

A blue-tinted photograph of the Philadelphia skyline, featuring the Comcast Center and other skyscrapers, with a bridge over a river in the foreground.

Understanding Gun Violence in Our Community

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING

Saturday, February 26, 2022, 11:00 AM

AGENDA



1. Welcoming Remarks – Mayor Bronin
2. Introduction – Chief Thody
3. Gun Violence Data Analysis – Lisa Barao, PH.D.
4. HPD Response Plan
5. City & Community Response – Mayor Bronin
6. Upcoming Meetings
7. Q & A
8. Conclusion

WELCOMING REMARKS

MAYOR BRONIN



INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

CHIEF JASON THODY



GUN VIOLENCE DATA ANALYSIS 2019 - 2021

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1. INTRODUCTION
2. CONTEXT AND TREND DATA
3. GUN VIOLENCE ANALYSIS
4. SPATIAL ANALYSIS
5. INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS
6. APPENDICES

Introduction to Data Analysis

- In June 2021, the Hartford Police Department partnered with Dr. Lisa Barao, an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Westfield State University, to conduct this detailed analysis of homicides and shootings in Hartford.
- Dr. Barao's research centers on police organizations, law enforcement technology, and violence reduction. Her previous and ongoing violence research includes:
 - Analyses of local violence dynamics to inform reduction strategies
 - Evaluations of police and/or community-based violence interventions
 - Analyses of homicide and nonfatal shooting investigations
- To date, she has conducted violence problem analyses in more than 10 cities nationally.

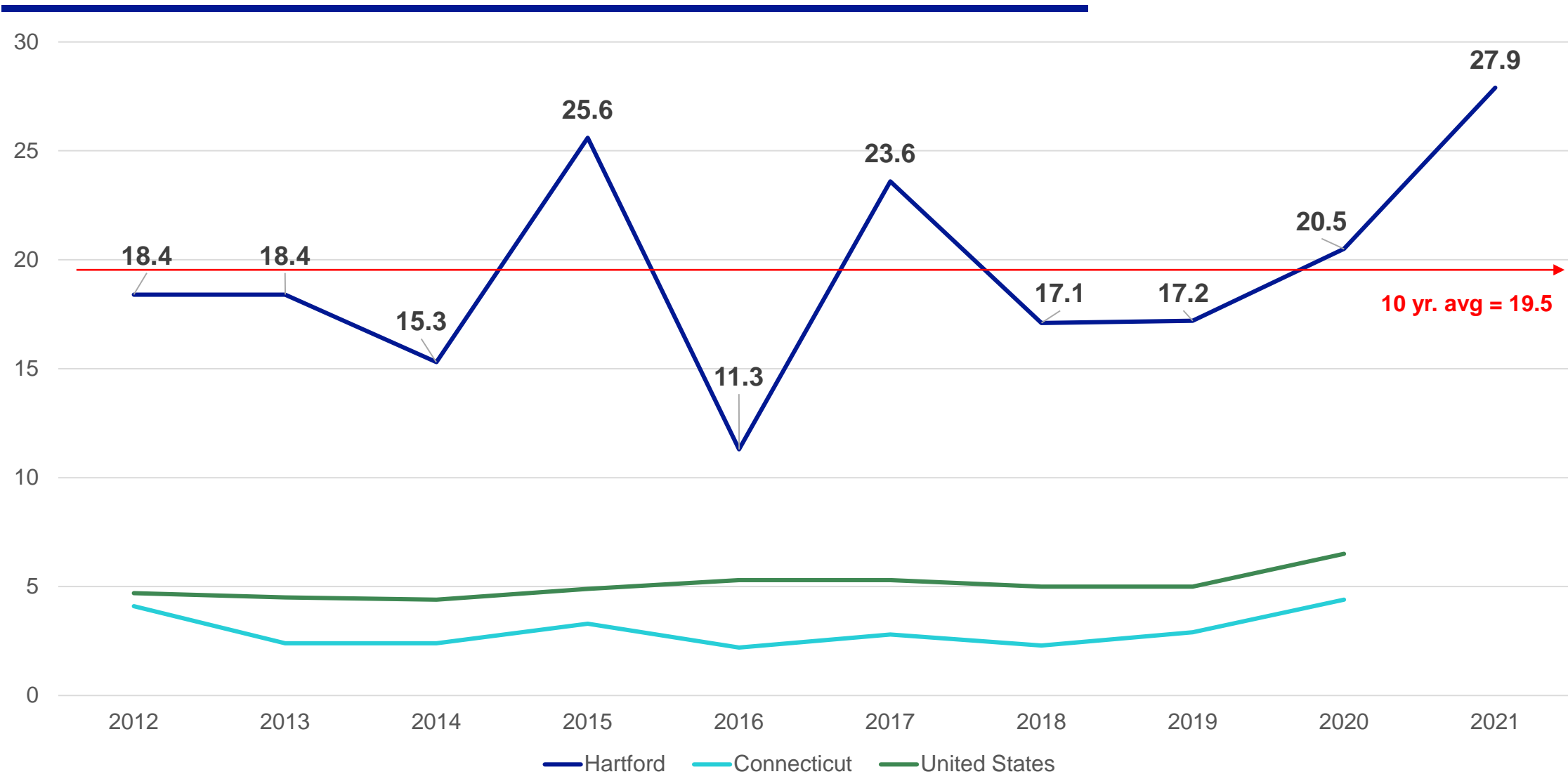
Introduction to Data Analysis

- A "problem analysis" is a set of analysis exercises designed to support the implementation of violence reduction strategies. This methodology has been developed over the last 25 years and used in dozens of cities nationally.
- This analysis establishes a common understanding of the local violence problem that guides and informs the work of civic, community, and criminal justice leaders to reduce violence.
- The problem analysis identifies the networks and individuals within a community who are at greatest risk of violence and helps tailor an intervention to reduce that risk.
- Though the methodology is informed by research, the problem analysis is primarily a practice document with implications for local policy.

CONTEXT & TREND DATA



Hartford Homicide Rate (per 100,000 population): 2012 - 2021

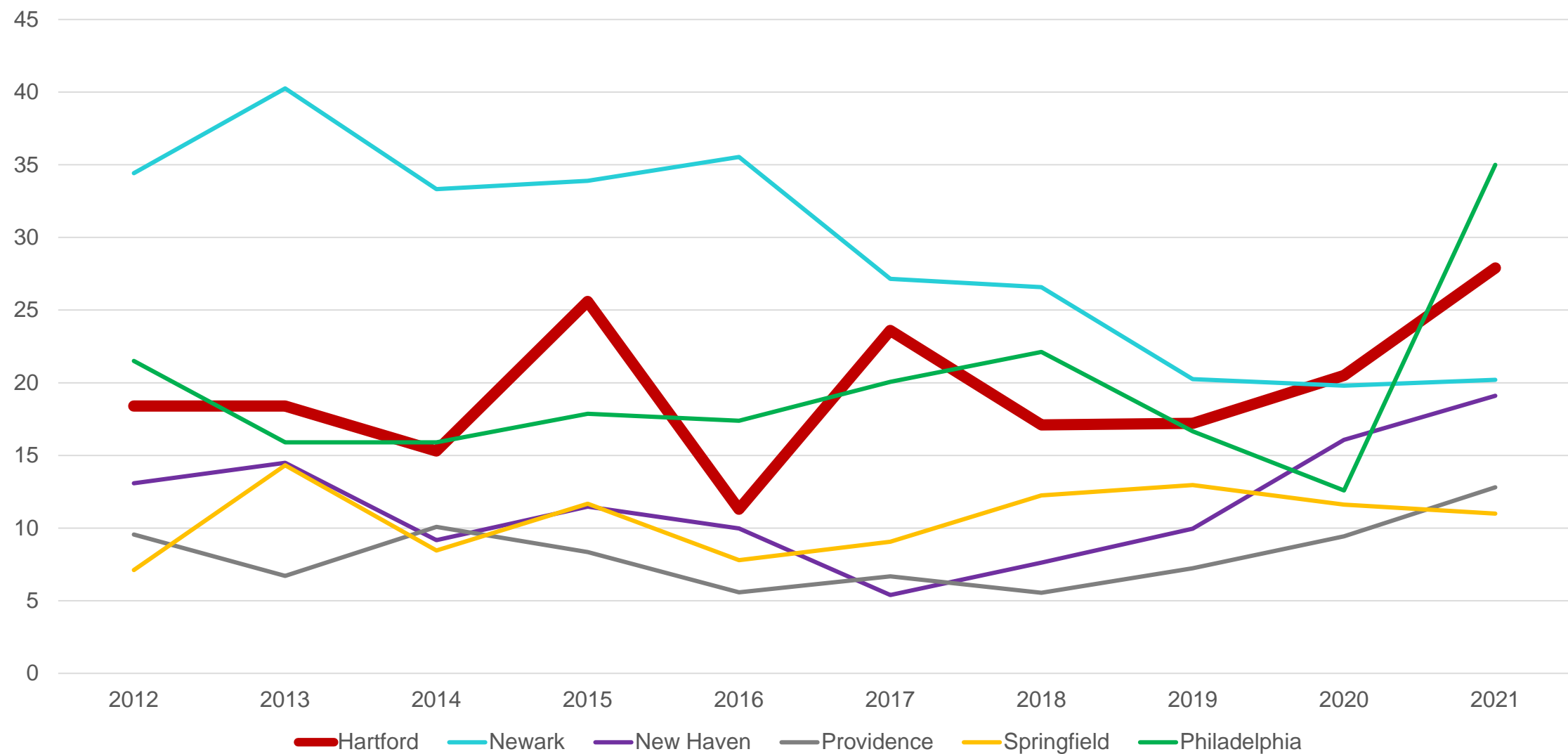


Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, 2012-2020; HPD Internal Data for 2021

