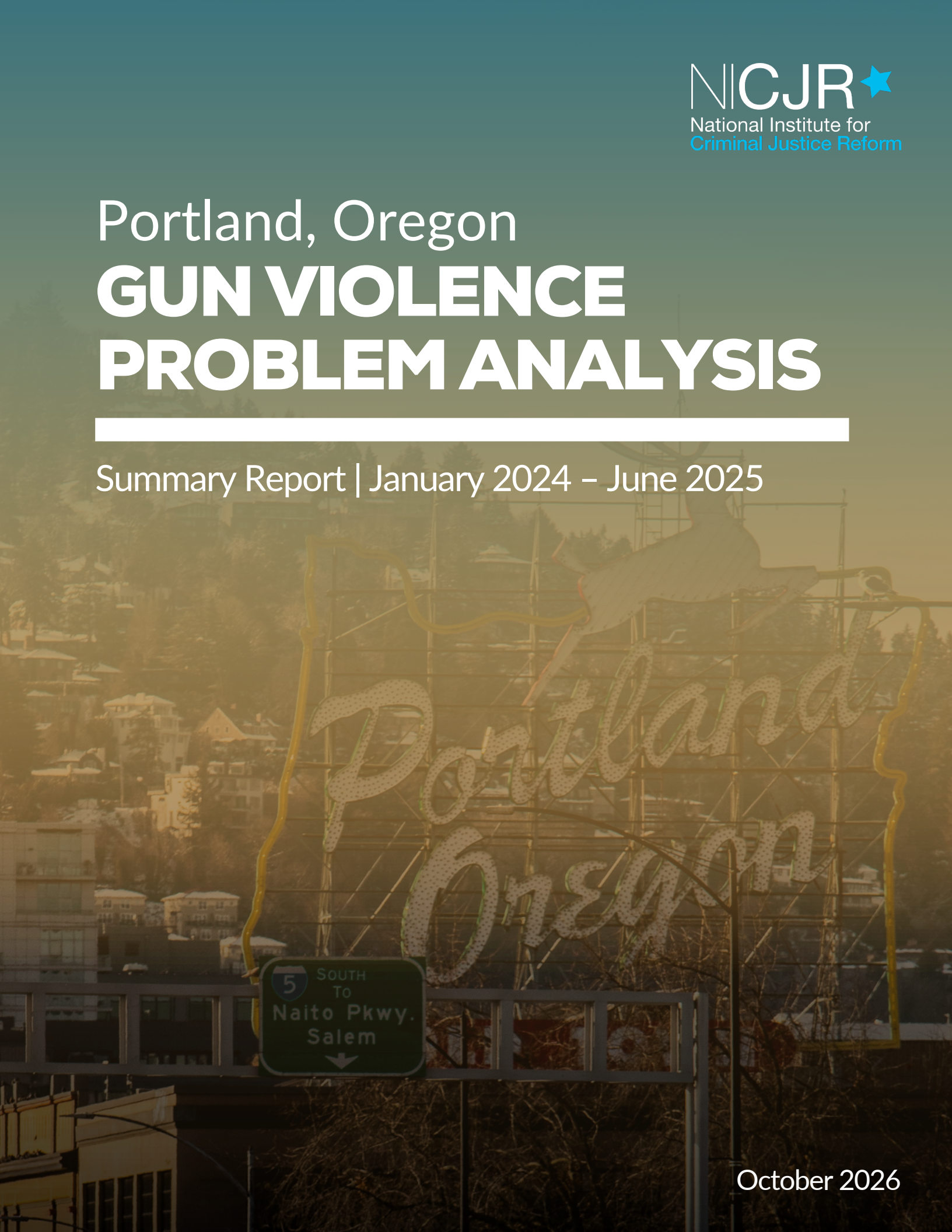
NICJR
National Institute for
Criminal Justice Reform

Portland, Oregon
GUN VIOLENCE PROBLEM ANALYSIS

Summary Report | January 2024 – June 2025



October 2026

NICJR
National Institute for
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Portland Gun Violence Problem Analysis

Summary Report

In partnership with the Portland Police Bureau (PPB), Office of Violence Prevention, and the Ceasefire program, the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) conducted this Gun Violence Problem Analysis (GVPA) to examine recent shooting trends in the City of Portland. A GVPA is a set of analytical exercises designed to support the implementation of violence reduction strategies and is a research-based methodology used in cities nationally. This GVPA examines firearm homicides in Portland from January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025, and nonfatal injury shootings from January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

Like most US cities, Portland experienced an increase in violence with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Homicides in Portland have decreased from peak pandemic levels but remain significantly higher than pre-pandemic trends (Figure 1). From 2013 through 2019, Portland averaged 27.43 criminal homicides per year. Between 2020 and 2022, Portland averaged 82.67 homicides annually, and between 2023 and 2025, Portland averaged 66.33 homicides per year.

The homicide rate in Portland has remained significantly higher than both statewide and national rates in recent years (Figure 2). At its height in 2022, Portland's homicide rate was 15.91 per 100,000 residents, compared to approximately 4 per 100,000 statewide in Oregon and 6 per 100,000 nationally. In 2025, following several years of declines, Portland's homicide rate was 8.08 per 100,000 residents; while this decline is a major achievement that reflects targeted and intentional efforts by multiple partners, it nonetheless remains higher than pre-pandemic levels and higher than statewide and national rates, indicating that further work is required.

