

LEON COUNTY GUN VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT

Assessment of Leon County, Florida Homicide and Non-Fatal Shootings
January 1, 2021–December 31, 2022

JUNE 2023

NICJR★
National Institute for
Criminal Justice Reform

Introduction

The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) conducted this Gun Violence Assessment (GVA) to inform Leon County's development of a gun violence reduction strategy (GVRs). NICJR assessed publicly available data sources to develop the following report on homicide and non-fatal shootings in Leon County, FL between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022. During this period, the county experienced 30 homicide and 145 non-fatal shootings for which NICJR could locate publicly available data.



Consistent with nationwide increases in violence amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Leon County saw an 83% increase in firearm violent crime from 2018 to 2021.¹ In Tallahassee, there were 73 total shootings in 2019 and 108 in 2022.² Although overall crime in Leon County has decreased since the onset of the pandemic,³ the spike in violent crime has included several notable mass shooting incidents, including a 2018 shooting at a hot yoga studio in Tallahassee that left two dead and five others injured,⁴ as well as a 2022 liquor store shooting that left one person dead and eight injured.⁵

Leon County has 297,369 residents, of which 61.0% are White, 32.4% Black, 7.0% Latino, and 3.6% Asian.⁶ Within the time frame studied, both homicide and non-fatal shooting victims and suspects were disproportionately Black and male. Despite popular belief, most victims and suspects were not teenagers, but rather young adults in the 18 and 34 age range. The Leon County report *Anatomy of a Homicide*, which analyzed gun violence incidents from 2015–2020, showed similar findings in the years preceding the pandemic.⁷

Methods

This report uses publicly available data to characterize the individuals and patterns of gun violence in Tallahassee and surrounding areas within Leon County, Florida. To obtain data, NICJR utilized the Gun Violence Archive,⁸ National Gun Violence Memorial,⁹ Tallahassee Democrat shootings database,¹⁰ and court records available from the Leon County Clerk Courts Search.¹¹

The Gun Violence Archive, the main source for data utilized for this GVA, uses automated queries to compile relevant data from over 7,500 sources, including local and state police and government agencies, databases, media, and other sources. Data for each incident is verified through an initial research and secondary verification process.¹²

Data for this report were collected for a 24-month period in Tallahassee, Florida. However, this also includes incidents that occurred in unincorporated areas within Leon County during the same time period. As a part of the data collection and analysis, NICJR checked all data for duplicates and missing information and aggregated age data for each victim and suspect into age ranges of 0–17 years, 18–34 years, and 35+ years.

Detailed information for all 30 homicide and 145 non-fatal shootings during the report period is not available, both because this report only draws upon publicly available data, and because suspects have not been identified in many incidents. However, the information that is available provides a meaningful data sample.

Table 1. Number of Gun Violence Victims and Suspects with Available Demographic Information

Data available	Homicide victims	Homicide suspects	Non-fatal victims	Non-fatal suspects
Age	14	25	19	39
Race	11	19	3	36
Gender	29	35	130	43

Demographic Breakdown

NICJR found that victims and suspects of both homicide and non-fatal gun violence incidents in Leon County from 2021 to 2022 were disproportionately Black males in their mid-twenties.

The average age of homicide shooting victims within the sample was 26.4, and the 25 known suspects had an average age of 24.1 years. Similarly, the average age of the 19 known victims of 145 non-fatal shootings was 27.2 years, and the average age of 39 known suspects was 25.1 years.

For homicide shootings, 86.2% of victims and 100% of suspects were male, while 79.2% of non-fatal shooting victims and 93% of suspects were male. Available information indicated that 90.9% of victims and 89.5% of suspects in homicide shootings were Black, while 97.2% of suspects and 100% of victims in non-fatal shootings were Black. It should be noted, however, that race was only identified for three non-fatal shooting victims.



The majority of gun violence victims and suspects are **between the ages of 24-27.**

