Gun Violence in Chicago
and what could have been...

Harnessing Data to
Advance Justice and
Reduce Gun Violence

March 2022
Gun deaths surpass car crashes for leading traumatic cause of premature deaths

City of Little Rock declares violent crime a public health emergency amid surge in shootings

'We'll do it ourselves': Lakeview residents add more patrols in their neighborhood amid crime surge
We don’t have a crime problem – it’s a gun violence problem

Source: Chalfin and McCrary (2018)
We don’t have a crime problem – it’s a gun violence problem

Source: Chalfin and McCrary (2018)
US Homicide Rate per 100,000
1950 - 2020

Source: Crime in the United States, FBI, Uniform Crime Reports
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1950 - 2020

Source: Crime in the United States, FBI, Uniform Crime Reports

NO LONG TERM PROGRESS
(homicide rate if anything a little higher than in 1950)
Chicago Homicides per 100,000 Residents by Racial Demographics of Community Area, 1991 - 2021

- Majority Black
- Majority Latin
- Majority White
- Other

Predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods vs. White neighborhoods.
Chicago Homicides per 100,000 Residents by Racial Demographics of Community Area, 1991 - 2021

- Majority Black neighborhoods
- Predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods
- Majority White neighborhoods
- Other neighborhoods

Graph showing the trend of Chicago homicides per 100,000 residents from 1991 to 2021, with data points for each racial demographic.
The Problem
‘The only victim in this case is dead’: Mourning for 5-year-old Eric

CRIME

‘Superpredators’ Arrive

Should we cage the new breed of vicious kids?

By Peter Annin

On Oct. 13, 1994, 5-year-old Eric Morse and his 8-year-old brother, Derrick, ran into two of the toughest bullies their South Side Chicago neighborhood had to offer. The intimidating boys lured the brothers to a vacant

where is the state supposed to put these two killers? A judge is scheduled to rule in the case next week. Around the country, other states are watching. They have their own predators to worry about.

It wouldn’t be a problem if Illinois’s special 30-bed “kiddie prison” weren’t still un
How has this been going?
INCARCERATION RATES
COMPARING ILLINOIS
AND FOUNDING NATO COUNTRIES

United States: 664
Illinois: 457
United Kingdom: 129
Portugal: 111
Canada: 104
France: 93
Belgium: 93
Italy: 89
Luxembourg: 86
Denmark: 72
Netherlands: 63
Norway: 56
Iceland: 33

Incarceration rates per 100,000 population

Source: https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2021.html
ILLINOIS INCARCERATION RATES
BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2010
(Number of people incarcerated per 100,000 people in that racial/ethnic group)

Source: Calculated from U.S. Census 2010 Summary File 3. Incarceration populations are all types of correctional facilities in a state, including federal and state prisons, local jails, halfway houses, etc. Statistics for Whites are for Non-Hispanic Whites.
Note what didn’t change...
Note what didn’t change...

Their moral character
Note what didn’t change...

Their moral character  Their income
HUD Moving to Opportunity demonstration, effects on violent crime arrests to teens

Robert Taylor
Hyde Park
Neighborhood condition
HUD Moving to Opportunity demonstration, effects on violent crime arrests to teens

Robert Taylor
Hyde Park

Neighborhood condition

# violent crimes per teen

38% reduction in violent crimes

November 2021

University of Chicago Crime Lab | City Club
March 2022
A different view of why people commit violence
Motives for Chicago Homicides, 1965-1995

- Sexual Assault: 1.40%
- Money/Gang War/Instrumental: 20.90%
- Altercation: 77.70%

Source: Block and Block, ICPSR
We have an “arguments with guns” problem
We have an “arguments with guns” problem

HEATED WORDS OVER BIKE

DE-ESCALATE

ESCALATE
We have an “arguments with guns” problem
We have an “arguments with guns” problem
Homicide Rate per 100k by Weapon