Hartford Homicide Rate (per 100,000 population): Peer Comparison Cities

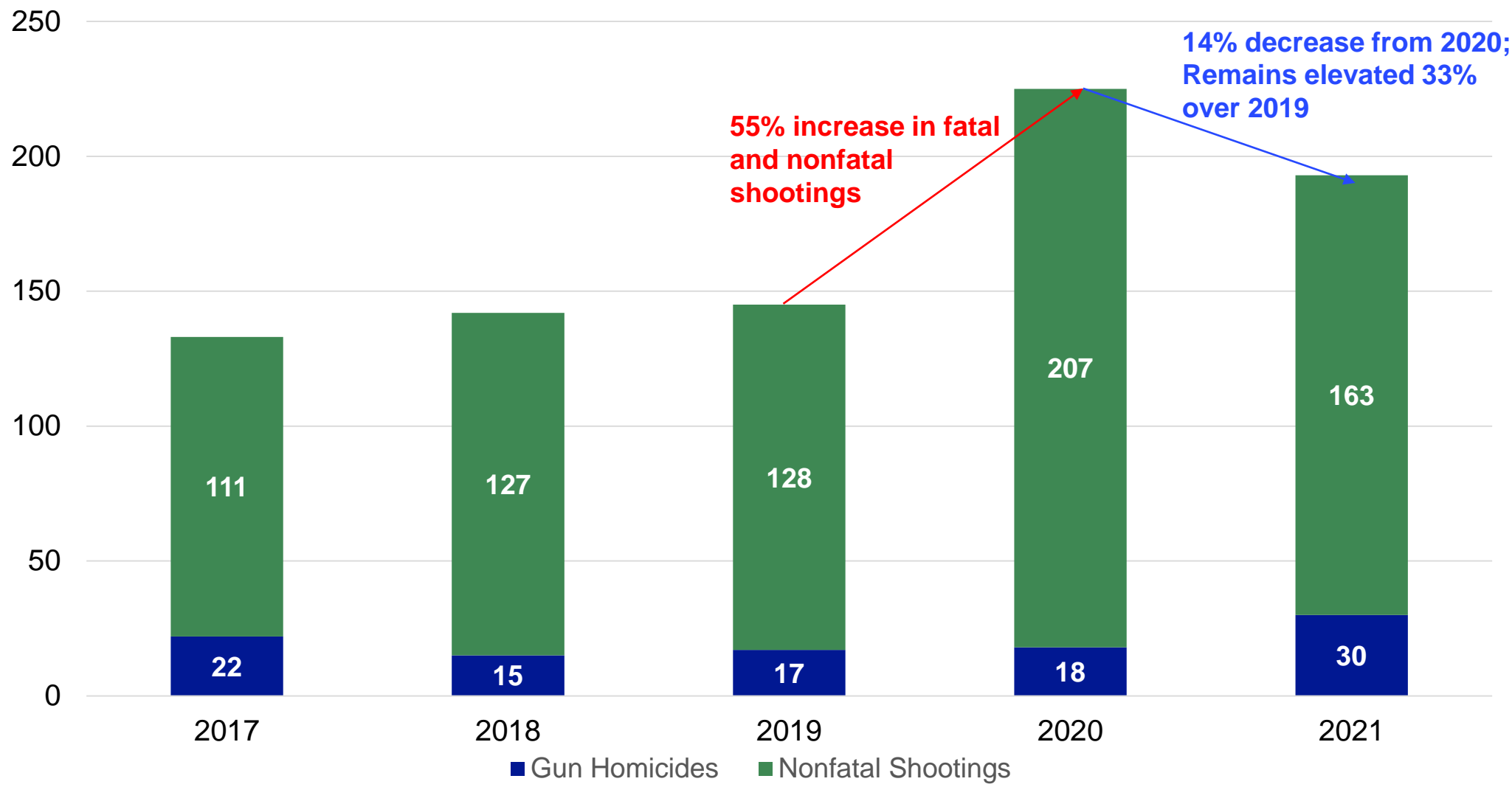
	2019 Homicide Rate (per 100,000 pop.)	Population Density (per sq. mi)	Median Household Income	Unemployment Rate	Percent Below Poverty Line
Hartford, CT	17.2	6,965	\$36,278	11%	28%
Newark, NJ	20.3	12,879	\$35,199	10%	27%
New Haven, CT	10.0	7,174	\$42,222	9%	27%
Providence, RI	7.2	10,376	\$45,610	7%	26%
Springfield, MA	13.0	4,892	\$39,432	5%	27%
Philadelphia, PA	16.7	11,960	\$45,927	8%	24%

Hartford Homicide Rate (per 100,000 population): 2012 – 2021 with Peer Comparison Cities



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, 2012-2020; HPD Internal Data for 2021; Preliminary publicly available data sourced for peer cities in 2021

Hartford Gun Homicides & Nonfatal Shootings: 2017 - 2021



Summary

- Hartford's average 10-year homicide rate is 19.5 per 100,000 population.
- U.S. cities experienced about an average 30% increase in homicides in 2020 compared to 2019, and nationwide rates have continued to increase by about 24% this year relative to 2020.*
- Compared to 2019, Hartford experienced a 19% increase in homicides in 2020. The city's homicides increased 36% in 2021 compared to 2020.
- When gun homicides and nonfatal shootings are combined, the city experienced a 55% increase in gun violence overall in 2020. Gun violence has decreased 14% in 2021 compared to 2020, but it remains elevated 33% over 2019.
 - Though many cities have reported similar increases in gun violence, there are no national statistics for nonfatal injury shootings and these trends are difficult to track nationwide.

*Source: Richard Rosenfeld and Ernesto Lopez, *Pandemic, Social Unrest, and Crime in U.S. Cities*, Council on Criminal Justice, May 2021.

GUN VIOLENCE ANALYSIS



Background

- The gun violence analysis examines all gun violence incidents (fatal and nonfatal shootings) occurring between January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2021.
 - These 461 gun violence incidents include 63 gun homicides and 398 nonfatal shootings.
- This section analyzes data on victim/suspect demographics, victim/suspect criminal history, and incident circumstances for fatal and nonfatal shootings.

GUN VIOLENCE ANALYSIS

Victim and Suspect Demographics



GV Victims & Suspects: Sex and Race

	FATAL & NONFATAL SHOOTINGS (N=461)			HARTFORD POPULATION
	Victims (n=518)	Suspects (n=178)	Victims & Suspects (n=696)	
Sex				
Male	88.8%	96.1%	90.7%	47.6%
Female	11.2%	3.4%	9.2%	52.4%
Race				
White	2.7%	0.6%	2.2%	14.8%
Black	63.1%	64.5%	63.4%	37.7%
Hispanic	34.2%	34.9%	34.5%	44.3%
Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	

GV Victims & Suspects: Age

	FATAL & NONFATAL SHOOTINGS (N=461)		
	Victims (n=518)	Suspects (n=178)	Victims & Suspects (n=696)
Age			
17 & under	5.8%	4.2%	5.4%
18-24	27.6%	39.9%	30.7%
25-34	41.9%	39.9%	41.5%
35-44	13.7%	12.5%	13.3%
45-54	7.3%	2.5%	6.3%
55+	3.7%	0.6%	2.9%
Average Age	30.0	27.3	29.3

39% of victims and suspects 17 & under had prior arrests.

49% of victims and suspects ages 18-20 had prior arrests and had committed 2-3 criminal offenses.

GUN VIOLENCE ANALYSIS

Victim and Suspect
Criminal History



Data Note

- The goal of a criminal history analysis is to catalogue all CJ system contact. This should include both arrests and convictions. Criminal history data was gleaned from both the State Police Record Check (SPRC) system and Hartford PD in-house arrest data.
- **SPRC Data:**
 - SPRC data was limited in that arrests/charges that were nolle or dismissed are often dropped from an individual's rap sheet. Therefore, SPRC data is biased downward in reflecting an individual's criminal justice system contact.
 - SPRC data changed in July 2021, significantly altering the rap sheet output. Presentation of SPRC data in this report is limited to conviction, incarceration, and supervision status.
- **Hartford PD Arrest Data:**
 - HPD data includes all arrests regardless of disposition. However, this data is limited to only contacts occurring within the City of Hartford rather than reflecting statewide police contact.

GV Victims & Suspects: CJ System Contact

State Police Record Check Criminal History Data

	FATAL & NONFATAL SHOOTINGS (N=461)		
	Victims (n=525)	Suspects (n=125)	Victims & Suspects (n=669)
Known to the CJ system prior to the incident	313 (59.6%)	112 (77.8%)	425 (63.5%)
Of those known to the CJ system:			
Prior incarceration	64.9%	60.3%	64.0%
Convicted of felony	72.5%	61.6%	70.5%
Prior probation	70.6%	53.4%	67.4%
Active probation	23.1%	16.4%	21.8%
Prior parole*	7.7%	2.7%	6.8%
Active parole*	3.2%	1.4%	2.9%

*Presentation of parole data in SPRC reports changed following system updates in the summer of 2021. Interpret with caution as these percentages are likely a slight undercount. Analysis of data prior to this change indicates that approximately 11% of victims and suspects had prior parole and approximately 4% were on active parole.

GV Victims & Suspects: Arrests

Hartford PD In-House Criminal History Data

	FATAL & NONFATAL SHOOTINGS (N=461)		
	Victims (n=542)	Suspects (n=181)	Victims & Suspects (n=687)
Prior Hartford arrests:	363 (67.1%)	135 (77.4%)	498 (69.6%)
Of those with prior Hartford arrests:			
Average number of prior arrests	9.7	9.3	9.6
Average number of prior felony arrests	3.6	3.7	3.6
Average number of prior misdemeanor arrests	6.1	5.6	5.9

GV Victims & Suspects: Prior Offense Detail

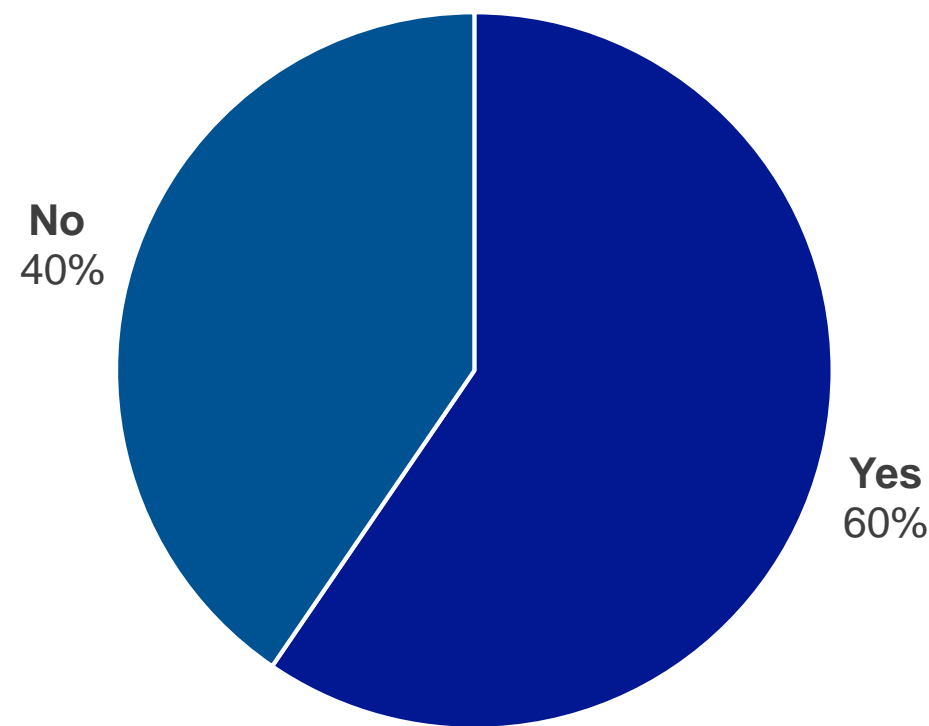
Hartford PD In-House Criminal History Data

	FATAL & NONFATAL SHOOTINGS (N=461)		
Of those with prior Hartford arrests:	Victims (n=363)	Suspects (n=135)	Victims & Suspects (n=498)
Serious violent offenses (1d)	0.2	0.3	0.3
Lesser violent offenses	1.3	1.2	1.3
Weapons offenses	0.5	0.8	0.6
Drug offenses	2.6	2.3	2.5
Property offenses	1.1	1.2	1.1
Disorder offenses	4.2	4.3	4.2
Other offenses	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total	10.3	10.3	10.3

