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Violence Policy Center

Black Homicide Victimization in the United States

An Analysis of 2018 Homicide Data

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THE EPIDEMIC OF BLACK HOMICIDE VICTIMIZATION

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

This study examines the problem of Black homicide victimization at the state level by analyzing unpublished Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) data for Black homicide victimization submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).¹ The information used for this report is for the year 2018 and is the most recent data available. This is the first analysis of the 2018 data on Black homicide victims to offer breakdowns of cases in the 10 states with the highest Black homicide victimization rates and the first to rank the states by the rate of Black homicide victims.

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

The FBI is scheduled to make dramatic and disturbing changes in the way it collects and reports crime data. The changes would drastically reduce the availability of state and local data and deprive researchers access to detailed data that can help prevent gun violence and other crime. The FBI has announced that beginning in 2021, it will stop collecting detailed crime data from police agencies that are not ready to participate in the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), an updated and expanded version of the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) system. While full implementation of NIBRS would be an improvement on the current UCR system, for 2019 only about half of law enforcement agencies that participated in the UCR program submitted their information through the new system. Instead of allowing local agencies who miss the deadline to continue to report crime data via the UCR, the FBI will partner with the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to create national estimates to account for the missing information. BJS forecasts that the estimates will cover approximately 25 percent of the more than 16,000 law enforcement agencies in the United States that report to the UCR. These changes would represent a dramatic step backwards and hobble efforts to understand and prevent gun violence, domestic violence, homicide, and, in fact, all types of violent crime.

- 1 The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program collects basic information on serious crimes from participating police agencies and records supplementary information about the circumstances of homicides in its unpublished Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR). Submitted monthly, supplementary data consists of: the age, sex, race, and ethnicity of both victims and offenders; the types of weapons used; the relationship of victims to offenders; and, the circumstances of the homicides. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, supplementary data are provided on only a subset of homicide cases. Additionally, SHR data are updated throughout the year as homicide reports are forwarded by state UCR programs.
- 2 In 2018, as in years past, the state of Florida did not submit any data to the FBI Supplementary Homicide Report. Also in 2018, data from Alabama was not available from the FBI. Data from Florida and Alabama was not requested individually because the difference in collection techniques would create a bias in the study results.

NATIONAL DATA

According to the FBI SHR data, in 2018 there were 7,426 Black homicide victims in the United States. The homicide rate among Black victims in the United States was 18.18 per 100,000. For that year, the overall national homicide rate was 4.92 per 100,000. For whites, the national homicide rate was 2.83 per 100,000. Additional information contained in the FBI SHR data on Black homicide victimization is below.

SEX

Of the 7,426 Black homicide victims, 6,314 (85 percent) were male, 1,111 (15 percent) were female, and one was of unknown sex (less than one percent). The homicide rate for Black male victims was 28.48 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall rate for male homicide victims was 7.17 per 100,000. For white male homicide victims it was 3.76 per 100,000. The homicide rate for female Black victims was 4.63 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall rate for female homicide victims was 1.93 per 100,000. For white female homicide victims it was 1.48 per 100,000.

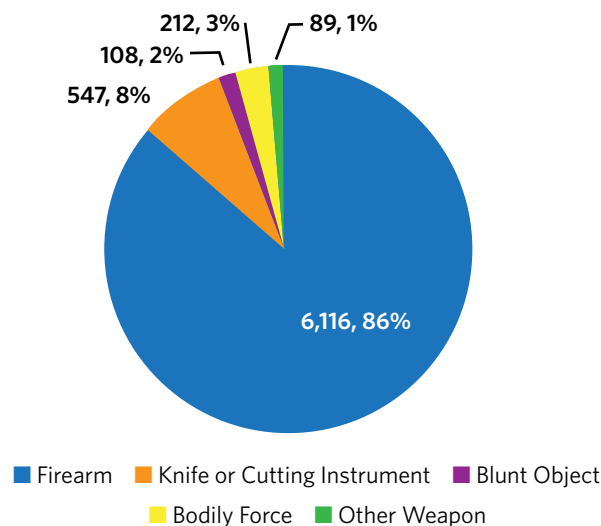
AGE

Five hundred twenty Black homicide victims (seven percent) were less than 18 years old and 166 Black homicide victims (two percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 32 years old.

