



Homicide

According to the Kansas City Police Department's 2005 Annual Report³⁹³ violent crimes in Kansas City increased 1.1% between 2004 and 2005 (Table 96). This increase was the result of a 30.8% increase in murder and non-negligent manslaughter, 6.6% decrease in forcible rape, 4.0% increase in robbery and a 0.2% decrease in aggravated assault. Non-aggravated assaults declined 1.7%, and sex offenses increased 8.3%.

Table 96 Selected crime statistics, Kansas City, MO

Crime Classification	Year				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Murder & non-negligent manslaughter	104	84	82	91	119
Forcible rape	319	300	308	316	295
Sex offense	417	448	477	447	484
Robbery	2,367	2,012	1,890	1,923	2,000
Aggravated assault	4,291	3,661	3,871	4,120	4,110
Non-aggravated assault	8,012	7,400	7,226	7,102	6,979
Arson	493	479	478	456	395

Homicides in Kansas City averaged 94 per year for 2002 through 2005, which is considerably less than the average of 118 per year for the period 1994-2001 (Figure 89). For City residents the age-adjusted death rates due to homicide between 2000 and 2004 are shown in Figure 90. In 2004, homicide was the 4th leading cause of death for blacks and Hispanics in Kansas City, and 10th leading cause overall. It was the leading cause of death for persons 15-34 y of age and the 7th leading cause for those 35-44 y old. The average age at death was 29.8 y old.

In 2005, homicides increased 30.8%. Of the homicide victims, 84.2% were male and 75.6% were minorities. Of the 108 male deaths, 63.9% of the victims were black, 21.3% were white, with other males comprising the balance. Seventeen of the deaths (15.7%) involved women of whom 64.7% were black and 35.3% white. Of the homicides, 94.5% occurred in the Jackson County portion of the City.

³⁹³ Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department. 2005 annual report. 56 p. www.kcpd.org.



Figure 89 Total homicides recorded in Kansas City, MO

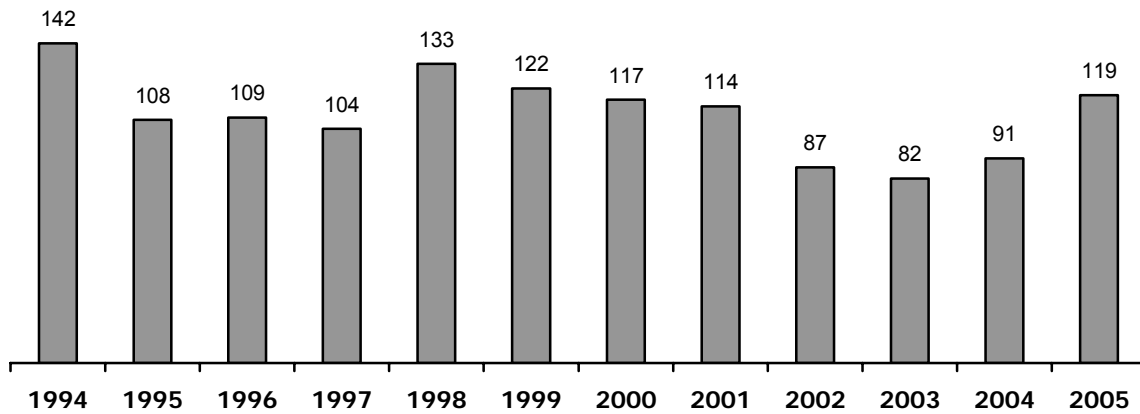
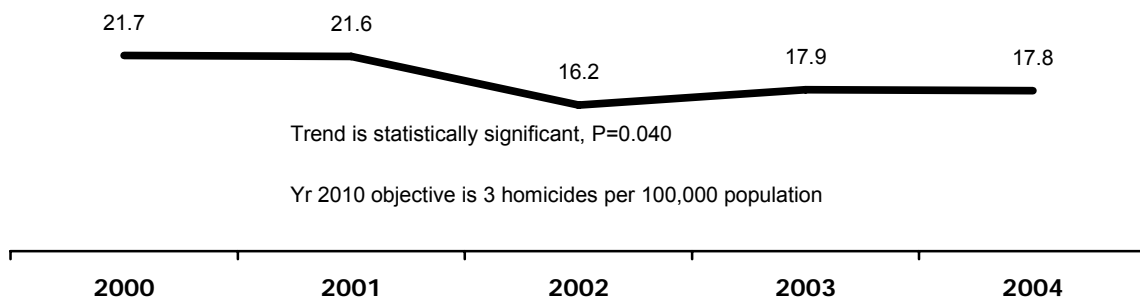


Figure 90 Age-adjusted death rates per 100,000 population due to homicide, Kansas City, MO



The data for homicide by residence is not provided in the Police Department's annual report. From death certificate data for 2004, 82 of the 92 homicide victims were City residents, with 90% residing in the Jackson County portion of the City, 6% in the Clay County portion and 4% in the Platte County

