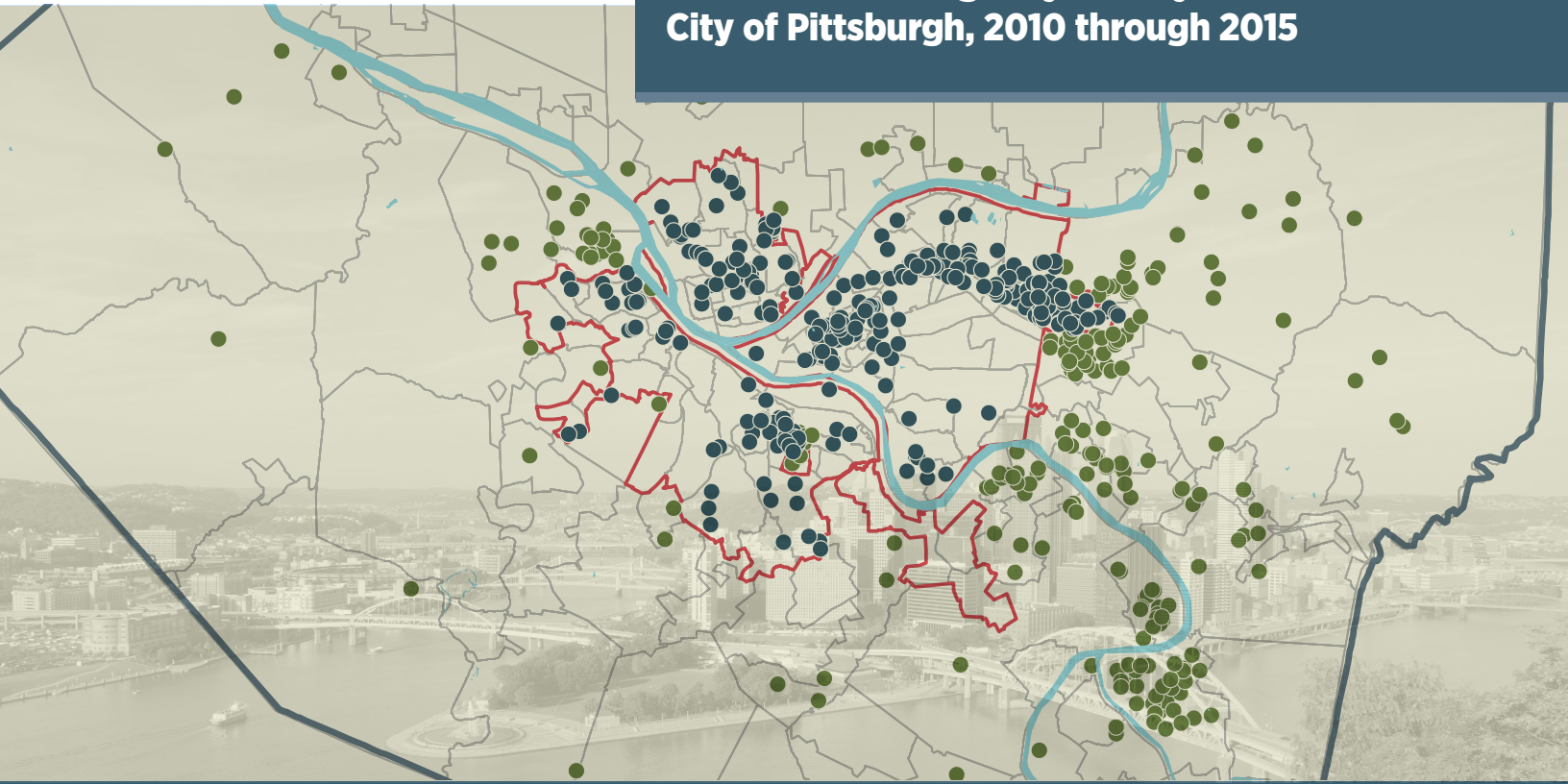


Homicides in Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh, 2010 through 2015



October 2017



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CONTENTS

Acronyms	1
Key Findings	2
Data Sources	3
Data Analysis	5
Appendix A: Comparison Between Data Sources	29
Appendix B: Human Services Program Definitions	31
Appendix C: Allegheny County Census Data	32
Appendix D: Routine Activity Time Categories	34

Figures

FIGURE 1: Homicide Rate in the United States, Allegheny County and City of Pittsburgh, 2005 through 2016	6
FIGURE 2: Average Homicide Rate, Pittsburgh and Benchmark Cities, 2010 through 2015	7
FIGURE 3: Number of Homicides in Allegheny County and City of Pittsburgh, 2005 through 2015	8
FIGURE 4: Homicide by Weapon, Allegheny County and City of Pittsburgh, 2010 through 2015	8
FIGURE 5: Gender of Homicide Victims in Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015, Compared to the County Population	9
FIGURE 6: Race of Homicide Victims in Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015, Compared to the County Population	10
FIGURE 7: Age of Homicide Victims in Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015, Compared to the County Population	10
FIGURE 8: Homicide Count by Year, School-Age Youth, Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015	11
FIGURE 9: Homicide Victimization Rates (per 100,000), 2010 through 2015	12
FIGURE 10: Homicide Rates by Age, Gender and Race of Homicide Victims, 2010 through 2015	12

Table of Contents*(continued)*

FIGURE 11: Percent of Homicide Victims Ever Involved in Human Services, by Programs	13
FIGURE 12: Justice System Involvement of Homicide Victims, 2010 through 2015	14
FIGURE 13: Clearance Rate in Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015	15
FIGURE 14: Clearance Rate for Homicide Victims, by Gender and Race, Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015	15
FIGURE 15: Relationship of Victim to Offender, Allegheny County and Pittsburgh, 2010 through 2015 (When Relationship is Known, N = 120)	17
FIGURE 16: Allegheny County Homicides, Within or Outside of City of Pittsburgh, 2010 through 2015	18
FIGURE 17: Location of Homicides in Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015	19
FIGURE 18: Location of Homicides in the City of Pittsburgh, 2010 through 2015	21
FIGURE 19: Distance from Victim's Residence to Homicide Location, Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015	23
FIGURE 20: Percentage of Homicides in Allegheny County by Month, 2010 through 2015	24
FIGURE 21: Percentage of Homicides in Allegheny County by Day of the Week, 2010 through 2015	24
FIGURE 22: Percentage of Homicides in Allegheny County by Time of Day, 2010 through 2015	25
FIGURE 23: Percentage of Homicides by Time-of-Day Trends in Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh, 2010 through 2015	26
FIGURE 24: School-Year Homicide Victimization Patterns, 5- through 17-year-olds, Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015 (N = 36)	27
FIGURE 25: Summer Victimization Patterns, 5- through 17-year-olds, Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015 (N = 12)	27
FIGURE 26: Motive by Homicides, Allegheny County and City of Pittsburgh, 2010 through 2015	28

Table of Contents*(continued)***Tables**

- TABLE 1: Allegheny County Municipalities (excluding Pittsburgh) with the Highest Numbers and Rates of Homicide, 2010 through 2015 20
- TABLE 2: City of Pittsburgh Neighborhoods with the Highest Numbers and Rates of Homicide, 2010 through 2015 22
- TABLE 3: Distances from Victim Home to Incident by Gender, Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015 23

ACRONYMS

ACOME	Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner
ACP	Allegheny County Police
DHS	[Allegheny County] Department of Human Services
GIS	Geographic Information System
PBP	Pittsburgh Bureau of Police
PSP	Pennsylvania State Police
UCR	[FBI] Uniform Crime Report

KEY FINDINGS

Homicide Rate: In 2015, the United States had its first increase in the homicide rate after nine years, with a homicide rate of 4.9 homicides per 100,000 people. The County's homicide rate was the same as the previous year (9.6/100,000). The City of Pittsburgh's rate was 19.6 (a 14% decrease compared to 2014).

Number of Homicides: From 2010 through 2015, Allegheny County had an average of 100 homicides per year; 53 were in the City of Pittsburgh.

Weapons Used: Eighty-five percent of Allegheny County homicides were committed with a firearm.

Victims Demographics: Seventy-eight percent of victims were black and 84 percent were male; 70 percent of victims were under 35 years of age.

Highest Risk Population: Young (15- through 34-years-old) black men had a homicide victim rate of 233 per 100,000. This is nearly 50 times the average homicide rate for the United States.

Human Services Involvement: Sixty-seven percent of homicide victims had previous involvement in publicly funded human services. The primary involvement was receipt of public benefits (income and food support) and behavioral health services (mental health or drug and alcohol).

Criminal Justice System Involvement: Two-thirds of victims (that were older than nine) had prior criminal justice system involvement, through either juvenile justice or adult probation or through a jail booking.

Offenders: Seventy-eight percent of offenders were black and 92 percent were male. Homicide offenders tended to be similar to their victims in gender, race and age.

Location of Homicides:

- On average, half of Allegheny County's homicides occurred in the City of Pittsburgh.
- Outside of the City, the highest number of homicides occurred in McKeesport, Wilkinsburg and Penn Hills. Duquesne and Rankin had the highest average homicide rate (more than 40 per 100,000 residents) over the period.
- In the City of Pittsburgh, Homewood South had the highest average number (4) and rate of homicides per year (149 per 100,000 residents)
- Almost half of the murders occurred less than one mile from the victim's residence, and 56 percent of female victims were killed in their home.

Time of Homicides:

- Forty percent of Allegheny County homicides occurred from June to September, with August having the highest number of homicides.
- On average, six of 10 homicide victims were murdered between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Motive: In the City of Pittsburgh, the most common motive listed for homicides was arguments, followed by robbery or burglary. For the rest of Allegheny County, the most commonly reported motive for homicides was “other.”

DATA SOURCES

This report limits its study to homicides that occurred from 2010 through 2015 in Allegheny County, with a special focus on the City of Pittsburgh. It is an update of two previously published reports: [Homicides in Allegheny County, 1997 through 2012](#) and [Violence in Allegheny County and Pittsburgh, 1997 through 2007](#).

About Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh

Population estimates from the 2010 census list the total Allegheny County population as 1,223,348, with the City of Pittsburgh accounting for 305,704 individuals (25 percent of the total population). Pittsburgh's total population had decreased by about nine percent since the 2000 census. By examining the County's demographic composition based on the 2010 census data, we were able to calculate victimization rates for gender, race and age groups to assess a group's relative risk of victimization.

City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police

Incident data from 2010 through 2016 were provided by the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police (PBP) and contain information on all homicides in the City of Pittsburgh that were recorded by the PBP. Homicide data include date and time of offense; location of offense by address and census tract; victim's race, gender and age; offender's race, gender and age (where known); weapon used; and clearance status.

The homicide dataset provided by PBP is different from the one used in previous public reports that analyzed violence in the City of Pittsburgh.¹ This new dataset includes default and justifiable homicides such as the killing of a felon by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty.

Allegheny County Police

The Allegheny County Police (ACP) investigate the homicides that occurred outside the City of Pittsburgh. Homicide data was provided for the years 2010 through 2016 and includes incident date, victim's name and demographics (race, gender and age), municipality in which the incident occurred and cause of death. It also includes clearance status and actor's information, such as race, gender and age (where known).

¹ These reports and their interactive dashboards can be found in <http://pittsburghpa.gov/publicsafety/interactive-reports-intro>

Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner (ACOME)

The Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner (ACOME) is required to autopsy all premature and unexplained deaths that may have resulted from a sudden, violent, unexplained or traumatic event. We extracted the homicides recorded by ACOME from 2010 through 2016. The ACOME homicides extract has date and time of death, location in which the body was found, cause of death, and race, gender and age of the victims.

The primary use for the ACOME data is to match the homicide victims with the DHS Data Warehouse, described below, to identify and examine victims' prior involvement in publicly funded human services and prior involvement in the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

Combining PBP and ACP Data with ACOME data

The main datasets used in this report are those provided by the Pittsburgh Police and the Allegheny County Police. The data extracted from the Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner was used as a complement to obtain the most accurate demographics of the victims and acquire information that wasn't provided by the City or County Police.

