

Understanding Crime in Chicago

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Introduction

Chicago is a beautiful city with many tourist attractions and incredible scenery. Unfortunately, it also has a reputation for high crime rates. This led me to take a deeper look into the crimes that occur daily in Chicago, with a particular focus on violent crimes.

Overview of Crime Categories

Crimes can be grouped into primary types: Theft, Violent Crime, Criminal Damage, Minor Offense/Drugs, and Other.

- **Theft:** crimes involving stealing or burglary.
- **Violent Crime:** physical harm or threat to individuals.
- **Criminal Damage:** damage to property or physical objects.
- **Minor Offense/Drugs:** low-level infractions and drug-related crimes.
- **Other:** miscellaneous crimes not captured above.

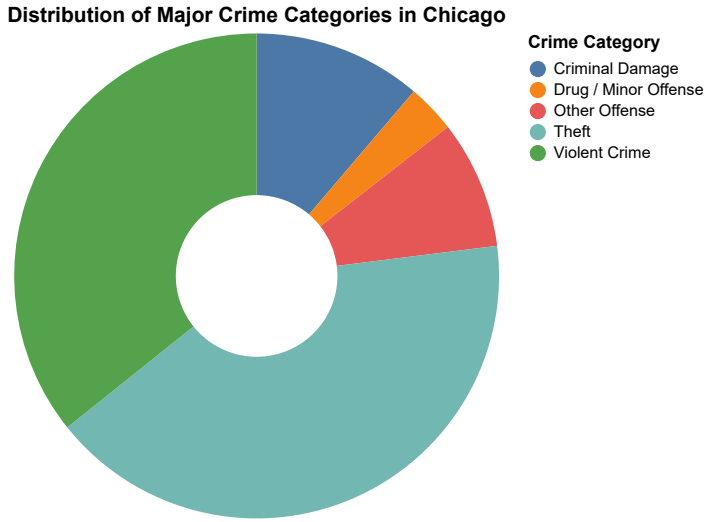


Figure: Distribution of Major Crime Categories in Chicago

Theft and violent crimes dominate the city's crime landscape, with criminal damage trailing behind.

Violent Crimes Breakdown

Violent crimes include battery, assault, robbery, weapons violations, and others. A concerning trend is the high number of domestic incidents, especially in battery and assault cases.

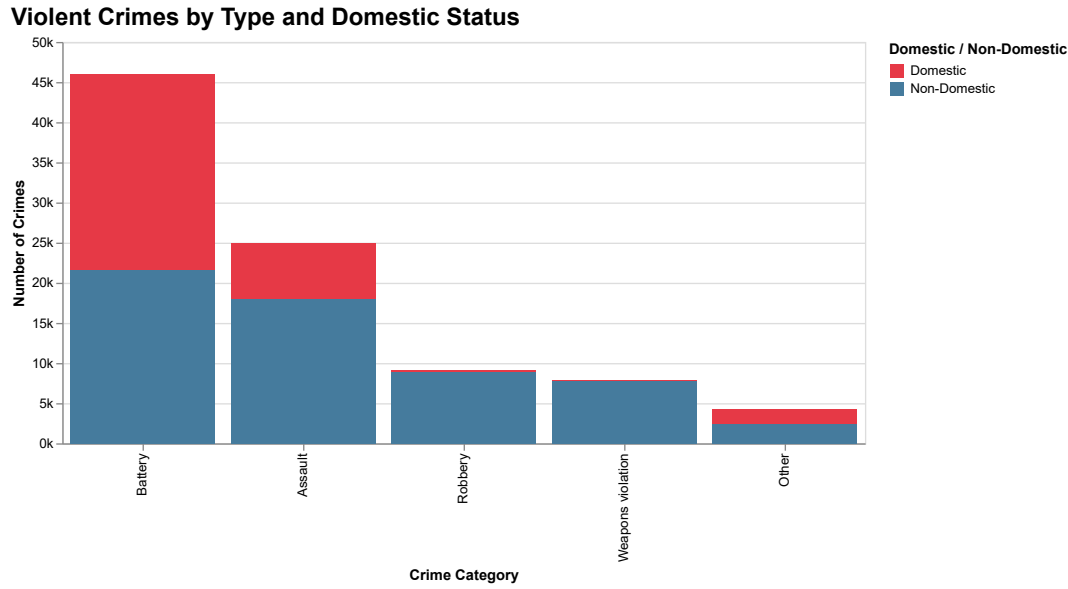


Figure: Violent Crimes by Type and Domestic Status

Robbery is less frequent than battery or assault, which often stem from direct aggression.

