



Research Brief

Chicago residents are less favorable towards immigration than the general U.S. public.

Chicagoans are less likely than the U.S. public to favor increasing immigration and allowing immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to become U.S. citizens according to a new ChicagoSpeaks poll conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago compared to the 2022 General Social Survey (GSS) national data. Half of Chicagoans think the city has not done a good job of taking care of migrants into the city and about half of residents also say the city is failing to meet the basic needs of migrants such as job placement, housing, and mental healthcare.

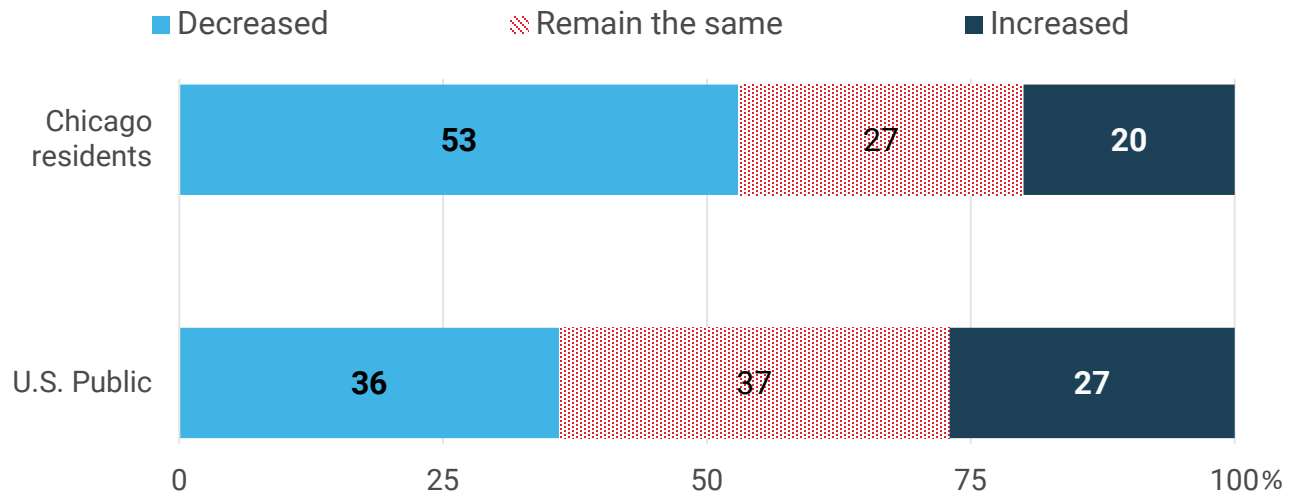
Chicagoans are more likely to want immigration reduced than adults nationwide.

Chicagoans are less supportive of increasing immigration to the United States than the U.S. public as a whole, using the 2022 GSS national data. About half of Chicago residents want immigration reduced compared to about a third of the U.S. public. Only one in five Chicago residents wants to see immigration to the U.S. increased and 27 percent of Chicagoans want the numbers of immigrants to stay the same.

Republican Chicagoans (62 percent) are more likely to want immigration reduced than Democrats (26 percent). There is no significant difference of opinion among residents of different racial or ethnic backgrounds.

Half of Chicago residents think immigration should be decreased.

Percent of adults



Question: Do you think the number of immigrants to America nowadays should be...?

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 and U.S. adults feel similarly about immigrants having access to public healthcare and how immigrants affect crime and the job market.

Like the U.S. public, 40 percent of Chicago residents think that immigrants should have access to publicly funded healthcare regardless of their citizenship status, but a similar number of Chicagoans disagree. About one in five Chicagoans and the U.S. public in general think immigrants take jobs away from people who were born in the United States. However, Chicago residents (32 percent) are more likely than the general U.S. public (19 percent) to think immigrants increase crime rates.

