

2025 End-of-Year Analysis: Chicago Crime Trends

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Crime trends in Chicago (and around the country)

- Why crime changes over time remains imperfectly understood (social science is definitely not physics)
- In what follows we show the patterns of changes over time in different types of violent crime for Chicago overall and in relation to other cities, patterns across neighborhoods or population sub-groups within the city, etc.
- Our hope is these data may be useful to policymakers, social service providers, reporters, funders and the general public in understanding what has been happening and begin to understand better about why

Learn more: The crime definitions used in this analysis follow [these guidelines](#).



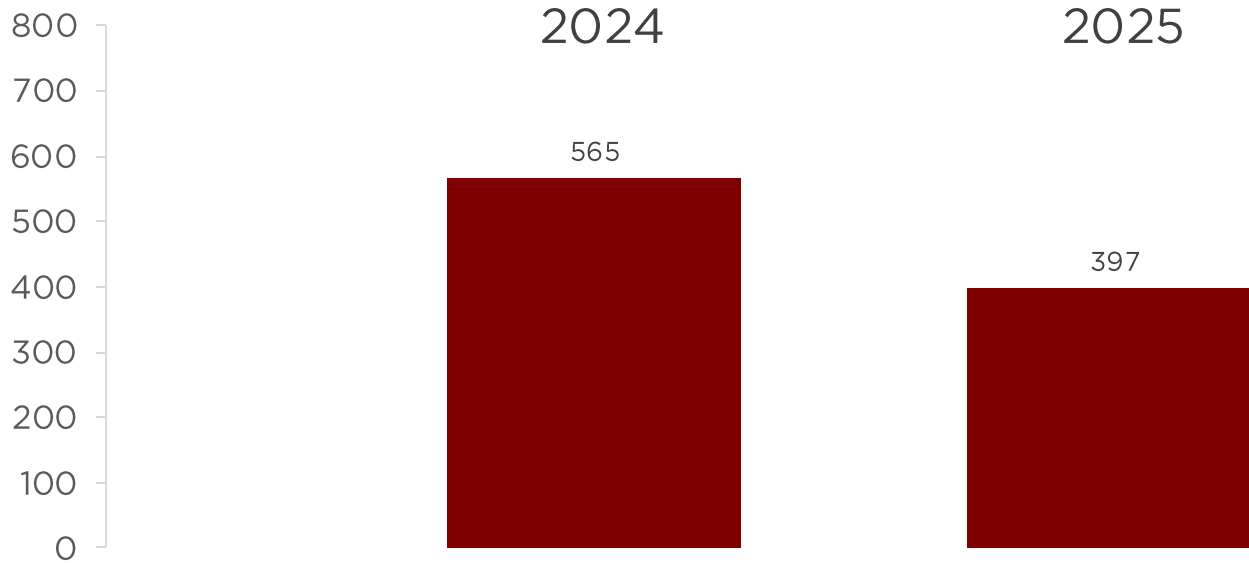
Chicago Violent Crime Trends

Source: City of Chicago [Violence Reduction Dashboard](#), Chicago Data Portal - [Victims of Homicides and Non-fatal Shootings](#), and FBI UCR data from ICPSR [Kaplan/3666](#)



Chicago had 168 fewer homicides in 2025 compared to the same time last year (30% reduction)

Homicide victimizations, 2024 vs. 2025

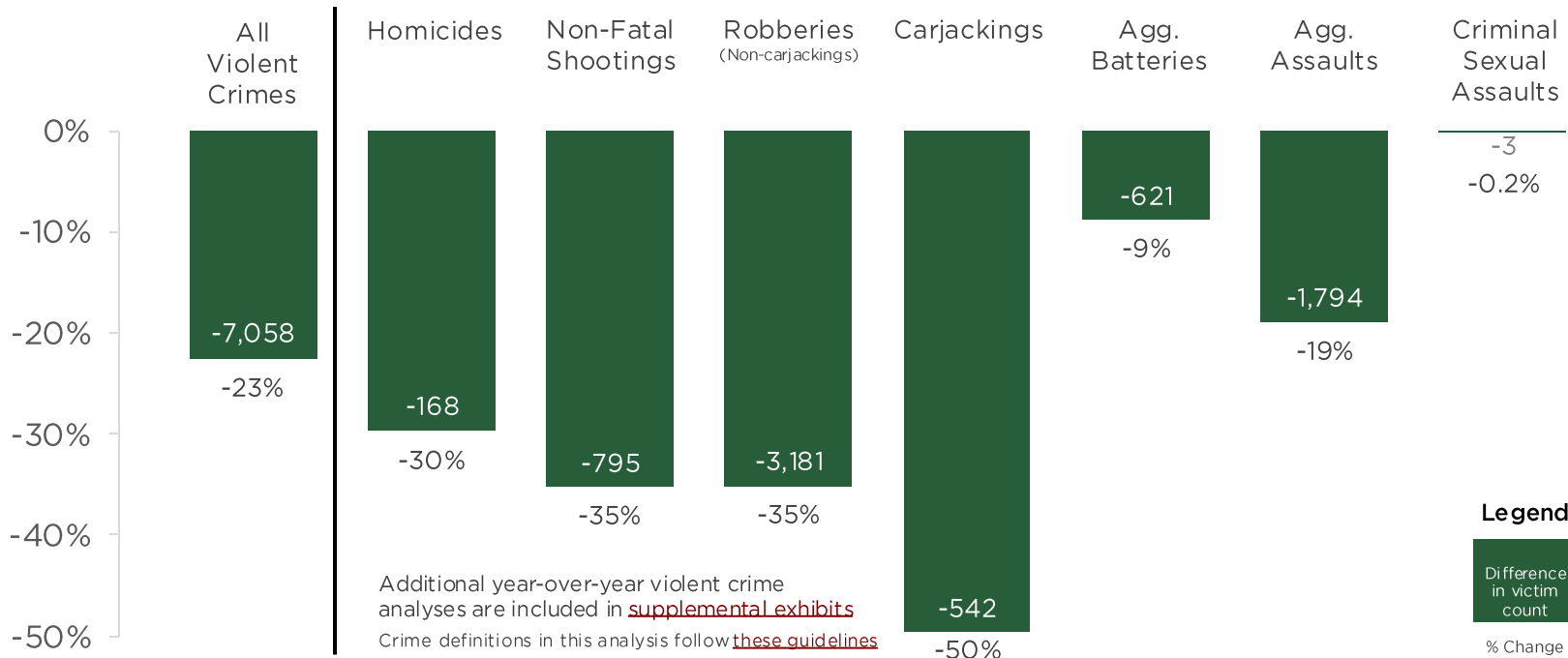


This graph shows the number of homicides in Chicago through December 12 for 2024 vs. 2025.



Violent crime has declined year-over-year in most major crime categories

Victimization change, 2024 vs. 2025

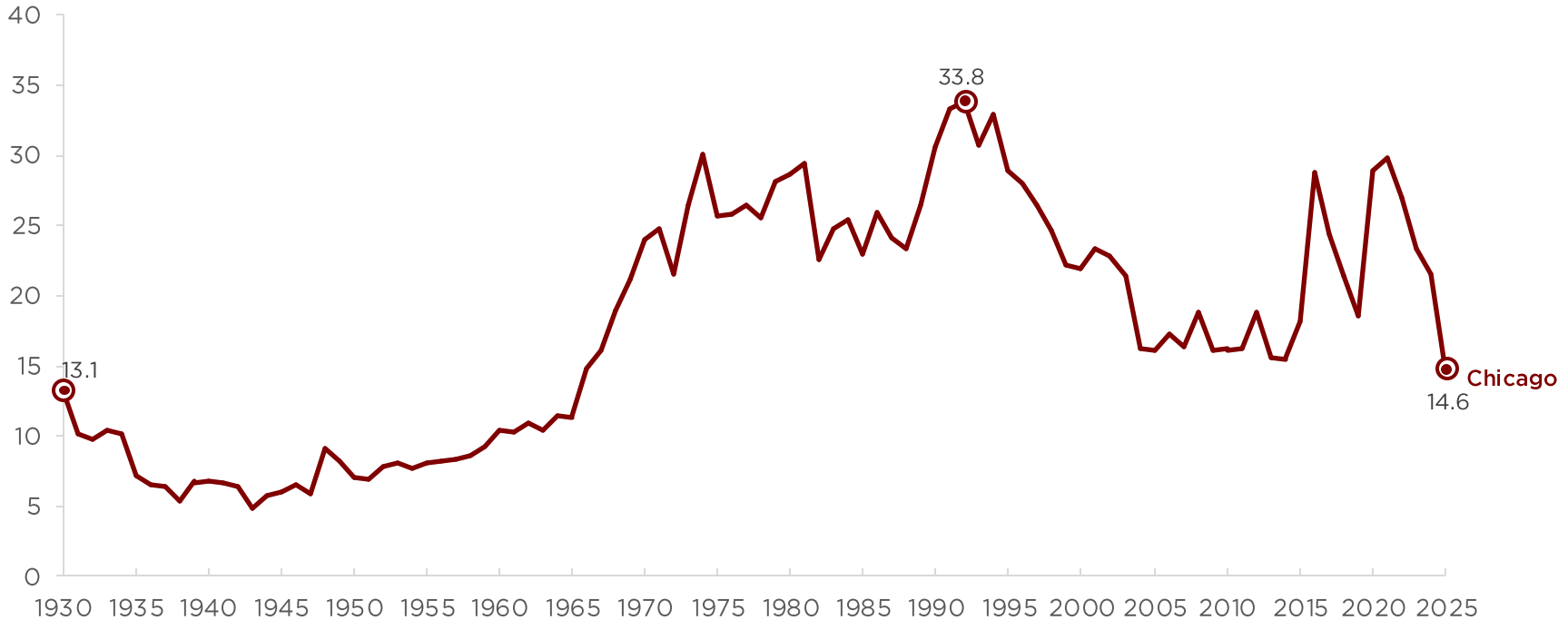


This graph shows the number and percent change of violent crime victims in Chicago through December 12 for 2024 vs. 2025.



