

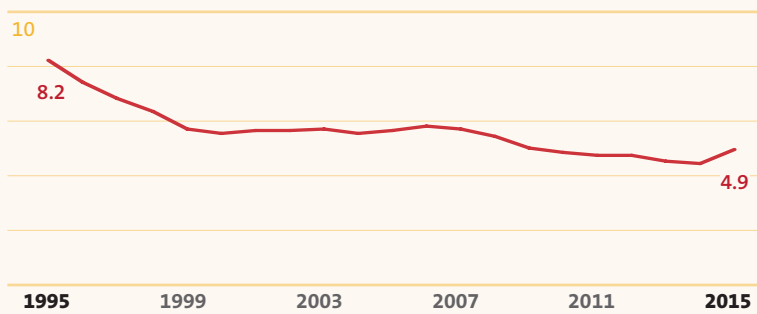
Homicide

Homicide is defined by the FBI as the willful killing of one human being by another, and encompasses both murder and non-negligent manslaughter. The Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR), produced annually by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, highlights statistical trends and patterns associated with homicides known to law enforcement in the United States. While the SHR has proven to be a reliable resource for researchers and policy-makers, law enforcement agencies report this information voluntarily, which can mean the data are not always consistent or nationally representative. Mass shootings, which make up a small subset of homicide, have garnered a great deal of media attention in recent years; *for more information, see the Mass Casualty fact sheet in this series.*

Trends

Since 1995, the rate of murder and non-negligent homicides known to authorities has **decreased by 40%**. In 2014, the murder rate was 4.4 per 100,000 people, the lowest rate in more than two decades. In 2015, however, this rate increased by **11.4%** to 4.9 per 100,000 people, the **largest increase since 1995**.^A

Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter^A
rate per 100,000 people



Did You Know?

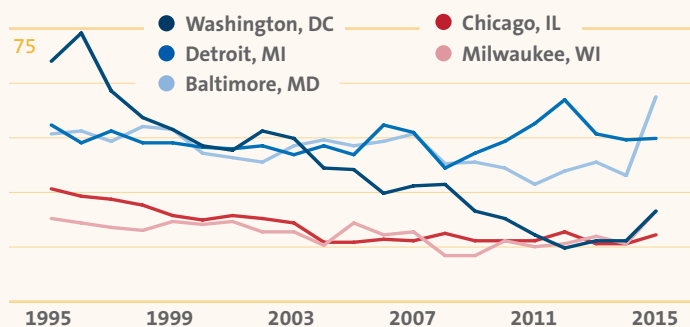
In 2015, **men** committed **62%** of murders and were **79%** of all murder victims.^A

Black men committed **36%** of murders and made up **52%** of all murder victims. **White men** committed **30%** of murders and accounted for **43%** of all murder victims.^A

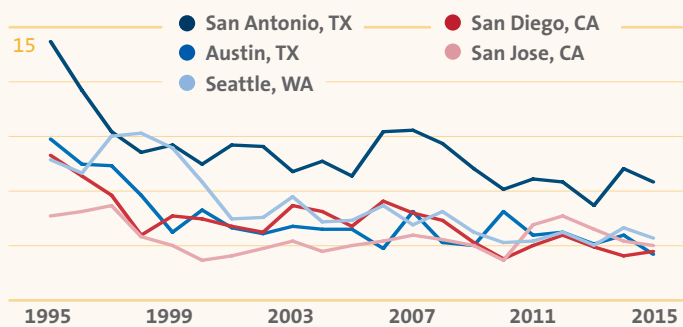
Homicide is largely intra-racial. Of crimes involving a single offender and victim: **81%** of white victims were killed by a white perpetrator; **89%** of all black victims were killed by a black perpetrator.^A

While concerning, this increase in homicide does not necessarily indicate an emerging national trend: evaluating homicide rates at the **city level** helps identify what may be driving the recent increase. For example, the rate of homicide in **Detroit, Michigan**—a city with consistently high homicide numbers—increased **less than 1%** and is the **lowest rate** in almost five years. In **Baltimore**, the murder and non-negligent homicide rate **increased by 64%** from 2014, the **sharpest increase** in the 30 largest U.S. cities. By comparison, other large cities—including Austin, San Antonio, San Jose, and Seattle—saw **decreases** in their homicide rate for 2015. Research suggests that the 2015 increases in homicide rates are related to higher unemployment, lower per capita income, and lower school success in these cities.^B

Largest Cities with Highest Murder Rates^{A,*}
rate per 100,000 people



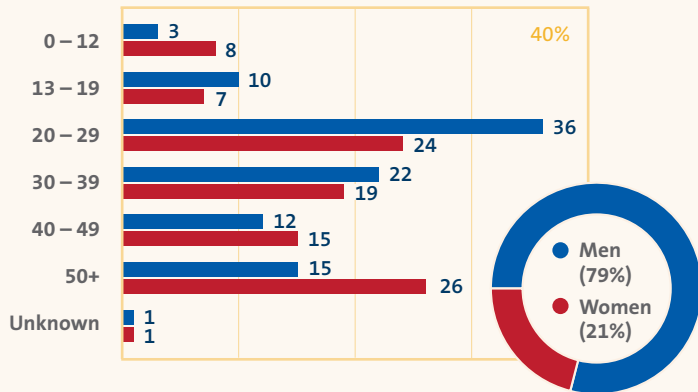
Largest Cities with Lowest Murder Rates^{A,*}
rate per 100,000 people



