

Gun violence becomes leading cause of death among US youth, data shows

30% increase in gun-related deaths among Americans up to age 19 between 2019-2020 (suicide, accidental shootings, HOMICIDES).

African Americans make up 14% of the population accounted for nearly 50% of the nation's homicide victims (FBI 2021).

Although 2020 marked the first year that more children and teens were killed by guns than in car accidents, gun violence has been the number one cause of death among Black teenage boys over 15 for at least 10 years (CDC data).

A report reveals a 30% increase in firearm-related deaths between 2019 and 2020, including incidents of suicides and accidental shootings



📷 Gun-related deaths among young Americans increased nearly 30% between 2019 and 2020.
Photograph: Spencer Platt/Getty Images

1	St. Louis, MO	88.1	263	2,016
2	Petersburg, VA	76.9	24	632
3	Pine Bluff, AR	56.5	23	1,832
4	New Orleans, LA	51.0	201	1,324
5	Saginaw, MI	50.2	24	2,154
6	Detroit, MI	49.7	328	2,179
7	Trenton, NJ	48.2	40	1,169
8	Harrisburg, PA	46.7	23	857
9	Baton Rouge, LA	46.5	102	952
10	Flint, MI	46.4	44	1,050
11	Riviera Beach, FL	44.7	16	1,196
12	Memphis, TN	44.4	289	2,352
13	Wilmington, DE	44.2	31	1,591

Rank	City	Murders per 100,000 people, 2020	Total murders, 2020	Violent crimes per 100,000 people, 2020
14	Cleveland, OH	42.2	160	1,657
15	Alexandria, LA	41.3	19	1,848
16	Monroe, LA	40.3	19	2,969
17	Shreveport, LA	37.2	69	923
18	Portsmouth, VA	36.1	34	920
19	Kansas City, MO	35.2	176	1,586
20	Dayton, OH	32.8	46	1,086
21	Milwaukee, WI	32.4	191	1,597
22	North Charleston, SC	32.3	38	1,145
23	San Bernardino, CA	31.4	68	1,402
24	Florence, SC	31.1	12	1,456
25	Kankakee, IL	30.9	8	943

Rank	City	Murders per 100,000 people, 2020	Total murders, 2020	Violent crimes per 100,000 people, 2020
26	Cincinnati, OH	30.2	92	893
27	North Little Rock, AR	30.2	20	1,003
28	Chicago, IL	28.6	771	987
29	Jacksonville, AR	28.4	8	1,159
30	Richmond, VA	28.3	66	349
31	Washington, D.C.	27.8	198	958
32	South Bend, IN	27.4	28	1,728
33	Danville, IL	26.5	8	1,672
34	Albany, GA	26.5	19	1,724
35	Douglasville, GA	26.2	9	567
36	Warren, OH	26.0	10	450
37	Sumter, SC	25.3	10	1,242
38	Hallandale Beach, FL	24.9	10	498

Rank	City	Murders per 100,000 people, 2020	Total murders, 2020	Violent crimes per 100,000 people, 2020
38	Hallandale Beach, FL	24.9	10	498
39	Little Rock, AR	24.8	49	1,850
40	Dania Beach, FL	24.6	8	624
41	Indianapolis, IN	24.3	216	871
42	Rocky Mount, NC	24.3	13	1,149
43	Hazelwood, MO	24.0	6	655
44	Atlantic City, NJ	24.0	9	823
45	Buffalo, NY	24.0	61	1,018
46	Charleston, WV	23.9	11	921
47	Akron, OH	23.8	47	910
48	Rochester, NY	23.4	48	819
49	Dover, DE	23.4	9	856
50	Oakland, CA	23.3	102	1,291

Annual Research Review: Youth firearm violence disparities in the United States and implications for prevention

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Objective: Research has identified the United States (U.S.) as a global outlier in its firearm ownership rates, with a correspondingly higher risk of youth firearm violence compared to other countries. The relative extent of disparities in youth firearm violence within the U.S. has been less clear. Little is known about factors in the social ecology driving these disparities and whether current firearm violence prevention approaches sufficiently address them. **Method:** Applying a health disparities framework, we synthesized epidemiological, sociological, and prevention science literatures, emphasizing structural inequalities in youth sociocultural positionality in life course developmental context. We also highlighted findings from national injury data and other studies regarding the magnitude and impacts of youth firearm violence disparities. **Results:** The burden of firearm violence varied markedly at intersections of gender, race, place, developmental stage, and homicidal or suicidal intent. Firearm homicide among Black boys and young men (ages 15–24) was at outlier levels - many times greater than the rates of any other demographic group, developmental stage, or violence intent, particularly in urban settings. Recent research has operationalized structural racism and implicated historically racialized spaces as a root cause of this disparity. In contrast, elevated firearm suicide rates were found among Native and White boys and young men in rural settings; firearm-related cultural attitudes and gender socialization were points of consideration to explain these disparities. We highlighted research-based youth firearm violence preventive interventions, and emphasized gaps in efforts focused on structural and sociocultural factors. **Conclusions:** More explicit attention to reducing firearm homicide among Black boys and young men and firearm suicide among Native and rural White boys and young men is urgently needed and has potential to substantially lower overall rates of firearm violence in the U.S. **Keywords:** Adolescence; firearm violence; prevention; structural inequality; socio-cultural influence; racial disparities.