Figure 1. Average Age of Homicide and Non-Fatal Shooting Victims and Suspects

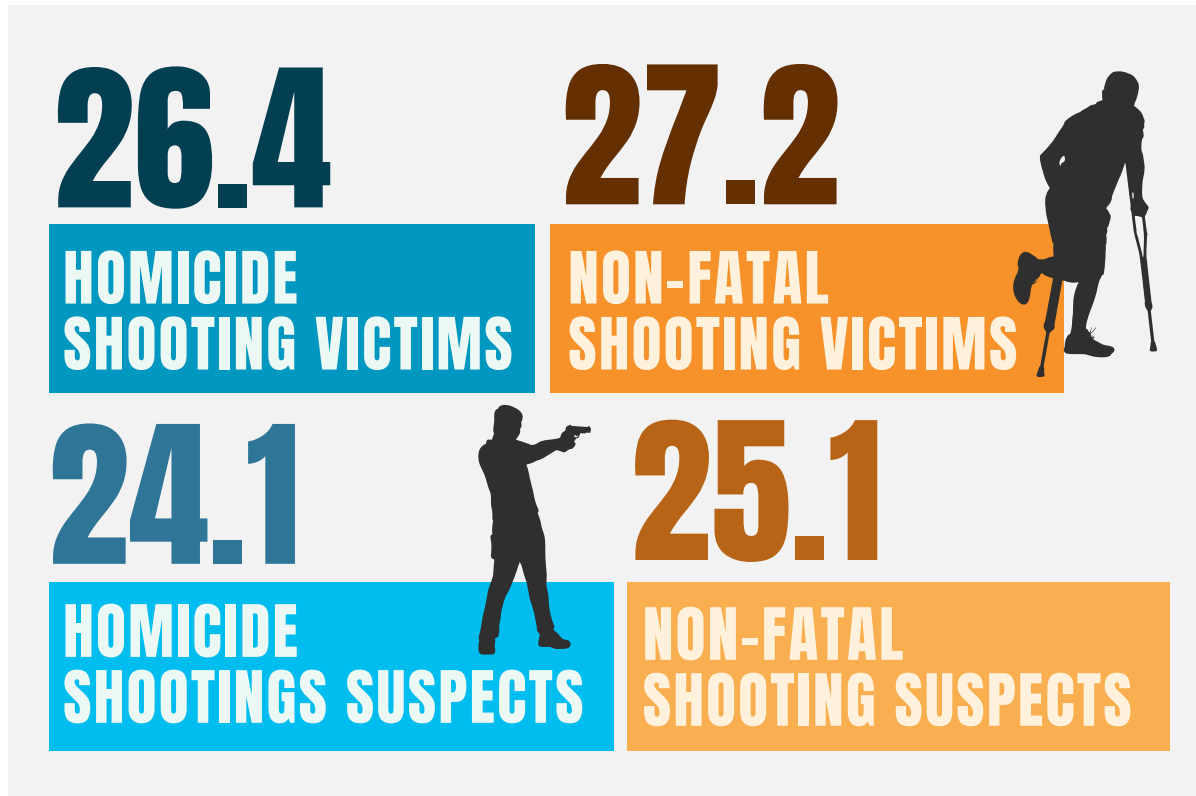
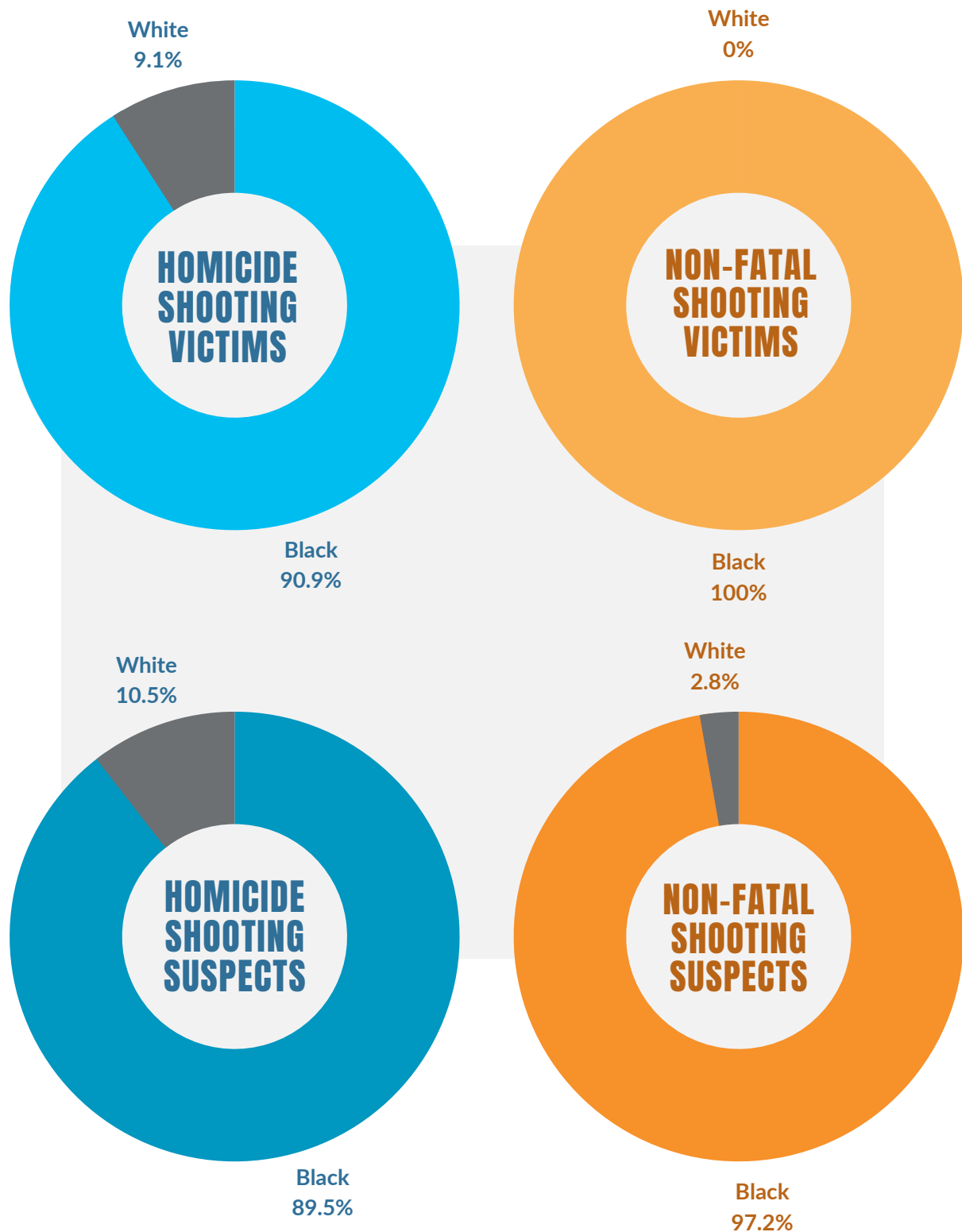


