

Report of the IDHS Office of Firearm Violence Prevention

Covering Activities from June - December 2021

Executive Summary

The Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA) was passed by the Illinois legislature in June 2021 and amended in November 2021 (430 ILCS 69/35). It established a new Office of Firearm Violence Prevention (OFVP) within the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and directed the OFVP to take a public health approach to firearm violence prevention. Pursuant to that act, the OFVP shall issue an annual report to the General Assembly, to include:

- Identifying Illinois municipalities and Chicago community areas with the highest concentration of firearm violence,
- Explaining the investments that are being made; and
- Making recommendations on how to end the firearm violence epidemic.

This report covers activities of IDHS and the OFVP from June 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Selection of OFVP Eligible Areas

After consideration of the requirements of RPSA and available data sources, the Firearm Violence Research Group (FVRG) developed a process for recommending eligibility criteria for community areas in Chicago and municipalities in Illinois per the requirements of the Act. The FVRG applied this process to determine the Chicago Community Areas that rate highest in firearm victimization, excluding self-inflicted shots. **The eligible Chicago Community Areas include:**

Auburn Gresham	North Lawndale
Austin	Riverdale
Burnside	Roseland
Chatham	South Chicago
Chicago Lawn	South Lawndale
East Garfield Park	South Shore
Englewood	Washington Park
Fuller Park	West Englewood
Greater Grand Crossing	West Garfield Park
Humboldt Park	West Pullman
New City	Woodlawn

The FVRG used a similar process for determining the eligible municipalities across Illinois with the highest rates of firearm victimization in populations less than 1,000,000 people.

The eligible municipalities with less than 1,000,000 residents include:

Aurora	Decatur
Belleville Cluster (Includes Belleville, East St. Louis, and Cahokia Heights)	Joliet
Berwyn-Cicero Cluster	Kankakee
Calumet City Cluster (Includes Calumet City, Harvey, Dolton, Riverdale, South Holland, Markham, Lansing)	Maywood-Bellwood Cluster
Chicago Heights Cluster (Includes Chicago Heights, Park Forest, and Sauk Village)	Peoria
Danville	Rockford
	Springfield
	Urbana-Champaign Cluster
	Waukegan-North Chicago Cluster

IDHS Investments and Activities

On October 18, 2021, Governor Pritzker appointed Christopher Patterson as Assistant Secretary of Firearm Violence Prevention to lead the OFVP. Since its establishment, the OFVP has been working to build its staffing structure and office support system. To support the office and the FVRG, DHS engaged the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE) to facilitate and manage the academic research needs of the OFVP.

IDHS and the OFVP have the grant making, operational and procurement authority to distribute funds to implement the functions established in the Act. For the Chicago community areas, two training and technical assistance notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs) were released in December 2021. Four additional NOFOs are anticipated to be released in early 2022 to provide coordination and direct services in Chicago. For municipalities outside of Chicago, the OFVP will be establishing Local Advisory Councils (LAC) to provide recommendations on how to best support their respective community areas in curbing firearm violence through asset mapping of existing services within the community and the review of data trends related to firearm incidents.

To further violence prevention efforts, the OFVP has collaborated with state and local entities including IDHS Office of Community and Positive Youth Development, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) and other government municipalities (I.e., Cook County, city of Chicago). In addition, the OFVP is participating in listening sessions/panel discussions across the state to provide a more regional introduction to the goals of the OFVP and to introduce current funding opportunities. For organizations interested in applying for funding, several technical assistance options have been made available for those seeking support with the application process.

OFVP Recommendations

Upcoming priorities for the OFVP include:

- Continuing to introduce the office to key partners and those with shared interests to promote public safety,

- Building additional staffing structure and formal support for the office,
- Finalizing and awarding selected providers for current and soon to be released grant opportunities, and
- Establishing Chicago-based Community Conveners and Illinois municipality Local Advisory Councils to inform OFVP community-based strategies and ensure successful funding allocation.

I. Introduction and Background

Firearm violence has deeply harmed neighborhoods, communities, and the entire State of Illinois, both through the immediate loss of life and the long-term harmful effects of trauma experienced by victims, witnesses, and community residents.

To address the firearm violence crisis, the Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA) was passed by the Illinois legislature in June 2021 and amended in November 2021 (430 ILCS 69/35). It established a new Office of Firearms Violence Prevention (OFVP) within the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and directed the OFVP to take a public health approach to firearms violence prevention. Pursuant to that act, the OFVP shall issue an annual report to the General Assembly, to include:

- Identifying Illinois municipalities and Chicago community areas (***Geographic Target Areas***) with the highest concentration of firearm violence,
- Explaining the investments that are being made (***IDHS Investments and Activities***), and
- Making recommendations on how to end the firearm violence epidemic (***OFVP Recommendations and Timeline***).

This report covers activities of IDHS and the OFVP from June 2021 through December 31, 2021. As this report will be the first for this office, it is important to acknowledge the purpose of the RPSA which enabled it, as well as the specific provisions of the Act. The intent of the RPSA is as follows:

“This Act creates a comprehensive approach to ending Illinois’ firearm violence epidemic. Furthermore, the Act is intended to reduce significant gaps in Illinois’ mental health treatment system for youth, young adults, and families that live in areas with chronic exposure to firearm violence and exhibit mental health conditions associated with chronic and ongoing trauma.” (Section 35-5)

The RPSA provisions are summarized in the sections that follow.

A. Office of Firearm Violence Prevention (OFVP) (Section 35-20).

RPSA directs IDHS to create the OFVP by October 1, 2021 and provides for the Governor to appoint an Assistant Secretary for Firearms Violence Prevention. The Act gives OFVP the authority to make grants to Violence Prevention, Youth Development and High-Risk Youth Intervention Organizations in eligible neighborhoods, as outlined below. RPSA also provides that the OFVP facilitate the coordination and efficacy of services by naming Lead Violence Prevention Conveners, Local Advisory Councils, and Training, Technical Assistance and Support providers.

This section directs OFVP to identify neighborhoods in cities of 1,000,000 or more with highest rates of firearm-shot victimization and defines the measures to be used in that process. RPSA also requires OFVP to identify municipalities or contiguous geographic areas with population between 35,000 and 1,000,000 that have the highest rates of firearm-shot victimization and defines the measures to be used in that process.

1. *Services for Municipalities with more than 1,000,000 residents*

Integrated Violence Prevention and Other Services (Section 35-25).

Violence Prevention Organizations will be located within the Chicago communities with the highest levels of firearm violence and will provide evidenced-based violence prevention services, including but not limited to street outreach, case management and victim advocacy.

Integrated Youth Services (Section 35-30).

Integrated Youth Services (Youth Development) Organizations will be located within Chicago communities with the highest levels of firearm violence and will provide youth evidence-based after-school and summer programming. Evidence-based youth development programs shall provide services to teens that increase their school attendance, school performance, reduce involvement in the criminal and juvenile justice systems and develop nonacademic interests that build social emotional persistence and intelligence. Youth development organizations will prioritize services for youth residing in the municipal blocks where more than 35% of all fatal and nonfatal firearm-shot incidents take place.

Intensive Youth Interventions Services (Section 35-35).

High-risk Youth Intervention Organizations will provide evidence-based intervention services that reduce involvement in the criminal and juvenile justice system, increase school attendance and refer high-risk teens into therapeutic programs that address trauma recovery and other mental health improvement.

OFVP will support the work of these organizations by providing grants to Training, Technical Assistance Providers and to a Lead Violence Prevention Convener in each eligible Chicago community area.

2. *Services for Municipalities with less than 1,000,000 residents (Section 35-40)*

OFVP shall identify ten areas with greatest rate of fatal and nonfatal firearm-shot victims (excluding self-inflicted) over five-year period from 2016-2020 from those municipalities with greater than 35,000 and less than 1 million population. OFVP may select up to an additional five areas of any population size and specify those factors involved in making the selection.