Homicide levels and recent trends in historical context

Homicides per 100,000 residents, 1930 - 2025



This graph shows the number of homicides per 100,000 residents in Chicago through December 31 for 1930- 2024 and through December 13 for 2025.



Chicago homicide rates compared to other major cities

Source: FBI UCR (ICPSR [Kaplan](#); ICPSR [3666](#)), city open data portals, city/state dashboards, and media reports



Chicago homicide rates compared to other major cities

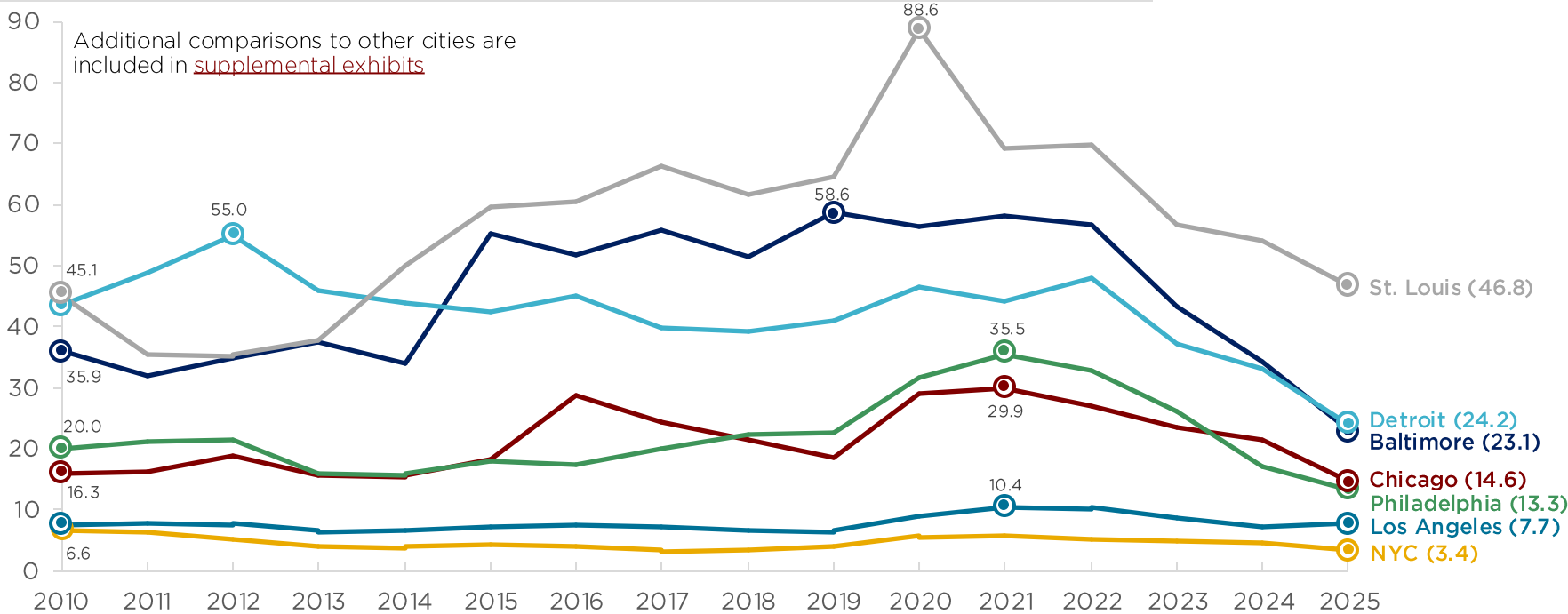
We selected comparison cities that both receive frequent national attention for gun violence—such as St. Louis, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Detroit—and represent Chicago’s peers among the nation’s largest cities by population, Los Angeles and New York City.

- These cross-city comparisons help place Chicago within broader national homicide patterns among cities frequently referenced together.
- Additional cross-city analyses are included in [supplemental slides](#).



Chicago's recent homicide declines echoed in many other cities across U.S.

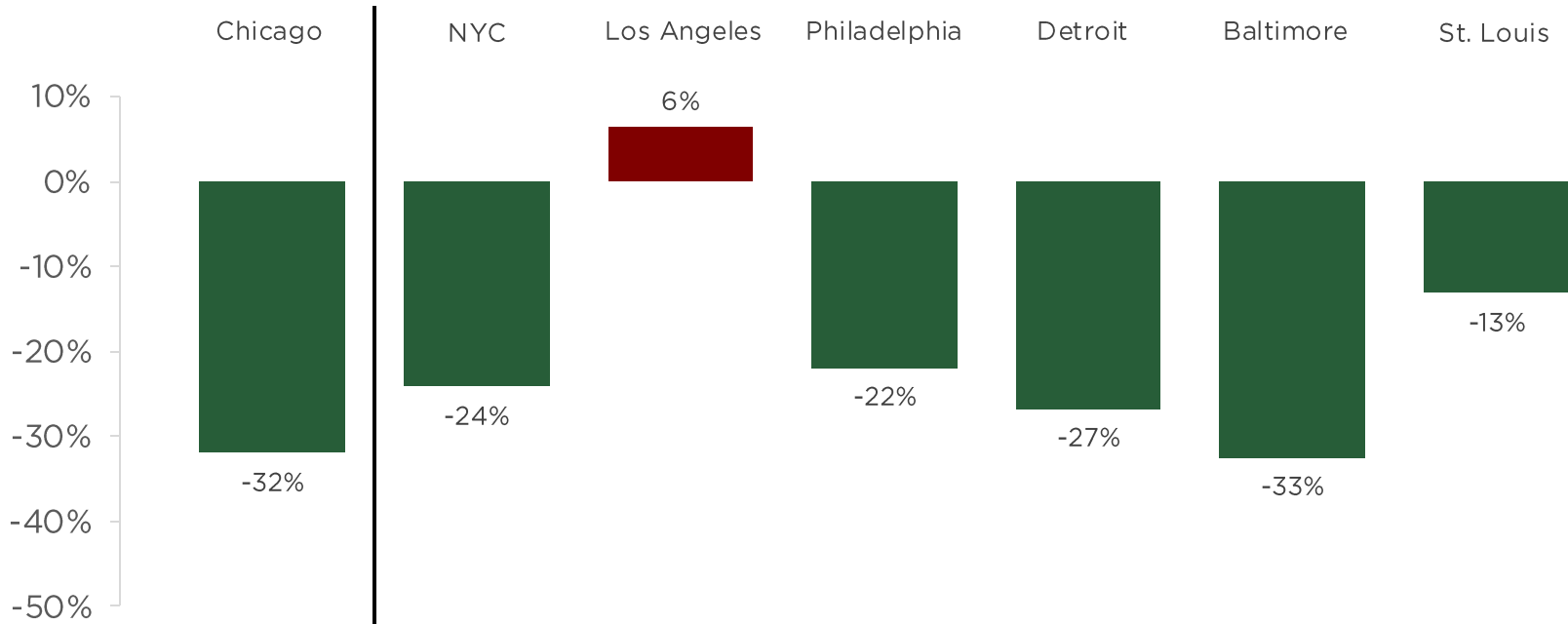
Homicides per 100,000 residents, 2010 - 2025



This graph shows the number of homicides per 100,000 residents through December 31 for 2010 - 2024 and through the following dates for 2025: Chicago (12/13), NYC (12/14), Los Angeles (12/13), Philadelphia (12/13), Detroit (12/13), Baltimore (12/14), and St. Louis (12/14).



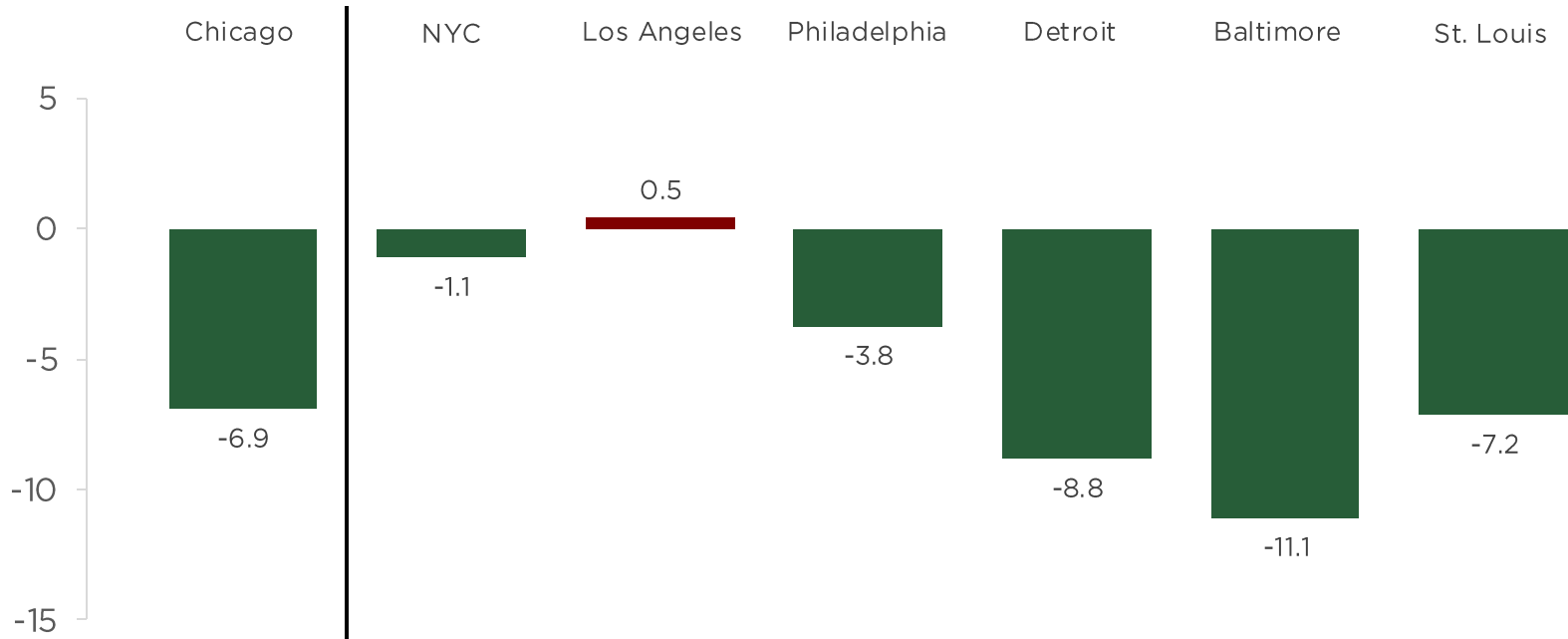
Changes in homicides 2024 vs. 2025 (through mid-December*), Chicago vs. other cities, measured in percent change



*This graph shows the percent change of homicides in Chicago vs. other cities through December 31 for 2024 and through the following dates for 2025: Chicago (12/13), NYC (12/14), Los Angeles (12/13), Philadelphia (12/13), Detroit (12/13), Baltimore (12/14), and St. Louis (12/14).



