

Homicide

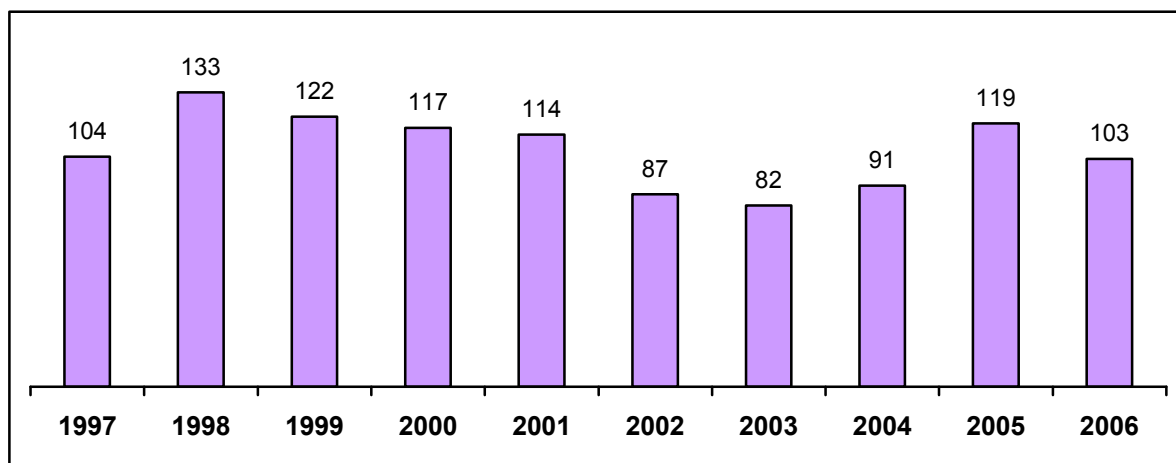
According to the Kansas City Police Department's 2006 Annual Report,⁴¹⁹ violent crimes in Kansas City decreased 1% between 2005 and 2006 (Table 105). This was partially the result of a 13.4% decrease in murder and non-negligent manslaughter.

Table 105 Selected crime statistics, Kansas City, Mo

Crime Classification	Year				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Murder & non-negligent manslaughter	84	82	91	119	103
Forcible rape	300	308	316	295	321
Sex offense	448	477	447	484	415
Robbery	2,012	1,890	1,923	2,000	2,044
Aggravated assault	3,661	3,871	4,120	4,110	3,394
Non-aggravated assault	7,400	7,226	7,102	6,979	7,171
Arson	479	478	456	395	403

In 2006, the total number of homicides (resident and non-resident) decreased 13%. There was an average of 96.4 homicides per year for 2002-2006, which is considerably less than the average of 118 per year for the period 1997-2001 (Figure 101). Of the homicide victims, 74% were male and 89% were minorities. Of the 76 male deaths, 84% of the victims were black, 7% were white, with other males comprising the balance. Twenty-seven of the deaths (26%) involved women of whom 78% were black and 22% white. Ninety-six percent of the homicides occurred in the Jackson County portion of the City.

Figure 101 Total homicides recorded in Kansas City, Mo



⁴¹⁹ Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department. 2006 Annual Report. www.kcpd.org.

The data for homicide by residence is not provided in the Police Department's annual report. From death certificate data for 2005, 107 of the 119 homicide victims were City residents, with 94% residing in the Jackson County portion of the City, 5% in the Clay County portion and 1% in the Platte County portion. Converting those deaths into rates per 100,000 population based on July 2005 Census estimates for Kansas City, the homicide death rates for the Clay, Jackson, and Platte county portions of the City were 5.4, 32.0, and 2.6, respectively.

For City residents the age-adjusted death rates due to homicide between 2001 and 2005 are shown in Figure 102. In 2005, homicide was the 3rd leading cause of death for non-Hispanic blacks and 4th leading cause of death for Hispanics in Kansas City, and 8th leading cause overall. It was the leading cause of death for persons 15-34 y of age and the 3rd leading cause for those 35-44 y old. The average age at death was 30.7 y old. The distribution of resident homicide deaths by age is shown in Figure 103.

Figure 102 Age-adjusted death rates per 100,000 population due to homicide, Kansas City, Mo

