community Area
 CDP=Census Designated Place

**Top Fifty Places and Chicago Community
Areas for Polish Ancestry Persons: Census 2000**

Chicago city	210,421
Portage Park - CA 15	20,854
Dunning - CA 17	15,216
Naperville city	13,936
Garfield Ridge - CA 56	12,578
Belmont Cragin - CA 19	12,219
Schaumburg village	11,109
Arlington Heights village	11,001
Norwood Park - CA 10	11,000
Des Plaines city	10,703
Oak Lawn village	10,667
Tinley Park village	9,540
Orland Park village	9,430
Mount Prospect village	9,216
Burbank city	8,427
West Town - CA 24	8,326
Joliet city	8,153
Park Ridge city	7,855
Palatine village	7,846
Avondale - CA 21	7,500
Lake View - CA 06	7,438
Jefferson Park - CA 11	7,372
Downers Grove village	7,247
Niles village	6,880
Elk Grove Village village	6,725
Hoffman Estates village	6,721
Aurora city	6,644
Clearing - CA 64	6,585
Berwyn city	6,480
Irving Park - CA 16	6,392
Elmwood Park village	6,270
Elgin city	5,910
Elmhurst city	5,677
Bartlett village	5,619
Bolingbrook village	5,515
Lincoln Park - CA 07	5,432
Buffalo Grove village	5,428
Streamwood village	5,371
Oak Forest city	5,116
West Lawn - CA 65	5,102
Carol Stream village	5,034
Calumet City city	4,964
Logan Square - CA 22	4,917
Archer Heights - CA 57	4,867
Goodings Grove CDP	4,825
Near North Side - CA 08	4,752
Norridge village	4,673
Addison village	4,645
Wheaton city	4,622
Lombard village	4,591

CA=Chicago Community Area
CDP=Census Designated Place

In many ways the Polish community is an American success story. Polish Americans born in the U.S. have high rates of homeownership, levels of income that closely match those of the general White population, and high levels of education. More than 88 percent of native-born Polish persons in the Chicago area have completed a high school education compared to about 80 percent of persons who have no Polish ancestry. About 32 percent of native-born Poles have completed college, compared to about 30 percent of the non-Polish population. The median income of native-born Polish Americans is \$57,600 compared to \$50,800 for other groups. The rate of homeownership among native-born Poles, at 79.3 percent, is higher than for the remainder of the population, 64.6 percent.

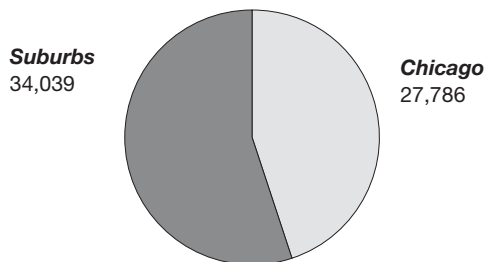
The success of many Polish Americans is due to many factors. Some Polish Americans are descendants of immigrants who came to the Chicago area in the 1880s or earlier. These persons have lived in the Chicago region for well over 100 years and have been able to participate in the substantial economic growth that took place over the last century. Other Polish Americans are recent immigrants who have come to the U.S. to secure economic and political freedoms unavailable to them in their country of birth. As with previous arrivals, modern Polish immigrants are often highly motivated to succeed in a land that offers so many opportunities. Regardless of where Polish Americans were born, however, or what generation they are a part of, the community as a whole is marked by adherence to American values of hard work, beliefs in education and saving for the future, and religious faith.

Low-Income Polish Americans

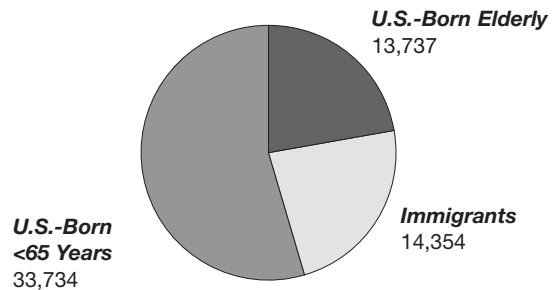
The fact that U.S.-born Polish Americans, many of whom are third, fourth and even fifth generation Americans, have admirable social and economic characteristics, however, can obscure the fact that significant segments of the Polish population have serious needs for human services, education, and attention by policy makers and social service providers. Indeed, about 62,000 Polish Americans in the metro Chicago area have low income levels, below 150 percent of the poverty line. This is the equivalent of only \$22,890 for a family of three. The number of low-income Polish Americans is actually slightly higher in the suburbs than in the city of Chicago.

Polish Americans are very unlikely to use welfare. Only about 0.7 percent of Polish Americans receive public assistance compared to 2.1 percent of the non-Polish population. When persons with public assistance are expressed as a percentage of all poor persons, only 12.4 of Polish Americans get welfare income compared to 15.0 percent of non-Polish persons.

62,000 Polish Americans are Low-Income



Almost Half of Low-Income Polish Americans Are the Elderly and Immigrants



About three quarters of low-income Polish Americans are U.S.-born persons, and many of these are persons over 65 years of age. Immigrants account for the remaining quarter of all low-income Polish Americans. There are some 13,737 elderly native-born Polish Americans with incomes below 150% of the poverty line, and 14,354 immigrants of all ages. These two groups face important challenges to their health and well-being.

Only 0.7 percent of Polish Americans receive public assistance compared to 2.1 percent of the non-Polish population.

Immigrants

Immigration from Poland to Chicago is more than a century old. There were 25,726 Polish immigrants living in metro Chicago already in 1890, and by 1920 the Polish immigrant population reached 151,260. The decades prior to the 1920s were a period of relatively open immigration to the United States, and they coincided with pressures for Poles to emigrate. These latter pressures included decreasing amounts of lands available for tillage, economic dislocation such as the decline of cottage industries during industrialization, fewer opportunities for rural dwellers, and military conscription. In Europe, American steamship companies actively promoted emigration to America, promising land and economic opportunity and political freedom, while the United States economy was producing numerous jobs during much of the era.

Nearly one third of Polish immigrants in the U.S. live in the Chicago area.

Federal legislation passed in 1921 and 1924 put an end to the era of almost unlimited European immigration to America, as quotas were imposed on European immigrants that severely restricted all immigration but especially immigration from eastern and southern Europe. Thus Polish immigration to Chicago and the United States diminished sharply after 1930, reaching a sixty-year low in 1980.

