

Chicago's Food Inspection Forecasting Model — Ranking Restaurants by Violation Risk to Catch Problems Sooner

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 80/100

Evidence strength: Quasi-experimental

Summary

Chicago's health department built a machine-learning model ranking restaurants by violation risk. An independent pilot evaluation found inspectors using its list caught 69% of violators in the first half of the schedule (vs 55% normally), about 7.5 days sooner.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	3/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-09

[Chicago Department of Public Health](#) — accessed 2026-08-09

[Food Inspection Forecasting evaluation \(City of Chicago\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-09

[Hindsight Analysis of the Chicago Food Inspection Forecasting Model \(arXiv\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-09

[Chicago's Data-Powered Recipe for Food Safety \(Governing\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-09

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