

Juvenile *and* Adult Homicide

in the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

2001-2005

In 2005, Washington, DC, experienced 196 homicides, a decrease from the 198 homicides that occurred in 2004, 248 homicides in 2003, and 262 homicides in 2002. This steady decrease is consistent with an ongoing declining trend in homicide and other types of violent crimes that, for several years, have been reported by most police agencies in major metropolitan areas located throughout the nation. In Washington, DC, homicides by and among juveniles also continue to decline. The city has not experienced a lower overall number of homicides in a single year since 1986.

This homicide report summarizes what can be discerned about homicides that occurred in Washington, DC, during 2005, and looks at trends from 2001 to 2005. The report was developed on the basis of available crime data collected and analyzed by the Office of Organizational Development (OOD) within the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia (MPD). The report describes demographic factors of homicide victims and offenders (when the identity of offenders are known), as well as where homicides took place, primary methods by which people were killed and motivations of those who killed. Major findings described in this report include the following:

- ☛ In 2005, 165 men, 19 women, 10 boys and two girls were killed in homicide crimes.
- ☛ As a group, young Black males 18-24 years of age, are most often a homicide victim or offender. This is consistent with the fact that violent crimes everywhere are primarily committed by young adult males and the fact that the vast majority of city residents are Black.
- ☛ Shooting remains the most common method of homicide (in about 80% of cases), followed by stabbing (7%) and blunt force trauma (9%) such as in cases when a club or similar type of weapon was involved.
- ☛ Females are more likely than males to become the victim of homicide in child abuse and domestic violence cases. However, males are more likely to become victims in cases involving retaliation or robbery.
- ☛ Illicit drug activity and arguments remain important factors in most homicides, regardless of a victim's or offender's race, gender or age.



Anthony A. Williams
Mayor



Charles H. Ramsey
Chief of Police

Part 1: Juvenile Homicide 2002 to 2005

The Victims

In 2005, a total of twelve juveniles, or one per month on average, were killed in acts of homicide within the District of Columbia. As tragic as this is, the number of juveniles killed in 2005 actually declined by 50%, down from 24 juveniles who were killed in 2004. The 2005 figure is also less than the 13 juveniles killed in 2003, and the 17 juvenile homicide victims in 2002.¹ Thus, 2005 saw a four-year low in juvenile homicide cases, a number also less than the four-year average of 16 youth homicide victims per year since 2002. These data also reveal that the one-time spike of 24 juvenile homicide victims experienced during 2004 was addressed by MPD throughout 2005 with aggressive investigations, a variety of prevention programs, and positive interactions between police officers and community residents.

¹Detailed data on juvenile homicides is only available from Calendar Year 2002 forward.

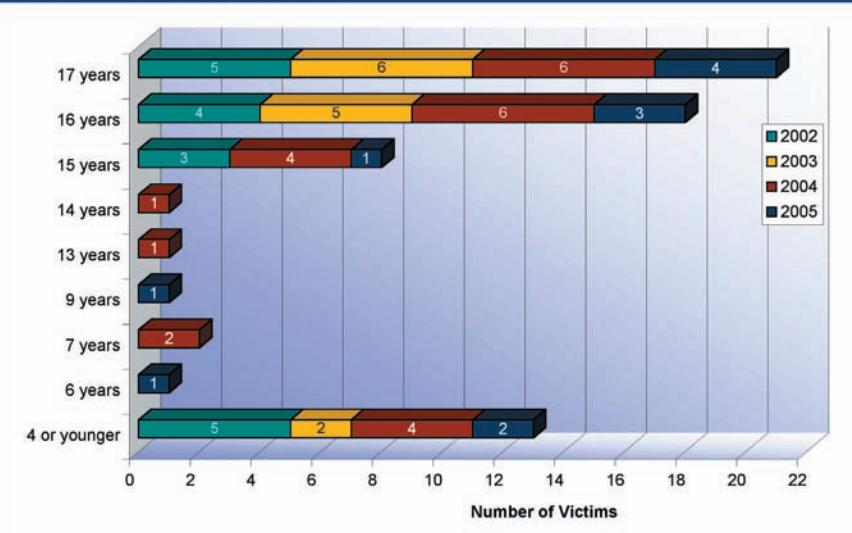
The chart also reveals two additional important issues concerning juvenile homicides in the District of Columbia. First is the disturbing reality that historically

homicides of youth increase dramatically upon their reaching fifteen years of age. Indeed, in every year since 2002, at least two-thirds of juvenile homicide victims were aged 15, 16 or 17. These ages represent a developmental period that for many adolescents is filled with significant

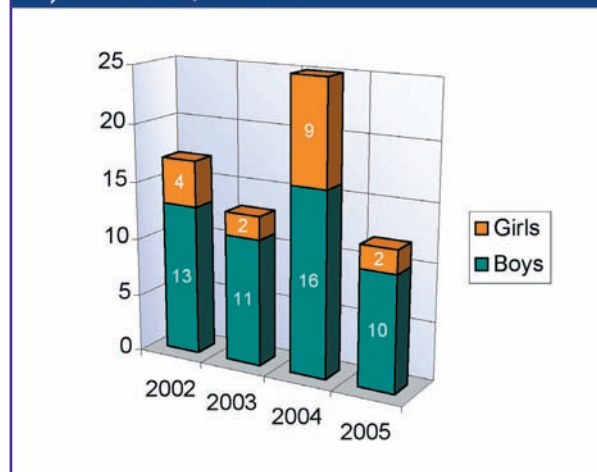
challenges traditionally associated with their increasing physical maturity, growing independence and first employment experiences; social exploration and experimentation with sexuality and illicit drugs; emotional vulnerability along with relative inexperience and inability to resolve interpersonal conflicts; and negative peer pressures in contexts of social learning often in the absence of strong positive

role models. All these and other factors may combine and result in many adolescents resorting to delinquency and crime, that in some cases involve acts of violence

Age of Juvenile Victims, 2002–2005



Boys vs. Girls Killed, 2002–2005



and/or relationships with individuals prone to violence, and that occasionally leads to their being killed.

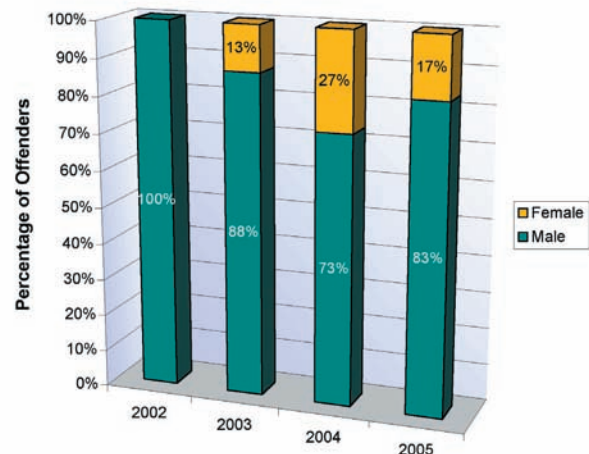
The second notable issue is that very young children who are four years of age or younger are also murdered, often arising in instances of child abuse and/or neglect. In 2005 there were two such cases, a number less than or equal to that in all years since 2002. Since 2003, all but one of the juvenile homicide victims in Washington, DC, were Black. In addition, in most years, more boys than girls are killed. Girls tend to be killed at younger ages than boys. However, such figures vary annually with no discernable trend or pattern. For example, the number of male juvenile homicide victims decreased from 16 in 2004 to 10 in 2005. Similarly the number of female juvenile homicide victims decreased from 9 in 2004 to only 2 in 2005. In 2005, one girl, two years of age, died as a result of child abuse. The other female victim killed in 2005, a 16-year-old, died after being shot in the face by a male acquaintance.

The Offenders

To better understand these issues it is useful to next examine the age, race and gender of those who killed juveniles. Adolescents and children in Washington, DC, are most often killed by males. In 2005, 83% of juvenile homicide victims were killed by male offenders and only 17% were killed by female offenders.

Since 2002, in all juvenile homicides where the known offender was female, she was the victim's mother or caregiver.² As indicated in the chart above, between

Gender of Offenders in Juvenile Homicides, 2002–2005

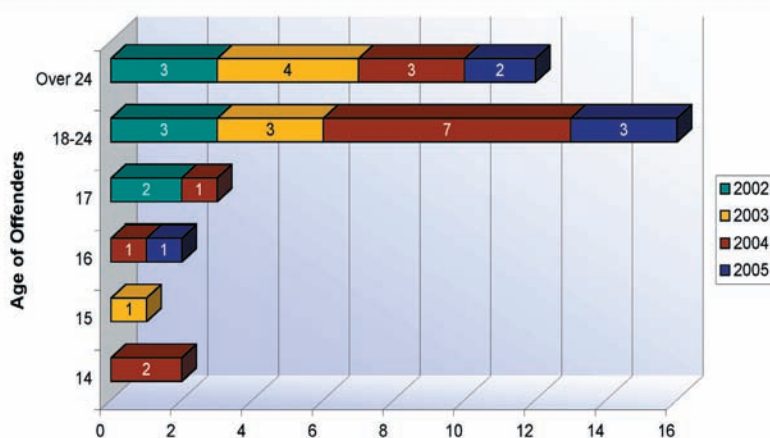


2002 and 2005 the majority of known offenders in juvenile homicide cases were male. In 2004, the percentage of known female offenders increased to almost one in three (27%), but in 2005 that percentage decreased to about one in six (17%).

Since 2002, 22% of known offenders were juveniles themselves. Over the past two years, juveniles were more likely to be killed by a young adult than by any other age group. In 2005, 25% of juvenile homicide victims were killed by someone aged 18 to 24.

Across the four years, homicides were concentrated within pockets of the city, specifically police districts 6 and 7. A little more than 75% of juvenile homicides from 2002 to 2005 occurred within the 5th, 6th and 7th police districts, although varying in numbers and percentages from year to year.