OFVP will appoint and engage Local Advisory Councils (LACs - to be constituted by the OFVP) in each of these areas to develop a formula to distribute resources to these areas in a way that maximizes the potential reduction in firearms violence. Based on LAC recommendations, grants will be made to community-based organizations or local governments by April 1, 2022.

B. Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Medicaid Trauma Recovery for Adults (Section 35-50)

On or before January 15, 2022, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services shall design and seek approval from the United States Department of Health and Human Services to implement a team-based model of care system to address trauma recovery from chronic exposure to firearm violence for Illinois adults. Services under this proposed model of care under Medicaid will include outreach, case management and community support, group, and individual mental health therapy. HFS will develop a reimbursement methodology within the Medicaid system to engage providers in this care.

Medicaid Trauma Recovery Services for Children and Youth (Section 35-55)

On or before January 15, 2022, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services shall design and seek approval from the United States Department of Health and Human Services to implement a team-based model of care system to address trauma recovery from chronic exposure to firearm violence for Illinois youth under age 19. Services covered by Medicaid will include outreach, case management and community services to reduce truancy and criminal justice involvement, group and individual mental health therapy, and evidence-based family systems intervention. HFS will develop a reimbursement methodology within the Medicaid system to engage providers in this care.

II. Rationale for Selection of Geographical Community Areas

A. Firearm Violence Research Group

Shortly after the RPSA was passed in June, and with input from advocates and experts in the field of violence prevention, data, and research, IDHS staff generated a list of recommended research experts to form the Firearm Violence Research Group (FVRG) to advise the OFVP. The most immediate research need for the OFVP was to create a working definition for “firearm-shot incidents” and to identify the geographic areas eligible for program funding and technical assistance support as per the specific guidelines of the RPSA:

1. Determine the 17 Chicago Community Areas¹ with the highest number of per capita firearm-shot incidents from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020, excluding self-inflicted firearm-shot incidents.
2. Identify municipal blocks where more than 35% of all firearm-shot incidents take place (excluding self-inflicted firearm-shot incidents). Youth Development Grants will focus on these blocks in the identified 17 neighborhoods.
3. For municipalities with less than 1 million in population, identify the 10 municipalities or geographically contiguous areas (that have the greatest concentrated firearm violence victims as measured by the number of firearm-shot incidents from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020 divided by the number of residents for each municipality or area.

As IDHS convened this research group, it looked to have a joint representation of scholars from across various institutional organizations both statewide and in Chicago. Outreach to individuals was made in July 2021 by IDHS Secretary Hou, and the first meeting was held in late August. The initial members included:

- Joe Hoereth, Director, Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement, University of Illinois Chicago.
- Tammy Kochel, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Southern Illinois University
- Daryl Kroner, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Southern Illinois University
- Timothy Lavery, Associate Director Research and Analysis Unit, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
- Soledad McGrath, Executive Director, Northwestern Neighborhood & Network Initiative, Research Professor, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University
- David Olson, Professor, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Co-director of the Center for Criminal Justice Research, Policy and Practice, Loyola University Chicago
- Andrew Papachristos, Professor of Sociology, Northwestern University
- Kimberley Smith, Director of Programs, Crime & Education Labs, University of Chicago

The group met bi-monthly via web-ex between August and November 2021 on the following dates: August 31, September 14, September 21, September 28, October 5,

¹ The 77 Chicago Community Areas as defined by the University of Chicago Social Science Research Committee as amended in 1980.

and October 26. Over the course of these meetings, group discussions centered on *interpreting the act, potential approaches to selecting the areas, and sources of data.*

The group identified several modifications to the statutory language to improve the ability to identify areas with the most concentrated firearm violence. The group proposed such amendments, which were adopted by the Illinois General Assembly on November 1, 2021. Following adoption of these changes, the research group confirmed consensus recommendations on the process for selecting the area of concentrated firearm violence based on the act as amended and the data sources to be used in that process.

These recommendations were made with the recognition that the RPSA allows, if funding permits, for the selection of up to five additional community areas using the same criteria, to cluster contiguous areas where appropriate, and to select up to five more areas in the state to be eligible with the intent to maximize the impact of funding on violence prevention in Illinois.

Moving forward, the FVRG will become a formal advisory board as consistent with other official advisory bodies for the State. Bylaws may be developed stipulating criteria for membership, commitment terms and roles, and the duration of tenure. Future meetings of the FVRG will be subject to the Illinois Open Meetings Act with meetings open for public viewing; meeting schedules and agendas posted publicly with at least 48-hour notice in addition to recorded minutes; allowance for public comment; and other requirements of the Act. Current members of the FVRG will be invited to renew their commitment under these new requirements, as well as any new members appointed in the future.

B. Selection Process and Data Sources

The first task for the FVRG was to develop a process for determining eligible community areas that best met the requirements and the intent of the Act. Inherent in that task was deciding on a statistical approach to the analysis with consideration given to existing sources of data that would best serve the selected process. The research group felt that including both injuries and deaths caused by firearms was consistent with the intent of the Act and the most accurate way to identify which communities experienced the most firearm violence. The process for each geography is outlined below, as well as a discussion of potential data sources.

1. *Selection Process*

Chicago Community Areas (Municipality with greater than 1,000,000 population)

The FVRG first considered the simplest approach to identifying the initial 17 community areas, which would be to rank the 77 community areas on per capita victimization 2016-2022 alone, as shown in Appendix 1, then just select the top 17. While this approach is simple and straightforward, it highlights the underlying inconsistent geography of the community areas. The geographic size and population density of the 77 community areas varies greatly, resulting in some having extremely large populations, while others have extremely small populations. This variation in population size means that a very small community area with a relatively small number of firearms victims could be ranked much higher than larger areas with many more victims during the same period. Some community areas with the highest number of shootings would not be selected if per capita was the only ranking factor.

Ultimately, blending the approach of ranking community areas by a per capita rate for selection of the first ten community areas, along with a ranking of the remaining community areas by absolute or “raw” number of victims for selection of the next seven community areas was selected as a compromise. With this blended approach, some of the smaller community areas with high victimization rates still made the list such as Fuller Park and Riverdale, while also ensuring that larger population community areas such as Austin and South Lawndale were also included. The FVRG endorsed this blended approach and the OFVP continued that approach when it selected the next five community areas with the highest per capita rate of victimization bringing the total to 22. Accounting for more than 75% of firearm shot victims in the city within the period analyzed, these 22 community areas represent a strong majority of the areas with the greatest concentration of firearm violence in Chicago.

Municipalities under 1,000,000 in Population

The FVRG arrived at a method for identifying eligible municipalities under 1,000,000 in population depicted in Figure 2 after multiple discussions in which alternatives were considered. As with the community areas, differences in population size across municipalities create a challenge for use of the per capita rate as the sole factor for selecting the municipalities. Also complicating this discussion is the fact that the RPSA has population thresholds of greater than 35,000 and less than 1,000,000, with a minimum population threshold meaning that lesser populated municipalities in the state

would be excluded completely without an approach that accounted for rate and absolute number of shootings in some way.

Additionally, unlike in the City of Chicago, data collection on victims from police departments was not an option due to inconsistent reporting by jurisdictions across the state. The group settled on combined data from the Illinois Department of Public Health on fatal and nonfatal shooting victims, based on death certificate, emergency, and hospital admissions data throughout the state.

Ultimately, the FVRG confirmed that the same blended approach used for municipalities over 1,000,000 population would also be the best approach for those less than 1,000,000, with the added criteria of clustering contiguous areas that meet the selection criteria of highest rate for the larger municipalities, or highest raw number for all others, until 15 areas are identified. This process meets the specific language of the RPSA regarding municipalities less than 1,000,000 while enabling more municipalities to be eligible than just a straight ranked selection of single municipalities per slot. The selection process for the municipalities under 1,000,000 can be described as three steps.

