



## Research Brief

# Despite the city's healthcare system and job market, Chicagoans have positive outlook

## Black Chicagoans appear happier than other groups

Most Chicago residents consider themselves happier than their peers, happier than they were three years ago, and the type of person who enjoys life regardless of what is going on, according to recent NORC ChicagoSpeaks™ data. Black Chicagoans are particularly likely to describe themselves as happy.

However, Chicagoans aren't particularly positive about the city's healthcare system or job market. Many Chicagoans lack confidence in the city's healthcare system and say there is unequal access to healthcare due to income, age, gender, and citizenship status. Chicagoans are also more likely than all U.S. adults to think they will be laid off (22 percent vs. 9 percent), to expect more difficulty in finding employment (42 percent vs. 32 percent), and to have lower job satisfaction (75 percent vs. 87 percent). The survey of Chicago residents is compared with results from the 2022 General Social Survey (GSS) of adults nationwide.

## Chicagoans are generally positive about their happiness levels with Black Chicagoans reporting the most happiness.

Chicagoans generally consider themselves happy people. On a seven-point scale with one being not a very happy person and seven being a very happy person, Chicagoans rate themselves close to being very happy with a 5.4 average. Seventy-one percent of Chicagoans consider themselves to be happier than their peers while 60 percent say they are happier than they were three years ago. Sixty percent of Chicagoans describe themselves as people who enjoy life regardless of what is going on compared with roughly a third (32 percent) who say they are the sort of people who are never as happy as they might be.

### Three Things You Should Know About the ChicagoSpeaks Poll Among Chicago Residents:

- 1) 60% consider themselves generally very happy people, including 73% of Black residents, 63% of Hispanic residents, and 52% of white residents.
- 2) 22% of Chicago residents have a great deal or complete confidence in the city's health care system and see the same healthcare access inequality issues as the nation.
- 3) Chicagoans view the job market negatively with 22% thinking they will lose their job and 42% expecting difficulty finding employment.

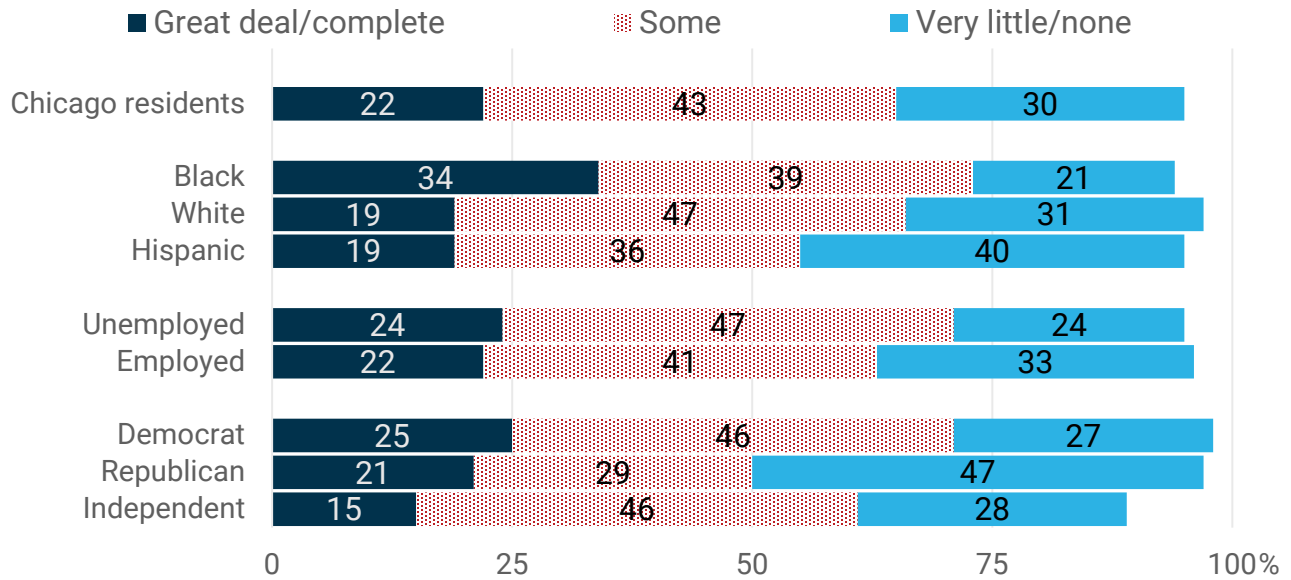
Black Chicagoans appear to be happier than Hispanic or white residents. On average, Black Chicagoans (5.70) rate themselves as happier people than both Hispanic (5.30) and white (5.17) Chicagoans. Black residents (78 percent) are more likely than white residents (66 percent) to believe they are happier than their peers and are more likely (66 percent) than white residents (54 percent) to say they have become happier over the past three years. Black Chicagoans (73 percent) are more likely than Hispanic (63 percent) or white (52 percent) residents to consider themselves people who enjoy life regardless of what is going on. But, Hispanic (44 percent) and Black (38 percent) Chicagoans are also more likely to say they are the sort of people who are never as happy as they might be compared with white Chicagoans (20 percent).

