

Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes in Chicago:

1997-2006

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GEOG 481 – Intro to ArcGIS

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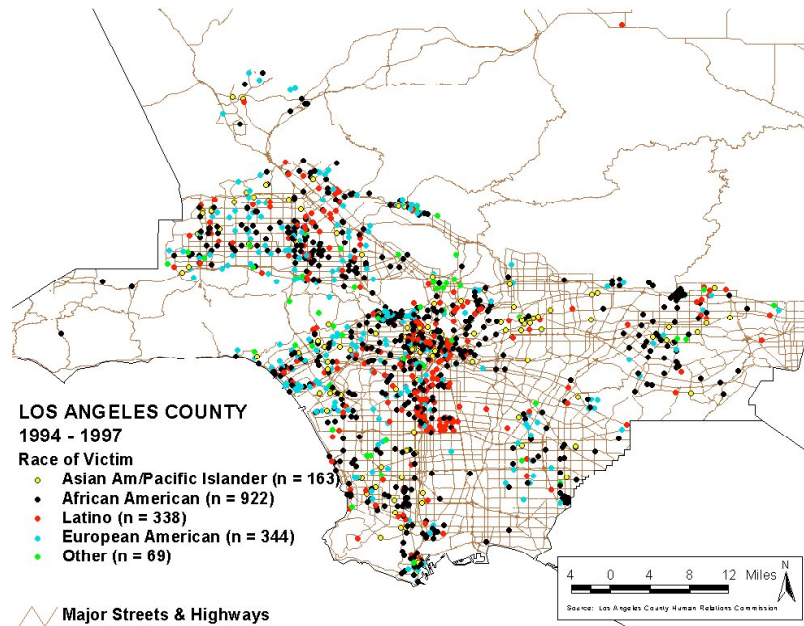
In the United States, hate crimes are a well-known phenomena. These crimes are committed on the basis of the victim's race, ethnicity/national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. There have been several publicized and well-documented hate crimes in history. Solely looking at hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation, one immediately comes to mind: the murder of a gay man, Matthew Shepard, in 1998. As of 2004, 15% of hate crimes in the United States were motivated by a bias against certain sexual orientations—including gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc. ("Hate Crime"). In Chicago, between 1996 and 2006, 375 hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation have been investigated by the Chicago Police Department. Of these, only 170 were found to be bona fide hate crimes. Proving hate crimes, however, is sometimes difficult.

For this project, I decided to map the total occurrence of hate crimes in Chicago between the years of 1997 and 2006. I primarily collected this data using maps with locations of hate crimes provided by the City of Chicago in their Annual Hate Crime reports. Although the data is not exact, I believe that one can discern a pattern from the data, as well as other data such as the number of same-sex couples living together that reported this in the 2000 Census, as well as the location of gay bars. Additionally, I wanted to know if the location of CTA Stations and Chicago Police Department stations influenced the rate of hate crimes in Chicago.

Background

Although hate crime is a widespread occurrence and crime mapping is popular, I have not easily found any organization or individual attempting to map out the occurrence of hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation, with the exception of city government entities like the City of Chicago in their Annual Reports. However, these maps are limited; they only provide

community areas and the occurrence of hate crime, without attempting to analyze patterns of



crime. There are several researchers who have created maps similar to what I am interested in including researchers Karen Umemoto and C. Kimi Mikami who studied race-biased hate crime in Los Angeles (see map image). In Chicago, there has been one

group particularly concerned with hate crimes because of their location in the neighborhood with the highest rate of hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation. This group, the Lakeview Action Coalition, studied hate crimes that occurred in the Lakeview area from 1990-1999 to find patterns from the time of occurrence, to location (alleys, main streets, etc.), to times of year. They found that most occurred in public settings like streets and parking lots, and most were battery and assault, and found that most victims were gay men. Although there is not an associated map with this report, given the small size of East Lakeview and the clusters of crime, it is not necessary. However, I know of no agencies or organizations that have attempted to map out sexual orientation-biased crime in the City of Chicago and to analyze how the rates correlate with other factors, and this is my goal.

Data Sources

The data that I used to create the maps includes files formatted for use with ArcGIS as well as other data in text or graphical form. The files formatted for use with ArcGIS include:

CTA Train Station locations, CTA Train Lines, Chicago Community Area boundaries, location of Chicago Police Department Stations, and Chicago Census Tracts. The sources for all data excluding census tracts is the City of Chicago from the GIS Portal website. I downloaded the census tracts for the City of Chicago from the National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS) website. To plot the hate crimes, I used maps from the City of Chicago's Annual Reports from years 1997 to 2006, and heads-up digitized the data by approximating the location based on the provided maps (see example in Appendix A). The data for the same-sex couples is from the 2000 Census from section PCT 14 which is the section on Unmarried-Partner Households by Sex of Partners. I also geocoded the location of some, but not all, of Chicago's "gay bars" using addresses I found on Centerstage Chicago with indexed 2000 Tiger/Line street data, also from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Methods

To create my maps, I used several methods. One of the most important steps I took was to project or reproject the data into the same projection. To do this, I used the projection tool in ArcToolbox to make sure that all data was projected using the State Plane UTM Illinois East projection. Most layers had projections, except for the Hate Crimes and Gay Bars. To create the Hate Crimes layer I used ArcCatalog to create a new point layer and to choose a projection, and then I heads-up digitized the layer by looking at Chicago's Hate Crime maps from the annual reports (in Appendix A). For the Gay Bars layer, I copied addresses into an Excel spreadsheet, exported it as a .dbf file, and then geocoded these addresses, and applied a projection. To geocode the addresses, I used the TIGER/Lines Roads shapefile, which was already indexed for geocoding, and created a new address locator as outlined in Chapter 17 of Getting to Know ArcGIS Desktop.

For the census data, I downloaded PCT 14 files (Same-Sex couples) from the US Census Bureau for the year 2000 for all of Chicago's census tracts. Then, I created a new field in the Census Tract table and calculated the census tract number from the longer GeoID, and joined that field to the Census Tract shapefile. Then I created a new field in the joined table to get the total number of same-sex couples in Chicago reported in 2000. I displayed this data on the map by total number of male same-sex couples, female same-sex couples, and total same-sex couples divided by the shape area to obtain a better representation of percentages of same-sex couples in Chicago.

