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**Violence Policy Center**

# **Black Homicide Victimization in the United States**

**An Analysis of 2020 Homicide Data**

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## THE EPIDEMIC OF BLACK HOMICIDE VICTIMIZATION

The devastation homicide inflicts on Black teens and adults is an ongoing national crisis, yet it is all too often ignored outside of affected communities.

This study examines the issue of Black homicide victimization at the state level by analyzing unpublished Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) data for Black homicide victimization submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).<sup>1</sup> The information used for this report is for the year 2020 and is the most recent data available. This is the first analysis of the 2020 data on Black homicide victims to offer breakdowns of cases in the 10 states with the highest Black homicide victimization rates and the first to rank the states by the rate of Black homicide victims.

It is important to note that the SHR data used in this report comes from law enforcement reporting at the local level. While there are coding guidelines followed by the law enforcement agencies, the amount of information submitted to the SHR system, and the interpretation of how to categorize information submitted (for example, gang involvement), will vary from agency to agency. While this study utilizes the best and most recent data available, it is limited by the quantity and degree of detail in the information submitted.<sup>2</sup>

### AN IMPORTANT NOTE

*The FBI has made changes in the way it collects and reports crime data that in the short term will drastically reduce the availability of state and local data and deprive researchers access to detailed information that can help prevent gun violence and other crime. In 2021 the FBI stopped collecting detailed crime data from police agencies that are not ready to participate in the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), an updated and expanded version of the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) system. While full implementation of NIBRS would be an improvement on the current UCR system, as of June 2022 only 66 percent of the U.S. population were covered by NIBRS-reporting law enforcement agencies.<sup>3</sup> Instead of allowing local agencies who missed the deadline to continue to report crime data via the UCR, the FBI has partnered with the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to create national estimates to account for the missing information. For the immediate future these changes will severely hobble ongoing efforts, like this VPC series of studies, to understand and prevent gun violence, domestic violence, homicide, and, in fact, all types of violent crime.*

- 1 The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program collects basic information on serious crimes from participating police agencies and records supplementary information about the circumstances of homicides in its unpublished Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR). Submitted monthly, supplementary data consists of: the age, sex, race, and ethnicity of both victims and offenders; the types of weapons used; the relationship of victims to offenders; and, the circumstances of the homicides. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, supplementary data are provided on only a subset of homicide cases. Additionally, SHR data are updated throughout the year as homicide reports are forwarded by state UCR programs.
- 2 In 2020, as in years past, the state of Florida did not submit any data to the FBI Supplementary Homicide Report. Also in 2020, data from Alabama was not available from the FBI. Data from Florida and Alabama were not requested individually because the difference in collection techniques would create a bias in the study results.
- 3 "Measuring Crime Reported to Law Enforcement using NIBRS Data," <https://bjs.ojp.gov/national-incident-based-reporting-system-nibrs#measuring-crime-reported-to-law-enforcement-using-nibrs-data>.

## NATIONAL DATA

According to the FBI SHR data, in 2020 there were 9,753 Black homicide victims in the United States. The homicide rate among Black victims in the United States was 23.41 per 100,000. For that year, the overall national homicide rate was 6.03 per 100,000. For whites, the national homicide rate was 3.24 per 100,000. The Black homicide victimization rate was nearly four times the overall homicide victimization rate (23.41 per 100,000 compared to 6.03 per 100,000) and seven times the white homicide victimization rate (23.41 per 100,000 compared to 3.24 per 100,000). From 2019 to 2020, the Black homicide victimization rate increased by 29 percent (from 18.08 per 100,000 in 2019 to 23.41 per 100,000 in 2020). The rate of 23.41 per 100,000 in 2020 was the highest Black homicide victimization rate in the 17-year history of this study. Additional information contained in the FBI SHR data on Black homicide victimization is below.

### SEX

Of the 9,753 Black homicide victims, 8,398 (86 percent) were male, 1,352 (14 percent) were female, and three were of unknown sex (less than one percent). The homicide rate for Black male victims was more than four times the overall rate for male homicide victims (41.92 per 100,000 compared to 9.83 per 100,000) and more than eight times the rate for white male homicide victims (41.92 per 100,000 compared to 4.84 per 100,000). The homicide rate for Black female victims was more than twice the overall rate for female homicide victims (6.25 per 100,000 compared to 2.32 per 100,000) and nearly four times the rate for white female homicide victims (6.25 per 100,000 compared to 1.66 per 100,000).

