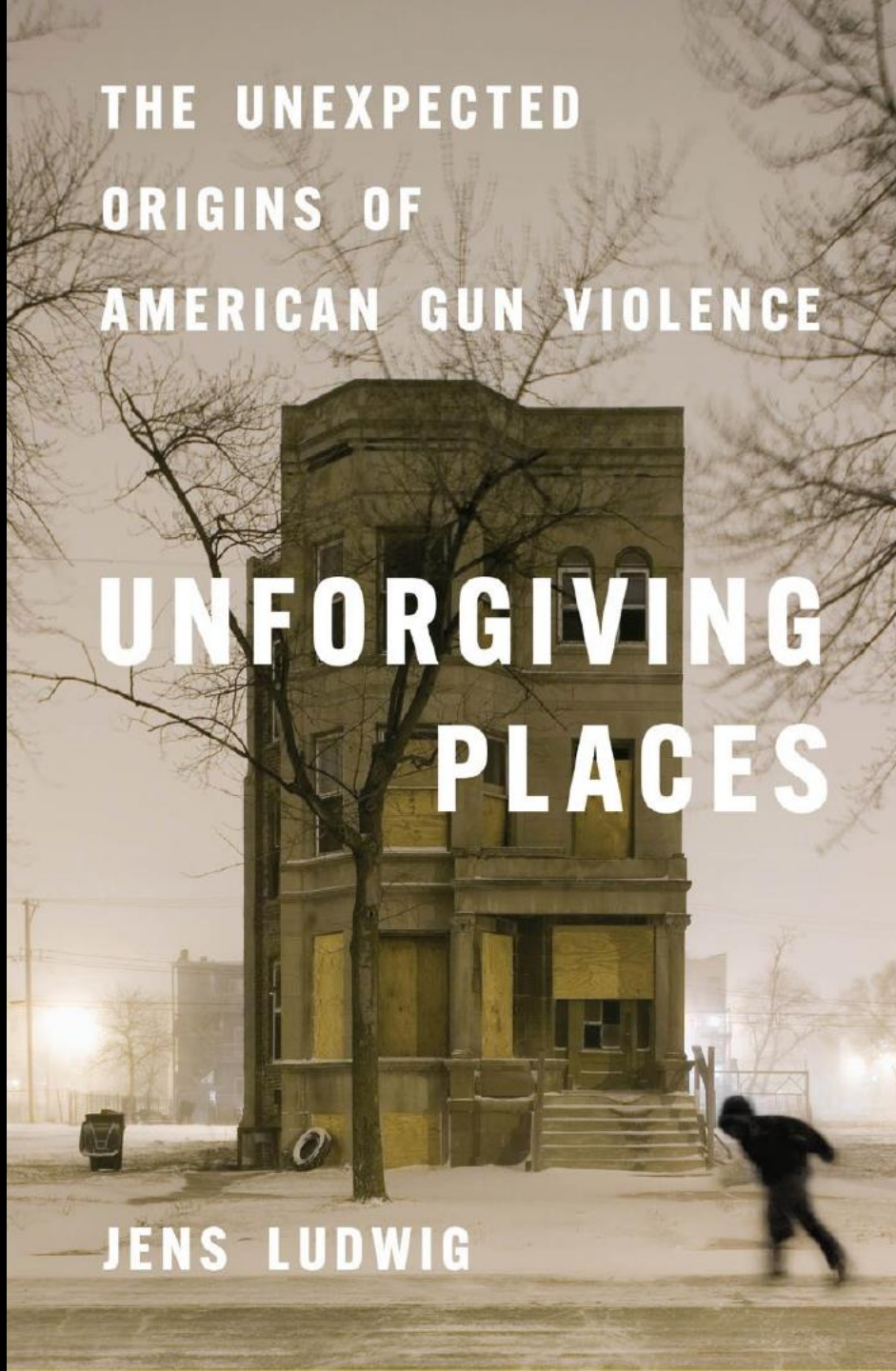


**THE UNEXPECTED
ORIGINS OF
AMERICAN GUN VIOLENCE**

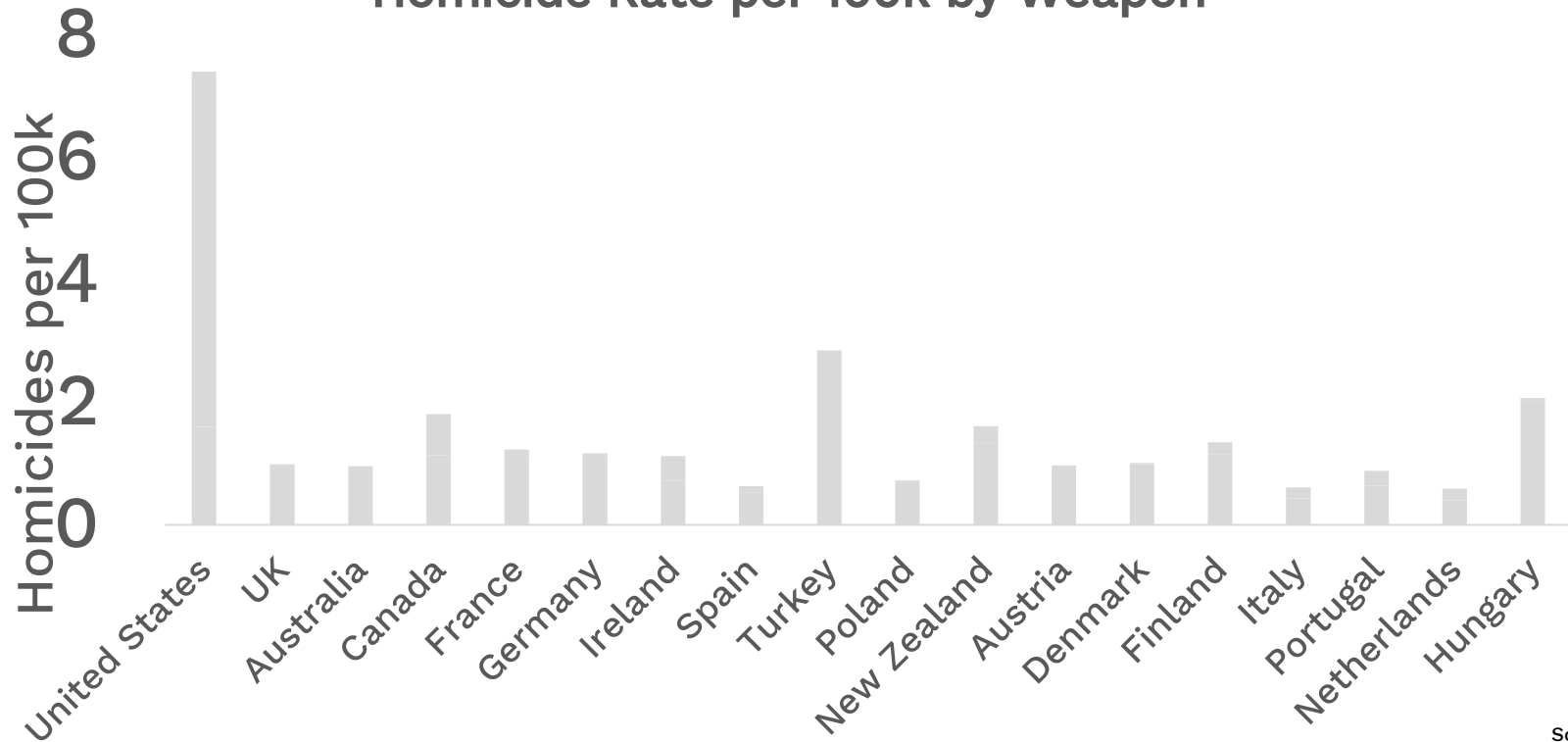
**UNFORGIVING
PLACES**

JENS LUDWIG



