

# JACKSON

## GUN VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT

Assessment of Jackson, Mississippi Fatal and Nonfatal Shootings  
January 1, 2022–December 31, 2023

AUGUST 2024

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

# Introduction

The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) conducted this Gun Violence Assessment (GVA) to inform Jackson, Mississippi'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 Jackson between the two-year span of January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2023. During this period, the city experienced 185 fatal and 183 nonfatal shootings for which NICJR could locate publicly available data. This included 96 fatal shootings and 89 nonfatal shootings in 2022 and 89 fatal and 94 nonfatal shootings in 2023.

Like many US cities, Jackson saw a dramatic increase in homicides amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the city set a new all-time record high of 130 homicides, surpassing the previous record of 92 homicides that was set in 1995.<sup>1</sup> While these figures include all homicides, most homicides in the city are firearm homicides.<sup>2</sup> Notably, this increase in homicides occurred despite a decrease in the population of the city since the mid-90s.<sup>3</sup>

## 2022-2023

**185 FATAL SHOOTINGS**

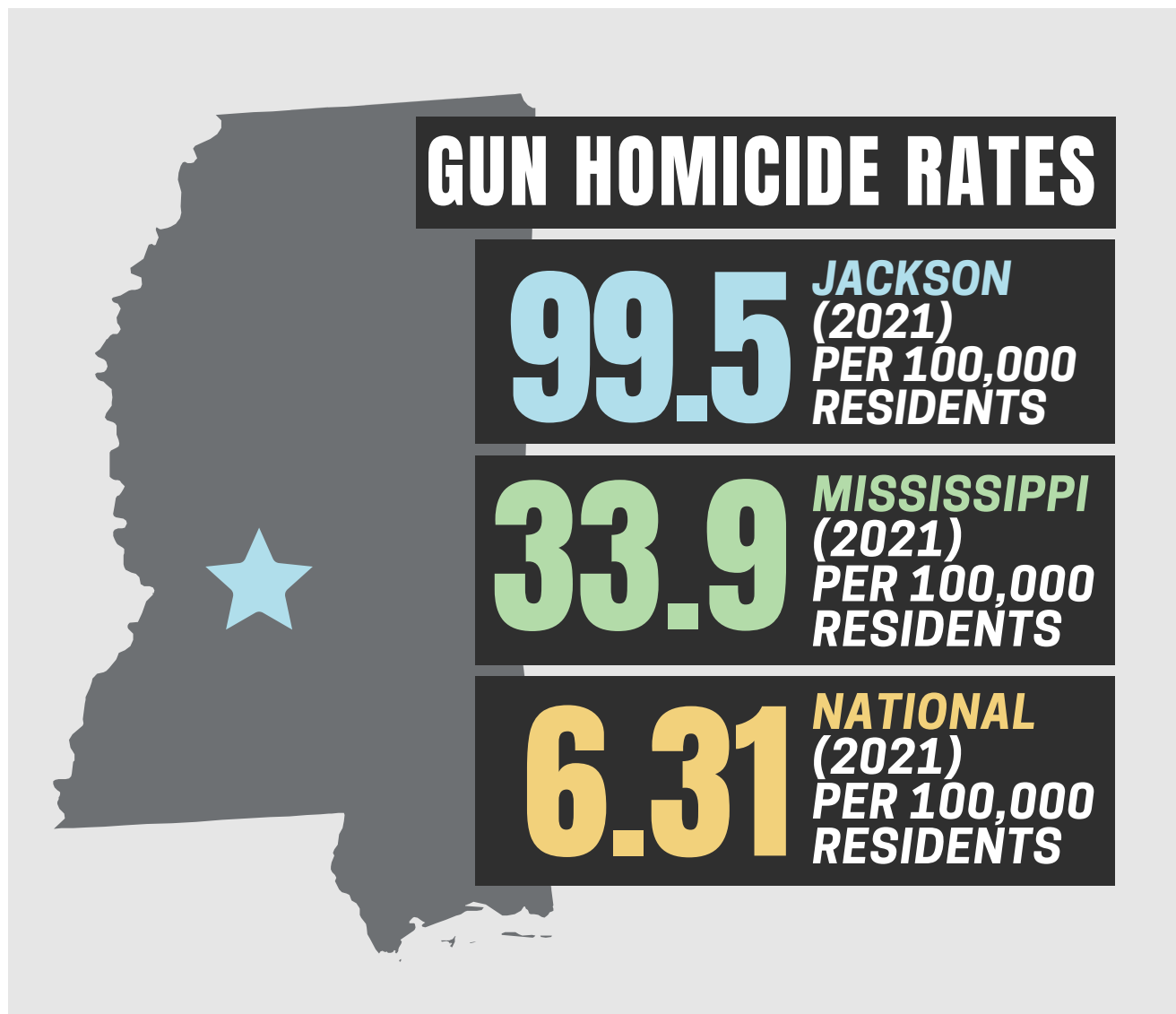
**183 NONFATAL SHOOTINGS**

\*Number of incidents with publicly available data



The gun homicide rates in Mississippi broadly, and in Jackson specifically, are also far higher than the national average. In 2021, the US saw 20,958 firearm homicides,<sup>4</sup> or 6.31 for every 100,000 individuals. That same year, Mississippi saw 33.9 fatal shootings for every 100,000 individuals,<sup>5</sup> and Jackson's homicide rate reached 99.5 per 100,000 – both the highest in the nation.<sup>6</sup>

Jackson has 153,701 residents, of whom 78.6% are Black, 16.5% White, 2.1% Latino, 1.92% multi-racial, and 0.5% Asian.<sup>7</sup> Within the time frame studied, 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.



