



# Criminal justice experiences in nine Chicago community areas

HEALTH SNAPSHOT NO.15

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Experiences with the criminal justice system may include arrests, convictions, and supervision such as probation, jail, or prison sentences.<sup>1</sup> About one in five US adults under the age of 65 has ever been arrested, while one in ten has had a prior criminal conviction or been under criminal justice supervision.<sup>1</sup> As of 2013, the US had the highest prison population rate in the world, with a total of 2.2 million detained and convicted prisoners.<sup>2</sup> Incarceration can have a profound impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities, including increased stigma and reduced economic opportunity.<sup>3-5</sup> This health snapshot presents criminal justice experience findings from the *Sinai Community Health Survey 2.0*, a community-driven, representative survey of nine communities in Chicago.

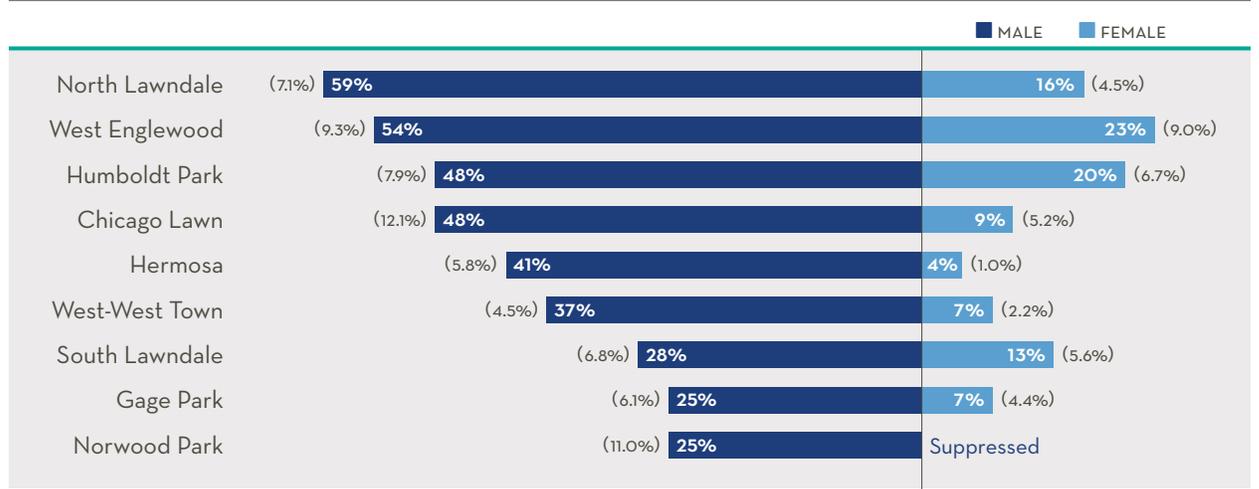
### WHICH COMMUNITIES ARE MOST AFFECTED?

- In North Lawndale and West Englewood, over half of males had ever been arrested.
- In Humboldt Park, about one in three males had ever been convicted of a crime or placed under criminal justice supervision such as jail, prison, or probation.
- In Chicago Lawn, 40% of males had ever been under criminal justice supervision.

### WHO IS MOST AFFECTED?

- By race/ethnic group, non-Hispanic Black adults had the highest percentage ever arrested for both males (61%) and females (23%)
- Over 40% of non-Hispanic Black males had ever been convicted of a crime or placed under criminal justice supervision.

**FIGURE 1: Percent ever arrested by community area and sex**

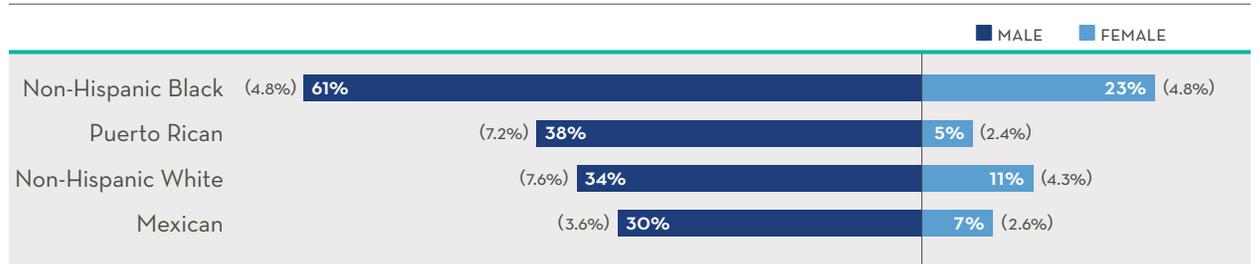


Sampled West Town community area west of Western Avenue only  
 No national comparison data available

PREVALENCE (STANDARD ERROR)

- The percentage of females who were ever arrested ranged from a high of 23% for females in West Englewood to a low of 4% for females in Hermosa.
- The percentage of males who were ever arrested ranged from a high of 59% for males in North Lawndale to a low of 25% for males in Gage Park and Norwood Park.

