



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

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Chicago Ends 2013 at Historic Lows in Crime and Violence, More Work Remains

CHICAGO – Chicago closed 2013 at historic lows in crime and violence. The year saw the fewest murders since 1965, the lowest murder rate since 1966 and the lowest overall crime rate since 1972. The progress is a result of the City's strategic policing, greatly expanded investments in prevention efforts, and a close partnership with communities.

"Together, as a community, we made significant progress in reducing crime and violence in 2013, but what's most important is what that progress means for our children and our families in Chicago's neighborhoods," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "While our progress is good news, we will not rest until everyone in Chicago enjoys the same sense of safety."

Compared to 2012, there were 88 fewer murder victims, 738 fewer shooting victims and more than 12,000 fewer victims of crime overall. Even compared to 2011 -- which had been the lowest year for crime and violence in decades -- 2013 saw 20 fewer murders, 438 fewer shooting victims and more than 18,000 fewer victims of overall crime.

"We are making significant progress by putting additional officers in high-crime areas, using intelligence to prevent retaliatory shootings, moving officers from administrative positions back to the streets, partnering closely with the community, and backing it all up with strong prevention measures," said Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy. "While we are experiencing historic lows for crime and violence in Chicago, one victim is one too many and we know there's more work to be done."

"Chicago's approach to reducing crime and violence includes not just policing, but investments in prevention that are paying off for our families and our youth," said Department of Family and Support Services Commissioner Evelyn Diaz. "The results from initiatives like the One Summer Plus jobs program and the Becoming A Man mentoring program show we are on the right track, and we will continue building on these efforts."

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Add One/
Historic lows for crime and violence

OVERALL CRIME CONTINUES DECLINE

Citywide, every major crime category saw declines from 2012 and from 2011. In 2013, the city totaled the fewest robberies, burglaries, motor vehicle thefts and arsons in recorded history. Felony thefts were at the lowest level since 1972. Both criminal sexual assaults and aggravated battery/assault were at the lowest level since 1982.

Crime Category	2013 vs 2012	2013 vs 2011
Murder	down 18%	down 5%
Criminal Sexual Assault	down 6%	down 7%
Robbery	down 12%	down 16%
Aggravated Battery/Assault	down 16%	down 20%
Burglary	down 22%	down 33%
Felony Theft	down 3%	down 1%
Motor Vehicle Theft	down 23%	down 35%
Overall Crime	down 16%	down 23%

* Data for all categories other than murder is through 12/29/13

PROGRESS BEING MADE CITYWIDE

Every police district in the city saw between an 8 percent and 24 percent reduction in crime. The districts with the largest declines in overall crime were: 11 (Harrison), 12 (Near West), 15 (Austin), 20 (Lincoln), 24 (Rogers Park) and 25 (Grand Central)

18 of the city's 22 police districts saw declines in murder or remained flat, with the most significant drops coming on the city's south side. The districts with the largest declines in murders were: 2 (Wentworth), 3 (Grand Crossing), 4 (South Chicago), 8 (Chicago Lawn), 9 (Deering) and 24 (Rogers Park).

MORE WORK TO BE DONE

In 2014, the City of Chicago will build on its comprehensive approach to continue reducing crime and violence. The Police Department will continue refining their strategies, developing new tactics, building a stronger department internally, and continuing to partner with the community. City agencies including DFSS and Chicago Public Schools will increase investments in prevention efforts for at-risk youth that have already reduced youth-related violence. Other city agencies such as the Department of Buildings and the Department of Streets and Sanitation will continue partnering with Chicago Police to address quality of life issues for residents.

ILLEGAL GUNS REMAIN A CHALLENGE

Every year Chicago Police recover more illegal guns than officers in any city in the country, a factor of lax federal laws as well as law laws in Illinois and surrounding states related to straw purchasing and the transfer of guns. Additionally, without a state law requiring real jail time for criminals carrying illegal guns, offenders can quickly be back out on the street.

"We can have the best policing in the world, but with too many illegal guns reaching our streets and penalties that put dangerous criminals right back on the streets we will continue to fight an uphill battle," said Superintendent McCarthy.

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