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Violence Policy Center

Hispanic Victims of Lethal Firearms Violence in the United States

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This study is also available in Spanish at <http://www.vpc.org/studies/hispanicesp16.pdf>.

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY FINDINGS

- **The homicide victimization rate for Hispanics in the United States is nearly twice as high as the homicide victimization rate for whites.** The Hispanic homicide victimization rate in 2015 was 5.10 per 100,000. In comparison, the homicide victimization rate for whites was 2.59 per 100,000 (p. 4).
- **Homicide is the second leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 15 to 24** (p. 5).
- **In 2015, more than 3,300 Hispanics were killed by guns.** That year 2,021 Hispanics died in gun homicides, 1,162 died in gun suicides, 37 died in unintentional shootings, and 112 died in other circumstances (including legal intervention and undetermined intent) (p. 4).
- **Nearly 54,000 Hispanics were killed by guns between 1999 and 2015.** During this period, 35,553 Hispanics died in gun homicides, 15,593 died in gun suicides, and 981 died in unintentional shootings (p. 4).
- **Most Hispanic murder victims are killed with guns.** Guns are used in more than two-thirds of the homicides where the victims are Hispanic (p. 5). The latest data shows that for homicides where the victim was Hispanic and a gun was used, 68 percent of these shootings involved a handgun (p. 10).
- **Hispanic victims are more likely to be killed by a stranger than the national average.** The latest data from 2015 shows that when the victim-to-offender relationship could be identified, 39 percent of Hispanic victims were killed by a stranger. Nationwide, 25 percent of all homicide victims were killed by strangers (p. 11).
- **A large percentage of Hispanic homicide victims are young.** The most recent available data shows 35 percent of Hispanic homicide victims in 2015 were age 24 and younger. In comparison, 37 percent of black homicide victims and 20 percent of white homicide victims were age 24 and younger that year (p. 12).
- **As a result of the limitations in current data collection, the total number of Hispanic victims is almost certainly higher than the reported numbers suggest.** Government agencies often report data on race but not on ethnic origin. Recognizing the changing demographic landscape in the United States, it is clear that fully documenting such victimization is a crucial first step toward preventing it.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Governmental agencies that collect data on death and injury should obtain complete information on the ethnic origin of individuals in addition to their race. This will ensure complete and accurate data collection on Hispanic victims of lethal violence.

- Individual-level ethnic origin information should be captured by all governmental agencies, regardless of department, and at all levels — local, state, and national — for all pertinent users and subjects of agency services.
- Individual-level ethnic origin information should be self-reported and not based solely on a person's surname or other measure.
- All public access data and published reports issued by governmental agencies should include information on ethnic origin in addition to race.
- The U.S. Department of Justice — specifically, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Justice Statistics — should issue periodic or special reports on Hispanic victimization.
- States with a substantial proportion of Hispanic residents should issue periodic or special reports on Hispanic victimization and deaths due to all causes, including violence.

DEFINITIONS

The terms and definitions for race and ethnicity in this report are derived from U.S. Census Bureau definitions. Race and ethnicity are two separate designations. Federal data commonly uses the term “black” rather than African-American and “Hispanic” instead of Latino. For the purposes of this report the definitions below will be used.

Race

American Indian or Alaska Native

A non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Asian

A non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East (e.g., China, Japan), Southeast Asia (e.g., Vietnam, Thailand) or the India subcontinent (e.g., India, Pakistan).

Black

A non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

A non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

White

A non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

Ethnicity

Hispanic

A person of *any race* having origins in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central or South America, or other Spanish cultures.

INTRODUCTION

FOCUS ON HISPANICS

In 2001, the United States experienced a historic demographic change. For the first time, Hispanics became the largest minority group in the nation, exceeding the number of black residents.¹ With a population in 2015 of 56.5 million, Hispanics represent 17.6 percent of the total population of the United States.²

As of 2015, nine U.S. states have a Hispanic population totaling more than one million. In order of Hispanic population they are: California, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois, Arizona, New Jersey, Colorado, and New Mexico.³ California, which has the largest Hispanic population in the United States (15,184,905), accounts for 26.9 percent of the total U.S. Hispanic population.⁴

Figure 1: Top 10 States by Hispanic Population, 2015⁵

State	Hispanic Population	Total Population	Percent of Total State Population That is Hispanic	Percent of Total U.S. Hispanic Population
California	15,184,905	39,144,818	38.8	26.9
Texas	10,669,240	27,469,114	38.8	18.9
Florida	4,961,905	20,271,272	24.5	8.8
New York	3,722,097	19,795,791	18.8	6.6
Illinois	2,171,133	12,859,995	16.9	3.8
Arizona	2,098,511	6,828,065	30.7	3.7
New Jersey	1,762,984	8,958,013	19.7	3.1
Colorado	1,165,546	5,456,574	21.4	2.1
New Mexico	1,002,409	2,085,109	48.1	1.8
Georgia	950,471	10,214,860	9.3	1.7

The Pew Research Center finds that since 2000, some of the fastest growing Hispanic populations have been in the Dakotas and Southeastern United States, although each has a Hispanic population totaling less than a million.

1 "Hispanics Now Largest Minority, Census Shows," *New York Times*, January 22, 2003.

2 *Facts on U.S. Latinos, 2015*, Antonio Flores, Gustavo López, and Jynnah Radford, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, September 18, 2017 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2017/09/18/facts-on-u-s-latinos-current-data/>).