Table 2. Age Distribution of Homicide and Non-Fatal Shooting Victims and Suspects

	Homicide victims		Homicide suspects		Non-fatal shooting victims		Non-fatal shooting suspects	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 18	3	21.4%	3	12%	3	15.8%	3	7.7%
18-34	9	64.3%	20	80%	12	63.2%	30	76.9%
35+	2	14.3%	2	8%	4	21%	6	15.4%
Total	14	100%	25	100%	19	100%	39	100%

The majority of gun violence victims and suspects are **Black**.

Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity of Homicide and Non-Fatal Shooting Victims and Suspects¹³

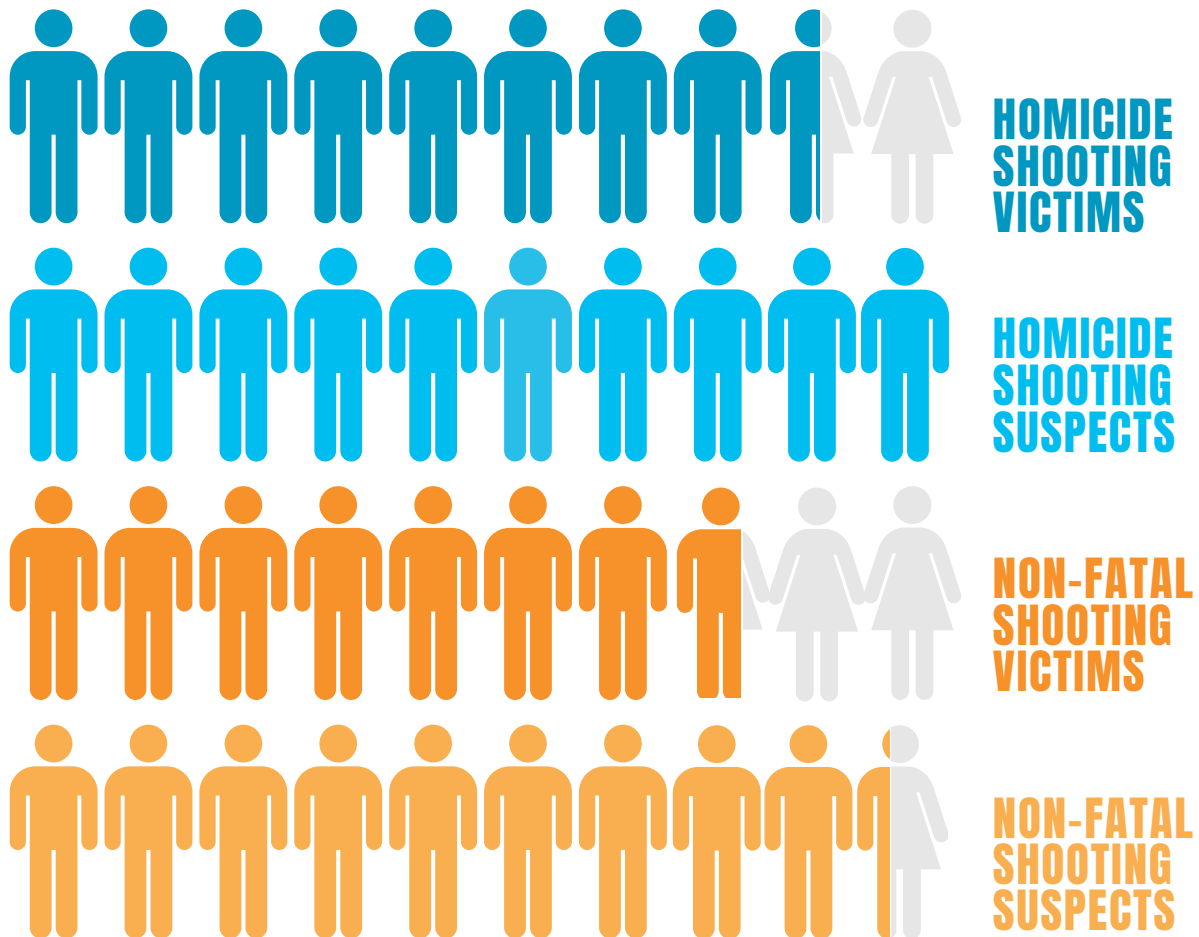


The majority of gun violence victims and suspects are **male**.

Table 3 and Figure 3. Gender of Homicide and Non-Fatal Shooting Victims and Suspects

	Homicide shooting victims		Non-fatal shooting victims	
	#	%	#	%
Male	25	86.2%	103	79.2%
Female	4	13.8%	27	20.8%
Total	29	100%	130	100%

	Homicide shooting suspects		Non-fatal shooting suspects	
	#	%	#	%
Male	25	100%	40	93%
Female	0	0%	3	7%
Total	25	100%	43	100%



Gun violence incidents often occur on the **weekend** between **midnight and 6am**.