MOST COMMON WEAPONS

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 86 percent of Black victims (6,116 out of 7,072) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 66 percent (4,024 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 547 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 212 victims killed by bodily force, and 108 victims killed by a blunt object. In comparison, 67 percent of white victims and 77 percent of victims of all races were killed with guns.

Weapons Used in Homicides Involving Black Victims



SPOTLIGHT ON MISSOURI

Missouri is experiencing a prolonged epidemic of Black homicide victimization.

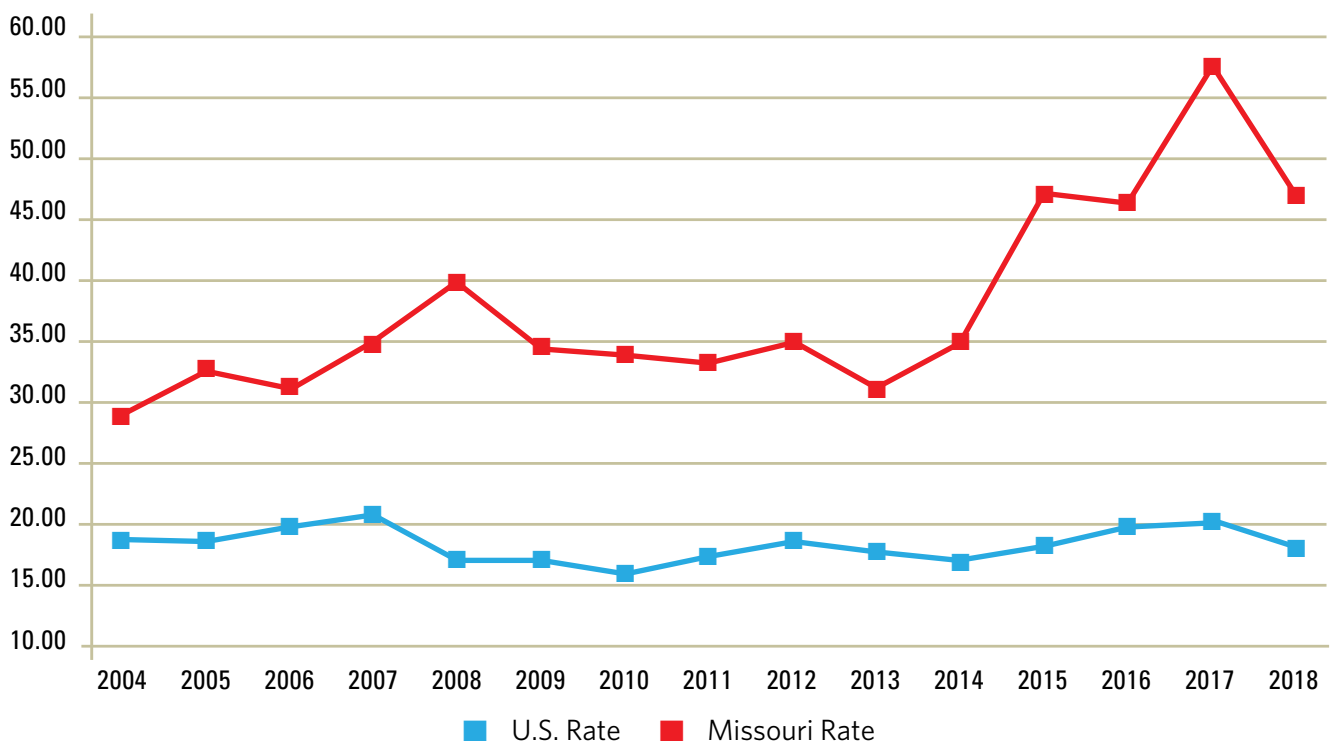
In 2018, Missouri had the highest Black homicide victimization rate in the nation for the fifth year in a row. Missouri has ranked either first or second in the nation for Black homicide victimization 12 years in a row.

