

Healthy Chicago 2025

Community Health Status Assessment

Answers the question “How healthy are people who live in Chicago?”

Key Takeaways

Chicago is experiencing major demographic shifts. Chicago’s black population is decreasing and the Latinx population is aging and moving to new areas of the city.

Whites are now living 80.2 years on average, while Latinx are living an average of 80.0 years and blacks are living 71.4 years on average. This gap between black and white life expectancy keeps widening. It’s due primarily to death that results from chronic disease, mental health and substance use, injury related to violence, and maternal and infant health.

These health outcomes are the result of racial inequities that affect neighborhoods in the following ways:

- *Physical Environment*- How our neighborhoods are built/designed connects to our ability to have a healthy life. For example, people who live in neighborhoods where people feel safe walking around, have well-lit streets, affordable housing options, and easy access to full service grocery stores live longer with fewer chronic diseases.
- *Economy and Work Environment*- Having enough money makes it easier to get what you need to stay healthy, such as health insurance, medication, and a safe place to live.
- *Social Environment*- Communities where people have strong relationships within the community are important for physical, mental, and social well-being. Violence, inequitable stops/arrests by police, and experiences of racism increase mortality rates, unhealthy behaviors and disease.
- *Educational Environment*- Getting an education has lifelong benefits that affect health by making sure people have money, a safe place to live, and knowledge about health choices.

Chicago’s public health system has made significant strides in many areas, including increasing access to services, reducing smoking rates and teen birth rates, and reducing the burden of infectious diseases like HIV. We are also taking important steps to focus efforts in the communities that need them the most. We must work toward changing policies and systems that continue to produce racial inequities.