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# **NOBLE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT**

*Prepared by:*

*Masters Students from*

*The Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel*

*School of Applied Social Sciences*



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SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES

CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY

This document is a product of a service-learning project for a course taught by Dr. Mark Chupp, Assistant Professor at the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University. The following masters' students in social work completed the work for submission to the Noble Neighbors neighborhood group and the City of Cleveland Heights.

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## INTRODUCTION

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In November 2014, Mark Chupp and Nina Holzer held introductory meetings with Brenda May and Cynthia Griggins, Noble Neighbors group leaders. During these meetings, information was shared about the history of the Noble neighborhood and the creation of the Noble Neighbors community group. Based on these conversations, a community assessment was planned with the following four focus areas for research: *Housing, Safety, Youth and Education, and Business and Retail.*

Graduate students enrolled in Dr. Chupp's *SASS 478: Macro Policy and Practice Skills* broke out into four groups and were assigned one of the focus areas for their semester-long case file assignment. To complete the assignment, students devised research questions based on their assigned focus area, collected quantitative and qualitative data, conducted interviews with neighborhood stakeholders and residents, attended neighborhood meetings, and wrote final case file reports synthesizing what they learned about their focus areas. Case files were edited and compiled into this community assessment report.

### ***Graduate Student Groups and Staff***

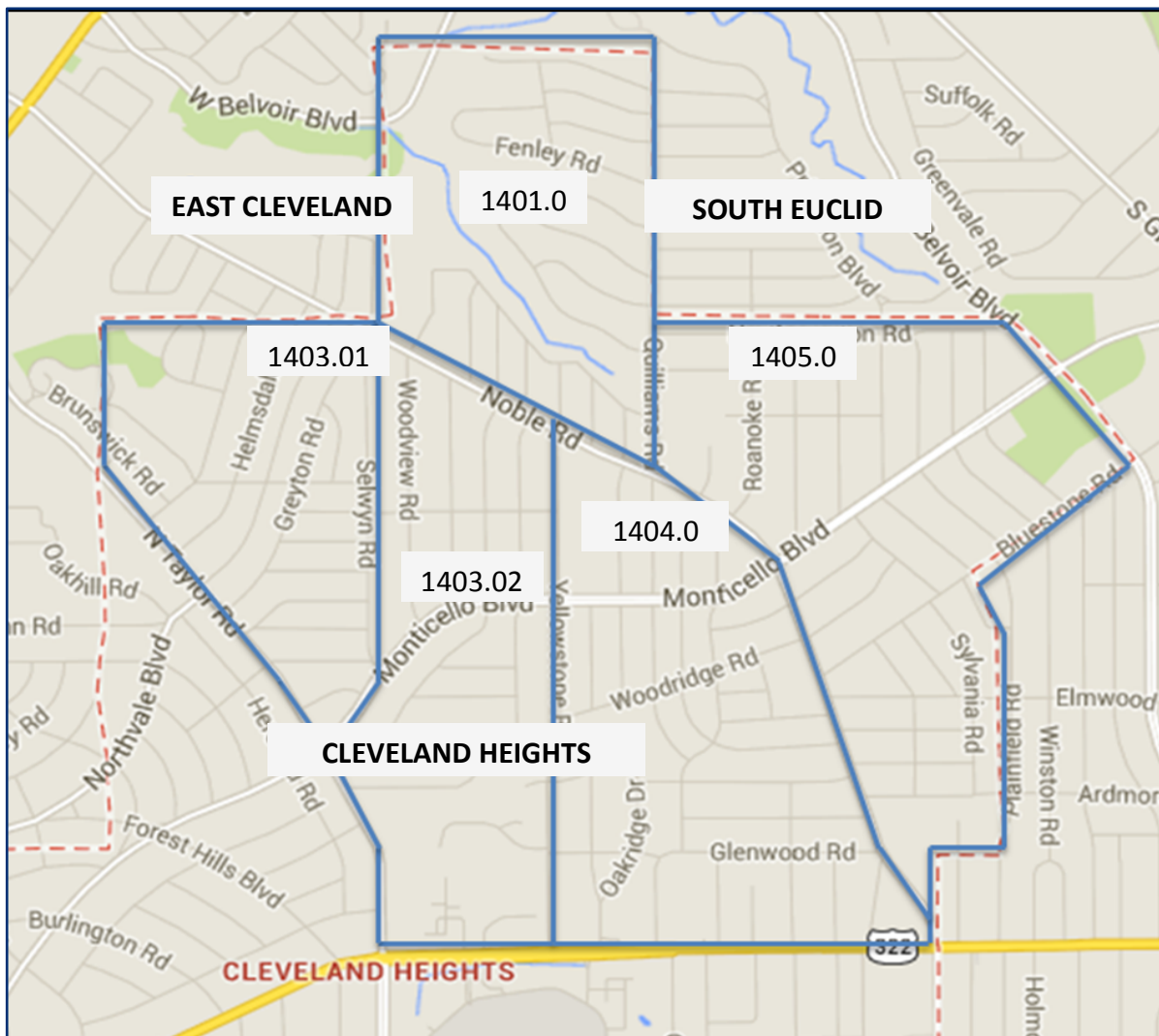
<u>Housing</u>	<u>Safety</u>	<u>Youth &amp; Education</u>	<u>Business &amp; Retail</u>
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Mark Chupp, PhD, MSW, is assistant professor and chair of the concentration in Community Practice for Social Change at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences of Case Western Reserve University. For over 30 years he has focused on community building and inter-group conflict transformation. Mark is an international consultant and trainer in civic engagement, appreciative inquiry, and conflict transformation. He has published numerous theory and practice oriented articles, manuals and book chapters. Mark holds a Ph.D. in social welfare from CWRU, an MSW from the University of Michigan and a BA from Goshen College.