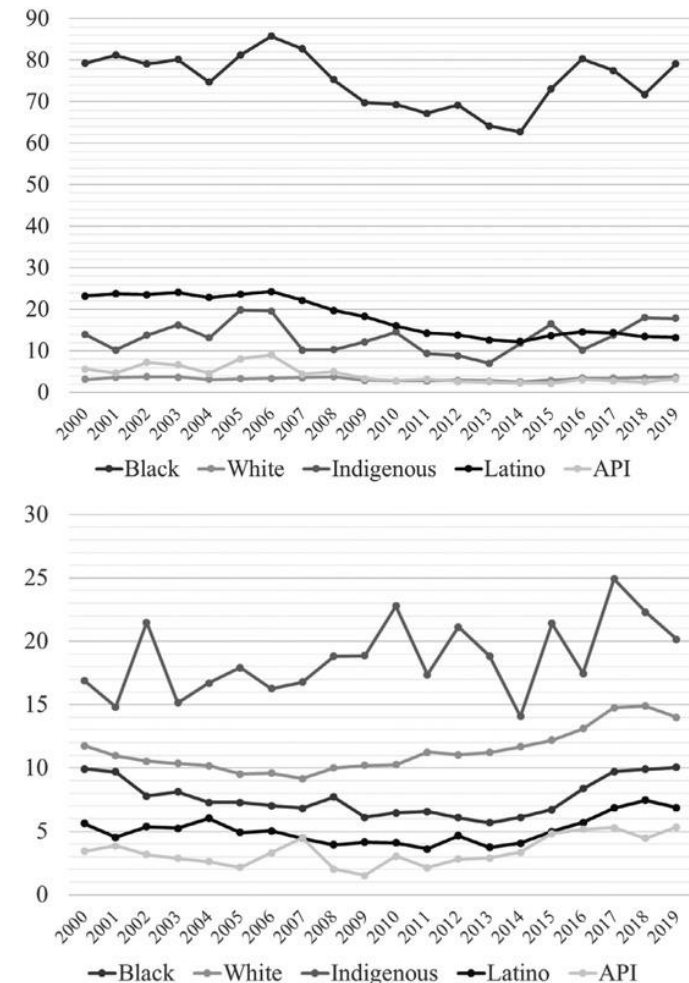


Figure 1 Disparities by race and ethnicity in age-adjusted per capita firearm homicide (top, scale 0 to 90) and suicide (bottom, scale 0 to 30) rates among U.S. male youth ages 15–24 from 2000 to 2019. API = Asian and Pacific Islander. Data source is WISQARS (CDC, 2019)

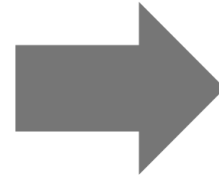
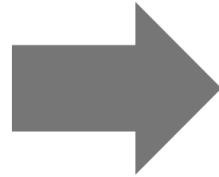
Predicting and Preventing Gun Violence: An Experimental Evaluation of READI Chicago

Presentation for the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab
June 11, 2020

Monica P. Bhatt, Ph.D. | University of Chicago Crime Lab
Sara Heller, Ph.D. | University of Michigan
With Chasda Martin, A.M. | Heartland Alliance

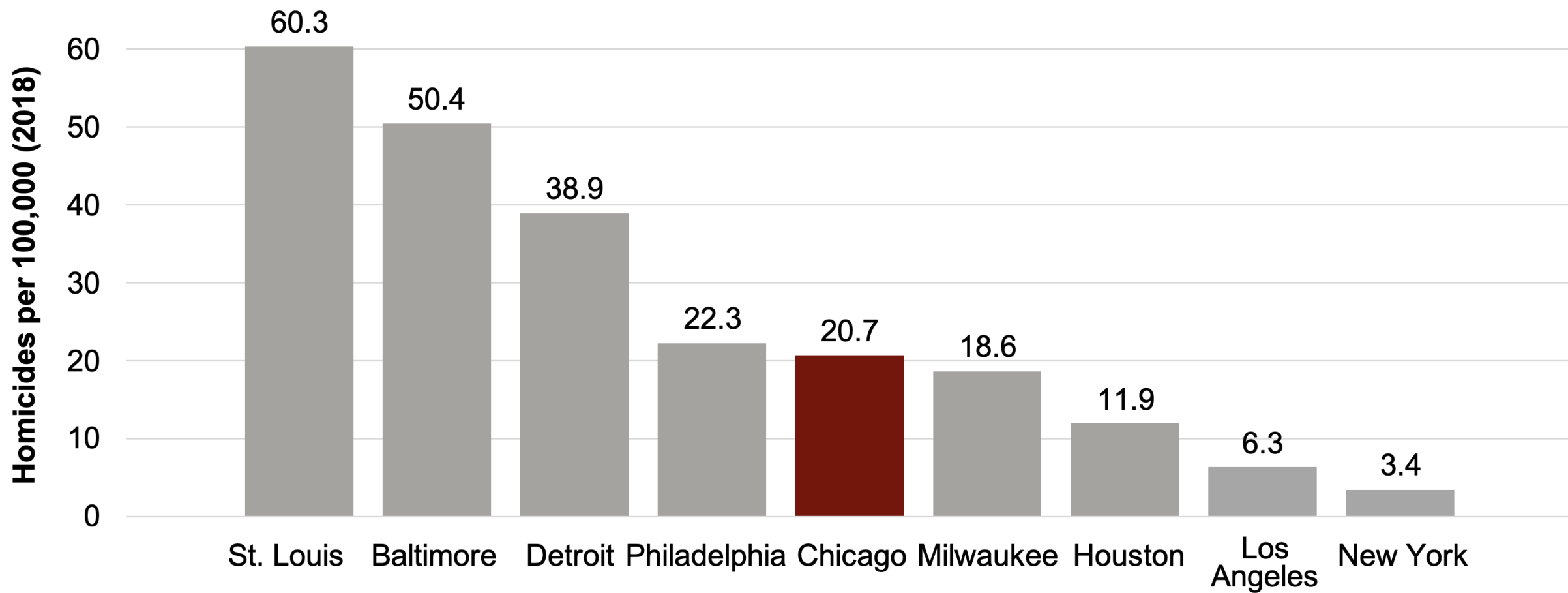


READI born out of researcher-practitioner collaboration



**CBT+
JOBS**

Collaborative discussions **Review of evidence** **Basic program model** between researchers and Heartland Alliance



Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

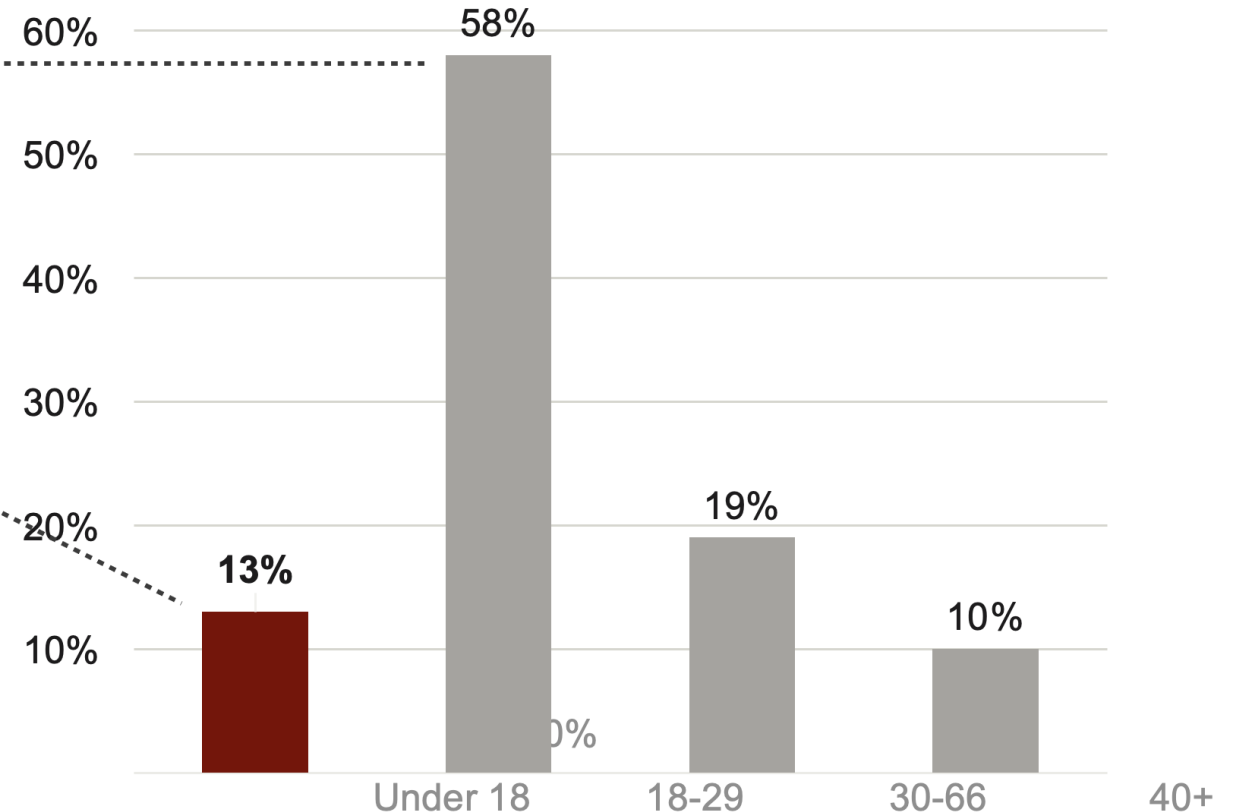
Service gap for the majority of shooting victims

Ages of Shooting Victims (2016)

But 87% of shooting victims 18+

Many programs offered to youth

- Aftercare
- Becoming a Man (B.A.M.)
- Enlace Chicago
- Gang School Safety Team
- One Summer Chicago
- One Summer PLUS
- R.I.S.E.
- Street and School Intervention Program



Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

1

**Can we identify
who will be at
highest risk of gun
violence
involvement?**

2

**Can we engage
them in an
initiative like
READI?**

3

**Will READI reduce
violence
involvement?**

Community-based organizations central to design



Research Design



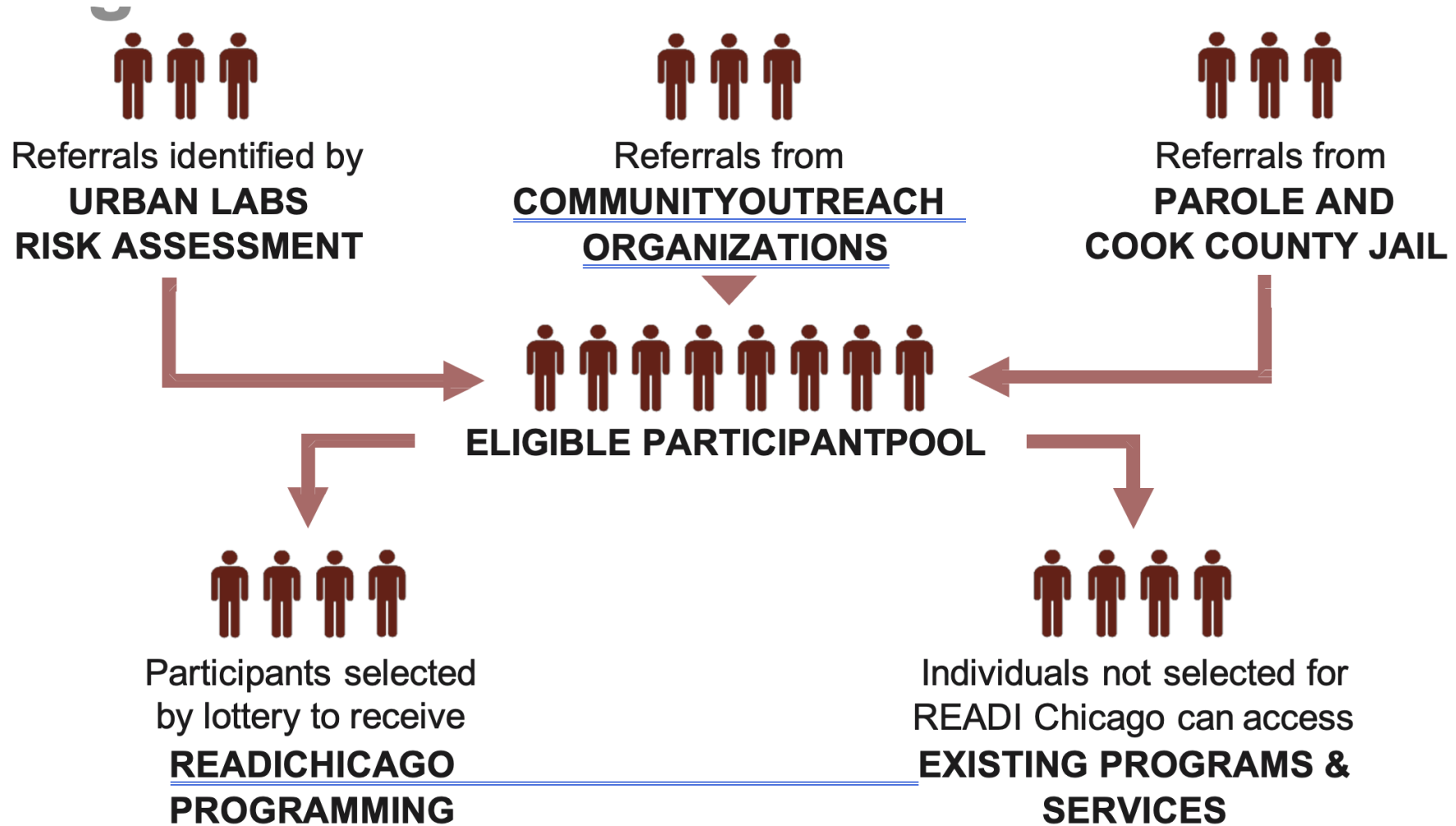


Photo credit: *Chicago Tribune*

24 Months of Programming



Relentless Engagement

Intensive outreach that won't give up on difficult-to-engage participants



Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

CBT infused throughout READI including group sessions



Employment Opportunities

Skill development, increased responsibilities, pay raises



Key Takeaway #1

We *can* predict who will be at highest risk of future gun violence.

Key Takeaway #2

Participants are taking up the program at higher rates than expected.

READI CHICAGO IS AN INNOVATIVE RESPONSE TO GUN VIOLENCE IN CHICAGO.

We work toward safer communities by addressing trauma and increasing opportunity among men most likely to experience gun violence. Based on evidence that combining cognitive behavioral therapy and access to economic opportunity can help individuals stay safer, we work through community-based organizations to directly engage men at the highest risk of experiencing violence and connect them with mental health supports, paid transitional jobs and professional development, and support services. [Learn more here.](#)

12

MONTH PROGRAM
CAREER PATHWAY

READI engages participants long-term in order to meet the acute and complex needs of individuals with high exposure to violence and trauma, and to prepare them for career paths.

PROGRAM

45

TIMES MORE AT RISK

READI is highly targeted in order to have the greatest impact. Compared with the average Chicagoan, the men we work with are 45 times more likely to experience gun violence.

PARTICIPANTS

32%

REDUCTION IN
SHOOTINGS &
HOMICIDES

An early analysis of READI participant outcomes indicates that participating in the program may reduce the likelihood of experiencing or perpetrating shootings and homicides.

IMPACT

Sara B. Heller, Anuj K. Shah, Jonathan Guryan, Jens Ludwig, Sendhil Mullainathan & Harold A. Pollack

SHARE   

WORKING PAPER 21178

DOI 10.3386/w21178

ISSUE DATE May 2015

REVISION DATE August 2016

We present the results of three large-scale randomized controlled trials (RCTs) carried out in Chicago, testing interventions to reduce crime and dropout by changing the decision-making of economically disadvantaged youth. We study a program called Becoming a Man (BAM), developed by the non-profit Youth Guidance, in two RCTs implemented in 2009–10 and 2013–15. In the two studies participation in the program reduced total arrests during the intervention period by 28–35%, reduced violent-crime arrests by 45–50%, improved school engagement, and in the first study where we have follow-up data, increased graduation rates by 12–19%. The third RCT tested a program with partially overlapping components carried out in the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC), which reduced readmission rates to the facility by 21%. These large behavioral responses combined with modest program costs imply benefit-cost ratios for these interventions from 5-to-1 up to 30-to-1 or more. Our data on mechanisms are not ideal, but we find no positive evidence that these effects are due to changes in emotional intelligence or social skills, self-control or “grit,” or a generic mentoring effect. We find suggestive support for the hypothesis that the programs work by helping youth slow down and reflect on whether their automatic thoughts and behaviors are well suited to the situation they are in, or whether the situation could be construed differently.