# Demographic Breakdown

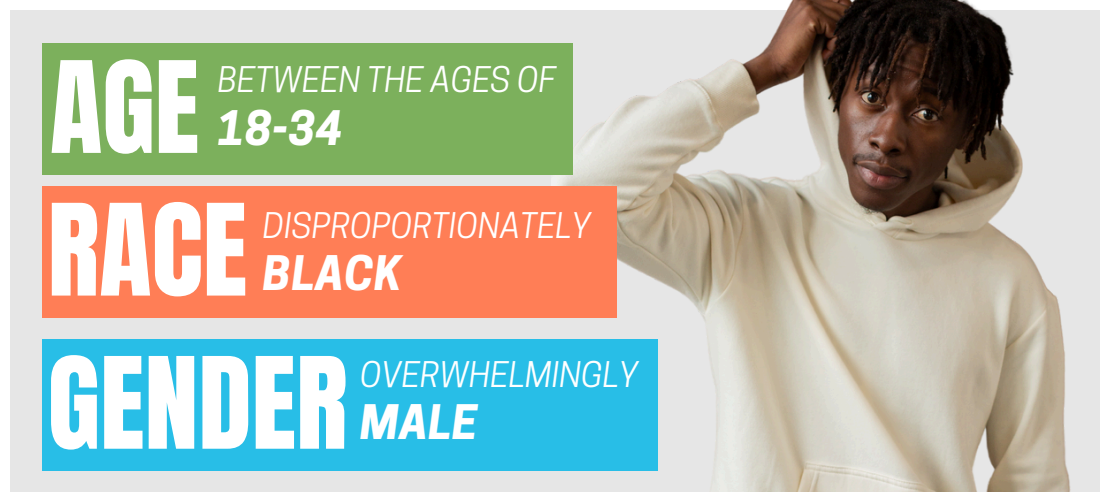
NICJR found that victims and suspects of both fatal and nonfatal shootings in Jackson, Mississippi during 2022 and 2023 were disproportionately Black males in their twenties.

The average age of the 155 known fatal shooting victims within the sample was 30.18, and the 84 known suspects had an average age of 27.23. Similarly, the average age of the 76 known victims of nonfatal shootings was 23.14, and the average age of the 35 known suspects was 25.7.

In fatal shootings in 2022, 78% of victims and 90% of suspects were male, while 76% of nonfatal shooting victims and 85% of suspects were male. Similarly, in 2023, 88% of victims and 90% of suspects in fatal shootings and 77% of victims and 100% of suspects in nonfatal shootings were male. However, sex was only identified for 12 nonfatal shooting suspects. Fatal shooting victims were overwhelmingly male in both 2022 and 2023, however there was a 10% decrease in the percentage of female fatal shooting victims.

Available information indicated that the distribution of race among individuals involved in shootings remained stable from 2022 to 2023. In 2022, 92% of victims and 97% of suspects in fatal shootings were Black. In 2023, 92% of victims and 95% of suspects in fatal shootings were Black.

Demographic information was not available for all individuals; all available demographic data is presented below. See the Appendix for more information.



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

Figure 1. Average Age of Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Victims and Suspects