Nina Holzer is a second-year graduate student at the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences pursuing a dual-degree in Social Administration (Community Practice for Social Change) and Management of Nonprofit Organizations. Prior to attending the Mandel School, she served two years with AmeriCorps, with her service terms focused on community building in and around urban schools, youth and family development, and resource and capacity building for her partner nonprofit agencies. Currently, she works as a Project Manager and Research Assistant at the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development. Nina holds a BA from Ohio University.

## NEIGHBORHOOD OVERVIEW

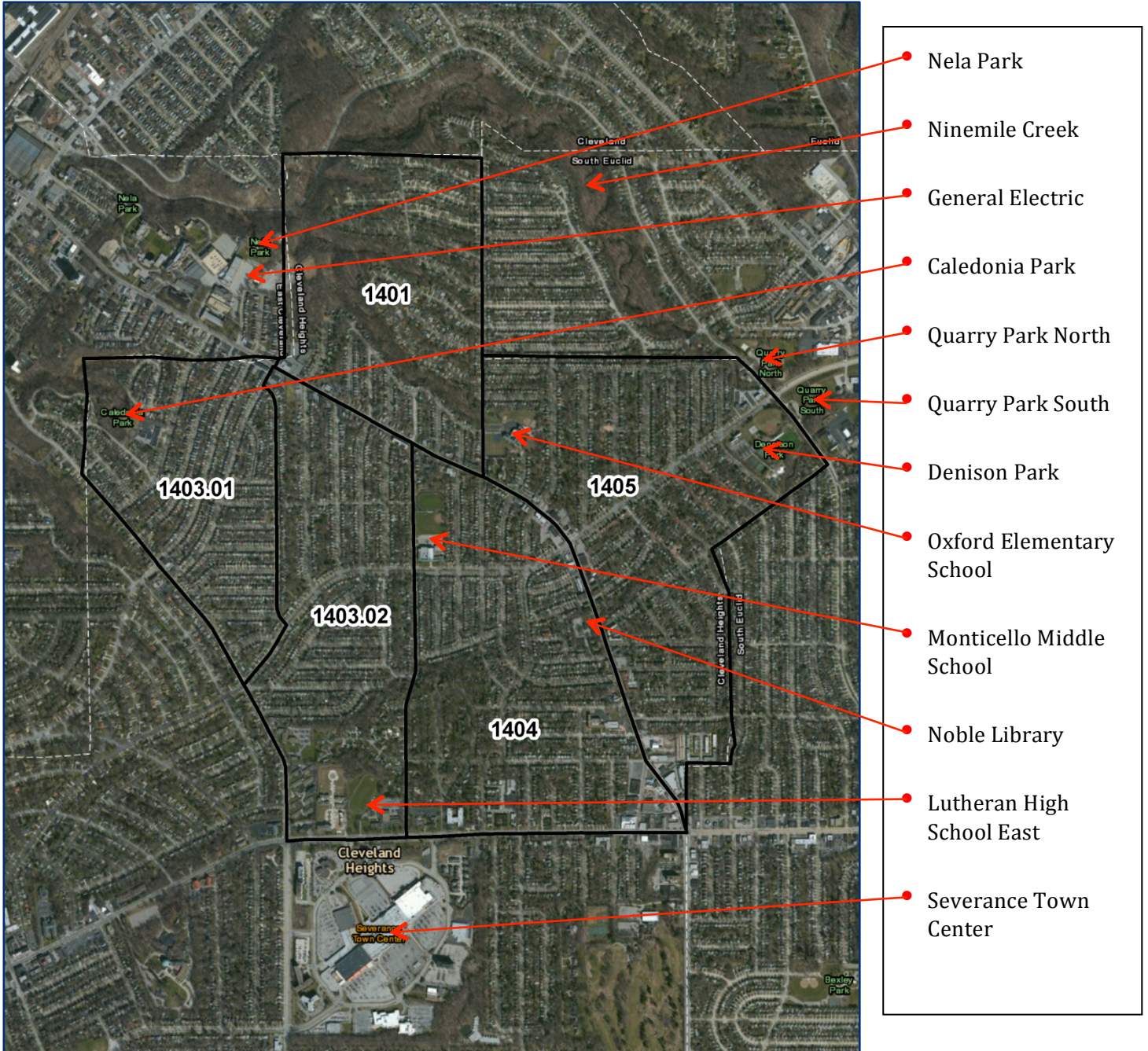
Noble neighborhood is located in the northeast quadrant of Cleveland Heights, and is bordered by East Cleveland to the northeast, South Euclid to the northwest and west, and Cleveland Heights' Forest Hills neighborhood to the east. Severance Town Center sits across Mayfield Road to the south of the neighborhood. The expansive neighborhood is bounded to the north and northwest by the natural barriers of Nela Park and the Ninemile Creek. It is home to many of Cleveland Heights' earliest roads, settlements, and historical landmarks, such as the Noble Road Presbyterian Church, Bluestone Quarries, East Cleveland Township Farms, and a number of early farm settlements (Cleveland Historical, 2015).



