

The NORC Chicago Speaks Poll

Conducted by NORC

Interviews: 3/20-4/7/2025

1,084 adults

Margin of sampling error: +/- 4.41 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

PULSE_PROB1. Thinking about the problems facing the city of Chicago, which problems would you like the government to be working on in the year 2025?

Please list up to 5 problems.

[Open-ended question coded. Respondents were able to list up to 5 problems. Reported proportions are among the respondents who provided at least one valid response to the questions. Respondents who did not answer are not included.]

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
All public safety issues (N=827)	80
Public safety, general (N=88)	7
Crime/reducing crime/violence/gang violence (N=624)	59
Drugs (N=28)	3
Gun violence/gun issues (N=182)	17
Auto theft/carjacking (N=24)	2
Policing/police reform (N=117)	13
All economic issues (N=624)	60
Economic concerns, general (N=109)	10
Cost of living/inflation (food, gas) (N=152)	16
Taxes/property taxes (N=270)	26
Job availability/wages/unemployment (N=163)	14
Business issues (funding, recruiting, small business support) (N=50)	4
Access to food/food deserts/hunger (N=49)	5
All infrastructure and public service issues (N=424)	40
Infrastructure and public services, general (N=103)	9
Road conditions/repair/construction (N=152)	16
Public transportation (N=152)	14
Traffic/parking/drivers (N=93)	11
Bike/pedestrian lanes and safety (N=17)	3
All housing issues (N=397)	39
Housing, general (N=75)	7
Housing availability/affordability (N=133)	13
Homelessness/poverty (N=240)	14
Immigration/migrant issues, general (N=172)	18
All education issues (N=363)	31
Education, general (N=312)	26
Chicago Teachers' Union (N=33)	3
Youth engagement/youth programs (N=39)	3
All government issues (N=318)	29
Government, general (N=88)	9
Corruption (N=41)	3
Reform (N=5)	*
Spending/budget (N=118)	10
Social services (N=58)	6
Racism/segregation/inequality (N=56)	5

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
All healthcare issues (N=130)	11
Healthcare, general (N=100)	9
Abortion/reproductive healthcare (N=10)	1
Mental health issues/care (N=29)	2
All environmental issues (N=108)	11
Environmental issues, general (N=52)	5
Pollution/cleanliness (N=40)	4
Public parks/green spaces (N=21)	3
Other (N=160)	15

N=

1,062

PULSE_FEAR. Is there any area around your home- that is, within a mile- where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025	ChicagoSpeaks 11/14-12/2/2024	ChicagoSpeaks 6/24-7/10/2024
Yes	66	65	66
No	34	35	33
DON'T KNOW	-	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-	*	*

N=

1,084

1,097

1,254

PULSE_GUNHOME. Do you have a gun in your home?

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025	ChicagoSpeaks 11/14-12/2/2024	ChicagoSpeaks 6/24-7/10/2024
Yes	17	17	14
No	82	82	84
DON'T KNOW	-	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	1	2

N=

1,084

1,097

1,254

Show if Yes in PULSE_GUNHOME

PULSE_GUN_OWN. How many guns do you own?

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025	ChicagoSpeaks 11/14-12/2/2024	ChicagoSpeaks 6/24-7/10/2024
0	3	7	7
1	61	57	44
2	19	17	22
3	6	7	10
4	4	2	5
5	1	1	1
6	1	*	*
7	*	4	*
8	*	*	-
9	1	*	-
10	-	1	2
11	-	-	-
12	-	-	2
13	-	-	-
14	-	-	-
15	-	1	*
16	-	-	-
17	-	-	-
18	-	-	-
19	-	-	2
20 or more	-	1	1
DON'T KNOW	-	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	3	2	3
<i>N=</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>213</i>	<i>212</i>

PULSE_LETIN1A. Do you think the number of immigrants to America nowadays should be...

