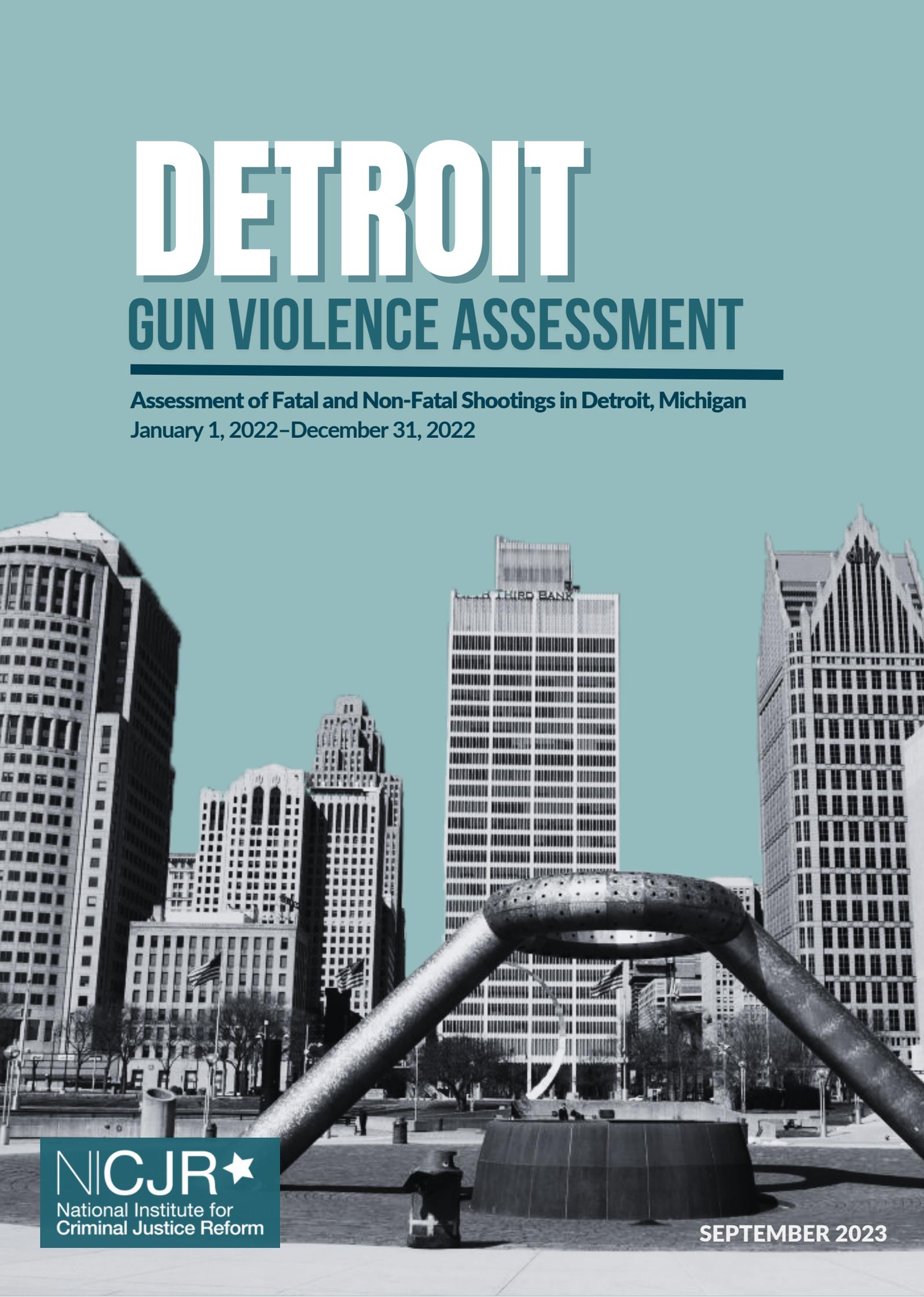


# DETROIT

## GUN VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT

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Assessment of Fatal and Non-Fatal Shootings in Detroit, Michigan  
January 1, 2022–December 31, 2022



**NICJR** ★  
National Institute for  
Criminal Justice Reform

SEPTEMBER 2023

## Introduction

With the support of the Public Welfare Foundation and to better understand the nature of gun violence within the City of Detroit, the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) assessed publicly available data sources to develop this report on fatal and non-fatal shootings in the city between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.<sup>1</sup> Though the data are imperfect, they nonetheless provide invaluable information about violence in Detroit. From January 2022 through December 2022, the City of Detroit reported 309 homicides and 959 non-fatal shootings.<sup>2</sup> Using publicly available data sources, NICJR was able to collect information on 233 fatal shooting incidents and 781 non-fatal shooting incidents.<sup>3</sup>

