

Community Violence Prevention Project

Homicide Review Findings Report



GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES
Center for Health Equity

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PUBLIC HEALTH

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Executive Summary

Our detailed review of Allegheny County's 106 homicides in 2016 further supports the need to distinguish between types of homicide cases. The 2016 homicide total for the City of Pittsburgh was 57 (decrease of 3% from 2015) and for the Suburbs 49 (decrease of 11% from 2015).

Allegheny County Homicide Demographics 2016

- 86 victims were male (81% in 2016 compared to 87% in 2015).
- 83 victims were black (78% in 2016, compared to 81% in 2015).
- 30 victims were killed in Pittsburgh Zone 5 (28% in 2016, compared to 17% in 2015).
- The median age of a homicide victim was 27.
- 27% of homicide victims were African American males between the ages of 21-30.
- The median age of a homicide suspect was 24.

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 either Wednesday or Friday
 - The homicide involved a firearm

Key findings from 2016 show that:

- **Homicide victimization continues to be unevenly distributed across populations or places.** While only 13% of Allegheny County residents are black or African American, 83% of the victims were black. Twenty eight percent of the homicides occurred in just 1 of Allegheny County's 130 neighborhoods.
- **Firearms are the main cause of death.** Cause of death in 81% of homicides was gunshot wounds.
- **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); prevalence of drugs, alcohol, and access to firearms; 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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,¹ 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 2016 Homicide Reviews,² this represents our fifth findings report.

Background and Overview

We have adapted the Homicide review process developed by the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission. Milwaukee's Reviews have three concrete components. These include an **Executive Committee** made up of the law enforcement leaders (both state and federal), hospital, Department of Human Services, Mayor's office, County Executive, Probation and Parole. These are considered the people in power that can implement recommendations from the review.

The second committee is the **Review Committee**. This group includes individuals that may be involved in the Executive Committee. This review is a community review and includes people from community-based organizations who have an interest in stopping homicides. In our community review we do not speak about any suspects or potential suspects.

The last is the **Working group**. These people carry out efforts recommended by the Executive Committee. These services include working with the victim's children by offering services needed to keep their children out of harm's way. The Working group is made up of providers who deliver services, such as mental health or drug and alcohol treatment.

Efforts from the three groups are connected. The Working group may recommend a change in policy or procedure that requires some type of legislative change. This group can make that recommendation to the Executive Committee, which in turn will seek ways to change the way the city or county does business.

Allegheny County still faces a major challenge with firearm-related homicide. Non-urban communities face increased violence. Movement of people across city-county boundaries has changed the location and risk of violence. The role of this transient population has become more apparent as in previous years.

A key need emerging from our Reviews is to address children of victims, to assure they get needed services to remain intact after a loss of an adult in their lives. We are exploring mentoring opportunities for children who have lost parents.

A second need is to connect activities in the County Jail and Shuman Juvenile Detention with community violence. Our related project, GRIPS project (Gun-Shot Recurring Injury

Prevention Services), is a helpful tool to make us aware of some of the things that may be going on in the streets. More importantly, it's a tool we use to get in front of issues that may be brewing.

Finally, we note that location of violence shows some fluctuation. The East end continues to be the site of the greatest number of homicides. The North side is running second in the city, followed by the South Side. Outside the city, McKeesport is most affected by homicides in the county. We realize that there are more city people in the county, and we are seeing an influx of guys from the county into our city neighborhoods. We see the numbers in the South Side climbing as more gentlemen from Braddock and Rankin seem to be hanging in that community. The North Side represents the same issue.

Methods

Objectives

The key objectives of the project are to:

1. Uncover patterns among incidents of homicide;
2. Identify key preventable factors that contribute to homicide;
3. Collectively develop recommendations about what could have been done to prevent homicides, and
4. Disseminate information and engage in community dialogue about violence prevention within Pittsburgh neighborhoods.

Expanding on the methods developed in 2012 through 2015,² we sought to gain an enhanced understanding of the greater contextual and underlying factors involved in the 2016 Allegheny County homicides. An advisory board offered guidance on project activities.

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, anti-gun violence advocates, and community members with long-standing experience with violence prevention efforts in Allegheny County.

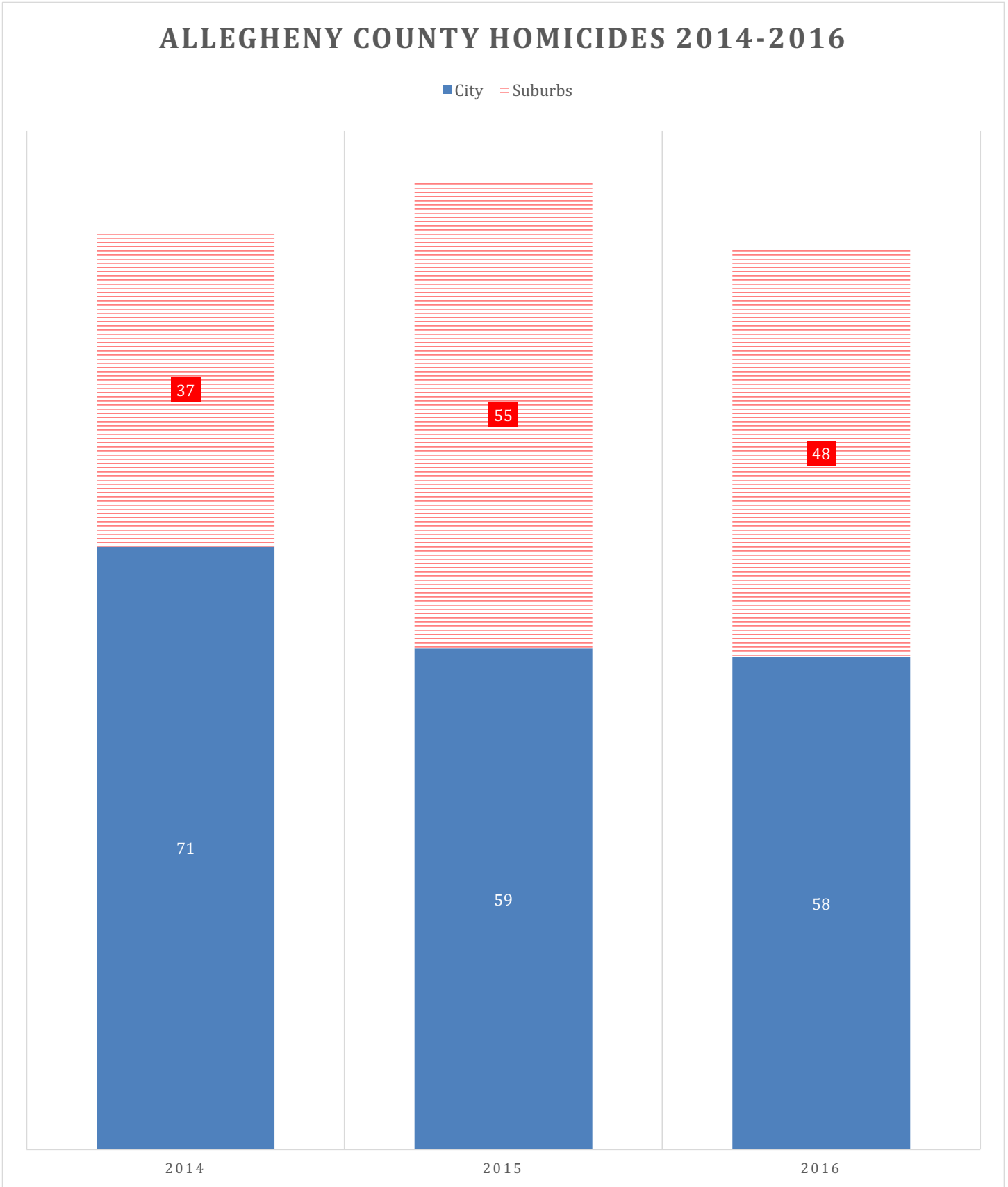
Data from Partners Data were collected on the 106 homicides through complementary sources of information including the Allegheny County Jail, Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Allegheny County Adult and Juvenile Probation, various social media