In 1965 the United States ended its system of national-origin quotas and instituted a new immigration system based on the principle of family reunification, with

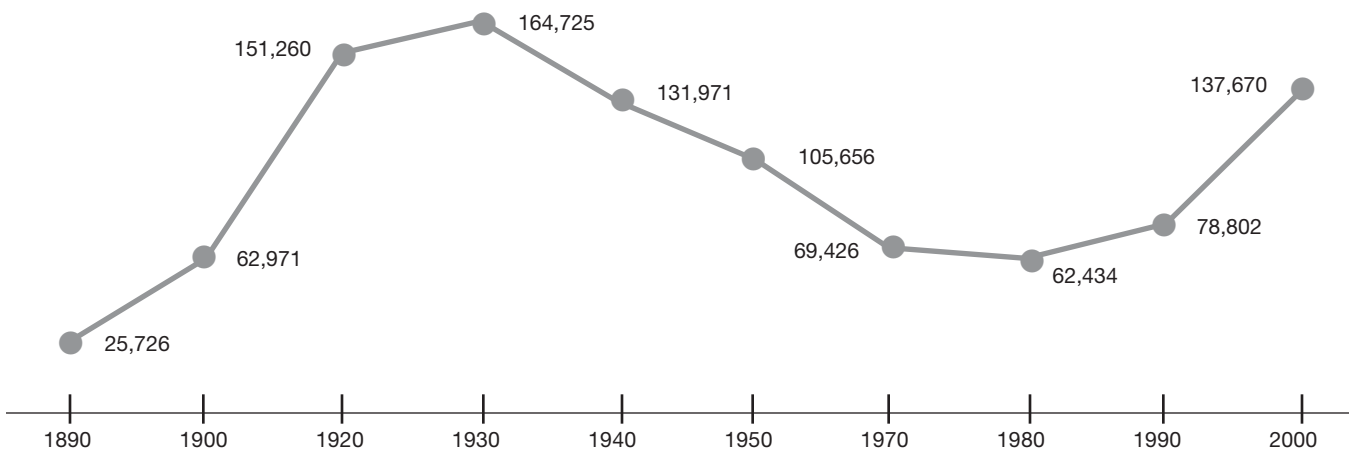
higher quotas available for individual nations. This coincided with political and economic upheaval in Poland that spurred many Poles to move to the U.S. and Chicago. During the years in which Poland was a Socialist state, many Poles left their nation becoming refugees or seeking political asylum in the U.S. Others were able to avail themselves of family-based visas.

Beginning in 1990, the U.S. Congress initiated a program of “diversity visas.” These were visas set aside for countries that were deemed to be at a disadvantage under the family reunification system, which favored groups with relatively larger numbers of immigrants already in the U.S. The Polish community was among the primary beneficiaries of this diversity visa program, in part due to organizing efforts by groups including the Polish American Association, who assisted Polish immigrants in the U.S. in filing applications for loved ones back in Poland.

As a result of Polish immigrants getting diversity visas, the early 1990s was a period when persons from Poland were the number one legal immigrant group arriving in Illinois. This contributed to a Polish foreign-born population of nearly 139,000 persons in the Chicago area in 2000, a level that is not far from the historical high of 165,000 reached in 1930.

As a result of the large scale, recent immigration, most Polish immigrants in metro Chicago are recent arrivals, having come to the U.S. in the last ten years. Of the approximately 139,000 Polish immigrants in the region, about 68,000 came to the U.S. after 1990.

Polish Immigrants in Metro Chicago: 1890-2000

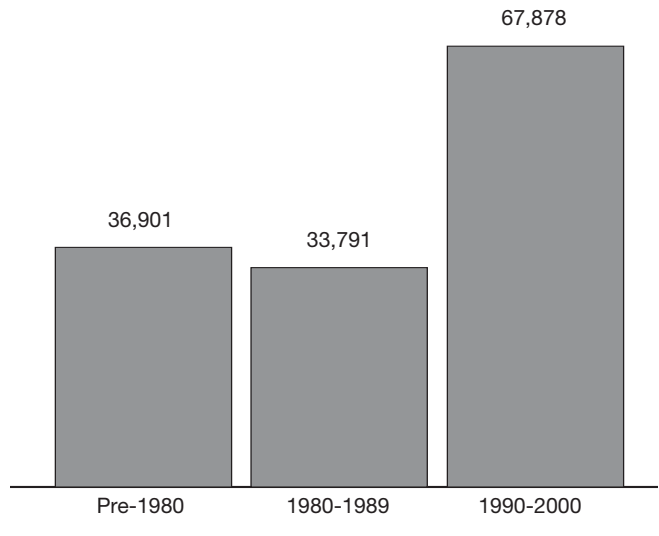


Top Fifty Places and Chicago Community Areas for Polish Foreign Born Persons, 2000

Chicago city	69,501
Portage Park - CA 15	12,894
Dunning - CA 17	8,387
Belmont Cragin - CA 19	7,878
Avondale - CA 21	4,740
Garfield Ridge - CA 56	4,329
Jefferson Park - CA 11	3,106
Burbank city	2,904
West Town - CA 24	2,852
Elmwood Park village	2,747
Archer Heights - CA 57	2,707
Norwood Park - CA 10	2,669
Des Plaines city	2,634
Niles village	2,239
Irving Park - CA 16	2,115
Norridge village	1,986
West Elsdon - CA 62	1,978
Mount Prospect village	1,956
O'Hare - CA 76	1,850
Montclare - CA 18	1,786
River Grove village	1,655
West Lawn - CA 65	1,624
Harwood Heights village	1,549
Clearing - CA 64	1,514
Franklin Park village	1,444
Park Ridge city	1,408
Schiller Park village	1,390
Arlington Heights village	1,375
Prospect Heights city	1,362
Oak Lawn village	1,300
Schaumburg village	1,261
Addison village	1,171
Justice village	1,168
Logan Square - CA 22	1,120
Palatine village	1,058
Bridgeview village	918
Glenview village	841
Wood Dale city	822
Streamwood village	810
Berwyn city	795
Skokie village	794
Wheeling village	792
Hoffman Estates village	781
Brighton Park - CA 58	684
Elk Grove Village village	664
Hickory Hills city	659
Morton Grove village	653
Hanover Park village	624
Palos Hills city	572
Hermosa - CA 20	564

