

RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

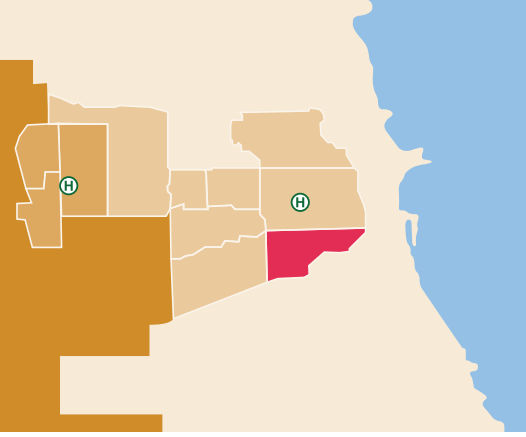
Community Snapshot: Lower West Side



 RUSH

Adopted on June 8, 2016

Lower West Side



Three miles southwest of the Loop, the Lower West Side includes two distinct neighborhoods. The older one, more commonly known as Pilsen after the Czech city from which many of its early residents came, was originally an industrial neighborhood that included lumberyards, breweries and foundries. The other, called Heart of Chicago, falls between Pilsen and South Lawndale and was settled by German and Irish immigrants, along with Polish, Slovenian and Italian residents. Beginning in the Great Depression and continuing through World War II and the 1950s, the neighborhood's industrial anchors started to close down or move to the suburbs. Mexican-American families began to move into the area, which has evolved into the city's primary point of entry for that immigrant group.

Lower West Side residents have started a number of nonprofit organizations and community development corporations to help strengthen their neighborhood. For example, the Resurrection Project, founded in 1990, is one of the city's strongest community development corporations and has made community investments of more than \$346 million, building owner-occupied housing, rental housing and community centers.



People don't know about ...the resources available to them. They have the potential to do something very well; we just need a bit of help.

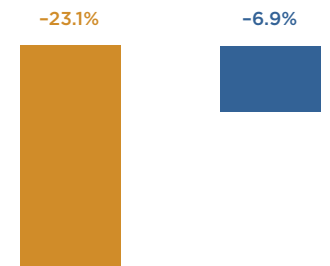
- RUMC focus group participant from the Lower West Side

HIC survey participants asked how common violence is in their community: 72.8% said "extremely" or "very."



Who lives here?

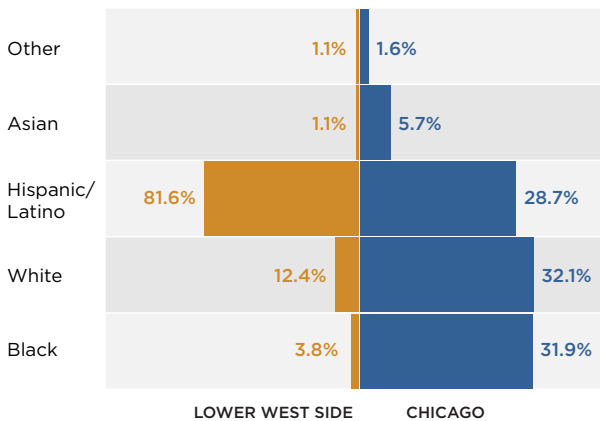
- **35,353** people live on the Lower West Side. The average household size is **2.9** people, compared to an average Chicago household size of **2.6** people.¹
- Population density on the Lower West Side is similar to that of Chicago overall, with a population per square mile of **12,085.2** people as compared to **11,841.8** people per square mile in Chicago.²
- Between 2000 and 2010, the Lower West Side's population decreased by **23.1%**. In Chicago overall, the population decreased by **6.9%** during the same period.³



