

# CHICAGO LATINO COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

## Opportunities to Invest in Children and Youth

### PART 1: WHAT THE DATA REVEALS



#### CHICAGO LATINO COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW

Recent US Census data show that Latinos are now the second largest ethnic group in Chicago. Today, nearly 30 percent of the city's population identifies as Latino or Hispanic.<sup>1</sup> Further, recent research shows Hispanics have spread out to new areas of the Chicagoland region. Once concentrated on the Southwest and Northwest sides of Chicago, the Latino population is now scattered throughout the city and suburbs. According to a recent report by the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, the Chicago communities with the largest number of Hispanics include Belmont Cragin, Little Village, Gage Park, Brighton Park, West Lawn and Chicago Lawn.<sup>2</sup> However, demographic data show that educational attainment, income levels, affordable healthcare, job training, and employment opportunities have not kept up with the Latino population's growth and needs.

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To understand the unique context of the seven predominantly Latino communities in Chicago, we began by examining data trends across four key topics – population and demographics, social and economic conditions, health outcomes, and crime and violence.

<sup>1</sup>We will use the terms Latino and Hispanic interchangeably throughout this report.

<sup>2</sup>Acosta-Cordova, J. Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy & Great Cities Institute. University of Illinois at Chicago. The Latino Neighborhoods Report: Issues and Prospects for Chicago. October 2017. <https://greatcities.uic.edu/2017/10/11/latino-neighborhoods-report/>

**Table 1. Chicago Community Area and Corresponding Neighborhoods**

Area #	Chicago Community Area (CCA)	Chicago Neighborhoods
30	South Lawndale	Little Village, Marshall Square
31	Lower West Side	Pilsen, Heart of Chicago
46	South Chicago	South Chicago
52	East Side	East Side
58	Brighton Park	Brighton Park
65	West Lawn	West Lawn, Ford City
66	Chicago Lawn	Chicago Lawn, Marquette Park

demographics, 2) social and economic conditions, 3) health outcomes, and 4) crime and violence. For supplementary context, we compared the community data to that of the City of Chicago. Community data were compiled by Chicago Community Area (CCA), which are the official boundaries used by the U.S. Census. The seven neighborhoods are roughly, but not completely, aligned with the CCA (see Table 1). Because some CCAs contain multiple neighborhoods (for example, South Lawndale), the data may not reflect an individual neighborhood with complete accuracy. Despite this limitation, the CCA data does provide a relatively good sense of each neighborhood. Further, to be consistent with other reports and studies on the city's neighborhoods, we analyzed data by CCA.

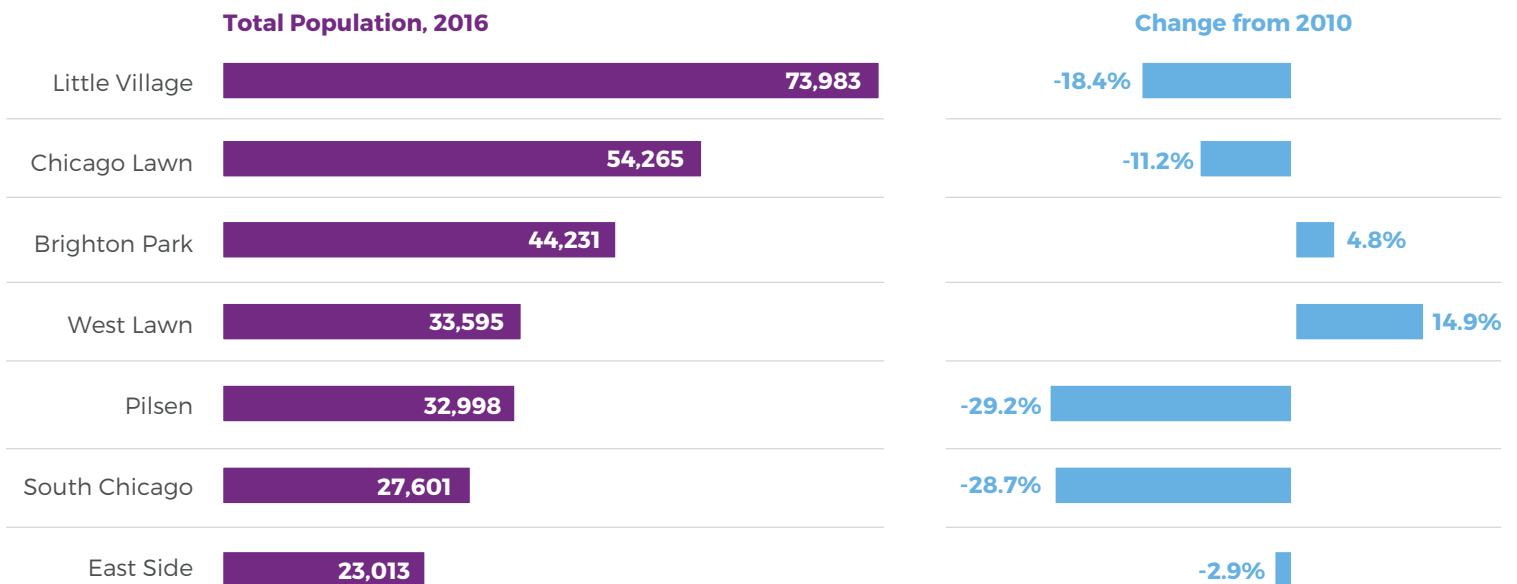
Next, we examined publicly available education data (K-12 and postsecondary) to understand the educational landscape as well as education options available for children in the seven communities. The primary sources for education data were Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Because data on Catholic and private schools are not publicly available, we were unable to include a comparative analysis.

## Population.

While Chicago continues to be the third largest city in the U.S., its population has declined since 2010. In 2016, there were 182,000 fewer residents than in 2000, a decrease of 6.3 percent. Recent data from the U.S. Census shows that among the 20 most populous cities in the U.S., Chicago was the only one to lose residents from 2016 to 2017. Many of the seven target communities experienced large drops in population since 2010, as shown in Figure 1. While Little Village and Chicago Lawn are the most populated communities, they, too, have experienced large declines in their population. The populations in Pilsen and South Chicago have decreased significantly, by almost 30 percent. Brighton Park and West Lawn are the only communities that have had population growth since 2010. Of the seven communities, East Side is the smallest, with just over 23,000 residents, and continues to decline in population.

