

Homicide

Homicide is defined as a death resulting from the use of force or power, threatened or actual, against another person, group, or community when a preponderance of evidence indicates that the use of force was intentional. The National Center for Health Statistics also regards as homicide (a) arson with no intent to injure a person and (b) a stabbing with intent unspecified. Excluded are vehicular homicide without intent to injure, unintentional firearm deaths, combat deaths or acts of war, and deaths of unborn fetuses.

National

Nationally, homicide is the 15th leading cause of death overall in the United States.⁵⁹³ It is the 2nd leading cause of death for persons 15-24 years of age, the 3rd leading cause for persons 25-34 years old, and the 4th leading cause for individuals 1-14 years old.⁵⁹⁴ In 2005, 18,124 persons (crude rate of 6.1 deaths per 100,000 population) died as a result of homicide and firearms were used in 12,352 (68.2%) of these deaths. The homicide rate for males is more than 3.5 times higher than that for females. And, blacks account for approximately half of the homicide deaths.

Age-specific homicide rates are highest for persons 20-24 years old. The rate for infants <1 year of age is approximately 4 times that for children 1-4 years old and similar to that for adolescents 15-19 years of age. Rates are lowest among children 5-14 years and adults \geq 55 years old.

Homicide is the 15th leading cause of infant death in the US. Infants are at greatest risk for homicide during the first week of infancy and the first day of life; among homicides during the first week of life, 83% occur on the day of birth. The homicide rate on the first day of life is >10 times that during any other time of life. Among homicides on the first day of life, 95% of victims are not born in a hospital. The 2nd highest peak in risk for infant homicide occurs during the 8th week of life and may be due to a caregiver's reaction to an infant's persistent crying; infant crying duration peaks at 6-8 weeks of age. Among homicides during the first week of life, 89% of perpetrators are female, usually the mother. Mothers who kill their infants are more likely to be adolescents and have a history of mental illness.

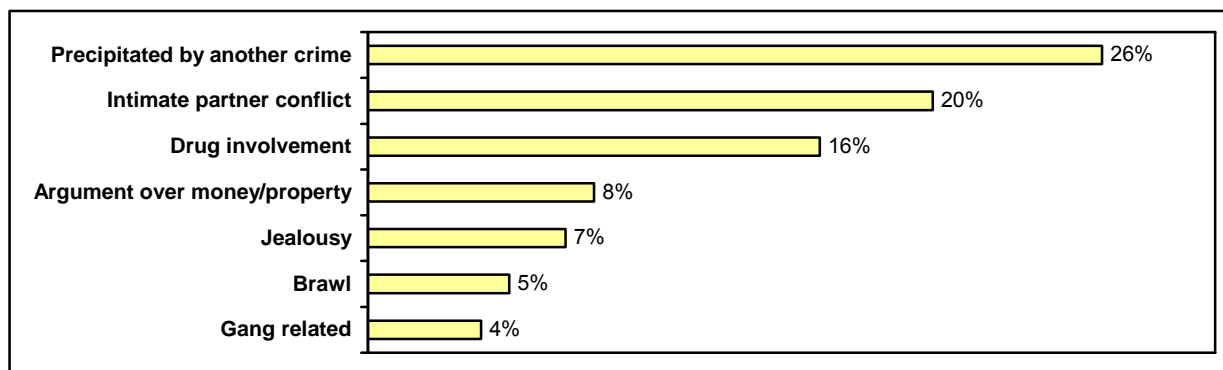
While homicides can originate from any number of circumstances, the National Violent Death Reporting System found that homicide most frequently was precipitated by another crime (Figure 133).⁵⁹⁵

⁵⁹³ Kung HC et al. Deaths: final data for 2005. *Natl Vital Stat Rep* 2008;56(10). www.cdc.gov/nchs

⁵⁹⁴ Karch DL et al. Surveillance for violent deaths – National Violent Death Reporting System, 16 states, 2005. *MMWR Surv Summ* 2008;57:SS-3.

⁵⁹⁵ Patel N et al. Homicides and suicides – National Violent Death Reporting System, United States, 2003-2004. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2006;55:721-724.

Figure 133 Percentage of homicides by selected circumstances, adapted from National Violent Death Reporting System, 2004.