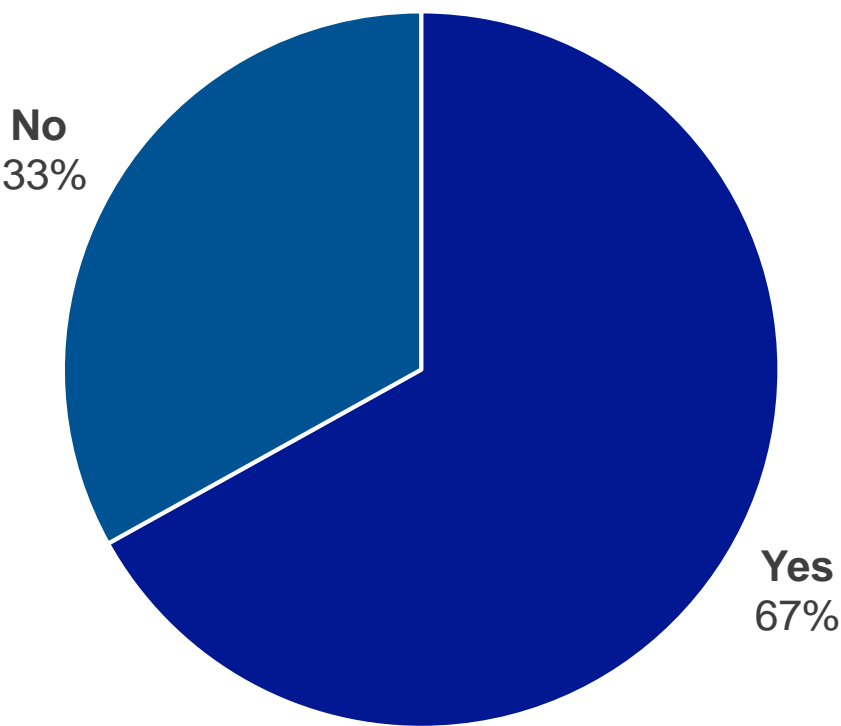
GV Victims & Suspects: Prior Violent Offense

Hartford PD In-House Criminal History Data

Victims

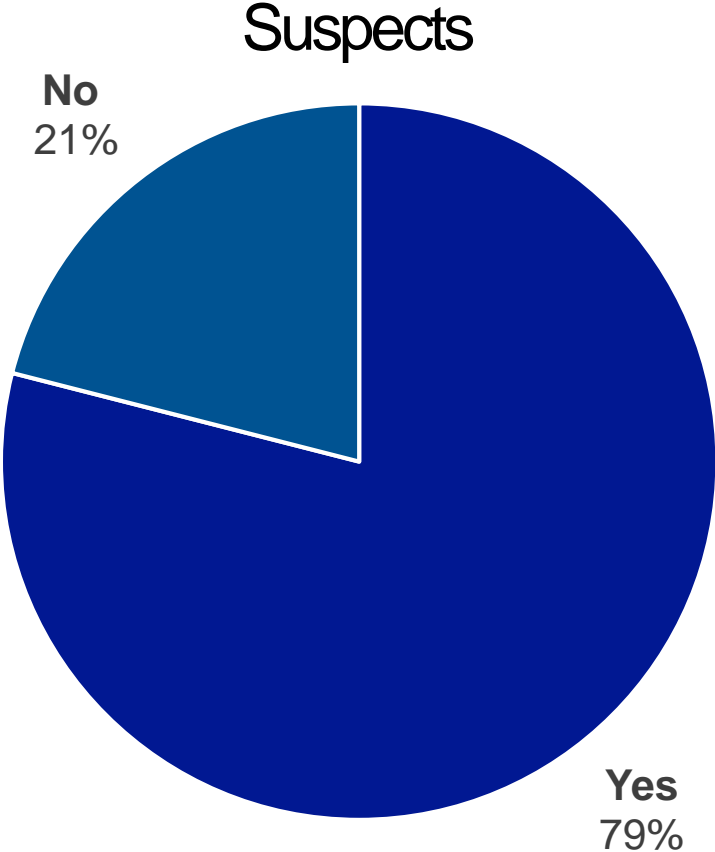
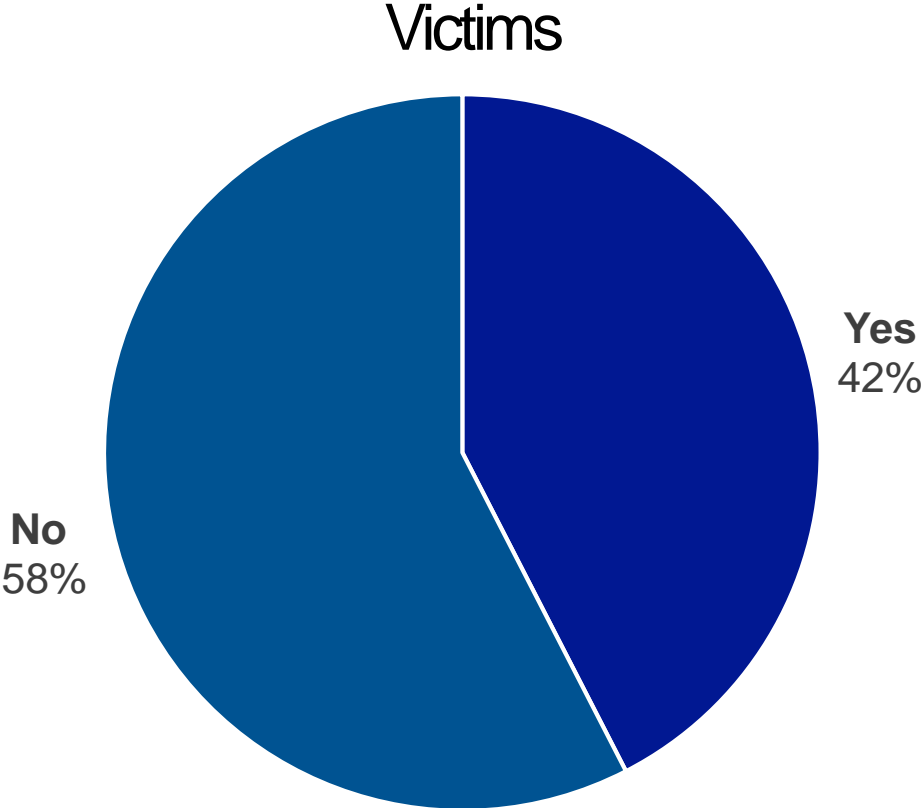


Suspects



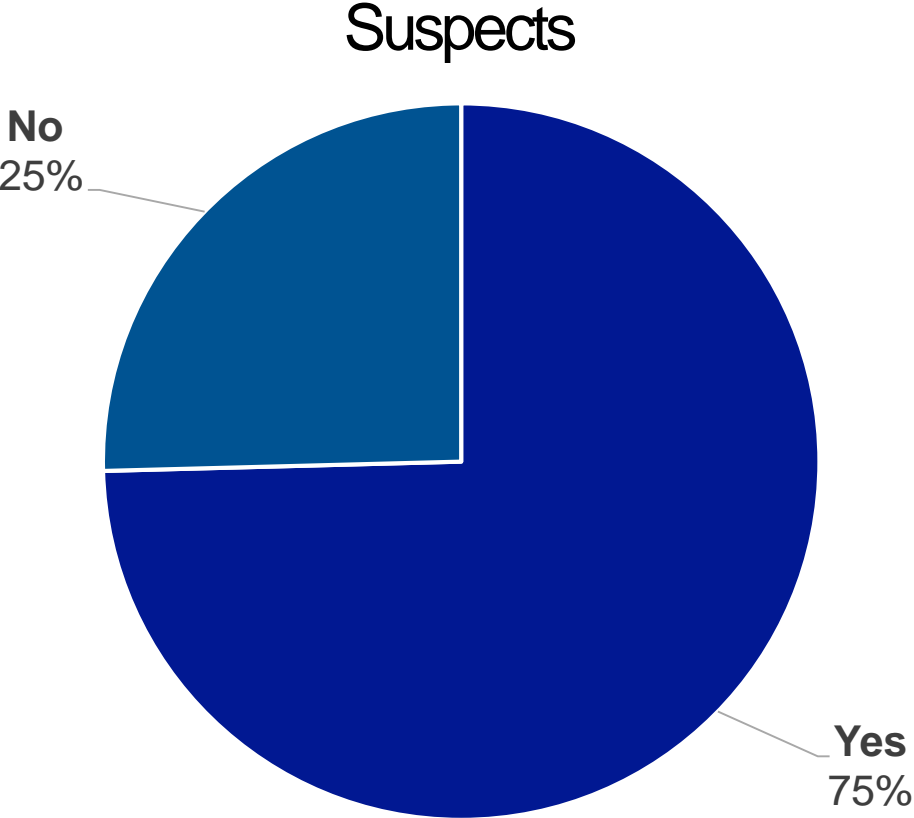
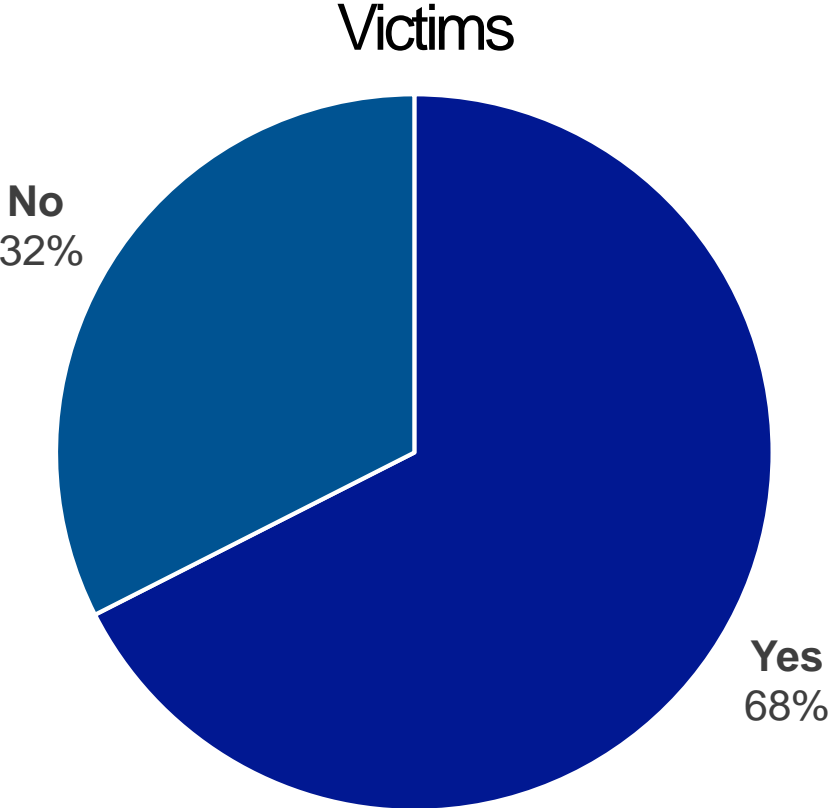
GV Victims & Suspects: Prior Gun Offense

Hartford PD In-House Criminal History Data



GV Victims & Suspects: Prior Drug Offense

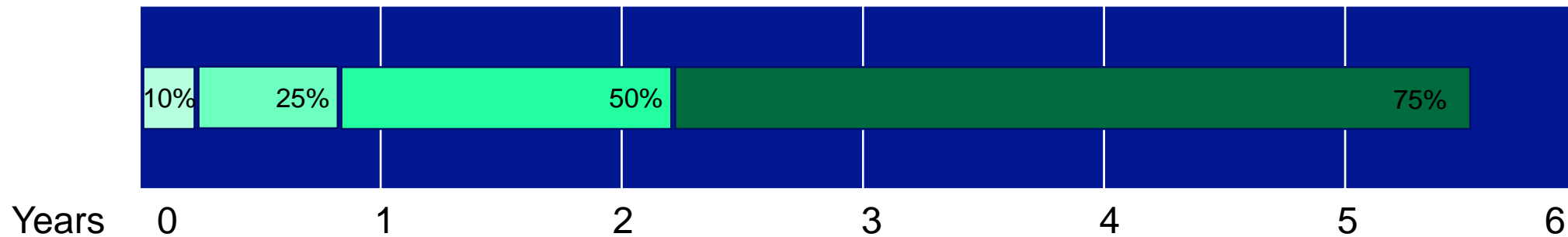
Hartford PD In-House Criminal History Data



