WASHINGTON SQUARE HEALTH FOUNDATION

EVALUATING GRANTMAKING IMPACT ON COMMUNITY HEALTH IN CHICAGO (2014-2024)

The Washington Square Health Foundation, Inc. grants funds to promote and maintain access to adequate healthcare for all people in the Chicagoland area, regardless of race, sex, creed, or financial need. The Foundation meets this goal through its grants for medical and nursing education, medical research, and direct healthcare services.

This infographic explores both individual grants and groups of grants with similar program areas funded by the Foundation between 2014 - 2024. The aim is twofold: first, to highlight the impact that the Foundation's grantmaking has made in the most vulnerable neighborhoods of Chicago by exploring the correlation between grantmaking and improvements in health outcomes; and second, to identify new and/or continued potential areas of targeted future grantmaking based on health outcome indicator data to support the Foundation's mission.

Need in Chicago:

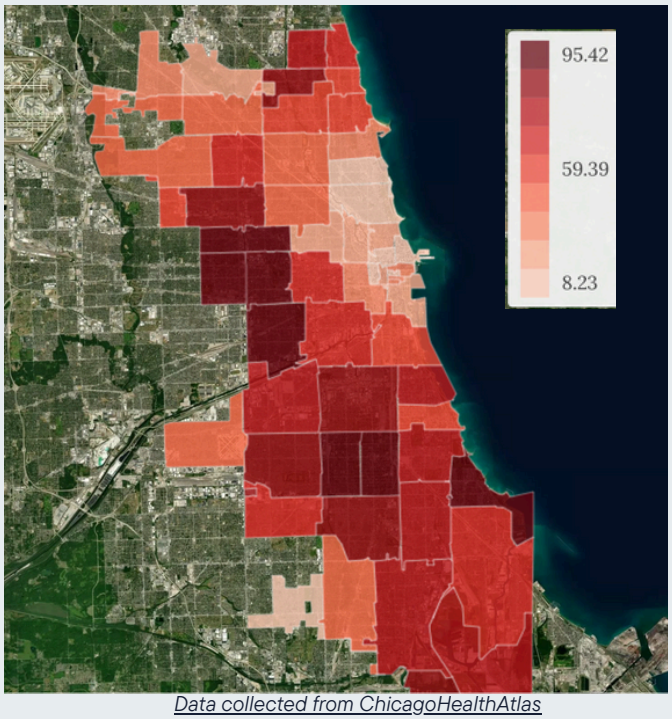
This Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) Map is a measure used in Public Health to help officials identify the communities most in need of support, particularly in instances of emergency. It ranks regions in comparison to one another related to 14 demographic and social factors and puts them into a single percentile ranking from 0 (lowest need) to 100 (highest need).

These factors include (but are not limited to): unemployment, minority status, disability, poverty, lack of vehicle access, crowded housing, housing cost burden, English language proficiency, health insurance status, and population of elderly/children.

As seen above, Chicago's most vulnerable communities are concentrated on the South and West Sides. Disparities in health outcomes are seen across the city of Chicago. The Foundation's goal of promoting health equity is accomplished through strategic grant and PRI funding of grantee organizations and programs working to improve healthcare access, health equity, and addressing Social Determinants of Health.

Social Vulnerability Index 2022

(Percentile)



Data collected from ChicagoHealthAtlas

Map of Social Vulnerability Index using data published for 2022.

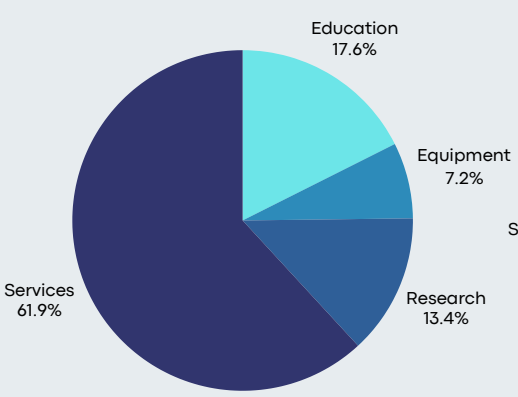
Grant Funding History

Since its Inception in 1985, the Foundation has provided over ***$35 million*** *in grants and Program Related Investments (PRIs) across the areas of Medical Services, Equipment, Research, and Education.*

