

Jens Ludwig is the McCormick Foundation Professor of Social Service Administration, Law and Public Policy at the University of Chicago, Director of the University of Chicago Crime Lab, and Co-Director of the University of Chicago Urban Education Lab. He is an economist who works on urban policy challenges related to crime, education, poverty, housing and health.

In 2008, Ludwig helped found the University of Chicago Crime Lab, which partners with local, state, and federal government agencies to carry out randomized policy experiments to learn more about how to prevent youth violence and closely related social problems such as high school dropout. For the past 15 years, Ludwig has been involved in the study of a large-scale social experiment carried out by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Moving to Opportunity (MTO), which via random lottery offered families in public housing the chance to use a housing voucher to move to less disadvantaged neighborhoods. He has also carried out research on early childhood interventions like Head Start, the effects of social conditions on children's schooling outcomes and risk of violence involvement, and on ways of preventing gun violence. In 2006 Ludwig received the David Kershaw Prize from the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management for distinguished contributions to public policy by age 40. In 2012 he was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.