Age of Known Offenders in Juvenile Homicides, 2002–2005

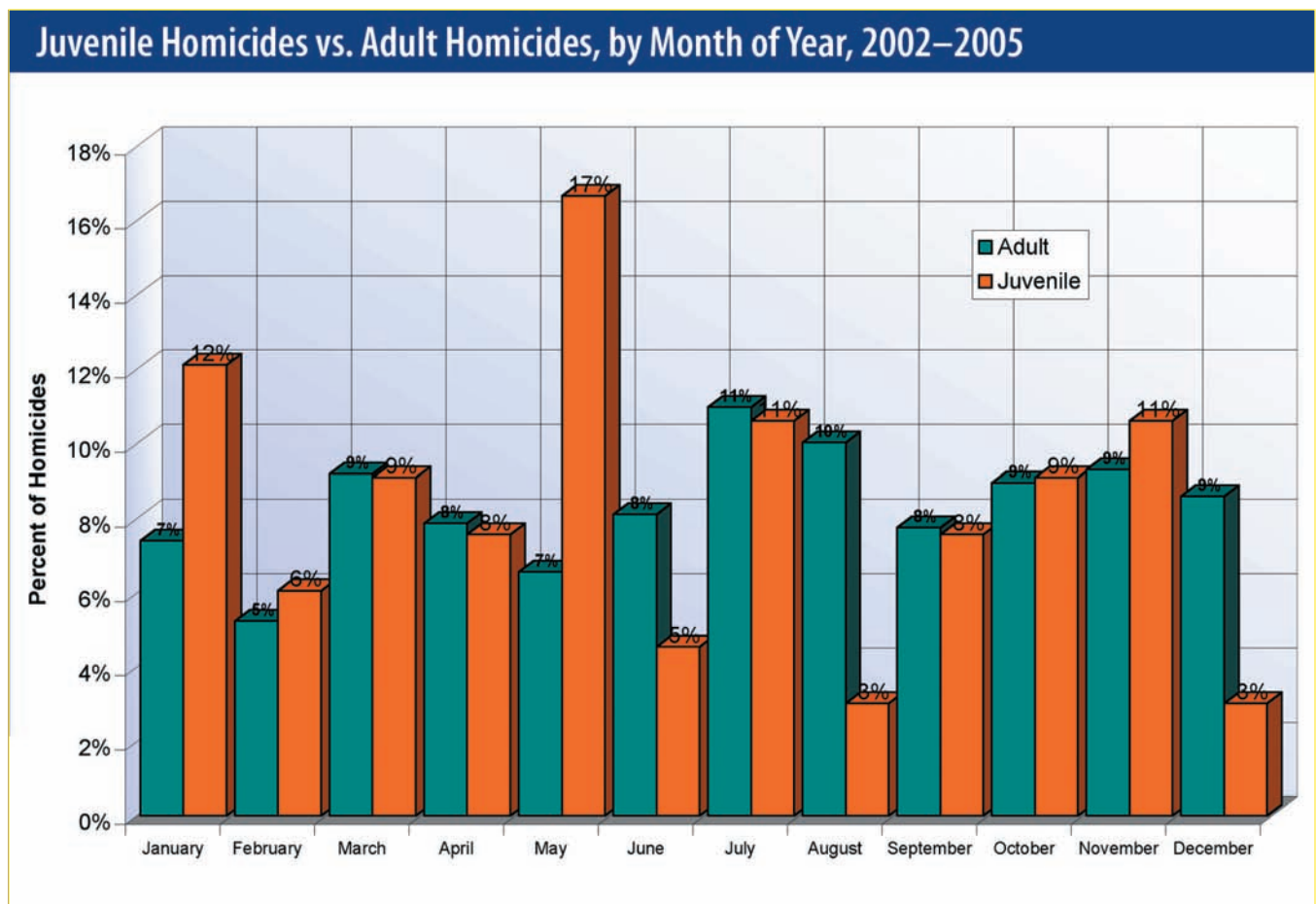


²These figures represent statistics on individuals identified as having committed homicide of a juvenile victim between 2002 and 2005. The analysis accounts for only the first suspect identified as being involved in the homicide. Subsequent arrests for the same offense are not reflected in this report.

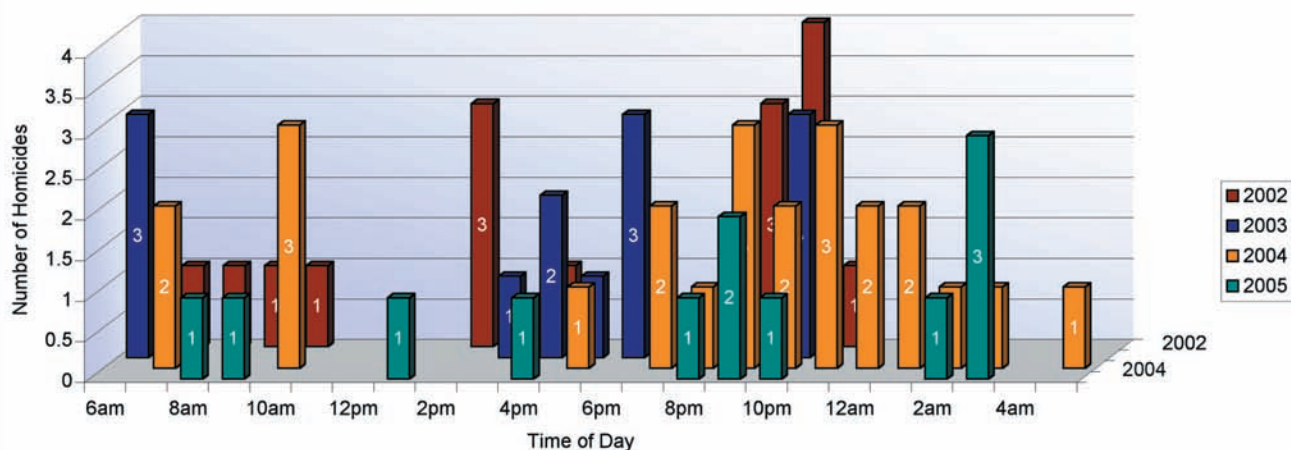
Crime

More juvenile homicides occurred in May than in any other month (17%). This is not the same for adult homicides, where only 7% occurred during the month of May. January, July and November also experienced high numbers of juvenile homicide victims, while August and December had the least. Here again, the data reveal no clear pattern regarding when juvenile homicides are most likely to occur during any particular year, although in 2005 only 19% of these crimes occurred during summertime (non-school) months of June–August.

The same non-pattern in juvenile homicides is also true for the time of day in which such incidents occur. In 2005, as shown by the following chart, the number of juvenile homicides peaked between the hours of 9:00p.m. and 12:00a.m.



Juvenile Homicides by Time of Day, 2002–2005



Between 2002 and 2005, there were seven juveniles apparently in violation of the District's curfew law at the time they were killed. While other juveniles may have been killed during the curfew hours, they were not violating the curfew laws at the time.

Information on Curfews

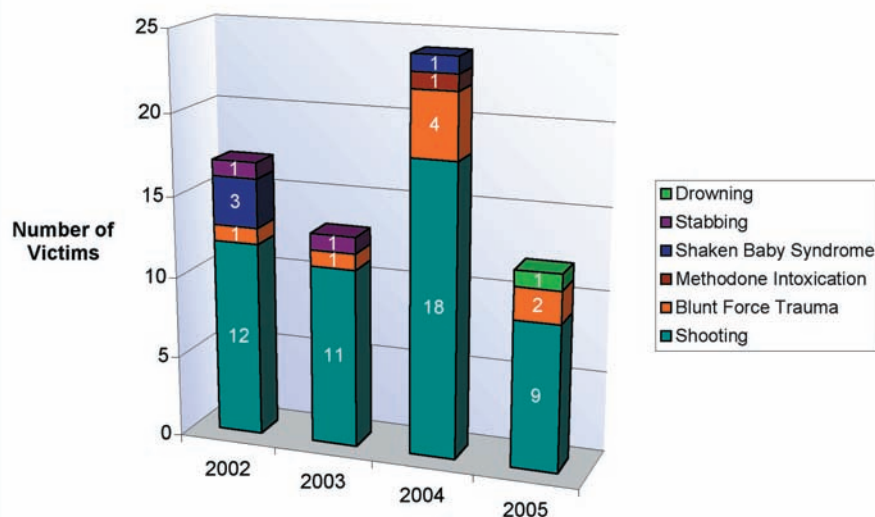
The District of Columbia has a curfew in place for juveniles. The Juvenile Curfew Act 1995 (DC Code 6-2181) states that persons under the age of 17 cannot remain in or on a street, park or

other outdoor public place, in a vehicle or on the premises or any establishment within the District of Columbia during curfew hours, unless they are involved in certain exempted activities. Exempted activities include work, school, religious, civic or organized recreational activities as well as the exercise of First Amendment rights. The law applies to all young people who are in the District of Columbia during city curfew hours, regardless of whether they reside in the District.

From September through June, curfew begins at 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday nights, and continues until 6:00

a.m. the following day. The curfew runs from 12:01 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. During the months of July and August, curfew hours are 12:01 a.m. to 6:00 a.m., seven days a week.

Method of Juvenile Homicides, 2002–2005

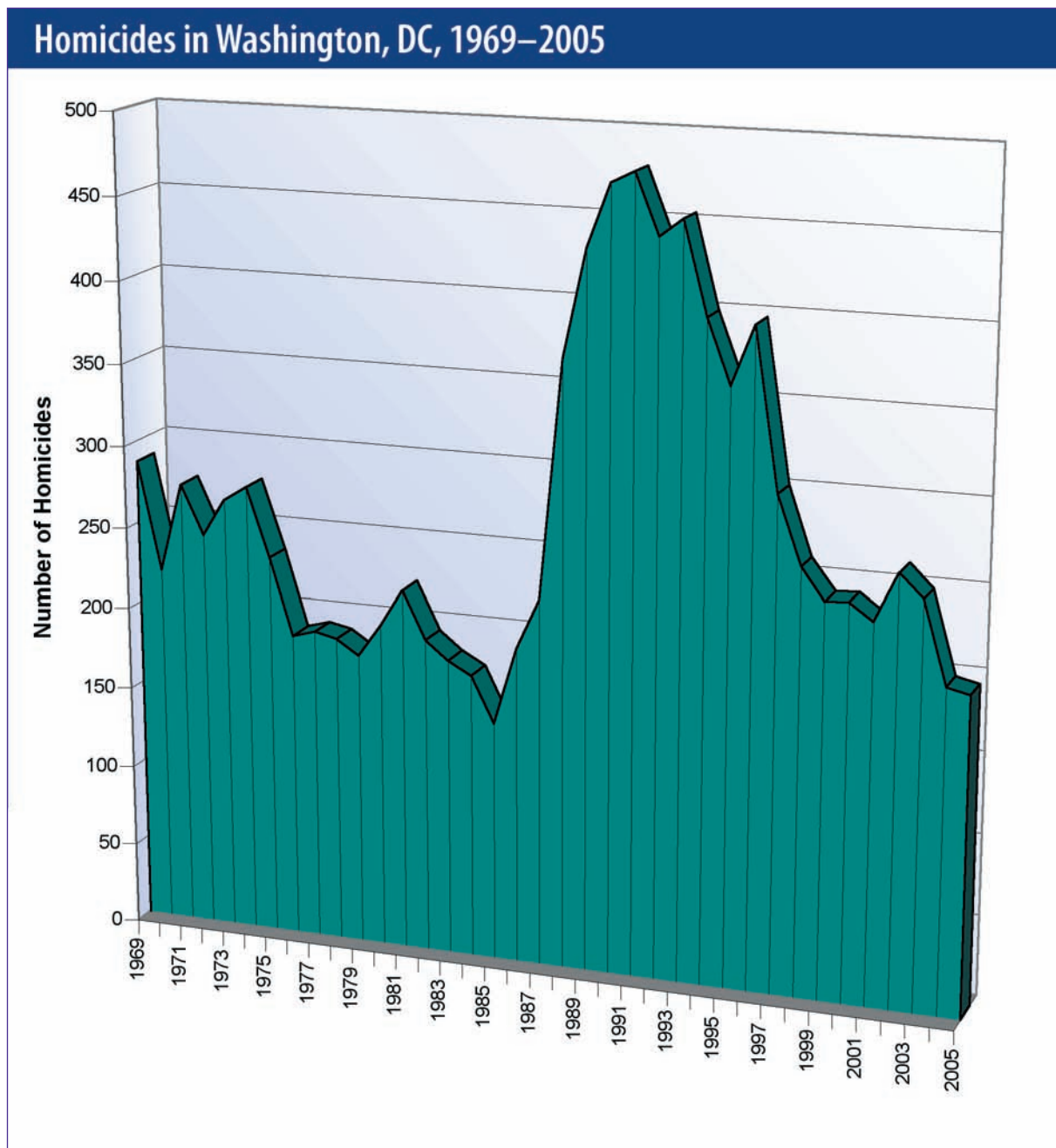


Finally, juvenile homicides can be categorized according to the instrument of death used. Most juveniles in the city during the four-year period were killed with guns (76%). In 2005, two were killed by blunt force trauma, and one child was drowned.

Part 2: All Homicides 2001 to 2005

The chart below tracks homicides in Washington, DC since 1969. In 2005, homicides in the city declined to 196 in a generally decreasing trend, and the lowest since 1986. Homicides peaked between 1988 and 1996,

a period in the history of many cities that is often associated with heavy crack cocaine use. The most homicides in a single year, 479 deaths, occurred in Washington, DC, in 1991.

