

Center for Community Research & Service and
The Graduate School of Urban Affairs & Public Policy, University of Delaware

Handgun Violence in Delaware: A Picture of the State

by
Danilo Yanich
Karen Williams
Wadiya Brown

Summer 2002

© Danilo Yanich, 2002

A Report funded by the Laffey-McHugh Foundation
in association with the
Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League

Acknowledgments

In any undertaking of this magnitude there were many people whose efforts were very important. We would like to thank them here.

The project was invaluable served by its association with the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League. The President of MWUL, Dr. Antoine Allen, was the catalyst for the project. He brought together the concerns about handgun violence in the community with the research capacity of the University of Delaware.

Funding for the project was generously provided by the Laffey-McHugh Foundation.

The project was served by an Advisory Committee whose members provided a necessary and fundamental “touch-stone” for the effort. The members included: Collins J. Seitz, Esq., the Laffey-McHugh Foundation; Richard Andrews, Esq., U.S. Attorney’s Office; Carl Schnee, Esq., Duane Morris; Lewis D. Schiliro, MBNA America; The Honorable Colm Connolly, United States Attorney; Alicia Clark, Vice President, Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League; Ron Gaines, MBNA America.

The Wilmington Police Department provided the data for the analysis of the shootings in Wilmington. Captain James Jubb and members of his staff, Sgt. Robert Emory and Det. Yvette Thomas, were extremely helpful in guiding us through the files. Further, they accepted our intrusion into their workspace with grace and good humor. Mary Lou Robinson was especially helpful in providing access to the files and further information through many subsequent phone conversations.

The analysis of the locations of the Wilmington shootings was greatly assisted by John Laznik of the Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research at the University of Delaware. John’s magic with the GIS system made the task easy.

Robert A. Ruggiero, Health Statistics Administrator for the Delaware Health Statistics Center, provided the data on the non-fatal firearm injuries in the state. We thank him for his efforts.

We would also like to thank Arthur Garrison of the Criminal Justice Council for his help in looking at the shootings in Wilmington.

Crystal Dutton at the University of Delaware designed the cover for this report. Her good work and keen eye are self-evident.

Nancy Hinde of the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence in Washington, D.C. provided us with incisive advice regarding the field.

Danilo Yanich
Summer 2002

C o n t e n t s

7	Introduction
9	Executive Summary
11	Shootings in Wilmington, Delaware 1 January 1999 - 31 March 2002
15	The Victims
20	The Suspects
25	The Shootings
32	Location of the Shootings
39	Handgun Mortality in Delaware 1995-1999
73	Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Delaware, 1995-1999
109	Handgun Legislation: Comparing Delaware with Neighboring States
119	Firearm Policies & Procedures in Schools

Introduction

Safety is a fundamental concern for any community. And, even though crime has fallen in the past decade, citizens still regard public safety as a primary issue for the well-being of the community. Specifically, citizens are most threatened by violent crime that involves the use of a firearm, particularly handguns. With that concern in mind, the Laffey-McHugh Foundation and the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League engaged the University of Delaware to construct an accurate picture of handgun violence in Delaware. This report represents the result of those efforts.

In carrying out the project, we covered an array of areas that would help us to paint an accurate picture of handgun violence in Delaware. They include analyses of: (1) the shootings in Wilmington from January 1, 1999 through March 31, 2002; (2) handgun mortality in Delaware and the counties from 1996 through 1999; (3) the non-fatal injuries in Delaware due to firearms; and (4) a comparison of the firearm legislation in Delaware and neighboring states; and (5) an examination of the policies and procedures regarding gun violence and safety of the school districts that serve Wilmington.

Executive Summary

This executive summary is organized around the various sections of the report. For purposes of clarity, the main findings for the shootings in Wilmington, handgun mortality in Delaware and nonfatal firearm injuries in Delaware are presented separately.

Shootings in Wilmington, 1 January 1999 - 31 March 2002

- ❑ There were 182 shooting incidents in the 39 month period, resulting in 199 victims.
- ❑ A handgun was used in 94 percent of the shootings.
- ❑ Eighty-eight percent (n=168) of the victims suffered nonfatal injuries; there were 31 homicides (12%).
- ❑ Males accounted for 89 percent of the shooting victims; the national average is 89%
- ❑ African-Americans accounted for 87 percent of the shooting victims; the national average is 54 percent of victims were African-Americans
- ❑ African-American Males comprised 77 percent of the shooting victims; African-American females accounted for another 10 percent of victims.
- ❑ The median age of the victims was 23; and 91 percent were adults.
- ❑ Males comprised 83 percent of the suspects.
- ❑ African-Americans accounted for 80 percent of the suspects.
- ❑ Male suspects largely victimized male victims.
- ❑ African-American Male suspects victimized African-American Male victims: among the 199 victims, 61 percent involved an African-American Male victim AND suspect
- ❑ Drugs were verified to be involved in a plurality (34%) of the shootings; the real percentage is probably much higher given the other circumstances of the incident; Robbery was the motive in another 25 percent of the shootings.

- ❑ Over one-half of the shootings (56%) occurred between 9 PM and 3 AM. A plurality (19%) occurred on Sunday, but the next most prominent day was Thursday (17%).
- ❑ The shootings were concentrated in specific areas of the city: the Northwest, Westside and Northeast.

Handgun Mortality in Delaware, 1995 - 1999

- ❑ There were 316 handgun deaths in Delaware from 1995-1999.
- ❑ The significant majority, 65 percent, were suicides; 32 percent were homicides; and 3 percent were accidents.
- ❑ Adults accounted for 91 percent of handgun deaths in Delaware during the period.
- ❑ Male fatalities were almost five times higher than those for females, accounting for 84% of the deaths.
- ❑ Caucasians comprised over three-quarters of the deaths, more than the proportion of deaths for African-Americans and for the Other Race/Ethnicity groups combined.

Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Delaware, 1995 - 1999

- ❑ There were 342 nonfatal firearm injuries in Delaware from 1995 through 1999.
- ❑ Two-thirds of the injuries were the result of assaults; another one-quarter were unintentional
- ❑ Three-quarters of the victims were adults and 89 percent were males.
- ❑ African-Americans were 68 percent of the victims; Caucasians comprised 26 percent of the victims.
- ❑ Over three-quarters of the nonfatal injuries occurred in New Castle County; Kent and Sussex counties accounted for just over ten percent each.
- ❑ While assaults were most prominent in New Castle and Kent counties, unintentional injuries were the majority in Sussex County.

Shootings in Wilmington, Delaware
January 1, 1999 - March 31, 2002

Shooting Victims in Wilmington

Between January 1, 1999 and March 31, 2002, there were 182 separate shooting incidents in Wilmington, Delaware which resulted in 199 victims (Table 1). There were 166 shooting incidents with one victim; 15 shootings with two victims and one incident with three victims. The number of shootings across the years (2002 notwithstanding) was relatively consistent with a low of 56 in 1999 and a high of 61 in 2001.

Table 1: Shooting Victims* in Wilmington

Year	# of Shooting Victims
1999	56
2000	60
2001	61
2002 (as of 3/31/02)	22
Total	199

*There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

The number of shootings between 1999 and 2002 compares favorably to the number of shootings that occurred in Wilmington from 1996 through 1998. Compared to those years, the number of shooting victims in Wilmington decreased beginning in 1999. In 1996 and 1997, there were 107 shooting victims in each year and 73 victims in 1998 (See: Arthur Garrison, Wilmington Shooting Report: A Five-Year Analysis, 1996-2000. Delaware Criminal Justice Council, January 2002).

Weapons Used in Wilmington Shootings

The overwhelming majority of shooting victims in Wilmington were injured by handgun violence. That was consistent throughout each of the years we studied. Across all of the years (total), over nine out of ten shooting victims (94%) were shot with a handgun (Table 2). A shotgun or a sub-machine gun was used in only three percent of the cases. The weapon was unknown in another three percent of cases.

Table 2: Weapon Used in the Shootings* in Wilmington

Weapon	1999 n (%)	2000 n (%)	2001 n (%)	2002* n (%)	Total n (%)
Handgun	50 (89)	56 (93)	60 (98)	22 (100)	188 (94)
Shotgun/Sub-Machine	4 (7)	1 (2)	1 (2)	0 (0)	6 (3)
Unknown	2 (4)	3 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (3)
Total	56 (100)	60 (100)	61 (100)	22 (100)	199 (100)

*There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Outcomes of Wilmington Shootings

We identified two possible outcomes for the shootings, whether it was fatal or non-fatal for the victim. Although the shootings involved rather lethal weapons, the vast majority of the victims (84%) suffered wounds that were non-fatal (Table 3). Fatalities occurred for only 16 percent of the victims overall. However, the percentage of fatalities increased from 1999 (12%) through 2001 (21%). We are too early into 2002 to make a definitive statement about fatal and non-fatal outcomes.

Table 3: Outcomes of Shooting* in Wilmington

Year	Nonfatal n (%)	Homicide n (%)	Total n (%)
1999	49 (88)	7 (12)	56 (100)
2000	51 (85)	9 (15)	60 (100)
2001	48 (79)	13 (21)	61 (100)
2002*	20 (91)	2 (9)	22 (100)
All Years Combined	168 (88)	31 (12)	199 (100)

*There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

The national image regarding non-fatal (assault) vs. fatal (homicide) shootings was very different from the Wilmington picture. In fact, Wilmington's shootings were much less lethal. In the nation, between 1993 and 1997, there were 3.3 non-fatal gunshot injuries from assault treated in hospital emergency departments for every fire-arm related homicide. (Source: Marianne Zawitz & Kevin Strom, *Firearm Injury and Death from Crime, 1993-1997*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, October 2000). In Wilmington, that ratio was 5.4 assaults to every homicide (168 assaults divided by 31 homicides).

Case Status of the Shootings

We identified four definitions of case status: open; arrest; warrant and suspended. Across each year, the overwhelming majority of cases were either open or an arrest had been made (Table 4). A case is considered “cleared” when an arrest is made or a warrant is issued for an arrest. In both instances, the police regard the shooting incident as solved. An open case status refers to an on-going investigation. A suspended case status identifies a case where the investigation has been temporarily halted.

Table 4: Case Status of Shootings* in Wilmington

Case Status	1999 n	2000 n	2001 n	2002* n	Total n
Open	29	38	20	20	107
Arrest	26	16	26	1	69
Warrant	1	5	6	1	13
Suspended	0	1	9	0	10
Total	56	60	61	22	199

*There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Clearance rates are an important indicator of police performance. To determine the clearance rates for 1999 through 2001, we added the number of cases in which there was an arrest or a warrant issued and divided that number by the total number of shooting cases in that year. Using that method, the clearance rate for 1999 was 48.2% (27 arrests and warrants divided by 56 cases). Likewise, the clearance rates for 2000 and 2001 were 38.3% and 52.4% respectively. Obviously, we could not determine a clearance rate for 2002 because not enough time had passed. It is important to note that, in a significant percentage of the cases, the victim was uncooperative and offered little assistance to the police. That may be due to the fact that, where the motive/situation involved drugs, victims were reluctant to reveal to the police that their own illegal behavior (purchasing/possessing/selling drugs) may have contributed to the shooting.

The Victims

Gender of Shooting Victims

The overwhelming majority of shooting victims were males (Table 5). Almost nine out of ten victims were male and that was relatively consistent across the years we studied. This finding is consistent with national data in which 89% of shooting victims in the United States between 1993 and 1997 were males. (Source: Marianne Zawitz & Kevin Strom, *Firearm Injury and Death from Crime, 1993-1997*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, October 2000).

Table 5: Gender of Shooting Victims* in Wilmington

Year	Male (%)	Female (%)
1999	86	14
2000	93	7
2001	85	15
2002*	95	5
All Years Combined	89	11

*There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Race/Ethnicity of Shooting Victims

The significant majority of shooting victims throughout the study period were African-American. Overall, almost nine out of ten (87%) of the victims were African-American. Hispanic victims constituted the second largest , but much smaller proportion (8%), of victims.

Table 6: Race/Ethnicity of Shooting Victims* in Wilmington

Year	AfriAmer (%)	Caucasian (%)	Hispanic (%)	Asian/Othr (%)	Unknown (%)	Total (%)
1999	87	4	9	0	0	100
2000	87	3	7	0	3	100
2001	85	2	10	3	0	100
2002*	95	5	0	0	0	100
<i>All Years Combined</i>	87	3	8	1	1	100

*There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

The race/ethnicity of Wilmington's shooting victims were very different from the nation as a whole. Between 1993 and 1997, African-Americans comprised 54 percent of victims of non-fatal shootings and 54 percent of homicide victims. (Source: Marianne Zawitz & Kevin Strom, *Firearm Injury and Death from Crime, 1993-1997*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, October 2000). Our findings point out that the victimization of African-Americans in Wilmington greatly outdistances the national average.

Race/Ethnicity & Gender of Shooting Victims

To get a more complete picture of the demographic profile of the shooting victims in Wilmington, we combined the characteristics of gender and race/ethnicity. Overall, African-American males comprised over three-quarters (77%) of the victims in Wilmington from 1999 through the first quarter of 2002 (Table 7). African-American females were the second-most victimized group (10%) across all years. However, that second place was very distant from and smaller than the victimization of African-American males.

Table 7: Race/Ethnicity & Gender of Shooting Victims* in Wilmington

Race/Ethnicity & Gender	1999 (%)	2000 (%)	2001 (%)	2002* (%)	Combined All years (%)
AfriAmer Male	75	82	72	90	77
AfriAmer Female	12	5	13	5	10
Hispanic Male	9	6	8	0	7
Caucasian Male	2	3	2	5	3
Caucasian Female	2	0	0	0	.5
Asian Male	0	0	2	0	.5
Hispanic Female	0	0	2	0	.5
Other Male	0	0	2	0	.5
Unknown Male	0	2	0	0	.5
Unknown Female	0	2	0	0	.5
Total	100	100	100**	100	100

*There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

**Equals more than 100% due to rounding.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

The national picture regarding gender and race/ethnicity is very different from Wilmington. Between 1993 and 1997, African-American males accounted for only 49 percent of non-fatal gunshot wounds from crime. Hispanic males were second in victimization (17%), followed by Caucasian males (15%) and African-American females (6%). (Source: Marianne Zawitz & Kevin Strom, *Firearm Injury and Death from Crime, 1993-1997*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, October 2000).

Age of Shooting Victims

The median age of the shooting victims in Wilmington from 1999 through the first quarter of 2002 was 23 years. The range in the victims' ages, however, was wide. The youngest victim was 5 years old and the oldest victim was 76 years of age.

Table 8: Median Age of Shooting Victims* in Wilmington

Year	Median** Age of Shooting Victims (yrs)
1999	22.5
2000	24
2001	23
2002*	23
<i>All years combined</i>	23

*There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

**Median age = age at which half of the victims' ages were above and half of the victims' ages were below.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Adult/Juvenile Status of Shooting Victims

Although the median age of the victims in the Wilmington shootings was in the early 20's, fewer than 1 out of 10 victims (9%) was a juvenile (Table 9). That percentage was relatively consistent throughout the years that we studied. Importantly, the victimization of juveniles in Wilmington was lower than the national proportion. Nationally, between 1993-1997, juveniles accounted for 16 percent and 10 percent of assault and homicide victims,

respectively. (Source: Marianne Zawitz & Kevin Strom, *Firearm Injury and Death from Crime, 1993-1997*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, October 2000).

Table 9: Adult/Juvenile Status of Shooting Victims* in Wilmington

Year	Adult Victim (%)	Juvenile** Victim (%)
1999	89	11
2000	92	8
2001	90	10
2002*	95	5
<i>All years combined</i>	91	9

*There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

**Juvenile = 17 years & younger

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Age Groups of Shooting Victims

In order to give a more complete picture of the ages of shootings in Wilmington, we divided the victims by age groups. The data showed that the shootings overwhelmingly afflicted our younger citizens. Over half of the total victims (54%) were in the 18-25 age group (Table 10). Another 20 percent were aged 26 to 36 years. In short, victims between the ages of 18 and 35 accounted for almost three-quarters of Wilmington's shooting victims.

Table 10: Number of Shooting Victims* in Age Groups in Wilmington

Age Groups	1999 n (%)	2000 n (%)	2001 n (%)	2002* n (%)	Combined n (%)
13 yrs and younger	1 (2)	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	2 (1)
14 - 17 years	5 (9)	5 (8)	5 (8)	1 (4)	16 (8)
18 - 25 years	30 (53)	32 (53)	29 (47)	16 (73)	107 (54)
26 - 35 years	10 (18)	14 (23)	12 (20)	4 (18)	40 (20)
36 - 45 years	8 (14)	5 (8)	9 (15)	1 (5)	23 (12)
46 years and older	2 (4)	4 (7)	5 (8)	0 (0)	11 (5)
Total	56 (100)	60 (100**)	61 (100)	22 (100)	199 (100)

*There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 200 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

**Does not equal 100% due to rounding.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

The age distribution of the victims in the Wilmington shootings was relatively consistent with the nation as a whole. Although the age ranges are not exactly congruent with our grouping, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Supplementary Homicide Reports reported that between 1993 and 1997, the age group from 15 through 34 accounted for about two-thirds (66%) of homicide victims and over three-fourths (77%) of non-fatal assault victims. (Source: Marianne Zawitz & Kevin Strom, *Firearm Injury and Death from Crime, 1993-1997*. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, October 2000).

The Suspects

Gender of Shooting Suspects

To this point, we looked at the victims of the shootings in Wilmington. Now, we turn to the suspects. First, it important to remember that the suspects were unknown in 29 of the cases. Therefore, we looked at some of the characteristics of about 170 persons. We focused on the primary suspect in the case for two reasons: (1) the overwhelming majority of cases only had one suspect; and (2) where there were multiple suspects, they often overlapped with primary suspects in other cases. In effect, we would have counted the same person twice. Consequently, we limited this analysis to the primary suspect. Overwhelmingly, the suspects in the shootings between 1999 and the first quarter of 2002 were male (Table 11). Specifically, males accounted for over eight out ten (83%) suspects. Only two percent of the suspects were female and the gender was unknown for the remaining fifteen percent.

Table 11: Gender of Shooting Suspects* in Wilmington

Year	Male (%)	Female (%)	Unknown (%)
1999	80	2	18
2000	83	2	15
2001	89	3	8
2002**	77	0	23
<i>All Years Combined</i>	83	2	15

* Primary suspect in the case.

** As of 3/31/02.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Clearly, the shootings in Wilmington were a male-dominated activity and that is consistent with the nation as a whole. Nationally, in 2000, over eight out of ten (83%) violent crimes, which include shootings, were committed by males. (Source: Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics Online. www.albany.edu/sourcebook [14 May 2002]).

Although we could make a comparison here between Wilmington and the nation regarding the gender of shooting suspects, we could not make the same comparison for other characteristics. National data does not separate shootings suspects from violent crime suspects. Therefore, the comparison would be misleading.

Race/Ethnicity of Suspects

From 1999 through the first quarter of 2002, the vast majority (80%) of the suspects in the Wilmington shootings were African-American (Table 12). That was fairly consistent through the years we studied with a high of 84 percent in 2001 and a low of 77 percent in 1999 and 2002, thus far. The race/ethnicity of 15 percent of the suspects was unknown.

Table 12: Race/Ethnicity of Shooting Suspects* in Wilmington

Year	AfriAmer (%)	Caucasian (%)	Hispanic (%)	Unknown (%)	Total (%)
1999	77	3	2	18	100
2000	81	2	2	15	100
2001	84	0	8	8	100
2002**	77	0	0	23	100
<i>All Years Combined</i>	80	2	3	15	100

* Primary suspect in the case. ** As of 3/31/02.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Adult/Juvenile Status of the Suspects

Age data was available on only 97 of the suspects in the cases. The median age was 20 years. Almost nine out of ten (86%) of the suspects were adults (Table 13). Juveniles (17 years and under) accounted for the remaining fourteen percent of the suspects. There was some fluctuation in that proportion across the years. In 1999 almost one-quarter (23%) of the suspects were juveniles. The following year that proportion dropped to ten percent.

Table 13: Adult/Juvenile Status of Suspects* in Wilmington

Year	Adult Suspect (%)	Juvenile** Suspect (%)
1999	77	23
2000	90	10
2001	87	13
2002***	100	0
<i>All years combined</i>	86	14

* Primary suspect in the case.

Juvenile= 17 years & younger * As of 3/31/02

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Age Groups of Shootings Suspects

Just as we did for the victims in the shootings, we divided the suspects by age groups. The most important aspect of this categorization, however, showed that over half (52%) of the suspects' ages were unknown (Table 14). Be that as it may, we found that almost one-third of the suspects (32%) in the Wilmington shootings were between 18 and 25 years of age. That was a significant plurality and represented the peak age-group of the suspects. Further, we found that the proportion of shootings suspects dropped drastically after age 36, accounting for less than three percent of suspects. The proportion of juvenile suspects was also relatively small at seven percent.

