

MILWAUKEE

GUN VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT

Assessment of Fatal and Nonfatal Shootings in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

MAY 2024

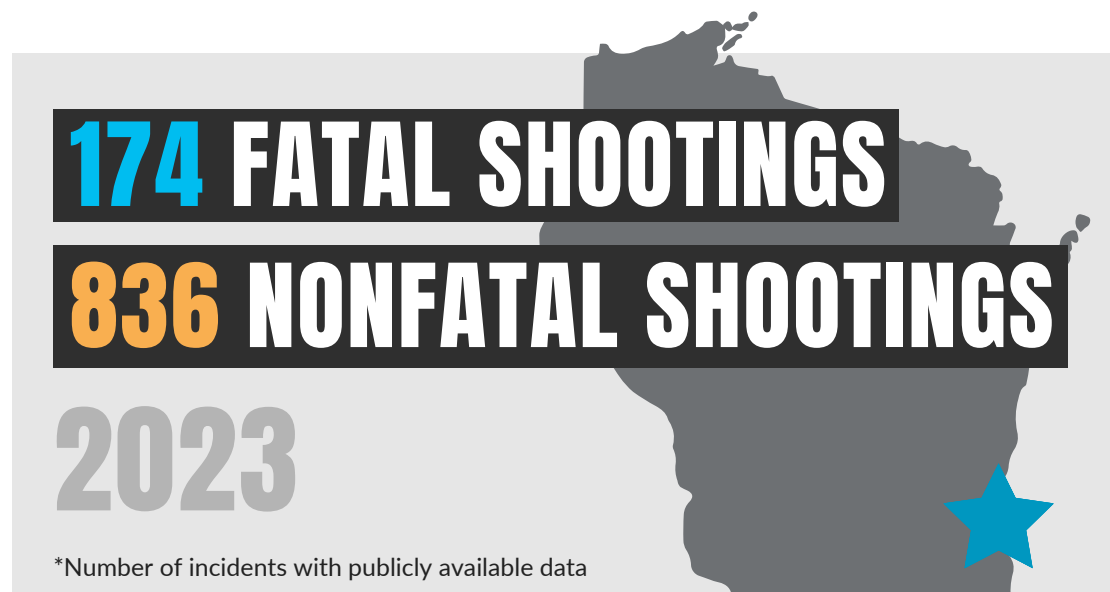
NICJR ★
National Institute for
Criminal Justice Reform

Introduction

The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) conducted this Gun Violence Assessment (GVA) to provide critical information about gun violence data to Milwaukee government and community stakeholders. NICJR assessed publicly available data sources to develop the following report on fatal and nonfatal shootings in Milwaukee between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023.¹ During this period, the city experienced 174 fatal shootings and 836 nonfatal shootings for which NICJR could locate publicly available data.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Milwaukee saw an increase in both homicides (including fatal shootings)² and nonfatal shootings. The homicide rate climbed from 33 per 100,000 residents in 2020 to 38 per 100,000 in 2022.³ Fortunately, 2023 saw a decline in homicides, with the city experiencing 30 homicides per 100,000 residents.⁴ Nonfatal shootings saw an even larger increase, from 135 per 100,000 residents in 2020 to 156 per 100,000 in 2022.⁵ However, nonfatal shootings also decreased in 2023, with a rate of 148 per 100,000.⁶

