



# GUN VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

ASSESSMENT OF HOMICIDES  
AND NONFATAL SHOOTINGS

January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021



# INTRODUCTION

The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) assessed publicly available data sources to develop the following report on homicides and nonfatal shootings in Atlanta, GA between January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. Though the data is incomplete, valuable assessments and conclusions can be drawn from the large sample of data that is available. During the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, the City experienced 158 homicides and 392 nonfatal shootings. An [interactive map](#) showing the location and available characteristics of all 158 homicides was prepared by NICJR.

This analysis is particularly important because of the large spike in violence that Atlanta and other cities have experienced amid the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, Atlanta tallied 157 homicides, with the City recording 158 homicides in 2021.<sup>1</sup> The homicide rate in Atlanta in 2021 was 31.7 per 100,000 and reflected the highest number of homicides in the City's history dating back to 1997.<sup>2 3</sup> When comparing the 2010 homicide rate with the 2020 homicide rate, there is a staggering 58.3 percent increase. Even when juxtaposing the 2019 homicide rate with the 2020 homicide rate, there was a large increase of 62.6 percent.<sup>4</sup> Recent Atlanta Police Department statistics from January 1, 2022 to March 12, 2022 illustrate there was a 34.8 percent increase in homicides when assessing the same period in 2021.<sup>5</sup>

Victims and suspects were largely disproportionately Black and male. And despite common opinion, those primarily involved in homicides in Atlanta were not teenagers, but young adults in their mid-to-late twenties.

The following information and data tables were prepared from information taken by a variety of public sources. Detailed information on all 158 homicides and all 392 nonfatal shootings during this period is not available, in addition to suspects not yet being identified in many incidents. However, the information that is available provides a large sample of data.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.11alive.com/article/news/crime/atlanta-crime-national-average-murder-report/85-fbe3b7fd-8ed3-46d7-91d9-d3b48769e0b8>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/atlantacitygeorgia>

<sup>3</sup> <https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.atlantapd.org/home/showpublisheddocument/4604/637789869741430000>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.atlantapd.org/home/showpublisheddocument/4698/637831087418030000>

# FINDINGS | Demographics

In Atlanta, victims and suspects of homicides were largely Black, male, and in the 18 to 34 age range. 84 percent of victims and 88 percent of suspects in homicides were male. Over 85 percent of known victims and suspects in homicides were Black, while Black citizens comprise 49.8 percent of the overall population in Atlanta.<sup>6</sup> The average age for victims of a homicide was 31.9 years, while the average age of a suspect of a homicide was 27.1 years.

Much of victim and suspect information for nonfatal shootings is too scarce to categorize. The average age of a victim of a nonfatal shooting was 27.8 years, while the average age of a suspect of a nonfatal shooting was 26.2 years. Across homicides and shootings, victims were more likely to be female when compared to suspects, but both groups were still overwhelmingly male.



<sup>6</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/atlantacitygeorgia>



# DEMOGRAPHICS | Age

**Table 1: Average Age for Victims and Suspects of Homicides**

Total Homicides	Average Age of Victim	Average Age of Suspect
	31.9 years	27.1 years
158	158 known total victims	76 known total suspects



**Table 2: Average Age for Victims and Suspects of Nonfatal Shootings**

Total Nonfatal Shootings	Average Age of Victim	Average Age of Suspect
	27.8 years	26.2 years
392	92 known total victims	61 known total suspects



# DEMOGRAPHICS | Gender

**Table 3: % Gender by Victim for 158 Homicides**

Gender	Count	Percent of Total Count
Male	133	84.0%
Female	25	16.0%
Total	158	100.0%