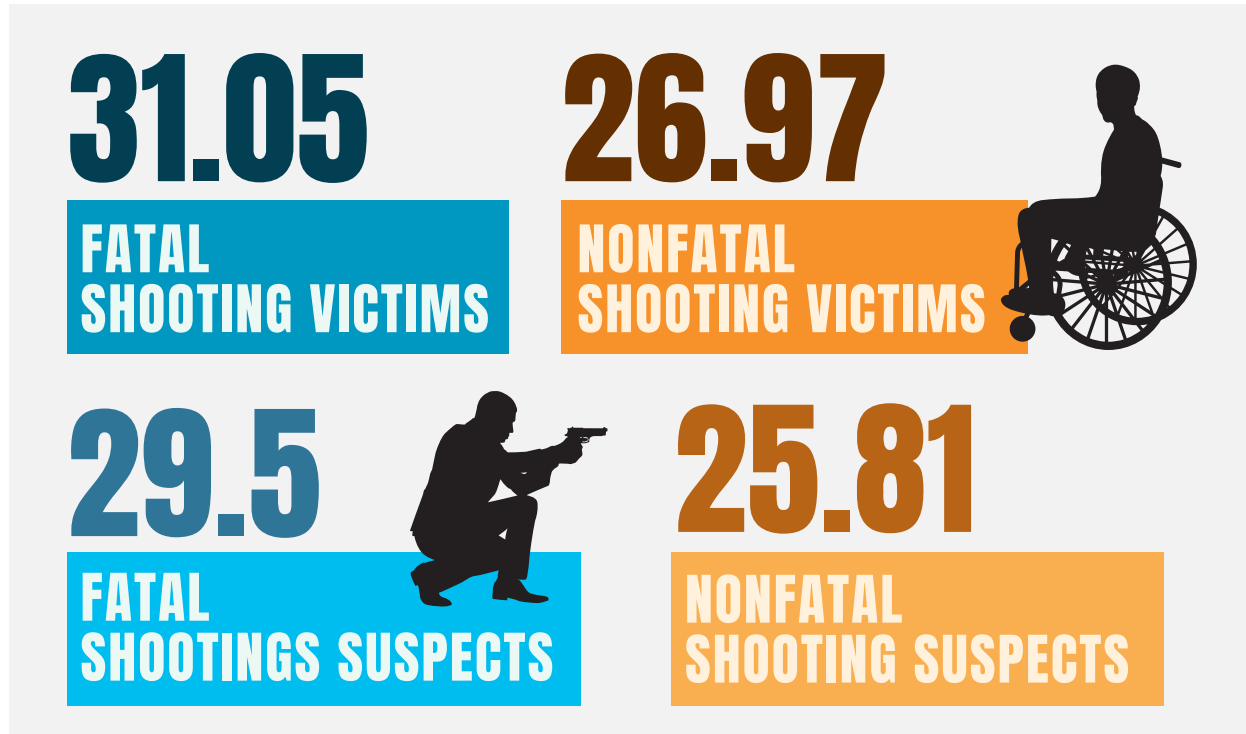


Table 1. Age Distribution of Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Victims and Suspects<sup>8</sup>

	Fatal shooting victims				Nonfatal shooting victims			
	2022		2023		2022		2023	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 18	15	17%	5	7%	20	42%	7	24%
18-34	41	47%	40	60%	22	46%	19	68%
35+	32	36%	22	33%	6	13%	2	7%
Total	88	100%	67	100%	48	101%	28	99%
	Fatal shooting suspects				Nonfatal shooting suspects			
	2022		2023		2022		2023	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 18	11	22%	3	9%	9	36%	1	14%
18-34	29	58%	23	68%	12	48%	4	57%
35+	10	20%	8	24%	4	16%	2	29%
Total	50	100%	34	101%	25	100%	7	100%

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

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

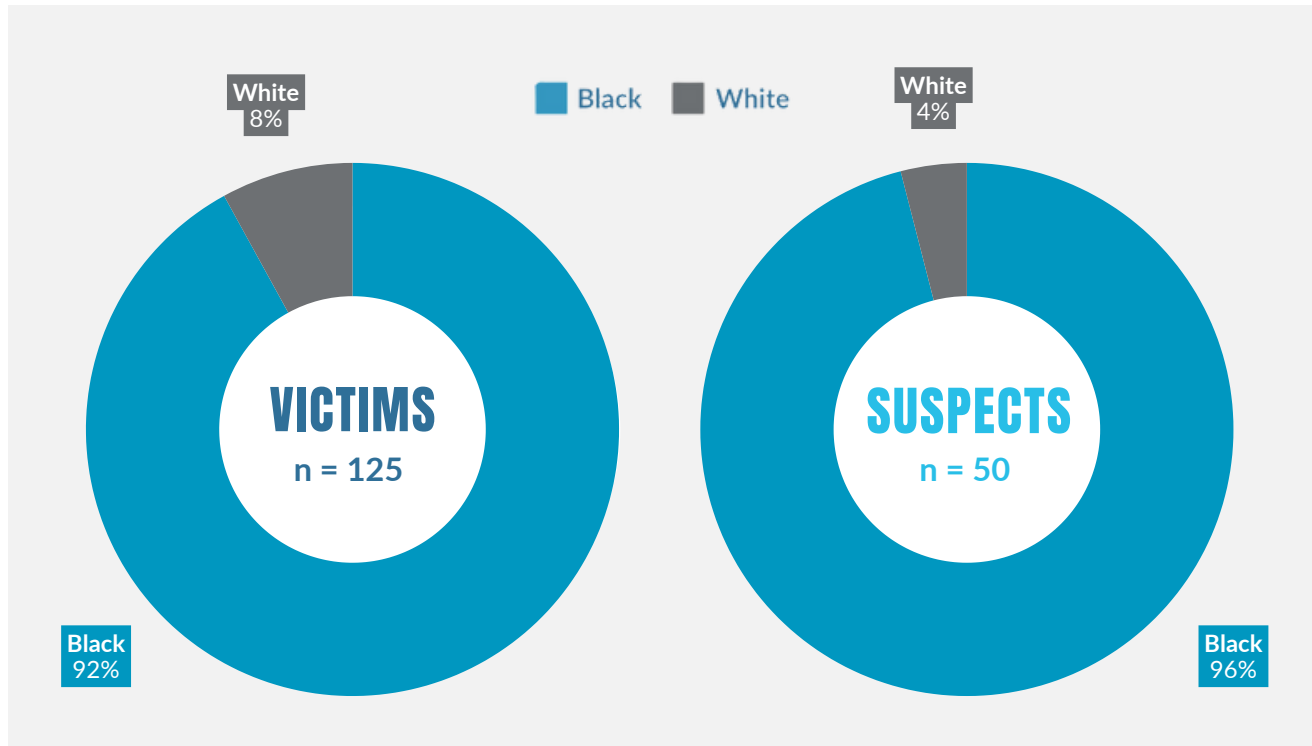


Table 2. Race/Ethnicity of Fatal Shooting Victims and Suspects in 2022 and 2023<sup>9</sup>