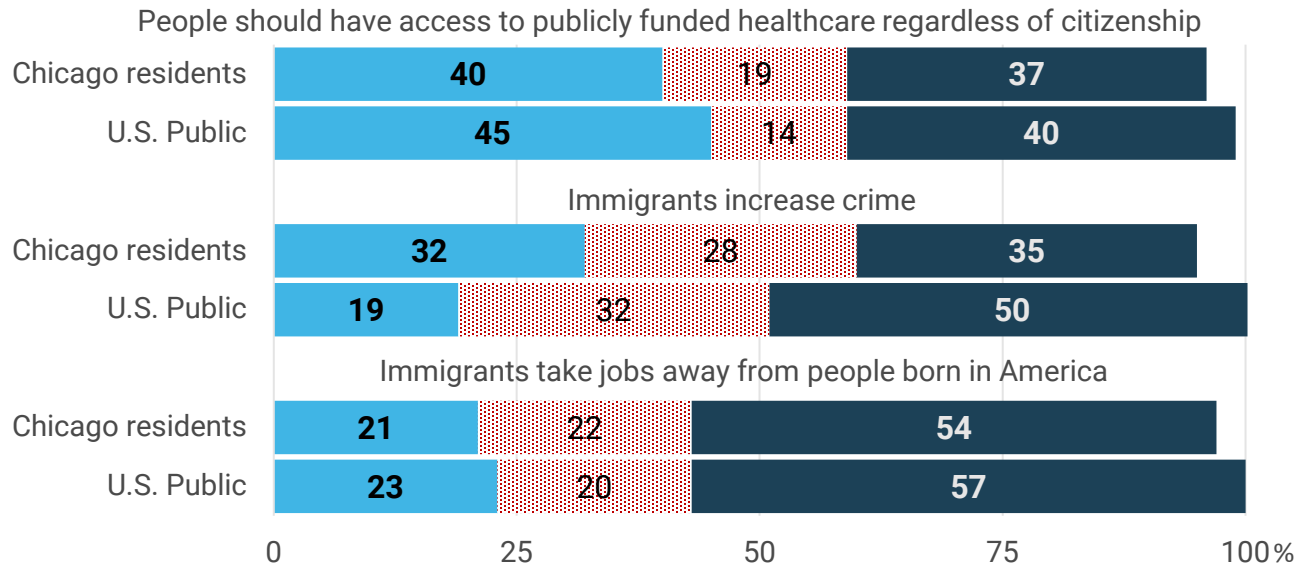
Chicago Republicans are less likely than Democrats to support providing healthcare regardless of citizenship with a majority of Republicans (68 percent) disagreeing that immigrants should receive publicly funded healthcare compared to about a third (31 percent) of Democrats. Republican residents are also about twice as likely (55 percent) as Democrats (26 percent) to say that immigrants increase crime rates and more likely (35 percent) than Democrats (16 percent) to say immigrants take away jobs from those born in the U.S.

Black Chicagoans (35 percent) are more likely than white (14 percent) and Hispanic (16 percent) residents to say immigrants take jobs from people who were born in the U.S., but there are no racial or ethnic differences in views on access to publicly funded healthcare or crime.

Chicago residents and the U.S. public in general hold similar views on immigration.

Percent of adults

■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree



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.