**Table 4: % Gender by Suspect for 77 Homicides**

Gender	Count	Percent of Total Count
Male	68	88.0%
Female	9	12.0%
Total	77	100.0%

**Table 5: % Gender by Victim for 364 Nonfatal Shootings**

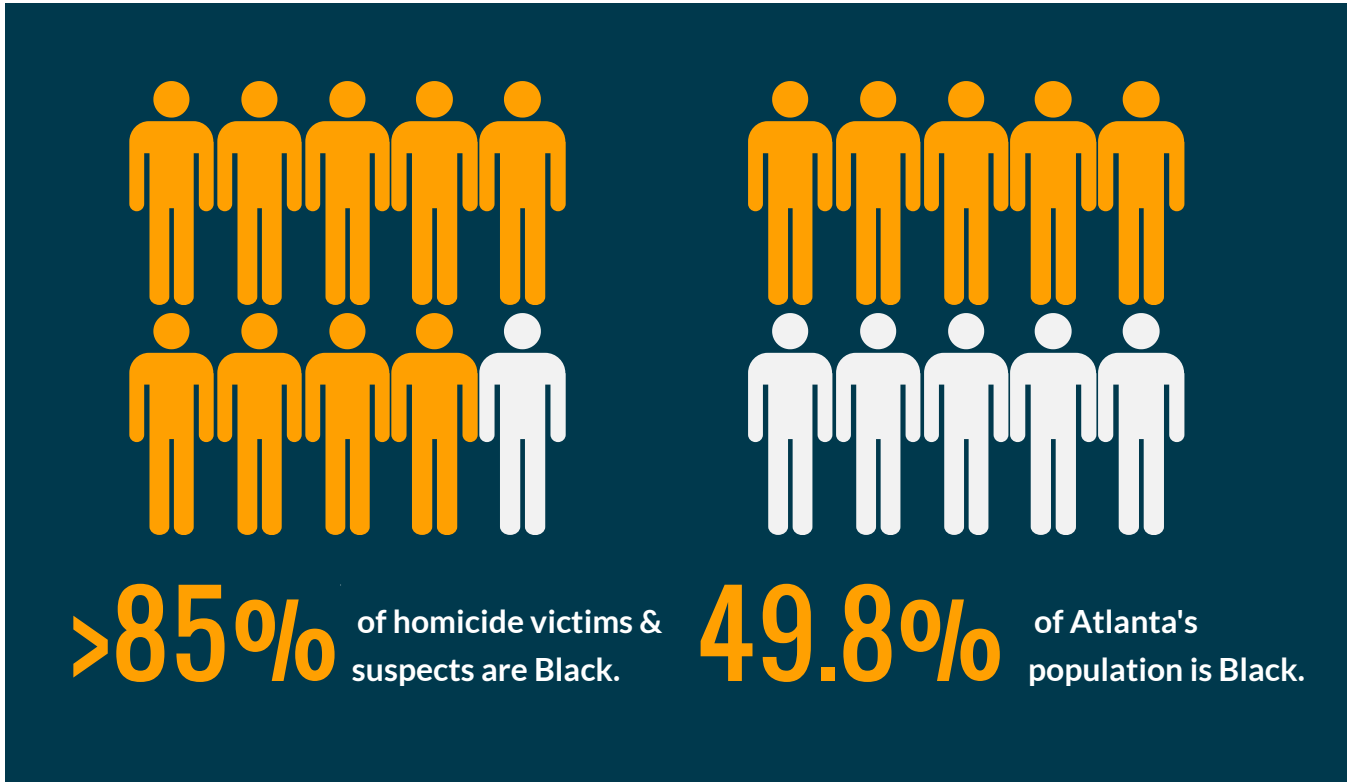
Gender	Count	Percent of Total Count
Male	305	83.8%
Female	59	16.2%
Total	364	100.0%

**Table 6: % Gender by Suspect for 125 Nonfatal Shootings**

Gender	Count	Percent of Total Count
Male	115	92.0%
Female	10	8.0%
Total	125	100.0%



# DEMOGRAPHICS | Race



**Table 7: % Race by Victim for 85 Homicides**

Race/ Ethnicity	Count	Percent of Adjusted Total
Black	80	94.1%
Asian	4	4.7%
Hispanic	1	1.2%
Total	85	100.0%

**Table 8: % Race by Suspect for 37 Homicides**

Race/ Ethnicity	Count	Percent of Adjusted Total
Black	33	89.0%
White	4	11.0%
Total	37	100.0%

# DEMOGRAPHICS | Race

**Table 9: % Race by Victim for 392 Nonfatal Shootings**

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percent of Total Count
Black	6	2.0%
White	2	1.0%
Unknown	384	98.0%
Total	392	100.0%

**Table 10: % Race by Victim for 8 Nonfatal Shootings**

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percent of Adjusted Total
Black	6	75.0%
White	2	25.0%
Total	8	100.0%

**Table 11: % Race by Suspect for 392 Nonfatal Shootings**

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percent of Total Count
Black	10	3.0%
Unknown	382	97.0%
Total	392	100.0%