Figure 5. Homicide and Non-Fatal Shooting Incidents by Day of the Week in 2022

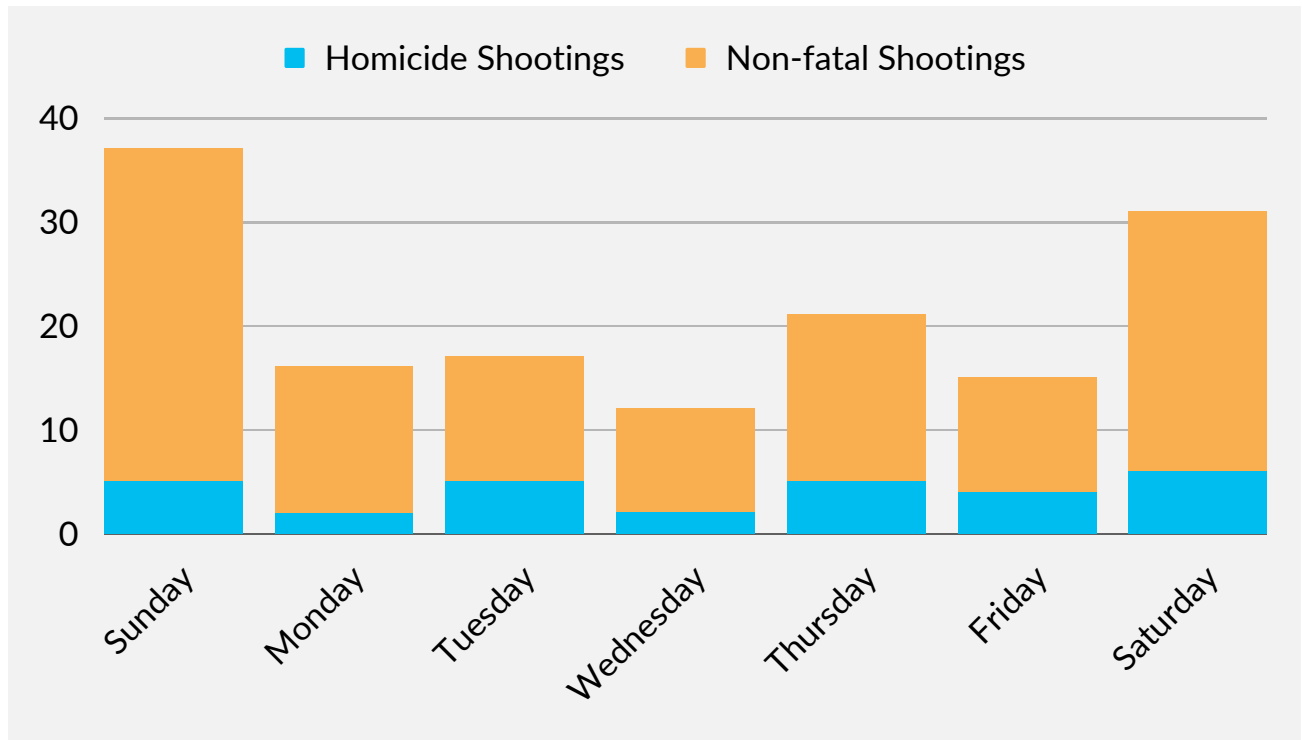


Figure 6. Homicide and Non-Fatal Shooting Incidents by Day of the Week in 2022

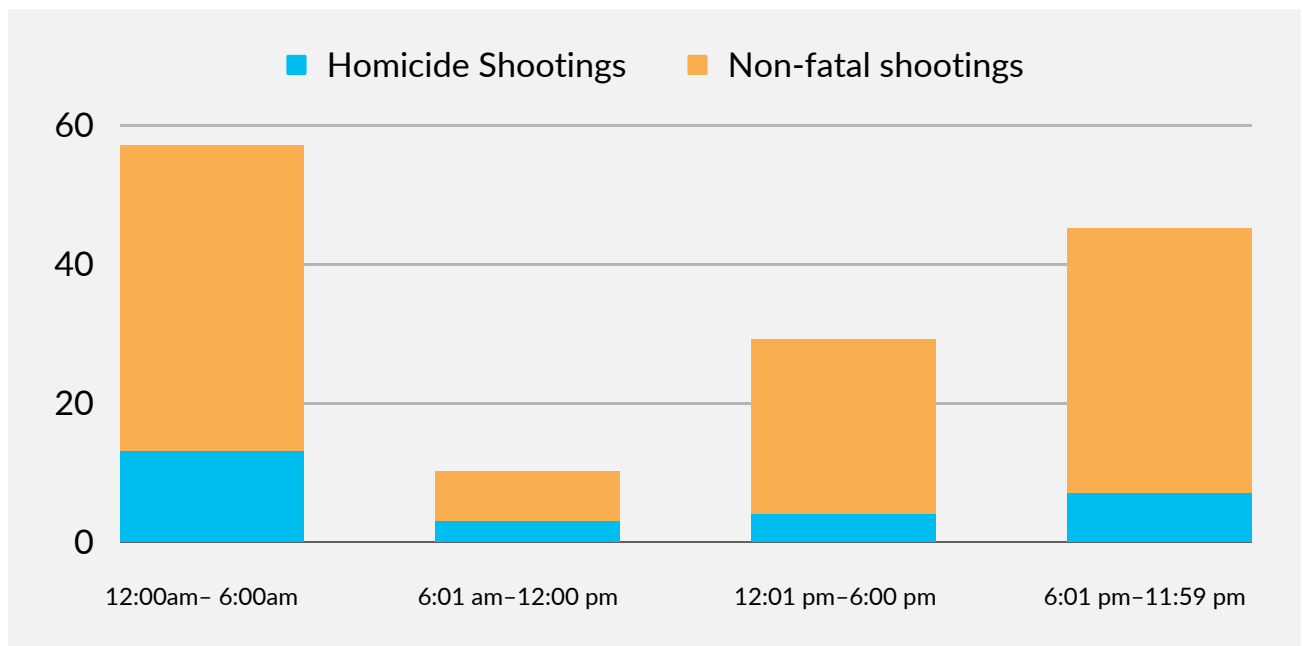
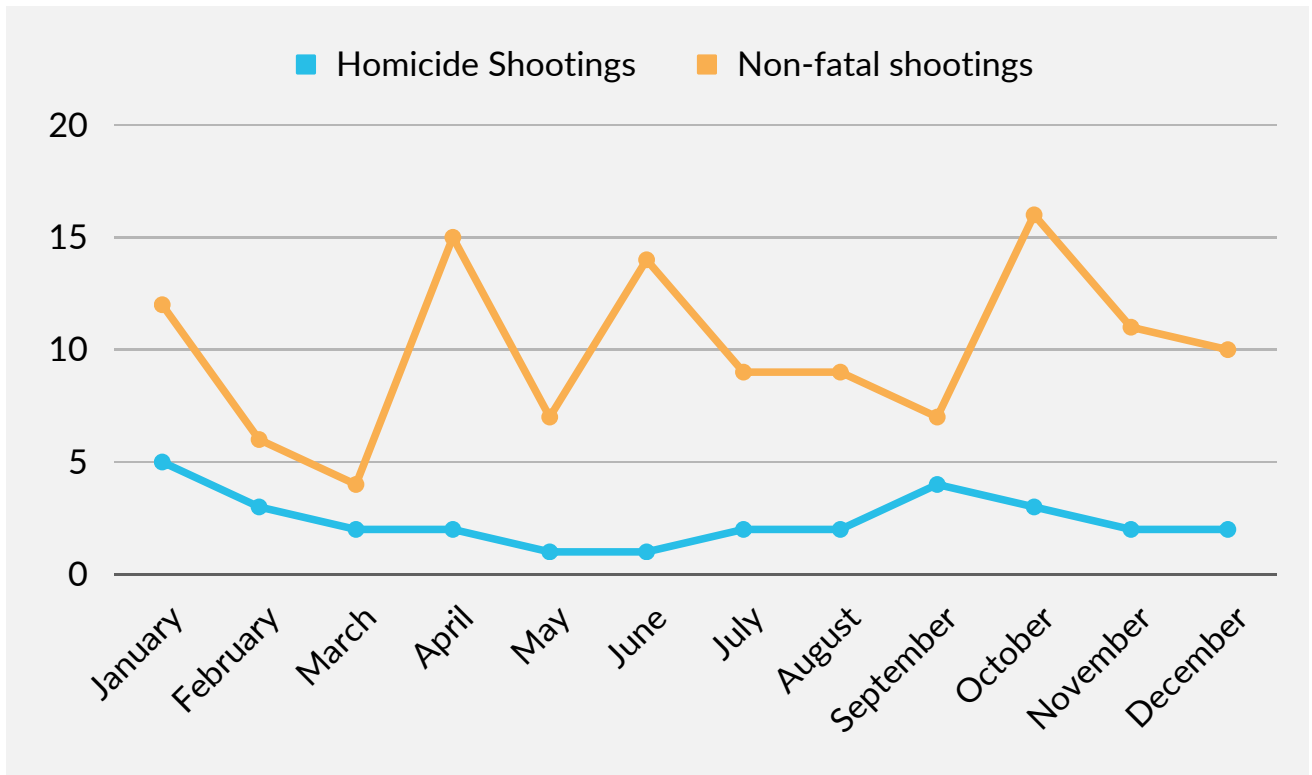


Figure 7. Homicide and Non-Fatal Shooting Incidents by Month in 2022



Saturdays saw the highest percentage of homicide shootings (20.7%), while Sunday saw the highest percentage of non-fatal shootings (26.7%). For both fatal and non-fatal shootings, incidents were more likely to occur between 12:00 am and 6:00 am (48.2% and 38.6%, respectively), followed by 6:01 pm and 11:59 pm (25.9% and 33.3%, respectively). Homicide shootings peaked in January (17.2%) and September (13.8%), while non-fatal shootings peaked in April (12.5%) and October (13.3%). Incidents slowed in March, May, and December.



Zip codes **32304** & **32310** had the highest rates of gun violence.

