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The Shifting Demographics of Chicago's Young Children

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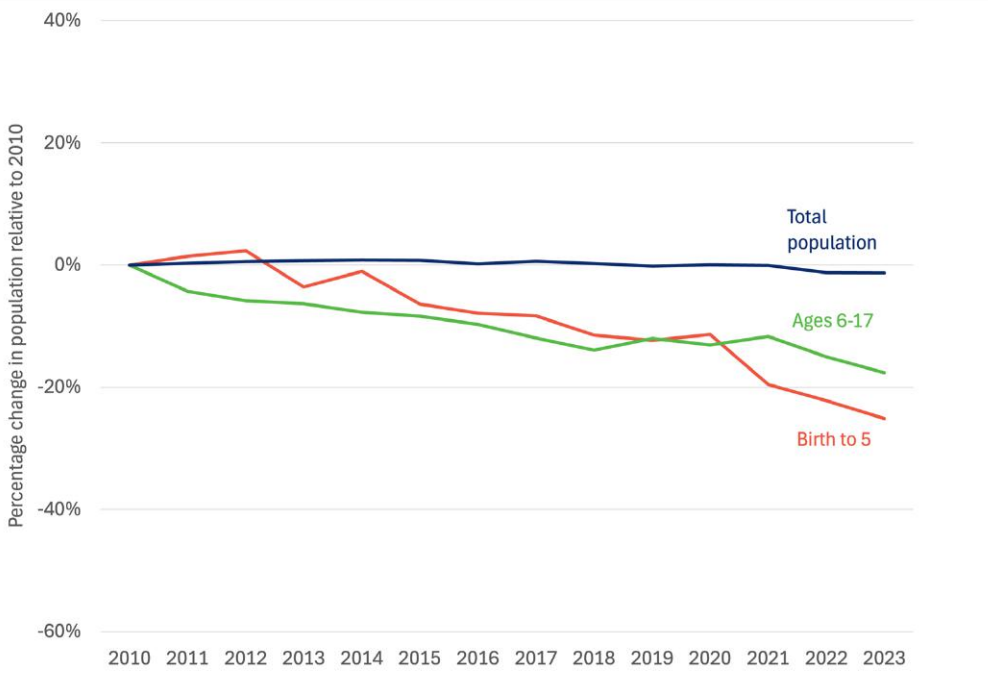
The demographic patterns of young children provide important context for planning of early childhood services and allocating educational resources across Chicago's diverse communities. Understanding where young children live and how their population has changed helps inform policy decisions.

1. Aggregate Trends in the Population of Young Children in Chicago Over Time

Since 2010, the total number of people living in the City of Chicago has remained stable at about 2.7 million. Over the same period, the number of children birth to five has declined by 25%, from about 220,000 to 165,000. Figure 1 shows changes in Chicago's population over time, overall and by age group, relative to levels in 2010. The population of children birth to five has declined by more than any other age group. Appendix Figure 1 illustrates this trend in more detail, showing that the working age population has remained stable, and the 65+ population has grown by about 40%.

Figure 1. Chicago's Population Change since 2010, by Age Group

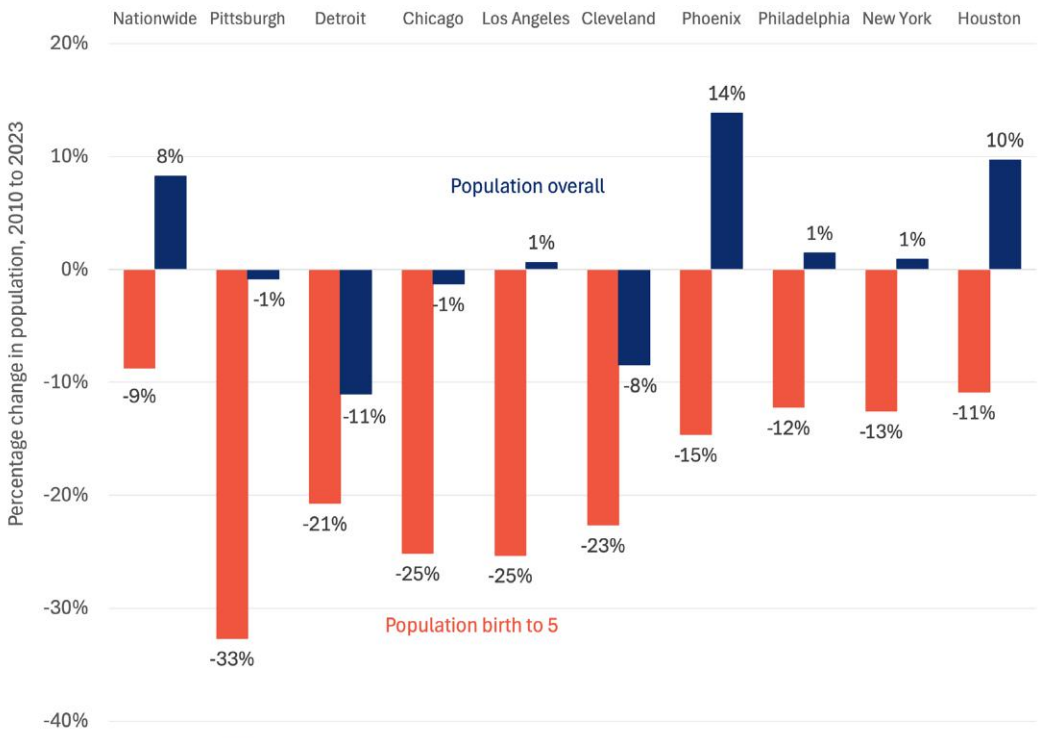


Note: Authors' calculations based on American Community Survey (1-year estimates) for the City of Chicago.

To situate the changes in Chicago's population in a broader context, Appendix Figure 2 shows how the populations birth to five and overall have evolved over this time frame in Illinois and nationally. Compared with 2010, in 2023 the population birth to five declined by 9% nationwide and 20% in Illinois, compared with 25% in Chicago. Over the same period, the overall population increased by 8% nationwide, but declined by 2% in Illinois and 1% in Chicago.

Several other cities have experienced sizeable declines in the population of young children, as shown in Figure 2. For example, like Chicago, Los Angeles and Pittsburgh also experienced a population decline of more than 20% among young children with little change in the overall population. Detroit and Cleveland had similarly sized declines among young children but also had substantial declines in their overall populations. Even Houston, which experienced 10% growth overall saw an 11% decline in its population of young children.

Figure 2: Percentage Change in Population Overall and Children Birth to Five Across Selected Cities and the Nation, 2010-2023



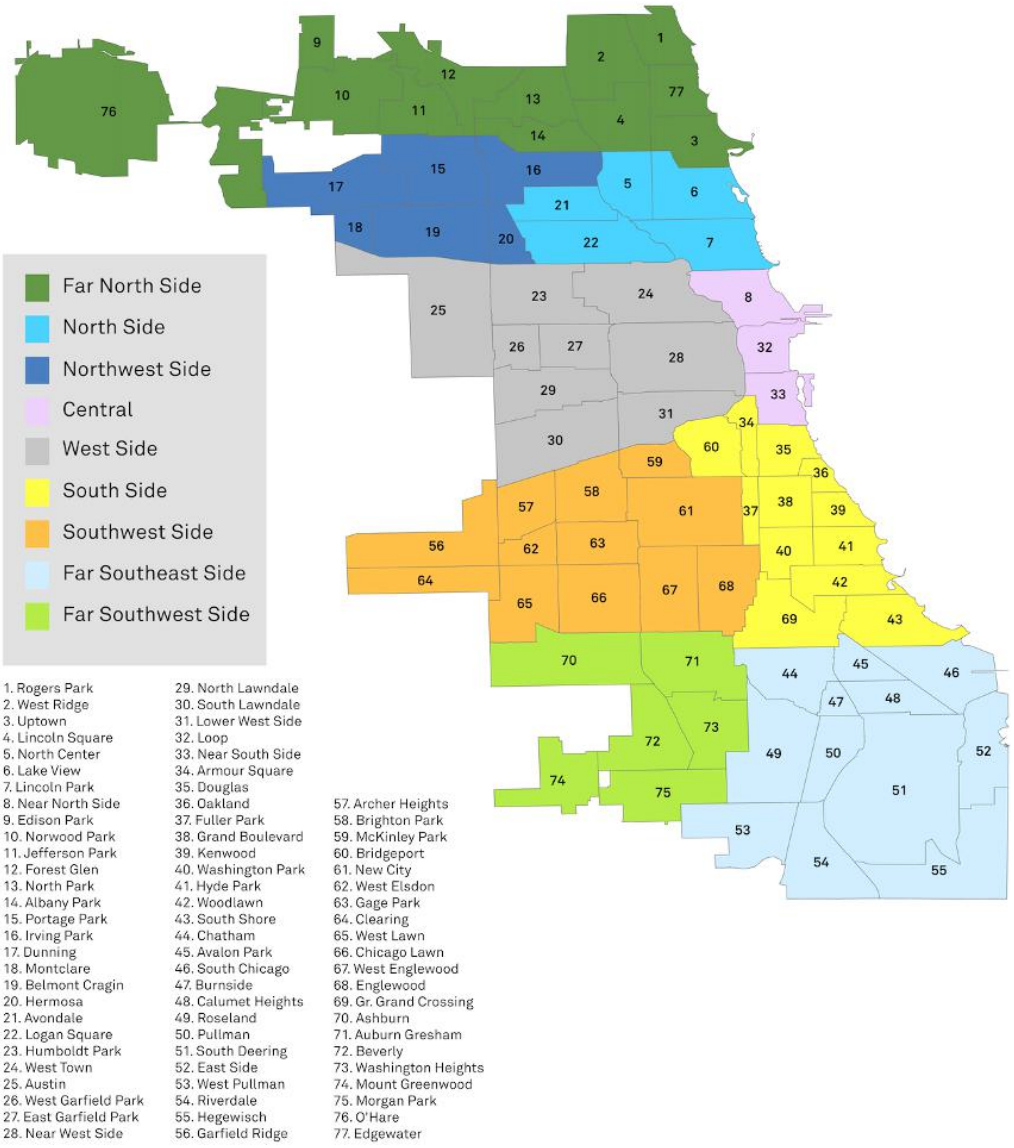
Note: This figure shows the percentage change in the population overall (in dark blue) and for children birth to five (in orange), between 2010 and 2023, for the U.S. overall and selected cities. Data come from American Community Survey (1-year estimates).

A major factor driving the downward population trend among young children is a sustained decline in births among Chicago residents over the past three decades, as shown in Appendix Figure 3. In 1990, there were over 60,000 births; this fell to about 27,000 in 2022—a decline of more than 50%. Nationwide, births decreased by approximately 12% over this period.

2. Population Trends Among Young Children by Region of Chicago

In the analysis that follows, we examine population trends across Chicago's 77 community areas, sometimes grouping them into 9 geographic regions as shown in the map in Figure 3. The map shows the Far North, North, Northwest, Central, West, South, Southwest, Far Southeast, and Far Southwest regions, each containing multiple community areas.

