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Violence Policy Center

Black Homicide Victimization in the Great Lakes States

An Analysis of 2015 Homicide Data

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This study was authored by VPC Senior Policy Analyst Marty Langley and VPC Executive Director Josh Sugarmann.

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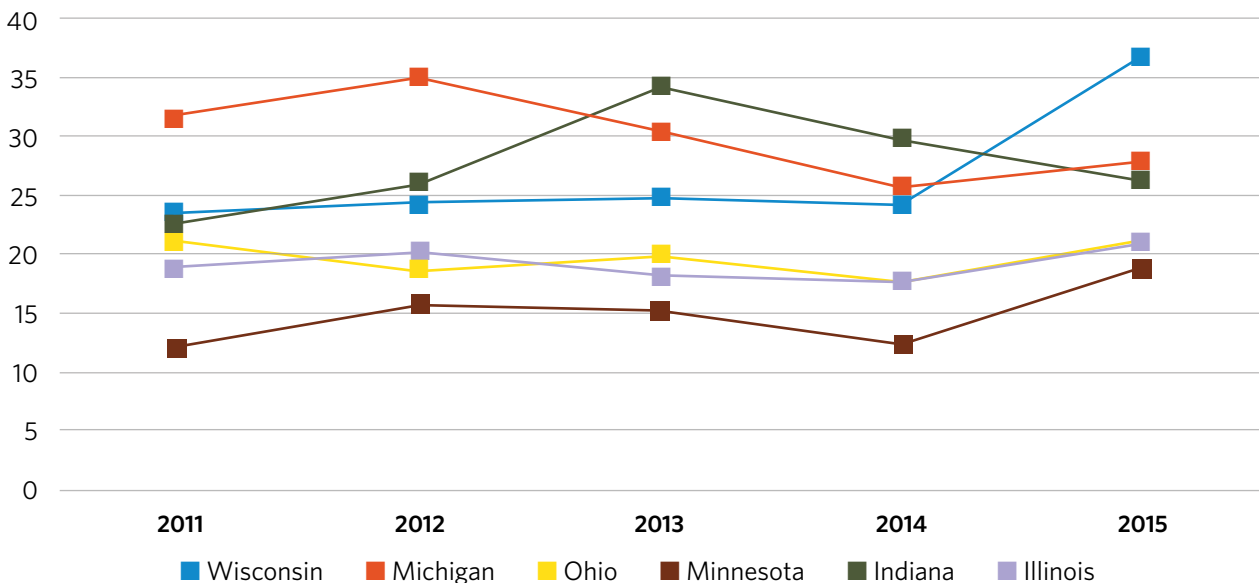
INTRODUCTION

The devastation homicide inflicts on black teens and young adults is a national crisis, yet it is all too often ignored outside of those communities most impacted.

Since 2007, the Violence Policy Center has released *Black Homicide Victimization in the United States*.¹ This annual study examines black homicide victimization state by state by analyzing unpublished Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) data for black homicide victimization submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).² This companion report offers additional information on black homicide victimization for states located in the Great Lakes region (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin). The information used for both reports is for the year 2015 and is the most recent data available.

According to the FBI SHR data, in 2015 there were 7,014 black homicide victims in the United States. The national homicide rate among black victims in the United States was 18.68 per 100,000. For that year, the overall national homicide rate was 4.62 per 100,000. For whites, the national homicide rate was 2.67 per 100,000 (please see page nine for national data, followed by a listing of each state's black homicide victimization rate, number of victims, and ranking by rate).

BLACK HOMICIDE VICTIMIZATION RATES IN THE GREAT LAKES STATES, 2011 - 2015



1 See <http://www.vpc.org/revealing-the-impacts-of-gun-violence/black-homicide-victimization/>.

2 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from participating police agencies and records supplementary information about the circumstances of homicides in its unpublished Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR).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.

Nationally, for homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 86 percent of black victims (5,756 out of 6,716) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 71 percent (4,062 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 559 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 206 victims killed by bodily force, and 106 victims killed by a blunt object. In comparison, 66 percent of white victims and 76 percent of victims of all races were killed with guns.