Many of the seven target communities experienced large drops in population since 2010, as shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1. Total Population and Change from 2010**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 5-Year American Community Survey and 2010 Decennial Census

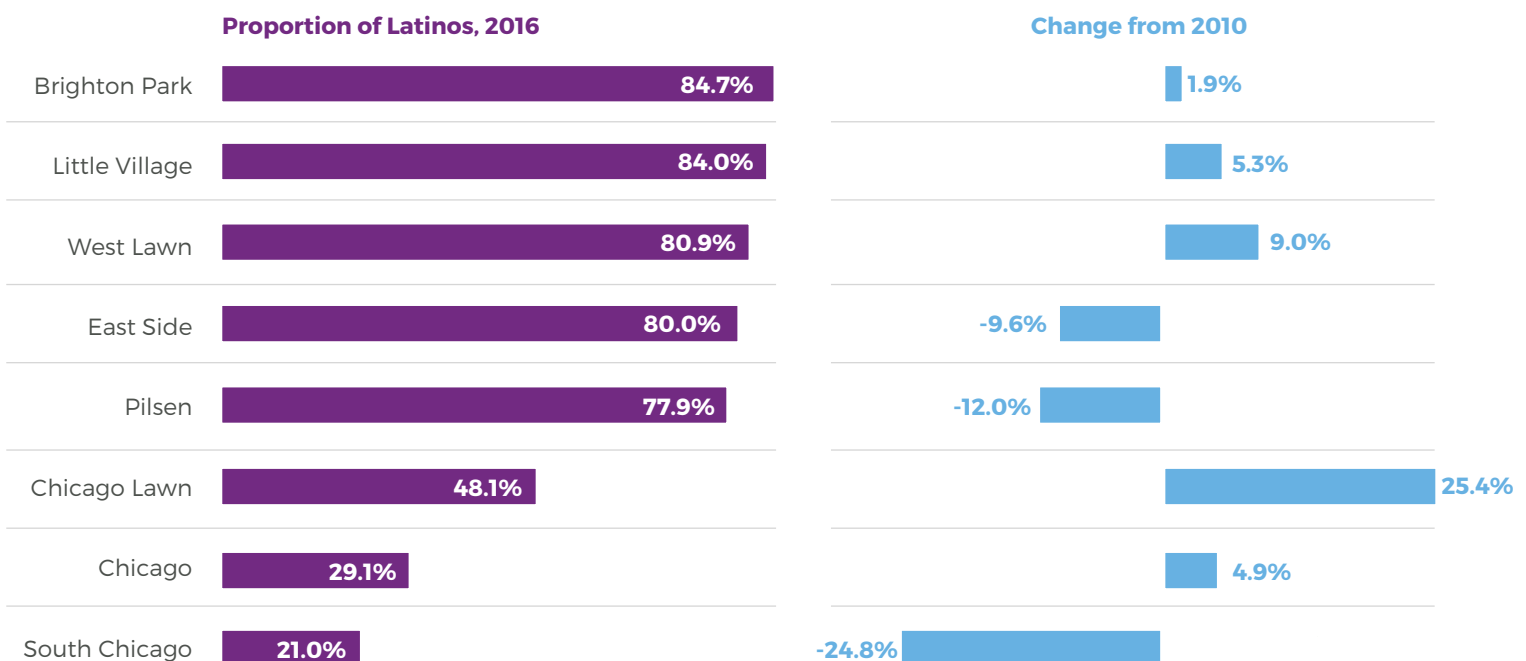
## Demographics.

Chicago has undergone significant demographic shifts since the 1990s. While the city has experienced annual declines in population, it continues to be increasingly diverse with growing Latino and Asian populations. Between 2010 and 2016, the Latino population grew by 5 percent, and now represents almost 30 percent of the city's residents. In fact, in 2016, the population of Latinos exceeded that of Blacks to become Chicago's second largest racial/ethnic group, with non-Hispanic Whites representing 32.3 percent of the population, and Blacks at 29.4 percent of the population.

Among the seven target communities, Little Village and Brighton Park have the largest percentage of Latino residents (over 80 percent), while South Chicago has the smallest percentage (21 percent). As shown in Figure 2, each community has experienced shifts in the share of Latino residents. Chicago Lawn has experienced the largest growth in Latino residents since 2010, while South Chicago has had the largest decrease, a drop of 25 percent.

Chicago Lawn has experienced the largest growth in Latino residents since 2010, while South Chicago has had the largest decrease, a drop of 25 percent.

**Figure 2. Latino Population and Change from 2010**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 5-Year American Community Survey and 2010 Decennial Census

As shown by the U.S. Census data, some Latino neighborhoods are growing rapidly, while others are shrinking. These demographic shifts are due to a combination of migration trends, urban socio-economic forces, and economic development that has led to gentrification and displacement of whole families. Pilsen has historically been a port of entry for immigrant groups since the turn of the 20th century when eastern European immigrants first arrived. Beginning in the late 1950s and continuing into the 1960s, Mexican immigrants moved into Pilsen in large numbers following the closure of the Union Stock Yards in Back of the Yards, which displaced long-term residents from the area. However, in the 1980s and 1990s, Pilsen suffered from the same urban socio-economic issues that plagued many neighborhoods across the country, and economic deterioration combined with gang violence led many families to flee the neighborhood. Recent economic development has led to even more displacement of residents, particularly low-income residents, as they seek affordable housing in communities to the south and west of the city, including Chicago Lawn and West Lawn.

By the late 1990s, following a mass exodus of White families throughout the decade, Chicago Lawn became majority African American. However, as described earlier, the last five years have been ones of tremendous growth in Chicago's Latino population, which has now surpassed African Americans as the majority. The rapid growth has largely been driven by the continued exodus of African Americans from the city, as well as the continued displacement of Latinos from other urban neighborhoods such as Pilsen and Little Village. Although Chicago Lawn was one of the neighborhoods most impacted by the foreclosure crisis of the 2000s, revitalization and foreclosure mitigation efforts have drawn many Latino residents to Chicago Lawn with the opportunity to purchase a home in the community. In contrast, South Chicago has experienced the opposite trend. Once a burgeoning Latino

These demographic shifts are due to a combination of migration trends, urban socio-economic forces, and economic development that has led to gentrification and displacement of whole families.

neighborhood that arose from the steel industry's demand for Mexican labor, South Chicago is now facing continuing population declines. The neighborhood was once home to the U.S. Steel's South Works plant and attracted workers until the plant closed in the early 1990s. This led to a period of rapid population decline and economic depression. Given South Chicago's proximity to the Indiana border, many residents migrated to nearby Indiana cities including Hammond, Whiting, and East Chicago.

**POPULATION AGE.** While Chicago's median age is 34, residents in the seven target communities tend to be younger. The median age of Little Village residents is 29, compared to South Chicago where residents are slightly older (median age of 36). South Chicago has the largest percentage of residents ages 65 and older

(14.5 percent). In 2016, roughly 18 percent of the city's population was school age (5-18 years). All the target communities had a greater proportion of school-age children than the city, with the highest percentages in Brighton Park and West Lawn, both at 27 percent.

**FOREIGN-BORN.** The proportion of foreign-born residents varies significantly across the seven communities. Brighton Park has the highest proportion of foreign-born resident (46 percent) while South Chicago has the least (10 percent). Just over one third of residents in Pilsen and West Lawn are foreign-born. Over three-quarters of residents in Brighton Park and Little Village speak Spanish. Table 2 provides a breakdown of select demographic characteristics of residents in the seven target communities.