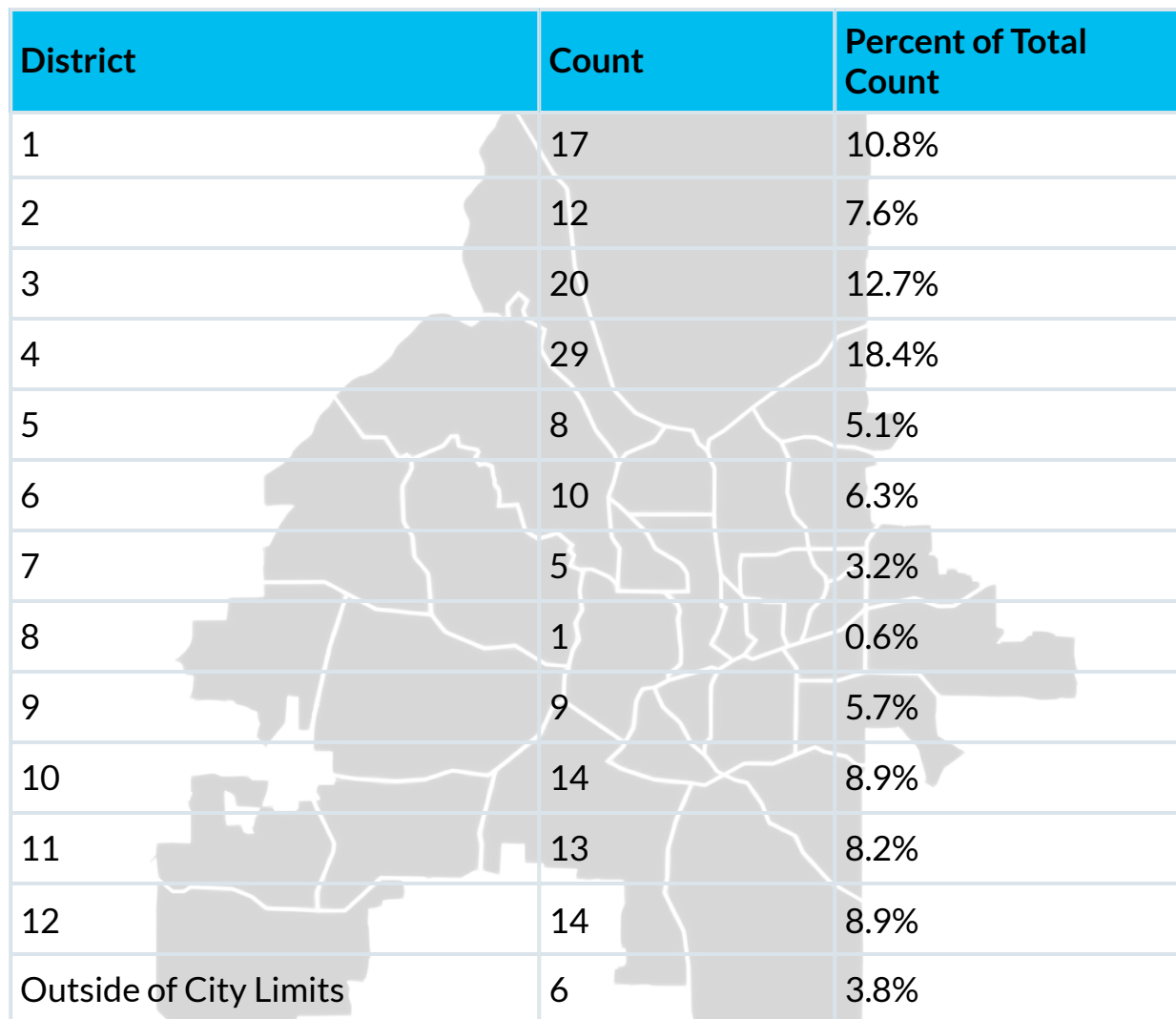
**Table 12 % Race by Suspect for 10 Nonfatal Shootings**

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percent of Adjusted Total
Black	10	100.0%
Total	10	100.0%

It is important to note that there is a lack of suspect and victim information publicly available for nonfatal shootings.