Figure 3. Chicago's Geographic Regions and Community Areas within Them

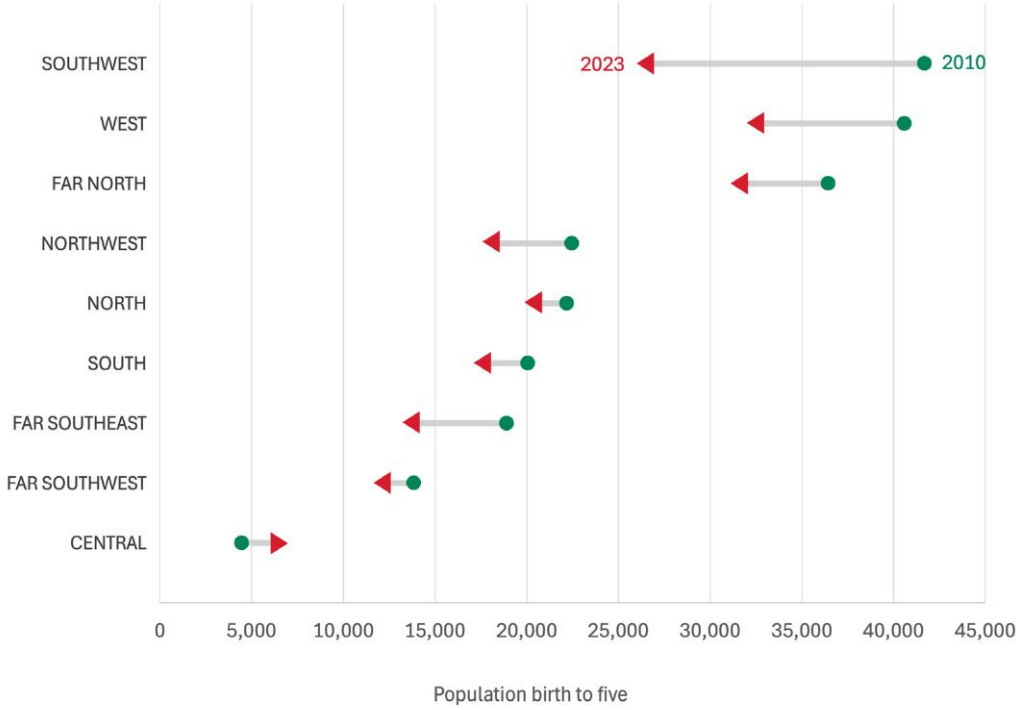


Note: This map displays Chicago's 77 community areas grouped into 9 geographic regions. Each community area is identified by its number (1-77) and color-coded by region. This regional grouping is used for analyzing demographic patterns and trends in this memo.

Note that in order to analyze the population of young children at smaller geographic areas than the city as a whole, we need to use a larger dataset. From here on, we switch from the Census Bureau's "1-year estimates" that we have used up to this point to their "5-year estimates." As a result, the population that we refer to as "2023" is based on 2019-23 data, and the "2010" data span 2006-10. When we calculate the decline in the citywide population of young children using the 5-year estimates, the result is 18% (compared with 25% in the 1-year estimates). Appendix Figure 4 shows city-level population trends using the 5-year Census Bureau estimates.

Figure 4, below, shows levels of the young child population in 2010 and 2023 by region of the city, listed in rank order from largest to smallest by its 2010 population. The number of young children has declined in all regions except Central. The population in the Southwest region of the city declined by nearly 15,000 over this period, moving the Southwest from the region that was most populous among young children to the third most. The population loss in the West region was just over half of this magnitude with a decline of nearly 8,000 young children. The population in the Far North fell by nearly 4,500 young children. While the Central region grew over this period, it still has the fewest young children of any region by far.

Figure 4. Population of Children Birth to Five by Region of Chicago, 2010 and 2023



Note: This figure shows the change in population of children birth to five between 2010 and 2023 across regions of Chicago. Population data come from the American Community Survey (5-year estimates).

Next, Table 1 shows a range of characteristics of the population and its environment by region of Chicago. Over 1 in 3 young children (35%) in Chicago live in the West or Far North regions. Comparing columns (1) and (2), a larger share of the city's children live in the West, Far North, and Southwest regions compared with those regions' shares of the overall population, while a smaller share of the city's children live in the Central region compared with the overall population. Column (3) shows the percentage decline (as opposed to the level decline shown in Figure 4) in the population of young children between 2010 and 2023. The young child population in the Southwest experienced a particularly sharp decline of 36% over this period, while the young child population in the Far Southeast declined by 26%. Together, losses in these two regions made up more than half of the overall drop in population of young children in the city over this period.

Column (5) reports the average Child Opportunity Index (COI) score by region. The COI is a multidimensional measure of positive resources for children based on 44 indicators spanning three domains—education, health and environment, and social and economic. A higher score indicates that the area has more resources for children. The COI includes measures such as high-quality schools, safe housing, access to healthcare, green spaces, and economic opportunities. In general, the largest population declines occurred in areas with lower COI scores.

Table 1. Population Characteristics by Region of Chicago

Region of city	Share of total population, 2023	Share of 0-5 population, 2023	Population ages 0-5 percent change, 2010-23	Share of citywide 0-5 population decline, 2010-2023	Average COI score
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
West	17%	18%	-20%	20%	26.4
Far North	17%	18%	-13%	11%	49.8
Southwest	13%	15%	-36%	37%	16.8
North	11%	11%	-8%	4%	71.6
Northwest	10%	10%	-19%	10%	32.1
South	10%	10%	-12%	6%	23.0
Far Southeast	8%	8%	-26%	12%	15.2
Far Southwest	7%	7%	-11%	4%	32.8
Central	6%	3%	41%	-5%	88.8
Citywide	100%	100%	-18%	100%	36.3

Note: This table shows population characteristics by region of Chicago. Population data come from 2010 and 2023 American Community Survey (5-year estimates) and COI data come from diversitydatakids.org. The COI is a multidimensional measure of positive resources for children based on 44 indicators spanning three domains—education, health and environment, and social and economic. A higher score indicates that the area has more resources for children. Average COI score for each region is computed as a weighted average of community area COI scores, where weights are each area's share of the region's birth to five population. The bottom row presents citywide totals and changes. The 18% citywide decline in birth to five population shown in this table differs from the 25% decline shown in Figure 1 because this table uses ACS 5-year estimates, while Figure 1 uses ACS 1-year estimates.

Each region of the city contains between three and twelve community areas, and the analysis in this section may mask important differences among community areas within regions. In the following section we present data at the community area level.

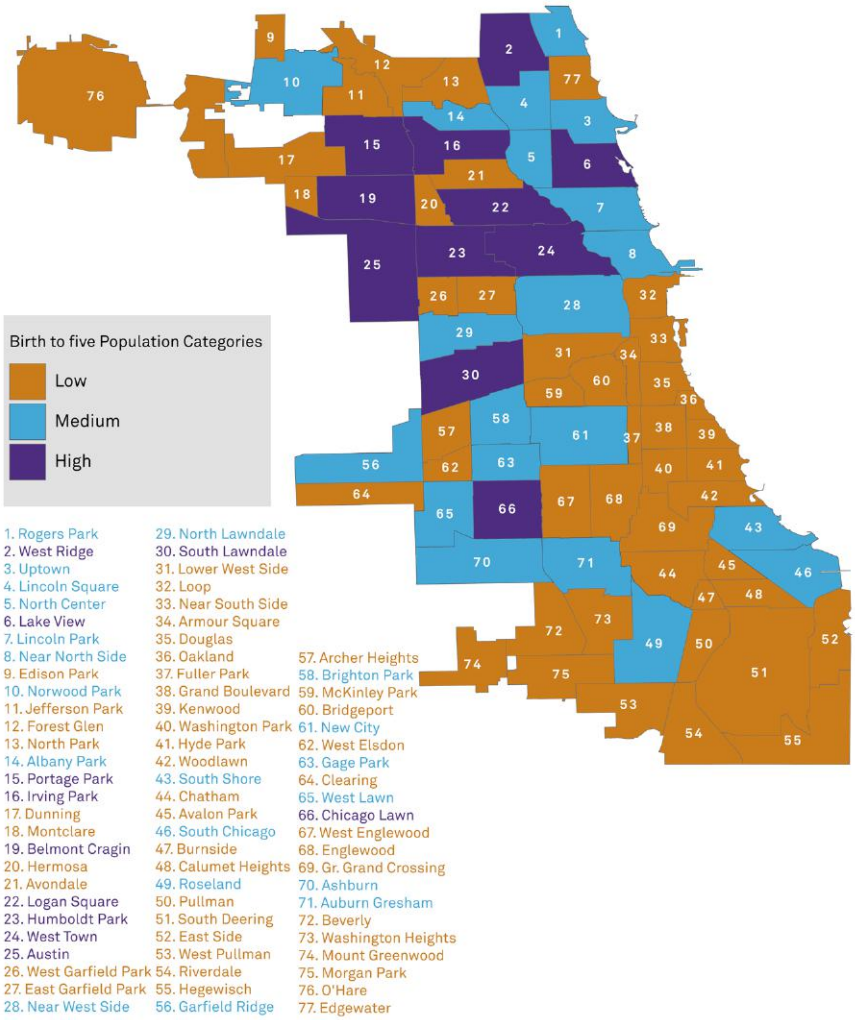
3. The Population of Chicago's Young Children by Community Area

There is substantial geographic variation in the population distribution of young children across Chicago, with high concentrations of young children in some parts of the city and low concentrations in other parts. The map in Figure 5, next page, categorizes community areas by child population levels in 2023. One-third of Chicago's young children live in the eleven community areas shaded in purple, with the highest populations of young children. These community areas are mostly located in the West and North sides of the city. More than 7,600 young children live in Austin (shaded in purple and labeled #25 on the map), more than 6,300 live in West Ridge (labeled #2), and more than 6,100 live in Lakeview (labeled #6).

These areas are likely to have the greatest demand for early childhood resources, such as child care services and educational programs, emphasizing the need for investment to support young children and their families there.

Another third of Chicago's young children live in the 20 community areas shaded in blue. The number of young children living in each of these community areas ranges from about 2,200 to about 3,900. The final third of Chicago's young children are spread across the remaining 46 community areas, shaded in gold, with relatively low population levels of young children.