**Table 2. Select Demographic Characteristics of Seven Target Communities, 2016**

Community	% Latino	Median Age	% Female	% Foreign Born	% Speak Spanish
Brighton Park	84.7	31.2	47.3	46.4	76.3
Chicago Lawn	48.1	31.0	53.5	23.6	44.0
East Side	80.0	32.8	51.1	29.0	68.8
Little Village	84.0	29.4	44.2	38.5	77.9
Pilsen	77.9	31.0	47.7	35.0	68.0
South Chicago	21.0	36.1	55.8	10.2	18.1
West Lawn	80.9	31.0	49.2	35.4	71.2
Chicago	29.1	33.9	51.5	20.9	24.6

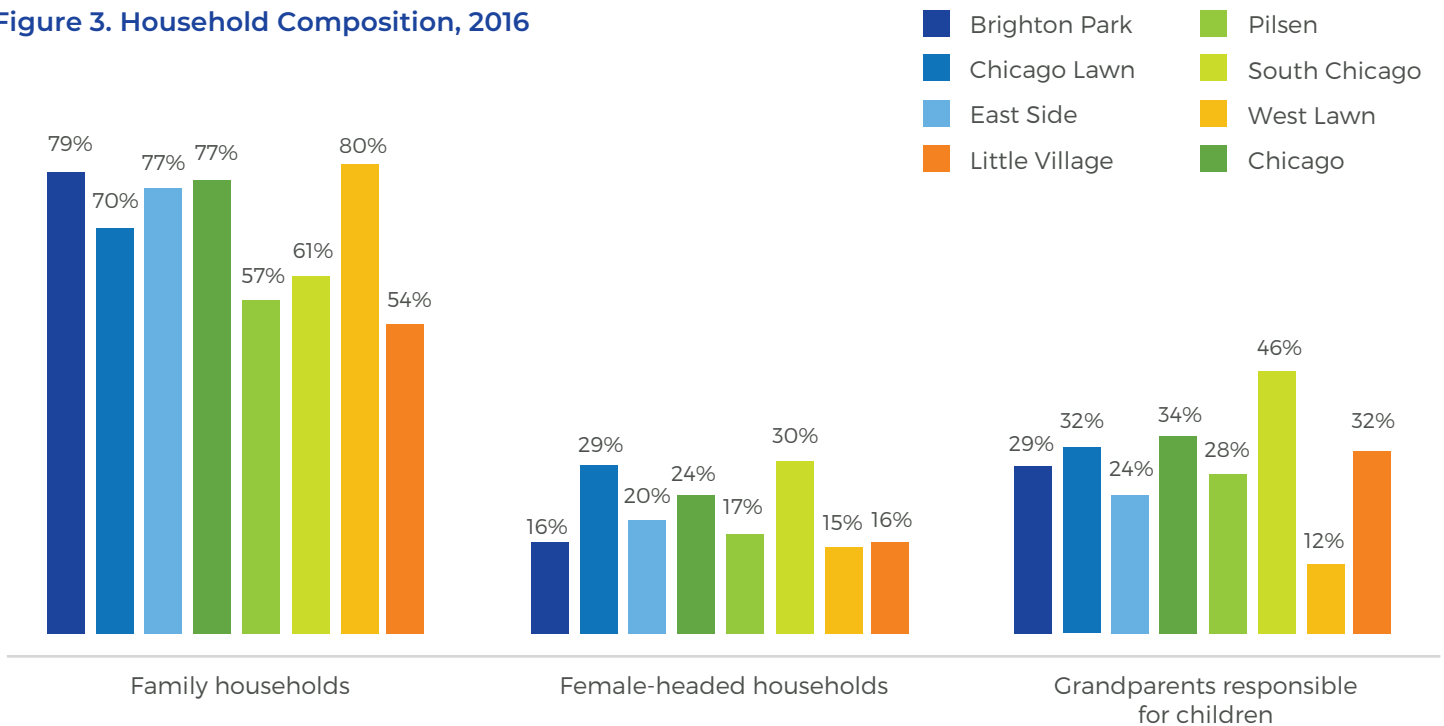
Source: 2012-2016 5-Year American Community Survey

## Social and Economic Conditions.

The families and communities in which children are born and raised heavily influence their future outcomes. Family composition is also strongly linked to a child’s well-being.<sup>3</sup> For example, single mothers and fathers tend to face greater barriers to providing economic stability for their children. While just over fifty percent of households in the city are family households,<sup>4</sup> there is variation in household composition across the seven communities, as shown in Figure 3. Chicago Lawn and South Chicago have the highest percentage of female-headed households (nearly 30

percent) while West Lawn has the least (15 percent). Further, many communities have households where grandparents are living with their grandchildren. In South Chicago, almost 46 percent of households have grandparents directly responsible for the grandchild. West Lawn has the lowest rate (12 percent). Although grandparents often are willing to care for the children in their families, they may face additional emotional and financial challenges in doing so.

**Figure 3. Household Composition, 2016**



Source: 2012-2016 5-Year American Community Survey

<sup>3</sup> Child Trends (2014). Family Structure. Retrieved from <http://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=family-structure>

<sup>4</sup> According to the U.S. Census, a family consists of a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

**ECONOMIC HARDSHIP.** To further understand economic disparities across the communities, we examined the economic hardship index developed by the Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Using U.S. Census data, the index provides a more comprehensive view of economic hardship than single indicators. It also has wide application across policy areas due to the interconnectedness of economic factors to overall quality of life. Higher hardship index scores indicate worse economic conditions, on a

standardized scale of 0-100. The six variables used to calculate composite economic hardship 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)

Little Village residents were living in **high economic hardship** in 2014

Table 3 presents the hardship index scores across the seven communities, along with recent data for relevant socioeconomic indicators. Little Village had the highest index score while West Lawn had the lowest. Although the hardship index is calculated using 2014 U.S. Census data, we provide more recent data to highlight specific economic disparities across the communities.

**Table 3. Select Socioeconomic Indicators of Seven Target Communities, 2016**

Community	Hardship Index (2014)	Crowded Housing (%)	Poverty (%)	Unemployment (%)	No HS Diploma (%)	Per Capita Income (\$)
Brighton Park	65.4	13.2	25.9	11.5	43.6	\$14,954
Chicago Lawn	61.1	6.9	30.9	21.8	29.6	\$14,008
East Side	53.9	5.1	20.3	18.4	30.3	\$17,994
Little Village	73.6	14.3	34.8	9.3	49.6	\$10,910
Pilsen	55.4	6.8	26.9	9.4	32.8	\$19,181
South Chicago	55.8	3.7	31.0	22.7	20.1	\$15,996
West Lawn	50.9	6.2	16.3	13.4	31.7	\$17,786
Chicago	N/A	4.2	21.7	10.9	16.9	\$30,847

Sources: Great Cities Institute, University of Illinois at Chicago, and U.S. Census