Even those grim statistics do not reveal the true scope of the problem in Missouri. Despite already having the highest Black homicide victimization rate in the country in 2014, *from 2014 to 2018 the Black homicide victimization rate in Missouri increased by 36 percent*. Missouri's 2018 Black homicide victimization rate of 47.41 is more than two and a half times the national Black homicide victimization rate, and nearly 17 times the national homicide victimization rate for white victims.

Missouri's Black homicide victimization rates in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 are the four highest rates in the 15-year history of this study.

The epidemic of Black homicide victimization in Missouri is a crisis that should be a top priority for lawmakers in the state, and it recently became an area of focus by the state's news media. In the fall of 2020, as the result of the state's consistently high ranking, a new two-year collaborative reporting project, "Gun Violence in Missouri - Seeking Solutions," involving the *Kansas City Star*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and *Springfield News-Leader* was initiated. With more than \$500,000 in outside funding, the goal of the project was detailed in *Gateway Journalism Review*, "Instead of merely recounting a seemingly endless stream of shootings on a daily or weekly basis, the idea was to do in-depth reporting on why Missouri ranks so high on the list, not only of deaths involving minorities but also violent crime generally." As *Star* editor Ian Cummings told the publication, "We wanted to go beyond daily reporting and look at a big issue - its causes and consequences. We are looking for solutions, pushing coverage of what we have done before."

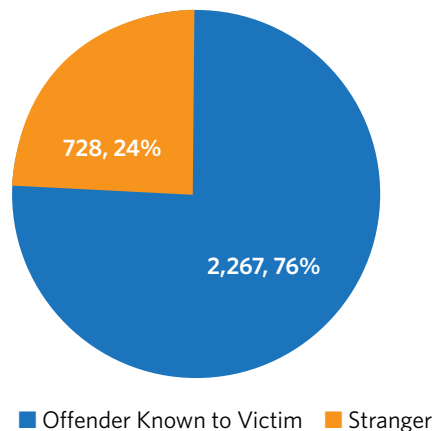
Black Homicide Victimization Rate in Missouri and the United States 2004 - 2018



VICTIM/OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 76 percent of Black victims (2,267 out of 2,995) were killed by someone they knew. Seven hundred twenty-eight victims were killed by strangers.

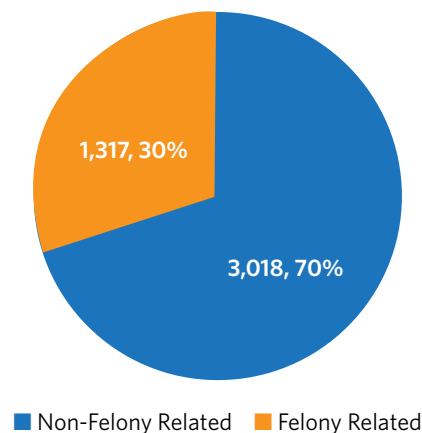
Victim/Offender Relationship



CIRCUMSTANCE

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 70 percent (3,018 out of 4,335) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 51 percent (1,531 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender, and 11 percent (321 homicides) were reported to be gang-related.

Circumstance



There were 110 incidents reported as justifiable homicides of Black victims killed by law enforcement in 2018. The SHR does not specifically identify killings by law enforcement that are not ruled justifiable. In the wake of controversial incidents of Black citizens killed by police, media reports have focused on the lack of reliable statistics on lethal incidents involving law enforcement. In December 2015, the FBI announced that it would

dramatically expand its data collection on violent police encounters by 2017.³ In October 2016, the U.S. Department of Justice outlined a plan to improve the collection of law enforcement use of force data.⁴ The FBI has begun to release online very limited information on law enforcement use of force incidents. In addition, the agency notes that in 2020 only 5,030 out of 18,514 federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies throughout the nation participated and provided use of force data. The officers employed by these agencies represent 42 percent of federal, state, local, and tribal sworn officers in the nation.⁵

STATE RANKINGS

In 2018, the national Black homicide victimization rate was 18.18 per 100,000. For that year, Missouri ranked first as the state with the highest Black homicide victimization rate. Its rate of 47.41 per 100,000 was more than two and a half times the national average for Black homicide victimization. The 10 states with the highest Black homicide victimization rates are listed in the following chart. In order to ensure rankings contain stable rates, states with 10 or fewer Black homicide victims were not included in the state rankings for 2018. These victims are included in the U.S. total and rate. While not ranked, the number of deaths and corresponding Black homicide victimization rate for these states are included in Appendix Two.