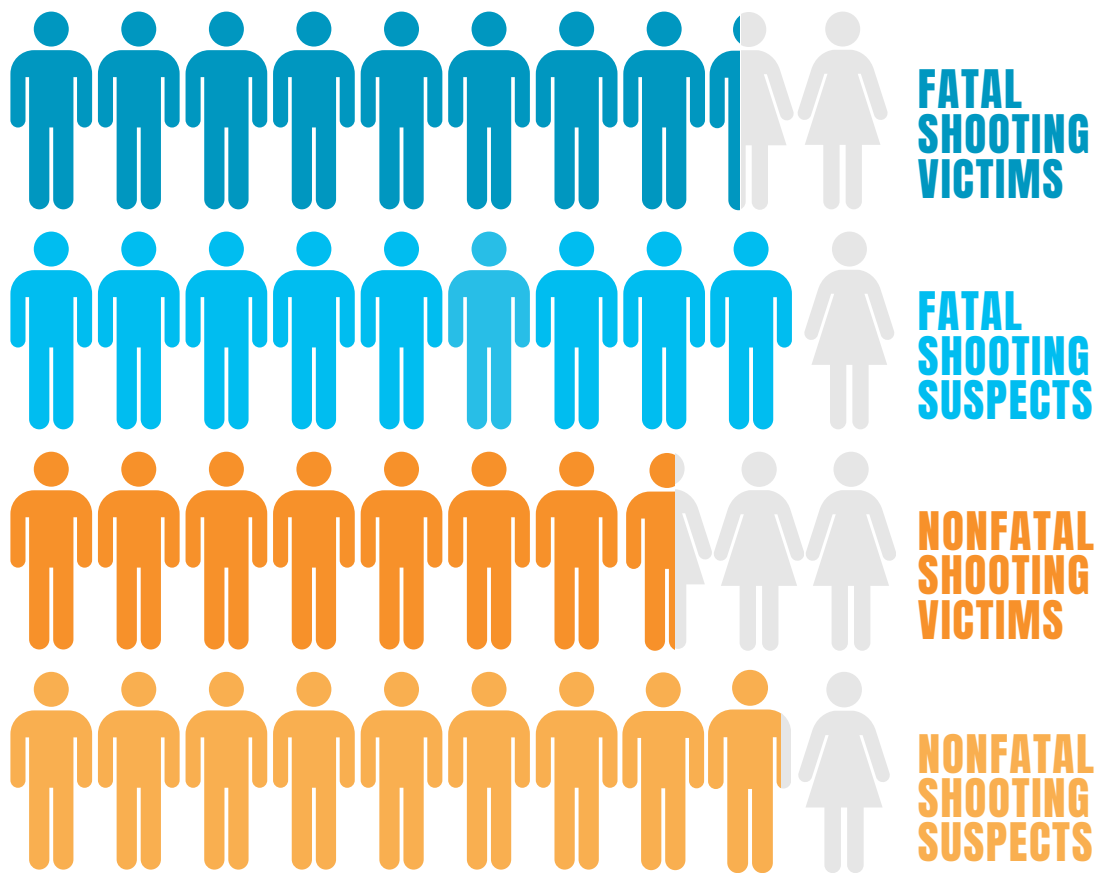
	Fatal shooting victims				Fatal shooting suspects			
	2022		2023		2022		2023	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Black	61	92%	54	92%	29	97%	19	95%
White	5	8%	5	8%	1	3%	1	5%
Total	66	100%	59	100%	30	100%	20	100%

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

**Table 3.** Sex of Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Victims and Suspects

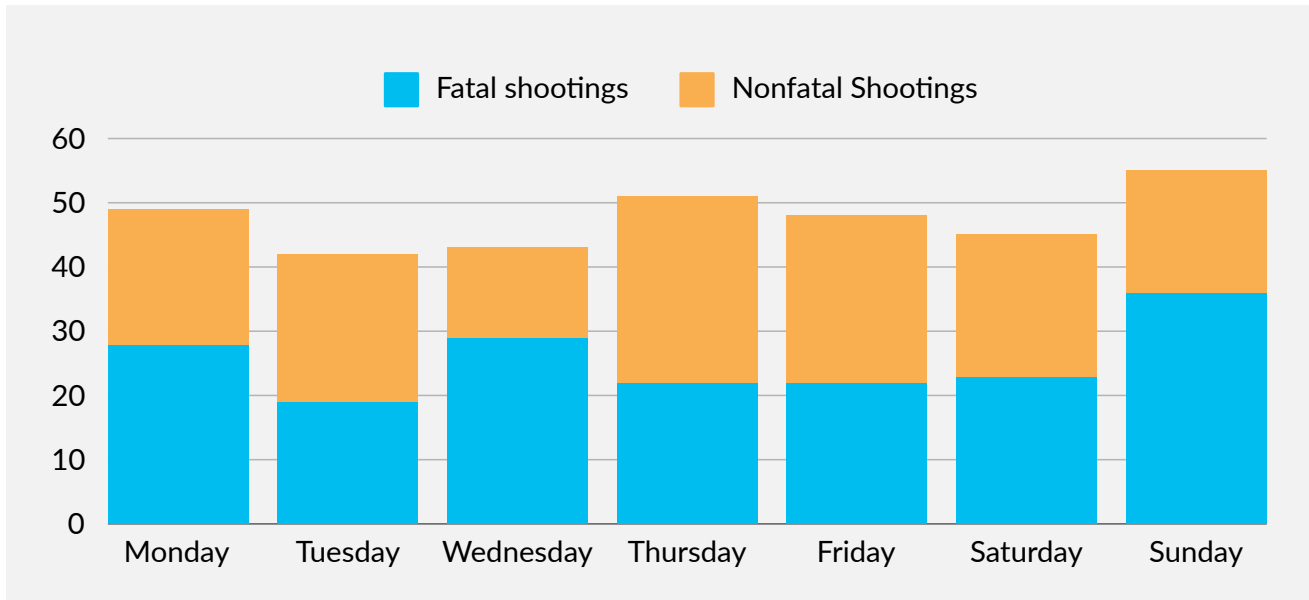
	Fatal shooting victims				Nonfatal shooting victims			
	2022		2023		2022		2023	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	73	78%	78	88%	62	76%	51	77%
Female	20	22%	11	12%	20	24%	15	23%
Total	93	100%	89	100%	82	100%	66	100%
	Fatal shooting suspects				Nonfatal shooting suspects			
	2022		2023		2022		2023	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	55	90%	36	90%	35	85%	12	100%
Female	6	10%	4	10%	6	15%	0	0%
Total	61	100%	40	100%	41	100%	12	100%