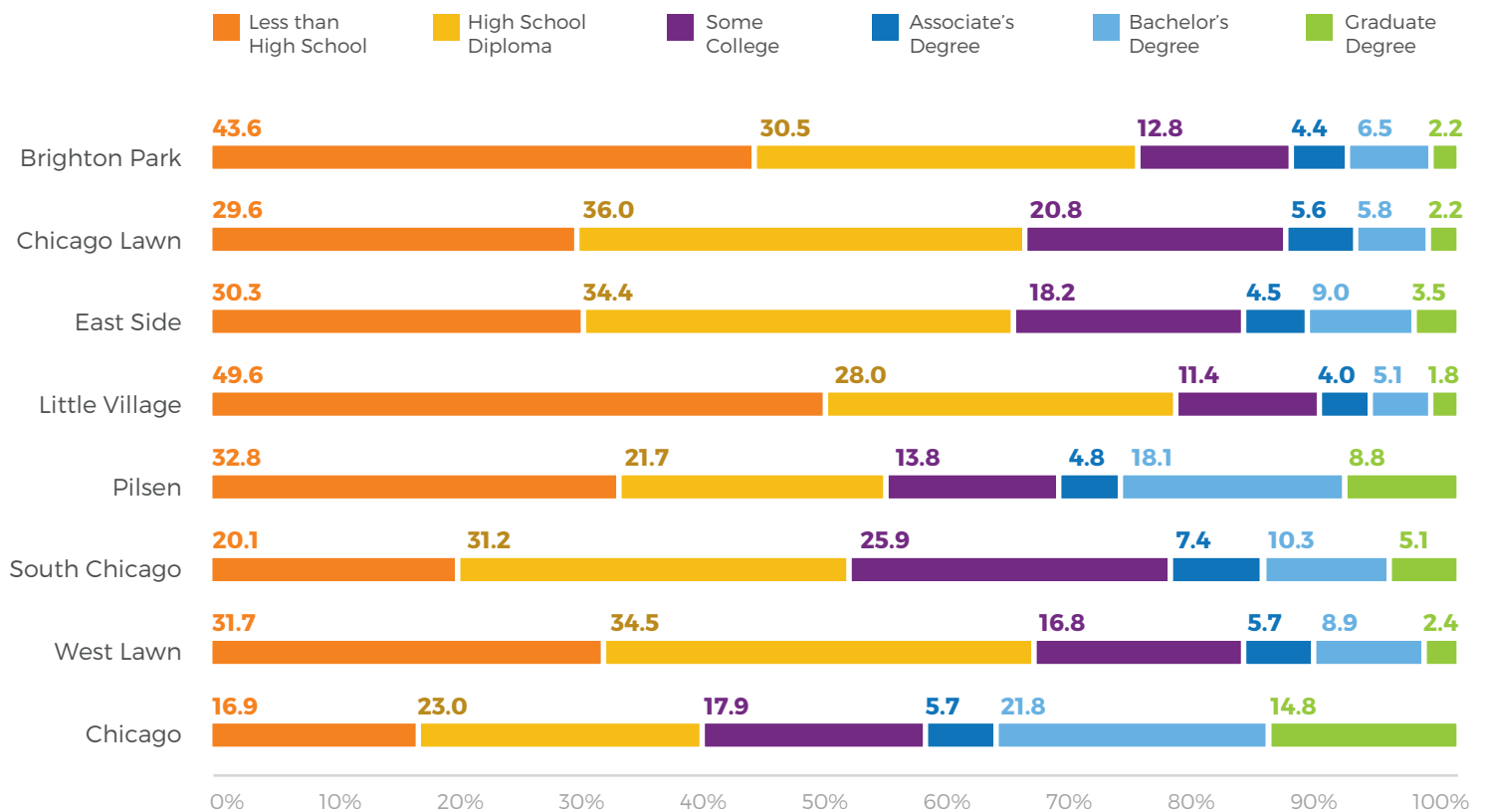


**INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT.** As Table 3 shows, some communities face greater unemployment and poverty than others. Aside from West Lawn and East Side, almost one in three residents in the communities live in poverty. Little Village has the highest poverty rate, with 35 percent of individuals with incomes below the poverty level. This is further reflected in per capita income levels for which Little Village residents have the lowest per capita income, just above \$10,000. However, Little Village had the lowest unemployment rate, at 9.3 percent. This implies many Little Village families are working and yet still living in poverty due to jobs that pay inadequate wages. Further, undocumented residents do not have access to many types of

employment and are even more vulnerable to exploitation and low wages. Little Village is also one of the densest communities in Chicago, with nearly 80,000 residents in an area less than five square miles. This is reflected in the higher percentage of household overcrowding. Of the seven communities, only West Lawn had lower poverty rates than the city average of 21.7 percent.

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT.** Higher levels of parent educational attainment are associated with positive outcomes for children. Parent educational attainment is also related to a family's economic stability, as adults with higher levels of education are less likely to be unemployed and tend to earn more. Educational attainment

Figure 4. Educational Attainment of Seven Target Communities, 2016



Source: 2012-2016 5-Year American Community Survey

is measured according to the highest level of formal education earned for the population aged 25 years and older. Chicago residents are slightly more likely to hold an Associate degree or higher compared to the rest of the state (42.3 percent compared to 40.7 percent). All seven communities have a higher proportion of residents with a high school diploma or less compared to the city. Little Village and

Brighton Park have the highest percentage of adults without a high school diploma (50 and 44 percent, respectively). In contrast, over 30 percent of the adult population in Pilsen hold at least an Associate degree, the highest of the seven communities. Figure 4 provides a breakdown of educational attainment across the seven communities.

## Health Outcomes.

Table 4 provides a snapshot of public health indicators in the seven communities. Low birth weight (less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces) and preterm birth rates are indicators that babies may face serious health problems as newborns and may be at increased risk of long-term disabilities. Chicago Lawn had the highest percentage of low birthweight babies and preterm births in 2014.

U.S. birth rates have been declining since 2014, and Chicago follows the national trend. In 2000, there were 51,000 births in Chicago. By 2014, that number had dropped to 40,000, a decrease of 21 percent. All seven communities have seen declining birth rates since 2000. Pilsen has experienced the most significant declines in births since 2000, when more than 1,100 babies were born. In 2014, the most recent data available, 453 babies were born in Pilsen, reflecting a 59-percent decrease.

Teen birth rates in Chicago have also continued to decline, mirroring national and statewide trends. In 2014, there were 32 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19 in Chicago, a 62-percent drop from the rate of 85.2 births per 1000 females in 1999. However, disparities remain across the seven communities. While teen births in Little Village have dropped 44-percent since 1999, they are the highest among the seven communities (54 births per 1,000 females).

Opioid-related overdose deaths continue to increase in Chicago. In 2016, 741 people died from an opioid-related overdose (a rate of 26.8 per 100,000 individuals). For context, this is more than the number of people who died from either gun-related homicide or traffic crashes in Chicago in the same year.<sup>6</sup> In Chicago, the rate of opioid-related overdose death was highest among non-Hispanic Black individuals compared to other racial/ethnic

<sup>6</sup> Chicago Department of Public Health. Office of Epidemiology and Research. Annual Opioid Surveillance Report-Chicago 2017. October 2018. <https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/cdph/CDPH/Healthy%20Chicago/ChicagoOpioidReport2018.pdf>

groups. The rate was highest in the 45-54-year-old age group compared to other age groups. Opioid-related overdose death rates across the seven communities vary significantly. The most impacted communities are South Chicago and Chicago Lawn, both of which have higher rates than the city (34.7 and 33.9, respectively). The lowest overdose rates are in Little Village, Brighton Park, and East Side (rates of 12-13 per 100,00 individuals).

