

ATLANTA

GUN VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT

Assessment of Atlanta, Georgia Fatal and Nonfatal Shootings
January 1, 2022–December 31, 2023



AUGUST 2024

Introduction

The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) conducted this Gun Violence Assessment (GVA) to inform Atlanta, Georgia's development of a gun violence reduction strategy (GVRS). NICJR assessed publicly available data sources to develop the following report on fatal and nonfatal shootings in Atlanta between the two-year span of January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2023.¹ During this period, the city experienced 331 fatal shootings (191 in 2022, 140 in 2023) and 845 nonfatal shootings (469 in 2022, 376 in 2023) for which NICJR could locate publicly available data.

The City of Atlanta experienced a 78% increase in homicides from 2018 to 2020.² This trend continued over the next two years as fatal shootings increased by another 21%, from 158 fatal shootings in 2021 to 191 in 2022.^{3,4} Notably, Atlanta's gun homicide rate of 31.7 per 100,000 in 2021 was more than four and a half times greater than the 2021 US gun homicide rate of 6.7 per 100,000. By 2022, Atlanta's gun homicide rate grew to 38.3 per 100,000. Atlanta had a decrease of 140 fatal shootings in 2023, amounting to 27% fewer killings than in 2022.

Atlanta is a city of 499,127 residents, of which 47.6% are Black, 40.8% White, 5.4% Latino, 4.9% Asian, and 4.7% two or more races.⁵ Within the study period, both fatal and nonfatal shooting victims and suspects were disproportionately Black and male. Despite popular assumption, most victims and suspects were not teenagers, but rather young adults in the 18 to 34 age range.

AGE BETWEEN THE AGES OF
18-34

RACE DISPROPORTIONATELY
BLACK

GENDER OVERWHELMINGLY
MALE



331 FATAL SHOOTINGS

845 NONFATAL SHOOTINGS

2022-2023

*Number of incidents with publicly available data

GUN HOMICIDE RATES



38.2 ATLANTA
(2022)
PER 100,000
RESIDENTS

31.7 ATLANTA
(2021)
PER 100,000
RESIDENTS

6.31 NATIONAL
(2021)
PER 100,000
RESIDENTS

Demographic Breakdown

NICJR found that victims and suspects of both fatal and nonfatal shootings in Atlanta in 2022 and 2023 were disproportionately Black males in their mid-twenties to early thirties.

The average age of known fatal shooting victims within the sample was 31.05; known fatal shooting suspects had an average age of 29.5 years. Similarly, the average age of known nonfatal shooting victims was 26.97, and the average age of known suspects was 25.81 years. This was similar to findings from NICJR's 2021 Atlanta Gun Violence Assessment, which saw less than a one-year difference in average age for fatal shooting victims and both suspects and victims of nonfatal shootings. Taken together, findings across both reports indicate that fears of a rise in youth violence are unfounded. In fact, fatal shooting suspects were almost two and a half years older, on average, in 2022 and 2023 compared to 2021.⁶

Consistent with 2021 trends, which saw males make up the overwhelming majority of individuals involved in gun violence,⁷ in fatal shootings in 2022, 92% of victims and 88% of suspects were male, while 76% of nonfatal shooting victims and 88% of suspects were male. Similarly, in 2023, 81% of victims and 96% of suspects in fatal shootings and 79% of victims and 90% of suspects in nonfatal shootings were male. Fatal shooting victims were overwhelmingly male in both 2022 and 2023, however there was a 10% increase in the percentage of female fatal shooting victims. Fatal shooting suspects were largely male in both 2022 and 2023.

Available information indicated that the distribution of race among victims of fatal shootings were 91% Black in 2022 and 92% Black in 2023. Similarly, 95% of shooting suspects in 2022 and 97% in 2023 were Black. Race data for individuals involved in nonfatal shootings was insufficient.

Demographic information was not available for all individuals; all available demographic data is presented below. See Appendix for more information. Race data related to nonfatal shootings was excluded as race could only be determined for less than 5% of incidents.