*Noble Neighborhood Census Tract Map*

## NOBLE NEIGHBORHOOD TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

The following map illustrates various geographic features and some major institutions within and surrounding the neighborhood.



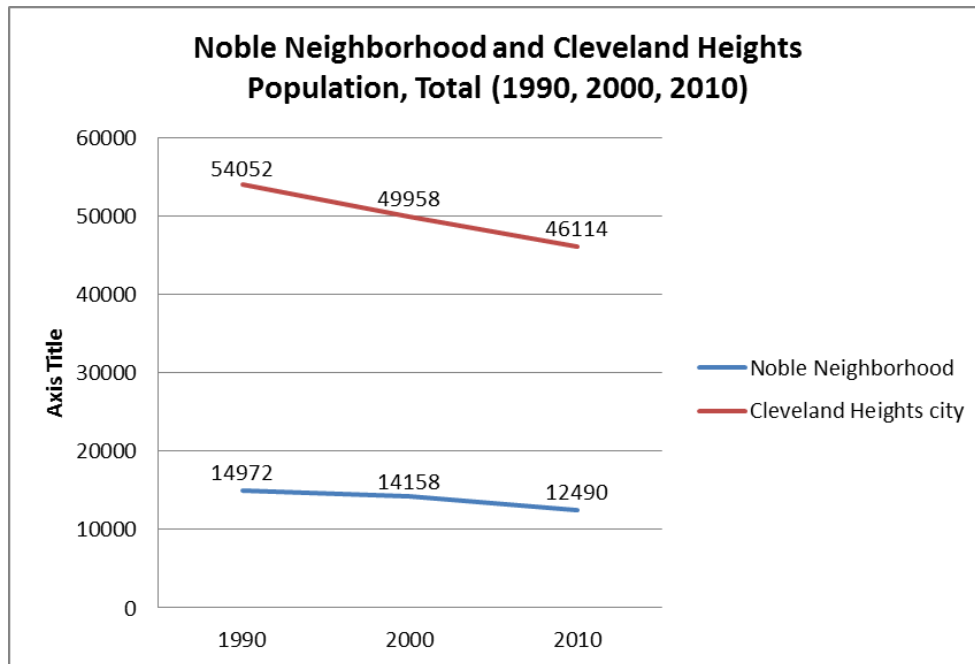
*Noble Neighborhood Census Tract Map*

As seen in this topographic map, Ninemile Creek is a major physical barrier separating the neighborhood from South Euclid and East Cleveland. The U-shaped creek also creates a barrier between some northern properties in census tract 1401.0 and the rest of the neighborhood.