**HEALTH INSURANCE.** Latinos have the highest uninsured rate among any racial or ethnic group in the U.S. In 2016, about 19 percent of the adult Latino population aged 18-64 was

not covered by health insurance compared to 7 percent of the non-Latino White population. Although there are many government programs available for low-income populations and/or those who lack private insurance, many Latinos face barriers in accessing services, including language, literacy, documentation status, or lack of knowledge regarding available services. Six of the seven target communities (except South Chicago) had higher rates of uninsured than the city. While 15 percent of Chicago's adult population aged 18-64 are uninsured, residents in Brighton Park and Little Village are almost twice as likely to be uninsured (27 and 26 percent, respectively).

**Table 4. Public Health Indicators in Seven Target Communities, 2014**

Community	Uninsured Population (%)	Low Birthweight Births (%)	Preterm Births (%)	Teen Birth Rate (# per 1,000)	Overdose Rate (# per 100,000)
Brighton Park	25.8	9.8	11.3	38.6	12.7
Chicago Lawn	25.3	12.4	13.2	44.8	33.9
East Side	21.6	7.8	9.3	29.3	12.8
Little Village	17.6	7.6	9.5	54.2	12.3
Pilsen	14.4	8.8	9.9	32.2	21.3
South Chicago	15.1	10.9	9.8	38.2	34.7
West Lawn	27.0	6.9	10.8	34.0	22.1
Chicago	14.6	9.3	10.5	32.0	22.0

Source: Chicago Department of Public Health and US Census Bureau

<sup>7</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Feb. 2017). Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey, January-September 2016. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/insur201702.pdf>

## Crime and Violence.

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Between 2015 and 2016, Chicago experienced 58 percent more homicides and 43 percent more non-fatal shootings. To put this in context, the increase in the city's homicide rate between 2015 and 2016 (from 15.1 to 27.8 per 100,000) has eroded approximately two-thirds of the decrease Chicago experienced since the early 1990s.<sup>8</sup> Using data from the Chicago Police Department (CPD), we examined index and non-index crime across the seven communities. Index crime refers to more serious offenses designated by CPD and includes the following: homicide, sexual assault, robbery, arson, burglary, and theft. Non-index crime refers to less serious offenses and includes trespassing, gambling, prostitution, public indecency, and drug offenses. Of the seven communities, West Lawn had the highest percentage of index crime reported in 2018 (69 percent), followed by Chicago Lawn (67 percent). While index crimes in South Chicago were primarily incidents of battery (40 percent), most crimes in West Lawn were theft (44 percent).

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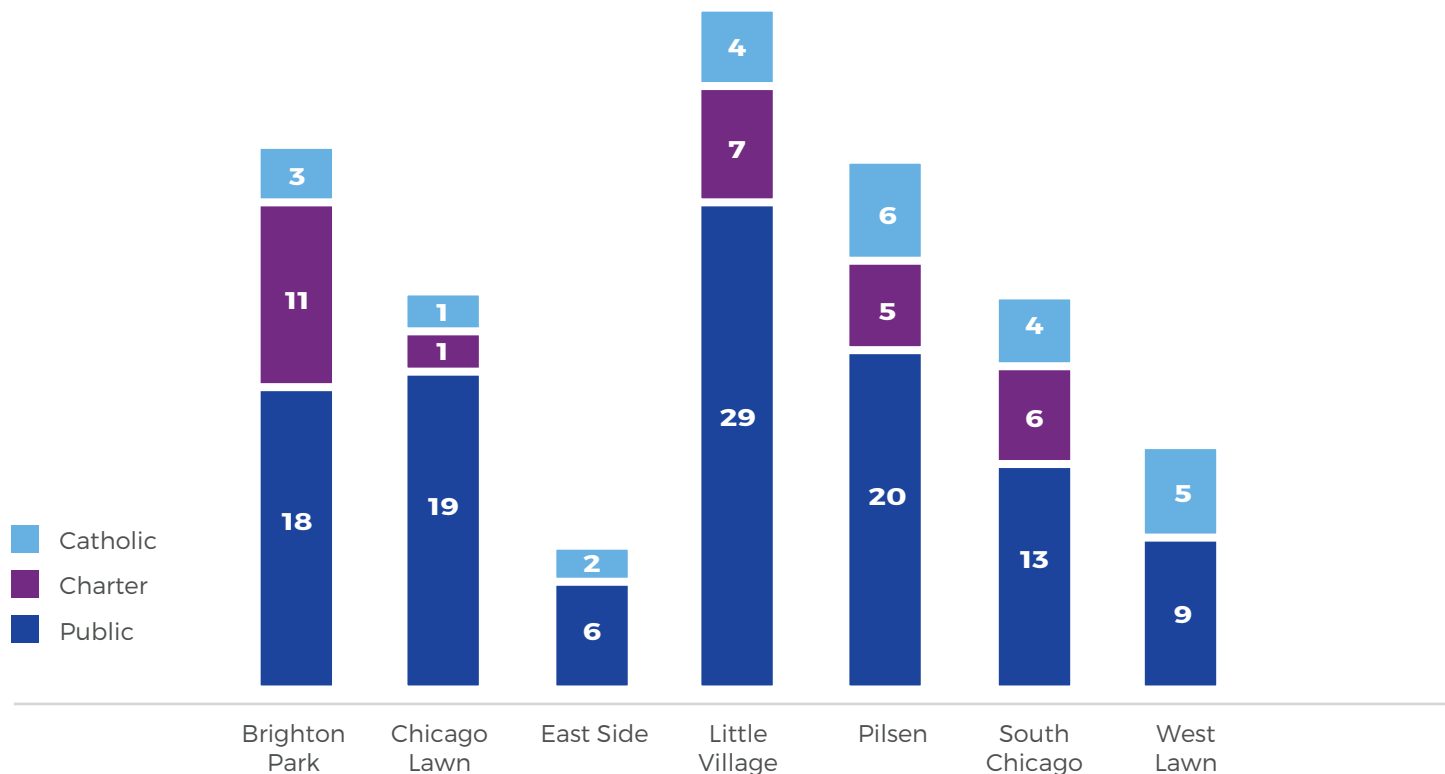
## Educational Landscape.