3 *Facts on U.S. Latinos, 2015*, Antonio Flores, Gustavo López, and Jynnah Radford, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, September 18, 2017 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2017/09/18/facts-on-u-s-latinos-current-data/>). Data obtained from Table 44, "Hispanic population, by state: 2015."

4 *Facts on U.S. Latinos, 2015*, Antonio Flores, Gustavo López, and Jynnah Radford, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, September 18, 2017 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2017/09/18/facts-on-u-s-latinos-current-data/>). Data obtained from Table 44, "Hispanic population, by state: 2015" and Table 45, "Distribution of Hispanics across states: 2015."

5 *Facts on U.S. Latinos, 2015*, Antonio Flores, Gustavo López, and Jynnah Radford, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, September 18, 2017 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2017/09/18/facts-on-u-s-latinos-current-data/>). Data obtained from Table 44, "Hispanic population, by state: 2015" and Table 45, "Distribution of Hispanics across states: 2015."

Figure 2: Growth in Hispanic Population Among 10 Fastest Growing Hispanic States, 2000 to 2015⁶

State	Hispanic Population in 2000	Hispanic Population in 2015	Hispanic Population Change, 2000 to 2015	Percent Change 2000 to 2015
North Dakota	7,429	25,876	18,447	248.3
South Dakota	10,101	29,828	19,727	195.3
Tennessee	116,692	334,083	217,391	186.3
South Carolina	94,652	261,580	166,928	176.4
Alabama	72,152	191,944	119,792	166.0
Kentucky	56,922	145,175	88,253	155.0
Maryland	230,992	572,526	341,534	147.9
Arkansas	85,303	207,590	122,287	143.4
North Carolina	377,084	912,609	535,525	142.0
Mississippi	37,301	85,625	48,324	129.6

During the period 2000 to 2015, the overall U.S. Hispanic population grew 60.4 percent.

This study is intended to report the latest national information available at the time of writing on Hispanic homicide victimization and suicide in the United States, the role of firearms in homicide and suicide, and overall gun death figures.⁷ Recognizing this demographic landscape, the importance of documenting such victimization is clear.

AVAILABLE NATIONAL DATA ON HISPANIC LETHAL VICTIMIZATION

The two major sources of national lethal victimization information — public health and criminal justice records — include Hispanic ethnicity as well as race, but unfortunately in a manner that is neither comprehensive nor consistent.

- The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services maintains national public health data as recorded by death certificates and compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).⁸ The CDC collects mortality data that includes homicides, suicides, and unintentional deaths. While the CDC data is the most comprehensive available to measure *total* fatal victimization in each category as well as age and race/ethnicity, it lacks the additional information categories contained in the FBI's *Supplementary Homicide Report* for homicides.

6 *Facts on U.S. Latinos*, Antonio Flores, Gustavo López, and Jynnah Radford, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, September 18, 2017 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2017/09/18/facts-on-u-s-latinos-current-data/>). Data obtained from Table 44A - Trend, "Hispanic population, by state: 1980-2015" with additional calculations by the Violence Policy Center.

7 In 2015, there were 37 unintentional deaths of Hispanics involving firearms according to the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WISQARS database.

8 The CDC also maintains the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), a public health surveillance and reporting system that records more detailed data on violent deaths through the review of additional resources, such as death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports, law enforcement reports, and information from crime laboratories to aid in the development of violence-reduction approaches (<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nvdrs/index.html>). Currently NVDRS is funded in 40 states (Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin) the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, but does not operate in Texas. Recognizing these geographic limitations, it will not be used for this report.

- The U.S. Department of Justice is the repository of national criminal justice records. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) compiles data on reported crime, including homicide, through its *Uniform Crime Report (UCR)* and its *Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR)*. Homicide-related information that is unique to the *SHR* includes: the age of both the victim and offender; the circumstances surrounding the homicide; the relationship of the victim to the offender; and, more detailed information on the type of weapon used, including whether a gun used was a handgun, rifle, or shotgun.

While the FBI's *Supplementary Homicide Report* offers the most information available on homicide at the national level, the data — especially in the context of reporting ethnicity — is limited. For example, in the *SHR* data used for this report, information on the Hispanic ethnicity of homicide victims was available for only 24 of the 50 states.⁹ The FBI *does not* collect data on suicides or unintentional deaths.

Recognizing the strengths and limitations of each of these two separate data sets, this study will utilize 2015 CDC data (the most recent available at time of writing) for information on Hispanic homicide, suicide, and overall gun death; leading causes of death; and, the use of firearms in Hispanic homicide and suicide. It will utilize 2015 FBI data (the most recent available at time of writing) for information on homicide not contained in the CDC data.

Section One: Public Health Data. Using this data for Hispanics we will: rank the leading causes of death, including homicide and suicide; detail the number of homicides and suicides, gender, and the victimization rates; and, present historical data on Hispanic homicide, suicide, and overall gun death.

Section Two: Criminal Justice Data. Using this information, we will detail for Hispanics: the types of firearms used in homicide; the relationship of homicide victims to their offenders; and, the circumstances of the homicides.

Section Three: Conclusion offers policy recommendations based on the study's findings.

9 In 2015, the most recent year for which data was available at the time of writing, all states with the exception of Alabama and Florida participated in the *SHR*. In the *SHR* data used for this report, information on the Hispanic ethnicity of homicide victims was reported *only* for the following states: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming. More than two-thirds of all the victims for which Hispanic ethnicity is known live in California (46 percent) and Texas (24 percent).

SECTION ONE: PUBLIC HEALTH DATA

In 2015, the most recent year for which complete data is available, more than 3,300 Hispanics were killed by firearms in the United States. Between 1999 and 2015, nearly 54,000 Hispanics were killed by guns.