The Hate Crime Density layer is a raster layer created by using the Spatial Analyst tools in ArcToolbox. To do this I set the Spatial Analyst options first, which divides an area into cells, and ran the Kernel Density tool. This layer, however, was just an experiment in using the tool. Ultimately, my goal was to just create a raster layer to overlay onto the other maps to analyze patterns based on density. To display this layer, I adjusted the colors so that the lowest values were transparent, and set the transparency to 70%.

After these procedures, I displayed various layers at a time to create a set of maps. The first map is a base map with Community Areas (with labels), Police Stations, CTA Stations and CTA lines (Figure 1). On the second map, I added the Hate Crime layer (Figure 2). The third and fourth maps are male same-sex couples (Figure 3) and female-same-sex couples (Figure 4) divided by tract area. The next map is the total number of same-sex couples divided by area (Figure 5). The next map is the total number of same-sex couples as a percent of total, but with the Hate Crimes layer added in order to find a correlation (Figure 6). The next map is the layer with the Gay Bars layer added (Figure 7). After using the Kernel Density tool, I added the raster file Hate Crime Density, and then added CTA layers, as well as the Police Department layer

(Figure 8). Figure 9 is the last map and shows the Hate Density Layer with the Census Data layer displayed as total same-sex couples as a percent of total.

Discussion/Interpretation

Based on the data, it is evident that the hate crimes show a certain clustering pattern. After running the Nearest Neighbor tool in ArcToolbox, it is evident that the cluster pattern is not random. Most occur on the North Side of Chicago in Lakeview, Uptown, and Rogers Park, with more scattered clusters on the North Side and South Side. This correlates with the reported same-sex couple data. Both men and women report living in same-sex couples in northern Chicago. However, men tend to concentrate in Lakeview, while women tend to concentrate in the northern half of Chicago, but mostly in Uptown and Rogers Park. When the total same-sex couples census data is shown, the same pattern shows. When the Hate Crimes layer is added, it is evident that most Hate Crimes occur in areas with a larger proportion of same-sex couples. By looking at this data alone, this last issue is especially apparent. While it is likely that more hate crimes would occur in an area with more same-sex couples, the pattern does not hold for all of Chicago. On the South Side of Chicago, there are more hate crimes but less reported same-sex couples. While it may be the case that less people report living in same-sex couples on the South Side, it also may be that there are just more hate crimes.

The Gay Bars shapefile layer was irrelevant, I later assumed, because the number of gay bars and correlating hate crimes did not reveal any patterns.

After adding the Density of Hate Crime layer, a certain pattern develops. On the South Side of Chicago, it seems that much of the hate crime is located along the CTA lines. Therefore, the South Side crimes may be related to safety problems due to CTA stations, whether this is due to higher pedestrian traffic, one does not know. After looking at the last figure, it is evident that

unlike on the north side where there is a higher number of reported same-sex couples, there must be a reason for the clustering on the south side.

The location of City of Chicago police stations does not necessarily influence the occurrence of hate crime. In fact, it seems that more sexual orientation-biased hate crimes occur within close proximity to police stations.

Summary and Conclusions

In conclusion, this purpose of this project was to analyze hate crime patterns in Chicago from the years 1997 to 2006. By using sexual orientation-biased hate crimes, census data for same-sex partners, as well as City of Chicago data, I mapped out patterns in Chicago. Based on the data, it is evident that hate crimes do not occur randomly and show a distinct pattern, especially on the northern side of Chicago. Most hate crimes on the north side correlate with the percentage of reported same-sex couples. In the southern half of Chicago, however, it appears that there seem to be more hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation but not necessarily more same-sex couples. The pattern on the South Side also coincides with proximity to CTA train lines. In the future, it may be helpful to do a random survey to better estimate the true number of same-sex couples, as well as a random survey of perceived attitudes about sexual orientation. This may provide better and more accurate results.

