

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME UPDATE
Downtown Chicago Foodie Group Target Market
Trailing Year 9/6/26

AT A GLANCE:

- **Chicagoland Crime Is Hyper-Localized By Block**
- **The Time A Crime Is Committed Is A Key Variable**
- **The Late-Night Crime Profile In River North Is Dramatically Different From The Daytime Profile**
- **Auto Burglaries Jumped 132% During The First Half & Are Up More Than 400% Since 2019**
- **The Per-Capita All Crime Rates In The Near North Side, Loop & Near West Side Are Well Above The All-Chicago Average.**
- **The Per-Capita Sexual Assault Rates In The Loop, Near West Side, Near North Side & The Lower West Side Are Twice the Chicago Average.**
- **Unlike The Near West Side, All Categories of Violent Crime In The Near North Side Community Area Dropped Sharply On A YTD August Basis**

Chicago reports crime on 77 Community Areas, covering over 250 neighborhoods, within the Community Areas and 22 Police Districts. Because Chicago doesn't track crime by sub-neighborhood, it can be difficult to analyze.

Based on time period, area, type of crime and comparability, the output can vary significantly by third party providers of neighborhood crime. It also varies by official source. Given their limitations and different methodologies, **the DCFG limits their crime analysis to carefully selected official government and police sources.** Links to nine of the most frequently used third party providers can be found on the DCFG's Restaurant Dining Resources page under Secondary Crime Resources. The page also hosts nineteen Primary/Official Chicagoland Crime Resources.

When analyzing crime, it's important to note the variance by definition, official source, preliminary vs official, time period, category, time committed, Community Area and neighborhood. It's also essential to note that crime can vary dramatically by Community Area, neighborhood, sub-neighborhood and micro areas within the neighborhood. Have no doubt, **Chicagoland crime is hyper-localized by block.**

Crime & demographics covering Chicagoland, Community Areas and neighborhoods are all helpful and a good place to start. Nevertheless, the most **meaningful crime analysis requires one to identify the type of crime, the micro area, the benchmark period and the time it was committed.** While generally overlooked, **time is a key variable.** Indeed, the crime profile of the party-centric River North at 2:00 a.m. is dramatically different from its daytime profile.

The comparative group is also very important. Comparing the best and worst in a relatively small control group to each other is different from comparing them to all Community Areas. In other words, the worst in a limited control group, like the DCFG's target market, may look fine when compared to an *appropriate* larger area. Ideally, the control group should be compared to each other and larger areas. The larger areas for comparison should be applicable to a Chicagoland urban type setting.

HIGH VOLUME PROPERTY CRIME & SEXUAL ASSAULTS

While Chicago's violent crime is concentrated, other forms of crime are not evenly distributed. **Property crime is by far the largest category of crime in Chicagoland**, including theft/larceny, burglary, motor vehicle theft and property damage. For a variety of reasons, it is also the most difficult to track in a timely manner.

The raw volume of property crime in the Near North Side and Near West Side Community Areas are the highest in Chicagoland. **The highest number of property crimes in the Near North Side area are concentrated in the southeast commercial/entertainment areas of River North** while the quieter western residential areas report fewer incidents.

The highest number of property crimes in the Near West Side are in the western areas while the southwest areas experience the lowest volume of property crime. The northern sections have the highest per-capita risk while the northeast (West Loop) is considered the safest.

As noted, the time period is an important dynamic because the multi-year, annual, trailing year and YTD crime patterns look quite different. The raw volume of *all crimes* in the restaurant/nightlife rich and Loop Community Areas is, however, among the highest. As you can see from the trailing year tables below, the crime volume may align with typical urban commercial density profiles, but **the per-capita *all crimes* rate, particularly *Larceny/Theft*, is above the Chicago average.**

The raw and per-capita violent crime rate in the Loop and Near West side are also well above the Chicago average.

Contrasting with low homicides, but like property crime, the Near North Side's raw volume of criminal sexual assaults are among the highest in Chicagoland. While the data is based on reported assaults, most sexual assaults are not reported. **The per-capita criminal sexual assault rates for the Loop, Near West Side, Near North Side and Lower West Side are almost twice the Chicago average.**

The assaults generally occur in the heavily trafficked entertainment & late-night areas with dense commercial/transient traffic. The concentration of reports correlates with nightlife dynamics in the entertainment districts rather than systemic neighborhood violence.

Because the majority of violent crime is clustered around 2:00 a.m. in the dense nightlife locations, the daytime crime profile for River North is much safer. **The most important thing visitors can do to minimize exposure is to dine and socialize earlier in relatively safe neighborhood areas.** By doing so, they are practicing situational awareness and avoidance. Given the big increase in Chicago's auto burglaries, we would also park smart, avoid side streets and dimly lit streets, particularly at night. As with any large city, visitors should stay alert and keep their phones and wallets secure at all times.

Click [HERE](#) to see a sample of our restaurant competitive analysis, including the crime profiles for Tre Dita (Lakeshore East), Gibson's Italia (Fulton River District), Bar Tutto (Fulton Market) and Le Grande Boucherie/Naia (River North).