## Chicago residents have limited confidence in the city's healthcare system.

Both Chicago residents and the U.S. public express relatively low levels of confidence in the healthcare system, with only 22 percent and 26 percent, respectively, saying they have a great deal or complete confidence in the healthcare system. Among Chicagoans, however there are significant differences in the views of the healthcare system by race and ethnicity, political party, and employment status. Black Chicagoans are more likely than both white and Hispanic Chicagoans to say they have a great deal or complete confidence in Chicago's healthcare system. Chicago Republicans are more likely than both Chicago Democrats and independents to say they have very little or no confidence in the city's healthcare. Employed Chicago residents are also more likely to express at least some confidence in the healthcare system than those who are unemployed.

### Chicago Republicans lack confidence in the city's healthcare system.

Percent of Chicago adults



**Question:** In general, how much confidence do you have in the health care system in Chicago?

**Source:** ChicagoSpeaks poll conducted June 24-July 10, 2024 with 1,254 adult Chicago residents.



### Chicagoans share nationwide views on access to publicly funded healthcare.

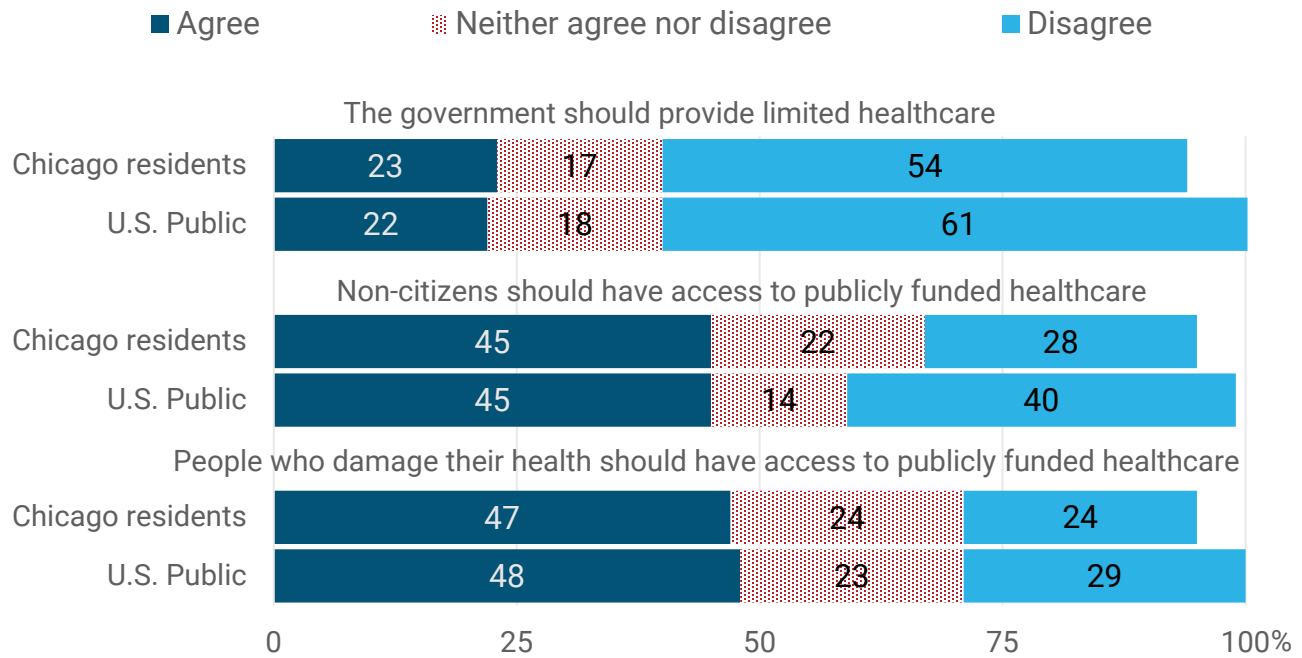
Forty-five percent of both Chicagoans and the U.S. public in general say people should have access to publicly funded healthcare even if they're not a U.S. citizen. Roughly half (52 percent) of all Chicago Democrats support publicly funded healthcare for non-U.S. citizens, more than double that of Republicans (24 percent).