**309 HOMICIDES**

**959 NON-FATAL SHOOTINGS**

### HOMICIDE RATES

2022

**47.9** **DETROIT**  
(2021)  
PER 100,000  
RESIDENTS

**8.7** **MICHIGAN**  
(2021)  
PER 100,000  
RESIDENTS

**6.9** **NATIONAL**  
(2021)  
PER 100,000  
RESIDENTS



This analysis is particularly timely given the increase in violence Detroit has experienced since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Notably, although other major cities also experienced this increase, Detroit already had high averages of homicides and non-fatal shootings prior to 2020. In 2021, Detroit’s homicide rate was 47.9 per 100,000, which was nearly six times the rate for the state of Michigan at 8.7 per 100,000 and nearly seven times the national rate at 6.9 per 100,000.<sup>4</sup> Between 2013 and 2019, Detroit averaged 290 homicides and 938 non-fatal shootings per year.<sup>5</sup> Since 2020, Detroit has averaged 316 homicides and 1,117 non-fatal shootings annually.<sup>6</sup> The Detroit Police Department has also noted an increase in youth involvement in violent crimes.<sup>7</sup>

The following data were retrieved from publicly available sources, including the Gun Violence Archive and the Gun Violence Memorial. Although a large portion of identifying information for victims and suspects involved in the tallied 233 fatal and 781 non-fatal shooting incidents was unavailable, the information available still offers valuable insight.

## Data Limitations

Limitations of the data include the scarcity of publicly available identifying information related to fatal and non-fatal shootings. While race information for shooting victims and suspects is available, details related to ethnicity are not. As a result, there is no information on Latino victims and suspects involved in gun violence within the city. Additionally, suspects have not been identified for the majority of non-fatal shootings, and most information for minors is concealed due to their age. Also, location information such as zip code, city council, and police district are limited.

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

Data available	Fatal shooting victims	Fatal shooting suspects	Non-fatal shooting victims	Non-fatal shooting suspects
Age	143	62	162	30
Race	101	65	8	27
Gender	188	82	328	82

## Key Findings: Demographics

Detroit, Michigan has 632,434 residents, of which 77.9% are Black, 10.1% are White, 7.8% are Latino, and 4.2% are listed as other.<sup>8</sup> Fatal shooting victims and suspects within this sample have been identified as primarily Black and male. In spite of the common perception of youth being responsible for much of the gun violence, NICJR's analysis indicates that individuals between the ages of 18 and 34 constitute the largest share of those involved in gun violence in Detroit.

Based on publicly available demographic information, 94% of fatal shooting victims were Black and 6% were White. Among fatal shooting suspects, 97.3% were Black and 2.7% were White. Overall, there was limited information available regarding victims and suspects in non-fatal shootings. However, the information available indicated that 75% of non-fatal shooting victims were Black and 25% were White. Among non-fatal shooting suspects, 96.2% were Black and 3.8% were White.



