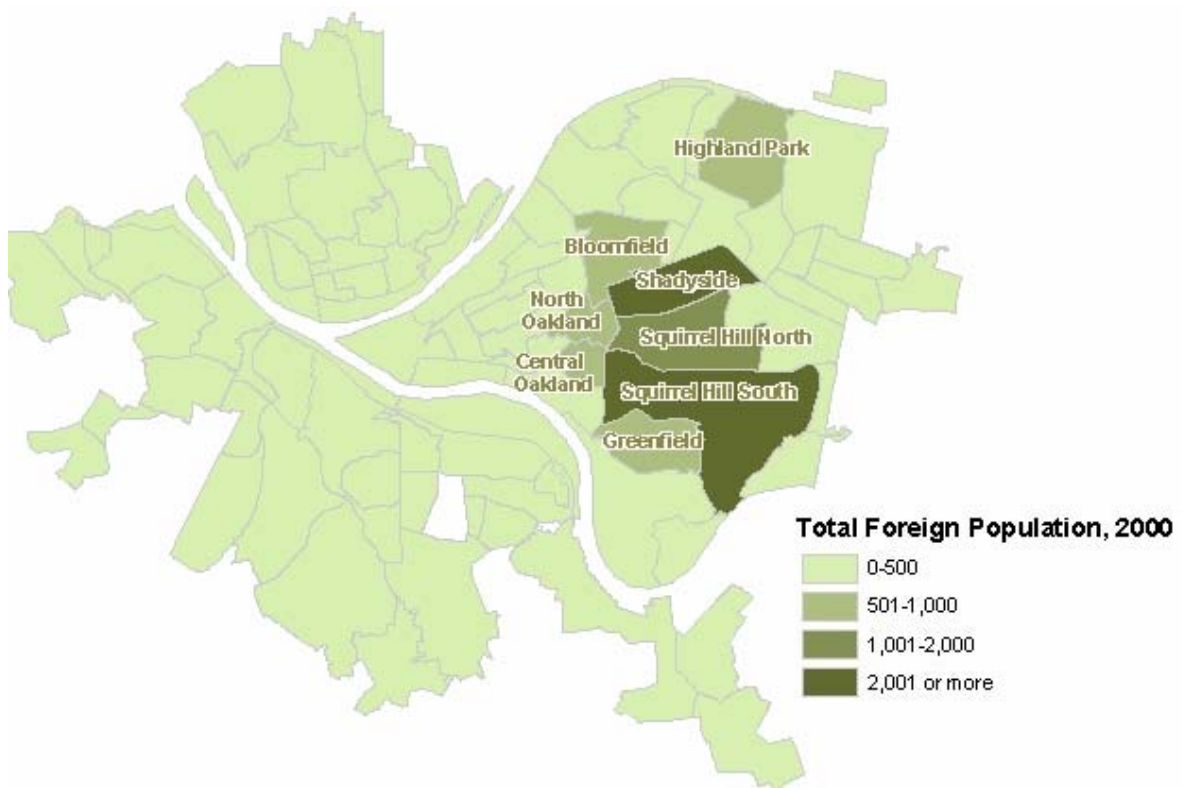# WHAT MAKES A GATEWAY COMMUNITY?

By Lena Andrews

Recent Center for Economic Development research has focused on Gateway Communities, or communities that have served as anchor points for foreign-born populations locating in our city. The map below identifies neighborhoods where the foreign-born population lives within the City of Pittsburgh. Most foreign-born residents in Pittsburgh live in the East End.

As a next step in this research, this paper attempts to answer the question of what distinguishes a gateway community by identifying characteristics shared by areas with high numbers of foreign born residents. What are the characteristics of places that have been attractive to immigrants? Can the city and county create more Gateway Communities capable of drawing new immigrant populations to our region?