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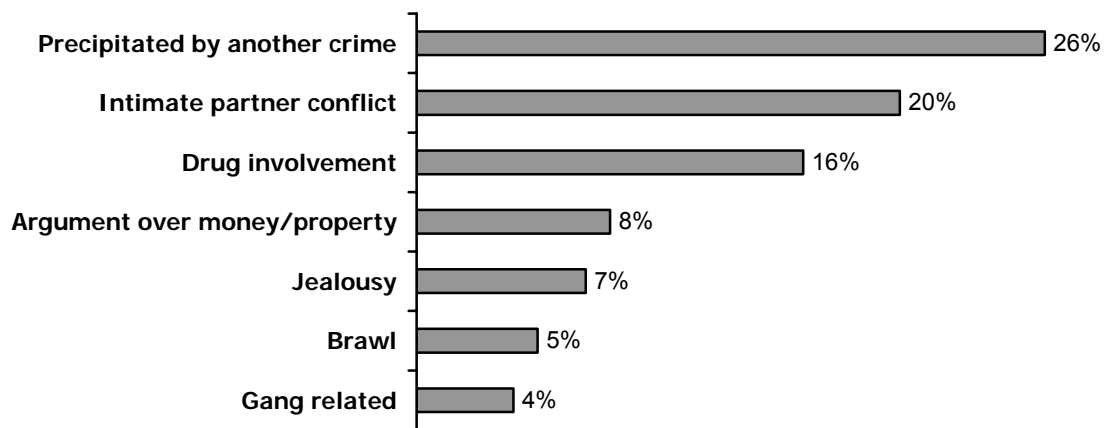


portion. Converting those deaths into rates per 100,000 population, the homicide death rates for the Clay, Jackson, and Platte county portions of the City were 6.0, 22.9, and 8.8, respectively.

Nationwide, according to Child Trends (www.childtrends.org), in 2002 the rate for infants who were murdered rivaled the rate for teenagers 15-19 years old, at 9.1 and 9.6 per 100,000, respectively. In Kansas City, for the time frame 2000-2004, there were 11 infants who were victims of homicides, compared to 65 victims aged 15-19 y (annual homicide rates of 37 and 56 per 100,000 population, respectively). Thus, the Kansas City infant homicide rate was 4.1 times that nationally, while the rate for 15-19 y olds was 5.8 times higher than the national rate.

While homicides can originate from any number of circumstances, the National Violent Death Reporting System found that homicide most frequently was precipitated by another crime (Figure 91).³⁹⁴

Figure 91 Percentage of homicides by selected circumstances, adapted from National Violent Death Reporting System, 2004.



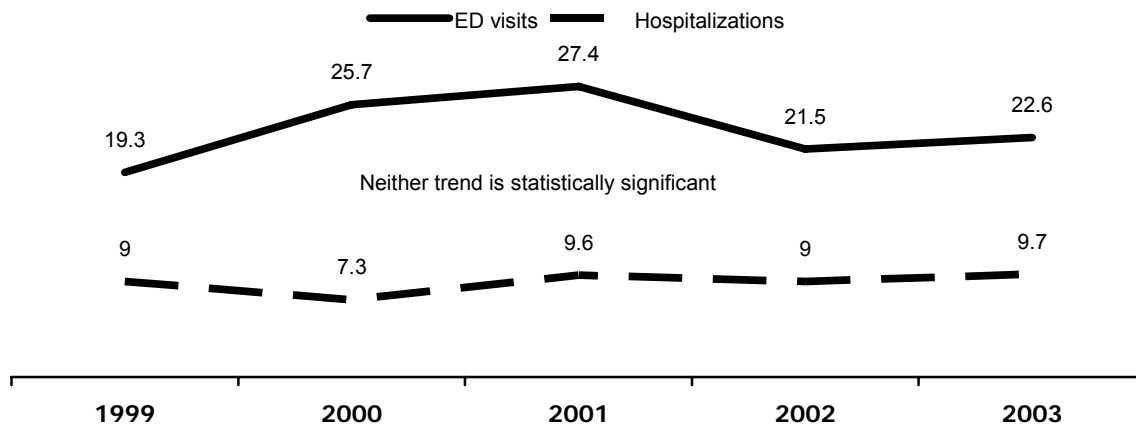
³⁹⁴ Patel N et al. 2006. Homicides and suicides – National Violent Death Reporting System, United States, 2003-2004. *MMWR* 55:721-724.



Firearms are often used in homicides and other non-fatal assaults. Nationally, injuries from gunshots result in \$802 million a year in hospital charges, with nearly a third of victims being uninsured.³⁹⁵ More than half of the shootings occur during assaults, 30% are accidental, and 8% are self-inflicted. Initial stays cost, on average, \$24,000 for assault cases and \$30,000 for accident cases. About 7% of victims die from their injuries, 12% go to other health facilities for rehabilitation or other care, and 75% recover and return home.

Between 1999 and 2003, the age-adjusted rate for emergency department visits due to unintentional firearm injuries rose 17% (Figure 92), while the hospitalization rates fluctuated but remained relatively constant.

Figure 92 Age-adjusted emergency department visits and hospitalizations per 100,000 population due to unintentional firearm injuries, Kansas City, MO



³⁹⁵ Coben JH, Steiner CA. 2003. Hospitalization for firearm-related injuries in the United States, 1997. *Am J Prev Med* 24:1-8.

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