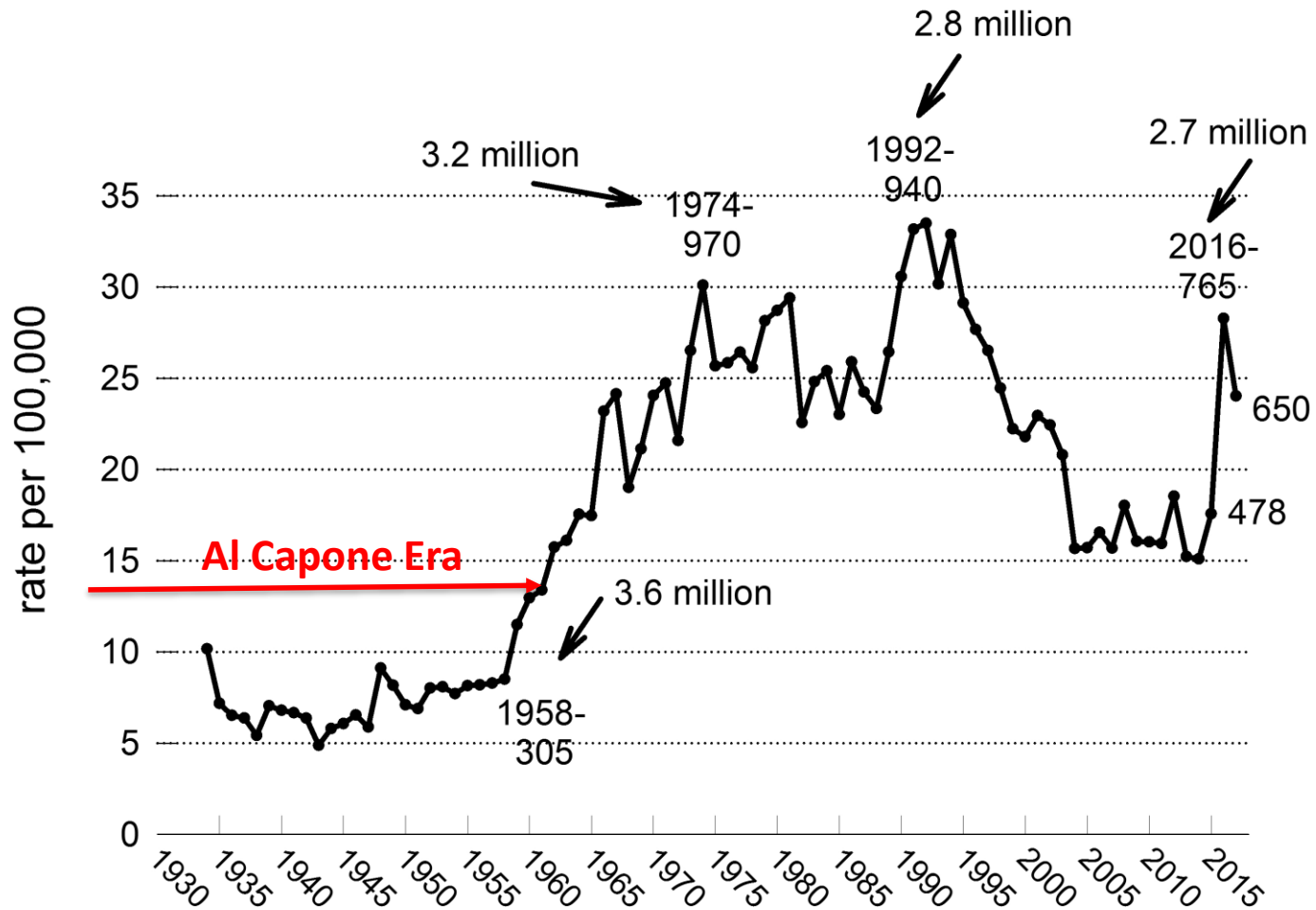


# **The Great Crime Spike of 2016 What Does It Tell Us?**

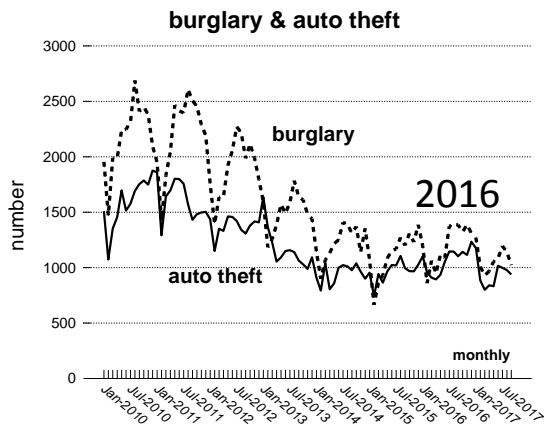