Additional information for each of the states ranked in the top 10 can be found in Appendix One, including: age and sex of victims; most common weapons used; relationship of victim to offender; and, the circumstances of the homicides. According to the SHR data, for states with more than 10 victims, 20 states had a Black homicide victimization rate higher than the national per capita rate of 18.18 per 100,000.

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

NUMBER OF BLACK HOMICIDE VICTIMS AND RATES BY STATE IN 2018, RANKED BY RATE

Ranking	State	Number of Homicides	Homicide Rate per 100,000
1	Missouri	366	47.41
2	Alaska	16	43.58
3	Indiana	234	32.81
4	Nevada	110	32.22
5	Illinois	623	32.11
6	Tennessee	330	27.53
7	Pennsylvania	448	27.45
8	Louisiana	424	27.23
9	Arkansas	132	26.95
10	Michigan	385	25.73

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

4 “Justice Department Outlines Plan to Enable Nationwide Collection of Use of Force Data,” Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs, October 13, 2016 (<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-outlines-plan-enable-nationwide-collection-use-force-data>).

5 Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime Data Explorer, Law Enforcement Collections (<https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/officers/national/united-states/uof>).

CONCLUSION

Black Americans are disproportionately affected by homicide. For the year 2018, Blacks represented 14 percent of the nation's population, yet accounted for 50 percent of all homicide victims.⁶

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 in the Black community.

At the same time, the firearms industry, looking to expand beyond its shrinking base of white male gun owners, has launched a marketing campaign focusing on Blacks and Latinos.⁷ If successful, such efforts can only increase gun death and injury in these communities.

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

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

6 FBI Supplementary Homicide Report 2018, U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

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

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

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

Missouri

There were 366 Black homicide victims in Missouri in 2018.

The homicide rate among Black victims in Missouri was 47.41 per 100,000 in 2018.

Ranked 1st in the United States

Age	Twenty-three homicide victims (6 percent) were less than 18 years old and 3 victims (1 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 32 years old.
Sex	Out of 366 homicide victims, 307 were male and 59 were female.
Most Common Weapons	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 93 percent of victims (332 out of 357) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 46 percent (153 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 168 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 15 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 4 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, 83 percent of victims (109 out of 132) were killed by someone they knew. Twenty-three victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 55 percent (82 out of 149) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 77 percent (63 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Alaska

There were 16 Black homicide victims in Alaska in 2018.

The homicide rate among Black victims in Alaska was 43.58 per 100,000 in 2018.

Ranked 2nd in the United States

Age	The average age was 38 years old.
Sex	Out of 16 homicide victims, 14 were male and 2 were female.
Most Common Weapons	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 75 percent of victims (12 out of 16) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 8 percent (1 victim) were killed with handguns. There were 11 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 2 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 1 victim killed by a blunt object, and 1 victim killed by bodily force.
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 71 percent of victims (10 out of 14) were killed by someone they knew. Four victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 56 percent (9 out of 16) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 67 percent (6 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Indiana

There were 234 Black homicide victims in Indiana in 2018.

The homicide rate among Black victims in Indiana was 32.81 per 100,000 in 2018.

Ranked 3rd in the United States

Age	Twenty-one homicide victims (9 percent) were less than 18 years old and 5 victims (2 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 31 years old.
Sex	Out of 234 homicide victims, 202 were male and 32 were female.
Most Common Weapons	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 88 percent of victims (201 out of 228) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 43 percent (86 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 104 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 14 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 5 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, 80 percent of victims (74 out of 92) were killed by someone they knew. Eighteen victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 54 percent (87 out of 161) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 52 percent (45 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Nevada

There were 110 Black homicide victims in Nevada in 2018.