Between 2014 and 2024, the Foundation granted ***$7.8 million*** *in grants and PRIs to organizations within the Chicagoland area.*

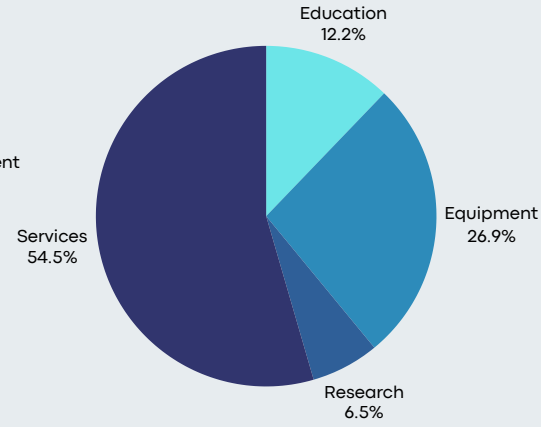
Funding Breakdown

Since Inception: 1985-2024



Funding Breakdown

2014-2024



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Specific Funding and Grants

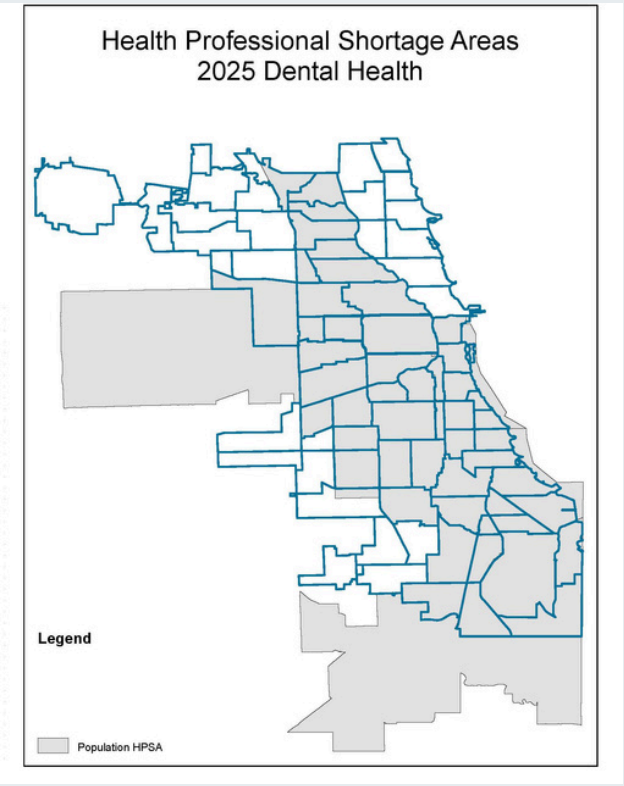
Mobile Dental Van - Roseland Community Hospital

The Project

The Foundation, through the use of a Program Related Investment (PRI), provided $350,000 for a Mobile Dental Van. Roseland Community Hospital operates the Mobile Dental Van program, which provides supportive and preventative dental care services to both children and adults in the Roseland community and on the far South Side of Chicago throughout the hospital's service area.

PRIs are low-interest, sometimes collateralized, loans that allow the Foundation to fund projects that may be outside of the normal grantmaking guidelines or may be more than the average grant amount. Organizations are able to benefit from this funding because it is low-interest and provides funding for projects that are deemed "too risky" for traditional loans.

More information about the Foundation's PRI funding can be found at:
https://wshf.org/general-guidelines/program-related-investments/



Dental Care in Chicago

Dental Care is a major area of need in Chicago - as seen in the map, many community areas of Chicago are classified as Health Professional Shortage Areas for dental care, the majority of which are on the South and West Sides of the City. These are either geographic HPSAs (meaning there is a shortage of providers in the area as a whole) or population HPSAs (meaning there is a shortage of providers serving particular populations, such as low-income, uninsured, or Medicaid-reliant patients).

The Foundation's PRI to Roseland increased access to primary dental care services on the South Side. As shown below, this has improved the overall dental health of the community and reduced the burden on Emergency Departments.