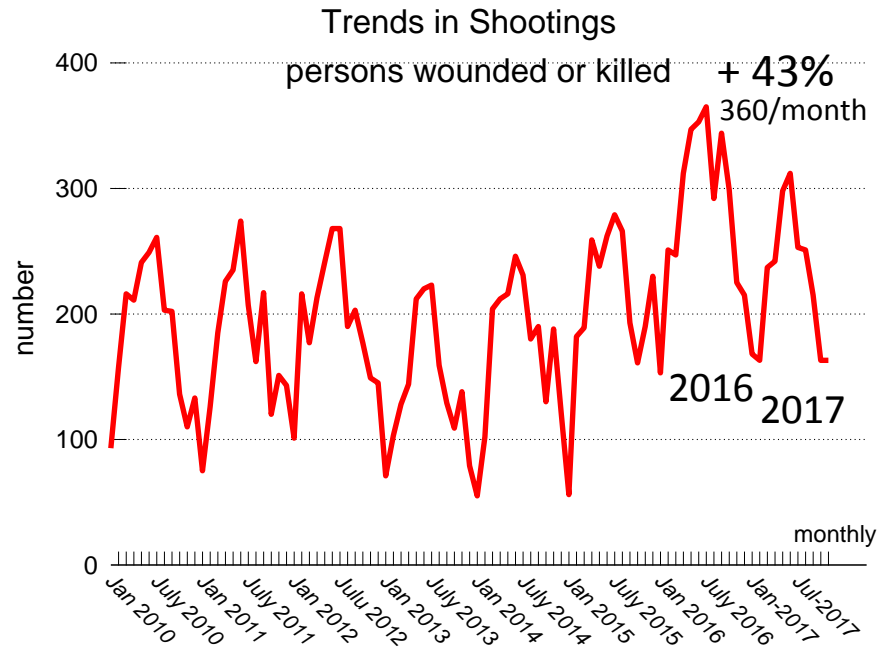
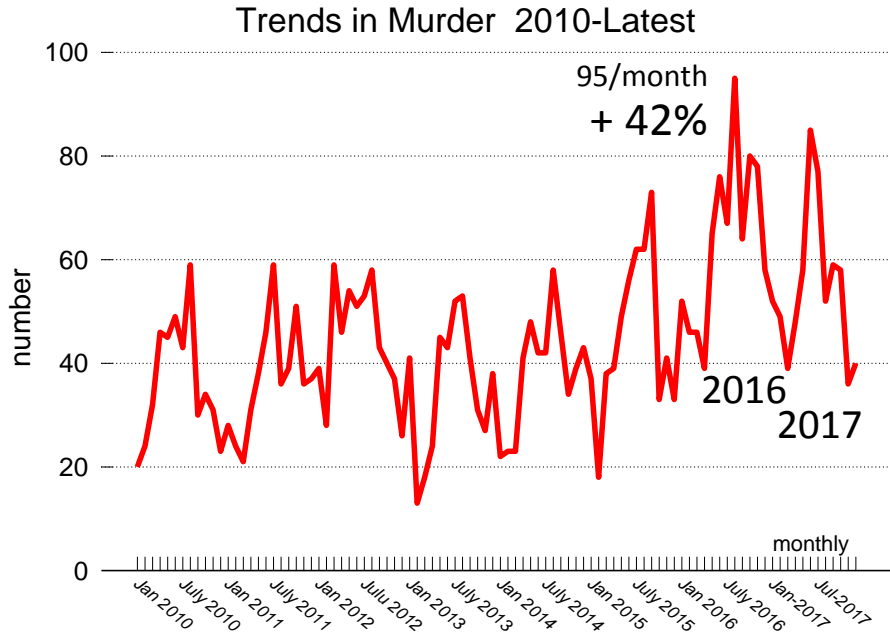
**Wesley G Skogan  
Institute for Policy Research  
Northwestern University**