Figure 3: Hispanic Firearm Deaths in the United States, 1999 to 2015

Year	Firearm Homicide	Firearm Suicide	Firearm Unintentional	Other Firearm Deaths*	Total Firearm Deaths
1999	1,939	794	66	79	2,878
2000	1,958	813	59	61	2,891
2001	2,123	798	86	80	3,087
2002	2,168	834	60	81	3,143
2003	2,316	835	71	97	3,319
2004	2,241	888	56	93	3,278
2005	2,453	824	95	97	3,469
2006	2,472	817	66	109	3,464
2007	2,385	931	65	111	3,492
2008	2,260	863	39	94	3,256
2009	2,115	955	47	85	3,202
2010	1,919	962	37	90	3,008
2011	1,831	946	52	118	2,947
2012	1,870	1,023	48	120	3,061
2013	1,750	1,034	49	118	2,951
2014	1,732	1,114	48	116	3,010
2015	2,021	1,162	37	112	3,332
Total	35,553	15,593	981	1,661	53,788

* "Other" includes legal intervention and undetermined intent.

For the general population in 2015, violent causes of death ranked 10th (suicide) and 16th (homicide) among all leading causes of death. These data for the general population, however, mask stark racial and ethnic differences.

HOMICIDE

In 2015, there were 2,886 Hispanic victims of homicide by all means in the United States. The Hispanic homicide victimization rate for that year was 5.10 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall homicide victimization rate for that year was 5.54 per 100,000, the black homicide victimization rate was 21.63 per 100,000, and the white homicide victimization rate was 2.59 per 100,000.

While nationally homicide ranked 16th among all leading causes of death, for Hispanics it ranked 12th, for blacks it ranked eighth, and for whites, it ranked 19th.

Figure 4: Ranking of Homicide as the Leading Cause of Death for General Population, All Races, and Hispanics, 2015

Race or Ethnicity for Both Sexes, All Ages	Ranking of Homicide, Any Means, Leading Cause of Death
General Population	16
Hispanic	12
American Indian/Alaska Native	13
Asian/Pacific Islander	20
Black	8
White	19

Looking at youth and young adults, however, in 2015, homicide ranked as the second leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 15 to 24. Homicide ranked as the leading cause of death for blacks in this age group, third for American Indian/Alaska Natives, and fourth for both Asian/Pacific Islanders and whites.

Figure 5: Ranking of Homicide as the Leading Cause of Death, Ages 15 to 24, for General Population, All Races, and Hispanics, 2015

Both Sexes, Ages 15 to 24	Ranking of Homicide, Any Means, Leading Cause of Death	Percentage of Victims Killed With a Firearm
General Population	3	87%
Hispanic	2	82%
American Indian/Alaska Native	3	75%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	72%
Black	1	93%
White	4	73%

In 2015, 70 percent of Hispanic homicide victims were killed with firearms. (Because the CDC data does not report what type of firearm — handgun, rifle, or shotgun — was used in the homicide, this question is addressed in *Section Two* of this report using 2015 data from the FBI's *Supplementary Homicide Report*.) During the period 1999 to 2015, more than two-thirds of all Hispanic homicide victims were killed with firearms (68 percent).

Figure 6: Hispanic Homicide Victims and Hispanic Firearm Homicide Victims, 1999 to 2015