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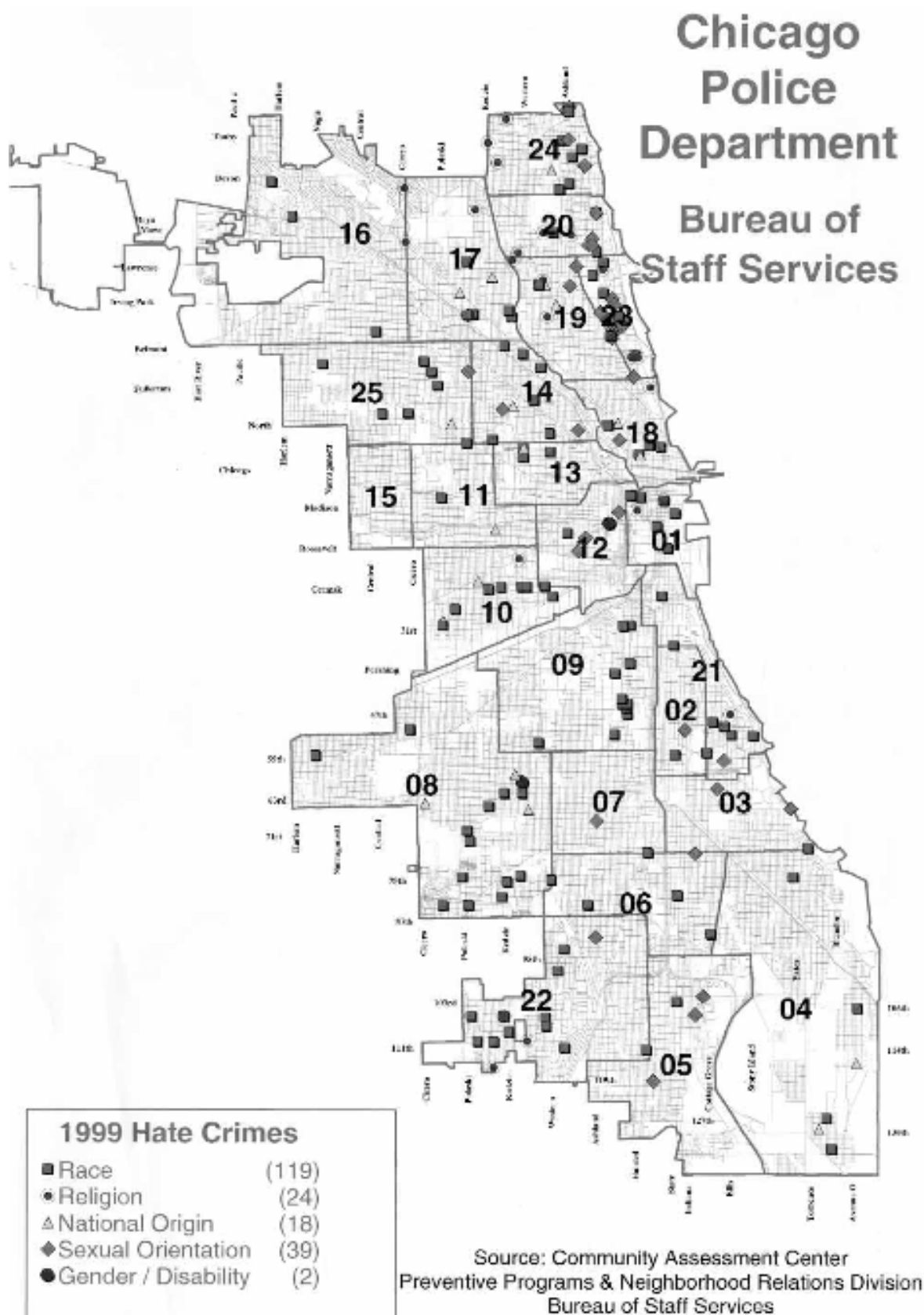
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