



LAKE COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Annual Report to Law & Judicial Committee

June 24, 2025

State's Attorney Eric F. Rinehart

First Assistant State's Attorney Lauren Callinan

GOALS FOR 2025 & BEYOND



OVERALL PHILOSOPHY: Safety now, and decades into the future

- *Continue to work with police & community partners on all strategic goals*
- *Continued focus on investigating and prosecuting violent crimes – including sex crimes – while also providing trauma-informed victim services*
- *Prevention is the key to safer communities, less victims, and decreasing cycles of trauma*
- *Build data infrastructure for the office, partners, & community*
- *Continue to push for the best personnel that represent the County*
- *Continue to honor our values regardless of external forces*

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW




- 158 Full time employees with 70 attorneys
- Budget is \$23M with \$19M for salaries & benefits; \$7.85M in grants (included within the 23M)
- Criminal division prosecutes crimes – over 7,000 case filings/yr
- Criminal division supports hundreds of investigations per year
- Civil division represents the county & the elected officials in inter-governmental agreements, lawsuits, FOIA requests, contract negotiations, Human Resources Compliance
- Civil division plays offense by suing environmental or corporate bad actors

TEAM EFFORT = SUCCESS



Police Partnerships: Work on an hourly basis with police on cases through felony review and CyberLab. Assistance on search warrants and investigations. Expanded training now includes: Drug Induced Homicide Investigations, Financial Crimes, Firearm Restraining Orders/Orders of Protection Under Karina's Law; Civilian Police Academies



Victim Services Partnerships: Human Trafficking Task Force with A Safe Place; we make trauma-informed referrals to and engage in training with Zacharias Center, A Safe Place, North Suburban Legal Aid, Prairie Legal Services, Trauma Recovery Services at Advocate Health Care.



Prevention & Rehabilitation: Proud to work with Lake County Opioid Initiative (LCOI), NICASA, the Health Department, the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism, the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit's Specialty Courts, Gateway Foundation, GRO Community, College of Lake County, A Safe Place's Offender Program, and many others on rehabilitation goals.



HOMICIDES IN LAKE COUNTY: TERMS & TRENDS

“Homicides” are taken directly from Coroner Data and include “justified” (AVG: 2.3 justified per year (OIS plus civilian)); 2.2 homicides per 100K compared to 1.9 in DuPage, 2.3 in Kane, **8.1 in Winnebago**, **8.7 in Sangamon**, and **14.6 in Cook**

COUNTYWIDE HOMICIDES

2023-2024
(percent change)

↓ **30%**

COUNTYWIDE FIREARM HOMICIDES

2023-2024
(percent change)

↓ **30%**

HOMICIDES IN LAKE COUNTY: R3 ZONES



R3 ZONES FIREARM HOMICIDES

2022-2024
(percent change)

ZION •

WAUKEGAN •

NORTH CHICAGO •

↓ 61%

R3 ZONES NON-FATAL FIREARM INJURIES

2022-2024
(percent change)

ZION •

WAUKEGAN •

NORTH CHICAGO •

↓ 61%

SEX CRIMES IN LAKE COUNTY & SAFE-T ACT DATA



The prosecution of sex crimes remains a top priority which is why we continue to invest in our Children's Advocacy Center, Special Victims' Unit, and Human Trafficking Task Force. (FY26 NPR on HT)

Human Trafficking cases have increased since the Task Force started, and we have now filed more total human trafficking cases than Kane or DuPage Counties since 2020.

Child Pornography filings have increased by 350% since 2017.