Current Data on Homicide

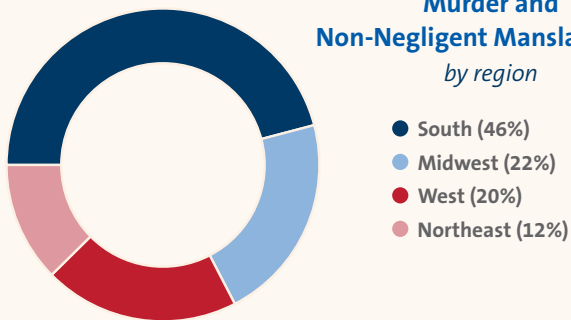
In 2015, there were **13,455** homicides and non-negligent manslaughters: 4% of these victims were 12 years old or younger, 33% were age 20 – 29, and 17% were over the age of 50. Individuals age 20 – 29 of either sex were killed more often than people in any other age range.^A

Homicide Victims^A
by age and sex



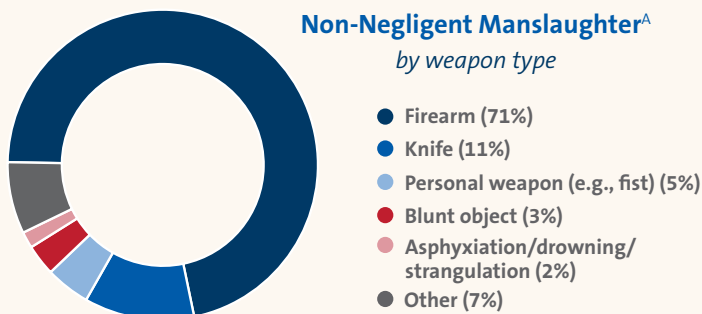
In 2015, the **majority of murder** and non-negligent manslaughter occurred in the **south** (46%). The **lowest** proportion of all murder and non-negligent manslaughter occurred in the **northeast** (12%).^A

Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter^A
by region



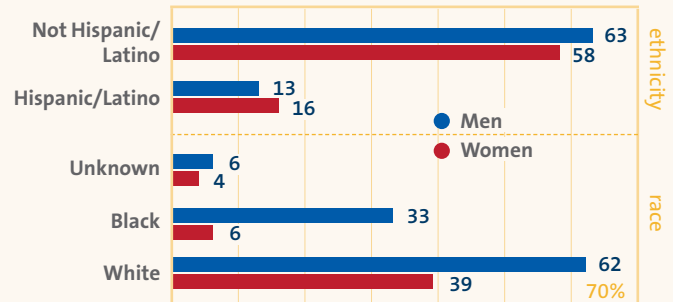
In 2014, **7 in 10** homicides and non-negligent manslaughters were **committed with a firearm**, and **1 in 10** were committed with a **knife**.^A

Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter^A
by weapon type



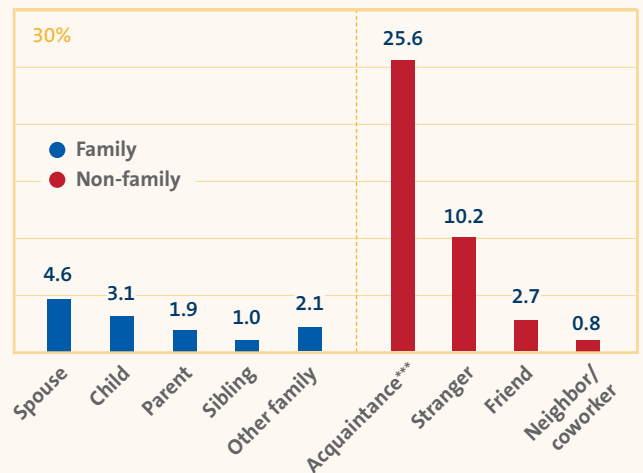
In 2015, rates of murder and non-negligent homicide known to law enforcement were higher for men than women. Notably, **black men** were victims of murder and non-negligent homicide **1.5x** more frequently than white men, and **3.3x** more frequently than Hispanic or Latino men. **White women** were victims of homicide at a rate **1.8x** greater than black women and **4.4x** greater than Hispanic or Latina women.^A

Homicide Victims^{A}**
by ethnicity/race and sex



Of homicide and non-negligent manslaughter victims, **42%** had some sort of **relationship with the perpetrator**, 10% had no relationship, and 48% had an unknown relationship.^A

Victim Relationship to Perpetrator^A



NOTES/SOURCES

* In 1999, the UCR did not report the murder rate for Baltimore. This number is calculated using police data and the reported population of Baltimore for 1999.

** The percentages do not total because not all agencies provide ethnicity data.

*** "Acquaintance" here includes same-sex partners (per the UCR), as well as "Significant Others."

A FBI, *Crime in the United States, 1995 - 2015*, (U.S. Department of Justice)

B Matthew Friedman et al., "Crime in 2016: A Preliminary Analysis," (Brennan Center for Justice, 2016), <https://www.brennancenter.org/publication/crime-2016-preliminary-analysis>