

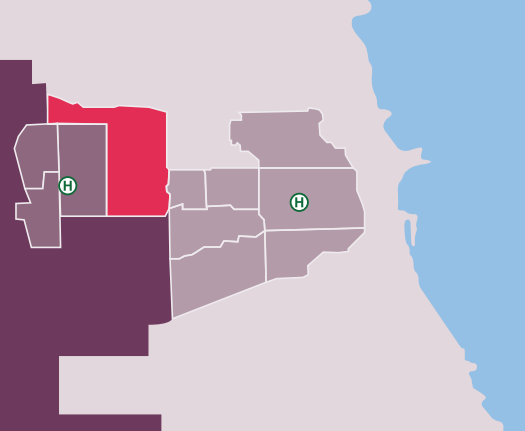
RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Community Snapshot: Austin



Adopted on June 8, 2016

Austin



Seven miles west of the Loop on the western border of Chicago, Austin is the largest community area in the city in terms of both size and population. Long a middle-class community with many residents who commuted to work downtown, Austin's demographic, like those of other West Side neighborhoods, began to shift in the 1960s from mostly white to mostly African American, although its population has not declined as much as others'. A neighborhood centerpiece, Columbus Park, drew people to the area after its opening in 1920, deteriorated through the 1960s and was extensively restored in 1992.

In 2015, the Austin Coming Together network of residents and business owners released its "Agenda 2025" plan for coordinating community development and improving Austin's quality of life over the next decade. The plan aims to improve four indicators of community well-being: the percentage of third-grade students in Austin public schools who meet or exceed state reading and math standards; the number of families living below the federal poverty line; the rate of violent crime; and median residential property values.



We are a very strong community. We are a small business-based community in that we have quite a few vibrant small businesses within the ward. We also host one of the largest corporations in the country... Mars, the makers of M&Ms.

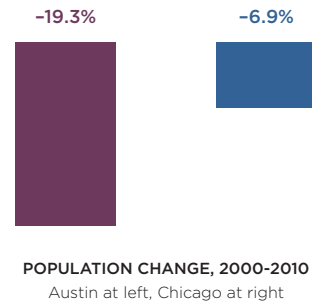
- RUMC focus group participant from Austin

HIC survey participants asked how common violence is in their community: 65% said "extremely" or "very."



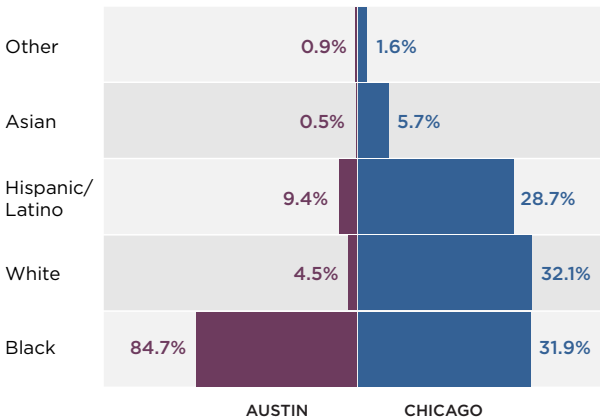
Who lives here?

- **97,997** people live in Austin. The average household size is **3.0** people, compared to an average Chicago household size of **2.6** people.¹
- Austin is more densely populated than Chicago overall, with a population per square mile of **13,711.0** people compared to **11,841.8** people per square mile in Chicago.²
- Between 2000 and 2010, Austin's population decreased by **19.3%**, placing it in the highest quartile of population decline among the communities served by Rush. In Chicago overall, the population decreased by **6.9%** during the same period.³



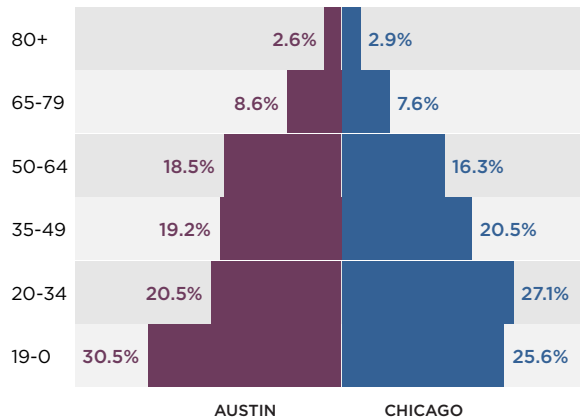
RACE AND ETHNICITY⁴

The population in Austin is mostly African American.