Our uniquely American problem

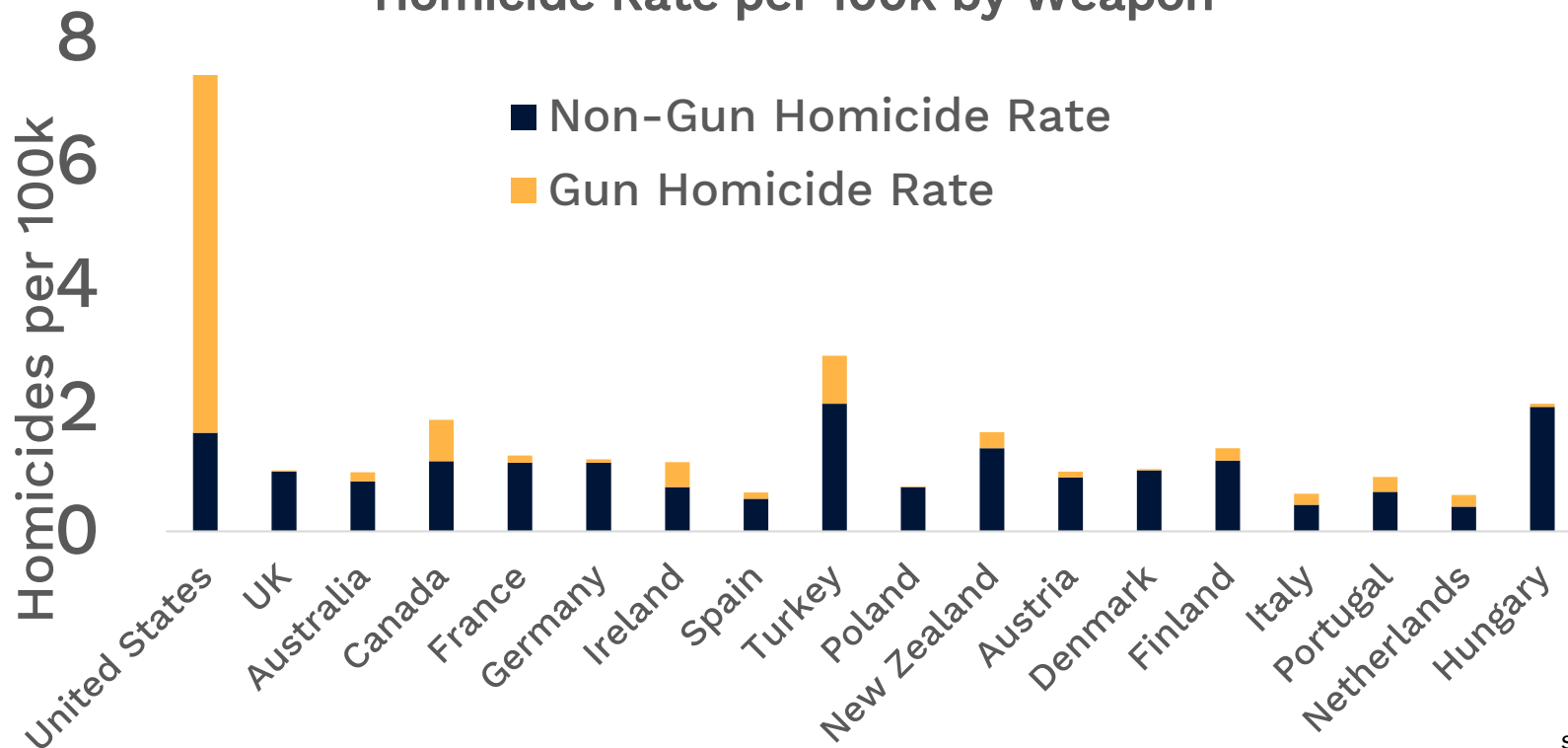
Homicide Rate per 100k by Weapon



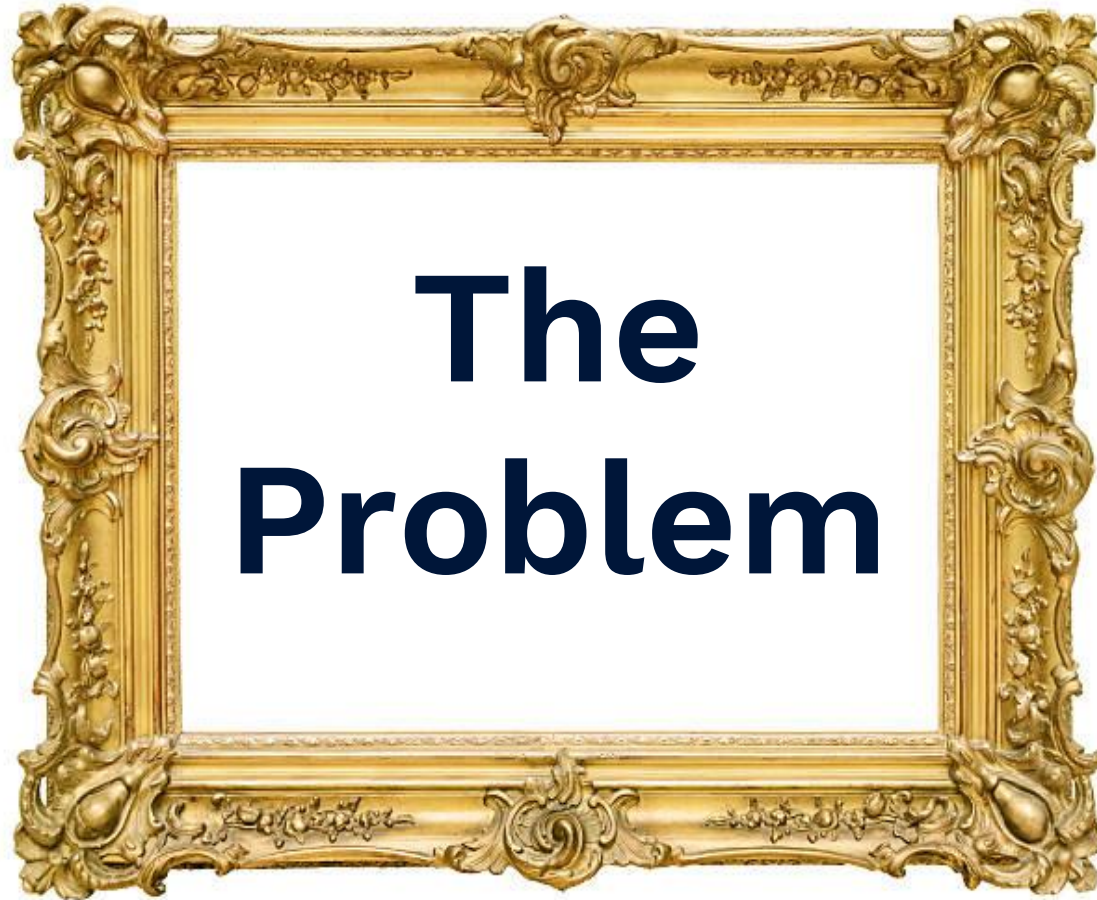
Source: GunPolicy.org

Our uniquely American problem