Figure 1. Portland Criminal Homicides, 2013–2025

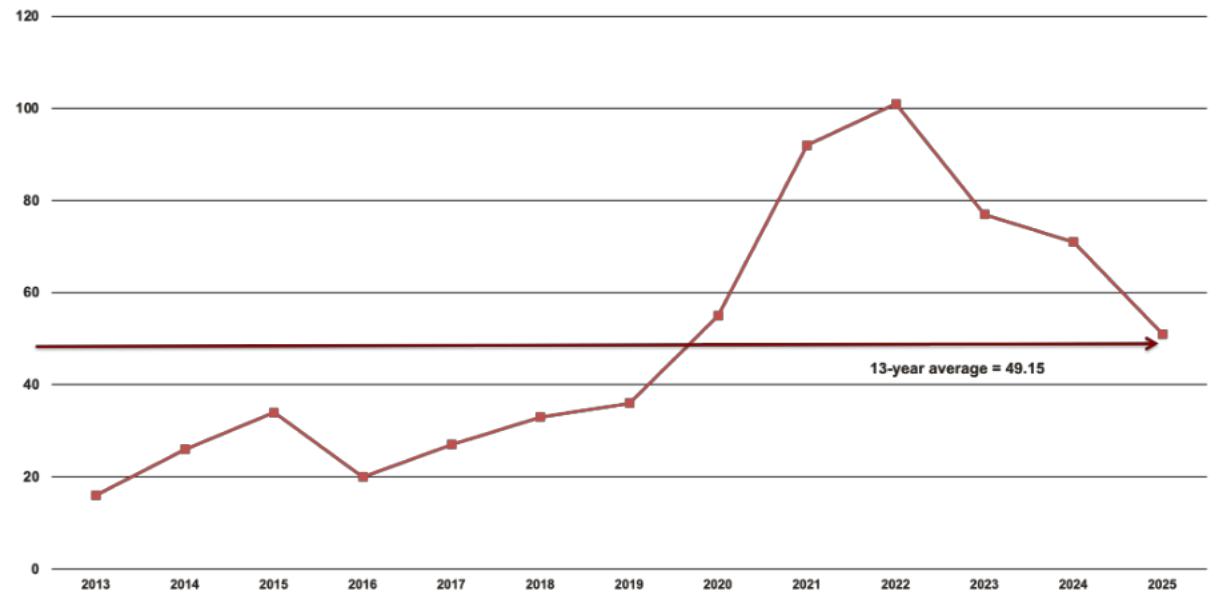
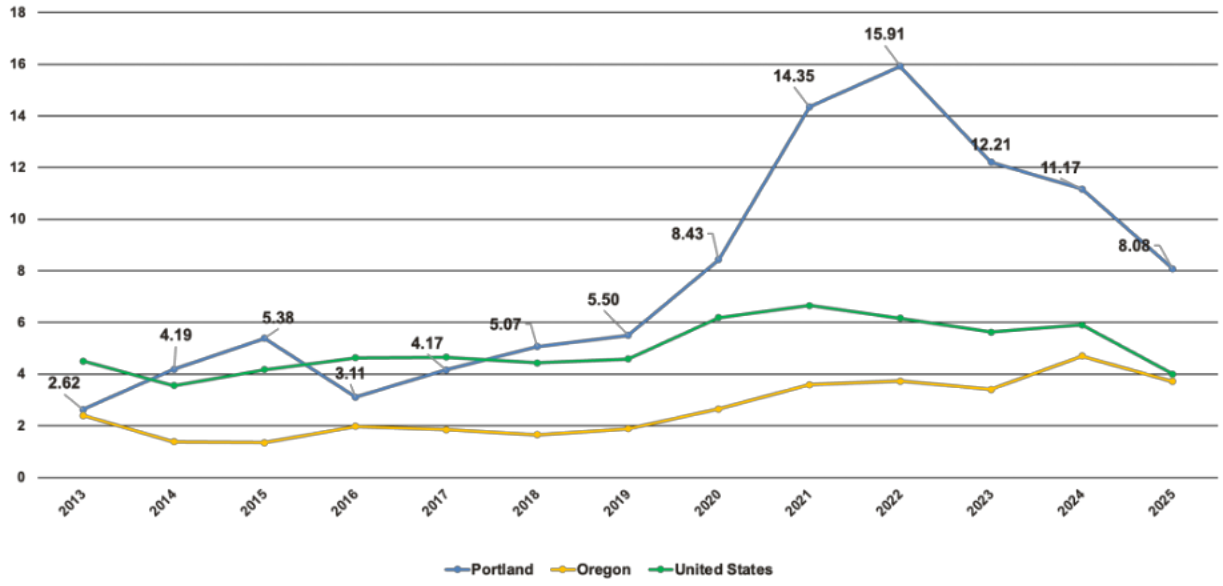


Figure 2. Criminal Homicide Rate per 100,000 Residents, 2013–2025



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This GVPA examines all firearm homicides in Portland across the 30-month period between January 1, 2023, and June 30, 2025 (n=114), as well as all nonfatal injury shootings over the 18-month period between January 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025 (n=198). The 114 homicides involved 114 unique victims and 67 identified suspects, and the 198 nonfatal shooting incidents involved 243 unique victims and 92 identified suspects. This analysis examines the characteristics of these incidents and the individuals involved, including demographics, criminal justice system involvement, group dynamics, and incident circumstances.

Before summarizing these findings, it is important to define several terms used throughout this report:

- **Homicide:** A criminal homicide in which a killing was intentional or due to criminal negligence (i.e., murder or manslaughter). This analysis only includes criminal homicides involving a firearm.
- **Nonfatal Shooting:** A shooting incident involving criminal intent in which a victim was struck and injured by a firearm but survived.
- **Community Supervision**: The supervision of someone convicted of an offense and placed on correctional supervision, including probation or parole.
- **Group:** A wide range of dynamics and structures present in criminally active street groups. Individuals at high risk for violence are likely to associate within particular groups and social networks, ranging from more highly organized, formal gangs to more loosely associated, informal neighborhood crews.
- **Suspect:** A person identified by PPB as the likely perpetrator of a criminal homicide or shooting incident. Not all suspects have been arrested.

Suspects and Victims in Homicides and Nonfatal Shootings

Suspects and victims in homicides and nonfatal shootings in Portland are primarily men aged 18–34. For homicides, the average age of suspects and victims is 34.1, and 48.24% of victims and 59.7% of suspects are between the ages of 18 and 34 (Table 1). In addition, 88.95% are male (Table 3), and individuals involved in homicides are primarily Black (44.74%) and White (38.12%) (Table 2).

For nonfatal shootings, the average age of suspects and victims is 32.3, and 47.52% of victims and 57.78% of suspects are between the ages of 18 and 34 (Table 1). Individuals involved in nonfatal shootings are also primarily male (85.89%) and are a mix of Black (40.79%), White (36.86%), and Latino (18.13%) (Tables 2–3).

Given the highly disproportionate involvement of Black men and, to a lesser extent, Latino men in shootings in Portland, it is essential that the City continue to focus its violence reduction efforts on targeted, community-specific interventions.

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Table 1. Homicide and Nonfatal Shooting Suspects and Victims: Age

	Homicides			Nonfatal Shootings		
Age Range	Suspects (N=67)	Victims (N=114)	Suspects & Victims (N=181)	Suspects (N=90)	Victims (N=242)	Suspects & Victims (N=332)
17 and Under	2.99%	2.63%	2.76%	15.56%	10.74%	12.05%
18–24	22.39%	17.54%	19.34%	31.11%	19.01%	22.29%
25–34	37.31%	30.70%	33.15%	26.67%	28.51%	28.01%
35–44	22.39%	28.07%	25.97%	11.11%	20.25%	17.77%
45–54	10.45%	17.54%	14.92%	11.11%	13.64%	12.95%
55+	4.48%	3.51%	3.87%	4.44%	7.85%	6.93%
Mean Age	33.0	34.8	34.1	29.4	33.4	32.3

Table 2. Homicide and Nonfatal Shooting Suspects and Victims: Race

	Homicides			Nonfatal Shootings			
Race	Suspects (N=67)	Victims (N=114)	Suspects & Victims (N=181)	Suspects (N=91)	Victims (N=240)	Suspects & Victims (N=331)	Portland Population
Asian	1.49%	2.63%	2.21%	1.10%	2.92%	2.42%	8.10%
Black	46.27%	43.86%	44.75%	51.65%	36.67%	40.79%	5.70%
Latino	13.43%	12.28%	12.71%	20.88%	17.08%	18.13%	12.00%
White	38.81%	37.72%	38.12%	26.37%	40.83%	36.86%	68.10%
Other	-	3.51%	2.21%	-	2.50%	1.81%	1.40%