Nearly a quarter of Chicago residents believe the government should provide limited healthcare services, but roughly half disagree. These proportions are similar to the U.S. public. Chicago Republicans (38 percent) are more likely than Democrats (20 percent) to agree with the government providing limited healthcare services.

Similarly, nearly half (47 percent) of Chicago residents support providing publicly funded healthcare to people whose behavior damages their health, as does half (48 percent) of the U.S. public. Chicago Democrats (54 percent) are more likely than Republicans (29 percent) to agree with this sentiment, as are Chicagoans aged below 45 (52 percent) compared with older Chicagoans (40 percent).

## Chicago residents and the U.S. public in general have very similar views on access to publicly funded healthcare.

Percent of adults



**Question:** How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

**Source:** ChicagoSpeaks poll conducted June 24-July 10, 2024 with 1,254 adult Chicago residents and General Social Survey conducted May 4-December 20, 2022 with 69,966 adults nationwide.



## Chicago residents see unequal access to healthcare due to income, age, gender, and citizenship status.

Seventy-one percent of Chicagoans reported it is easier for rich people than for poor people to access healthcare, slightly less than the 80 percent of U.S. adults who say the same. Chicagoans with a college degree (82 percent) are more likely than those without one (62 percent) to say that rich people have easier access to healthcare.

Fifty percent of Chicagoans and 57 percent of the U.S. public say it is unfair that people with higher incomes can afford better health care than those with lower incomes.

Twenty-nine percent of Chicago residents say it is easier for older people to access healthcare than young people, but a similar amount (27 percent) of Chicagoans disagree. These proportions are very similar to the U.S. public more broadly. Black Chicagoans (38 percent) are more likely than white residents (18 percent) to say it is easier for older people to access healthcare.

Chicagoans are more likely to say there is gender inequality in access to healthcare compared with the U.S. public. Seventy-two percent of the U.S. public says men and women have about the same level of difficulty getting access to healthcare, while only roughly half (53 percent) of Chicago residents agree that men and women have equal access. Black Chicagoans (26 percent) are more likely than white residents (8 percent) to say it is easier for women to access healthcare than men.

Roughly 4 in 10 Chicagoans say it is easier for U.S. citizens to get access to healthcare compared with non-citizens, while roughly half of the U.S. public agree. Chicago Democrats (49 percent) are more likely than Republicans (36 percent) to say it’s easier for citizens to access healthcare, as are college-educated Chicago residents (55 percent) compared with those without a degree (34 percent).

