

GUN VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT PHILADELPHIA

ASSESSMENT OF HOMICIDES
AND NONFATAL SHOOTINGS

January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021



INTRODUCTION

At the request of the **William Penn Foundation and Philadelphia Community Foundation**, the **National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR)** assessed publicly available data sources to develop the following report on homicides and nonfatal shootings in Philadelphia, PA from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. Though the data is incomplete, valuable assessment 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 has experienced 562 homicides and 1,840 nonfatal shootings. An [interactive map](#) showing the location and available characteristics of 490 homicides was prepared by NICJR.

This analysis is particularly important because of the large spike in violence that Philadelphia and other cities have experienced. In 2020, Philadelphia tallied 499 homicides, with the City far surpassing that grim milestone in 2021, recording 562 homicides.¹ For example, the average homicide rate in Philadelphia from 2010-2020 was 20.3 per 100,000. The homicide rate in Philadelphia in 2021 was 34.1 per 100,000 and reflected the highest number of homicides on record in the City's history going back to at least 1960, which is the last year reflected in Philadelphia Police Department records.² When examining 2010's homicide rate compared with 2020's homicide rate, there is a staggering 63.2 percent increase. Even when comparing 2019's homicide rate with 2020, there was a large increase of 40 percent.

Victims and suspects are also largely disproportionately Black and male. And despite common opinion, those primarily involved in homicides in Philadelphia are 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. Complete information on 490 homicides and 1,840 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.

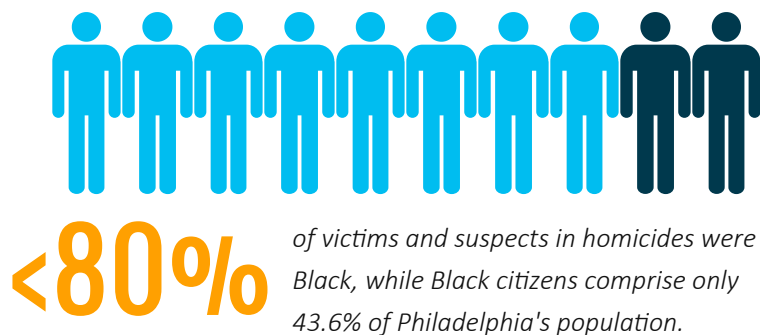
¹ <https://www.phillypolice.com/crime-maps-stats/>

² <https://www.inquirer.com/news/philadelphia-homicide-rate-2021-record-20211123.html>

FINDINGS | Demographics

In Philadelphia, victims and suspects of homicides are largely Black, male, and in the 18 to 34 age range. A large percentage of both victims and suspects were male, with 82.7 percent of known victims and 94.4 percent of known suspects in homicides were male. Over 80 percent of victims and suspects in homicides were Black, while Black citizens comprise 43.6 percent of the overall population in Philadelphia.³ The average age for victims of a homicide was 29.8 years, while the average age of a suspect of a homicide was 27.4 years.

Victims of nonfatal shootings are also disproportionately Black, male, and in the 18-34 range, while suspect information for nonfatal shootings is too scarce to categorize. 84.2 percent of victims of nonfatal shootings were Black. The average age of a victim of a nonfatal shooting was 29.6 years. Across homicides and shootings, victims are more likely to be female when compared to suspects, but both groups are still overwhelmingly male.



AVERAGE AGE
29.8 OF VICTIM
27.4 OF SUSPECT



³ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/philadelphiacountypennsylvania>

Table 1: Average Age of Victims for 44 Homicides

Total Homicides	Average Age of Victim	Average Age of Male Victim	Average Age of Female Victim
	29.8 years	29.4 years	32.8 years
490	461 known total victims	405 known male victims	56 known female victims

Table 2: Average Age of Suspects for 44 Homicides

Total Homicides	Average Age of Victim	Average Age of Male Victim	Average Age of Female Victim
	27.4 years	27.0 years	21.0 years
490	44 known total suspects	43 known male suspects	1 known female suspect

