

RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

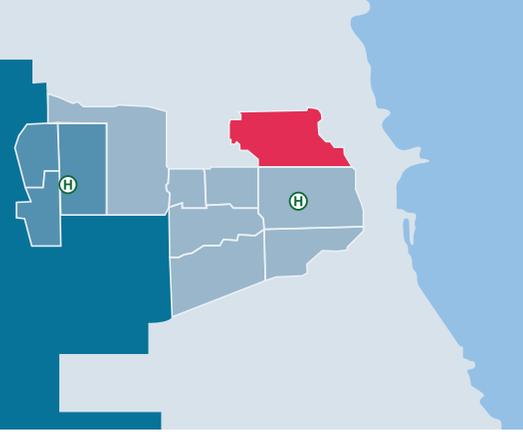
# Community Snapshot: West Town



 RUSH

Adopted on June 8, 2016

# West Town

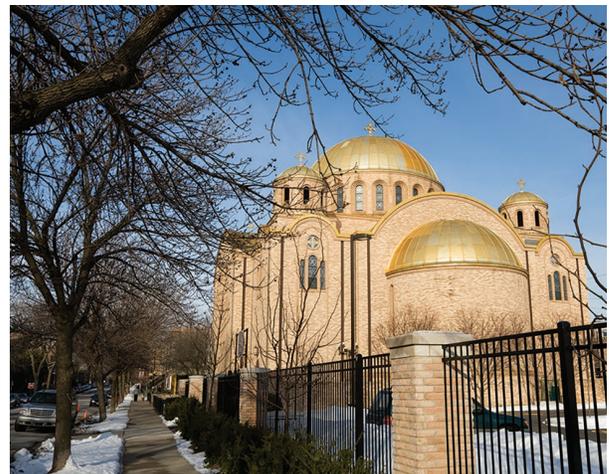


West Town, three miles northwest of the Loop, is “best understood as an amalgam of several distinct neighborhoods”<sup>1</sup> that includes Humboldt Park, Noble Square, Ukrainian Village and Wicker Park. In the late 19th century, West Town was home to immigrants from Germany, Scandinavia, Poland, Russia, Italy and Ukraine. Later, the community attracted immigrants from Puerto Rico and Mexico, and in the 1970s the African-American population increased.

Wicker Park and Bucktown became popular with artists and students in the late 20th century. As restaurants, bars and shops proliferated and parts of the neighborhood began to gentrify, rising real estate costs displaced many lower-income residents to neighborhoods north and west. Community organizations such as the West Town Community Alliance and the Greater West Town Community Development Project (GWTP) focus on ensuring that all residents have a voice in the neighborhood, are able to remain there and can take advantage of educational and economic opportunities.



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



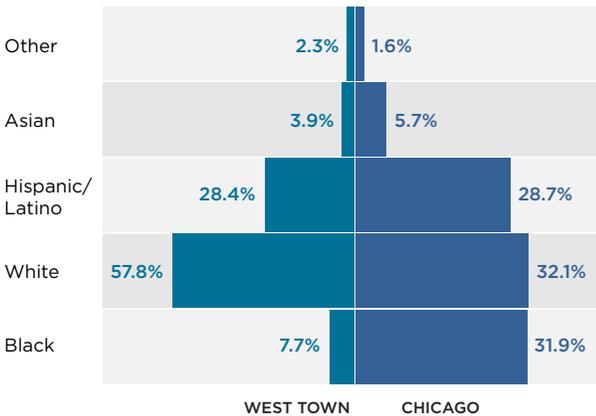
# Who lives here?

- **84,559** people live in West Town. The average household size is **2.2** people, compared to an average Chicago household size of **2.6** people.<sup>2</sup>
- West Town is more densely populated than Chicago overall, with a population per square mile of **18,479.7** people compared to **11,841.8** people per square mile in Chicago.<sup>3</sup>
- Between 2000 and 2010, West Town's population decreased by **6.3%**, similar to population change in Chicago overall, where the population decreased by **6.9%** during the same period.<sup>4</sup>



