

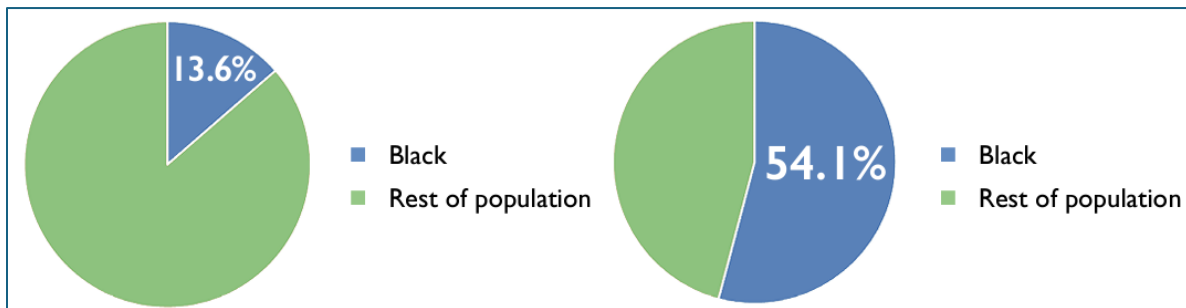


# Black Homicide Victimization in the United States: An Analysis of 2022 Homicide Data

This July 2024 Violence Policy Center ([www.vpc.org](http://www.vpc.org)) study describes the magnitude of Black homicide victimization in the United States with a specific focus on the use of firearms. The full study can be found [here](#). Prior editions of this annual study can be found [here](#).

## Key Findings

- In 2022 there were **13,446 Black homicide victims** in the United States. Black Americans represented 13.6% of the U.S. population, **yet accounted for 54.1% of all homicide victims**.



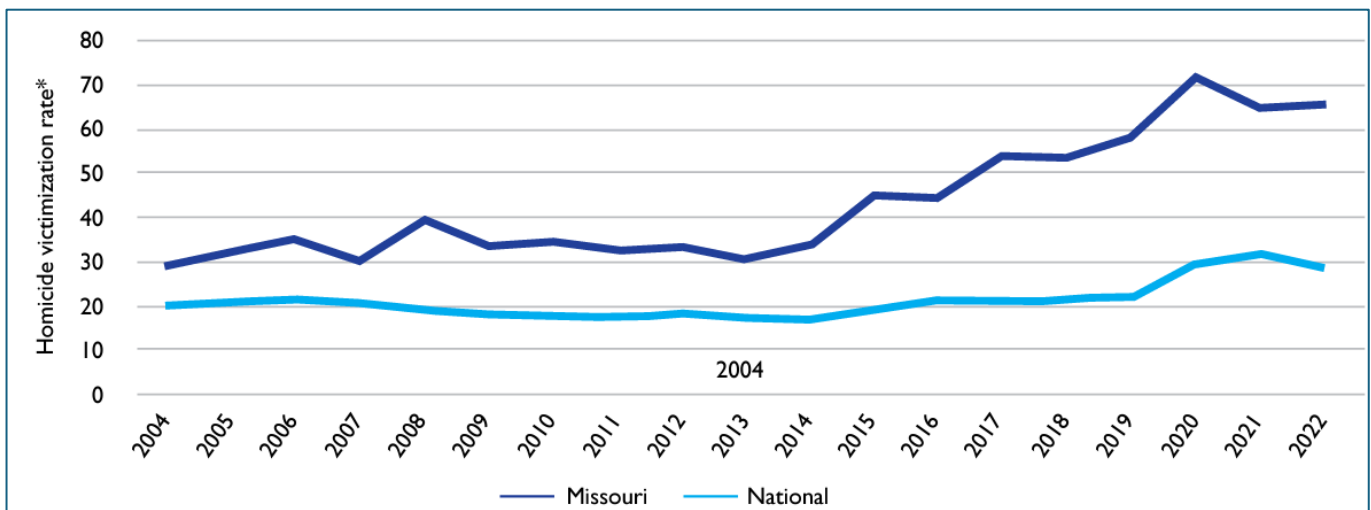
Black percentage of U.S. population (left figure); Black percentage of U.S. homicide victims (right figure), 2022<sup>1</sup>

- The majority of Black homicide victims in the United States were shot and killed with guns** (87.4% or 11,750 out of 13,446). There were 696 victims killed with knives or other sharp instruments.
- On average, **more than 36 Black Americans died each day from homicide**. Of these, **32 died from gun homicides**.
- In 2022, the 10 states with the highest Black homicide victimization rates were: Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Oregon, Louisiana, Kentucky, Indiana, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, and Mississippi.

## Number of Black homicide victims and rates by state in 2022, ranked by rate

Ranking	State	Homicide count	Homicide rate
1	Missouri	481	65.7
2	Wisconsin	231	58.6
3	Illinois	945	50.8
4	Oregon	49	46.5
5	Louisiana	695	45.7
6	Kentucky	177	45.2
7	Indiana	323	44.3
8	Arkansas	203	42.1
9	Pennsylvania	680	41.6
10	Mississippi	451	40.4

- **The Black homicide victimization rate in the United States was nearly four times the overall national victimization rate** and nearly seven times the white homicide victimization rate. In 2022, the Black homicide victimization rate was 29.0 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall national homicide victimization rate was 7.7 per 100,000. For white Americans, the national homicide victimization rate was 4.2 per 100,000.
- Of the 13,446 Black homicide victims, 11,528 (85.7%) were male and 1,918 (14.3%) were female.
- **The Black male homicide victimization rate in the United States was more than four times the overall male victimization rate and more than eight times the white male homicide victimization rate.** In 2022, the homicide victimization rate for Black male victims was 50.5 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall rate for male homicide victims was 12.3 per 100,000 and the rate for white male homicide victims was 6.2 per 100,000.
- **The Black female homicide victimization rate in the United States was nearly three times the overall female victimization rate and nearly four times the white female homicide victimization rate.** In 2022, the homicide victimization rate for Black female victims was 8.2 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall rate for female homicide victims was 3.0 per 100,000 and the rate for white female homicide victims was 2.2 per 100,000.
- For the past 16 years, the state of **Missouri has ranked either first or second in the nation for Black homicide victimization.**



Black homicide victimization rate in Missouri and the U.S., 2004 — 2022<sup>1</sup>

\*Rates are adjusted for age and per 100,000

1. CDC WISQARS Fatal and Nonfatal Injury Reports. Accessed between May 13-28, 2024. Available at: <https://wisqars.cdc.gov/reports/>.