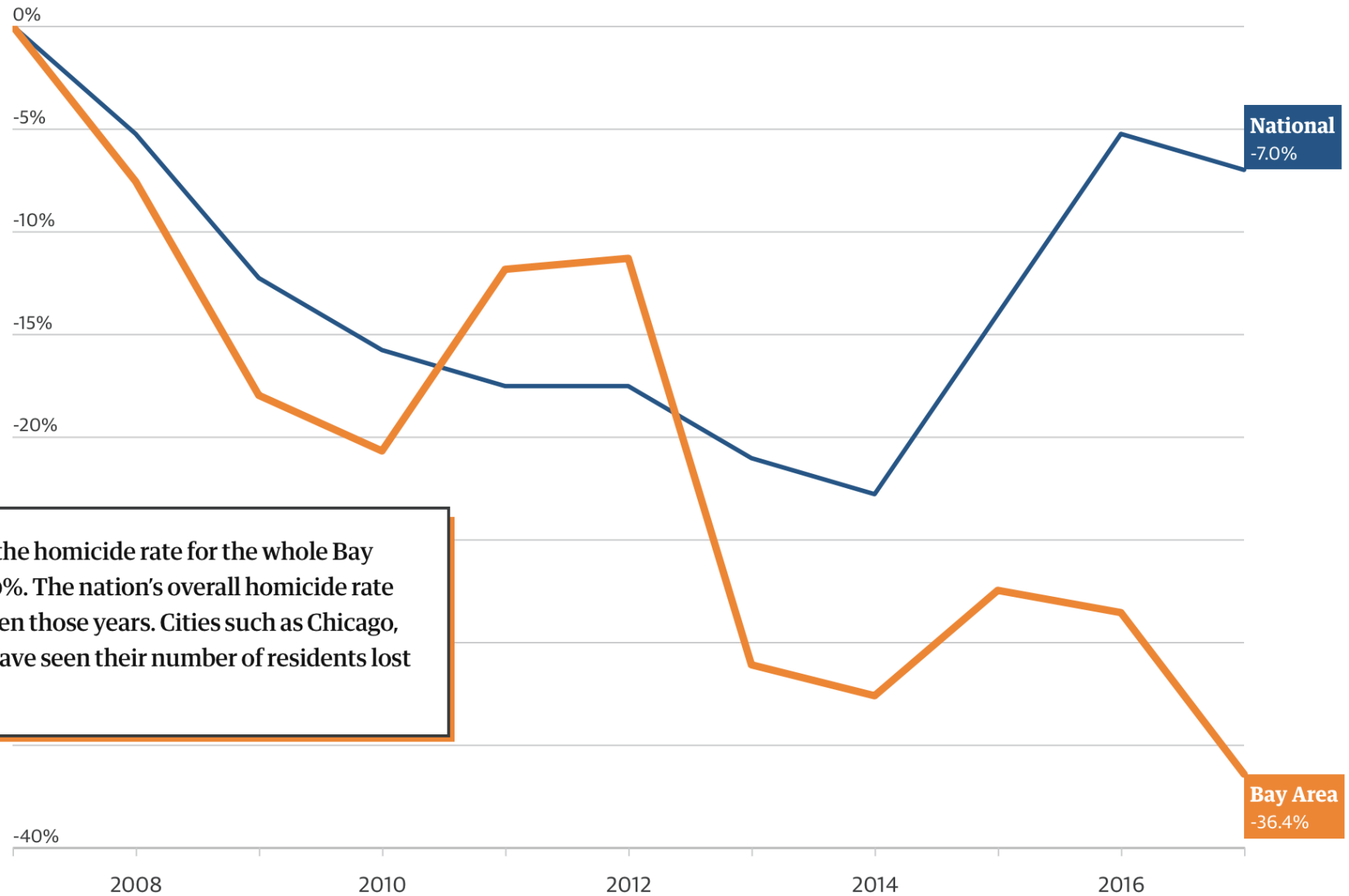
Advance Peace

Advance Peace

Advance Peace (AP) is a non-profit organization that identifies the most lethal individuals at the center of gun violence in a community, provides them with seven-days-a-week mentoring and supportive relationships using street outreach workers and delivers services and supports to these individuals during an eighteen-month

program called the Peacemaker Fellowship. AP builds upon elements of successful focused deterrence and public-health programs, such as Ceasefire and Cure Violence but, as this document highlights, AP has significant differences from these programs that sets it apart and distinguishes its approach and measures of impact.

Homicide rates
Percent change since 2007; 2007-2017



Between 2007 and 2017, the homicide rate for the whole Bay Area fell by more than 30%. The nation's overall homicide rate fell only about 7% between those years. Cities such as Chicago, St Louis and Baltimore have seen their number of residents lost to violence rise.

So, what's actually working?

At the heart of the different strategies Bay Area cities are using are the same basic elements: data, dollars, and community leadership, including leadership from formerly incarcerated residents.

“The common context among each of these cities - Richmond, Oakland, and San Francisco - is that they have adopted community-driven, non-law enforcement approaches, and they’ve been robustly funded,” said DeVone Boggan, who lead Richmond’s Office of Neighborhood Safety as it developed a nationally recognized fellowship program for men at highest risk of violence. Boggan now leads leads Advance Peace, an organization spreading that strategy to more cities.

“We have to extend the idea of what public safety is beyond policing and incarceration, to include these things like intervention, outreach and neighborhood empowerment,” Boggan said. “That’s the game changer. That’s the difference-maker.”

Advance  Peace





Advance  Peace

“
Much research notes that focused deterrence strategies are not reaching the most high-risk and dangerous individuals in communities and additional tools to combat community violence would be valuable.”

The Problem

More than 117,000 people are shot in America annually. Gun homicides are disproportionately concentrated in urban areas, particularly in impoverished and underserved communities of color. Such neighborhoods are too often plagued by homicide rates on par with warzones.¹

Frequently, both public and community-based systems of care fall short in their efforts to provide responsive opportunities and resources to those most involved with and affected by urban gun violence. Because those who are suspected of gun crimes in urban communities have often already been failed by the available systems of care, those who need the services most are least likely to trust the systems that provide them.²

Table 1 Comparison of Focused Deterrence & Advance Peace

	Focused Deterrence	Advance Peace (AP)
Theory of change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change the violent behavior of gangs by implementing a blended strategy of law enforcement, community mobilization, and social services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• End cyclical & retaliatory urban gun violence by investing in the development, health, and healing of highly influential individuals at the center of urban gun violence.
Clients	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individuals in gangs or street groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highly influential individuals at the center of gun violence, who become fellows in the Peacemaker Fellowship
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group (gangs) norm change &/or neighborhood gun crime ‘hot-spots’	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual healthy human development• Individual & community healing from unaddressed traumas that contribute to violence
Deterrence theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase certainty, swiftness & severity of sanctions associated with gun violence;• New knowledge & peer pressure will change behaviors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Everyday engagement, mentoring and love can support traumatized, high risk people to heal and make more healthy decisions.
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Street-outreach workers perform conflict mediation;• Separate mentors help clients navigate social services, education & employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One team of street-outreach workers use the Peacemaker Fellowship program to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• create an individualized LifeMAP (mgt. Action plan) with, not for, each fellow;• deliver daily, one-on-one engagement to implement LifeMAP goals;• conduct street conflict mediation;• support client social service navigation.• teach group life-skills classes.
Police Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnership with police, parole and other law enforcement to communicate increased sanctions;• Increases police presence around groups/ neighborhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Separate from & not affiliated with police
Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General social services including:• Job training/internships• education,• substance abuse treatment, • Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT)• housing assistance, and others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specifically tailored to each individual and formalized in LifeMAP, but often includes many of the same as focused deterrence.
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Programs average 2–4 years, only a few have long-term presence in city/community;• Rarely institutionalized into local government;• Short-term grant funding contributes to high staff turnover/burnout.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over 12-year presence in Richmond;• Combines city budget allocation with private funds;• Institutionalized in Richmond as local gov’t dept. & most staff become city employees;• Uses private grants to complement city resources.



