

Black Homicide Victimization in the United States

An Analysis of 2023 Homicide Data



Violence Policy Center

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The Epidemic Of Black Homicide Victimization

The devastation homicide inflicts on Black teens and adults in our nation is an ongoing crisis, yet it is all too often ignored outside of impacted communities.

This study examines Black homicide victimization in the United States by analyzing two data sources: 2023 WISQARS mortality data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and crime data submitted by states to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Prior editions of this report used exclusively FBI crime data. However, in January of 2021 the FBI changed the way crime data are collected — which negatively impacted the reliability of data submitted by some states. As a result, in this study (as in the prior edition which analyzed 2022 data) the more comprehensive and reliable CDC data is used to present information on victim mortality on the national and state levels, rank the 10 states with the highest victimization rates, and detail firearm and other weapon use. FBI crime data is utilized to describe the victim and offender relationship as well as homicide circumstances (information not available in WISQARS) on the national level and for the 10 states with the highest victimization rates. FBI crime data reporting varies by state, so while this report publishes the information that is available, the data may not be entirely representative of crime patterns in a given state.

National Data

According to CDC mortality data, in 2023 there were 12,276 Black homicide victims in the United States (Table 1). The homicide rate^a among Black victims in the United States was 26.6 per 100,000.

^a All rates presented in this study are per 100,000 and adjusted for age

For that year, the national homicide rate was 7.1 per 100,000. For white victims, the national homicide rate was 3.9 per 100,000. The Black homicide victimization rate was nearly four times the overall homicide victimization rate (26.6 per 100,000 compared to 7.1 per 100,000) and nearly seven times the white homicide victimization rate (26.6 per 100,000 compared to 3.9 per 100,000).

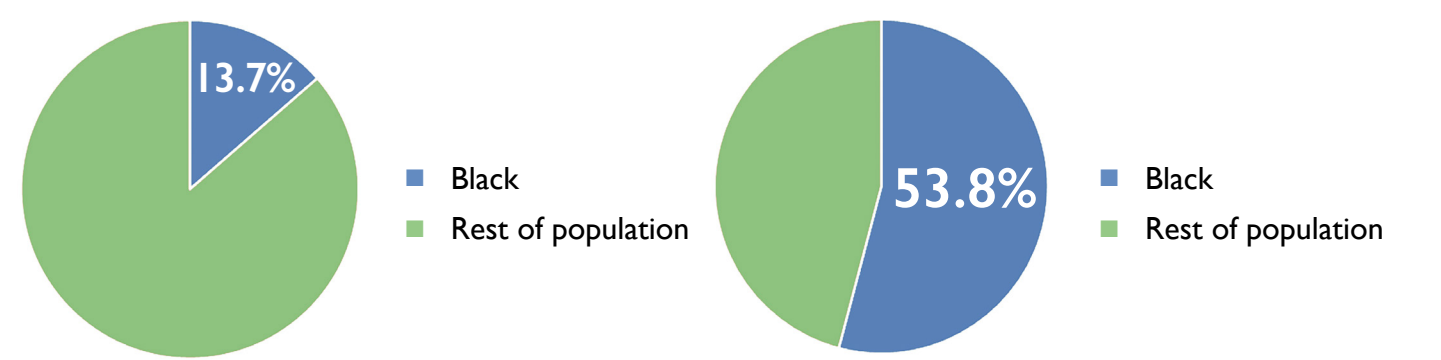
Firearms are more commonly used in homicides with Black victims compared to victims of other races. In 2023, 86.0 percent of Black homicide victims were killed with firearms, compared to 70.1 percent of white victims. In addition, nearly 60 percent of all firearm homicide victims were Black.

TABLE 1. Homicides and firearm homicides by race, 2023¹

	Total homicides	Homicide rate	Firearm homicides	Firearm homicide rate	Percentage of homicides that are firearm homicides
Black	12,276 (53.8%)	26.6	10,563 (58.9%)	22.8	86.0%
White	9,375 (41.1%)	3.9	6,573 (36.7%)	2.8	70.1%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	391 (1.7%)	8.9	246 (1.4%)	5.6	62.9%
Asian ^b	394 (1.7%)	1.7	255 (1.4%)	1.1	64.7%
More than one race	393 (1.7%)	3.8	290 (1.6%)	2.8	73.8%
Total	22,829 (100.0%)	7.1	17,927 (100.0%)	5.6	78.5%

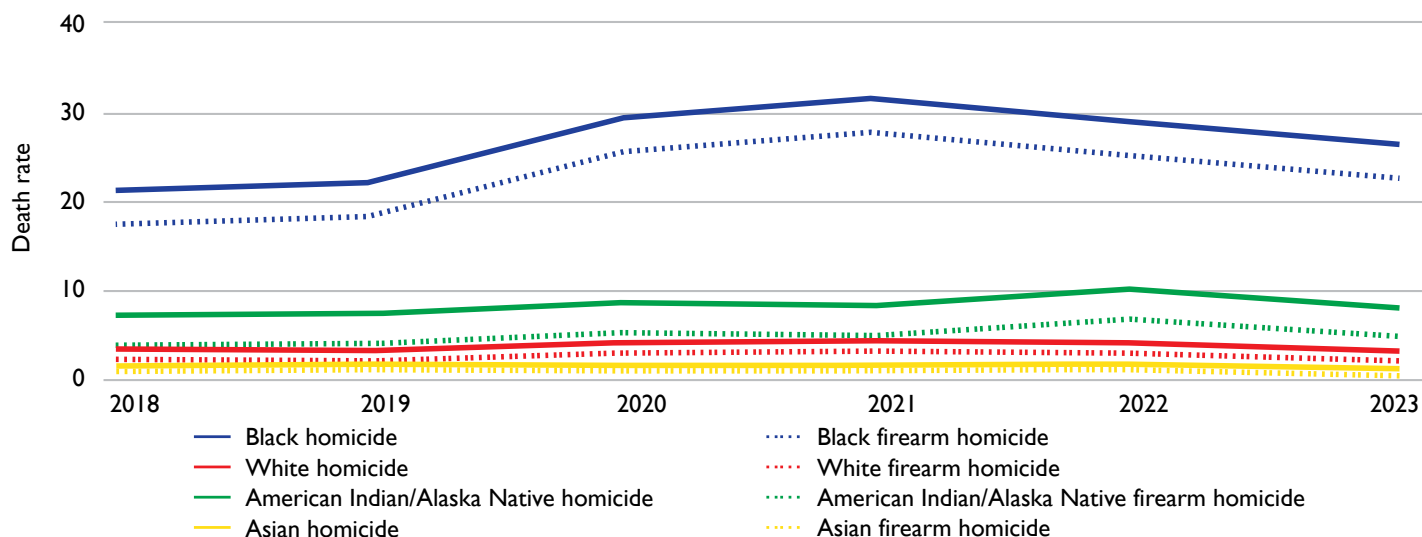
These racial disparities are particularly concerning when considering the racial breakdown of the United States population. While only 13.7 percent of the overall U.S. population is Black, more than half of all homicide victims in 2023 were Black (53.8 percent) (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1. Black percentage of United States population (left figure); Black percentage of homicide victims (right figure), 2023¹