With 24.1% of countywide homicide shootings and 45.7% of countywide non-fatal shootings, the 32304 zip code saw the highest number of shooting incidents. The same zip code also has the highest percentage of families living in poverty of any zip code in the state.¹⁴ There were also elevated numbers of homicide and non-fatal shootings in the 32310 zip code (24.1% and 15.5%, respectively). Two neighborhoods in the 32310 zip code stood out with more than one incident: the Bond Community area with two incidents and the Elberta Empire neighborhood with three. In 2018, the Bond Community began community development efforts working with the Public Safety Collective as a part of the Neighborhood Public Safety Initiative. These efforts are focused on public safety, community beautification, land use, and economic development.¹⁵

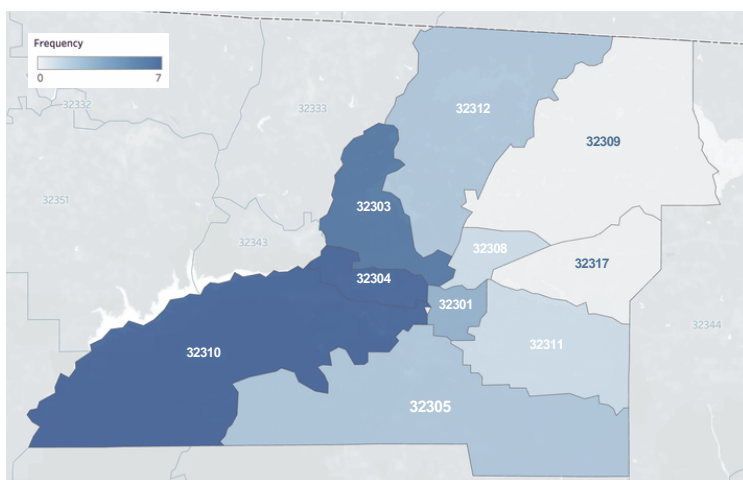


Figure 8. Map of Homicide Shooting Frequency by Zip Code ¹⁶

48.2%
of homicide shootings
occurred in zip codes
32304 & 32310

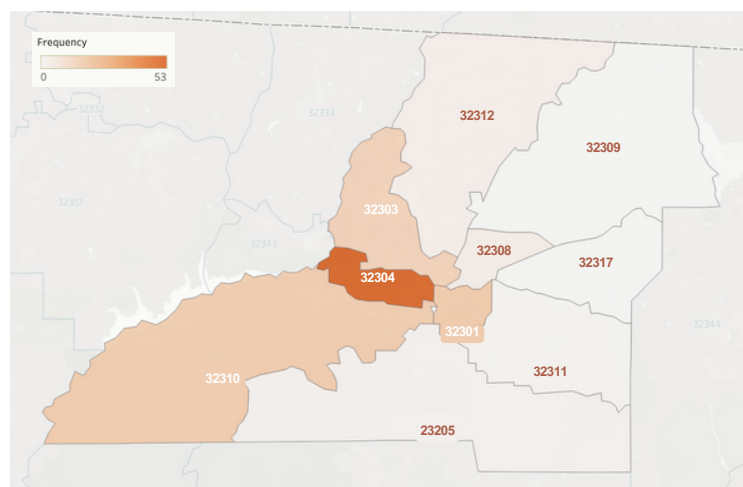


Figure 9. Map of Non-Fatal Shooting Frequency by Zip Code ¹⁷

61.2%
of non-fatal shootings
occurred in zip codes
32304 & 32310

*Interactive maps for homicide and non-fatal shootings are linked in the endnotes of this report.

County Commission District 1 had the highest rate of gun violence.

Notably, all the incidents observed in the 32310 zip code were concentrated near that zip code's borders with the 32304 and 32301 zip codes in County Commission District 1.¹⁸ Overall, 41.4% of homicide and 47.9% of non-fatal shooting incidents occurred in District 1.