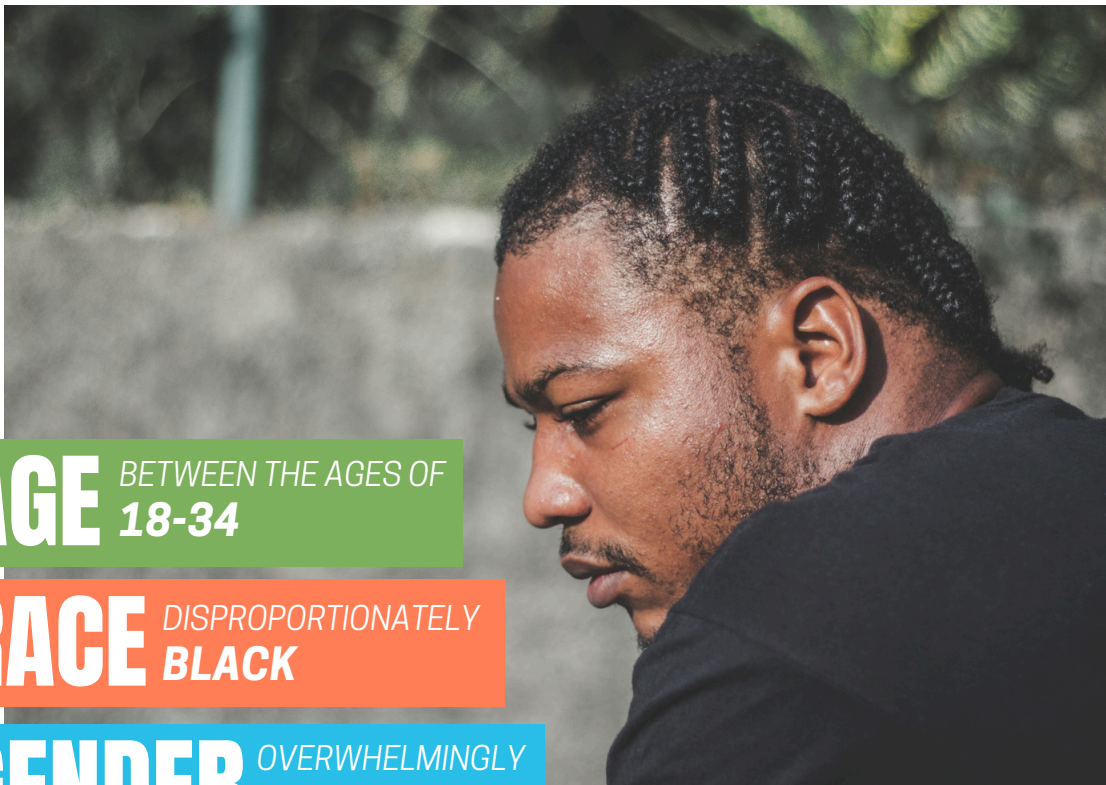
Milwaukee has 563,305 residents, of which 38.8% are White, 38.6% Black, 20.2% Latino, and 4.7% Asian.⁷ Within the timeframe studied, both fatal and nonfatal shooting victims and suspects were disproportionately Black and male. Despite popular belief, most victims and suspects were not juveniles, but rather young adults in the 18 to 34 age range.



Demographic Breakdown

NICJR found that victims and suspects of both fatal and nonfatal shootings in Milwaukee in 2023 were disproportionately Black males in their late twenties to early thirties.

The average age of fatal shooting victims within the sample was 30.84, and the 77 known suspects had an average age of 26.74 years. Similarly, the average age of the 801 known victims of 836 nonfatal shootings was 28.75 years, and the average age of 105 known suspects was 28.32 years. For fatal shootings, 86% of victims and 94% of suspects were male, while 79% of nonfatal shooting victims and 86% of nonfatal shooting suspects were male. Available information indicated that 76% of victims and 88% of suspects in fatal shootings were Black, while 88% of suspects and 82% of victims in nonfatal shootings were Black. It should be noted, however, that race/ethnicity was only identified for 11 nonfatal shooting victims and 32 nonfatal shooting suspects. Despite data limitation, a 2023 incident report from the Milwaukee Violence Response Public Health and Safety Team shows similar trends.⁸



AGE BETWEEN THE AGES OF
18-34

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 of Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Victims and Suspects in 2023