^b The category ‘Asian’ in this report includes Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders

FIGURE 2. Homicide and firearm homicide rates by race, 2018 — 2023¹



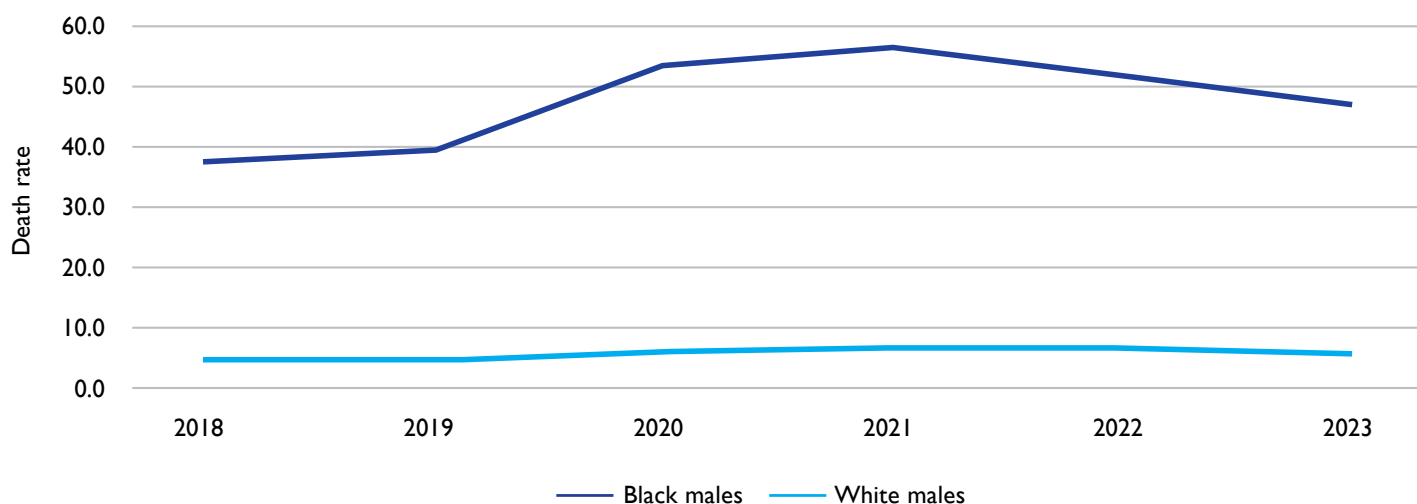
After increasing between 2018 and 2021, both homicide and firearm homicide rates decreased between 2021 and 2023 in the Black population (Figure 2). However, the homicide and firearm homicide rates in 2023 remain substantially higher than rates in 2018 — 25 percent higher for homicide (21.2 per 100,000 in 2018 compared to 26.6 per 100,000 in 2023) and 30 percent higher for firearm homicide (17.6 per 100,000 in 2018 compared to 22.8 per 100,000 in 2023).

Homicide was the number one cause of death among Black youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in the United States in 2023, and the second leading cause of death among Black individuals ages one to nine and 25 to 34.² In contrast, homicide was the third leading cause of death among White youth and young adults ages 15 to 24 in 2023 and the fourth leading cause of death among white children between the ages of one and nine years old.

