

Speaker: Ashna Arora

Presentation title: Improving Homicide and Non-fatal Shooting Clearance Rates in Chicago with Investments in Technology

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Chicago's clearance rates for homicides and non-fatal shootings—the percentage of cases that detectives solve each year— are among the lowest of any major U.S. city. Low clearance rates can undermine public confidence in the criminal justice system, as community members see those who commit acts of violence remain free. To address this challenge the Chicago Police Department has partnered with the Crime Lab to improve clearance rates for homicides and non-fatal shootings in the city. One of the first concrete steps in this collaboration has been the creation of the Area Technology Center (ATC). The ATC seeks to reduce the burden on detectives while also providing high quality digital evidence critical to solving crimes and preparing cases for court.

Using a quasi-experimental evaluation, the Crime Lab will investigate the impact of the ATCs on investigations, arrests, and convictions. At the time of the symposium the evaluation of the ATC will still be underway, so we will focus this presentation on the qualitative learnings to date as well as some initial lessons about the implementation process.