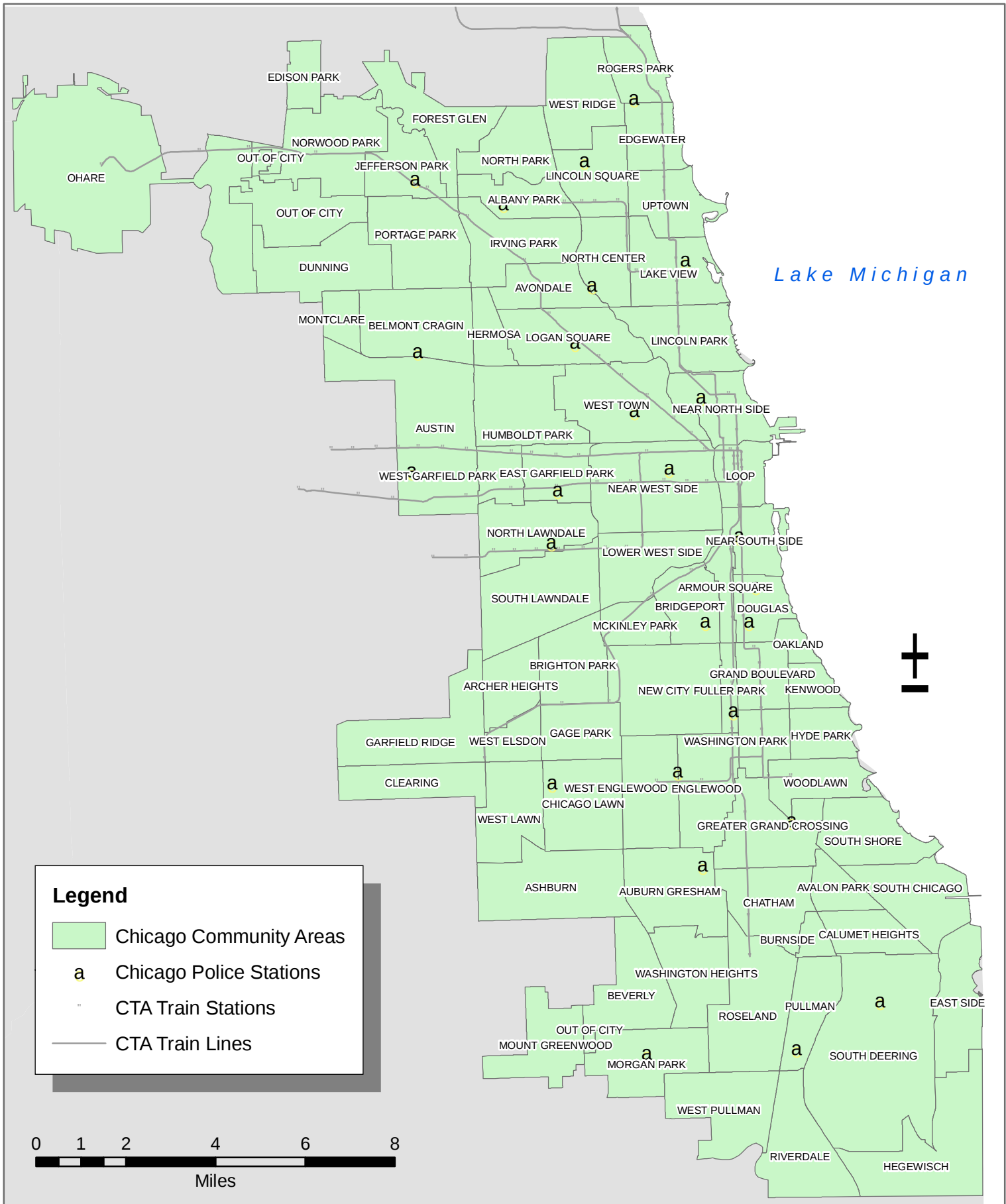
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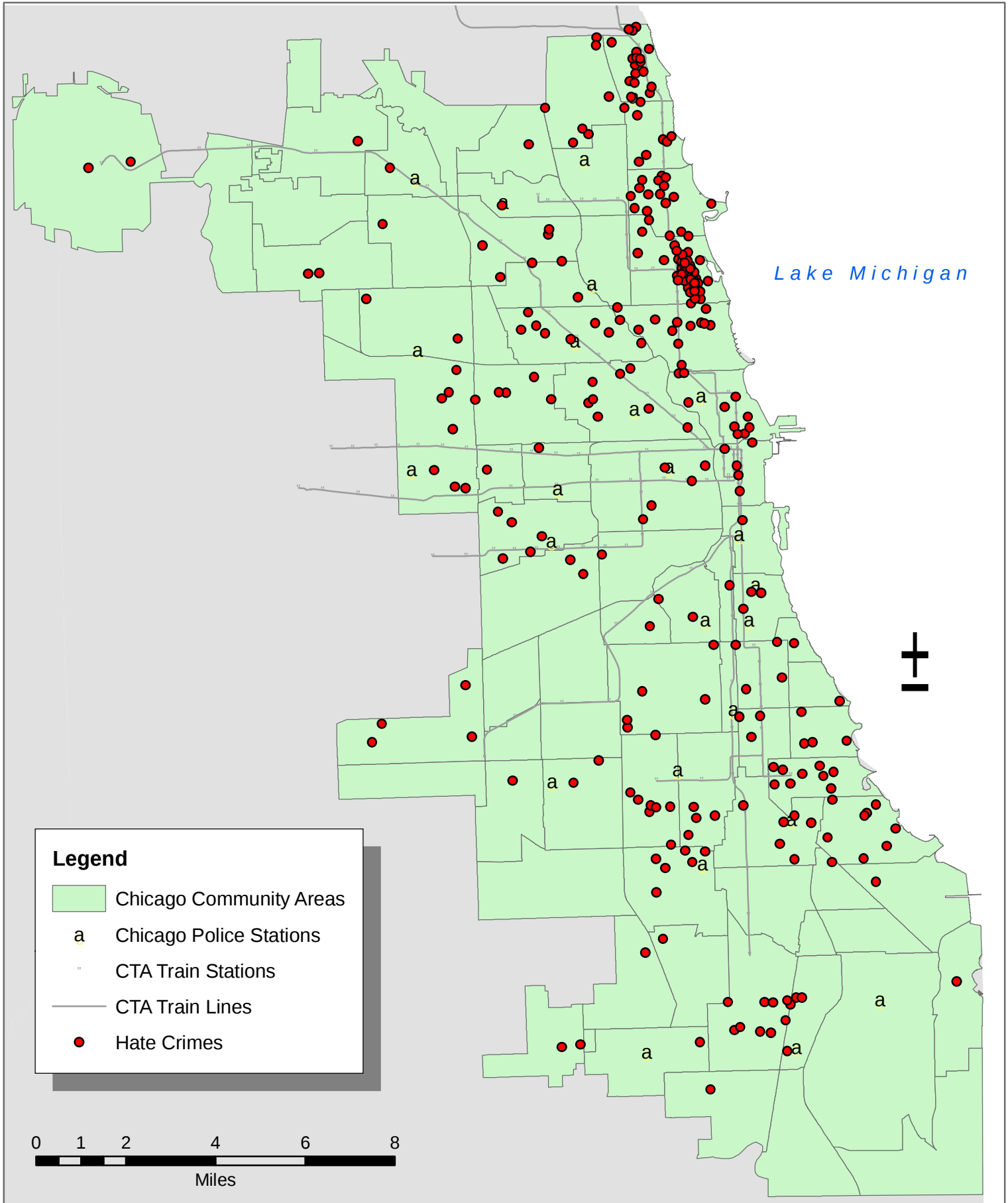
Appendix A