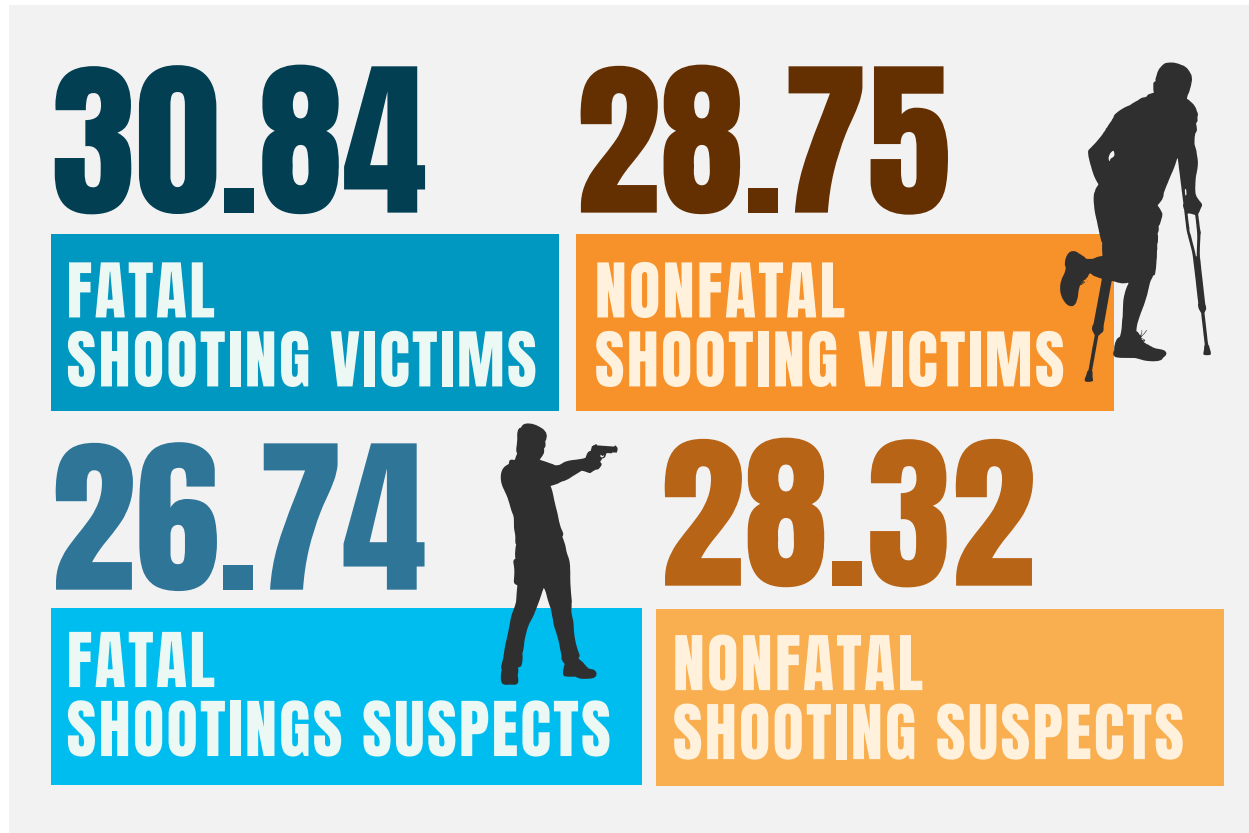
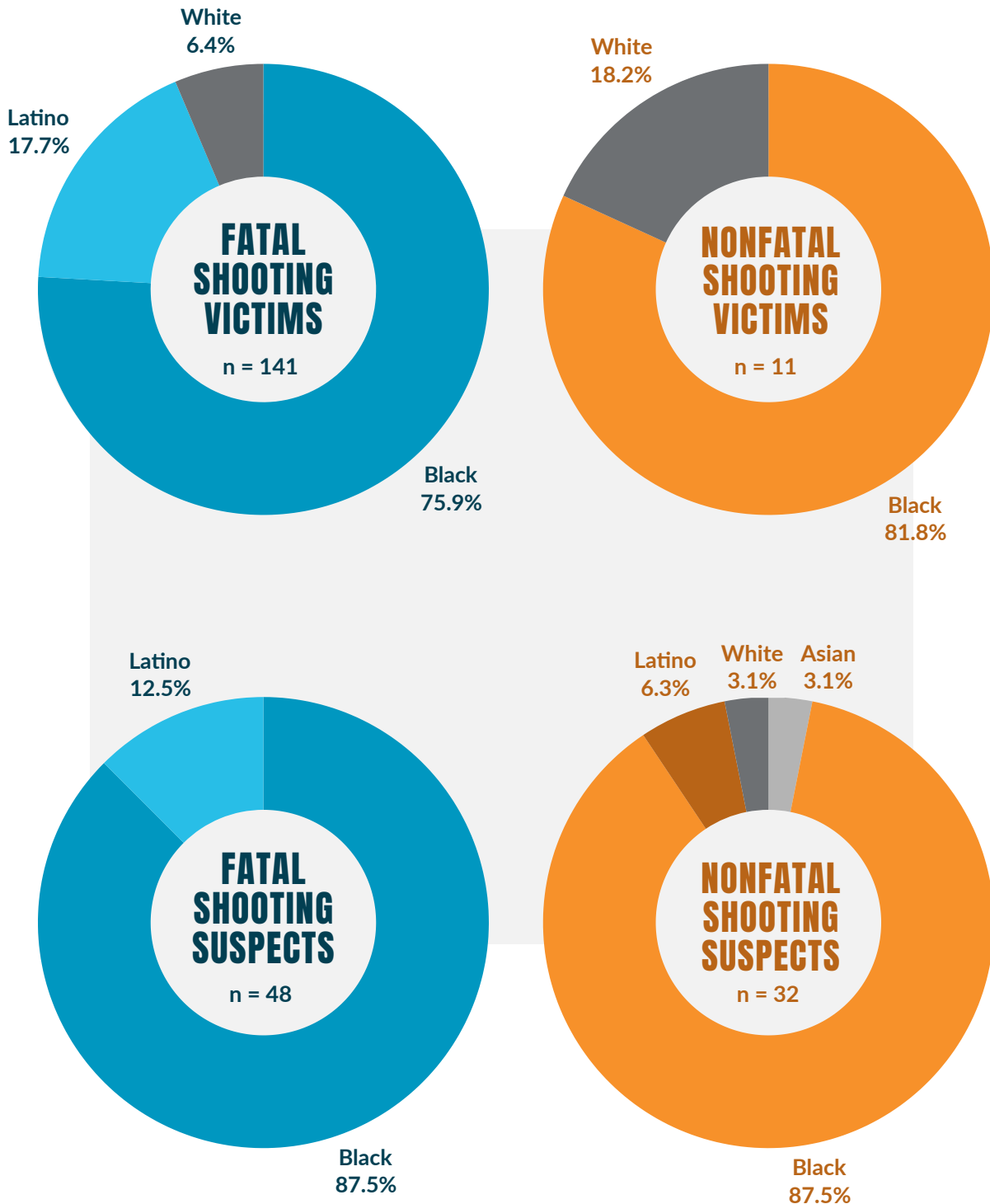