Step 1. The municipalities with populations between 35,000 and 1,000,000 are sorted by rank order on highest per capita rate of fatal and non-fatal firearm-shot victimization 2016-2020 excluding self-inflicted for the municipalities of this population size. The list of municipalities ranked in this way is presented in Appendix 2A. The first 10 municipalities on that list are selected.

Step 2. Illinois municipalities of any population not already selected are then sorted in rank order by absolute (raw) numbers of fatal and non-fatal firearm-shot victimization 2016-2020 excluding self-inflicted. The list of municipalities ranked in this way is presented in Appendix 2B. The top five municipalities on this list are selected.

Step 3. After each list is ranked by its respective measure (rate or raw number), any selected municipalities that are contiguous to another selected one are joined together in a cluster. If a cluster is formed in this way, the next highest municipality on the ranking lists is selected in the open slot created by clustering. If that next municipality is contiguous to one in the original selected 15 slots, then it is also selected and joined to that cluster. The process continues down the appropriate list until there are fifteen total slots filled with selected municipalities and/or clusters of municipalities. A figure showing both lists of municipalities and how these steps resulted in their selection or non-selection is available in Appendix 2C-2D.

C. Data Sources

The FVRG agreed that there exists no single publicly available statewide data source that met the needs of the act for measuring victim data, specifically “fatal and non-fatal firearm-shot incidents” as specified in the act (430 ILCS 69/35-20d). Therefore, the FVRG was required to define “firearm-shot” incidents. The FVRG defined the concept as:

“Any assault in which a person is shot with a firearm, including both fatal and non-fatal incidents.”

The group further defined “assault” as an incident in which a person intentionally shoots another person with malice. The term is not meant to convey the legal definition of “assault”, which is more narrowly define in Illinois Compiled Statutes.

The definition of “firearm-shot incidents” excludes:

- *Self-inflicted firearm injuries*
- *Involuntary homicide (e.g., firearm accidents)*
- *Incidents in which a person maliciously shoots at another person, but misses*

The group decided to use the Chicago Police Department Shooting Incident data for cities with population over 1,000,000. The Chicago Police Department has made a “shooting incident” and more recently “shooting victim” measure available to the public. These measures are consistent with the FVRG definition and were recently used to determine violence prevention priority locations set by the City of Chicago Mayor’s Office. As the source for fatal and nonfatal victim data, the FVRG sourced the Illinois Department of Public Health data for analysis of municipalities under 1,000,000 in population.

Other data sources considered were:

- The Uniform Crime Report (i.e., both supplementary and summary data),
- Emergency Medical Services data,
- National Incident-Based Reporting System data and the
- National Violent Death Reporting System data.

These sources had several limitations that were problematic to the research group. The National Violent Death Reporting System data, for example, did not collect data on all Illinois counties due to not all law enforcement agencies using the same reporting system. Many Illinois law enforcement agencies have yet to transition their Illinois State Police reporting to the National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Another constraint was both the National Violent Death Reporting System and Uniform Crime Report data did not collect data on nonfatal shooting incidents.

Lastly, the research group found that both EMS data and Hospital Discharge data shared similar issues in that it only includes geographic information indicating where the patient resides and not where the firearm incident occurred. Because most EMS responses for a firearm injury are likely to result in a hospitalization (and hence be included in Hospital Discharge data), the research group opted not to ask IDPH for EMS data. A detailed description of these sets considered and the overall discussion of data sets by the FVRG is provided in **Appendix 3**.

D. Eligible Chicago Community Areas

Figure 1 shows in rank order the top 10 Chicago community areas, with the highest rates of firearm violence, as measured by combined fatal and non-fatal shooting victims per 10,000 population between 2016-2020. The next seven community areas are the top seven community areas based on volume, not already in the top 10. As permitted by the RPSA, the final five community areas on the list were added because they were the next five highest in terms of rate.

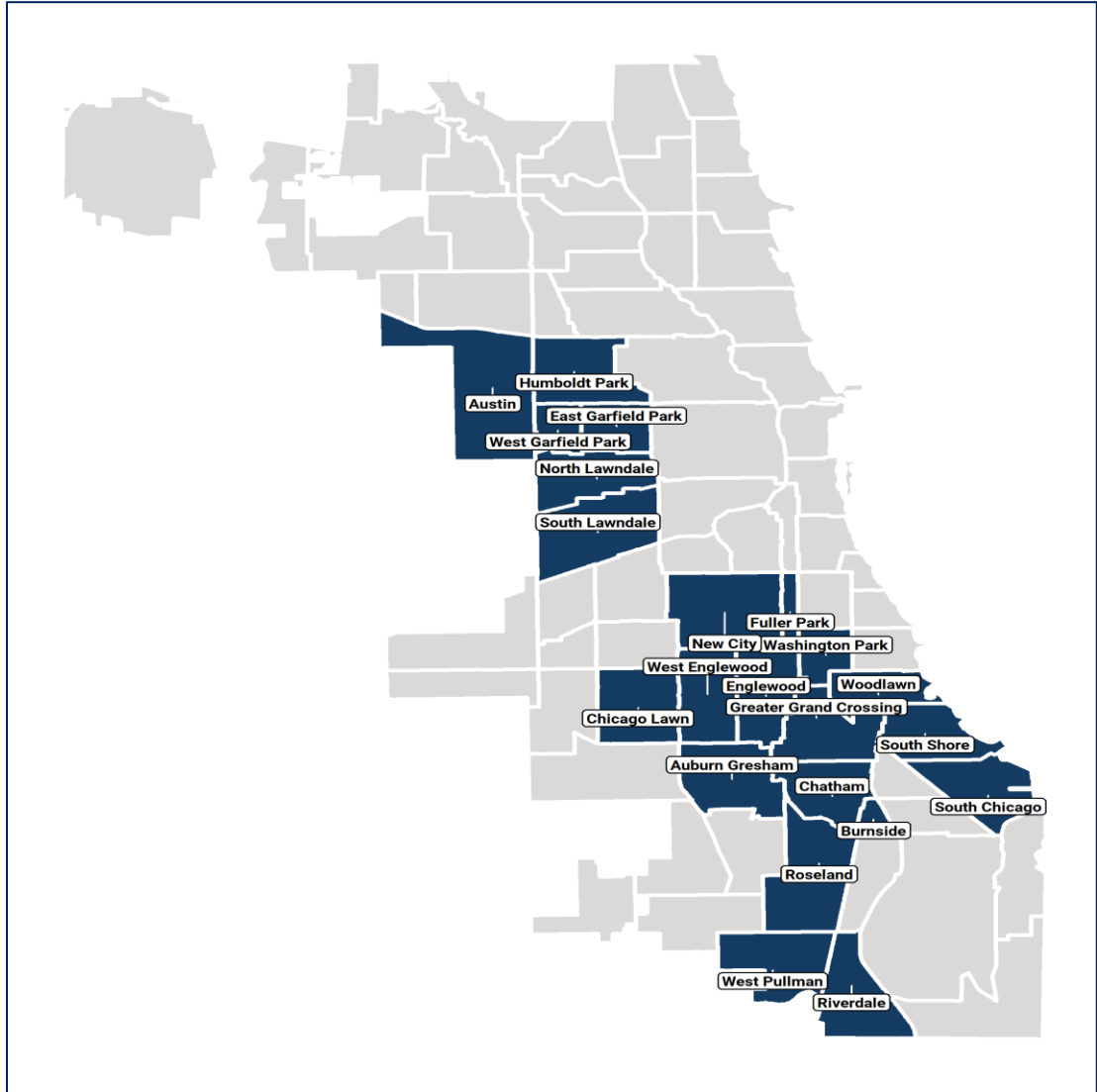
Figure 1. OFVP Chicago Community Areas by Per Capita Rate (per 10,000 people) of Fatal and Non-Fatal Shootings 2016-2020 AND by Absolute Number of Shootings.

