Hispanic Victims of Lethal Firearms Violence in the United States

2018 EDITION

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This study is also available in Spanish at [http://www.vpc.org/studies/hispanicesp16.pdf](http://www.vpc.org/studies/hispanicesp16.pdf).
KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY FINDINGS

■ The homicide victimization rate for Hispanics in the United States is nearly twice as high as the homicide victimization rate for whites. The Hispanic homicide victimization rate in 2015 was 5.10 per 100,000. In comparison, the homicide victimization rate for whites was 2.59 per 100,000 (p. 4).

■ Homicide is the second leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 15 to 24 (p. 5).

■ In 2015, more than 3,300 Hispanics were killed by guns. That year 2,021 Hispanics died in gun homicides, 1,162 died in gun suicides, 37 died in unintentional shootings, and 112 died in other circumstances (including legal intervention and undetermined intent) (p. 4).

■ Nearly 54,000 Hispanics were killed by guns between 1999 and 2015. During this period, 35,553 Hispanics died in gun homicides, 15,593 died in gun suicides, and 981 died in unintentional shootings (p. 4).

■ Most Hispanic murder victims are killed with guns. Guns are used in more than two-thirds of the homicides where the victims are Hispanic (p. 5). The latest data shows that for homicides where the victim was Hispanic and a gun was used, 68 percent of these shootings involved a handgun (p. 10).

■ Hispanic victims are more likely to be killed by a stranger than the national average. The latest data from 2015 shows that when the victim-to-offender relationship could be identified, 39 percent of Hispanic victims were killed by a stranger. Nationwide, 25 percent of all homicide victims were killed by strangers (p. 11).

■ A large percentage of Hispanic homicide victims are young. The most recent available data shows 35 percent of Hispanic homicide victims in 2015 were age 24 and younger. In comparison, 37 percent of black homicide victims and 20 percent of white homicide victims were age 24 and younger that year (p. 12).

■ As a result of the limitations in current data collection, the total number of Hispanic victims is almost certainly higher than the reported numbers suggest. Government agencies often report data on race but not on ethnic origin. Recognizing the changing demographic landscape in the United States, it is clear that fully documenting such victimization is a crucial first step toward preventing it.
RECOMMENDATIONS

Governmental agencies that collect data on death and injury should obtain complete information on the ethnic origin of individuals in addition to their race. This will ensure complete and accurate data collection on Hispanic victims of lethal violence.

- Individual-level ethnic origin information should be captured by all governmental agencies, regardless of department, and at all levels — local, state, and national — for all pertinent users and subjects of agency services.

- Individual-level ethnic origin information should be self-reported and not based solely on a person’s surname or other measure.

- All public access data and published reports issued by governmental agencies should include information on ethnic origin in addition to race.

- The U.S. Department of Justice — specifically, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Justice Statistics — should issue periodic or special reports on Hispanic victimization.

- States with a substantial proportion of Hispanic residents should issue periodic or special reports on Hispanic victimization and deaths due to all causes, including violence.
DEFINITIONS

The terms and definitions for race and ethnicity in this report are derived from U.S. Census Bureau definitions. Race and ethnicity are two separate designations. Federal data commonly uses the term “black” rather than African-American and “Hispanic” instead of Latino. For the purposes of this report the definitions below will be used.

Race

American Indian or Alaska Native

A non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Asian

A non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East (e.g., China, Japan), Southeast Asia (e.g., Vietnam, Thailand) or the India subcontinent (e.g., India, Pakistan).

Black

A non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

A non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

White

A non-Hispanic person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

Ethnicity

Hispanic

A person of any race having origins in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central or South America, or other Spanish cultures.
INTRODUCTION

FOCUS ON HISPANICS

In 2001, the United States experienced a historic demographic change. For the first time, Hispanics became the largest minority group in the nation, exceeding the number of black residents.1 With a population in 2015 of 56.5 million, Hispanics represent 17.6 percent of the total population of the United States.2

As of 2015, nine U.S. states have a Hispanic population totaling more than one million. In order of Hispanic population they are: California, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois, Arizona, New Jersey, Colorado, and New Mexico.3 California, which has the largest Hispanic population in the United States (15,184,905), accounts for 26.9 percent of the total U.S. Hispanic population.4