Table 1. Age Distribution of Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Victims and Suspects in 2023

	Fatal shooting victims		Fatal shooting suspects		Nonfatal shooting victims		Nonfatal shooting suspects	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 18	23	13%	17	22%	133	17%	19	18%
18-34	93	54%	47	61%	453	57%	56	53%
35+	57	33%	13	17%	215	27%	30	29%
Total	173	100%	77	100%	801	101% ⁹	105	100%

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

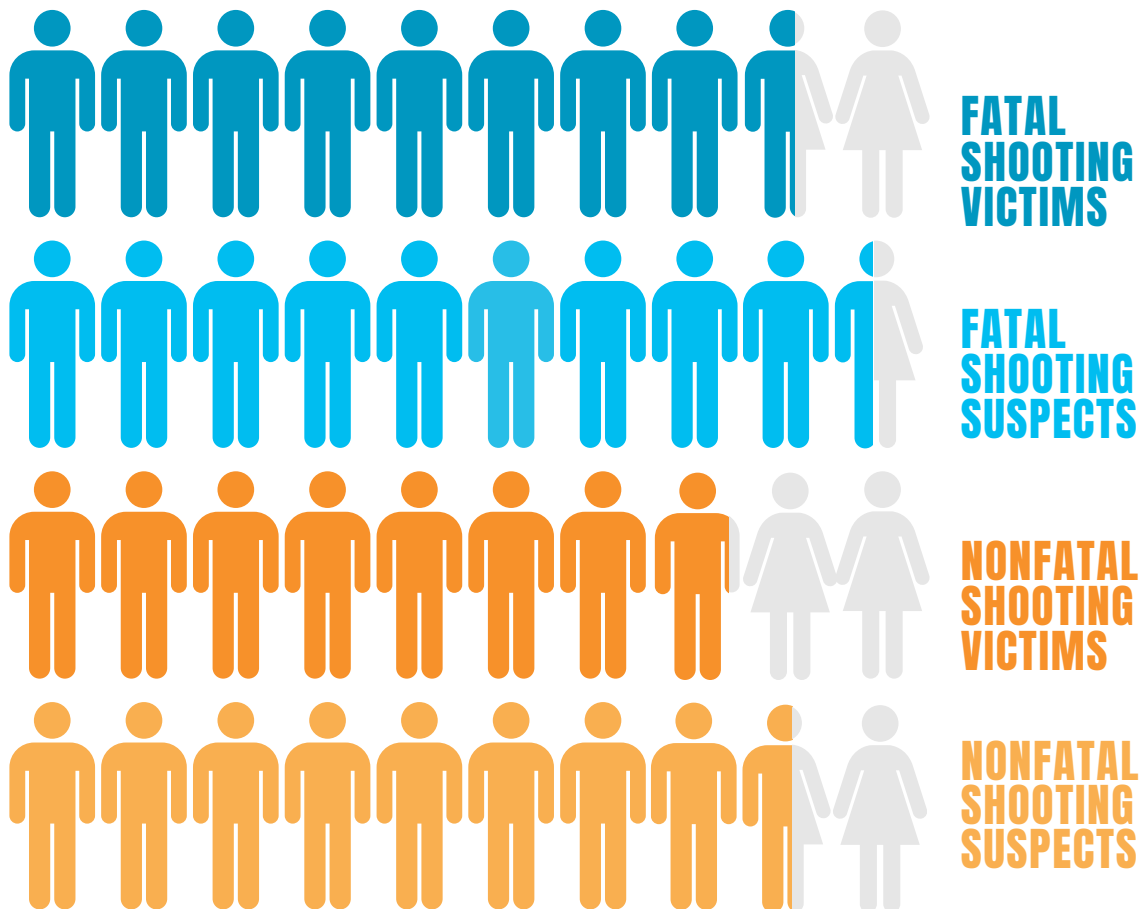
Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity of Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Victims and Suspects in 2023