## NEIGHBORHOOD DEMOGRAPHICS

As of 2010, Noble neighborhood had 12,500 residents, comprising 27.1% of Cleveland Heights' overall population. As illustrated in the following chart, the neighborhood has seen a population loss similar to Cleveland Heights as a whole, with the neighborhood's total population being down 16.58% since 1990.

	1990	2000	2010	% Change 1990-2010
Noble Neighborhood	14,972	14,158	12,490	-16.58%
Cleveland Heights	54,052	49,958	46,114	-14.69%



Data from: NEO CANDO system, Northeast Ohio Data Collaborative (<http://neocando.case.edu/neocando/>)

Neighborhood residents represent various races; however the community is primarily African American (67.8%) or White (27.1%) (Appendix A). The neighborhood has seen an increase in its refugee population, specifically its Nepali population, due to a refugee services nonprofit (Us Together, Inc.) having relationships with landlords in the Noble neighborhood area, primarily on Noble Road (“Links”, n.d.).

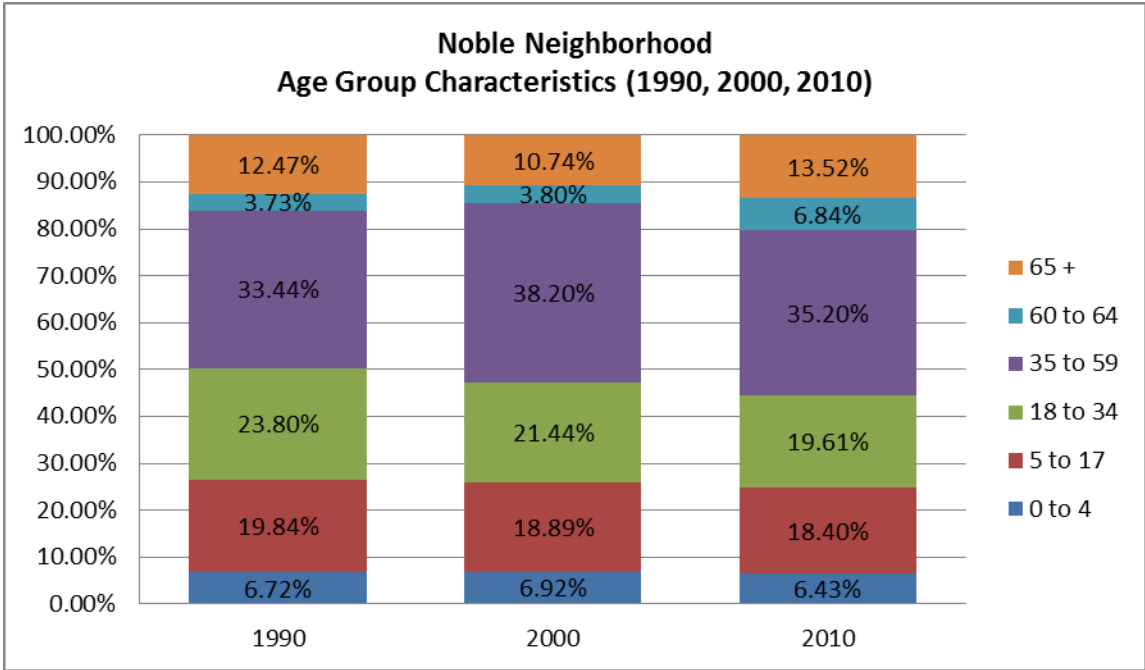
The following table illustrates changes in demographic racial composition for the Noble Neighborhood and for Cleveland Heights. Since 1990, Noble neighborhood has seen a 54% loss in its white population, a 15% increase in its African American/Black population, a 21% increase in its Hispanic population, and a 47% increase in its Asian/Pacific Islander population (which may be correlated with local refugee resettlement services). There has been no increase in the area’s American Indian population. These numbers show that in 1990 the neighborhood had a near 50-50 split in its white and African American/Black population. Since then, the neighborhood has seen an out-migration of its white population and an in-migration of African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic individuals.