Table 14: Number of Suspects* in Age Groups in Wilmington

Age Groups	1999 n (%)	2000 n (%)	2001 n (%)	2002** n (%)	Combined n (%)
14 - 17 years	7 (12)	3 (5)	4 (7)	0 (0)	14 (7)
18 - 25 years	22 (39)	16 (27)	21 (34)	5 (22)	64 (32)
26 - 35 years	1 (2)	8 (13)	6 (10)	1 (5)	16 (8)
36 - 45 years	0 (0)	2 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (1)
46 years and older	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (<1)
Unknown	25 (45)	31 (52)	30 (49)	16 (73)	102 (52)
Total	56 (100)	60 (100)	61 (100)	22 (100)	199 (100)

* Primary suspect in the case.

** As of 3/31/02

*** Does not equal 100% due to rounding.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

If we count **only** the 97 suspects whose ages we know (removing the 102 suspects for whom we did not have an age), the percentages for the age-groups change drastically. The 18-25 age-group accounted for two-thirds (66%) of the suspects; the 26-35 age-group comprises another 17 percent and juveniles (17 and under) were 15 percent of the total.

Gender of Victims & Suspects

Table 15: Gender of Victims and Suspects* in Wilmington**

Victim Gender	Male Suspect n	Female Suspect n	Unknown Suspect n	Total Suspects n
Male Victim	148	3	26	177
Female Victim	18	1	3	22
Total Victims	166	4	29	199

* Primary suspect in the case.

** There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In the Wilmington shootings males overwhelmingly were the victims of other males—148 out of the 170 known suspects victimized other males (Table 15). In only 18 cases did male suspects target females. Clearly, the shootings in Wilmington were the province of males, both as suspects and as victims.

Race/Ethnicity of Victims & Suspects

Overwhelmingly in the Wilmington shootings, African-Americans victimized other African-Americans. In 140 of the 170 cases in which we know the suspect's race, both the victim and suspect were African-American (Table 16).

Table 16: Race/Ethnicity of Victims and Suspects* in Wilmington**

Victim Race/Ethnicity	AfriAmer Suspect n	Hispanic Suspect n	Caucasian Suspect n	Unknown Suspect n	Total Suspects n
AfriAmer Victim	140	2	3	29	174
Hispanic Victim	10	5	0	0	15
Caucasian Victim	6	0	0	0	6
Asian/Other Victim	2	0	0	0	2
Unknown Victim	2	0	0	0	2
Total Victims	160	7	3	29	199

* Primary suspect in the case.

** There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Gender & Race/Ethnicity of Victims & Suspects

To get a better picture of who victimized whom in the Wilmington shootings, we looked at the gender and the race/ethnicity of the victims and the suspects. In the 170 cases in which we know those attributes for both the victim **and** the suspect, the overwhelmingly most common combination (121 cases) was the victimization of an African-American male by another African-American male (Table 17). In short, the Wilmington shootings showed a pattern of criminal victimization that stayed **within** gender and race.

We also examined the extent to which the victims and suspects knew each other. In three-fourths (75%) of the cases, that relationship was unknown. The police were not able to determine whether the victim and suspect knew each other. That is not surprising because most of the shooting victims were uncooperative with the investigating officer. In about 14 percent of the cases, the victims and the suspects were acquaintances; in 6 percent of the cases the two were strangers to each other and in about 5 percent of the cases the relationship was boyfriend/girlfriend.

Table 17: Gender & Race/Ethnicity of Victims and Suspects* in Wilmington**

Victim Gender & Race/Ethnicity	AfriAmer Male Suspect n	AfriAmer Female Suspect n	Caucasian Male Suspect n	Hispanic Male Suspect n	Unknown Suspect n	Total Suspects n
AfriAmer Male	121	3	3	2	26	155
AfriAmer Female	15	1	0	0	3	19
Caucasian Male	5	0	0	0	0	5
Caucasian Female	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hispanic Male	10	0	0	4	0	14
Hispanic Female	0	0	0	1	0	1
Asian/Other Male	2	0	0	0	0	2
Unknown Male	1	0	0	0	0	1
Unknown Female	1	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Total Victims</i>	<i>156</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>199</i>

* Primary suspect in the case.

** There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

The Shootings

Crimes Charged in the Shootings

We now look at the crimes that were charged in the shootings. As we might have expected, the charges reflected the seriousness of the activities. In almost two-thirds (61%) of the cases, assault 1 or 2 was the charge (Table 18). Murder 1 was the charge in 16 percent of the cases reflecting the homicides that occurred in the time period. Another 15 percent of the charges were filed as attempted murder.

Table 18: Crimes Charged in the Shootings* in Wilmington

Crimes Charged	1999 n (%)	2000 n (%)	2001 n (%)	2002* n (%)	Combined n (%)
Assault 1 & 2	37 (66)	32 (53)	34 (56)	18 (82)	121 (61)
Att. Murder	10 (18)	12 (20)	7 (12)	1 (5)	30 (15)
Att. Rob/Robbery	2 (4)	6 (10)	4 (7)	1 (5)	13 (7)
Murder 1	7 (12)	9 (15)	13 (21)	2 (9)	31 (16)
Burglary	0 (0)	1 (2)	2 (3)	0 (0)	3 (2)
Reckless Endanger	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	1 (<1)
Total	56 (100)	60 (100)	61 (100**)	22 (100**)	199 (100)

* There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

** Does not equal 100% due to rounding.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Wounds Suffered in the Shootings

As we see in the following table (19), the wounds inflicted on the victims were distributed across all parts of the body. However, a plurality of the wounds (38%) were in the legs/groin/hip area. Another 18 percent were directed at the chest. .

Table 19: Areas of the Body Suffering Wounds in the Shootings* in Wilmington

Areas of Body	1999 n (%)	2000 n (%)	2001 n (%)	2002* n (%)	Combined n (%)
Legs/Groin/Hips	17 (30)	27 (45)	18 (30)	13 (59)	75 (38)
Chest	15 (27)	10 (16)	10 (16)	1 (5)	36 (18)
Head/Neck	12 (21)	7 (12)	9 (15)	3 (13)	31 (16)
Arms/Shoulder	4 (7)	9 (15)	12(20)	3 (14)	28(14)
Abdomen	2 (4)	2 (3)	7 (11)	2 (9)	13 (6)
Back	4 (7)	4 (7)	3 (5)	0 (0)	11 (5)
Multiple	2 (4)	1 (2)	1 (2)	0 (0)	4 (2)
Unknown	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	1 (<1)
Total	56 (100)	60 (100)	61 (100**)	22 (100**)	199 (100)

* There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

** Does not equal 100% due to rounding.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, Univ. of Delaware, 2002

There were 16 percent of the wounds directed at the head; these were all fatal. They accounted for all of the 31 homicides that occurred in the time period. The placement of these wounds seems to suggest that those suspects who were intent on homicide made certain that the wounds inflicted would result in death.

Wounds to the arms and shoulders accounted for another 14 percent of the cases, followed by the abdomen (6%) and the back (5%).

Motive/Situation of Shootings

A prime concern for the community, as well as for law enforcement officials, is the motive or situation that gave rise to the shootings. The community's sense of well-being is greatly affected by the perception of the potential for victimization. Consequently, the activities of the victims and the suspect that prompted the violence are important factors to consider. Were the shootings random? If not, what happened?

An examination of the shooting incidents showed that over one-third (34%) of them involved drugs, either the sale, the possession or use (Table 20). The Wilmington Police Department, however, feels that a much higher proportion of the cases were drug-related. As we said earlier, uncooperative victims made it difficult to ascribe a motive, especially drug-related, if their own behavior was criminal. Consequently, we have identified drugs as the motive only in those cases where there is no doubt.

Table 20: Motive/Situation in the Shootings* in Wilmington

Motive/Situation	1999 n (%)	2000 n (%)	2001 n (%)	2002* n (%)	Combined n (%)
Drugs	9 (16)	35 (58)	23 (38)	1 (5)	68 (34)
Robbery	15 (27)	11 (18)	16 (26)	7 (32)	49 (25)
Argument	10 (18)	8 (13)	12 (20)	3 (14)	33 (17)
Unknown	6 (10)	3 (5)	2 (3)	8 (36)	19 (9)
Crossfire/Bystander	6 (10)	1 (2)	3 (5)	1 (5)	11 (5)
Retaliation	2 (4)	2 (3)	0 (0)	2 (9)	6 (3)
Other	4 (8)	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	5 (2)
Accident	2 (4)	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	3 (2)
Domestic	2 (4)	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	3 (2)
Self-Inflicted	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (3)	0 (0)	2 (1)
Total	56 (100**)	60 (100**)	61 (100**)	22 (100**)	199 (100)

* There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

** Does not equal 100% due to rounding.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In order to underscore the importance of the effect of drugs in the shootings, we note here that over half of the homicides (16 of the 31 fatalities) occurred in shootings where drugs were identified as the motive.

One -quarter (25%) of the shooting incidents were the result of a robbery or a robbery attempt (Table 20). Again, law enforcement officials have strong suspicions that the object of the robbery , very often, was drugs or drug-related money. Further, robbery shootings accounted for another seven of the homicides. In short, drugs and robbery cases comprised 23 of the 31 homicides in Wilmington between 1999 and the first quarter of 2002.

In almost one in five cases (17%), the shooting was the result of an argument (Table 20). By their very nature, in these cases, the arguments escalated into serious and potentially lethal violence.

The motive was unknown for just under one out of ten (9%) of the shooting cases. In five percent of the cases, the victim was an innocent bystander who was caught in a crossfire or injured by a stray bullet (Table 20).

Time Frame of the Shootings

A critical aspect of the shootings is when they occurred during the day. We divided the day into eight three-hour blocks to examine that question (Table 21). The most dangerous time-frame across all the years was 12 AM to 3 AM; during that period almost one-third (31%) of the shootings occurred. The second most likely time-frame was the period between 9 PM to 12 AM with over one-quarter (27%) of the shootings. That six-hour period from 9 PM to 3 AM accounted for well over half (56%) of the shootings.

Table 21: Time Frame of the Shootings* in Wilmington

Time Frame	1999 n (%)	2000 n (%)	2001 n (%)	2002* n (%)	Combined n (%)
12 am - 3 am	16 (29)	21 (35)	19 (31)	6 (27)	62 (31)
3 am - 6 am	6 (11)	4 (7)	6 (10)	1 (5)	17 (9)
6 am - 9 am	0 (0)	1 (2)	1 (2)	0 (0)	2 (1)
9 am - 12 pm	0 (0)	4 (7)	1 (2)	0 (0)	5 (3)
12 pm - 3 pm	2 (4)	6 (10)	1 (2)	1 (5)	10 (5)
3 pm - 6 pm	3 (5)	1 (2)	6 (10)	8 (36)	18 (9)
6 pm - 9 pm	8 (14)	9 (15)	9 (15)	4 (18)	30 (15)
9 pm - 12 am	21 (37)	14 (23)	18 (29)	2 (9)	55 (27)
Total	56 (100)	60 (100**)	61 (100**)	22 (100**)	199 (100)

* There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

** Does not equal 100% due to rounding.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

The early evening hours from 6 PM to 9 PM comprised 15 percent of the shootings. The safest time of the day was the period from 6 AM to 3 PM in which the combined total of shootings was 9 percent, increasing from a low of one percent between 6 AM and 9 AM to five percent between 12 PM and 3 PM. In short, we found that the night was the most likely time for shootings in Wilmington.

Day of the Shootings

In addition to looking at the time of day when the shootings occurred, we examined the day of the week for the event. We found that, for the most part, the shootings happened throughout the week (Table 22). Almost one out of five (19%) shootings occurred on Sunday, followed by another 17 percent on Thursday. The shootings were relatively evenly distributed across Wednesday (15%), Friday (14%) and Monday and Saturday (both at 13%). Tuesday was the day of the week that had the fewest number of shootings (9%).

Table 22: Day of the Shootings* in Wilmington

Day of Shooting	1999 n (%)	2000 n (%)	2001 n (%)	2002* n (%)	Combined n (%)
Sunday	10 (18)	14 (23)	9 (15)	4 (18)	37 (19)
Monday	10 (18)	10 (17)	6 (10)	0 (0)	26 (13)
Tuesday	5 (9)	7 (12)	5 (8)	2 (9)	19 (9)
Wednesday	2 (4)	8 (13)	15 (25)	5 (23)	30 (15)
Thursday	14 (25)	8 (13)	8 (13)	4 (18)	34 (17)
Friday	10 (18)	7 (12)	8 (13)	3 (14)	28 (14)
Saturday	5 (9)	6 (10)	10 (16)	4 (18)	25 (13)
Total	56 (100**)	60 (100)	61 (100)	22 (100**)	199 (100)

* There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

** Does not equal 100% due to rounding.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Time Frame and Day of the Shootings

In order to get a better view of the temporal characteristics of the shootings, we looked at the combination of the time of day and day of the week for each of them. A plurality (17) of the shootings occurred between 12 AM and 3 AM on Sunday (Table 23). Friday mornings between 12 AM and 3 AM accounted for the next highest grouping (14) of shootings. That was followed in frequency (12) by Thursday between 9 PM and 12 AM. On the other end of the spectrum, shootings rarely occurred in the early morning hours throughout the days of the week. In short, there was a definite pattern of the time of day for the shootings (at night). That was not so for the days of the week; there was a relatively even distribution for that characteristic.

Table 23: Time Frame and Day of the Shootings* in Wilmington

Time Frame	Sun n	Mon n	Tue n	Wed n	Thu n	Fri n	Sat n	Total n
12 am - 3 am	17	4	3	5	10	14	9	62
3 am - 6 am	6	2	2	1	1	2	3	17
6 am - 9 am	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
9 am - 12 pm	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	5
12 pm - 3 pm	5	0	0	2	3	0	0	10
3 pm - 6 pm	3	2	1	3	3	3	3	18
6 pm - 9 pm	2	5	7	6	5	5	0	30
9 pm - 12 am	3	11	5	11	12	4	9	55
<i>Total n</i>	28	26	25	30	34	28	25	199

* There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Location of the Shootings

The location of the shootings in Wilmington represents a very important factor in the perception of public safety by citizens of the city. Therefore, we examined the locations using data derived from the Wilmington Police Department. In this section we present the findings from that examination

There was somewhat of a pattern to the shootings in the city. Parts of Wilmington were free, or relatively so, of such events. However, other areas did not fare as well. A plurality of the shootings (51) occurred in the Northwest area (Table 25). That was followed closely by Westside and Northeast, 45 and 42, respectively. On the other end of the spectrum, the Delaware Ave./Bancroft Parkway area had no shootings, while the Southwest area, with its small population, experienced only seven shootings.

Table 25: Shootings* in Wilmington
by Neighborhood Planning Council area

Neighborhood Planning Council	Nonfatal Shooting n	Homicide n	Total n
Northwest	43	8	51
Westside	39	6	45
Northeast	36	6	42
Eastside	27	2	29
West Center City	15	7	22
Southwest	6	1	7
Del Ave/Bancroft Pkwy	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>166**</i>	<i>30**</i>	<i>196**</i>

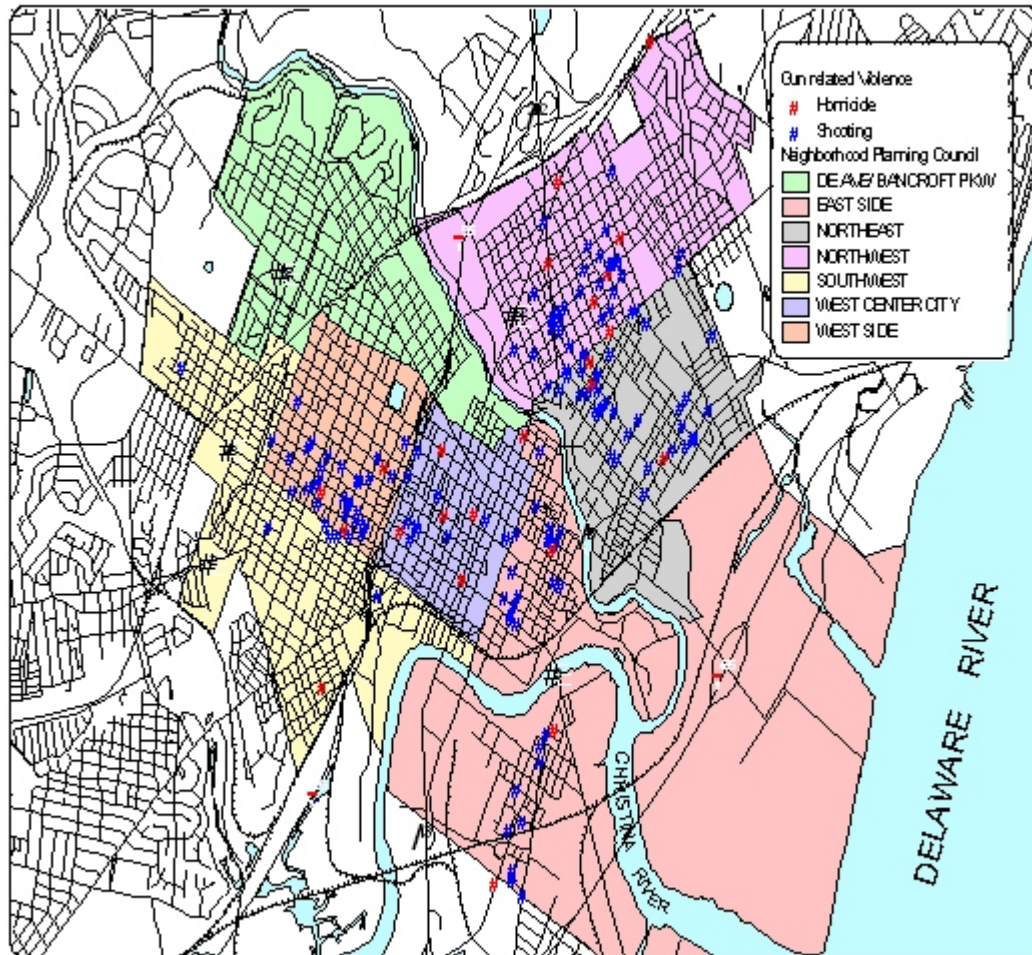
* There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

**The locations of two shootings and one homicide were undetermined.

We also looked at the locations of the shootings in the city using the Geographical Information System (GIS). The precise location of each of the shootings (except for three whose locations were undetermined) was entered into a database at the Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research at the University of Delaware. The maps that follow were produced by John Laznik, the GIS researcher in the Center. We produced five maps that give a detailed view of

where the shootings took place in Wilmington between January 1, 1999 and March 31, 2002. The first map shows the shooting location throughout the entire city using the areas of the Neighborhood Planning Councils as a reference. The following four maps provide greater detail for those Neighborhood Planning Council areas of the city in which the shootings were concentrated. They include the Northwest, Westside, the Northeast and Center City sections of Wilmington.

Map 1: Shootings in Wilmington, 1 Jan. 1999 - 31 Mar. 2002
by Type, by Neighborhood Planning Council Area

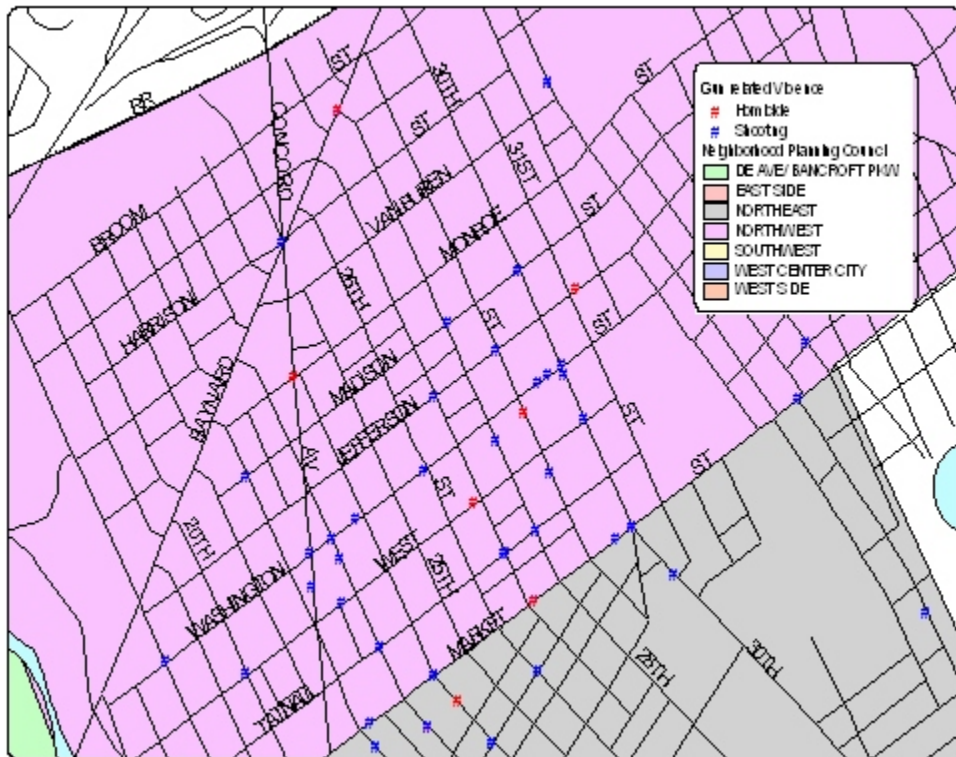


* There were 182 shooting incidents that resulted in 199 victims between 1/1/99 and 3/31/02.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

The map shows that the shootings in Wilmington had a definite locational pattern. The shootings (whether assaults or homicides) were concentrated in particular Neighborhood Planning Council sections and they were also somewhat focused within those areas. The shootings occurred in the West Center City, Northwest, Northeast and Westside neighborhoods. We will look at each separately.

