

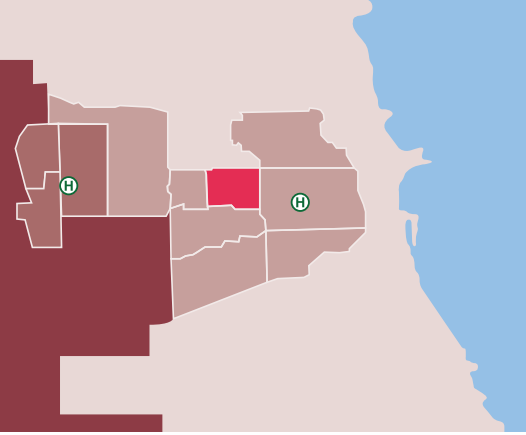
RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

# Community Snapshot: East Garfield Park



Adopted on June 8, 2016

# East Garfield Park



Early in the 20th century, East Garfield Park was a neighborhood where thriving industry and well-kept single-family homes existed side by side — but the Great Depression and two world wars took their toll, with businesses closing and many homes converting to boardinghouses and apartments that grew overcrowded. When African Americans began to move into this community four miles west of the Loop in the 1950s, its racial makeup changed quickly as white residents and business owners hostile to the changes left; between 1950 and 2000, East Garfield Park lost more than two-thirds of its population.

At the same time, residents have come together to serve each other and work for economic development. In the 1960s, the Fifth City Human Development Project, the East Garfield Park Union to End Slums and the East Garfield Park Cooperative were just a few of the organizations that formed. Since 1947, Marillac House has provided important services such as child care, education and recreation programs and senior services. And Breakthrough Ministries offers programs that serve more than 700 neighborhood youth, as well as transitional housing for the homeless and a food pantry that serves more than 70,000 meals each year.



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I know that every area has its moments, but there's a lot of up-and-coming in this area. The conservatory, I mean that area is just really booming... And they are really building over there in that area. A lot of people are coming back from the suburbs.

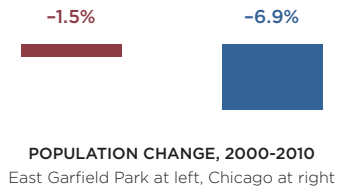
- RUMC focus group participant  
from East Garfield Park

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

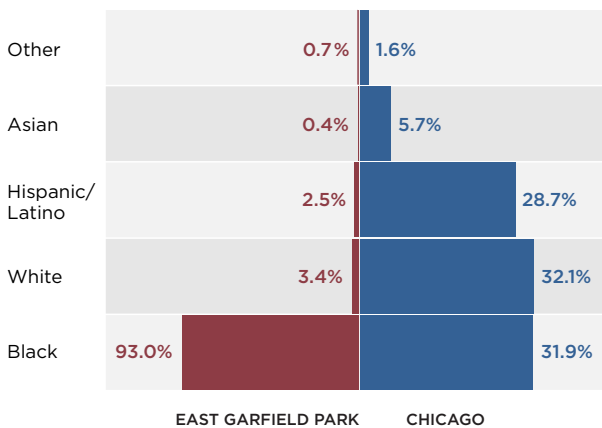
## Who lives here?

- **20,696** people live in East Garfield Park. The average household size is **2.9** people, compared to an average Chicago household size of **2.6** people.<sup>1</sup>
- East Garfield Park is less dense than Chicago overall, with a population per square mile of **10,707.7** people compared to **11,841.8** people per square mile in Chicago.<sup>2</sup>
- Between 2000 and 2010, East Garfield Park's population decreased by **1.5%**. In Chicago overall, the population decreased by **6.9%** during the same period.<sup>3</sup>



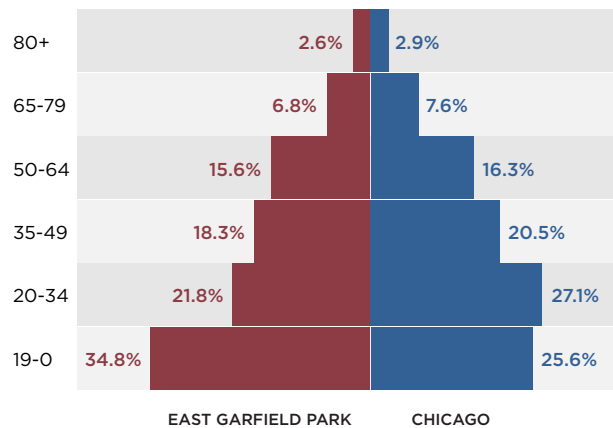
### RACE AND ETHNICITY<sup>4</sup>

By a wide margin, the population in East Garfield Park is mostly African American.