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 2022 and 2023

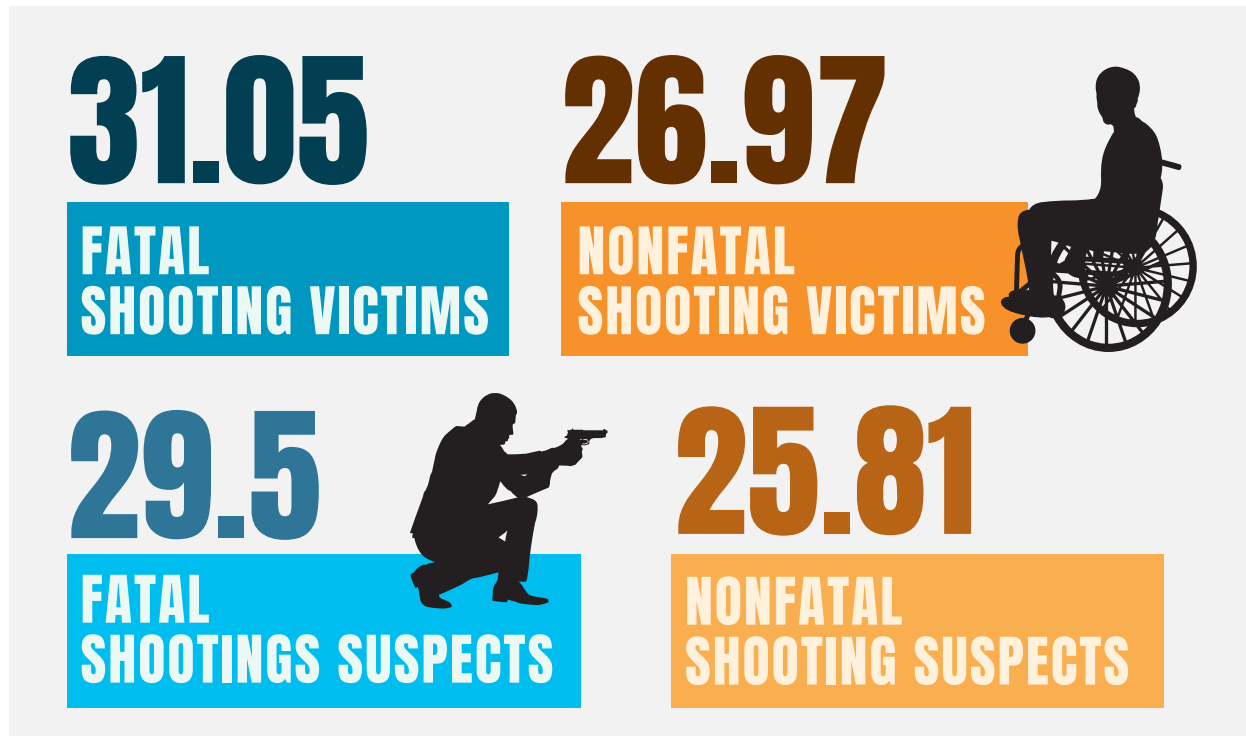


Table 1. Age of Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Victims and Suspects in 2022 and 2023⁸

	Fatal shooting victims				Nonfatal shooting victims			
	2022		2023		2022		2023	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 18	22	13%	10	8%	33	30%	40	25%
18-34	95	55%	78	61%	51	46%	75	47%
35+	57	33%	40	31%	26	24%	46	29%
Total	174	101%	128	100%	110	100%	161	101%
	Fatal shooting suspects				Nonfatal shooting suspects			
	2022		2023		2022		2023	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 18	5	8%	1	3%	3	8%	2	11%
18-34	39	60%	30	79%	25	69%	14	74%
35+	21	32%	7	18%	8	22%	3	16%
Total	65	100%	38	100%	36	99%	19	101%

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

Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity of Fatal Shooting Victims and Suspects in 2022 and 2023 Combined