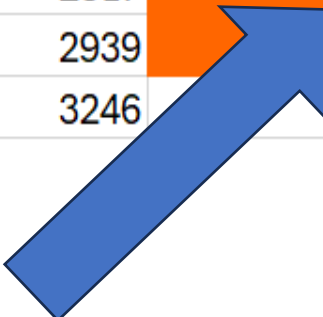
Prior to the SAFE-T Act, about 30% of offenders charged with felony sexual assault and 70% of offenders charged with child pornography were being released because they used cash. Now, according to the Courts' dashboard, 13% of sexual assault offenders are released and less than 10% of child pornography offenders are released.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN LAKE COUNTY



Incident vs. Report vs. Solved Case vs. Filing in Court

	Incidents	911 calls	DV Cases Filed	OPs Filed	DV homicides	IPV homicides	Total homicides	FROs Entered
2019	?????	need	1390	2730	3	1	34	4
2020	?????	need	1233	2302	2	2	38	8
2021	?????	need	1153	2502	4	3	35	2
2022	?????	need	1359	2817	14	4	51	25
2023	?????	need	1346	2939	6	6	24	32
2024	?????	need	1123	3246	4	2	16	46



Three incidents took nine lives between June and December 2022, via domestic violence. What can we learn in order to fulfill the promise of “no more victims?”

UNDERSTANDING CRIME DATA

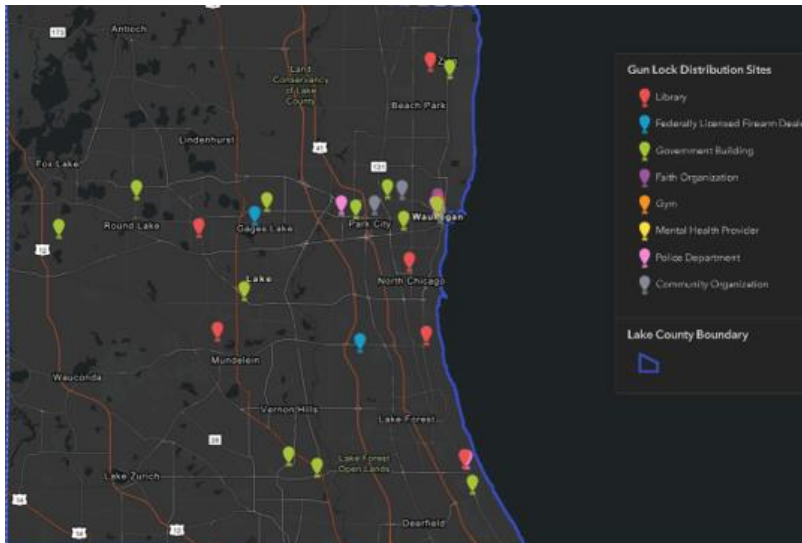
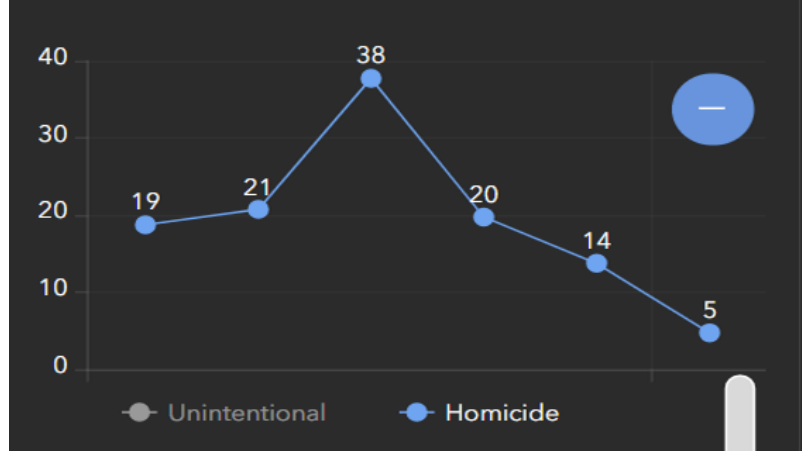


* Examples of underreported crimes include sexual assaults, domestic violence, and human trafficking