### AGE<sup>5</sup>

The population in East Garfield Park is slightly younger than the city of Chicago average, with a median age of **30.1** as compared to the citywide average of **33.3**.



I would like for our schools to get the dollars that other schools get so that they can make improvements. I would like to see teachers...who are committed to really helping these children to get a decent education so that they can do something different.

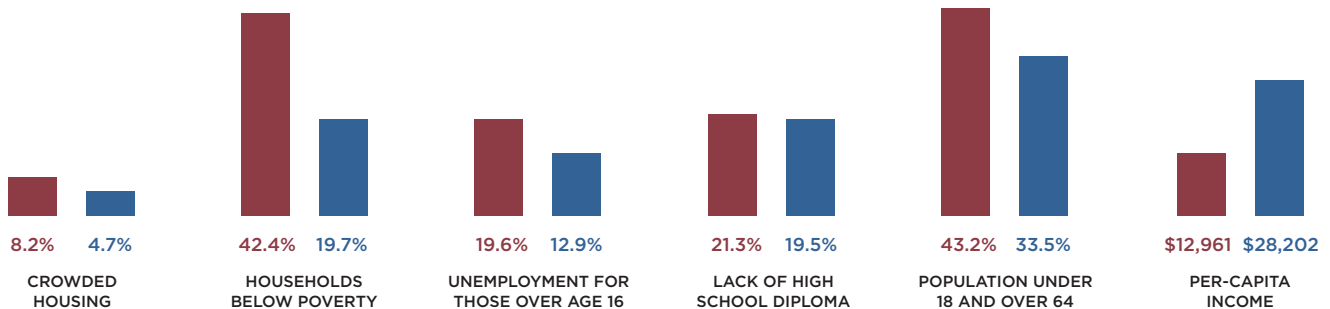
- RUMC focus group participant from East Garfield Park



# What are the potential barriers to good health?

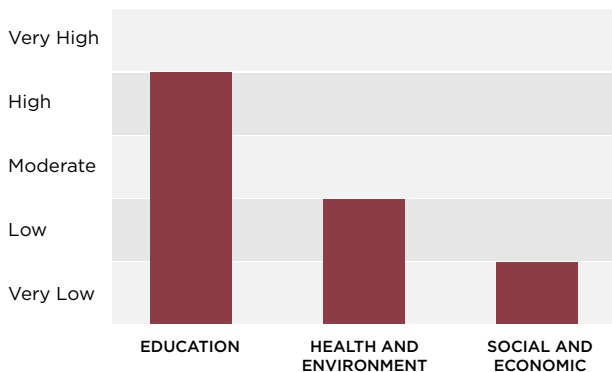
## HARDSHIP INDEX<sup>6</sup>

East Garfield Park's hardship index is **83**, based on the following statistics (*East Garfield Park at left, Chicago at right*):



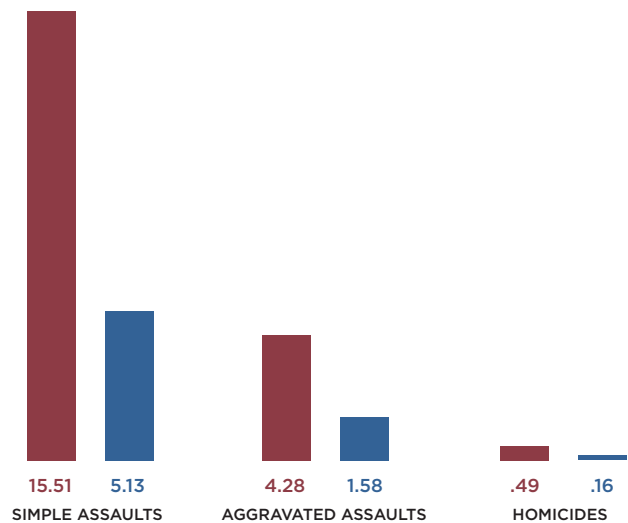
## CHILD OPPORTUNITY INDEX<sup>7</sup>

The Child Opportunity Index (COI) assigns a “high” ranking to East Garfield Park’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 **“low.”**



## CRIME<sup>8</sup>

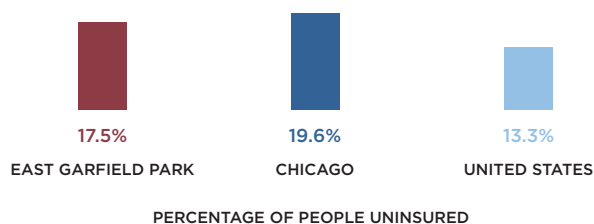
East Garfield Park is in the third quartile of communities served by Rush for its rate of crimes against people, including simple assault, aggravated assault and homicide.



