



## Hispanic Victims of Lethal Firearms Violence in the United States

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**Violence Policy Center**

# **Hispanic Victims of Lethal Firearms Violence in the United States**

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The Violence Policy Center (VPC) is a national nonprofit educational organization that conducts research and public education on violence in America and provides information and analysis to policymakers, journalists, advocates, and the general public.

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This study is also available in Spanish at <http://www.vpc.org/studies/hispanicesp.pdf>.

## KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### KEY FINDINGS

- The homicide victimization rate for Hispanics in the United States is more than twice as high as the homicide victimization rate for whites. The Hispanic homicide victimization rate in 2010 was 5.73 per 100,000. In comparison, the homicide victimization rate for whites was 2.52 per 100,000 (p. 4).
- Homicide is the second leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 15 to 24 (p. 5).
- More than 38,000 Hispanics were killed by guns between 1999 and 2010. During this period, 26,349 Hispanics died in gun homicides, 10,314 died in gun suicides, and 747 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, 78 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 2011 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 41 percent of Hispanic homicide victims in 2011 were age 24 and younger. In comparison, 40 percent of black homicide victims and 22 percent of white homicide victims were age 24 and younger (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.<sup>1</sup> With a population of more than 53 million, Hispanics constitute 46 percent of the minority population (114.1 million)<sup>2</sup> and 17 percent of the total population of the United States.<sup>3</sup>

Hispanic population growth between 2000 and 2010 accounted for more than half of the nation's population growth.<sup>4</sup>

Eight 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, and Colorado. Fifty-five percent of Hispanics reside in three states: California, Texas, and Florida. California, which has the largest Hispanic population in the United States (14.4 million), accounts for 28 percent of the total U.S. Hispanic population.<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 1: Top 10 States by Hispanic Population, 2011<sup>6</sup>**

State	Hispanic Population in Millions	Total Population in Millions
California	14.4	37.7
Texas	9.8	25.7
Florida	4.4	19.1
New York	3.5	19.5
Illinois	2.1	12.9
Arizona	1.9	6.5
New Jersey	1.6	8.8
Colorado	1.1	5.1
New Mexico	1.0	2.1
Georgia	0.9	9.8

Over the past decade, some of the fastest growing Hispanic populations have been in the Southeastern United States, although each has a Hispanic population totaling less than a million.

1 "Hispanics Now Largest Minority, Census Shows," *New York Times*, January 22, 2003.

2 U.S. Census Bureau, "Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011."

3 *Mapping the Latino Population, By State, County and City*, Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project, August 29, 2013 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2013/08/29/mapping-the-latino-population-by-state-county-and-city/>).

4 *Mapping the Latino Population, By State, County and City*, Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project, August 29, 2013 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2013/08/29/mapping-the-latino-population-by-state-county-and-city/>).

5 *Mapping the Latino Population, By State, County and City*, Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project, August 29, 2013, data is for 2011 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2013/08/29/mapping-the-latino-population-by-state-county-and-city/>).

6 *Mapping the Latino Population, By State, County and City*, Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project, August 29, 2013 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2013/08/29/mapping-the-latino-population-by-state-county-and-city/>), data obtained from Figure 3 of study.



**Figure 2: Growth in Hispanic Population Among 10 Fastest Growing Hispanic States, 2000 to 2011<sup>7</sup>**

State	Population in 2000	Population in 2011	Percent Change, 2000 to 2011
Alabama	72,152	186,209	158%
South Carolina	94,652	240,884	154%
Tennessee	116,692	296,266	154%
Kentucky	56,992	132,267	132%
South Dakota	10,101	23,158	129%
Arkansas	85,303	190,192	123%
North Carolina	377,084	828,210	120%
Mississippi	37,301	81,088	117%
Maryland	230,992	488,943	112%
Georgia	434,375	879,858	103%

During the period 2000 to 2011, the overall U.S. Hispanic population grew 46 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.<sup>8</sup> 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).<sup>9</sup> 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.