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

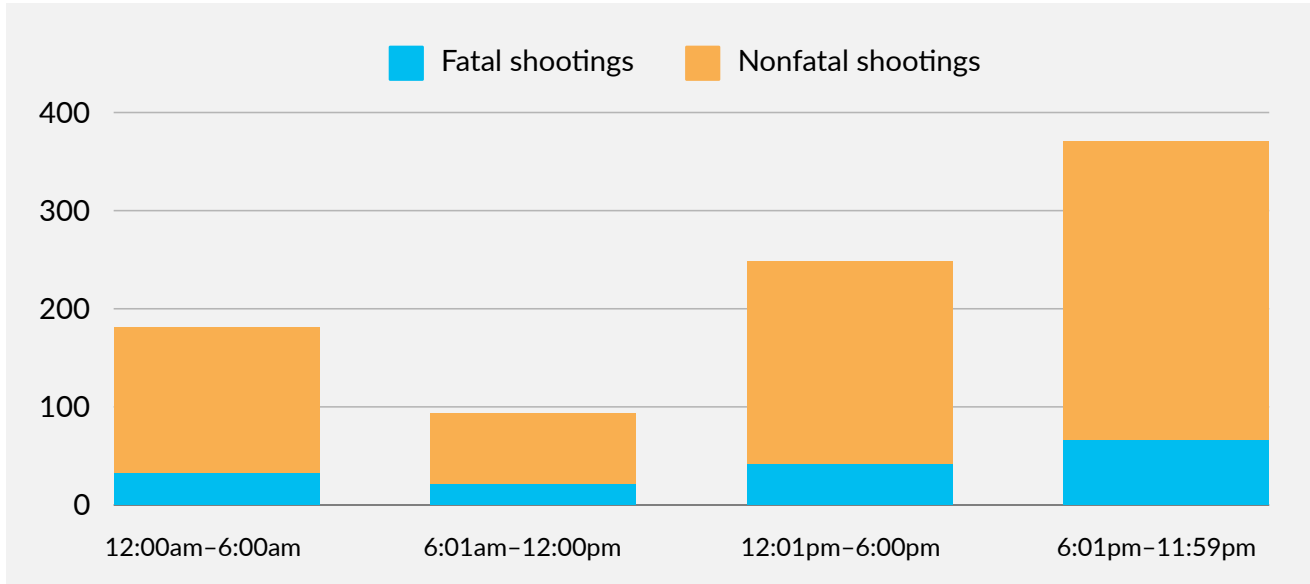
Table 2 and Figure 3. Gender of Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Victims and Suspects in 2023

	Fatal shooting victims		Nonfatal shooting victims	
	#	%	#	%
Male	148	86%	545	79%
Female	24	14%	148	21%
Total	172	100%	693	100%
	Fatal shooting suspects		Nonfatal shooting suspects	
	#	%	#	%
Male	74	94%	93	86%
Female	5	6%	15	14%
Total	79	100%	108	100%



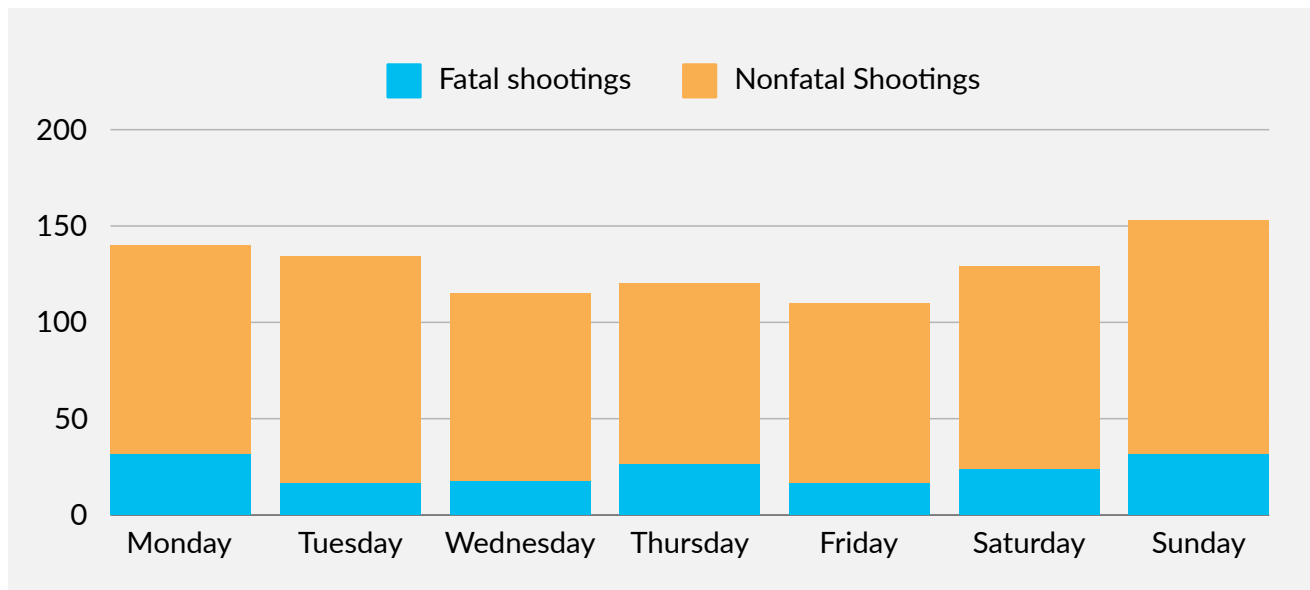
Gun violence incidents often occur from 6:00 pm to midnight.