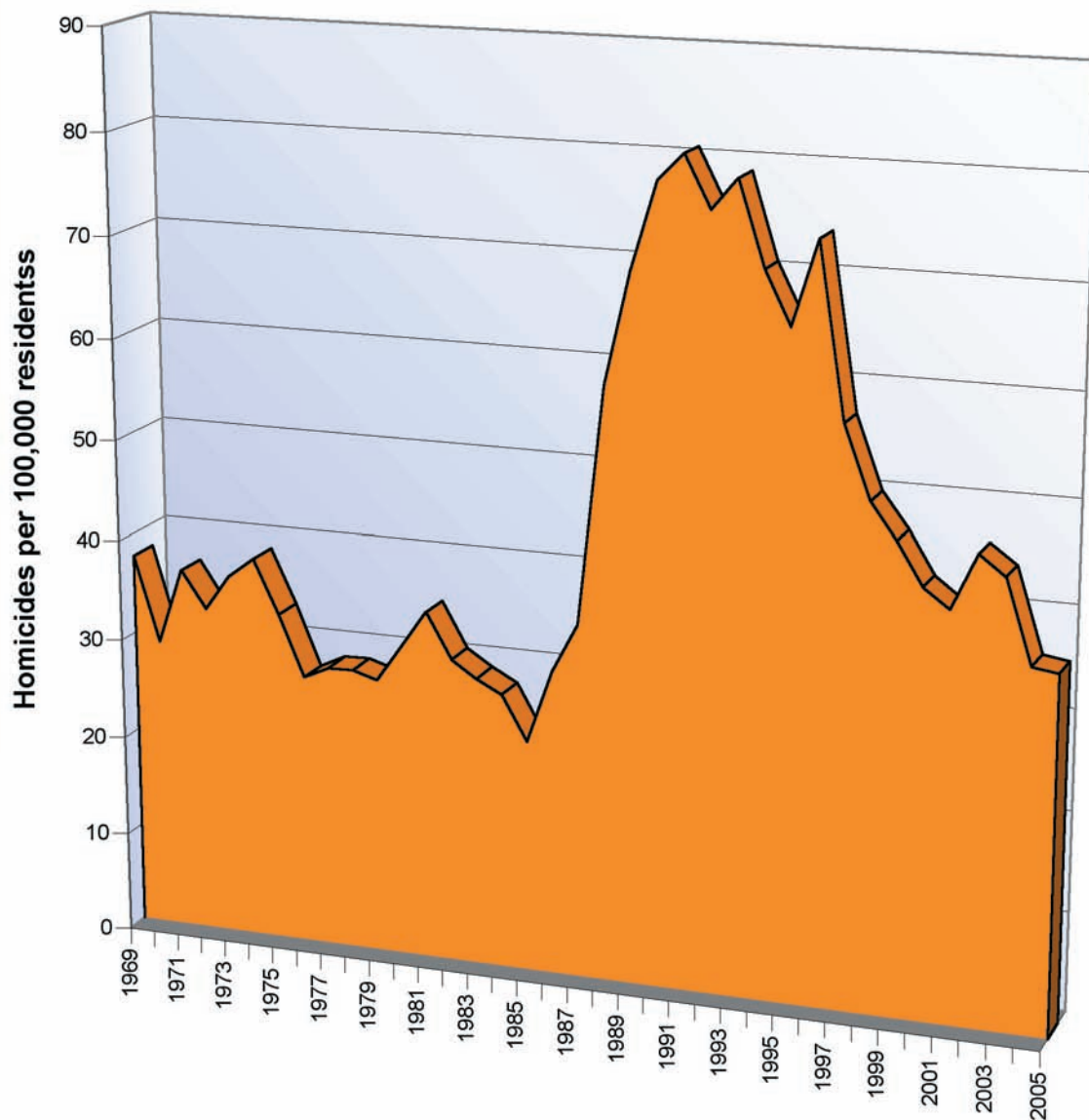


In 2005, the homicide rate was approximately 35 homicides per 100,000 residents.³ This figure represents a near steady decline in homicides annually since 1990 when there were approximately

80 homicides for every 100,000 residents. The 2005 statistic is also less than the prior 36 year average which, from 1969 to 2005, was approximately 40.7 homicides per 100,000 residents.

³Source of population data: U.S. Census Bureau for each relevant year.

Homicide Rate in Washington, DC, 1969–2005

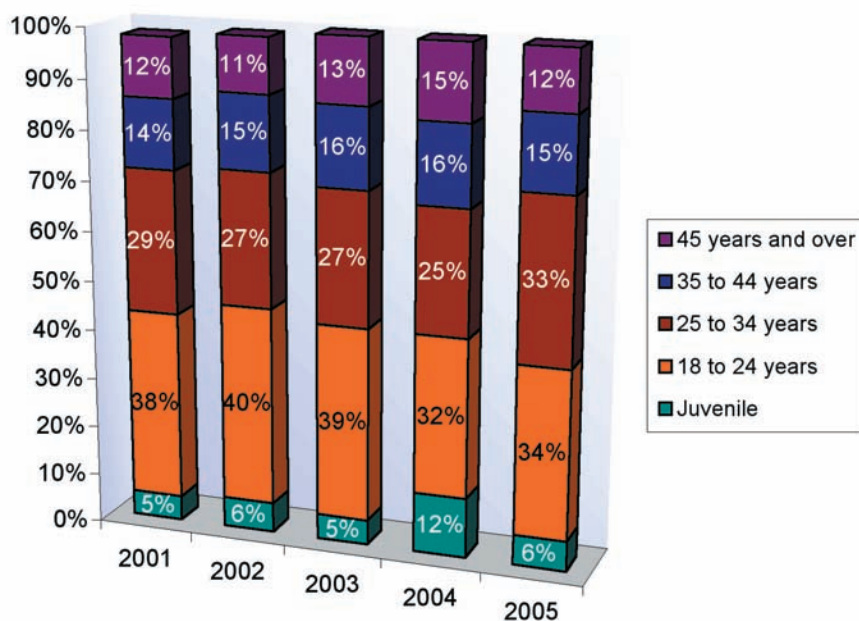


In general the age of those killed in acts of homicide has remained about the same for several years with incidental spikes, such as in 2004, when juvenile homicides increased to 12 percent of the total. Historically the age group most at risk of being killed is 18 to 24 followed by 25–34 year-old people, with men consistently killed more often than women.

Who Was Most Often Killed in 2005?

In an attempt to profile 2005 homicide victims, MPD conducted further analysis which showed that nearly all persons aged 25 to 34 who were killed in 2005 had an arrest history primarily for illicit drug use and/or sales. Most victims (67%) were Black men between 18 and 34 years of age. Some victims had only recently been released from jail. Women killed by their spouse rarely had an arrest history. One woman was shot by a stray bullet, another was performing prostitution services, and another was stabbed to death by a neighbor under the influence of drugs.

Age of Homicide Victims, 2001–2005



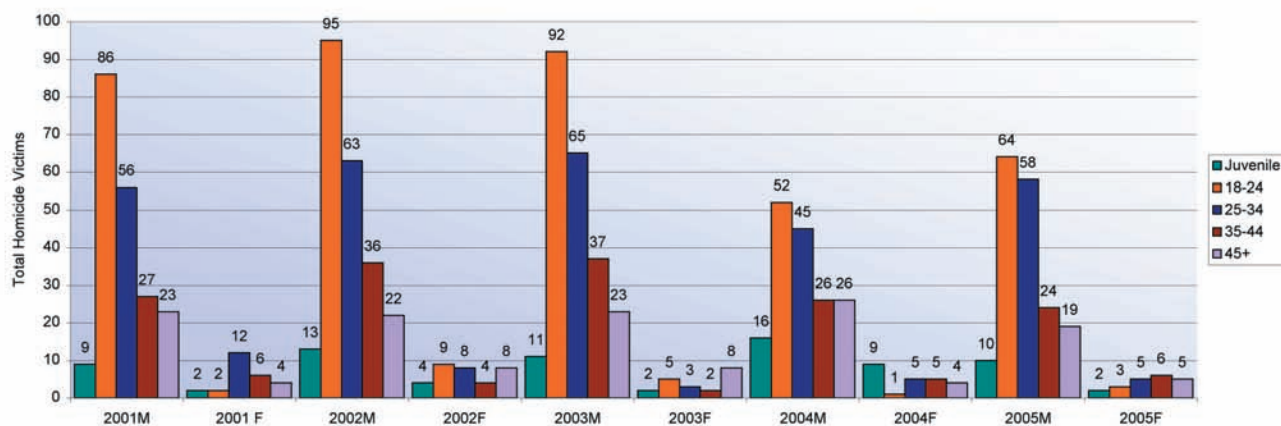
As previously indicated, homicide in the District of Columbia occurs predominately by, against and among Black residents. Annually more than 90% of all homicide victims are Black as are most homicide offenders. For years 2001-2005, in all age categories,

more males than females kill and were killed. However, variances among other races/ethnicities, as well as the number and variances of homicides committed between races, are very small.

Race/Ethnicity of Homicide Victims, 2001-2005

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Other	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%	1.5%
Hispanic	4.7%	3.4%	4.0%	1.0%	2.6%
White	2.6%	3.4%	2.4%	2.5%	3.1%
Black	91.8%	92.4%	92.7%	96.5%	92.8%

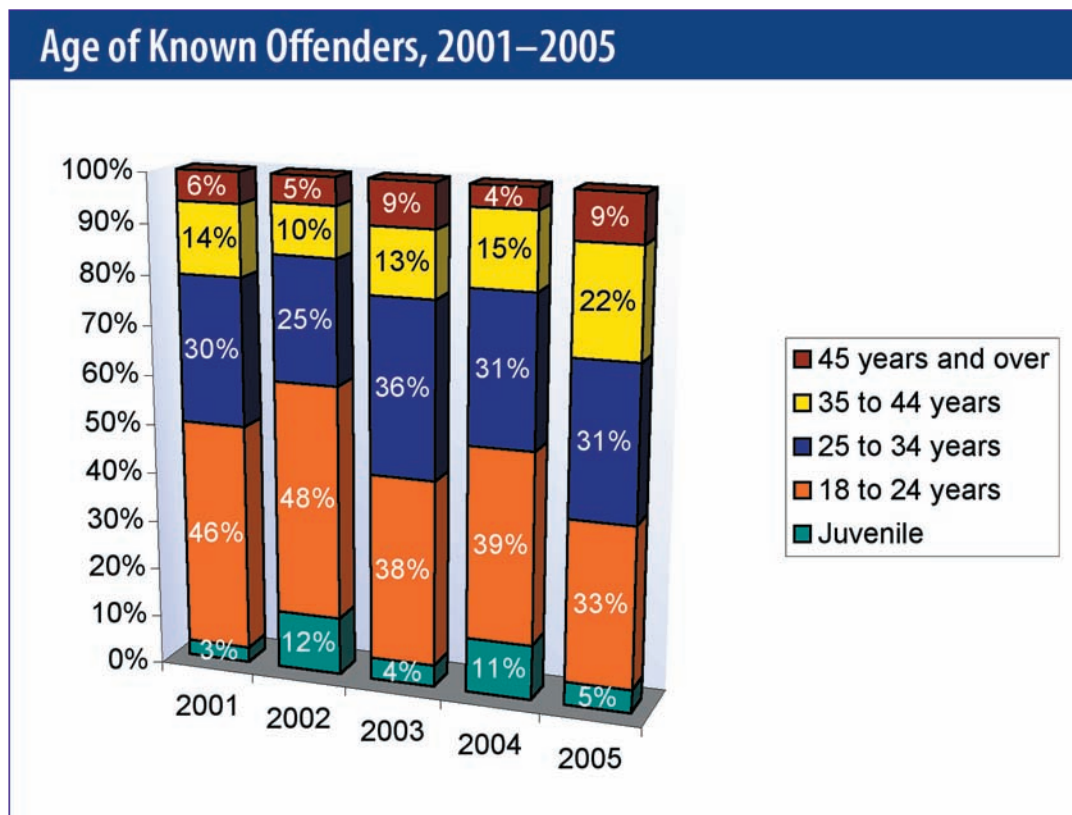
Age of Male vs. Female Homicide Victims, 2001–2005



In every year between 2001 and 2005, the majority of known offenders were less than 35 years of age. Indeed, most homicides are committed by relatively young male adults as evidenced during years 2001, 2002 and 2004,

when nearly or more than half of all offenders were under the age of 25. In 2005, 64% of known offenders were 18-34 years of age.⁴

⁴The analysis accounts for only the first suspect identified as being involved in the homicide. Subsequent arrests for the same offense are not reflected in this report.



