

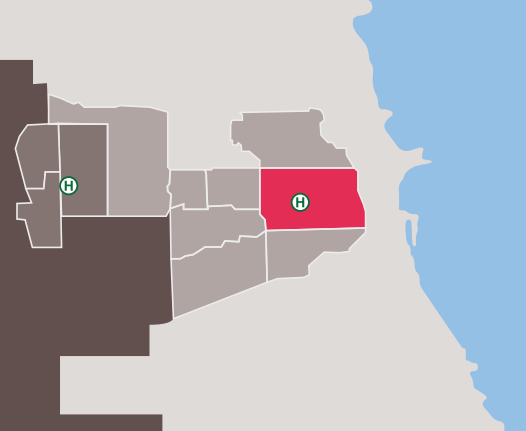
RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Community Snapshot: Near West Side



Adopted on June 8, 2016

Near West Side



The Near West Side, two miles west of the Loop, has been a diverse and densely populated neighborhood for nearly 200 years. It was home to the first African-American settlement in Chicago, as well as Irish, German, Czech, Bohemian, French, Russian, Polish, Italian and Greek immigrants. Later, more African-American residents as well as Mexican residents moved to the area. In 1889, Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr founded Hull House, a settlement house on Halsted Street that grew into one of the most influential social-services organizations in the nation. Its programs, which served thousands of people on a 13-building campus, included everything from child care and a residence for working women to cultural and educational activities.

The landscape of the neighborhood has changed dramatically since the mid 20th century, with the construction of the Circle interchange, the University of Illinois at Chicago and the United Center sports arena. The Near West Side Community Development Corporation, founded in 1988, brings together residents, churches, community groups and government officials to help ensure that the revival of the neighborhood does not displace longtime residents.



This area [has] changed a whole lot. Because I stayed in Rockwell projects right there. ...It looks better down here now. They are opening a lot of new stores and everything, you know? And it looks real nice.

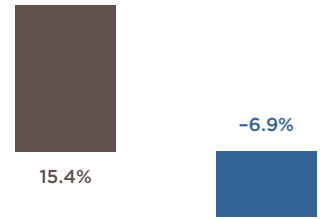
- RUMC focus group participant from the Near West Side

HIC survey participants asked how common violence is in their community: 39% said “extremely” or “very.”



Who lives here?

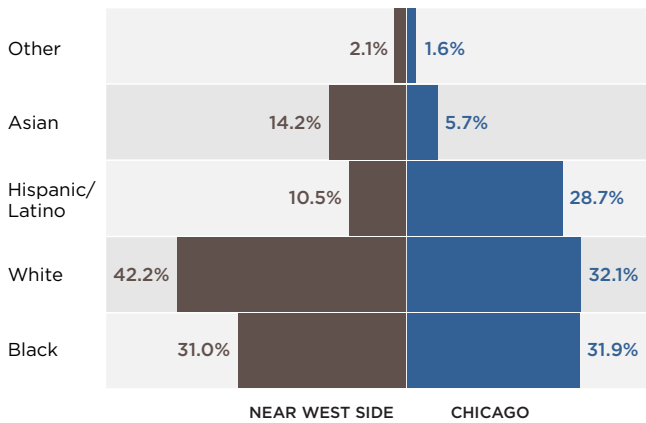
- **55,877** people live on the Near West Side. The average household size is **2.0** people, compared to an average Chicago household size of **2.6** people.¹
- The Near West Side is less densely populated than Chicago overall, with a population per square mile of **9,828.6** people compared to **11,841.8** people per square mile in Chicago.²
- Between 2000 and 2010, the Near West Side's population increased by **15.4%** — a significant difference from population change in Chicago overall, where the population decreased by **6.9%** during the same period.³



