

Community
Violence
Prevention Project
Homicide Review
Findings Report
(2018)

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES

Center for Health Equity

Center for Health Equity
University of Pittsburgh
Graduate School of Public Health
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FUNDING SUPPORT

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Suggested Citation: Brooks G, Garland R, Gabriella Mendez. *PITT Public Health Community Violence Prevention Project: Homicide Review Findings Report (2018)*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, Center for Health Equity; 2018.

Executive Summary

Our detailed review of Allegheny County's 106 homicides in 2018 further supports the need to distinguish between types of homicide cases. The 2018 homicide total for the City of Pittsburgh was 55 (decrease in 3.5% from 2017) and for the Suburbs 5 (increase of 1% from 2017).

Allegheny County Homicide Demographics 2018

- 91 (86%) victims were male (compared to 85% in 2017).
- 74 (70%) victims were black (compared to 77% in 2017).
- 11 victims were killed in Squirrel in a mass shooting, leading the most deaths in neighborhoods.
- The median age of a homicide victim was 28.
- 32% of homicide victims were African American males between the ages of 21-30.

A Typical Homicide in Allegheny County

- **Victim**
 - Male
 - African American
 - Between 21-30 years old
 - Has between 1 and 5 prior arrests
 - Has prior drug and/or burglary arrest on arrest history
 - Was or previously on probation/parole
- **Suspect**
 - Male
 - African American
 - Between 21-30 years old
 - Has between 1 and 5 prior arrests
 - Has prior drug and/or weapon arrest on arrest history
 - Was or previously on probation/parole
- **Homicide Circumstances**
 - The victim and suspect were peers (they had something in common)
 - The incident occurred between 9pm-12am
 - The incident occurred on Saturday
 - The homicide involved a firearm

Key findings from 2018 show that:

- **Homicide victimization continues to be unevenly distributed across populations or places.** While only 12% of Allegheny County residents are black or African American, 74% of the victims were black. Ten percent of the homicides occurred in just 1 zip code of Allegheny County's 130 neighborhoods, zip code 15217.
- **Firearms are the main cause of death.** Cause of death in 90% of homicides was gunshot wounds. Including the 11 victims in the mass shooting.
- **Social context matters for homicide victimization.** Chronic, multigenerational involvement in violence and illegal activities; additional opportunities for conflict through increased use of social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and websites attracting extremist); prevalence of drugs, alcohol, and access to firearms; biases and violence as normative behavior were identified as relevant in the homicides.

The complexity of homicide and intentional injury prevention has become increasingly clear and points to the urgent need for efforts to address violence at multiple levels within Allegheny County communities. The recommendations include:

- **Identify and involve the support networks of at-risk individuals and, specifically, engage those at risk who are not currently involved in mandated health or behavior programs.** Engaging individuals and families at risk of violence victimization in non-traditional settings (e.g., community-based organizations, primary care clinics) is a strategic way to address the complexity of peer conflict. We must begin to vet the agencies that deliver health and behavior health services, to make sure we get the proper fit to assist families, communities, and children affected by this disease.
- **Modify community programs' participation requirements to ensure equal access.** Engaging individuals will improve participation and commitment: Modify participation requirements (e.g., parent/guardian signature, payment), adapt service delivery to include non-traditional methods in communities, increase communication and coordination among behavior, health, and social programs and systems. After-school programs are a necessity.
- **Increase community participation and investment in violence prevention efforts.** Combat attitudes of violence as normative behavior and promote an appropriate form of conflict resolution; support existing anti-violence groups and coalitions that provide awareness, education, and prevention; improve and strengthen community-police relations; and distribute anti-violence materials throughout Pittsburgh. Provide more education, to change perceptions. We want to change community norms through education.
- **Enhance the homicide review process to better inform our understanding of contributing factors and potential solutions.** Recruit new community and law enforcement members; enhance data collection efforts, specifically to better account

for the unique factors involved in intimate partner homicides; increase police involvement; and enhance dissemination methods.

Technical Notes

The Pitt Public Health Community Violence Prevention Initiative, within the Center for Health Equity and Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences at the Graduate School of Public Health, began in August 2012. Utilizing a public health perspective, the project seeks to gain an enhanced understanding of the contextual and underlying factors impacting community violence so that appropriate recommendations specific to the unique needs of Allegheny County communities can be made. Utilizing our greater understanding and the experience gained from the 2012 through 2018 Homicide Reviews, this represents our seventh findings report. As of 2014 we started reporting data for all of Allegheny County and not just for the City Pittsburgh.

Background and Overview

For the past seven years we've been vocal about the transient population, and its effect on violence in our communities. For the past two years the Violence Prevention Program at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health has been able to address the issue by having a few life coaches - (outreach workers) in the county to verify the population that are moving from the city to the county.

In the past five years our program has seen the county's homicide rate rise. That being said, it's our duty to try to depict certain issues from a community-involvement perspective.

The city of Pittsburgh has been observing favorable results through their out-reach efforts, in interrupting the transmission of this disease. Our program have been successful at interrupting things in the county. Unfortunately, the program currently struggles with being provided sufficient funding streams. We feel the outreach component of violence prevention program is the most under- funded activity in this work (Cure Violence in Chicago has been going strong for almost twenty years. We've been doing our own similar model here, but struggle every year to raise the funds necessary to run this model. We have never reached the level of staff needed to combat this disease.). The outreach piece of the program is a vital component because it's a tool that helps identify and investigate trends, identify possible targets and Outcomes. Although we use "investigate" in our language, we are not trying to solve a case, we are merely collecting data, to justify the trends then stop another act from occurring.

One aspect to consider is that the location of where a person's death occurs may not necessarily be the neighborhood that the person is from. Their residential address usually is a factor that allows us to speak to particular issues.

People in the communities may question if a particular incident is group related or related to a domestic disturbance. Each year Allegheny county's rates of domestic and intimate

partner violence have increased. The past two years we have also seen the number of men below the age of 21 that's been killed.

These two things mean that we need a more robust out-reach program in both the city and county. It can only be addressed through our collaboration, which will enable us to do the work necessary in stopping our numbers from climbing.

It's important to be cautious when addressing the success of our projects. Without a commitment from our government agencies, we may experience a decline in the program's effectiveness. May experience a decline in the program's effectiveness. Despite the fact that our efforts may go unnoticed we understand that, the more relationships we develop, and nurture, the job will become easier.

We have been fortunate that some of our private funders continue to support this work. It is important to note all the work that goes into producing this report. We understand the responsibility that follows to substantiate our findings. The collaboration we have with all of our partners is key.

Our broad goals are to:

1. Uncover patterns among incidents of homicide
2. Identify key preventable factors that contributed to the homicide.
3. Develop recommendations for homicide prevention
4. Disseminate information and engage in community dialogue about violence prevention within Pittsburgh and Allegheny County neighborhoods.

Partnership Coordination Using a participatory-based approach, key local stakeholders were identified and invited to partner on project activities. Community partners involved representatives from a variety of organizations, each invested and contributing expertise to the project's objectives. Partners included adult and juvenile courts, county jail, city and county social service providers, public health professionals, trauma physicians and health care professionals, schools, anti-gun violence advocates, and community members with long-standing experience with violence prevention efforts in Allegheny County.

Data from Partners Data were collected on the 106 homicides through complementary sources of information including the Allegheny County Jail, Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Allegheny County Adult and Juvenile Probation, various social media sites and the Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office. Partners were responsible for searching their own agencies for victim-specific information (e.g., previous involvement or supervision history, previous criminal charge) and sharing in preparation for review meetings.

