

The NORC ChicagoSpeaks Poll

Conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago

1,361 adults

Margin of sampling error: +/- 3.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults.

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



PULSE_ALT_ISSUES. Thinking about the problems facing the city of Chicago, how much of a priority should each of the following issues be for the government to work on in the year 2025?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

ChicagoSpeaks	1111111111111	NA - de - de - de - de	1	CVD/DEE
9/16-29/2025	High priority	Moderate priority	Low priority	SKP/REF
The economy and jobs	82	16	1	1
Health care	78	18	3	1
Immigration	53	28	17	2
Abortion	28	34	35	3
Crime	76	19	4	1
Climate change	41	36	21	2
Foreign policy	27	38	33	2
Gun policy	72	20	6	2
Racism	57	29	11	3
Education	79	17	2	1

N=1,361

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	ChicagoSpeaks	ChicagoSpeaks	ChicagoSpeaks	ChicagoSpeaks	
	9/16-29/2025	6/23-7/9/2025	3/20-4/7/2025	11/14-12/2/2024	6/24-7/10/2024	GSS 2024
Yes	63	66	66	65	66	33
No	37	34	34	35	33	67
DON'T KNOW	-	-	-	-	-	*
SKIPPED ON	*			*	*	*
WEB/REFUSED		-	-	,	·	
	4 0 0 4		4 00 4	4 00=	1.051	

N= 1,361 1,111 1,084 1,097 1,254 2,223



PULSE_CRIME. How much of a problem do you think crime is in each of the following? [GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

		Major problem	Minor problem	Not a problem	DK	SKP/ REF
Vous community	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025 (<i>N=1,361</i>)	42	51	7	-	*
Your community	AP-NORC 08/21-25/2025 (N=1,182)	24	55	20	-	1
Chicago ¹	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025 (<i>N=1,361</i>)	71	27	1	-	*
Other large cities ¹	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025 (<i>N=1,361</i>)	70	27	2	-	*
Large cities ¹	AP-NORC 08/21-25/2025 (N=1,182)	81	18	1	*	1
Small towns or rural	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025 (<i>N</i> =1,361)	25	60	15	-	*
areas	AP-NORC 08/21-25/2025 (N=1,182)	20	64	16	*	1
The United States	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025 (<i>N</i> =1,361)	70	27	2	-	*
The Officer States	AP-NORC 08/21-25/2025 (N=1,182)	66	32	1	*	1

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 $^{^{1}}$ In the August 2025 AP-NORC poll, this was asked as "Large cities", while the September ChicagoSpeaks poll asked about Chicago and "Other large cities."



PULSE_COMPARE_SAFE. Thinking about <u>crime</u>, would you say your neighborhood is doing better, worse, or about the same compared to each of the following areas?

	Much/a							
ChicagoSpeaks	little	Much	A little	About the	Much/a	A little	Much	
9/16-29/2025	better	better	better	same	little worse	worse	worse	SKP/REF
The rest of Chicago	57	21	36	26	17	9	8	*
The rest of Illinois	35	11	24	33	31	19	12	1
The rest of the	22	9	25	36	29	18	12	1
United States	33	9	25	30	29	10	12	1



PULSE_FED. Do you personally think it's acceptable or unacceptable for the federal government to do each of the following in large cities, or do you not know enough to have an opinion?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE SHOWN RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

		Completely/			Completely/				
		somewhat			somewhat			Don't	
		acceptable	Completely	Somewhat	unacceptable	Somewhat	Completely	know	SKP/
		NET	acceptable	acceptable	NET	unacceptable	unacceptable	enough	REF
	ChicagoSpeaks								
Use the U.S. military and	9/16-29/2025	38	17	21	56	17	39	6	*
National Guard to assist	(N=1,361)								
local police	AP-NORC 09/11-	53	24	29	40	15	25	7	*
	15/2025 (N=1,183)	55	24	29	40	15	25	/	
	ChicagoSpeaks								
Take control of local police	9/16-29/2025	23	12	11	69	15	54	8	*
departments	(N=1,361)								
departments	AP-NORC 09/11-	27	9	18	61	23	38	11	1
	15/2025 (<i>N=1,183</i>)	27	9	10	01	23	30	11	_
Use the U.S. military and	ChicagoSpeaks								
•	9/16-29/2025	28	15	13	66	13	54	4	*
National Guard to help find and deport people who are	(N=1,361)								
in the country illegally	AP-NORC 09/11-	43	21	23	49	15	34	7	*
in the country megally	15/2025 (<i>N=1,183</i>)	43	ZI	25	45	12	34	'	-