The ACOME data was used for:

- Victim's demographics (race, gender, age): For the cases in which the victim was not in ACOME data, the information provided by the City or County Police was used.
- Time of death: For the homicides that occurred outside the City of Pittsburgh (280), time of incident was not available. In these cases, time of death was used as a proxy for the time of the incident.
- Location where the victim was found: For the homicides that took place outside the City of Pittsburgh (280), exact incident location was not available, only the municipality in which it occurred. For these cases, we extracted from ACOME the address where the body was found and used it as a proxy for incident location.
- Victim's residential address

ACP and PBP data were used for:

- Date of incident
- Time of incident (only provided in the PBP data)
- Location of incident (only provided in the PBP data)
- Weapon
- Location (municipality or neighborhood)
- Clearance
- Actor's information

See **Appendix A** for the comparison between these three datasets.

Pennsylvania State Police

The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) collect Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data from local police departments. These data are available for query from the PSP website and include information on incidents, victims, offenders, relationships, weapons and motives. The PSP data do not always agree with the ACP or the PBP data, but add depth to this analysis by providing more information about the offenders, their relationship with the victims and motives. UCR data for both the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County were used in this report. UCR data were downloaded in October 2016.

Department of Human Services Data Warehouse

This report utilizes information from the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) Data Warehouse. Today, the Data Warehouse contains more than 1.8 billion records for about 1.4 million distinct clients. It contains data from internal and external sources that represent about 30 different program areas (e.g., aging services, child welfare services, mental health services, drug and alcohol services, intellectual disability services, homeless and housing supports, family support centers, juvenile justice involvement, Allegheny County Jail (ACJ) involvement, assisted housing (public housing and Section 8), school districts and public benefits). The Data Warehouse has evolved to be a central repository of social services data, which allows DHS to track and report client demographic and service data across its program offices and beyond. These data are matched with ACOME data to analyze victims' involvement in publicly funded human services as well as the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

U.S. Census Bureau

Population data for Allegheny County municipalities and City of Pittsburgh neighborhoods are from the 2010 U.S. Census and 2006-2010 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates and were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau website. Where appropriate and possible, the tables and figures in this report represent information as rates (i.e., the number of violent crime victims per 100,000 residents). The tables used can be found in **Appendix C**.

DATA ANALYSIS

Violence Nationally and Locally with Comparison to Benchmark Cities

In the past 11 years, the homicide rate in the United States has decreased from a high of 5.6 per 100,000 people in 2005 to 4.9 per 100,000 people in 2015. (**Figure 1**). Although the 2015 rate is significantly lower than that of 2005, it represents the first time in nine years that the rate increased.

In 2015, the County's homicide rate was the same as the previous year (9.6 per 100,000 people) and the City of Pittsburgh's rate was 19.6, a 14 percent decrease compared to 2014.

2016 showed an increase in homicides nationally. Although national data are available for only the first six months of 2016, they indicate a five percent increase over the same period in 2015.² This anticipated increase is further supported by the data, which suggests that murder rates rose in most of the country’s biggest cities in 2016.³

Locally, Pittsburgh homicides for the year increased slightly: 59 murders were reported in 2016 compared to an average of 53 from 2010 through 2015. The 2016 homicide rate of 19.3 per 100,000 residents was two percent lower than the previous year.⁴ Outside the City of Pittsburgh, the number of Allegheny County homicides in 2016 was 49, similar to the average for the previous six years.⁵

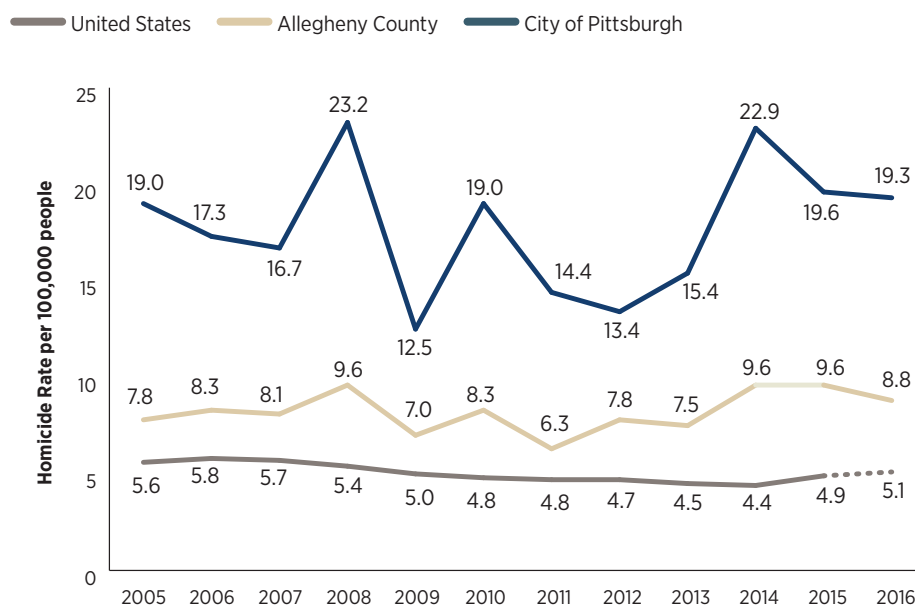
² Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report, January through June, 2016

³ https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/14/us/murder-rates-cities-fbi.html?_r=0

⁴ City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police

⁵ Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner

FIGURE 1: Homicide Rate in the United States, Allegheny County and City of Pittsburgh, 2005 through 2016



Data Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report 2015, Pittsburgh Today (<http://www.pittsburghtoday.org/>), Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner, City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and Allegheny County Police. The United States 2016 homicide rate was estimated using the Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report, January through June, 2016.

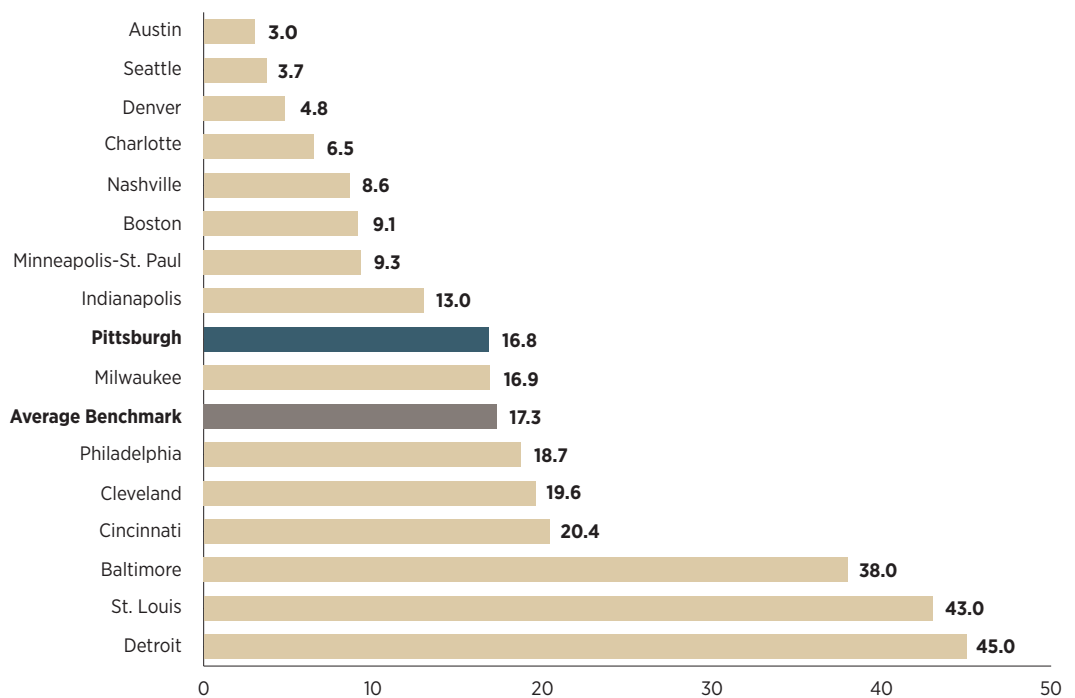
Homicide rates for the City of Pittsburgh from 2005 through 2009 were extracted from Pittsburgh Today (<http://www.pittsburghtoday.org/>) and from 2010 through 2016 were calculated using the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police data. Allegheny County Police and PBP dataset was used to calculate homicide rate for the county 2010–2016. From 2005 through 2009, it was calculated using the Medical Examiner’s dataset.

According to Pittsburgh Today, Pittsburgh’s average homicide rate from 2010 through 2015 (16.8/100,000) was slightly below the average homicide rate of 16 benchmark cities (17.3/100,000).⁶ As seen in **Figure 2**, Pittsburgh’s average rate is less than half that of Detroit, Baltimore and St. Louis; comparable to Milwaukee; but twice that of Minneapolis, Boston and Nashville.

⁶ Benchmark cities are based on cities of comparable size and defined in Key Indicators for Understanding Our Region, published by Pittsburgh Today (<http://www.pittsburghtoday.org/>).

⁷ The cities of Austin, Nashville and Seattle only have information from 2014 and 2015. Boston has information from 2010 through 2013, Charlotte from 2011 through 2014, Cleveland from 2010 through 2012, and Indianapolis from 2011 through 2015. For these cities, the average was calculated based on the years with available data.

FIGURE 2: Average Homicide Rate, Pittsburgh and Benchmark Cities, 2010 through 2015⁷



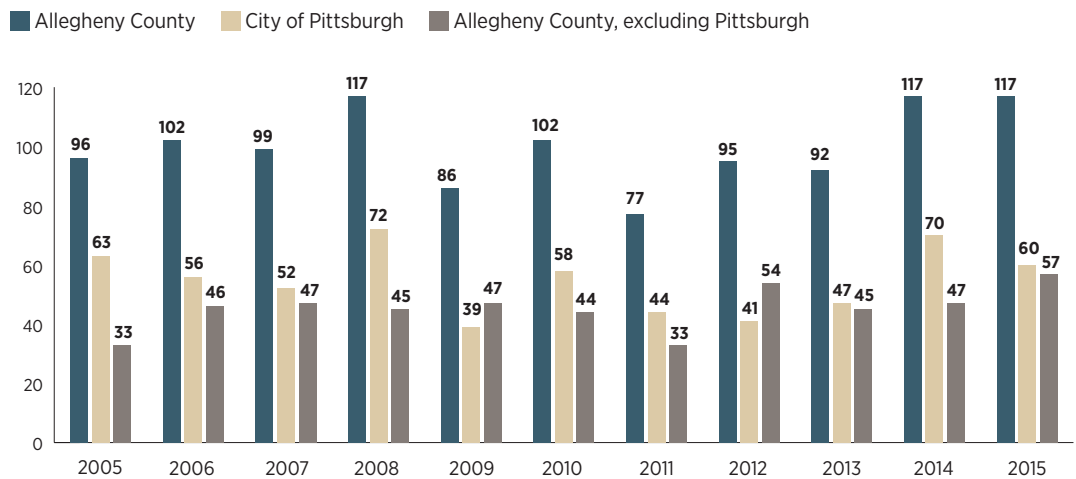
Data Source: Pittsburgh Today (<http://www.pittsburghtoday.org/>)

Homicides

Figure 3 displays the number of homicides in Allegheny County (and the City of Pittsburgh as a subset) from 2005 through 2015. For the 10-year period, the County had an average of 100 homicides per year. However, there were two deviations worthy of note. In 2008, murders increased 18 percent compared to the previous three years' average. From 2011 through 2013, the annual number of homicides in the County stayed below 100, but in 2014, the number increased to 117. In both instances, the increase occurred in the City of Pittsburgh.

Although homicides in Allegheny County in 2015 remain the same as 2014, and the City of Pittsburgh saw a 14 percent decrease, the numbers remained higher than the average of the 10 previous years (2005 through 2014).