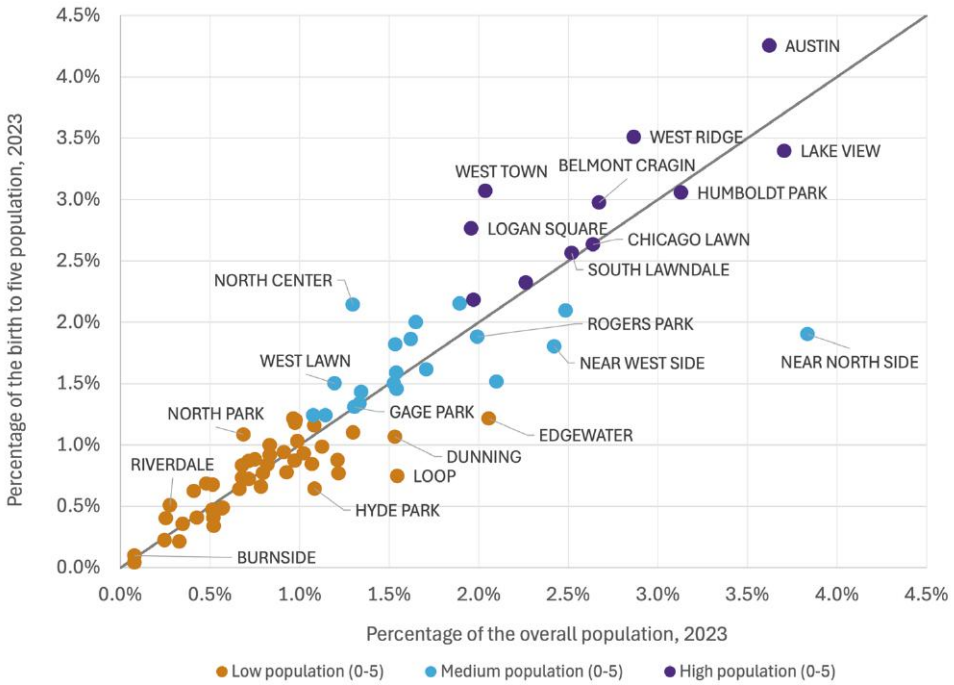
Figure 5. Population Birth to Five Across Chicago Community Areas, 2023



Note: This map shows the distribution of the population of children birth to five across Chicago community areas grouped into size categories, based on the 2023 American Community Survey (5-year estimates). The 11 high-population areas (purple) have birth to five populations between 3,930 and 7,664; 20 middle- population areas (blue) have birth to five populations between 2,236 and 3,875; and 46 low-population areas (gold) have birth to five populations between 73 and 2,186.

The population of young children is more concentrated in some community areas relative to the population overall, as shown below in Figure 6. The horizontal axis shows the share of Chicago's overall population living in each community area, and the vertical axis shows the share of Chicago's young children living in each area. If a community area falls along the gray diagonal line, its population represents the same share of the city's population among young children as it does in the overall population. Community areas above the gray line such as Austin, West Ridge, West Town, Logan Square, and North Center contain a higher share of the citywide population of young children than of the population overall. Those below the gray line, including Lakeview, Near North Side, Near West Side, Edgewater and the Loop have a smaller share of young children compared to their share of the overall population.

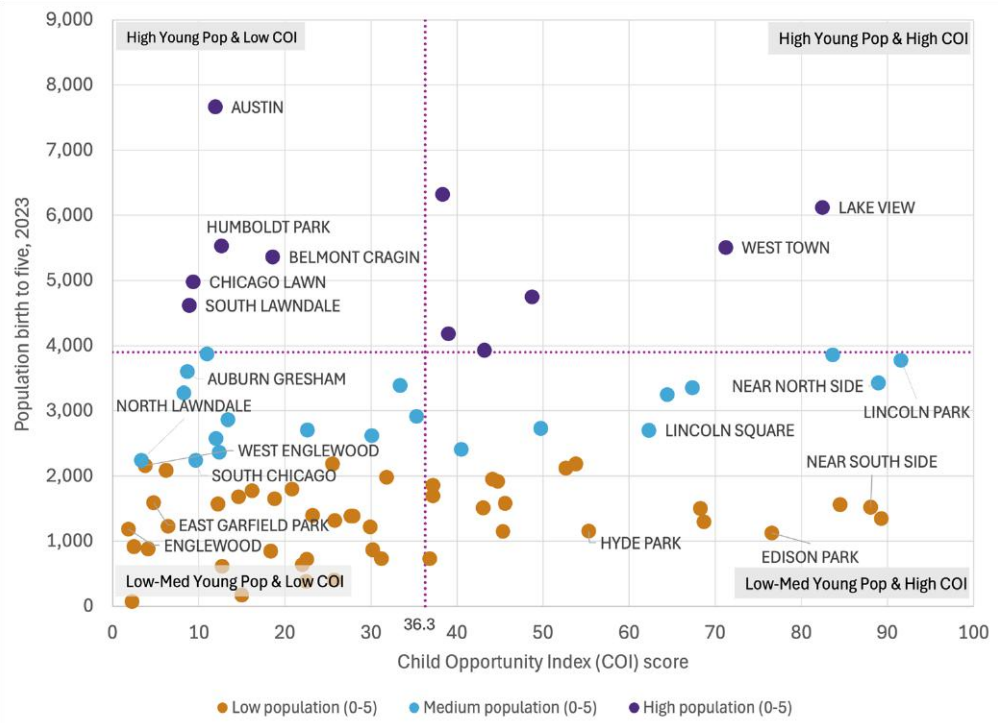
Figure 6. Share of the Population Birth to Five Compared with the Share of the Total Population Across Chicago Community Areas, 2023



Note: This scatterplot shows the distribution of the population overall vs. the population of children birth to five across Chicago community areas, based on the 2023 American Community Survey (5-year estimates). Community areas labeled with purple dots have the largest populations of young children and comprise 1/3 of the total population of young children; blue dots represent middle population levels, and gold dots are used for the lowest population levels. The gray line is a 45-degree line and thus represents where the population shares overall and among those birth to five are equal.

Figure 7 shows the relationship between each community area's COI score and its population of young children. Several of the community areas with the highest populations of young children have low COI scores, including Austin, Humboldt Park, and South Lawndale in the west region, Belmont Cragin in the northwest region, and Chicago Lawn in the southwest region, highlighting areas where access to key resources may be limited. In contrast, Lakeview in the north region and West Town in the west region have large populations of young children and high COI scores.

Figure 7. Population Birth to Five and Child Opportunity Index Scores Across Chicago Community Areas



Note: This graph shows COI scores vs. the population of children birth to five across Chicago community areas, combining 2021 COI data from diversitydatakids.org (most recent available data) with the 2023 American Community Survey (5-year estimates) population estimates. The COI is a multidimensional measure of positive resources for children based on 44 indicators spanning three domains—education, health and environment, and social and economic. A higher score indicates that the area has more resources for children. Community areas are color coded by the population of young children, with purple representing the highest number of young children, and blue and gold representing the middle and lowest groups, respectively. The vertical dotted line at 36.3 marks the citywide average COI score, dividing community areas into above- and below-average opportunity areas. The horizontal dotted line divides areas into high population (areas with highest young child population comprising one-third of Chicago's young children) and medium to low population (areas comprising the remaining two-thirds of Chicago's young children).

Note that Appendix Figure 5 maps COI scores by community area, demonstrating substantial geographic disparities. Community areas on the North and Central side tend to have more positive resources, while many areas on the South and West sides have fewer positive resources as indicated by lower COI scores. These disparities highlight the uneven distribution of opportunity across the city.

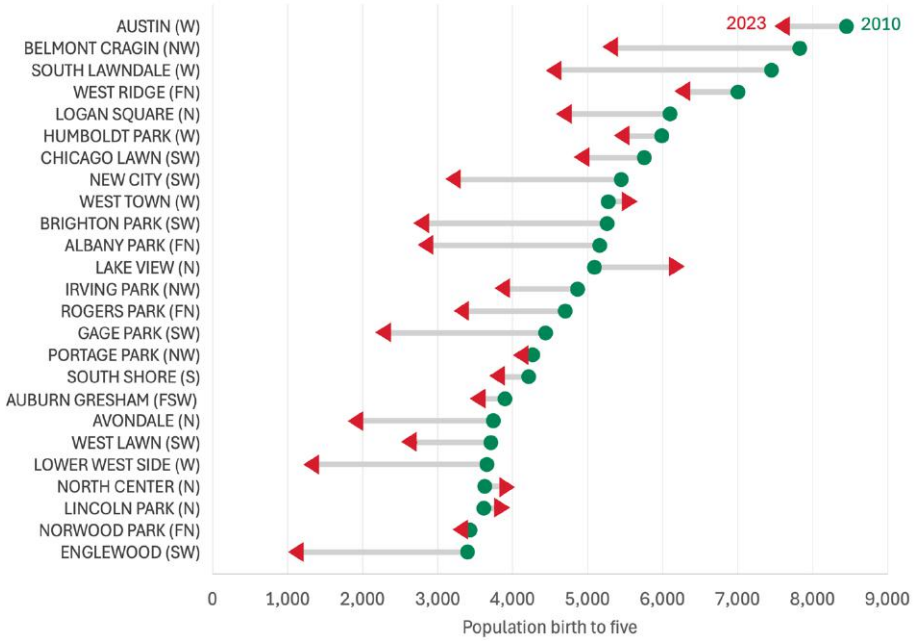
4. Changes in the Population of Chicago's Young Children by Community Area, 2010 to 2023

In 57 of the 77 community areas in Chicago (almost three-quarters of them) the young child population declined between 2010 and 2023. Seven community areas had especially large declines of more than 2,000 young children over this period. The areas with large declines are spread across the city. They include Albany Park on the Far North side; Belmont Cragin on the Northwest side; South Lawndale and Lower West Side on the West side; and Brighton Park, Englewood, New City and Gage Park on the Southwest side.

Only four areas grew by more than 500 young children, all in the Central area or North side: Edison Park, Lakeview, the Near North Side, and the Loop. Notably, Edison Park and Loop, along with Avalon Park and Riverdale, have undergone substantial growth despite being among the lowest populations of young children. These trends may indicate future needs for increased early childhood services.

Figure 8, below, shows the population of young children by community area in 2010 and 2023 for the 25 community areas with the largest population of young children in 2010. Nearly 57% of all young children lived in these communities in 2010, and 55% of young children resided in them in 2023.

Figure 8. Population of Children Birth to Five in Top 25 Most Populated Community Areas in 2010



Note: This graph shows community area level populations of young children in 2010 (represented by green circles) and 2023 (red arrows) in the 25 community areas with the largest population of young children in 2010, American Community Survey (5-year estimates) population estimates. Region of the city is listed in parentheses: Far North (FN), Far Southwest (FSW), North (N), Northwest (NW), South (S), Southwest (SW), West (W).

In both 2010 and 2023, about one-third of Chicago's children lived in one of eleven community areas. Eight of those areas are the same in both years: Austin, South Lawndale, Humboldt Park and West Town on the West side; Logan Square on the North side; Belmont Cragin on the Northwest side; West Ridge in the Far North; and Chicago Lawn on the Southwest side. Because of their population declines, Brighton Park and New City (Southwest side) and Albany Park (Far North) moved out of the community areas with the highest population of young children. They were replaced by Irving Park and Portage Park (Northwest side), both of which experienced modest declines in their young child populations, and Lakeview (North side), which experienced a modest increase in its young child population.