Figure 1: Top 10 States by Hispanic Population, 20155

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Hispanic Population</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Percent of Total State Population That is Hispanic</th>
<th>Percent of Total U.S. Hispanic Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>15,184,905</td>
<td>39,144,818</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>26.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>10,669,240</td>
<td>27,469,114</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>4,961,905</td>
<td>20,271,272</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>3,722,097</td>
<td>19,795,791</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>2,171,133</td>
<td>12,859,995</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>2,098,511</td>
<td>6,828,065</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>1,762,984</td>
<td>8,958,013</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>1,165,546</td>
<td>5,456,574</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>1,002,409</td>
<td>2,085,109</td>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>950,471</td>
<td>10,214,860</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Pew Research Center finds that since 2000, some of the fastest growing Hispanic populations have been in the Dakotas and Southeastern United States, although each has a Hispanic population totaling less than a million.

During the period 2000 to 2015, the overall U.S. Hispanic population grew 60.4 percent.

This study is intended to report the latest national information available at the time of writing on Hispanic homicide victimization and suicide in the United States, the role of firearms in homicide and suicide, and overall gun death figures. Recognizing this demographic landscape, the importance of documenting such victimization is clear.

**AVAILABLE NATIONAL DATA ON HISPANIC LETHAL VICTIMIZATION**

The two major sources of national lethal victimization information — public health and criminal justice records — include Hispanic ethnicity as well as race, but unfortunately in a manner that is neither comprehensive nor consistent.

- The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services maintains national public health data as recorded by death certificates and compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The CDC collects mortality data that includes homicides, suicides, and unintentional deaths. While the CDC data is the most comprehensive available to measure total fatal victimization in each category as well as age and race/ethnicity, it lacks the additional information categories contained in the FBI’s *Supplementary Homicide Report* for homicides.

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7. In 2015, there were 37 unintentional deaths of Hispanics involving firearms according to the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WISQARS database.

8. The CDC also maintains the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), a public health surveillance and reporting system that records more detailed data on violent deaths through the review of additional resources, such as death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports, law enforcement reports, and information from crime laboratories to aid in the development of violence-reduction approaches (https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nvdrs/index.html). Currently NVDRS is funded in 40 states (Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin) the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, but does not operate in Texas. Recognizing these geographic limitations, it will not be used for this report.
The U.S. Department of Justice is the repository of national criminal justice records. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) compiles data on reported crime, including homicide, through its Uniform Crime Report (UCR) and its Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR). Homicide-related information that is unique to the SHR includes: the age of both the victim and offender; the circumstances surrounding the homicide; the relationship of the victim to the offender; and, more detailed information on the type of weapon used, including whether a gun used was a handgun, rifle, or shotgun.

While the FBI’s Supplementary Homicide Report offers the most information available on homicide at the national level, the data — especially in the context of reporting ethnicity — is limited. For example, in the SHR data used for this report, information on the Hispanic ethnicity of homicide victims was available for only 24 of the 50 states. The FBI does not collect data on suicides or unintentional deaths.

Recognizing the strengths and limitations of each of these two separate data sets, this study will utilize 2015 CDC data (the most recent available at time of writing) for information on Hispanic homicide, suicide, and overall gun death; leading causes of death; and, the use of firearms in Hispanic homicide and suicide. It will utilize 2015 FBI data (the most recent available at time of writing) for information on homicide not contained in the CDC data.

Section One: Public Health Data. Using this data for Hispanics we will: rank the leading causes of death, including homicide and suicide; detail the number of homicides and suicides, gender, and the victimization rates; and, present historical data on Hispanic homicide, suicide, and overall gun death.

Section Two: Criminal Justice Data. Using this information, we will detail for Hispanics: the types of firearms used in homicide; the relationship of homicide victims to their offenders; and, the circumstances of the homicides.

Section Three: Conclusion offers policy recommendations based on the study’s findings.

9 In 2015, the most recent year for which data was available at the time of writing, all states with the exception of Alabama and Florida participated in the SHR. In the SHR data used for this report, information on the Hispanic ethnicity of homicide victims was reported only for the following states: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming. More than two-thirds of all the victims for which Hispanic ethnicity is known live in California (46 percent) and Texas (24 percent).
SECTION ONE: PUBLIC HEALTH DATA

In 2015, the most recent year for which complete data is available, more than 3,300 Hispanics were killed by firearms in the United States. Between 1999 and 2015, nearly 54,000 Hispanics were killed by guns.