FIGURE 3: Number of Homicides in Allegheny County and City of Pittsburgh, 2005 through 2015*



Data Source: From 2005 through 2009, homicides for the City of Pittsburgh were extracted using the FBI Uniform Crime Report for each corresponding year. From 2010 on, homicides were obtained from the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police. Allegheny County homicides were retrieved using data provided by the Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner and the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police. From 2005 through 2009, homicides in Allegheny County were retrieved using data provided by the Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner. From 2010 on, homicides were obtained by adding the counts provided by the Allegheny County Police and the City of Pittsburgh Police.

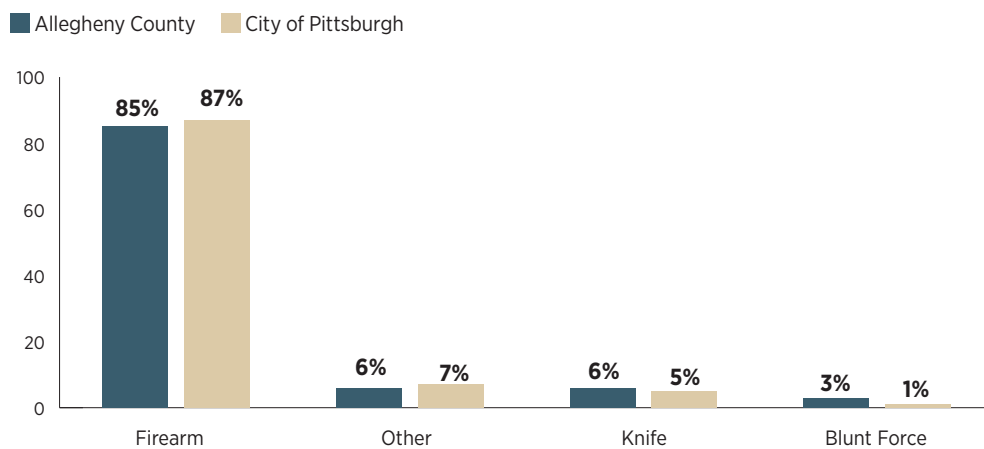
*From 2010 through 2015, homicide counts are based on when the incident occurred instead of when the victim died. For instance, if a victim was injured in 2010 and died in 2011, the victim will be in 2010's count.

Weapons Used in Homicides

Nationally, about two-thirds of homicides are committed with a firearm.⁸ As shown in Figure 4, firearm-related homicides exceeded the national average in both Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh.

⁸ Extracted from FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) 2015. The FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program gathers crime statistics from law enforcement agencies across the country. Statistics are published annually and include both violent crime and property crime.

FIGURE 4: Homicide by Weapon, Allegheny County and City of Pittsburgh, 2010 through 2015*



*For one victim, weapon information is not available.

Data Source: City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and Allegheny County Police

Who Were the Victims of Homicide?

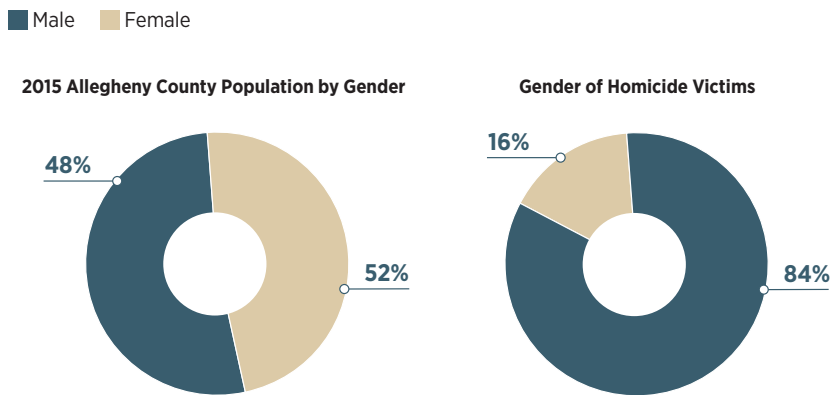
Homicide victims were overwhelmingly young (70% under age 35), male (84%) and black (78%).

Gender of Victims

Although Allegheny County’s population is roughly evenly distributed by gender,⁹ 84 percent of homicide victims were men; for the City of Pittsburgh, this value was 87 percent. Men were five times more likely to be victims of homicide than women in the County and six times more likely in the City.

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau. <https://www.census.gov/>

FIGURE 5: Gender of Homicide Victims in Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015, Compared to the County Population*



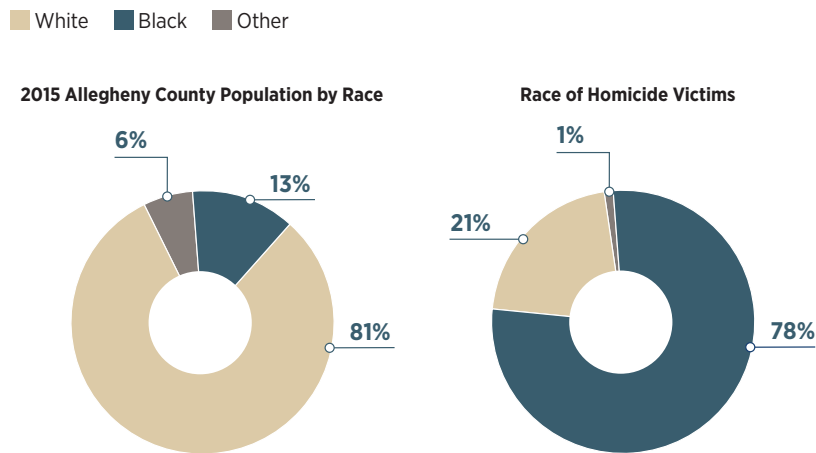
Data Source: Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner, the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and the Allegheny County Police

*For one victim, demographic information is not available.

Race of Victims

Black residents were at a much higher risk of homicide than white residents. Black residents comprised only 13 percent of the County population, but they accounted for 78 percent of homicide victims. From 2010 through 2015, black Allegheny County residents experienced an average homicide victimization rate that was 22 times greater than the rate for white residents. In the City of Pittsburgh, 13 percent of the population was black and 85 percent of all homicide victims were black. Their victimization rate was 16 times greater than that of white residents.

FIGURE 6: Race of Homicide Victims in Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015, Compared to the County Population

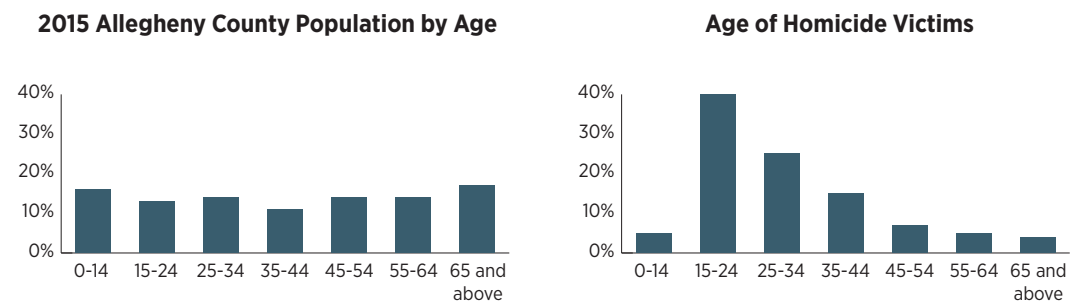


Data Source: Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner, the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and the Allegheny County Police

Age of Victims

Young adults were much more likely to be victims of homicide than the rest of the population. Those ages 24 and younger accounted for 45 percent of all Allegheny County homicides, and those ages 25 through 34 accounted for an additional 25 percent, making 70 percent of homicide victims younger than 35. Similarly, 72 percent of Pittsburgh homicide victims were under the age of 35.

FIGURE 7: Age of Homicide Victims in Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015, Compared to the County Population*



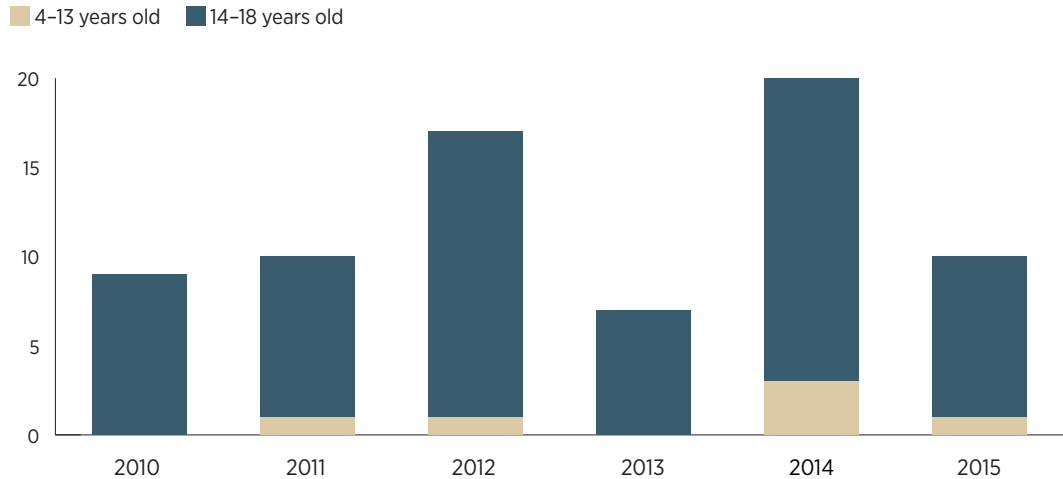
*Total does not add to 100% due to rounding.

Data Source: Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner, the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and the Allegheny County Police

School-Age Youth

School-age youth (ages four through 18) accounted for 12 percent of all Allegheny County homicides during the six-year period from 2010 through 2015; 92 percent were ages 14 through 18. **Figure 8** shows the yearly fluctuations in numbers of school-age youth homicides (from nine to 20), with 2014 being the deadliest year.

FIGURE 8: Homicide Count by Year, School-Age Youth, Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015



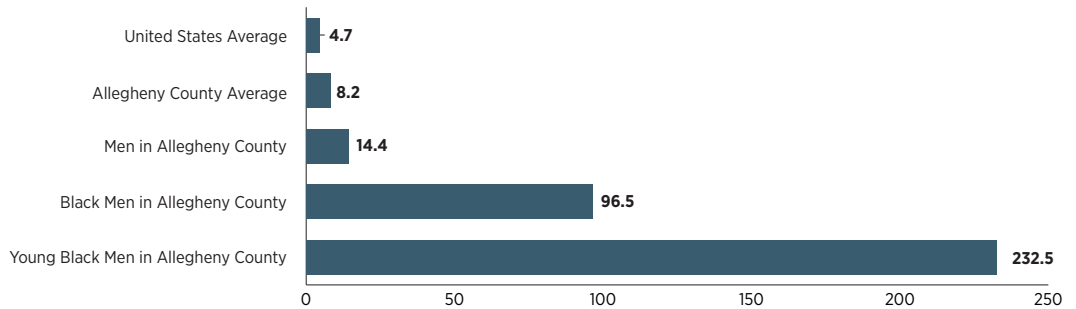
Data Source: Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner, the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and the Allegheny County Police

The demographics of these young homicide victims were similar to victims in general. Eighty-five percent were black and 90 percent were male. Firearms were used in approximately nine out of 10 youth homicides.

Population at Highest Risk of Victimization

When considering age, race and gender together, a stark picture emerges in which violence is a significant problem for young black men, far out of proportion to their numbers. The average yearly homicide rate in the County from 2010 through 2015 was eight per 100,000; for black males, the rate was 95 per 100,000. The rate for young black males (ages 15 through 34) was 223 per 100,000. This is more than 49 times the average homicide rate for the United States.

