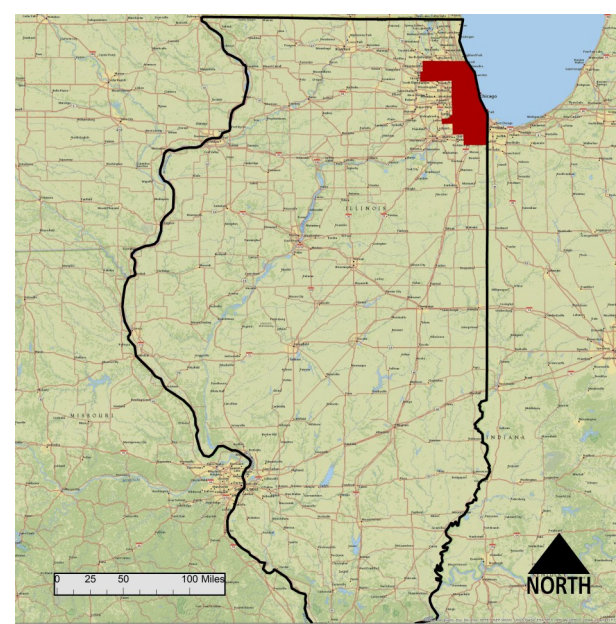


Mapping Gentrification in Chicago, IL from 2000-2010

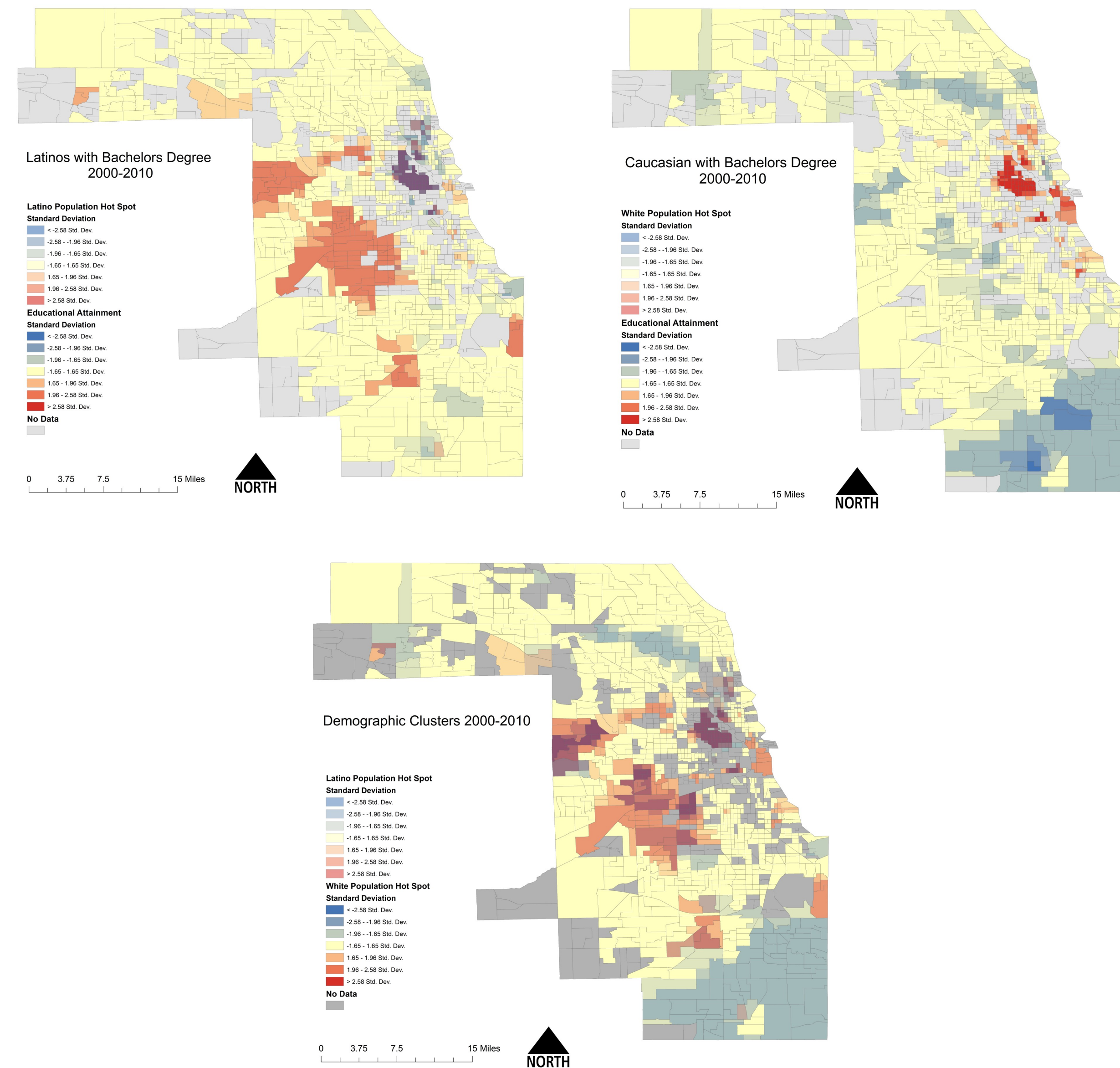
Introduction

Growing up in Chicago I've seen first-hand changes of my neighborhood. It's the main reason why I wanted to map the change of Chicago for from the 2000 Census Data and 2010 Census Data. Gentrification is a term used to describe a demographic shift in a neighborhood. The term is historically associated with race and income and it has thus become a word tied with fear. Typically neighborhoods see an influx of wealthier, more educated residents. These newcomers come in and revitalize these once poverty-stricken areas through increased economic activity. But on the other hand housing and property values increase and present a new challenge for low-income families in these neighborhoods, such as mine. I've mapped Demographic changes over the course of the decade as well as Income level changes and Educational Attainment levels. (Residents with a bachelor's degree) There are many different indicators of Gentrification, but for this study I decided to stick to these three indicators because of how the combination of the data was readily available and easy to follow on a map.

Scholars typically wonder that race and class are the indicators closely associated with gentrification. Some scholars say that gentrification is a social construct, while others claim pure economic incentive. I merely just present three factors associated with gentrification and can clearly see the changes over the last ten years.



Hot Spot Transparency Map 2000-2010



Results

Once all the easily-tracked hotspots were found and compared, obvious trends began to emerge. To no surprise, the neighborhood hit the hardest has been Humboldt Park, my neighborhood. You can see an increase in Educational Attainment, Income Level, and White Population, while seeing the decrease in Latino Population that once was so prominent there.

It was hard to see the exact changes by simply switching through my Change Maps. I wanted to use the "Raster Calculator" tool to overlay the data to see where the areas have been hit the most. I wanted to see White Population changes and match them up with Educational Attainment and Income level changes. I felt that the Hot Spot Analysis tool was better because this way the data wasn't cluttered and easier to see how there has been a decrease in Latinos in Humboldt Park but an Increase of the White Population in the same area. To no surprise there was an income level and an increase to the amount of bachelor's degrees in the same neighborhood.

Conclusion