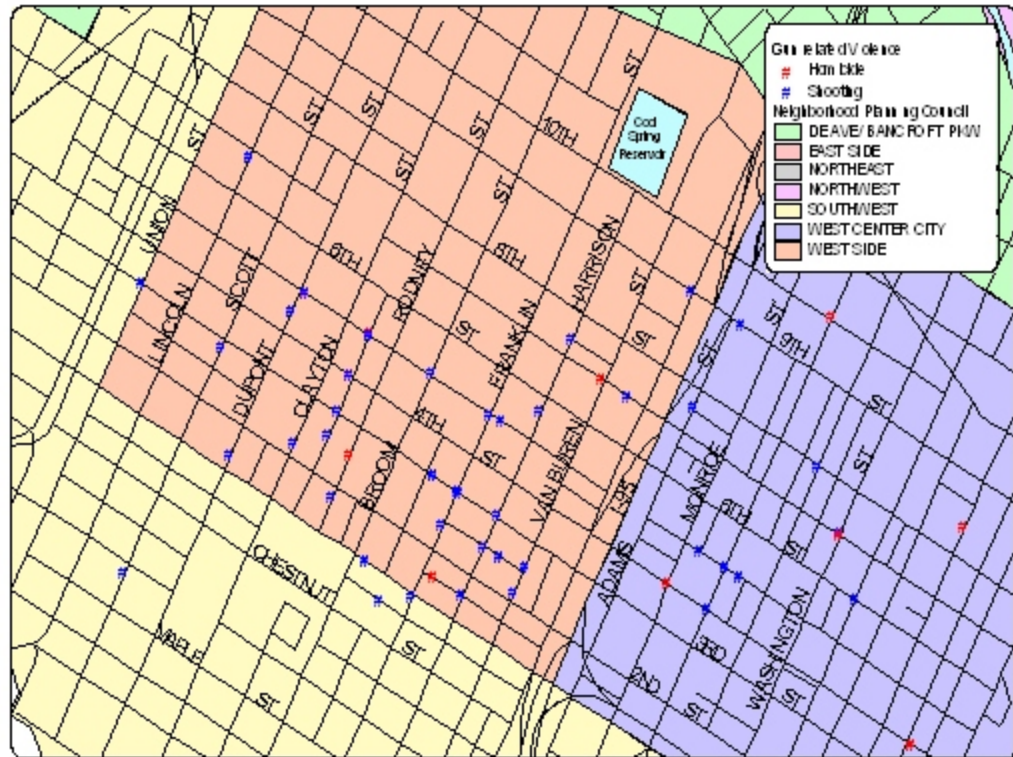
Map 2: Shootings in the Northwest area of Wilmington
1 Jan. 1999 - 31 Mar. 2002, by Type



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In the Northwest section of the city there were 43 nonfatal shootings and 8 homicides between 1 January 1999 and 31 March 2002. They were somewhat concentrated along the Washington Street corridor between 18th and 30th streets. Further, in the block that Concord Avenue intersects and that is bounded by Washington and West streets on the east and west, there were five shootings. The block bounded by Washington and West streets and 29th and 30th streets had five nonfatal shootings and one homicide.

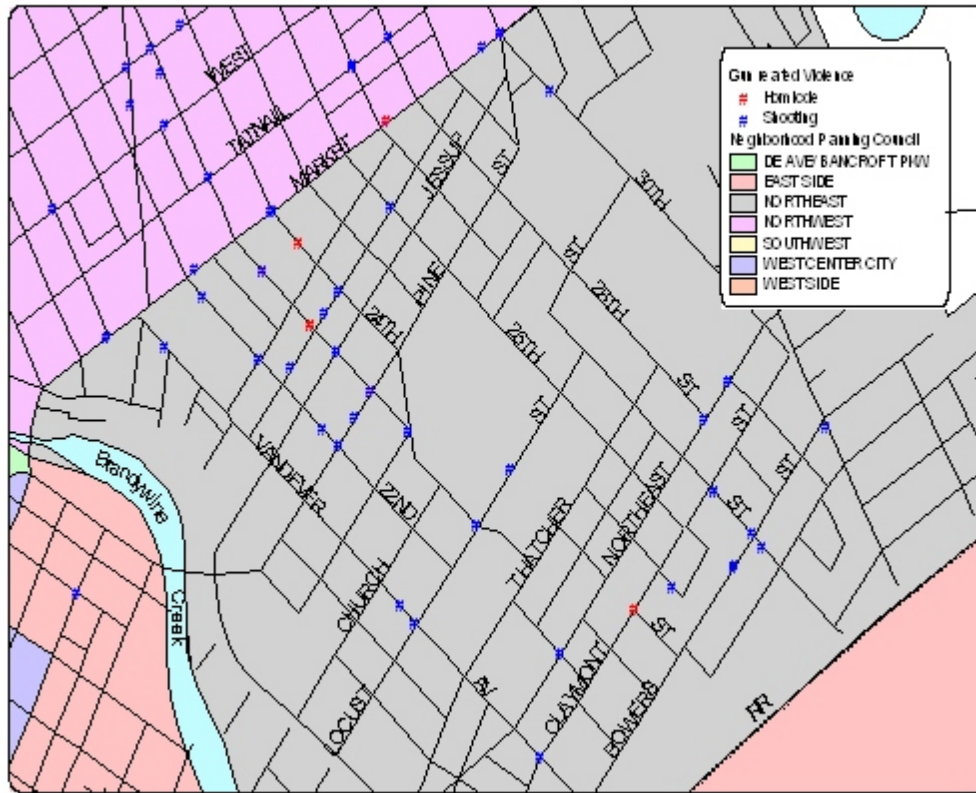
Map 3: Shootings in the Westside area of Wilmington
1 Jan. 1999 - 31 Mar. 2002, by Type



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In the Westside area of the city there were 39 nonfatal shootings and 6 homicides between 1 January 1999 and 31 March 2002. One section of concentration was the four square block area bounded by Van Buren, Rodney, Second and Third streets. Including the street just south of 2nd street, the area accounted for eight shootings and one homicide.

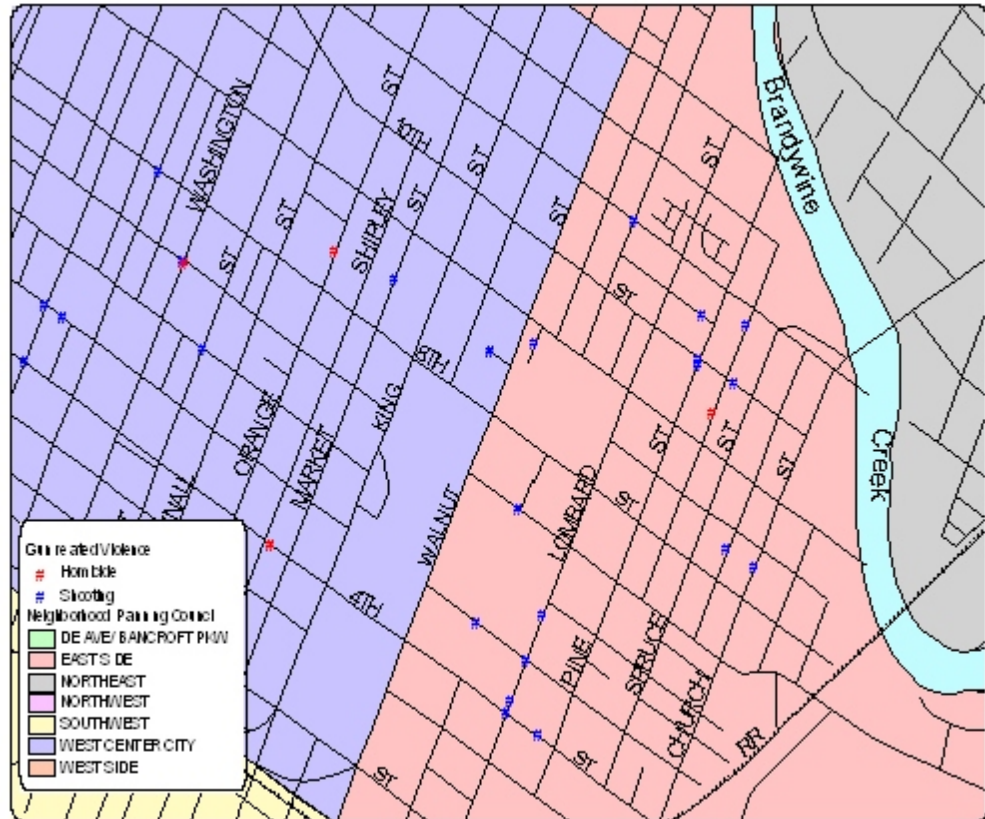
Map 4: Shootings in the Northeast area of Wilmington
1 Jan. 1999 - 31 Mar. 2002, by Type



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In the Northeast area there were 36 nonfatal shootings and 6 homicides between 1 January and 31 March 2002. There was a concentration of those shootings within the Neighborhood Planning Council. In the area bounded by Vandever Avenue and 24th streets from Pine to Market street, there were fourteen nonfatal shootings and two homicides.

Map 5: Shootings in the Center City Area of Wilmington,
1 Jan. 1999 - 31 Mar. 2002, by Type



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

There were twenty-two nonfatal shootings and seven homicides in the Center City area of Wilmington between 1 January 1999 and 31 March 2002. As with the other sections of the city, there were pockets within the Center City area where the shootings were relatively concentrated. In the section bounded by Fourth and Seventh streets and Pine and Walnut streets, there were seven nonfatal shootings. In addition, between Ninth and Eleventh streets and Spruce and Lombard streets, there were four more nonfatal shootings and one homicide.

Handgun Mortality in Delaware 1995-1999

The level of handgun activity in Delaware is observable through an examination of mortality that is a direct result of handgun violence. This section introduces information that was derived from the various data sources available at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Accordingly, this information is presented along several dimensions designed to give a complete picture of handgun mortality in Delaware from 1995 through 1999, the most recent five-year period for which the CDC has released data. The information is divided by type of handgun death (suicide, homicide, accident); gender, race and age. Each of those dimensions is also provided for each county, for each year in the period.

The most striking finding regarding handgun mortality in Delaware was that the overwhelming majority of handgun deaths were self-inflicted. There were 316 handgun deaths in Delaware from 1995 through 1999 and 205 of them (65%) were suicides. Homicides accounted for less than one-third (there were 102) and accidents comprised three percent (there were nine of them).

Figure 1: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Type, 1995-1999

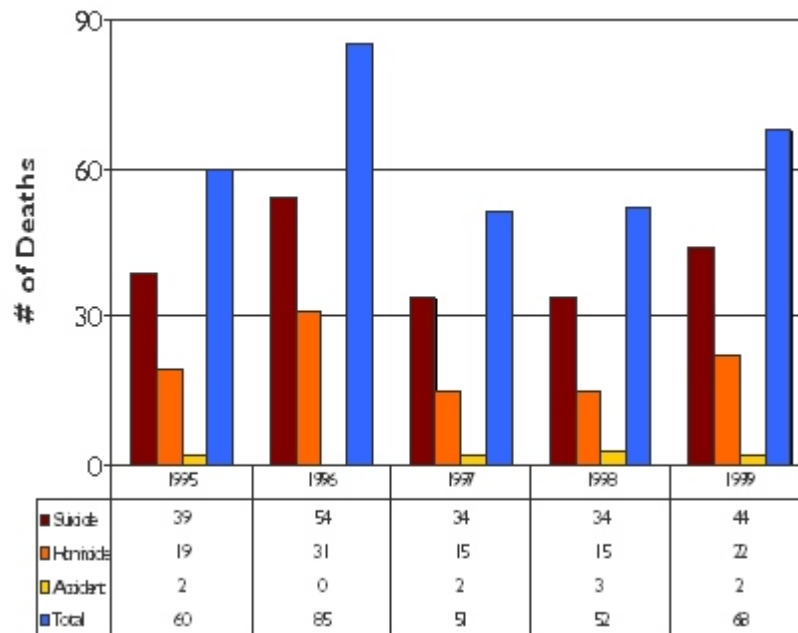


*Total # of Handgun Deaths= 316: Suicide= 205; Homicide= 102; Accident= 9

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Between the years of 1995 and 1999 there was a total of 316 deaths in Delaware (Figure 1). The overwhelming majority (65%) of shooting deaths were suicides, accounting for over half the deaths, a total of 205. Homicides (32%) and accidents (3%) only accounted for a total of just over one-third of handgun deaths in Delaware.

Figure 2: Handgun Deaths in Delaware
By Type, By Year, 1995-1999



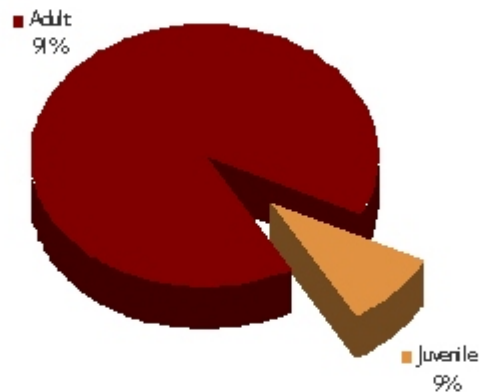
*There was a total of 316 handgun deaths in Delaware between 1995 and 1999.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

The total of suicides consistently outnumbered the total of both homicides and accidents each year between 1995 and 1999 (Figure 2). In all cases, suicide accounted for more than half of the handgun deaths in Delaware. The state had the most fatalities in 1996 with a total of 85 handgun deaths. The number of deaths decreased considerably and was at its lowest in 1997, when the total number of handgun deaths totaled 51. However, the number of fatalities had increased from 1998 (52) to 1999 (68).

By percentage, suicide accounted for 65% of handgun deaths in Delaware in 1995 (39 out of 60 fatalities); homicides accounted for 32 percent (19 deaths). In 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999, suicides comprised 64 percent, 67 percent, 65 percent and 65 percent of handgun deaths, respectively. In those same years, homicides accounted for 36 percent, 29 percent, 29 percent and 32 percent, respectively.

Figure 3: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Age, 1995-1999

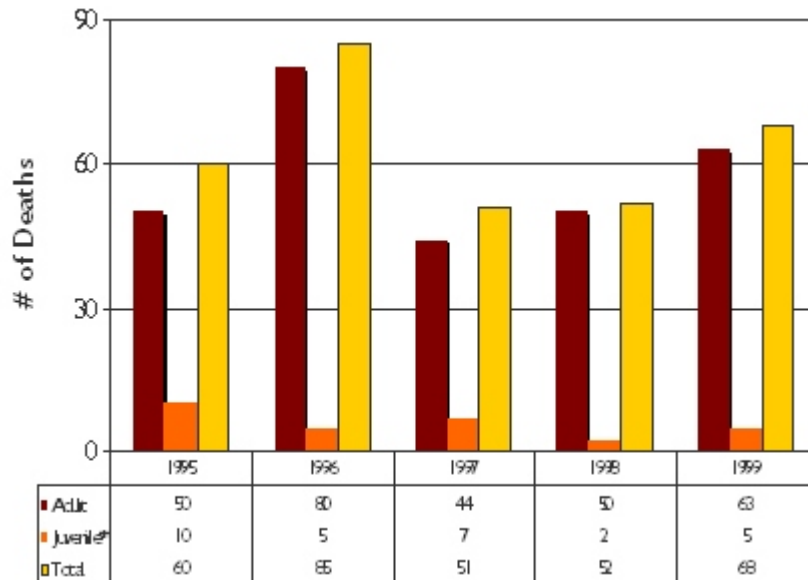


*Total Deaths=316 Adult=287; Juvenile (19 yrs. and younger)=29

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Juveniles (19 years and younger) accounted for only 9 percent of the handgun deaths in Delaware from the period of 1995 through 1999 (Figure 3). The overwhelming majority of deaths were adults (20 years and over) who accounted for 91 percent of the fatalities. Of the 316 deaths that occurred 1995 through 1999, 287 were adults while only 29 were juveniles.

Figure 4: Handgun Deaths in Delaware
By Age, By Year, 1995-1999

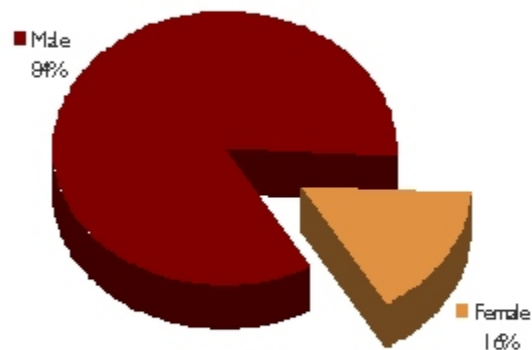


*Juvenile= 19 years & younger

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In 1996 adults suffered the most fatalities (80), surpassing the totals of both adults and juveniles combined in other years (Figure 4). Juveniles experienced their most fatalities in 1995 with a total of 10 deaths. In 1997 totals of handgun deaths experienced by adults was at its lowest (44). This fact may contribute to the fact that in 1997 total handgun deaths were at its lowest (51). However, from 1998 to 1999, the number of deaths for both adults and juveniles increased.

Figure 5: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Gender, 1995-1999

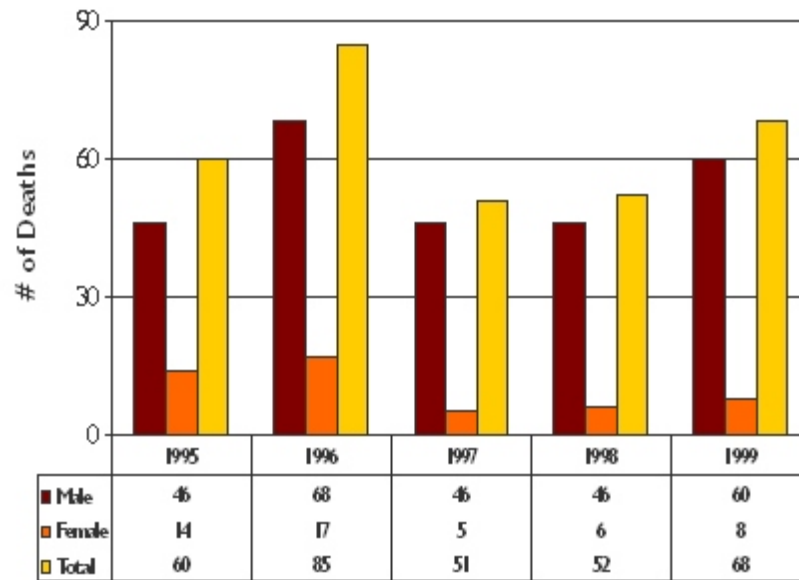


*Total Deaths=316; Male=266; Female=50

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

When comparing deaths by gender, Males account for a majority of the fatalities while females account for less than a fifth of the fatalities (Figure 5). Male fatalities were more than five times higher than female fatalities (50), totaling 266 deaths. Between this period of 1995 through 1999 males accounted for 84 percent of deaths and females accounted for only 16 percent.