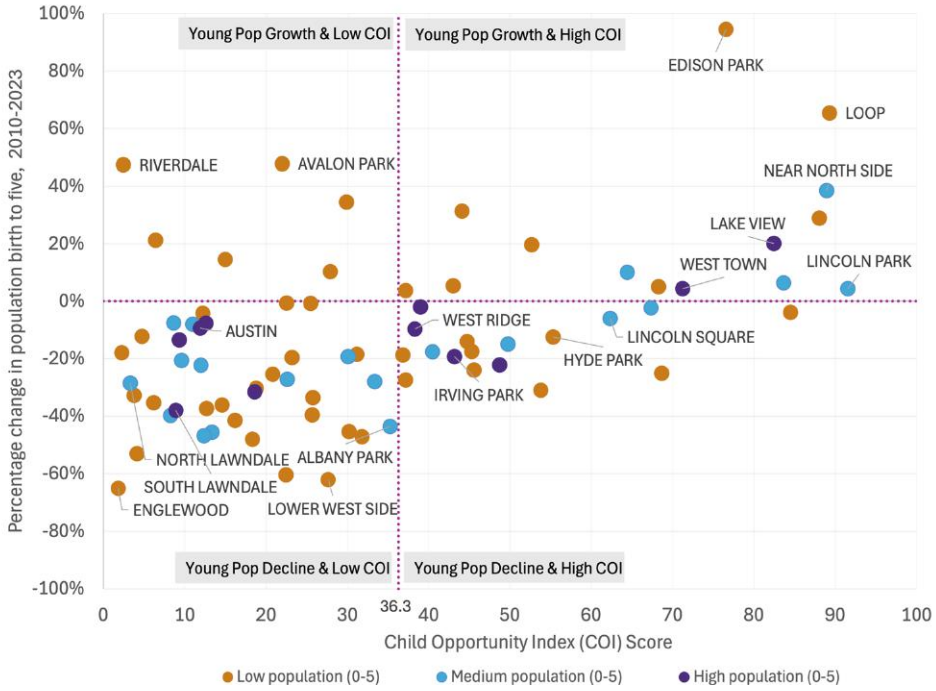
Several community areas have experienced sharp declines in their populations of young children but remain among the highest density areas for young children today, including Belmont Cragin and South Lawndale. Although fewer young children reside in these areas compared to a decade ago, they remain critical locations for early childhood services.

At the same time, other parts of the city have experienced demographic shifts that could influence future demand for early childhood services. For instance, community areas like Near North Side, Near South Side and the Loop in the Central region, and Riverdale and Avalon Park in the Far Southeast region have seen growth in their young child population over the past decade. While these areas may not have been historically among the highest-density neighborhoods for young children, they have become more relevant for early childhood services. Appendix Figure 6 shows the changes in population of young children over time for each of the 77 community areas, grouped by region of the city.

We also investigate how changes in the young child population relate to changes in the overall population across Chicago community areas. Appendix Figure 7 plots the percentage change in total population (horizontal axis) against the percentage change in young child population (vertical axis) for each community area from 2010 to 2023. While most community areas experienced declines in both total and young child populations, the magnitudes of these changes vary considerably. Community areas like Avalon Park and Burnside have seen increases in their young child population despite a decline in overall population. The Loop, Near North Side and Near South Side have seen increases in both populations, while community areas including Englewood, Lower West Side and South Lawndale have experienced declines in both populations.

In general, declines in the population of young children were larger and more likely to occur in areas with low COI scores. Figure 9, on next page, shows the relationship across Chicago community areas between COI scores on the horizontal axis and the percentage change in population of children birth to five between 2010 and 2023 on the vertical axis. A large share of community areas with low COI scores have experienced substantial declines in their young child population over the past decade—for example, South Lawndale, Englewood and the Lower West Side. In contrast, community areas with high and above average COI scores have seen growth in their young child populations, including Edison Park, the Loop, Near North Side and Lakeview. Overall, the figure suggests lower COI areas are associated with population declines, while higher COI areas are associated with smaller declines or growth.

Figure 9. Child Opportunity Index Scores and Population Changes Among Young Children (2010-2023) Across Chicago Community Areas



Note: This graph shows COI scores (horizontal axis) vs. the percentage change in the population of children birth to five from 2010 to 2023 (vertical axis) across Chicago community areas, American Community Survey (5-year estimates) population estimates. COI data are from diversitydatakids.org (using data from 2021, the most recent available data). The COI is a multidimensional measure of positive resources for children based on 44 indicators spanning three domains—education, health and environment, and social and economic. A higher score indicates that the area has more resources for children. Community areas are color coded categorized by the population of young children, with purple representing the highest number of young children, and blue and gold representing the middle and lowest groups, respectively. The vertical dotted line at 36.3 marks the citywide average COI score, dividing community areas into above- and below-average opportunity areas.

5. Characteristics of families with children birth to five

As the number of young children in Chicago has declined, the characteristics of the families raising them have also shifted. Table 2 highlights key socioeconomic characteristics of households with young children across Chicago's regions and how these have changed between 2010 and 2023.

Citywide, the percentage of households with children birth to five has declined from 12% to 9%, with all regions experiencing declines except Central (which remained stable at 4%). The Southwest region experienced the largest decline, decreasing from 19% in 2010 to 12% in 2023. Child poverty rates decreased citywide from 31% to 23%, though substantial regional disparities persist. The Far Southeast region had the highest poverty rate for young children in 2023 at 42% (an increase from 39% in 2010), followed by the South region at 36%. In contrast, the North region had just 6% of young children living in poverty (down from 12%), and the Central region had 7% (down from 15%). These patterns closely mirror the distribution of COI scores presented earlier (Table 1), underscoring how economic opportunity is unevenly distributed across the city.

Table 2: Characteristics of Young Children by Region of Chicago

Region of city	Households with a child birth to five		Children living in poverty		Children living with two parents		Children with at least one parent in labor force	
	2010 (1)	2023 (2)	2010 (3)	2023 (4)	2010 (5)	2023 (6)	2010 (7)	2023 (8)
West	13%	9%	42%	29%	40%	46%	79%	86%
Far North	12%	10%	22%	17%	76%	77%	94%	92%
Southwest	19%	12%	34%	25%	48%	48%	83%	85%
North	10%	9%	12%	6%	80%	87%	94%	98%
Northwest	14%	11%	24%	16%	59%	66%	89%	93%
South	11%	8%	42%	36%	32%	38%	85%	88%
Far Southeast	10%	8%	39%	42%	33%	25%	78%	86%
Far Southwest	11%	9%	26%	27%	51%	52%	83%	90%
Central	4%	4%	15%	7%	71%	89%	89%	96%
Citywide	12%	9%	31%	23%	54%	58%	86%	90%

Note: This table presents key characteristics for Chicago's young child population by region, based on data from American Community Survey (5-year population estimates) for 2010 and 2023. The bottom row presents citywide values which are calculated as weighted averages using each region's proportion of the city's young child population (for poverty status, living arrangements, and parental employment) or proportion of the city's households with young children (for households with a birth to five child).

Living arrangements for young children have also shifted citywide, with the percentage of children living with two parents at home increasing from 54% in 2010 to 58% in 2023. Most regions have experienced modest increases in two-parent households since 2010, with the Central region experiencing the most substantial increase (from 71% to 89%). In 2023, the North and Central regions had the highest percentages of children living with two parents, both of which are in regions with high COI scores (as shown in Table 1). In contrast, Far Southeast and South regions had much lower rates of two-parent households (25% and 38%, respectively). Parental employment improved citywide, increasing from 86% to 90%. This improvement is seen across all regions except in the Far North which experienced a slight decline (from 94% to 92%). By 2023, over 85% of young children in all regions had at least one parent in the labor force, with the highest rates in the North (98%) and Central (96%) regions. The Far Southeast region saw the largest improvement, increasing from 78% in 2010 to 86% in 2023.

Appendix Tables 1 and 2 show additional population-level demographic characteristics by region and for the city as a whole. There are well-known differences in racial and ethnic characteristics across regions (Appendix Table 1), with the Southwest region containing a high share of Hispanic residents (65%), the Far Southeast region with a high share of Black (non-Hispanic) residents (73%), and the North region with a substantial share of White (non-Hispanic) residents (66%). Across the population of all ages, the racial and ethnic composition of the city shifted slightly between 2010 and 2023. The percentage of the population that is Hispanic increased from 28% to 30%, the percentage that is White remained stable at 32%, and the percentage that is American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian or Pacific Islander increased from 5% to 7%. The percentage of the citywide population that is Black decreased from 34% to 28%.

Along with the variables described above, educational attainment also varies across regions. The Central and North regions have high shares of their adult populations with a Bachelor's degree or higher (85% and 74%, respectively), well above the citywide average of 43% (Appendix Table 2). In contrast, compared to every other region, the Southwest region had the highest share of individuals with less than a high school education in 2023 (14%), double the citywide average of 7%. Overall, Chicago has seen a substantial increase in the educational attainment of its population over the past decade.

Appendix Table 3 shows citywide characteristics of young children and their parents in 2010 and 2023. The racial and ethnic composition patterns of young children shifted differently from the changes among the overall population described above. The share of young children who are Hispanic fell from 40% to 34% while the share among the total population increased. The share of young children who are Black fell from 33% to 30% as the share among the total population decreased by 6 percentage points. The share of young children who are White increased from 20% to 25% while the share among the total population remained stable at 32%. More young children were enrolled in school, increasing from 61% to 71% among 4 year-olds, and from 35% to 40% among 3 year-olds. The proportion of parents of young children with a Bachelor's degree or higher rose from 36% to 47%, while those with less than high school education decreased from 13% to 7%.

6. Conclusion

Several patterns emerge from this analysis. First, despite stability in the city's population overall, there has been a substantial decline in the population of young children.

Second, geographic differences are stark. One-third of Chicago's young children live in just eleven community areas, many of which face resource challenges as indicated by low COI scores. Even though some areas with low COI scores have experienced population declines in recent years, communities like Austin, Humboldt Park and South Lawndale still have large populations of young children and low COI scores. At the same time, higher-resource areas like the Central region have undergone growth in their young child populations.

Third, across Chicago, families with young children have higher socioeconomic status in 2023 than they had in 2010. Poverty rates are lower, parental employment rates are higher, and more young children are enrolled in school.

