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An Examination of the Occurrence of Divorce and Social and Demographic Factors within Chicago

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This research looks at the occurrence of divorce among Cook County-Chicago census tracts from data gathered from the 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) of the U.S. Census Bureau. Previous research has looked at various factors believed to affect the divorce rate of a country, in particular the economic development, average educational attainment, and participation of women in the labor force. These past studies have often found a significant and positive correlation between divorce and a country's economic development, educational attainment, and participation of women in the labor force. However, these studies have mostly focused on cross-national boundaries, thus allowing for greater disregard for cultural norms and differences across countries. This study, then, examines divorce as it is found within a diverse city (known historically for its segregation) of a single nation. Occurrence of divorce is mapped along with various demographic information such as race, income level, educational attainment, and nativity, and then spatially analyzed.

Information about the Author:

Louise Hahn became interested in divorce after considering the possibility of marriage as a next step after graduating from college. In an effort to avoid divorce, the author attempted to learn about some of the factors which contribute to divorce and see how these factors correspond to divorce in her city of origin.

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