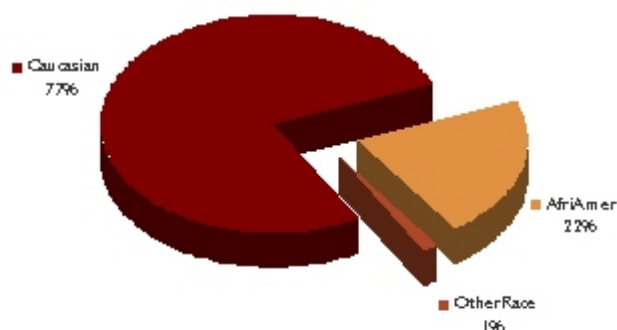
Figure 6: Handgun Deaths in Delaware
By Gender, By Year, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In 1995, 1997, and 1998 the number of handgun deaths experienced by males was the same (46). In 1996 the total of male deaths (68) was higher than the years 1995, 1997, and 1998. It was equal to the total number of deaths in 1999 (Figure 6). Female deaths remained low, only totaling more than ten on two separate occasions, 1995 (14) and 1996 (17).

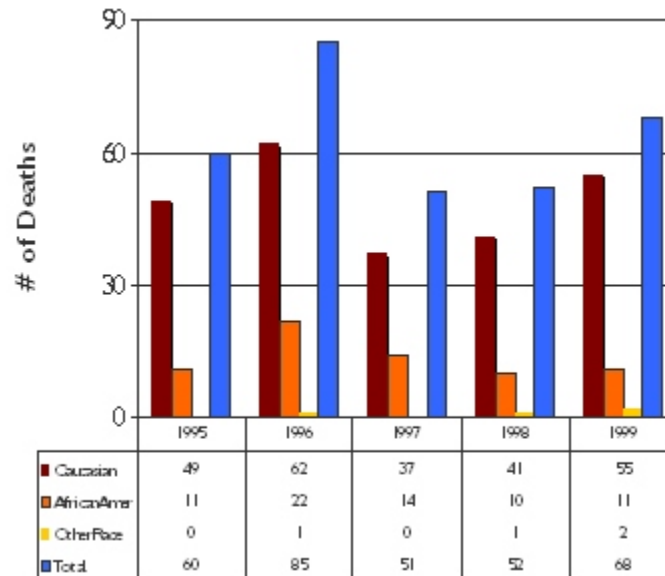
Figure 7: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Race, 1995-1999



*Total Deaths=316; Caucasian=244; African-American=68; Other Race=4
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

From 1995 through 1999 total handgun deaths of Caucasians accounted for more than seventy-five percent of total handgun deaths in Delaware (Figure 7). The percent of fatalities suffered by Caucasians (76%) was greater than both African-American and Other races combined. Of the 316 total handgun death victims in Delaware, Caucasians accounted for 244. The remaining proportion (22%) of handgun deaths were experienced by African-Americans. Other races accounted for only one-percent of Delaware handgun deaths.

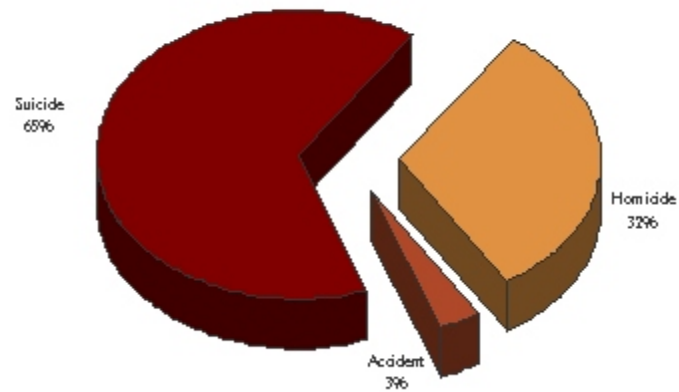
Figure 8: Handgun Deaths in Delaware
By Race, By Year, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

As in the cases with age, gender, and type, Caucasians and African Americans suffered the most deaths in 1996 (Figure 8). Caucasians had 62 handgun deaths and African-Americans had 22 handgun deaths. The number of handgun deaths of African-Americans in 1996 was double the number of handgun deaths of African-Americans in 1995, 1998 (10) and 1999. Other races accounted for only 4 handgun deaths from 1995 through 1999, two of which occurred in 1999.

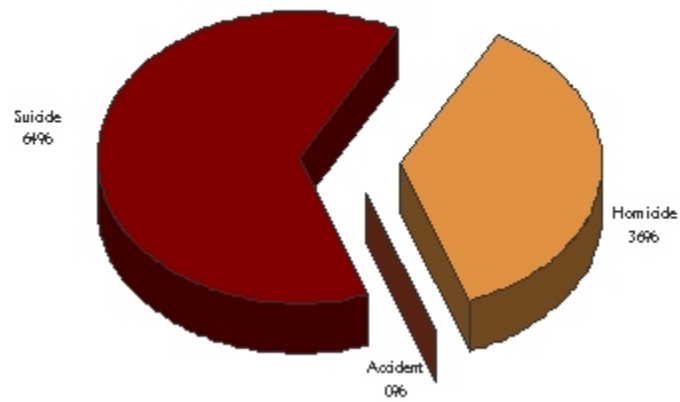
Figure 9: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Type, 1995



*In 1995 Total # of Deaths=60: Suicide=39; Homicide=19; Accident=2
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

As can be seen in Figure 9, suicide accounted for 65% of handgun deaths in Delaware in 1995. This percentage is equal to 39 suicides out of a total of 60 handgun deaths in Delaware. Homicides accounted for 32 percent (19 deaths) and Accidents accounted for 3 percent (2 deaths).

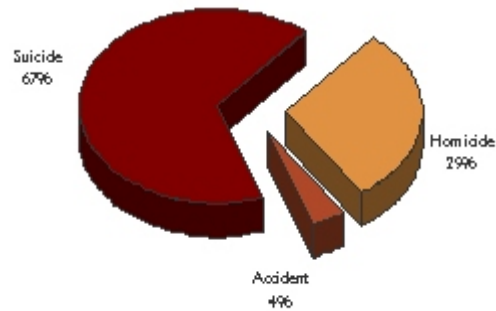
Figure 10: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Type, 1996



*Total # of Deaths=85: Suicide=54; Homicide=31; Accident=0
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In 1996 there were no accidental handgun deaths in Delaware (Figure 10). The majority (64%) of the deaths were suicide. Of the 85 total handgun deaths, suicide accounted for 54 deaths and homicide accounted for 31. As previously stated, the majority of all handgun deaths in Delaware were suicides.

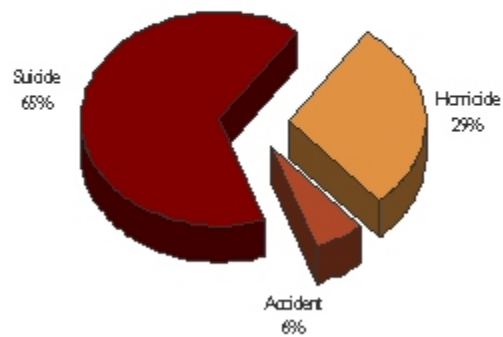
Figure 11: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Type, 1997



*Total # of Deaths=51: Suicide=34; Homicide=15; Accident=2
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Although the number of suicides (34) was at its lowest in 1997, the percentage of suicides was not (Figure 11). In 1997 suicides accounted for 67% of the deaths in Delaware. Comparatively, 1996 (64%), and 1997, 1998 and 1999 (all 65%) had a lower percentage of deaths due to suicide.

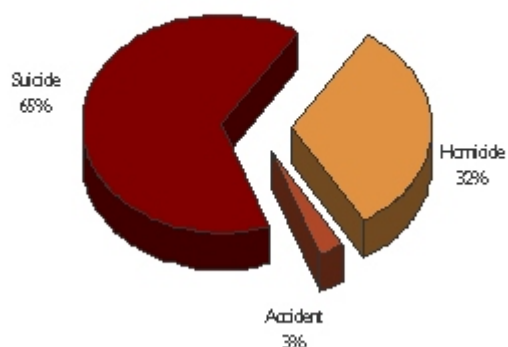
Figure 12: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Type, 1998



*Total # of Deaths=52: Suicide=34; Homicide=15; Accident=3
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In 1998 the percentage of accidental handgun deaths reached its highest at 6 percent (Figure 12), representing three accidental handgun deaths during that year. Of the 52 total handgun deaths, 65 percent were suicide and 29 percent were homicide.

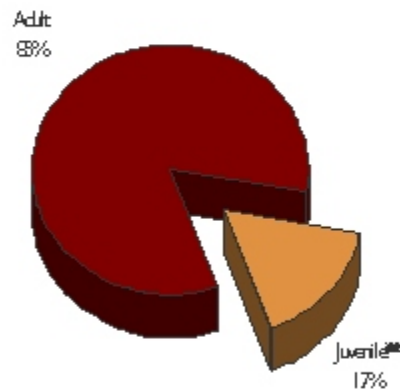
Figure 13: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Type, 1999



*Total # of Deaths=68: Suicide=44; Homicide=22; Accident=2
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In 1999, though the percentage of suicides (65%) remained the same as 1998, the real number of suicides increased from 34 to 44 deaths (Figure 13). Homicide increased in both number (15 to 22) and percentage (29% to 32%) from 1998 to 1999. Accidents accounted for only 3 percent of handgun deaths in 1999.

Figure 14: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Age, 1995



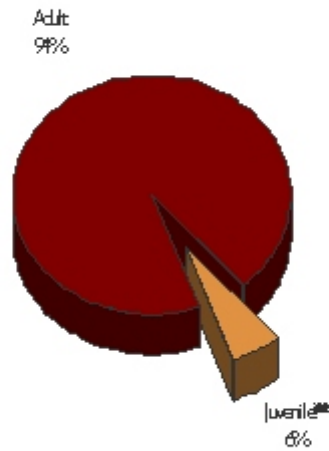
*Total # of Deaths=60: Adult=50; Juvenile=10

**Juvenile=19 years & younger

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In every year from 1995 through 1999, the percentage of adult handgun deaths was over 80 percent. In 1995 adult handgun deaths in Delaware accounted for 83 percent of the fatalities, while juveniles accounted for only 17% (Figure 14).

Figure 15: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Age, 1996



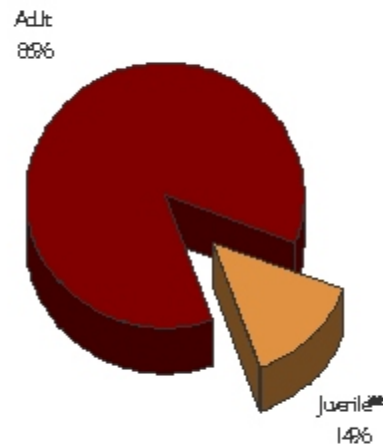
*Total # of Deaths=85: Adult=80 Juvenile=5

**Juvenile=19 years & younger

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In 1996 percentage of adult handgun deaths reached over 90 percent of total deaths (Figure 15). Of the 85 total deaths, adults accounted for 80, which was 94% of the total deaths. Juveniles only had 6% of the total deaths.

Figure 16: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Age, 1997



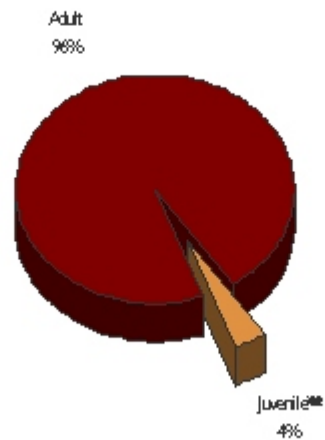
*Total # of Deaths=51: Adult=44 Juvenile=7

**Juvenile=19 years & younger

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

During 1997 percentage of juvenile handgun deaths reached its highest from the 1995-1999 period, whereas the number of deaths did not (Figure 16). A total of 7 juvenile handgun deaths accounted for 14 percent of the total handgun deaths. Adults accounted for 86 percent of Delaware handgun deaths.

Figure 17: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Age, 1998



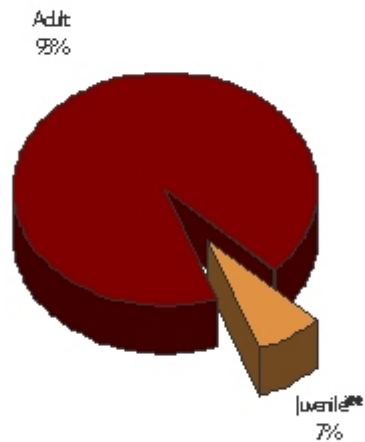
*Total # of Deaths= 52: Adult= 50 Juvenile= 2

**Juvenile= 19 years & younger

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In 1998 percentage of adult handgun deaths in Delaware reached its highest and the percentage of juvenile deaths reach its lowest (Figure 17). Adults accounted for 96 percent of handgun deaths and juveniles 4 percent. The percentage of adult deaths does not reflect the actual number of deaths compared with other years. The number of adult handgun deaths was only 50 of the 52 total deaths. This total of adult deaths is smaller than the total of adult deaths in 1996 when the total was 80 and the percentage was ninety-four.

Figure 18: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Age, 1999



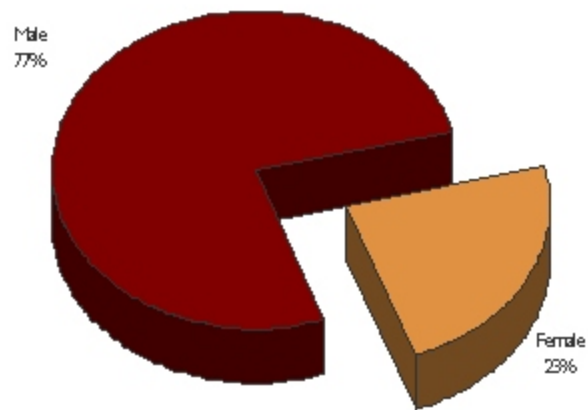
*Total # of Deaths= 68: Adult= 63; Juvenile= 5

**Juvenile= 19 years & younger

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In 1999 the percentage of adult handgun deaths slightly decreased, but the number of handgun deaths increased from 1998 (Figure 18).

Figure 19: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Gender, 1995

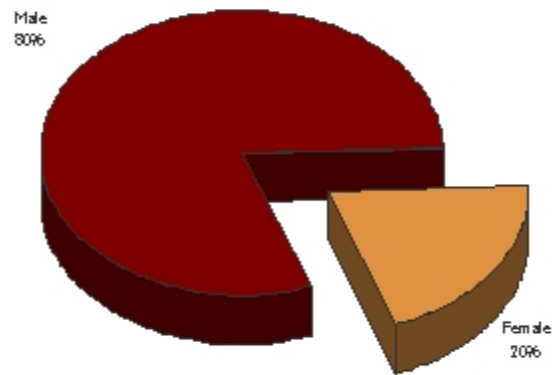


*Total # of Deaths=60: Male=46; Female=14

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In all years male handgun deaths account for more than 75 percent of fatalities (Figure 19). In 1995 handgun deaths reached 76 percent and female deaths reached its highest percentage at 23 percent.

Figure 20: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Gender, 1996

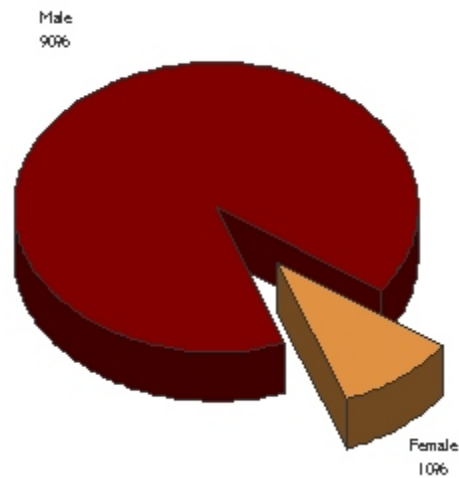


*Total # of Deaths=85: Male=68; Female=17

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

1996 shows a increase in the percentage of male deaths and decrease in the percentage of female deaths from 1995 (Figure 20). Percentage of male deaths increased from 77 percent in 1995 to 80 percent in 1996. Percentage of female deaths decreased from 23 percent in 1995 to 20 percent in 1996. However, the numbers of both increase from 1995 to 1996. Males increase from 46 to 68 and females increased from 14 to 17 for these periods.

Figure 21: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Gender, 1997

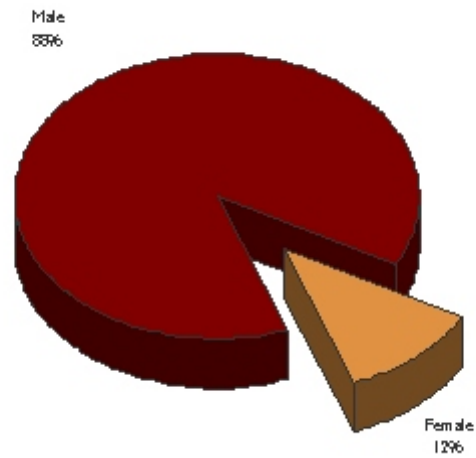


*Total # of Deaths=51: Male=46; Female=5

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

The percentage of male handgun deaths steadily increased from 1995 through 1997 and percentage of female handgun deaths has steadily decreased. In 1997 percentage of male handgun deaths reached its highest at 90 percent of total handgun deaths (Figure 21).

Figure 22: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Gender, 1998

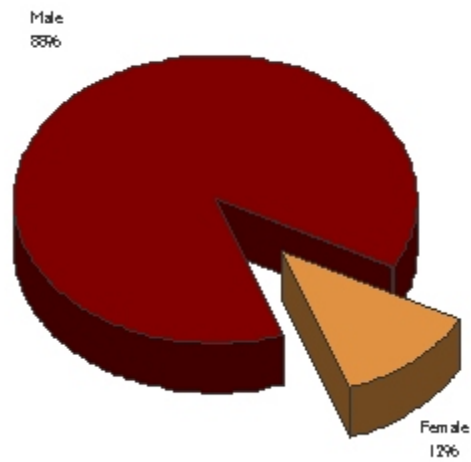


*Total # of Deaths= 52: Male = 46; Female = 6

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In 1998 the percentage of male handgun deaths slightly declined (88%). Percentage of female handgun deaths increased at the same rate of male handgun deaths increased (Figure 22). Percentage of female deaths reached 12 percent of total deaths in 1998, a two percent increase from the previous year.

Figure 23: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Gender, 1999

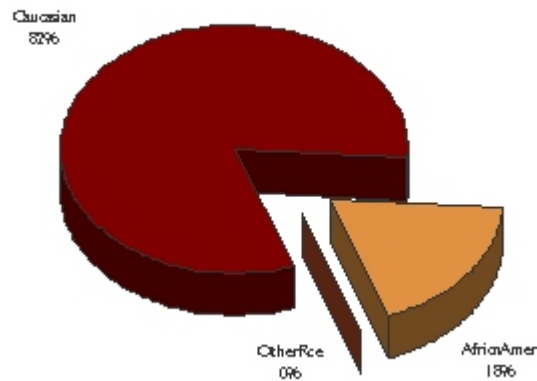


*Total # of Deaths=68: Male=60; Female=8

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In 1999 both male and female handgun deaths remained constant. Percentage of male handgun deaths remained at 88 percent and female deaths remained at 12 percent (Figure 23). However, the number of both increased. Males increased from 46 to 60 handgun deaths and females increased from 6 to 8 handgun deaths.

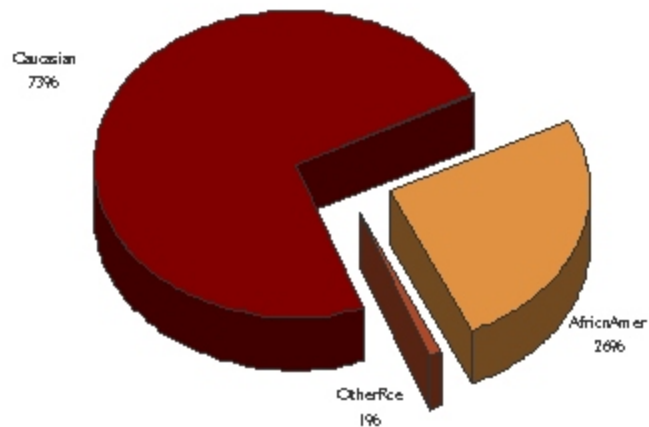
Figure 24: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Race, 1995



*Total # of Deaths=60: Caucasian=49; AfricanAmer=11; OtherRace=0
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In 1995 the percentage of Caucasian handgun deaths reach its highest at 82 percent (Figure 24). The remaining percentage was African-Americans (18%). Other races had no handgun deaths during this year.