**AGE** BETWEEN THE AGES OF  
**18-39**

**RACE** DISPROPORTIONATELY  
**BLACK**

**GENDER** OVERWHELMINGLY  
**MALE**

# The majority of gun violence victims and suspects are **between the ages of 18-34.**

Figure 1. Average Age Victims and Suspects of Gun Violence

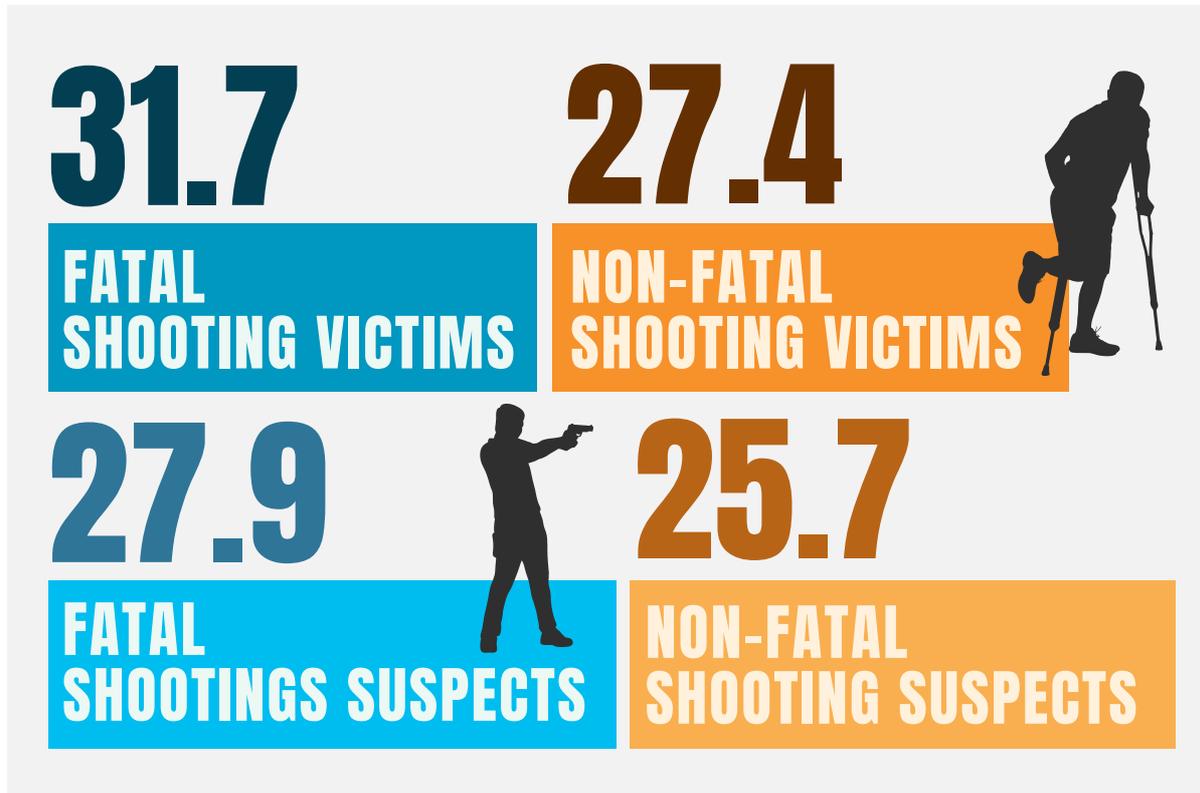


Table 2. Age Distribution Victims and Suspects of Gun Violence

Age	Fatal shooting victims		Fatal shooting suspects		Non-fatal shooting victims		Non-fatal shooting suspects	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 18	18	12.6%	12	19.3%	40	24.7%	7	23.3%
18-34	78	54.5%	35	56.5%	87	53.7%	17	56.7%
35+	47	32.9%	15	24.2%	35	21.6%	6	20%
Total	143	100%	62	100%	162	100%	30	100%