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025	ChicagoSpeaks 11/14-12/2/2024	ChicagoSpeaks 6/24-7/10/2024
Increased a lot/a little NET	22	21	20
Increased a lot	10	13	11
Increased a little	12	8	8
Remain the same as it is	34	31	27
Reduced a little/ a lot NET	44	48	53
Reduced a little	20	22	19
Reduced a lot	23	26	34
DON'T KNOW	-	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	*	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,084</i>	<i>1,097</i>	<i>1,254</i>

PULSE_IMM_CURR. What should be done about immigrants who are currently living in the U.S. illegally?

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025	ChicagoSpeaks 6/24-7/10/2024
They should be allowed to become citizens, provided they met certain requirements	59	51
They should be allowed to become permanent legal residents, but not citizens	17	18
They should be identified and deported	23	28
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2	2
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,084</i>	<i>1,254</i>

PULSE_JOBLOSE. Thinking about the next 12 months, how likely do you think it is that you will lose your job or be laid off?

Among employed adults

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025	ChicagoSpeaks 11/14-12/2/2024	NORC 6/24-7/10/2024
Very/Fairly likely NET	25	21	22
Very likely	8	6	6
Fairly likely	17	15	16
Not too/at all likely NET	74	78	78
Not too likely	51	47	39
Not at all likely	24	31	39
DON'T KNOW	-	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	1	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>735</i>	<i>784</i>	<i>729</i>

KIDS1. Are you the parent or guardian of any children who are currently enrolled in Kindergarten through 12th grade in any school in Chicago?

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
Yes	29
No	71
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,084</i>

Show if Yes in KIDS1

KIDS2. How many of your children are currently enrolled in a Chicago Public School?

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
0	16
1	44
2	27
3	7
4	2
5 or more	1
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	2
N=	382

Show if KIDS2>=1:

If KIDS2>1:

KIDS3. Now thinking about your youngest child enrolled in a Chicago Public School...

What is the age of your youngest child who is enrolled in a Chicago Public School?

If KIDS2=1:

What is the age of your child who is enrolled in a Chicago Public School?

[NUMERIC TEXTBOX]

Show if KIDS2>=1

If provided response in KIDS3:

KIDS4. Is your [INSERT KIDS3 RESPONSE] year old child enrolled in an elementary school or a secondary/high school?

If no response in KIDS3:

KIDS4. Is your youngest child enrolled in an elementary school or a secondary/high school?

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
Elementary School	73
Secondary/High School	25
Other (Specify)	2
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*
N=	317

Show if KIDS2>=1

If provided response in KIDS3:

KIDS5. Suppose the schools in Chicago were graded A-F as students are often graded. What grade would you give your [INSERT KIDS3 RESPONSE] year old child's school?

If no response in KIDS3:

KIDS5. Suppose the schools in Chicago were graded A-F as students are often graded. What grade would you give your youngest child's school?

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
A	34
B	40
C	19
D	4
F	3
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*
N=	317

Show if KIDS2>1

KIDS6. What is the age of your oldest child who is enrolled in a Chicago Public School?

[NUMERIC TEXTBOX]

Show if KIDS2>1

If provided response in KIDS6:

KIDS7. Is your [INSERT KIDS6 RESPONSE] year old child enrolled in an elementary school or a secondary/high school?

If no response in KIDS6:

KIDS7. Is your oldest child enrolled in an elementary school or a secondary/high school?

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
Elementary School	50
Secondary/High School	50
Other (Specify)	1
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	-
N=	147

Show if KIDS2>1

If provided response in KIDS6:

KIDS8. Suppose the schools in Chicago were graded A-F as students are often graded. What grade would you give your [INSERT KIDS6 RESPONSE] year old child's school?

If no response in KIDS6:

KIDS8. Suppose the schools in Chicago were graded A-F as students are often graded. What grade would you give your oldest child's school?

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
A	38
B	39
C	16
D	5
F	2
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	-
N=	147

If KIDS2=0 or skipped:

KIDS9. Suppose the schools in Chicago were graded A-F as students are often graded. What grade would you give Chicago Public Schools as a whole?