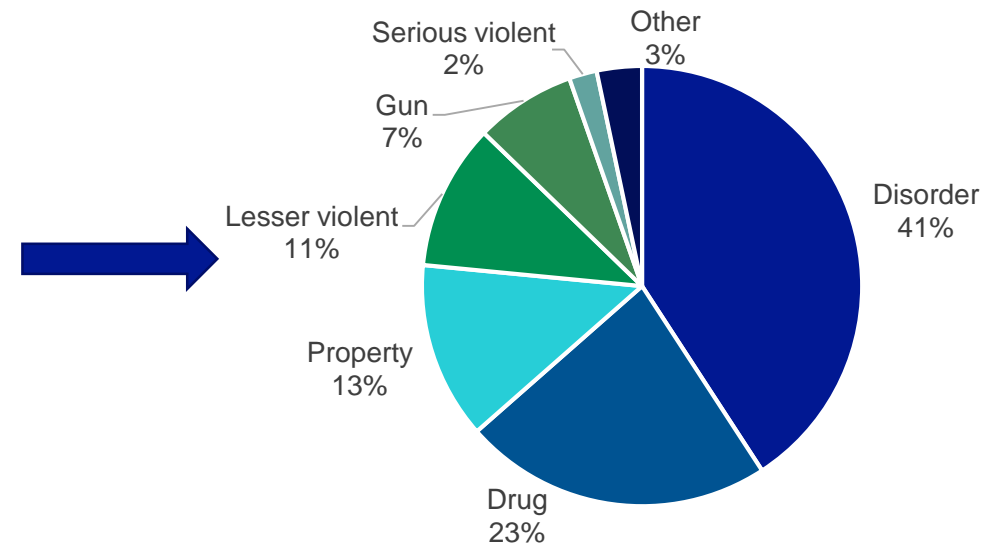
GV Victims: Time to Victimization

Hartford PD In-House Criminal History Data

Victims: Time between last offense and violent incident (Percentiles)



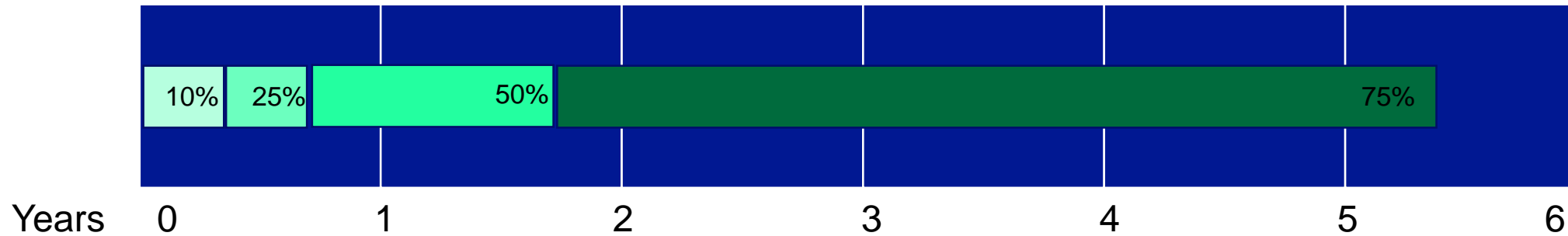
- 25% of gun violence victims had been arrested in Hartford within the past 0.9 years.
- 50% of gun violence victims had been arrested in Hartford within the past 2.1 years.



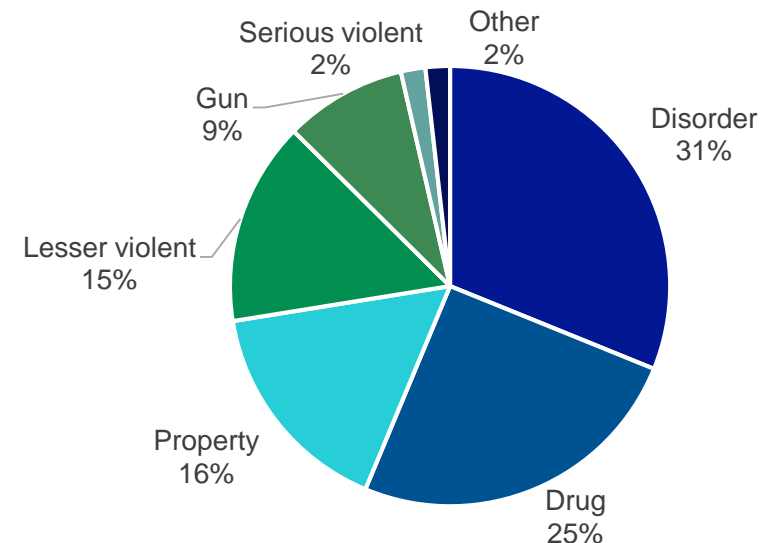
GV Suspects: Time to Violent Offense

Hartford PD In-House Criminal History Data

Suspects: Time between last offense and violent incident (Percentiles)



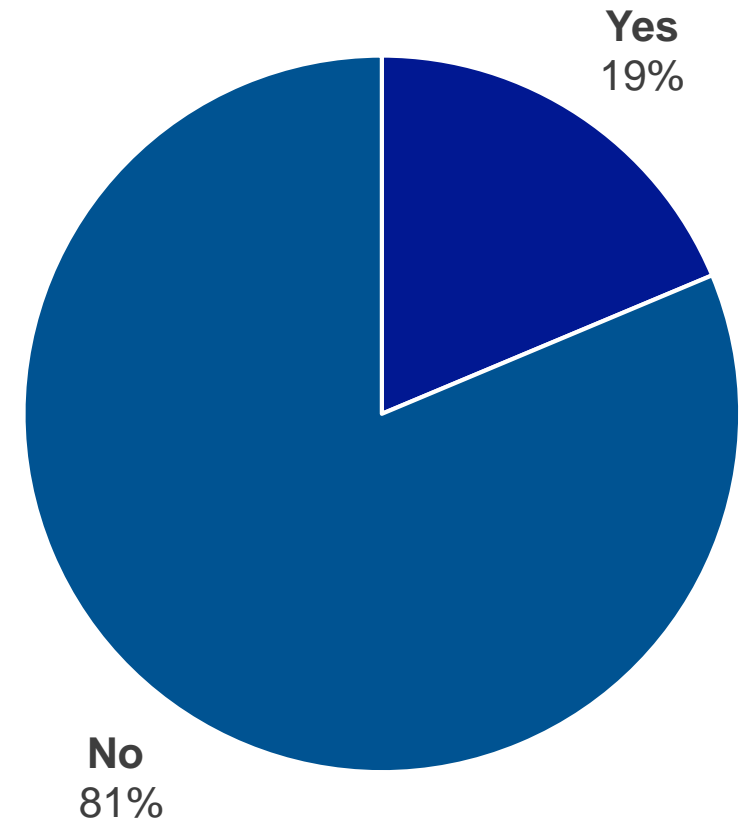
- 25% of shooters had been arrested in Hartford within the past 0.8 years.
- 50% of shooters had been arrested in Hartford within the past 1.9 years.



GV Victims & Suspects: Prior Victimization

Hartford PD In-House Criminal History Data

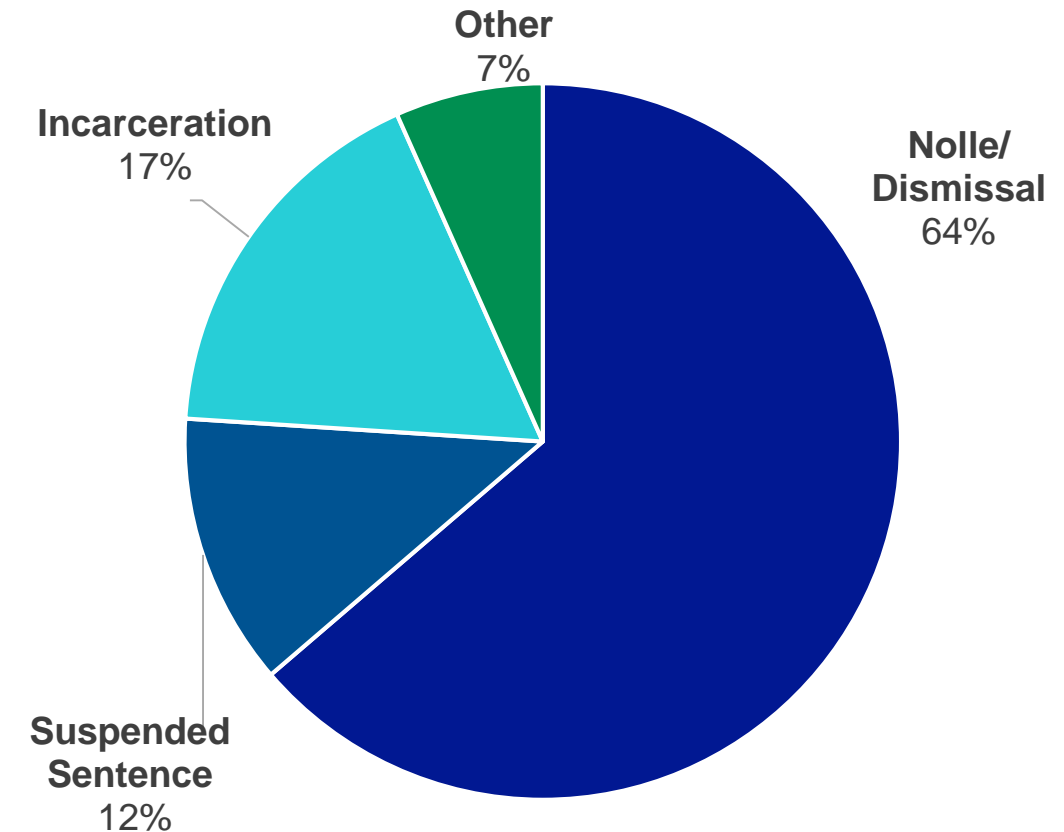
- Prior victimization was flagged when individuals had previously been victims of violent offenses in Hartford.
- Violent victimization included 1st and 2nd degree assault and robbery.
- About **19%** of victims and suspects had previously been victims of violent offenses.
- About **5%** of victims and suspects experienced more than one instance of prior violent victimization.
- 19% of victims had prior violent victimization.
- 18% of suspects had prior violent victimization.



GV Victims & Suspects: Offense Disposition

Hartford PD In-House Criminal History Data

- The 478 victims and suspects who were known to the CJ system committed a total of **4,894** criminal offenses in Hartford prior to their involvement in the included violent incident.
- Of these, 3,641 offenses (74.4%) included disposition information.
 - 2,320 (63.7%) were nolle or dismissed.
 - 448 (12.3%) received suspended sentences.
 - 630 (17.3%) received some length of incarceration.