**Figure 3.** Sex of Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Victims and Suspects



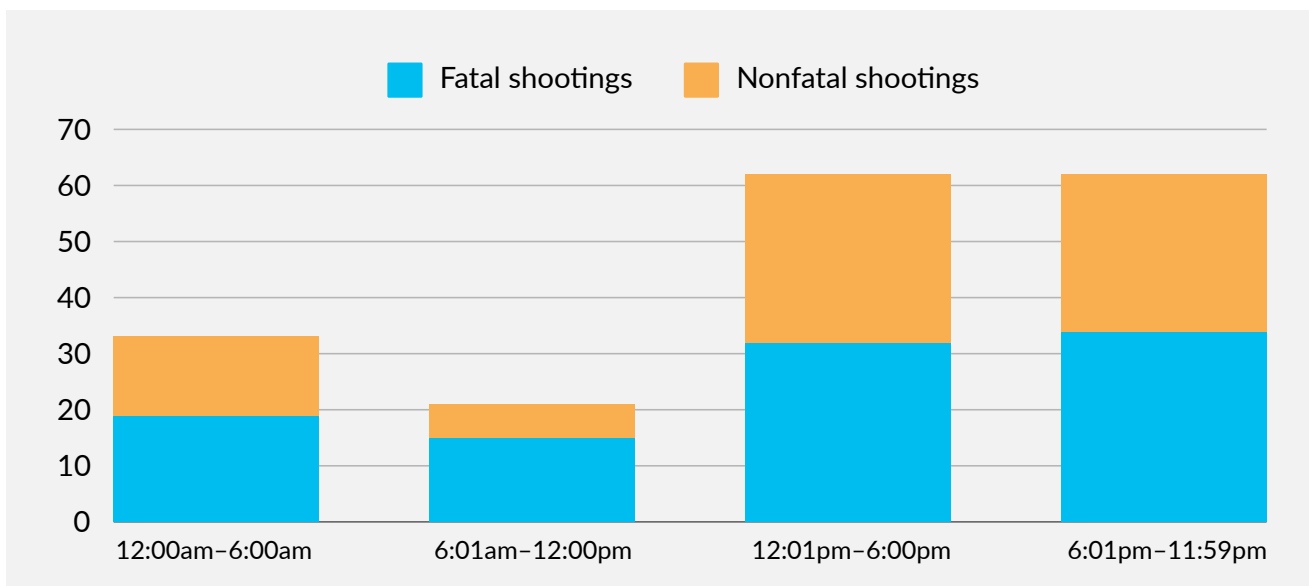
# Gun violence often occurred on Thursday and Sunday between noon and midnight.

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



Shootings peaked on Thursdays and Sundays, with 15% and 17% of all shootings occurring on each of these days, respectively.

