

Fact Sheet #2: Chicago Community Area Economic Hardship Index

Introduction:

The aim of this index is to examine the conditions of economic hardship within Chicago community areas. Economic hardship is the difficulty resulting from not having enough collective economic resources available to families in a specified area.

Indicators of economic hardship have been developed into an index to measure the economic conditions of Chicago Community Areas. This economic hardship index utilizes multiple indicators to provide a more comprehensive view of economic hardship than single indicators. Utilizing American Community Survey data, this fact sheet contains economic hardship index values for Chicago Community Areas.

Methodology:

The Chicago Community Area economic hardship index calculation is based on the "Intercity Hardship Index." By Richard P. Nathan and Charles F. Adams, Jr. in "Understanding Urban Hardship," *Political Science Quarterly* 91 (Spring 1976): 47-62.

Economic Hardship Scores:

The economic hardship score is the average of six variables that have been standardized on a scale from 0 to 100.

The six variables include:

- Unemployment (over the age of 16 years),
- Education (over 25 years of age without a high school diploma)
- Per capita income level
- Poverty (below the federal poverty level)
- Crowded housing (housing units with more than one person per room)
- Dependency (population under 18 or over 64 years of age)

Higher hardship index scores indicate worse economic conditions.

A chart of economic hardship index values can be found on page 3. Variable values can be found on pages 4-6.

Data Source:

The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey is a national monthly survey that produces demographic, socioeconomic, employment, income, education and behavioral estimates for households and individuals. About 3.54 million addresses are sampled each year nationwide.

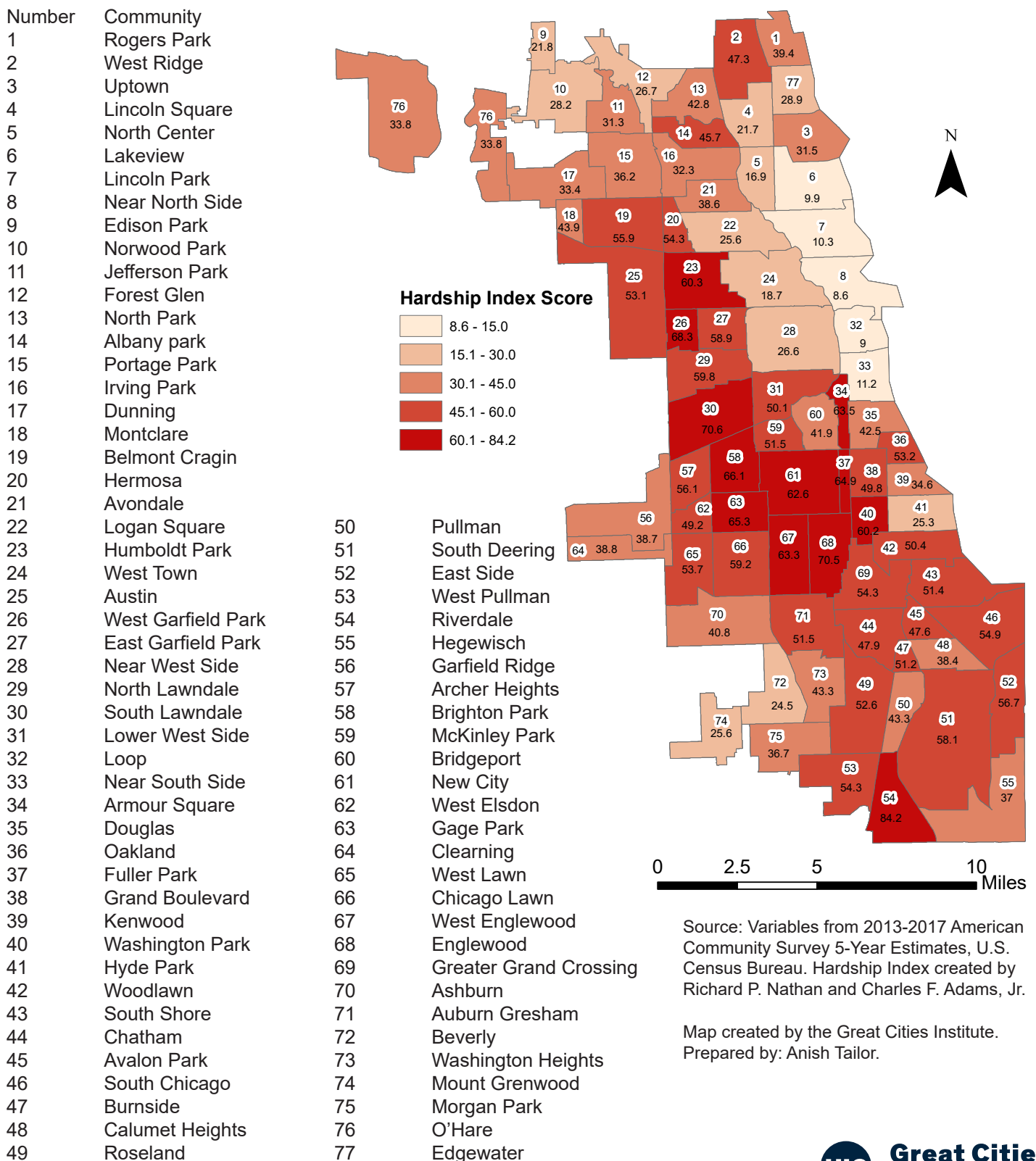
2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-year estimates were used to calculate index values by census tracts. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software was used to aggregate census tract data and geographies into Chicago Community Area boundaries. However, some Census tracts do not directly overlay with Community Area boundaries. Therefore, some data that is within the tract, but outside the boundary may be included. This data is generally marginal.