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 team members - two academic research staff - constituted the "outreach team," who gathered fine-grained, contextual information surrounding the homicides from communities impacted by violence in 2016. Our outreach team members are long-term residents of Pittsburgh 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 February 2016 to January 2017 in which all 2016 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.



Allegheny County Homicide **Victim** by Race, Gender and Age **2015** and **2016**

Figure 2

	Age 0-10		11-20		21-30		41-50		50+	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
Black Males	1	4	22	15	31	29	19	9	5	9
White Males	0	0	2	1	6	6	0	1	6	3
Black Females	1	1	2	2	3	7	0	1	1	1
White Females	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	4
Asian Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Iranian Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hispanic Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

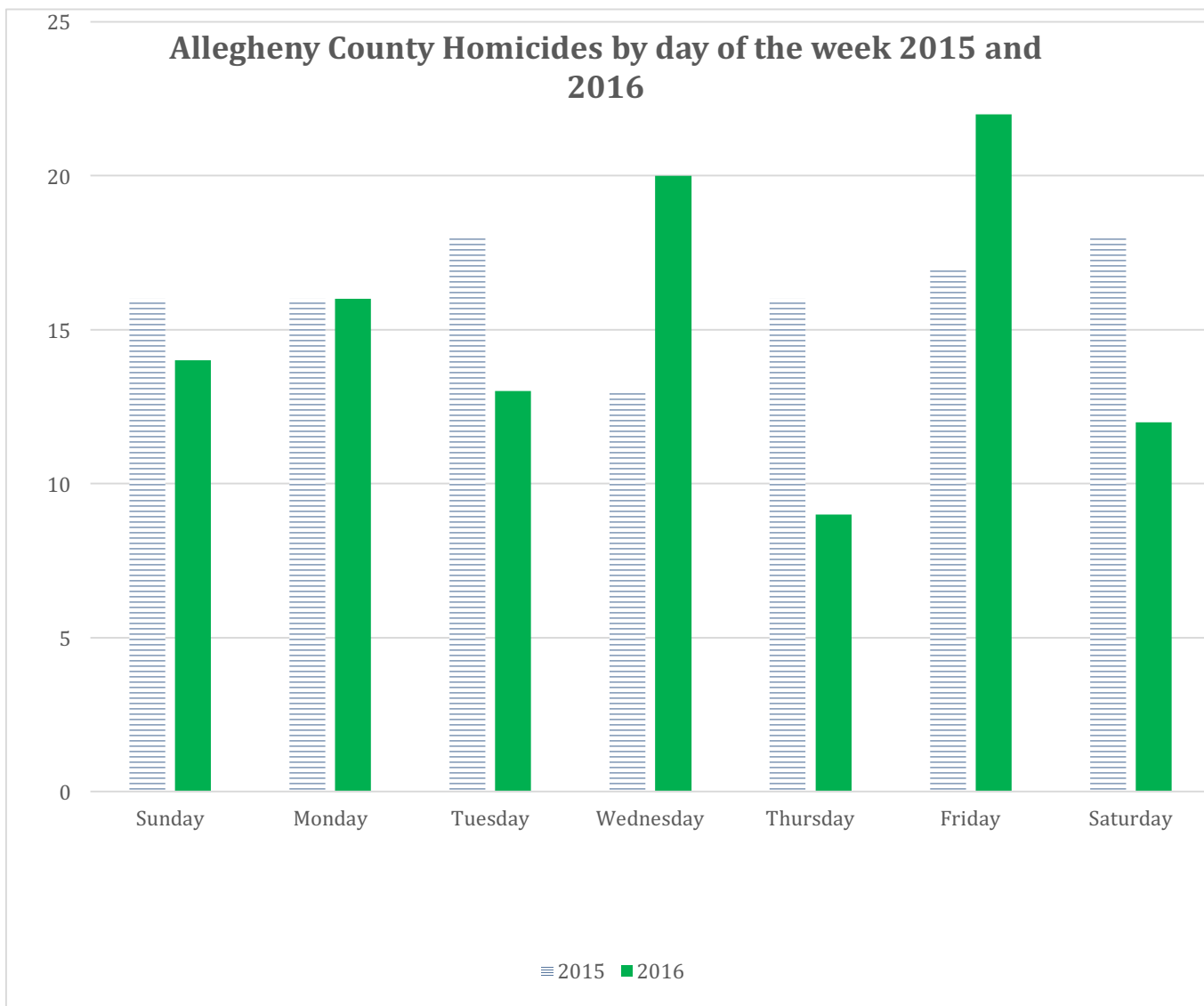
- Allegheny county population estimates at 1,225,365. Within that white alone 80.7%, black or African American alone 13.4%, Asian alone 3.6%, Hispanic or Latino 2.0% and 2 or more races 2.1%
- 51.7% of Allegheny County are females. 16 years and over represent 83.1%.
- Allegheny County consist of 130 Municipalities, plus the 32 within the City itself.