That same year, there were 1,457 black homicide victims in the Great Lakes region and all six of the Great Lakes states had a black homicide victimization rate that was higher than the national average.

Information contained in this report for each of the Great Lakes states includes: age of victim; type of weapon used; relationship of victim to offender; and, the circumstances of the homicide. Additional information for each state includes historical data for the past five years including: the number of black homicide victims; the black homicide victimization rate; where the state's black homicide rate ranks nationally; and, the percentage of black homicide victims killed with guns.

While the FBI SHR is the best national data available that offers information on the type of firearm used, the relationship between victim and offender, and circumstance, it is dependent on data submitted by each state.³

CONCLUSION

The devastation homicide inflicts on black teens and adults is 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 impacting black men, women, boys, and girls.

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.⁴

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.

3 For example, Chicago and Rockford were the only two reporting agencies in Illinois to submit SHR data to the FBI for 2015. Beginning in 2016, all Illinois law enforcement agencies will be required by state law to report SHR data to the FBI.

4 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>).

Illinois

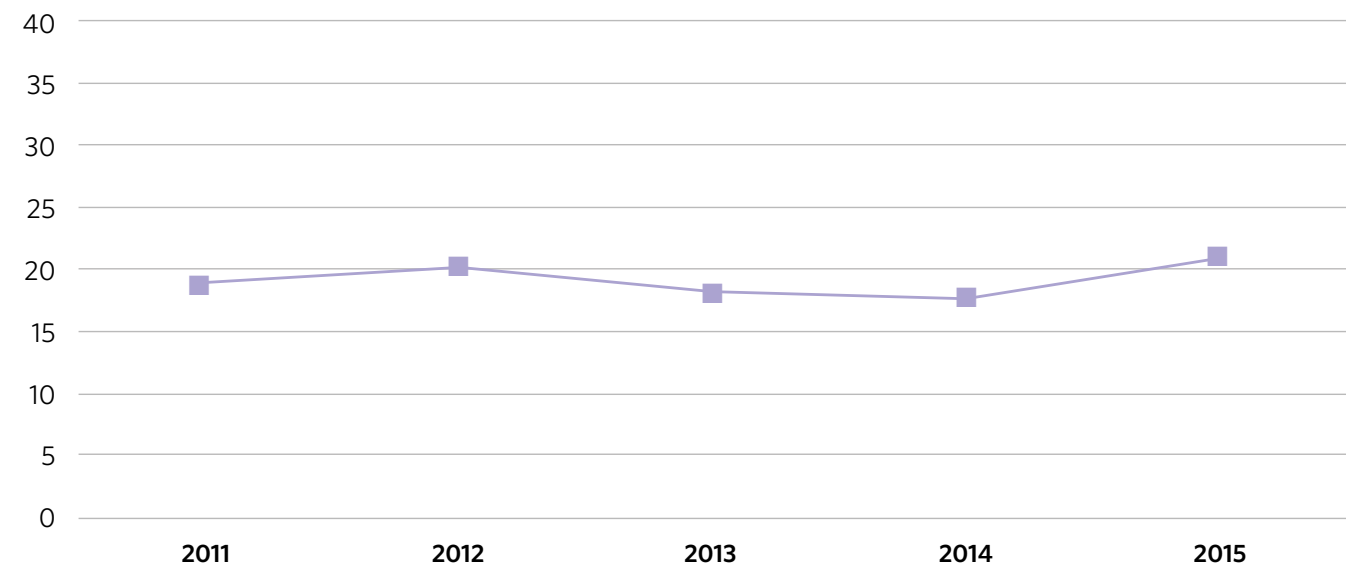
There were 394 black homicide victims in Illinois in 2015 (See Footnote 3 on page two).
The homicide rate among black victims in Illinois was 20.88 per 100,000 in 2015.