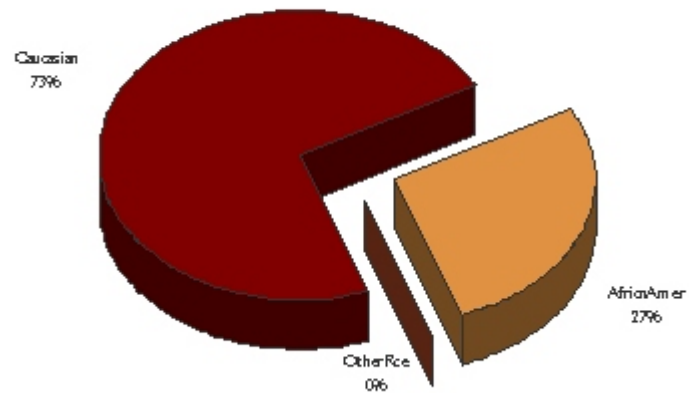
Figure 25: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Race, 1996



*Total # of Deaths=85: Caucasian=62; African-American=22; Other Race=1
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In 1996 both percentage of African-American handgun deaths and Other Race handgun death increased from percentages in 1995. For African-Americans the increase was from 18 percent to 26 percent (Figure 25). For other races the increase was 1 percent from a percentage of zero. Percentage of handgun decrease from 82 percent in 1995 to 73 percent in 1996.

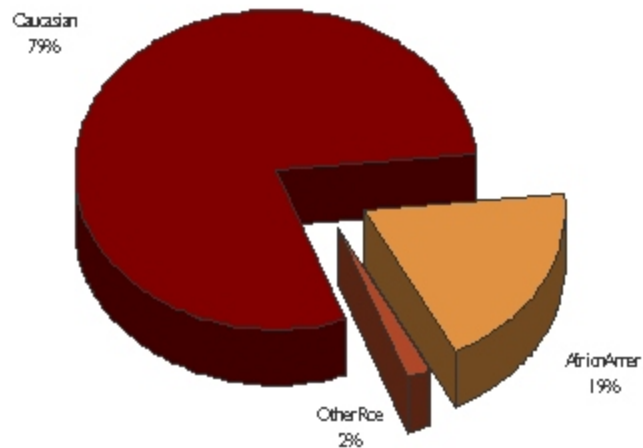
Figure 26: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Race, 1997



*Total # of Deaths= 51: Caucasian= 37; AfricanAmer= 14; OtherRace=0
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In 1997, percentage of handgun deaths remained constant for Caucasians while African-Americans experienced a one percent increase in deaths. Of a total of 51 handgun deaths 37 (73%) were Caucasian, 14 (27%) were African-American, and none were of Other races (Figure 26).

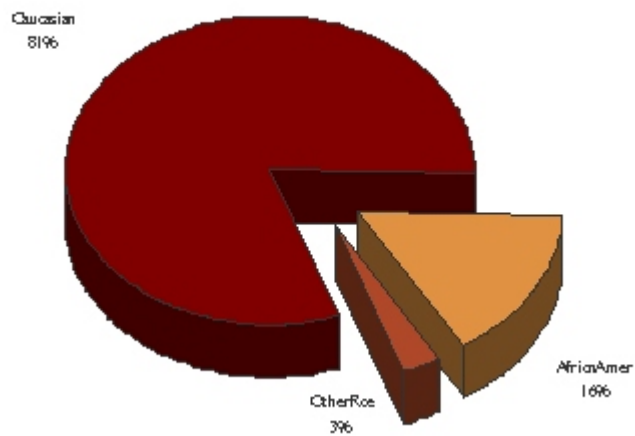
Figure 27: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Race, 1998



*Total # of Deaths=52: Caucasian=41; AfricanAmer=10; OtherRace=1
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In 1998 total number of deaths increased by one, but the percentage of Caucasian handgun deaths increased by 6 percent. Caucasian deaths (41) totaled 79 percent of deaths in Delaware, while African-American deaths decreased to 19 percent, and Other races death increased to 2 percent (Figure 27).

Figure 28: Total Handgun Deaths* in Delaware
By Race, 1999



*Total # of Deaths=68: Caucasian=55; AfricanAmer=11; OtherRace=2
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

From 1997 through 1999, percentage of Caucasian deaths steadily increased, while percentage of African-American deaths steadily decreased. Caucasians (81%) accounted for 55 of a total of 68 handgun deaths, African-Americans (16%) 11, and Other Races (3%) two (Figure 28).

Table 25: Handgun Mortality* in Delaware
by County, by Type, 1995-1999

	New Castle %	Kent %	Sussex %
Suicide	59	81	73
Homicide	40	15	21
Accident	1	4	6
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

*There were a total of 316 handgun deaths in Delaware from 1995-1999
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In each of the counties, suicide accounted for the significant majority of handgun deaths throughout the period from 1995 -1999. Almost six out of ten deaths (59%) in New Castle were suicides. The proportions of suicides were even higher in Kent (81%) and Sussex (73%) counties.

Table 26: Handgun Mortality* in Delaware
by County, by Age, by Gender, 1995-1999

	New Castle %	Kent %	Sussex %
Age			
Adult	91	90	88
Juvenile**	9	10	12
<i>Total, Age</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Gender			
Male	83	88	83
Female	17	12	17
<i>Total, Gender</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Race/Ethnicity			
African-American	33	12	12
Caucasian	67	88	87
Other	< 1	0	1
<i>Total, Race/Ethnicity</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

*There were a total of 316 handgun deaths in Delaware from 1995-1999

**Juvenile= 19 years and younger

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Across all of the counties in Delaware, the patterns of handgun mortality were similar. In each county about nine out of ten victims were adults (91%, 90% and 88%) in New Castle, Kent and Sussex counties, respectively. Further, they were overwhelmingly male (over eight out of ten in all three counties). The significant majority were Caucasian, comprising two-thirds (67%) of the victims in New Castle County and almost nine out of ten victims in both Kent (88%) and Sussex (87%) counties.

Table 27: Suicide* Handgun Mortality in Delaware
by County, by Age, by Gender, by Race/Ethnicity, 1995-1999

	New Castle %	Kent %	Sussex %
Age			
Adult	96	90	93
Juvenile**	4	10	7
<i>Total, Age</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Gender			
Male	86	97	92
Female	14	3	8
<i>Total, Gender</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Race/Ethnicity			
African-American	15	5	5
Caucasian	85	95	93
Other	0	0	2
<i>Total, Race/Ethnicity</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

*There were a total of 205 suicide handgun deaths in Delaware from 1995-1999

**Juvenile= 19 years and younger

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

As we indicated earlier, suicides accounted for the significant majority of handgun deaths in Delaware (see Figure 1). Therefore, we examined the distribution of the deaths within the counties along the most obvious demographic characteristics, age, gender and race/ethnicity. Suicide in the counties was very similar along these dimensions. For each factor, the characteristic that achieved the overwhelming majority reached around 90 percent. That is, in each county (with some variation), the substantial proportion of victims of suicide were adult, male and Caucasian.

Table 28: Homicide* Handgun Mortality in Delaware
by County, by Age, by Gender, by Race/Ethnicity, 1995-1999

	New Castle %	Kent %	Sussex %
Age			
Adult	82	100	72
Juvenile**	18	0	28
<i>Total, Age</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Gender			
Male	89	43	50
Female	11	57	50
<i>Total, Gender</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Race/Ethnicity			
African-American	57	100	33
Caucasian	41	0	67
Other	2	0	0
<i>Total, Race/Ethnicity</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

*There were a total of 102 homicide handgun deaths in Delaware from 1995-1999

**Juvenile=19 years and younger

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

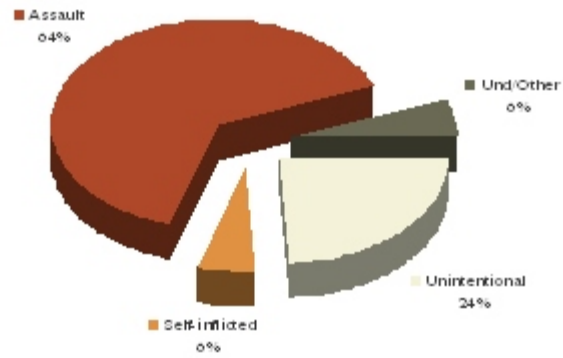
Homicide mortality had some variation among the counties, but, we must keep in mind that the number of homicides in Kent and Sussex counties was very small. In any event, there were differences along the demographic dimensions of age, gender and race/ethnicity. In New Castle County, the profile of the homicide victims (as defined by the majority attribute for each of the factors) was overwhelmingly adult (82%), male (89%) and mostly African-American (57%). However, that pattern did not hold in either of the southern counties. In Kent County, the homicide victims were all adults (100%), mostly female (57%) and all African-American (100%). In Sussex County, the profile was different. Almost three-quarters (72%) of the homicide victims were adults, but they were evenly divided regarding gender (50% and 50%). In addition, two-thirds (67%) of the victims were Caucasian.

Non-Fatal Firearm Injuries in Delaware 1995-1999

In addition to the fatalities that were caused by handguns in Delaware, we looked at the non-fatal firearm injuries that also occurred in the state from 1995 through 1999. The data for the information in this section was provided to the project by Robert A. Ruggiero, Health Statistics Administrator for the Delaware Health Statistics Center. The primary source was the hospital discharge data that was gathered by the state. The data represent the period from 1995-1999, the most recent five-year period for which data were available.

This information is presented along the same dimensions that we used to indicate the handgun mortality findings in the previous section. The information is divided by type of firearm injury (assault, unintentional, self-inflicted, undetermined/other); gender, race and age. Each of these dimensions is also provided for each county.

Figure 29: Total Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Delaware by Type, 1995-1999



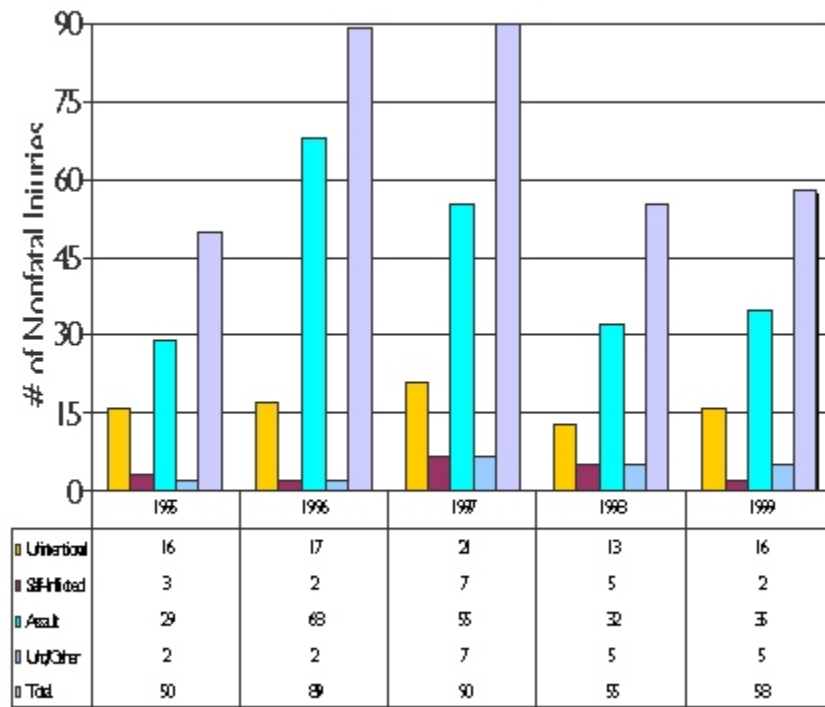
*Total # of Nonfatal Injuries=342; Unintentional=83; Self-inflicted=19; Assault=219;

Undetermined/Other=21

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware

There were 342 nonfatal firearm injuries in Delaware between from January 1, 1995 through December 31, 1999. Almost two-thirds of these injuries(64%) were the result of assaults (Figure 29). Another quarter (24%) were unintentional; six percent were self-inflicted and the type was unknown or undetermined for another six percent.

Figure 30: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Delaware
By Type, By Year, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware

During the 1995-1999 period, the nonfatal firearm injuries were most numerous during 1996 and 1997 with 89 and 90 such injuries, respectively. Subsequent years saw a reduction in these injuries by almost one-half (56 in 1998 and 58 in 1999).

Figure 31: Total Nonfatal Firearm Injuries * in Delaware
By Age, 1995-1999

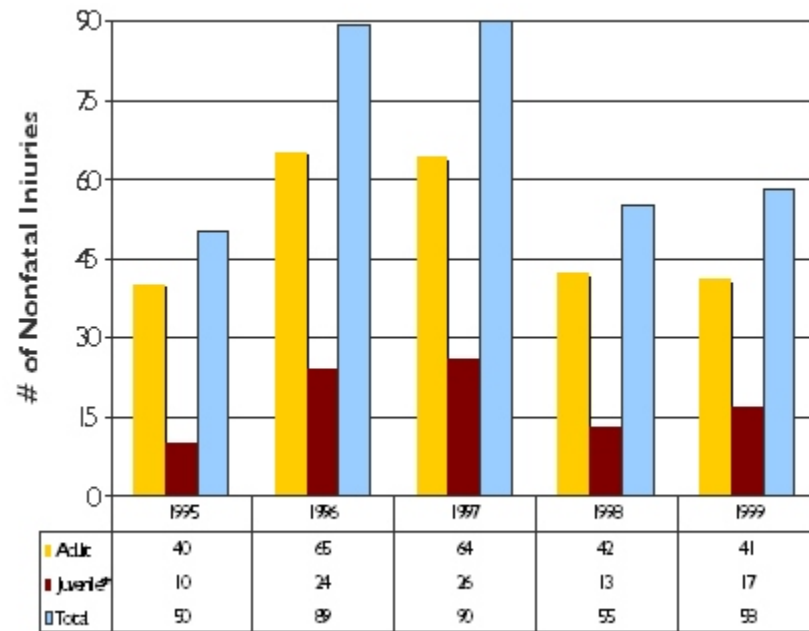


*Total Nonfatal=342 Adult=252; Juvenile (19 yrs. and younger)=90

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware

Adults accounted for the overwhelming majority (74%) of nonfatal firearm injuries in Delaware between 1995 and 1999.

Figure 32: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Delaware
By Age, By Year, 1995-1999



*Juvenile= 19 years & younger

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware

Throughout the period, adults sustained the significant majority of nonfatal firearm injuries.

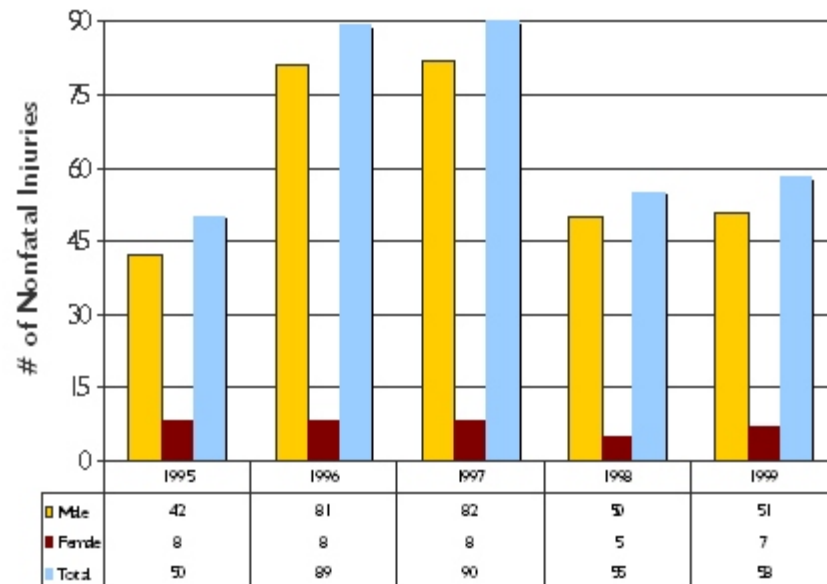
Figure 33: Total Nonfatal Firearm Injuries * in Delaware
By Gender, 1995-1999



***Total Nonfatal=342; Male=306; Female=36**
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware

Males were overwhelmingly the victims of nonfatal firearm injuries within the state throughout the period.

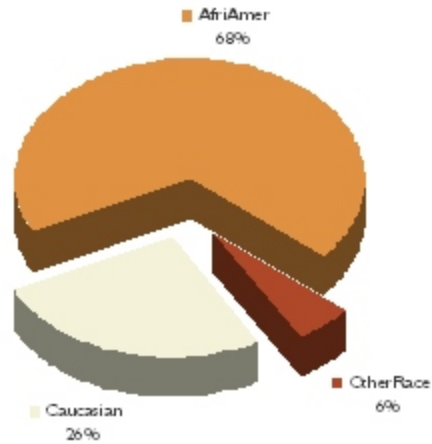
Figure 34: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Delaware
By Gender, By Year, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware

Across the years, males were consistently the dominant victims of firearm nonfatal injuries in Delaware.

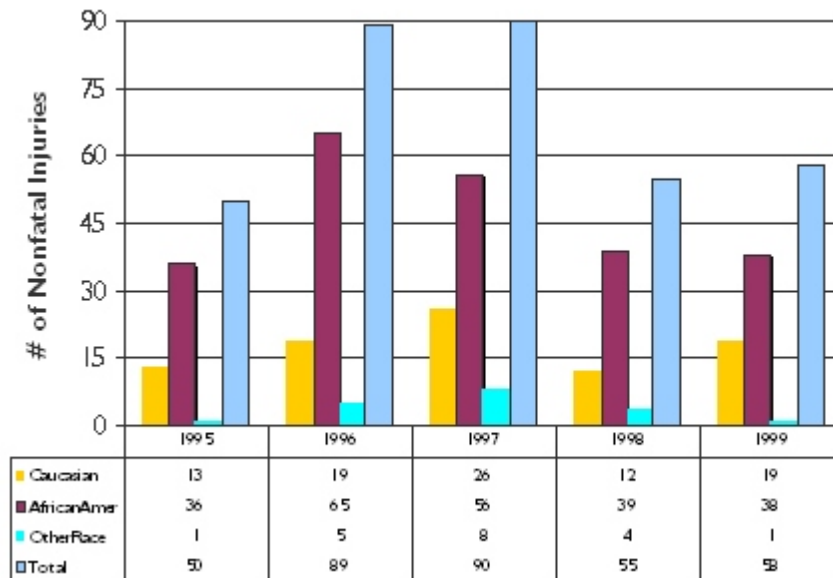
Figure 35: Total Nonfatal Firearm Injuries* in Delaware
By Race, 1995-1999



*Total Nonfatal=342; Caucasian=89; African-American=234; Other Race=19
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware

African-Americans comprised over two-thirds (68%) of the nonfatal firearm injuries in the state during the 1995-1999 period.

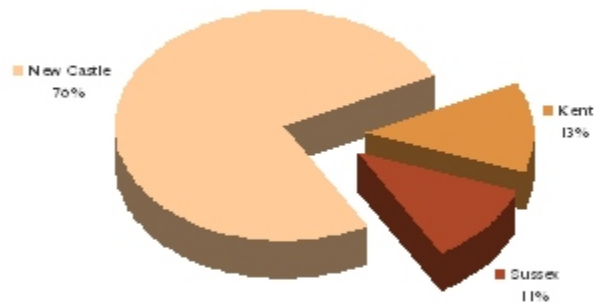
Figure 36: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Delaware
By Race, By Year, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

The pre-eminence of African-American nonfatal firearm injuries was consistent throughout the period for each year.

Figure 37: Total Nonfatal Firearm Injuries* in Delaware
By County, 1995-1999

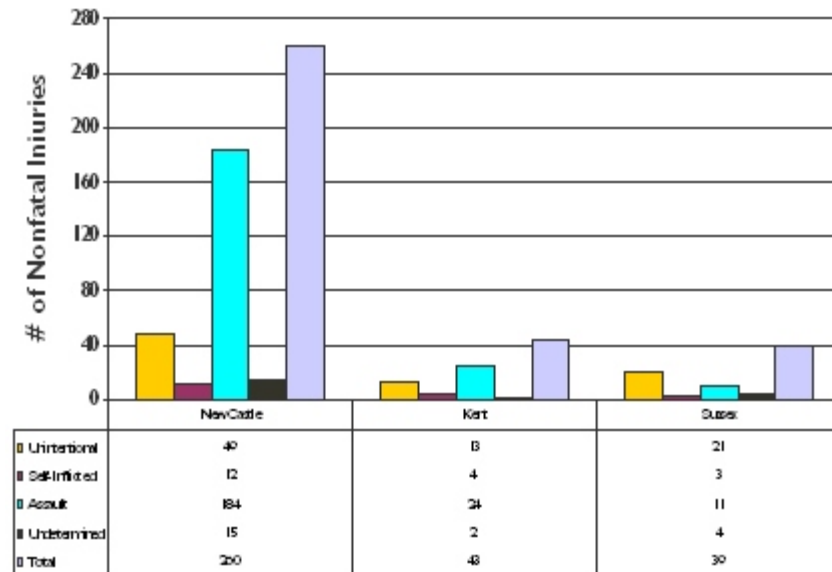


*Total Nonfatal=342; New Castle=260; Kent=43; Sussex=39

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

New Castle County accounted for over three-fourths (76%) of the nonfatal firearm injuries in the state during the period from 1995-1999.

