

J-PAL State and Local Innovation Initiative

December 9, 2015



J-PAL

ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL POVERTY ACTION LAB

NORTH AMERICA

Introductions



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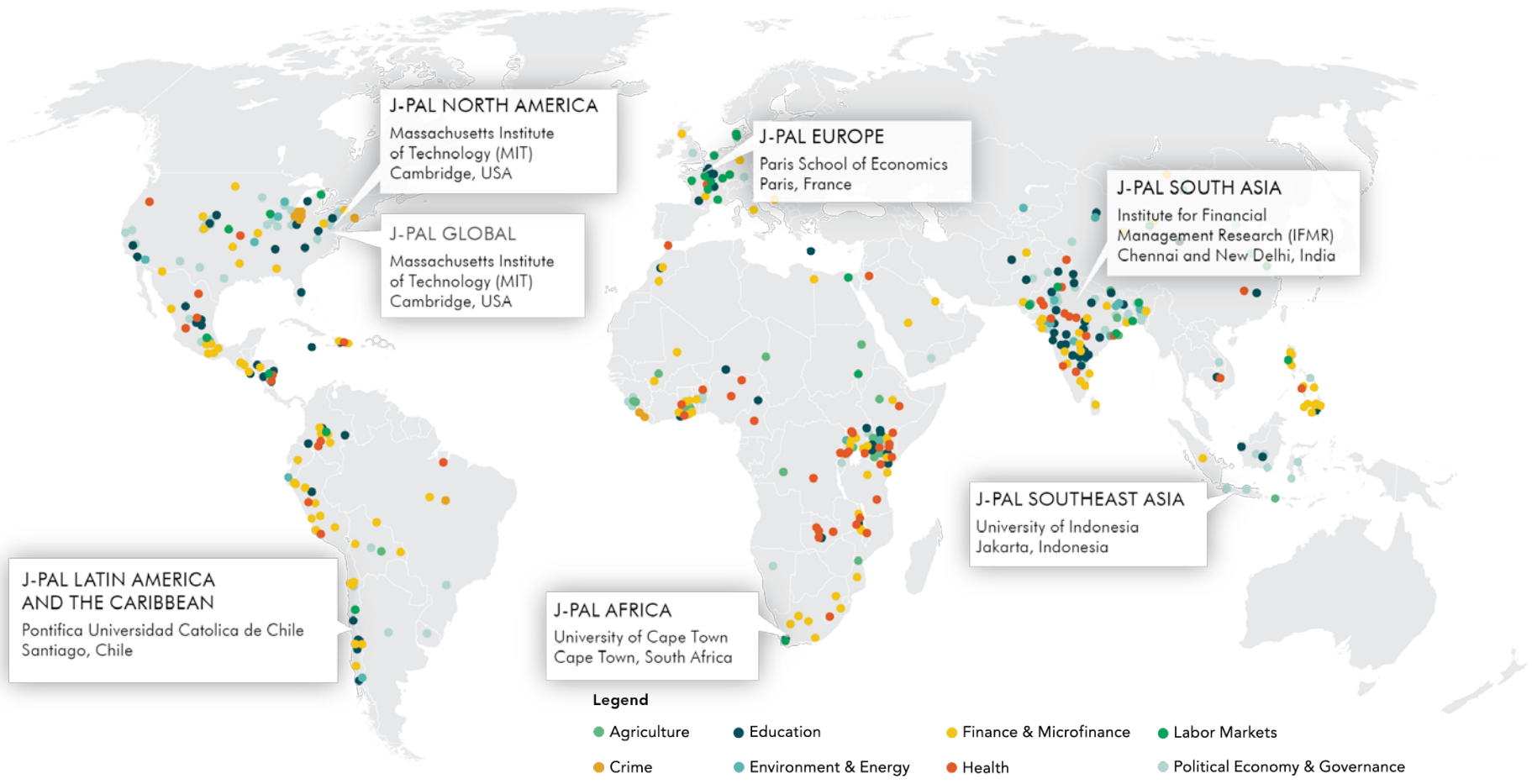


Evelyn Diaz
President
Heartland Alliance

Agenda

- I. An Introduction to J-PAL
- II. The State and Local Innovation Initiative
- III. From Research to Policy: Reducing Violence in Chicago
- IV. Timeline
- V. Q&A