**Northwestern**

# Chicago Murder Rate Since 1934

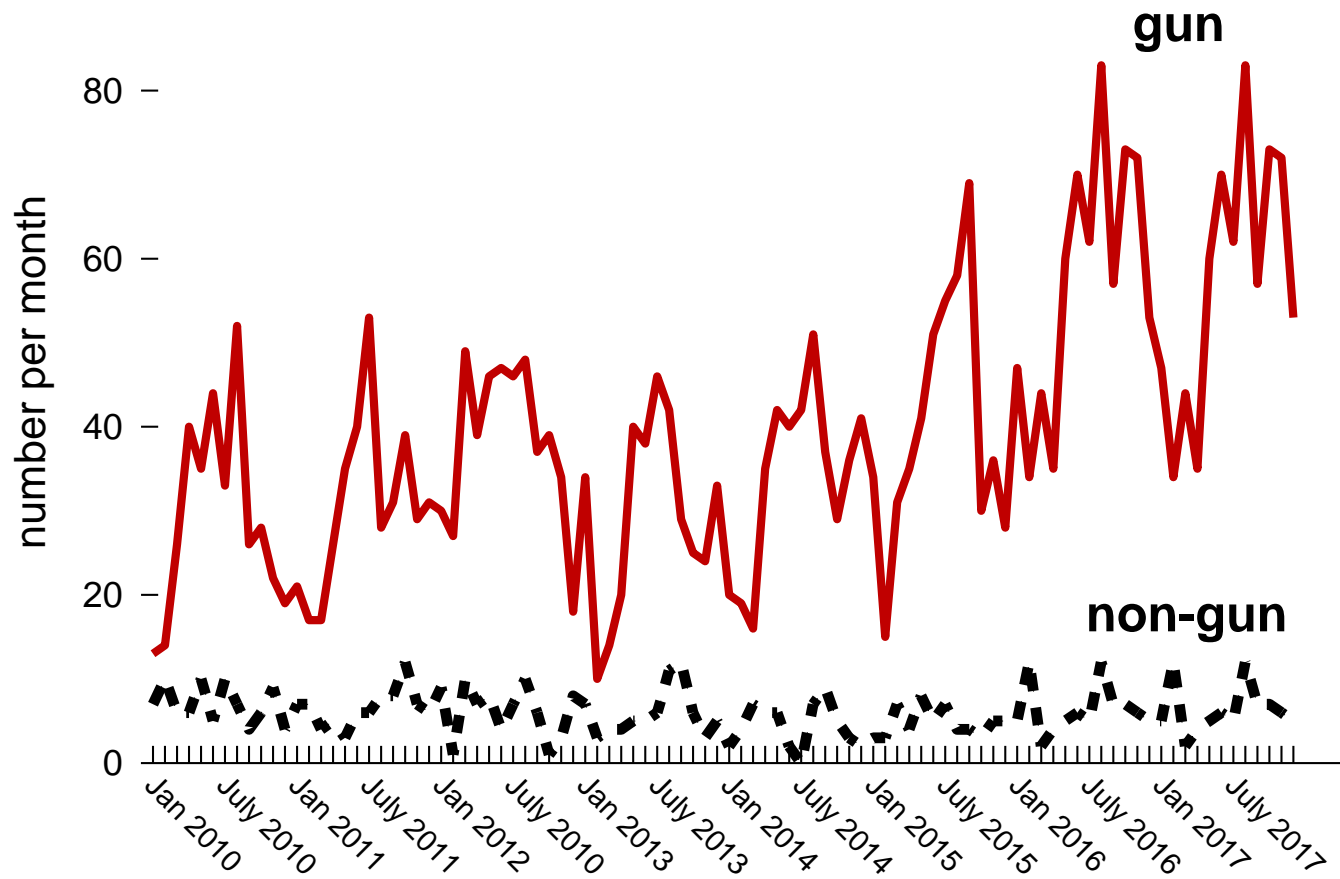


# 1. Violent Crime Spiked

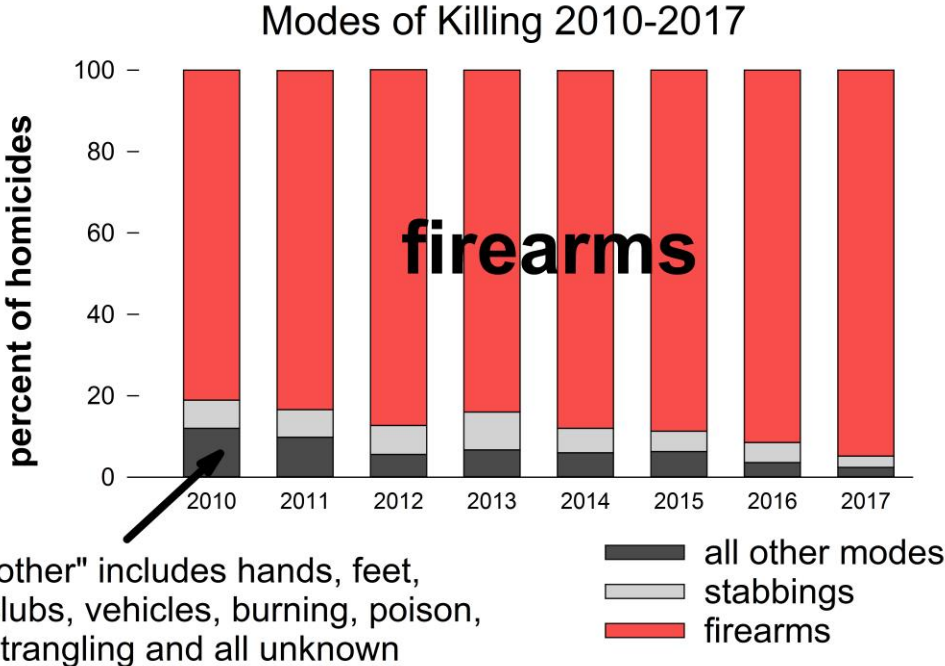


## 2. The Spike is Gun Violence

Gun and Non-gun Murders 2010-Latest