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In Chicago, families have several options for their children's schooling: traditional public schools, public charter schools, private schools, or Catholic schools. To understand the educational landscape in the seven communities, we examined publicly available data on enrollment, student demographics, school quality, and performance for the last five years. This analysis draws on data from the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and focuses on the schools located in the seven communities, including traditional neighborhood, selective enrollment, magnet, charter, special education specialty, and options (alternative) schools. While we can identify the number of

<sup>8</sup>University of Chicago Crime Lab. Gun Violence in Chicago. 2016. January 2017. Accessed at: <https://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/projects/gun-violence-in-chicago-2016>

**Figure 5. Number of Schools in Seven Target Communities, By School Type, 2017-18**



Source: Chicago Public Schools, School Locator

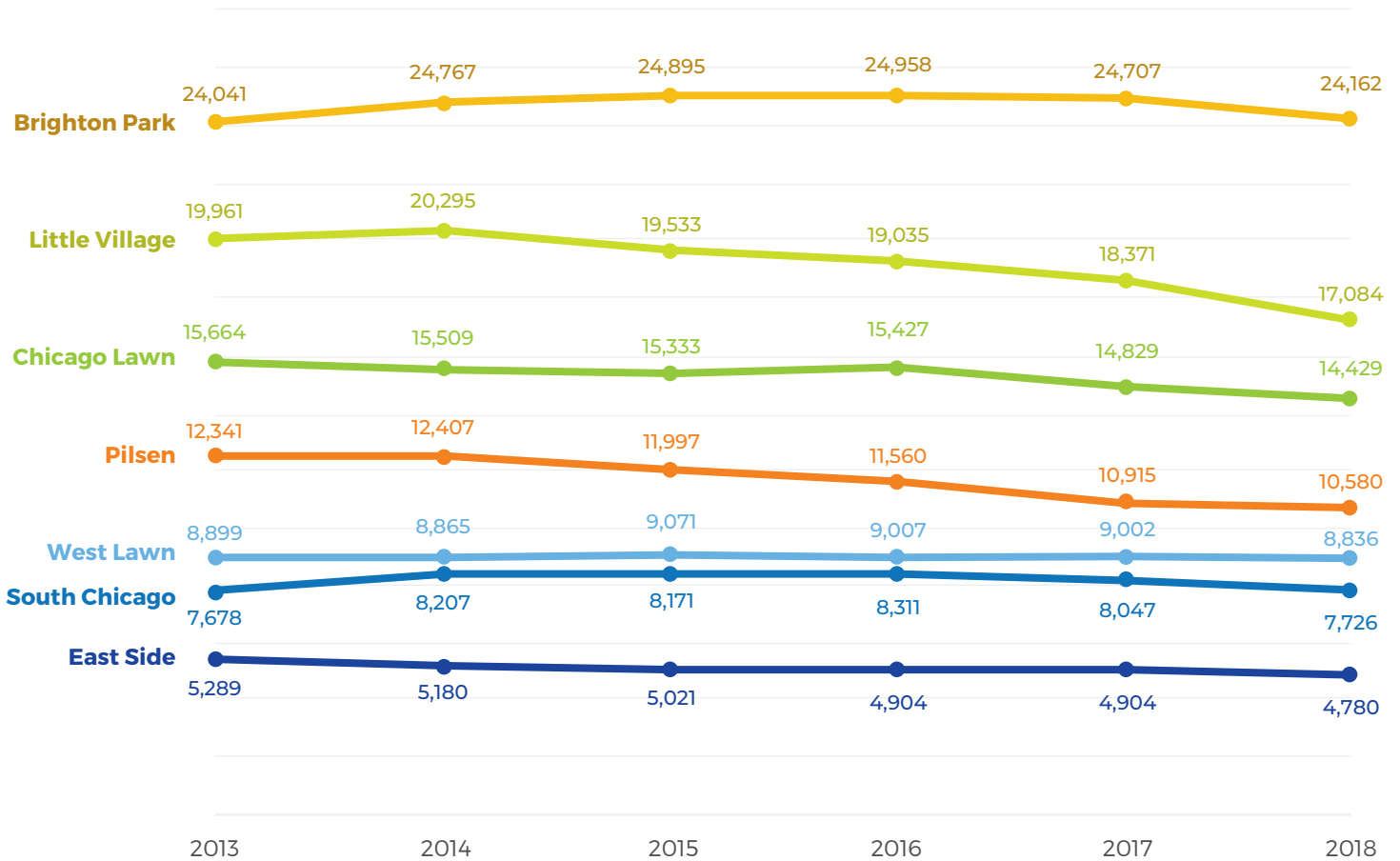
Catholic and private schools in each community, enrollment and performance data on these schools are not publicly available. Thus, they are excluded from analysis of school enrollment, quality, and performance.

In the 2017-18 school year, there were 169 schools across the seven communities: 114 traditional public schools, 30 charters, and 25 Catholic. As Figure 5 displays, Little Village had the greatest number of school options (n=40), followed by Brighton Park (n=32) and Pilsen (n=31). Brighton Park also had the largest number of charter schools (n=11). East Side and West Lawn were the only two communities that did not have any charter schools.<sup>9</sup>

The number of students enrolled in public schools across the seven communities was 87,597 in the 2017-18 school year, a decrease of 6.7 percent (approximately 6,276 students) since the 2012-13 school year. Little Village and Pilsen have had the largest declines in public school enrollment, -14.4 and -14.3 percent respectively, since 2012-13. This is almost double the decrease in the district’s overall student enrollment during the same period (-8.0 percent). Brighton Park and South Chicago are the only two communities that have been able to slightly increase student enrollment over the past five years (see Figure 6).

<sup>9</sup>Some schools serve students from neighboring communities, such as Pilsen and Little Village. For this analysis, we included each school in the neighborhood where it is physically located.

Figure 6. Public School Enrollment Over Time in the Seven Target Communities



To further unpack student enrollment trends across the communities, we examined changes in student enrollment for traditional public schools and charter schools. As shown in Table 5, enrollment in traditional public schools has decreased in every community, while charter school enrollment has increased during the same period. In fact, overall charter school enrollment across the target communities has increased by 33 percent to total 14,655 in the 2017-18 school year. Most of the change was driven by increased

enrollment in South Chicago and Chicago Lawn charters. While charters in Brighton Park serve a greater number of students, Chicago Lawn and South Chicago charters have had the greatest growth in student enrollment. On the other hand, the greatest decrease in traditional public school enrollment occurred in Pilsen and South Chicago schools. Pilsen in particular saw a decline of more than 20 percent (approximately 2,119 fewer students enrolled in traditional public schools since 2012-13).

**Table 5. Change in Public and Charter School Enrollment from 2014-2018**

School Type	Community	2013	2018	% Change
<b>Charter</b>	Brighton Park	4,217	5,875	<b>+39.3%</b>
	Chicago Lawn	557	1,077	<b>+93.4%</b>
	Little Village	2,927	2,979	+1.8%
	Pilsen	2,044	2,402	+17.5%
	South Chicago	1,288	2,332	<b>+81.1%</b>
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>11,033</b>	<b>14,655</b>	<b>+32.9%</b>
<b>Public</b>	Brighton Park	19,824	18,287	-7.8%
	Chicago Lawn	15,107	13,352	-11.6%
	East Side	5,289	4,780	-9.6%
	Little Village	17,034	14,105	-17.2%
	Pilsen	10,297	8,178	<b>-20.6%</b>
	South Chicago	6,390	5,394	<b>-15.6%</b>
	West Lawn	8,899	8,836	-0.7%
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>82,840</b>	<b>72,932</b>	<b>-12.0%</b>
<b>Total School Enrollment</b>		<b>93,873</b>	<b>87,597</b>	<b>-6.7%</b>