Hate Crimes in Chicago: 1997-2006

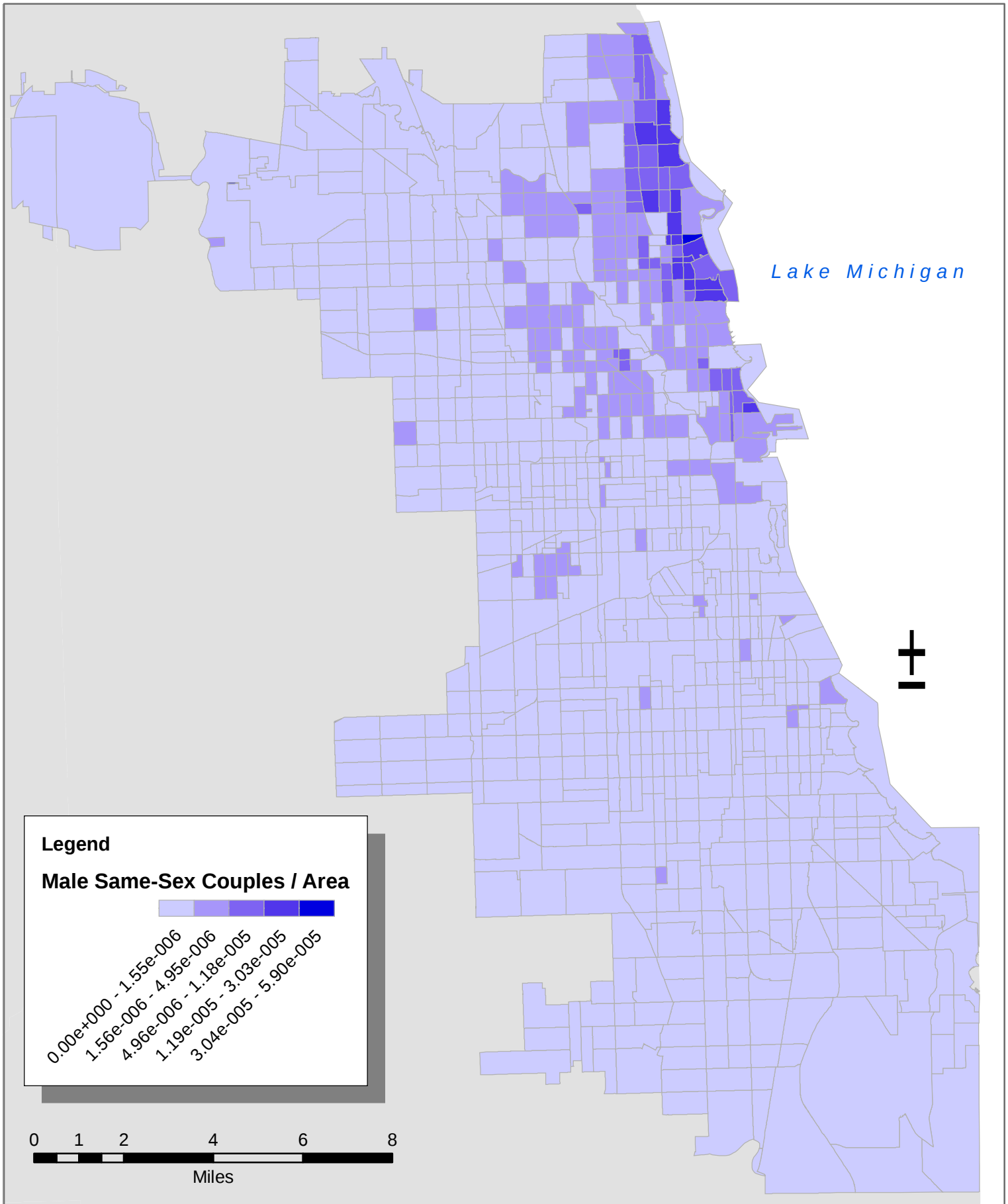


Hate Crimes in Chicago: 1997-2006

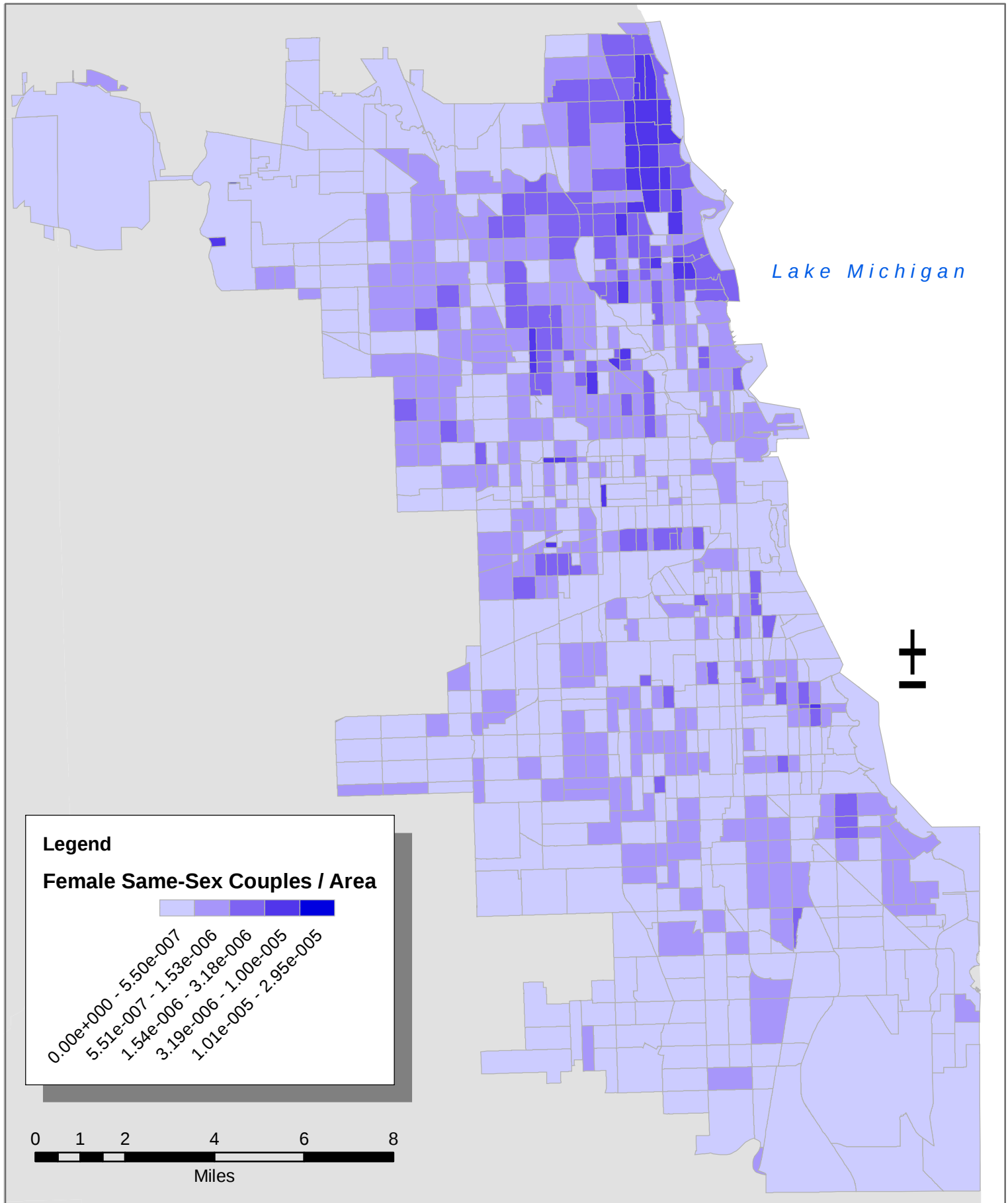


Data Source: Community Area boundaries, Chicago Police Stations, and CTA data from City of Chicago. Approximate hate crime location from the City of Chicago's Annual Hate Crime reports, 1997-2006. Map produced by: Alanah Ryding, 04/2008