Foreign Born Population by Neighborhood, 2000

Figure 1: Foreign-born Population in the City of Pittsburgh - 2000

Section 1. Census Analysis

The first section of this paper uses census data to examine associations between different socioeconomic variables and the foreign-born population in Allegheny County. Where is the foreign-born population in the county located? Table 1 shows ten census tracts with the highest percentages of foreign-born residents (greater than 18.3%), along with the 14 tracts that reported no foreign-born residents.

Forty percent of the foreign-born population in Allegheny County has chosen to live in the City of Pittsburgh; 3.8% of Allegheny County residents and 5.6% of residents of the City of Pittsburgh are foreign-born. Nine of the top ten census tracts are in the City of Pittsburgh, and eight out of the nine are in the East End; this is most likely due to the East End's proximity to Oakland's universities and hospitals. However, some areas of the city have very low presence of immigrants. Ten out of the fourteen census tracts (71%) with no immigrants are also in the City of Pittsburgh. Overall, only 34% percent of census tracts in Allegheny County are in the City of Pittsburgh.

Percentage Foreign Born Population - Highest

Ten Census Tracts with Highest Percentage of Foreign-Born Residents				
TRACT	*Municipality*	*Neighborhood*	*Percent Foreign-Born, 2000*	*Total Foreign Born Population, 2000*
220500	Pittsburgh	North Shore	24.7%	66
040400	Pittsburgh	North Oakland	23.6%	587
141300	Pittsburgh	Squirrel Hill South	23.0%	1138
070900	Pittsburgh	Shadyside	22.3%	1057
140200	Pittsburgh	Squirrel Hill North	22.2%	542
050700	Pittsburgh	North Oakland	22.2%	673
070800	Pittsburgh	Shadyside	22.1%	368
070500	Pittsburgh	Shadyside	19.4%	612
470500	Scott Township	NA	19.2%	1273
141400	Pittsburgh	Squirrel Hill South	18.3%	947

Table 1a: Census Tracts with Highest Percentages of Foreign-Born Residents in Alleghany County – 2000
(Note: Percentage was selected rather than absolute number to control for density)

Percentage Foreign Born Population - Lowest

Ten Census Tracts with Lowest Percentage of Foreign-Born Residents				
561100	Wilkinsburg Borough	NA	0%	0
030500	Pittsburgh	Crawford Roberts	0%	0
051100	Pittsburgh	Terrace Village	0%	0
101600	Pittsburgh	Garfield	0%	0
120200	Pittsburgh	Lincoln-Lemington- Belmar	0%	0
130200	Pittsburgh	Homewood North	0%	0
160400	Pittsburgh	Arlington Heights	0%	0
201700	Pittsburgh	Esplen	0%	0
210800	Pittsburgh	Chateau	0%	0
280500	Pittsburgh	East Carnegie	0%	0
310100	Pittsburgh	Hays	0%	0
454000	North Fayette Township	NA	0%	0
493000	West Elizabeth Borough	NA	0%	0
505000	Trafford Borough	NA	0%	0

Table 1b: Census Tracts with Lowest Percentages of Foreign-Born Residents in Alleghany County – 2000
(Note: Percentage was selected rather than absolute number to control for density)

A regression analysis was used to show associations between different census variables and the percent of population that is foreign-born in each census tract. The results are shown in Table 2. The highlighted variables have a p-value < .05, which means that they are statistically significant at the 95% level. The r squared value, or predictive power of this regression is a substantial .61, which means that 61% of the variation in this regression is accounted for by the included variables.

