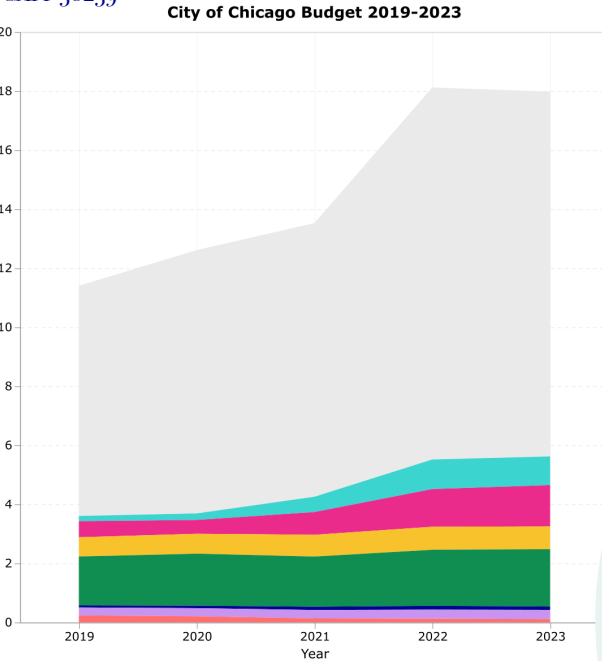


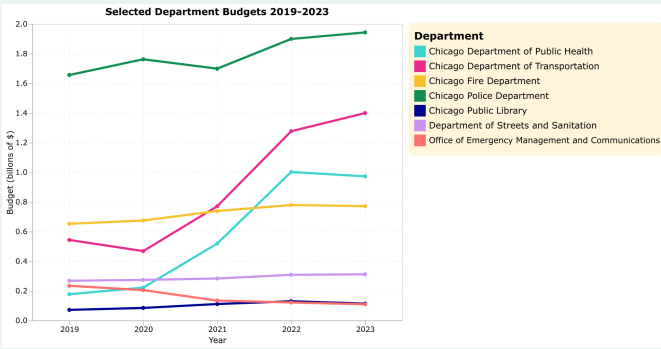
Does Money Talk?

Tori Beck
CAPP 30239

AN EXPLORATION OF BUDGET ALLOCATIONS AND HOW THEY ARE (OR ARE NOT) REFLECTED IN DAY-TO-DAY SERVICES IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO



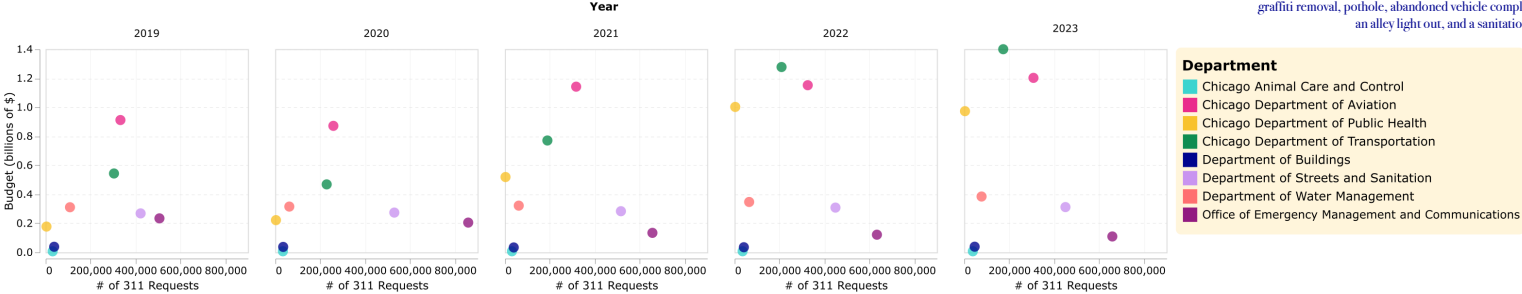
A few departments that provide services relevant to Chicago residents' day-to-day lives are highlighted, showing changes in budget allocations across 5 years.