Chicago Community Area	2020 Population	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Victims	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-fatal Shooting Victim Rate
<i>Community Areas with the Highest Rates of Shooting Victims</i>			
West Garfield Park	16,421	779	474.4
Fuller Park	2,395	100	417.6
East Garfield Park	18,934	720	380.3
North Lawndale	32,073	1,089	339.5
Englewood	22,921	764	333.3
West Englewood	26,346	715	271.4
Washington Park	10,969	273	248.9
Greater Grand Crossing	30,149	657	217.9
Riverdale	7,359	150	203.8
Austin	93,727	1,900	202.7

Chicago Community Area	2020 Population	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Victims	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-fatal Shooting Victim Rate
<i>Community Areas with the Highest number of victims (not already included in list above)</i>			
Humboldt Park	55,364	860	155.3
Auburn Gresham	45,909	710	154.7
Roseland	39,162	658	168
South Shore	52,454	606	115.5
New City	39,443	512	129.8
Chicago Lawn	51,352	507	98.7
South Lawndale	72,157	470	65.1
<i>Five Additional Community Areas as enabled by the RPSA (next 5 by highest rate)</i>			
Burnside	2,006	36	179.5
West Pullman	27,038	427	157.9
Chatham	31,009	428	138
Woodlawn	22,655	312	137.7
South Chicago	29,936	340	113.6

The population data is from US Census, 2020, while the victim data is extracted from City of Chicago Violence Reduction Dashboard, accessed on September 29, 2021 sourced from the Chicago Police Department Crime Victimization data which is updated daily. Violence prevention programs in these 22 community areas will be eligible for funding support and other forms of support from OFVP as per the Act. **Figure 2** shows the selected community areas on a map of Chicago.

Figure 2. Map of Eligible Chicago Community Areas



E. Eligible Municipalities Outside of Chicago

The eligible selected municipalities and clusters of selected municipalities of less than 1,000,000 are shown in **Figure 3**. This table shows the results of applying the selection process explained in detail above. The first 10 slots include municipalities over 35,000 and less than 1,000,000 in population with the highest rates of victimization, as measured by combined fatal and non-fatal shooting victims per 10,000 population between 2016-2020. Selected municipalities and clusters of municipalities in slots 11-15 have the highest number of combined fatal and non-fatal shooting victims per 20,000

population between 2016-2020 not already selected in slots 1-10. Where appropriate, these municipalities are also clustered with contiguous municipalities that also rank high on rate or number of victims. Violence prevention programs in the municipalities and clustered municipalities included in **Figure 3** are eligible for funding support from OFVP.

Figure 3. OFVP Eligible Municipalities Less than 1,000,000 in population

Slot	Municipality(ies)
<i>Highest rate of victims per capita for municipalities over 35k and less than 1,000,000 in population, and clustered where contiguous</i>	
1	Calumet City Cluster (Calumet City, Harvey, Dolton, Riverdale, South Holland, Markham, Lansing)
2	Peoria
3	Decatur
4	Rockford
5	Belleville Cluster (Includes Belleville, East St. Louis, and Cahokia Heights)
6	Springfield
7	Berwyn-Cicero Cluster
8	Joliet
9	Urbana-Champaign Cluster
10	Waukegan-North Chicago Cluster
<i>Highest number of victims, any population not already selected above, and clustered where contiguous</i>	
11	Kankakee
12	Maywood-Bellwood Cluster
13	Danville
14	Aurora
15	Chicago Heights Cluster (Includes Chicago Heights, Park Forest, and Sauk Village)

F. Blocks where 35% of shootings in an area take place

In addition to identifying Chicago community areas with the most concentrated incidents

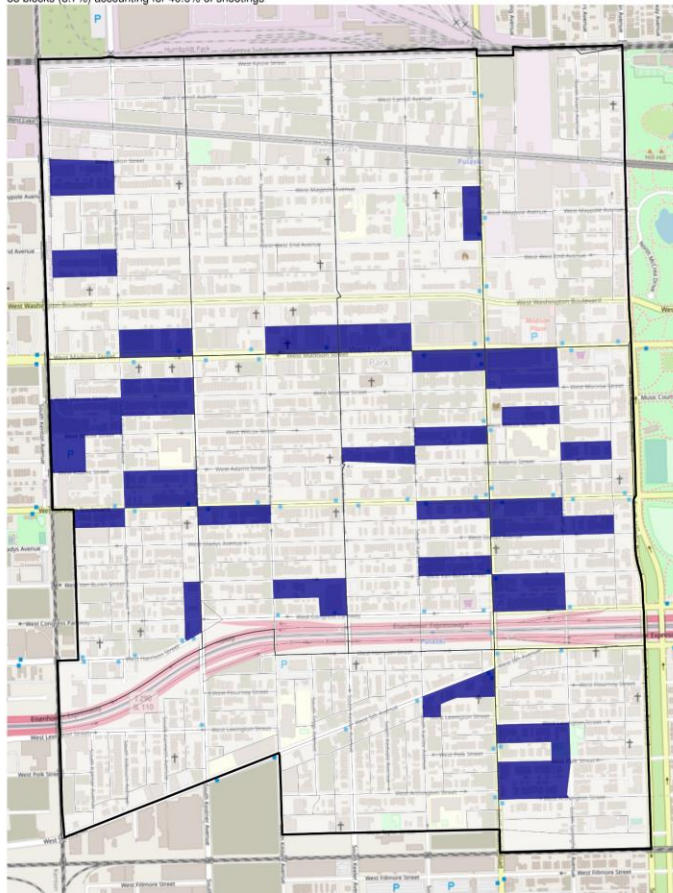
of violence, the RPSA specifies that the OFVP must ensure that its youth programming targets blocks in the selected jurisdictions where more than 35% of the shootings in that community area take place. The research advisory group used Chicago Police Department Shooting Incident data to identify the corresponding blocks.

Figure 4 shows a map of West Garfield Park with specific census blocks darkened to indicate that they are part of a set of blocks that account for 35% of the total shootings in that community area. While **Figure 4** is included here as an example, the FVRG has identified the census blocks that meet these criteria for the 22 selected community areas in Chicago identified in **Figure 1**. A set of maps showing the identified blocks along with a list of the identified blocks is available [here \(https://tinyurl.com/BLOCK-MAPS\)](https://tinyurl.com/BLOCK-MAPS).

The approach taken to identify these blocks is as follows. First, the recorded address of each firearm-shot incident was assigned to a census block. Next, the shootings on all blocks within a community area were summed up to find the total number of shootings per community area. Finally, the list of blocks was ranked from most shootings to least shootings and grouped the blocks by number of shootings. Starting from those blocks with the most shootings, the blocks were added together until 35% of total shootings were captured in the selected blocks. Additional blocks were not included once the 35% threshold was reached. All blocks with that number of shootings or greater were included in the list and then mapped by community area.

Figure 4. Sample Census Block Identification within a Community Area Where 35% of the Shootings within that Community Area Occur

West Garfield Park: blocks with 7+ shootings
33 blocks (8.7%) accounting for 40.6% of shootings



III. IDHS Investments and Activities

IDHS activities from June through December 2021. The following activities were conducted during that time frame:

A. The Firearm Violence Research Group

With input from advocates and experts in the field of violence prevention, data, and research, IDHS leadership generated a list of recommended scholars and experts to form the Firearm Violence Prevention Research Group. The list of current participants and a full description of the activities of this group can be found in *Section III.*

Geographic Target Areas and Rationale for Selection; Item A. Firearms Violence Prevention Research Group of this report.