7 *Mapping the Latino Population, By State, County and City*, Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project, August 29, 2013 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2013/08/29/mapping-the-latino-population-by-state-county-and-city/>), reproduction of Table 1 from study.

8 In 2010, there were 37 unintentional deaths of Hispanics involving firearms.

9 The CDC also maintains the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) (<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/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. Because NVDRS data is available only from 18 states (Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin) it will not be used for this report. From 2005 through 2008, California participated in NVDRS, but according to the California Department of Public Health, "Unfortunately, due to its size, decentralized government, privacy concerns and lack of resources among law enforcement agencies, California was unable to obtain law enforcement records required by NVDRS and could not reapply for funding." Although not part of NVDRS, California's Electronic Violent Death Reporting System (CalEVDERS) reports that as of 2010 there were 14 counties contributing data to the system, "boosting our multi-source data on violent deaths to approximately 57% of the state's total and two-thirds of all homicides in California" (<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/CalEVDERS.aspx>).

- 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 the 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 13 of the 50 states.<sup>10</sup> 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 2010 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 2011 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 CDC 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 FBI 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.

10 In 2011, 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, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington. Nearly three-quarters of all the victims for which Hispanic ethnicity is known live in California (48 percent) and Texas (24 percent).

## SECTION ONE: PUBLIC HEALTH DATA

In 2010, the most recent year for which complete data is available, more than 3,000 Hispanics were killed by firearms in the United States. Between 1999 and 2010, more than 38,000 Hispanics were killed by guns.

**Figure 3: Hispanic Firearm Deaths in the United States, 1999 to 2010**

Year	Homicide	Suicide	Unintentional	Other*	Total
1999	1,939	794	66	79	2,878
2000	1,958	813	59	61	2,891
2001	2,123	798	86	80	3,087
2002	2,168	834	60	81	3,143
2003	2,316	835	71	97	3,319
2004	2,241	888	56	93	3,278
2005	2,453	824	95	97	3,469
2006	2,472	817	66	109	3,464
2007	2,385	931	65	111	3,492
2008	2,260	863	39	94	3,256
2009	2,115	955	47	85	3,202
2010	1,919	962	37	90	3,008
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,349</b>	<b>10,314</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>38,487</b>

\* "Other" includes legal intervention and undetermined intent.

For the general population in 2010, 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 2010, there were 2,890 Hispanic victims of homicide in the United States. The Hispanic homicide victimization rate for that year was 5.73 per 100,000. In comparison, the overall homicide victimization rate for that year was 5.27 per 100,000, the black homicide victimization rate was 19.47 per 100,000, and the white homicide victimization rate was 2.52 per 100,000.

While nationally homicide ranked 16th among all leading causes of death, for Hispanics it ranked 11th, and for blacks it ranked eighth. For whites, homicide did not rank among the 20 leading causes of death (the cut-off point for reported data).

**Figure 4: Ranking of Homicide as the Leading Cause of Death for General Population, All Races, and Hispanics, 2010**

Race or Ethnicity for Both Sexes, All Ages	Ranking of Homicide, Any Means, Leading Cause of Death
General Population	16
American Indian/Alaska Native	13
Asian/Pacific Islander	18
Black	8
Hispanic	11
White	Unknown, lower than 20*

\* The ranking for whites is unknown because the ranking fell out of the reportable range (down to 20th leading cause) of the reported data.

