

# Chicago Traffic Citations

## Description of Organization

The City of Chicago is the third-largest city in the United States by population, with around 2.7 million residents<sup>1</sup> as of 2022. The city limits cover 234 square miles<sup>2</sup> and 90 ZIP codes.<sup>3</sup> With a metropolitan area population of over 9 million people, it is comparable to the metropolitan areas of Nagoya (Japan) and Johannesburg (South Africa), but because of its large area it is considerably less dense than most cities of the same population. The city is racially diverse, with about 33% of the population identifying as White/non-Hispanic, 29% Black or African American, and 29% Hispanic or Latino.<sup>4</sup>

## Description of Dataset

The City of Chicago issues traffic citations for a variety of reasons, including parking violations, speeding, and running red lights. The data obtained by ProPublica includes "every ticket and warning issued by the City of Chicago through its red-light and speed camera programs since January 1, 2010." The data is broken down into separate files by year; you will need to select a very small portion of the data to ensure you have a manageable project (e.g., a single week of tickets; a month's worth of tickets for a single ZIP code or violation type, etc.). A robust data dictionary is included for your reference.

## Potential Stakeholders

- Chicago's parking enforcement division
- A poverty-fighting nonprofit organization
- ***Explore the dataset and brainstorm additional potential stakeholders***

## Potential Questions

- Where are different types of parking violations most problematic?
- Do any ZIP codes receive abnormally high or low citations?
- ***Explore the dataset and brainstorm additional potential questions the data can answer***

## Related Links

- [Original data source \(Propublica\)](https://www.chicagopolice.org/propub/) - **NOTE:** the data on this page may change. You **must** use the file in Canvas for your project.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/about/facts.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.timeout.com/chicago/blog/how-does-chicago-size-up-to-other-cities>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.zip-codes.com/city/il-chicago.asp>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/chicagocityillinois>