Table 3. Homicide and Nonfatal Shooting Suspects and Victims: Sex

	Homicides			Nonfatal Shootings			
Sex	Suspects (N=67)	Victims (N=114)	Suspects & Victims (N=181)	Suspects (N=91)	Victims (N=242)	Suspects & Victims (N=333)	Portland Population
Female	5.97%	14.04%	11.05%	9.89%	15.70%	14.11%	50.30%
Male	94.03%	85.96%	88.95%	90.11%	84.30%	85.89%	49.70%

Criminal Justice System Involvement

Eighty-two percent (82.09%) of homicide suspects and 76.32% of homicide victims were found to have prior criminal justice system involvement. Further, 59.70% of homicide suspects and 51.75% of homicide victims had previously been incarcerated (Figure 3). A total of 70.15% of homicide suspects and 58.77% of homicide victims had previously been on probation or parole supervision, while 25.37% of suspects and 15.79% of victims were on active probation or parole supervision at the time of the homicide. Among those individuals with a known prior PPB arrest, 72.73% of homicide suspects and 65.52% of homicide victims had prior arrests for violent offenses (Figure 4).

In addition, 72.83% of nonfatal shooting suspects and 63.79% of nonfatal shooting victims had prior criminal justice system involvement. Of suspects and victims in nonfatal shootings, 51.09% of suspects and 43.62% of victims had previously been incarcerated. A total of 51.09% of nonfatal shooting suspects and 48.56% of nonfatal shooting victims had previously been on probation supervision. Additionally, approximately 16.30% of nonfatal shooting suspects and 13.17% of nonfatal shooting victims were on active probation or parole supervision at the time of the shooting incident. Among individuals with a known prior PPB arrest, 62.69% of suspects and 60.65% of victims had prior arrests for violent offenses.

Figure 3. Prior Criminal Justice System Involvement of Homicide Suspects and Victims

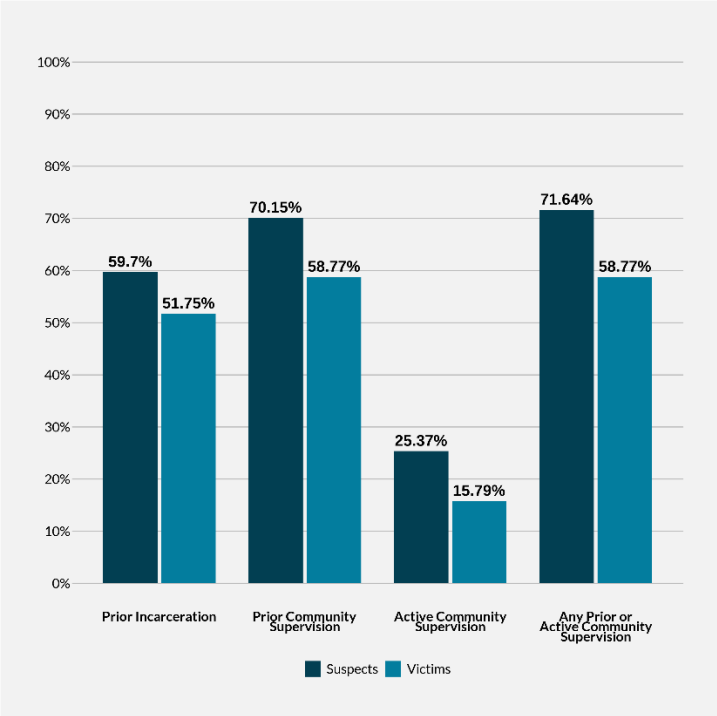
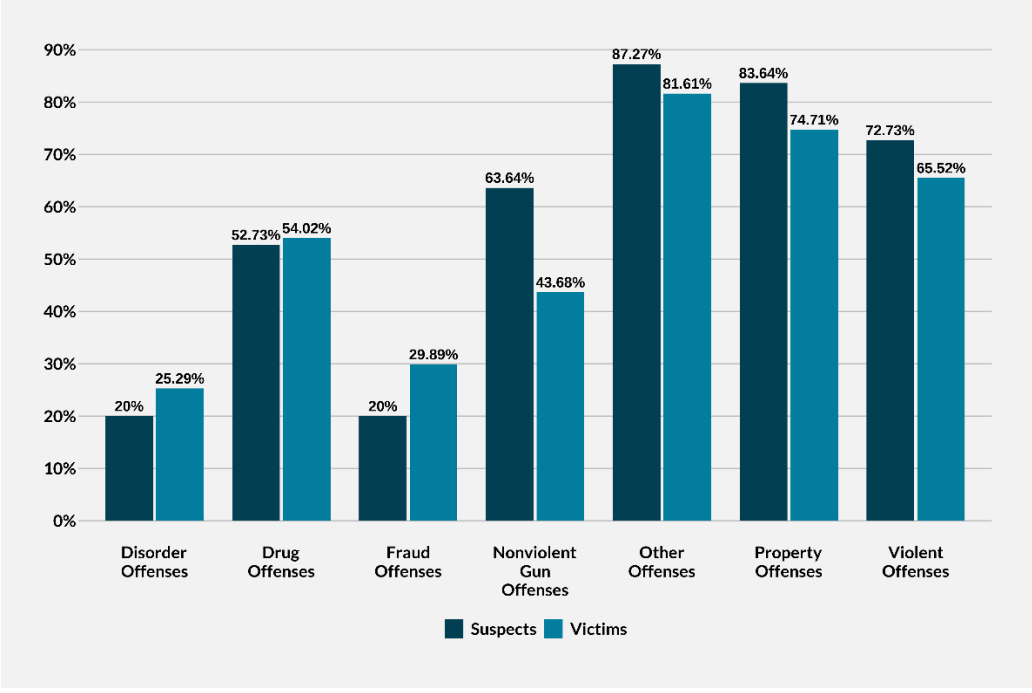


Figure 4. Types of Prior Arrests Among Homicide Suspects and Victims



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Groups with Elevated Rates of Involvement in Gun Violence

People Associated with Criminal Groups or Gangs

During the study period, 62.16% of homicide suspects, 29.82% of homicide victims, 26.37% of nonfatal shooting suspects, and 13.33% of nonfatal shooting victims were identified by law enforcement as being affiliated with a gang or group.[1] Group affiliation was particularly prevalent among homicide suspects, highlighting the importance of group dynamics in understanding fatal gun violence in Portland. Further analysis shows that group-affiliated individuals involved in shootings tend to be younger, are disproportionately Black, and are frequently known to the criminal justice system, often due to prior arrests for violent offenses.

Demographics

Group-affiliated individuals involved in shootings in Portland tend to be younger than individuals involved in shootings overall, with an average age of 30.5 for those involved in homicides and 26.2 for those involved in nonfatal shootings (Table 4), versus 34.1 and 32.3 overall. Additionally, for nonfatal shootings, group-affiliated victims and suspects are more often under the age of 18 (25%) than nonfatal shooting victims and suspects overall (12.5%), although adults still account for the vast majority of people involved in shootings.