Data Highlights:

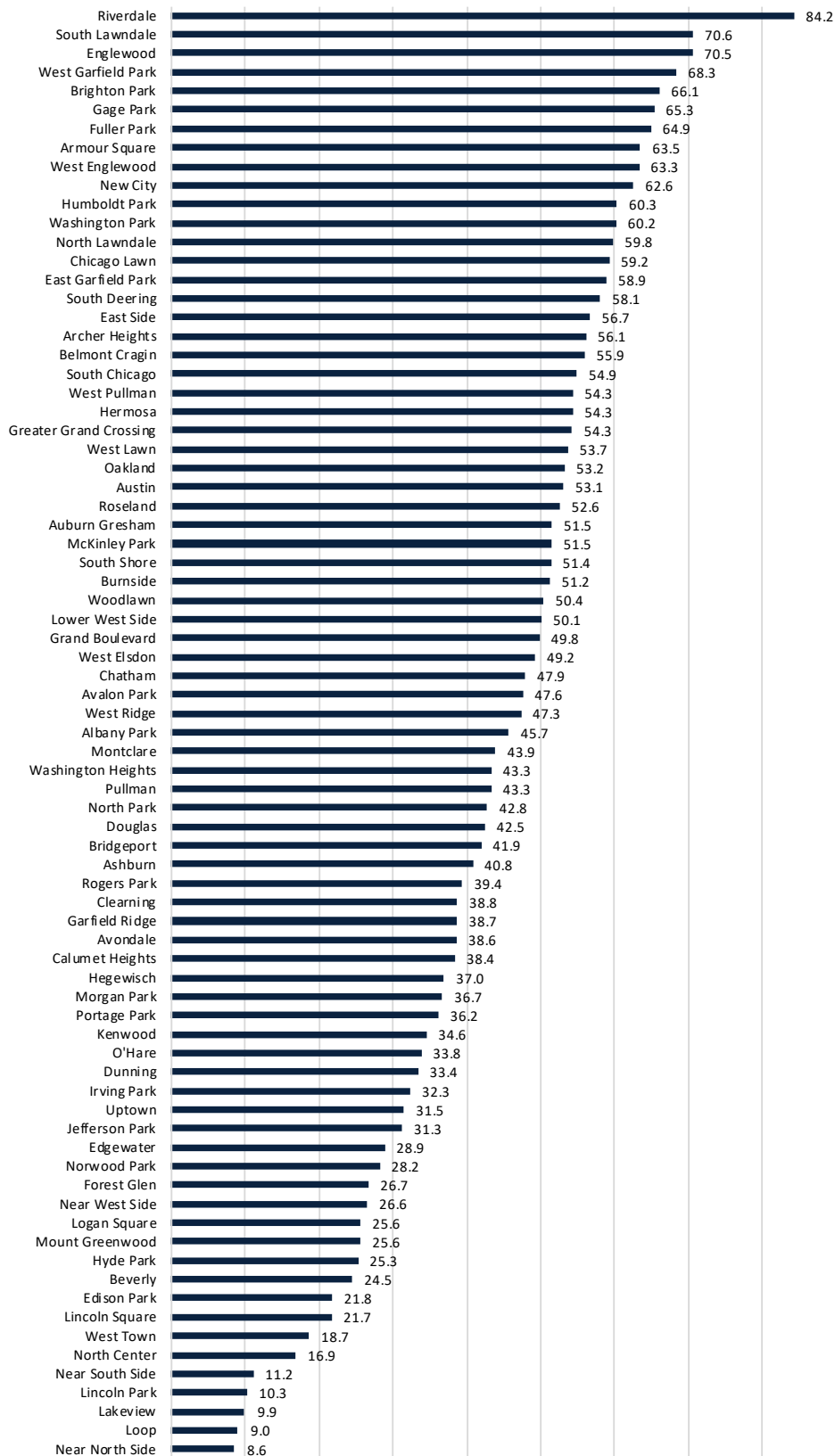
- The three community areas with the lowest Hardship Index Score were the same as in 2014: Near North Side (8), Loop (9.0), and Lakeview (9.9).
- The next two lowest scores are Lincoln Park (10.3) and Near South Side (11.2). The five community areas with the lowest Hardship Index Score all share borders, and are all located along Lake Michigan.
- North Center was included in the bottom six lowest scores, but has increased its Hardship Index Score from 14.9 in 2014 to 16.9 in 2017.
- The community areas with the highest hardship index score are Riverdale on the far South Side (84.2), South Lawndale (70.6) and Englewood (70.5).
- As with the previous survey, Logan Square (25.6 hardship index score), West Town (18.7), and Near West Side (26.6) border the area with the lowest hardship index score to their east.
- There were four community areas that saw an increase in hardship index values by over five points. Armour Square had the highest increase from 56.6 in 2013, to 63.5 in 2017. North Park, South Deering, and Avalon Park also had increases of more than five points.
- Six community areas saw a decrease in their hardship index values of over five points. The largest decrease was New City, from 69.1 in 2013 to 62.6 in 2017. The other five community areas with large decreases were: Washington Park, Irving Park, Lower West Side, North Lawndale, and Gage Park.

