



**GUN  
VIOLENCE**

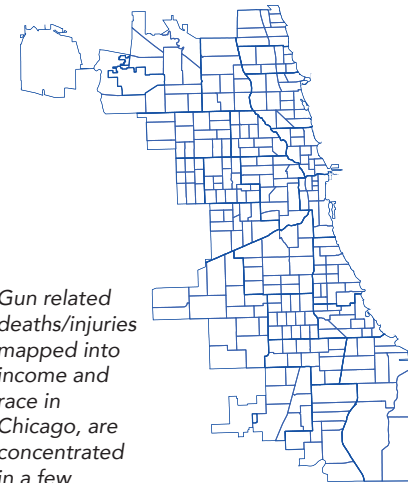
AND

**CHICAGO  
CHARTER  
SCHOOLS**

TIP OF THE SPEAR

# A LOOK AT GUN VIOLENCE IN CHICAGO

Though the number of gun crimes has decreased since its peak in the early 1990s, gun violence continues to be a persistent, acute, and intractable issue in Chicago. This issue brief examines how charter public schools champion innovative practices to address the trauma that students carry into the schoolhouse every day. We call on our school leaders, partners, authorizers, and community members to work in tandem with the good works the charter public school community and school leaders are doing in gun violence prevention and utilization of trauma informed practices before, during, and after an incident occurs.



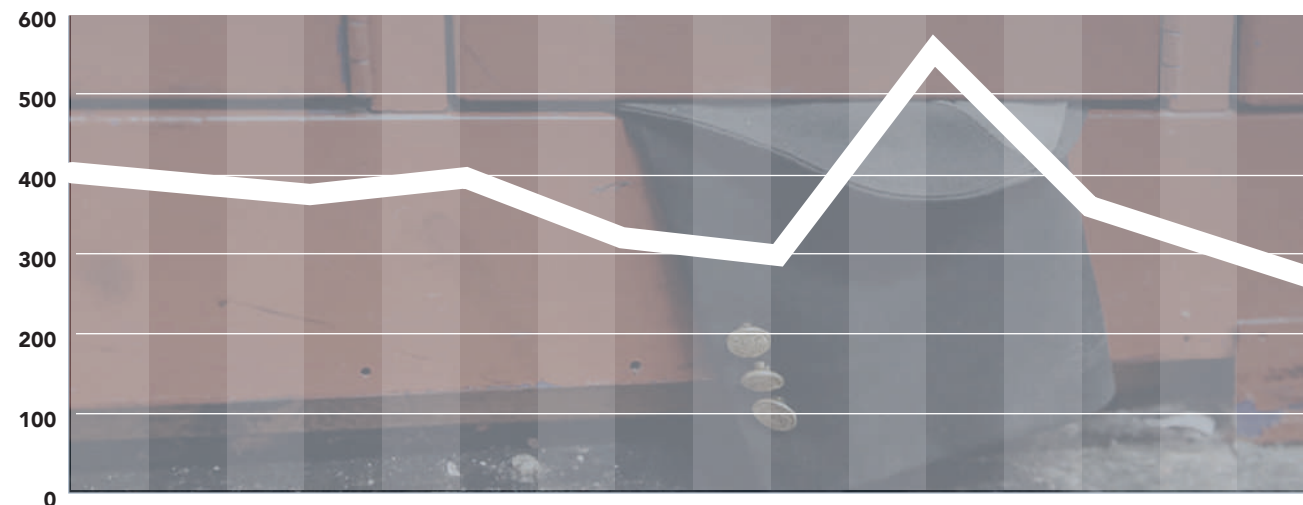
Gun related deaths/injuries mapped into income and race in Chicago, are concentrated in a few neighborhoods.

A 2018 study finds that for every homicide in the safest neighborhood, there are 65 in the most violent - a gap which has been growing steadily since 2006. (Papachristos, 2018) A 2017 report by University of Chicago Urban Labs bolsters this claim, finding that just five neighborhoods on the South and West sides accounted for 32% of all homicides in 2016.<sup>1</sup> (Kapustin, 2017) In Chicago,

90% of these homicides were committed with a firearm. It is not just the prevalence of gun homicides that distinguishes Chicago among major U.S. cities, but the extent to which this violence affects Black adolescent males. Despite making up roughly 4% of Chicago's population, African American males ages 15-34 accounted for over half of the city's homicide victims. (Kapustin, 2017)

<sup>1</sup> Austin, Englewood, New City, West Englewood, Greater Grand Crossing.

## CHICAGO'S GUN HOMICIDE RATES HAVE DECREASED SINCE THE 90S BUT SPIKED IN 2016.



**CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEND TO BE CONCENTRATED IN NEIGHBORHOODS WITH HIGH-CRIME RATES.**