Table 3: Average Age of Victims for 1,840 Nonfatal Shootings

Total Homicides	Average Age of Victim	Average Age of Male Victim	Average Age of Female Victim
	29.6 years	29.5 years	30.1 years
1,840	1,824 known total victims	1,610 known male victims	214 known female victims

Table 4: % Gender by Victim for 490 Homicides

% Gender by Victim	Count	Percent of Total Count
Male	430	87.8%
Female	60	12.2%
Total	490	100.0%

Table 5: % Gender by Suspect for 44 Homicides

% Gender by Suspect	Count	Percent of Adjusted Total Count
Male	43	97.7%
Female	1	2.3%
Total	44	100.0%

Table 6: % Gender by Victim for 1,840 Nonfatal Shootings

% Gender by Suspect	Count	Percent of Adjusted Total Count
Male	1,610	87.5%
Female	214	11.6%
Unknown	16	0.9%
Total	1,840	100.0%

Table 7: % Gender by Suspect for 1,840 Nonfatal Shootings

% Gender by Suspect	Count	Percent of Adjusted Total Count
Male	2	0.005%
Female	0	0.0%
Unknown	1,838	99.9%
Total	1,840	100.0%

Table 8: % Race by Victim for 490 Homicides

% Race/Ethnicity by Victim	Count	Percent of Total Count
Black	397	81.0%
Hispanic	51	10.4%
White	37	7.6%
Asian	5	1.0%
Total	490	100.0%

Table 9: % Race by Suspect for 35 Homicides

% Race/Ethnicity by Suspect	Count	Percent of Adjusted Total Count
Black	30	85.7%
Hispanic	3	8.6%
White	2	5.7%
Total	5	100.0%

Table 10: % Race by Victim for 1,840 Nonfatal Shootings

% Race/Ethnicity by Victim	Count	Percent of Adjusted Total Count
Black	1,550	84.2%
Hispanic	150	8.2%
White	116	6.3%
Asian	8	0.03%
Unknown	16	1.0%
Total	1840	100.0%

The highest number of homicides occurred on Wednesday (16.7%) followed by Monday (15.3%). The highest number of nonfatal shootings occurred on Sunday (16.8%) followed by Saturday (16.0%). Close to 50 percent of homicides (47.3%) occurred between the hours of 6PM and 6AM. The time of day in which nonfatal shootings occurred most frequently was 12 AM to 6 AM (43.3%) followed by 6 PM to 12 AM (25.2%). Over 59 percent of homicides occurred between June and December, with November accounting for over 10 percent of the homicides during that time. The months in which the highest number of nonfatal shootings took place include July (12.7%), June (9.6%), and January (9.0%).

Table 11: Homicides by Time of Day

Time of Day	Count	Percent of Total Count
12 AM-6 AM	182	37.1%
6 PM-12 AM	50	10.2%
6 AM- 12 PM	115	23.5%
12 PM- 6 PM	143	29.2%

Table 12: Nonfatal Shootings by Time of Day

Time of Day	Count	Percent of Total Count
12 AM-6 AM	796	43.3%
6 PM-12 AM	143	7.8%
6 AM- 12 PM	463	25.2%
12 PM- 6 PM	437	23.8%

Table 13: Homicides by Day of Week

Day of Week	Number of Homicides	Percent of Total Count
Sunday	69	14.1%
Monday	75	15.3%
Tuesday	68	13.9%
Wednesday	82	16.7%
Thursday	63	12.9%
Friday	67	13.6%
Saturday	66	13.5%

Table 14: Homicides by Month

Month	Number of Homicides	Percent of Total Count
January	51	10.4%
February	28	5.7%
March	37	7.6%
April	44	8.8%
May	39	8.0%
June	46	9.4%
July	38	7.8%
August	27	5.5%
September	45	9.2%
October	37	7.6%
November	50	10.2%
December	48	9.8%

Table 15: Nonfatal Shootings by Day of Week

Day of Week	Number of Homicides	Percent of Total Count
Sunday	310	16.8%
Monday	278	15.1%
Tuesday	244	13.3%
Wednesday	241	13.1%
Thursday	246	13.4%
Friday	227	12.3%
Saturday	294	16.0%