Figure 3

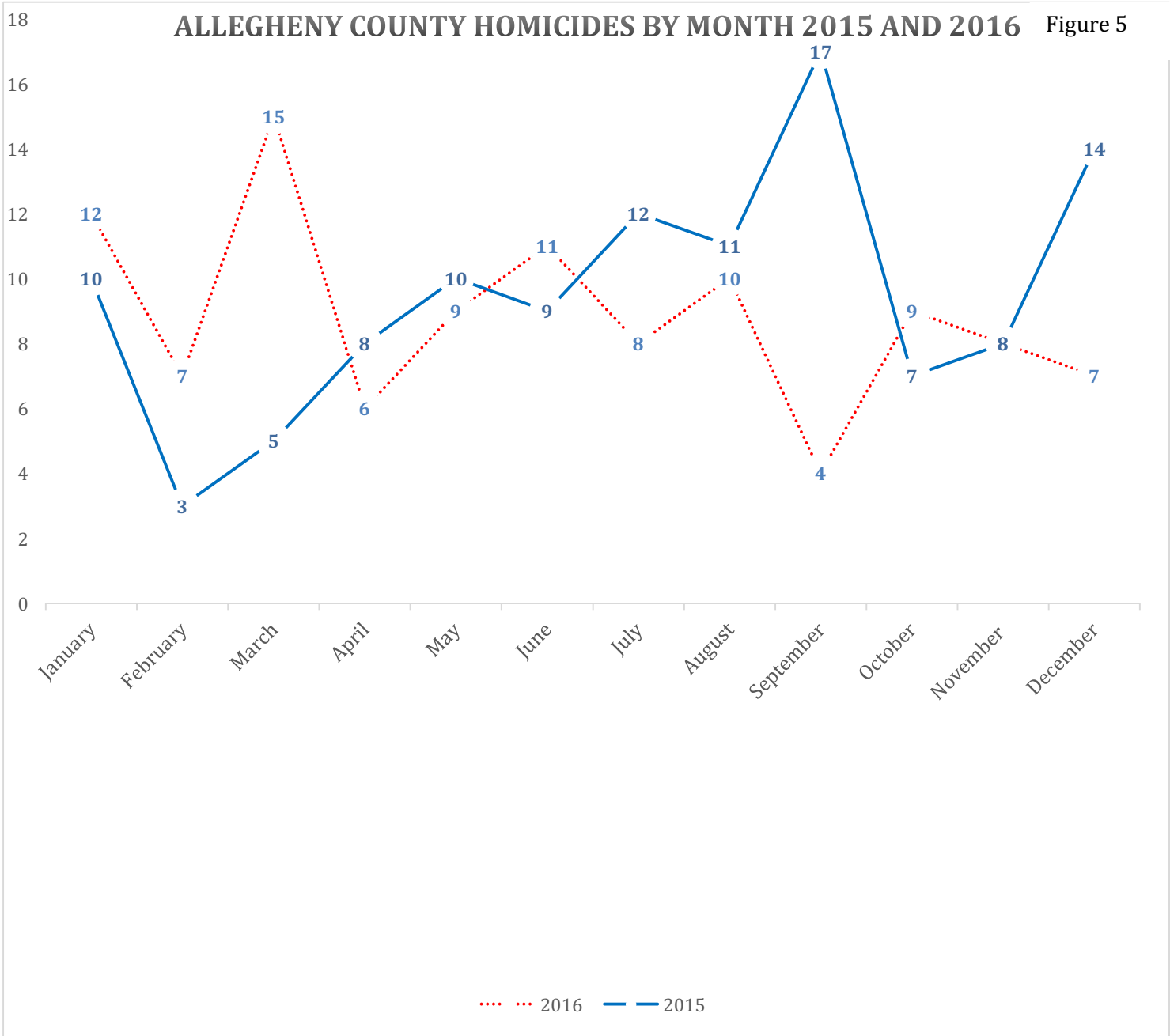
Zip Code	Neighborhood(s)	Land Area	Population	Police Department	Homicide Victims 2014	Homicide Victims 2015	Homicide Victims 2016
15236	Baldwin	5.9 sq mi	19,812	Baldwin P.D.	0	2	0
15101	Allison Park	13.82 sq. mi	21, 741	Hampton Township P.D.	0	0	1
15202	Bellevue	1.01 sq. mi	8624	Bellevue P.D.	0	0	3
15014	Brackenridge	0.51 sq. mi	3262	Brackenridge P.D.	0	0	1
15104	Braddock	2.45 sq. mi	8839	Braddock P.D.	4	5	3
15221	Braddock Hills	1.0 sq mi	1880	Braddock Hills P.D.	0	2	0
15227	Brentwood	1.45 Sq. mi	9613	Brentwood P.D.	0	0	2
15025	Clairton, Jefferson Hills	2.8 sq mi	6796	Clairton P.D.	0	5	3
15216	Dormont	0.7 sq mi	8593	Dormont P.D.	0	0	0
15110	Duquesne	1.82 sq. mi	5547	Duquesne P.D.	3	0	0
15112	East Pittsburgh	0.4 sq mi	1822	East Pittsburgh P.D.	0	2	1
15233	Etna	0.73 sq. mi	3397	Etna P.D.	0	0	2
15238	Forward Township	19.9 sq. mi	3771	Forward Township P.D.	0	1	0
15120	Homestead	1.90 sq. mi	3079	Homestead P.D.	1	2	2
15215	Kennedy, Sharpsburg	6.1 sq mi	11,118	Kennedy/Sharpsburg P.D.	0	2	0
15237	McCandless	24.21 sq. mi	41499	McCandless P.D.	2	0	0
15136	McKees Rocks	11.13 sq. mi	23184	McKees Rocks P.D.	4	5	3
15132	McKeesport	5.65 sq. mi	21057	McKeesport P.D.	4	11	4
15146	Monroeville	19.8 sq mi	28386	Monroeville P.D.	0	2	0
15108	Moon	39.47 sq. mi	38927	Moon Township P.D.	1	1	0
15120	Munhall	4.67 sq. mi	18833	Munhall P.D.	1	0	0
15139	Oakmont	1.59 sq. mi	6412	Oakmont P.D.	0	0	1
15235	Penn Hills	14.66 sq. mi	33681	Penn Hills P.D.	3	3	3
15104	Rankin	0.44 sq. mi	1955	Rankin P.D.	0	0	2
15116	Shaler	11.2 sq mi	28757	Shaler P.D.	0	1	0