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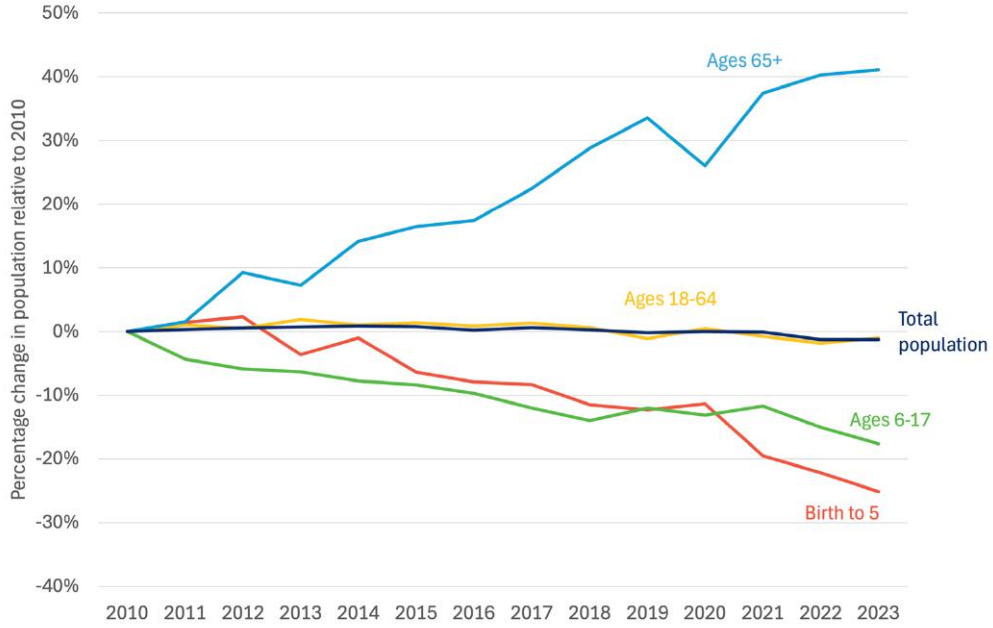
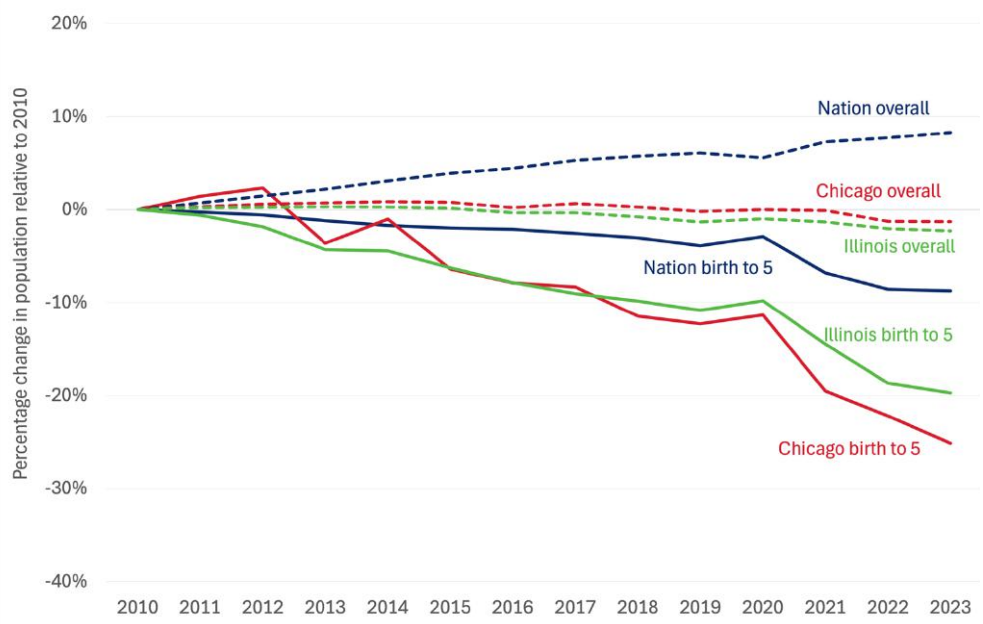
Appendix

Appendix Figure 1: Chicago's Population Change since 2010, by Detailed Age Group



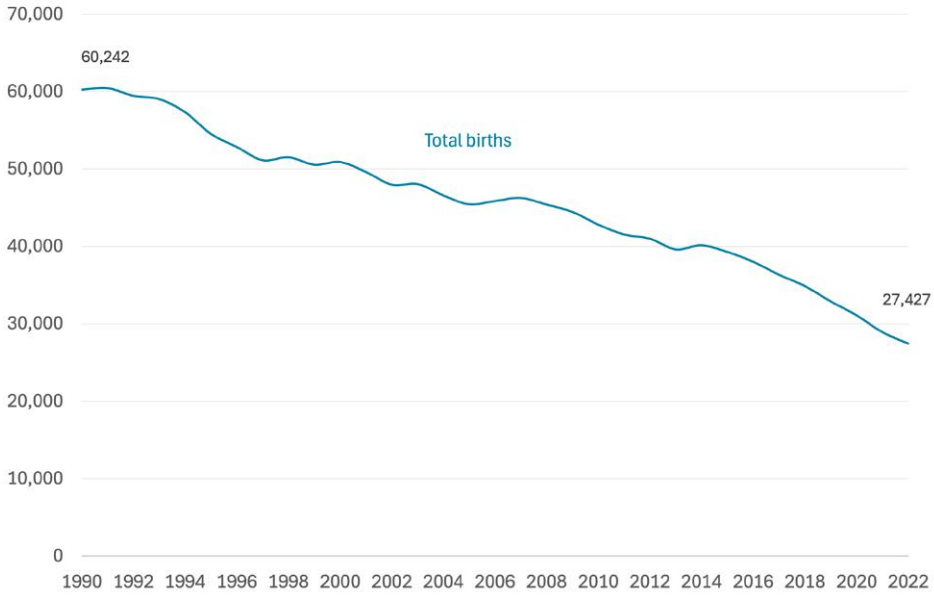
Note: This figure shows citywide population change relative to 2010, by age group, based on data from American Community Survey (1-year estimates).

Appendix Figure 2: Percentage Change in Population since 2010 in Chicago, Illinois, and the Nation



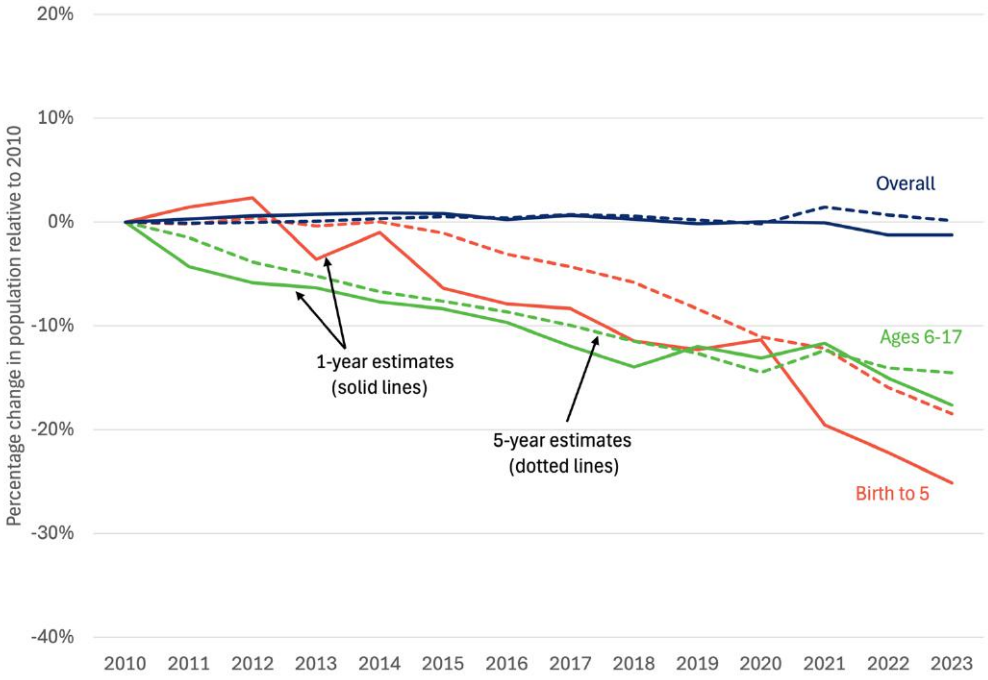
Note: This figure shows the percentage change in the overall population and that of children birth to five, relative to 2010, for Chicago, Illinois, and the Nation as a whole. Dashed lines represent the overall population, and solid lines represent the birth to five population. Data come from American Community Survey (1-year estimates).

Appendix Figure 3: The Number of Births to Chicago Residents, 1990-2022



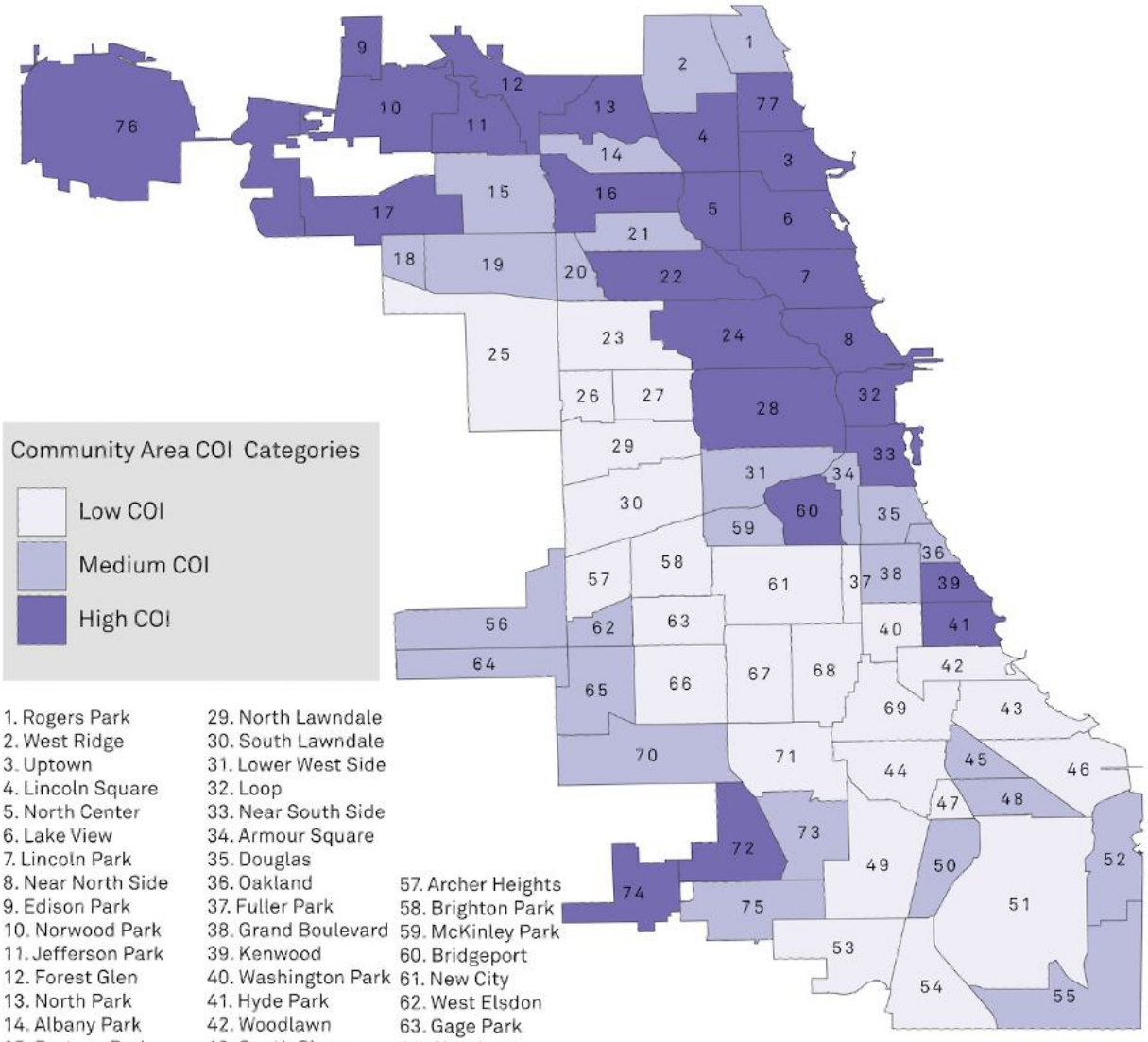
Note: This figure shows total births to Chicago residents from 1990 to 2022, based on data from the IDPH Births by County of Residence. 2022 is the most recent number available.

