



Health care utilization in nine Chicago community areas

HEALTH SNAPSHOT NO.12

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Appropriate use of health care services can lead to better health outcomes and reduced costs.^{1,3} To begin, patients with a usual source of care are more likely to have annual check-ups, seek care promptly when ill, and receive preventive screenings.⁴ Having a usual source of care has also been shown to positively influence a range of mental and physical health outcomes.^{2,3} Routine check-ups, which are associated with increased use of preventive services, are particularly valuable for older adults and those with multiple chronic conditions or other risk factors.⁵ Additionally, it is important to consider emergency department (ED) visits since high ED utilization rates may indicate lack of access to quality primary care. Nearly one in five US adults visits the ED each year, resulting in over 130 million visits annually.^{6,7} This health snapshot presents health care utilization findings from the *Sinai Community Health Survey 2.0*, a community-driven, representative survey of nine communities in Chicago.

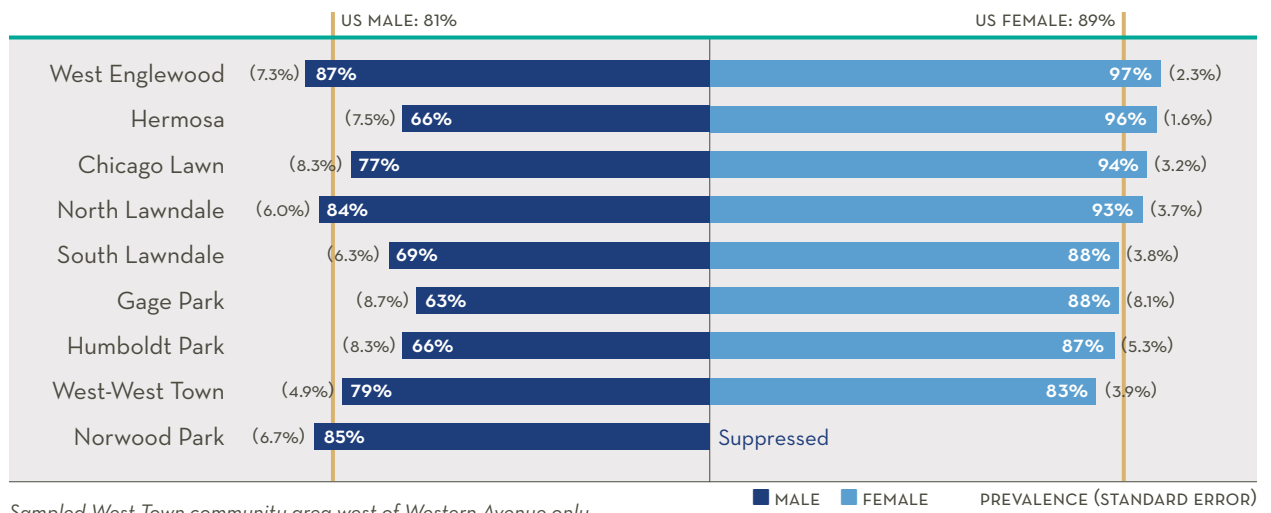
WHAT ARE KEY DIFFERENCES AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL?

- In West Englewood, Hermosa, Chicago Lawn, and North Lawndale, over 90% of females reported having a usual place of care.
- In Hermosa and South Lawndale, less than half of males had a routine check-up in the past year.

WHAT ARE KEY DIFFERENCES BY RACE/ETHNIC GROUP?

- Males of Mexican origin were the least likely to report having a usual place of care or having a routine check-up in the past year.
- Nearly half of non-Hispanic Black adults visited an emergency room for their own care in the past year.

FIGURE 1: Percent with a usual place of health care by community area and sex



Sampled West Town community area west of Western Avenue only
 US DATA SOURCE: National Health Interview Survey, 2015 (age-adjusted)

- The percentage of females with a usual place of health care ranged from a high of 97% for females in West Englewood to a low of 83% for females in West-West Town.
- The percentage of males with a usual place of health care ranged from a high of 87% for males in West Englewood to a low of 63% for males in Gage Park.