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

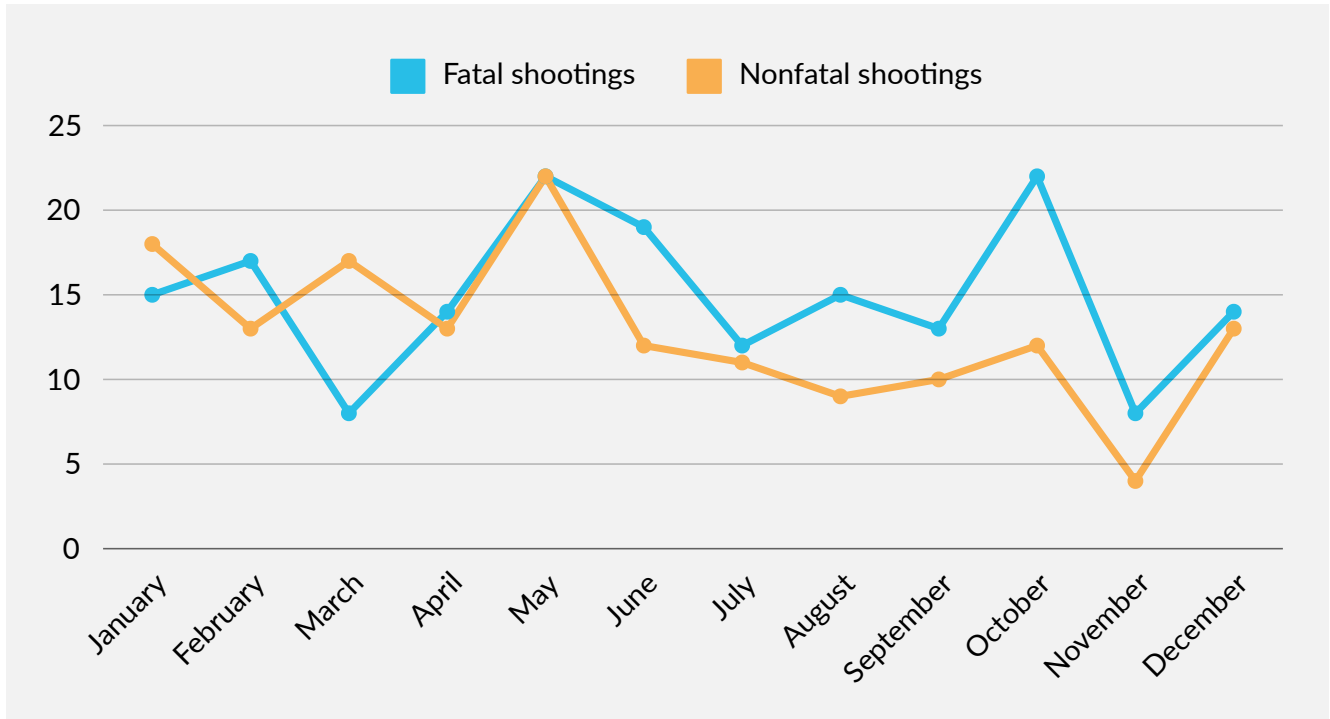


The majority of gun violence incidents occurred between noon and midnight.



# Gun violence spiked in **May** and **October**.

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



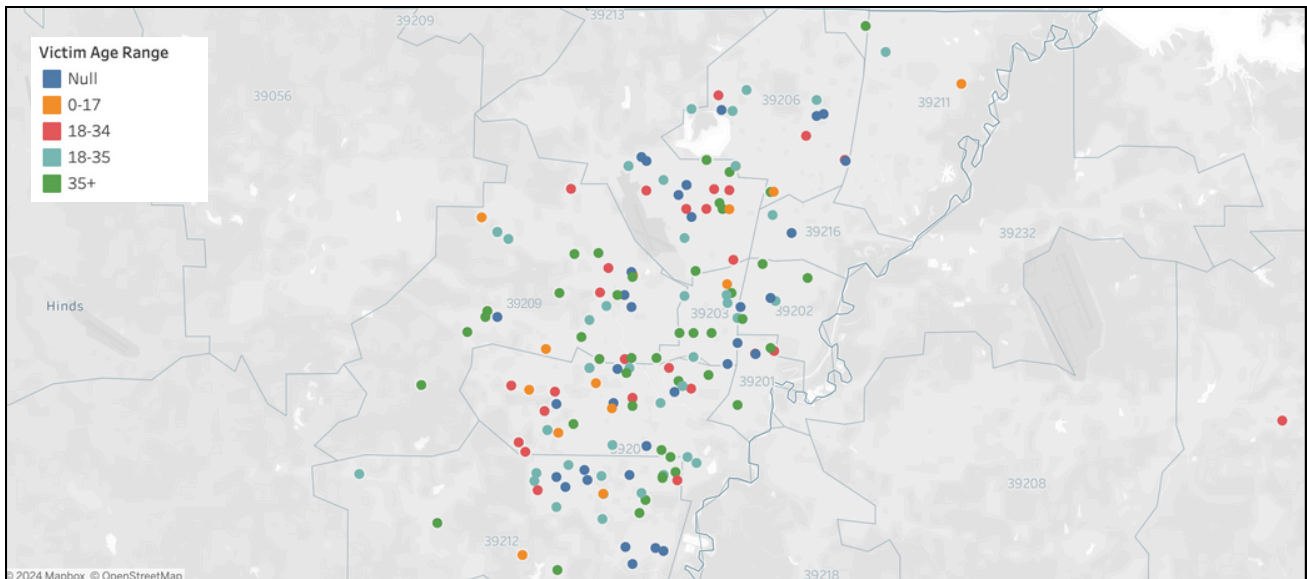
Shooting incidents spiked in May (13.21%) and October (10.21%), with an almost 150% increase in fatal shootings from September to October. Incidents slowed in April and November.



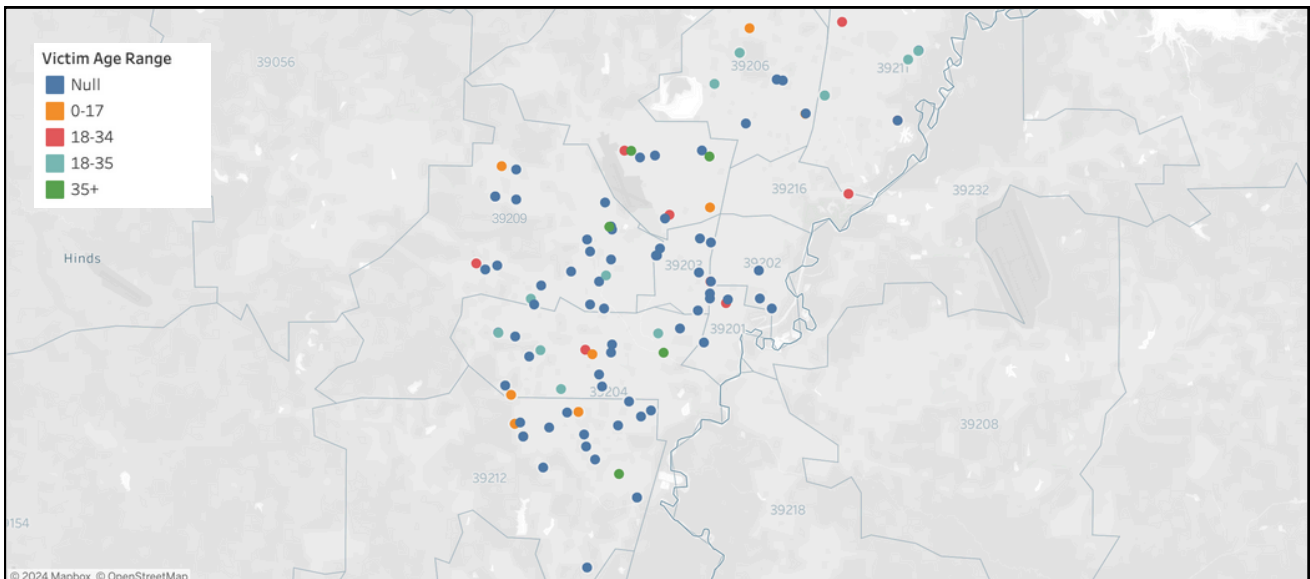
# Zip codes 39204, 39209, and 39212 had the highest rates of gun violence.