Hate Crimes in Chicago: 1997-2006

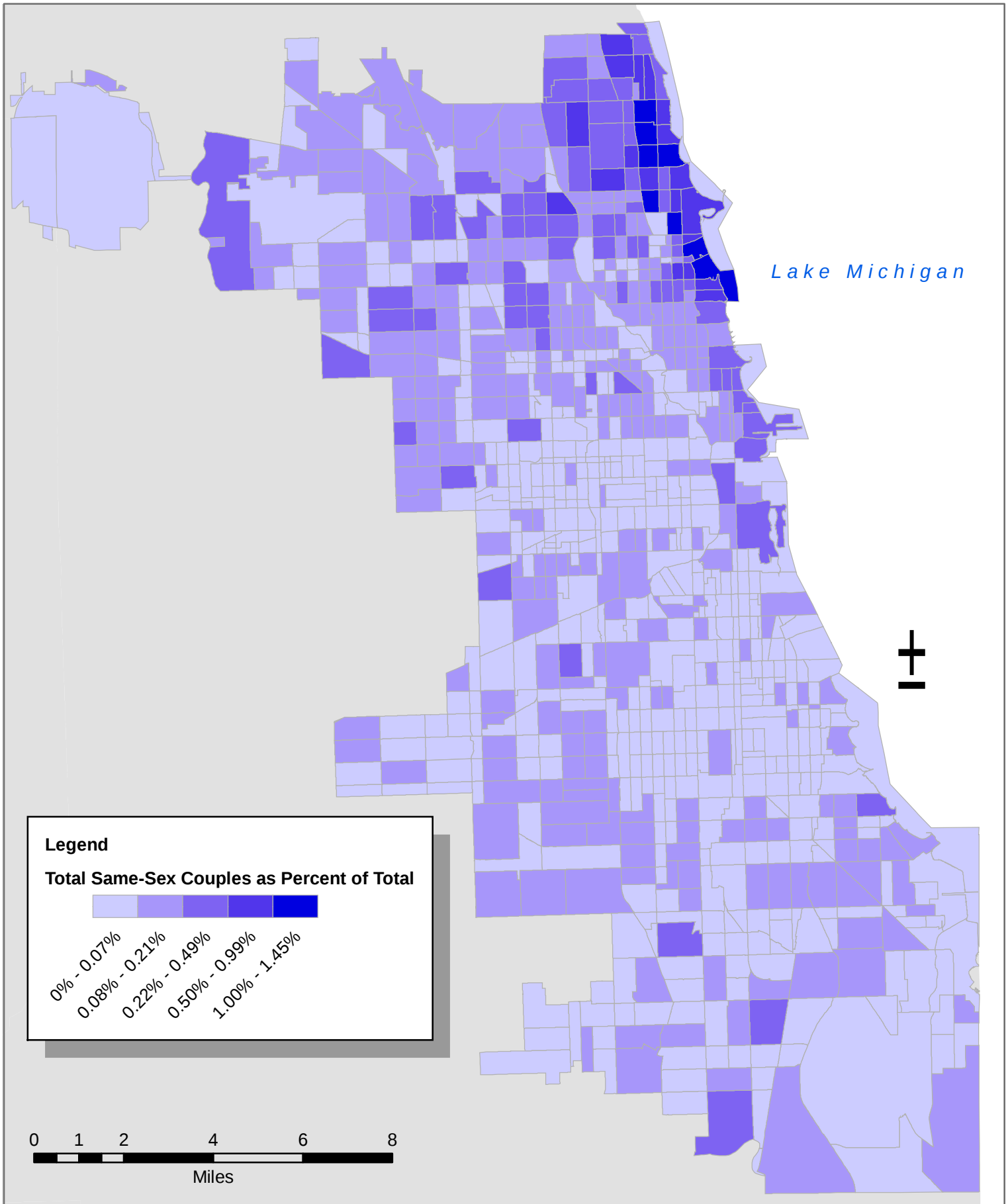


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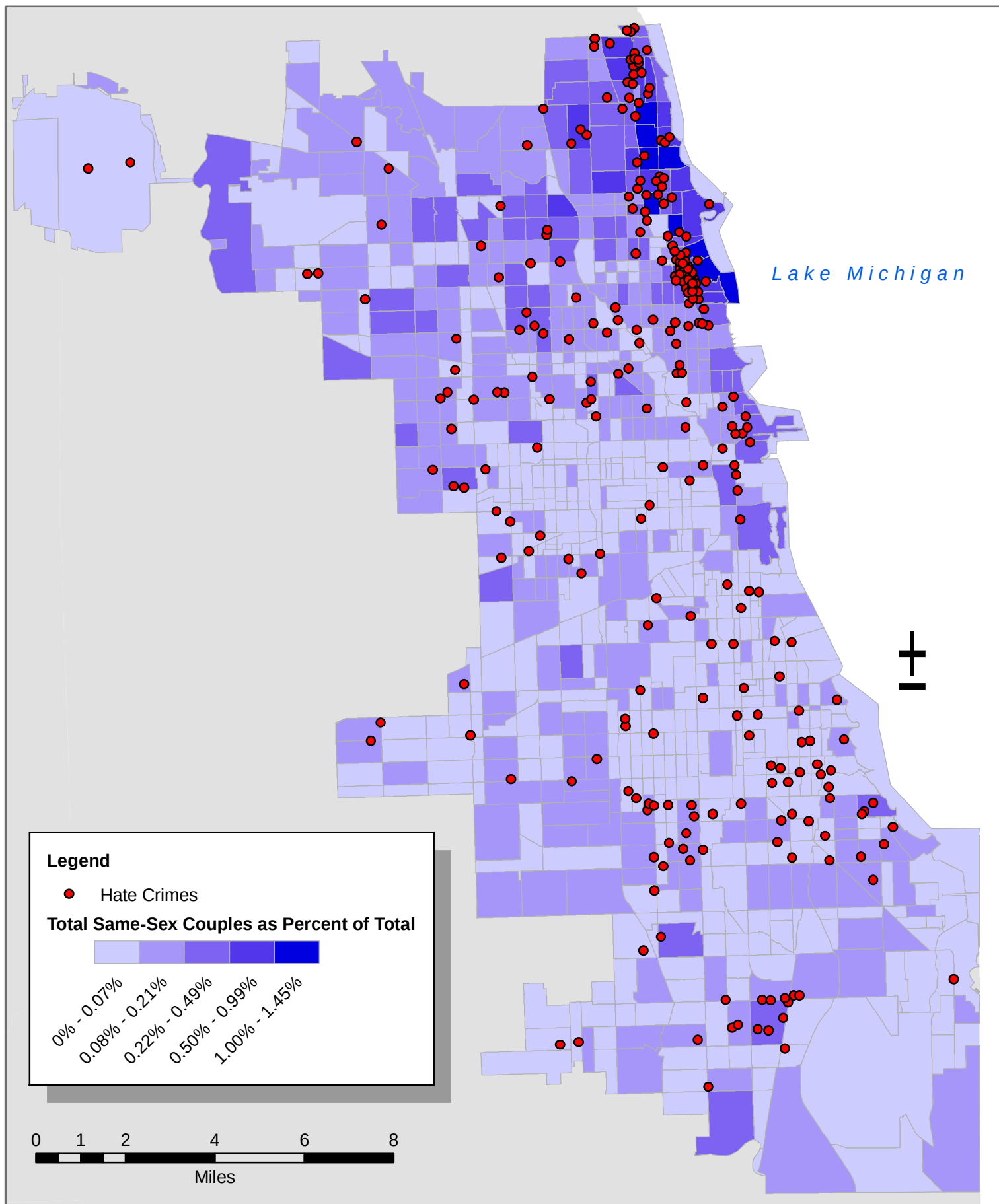


Data Source: Same-Sex partner data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 U.S. Census. Tract boundary file from NHGIS.
 Map produced by: Alanah Ryding, 04/2008