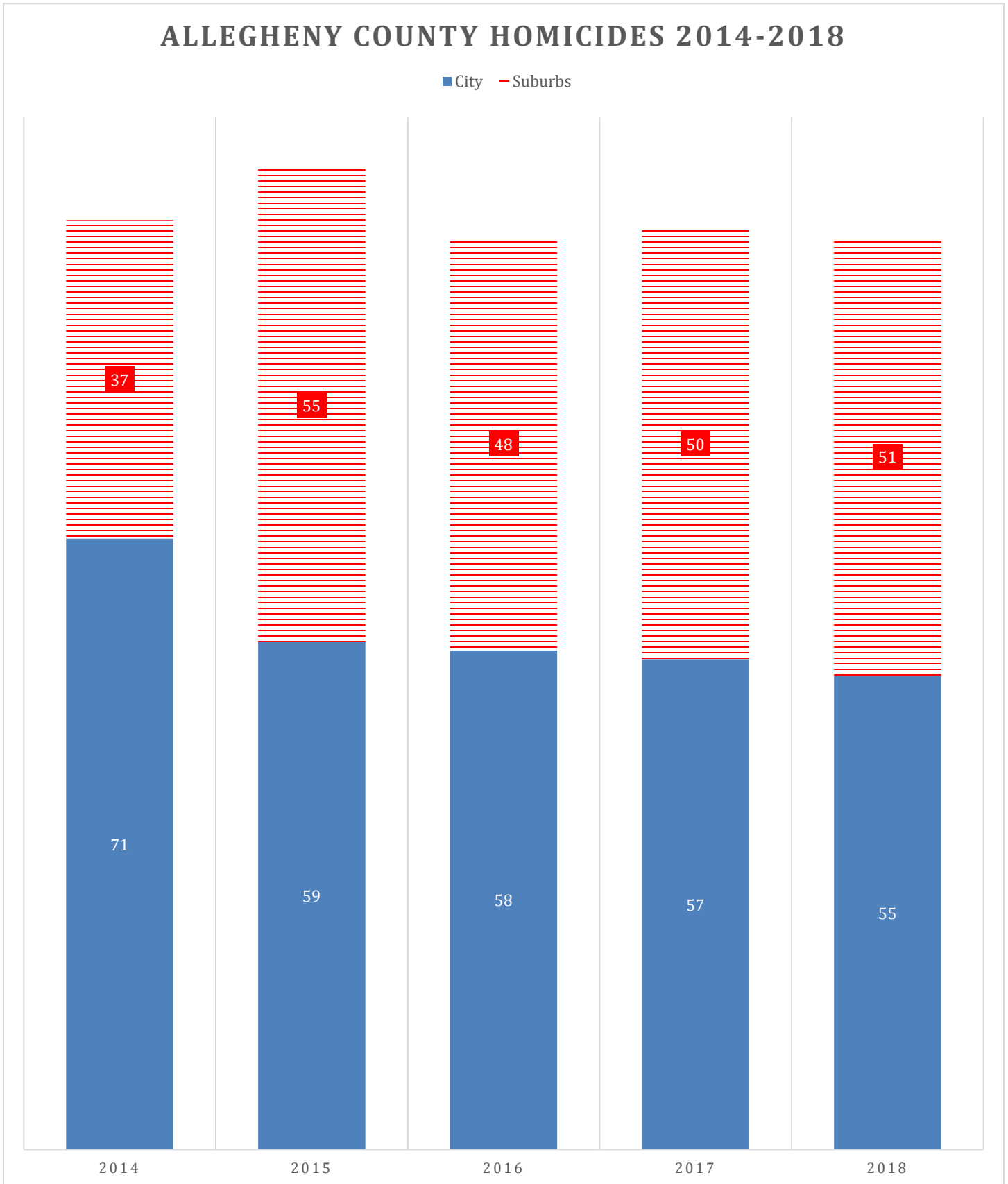
Data from Community Two coaches - two academic research staff - constituted the "outreach team," who gathered fine-grained, contextual information surrounding the homicides from communities impacted by violence in 2018. Our outreach team members (Life Coaches) are long-term residents of Allegheny County with extensive violence prevention experience, particularly around retaliatory violence and street outreach. The

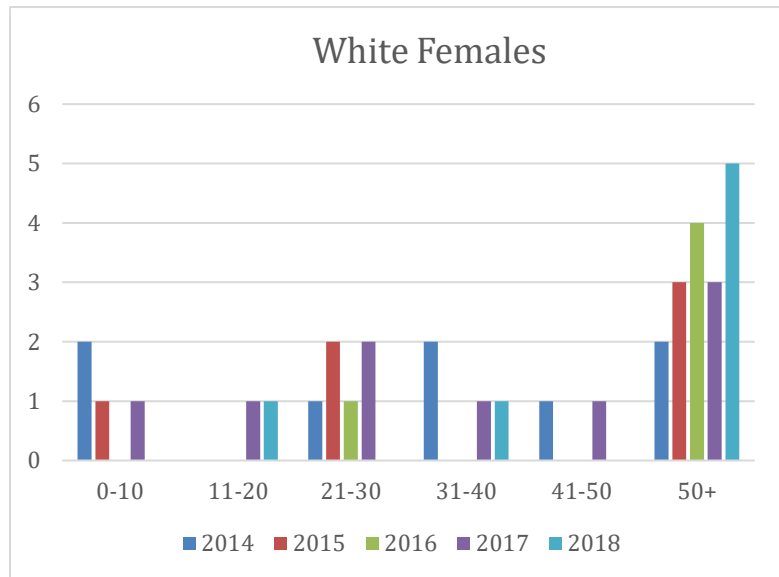
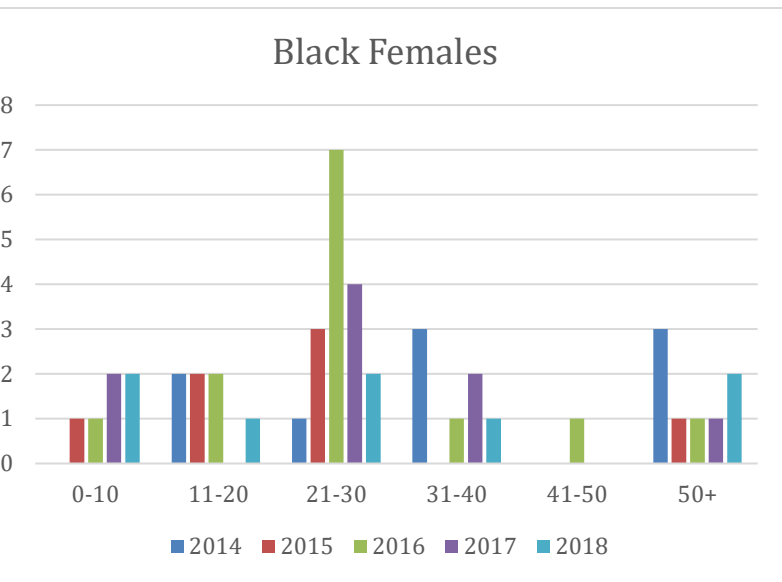
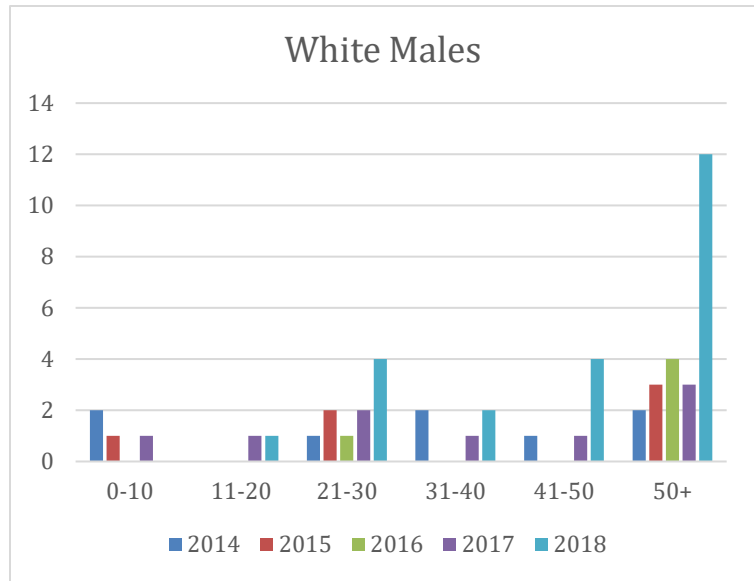
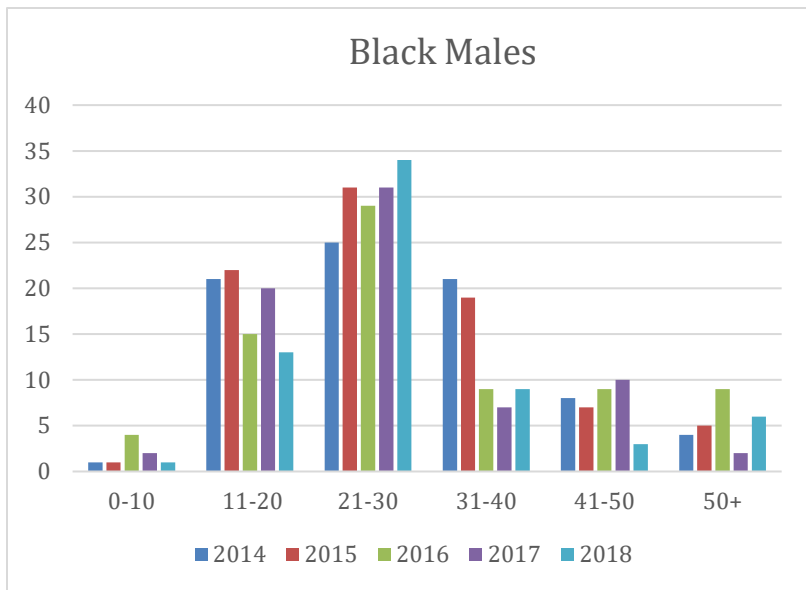
outreach team discussed homicide cases with key neighborhood members and attended local community meetings to collect further detailed information. Information was gathered for each homicide and victim, including such things as relationship of the victim with the suspected perpetrator, evidence of previous conflict between the two, and family history of violence. The outreach team used information gathered from the community and media outlets to reach a consensus on whether the risk of retaliation was likely.