Figure 4. Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Incidents by Time of the Day in 2023



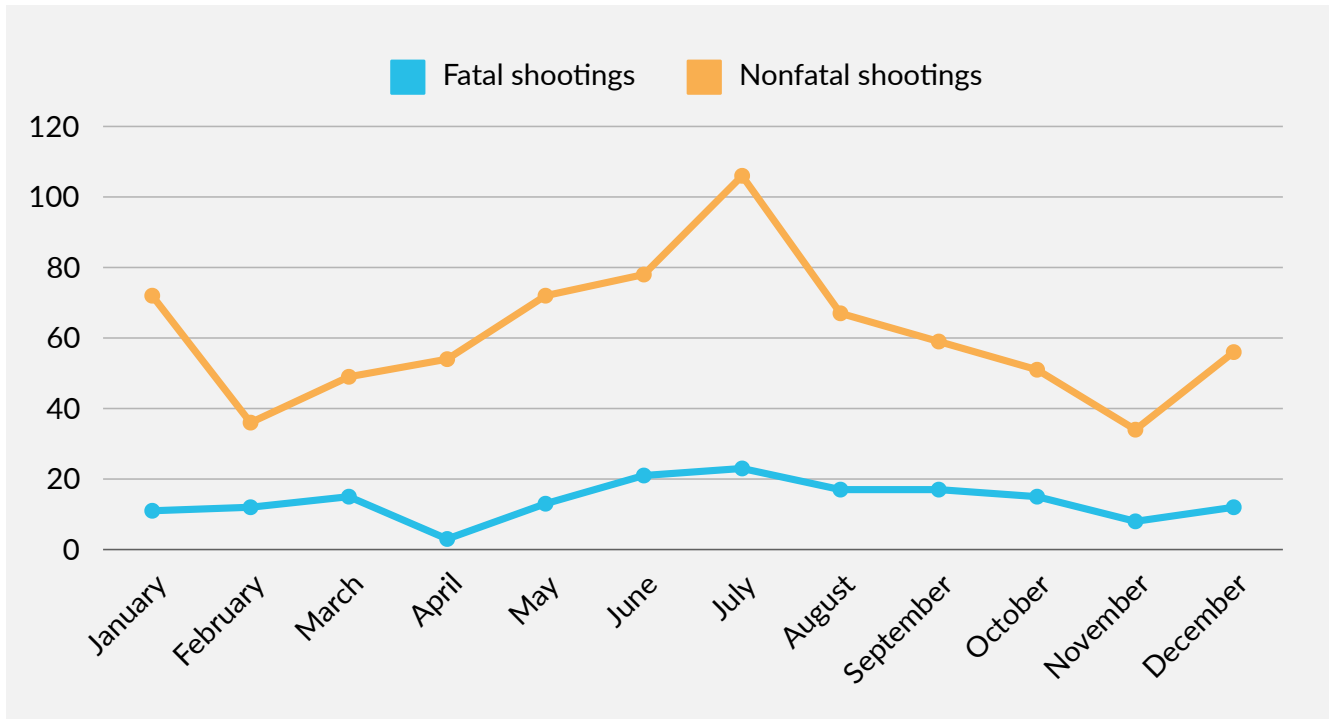
Gun violence incidents often occur Sunday through Tuesday.

Figure 5. Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Incidents by Day of the Week in 2023



Gun violence incidents spiked in the summer months.

Figure 6. Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Incidents by Month in 2023



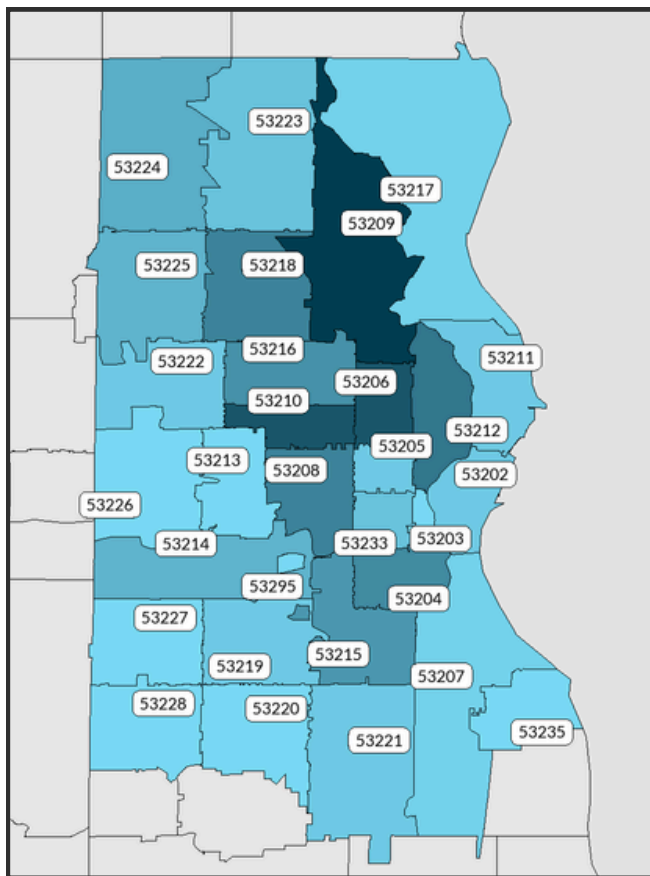
Most shootings occurred at night, between 6:00 pm and midnight. Sunday saw the highest percentage of shootings (17%). Shootings also peaked in July (14%) and June (11%) and slowed in November, February, and April.