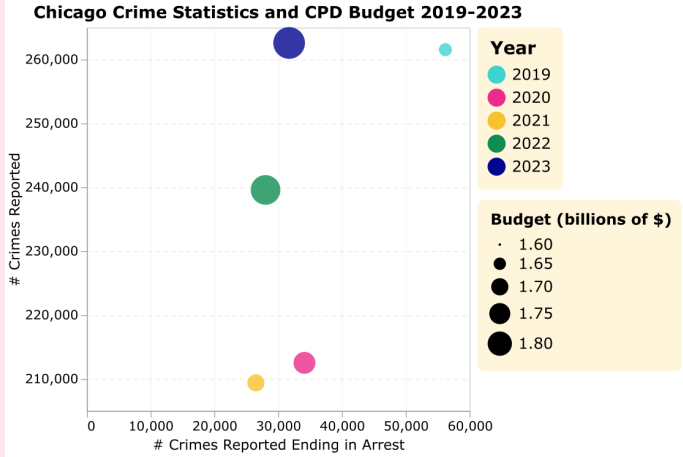
The Chicago Police Department budget takes up a significant share of the total city budget and far outpaces any of the departments focused on here. The CPD budget has increased since 2019, as has the Department of Transportation Budget. While the Department of Public Health budget increased following the pandemic, from 2022-2023 it saw a decrease in funding. Chicago Public Library and the Department of Streets and Sanitation have relatively very small budget allocations.

311 Service requests are non-emergency requests to various city departments. Requests go through 311 City Services, housed within the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC). The largest number of requests go to the Department of Streets and Sanitation and the OEMC. Calls handled by OEMC are 311 information only calls. In 2020, the OEMC got significantly more information calls than usual. The Department of Streets and Sanitation budget fluctuates relatively little, as does their number of service requests, while the Department of Transportation saw a large increase in budget but little movement in number of 311 service requests.

311 Requests by Department Budget

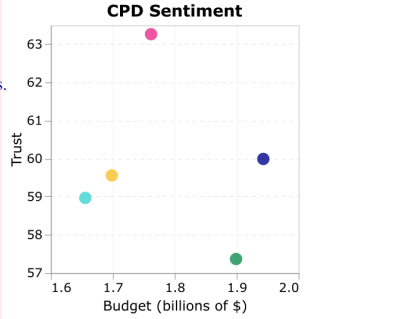
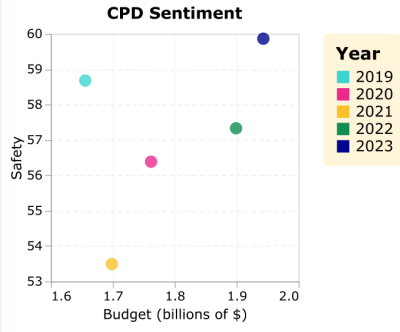


CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT



The Chicago Police Budget has increased by hundreds of millions of dollars since 2019, but crime statistics have changed relatively little. The two years with the largest budget and smallest budget (2023 and 2019 respectively) have a similar number of crimes reported. While 2019 sees an abnormally large number of arrests, all other years, regardless of budget or total number of crimes, have around 30,000 crimes reported that end in arrest.

The police sentiment survey asks residents questions about how safe they felt in their neighborhoods and how much they believed the police listened to and respected residents. These safety and trust scores are out of 10, a 55 would indicate an average 5.5/10 score. Safety scores for 2019 and 2023 are similar, despite the largest CPD budget difference for these two years. While safety scores seem relatively more positively correlated with budget, trust scores for 2022 and 2023, years with the highest budget, are relatively lower than in the past.



The most common non-emergency services requested include a street light out, garbage cart maintenance/replacement, rodent baiting or rat complaint, tree trimming, graffiti removal, pothole, abandoned vehicle complaint, tree debris, an alley light out, and a sanitation code violation.

