

**40 biggest US cities, 1870, with number of pre-1871 clubs (per Protoball, as of 8-2-2020) and clubs per population**

City	Population (in thousands)	Clubs	Thousands Per Club (approximate)
New York City	942	202	4,600
Philadelphia	674	<b>172</b>	<b>3,900</b>
Brooklyn	396	225	1,700
St. Louis	310	85	3,700
Chicago	298	<b>266</b>	1,120
Baltimore	267	<b>69</b>	<b>3,900</b>
Boston	250	<b>78</b>	<b>3,200</b>
Cincinnati	216	<b>120</b>	<b>1,800</b>
New Orleans	191	133	1,450
San Francisco	149	<b>53</b>	<b>2,900</b>
Buffalo	117	82	1,400
Washington DC	109	48	2,300
Newark NJ	105	142	750
Louisville	100	30	3,300
Cleveland	92	<b>50</b>	<b>1,800</b>
Pittsburgh	86	48	1,800
Jersey City NJ	82	147	550
Detroit	79	<b>47</b>	<b>1,700</b>
Milwaukee	71	<b>30</b>	<b>2,400</b>
Albany NY	69	47	1,400
Providence	69	16	4,300
Rochester	62	27	2,300
Allegheny <sup>1</sup>	53	12	4,400
Richmond	51	45	1,100
New Haven	50	18	2,800
Charleston SC	49	49	1,000
Indianapolis	48	39	1,200
Troy	46	20	2,300
Syracuse	43	27	1,600
Worcester	41	5	8,200
Lowell	40	15	2,600
Memphis	40	30	1,300
Cambridge	39	30	1,300
Hartford	37	28	1,300
Scranton	35	15	2,300

Reading	33	24	1,400
Paterson NJ	33	44	750
Kansas City	32	10	3,200
Mobile	32	17	1,900
Toledo	31	8	3,800

Obviously, clubs changed their names and the “same” club may be listed 2 or more times under these names. Also, number of clubs are not a perfect proxy for the growth of baseball in these towns. How many clubs we have in each city depends on the newspaper coverage for that city, and whether a thorough search has been made to try and list all the clubs through 1870.

With all these caveats, a few patterns emerge.

- 1) The cities where baseball first was played have more clubs per thousand population. Which should come as no surprise. See the three NJ cities especially.
- 2) Chicago stands out among the “later” cities, due in large measure to the local newspaper’s obsessive coverage of amateur baseball, plus my trying to find, and enter, EVERY club through 1870.
- 3) The Brooklyn, Philadelphia and NYC club totals would undoubtedly be greater if the Tholkes RIM were fully input into Protoball.
- 4) Given the above patterns, the clubs per thousand in these big cities are pretty comparable one city to the next.
- 5) The Southern cities (Richmond, Memphis, New Orleans, Charleston, Mobile) have about the same percentage of clubs to population as the Midwest cities. Which suggests a pre-1871 uniform growth of baseball outside GNYC.
- 6) The city boundaries were fluid during this time. For example, Boston annexed Roxbury in 1868 and Dorchester in 1870, but the Boston club numbers don’t reflect Roxbury or Dorchester clubs.
- 7) The numbers suggest which cities where further research on baseball should be focused, notably Worcester MA and Toledo OH. Neither city had a newspaper that is online today, confirming how vital local newspaper coverage was/is to these club numbers.

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<sup>1</sup> Pittsburgh and Allegheny were really one city. The combined city had 139,000 residents and 60 clubs, with 1 club to every 2,300 residents.