*Since 2014, the Foundation has provided over **$740,000** in grants and PRIs to improve dental care throughout Chicago.*

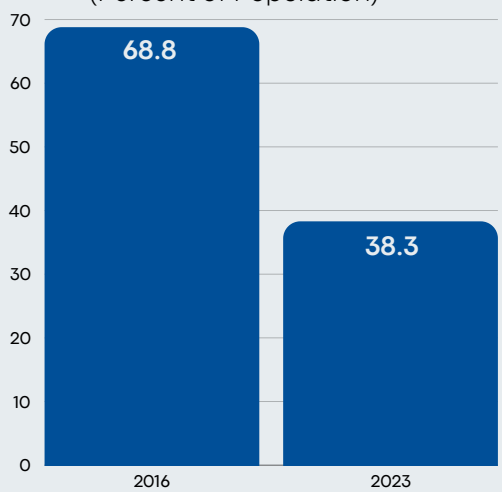
The Impact

*As of the interim report submitted to WSHF by Roseland in January of 2024, **1,447** children have benefited from services provided by the mobile dental van.*

*The graph to the right shows the changes in Dental Care ED visit rates for the service area of Roseland Community Hospital. Between 2016 and 2023, the rates of Dental ED visits reduced by **31 percentage points**. The reduction indicates greater community support for dental care that addresses barriers to care and limits the need to seek these primary dental services in an ED space.*

Dental ED Visit Rates 2016-2023

(Percent of Population)



Data collected from ChicagoHealthAtlas

Averaged from Zip Codes 60617, 60619, 60620, 60628, 60643, and 60827 to reflect self-identified Roseland Community Hospital Primary Service Area.

WASHINGTON SQUARE HEALTH FOUNDATION

Specific Funding and Grants

CT Scanner - Saint Anthony Hospital

The Project

In 2020, the Foundation provided a $300,000 PRI to Saint Anthony Hospital for a CT Scanner. The use of a PRI as opposed to a traditional grant allowed the Foundation to provide funding for this necessary project at a higher amount than would have been possible with a traditional grant. CT Scans are a vital part of diagnosis and treatment plan development for a variety of conditions, so increasing access was a vital goal in relation to this grant.

One of the major goals of this project was to support Saint Anthony Hospital in its goal to provide better care to stroke patients and become certified as a Primary Stroke Center before the end of the 5-year loan term. Primary Stroke Centers receive certification by the Joint Commission to diagnose, treat, and rehabilitate strokes using more advanced tests and treatments than the average hospital.

The Foundation provided PRI funding for the new CT Machine, as well as grant funding to support the hiring of an RN Stroke Coordinator, both necessary steps in the accreditation process for Saint Anthony. As of November 2020, Saint Anthony Hospital received and maintained its Joint Commission Accreditation and is serving patients on the West side as a Primary Stroke Center.

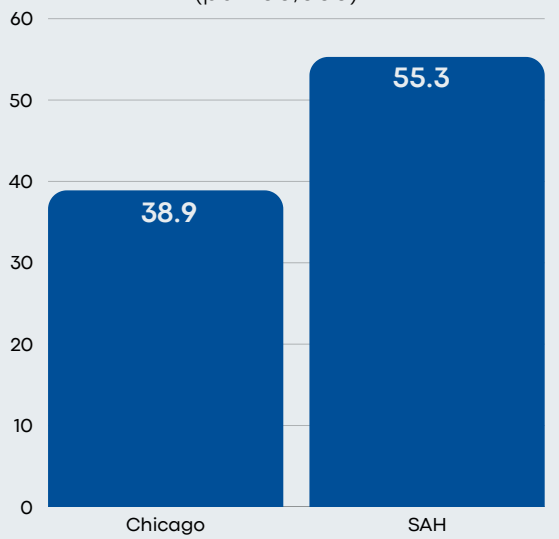
The Impact

*Saint Anthony Hospital provides care to individuals on the West and Southwest Sides of Chicago. The patient population is comprised predominantly of immigrants and people of color; **47%** of the patient population self-identifies as Hispanic and **42%** self-identifies as Black/African American.*

*In citing need for this grant, Saint Anthony Hospital explored the discrepancies in stroke rates in individuals of color, and the lagging stroke care available on the West side prior to their certification. As of 2019, the service area of Saint Anthony Hospital had a stroke mortality rate **42%** higher than predominantly white areas of Chicago.*