15218	Swissvale	1.2 sq mi	8983	Swissvale P.D.	0	2	0
15145	Turtle Creek	1.97 sq. mi	6945	Turtle Creek P.D.	1	0	1
15241	Upper St. Clair	10.4 sq. mi	19651	Upper St. Clair P.D.	1	0	0
15147	Verona	10.12 sq. mi	17743	Verona P.D.	5	0	0
15122	West Mifflin	14.2 sq mi	20313	West Mifflin P.D.	0	2	3
15229	West View	1.0 sq mi	6771	West View P.D.	0	1	0
15221	Wilkinsburg	6.15 sq. mi	31069	Wilkinsburg P.D.	7	5	12
15148	Wilmerding	0.4 sq. mi	2,190	North Versailles P.D.	0	1	1
15212	Northside	6.22 sq. mi	27135	Zone 1 P.D.	5	6	9
15214	Northside	4.7 sq. mi	14293	Zone 1 P.D.	6	5	7
15233	Manchester	0.279 sq mi	2130	Zone 1 P.D.	0	2	0
15210	Brentwood	6.8 sq. mi	28641	Zone 2 P.D.	1	2	1
15219	Hill District	2.29 sq. mi	17684	Zone 2 P.D.	8	6	3
15222	Strip District	0.81 sq. mi	3525	Zone 2 P.D.	1	0	1
15211	Mt. Washinton	1.139 sq mi	8799	Zone 3 P.D.	0	2	1
15210	Allentown, Arlington, Beltzhoover, Carrick, Knoxville	4.64 sq. mi	24920	Zone 3 P.D.	10	8	9
15207	Hazelwood	4.79 sq. mi	10779	Zone 4 P.D.	2	1	0
15213	Oakland	2.13 sq. mi	25066	Zone 4 P.D.	1	3	1
15221	East Hills	0.541 sq mi	3169	Zone 5 P.D.	0	5	2
15224	Bloomfield, Garfield,	1.01 sq. mi	10172	Zone 5 P.D.	7	4	3
15206	East Liberty, Larimer, Lincoln Lemington	2.838 sq. mi	12584	Zone 5 P.D.	7	4	1
15208	Homewood	1.61 sq. mi	10486	Zone 5 P.D.	12	7	10
15201	Stanton Heights	2.48 sq. mi	12850	Zone 5 P.D.	1	0	1
15216	Beechview	1.46 sq mi	7974	Zone 6 P.D.	0	2	0
15205	Crafton Heights	0.754 sq mi	3814	Zone 6 P.D.	0	1	2
15226	Brookline	2.54 sq. mi	13551	Zone 6 P.D.	1	1	1
15204	Chartiers, Esplen, Sheraden	1.86 sq. mi	7986	Zone 6 P.D.	5	0	4
15220	Elliot	4.94 sq. mi	18023	Zone 6 P.D.	4	0	2