Ranked 18th in the United States

- Age** Forty-four homicide victims (11 percent) were less than 18 years old and 3 victims (1 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 28 years old.
- Gender** Out of 394 homicide victims, 361 were male and 33 were female.
- Most Common Weapons** For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 94 percent of victims (362 out of 386) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 99 percent (357 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 2 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 17 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 1 victim killed by bodily force, and 2 victims killed by a blunt object.
- Victim/Offender Relationship** For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 61 percent of victims (51 out of 83) were killed by someone they knew. Thirty-two victims were killed by strangers.
- Circumstance** For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 83 percent (280 out of 337) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 18 percent (50 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

BLACK HOMICIDE VICTIMIZATION IN ILLINOIS, 2011 - 2015

Year	Black Homicide Victims	Black Homicide Rate	National Rank	Percent of Black Victims Killed with Guns
2015	394	20.88	18th	94%
2014	331	17.49	17th (tie)	91%
2013	343	18.10	15th	91%
2012	379	19.94	11th	90%
2011	357	18.73	20th	90%



Indiana

There were 168 black homicide victims in Indiana in 2015.

The homicide rate among black victims in Indiana was 26.44 per 100,000 in 2015.

Ranked 8th in the United States

- Age** Seventeen homicide victims (10 percent) were less than 18 years old and 3 victims (2 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 30 years old.
- Gender** Out of 168 homicide victims, 143 were male and 25 were female.
- Most Common Weapons** For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 92 percent of victims (152 out of 166) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 73 percent (111 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 34 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 5 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 3 victims killed by bodily force, and 5 victims killed by a blunt object.
- Victim/Offender Relationship** For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 85 percent of victims (66 out of 78) were killed by someone they knew. Twelve victims were killed by strangers.
- Circumstance** For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 64 percent (77 out of 120) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 49 percent (38 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

BLACK HOMICIDE VICTIMIZATION IN INDIANA, 2011 - 2015

Year	Black Homicide Victims	Black Homicide Rate	National Rank	Percent of Black Victims Killed with Guns
2015	168	26.44	8th	92%
2014	186	29.49	2nd	85%
2013	213	34.15	1st	90%
2012	157	25.48	6th	91%
2011	134	21.95	11th	85%



Michigan

There were 388 black homicide victims in Michigan in 2015.

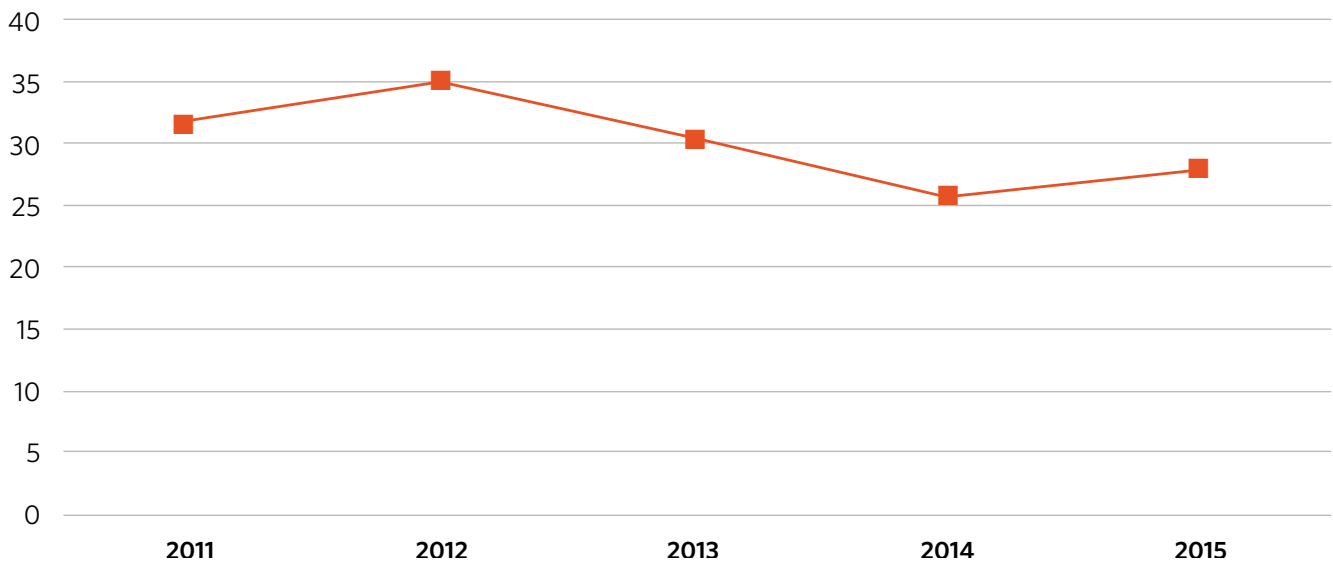
The homicide rate among black victims in Michigan was 27.56 per 100,000 in 2015.