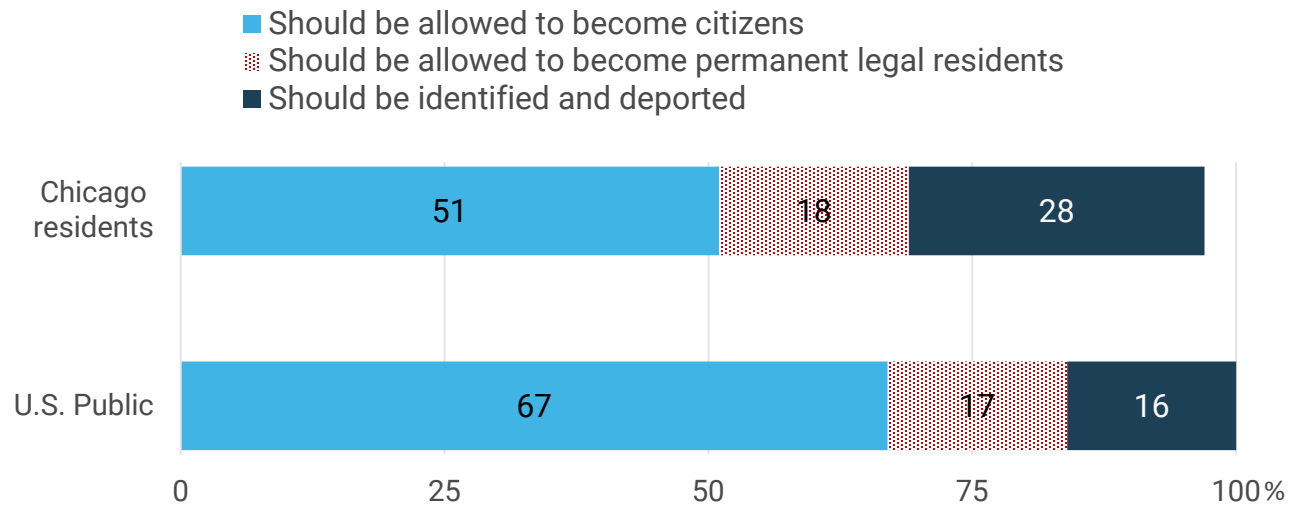
Chicago residents lean more towards deporting immigrants in the country illegally than the U.S. public.

Chicago residents are less likely to think immigrants currently living in the U.S. illegally should be allowed to become a U.S. citizen compared to the general public. However, similar amounts of Chicago residents and the U.S. public think immigrants living in the U.S. illegally should be allowed to become permanent legal residents, but not citizens. Chicago residents are almost twice as likely as the U.S. public to think immigrants living in the U.S. illegally should be identified and deported.

Democrat Chicago residents (61 percent) are about three times more likely than Republican residents (21 percent) to think that immigrants living in the U.S. illegally should be allowed to become U.S. citizens.

Half of Chicago residents think immigrants living in the U.S. illegally should be allowed to become citizens.