CA=Chicago Community Area

Polish Immigrants by Period of Arrival in Metro Chicago



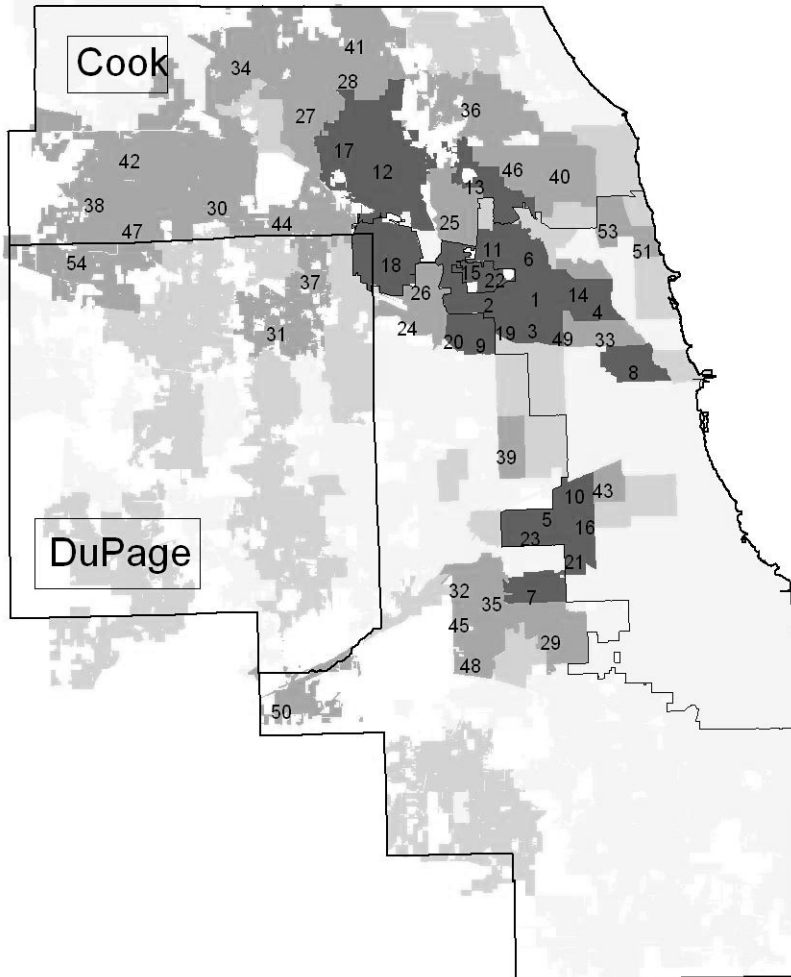
Metropolitan Chicago ranks second only to metro New York City in the number of Polish immigrants. Among cities, however, Chicago's Polish immigrant population, at nearly 70,000 is the largest in the United States. Nearly one third or 29.9 percent of all Polish immigrants in the United States live in the Chicago area. About one in six Polish Americans in the metro area is an immigrant, but the percentage is much higher in Chicago, where nearly a third of Polish Americans are foreign born.

About 75 percent of new Polish immigrants to metro Chicago moved to the city of Chicago.

The Polish immigrants in the Chicago area have residential patterns that in many ways parallel those of the U.S.-born Polish ancestry population. That is, large communities are found on the northwest and southwest sides of Chicago, and in suburban communities that border those parts of Chicago. Polish immigrants, however, are much more likely than most other immigrant groups to live in Chicago. In the 1990s about 75 percent of new Polish immigrants to metro Chicago moved to the city of Chicago, compared to, for example, only 25 percent of immigrants from India.

About 12,894 Polish immigrants live in Portage Park and 8,387 are in Dunning. Important Polish immigrant populations may be found in the suburbs of Burbank with 2,904 Polish immigrants in 2000 and Elmwood Park with 2,747. Some 2,634 Polish immigrants live in Des Plaines.

Immigrants from Poland: Census 2000



Number of Polish Immigrants



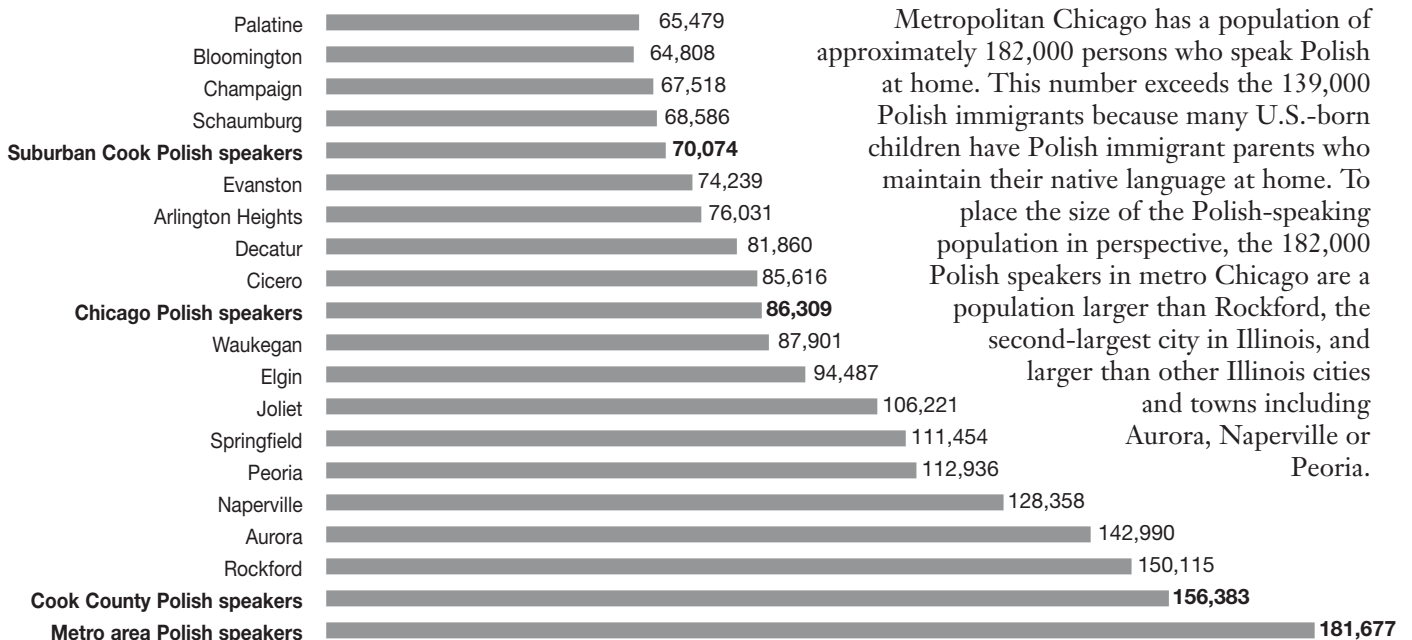
1	Portage Park - CA 15	12,894
2	Dunning - CA 17	8,387
3	Belmont Cragin - CA 19	7,878
4	Avondale - CA 21	4,740
5	Garfield Ridge - CA 56	4,329
6	Jefferson Park - CA 11	3,106
7	Burbank	2,904
8	West Town - CA 24	2,852
9	Elmwood Park	2,747
10	Archer Heights - CA 57	2,707
11	Norwood Park - CA 10	2,669
12	Des Plaines	2,634
13	Niles	2,239
14	Irving Park - CA 16	2,115
15	Norridge	1,986
16	West Elsdon - CA 62	1,978
17	Mount Prospect	1,956
18	O'Hare - CA 76	1,850
19	Montclare - CA 18	1,786
20	River Grove	1,655
21	West Lawn - CA 65	1,624
22	Harwood Heights	1,549
23	Clearing - CA 64	1,514
24	Franklin Park	1,444
25	Park Ridge	1,408
26	Schiller Park	1,390
27	Arlington Heights	1,375
28	Prospect Heights	1,362
29	Oak Lawn	1,300
30	Schaumburg	1,261
31	Addison	1,171
32	Justice	1,168
33	Logan Square - CA 22	1,120
34	Palatine	1,058
35	Bridgeview	918
36	Glenview	841
37	Wood Dale	822
38	Streamwood	810
39	Berwyn	795
40	Skokie	794
41	Wheeling	792
42	Hoffman Estates	781
43	Brighton Park - CA 58	684
44	Elk Grove Village	664
45	Hickory Hills	659
46	Morton Grove	653
47	Hanover Park	624
48	Palos Hills	572
49	Hermosa - CA 20	564
50	Lemont	554
51	Edgewater - CA 77	551
52	Albany Park - CA 14	514
53	West Ridge - CA 02	506
54	Bartlett	502