Seasonal and Daily Crime Patterns

Crime timing is closely tied to public activity. Incidents spike during summer months.

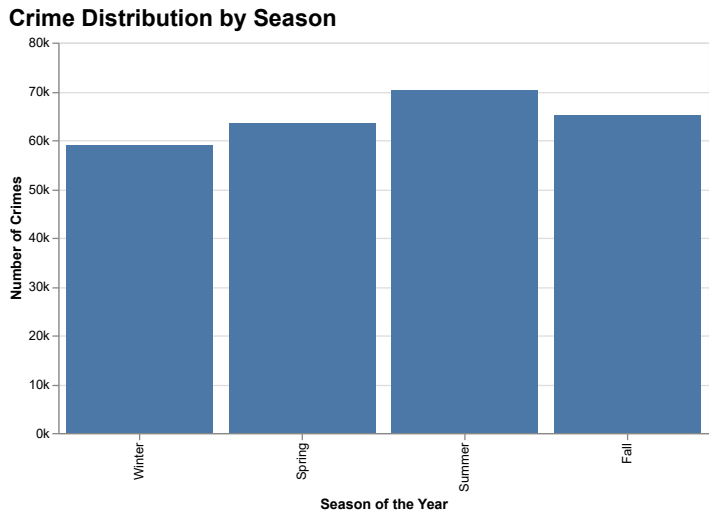


Figure: Crimes by Season

Most crimes occur between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Early morning hours on weekends also show higher activity.

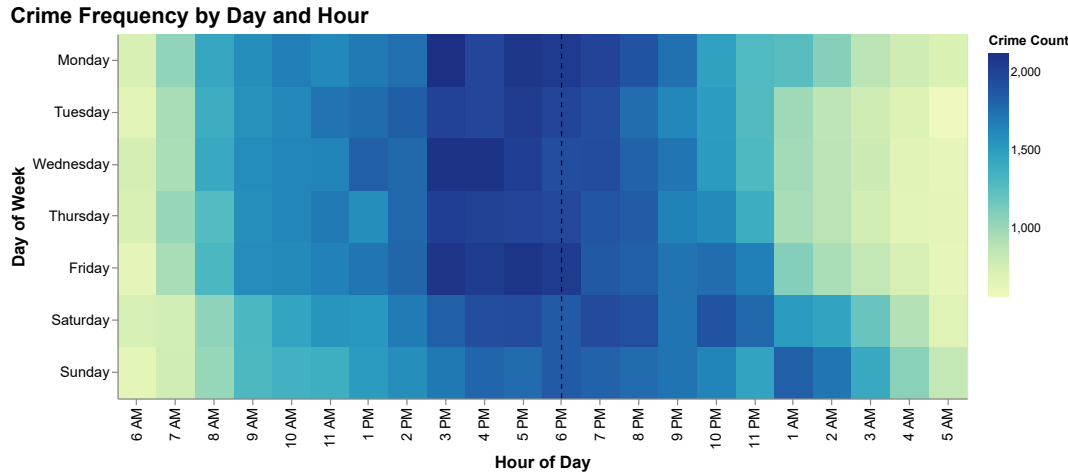


Figure: Crime Frequency by Day and Hour

Hourly Trends in Violent Crimes

Battery peaks between 3 p.m.–11 p.m., assaults cluster around 3–6 p.m., and weapons violations occur mainly at night. Robberies are evenly distributed.