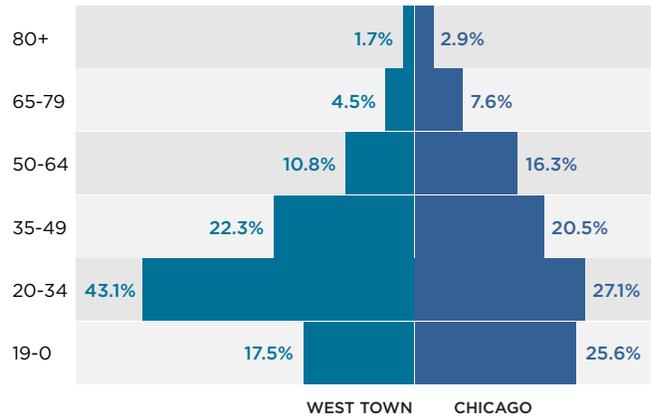
## RACE AND ETHNICITY<sup>5</sup>

A majority of the population of West Town is white.



## AGE<sup>6</sup>

The population of West Town is slightly younger than the city of Chicago average, with a median age of **31.7** as compared to the citywide average of **33.3**.



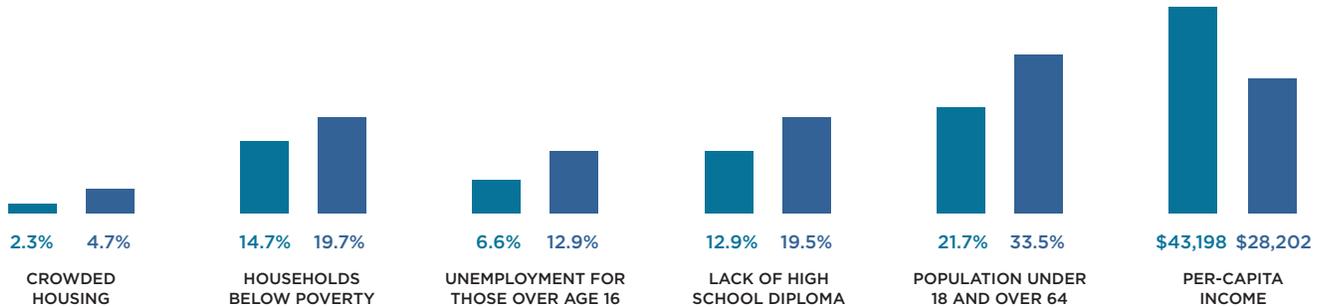
HIC survey participants asked how they rate their overall community as a healthy place to live: 73.15% said “excellent/good.”



# What are the potential barriers to good health?

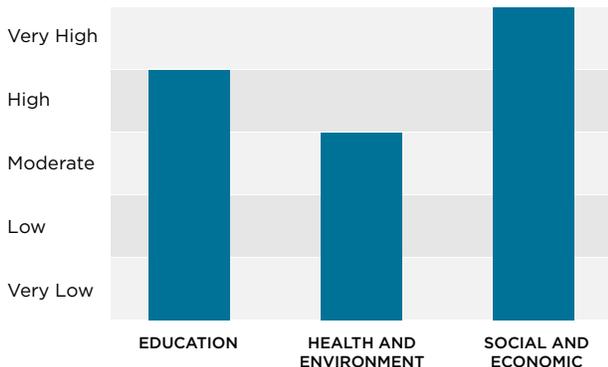
## HARDSHIP INDEX<sup>7</sup>

West Town's hardship index is **10**, based on the following statistics (*West Town at left, Chicago at right*):



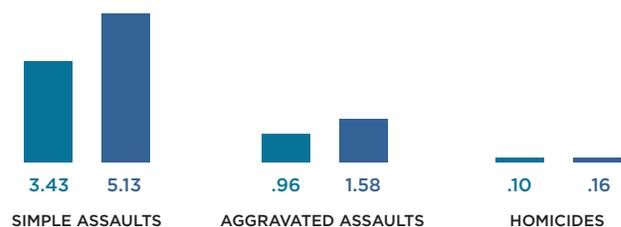
## CHILD OPPORTUNITY INDEX<sup>8</sup>

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



## CRIME<sup>9</sup>

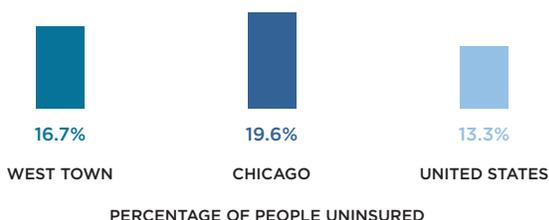
West Town is in the lowest quartile of communities served by Rush for its rate of crimes against people, including simple assault, aggravated assault and homicide.