Change in Polish Immigrant Population: 1990–2000

	2000	1990	Change	Pct change		2000	1990	Change	Pct change
Metro Chicago	138,570	83,130	55,440	66.7%	Archer Heights - CA 57	2,707	1,809	898	49.6%
Chicago	69,501	52,669	16,832	32.0%	Schaumburg	1,261	411	850	206.8%
Suburban	69,069	30,461	38,608	126.7%	Palatine	1,058	210	848	403.8%
Portage Park - CA 15	12,894	6,262	6,632	105.9%	West Lawn - CA 65	1,624	786	838	106.6%
Dunning - CA 17	8,387	2,412	5,975	247.7%	Addison	1,171	445	726	163.1%
Garfield Ridge - CA 56	4,329	1,692	2,637	155.9%	Oak Lawn	1,300	595	705	118.5%
Elmwood Park	2,747	452	2,295	507.7%	Arlington Heights	1,375	711	664	93.4%
Burbank	2,904	708	2,196	310.2%	Glenview	841	197	644	326.9%
Des Plaines	2,634	767	1,867	243.4%	Bridgeview	918	280	638	227.9%
Jefferson Park - CA 11	3,106	1,473	1,633	110.9%	Park Ridge	1,408	797	611	76.7%
O'Hare - CA 76	1,850	478	1,372	287.0%	Wood Dale	822	264	558	211.4%
River Grove	1,655	345	1,310	379.7%	Elk Grove Village	664	112	552	492.9%
Norridge	1,986	709	1,277	180.1%	Streamwood	810	270	540	200.0%
Mount Prospect	1,956	685	1,271	185.5%	Hickory Hills	659	146	513	351.4%
Franklin Park	1,444	317	1,127	355.5%	Cicero	319	870	(551)	-63.3%
Prospect Heights	1,362	240	1,122	467.5%	Gage Park - CA 63	215	863	(648)	-75.1%
Montclare - CA 18	1,786	672	1,114	165.8%	West Ridge - CA 02	506	1,188	(682)	-57.4%
Clearing - CA 64	1,514	428	1,086	253.7%	Logan Square - CA 22	1,120	2,052	(932)	-45.4%
Schiller Park	1,390	341	1,049	307.6%	Brighton Park - CA 58	684	2,323	(1,639)	-70.6%
Justice	1,168	144	1,024	711.1%	Avondale - CA 21	4,740	7,022	(2,282)	-32.5%
Harwood Heights	1,549	567	982	173.2%					
Niles	2,239	1,272	967	76.0%					

CA=Chicago Community Area

Polish Speakers Compared to City Populations: Census 2000



Metropolitan Chicago has a population of approximately 182,000 persons who speak Polish at home. This number exceeds the 139,000 Polish immigrants because many U.S.-born children have Polish immigrant parents who maintain their native language at home. To place the size of the Polish-speaking population in perspective, the 182,000 Polish speakers in metro Chicago are a population larger than Rockford, the second-largest city in Illinois, and larger than other Illinois cities and towns including Aurora, Naperville or Peoria.

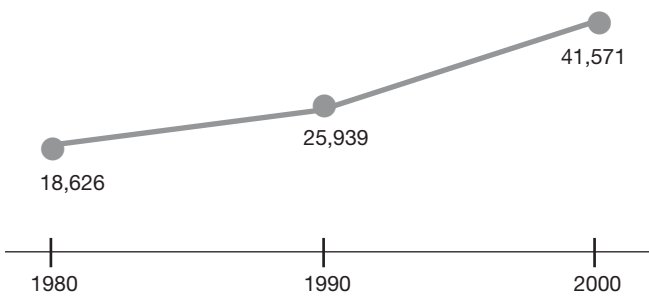
Needs of Polish Immigrants

Learning to Speak English

Learning to speak English well is one of the most important accomplishments for Polish immigrants. English fluency opens doors at the workplace, allowing job seekers to earn higher incomes and more effectively employ their talents, and English ability permits immigrants to participate civically and socially by utilizing the English-language news and entertainment media. Persons who do not speak English face restricted opportunities at work and in their neighborhood.

Studies show that growing percentages of immigrants learn English the longer that they are in the U.S., but large numbers of Polish immigrants at any given moment are in need of opportunities to learn the language of their adopted country. Currently about 30.0 percent of Polish immigrants do not speak English well. While this percentage has remained fairly constant over the last two decades, the growth in overall numbers of immigrants has meant that there are increasing numbers of Polish immigrants with limited English skills.

Polish Immigrants with Limited English: Metro Chicago



The challenge of learning English is especially hard for older Polish immigrants. In the city of Chicago, for example 41.3 percent of Polish immigrant seniors do not speak English well. This explains the need for high-quality service and public information material in Polish, such as bilingual social service caseworkers and translations of government publications from the Social Security Administration and the Illinois Department of Human Services. These bilingual services are critical for the Polish immigrant community, as are educational services to teach English.

There is a great demand for English classes, and the challenge for social service providers and educational institutions is to provide appropriate types of classes for varying groups of Polish immigrants. Working-age

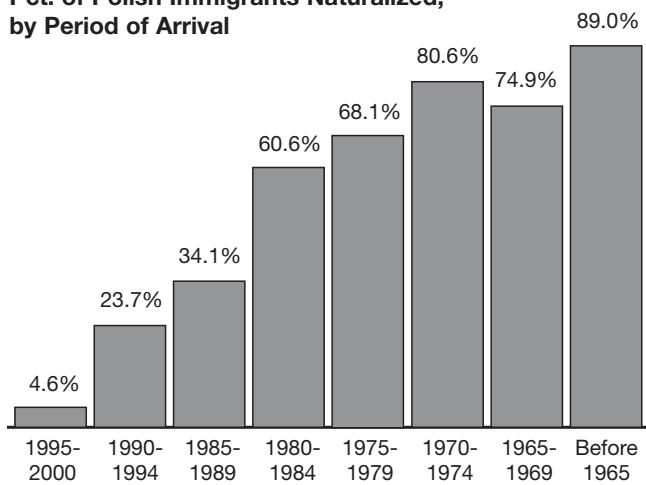
Poles, for example, may need English classes geared toward communication in the workplace, while elderly immigrants are more likely to benefit from English lessons geared toward daily living such as encounters in stores. For children, Polish-speaking aides in the public schools and occasionally bilingual classrooms are often necessary to help them transition into the American school system, as they learn English while maintaining an adequate progress in core subjects like math and science.