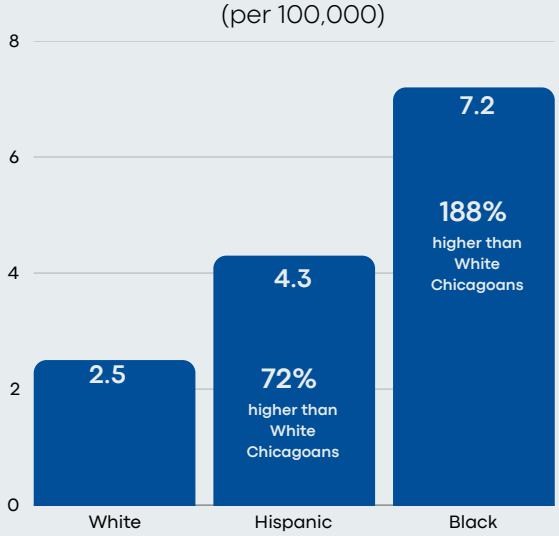
Stroke Mortality Rates, 2015-2019

(per 100,000)



Stroke ED Visit Rate by Race; 2023

(per 100,000)



*In the first 4 years alone, Saint Anthony Hospital performed **32,587** CT scans, helping to diagnose a variety of health conditions including strokes. The average wait time for a scan, between ordering and test, was less than one hour, which is vital in stroke diagnosis where time is of the essence.*

*The new CT Scanner and Primary Stroke Center certification has reduced the number of patients who previously may have needed to be transferred to other facilities for stroke care due to recurring CT scanner malfunction by **100%**, meaning patients can receive high-quality stroke care **faster** and **closer to home.***

Data was collected from reports submitted to Washington Square Health Foundation by Saint Anthony Hospital as part of the annual reporting for the grant, and Chicago Health Atlas

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Food Pantry Initiative-Breakthrough Urban Ministries

The Project

In 2012, Catherine Kapella, MPH, Executive Director (Associate Director at the time), initiated the Foundation's Food Pantry Initiative. The Foundation began distributing a $25,000 grant award to proactively address the issue of Food Insecurity in Chicago. The first recipient organization of the Food Pantry Initiative grant was the North Park Friendship Center, which was able to open a second food pantry location as a direct result of receiving these funds.

The aim of this annual grant is to provide support for adequate nutrition, dietary counseling, and food access. This initiative was started with the knowledge that nutrition is a vital aspect of primary care that should not be denied to any Chicagoan, regardless of employment status, immigration status, or income. Though the Foundation alone cannot solve the food crisis in Chicago, this grant allows us to make a large impact where we can. Since 2014, the Foundation has given ***$290,000*** *in grants to address the issue of food insecurity in Chicago.*

The 2014 recipient of this grant was Breakthrough Urban Ministries for their food pantry in East Garfield Park, Chicago. This grant was instrumental in building a new stand-alone food pantry that creates a grocery-store-like atmosphere to allow families to shop for food more traditionally to acquire items they need and reduce the stigma that can come from being food-insecure.

The Impact

The WSHF Grant directly funded a new pantry location, Fresh Market, to help provide food services to citizens living in the East Garfield Park Neighborhood of Chicago.

The goal of this location was to create a grocery-store-like feel and provide dignity for individuals and families while they shop to ensure their dietary needs are being met. The Foundation's funding was vital in the new store location to support the service of new families in the Fresh Market Food Pantry.

The new, larger location was able to support an increase in demand for the food pantry to support families in East Garfield Park through expanded shopping hours as well.

The pantry has also linked ***4,190*** *residents to energy, nutrition, and rental assistance resources to support community well-being.*

Fresh Market Activity

Since 2014

102,694

families served

308,082

individuals served

6,169,593

pounds of food distributed

Data collected from the final grant report to WSHF from Breakthrough Urban Ministries, as well as the Fresh Market Website

Food Insecurity in Chicago: A Growing Issue

East Garfield Park 2020

Chicago 2020

According to *Chicago Health Atlas (2020)*

Food insecurity is a prevalent issue in Chicago, with roughly ***1 in 5*** *households in Chicago being food insecure. The East Garfield Park neighborhood served by the Fresh Market Food Pantry has a rate of food insecurity of over* ***37%****, as of 2020. This is nearly* ***twice*** *as many individuals experiencing food insecurity in East Garfield Park compared to Chicago as a whole.*

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, more individuals and families are struggling with food insecurity. Various institutions are hard at work to support families, but are struggling to obtain funding and resources to keep up with need. Through the Food Pantry Initiative and other grants, the Foundation seeks to continue helping make a difference in the issue of Food Insecurity in Chicago.