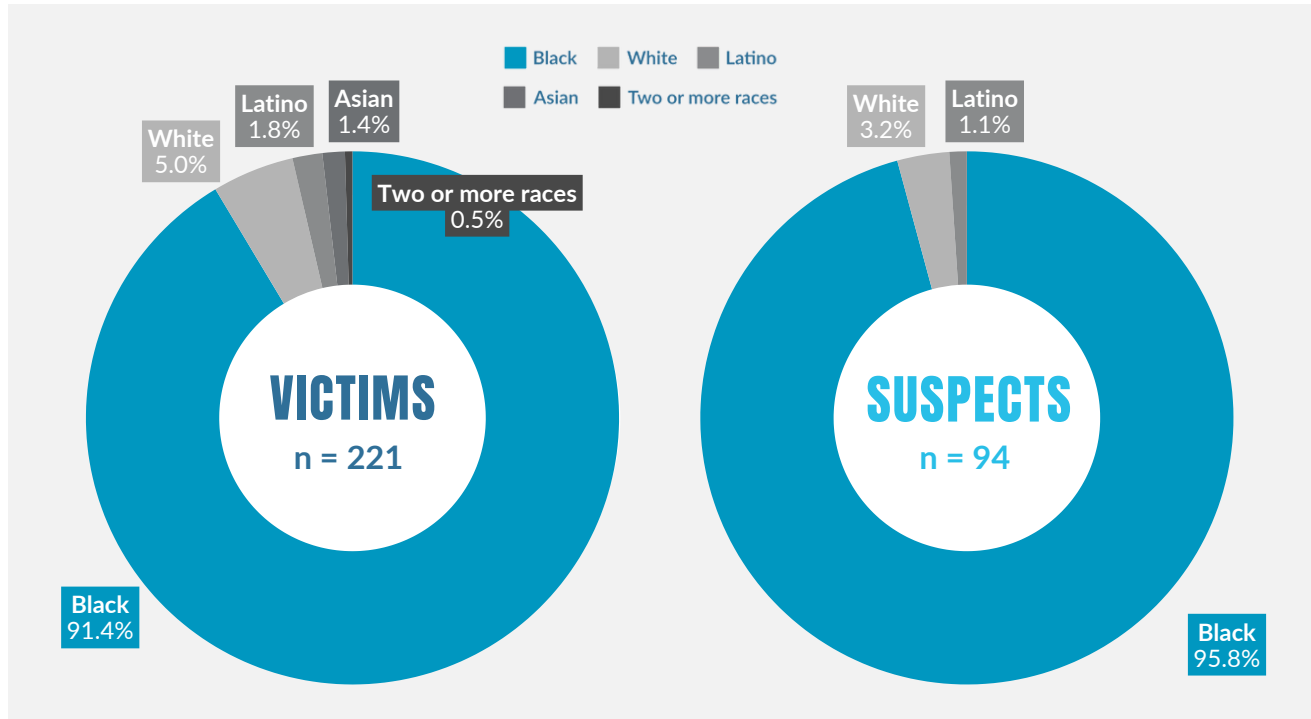


Table 2. Race/Ethnicity of Fatal Shooting Victims and Suspects in 2022 and 2023⁹

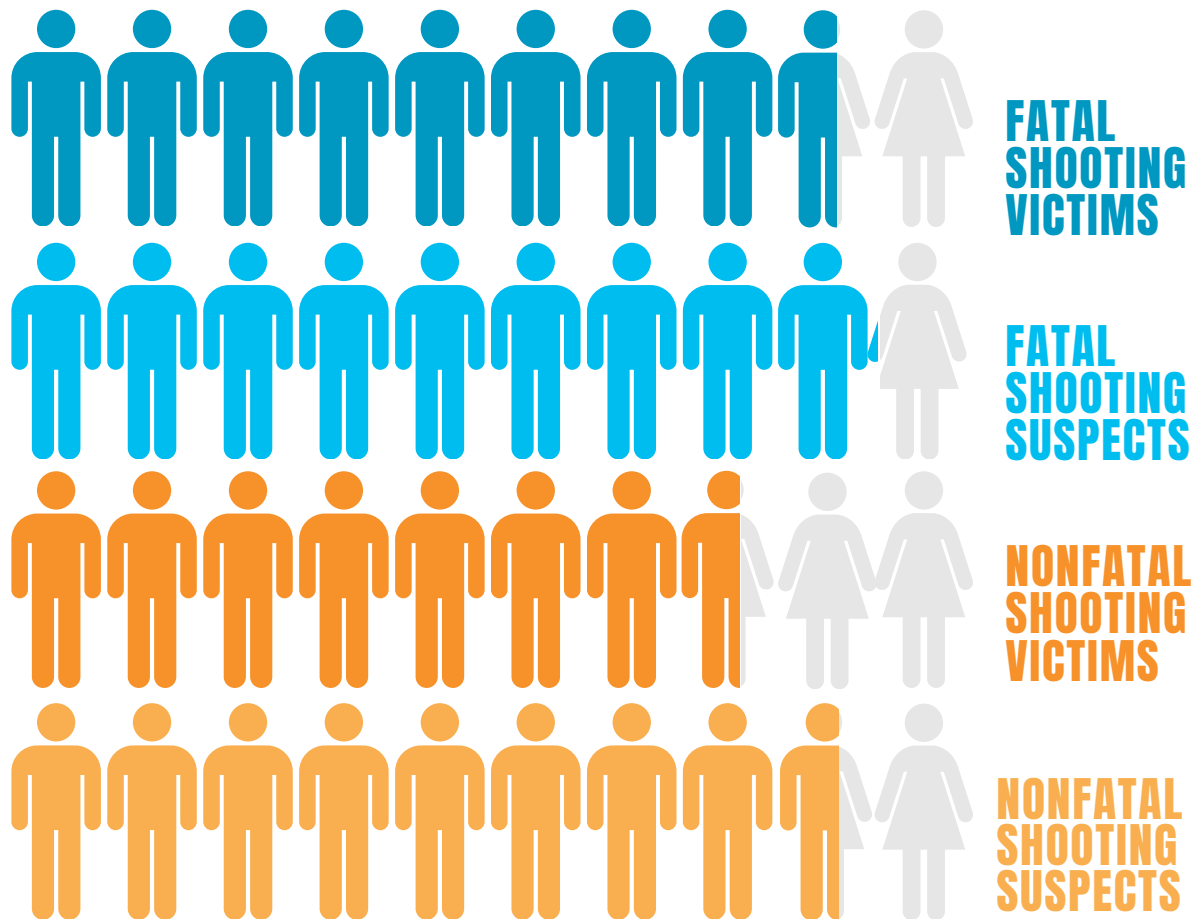
	Fatal shooting victims				Fatal shooting suspects			
	2022		2023		2022		2023	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Asian	1	1%	2	2%	0	0%	0	0%
Black	107	91%	95	92%	52	95%	38	97%
Latino	1	1%	3	3%	1	2%	0	0%
White	8	7%	3	3%	2	4%	1	3%
Two or more races	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	118	101%	103	100%	53	101%	41	100%