B. Research, Evaluation and Technical Assistance Partner

In September, IDHS entered into an intergovernmental agreement with University of Illinois at Chicago's Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE) to provide a wide range of research and support services to the OFVP enabling the new office to apply immediate focus on violence prevention funding and support for providers. In this role, IPCE will work closely with, and under the direction of, the Assistant Secretary for the OFVP. The term of the partnership is through June of 2022.

IPCE will provide the following services as part of this role:

- ✓ Facilitate and project manage the data needs of the OFVP.
- ✓ Provide technical assistance to OFVP on evaluating best practices and outcomes.
- ✓ Develop and manage an online data collection system with a data dashboard for OFVP.
- ✓ Create opportunities for the networking of grantees and support the work of lead conveners and other groups with whom OFVP liaises.
- ✓ Facilitate TA to OFVP grantees regarding use of data and related research to support their work.
- ✓ Offer training, technical assistance and support to organizations in the eligible communities and municipalities/geographically contiguous areas to identify and prepare for public funding opportunities.
- ✓ Develop a communication plan for OFVP.
- ✓ Develop or assist with reports required by RPSA and/or requested by OFVP.

One key overarching aspect of UIC's work will be to coordinate support from colleagues across the U of I system, especially those with practical and research expertise in areas relevant to the work of the OFVP. IPCE will be able to draw from a pool of interdisciplinary scholars from the disciplines of public health, criminology, social work, medicine, psychology, sociology, urban planning, and public administration across all three campuses.

C. The Office of Firearm Violence Prevention (OFVP)

On October 18, 2021, Governor Pritzker appointed Christopher Patterson as Assistant Secretary of Firearm Violence Prevention. Assistant Secretary Patterson will lead the OFVP. Since its establishment, the OFVP has been working to build its staffing structure

and office support system, including the creation of an organizational staffing chart and associated job descriptions to begin the staffing process. To date, the office has since acquired a Senior Policy Advisor and was approved for a Research Assistant as well administrative support.

D. Grant Funding Distribution

IDHS and the OFVP have the grant making, operational and procurement authority to distribute funds to execute the functions established in the Act.

IDHS released the following notices of funding opportunities for municipalities over 1,000,000 in population:

RPSA Violence Prevention Training, Technical Assistance and Support (RVP-TTAS) CSFA # 444-80-2771, available [here](#). Applications are due on January 19, 2022 at 12:00PM.

RPSA Youth Development Training, Technical Assistance and Support (RYD-TTAS) CSFA # 444-80-2772, available [here](#). Applications are due on January 19, 2022 at 12:00PM.

In early 2022, IDHS anticipates releasing the following notices of funding opportunities for municipalities over 1,000,000 in population:

RPSA Lead Violence Prevention Conveners (RLVPC) CSFA # 444-80-2773

RPSA Violence Prevention Organizations (RVPO) CSFA# 444-80-2774

RPSA Youth Development Organizations (RYDO) CSFA# 444-80-2775

RPSA High-Risk Youth Intervention Organizations (RHRYIO) CSFA# 444-80-2776

E. Local Advisory Councils (LAC)

The office has since gathered recommendations for potential LAC members for each of the identified community areas and is working to complete outreach to each and secure their confirmation of membership by January 2022. Once LACs have been formed, each will perform asset mapping exercises to supply a listing of resources and organizations in the area that support the seven categories for

the OFVP in addition to interventions that have proven effective in curbing firearm violence in the area. The FVRG will support the councils by establishing relevant data measures that will help the councils further identify and establish priorities as well as hold funded RPSA firearm violence interventions accountable through measured community impact. The OFVP will provide LACs with sample meeting agendas and plain language instructions for organizing their work.

F. Additional Engagement to Assist with Capacity Building and to Support Violence Prevention

1. *State and Local collaboration*

Since inception, the OFVP has been supported by other State offices to help prepare and publish the NOFOs as well as support the office through to the funding process. While it is the intent that the OFVP staff its own department that will provide grant monitoring and technical assistance support to its funded service providers, the Office of Community and Positive Youth Development is also in the process of instilling a new program bureau that will manage grants that are funded specifically under the RPSA.

The OFVP is meeting with complementary local and State government entities to think through and apply resources that will lend to more community areas statewide receiving support to reduce firearm violence in those respective areas. Since November, the OFVP has been meeting with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) to discuss the coordination of funding allocations to provide resources to (1) new community areas that have been identified as being highly impacted by firearm violence in addition to (2) community areas that need more extensive investment to curb firearm violence. The OFVP is also participating in broader violence prevention municipality coordination discussions along with city and county representation to collectively speak through how to best accommodate a wider base of organizations that are knowledgeable of the various public funding opportunities that help address firearm violence but also are in a competitive position apply and receive funding support to implement program models that are effective in its approach and support the mission of the OFVP.

Additionally, the OFVP is participating in listening sessions and panel discussions across the state to not only provide a more regional introduction to the goals of the OFVP but also introduce the opening of the two funding opportunities for training and technical assistance providers. These listening sessions have included appearances in Peoria (co-hosted with Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth), Waukegan (co-hosted with Rep. Rita Mayfield), and in the city of Chicago – Northwestern University's *N3 Symposium Advancing the Science and Practice of Street Outreach: Lessons Learned and The Future of Street Outreach in Illinois*.

2. *GATA Support and NOFO Technical Assistance Sessions:*

To apply for RPSA funding, organizations must be **prequalified** in accordance with the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA). Organizations can register and prequalify in the [Illinois GATA Grantee Portal](#) at any point prior to applying for funding.

IDHS created several options for building GATA capacity including:

[IDHS: GATA Pre-Qualification Verification Form \(state.il.us\)](#) (Assistance to ensure that an organization is prequalified)

[IDHS GATA Technical Assistance Learning Management System](#) (Self-paced online learning to help organizations understand GATA and the grant application process.)

[Youth Development Programming Capacity Building Questionnaire](#) (Free training, webinars, and one-on-one consultation to assist youth development programs in building capacity to successfully apply for State funding.)

Additionally, the OFVP and OCYPD have scheduled and will jointly host “Bidder’s Conference(s)” or technical assistance sessions the first week in January 2022. These two sessions (one for each published NOFO) will be geared towards for interested providers looking to learn more about the currently published NOFO(s) as well as GATA requirements.

G. Department of Healthcare and Family Services

In July 2021, HFS met with staff from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to seek technical assistance and discuss options for introducing the services required under Sections 35-50 and 35-55 of the Reimagine Public Safety Act into the Illinois Medicaid State Plan. HFS staff have developed a conceptual framework for a team-based service delivery approach that provides trauma-recovery services to Medicaid eligible children and adults who have experienced chronic exposure to firearm violence. It is envisioned that this team-based approach will focus on the delivery of trauma informed mental health services, have specialized provider requirements and trainings, and is intended to be in line with and supported by the technical assistance, violence prevention, and youth development services being developed by DHS. In December 2021, HFS and OFVP staff began meeting to discuss opportunities for collaboration and coordination across the violence prevention and intervention system. HFS and OFVP will continue to meet regularly in 2022 to ensure there is cohesion and

strong linkages as the various components of the Reimagine Public Safety Act are implemented.