CRIME COMPARISONS & CATEGORIES

Looking at the latest [CCJ](#) mid-year update and the [Office of Inspector General](#) trailing year reports, most categories of crime have been trending lower. Bucking the trend, sexual assaults were only slightly lower during the first half of 2026. **Auto thefts rose 8.5% while nonresidential burglaries (car burglaries) jumped 132%.** Compared to 2019, they increased by more than 400%.

For a myriad of different reasons too numerous to mention here, including how it is defined, counted & reported, **crime and demographic data varies significantly by source** and output within the same source. The official data available is very helpful for and probably the most reliable, but **it should not be considered 100% accurate.**

RESOURCES FOR TRACKING CHICAGOLAND CRIME

See below for useful crime tracking resources. While some of the sources update daily, the DCFG tables do not. Also listed are the Community Areas in our target market, including neighborhoods and sub-neighborhoods. Micro areas beyond the neighborhood are very important, but not shown below. You can use the resources and our sample tables to build and track your own crime profiles as often as needed.

For more background information on the Community Areas, see [Wikipedia](#) for a map of all community areas, [Chicago Image Gateway](#) for clickable individual Community Area maps and [Wikipedia](#) for clickable details on all Neighborhoods & Community Areas.

Getting large picture crime specific, see [Wikipedia](#) for a menu of Chicago crime data, including per capita **General Crime Rates by Community Area** and **Homicide Crime Rates by Community Area** for 2025. Using Chicago Police resources, they also show the history of annual Violent Crime from 2010-2025.

See the apparently inflated [Chicago Public Safety Data Hub](#) for trailing year **shootings, homicides & total violent crime by Community Area**. Unlike CLEARMAP, the Chicago Public Safety Data Hub includes “non-index” violent crimes like simple battery, simple assault and domestic battery.

See [Chicago Health Atlas](#) to track **property crime & rank** by Community Area & *zip code*.

See [Chicago Data Portal](#) to track **reported crimes** crime by *zip code*.

The Chicago [Public Safety Report](#) on Police Districts,

See Chicago’s [CLEARMAP](#) Summary Maps for trailing year **violent crime incidents by type of violent crime** for Community Areas. The [Violence Reduction Dashboard](#) and the [Office of Inspector General](#) also offer useful crime reporting data at multiple levels.

The [Violence Reduction Dashboard](#) and the [CCJ](#) are particularly useful. The first allows you to track all forms of violent crime by Community Area and zip code over multiple time periods, including trailing week, month, YTD and annual years, but not trailing year data. Using all Chicago mid-year updates, the CCJ tracks the major crime category changes from the same prior year period. It also provides multi-year comparative graphs dating back to 2018.

While not shown in the trailing year tables below, **the Near North Side YTD violent crime has improved significantly in all categories.**

Estimated Violent Crime
Chicago Police Department CLEARMAP
DCFG Target Market Community Areas
Trailing Year As of 9/6/26

Community	Robbery	Sexual Assault	Battery	Aggravated Assault	Homicide	All Violent	Per Capita Homicide	Sexual Assault
Lakeview	102	63	88	51	1	305	1.0	.0611
Lincoln Park	59	25	37	35	1	157	1.5	.0367
Near North Side	217	127	126	111	5	586	4.7	.1187
Loop	195	56	137	94	5	487	11.6	.1302
Near West Side	188	82	218	210	11	709	16.2	.1206
Near South Side	36	6	40	39	2	130	6.6	.0197
Logan Square	74	14	63	60	0	211	0	.0197
West Town	93	46	106	98	5	348	6.0	.0554
Lower West Side	83	37	75	59	4	238	11.9	.1104
Chicago	4,750	1,729	6,943	6,201	393	20,016	14.5	.0640

Aggravated assault does not require touching the victim. Aggravated Battery requires physical contact. Community Area violent crime by [Violent Crime Summary Statistics](#) at [Chicago Police Department Clear Map](#). Alternative link for Shootings, Homicides & Violent Crime at [Chicago Public Safety Data Hub](#). Reported crime data can and does vary by different official Chicago sources. Because the Data Hub includes thousands of “non-index” violent offenses like simple battery simple assault and domestic battery, their numbers are vastly inflated. The Violent Crime Summary Statistics are limited to official index violent crime, including homicide, criminal sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault & aggravated battery.

To track violent crime by Community Area & Zip code for multiple time periods, including the trailing week, month, YTD and annual periods, see the [Violence Reduction Dashboard](#). Trailing year data is not available.