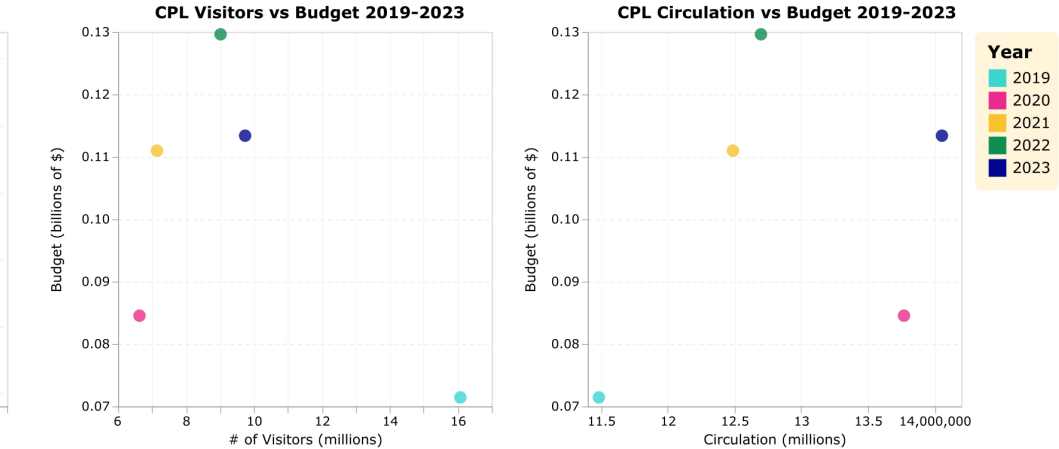
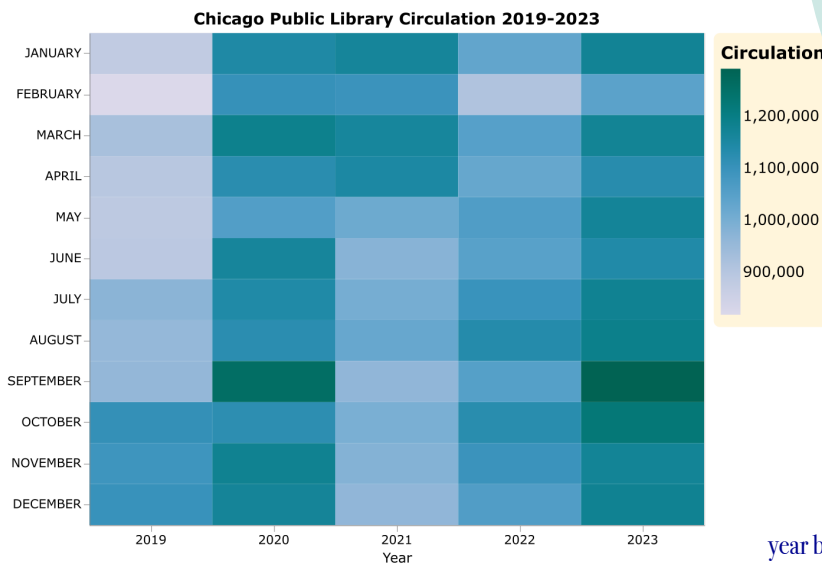
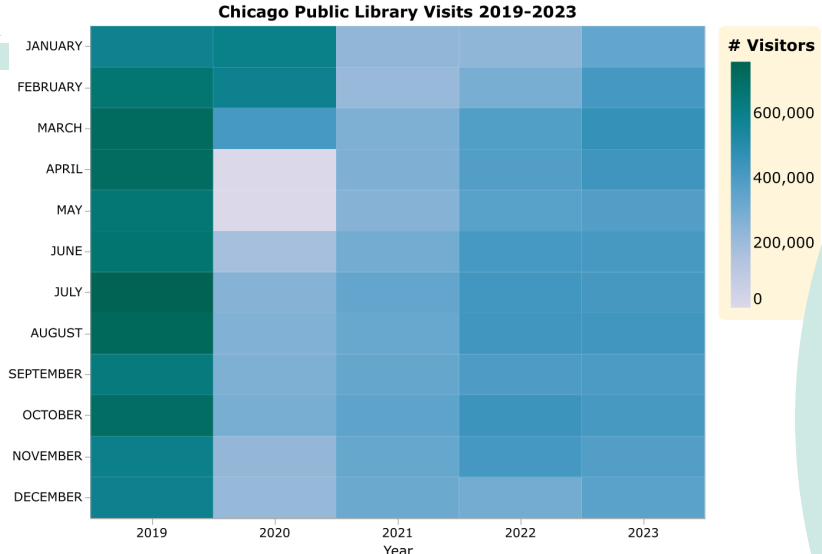
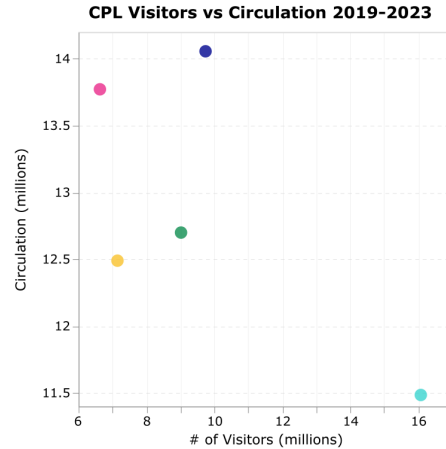
CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Chicago Public Library system has a relatively low budget allocation compared to other departments, such as the Chicago Police Department. In 2023, the budget ordinance for CPL was \$113,371,472 compared to CPD's almost \$2 billion ordinance.

