Crime and Poverty in Chicago

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With Roseanna Ander, Megan Cordes, Max Kapustin, Marc Punkay, Julia Quinn, Kimberley Smith, and Meredith Stricker
By some measures things have never been better
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The New York Times

U.S. Stocks, in a Sweet Spot, Hit a Record

By Matt Phillips

Jan. 9, 2020
But looking closer reveals real challenges
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The fading American dream?

Source: Chetty et al., "The fading American dream: Trends in absolute income mobility since 1940"
Chicago's growing race gap in per capita income

- White (Not Hispanics)
- Citywide
- Blacks (Not Hispanics)
- Hispanics

Source: Decennial Census and ACS 2009-2013 five-year estimates from Social Explorer.

WBEZ News

Chicago Owns America’s Widest Racial Gap In Economic Mobility

Esther Yoon-Ji Kang
September 26, 2019
Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime

-Aristotle
poverty
Figure 3.5: Wages have increased for those with the most education, while falling for those with the least. Source: Acemoglu and Autor analysis of the Current Population Survey for 1963-2008.
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The good news: Graduation rates for CPS students have increased substantially over time…

Source: University of Chicago Consortium on School Research
But we’re doing less well supporting college completion

2016 5-Year High School Graduation for CPS Students

![Bar chart showing graduation rates for Black Male and White Male students in 2016. The graduation rate for Black Male students is 65%, and for White Male students is 83%.]

But we’re doing less well supporting college completion

2016 5-Year High School Graduation for CPS Students

Bachelor’s Degree Attainment for Chicago Public Schools Students

What we tend to ignore when thinking about reducing poverty
Great … but what does this have to do with reducing poverty?
29% reduction in shootings near fixed up, re-developed lots
Great … but what does this have to do with reducing poverty???
When do shootings happen?

Large share of Chicago homicides occur between 6am and 10pm.
Where do most shootings happen? Outdoors

4 in 5 homicides committed outside
The Effect of Local Violence on Children’s Attention and Impulse Control

Exposure to a homicide within 2500 feet of the home address increased mental health symptoms by 43%, a highly significant effect.
Think about how many homicides occur within a half-mile if you lived in, say, Englewood?
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Children living in areas where homicides committed have lower reading, verbal test scores, study finds

Date: June 14, 2010
Source: New York University
29% ↓ in shootings in Englewood =

↑ student learning by ~ ½ year of school
$250 million will bring ‘transformative change’ to 10 South, West side neighborhoods, Lightfoot says

The neighborhoods targeted for the unprecedented infusion are: Auburn Gresham, North Lawndale, Austin, Englewood, Humboldt Park, Quad Communities, New City, Roseland, South Chicago and South Shore.

By Fran Spielman | Oct 21, 2019, 4:40pm CDT
In the line of fire

In Austin, Chicago’s deadliest neighborhood, business owners struggle to stay afloat while keeping themselves and their customers safe.

LORENE YUE

JULY 21, 2012

“People are afraid of coming out here to shop because all they hear about is the gunfire on the streets.”
In the line of fire
In Austin, Chicago’s deadliest neighborhood, business owners struggle to stay afloat while keeping themselves and their customers safe
LORENE YUE
JULY 21, 2012

“People are afraid of coming out here to shop because all they hear about is the gunfire on the streets.”

1 additional homicide
"People are afraid of coming out here to shop because all they hear about is the gunfire on the streets."
Of course public safety far more than just fixing up abandoned lots...
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Chicago YAP Choose to Change (C2C) Participants Sit Down with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin
Of course public safety far more than just fixing up abandoned lots…

53% OF INMATES IN STATE PRISONS HAVE A DRUG USE DISORDER.

LESS THAN 15% RECEIVE TREATMENT.

It’s time for real drug policy reform. Learn more about the Obama Administration’s Plan to break the cycle of drug use, crime, and incarceration.

Sources:
So how are we doing in addressing violence?
Homicide Rate in Chicago, 1985-2019
But what progress we’re making is very uneven across the city
Homicide Rate in Lincoln Park, 1985-2019

Lincoln Park
Homicide Rate in Lincoln Park, 1985-2019

Lincoln Park

85% Reduction in homicides
Homicide Rate in Garfield Park, 1985-2019

Homicides per 100K
Garfield Park

Homicide Rate in Garfield Park, 1985-2019

117% Increase in homicides
**Virtuous Cycle**

Increased human capital

Population growth

Economic development, taxes

Increased human capital

**Vicious Cycle**

Gun violence

Trauma

Depressed schooling outcomes

Lost population and taxes

Safe & peaceful communities

Economic development, taxes

Population growth

Safe & peaceful communities