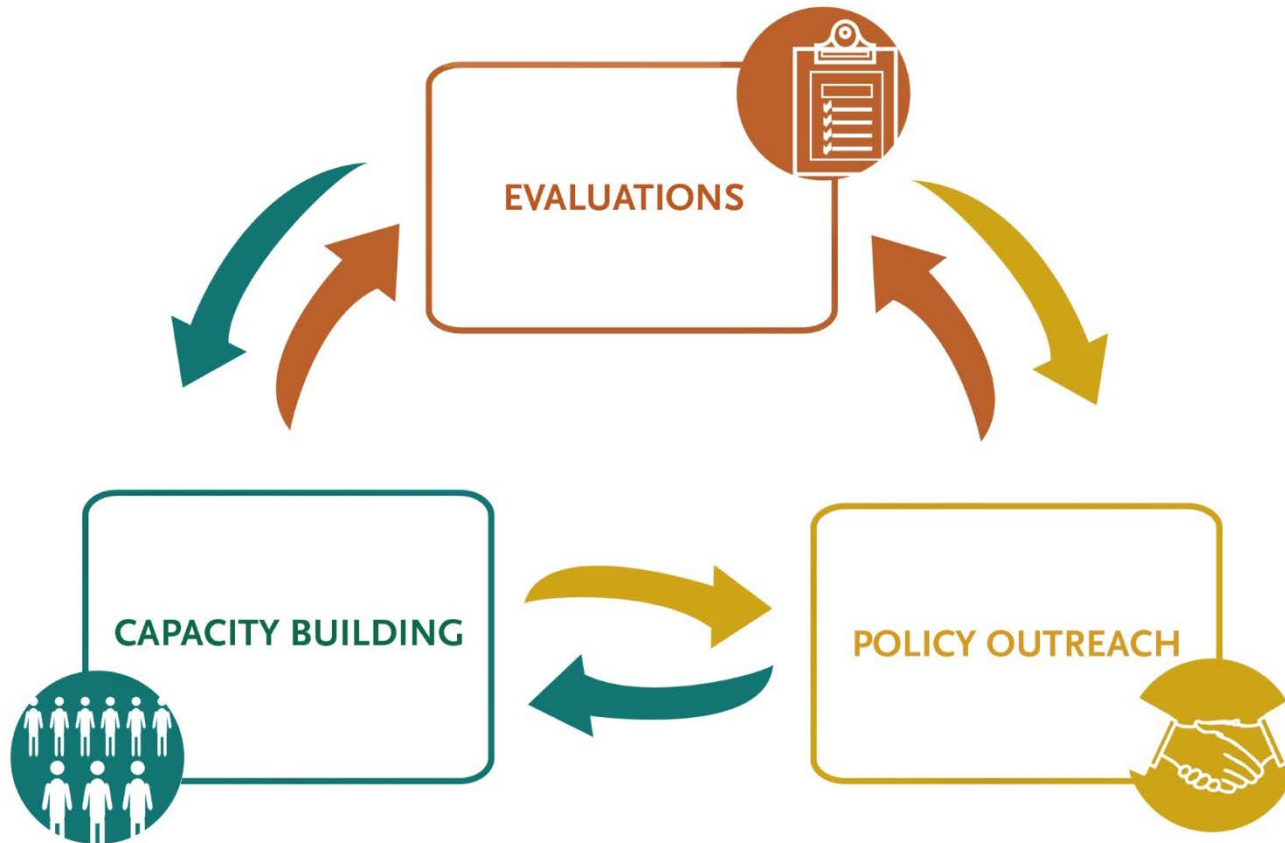
680+ ongoing and completed projects in 60+ countries
200 million + lives touched by the scale up of proven programs



J-PAL's network of affiliated researchers



J-PAL's approach



The challenge

State and local policymakers are actively innovating to address **complex policy challenges**.