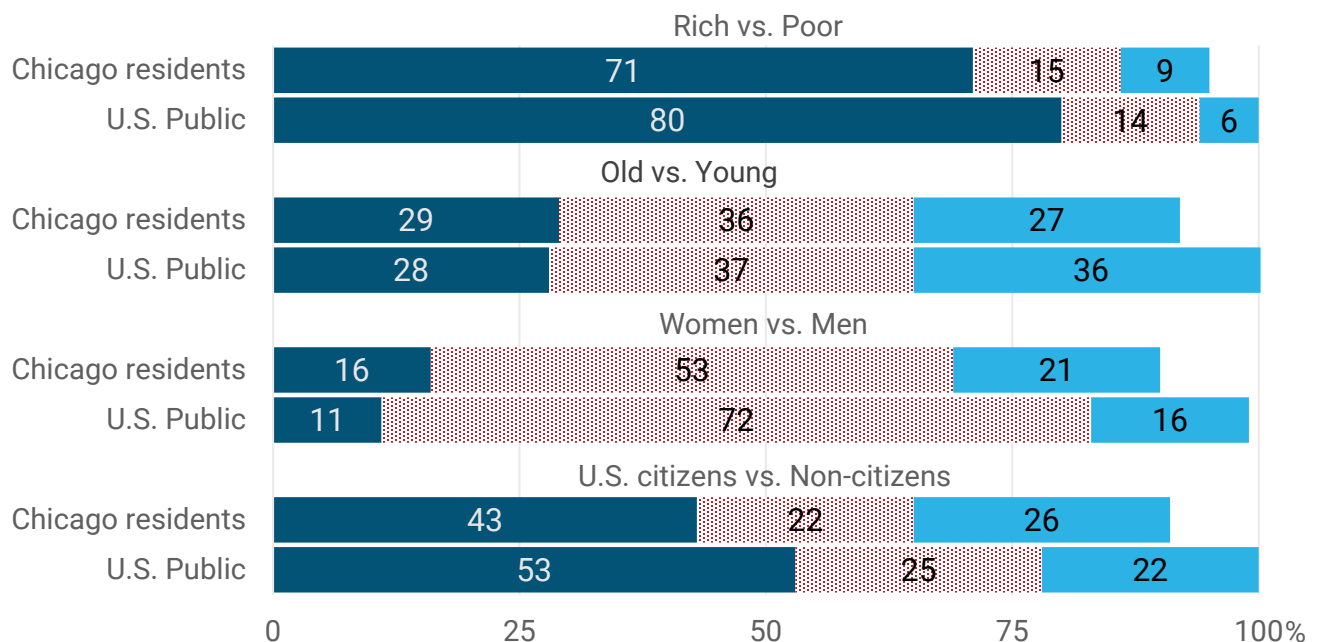
### Chicago's healthcare access equality is similar to the nation's.

Percent of adults

■ Easier

▨ Neither

■ Harder



**Question:** Do you think it is easier or harder to get access to health care...?

**Source:** ChicagoSpeaks poll conducted June 24-July 10, 2024 with 1,254 adult Chicago residents and General Social Survey conducted May 4-December 20, 2022 with 69,966 adults nationwide.

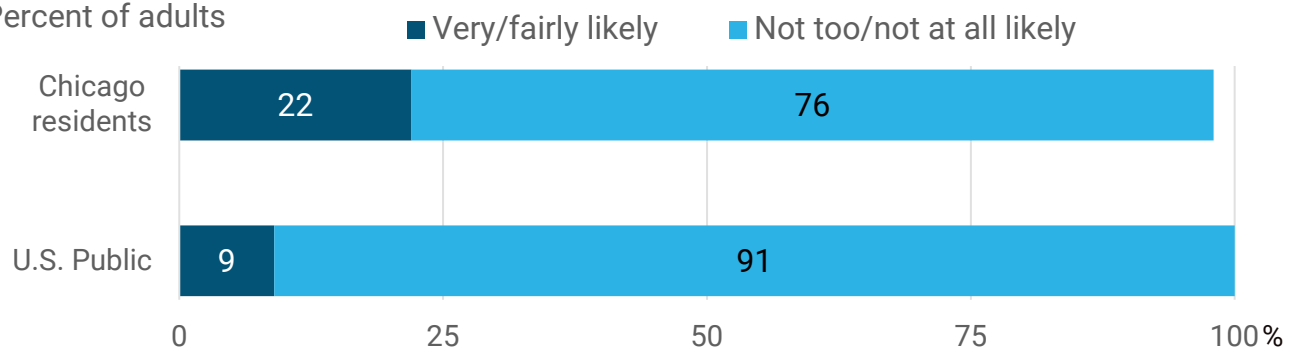


## Chicagoans have a more negative view of their job stability, satisfaction, and availability than the U.S. public in general.

Chicagoans are more likely to believe they will be laid off in the next 12 months compared with the general U.S. public. Nearly a quarter of Chicago residents say they are at least fairly likely to be fired or laid off in the next year, compared with about 10 percent of the U.S. public overall. Chicago men (36 percent) are more likely to be pessimistic about their job security compared with women (21 percent). There are no statistically significant differences of opinion about job security among Chicagoans of different racial or ethnic backgrounds.

### Chicagoans are more than twice as pessimistic about their job security than U.S. adults.

Percent of adults



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

**Source:** ChicagoSpeaks poll conducted June 24-July 10, 2024 with 1,254 adult Chicago residents and General Social Survey conducted May 4-December 20, 2022 with 69,966 adults nationwide.

