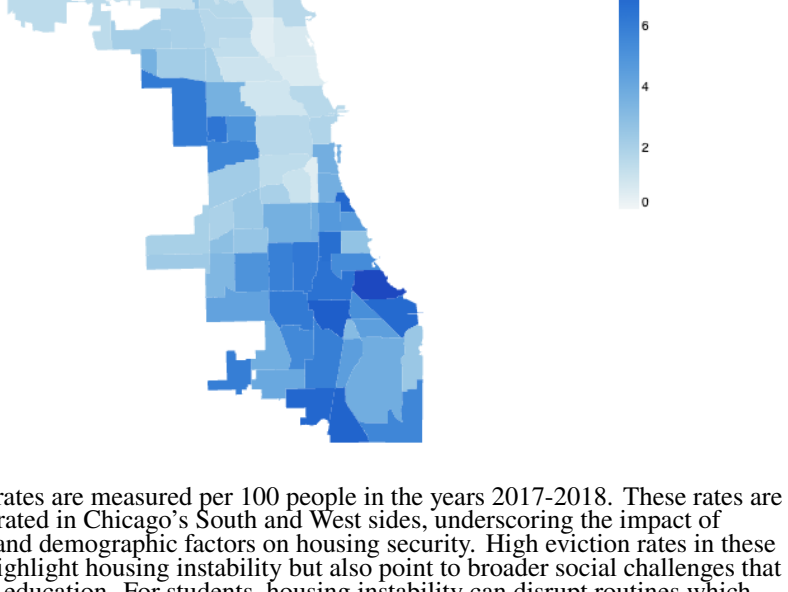


Examining the Impact of Housing Instability on Student Performance in Chicago School Year 2017-2018

Housing stability is foundational for educational success. Eviction and housing instability can disrupt students' ability to focus, attend school regularly, and access resources necessary for academic achievement. This analysis focuses on eviction rates in Chicago neighborhoods. We examine the relationship between eviction rates and student outcomes, including attendance, mobility, and performance metrics, to understand how housing instability may influence educational outcomes.

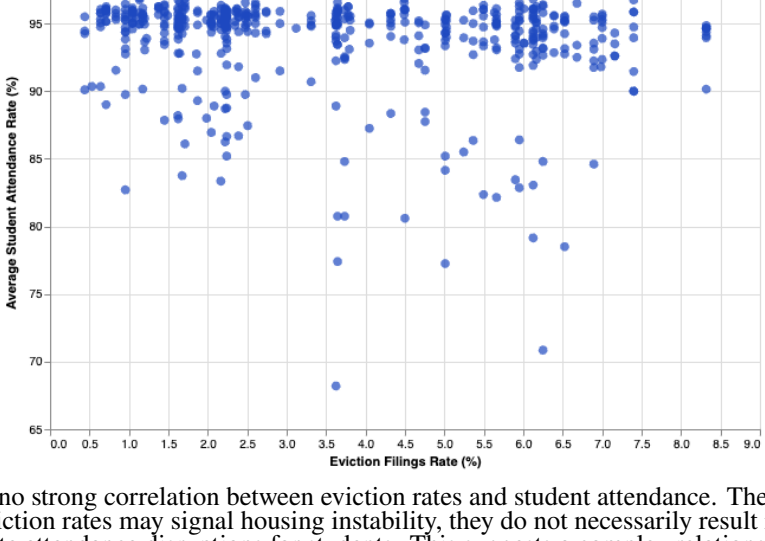
Data Analysis

Eviction Hotspots in Chicago



Eviction filing rates are measured per 100 people in the years 2017-2018. These rates are notably concentrated in Chicago's South and West sides, underscoring the impact of socioeconomic and demographic factors on housing security. High eviction rates in these areas not only highlight housing instability but also point to broader social challenges that may extend into education. For students, housing instability can disrupt routines which affect their ability to attend school regularly and maintain stable academic environments. In the following sections, we explore how these high eviction rates may correlate with key educational outcomes. We begin with attendance rates as an indicator of stability and engagement.

Student Metrics



There is no strong correlation between eviction rates and student attendance. Therefore while eviction rates may signal housing instability, they do not necessarily result in immediate attendance disruptions for students. This suggests a complex relationship between housing stability and school engagement, where high eviction rates may not always translate into attendance challenges or academic challenges in general. However, given Chicago's well-documented patterns of neighborhood segregation, we will explore whether there are more nuanced connections in specific areas. In particular, examining segregated neighborhoods may reveal underlying disparities in how eviction rates impact educational stability and attendance.



