

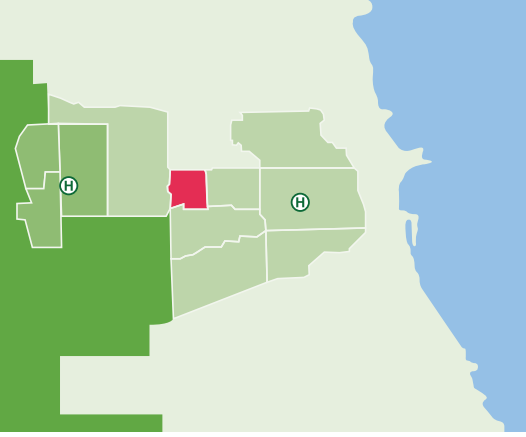
RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Community Snapshot: West Garfield Park



Adopted on June 8, 2016

West Garfield Park



West Garfield Park, located five miles west of the Loop, is a community marked by change. Its evolution has encompassed the transition from farmland into what was for a time the city's second busiest shopping district; attractions that have included both an infamous 19th-century racetrack and one of Chicago's most beautiful parks; periods of booming residential growth followed by white flight; racial unrest and neighbors coming together.

For decades, West Garfield Park residents who want to improve their community have fought back against the depopulation, crime and poverty that began to affect the neighborhood in the 1950s. They established block clubs and nonprofit organizations such as Bethel New Life, an agency that for nearly four decades has focused on real estate development, affordable housing, social programs and job creation — building on “the people, physical assets and faith base of the community” to strengthen its connections to the rest of the region and create opportunities for those who live there.



...if something don't happen...if somebody don't do something about this soon...what's going on out here is going to continue. And you know it's going to get bigger and bigger. Something's got to be done...

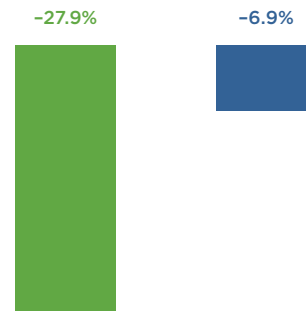
- RUMC focus group participant
from West Garfield Park

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



Who lives here?

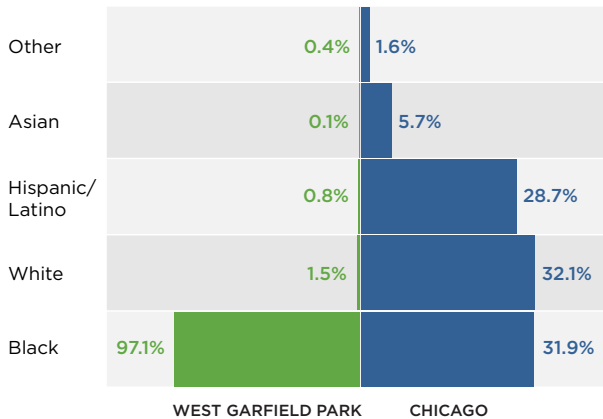
- **18,724** people live in West Garfield Park. The average household size is **3.4** people, compared to an average Chicago household size of **2.6** people.¹
- West Garfield Park is more crowded than Chicago overall, with a population per square mile of **14,462.2** people compared to **11,841.8** people per square mile in Chicago.²
- Between 2000 and 2010, West Garfield Park's population decreased by **27.9%**, placing it in the top quartile of population decline in Rush's service area. In Chicago overall, the population decreased by **6.9%** during the same period.³



POPULATION CHANGE, 2000-2010
West Garfield Park at left, Chicago at right

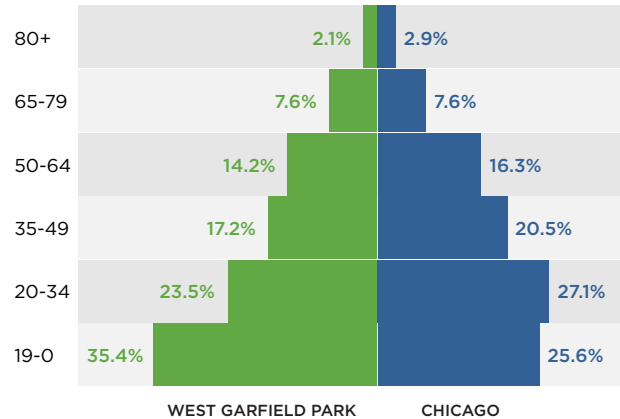
RACE AND ETHNICITY⁴

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



AGE⁵

The population in West Garfield Park is younger than the city of Chicago average, with a median age of **28.0** as compared to the citywide average of **33.3**.



And if we could just get a lot of these young guys some work, and young women and young men to work, it will be a big change in the community.