Homicide Review Group Composed of community partners, ten homicide review group meetings took place from January 2018 to January 2019 in which all 2018 homicides were discussed. Review meetings were organized by the month in which the homicide occurred in order to focus on the homicide while it is still current and the dynamics of each homicide. Community-based groups specific to the neighborhood where homicides occurred also were invited to attend the review. Meeting leaders encouraged brainstorming underlying causes of violence and intervention implications and recommendations. All review meeting participants signed a non-disclosure statement.

The information discussed in this report represents a summary of collected data and information shared in homicide review group meetings and does not represent individual or organizational perspectives.

Results



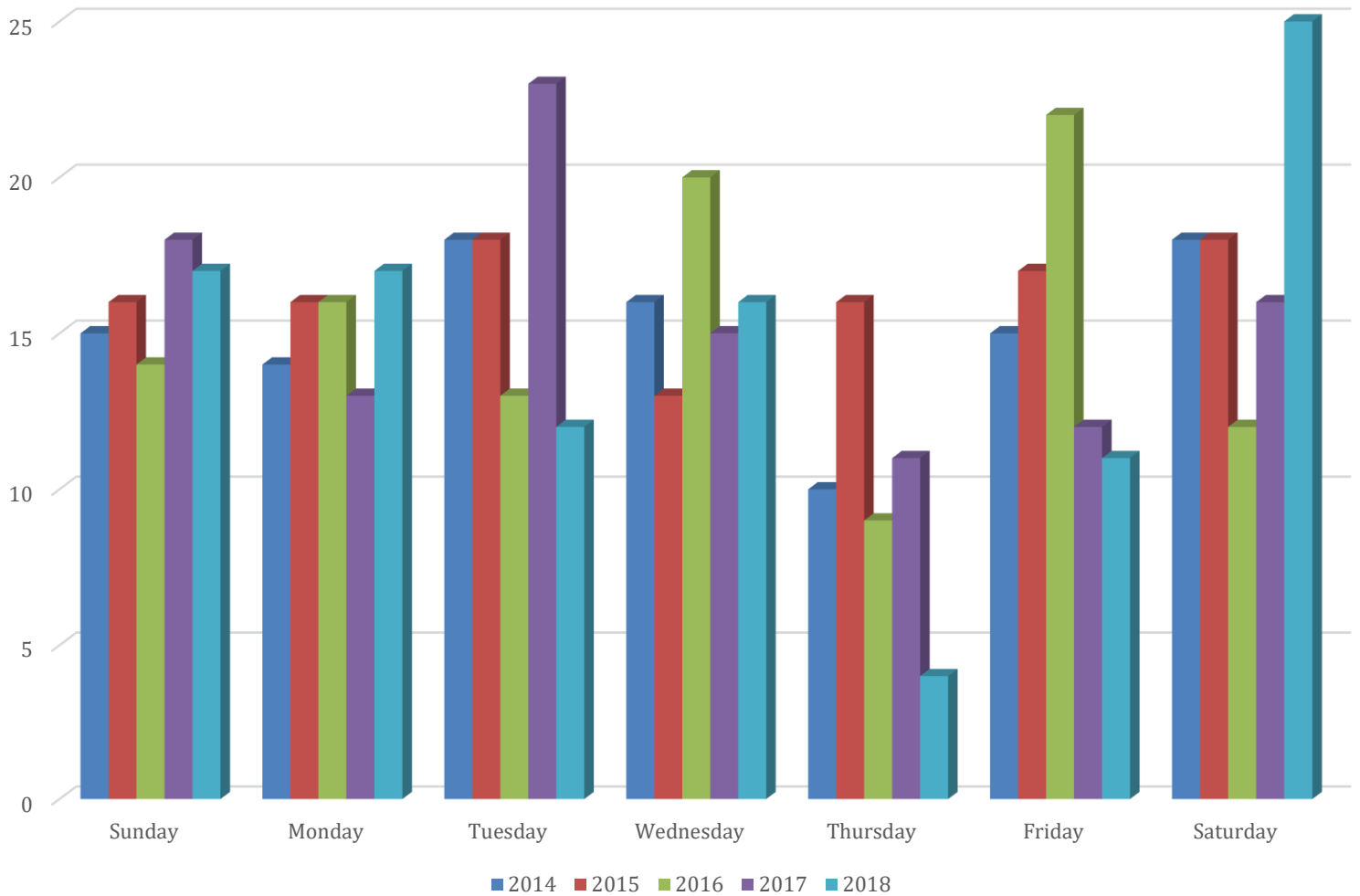


- Not included in the charts were 2 Asian males.
- The largest age group is between 50-54 a population of 46,653 in Allegheny county out of a total of 1,188,294
- Males lead in Allegheny county homicides by 86%, 39% population in the Allegheny County 43% female.
- In the United States Blacks come in at 64% of homicides, black population is 13%.

Zip Code	Neighborhood(s)	Land Area	Population	Police Department	Homicide Victims 2014	Homicide Victims 2015	Homicide Victims 2016	Homicide Victims 2017	Homicide Victims 2018
15236	Baldwin	5.9 sq mi	19,812	Baldwin P.D.	0	2	0	2	0
15202	Bellevue	1.01 sq. mi	8624	Bellevue P.D.	0	0	3	1	1
15014	Brackenridge	0.51 sq. mi	3262	Brackenridge P.D.	0	0	1	0	0
15221	Braddock Hills	1.0 sq mi	1880	Braddock Hills P.D .	0	2	0	4	0
15104	Braddock	2.45 sq. mi	8839	Braddock P.D .	4	5	3	2	2
15227	Brentwood	1.45 Sq. mi	9613	Brentwood P.D.	0	0	2	0	0
15025	Clairton, Jefferson Hills	2.8 sq mi	6796	Clairton P.D.	0	5	3	0	4
15216	Dormont	0.7 sq mi	8593	Dormont P.D.	0	0	0	1	0
15110	Duquesne	1.82 sq. mi	5547	Duquesne P.D .	3	0	0	1	4
15112	East Pittsburgh	0.4 sq mi	1822	East Pittsburgh P.D .	0	2	1	1	1
15223	Etna	0.73 sq. mi	3397	Etna P.D.	0	0	2	0	0
15238	Forward Township	19.9 sq. mi	3771	Forward Township P.D.	0	1	0	0	0
15045	Glasport	1.9 sq. mi	4,483	Glassport P.D.	0	0	0	1	0
15101	Allison Park	13.82 sq. mi	21, 741	Hampton Township P.D.	0	0	1	1	0
15120	Homestead	1.90 sq. mi	3079	Homestead P.D.	1	2	2	0	2
15215	Kennedy, Sharpsburg	6.1 sq mi	11,118	Kennedy/Sharpsburg P.D.	0	2	0	0	0
15237	McCandless	24.21 sq. mi	41499	McCandless P.D.	2	0	0	0	1
15136	McKees Rocks	11.13 sq. mi	23184	McKees Rocks P.D .	4	5	3	3	9
15132	McKeesport	5.65 sq. mi	21057	McKeesport P.D.	4	11	4	14	5
15146	Monroeville	19.8 sq mi	28386	Monroeville P.D.	0	2	0	0	0
15108	Moon	39.47 sq. mi	38927	Moon Township P.D .	1	1	0	0	0
15228	Mt. Lebanon	6.08 sq. mi	33,137	Mt. Lebanon P.D.	0	0	0	1	1
15120	Munhall	4.67 sq. mi	18833	Munhall P.D.	1	0	0	0	2
15148	Wilmerding	0.4 sq. mi	2,190	Wilmerding P.D.	0	1	1	0	0
15137	North Versailles	8.2 sq. mi	10,229	North Versailles P.D .	0	0	0	0	1
15139	Oakmont	1.59 sq. mi	6412	Oakmont P.D.	0	0	1	0	0
15235	Penn Hills	14.66 sq. mi	33681	Penn Hills P.D.	3	3	3	7	4
15140	Pitcairn	3.5 sq. mi	3,689	Pitcairn P.D.	0	0	0	1	0
15239	Plum	28.96 sq. mi	27,126	Plum P.D.	0	0	0	1	0
15104	Rankin	0.44 sq. mi	1,955	Rankin P.D.	0	0	2	0	1
15116	Shaler	11.7 sq mi	29,757	Shaler P.D .	0	1	0	0	0
15144	Springdale	1.09 sq mi	3,828	Springdale P.D.	0	0	0	0	1
15218	Swissvale	1.3 sq mi	9,653	Swissvale P.D .	0	2	0	5	0
15084	Tarentum	1.4 sq. mi	4,530	Tarentum P.D.	0	0	0	1	0
15145	Turtle Creek	1.97 sq. mi	6,945	Turtle Creek P.D.	1	0	1	2	0
15241	Upper St. Clair	10.4 sq. mi	19,651	Upper St. Clair P.D.	1	0	0	0	0
15147	Verona	10.12 sq. mi	17743	Verona P.D.	5	0	0	1	0
15122	West Mifflin	14.2 sq mi	20,313	West Mifflin P.D.	0	2	3	0	1
15229	West View	1.0 sq mi	6771	West View P.D .	0	1	0	0	0
15221	Wilkinsburg	6.15 sq. mi	31069	Wilkinsburg P.D.	7	5	12	0	9
15212	Northside	6.22 sq. mi	27135	Zone 1 P.D .	5	6	9	6	4
15214	Northside	4.7 sq. mi	14293	Zone 1 P.D .	6	5	7	2	0
15233	Manchester	0.279 sq mi	2130	Zone 1 P.D .	0	2	0	2	0
15222	Strip District	0.81 sq. mi	3525	Zone 2 P.D .	1	0	1	0	0
15210	Brentwood	6.8 sq. mi	28641	Zone 2 P.D.	1	2	1	5	0
15219	Hill District	2.29 sq. mi	17684	Zone 2 P.D.	8	6	3	5	4
15210	Allentown, Arlington, Beltzhoover, Carrick, Knoxville, Mount Oliver	3.34 sq. mi	20,663	Zone 3 P.D .	10	8	9	0	7
15211	Mt. Washinton	1.139 sq mi	8799	Zone 3 P.D .	0	2	1	1	0
15203	Southside Flats/Southside Slopes	0.94 sq. mi	5,726	Zone 3 P.D.	0	0	0	1	1
15213	Oakland	2.13 sq. mi	25066	Zone 4 P.D .	1	3	1	1	1
15207	Hazelwood	4.79 sq. mi	10779	Zone 4 P.D.	2	1	0	2	1
15232	Shadyside	0.921 sq. mi	13,915	Zone 4 P.D.	0	0	0	1	1
15217	Squirrel Hill	1.2 sq. mi	11,363	Zone 4 P.D.	0	0	0	0	11
15201	Stanton Heights	2.48 sq. mi	12850	Zone 5 P.D .	1	0	1	0	0
15206	East Liberty, Larimer, Lincoln Lemington	2.838 sq. mi	12584	Zone 5 P.D .	7	4	1	12	6
15208	Homewood, Point Breeze	1.61 sq. mi	10, 486	Zone 5 P.D .	12	7	10	8	7
15221	East Hills	0.541 sq mi	3, 169	Zone 5 P.D .	0	5	2	0	6
15224	Bloomfield, Garfield,	1.2 sq. mi	12, 117	Zone 5 P.D .	7	4	3	2	4
15205	Crafton Heights	0.754 sq mi	3814	Zone 6 P.D .	0	1	2	2	1
15216	Beechview	1.46 sq mi	7974	Zone 6 P.D .	0	2	0	0	0
15204	Chartiers, Esplen, Sheraden	1.86 sq. mi	7986	Zone 6 P.D.	5	0	4	1	1
15220	Elliot	4.94 sq. mi	18023	Zone 6 P.D.	4	0	2	0	0
15226	Brookline	2.54 sq. mi	13551	Zone 6 P.D.	1	1	1	0	0