Table 16: Nonfatal Shootings by Month

Month	Number of Homicides	Percent of Total Count
January	165	9.0%
February	100	5.4%
March	139	7.6%
April	125	6.8%
May	149	8.1%
June	177	9.6%
July	234	12.7%
August	158	8.6%
September	164	8.9%
October	150	8.2%
November	126	6.8%
December	153	8.3%

The same three zip codes were observed with the highest percentages of both nonfatal shootings (24.6%) and homicides (28.2%): 19132; 19134; and 19140. The three neighborhoods with the highest number of homicides are Hunting Park-Fairhill (8.8%), Strawberry Mansion (7.6%), and Nicetown-Tioga (7.3%). Council Districts 5, 7, and 8 accounted for over 52 percent of all homicides. The Council Districts where the highest number of nonfatal shootings occurred are 5 (19.3%), 7 (17.6%), and 3 (17.5%). Police districts 22, 24, and 25 accounted for over 35 percent of homicides in all police districts. The same police districts encompassed the highest number of nonfatal shootings: 22 (11.3%), 25 (11.2%), and 24 (10.1%).

Table 17: Homicides by Top 10 Zip Codes

Zip Code	Count	Percent of Total Count
19134	58	11.8%
19132	42	8.6%
19140	38	7.8%
19121	33	6.7%
19139	31	6.3%
19120	29	5.9%
19133	29	5.9%
19143	23	4.7%
19124	19	3.9%
19124	18	3.7%

Table 18: Nonfatal Shootings by Top 10 Zip Codes

Zip Code	Count	Percent of Total Count
19134	125	9.4%
19140	118	8.9%
19132	104	7.8%
19143	94	7.1%
19139	94	7.1%
19121	78	5.9%
19104	63	4.7%
19133	63	4.7%
19144	62	4.7%
19124	58	4.4%

Table 19: Homicides by Top 10 Neighborhoods

Neighborhood	Count	Percent of Total Count
Hunting Park-Fairhill	43	8.8%
Strawberry Mansion	37	7.6%
Nicetown-Tioga	36	7.3%
Upper Kensington	36	7.3%
Haddington-Overbrook	27	5.5%
Mill Creek-Parkside	26	5.3%
Olney-Feltonville	23	4.7%
Paschall-Kingsessing	20	4.1%
Logan	19	3.9%
Sharswood-Stanton	19	3.9%

Table 20: Homicides by Council District

District	Count	Percent of Total Count
1	29	5.9%
2	31	6.3%
3	60	12.2%
4	42	8.6%
5	92	18.8%
6	18	3.7%
7	103	21.0%
8	63	12.9%
9	28	5.7%
10	7	1.4%
Unknown	17	3.5%