Figure 10. Leon County Homicide Shooting Incidents in 2022¹⁹

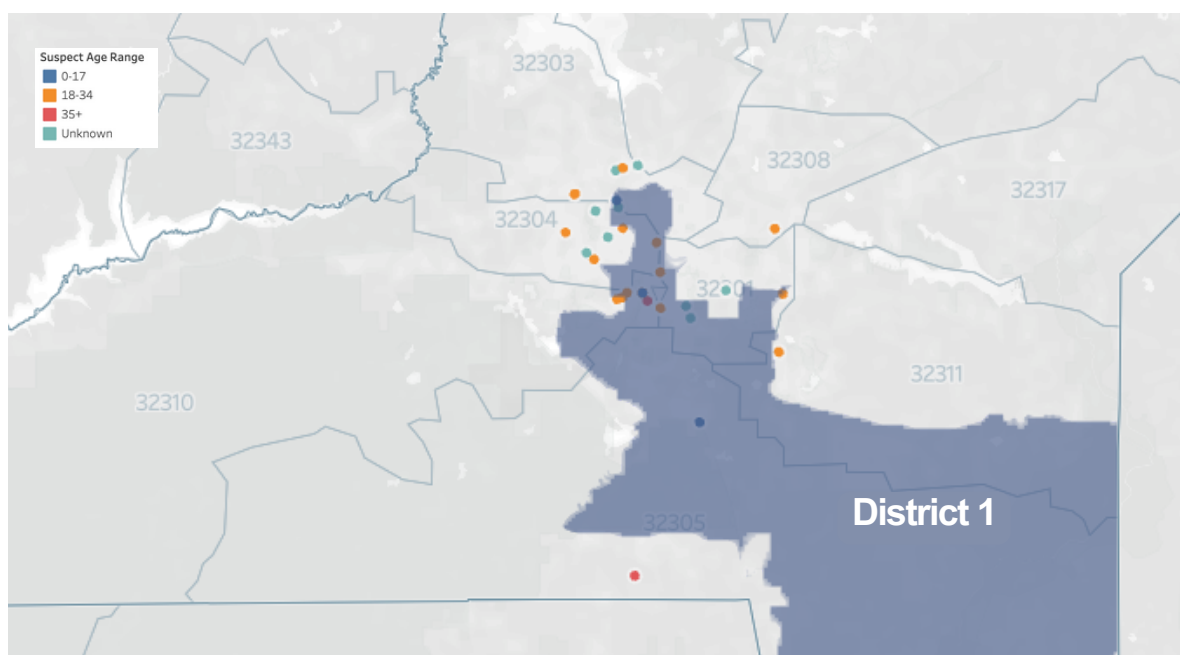
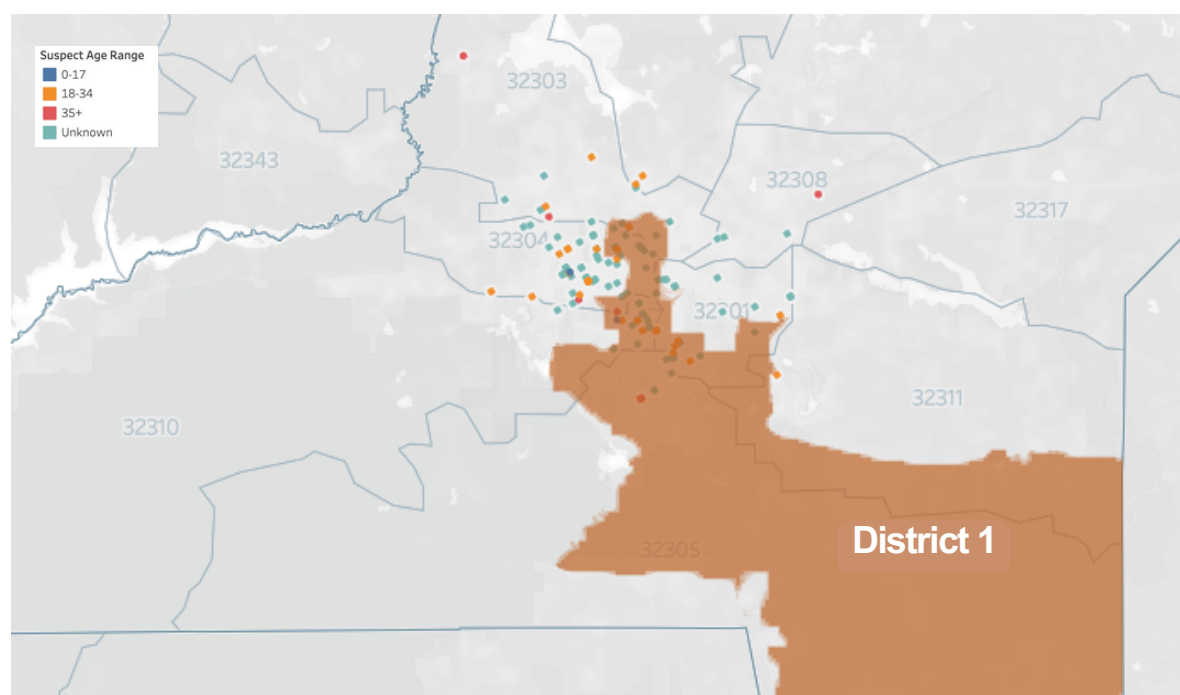


Figure 11. Leon County Non-Fatal Shooting Incidents in 2022²⁰



Leon County Clearance Rates

The combined homicide clearance rate for the Leon County Sheriff’s Office and Tallahassee Police Department has declined since 2018, following peaks of 105.9%²¹ in 2012 and 100% in 2018. Despite these declines, the 75.9% combined clearance rate of the Leon County Sheriff’s Office and Tallahassee Police Department in 2020 was higher than the national average of 54.4% that same year.²²

Figure 12. Reported and Cleared Homicides by the Leon County Sheriff’s Office and Tallahassee Police Department Combined ²³