Changes in homicides 2024 vs. 2025 (through mid-December*), Chicago vs. other cities, measured in homicides per 100,000 residents

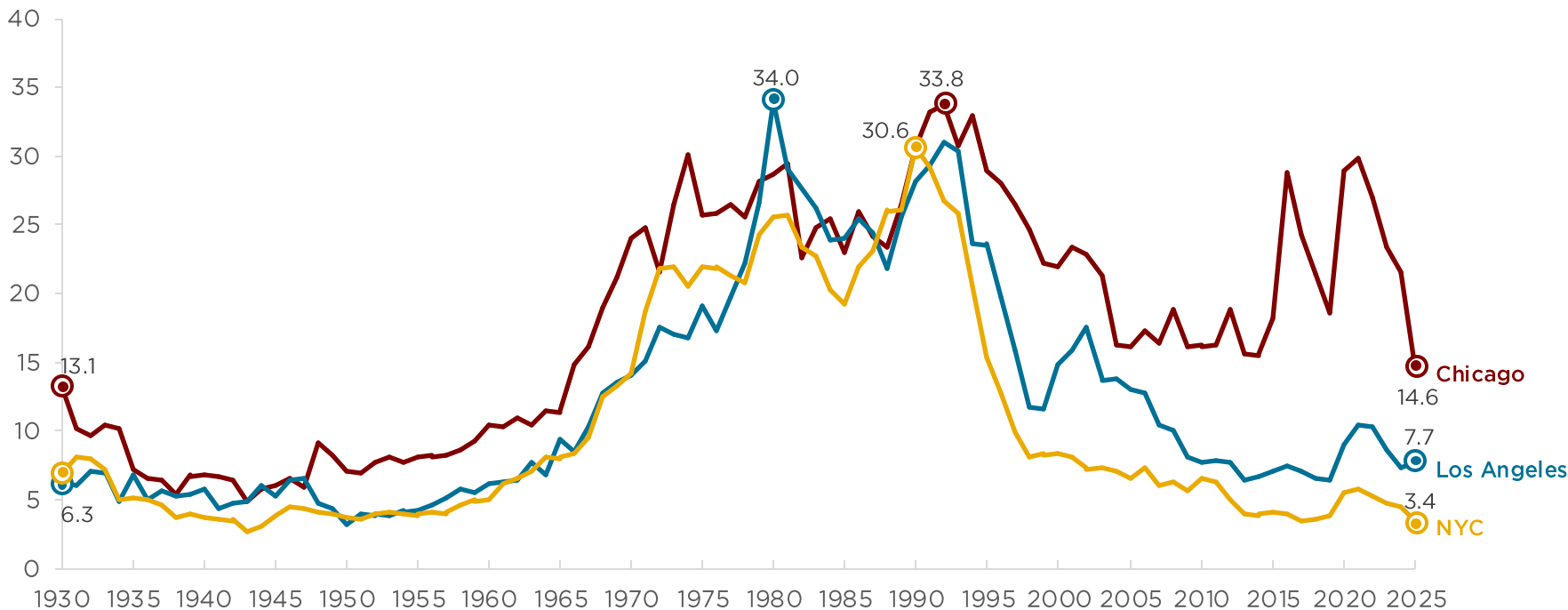


*This graph shows the number of homicides per 100,000 residents in Chicago vs. other cities through December 31 for 2024 and through the following dates for 2025: Chicago (12/13), NYC (12/14), Los Angeles (12/13), Philadelphia (12/13), Detroit (12/13), Baltimore (12/14), and St. Louis (12/14).



Longer-term perspective on homicide trends in Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York City

Homicides per 100,000 residents, 1930 - 2025



This graph shows the number of homicides per 100,000 residents through December 31 for 1930 - 2024 and through the following dates for 2025: Chicago (12/13), NYC (12/14), and Los Angeles (12/13).



What do these across-city comparisons suggest?

- There is some variation in homicide trends across cities
- But broadly speaking, the large drops we're seeing in homicide in Chicago are not unique to Chicago – we see similarly large changes in a number of other cities as well
- This raises a question about the degree to which the changes we're seeing in Chicago are due to Chicago-specific factors versus things happening more broadly across American cities

Learn more: The crime definitions used in this analysis follow [these guidelines](#).



Chicago Safety Gap by Demographics

Source: Chicago Data Portal - [Victims of Homicides and Non-fatal Shootings](#)

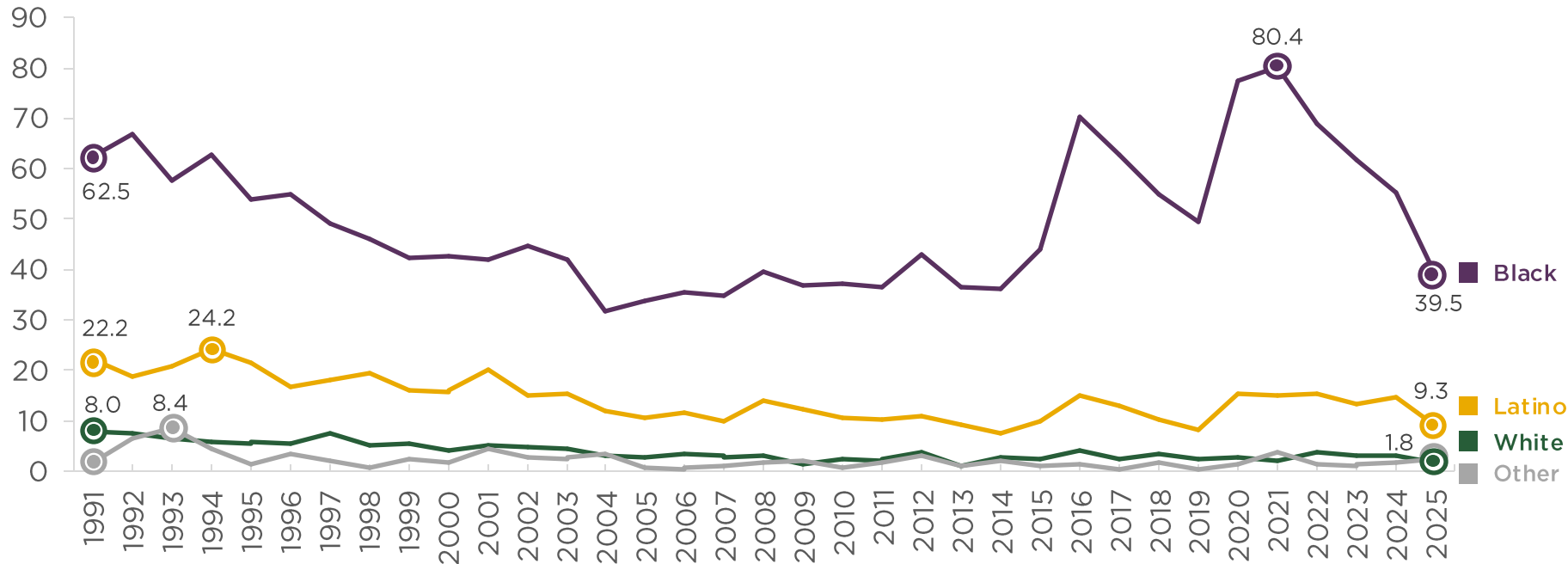
Chicago Safety Gap by Demographics

In this section, we present homicide rates and relative disparities by demographic groups.

- Separating trends out by demographic sub-groups helps show how disparities in outcomes change over time.
- Sub-group specific trends may also help shed light on the underlying causes of local crime trends.

Homicide trends by race of victim

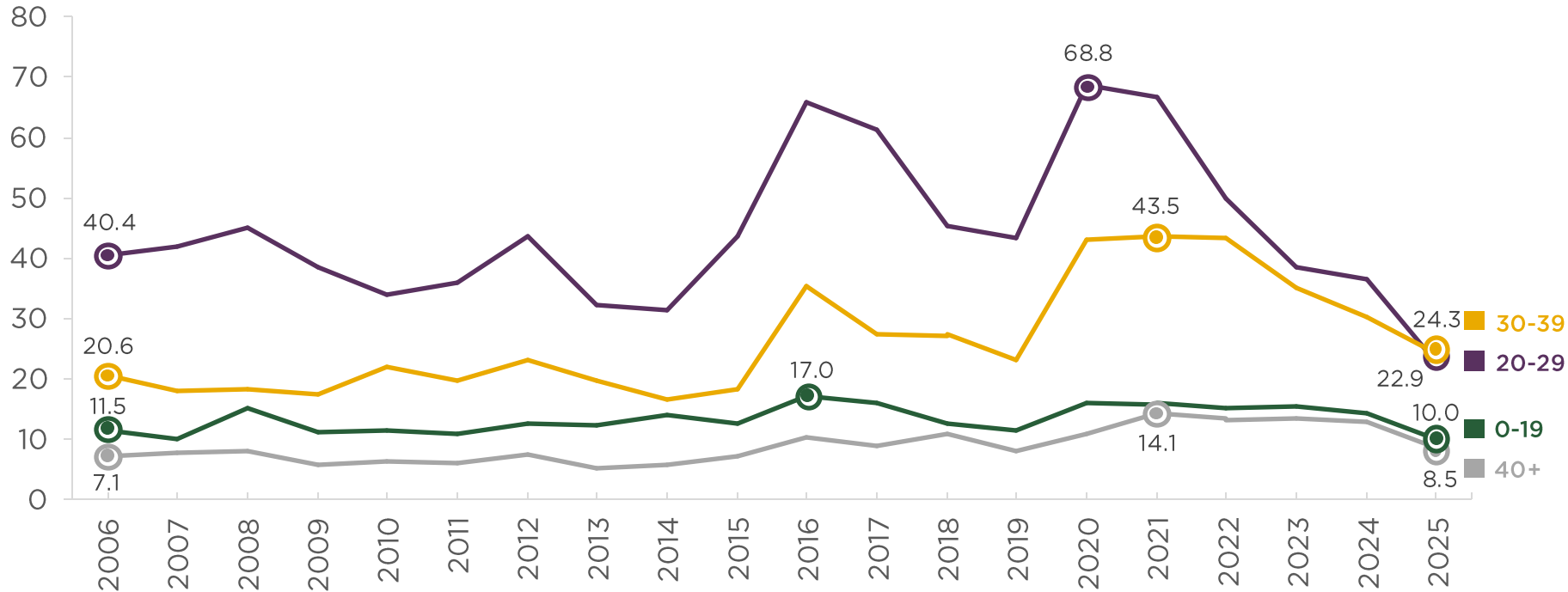
Homicides per 100,000 residents by race of victim, year-to-date