If KIDS2>=1:

KIDS9. Using the same scale, what grade would you give Chicago Public Schools as a whole?

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025	AmeriSpeak Public Agenda 12/28/2023- 1/16/2024
A	7	3
B	16	17
C	40	54
D	23	20
F	13	6
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	1	*
N=	1,084	2,127

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

KIDS10. How confident are you in each of the following to act in the best interests of Chicago Public School students?

ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025	Extremely/ very confident NET	Extremely confident	Very confident	Moderately confident	Slightly/Not at all confident NET	Slightly confident	Not at all confident	DK	SKP/ REF
Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson	15	5	10	24	60	19	41	-	1
The Chicago Teacher's Union	26	10	16	32	41	15	25	-	2
The Chicago Teacher's Union President Stacy David Gates	17	7	10	34	47	18	29	-	2
<i>If KIDS2=1:</i> Your child's principal <i>If KIDS2>1:</i> Your children's principals (N=317)	53	22	31	30	16	10	6	-	1
Teachers in Chicago Public Schools	41	15	25	34	24	13	11	-	2
<i>If KIDS2=1:</i> Your child's teachers <i>If KIDS2>1:</i> Your children's teachers (N=317)	61	25	36	23	15	9	6	-	1
The Chicago Board of Education	21	6	15	34	44	22	22	-	1
The central office of Chicago Public Schools	19	5	14	35	44	25	20	-	2
Chicago Public Schools CEO Pedro Martinez	24	8	16	33	41	24	18	-	2
Illinois Governor JB Pritzker	43	20	23	27	28	11	18	-	2

N=1,084

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

KIDS11. Do you favor, neither favor nor oppose, or oppose each of the following proposals for Chicago Public Schools?

ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025	Strongly/ somewhat favor NET	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Strongly/ somewhat oppose NET	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK	SKP/ REF
Chicago Public Schools taking out short-term, high-interest loans to cover budget deficits when necessary.	16	6	10	29	53	20	33	-	1
The State of Illinois providing more funding for the Chicago Public School system.	65	40	25	18	16	7	9	-	1
The Chicago Public School system reducing its spending in order to operate within the budget it currently has.	40	20	21	31	28	17	11	-	1
Chicago Public Schools conducting a review to consider closing or consolidating schools with low enrollment.	41	18	24	30	27	17	10	-	1
The State of Illinois managing Chicago Public Schools' finances under a new finance authority.	39	13	25	40	20	12	9	-	1

N=1,084

KIDS12. Are you aware that Chicago has transitioned from a school board appointed by the mayor to an elected school board (elected by voters)?

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
Yes	59
No	40
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	1

N=

1,084

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

KIDS13. How much responsibility do you think each of the following has for educational outcomes of Chicago Public School students?

ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025	A great deal/ A moderate amount NET	A great deal	A moderate amount	Only a little/None at all NET	Only a little	None at all	DK	SKP/ REF
The Chicago Board of Education	80	40	40	18	14	4	-	2
The CEO of Chicago Public Schools	77	39	38	21	16	5	-	2
Chicago Public School teachers	84	51	33	14	10	5	-	2
The Chicago Teachers Union	77	39	38	21	14	7	-	2
The Mayor of the City of Chicago	69	35	35	29	19	10	-	2
The Governor of the State of Illinois	70	32	38	28	23	5	-	2

N=1,084

PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?

If Democrat:

PIDA. Do you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Democrat?

If Republican:

PIDB. Do you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Republican?

If independent, none of these, don't know, skipped, or refused:

PIDI. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDA, and PIDB.

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
Democrat NET	64
Strong Democrat	33
Not so strong Democrat	20
Lean Democrat	12
Independent/None – Don't lean	18
Republican NET	18
Lean Republican	6
Not so strong Republican	5
Strong Republican	7

N=

1,084

D3. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

If liberal:

D4. Do you consider yourself very liberal or somewhat liberal?