The homicide rate among Black victims in Nevada was 32.22 per 100,000 in 2018.

Ranked 4th in the United States

Age	Twelve homicide victims (11 percent) were less than 18 years old and 1 victim (1 percent) was 65 years of age or older. The average age was 30 years old.
Sex	Out of 110 homicide victims, 92 were male and 18 were female.
Most Common Weapons	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 83 percent of victims (89 out of 107) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 27 percent (24 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 64 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 9 victims killed by bodily force, 6 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, and 2 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 (46 out of 61) were killed by someone they knew. Fifteen victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 53 percent (32 out of 60) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 50 percent (16 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Illinois

There were 623 Black homicide victims in Illinois in 2018.

The homicide rate among Black victims in Illinois was 32.11 per 100,000 in 2018.

Ranked 5th in the United States

Age	Fifty-one homicide victims (8 percent) were less than 18 years old and 16 victims (3 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 31 years old.
Sex	Out of 623 homicide victims, 541 were male and 82 were female.
Most Common Weapons	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 90 percent of victims (544 out of 606) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 83 percent (454 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 80 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 42 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 8 victims killed by bodily force, and 8 victims killed by a blunt object.
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 74 percent of victims (101 out of 136) were killed by someone they knew. Thirty-five victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 87 percent (344 out of 395) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 22 percent (74 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Tennessee

There were 330 Black homicide victims in Tennessee in 2018.

The homicide rate among Black victims in Tennessee was 27.53 per 100,000 in 2018.

Ranked 6th in the United States

Age	Twenty-five homicide victims (8 percent) were less than 18 years old and 10 victims (3 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 31 years old.
Sex	Out of 330 homicide victims, 277 were male and 53 were female.
Most Common Weapons	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 89 percent of victims (286 out of 320) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 65 percent (185 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 85 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 14 victims killed by bodily force, 9 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, and 8 victims killed by a blunt object.
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 69 percent of victims (135 out of 195) were killed by someone they knew. Sixty victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 71 percent (113 out of 160) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 73 percent (83 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Pennsylvania

There were 448 Black homicide victims in Pennsylvania in 2018.

The homicide rate among Black victims in Pennsylvania was 27.45 per 100,000 in 2018.

Ranked 7th in the United States

Age	Thirty-one homicide victims (7 percent) were less than 18 years old and 9 victims (2 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 31 years old.
Sex	Out of 448 homicide victims, 392 were male and 56 were female.
Most Common Weapons	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 88 percent of victims (376 out of 429) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 88 percent (332 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 34 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 31 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 13 victims 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, 83 percent of victims (107 out of 129) were killed by someone they knew. Twenty-two victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 50 percent (201 out of 404) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 73 percent (146 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Louisiana

There were 424 Black homicide victims in Louisiana in 2018.

The homicide rate among Black victims in Louisiana was 27.23 per 100,000 in 2018.

Ranked 8th in the United States

Age	Twenty-five homicide victims (6 percent) were less than 18 years old and 11 victims (3 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 32 years old.
Sex	Out of 424 homicide victims, 369 were male and 55 were female.
Most Common Weapons	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 91 percent of victims (378 out of 415) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 55 percent (208 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 153 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 16 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 7 victims killed by a blunt object, and 6 victims killed by bodily force.
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 89 percent of victims (143 out of 161) were killed by someone they knew. Eighteen victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 65 percent (150 out of 232) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 61 percent (91 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Arkansas

There were 132 Black homicide victims in Arkansas in 2018.

The homicide rate among Black victims in Arkansas was 26.95 per 100,000 in 2018.

Ranked 9th in the United States

Age	Nine homicide victims (7 percent) were less than 18 years old and 2 victims (2 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 34 years old.
Sex	Out of 132 homicide victims, 112 were male and 20 were female.
Most Common Weapons	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 92 percent of victims (110 out of 120) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 46 percent (51 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 55 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 5 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, and 2 victims killed by a blunt object.
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 83 percent of victims (35 out of 42) were killed by someone they knew. Seven victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 75 percent (54 out of 72) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 43 percent (23 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Michigan

There were 385 Black homicide victims in Michigan in 2018.