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

## LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE<sup>10</sup>

West Town residents have health insurance at a slightly higher rate than residents of the rest of the city and 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.<sup>11</sup>



HIC survey participants asked whether they had not sought medical care due to cost anytime in the past 12 months: 70.8% said “no.”

## What is the impact of the barriers?

### YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST<sup>12</sup>

West Town ranks **63<sup>rd</sup>** 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: **5,249**.



## What resources make life better?

### COMMUNITY ASSETS

Some of West Town's community assets include the following:

#### Hospitals

Norwegian American Hospital  
Presence Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center, St. Mary Campus and St. Elizabeth Campus

#### Public parks

Bertha Honore Palmer Park  
Bickerdike Square Park  
Humboldt Park  
Pulaski Park  
Smith Park  
Snowberry Playlot Park  
Superior Playlot Park  
Wicker Park  
Western Park

#### Community-based health centers

ACCESS at Anixter Center  
CommunityHealth  
Erie Division Street - Erie Family Health Center  
Erie West Town - Erie Family Health Center  
Nazareth Family Health Center  
PCC Walk-In Wellness Center at Norwegian American Hospital  
PCC West Town Family Health Center  
PrimeCare Community Health Center - West Town  
Pro Health Medical Center

#### School-based health centers

Erie Clemente Wildcats School-Based Health Center  
Erie De Diego Health Center

#### CHA housing

Lidia Pucinska Apartments

#### Grocery stores

Jewel-Osco  
Mariano's

#### Childcare centers

Casa Central CSC Child Development Center  
Centro Infantil Consuelo Lee Corretjer  
Erie Community Center  
Erie Neighborhood House D.C. Program  
Onward Neighborhood House  
The Nicholson School

#### Nursing facilities

Center Home for Hispanic Elderly  
Presence Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center  
Winston Manor CNV and Nursing

#### Mental health center

Norwegian American Hospital  
Presence Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center

#### University

Resurrection University

#### Pharmacies

CVS  
Walgreens

#### Schools

Burr, Chopin, Columbus, De Diego, Mitchell, Talcott (Public, PK-8)  
Drummond, Lasalle II (Magnet, PK-8)  
Pritzker (Regional Gifted Center, PK-8)  
Sabin (Magnet, K-8)  
Ucan Academy (Special Education, 1-12)  
Esperanza (Special Education, 3-12)  
Clemente, Wells (Public, 9-12)  
Chicago Arts (Contract, 9-12)  
Magic Johnson-Humboldt Park (Citywide, 9-12)  
Wolcott School (Special Education, 9-12)

#### Neighborhood organizations

Greater West Town Community Development Project  
West Town Community Alliance

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> [www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/1342.html](http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/1342.html).
- <sup>2</sup> MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, West Town, [www.cmap.illinois.gov/](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/).
- <sup>3</sup> [www.governing.com/gov-data/population-density-land-area-cities-map.html](http://www.governing.com/gov-data/population-density-land-area-cities-map.html).
- <sup>4</sup> MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, West Town.
- <sup>5</sup> MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, West Town.
- <sup>6</sup> MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, West Town.
- <sup>7</sup> [data.cityofchicago.org/Health-Human-Services/hardship-index/792q-4jtu](http://data.cityofchicago.org/Health-Human-Services/hardship-index/792q-4jtu).
- <sup>8</sup> [www.diversitydatakids.org/data/childopportunitymap/3310/chicago-joliet-naperville](http://www.diversitydatakids.org/data/childopportunitymap/3310/chicago-joliet-naperville).
- <sup>9</sup> [www.chicagohealthatlas.org/place/west\\_town](http://www.chicagohealthatlas.org/place/west_town).
- <sup>10</sup> [www.chicagohealthatlas.org/place/west\\_town](http://www.chicagohealthatlas.org/place/west_town).
- <sup>11</sup> [www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/health-insurance.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/health-insurance.htm).
- <sup>12</sup> [data.cityofchicago.org/Health-Human-Services/Public-Health-Statistics-Selected-underlying-cause/j6cj-r444](http://data.cityofchicago.org/Health-Human-Services/Public-Health-Statistics-Selected-underlying-cause/j6cj-r444).