Chicago’s Safety Snapshot: Issues and Opportunities

Prepared for the Economic Club of Chicago
Our uniquely American problem

Homicide Rate per 100k by Weapon

Source: GunPolicy.org
Our uniquely American problem

Homicide Rate per 100k by Weapon

- Non-Gun Homicide Rate
- Gun Homicide Rate

Source: GunPolicy.org
Young Black men carry the burden of incarceration and gun violence victimization.

% of Young Men Incarcerated

Gun Homicide Rate per 100,000 (2019)

Source: Neal and Rick (2014) and CDC WISQARS
NYC, LA, and Chicago had nearly identical homicide rates

Source: Chicago Historical Homicide Project, UCR, Criminal Justice Research Center, NIJ, Chicago, LA, and NYC open data portals
New York City and Los Angeles have made dramatic progress and Chicago has lost ground

Source: Chicago Historical Homicide Project, UCR, Criminal Justice Research Center, NIJ, Chicago, LA, and NYC open data portals
In 2021, the homicide rate for Black Chicagoans was the highest on record.
Poverty ↔ Gun Violence
“...if you compare [kids exposed to violence those who have not been exposed], the child who took the assessment just after there's a homicide down the street scores dramatically lower. It looks like that child has missed two years of schooling.”

- Pat Sharkey speaking about his research on the podcast New Thinking
Map of 2021 shootings within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of Melody Elementary School in West Garfield Park
1. Professionalized police force with better management techniques, technology, and training

2. Made it a priority to develop CVI/conflict mediation capacity within NGO sector
Discover’s customer care center is proof that investing in equity is good for business

Large companies have the unique ability to bring jobs, at scale, directly to communities that have suffered from underinvestment.
What is the long-term future of our city?

Graph shows annual population expressed as a proportion of city’s 1950 population
What is the long-term future of our city?

Graph shows annual population expressed as a proportion of city’s 1950 population.

Which direction will we go?
Thank You

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Learn more at crimelab.uchicago.edu
Demographics of shooting victims in Chicago

Age (2022)

- 0-19: 36.3%
- 20-29: 24.7%
- 30-39: 11.6%
- 40-49: 6.9%
- 50+: 1.8%
- Unknown: 1.6%

Race (2022)

- Black: 76.20%
- White: 18.0%
- White-Hispanic: 3.7%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 0.3%
- Unknown: 1.6%
- White-Black: 0.3%

University of Chicago Crime Lab
Chicago's 'Out of Control' Violence Produces 762 Homicides in 2016

Homicides last year in Chicago rose at the fastest rate in 60 years.

A $10 million grant will support Crime Lab collaboration for police innovation

BREAKING NEWS

As shootings and homicides drop in Englewood, a new optimism grows

The Evidence Says Police Management Can Reduce Violent Crime

KENNETH COREY, MAX KAPUSTIN AND JENS LUDWIG
JULY 31, 2023
Choose to Change

48% 

reduction in violent crime arrests

READI Chicago

$184,000

Conservative estimate of savings per participant
We are learning a lot about those at highest risk of gun violence involvement

- 98% Have ever been arrested
- 75% Have lost a family member to gun violence
- 80% Have been a victim of a violent crime
- 58% Have children
- 35% Have ever been shot
- 14% Are housing insecure
Criminal Justice Spending

Source: White House, Urban Institute, Bureau of Justice Statistics