



Is Violence a Problem?

- Not compared to similar cities (e.g.: Detroit, St. Louis, Kansas City, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Indianapolis etc)
- But young (15-29), African American, men in Pittsburgh face a homicide rate that is 70 times the national average.

Trends

- Homicides are increasing from around 30 per year in the 1980s to around 50 per year in the 1990s and 2000s (spikes seen in 1992-1994, 2001, and 2003 and drops seen in 1988-1990, 1997, 2004)
- More than 3 shootings for every homicide

Who's at-risk?

- Young (under 25): 51% in 2003, 37% in 2004, and 46% in 2005
2003-2005 N=166
 - Under 18: 9%; 18-24: 38%; 25-34: 25%; 35-44: 16%; over 45: 12%
- African American: 87% in 2003, 81% in 2004, and 92% in 2005
- Men: 87% in 2003, 77% in 2004, and 95% in 2005
- From disadvantaged communities. 55% reside in 10 communities, 70% of which are severely distressed
- Involved in the justice system: approximately 60% had criminal cases
- Suspects are demographically similar to victims: 53% young, 81% African-American, 93% men); 88% have prior arrests

Relationship between Victim and Offender

- Mostly black victim/black suspect homicides (80%); only 4 percent with white victim and black offender
- Mostly men victims and men suspects (nearly 80%)
- Over 80 percent know one another – most often acquaintances

Weapon

- Over 80 percent with a firearm; 10% with a knife

When

- Violence occurs in every month of the year but the summer months are somewhat worse: about 1/3 occurs in June, July, and August
- Homicides: Spike during the late night (10am until 2am); important to examine by age: for 13-17 year olds the most critical time is 12pm to 4pm but for 18-24 year olds the critical times are between 4pm and 8pm and 10pm and 2am.
- Throughout the week: slightly more on weekends; fewer on Wednesdays
- Important to combine all three factors but need more data (data on shootings needs to include demographic information)

Where

- Clustered: 75% occur in just 24 communities
- County: Wilksburg, Penn Hills, McKeesport, Braddock
- City: North Side, Hill District, and East End (using cluster/hot-spot analysis)
- Nearly half of victims are killed outside: in the street, car, park; 38% killed in a residence

Motive

- Need more data but the general category of “argument” explains about half of homicides