

Gentrification in Chicago: Gun Shots Lead to More Coffee Shops?

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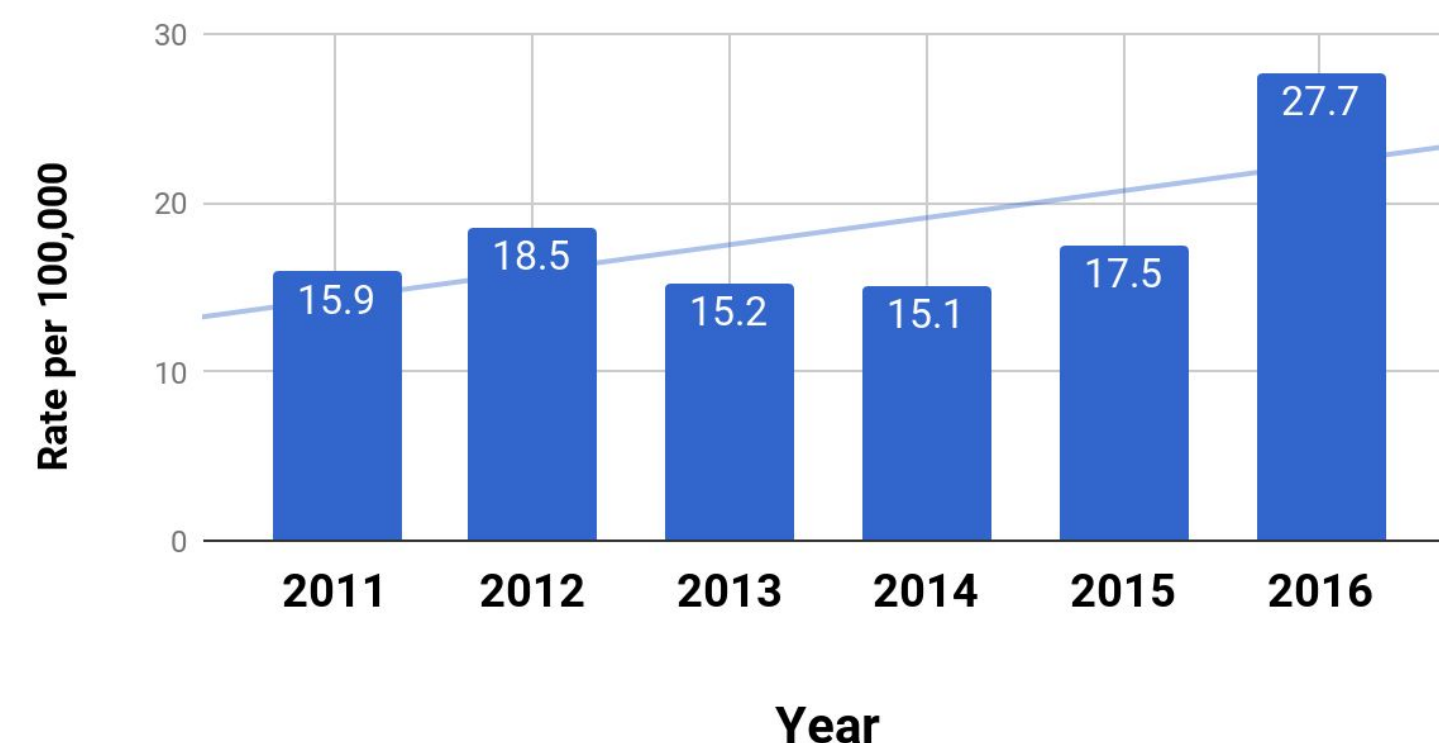
Research Question

How does crime rates impact gentrification in Chicago urban areas? How does gentrification impact crime rates in Chicago?