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

Figure 2. Racial Demographics of Victims and Suspects of Gun Violence

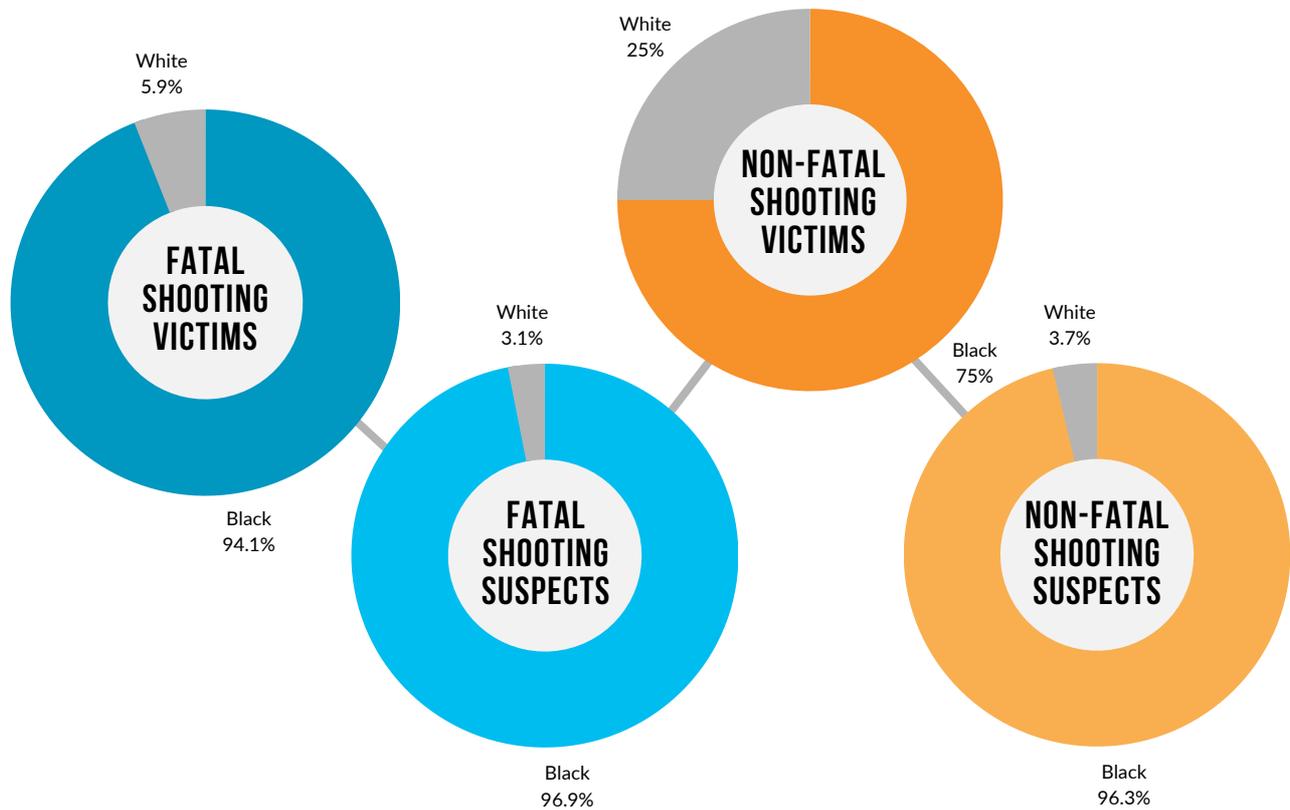


Table 3. Racial Demographics of Victims and Suspects of Gun Violence

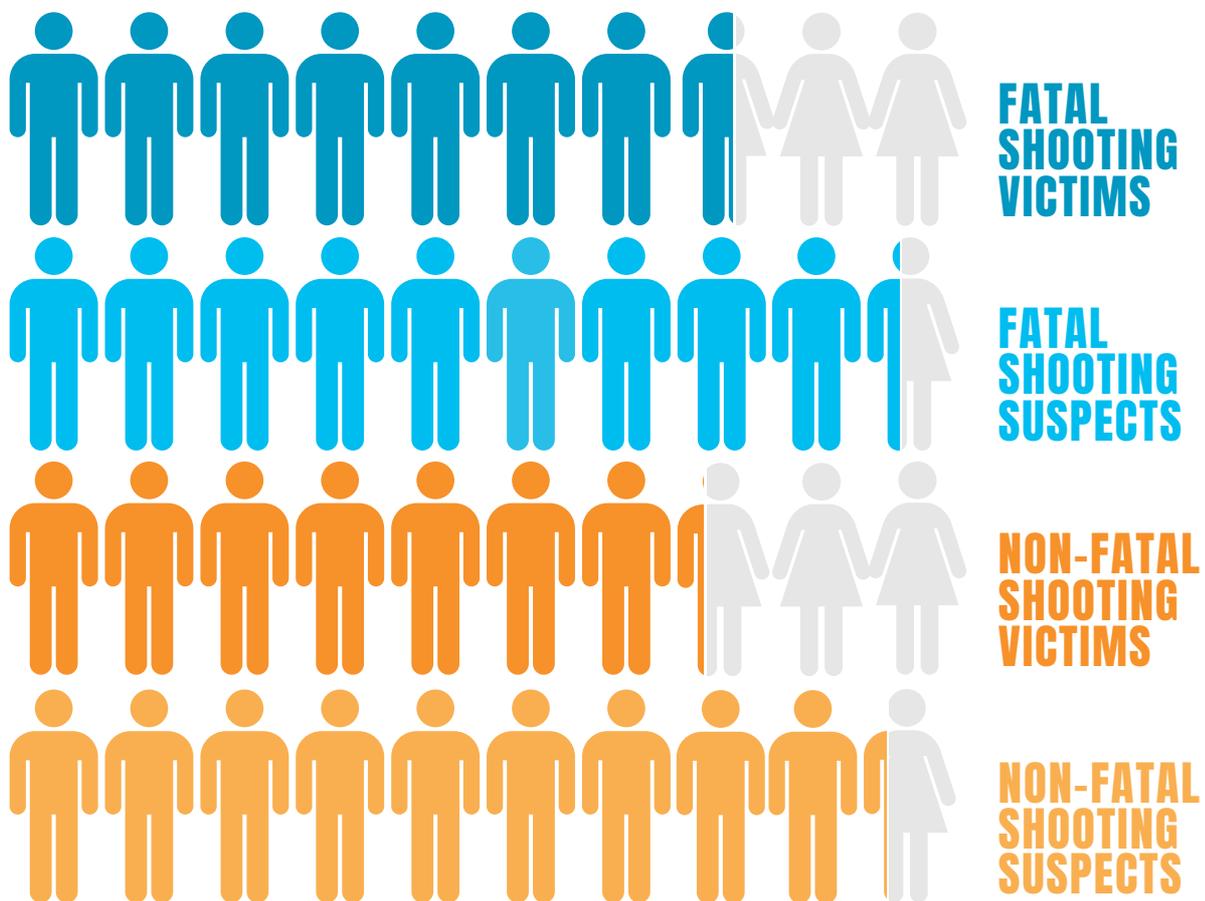
Race	Fatal shooting victims		Fatal shooting suspects		Non-fatal shooting victims		Non-fatal shooting suspects	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Black	95	94.1%	63	96.9%	6	75%	26	96.3%
Latino	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White	6	5.9%	2	3.1%	2	25%	1	3.7%
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	101	100%	65	100%	8	100%	27	100%