AGE⁵

The population in Austin is very slightly older than the city of Chicago average, with a median age of **34.1** as compared to the citywide average of **33.3**.



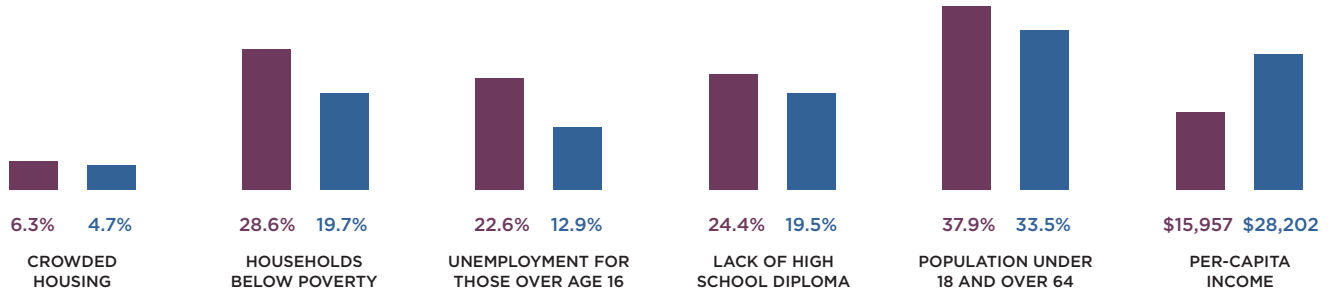
HIC survey participants asked how much neighbors trust and look out for each other: 53.4% said “a little/none/not at all.”



What are the potential barriers to good health?

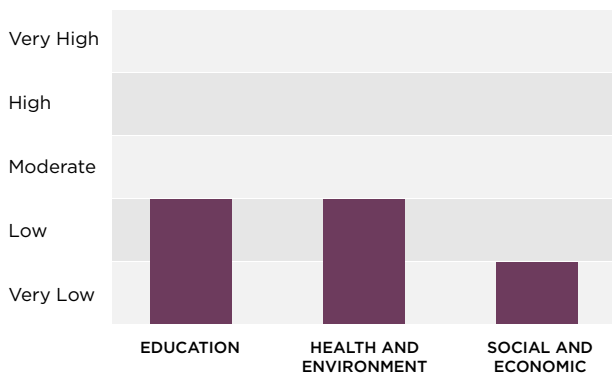
HARDSHIP INDEX⁶

Austin's hardship index is **73**, based on the following statistics (*Austin at left, Chicago at right*):



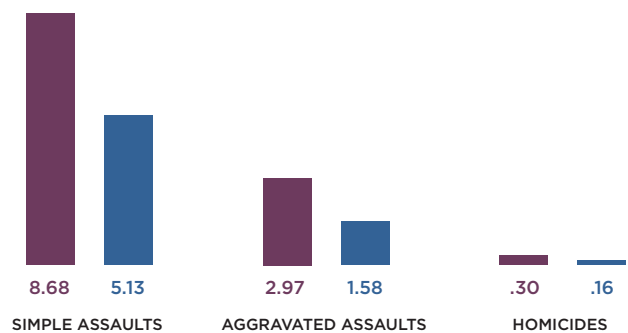
CHILD OPPORTUNITY INDEX⁷

The Child Opportunity Index (COI) assigns a “low” ranking to Austin’s educational opportunities; “low” to health and environmental opportunities; and “very low” to social and economic opportunities. This gives the neighborhood an overall COI ranking of **“very low.”**