Sex

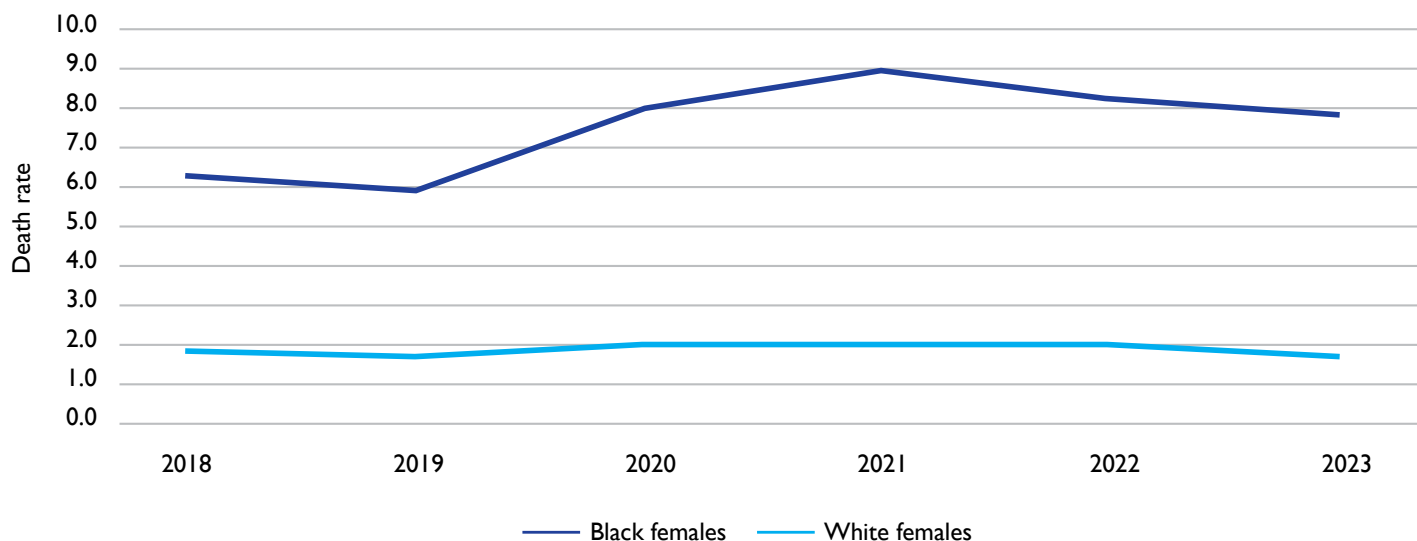
Of the 12,276 Black homicide victims, 10,464 (85.2 percent) were male and 1,812 (14.8 percent) were female. The homicide rate for Black male victims was more than four times the overall rate for male homicide victims (46.1 per 100,000 compared to 11.3 per 100,00) and more than eight times the rate for white male homicide victims (46.1 per 100,000 compared to 5.7 per 100,000) (Table 2). Figure 3 shows the disparity in homicide rates for white and Black male victims. While homicide rates remained relatively stable for white males between 2018 and 2023, rates increased drastically for Black males between 2019 and 2021, before decreasing in more recent years.

FIGURE 3. Homicide rates among males by race, 2018 — 2023¹



The homicide rate in 2023 for Black female victims was nearly three times the overall rate for female homicide victims (7.8 per 100,000 compared to 2.8 per 100,000) and more than four times the rate for white female homicide victims (7.8 per 100,000 compared to 1.9 per 100,000). The Black male homicide victimization rate was nearly six times the Black female homicide victimization rate (46.1 per 100,000 compared to 7.8 per 100,000). Homicide rates remained relatively stable for white females between 2018 and 2023. Yet, similar to Black males, rates increased drastically for Black females between 2019 and 2021 (Figure 4). Homicide rates have been decreasing more slowly for Black females compared to Black males in recent years — between 2021 and 2023 the homicide rate decreased 12.4 percent for Black females compared to 16.5 percent for Black males.

FIGURE 4. Homicide rates among females by race, 2018 — 2023¹



Both male and female Black victims are more likely to be killed with firearms compared to their white counterparts. In 2023, 73.3 percent of white male homicide victims were killed with firearms compared to 88.1 percent of Black male victims, while 61.0 percent of white female victims were killed with firearms compared to 74.0 percent of Black female victims.

TABLE 2. Homicides and firearm homicides by race and sex, 2023¹

Male	Overall homicide count	Overall homicide rate	Firearm homicide count	Firearm homicide rate	Percentage of homicides that are firearm homicides
Race					
Black	10,464 (57.3%)	46.1	9,223 (61.8%)	40.4	88.1%
White	6,960 (38.1%)	5.7	5,100 (34.2%)	4.3	73.3%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	307 (1.7%)	13.7	195 (1.3%)	8.6	63.5%
Asian	246 (1.3%)	2.2	181 (1.2%)	1.6	73.6%
More than one race	290 (1.6%)	5.8	221 (1.5%)	4.4	76.2%
Total	18,267 (100.0%)	11.3	14,920 (100.0%)	9.3	81.7%

Female	Overall homicide count	Overall homicide rate	Firearm homicide count	Firearm homicide rate	Percentage of homicides that are firearm homicides
Race					
Black	1,812 (39.7%)	7.8	1,340 (44.6%)	5.7	74.0%
White	2,415 (52.9%)	1.9	1,473 (49.0%)	1.2	61.0%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	84 (1.8%)	3.8	51 (1.7%)	2.4	60.7%
Asian	148 (3.2%)	1.2	74 (2.5%)	0.6	50.0%
More than one race	103 (2.3%)	1.9	69 (2.3%)	1.3	67.0%
Total	4,562 (100.0%)	2.8	3,007 (100.0%)	1.9	65.9%

Age

Among all Black homicide victims in 2023, 1,289 were under the age of 18 (10.5 percent) and 2,904 were ages 18 to 24 (23.7 percent). Three hundred and forty-one Black homicide victims (2.8 percent) were 65 years of age or older.

A slightly higher percentage of Black male victims were under the age of 18 compared to white male victims (9.7 percent compared to 8.9 percent), while a lower percentage of Black male victims were age 65 and older compared to their white counterparts (2.4 percent compared to 7.7 percent, Figure 5). The same pattern was seen among female homicide victims — 14.8 percent of Black female victims were under the age of 18 compared to 9.5 percent of white female victims, and 5.1 percent of Black female victims were age 65 and older compared to 16.1 percent for white female victims (Figure 6).