- Allegheny County consist of 130 Municipalities, plus the 32 within the City itself.

Figure 4

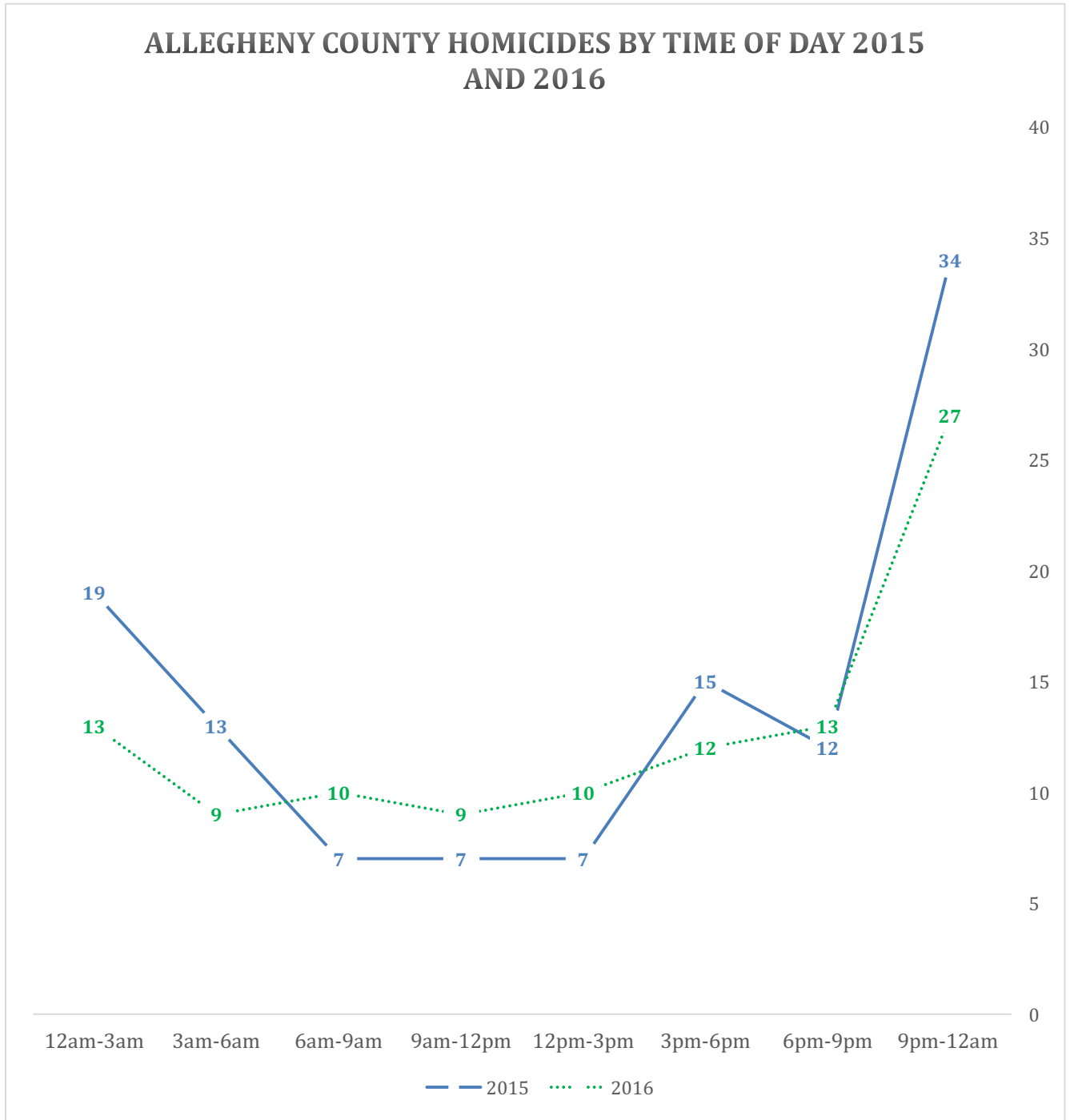


- Each year homicides tend to happen more on the weekend days than weekdays, in 2016 we saw a decrease on Saturdays and an increase on Wednesdays. The increase on Wednesday in 2016 was due to a massacre shooting of 6 people in one day. Friday-Sunday accounted for 42% of Allegheny County homicides. We have been seeing a decrease of weekend homicides and increase during the weekdays.
- From 2015 we saw a decrease on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, then an increase in 2016 on Wednesdays and Fridays.

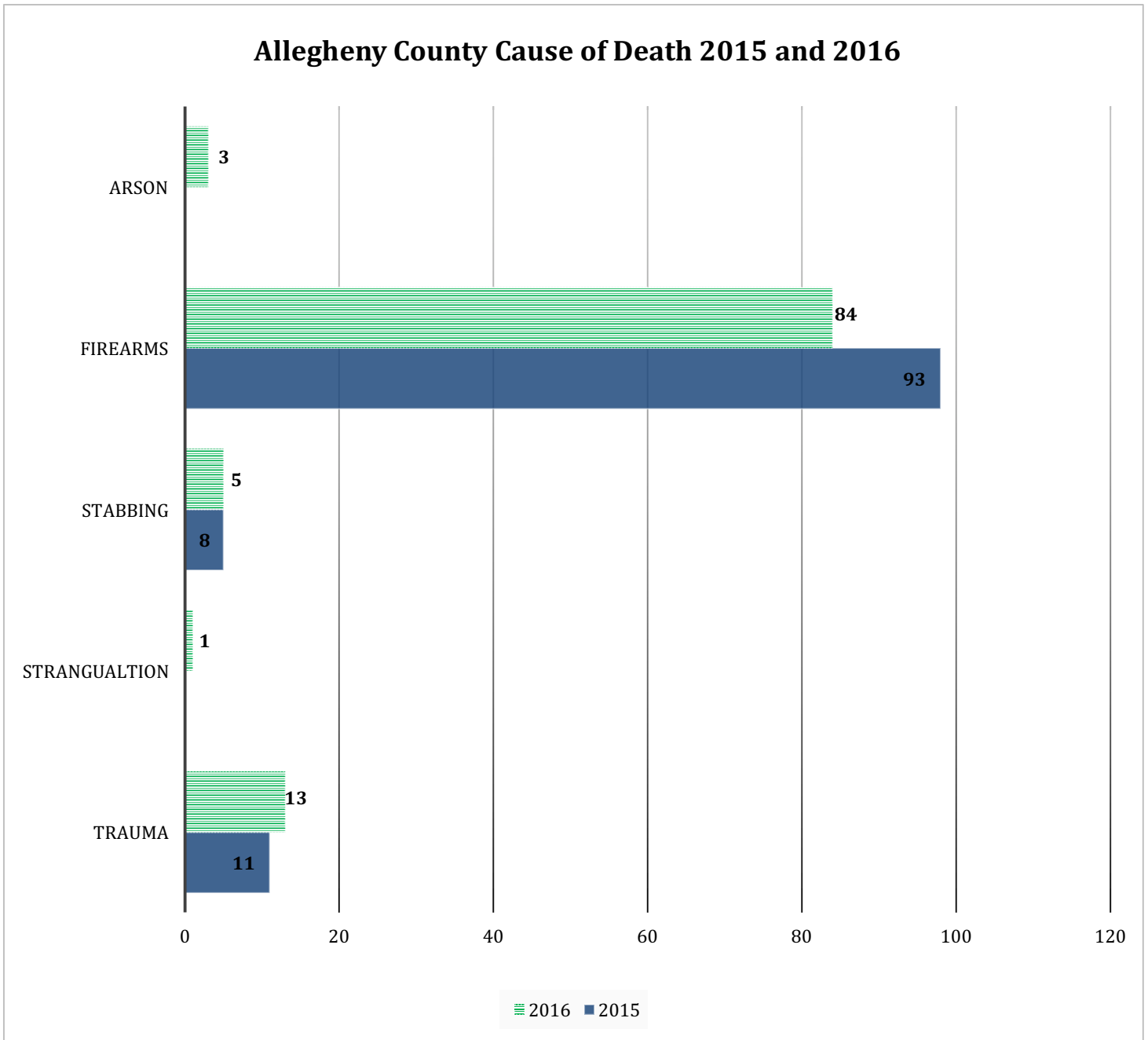


- In 2015 we seen an increase around the beginning of the 4 seasons (December, March, June and September). In 2016 September had a decrease of 76% December had a decrease of 50% and March had an increase of 67%.

Figure 6



- Homicides in Allegheny County happen between the hours of 9pm and 6am and has been the same in the past 5 years.
- The times are recorded by time of incident during the homicide.