Figure 3: Hispanic Firearm Deaths in the United States, 1999 to 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Firearm Homicide</th>
<th>Firearm Suicide</th>
<th>Firearm Unintentional</th>
<th>Other Firearm Deaths*</th>
<th>Total Firearm Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>1,939</td>
<td>794</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>2,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1,958</td>
<td>813</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>2,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2,123</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>3,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2,168</td>
<td>834</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>3,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2,316</td>
<td>835</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>3,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2,241</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>3,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2,453</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>3,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2,472</td>
<td>817</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>3,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2,385</td>
<td>931</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>3,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2,260</td>
<td>863</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>3,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2,115</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>3,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1,919</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>3,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,831</td>
<td>946</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>2,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,870</td>
<td>1,023</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>3,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>1,034</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>2,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1,732</td>
<td>1,114</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>3,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2,021</td>
<td>1,162</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>3,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>35,553</td>
<td>15,593</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>1,661</td>
<td>53,788</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* “Other” includes legal intervention and undetermined intent.

For the general population in 2015, violent causes of death ranked 10th (suicide) and 16th (homicide) among all leading causes of death. These data for the general population, however, mask stark racial and ethnic differences.

HOMICIDE

In 2015, there were 2,886 Hispanic victims of homicide by all means in the United States. The Hispanic homicide victimization rate for that year was 5.10 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall homicide victimization rate for that year was 5.54 per 100,000, the black homicide victimization rate was 21.63 per 100,000, and the white homicide victimization rate was 2.59 per 100,000.

While nationally homicide ranked 16th among all leading causes of death, for Hispanics it ranked 12th, for blacks it ranked eighth, and for whites, it ranked 19th.
Looking at youth and young adults, however, in 2015, homicide ranked as the second leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 15 to 24. Homicide ranked as the leading cause of death for blacks in this age group, third for American Indian/Alaska Natives, and fourth for both Asian/Pacific Islanders and whites.

In 2015, 70 percent of Hispanic homicide victims were killed with firearms. (Because the CDC data does not report what type of firearm — handgun, rifle, or shotgun — was used in the homicide, this question is addressed in Section Two of this report using 2015 data from the FBI’s Supplementary Homicide Report.) During the period 1999 to 2015, more than two-thirds of all Hispanic homicide victims were killed with firearms (68 percent).
Figure 6: Hispanic Homicide Victims and Hispanic Firearm Homicide Victims, 1999 to 2015

![Graph showing Hispanic Homicide Victims and Hispanic Firearm Homicide Victims from 1999 to 2015.](image)

Figure 7: Number of Homicide Victims, Homicide Rate, and Percentage Killed With a Firearm, Hispanic Victims, 1999 to 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Homicide Victims</th>
<th>Homicide Rate per 100,000</th>
<th>Percentage Killed With a Firearm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>2,864</td>
<td>8.44</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2,917</td>
<td>8.26</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>3,331</td>
<td>8.97</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>3,129</td>
<td>8.10</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>3,355</td>
<td>8.38</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>3,271</td>
<td>7.88</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>3,520</td>
<td>8.18</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>3,524</td>
<td>7.90</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>3,466</td>
<td>7.50</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>3,331</td>
<td>6.97</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>3,179</td>
<td>6.44</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2,890</td>
<td>5.73</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2,759</td>
<td>5.32</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2,740</td>
<td>5.17</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2,571</td>
<td>4.75</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2,596</td>
<td>4.69</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2,886</td>
<td>5.10</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hispanic victims of firearm homicide are overwhelmingly male. In 2015, 87 percent of Hispanic victims of firearm homicide were male. In comparison, 69 percent of white firearm homicide victims were male. Ninety-one percent of black firearm homicide victims were male, as were 88 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native victims and 82 percent of Asian victims.

**Figure 8: Firearm Homicide Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Male Victims</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Female Victims</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Total Victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>1,761</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>2,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>6,821</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>2,134</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>3,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,029</strong></td>
<td><strong>85%</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,950</strong></td>
<td><strong>15%</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,979</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUICIDE**

While nationally suicide ranked 10th among all leading causes of death in 2015, for Hispanics it ranked 11th. For American Indian/Alaska Natives it ranked 8th, for whites it ranked 9th, for Asian/Pacific Islanders it ranked 10th, and for blacks it ranked 16th.