The Black male homicide victimization rate was more than six times the Black female homicide victimization rate (41.92 per 100,000 compared to 6.25 per 100,000).

Race	Male Homicide Rate	Female Homicide Rate	Both Sexes Homicide Rate
Black	41.92	6.25	23.41
White	4.84	1.66	3.24
Overall	9.83	2.32	6.03

### AGE

Seven hundred thirty Black homicide victims (eight percent) were less than 18 years old and 225 Black homicide victims (two percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 32 years old.

### MOST COMMON WEAPONS

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 89 percent of Black victims (8,285 out of 9,297) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 58 percent (4,776 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 603 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 241 victims killed by bodily force, and 88 victims killed by a blunt object. In comparison, 70 percent of white victims and 80 percent of victims of all races were killed with guns.

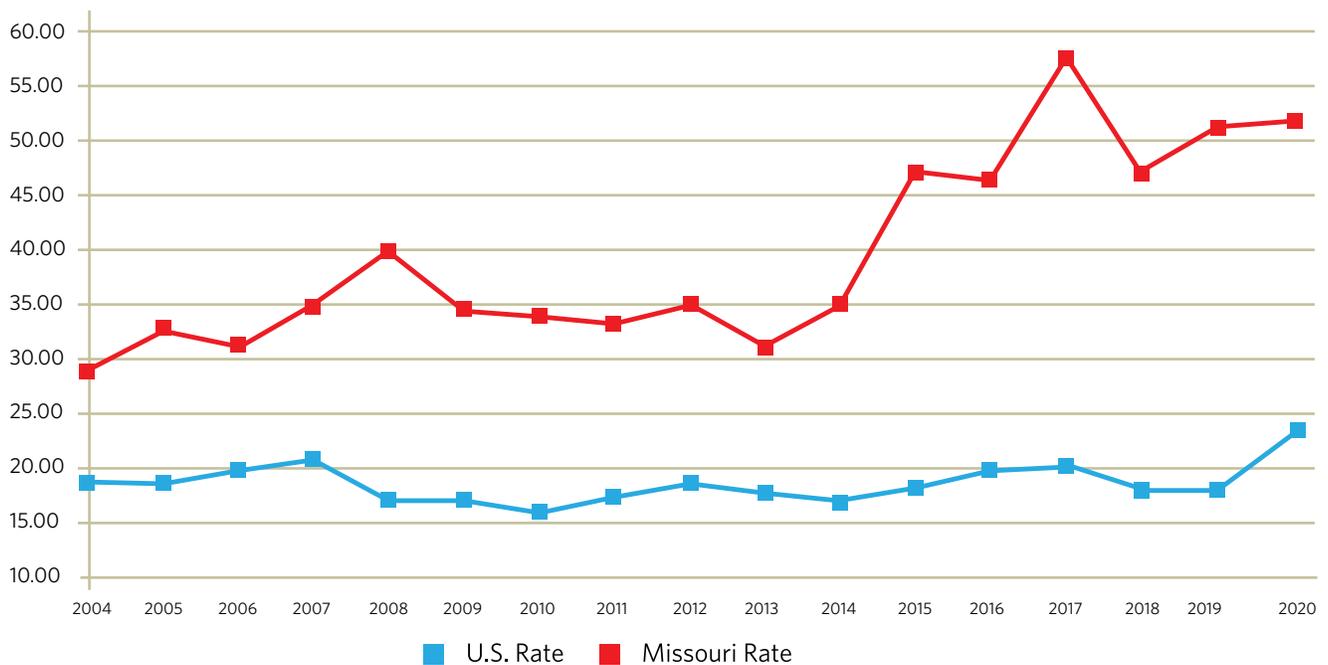
## SPOTLIGHT ON MISSOURI

In 2020, Missouri had the highest Black homicide victimization rate in the nation for the seventh year in a row. Missouri has ranked either first or second in the nation for Black homicide victimization 14 years in a row.