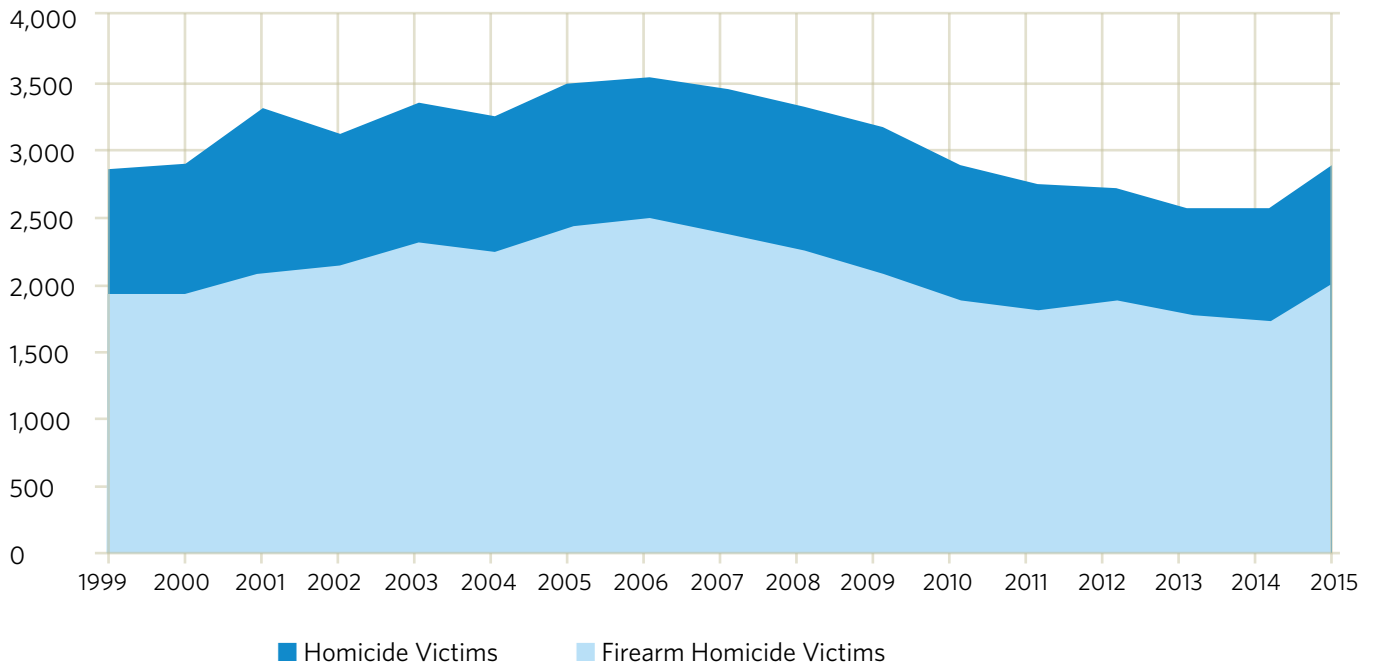


Figure 7: Number of Homicide Victims, Homicide Rate, and Percentage Killed With a Firearm, Hispanic Victims, 1999 to 2015

Year	Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000	Percentage Killed With a Firearm
1999	2,864	8.44	68%
2000	2,917	8.26	67%
2001	3,331	8.97	64%
2002	3,129	8.10	69%
2003	3,355	8.38	69%
2004	3,271	7.88	69%
2005	3,520	8.18	70%
2006	3,524	7.90	70%
2007	3,466	7.50	69%
2008	3,331	6.97	68%
2009	3,179	6.44	67%
2010	2,890	5.73	66%
2011	2,759	5.32	66%
2012	2,740	5.17	68%
2013	2,571	4.75	68%
2014	2,596	4.69	67%
2015	2,886	5.10	70%

Hispanic victims of firearm homicide are overwhelmingly male. In 2015, 87 percent of Hispanic victims of firearm homicide were male. In comparison, 69 percent of white firearm homicide victims were male. Ninety-one percent of black firearm homicide victims were male, as were 88 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native victims and 82 percent of Asian victims.

Figure 8: Firearm Homicide Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex, 2015

Race	Male Victims	Percent	Female Victims	Percent	Total Victims
Hispanic	1,761	87%	260	13%	2,021
American Indian/Alaska Native	114	88%	15	12%	129
Asian/Pacific Islander	158	82%	34	18%	192
Black	6,821	91%	694	9%	7,515
White	2,134	69%	941	31%	3,075
Total	11,029	85%	1,950	15%	12,979

SUICIDE

While nationally suicide ranked 10th among all leading causes of death in 2015, for Hispanics it ranked 11th. For American Indian/Alaska Natives it ranked 8th, for whites it ranked 9th, for Asian/Pacific Islanders it ranked 10th, and for blacks it ranked 16th.

Figure 9: Ranking of Suicide as the Leading Cause of Death for General Population, for All Races, and Hispanics, 2015

Total (Both Sexes, All Ages)	Ranking of Suicide, Any Means, Leading Cause of Death
General Population	10
Hispanic	11
American Indian/Alaska Native	8
Asian/Pacific Islander	10
Black	16
White	9

Looking at youth and young adults, however, in 2015 suicide ranked as the third leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 15 to 24. Suicide also ranked as the third leading cause of death for blacks in this age group, and it ranked second for Asian/Pacific Islanders, American Indian/Alaska Natives, and whites.

Figure 10: Ranking of Suicide as the Leading Cause of Death, Ages 15 to 24, for General Population, All Races, and Hispanics, 2015

Both Sexes, Ages 15 to 24	Ranking of Suicide, Any Means, Leading Cause of Death	Percentage of Victims Killed With a Firearm
General Population	2	45%
Hispanic	3	35%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2	35%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	29%
Black	3	45%
White	2	48%

During the period 1999 to 2015, 38 percent of all Hispanics who took their own lives did so with a firearm.

Figure 11: Hispanic Suicide Victims and Hispanic Firearm Suicide Victims, 1999 to 2015