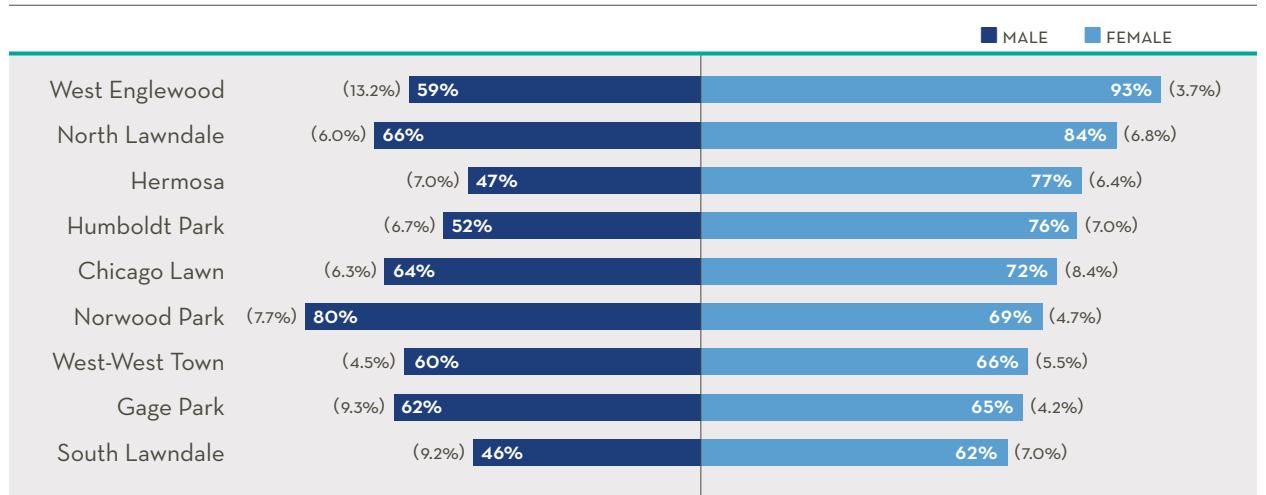
FIGURE 2: Percent with a usual place of health care by race/ethnicity and sex



US DATA SOURCE: National Health Interview Survey, 2015 (age-adjusted)
 Rao-Scott Chi-Square p-value = 0.0370 (males); p = 0.1665 (females)

- Among females, the percentage with a usual place of health care was highest for non-Hispanic Black females (96%) and lowest for females of Puerto Rican origin (85%). These differences were not statistically significant.
- There was a statistically significant difference in the percentage of males with a usual place of health care by race/ethnic group, which was highest for non-Hispanic White males (82%) and lowest for males of Mexican origin (66%).

FIGURE 3: **Percent with routine check-up in past year by community area and sex**

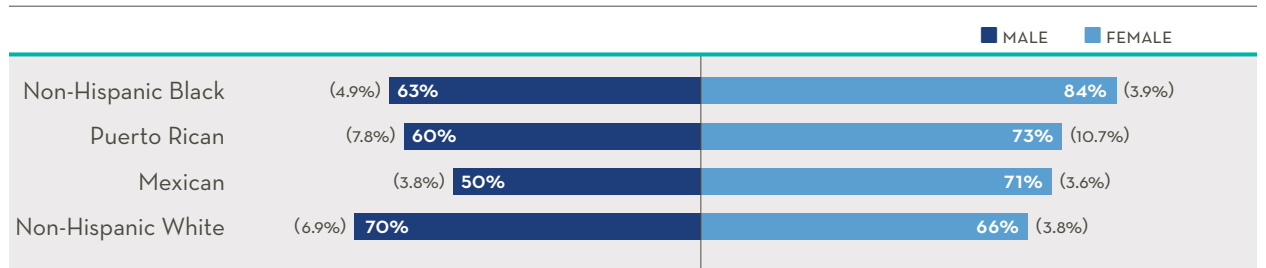


Sampled West Town community area west of Western Avenue only
 No national comparison data available

PREVALENCE (STANDARD ERROR)

- The percentage of females with a routine check-up in the past year ranged from a high of 93% for females in West Englewood to a low of 62% for females in South Lawndale.
- The percentage of males with a routine check-up in the past year ranged from a high of 80% for males in Norwood Park to a low of 46% for males in South Lawndale.

FIGURE 4: **Percent with routine check-up in past year by race/ethnicity and sex**