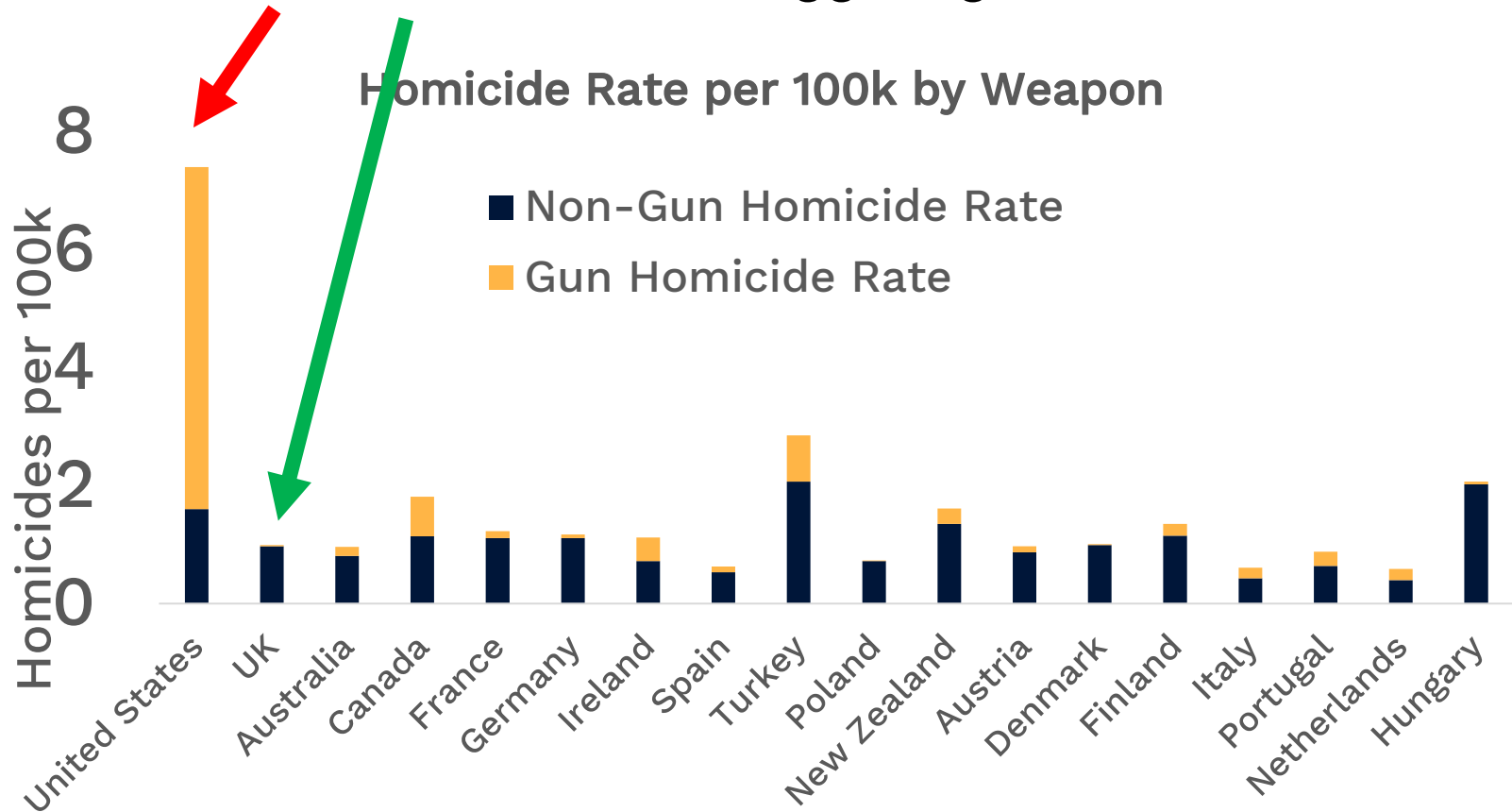
Homicide Rate per 100k by Weapon



Source: GunPolicy.org



Doesn't US vs. UK contrast suggest gun control is THE answer?