2005 Offender Profile and Highlights

The number of known offenders aged 35 to 44 increased from 11 offenders in 2004 (15%) to 14 offenders in 2005 (22%). The majority of these offenders had a prior history of arrests, and in some cases, a long list of juvenile arrests. All of the arrest histories included arrests for drugs. Most of them also included arrests for violence (simple assault, assault with a deadly weapon or domestic assault). A few of the offenders had been released from prison in the past 12 months.

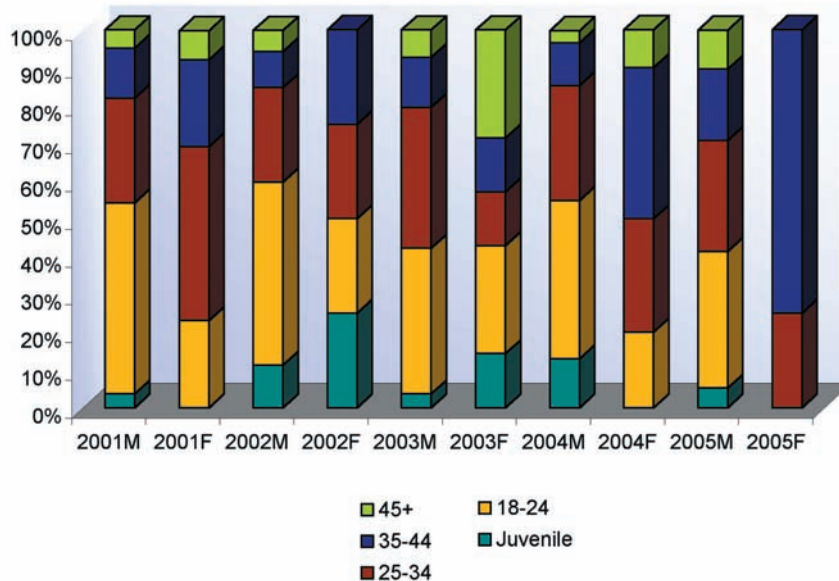
Analysis of the known offender population shows that, like the victims, more than 90 percent are Black. Even though small, the percent of Hispanic offenders seems to fluctuate during the five year period, from 1% or less in 2001 and 2004 to 5 percent or more in 2003 and 2005. In 2004 and 2005 there were no known offenders of other minority racial/ethnic groups.

The majority of known male offenders continue to be young adults. As seen with the victims, the age of female offenders varies from year to year, with no discernable trend. For example, in 2002 every age category had the same number of female offenders (except those aged 45+). In contrast, in 2005 female offenders aged 35-44 represented 75% of all female offenders.

Race/Ethnicity of Known Offenders, 2001-2005

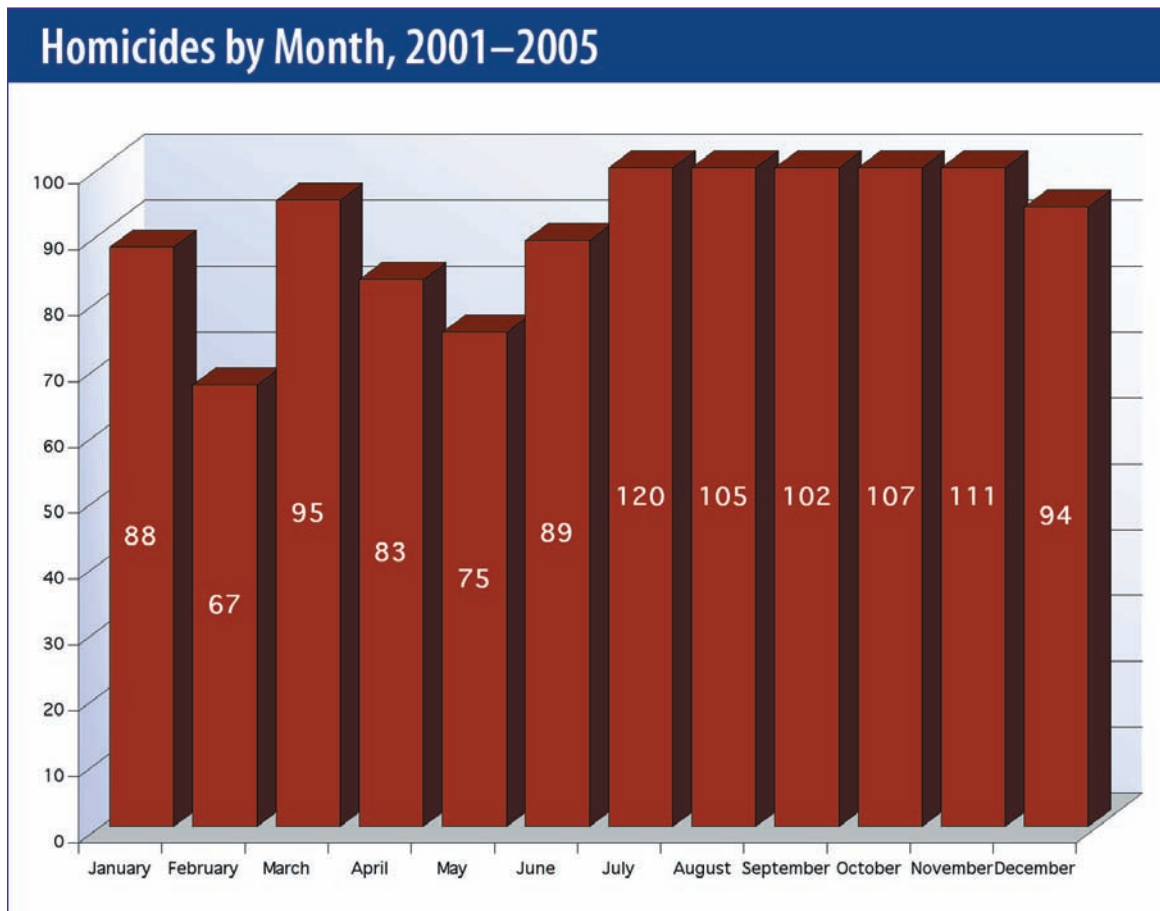
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Other	2.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Hispanic	1.0%	3.1%	5.6%	0.0%	4.6%
White	3.1%	1.6%	0.0%	1.3%	1.5%
Black	93.9%	95.4%	91.1%	98.7%	93.9%

Age of Male vs Female Known Offenders, 2001-2005



Crimes often peak during hot summer months, and some evidence for that trend is depicted in the chart below. However, the majority of homicides occurred in

the second half of the year, between July and December. July and November had the largest number of homicides, with February having the smallest number.

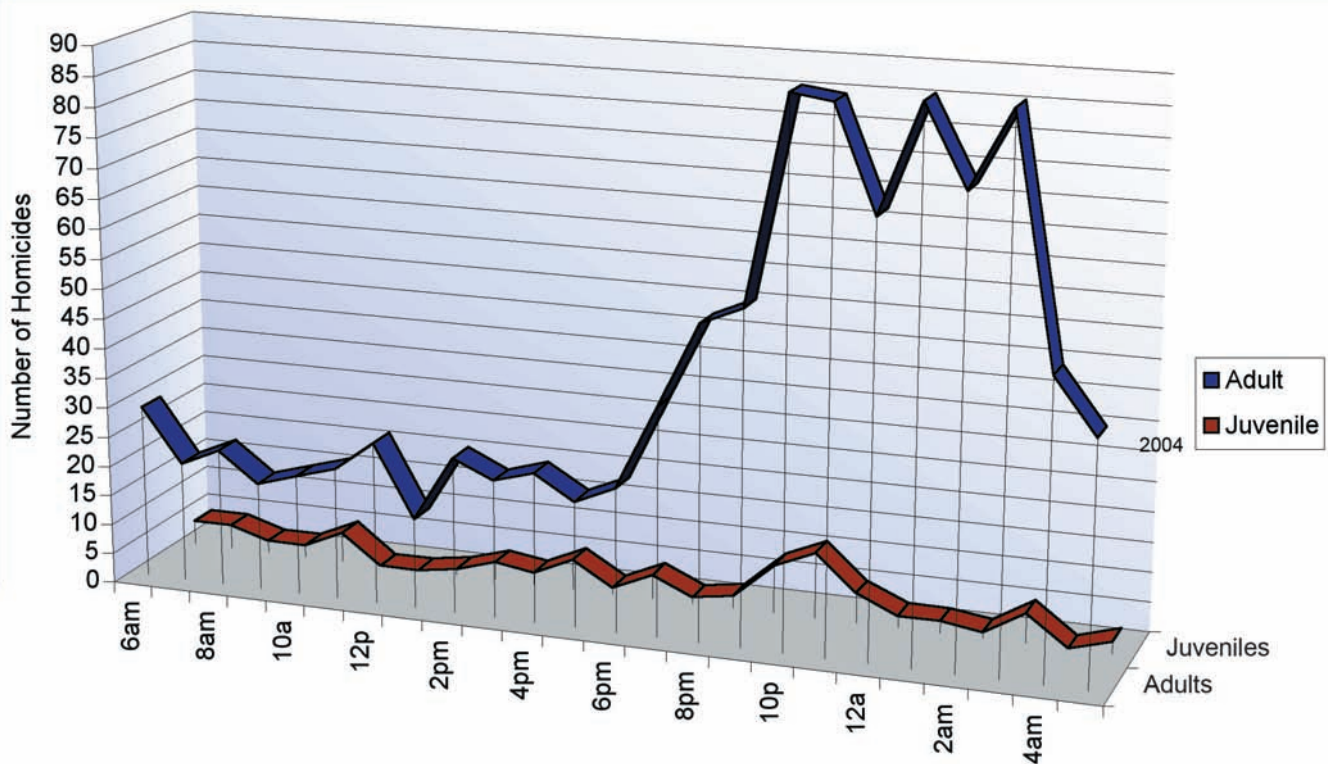


Taken together, the majority of juvenile and adult homicides since 2001 occurred between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. Homicides gradually increased after 5:00 p.m. and rapidly declined again at 4:00 a.m. when most people are sleeping and a new workday is about to begin. Lunchtime, between 12:00 p.m. (noon) and 1:00 p.m., is historically the time when the fewest homicides occur.

In Part 1 of this report, the number of juvenile homicides committed during various times of day

for years 2002-2005 were charted. Below, that data is aggregated and compared to adult homicides for years 2001-2005, showing a small correlation in times of incidents among these groups. However, juvenile homicides tend to show less differentiation in time when compared with adult homicides. Juvenile and adult homicides both increased in the early evening hours. Adult homicides generally increase and remain high into the early morning hours, whereas juvenile homicides spike for just three or four hours then taper off around 11:00p.m.