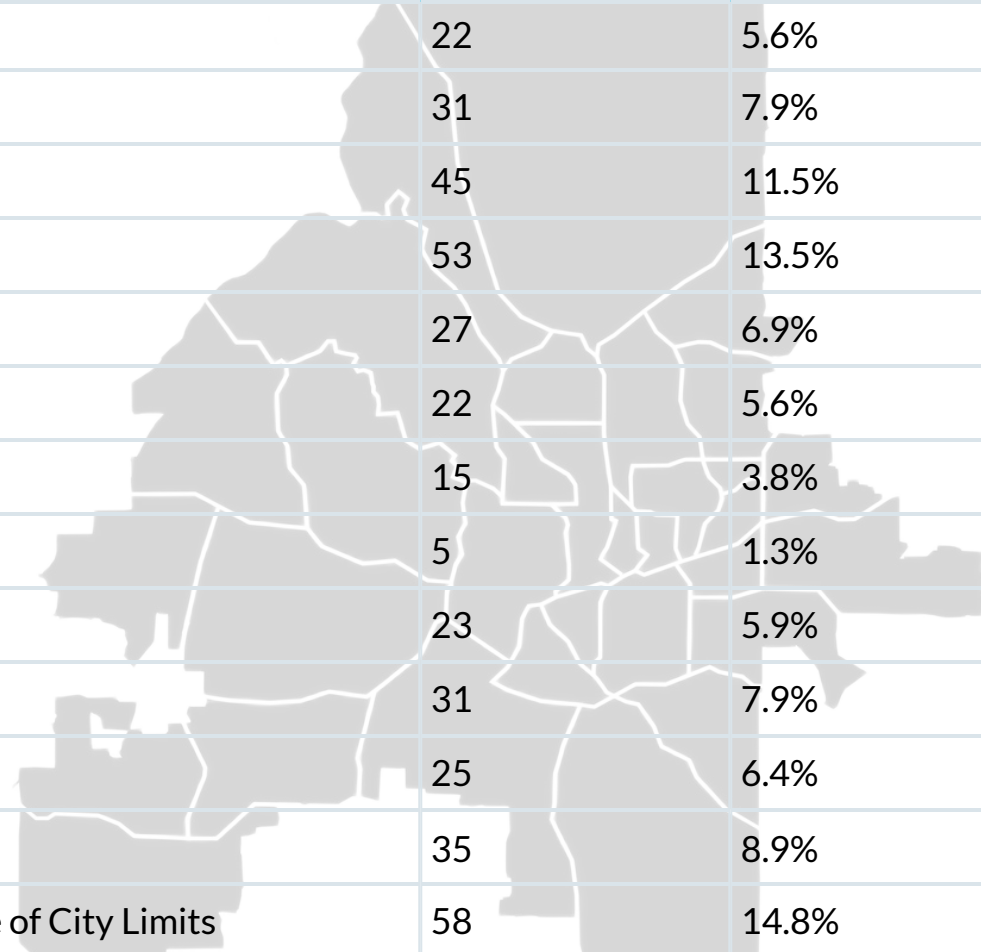


**Table 13: Homicides by Council District**



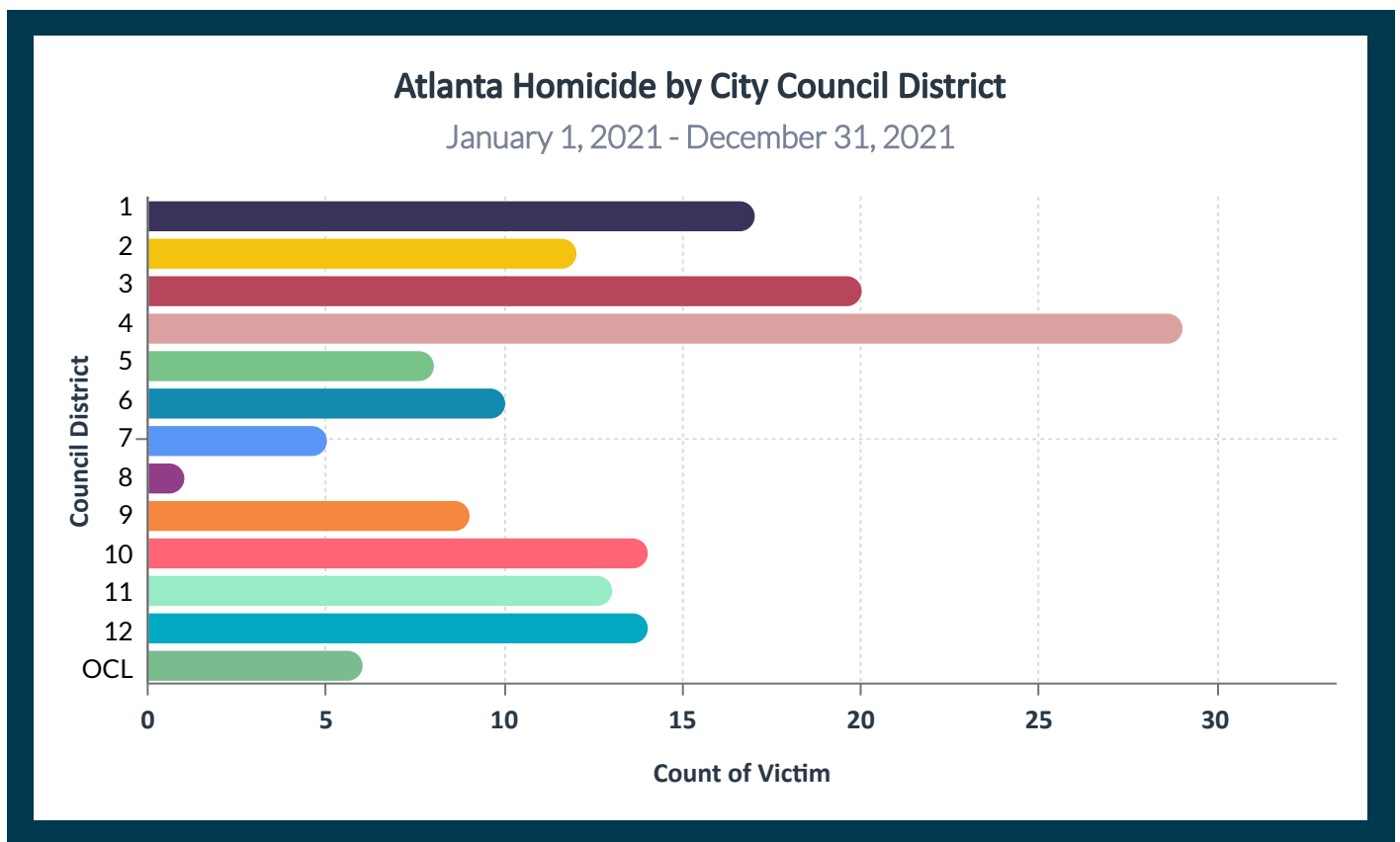
District	Count	Percent of Total Count
1	17	10.8%
2	12	7.6%
3	20	12.7%
4	29	18.4%
5	8	5.1%
6	10	6.3%
7	5	3.2%
8	1	0.6%
9	9	5.7%
10	14	8.9%
11	13	8.2%
12	14	8.9%
Outside of City Limits	6	3.8%

**Table 14: Nonfatal Shootings by Council District**



District	Count	Percent of Total Count
1	22	5.6%
2	31	7.9%
3	45	11.5%
4	53	13.5%
5	27	6.9%
6	22	5.6%
7	15	3.8%
8	5	1.3%
9	23	5.9%
10	31	7.9%
11	25	6.4%
12	35	8.9%
Outside of City Limits	58	14.8%

Figure 1: Atlanta Homicides by City Council District





# FINDINGS | Clearance Rates

Clearance rates for homicides by the Atlanta Police Department have been decreasing since 2015, with the exception of 2017. Clearance rates for violent crimes have been declining since 2010. When compared with the national clearance rate in 2018 for homicides and non-negligent manslaughter of 62.3 percent, the Atlanta Police Department's homicide clearance rate that same year was higher at 70.5 percent.<sup>7</sup> In 2020, the homicide clearance rate in Atlanta fell to a low of 22%.