Ranked 6th in the United States

- Age** Twenty-two homicide victims (6 percent) were less than 18 years old and 8 victims (2 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 33 years old.
- Gender** Out of 388 homicide victims, 345 were male and 43 were female.
- Most Common Weapons** For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 87 percent of victims (320 out of 369) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 41 percent (130 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 177 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 26 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 9 victims killed by bodily force, and 7 victims killed by a blunt object.
- Victim/Offender Relationship** For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 80 percent of victims (71 out of 89) were killed by someone they knew. Eighteen victims were killed by strangers.
- Circumstance** For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 85 percent (117 out of 138) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 51 percent (60 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

BLACK HOMICIDE VICTIMIZATION IN MICHIGAN, 2011 - 2015

Year	Black Homicide Victims	Black Homicide Rate	National Rank	Percent of Black Victims Killed with Guns
2015	388	27.56	6th	87%
2014	360	25.52	6th	83%
2013	428	30.34	3rd	88%
2012	492	34.77	3rd	89%
2011	447	31.54	3rd	85%



Minnesota

There were 63 black homicide victims in Minnesota in 2015.

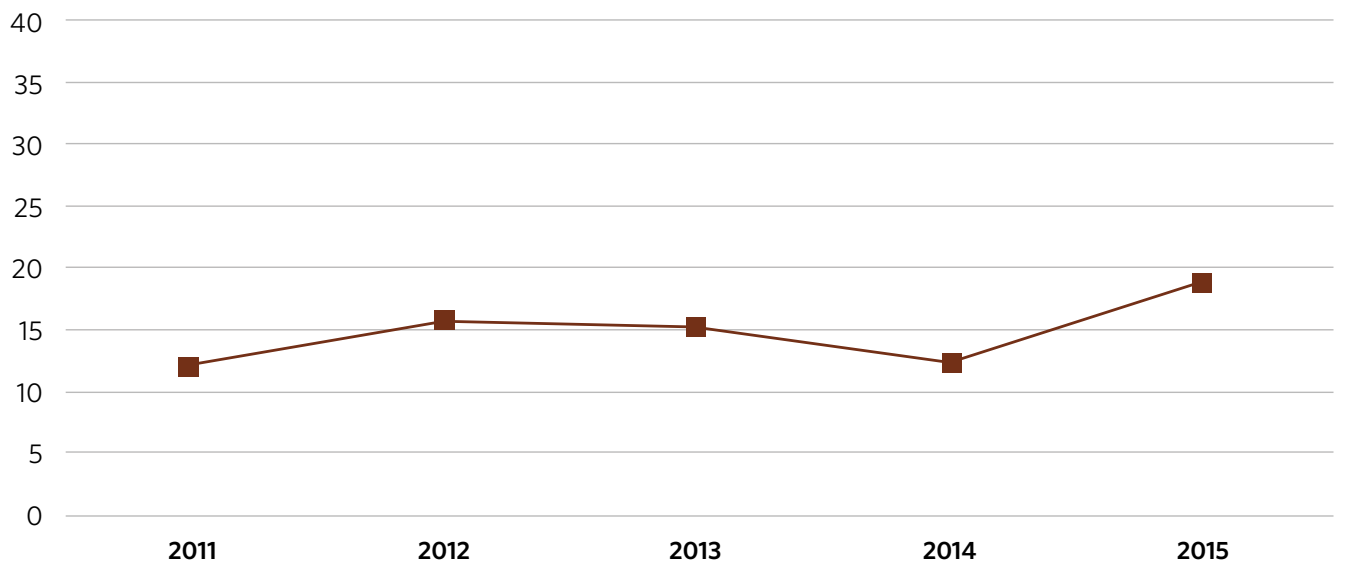
The homicide rate among black victims in Minnesota was 18.92 per 100,000 in 2015.