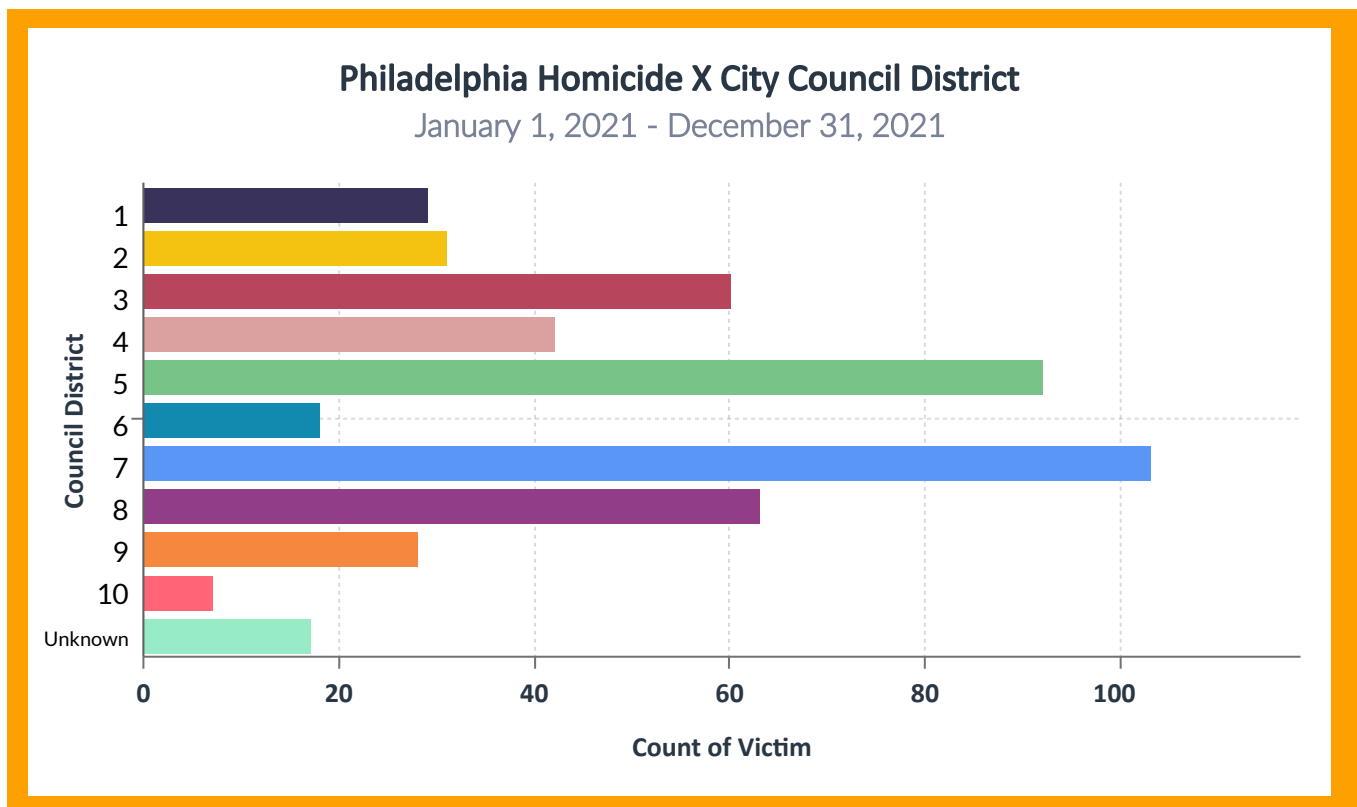


Table 21: Homicides by Police District

Police District	Count	Percent of Total Count
1	7	1.4%
2	8	1.6%
3	11	2.2%
5	1	0.2%
6	6	1.2%
7	3	0.6%
8	7	1.4%
9	4	0.8%
12	27	5.5%
14	17	3.5%
15	27	5.5%
16	27	5.5%
17	8	1.6%
18	17	3.5%
19	30	6.1%
22	66	13.5%
24	58	11.8%
25	52	10.6%
26	10	2.0%
35	44	9.0%
39	32	6.5%
Unknown	28	5.7%

Table 22: Nonfatal Shootings by Police District

Police District	Count	Percent of Total Count
1	11	0.8%
2	24	1.8%
3	24	1.8%
5	3	0.2%
6	15	1.1%
7	1	0.1%
8	7	0.5%
9	5	0.4%
12	93	7.0%
14	65	4.9%
15	75	5.6%
16	85	6.4%
17	17	1.3%
18	78	5.9%
19	105	7.9%
22	150	11.3%
24	134	10.1%
25	149	11.2%
26	48	3.6%
35	110	8.3%
39	105	7.9%
Unknown	29	2.2%

FINDINGS | Clearance Rates

Clearance rates for both homicides and violent crimes by the Philadelphia Police Department have been declining since 2013 despite increases in reported homicides. Often, as homicides spike in a city, clearance rates fall. This can be seen in the years from 2016-2018. When compared with the national clearance rate in 2018 for homicides and non-negligent manslaughter of 62.3 percent, the Philadelphia Police Department's homicide clearance rate that same year is significantly lower at 43.9 percent. ⁴