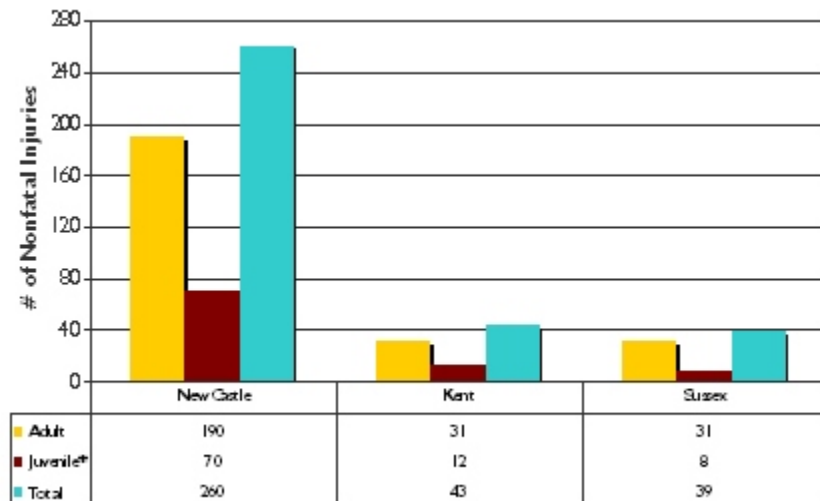
Figure 38: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Delaware
By Type, By County, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Assault injuries outnumbered any other types in New Castle and Kent counties. However, unintentional nonfatal firearm injuries almost doubled injuries due to assaults in Sussex County (21 and 11, respectively).

Figure 39: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Delaware
By Age, By County, 1995-1999

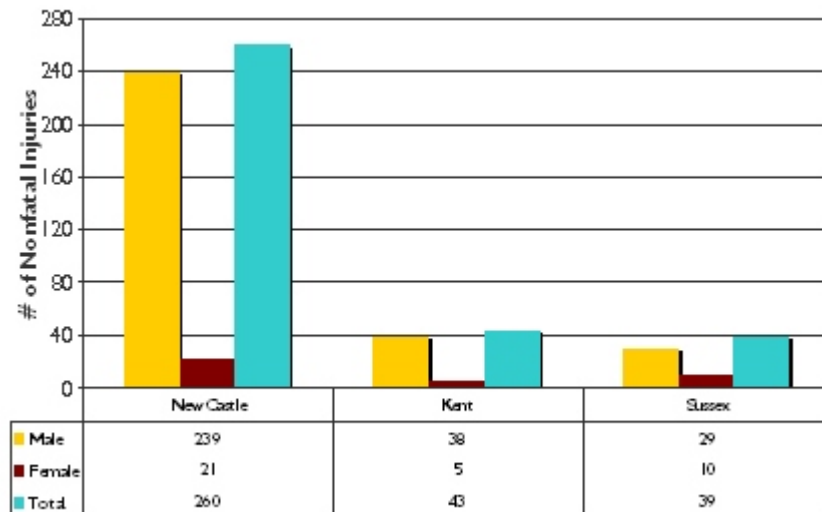


*Juvenile=19 years and younger.

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In each of the counties, adults accounted for the overwhelming majority of nonfatal firearm injuries.

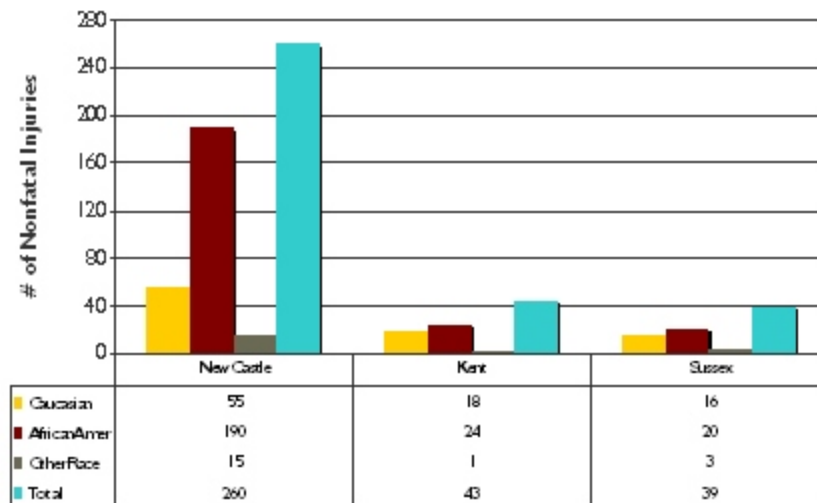
Figure 40: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Delaware
By Gender, By County, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

The dominance of males as victims of nonfatal firearm injuries is consistent throughout the counties.

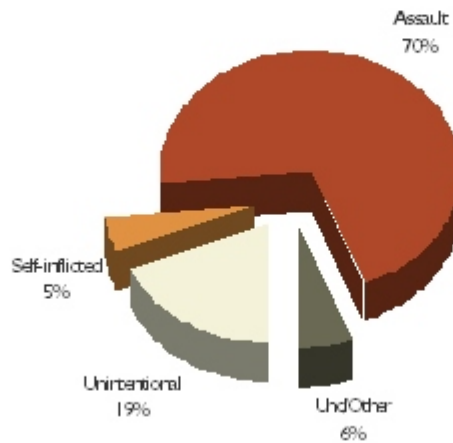
Figure 41: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Delaware
By Race, By County, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Across the counties, African-Americans comprised the majority of nonfatal firearm injury victims. The difference was particularly striking in New Castle County where African-Americans were the victims of nonfatal injuries almost four times more than Caucasians.

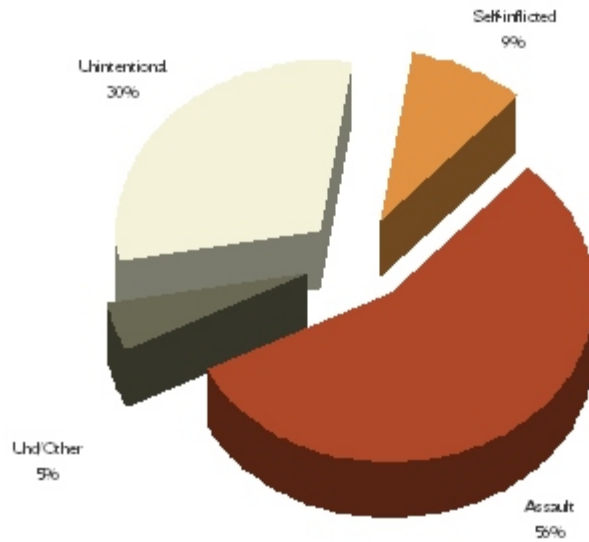
Figure 42: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries* in New Castle County
By Type, 1995-1999



*Total # of Nonfatal Firearm Injuries= 260; Unintentional= 49;
Self-Inflicted= 12; Assault= 184; Undetermined/Other= 15
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

We now look at the information for each county. In New Castle County seven out of ten (70%) nonfatal firearm injuries were the result of assaults. Another one in five (19%) occurred unintentionally.

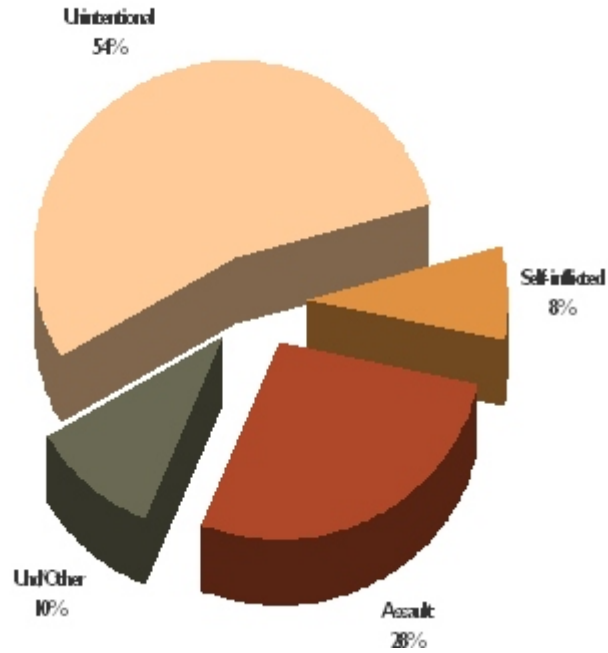
Figure 43: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries* in Kent County
By Type, 1995-1999



*Total # of Nonfatal Firearm Injuries=43: Unintentional=13;
Self-inflicted=4;Assault=24;Undetermined/Other=2
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In Kent County, the percentage of assaults (56%) were fewer than New Castle County (70%). However, there were more unintentional nonfatal firearm injuries (30%). Further, self-inflicted nonfatal injuries reached almost one out of ten (9%).

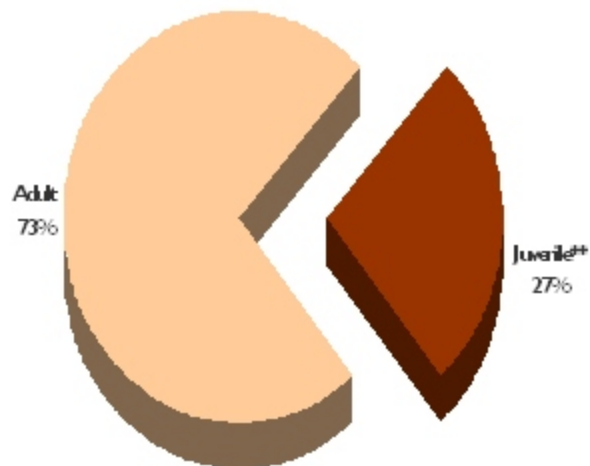
Figure 44: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries* in Sussex County
By Type, 1995-1999



*Total # of Nonfatal Firearm Injuries= 39: Unintentional= 21 ;
Self-inflicted= 3; Assault= 11 ; Undetermined/Other= 4
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In Sussex County, the pattern of the causes of nonfatal firearm injuries was very different than its northern neighbors. Unlike New Castle and Kent counties, unintentional actions accounted for the majority (54%) of nonfatal firearm injuries. That was almost double the proportion for assaults (28%). The remaining nonfatal injuries were relatively evenly divided between undetermined/other causes (10%) and self-inflicted actions (8%).

Figure 45: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries* in New Castle County
By Age, 1995-1999



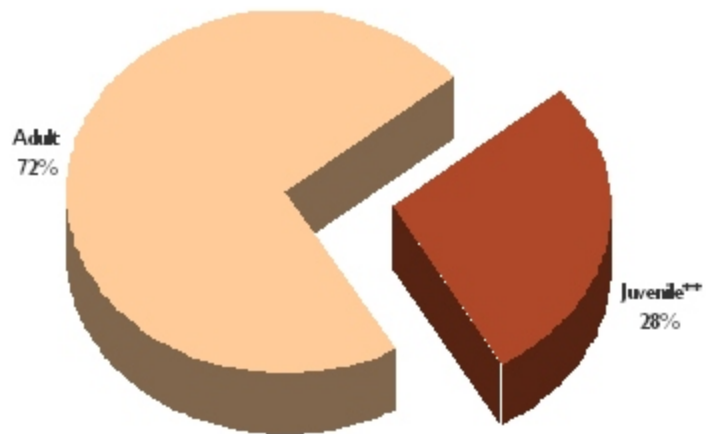
*Total # of Nonfatal Firearm Injuries = 260: Adult= 190; Juvenile=70

**Juvenile= 19 years & younger

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In New Castle County, adults accounted for almost three-quarters (73%) of the nonfatal firearm injuries while juveniles were injured in just over one-quarter (27%) of the cases.

Figure 46: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries* in Kent County
By Age, 1995-1999



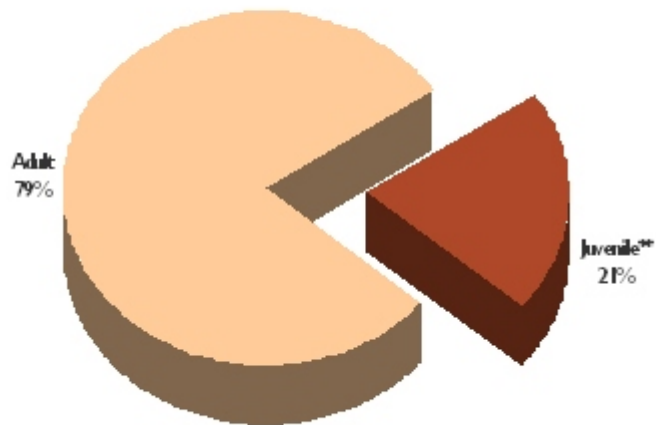
*Total # of Nonfatal Firearm Injuries = 43: Adult = 31; Juvenile = 12

**Juvenile = 19 years & younger

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

The proportion of nonfatal firearm injuries in Kent County (72% for adults and 28% for juveniles) was consistent with the proportions in New Castle County.

Figure 47: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries* in Sussex County
By Age, 1995-1999



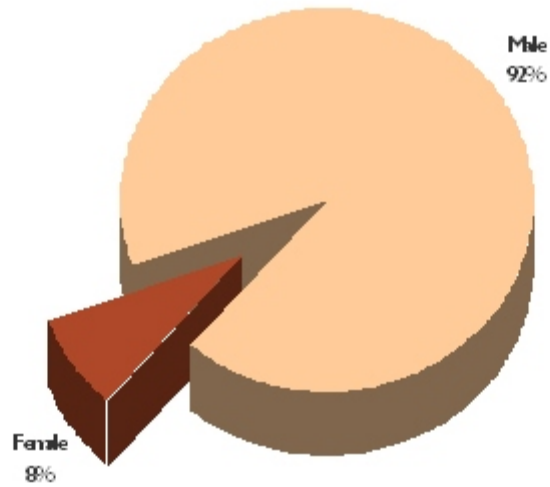
*Total # of Nonfatal Firearm Injuries=39: Adult=31; Juvenile=8

**Juvenile= 19 years & younger

Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Almost eight out of ten (79%) nonfatal firearm injuries in Sussex County occurred to adults; the remaining 21 percent had juvenile victims.

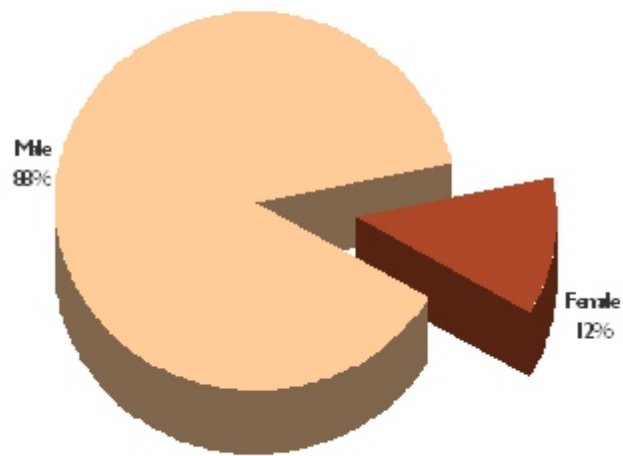
Figure 48: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries* in New Castle County
By Gender, 1995-1999



*Total # of Nonfatal Firearm Injuries = 2603: Male = 239; Female = 21
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Males were overwhelmingly the majority (92%) of the victims of nonfatal firearm injuries in New Castle County.

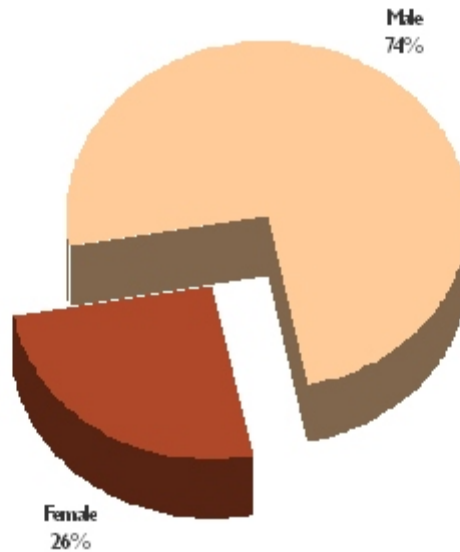
Figure 49: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries* in Kent County
By Gender, 1995-1999



*Total # of Nonfatal Firearm Injuries=43: Male=38; Female=5
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

As in New Castle County, males constituted almost nine out of ten (88%) of nonfatal firearm injuries in Kent County.

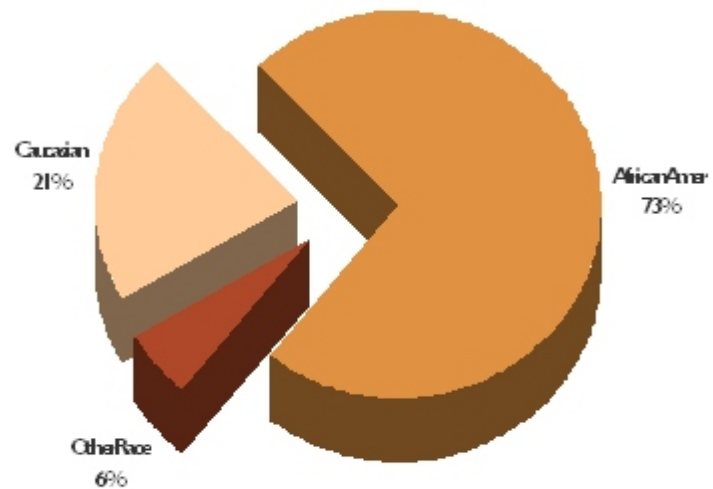
Figure 50: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries* in Sussex County
By Gender, 1995-1999



*Total # of Nonfatal Firearm Injuries = 39: Male = 29; Female = 10
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In Sussex County, the proportion of males comprising nonfatal firearm injuries was 74 percent, substantially lower than either of its northern neighbors (92% and 88% in New Castle and Kent counties, respectively).

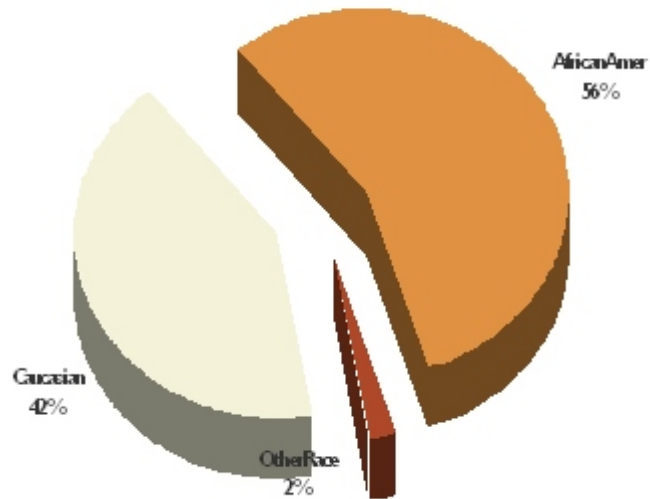
Figure 5 I: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries* in New Castle County
By Race, 1995-1999



*Total # of Nonfatal Firearm Injuries = 260: Caucasian = 55; African Amer = 190; Other Race = 15
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In New Castle County, African-Americans constituted the significant majority (73%) of the nonfatal firearm injuries; Caucasians made up about one-fifth (21%) and Other Races accounted for the remaining cases (6%).

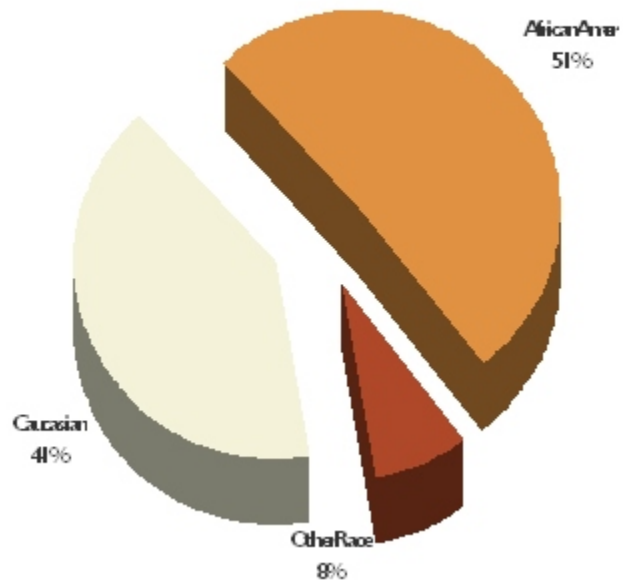
Figure 52: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries * in Kent County
By Race, 1995-1999



*Total # of Nonfatal Firearm Injuries=43: Caucasian=18; AfricanAmer=24; OtherRace=1
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

African-Americans comprised over half (56%) of the nonfatal firearm injuries in Kent County from 1995-1999.