This graph shows the number of homicides per 100,000 residents in Chicago by race of victim through December 12 for all years

Homicide rates by age group

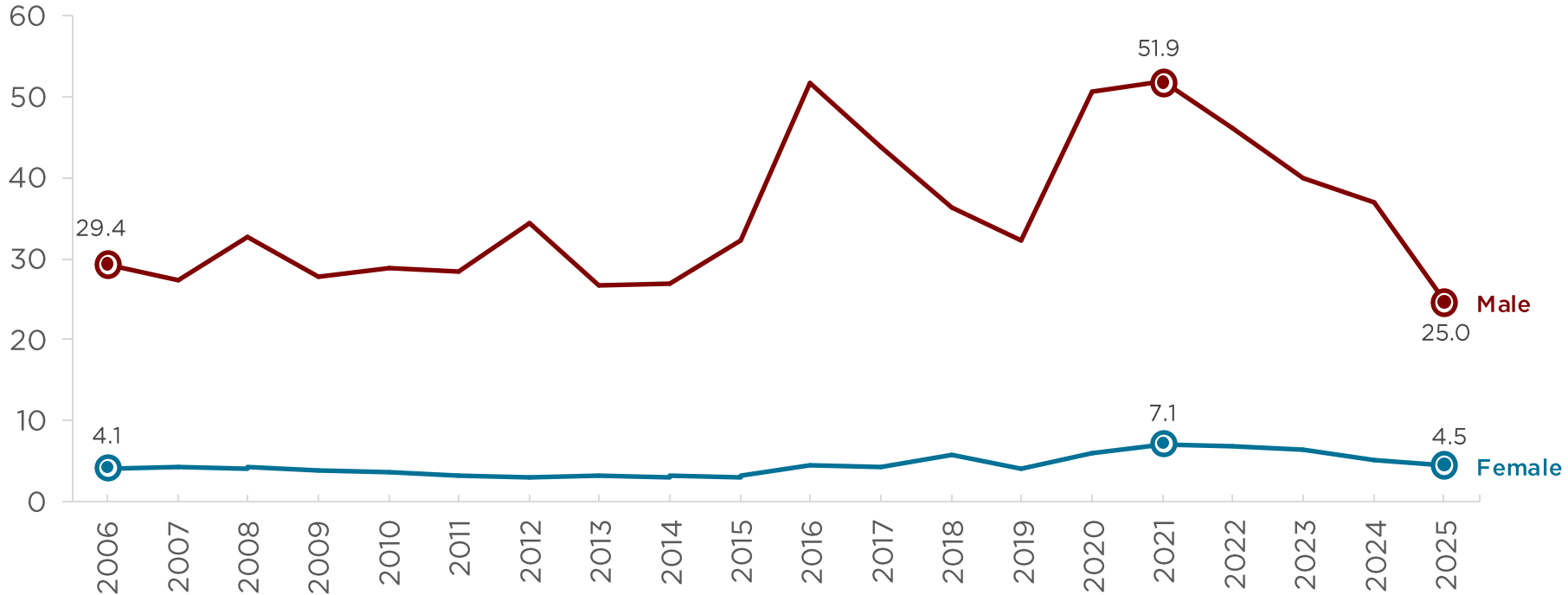
Homicides per 100,000 residents by age of victim, year-to-date



This graph shows the number of homicides per 100,000 residents in Chicago by age of victim through December 12 for all years.

📍 Homicide rates by gender

Homicides per 100,000 residents by sex of victim, year-to-date



This graph shows the number of homicides per 100,000 residents in Chicago by sex of victim through December 12 for all years.

○ Patterns across demographic sub-groups

Trends by sub-group may provide clues about the underlying causes of crime patterns.

- Homicide declines disproportionately driven by what is happening among young men (ages 20-29 and 30-39) and Black city residents.
- One implication of those patterns is that we're seeing declines in homicide victimization disparities between Black and White residents, between men and women, and between young adults and everyone else.



Chicago Safety Gap by Geography

Source: Chicago Data Portal - [Victims of Homicides and Non-fatal Shootings](#)



Chicago Safety Gap by Geography

This section presents crime patterns by geography, focusing on two units: Chicago Police Department (CPD) police districts and community areas.

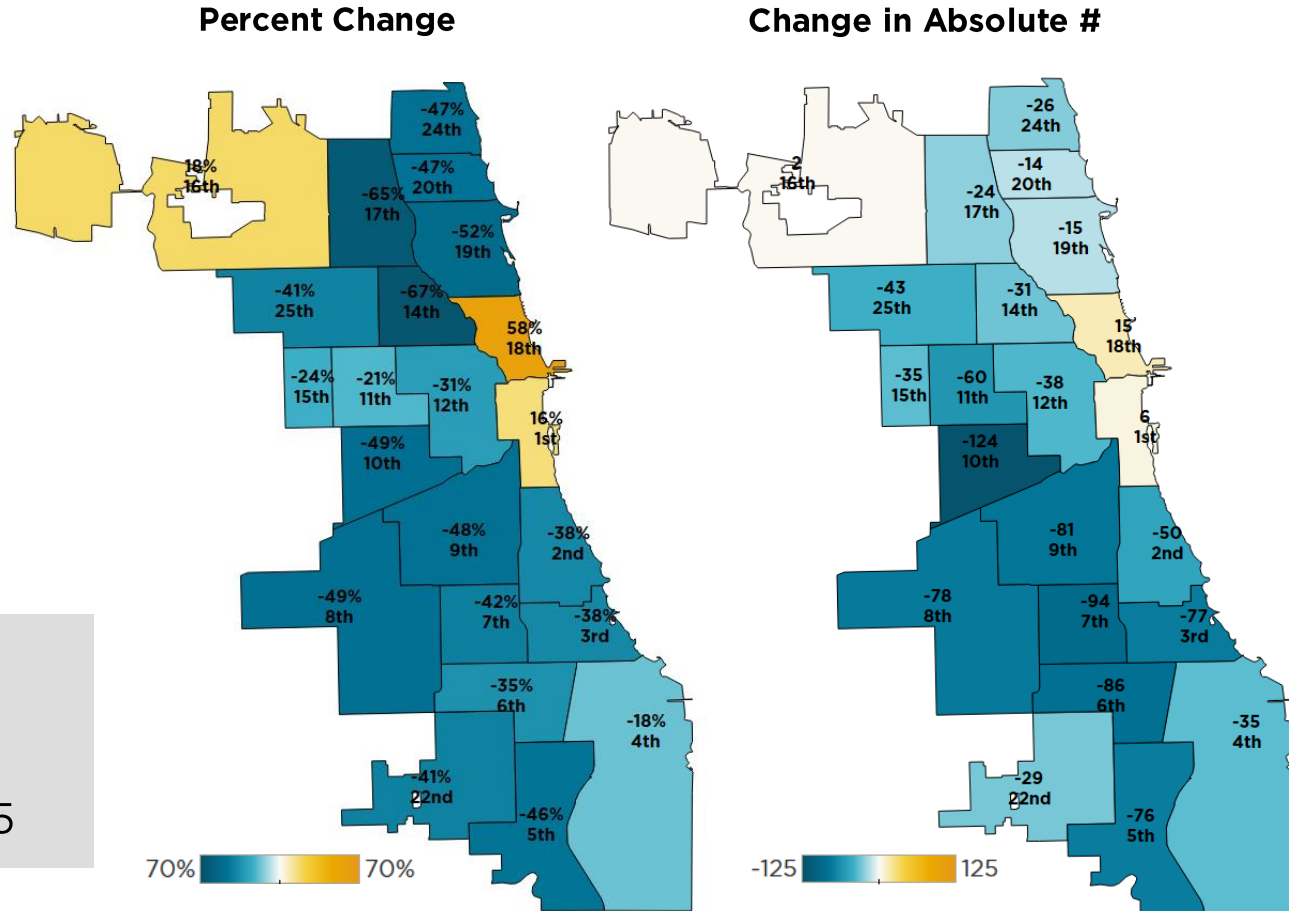
Chicago is divided into 22 police districts, each covering relatively large areas that often include multiple neighborhoods. Analyzing gun violence at the district level aligns closely with CPD operational data, making it useful for understanding trends in the context of policing activities.

We also include maps showing recent gun violence trends by community area. Chicago has 77 community areas, which are smaller, more localized geographies historically used for urban planning and for directing social and violence prevention investments. Community areas are also more familiar to residents, who often think about their neighborhoods in relation to these units.