CRIME⁸

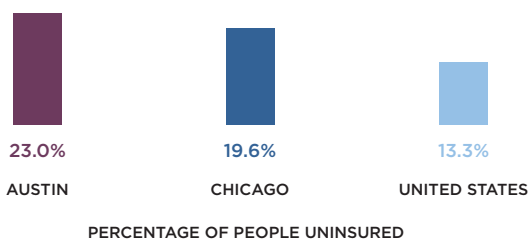
Austin is in the second quartile of communities served by Rush for its rate of crimes against people, including simple assault, aggravated assault and homicide.



NUMBER REPORTED PER 1,000 RESIDENTS, 2013
Austin at left, Chicago at right

LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE⁹

Austin residents have health insurance at a lower rate than residents of the rest of the city. Chicago’s percentage of people without insurance is significantly higher than the percentage in the U.S. overall, which is 13.3% of the population.¹⁰



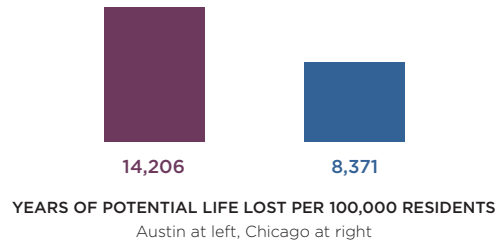
Obamacare and CountyCare did a lot for opening doors for people who previously didn’t have those types of services.

- RUMC focus group participant from Austin

What is the impact of the barriers?

YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST¹¹

Austin ranks **13th** among Chicago's 77 neighborhoods in total number of years of potential life lost annually. Annual years of potential life lost per 100,000 residents aged 75 and younger due to selected causes of death: **14,206**.



What resources make life better?

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Some of Austin's community assets include the following:

Hospital

Loretto Hospital

Grocery store

Aldi

Public parks

Austin Park
Austin Town Hall Park
Columbus Park
Cottonwood Playlot Park
Moore Park
Hubbard Playlot Park
Kinzie Parkway Park
Levin Park
Sweet Clover Playlot Park

Pharmacy

Walgreens

Schools

Little Folks Cottage Kindergarten & Nursery (Private, PK, K)
Little Leaders of Tomorrow (Private, Daycare, PK, K)
West Austin Development Center (Private, Daycare, PK-K)
George Rogers Clark, Depriest, Ellington, Howe, Leland, Spencer (Public, PK-8)
Plato Learning Academy (Contract, K-8)
Catalyst-Circle Rock (Charter, K-8)
Chicago Jesuit Academy (Roman Catholic, All Boys, 6-9)
Michele Clark Magnet High School (Magnet, 6-12)
Douglass (Public, 9-12)
Austin Poly, Austin Business and Entrepreneurship Academy, VOISE (Magnet, 9-12)
Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School (Roman Catholic, 9-12)
Academy of Scholastic Achievement (Charter, 10-12)

Churches with which Rush has affiliations

Helping Hand M.B. Church
Hope Community Church
No. 2 New Mt. Sinai M.B. Church

Neighborhood organization

Austin Coming Together

ENDNOTES

- ¹ MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, Austin, www.cmap.illinois.gov/.
- ² www.governing.com/gov-data/population-density-land-area-cities-map.html.
- ³ MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, Austin.
- ⁴ MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, Austin.
- ⁵ MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, Austin.
- ⁶ data.cityofchicago.org/Health-Human-Services/hardship-index/792q-4jtu.
- ⁷ www.diversitydatakids.org/data/childopportunitymap/3310/chicago-joliet-naperville.
- ⁸ www.chicagohealthatlas.org/place/austin.
- ⁹ www.chicagohealthatlas.org/place/austin.
- ¹⁰ www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/health-insurance.htm.
- ¹¹ data.cityofchicago.org/Health-Human-Services/Public-Health-Statistics-Selected-underlying-cause/j6cj-r444.