Often, policymakers have to act without the benefit of **rigorous evidence** about:

- What has been tried and proven elsewhere
- Which of their own policies and programs were most effective

Our hypothesis

State and local governments face challenges in aligning multiple conditions at once:

- Identify **promising and feasible opportunities** for rigorous evaluation
- Find and partner with an **interested research team**
- Secure **funding** to carry out the evaluations

The J-PAL State and Local Innovation Initiative

Selected state and local governments will receive:

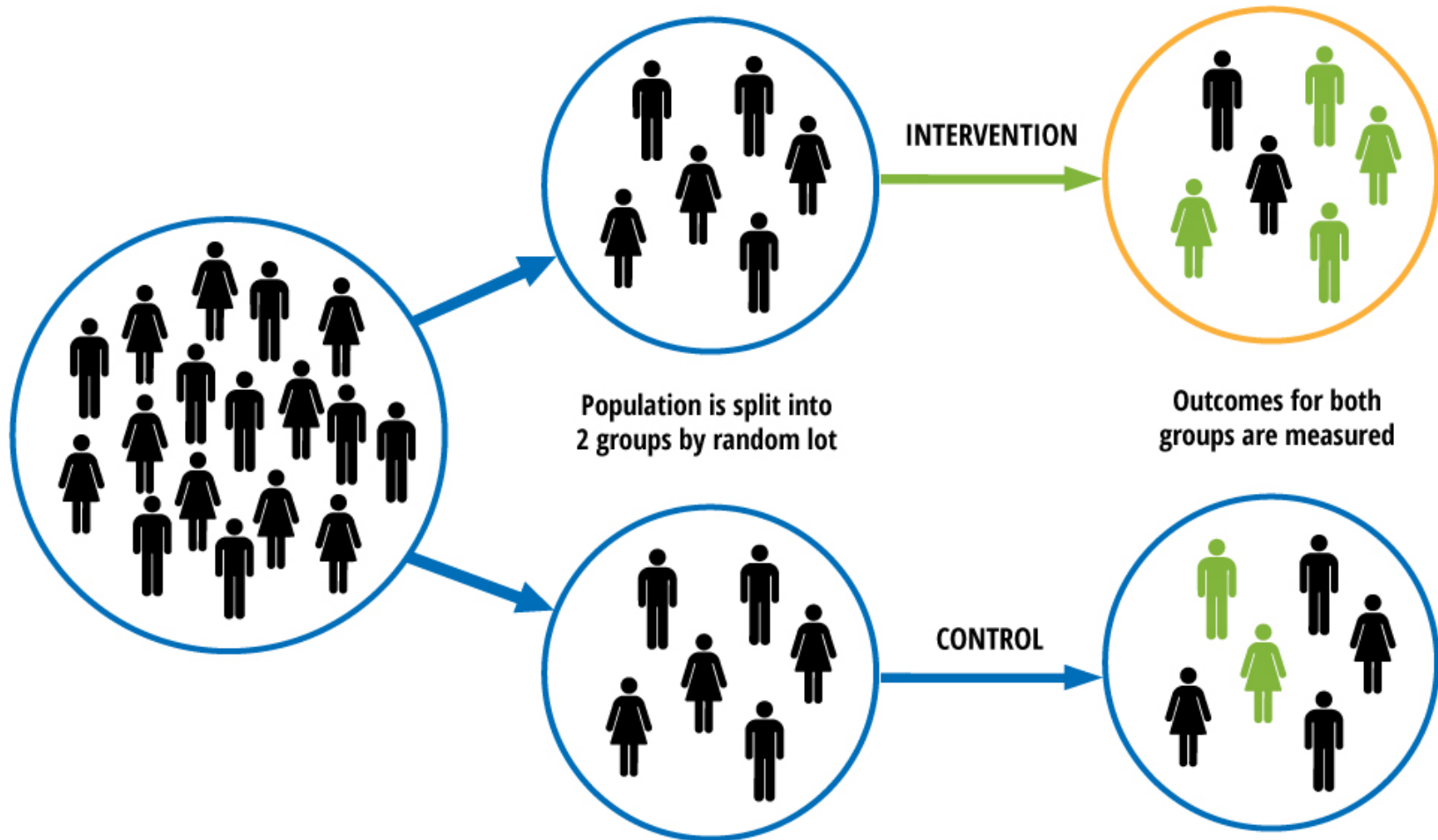
- **Technical support** from J-PAL staff to develop feasible, policy-relevant evaluations
- **Flexible funding** to help get these evaluations off the ground
- **Partnerships with experienced researchers** from J-PAL's network to implement the evaluations

Our goal

Support policymakers in using randomized evaluations to generate rigorous evidence that they can use to answer their policy questions.