Table 4. Age of Group-Affiliated Individuals Involved in Gun Violence

	Homicides			Nonfatal Shootings		
Age Range	Suspects (N=23)	Victims (N=34)	Suspects & Victims (N=57)	Suspects (N=24)	Victims (N=36)	Suspects & Victims (N=60)
17 and Under	-	5.88%	3.51%	33.33%	19.44%	25.00%
18–24	17.39%	35.29%	28.07%	33.33%	36.11%	35.00%
25–34	56.52%	26.47%	38.60%	12.50%	25.00%	20.00%
35–44	17.39%	26.47%	22.81%	8.33%	11.11%	10.00%
45–54	4.35%	5.88%	5.26%	12.50%	5.56%	8.33%
55+	4.35%	-	1.75%	-	2.78%	1.67%
Mean Age	32.3	29.3	30.5	25.2	26.8	26.2

[1] Data on group involvement are only included for incidents in which investigators were interviewed and knew about group involvement. Many detectives reported that they did not gather information about suspect or victim group associations, so these estimates are likely undercounts.

Table 5. Age of Group-Affiliated Juveniles Involved in Gun Violence

	Homicides		Nonfatal Shootings		
Age	Victims (N=2)	Suspects & Victims (N=2)	Suspects (N=8)	Victims (N=7)	Suspects & Victims (N=15)
12	-	-	-	14.29%	6.67%
13	-	-	-	-	-
14	-	-	25.00%	-	13.33%
15	-	-	12.50%	-	6.67%
16	-	-	37.50%	57.14%	46.67%
17	100.00%	100.00%	25.00%	28.57%	26.67%
Mean Age	17.0	17.0	15.6	15.7	15.7

Victims and suspects in shootings who are also group-affiliated are disproportionately Black (59.65% of victims and suspects in homicides; 51.67% of victims and suspects in nonfatal shootings; Table 6) or, to a lesser extent, Latino. These individuals are more often Black than individuals involved in shootings overall (44.75% of victims and suspects in homicides; 40.79% of victims and suspects in nonfatal shootings; Table 2).

Table 6. Race of Group-Affiliated Individuals Involved in Gun Violence

	Homicides			Nonfatal Shootings			
Race	Suspects (N=23)	Victims (N=34)	Suspects & Victims (N=57)	Suspects (N=24)	Victims (N=36)	Suspects & Victims (N=60)	Portland Population
Asian	-	-	-	-	2.78%	1.67%	8.10%
Black	52.17%	64.71%	59.65%	70.83%	38.89%	51.67%	5.70%
Latino	17.39%	8.82%	12.28%	25.00%	33.33%	30.00%	12.00%
White	30.43%	26.47%	28.07%	4.17%	22.22%	15.00%	68.10%
Other	-	-	-	-	2.78%	1.67%	1.40%

Table 7. Sex of Group-Affiliated Individuals Involved in Gun Violence

	Homicides			Nonfatal Shootings			
Sex	Suspects (N=23)	Victims (N=34)	Suspects & Victims (N=57)	Suspects (N=24)	Victims (N=36)	Suspects & Victims (N=60)	Portland Population
Female	8.70%	5.88%	7.02%	8.33%	13.89%	11.67%	50.30%
Male	91.30%	94.12%	92.98%	91.67%	86.11%	88.33%	49.70%

Criminal Justice System Involvement

Victims and suspects in shootings who are group-affiliated are often known to the criminal justice system; 78.26% of homicide suspects and 67.65% of homicide victims and 58.33% of nonfatal shooting suspects and victims were known to the justice system prior to being involved in a shooting. Additionally, more than half of group-affiliated individuals involved in shooting homicides had been previously incarcerated, and 61.40% were previously on community supervision (Figure 5). For nonfatal shootings, 41.67% of suspects and 25% of victims had previously been incarcerated, and 38.33% of suspects and victims were previously on community supervision.

Despite having high rates of prior criminal justice system involvement, group-affiliated individuals involved in shootings had fewer prior arrests, on average, than other people involved in shootings, which is likely due to the fact that those involved in groups are younger than others involved in shootings. Group-affiliated individuals were more likely to have a prior violent arrest than others involved in shootings (Figure 6).

Figure 5. Prior Criminal Justice System Involvement of Group-Involved Homicide Suspects and Victims

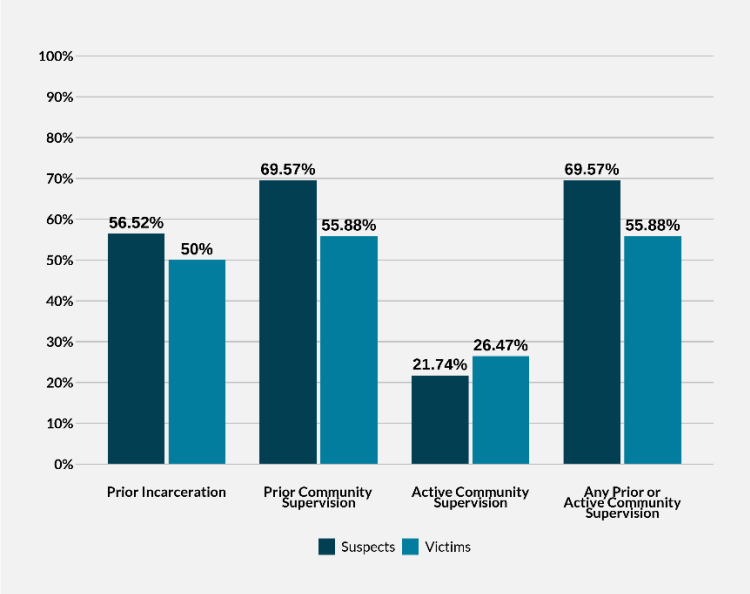
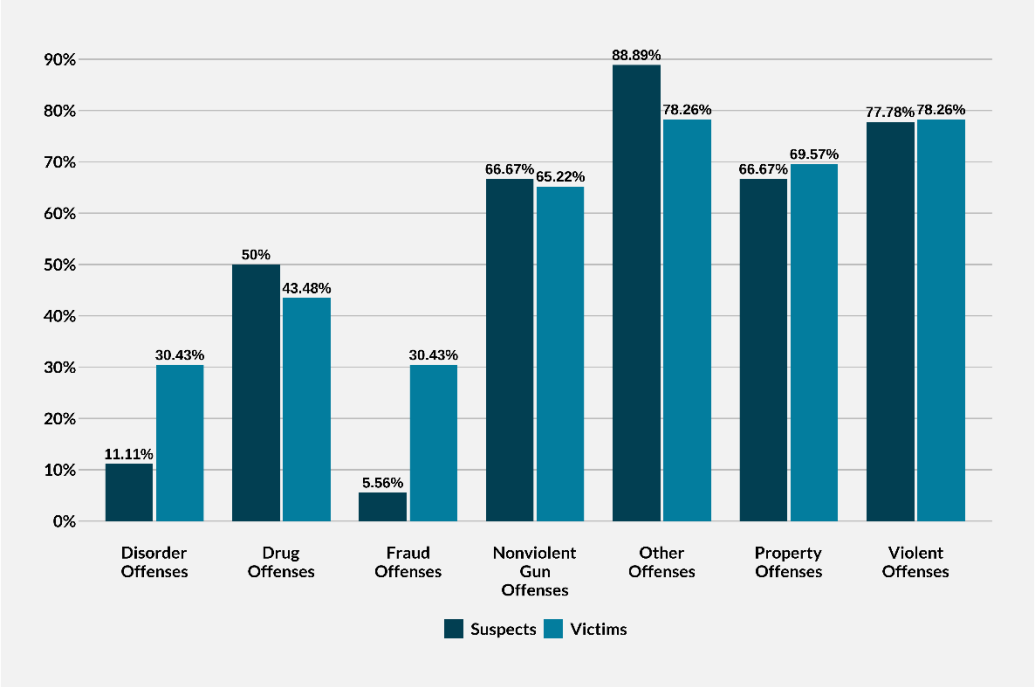