- Firearms remain the most common cause of homicide death in Allegheny County.
- Causes of death can vary, causes that have not occurred in 2015 or 2016 can be overdose and drowning

Figure 8

Characteristics	2015	2016
Total Number of Homicides	114	106
Location Type		
Street, road, avenue	43	35
House/Home	36	37
Housing Authority Housing	5	7
Apartment building	10	2
Automobile	10	16
Bar, club	3	0
Park, Parking lot, Wooded Area	3	3
Group home, Correctional Facility	1	0
Other (i.e., vacant building, business)	3	5
Residence at time of Death		
Pittsburgh	55	44
Suburbs	54	48
Homeless	0	1
Unknown	2	12
Out of Allegheny County	3	1
Killed in neighborhood of residence	55	43
Others Injured in Incident	15	15
Received DHS Services	69	68
Perpetrator/Suspect		
Arrest made	55	45
Deceased (e.g., homicide-suicide)	2	2
Charges pending (e.g., self-defense)	2	1
Unknown	52	57
Law Enforcement	3	1

- In 2015 most homicides happened on a street, in 2016 there was a decrease on the street homicides by 21%. Allegheny county homicides in 2016 happened mostly in the home of the victim or a house of someone else at 35% of homicides. There were a high peak of home invasions in 2016 leading to the death of owners and invaders.
- 2016 there were 54 homicides in the city and 48 in the suburbs. The suburbs saw a decrease of 13%. Three out of the 114 homicide victims lived outside of Allegheny County.
- 15 non-fatal victims were injured in addition to the fatal.
- The Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) provided services for 68 homicide victims. Services consisted of Drug and alcohol, child welfare (as child or parent), SNAP, mental health, and Housing.

Conflict context, definition (Allegheny County, 2015)	
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
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

Figure 10

Conflict Context Allegheny County	2015	2016
Peer conflict	42	43
Gang-related	0	0
Isolated Incident	17	16
Intimate partner or Domestic Violence	6	7
Child abuse	2	1
Non-criminal or unintentional	2	2
Law Enforcement	3	1
Unknown	33	36

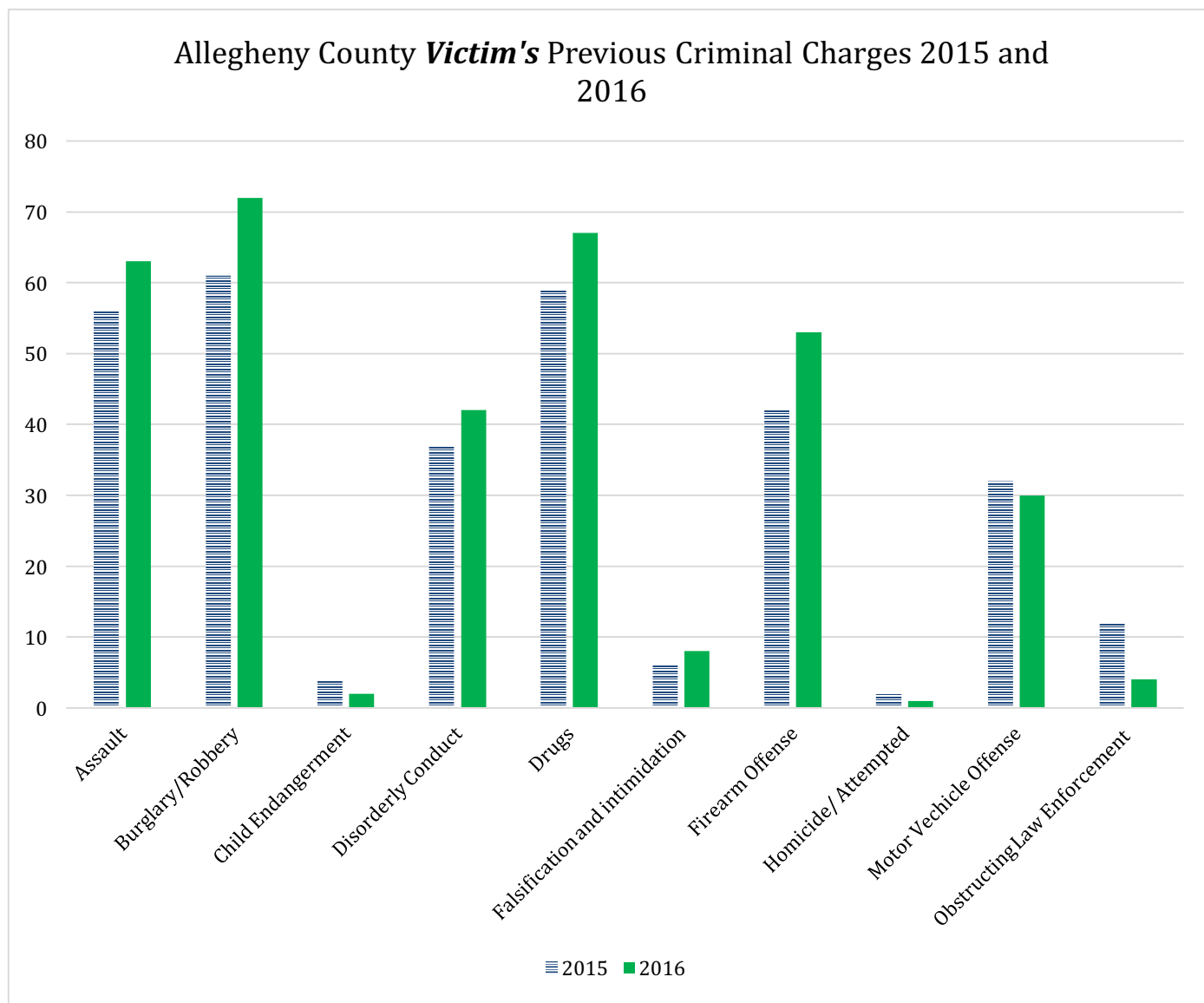
- In 2015 and 2016 most known conflicts were peer conflict which were conflicts around drugs or money.
- In unknown we did not have enough information to determine the conflict.

