

City of Chicago Unveils ‘Violence Reduction Dashboard’ Co-Designed by University of Chicago Crime Lab and Dozens of Community Organizations

Dashboard provides near-real-time violence data to increase public sector accountability, foster more effective violence reduction efforts

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Chicago, IL – As cities across the country try to combat the dramatic increase in violence over the last year, the City of Chicago officially launched the first public [Violence Reduction Dashboard](#), leading the nation in providing unprecedented access to violence data. [University of Chicago Crime Lab](#) data scientists and analysts helped design and develop the tool, incorporating input from community-level street outreach organizations, victim services providers, advocates, and representatives of City departments. The tool includes data on domestic and gun violence victimization and the City’s response to violence, allowing stakeholders to identify resource needs and effectively deploy support services to help address the widening disparities in safety across Chicago’s neighborhoods. In addition to the dashboard, the underlying data will be available through the City’s Open Data Portal providing open and transparent access to all users.

"It is critically important for our communities to have access to information and data on the state of violence throughout our city, and this dashboard will be a monumental value-add toward making that access more equitable," said **Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot**. "The transparency and accessibility created by this tool are vital not only for our residents but also our many nonprofit partners who work to address our city's challenges with reducing violence. With the Violence Reduction Dashboard, we will be able to create a more level playing field for our community organizations and residents as we work together to both understand the levels of violence in their neighborhoods and respond quickly and holistically to changing trends."

For the first time, organizations, activists, residents, and the media will be able to access near-real-time crime victimization and mapping data that will be updated daily to help identify violence reduction strategies and prioritize resource allocation. The Violence Reduction Dashboard will be particularly important to helping street outreach organizations, service providers, and city agencies more effectively coordinate their work as they focus on addressing the last year’s increase in gun violence. In addition to informing targeted strategies to reduce violence in the short term, the Dashboard will also help identify where more significant investments may be necessary to address the root causes of violence over the longer term.

“Efforts to address the root causes of violence will be most effective if they’re directed to where they’re most needed, and our hope is that this public data tool can be useful for that purpose,” said **Crime Lab Faculty Director Jens Ludwig**. “The need to address the root causes of violence has never been more important in the face of a once-in-a-century public health crisis and economic crisis.”

“Accurate, accessible data is a critical tool for identifying and describing the extraordinary disparities in public safety across Chicago, helping direct resources to where they are most needed, and holding ourselves and our systems accountable to ensure that we’re making real progress,” said **Crime Lab Executive Director Roseanna Ander**. “The Violence Reduction Dashboard can help transform the way we think about and create public safety in Chicago and help the city take a big step forward toward ensuring the resources go where they are most needed.”

As violence prevention organizations and communities maintain and ramp up their efforts, the Violence Reduction Dashboard provides a first-of-its-kind opportunity to create a shared understanding of the complex dynamics of violent incidents and identify where rapid response approaches can focus.

“While unacceptable rates of violence in our city remain a sobering reality that our organization and the communities we serve must confront each and every day, the launch of the Dashboard offers new opportunities for how we can collectively make our blocks safer,” said [New Life Centers of Chicagoland Executive Director Matt De Mateo](#). [Enlace Chicago Executive Director Katya Nuques](#) added, “We are grateful to have played a role in the design of the Dashboard and to take part in this pioneering move toward improved transparency and accountability.”

“There are many different drivers of violence in our city and the Violence Reduction Dashboard allows for those who are directly working to decrease the violence to have a tool that helps them get in front of the violence and work to reduce retaliation,” said **Fr. David Kelly, Executive Director of [Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation](#)**. “It is imperative that we work together across all sectors to confront the violence crisis in our city.”

Funding and support for the development of the Violence Reduction Dashboard including the Crime Lab’s strategic analysis and technical assistance was generously provided by the [Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation](#) and [Chicago CRED](#). “The Violence Reduction Dashboard will serve as an important tool to better inform public and private resource allocation, and systems and strategies focused on reducing violence in our city,” said **Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation Executive Director Julie Wilen**. “We are thrilled to be a part of the catalytic philanthropic investment to support its development and rollout and we hope that residents, organizations, funders, and policymakers use it in their vital work.”