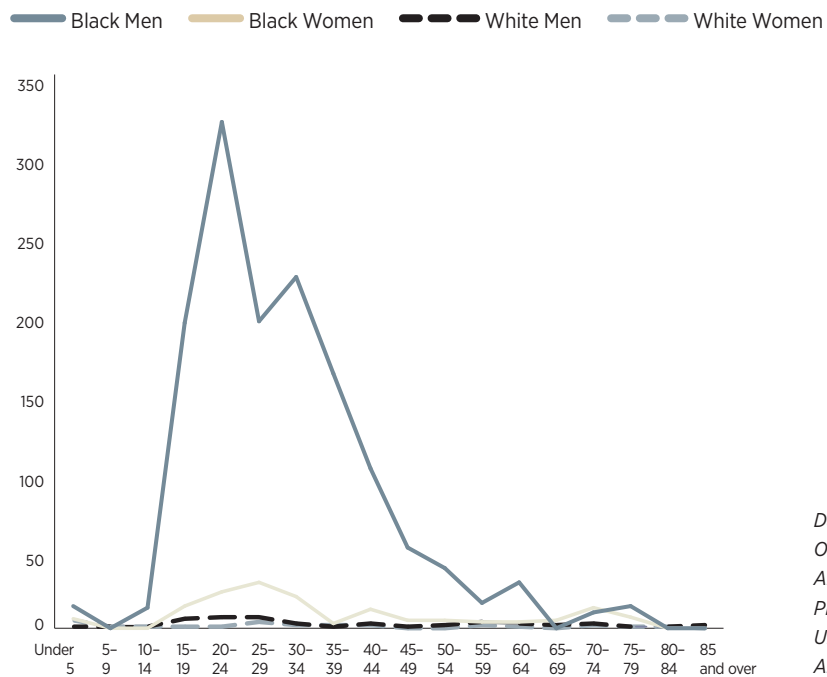
FIGURE 9: Homicide Victimization Rates (per 100,000), 2010 through 2015



Data Source: 2010 U.S. Census Bureau, Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner, the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and the Allegheny County Police

Figure 10 provides a visual comparison of local homicide demographics and demonstrates that, although the rates are higher for black men in almost every age range, the critical ages for homicide victimization are the late teens through the late thirties.

FIGURE 10: Homicide Rates by Age, Gender and Race of Homicide Victims, 2010 through 2015



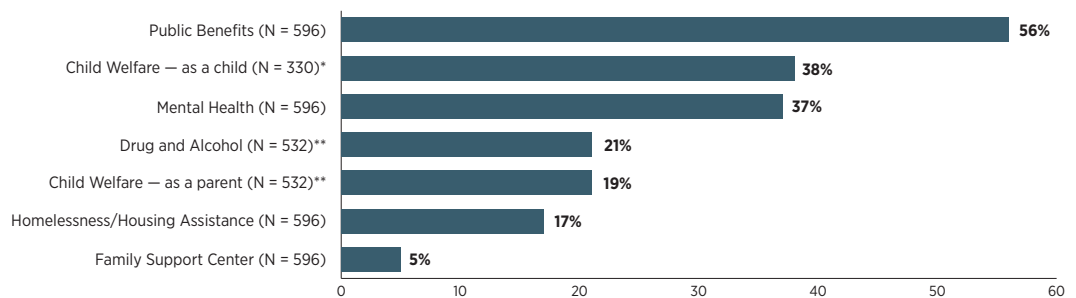
Data Source: Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner, Allegheny County Police, City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, and U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey (See **Appendix C**)

Human Services Involvement of Victims

Sufficient information was available for 99 percent of homicide victims (596 of 600) over the six-year period to allow for comparison with information about publicly funded human services involvement from the DHS Data Warehouse.

Sixty-seven percent of the victims (397) were involved in any of the services listed in **Figure 11**.

FIGURE 11: Percent of Homicide Victims Ever Involved in Human Services, by Programs¹⁰



*Data about children's involvement in child welfare services were only available as of 2002 and were available for victims who were under age 18 at any point between 2002 and 2015 (330 victims).

**Includes only victims who were 18 years or older at the time of death (532 victims)¹¹

Data Source: Allegheny County DHS Data Warehouse

Fifty-six percent of the victims with available information (332, N = 596) received public benefits. Thirty-five percent of victims (208, N = 596) were involved in the child welfare system (as a child or as a parent). Forty-five percent of the victims (267, N = 596) received a publicly funded mental health or drug and alcohol service, and 18 percent of the victims (105, N = 596) received mental health services in addition to drug or alcohol services.

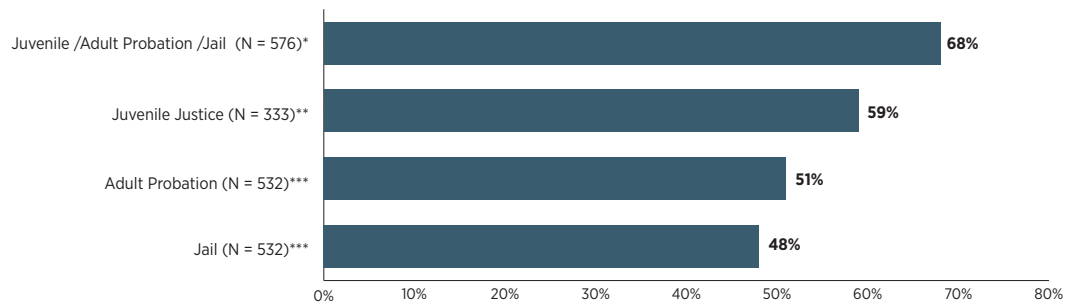
Criminal Justice System Involvement of Victims

Two-thirds of victims (393, N = 576) who were older than nine during the study period had prior criminal justice system involvement, through juvenile justice, adult probation or a jail booking. Fifty-nine percent of victims (198, N = 333) had a prior history with the juvenile justice system. Fifty-one percent (273, N=532) had a case in adult probation. Forty-eight percent (253, N = 532) had a prior jail booking.

¹⁰For a definition of the programs used in this study, see **Appendix B**.

¹¹ Although drug and alcohol services may be provided to clients who are younger than 18, this is a rare occurrence. For this reason, we considered only victims who were 18 years or older at the time of death.

FIGURE 12: Justice System Involvement of Homicide Victims, 2010 through 2015



*This group includes victims who were 10 or older at the time of their death (576 victims).

** The DHS Data Warehouse has historic information from the Juvenile Probation Office since 2000. Involvement in this system was available for victims who were 10 through 17 at some point from 2000 through 2015 (333 victims).

***Only includes victims who were 18 years or older at the time of death (532 victims)

Data Source: Allegheny County DHS Data Warehouse

93 percent of the victims involved in either juvenile justice or adult probation or in jail were male (366, N = 393). When considering only jail bookings, 96 percent were men (244, N = 253).

Most of the homicide victims with a jail booking¹² were booked more than once (only 17 percent [43] were booked just once). Seventy-one percent (180) of victims were booked three or more times, with 16 percent (40) booked 10 or more times.

¹²From the 532 victims that were 18 years old or older, 253 victims had a jail booking.

¹³For our analysis, a case is considered solved if a suspect has been identified and arrested, or if the death is ruled an accident, self-defense or cleared because an identified suspect died.

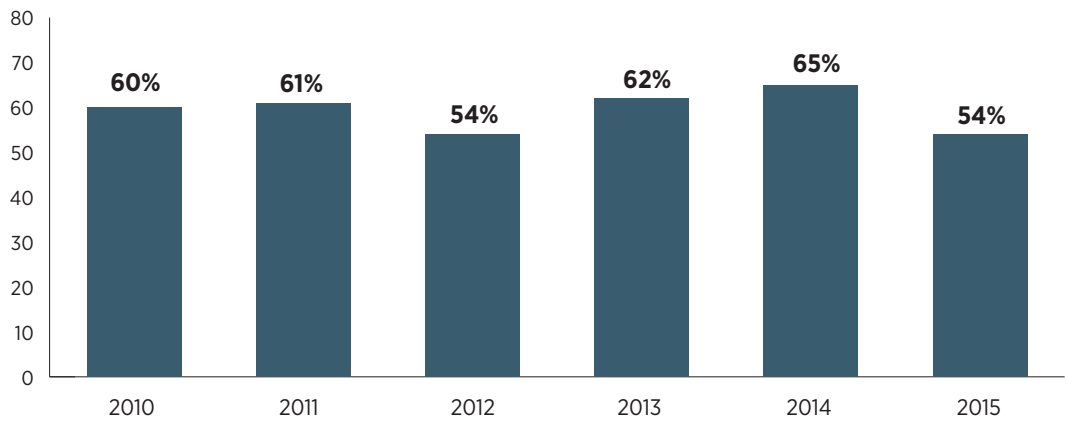
¹⁴Extracted from FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) 2015. The FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program gathers crime statistics from law enforcement agencies across the country. Statistics are published annually and include both violent crime and property crime.

Clearance Rates¹³

Nationally, the 2015 clearance rate for homicides was 62 percent.¹⁴ The average clearance rate for the County from 2010 through 2015 was 60 percent, ranging from a high of 65 percent in 2014 to a low of 54 percent in 2015. The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police cleared 164 homicides out of the 320 that occurred in the City. The Allegheny County Police Department, which investigates homicides outside the City of Pittsburgh, cleared 191 out of the 280 homicides.

¹⁵The numbers here do not match yearly clearance rates reported to the FBI, which include all cases solved during a specific year, regardless of when the murders happened. Instead, our analysis looks at the murders that occurred during the six-year period and whether they had been solved as of 2016. Pennsylvania's state UCR website reports the following clearances rates for Allegheny County: 2010: 44%; 2011: 40%; 2012: 35%; 2013: 40%; 2014: 35%; 2015: 24%.

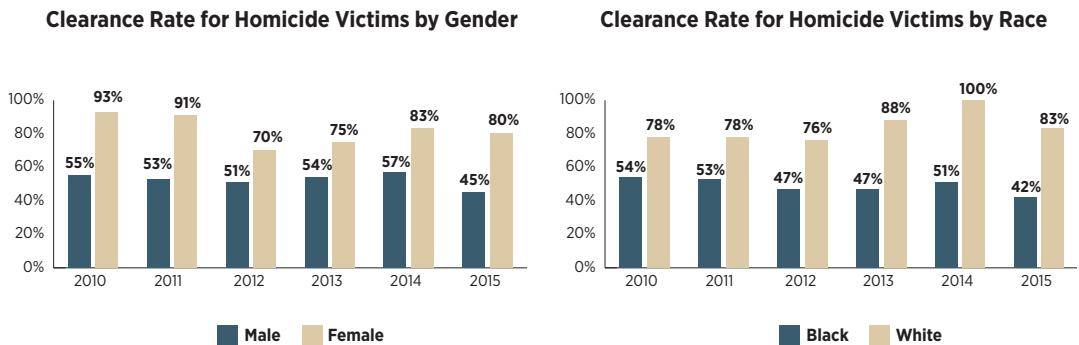
FIGURE 13: Clearance Rate in Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015¹⁵



Data Source: Allegheny County Police and City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police

Homicide clearance rates differed by the gender and race of the victim. Over the period, 86 percent (80, N = 93) of homicides of women were cleared, while 54 percent (274, N = 506) of male victims had their homicides solved. Fifty-one percent (241, N = 469) of homicides of black victims were solved, as compared to 87 percent of homicides of white victims (109, N = 125). Combining race and sex, the clearance rate for white male victims during the period was 82 percent (67, N = 82), compared to 48 percent for black men (203, N = 420).

FIGURE 14: Clearance Rate for Homicide Victims, by Gender and Race, Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015



Data Source: Allegheny County Police and City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police

Who Are the Offenders?

During the time studied, there were 393 unique offenders, and 388 of them have known demographics (gender, race and age). Ninety-two percent of offenders were male and 78 percent were black; seventy-two percent were black males.

Homicide offenders tended to be demographically similar to their victims. For example, of incidents in which the offender was known:¹⁶

Gender:

- Both the victim and the offender were men — 74 percent (274, N=368)

Race:

- Both were black — 64 percent (235, N = 368)
- Both were white — 19 percent (69, N = 368)
- Offender was black and victim white — 10 percent (38, N = 368)
- Offender was white and victim was black — 4 percent (15, N = 368)

Age:

- Both were under the age of 30 — 52 percent (183, N = 351)

What Was the Relationship between Victim and Offender?¹⁷

The relationship between victim and offender was known in about 23 percent of cases.¹⁸

As shown in **Figure 15**, the victim and offender were acquaintances or friends in almost half of these cases and intimate partners in 23 percent of cases.