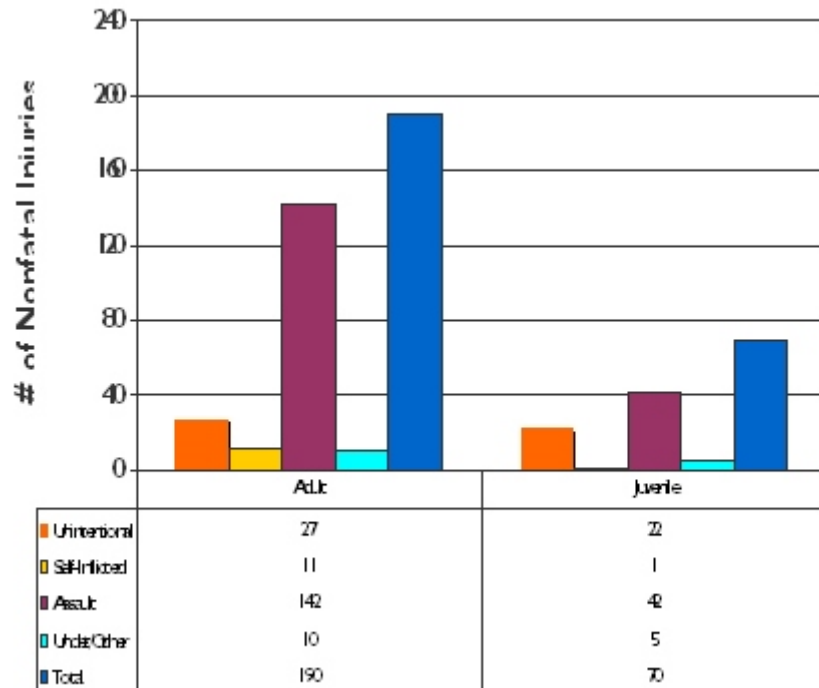
Figure 53: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries* in Sussex County
By Race, 1995-1999



*Total # of Nonfatal Firearm Injuries= 39: Caucasian= 16; African American= 20; Other Race= 3
Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

The distribution of nonfatal injuries by race/ethnicity in Sussex County closely matched that of Kent County with African-Americans accounting for just over a majority of such cases.

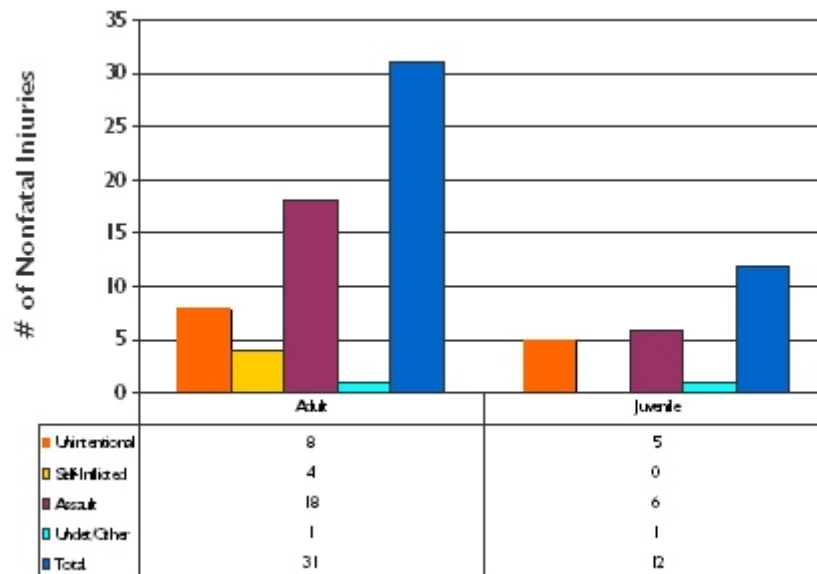
Figure 54: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in New Castle County
By Type, By Age, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In New Castle County, as in the state as a whole, assaults comprised the significant majority of nonfatal injuries for both adults (75%, 142 divided by 190) and juveniles (60%, 42 divided by 70). Unintentional injuries were the second most numerous for both age categories.

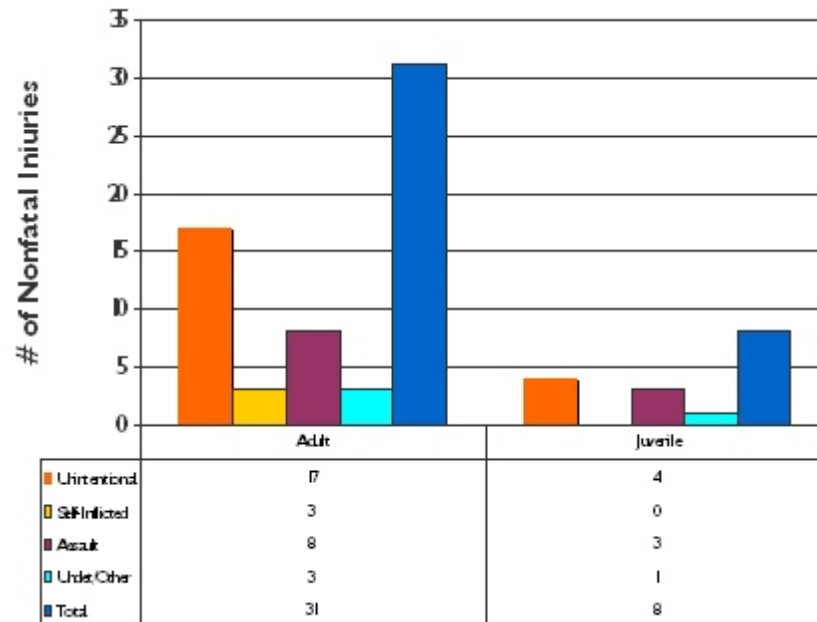
Figure 55: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Kent County
By Type, By Age, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Although there were relatively few nonfatal injuries (total of 43) in Kent County over the period we studied, the prominence of assaults was maintained in both age categories, 18 out of 31 and 6 out of 12 for adults and juveniles, respectively.

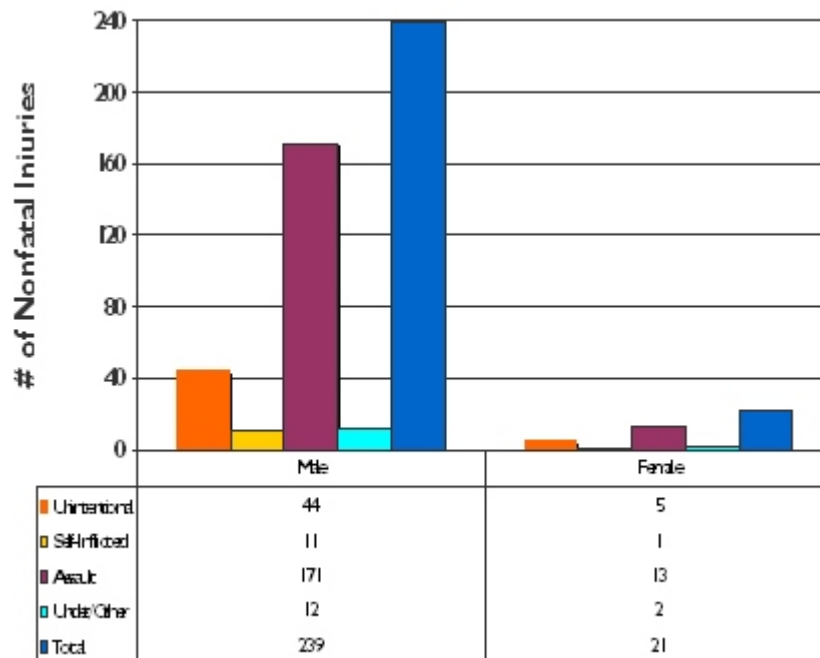
Figure 56: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Sussex County
By Type, By Age, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Unlike its northern neighbors, the nature of nonfatal firearm injuries in Sussex County was mainly due to unintentional circumstances. Again, although there were a small number of nonfatal injuries in the county, the proportions were still different from New Castle and Kent counties. In Sussex County, 55 percent of the adult nonfatal injuries were due to unintentional actions; for juveniles the proportion was 50 percent.

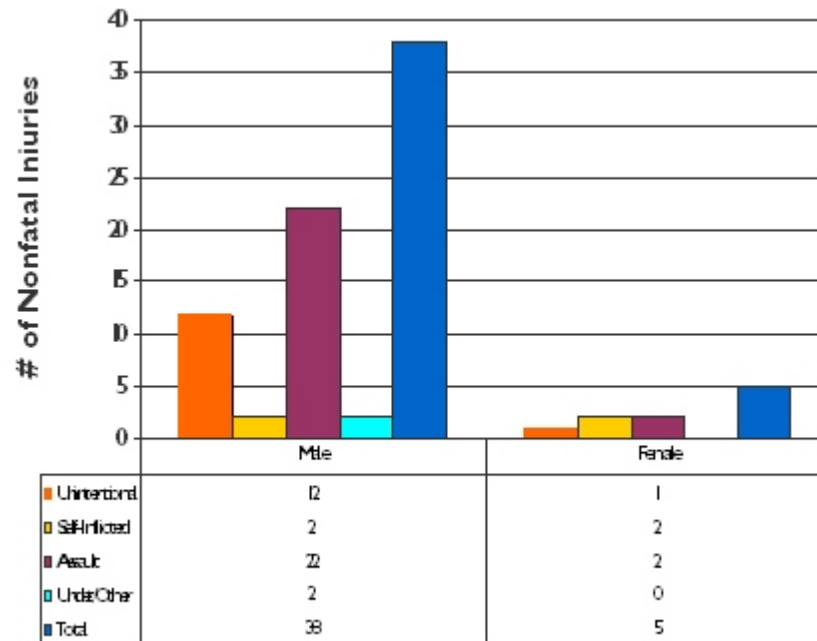
Figure 57: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in New Castle County
By Type, By Gender, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

As we indicated earlier, males were the overwhelming victims of nonfatal firearm injuries in the state. In New Castle County, the vast majority (72%) were the targets of assaults. For females, assaults were also the most prominent type (62%) of causes for nonfatal firearm injury.

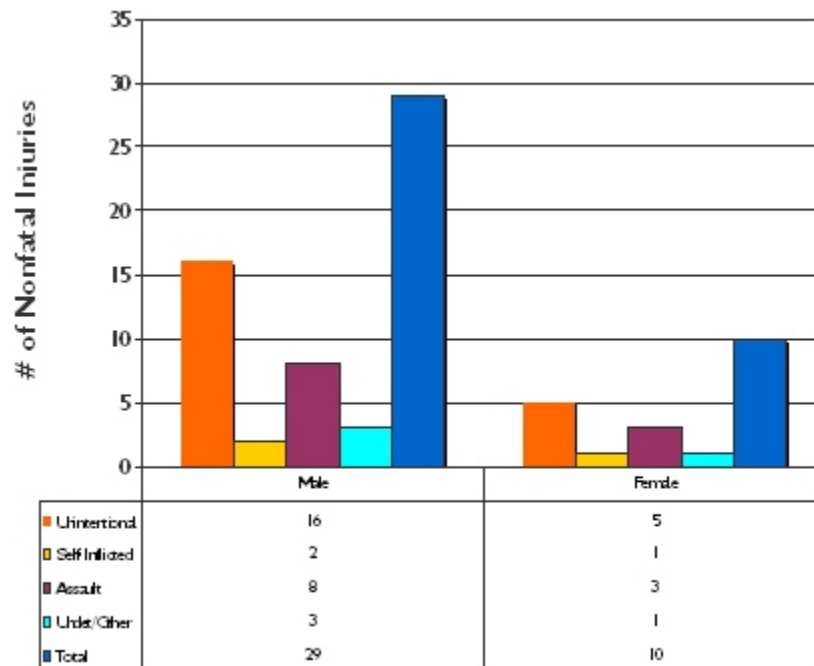
Figure 58: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Kent County
By Type, By Gender, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Male assaults comprised the majority of nonfatal firearm injuries in Kent County. There were a small number of nonfatal injuries among females with a more even distribution among assaults (2), self-inflicted (2) and unintentional (1).

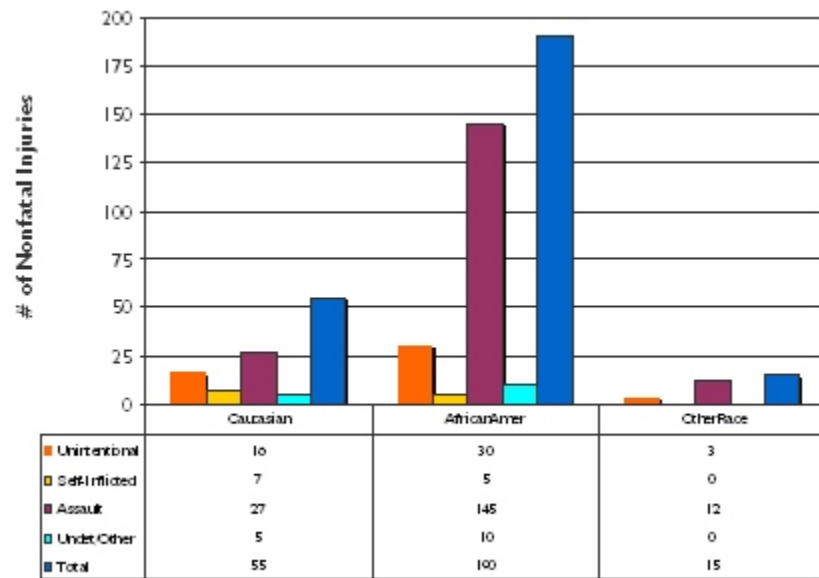
Figure 59: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Sussex County
By Type, By Gender, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In Sussex County, as we might expect from our previous findings, had a distribution of the causes of the nonfatal firearm injuries for both males and females that was different from the other counties in the state. For both genders, unintentional actions were the most prominent cause of such injuries; 55 percent for males and 50 percent for females.

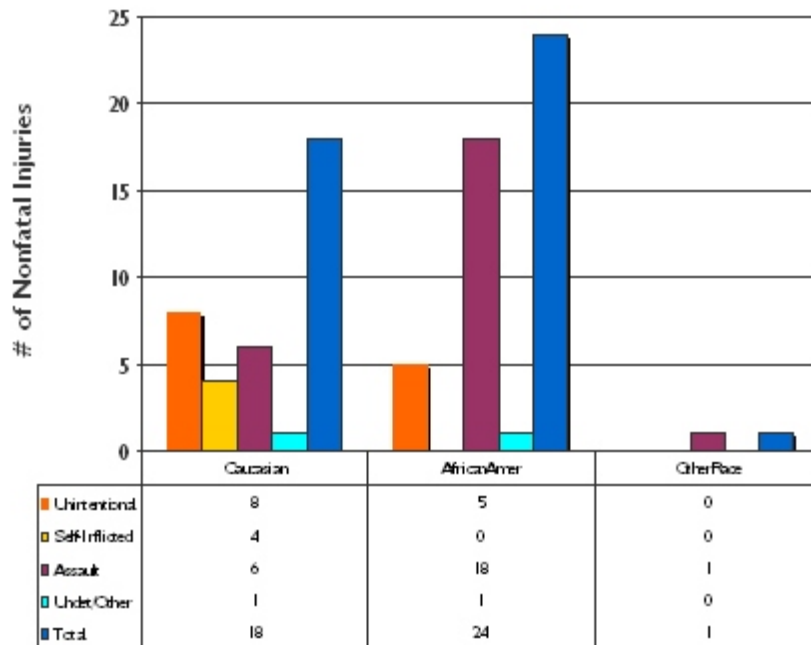
Figure 60: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in New Castle County
By Type, By Race, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Across all races in New Castle County, assault was the most dominant cause for nonfatal firearm injuries. For Caucasians the proportion was 49 percent; for African-Americans it was over three-quarters (76%) and for the Other Race category the proportion was even higher at 80 percent.

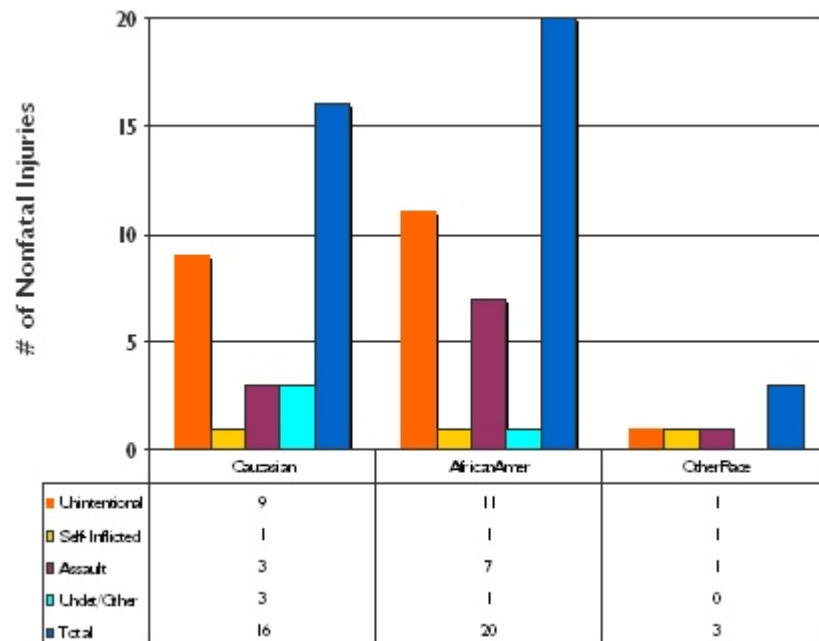
Figure 61: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Kent County
By Type, By Race, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

In Kent County, the distribution of causes for nonfatal injuries was different across the races. For Caucasians, the plurality (44%) of such injuries were caused by unintentional actions. For African-Americans, the substantial majority (75%) were caused by assaults.

Figure 62: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Sussex County
By Type, By Race, 1995-1999



Source: Handgun Violence Project, University of Delaware, 2002

Across all of the race categories, unintentional actions were the cause of the majority of nonfatal firearm injuries in Sussex County.

Handgun Legislation: Comparing Delaware with Neighboring States

A jurisdiction's attitudes toward handguns can be understood, in part, through the laws that govern firearm ownership. Therefore, we have conducted the following examination of Delaware's firearm ownership legislation and, in order to place it in context, we compared it to the laws in the neighboring states of New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania. The basis for this comparison is derived from the survey of firearm legislation (to include regulations, procedures and information) that was conducted by the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) in mid-2001, the latest such survey (Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice. *Survey of State Procedures Related to Firearm Sales*, Midyear 2001. April 2002) The survey guide denotes the basic requirements of state laws and delineates along specific dimensions which include: (a) prohibited persons (b) restoration of rights; (c) regulated sales; (d) permits; (e) background checks; (f) waiting period; (g) information from applicants; (h) purchaser fees; (I) state data; (j) check processing time) (k) retention of records; (l) registration; (m) appeal of denials (n) arrests of denied persons; (o) 1999/2000 firearm checks; (p) 1999/2000/20001 legislation; (q) relevant laws; and (r) source of information. Using the NCJRS data, we compared Delaware and the neighboring states along each dimension. For purposes of consistency, we present each states' information for each factor separately. Delaware's information appears first, followed, in order, by New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania

Delaware Firearm Legislation/Regulations

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) conducts National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) checks and the state conducts separate checks.

Prohibited persons. Delaware law prohibits purchase or possession of firearms by certain persons who are convicted of felonies or crimes of violence; committed for mental disorders to any hospital, mental institution, or sanitarium; convicted for unlawful use, possession, or sale of narcotics; adjudicated delinquent for conduct which if committed by an adult would constitute a felony; subject to protection from abuse orders; or convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence. Juveniles cannot possess handguns without adult supervision. It is illegal to transfer a firearm to a child under 18 years of age (without parental consent), a person who intends to commit certain crimes, or a prohibited person. A handgun cannot be sold to a person under the age of 21 or to an intoxicated person.

Restoration of rights. A convicted felon's right to own a firearm may be restored through a governor's pardon. A person who committed a disqualifying misdemeanor may regain firearm rights 5 years after conviction; those who committed disqualifying juvenile offenses regain their rights at age 25.

Regulated sales. Under Delaware law, background checks are required for sales of handguns and rifles by licensed dealers, and are optional for private sales. Shotgun purchases are exempt from Delaware check requirements.

Permits. A permit is not required to purchase firearms. A permit is required to carry a concealed handgun.