Allegheny County Homicide *Suspect's* by Gender, Race and Age **2015** and **2016**

Figure 11

	Age 0-10		11-20		21-30		41-50		50+	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
Black Males	0	0	11	10	21	15	0	1	1	1
White Males	0	0	1	0	3	3	2	0	3	2
Black Females	0	1	1	2	2	3	0	2	1	0
White Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Asian male	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hispanic Male	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

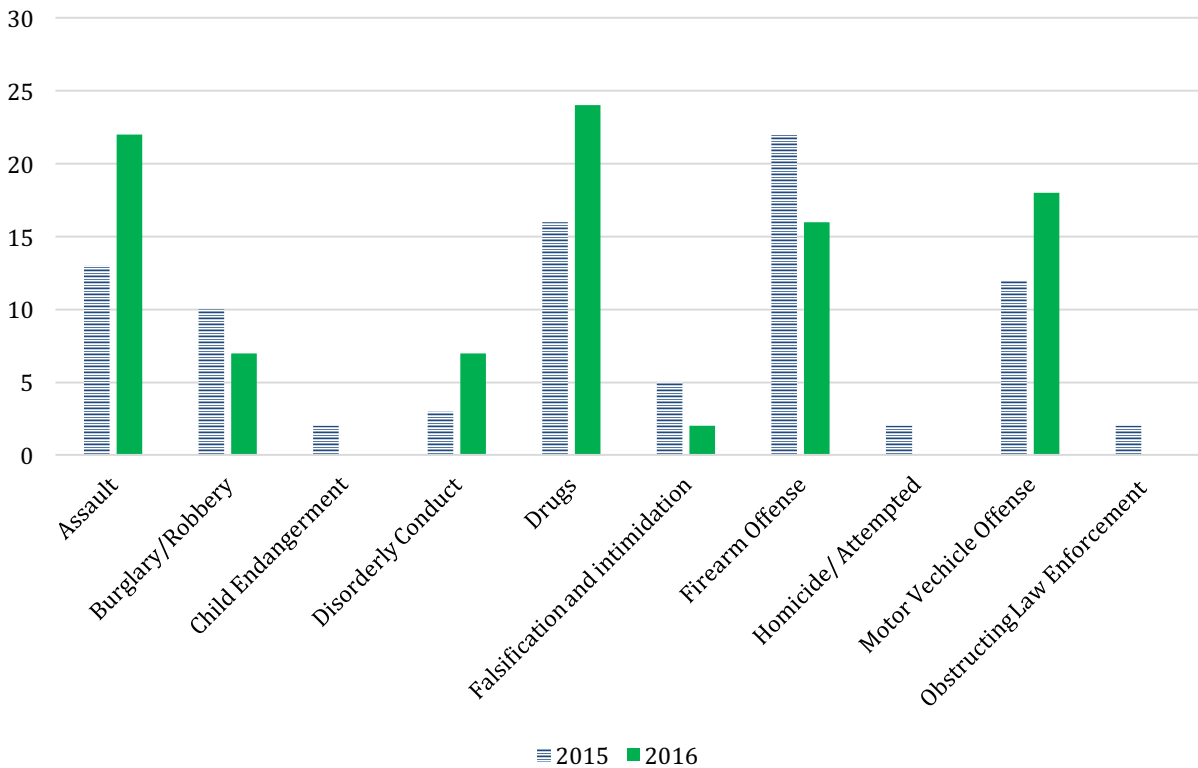
Figure 12



- Burglary/Robbery keeps going up significantly from 2014-2016. In 2012- 2013 leading charges were drugs.
- Prior to the homicide, 34% of victims were charged with some type of Firearm charge (e.g. possession, use of firearm or sale).
- These charges are adult charges, 82% of victims had juvenile charges starting as young as 11 years of age.

Figure 13

Allegheny County *Suspects* Previous Criminal Charges 2015 and 2016



- 25% of the suspect criminal charges were drug charges. Some suspects had more than one charge.
- Suspects and victims often have similar criminal histories, including high percentages of charges related to assault, drugs, firearms, and burglary/robbery.
- Out of the 47 suspects 39 had juvenile backgrounds starting as early as age 11.

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 2016.

Discussion took place around the role of chronic, 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.

The increasing access to and use of social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram) was 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 broader community was identified as relevant in the homicides from 2016.

Five 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,

Firearm charges for victims and suspects before the homicide incidents took place was frequent. There were victims and suspects with more than one firearm charge. We noticed that more and more on our lists 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.

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 2012-2016, 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.
- **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.

Community Resources

Center for Victims

5916 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
(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