Impact
Evaluation
(metrics)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change in community & city-wide gun homicide & assaults• Change in other violent crimes;• Changes in gang/group violence norms;• Community norm change;• Client’s access to employment & education;• Community & client perceptions of policing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change in community & city-wide gun homicide and assaults;• Client progress on LifeMap;• Clients alive, not incarcerated, not injured by firearm,• Reduced client involvement in firearm conflict;• Ethnographic accounts of impacts on outreach workers, fellows and community members. |
|---|--|

Table 1 Advance Peace Sacramento, fellow participant profiles at intake^a.

Fellow characteristic	% Yes	n
African American	94.2	97
Male	87.3	90
Unemployed	83.6	86
Finished HS	48.8	50
Was/is in foster care system	42.7	44
Was/is/ever homeless	67.9	70
Prior gun arrest	90.2	93
Prior incarceration	84.2	87
Parent is/was incarcerated	74.0	76
Previous gunshot injury	85.4	88
Witness gun homicide	62.1	64
Ever physically assaulted	46.0	47
Someone close to you murdered	61.3	63

^aNot all participants answered all questions.

Table 2 Advance Peace Sacramento, participants post-fellowship^a.

Fellow characteristic	% Yes	n
Alive	98.0	101
New gun injuries	2.0	2
New gun arrest/charge	9.7	10
Received assistance for food and/or housing	97.0	100
Received paid internship or employment	64.0	66
Reported improved mental health/outlook on life	71.8	74
Reported having a caring adult to talk to, such as an NCA, when faced with a difficult situation	84.2	87
Reported peaceful resolution of a conflict that previously might have resulted in gun use	67.9	70
Rated AP outreach worker one of the most important adults in life	85.4	88

^aNot all participants answered all questions.

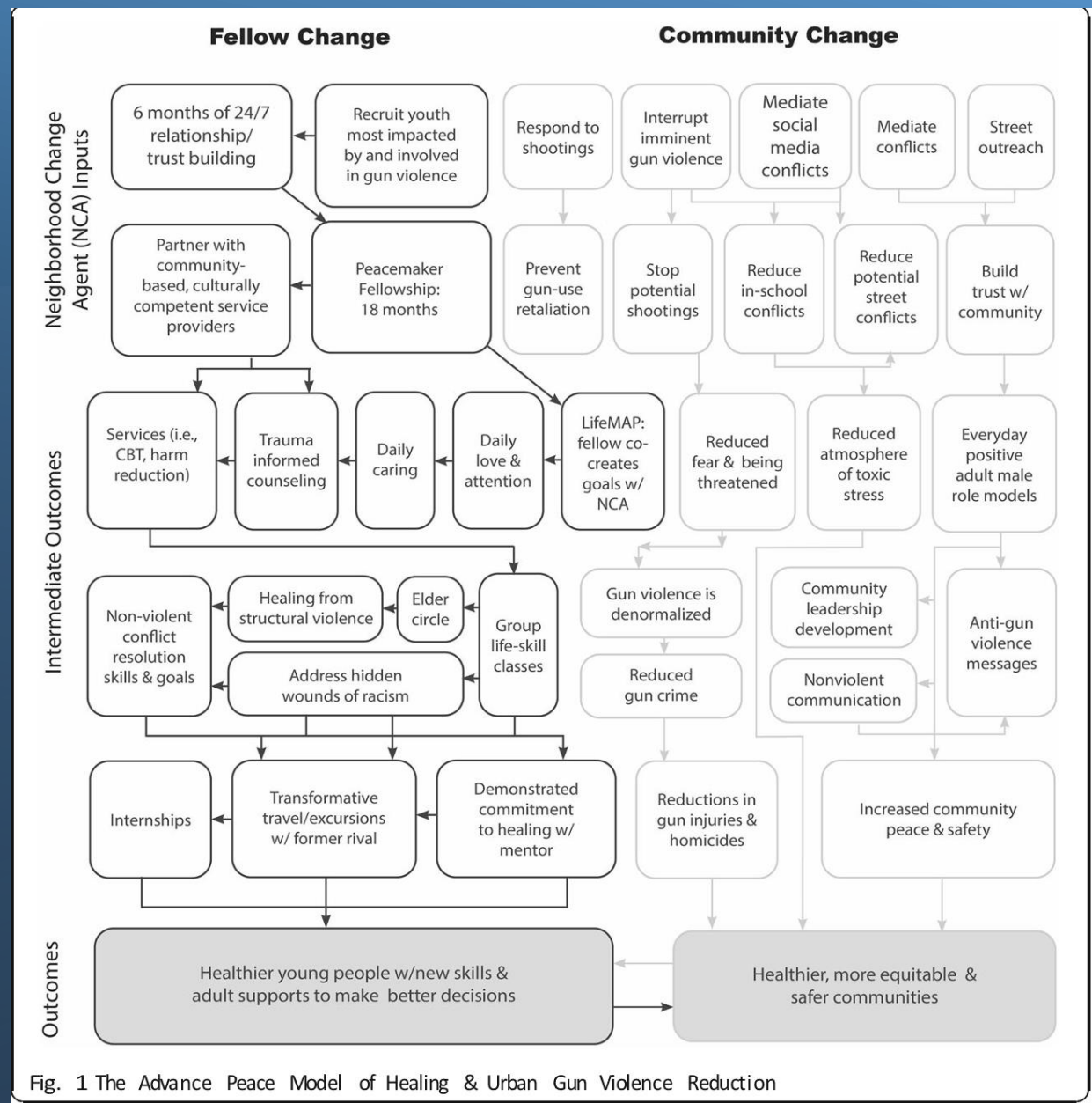
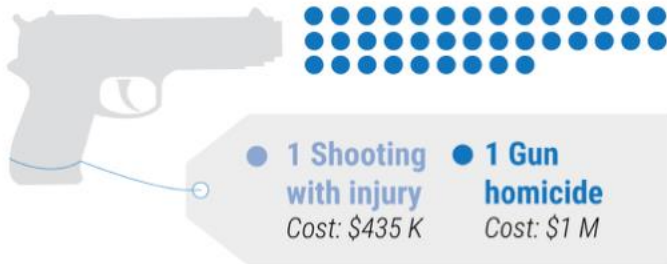