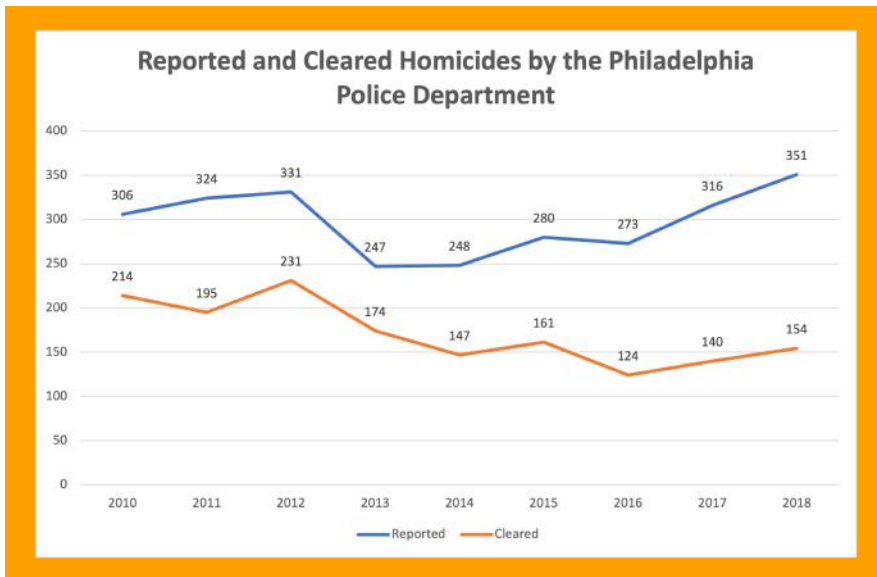
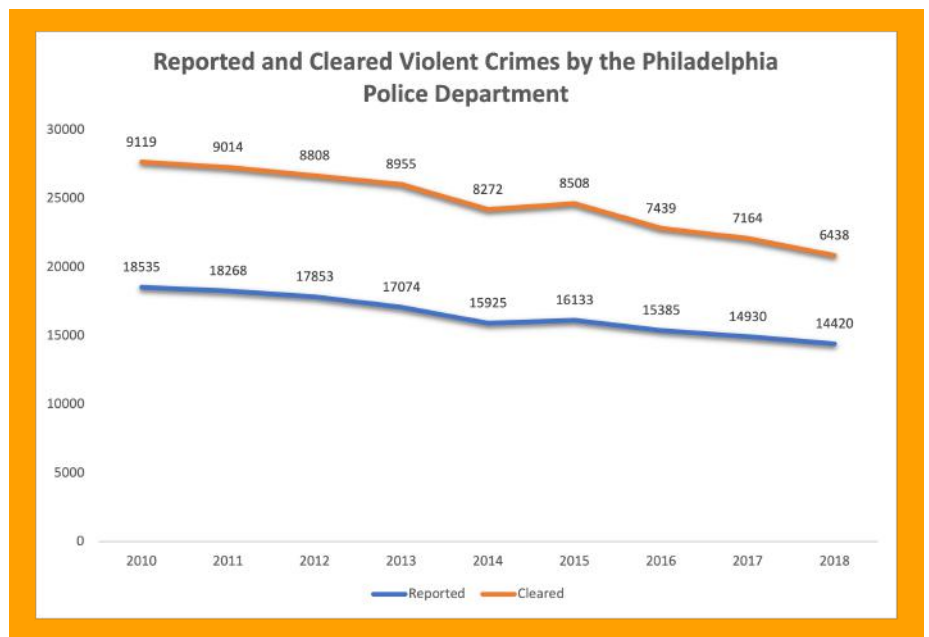


Figure 26: Reported and Cleared Homicides by the Philadelphia Police Department ⁵

Figure 27: Reported and Cleared Violent Crimes by the Philadelphia Police Department ⁶



⁴ <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2018/crime-in-the-u.s.-2018/tables/table-25>