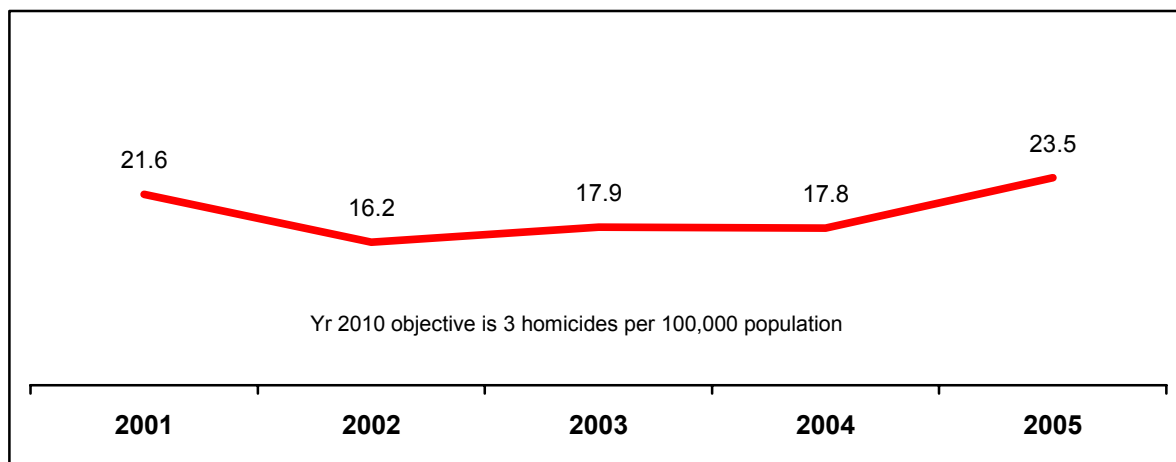
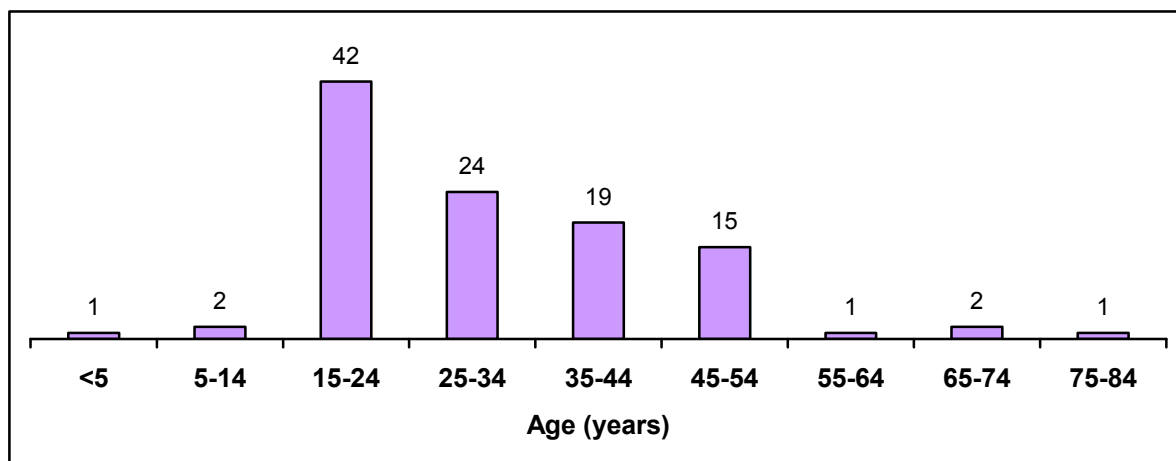


Figure 103 Distribution by age of 107 homicide deaths among Kansas City, Mo, residents, 2005

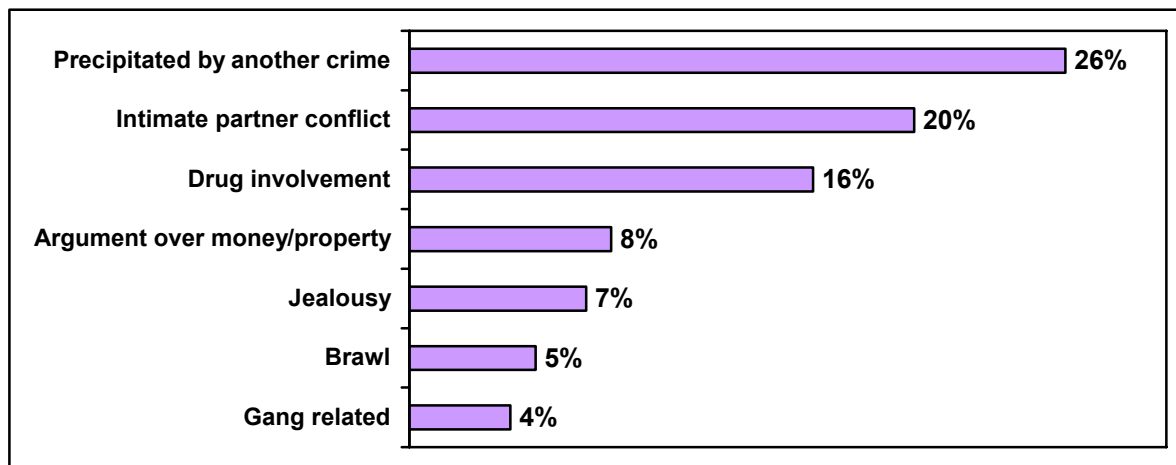


HOMICIDE

Nationwide, according to Child Trends (www.childtrends.org), in 2002, the rate of infants who were murdered was 9.1 per 100,000. In Kansas City, for the time frame 2001-2005, there were 4 infants who were victims of homicides for an annual age specific homicide rates of 13.1 per 100,000 population. Thus, the Kansas City infant homicide rate was 1.4 times that nationally.

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 104).⁴²⁰

Figure 104 Percentage of homicides by selected circumstances, adapted from National Violent Death Reporting System, 2004.



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.⁴²¹ 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 2001 and 2005, the age-adjusted rate for emergency department visits due to unintentional firearm injuries declined 17%, while the hospitalization rates more than doubled (Figure 105).

⁴²⁰ Patel N et al. Homicides and suicides – National Violent Death Reporting System, United States, 2003-2004. *MMWR* 2006;55:721-724.

⁴²¹ Coben JH, Steiner CA. Hospitalization for firearm-related injuries in the United States, 1997. *Am J Prev Med* 2003;24:1-8.



Figure 105 Age-adjusted emergency department visits and hospitalizations per 100,000 population due to unintentional firearm injuries, Kansas City, Mo