The majority of shooting incidents (24% each of fatal and nonfatal shootings) occurred in the 39204 zip code. The 39209 zip code also saw 19% of fatal shootings and 26% of nonfatal shootings.

**Figure 7.** Map of Fatal Shooting Frequency by Zip Code<sup>10</sup>



**Figure 8.** Map of Nonfatal Shooting Frequency by Zip Code<sup>11</sup>

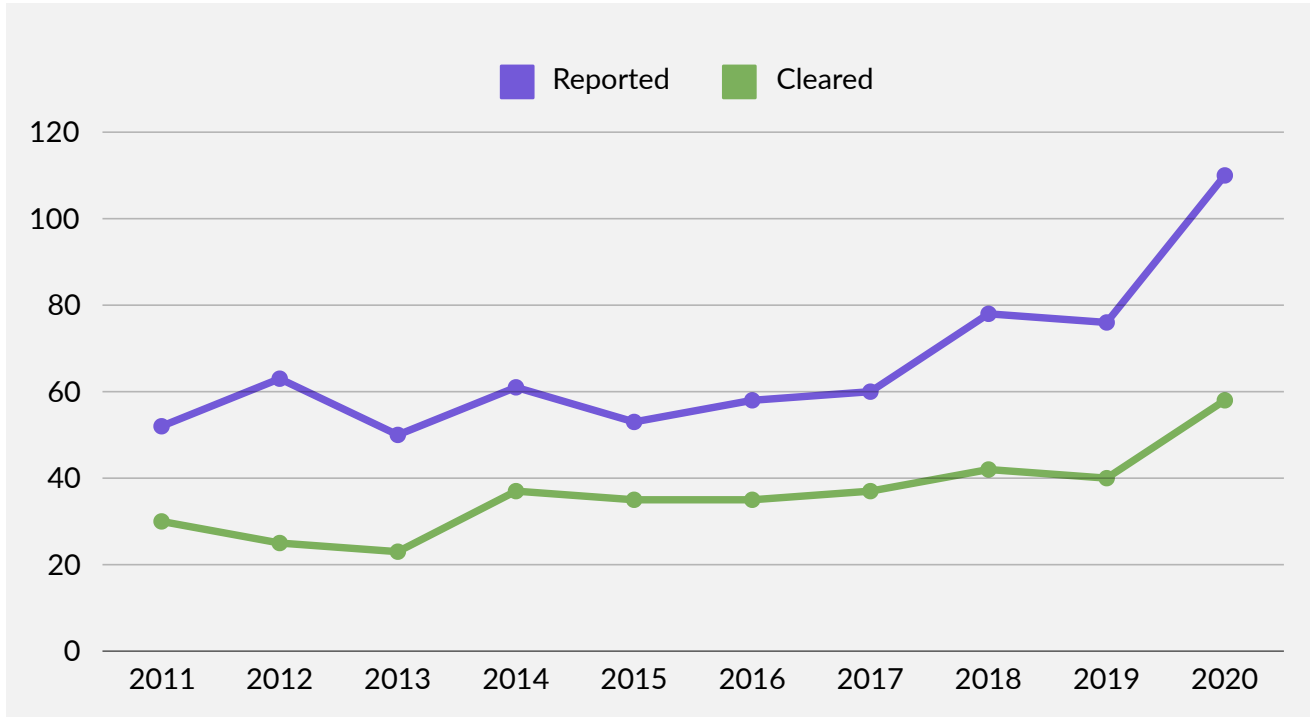


\*Interactive maps for fatal and nonfatal shootings are linked in the endnotes of this report.

# Jackson, MS Clearance Rates

Since 2018, as the number of reported homicides has increased,<sup>12</sup> Jackson’s clearance rate has trended downward.<sup>13</sup> The clearance rate has, however, remained above the lowest rates in the nine-year period from 2011 to 2020 (39.7% in 2012, followed by 46% in 2013).<sup>14</sup>

**Figure 9.** Reported and Cleared Homicides by the Jackson Police Department



**Table 4.** Jackson Police Department Clearance Rate for Homicides per Year<sup>15</sup>

Year	Homicide Clearance Rate	Year	Homicide Clearance Rate
2011	57.69%	2016	60.34%
2012	39.68%	2017	61.67%
2013	46.00%	2018	53.83%
2014	60.66%	2019	52.63%
2015	66.04%	2020	52.73%

# Conclusion

Victims and suspects of gun violence in Jackson, Mississippi are disproportionately Black, male, young adults. Gun violence was concentrated in the 32904 zip code, followed by the 32909 and 39212 zip codes. Gun violence incidents were more likely to occur Thursday and Sunday and in the months of October and May.



