



# *Criminal Justice System*

As part of the ongoing collaborative efforts of the Chicago Freedom Movement 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Steering Committee and Loyola University Chicago's Center for Urban Research and Learning (CURL), we are pleased to be able to provide the following research brief.

This document, 1 of 5 summary documents prepared by CURL researchers, provides a snapshot of current and historical data on key social indicators - education, health, employment and income, the criminal justice system, and housing. In addition, we are providing a summary document that combines all of these issue areas into one brief report entitled "*Segregation in Chicago 2006.*"

As you may know, these same issues were addressed forty years earlier in the Chicago Freedom Movement, led by Martin Luther King and Al Raby.

## List of Safety Demands of 1966 Chicago Freedom Movement

1. Creation of a citizens review board for grievances against police brutality and false arrests or stops and seizure.
2. Program to rehabilitate present public housing, including such items as locked lobbies, and increased police protection.

*As can be seen in more recent studies, the modest gains of that time have not been enough.*

In particular, research from three recent studies show the current and continuing racial and economic segregation by neighborhood in metropolitan Chicago.

The reports are:

**Separate, Unequal: Race, Place, Policy, and the State of African American Chicago.** Paul Street, Chicago Urban League, 2005.

**The Segregation of Opportunities.** John Lukehart, Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities, 2005.

**Minding the Gap: An Assessment of Racial Disparity in Metropolitan Chicago.** The Human Relations Foundation/Jane Addams Policy Initiative in collaboration with the Center for Urban Research and Learning, Loyola University Chicago, 2003.

*Just as this movement calls for the mobilization of communities, we must also utilize and mobilize knowledge. In doing so, the movement possesses the supporting data for a renewed challenge to racial segregation.*

All research briefs can be found at [www.cfm40.org](http://www.cfm40.org)



LOYOLA  
UNIVERSITY  
CHICAGO

*Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives*

## Crime and Incarceration Issues At and Around the Chicago Freedom Movement

Violence permeates Chicago's history with the most impoverished neighborhoods enduring the most violence. Unfortunately, these communities – especially those that have been home to racial and ethnic minorities – have not been provided with adequate police and legal protections. Indeed, they have all too often been victims of further abuse at the hands of those who were intended to “protect and serve.”

### Police

Policing practices and policy experienced changes during the 1960s. In 1960, Mayor Richard J. Daley appointed Orlando W. Wilson as superintendent of police because of scandal over police involvement in a burglary ring. In Wilson's ambitious program, he emphasized efficiency over ward politics. He even redrew police district boundaries. In addition to those changes, he attempted to curb graft, tighten discipline, and raise hiring standards. He also attempted to improve police relations with the African American community by insisting upon police restraint in racially-charged conflicts, recruiting more African American officers, and promoting African American sergeants. In 1967, Wilson retired because of the escalation of racial tensions and heated debates over policing. During a riot in April 1968, Mayor Daley gave the order that police should “shoot to kill.” Although Daley soon retreated from that stance, others interpreted that order as a desire to form a less tolerant police force. During the police confrontation of antiwar demonstrators at the Democratic National Convention in August 1968, the harsh tone was evident. During the protest, some police officers attacked demonstrators, beat reporters, and even fought bystanders.

