

RECYCLING: CITIES VERSUS SUBURBS

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HYPOTHESIS

COMPARING THE CORRECT PERCENTAGE OF
RECYCLABLE MATERIAL OF CHICAGO, IL TO
SCHAMBURG, IL

I PREDICT THAT SCHAUMBURG WILL HAVE THE
HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF THE CORRECT MATERIAL

ACTIONS AND METHODS USED

- SAMPLES TAKEN FROM TWO RANDOM BLOCKS IN EACH CITY
- 10 RECYCLING BINS FROM EACH BLOCK
- MATERIALS SORTED OUT AND NON RECYCLABLE MATERIAL SEPERATED FROM THE REST
- THE PERCENTAGE OF THE CORRECT MATERIAL WAS THEN CALCULATED

CHICAGO SAMPLES



CHICAGO



CHICAGO



CHICAGO



CHICAGO



SCHAUMBURG RESULTS



SCHAUMBURG



SCHAUMBURG



SCHAUMBURG

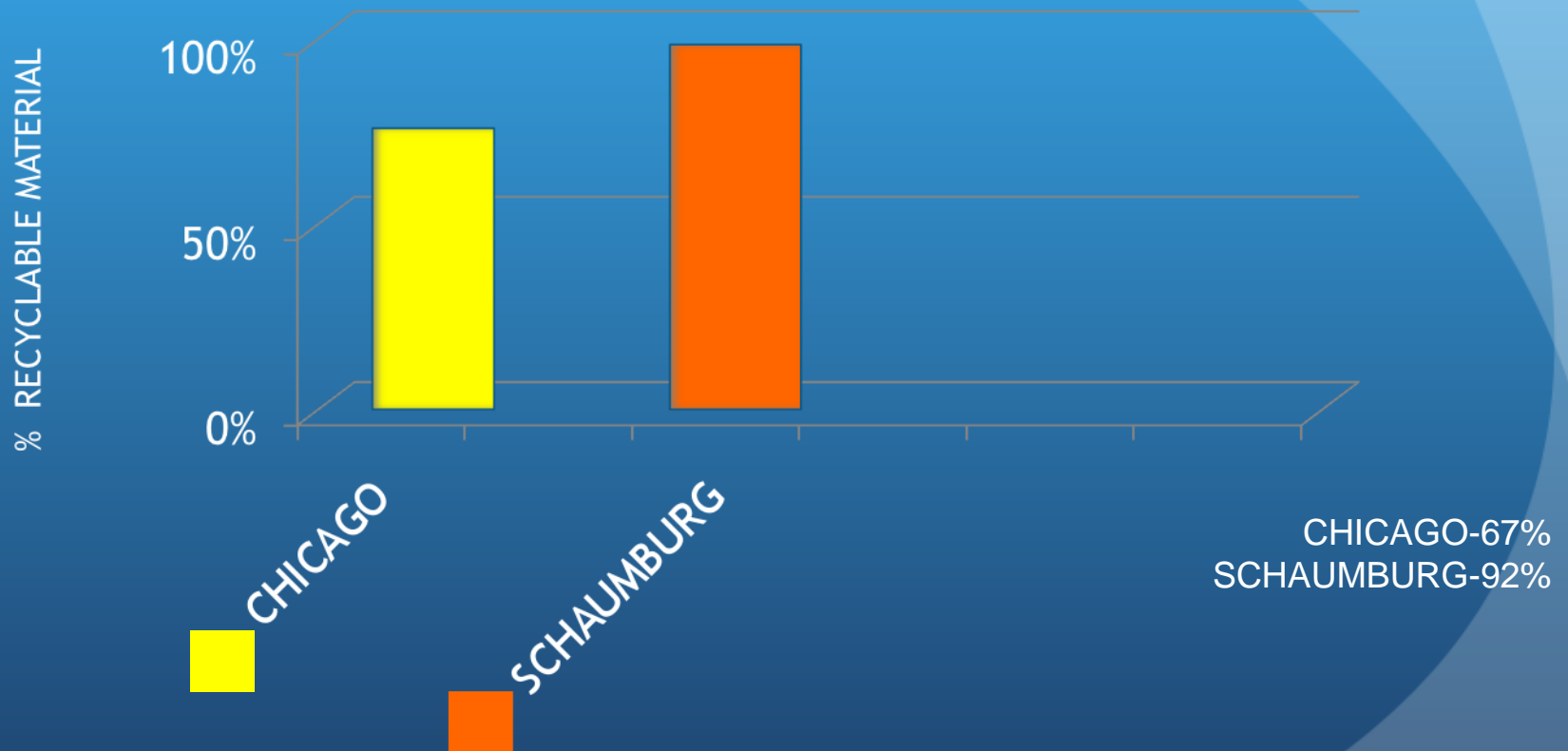


SCHAUMBURG



FIGURE 1: RESULTS

% RECYCLABLE CHICAGO VERSUS SCHAUMBURG



DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

- RESULTS WERE ABOUT WHAT I PREDICTED
- MATERIAL THAT WAS INCORRECT IN SCHAUMBURG WERE:
- STYROFOAM
- NON ACCEPTABLE METAL (COMPUTER SHELLS, SHELVING)

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

- MATERIAL THAT WAS INCORRECT IN CHICAGO WERE:
- USED PLATES, CUPS, PLASTIC UTENSILS
- STYROFOAM
- PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS
- PAINT
- DOG POOP

WHY DID I GET THESE RESULTS?

- CHICAGO IS LESS EDUCATED ON RECYCLING
- CANS ARE OUTSIDE 24/7 IN ALLEYS—ANYONE CAN DUMP ANYTHING INTO CONTAINERS
- HOMELESS PEOPLE MIX UP GARBAGE WITH RECYCLING
- SCHAUMBURG BINS ARE STORED IN GARAGES AND ONLY PUT OUT THE MORNING OF COLLECTION
- SUBURBAN RESIDENTS ARE MORE EDUCATED ON THEIR RECYCLING PROGRAMS

PROBLEMS WITH RESULTS

- CHICAGO BINS ARE MULTI FAMILY MIXED
- CHICAGO BINS ARE LARGER
- CHICAGO BINS ARE COLLECTED TWICE A WEEK
- SCHAUMBURG IS COLLECTED ONCE A WEEK
- MANY DISTRICTS IN CHICAGO DO NOT HAVE RECYCLING BINS. MANY OTHER DISTRICTS ONLY RECENTLY BEGAN USING THE PROGRAM
- SCHAMBURG HAS BEEN RECYCLING FOR OVER 20 YEARS

REFERENCES

- Ando, A & Gosselin, A. (2005) *Recycling in multi-family dwellings: Does convenience matter?* Economic Inquiry 2(43). PP. 426-438.
- Folz, D. (1991) *Recycling program design, management and participation: A national survey of municipal experience.* Public Administration Review 3(51).

NEW QUESTION:

- WILL RECYCLING PERCENTAGES IMPROVE IN CHICAGO 5 YEARS FROM NOW WHEN COMPARED TO CURRENT RESULTS?