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

**Table 4:** Gender Distribution of Victims and Suspects of Gun Violence

	Fatal shooting victims		Non-fatal shooting victims	
Gender	#	%	#	%
Male	144	76.6%	239	72.9%
Female	44	23.4%	89	27.1%
Total	188	100%	328	100%
	Fatal shooting suspects		Non-fatal shooting suspects	
Gender	#	%	#	%
Male	77	93.9%	75	91.5%
Female	5	6.1%	7	8.5%
Total	82	100	82	100%

**Figure 3:** Gender Distribution of Victims and Suspects of Gun Violence



# Distribution of Gun Violence by Day of the Week and Month

Figure 4. Gun Violence Incidents by Day of the Week in 2022

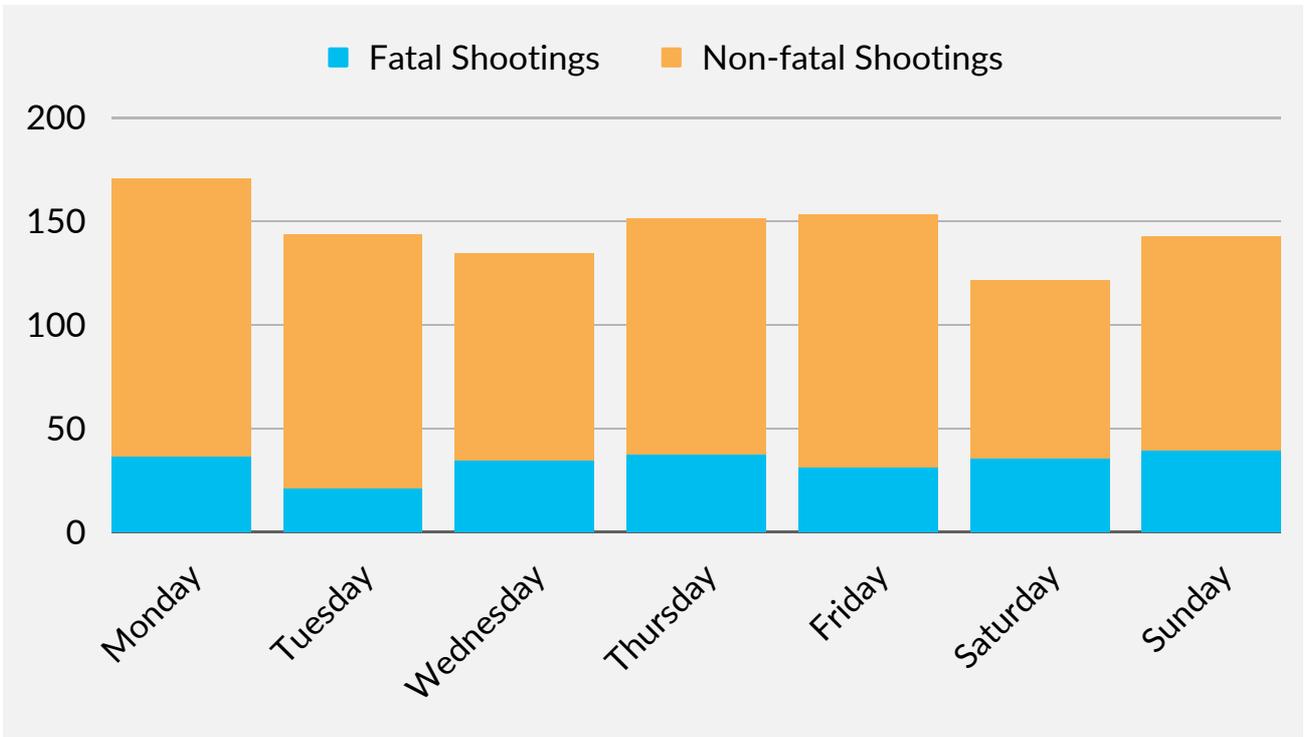
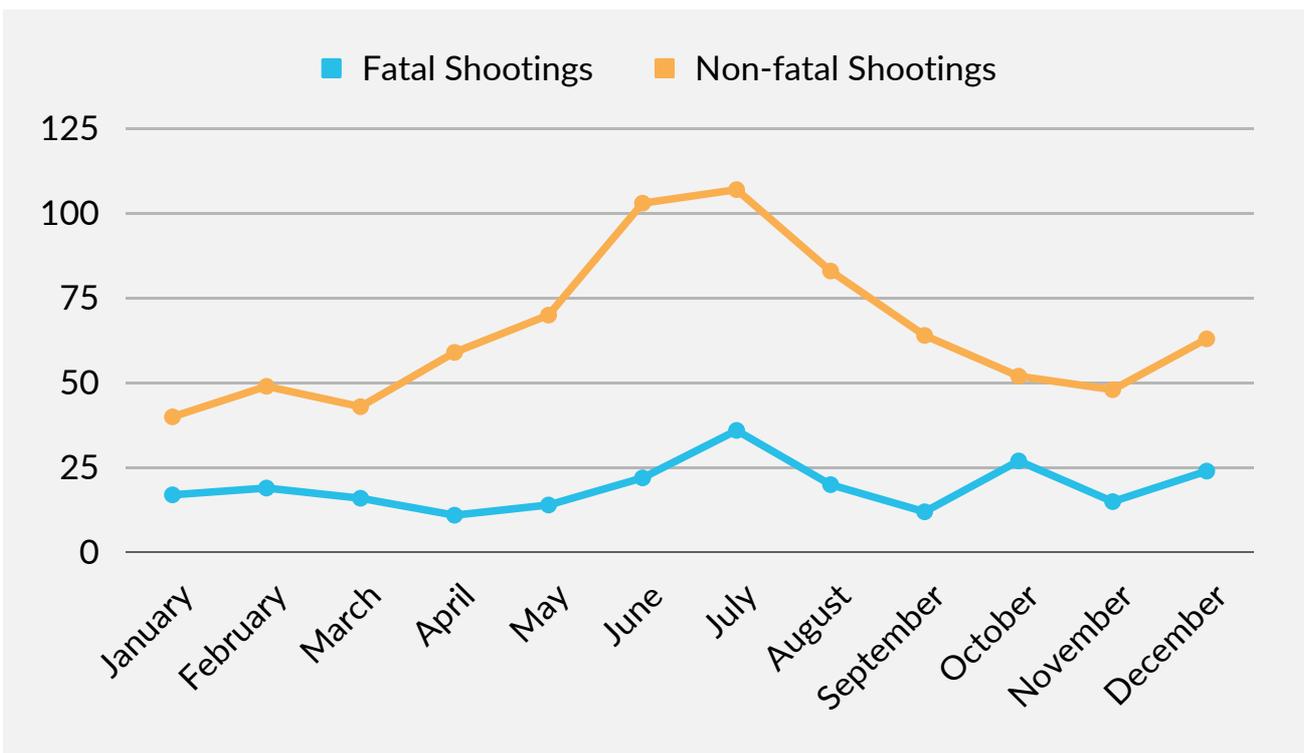


