Responses by……

- Legislature in how behaviors are legally classified
- Police in what, and how, they focus their efforts
- Prosecutors in what they charge and how they plea bargain
- Judges in how they sentence
- Correctional agencies in their goals
Illinois Gun Crime Arrests, 2008-2019 (N=105,008)

- **Illegal Gun Possession**: 72%
- **Non-lethal violent crime committed with a firearm (assault, battery, robbery, sexual assault)**: 22%
- **Discharge of a Firearm**: 6%

Source: Loyola’s Center for Research, Policy and Practice analyses of CHRI data provided by ICJIA.
Illinois Gun Crime Arrests

Source: Analyses by Loyola’s Center of Research, Policy and Practice of CHRI data; state fiscal years

Graph showing the trends in Illinois gun crime arrests from 2009 to 2019. The categories include:

- Total
- Illegal Possession
- Violent Crime w/Gun
- Unlawful Discharge

The graph indicates an increase in unauthorized discharge, illegal possession, and violent crime involving guns, with a decrease in the number of total arrests.
Characteristics of those arrested for illegal gun possession

Source: Analyses by Loyola’s Center of Research, Policy and Practice of CHRI data
Most Serious Felony Conviction Offenses for Illegal Possession Offenses

Class 4 Poss. 33%
Class 2 Felon Poss. 31%
Class 3 Felon Poss. 15%
Other * 21%

Source: Analyses by Loyola’s Center of Research, Policy and Practice of CHRI data
* Other includes possession of gun with defaced IDs, stolen guns, possession by gang member, armed habitual criminal, and others.
“Brief” Legislative History of Class 4 Felony Gun Possession in Illinois

- Pre-2000: a misdemeanor (no prison possible)
- 2000: Probationable (1 to 3 year prison sentence OR up to 2½ years probation)
- 2011: Non-probationable if loaded and accessible
- 2018: Probationable if between 18 and 20 years old and no prior violent convictions
Illinois *Convictions* Class 4 Gun Possession, 2008-2019

- **Suburban Cook County**: 14%
- **Illinois outside of Cook County**: 24%
- **66 Chicago neighborhoods**: 29%
- **11 Chicago neighborhoods**: 33%

One-third of *statewide* convictions in communities that account for **0.1%** of Illinois’ land area and **4%** of the state’s population.

Source: Loyola’s Center for Research, Policy and Practice analyses of CHRI data provided by ICJIA.
Percent of Class 4 Illegal Gun Possession Convictions Sentenced to Prison

Source: Analyses by Loyola’s Center of Research, Policy and Practice of CHRI data
Percent of Class 4 Illegal Gun Possession Convictions Sentenced to Prison & Murder Offenses in Chicago

Source: Analyses by Loyola’s Center of Research, Policy and Practice of CHRI data and data from the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office data portal & the Chicago Police Data Portal
Percent of Class 4 Illegal Gun Possession Convictions Sentenced to Prison & Non-Lethal Violent Offenses in Chicago

Source: Analyses by Loyola’s Center of Research, Policy and Practice of CHRI data and data from the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office data portal & the Chicago Police Data Portal
Illinois Convictions Class 4 Gun Possession, 2008-2019

- 18-20 years old w/o prior felony or DV conviction: 38%
- 18-20 years old w/ prior felony or DV conviction: 6%
- 21+ years old w/o Criminal History Prohibition: 43%
- 21+ years old w/Prior felony or DV conviction: 13%

Source: Loyola’s Center for Research, Policy and Practice analyses of CHRI data provided by ICJIA.
**Prison** Sentences Class 4 Gun Possession, 2008-2019

- **Illinois outside of Cook County**
  - 14%
- **Suburban Cook County**
  - 13%
- **66 Chicago neighborhoods**
  - 34%
- **11 Chicago neighborhoods**
  - 39%

Source: Loyola’s Center for Research, Policy and Practice analyses of CHRI data provided by ICJIA.
Prison Sentences for Class 4 Gun Possession, 2008-2019

- Black males, Chicago: 58%
- Black males, suburban Cook County: 11%
- All other groups: 22%
- Black males outside of Cook County: 9%

Source: Loyola’s Center for Research, Policy and Practice analyses of CHRI data provided by ICJIA.
Do Prison Sentences for Class 4 Felony Gun Possession Offenses Improve Public Safety in Cook County?

- Compare re-arrest rates for those with similar characteristics sentenced to prison or probation
  - Black males between 18 and 24 years old with no prior convictions. This subset accounted for 41% of probation sentences and 47% of prison sentences
  - Cases disposed in three different periods: 2008-2010, 2011-2016, and 2018

- Rearrested within 12 months of disposition/sentencing for any crime or a violent crime
Rearrested for any crime within 12 months of conviction
Class 4 Gun Possession in Cook County**

Source: Analyses by Loyola’s Center of Research, Policy and Practice of CHRI data
** Only cases involving Black males between 18 and 24 with no prior convictions. This sub-set accounted for 41% of those sentenced to probation and 47% of those sentenced to prison in Cook County during the periods examined
n.s.=not a statistically significant difference at the p<.05 level
Rearrested for a violent crime within 12 months of conviction, Class 4 Gun Possession in Cook County**

Source: Analyses by Loyola’s Center of Research, Policy and Practice of CHRI data

** Only cases involving Black males between 18 and 24 with no prior convictions. This sub-set accounted for 41% of those sentenced to probation and 47% of those sentenced to prison in Cook County during the periods examined

n.s. = not a statistically significant difference at the p<.05 level
Criminal Justice Response to Illegal Gun Possession

• State response vs. Chicago/Cook County response?
  – Impact on Black males, particularly in Chicago (and specific neighborhoods in Chicago)

• Increased *arrests* (in Chicago/Cook), change in *legislation*, and increased likelihood of prison (in Chicago/Cook) combined to double prison admissions from 2010-2018
  – Little correlation between homicides/non-lethal gun violence and likelihood of prison
  – Those sentenced to prison had higher overall rates of rearrest
  – Rearrest rates for a violent crime generally low, and similar between those sentenced to prison or probation