Ranked 23rd in the United States

- Age** Seven homicide victims (11 percent) were less than 18 years old and 1 victim (2 percent) was 65 years of age or older. The average age was 30 years old.
- Gender** Out of 63 homicide victims, 55 were male and 8 were female.
- Most Common Weapons** For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 78 percent of victims (46 out of 59) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 78 percent (36 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 9 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 10 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, and 3 victims killed by bodily force.
- Victim/Offender Relationship** For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 82 percent of victims (28 out of 34) were killed by someone they knew. Six victims were killed by strangers.
- Circumstance** For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 73 percent (33 out of 45) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 42 percent (14 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

BLACK HOMICIDE VICTIMIZATION IN MINNESOTA, 2011 - 2015

Year	Black Homicide Victims	Black Homicide Rate	National Rank	Percent of Black Victims Killed with Guns
2015	63	18.92	23rd	78%
2014	40	12.48	31st	81%
2013	46	14.92	22nd	72%
2012	46	15.44	24th	71%
2011	34	11.88	35th	62%



Ohio

There were 304 black homicide victims in Ohio in 2015.

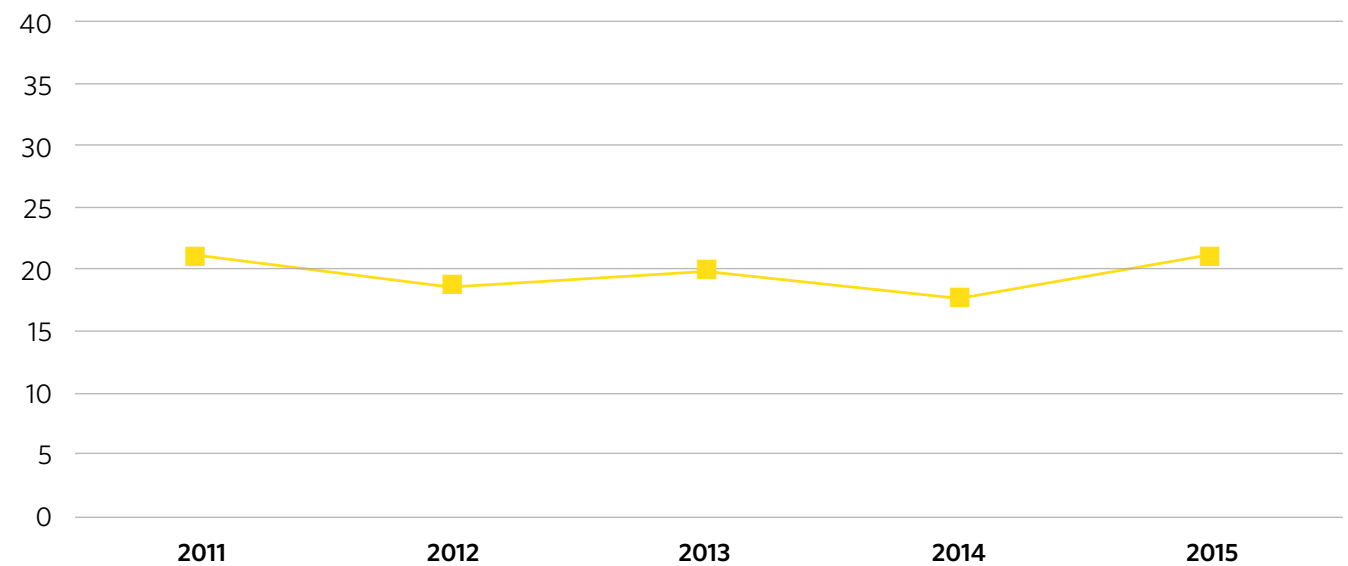
The homicide rate among black victims in Ohio was 20.57 per 100,000 in 2015.