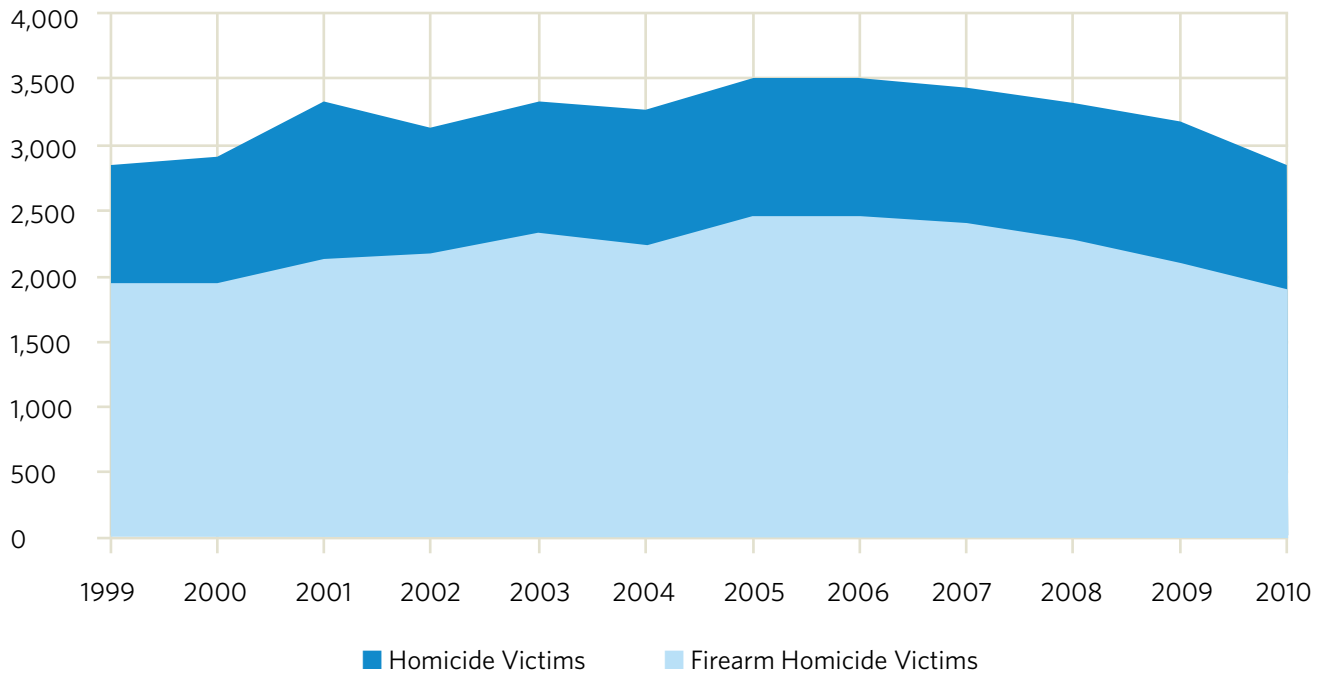
Looking at youth and young adults, however, in 2010 homicide ranked as the second leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 15 to 24. Homicide ranked as the leading cause of death for blacks in this age group, third for American Indian/Alaska Natives, and fourth for both Asian/Pacific Islanders and whites.

**Figure 5: Ranking of Homicide as the Leading Cause of Death, Ages 15 to 24, for General Population, All Races, and Hispanics, 2010**

Both Sexes, Ages 15 to 24	Ranking of Homicide, Any Means, Leading Cause of Death	Percentage of Victims Killed With a Firearm
General Population	2	83%
American Indian/Alaska Native	3	53%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	71%
Black	1	90%
Hispanic	2	80%
White	4	66%

In 2010, 66 percent of Hispanic homicide victims of all ages were killed with firearms. (Because the CDC data does not report what type of firearm — handgun, rifle, shotgun — was used in the homicide, this question is addressed in Section Two of this report using 2011 data from the FBI’s *Supplementary Homicide Report*.) During the period 1999 to 2010, 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 2010**



**Figure 7: Number of Homicide Victims, Homicide Rate, and Percentage Killed With a Firearm, Hispanic Victims, 1999 to 2010**

Year	Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000	Percentage Killed With a Firearm
1999	2,864	8.44	68%
2000	2,917	8.26	67%
2001	3,331	8.97	64%
2002	3,129	8.10	69%
2003	3,355	8.38	69%
2004	3,271	7.88	69%
2005	3,520	8.18	70%
2006	3,524	7.90	70%
2007	3,466	7.50	69%
2008	3,331	6.97	68%
2009	3,179	6.44	67%
2010	2,890	5.73	66%

Hispanic victims of firearm homicide are overwhelmingly male. In 2010, 89 percent of Hispanic victims of firearm homicide were male. In comparison, 68 percent of white firearm homicide victims were male. Ninety percent of black firearm homicide victims were male, as were 86 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native victims and 80 percent of Asian victims.