**Figure 9: Ranking of Suicide as the Leading Cause of Death for General Population, for All Races, and Hispanics, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total (Both Sexes, All Ages)</th>
<th>Ranking of Suicide, Any Means, Leading Cause of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Population</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Looking at youth and young adults, however, in 2015 suicide ranked as the third leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 15 to 24. Suicide also ranked as the third leading cause of death for blacks in this age group, and it ranked second for Asian/Pacific Islanders, American Indian/Alaska Natives, and whites.
Figure 10: Ranking of Suicide as the Leading Cause of Death, Ages 15 to 24, for General Population, All Races, and Hispanics, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Both Sexes, Ages 15 to 24</th>
<th>Ranking of Suicide, Any Means, Leading Cause of Death</th>
<th>Percentage of Victims Killed With a Firearm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Population</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the period 1999 to 2015, 38 percent of all Hispanics who took their own lives did so with a firearm.

Figure 11: Hispanic Suicide Victims and Hispanic Firearm Suicide Victims, 1999 to 2015
For all races, victims of firearm suicide are overwhelmingly male. In 2015, 88 percent of Hispanic victims of firearm suicide were male. Ninety percent of black firearm suicide victims were male, as were 84 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native victims, 86 percent of white victims, and 85 percent of Asian/Pacific Islander victims.
SECTION TWO: CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA

As noted in the prior section, while data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers the most comprehensive tally of Hispanic lethal victimization, it offers very limited data on the type of firearms used in homicides and no information on the factors surrounding the homicide (e.g., victim to offender relationship, circumstances, gang involvement). The FBI’s annual *Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR)* does report such information, albeit on a smaller number of incidents.\(^{10}\)\(^{11}\)

In 2015, the *Supplementary Homicide Report* contained data for 1,819 Hispanic homicide victims. This section details data unique to the SHR data set for these deaths.\(^{12}\)

**TYPES OF FIREARMS USED IN HOMICIDES**

In 2015, where the type of weapon\(^{13}\) used in the homicide could be determined, for Hispanic victims, 68 percent of all gun homicides involved a handgun. In comparison, handguns were used in 70 percent of black homicides involving a gun and 65 percent of white homicides involving a gun. Overall, handguns were the most prevalent firearm used in homicides in 2015 (69 percent).

**Figure 14: Percentage of Firearm Homicides Involving Handguns, by Race and Ethnicity, 2015**

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10 The SHR provides incident-based information on criminal homicides. The data, provided monthly by reporting agencies, contain information describing the victim(s) of the homicide, the offender(s), the relationship between victim and offender, the weapon used, and the circumstance of the incident.

11 In 2015 the CDC reported 2,886 Hispanic homicide deaths, of which 2,021 involved a firearm. The FBI’s SHR reported that in 2015 (the most recent year available) there were 1,819 Hispanic homicide victims of which 1,296 involved a firearm.

12 Abbreviated titles are used for two racial categories: American Indian also includes Alaska Natives and Asian also includes Pacific Islanders.

13 The definition of weapons includes the following categories: firearms (i.e., types unknown, handguns, rifles, shotguns, and other firearms); knives and other cutting instruments; blunt object; using the body as a weapon (i.e., fists, feet, teeth, etc.); poison; narcotics or drugs; explosives; strangulation/hanging; asphyxiation; drowning; fire; and defenestration, as well as other types.
RELATIONSHIP OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS TO OFFENDERS
For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, Hispanic victims were more likely to be killed by a stranger (39 percent). In comparison, 25 percent of black victims were killed by a stranger and 20 percent of white victims were killed by a stranger. Overall, 25 percent of homicide victims were killed by a stranger.

Of victims who knew their offenders, 22 percent of Hispanic victims were intimate acquaintances of the offender. In comparison, 28 percent of white victims and 17 percent of black victims were intimate acquaintances of the offender. For the overall population, 23 percent of homicide victims were intimate acquaintances of the offender.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF HOMICIDES
For all races, for homicides in which the circumstances could be determined, 68 percent were not related to the commission of another felony. For Hispanics, 65 percent of the homicides were not related to the commission of another felony. Sixty-seven percent of white homicides and 70 percent of black homicides were not related to the commission of another felony.

For all races, of the homicides not related to the commission of another felony, 52 percent involved arguments between the victim and the offender and three percent involved brawls due to alcohol or drugs.

Fifty percent of Hispanics killed in homicides not related to the commission of another felony were killed during arguments (compared to 50 percent of black victims and 54 percent of white victims). Three percent of Hispanics killed in homicides not related to the commission of another felony were killed in brawls due to alcohol or drugs (compared to five percent of white victims and one percent of black victims).