GUN VIOLENCE ANALYSIS

Incident Circumstances

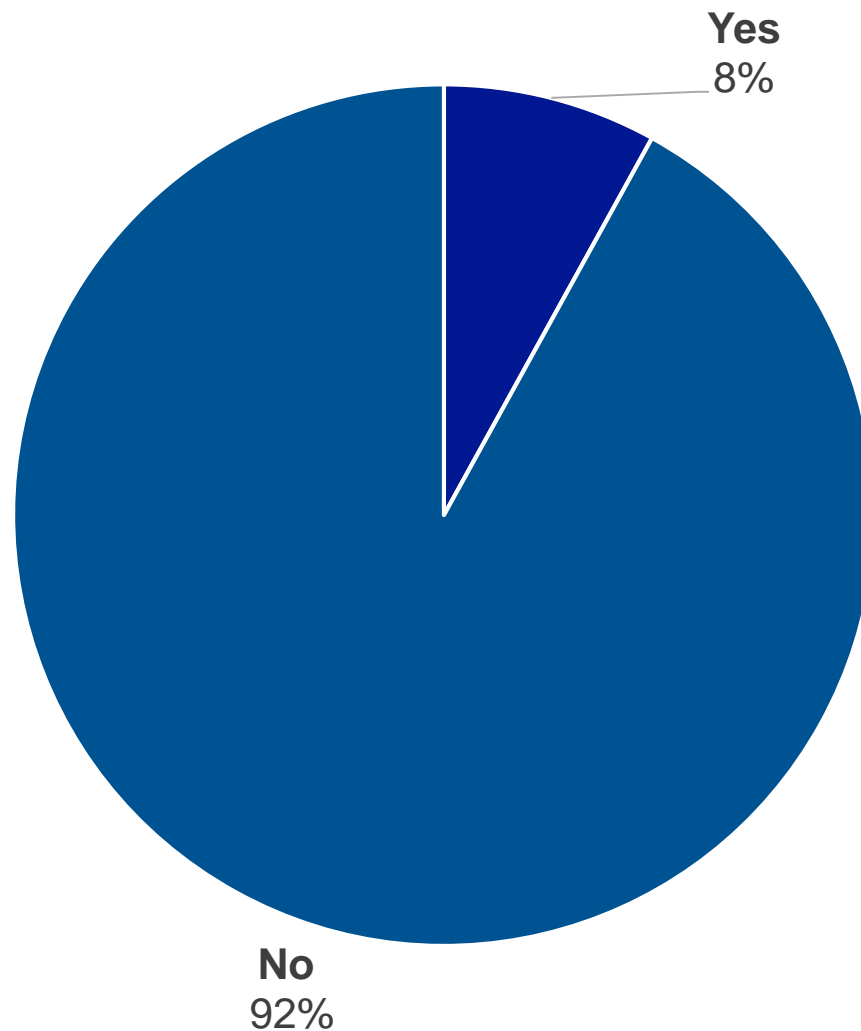


Group Involvement in Gun Violence

- Shooting investigations have revealed **several active groups/gangs/crews** in the city.
 - Most of these groups are not traditional groups/gangs. **Instead, they reflect loose associations between criminally active individuals who are active or residing in particular neighborhoods.**
 - Though these informal associations sometimes have predictable conflicts with other areas, it is important to note that:
 - The individuals associated with these groups are unlikely to formally rep or claim these groups.
 - The social networks between and within these groups are extremely fluid and unstable.

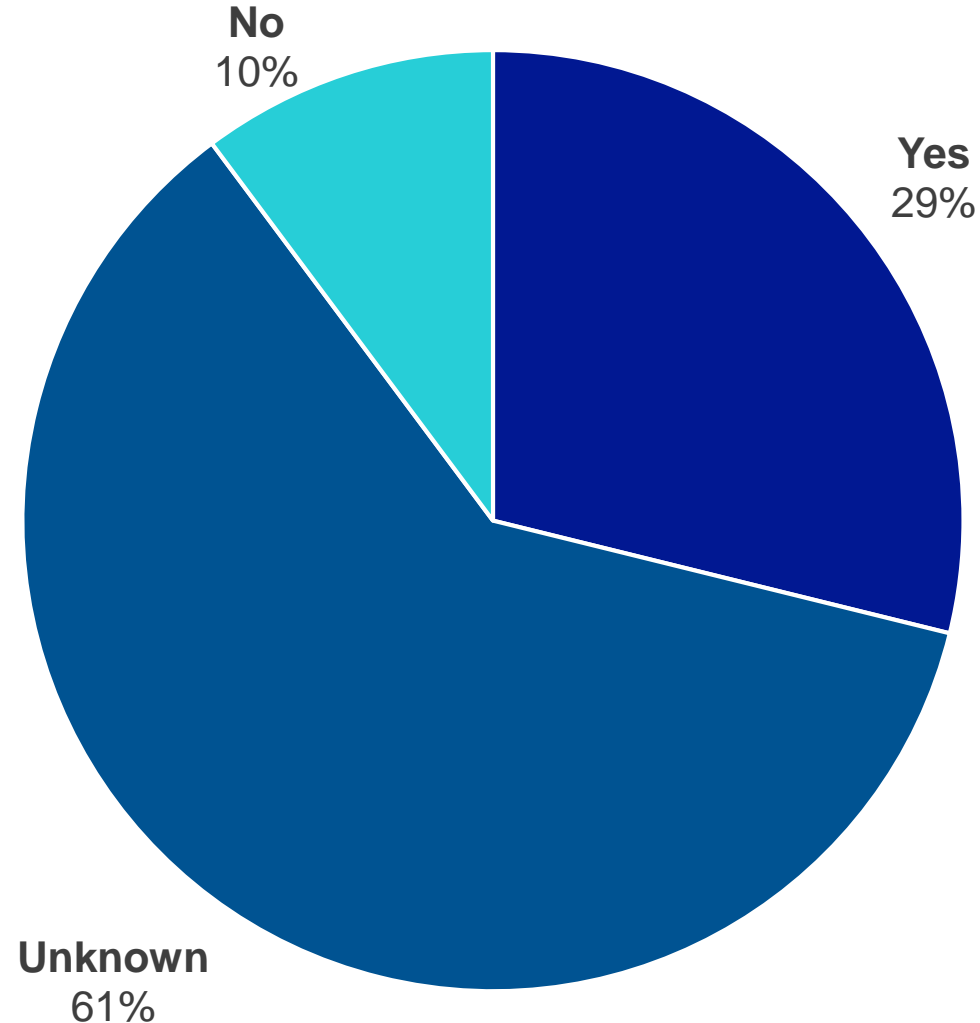
Group-Related GV Incidents

(Motive for the incident was a group-related conflict)



Group-Member Involvement: GV Incidents

(Victims and/or suspects were group-associated, regardless of incident motive)



Group Involvement in Gun Violence

- Group member involvement in gun violence incidents is noted as “Unknown” when:
 - There was no known suspect in the case.
 - This prevents classification of the case since it is not possible to know whether or not the suspect was group/gang associated.
 - Detectives could not definitively say that a victim and/or suspect was or was not group-associated.
 - “Unknown” designations are common in violence problem analyses. These designations avoid inflation of “Yes” or “No” categories when an individual’s associations and relationships are unstable and unclear.
 - This is especially common in cities like Hartford that include more informal groups and cliques rather than traditional, structured gangs.
- Since victims were uncooperative in 56% of the 398 nonfatal shootings included in this sample, group member involvement is unknown for a notable proportion of gun violence incidents.

Group Involvement in Gun Violence

- However, additional insight can be generated from a closer examination of homicide cases and gun violence incidents with unknown circumstances:
 - Homicides are cleared at a much higher rate than nonfatal shootings in cities nationwide. As a result, only 12% of Hartford's homicides between January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2021 (N=99) included unknown circumstances.
 - 5.1% of homicide incidents from 2018-2021 resulted from group-related conflicts.
 - Group/gang members were involved in 28% of homicides. Group member involvement was unknown for another 41% of homicide cases.
- In gun violence incidents with unknown circumstances (N=120), 17% of victims were group members compared to 24% of victims in the full sample.

Group Involvement in Gun Violence

- Together, these sources suggest that group members are likely involved in at least about **30%** of gun violence incidents in Hartford.
 - Compared to other cities that have conducted violence problem analyses, this is a relatively low– but not insignificant– proportion of group member involved violence.
- Though we cannot draw conclusions about the circumstances or group involvement of incidents designated as unknown, the existing data and insights provided by investigators do not suggest that the majority of these unknown incidents are group member involved.

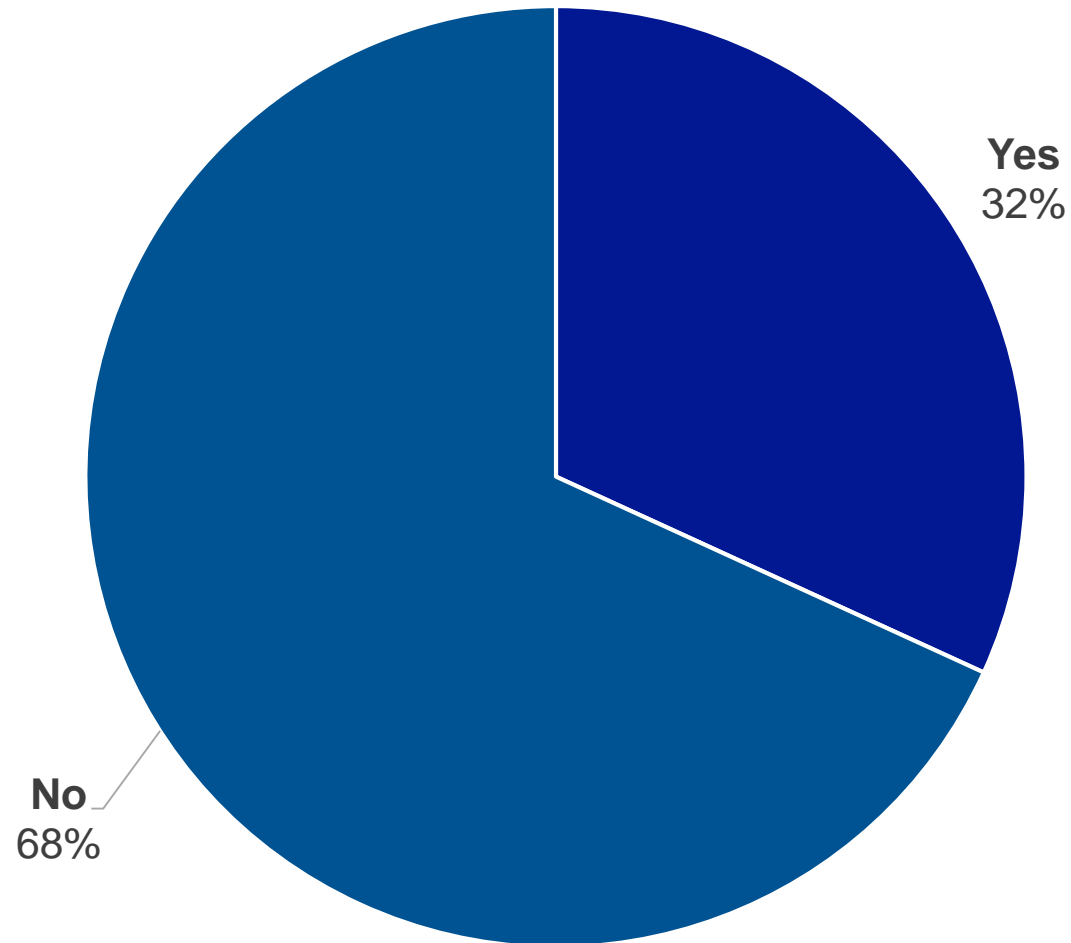
GV Incidents: Circumstance

Circumstance	N	All GV (n = 461)	Exclude Unk (n = 311)	% Incidents GMI
Personal dispute	89	19.3%	28.6%	27.0%
Drug-related dispute	86	18.7%	27.7%	30.2%
Instant dispute	42	9.1%	13.5%	16.7%
Group-related dispute	37	8.0%	11.9%	100%
Robbery/Carjacking	14	3.0%	4.5%	28.6%
Retaliation/Revenge	13	2.8%	4.2%	30.8%
Domestic/family dispute	11	2.4%	3.5%	36.4%
Drug robbery	8	1.7%	1.0%	25.0%
Internal Group Dispute	4	0.9%	1.3%	100%
Other	4	0.9%	1.0%	-
Unknown	150	32.5%		17.3%

Victims were uncooperative in 61% of cases with unknown motives.