Source: GunPolicy.org



E-Z Tree Recycling

A Tree Is A Terrible Thing To Waste



E-Z TREE



Oak Woods Cemetery

E 70th St



Hyde Park Animal Hospital - Stony Island

Leo's Den



Stony Island



Gary Comer College Prep

S Dorchester Ave

Dollar Tree

POCKET TOWN

S Woodlawn Ave

E 72nd Pl



Banner Plumbing Supply Co

E-Z TREE

Hyde Park Animal Hospital - Stony Island



Oak Woods Cemetery

E 70th St



**South
Shore**

Greater Grand Crossing

Leo's Den



Stony Island



Gary Comer College Prep

S Dorchester Ave

Dollar Tree

POCKET TOWN

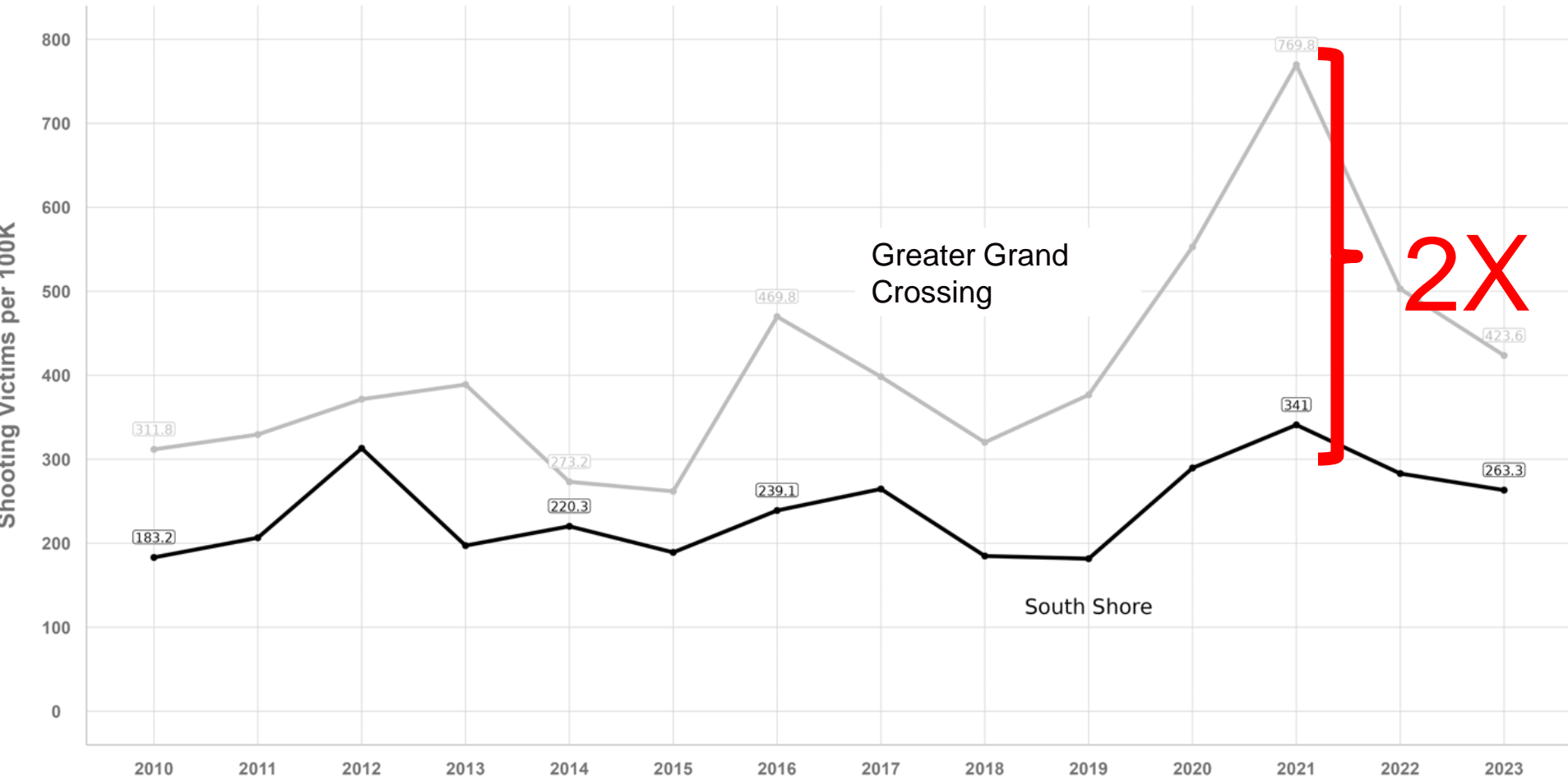
S Woodlawn Ave

E 72nd Pl



Banner Plumbing Supply Co

Per capita shooting victimization rates, 2010-2023



What causes gun violence?

Greater
Grand Crossing

South Shore

Gun laws

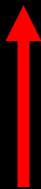
Same

Same

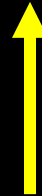
If gun control same in
GGC vs. South Shore...



Gun Violence = Guns + Violence



And if this varies dramatically
in GGC vs. South Shore...



Then *this* must matter
independently

“the enactment of **rigid penal laws** that will aid the States in stamping out the activities of gangsters, racketeers and kidnappers”

“crime cannot be held in check by a good police system alone . . . through a broad program of social welfare, we struck at the very **roots of crime** itself”

What causes gun violence?

	<u>Greater Grand Crossing</u>	<u>South Shore</u>
Gun laws	Same	Same
Criminal justice system	Same	Same
Poverty	Same	Same
Segregation	Same	Same

“the enactment of **rigid penal laws** that will aid the States in stamping out the activities of gangsters, racketeers and kidnapers”

GOP Presidential Platform, **1932**

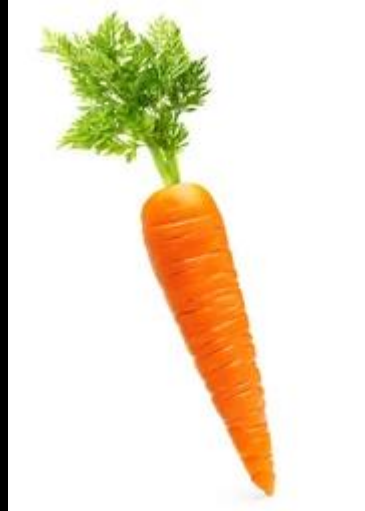
“crime cannot be held in check by a good police system alone . . . through a broad program of social welfare, we struck at the very **roots of crime** itself”

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, **1939**

Notice the common thread here



+



= INTENTIONS

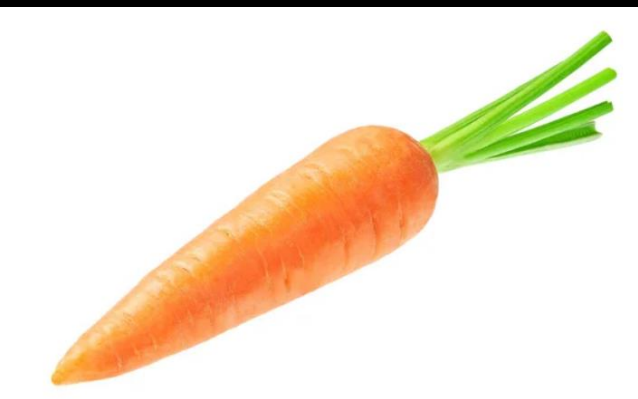
Chicago: June 2, 2012



Chicago Tribune

Does this *look* like the offender is optimizing – carrying out some rational benefit-cost analysis?

Who would knowingly / willingly flip *that* coin?