Figure 6. Types of Prior Arrests Among Group-Involved Homicide Suspects and Victims



People Who Are Unhoused

People who are unhoused accounted for up to a quarter of those involved in shootings, with 20.90% of homicide suspects, 25.44% of homicide victims, 7.69% of nonfatal shooting suspects, and 19.58% of nonfatal shooting victims being unhoused at the time of the shooting. This shows an elevated risk, especially for victimization, among people who are unhoused.

Unhoused individuals who were victims or suspects in shootings were often involved in shootings related to drugs. For homicides, 35.71% of suspects and 30% of victims were involved in shootings involving drugs. For nonfatal shootings, 14.29% of suspects and 50% of victims were involved in shootings related to drugs.

Unhoused individuals involved in shootings tended to be older and were more likely to be White than shooting victims and suspects overall. They also had particularly high rates of prior criminal justice system involvement, including prior incarceration and arrests for violent offenses, compared to other individuals involved in gun violence.

Demographics

Unhoused shooting victims and suspects are older, on average, than victims and suspects in shootings overall. Unhoused people involved in shootings were approximately 38 years old, on average, with the exception of nonfatal shooting suspects, who were 31.9 years old on average (Table 8).

Table 8. Age of Unhoused Individuals Involved in Gun Violence

	Homicides			Nonfatal Shootings		
Age Range	Suspects (N=14)	Victims (N=29)	Suspects & Victims (N=43)	Suspects (N=7)	Victims (N=47)	Suspects & Victims (N=54)
18–24	7.14%	10.34%	9.30%	42.86%	6.38%	11.11%
25–34	35.71%	20.69%	25.58%	28.57%	34.04%	33.33%
35–44	28.57%	41.38%	37.21%	14.29%	27.66%	25.93%
45–54	21.43%	24.14%	23.26%	-	25.53%	22.22%
55+	7.14%	3.45%	4.65%	14.29%	6.38%	7.41%
Mean Age	38.1	38.0	38.0	31.9	38.9	38.0

Unhoused shooting victims and suspects are also more often White than those who are housed, with 53.49% of people involved in homicides and 61.1% of people involved in nonfatal shootings being White. Despite this, Black people are still overrepresented in shootings relative to their proportion of Portland's population (25.58% of victims and suspects in homicides and 24.07% of those involved in nonfatal shootings; Table 9).[2]

Table 9. Race of Unhoused Individuals Involved in Gun Violence

	Homicides			Nonfatal Shootings			
Race	Suspects (N=14)	Victims (N=29)	Suspects & Victims (N=43)	Suspects (N=7)	Victims (N=47)	Suspects & Victims (N=54)	Portland Population
Asian	-	3.45%	2.33%	-	2.13%	1.85%	8.10%
Black	35.71%	20.69%	25.58%	14.29%	25.53%	24.07%	5.70%
Latino	14.29%	10.34%	11.63%	28.57%	4.26%	7.41%	12.00%
White	50.00%	55.17%	53.49%	57.14%	61.70%	61.11%	68.10%
Other	-	10.34%	6.98%	-	6.38%	5.56%	1.40%

[2] A 2025 Point in Time study of three counties in Oregon showed that Black people are overrepresented among those who are unhoused (regardless of gun violence involvement) in Multnomah County, with Black people accounting for 18% of the unhoused population, but only 6.3% of the county population. 2025 Point in Time County Findings – Summary Report: Count of People Experiencing Homelessness in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties, Oregon

Unhoused individuals who are victims and suspects in shootings are almost always male, with more than 90% of victims and suspects in shootings being male (Table 10).

Table 10. Sex of Unhoused Individuals Involved in Gun Violence

	Homicides			Nonfatal Shootings			
Sex	Suspects (N=14)	Victims (N=29)	Suspects & Victims (N=43)	Suspects (N=7)	Victims (N=47)	Suspects & Victims (N=54)	Portland Population
Female	-	3.45%	2.33%	-	10.64%	9.26%	50.30%
Male	100.00%	96.55%	97.67%	100.00%	89.36%	90.74%	49.70%

Criminal Justice System Involvement

Almost all unhoused shooting victims and suspects were known to the criminal justice system prior to their involvement in a shooting, including 92.86% of homicide suspects, 96.55% of homicide victims, 85.71% of nonfatal shooting suspects, and 93.62% of nonfatal shooting victims. Additionally, 88.37% of unhoused homicide victims and suspects had previously been incarcerated and approximately 93% had been on community supervision (Figure 9); 84.62% of homicide suspects and 75% of homicide victims had a prior arrest for a violent incident (Figure 10).

Among unhoused individuals involved in nonfatal shootings, 57.14% of suspects and 89.36% of victims had previously been incarcerated, while 83.33% of both victims and suspects had previously been on community supervision. In addition, 83.33% of nonfatal shooting suspects, and 84.09% of nonfatal shooting victims had a prior arrest for a violent incident.

The incidence of criminal justice system involvement among fatal and nonfatal shooting victims and suspects who are unhoused is higher than among both group-affiliated individuals involved in gun violence and victims and suspects in gun violence incidents overall (Figure 4; Figure 6; Figure 10). Unhoused individuals also had more prior arrests, on average, than those involved in shootings overall. Some of this may reflect the fact that these individuals are older, overall, than others involved in shootings and homicides.