Drug-Related GV Incidents

Drug-related disputes, drug robberies, and personal disputes with drug ties (excludes unknown)



Summary

- The victims and suspects involved in gun violence are predominantly Black (63%) males (91%) between the ages of 18-34. The largest proportion of victims and suspects (42%) are 25-34 and the average age of those involved in gun violence is 29.
- Between 64-70% of victims and suspects were known to the criminal justice system prior to their involvement in these incidents.
- Of those known, most have extensive criminal history:
 - 64% were previously incarcerated.
 - 71% had been convicted of a felony.
 - 67% had previously been on probation.

Summary (cont.)

- Victims and suspects had an average of 10 prior arrests, of which an average of 4 were for felony offenses.
 - Most of these are disorder, drug, and lesser violent offenses, respectively.
 - Shooters are significantly more likely to have prior drug, weapons, and violent offenses.
- Though most have an average of 10 prior offenses, only 1-2 offenses typically result in any length of incarceration. About 6-7 offenses are nolle or dismissed.
- Individuals at the very highest risk for involvement in gun violence are likely to have **several** of these characteristics.

Summary (cont.)

- Only 8% of incidents involve motives relating solely to group-related conflicts.
- However, at least 29% of incidents involve group members as victims, suspects, or both.
- Regardless of group member involvement, most gun violence incidents in Hartford evolve from drug-related disputes and personal disputes (e.g., over money, women, etc.) between known individuals.
 - Drug ties and drug-related motives drive the most significant proportion of violence in Hartford.

GUN VIOLENCE ANALYSIS

Year-Over-Year Comparisons



GV Victims & Suspects: Demographics

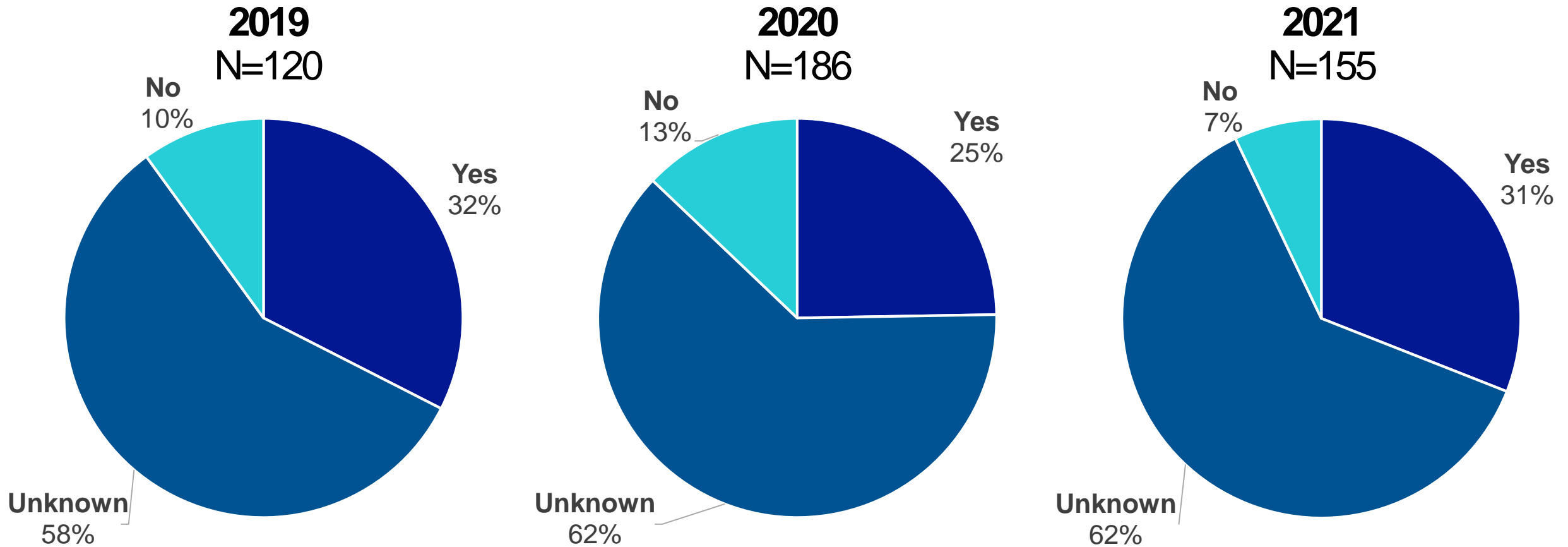
	FATAL & NONFATAL SHOOTINGS (N=461)					
	2019		2020		2021	
	Victims (n=140)	Suspects (n=50)	Victims (n=210)	Suspects (n=61)	Victims (n=173)	Suspects (n=72)
Male	92.1%	96.0%	87.1%	96.7%	88.4%	95.8%
Black	61.4%	56.3%	61.2%	69.5%	67.1%	67.1%
Hispanic	35.0%	43.8%	34.9%	30.5%	32.4%	31.4%
Average Age	28.8	27.6	29.4	27.6	30.7	26.6
17 & under	2.9%	6.8%	7.1%	8.2%	6.4%	0.0%
18-24	29.3%	29.6%	31.4%	31.2%	22.0%	54.4%
25-34	45.7%	43.2%	37.6%	47.5%	45.1%	30.9%

GV Incidents: Circumstance

	2019	2020	2021
Circumstance	N=120	N=186	N=155
Personal dispute	18.3%	16.1%	23.9%
Drug-related dispute	15.8%	18.3%	21.3%
Instant dispute	6.7%	4.8%	↑16.1%
Group-related dispute	8.3%	8.1%	7.7%
Robbery/Carjacking	3.3%	2.7%	3.2%
Retaliation/Revenge	1.7%	4.8%	1.3%
Domestic/family dispute	2.5%	1.6%	3.2%
Drug robbery	5.0%	1.1%	1.9%
Internal Group Dispute	0.8%	1.6%	0.0%
Other	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%
Unknown	37.5%	40.3%	↓19.4%

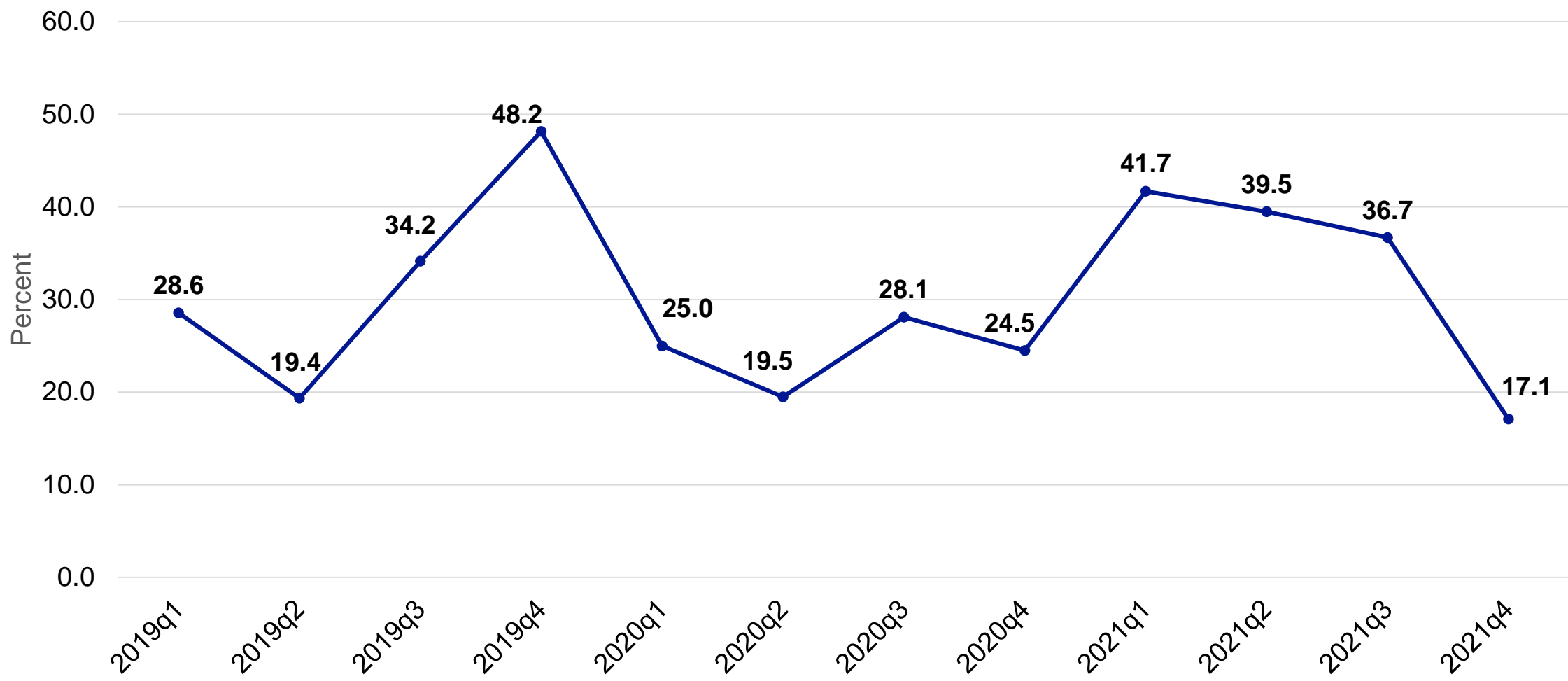
GV Incidents: Group Member Involvement

(Victims and/or suspects were group-associated, regardless of incident motive)