NUMBER REPORTED PER 1,000 RESIDENTS, 2013  
East Garfield Park at left, Chicago at right

## LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE<sup>9</sup>

East Garfield Park residents have health insurance at a slightly higher rate than residents of the rest of the city. However, 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.<sup>10</sup>

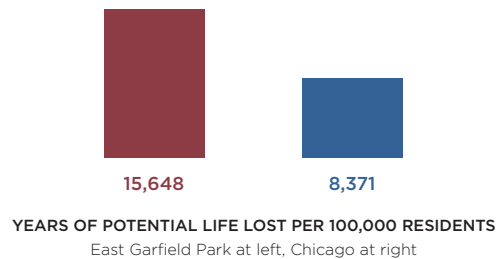


HIC survey participants asked whether they had not sought medical care due to cost anytime in the past 12 months: 30.2% said “yes.”

## What is the impact of the barriers?

### YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST<sup>11</sup>

East Garfield Park ranks **seventh** 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: **15,648**.



## What resources make life better?

### COMMUNITY ASSETS

Some of East Garfield Park's community assets include the following:

#### Hospital

RML Specialty Hospital Chicago

#### Public parks

Barberry Park  
Dogwood Playlot Park  
Garfield Park  
Garfield Park Conservatory  
Gladys Playlot Park  
Homan Square Park  
Horan Park  
Kells Playground Park  
Magnolia Playlot Park  
Mason Playlot Park  
Nancy Jefferson Park  
Park No. 422  
Park No. 489  
Roscoe Lee Boler Park  
Snapping Turtle  
Smith Park  
St. Louis Playlot Park

#### Childcare centers

Dr. Effie O. Ellis YMCA Day Care Center  
Fifth City Child Development Institute Inc.  
Marillac Social Center

#### CHA housing

Irene McCoy Gaines Apartments

#### Mental health center

Bobby E. Wright Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center

#### School-based health center

Erie Westside Health Center at Laura S. Ward Elementary

#### Community-based health centers

ACCESS Bethany Family Health Center  
Marillac Social Center

#### Pharmacies

A Caalmad Pharmacy  
CVS

#### Schools

Beidler, Cather, Dodge, Faraday, Gregory, Kellman, Morton, Ward (Public, PK-8)  
Ericson, Jensen (Magnet, PK-8)  
Learn-7, Learn-Campbell, Learn-Excel (Charter, K-5)  
Polaris, Locke (Charter, K-8)  
Learn-Middle (Charter, 6-8)  
Manley, Marshall, Raby (Public, 9-12)  
Noble-DRW (Charter, 9-12)  
Westinghouse (Selective Enrollment, 9-12)  
YCCS-West Town (Charter, 10-11)  
Providence-St. Mel School (Christian, PK-12)

#### Neighborhood organizations

Breakthrough  
Marillac St. Vincent Family Services

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, East Garfield Park, [www.cmap.illinois.gov/](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/).
- <sup>2</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>3</sup> MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, East Garfield Park.
- <sup>4</sup> MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, East Garfield Park.
- <sup>5</sup> MetroPulse Community Data Snapshot, East Garfield Park.
- <sup>6</sup> [data.cityofchicago.org/Health-Human-Services/hardship-index/792q-4jtu](http://data.cityofchicago.org/Health-Human-Services/hardship-index/792q-4jtu).
- <sup>7</sup> [www.diversitydatakids.org/data/childopportunitymap/3310/chicago-joliet-naperville](http://www.diversitydatakids.org/data/childopportunitymap/3310/chicago-joliet-naperville).
- <sup>8</sup> [www.chicagohealthatlas.org/place/east\\_garfield\\_park](http://www.chicagohealthatlas.org/place/east_garfield_park).
- <sup>9</sup> [www.chicagohealthatlas.org/place/east\\_garfield\\_park](http://www.chicagohealthatlas.org/place/east_garfield_park).
- <sup>10</sup> [www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/health-insurance.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/health-insurance.htm).
- <sup>11</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).