IV. OFVP Recommendations

Upcoming priorities for the OFVP include (1) continuing to introduce the office to key partners and those with shared interests to promote public safety (2) Continue to build staffing structure and formal support for the office and (3) finalize and award selected providers for current and soon to be released grant opportunities. Immediate activities will consist of:

- Publishing the listing of community areas and municipalities that will be supported through funding per the RPSA.
- Continuing to brief key stakeholders on the goals and key updates of the OFVP. Stakeholders are inclusive of other state agencies, ILGA members as well as city and county government entities.
- Formalizing the FVRG as an official group and consultant arm of the OFVP.
- Incorporate and orient additional staff to the OFVP as outlined in the finalized organizational chart.
- Releasing funding opportunities for Lead Violence Prevention Conveners that will support eligible Chicago community areas per the RPSA. Soon after, the OFVP is looking to release funding notices for direct service program models in violence prevention, youth development and high-risk youth intervention. All contracts are to be awarded by April 2022.
- Confirming members for the Local Advisory Councils (LAC(s)) that will be in each of the eligible municipalities outside of the city limits of Chicago. These LACs will inform the OFVP of community-based funding strategies to incorporate into future NOFOs for municipalities outside of Chicago.

Appendix 1

Figure 1A. Chicago Community Areas Ranked by Per Capita Rate (per 10,000 people) of Fatal and Non-Fatal Shootings 2016-2020 (selected areas in bold)

	Chicago Community Area	2020 Population	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Victims	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-fatal Shooting Victim Rate
1	West Garfield Park	16,421	779	474.4
2	Fuller Park	2,395	100	417.6
3	East Garfield Park	18,934	720	380.3
4	North Lawndale	32,073	1,089	339.5
5	Englewood	22,921	764	333.3
6	West Englewood	26,346	715	271.4
7	Washington Park	10,969	273	248.9
8	Greater Grand Crossing	30,149	657	217.9
9	Riverdale	7,359	150	203.8
10	Austin	93,727	1,900	202.7
11	Burnside	2,006	36	179.5
12	Roseland	39,162	658	168
13	West Pullman	27,038	427	157.9
14	Humboldt Park	55,364	860	155.3
15	Auburn Gresham	45,909	710	154.7
16	Chatham	31,009	428	138
17	Woodlawn	22,655	312	137.7
18	New City	39,443	512	129.8
19	South Shore	52,454	606	115.5
20	South Chicago	29,936	340	113.6
21	Chicago Lawn	51,352	507	98.7
22	Washington Heights	26,742	262	98

	Chicago Community Area	2020 Population	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Victims	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-fatal Shooting Victim Rate
23	Grand Boulevard	22,209	215	96.8
24	Pullman	6,840	66	96.5
25	Avalon Park	9,671	89	92
26	South Deering	15,475	140	90.5
27	Lower West Side	33,203	230	69.3
28	South Lawndale	72,157	470	65.1
29	Calumet Heights	12,815	78	60.9
30	Morgan Park	21,068	123	58.4
31	Near West Side	63,170	348	55.1
32	Douglas	21,325	115	53.9
33	Brighton Park	44,156	238	53.9
34	Oakland	7,227	30	41.5
35	Gage Park	37,478	151	40.3
36	Hermosa	23,481	77	32.8
37	West Town	84,698	270	31.9
38	Kenwood	17,954	56	31.2
39	Armour Square	13,598	41	30.2
40	East Side	23,691	71	30
41	Mckinley Park	15,177	42	27.7
42	Archer Heights	13,701	37	27
43	Avondale	38,118	98	25.7
44	Belmont Cragin	78,550	195	24.8
45	Ashburn	43,356	100	23.1
46	Rogers Park	55,475	113	20.4

	Chicago Community Area	2020 Population	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Victims	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-fatal Shooting Victim Rate
47	Uptown	58,979	113	19.2
48	Logan Square	72,336	134	18.5
49	Albany Park	49,806	90	18.1
50	Bridgeport	34,480	56	16.2
51	West Lawn	31,886	51	16
52	Near South Side	24,729	39	15.8
53	Hegewisch	9,121	14	15.3
54	Near North Side	93,318	142	15.2
55	Montclare	14,318	21	14.7
56	West Elsdon	19,151	28	14.6
57	Irving Park	53,530	78	14.6
58	Loop	38,655	53	13.7
59	Hyde Park	27,482	34	12.4
60	West Ridge	78,466	91	11.6
61	Portage Park	64,599	72	11.1
62	Garfield Ridge	37,144	40	10.8
63	North Park	18,914	15	7.9
64	Beverly	19,791	13	6.6
65	Dunning	43,445	28	6.4
66	Clearing	24,976	13	5.2
67	Lincoln Square	42,103	21	5
68	Lincoln Park	69,465	34	4.9
69	Edgewater	57,649	24	4.2
70	Jefferson Park	27,503	10	3.6

	Chicago Community Area	2020 Population	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Victims	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-fatal Shooting Victim Rate
71	Lake View	101,316	32	3.2
72	Ohare	13,075	3	2.3
73	North Center	35,543	7	2
74	Norwood Park	38,084	7	1.8
75	Forest Glen	19,405	3	1.5
76	Edison Park	11,112	1	0.9
77	Mount Greenwood	19,190	1	0.5

Figure 1B. Chicago Community Areas, Ranked by Total Number of Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Victims 2016-2020 (selected areas in bold)

	Chicago Community Area	2020 Population	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Victims	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-fatal Shooting Victim Rate
1	Austin	93,727	1,900	202.7
2	North Lawndale	32,073	1,089	339.5
3	Humboldt Park	55,364	860	155.3
4	West Garfield Park	16,421	779	474.4
5	Englewood	22,921	764	333.3
6	East Garfield Park	18,934	720	380.3
7	West Englewood	26,346	715	271.4
8	Auburn Gresham	45,909	710	154.7
9	Roseland	39,162	658	168
10	Greater Grand Crossing	30,149	657	217.9
11	South Shore	52,454	606	115.5
12	New City	39,443	512	129.8
13	Chicago Lawn	51,352	507	98.7
14	South Lawndale	72,157	470	65.1
15	Chatham	31,009	428	138
16	West Pullman	27,038	427	157.9
17	Near West Side	63,170	348	55.1
18	South Chicago	29,936	340	113.6
19	Woodlawn	22,655	312	137.7
20	Washington Park	10,969	273	248.9
21	West Town	84,698	270	31.9
22	Washington Heights	26,742	262	98
23	Brighton Park	44,156	238	53.9

	Chicago Community Area	2020 Population	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Victims	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-fatal Shooting Victim Rate
24	Lower West Side	33,203	230	69.3
25	Grand Boulevard	22,209	215	96.8
26	Belmont Cragin	78,550	195	24.8
27	Gage Park	37,478	151	40.3
28	Riverdale	7,359	150	203.8
29	Near North Side	93,318	142	15.2
30	South Deering	15,475	140	90.5
31	Logan Square	72,336	134	18.5
32	Morgan Park	21,068	123	58.4
33	Douglas	21,325	115	53.9
34	Rogers Park	55,475	113	20.4
35	Uptown	58,979	113	19.2
36	Fuller Park	2,395	100	417.6
37	Ashburn	43,356	100	23.1
38	Avondale	38,118	98	25.7
39	West Ridge	78,466	91	11.6
40	Albany Park	49,806	90	18.1
41	Avalon Park	9,671	89	92
42	Calumet Heights	12,815	78	60.9
43	Irving Park	53,530	78	14.6
44	Hermosa	23,481	77	32.8
45	Portage Park	64,599	72	11.1
46	East Side	23,691	71	30
47	Pullman	6,840	66	96.5
48	Kenwood	17,954	56	31.2

	Chicago Community Area	2020 Population	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Victims	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-fatal Shooting Victim Rate
49	Bridgeport	34,480	56	16.2
50	Loop	38,655	53	13.7
51	West Lawn	31,886	51	16
52	Mckinley Park	15,177	42	27.7
53	Armour Square	13,598	41	30.2
54	Garfield Ridge	37,144	40	10.8
55	Near South Side	24,729	39	15.8
56	Archer Heights	13,701	37	27
57	Burnside	2,006	36	179.5
58	Hyde Park	27,482	34	12.4
59	Lincoln Park	69,465	34	4.9
60	Lake View	101,316	32	3.2
61	Oakland	7,227	30	41.5
62	West Elsdon	19,151	28	14.6
63	Dunning	43,445	28	6.4
64	Edgewater	57,649	24	4.2
65	Montclare	14,318	21	14.7
66	Lincoln Square	42,103	21	5
67	North Park	18,914	15	7.9
68	Hegewisch	9,121	14	15.3
69	Beverly	19,791	13	6.6
70	Clearing	24,976	13	5.2
71	Jefferson Park	27,503	10	3.6
72	North Center	35,543	7	2
73	Norwood Park	38,084	7	1.8

	Chicago Community Area	2020 Population	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Victims	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-fatal Shooting Victim Rate
74	Forest Glen	19,405	3	1.5
75	Ohare	13,075	3	2.3
76	Edison Park	11,112	1	0.9
77	Mount Greenwood	19,190	1	0.5

Appendix 2

The following set of figures shows the process used for selecting the municipalities and clusters of municipalities outside of Chicago (Population less than 1,00,000) eligible for OFVP funding. [Figure 2C-2E](#) show the final selection.