- Non-Gun Homicide Rate
- Gun Homicide Rate

Source: GunPolicy.org
Daily life
“See word” (over and over)
Daily life
“See word” (over and over)

Adaptive automatic response
“See word, read word”
**Daily life**
“See word” (over and over)

**Adaptive automatic response**
“See word, read word”

**Out-of-the-ordinary situation**
(Stroop = “see word, say color”)
**Daily life**

“Get challenged” (over and over)
**Daily life**
“Get challenged” (over and over)

**Adaptive automatic response**
“Get challenged, push back”
Daily life
“Get challenged” (over and over)

Adaptive automatic response
“Get challenged, push back”

Out-of-the-ordinary situation
Someone has a gun
Daily life
“Get challenged” (over and over)
**Daily life**
“Get challenged” (over and over)

**Adaptive automatic response**
“Comply, then go tell the security guard on the corner”
**Daily life**

“Get challenged” (over and over)

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**Adaptive automatic response**

“Comply, then go tell the security guard on the corner”

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**Out-of-the-ordinary situation**

Someone has a gun
Chicago is the most segregated city in America
But we can’t afford to just wait—we must also act now.
“If I let you kids redo just 10 minutes of your lives, none of you would be here.”
Interrupting violent events

BAM
BECOMING A MAN
Interrupting violent events

BAM
BECOMING A MAN

Choose 2 Change
Interrupting violent events

BAM
BECOMING A MAN

Choose 2 Change

External interruption

KOB
KIDS OFF THE BLOCK

READI CHICAGO
A HEARTLAND ALLIANCE PROGRAM
Interrupting violent events

BAM
BECOMING A MAN

Choose 2 Change

SAFE STREETS
STOP SHOOTING. START LIVING.

READI CHICAGO
A HEARTLAND ALLIANCE PROGRAM

External interruption

KIDS OFF THE BLOCK
Interrupting violent events

Choose 2 Change

READI Chicago

A Heartland Alliance Program

Safe Streets

Stop shooting. Start living.

External interruption

KOB - Kids Off the Block
So what would this look like concretely?
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25,000 people at highest risk commit 50% Chicago shootings
So what would this look like concretely?

25,000 people at highest risk commit 50% Chicago shootings + Assume $25k/person cost and 50% ↓ in violence
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$625M gets us a 25% drop in gun violence
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Invest in some mix (TBD) of violence interrupters, unarmed security guards, or police
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  25% increase in police $ ↓ murders by 25%—so if we only invest in things that are at least as effective as police...
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- 25% increase in police $ ↓ murders by 25%-so if we only invest in things that are at least as effective as police...

$425M gets another 25% drop in gun violence
Where might the money for this (call it $1B per year) come from?

Note: Chicago budget and Illinois state budget represent the general fund; CPS budget represents the portion of operating budget from local sources.
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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?

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Chicago Tribune
Chicago area leads U.S. in population loss

The New York Times
As Chicago Seeks a New Mayor, Many Black Residents Are Leaving
- Downtown Chicago is booming, tourist dollars are pouring in — and African-Americans are moving out.

Which direction will we go?
Bonus Slides
How did LA and NYC get their violence down?
Violence interruption

Interrupting ourselves

SAFE STREETS
KIDS OFF THE BLOCK
BECOMING A MAN
Choose 2 Change
READI CHICAGO

The LA / NYC approaches
How did LA and NYC get their violence down?

Source: LA Times, UCR
Violence interruption

Interrupting ourselves

SAFE STREETS
STOP SHOOTING. START LIVING.

KIDS OFF THE BLOCK

BECOMING A MAN

Choose 2 Change

Chicago’s Approach

READI CHICAGO
A HEARTLAND ALLIANCE PROGRAM
We know a handful of neighborhoods make up a disproportionate share of Chicago’s gun violence.

8% of population, 28% of violence

5% of blocks, 34% of gun violence