Figure 9. Prior Criminal Justice System Involvement of Unhoused Homicide Suspects and Victims

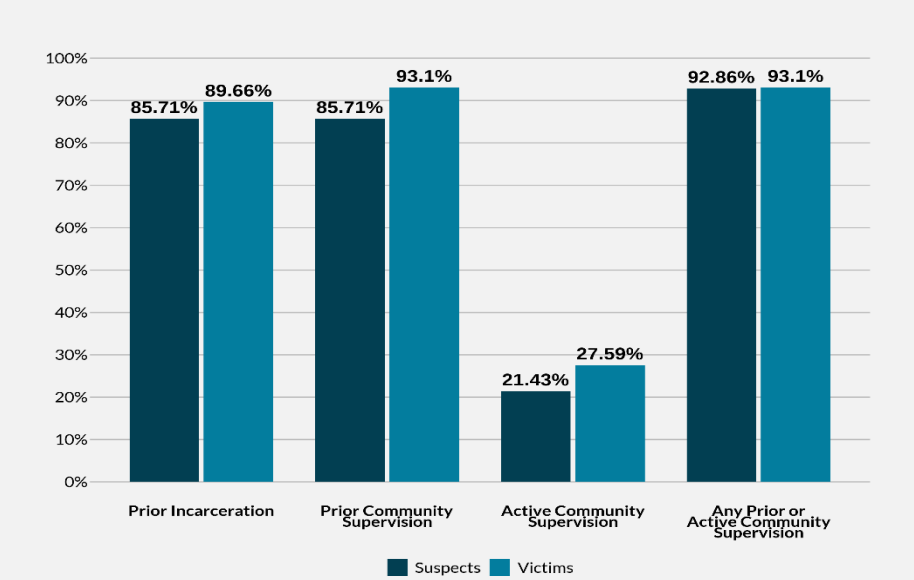
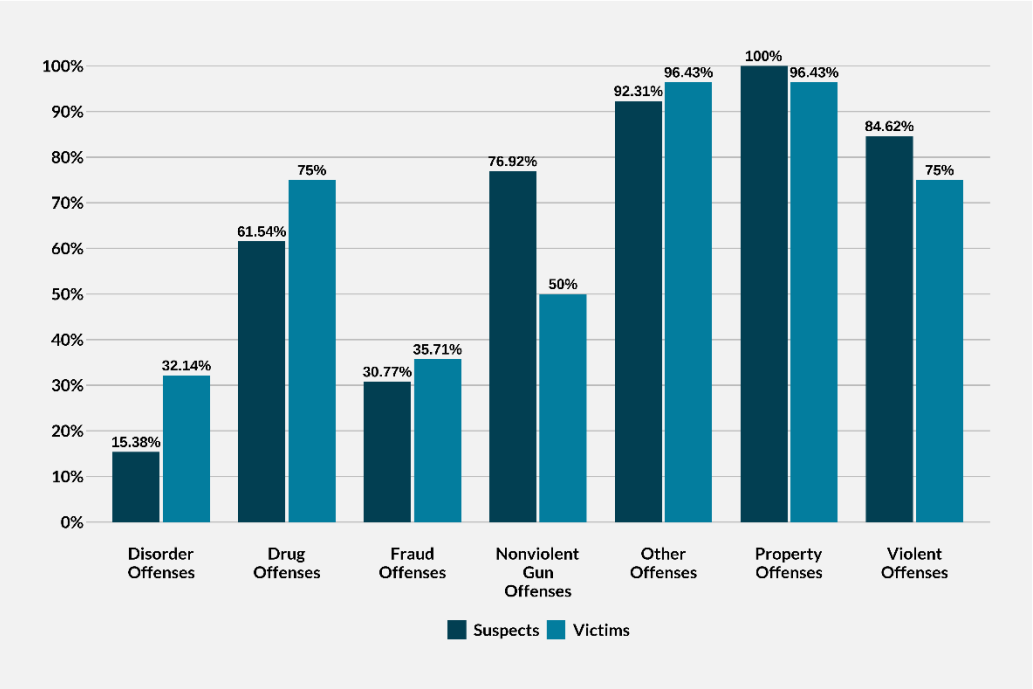


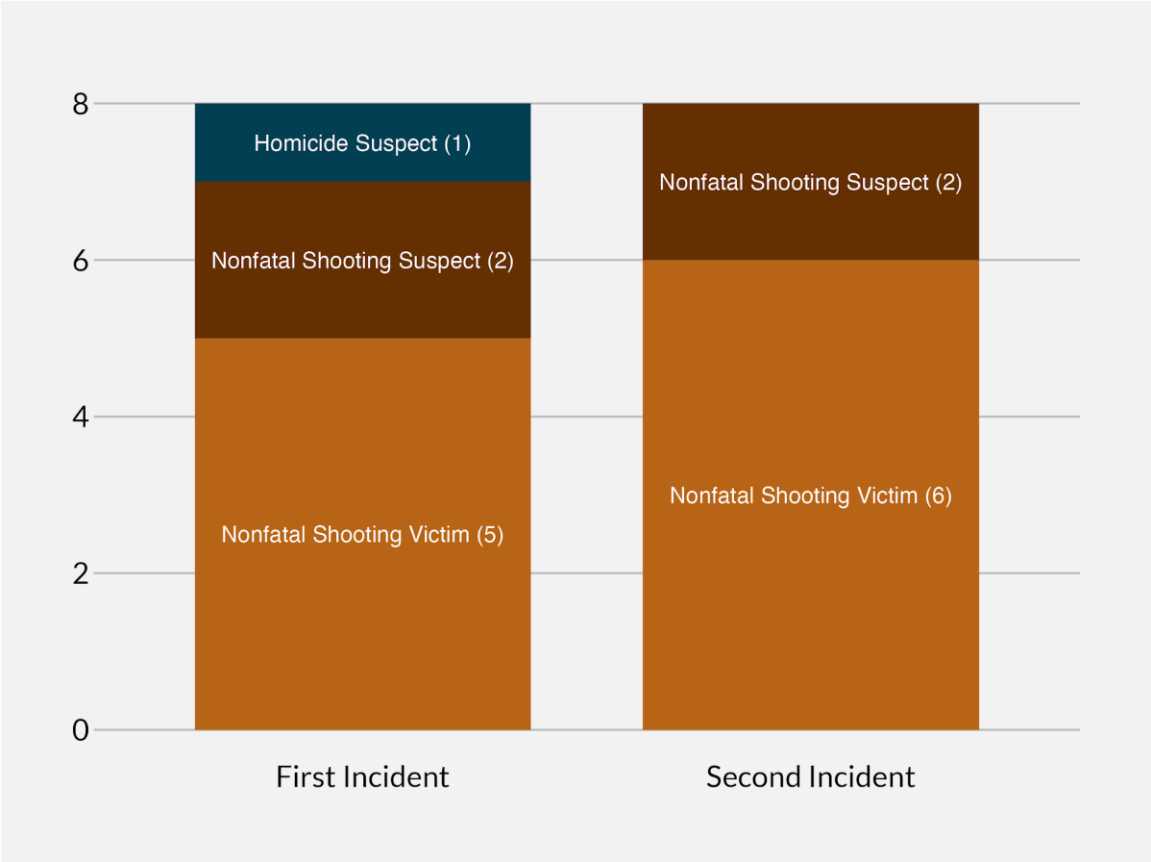
Figure 10. Types of Prior Arrests Among Unhoused Homicide Suspects and Victims



Repeat Involvement

During the study period, eight people were involved in multiple shootings, of whom three were Black (37.5%), three were White (37.5%), one was Asian (12.5%), and one was Latino (12.5%). At the time of their first shooting incident, one individual (12.5%) was under 18 years old, four (50%) were 18–24 years old, two (25%) were 25–34 years old, and one (12.5%) was 35 years old or older.