More than 85% of police districts saw a decrease in gunshot victimizations compared to last year

Percent change and change in absolute number of shooting victims, 2024 vs. 2025

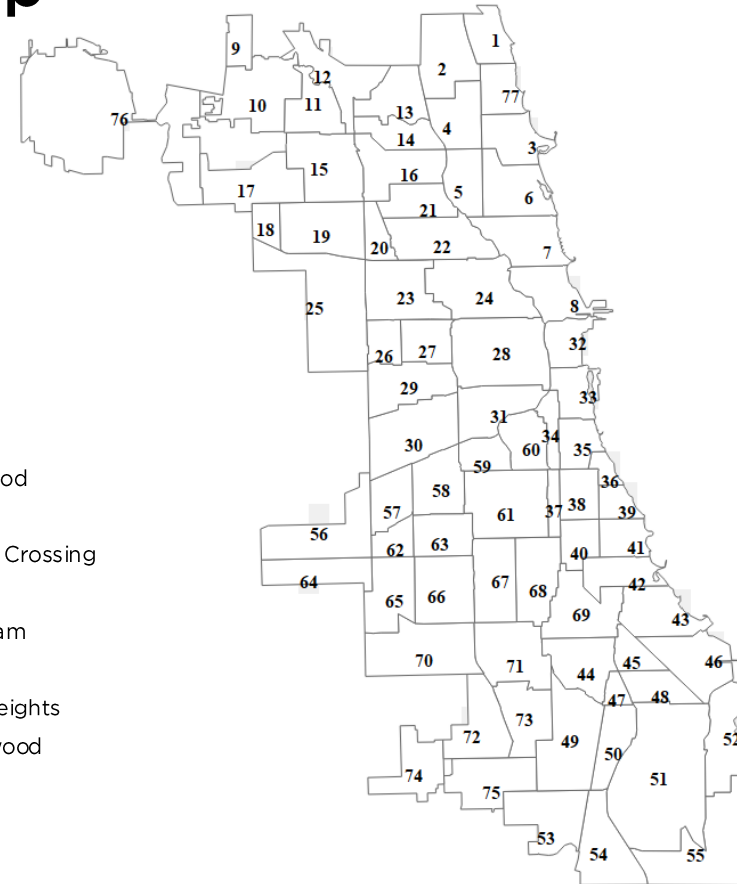


This graph shows the change in the absolute number of shooting victims in each Chicago police district through December 12 for 2024 vs. 2025.



Community Area Reference Map

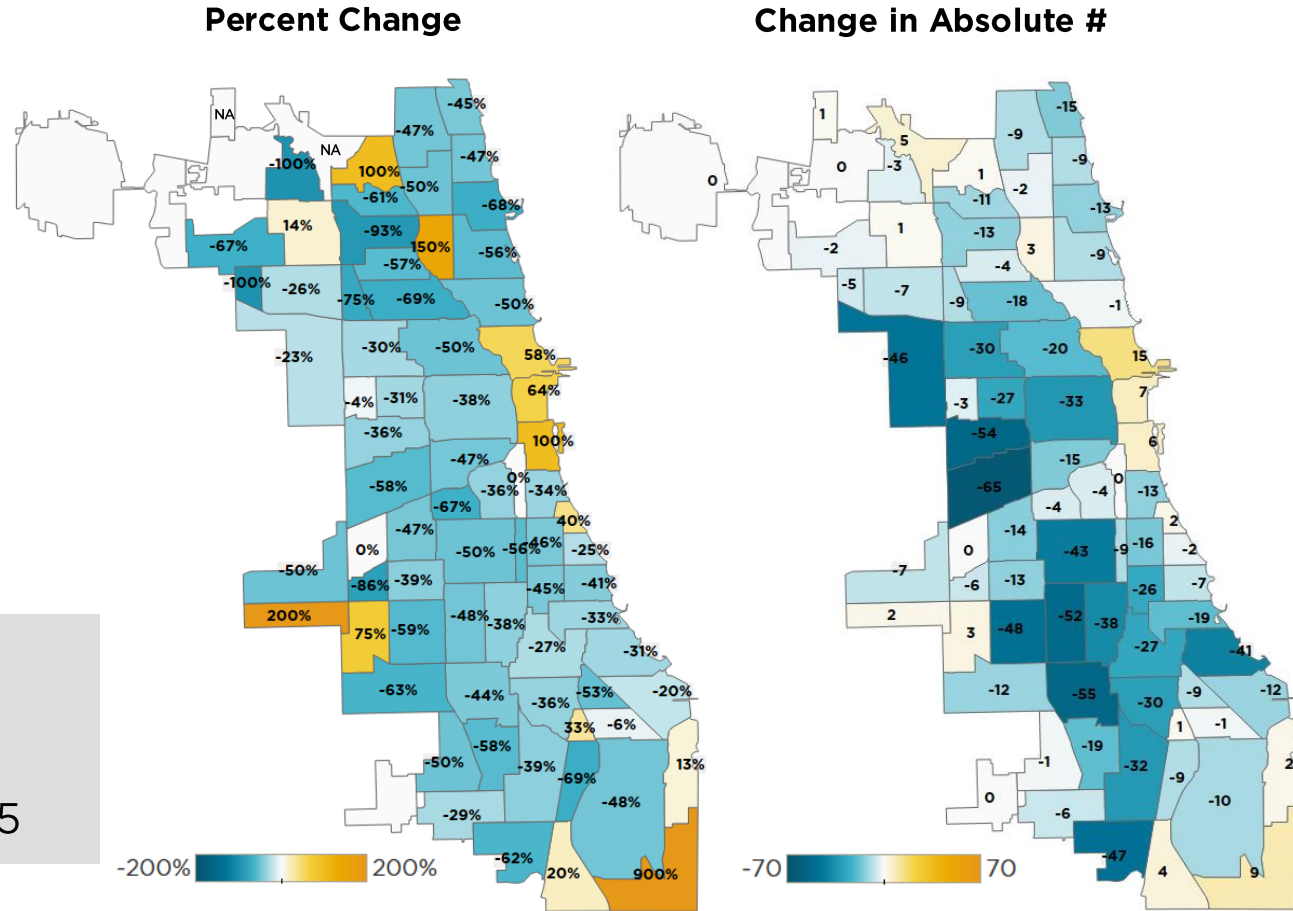
- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Rogers Park | 20 Hermosa | 39 Kenwood | 58 Brighton Park |
| 2 West Ridge | 21 Avondale | 40 Washington Park | 59 Mckinley Park |
| 3 Uptown | 22 Logan Square | 41 Hyde Park | 60 Bridgeport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





Year-over-year changes for the 77 community areas (rather than police districts)

Percent change and change in absolute number of shooting victims, 2024 vs. 2025



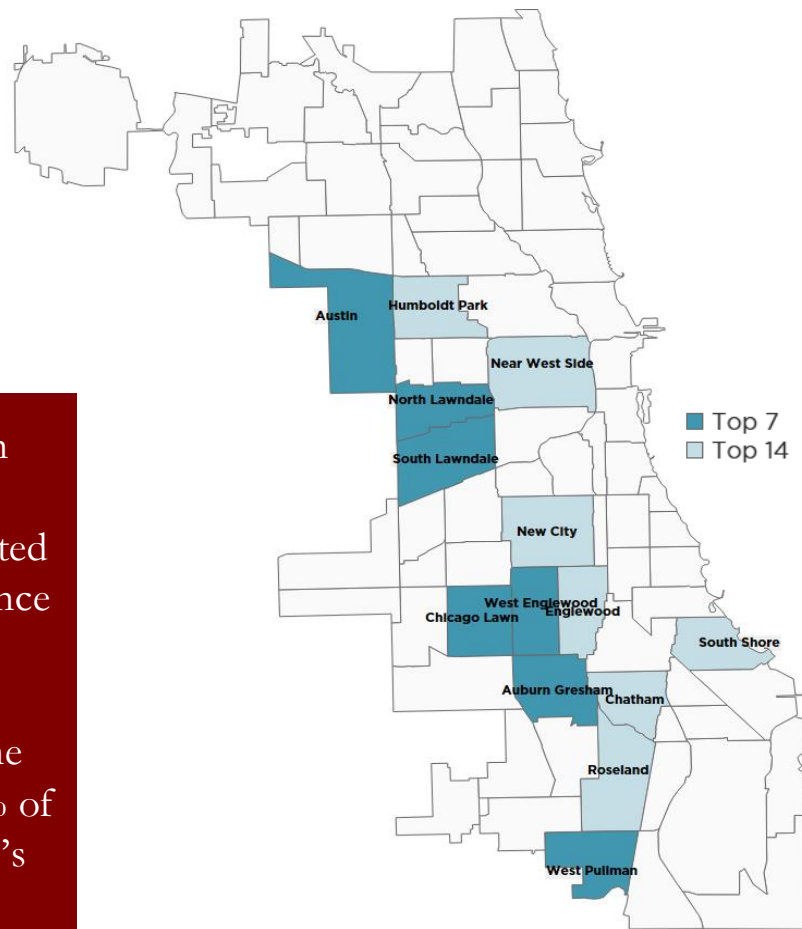
This graph shows the change in the absolute number of shooting victims in each Chicago community area through December 12 for 2024 vs. 2025. Note: Values are rounded to the nearest whole number. Percent change is shown as "NA" for communities with a 2020-2024 average of zero, as percent change is undefined.



Decrease in shootings disproportionately driven by a small number of South and West side neighborhoods

The 7 community areas with the largest drop in gun violence (10% of Chicago's 77 community areas and 13% of the city's population) accounted for 35% of the total citywide drop in gun violence in 2025.