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

Table 3. Sex of Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Victims and Suspects in 2022 and 2023¹⁰

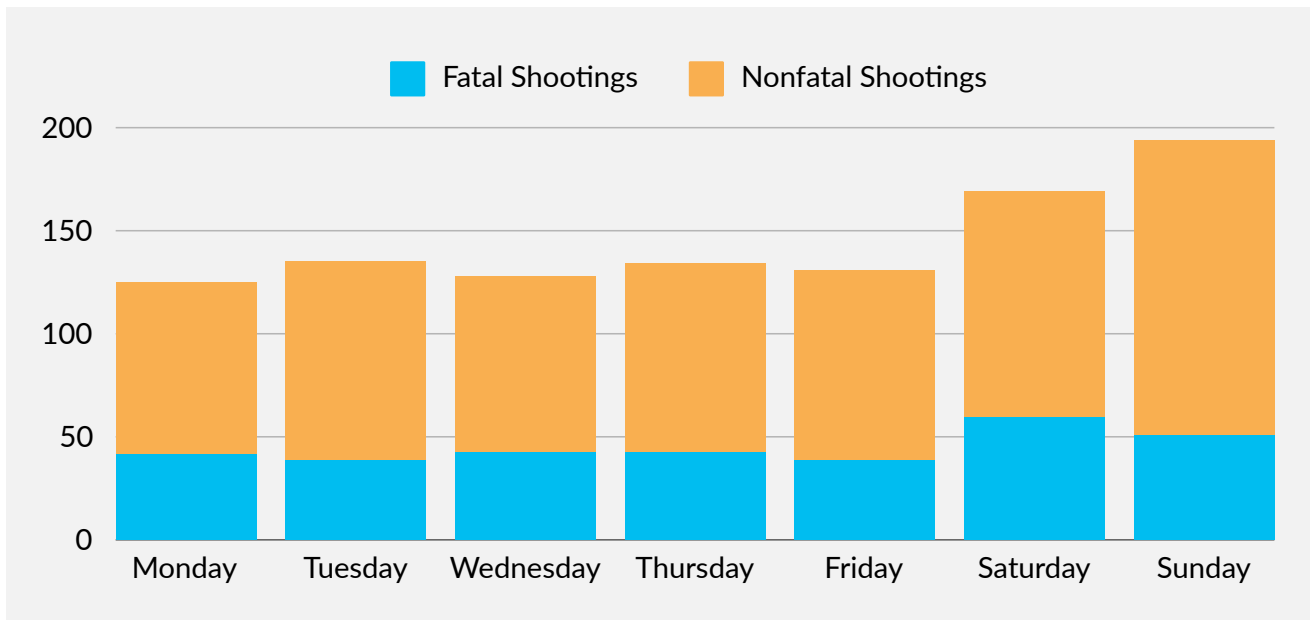
	Fatal shooting victims				Nonfatal shooting victims			
	2022		2023		2022		2023	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	172	92%	113	81%	317	76%	271	79%
Female	16	9%	26	19%	100	24%	73	21%
Total	188	101%	139	100%	417	100%	344	100%
	Fatal shooting suspects				Nonfatal shooting suspects			
	2022		2023		2022		2023	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	66	88%	49	96%	44	88%	26	90%
Female	9	12%	2	4%	6	12%	3	10%
Total	75	100%	51	100%	50	100%	29	100%