FIGURE 5. Male homicide victim age by race, 2023¹

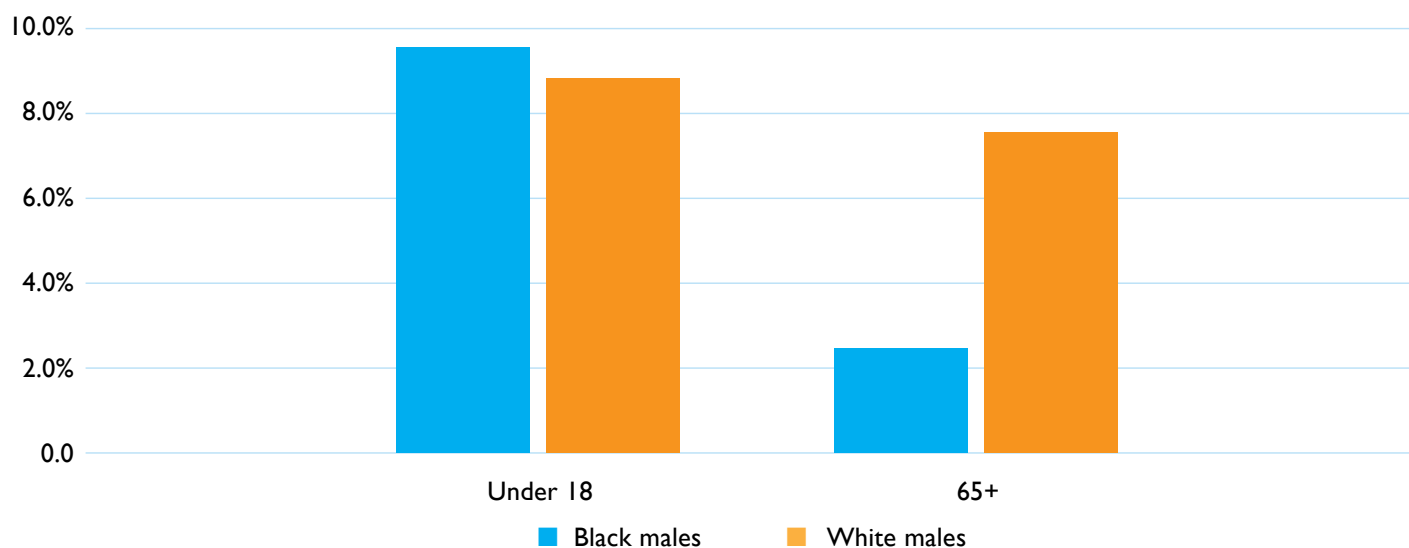
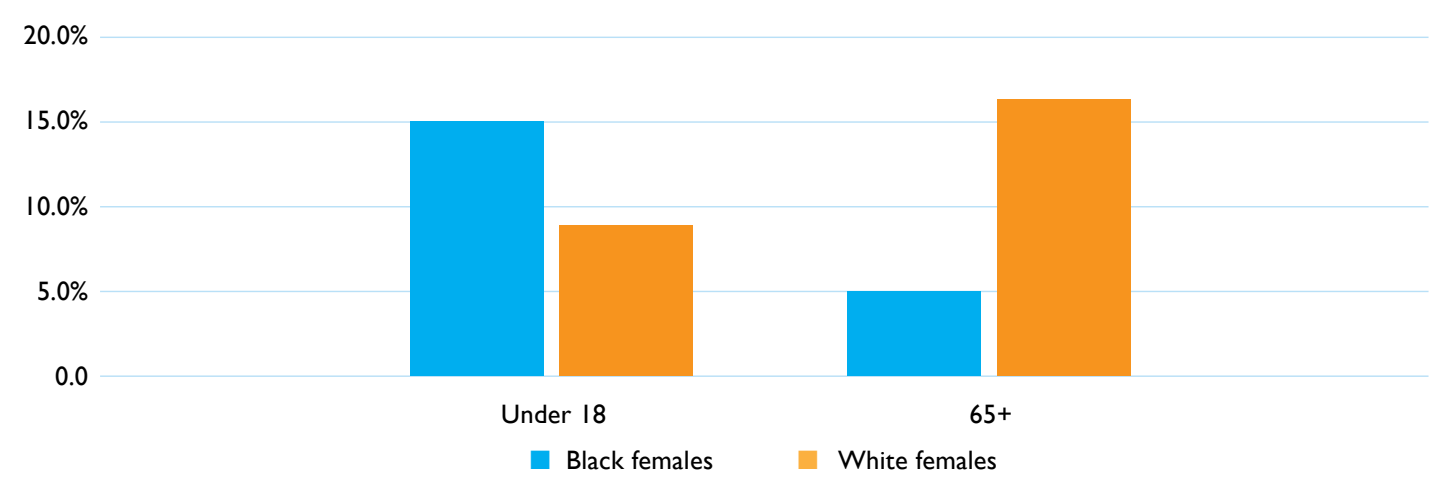


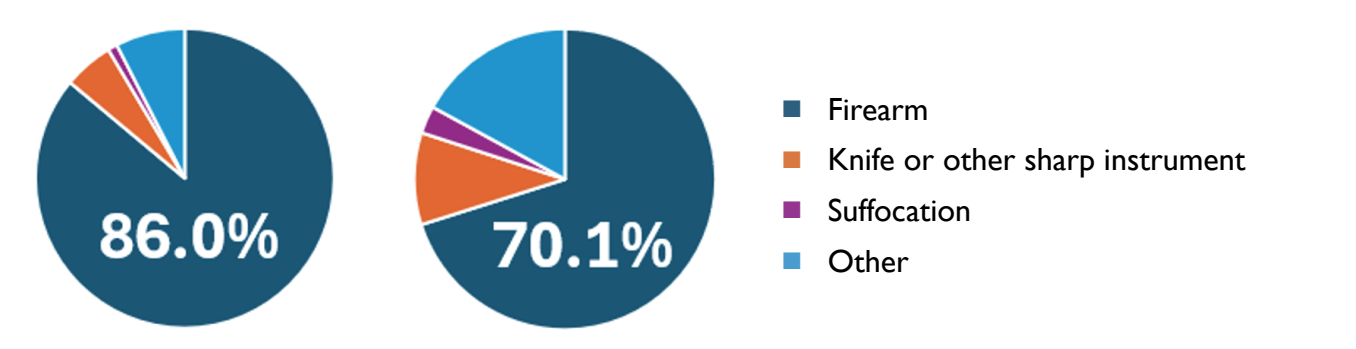
FIGURE 6. Female homicide victim age by race, 2023¹



Most Common Weapons

A higher percentage of Black homicide victims were killed with firearms compared to white victims (Figure 7). In 2023, 86.0 percent of Black homicide victims were killed with firearms (10,563 out of 12,276). Six hundred sixty-three Black homicide victims were killed with knives or other sharp instruments (5.4 percent). In comparison, 70.1 percent of white victims (6,573 out of 9,375) and 78.5 percent of all victims (17,927 out of 22,829) were killed with firearms.