By contrast, Cleveland Heights has seen a sharp increase in its Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander populations (67% and 55%, respectively). Unlike Noble neighborhood, Cleveland Heights as a whole has seen a loss in its African American/Black, White, and American Indian population.

Noble Neighborhood				
	1990	2000	2010	% Change
White	7,351	5,005	3,386	-54%
Black	7,394	8,853	8,467	+15%
American Indian	21	18	21	0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	148	203	217	+47%
Hispanic	163	198	197	+21%
Cleveland Heights city				
	1990	2000	2010	% Change
White	32,534	27,100	22,986	-29%
Black	20,054	21,128	19,580	-2%
American Indian	96	87	74	-23%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,138	1,305	1,906	+67%
Hispanic	582	791	903	+55%

Data from: NEO CANDO system, Northeast Ohio Data Collaborative (<http://neocando.case.edu/neocando/>)

Since 2000, the Noble neighborhood has seen a 5.8% increase in individuals aged 60 and older, with this group now constituting 20.4% of the neighborhood). The neighborhood has seen a population loss for its 0 – 4, 5 – 17, 18 – 34, and 35 – 59 age cohorts.



Data from: NEO CANDO system, Northeast Ohio Data Collaborative (<http://neocando.case.edu/neocando/>)

Since 1990, the neighborhood’s poverty rate has increased to 16.5%, with approximately 2,190 individuals living below poverty level. Its child poverty rate has increased to 31.2% (nearly six

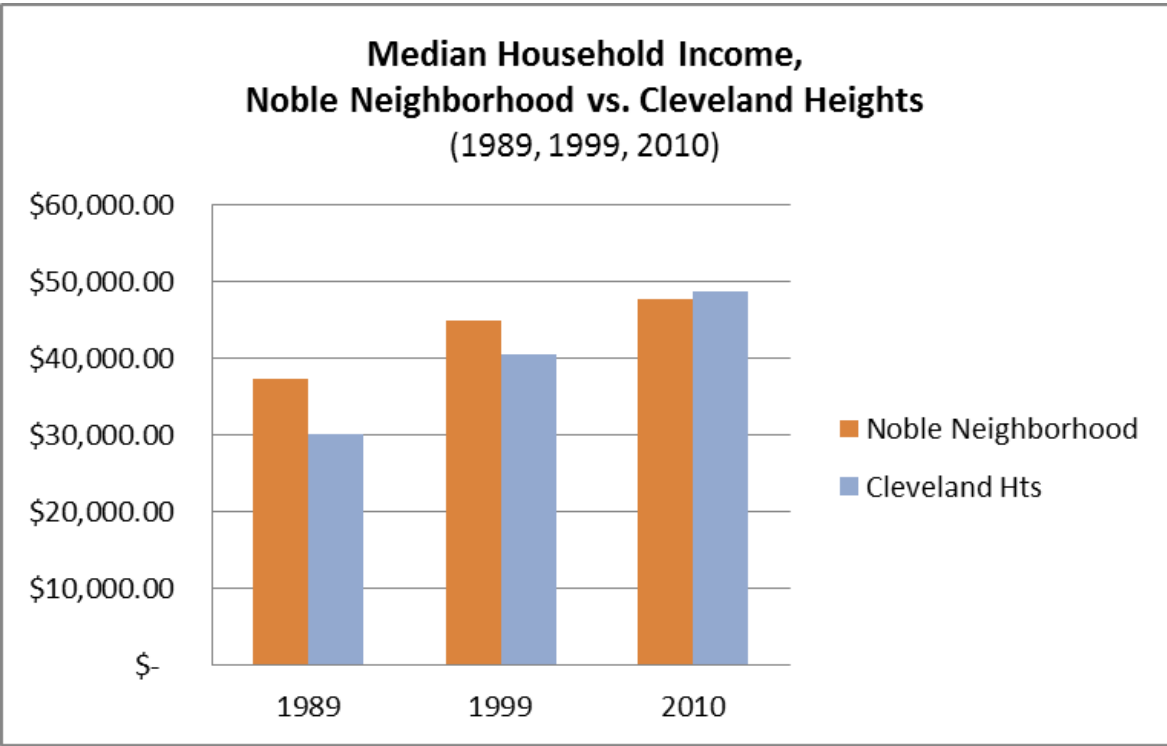


times its 1990 rate) with approximately 973 children living below poverty level. Female-headed families with children under 18 living below poverty (more commonly referred to as single mother households) have increased from 72 households in 1990 to 182 households in 2010.