Hosanna House

807 Wallace Avenue
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221
(412) 243-7711

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

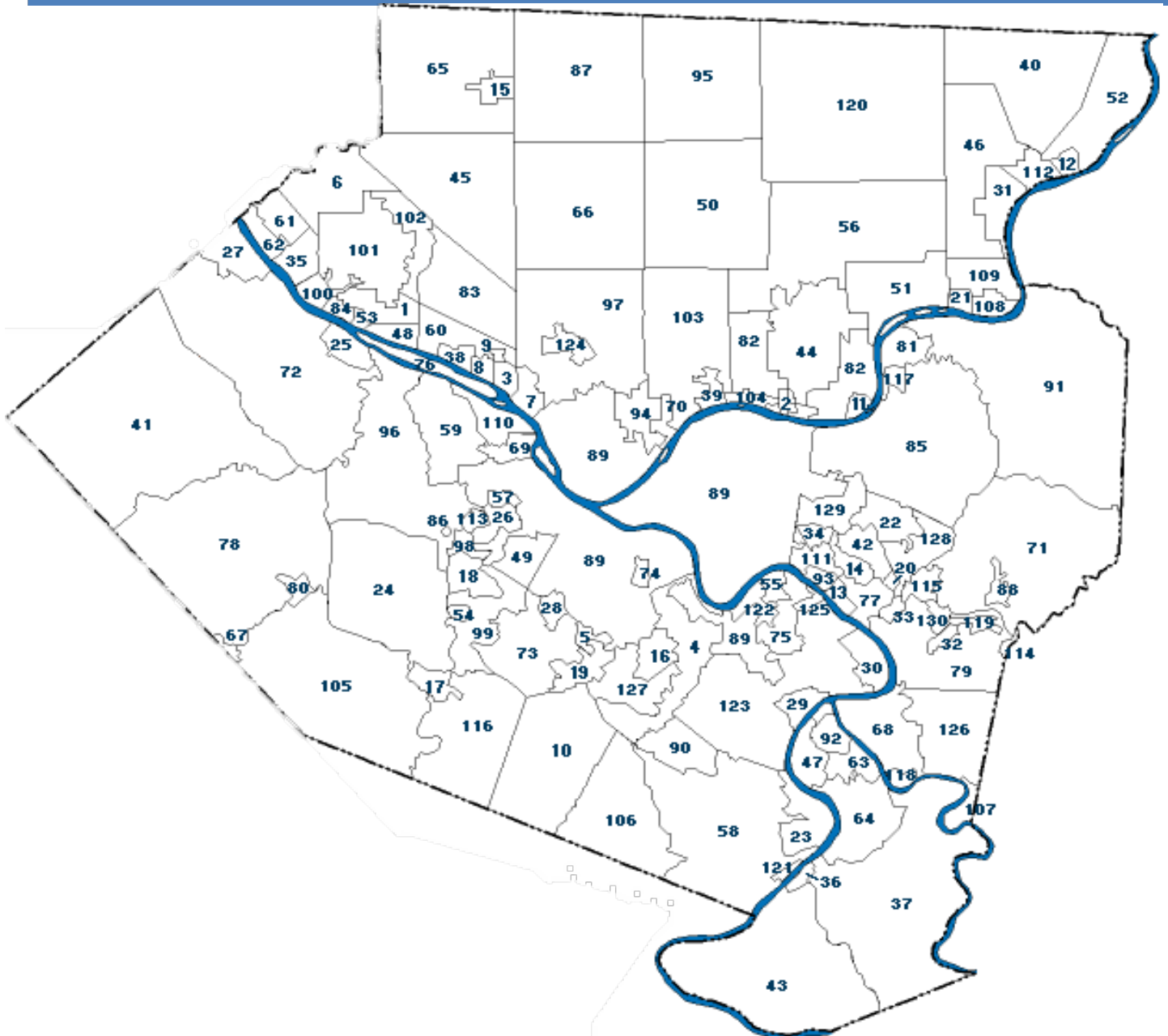
YMCA Homewood

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

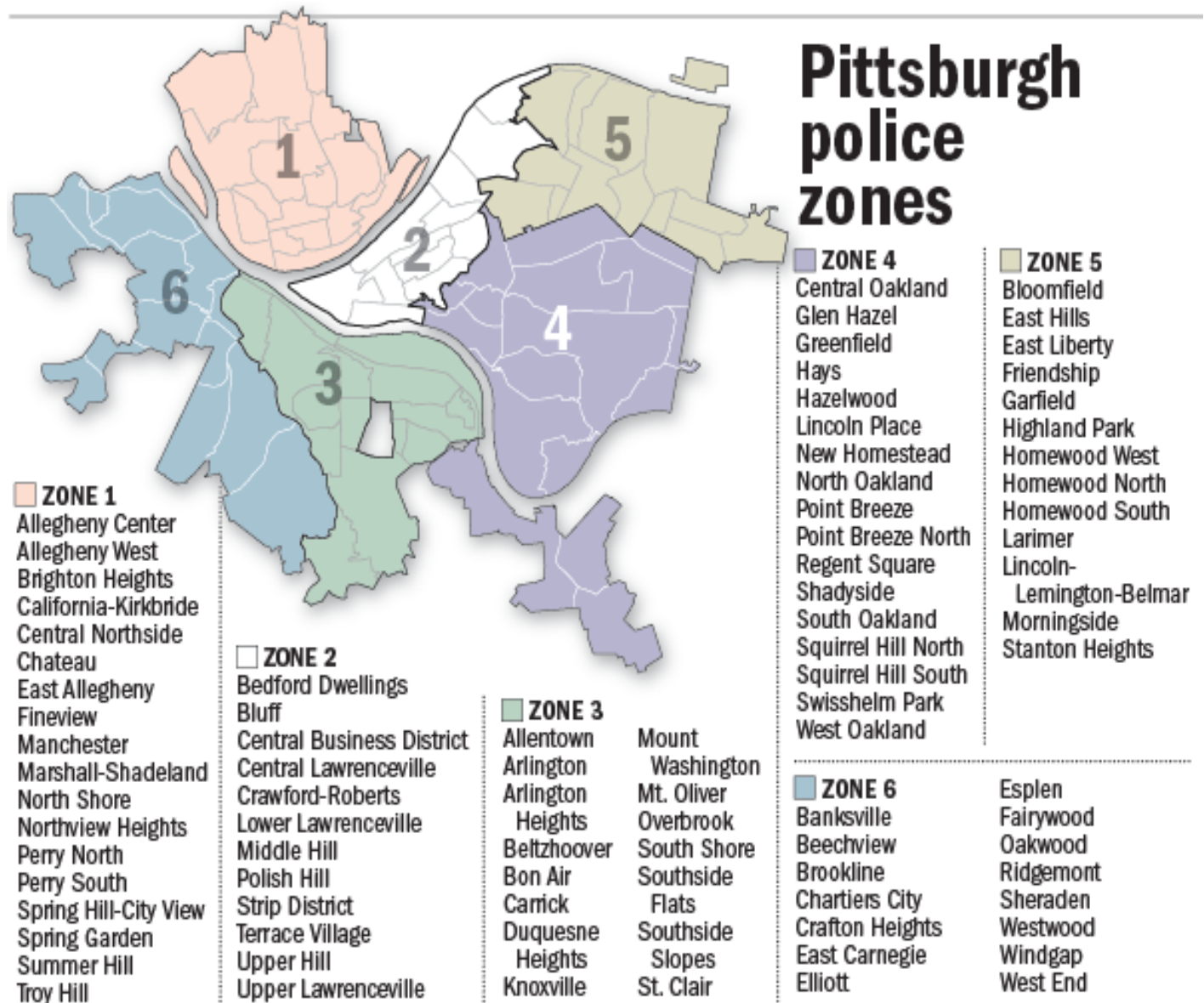


Source: <http://apps.alleghenycounty.us/website/MuniList.asp>

- 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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