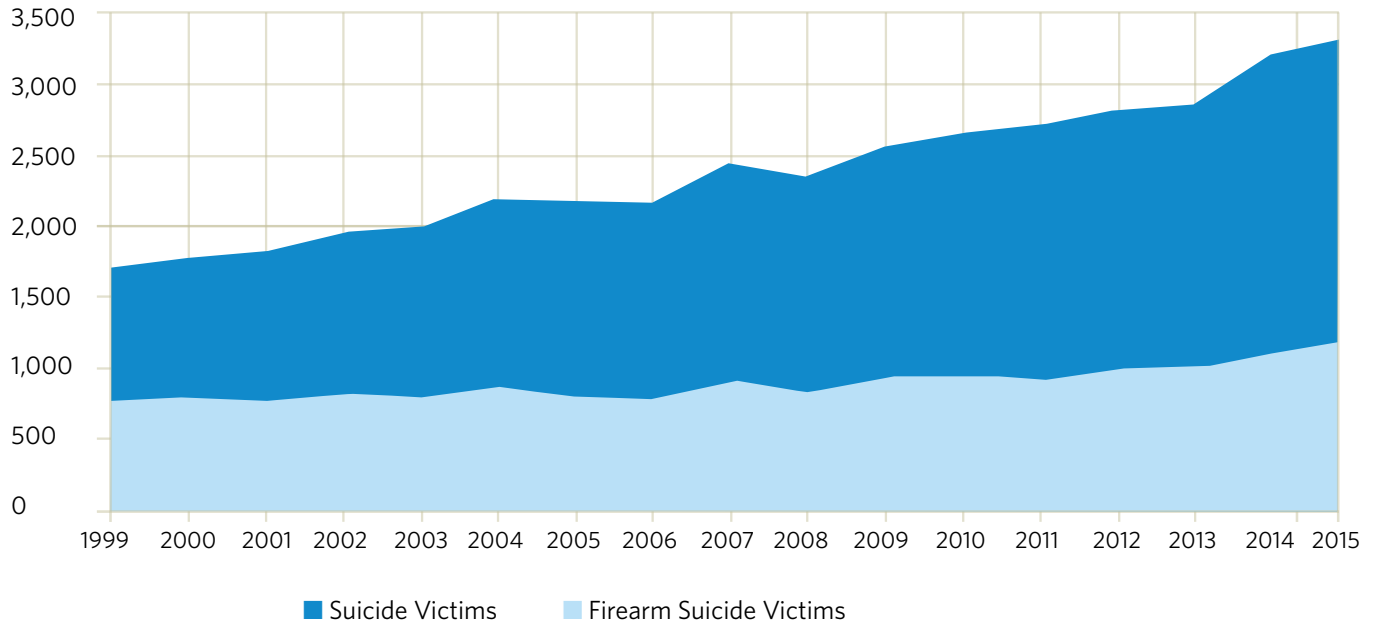


Figure 12: Number of Suicide Victims, Suicide Rate, Percentage Killed With a Firearm, Hispanic Victims, 1999 to 2015

Year	Suicide Victims	Suicide Rate	Percentage Killed With a Firearm
1999	1,695	4.99	47%
2000	1,787	5.06	45%
2001	1,850	4.98	43%
2002	1,954	5.06	43%
2003	2,007	5.01	42%
2004	2,207	5.32	40%
2005	2,188	5.09	38%
2006	2,177	4.88	38%
2007	2,465	5.34	38%
2008	2,345	4.91	37%
2009	2,573	5.22	37%
2010	2,661	5.27	36%
2011	2,720	5.24	35%
2012	2,837	5.35	36%
2013	2,865	5.29	36%
2014	3,244	5.86	34%
2015	3,303	5.84	35%

For all races, victims of firearm suicide are overwhelmingly male. In 2015, 88 percent of Hispanic victims of firearm suicide were male. Ninety percent of black firearm suicide victims were male, as were 84 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native victims, 86 percent of white victims, and 85 percent of Asian/Pacific Islander victims.

Figure 13: Firearm Suicide Victims by Race and Sex, 2015

Race	Male Victims	Percent	Female Victims	Percent	Total Victims
Hispanic	1,017	88%	145	12%	1,162
American Indian/Alaska Native	165	84%	32	16%	197
Asian/Pacific Islander	246	85%	43	15%	289
Black	1,017	90%	115	10%	1,132
White	16,397	86%	2,764	14%	19,161
Total	18,910	86%	3,108	14%	22,018

SECTION TWO: CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA

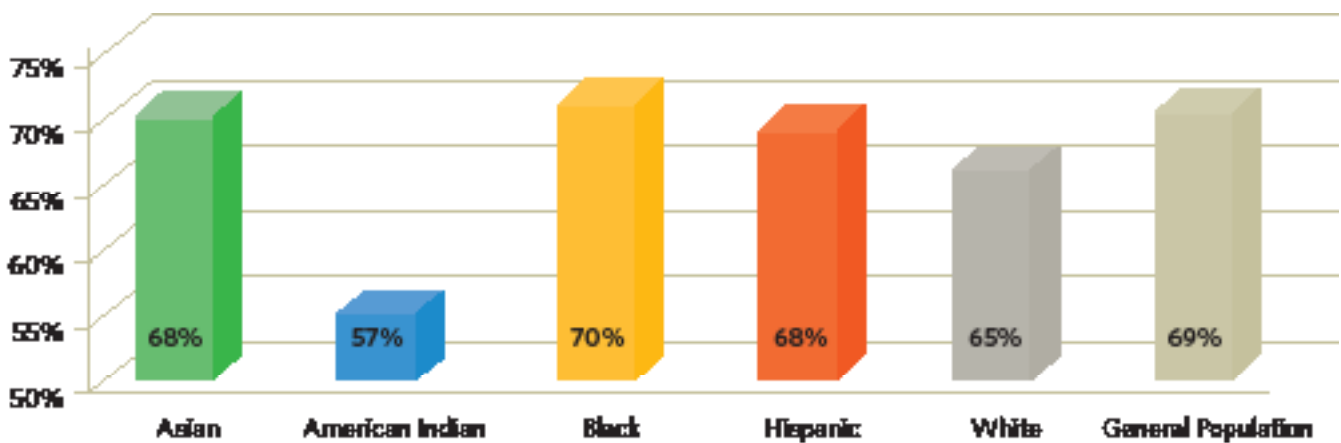
As noted in the prior section, while data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers the most comprehensive tally of Hispanic lethal victimization, it offers very limited data on the type of firearms used in homicides and no information on the factors surrounding the homicide (e.g., victim to offender relationship, circumstances, gang involvement). The FBI's annual *Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR)* does report such information, albeit on a smaller number of incidents.^{10 11}

In 2015, the *Supplementary Homicide Report* contained data for 1,819 Hispanic homicide victims. This section details data unique to the *SHR* data set for these deaths.¹²

TYPES OF FIREARMS USED IN HOMICIDES

In 2015, where the type of weapon¹³ used in the homicide could be determined, for Hispanic victims, 68 percent of all gun homicides involved a handgun. In comparison, handguns were used in 70 percent of black homicides involving a gun and 65 percent of white homicides involving a gun. Overall, handguns were the most prevalent firearm used in homicides in 2015 (69 percent).