Even these grim statistics do not reveal the true scope of the problem in Missouri. Despite already having the highest Black homicide victimization rate in the country in 2014, **from 2014 to 2020 the Black homicide victimization rate in Missouri increased by 46 percent.** Missouri's 2020 Black homicide victimization rate of 50.98 is more than twice the national Black homicide victimization rate, and nearly 16 times the national homicide victimization rate for white victims.

Missouri's Black homicide victimization rates in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 are the six highest rates in the 17-year history of this study.

Black Homicide Victimization Rate in Missouri and the United States 2004 — 2020

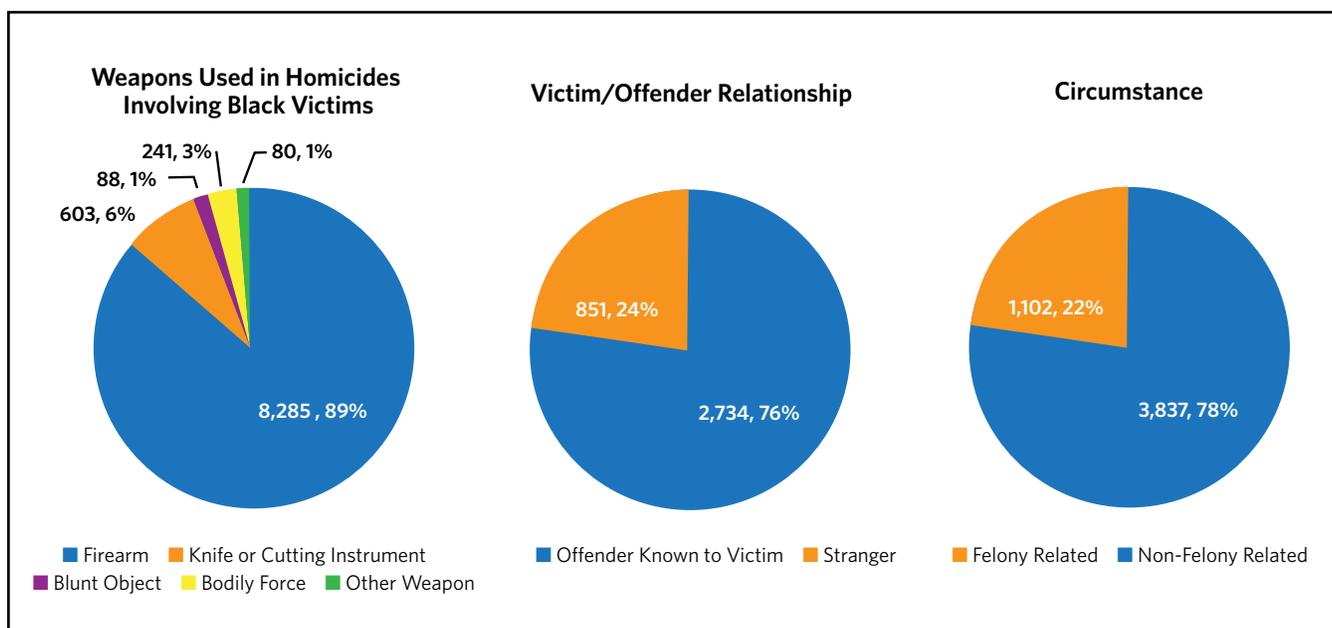


## VICTIM/OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 76 percent of Black victims (2,734 out of 3,585) were killed by someone they knew. Eight hundred fifty-one victims were killed by strangers.

## CIRCUMSTANCE

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 78 percent (3,837 out of 4,939) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 49 percent (1,868 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender, and 13 percent (516 homicides) were reported to be gang-related.



