



# Allegheny County Child Death Review: Homicide

The mission of the Allegheny County Child Death Review Team (ACCDRT) is to promote the safety and well-being of children and reduce preventable child fatalities.

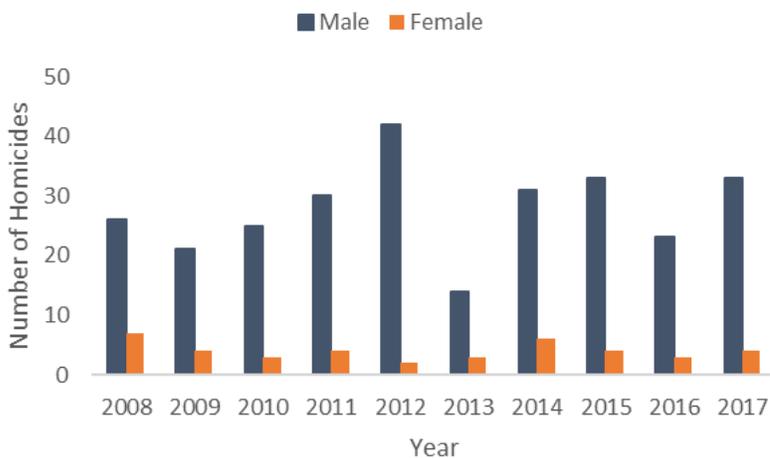
In the U.S., homicide is the third leading cause of death for young people. On average, 14 people under the age of 24 years are murdered each day. An additional 1,300 children and young adults visit emergency rooms each day for non-fatal violence-related injuries (CDC).

In Allegheny County, 318 homicides among youth  $\leq 21$  years of age occurred between 2008 and 2017, an average of 32 deaths per year. The psychological and emotional impact of a single homicide on family and community is significant. Though homicide is a complex issue, it is preventable and requires a multi-faceted approach to reduce neighborhood violence, build partnerships with law enforcement, and expand prevention programs for at-risk youth and their families.

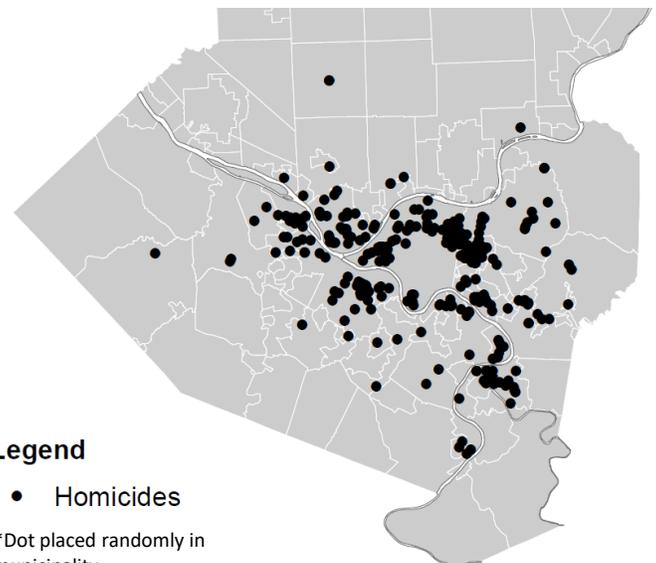
## In Allegheny County, between 2008 and 2017:

- 318 youths  $\leq 21$  years of age died from homicide
- 76% of these homicide victims were African Americans males
- The homicide rate was 25 times higher for African Americans than for whites.
- 88% of youth homicides victims were between the ages of 15 – 21 years
- Firearms were used in 86% of youth homicides

Homicides of Allegheny County Residents  $\leq 21$  Years by Sex, 2008-2017



Homicides among Allegheny County residents  $\leq 21$  years of age by municipality of residence, 2008-2017



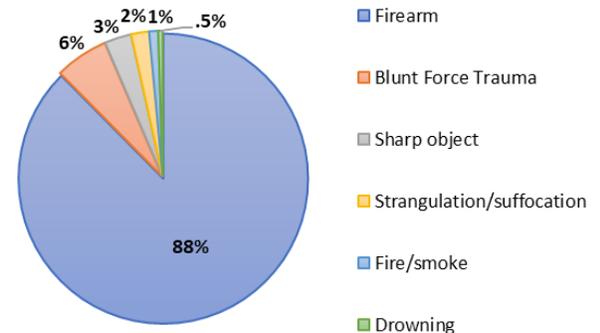


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## AC CDRT Recommendations

- Reduce drug trade by reducing the demand for illegal drugs in Allegheny County, by investing in treatment programs and monitoring the prescribing of medications which may lead to addiction.
- Identify and implement evidence based programs geared towards reducing community violence and providing mentorship to children.
- Expand the court's role in Allegheny County in identifying at risk children and both providing and maintaining support to the same.
- Promote responsible firearm storage and ownership.
- Expand the role of programs such as the Center for Victims in working with families of victims.
- Promote collaboration between law enforcement and the community.

Homicide Among Allegheny County Residents  
≤ 21 Years of Age by Method, 2008-2017



## Youth Homicide Victim Risk Factors Identified by the ACCDRT, 2008 - 2017

- 33% of cases had a criminal history
- 25% had a caregiver with a criminal history
- 23% had problems in school
- 21% had a history of substance abuse
- 18% had received prior mental health help
- 17% had a caregiver with a history of substance abuse