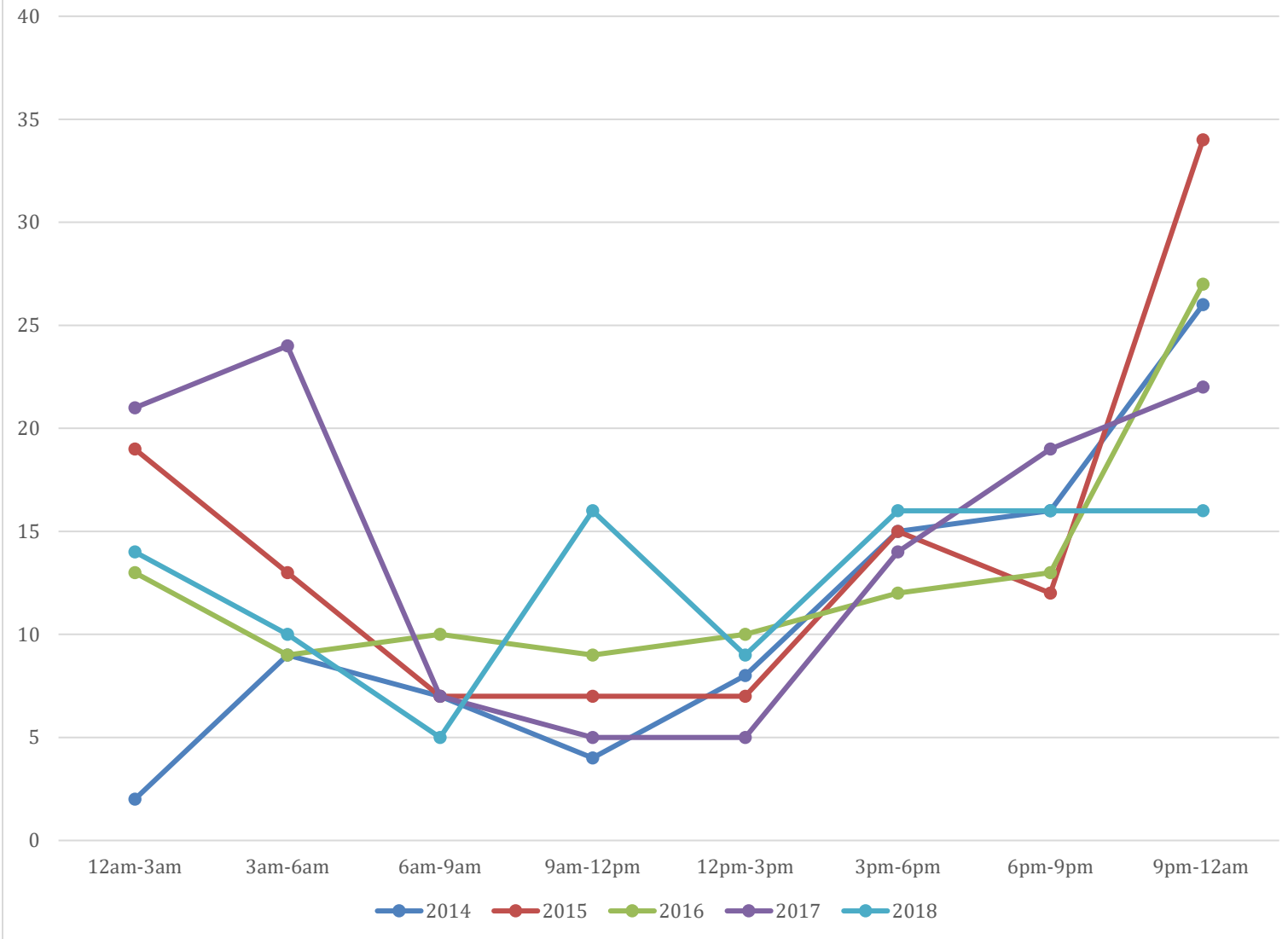
- Allegheny county population estimates at 1,188,294. Number of occupied homes in Allegheny County are 533, 960. Family led homes: 308,009, Husband-wife family: 222,332, Other family: 85,677, male led with no wife present: 20,406, female led with no husband present: 65,271, Nonfamily homes: 225,951, living alone: 186,958, not living alone:38,993
- Allegheny County consist of 130 Municipalities, plus the 32 within the City itself.

