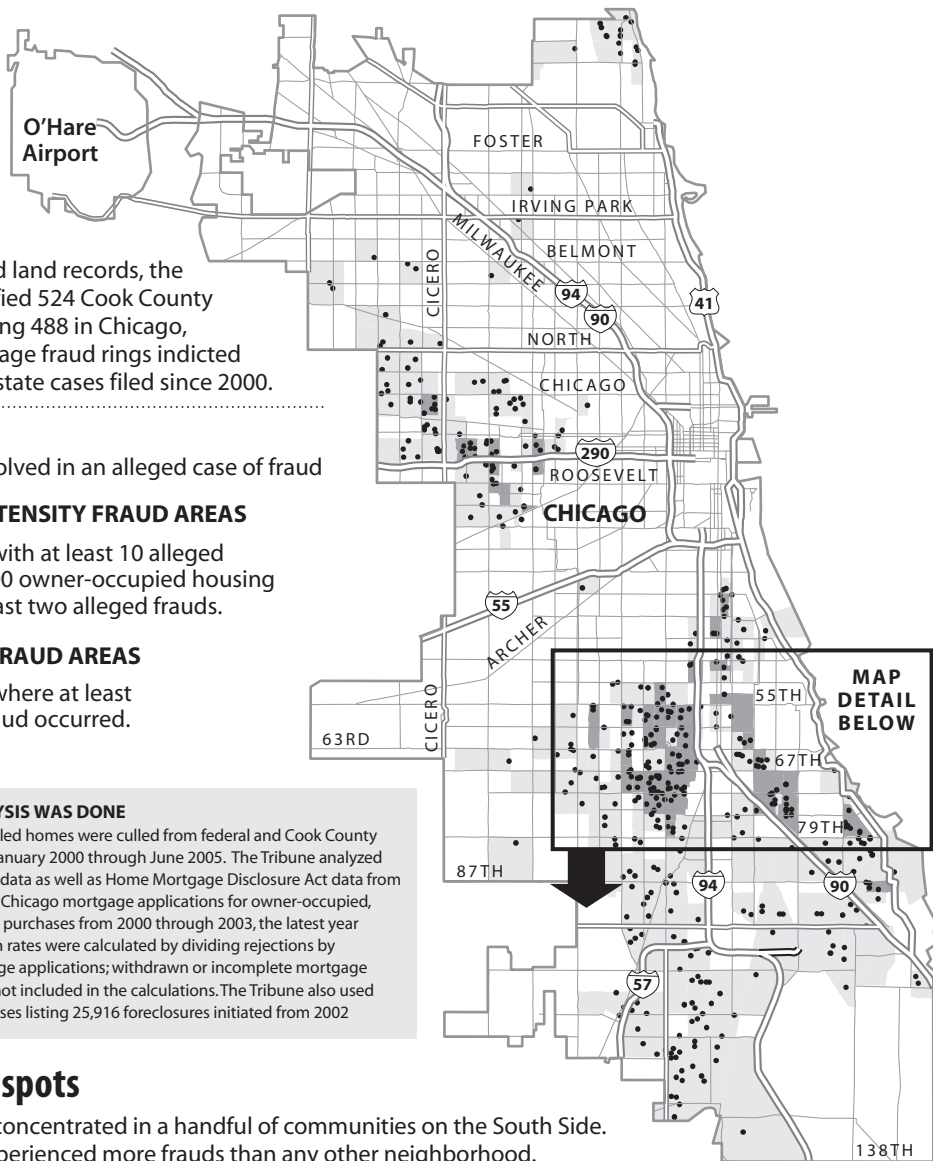


Clusters of crime

While the economic impact of mortgage fraud ripples throughout the region, the crime wave strikes poor and minority areas hardest, hurting efforts to revive neighborhoods.



From court and land records, the Tribune identified 524 Cook County homes, including 488 in Chicago, used by mortgage fraud rings indicted in federal and state cases filed since 2000.

