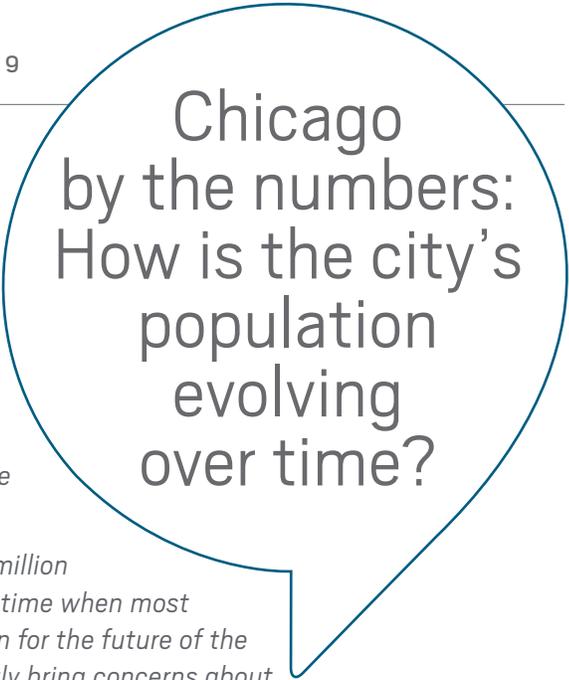


Conversation Guide

Demographics and population trends

The Chicago area has seen its population stagnate, then shrink. As many metro areas see growth, Chicago is the only one of the 10 biggest U.S. metro areas to have seen population loss between 2016 and 2017. According to Census estimates, Chicagoland lost more than 13,000 people between 2016 and 2017.

That's not a huge share of the population of a metropolitan area with 2.7 million residents, but it does represent the third year of decline, and it comes at a time when most big U.S. metros are seeing their populations grow. So, what does that mean for the future of the city? At the same time, population shifts within the Chicago area frequently bring concerns about gentrification and fears that long-time residents of a changing neighborhood may not be able to afford to stay.



Chicago
by the numbers:
How is the city's
population
evolving
over time?

In selecting this topic, your *Table* will discuss Chicago's current demographics and population trends. Keep these points in mind:

- The Chicago metro area's population dropped slightly for a fourth straight year

in 2018, echoing a five-year decline experienced by the state, according to Census Bureau estimates.

- According to Elevated Chicago, between 2000 and 2015, more than

20,000 Latinos left the Logan Square community. Meanwhile, Washington Park lost more than 2,000 Black residents — or 14% of that community's total population — during those years.

- More than 200,000 African Americans left the Chicago area between 2000 and 2015.
- Latinx population in Chicago jumped from 786,000 to 803,000 between 2015 and 2016,

according to Census data.

- More than 80% of Asian Americans in Illinois reside in the Chicago metropolitan area, according to the Center for Asian Health Equity.

Here are some [resources](#) to assist you as you prepare to discuss population shifts in the Chicago area.

- [A short conversation about Chicago's demographics](#)
- [This article lays out why millennials are leaving Chicago in high numbers](#)
- [This lays out Chicago's population in relation to other major cities](#)
- [This article sheds light on how equitable transit oriented development promotes neighborhood shifts](#)

Here are some [suggested questions](#) for your *Table* discussion:

1. Why do you think Chicago's population has declined in recent years?
2. True or false: Population decline is a problem for Chicago.
3. What do you think the city could do to raise keep its residents?
4. Have you ever thought about leaving Chicago or the Chicago area? Why?
5. What could be sacrificed to make way for new neighborhood developments and improvements?