# 2. The Spike is Gun Violence

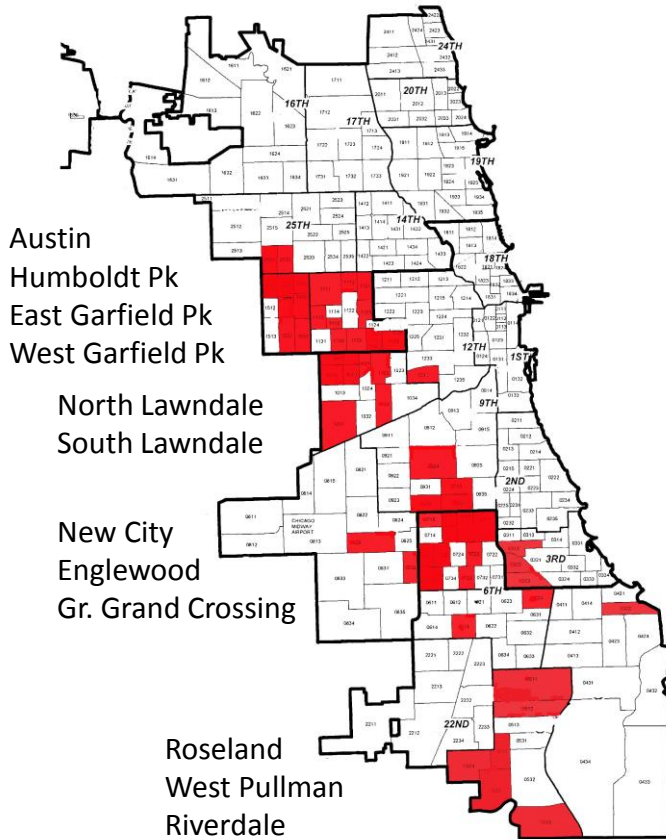


Source: Chicago Police Department reports

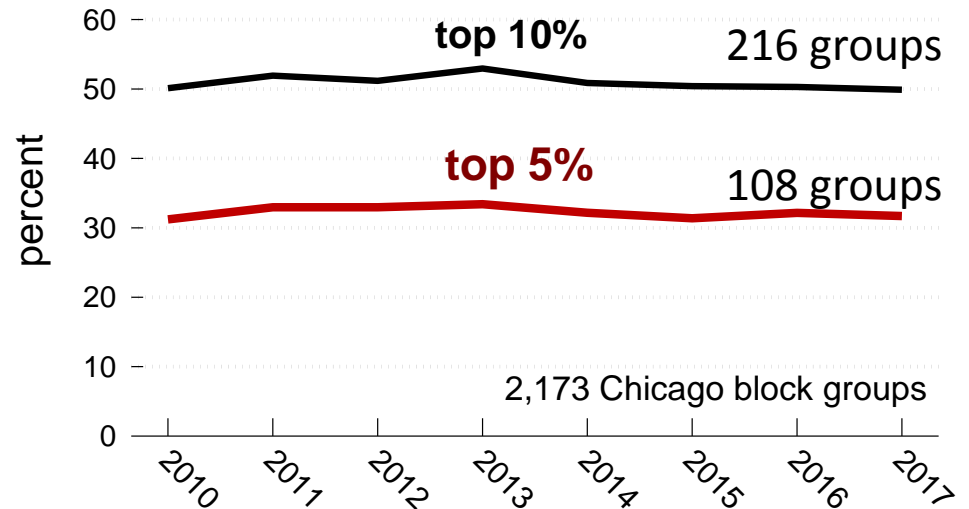
Plus (not shown) modest increases in weapon caliber and percent of shootings that are fatal