There were 80 incidents reported as justifiable homicides of Black victims killed by law enforcement in 2020. The SHR does not specifically identify killings by law enforcement that are not ruled justifiable. In the wake of ongoing controversial incidents of Black citizens killed by police, media reports have focused on the lack of reliable statistics on lethal incidents involving law enforcement. In December 2015, the FBI announced that it would dramatically expand its data collection on violent police encounters by 2017.<sup>4</sup> In October 2016, the U.S. Department of Justice outlined a plan to improve the collection of law enforcement use of force data. The FBI has begun to release online very limited information on law enforcement use of force incidents. In addition, the agency notes that in 2022 only 9,712 out of 18,514 federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies throughout the nation participated and provided use of force data. The officers employed by these agencies represent 69 percent of federal, state, local, and tribal sworn officers in the nation.<sup>5</sup>

4 "FBI to sharply expand system for tracking fatal police shootings," *The Washington Post*, December 8, 2015 ([https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/fbi-to-sharply-expand-system-for-tracking-fatal-police-shootings/2015/12/08/a60fbc16-9dd4-11e5-bce4-708fe33e3288\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/fbi-to-sharply-expand-system-for-tracking-fatal-police-shootings/2015/12/08/a60fbc16-9dd4-11e5-bce4-708fe33e3288_story.html)).

5 Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer, Law Enforcement Collections (<https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/le/uof>).

## STATE RANKINGS

In 2020, the national Black homicide victimization rate was 23.41 per 100,000. For that year, Missouri ranked first as the state with the highest Black homicide victimization rate. Its rate of 50.98 per 100,000 was more than twice the national average for Black homicide victimization. The 10 states with the highest Black homicide victimization rates are listed in the following chart. In order to ensure rankings contain stable rates, states with 10 or fewer Black homicide victims were not included in the state rankings for 2020. These victims are included in the U.S. total and rate. While not ranked, the number of deaths and corresponding Black homicide victimization rate for these states are included in Appendix Two.

Additional information for each of the states ranked in the top 10 can be found in Appendix One, including: age and sex of victims; most common weapons used; relationship of victim to offender; and, the circumstances of the homicides. According to the SHR data, for states with more than 10 victims, 19 states had a Black homicide victimization rate higher than the national per capita rate of 23.41 per 100,000.

For an alphabetical listing of all states that submitted data to the FBI, please see Appendix Two.

## NUMBER OF BLACK HOMICIDE VICTIMS AND RATES BY STATE IN 2020, RANKED BY RATE

Ranking	State	Number of Homicides	Homicide Rate per 100,000
1	Missouri	396	50.98
2	Wisconsin	199	45.72
3	Indiana	318	42.91
4	Tennessee	489	40.11
5	Illinois	776	40.05
6	Arkansas	192	38.83
7	Michigan	551	36.73
8	Louisiana	569	36.45
9	Kentucky	148	35.75
10	Iowa	53	33.84

## CONCLUSION

Black Americans are disproportionately affected by homicide. For the year 2020, Blacks Americans represented 14 percent of the nation's population, yet accounted for 53 percent of all homicide victims.<sup>6</sup>

The devastation homicide inflicts on Black teens and adults remains a national crisis that should be a top priority for policymakers to address. An important part of ending our nation's gun violence epidemic will involve reducing homicides in the Black community.

At the same time, the firearms industry, looking to expand beyond its shrinking base of white male gun owners, has increased its marketing efforts targeting Black, Latino, and Asian Americans.<sup>7</sup> Such efforts can only increase gun death and injury in these communities.

In addition, individuals living in communities where violence is prevalent are at increased risk for a broad range of negative health and behavior outcomes. An increased understanding of how trauma resulting from community violence influences development, health, and behavior can lead to improvements in the way many social services are delivered as well as policy changes at the local and federal levels.<sup>8</sup>

For Black victims of homicide, like all victims of homicide, guns — usually handguns — are far and away the number-one murder tool. Successful efforts to reduce America's Black homicide toll, like America's homicide toll as a whole, must put a focus on reducing access and exposure to firearms.

6 FBI Supplementary Homicide Report 2020, U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

7 For more information, see the Violence Policy Center studies *How the Firearms Industry and NRA Market Guns to Communities of Color*, January 2021 (<https://vpc.org/how-the-firearms-industry-and-nra-market-guns-to-communities-of-color-contents/>) and *How the Firearms Industry Markets Guns to Asian Americans*, September 2021, (<https://vpc.org/how-the-firearms-industry-markets-guns-to-asian-americans/>).