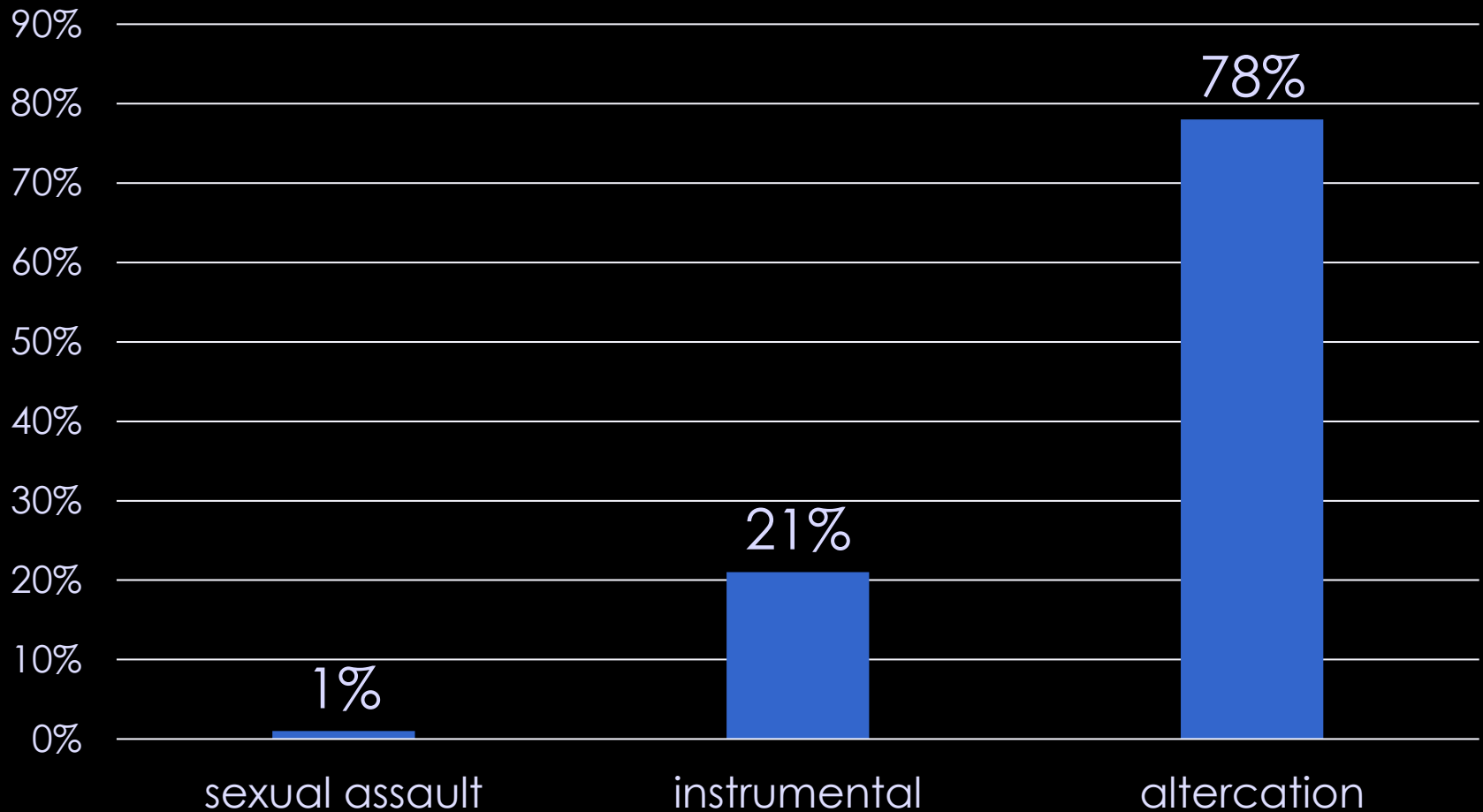


\$50 (at best) used bike



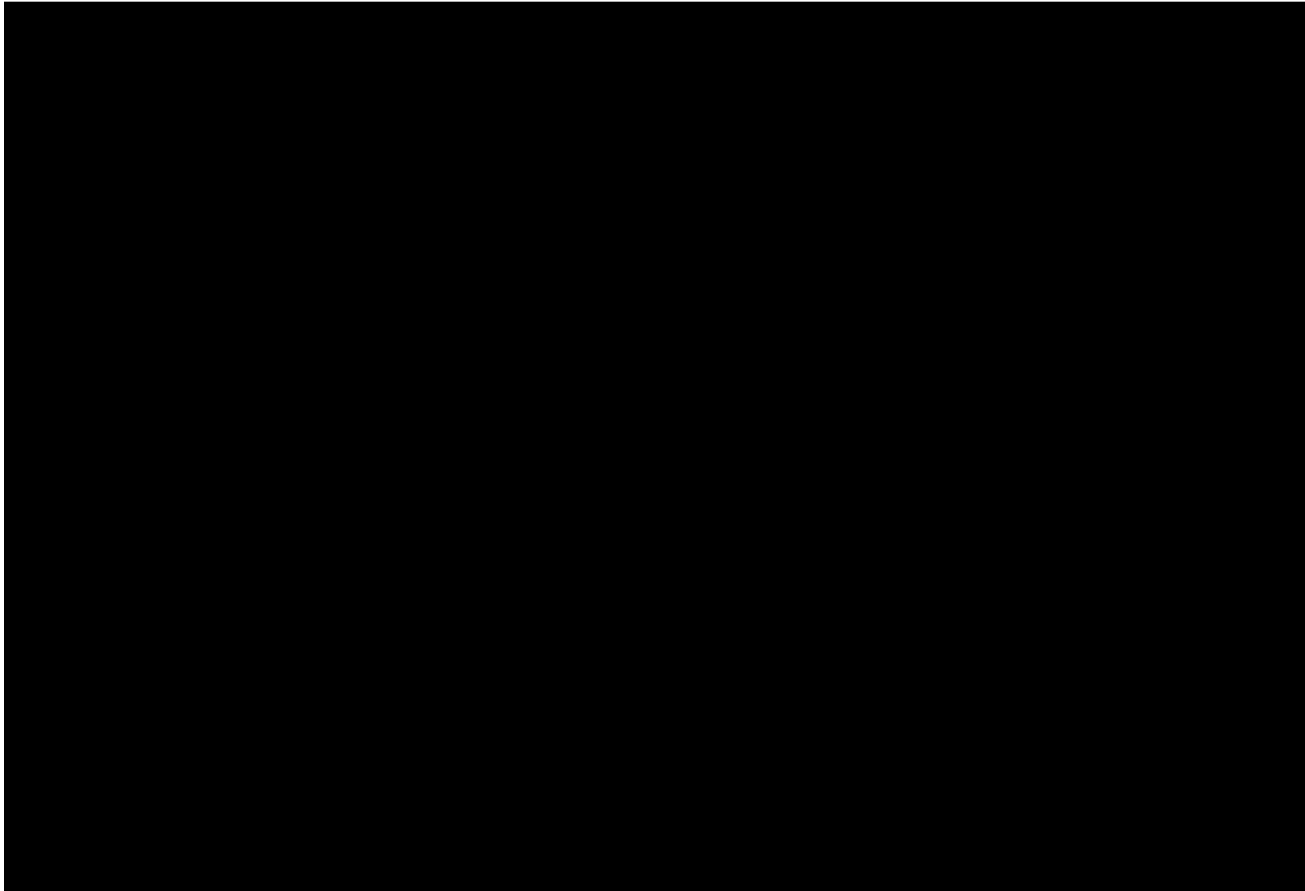
50% chance (at least) of arrest for murder

