

Just Housing Initiative

Cook County Impact Fact Sheet



COOK COUNTY OVERVIEW



Total population: 5,274,129, including 1,216,270 families.

51.52% of residents identify as **female**.

48.48% identify as **male**.

Median age of residents: **36.6 years old**.¹



Median household income: **\$59,718**.

Average household spends **31.5%** of its budget on rent and utilities.²



2,230,295

Number of housing units in Cook County.³



40.3% of units are **renter-occupied**.

49.7% of units are **owner-occupied**.

10.0% of units are **vacant**.⁴

IMPACT IN COOK COUNTY

10,600+

Average number of people who returned to zip codes in Cook County each year from Illinois' prisons.⁵

34,000+

Number of men and women *with children* who returned to zip codes in Cook County from Illinois' prisons over a 5-year period.⁶

78%+

Average percentage of women returning to zip codes in Cook County who reported having children.⁷

NATIONALLY,

4 in 5

survey respondents in a study involving 14 states including Illinois were either ineligible for or denied housing because of their own or a loved one's criminal history.⁸

THE BENEFITS OF JUST HOUSING⁹



Greater family stability



Healthier communities



Reduced recidivism



Less spending on incarceration



Stronger economy



Lower rates of homelessness

Support the Just Housing Initiative's Amendment to the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance

For more information, please contact Gianna Baker at gianna@housingactionil.org / (312) 939 6074 x110 or Patricia Fron at pfron@cafha.net / (872) 228 7844

Sources: **District Overview** (1-4: Total Population, Median household income, number of housing units, renter-occupied, owner-occupied, and vacant unit percentages from U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 (2018 Estimate); number of families, median age, sex percentages, and rent and utilities percentage from Esri Forecast 2018, sex percentages computed independently, rent and utilities consumer spending data from Bureau of Labor Statistics). **Impact in Cook County** (5-7: Analyses by Loyola's Center for Criminal Justice Research, Policy and Practice of data of adults released from Illinois' Prisons between State Fiscal Year 2011 and 2015 back to zip codes within Cook County, population data provided by the IDOC's Planning and Research Units, Criminal History Record Information generated and provided by the Research and Analysis Unit of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, note that zip codes may be overinclusive of returns; 8: Ella Baker Center on Human Rights, 2015 survey of 1,080 formerly incarcerated individuals and families with incarcerated loved ones). **The Benefits of Just Housing** (9: See How Housing Matters (<http://www.howhousingmatters.org>), an online portal that provides access to research on the relationship between housing and other issue areas including the economy, education, health, people, and neighborhoods; see also No Place to Call Home: Navigating Reentry Housing in Chicago, Roosevelt University Policy Research Collaborative and BPI, 2018).