Appendix Figure 4: Chicago's Population Change since 2010 by Age Group, Comparing 1-year and 5-year Population Estimates



Note: This figure shows citywide population relative to 2010, by age group, based on data from American Community Survey 1-year estimates (solid lines) and 5-year estimates (dotted lines). Five-year estimates are more stable because they represent much larger samples.

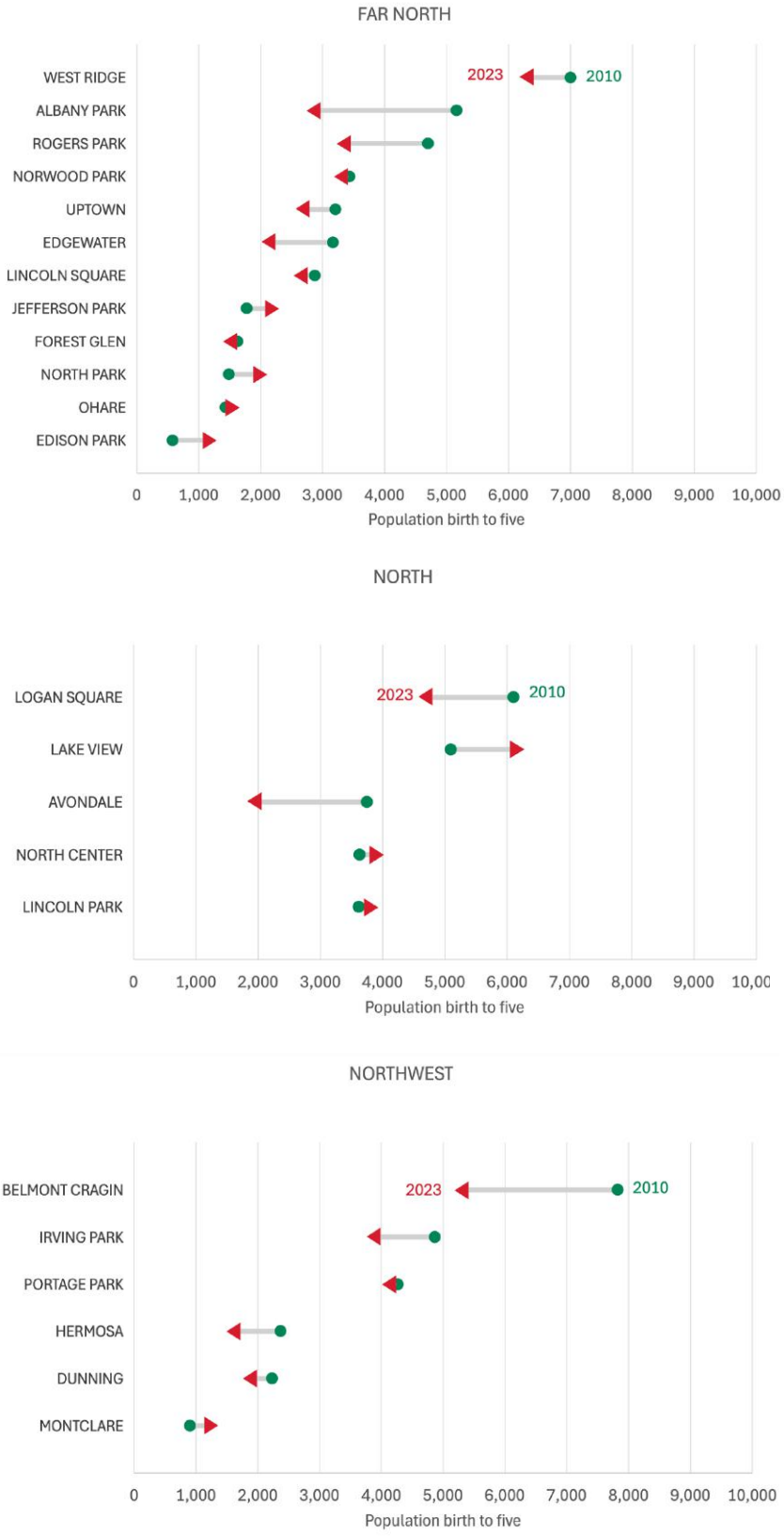
Appendix Figure 5: Child Opportunity Index Scores across Chicago Community Area

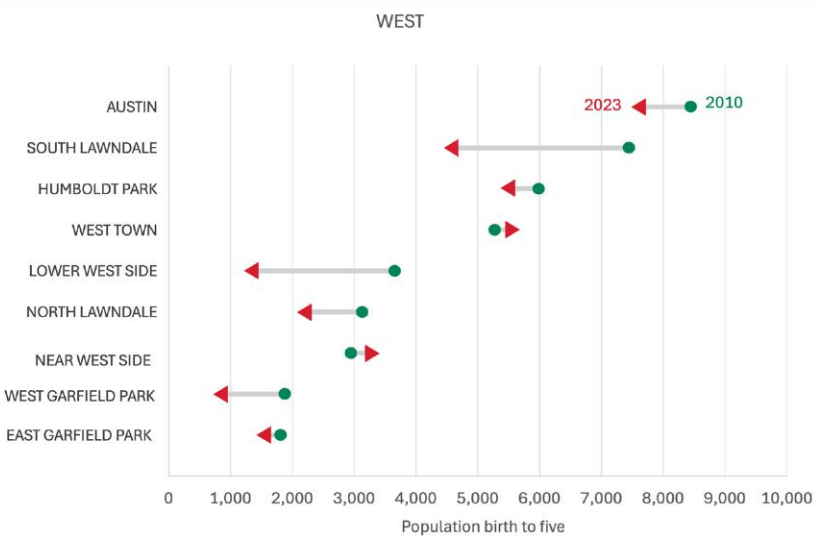


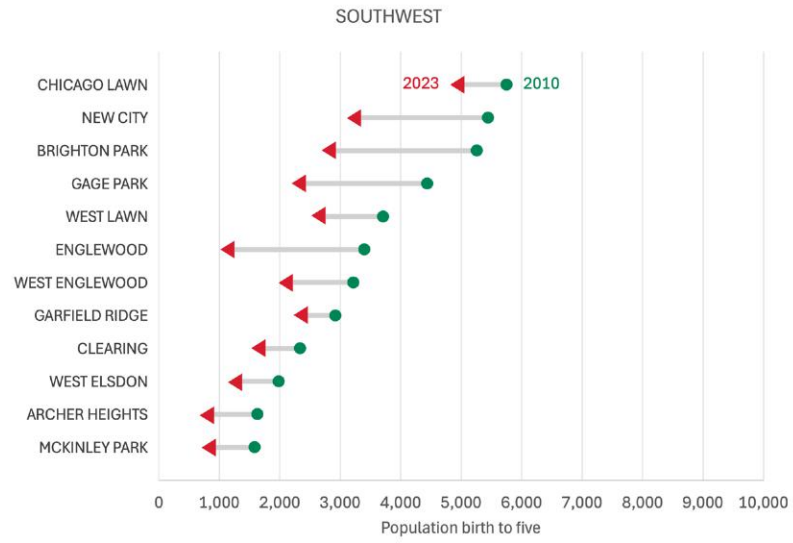
1. Rogers Park
2. West Ridge
3. Uptown
4. Lincoln Square
5. North Center
6. Lake View
7. Lincoln Park
8. Near North Side
9. Edison Park
10. Norwood Park
11. Jefferson Park
12. Forest Glen
13. North Park
14. Albany Park
15. Portage Park
16. Irving Park
17. Dunning
18. Montclare
19. Belmont Cragin
20. Hermosa
21. Avondale
22. Logan Square
23. Humboldt Park
24. West Town
25. Austin
26. West Garfield Park
27. East Garfield Park
28. Near West Side
29. North Lawndale
30. South Lawndale
31. Lower West Side
32. Loop
33. Near South Side
34. Armour Square
35. Douglas
36. Oakland
37. Fuller Park
38. Grand Boulevard
39. Kenwood
40. Washington Park
41. Hyde Park
42. Woodlawn
43. South Shore
44. Chatham
45. Avalon Park
46. South Chicago
47. Burnside
48. Calumet Heights
49. Roseland
50. Pullman
51. South Deering
52. East Side
53. West Pullman
54. Riverdale
55. Hegewisch
56. Garfield Ridge
57. Archer Heights
58. Brighton Park
59. McKinley Park
60. Bridgeport
61. New City
62. West Elsdon
63. Gage Park
64. Clearing
65. West Lawn
66. Chicago Lawn
67. West Englewood
68. Englewood
69. Gr. Grand Crossing
70. Ashburn
71. Auburn Gresham
72. Beverly
73. Washington Heights
74. Mount Greenwood
75. Morgan Park
76. O'Hare
77. Edgewater

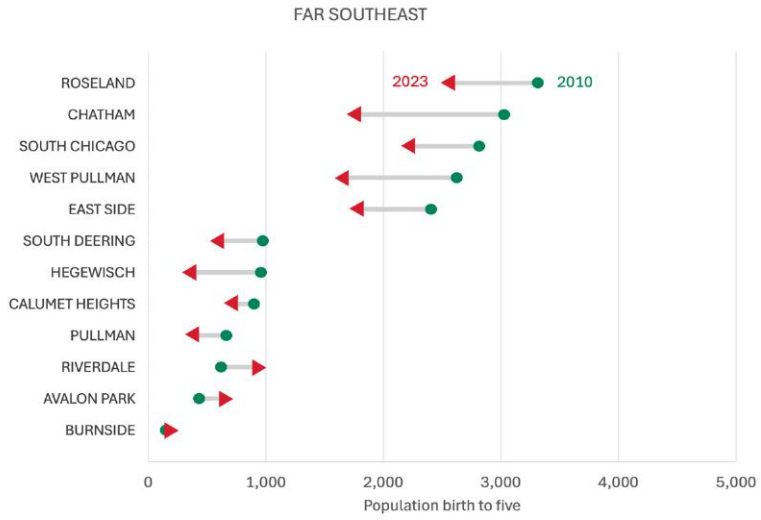
Note: This map shows COI scores across Chicago community areas, using 2021 data from diversitydatakids.org. The COI is a multidimensional measure of positive resources for children based on 44 indicators spanning three domains—education, health and environment, and social and economic. A higher score indicates that the area has more resources for children. COI scores are metro-normed, allowing for a comparison of community areas relative to one another within the broader metropolitan region of Chicago. Community areas are grouped into three categories: low, medium, and high COI scores, corresponding to thirds of the COI score distribution.