Regression Results

Variable	Parameter Estimate	Standard Error	t Value	p Value
Intercept	-0.216	0.239	-0.9	0.367
City***	1.87%	0.0033	5.62	<.0001
Housing				
Percent Renter Occupied	2.00%	0.0144	1.39	0.1647
Percent Vacant	-0.83%	0.0228	-0.36	0.7154
Median Number of Rooms***	-1.25%	0.0034	-4.59	<.0001
Median Year Built*	0.02%	0.0001	1.84	0.0671
Population				
Percent of Workers with a Commute < 30 Minutes	1.19%	0.0147	0.81	0.418
Percent of Population with Education ? 12th Grade***	-14.04%	0.0116	-12.05	<.0001
Percent Unemployed***	-9.15%	0.0239	-3.83	0.0002
Percent Who Lived in the Same House in 1995***	-6.64%	0.0205	-3.24	0.0013
Percent Nonwhite**	-1.61%	0.0074	-2.17	0.0308

Table 2: Regression Results
(Note: *** = significance at 99%; ** = significance at 95%; * = significance at 90%)

Variables that are most significant are the binary variable for whether the census tract is in the city, the median number of rooms, the percent of the population with an education of high school or less, the percent of population that is unemployed, the percent of population that lived in the same house in 1995 and 2000 (a measure of transience), and the percent of the population that is non-white. The city location variable, which has a value of 1 if the tract is in the city and a 0 if it is not, has a positive impact, meaning that a tract's location in the city will raise the foreign-born percentage by 1.76%. All other variables have a negative impact; however, it is important to note that if they were measured in the reverse (i.e. percentage of population with any post-graduate education), the variable would have a positive impact.

Allegheny County census tracts with higher concentrations of foreign-born populations tend to:

- Be located with in the City of Pittsburgh
- Have populations with higher educational attainment
- Have populations that are more transient (less people that live in the same house in 1995 and 2000)
- Have lower levels of unemployment
- Have smaller housing units
- Have slightly lower percentages of minority residents

The parameter estimate shows the magnitude of impact of each independent variable on the dependent variable (percent foreign born population). For instance, an increase of 1% in the percent of the population with a high school education or less is associated with a 14% decrease in the percentage of foreign-born population in a census tract. The variables with the largest magnitude impact on foreign-born population are the education, unemployment, and same house variables. The variables with the most statistically significant correlations are the city location and education variables.

Section 2. Crime and Public Transit

Two factors that are not tracked by the census but that have been mentioned in conversations relating to immigrant location choice are crime and public transportation access; this section of the analysis examines the relationship between the foreign-born population and these two factors.

Crime data was obtained from the City of Pittsburgh police department, and analyzed at the census tract level using GIS. The City of Pittsburgh divides crime into Type 1 and Type 2 classifications, defined in Table 3 below.

Crime Classification by Type

Type 1	Type 2
Homicide	Forgery
Rape	Simple Assault
Robbery	Fraud
Agg. Assault	Embezzlement
Burglary	Stolen Property
Theft	Vandalism
MV Theft	Weapon Violations
Arson	Prostitution
	Other Sex Offenses
	Drug Violations
	Gambling
	Family Violence
	Drunken Driving
	Liquor Law Violation
	Public Intoxication
	Disorderly Conduct

Table 3: Crime Classification by Type

Census tracts within the City of Pittsburgh with the lowest crime counts for 2000 are shown in Tables 4 and 5.

Census Tract with Lowest Type 1 Crimes per Person - 2004

Tract 2000	Neighborhood	Total Crimes (Type 1)	Crimes per Person (Type 1)	Percent Foreign Born, 2000
2021	Chartiers City	4	0.006	0.8%
2612	Summer Hill	11	0.010	2.4%
1401	Squirrel Hill North	55	0.010	10.1%
1018	Stanton Heights	28	0.010	2.6%
3102	Lincoln Place	39	0.011	2.6%
1608	South Side Slopes	32	0.011	1.8%
1411	Swisshelm Park	15	0.011	4.3%
1414	Squirrel Hill South	59	0.011	18.3%
1005	Stanton Heights	28	0.012	1.2%
3103	New Homestead	11	0.012	1.5%
2708	Brighton Heights	40	0.013	0.9%
3206	Brookline	32	0.013	2.9%
1404	Point Breeze	32	0.013	8.2%
1917	Brookline	51	0.014	2.6%
2807	Windgap	21	0.014	0.4%

Table 4: Census Tract with Lowest Type 1 Crimes per Person – 2004
(Note: Census Tracts with above average percentages of foreign-born populations highlighted)

Table 4 shows that immigrants are not locating in the neighborhoods with the lowest amount of Type 1, or most violent, crime. Only three out of the 15 census tracts with the lowest per capita crime rates have above-average concentrations of foreign-born residents, and there is no overlap between tracts with the lowest Type 1 crime and the highest concentrations of foreign-born residents.