# Methods

This report uses publicly available data to characterize the individuals and patterns of gun violence in Jackson, Mississippi. To obtain data, NICJR utilized the Gun Violence Archive,<sup>16</sup> National Gun Violence Memorial,<sup>17</sup> and various media sources reporting individual incidents.

The Gun Violence Archive, the main source for data utilized for this analysis, uses automated queries to compile data from more than 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.<sup>18</sup>

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.

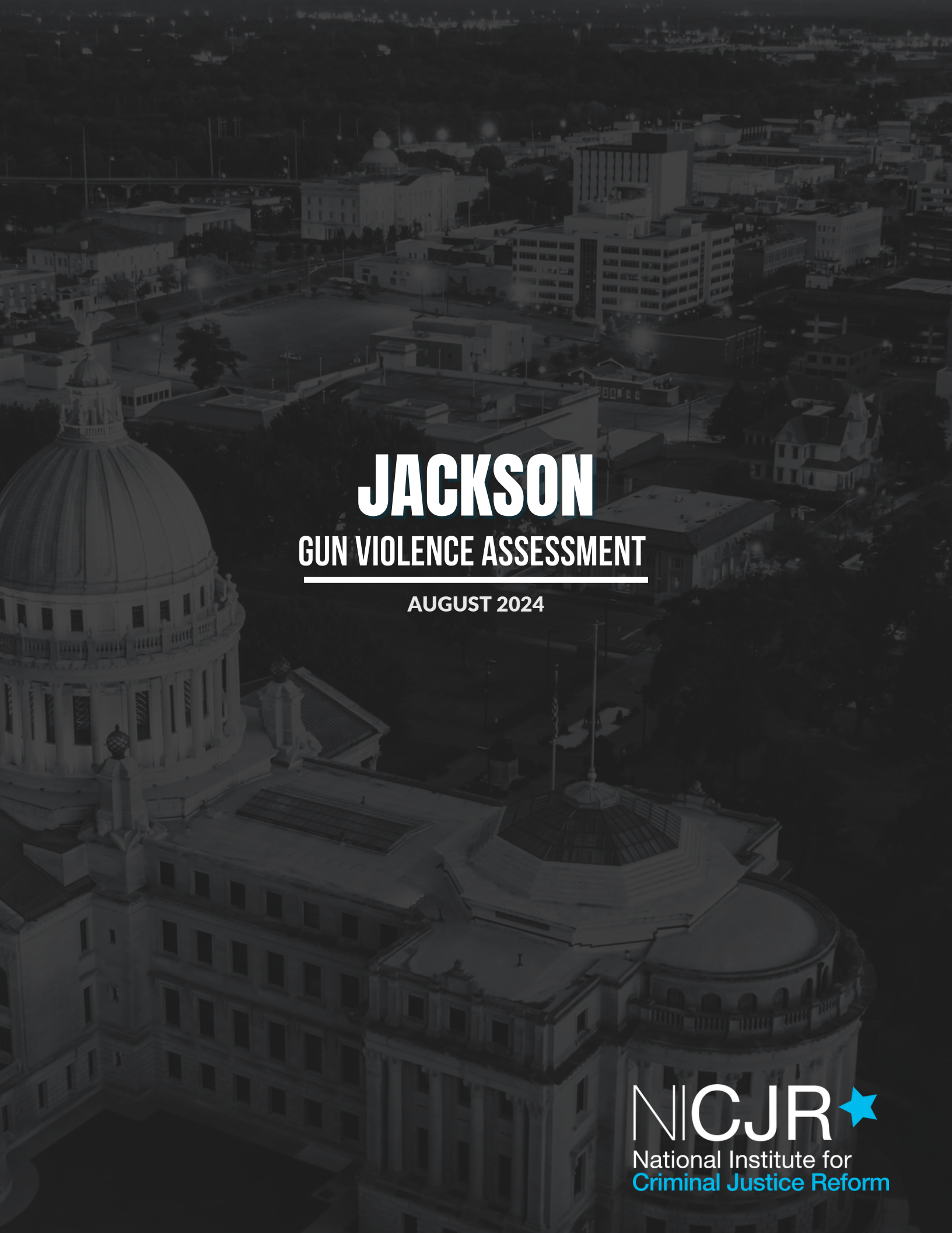
# Data Limitations

Detailed information for all 185 fatal shootings and 183 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 city council ward 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. ['We've Seen Lifelong Friends Kill Each Other:' How a State Capital Became One of the Deadliest US Cities](#)
2. Ibid.
3. [Data Commons Place Explorer Jackson](#)
4. [What the Data Says About Gun Deaths in the U.S.](#)
5. [CDC Firearm Mortality by State](#)
6. [Jackson's Murder Rate per Capita Ranks Highest in the U.S.](#)
7. [US Census Bureau](#)
8. Total percentages may be greater or less than 100% due to rounding.
9. Ethnicity data were not reported; consequently, no data are presented for Latino individuals.
10. [Jackson, MS Fatal Shootings - Zip Code and Frequency](#)
11. [Jackson, MS Nonfatal Shootings - Zip Code and Frequency](#)
12. "Homicide" here refers to all homicides, including those not involving a firearm.
13. While the number of cleared homicides has increased, that has been outpaced by the increase in reported homicides, resulting in a smaller percentage of homicides being cleared.
14. The Jackson, Mississippi homicide clearance rate was only available through 2020.
15. [Crime Data Explorer](#)
16. [Gun Violence Archive](#)
17. [National Gun Violence Memorial](#)
18. [Gun Violence Archive | About](#)



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