Percent of adults



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

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

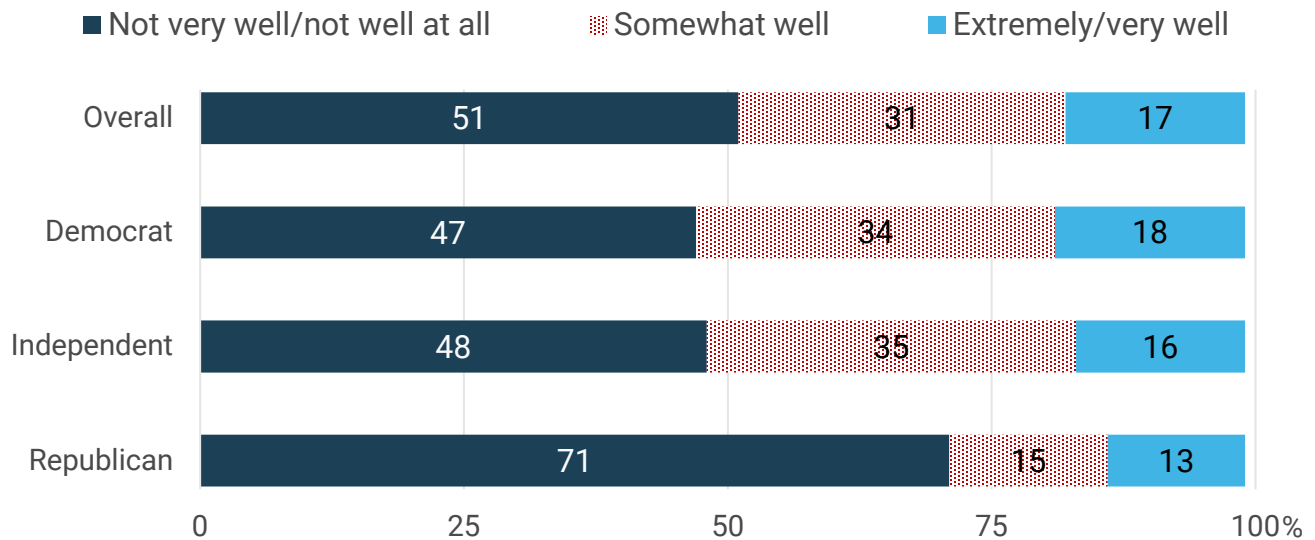


The city is not perceived to have done a good job receiving immigrants.

Roughly half of Chicago residents think the city has not done a good job at receiving migrants. Thirty-one percent say it has done somewhat well while only 17 percent say it has done very or extremely well. Republicans are more likely to take a pessimistic view of the situation than Democrats or independents with nearly three-quarters of Republicans thinking the city has not done a good job compared to about half of independents and Democrats.

Half of Chicago residents think the city is not doing a good job receiving migrants into the city.

Percent of Chicago residents



Question: Overall, how do you think Chicago has done in receiving migrants into the city?

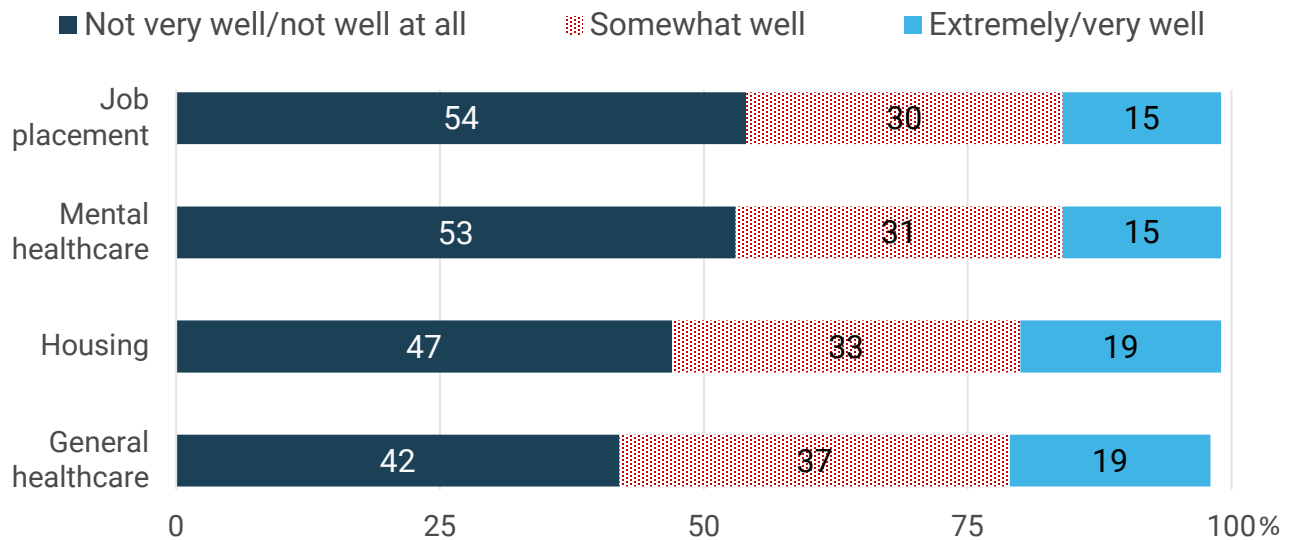
Source: ChicagoSpeaks poll conducted June 24-July 10, 2024 with 1,254 adult Chicago residents.



Around half of Chicago residents think the city has not addressed the job placement, mental health, and housing of migrants well. Residents are slightly more positive about how the city has handled migrants’ access to general health care. However, 42 percent still say the city is not doing a good job. Roughly a third think the city has done somewhat well at addressing these issues and only one in five, or fewer, say Chicago has done very or extremely well in these areas.