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Hardship Index Values in Chicago Community Areas, 2013-2017



Hardship Index Values by Chicago Community Areas, 2013-2017



| Community Area | Community Area Number | Hardship Index Score | Percent of Crowded Housing | Percent of Households with Income Below Poverty Level | Unemployment rate for population Age 16 and Over | Percent Aged 25 and Over with no High School Diploma | Percent of Population Under Age 18 and Over Age 64 | Per Capita Income |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---|--|--|--|-------------------|
| Rogers Park | 1 | 39.4 | 6.6 | 22.6 | 7.7 | 9.5 | 26.2 | \$25,874 |
| West Ridge | 2 | 47.3 | 7.7 | 16.8 | 8.6 | 11.7 | 37.9 | \$24,721 |
| Uptown | 3 | 31.5 | 4.7 | 21.3 | 6.6 | 7.8 | 24.3 | \$37,869 |
| Lincoln Square | 4 | 21.7 | 1.7 | 10.8 | 4.2 | 6.0 | 25.8 | \$44,432 |
| North Center | 5 | 16.9 | 0.7 | 5.2 | 3.6 | 4.4 | 32.2 | \$64,494 |
| Lakeview | 6 | 9.9 | 1.6 | 9.2 | 3.1 | 1.6 | 19.5 | \$67,066 |
| Lincoln Park | 7 | 10.3 | 1.1 | 10.7 | 3.1 | 1.7 | 22.9 | \$73,965 |
| Near North Side | 8 | 8.6 | 1.9 | 10.8 | 3.9 | 1.9 | 23.7 | \$91,948 |
| Edison Park | 9 | 21.8 | 1.0 | 4.3 | 2.9 | 3.6 | 37.7 | \$51,423 |
| Norwood Park | 10 | 28.2 | 1.3 | 8.0 | 4.7 | 5.7 | 38.7 | \$40,219 |
| Jefferson Park | 11 | 31.3 | 2.9 | 7.4 | 5.7 | 8.2 | 35.2 | \$35,183 |
| Forest Glen | 12 | 26.7 | 1.0 | 6.5 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 42.8 | \$47,342 |
| North Park | 13 | 42.8 | 5.0 | 15.5 | 7.0 | 8.7 | 42.7 | \$28,173 |
| Albany Park | 14 | 45.7 | 8.6 | 16.5 | 7.1 | 14.3 | 32.0 | \$25,848 |
| Portage Park | 15 | 36.2 | 3.5 | 13.2 | 7.0 | 10.7 | 33.0 | \$28,866 |
| Irving Park | 16 | 32.3 | 3.5 | 10.3 | 5.8 | 10.3 | 30.2 | \$31,043 |
| Dunning | 17 | 33.4 | 2.0 | 9.6 | 5.1 | 9.0 | 37.4 | \$29,080 |
| Montclare | 18 | 43.9 | 4.7 | 15.6 | 7.5 | 15.3 | 36.9 | \$26,831 |
| Belmont Cragin | 19 | 55.9 | 8.2 | 18.7 | 9.2 | 22.2 | 36.6 | \$17,965 |
| Hermosa | 20 | 54.3 | 6.6 | 22.3 | 7.4 | 24.0 | 35.1 | \$17,896 |
| Avondale | 21 | 38.6 | 3.3 | 16.4 | 5.5 | 16.4 | 30.5 | \$26,860 |
| Logan Square | 22 | 25.6 | 2.7 | 13.0 | 4.2 | 7.9 | 26.0 | \$41,065 |
| Humboldt Park | 23 | 60.3 | 9.1 | 30.1 | 12.1 | 16.9 | 38.5 | \$15,849 |
| West Town | 24 | 18.7 | 2.0 | 11.5 | 4.7 | 7.0 | 21.0 | \$54,429 |
| Austin | 25 | 53.1 | 4.4 | 28.1 | 15.4 | 13.6 | 38.6 | \$17,586 |
| West Garfield Park | 26 | 68.3 | 8.0 | 40.5 | 20.0 | 15.5 | 43.0 | \$12,483 |
| | | | | | | | | |