Figure 5. Gun Violence Incidents by Month in 2022



# Distribution of Gun Violence by Zip Code

Figure 6. Map of 2022 Fatal Shootings in Detroit<sup>9</sup>

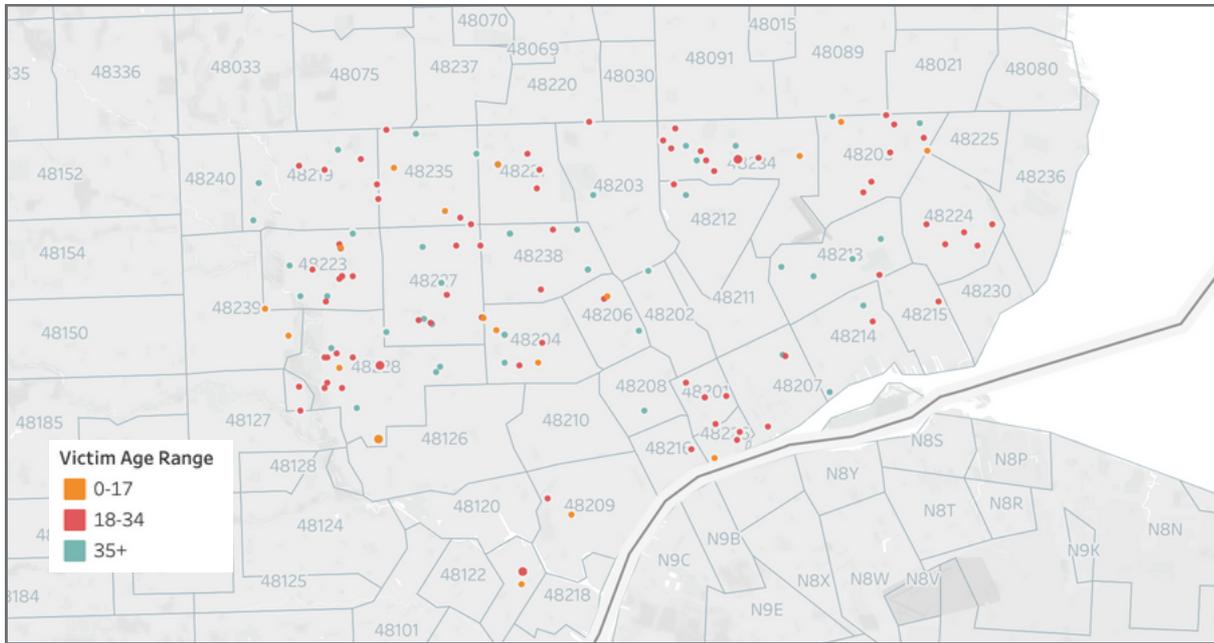
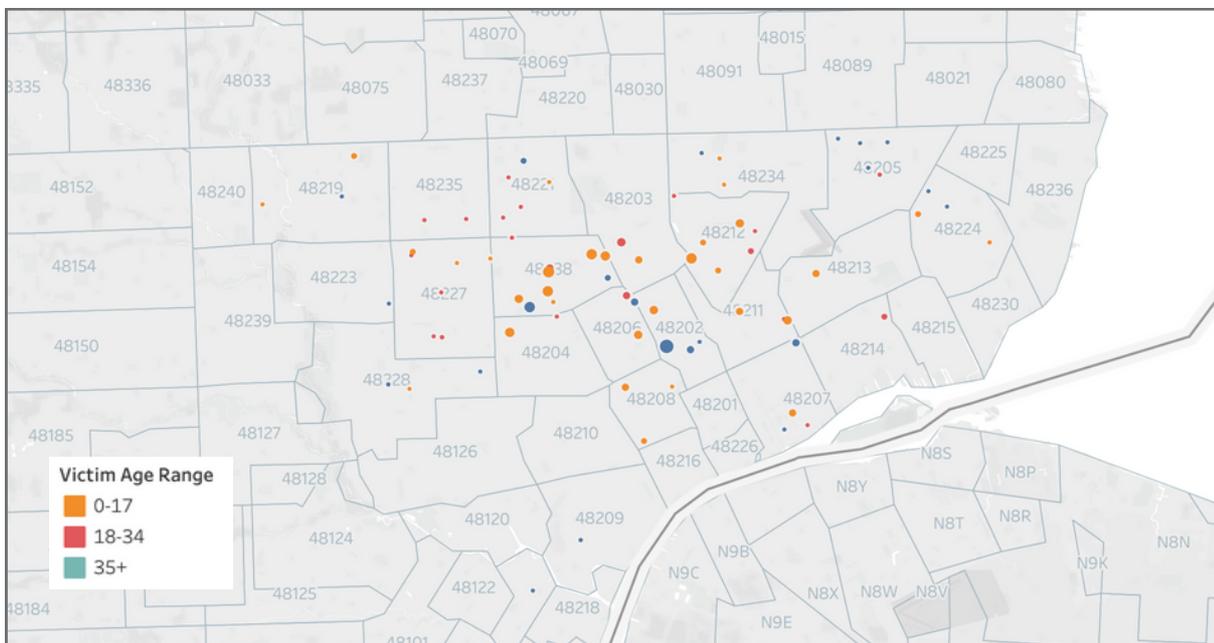