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

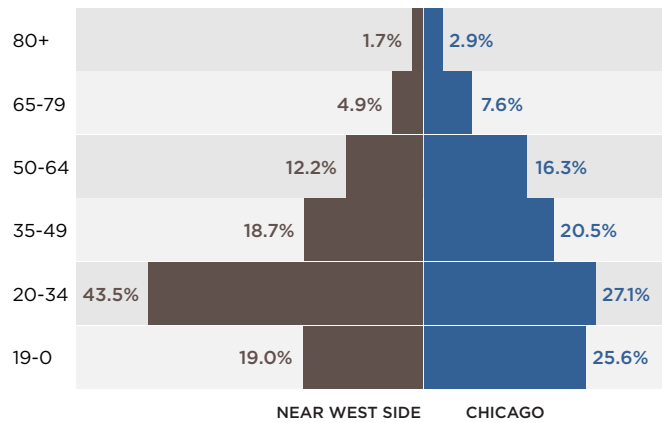
RACE AND ETHNICITY⁴

The population of the Near West Side is racially diverse.



AGE⁵

The population of the Near West Side is slightly younger than the city of Chicago average, with a median age of **31.0** as compared to the citywide average of **33.3**.



I think there's a pretty strong sense of...community; a lot of people have lived in the same area...for a long time, so people are pretty familiar with their neighbors and pretty integrated into their community in that way.

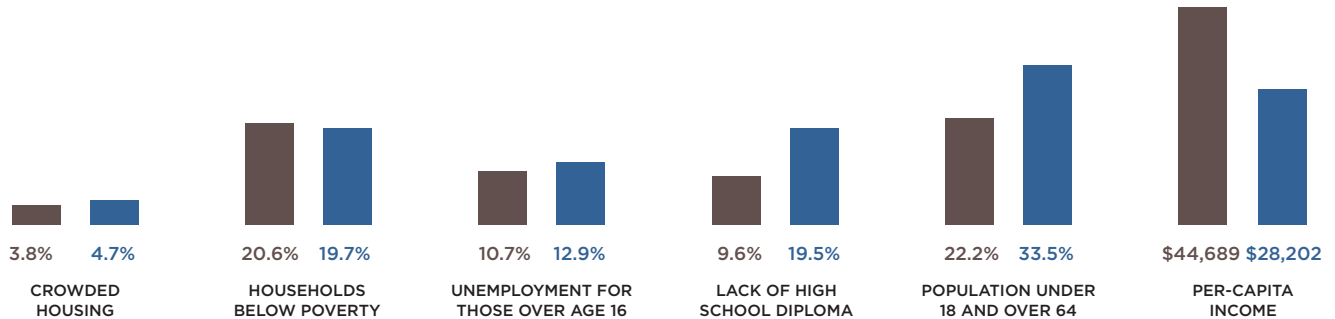
- RUMC focus group participant from the Near West Side



What are the potential barriers to good health?

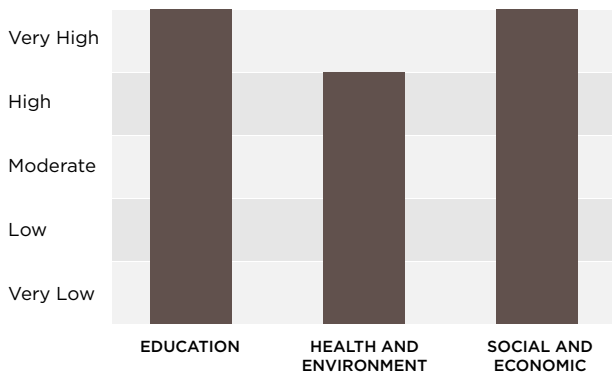
HARDSHIP INDEX⁶

The Near West Side's hardship index is **15**, based on the following statistics (*Near West Side at left, Chicago at right*):



