



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Integrating Lessons from Race and Trauma in Local Services: Achieving Better Results at Lower Costs

**League of California Cities
2020 Annual Conference & Expo**

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FACTOR-INWENTASH
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK
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“[Cities are] indispensable to the world. The world changes according to the way people see it, and if you alter, even by a millimeter, the way a person looks at reality, then you can change it.”

— James Baldwin

**America's [civic] systems are neither healthy, caring, nor a system.
– Walter Cronkite**

Juvenile Justice and Corrections Systems

School Systems

Child Welfare Systems

Public Health Care Systems

The Significance of Race in Local Public Services



- **Juvenile Justice and Corrections**
- **Child Welfare**
- **Schools**
- **Health Care**



The Role of Structural Trauma in Local Public Services

By slow violence I mean a violence that occurs gradually and out of sight, a violence of delayed destruction that is dispersed across time and space, an attritional violence that is typically not viewed as violence at all.

– Rob Nixon, 2011



The Role of Gun Violence

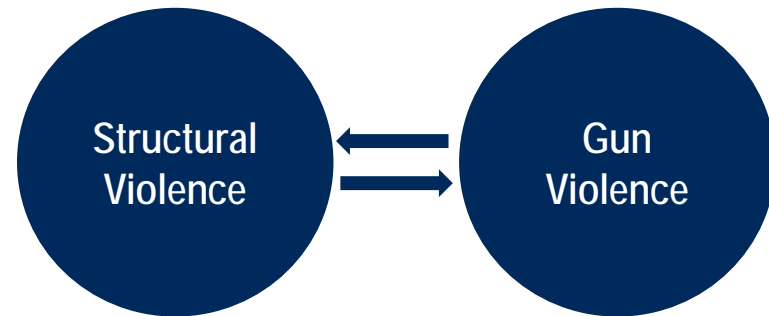
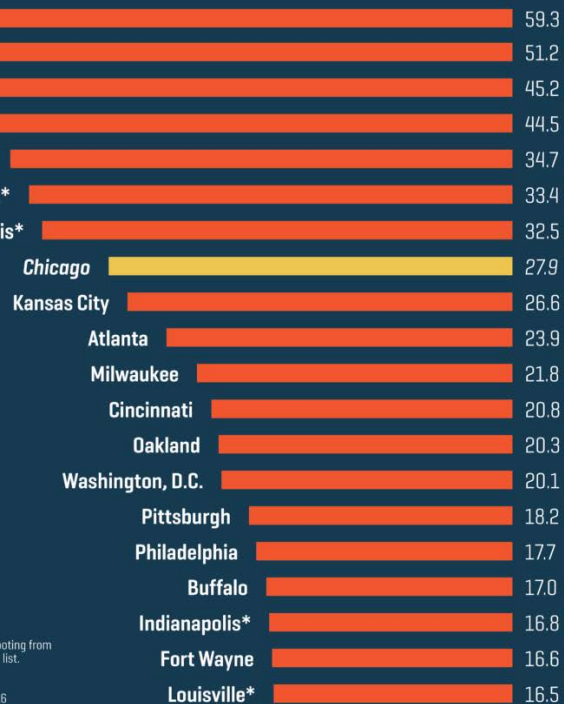
CHICAGO'S HOMICIDE SURGE IN CONTEXT

The 762 murders recorded by the city in 2016 place it eighth among large cities when adjusted for population.



Note: The city of Orlando has excluded the victims of the Pulse nightclub shooting from its 2016 homicide count. Its adjusted rate was not high enough to make this list.

SOURCES: Police data, news reports
*reflects partial homicide counts reported as of November or December 2016



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Loud vs. Silent Traumas

Homicide

Hearing Gunshots

Witnessing

Victimization



Silent Traumas



Lower Costs and Better Outcomes

- Increasing public awareness & campaigns
- Improving detection
- Increase evidenced-based interventions
- Locate mental health systems in principal settings
- Enhance interagency collaborations

DEXTER R. VOISIN

**AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL
AND VIOLENT**

Black Youth & Neighborhood Trauma in Chicago

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