Allegheny County Homicides by Days of the Week 2014 - 2018



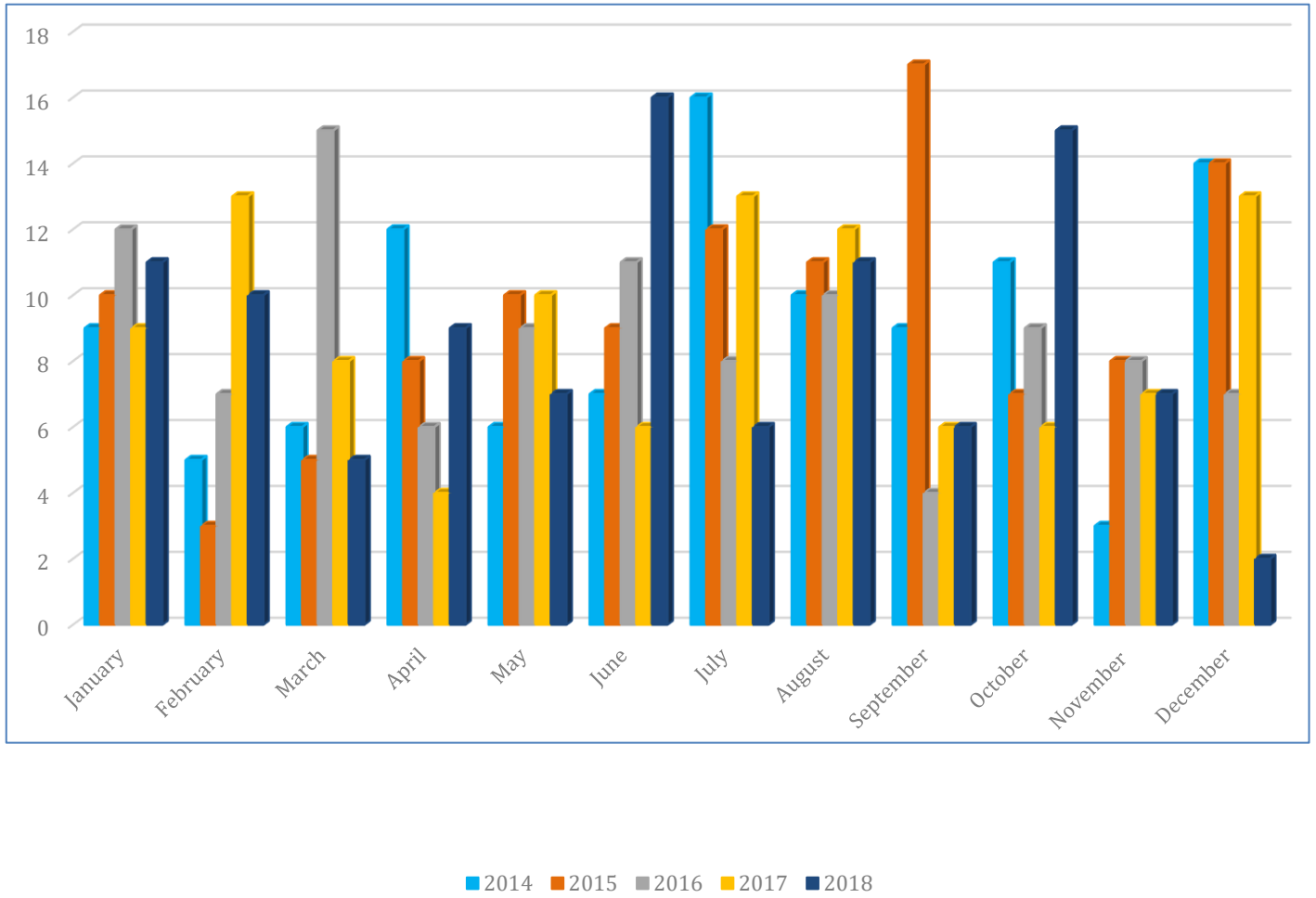
- Each year homicides tend to happen more on the weekend days than weekdays, in 2018 we saw an increase on Saturday than ever before and a decrease on Thursdays.

Allegheny County Homicides by Time of Day 2014-2018

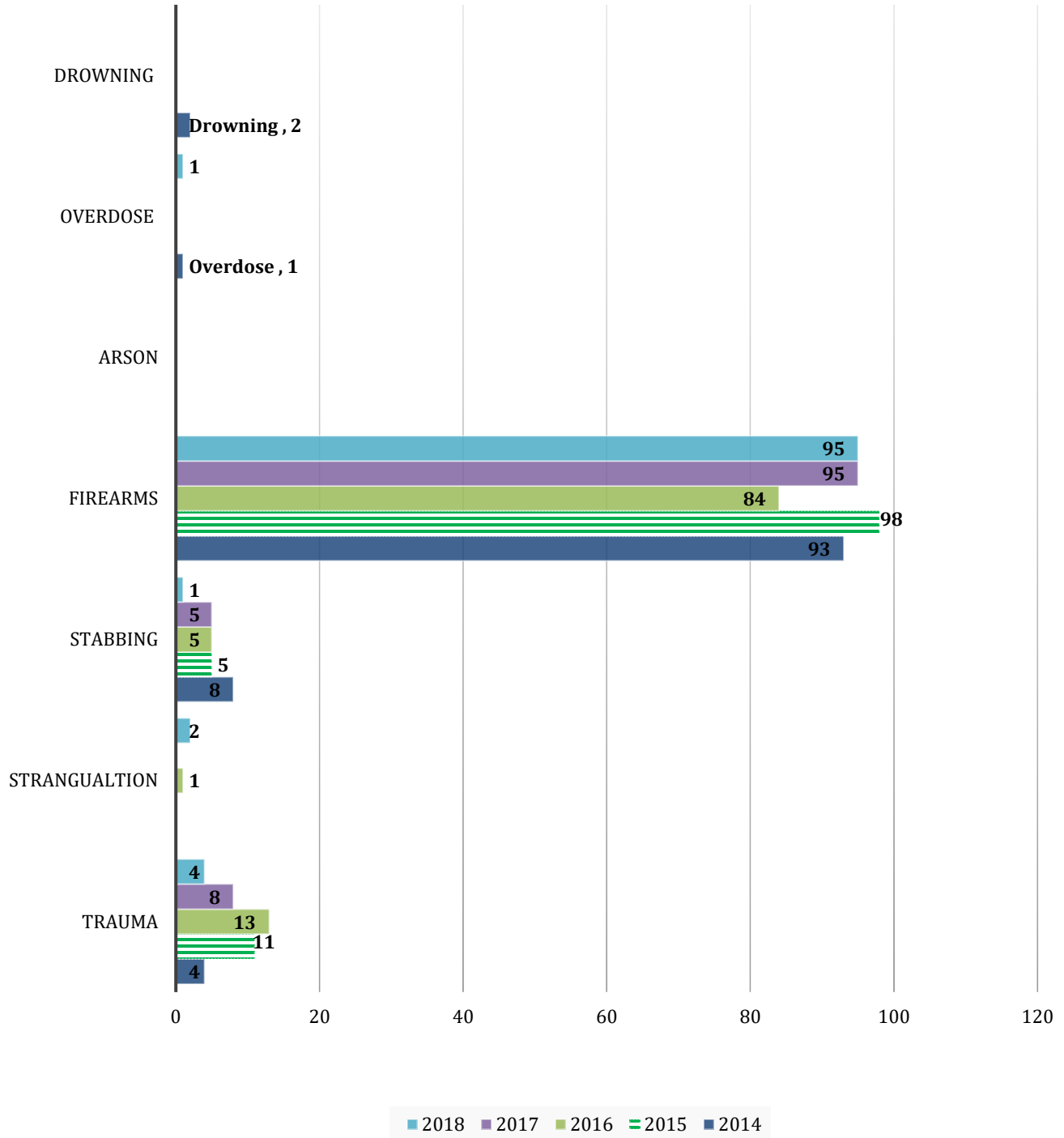


- Each year we usually see the same trend in times, 2018 we seen a spike in 9am-12pm due to the mass shooting of 11 people at the Squirrel Hill Synagogue.