Homicides: Time of Day, Juveniles vs. Adults, 2001–2005

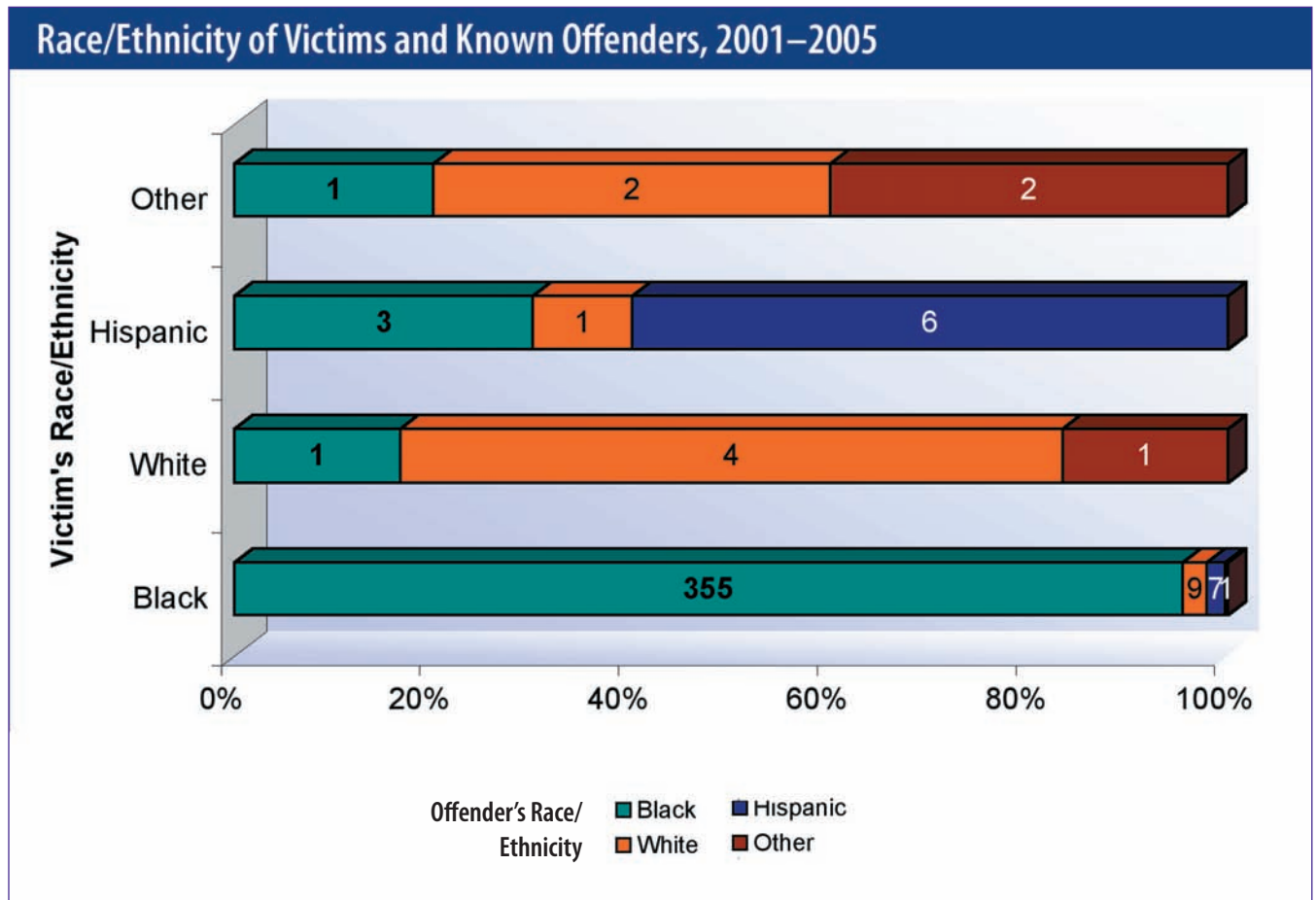


Juvenile Homicides During Curfew versus Non-curfew Hours

In 2005, four juvenile homicide victims were killed during curfew hours. One of the victims was inside at the time she was killed—shot in her bedroom by her boyfriend. The remaining juvenile victims who were killed during curfew hours were all outside at the time. All victims that were killed during the curfew hours were either 16 or 17 years old.

The homicides that occurred in the District between 2001 and 2005 were mostly intra-racial in nature – that is, the victim of one particular racial/ethnic group was killed by a person of the same racial/ethnic group. For example, and as depicted in the chart below, in

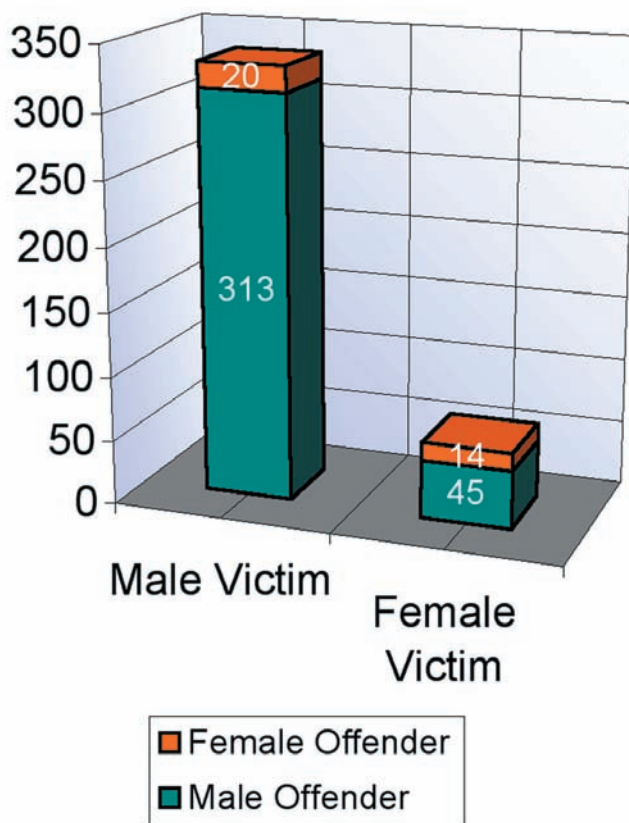
cases where the race of both the crime victim(s) and offender(s) were known to police, 355 of 370 incidents involving Black victims also involved Black offenders. Hence, there is no indication of systematic inter-racial tensions leading to homicides in Washington, DC,



Both male and female victims are far more likely to be killed by a male offender. This is not surprising, given that over 90% of known offenders from 2001-2005

were male, and that during these years most homicides in the District of Columbia were committed by males on other males.

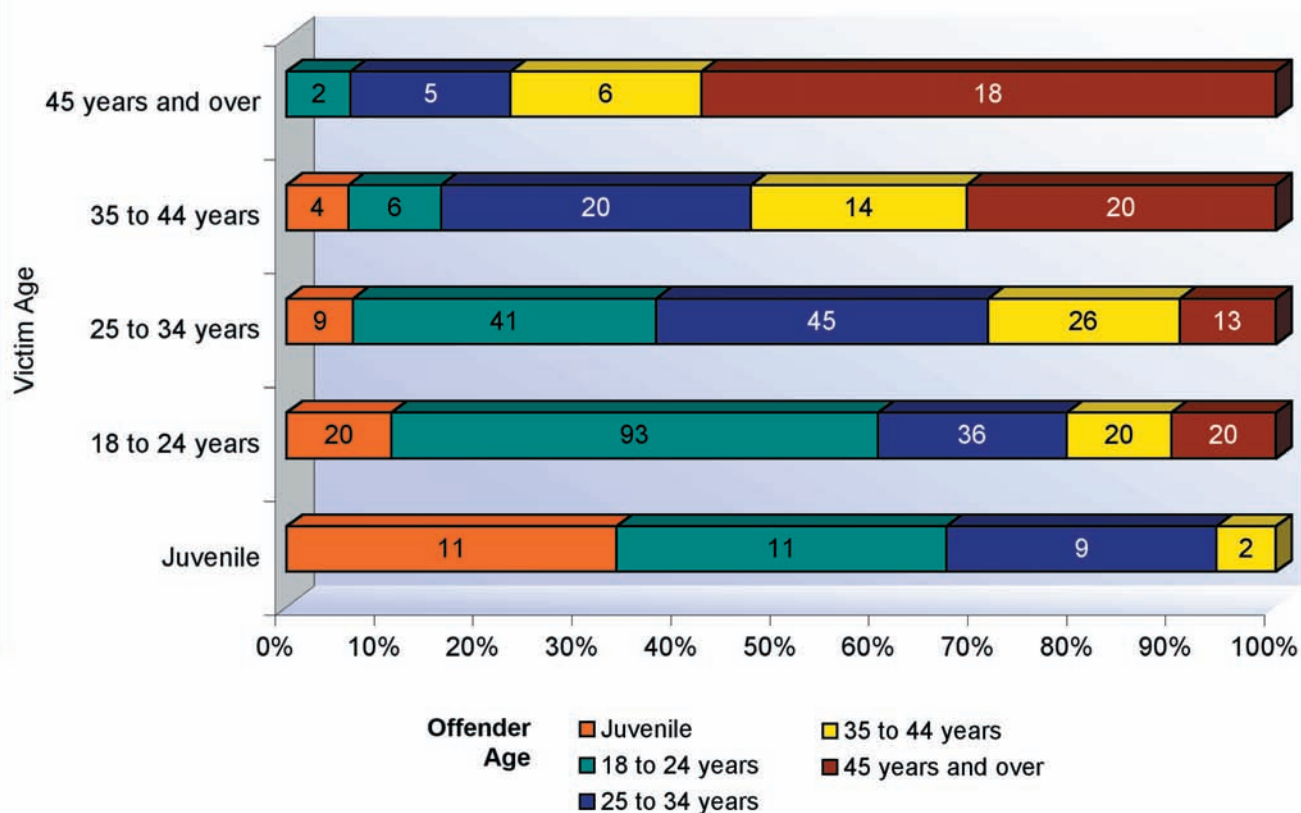
Gender of Male vs Female Known Offenders, 2001–2005



When comparing the age of homicide victims and known offenders between 2001 and 2005, adult victims are most likely to be killed by people of approximately the same age. Juvenile victims, however, are twice as likely to be killed by an adult than by another juvenile

(in 66% versus 33% of cases). Adult victims aged 35 to 44 are nearly as likely to be killed by someone younger (i.e., an offender aged 25 to 34) as older than themselves (45+ years old).