**Figure 8: Firearm Homicide Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex, 2010**

Race	Male Victims	Percent	Female Victims	Percent	Total Victims
Hispanic	1,706	89%	213	11%	1,919
White	1,894	68%	881	32%	2,775
Black	5,460	90%	591	10%	6,051
American Indian/Alaska Native	87	86%	14	14%	101
Asian	124	80%	31	20%	155
Total	9,340	84%	1,738	16%	11,078

**SUICIDE**

While nationally suicide ranked 10th among all leading causes of death in 2010, for Hispanics it ranked 12th. For American Indian/Alaska Natives it ranked 8th, for whites and 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, 2010**

Total (Both Sexes, All Ages)	Suicide, Any Means Leading Cause of Death
General Population	10
American Indian/Alaska Native	8
Asian/Pacific Islander	10
Black	16
Hispanic	12
White	10

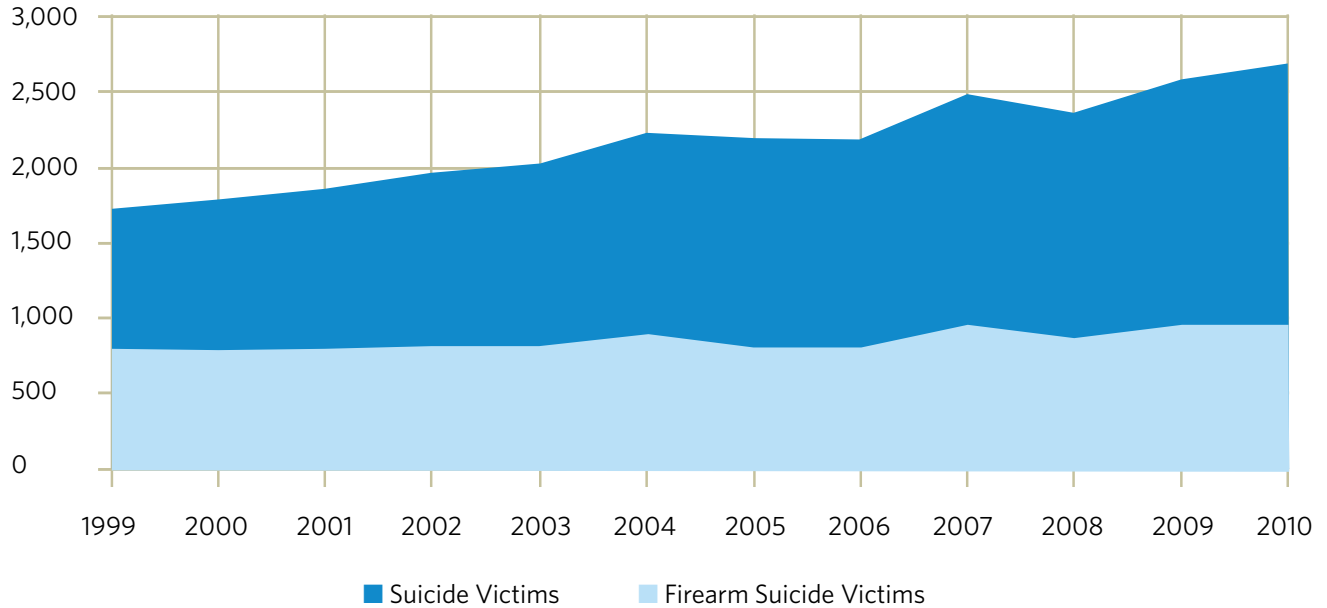
Looking at youth and young adults, however, in 2010 suicide ranked as the third leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 15 to 24. Suicide also ranked as the third leading cause of death for blacks in this age group, and it ranked second for Asian/Pacific Islanders, American Indian/Alaska Natives, and whites.