<b>Noble Neighborhood</b>			
	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010*</b>
Poverty Rate	4.6	11.3	16.5
Persons living below poverty	693	1,563	2,190
Child Poverty Rate	5.7	17.6	31.2
Children (aged 0-17) living below poverty	230	613	973
Female-headed families with children < 18 living below poverty	72	155	182

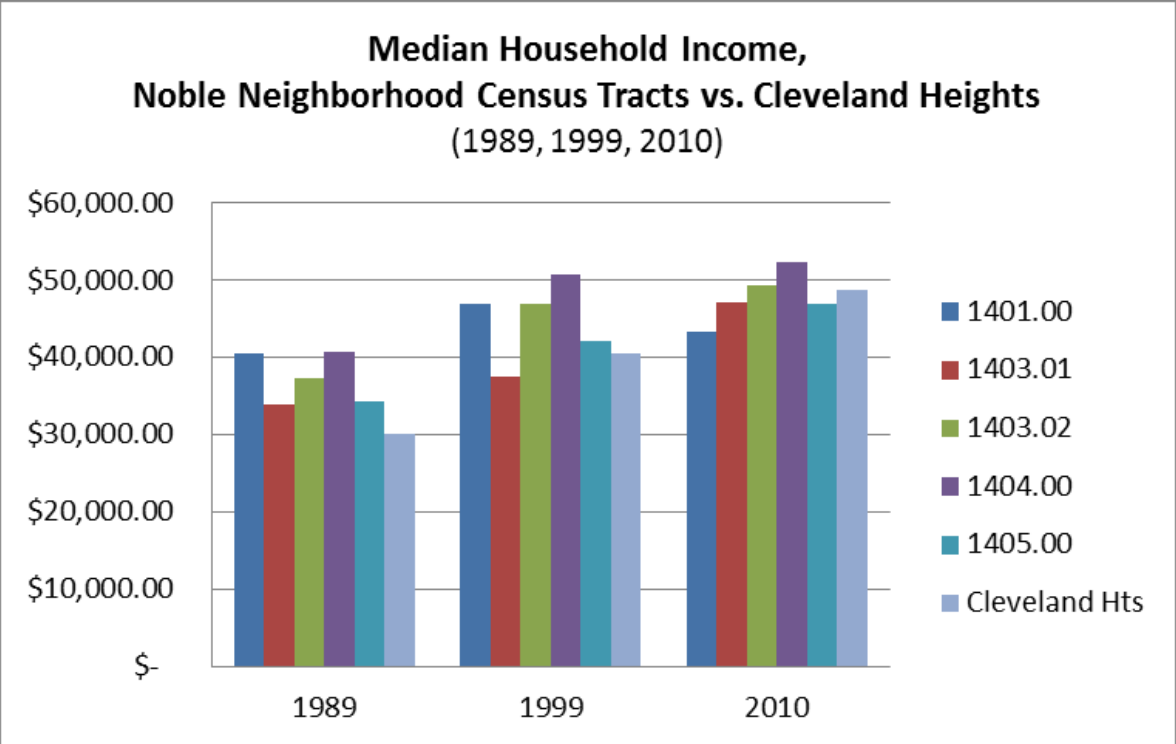
*Data from: NEO CANDO system, Northeast Ohio Data Collaborative (<http://neocando.case.edu/neocando/>)*

Finally, Cleveland Heights and Noble neighborhoods’ median household income was also compared. Noble neighborhood, like Cleveland Heights, has seen a rise in median household income over the past 20 years. Prior to 2010, the median household income for the neighborhood surpassed that of Cleveland Heights. However, as of 2010, Cleveland Heights’ median household income has risen to surpass that of the Noble neighborhood.



*Data from: NEO CANDO system, Northeast Ohio Data Collaborative (<http://neocando.case.edu/neocando/>)*

When examining individual census tracts within the Noble neighborhood, there is visible growth in median household income for most census tracts. Census Tract 1401.0 saw a rise in median household income between 1989 and 2000; however median household income for this census tract has since fallen. Unlike Noble neighborhood as whole, census tracts 1403.02 and 1404.0 continue to have median household incomes that surpass that of Cleveland Heights.



Data from: NEO CANDO system, Northeast Ohio Data Collaborative (<http://neocando.case.edu/neocando/>)

Additional neighborhood demographics are available in Appendix A and Appendix B.