The analysis was difficult when I wanted to overlay all the change maps to see the areas hit the hardest with these changes, for some reason the raster calculator wasn't working. It turned out however, that the Hot Spot Analysis tool was the best tool for me and it gave me a huge sense of relief. Analysis of this nature has a lot of potential for my future. I want to be involved with urban planning/policy work to help tone down some of these changes. That can have serious effects on low-income families that are being kicked out in a blink of an eye.

Some limitations to my project were that I wasn't able to map crime density because I thought of it too late, unfortunately. I thought being able to map the change in crime could lead me into another indicator of gentrification, especially now that it's a major subject that is talked about when mentioning Chicago.

I think these sudden changes and displacement of people should be handled with policies that could be implemented to prevent them. I would suggest implementing rent control and keeping land lords honest. A lot demand families to leave so that they could rent to people who can afford the new price.

Cartographer: Luriel Ocampo
Data Sources: American Fact Finder
 U.S Census 2000-2010
 May 1st, 2014
 Scale: 1:320,000-GCS_North_American_1983



Methodology

The factors I chose alone don't tell all the facts or signal gentrification. It's when I compare them to one another that the data starts making sense and one can start to see the changes in Chicago. I started by collecting the data from the 2000 Census and 2010 Census. Once I collected the information I thought that would easily tell the story of change, I added the information to ArcMap. The data was then transferred from "STRING" information to a "DOUBLE" so the program can actually read the information. I did this for all my information both 2000 and 2010 data. Once that happened I created another field to map the changes using "FIELD CALCULATOR" where my equations were subtracting the 2010 data from the 2000 data to see how it changed. I had all of the changes and broke down the labeling into percentages to see the increase or decrease in all census tracts.

Once the change maps were done I used the Hot Spot Analysis tool on ArcMap I was able to notice the most drastic changes in Chicago over the last ten years. I decided to keep the standard deviation to track the changes and broke it up into 6 categories to properly gauge the changes. I was able to find hotspots for Educational Attainment, Income levels, and Demographics. (White, Latino, Black Populations) I overlaid both Latino and Caucasian Hotspots with the Educational Attainment Hotspot (Seen Above).

Hot Spot Maps 2000-2010