WASHINGTON SQUARE HEALTH FOUNDATION

Arising Need in Chicago

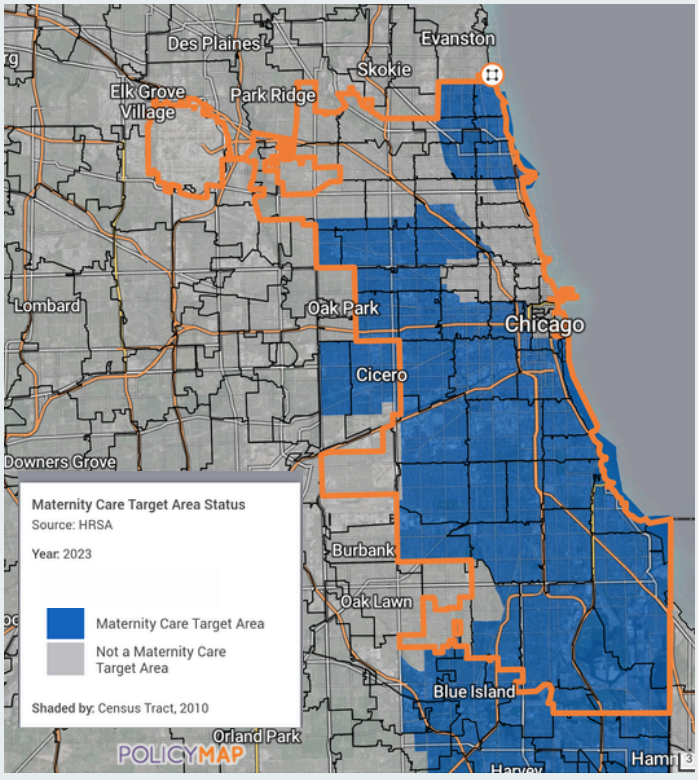
The Washington Square Health Foundation remains committed to addressing the healthcare needs of Chicagoland by staying apprised of current healthcare data and trends.

This section reflects on funding provided to today's most pertinent health needs in Chicago, as identified by our grantees and the city as a whole. It will explore how the Foundation has supported these areas of great need so far via grant funding, and discuss future needs in the community that the Foundation should continue to help support. We remain committed to funding these arising needs and encourage other foundations in the area to support these needs of our communities as well.

*The three main areas of exploration for continued future funding will be **(1) Maternal Health, (2) Mental Health, and (3) Chronic Health Condition Management**. These areas have been identified by examining healthcare outcome data. We will explore how the Foundation has historically funded these areas and the data that supports continued funding.*

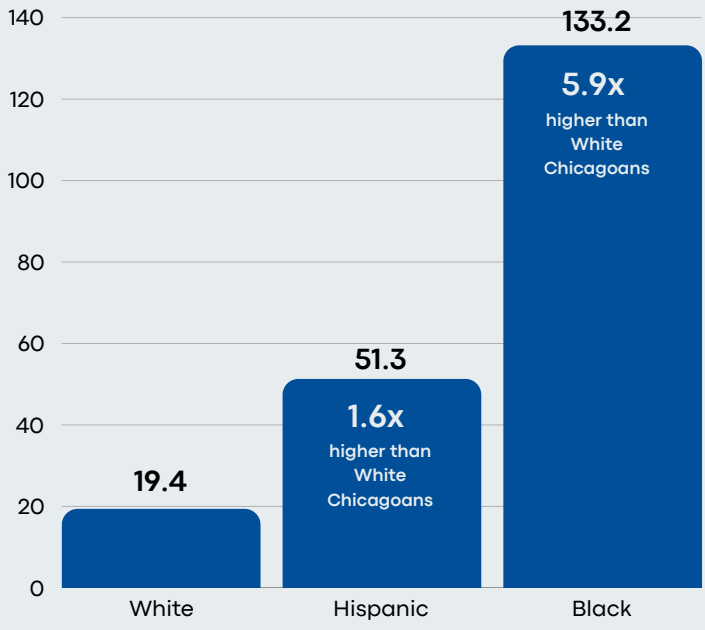
1. Maternal Health

Maternity Care Target Areas, 2023



Pregnancy-Associated Mortality; 2018-2020

(per 100,000)