**Figure 10: Ranking of Suicide as the Leading Cause of Death, Ages 15 to 24, for General Population, All Races, and Hispanics, 2010**

Both Sexes, Ages 15 to 24	Ranking of Suicide, Any Means, Leading Cause of Death	Percentage of Victims Killed With a Firearm
General Population	3	45%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2	36%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	25%
Black	3	52%
Hispanic	3	34%
White	2	47%

During the period 1999 to 2010, 40 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 2010**



**Figure 12: Number of Suicide Victims, Suicide Rate, Percentage Killed With a Firearm, Hispanic Victims, 1999 to 2010**

Year	Suicide Victims	Suicide Rate	Percentage Killed With a Firearm
1999	1,695	4.99	47%
2000	1,787	5.06	45%
2001	1,850	4.98	43%
2002	1,954	5.06	43%
2003	2,007	5.01	42%
2004	2,207	5.32	40%
2005	2,188	5.09	38%
2006	2,177	4.88	38%
2007	2,465	5.34	38%
2008	2,345	4.91	37%
2009	2,573	5.22	37%
2010	2,661	5.27	36%

**GENDER**

For all races, victims of firearm suicide are overwhelmingly male. In 2010, 90 percent of Hispanic and Asian victims of firearm suicide were male. Eighty-nine percent of black firearm suicide victims were male, as were 87 percent of white victims and 82 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native victims.

**Figure 13: Firearm Suicide Victims by Race and Sex, 2010**

Race	Male Victims	Percent	Female Victims	Percent	Total Victims
Hispanic	868	90%	94	10%	962
White	14,762	87%	2,166	13%	16,928
Black	946	89%	111	11%	1,057
American Indian/Alaska Native	139	82%	30	18%	169
Asian	189	90%	22	10%	211
Total	16,962	87%	2,430	13%	19,392



## SECTION TWO: CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA

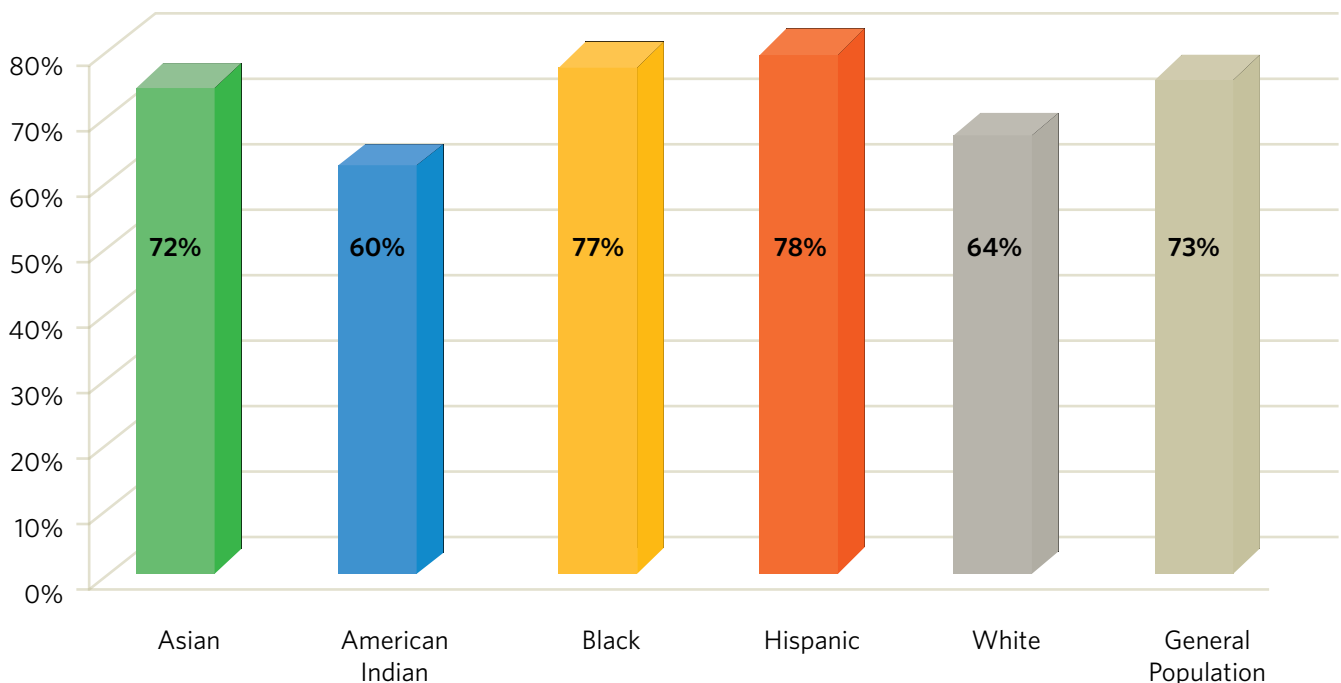
As noted in the prior section, while data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers the most comprehensive tally of Hispanic lethal victimization, it offers very limited data on the type of firearms used in homicides and no information on the factors surrounding the homicide (e.g., victim 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.<sup>11</sup>