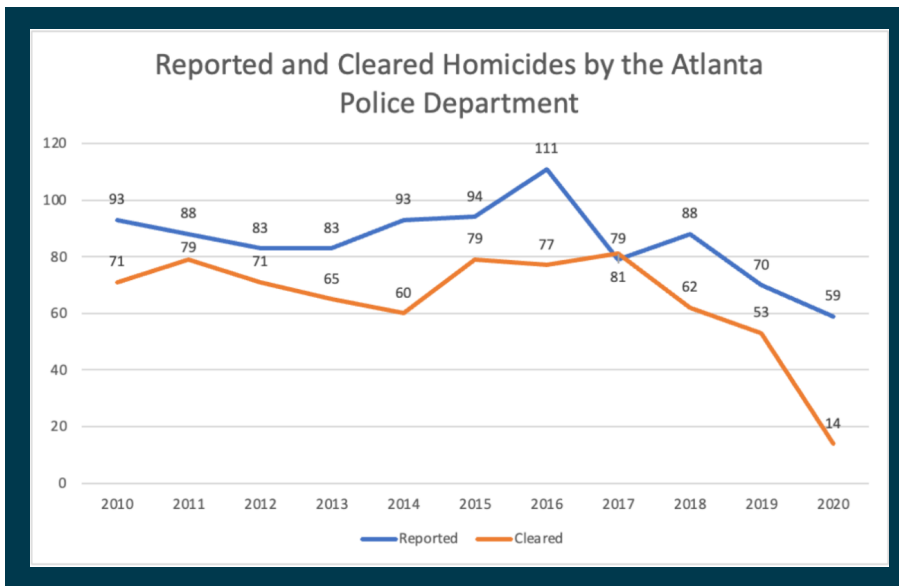


Figure 2: Reported and Cleared Homicides by the Atlanta Police Department<sup>8</sup>

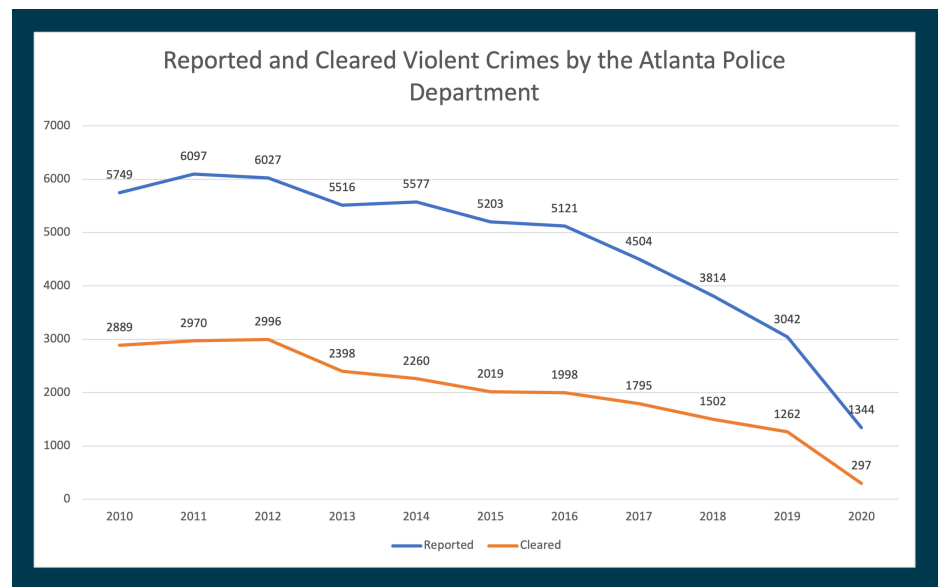


Figure 3: Reported and Cleared Violent Crimes by the Atlanta Police Department<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> FBI Crime Data Explorer Tool

<sup>9</sup> FBI Crime Data Explorer Tool

# FINDINGS | Clearance Rates

**Table 15: Atlanta Police Department Clearance Rate for Homicides per Year<sup>10</sup>**

Year	Homicide Clearance Rate
2010	76.3%
2011	89.8%
2012	85.5%
2013	78.3%
2014	64.5%
2015	84.0%
2016	69.4%
2017	97.5%
2018	70.5%
2019	75.7%