Figure 11. Role of Individuals Involved in More than One Shooting During the Study Period



Incident Analysis

Homicides

As noted above, this analysis examined all firearm homicides in Portland from January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025 (n=114). As part of this process, NICJR interviewed PPB detectives who investigated these incidents to examine incident circumstances, including the involvement of known group or gang members and involvement of people who are unhoused. (See Appendix for Data and Methodology.)

In most cases, detectives had extremely limited knowledge about group dynamics or affiliations. For homicides in which investigators had knowledge regarding gang or group dynamics, 41.35% involved known or suspected gang/group members as victims, suspects, or both (Figure 12). It is important to note that this likely understates the role of gangs and groups, as focus groups with specialized PPB units and other criminal justice system agencies consistently identified gangs and groups as a major driver of gun violence in Portland. When a homicide did involve known group members as victims and/or suspects, the most common reasons for the incident were interpersonal dispute (37.21%) and ongoing group conflict (32.56%). Across all homicides, interpersonal dispute (41.23%) was the most commonly identified circumstance (Table 11).

Homelessness was also identified as a common factor associated with violence in Portland. Detectives identified nearly 40% of homicide cases as involving a victim and/or suspect who was unhoused at the time of the homicide (Figure 13).

Figure 12. Percentage of Homicides Involving a Known Group Member[3]

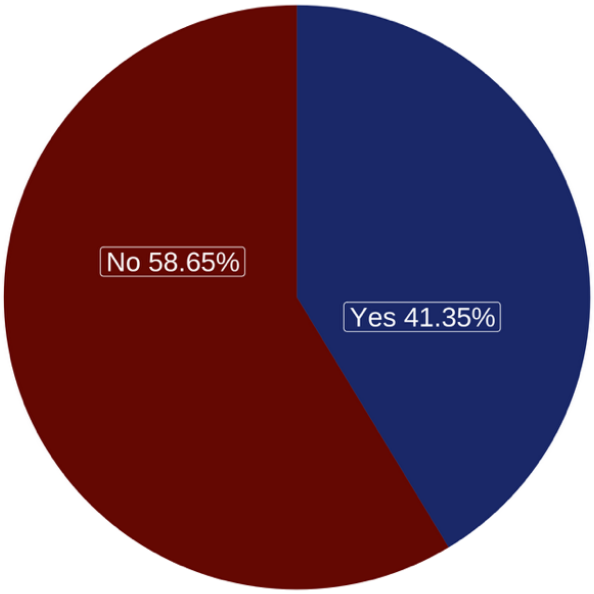


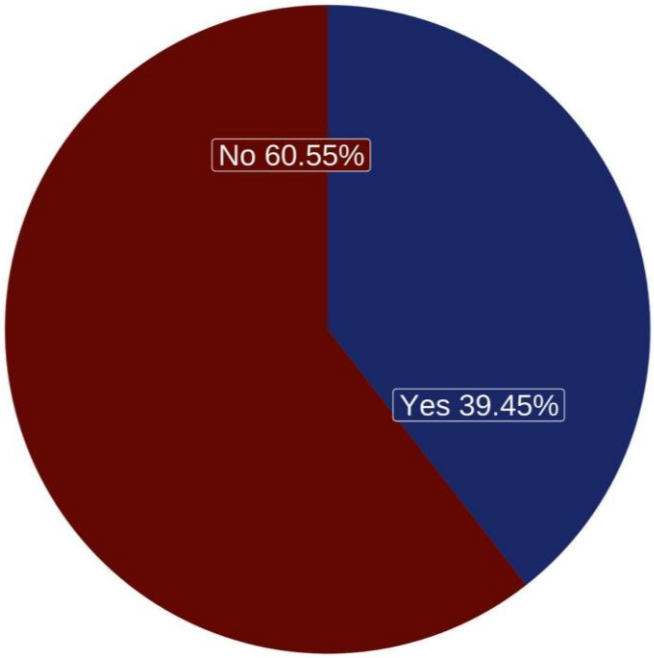
Table 11. Homicide Circumstances and Group Involvement

	Group Involved		Total Homicides	
Circumstance	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
Domestic Violence	4	9.30%	16	14.04%
Interpersonal Dispute*	16	37.21%	47	41.23%
Ongoing Group Conflict	14	32.56%	14	12.28%
Retaliation/Revenge	0	0.00%	5	4.39%
Robbery	4	9.30%	10	8.77%
Unknown	5	11.63%	17	14.91%
Other	0	0.00%	5	4.39%
Total	43	37.72%	114	100.00%

**Disputes not tied to group conflict or domestic violence*

[3] This figure only includes incidents in which the investigating detective knew about group member involvement.

Figure 13. Percentage of Homicides Involving an Unhoused Person[4]



Nonfatal Shootings

Nonfatal shooting dynamics were similar to those of homicides. Among all nonfatal shooting incidents, 35.4% involved group members as either victims, suspects, or both (Figure 14). As with homicides, focus group participants from specialized PPB units and other criminal justice system agencies reported a much greater nexus between shootings and groups or gangs across Portland. For those incidents in which detectives were aware of group member involvement, 40% were tied to ongoing group conflicts. Among all nonfatal shootings, the most commonly identified motives were interpersonal dispute (33.58%), followed by unknown circumstances (32.12%) (Table 12). Thirty percent of people involved in nonfatal shootings were identified as unhoused at the time of the incident (Figure 15).

[4] This figure only includes incidents in which the investigating detective knew about victim and/or suspect homelessness.

Figure 14. Percentage of Nonfatal Shootings with Known Group-Member Involvement[5]