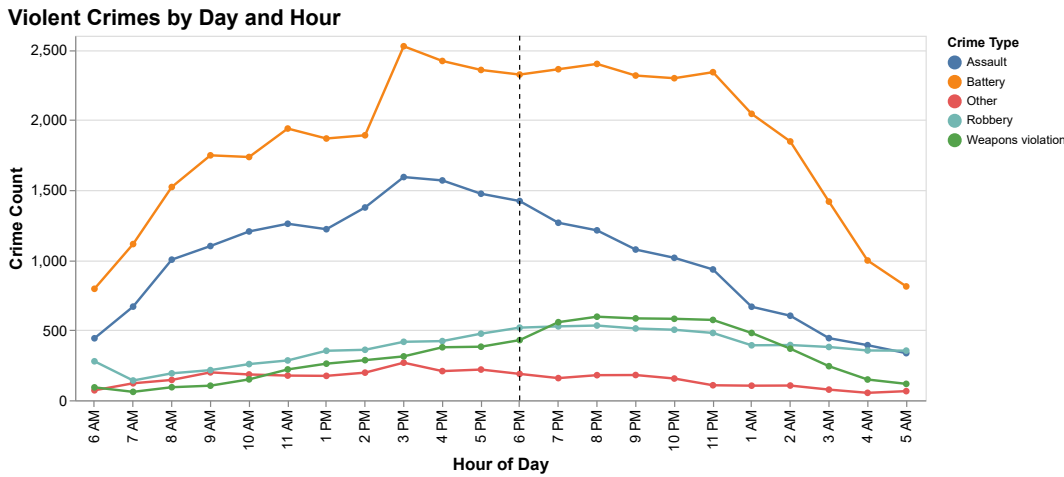


Figure: Hourly Distribution of Violent Crimes by Type

Where Do Crimes Happen?

Crime locations: Residential, Public/Street, Commercial, Public Institutional, Transport.

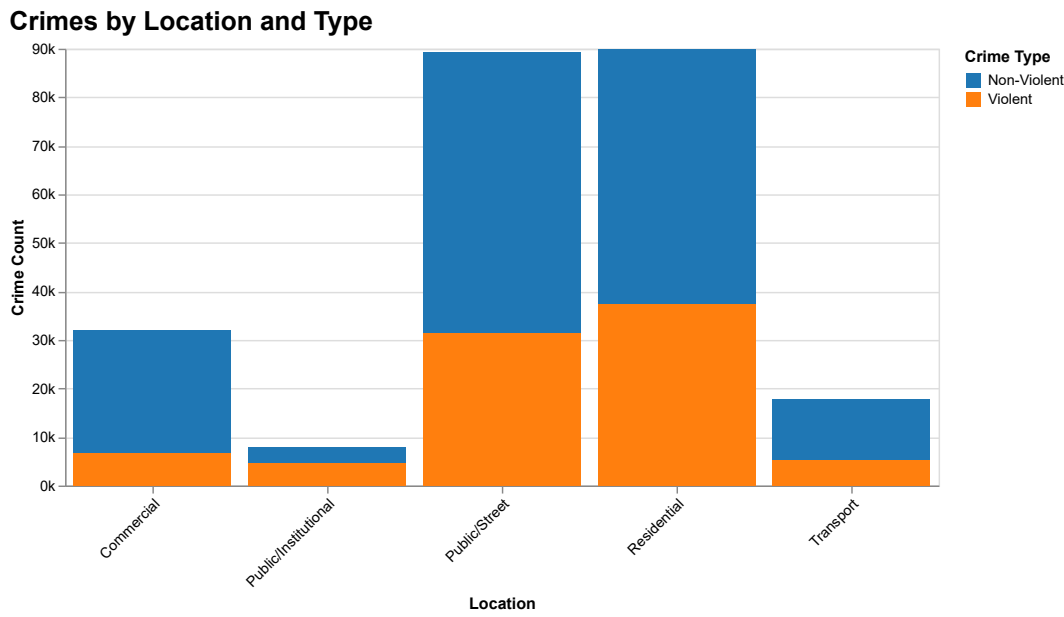


Figure: Crimes by Location and Type

Violent crimes concentrate in residential and street settings.

Community-Level Crime Concentration

Violent crimes are most prevalent in Austin and South Shore, followed by Near West Side and Near North Side.

