

New Homicide Data Analysis Reveals Most of Chicago's Young Children Live in Communities with High Violence

Courtesy of Erikson Institute
Edited by Lawndale Bilingual News

As summer in Chicago heats up with rising temperatures and increased shootings, new data analysis reveals the majority of Chicago's youngest children live in communities with high homicide rates, increasing the likelihood of an adverse impact on their early development due to environmental trauma, according to Chicago-based Erikson Institute. Erikson's analysis of the homicide data that is available through the City of Chicago Data Portal, shows more than half – nearly 60 percent -- of all children under the age of five in Chicago live in communities that experienced more than three homicides, raising concerns about their mental health.

A child's development during the first five years sets the foundation for the rest of his or her life, and early violence exposure may negatively impact that development. Children exposed to violence, especially repeated incidents, can become extremely fearful



and may demonstrate aggression, anxiety, depression, sadness, and may have difficulty feeling safe and secure. "We know that even if an infant or child does not witness a homicide, they are deeply affected by the stress and fear experienced by the adults around them when violence occurs," said **Geoffrey Nagle**, PhD, President and CEO of

Erikson Institute. "The challenges associated with exposure to violence and trauma can emerge very early in a child's development and are a threat to their educational achievement and long-term health."

Community violence is an issue across the state of Illinois. Erikson's Risk and Reach report, released earlier this year, shows that

exposure to violence is a risk factor that is prevalent throughout the state, with 436 violent crimes occurring on average for every 100,000 population. In Cook County however, the count was 34,730 violent crimes per 100,000 population, underscoring the extreme level of violence exposure facing very young children in the Chicago area.

Comcast Holds Graduation Ceremony for Youth



Comcast held a graduation ceremony for participants in "Youth-to-Career Link" (CY2CL), the company's career readiness and job placement program for high school seniors. During the graduation event at Studio Xfinity in Chicago on July 1st, a group of participants from Chicago's Thomas Kelly

High School received program completion certificates and signed "letters of intent" to ceremonially mark the potential beginning of their careers at Comcast. Ten of the students have been recommended for sales and technical operations positions within the company. CY2CL is a high

school pathway recruitment program offering eligible workforce-bound youth tools designed to help them pursue immediate career placement within Comcast. The program engages high school seniors who have an interest in taking a career exploration journey immediately following graduation.

El nuevo análisis de datos de homicidios revela que la mayoría de los niños pequeños de Chicago viven en comunidades con alta violencia

Cortesía de Erikson Institute
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A medida que el verano en Chicago se calienta con el aumento de las temperaturas y los disparos, el análisis de nuevos datos revela que la mayoría de los niños más pequeños de Chicago viven en comunidades con altas tasas de homicidios, lo que aumenta la probabilidad de un impacto adverso en su desarrollo temprano debido a un trauma ambiental, según Chicago Erikson Institute. El análisis de Erikson de los datos de homicidios disponibles a través del Portal de Datos de la Ciudad de Chicago, muestra que más de la mitad, casi el 60 por ciento, de todos los niños menores de cinco años en Chicago viven en comunidades que experimentaron más de tres homicidios, lo que genera preocupación Su salud mental.

El desarrollo de un niño durante los primeros cinco años sienta las bases para el resto de su vida, y la exposición temprana a la violencia puede tener un impacto negativo en ese desarrollo. Los niños expuestos a la violencia, especialmente los incidentes repetidos, pueden llegar a ser extremadamente temerosos y pueden demostrar agresión, ansiedad, depresión, tristeza y pueden tener dificultades para sentirse seguros. "Sabemos que incluso si un bebé o un niño no es testigo de un homicidio, se ven profundamente afectados por el estrés y el miedo que experimentan los adultos que los rodean



cuando ocurre la violencia", dijo Geoffrey Nagle, PhD, Presidente y Director Ejecutivo del Instituto Erikson. "Los desafíos asociados con la exposición a la violencia y el trauma pueden surgir muy temprano en el desarrollo de un niño y son una amenaza para su logro educativo y su salud a largo plazo".

La violencia comunitaria es un problema en todo el estado de Illinois. El informe de Riesgo y alcance de Erikson, publicado a principios de este año, muestra que la exposición a la violencia es un factor de riesgo que prevalece en todo el estado, con 436 delitos violentos que ocurren en promedio por cada 100,000 habitantes. Sin embargo, en el condado de Cook, el recuento fue de 34,730 crímenes violentos por cada 100,000 habitantes, lo que subraya el nivel extremo de exposición a la violencia que enfrentan los niños muy pequeños en el área de Chicago.

Stay Healthy...

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Even if you are just running errands or going for a "short walk," ultraviolet exposure increases somewhere between four and 10 percent for every 1,000 feet above sea level. So at an altitude of 9,000 feet (about equal to Georgetown), UV radiation can be nearly 50 percent more intense than at sea level.