Allegheny County Homicides by Month 2014 and 2018



Allegheny County Cause of Death 2014 and 2018



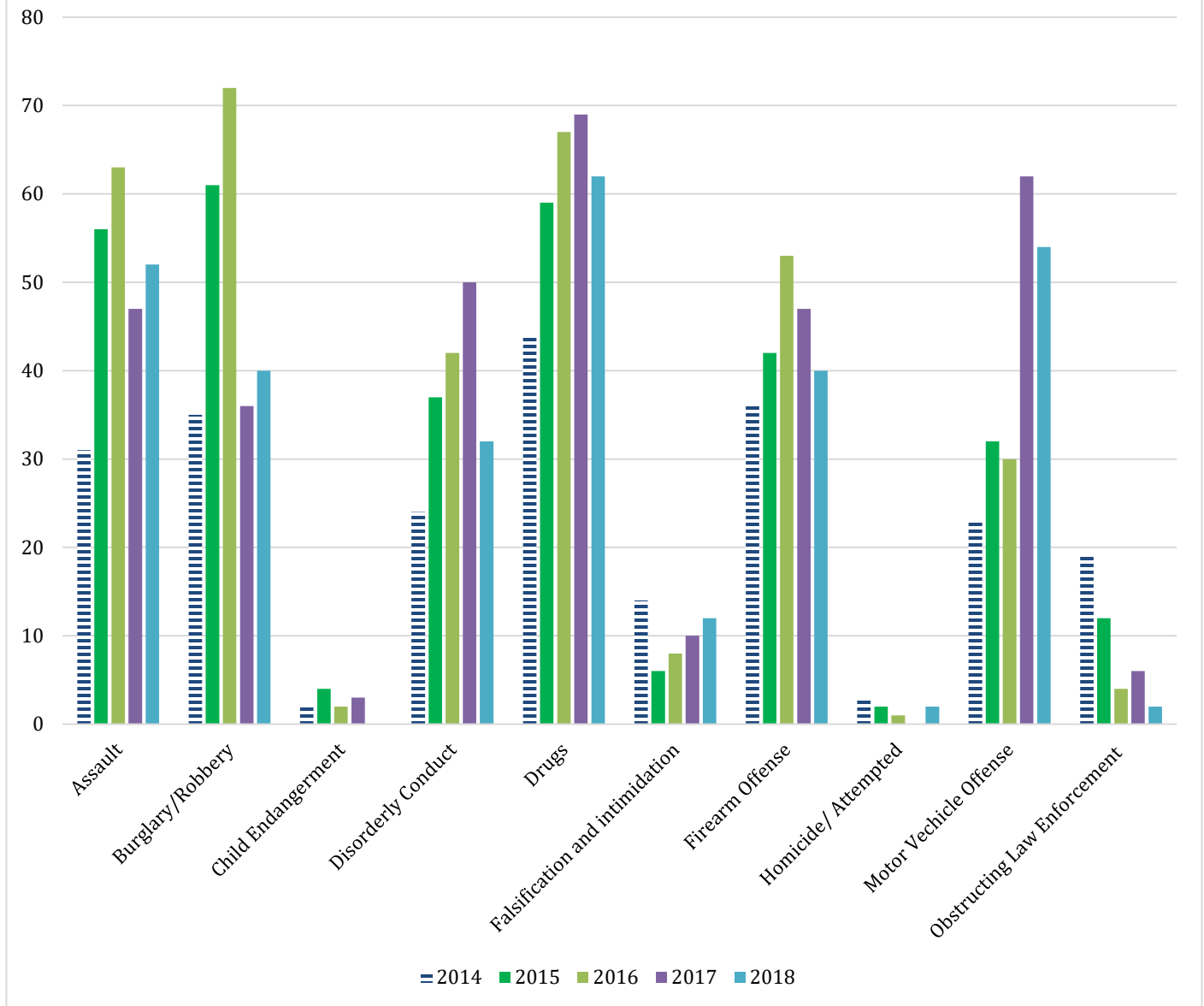
Characteristics	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Number of Homicides	108	114	106	107	106
Location Type					
Street, Road, Avenue	38	43	35	36	51
House/Home	33	36	3	35	20
Housing Authority Housing	7	5	7	0	1
Apartment	4	10	2	5	5
Automobile	8	10	16	15	10
Bar, Club, Business	7	3	0	2	3
Park, Parking lot, Wooded area	8	3	3	7	5
Group home, Correctional facility	0	1	0	0	0
Other(i.e. vacant building, river, business)	3	3	5	5	11
Residence of Victim at time of death					
Pittsburgh	46	55	44	39	42
Suburbs	29	54	48	51	40
Homeless	1	0	1	0	0
Unknown	32	2	12	14	24

Outside of Allegheny County	0	3	1	3	0
Killed in Neighborhood of Residence	32	55	43	62	57
Others injured in incident	4	15	15	14	12
Received DHS Services	66	69	48	72	68
Perpetrator/Suspect					
Arrest made	29	55	45	42	51
Deceased (e.g. murder-suicide)	4	2	2	4	3
Charges pending(e.g., self-defense)	1	2	1	0	0
Law Enforcement	1	3	1	1	2
Unknown	2	52	57	60	50

Conflict context, definition (Allegheny County, 2018)	
Conflict Context	Definitions & Clarification
Peer conflict* *Peer- move in the same circle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposeful, self-motivated • Peers or individuals with something in common (e.g., avocation, residence, age) with more than a superficial familiarity • Conflicts may stem from such things as drugs, money, power, or disrespect, but not gang business.
Gang/Group related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Department of Justice gang definition is used, specifically there is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Identifiable leadership and internal organization ◦ Collective identification by employing a common name, slogan, sign or symbol, style or color of clothing • Conflicts are “gang on gang” or one named gang versus another named gang and may involve such things as turf/territory, intimidation, power, pride and respect, or gang business (e.g., drugs, stolen commerce, firearms, prostitution) • Geographically defined boundaries in Pittsburgh that determine with what gang you should affiliate
Isolated Incident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidents that are criminally motivated, but do not involve aspects of a peer or gang-related conflict • Considered an isolated event • Conflicts may stem from such things as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Robbery, home invasion ◦ Argument/conflict ◦ Contracted killing
Child abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentional injury or violence towards a child
Intimate partner/Domestic violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentional injury or violence perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner (e.g., boyfriend, girlfriend, wife husband). • Domestic injury or Violence between family members or household affairs.
Non-criminal or unintentional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidents that are not criminally motivated and do not involve aspects of a peer or gang-related conflict • Conflicts may stem from such things as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Unintended target ◦ No apparent motive ◦ Negligence or improper firearm storage ◦ Personal protection or self-defense
Hate Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically one involving violence that is motivated by prejudice on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, or other grounds.
Law Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any incident that involves law enforcement
Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unknown due to incomplete information

Conflict Context Allegheny County	2015	2016	2017	2018
Peer conflict	42	43	49	25
Gang-related	0	0	0	0
Isolated Incident	17	16	9	13
Intimate partner or Domestic Violence	6	7	6	10
Child abuse	2	1	2	2
Non-criminal or unintentional	2	2	3	1
Hate Crime	0	0	0	12
Law Enforcement	3	1	1	2
Unknown	33	36	37	42

Allegheny County *Victim's* Previous Criminal Charges 2015 and 2018



- Drug charges was leading charges victims received, majority was manufacture, delivery, or possession with intent to manufacture or deliver.
- Charges shown are adult charges, 86% of victims had juvenile charges starting as young as 11 years of age

Key Contributing Factors

Public information and news outlets often oversimplify intentional injury and homicides in Allegheny County, frequently identifying street gangs and illicit drugs as the source of conflict. Through community engagement and academic-community partnerships, greater contextual information was gathered and homicides were found to involve a variety of factors. Numerous contributing factors were identified and discussed with partners as relevant to homicides from 2018.

Discussion took place around the role of street drugs, multigenerational family involvement in violence and illegal activities. This cycle of violence, and its impact on the breakdown of a family unit, was identified as a contributor to a victim's involvement in violence. Why we are taking the public health approach of violence being a disease and passed on.

The increasing access to and use of social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram) was still extensively discussed around homicide cases, particularly social media as an additional opportunity for conflict (i.e., beyond face-to-face arguments). In addition to things such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and twitter social media is beginning to play a larger role in sources of conflict among individuals and future violence and intentional injury. Additionally, drugs, alcohol, and access to firearms were also frequently highlighted as related to the homicides.

Violence as normative behavior and an appropriate form of conflict resolution was discussed as a significant contributing factor to the homicides. A lack of mentoring or positive behavior modeling within families, in addition to a potential familial cycle of violence, as well as within the schools and carried out in neighborhoods was identified as relevant in the homicides from 2018.

Seven Year Comparison: Emerging Differences

Victim and homicide differences emerged between 2012 and 2013. Female victims represented a larger number of homicides in 2013, (17% of total homicides, of which 50% were related to intimate partner violence). Furthermore, female intimate partner homicides were associated with a variation in cause of death compared to 2012 with 50% due to a gunshot wound, 25% due to poisoning, and 25% due to stabbing.

Age of homicide victim differed between the years, with the majority of victims aged 18 to 25 years in 2012 compared to the majority 35 years or older in 2013,

In 2014 firearm charges for victims and suspects before the homicide incidents took place more frequent. There were victims and suspects with more than one firearm charge usually juvenile to an adult. We noticed that more and more on our lists of homicide incidents were charged with firearm violations, more than 50% of our victims and suspects.

Data on victim's neighborhood of residence at time of death illustrates that in the four years approximately one quarter of 2015-2016 Allegheny County homicide victims were living outside of city limits at time of death.

In 2017-2018 we seen a rise in domestic violence both against intimate partner violence and domestic violence between family members 9% of homicides were domestic. Also we have seen an increase of home invasions and robberies coming I at 12% of homicides committed on the person committing the act and on the person(s) being robbed.

Recommendations

The complexity of homicide and intentional injury prevention has become increasingly clear over the past three years of project activities. In order to be effective, a range of interventions need to take place at multiple levels. The remainder of this report outlines recommendations from partners that incorporate information and insight gained in 2015. Some of the recommendations are similar to those made following the review of homicides from 2012-2018, illustrating the improvements that still need to take place. Divided into *Individuals and Peers at Risk*, *Service Improvement*, and *Community Action*, the recommendations identify potential opportunities to further understand, increase awareness, and prevent and respond to violence impacting Allegheny County communities.

Individuals and Peers at Risk

- **Identify and involve the support network of at-risk individuals.** Natural supports are key assets in encouraging an individual's engagement, commitment, and success in health and behavior programs. Natural supports play a critical role in the well-being and safety of individuals at risk for violence through their support and advocacy and should be identified and engaged in violence prevention and intervention activities.
- **Reach out and engage those at risk for violence who are not currently involved in a mandated health or behavior program.** Due to regulations of local health and behavior programs (e.g., juvenile court), individuals who are not under mandated involvement, but who may be at risk for violence, are unable to access services that may be of benefit. Emphasis needs to be on engaging and linking these individuals at multiple points of contact (e.g., primary care clinics, community-based organizations, after school programs) to appropriate health and behavior programs.