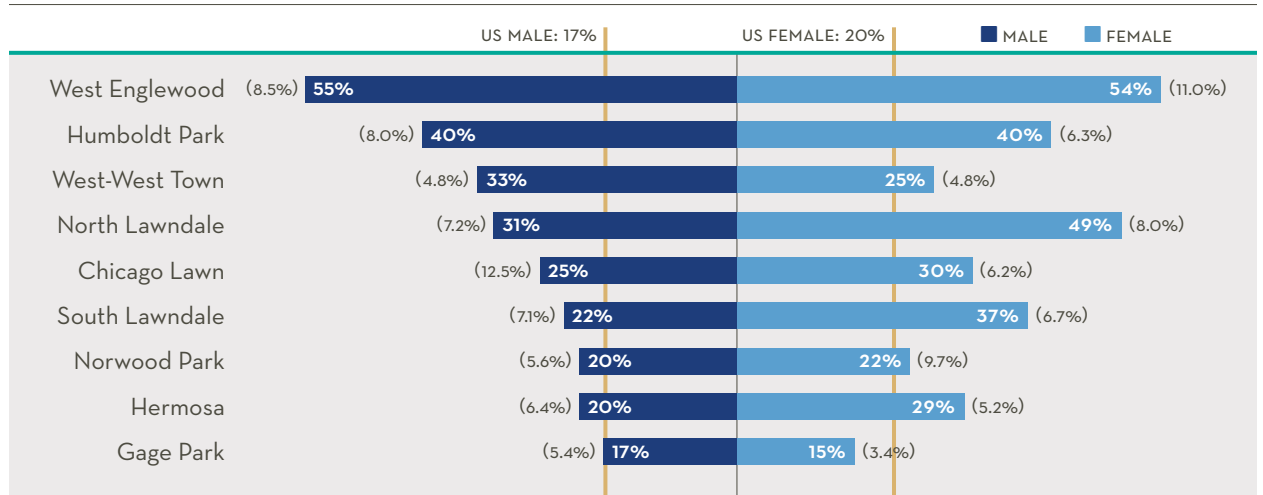


No national comparison data available
 Rao-Scott Chi-Square p-value = 0.0275 (males); p = 0.0413 (females)

PREVALENCE (STANDARD ERROR)

- There was a statistically significant difference in the percentage of females with a routine check-up in the past year by race/ethnic group, which was highest for non-Hispanic Black females (84%) and lowest for non-Hispanic White females (66%).
- There was also a statistically significant difference in the percentage of males with a routine check-up in the past year by race/ethnic group, which was highest for non-Hispanic White males (70%) and lowest for males of Mexican origin (50%).

FIGURE 5: Percent who visited emergency room for own care in past year by community area and sex

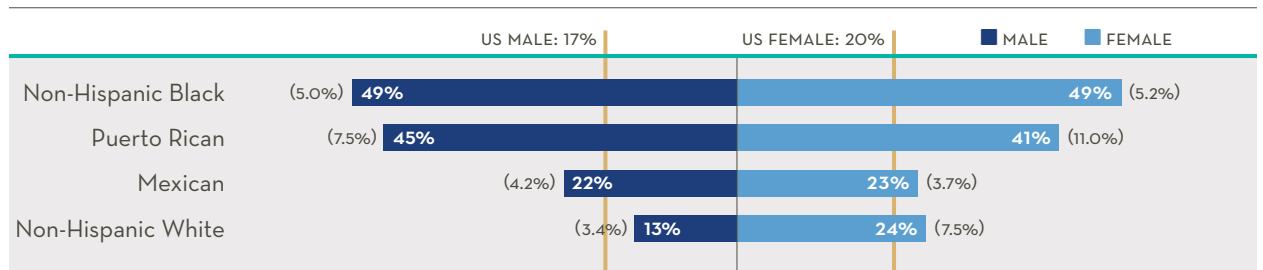


Sampled West Town community area west of Western Avenue only
 US DATA SOURCE: National Health Interview Survey, 2015

PREVALENCE (STANDARD ERROR)

- The percentage of females who visited an emergency room for their own care in the past year ranged from a high of 54% for females in West Englewood to a low of 15% for females in Gage Park.
- The percentage of males who visited an emergency room for their own care in the past year ranged from a high of 55% for males in West Englewood to a low of 17% for males in Gage Park.

FIGURE 6: Percent who visited emergency room for own care in past year by race/ethnicity and sex



US DATA SOURCE: National Health Interview Survey, 2015
 Rao-Scott Chi-Square p-value < 0.0001 (males); p = 0.0006 (females)

PREVALENCE (STANDARD ERROR)

- There was a statistically significant difference in the percentage of females who visited an emergency room for their own care by race/ethnic group, which was highest for non-Hispanic Black females (49%) and lowest for females of Mexican origin (23%).
- There was also a statistically significant difference in the percentage of males who visited an emergency room for their own care by race/ethnic group, which was highest for non-Hispanic Black males (49%) and lowest for non-Hispanic White males (13%).

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.SUHChicago.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.

DEFINITIONS

Usual place of care was defined as having a place that you usually go to when you are sick or need advice about your health.

Routine check-up in the past year was defined as having visited a doctor for a general physical exam, not an exam for a specific injury, illness, or condition, in the past 12 months.

Visiting an emergency room for your own care in the past year was defined as visiting a hospital emergency room about your own health at least once in the past 12 months, including emergency department visits that resulted in a hospital admission.

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.

REFERENCES

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