Ranked 19th in the United States

- Age** Eighteen homicide victims (6 percent) were less than 18 years old and 2 victims (1 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 31 years old.
- Gender** Out of 304 homicide victims, 260 were male and 44 were female.
- Most Common Weapons** For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 84 percent of victims (224 out of 268) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 55 percent (123 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 91 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 28 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 11 victims killed by bodily force, and 3 victims killed by a blunt object.
- Victim/Offender Relationship** For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 86 percent of victims (96 out of 111) were killed by someone they knew. Fifteen victims were killed by strangers.
- Circumstance** For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 79 percent (120 out of 152) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 43 percent (51 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

BLACK HOMICIDE VICTIMIZATION IN OHIO, 2011 - 2015

Year	Black Homicide Victims	Black Homicide Rate	National Rank	Percent of Black Victims Killed with Guns
2015	304	20.57	19th	84%
2014	256	17.49	17th (tie)	87%
2013	284	19.59	11th	88%
2012	269	18.69	14th	86%
2011	305	21.28	12th	88%



Wisconsin

There were 140 black homicide victims in Wisconsin in 2015.

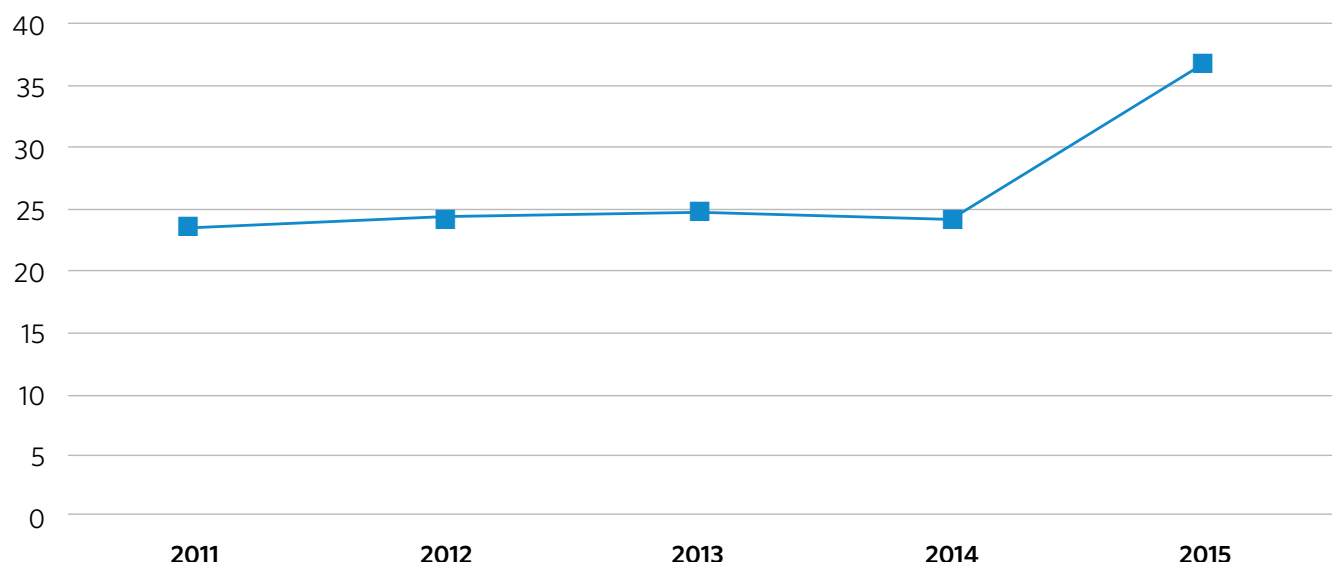
The homicide rate among black victims in Wisconsin was 36.77 per 100,000 in 2015.