### Gangs

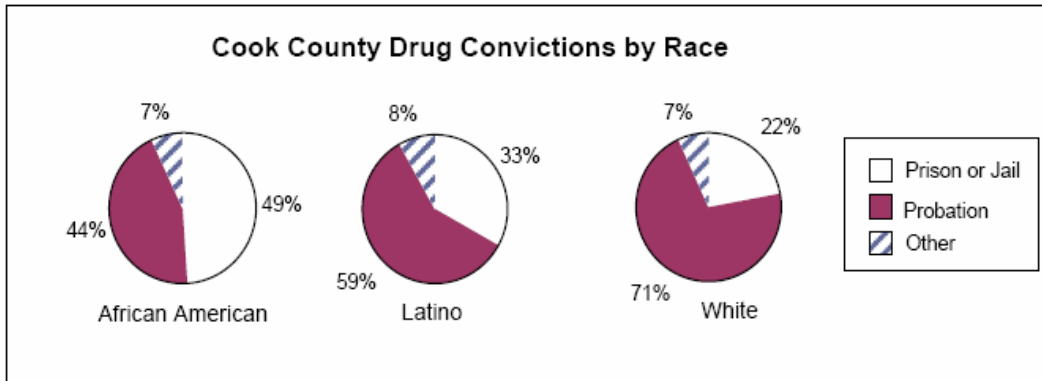
Young men from minority backgrounds have been affected disproportionately by violence in local communities. As a reflection of poverty, dislocation, and discrimination, young African American men are often the victims and perpetrators of homicides. Gang violence among people of color emerged in the 1960s. The African Blackstone Rangers and Vice Lords pervaded the predominantly African American South and West Sides. In Humboldt Park, the Latin Kings, a Puerto Rican gang, formed. The Latin Counts, a Mexican gang, resided in the Pilsen area around 18th Street. Many homicides in communities of color could be attributed to the emergence of gangs. In May 1966, Martin Luther King Jr. met with a hundred gang members to support the on-going efforts of James Bevel and the Chicago Freedom Movement to encourage nonviolence.

### The Court System

Many changes occurred in the court system in the 1960s. In 1963, a scathing report denounced the juvenile court for overworked judges and overburdened and under-qualified patronage staff. In order to improve justice within Chicago, the Cook County court system was established in 1964. The state legislature repaired the Illinois Juvenile Court Act, ensuring significant legal protections to minors, including the provision of a public defender. The 1967 U.S. Supreme Court *Gault* decision further extended the rights of accused juveniles to due process. Within the Cook County adult correctional system, three class-action lawsuits alleged racial bias in inmate classification and housing and a lack of mental health services.

## Crime and the Criminal Justice System- Today

The criminal justice system exemplifies the way institutionalized prejudice can negatively affect minorities. African American's are overrepresented in every step of the criminal justice system from informal contact with the system and arrests to sentencing and even capital punishment. The disparity throughout the system is reminiscent of the 1972 Supreme Court decision in *Furman v. Georgia* in which the death penalty was declared unconstitutional due to the fact that it was arbitrary, had extreme racial and economic imbalances, and did not provide sufficient due process safeguards. These topics arose again with former Governor Ryan's blue ribbon committee on capital punishment and the resulting 2000 moratorium in Illinois which found that the death penalty is still arbitrary and wrought with prejudice and inconsistencies. Defendants who killed African Americans were nearly 60% less likely to face the death penalty than those who killed Caucasians.\*



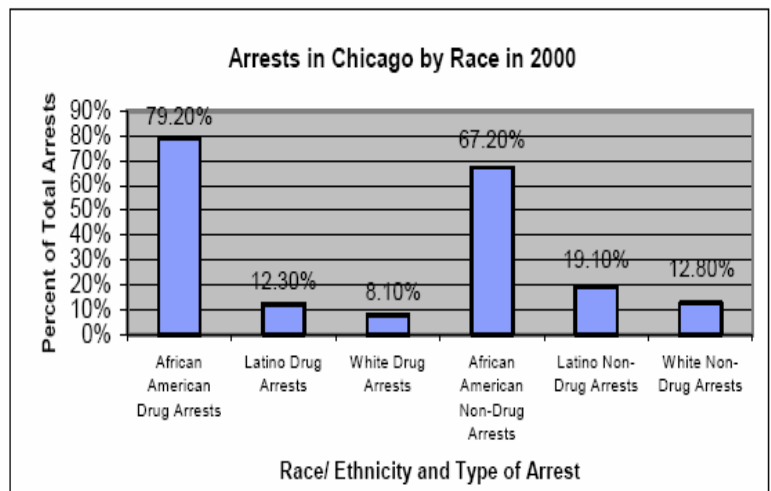
Overrepresentation at all steps of the criminal justice system, both in Illinois and the country as a whole are evident.