⁵ FBI Crime Data Explorer Tool

Table 26: Clearance Rate for Homicides per Year in Philadelphia

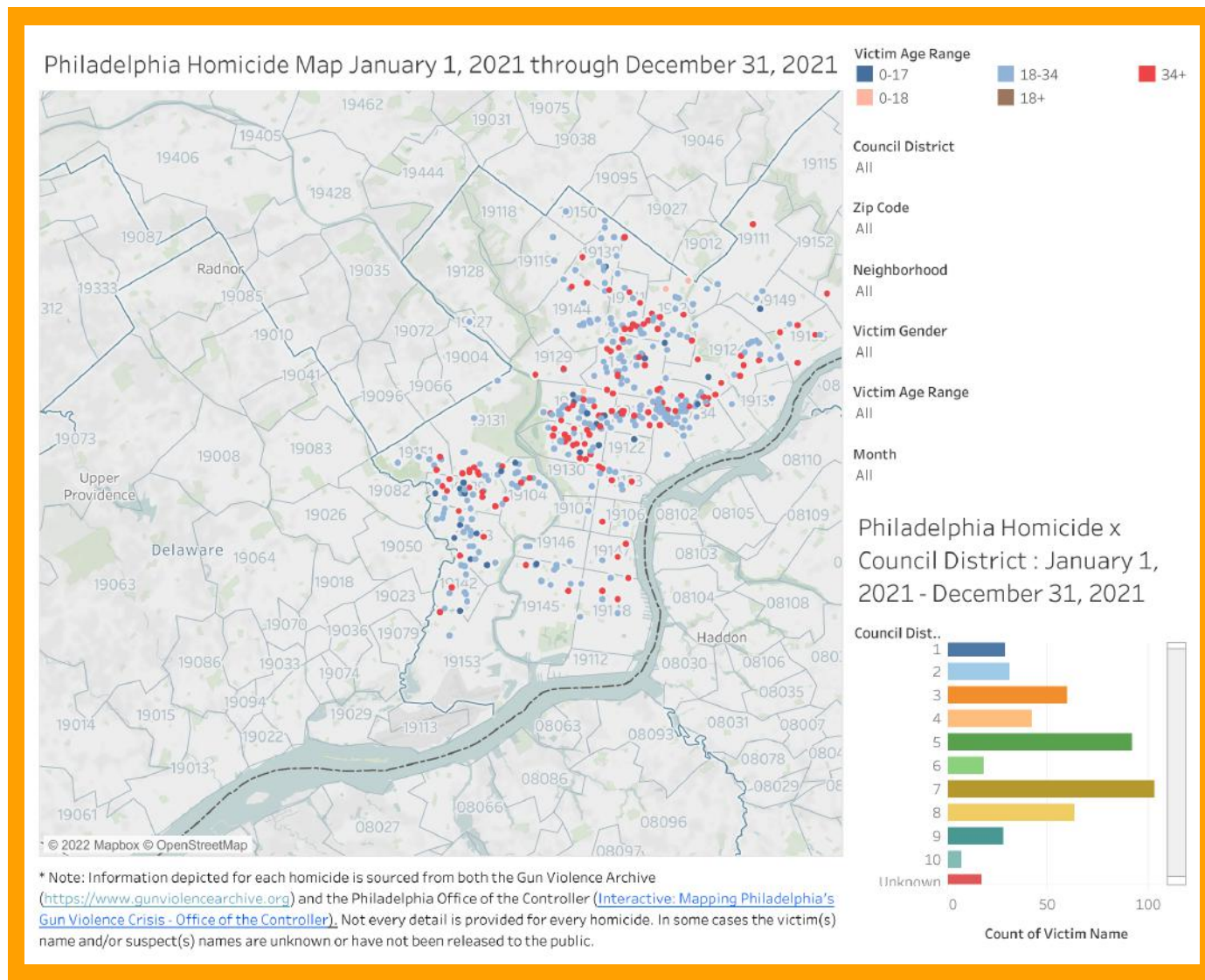
Year	Homicide Clearance Rate
2010	69.9%
2011	60.2%
2012	69.8%
2013	70.4%
2014	59.3%
2015	57.5%
2016	45.4%
2017	44.3%
2018	43.9%

Table 27: Clearance Rate for FBI Part I Violent Crimes per Year

Year	Violent Crime Clearance Rate
2010	49.2%
2011	49.3%
2012	49.3%
2013	52.4%
2014	52.0%
2015	52.7%
2016	48.4%
2017	48.0%
2018	44.6%

⁶ FBI Crime Data Explorer Tool

Figure 28: Philadelphia Homicide Map (January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)



The map above depicts 490 homicides during the period of January 01, 2021 to December 31, 2021 in Philadelphia, PA. An [interactive version](#) of this map is available as well.