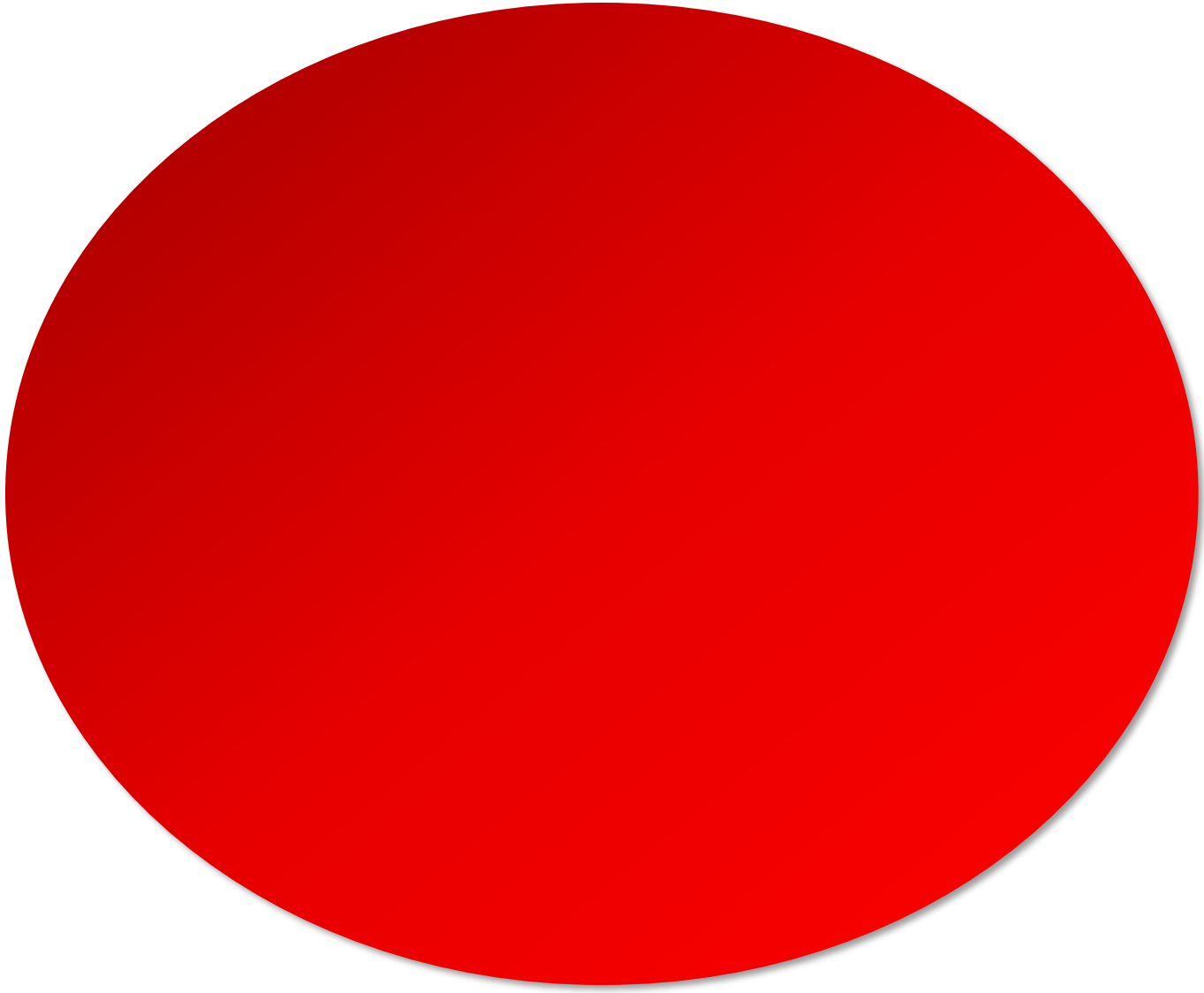
Motives for Chicago homicides



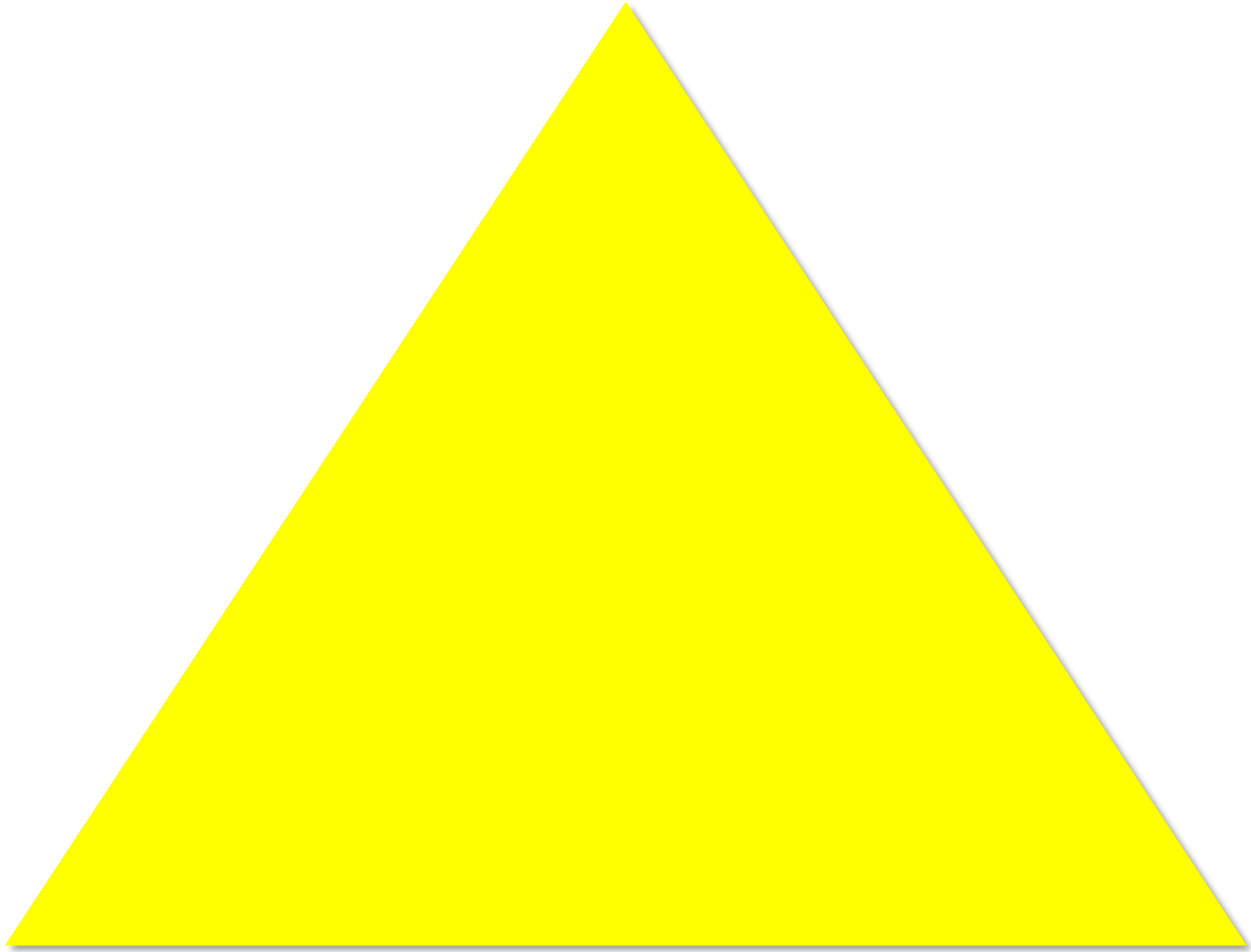
Source: Rebecca Block and Richard Block, Chicago Homicide Dataset

A different view of why
people commit violence









BLUE

Cognition we're *not* aware of

Cognition we're aware of

SYSTEM 2

Rational thinking



Takes effort
Slow
Logical
Lazy
Indecisive

Daily Life

“See word” (over and over)



Adaptive automatic response

“See word, read word”



Over-generalized

(Stroop = “see word, say color”)

Daily Life

“Get challenged” (over and over)



Adaptive automatic response

“Get challenged, push back”



Over-generalized

(Someone has gun
“Get challenged,
let it go”)

“If I let you kids redo just 10 minutes of your lives, none of you would be here.”