BUILDING DATA INFRASTRUCTURE



Firearm Fatality Type by Year



DATA +
TRANSPARENCY
= TRUST



DATA +
INVESTMENT =
PRIORITIZATION

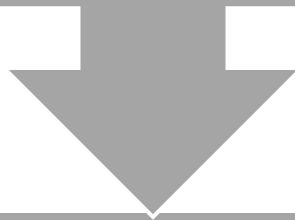


PRIORITIZATION
+ INNOVATION =
IMPROVEMENT

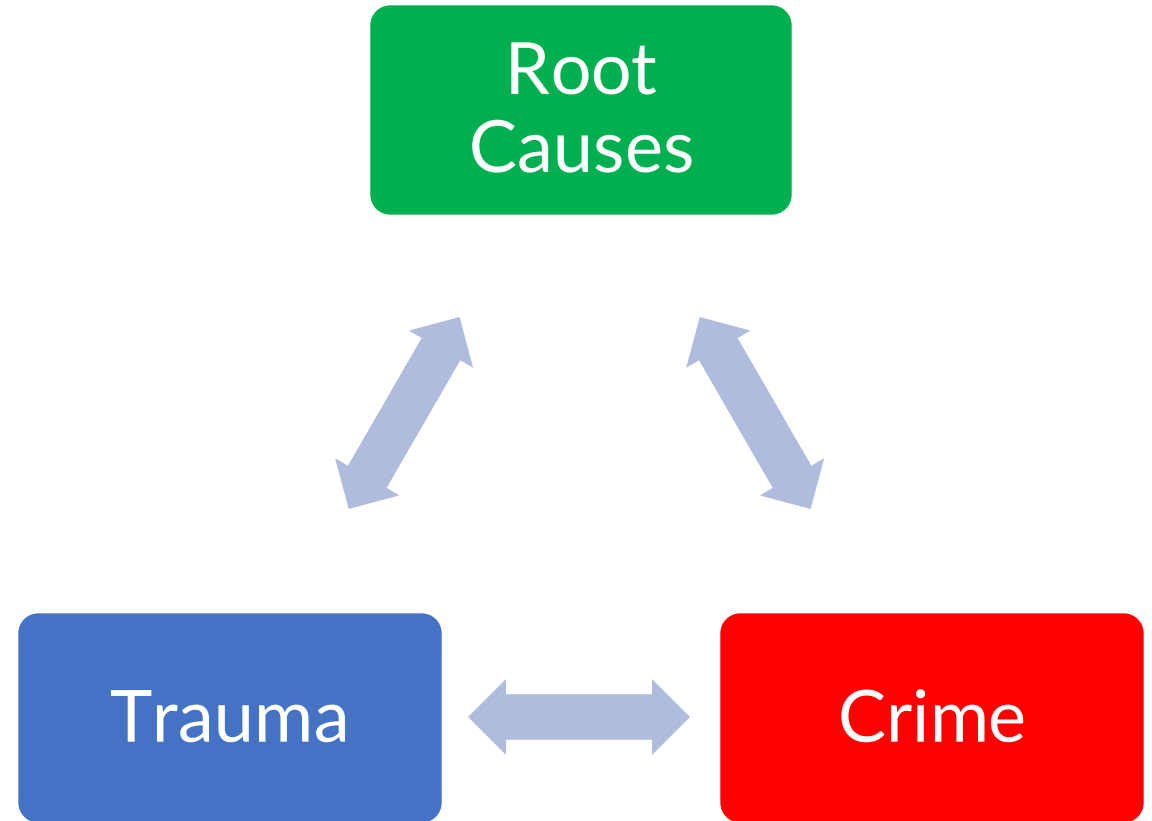
PREVENTION IS THE KEY TO SAFETY



We have high crime in the United States because of decades of inequality, mental health crises, and too many guns in the wrong people's hands.