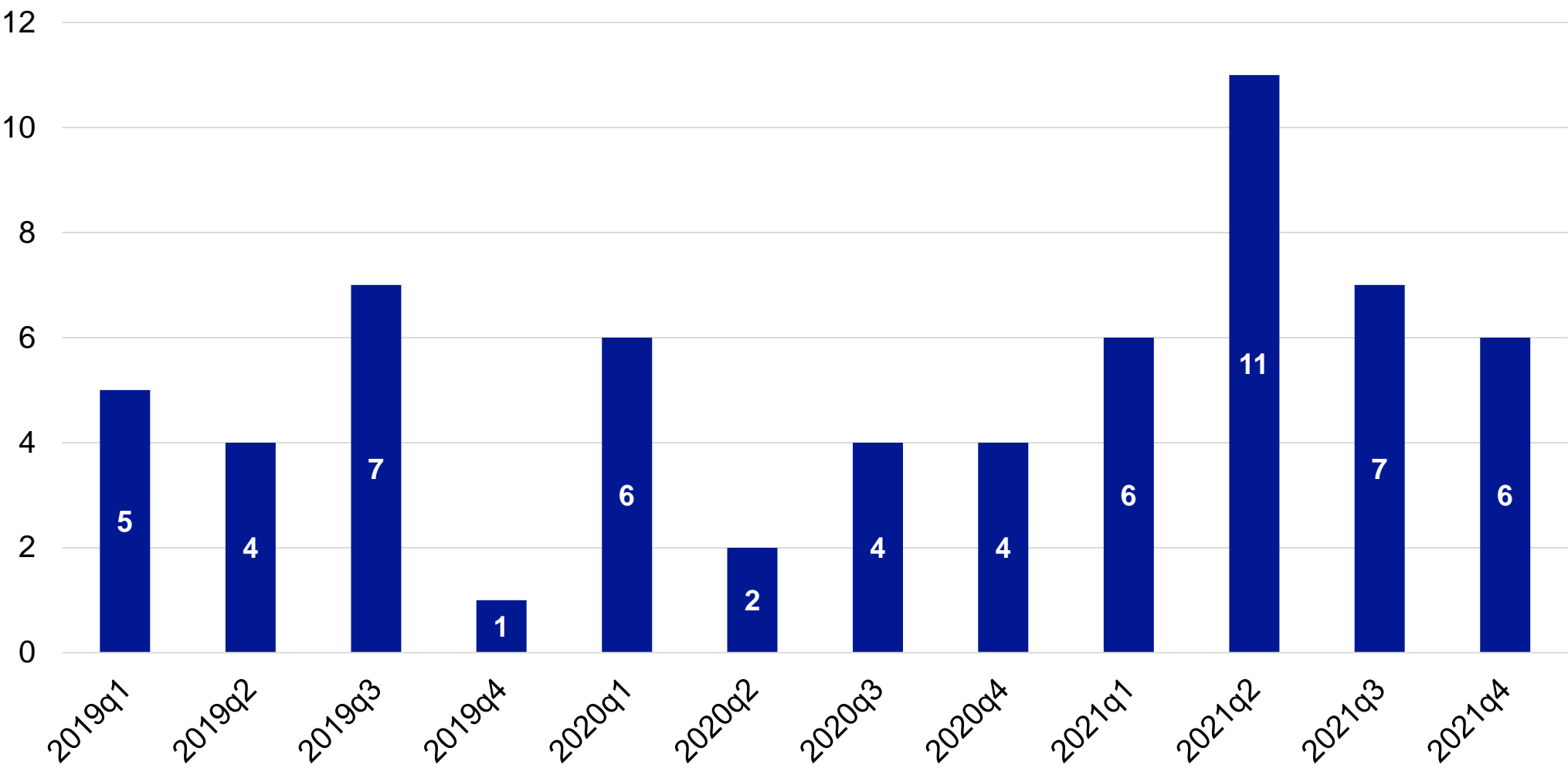


Percent GMI GV Incidents by Quarter: 2019 - 2021

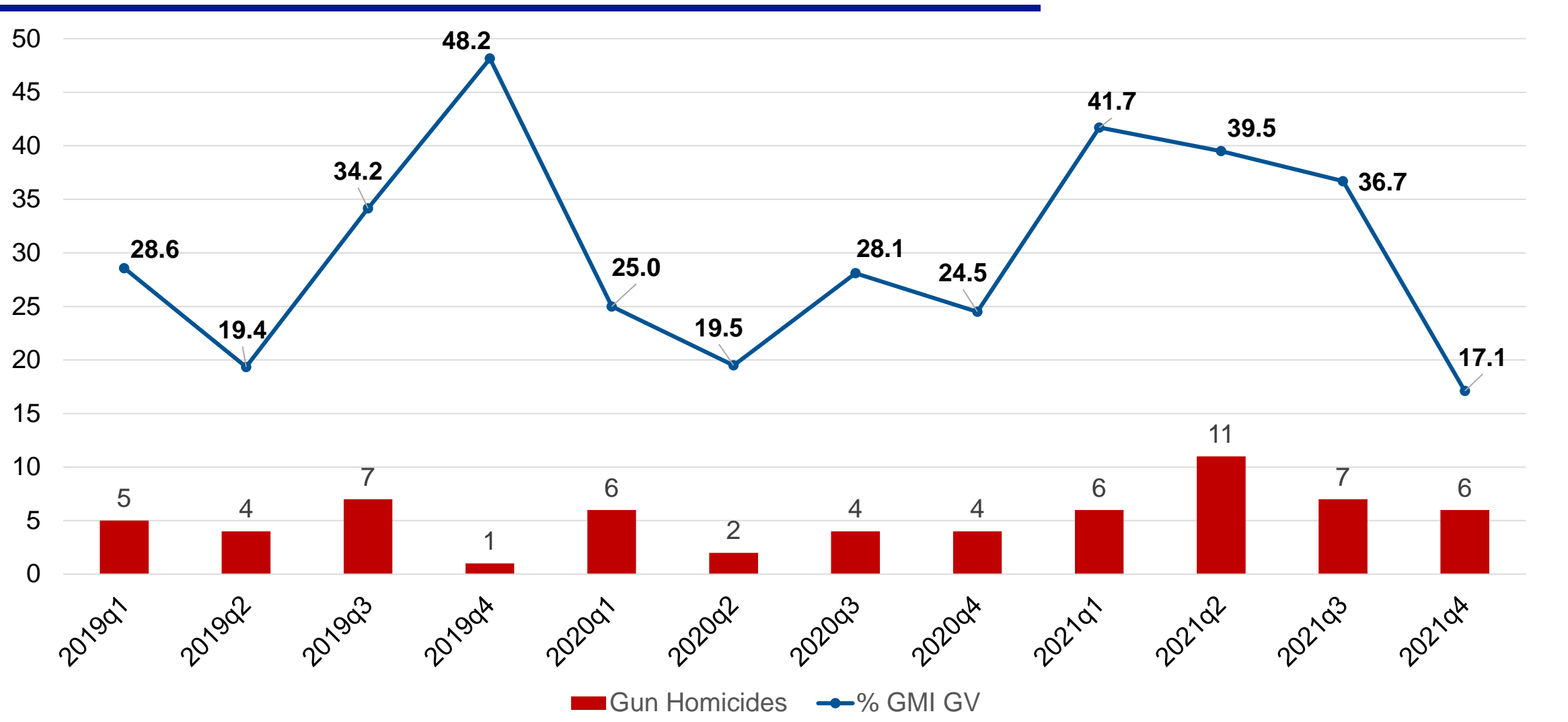
(Victims and/or suspects were group-associated, regardless of incident motive)



Hartford Gun Homicides by Quarter: 2019 - 2021



Gun Homicides & GMI GV Incidents by Quarter: 2019 - 2021



Summary

- There are no significant differences in the sex or race/ethnicity of gun violence victims and suspects over this three-year period.
- However, gun violence offenders were significantly more likely to fall between the ages of 18-24, compared to other age groups, in 2021.
- Circumstances of gun violence were similar overall across the three-year period, but the incidence of instant disputes increased significantly in 2021.

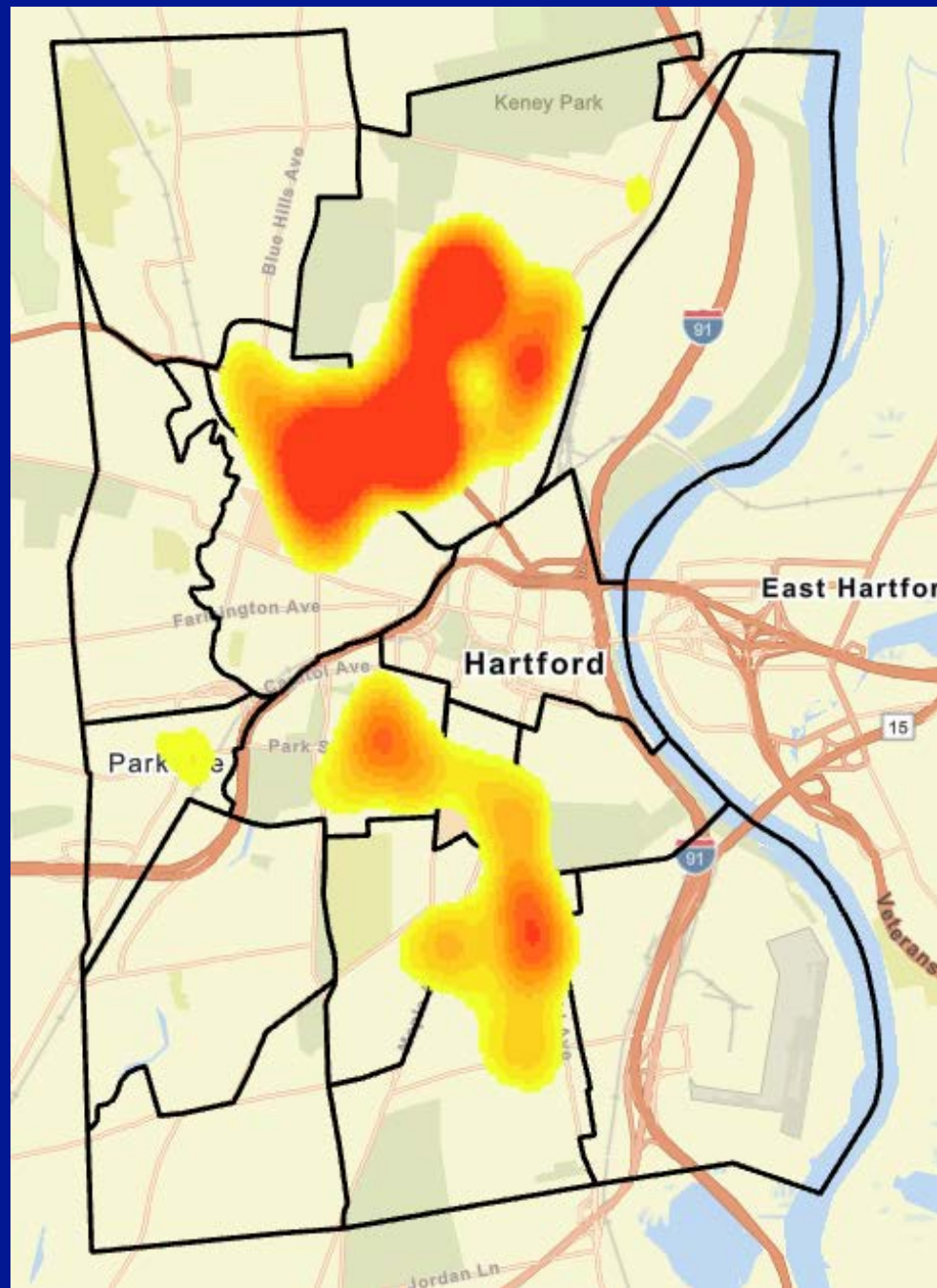
Summary (cont.)

- Hartford's overall level of gun violence has decreased from the significant rise experienced in 2020.
- But gun violence has been more deadly in 2021, especially in the second quarter of the year.
- This increase in fatal gun violence aligns with a period from about March – August 2021 in which group-member involved violence also increased. Interviews with HPD personnel highlighted ongoing incidents of group/neighborhood-based retaliation that occurred throughout this time period.
- Group-member involved violence, as well as fatal violence, has decreased from September 2021 forward.