POPULATION CHANGE, 2000-2010
Lower West Side at left, Chicago at right

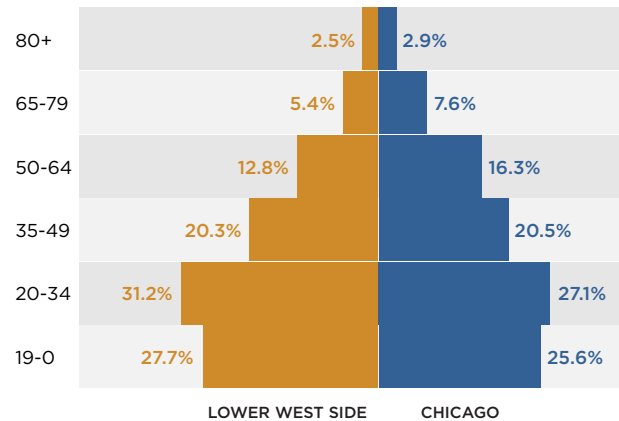
RACE AND ETHNICITY⁴

The population on the Lower West Side is mostly Hispanic or Latino.



AGE⁵

The population on the Lower West Side is slightly younger than the city of Chicago average, with a median age of **30.0** as compared to the citywide average of **33.3**.



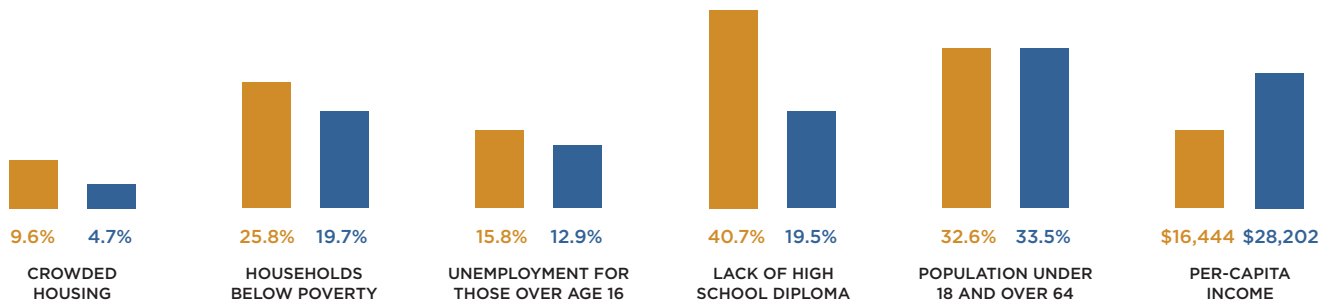
HIC survey participants asked how much neighbors trust and look out for each other: 52.4% said “a little/none/not at all.”



What are the potential barriers to good health?

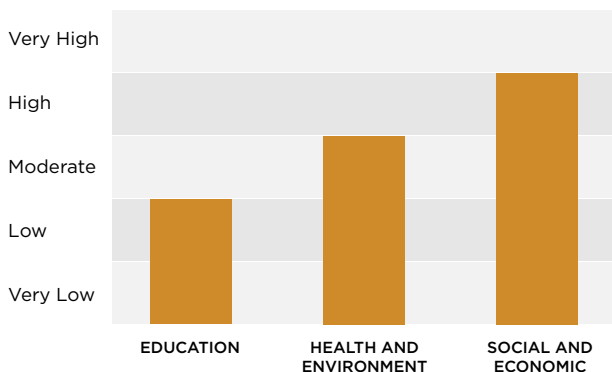
HARDSHIP INDEX⁶

The Lower West Side's hardship index is **76**, based on the following statistics (*Lower West Side at left, Chicago at right*):



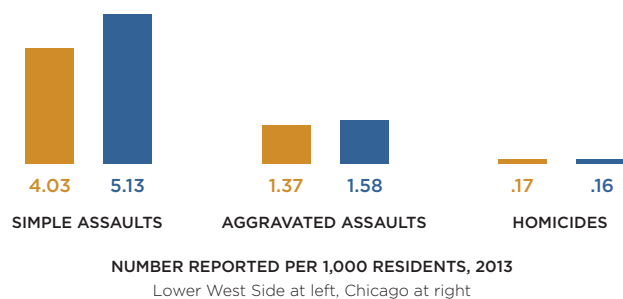
CHILD OPPORTUNITY INDEX⁷

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



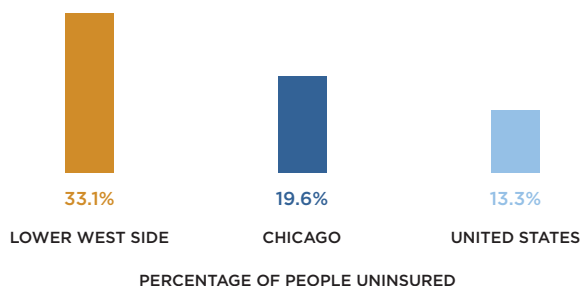
CRIME⁸

The Lower West Side is in the lowest quartile of communities served by Rush for its rate of crimes against people, including simple assault, aggravated assault and homicide.



LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE⁹

Lower West Side residents have health insurance at a significantly lower rate than residents of the rest of the city. Of note: 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



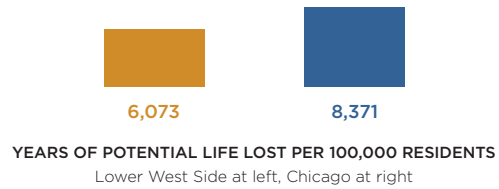
There are a lot of hospitals, but they are not interested in helping us out.

- RUMC focus group participant from the Lower West Side

What is the impact of the barriers?

YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST¹¹

The Lower West Side ranks **50th** 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: **6,073**.



What resources make life better?

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Some of the Lower West Side's community assets include the following:

Public parks

Addams/Medill Park
Baraga Playlot Park
Barrett Park
Bosley Playground Park
Canal Origins
Dvorak Park
Florian S. Jacolik Park
Guadalupe Reyes Park
Harrison Park
Hoyne Playground Park
Kucinski-Murphy Park
McGuane Park
Mulberry Playlot Park
Palmisano Park
Park No. 571
Throop Park
Wilson Community Center Park
Wilson (John P.) Park

Community-based health centers

ACCESS Cabrini Family Health Center
ACCESS Pilsen Family Health Center
Alivio Medical Center
Alivio Medical Center - Western
Lower West Neighborhood Health Center

School-based health center

Jose Clemente Orozco Academy

CHA housing

Apartamentos Las Americas
Senior Suites of Bridgeport

Nursing facility

El Valor Residence

Mental health center

Pilsen Wellness Center

Childcare centers

Chicago Commons Guadalupano Family Center
Daly Day Care Center
El Hogar Del Niño
El Valor: Guadalupe Reyes Children and Family Center
Fellowship House Day Care Center
Gads Hill Center
Lil' Einstein's Institute for Scholars
Rauner YMCA
Richard J. Daley/AVI-CDC
Smart Learning Center

Grocery stores

Aldi
Mariano's

Pharmacies

CVS
Walgreens

Schools

City Garden Early Childhood Center (Daycare/Preschool, PK, K)
Cooper, Everett (Public, PK-5)
Armour, Holden, Finkl, Jungman, Orozco, Perez, Pickard, Pilsen, Ruiz, Walsh, Whittier (Public, PK-8)
St. Ann, St. Barbara, St. Paul-Our Lady of Vilna, St. Pius V, St. Procopius (Roman Catholic, PK-8)
Uno-De Las Casas (Charter, K-8)
Juarez (Public, 9-12)
Instituto-Health, Instituto-Lozano, Instituto-Lozano Mastery (Charter, 9-12)
Cristo Rey Jesuit (Roman Catholic, 9-12)
De La Salle Institute-Lourdes Hall Campus (Roman Catholic, All Girls, 9-12)
Latino Youth (Alternative School, 9-12)

Neighborhood organization

Resurrection Project

ENDNOTES

- ¹ MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, Lower West Side, www.cmap.illinois.gov/.
- ² www.governing.com/gov-data/population-density-land-area-cities-map.html.
- ³ MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, Lower West Side.
- ⁴ MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, Lower West Side.
- ⁵ MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, Lower West Side.
- 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/lower_west_side.
- ⁹ www.chicagohealthatlas.org/place/lower_west_side.
- ¹⁰ www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/health-insurance.htm.
- ¹¹ data.cityofchicago.org/Health-Human-Services/Public-Health-Statistics-Selected-underlying-cause/j6cj-r444.