Becoming a U.S. Citizen

Polish immigrants place a high value on acquiring U.S. citizenship. Being an American citizen permits an immigrant to fully participate in American society by voting and serving on juries, and it also provides practical benefits such as being able to travel internationally with more freedom. United States citizenship also implies acceptance by American society and the achievement of membership here.

Currently about 40 percent of all Polish immigrants are U.S. citizens. This number is low because it includes many persons who cannot apply for citizenship because they have not lived here for the required minimum of five years. The percent of Polish immigrants who have become U.S. citizens, however, steadily increases the longer persons have lived in the U.S. and have had the chance to learn English and prepare for the citizenship exam. For example, nearly 90 percent of metro Chicago Polish immigrants who have lived in the U.S. since 1965 have become citizens; less than 25 percent of immigrants who came in the early 1990s, however, had naturalized by the year 2000.

Pct. of Polish Immigrants Naturalized, by Period of Arrival



The process of acquiring U.S. citizenship can unfortunately be challenging and time consuming for immigrants as well as costly. Naturalization applicants must take a test with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to demonstrate that they understand key areas of U.S. history and civics. Their application forms must be carefully prepared because erroneous information on the citizenship form can have serious consequences. The citizenship process can be lengthy due to processing backlogs at the Department of Homeland Security.

To get through the citizenship process, Polish immigrants typically take many hours of classes in English, and U.S. history and civics. The Polish American Association provides these classes, as well as qualified immigration counselors who help immigrants with eligibility information and with filling out their naturalization application.

Social and Economic Status of Polish Immigrants

Polish immigrants are neither the wealthiest nor poorest of the immigrant groups in metropolitan Chicago. Indeed, they tend to rank in the middle of the large immigrant groups in their social and economic status. To situate Polish immigrants in the context of the foreign-born community in metro Chicago, it is helpful to compare them to two other large groups, Mexicans and Indians. Mexicans (with 574,000 immigrants in the Chicago area), Poles (139,000) and Indians (79,000) are the three largest groups in the region, and together they comprise 56 percent of all immigrants.

In terms of high school education, the metropolitan average for immigrants having a diploma is 62 percent. Mexican immigrants are situated at one extreme, with 34 percent of them having graduated from high school. At the other extreme, 88 percent of Indian immigrants have a high school education, a rate that is higher than that of the native born. In comparison, Polish immigrants are relatively in the middle of these two groups, with 69 percent having a high school education. A similar pattern is seen in the case of college education. Some 16 percent of Polish immigrants have graduated from college compared to 3 percent of Mexican immigrants and 66 percent of Indian immigrants.

Education and Income of Major Immigrant Groups in Metro Chicago: Census 2000

	Pct. With HS Degree	Pct. With BA Degree	Median Household Income
Native Born	80%	30%	\$50,800
All Immigrants	62%	25%	\$46,000
Mexicans	34%	3%	\$42,000
Poles	69%	16%	\$44,000
Indians	88%	66%	\$65,000

These disparities in educational level reflect the diversity of modern immigration, in which different immigrant groups come from countries with widely varying levels of social and economic development. The disparities can also mask the needs of Polish immigrants, who are not among the poorest immigrants but who nevertheless have substantial numbers of persons with low levels of education, given the overall large size of the Polish immigrant community.

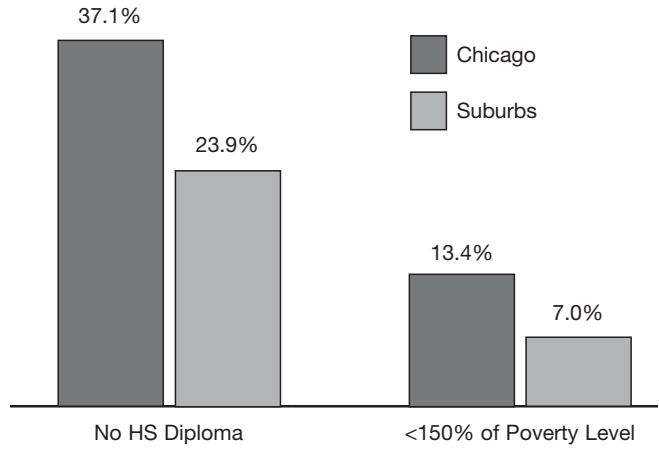
In terms of their economic situation, Polish immigrants have income levels that are below the average for immigrants. While the median household income level for immigrants in the Chicago area is \$46,000, the level for Polish immigrants is \$44,000, an amount close to that of Mexicans, and substantially lower than Indians, who have a median household income of \$65,000.

Income levels reflect various factors including average family size, age, and others, but insight into the modest Polish economic standing is seen in the types of jobs they have. Almost 28 percent of Polish immigrant workers hold jobs in an area labeled by the Census Bureau as “construction, extraction and maintenance.” Poles are particularly found in construction jobs. These jobs are not among the lowest paid in the region, even while they pay less than management and professional occupations. Construction jobs typically pay higher than the \$6 to \$9 an hour wages common in the lowest levels of occupations. Many of these relatively poorly paid jobs are found in a category referred to as “production, transportation and material moving.” Almost 43 percent of Mexican immigrants hold these jobs. If Polish immigrants are not usually found in the least-paid positions, few of them hold management and professional jobs that generally offer the highest income. Only 15.8 percent of Polish immigrants are

in management and professional jobs. In contrast, 57.2 percent of immigrants from India are in these occupations.

Polish immigrants tend to have different social and economic levels depending on whether they live in Chicago or its suburbs. The percentage of Polish immigrants without a high school education, for example, is 37.1 percent in Chicago but 23.9 percent in the suburbs. Some 12.9 percent of foreign-born Poles in Chicago have incomes below 150 percent of the poverty level, versus 7.0 in the suburbs. Thus the social and economic needs of Poles are sharper in the city.

