The City of Chicago's Public Safety and Violence Reduction Data - *July 2021*

The City of Chicago offers public access to several sources of data on crime and violence in Chicago. These sources are outlined here along with key points about how they are distinguished from one another. Each of these data sources originate with the Chicago Police Department (CPD).

	Violence Reduction Dashboard *www.chicago.gov/vrdashboard*	Violence Reduction Datasets *City of Chicago data portal*	Crimes (2001 to present) *City of Chicago data portal*	Arrests *City of Chicago data portal*	CPD Annual Reports *CPD Website*
Description / overview	• Homicides/non-fatal shooting victims • All violent victimizations • ShotSpotter Alerts	Four datasets: • ShotSpotter Alerts • Victims of homicides and non-fatal shootings • Victim demographics – aggregated • Authorized Access only – Violent victimizations *(access instructions on next page)*	Reported incidents of crime that occurred in the City of Chicago from 2001 to present	• Department-wide arrests executed by the CPD • Authorized-access version with more detail on demographics *(access instructions on next page)*	Total annual counts of: • Homicides, non-fatal shootings, and Victim Demographics • Violent Crime, Property Crime, Victim Demographics • Arrests
Crime types	Reported violent victimizations: Homicide, Non-fatal shootings, Criminal Sexual Assault, Robbery, Vehicle Hijacking, Aggravated Battery, Aggravated Assault, Human Trafficking, ShotSpotter		All reported crime incidents	All arrests	Violent Crime: Aggravated Assault, Aggravated Battery, Criminal Sexual Assault, Homicide, Human Trafficking, Robbery. Property Crime: Arson, Burglary, Motor Vehicle Theft, Theft
Update frequency	Daily, up to 48-hour lag	Daily, up to 48-hour lag	Daily, 7-day lag	Daily, 5-day lag	Annually
Format	Dashboard with interactive visualizations	Rows and columns dataset manipulable through the data portal software, accessible through APIs, and exportable in CSV and other formats			Report (PDF)
Key features	• Focus on victimization counts and demographics • Includes aggregate counts of domestic and juvenile victimizations • Historical account of homicides and shootings		Focus on crime incidents	Adult arrests (Arrestee is 18 years of age or older on the date of arrest)	Focus on crime incidents and arrests, with supplemental victim demographic data
Time periods	2010 to present	• ShotSpotter Alerts: 2017-present • Victims of homicides and non-fatal shootings: Homicides (1991-Present), Non-fatal shootings (2010-present) • Victim demographics – aggregated: 2001-present • Authorized Access only – Violent victimizations: Homicides (1991-Present), Non-fatal shootings (2010-present), Other violent victims (2001-present)	2001 to present	2014 to present	1965-2010, 2017-Present
Privacy protections	No information on individuals	***Excludes***: Individual-level information on domestic victimizations, juvenile victimizations, and sensitive crime types are excluded from the authorized access table.	No information on individuals	***Excludes***: Juvenile arrests, and other arrest records expunged by CPD pursuant to the Illinois Criminal Identification Act (20 ILCS 2630/5.2)	No information on individuals

Notes about all data sources

Crime type classifications throughout each data source reflect only the highest-level crime involved in any one event or victimization, as applicable. In some instances, the police department's raw incident-level data and victim-level data that were inputs into this dataset do not align on the type of crime that occurred. In those instances, this dataset attempts to correct mismatches between incident and victim specific crime types. When it is not possible to determine which victims are associated with the most recent crime determination, the dataset will show empty cells in the respective demographic fields (age, sex, race, etc.).

In addition, due to the nature of CPD operations and often changing circumstances, some recorded data about incidents and victimizations may change once additional information arises and regularly updated datasets on the City's public portal may change to reflect new or corrected information. For example, a non-fatal shooting may become fatal and the victimization would be eventually updated to reflect a fatal shooting.

Overview of each data source

1. The Violence Reduction Dashboard counts victimizations, whereas CPD routinely reports crime data at the incident-level (except for homicides), to represent the number of individuals directly impacted by violence and support violence reduction partners who respond to victims. Any given crime incident may be associated with more than one victimization. As a result, a comparison between the Dashboard (which reports data at the victimization-level) and other sources of data reported by the City at the incident-level (such as the City's Crimes, 2001-present dataset, discussed more below) may not result in a direct match.

2. Victim-Level Datasets on the Data Portal: Along with the launch of the Dashboard, the City of Chicago released several victimization-level datasets that include the Dashboard's underlying data. Those datasets and more comprehensive descriptions are available on the City's data portal:

    a. Victims of Homicides and Non-Fatal Shootings: This dataset contains *individual-level* demographic, location, and crime type data on homicide and non-fatal shooting victimizations. Each row represents a single homicide or non-fatal shooting victimization, i.e., a unique event when an individual became the victim of a homicide or non-fatal shooting. Each row does not represent a unique victim—if someone is victimized multiple times there will be multiple rows for each of those distinct events.

    b. Victim Demographics – Aggregated: This dataset includes *aggregated* data on violent crime victimizations, focusing on violent index crime victimizations that involve bodily harm or the threat of bodily harm, including homicides and shootings *as well as* additional violent index crime types. Unlike the demographic information in the homicides and shooting victim dataset, each row includes demographic information that is aggregated up to victimization type, age group, sex, race, and whether the victimization was domestic-related. Data is not broken out by year; victimization counts shown account for all years in the dataset. In order to protect the privacy of victims, this dataset does not include any victimization counts of 3 or less.

    c. Victims – Authorized Access: To make a request to view this dataset, please email dataportal@cityofchicago.org with the subject line: "Violence Reduction Victims Access Request". Access will require an account on this site, which you may create at https://data.cityofchicago.org/signup.

    In order to release additional individual-level victimization data while also prioritizing the privacy of victims and minimizing the risk of re-identification, the City released a third dataset on violent victimizations, accessed only with authorization from the City of Chicago. This dataset includes *individual-level data* on violent victimizations, including both homicides and shootings as well as violent crimes that do not involve a gun. This dataset focuses on the same violent crime victimization types as featured in the "Aggregated" dataset described above, with one key difference: this protected dataset *excludes* data on sensitive crime types (i.e. criminal sexual assault, human trafficking) as well as victimizations with juvenile and domestic victims. As a result, a comparison between this authorized access dataset and the numbers reflected on the Violence Reduction Dashboard may not yield a direct match when those sensitive types are included in the Dashboard's filtered results.

3. The Crimes dataset on the City's data portal is reported at the incident-level. Any given incident may be associated with more than one victimization. As a result, a comparison between the City's CRIMES dataset (reporting data at the incident-level) and the Dashboard or any of the underlying victimization-level datasets may not result in a direct match.

4. The Arrests datasets on the City's data portal report includes adult arrests executed by CPD from the CPD Automated Arrest application within CLEAR.

5. CPD annual crime reports are reported at the incident-level, grouped based on the Illinois UCR crime reporting, and by the date that the incident occurred. In 2020, slight changes were made, with reporting shifting to be solely based on Illinois UCR crime reporting standards. Homicides are counted based on victims. Victim demographic tables summarize the demographics of victims, while other tables in the reports summarize data at the incident-level; as a result, victim demographic tables will not necessarily match incident-level data found in the reports. Victims are counted by the incident they are associated with although the methodology differs from other publicly available sources.