Figure 14: Percentage of Firearm Homicides Involving Handguns, by Race and Ethnicity, 2015



10 The *SHR* provides incident-based information on criminal homicides. The data, provided monthly by reporting agencies, contain information describing the victim(s) of the homicide, the offender(s), the relationship between victim and offender, the weapon used, and the circumstance of the incident.

11 In 2015 the CDC reported 2,886 Hispanic homicide deaths, of which 2,021 involved a firearm. The FBI's *SHR* reported that in 2015 (the most recent year available) there were 1,819 Hispanic homicide victims of which 1,296 involved a firearm.

12 Abbreviated titles are used for two racial categories: American Indian also includes Alaska Natives and Asian also includes Pacific Islanders.

13 The definition of weapons includes the following categories: firearms (i.e., types unknown, handguns, rifles, shotguns, and other firearms); knives and other cutting instruments; blunt object; using the body as a weapon (i.e., fists, feet, teeth, etc.); poison; narcotics or drugs; explosives; strangulation/hanging; asphyxiation; drowning; fire; and defenestration, as well as other types.

RELATIONSHIP OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS TO OFFENDERS

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, Hispanic victims were more likely to be killed by a stranger (39 percent). In comparison, 25 percent of black victims were killed by a stranger and 20 percent of white victims were killed by a stranger. Overall, 25 percent of homicide victims were killed by a stranger.

Of victims who knew their offenders, 22 percent of Hispanic victims were intimate acquaintances of the offender.¹⁴ In comparison, 28 percent of white victims and 17 percent of black victims were intimate acquaintances of the offender. For the overall population, 23 percent of homicide victims were intimate acquaintances of the offender.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF HOMICIDES

For all races, for homicides in which the circumstances could be determined, 68 percent were not related to the commission of another felony.¹⁵ For Hispanics, 65 percent of the homicides were not related to the commission of another felony. Sixty-seven percent of white homicides and 70 percent of black homicides were not related to the commission of another felony.

For all races, of the homicides not related to the commission of another felony, 52 percent involved arguments between the victim and the offender and three percent involved brawls due to alcohol or drugs.

Fifty percent of Hispanics killed in homicides not related to the commission of another felony were killed during arguments (compared to 50 percent of black victims and 54 percent of white victims). Three percent of Hispanics killed in homicides not related to the commission of another felony were killed in brawls due to alcohol or drugs (compared to five percent of white victims and one percent of black victims).

For all races, gang-related killings¹⁶ accounted for 13 percent of the homicides not related to the commission of another felony.¹⁷ For Hispanics, of the homicides not related to the commission of another felony, 26 percent were gang-related, compared to 16 percent for black victims and four percent for white victims.

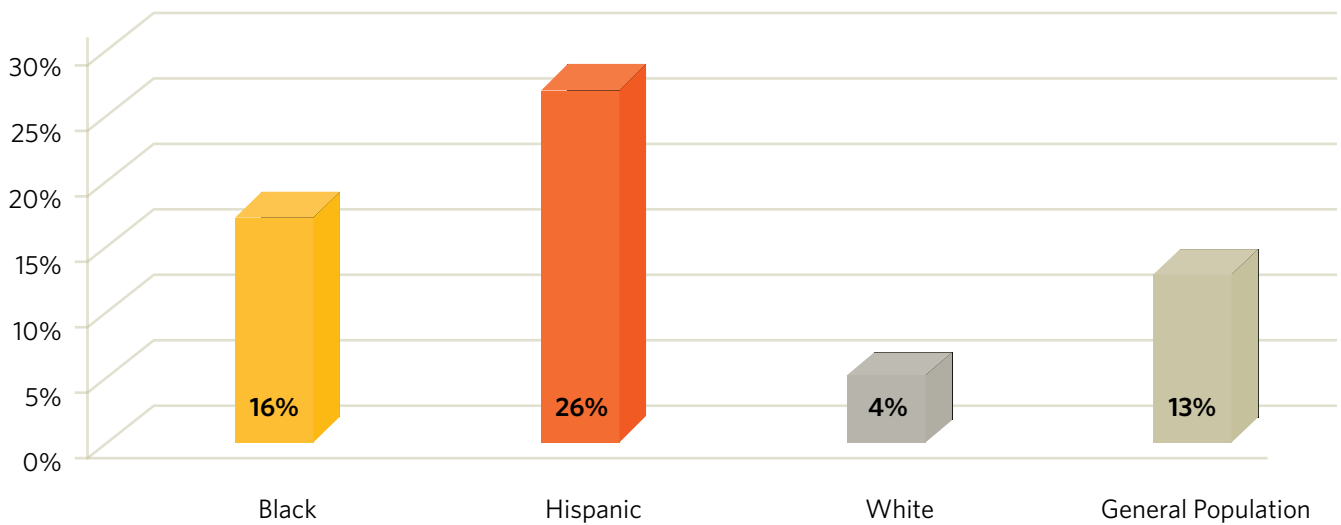
14 An intimate acquaintance is defined as a boyfriend/girlfriend, common-law husband/common-law wife, homosexual relationship, husband/wife, or ex-husband/ex-wife. There is no designation for ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend in the *SHR*.

15 The felony murder category refers to killings that occur in conjunction with the commission of another crime such as rape, robbery, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, prostitution and commercialized vice, other sex offenses, narcotic drug laws, gambling, and other types of unspecified crimes.

16 The category "Gangland-related/gang killings" involves both gangland-related homicides involving adult offenders and victims, representing a type of organized crime killing, as well as juvenile gang killings, which involve youth gangs.