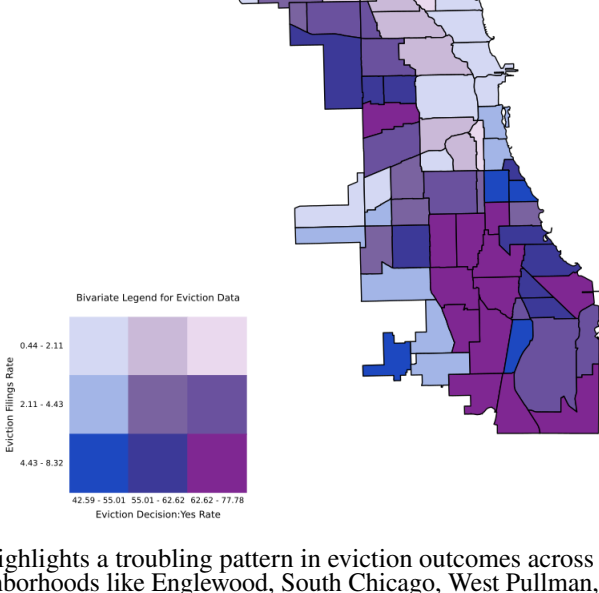
High eviction rates seem to be linked to higher mobility rates. This means that housing instability can lead families to move often. Frequent moves can create an unstable environment for students, even if attendance is not directly affected. When examining attendance trends, we observed no clear pattern, indicating that attendance rates do not directly correspond to eviction rates across neighborhoods. However, with mobility, a different trend emerges: as eviction rates increase, mobility rates tend to rise, suggesting a potential link between housing instability and the frequency of student relocations. To understand this relationship further, we will now focus on areas with high eviction rates to explore how these conditions might uniquely impact educational outcomes.

Eviction Decisions



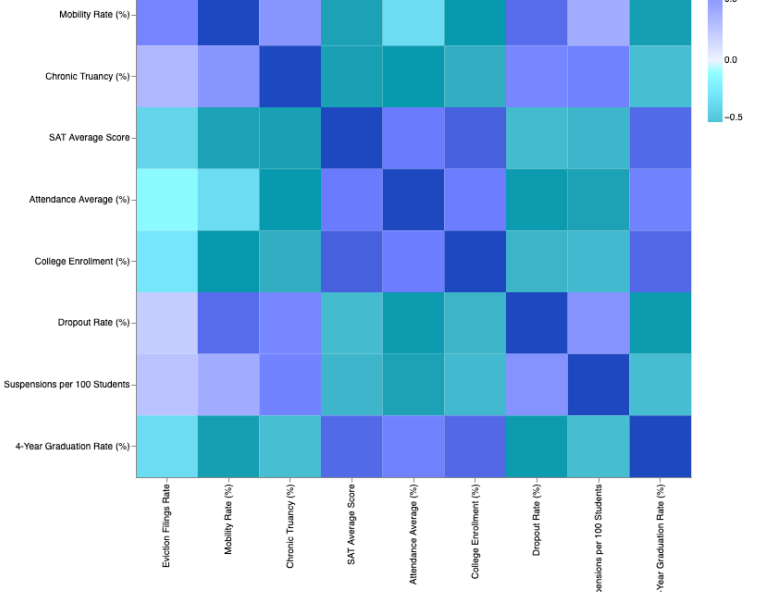
The eviction decisions highlight neighborhoods where tenants face a heightened risk of eviction. Areas such as Englewood, South Chicago, West Pullman, and Riverdale are particularly notable, as they exhibit both high eviction yes decision rates and high eviction rates in the previous graph. The next graph provides a geographic view of these neighborhoods in order to help illustrate where housing instability is most severe and allowing us to consider its potential impact on community stability and student outcomes.

Bivariate Analysis: Eviction Filings vs. Eviction Decision: Yes



The data highlights a troubling pattern in eviction outcomes across Chicago. On the South Side, neighborhoods like Englewood, South Chicago, West Pullman, and Riverdale continue to see a high number of formal evictions, reflecting the severe housing instability many residents face. However, a new trend appears in some northern neighborhoods. Even though eviction filings are generally lower there, a significant portion of cases still end in eviction, especially in areas farther from the lake. This suggests that, while the number of filings may be smaller in these northern areas, the threat of eviction is still very real once proceedings start, pointing to a broader spread of housing challenges across the city.