### 3. Gun Crime is Extremely Concentrated

50% of all shootings in 2016

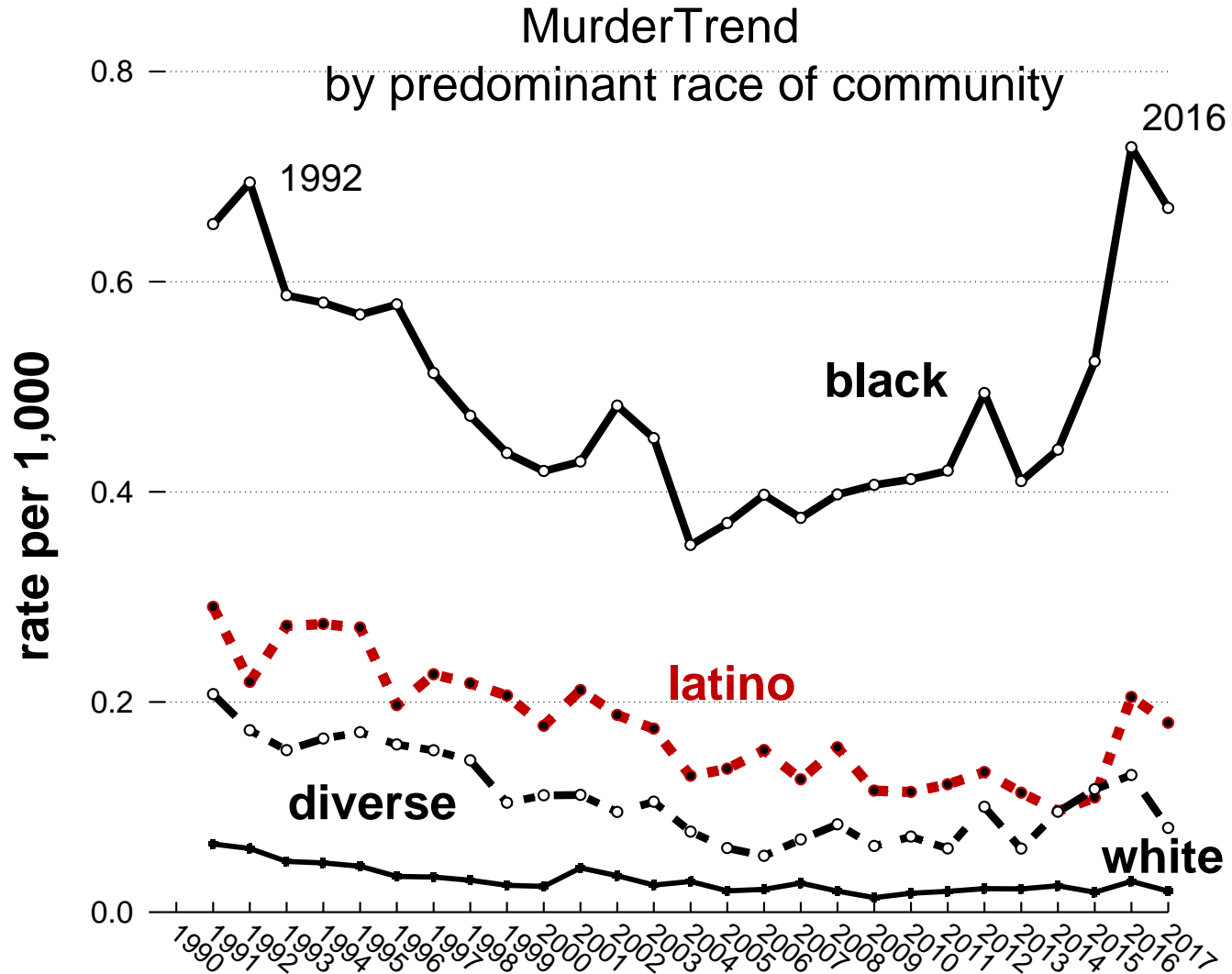


Percent of Shootings Concentrated in Top 5% and 10% of Areas



“Five neighborhoods in Chicago explain 10 percent of the national increase in homicide rates.”  