Figure 3. Sex of Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Victims and Suspects in 2022 and 2023



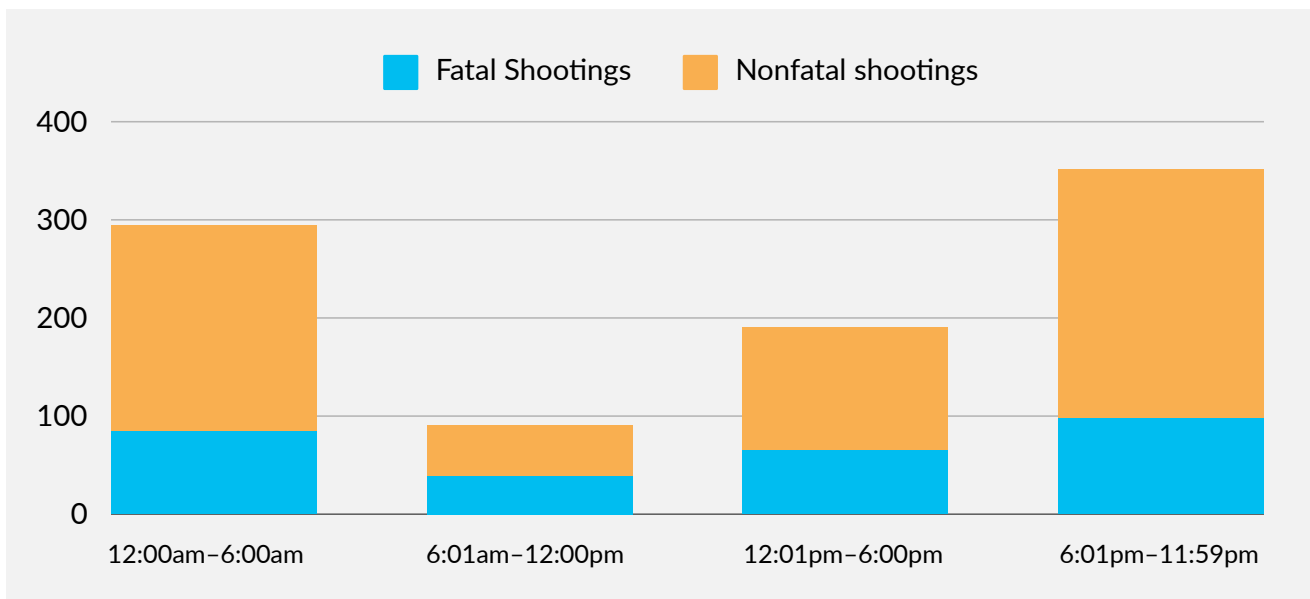
Gun violence incidents often occur on the weekend during the overnight hours from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am.

Figure 4. Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Incidents by Day of the Week in 2022 and 2023