Ranked 2nd in the United States

- Age** Eleven homicide victims (8 percent) were less than 18 years old and 1 victim (1 percent) was 65 years of age or older. The average age was 29 years old.
- Gender** Out of 140 homicide victims, 121 were male and 19 were female.
- Most Common Weapons** For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 85 percent of victims (117 out of 137) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 75 percent (88 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 29 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 12 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 5 victims killed by bodily force, and 1 victim killed by a blunt object.
- Victim/Offender Relationship** For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 56 percent of victims (40 out of 71) were killed by someone they knew. Thirty-one victims were killed by strangers.
- Circumstance** For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 82 percent (58 out of 71) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 66 percent (38 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

BLACK HOMICIDE VICTIMIZATION IN WISCONSIN, 2011 - 2015

Year	Black Homicide Victims	Black Homicide Rate	National Rank	Percent of Black Victims Killed with Guns
2015	140	36.77	2nd	85%
2014	91	24.04	8th	87%
2013	93	24.74	7th	80%
2012	91	24.38	8th	84%
2011	86	23.22	8th	70%



United States

There were 7,014 black homicide victims in the United States in 2015.

The homicide rate among black victims in the United States was 18.68 per 100,000 in 2015.

Age	Four hundred sixty-six homicide victims (7 percent) were less than 18 years old and 122 victims (2 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 31 years old.
Gender	Out of 7,014 homicide victims, 6,152 were male and 862 were female.
Most Common Weapons	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 86 percent of victims (5,756 out of 6,716) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 71 percent (4,062 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 1,429 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 559 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 206 victims killed by bodily force, and 106 victims killed by a blunt object.
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 75 percent of victims (2,211 out of 2,933) were killed by someone they knew. Seven hundred twenty-two victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 70 percent (2,829 out of 4,033) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 51 percent (1,432 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Number of Black Homicide Victims and Rates by State in 2015

State Ranking by Rate	State	Number of Homicides	Homicide Rate per 100,000
	Alabama	N/A	N/A
4	Alaska	8	29.22
28	Arizona	53	16.21
22	Arkansas	89	19.09
15	California	549	21.64
20	Colorado	50	20.56
38	Connecticut	51	12.25
14	Delaware	47	22.18
	Florida	N/A	N/A
33	Georgia	439	13.52
44	Hawaii	2	6.68
43	Idaho	1	7.38
18	Illinois ⁵	394	20.88
8	Indiana	168	26.44
16	Iowa	24	21.63
9	Kansas	45	25.02
13	Kentucky	83	22.80
11	Louisiana	360	23.71
47 (tie)	Maine	1	5.13
17	Maryland	389	21.24
41	Massachusetts	58	10.08
6	Michigan	388	27.56
23	Minnesota	63	18.92
40	Mississippi	118	10.49
1	Missouri	332	46.24
26	Montana	1	17.24
5	Nebraska	27	28.93
21	Nevada	55	20.42
47 (tie)	New Hampshire	1	5.13
24	New Jersey	242	18.19
25	New Mexico	9	17.44
39	New York	395	11.35
34	North Carolina	299	13.43

⁵ Chicago and Rockford were the only two reporting agencies in Illinois to submit SHR data to the FBI for 2015. Beginning in 2016, all Illinois law enforcement agencies will be required by state law to report SHR data to the FBI.

State Ranking by Rate	State	Number of Homicides	Homicide Rate per 100,000
30	North Dakota	3	15.21
19	Ohio	304	20.57
3	Oklahoma	91	30.10
46	Oregon	5	5.98
7	Pennsylvania	405	27.04
31	Rhode Island	12	14.33
27	South Carolina	231	17.08
45	South Dakota	1	6.14
12	Tennessee	265	23.50
29	Texas	530	15.43
42	Utah	3	7.57
37	Vermont	1	12.62
32	Virginia	226	13.68
35	Washington	39	13.34
10	West Virginia	16	24.32
2	Wisconsin	140	36.77
36	Wyoming	1	12.86
	U.S. Total	7,014	18.68



Violence Policy Center

1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Suite 1210

Washington, DC 20036

WWW.VPC.ORG