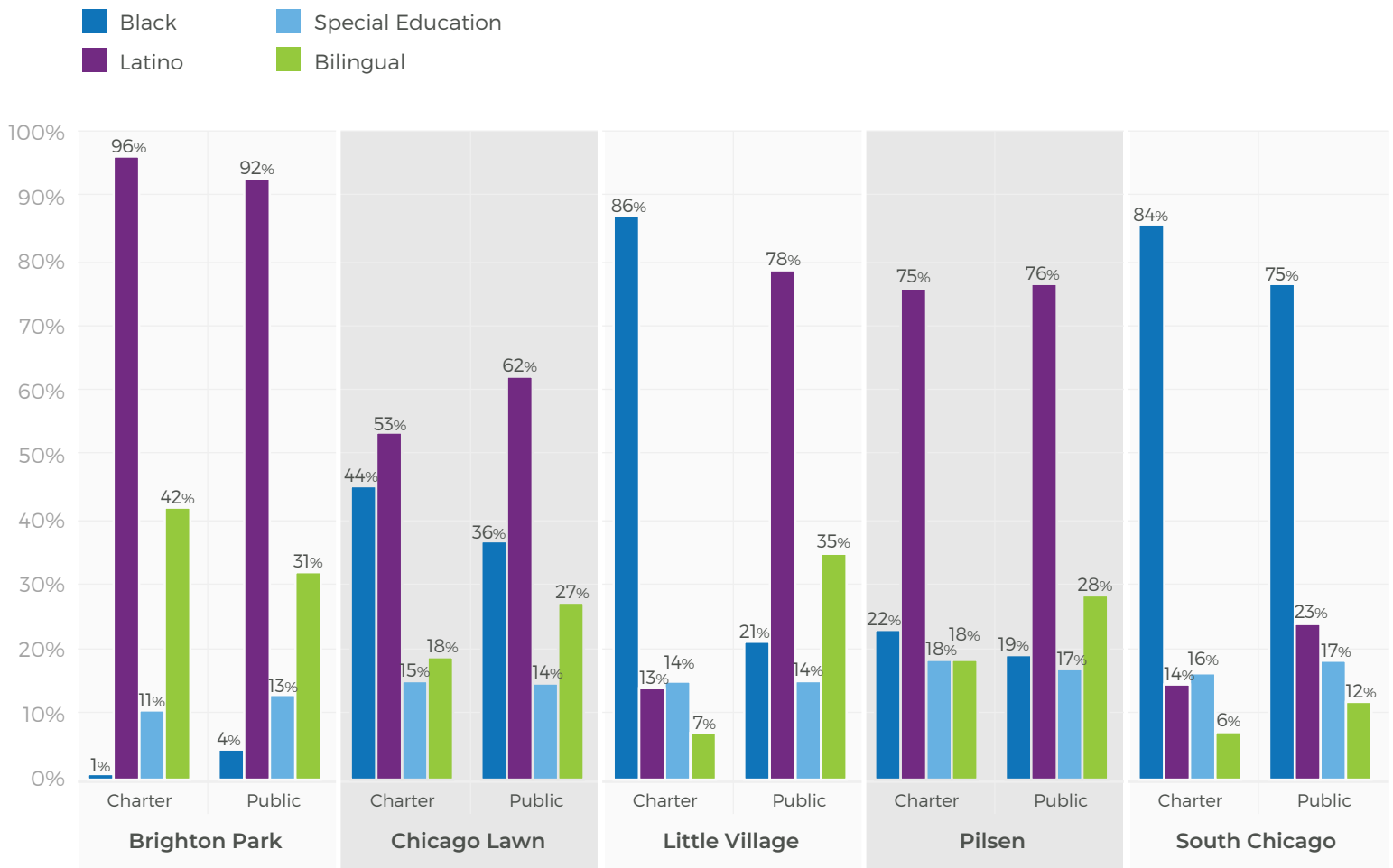
Source: Chicago Public Schools, 20th Day Membership

**STUDENTS SERVED BY SCHOOL TYPE.**

The majority of schools across the seven communities serve predominately Latino students, except for South Chicago where schools serve predominately African American students. Figure 7 compares the student demographics of traditional public schools and charters in the five communities that have charter schools. We see variation in certain communities. For example, in South Chicago, charters are less likely to serve bilingual students

compared to traditional public schools (6 percent vs 12 percent). A similar trend holds in the other communities, except for Brighton Park, where charters are more likely to serve bilingual students. The analysis did not find any differences between public and charter school enrollment of special education students.

**Figure 7. Student Demographics by School Type, 2017-18**



Source: Chicago Public Schools, Racial/Ethnic Report, Limited English Proficiency, Special Ed, Low Income, IEP

**SCHOOL QUALITY RATINGS.** Although students and families in Latino neighborhoods can choose from several public, private, and charter schools, not all students have actual choice if the only options available are low-quality schools. To assess school quality, we examined the School Quality Rating Policy (SQRP) used by CPS. Each year, CPS gives all schools, regardless of school type, a SQRP score and level rating. The score is primarily driven by student achievement and growth and is used

to measure a school's overall performance. It also includes measures of school climate and culture. Depending on the numeric score, a school is then assigned a Level Rating and Accountability Status. There are 5 Level Ratings within the SQRP ranging from Level 1+ to Level 3 (see Table 6). The ratings provide a uniform way to compare schools since all schools in the district receive a rating.



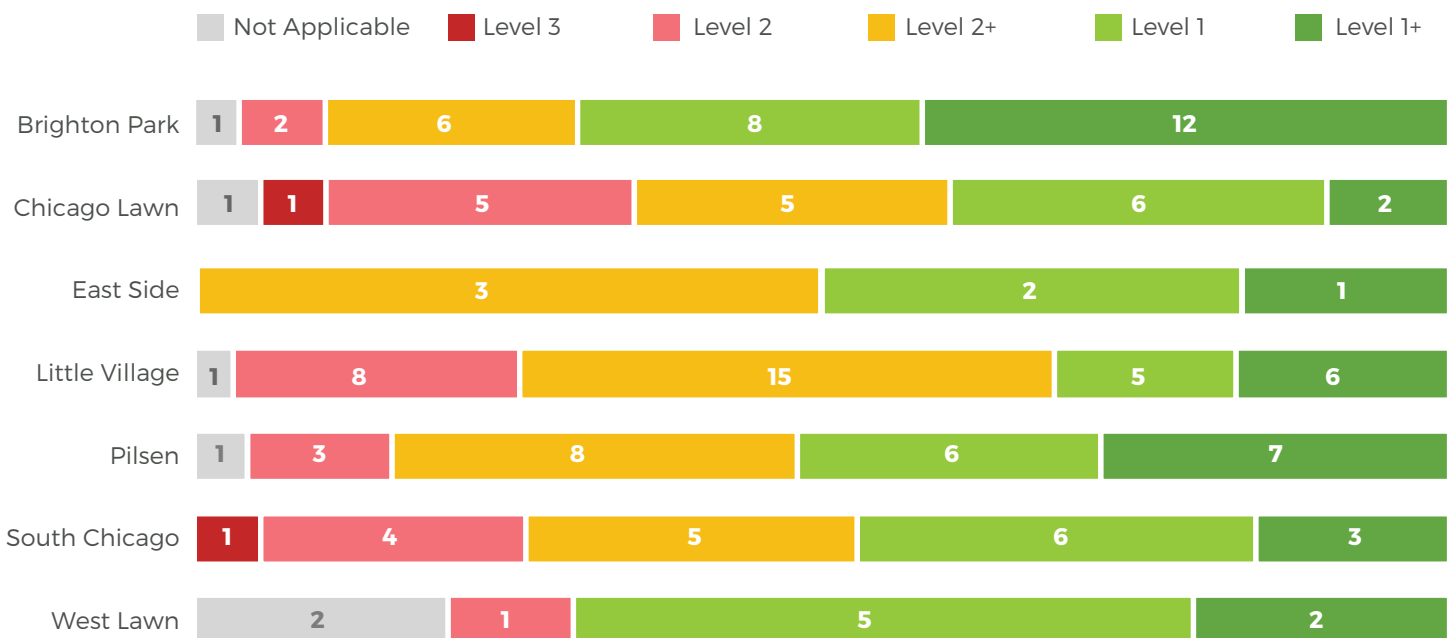
**Table 6. Understanding School Quality in Chicago**

