Crime & Criminal Justice in Chicago: Challenges for the New Mayor

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With Roseanna Ander, Megan Cordes, Max Kapustin, Terrence Neumann, Marc Punkay, Julia Quinn, Michael Ridgway, Noah Sebek, & Kimberley Smith
Man Shot Dead on Son's 6th Birthday

Albert Turnage, age 23
Earron Moore, age 25
Lesean King, age 47

Danielle King

MY FATHER IS A MAN LIKE NO OTHER. HE GAVE ME LIFE NATURED ME, TAUGHT ME DRESSED ME FOUGHT FOR ME HELD ME SHOUTED AND ME KISSED ME. BUT MOST OF ALL LOVED ME UNCONDITIONALLY. THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH WORDS THAT CAN DESCRIBE JUST HOW IMPORTANT MY FATHER WAS TO ME. #DADDYWELOVEYOU #DADDIESLILGIRL... See More
This is a uniquely American problem.
We’re in an unusual time in history heading into this mayoral election

Only the 2nd time in 130 years such large divergence of Chicago from LA and NYC.
Gun violence affects the most disadvantaged among us the most.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic</th>
<th>Homicides per 100,000 (2018)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White men, 15-24</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic men, 15-24</td>
<td>35.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black men, 15-24</td>
<td>225.6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What’s so weird about the current conversation
Solutions

Menu of evidence-based solutions to choose from:

• Increased school funding
• Targeted social services
• Jobs for teens
• Strengthened law enforcement

What would serious solutions cost?

Well into the 9 figures

For targeted social services, for instance, assume $30K / participant, assume reduced violence involvement by 50%
Evans & Owens 2007 *J Pub E* suggests 10% increase in PD budget reduces homicides by 10%
Here’s another (related) criminal justice priority that will also require additional resources
Resources also required for Chicago PD consent decree

More supervisors
More training
More mental health supports
More investigators for citizen complaints
LA shows: *possible* to ↓ crime while ↑ police-community ties

![Graph showing the relationship between LA homicide rate per 100,000, LAPD consent decree enacted (6/15/01), and public approval of LAPD.](graph.png)
Can we afford to do this?
Tax burden in Chicago compared to NYC for households at different income levels

Taxes higher in Chicago than NYC by 13-14%

$25,000

Source: Tax Rates and Tax Burdens in the District of Columbia a Nationwide Comparison
Smart Asset Cost of Living Calculator

*Exact calculations depend on size of family and number of wage-earners*
Tax burden in Chicago compared to NYC for households at different income levels

- **Taxes higher in Chicago than NYC by 13-14%**

  ![Bar chart showing higher taxes in Chicago](chart1.png)

- **Taxes lower in Chicago than NYC by 15-17%**

  ![Bar chart showing lower taxes in Chicago](chart2.png)

**Source:** Tax Rates and Tax Burdens in the District of Columbia a Nationwide Comparison
Smart Asset Cost of Living Calculator

*Exact calculations depend on size of family and number of wage-earners*
Can we afford *not* to do this?
Financial issues, crime top voters’ list of concerns in mayoral race

Public survey: Most important problem facing Chicago

- Crime: 20
- Education: 15
- Taxes, fees: 13
- Jobs: 8

Source: CTU Poll, 1/4/19
Crime          Lost population & jobs

Julie Berry Cullen and Steve Levitt, 1999 *Review of Economics & Statistics*
Here’s what that means in practice

What would Chicago’s population look like if we had followed New York City’s homicide trend?

- Chicago population with NYC homicide rate
- Chicago actual population

Difference is 600,000 more people
Fewer residents = fewer taxpayers

Chicago’s mind-blowing $33 billion debt and pension obligations
Contributes to inequality of all forms in city

1970

2017
What’s the long-term future of our city?

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

- Chicago
- New York City
- Detroit
What’s the long-term future of our city?

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