THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CRIME LAB
Urban Labs

Press Kit

Reducing Gun Violence, Advancing Justice

Overview of the University of Chicago Crime Lab

The University of Chicago Crime Lab conducts research to improve the public sector's response to high rates of gun violence and incarceration, which disproportionately affect communities of color. We provide these research and data analysis services at no cost by partnering with philanthropic funders.

To learn more or to see past media mentions, visit crimelab.uchicago.edu or crimelab.uchicago.edu/news-events, respectively.

Mission Statement

The Crime Lab designs, tests, and scales data-driven innovations to improve the public sector's response to the dual challenges of America's gun violence crisis and making our criminal justice system truly just.
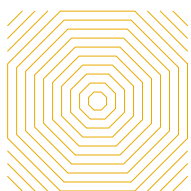
Naming Convention: Please use *the University of Chicago Crime Lab*

Attribution: To use Crime Lab data, we require attribution in the caption or label of figures and, where feasible, a mention of the University of Chicago Crime Lab in the body text so that it's clear this is a Crime Lab analysis.

- Example of appropriate caption/label attribution: "University of Chicago Crime Lab analysis of City of Chicago data"

- Example of appropriate body text attribution: "According to an analysis by the University of Chicago Crime Lab, the data shows…"

Questions? Contact Sarah Rand, Director of Public Affairs, at srand@uchicago.edu
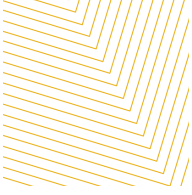
What We Study

Community Violence Intervention

Through a combination of street outreach by credible messengers and behavioral science-informed interventions, community violence intervention programs help de-escalate stressful situations before they lead to violence.

Criminal Justice Reform

We're advancing long overdue reforms to reduce the harms of America's broken criminal justice systems.

Gun Violence

In cities across America, communities face high rates of gun violence and significant harm caused by the criminal justice system – both of which disproportionately impact communities of color.

Policing

If we want to address America's gun violence epidemic and save lives today, fair and effective policing is essential. But for too many communities, we are failing to deliver that kind of policing.

Youth Violence

Gun violence is the leading cause of death for young people in America. But youth violence interventions can help keep kids safe and reach those who are the hardest to reach.

Examples of Impact

Rapid Employment and Development Initiative (READI) Chicago

READI Chicago is a gun violence reduction initiative that provides almost two years of intensive programming tomen at the highest risk of shooting or being shot. Researchers at the Crime Lab, Inclusive Economy Lab, University of Michigan, and Cornell University are conducting a randomized controlled trial to determine READI's impacts on participants' involvement in serious violence. As of June 2023, it is the largest and most rigorous evaluation of a community-based violence intervention program in the United States.

Situational Decision-Making (Sit-D)

The Crime Lab and the Chicago Police Department partnered to create and evaluate a behavioral science-informed training that helps improve officer decision-making in ambiguous, high-stress situations. Following the training, Sit-D trained officers were 23% less likely to use force and made 23% fewer discretionary arrests without an accompanying decline in productive policing activity like warrants and firearm recoveries.

Choose to Change (C2C)

Choose to Change is a Chicago-based initiative launched by nonprofits Children's Home & Aid and Youth Advocate Programs, Inc., aimed at reducing youth violence and improving educational outcomes. Combining intensive mentoring with trauma-informed cognitive behavioral therapy, C2C demonstrated significant success in a randomized controlled trial. Since the program's start, preliminary outcomes have shown that the program increases school attendance by 7 days, decreases school misconduct by 32%, and reduces arrests for violent crimes by 38% up to 1.5 years after the program ends.