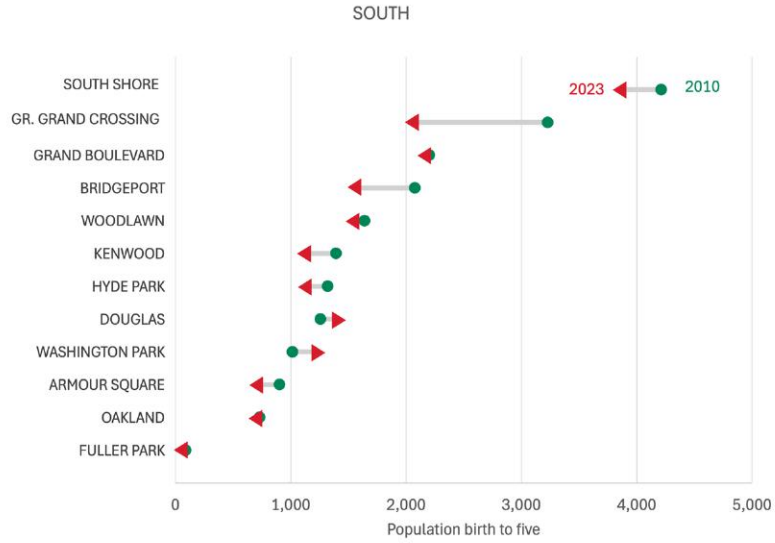
Appendix Figure 6. Population of Children Birth to Five by Community Area, Grouped by Region of the City, 2010 and 2023

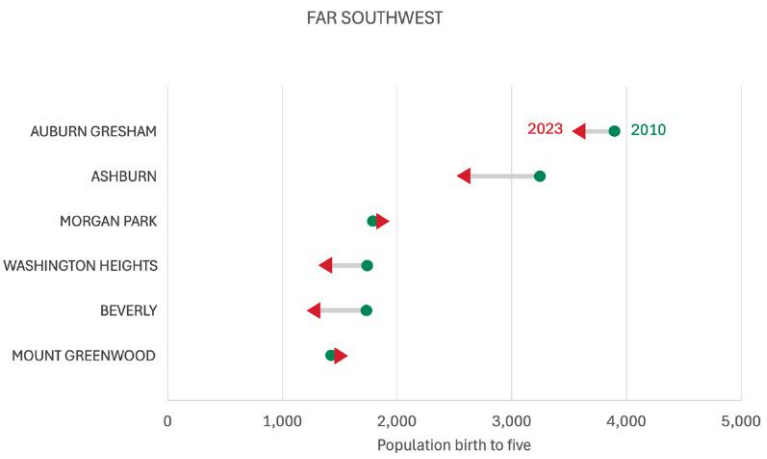


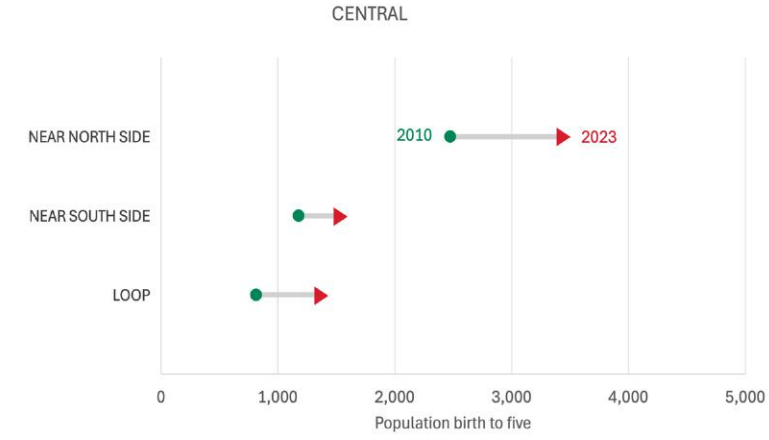

WEST
AUSTIN
SOUTH LAWNDALE
HUMBOLDT PARK
WEST TOWN
LOWER WEST SIDE
NORTH LAWNDALE
NEAR WEST SIDE
WEST GARFIELD PARK
EAST GARFIELD PARK
2023
2010
0
1,000
2,000
3,000
4,000
5,000
6,000
7,000
8,000
9,000
10,000
Population birth to five


SOUTHWEST
CHICAGO LAWN
NEW CITY
BRIGHTON PARK
GAGE PARK
WEST LAWN
ENGLEWOOD
WEST ENGLEWOOD
GARFIELD RIDGE
CLEARING
WEST ELSDON
ARCHER HEIGHTS
MCKINLEY PARK
2023
2010
0
1,000
2,000
3,000
4,000
5,000
6,000
7,000
8,000
9,000
10,000
Population birth to five


FAR SOUTHEAST
ROSELAND
CHATHAM
SOUTH CHICAGO
WEST PULLMAN
EAST SIDE
SOUTH DEERING
HEGEWISCH
CALUMET HEIGHTS
PULLMAN
RIVERDALE
AVALON PARK
BURNSIDE
2023
2010
0
1,000
2,000
3,000
4,000
5,000
Population birth to five

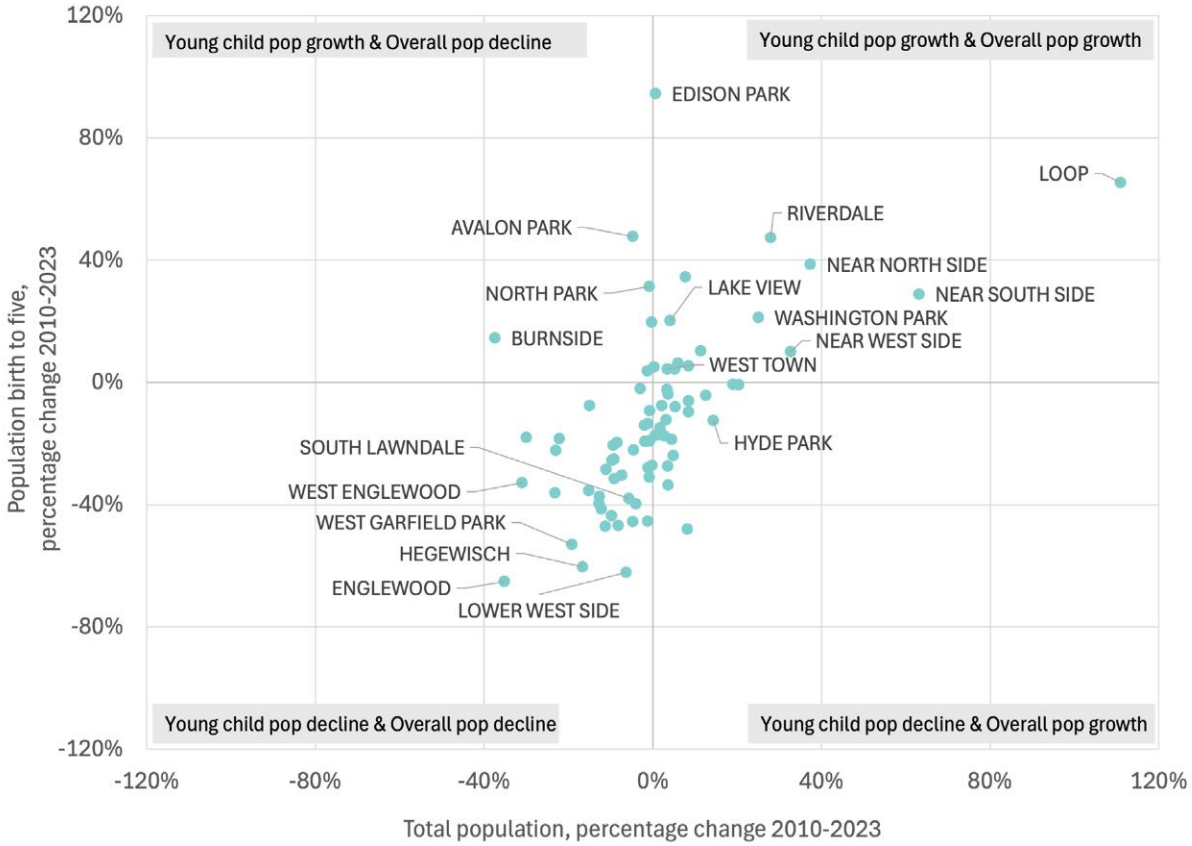






Note: These figures show population changes for children birth to five in Chicago's community areas between 2010 and 2023, organized by geographic region. Green dots represent 2010 population levels and red arrows indicate 2023 levels. Data come from American Community Survey (5- year estimates) for 2010 and 2023. Green dots represent 2010 population levels and red arrows indicate 2023 levels. Data come from American Community Survey (5- year estimates) for 2010 and 2023.

Appendix Figure 7. Population Change Overall vs. Birth to Five by Community Area, 2010-2023



Note: This figure shows the percentage change in total population across community areas (horizonal axis) and the percentage change in the birth to five population across community areas (vertical axis). Data come from American Community Survey (5-year estimates) for 2010 and 2023.

Appendix Table 1: Population Characteristics, by Region

Region of city	Hispanic		White (not Hispanic)		Black (not Hispanic)		American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian or Pacific Islander (not Hispanic)	
	2010 (1)	2023 (2)	2010 (3)	2023 (4)	2010 (5)	2023 (6)	2010 (7)	2023 (8)
West	33%	34%	18%	23%	46%	37%	2%	4%
Far North	22%	21%	54%	52%	10%	10%	13%	13%
Southwest	50%	65%	16%	11%	31%	19%	2%	4%
North	26%	20%	63%	66%	4%	4%	5%	6%
Northwest	52%	55%	39%	35%	3%	3%	4%	5%
South	5%	7%	13%	14%	70%	64%	11%	12%
Far Southeast	17%	20%	5%	5%	77%	73%	0%	0%
Far Southwest	9%	16%	25%	22%	65%	59%	1%	1%
Central	5%	9%	67%	60%	15%	11%	11%	17%
Citywide	28%	30%	32%	32%	34%	28%	5%	7%

Note: This table shows the race and ethnicity for the population of Chicago by region of Chicago, based on American Community Survey (5-year estimates) from 2010 and 2023. The other race category not included in this table is multiple races or other races (not Hispanic). Citywide shares are presented in the bottom row and are calculated as weighted averages using each region's share of the citywide overall population as weights.