About half of Chicago residents say the city is not addressing migrants' needs.

Percent of Chicago residents



Question: How well do you think the City of Chicago has done in addressing the following needs of migrants into the city?

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

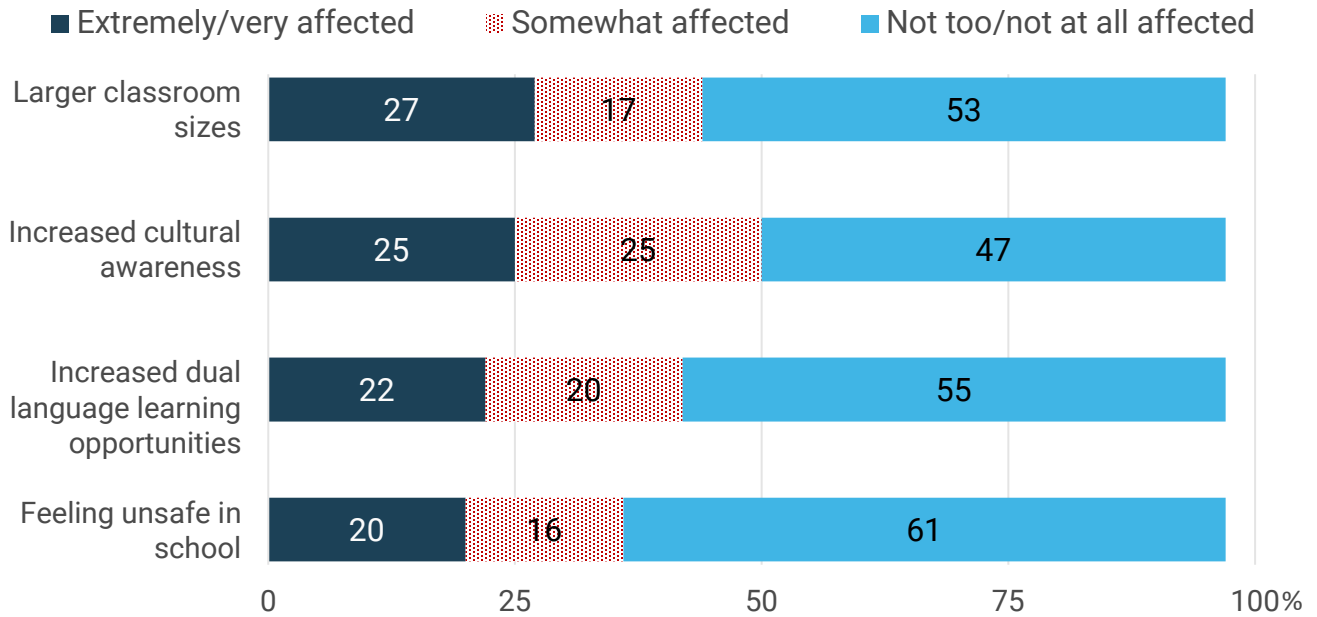


Migrant children enrolling in the Chicago Public Schools System do not appear to have affected most other students.

A minority of Chicago parents say their children have been extremely or very affected by the enrollment of migrant children entering the Chicago Public School System. A quarter say the enrollment of migrant children has increased their own child’s cultural awareness and about the same amount say it has resulted in larger classroom sizes. One in five say the enrollment of migrant children has had an impact on their children feeling safe in school and about the same amount say their children have had more dual language learning opportunities as a result.

Minority of parents say their child's school experience has been affected by migrant children.

Percent of Chicago parents



Question: How, if at all, have any of your children been affected by migrant children entering the Chicago Public School System?

Source: ChicagoSpeaks poll conducted June 24-July 10, 2024 with 454 parents aged 18 or older living in Chicago.



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 or visit AmeriSpeak.norc.org.