Measuring the Impact of Choose to Change and the Strategic Decision Support Centers

Choose to Change (C2C) Program

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Six-month program
Behavioral health support, relentless engagement, and mentorship

Strong relationships
Staff bring lived experiences and compassion towards building life-long relationships

Community-based
Youth outreach, intensive mentoring, and tailored supports offered outside of school

Trauma-informed
Group cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) sessions

C2C led to a 48% reduction in violent crime arrests
C2C MEETS THE NEED – WHERE C2C YOUTH LIVE*

*Community Areas with highest levels of violence outlined

- 21% homeless or housing unstable
- 37% have a prior arrest
- 24% have an Individualized Education Plan
- 95% Black
- 30% of school days in prior school year missed
- 22% not enrolled in school at some point during the prior school year
- 41% are female
- 16 average age

NUMBER OF C2C YOUTH

| 0  | 128 - 192 |
| 1 - 64 | 192 - 256 |
| 64 - 128 | 256 - 320 |

C2C KEEPS YOUTH SAFE AND INCREASES THEIR ATTACHMENT TO SCHOOL

- 6% increase in school attendance (one full week of school) one year after program start
- 32% decrease in CPS misconduct one year after program start
- 38% decrease in violent crime arrests 1.5 years after program end
- 33% decrease in the probability of any arrest 2.5 years after program end
The above data suggests the difficulty and importance of both implementing and sustaining such management changes.

**IN 2016, HOMICIDES WERE UP 60% IN CHICAGO**

Within Chicago PD district-level crime-fighting strategies, management had room for improvement.

- **Value Added Strategic Decision Support Centers:**
  - Bringing in issue-area expert to diffuse best practice (from LAPD in this case)
  - Staffing new data analysis centers on short timetable after 2016 homicide surge
  - Quickly raising $ from private funders wary of giving to city directly

**IMPROVING DISTRICT MANAGEMENT CAN MAKE AN IMMEDIATE DIFFERENCE**

- Shooting victimizations fell by over **20%** without a detectable change in arrests, stops, or uses of force—lasted three months.
- Gun violence fell by **32%** one month after the first Strategic Decision Support Center was established in Chicago’s neighborhoods with the highest rates of violent crime.
- Had this reduction persisted, Chicago’s disparities in Black-white shooting victimization would have fallen by **13%**.

The above data suggests the difficulty and importance of both implementing and sustaining such management changes.

**LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT MATTERS IN POLICING, TOO**

- **Reduction in violent crime** 20%
- **Reduction in uses of force** 37%

When leadership changes, it’s not uncommon to see reductions in violent crimes or police use of force on the order of 20-35%, or even more.

Improving management may be a viable way for cities to rapidly **reduce gun violence without exacerbating the harms from policing**, even without major new resource investments or shifts in police department strategies.