BLAM

BECOMING A MAN



Daily life

“Challenge situation”



Adaptive automatic response

“Don’t look weak”



Feedback Show not tell

“This situation isn’t what you assumed”



Out-of-the-ordinary situation

“It’s just a stupid rubber ball”



BECOMING A MAN

2009-2010

2740 7th-10th graders

45% reduction in violent-crime arrests

2013-2014

2064 9th-10th graders

50% reduction in violent-crime arrests

Chicago enacts hiring freeze as city leaders project nearly \$1 billion budget deficit

by JACKSON WALKER | The National Desk | Tue, September 10th 2024 at 2:38 PM



WE HAVE TO
LEARN TO DO
MORE WITH LESS.



Zero-cost public safety agenda

Arbitrage opportunity

Solution



2009-2011

2693 male admits to juvenile detention center

21% drop in recidivism 18 months out



LENAPE HIGH SCHOOL



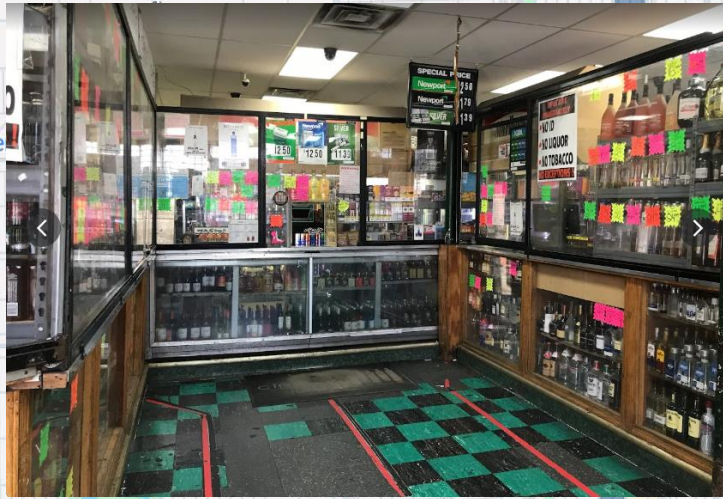
Zero-cost public safety agenda

Arbitrage opportunity

Wasted time in youth-serving institutions

Solution

Deliver BAM-like programs



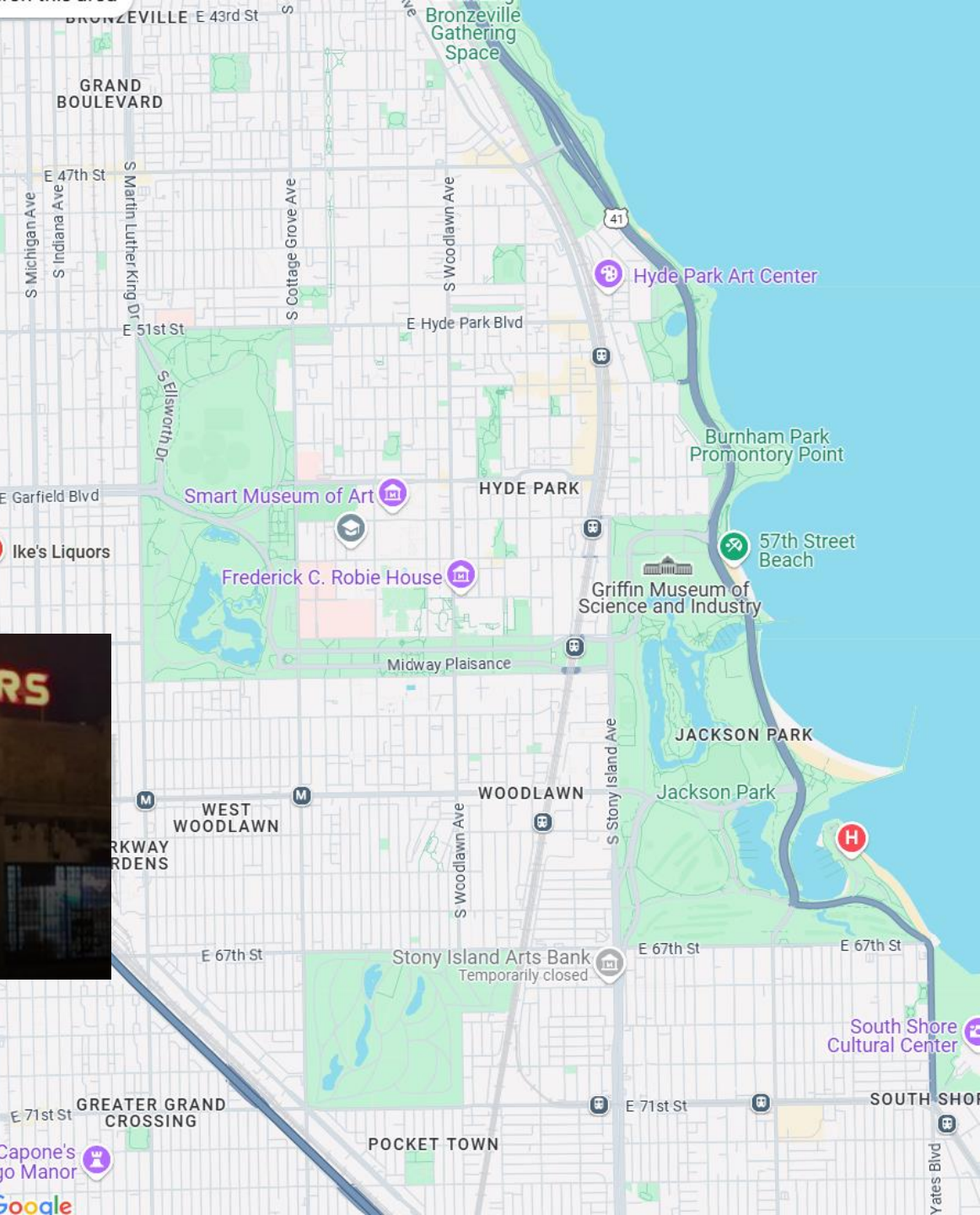
IKES LIQUORS

Ikes Liquors

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 2.4 (5 reviews)