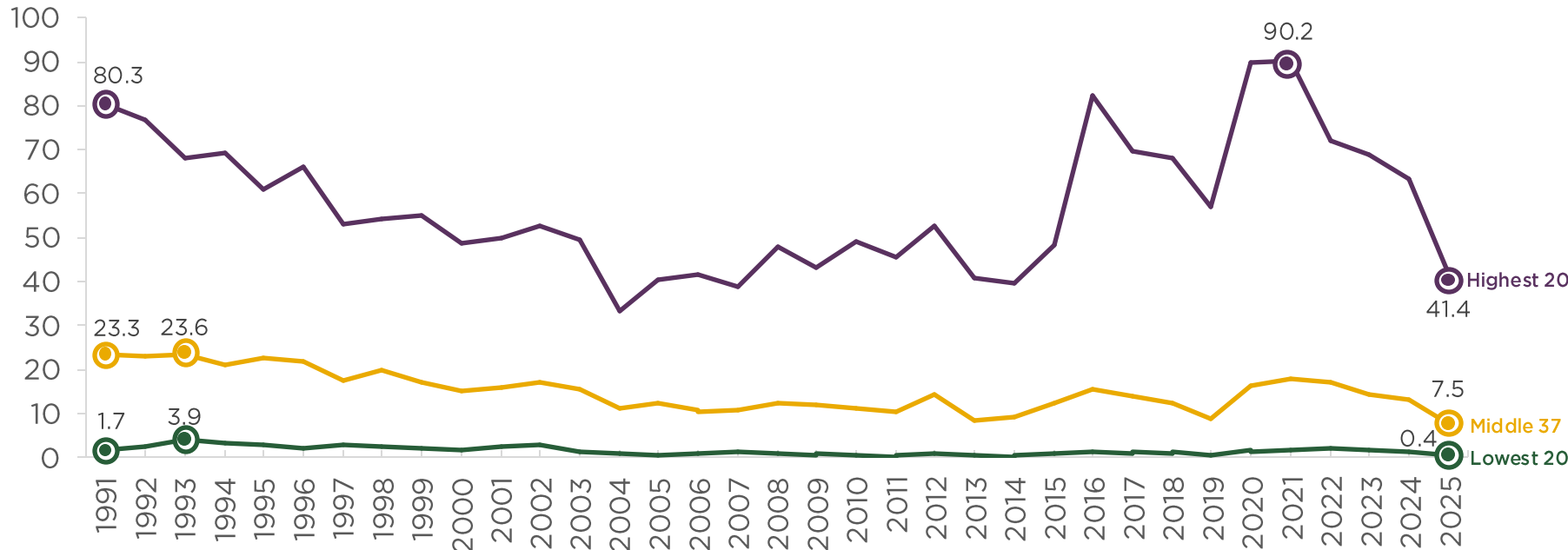
The 14 community areas with the largest decline in gun violence (20% of community areas, 24% of city population) accounted for 58% of Chicago's decline in gun violence.





Outsized drops in highest-homicide-rate communities translate into declining public safety disparities

Homicide victims per 100,000 residents by highest, middle, and lowest homicide rate community areas, year-to-date



This graph shows the number of homicides per 100,000 residents in Chicago by community area through December 12 for all years



Questions?

Contact Kim Smith, Director of National Programs
& External Engagement, at kimberleys@uchicago.edu



Supplemental Insights



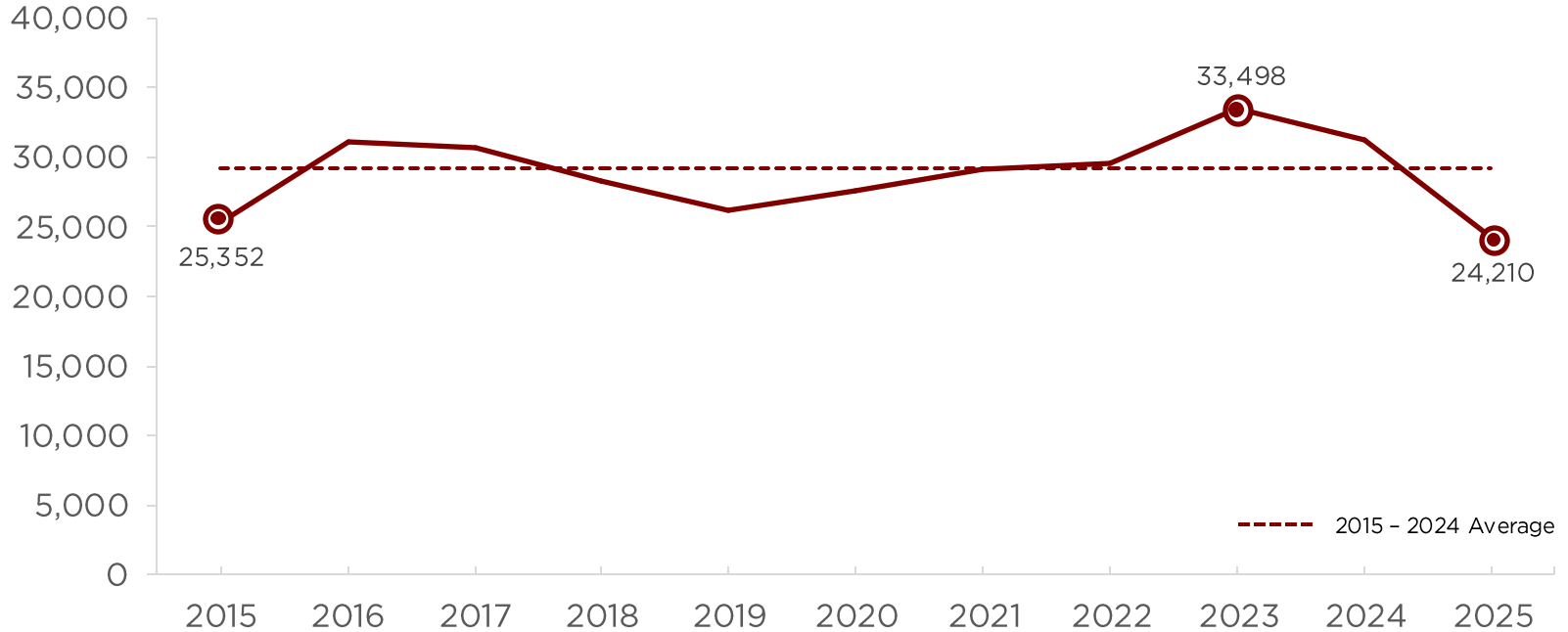
Chicago Year-over-Year Violent Crime Trends

Source: City of Chicago [Violence Reduction Dashboard](#)



Violent crime has declined year-over-year

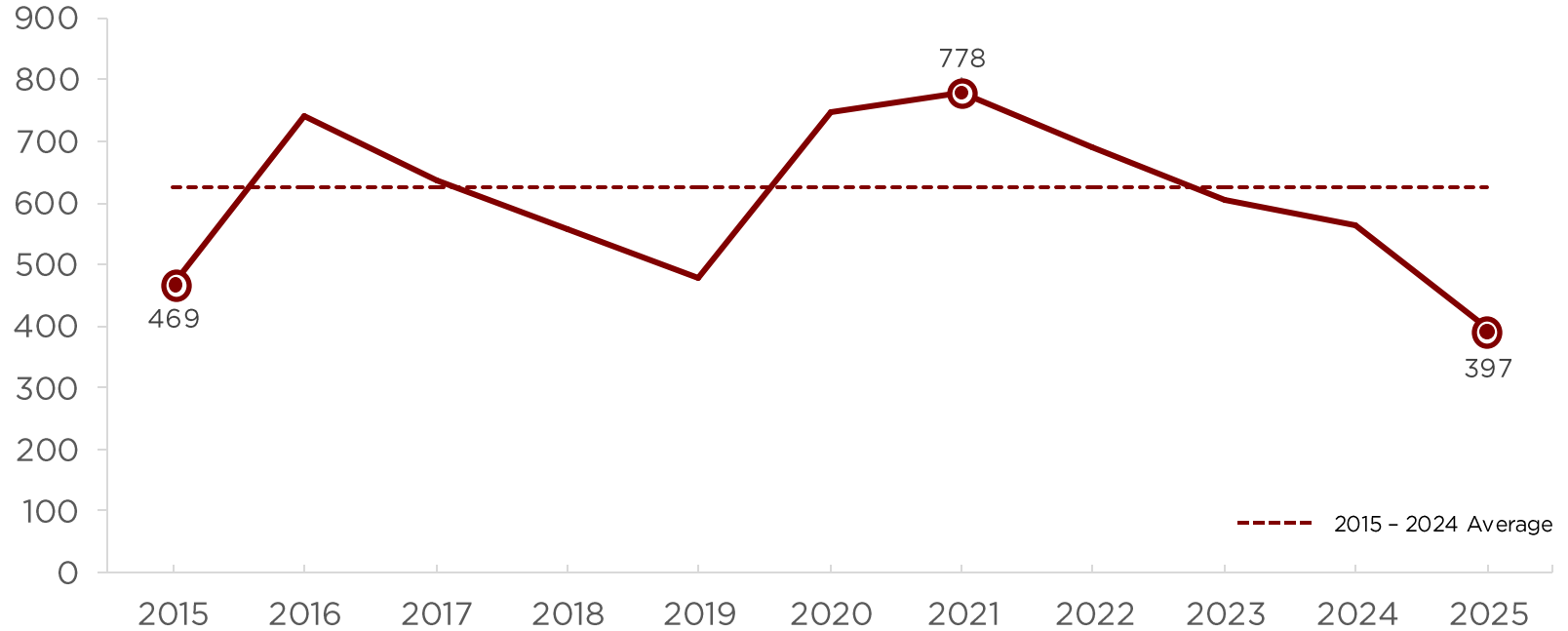
Violent crime victims, year-to-date



This graph shows the number of violent crime victims in Chicago through December 12 for all years. Note: Violent crimes are defined by the FBI as "those offenses which involve force or the threat of force." Based on CPD offense reporting practices, this includes fatal shootings, non-fatal shootings, non-shooting homicides, agg. assaults, agg. batteries, robberies, criminal sexual assaults, and human trafficking.