Age of Victims and Known Offenders, 2001–2005



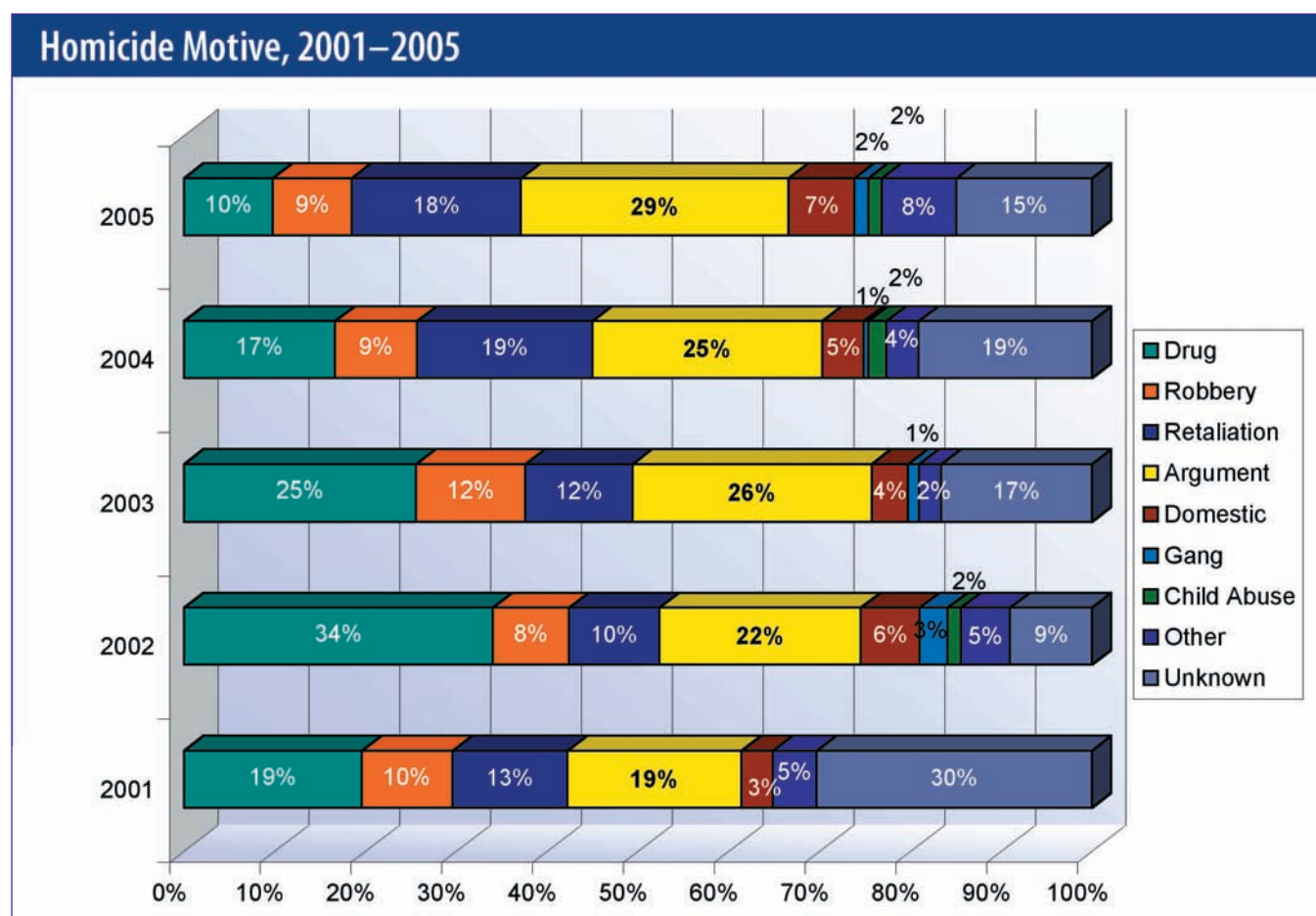
The Precursors to Homicide

Predicate crimes and other circumstances surrounding any particular crime, referred to simply as “motives” in this report, vary extensively on a case by case basis, and can also be inter-related and complex in nature. For example, armed robberies committed by drug users in search of money to support their addiction to heroin, who end up killing their victim rather than only taking their money, represent predicate crimes (robberies) and motives (acquiring money to support a drug habit). Investigators often determine that one or more predicate crimes and/or motivations underscored the commission of a homicide, although initially these may not have been apparent. This report shows only the primary reason as the motive.

From 2001 to 2003, drugs and arguments were the most common known motives for committing a homicide. The frequency of drug-related homicides dropped by half between 2002 and 2004, and in 2005 it is down to 10%. Homicides as a result of arguments increased from 19% in 2001 to 29% in 2005. Retaliation accounted for

between 10%–19% of all homicides where a motive was identified from 2001-2005, closely followed by robberies, accounting for 8-10% of all homicides in four of the five years. The percentage of domestic homicides has been increasing since 2003 from 5% to 7%, as have retaliation-related killings. Gang-related homicides, on the other hand, remain a small percentage of all homicides in the District. The remaining known predicate crimes or motives determined to be primary factors included child abuse, sex crimes and others that are not easily classified, including arson, assassination/execution, mistaken identity and terrorism (the “DC Sniper” murder).

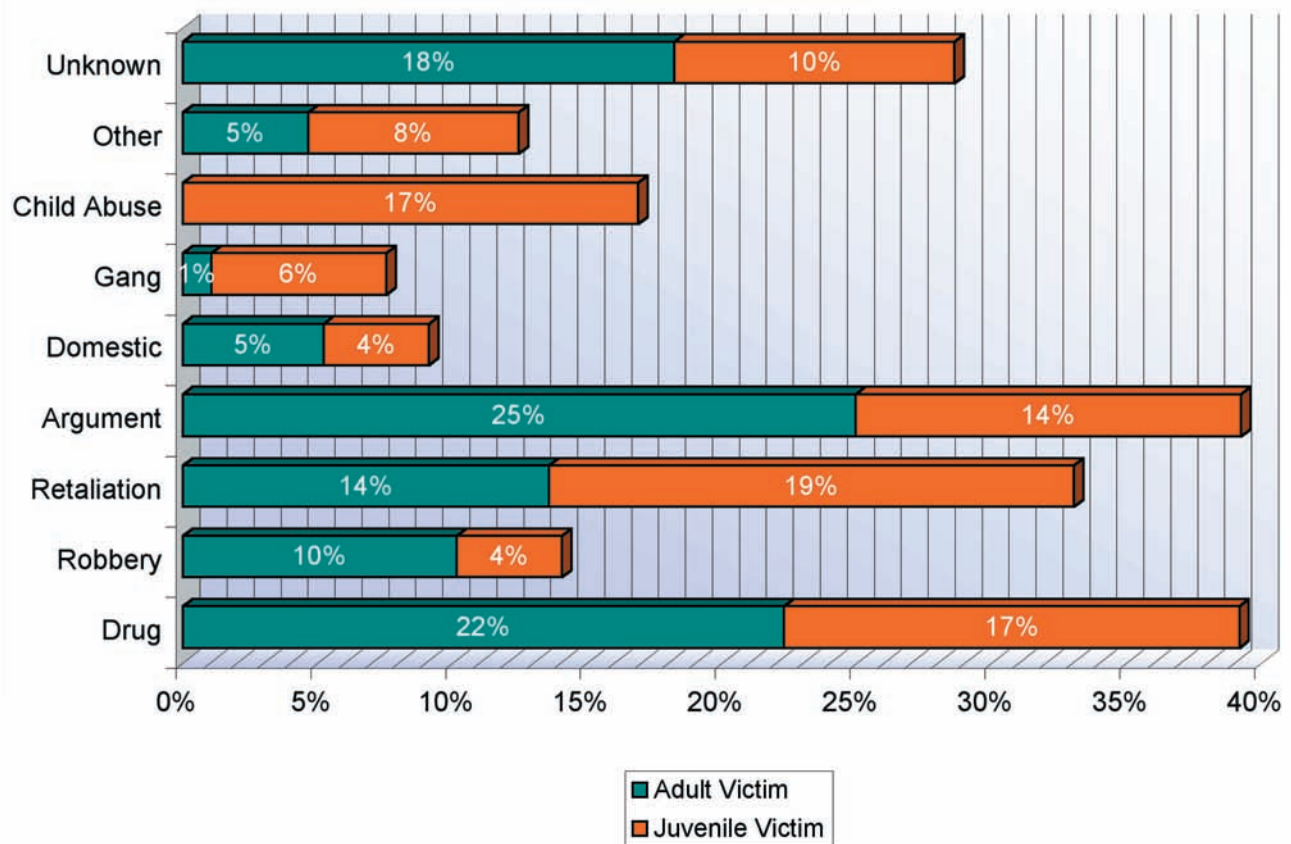
In general, only large percentage shifts over several years may be regarded as important. For example, the steady decrease in drug-related homicides from 2002-2005, from 34% to 10% of all cases, is reflective of a general trend and an actual decrease of 11 homicide victims. This single trend is significant and reflective of MPD’s drug enforcement activity over the last several years.



Nevertheless, of the known motives relating to homicides in Washington, DC, from 2001-2005, illicit drugs such as cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine ranked high in cases involving both adult and juvenile victims across the five years. Juvenile victims were most likely to be killed as a result of retaliation (19% of juvenile victims), closely followed by drug-related

homicides and child abuse (17% each). Adults were more likely to be killed as a result of an argument (25%) or a drug-related situation (22%). Adults were also more than twice as likely to be the victim of a robbery-related homicide as were juveniles. Unsurprisingly, gang and child abuse-related homicides affected mostly juveniles, whereas almost as many juveniles were killed as a result

Homicide Motives: Adult and Juvenile Victims, 2001–2005



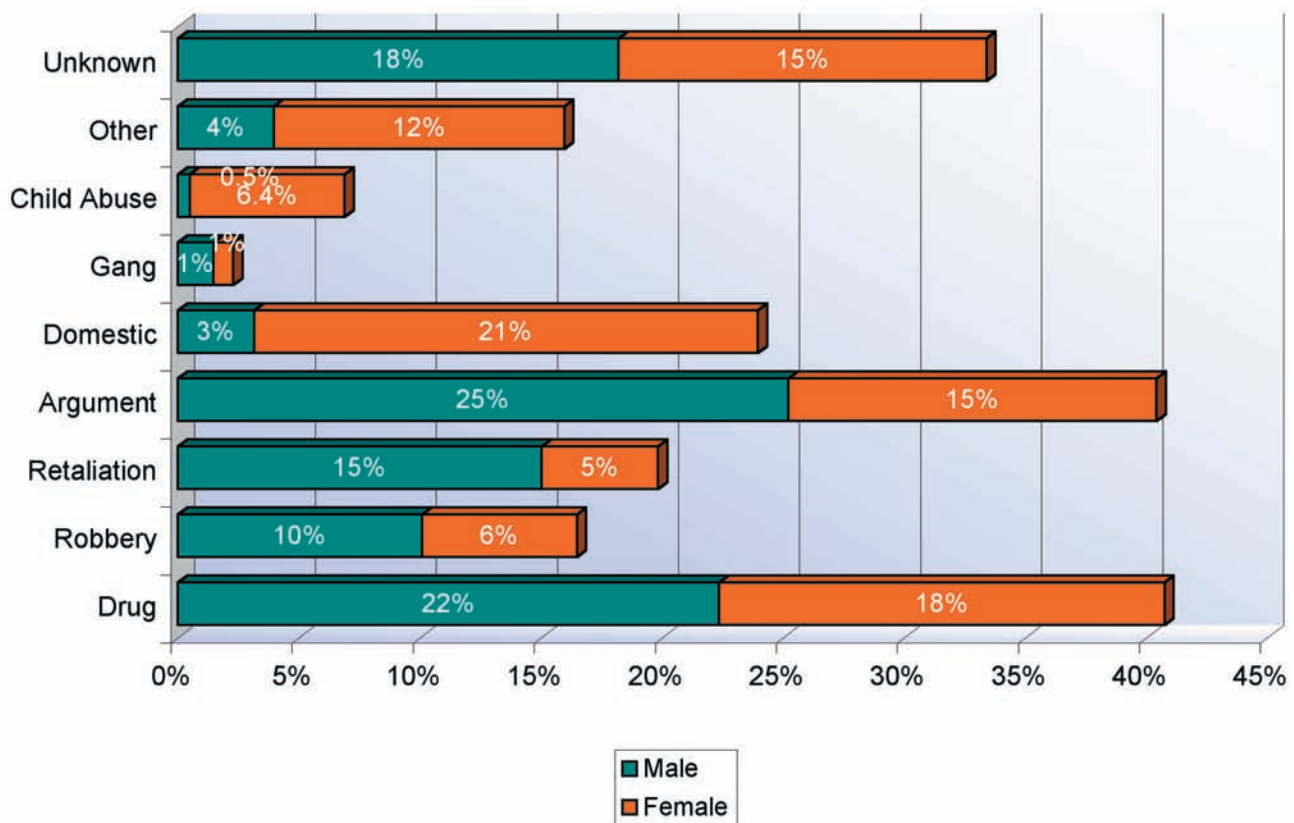
How do Homicide Trends in Washington, DC, Compare to Other Major U.S. Cities?