Zip codes **53206, 53210, and 53209** had the highest rates of gun violence.

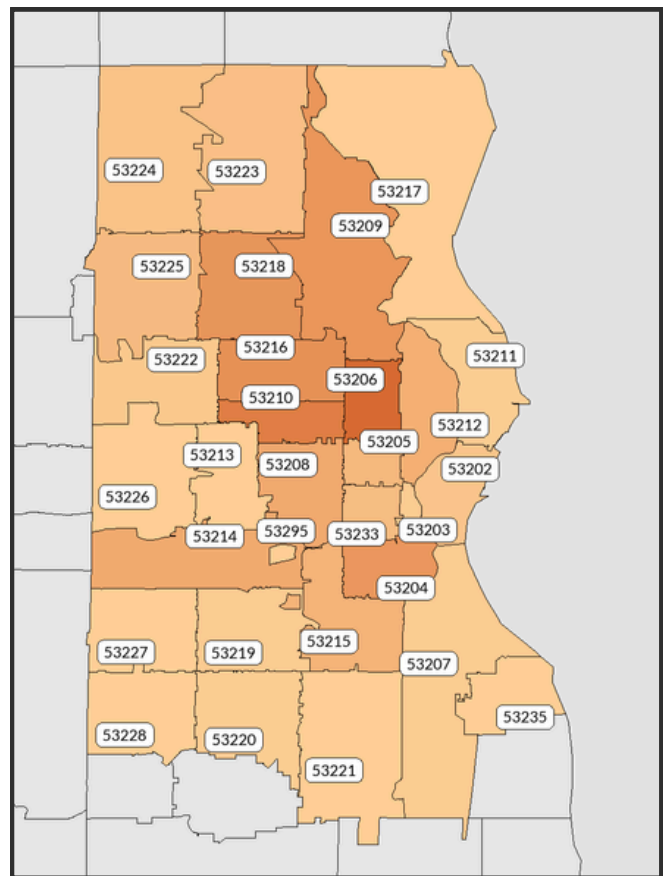
The zip code that saw the highest rate of gun violence (12% of fatal shootings and 15% of nonfatal shootings) was 53206. The 53210 zip code also saw 12% of each fatal shootings and nonfatal shootings. The 53209 zip code saw 14% of fatal shootings, more than any other zip code, and 8% of nonfatal shootings.¹⁰

Figure 7. Map of Fatal Shooting Frequency by Zip Code in 2023



Number of Fatal Shootings
 0 5 10 15 20

Figure 8. Map of Nonfatal Shooting Frequency by Zip Code in 2023



Number of Nonfatal Shootings
 0 25 50 75 100

Milwaukee Clearance Rates

The clearance rate for Milwaukee remained relatively stable from 2011 to 2017, ranging from 62.37% to 68.60%, with the exception of 2015, which saw a small dip to 56.85%. In 2018, the clearance rate began to decline, reaching a low of 45.65% in 2021 before starting to increase slightly in 2022.