For all races, gang-related killings accounted for 13 percent of the homicides not related to the commission of another felony. For Hispanics, of the homicides not related to the commission of another felony, 26 percent were gang-related, compared to 16 percent for black victims and four percent for white victims.

14 An intimate acquaintance is defined as a boyfriend/girlfriend, common-law husband/common-law wife, homosexual relationship, husband/wife, or ex-husband/ex-wife. There is no designation for ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend in the SHR.
15 The felony murder category refers to killings that occur in conjunction with the commission of another crime such as rape, robbery, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, prostitution and commercialized vice, other sex offenses, narcotic drug laws, gambling, and other types of unspecified crimes.
16 The category “Gangland-related/gang killings” involves both gangland-related homicides involving adult offenders and victims, representing a type of organized crime killing, as well as juvenile gang killings, which involve youth gangs.
17 Forty-one percent of the recorded gang-related homicides in the 2015 SHR were committed in California, which may be in part due to more comprehensive reporting.
Figure 15: Percentage of Homicides Not Related to Another Felony That Were Gang-Related, by Race and Ethnicity, 2015

AGE OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS AND GANG INVOLVEMENT

For all victims, 31 percent of homicide victims were age 24 or younger. For Hispanic victims, 35 percent of homicide victims were age 24 and younger. In comparison, 37 percent of black homicide victims were age 24 and younger and 20 percent of white victims were age 24 and younger.

But for gang-related homicides, 51 percent of the victims were age 24 and younger. For Hispanic homicides that were gang-related, 57 percent were age 24 and younger. In comparison, 49 percent of black gang-related victims were age 24 and younger and 54 percent of white gang-related victims were age 24 or younger.

Figure 16: Victims Age 24 and Younger as a Percentage of All Homicides and Gang-Related Homicides

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Percentage of All Homicides, Victims Age 24 and Younger</th>
<th>Percentage of Gang-Related Homicides, Victims Age 24 and Younger</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Races</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION THREE: CONCLUSION

Hispanics in the United States are disproportionately affected by lethal firearms violence. Because of limited data collection, the true scale of gun violence’s effect on Hispanic men, women, and children is not fully known. What cannot be denied is that due to these limits in data collection, the total number of Hispanic victims of gun violence is almost certainly higher than the reported numbers suggest.

Comprehensive, reliable, and continuing public health and criminal justice data is necessary for effective violence prevention policies to save lives, protect families, and ensure healthy communities. This is true not only for the Hispanic population, but for all Americans.

Recognizing this, governmental agencies that collect data on death and injury should obtain complete information on the ethnic origin of individuals in addition to their race. This will ensure complete and accurate data collection on Hispanic victims of lethal violence, aid in violence prevention policies, and save lives. Specific recommendations toward this goal include the following.

- Individual-level ethnic origin information should be captured by all governmental agencies, regardless of department, and at all levels — local, state, and national — for all pertinent users and subjects of agency services.

- Individual-level ethnic origin information should be self-reported and not based solely on a person’s surname or other measure.

- All public access data and published reports issued by governmental agencies should include information on ethnic origin in addition to race.

- The U.S. Department of Justice — specifically, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Justice Statistics — should issue periodic or special reports on Hispanic victimization.

- States with a substantial proportion of Hispanic residents should issue periodic or special reports on Hispanic victimization and deaths due to all causes, including violence.
## Appendix One: The 50 States and the District of Columbia Hispanic Population Data, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Hispanic Population</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Hispanic Share of State Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>912,609</td>
<td>10,042,802</td>
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<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>25,876</td>
<td>756,928</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Hispanic Population</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Hispanic Share of State Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>408,057</td>
<td>11,613,423</td>
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<tr>
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<td>867,095</td>
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<td><strong>321,418,821</strong></td>
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Appendix Two: The 50 States and the District of Columbia Hispanic Firearm Death Data, 2015

<table>
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<th>State</th>
<th>Hispanic Firearm Deaths</th>
<th>Death Rate per 100,000</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Hispanic Firearm Deaths</th>
<th>Death Rate per 100,000</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>*</td>
</tr>
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* State level counts and rates based on fewer than 10 deaths have been suppressed by the National Center for Health Statistics.
### Appendix Three: Change in the Hispanic Population by State, 2000 to 2015

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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