Polish Immigrants in Chicago and Suburbs



Demographic, Social, Economic Characteristics of the Chicago Metropolitan Area: 1980-2000
Population Group: Born in Poland

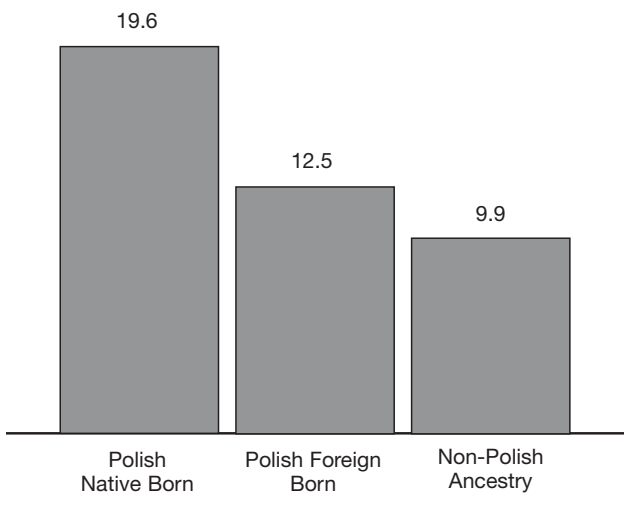
	1980	1990	2000
Demographics			
Number of Polish born	63,140	81,312	138,570
% of total population	0.9%	1.1%	1.7%
% of total foreign born	8.5%	9.3%	9.7%
% increase in past 10 years	n/a	28.8%	70.4%
Number increase in past 10 years	n/a	18,172	57,258
% under 18	3.3%	5.9%	8.8%
Number under 18	2,084	4,797	12,194
% 18-64 years	63.3%	73.7%	78.0%
Number 18-64 years	39,968	59,927	108,085
% 65 years and over	33.4%	20.4%	13.2%
Number 65 and over	21,089	16,588	18,291
Residence			
Chicago	43,338	52,669	69,501
Suburban	19,802	30,461	69,069
Immigration			
Number entered in past 10 years	14,880	35,697	67,878
Number entered in past 20 years	n/a	50,577	103,575
Homeownership			
% homeowners	65.2%	66.1%	70.5%
Number of homeowners	41,167	53,747	97,692
Education and Language Ability			
% speak English less than well	29.5%	31.9%	30.0%
Number speak English less than well	18,626	25,939	41,571
% high school graduate or higher	37.3%	61.0%	69.3%
Number high school graduate or higher	23,551	49,600	96,029
% bachelor degree or higher	7.7%	12.1%	16.0%
Number bachelor degree or higher	4,862	9,839	22,171
Economic			
% persons with public assistance	2.8%	2.0%	0.9%
Number persons with public assistance	1,768	1,626	1,247
% below poverty level	8.4%	10.9%	6.5%
Number below poverty level	5,304	8,863	9,007

Source: The Metro Chicago Immigration Fact Book

Polish Elderly

The Polish American population has long roots in the metro Chicago area, and many Polish persons were born in the decades following the great period of immigration that lasted from 1880 to 1920. Often these elderly persons are the children or grandchildren of immigrants. They are members of the “Greatest Generation” that fought in World War II and who are now in their retired years. These older Polish Americans disproportionately live in the city of Chicago, where they are a large part of the senior citizen population in some neighborhoods. Some 19.6 percent are elderly compared to 9.9 percent of non-Polish residents of the city.

Percent Who Are Elderly: Chicago 2000



In fact, there are more than 106,198 elderly persons in the Polish community, with about one-third of them living in the suburbs and two-thirds in Chicago. Some 83.8 percent are native born and 16.4 percent are immigrants. The elderly population is disproportionately female (nearly 60 percent) and more than a third of elderly Poles are not living with family members. Many of these persons live alone.

Of these persons, about 15 percent have incomes that are either below the poverty level or close to it (below 150 percent of the poverty level). For an elderly person living alone, this translates into \$13,500 of income per year. In Chicago, native-born elderly Poles actually have higher poverty rates than immigrant elderly. About 19.2 percent of U.S.-born persons of Polish ancestry in Chicago have incomes below 150 percent of the poverty level compared to 16.3 percent of immigrant Polish elderly.

In Chicago, native-born elderly Poles actually have higher poverty rates than immigrant elderly.

These older persons may have children and family who have moved away from the city, leaving the older family member to remain in the neighborhood where children were raised decades ago. As these persons age, they experience physical ailments and the need for medical assistance. Their incomes are often limited, perhaps consisting only of Social Security benefits. Their nutritional and emotional well being may depend on the kindness of neighbors, government programs such as Meals on Wheels, and programs for the elderly managed by organizations like the Polish American Association. The difficulties in which these persons may find themselves can be compounded by a sense of shame at their neediness or, in the case of immigrants who perhaps never mastered English, by the lack of access to safety net relationships.

Elderly Polish Americans, both native and foreign born, need help navigating the complicated systems that exist to help them. Older persons of low income may qualify for Medicaid, a state and federal program that pays for prescription drugs and outpatient medical care, but these persons may need intensive assistance in completing the application for Medicaid.

Many members of the Polish community and particularly the elderly are extremely resistant to accepting government assistance even when they are plainly eligible. These persons often feel that they must rely on themselves and their family at all costs. Unfortunately, the “safety net” of self and family can at times be insufficient. Similarly, there comes a time when many older persons should consider residing in an assisted-living facility or in a nursing home, yet the elderly can be highly resistant to making this move, perceiving loss of independence. Their admirable decision to remain on their own, however, can lead to lives of isolation, poor nutrition and inadequate medical care.

Homeownership represents the American Dream, and attaining a home is a priority for many Polish Americans. About 85.0 percent of elderly Polish Americans are homeowners. The high rate of homeownership among the elderly presents its own challenges, however. If they own a home, they may have difficulty paying for upkeep and repairs, and are vulnerable to unscrupulous repairmen or even outright fraudulent scams proposed by “contractors” who knock on their door.

Conclusion

The Polish community has been a part of the fabric of life in metropolitan Chicago for well over a century, and today one of ten Chicagoans traces their ancestry to Poland. The fact that Polish identity is shared by so many Chicagoans along with the substantial overall economic and social integration of Polish Americans can obscure the fact that there is substantial need for social and human services within key sectors of the Polish population such as immigrants and the elderly. A challenge for the general public, Polish Americans, policymakers and others is to not lose sight of the large numbers of Polish Americans who require services in the areas such as adult education, citizenship preparation and entitlement benefits as well as Polish language information and services. This challenge is made more difficult by the increasing dispersion of

Polish Americans away from traditional population centers in the city, where Poles were once concentrated, into suburban areas throughout the region. This diffusion of Polish Americans leads to diminished opportunities to elect members of the community to public office, and thus there are fewer Polish elected officials today than there were a few years ago. This means that advocates for the Polish population must work in collaboration with other ethnic groups to secure attention to the community's needs. This includes reaching out to leaders in a variety of settings and geographies and educating them about the Polish population. The continued immigration of persons from Poland and the graying of the Polish American population will make continued advocacy on behalf of these populations a necessity.