8 For more information on trauma and community violence, see the July 2017 Violence Policy Center study *The Relationship Between Community Violence and Trauma: How Violence Affects Learning, Health, and Behavior* (<http://www.vpc.org/studies/trauma17.pdf>).

## Appendix One: Additional Information for the 10 States with the Highest Rates of Black Homicide Victimization

### Missouri

*There were 396 Black homicide victims in Missouri in 2020.*

*The homicide rate among Black victims in Missouri was 50.98 per 100,000 in 2020.*

#### Ranked 1st in the United States

<b>Age</b>	Twenty-nine homicide victims (7 percent) were less than 18 years old and 7 victims (2 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 31 years old.
<b>Sex</b>	Out of 396 homicide victims, 340 were male and 56 were female.
<b>Most Common Weapons</b>	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 94 percent of victims (360 out of 383) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 58 percent (208 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 138 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 12 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 4 victims killed by bodily force, and 3 victims killed by a blunt object.
<b>Victim/Offender Relationship</b>	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 73 percent of victims (77 out of 105) were killed by someone they knew. Twenty-eight victims were killed by strangers.
<b>Circumstance</b>	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 81 percent (133 out of 165) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 65 percent (87 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

## Wisconsin

There were 199 Black homicide victims in Wisconsin in 2020.

The homicide rate among Black victims in Wisconsin was 45.72 per 100,000 in 2020.

### Ranked 2nd in the United States

<b>Age</b>	Twenty-four homicide victims (12 percent) were less than 18 years old and 3 victims (2 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 31 years old.
<b>Sex</b>	Out of 199 homicide victims, 158 were male and 41 were female.
<b>Most Common Weapons</b>	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 95 percent of victims (169 out of 177) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 33 percent (55 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 111 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 4 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments and 2 victims killed by bodily force.
<b>Victim/Offender Relationship</b>	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 66 percent of victims (52 out of 79) were killed by someone they knew. Twenty-seven victims were killed by strangers.
<b>Circumstance</b>	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 79 percent (93 out of 118) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 47 percent (44 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

## Indiana

There were 318 Black homicide victims in Indiana in 2020.

The homicide rate among Black victims in Indiana was 42.91 per 100,000 in 2020.

### Ranked 3rd in the United States

<b>Age</b>	Twenty-seven homicide victims (9 percent) were less than 18 years old and 8 victims (3 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 30 years old.
<b>Sex</b>	Out of 318 homicide victims, 269 were male and 49 were female.
<b>Most Common Weapons</b>	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 90 percent of victims (265 out of 295) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 68 percent (179 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 76 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 15 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 6 victims killed by bodily force, and 5 victims killed by a blunt object.
<b>Victim/Offender Relationship</b>	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 80 percent of victims (86 out of 107) were killed by someone they knew. Twenty-one victims were killed by strangers.
<b>Circumstance</b>	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 71 percent (117 out of 164) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 42 percent (49 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

## Tennessee

*There were 489 Black homicide victims in Tennessee in 2020.*

*The homicide rate among Black victims in Tennessee was 40.11 per 100,000 in 2020.*

### Ranked 4th in the United States

<b>Age</b>	Forty-seven homicide victims (10 percent) were less than 18 years old and 14 victims (3 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 31 years old.
<b>Sex</b>	Out of 489 homicide victims, 426 were male and 63 were female.
<b>Most Common Weapons</b>	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 93 percent of victims (433 out of 465) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 36 percent (156 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 254 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 15 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 11 victims killed by bodily force, and 3 victims killed by a blunt object.
<b>Victim/Offender Relationship</b>	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 56 percent of victims (116 out of 209) were killed by someone they knew. Ninety-three victims were killed by strangers.
<b>Circumstance</b>	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 77 percent (167 out of 218) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 56 percent (94 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

## Illinois

*There were 776 Black homicide victims in Illinois in 2020.*

*The homicide rate among Black victims in Illinois was 40.05 per 100,000 in 2020.*