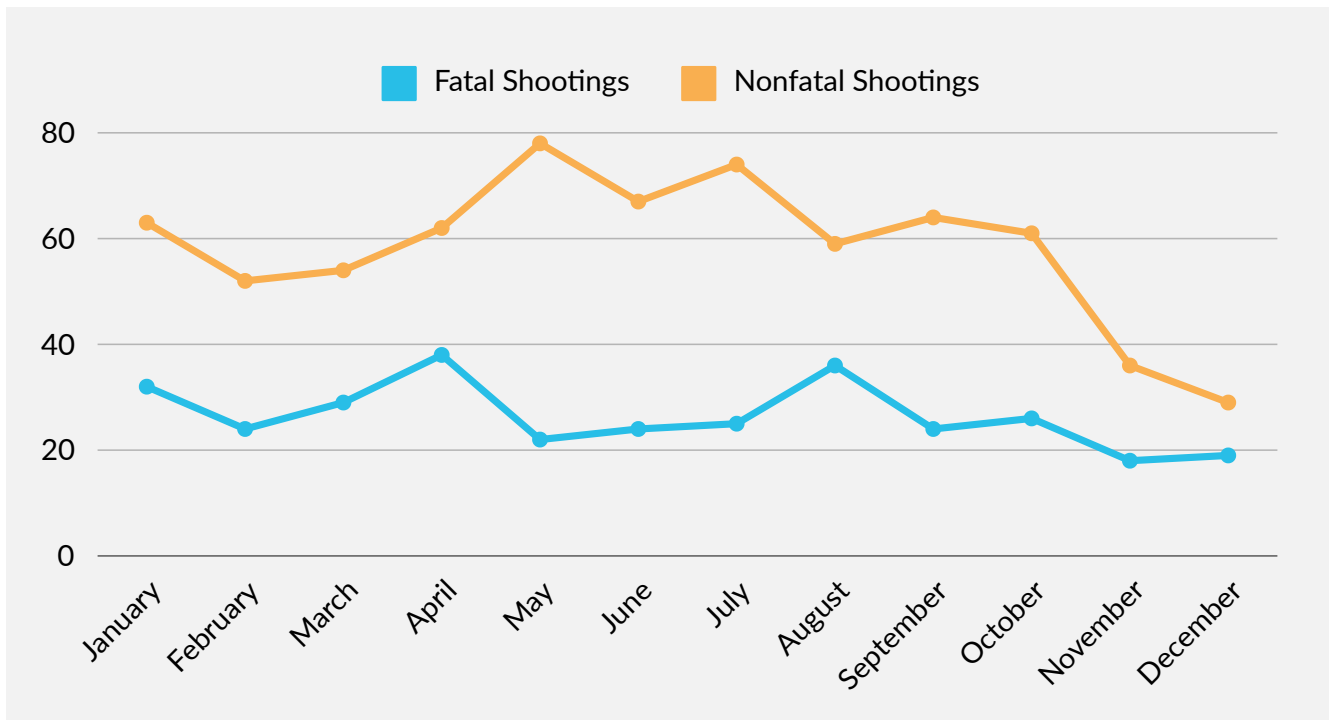
Sundays saw the highest percentage of shootings (19%). Most shootings occurred during the hours of 6:00 pm and midnight (38%) followed by midnight and 6:00am (32%).

Figure 5. Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Incidents by Time of Day in 2022 and 2023



Gun violence spiked in **January**, followed by a spike in **late spring** and remained **higher throughout the summer months**.

Figure 6. Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Incidents by Month in 2022 and 2023



Shootings peaked in April and May (9.8% respectively) and July (9.7%); incidents slowed in November and December.



Zip codes **30315** and **30318** had the highest rates of gun violence.

Shooting incidents (14.1% of fatal shootings and 11.9% of nonfatal shootings) more often occurred in the 30315 zip code. The 30318 zip code also saw 12.5% of fatal shootings and 10.8% of nonfatal shootings.¹¹