Appendix Table 2: Education level of Chicago Adults (Ages 25+), by Region

Region of city	Less than High School		High School or GED		Some College		Bachelor's degree or higher	
	2010 (1)	2023 (2)	2010 (3)	2023 (4)	2010 (5)	2023 (6)	2010 (7)	2023 (8)
West	14%	9%	40%	32%	21%	21%	25%	38%
Far North	8%	6%	28%	21%	23%	21%	40%	52%
Southwest	20%	14%	47%	45%	23%	24%	10%	16%
North	5%	3%	18%	11%	16%	12%	61%	74%
Northwest	14%	11%	43%	34%	23%	25%	20%	30%
South	7%	5%	35%	30%	28%	28%	30%	37%
Far Southeast	8%	6%	42%	36%	33%	36%	17%	22%
Far Southwest	5%	4%	39%	34%	32%	32%	24%	30%
Central	1%	1%	10%	5%	15%	9%	74%	85%
Citywide	10%	7%	35%	28%	23%	22%	32%	43%

Note: This table shows the educational attainment for the population of Chicago (ages 25 and above) by region of Chicago, based on American Community Survey (5-year estimates) from 2010 and 2023. Citywide shares are presented in the bottom row and are calculated as weighted averages using each region's share of the citywide population of individuals ages 25 and over, as weights.

Appendix Table 3: Characteristics of Young Children and Households with Young Children in Chicago, 2010 and 2023

	2010 (1)	2023 (2)
Highest Parental Educational Attainment (households with children birth to five)		
Less than High School	13%	7%
High School or GED	25%	20%
Bachelor's degree or higher	36%	47%
Race and Ethnicity (children birth to five)		
Hispanic	40%	34%
White (not Hispanic)	20%	25%
Black (not Hispanic)	33%	30%
American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian or Pacific Islander (not Hispanic)	4%	5%
School Enrollment		
Age 3	35%	40%
Age 4	61%	71%
Age 5	86%	86%
English Speaking (age 5)		
Dual language learners	41%	35%

Note: This table presents key characteristics of Chicago's young child population (birth to five) and households with young children, based on data from IPUMS USA (5-year estimates) for 2010 and 2023. All calculations use appropriate sampling weights – household weights are used for parental educational attainment and person weights are used to calculate child level characteristics (race/ethnicity, school enrollment, English speaking status). For each characteristic, percentages within categories do not sum to 100% due to omitted groups: e.g., "Some college" under educational attainment, "Multiple races or other race (not Hispanic)" under race/ethnicity, and "non-dual language learners" under English Speaking.

Appendix Table 4: Population Change and COI Scores by Community Area, Grouped by Region of the City

Region	Community Area	Community Area Number	COI Score (2021)	Percentage Change (2010-2023)	
				Birth to Five Population	Overall Population
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
FAR NORTH	ROGERS PARK	1	33	-28%	-1%
FAR NORTH	WEST RIDGE	2	38	-10%	9%
FAR NORTH	UPTOWN	3	50	-15%	2%
FAR NORTH	LINCOLN SQUARE	4	62	-6%	8%
FAR NORTH	EDISON PARK	9	77	94%	1%
FAR NORTH	NORWOOD PARK	10	67	-2%	3%
FAR NORTH	JEFFERSON PARK	11	53	20%	0%
FAR NORTH	FOREST GLEN	12	85	-4%	4%
FAR NORTH	NORTH PARK	13	44	31%	-1%
FAR NORTH	ALBANY PARK	14	35	-44%	-10%
FAR NORTH	OHARE	76	43	5%	9%
FAR NORTH	EDGEWATER	77	54	-31%	-1%
NORTH	NORTH CENTER	5	84	6%	6%
NORTH	LAKE VIEW	6	82	20%	4%
NORTH	LINCOLN PARK	7	92	4%	5%
NORTH	AVONDALE	21	32	-47%	-11%
NORTH	LOGAN SQUARE	22	49	-22%	-5%
NORTHWEST	PORTAGE PARK	15	39	-2%	-3%
NORTHWEST	IRVING PARK	16	43	-19%	-2%
NORTHWEST	DUNNING	17	45	-14%	-2%
NORTHWEST	MONTCLARE	18	30	35%	8%
NORTHWEST	BELMONT CRAGIN	19	19	-32%	-9%
NORTHWEST	HERMOSA	20	19	-30%	-7%
CENTRAL	NEAR NORTH SIDE	8	89	39%	37%
CENTRAL	LOOP	32	89	65%	111%
CENTRAL	NEAR SOUTH SIDE	33	88	29%	63%
WEST	HUMBOLDT PARK	23	13	-8%	2%
WEST	WEST TOWN	24	71	4%	3%
WEST	AUSTIN	25	12	-9%	-1%
WEST	WEST GARFIELD PARK	26	4	-53%	-19%
WEST	EAST GARFIELD PARK	27	5	-12%	3%
WEST	NEAR WEST SIDE	28	64	10%	33%
WEST	NORTH LAWNDALE	29	3	-29%	-11%
WEST	SOUTH LAWNDALE	30	9	-38%	-6%
WEST	LOWER WEST SIDE	31	28	-62%	-6%

Region	Community Area	Community Area Number	COI Score (2021)	Percentage Change (2010-2023)	
				Birth to Five Population	Overall Population
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
SOUTH	ARMOUR SQUARE	34	37	-19%	5%
SOUTH	DOUGLAS	35	28	10%	11%
SOUTH	OAKLAND	36	23	-1%	19%
SOUTH	FULLER PARK	37	2	-18%	-30%
SOUTH	GRAND BOULEVARD	38	26	-1%	20%
SOUTH	KENWOOD	39	45	-17%	1%
SOUTH	WASHINGTON PARK	40	6	21%	25%
SOUTH	HYDE PARK	41	55	-13%	14%
SOUTH	WOODLAWN	42	12	-4%	13%
SOUTH	SOUTH SHORE	43	11	-8%	5%
SOUTH	BRIDGEPORT	60	46	-24%	5%
SOUTH	GREATER GRAND CROSSING	69	6	-35%	-15%
SOUTHWEST	GARFIELD RIDGE	56	40	-18%	3%
SOUTHWEST	ARCHER HEIGHTS	57	18	-48%	8%
SOUTHWEST	BRIGHTON PARK	58	13	-46%	-5%
SOUTHWEST	MCKINLEY PARK	59	30	-45%	-1%
SOUTHWEST	NEW CITY	61	8	-40%	-4%
SOUTHWEST	WEST ELSDON	62	26	-34%	4%
SOUTHWEST	GAGE PARK	63	12	-47%	-8%
SOUTHWEST	CLEARING	64	37	-27%	4%
SOUTHWEST	WEST LAWN	65	23	-27%	0%
SOUTHWEST	CHICAGO LAWN	66	9	-14%	-1%
SOUTHWEST	WEST ENGLEWOOD	67	4	-33%	-31%
SOUTHWEST	ENGLEWOOD	68	2	-65%	-35%
FAR SOUTHEAST	CHATHAM	44	16	-41%	-12%
FAR SOUTHEAST	AVALON PARK	45	22	48%	-5%
FAR SOUTHEAST	SOUTH CHICAGO	46	10	-21%	-9%
FAR SOUTHEAST	BURNSIDE	47	15	14%	-37%
FAR SOUTHEAST	CALUMET HEIGHTS	48	31	-18%	-22%
FAR SOUTHEAST	ROSELAND	49	12	-22%	-23%
FAR SOUTHEAST	PULLMAN	50	26	-40%	-13%
FAR SOUTHEAST	SOUTH DEERING	51	13	-37%	-13%
FAR SOUTHEAST	EAST SIDE	52	21	-25%	-10%
FAR SOUTHEAST	WEST PULLMAN	53	15	-36%	-23%
FAR SOUTHEAST	RIVERDALE	54	2	47%	28%
FAR SOUTHEAST	HEGEWISCH	55	22	-60%	-17%
FAR SOUTHWEST	ASHBURN	70	30	-19%	-1%
FAR SOUTHWEST	AUBURN GRESHAM	71	9	-8%	-15%
FAR SOUTHWEST	BEVERLY	72	69	-25%	-9%
FAR SOUTHWEST	WASHINGTON HEIGHTS	73	23	-20%	-8%
FAR SOUTHWEST	MOUNT GREENWOOD	74	68	5%	0%
FAR SOUTHWEST	MORGAN PARK	75	37	4%	-1%

Note: This table shows demographic data for Chicago community areas organized by region. Data sources include diversitydatakids.org for COI scores (2021 being the most recent year of data available) and American Community Survey (5-year estimates) for population data for 2010 and 2023. The COI is a multidimensional measure of positive resources for children based on 44 indicators spanning three domains—education, health and environment, and social and economic. A higher score indicates that the area has more resources for children.

Technical Appendix

Population Estimation Methodology

In this analysis, we present demographic trends at multiple geographic levels: citywide, community areas (77 areas), and regions (9 regions). We use the American Community Survey (ACS) for this analysis.

We use ACS 1-year estimates to analyze citywide trends. For each year, we obtain these estimates for the City of Chicago directly from the Census Bureau's website. For smaller geographies—community areas and regions within Chicago—we use ACS 5-year estimates to ensure statistical precision. Furthermore, since the ACS does not directly report data at the community area or region levels, we use census tract level population data and aggregate it to the community area and region levels to construct estimates for those geographies.

As shown in Appendix Table 5, the city level population estimate differs slightly based on whether we use the city-level estimate of the population directly from the Census Bureau's website versus our own calculation which uses the aggregation of census tract population estimates up to the city level. These differences occur because census tracts can cross city boundaries, which means that the aggregation approach likely overestimates city-level population by a small margin. Note that census tract-level data are only available as 5-year estimates on the Census Bureau website. Throughout this analysis, we use direct citywide population etimates except in tables that present characteristics both by region and for the city as a whole (Tables 1 and 2, Appendix Tables 1 and 2).

Appendix Table 5. Comparison of Population Estimates

	Birth to five population		Percent change, birth to five	Overall population		Percent change, overall population
	2010 (1)	2023 (2)	2010 to 2023 (3)	2010 (4)	2023 (5)	2010 to 2023 (6)
American Community Survey (5-year estimates)						
Citywide estimates from Census Bureau	219,274	178,772	-18.47%	2,703,466	2,707,648	0.15%
Citywide estimates aggregated from census tracts	220,628	180,129	-18.36%	2,726,410	2,730,155	0.14%
American Community Survey (1-year estimates)						
Citywide estimates from Census Bureau	219,956	164,689	-25.13%	2,698,831	2,664,454	-1.27%
Citywide estimates aggregated from census tracts*	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: This table shows a comparison of citywide population estimates based on the two approaches. For 5-year estimates we show both direct city-level data and census tract approaches. For 1-year estimates, only direct city-level data are shown since 1-year estimates are not available from the Census Bureau (indicated by asterisk).*

Acknowledgments

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About EC*REACH

The mission of Early Child Research Alliance of Chicago (EC*REACH) is to unite diverse partners across sectors, agencies, and institutions to co-construct and conduct action-oriented research that promotes equitable solutions for early childhood policy and practice in Chicago.

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