*Since 2014, Washington Square Health Foundation has funded over **$225,000** in the area of women's health.*

Maternal morbidity and mortality are widely considered to be an overall indicator of community health access and well-being as a whole; the rising rates in Chicago are in urgent need of improvement. Many communities on the South and West sides, in particular, are Maternity Care Target Areas, which means there is a shortage of maternal health care providers, maternal support resources, and other barriers in place that restrict maternal well-being (see map above).

*Pregnancy-associated mortality is death during pregnancy or within a year of pregnancy. Women of color, particularly those on the South Side of Chicago, are significantly more likely to face severe pregnancy-related complications compared to the Chicago average. Particularly, Black women are almost **6x** as likely to die from pregnancy-related complications compared to white women.*

Data collected from the ChicagoHealthAtlas (2022-2023), the Collaborative Community Health Needs Assessment (2022) and PolicyMaps (with Data from HRSA).

WASHINGTON SQUARE HEALTH FOUNDATION

Arising Need in Chicago

2. Mental Health

*Since 2014, Washington Square Health Foundation has funded over **$1,000,000** in grants and PRI funds for mental and behavioral health care.*

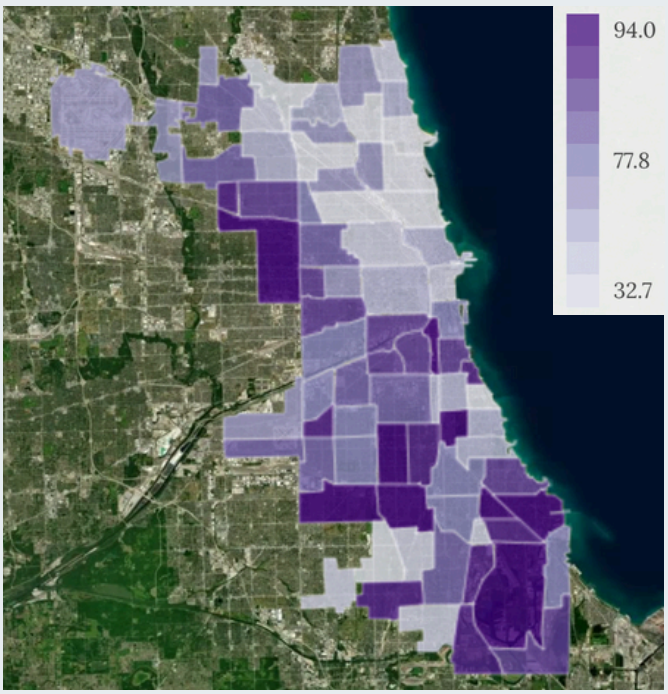
*The Chicago Health Atlas only began tracking unmet mental health needs in Chicago in 2021; however, city-wide, over **70%** of individuals cite unmet treatment needs for moderate or serious mental health distress.*

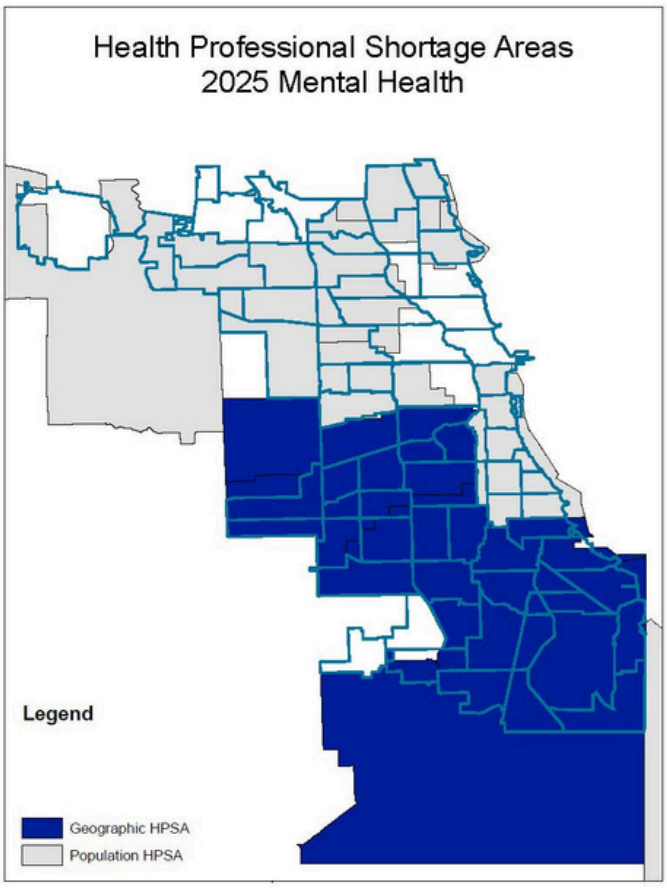
In the 2022 city-wide collaborative community health needs assessment (CHNA), unmet access to mental health services was identified as the most needed improvement to address major health concerns in the community.