Student Metrics



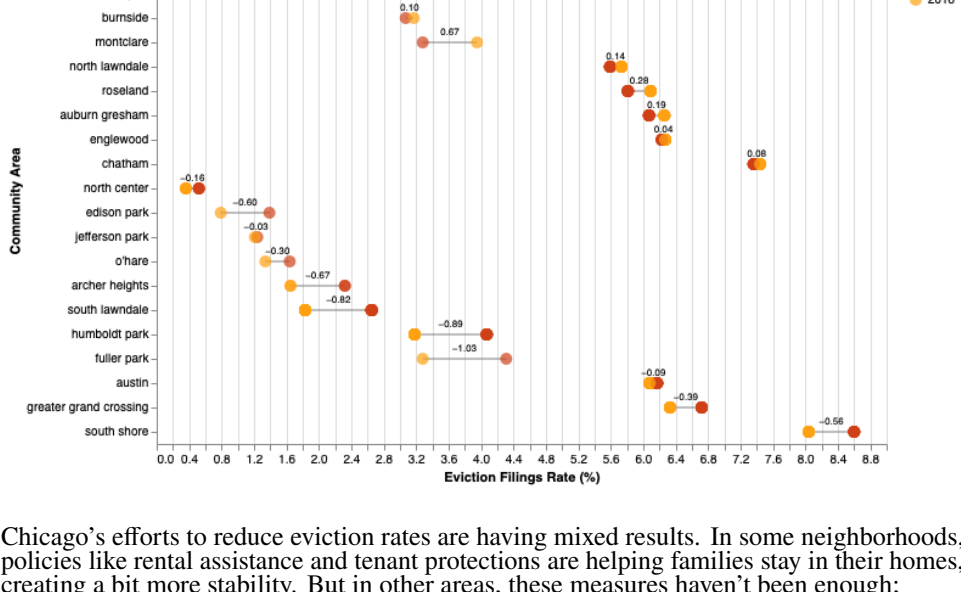
Each metric represents an aspect of student engagement and success, from attendance and truancy to college enrollment and graduation rates. As we can see, there are notable relationships in specific areas.

One of the more noticeable patterns is the moderate positive link between eviction rates and mobility. This suggests that higher eviction rates could lead to more frequent moves, which can disrupt a student's stability and make it harder for them to settle into a learning routine. We also see some correlation between eviction rates and chronic truancy and dropout rates, hinting that students in areas with high eviction activity might be more likely to miss school or even leave before graduation.

In contrast, factors like SAT scores, attendance rates, and college enrollment show weaker connections to eviction rates. This might mean that while eviction impacts these areas, the effect could vary depending on other individual or neighborhood factors.

Overall, these patterns emphasize the role housing stability plays in students' school experiences. Metrics like mobility, truancy, and dropout rates especially stand out as they seem closely tied to whether students can stay engaged in school, underscoring the importance of addressing housing instability to help improve educational outcomes.

Changes



Chicago's efforts to reduce eviction rates are having mixed results. In some neighborhoods, policies like rental assistance and tenant protections are helping families stay in their homes, creating a bit more stability. But in other areas, these measures haven't been enough; eviction rates are still high or have even gone up. This shows that while policy changes can help, they can't fully address deeper issues like economic hardship and a lack of affordable housing.

Some neighborhoods are in the top 10 for eviction filings, where housing instability is still a daily reality for many residents. On the other hand, the areas with the lowest eviction filings provide a glimpse of what stability can look like in the city. This sharp contrast highlights just how crucial it is to tailor support to the unique needs of each community. Moving forward, the challenge will be to refine these efforts to make sure help reaches the neighborhoods that need it most.

Conclusion

This analysis sheds light on the complex relationship between housing instability and student performance in Chicago. Eviction rates are particularly high in certain South and West Side neighborhoods, where socioeconomic challenges and racial segregation contribute to severe housing insecurity. While policies are starting to make a difference in some areas, there are still neighborhoods where these measures fall short and leave eviction rates stubbornly high or even increasing.

Housing instability doesn't always lead to immediate disruptions in student demographics, which may indicate broader educational challenges for students in high-eviction areas. For some students, frequent moves and unstable home environments may undermine their ability to fully engage with school, which can have lasting effects on their educational outcomes and long-term prospects.

Moving forward, it's crucial to address the specific needs of each community. Policies that help in one neighborhood may not be enough in another, especially with the ongoing economic challenges and shortage of affordable housing that many Chicago neighborhoods face. In order to truly support students, we need targeted interventions that offer more than just temporary relief. By focusing on long-term housing stability, we can build a stronger foundation for students that help them stay engaged in school and improve their chances of success.