### Ranked 5th in the United States

<b>Age</b>	Forty-four homicide victims (6 percent) were less than 18 years old and 15 victims (2 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 30 years old.
<b>Sex</b>	Out of 776 homicide victims, 690 were male and 86 were female.
<b>Most Common Weapons</b>	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 93 percent of victims (707 out of 763) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 84 percent (596 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 103 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 37 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 12 victims killed by bodily force, and 4 victims killed by a blunt object.
<b>Victim/Offender Relationship</b>	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 73 percent of victims (123 out of 169) were killed by someone they knew. Forty-six victims were killed by strangers.
<b>Circumstance</b>	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 87 percent (418 out of 481) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 20 percent (83 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

## Arkansas

There were 192 Black homicide victims in Arkansas in 2020.

The homicide rate among Black victims in Arkansas was 38.83 per 100,000 in 2020.

### Ranked 6th in the United States

<b>Age</b>	Twenty-two homicide victims (12 percent) were less than 18 years old and 5 victims (3 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 33 years old.
<b>Sex</b>	Out of 192 homicide victims, 158 were male and 34 were female.
<b>Most Common Weapons</b>	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 87 percent of victims (152 out of 174) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 47 percent (71 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 69 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 11 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 7 victims killed by bodily force, and 4 victims killed by a blunt object.
<b>Victim/Offender Relationship</b>	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 95 percent of victims (72 out of 76) were killed by someone they knew. Four victims were killed by strangers.
<b>Circumstance</b>	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 75 percent (75 out of 100) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 49 percent (37 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

## Michigan

There were 551 Black homicide victims in Michigan in 2020.

The homicide rate among Black victims in Michigan was 36.73 per 100,000 in 2020.

### Ranked 7th in the United States

<b>Age</b>	Forty-one homicide victims (8 percent) were less than 18 years old and 15 victims (3 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 33 years old.
<b>Sex</b>	Out of 551 homicide victims, 457 were male and 94 were female.
<b>Most Common Weapons</b>	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 92 percent of victims (461 out of 503) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 37 percent (170 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 259 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 25 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 10 victims killed by bodily force, and 1 victim killed by a blunt object.
<b>Victim/Offender Relationship</b>	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 82 percent of victims (111 out of 135) were killed by someone they knew. Twenty-four victims were killed by strangers.
<b>Circumstance</b>	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 87 percent (167 out of 192) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 44 percent (73 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

## Louisiana

There were 569 Black homicide victims in Louisiana in 2020.

The homicide rate among Black victims in Louisiana was 36.45 per 100,000 in 2020.

### Ranked 8th in the United States

<b>Age</b>	Thirty-eight homicide victims (7 percent) were less than 18 years old and 16 victims (3 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 32 years old.
<b>Sex</b>	Out of 569 homicide victims, 500 were male and 69 were female.
<b>Most Common Weapons</b>	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 91 percent of victims (507 out of 556) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 41 percent (208 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 269 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 31 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 8 victims killed by bodily force, and 5 victims killed by a blunt object.
<b>Victim/Offender Relationship</b>	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 86 percent of victims (183 out of 214) were killed by someone they knew. Thirty-one victims were killed by strangers.
<b>Circumstance</b>	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 64 percent (175 out of 272) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 57 percent (100 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

## Kentucky

There were 148 Black homicide victims in Kentucky in 2020.

The homicide rate among Black victims in Kentucky was 35.75 per 100,000 in 2020.

### Ranked 9th in the United States

<b>Age</b>	Eighteen homicide victims (13 percent) were less than 18 years old and 4 victims (3 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 31 years old.
<b>Sex</b>	Out of 148 homicide victims, 121 were male, 26 were female, and 1 was of unknown sex.
<b>Most Common Weapons</b>	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 92 percent of victims (133 out of 145) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 56 percent (74 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 51 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 4 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 6 victims killed by bodily force, and 1 victim killed by a blunt object.
<b>Victim/Offender Relationship</b>	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 67 percent of victims (43 out of 64) were killed by someone they knew. Twenty-one victims were killed by strangers.
<b>Circumstance</b>	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 68 percent (34 out of 50) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 41 percent (14 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