Hate Crimes in Chicago: 1997-2006

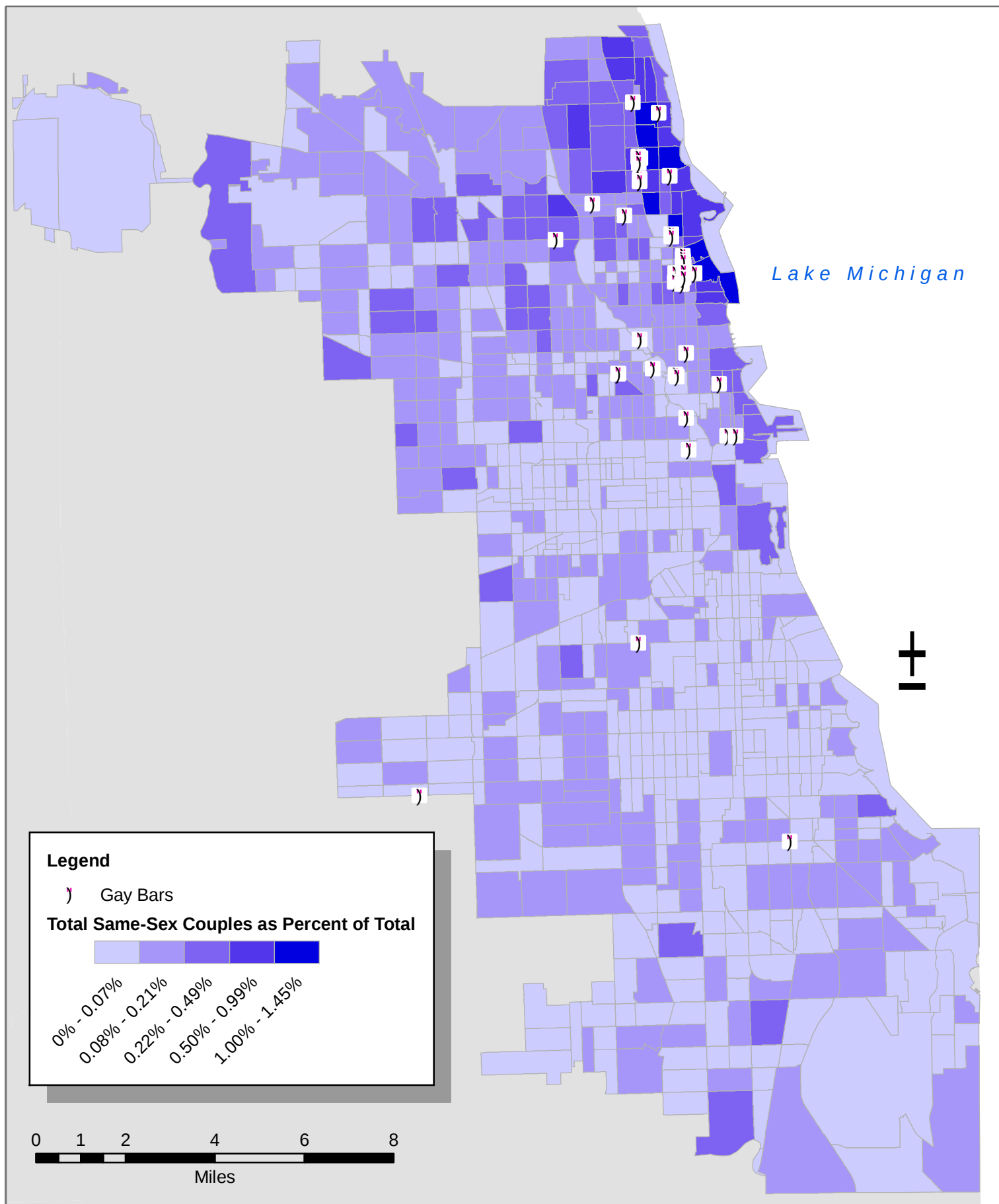


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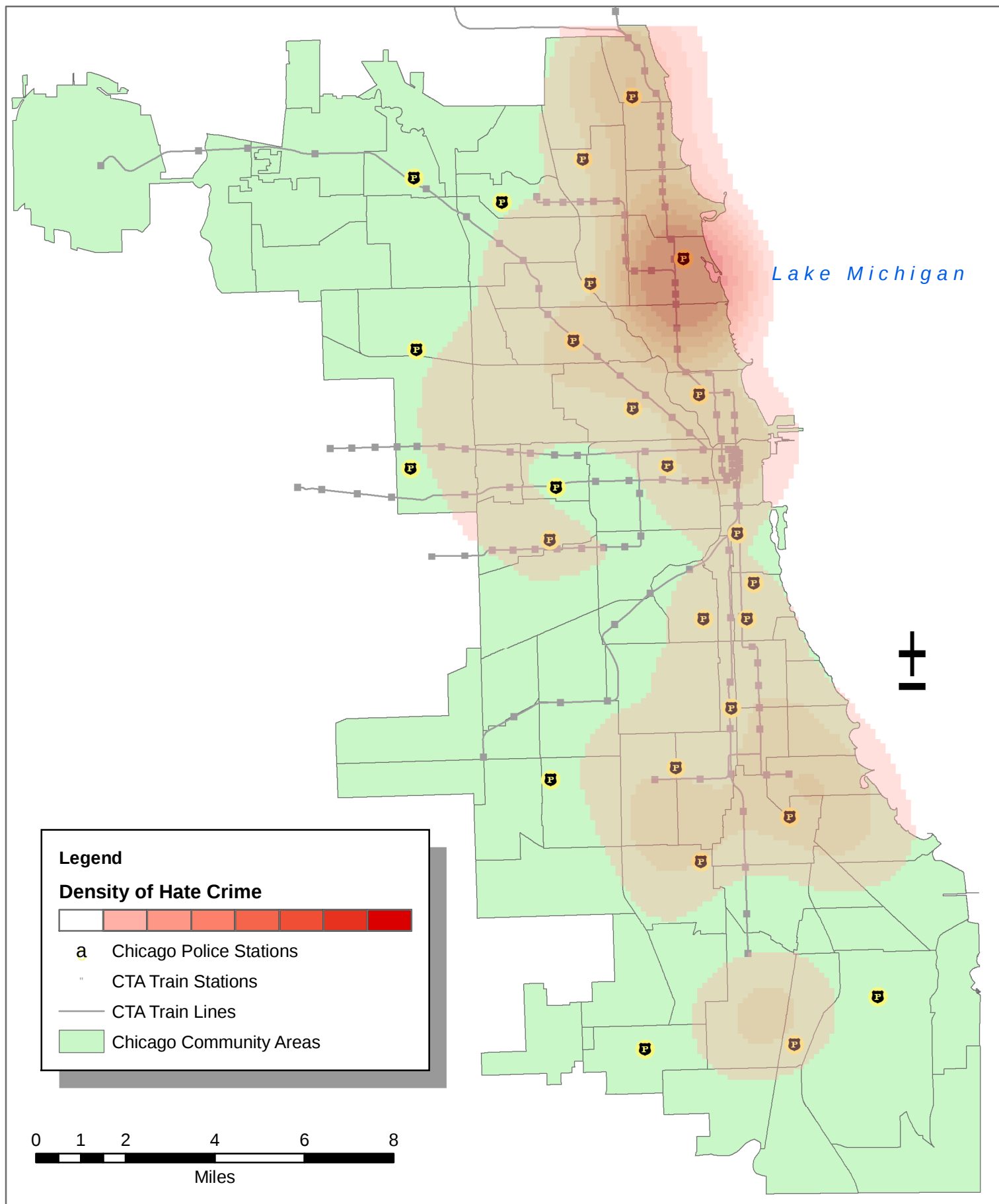
Data Source: Same-Sex partner data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 U.S. Census. Approximate hate crime location from the City of Chicago's Annual Hate Crime reports, 1997-2006. Map produced by: Alanah Ryding, 04/2008