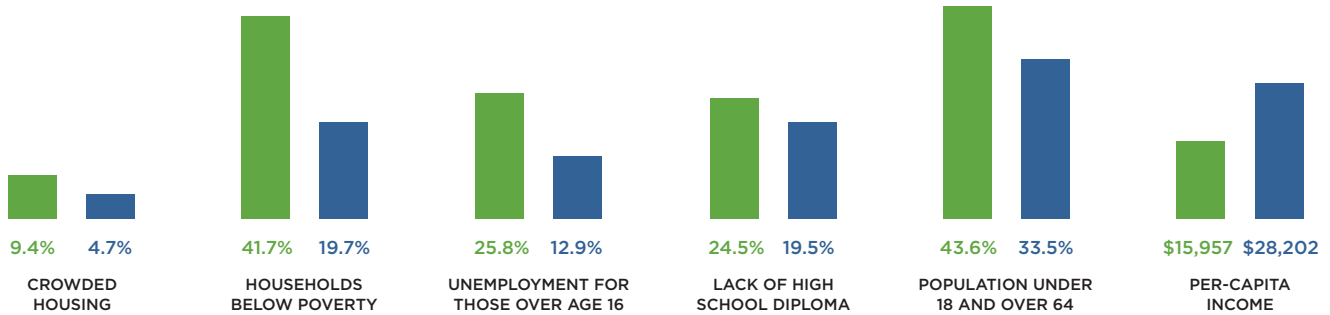
- RUMC focus group participant from West Garfield Park



What are the potential barriers to good health?

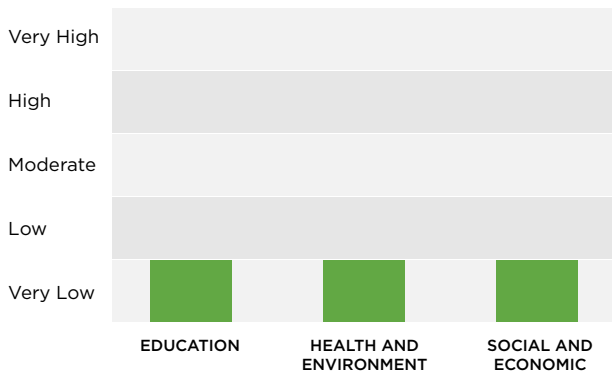
HARDSHIP INDEX⁶

West Garfield Park's hardship index is **92**, based on the following statistics (*West Garfield Park at left, Chicago at right*):



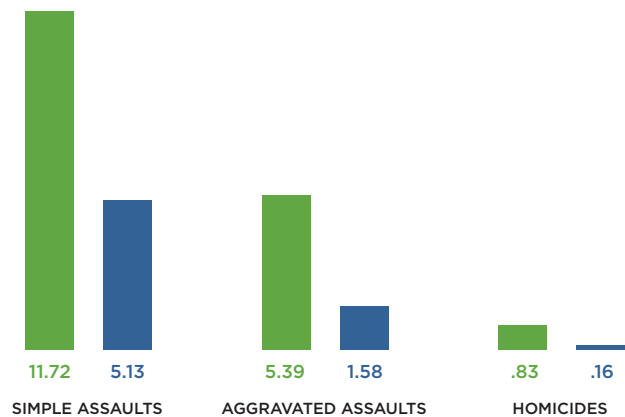
CHILD OPPORTUNITY INDEX⁷

The Child Opportunity Index (COI) assigns a “very low” ranking to West Garfield Park in all three opportunity areas it measures: education; health and environment; and social and economic. This gives the neighborhood an overall COI ranking of **“very low.”**



CRIME⁸

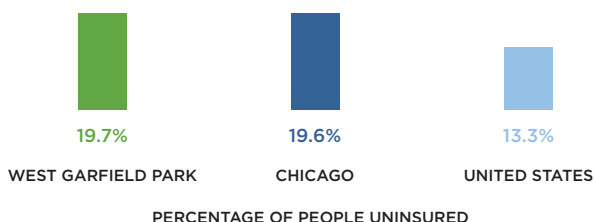
West Garfield Park is in the highest quartile of communities served by Rush for its rate of crimes against people, including simple assault, aggravated assault and homicide.



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

LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE⁹

West Garfield Park residents have health insurance at about the same rate as 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.¹⁰



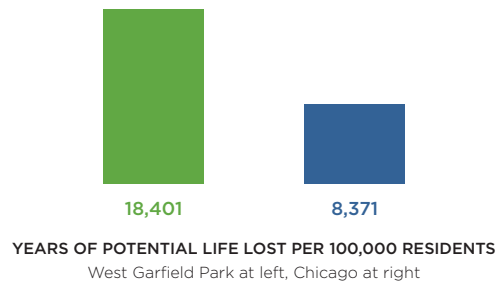
...Our health care, I think it's pretty good. ...You'll get care, but you won't get the best of care, for the simple reason that you don't have private insurance.

- RUMC focus group participant from West Garfield Park

What is the impact of the barriers?

YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST¹¹

West Garfield Park ranks **first** 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: **18,401**.



What resources make life better?

COMMUNITY ASSETS

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

Public parks

Central Playlot Park
Park No. 500
Mason Playlot
Ohio and Harding Park
Orr Park
Sumner Park
Tilton Park
Violet Playlot Park

School-based health centers

Rush School-Based Health Center at Orr Academy High School

Community-based health center

ACCESS Madison Family Health Center

Childcare centers

Chicago Commons Nia Family Health Center
Little Giant's Child Care Center
YMCA Orr Family Development Center

Grocery stores

Aldi
Save-A-Lot

Pharmacies

SNS Pharmacy
Walgreens

Schools

Hefferan, Melody, Sumner, Tilton, Webster (Public, PK-8)
Bethel Christian Education (Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, K-8)
Orr Academy High School (Public, 9-12)

Churches with which Rush has affiliations

Corinthian Temple Church of God in Christ
Garfield Park Community Worship Center
Greater Rock M.B. Church
New Mt. Pilgrim M.B. Church

Neighborhood organization

Bethel New Life - West Side Forward

ENDNOTES

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