FIGURE 7. Weapons used — Black victims (left figure); White victims (right figure), 2023¹

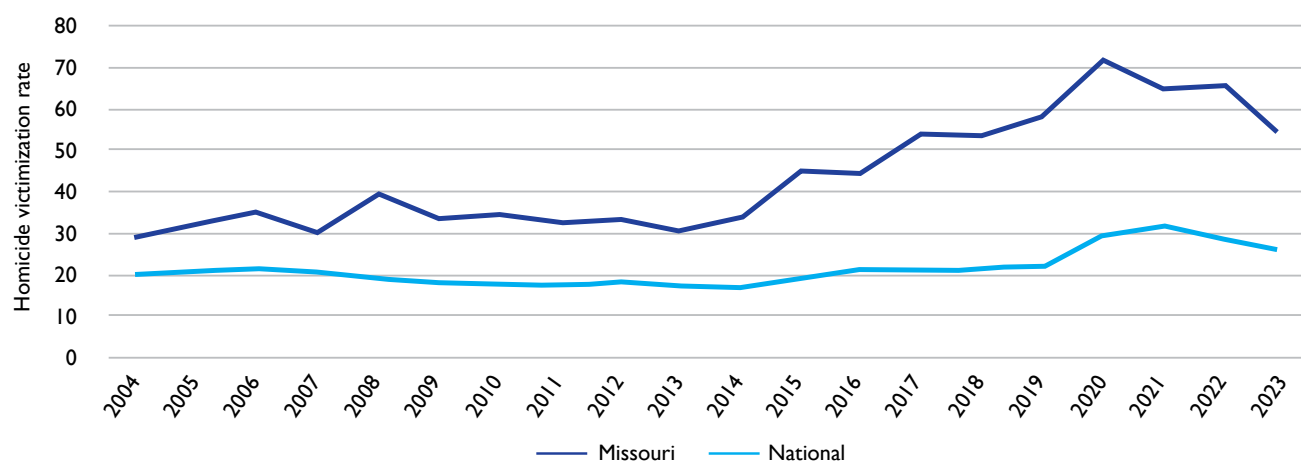


Missouri is First or Second in the Nation 17 Years in a Row for Black Homicide Victimization

In 2023, Missouri once again had the highest Black homicide victimization rate in the nation. For prior editions of this study using FBI crime data, Missouri ranked first or second from 2007 to 2020. Due to a change in 2021 in the way FBI crime data are reported, state rankings for the years 2021 and onward use CDC mortality data.^c Using state rankings from CDC mortality data, Missouri has had the highest Black homicide victimization rate for the years 2021 to 2023. Looking at both data sets, *Missouri has ranked either first or second in the nation for Black homicide victimization 17 years in a row.*

Even these grim statistics do not reveal the true scope of the continuing crisis in Missouri. Despite already having the highest Black homicide victimization rate in the country, in the last decade CDC data reveal that the *Black homicide victimization rate in Missouri more than doubled, increasing from 30.7 per 100,000 in 2013 to 66.0 per 100,000 in 2022, before decreasing to 54.9 per 100,000 in 2023* (Figure 8).

FIGURE 8. Black homicide victimization rates in Missouri and the United States, 2004 — 2023¹



- c Prior editions of this report published in 2023 and earlier used FBI crime data for state rankings. As the current report and last year's report use CDC mortality data, the state rankings in this report are not directly comparable to rankings published in reports from 2023 and earlier. Any comparisons with previous years should note this transition in data sources (FBI crime data to CDC mortality data).

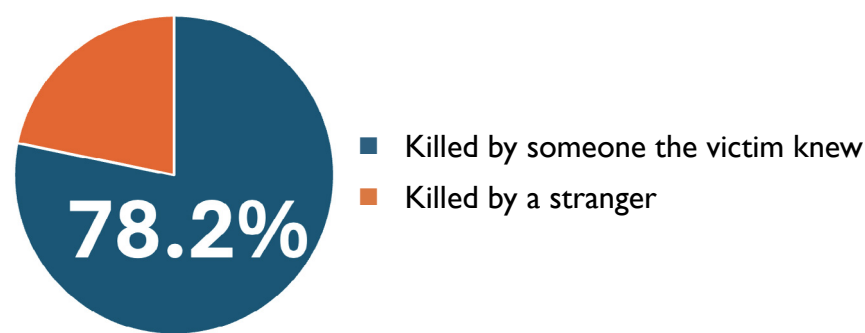
Victim-Offender Relationship and Circumstance Information From FBI Crime Data

As noted earlier, while this report does not use 2023 FBI crime data for state-by-state rankings, it does present information from this data set on victim to offender relationship as well as homicide circumstances (information not available in WISQARS) on the national level, as detailed below, and for the 10 states with the highest victimization rates.

Victim/Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 78.2 percent of Black victims nationally (3,017 out of 3,860) were killed by someone they knew (Figure 9). Eight hundred forty-three victims were killed by strangers (21.8 percent).