17 Forty-one percent of the recorded gang-related homicides in the 2015 *SHR* were committed in California, which may be in part due to more comprehensive reporting.

Figure 15: Percentage of Homicides Not Related to Another Felony That Were Gang-Related, by Race and Ethnicity, 2015



AGE OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS AND GANG INVOLVEMENT

For all victims, 31 percent of homicide victims were age 24 or younger. For Hispanic victims, 35 percent of homicide victims were age 24 and younger. In comparison, 37 percent of black homicide victims were age 24 and younger and 20 percent of white victims were age 24 and younger.

But for gang-related homicides, 51 percent of the victims were age 24 and younger. For Hispanic homicides that were gang-related, 57 percent were age 24 and younger. In comparison, 49 percent of black gang-related victims were age 24 and younger and 54 percent of white gang-related victims were age 24 or younger.

Figure 16: Victims Age 24 and Younger as a Percentage of All Homicides and Gang-Related Homicides

Race	Percentage of All Homicides, Victims Age 24 and Younger	Percentage of Gang-Related Homicides, Victims Age 24 and Younger
Hispanic	35%	57%
Black	37%	49%
White	20%	54%
All Races	31%	51%

SECTION THREE: CONCLUSION

Hispanics in the United States are disproportionately affected by lethal firearms violence. Because of limited data collection, the true scale of gun violence's effect on Hispanic men, women, and children is not fully known. What cannot be denied is that due to these limits in data collection, the total number of Hispanic victims of gun violence is almost certainly higher than the reported numbers suggest.

Comprehensive, reliable, and continuing public health and criminal justice data is necessary for effective violence prevention policies to save lives, protect families, and ensure healthy communities. This is true not only for the Hispanic population, but for all Americans.

Recognizing this, governmental agencies that collect data on death and injury should obtain complete information on the ethnic origin of individuals in addition to their race. This will ensure complete and accurate data collection on Hispanic victims of lethal violence, aid in violence prevention policies, and save lives. Specific recommendations toward this goal include the following.

- Individual-level ethnic origin information should be captured by all governmental agencies, regardless of department, and at all levels — local, state, and national — for all pertinent users and subjects of agency services.
- Individual-level ethnic origin information should be self-reported and not based solely on a person's surname or other measure.
- All public access data and published reports issued by governmental agencies should include information on ethnic origin in addition to race.
- The U.S. Department of Justice — specifically, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Justice Statistics — should issue periodic or special reports on Hispanic victimization.
- States with a substantial proportion of Hispanic residents should issue periodic or special reports on Hispanic victimization and deaths due to all causes, including violence.

Appendix One: The 50 States and the District of Columbia Hispanic Population Data, 2015¹⁸

State	Hispanic Population	Total Population	Hispanic Share of State Population
Alabama	191,944	4,858,979	4.0
Alaska	51,719	738,432	7.0
Arizona	2,098,511	6,828,065	30.7
Arkansas	207,590	2,978,204	7.0
California	15,184,905	39,144,818	38.8
Colorado	1,165,546	5,456,574	21.4
Connecticut	554,361	3,590,886	15.4
Delaware	85,152	945,934	9.0
District of Columbia	71,453	672,228	10.6
Florida	4,961,905	20,271,272	24.5
Georgia	950,471	10,214,860	9.3
Hawaii	148,457	1,431,603	10.4
Idaho	199,912	1,654,930	12.1
Illinois	2,171,133	12,859,995	16.9
Indiana	437,508	6,619,680	6.6
Iowa	174,068	3,123,899	5.6
Kansas	336,479	2,911,641	11.6
Kentucky	145,175	4,425,092	3.3
Louisiana	227,388	4,670,724	4.9
Maine	20,677	1,329,328	1.6
Maryland	572,526	6,006,401	9.5
Massachusetts	757,059	6,794,422	11.1
Michigan	487,335	9,922,576	4.9
Minnesota	279,277	5,489,594	5.1
Mississippi	85,625	2,992,333	2.9
Missouri	238,070	6,083,672	3.9
Montana	37,183	1,032,949	3.6
Nebraska	196,460	1,896,190	10.4
Nevada	812,952	2,890,845	28.1
New Hampshire	44,321	1,330,608	3.3
New Jersey	1,762,984	8,958,013	19.7
New Mexico	1,002,409	2,085,109	48.1
New York	3,722,097	19,795,791	18.8
North Carolina	912,609	10,042,802	9.1
North Dakota	25,876	756,928	3.4

18 *Facts on U.S. Latinos, 2015*, Antonio Flores, Gustavo López, and Jynnah Radford, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, September 18, 2017 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2017/09/18/facts-on-u-s-latinos-current-data/>). Data obtained from Table 44, "Hispanic population, by state: 2015."

