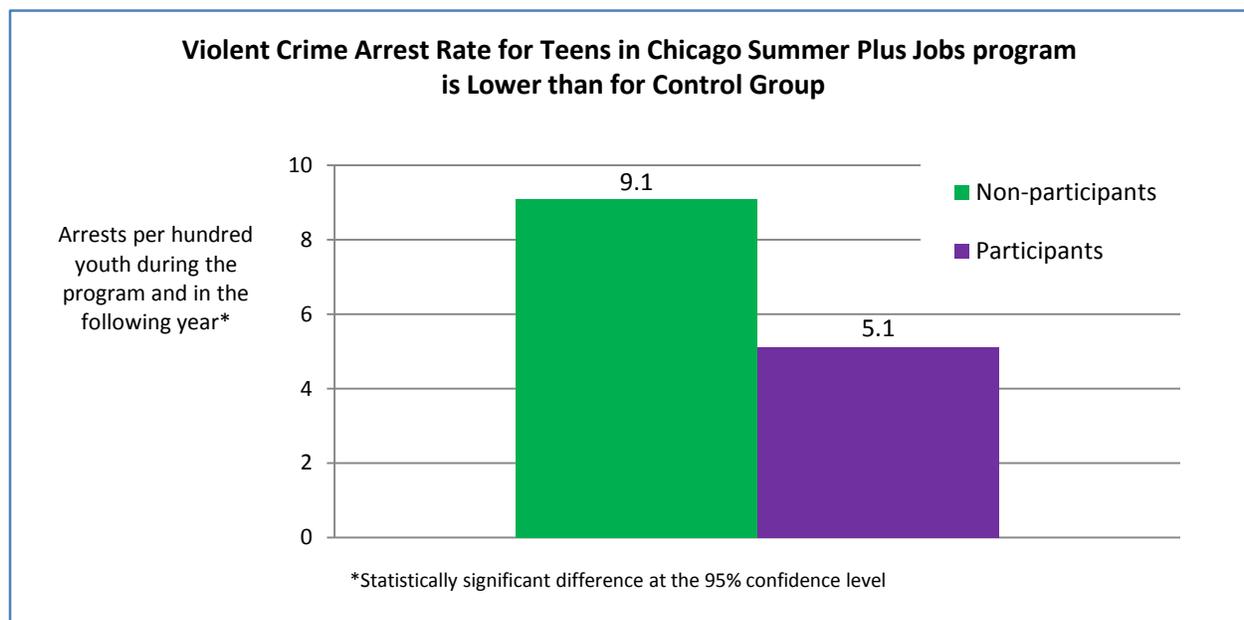


# Summer Jobs Reduce Youth Violence

## 1. What's the evidence?

Chicago, like many other cities, offers low income teenagers jobs in the summer. The Summer Plus program targets high school youth living in some of the most violent neighborhoods in the country. Teens in Chicago's Summer Plus program are set up with minimum wage part-time jobs and participate in special developmental activities for eight weeks. A rigorous evaluation of Summer Plus found that in the 16 months during and following the summer of 2012, **violent-crime arrests among participants decreased by 43 percent** relative to a control group of non-participants with similar demographics – almost 4 fewer per 100 youth.



## 2. What's the implication?

A teenager's earliest experience with a job sets the stage for his or her lifetime. Having positive work experiences in the summer exposes teens to the world of work and expands their understanding of career opportunities. The Chicago study suggests investing in structured summer jobs programs may also help divert teens from criminal involvement.

## 3. For more information

- Heller, Sara B. (2014). "[Summer jobs reduce violence among disadvantaged youth](#)," *Science* 346:6214 (Evaluation funded by U.S. Department of Labor's Chief Evaluation Office and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs)
- For other evaluations of strategies to improve outcomes for youth, see the U.S. Department of Labor's [Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research \(CLEAR\) – Opportunities for Youth](#)