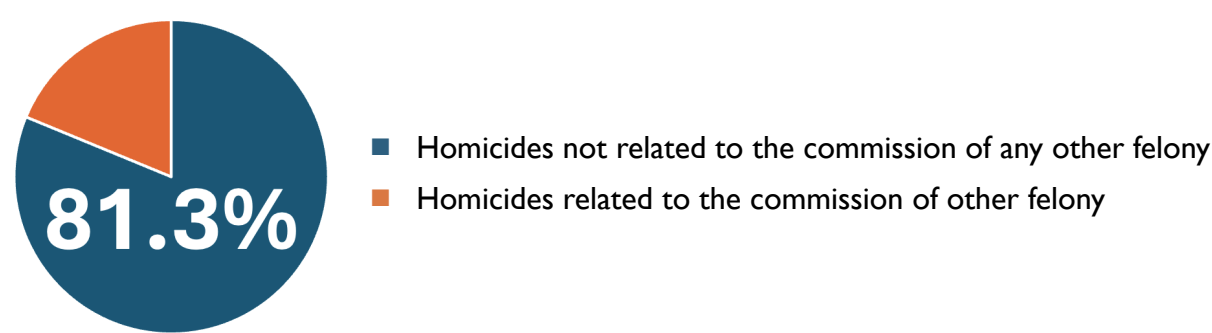
FIGURE 9. Percent of Black homicide victims killed by someone they knew, 2023³



Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 81.3 percent (3,743 out of 4,607) were not related to the commission of any other felony (Figure 10). Of these, 55.4 percent (2,072 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

FIGURE 10. Percent of homicides with Black homicide victims that were not related to the commission of any other felony, 2023³



There were 73 incidents reported as justifiable homicides of Black victims killed by law enforcement in 2023. FBI crime data do not specifically identify killings by law enforcement that are not ruled justifiable. In January 2019, the FBI began collecting data on violent police encounters in the National Use-of-Force Data Collection database. Limited use-of-force data are currently available online. In 2024, only 11,445 out of 19,277 federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies throughout the nation participated and provided use-of-force data.⁴ The officers employed by these agencies represent 72 percent of federal, state, local, and tribal sworn officers in the nation.

State Rankings

According to CDC mortality data, in 2023 the national Black homicide victimization rate was 26.6 per 100,000. For that year, Missouri ranked first as the state with the highest Black homicide victimization rate. Its rate of 54.9 per 100,000 was more than twice the national average for Black homicide victimization. The 10 states with the highest Black homicide victimization rates are listed in Table 3. In order to ensure rankings contain stable rates, states with fewer than 10 Black homicide victims were not included in the rankings for 2023. These victims *are* included in the U.S. total and rate.

Additional information for each of the states ranked in the top 10 in 2023 can be found in Appendix One, including age and sex of victims and most common weapons used.

TABLE 3. Number of Black homicide victims and rates by state in 2023, ranked by rate¹

Ranking	State	Homicide count	Homicide rate
1	Missouri	400	54.9
2	Illinois	844	46.5
3	Louisiana	690	46.2
4	Wisconsin	179	44.1
5	Kansas	80	43.2
6	Arkansas	201	42.2
7	Tennessee	503	41.9
8	Indiana	290	39.7
9	Mississippi	437	39.2
10	Alabama	532	39.1

NOTE: Prior editions of this report published in 2023 and earlier used FBI crime data for state rankings. As the current report and last year’s report use CDC mortality data, the state rankings in this report are not directly comparable to rankings published in reports from 2023 and earlier. Any comparisons with previous years should note this transition in data sources (FBI crime data to CDC mortality data).

Conclusion

Black Americans are disproportionately affected by homicide. For the year 2023, Black Americans represented 13.7 percent of the nation's population yet accounted for 53.8 percent of all homicide victims.

The devastation homicide inflicts on Black men, women, boys and girls remains an ongoing 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 increased its marketing efforts targeting Black, Latino, and Asian Americans.^d Such efforts can only increase 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, state, and federal levels.^e

For Black victims of homicide, like all victims of homicide, guns 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.

References

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^d For more information, see the Violence Policy Center studies *How the Firearms Industry and NRA Market Guns to Communities of Color*, January 2021 (<https://vpc.org/how-the-firearms-industry-and-nra-market-guns-to-communities-of-color-contents/>) and *How the Firearms Industry Markets Guns to Asian Americans*, September 2021 (<https://vpc.org/how-the-firearms-industry-markets-guns-to-asian-americans/>).

^e 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 in 2023 with the Highest Rates of Black Homicide Victimization^{1,3}

Note: The victim/offender relationship and circumstance data presented here are from FBI crime data.

Missouri

RANKED 1ST IN THE UNITED STATES

*There were 400 Black homicide victims in Missouri in 2023.
The homicide rate among Black victims in Missouri was 54.9 per 100,000 in 2023.*

Age	Forty-six homicide victims were less than 18 years old (11.5 percent). Fewer than 10 victims were age 65 or older.
Sex	Out of 400 homicide victims, 336 (84.0 percent) were male and 64 (16.0 percent) were female.
Most Common Weapons	Most victims were killed by firearms (91.0 percent or 364 out of 400). Fewer than 10 victims were killed with knives or other sharp instruments.
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 70.9 percent of victims (124 out of 175) were killed by someone they knew. Fifty-one victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 76.1 percent (143 out of 188) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 65.0 percent (93 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Illinois

RANKED 2ND IN THE UNITED STATES

*There were 844 Black homicide victims in Illinois in 2023.
The homicide rate among Black victims in Illinois was 46.5 per 100,000 in 2023.*

Age	Ninety-one homicide victims were less than 18 years old (10.8 percent). Twenty victims were age 65 or older (2.4 percent).
Sex	Out of 844 homicide victims, 721 (85.4 percent) were male and 123 (14.6 percent) were female.
Most Common Weapons	Most victims were killed by firearms (86.3 percent or 728 out of 844). Thirty-one victims were killed with knives or other sharp instruments (3.7 percent).
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 78.2 percent (104 out of 133) were killed by someone they knew. Twenty-nine victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 83.7 percent (87 out of 104) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 47.1 percent (41 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and offender.