| Community Area | Community Area Number | Hardship Index Score | Percent of Crowded Housing | Percent of Households with Income Below Poverty Level | Unemployment rate for population Age 16 and Over | Percent Aged 25 and Over with no High School Diploma | Percent of Population Under Age 18 and Over Age 64 | Per Capita Income |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| East Garfield Park | 27 | 58.9 | 4.7 | 40.7 | 18.5 | 12.7 | 38.5 | \$14,638 |
| Near West Side | 28 | 26.6 | 4.2 | 20.5 | 8.3 | 5.6 | 22.2 | \$50,394 |
| North Lawndale | 29 | 59.8 | 4.4 | 37.8 | 19.9 | 14.2 | 38.9 | \$13,236 |
| South Lawndale | 30 | 70.6 | 13.6 | 30.3 | 8.7 | 28.8 | 35.3 | \$11,345 |
| Lower West Side | 31 | 50.1 | 6.1 | 22.1 | 7.0 | 22.2 | 32.0 | \$21,131 |
| Loop | 32 | 9.0 | 2.8 | 11.3 | 4.6 | 1.4 | 16.7 | \$77,722 |
| Near South Side | 33 | 11.2 | 2.4 | 10.0 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 24.1 | \$82,859 |
| Armour Square | 34 | 63.5 | 5.7 | 38.2 | 11.7 | 25.0 | 40.4 | \$19,067 |
| Douglas | 35 | 42.5 | 2.4 | 32.8 | 15.0 | 7.7 | 30.4 | \$24,056 |
| Oakland | 36 | 53.2 | 2.5 | 33.2 | 22.6 | 9.1 | 40.1 | \$20,884 |
| Fuller Park | 37 | 64.9 | 1.7 | 33.8 | 30.7 | 20.0 | 41.7 | \$17,515 |
| Grand Boulevard | 38 | 49.8 | 2.0 | 32.5 | 19.6 | 9.7 | 38.7 | \$24,616 |
| Kenwood | 39 | 34.6 | 1.8 | 23.7 | 10.8 | 5.5 | 35.4 | \$42,491 |
| Washington Park | 40 | 60.2 | 3.9 | 38.9 | 23.2 | 10.0 | 42.2 | \$14,203 |
| Hyde Park | 41 | 25.3 | 1.6 | 23.3 | 6.7 | 2.2 | 26.4 | \$41,719 |
| Woodlawn | 42 | 50.4 | 3.5 | 35.2 | 16.9 | 8.2 | 36.7 | \$19,117 |
| South Shore | 43 | 51.4 | 3.2 | 36.9 | 18.9 | 7.5 | 37.5 | \$20,067 |
| Chatham | 44 | 47.9 | 2.9 | 26.1 | 19.0 | 8.0 | 37.9 | \$21,416 |
| Avalon Park | 45 | 47.6 | 1.9 | 23.5 | 17.8 | 9.8 | 40.6 | \$22,578 |
| South Chicago | 46 | 54.9 | 3.4 | 28.9 | 20.3 | 11.6 | 41.1 | \$16,996 |
| Burnside | 47 | 51.2 | 1.3 | 24.9 | 22.3 | 10.4 | 41.1 | \$17,678 |
| Calumet Heights | 48 | 38.4 | 2.0 | 13.7 | 12.3 | 8.1 | 37.8 | \$27,488 |
| Roseland | 49 | 52.6 | 2.2 | 24.0 | 24.3 | 9.6 | 41.8 | \$19,755 |
| Pullman | 50 | 43.3 | 2.0 | 21.1 | 17.4 | 8.6 | 35.9 | \$23,659 |
| South Deering | 51 | 58.1 | 3.2 | 27.3 | 22.4 | 14.1 | 43.4 | \$16,207 |
| East Side | 52 | 56.7 | 5.3 | 18.5 | 18.1 | 18.1 | 41.0 | \$17,931 |