A recent article in the New York Times reported that many cities across the United States have experienced a rise in violent crime stemming from arguments (The New York Times, "Violent Crime Rising Sharply in Some Cities," February 12, 2006). The article suggests that homicides may no longer be significantly occurring over drugs or turf wars, but over petty disputes and perceptions of offenders that they were or are being disrespected by those who are killed. This new reality is consistent with experiences of many police officers in Washington, DC. In 2005, the number of homicides resulting from an argument increased from 50 (25%) to 57 (29%), while homicides with drug-related motives decreased from 33 (17%) to 19 (10%).

of a domestic violence situation as were adults. Between 2001 and 2005, females were more likely than males to be killed as a result of an intra-family offense (21% of female victims) and child abuse (6.4%). Males, on the other hand, were more likely to be the victim of a homicide resulting from an argument, robbery or

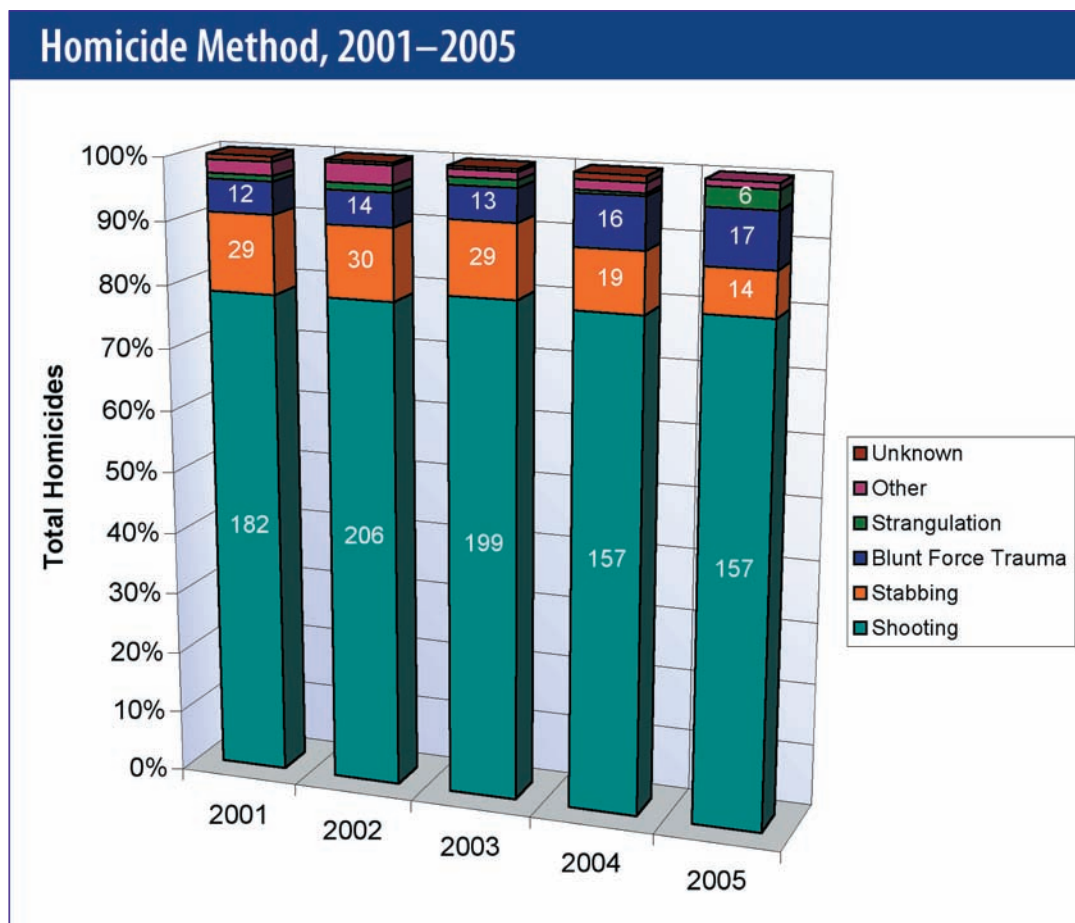
retaliation. Drug-related homicides also accounted for a large percentage of homicides of both male and female victims, while gang-related homicides accounted for one of the smallest percentage of incidents among both genders.

Motive: Male and Female Victims, 2001–2005



Between 2001 and 2005 most homicide victims were killed with guns. The second most common method of committing homicide was stabbing a victim to death with a knife or similar weapon. The third most common cause of death in homicide cases was blunt force trauma. This pattern has remained unchanged for

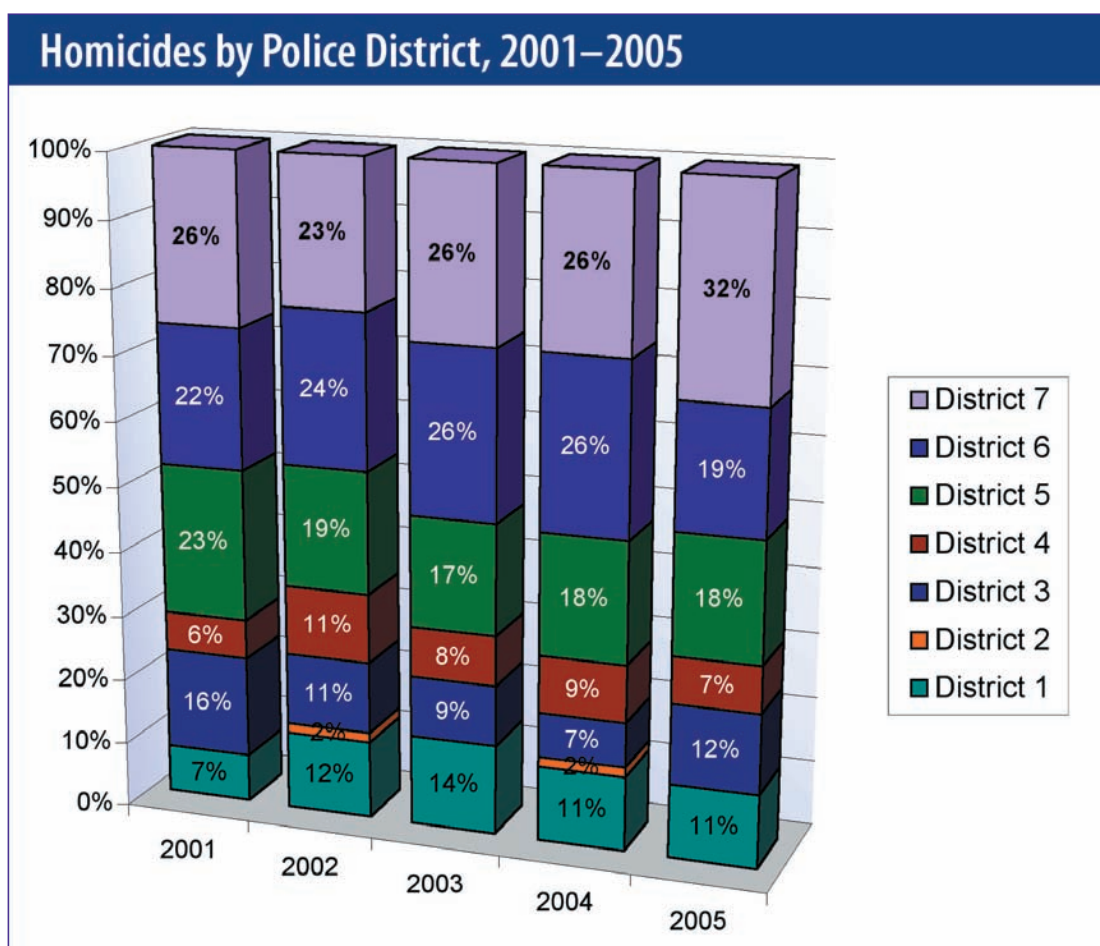
several years. Other methods or causes of death include but are not limited to: asphyxiation, anthrax poisoning, arson, drowning, neglect, shaken baby syndrome, smoke inhalation and starvation, among “other” comparatively rare methods or causes not separately depicted in the next chart.



Part 3: MPD Investigation And Prevention Programs

The third section of the report details locations of homicides within Washington, DC, and investigation clearance rates, and describes MPD's crime prevention and community interaction programs. From 2002 to 2005 homicides in Washington, DC, decreased from 262 to 196, a decrease of 25% in four years. Historically, the proportion of homicides occurring within particular sections of Washington, DC, known as the seven numbered policing districts, have remained fairly stable.

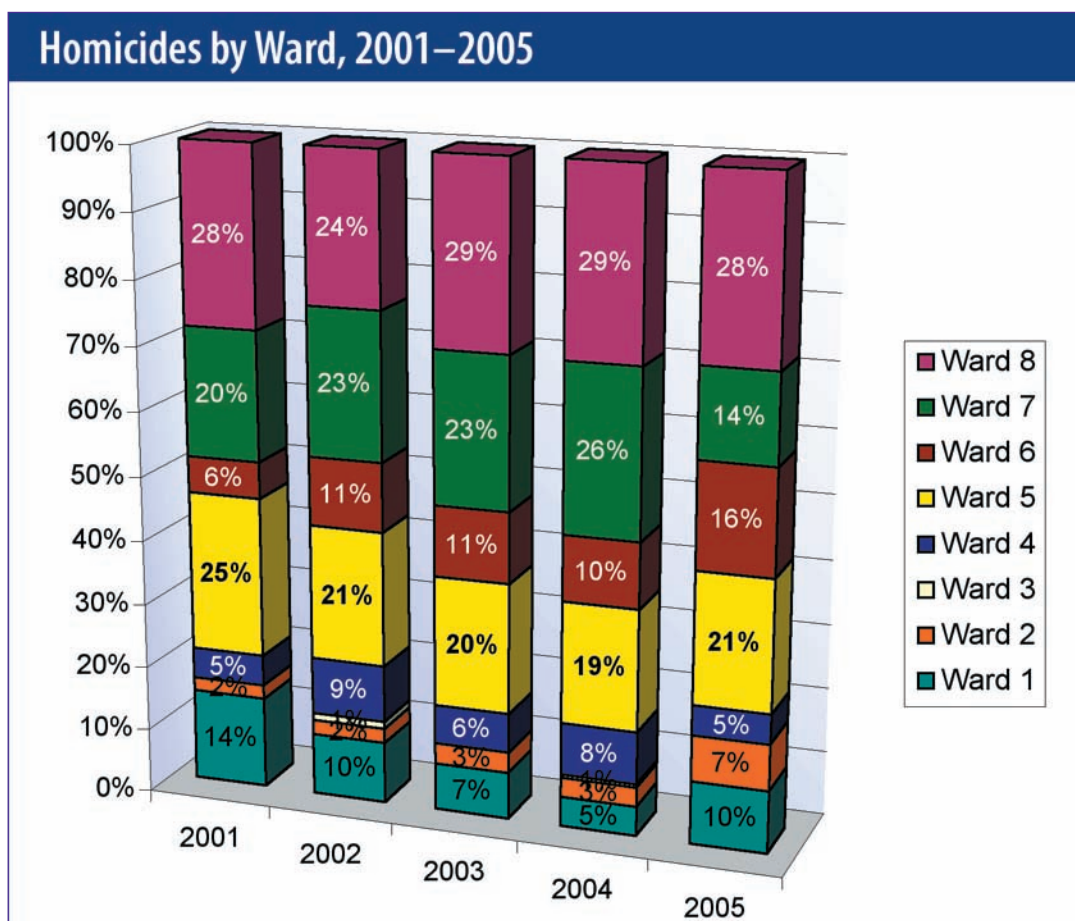
From 2001-2005, District 6 and District 7 consistently accounted for 47%-52% of all homicides. On average District 7 accounted for 27% of homicides; District 6 23%. District 5 had 19%; District 4 had 8.2%; District 3 had 11%; District 2 had less than 1%; and District 1 had 11% of city homicides.⁵



⁵Note: In 2004 MPD changed its police district and PSA (Police Service Area) boundaries. The numbers shown above are all based on the new boundaries.