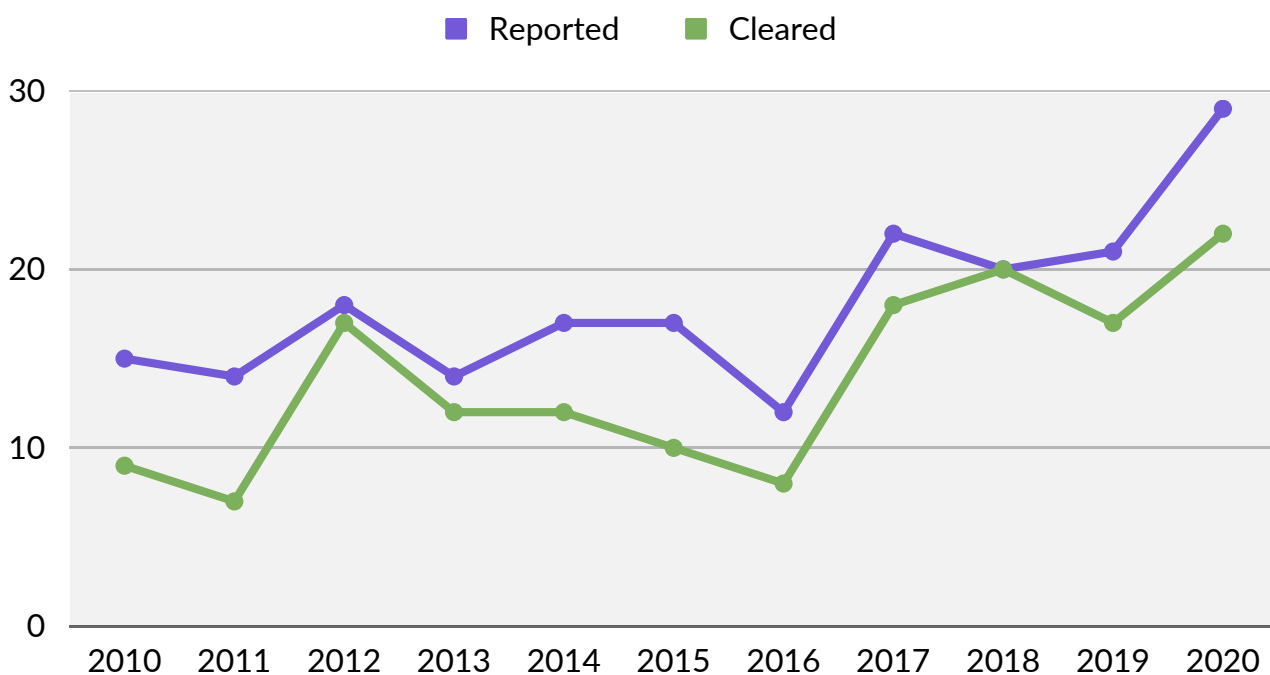


Table 4. Leon County Sheriff’s Office and Tallahassee Police Department Clearance Rate for Homicides per Year ²⁴

Year	Homicide Clearance Rate	Year	Homicide Clearance Rate
2010	60.0%	2016	66.7%
2011	50.0%	2017	81.8%
2012	105.9%	2018	100%
2013	85.7%	2019	81.0%
2014	70.6%	2020	75.9%
2015	58.8%		

Data Limitations

Publicly available data for gun violence incidents are scarce. Identifying information is often unavailable for several reasons, including the victim’s right to confidentiality under Marsy’s Law and lack of an identified suspect. Because ethnicity data were not reported, there is no available information for Latino individuals. Location information is also often scarce, although NICJR determined zip code, neighborhood, and County Commission District using reported incident addresses whenever possible. Despite the scarcity of some information, NICJR diligently searched multiple sources to collect data and has provided the most comprehensive data available.

Conclusion

Victims and suspects of gun violence in Leon County from 2021 to 2022 were disproportionately Black, male, young adults. The Leon County *Anatomy of a Homicide* report found that Black, male, young adults were also disproportionately victims and suspects in gun violence incidents from 2015–2020. Gun violence was concentrated in the 32304 zip code, followed by the bordering area of 32310 in City Commission District 1. Gun violence incidents were most likely to occur between 6:00 pm and 6:00 am on weekend days. This information about the nature of gun violence in the county will be used to inform the development of a gun violence reduction strategy.

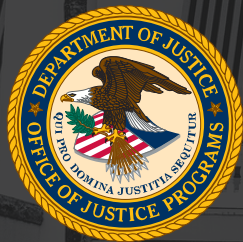
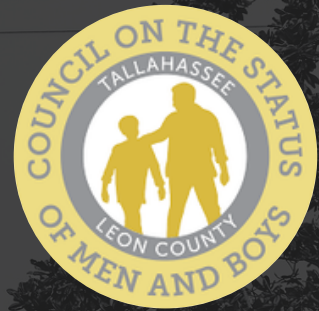


Endnotes

1. [Tallahassee Violent Crimes with Firearms Up 83% Since 2018](#)
2. [Shootings in Tallahassee in 2019](#)
3. [Leon County crime rate dropped 20% during pandemic, FDLE 2020 crime report shows, *Anatomy of a Homicide Project*](#)
4. [Gunman posed as customer before killing 2 women, injuring 5 others | CBS News](#)
5. [The suspected gunman in a deadly Tallahassee mass shooting is on trial this week | WFSU News](#)
6. [U.S. Census Bureau](#)
7. [*Anatomy of a Homicide*](#)
8. [Gun Violence Archive](#)
9. [National Gun Violence Memorial](#)
10. [Tallahassee Democrat Shooting Database](#)
11. [Leon County Clerk Courts Search](#)
12. [Gun Violence Archive, About](#)
13. Ethnicity data was not reported, consequently there is no data presented for Latino individuals
14. ['No access': Poor, isolated and forgotten, kids of 32304 see their health care compromised](#)
15. [Greater Bond Community Neighborhood First Plan](#)
16. [Leon County Homicide Shootings - Zip Code and Frequency](#)
17. [Leon County Non-Fatal Shooting - Zip Code and Frequency](#)
18. Two non-fatal shootings occurred in the 32310 zip code on the border of 32310 and 32304 that were not in City Commission District 1.
19. [Leon County Homicide Shootings, 2021-2022 Interactive Map](#)
20. [Leon County Non-fatal Shootings, 2021-2022 Interactive Map](#)
21. Clearance rates are calculated using the number of homicides and the number of homicides solved in a given year. Departments may solve homicides in a year other than the year the homicide occurred. Consequently, clearance rates may exceed 100%
22. [Crime clearance rate in the United States 2020, by type](#)
23. [Crime Data Explorer](#)
24. [Crime Data Explorer](#)

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