📍 Homicides continue to fall

Homicide victims, year-to-date

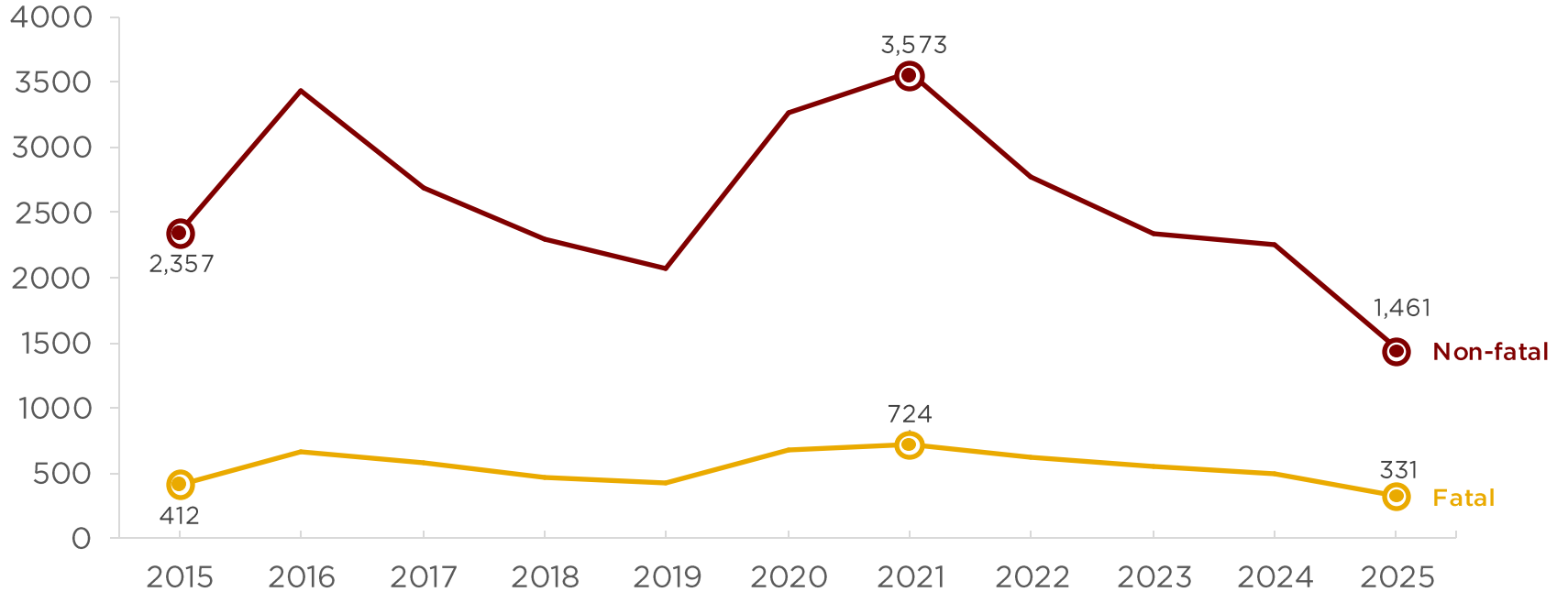


This graph shows the number of homicide victims in Chicago through December 12 for all years.



Shootings have fallen to notable lows

Fatal & non-fatal shooting victims, year-to-date

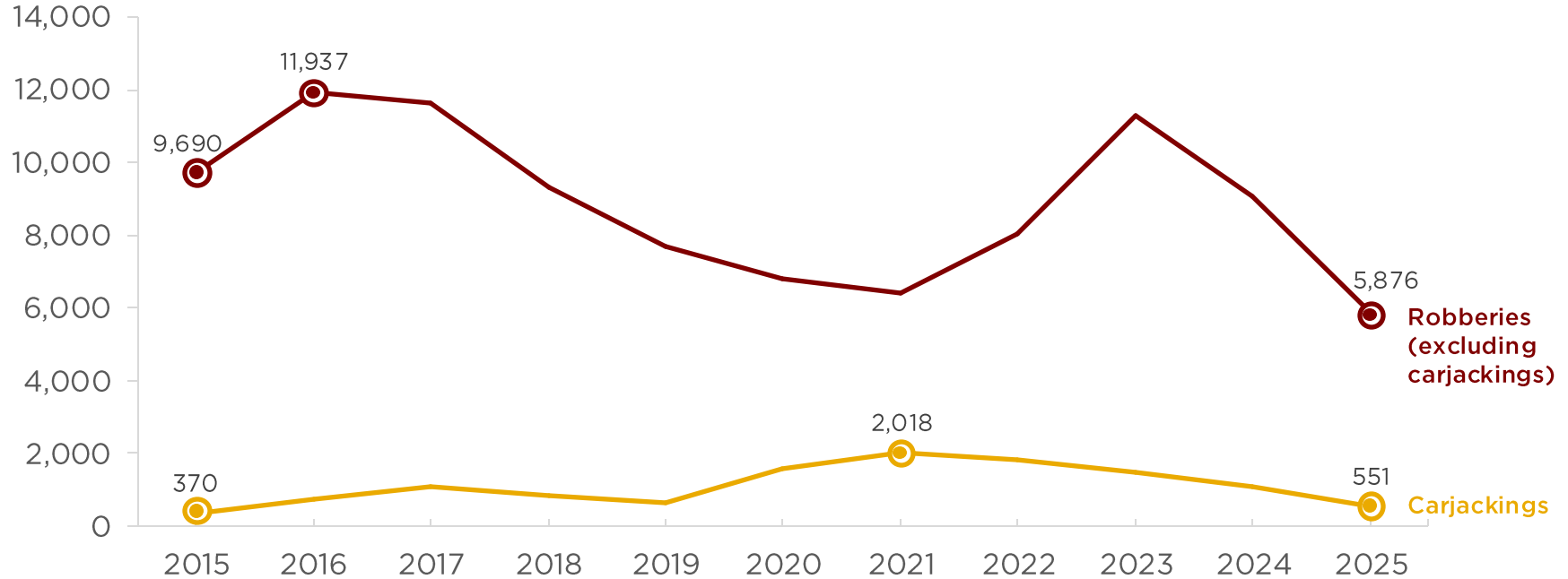


This graph shows the number of fatal and non-fatal shooting victims in Chicago through December 12 for all years.



Robberies and carjackings continue to fall

Robbery & carjacking victims, year-to-date

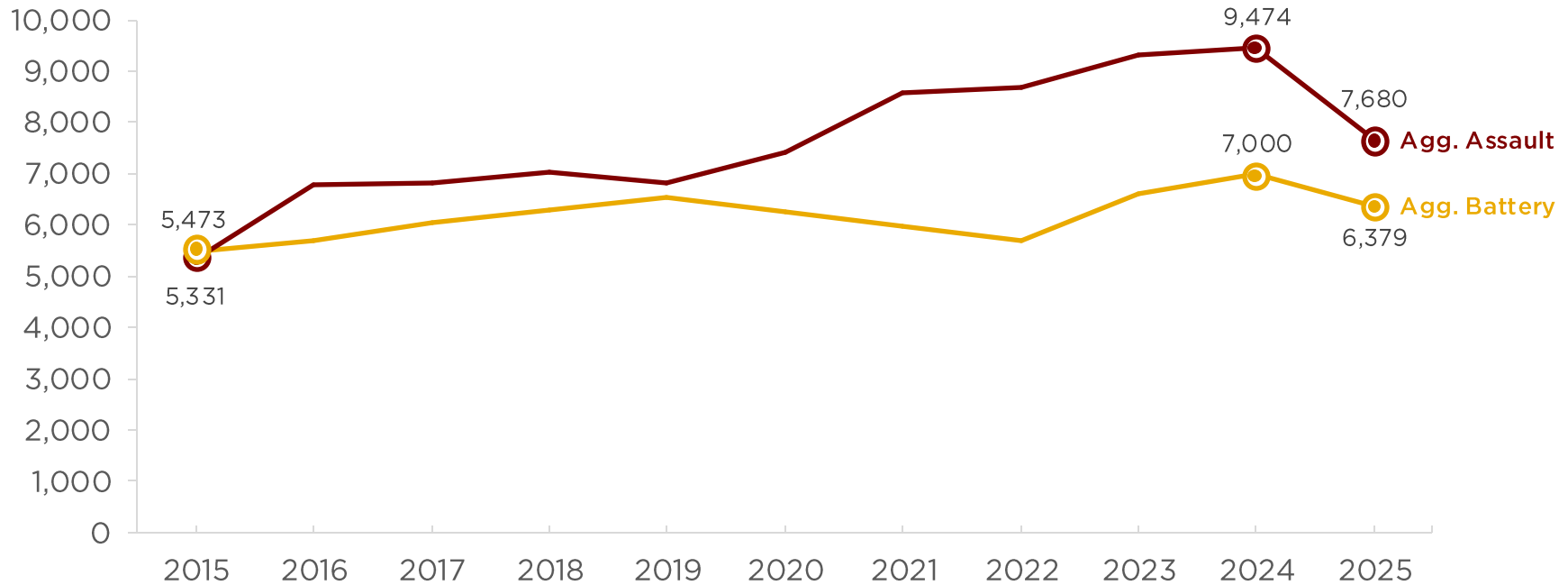


This graph shows the number of robbery and carjacking victims in Chicago through December 12 for all years.



Aggravated assaults and batteries are down year-over-year but remain elevated

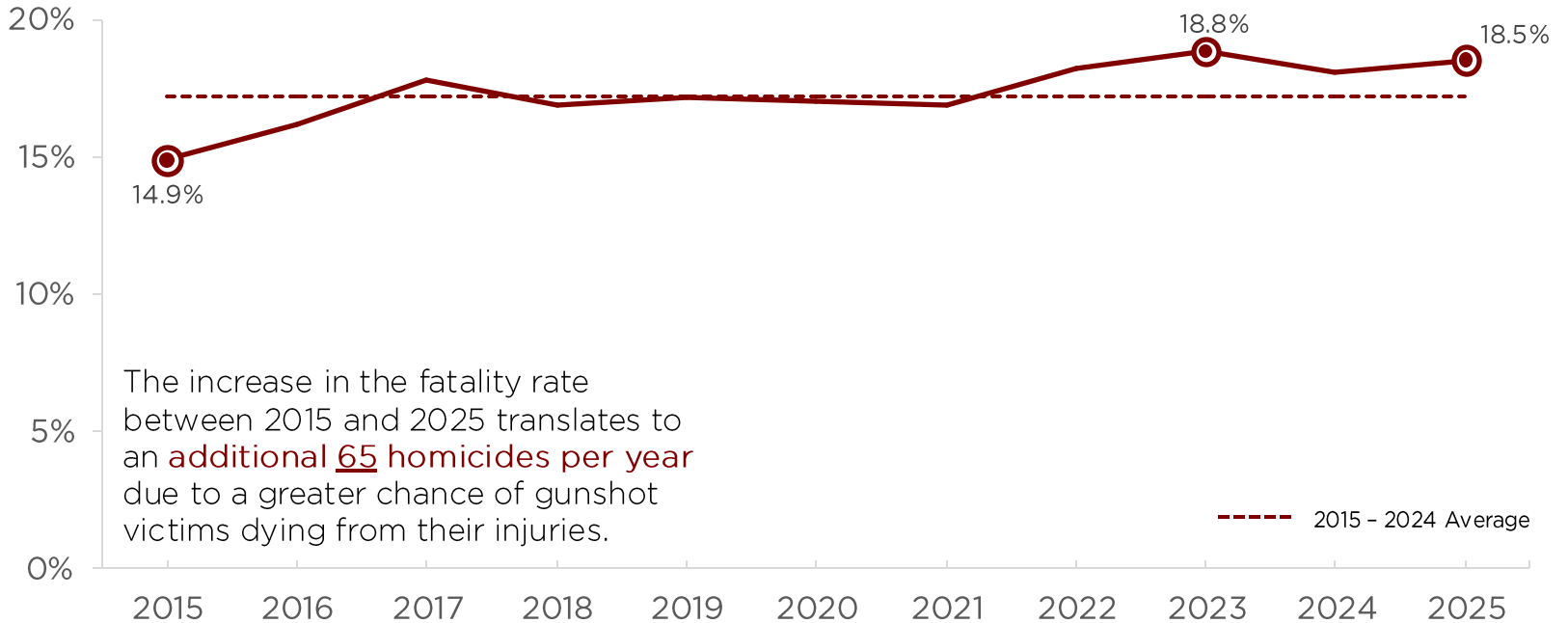
Agg. Assault & Agg. Battery victims, year-to-date