Fig. 1 The Advance Peace Model of Healing & Urban Gun Violence Reduction

Office of Neighborhood Safety **Richmond 2019**

Firearm Incidents Causing Injury or Death Prevented

16 Firearm Incidents Prevented **\$5.8-14.8 M** Savings from gun violence interruptions



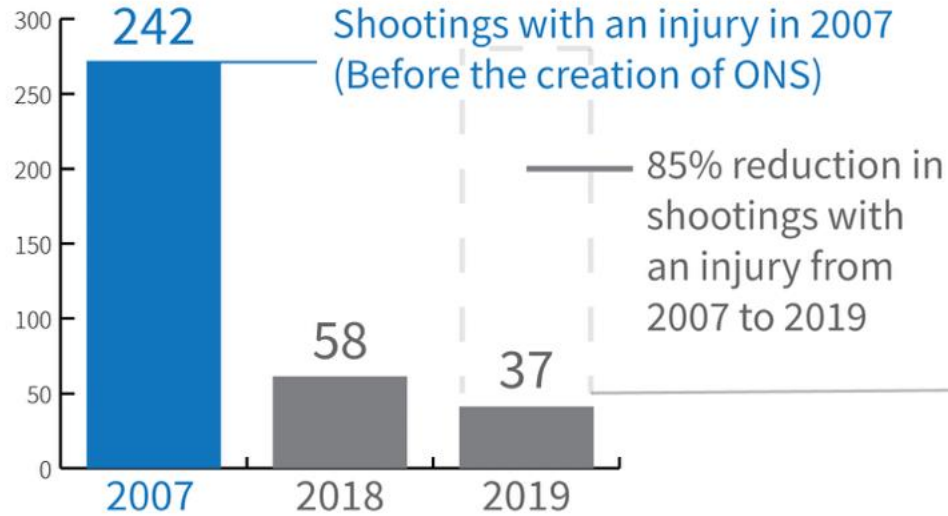
\$1.2M
Annual city costs for ONS

Gun Violence Reduction Work

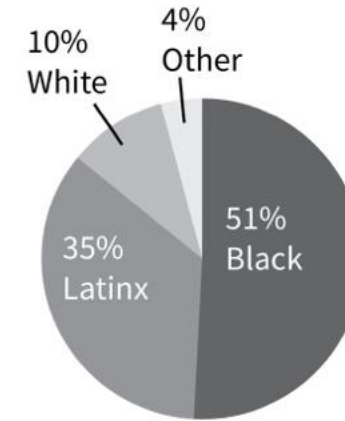
147	Clients Served
6,140	Face to Face Engagements
10,275	Hours of engagement
728	Service referrals
37	Conflicts Mediated

* Cost Estimates from The Public Policy Institute of CA

Shootings with an Injury in Richmond, CA



Shootings with an Injury 2019: Victim Race/Ethnicity



From 2007 (when ONS was created) to 2019, there has been an 65% decrease in homicides (*43 in 2007 vs. 15 in 2019*)

Peacemaker Fellows

37 Fellows

100%

95%

76%

have no new

are not a suspect in a new

VOCA Grant

Neighborhood Based Trauma Centers

- Housed in the Cincinnati Islamic Community Center (Ilyas Nashid)
- Develop a case plan and provide advocacy and crisis intervention services and case management
- Assess and address needs of both the child victim and caregivers
- Specialized medical evaluation/forensic exam capabilities.
- Assess and make referral for medical services
- Parents and caregivers IN THE COMMUNITY will have access to training from experts in trauma – informed care who will provide training in Child Adult Relationship Enhancement (CARE) treatment. Drs. Boat, Olafson, and Barzman

Key Points

Question Are youths with a history of incarceration at increased risk of early mortality compared with youths with no history of incarceration?

Findings In this cohort study of 3645 previously incarcerated youths, the all-cause mortality rate was 5.9 times higher in previously incarcerated youths than the rate observed in general population, Medicaid-enrolled youths. Homicide was the leading cause of death among formerly incarcerated youths, accounting for more deaths than all other causes combined.

Original Investigation | Pediatrics

December 23, 2021

Mortality and Cause of Death Among Youths Previously Incarcerated in the Juvenile Legal System

Donna A. Ruch, PhD¹; Danielle L. Steelesmith, PhD²; Guy Brock, PhD³; [et al](#)

» [Author Affiliations](#) | [Article Information](#)

JAMA Netw Open. 2021;4(12):e2140352. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.40352

Increasing the Demand for Workers with a Criminal Record

Zoe B. Cullen, Will S. Dobbie & Mitchell Hoffman

WORKING PAPER 29947

DOI 10.3386/w29947

ISSUE DATE April 2022

State and local policies increasingly restrict employers' access to criminal records, but without addressing the underlying reasons that employers may conduct criminal background checks. Employers may thus still want to ask about a job applicant's criminal record later in the hiring process or make inaccurate judgments based on an applicant's demographic characteristics. In this paper, we use a field experiment conducted in partnership with a nationwide staffing platform to test policies that more directly address the reasons that employers may conduct criminal background checks. The experiment asked hiring managers at nearly a thousand U.S. businesses to make incentive-compatible decisions under different randomized conditions. We find that 39% of businesses in our sample are willing to work with individuals with a criminal record at baseline, which rises to over 50% when businesses are offered crime and safety insurance, a single performance review, or a limited background check covering just the past year. Wage subsidies can achieve similar increases but at substantially higher cost. Based on our findings, the staffing platform relaxed the criminal background check requirement and offered crime and safety insurance to interested businesses.

The Effects of Youth Employment on Crime: Evidence from New York City Lotteries

Judd B. Kessler, Sarah Tahamont, Alexander M. Gelber
& Adam Isen

WORKING PAPER 28373

DOI 10.3386/w28373

ISSUE DATE January 2021

Recent policy discussions have proposed government-guaranteed jobs, including for youth. One key potential benefit of youth employment is a reduction in criminal justice contact. Prior work on summer youth employment programs has documented little-to-no effect of the program on crime during the program but has found decreases in violent and other serious crimes among "at-risk" youth in the year or two after the program. We add to this picture by studying randomized lotteries for access to the New York City Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), the largest such program in the United States. We link SYEP data to New York State criminal records data to investigate outcomes of 163,447 youth who participated in a SYEP lottery between 2005 and 2008. We find evidence that SYEP participation decreases arrests and convictions during the program summer, effects that are driven by the small fraction (3 percent) of SYEP youth who are at-risk, as defined by having been arrested before the start of the program. We conclude that an important benefit of SYEPs is the contemporaneous effect during the program summer and that the effect is concentrated among individuals with prior contact with the criminal justice system.