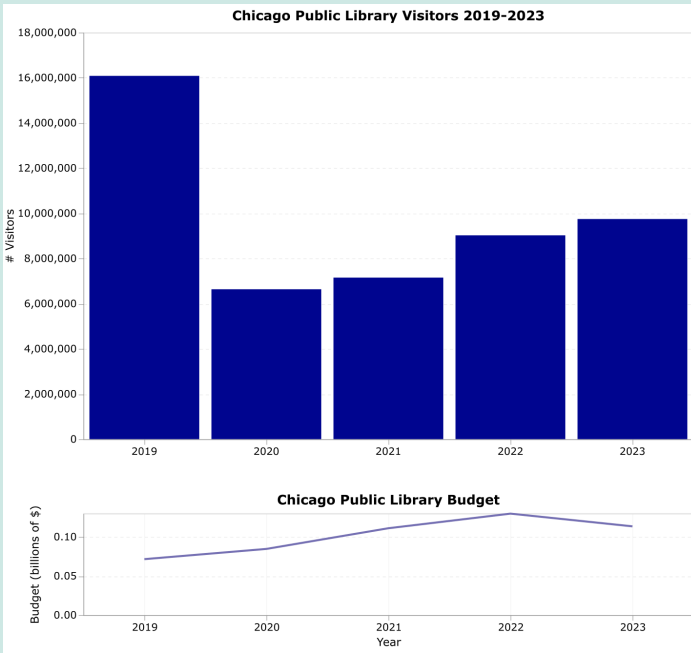
CPL sees millions of visitors to their 81 locations across the city and circulates millions of books and other materials every year. However, these numbers have fluctuated in recent years. In 2019, visitors to the library system numbered over 500,000 every month. Visitor numbers dropped sharply during the pandemic in 2020 and have yet to fully recover to pre-COVID numbers, as of 2023.

Conversely, between 2019-2023, the library system's circulation numbers were the lowest in 2019 and the highest in 2020 and 2023. While there were less visitors to the library during the pandemic, it seems residents were borrowing materials at higher rates. These higher circulation rates bleed over into the beginning of 2021. There is a large uptick in circulation numbers in September of 2020 and 2023, possibly due to school starting.

Circulation numbers include new check outs, renewals, and downloadable materials.



The slow growth in number of visitors since 2020 mirrors a slow increase in the CPL budget since 2020, except for a small decrease in budget from 2022-2023.



The number of visitors to the library have been slowly increasing following the sharp drop during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the total number of visitors in 2023 was still significantly lower than in 2019.

In 2019, there were around 16 million visitors to the library, the largest of any year between 2019-2023, but relatively very low circulation numbers whereas 2020 saw large circulation numbers but many fewer visitors.

There was a large increase in circulation from 2022 to 2023 but only a small change in the number of visitors.

The budget allocation for CPL was the smallest in 2019 and the largest in 2022. In 2019, there was a high number of visitors but low circulation numbers. As the budget has overall grown slightly since the onset of the pandemic, the number of visitors and circulation numbers have also increased overall, albeit at a very slow rate.