Step 1. Top 10 cities, 35,000 to 1,000,000 ranked by rate of victims

Figure 2A. Municipalities with population 35,000 to 1,000,000 ranked by rate of combined fatal and nonfatal shootings, excluding self-inflicted 2016-2020 per 20,000 population

Municipality	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-Fatal Shootings	2020 population	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-fatal shooting rate	Slot, Step 1
CALUMET CITY	134	36,033	74.4	Selected, top 10 by rate
PEORIA	350	113,150	61.9	Selected, top 10 by rate
DECATUR	204	70,522	57.9	Selected, top 10 by rate
ROCKFORD	413	148,655	55.6	Selected, top 10 by rate
BELLEVILLE	102	42,404	48.1	Selected, top 10 by rate
SPRINGFIELD	192	114,394	33.6	Selected, top 10 by rate
BERWYN	94	57,250	32.8	Selected, top 10 by rate
CICERO	116	85,268	27.2	Selected, top 10 by rate
JOLIET	197	150,362	26.2	Selected, top 10 by rate
URBANA	49	38,336	25.6	Selected, top 10 by rate
WAUKEGAN	112	89,321	25.1	
ROCK ISLAND	45	37,108	24.3	
CHAMPAIGN	105	88,302	23.8	
AURORA	115	180,542	12.7	
BLOOMINGTON	43	78,680	10.9	
EVANSTON	38	78,110	9.7	
BOLINGBROOK	31	73,922	8.4	
ELGIN	40	114,797	7	

Step 2. Select Top 5 cities of any population, not already selected, and ranked by raw number of victims

Figure 2B. Highest number of combined fatal and nonfatal shootings, excluding self-inflicted 2016-2020 per 20,000 population, for municipalities of any population and not already selected in Step 1.

Municipality	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-Fatal Shootings	2020 population	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-fatal shooting rate	Slot, Step 2
EAST ST. LOUIS	252	18,469	272.9	Selected, top 5 by number of victims
HARVEY	180	20,324	177.1	Selected, top 5 by number of victims
KANKAKEE	151	24,052	125.6	Selected, top 5 by number of victims
DOLTON	143	21,426	133.5	Selected, top 5 by number of victims
MAYWOOD	141	23,512	119.9	Selected, top 5 by number of victims
DANVILLE	138	29,204	94.5	
RIVERDALE	116	10,663	217.6	
AURORA	115	180,542	12.7	
CAHOKIA (HEIGHTS)	114	12,096	188.4	
CHICAGO HEIGHTS	97	27,480	70.6	
SOUTH HOLLAND	83	21,465	77.3	
MARKHAM	80	11,661	137.2	
BELLWOOD	69	18,789	73.4	
HAZEL CREST	68	13,382	101.6	
COUNTRY CLUB HILLS	65	16,775	77.5	
BLUE ISLAND	63	22,558	55.9	
PARK FOREST	53	21,687	48.9	
SAUK VILLAGE	51	9,921	102.8	
ZION	51	24,655	41.4	
MATTESON	46	19,073	48.2	
LANSING	46	29,076	31.6	
NORTH CHICAGO	46	30,759	29.9	
ROCK ISLAND	45	37,108	24.3	
CALUMET PARK	44	7,025	125.3	
BLOOMINGTON	43	78,680	10.9	
RIGHTON PARK	41	12,775	64.2	
ELGIN	40	114,797	7	
EVANSTON	38	78,110	9.7	
ALTON	36	25,676	28	
BOLINGBROOK	31	73,922	8.4	

Step 3. Cluster any municipalities that are selected and contiguous on either list. If clustering creates an open slot, the next municipality on the list can occupy that slot, unless it is also contiguous to an already selected municipality, then it also joins a cluster. The process continues down the list until 15 slots are filled. The municipalities indicated in Figures 2C and 2D as selected are eligible for OFVP funding.

Figure 2C. Municipalities with population 35,000 to 1,000,000 ranked by rate of combined fatal and nonfatal shootings 2016-2020 per 20,000 population. (Selected in bold)

Municipality	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-Fatal Shootings	2020 population	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-fatal shooting rate	Slot (Final)
<i>Selected municipalities 35,000 to 1,000,000 clustering applied</i>				
CALUMET CITY*	134	36,033	74.4	Selected, Slot 1
PEORIA	350	113,150	61.9	Selected, Slot 2
DECATUR	204	70,522	57.9	Selected, Slot 3
ROCKFORD	413	148,655	55.6	Selected, Slot 4
BELLEVILLE	102	42,404	48.1	Selected, Slot 5
SPRINGFIELD	192	114,394	33.6	Selected, Slot 6
BERWYN*	94	57,250	32.8	Selected, Slot 7, Clusters w/ Cicero
CICERO*	116	85,268	27.2	Selected, Slot 7, Clusters w/ Berwyn
JOLIET	197	150,362	26.2	Selected, Slot 8
URBANA*	49	38,336	25.6	Selected, Slot 9, Clusters w/ Champaign
WAUKEGAN	112	89,321	25.1	Selected, Slot 10
ROCK ISLAND	45	37,108	24.3	Selected, OVFP discretion
CHAMPAIGN*	105	88,302	23.8	Clusters with Champaign
AURORA	115	180,542	12.7	Selected, Slot 14 due to number (see Figure 2D)
BLOOMINGTON	43	78,680	10.9	Not in top 10 by rate, or top 5 by number; not contiguous to a selected city
EVANSTON	38	78,110	9.7	Not in top 10 by rate, or top 5 by number; not contiguous to a selected city
BOLINGBROOK	31	73,922	8.4	Not in top 10 by rate, or top 5 by number; not contiguous to a selected city
ELGIN	40	114,797	7	Not in top 10 by rate, or top 5 by number; not contiguous to a selected city

*Asterisk represents municipalities where clustering is applied

Figure 2D. Highest number of combined fatal and nonfatal shootings, excluding self-inflicted 2016-2020 per 20,000 population, for municipalities of any population and not already selected in Step 1. (Selected and/or clustered in bold)