Missouri

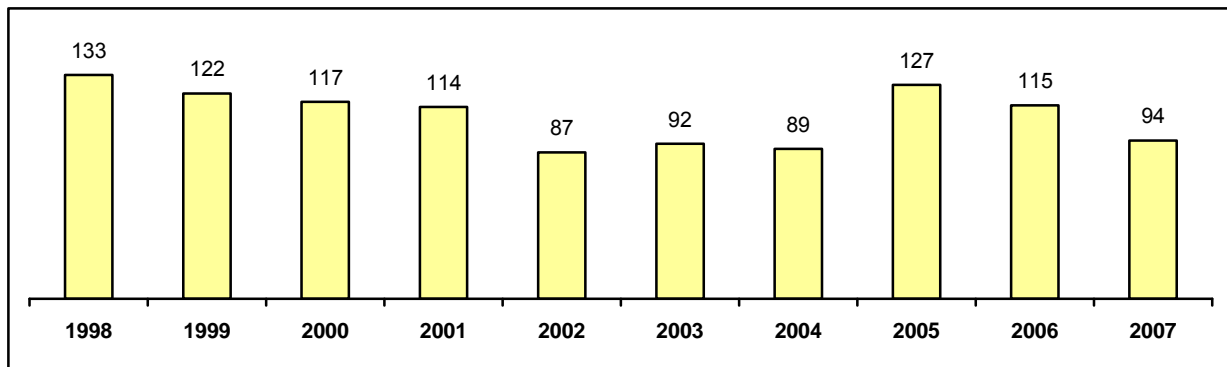
Between 2002-2006, the average annual homicide toll in Missouri was 385 persons for an annualized age-adjusted death rate of 6.2 per 100,000 population. Seventy-eight percent of the homicide decedents were male with males having an age-adjusted death rate 3.7 times that of females (10.6 vs 2.9, respectively). Non-Hispanic blacks constituted 61.4% of the male deaths and 36.8% of the female deaths. Non-Hispanic black males had an age-adjusted homicide death rate more than 12 times that of non-Hispanic white males, while non-Hispanic black women had a rate 4 times that of non-Hispanic white women. Residents of St Louis City had an annualized age-adjusted death rate 28% higher than that for Kansas City residents. Of the 1,926 homicides during 2002-2006, 1,300 (67.5%) were firearm related.

Kansas City

Police statistics

According to the Kansas City Police Department's 2007 Annual Report (www.kcpd.org) there were 94 total homicides (murders and justifiable homicides) in Kansas City (Figure 134). Of the homicide victims 77 were male (54 black, 15 white, 8 other) and 17 female (8 black, 6 white, 3 other). Seven of the homicides were determined to be justifiable.

Figure 134 Total homicides recorded in Kansas City, Mo (source: *Kansas City, Mo, Police Department*)



Health Department statistics

There is a difference in homicide numbers between those reported by the Police and those reported by the Health Department. The Police Department reports on total homicides that occur within the city limits, while the Health Department reports on homicides among Kansas City residents irrespective of where the homicide occurred. Figure 135 shows the annual homicide death counts for the last 10 years while Table 160 displays the race/ethnicity breakdown of 2006 homicide decedents. Of the homicide deaths, 96 occurred among residents of the Jackson County portion of the City and one occurred in the Clay County portion.

The age-adjusted death rates for homicide have fluctuated annually as is shown in Figure 136. In 2006, the rate was 7.1 times higher than the *Healthy People 2010* national objective. In 2006 the average age of death from homicide was 28.2 years and the median age of death was 24.0 years. The age distribution of homicide deaths during 2006 is presented in Figure 137.

In 2006, homicide was the 10th leading cause overall and 7th leading cause of death for males. Among non-Hispanic blacks it was the 3rd leading cause overall. For the period 2002-2006, homicide was the leading cause of death among non-Hispanic black men 5-34 years of age, the 2nd leading cause of death among those 35-44 years old, and the 5th leading cause among 45-54 year olds. Homicide also was tied as the 5th leading cause of death for Hispanics overall, and for 2002-2006, it was the 4th leading cause of death. As with non-Hispanic blacks, homicide was leading cause of death for Hispanic males 15-34 years old, 2nd for those 35-44 years of age, and 3rd for those 45-54 years old.