Louisiana

RANKED 3RD IN THE UNITED STATES

*There were 690 Black homicide victims in Louisiana in 2023.
The homicide rate among Black victims in Louisiana was 46.2 per 100,000 in 2023.*

Age	Eighty-four homicide victims were less than 18 years old (12.2 percent). Eighteen victims were age 65 or older (2.6 percent).
Sex	Out of 690 homicide victims, 584 (84.6 percent) were male and 106 (15.4 percent) were female.
Most Common Weapons	Most victims were killed by firearms (91.2 percent or 629 out of 690). Twenty-two victims were killed with knives or other sharp instruments (3.2 percent).
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 88.0 percent of victims (95 out of 108) were killed by someone they knew. Thirteen victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 85.3 percent (122 out of 143) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 46.7 percent (57 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and offender.

Wisconsin

RANKED 4TH IN THE UNITED STATES

*There were 179 Black homicide victims in Wisconsin in 2023.
The homicide rate among Black victims in Wisconsin was 44.1 per 100,000 in 2023.*

Age	Twenty-three homicide victims were less than 18 years old (12.8 percent). Fewer than 10 victims were age 65 or older.
Sex	Out of 179 homicide victims, 148 (82.7 percent) were male and 31 (17.3 percent) were female.
Most Common Weapons	Most victims were killed by firearms (88.3 percent or 158 out of 179). Fewer than 10 victims were killed with knives or other sharp instruments.
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 84.6 percent of victims (55 out of 65) were killed by someone they knew. Ten victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 78.0 percent (64 out of 82) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 59.4 percent (38 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and offender.

Kansas

RANKED 5TH IN THE UNITED STATES

*There were 80 Black homicide victims in Kansas in 2023.
The homicide rate among Black victims in Kansas was 43.2 per 100,000 in 2023.*

Age	Eleven homicide victims were less than 18 years old (13.8 percent). Fewer than 10 victims were age 65 or older.
Sex	Out of 80 homicide victims, 63 (78.8 percent) were male and 17 (21.3 percent) were female.
Most Common Weapons	Most victims were killed by firearms (81.3 percent or 65 out of 80). Fewer than 10 victims were killed with knives or other sharp instruments.
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 96.2 percent of victims (25 out of 26) were killed by someone they knew. Fewer than 10 victims were killed by a stranger.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 75.9 percent (22 out of 29) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 45.5 percent (10 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and offender.

Arkansas

RANKED 6TH IN THE UNITED STATES

*There were 201 Black homicide victims in Arkansas in 2023.
The homicide rate among Black victims in Arkansas was 42.2 per 100,000 in 2023.*

Age	Thirty-one homicide victims were less than 18 years old (15.4 percent). Fewer than 10 victims were age 65 or older.
Sex	Out of 201 homicide victims, 172 (85.6 percent) were male and 29 (14.4 percent) were female.
Most Common Weapons	Most victims were killed by firearms (85.1 percent or 171 out of 201). Eleven victims were killed with knives or other sharp instruments (5.5 percent).
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 93.5 percent of victims (57 out of 61) were killed by someone they knew. Fewer than 10 victims were killed by a stranger.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 79.8 percent (79 out of 99) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 44.3 percent (35 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and offender.

Tennessee

RANKED 7TH IN THE UNITED STATES

*There were 503 Black homicide victims in Tennessee in 2023.
The homicide rate among Black victims in Tennessee was 41.9 per 100,000 in 2023.*

Age	Forty-seven homicide victims were less than 18 years old (9.3 percent). Sixteen victims were age 65 or older (3.2 percent).
Sex	Out of 503 homicide victims, 424 (84.3 percent) were male and 79 (15.7 percent) were female.
Most Common Weapons	Most victims were killed by firearms (91.5 percent or 460 out of 503). Sixteen victims were killed with knives or other sharp instruments (3.2 percent).
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 57.3 percent of victims (134 out of 234) were killed by someone they knew. One hundred victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 77.1 percent (195 out of 253) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 49.2 percent (96 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and offender.

Indiana

RANKED 8TH IN THE UNITED STATES

*There were 290 Black homicide victims in Indiana in 2023.
The homicide rate among Black victims in Indiana was 39.7 per 100,000 in 2023.*

Age	Forty homicide victims were less than 18 years old (13.8 percent). Fewer than 10 victims were age 65 or older.
Sex	Out of 290 homicide victims, 252 (86.9 percent) were male and 38 (13.1 percent) were female.
Most Common Weapons	Most victims were killed by firearms (90.0 percent or 261 out of 290). Thirteen victims were killed with knives or other sharp instruments (4.5 percent).
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 80.7 percent of victims (92 out of 114) were killed by someone they knew. Twenty-two victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 66.9 percent (89 out of 133) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 57.3 percent (51 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and offender.

Mississippi

RANKED 9TH IN THE UNITED STATES

*There were 437 Black homicide victims in Mississippi in 2023.
The homicide rate among Black victims in Mississippi was 39.2 per 100,000 in 2023.*

Age	Fifty-one homicide victims were less than 18 years old (11.7 percent). Twelve victims were age 65 or older (2.7 percent).
Sex	Out of 437 homicide victims, 385 (88.1 percent) were male and 52 (11.9 percent) were female.
Most Common Weapons	Most victims were killed by firearms (93.6 percent or 409 out of 437). Eleven victims were killed with knives or other sharp instruments (2.5 percent).
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 90.5 percent of victims (38 out of 42) were killed by someone they knew. Fewer than 10 victims were killed by a stranger.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 92.4 percent (61 out of 66) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 54.1 percent (33 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and offender.

Alabama

RANKED 10TH IN THE UNITED STATES

There were 532 Black homicide victims in Alabama in 2023.
The homicide rate among Black victims in Alabama was 39.1 per 100,000 in 2023.