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

	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025	ChicagoSpeaks 6/23-7/9/2025	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025	ChicagoSpeaks 11/14-12/2/2024	ChicagoSpeaks 6/24-7/10/2024	GSS 2024
Increased a lot/a little NET	23	25	22	21	20	18
Increased a lot	11	12	10	13	11	7
Increased a little	13	13	12	8	8	11
Remain the same as it is	39	38	34	31	27	32
Reduced a little/ a lot NET	36	36	44	48	53	50
Reduced a little	17	18	20	22	19	19
Reduced a lot	19	18	23	26	34	30
DON'T KNOW	-	-	-	-	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	*	1	*	1	-
N=	1,361	1,111	1,084	1,097	1,254	3,187



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

	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025	ChicagoSpeaks 6/23-7/9/2025	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20-4/7/2025	ChicagoSpeaks 6/24-7/10/2024
They should be allowed to become citizens, provided they meet certain requirements	61	63	59	51
They should be allowed to become permanent legal residents, but not citizens	20	18	17	18
They should be identified and deported	18	18	23	28
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2	1	2	2
N=	1,361	1,111	1,084	1,254

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	ChicagoSpeaks	ChicagoSpeaks	ChicagoSpeaks	
	9/16-29/2025	6/23-7/9/2025	3/20-4/7/2025	11/14-12/2/2024	GSS 2024
Very/fairly likely NET	28	23	25	21	10
Very likely	8	7	8	6	3
Fairly likely	19	16	17	15	7
Not too/not at all likely NET	71	77	74	78	90
Not too likely	43	48	51	47	33
Not at all likely	28	29	24	31	58
DON'T KNOW	-	-	-	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	*	1	1	-
N=	921	773	735	784	1,230



PULSE_ECO_STRESS. Is each of the following a major source of stress, a minor source of stress, or not a source of stress in your life right now?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

		Major source	Minor source	Not a source	DK	SKP/REF
The amount of money you get paid	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025 (N=1,361)	50	30	18	-	1
	AP-NORC 07/10-14/2025 (N=1,437)	43	32	24	*	1
The cost of groceries	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025 (N=1,361)	58	30	10	-	1
	AP-NORC 07/10-14/2025 (N=1,437)	53	33	14	-	*
The cost of housing	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025 (N=1,361)	56	29	14	-	1
	AP-NORC 07/10-14/2025 (N=1,437)	47	27	25	*	1
The amount of money you have saved	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025 (N=1,361)	49	32	18	-	1
	AP-NORC 07/10-14/2025 (N=1,437)	43	35	21	*	1
Student debt	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025 (N=1,361)	21	16	62	-	1
	AP-NORC 07/10-14/2025 (N=1,437)	18	16	65	*	1
Credit card debt	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025 (N=1,361)	31	26	42	ı	1
	AP-NORC 07/10-14/2025 (N=1,437)	29	27	44	-	*



		Major source	Minor source	Not a source	DK	SKP/REF
The cost of health care	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025 (N=1,361)	48	34	17	-	1
	AP-NORC 07/10-14/2025 (N=1,437)	42	36	21	*	1
The cost of child care	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025 (N=1,361)	20	13	66	-	2
	AP-NORC 07/10-14/2025 (N=1,437)	18	16	65	*	1



PULSE_ ECO_CONF. Thinking about your financial situation, how confident are you that...? [GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

ChicagoSpeaks	Extremely/very	Extremely	Very	Somewhat	Not at all/not very	Not very	Not at all	
9/16-29/2025	confident	confident	confident	confident	confident	confident	confident	SKP/REF
You would be able to find a good job if you wanted to	21	7	14	34	44	25	19	1
You will have enough savings for your retirement	19	8	11	23	57	24	33	1
You can keep up with your expenses	32	13	20	38	29	17	12	1
You would be able to pay an unexpected bill of \$1,000	38	25	13	19	42	14	28	1
You would be able to pay an unexpected medical expense	23	11	12	25	51	21	30	1



PULSE_HRDSHP6. In the past 12 months, was there any time when you needed medical care but could not afford it?