Appendix

Statistical Snapshot of the Polish Community

12,419,293	Total population in Illinois
932,996	Polish ancestry in Illinois
139,710	Polish foreign born in Illinois
7.5%	Percent of Illinois population of Polish ancestry
15.0%	Percent of Polish population who were born in Poland
185,749	Persons who speak Polish at home
2,917,215	Total population in Chicago
210,421	Polish ancestry in Chicago
7.2%	Percent of Chicago residents of Polish ancestry
23%	Percent of Chicago's white population of Polish ancestry
5,285,504	Total population in Chicago suburban area
610,127	Polish ancestry in suburbs
11.8%	Percent of suburban residents of Polish ancestry
16%	Percent of suburban white population of Polish ancestry
68,442	Polish foreign born living in Chicago
49%	Percent of Polish foreign born who live in Chicago
10.6%	Percent of all foreign born living in Chicago who are Polish
65,309	Polish foreign born living in suburbs
46.7%	Percent of Polish foreign born living in suburbs
9.2%	Percent of all foreign born living in suburbs who are Polish
67,878	Polish immigrants entering in past 10 years
70.4%	Percent increase in past 10 years
103,575	Polish immigrants entering in past 20 years
41,571	Polish born who speak English poorly or not at all
30%	Percent of Polish foreign born with limited English
83,142	Polish immigrants who are noncitizens
60%	Percent of Polish immigrants who are noncitizens
49,048	Polish native born who are low income (below 150% of poverty)
12,777	Polish foreign born who are low income (below 150% poverty)

Polish Population in Illinois Congressional Districts, 2000

Congressional District	U.S. Representative	Total population	Polish ancestry	Polish ancestry as pct.of total population	Born in Poland	Speak Polish
1	Bobby Rush	654,203	34,020	5.2%	1,075	2,509
2	Jesse Jackson, Jr.	654,078	32,886	5.0%	1,104	3,242
3	William Lipinski	653,292	114,835	17.6%	22,931	32,054
4	Luis Gutierrez	653,654	35,891	5.5%	10,948	14,842
5	Rahm Emanuel	654,116	111,747	17.1%	47,643	55,873
6	Henry Hyde	654,549	84,601	12.9%	11,025	14,429
7	Danny Davis	653,521	20,152	3.1%	2,446	3,265
8	Philip Crane	652,805	76,919	11.8%	5,771	8,090
9	Janice Schakowsky	653,117	67,684	10.4%	18,453	22,761
10	Mark Kirk	654,062	63,292	9.7%	8,935	11,649
11	Jerry Weller	653,861	52,368	8.0%	729	1,821
12	Jerry Costello	653,456	15,720	2.4%	109	463
13	Judy Biggert	652,879	93,254	14.3%	4,833	8,407
14	Dennis Hastert	654,031	42,491	6.5%	1,126	2,081
15	Timothy Johnson	653,618	14,293	2.2%	249	490
16	Donald Manzullo	653,467	38,670	5.9%	1,836	2,765
17	Lane Evans	653,531	9,589	1.5%	110	204
18	Ray LaHood	653,426	11,731	1.8%	246	393
19	John Shimkus	653,627	12,853	2.0%	141	411
	Total Illinois	12,419,293	932,996	7.5%	139,710	185,749

Polish Population in Illinois State Senatorial Districts, 2000

District	State Senator	Total population	Polish ancestry	District	State Senator	Total population	Polish ancestry
1	Tony Munoz	201,637	10,234	31	Adeline Geo-Karis	257,732	22,000
2	Miguel del Valle	193,735	18,699	32	Pamela Althoff	267,301	26,215
3	Mattie Hunter	176,462	4,298	33	Dave Sullivan	243,947	35,427
4	Kimberly Lightford	206,298	7,071	34	Dave Syverson	223,949	6,922
5	Ricky Hendon	188,873	6,662	35	Brad Burzynski	250,101	11,476
6	John Cullerton	261,460	17,293	36	Denny Jacobs	222,689	3,480
7	Carol Ronen	216,140	7,889	37	Dasle Risinger	217,486	4,418
8	Ira Silverstein	220,454	17,388	38	Pat Welch	244,909	15,584
9	Jeff Schoenberg	248,723	14,191	39	Don Harmon	227,630	25,845
10	James DeLeo	242,415	65,488	40	Debbie Halvorson	238,992	16,096
11	Louis Viverito	240,212	50,236	41	Christine Radogno	289,002	41,125
12	Martin Sandoval	206,451	19,031	42	Edward Petka	252,391	16,718
13	Barack Obama	197,438	4,282	43	Larry Walsh	238,313	18,777
14	Emil Jones, Jr.	210,212	12,190	44	Bill Brady	216,283	5,723
15	James Meeks	208,993	13,398	45	Todd Sieben	223,277	5,003
16	Jacqueline Collins	186,505	9,752	46	George Shadid	195,493	3,334
17	Donne Trotter	202,743	11,004	47	John Sullivan	190,327	2,381
18	Edward Maloney	264,181	32,936	48	Peter Roskam	250,046	19,220
19	Maggie Crotty	231,909	22,877	49	Vince Demuzio	188,423	2,535
20	Iris Martinez	202,738	20,638	50	Larry Bomke	204,807	3,811
21	Dan Cronin	263,497	24,341	51	Frank Watson	192,907	3,695
22	Steve Rauschenberger	232,682	18,964	52	Rick Winkel, Jr.	208,983	6,437
23	Pate Philip	259,463	28,608	53	Dan Rutheford	220,243	4,702
24	Kirk Dillard	270,841	26,664	54	John Jones	168,564	2,627
25	Chris Lauzen	259,094	18,951	55	Dale Righter	182,423	2,692
26	Bill Peterson	266,588	25,474	56	Bill Haine	208,413	5,491
27	Wendell Jones	264,058	28,602	57	Jim Clayborne, Jr.	199,387	5,213
28	Kay Wojcik	276,846	32,363	58	David Luechtefeld	202,088	7,617
29	Susan Garrett	235,223	23,889	59	Larry Woolard	170,397	2,983
30	Terry Link	215,042	11,967		Total Illinois	12,419,293	932,996