Figure 9. Reported and Cleared Homicides by the Milwaukee Police Department¹¹

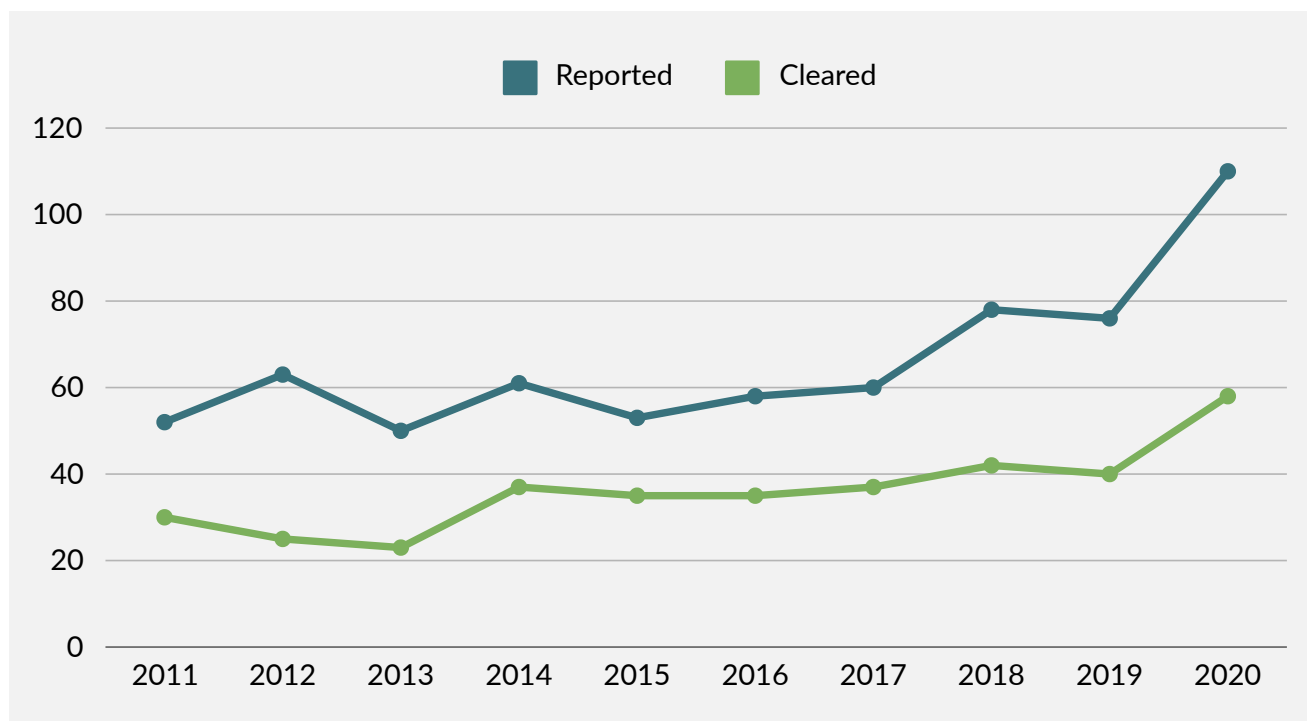


Table 4. Milwaukee Police Department Clearance Rate for Homicides per Year

Year	Homicide clearance rate	Year	Homicide clearance rate
2011	67.44%	2017	68.07%
2012	62.37%	2018	64.00%
2013	62.50%	2019	61.86%
2014	68.60%	2020	53.93%
2015	56.85%	2021	45.64%
2016	64.54%		

Conclusion

Victims and suspects of gun violence in Milwaukee in 2023 were disproportionately Black, male young adults. Gun violence was concentrated in the 53206 zip code, followed by the 53210 and 53209 zip codes. Gun violence incidents were most likely to occur on Sunday through Tuesday and in the months of June and July. This information about the nature of gun violence in the city can be used to inform the development of a gun violence reduction strategy.



Methods

This report uses publicly available data to characterize the individuals and patterns of gun violence in Milwaukee. To obtain data, NICJR utilized the Gun Violence Archive,¹² National Gun Violence Memorial,¹³ and additional media sources.

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.¹⁴

Data for this report were collected for a 12-month period in Milwaukee. 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.

Data Limitations

Detailed information for all 174 fatal shootings and 836 nonfatal 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.

Publicly available data for gun violence incidents are scarce. Identifying information is often unavailable for several reasons, including the victim's right to confidentiality and lack of an identified suspect. Location information is also often scarce, although NICJR determined zip code and neighborhood 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.

Endnotes

1. See Appendix for Methodology and Data Limitations.
2. 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.
3. [Milwaukee Police Department 2022 Annual Report](#)
4. [Milwaukee gun violence down in 2023, more work ahead in 2024](#)
5. [Milwaukee Police Department 2022 Annual Report](#)
6. [Milwaukee gun violence down in 2023, more work ahead in 2024](#)
7. [US Census Bureau Quick Facts - Milwaukee City, Wisconsin](#)
8. Information collected from the Violence Response Public Health and Safety Team (VR-PHAST) 2023 Incident Report. The number of fatal and nonfatal shootings reported differ from those reported by NICJR due to differences in operational definitions of fatal and nonfatal shootings and data limitations, see Methodology for more details. This report is available upon request from VR-PHAST.
9. This value exceeds 100% due to rounding.
10. Zip codes with fewer than five reported shootings: 53203, 53207, 53211, 53213, 53217, 53220, 53221, 53226
11. [FBI Crime Data Explorer](#)
12. [Gun Violence Archive](#)
13. [National Gun Violence Memorial](#)
14. [Gun Violence Archive: About](#)

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