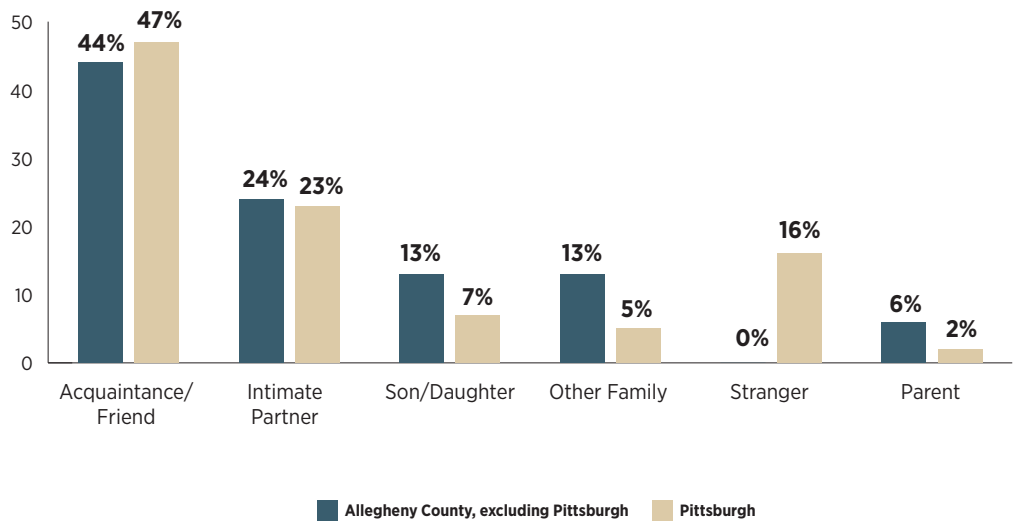
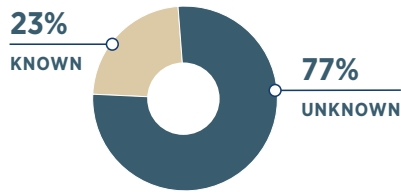
¹⁶In this case, an incident refers to the combination of victims and offenders. For instance, if victims A,B were murdered by offenders C,D,E, there would be six incidents: A,C – A,D – A,E – B,C – B,D – B,E.

¹⁷Information about the relationship between victim and offender was only available through the Uniform Crime Report found on the Pennsylvania State Police’s website.

¹⁸Of 527 reported cases of homicide, relationship information was available from only 120 (57 in Pittsburgh and 63 in Allegheny County, excluding Pittsburgh).

FIGURE 15: Relationship of Victim to Offender, Allegheny County and Pittsburgh, 2010 through 2015 (When Relationship is Known, N = 120)¹⁹

¹⁹ Stepchildren and stepparents were included in the categories “Son/Daughter” and “Parent,” respectively. Intimate partner includes ex-wife and ex-husband.

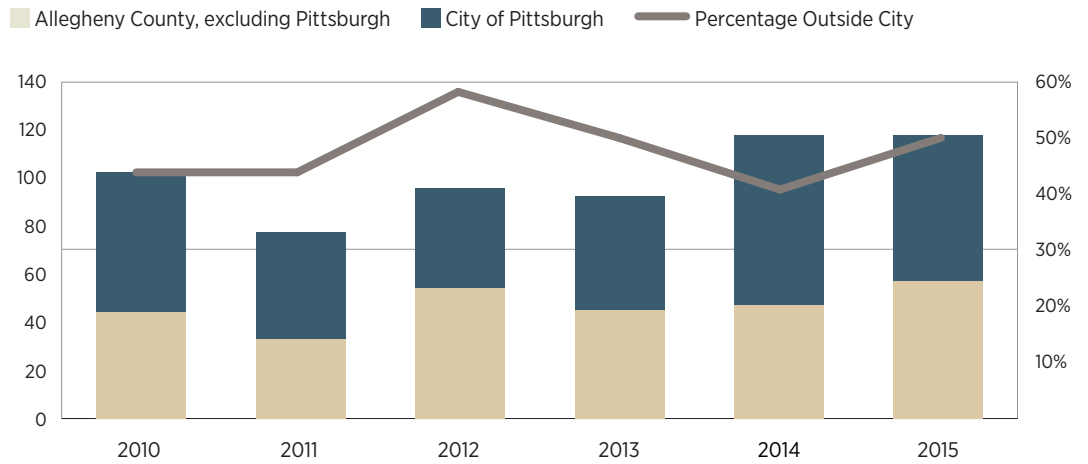


Data Source: Uniform Crime Report for City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County
<http://www.paucrs.pa.gov/UCR/ComMenuUI.asp>

Where Did Violence Occur?

On average, about half of all Allegheny County homicides occurred within the City of Pittsburgh. **Figure 16** shows variation to this average, especially for 2012 and 2014.

FIGURE 16: Allegheny County Homicides, Within or Outside of City of Pittsburgh, 2010 through 2015

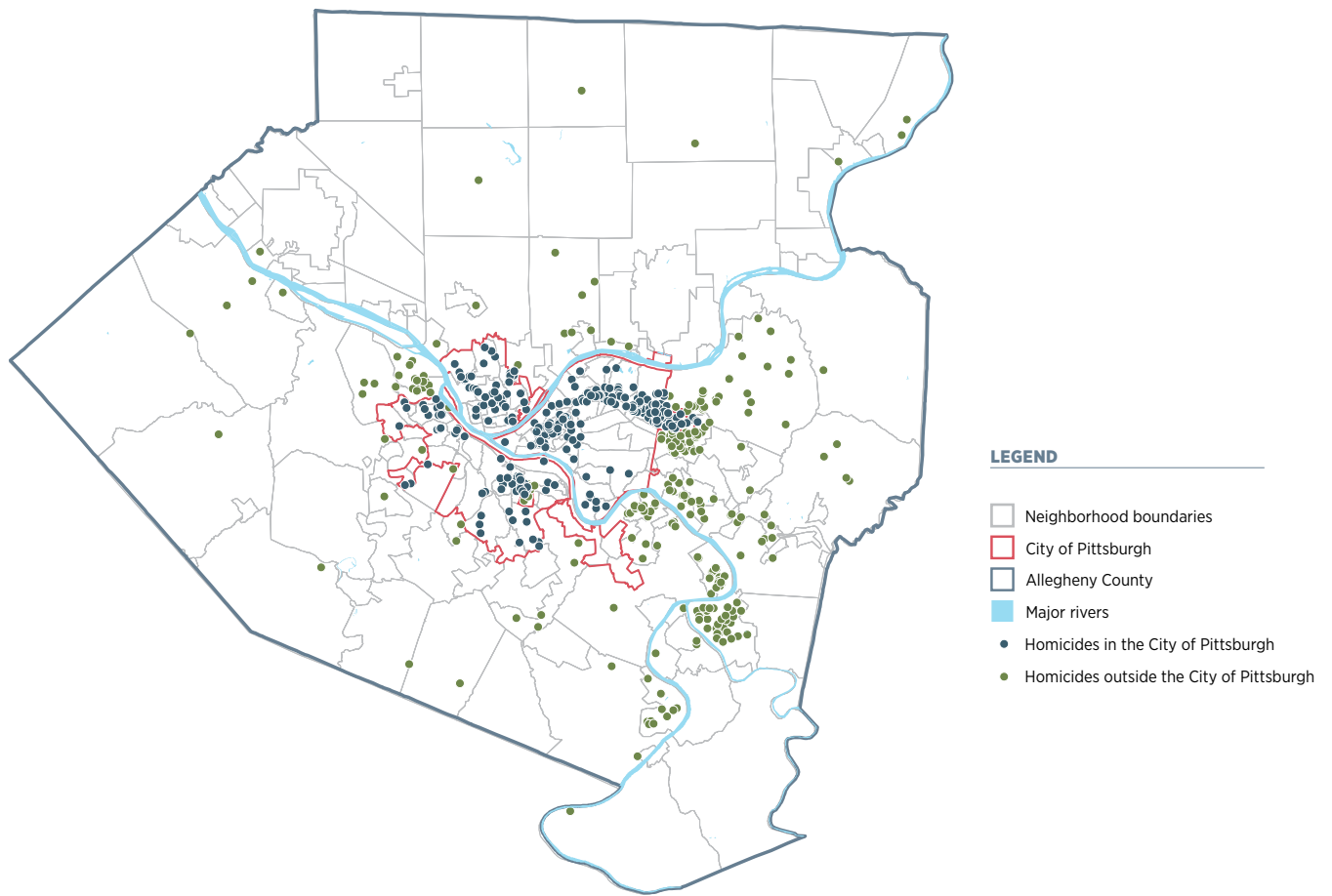


Data Source: Allegheny County Police and City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police

Allegheny County

Figure 17 shows the location of homicides during the six-year period. There were hotspots within the City of Pittsburgh (highlighted within the figure) as well as clusters outside of the City. Clusters outside of the City occurred in municipalities directly bordering the City, such as Penn Hills, Wilksburg and Mount Oliver. McKeesport was second only to the City of Pittsburgh in number of homicides (47 from 2010 through 2015).

FIGURE 17: Location of Homicides in Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015



Data Source: Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner, the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and the Allegheny County Police

Table 1 shows the top 10 Allegheny County municipalities by number and rate of homicides. Looking at the rates provides a different view from what is seen on the hotspot map, adding several additional municipalities as areas of concern.

TABLE 1: Allegheny County Municipalities (excluding Pittsburgh) with the Highest Numbers and Rates of Homicide, 2010 through 2015

ALLEGHENY COUNTY MUNICIPALITY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOMICIDES PER YEAR, 2010 THROUGH 2015	ALLEGHENY COUNTY MUNICIPALITY	AVERAGE HOMICIDE RATE PER 100,000 PER YEAR, 2010 THROUGH 2015
McKeesport*	8	Duquesne*	57
Wilkinsburg*	6	Rankin*	47
Penn Hills	5	McKeesport*	40
Duquesne*	3	Mount Oliver Borough	39
McKees Rocks*	2	Wilkinsburg*	37
Clairton	2	Homestead	32
West Mifflin	<2	McKees Rocks*	30
Mount Oliver Borough	<2	Clairton	25
Munhall	<2	North Braddock	24
North Braddock	<2	Braddock	23