By sharing findings and best practices from these demonstration projects, build momentum for a more sustainable, institutionalized approach.

What is a randomized evaluation?



Randomized evaluation in practice



Match Tutoring:

- High-intensity, individualized math tutoring for 1 hour/day
- Large population of students, limited resources
 - Randomly assigned 2,718 students within 12 Chicago Public Schools high schools to either Match tutoring or a control group
- Data from the first year of this two-year study show that participation in Match improved math test scores by an extra 1-2 years of learning

For more information, see the University of Chicago Urban Education Lab and Crime Lab.

When does a randomized evaluation NOT make sense?

Too small: sample is too small to pick up a reasonable impact

Too early: program is still ironing out logistics

Too late: program is already serving everyone who is eligible, and no lottery or randomization was built in

We know the answer already: a positive impact has been proven, and we have the resources to serve everyone

When does a randomized evaluation make sense?

New program	Becoming a Man in Chicago
New service	H&R Block + FAFSA
New people	Oregon Health Insurance Experiment
New location	Microcredit in India
Oversubscription	New York City summer jobs program
Undersubscription	Federal Weatherization Assistance Program
Admissions cutoff	Foundation's scholarship program in Nebraska

Lots of opportunities to be creative

How can we reduce violence in Chicago?



In 2013, 415 murders and 1,864 shootings:

- Poor communities are disproportionately impacted
- Minorities are disproportionately impacted
- Youth are disproportionately impacted
- More known gang members than any other city
- More illegal guns recovered than any other city

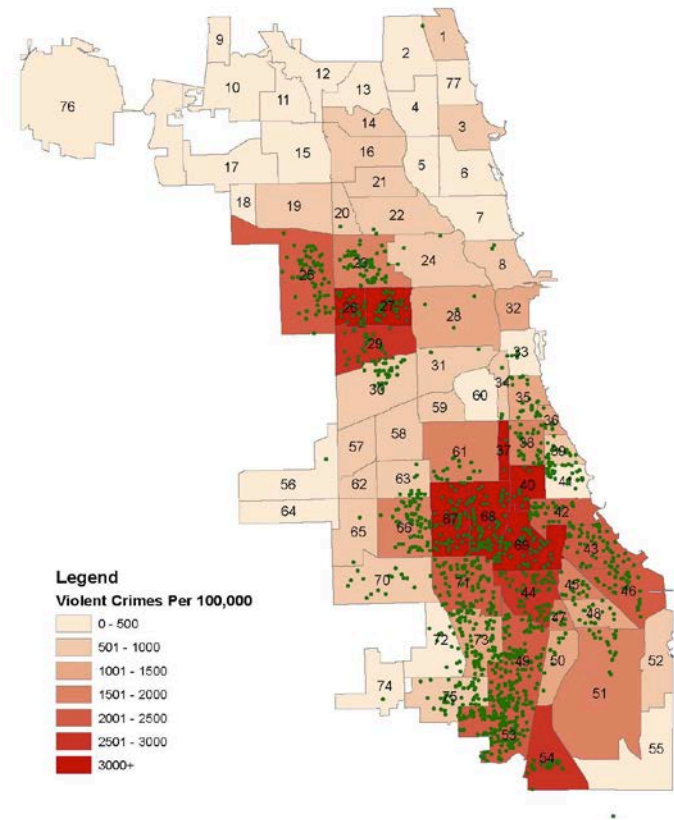
Opportunity: One Summer Chicago Plus

- Run by Chicago Department of Family & Support Services and non-profit partners
- Eight-week summer program
 - Government and non-profit minimum-wage jobs (25 hours/week)
 - Adult job mentor
 - 1-day job readiness training, 1 meal/day, bus passes
 - For half of youth, replace two job hours/day with cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) curriculum

