

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



## Chicago seeing a drop in homicides

Improvement, though, leaves many struggling neighborhoods behind

By Sam Charles and Caroline Kubzansky  
Chicago Tribune

Chicago is poised to see a double-digit percentage drop in homicides in 2023, welcome news for a freshman mayor and a police superintendent who took the reins of the department just a couple of months ago.

But the small measure of success may not be exactly as it seems, a Tribune analysis of police data has found. While citywide figures show improvement, a closer look shows that neighborhoods that have for decades shouldered the brunt of disenfranchisement have paid for at least some of the gains.

A review of Chicago Police Department data on the district level shows that killings have actually increased or remained flat in many of the neighborhoods that have historically struggled the most with violence.

That may be because the downturn in fatal and nonfatal shootings has coincided with a huge spike in armed robberies and carjackings across the city, and police have shuffled resources around to deal with it — sometimes at the expense of the most troubled areas.

On the Southwest Side, the Chicago Lawn District has seen one of the largest year-over-year increases in fatal violence. CPD says 31 slayings have occurred in the district so far in 2023, a 29% increase over last year.

Jason Huff, one of the three Chicago Lawn police district councilors, said the district's uptick in killings stems from officers being temporarily reassigned to cover other parts of the city. The district's size is a challenge, too, Huff said, and the area's aldermen have asked residents if they'd prefer the Chicago Lawn District to be split in two.

"The main, consistent storyline that you hear across the city is the

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## A plea to Biden from longtime immigrants

Undocumented workers call for permits like some new migrants can get

By Laura Rodríguez Presa | Chicago Tribune

When recently arrived migrants, mostly from Venezuela, began to show up at Juana Arreguin's ice cream shop in Pilsen over the summer — some begging for money, others asking for a job — all she could do was feed them. Sometimes, she said, she would give them a few dollars or point them to someone who could maybe hire them.

"I wish I could help them, I know how it is to start from zero," said Arreguin, 52.

With the help of her husband, she managed to open the shop after nearly 30 years in the U.S. The couple, both of whom entered the country illegally from Mexico, said they used all their savings from working without job permits in the Chicago area their entire adult lives to open the shop.

They prayed the risk they were taking would be worth it.

It hasn't been easy, Arreguin said, but she's grateful for the ice cream shop with a dozen colorful tables and even more flavors and Mexican snacks.

Lately, however, she's felt a little disillusioned, perhaps frustrated.

Some of those new migrants — who she's been helping feed and guide in the city she's called home for decades — can now apply for job permits after President Joe Biden expedited work permits for migrants from mostly Venezuela, as well as Nicaragua, Cuba and Haiti.

Though Arreguin celebrates the increased opportunities for newly arrived Venezuelans in Chicago, she

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Above, Johanna Rangel and her mother, Juana Arreguin, prepare food at their family's shop, Nevería El Sabor de México, in Pilsen on Oct. 12. EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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E. JASON WAMBSGANS/TRIBUNE

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### At a crossroads

Bears' Ryan Poles is nearing a series of landmark decisions on QB and coaching future. **Chicago Sports**

## Muslim, Jewish families' new reason to unite

Brought together in 2017, they comfort each other amid war

By Angie Leventis Lourgos  
Chicago Tribune

The photograph went viral, instantly becoming a symbol of interfaith unity and a beacon of hope amid turmoil.

A Muslim father and his young daughter connected with a Jewish dad and son in a chance encounter at O'Hare International Airport in 2017 while taking part in a protest of then-President Donald Trump's travel ban targeting Muslim-majority nations.

Rabbi Jordan Bendat-Appell hoisted his then-9-year-old son Adin onto his shoulders when the boy asked for a better look at the demonstration. Around the same time Fatih Yildirim also lifted his daughter Meryem onto his shoulders when the 7-year-old became tired.

A Chicago Tribune photographer captured an iconic image of that moment, as one child smiled at the other above the crowd, Adin wearing a yarmulke and Meryem wearing a hijab.

Although they were strangers before that day, the photo that swept the internet also brought the Yildirim and Bendat-Appell families together. A few days after the protest they shared a Shabbat dinner to celebrate peace. And they have remained friends since despite their different backgrounds, cultures and faiths.

Recently, a small gesture of compassion from one of the fathers offered a great deal of comfort to the other, as his family endured tragedy during the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel, which killed about 1,200 and thrust the region into a bloody war.

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The Muslim and Jewish families befriended each other after meeting at the protest. **NUCCIO DINUZZO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 41 Low 31

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 26

\$5.75 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
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