The homicide rate among Black victims in Michigan was 25.73 per 100,000 in 2018.

Ranked 10th in the United States

Age	Twenty-seven homicide victims (7 percent) were less than 18 years old and 11 victims (3 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 32 years old.
Sex	Out of 385 homicide victims, 318 were male and 67 were female.
Most Common Weapons	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 89 percent of victims (295 out of 330) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 41 percent (121 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 157 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 15 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, 86 percent of victims (89 out of 104) were killed by someone they knew. Fifteen victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 78 percent (108 out of 139) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 43 percent (46 homicides) involved an argument between the victim and the offender.

United States

There were 7,426 Black homicide victims in the United States in 2018.

The homicide rate among Black victims in the United States was 18.18 per 100,000 in 2018.

Age Five hundred twenty homicide victims (7 percent) were less than 18 years old and 166 victims (2 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 32 years old.

Sex Out of 7,426 homicide victims, 6,314 were male, 1,111 were female, and 1 was of unknown sex.

Most Common Weapons For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 86 percent of victims (6,116 out of 7,072) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 66 percent (4,024 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 1,822 victims killed with firearms, type not stated. There were 547 victims killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 212 victims killed by bodily force, and 108 victims killed by a blunt object.

Victim/Offender Relationship For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 76 percent of victims (2,267 out of 2,995) were killed by someone they knew. Seven hundred twenty-eight victims were killed by strangers.

Circumstance For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 70 percent (3,018 out of 4,335) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 51 percent (1,531 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Appendix Two: Number of Black Homicide Victims and Rates by State in 2018

State Ranking by Rate	State	Number of Homicides	Homicide Rate per 100,000
	Alabama	N/A	N/A
2	Alaska	16	43.58
16	Arizona	82	19.81
9	Arkansas	132	26.95
23	California	433	15.19
19	Colorado	56	18.47
35	Connecticut	42	9.14
22	Delaware	36	15.44
	Florida	N/A	N/A
27 (tie)	Georgia	463	13.23
*	Hawaii	1	2.30
*	Idaho	1	4.48
5	Illinois	623	32.11
3	Indiana	234	32.81
37	Iowa	13	8.85
17	Kansas	39	18.83
12	Kentucky	93	22.94
8	Louisiana	424	27.23
*	Maine	2	7.51
15	Maryland	388	20.08
32	Massachusetts	68	10.16
10	Michigan	385	25.73
33	Minnesota	42	9.93
30	Mississippi	125	10.91
1	Missouri	366	47.41
*	Montana	0	0.00
27 (tie)	Nebraska	15	13.23
4	Nevada	110	32.22
*	New Hampshire	1	3.54
26	New Jersey	194	13.82
18	New Mexico	12	18.54
36	New York	325	8.94

* In order to ensure rankings contain stable rates, states with 10 or fewer Black homicide victims were not included in the state rankings for 2018. These victims are included in the U.S. total and rate.

State Ranking by Rate	State	Number of Homicides	Homicide Rate per 100,000
29	North Carolina	288	12.03
*	North Dakota	0	0.00
14	Ohio	331	20.30
13	Oklahoma	73	20.64
31	Oregon	13	10.71
7	Pennsylvania	448	27.45
*	Rhode Island	7	7.00
20	South Carolina	260	18.32
*	South Dakota	2	7.87
6	Tennessee	330	27.53
25	Texas	535	14.07
*	Utah	3	5.12
*	Vermont	1	8.79
24	Virginia	252	14.21
34	Washington	40	9.92
21	West Virginia	13	17.28
11	Wisconsin	109	25.53
*	Wyoming	0	0.00
U.S. Total		7,426	18.18

* In order to ensure rankings contain stable rates, states with 10 or fewer Black homicide victims were not included in the state rankings for 2018. These victims are included in the U.S. total and rate.



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