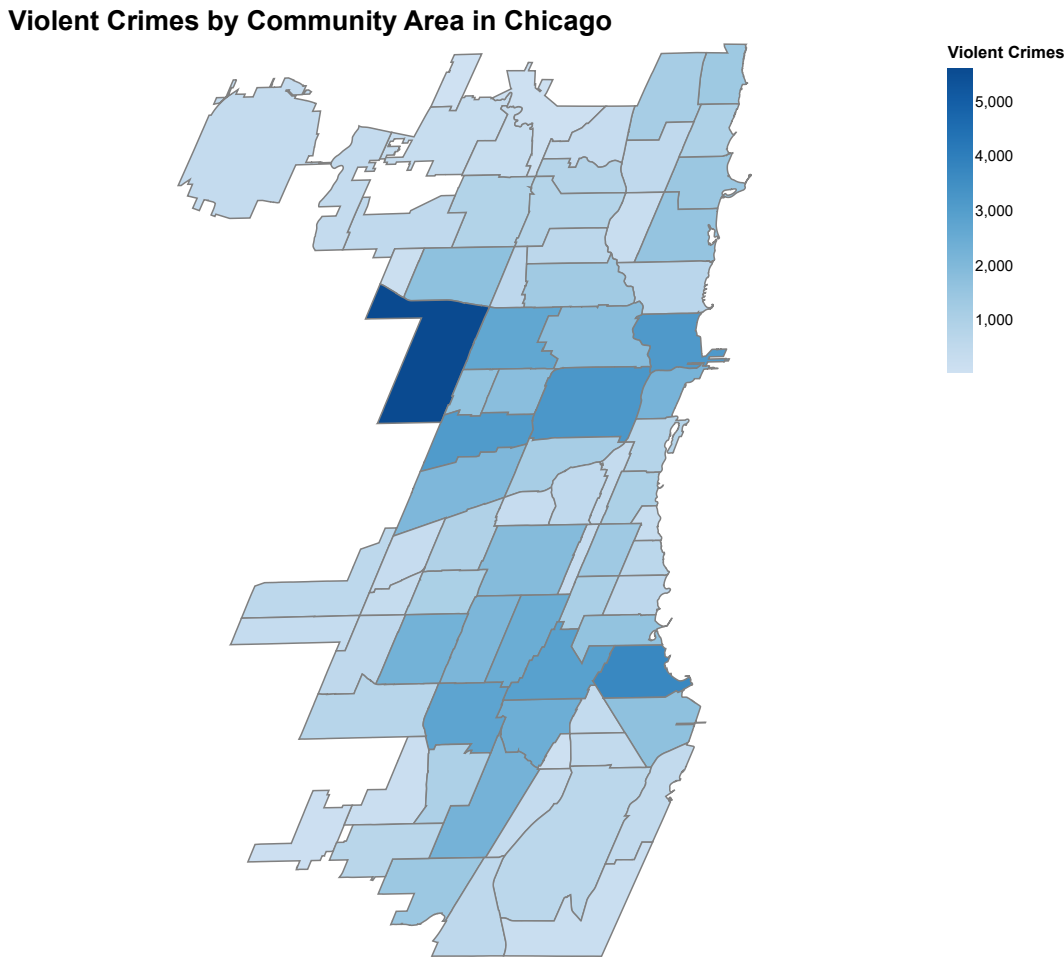


Figure: Violent Crimes by Community Area in Chicago

Conclusion

Theft and violent crimes are the main challenges. Patterns reflect daily life, suggesting prevention must consider time and place. Future research could integrate socioeconomic data and urban planning.

Data Sources

- **Crime Data (2024)** — City of Chicago Data Portal
https://data.cityofchicago.org/Public-Safety/Crimes-2024/dqcy-ctma/about_data
- **Community Area Boundaries (Shapefile)** — <https://data.cityofchicago.org/Facilities-Geographic-Boundaries/chicago-Community-areas/m39i-3ntz>
- **City Boundaries Map (Shapefile)** — <https://data.cityofchicago.org/Facilities-Geographic-Boundaries/Boundaries-City-Map/ewy2-6yfk>