If conservative:

IDEO. Do you consider yourself very conservative or somewhat conservative?

Combines D3, D4, D5:

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
Liberal NET	35
Very liberal	21
Somewhat liberal	14
Moderate	49
Conservative NET	14
Somewhat conservative	9
Very conservative	6
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-

N=

1,084

RELIG. What is your present religion, if any?

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
Protestant	17
Roman Catholic	25
Mormon	*
Orthodox	1
Jewish	3
Muslim	2
Buddhist	1
Hindu	1
Atheist	6
Agnostic	8
Nothing in particular	17
Just Christian	15
Unitarian	*
Something else	3
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

*N=**1,084***AGE**

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
18-29	23
30-44	30
45-59	22
60+	24

*N=**1,084***SEX**

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
Male	48
Female	52

*N=**1,084*

RACE/ETHNICITY

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
White, non-Hispanic	34
Black or African American	27
Hispanic	28
Other	11

*N=**1,084***EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
Employed	67
Not employed	33

*N=**1,084***EDUCATION**

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
Less than a high school diploma	11
High school graduate or equivalent	22
Some college	23
College graduate	22
Post grad study/professional degree	23

*N=**1,084***MARITAL**

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
Married	37
Not married	63

*N=**1,084*

INCOME

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
Under \$10,000	10
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	7
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	9
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	10
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	7
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	14
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	10
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	17
\$150,000 or more	15

N=

1,084

CHICAGO REGION

	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025
North Central	27
Northwest	16
South	19
Southwest	20
West	18

N=

1,084

Study Methodology

Funded and operated by NORC at the University of Chicago, ChicagoSpeaks® is a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the Chicago household population. NORC conducted the ChicagoSpeaks spring 2025 survey using three sample sources: (1) NORC's AmeriSpeak® Panelists who reside in Chicago, (2) NORC's ChicagoSpeaks Panelists, and (3) Chicago residents from Dynata's web panel.

AmeriSpeak and ChicagoSpeaks are probability-based panels and Dynata is a non-probability panel. The final survey estimates were calibrated to account for these different sample sources. This research was done to support a scientifically rigorous, community-driven research resource for informing policymakers and the public with accurate information about the experiences and opinions of all Chicago residents.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between March 20 and April 7, 2025 with Chicago residents aged 18 and older, the overall study target population. Overall, 1,084 Chicago residents completed the survey including 553 probability cases and 531 non-probability cases. AmeriSpeak panelists were invited through the password-protected AmeriSpeak Mobile App and received email reminders and SMS reminders. ChicagoSpeaks panelists received a combination of email and SMS communications while Dynata used their typical panel recruitment methods. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference, using an on-line survey. Respondents were offered a small monetary incentive for completing the survey. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect.

Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error and there may be other unmeasured error in this or any other survey.

Quality assurance checks were conducted to ensure data quality. In total, 18 interviews were removed for nonresponse to at least 50% of the questions asked of them or for completing the survey in less than one-third the median interview time for the full sample. These interviews were excluded from the data file prior to weighting.

The final TrueNorth weights for the combined sample are developed in three major steps. First, a weighted tree model is fit to the combined probability and nonprobability sample. Second, based on the fitted tree model, NORC estimates the probabilities of inclusion in the combined probability and nonprobability sample and computes the initial weights as the inverse of the estimated probabilities. Third, poststratification adjustments, including calibration to benchmarks and weight trimming, are made to the initial weights to create the final weights.

Poststratification variables included Chicago region, age, gender, race/ethnicity, and educational attainment. The sociodemographic characteristics are weighted to benchmarks from the American Community Survey 2023 1-year estimates.

For more information, email ChicagoSpeaks-BD@norc.org or visit go.norc.org/ChicagoSpeaks.

<https://www.norc.org/research/projects/chicagospeaks.html>