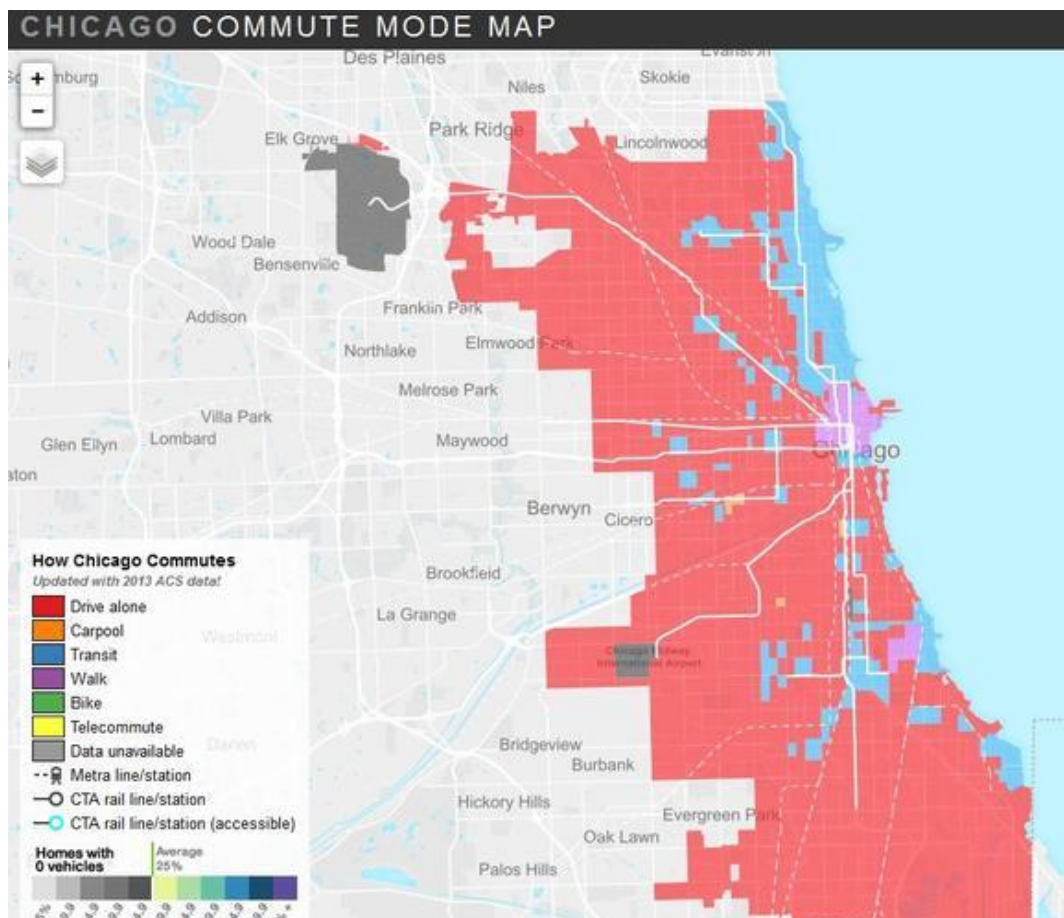




Map of census data shows Chicagoans' transit habits

By Rachel Cromidas | December 16, 2014



Chicago Commute Mode Map created by Shaun Jacobsen. (December 16, 2014)

Chicagoans are more likely to walk to work when they live downtown and in Hyde Park; take the CTA when they're coming from Lakeview or Bucktown; and drive when they're coming from virtually everywhere else.

That's according to a map of 2013 census data on the most dominant mode of transportation used in each of the city's census tracts, produced by Shaun Jacobsen, a graduate student at the University of British Columbia.

The map, which Jacobsen made a year ago using 2012 data and re-created with 2013 data this week, shows several patterns you may have already assumed if you live in the city: People who live near public transportation, whether it's the Red Line or an express bus route, are more likely to take it to work and leave their cars at home. People who live in the city's north- and western-most communities are more likely to drive or, in a few cases, carpool. And people who live downtown, in the Near North Side or in the South Loop predominantly walk to work, presumably because they can.

A separate map Jacobsen published this week on his website also shows the concentration of car-free households around the city, particularly near the Loop and the Near North Side, as well as in Washington Park and Englewood, some of the city's poorest communities.

"A lot of households in the city have no cars at all, and it's important to keep these people in mind when we plan projects," he said in an email. "Car-free households aren't just young people, they're in pretty well-established and old neighborhoods that are relatively affluent and dense: these are also the elderly, families, basically everyone who can't drive, decide not to, or can't own a car. I hope this can be used as a tool to illustrate that. It's certainly easier than going to the Census website to figure it out."

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