Polish Population in Illinois Legislative Districts, 2000

District	State Representative	Total population	Polish ancestry	District	State Representative	Total population	Polish ancestry
1	Susana Mendoza	99,096	4,963	61	JoAnn D. Osmond	126,603	10,269
2	Edward J. Acevedo	102,541	5,271	62	Robert W. Churchill	131,129	11,731
3	William Delgado	98,652	12,551	63	Jack D. Franks	124,156	10,587
4	Cynthia Soto	95,083	6,148	64	Rosemary Kurtz	143,145	15,628
5	Kenneth Dunkin	87,135	2,513	65	Rosemary Mulligan	115,575	19,431
6	Patricia Bailey	89,327	1,785	66	Carolyn H. Krause	128,372	15,996
7	Karen A. Yarbrough	102,579	3,061	67	Charles E. Jefferson	106,441	2,809
8	Calvin L. Giles	103,719	4,010	68	Dave Winters	117,508	4,113
9	Arthur L. Turner	94,604	2,034	69	Ronald A. Wait	133,116	6,351
10	Annazette Collins	94,269	4,628	70	David A. Wirsing	116,985	5,125
11	John A. Fritchey	130,239	8,598	71	Mike Boland	115,554	1,842
12	Sara Feigenholtz	131,221	8,695	72	Joel Brunsvold	107,135	1,638
13	Larry McKeon	107,167	3,974	73	David R. Leitch	115,621	2,427
14	Harry Osterman	108,973	3,915	74	Donald L. Moffitt	101,865	1,991
15	Ralph C. Capparelli	119,498	11,901	75	Mary K. O'Brien	128,390	6,250
16	Lou Lang	100,956	5,487	76	Frank J. Mautino	116,519	9,334
17	Elizabeth Coulson	126,781	8,480	77	Angelo Saviano	120,242	21,287
18	Julie Hamos	121,942	5,711	78	Deborah L. Graham	107,388	4,558
19	Joseph M. Lyons	121,326	34,063	79	John Philip Novak	114,365	6,418
20	Michael P. McAuliffe	121,089	31,425	80	George Scully Jr.	124,627	9,678
21	Robert S. Molaro	119,903	24,405	81	Renee Kosel	153,075	22,327
22	Michael J. Madigan	120,309	25,831	82	Eileen Lyons	135,927	18,798
23	Daniel J. Burke	103,329	13,118	83	Linda Chapa LaVia	105,374	2,305
24	Frank Aguilar	103,122	5,913	84	Tom Cross	147,017	14,413
25	Barbara Flynn Currie	97,700	1,717	85	Brent Hassert	126,993	12,716
26	Lovana Jones	99,738	2,565	86	Jack McGuire	111,320	6,061
27	Monique D. Davis	105,031	5,727	87	Bill Mitchell	109,010	1,854
28	Robert Rita	105,181	6,463	88	Dan Brady	107,273	3,869
29	David E. Miller	103,633	7,110	89	Jim Sacia	111,154	2,700
30	William Davis	105,360	6,288	90	Jerry L. Mitchell	112,123	2,303
31	Mary E. Flowers	98,705	7,424	91	Michael K. Smith	93,105	1,409
32	Charles G. Morrow III	87,800	2,328	92	Ricca Slone	102,388	1,925
33	Marlow H. Colvin	97,363	4,097	93	Art Tenhouse	91,747	759
34	Constance A. Howard	105,380	6,907	94	Richard P. Myers	98,580	1,622
35	Kevin Carey Joyce	134,369	16,535	95	Randall M. Hultgren	128,744	9,248
36	James D. Brosnahan	129,812	16,401	96	Joe Dunn	121,302	9,972
37	Kevin A. McCarthy	122,349	17,681	97	Jim Watson	94,974	920
38	Robin Kelly	109,560	5,196	98	Gary Hannig	93,449	1,615
39	Maria Antonia Berrios	100,882	11,318	99	Raymond Poe	105,286	1,866
40	Richard T. Bradley	101,856	9,320	100	Rich Brauer	99,521	1,945
41	Robert A. Biggins	135,517	13,552	101	Robert F. Flider	86,366	1,390
42	Sandra M. Pihos	127,980	10,789	102	Ron Stephens	106,541	2,305
43	Ruth Munson	103,183	5,570	103	Naomi D. Jakobsson	113,267	4,334
44	Terry R. Parke	129,499	13,394	104	William B. Black	95,716	2,103
45	Carole Pankau	129,498	12,625	105	Shane Cultra	108,875	2,426
46	Lee A. Daniels	129,965	15,983	106	Keith P. Sommer	111,368	2,276
47	Patricia R. Bellock	134,661	14,663	107	Kurt M. Granberg	86,717	1,884
48	James H. Meyer	136,180	12,001	108	Charles A. Hartke	81,847	743
49	Timothy L. Schmitz	128,264	11,018	109	Roger L. Eddy	85,973	814
50	Patricia Reid Lindner	130,830	7,933	110	Chapin Rose	96,450	1,878
51	Ed Sullivan Jr.	135,442	12,741	111	Steve Davis	99,081	1,463
52	Mark H. Beaubien Jr.	131,146	12,733	112	Jay C. Hoffman	109,332	4,028
53	Sidney H. Mathias	130,634	15,592	113	Thomas Holbrook	103,342	3,512
54	Suzanne Bassi	133,424	13,010	114	Wyvetter H. Younge	96,045	1,701
55	John J. Millner	135,353	14,300	115	Mike Bost	99,072	4,625
56	Paul D. Froehlich	141,493	18,063	116	Dan Reitz	103,016	2,992
57	Elaine Nekritz	114,218	15,861	117	Gary Forby	90,711	2,152
58	Karen May	121,005	8,028	118	Brandon W. Phelps	79,686	831
59	Kathleen A. Ryg	116,849	9,470				
60	Eddie Washington	98,193	2,497				
				Total Illinois		12,419,293	932,996



Polish American Association

Resources for Changing Lives

Our Mission: The mission of the Polish American Association, a human service agency, is to serve the diverse needs of the Polish community in the Chicago metro area by providing resources for changing lives, with emphasis on assisting immigrants.

Since 1922, the Polish American Association (PAA) has been committed to serving Chicagoland's Polish community and others in need. PAA is the nation's only human services organization providing a comprehensive range of bilingual and bicultural programs and services to the Polish community in the areas of social services, education, employment, immigrant services, outreach and advocacy.

Contributing to the vitality of Chicago's communities, Polish American Association is a place of help, hope and empowerment for families and individuals adjusting to a new life in the U.S. Each month, on average, more than 3500 people come to our offices seeking help from our 30 programs and services. PAA has helped thousands in the Polish community learn English, find jobs and become U.S. citizens. In addition, the professional staff at PAA helps victims of domestic violence and their families, the homeless, seniors, youth, needy families, and those wanting to free themselves of addictions.

The people and programs of the Polish American Association serve as resources for changing lives, and together they have opened the doors to a new life for thousands of immigrants.

Main Office
3834 N. Cicero Ave.
Chicago, IL 60641
(773) 282-8206

Learning Center
3815 N. Cicero Ave
Chicago, IL 60641
(773) 282-1122

Southwest Office
6276 W. Archer Ave.
Chicago, IL 60638
(773)767-7773

To learn more about PAA,
we invite you to visit
www.polish.org