Data Source: Allegheny County Police, 2010 U.S. Census Bureau

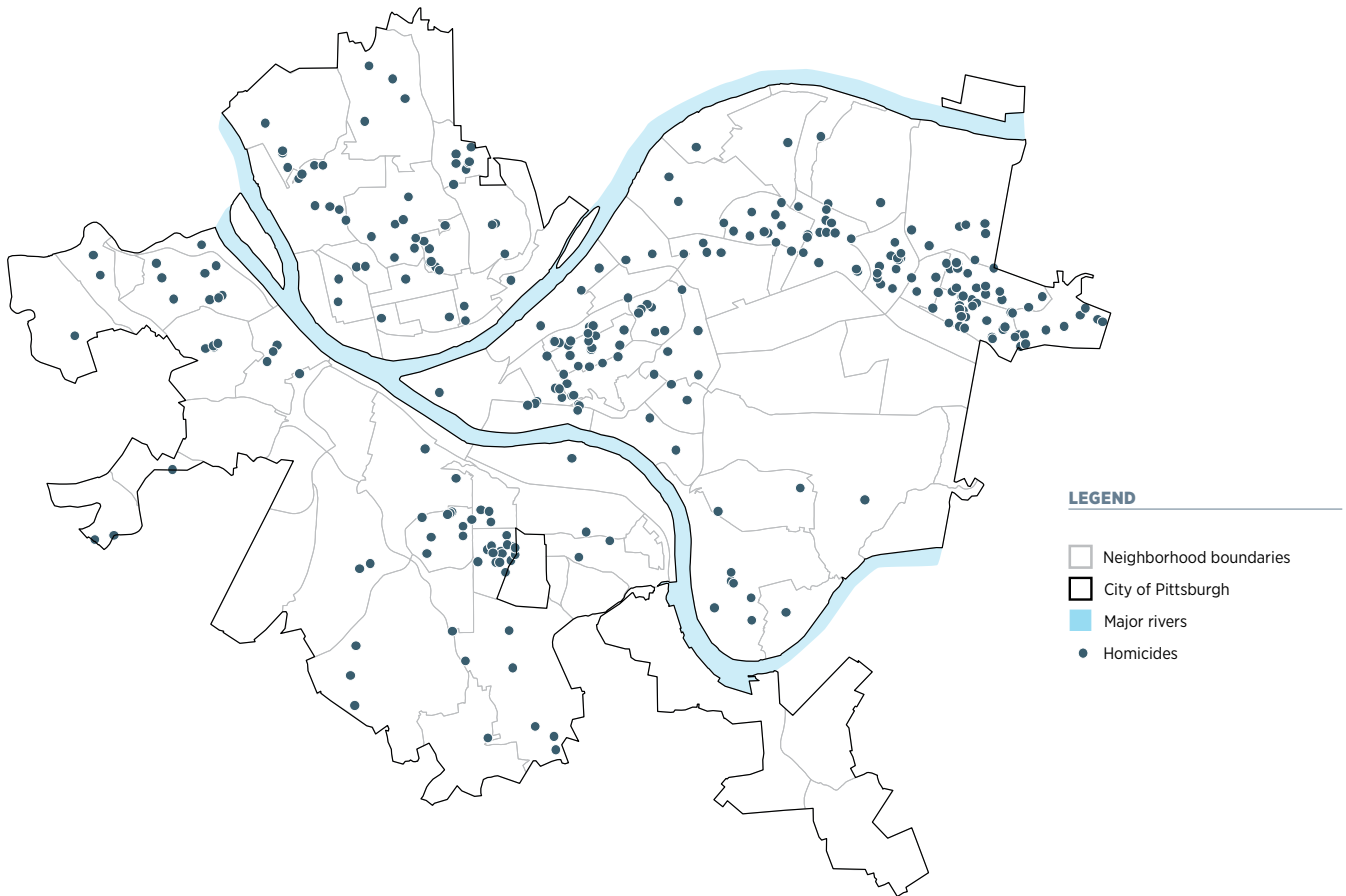
*Severely Distressed Neighborhood per Annie E. Casey Foundation Criteria²⁰

²⁰Severely Distressed Neighborhood (Annie E. Casey Foundation) — Distressed communities must demonstrate at least three of the four following characteristics:
 1. A high percentage of people living in poverty (27.4 percent or more)
 2. A high percentage of families with related children headed by women with no husband present (37.1 percent or more)
 3. A high percentage of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and not high school graduates (23.0 percent or more)
 4. A high percentage of civilian, non-institutionalized men ages 16 to 64 who are unemployed or not in the labor force (34.0 percent or more)

City of Pittsburgh

Figure 18 shows the location of homicides in Pittsburgh. Most of the homicides were concentrated in the City’s eastern neighborhoods (Larimer, Garfield, East Liberty, Homewood South, Homewood North and East Hills), the Hill District (Terrace Village, Middle Hill and Bedford Dwellings), the Northside (Perry South and Fineview), and the South Hilltop (Beltzhoover and Knoxville).

FIGURE 18: Location of Homicides in the City of Pittsburgh, 2010 through 2015



Data Source: Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner and City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police

Homewood South had the highest average number and rate of homicides per year. Eight of the 10 neighborhoods with the highest homicide rates are also considered severely distressed communities by the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s criteria.

TABLE 2: City of Pittsburgh Neighborhoods with the Highest Numbers and Rates of Homicide, 2010 through 2015

CITY OF PITTSBURGH NEIGHBORHOOD	AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOMICIDES PER YEAR, 2010 THROUGH 2015	CITY OF PITTSBURGH NEIGHBORHOOD	AVERAGE HOMICIDES RATE PER 100,000 PER YEAR, 2010 THROUGH 2015
Homewood South*	4	Homewood South*	149
Homewood North*	3	Bedford Dwellings*	139
East Liberty*	3	Larimer*	135
Knoxville	2	Middle Hill*	107
Larimer*	2	Fineview*	104
East Hills*	2	Homewood North*	102
Garfield*	2	Northview Heights*	96
Middle Hill*	2	Homewood West	81
Bedford Dwellings*	2	Strip District*	81
Terrace Village*	2	Beltzhoover	78

Data Source: City of Pittsburgh Bureau Police, 2010 U.S. Census Bureau

*Severely Distressed Neighborhood per Annie E. Casey Foundation Criteria

Homicide Geospatial Analysis

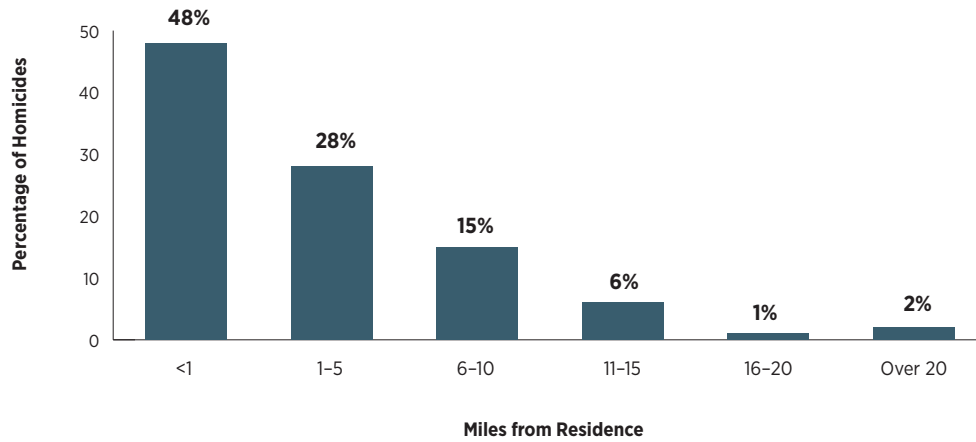
Identifying the distance between victim residence and location of homicide has implications for prevention and investigation of murders. For this report, we analyzed homicides using the DHS Data Warehouse to obtain the address where the incident occurred²¹ and the victim’s residential address; address data were available for 592 out of the 600 homicides that occurred during the period of analysis. Eighty-five percent of them (503, N = 592) were successfully geocoded to develop distance measures.

Once the addresses were geocoded, the distance between the two addresses was calculated. Street distance was used because it measures the shortest street path that one could take from one address to another. Euclidian distance, which is a straight line distance between two addresses, doesn’t consider the urban transportation network or topography of an area that might lengthen the trip.

Figure 19 provides the distribution of the street distance between victim’s residence and homicide incident location. Forty-eight percent of the 503 homicides occurred within less than one mile of the victim’s residence, and 91 percent of the incidents occurred within 10 miles of the victim’s residence.

²¹For the homicides that occurred outside the City of Pittsburgh (280), we used the addresses where the body was found (provided by the Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner) as a proxy for the location of those homicides.

FIGURE 19: Distance from Victim’s Residence to Homicide Location, Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015*



*Total does not add to 100% due to rounding.

Data Source: Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner, City of Pittsburgh Bureau Police and Allegheny County Data Warehouse

Table 3 provides summary statistics of distance between residence and homicide. The median distance was 1.1 miles and 38 percent of homicides occurred less than ½ mile from the victim’s residence. In 26 percent of cases (116), the homicide occurred at the victim’s residence .

Although most of the victims were male (84%, or 422 victims), 56 percent of female homicides occurred in the victim’s residence. One possible conclusion is that these women died at home as a result of intimate partner violence, but the available information about motives is not sufficient to support this conclusion.

TABLE 3: Distances from Victim Home to Incident, by Gender, Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015

	Total	Male	Female
Cases	503	422	81
Average Distance (miles)	9.0	10.4	1.7
Median Distance (miles)	1.1	1.4	0
Incident Occurred at Residence	23%	17%	56%

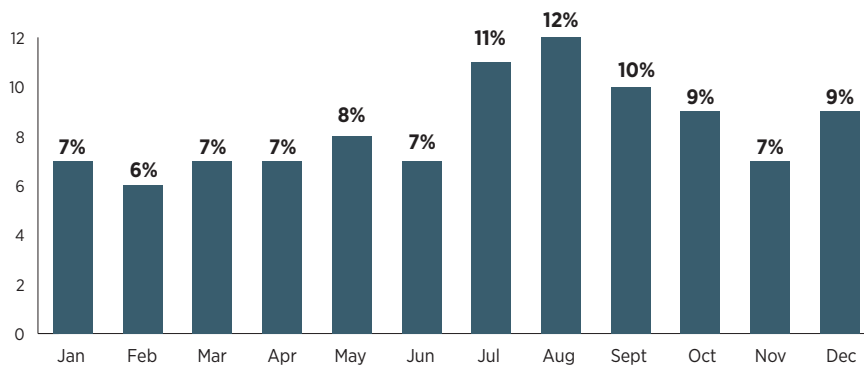
Data Source: Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner, City of Pittsburgh Bureau Police and Allegheny County Data Warehouse

When Did Violence Occur?

Month of the Year

The frequency of homicides tended to increase from summer through early fall, then to decline during the winter months. Forty percent of Allegheny County homicides occurred from June through September, with the highest number occurring in August. Homicides in the City of Pittsburgh followed a similar pattern, with 39 percent of homicides occurring from June through September.

FIGURE 20: Percentage of Homicides in Allegheny County by Month, 2010 through 2015*



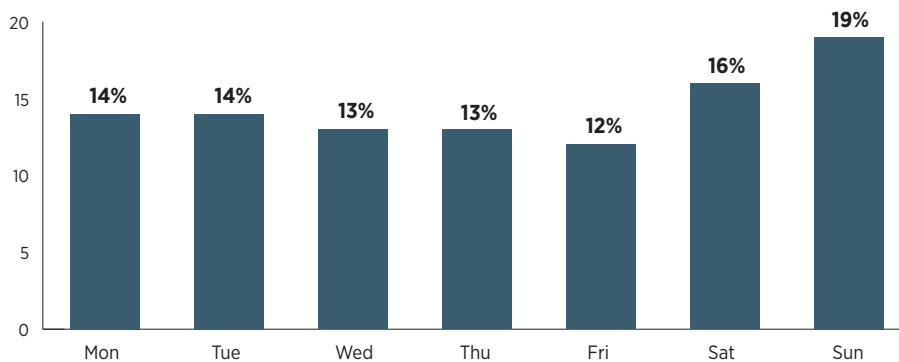
*Total does not add to 100% because of rounding.

Data Source: Allegheny County Police and City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police

Day of the Week

Homicides in Allegheny County occurred more often on the weekends than during the week, with the most violent day being Sunday. Thirty-four percent (206) of homicides occurred on Saturday or Sunday, and 46 percent (276) occurred from Friday through Sunday.

FIGURE 21: Percentage of Homicides in Allegheny County by Day of the Week, 2010 through 2015



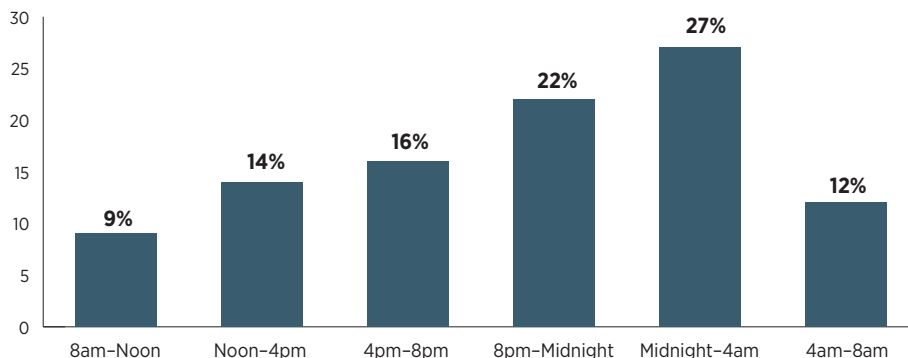
Data Source: Allegheny County Police and City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police

Time of Day

²²For the homicides that occurred outside the City of Pittsburgh (280), we used time of death provided by the Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner. The time of death isn't the same as time of incident, as in most of the cases the victim died a certain time (minutes, hours or days) after being injured. However, this being our only data source, we used it as a proxy of when the homicide occurred.