## Iowa

*There were 53 Black homicide victims in Iowa in 2020.*

*The homicide rate among Black victims in Iowa was 33.84 per 100,000 in 2020.*

### Ranked 10th in the United States

<b>Age</b>	Five homicide victims (9 percent) were less than 18 years old. The average age was 28 years old.
<b>Sex</b>	Out of 53 homicide victims, 43 were male and 10 were female.
<b>Most Common Weapons</b>	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 90 percent of victims (47 out of 52) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 43 percent (20 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 23 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 3 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 1 victim killed by bodily force, and 1 victim killed by a blunt object.
<b>Victim/Offender Relationship</b>	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 75 percent of victims (18 out of 24) were killed by someone they knew. Six victims were killed by strangers.
<b>Circumstance</b>	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 75 percent (21 out of 28) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 48 percent (10 homicides) involved an argument between the victim and the offender.

## United States

*There were 9,753 Black homicide victims in the United States in 2020.*

*The homicide rate among Black victims in the United States was 23.41 per 100,000 in 2020.*

<b>Age</b>	Seven hundred thirty homicide victims (8 percent) were less than 18 years old and 225 victims (2 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 32 years old.
<b>Sex</b>	Out of 9,753 homicide victims, 8,398 were male, 1,352 were female, and 3 were of unknown sex.
<b>Most Common Weapons</b>	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 89 percent of victims (8,285 out of 9,297) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 58 percent (4,776 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 3,164 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 603 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 241 victims killed by bodily force, and 88 victims killed by a blunt object.
<b>Victim/Offender Relationship</b>	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 76 percent of victims (2,734 out of 3,585) were killed by someone they knew. Eight hundred fifty-one victims were killed by strangers.
<b>Circumstance</b>	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 78 percent (3,837 out of 4,939) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 49 percent (1,868 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

## Appendix Two: Number of Black Homicide Victims and Rates by State in 2020

State Ranking by Rate	State	Number of Homicides	Homicide Rate per 100,000
	Alabama	N/A	N/A
*	Alaska	6	16.63
19	Arizona	106	23.52
6	Arkansas	192	38.83
15	California	687	23.93
16 (tie)	Colorado	75	23.70
28	Connecticut	78	16.36
14	Delaware	59	24.28
	Florida	N/A	N/A
35	Georgia	423	11.73
*	Hawaii	3	6.94
*	Idaho	0	0.00
5	Illinois	776	40.05
3	Indiana	318	42.91
10	Iowa	53	33.84
33	Kansas	30	14.25
9	Kentucky	148	35.75
8	Louisiana	569	36.45
*	Maine	4	13.84
22	Maryland	402	20.48
36	Massachusetts	71	10.30
7	Michigan	551	36.73
18	Minnesota	108	23.68
27	Mississippi	188	16.47
1	Missouri	396	50.98
*	Montana	1	9.05
16 (tie)	Nebraska	28	23.70
25	Nevada	68	18.44
*	New Hampshire	1	3.26
30	New Jersey	215	15.12
*	New Mexico	10	14.58
31	New York	523	14.51

\* In order to ensure rankings contain stable rates, states with 10 or fewer Black homicide victims were not included in the state rankings for 2020. These victims are included in the U.S. total and rate.

State Ranking by Rate	State	Number of Homicides	Homicide Rate per 100,000
23	North Carolina	482	19.64
*	North Dakota	4	13.12
11	Ohio	511	30.81
12	Oklahoma	90	24.89
20	Oregon	28	22.22
34	Pennsylvania	212	12.77
32	Rhode Island	15	14.39
13	South Carolina	357	24.77
*	South Dakota	5	18.96
4	Tennessee	489	40.11
21	Texas	832	20.88
*	Utah	6	9.58
*	Vermont	3	25.69
24	Virginia	343	19.04
26	Washington	76	17.67
29	West Virginia	12	15.83
2	Wisconsin	199	45.72
*	Wyoming	0	0.00
<b>U.S. Total</b>		<b>9,753</b>	<b>23.41</b>

\* In order to ensure rankings contain stable rates, states with 10 or fewer Black homicide victims were not included in the state rankings for 2020. These victims are included in the U.S. total and rate.



**Violence Policy Center**

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