Homicides in Washington, DC are also traditionally tracked according to the political ward in which they occur. Historically, as illustrated in the chart below, most homicides occur in Ward 8, and also in Ward 7 and Ward 5. Collectively, from 2001-2005, these three wards accounted for 68.8% of homicides citywide.⁷ From 2004-2005 the largest percentage decrease occurred in Ward 7, which declined from 26% to 14% of citywide homicides. Ward 3 consistently has less

than 2% of the city's homicides, with no homicides in 2001 or 2005 and only 1 in 2003 and 2004. The largest single increase occurred in Ward 6 which went from 10% to 16%. However, as an internal Ward measure, the proportion of homicides in Wards 1 and 2 at least doubled although the number of homicides that occurred during the years depicted below were comparatively low.



⁷(W8 = 26.6% + W7 = 21.2% + W5 = 21%)

From the standpoint of potential police intervention, it is also useful to locate geographic hotspots where homicides (and other types of crime) occur. For several years MPD has closely tracked this information and generated density maps to indicate concentrations of various types of crime by day of week, time of day, and so forth.

In 2005, MPD identified several new “Hot Spot” locations (officially called Violent Crime Focus Areas; see additional details below) and added these to four areas retained from the 2004 list. Fourteen Hot Spots are listed in the chart below, along with corresponding numbers of homicides that occurred at or in very close proximity to those locations. Sursum Corda, Rhode Island Avenue, NE, and 17th Street and M Street, NE are locations that in 2005 all had comparatively high numbers of homicides. Although long-identified as hotspots, Orleans Place, NE, and Georgia Avenue, NW

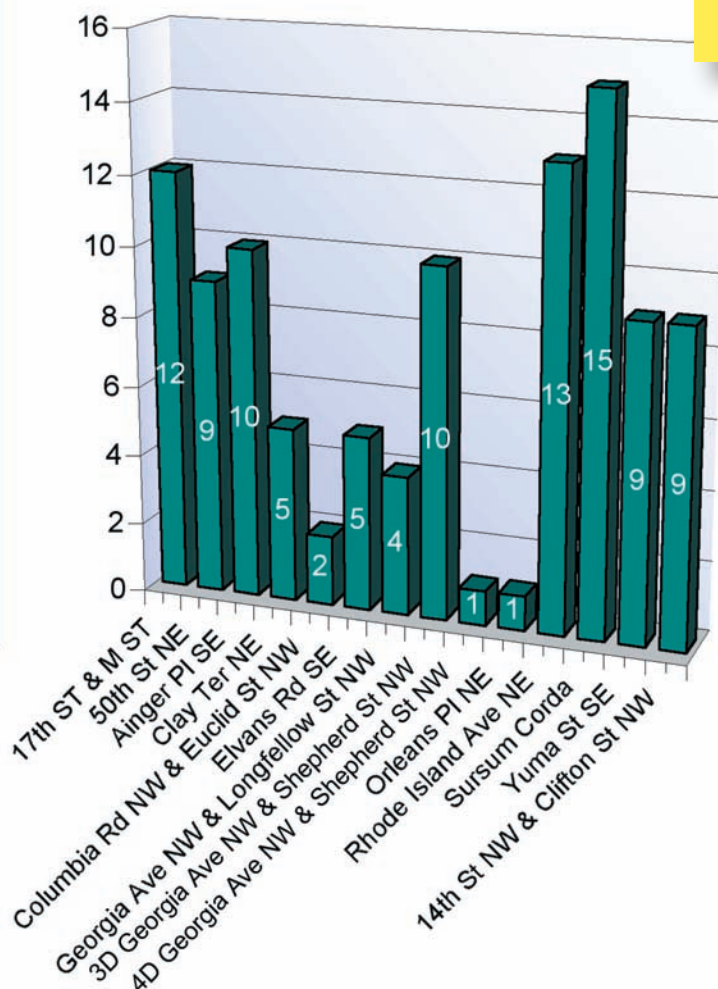
Background to Hot Spots

In February 2004, Mayor Anthony A. Williams launched an innovative and aggressive program to combat crime and rebuild some of the District of Columbia’s most troubled neighborhoods.

Called the “Hot Spot Initiative,” the effort brings together the police, a range of other city government agencies, and the private and non-profit sectors for a focused assault on both crime and the underlying conditions that can breed crime. MPDC assigns additional patrols (vehicle, bicycle and foot), deploys specialized units (targeting drugs, gangs, prostitution and auto theft), conducts criminal investigations, and manages problem-solving efforts.

Under the leadership of City Administrator Robert C. Bobb and Chief of Police Charles H. Ramsey, the Hot Spot Initiative produced impressive results in a very short period of time. The results of the first 11 months of the Hot Spot Initiative showed that crime had fallen 22 percent in targeted locations. Violent crime in the hot spots dropped by a staggering 34% and property crime fell by 12%. In 2005, nine new areas across the city were identified as Hot Spots and, added to the five of the remaining original Hot Spots, became the 14 Hot Spots that are currently in effect.

Homicide by Hot Spot, 2001–2005



and Shepherd Street, NW in the 4th District, each only had one homicide in the five-year period. Thus, a location identified as a Violent Crime Focus Area is not necessarily predictive of homicides taking place at any particular time. Hot Spots do indicate relatively high prevalence of violent or other types of crimes, so to the extent that homicides occur in connection with other crimes the Hot Spots remain places in which to concentrate police resources.

Clearance Rates

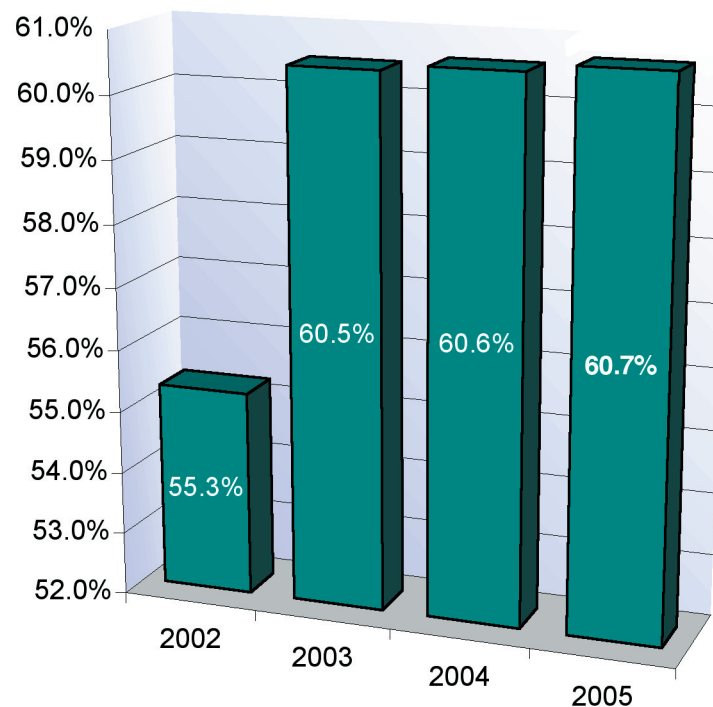
Homicide cases in Washington, DC are rigorously investigated. When a case is solved it is said to have been “cleared.” Cases are cleared through either an arrest, a formal filing by the Office of the Prosecutor, or “exceptionally” (which means that police developed sufficient evidence to charge one or more persons with a crime and know their location, but for technical reasons (e.g., death of the suspect) charges were not actually brought.

An agency’s clearance rate typically varies for different types of crime. MPD’s homicide case clearance rate is

60.7% — an amount consistent with national statistics reported by similarly sized police agencies in 2005 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) via the Uniform Crime Report (UCR). The clearance rate has been increasing each year over the past four years. The large increase from 2002 to 2003 is attributed to a large percentage of reported cases closed as well as a smaller number of homicides occurring in those years.

Note: Figures in this section exclude 2001 because data on prior year closures was not available.

Clearance Rates by Year, 2002–2005



MPD Prevention And Community Interaction Programs

The Metropolitan Police Department is committed to preventing crime and the fear of crime, and to working in partnership with residents to build safe and healthy neighborhoods throughout the city. The Department's Policing for Prevention (PFP) strategy applies three approaches to crime and disorder, and guides MPD's strategy to reduce homicides as well. Used together, and in conjunction with the Violent Crime Focus Area (hotspot) initiative, these approaches address homicides by focusing law enforcement efforts on immediate crime problems, using the resources of government and other organizations to work on the underlying causes of crime in a community, and building partnerships with community stakeholders to sustain success. These programs are briefly summarized below.

FOCUSED LAW ENFORCEMENT

Focused Law Enforcement (FLE) targets high-risk offenders and crime hotspots through the strategic use of police resources and via partnerships with federal law enforcement and regulatory agencies, as well as other state and local criminal justice partners.

■ Project Safe Neighborhoods

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a national campaign that strengthens partnerships among law enforcement agencies to suppress and deter gun violence. MPD is working with Federal law enforcement agencies and the courts to identify gang members or crews that are most likely to commit violent crimes in Washington, DC, target and apprehend members of the most violent groups, and use the example of their prosecution and incarceration to deter other groups from resorting to similar violence.

■ Homicide Prevention Project

The Homicide Prevention Project (HPP), launched in 2003 in partnership with the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), aims to remove violent criminals involved in drug trade from city neighborhoods. By increasing coordination between homicide and narcotics investigations, HPP is able

to aggressively target and develop strong cases against specific individuals who are the linchpins in violent drug crime. HPP is helping to solve homicide and other violent crime cases, and obtaining cooperation from area law enforcement agencies in pursuit of other dangerous individuals. Much of the HPP effort is focused in District 6 and District 7 which have the highest numbers of homicides in the city.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIPS

Neighborhood partnerships bring together police, residents, city agencies, and other community stakeholders to tackle crime areas and disorderly conditions that attract crime and degrade quality of life in the community.

■ Hot Spot Initiative

As indicated above, the "Hot Spot Initiative," brings together police, a range of other city government agencies, and both private and non-profit sectors to focus geographically troubled areas with high amounts of crime. The initiative is also concerned with long-term efforts to address underlying conditions of crime. Extra patrols (vehicle, bicycle and foot) are frequently deployed in conjunction with specialized units such as the Department's narcotics, gangs, prostitution and vehicle theft units. Officers and detectives monitor hotspot locations carefully, conduct criminal investigations when violations of law are observed, and help manage signs of disorder through problem-solving. At the same time, Neighborhood Services coordinates the efforts of other government agencies to clean up and revitalize high crime areas that may be negatively affected by abandoned cars, trash and graffiti or tagging.

■ Gang Intervention Partnership

The Gang Intervention Partnership in the Columbia Heights/Mount Pleasant community has brought together the MPD, community partners, neighborhood schools, and other District agencies to create a comprehensive network to engage youth, reduce gang-related violence, decrease gang membership, and prevent the proliferation of new gangs in the target area. This unit is located at MPD's third district sub-station, focuses on Latino gang activity in that portion of the city, and also works to prevent gang recruitment in schools while preventing violent crimes including homicides.

SYSTEMIC PREVENTION

Once neighborhood partnerships are in place, they can explore systemic prevention approaches that deal with the more chronic, entrenched issues that are at the root of problems in a community. The MPD focuses its efforts in this arena on engaging youth, providing alternatives for high-risk activities and behavior.

■ Conflict Resolution Team

The Conflict Resolution Teams provide mediation and conflict resolution to groups of youths and young adults who historically settle their disputes through violence. The teams, comprised of police, clergy, service organizations, DC Public Schools, and citizens, are trained in mediation techniques, conflict resolution and partnership building. The CRTs conduct comprehensive assessments of at-risk youth, provide youth and family referrals, and follow up with youth and families involved in critical incidents

■ Clergy Police Community Partnerships

The MPD works through Clergy Police Community Partnerships (CPCP) to help develop sustainable structures for directing community resources to local youth. The valuable model first presented by the East of the River Clergy Police Community Partnership (ERCPCP) has been replicated in other areas of the city through the Regional Operations Command (ROC) Central Clergy Police Community Partnership (RCCPCP) and the Faith Based Community Action Partnership (FBCAP) with ROC North.



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