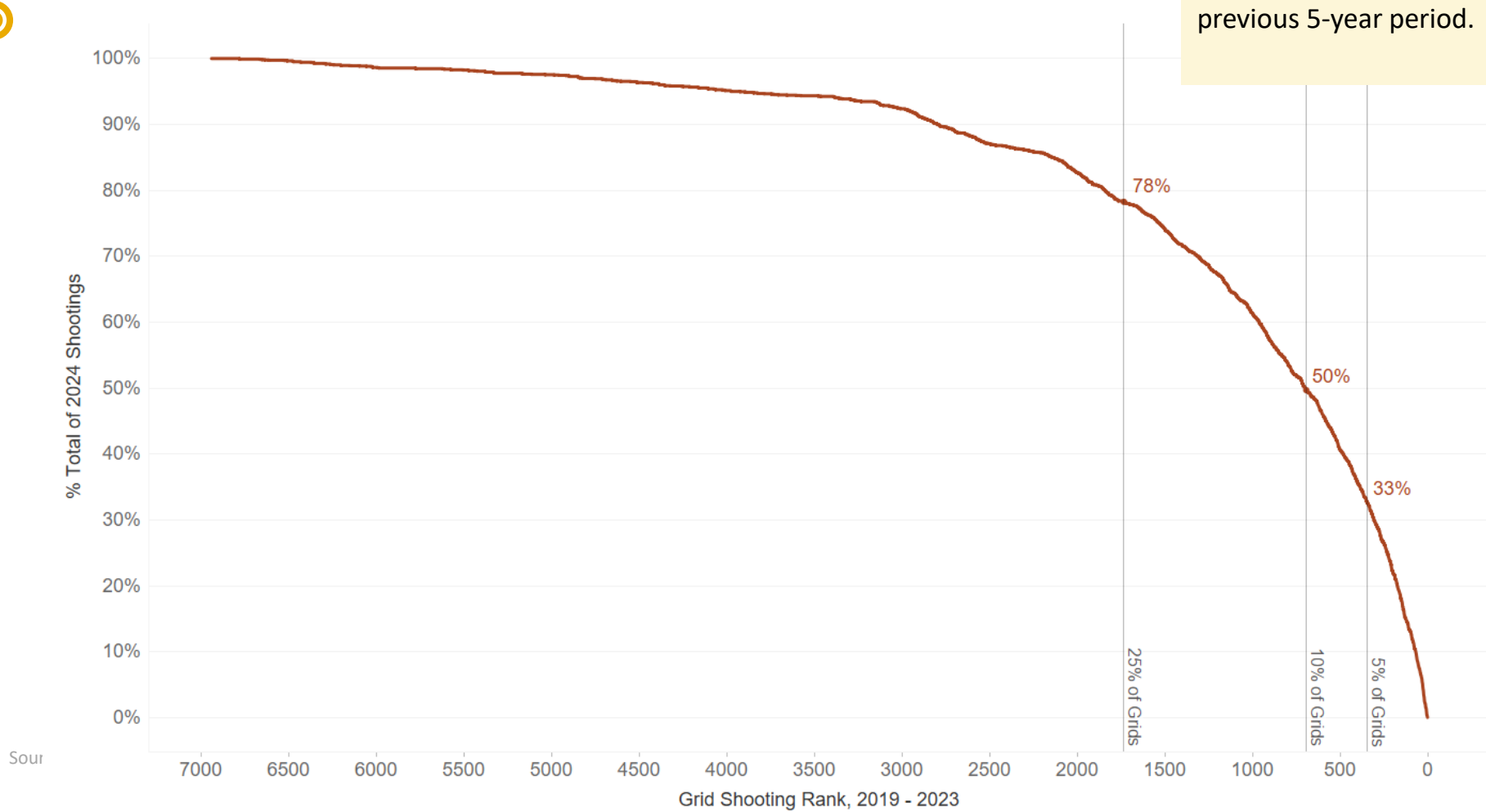
Unclaimed ⓘ • Beer, Wine & Spirits

Open 7:00 AM - 12:00 AM (Next day) See hours



Gun violence concentration by place in Chicago

50% of 2024's shootings occurred in the top 10% of ranked grid cells from the previous 5-year period.



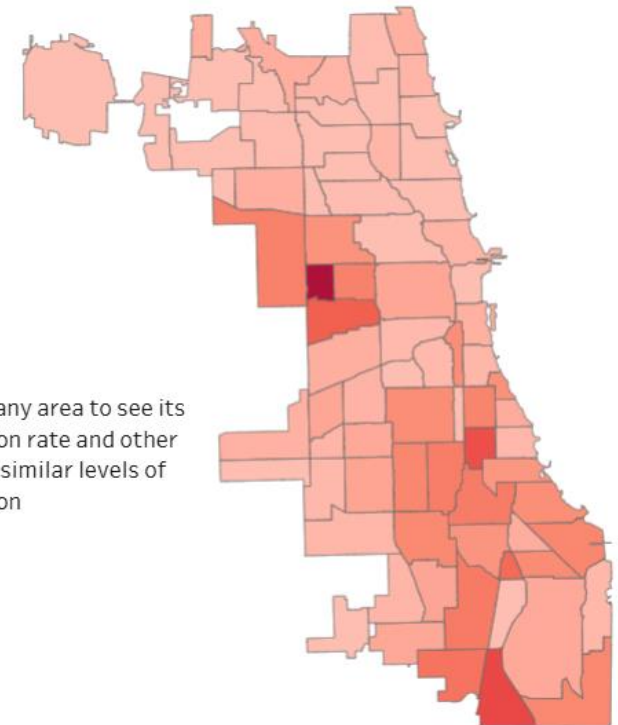
Source

VIOLENCE REDUCTION DASHBOARD

Victim Counts and Comparison in All Community Areas, Jan 1 through Mar 31

This chart compares the number of victimizations in the selected period to the prior year for different types of crime.

	2024	2025	% Change
Homicide Victimizations	114	96	-15.8%
Fatal Shooting Victimizations	96	83	-13.5%
Non-Shooting Homicide Victimizations	18	13	-27.8%
All Shooting Victimizations	486	343	-29.4%
Fatal Shooting Victimizations	96	83	-13.5%
Non-Fatal Shooting Victimizations	390	260	-33.3%
Criminal Sexual Assault Victimizations	444	446	+0.5%
Robbery Victimizations	2,267	1,503	-33.7%
Vehicular Hijacking Victimizations	293	130	-55.6%
Aggravated Battery Victimizations	1,544	1,333	-13.7%
Aggravated Assault Victimizations	2,217	1,741	-21.5%
Human Trafficking Victimizations	7	7	0.0%
All Violent Crime Victimizations	7,251	5,508	-24.0%
Multi-Victim Shooting Incidents	53	35	-34.0%
ShotSpotter Alerts	9,923	0	-100.0%



HOVER on any area to see its victimization rate and other areas with similar levels of victimization

Acknowledgement

The Mayor's Office Violence Reduction Dashboard is made possible by data from the Chicago Police Department and the technical leadership and support of the University of Chicago Crime Lab.



Strategic Decision Support Centers in Chicago

Zero-cost public safety agenda

Arbitrage opportunity

Wasted time in youth-serving institutions

Mistargeting of paid “eyes on the street” (police, interrupters)

Solution

Deliver BAM-like programs

Better use of data & “fusion centers”

THE
BIG PICTURE

Criminal Justice v1.0

SYSTEM 2

Rational thinking



Takes effort
Slow
Logical
Lazy
Indecisive

Criminal Justice v2.0

SYSTEM 1

Intuition & instinct



Unconscious
Fast
Associative
Automatic pilot



Criminal Justice v1.0

SYSTEM 2

Rational thinking



Takes effort
Slow
Logical
Lazy
Indecisive

THE UNEXPECTED
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UNFORGIVING PLACES

JENS LUDWIG

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