INTRODUCTION
In the United States, approximately 100 people die from gun violence every day. The city of Chicago has accounted for 1.5% of all gun-related deaths in America, while only being about 0.8% of the nation’s population. Despite the theory that gang violence in inner cities is to blame on gang members, the weaker gun laws in neighboring states have helped to fuel the high homicide rates Chicago is known for. About 1 in 5 of the guns used or possessed in Chicago from 2013 to 2016 were from Indiana (Cohen, 2018).

DATA AND FINDINGS

Figure 1: Percentage of crime guns recovered in Chicago bought per state, 2013-2016. Source: Gun Trace Report (2017)

Figure 2: Number of firearm-related deaths in Chicago by race and gender, 2013-2016. Source: Medical Examiner Case Archive (2020)

Figure 3: Percentage of guns confiscated from gang members by origin, 2009-2013. Source: Cook, Harris, Ludwig & Pollack (2015)

IMPLICATIONS AND NEXT STEPS
The data point to a deeply rooted problem that won’t be solved by a single research paper or a single government action. Societal change involves everyone who actively participates in that society. That includes owners of gun shops that provide firearms that will eventually be used in gang activities. For this reason, I hope to do my part in solving this crisis by creating a pamphlet for gun stores in the Chicago area notifying them of their impact in this crisis. The pamphlet will outline how much of an impact their store has and what actions can be taken for them to help eradicate this epidemic.

PAMPHLET

CONCLUSIONS AND ANALYSIS
Unfortunately, Chicago is a representation of many regions across the country. In 2016, 22,000 of the 39,000 guns recovered in California were from outside of California borders. California, similar to Illinois, has relatively tough gun control laws compared to neighboring states, which results in these mass migrations of guns into the state. The concept of states’ rights is an idea that has been cemented in this country’s foundation since the beginning to constrain the power of the federal government. However, when neighboring states have such a strong ideological divide on an issue that risks people’s lives, it becomes a problem for the federal government. This sort of dilemma calls for more federal overreach to make sure that no loopholes are created like this to fuel Chicago’s and other cities’ epidemics of gun violence.

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