**FIGURE 2: Percent ever arrested by race/ethnicity and sex**

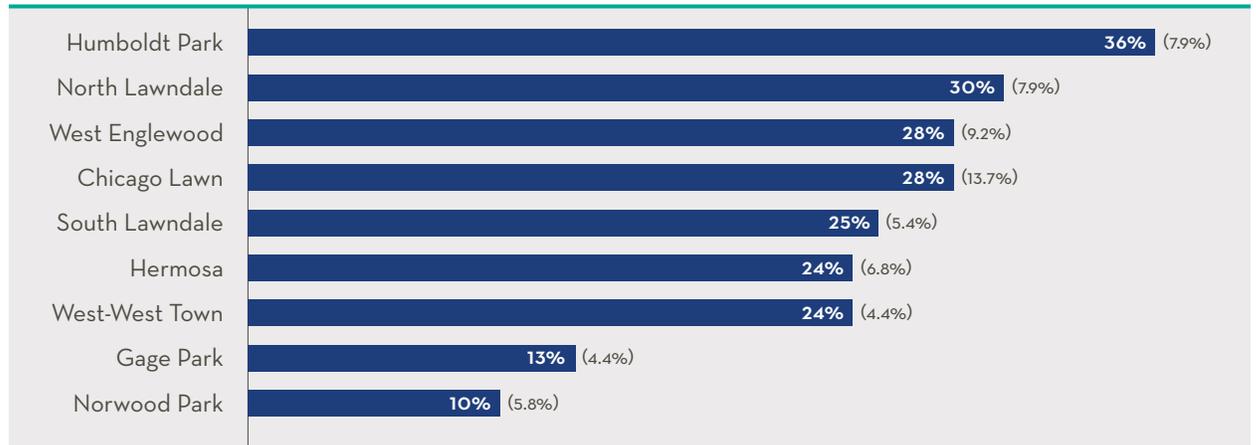


No national comparison data available  
 Rao-Scott Chi-Square p-value < 0.0001 (males); p = 0.0035 (females)

PREVALENCE (STANDARD ERROR)

- There was a statistically significant difference in the percentage of females ever arrested by race/ethnic group, which was highest for non-Hispanic Black females (23%) and lowest for females of Puerto Rican origin (5%).
- There was also a statistically significant difference in the percentage of males ever arrested by race/ethnic group, which was highest for non-Hispanic Black males (61%) and lowest for males of Mexican origin (30%).

FIGURE 3: **Percent of males ever convicted of a crime by community area**

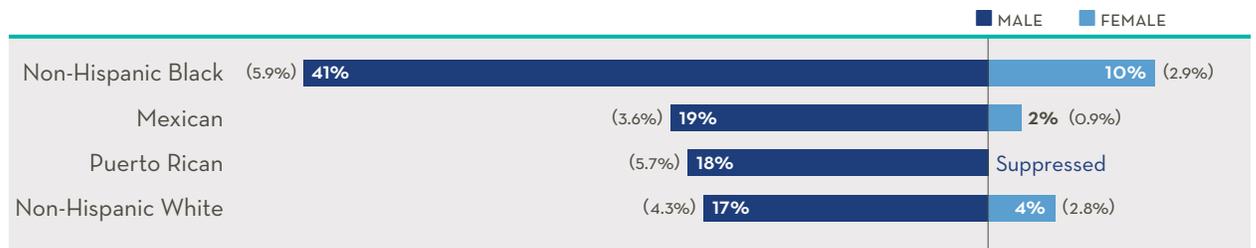


Sampled West Town community area west of Western Avenue only  
No national comparison data available

PREVALENCE (STANDARD ERROR)

- In the nine communities surveyed, the percentage of males ever convicted of a crime ranged from a high of 36% for males in Humboldt Park to a low of 10% for males in Norwood Park.
- In Humboldt Park and North Lawndale, about one in three males had ever been convicted of a crime.

FIGURE 4: **Percent ever convicted of a crime by race/ethnicity and sex**

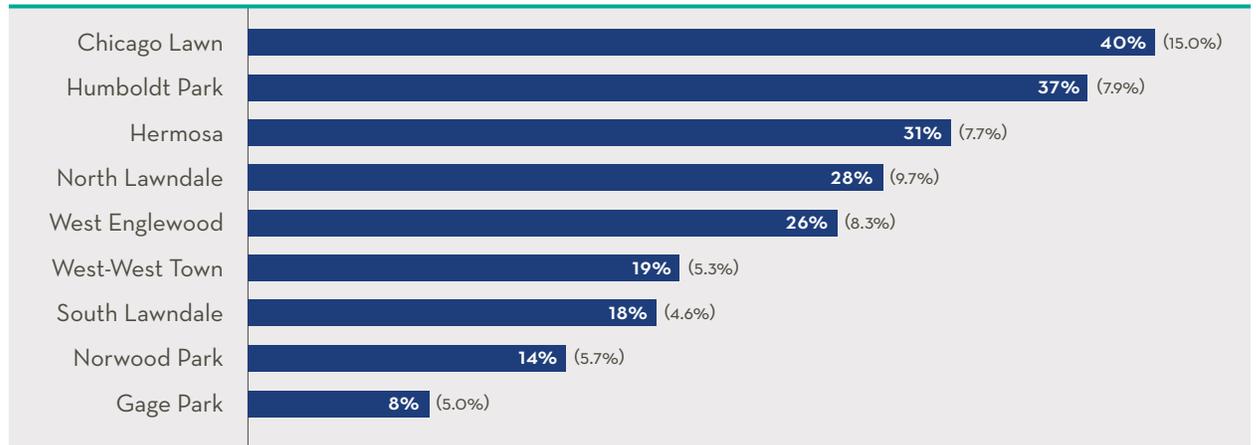


No national comparison data available  
Rao-Scott Chi-Square p-value = 0.0003 (males); p = 0.0061 (females)