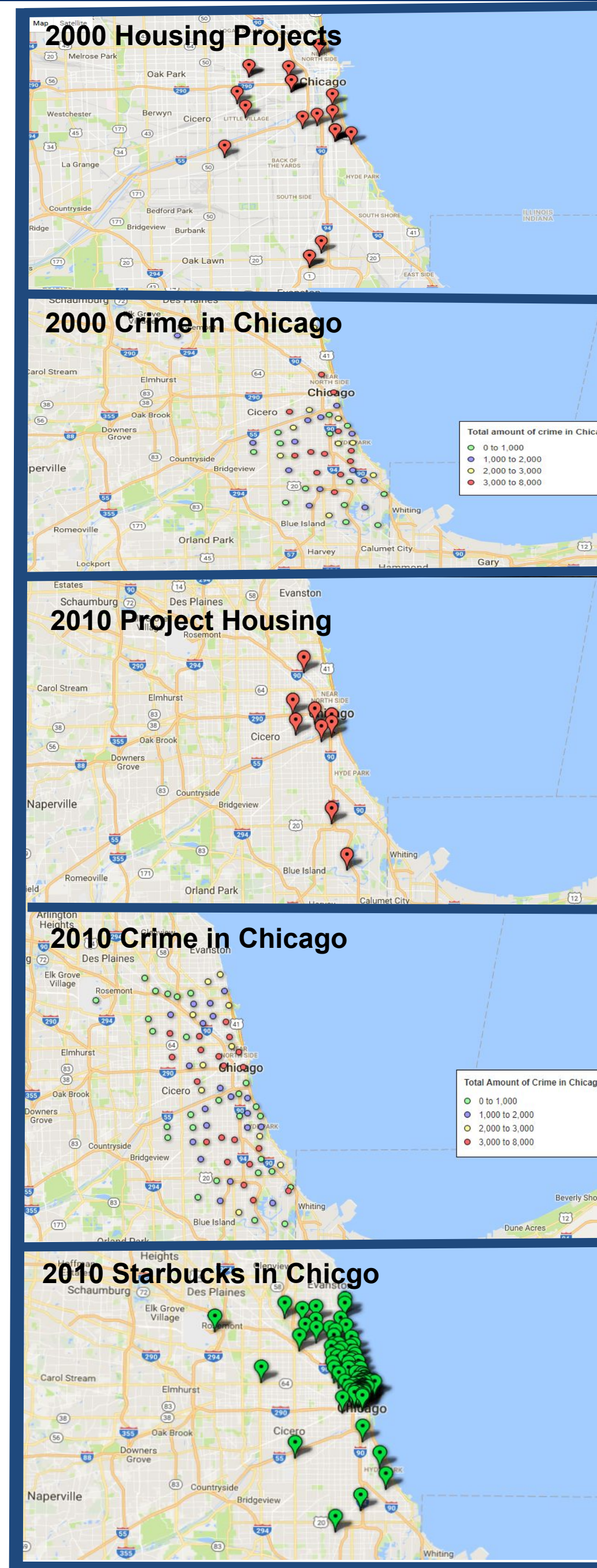
Background Information

- Gentrification is “the process of renovating and improving a house or district so that it conforms to middle-class taste.”
- Gentrification can be used to decrease crime in area, increase the property value in an area, and urbanize an area.
- Gentrification targets lower income housing, which targets minorities.
- Gentrification misplaces lower income households with higher income households.
- Vouchers are given to families that have to move because of gentrification. It allows families to have a lower rent at the new house they live in. But the rent is still higher than they would have to pay in the housing projects.
- Coffee shops are indicators of gentrification in communities.
- There were 28 housing projects in Chicago in 2000.
- There are only 9 housing projects left in 2017. The other housing projects were demolished and replaced with mixed income housing.
- Crime rates in Chicago have been gradually declining since 1976, but the city is one of the most dangerous cities in the United States due to increases in homicide rates.
- People of color account for about 55% of the Chicago.
- Neighborhoods with higher rates of crime are home to lower income households.

Homicide Rate in Chicago 2010-2016



Data



Methodology

I went about finding the answer to my research question by mapping out all the housing projects in 2000, then seeing how many housing projects were left. I then compared the total amount of crime in each neighborhood in 2000 in relation to where the housing projects were. Then I compared where the housing projects left and the crime in each neighborhood in 2010. I also compared where the coffee shops were to where the remaining housing projects were and the total amount of crime in the neighborhoods. I used the Chicago Police Department's annual crime report for the total amount of crime in each neighborhood. I got the idea about comparing coffee shops to gentrification and crime in Chicago from an article written by Andrew Papachristos, Mary Scherer, Melissa Fugiero, and Chris Smith.

Outcomes

- Crime spreads out to other neighborhoods and gradually increases, while crime in the neighborhood that was gentrified decreased drastically.
- Increase in coffee shops correlates to decreases in crime.
- Lower-income households are forced to move to mixed income neighborhoods, in which there are significantly higher rents, even with a voucher.
- Cost of living increases in gentrified communities.
- 19 housing projects demolished and replaced with mixed income community.
- Homicide rate increased dramatically.
- In areas where there are coffee shops there are less crime in the area.

Conclusion

I would like to continue research on crime in Chicago and the relationship to gentrification. Hopefully in 2017 the Chicago Police Department will release the crime report so I will have a more up to date data for my new research because they haven't released any reports since 2010. I would also like to research better solutions to gentrification in different communities and cities. I would like to also look into the gentrification that is starting to happen in Durham's South Side and look for ways to stop this epidemic.