In 2011, the *Supplementary Homicide Report* contained data for 1,531 Hispanic homicide victims.<sup>12</sup> This section details information unique to the *SHR* data set for these deaths.<sup>13</sup>

### TYPES OF FIREARMS USED IN HOMICIDES

In 2011, where the type of weapon<sup>14</sup> used in the homicide could be determined, for Hispanic victims, 78 percent of all gun homicides involved a handgun. In comparison, handguns were used in 77 percent of black homicides involving a gun and 64 percent of white homicides involving a gun. Overall, handguns were the most prevalent firearm used in homicides in 2011 (73 percent).

**Figure 14: Percentage of Firearm Homicides Involving Handguns, by Race and Ethnicity, 2011**



11 The *SHR* provides incident-based information on criminal homicides. The data, provided monthly by *UCR* 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.

12 In 2010, the most recent year available, the CDC reported 2,890 Hispanic homicide deaths, of which 1,919 involved a firearm. The FBI's *SHR* reported that in 2011 (the most recent year available) there were 1,531 Hispanic homicide victims of which 1,042 involved a firearm.

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

14 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, 27 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, 20 percent of Hispanic victims were intimate acquaintances of the offender.<sup>15</sup> In comparison, 29 percent of white victims and 18 percent of black victims were intimate acquaintances of the offender. For the overall population, 24 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, 71 percent were not related to the commission of another felony.<sup>16</sup> For Hispanics, 73 percent of the homicides were not related to the commission of another felony. Seventy-two 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, 54 percent involved arguments between the victim and the offender and four percent involved brawls due to alcohol or drugs.

Forty-six percent of Hispanics killed in homicides not related to the commission of another felony were killed during arguments (compared to 58 percent of black victims and 52 percent of white victims). Two 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 three percent of black victims).

For all races, gang-related killings<sup>17</sup> accounted for 11 percent of the homicides not related to the commission of another felony.<sup>18</sup> For Hispanics, of the homicides not related to the commission of another felony, 30 percent were gang-related, compared to 11 percent for black victims and four percent for white victims.