The Foundation remains committed to supporting mental health treatments and access throughout Chicago, and encourages other foundations in the area to support the mental health needs prevalent throughout the city, with particular emphasis on South and West sides.

Unmet Mental Health Need 2022-2023

(Percent of Adults)





*One particular area we are seeing a rising mental health need right now is in response to Substance Abuse Disorder and the rising opioid crisis. In 2016 in Chicago, there were **23** opioid-related mortalities per 100,000 residents; that number rose to **40** opioid-related deaths per 100,000 residents in 2021. In just 5 years, opioid deaths nearly doubled in Chicago.*

*This burden is unequally distributed across the city of Chicago. In South Side communities, there were nearly **61** opioid deaths per 100,000 residents, a rate **35% higher** than Chicago as a whole. On the West side, the rate was **74** deaths per 100,000, a rate **85% higher** than the Chicago average. We see this mirrored in the shortage of mental health providers on the South and West sides of Chicago, as demonstrated in the map to the left.*

Substance Use Disorder is a serious condition that requires support from mental health specialists and effective treatment programs. Recidivism is a major concern of substance abuse disorder. The Foundation has proposed outcome objectives as contingencies to funding programs that agree to follow up with participants for 5 years, to prove the long-term effectiveness of these treatment programs. The difficulty of performing this tracking successfully is one reason why there have been no organizations agreeing to this funding contingency to date and instead forgoing potential grant funds.

Data collected from the *ChicagoHealthAtlas* (2022-2023), the Collaborative Community Health Needs Assessment (2022) and the Illinois Primary Health Care Association.