- Brennan Center

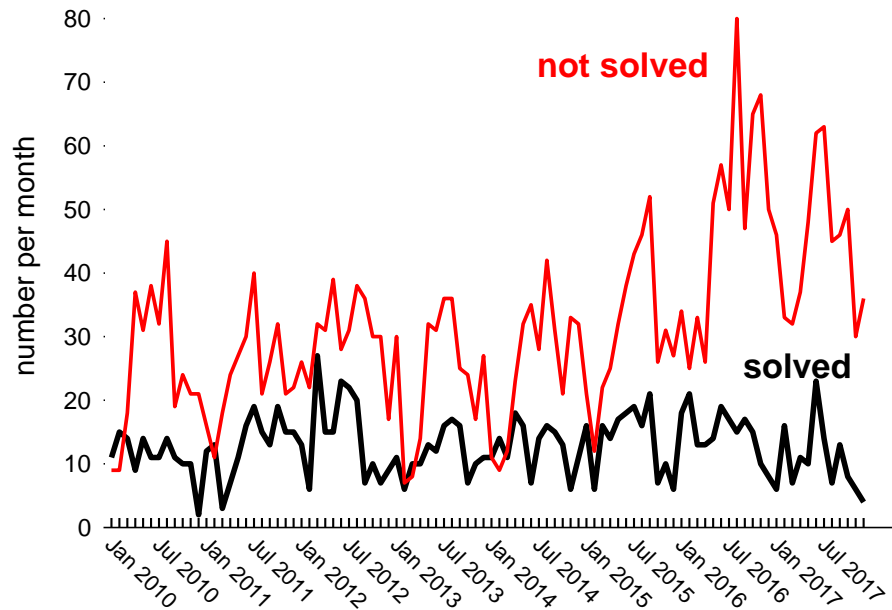
# 4. Trends Driven by Conditions in the African American Community



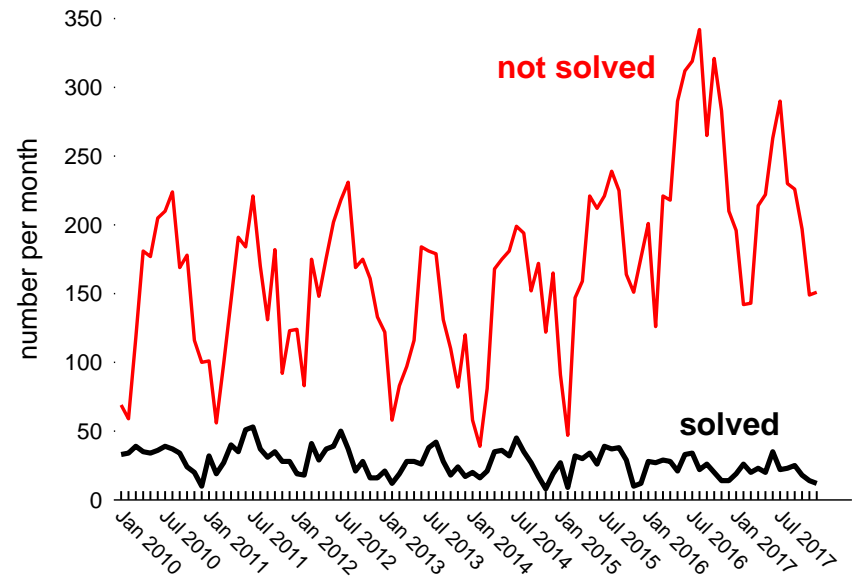
# 5. We're Not Catching Anybody and They Are The Spike