State	Hispanic Population	Total Population	Hispanic Share of State Population
Ohio	408,057	11,613,423	3.5
Oklahoma	396,307	3,911,338	10.1
Oregon	511,475	4,028,977	12.7
Pennsylvania	867,095	12,802,503	6.8
Rhode Island	152,605	1,056,298	14.4
South Carolina	261,580	4,896,146	5.3
South Dakota	29,828	858,469	3.5
Tennessee	334,083	6,600,299	5.1
Texas	10,669,240	27,469,114	38.8
Utah	409,228	2,995,919	13.7
Vermont	10,673	626,042	1.7
Virginia	753,718	8,382,993	9.0
Washington	886,521	7,170,351	12.4
West Virginia	26,881	1,844,128	1.5
Wisconsin	380,548	5,771,337	6.6
Wyoming	57,801	586,107	9.9
Total	56,476,777	321,418,821	17.6

Appendix Two: The 50 States and the District of Columbia Hispanic Firearm Death Data, 2015¹⁹

State	Hispanic Firearm Deaths	Death Rate per 100,000
Alabama	18	8.85
Alaska	*	*
Arizona	160	7.62
Arkansas	10	4.67
California	906	5.97
Colorado	81	6.96
Connecticut	27	4.88
Delaware	*	*
District of Columbia	*	*
Florida	303	6.10
Georgia	63	6.59
Hawaii	*	*
Idaho	13	6.42
Illinois	117	5.38
Indiana	32	7.24
Iowa	*	*
Kansas	34	10.10
Kentucky	12	7.88
Louisiana	23	9.89
Maine	*	*
Maryland	16	2.80
Massachusetts	34	4.48
Michigan	30	6.17
Minnesota	11	3.87
Mississippi	*	*
Missouri	16	6.46
Montana	*	*
Nebraska	*	*
Nevada	63	7.75
New Hampshire	*	*
New Jersey	39	2.21
New Mexico	142	14.18
New York	87	2.33
North Carolina	54	5.89

¹⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's WISQARS (Web-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System) database (<http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>).

State	Hispanic Firearm Deaths	Death Rate per 100,000
North Dakota	*	*
Ohio	16	3.86
Oklahoma	42	10.59
Oregon	22	4.30
Pennsylvania	81	9.28
Rhode Island	*	*
South Carolina	14	5.22
South Dakota	*	*
Tennessee	18	5.29
Texas	660	6.19
Utah	18	4.38
Vermont	*	*
Virginia	23	3.05
Washington	79	8.91
West Virginia	*	*
Wisconsin	18	4.71
Wyoming	*	*
United States	3,332	5.89

* State level counts and rates based on fewer than 10 deaths have been suppressed by the National Center for Health Statistics.

Appendix Three: Change in the Hispanic Population by State, 2000 to 2015²⁰

State	2000 Hispanic Population	2015 Hispanic Population	Change in Hispanic Population, 2000 to 2015	Percent Change, 2000 to 2015
North Dakota	7,429	25,876	18,447	248.3
South Dakota	10,101	29,828	19,727	195.3
Tennessee	116,692	334,083	217,391	186.3
South Carolina	94,652	261,580	166,928	176.4
Alabama	72,152	191,944	119,792	166.0
Kentucky	56,922	145,175	88,253	155.0
Maryland	230,992	572,526	341,534	147.9
Arkansas	85,303	207,590	122,287	143.4
North Carolina	377,084	912,609	535,525	142.0
Mississippi	37,301	85,625	48,324	129.6
Oklahoma	173,746	396,307	222,561	128.1
Virginia	333,482	753,718	420,236	126.0
Delaware	37,811	85,152	47,341	125.2
Georgia	434,375	950,471	516,096	118.8
Iowa	80,204	174,068	93,864	117.0
Pennsylvania	399,736	867,095	467,359	116.9
Nebraska	92,836	196,460	103,624	111.6
West Virginia	12,925	26,881	13,956	108.0
Nevada	393,397	812,952	419,555	106.6
New Hampshire	21,536	44,321	22,785	105.8
Indiana	214,750	437,508	222,758	103.7
Louisiana	111,634	227,388	115,754	103.7
Utah	201,203	409,228	208,025	103.4
Vermont	5,260	10,673	5,413	102.9
Missouri	118,235	238,070	119,835	101.4
Alaska	25,742	51,719	25,977	100.9
Montana	18,568	37,183	18,615	100.3
Idaho	100,271	199,912	99,641	99.4
Washington	444,718	886,521	441,803	99.3
Wisconsin	191,097	380,548	189,451	99.1
Minnesota	142,732	279,277	136,545	95.7
Wyoming	29,751	57,801	28,050	94.3
Maine	10,718	20,677	9,959	92.9

²⁰ *Facts on U.S. Latinos, 2015*, Antonio Flores, Gustavo López, and Jynnah Radford, Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends, September 18, 2017 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2017/09/18/facts-on-u-s-latinos-current-data/>). Data obtained from Table 44A - Trend, "Hispanic population, by state: 1980-2015" with additional calculations by the Violence Policy Center.

State	2000 Hispanic Population	2015 Hispanic Population	Change in Hispanic Population, 2000 to 2015	Percent Change, 2000 to 2015
Oregon	273,209	511,475	238,266	87.2
Ohio	218,350	408,057	189,707	86.9
Florida	2,673,654	4,961,905	2,288,251	85.6
Kansas	186,340	336,479	150,139	80.6
Massachusetts	428,530	757,059	328,529	76.7
Connecticut	319,463	554,361	234,898	73.5
Rhode Island	89,870	152,605	62,735	69.8
Hawaii	87,853	148,457	60,604	69.0
Arizona	1,292,152	2,098,511	806,359	62.4
District of Columbia	44,092	71,453	27,361	62.1
Texas	6,653,338	10,669,240	4,015,902	60.4
Colorado	735,769	1,165,546	429,777	58.4
New Jersey	1,117,604	1,762,984	645,380	57.7
Michigan	330,952	487,335	156,383	47.3
Illinois	1,527,145	2,171,133	643,988	42.2
California	10,928,470	15,184,905	4,256,435	38.9
New Mexico	759,343	1,002,409	243,066	32.0
New York	2,854,991	3,722,097	867,106	30.4
Total	35,204,480	56,476,777	21,272,297	60.4



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