Census Tract with Lowest Type 2 Crimes per Person - 2004

Tract 2000	Neighborhood	Total Crimes (Type 2)	Crimes per Person (Type 2)	Percent Foreign Born, 2000
1401	Squirrel Hill North	39	0.007	10.1%
1402	Squirrel Hill North	19	0.008	22.2%
2612	Summer Hill	10	0.009	2.4%
1411	Swisshelm Park	14	0.010	4.3%
1403	Squirrel Hill North	37	0.011	10.9%
0706	Shadyside	23	0.012	17.0%
1414	Squirrel Hill South	61	0.012	18.3%
1404	Point Breeze	29	0.012	8.2%
2807	Windgap	20	0.014	0.4%
3103	New Homestead	13	0.015	1.5%
1018	Stanton Heights	40	0.015	2.6%
0709	Shadyside	72	0.015	22.3%
2815	Crafton Heights	25	0.015	0.3%
1413	Squirrel Hill South	78	0.016	23.0%
1517	Greenfield	92	0.018	16.6%

Table 5: Census Tract with Lowest Type 2 Crimes per Person – 2004
(Note: Census Tracts with above average percentages of foreign-born populations highlighted)

However, there is a more defined relationship between tracts with low Type 2 crime and concentrations of foreign-born populations. This is significant because Type 2 crime is more prevalent and visible than Type 1 crime, and may therefore make more of an impact on location decisions of immigrants. Out of the fifteen census tracts with the lowest rates of Type 2 crime, nine have above-average concentrations of foreign born residents, and three have foreign-born populations comprising more than 20% of total population. Other neighborhoods with low Type 2 crime, such as Summer Hill, Swisshelm Park, and Stanton Heights, may be potential neighborhoods where new foreign populations coming to Pittsburgh could locate.

There is an ambiguous relationship between areas with a high number of bus stops and the foreign-born population. Squirrel Hill has a relatively low number of bus-stops per acre, while Shadyside and Oakland have high concentration of bus stops. However, Squirrel Hill's low bus stop density may be due to its parks. A large portion of Squirrel Hill's area is made up of Schenley and Frick parks, where there are no bus stops. Also, while number of bus stops is one way to gauge public transit access, this methodology does not take frequency of buses into account. The routes that service Squirrel Hill, namely the 61s and 67s, are some of the most frequent buses in Pittsburgh. The areas with the lowest presence of bus stops – Central Lawrenceville, Swisshelm Park, Sheraden, Beechview, Brookline, and Ridgemont, -- have very low foreign-born concentrations. Foreign-born populations are not locating in the areas with the worst access to public transportation.

CONCLUSION

What does this say about Allegheny County's Gateway Communities? Neighborhoods with high percentages of foreign-born residents:

- Are located within in the City of Pittsburgh
- Have populations with higher educational attainment
- Have populations that are more transient
- Have lower levels of unemployment

- Have smaller housing units
- Have slightly lower percentages of minority residents
- Have access to public transportation
- Have low levels of Type 2 crimes

However, there are neighborhoods that have many of these traits that have not attracted immigrant communities, such as Bloomfield, Banksville, and Point Breeze. A next step in this analysis would be to identify these areas, and compare them with the more successful Gateway Communities to look for more intangible factors that are making the difference in immigrant location decisions. Ideally, research of this kind will help Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh make all of their respective municipalities and neighborhoods welcoming to immigrants, drawing a much-needed source of vibrancy and population growth to our region.