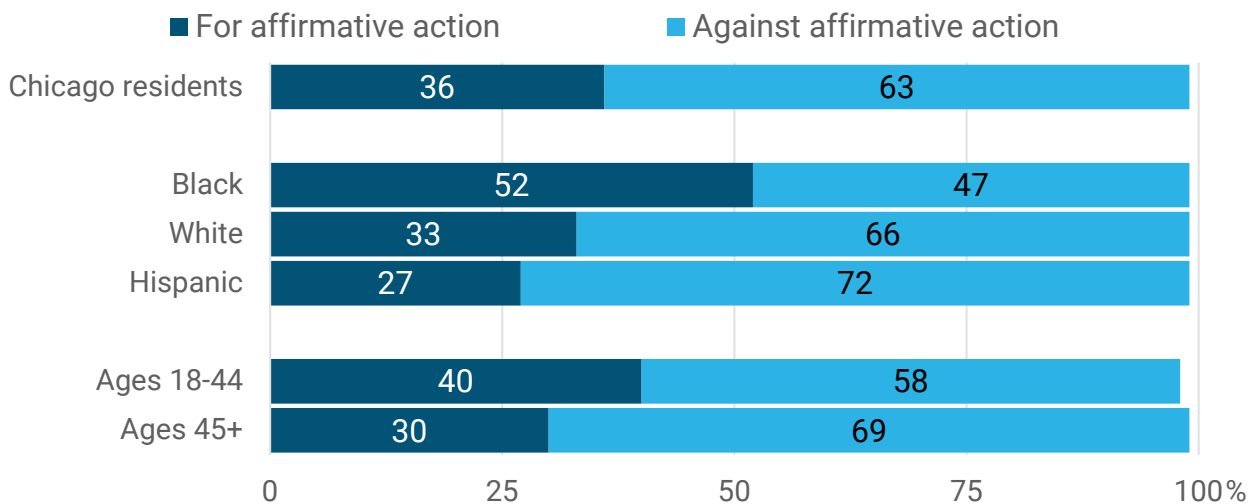


In the event of a lay-off, Chicago residents (15 percent) are about half as likely as the general U.S. public (27 percent) to think it would be very easy to find a new job with roughly the same income and benefits. Roughly 4 in 10 (42 percent) Chicagoans say finding a new job would not be easy at all, compared with 3 in 10 (32 percent) of the general U.S. population. Chicago residents aged 45 and older (51 percent) are significantly more likely than those younger adults (34 percent) to say finding a new job would not be easy.

Chicagoans (22 percent) are also more likely than the general public (13 percent) to be a little dissatisfied with the work they do. Seventy-five percent of Chicago residents say they are at least moderately satisfied with their work, compared with 87 percent of U.S. adults. Chicago residents aged 18 to 29 years old (34 percent) are more likely than residents 30 to 44 years old (22 percent), 45 to 59 years old (21 percent), or 60 years old and older (11 percent) to be at least a little dissatisfied with the work they do, as are residents earning less than \$50,000 a year (31 percent) compared with those with higher incomes (18 percent).

Chicago residents are more supportive of preferential hiring and promotion of Black people than the overall U.S. population. About a third (36 percent) of Chicagoans support giving preference to Black people compared with 28 percent of the U.S. public. Black Chicagoans (52 percent) are more likely than white (33 percent) or Hispanic (27 percent) residents to support affirmative action. Chicagoans under 45 years (40 percent) are also more likely to support preference for Black people compared with those over 45 years (30 percent).

**Nearly 4 in 10 Chicagoans support racial preference in hiring and promoting.**  
Percent of Chicago adults



**Question:** Some people say that because of past discrimination, Black people should be given preference in hiring and promotion. Others say that such preference in hiring and promotion of Black people is wrong because it discriminates against Whites. What about your opinion -- are you for or against preferential hiring and promotion of Black people?