Age	Forty-two homicide victims were less than 18 years old (7.9 percent). Sixteen victims were age 65 or older (3.0 percent).
Sex	Out of 532 homicide victims, 456 (85.7 percent) were male and 76 (14.3 percent) were female.
Most Common Weapons	Most victims were killed by firearms (92.1 percent or 490 out of 532). Seventeen victims were killed with knives or other sharp instruments (3.2 percent).
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 89.1 percent of victims (123 out of 138) were killed by someone they knew. Fifteen victims were killed by strangers.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 93.1 percent (202 out of 217) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 42.1 percent (85 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and offender.

Appendix Two: Number of Black homicide victims and rates by state, 2023¹

State ranking by rate	State	Number of homicides	Homicide rate
1	Missouri	400	54.9
2	Illinois	844	46.5
3	Louisiana	690	46.2
4	Wisconsin	179	44.1
5	Kansas	80	43.2
6	Arkansas	201	42.2
7	Tennessee	503	41.9
8	Indiana	290	39.7
9	Mississippi	437	39.2
10	Alabama	532	39.1
11	Kentucky	147	36.8
12	Ohio	558	35.5
13	Michigan	457	32.9
14	Pennsylvania	527	32.8
15	South Carolina	404	29.5
16	New Mexico	17	28.4
17	Oregon	30	27.4
18	Oklahoma	83	25.6
19	Maryland	463	24.7
20 (tie)	Washington	95	23.8
20 (tie)	Nevada	83	23.8
22	Colorado	70	23.6
23 (tie)	Virginia	400	22.8
23 (tie)	North Carolina	548	22.8
25	Georgia	827	22.1
26	West Virginia	14	21.4
27	Iowa	36	21.3
28	Arizona	92	20.5
29	Florida	785	20.3
30	Minnesota	92	19.6
31 (tie)	California	495	18.9
31 (tie)	Texas	814	18.9
33	Florida	789	20.5
34	Delaware	40	16.5
35	New York	497	14.3
36	New Jersey	203	14.1
33	Connecticut	88	17.9

State ranking by rate	State	Number of homicides	Homicide rate
34	Delaware	36	15.0
35	New York	448	13.2
36	Nebraska	15	12.5
37	New Jersey	162	11.5
38	Massachusetts	70	10.2
39 (tie)	Hawaii	0	0.0
39 (tie)	Montana	0	0.0
--	Alaska	--	--
--	Idaho	--	--
--	Maine	--	--
--	New Hampshire	--	--
--	North Dakota	--	--
--	Rhode Island	--	--
--	South Dakota	--	--
--	Utah	--	--
--	Vermont	--	--
--	Wyoming	--	--

-- Indicates value has been suppressed because the number is too small to publish due to privacy concerns (fewer than 10 deaths). In order to ensure rankings contain stable rates, states with fewer than 10 Black homicide victims were not included in the state rankings for 2023. These victims are included in the U.S. total and rate.

Appendix Three

This appendix contains the data for the figures in the report.

FIGURE 1. Black percentage of United States population (left figure); Black percentage of homicide victims (right figure), 2023¹

	Percentage of U.S. population	Percentage of homicides
Black	13.7%	53.8%
Rest of population	86.3%	46.2%

FIGURE 2. Homicide and firearm homicide rates by race, 2018 — 2023¹

	Black homicide	Black firearm homicide	White homicide	White firearm homicide	American Indian/ Alaska Native homicide	American Indian/ Alaska Native firearm homicide	Asian homicide	Asian firearm homicide
2018	21.2	17.6	3.4	2.3	7.2	4.1	1.5	1.0
2019	22.1	18.6	3.3	2.2	7.4	4.0	1.7	1.0
2020	29.6	25.9	4.1	2.8	8.7	4.8	1.6	1.0
2021	31.6	28.0	4.3	3.1	8.4	5.3	1.7	1.2
2022	29.2	25.5	4.2	3.0	10.1	6.1	1.7	1.1
2023	26.6	22.8	3.9	2.8	8.9	5.6	1.7	1.1

FIGURE 3. Homicide rates among males by race, 2018 — 2023¹

	Black males	White males
2018	36.8	4.9
2019	39.0	4.8
2020	52.3	6.0
2021	55.2	6.4
2022	51.0	6.2
2023	46.1	5.7

FIGURE 4. Homicide rates among females by race, 2018 — 2023¹

	Black females	White females
2018	6.2	1.9
2019	5.9	1.8
2020	7.8	2.1
2021	8.9	2.1
2022	8.2	2.1
2023	7.8	1.9

FIGURE 5. Male homicide victim age by race, 2023¹

	Black males	White males
Under18	9.7%	8.9%
65+	2.4%	7.7%

FIGURE 6. Female homicide victim age by race, 2023¹

	Black females	White females
Under18	14.8%	9.5%
65+	5.1%	16.1%

FIGURE 7. Weapons used – Black victims (left figure); White victims (right figure), 2023¹

	Black victims (left figure)	White victims (right figure)
Firearm	86.0%	70.1%
Knife or other sharp instrument	5.4%	9.9%
Suffocation	1.0%	3.0%
Other	7.5%	17.0%

FIGURE 8. Black homicide victimization rates in Missouri and the United States, 2003 — 2023¹

	Missouri	National
2003	24.4	21.0
2004	29.2	20.1
2005	32.3	21.1
2006	35.0	21.5
2007	30.1	20.9
2008	39.4	19.3
2009	33.7	18.1
2010	34.8	17.7
2011	32.8	17.5
2012	33.3	18.2
2013	30.7	17.6
2014	34.0	17.1
2015	45.1	19.5
2016	44.3	21.2
2017	54.1	21.2
2018	53.6	21.2
2019	58.3	22.1
2020	71.9	29.6
2021	64.8	31.6
2022	66.0	29.2
2023	54.9	26.6



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