Level Rating	Score Range	Description
Level 1+	4.0 or higher	Above average performance that far exceeds expectations.
Level 1	3.5 – 3.9	Above average performance that exceeds expectations.
Level 2+	3.0 – 3.49	Average performance that meets expectations.
Level 2	2.0-2.9	Below average performance that does not meet expectations.
Level 3	Less than 2.0	Far below average performance that does not meet expectations.
Not Applicable	No score	Not enough data. This often occurs when a school is new or serves only K-3rd grades.

Our analysis found that certain communities have extremely limited options when it comes to high-quality schools (see Figure 8). For example, of the 35 public schools in Little Village, eleven (or 31 percent) have a Level 1 or Level 1+ rating. Of the seven communities, Brighton Park and West Lawn have the highest percentage of Level 1 and Level 1+ schools. In Chicago Lawn, 11 schools (or 30 percent) are under-performing, with SQRP ratings of Level 2 or Level 3. The majority

of schools in Little Village are performing adequately (Level 2+). Interestingly, of the 7 charters in Little Village, four are not meeting average performance expectations. If families in these communities want their children to attend a higher quality school, they will have to seek options outside of the community, which may involve travel, and this may not be an option for some families.

**Figure 8. School Quality Ratings in Schools in Target Communities, 2017-18**



Source: Chicago Public Schools, School Quality Rating Policy Results and Accountability Status

**EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES.** In addition to examining enrollment and demographic data across schools in the seven target communities, we also looked at various educational outcomes, including student performance on standardized assessments, high school graduation rates, and college enrollment rates. We found that achievement gaps are persistent across all school types, and specific subgroups continue to lag behind their peers in student achievement and educational attainment.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES.** Research shows that individuals with higher levels of education are more likely to be employed, earn higher incomes, and tend to enjoy better health.<sup>10</sup> On-time high school graduation rates in CPS have been steadily climbing, from 54.2 percent in 2011 to 75.6 percent in 2018, an increase of 21.4 percentage points in just seven years. In raw numbers, 20,717 students graduated from Chicago high schools compared to 18,446 in 2011. This is a significant increase, despite declining enrollment across Chicago public schools. Nonetheless, gaps in graduation outcomes persist based on race and geography. High schools in predominately low-income communities struggle with low graduation rates. At the school level, high school graduation rates across the seven target communities ranged from a low of 46.9 percent to a high of 93.8 percent in 2017-18. Table 7 presents graduation rates for all high schools in

the seven communities. Overall, 12 of the 27 high schools in the seven communities— for which data was available— had graduation rates below the district average. The two high schools in West Lawn had graduation rates above 80 percent.

**COLLEGE ENROLLMENT.** Almost 60 percent of CPS high school graduates enroll directly in college, and the majority enroll in four-year colleges and universities (about 70 percent). Among high school graduates in the seven communities, college enrollment rates range from a high of 89 percent to a low of 40 percent. While the two high schools in West Lawn graduate over 80 percent of students, they struggle with college enrollment rates, mirroring the district average. Only three high schools across the seven communities had college enrollment rates above 80 percent, two of which are charter schools.

Overall, 12 of the 27 high schools in the seven communities— for which data was available— had graduation rates below the district average.

<sup>10</sup>Ma, Jennifer, Pender, M. and Welch, M. Education Pays 2016: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society. The College Board. 2016. Accessed at: <https://trends.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/education-pays-2016-full-report.pdf>

**Table 7. High School Graduation Rates and College Enrollment in Target Communities**

Community	School	HS Grad Rate Overall <sup>a</sup>	College Enrollment Rate <sup>b</sup>
Brighton Park	Acero - Garcia HS*	81.0	66.0
	Acero - Soto HS*	78.1	n.a
	Curie HS	69.8	63.0
	Kelly HS	72.2	54.0
	Noble - Mansueto HS*	n.a.	n.a
	Pathways - Brighton Park HS	n.a.	n.a.
	Solorio HS	89.2	60.3
Chicago Lawn	Bogan HS	66.9	47.7
	Catalyst - Maria HS	75.8	67.4
	Harper HS	58.5	47.4
	Lindblom HS	46.9	41.5
	Ombudsman - South HS	93.0	87.9
	Southside HS	n.a.	n.a.
East Side	Washington HS	81.8	56.7
Little Village	Collins HS	62.2	57.6
	Farragut HS	68.8	39.8
	Infinity HS	93.8	66.0
	Multicultural HS	73.4	50.9
	North Lawndale - Christiana HS*	68.8	67.9
	North Lawndale - Collins HS*	57.7	76.0
	Social Justice HS	76.8	50.8
	Spry HS	66.1	46.2
	World Language HS	86.8	58.4
	YCCS - CCA Academy*	n.a.	n.a.
Pilsen	Chicago Tech HS	77.8	63.4
	Instituto - Health*	85.0	60.4
	Juarez HS	79.7	52.2
	Noble - UIC HS*	81.8	88.9
	Simpson HS	n.a.	n.a.
	Urban Prep - West HS*	57.6	58.2
	YCCS - Latino Youth*	n.a.	n.a.
	York HS	n.a.	n.a.
South Chicago	Bowen HS	50.6	43.9
	Chicago Vocational HS	62.3	42.7
	Epic HS*	70.4	81.0
	Noble - Baker HS*	85.4	n.a
	YCCS - Sullivan*	n.a.	n.a
West Lawn	Hancock HS	80.3	59.5
	Hubbard HS	83.1	57.4
<b>District</b>		<b>74.7</b>	<b>57.9</b>

\*Indicates charter school. a. Most recent data available for 2016-17 b. Most recent data available for 2015-16



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Established in 2016 and based in Chicago, EduDream is a Latina-owned education consulting firm that partners with foundations, education agencies, and nonprofits working to ensure educational equity for racially and economically diverse students. We advance our mission by providing research and program evaluation, data analytics and insights, and strategic planning. EduDream is committed to empowering communities and making research and data accessible