

The Battle of the Neighborhoods-Week 1

Introduction and Description Problem

For this project, we will be analyzing where are the most neighborhoods with affordable rental housing in Chicago to identify which neighborhood in Chicago has the lowest rental housing that people can afford without spending more than necessary. Therefore they can use the rest of their salary on education or health and improve their lives.

In Chicago, some developers in the city have been building new apartments, most of them cater to higher-income renters, whose ranks are growing. Meanwhile, in neighborhoods across the city, Chicago is losing too many lower-priced apartments to rising rents, conversions of small apartments to single-family homes, and neglect. Since 2012, the county lost more than 15,000 two- and four-flats, a very common source of affordable rental housing. In some neighborhoods, these two- and four-flats are turning over as rents rise with growing demand or as neighborhoods gentrify and new owners turn a rental into a single-family home. In other neighborhoods where disinvestment is more of a worry than gentrification, homes are being lost to have high rents, and most people can't find the affordable rental housing that fits with their income.

The lack of affordable rental housing has numerous negative effects on individuals, families, communities in Chicago, including:

1. Substandard housing
2. High rents
3. Displaced families
4. Racial segregation
5. Unemployment
6. Rising crime rates
7. Increased poverty
8. Adverse health effects
9. Mental health issues
10. Developmental delays
11. Poor academic performance

Affordable rental housing also is important to the economic vitality of communities. Affordable homes can attract and retain employees to your community- a selling point and a competitive advantage for area employers. Affordable homes also support the local workforce so they can live close to their jobs. Shorter commutes allow workers to spend more time with their families

while the community benefits from the reduction in traffic congestion, air pollution, and expenditures on roads. In revitalizing communities, the construction of affordable homes can also help to stimulate economic growth. A healthy mix of housing options, from the market-rate and affordable rental housing, single-family homes, duplexes, as well as developments for seniors, ensures opportunities for all individuals to improve their economic situation and contribute to their communities.