Municipality	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-Fatal Shootings	2020 population	2016-2020 Combined Fatal and Non-fatal shooting rate	Slot, Step 2
<i>Selected municipalities based on (raw) number of victims; clustering applied</i>				
EAST ST. LOUIS	252	18,469	272.9	Clusters with Belleville
HARVEY	180	20,324	177.1	Next highest on list, clustered with Calumet City
KANKAKEE	151	24,052	125.6	Next highest on list, selected for Slot 11
DOLTON	143	21,426	133.5	Next highest on list, clustered with Calumet City
MAYWOOD	141	23,512	119.9	Next highest on list, selected for Slot 12
DANVILLE	138	29,204	94.5	Next highest on list, selected for Slot 13
RIVERDALE	116	10,663	217.6	Clusters with Calumet City
AURORA	115	180,542	12.7	Next highest on list, selected for Slot 14
CAHOKIA (HEIGHTS)	114	12,096	188.4	Clusters with Belleville
CHICAGO HEIGHTS	97	27,480	70.6	Selected for Slot 15 (Final slot filled)
SOUTH HOLLAND	83	21,465	77.3	Clusters with Calumet City
MARKHAM	80	11,661	137.2	Clusters with Calumet City
BELLWOOD	69	18,789	73.4	Clusters with Maywood
HAZEL CREST	68	13,382	101.6	Not in top 5 by number, not contiguous to an already selected city
COUNTRY CLUB HILLS	65	16,775	77.5	Not in top 5 by number, not contiguous to an already selected city
BLUE ISLAND	63	22,558	55.9	Not in top 5 by number, not contiguous to an already selected city
PARK FOREST	53	21,687	48.9	Clusters with Chicago Heights
SAUK VILLAGE	51	9,921	102.8	Clusters with Chicago Heights
ZION	51	24,655	41.4	Not in top 5 by raw number, not contiguous to an already selected city
MATTESON	46	19,073	48.2	Not in top 5 by raw number, not contiguous to an already selected city
LANSING	46	29,076	31.6	Clusters with Calumet City
NORTH CHICAGO	46	30,759	29.9	Clusters with Waukegan
ROCK ISLAND	45	37,108	24.3	Selected by OFVP discretion
CALUMET PARK	44	7,025	125.3	Not in top 5 by number, not contiguous to an already selected city
RICHTON PARK	41	12,775	64.2	Not in top 5 by number, not contiguous to an already selected city
ELGIN	40	114,797	7	Not in top 5 by number, not contiguous to an already selected city
ALTON	36	25,676	28	Not in top 5 by number, not contiguous to an already selected city
BOLINGBROOK	31	73,922	8.4	Not in top 5 by number, not contiguous to an already selected city

Figure 2E. OFVP Eligible Municipalities Less than 1,000,000 in population (Final List)

Slot	Municipality(ies)
<i>Highest rate of victims per capita for municipalities over 35k and less than 1,000,000 in population, and clustered where contiguous</i>	
1	Calumet City Cluster (Includes Calumet City, Harvey, Dolton, Riverdale, South Holland, Markham, Lansing)
2	Peoria
3	Decatur
4	Rockford
5	Belleville Cluster (Includes Belleville, East St. Louis, and Cahokia Heights)
6	Springfield
7	Berwyn-Cicero Cluster
8	Joliet
9	Urbana-Champaign Cluster
10	Waukegan-North Chicago Cluster
<i>Highest number of victims, any population not already selected above, and clustered where contiguous</i>	
11	Kankakee
12	Maywood-Bellwood Cluster
13	Danville
14	Aurora
15	Chicago Heights Cluster (Includes Chicago Heights, Park Forest, and Sauk Village)

Data Sources Used by the Firearm Violence Prevention Research Group

Chicago Data: Chicago Police Department “shooting victim” totals are publicly available. These measures match the Firearm Violence Research Group definition and were also recently used to determine violence prevention priority locations set by the City of Chicago Mayor’s Office.

Data and Source	Description	Strengths	Limitations
Chicago Shooting Incident Data (Chicago Police Department)	Based on case reports completed by officers to document criminal incidents. Database query script pulls out any report with a fatal or non-fatal shooting, regardless of the underlying offense. Geography is based on where the incident occurred. Firearm Violence Research Group used victim totals (as opposed to incident totals).	Used by CPD for internal (e.g., CompStat) and external reporting. Taken seriously by the agency. Has been adopted in City of Chicago Mayor’s Office planning.	Excludes shooting incidents that were not brought to the attention of police.

Statewide Data: There exists no fully compliant single statewide system that includes records for every law enforcement agency in the state. Therefore, the Firearm Violence Research Group used two statewide data sources housed by the Illinois Department of Public Health: (1) hospital/ED discharge data, (2) Vital records data.

Data and Source	Description	Strengths	Limitations
IDPH Hospital/ED Discharge Data (Illinois Department of Public Health)	Housed by IDPH, but not made widely available. Includes both hospital and ED patients. Includes both fatal and non-fatal incidents. Geography is based on patient residential address. Data includes a series of codes. IDPH analysts provided us aggregate totals, filtering data to include only discharges with “injury” code as principal diagnosis, with “assault” and “firearm” codes. Totals are victim-based; persons are counted, not incidents	Used for R3 eligibility analysis, so use lends itself to consistency across different statewide efforts. May be slightly more comprehensive than police data.	Data may not include every hospital. Received data as aggregated five-year totals to get around IDPH data suppression policies.
IDPH Vital Records Data (Illinois Department of Public Health)	Housed by IDPH, but not made widely available. Includes statewide death certificate data. Geography is based on patient residential address. Data includes a series of codes. IDPH analysts provided aggregate totals, filtering data to include only deaths with “assault” and “firearm” codes.	Used for R3 eligibility analysis, so use lends itself to consistency across different statewide efforts. May be slightly more comprehensive than police data.	Received data as aggregated five-year totals to get around IDPH data suppression policies. Some records are categorized as “unknown firearm.”

Other Data Sources Considered by the Firearm Violence Prevention Research Group

Data and Source	Description	Rational for Decision Not to Use
UCR Violent Index Crime (Illinois State Police)	The Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting Act requires every law enforcement agency in Illinois is required to submit monthly crime totals to ISP. Reporting requirements are specified by the FBI through the national Uniform Crime Reporting program. Law enforcement agencies must report “violent index” crime totals for: (1) homicide, (2) rape, (3) robbery, (4) aggravated assault/battery.	Agencies submit aggregate totals to ISP that include both firearm and non-firearm offenses. Used for preliminary analysis until we received IDPH data.
UCR Supplementary Homicide (Illinois State Police)	Since 2016, law enforcement agencies are also required to report individual, case-level data to ISP, but only for homicide incidents. For each incident, agencies must submit a particular set of information. This information includes the weapon used to commit the homicide. Thus, whereas Violent Index reporting includes ALL homicides (firearm + non-firearm), Supplementary Homicide data makes it possible to identify firearm homicides.	Preliminary analysis showed differences between Violent Index and Supplementary Homicide reporting for the same agency that could not be easily explained. Data is limited to fatal firearm incidents and does not include non-fatal incidents.
National Incident-Based Reporting System (Illinois State Police)	For years, the FBI and DOJ have been devoting resources toward development of a national crime dataset – the National Incident-Based Reporting System. Instead of reporting aggregate totals for a small number of offenses, law enforcement agencies will report a particular set of information for each incident, including the weapon used to perpetrate the offense. Effective 2020, Illinois law enforcement agencies are supposed to submit NIBRS records to ISP. With full statewide compliance, NIBRS data is an ideal dataset for examining statewide firearm-shot incidents.	Many Illinois law enforcement agencies have yet to transition their ISP reporting to NIBRS.
IDPH EMS Data (Illinois Department of Public Health)	IDPH houses statewide records on EMS response. Like other IDPH data sources, the data includes codes that make it possible to identify EMS responses involving firearm-related injuries.	The group explored EMS data as an alternative to Hospital Discharge data, on grounds that the latter only includes geographic information indicating where the patient resides, not where the incident occurred. However, EMS data has this same issue.
National Violent Death Reporting System (The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.)	National surveillance system with state-level administrators. In Illinois, the program is administered by Northwestern. Records are collected from law enforcement agencies and medical examiners. Data includes homicides and suicides, both firearm and non-firearm. The data includes information that makes it possible to isolate firearm homicides.	Data is only collected in 52 Illinois counties. Data collection is typically about two years in arrears. Data is limited to fatal firearm incidents and does not include non-fatal incidents.

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