Figure 7. Map of 2022 Non-fatal Shootings in Detroit<sup>10</sup>

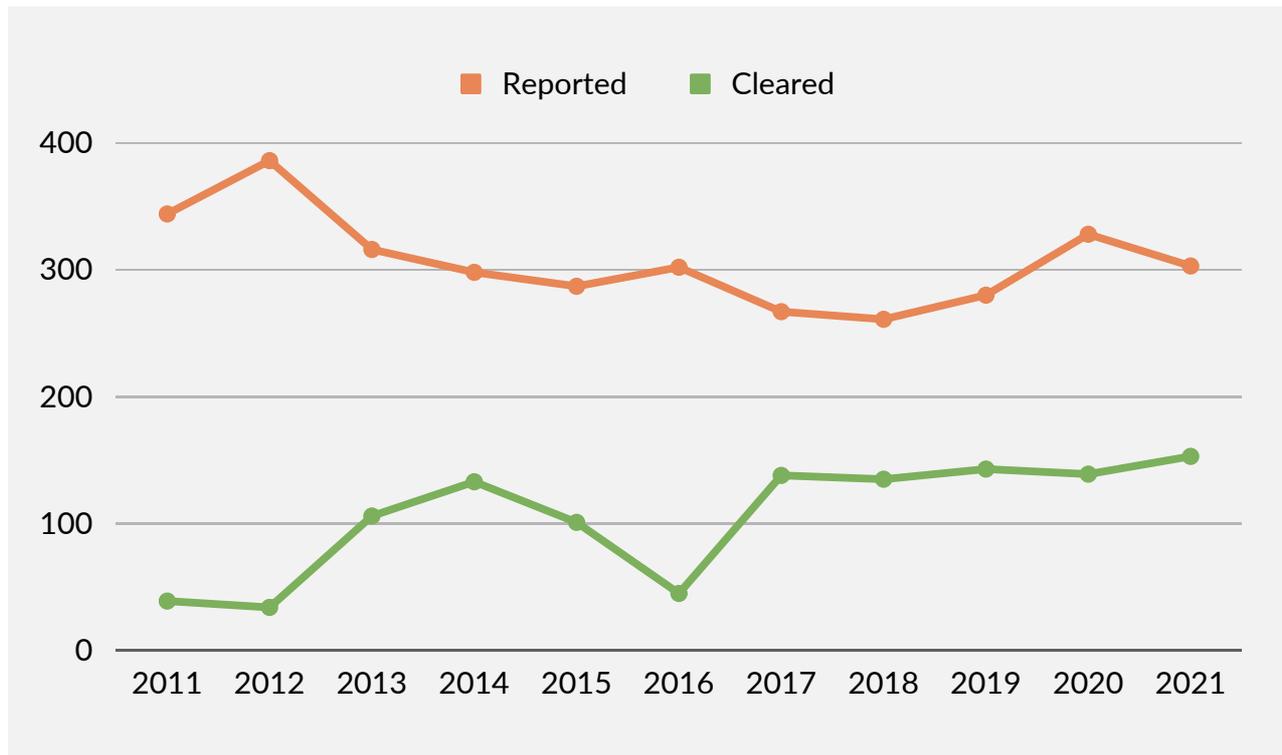


\*Interactive maps for fatal and non-fatal shootings are linked in the endnotes of this report.

# Clearance Rates

Since 2016, clearance rates for the City of Detroit have risen despite the national clearance rate declining.<sup>11</sup> With the exception of 2020 and 2021, the clearance rate for homicides in Detroit has been at or above 50% since 2016. In 2021, the clearance rate was 49.8%, falling just short of the 50% mark.

**Figure 8.** Reported and Cleared Homicides by the Detroit Police Department <sup>12</sup>



**Table 5.** Reported and Cleared Homicides by the Detroit Police Department

Year	Homicide Clearance Rate	Year	Homicide Clearance Rate
2011	11.7%	2017	51.7%
2012	8.8%	2018	51.7%
2013	33.5%	2019	51.0%
2014	44.6%	2020	42.4%
2015	35.2%	2021	49.8%
2016	14.9%		

\*Clearance rates for 2022 not yet available

# CONCLUSION

## Conclusion

Victims and suspects of gun violence in Detroit, Michigan in 2022 were disproportionately Black, male, young adults. Gun violence incidents were most likely to occur on Mondays and the city saw a significant increase in gun violence during the summer months (June, July, and August), when nearly 36% of the gun violence took place. Much of the fatal shootings in the city took place within west and northern Detroit, while non-fatal shootings were spread throughout the city. This information about the nature of gun violence in the city of Detroit will be used to inform the development of a gun violence reduction strategy.

## Endnotes

1. Throughout the report, "fatal shootings" and "homicides" are not used synonymously. "Fatal shootings" refers to shooting incidents resulting in the death of the victim; "homicides" refers to all homicides in general.
2. [Detroit police release year-end crime totals, says youth violence rising](#)
3. Suicides and justified homicides are not included.
4. May include non-firearm related homicides due to data limitations. [These Cities Reported the Highest Homicide Rates in 2021 | Time, USA: reported murder and nonnegligent manslaughter rate 2021 | Statista](#) , [Stats of the States - Homicide Mortality](#)
5. [Detroit Board of Police Commissioner Annual Report 2016](#)
6. [Board of Police Commissioners Annual Report 2021](#). 2022 numbers not included in average.
7. [Detroit police release year-end crime totals, says youth violence rising](#)
8. [Detroit City, Michigan - QuickFacts](#)
9. [Detroit Homicides 2022](#)
10. [Detroit Non-Fatal Shootings 2022](#)
11. [Detroit homicide clearance rates rise as national rates fall - CBS News](#)
12. [Crime Data Explorer](#)

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