Among women, homicide was not among the top 10 leading causes of death overall, either for 2006 or 2002-2006. However, during 2002-2006, it was the 2nd leading cause of death for 15-24 year old non-Hispanic white women and was tied for 3rd leading cause of death for women 25-34 years of age. Among non-Hispanic black women, homicide was the leading cause of death among those 15-34 years of age and the 9th leading cause among 45-54 year olds. The annualized age-specific infant homicide rate, for 2002-2006, was 2.5 per 100,000 population which was 70% lower than the rate of 8.3 reported

nationally.⁵⁹⁶

Figure 135 Number of Kansas City, Mo, residents who died as the result of homicide

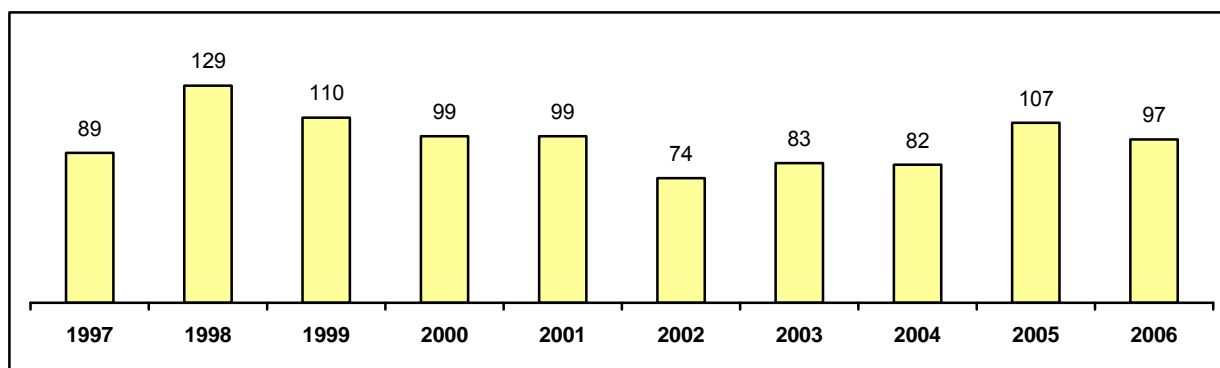
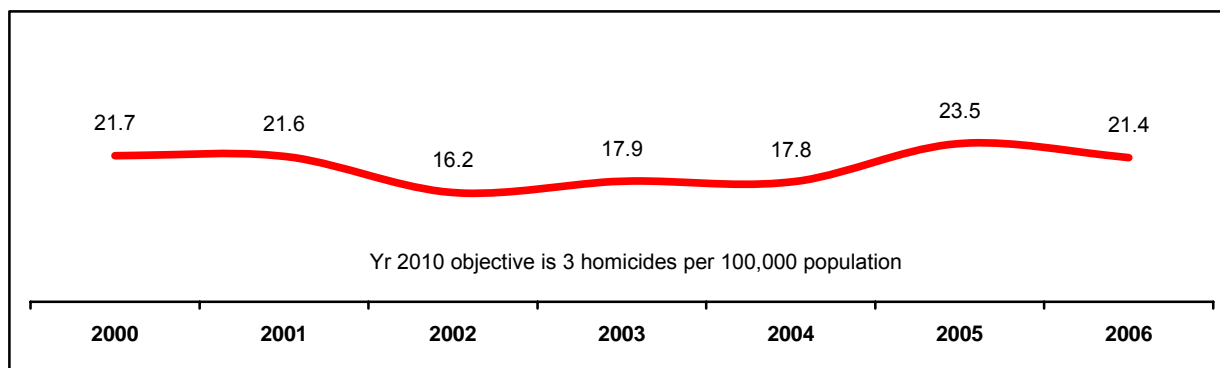


Table 160 Homicide deaths among Kansas City, Mo, residents, 2006

	White, non-Hispanic	Black, non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Not listed	Total
Male	3	65	6	2	76
Female	6	15	0	0	21
Total	9	80	6	2	97

Figure 136 Age-adjusted death rates per 100,000 population due to homicide, Kansas City, Mo



⁵⁹⁶ Paulozzi L, Sells M. Variation in homicide risk during infancy – United States, 1989-1998. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2002;51:187-189.

HOMICIDE

Figure 137 Distribution by age of 97 homicide deaths among Kansas City, Mo, residents, 2006

