

[Illinois Center for Violence Prevention Fact Sheet](#)

Overview of Violence in Chicago and Illinois

- A total of 510 people were murdered in Chicago during 2008. Eighty percent of these victims were killed by gunfire. Nearly half were between the ages of 10 and 25, and the vast majority were male.¹
- From 1950 to 2005, the overall age-adjusted death rate in the United States declined by nearly 45 percent, from 1,446 to 799 deaths per 100,000 people. But the murder rate in 2005 remained about 20 percent higher than its 1950 value.²
- There were 98,611 arrests in 2008 for crime index offenses. This is a 2.6 percent increase from the 96,128 arrests reported in 2007.³
- From 1995 through 2004, the City of Chicago recorded 486 domestic-violence murders.⁴
- In 2008, there were 69,441 violent crimes (homicide, criminal sexual assault, aggravated assault and robbery) reported to the Illinois State Police.⁵
- In 2008, there were 790 homicides reported to Illinois law enforcement.⁶
- In 2008, there were 5,620 criminal sexual assault offenses reported to the Illinois State Police.⁷
- In 2008, 79% of murders in Illinois (421 out of 530) were gun-related, 7% higher than the national average that year.⁸
- Young people are disproportionately affected by gun violence in Illinois. In 2006, youths (0-19 years) comprised nearly 22% of all gun related deaths in Illinois. By comparison in the United States 9.8% of all gun-related deaths were among youths under the age of 19.⁹

¹ Ander, R., & Cook, P. J. (2009). *Gun violence among school age youth in Chicago*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Crime Lab. Retrieved from http://crimelab.uchicago.edu/pdf/Gun_Violence_Report.pdf

² Ander, R., & Cook, P. J. (2009). *Gun violence among school age youth in Chicago*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Crime Lab. Retrieved from http://crimelab.uchicago.edu/pdf/Gun_Violence_Report.pdf

³ Illinois State Police. (2008). *Crime in Illinois 2008 Executive Summary*. Springfield, IL.: Illinois State Police, Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Retrieved from <http://www.isp.state.il.us/docs/cii/cii08/ExecSummary2008.pdf>

⁴ Chicago Police Department. (2004). *Quarterly domestic violence statistical summary – YTD – December 2004*. Chicago, IL: Chicago Police Department, Research and Development Division. Retrieved from <https://portal.chicagopolice.org/portal/page/portal/ClearPath/News/Statistical%20Reports/Domestic%20Violence%20Reports/DV4Q04.pdf>

⁵ Illinois State Police. Reported Violent Offenses. Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, 2008.

⁶ Illinois State Police. Reported Violent Offenses. Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, 2008.

⁷ Illinois State Police. Reported Violent Offenses. Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, 2008.

⁸ United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2009). *Crime in the United States, 2008*.

⁹ United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2009). *Crime in the United States, 2008*.