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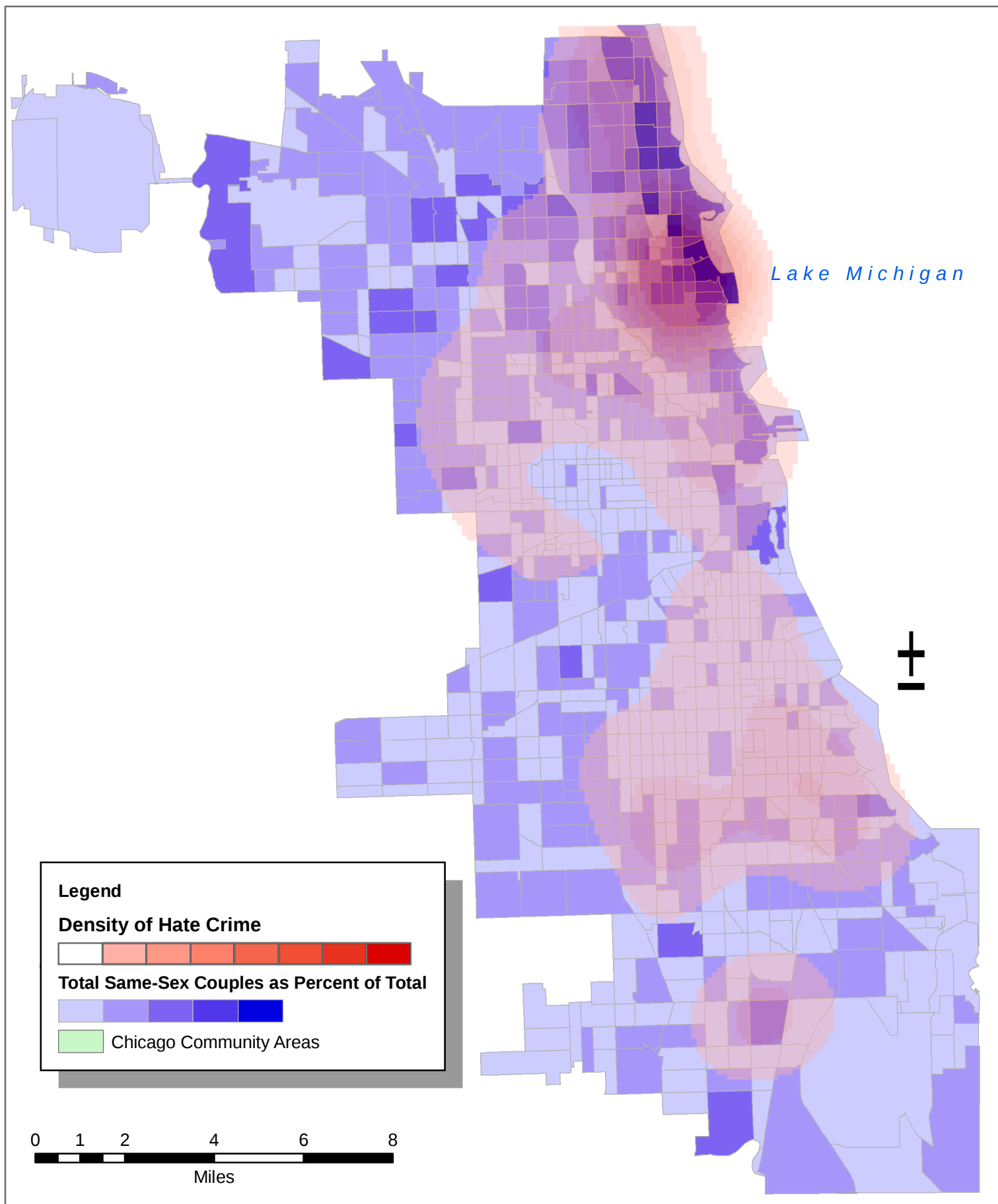
Data Source: Same-Sex partner data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 U.S. Census. Gay bar locations from information collected from Centerstage Chicago.
Map produced by: Alanah Ryding, 04/2008

Hate Crimes in Chicago: 1997-2006



Data Source: CTA, CPD, and Community Areas data from City of Chicago, Density of Hate Crimes calculated with kernel density from Hate Crime points from City of Chicago Map produced by: Alanah Ryding, 04/2008

Hate Crimes in Chicago: 1997-2006



Data Source: 2000 Same-Sex Couple data from U.S. Census Bureau, Density of Hate Crimes calculated with kernel density from Hate Crime points from City of Chicago Map produced by: Alanah Ryding, 04/2008