Can Restorative Justice Conferencing Reduce Recidivism? Evidence From the Make-it-Right Program



Yotam Shem-Tov, Steven Raphael & Alissa Skog

WORKING PAPER 29150

DOI 10.3386/w29150

ISSUE DATE August 2021

REVISION DATE January 2022

This paper studies the effect of a restorative justice intervention targeted at youth ages 13 to 17 facing felony charges of medium severity (e.g., burglary, assault). Eligible youths were randomly assigned to participate in the Make-it-Right (MIR) restorative justice program or a control group where they faced standard criminal prosecution. We estimate the effects of MIR on the likelihood that a youth will be rearrested in the four years following randomization. Assignment to MIR reduces the probability of a rearrest within six months by 19 percentage points, a 44 percent reduction relative to the control group. Moreover, the reduction in recidivism persists even four years after randomization. Thus, our estimates show that restorative justice conferencing can reduce recidivism among youth charged with relatively serious offenses and can be an effective alternative to traditional criminal justice practices.

When scale and replication work: Learning from summer youth employment experiments

Sara B. Heller  

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2022.104617>

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Highlights

- Summer youth employment programs have unusual promise for replication and scale.
- Multiple experiments show they consistently reduce criminal justice involvement.
- Biggest effects are for youth at highest risk of costly outcomes like crime.
- Results suggest promise for reducing social inequality efficiently.

Abstract

This paper combines two new summer youth employment experiments in Chicago and Philadelphia with previously published evidence to show how repeated study of an intervention as it scales and changes contexts can guide decisions about public investment. Two sources of treatment heterogeneity can undermine the scale-up and replication of successful human capital interventions: variation in the treatment itself and in individual responsiveness. Results show that these programs generate consistently large proportional decreases in criminal justice involvement, even as administrators recruit additional youth, hire new local providers, find more job placements, and vary the content of their programs. Using both endogenous stratification within cities and variation in 62 new and existing point estimates across cities uncovers a key pattern of individual responsiveness: impacts grow linearly with the risk of socially costly behavior each person faces. Identifying more interventions that combine this pattern of robustness to treatment variation with bigger effects for the most disconnected could aid efforts to reduce social inequality efficiently.

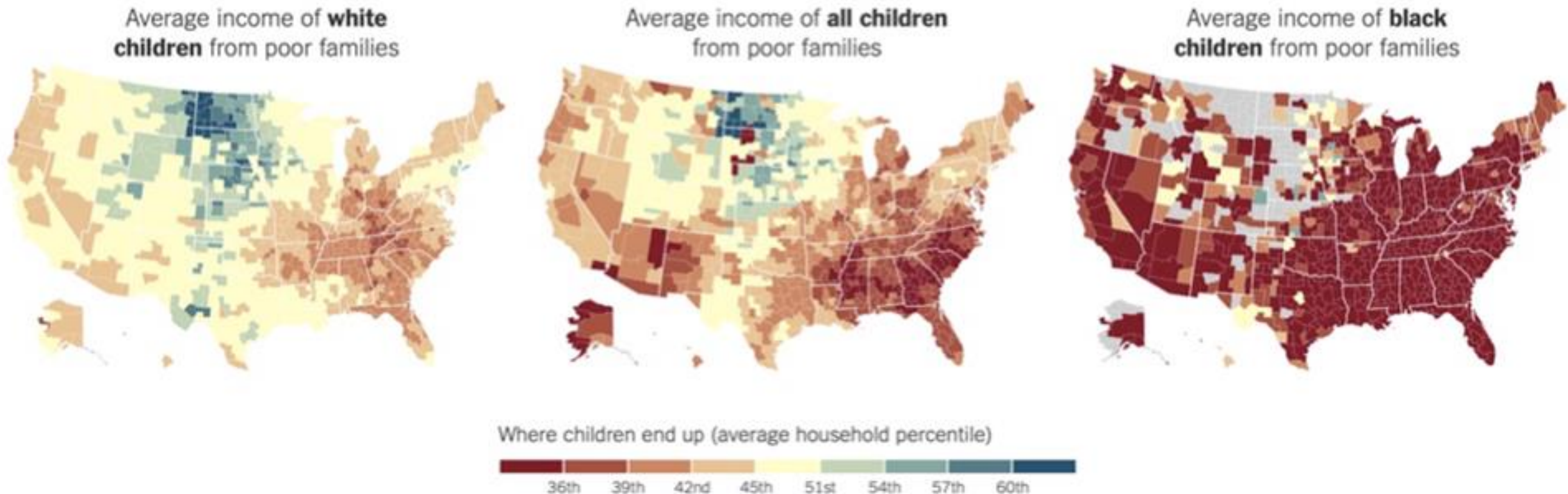
REPORT

Want to reduce violence? Invest in place.

Hanna Love · Tuesday, November 16, 2021



The worst places for poor white children are almost all better than the best places for poor black children.



Biological Embedding of Early Social Adversity: From Fruit Flies to Kindergartners

National Academy of Sciences

December 9-10, 2011
Irvine, California

Socioeconomic position is the single most powerful determinant of health and development within every human society on earth. Rapidly accumulating evidence suggests that differential exposure to early childhood adversities contributes strongly to the observed social disparities in mental and physical health, cognitive and socioemotional development, and lifetime educational and economic attainment. Studies in a broad array of species, ranging from invertebrates to human and nonhuman primates, are elucidating fundamental mechanisms by which social stratification is induced and maintained and by which socially partitioned adversities are transduced into neurobiological and genomic processes. Using new developmental neurogenomic approaches, science is poised to finally understand why disease, disorder and developmental misfortune are so unevenly distributed within human populations. This colloquium convened a world class, cross disciplinary assembly of basic, biomedical, and social scientists to explore the biological embedding of early social adversity across multiple species, from fruit flies to human kindergartners.