**Table 16: Atlanta Police Department Clearance Rate for FBI Part I Violent Crimes per Year<sup>11</sup>**

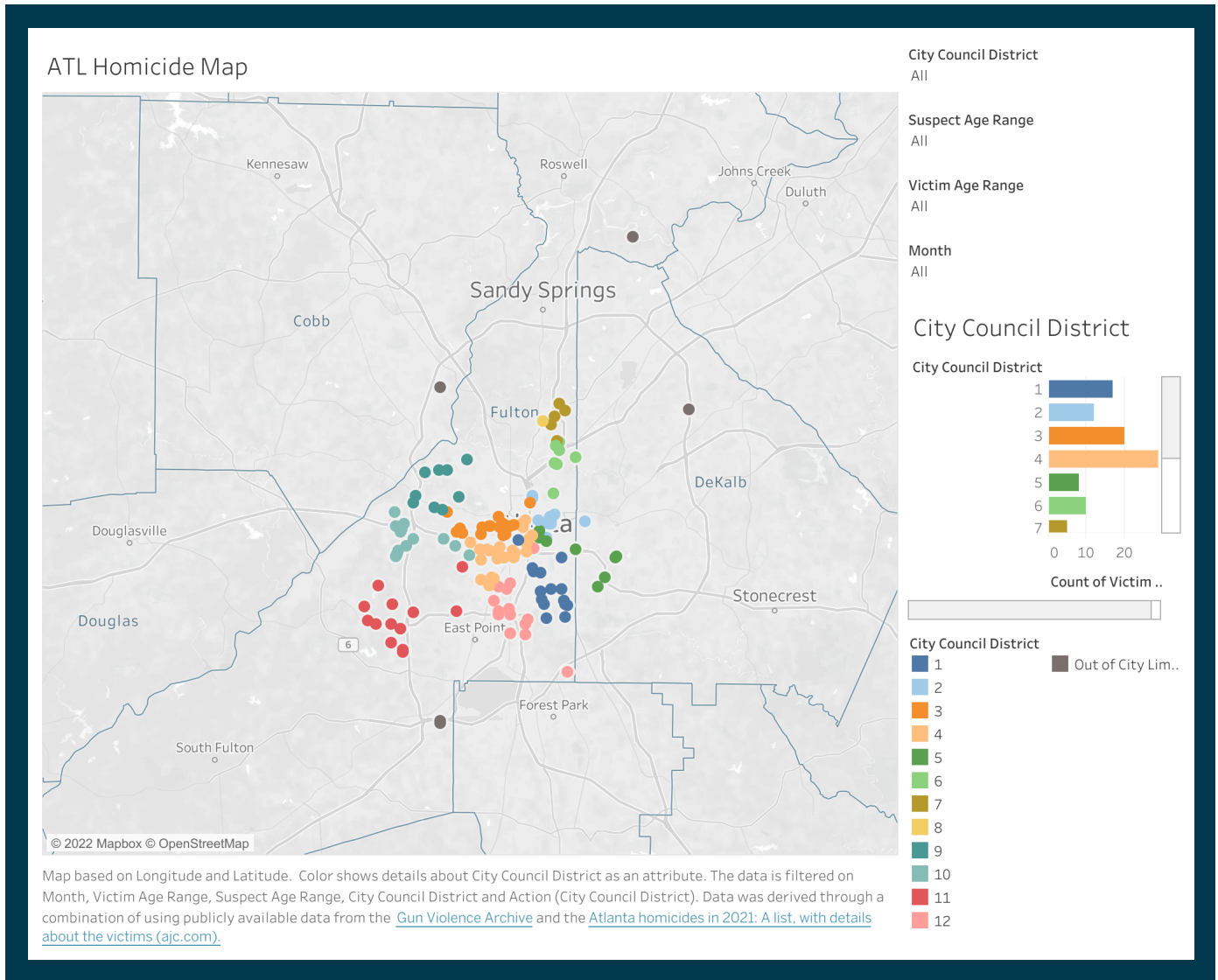
Year	Violent Crime Clearance Rate
2010	50.3%
2011	48.7%
2012	49.7%
2013	43.5%
2014	40.5%
2015	38.8%
2016	39.0%
2017	39.9%
2018	39.4%
2019	41.5%

<sup>10</sup> Crime Data Explorer (2022). Federal Bureau of Investigation. *Summary Crime reported by the Atlanta Police Department 2010-2020*. [CDE :: Crime \(cloud.gov\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> Crime Data Explorer (2022). Federal Bureau of Investigation. *Summary Crime reported by the Atlanta Police Department 2010-2020*. [CDE :: Crime \(cloud.gov\)](#)

# FINDINGS | Incident Map

Figure 4: Atlanta Homicide Map (January 1 - December 31, 2021)



The following map depicts 158 homicides during the period of January 01, 2021 to December 31, 2021 in Atlanta, GA. An [interactive version of this map](#) is available as well.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/amir.chapel/viz/AtlantaHomicideMap/ATLHomicideDashboard?publish=yes>





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NICJR★

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Criminal Justice Reform