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|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---|--|--|--|-------------------|
| West Pullman | 53 | 54.3 | 3.2 | 23.9 | 25.1 | 10.1 | 41.1 | \$18,007 |
| Riverdale | 54 | 84.2 | 10.5 | 58.8 | 35.6 | 9.3 | 47.6 | \$9,601 |
| Hegewisch | 55 | 37.0 | 3.0 | 15.2 | 8.3 | 9.5 | 34.3 | \$27,546 |
| Garfield Ridge | 56 | 38.7 | 3.6 | 6.3 | 9.4 | 12.4 | 37.5 | \$28,925 |
| Archer Heights | 57 | 56.1 | 9.7 | 15.9 | 9.2 | 17.9 | 40.2 | \$18,497 |
| Brighton Park | 58 | 66.1 | 12.7 | 23.2 | 10.9 | 24.2 | 37.7 | \$15,552 |
| McKinley Park | 59 | 51.5 | 5.5 | 23.1 | 12.0 | 18.4 | 34.6 | \$19,923 |
| Bridgeport | 60 | 41.9 | 4.7 | 18.4 | 8.9 | 15.1 | 30.2 | \$25,373 |
| New City | 61 | 62.6 | 8.2 | 28.0 | 18.3 | 17.1 | 39.4 | \$14,267 |
| West Elsdon | 62 | 49.2 | 6.4 | 10.7 | 11.8 | 16.2 | 37.7 | \$19,283 |
| Gage Park | 63 | 65.3 | 12.1 | 18.5 | 13.7 | 22.4 | 39.0 | \$13,605 |
| Cleaving | 64 | 38.8 | 3.6 | 9.9 | 10.1 | 9.9 | 36.4 | \$25,722 |
| West Lawn | 65 | 53.7 | 6.8 | 14.5 | 13.1 | 18.6 | 38.7 | \$18,633 |
| Chicago Lawn | 66 | 59.2 | 5.2 | 27.4 | 22.0 | 17.2 | 37.2 | \$14,618 |
| West Englewood | 67 | 63.3 | 3.3 | 30.5 | 31.6 | 14.0 | 41.8 | \$14,836 |
| Englewood | 68 | 70.5 | 4.0 | 42.4 | 34.1 | 16.1 | 41.5 | \$12,777 |
| Greater Grand Crossing | 69 | 54.3 | 3.2 | 35.4 | 22.0 | 9.1 | 37.9 | \$16,719 |
| Ashburn | 70 | 40.8 | 3.3 | 11.3 | 13.0 | 9.6 | 36.9 | \$23,990 |
| Auburn Gresham | 71 | 51.5 | 1.9 | 27.9 | 21.1 | 11.3 | 39.2 | \$18,473 |
| Beverly | 72 | 24.5 | 0.3 | 5.5 | 6.2 | 2.3 | 39.7 | \$44,979 |
| Washington Heights | 73 | 43.3 | 1.4 | 20.2 | 18.3 | 7.2 | 38.2 | \$22,275 |
| Mount Greenwood | 74 | 25.6 | 2.4 | 4.6 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 36.4 | \$36,365 |
| Morgan Park | 75 | 36.7 | 0.4 | 15.5 | 11.7 | 5.8 | 41.4 | \$29,636 |
| O'Hare | 76 | 33.8 | 2.8 | 14.1 | 7.7 | 8.8 | 31.2 | \$28,606 |
| Edgewater | 77 | 28.9 | 4.1 | 15.8 | 6.2 | 7.3 | 25.2 | \$38,748 |