Background checks. State law requires that licensed dealers call the Delaware State Police (DSP) for instant checks, by using a 1-800 number. DSP has a maximum of 3 days to complete a check. A holder of a concealed handgun permit issued by a county superior court is exempt from the check required by State law. Delaware is not a point of contact for the NICS; dealers must contact the FBI for handgun, rifle, and shotgun checks required by the Brady Act. ATF allows a concealed handgun permit issued before November 30, 1998, to be used for a purchase without a NICS check.

Waiting period. No State requirements.

Information from applicants. Delaware requires an applicant's name, address, race, gender, date of birth, Social Security number, and date of application. If the application is rejected, the type, make, model, and serial number of the weapon are recorded.

Purchaser fees. None.

State data. Delaware maintains fully automated fugitive, criminal history, probation/parole, juvenile, and domestic violence restraining order/misdemeanor data on a statewide network. Mental health files are partially automated.

Check processing time. Routine transactions are normally processed in less than 6 minutes. Transactions requiring additional research are normally processed in less than 14 minutes.

Retention of records. DSP retains records of approved transactions for 60 days and records of denied transactions indefinitely.

Registration. No State requirements.

Appeals of denials. State law provides that a firearm denial can be appealed to DSP and further to Superior court.

Arrests of denied persons. In cases involving falsified applications, DSP informs the agency with jurisdiction over the individual. When a person is denied because of an outstanding warrant, the agency with jurisdiction over the dealer is notified to apprehend the suspect.

1999 firearm checks. No statewide information is available.

1999/2000 legislation. No significant changes.

Relevant laws. Delaware Code 11-1441 et seq; 24-901 et seq.

Source of information. Delaware State Police.

Maryland Firearm Legislation/Regulations

The Federal Bureau of Investigation conducts long gun NICS checks; State requests handgun NICS checks.

Prohibited persons. A "regulated firearm" (handgun or assault weapon) cannot be transferred to or possessed by a person who is convicted of a crime of violence, a felony or any common law offense or misdemeanor that carries more than a 2-year term of imprisonment; a fugitive; a habitual drunkard; addicted to a controlled substance; mentally ill as defined in State law; under 21 years of age; or subject to a protective order. In addition, it is illegal to transfer regulated firearm to a person who is visibly under the influence of alcohol or drugs or a participant in a straw purchase. Regulated firearm purchasers must have resided in Maryland for 90 days, and are limited to one purchase every 30 days. A person under the age of 18 cannot purchase a long gun.

Restoration of rights. The right to own a firearm may be restored by a governor's pardon.

Regulated sales. Background checks are required for sales of "regulated firearms" (handguns and assault weapons) by licensed dealers and unlicensed persons. A dealer is required to have a Maryland regulated-firearms license in addition to a Federal license. An unlicensed person selling at a gun show must obtain a temporary transfer permit, have a fixed display, and comply with the same restrictions imposed upon licensed dealers.

Permits. A permit is not required to purchase firearms. A permit issued by the secretary of the Maryland State Police is required to carry a handgun.

Background checks. The Maryland State Police (M.P.) is a partial point of contact for the NICS and conducts checks on regulated firearms buyers. Dealers transmit applications to the M.P. by certified mail or fax. Private sales are processed through dealers or M.P. installations. Checks must be completed within 7 days unless placed on hold because of a criminal proceeding without a disposition. The FBI checks all redemptions, and sales of long guns not regulated by Maryland law. ATF allows concealed handgun permits issued before November 30, 1998, to be used for a purchase without a NICS check.

Waiting period. Transfers of regulated firearms require a 7-day waiting period that begins when an application is filed, regardless of when a check is completed. Information from applicants. A regulated firearm application requires the buyer's

name, address, race, gender, height, weight, hair and eye color, date and place of birth, driver's identification number, occupation, and date of application, plus the weapon caliber, make, model, and serial number. A Social Security number is optional.

Purchaser fees. A \$10 application fee is required.

State data. Maryland maintains fully automated fugitive and criminal history files, plus domestic violence restraining order/misdemeanor and probation/parole data.

Check processing time. Routine applications are processed in about 5 days. Additional research is normally completed in less than 1 month.

Retention of records. A permanent record of all completed transactions of regulated firearms is maintained by M.P. Denied applications are maintained indefinitely.

Registration. Permanent transaction records contain the caliber, make, model, serial number, and special characteristics of each regulated firearm transferred.

Appeals of denials. A person denied a regulated firearm can appeal to M.P. and further to State court.

Arrests of denied persons. All denied persons are reported to the M.P. Firearms Investigation Unit.

1999 firearm checks. Transfers: 33,038 applied; 592 denied (1.8%).

1999/2000 legislation. No significant changes.

Relevant laws. Code of Maryland 27-36A et seq; 27-441 et seq.

Source of information. Maryland State Police Firearms Enforcement Division.

New Jersey Firearm Legislation/Regulations

The State conducts NICS checks and other separate checks.

Prohibited persons. A handgun permit or firearm identification card cannot be issued to a person who is convicted of a crime, drug dependent, confined for a mental disorder, a habitual drunkard, physically unable to handle firearms, under age 18, found to have submitted false information, or barred from firearm possession by court order. Issuance of a permit must not contravene the interest of public health, safety, or welfare.

Restoration of rights. A convicted felon's right to possess firearms can be restored if the offender's criminal record is expunged by the court.

Regulated sales. Permit regulations apply to all handgun and an identification card is required for long gun sales. Firearms cannot be pawned in New Jersey.

Permits. State law mandates a permit to purchase a handgun, which is valid for 90 days and may be renewed for an additional 90 days. A firearms purchaser identification card, which is valid until revoked for a violation of law, is required for unlimited long gun purchases. A permit is required to carry a handgun. A license issued by the superior court is required to purchase or possess an assault weapon.

Background checks. Applicants for permits and identification cards are checked by 505 local police departments, and the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) for some unincorporated areas. If no cause for denial exists, a permit or identification card shall be granted within 30 days (45 days for a nonresident) from the completion date of the investigation of the applicant. In addition, NJSP is a point of contact for the NICS and conducts all checks required by the Brady Act. Licensed dealers call NJSP for instant checks on purchasers who have obtained a permit or an identification card.

Waiting period. No handgun shall be delivered by a licensed dealer unless a valid permit is exhibited and at least 7 days have elapsed since the date of application for the permit.

Information from applicants. Identification card and permit applications require the person's name, residence, place of business, age, date of birth, occupation, gender, physical description, citizenship, and two references. Questions on firearms disabilities must be answered. First-time applicants must submit fingerprints.

Purchaser fees. The fingerprint fee is \$49. Document fees are \$2 for a handgun permit and \$5 for an identification card. The assault weapon and machine gun license fee is \$75.

State data. New Jersey maintains fugitive, criminal history, domestic violence restraining order, and misdemeanor, juvenile, and probation/parole data. Partial mental health data are available.

Check processing time. Permit and identification card applications are normally processed in less than 1 month, or less than 6 months if additional research is needed.

Retention of records. Permit and identification card applications are retained indefinitely.

Registration. Handguns and assault weapons are registered.

Appeals of denials. A person who is denied a permit or identification card can appeal to the superior court where the application was filed, and the issuing authority shall be notified.

Arrests of denied persons. Local police departments arrest denied persons in some cases. NJSP's NICS Unit reports all denied persons to the Firearms Investigation Unit. NCIC felony warrants are reported to the fugitive unit; other felony warrants are reported to local departments.

1999 firearm checks. Transfers: 37,563 applied; 147 denied (0.4%). Identification cards and permits: 38,777 applied; 645 denied (1.7%).

1999/2000 legislation. A central court restraining order registry that can be accessed for firearm permit checks was established.

Relevant laws. New Jersey Statutes 2C: 39-1 et seq; 2C:58-1 et seq.

Source of information. New Jersey State Police.

Pennsylvania Firearm Legislation/Regulations

The State requests NICS checks.

Prohibited persons. Pennsylvania law prohibits possession of a firearm by a person who is convicted of "enumerated offenses" or equivalent offenses in other jurisdictions; a fugitive from justice; convicted of certain drug offenses or equivalent offenses in other jurisdictions; convicted of three alcohol-related driving offenses in a 5-year period; adjudicated incompetent or involuntarily committed to a mental institution; an illegal alien; subject to an active protection from abuse order which provides for confiscation of firearms; adjudicated delinquent for certain offenses; or under the age of 18 except in limited circumstances.

Restoration of rights. For some prohibited persons, the court may restore State firearm rights in the event of a governor's pardon, Federal relief, vacation of the conviction, or expiration of 10 years since conviction (not including incarceration time). Certain persons adjudicated delinquent regain their rights 15 years after the last applicable adjudication or upon reaching the age of 30, whichever is earlier.

Regulated sales. Pennsylvania law requires background checks on persons who purchase firearms from State-licensed dealers. Check requirements also apply to transfers of handguns between unlicensed persons, which must occur at the place of business of a licensed importer, manufacturer, or dealer, or at a county sheriff's office. Handguns cannot be pawned.

Permits. A permit is not required to buy a firearm. A license is required to carry a concealed firearm.

Background checks. The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) is a point of contact for the NICS and conducts all checks on sales or pawn redemptions required by Federal and State law. State licensees contact the Pennsylvania Instant Check System (PICS) by using a toll-free number. Many calls are instantly approved by an automated processing system; only rotary phone calls and checks that identify a record are referred to an operator. ATF allows use of a license to carry issued before November 30, 1998, to waive a NICS purchase check (but not the State check).

Waiting period. No State requirements.

Information from applicants. Handgun purchasers provide: name, address, race, gender, height, weight, hair color, eye color, date of birth, Social Security and

driver's license numbers, occupation, and home and work phone numbers plus the make, model, serial number, caliber, and barrel length of the firearm.

Purchaser fees. State law requires fees of \$2 for a background check and a \$3 surcharge for each firearm subject to Pennsylvania sales tax.

State data. A statewide network contains automated criminal history, fugitive, protection order, and probation /parole data. Mental health data are available to PSP only. A challenge database contains completed research on persons found to have no prohibiting record after a review.

Check processing time. Over 50% of calls are approved automatically in 2- 3 minutes on average. An additional 30% of calls are completed by an operator while on the original call. Further research is completed within 15 days.

Retention of records. Approved transaction data are not retained. PSP retains records on denied persons for 20 years.

Registration. No State requirements.

Appeals of denials. A person who is denied a firearm may appeal to the PSP Instant Check System Legal Unit. Subsequent appeals may be filed with the State attorney general and Commonwealth Court.

Arrests of denied persons. Individuals who submit false information are reported to ATF and may also be investigated by state police troops or other agencies with jurisdiction over applicants. If a person is denied due to an outstanding warrants, PSP immediately notifies the agency with jurisdiction over the fugitive.

1999 firearm checks. Transfers: 557,992 applied; 18,875 denied (3.4%).

1999/2000 legislation. The law barring firearm possession by drug offenders was amended to include persons who committed equivalent offenses in other jurisdictions. A locking device is now required with most handgun transfers.

Relevant laws. Pennsylvania. Statutes 18-6101 et seq.

Source of information. Pennsylvania State Police.

Firearm Policies & Procedures in Schools

Given that we examined the shootings in Wilmington, we also wanted to determine the extent to which the school districts that serve the city have programs related to firearm violence. Due to desegregation efforts, educational services for young children and youths who live in the City of Wilmington are provided by four school districts. These school districts include: Brandywine, Colonial, Red Clay, and Christina. Using a survey instrument developed by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, we asked each district to provide information about their policies and programs regarding safety, particularly relating to firearms. We were able to secure information from the Christiana, Brandywine and Colonial school districts. The Red Clay School District was unable to supply the information. The information is presented in the following three tables. The question appears in the left column, the responses are in the right

Christina School District

Survey Question/Content	Information
1. Number of public schools	Elementary – 13 Middle – 3 High – 3 Intermediate- 3 Deaf – 1 Alternative -1
2. Do parents receive a copy of district's discipline code?	Yes
3. Is training provided to identify risk factors for suicide and violent aggression?	Yes Nurses and counselors are trained. Grades: - depends on needs of the school; geared to climate
If yes, what is taught?	No data re: what is taught
4. Does district offer school-based counseling programs for students with histories of family or school problems, particularly kids with depression or aggression?	Yes, individual and guidance programs are offered Children are referred by: (a) CR teacher; (b) student asst. team; (c) counselors; (d) any person can
5. Are police officers assigned to the schools? Full or part-time? Who pays for them? What is their purpose?	Yes, Full-time, paid for by the District Purpose- (a) school safety; (b) prevention; (c) intervention (d) mediation
6a. Does the school district or individual schools have a crisis plan or school safety plan to implement when danger is present in or around the schools?	a. Yes
b. If yes, is the plan a district wide plan or does each school's administration/security staff create their own?	b. Each school creates its own
c. What is the plan called, under what circumstances is it used, and who makes that decision?	c. Crisis management plan or response plan, serious problems-harm/safety of students/staff an issue The principal makes the decision
7a. Does the school district offer a conflict-resolution type program for the schools? What is the name of the curriculum, what grades is it available for, and how often is it taught and by whom?	a. Yes, Life-skills training Grades 4-6; 2 high schools Times taught- no data Taught by the YMCA Resource Center
b. Does the above conflict-resolution curriculum include lessons about the danger of guns?	b. 2 nd step violence prevention curriculum for K-8 (yes) violence prevention component
8. If the answer to 7b is no, does the district offer a separate curriculum to teach the danger of guns?	No data
9a. Whether or not students are taught gun violence prevention, are parents educated about the danger of guns?	a. Yes, general communication

Survey Question/Content	Information
b. What is the name of the program?	b. No specific name
c. How and when are parents informed?	c. Mail, during school year
I 0a. What happens to students caught with guns in school and on school grounds?	Age is a factor. They may be expelled, placed in an alternate educational settings, have criminal charges brought before them
b. If expelled, how does the district provide an education to those students?	Under 16- alternate program Over 16- alternate program (special education) Over 16-out for 180 school days
I 1. Does the district have a zero tolerance policy for weapons in school [i.e. students are automatically expelled]?	Yes- zero tolerance Yes – expelled
Does this include “look-alike” weapons such as toy guns?	Look-alike weapons – depends on incident and manner used
I 2. Does the district require immediate crisis intervention for expelled students?	No
I 3. Are all school employees (teachers, administrators, janitors, maintenance workers, etc.) trained to know what to do when there is a rumor of a gun in school? If not all, is anyone trained	Building wide District administrator Principal (maybe)
I 4. How are guns prevented from being carried on school grounds, including inside schools?	No search policy, no metal detectors Word of mouth, somebody saw it
I 5. Does the district collect data on confiscations of firearms arrests and explosions.	Yes
If yes how many in each category and at what levels. Are these numbers going up or down?	No data
I 6. What are the 3 top sources for where/how kids get the guns they bring to school?	Relative Friend Home

Brandywine School District

Survey Question/Content	Information
1. No. of public schools	Elementary – 8 Middle – 3 High – 3 Other-part of consortium
2. Do parents receive a copy of district's discipline code?	Yes Student takes it home. Schools go over the district code during the first week of schools
3. Training to identify risk factors for suicide and violent aggression	Yes, counselors are trained and anyone by choice, students trained by department; teacher-by choice, Grades: - K-12
If yes, what is taught?	No data
4. Does district offer school-based counseling programs for students with histories of family or school problems, particularly kids with depression or aggression?	Yes Individual and/or group programs are offered Children referred by: (a) teachers; (b) principals; (c) informally by others
5. Are police officers assigned to the schools? Full or part-time? Who pays for them? What is their purpose?	Yes, Full-time and part-time, paid for by District Purpose- response to crisis; standard prevention training
6a. Does the school district or individual schools have a crisis plan or school safety plan to implement when danger is present in or around the schools?	a. Yes
b. If yes, is the plan a district wide plan or does each school's administration/security staff create their own?	b. Each school creates their own
c. What is the plan called, under what circumstances is it used, and who makes that decision?	c. No specific name. Principal makes the decision. Circumstances- any crisis-death, etc.
7a. Does the school district offer a conflict-resolution type program for the schools? What is the name of the curriculum, what grades is it available for, and how often is it taught and by whom?	Yes, school decision Program adapted from other state school programs Grades- all Times taught- individual decision Who teaches? Depends on teacher
b. Does the above conflict-resolution curriculum include lessons about the danger of guns?	No data 2 nd step violence prevention curriculum for K-8 (yes) violence prevention component
8. If the answer to 7b is no, does the district offer a separate curriculum to teach the danger of guns?	No
9. Whether or not students are taught gun violence prevention, are parents educated about the danger of guns?	No

Survey Question/Content	Information
What is the name of the program?	N/A
How and when are parents informed?	N/A
10a. What happens to students caught with guns in school and on school grounds?	a. They may be expelled
b. If expelled, how does the district provide an education to those students?	b. Alternate educational program
11. Does the district have a zero tolerance policy for weapons in school [i.e. students are automatically expelled]? Does this include "look-alike" weapons such as toy guns	No- zero tolerance Look-alike weapons – depends, fake gun may be not Knife-you would make a decision based on many factors
12. Does the district require immediate crisis intervention for expelled students?	Yes Social worker
13. Are all school employees (teachers, administrators, janitors, maintenance workers, etc.) trained to know what to do when there is a rumor of a gun in school?	No
If not all, is anyone trained	Building Principal
14. How are guns prevented from being carried on school grounds, including inside schools?	No search policy, no mental detectors Word of mouth, reports
15. Does the district collect data on confiscations of firearms arrests and explosions.	Yes
If yes how many in each category and at what levels. Are these numbers going up or down?	Don't know
16. What are the 3 top sources for where/how kids get the guns they bring to school?	Home

Colonial School District

Survey Question/Content	Information
1. No. of public schools	Elementary – 9 Middle – 3 High – 1 Other-2 (special education)
2. Do parents receive a copy of district's discipline code?	Yes, student takes it home.
3. Training to identify risk factors for suicide and (b) violent aggression	Yes- for suicide; Violent aggression-depends on needs of the student Who is trained?- everyone
If yes, what is taught?	Grades: - K-12
4. Does district offer school-based counseling programs for students with histories of family or school problems, particularly kids with depression or aggression?	Yes, Full-time counselors Children are referred by- (a) teachers; (b) student; (c) administration; (d) family
5. Are police officers assigned to the schools? Full or part-time? Who pays for them? What is their purpose?	Yes, full-time (high school); middle school – (share) part-time Paid for by the District Purpose- response to crisis; standard prevention training
6a. Does the school district or individual schools have a crisis plan or school safety plan to implement when danger is present in or around the schools?	a. Yes- serve as a resource, counselor; they provide safety, security
b. If yes, is the plan a district wide plan or does each school's administration/security staff create their own?	b. District-template-each school prepares their own
c. What is the plan called, under what circumstances is it used, and who makes that decision?	c. School Crisis Plan. When used?-emergencies; Who makes that decision? – the Principal .
7a. Does the school district offer a conflict-resolution type program for the schools? What is the name of the curriculum, what grades is it available for, and how often is it taught and by whom?	Yes, school decision Program adapted from other state school programs Grades- al-K-12 Times taught- No data Who teaches? Counselors
b. Does the above conflict-resolution curriculum include lessons about the danger of guns?	No data 2 nd step violence prevention curriculum for K-8 (yes) violence prevention component
8. If the answer to 7b is no, does the district offer a separate curriculum to teach the danger of guns?	No data
9a. Whether or not students are taught gun violence prevention, are parents educated about the danger of guns?	Yes, they are given information
b. What is the name of the program?	b. No specific name of program

Survey Question/Content	Information
c. How and when are parents informed?	c. All information provided at the beginning of the school year
10a. What happens to students caught with guns in school and on school grounds?	a. They may be expelled or suspended
b. If expelled, how does the district provide an education to those students?	b. alternate educational program
11. Does the district have a zero tolerance policy for weapons in school [i.e. students are automatically expelled]? Does this include "look-alike" weapons such as toy guns	No - zero tolerance Look-alike weapons – depends. May be punished, but not necessarily expelled
12. Does the district require immediate crisis intervention for expelled students?	No
13. Are all school employees (teachers, administrators, janitors, maintenance workers, etc.) trained to know what to do when there is a rum or of a gun in school? If not all, is anyone trained?	Yes Building Principal
14. How are guns prevented from being carried on school grounds, including inside schools?	No search policy, no mental detectors Word of mouth, reports, observations, school profile data
15. Does the district collect data on confiscations of firearms arrests and explosions. If yes how many in each category and at what levels. Are these numbers going up or down?	Yes Variable, but low Most pocket guns
16. What are the 3 top sources for where/how kids get the guns they bring to school?	Home Friends