

The NORC ChicagoSpeaks Poll

Conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago

Interviews: 3/16-3/23/2026

1,147 adults

Margin of sampling error: +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults.

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

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 03/16-23/2026	ChicagoSpeaks 11/24- 12/08/2025	ChicagoSpeaks 9/16-29/2025	ChicagoSpeaks 6/23- 7/9/2025	ChicagoSpeaks 3/20- 4/7/2025	ChicagoSpeaks 11/14- 12/2/2024
Very/fairly likely NET	21	23	28	23	25	21
Very likely	6	6	8	7	8	6
Fairly likely	14	17	19	16	17	15
Not too/not at all likely NET	79	77	71	77	74	78
Not too likely	52	51	43	48	51	47
Not at all likely	27	26	28	29	24	31
DON'T KNOW	-	-	-	-	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	*	1	*	1	1
N=	838	847	921	773	735	784

PULSE_IMPROVE_OE. What is one thing that would most improve quality of life in your neighborhood?

[Open-ended question coded. Respondents filled in a textbox.]

	ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026
Safety	19
More police	6
Access to food/restaurants/grocery stores	4
Housing/housing quality/vacancies	2
Affordability/cost of living	8
Access to public transportation / walkability / pedestrian safety	6
Less traffic / more parking / car-centered complaints / enforcement of traffic laws	3
Third spaces / community / beautification / parks / green spaces / recreation	6
Better / more efficient public services / fixing potholes / sidewalk repairs / clearing snow / pest-control / utilities	9
human services / Healthcare access / services for unhoused / better schools / youth activities	8
Community respect / socially desirable behavior / pick up after dog	3
Immigration enforcement / Anti-ICE	1
Economy / economic development / more businesses / more stores / more shopping	7
Nothing / community is great	2
Other	5
Cleanliness / clean streets/ less trash / garbage cleanup / clean area / less litter	5
Noise pollution / quiet hours / reduce noise	1
DON'T KNOW/SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	6

N=

1,147

PULSE_ LETIN1A. Do you think the number of immigrants to America nowadays should be...

	ChicagoSpeaks						
	03/16- 23/2026	11/24- 12/8/2025	9/16- 29/2025	6/23- 7/9/2025	3/20- 4/7/2025	11/14- 12/2/2024	6/24- 7/10/2024
Increased a lot/a little NET	30	23	23	25	22	21	20
Increased a lot	13	10	11	12	10	13	11
Increased a little	17	13	13	13	12	8	8
Remain the same as it is	43	40	39	38	34	31	27
Reduced a little/a lot NET	25	35	36	36	44	48	53
Reduced a little	14	18	17	18	20	22	19
Reduced a lot	12	17	19	18	23	26	34
DON'T KNOW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/ REFUSED	1	2	1	*	1	*	1
N=	1,147	1,230	1,361	1,111	1,084	1,097	1,254

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

	ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026	ChicagoSpeaks 11/24- 12/08/2025	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	71	64	61	63	59	51
They should be allowed to become permanent legal residents, but not citizens	17	21	20	18	17	18
They should be identified and deported	12	14	18	18	23	28
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	1	2	1	2	2
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,147</i>	<i>1,230</i>	<i>1,361</i>	<i>1,111</i>	<i>1,084</i>	<i>1,254</i>

PULSE_FED_ENF_SUP. Since September 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has conducted "Operation Midway Blitz," using federal immigration and law enforcement agencies with the stated goal to arrest and deport individuals who are in the country without legal documentation. Do you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose Operation Midway Blitz?¹

	ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026	ChicagoSpeaks 11/24-12/08/2025
Strongly/somewhat support	19	19
Strongly support	8	10
Somewhat support	11	9
Neither support nor oppose	17	18
Strongly/somewhat oppose	64	62
Somewhat oppose	13	13
Strongly oppose	51	49
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKP/REF	*	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,147</i>	<i>1,230</i>

¹ November/December 2025 ChicagoSpeaks question read: In September this year, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced "Operation Midwest Blitz," an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operation to arrest and deport individuals who are in the country without legal documentation. Do you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose Operation Midwest Blitz?

PULSE_FED_ENF_IMPACT. Overall, would you say that immigration enforcement actions by federal immigration and law enforcement agencies have had a positive impact, negative impact, or no impact on each of the following in Chicago? If you're not sure, you can indicate that too.

ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026	Very/ somewhat positive impact	Very positive impact	Somewhat positive impact	No impact	Very/ somewhat negative impact	Somewhat negative impact	Very negative impact	Not sure	SKP/ REF
Public safety	16	8	9	11	68	18	50	3	1
Neighborhood stability	15	6	9	12	68	18	51	4	1
Trust in law enforcement	12	5	7	9	75	16	58	4	1
The local economy	10	4	6	15	67	25	42	7	1
Residents' access to public services	12	6	6	18	60	19	41	9	1
Civic engagement and participation	32	10	22	12	45	15	30	10	2

N=1,147

PULSE_FED_ENF_REACT. In general, do you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose the following actions in Chicago in response to ongoing federal immigration enforcement activity?

ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026	Strongly/ somewhat support	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Strongly/ somewhat oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	SKP / REF
Filming or documenting federal immigration enforcement activity in neighborhoods	73	57	16	15	12	5	7	*
Sharing information about federal immigration enforcement presence or activity	72	56	16	15	12	6	7	*
Blocking or disrupting federal immigration enforcement operations	48	29	19	26	25	10	15	*
Local laws limiting cooperation between local police and federal immigration and law enforcement agencies	55	36	19	24	20	9	11	1
Publicly showing support for federal immigration enforcement and its officers	19	10	9	33	46	16	30	1
Offering legal or financial help to immigrants facing deportation	65	46	19	21	13	6	8	1
Reporting suspected immigration violations to federal authorities	35	20	15	23	42	14	28	*

ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026	Strongly/ somewhat support	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Strongly/ somewhat oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	SKP / REF
Local businesses allowing federal immigration enforcement agents to use their facilities during operations	16	8	7	24	59	17	42	1
Building federal databases using technology (e.g., facial recognition) with data collected during immigration enforcement operations	21	9	11	20	58	12	46	1
Federal taxpayer dollars being spent on mass arrest and deportation initiatives, such as Operation Midway Blitz	14	7	6	14	72	11	61	*

N=1,147

PULSE_FED_NATGUAR_SUP. In general, do you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose the following entities being used to enforce federal immigration laws in the Chicago area?

	Strongly/ somewhat support	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Strongly/ somewhat oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	SKP / REF
ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026								
Federal immigration and law enforcement agencies	25	12	13	25	50	16	34	1
The National Guard	24	14	11	20	55	12	44	*
Active-duty U.S. military	23	15	8	19	57	10	47	1
Local or county police	32	16	16	23	44	12	32	1

N=1,147

PULSE_FED_ENF_PARTISAN. How well do each of the following statements reflect your views on federal immigration enforcement and deportation practices?

ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026	Extremely/ very well	Extremely well	Very well	Somewhat well	Not very/not well at all	Not very well	Not well at all	SKP / REF
Enforcing immigration laws is essential to upholding the rule of law.	26	13	13	30	43	23	20	1
Mass deportation operations make Chicago communities safer.	15	8	7	14	70	21	49	1
Stricter immigration enforcement helps protect American jobs and public resources.	19	10	9	20	61	21	40	1
Local government should cooperate with federal immigration authorities to enforce the law.	20	12	8	21	58	22	37	1
The federal government is violating constitutional rights in the way it is enforcing immigration laws.	56	44	12	18	25	11	14	1

N=1,147

PULSE_PHQ2. Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems?

ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026	Not at all	Several days	More than half the days	Nearly every day	SKP/ REF
Little interest or pleasure in doing things	56	26	11	6	1
Feeling down, depressed or hopeless	54	27	12	5	2

N=1,147

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 03/16-23/2026
Democrat NET	67
Strong Democrat	31
Not so strong Democrat	21
Lean Democrat	15
Independent/None – Don't lean	20
Republican NET	13
Lean Republican	5
Not so strong Republican	5
Strong Republican	3
UNKNOWN	*

N=

1,147

AGE

	ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026
18-29	24
30-44	32
45-59	19
60+	24

N= 1,147

SEX

	ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026
Male	48
Female	52

N= 1,147

RACE/ETHNICITY

	ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026
White, non-Hispanic	35
Black or African American	25
Hispanic	28
Other	12

N= 1,147

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026
Employed	66
Not employed	34

N= 1,147

EDUCATION

	ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026
Less than a high school diploma	10
High school graduate or equivalent	21
Some college	23
College graduate	24
Post grad study/professional degree	23

N= 1,147

MARITAL

	ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026
Married	34
Not married	66
UNKNOWN	*

N= 1,147

INCOME

	ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026
Under \$10,000	9
\$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	15
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	11
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	13
\$150,000 or more	18
UNKNOWN	*

N= 1,147

CHICAGO REGION

	ChicagoSpeaks 03/16-23/2026
North Central	27
Northwest	16
South	18
Southwest	21
West	18

N=

1,147

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 2026 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 March 16 and March 23, 2026 with Chicago residents aged 18 and older, the overall study target population. Overall, 1,147 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 +/- 4.1 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, 12 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.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, 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 2024 1-year estimates.

For more information, email ChicagoSpeaks-BD@norc.org or visit [go.norc.org/ChicagoSpeaks](https://www.norc.org/ChicagoSpeaks).

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