	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025
Yes	24
No	76
DON'T KNOW	-
SKP/REF	*

N= 1,361

PULSE_COMPARE_FIN. Thinking about <u>financial well-being</u>, would you say your neighborhood is doing better than, worse than, or about the same as the following areas?

ChicagoSpeaks	Much/a little	Much	A little	About the	Much/a	A little	Much	SKP/
9/16-29/2025	better	better	better	same	little worse	worse	worse	REF
The rest of Chicago	45	15	30	34	21	14	7	*
The rest of Illinois	41	14	27	36	22	14	8	1
The rest of the United	38	12	26	38	23	13	0	1
States	30	12	20	30	25	15	9	1



PULSE_ATTEND. Below are a few examples of events and activities Chicago hosted in recent years. Which of the following best describes your experience with the following Chicago events?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

ChicagoSpeaks		Familiar but		
9/16-29/2025	Attended before	haven't attended	Not familiar	SKP/REF
Lollapalooza	21	73	6	*
NASCAR Chicago Street	8	81	10	*
Race	0	01	10	
Chicago Air and Water	49	46	5	*
Show	49	40	J	
Pride Parade	33	55	11	*
Bud Billiken Parade	21	49	30	*
St. Patrick's Day Parade	29	65	6	1
Taste of Chicago	58	36	5	1
Chicago Jazz Festival	26	54	18	1
Fiesta Del Sol	13	48	37	1
Wells Street Art Festival	17	43	39	1



PULSE_IMPACT. Do you personally think these events have a positive, negative, or no impact on Chicago residents overall quality of life?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

ChicagoSpeaks				
9/16-29/2025	Positive impact	No impact	Negative impact	SKP/REF
Lollapalooza	54	30	14	2
NASCAR Chicago Street Race	35	33	30	1
Chicago Air and Water Show	59	25	15	1
Pride Parade	57	26	14	2
Bud Billiken Parade	54	40	4	2
St. Patrick's Day Parade	61	30	7	2
Taste of Chicago	70	26	3	1
Chicago Jazz Festival	68	28	2	1
Fiesta Del Sol	56	39	4	2
Wells Street Art Festival	58	37	3	1



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, PIDA, and PIDB.

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025
Democrat NET	61
Strong Democrat	27
Not so strong Democrat	20
Lean Democrat	14
Independent/None – Don't lean	23
Republican NET	15
Lean Republican	6
Not so strong Republican	4
Strong Republican	5
DK/SKP/REF	1



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 9/16- 29/2025
Liberal NET	35
Very liberal	18
Somewhat liberal	17
Moderate	50
Conservative NET	12
Somewhat conservative	8
Very conservative	4
DK/SKP/REF	2



RELIG. What is your present religion, if any?

	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025
Protestant	16
Roman Catholic	22
Mormon	*
Orthodox	1
Jewish	3
Muslim	2
Buddhist	1
Hindu	1
Atheist	7
Agnostic	8
Nothing in particular	20
Just Christian	15
Unitarian	1
Something else	1
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N= 1,361

AGE

	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025
18-29	23
30-44	31
45-59	23
60+	24



SEX

	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025
Male	47
Female	53

N= 1,361

RACE/ETHNICITY

	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025
White, non-Hispanic	35
Black or African American	27
Hispanic	26
Other	12

N= 1,361

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025
Employed	61
Not employed	39



EDUCATION

	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025
Less than a high school diploma	9
High school graduate or equivalent	22
Some college	23
College graduate	24
Post grad study/professional degree	22

N= 1,361

MARITAL

	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16- 29/2025
Married	33
Not married	67



INCOME

	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16- 29/2025
Under \$10,000	9
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	10
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	9
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	6
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	13
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	12
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	14
\$150,000 or more	17

N= 1,361

CHICAGO REGION

	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16- 29/2025
North Central	27
Northwest	16
South	19
Southwest	20
West	18



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 fall 2025 survey using two sample sources: (1) NORC's AmeriSpeak® Panelists who reside in Chicago and (2) NORC's ChicagoSpeaks Panelists.

AmeriSpeak and ChicagoSpeaks are probability-based panels. 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 September 16 and 29, 2025 with Chicago residents aged 18 and older, the overall study target population. Overall, 1,361 Chicago residents completed the survey. 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. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference, using an online survey. Respondents were offered a small monetary incentive for completing the survey. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.7 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, 24 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.

A poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included Chicago region, age, sex, 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