SPATIAL ANALYSIS

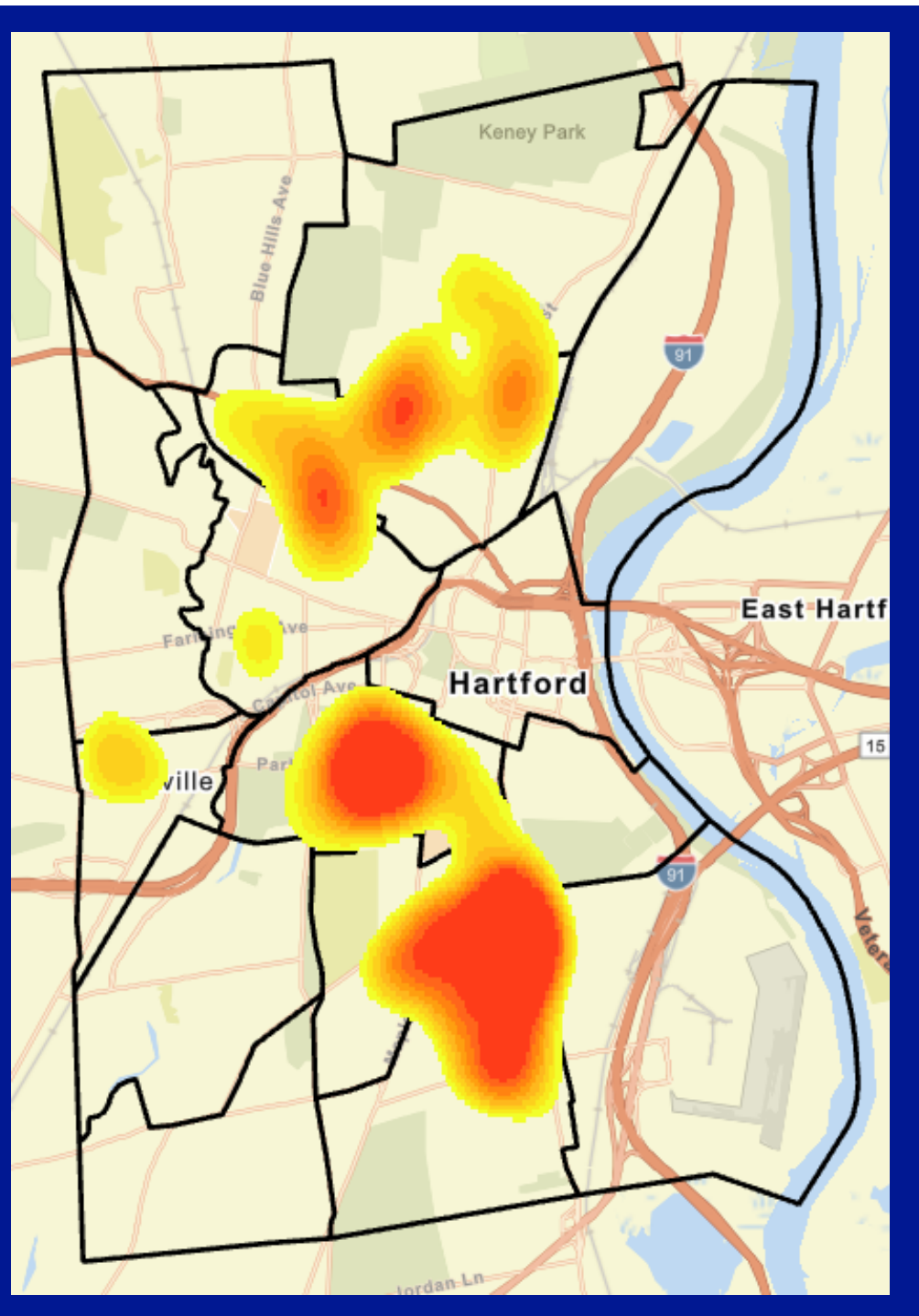


Gun Violence Hot Spots

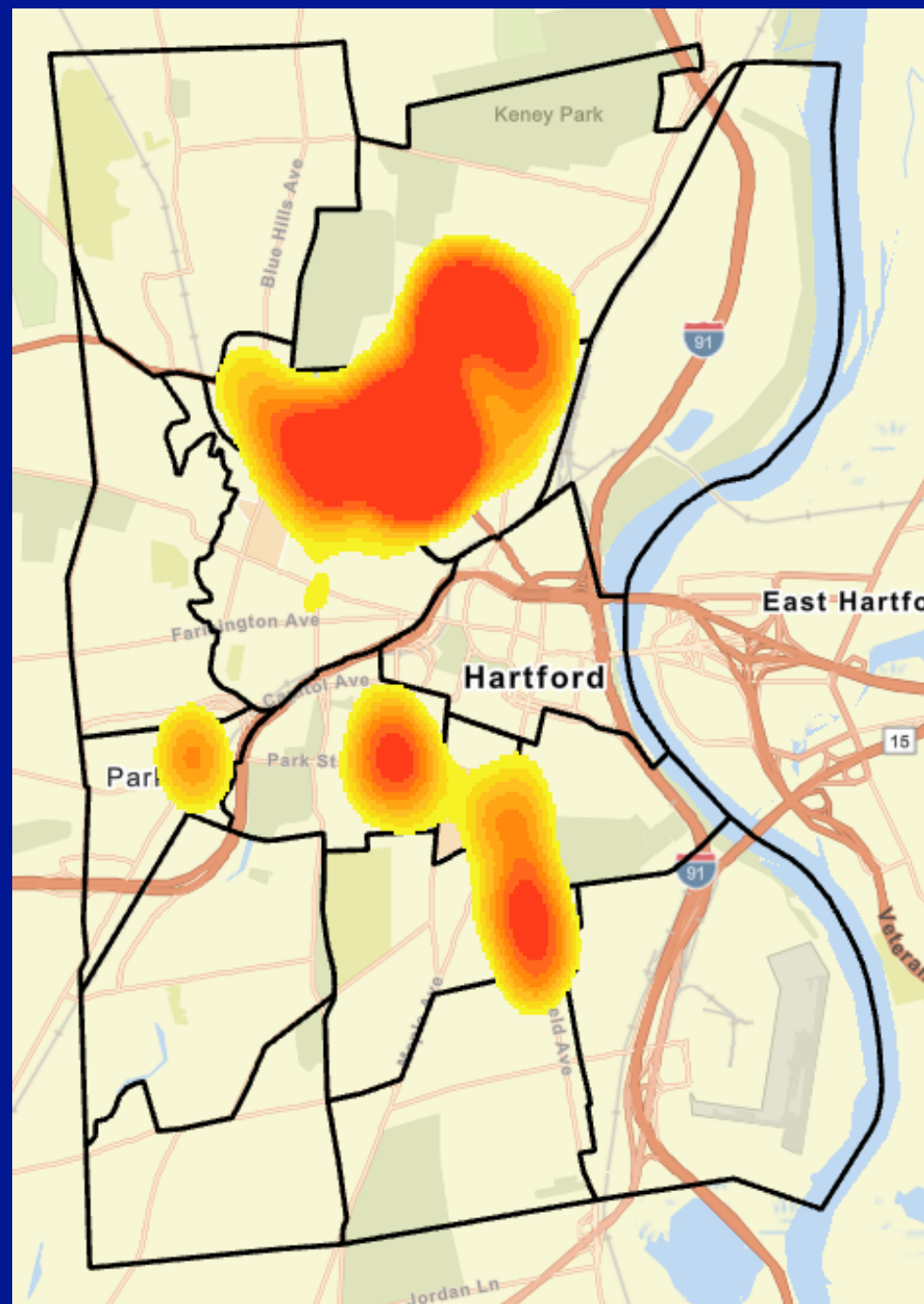


Drug-Related Disputes

Hot Spots



Group-Member Involved Incidents Hot Spots



INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

MAYOR LUKE BRONIN



Initial Recommendations

1. Increase Focus on Very High Risk individuals (Intervention/Support and Enforcement) .
2. Implement Group Violence Initiative as one component of a broader strategy.
3. Expand re-entry supports to ex-offenders, with proactive outreach to individuals with more than five offenses.
4. Work with State partners to ensure accountability for repeat violent offenders.
5. Continue to increase solve rates in both fatal and non-fatal shootings.

Initial Recommendations

6. Focus on the intersection of Very High Risk individuals, places, and activities.
7. Improve supports for victims to prevent future involvement in violence.
8. Work with community partners to identify and address disputes early.
9. Expand mental health interventions and support.
10. Provide extraordinary support to the highest need young people

HPD RESPONSE PLAN

CHIEF JASON THODY



Police Department Actions

- Increase Focus on Very High Risk individuals (Intervention/Support & Enforcement)
 - Conduct targeted enforcement operations focused on drug offenders with gun and/or violent offenses. Generate intelligence-based targets monthly.
 - Work together with state and federal prosecutors/judges to identify arrested offenders at very high risk for violent offending and determine appropriate sanctions to mitigate risks for violence. Review arrests at least monthly.

Police Department Actions

- Strengthen the Group Violence Initiative as one component of a broader strategy.
 - Implement Re-invigorated Project Longevity – Provide community-based direct outreach to those involved or close to involvement in violence; Apply focused deterrence to known criminally active individuals engaging in gun crimes and/or violence. Review and submit potential PL referrals at least biweekly.
- Work with State partners to ensure accountability for repeat violent offenders.
 - Actively seek higher bond/sentences for repeat violent gun offenders.

Police Department Actions

- Focus on intersection of Very High Risk individuals, places, and activities.
 - Crime Reduction Team - officers focused on proactive street-level enforcement targeted toward criminal activities associated with violence.
 - Engage in directed patrols in areas where “hot” people are likely to carry “hot” guns. Adjust geographic priorities monthly.
 - Conduct targeted enforcement operations at hot spots focused on gun crime. Generate intelligence-based targets (e.g., people, places, groups) monthly.
- Continue to increase solve rates in both fatal and non-fatal shootings.
 - Shooting Response Team - Responds to non-fatal shootings with the intensity and enhancements more common to homicide investigations
 - Continued Investment in Technology

Police Department Actions

- Improve supports for victims to prevent future involvement in violence.
 - Shooting Response Team – Engage in relentless follow-up with shooting victims and collaborate with Victims' Advocates.
- Work to identify and address disputes early.
 - Utilize the Resources of the Capital City Command Center to identify potential disputes through social media or other indicators of conflict
 - Maintain Critical Partnerships with organizations like HCTC, Mothers United Against Violence, COMPASS Peacebuilders, and more.

CITY & COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN

MAYOR LUKE BRONIN



Broader City Actions

- Expand re-entry supports to ex-offenders, with proactive outreach to individuals with more than five offenses.
 - Expansion of Re-entry Welcome Center – The new Windsor Street location will help even more people, allow for expanded services and staff.
- Support victims to prevent re-victimization and/or future violence.
 - Launch Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program – To provide sustained support and case-management to victims of violent crime to reduce the likelihood of future victimization or participation in violence

Broader City Actions

- Expand mental health interventions and support.
 - Launch Hartford Emergency Assistance Response Team (HEARTeam)
 - Trained mental health professionals responding to 911 calls involving mental distress; connecting individuals to long-term care.
 - Advocate at the State Legislature:
 - To fund mental health services in juvenile detention centers.
 - To fund Youth Service Bureaus to provide care coordination for repeat juvenile offenders and their families.

Broader City Actions

- Provide extraordinary support to the highest need young people
 - COMPASS Peacebuilders intensive engagement program
 - Hartford Youth Service Corps
 - ROCA focus on young women
 - Hartford Unity Grants
 - Advocate at the State Legislature
 - Youth Intervention Rapid Response Protocol

UPCOMING MEETINGS



Upcoming Meetings

- **HEARTeam Town Hall**

- The HEARTeam is the newest addition to Hartford's 911 emergency response services, trained to provide mental health services to individuals in crisis or experiencing trauma.
- Tuesday, March 8th at 6pm
- www.hartfordct.gov/marchtownhall
- Or Dial In: 1 (312) 626-6799, Passcode: 876 876 5678 3745

- **Understanding Gun Violence, Part II: Community Partners**

- This is only our first Town Hall Meeting on gun violence. Next time, we will focus on how our community partners are responding and intervening to prevent violence.
- Date TBD, late March or early April

Q & A



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