Service Improvement

- **Enhance linkages between behavior, health, and social programs and systems.** Continuity between behavior, health, and social systems is crucial. Linkages between systems should be improved to avoid any interruption in use or loss to follow-up.
- **Focus on engagement.** Individuals, particularly youth, may be more willing to participate in community health and social programs if they are engaged, rather than identified as needing a particular service. Getting the children of homicide victims more involved in community activities and keeping them actively busy, would be a valuable investment

- **Modify participation requirements.** Community adolescent or youth programs often require a parent/guardian's signature or payment in order to participate. These requirements eliminate potential participants who are unable to provide either a signature or payment. Program modifications or exceptions to participation requirements would ensure that all interested adolescents have a chance to participate, and overall, increase their access to a supportive community.
- **Adapt structure of service delivery in community settings.** Community stigma and distrust of certain institutions are significant barriers to access and utilization of existing health and social services. Health and social service organizations should adapt their structure of service delivery to include non-traditional methods (e.g., having more men and women walking neighborhoods) to not only increase awareness and program participation, but also better understand why current services are not being utilized and combat stigma and distrust.
- **Increase communication and coordination among organizations concerned with violence prevention efforts.** Numerous organizations are currently working with individuals and families at risk for violence or around local violence prevention efforts. Increased communication and coordination between these organizations would promote earlier intervention with individuals with an increased risk of victimization, as well as foster a larger network of individually tailored violence prevention efforts.

Community Action

- **Combat attitudes of violence as normative behavior and an appropriate form of conflict resolution.** The normalization of violence exists within Pittsburgh families and communities, and overall, supports a cycle of violence. Increase anti-violence initiatives that combat such attitudes; promote positive behavior modeling for children, youth, and young adults; and teach and encourage appropriate conflict resolution strategies.
- **Improve and strengthen community-police relations.** Poor community-police relations negatively impact and undermine violence prevention efforts. Increased trust, respect, and accountability between both groups is essential in order to work toward creating safe communities.
- **Distribute anti-violence and homicide awareness, education, and prevention materials throughout Pittsburgh.** Homicide and community violence information should be distributed throughout communities, local government and county agencies, and local media. Through increasing awareness and knowledge of homicide prevalence, greater attention and discussion can take place around the urgency for more effective prevention efforts.

- **Increase community participation and investment in violence prevention efforts.** Numerous community organizations, groups, and coalitions are already providing anti-violence awareness, education, and prevention throughout Allegheny County. Local governmental agencies, academic institutions, and community assets (e.g., barbershops and beauty salons, religious institutions, funeral homes) should support these existing efforts, so that a broad coalition to confront the violence problem impacting our communities can be created.

Community Recommendations

- **Enhance data collection efforts.** Toxicology reports conducted by the medical examiner's office, victim's social media presence, and prior residence information, as well as information on surviving children and other family members, would allow for an improved review of homicides. Additionally, data collection efforts should be expanded to better account for the unique factors involved in intimate partner homicides, such as history of abuse, including Protection from Abuse (PFA) filings and prior police-involved incidents; history of substance abuse; weapons in the home; use of community resources; and previous use of mental health and other behavioral health services by perpetrator.
- **Increase police involvement.** Collaboration for the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and County police and their involvement and representation in homicide review meetings is crucial to gaining a comprehensive understanding of homicides within Allegheny County. Their commitment and participation may also foster improved community relations.
- **Disseminate findings through multiple methods.** Findings should be disseminated widely, including non-traditional methods such as public safety meetings, as well as shared with neighborhoods and communities impacted by violence to encourage community engagement and dialogue around appropriate intervention and prevention efforts. Placing copies of the report in barbershops and hair salons, for the community to read.
- **Track initiative involvement.** It is important to keep track of the diverse violence prevention initiatives around Allegheny County and to observe their impacts on the homicide rate. Bringing representatives from these initiatives to the table to share with all homicide review members is essential; they may also assist in disseminating information to the community.
- **Increase awareness of Social Media.** Informing community members to check children, family members and friend's social media pages for threats of violence. Social media has a huge effect on the violence in schools, business and the community as a whole. Getting on top of the issues before they occur through the

social media lenses will help stop a lot if not most of the violence we see in our communities.

Community Resources

Center for Victims

3433 East Carson Suite #300
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
(412) 482-3240
24 hour crisis hotline 1-866-644-2882

Community Empowerment Association

Arts, Culture, & Training Center
7120 Kelly Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
(412) 371-3689

First United Methodist Church

1406 Cornell Street
McKeesport, PA 15132
(412) 672-5352

Department of Human Services

1 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 350-5701

Hill House Association

1835 Centre Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 392-4400

Homewood Community Engagement Center

622 N Homewood Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
(412) 383-0830

Manchester Citizens Corporation

1319 Allegheny Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

(412) 323-1743

National Council for Urban Peace and Justice

P.O. Box 99746
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
(412) 606-0059

