

The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police (PBP) is committed to advancing a culture of transparency and accountability throughout the Bureau and the city we protect and serve. As a part of our ongoing efforts to maintain trust and transparency, the PBP has launched a gun violence dashboard aimed at providing current and accurate data related to gun-related crimes.

Overview of Data Source

This Dashboard explores violent crime victimizations over time, specifically gun violence within the past 5 years. Violent crimes are defined by the FBI as “offenses which involve force or the threat of a force”. Further information can be found on the UCR Offenses (As defined by the FBI): <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/offense-definitions.pdf>

Crime-type classifications throughout the data source reflect the highest level of crime involved in any one incident or victimization, as applicable. In the event that a single incident involves a non-fatal shooting victim and a homicide victim, both will be counted, as ‘1 non-fatal shooting victim’ and ‘1 homicide victim’ respectively, however, the event will be recorded within the same incident. In some instances, the department’s raw incident-level data and victim-level data that were input into this dataset do not align with the specific type of crime that occurred. In those instances, this dataset attempts to correct any mismatches between the incident and victim-specific crime types. When the data is not possible to determine which victims are associated with specific crime types, the dataset will reflect empty cells in the respective demographic field (i.e., age, race, sex, etc.)

The PBP routinely reports crime data at the incident level, as a result a comparison between the dashboard (which reports data at the incident level) and other sources of data reported by the city at the incident level, such as the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center or the monthly reports dashboard, may not result in direct matches.

Furthermore, due to the nature of PBP operations and often changing circumstances, recorded data about incidents and victimizations may change once additional information arises pertaining to respective cases. Regular updates and quality aspects may change to reflect new or corrected information. For example, if a non-fatal shooting becomes fatal, the victim and the incident will reflect those changes from a non-fatal shooting to its corrective incident-level classification.

Key Definitions

Homicides & Non-fatal shootings; (suicide by firearm is **NOT** included).

- **Homicide** – The *operational* definition that the PBP uses for homicide follows the FBI definition of homicide as “murder and non-negligent manslaughter: the willful killing of one human being by another. Deaths caused by negligence, attempts to kill, suicide, and accidental deaths are excluded”. Police-related incidents that include homicide are included, however, due to the nature of PBP policy, the PBP must use a third-party (such as Allegheny County) to conduct the investigation.

- **Non-Fatal Shooting** – The *operational* definition used to determine the offense labeled as “non-fatal shooting incident” includes if there is a shooting, *and* at least one person is struck with a bullet. However, if the person(s) is/are struck by a bullet and succumbs to their injuries, then it is reclassified and labeled as a “homicide”. This means that some non-fatal shootings or aggravated assault cases may become homicides, and will be reclassified accordingly.
To identify non-fatal shooting cases, we link incidents to a shooting victims’ dataset. On the Dashboard, we only classify a case as a non-fatal shooting if the incident itself appears in the shooting victims’ data set and the most serious charge (or police recommended charge) was one of but not limited to: “Attempted Homicide: Non-Fatal Shooting”, “Aggravated Assault: Non-Fatal Shooting”, or “Robbery: Non-Fatal Shooting”. On the demographics page, we count the number of non-fatal shooting victims rather than the number of non-fatal shooting incidents.

Update Frequency

Daily, up to a 48-hour lag

Time Periods

2018-2023

Privacy Protection

No information on individuals, addresses are displayed by block level, demographic data does not include any personal identifiers.

Weapon Type

Other could be anything else that is not classified as a firearm, knife, or blunt object

Overview of Visualizations and Respective Pages

1. **Year-to-Date Stats** page reflects non-fatal shootings and homicides for the year-to-date totals. This page is coded so that it will reflect the current day and provides statistical information solely depicting dates between January 1st of the respective year to the current date. The data set is automatically filtered to represent only year-to-date statistics, for other yearly statistics the [PBP annual report](#) is a good resource, along with the **Annual Statistics Dashboard**.
2. The **Annual Statistics Dashboard**. This dataset counts at the incident level, whereas the PBP routinely reports crime data at the incident level. This dataset does include the number of individual-level victimizations that correspond to the respective incident. The filters allow users to access specific data requests, as well as see trends throughout the years. The temporal heatmap shows specific days and times where gun-violence has occurred.

The line graph of years and incidents can be drilled down by clicking on a specific month and reflecting the days throughout the month.

3. The **Interactive Crime Map** dataset addresses incident-level crime to the approximate block level. Due to certain circumstances, some block-level addresses may be inaccurate geocoded locations. Unless otherwise notified, a crime analyst will manually geocode and correct the issue.
4. **Demographics** include an aggregated dataset on violent crime victimizations focusing on the violent crime index that involves bodily harm, including homicides and non-fatal shootings. The information is aggregated up to victimization type, age group, sex, race, and neighborhood, as well as juvenile victimizations that include gun-crime-related incidents.

Note: The initial reporting officer asks and identifies victims to report demographic data. If victims are unable to recall their respective demographic data, the reporting officer will use their best discretion.

About the Visualizations and their Functionality

Dashboard Filters

All the filters listed below interact with the *Year-to-Date Statistics, Annual Statistics, Interactive Crime Map, and Demographics*.

- Time Frame
 - Last 7 days function reviews non-fatal shootings and homicides within the past 7 days, last 28 days, and/or respective years.
- Police Zone*
 - Lists all 6 police zones and filters neighborhoods to their respective zone
- Age group*
 - Defines what age ranges the PBP uses in accordance with reviewing demographic data
- Neighborhood*
 - Lists all 90 neighborhoods within the City of Pittsburgh; appears filtered if a police zone is selected
- Crime Type*
 - Aggravated Assault (solely committed with a firearm) & Homicide

A reset circle with an arrow is located on the left corner of the page. That is the reset button. Clicking that button will restore the entire dashboard to its original view.

* = Able to make multiple selections within the same filter