

The Impact of 2013 Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Elementary School Closings on Community-Level Healthcare Utilization

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CENTER FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH EQUITY



Background

- 2013 CPS had a \$1 billion deficit and over 100,000 vacant student seats.
- Voted to close 47 “underutilized” elementary schools, impacting nearly 12,000 students.
- Impacted areas already suffered from divestment & lacked social and political capital.
- 17 schools were located in the neighborhoods on the West side of Chicago serviced by Rush.
- Research surrounding the closings has focused on academic performance.
 - Consolidating schools theoretically increases academic achievement across the district.
- Limited research has been done about the health impact of closing schools.
- Many of the schools remain vacant, potentially increasing health risks associated with vacant buildings.

Map of Communities Served by Rush

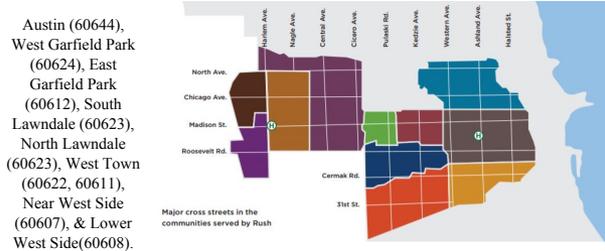


Table 1: Neighborhood Sociodemographic Variables.

Variable	No School Closures		Communities with School Closures					
	60607	60608	60612	60622	60623	60624	60611	60644
Population	24335	79290	35862	54369	84928	39442	28718	47769
Median Income	\$85917	\$36216	\$35888	\$75163	\$28091	\$22204	\$87280	\$26882
Associate's Degree or more	77.0	23.6	38.0	64.9	10.7	13.6	89.7	14.8
Under 25 without HS diploma	5.9	36.6	18.3	12.6	46.4	26.9	1.2	26.8
Percent White	60.3	45.4	27.0	74.0	47.2	2.6	78.3	3.1
Percent Black	17.7	15.5	61.5	8.4	35.1	95.4	4.4	94.6
Percent Latino	7.3	58.2	14.3	28.1	62.3	2.3	4.9	3.1
Uninsured Adults	23.3	23.3	5.1	23.3	23.3	23.3	NA	23.3
Medicaid Rate	8.4	40.9	39.0	18.1	61.2	63.1	NA	54.5
Number of Schools Closed	0	0	2	3	3	4	1	3
Original number of schools in the community	5	18	18	11	26	16	NA	12

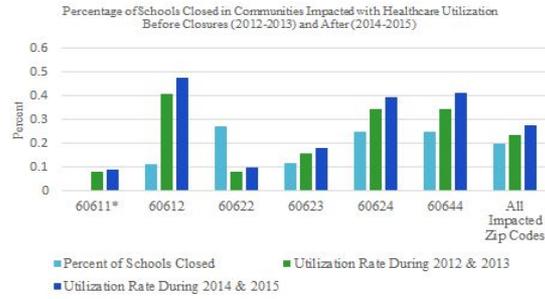
Objective

- Compare healthcare utilization at a single, urban academic health system in communities with elementary school closures to communities without school closures in 2013.
- In communities with school closures, compare each neighborhood using healthcare utilization rates from pre-closure and post-closure.

Methods

- Retrospective secondary analysis of health utilization data from the CAPriCORN database.
- Information was for 2012-2016, according to zip codes that corresponded with the study population.
- The controls are the Near West Side and Lower West Side, the two communities not impacted by closings.
- Healthcare Utilization is defined as number of total encounters with the Rush Medical System per 100,000

Results



*Data unavailable for original number of schools closed in this community

Rate of Healthcare Utilization for All Zip Codes Before & After Closures



Average Rate of Utilization for Areas With and Without Closures Before and After Closings



Conclusion

- There was an increase in healthcare utilization pre and post the 2013 closures in many of the impacted neighborhoods.
- There is a difference in rate of health care utilization between neighborhoods with and without closures.
 - The post closure mean annual rate of healthcare utilization was 1297 per 100,000 (SD=.08) in areas with closures and 1212 per 100,000 (SD=.05) in non-school closure communities.
- Limitations: scope and contextual understanding.
 - Lack of access to records for entire city.
 - Health utilization can be influenced by a number of different external forces.

Key References

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