One Hood Media

info@1hood.org
(412) 404-2347

The Pittsburgh Project

2801 North Charles Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15214
(412) 321-1678

The Corner Pittsburgh

200 Robinson St
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
(412) 683-1400

Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh

610 Wood Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

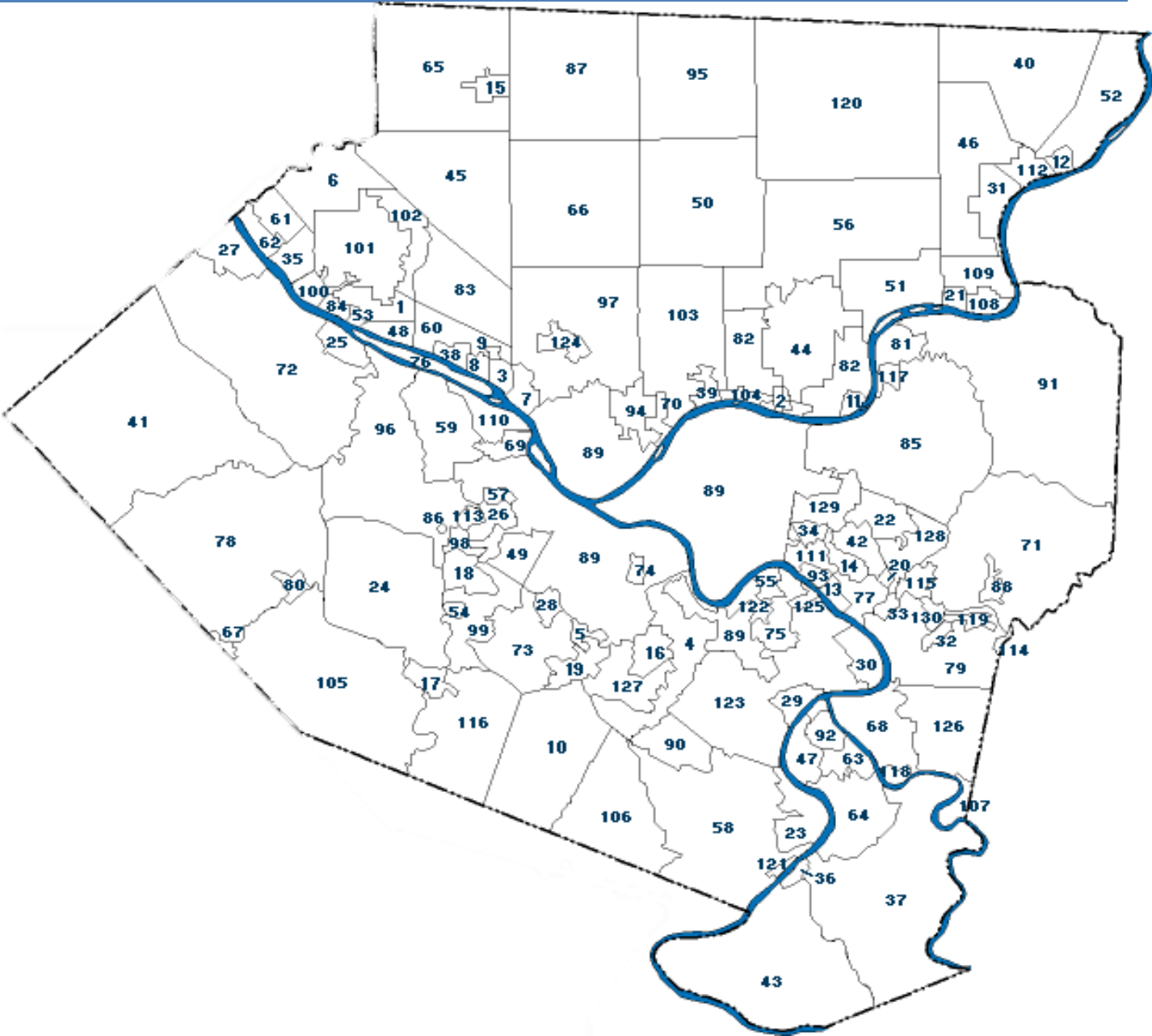
YMCA Homewood

7140 Bennett Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
(412) 243-2900

Kingsley Association

6435 Frankstown Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
(412) 661-8751
kingsleyassociation.org

Appendix A. Allegheny County Zone Map

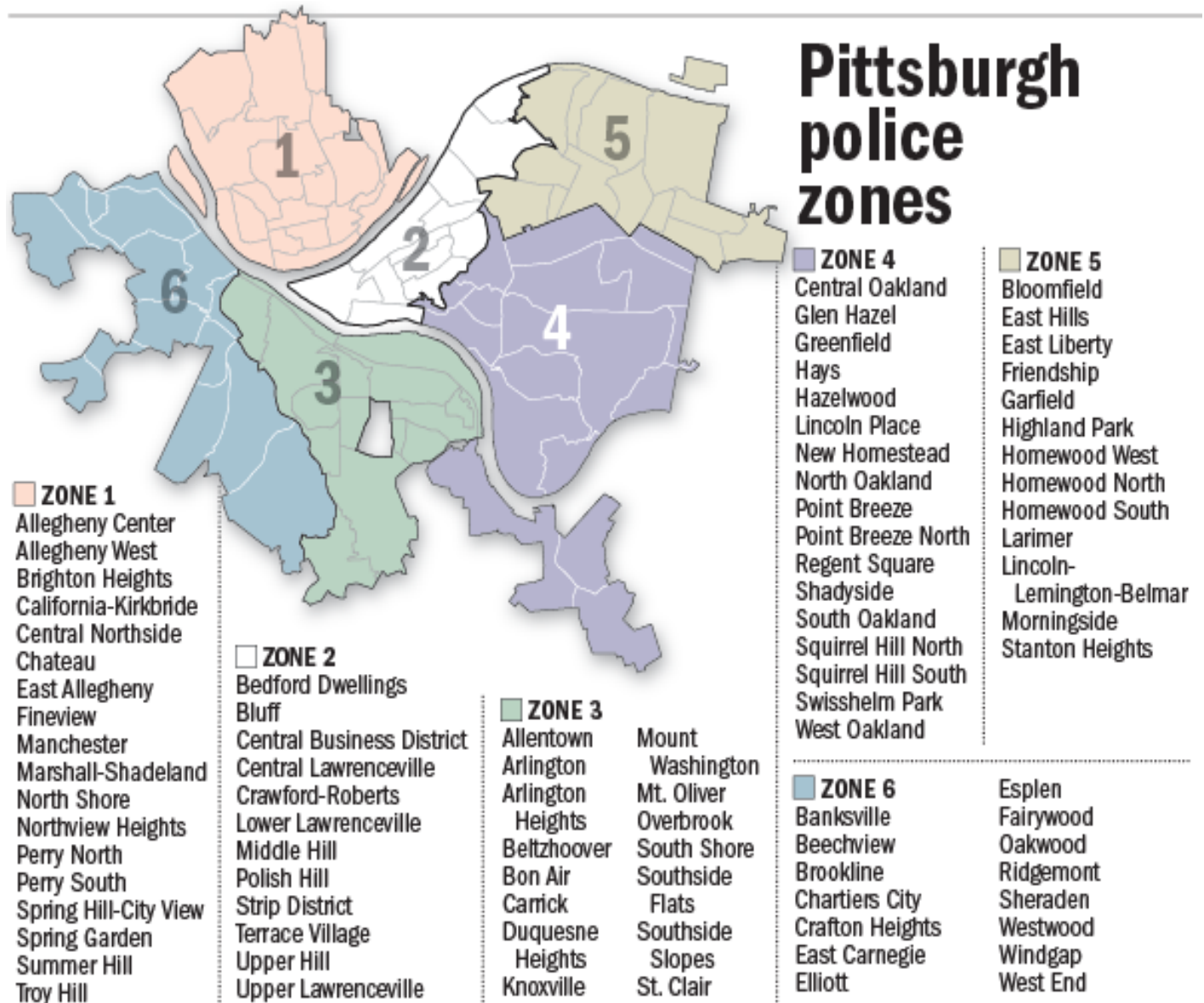


Source: <http://apps.alleghenycounty.us/website/MuniList.asp>

- 1 Aleppo Township
- 2 Borough of Aspinwall
- 3 Borough of Avalon
- 4 Borough of Baldwin
- 5 Baldwin Township
- 6 Borough of Bell Acres
- 7 Borough of Bellevue
- 8 Borough of Ben Avon
- 9 Borough of Ben Avon Hts.
- 10 Municipality of Bethel Park
- 11 Borough of Blawnox
- 12 Borough of Brackenridge
- 13 Borough of Braddock
- 14 Borough of Braddock Hills
- 15 Borough of Bradford Woods
- 16 Borough of Brentwood
- 17 Borough of Bridgeville
- 18 Borough of Carnegie
- 19 Borough of Castle Shannon
- 20 Borough of Chalfant
- 21 Borough of Cheswick
- 22 Borough of Churchill
- 23 City of Clairton
- 24 Collier Township
- 25 Borough of Coraopolis
- 26 Borough of Crafton
- 27 Crescent Township
- 28 Borough of Dormont
- 29 Borough of Dravosburg
- 30 City of Duquesne
- 31 East Deer Township
- 32 Borough of East McKeesport
- 33 Borough of East Pittsburgh
- 34 Borough of Edgewood
- 35 Borough of Edgeworth
- 36 Borough of Elizabeth
- 37 Elizabeth Township
- 38 Borough of Emsworth
- 39 Borough of Etna
- 40 Fawn Township
- 41 Findlay Township
- 42 Borough of Forest Hills
- 43 Forward Township
- 44 Borough of Fox Chapel
- 45 Borough of Franklin Park
- 46 Frazer Township
- 47 Borough of Glassport
- 84 Borough of Glen Osborne
(formerly Osborne)
- 48 Borough of Glenfield
- 49 Borough of Green Tree
- 50 Hampton Township
- 51 Harmar Township
- 52 Harrison Township
- 53 Borough of Haysville
- 54 Borough of Heidelberg
- 55 Borough of Homestead
- 56 Indiana Township
- 57 Borough of Ingram
- 58 Borough of Jefferson Hills
- 59 Kennedy Township
- 60 Kilbuck Township
- 61 Leet Township
- 62 Borough of Leetsdale
- 63 Borough of Liberty
- 64 Borough of Lincoln
- 65 Marshall Township
- 66 Town of McCandless
- 67 Borough of McDonald
- 68 City of McKeesport
- 69 Borough of McKees Rocks
- 70 Borough of Millvale
- 71 Municipality of Monroeville
- 72 Moon Township
- 73 Municipality of Mt. Lebanon
- 74 Borough of Mt. Oliver

- 75 Borough of Munhall
- 76 Neville Township
- 77 North Braddock Borough
- 78 North Fayette Township
- 79 North Versailles Township
- 80 Borough of Oakdale
- 81 Borough of Oakmont
- 82 O'Hara Township
- 83 Ohio Township
- 85 Municipality of Penn Hills
- 86 Pennsbury Village
- 87 Pine Township
- 88 Borough of Pitcairn
- 89 City of Pittsburgh
- 90 Borough of Pleasant Hills
- 91 Borough of Plum
- 92 Borough of Port Vue
- 93 Borough of Rankin
- 94 Reserve Township
- 95 Richland Township
- 96 Robinson Township
- 97 Ross Township
- 98 Borough of Rosslyn Farms
- 99 Scott Township
- 100 Borough of Sewickley
- 101 Borough of Sewickley Hts.
- 102 Borough of Sewickley Hills
- 103 Shaler Township
- 104 Borough of Sharpsburg
- 105 South Fayette Township
- 106 South Park Township
- 107 South Versailles Township
- 108 Borough of Springdale
- 109 Springdale Township
- 110 Stowe Township
- 111 Borough of Swissvale
- 112 Borough of Tarentum
- 113 Borough of Thornburg
- 114 Borough of Trafford
- 115 Borough of Turtle Creek
- 116 Upper St. Clair Township
- 117 Borough of Verona
- 118 Borough of Versailles
- 119 Borough of Wall
- 120 West Deer Township
- 121 Borough of West Elizabeth
- 122 Borough of West Homestead
- 123 Borough of West Mifflin
- 124 Borough of West View
- 125 Borough of Whitaker
- 126 Borough of White Oak
- 127 Borough of Whitehall
- 128 Wilkins Township
- 129 Borough of Wilkinsburg
- 130 Borough of Wilmerding

Appendix B. Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Zone Map



Source: Pittsburgh Bureau of Police

James Hilston/Post-Gazette

Appendix C. Bibliography

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