Figure 7. Map of Fatal Shootings by Zip Code in 2022 and 2023¹²

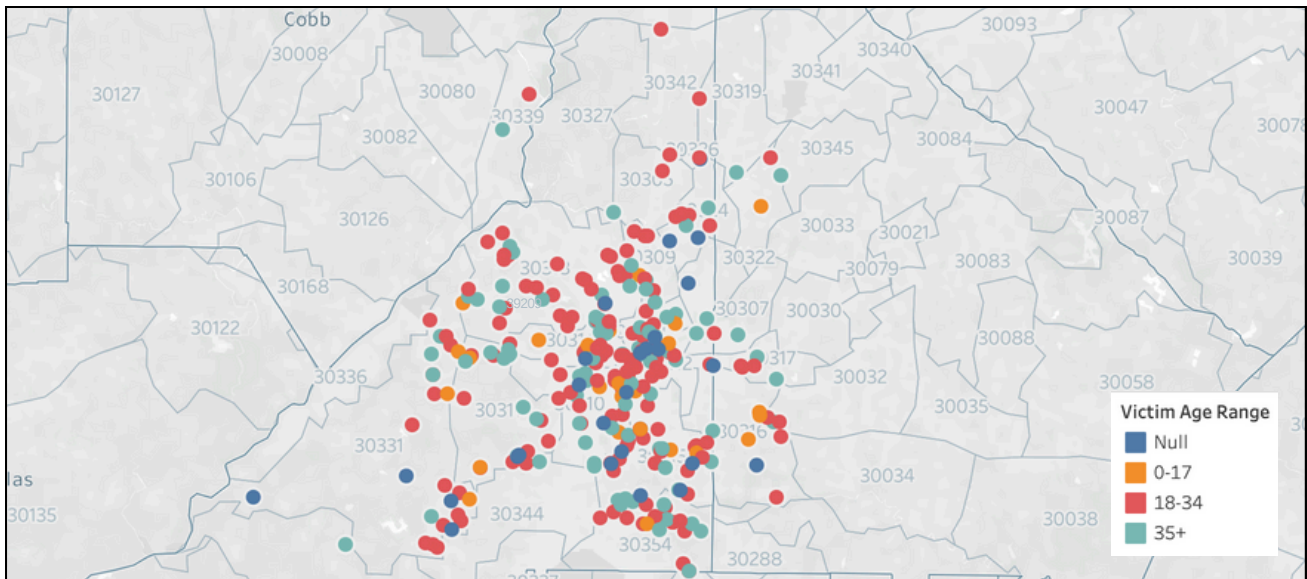
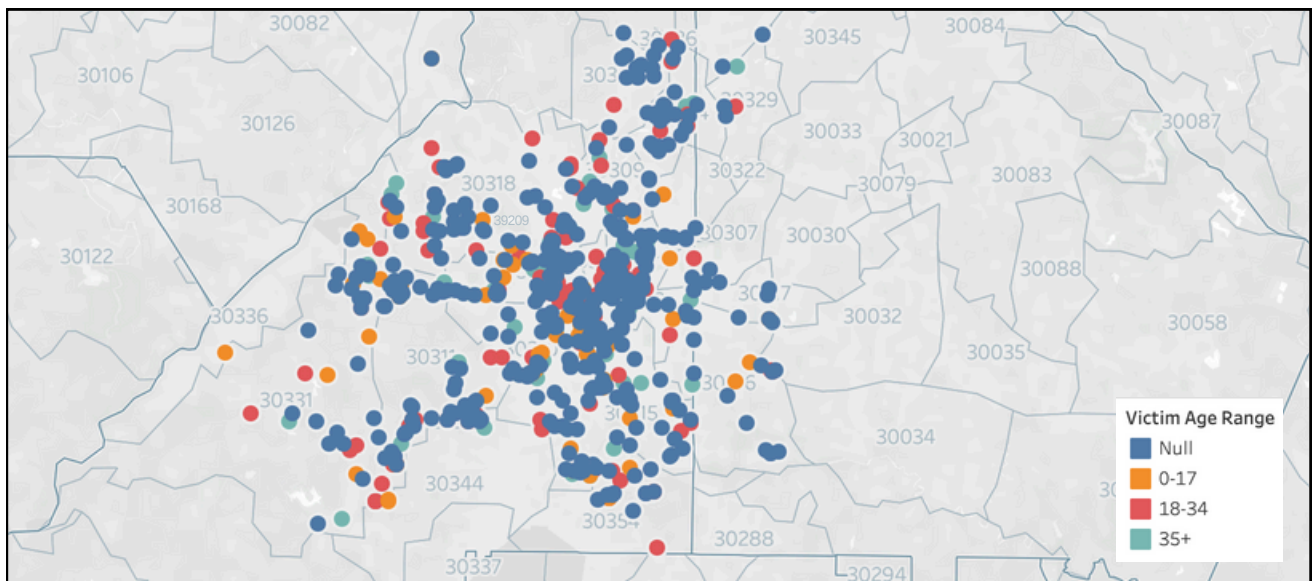


Figure 8. Map of Nonfatal Shootings by Zip Code in 2022 and 2023¹³



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

Atlanta Homicide Clearance Rates

Between 2012 and 2019, the homicide clearance rate in Atlanta ranged from 64.52% to 85.54%, with the exception of 2017 (102.53%). However, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the homicide clearance rate dropped from 75.71% in 2019 to 55.41% in 2020, for the city’s largest year-to-year decrease in the 10-year period from 2012 to 2022 (excluding 2017). The clearance rate dipped lower still in 2021, but it began to increase again in 2022. Clearance data are not yet available for 2023.

Figure 9. Reported and Cleared Homicides by the Atlanta Police Department ^{14,15}