⁷<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/amir.chapel/viz/PhillyHomicideTableaWorkbook/PhiladelphiaHomicideDashboard?publish=yes>

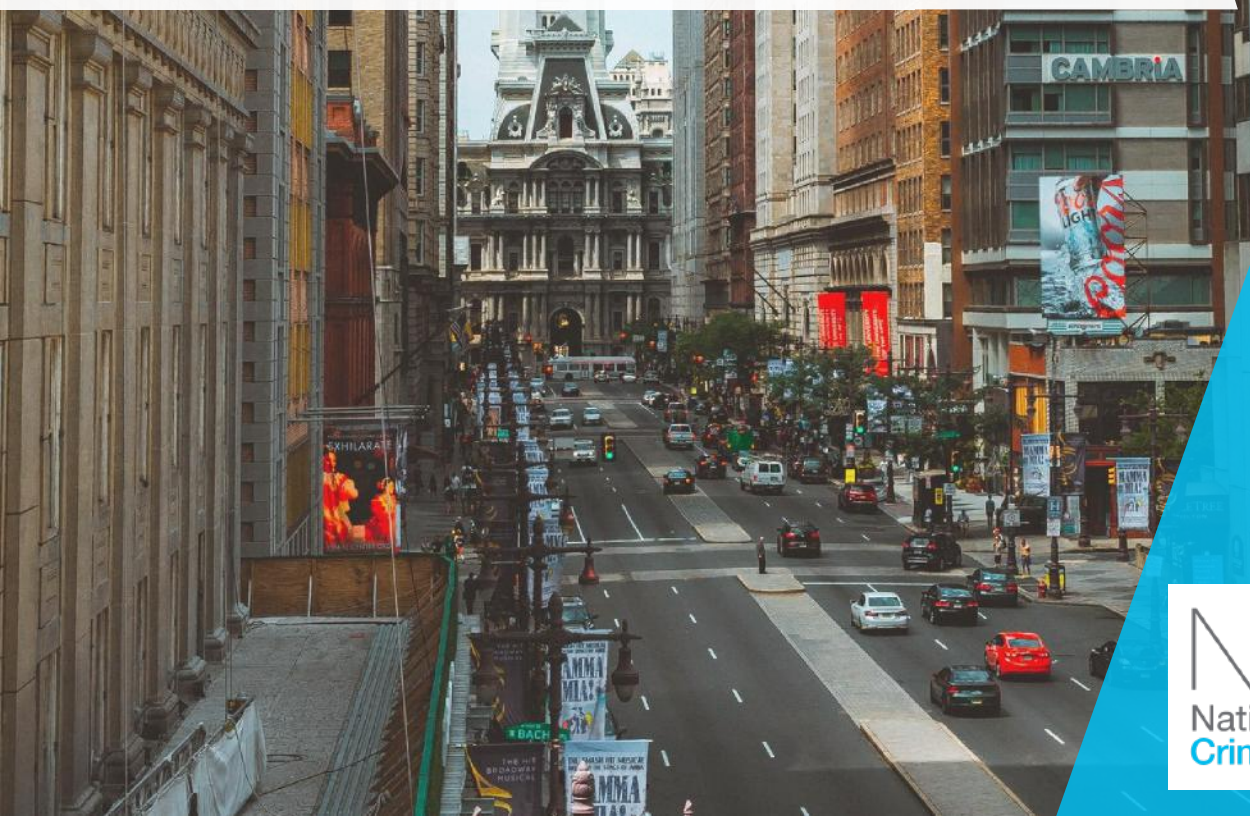
GUN VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT PHILADELPHIA

January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021

**PHILADELPHIA
FOUNDATION**

WILLIAM PENN
W I L L I A M P E N N
F O U N D A T I O N

This report was funded by the William Penn
Foundation and Philadelphia Community Foundation.



NICJR ★
National Institute for
Criminal Justice Reform