African American men account for 4 out of 5 of drug arrests, and are more likely to be prosecuted and incarcerated than Caucasians. °

There is no connection between these statistics and drug use. In fact, Caucasians are 125% more likely to use marijuana, 181% more likely to use cocaine, 413% more likely to use inhalants, and 516% more likely to use LSD than African Americans.\*

- African Americans account for 79% of Chicago's drug arrests, but only 66% of clients at drug treatment centers, 57% of drug related emergency room visits, and 45% of drug related deaths.\*
- Caucasian youths (12-17) are considerably more likely to traffic and use drugs, especially cocaine and heroin, but "despite higher drug use and sales by Caucasian Illinois teens, African American youth make up 15.3% of Illinois' youth population. 59% of youth arrested for drug crimes, 85.5% of youth automatically transferred to adult court, 88% of youth imprisoned for drug crimes and 91% of youth admitted to state prison".\*
- African Americans and then Latinos are more likely to be stopped, ticketed and have their vehicles searched than Caucasians.\*
- As of 2001 there were nearly 20,000 more African American males incarcerated in the Illinois' state prison system than were enrolled in the state's public universities. °

In Cook County in 2000 about one in five African American men in the 20s was either in jail, prison or parole, compared to 1 in 104 Caucasian men and 1 in 26 Latino men. °



° Chicago Urban League \* Minding the Gap

## ***NOW IT'S YOUR TURN***

*If you're looking for more information or would like to be part of the solution, below are some groups doing work in this field. Please contact them to find out how you can get involved in making Chicago a more prosperous, egalitarian, and peaceful city. For more great organizations that could use your time and energy, view the complete list of Chicago Freedom Movement Friends and Allies at [www.cfm40.org](http://www.cfm40.org)*

### **BUILD**

BUILD is a not-for-profit organization that engages at-risk youth in the schools and on the streets so they can realize their educational and career potential and contribute to the stability, safety and well-being of our communities.

[www.buildchicago.org](http://www.buildchicago.org)

773.227.2880

### **Project Ceasefire**

Project Ceasefire works with community and government partners to reduce violence in all forms; and helps to design interventions required to better define what should be included in a community or city anti-violence plan.

[www.ceasefirechicago.org](http://www.ceasefirechicago.org)

866.TO.CEASE

### **Illinois Center for Violence Prevention**

ICVP works in collaboration with many systems and organizations to reduce and prevent violence throughout Illinois.

[www.icvp.org](http://www.icvp.org)

312. 986.9200

### **Rainbow/PUSH Coalition**

The Rainbow Push Coalition's Prison Outpost program offers spiritual, relational, and practical aid to inmates of the Illinois Department of Corrections.

[www.rainbowpush.org](http://www.rainbowpush.org)

773.373.3366

### **TASC (Treatment Alternative for Safer Communities)**

TASC works at reducing recidivism, maintaining public safety, and restoring citizenship through science-based clinical reentry management that offers continuity while linking individuals to services and tools that reduce relapse potential and move former prisoners toward self-sufficiency.

[www.tasc-il.org](http://www.tasc-il.org)

312.787.0208

### **IMAN (Inner City Muslim Network)**

Currently, IMAN leads efforts in Cook County Department of Correction Division 14, a prerelease division which helps to prepare detainees for an early and viable return to the community. It's within this context that IMAN attempts to facilitate referrals to the set of social services provided through IMAN or to an array of other organizations that assist in this process.

<http://imancentral.org/>

773.434.IMAN (4626)

*This report was prepared by the Center for Urban Research and Learning  
at Loyola University Chicago.*

*Special thanks to CURL Undergraduate Fellows - Robert Gutierrez, Alena Chaps, and Timothy Johnston, for gathering and compiling the data. More information on Loyola CURL can be found at [www.luc.edu/curl](http://www.luc.edu/curl)*