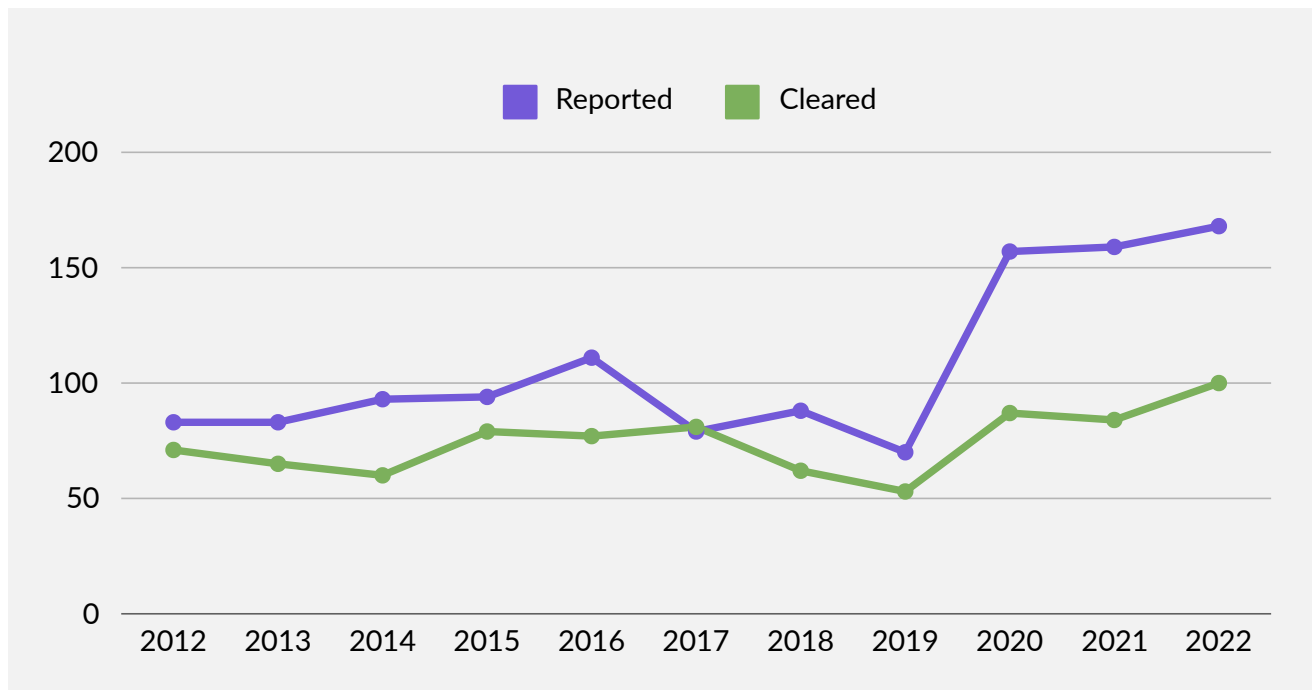


Table 4. Atlanta Police Department Clearance Rate for Homicides per Year

Year	Homicide Clearance Rate	Year	Homicide Clearance Rate
2012	85.54%	2018	70.45%
2013	78.31%	2019	75.71%
2014	64.52%	2020 ¹⁷	55.41%
2015	84.04%	2021	52.83%
2016	69.37%	2022	59.52%
2017	102.53% ¹⁶		

Conclusion

Victims and suspects of gun violence in Atlanta from 2022 to 2023 were disproportionately Black, males in their mid-twenties to early thirties. Gun violence was concentrated in the 30315 zip code, followed by the 30318 zip code. Gun violence incidents were most likely to occur on weekend days during the late spring and summer months.



Methods

This report uses publicly available data to characterize the individuals and patterns of gun violence in Atlanta. To obtain data, NICJR utilized the Gun Violence Archive,¹⁸ National Gun Violence Memorial,¹⁹ and various 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.²⁰

Data for this report were collected for a 24-month period in Atlanta. 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 331 fatal and 845 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
2. [Crime Data Explorer](#)
3. While all fatal shootings are homicides, not all homicides are fatal shootings. These terms are not used interchangeably in this report. The term "homicide" encompasses all circumstances of one person killing another and does not always involve a firearm. "Fatal shooting" specifically denotes a situation where a person is killed by a firearm.
4. [Gun Violence Assessment, Atlanta Georgia](#)
5. [US Census Bureau](#)
6. [Gun Violence Assessment, Atlanta Georgia](#)
7. Ibid.
8. Total percentage may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
9. Total percentage may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
10. Total percentage may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
11. Zip codes with fewer than five reported shootings: 30058, 30319, 30327, 30336, 30342, 30344, 30346, 30348, 30350
12. [Atlanta Fatal Shootings - Zip Code and Frequency](#)
13. [Atlanta Nonfatal Shootings - Zip Code and Frequency](#)
14. [Crime Data Explorer](#)
15. Homicide rate refers to all homicides, including homicides not involving a firearm.
16. Clearance rates are calculated using the number of homicides occurring 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%.
17. The FBI Crime Data Explorer showed data significantly different from the [Atlanta Police Department COBRA 2021 Year End Report](#) for 2020. Data for 2020 was sourced from this COBRA report. While data varies slightly between FBI Crime Data Explorer and COBRA reports in all years, 2020 data differed to a larger degree than other years.
18. [Gun Violence Archive](#)
19. [National Gun Violence Memorial](#)
20. [Gun Violence Archive | About](#)

ATLANTA

GUN VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT

AUGUST 2024