Homicides occurred²² more often during late night and very early morning hours. On average, six in 10 homicides occurred between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.

FIGURE 22: Percentage of Homicides in Allegheny County by Time of Day, 2010 through 2015*



*Total adds to 101% due to rounding.

Data Source: Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner and City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police

Variation by Age in Time-of-Day Trends

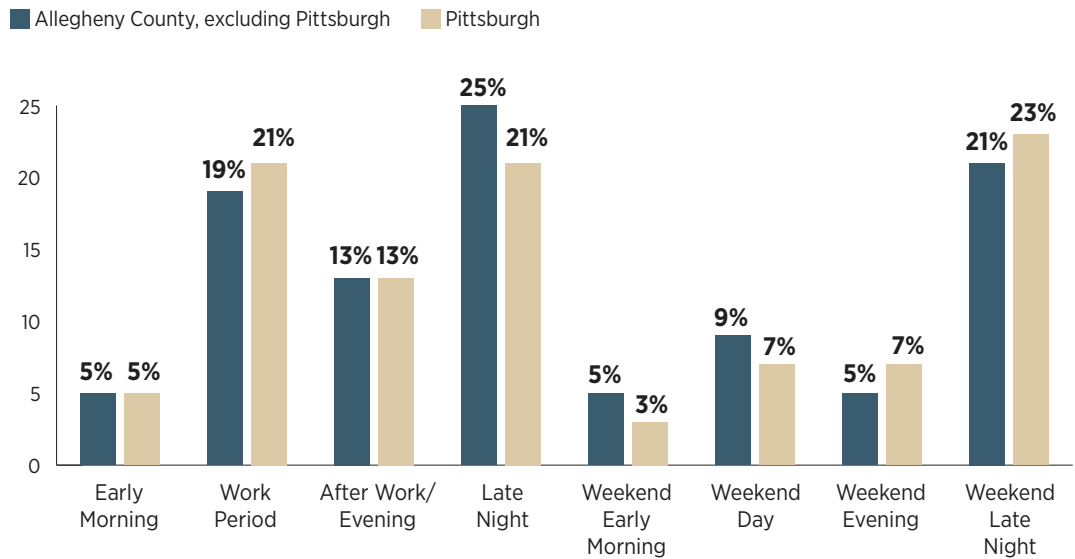
Using Routine Activity Theory to Understand Patterns

To better predict when people are at greatest risk of victimization, this analysis used methods developed by Caterina Gouvis Roman in her analysis of crime in Washington, D.C.²³ This method combines the analyses above into one view (both time and day of the week), presenting a more nuanced picture of when violence is occurring.

Most of the homicides occurred during late night/early morning hours (10:00 p.m. – 4:59 a.m.) during the weekdays and weekends. The pattern is similar for homicides that occurred both within and outside of the City.

²³Caterina Gouvis Roman (2005). *Routine Activities of Youth and Neighborhood Violence: Spatial Modeling of Place, Time and Crime*. Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute.

FIGURE 23: Percentage of Homicides by Time-of-Day Trends in Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh, 2010 through 2015*



Data Source: Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner, Allegheny County Police and City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police

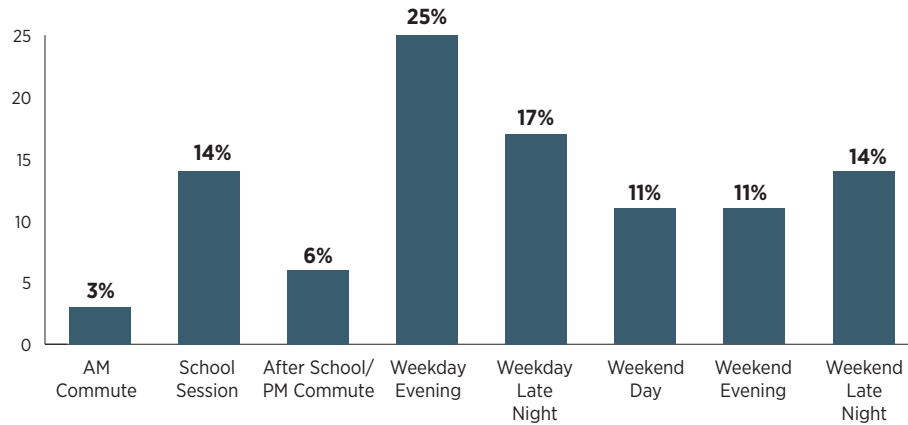
*For one victim, time of homicide wasn't available.

*For Pittsburgh, total adds to 102% because of rounding.

Routine activity theory is most useful to better predict when children and young adults are at greatest risk of victimization. Roman categorized every hour of the week into one of eight temporal categories to correspond to the daily routine of youth ages five through 17 years and young adults ages 18 through 24. More information on the specific time categories and corresponding activities can be found in **Appendix D**. Allegheny County had 49 homicide victims ages five through 17; 73 percent of those victims died during the school year, and the remaining 27 percent died over the summer.

Younger victims were most susceptible to violence during weekday and weekend evenings (6:00 p.m. through 11:59 p.m.). Sixty-seven percent of young homicide victims were murdered between 6 p.m. and 6:59 a.m. The next most common time for homicides was on the weekend during the day. This is consistent with Roman's conclusion that children are at greatest risk of victimization during unsupervised times.

FIGURE 24: School-Year Homicide Victimization Patterns, 5- through 17-year-olds, Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015 (N = 36)*

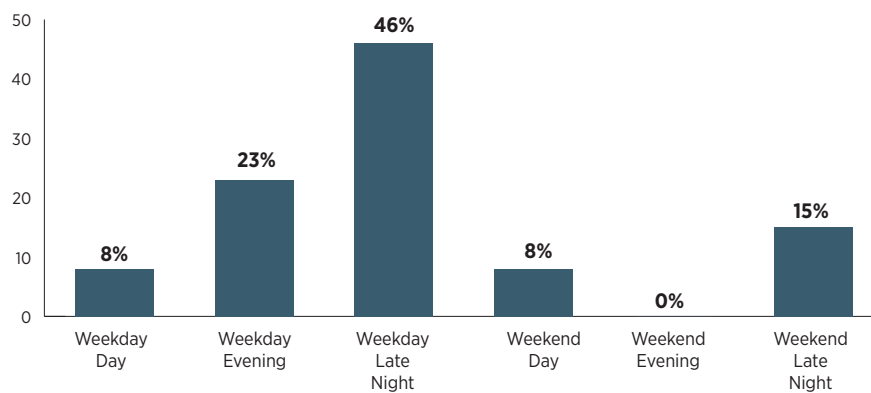


*Total adds to 101% due to rounding.

Data Source: Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner, Allegheny County Police and City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police

Over the summer, the trends follow similar patterns. Eleven of the 12 young victims during these months were killed during weekdays and weekends from 6:00 p.m. through 5:59 a.m.

FIGURE 25: Summer Victimization Patterns, 5- through 17-year-olds, Allegheny County, 2010 through 2015 (N = 12)



Data Source: Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner, Allegheny County Police and City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police

Why Is Violence Occurring?

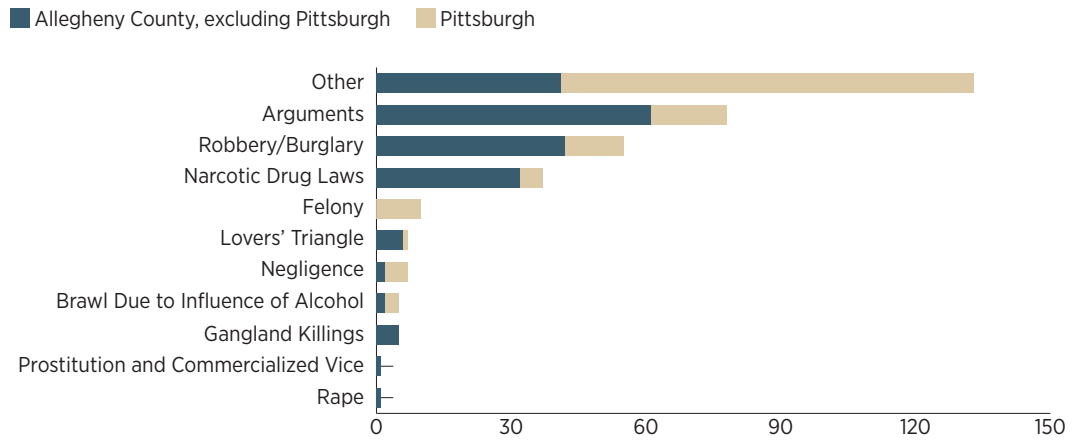
Understanding why violence occurs is important in developing methods to prevent and mitigate potentially violent situations. Using data from the Pennsylvania State Police, the following section details offender-reported motives. Motives were reported in 339 cases (64% of all homicides

²⁴Allegheny County reported 527 cases of homicide to the UCR. Motive information was available for 339 (193 in the City of Pittsburgh and 146 outside of the City).

reported).²⁴ It was less common to report the reason for homicides in municipalities outside of the City of Pittsburgh.

In the City of Pittsburgh, the most common motive listed for homicides was arguments, followed by robbery or burglary. Because the most commonly reported motive for homicides throughout the rest of Allegheny County was “Other,” no conclusions can be drawn.

FIGURE 26: Motive for Homicides, Allegheny County and City of Pittsburgh, 2010 through 2015



Data Source: Uniform Crime Report for City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County
<http://www.paucrs.pa.gov/UCR/ComMenuUI.asp>

CONTENT AND ANALYSIS

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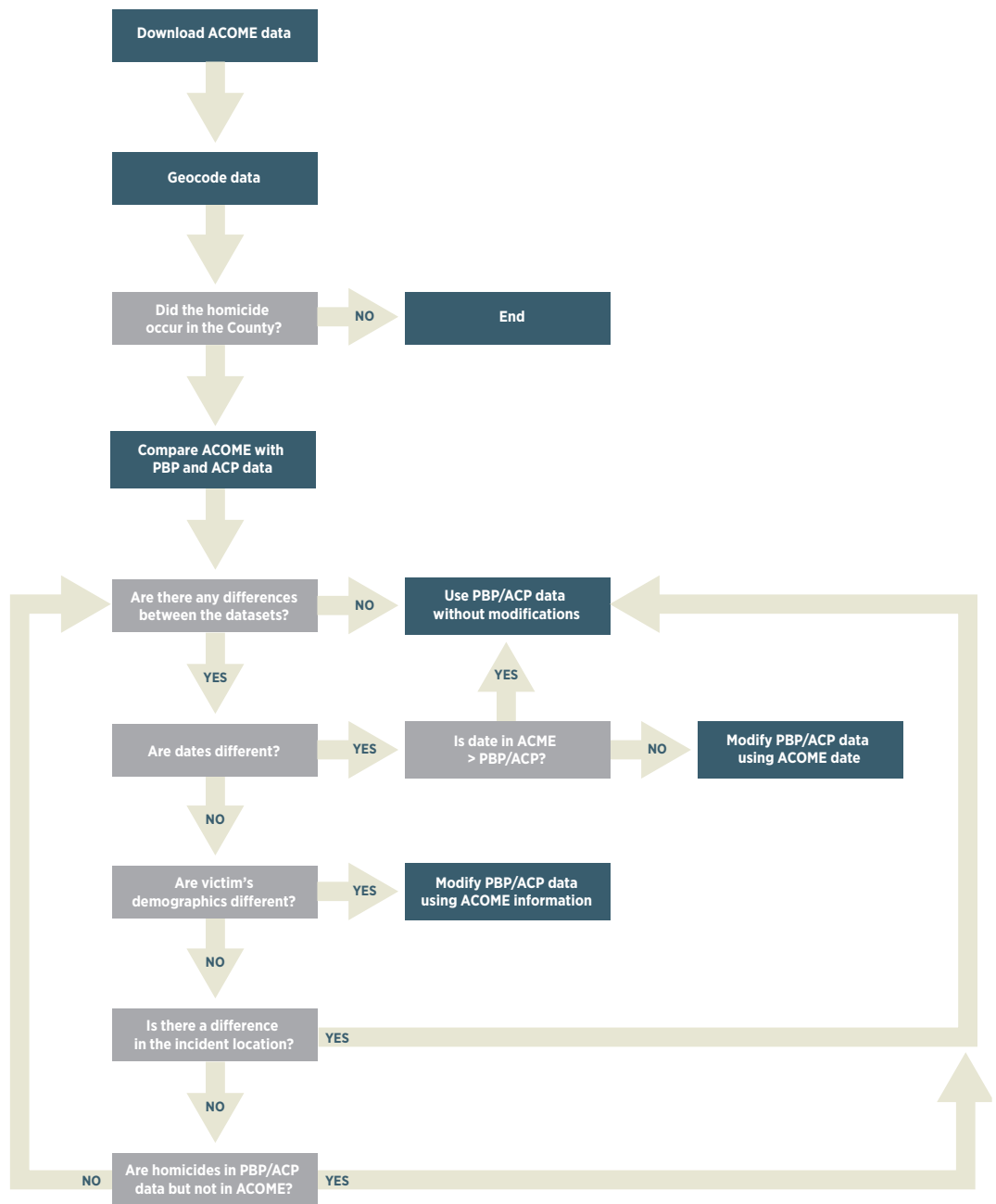
APPENDIX A: COMPARISON BETWEEN DATA SOURCES