PREVALENCE (STANDARD ERROR)

- There was a statistically significant difference in the percentage of females ever convicted of a crime by race/ethnic group, which was highest for non-Hispanic Black females (10%) and lowest for females of Mexican origin (2%).
- There was also a statistically significant difference in the percentage of males ever convicted of a crime by race/ethnic group, which was highest for non-Hispanic Black males (41%) and lowest for non-Hispanic White males (17%).

FIGURE 5: **Percent of males who were ever in jail, prison, or on probation by community area**

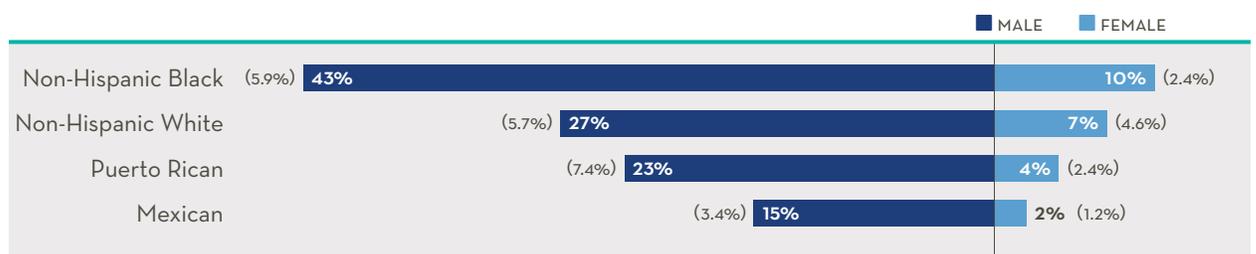


Sampled West Town community area west of Western Avenue only  
No national comparison data available

PREVALENCE (STANDARD ERROR)

- In the nine communities surveyed, the percentage of males who were ever in jail, prison, or on probation ranged from a high of 40% for males in Chicago Lawn to a low of 8% for males in Gage Park.
- More than one in three males in Chicago Lawn and Humboldt Park had ever been in jail, prison, or on probation.

FIGURE 6: **Percent who were ever in jail, prison, or on probation by race/ethnicity and sex**



No national comparison data available  
Rao-Scott Chi-Square p-value = 0.0001 (males); p = 0.0674 (females)

PREVALENCE (STANDARD ERROR)

- The percentage of females who were ever in jail, prison, or on probation was highest for non-Hispanic Black females (10%) and lowest for females of Mexican origin (2%). These differences were not statistically significant.
- There was a statistically significant difference in the percentage of males who were ever in jail, prison, or on probation by race/ethnic group, which was highest for non-Hispanic Black males (43%) and lowest for males of Mexican origin (15%).

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## ABOUT THE SURVEY

Sinai Urban Health Institute (SUHI) is a unique, nationally-recognized research center on the west side of Chicago. Our mission is to achieve health equity among communities through excellence and innovation in data-driven research, interventions, evaluation, and collaboration. SUHI is a proud member of Sinai Health System. For more information about SUHI, visit [www.SUHIChicago.org](http://www.SUHIChicago.org).

SUHI designed and conducted the *Sinai Community Health Survey 2.0* in partnership with our Community Advisory Committee and The University of Illinois at Chicago Survey Research Laboratory (SRL). SRL administered surveys face-to-face in both English and Spanish to randomly selected households from each of the nine surveyed communities. Interviewers randomly selected up to two adults (18 and over) per household. Data collection took place between March 2015 and September 2016 with a final sample size of 1,543 adults. Survey results are representative at the community area level for all communities with the exception of West Town, which was sampled west of Western Avenue only. More information about the survey is available at [www.SinaiSurvey.org](http://www.SinaiSurvey.org).

## DEFINITIONS

**Ever arrested** was defined as having ever been arrested, booked, or charged for breaking a law since age 18.

**Ever convicted** was defined as having ever been convicted of or pled guilty to any charges other than a minor traffic violation since age 18.

**Ever in jail, prison, or on probation** was defined as having ever been under any form of criminal justice supervision, including on probation, in jail, or in prison since age 18.

## METHODS

We used sampling weights to compute statistical estimates to ensure (1) the estimates accounted for the differential probability of the selection of respondents; and (2) the demographic profile of survey respondents matched the community area demographic profiles from the *2010-2014 American Community Survey*. The Rao-Scott Chi-Square test was used to test for statistical differences by race/ethnic group and sex. Findings were suppressed when the number of observations was less than five.

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## REFERENCES

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