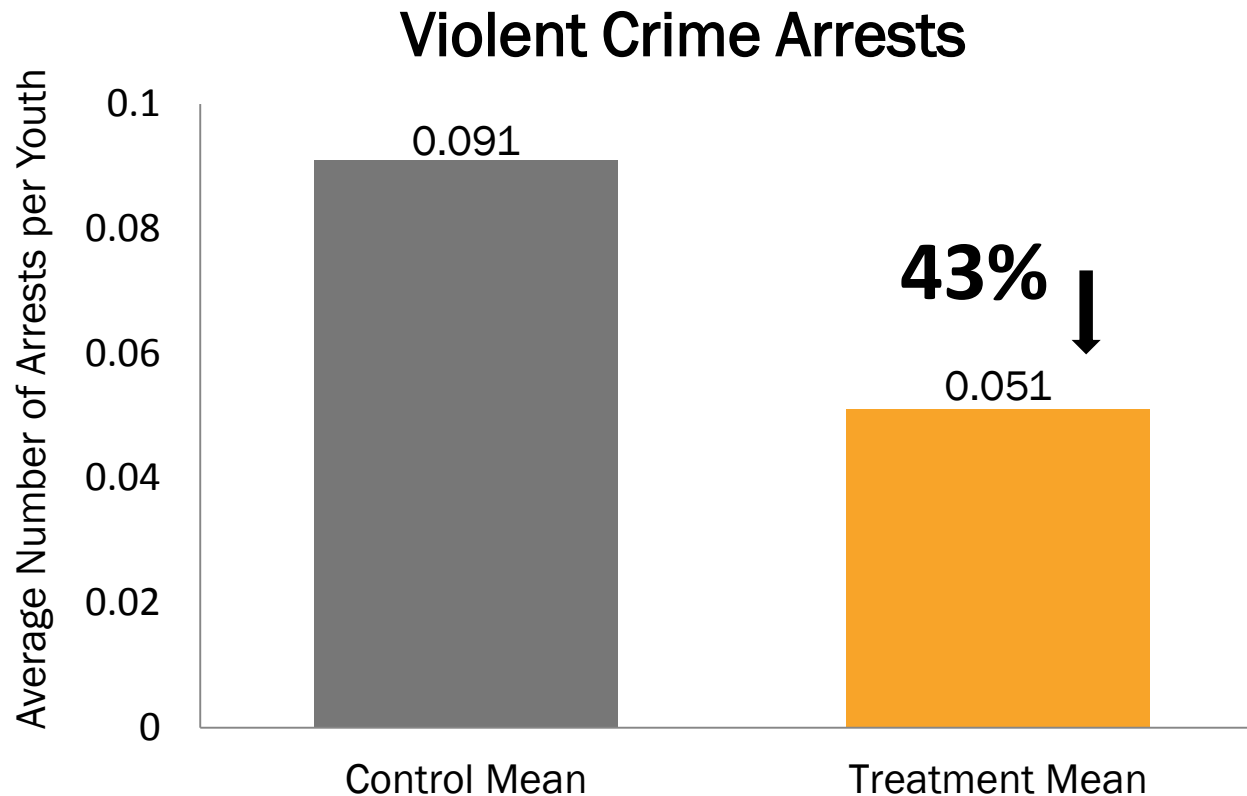


Lottery design

- 1,634 applicants enter lottery
 - 364 jobs only
 - 366 jobs + CBT curriculum
 - 904 control (no extra services)
- Track outcomes in administrative data
 - Arrests
 - School
 - Employment



Program reduces violence over next 16 mos.



For more information, see: Sara Heller, “Summer Jobs Reduce Violence Among Disadvantaged Youth,” *Science*.

What happened next?

- Attention from researchers, media, other U.S. cities, as well as international interest.
- Mayor Emanuel empowered to seek further funding.
- Secured \$10 million from private philanthropists to expand to serve:
 - 2,000 disadvantaged youth in 2015
 - 3,000 youth in 2016
 - 4,000 youth in 2017



J-PAL is now inviting Letters of Interest from state and local governments

The J-PAL State and Local Innovation Initiative features a **two-phase competition**.

In Phase I, state and local governments can apply for:

- Technical support from J-PAL for a period of up to one year;
- Flexible pilot funding of up to \$100,000; and
- Matchmaking with J-PAL's network of researchers.

In Phase II, governments that have partnered with a researcher from J-PAL's network can apply for funding, in the range of \$250,000-500,000, to carry out the evaluations.

Timeline

January 11, 2016 – Second webinar for potential partners

February 16, 2016 – Deadline to submit letters of interest

March 14, 2016 – Finalists invited to submit full proposal

May 2, 2016 – Deadline to submit full proposals

June 6, 2016 – Winners announced

Sign up for updates at povertyactionlab.org/stateandlocal