**Source:** ChicagoSpeaks poll conducted June 24-July 10, 2024 with 1,254 adult Chicago residents.

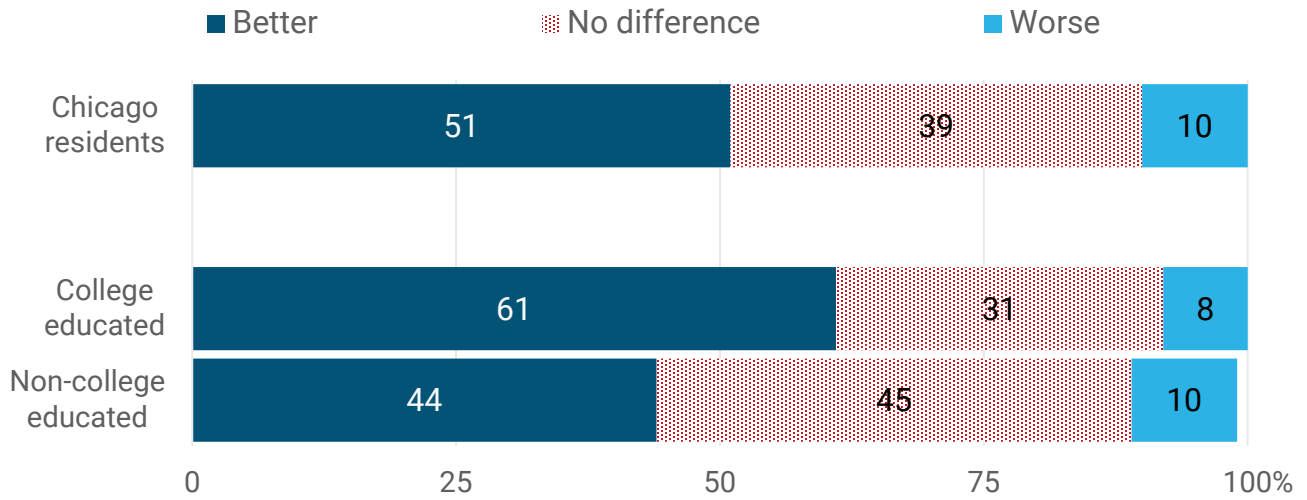


**Half of Chicago residents believe an elected school board will better serve the students.**

In November, the city of Chicago will hold a school board election, a major shift from a school board previously appointed by the city’s mayor. About half (49 percent) of Chicagoans are aware that the city will make this transition, and roughly half of Chicago residents believe the change to a directly elected board will allow the board to better serve students. Four in 10 report the change will make no difference, and 1 in 10 say that the directly elected board will be worse for the students. College educated Chicagoans are more likely than non-college educated residents to say the change will benefit students. There are no significant differences of opinion among Chicagoans of different racial or ethnic backgrounds.

### Half of Chicagoans welcome a directly elected school board.

Percent of Chicago adults



**Question:** Do you believe an elected school board will serve students better or worse than the appointed board, or will there be no difference?

**Source:** ChicagoSpeaks poll conducted June 24-July 10, 2024 with 1,254 adult Chicago residents.





## Study Methodology

NORC conducted the ChicagoSpeaks Pilot 2024 study using three sample sources: (1) NORC’s AmeriSpeak® panelists who reside in Chicago, (2) pre-screened respondents from a previous NORC Center on Equity Research survey of Chicagoans who agreed to be recontacted, and (3) Chicago residents from Dynata’s web panel.

AmeriSpeak® is a probability-based panel, the respondents from the NORC Center on Equity Research survey were from an ABS probability-based survey, and Dynata is a non-probability panel. This research supported the initial stages of developing 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. In addition to the survey topics of importance to Chicagoans, the NORC Center on Equity Research survey respondents were asked if they would like to join a new research panel of Chicago residents called ChicagoSpeaks.

NORC conducted interviews between June 24 and July 10, 2024 with Chicago residents aged 18 and older. Overall, 1,254 Chicago residents completed the survey including 855 probability cases and 399 non-probability cases. AmeriSpeak panelists were invited through the password-protected AmeriSpeak Mobile App and received email reminders. ABS recruits received a combination of email and mail 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. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

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, 17 interviews were removed for nonresponse to at least 50 percent 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 weights that are delivered with the data are developed through three stages. First, probability and nonprobability sample weights are developed separately. Second, small area estimation is leveraged to model core response variables and generate raking benchmarks. Finally, the two samples are combined through TrueNorth calibration to create the final weights. These final two stages make up NORC’s TrueNorth® Calibration. The sociodemographic characteristics are weighted to benchmarks from the American Community Survey 2022 1-year estimate.

For more information, email [AmeriSpeak-BD@norc.org](mailto:AmeriSpeak-BD@norc.org) or visit [AmeriSpeak.norc.org](http://AmeriSpeak.norc.org).