

HOMICIDE FACT SHEET 2017

Violence, including homicide, reached epidemic proportions in the United States during the 1980s among specific segments of the population (e.g., youth). Violence has since been increasingly accepted as a public health problem requiring public health solutions. Violence is devastating for individuals and families, and also has negative economic and social impacts on communities. Homicide is the act of one human killing another. This fact sheet includes all homicides in Sacramento County, regardless of perpetrator intent or legal category of homicide (e.g., manslaughter). There were 764 homicide victims in the County in the past eight years, with an average of 95 homicide deaths each year.

There were 92 homicide deaths in Sacramento County in 2017, a rate of 6.1 per 100,000 population. The County rate decreased 5.4% compared to 2010, but was 10.1% higher than the Healthy People 2020 goal of 5.5 [Figure 1]. Blacks have been disproportionately affected by homicide, with a rate nearly nine times that of Whites in 2017.

Figure 2 shows the three-year average homicide deaths and rates by age group for years 2015 to 2017. Young adults were at greatest risk of homicide; the highest average number and rate of homicide deaths occurred among persons age 20-29. Persons age 60-74 had the lowest average rate of homicide in the County.

Males accounted for more than 80% of all homicide deaths in the County in the eight-year period from 2010-2017 [Table 1]. The most common mechanism of injury for homicide deaths was firearms, accounting for about half homicides in which the victim was female, and 70% of homicides in which the victim was male.

Data Sources: Vital Records Business Intelligence System 2010-2017; CA Dept. of Finance Population Projections 2010-2017.

Figure 1: Homicide Rates by Select Race/Ethnicity, 2010-2017

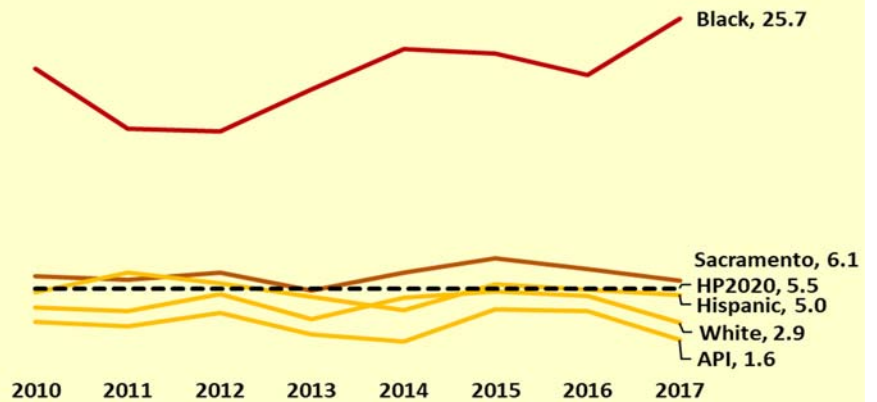


Figure 2: Three-Year Average Homicide Deaths and Rates by Age Group, 2015-2017

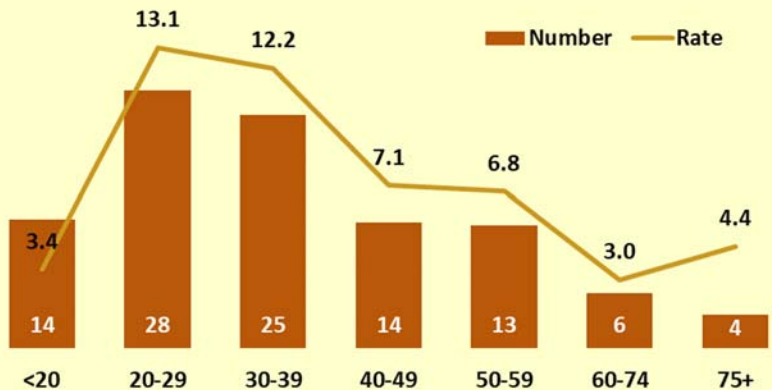


Table 1: Homicide Deaths by Sex of Victim and Mechanism of Injury, 2010-2017

Mechanism	Female (%) (n=145)	Male (%) (n=619)	Total (%) (n=764)
Firearms	49.0	70.3	66.2
Sharp Object	15.2	10.2	11.1
Suffocation/Hanging	6.9	1.1	2.2
Other	29.0	18.4	20.4