*EDITORIAL: In Chicago, people get away with murder*  
- Chicago Tribune 2016

### Solving Murders Since 2010



### Solving Shootings Since 2010





## Some Implications of Not Solving Crimes

The standard model of policing has collapsed

- drive there fast and investigate → arrest not working

Deterrence disappearing

- certainly individual deterrence; probably general deterrence

You have to look out for yourself on the street; the cop's can't do it

- carry a gun – *probably* most gun carrying is defensive
- more quickly resort to preemptive violence & retaliatory vengeance

Not knowing whodunit makes it hard to discern whydunnit

- makes it a murder mystery
- this is especially true of a spike which by its nature is a mystery

# Research on Solvability

## Incident factors

location, time of day/night - visibility  
weapon type; weapon recovered/ballistics  
drug involvement=harder to solve

## Victim factors

relationship to offender: domestics, gangs, disputes  
victim cooperation; fear retaliation; ability of police to keep them safe  
experience with police; cynicism about justice system  
involvement in criminality

## Community factors

“code of the street” - mind own business; don’t snitch; watch own back; resignation  
neighborhood social cohesion, collective efficacy, cooperation, stability, homogeneity  
cooperation by witnesses & bystanders, family members; fear of retaliation  
related to legitimacy crisis and breakdown in trust?

## Law enforcement factors (most sure about these)

quality & quantity of investigations, lab and ballistics work  
case management; triage procedures  
staffing level - to interview, cultivate informants, check records, tie cases together  
actions of first responders – secure the scene, identify bystanders, engage families and friends  
a “heater” case? - motivating detectives, resources assigned

## In Summary

It was a Heck of a Spike

Spike broadly confined to gun violence and related offenses

Spike was general, but large numbers in African American areas  
events there drove city-wide Spike

Violence very concentrated; stable over 25 years

Spike was in the usual areas of concentration

 these are the leverage points

Somebody is getting away with murder

most violent crime going unsolved

Spike was driven by unsolved gun crime

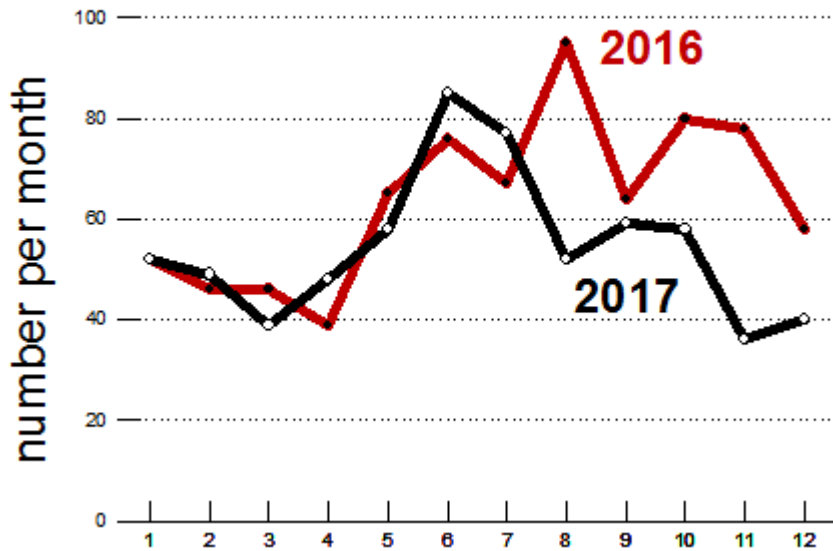
implications of unsolved violence troublesome

# Spike's Future?

Spike may be going away!

But that would not be “problem solved”

### murder spikes 2016 & 2017



### shooting spikes 2016 & 2017