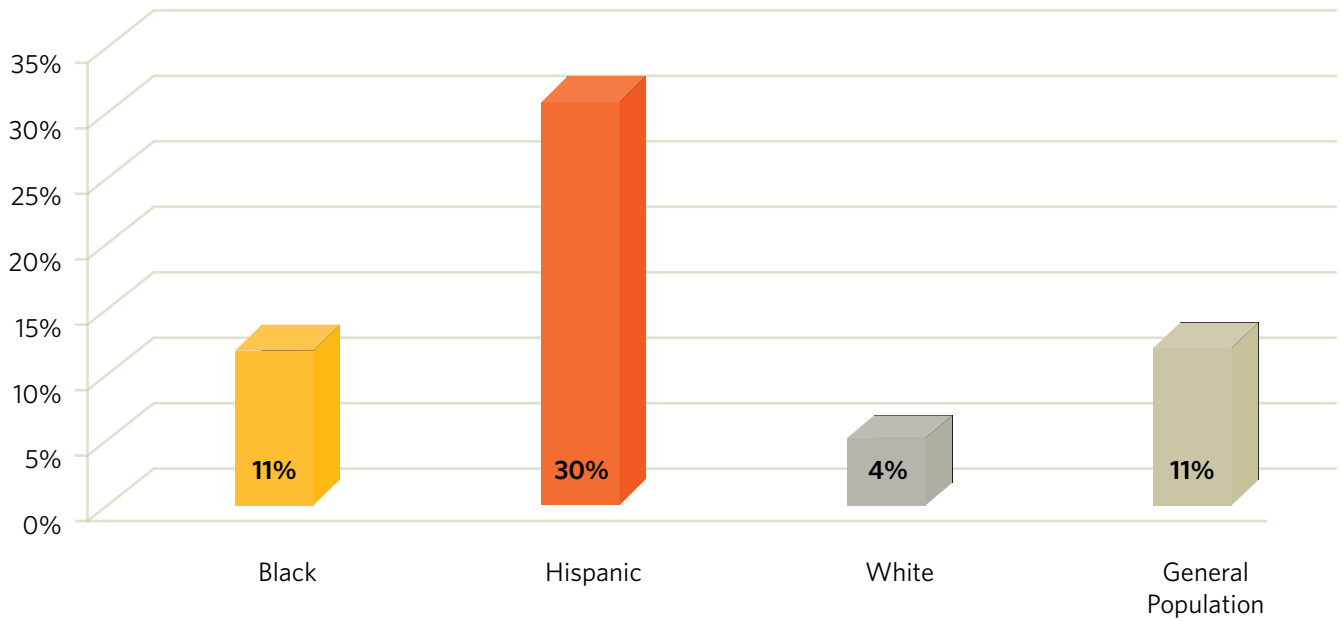
15 An intimate acquaintance is defined as a boyfriend/girlfriend, common-law husband/common-law wife, homosexual relationship, husband/wife, or ex-husband/ex-wife. There is no designation for ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend in the *SHR*.

16 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.

17 The category "Gangland-related/gang killings" involve both gangland-related homicides involving adult offenders and victims, representing a type of organized crime killings, as well as juvenile gang killings, which involve youth gangs.

18 More than half (57 percent) of the recorded gang-related homicides in the 2011 *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, 2011**



**AGE OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS AND GANG INVOLVEMENT**

For all victims, 34 percent of homicide victims were age 24 or younger. For Hispanic victims, 41 percent of homicide victims were age 24 and younger. In comparison, 40 percent of black homicide victims were age 24 and younger and 22 percent of white victims were age 24 and younger.

But for gang-related homicides, 61 percent of the victims were age 24 and younger. For Hispanic homicides that were gang-related, 61 percent were age 24 and younger. In comparison, 62 percent of black gang-related victims were age 24 and younger and 58 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**

Race	Percentage of All Homicides, Victims Age 24 and Younger	Percentage of Gang-Related Homicides, Victims Age 24 and Younger
Hispanic	41%	61%
White	22%	58%
Black	40%	62%
All Races	34%	61%

## SECTION THREE: CONCLUSION

Hispanics in the United States are disproportionately affected by 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, 2011<sup>19</sup>