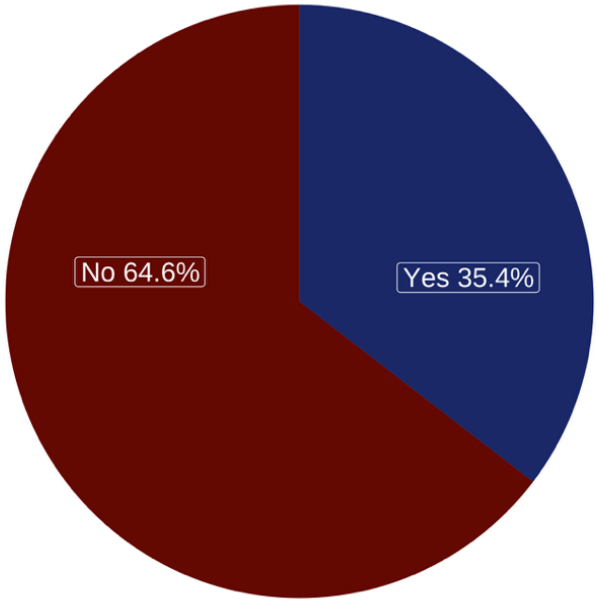


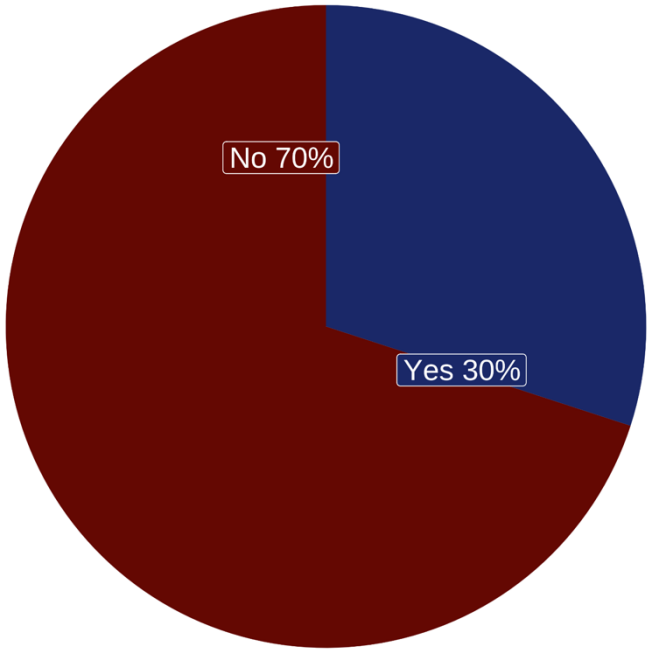
Table 12. Nonfatal Shooting Circumstances and Group Involvement

	Group Involved		Total Nonfatal Shootings	
Circumstance	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
Domestic Violence	1	2.50%	10	7.30%
Interpersonal Dispute*	11	27.50%	46	33.58%
Ongoing Group Conflict	16	40.00%	16	11.68%
Retaliation/Revenge	-	-	2	1.46%
Robbery	3	7.50%	10	7.30%
Unknown	8	20.00%	44	32.12%
Other	1	2.50%	9	6.57%
Total	40	29.20%	137	100.00%

**Disputes not tied to group conflict or domestic violence.*

[5] Only includes incidents in which the investigating detective knew about group-member involvement.

Figure 15. Percentage of Nonfatal Shootings Involving an Unhoused Person[6]



High-Risk Groups and Networks

While there was overlap between the groups identified by detectives and those identified through focus groups with PPB personnel and system partners, detectives attributed fewer shootings directly to gangs and groups than did focus group participants. In addition, many detectives noted that they do not collect information about victim or suspect group affiliations during their investigations, which limits their knowledge about these dynamics.

In focus groups with specialized PPB units and representatives from other criminal justice system agencies, participants identified criminal groups as a primary driver of shootings, with several groups being most commonly involved. The primary gang dynamic in Portland involves conflict between groups affiliated with national gangs, although this dynamic is complicated by shifting alliances and homegrown neighborhood crews.

Several focus group participants reported that gentrification and residential displacement have weakened traditional territorial boundaries and increased contact between rival groups in areas such as outer Southeast Portland, Gresham, and Beaverton, contributing to new interpersonal conflicts and retaliatory violence.

[6] Only includes incidents in which the investigating detective knew about victim and/or suspect homelessness.

Key Takeaways From Criminal Justice and Community Partners

NICJR conducted focus groups and follow-up interviews with officers from specialized PPB units, other PPB officers, criminal justice system partners, and staff from frontline community-based organizations who are most knowledgeable about violent crime and group dynamics in Portland. (More details provided in Appendix.)

When asked what the primary drivers of gun violence are in Portland, there was substantial alignment across participants. The most prevalent responses included:

- gang- and group-related conflict, particularly involving local crews affiliated with national gangs;
- social media-inflamed conflicts, including "rap beefs" and disputes escalated online;
- robberies involving drugs and money related to the drug trade;
- a nexus between gun violence and human trafficking, with most traffickers reported to be gang-affiliated;
- shootings involving unhoused individuals, particularly interpersonal disputes near encampments and service locations;
- break-ins of homes and vehicles involving stolen firearms later used in crimes; and
- structural factors including poverty, housing instability, generational trauma, and inadequate mental health services.

When asked what percentage of shootings were committed by individuals associated with groups, gangs, or neighborhood crews, focus group participants consistently stated that gangs and groups were responsible for the majority of shootings in Portland, regardless of the actual motive for the incident. This is notably more than identified by detectives investigating these incidents, although detectives noted that they do not consistently collect information on gang or group affiliation during shooting investigations.

Several participants also noted that the dissolution of Portland's gang enforcement unit limited officers' ability to openly discuss or identify gang-affiliated individuals, which may have contributed to limited information about gang involvement in shootings.

Summary Findings

Victims and suspects of homicides and nonfatal shootings in Portland have similar characteristics and risk factors. Individuals involved in firearm violence are overwhelmingly men between the ages of 18 and 34. Black men are highly overrepresented relative to their share of Portland's population; Latino men are overrepresented to a lesser degree. Most individuals involved in shootings also have substantial prior criminal justice system involvement, including prior incarceration and arrests for violent offenses.

Group and gang dynamics drive a significant proportion of gun violence in Portland, although limited attention to group dynamics by detectives may understate the extent of that involvement. Group-affiliated individuals involved in shootings tend to be younger than those involved in shootings overall, with a substantial proportion under age 25, and are

predominantly Black and Latino men. While these individuals often have prior criminal justice system involvement, they generally have less extensive arrest histories than other people involved in shootings, potentially reflecting their younger age.

Unhoused individuals also represent a key population involved in gun violence, particularly as victims. Compared to other individuals involved in shootings, unhoused victims and suspects tend to be older, with an average age of approximately 38, and are predominantly White men. They also have more extensive criminal histories, including higher rates of prior incarceration and arrests. Drug-related circumstances were also commonly identified in shootings involving unhoused individuals.

Although Portland has experienced reductions in violence since peak pandemic years, homicide and shooting levels remain elevated compared to pre-pandemic trends. Portland should continue focusing violence reduction strategies on the individuals and groups most directly connected to shootings while adapting to emerging patterns, including homelessness-associated violence, shifting group dynamics, and social media-driven conflicts.

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Appendix: Data and Methodology

Quantitative data for this analysis were collected from the Portland Police Bureau. PPB provided administrative data on firearm homicides and nonfatal injury shootings, including anonymized data on victims and suspects, with demographics and criminal history information.

These data were supplemented by interviews with PPB detectives responsible for investigating these incidents, as well as focus groups with specialized PPB units, criminal justice system partners, juvenile justice agencies, Ceasefire staff, and frontline community-based organizations. Focus groups were particularly effective in generating information about group involvement and the dynamics that shape those relationships, while interviews provided detailed incident-level information.

Detectives were available for interviews regarding 97.44% of homicides and 69.19% of nonfatal shootings. Data on group involvement, homelessness, and incident circumstances are only included for incidents in which investigators were interviewed and had sufficient knowledge regarding those dynamics. Variations in data availability contributed to differences in sample sizes across analyses.