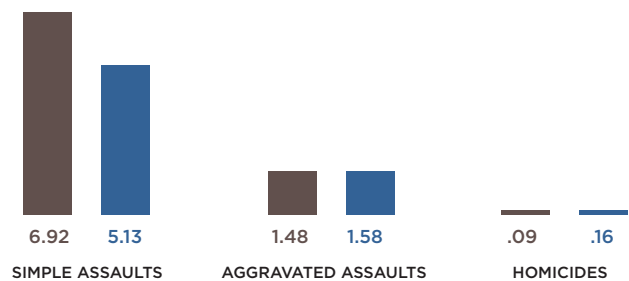
CHILD OPPORTUNITY INDEX⁷

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



CRIME⁸

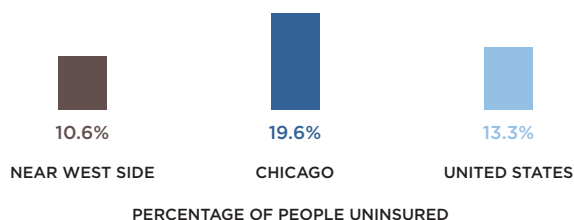
The Near West Side is in the second quartile of communities served by Rush for its rate of crimes against people, including simple assault, aggravated assault and homicide.



NUMBER REPORTED PER 1,000 RESIDENTS, 2013
Near West Side at left, Chicago at right

LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE⁹

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



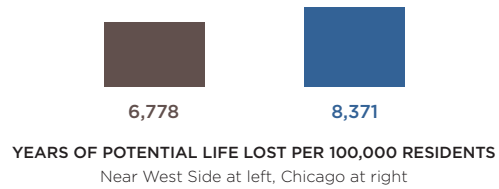
If you have a medical card, they’ll only do so much. ...They know what Medicare and Medicaid will pay for. They’re not going to do anything extra, no pro bono, none of that.

- RUMC focus group participant from the Near West Side

What is the impact of the barriers?

YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST¹¹

The Near West Side ranks **39th** 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: **6,778**.



What resources make life better?

COMMUNITY ASSETS

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

Hospitals

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County
Rush University Medical Center
UI Health

Public parks

Mary Bartelme Park
Sheridan Park
Skinner Park

Community-based health centers

ACCESS Community Health Network
Mile Square Health Center
Pacific Garden Mission Health Clinic

School-based health center

Hope Health and Wellness Center
Mile Square School Based Clinics
Rush School-Based Health Center at Crane Medical Preparatory
Rush School-Based Health Center at Simpson Academy for Young Women

Mental health centers

Haymarket Center
Lawndale Mental Health Center

CHA housing

Jackson Square at West End
Oakley Square Apartment
Patrick Sullivan Apartments
Westhaven Park/Village of Westhaven
Wicker Park Apartments and Annex

Childcare centers

Laurance Armour Day School
Malcolm X College Child Development Center
Easter Seals Gilchrist-Marchman Child Development Center
The Northern Trust Child Care Center

Nursing facility

Monroe Pavilion Health Treatment Center

Pharmacies

CVS
Taylor Street Pharmacy (UIC)
Walgreens

Grocery stores

Costco
Jewel-Osco
Whole Foods

Colleges and universities

Malcolm X College
Rush University
University of Illinois at Chicago

Schools

Rudolph (Special Education, PK-5)
Intercultural Montessori Language School (Montessori, PK-6)
Brown W, Dett, Irving (Public, PK-8)
Skinner (Classical, PK-8)
Suder (Magnet, PK-8)
Chicago Lighthouse (Special Education, PK-12)
Galileo, Jackson, Stem, Smyth (Magnet, K-8)
Rush Day School (Special Education, 1-8)
Simpson Academy for Young Women (Alternative, 6-12)
Chicago Tech (Contract, 9-12)
Crane Medical Preparatory (Magnet, 9-12)
Legal Prep, Noble-Bulls, Noble-UIC, Urban Prep-West (Charter, 9-12)
Jefferson, Ombudsman-West (Citywide, 9-12)
St. Ignatius College Prep (Roman Catholic, 9-12)
Whitney Young (Selective Enrollment, 9-12)

Neighborhood organization

Near West Side Community Development Corporation

ENDNOTES

- ¹ MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, Near West Side, www.cmap.illinois.gov/.
- ² www.governing.com/gov-data/population-density-land-area-cities-map.html.
- ³ MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, Near West Side.
- ⁴ MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, Near West Side.
- ⁵ MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, Near 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/near_west_side.
- ⁹ www.chicagohealthatlas.org/place/near_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.