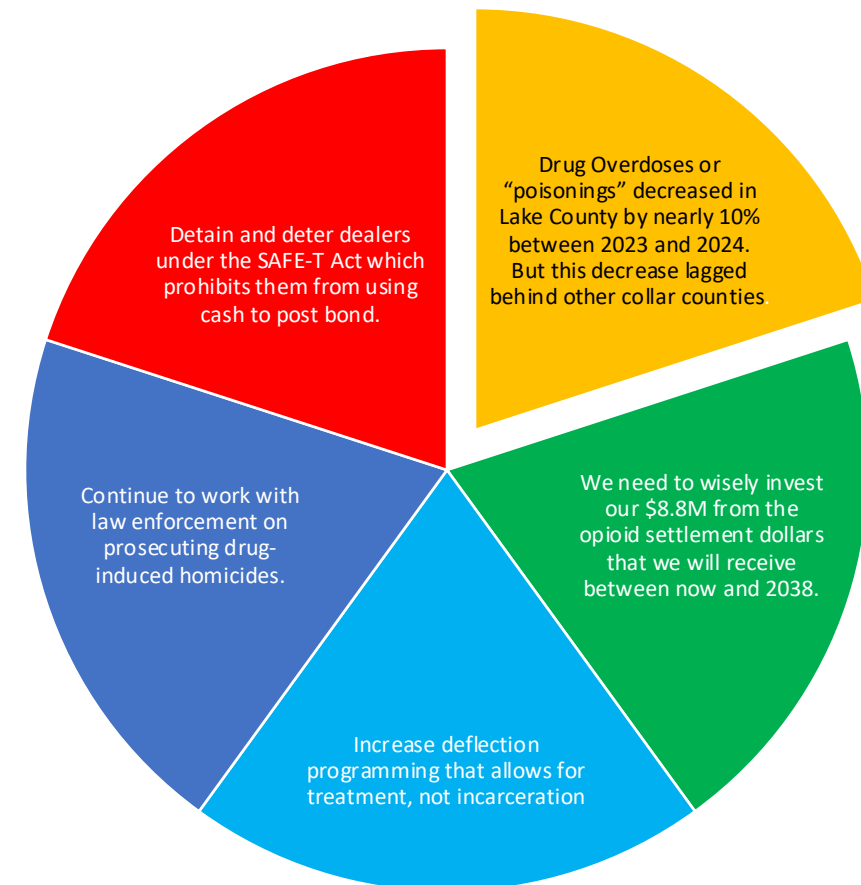
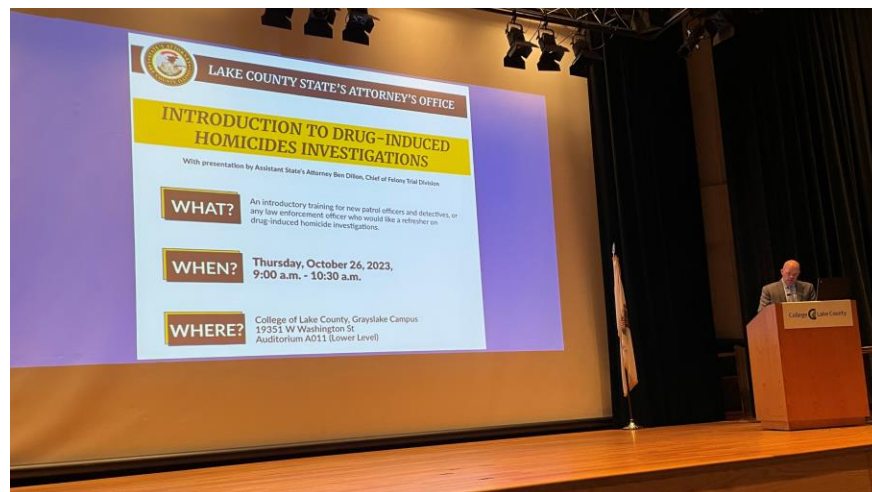
As a County, our strategic plan must be to relentlessly engage these social problems at different points in the offending cycle & interrupt the immediate causes of crime.



UNDERSTANDING & PREVENTING VIOLENCE



UNDERSTANDING & PREVENTING DRUG POISONINGS



BEST VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION IN ILLINOIS



- Trauma-informed, culturally responsive
- Serving as the voice of the victim
- Navigating a complex court process
- Referring to outside agencies for trauma-informed care
- Proudly following the Illinois Crime Victims' Bill of Rights
- Rising to every occasion from the Highland Park shooting to responding to DUI death cases to connecting with crime victims before charging



QUESTIONS