To ensure the quality of our data, we used Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner (ACOME) records for the City of Pittsburgh and compared them with the information provided by the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police (PBP) and ACP. We found these differences:

- **Date of death:** ACOME reports the date of death, while the PBP and ACP record the date on which the incident occurred. There were 42 homicides (13% of the total 320 homicides in the City of Pittsburgh) in which the date differed. For the rest of the county, this number was 14% (40 from 280). The difference between the dates occurred for these reasons:
 - There were some cases in which the date of death (ACOME) was later than the incident date (PBP/ACP), as the victim died several days or months after being attacked. In those circumstances, we used PBP/ACP date.
 - There were a few cases in which the date of death (ACOME) was earlier than the incident date (PBP/ACP). This occurred when the victim was found by the police several days after death. In those cases, we used ACOME date as a proxy of incident date.
- **Demographics:** Victims' demographics (age, race and gender) differed in 3 percent of homicides for the City of Pittsburgh, and 7 percent for the rest of the County. For consistency, we used the demographics listed in ACOME data.
- **Location (Neighborhood/Municipality):** ACOME reports the location in which the body was found. Meanwhile, ACP and PBP report the location in which the incident occurred. Comparing Allegheny County Police data to data from the Medical Examiner, we found that 3 percent of the homicides had a different incident municipality. For the City of Pittsburgh, this value was 8 percent. We will use the municipality/neighborhood reported by the County and City Police.
- **Victims in police data (PBP/ACP) but not in ACOME data:** During the time studied, there were five victims included in the PBP/ACP data with insufficient data in the ACOME data. This occurred mostly when the victim died outside the County, or the cause of death is still under investigation.

Appendix A
(continued)

The following graph summarizes the process:



APPENDIX B: HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM DEFINITIONS

Source: Allegheny County Analytics Tools – QuickCount (<https://quickcount.alleghenycounty.us/>)

- **Child Welfare (as a child):** Children and youth, age 18 years old or younger, associated with an active child welfare case. A child welfare case means that a family is receiving supports and services to ensure safety of the child(ren) and to prevent abuse and neglect.
- **Child Welfare (as a parent):** Parents of children associated with a child welfare allegation, investigation or case.
- **Drug and Alcohol:** Individuals receiving any substance use disorder (i.e., drug and alcohol) services that are paid for by the County or HealthChoices (i.e., Medicaid managed care). Includes both clinical services, such as individual and group therapy, and non-clinical services, such as case management and peer recovery support.
- **Family Support Center:** Parents/caregivers and children active with a Family Support Center (FSC). FSCs are neighborhood-based centers that serve children and parents through support groups, activities, mentoring and in-home services.
- **Homelessness/Housing Assistance:** Includes the following programs:
 - **Homeless and Housing Supports:** Individuals or families receiving housing and supportive services provided by DHS and DHS-contracted providers due to a housing crisis. Services include housing assistance, case management, prevention and outreach.
 - **Assisted Housing:** Low-income individuals receiving housing assistance, administered locally by the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh and the Allegheny County Housing Authority.
- **Mental Health:** Individuals receiving mental health services paid for by the County or HealthChoices (i.e., Medicaid managed care). Includes both clinical services, such as individual and group therapy, and non-clinical services, such as case management.
- **Public Benefit:** Individuals who have received services from Allegheny County DHS and who are also receiving public benefits from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (PA DHS). PA DHS public benefits include cash assistance, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), help with childcare, health care coverage, home heating assistance (LIHEAP), school meals, Select Plan for Women and long-term living services.

APPENDIX C: ALLEGHENY COUNTY CENSUS DATA

Allegheny County Population by Gender and Age, by Race

- Gender by age (black alone)

Source: 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

	ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA	
	ESTIMATE	MARGIN OF ERROR
Total	158,648	+/-1,088
Male	72,575	+/-719
Under 5 years	5,932	+/-241
5 to 9 years	6,298	+/-479
10 to 14 years	6,520	+/-465
15 to 17 years	4,633	+/-130
18 and 19 years	2,980	+/-124
20 to 24 years	5,880	+/-179
25 to 29 years	4,456	+/-194
30 to 34 years	3,912	+/-90
35 to 44 years	8,656	+/-151
45 to 54 years	9,771	+/-168
55 to 64 years	7,069	+/-104
65 to 74 years	3,726	+/-98
75 to 84 years	2,044	+/-165
85 years and over	698	+/-125
Female	86,073	+/-728
Under 5 years	5,511	+/-291
5 to 9 years	5,675	+/-430
10 to 14 years	6,828	+/-390
15 to 17 years	4,509	+/-135
18 and 19 years	2,789	+/-183
20 to 24 years	6,391	+/-214
25 to 29 years	5,770	+/-158
30 to 34 years	5,028	+/-101
35 to 44 years	11,166	+/-159
45 to 54 years	12,180	+/-160
55 to 64 years	8,901	+/-163
65 to 74 years	5,678	+/-97
75 to 84 years	4,012	+/-229
85 years and over	1,635	+/-215

Appendix C

(continued)

- Gender by age (white alone)

Source: 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

	ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA	
	ESTIMATE	MARGIN OF ERROR
Total	1,003,321	+/-831
Male	481,316	+/-446
Under 5 years	22,886	+/-130
5 to 9 years	24,954	+/-623
10 to 14 years	26,643	+/-614
15 to 17 years	18,242	+/-69
18 and 19 years	13,138	+/-92
20 to 24 years	32,974	+/-159
25 to 29 years	33,926	+/-136
30 to 34 years	28,057	+/-117
35 to 44 years	62,709	+/-170
45 to 54 years	79,846	+/-105
55 to 64 years	63,439	+/-62
65 to 74 years	36,476	+/-46
75 to 84 years	28,674	+/-472
85 years and over	9,352	+/-469
Female	522,005	+/-517
Under 5 years	21,688	+/-117
5 to 9 years	23,515	+/-699
10 to 14 years	25,608	+/-703
15 to 17 years	17,265	+/-82
18 and 19 years	12,814	+/-73
20 to 24 years	33,061	+/-123
25 to 29 years	32,568	+/-135
30 to 34 years	26,882	+/-121
35 to 44 years	63,874	+/-130
45 to 54 years	84,007	+/-111
55 to 64 years	69,264	+/-96
65 to 74 years	46,200	+/-81
75 to 84 years	43,024	+/-858
85 years and over	22,235	+/-860

APPENDIX D: ROUTINE ACTIVITY TIME CATEGORIES

Routine Activity Time Categories, All Victims

Weekday Early Morning	Monday–Friday	5:00 a.m. – 8:59 a.m.
Weekday Work Period	Monday–Friday	9:00 a.m. – 5:59 a.m.
After Work/ Evening	Monday–Friday	6:00 p.m. – 9:59 p.m.
Weekday Late Night	Monday–Thursday	10:00 p.m. – 4:59 a.m.
Weekend Early Morning	Saturday–Sunday	5:00 a.m. – 8:59 a.m.
Weekend Days	Saturday–Sunday	9:00 a.m. – 5:59 a.m.
Weekend Evenings	Saturday–Sunday	6:00 p.m. – 9:59 p.m.
Weekend Late Night	Friday–Sunday	10:00 p.m. – 4:59 a.m.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12:00 AM	WEEKDAY LATE NIGHT					WEEKEND LATE NIGHT	
1:00 AM							
2:00 AM							
3:00 AM							
4:00 AM	WEEKDAY EARLY MORNING					WEEKEND EARLY MORNING	
5:00 AM							
6:00 AM							
7:00 AM							
8:00 AM	WEEKDAY WORK PERIOD					WEEKENDS DAYS	
9:00 AM							
10:00 AM							
11:00 AM							
12:00 PM							
1:00 PM							
2:00 PM							
3:00 PM							
4:00 PM	AFTER WORK/ EVENING					WEEKEND EVENING	
5:00 PM							
6:00 PM							
7:00 PM							
8:00 PM	WEEKDAY LATE NIGHT					WEEKEND LATE NIGHT	
9:00 PM							
10:00 PM							
11:00 PM							

Appendix D
(continued)

Routine Activity Time Categories, School Year for Youth Victims (Ages 5–17)

SCHOOL YEAR (SEPTEMBER – MAY)

AM Commute	Monday–Friday	7:00 a.m. – 8:59 a.m.
School Session	Monday–Friday	9:00 a.m. – 2:59 p.m.
After School / PM Commute	Monday–Friday	3:00 p.m. – 5:59 p.m.
Weekday Evenings	Sunday–Thursday	6:00 p.m. – 11:59 p.m.
Weekday Late Nights	Monday–Friday	12:00 a.m. – 6:59 a.m.
Weekend Days	Saturday–Sunday	7:00 a.m. – 5:59 p.m.
Weekend Evenings	Friday–Saturday	6:00 p.m. – 11:59 p.m.
Weekend Late Nights	Saturday–Sunday	12:00 a.m. – 6:59 a.m.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
12:00 AM	WEEKDAY LATE NIGHTS					WEEKEND LATE NIGHTS			
1:00 AM									
2:00 AM									
3:00 AM									
4:00 AM									
5:00 AM	AM COMMUTE					WEEKENDS DAYS			
6:00 AM									
7:00 AM	SCHOOL SESSION							WEEKENDS DAYS	
8:00 AM									
9:00 AM									
10:00 AM									
11:00 AM	AFTER SCHOOL/PM COMMUTE					WEEKENDS DAYS			
12:00 PM									
1:00 PM									
2:00 PM	WEEK DAY EVENING							WEEKEND EVENINGS	
3:00 PM									
4:00 PM									
5:00 PM									
6:00 PM									
7:00 PM						WEEKDAY EVENING			
8:00 PM									
9:00 PM									
10:00 PM									
11:00 PM									
12:00 PM									

Appendix D

(continued)

SUMMER (JUNE - AUGUST)

Weekday Days	Monday–Friday	7:00 a.m. – 5:59 p.m.
Weekday Evenings	Sunday–Thursday	6:00 p.m. – 11:59 p.m.
Weekday Late Nights	Monday–Friday	12:00 a.m. – 6:59 a.m.
Weekend Days	Saturday–Sunday	7:00 a.m. – 5:59 p.m.
Weekend Evenings	Friday–Saturday	6:00 p.m. – 11:59 p.m.
Weekend Late Nights	Saturday–Sunday	12:00 a.m. – 6:59 a.m.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12:00 AM	WEEKDAY LATE NIGHTS					WEEKEND LATE NIGHTS	
1:00 AM							
2:00 AM							
3:00 AM							
4:00 AM							
5:00 AM							
6:00 AM	WEEKDAY DAYS					WEEKENDS DAYS	
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