State	Hispanic Population in Thousands	Hispanic Share of State Population	Share of all U.S. Hispanics
Alabama	186	4	0.4
Alaska	42	6	0.1
Arizona	1,950	30	3.8
Arkansas	190	6	0.4
California	14,358	38	27.7
Colorado	1,071	21	2.1
Connecticut	494	14	1.0
Delaware	76	8	0.1
District of Columbia	58	9	0.1
Florida	4,354	23	8.4
Georgia	880	9	1.7
Hawaii	126	9	0.2
Idaho	182	11	0.3
Illinois	2,078	16	4.0
Indiana	397	6	0.8
Iowa	154	5	0.3
Kansas	307	11	0.6
Kentucky	132	3	0.3
Louisiana	197	4	0.4
Maine	15	1	<0.05
Maryland	489	8	0.9
Massachusetts	650	10	1.3
Michigan	447	5	0.9
Minnesota	257	5	0.5
Mississippi	81	3	0.2
Missouri	214	4	0.4
Montana	30	3	0.1
Nebraska	174	9	0.3
Nevada	738	27	1.4
New Hampshire	37	3	0.1
New Jersey	1,599	18	3.1
New Mexico	972	47	1.9
New York	3,497	18	6.7
North Carolina	828	9	1.6
North Dakota	15	2	<0.05

<sup>19</sup> *Mapping the Latino Population, By State, County and City*, Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project, August 29, 2013 (<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2013/08/29/mapping-the-latino-population-by-state-county-and-city/>). Data obtained from Appendix Table A2 of study.

Ohio	362	3	0.7
Oklahoma	347	9	0.7
Oregon	466	12	0.9
Pennsylvania	750	6	1.4
Rhode Island	135	13	0.3
South Carolina	241	5	0.5
South Dakota	23	3	<0.05
Tennessee	296	5	0.6
Texas	9,794	38	18.9
Utah	373	13	0.7
Vermont	8	1	<0.05
Virginia	649	8	1.2
Washington	790	12	1.5
West Virginia	21	1	<0.05
Wisconsin	344	6	0.7
Wyoming	52	9	0.1
<b>United States</b>	<b>51,927</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>n/a</b>

## Appendix Two: The 50 States and the District of Columbia Hispanic Firearm Death Data, 2010<sup>20</sup>

State	Hispanic Firearm Deaths	Death Rate per 100,000
Alabama	12	6.47
Alaska	*	*
Arizona	196	10.34
Arkansas	10	5.37
California	879	6.27
Colorado	70	6.74
Connecticut	27	5.64
Delaware	*	*
District of Columbia	*	*
Florida	248	5.87
Georgia	41	4.80
Hawaii	*	*
Idaho	*	*
Illinois	110	5.43
Indiana	31	7.95
Iowa	*	*
Kansas	19	6.33
Kentucky	*	*
Louisiana	15	7.79
Maine	*	*
Maryland	18	3.82
Massachusetts	37	5.89
Michigan	34	7.79
Minnesota	10	4.00
Mississippi	*	*
Missouri	14	6.59
Montana	*	*
Nebraska	*	*
Nevada	47	6.56
New Hampshire	*	*
New Jersey	47	3.02
New Mexico	115	12.06
New York	113	3.31
North Carolina	46	5.75
North Dakota	*	*

20 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's WISQARS (Web-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System) database (<http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>).

Ohio	18	5.08
Oklahoma	15	4.52
Oregon	16	3.56
Pennsylvania	43	5.98
Rhode Island	*	*
South Carolina	17	7.21
South Dakota	*	*
Tennessee	20	6.90
Texas	590	6.24
Utah	20	5.58
Vermont	*	*
Virginia	20	3.17
Washington	37	4.90
West Virginia	*	*
Wisconsin	10	2.98
Wyoming	*	*
<b>United States</b>	<b>3,008</b>	<b>5.96</b>

\* State level counts and rates based on fewer than 10 deaths have been suppressed by the National Center for Health Statistics.





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