WASHINGTON SQUARE HEALTH FOUNDATION

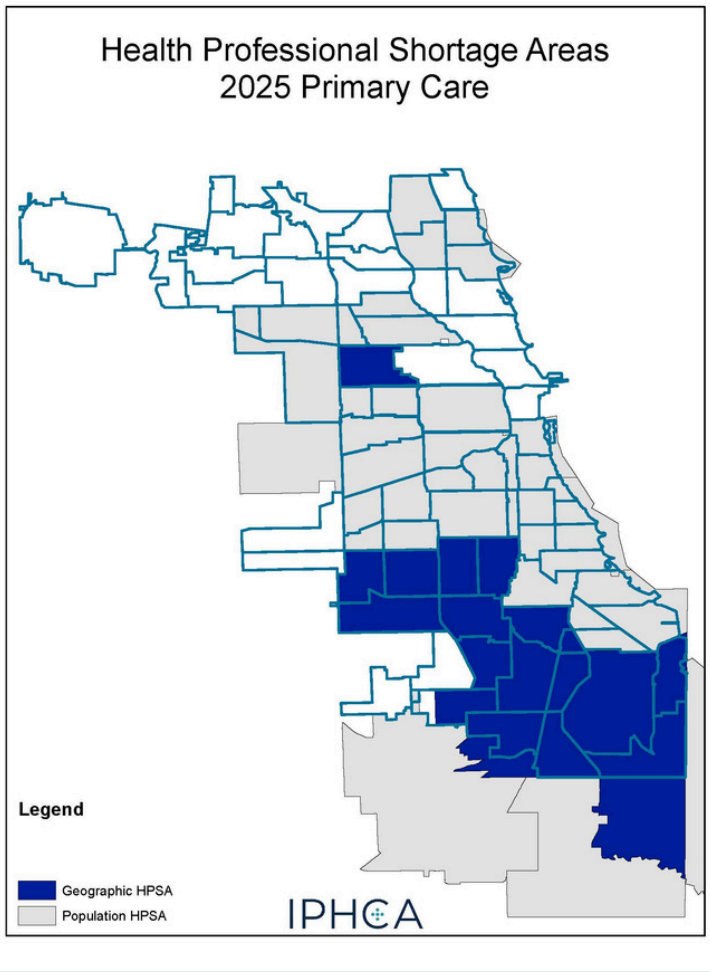
Arising Need in Chicago

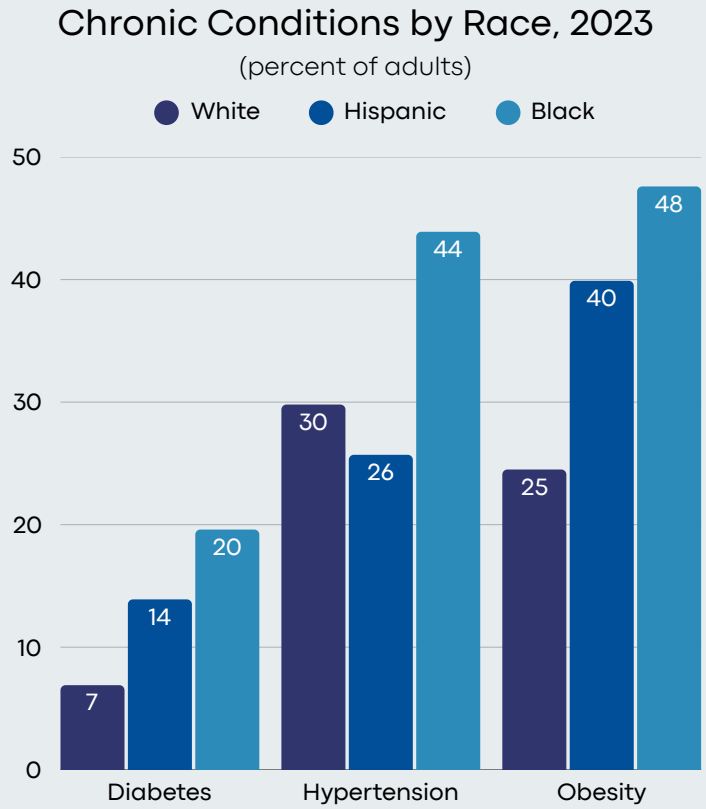
3. Chronic Condition Management

In the 2022 city-wide collaborative community health needs assessment (CHNA), many Chicagoans cited difficulty in managing chronic health conditions such as hypertension, obesity, and diabetes as major health concerns. These conditions are disproportionately diagnosed in Black and Latino populations in Chicago, compared to White populations, and disproportionately seen on the South and West sides of Chicago.

*There are a variety of factors that go into managing chronic conditions. Insurance status can be important in accessing healthcare. However, an average of **13%** of residents on the Southwest Side of Chicago were uninsured between 2019 and 2023. Many individuals in these communities are underinsured, meaning that even with insurance, they still struggle to cover out-of-pocket expenses associated with healthcare. Roughly **35%** of individuals on the South and West sides rely on Medicaid for their insurance. These low-income individuals may still struggle to pay for their care, despite being insured.*

Another important factor is having access to a primary care provider. The map to the right demonstrates geographic and population regions with limited access to primary care; without access to these providers, individuals may struggle to receive support managing their chronic conditions.





*Between 2014-2024, the Foundation distributed roughly **$450,000** in grants related to increasing access to primary care and chronic disease management. These included various programs to support diabetes, hypertension and obesity management, increased availability of appointments, and even Bilingual Community Health Workers aiming to support communities with high proportions of chronic disease in Health Professional Shortage Areas.*

*Another group that struggles to manage chronic conditions is individuals experiencing homelessness. Since 2014, the Foundation has given almost **$572,000** in grants to support providing healthcare for homeless individuals.*

With housing insecurity and chronic conditions both on the rise, continuing to support funding for the management of chronic conditions is vital.

Data collected from the *ChicagoHealthAtlas* (2023), the Collaborative Community Health Needs Assessment (2022) and the Illinois Primary Health Care Association.