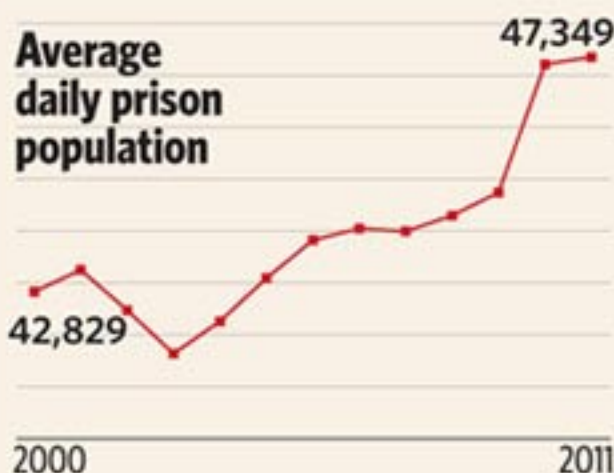


# The high price of justice

Illinois taxpayers are spending billions on incarceration for sentences handed out to Chicago defendants from 2000 through 2011. The costs were calculated based on an estimate that average inmates serve out 50 percent of their sentences before they are released.

## Packed to the gills

Illinois' average daily prisoner population hit an all-time high in 2011—more than 47,000, an 11 percent increase since 2000.



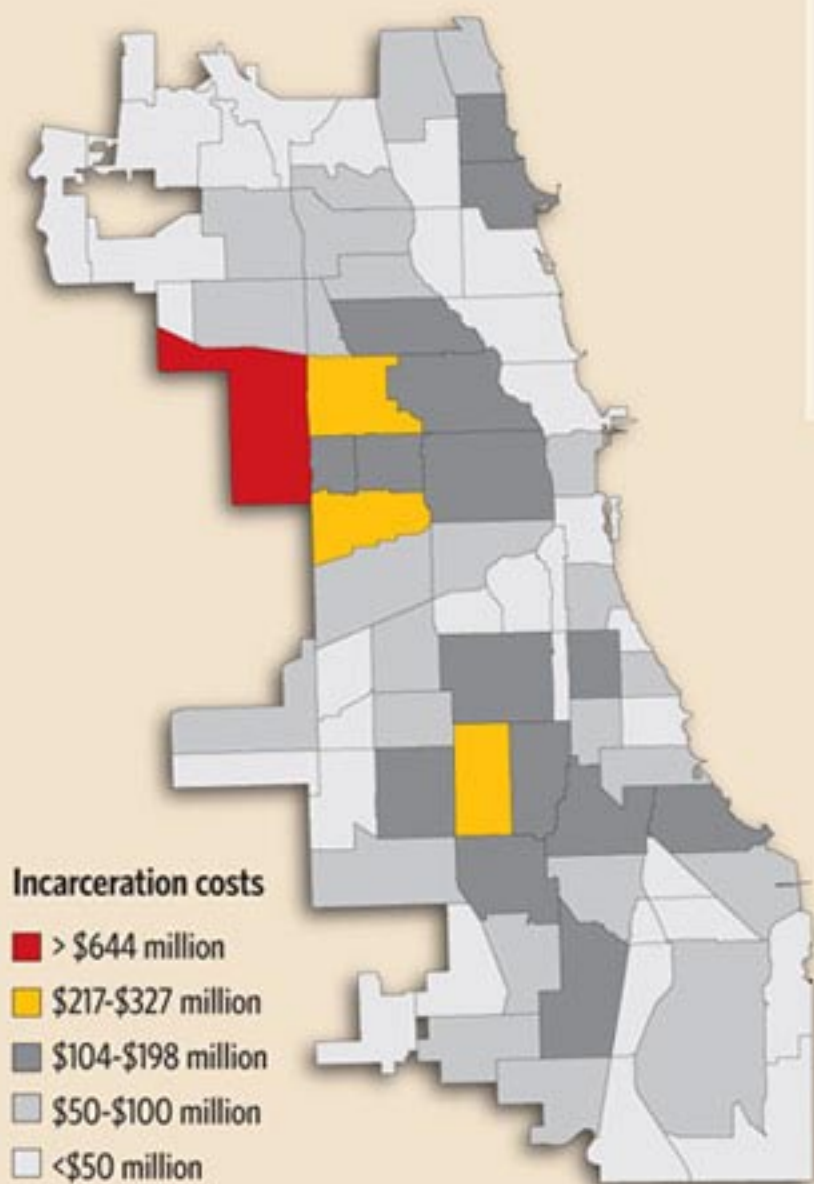
Between 2000 and 2011...

**147,255** Chicago defendants received a **prison sentence** in Cook County courts.

It cost **\$5.3 billion** to incarcerate them.

**\$1.6 billion** of those costs originated from **969** "million-dollar blocks."

These blocks account for only **2%** of all Chicago blocks but nearly **one-third** of prison sentences handed out.



Sources: Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court, Illinois Department of Corrections; analyzed by *The Chicago Reporter*