Estimated All Crime & Non-Violent Crime
Raw Volume & Per Capita Crime
DCFG Target Market Community Areas
Trailing Year As of 9/6/26

Community	All Crime	Violent	Larceny Theft	Population	All	Violent	Per Capita Crime Larceny/Theft
Lakeview	5,886	305	2,592	103,000	.0571	.0296	2.5
Lincoln Park	3,798	157	1,753	68,000	.0585	.0231	2.6
Near North Side	10,709	586	4,700	107,000	.1000	.0548	4.4
Loop	8,219	487	3,300	43,000	.1911	.1133	7.7
Near West Side	10,433	709	3,459	68,000	.1534	.1043	5.1
Near South Side	2,247	130	2,247	30,500	.0737	.0426	7.4
Logan Square	4,538	211	1,876	71,000	.0639	.0297	2.6
West Town	7,141	348	2,749	83,000	.0812	.0419	3.3
Lower West Side	2,764	238	755	33,500	.0710	.0710	2.3
Chicago	234,331	20,016	58,394	2,700,000	.0868	.0741	2.2

*Population by Chicago [Metropolitan Agency For Planning](#). Community Area violent crime by [Violent Crime Summary Statistics](#) at [Chicago Police Department Clear Map](#). All crimes by the [Office of the Inspector General](#). **Larceny/Theft is the biggest component of property crime.** It includes shoplifting, stealing bicycles, taking car parts from a vehicle, pickpocketing, purse snatching, stealing items from inside buildings & motor vehicles. It does not include burglary, motor vehicle theft or the force/threat of violence.*

See the [CCJ](#) for all Chicago mid-year violent crime updates & multi-year comparative graphs dating back to 2018.

Estimated DCFG Target Market Demographics

[Chicago Metropolitan Agency For Planning](#)

6/26/26

Community	Square Miles	Population	Median Age	20-34 Age Distribution	Median Household Income	2000-2024 Pop Growth
Lakeview	3.1	103,000	32	46%	\$106,000	8.0%
Lincoln Park	3.2	68,000	31	42	138,000	6.0
Near North	2.7	107,000	34	46	124,000	47.0
River North	0.4	26,500	36	63 (25-44)	140,000	
Loop	1.6	43,000	33	49	120,000	160.0
Near East Side	0.2	12,000	41	50 (25-44)	112,000	
Lakeshore East						
Near West Side	5.8	68,000	33	41	111,000	47.0
West Loop	2.0	28,500	34	65 (25-44)	130,000	
Fulton Market	0.3	7,100				
Fulton River District	0.2	6,800				
Near South Side	1.8	30,500	36	35	118,000	221.0
Logan Square	3.2	71,000	33	39	108,000	-14.0
West Town	4.6	88,000	33	44	141,000	1.0
Lower West Side	2.8	33,500	34	33	80,000	-24.0
Chicago	234.0	2,700,000	36	48 (20-50)	78,000	-6.0

CMAP non-vehicle ownership: Loop 50%, Near North 47%, Lakeview 40%, Near West Side 34%, Lincoln Park 32%, Chicago 26%, Lower West Side 24%, Near South Side 23%, Logan Square 22%, and West Town 21%.

DCFG TARGET MARKET COMMUNITY AREAS

Lincoln Park (CA#7) Community Area & Neighborhoods

(3.2 sq miles, population 68,000, median age 31, 49% age 20-34, median income of \$138,000)

Lincoln Central
Old Town Triangle
Mid-North
Park West
Ranch Triangle
Sheffield

Near North Side (CA #8) Community Area & Neighborhoods

(2.7 sq miles, population 107,000, median age 34, 46% age 20-34. median income \$124,000)

Gold Coast
Goose Island
Mag Mile
Old Town South
River North
Streeterville

Loop (CA #32) Community Area & Neighborhoods

(1.6 sq miles, population 43,000, median age 33, 53% age 25-44. median income \$120,000)

Dearborn Park
Core Central Loop
Historic Michigan Ave Blvd
Millenium Park
New East Side
Lakeshore East
Printers Row
South Loop
Theater District

Near West Side (CA#28) Community Area & Neighborhoods

(5.8 sq miles, population 68,000, median age 33, 41% age 20-34, median income \$111,000)

West Loop
Fulton Market
Fulton River District
Greektown
Little Italy
IMD/UIC
University Village
Tri-Taylor
United Center Area
Disinvested Areas

Lakeview (CA#6) Community Area & Neighborhoods

(3.1 sq miles, population 103,000, median age 32, 46% age 20-34, median income \$106,000)

Belmont Harbor
Lakeview
Lakeview East
Northalsted (Boystown)
Southport Corridor
West Lakeview
Wrigleyville

Near South Side (CA#33) Community Area & Neighborhoods

(1.8 sq miles, population 30,500, median age 36, 35% age 20-34, median income \$118,000)

Armour Square & Chinatown
Bridgeport
Central Station
Douglas
Museum Campus
Motor Row District
Prairie District
South Loop/Printers Row

Logan Square (CA#22) Community Area & Neighborhoods

(3.2 sq miles, population 71,000, median age 33, 39% age 20-34, median income \$108,000)

Avondale South
Belmont Gardens
Bucktown
Humboldt Park East
Kosciuszko Park
Logan Square
Palmer Square

West Town (CA#24) Community Area & Neighborhoods

(4.6 sq miles, population 88,000, median age 33, 44% age 20-34, median income \$141,000)

East Humboldt Park
East Ukrainian Village
East Village
Noble Square
Pulaski Park
River West
Ukrainian Village
Wicker Park

Lower West Side (CA#31) Community Area & Neighborhoods
(2.8 sq miles, population 33,500, median age 34, 33% age 20-34, median income \$80,000)

Heart of Chicago
Heart of Italy
Pilsen
East Pilsen

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