KEY:

- Property involved in an alleged case of fraud

HIGH-INTENSITY FRAUD AREAS

Census tracts with at least 10 alleged frauds per 1,000 owner-occupied housing units and at least two alleged frauds.

OTHER FRAUD AREAS

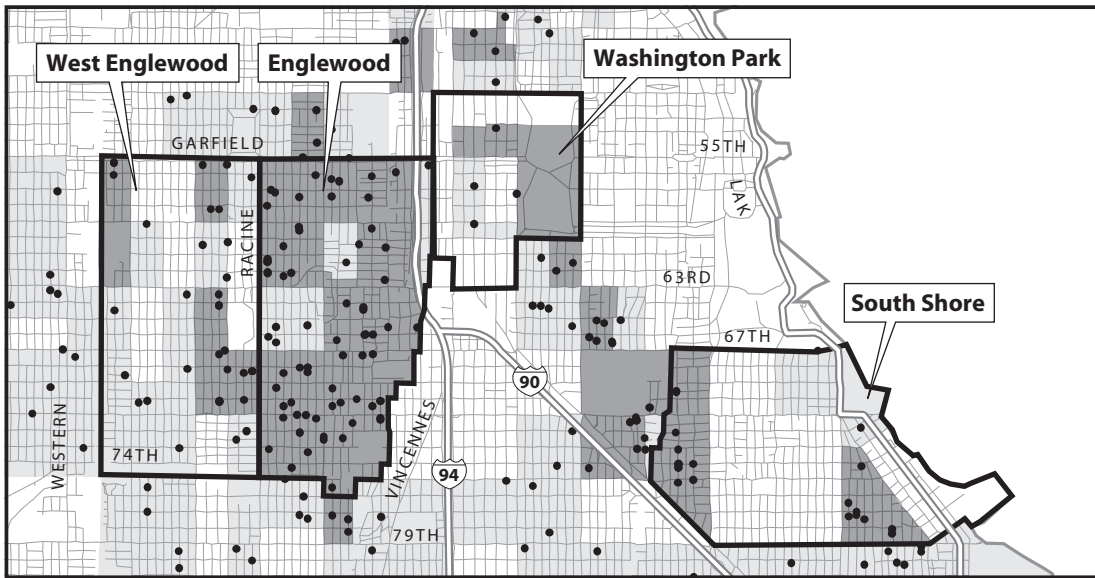
Census tracts where at least one alleged fraud occurred.

HOW THE ANALYSIS WAS DONE

Addresses of swindled homes were culled from federal and Cook County indictments from January 2000 through June 2005. The Tribune analyzed U.S. Census Bureau data as well as Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data from more than 200,000 Chicago mortgage applications for owner-occupied, single-family home purchases from 2000 through 2003, the latest year available. Rejection rates were calculated by dividing rejections by completed mortgage applications; withdrawn or incomplete mortgage applications were not included in the calculations. The Tribune also used commercial databases listing 25,916 foreclosures initiated from 2002

Fraud hot spots

Fraud is most concentrated in a handful of communities on the South Side. Englewood experienced more frauds than any other neighborhood.



A look at how the worst fraud areas compare to the rest of the city:

	HIGH-INTENSITY FRAUD AREAS	ALL FRAUD AREAS	CHICAGO AVERAGE
Percent African-American, 2000	95.9%	78.6%	36.7%
Percent in poverty, 1999	39.3%	25.2%	19.6%
Home ownership, 2000	<p>15.3% Owner-occupied 60.4% Renter-occupied 24.3% Vacant</p>	<p>9.9% Owner-occupied 50.2% Renter-occupied 39.9% Vacant</p>	<p>7.9% Owner-occupied 51.8% Renter-occupied 40.3% Vacant</p>
Foreclosures per 1,000 owner-occupied units	217	124	56
Mortgage rejection rate	34.9%	27.9%	16.1%