This graph shows the number of agg. assault and agg. battery victims in Chicago through December 12 for all years. Note: These crimes are defined as unlawful attacks by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. The State of Illinois separates Assaults (threats of violence) and Battery (infliction of bodily harm) to more granularly analyze incidents.

○ The shooting lethality rate is close to peak level

Shooting lethality rate, year-to-date



The increase in the fatality rate between 2015 and 2025 translates to an **additional 65 homicides per year** due to a greater chance of gunshot victims dying from their injuries.

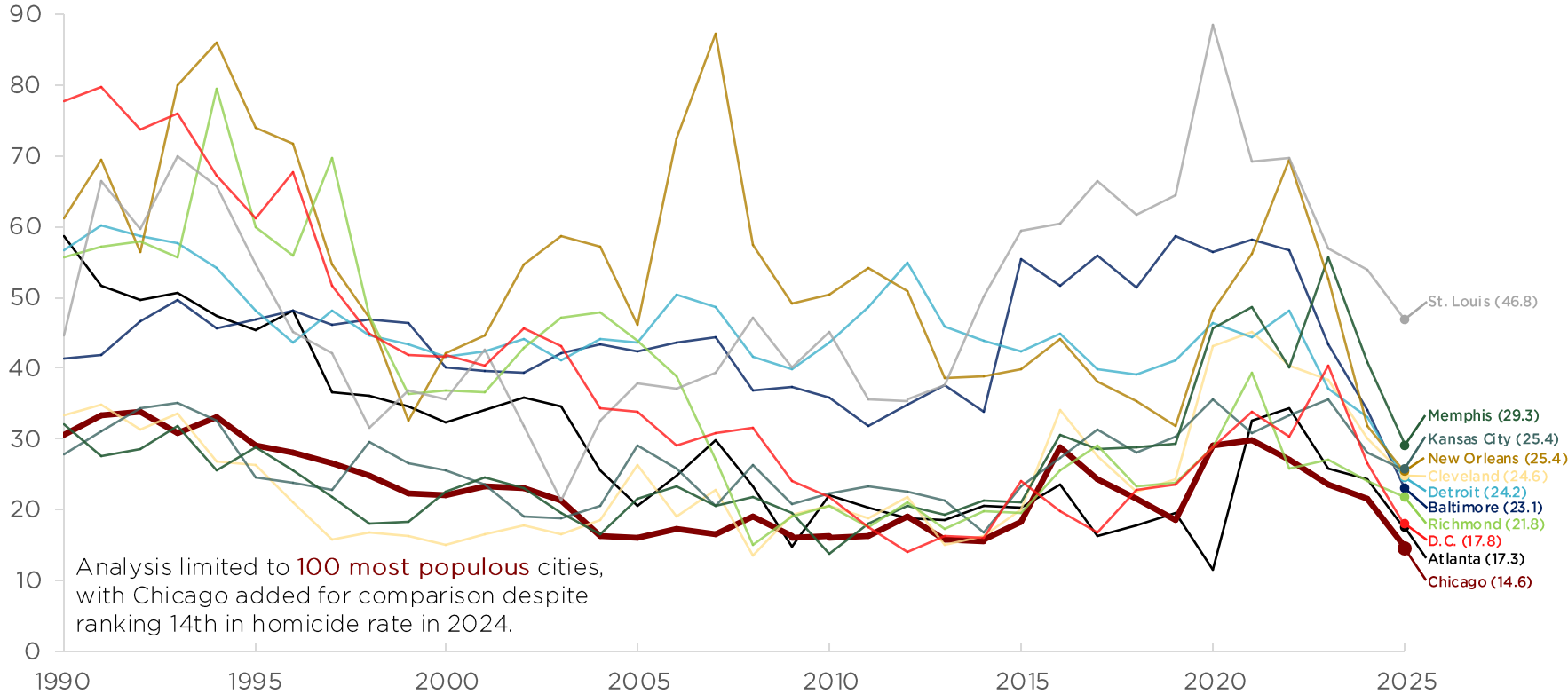
This graph shows the shooting lethality rate in Chicago through December 12 for all years. Note: The lethality rate is the percent of gunshot victims who died due to their wounds.

○ Chicago homicide rates compared to other major cities

Source: FBI UCR (ICPSR [Kaplan](#)), city open data portals, city/state dashboards, and media reports



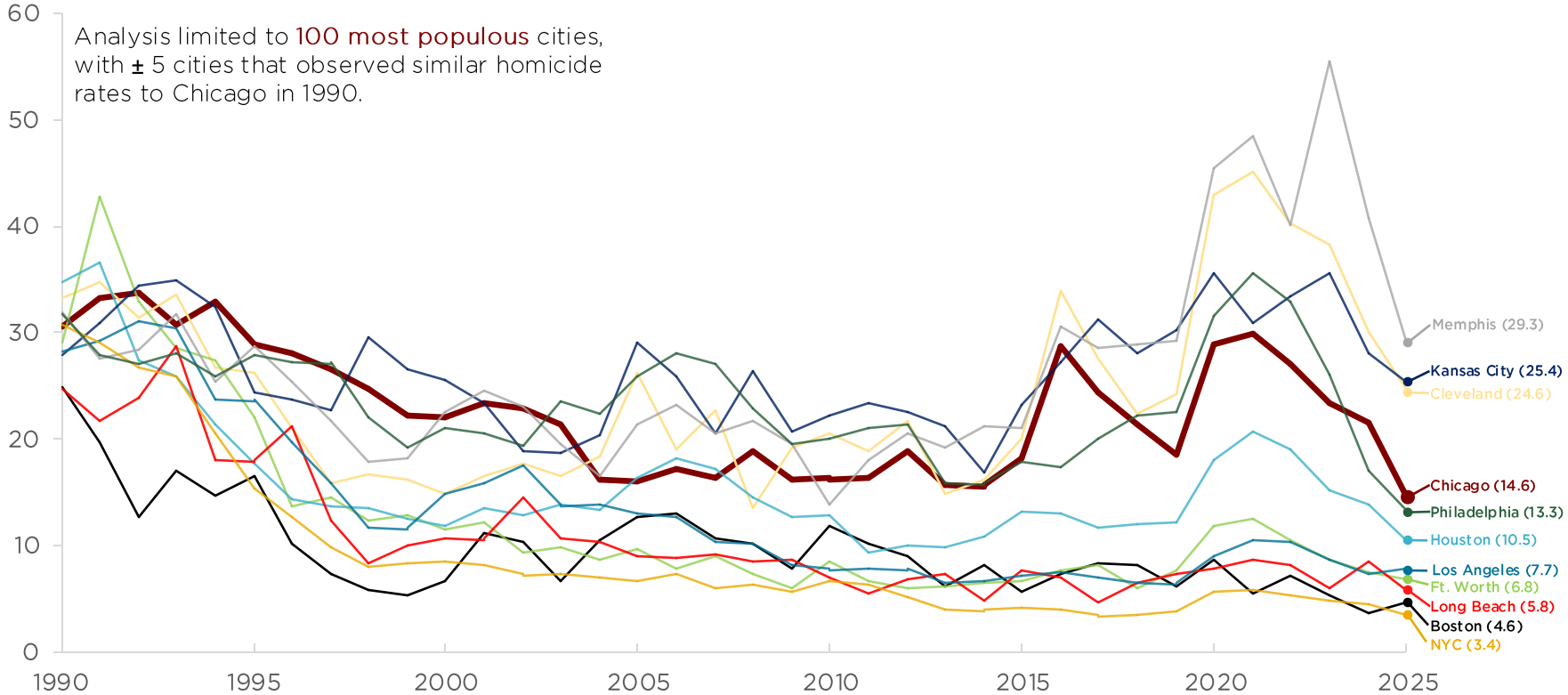
Homicide rates over time for Chicago and the 10 cities with the highest 2024 homicide rates



This graph shows the number of homicides per 100,000 residents through December 31 for 1990 – 2024 and through the following dates for 2025: St. Louis (12/14), Memphis (12/15), Kansas City (12/15), New Orleans (12/15), Cleveland (12/16), Detroit (12/13), Baltimore (12/14), Richmond (12/14), D.C. (12/13), Atlanta (12/6), and Chicago (12/13).



Homicide rates over time for Chicago and 10 cities with most similar 1990 homicide rates



This graph shows the number of homicides per 100,000 residents through December 31 for 1990 – 2024 and through the following dates for 2025: Memphis (12/15), Kansas City (12/15), Cleveland (12/16), Chicago (12/13), Philadelphia (12/13), Houston (12/13), Los Angeles (12/13), Ft. Worth (12/15), Long Beach (11/27*), Boston (12/16), and NYC (12/14).