

Office of Violence Prevention

BUILDING AN ECOSYSTEM FOR PEACE

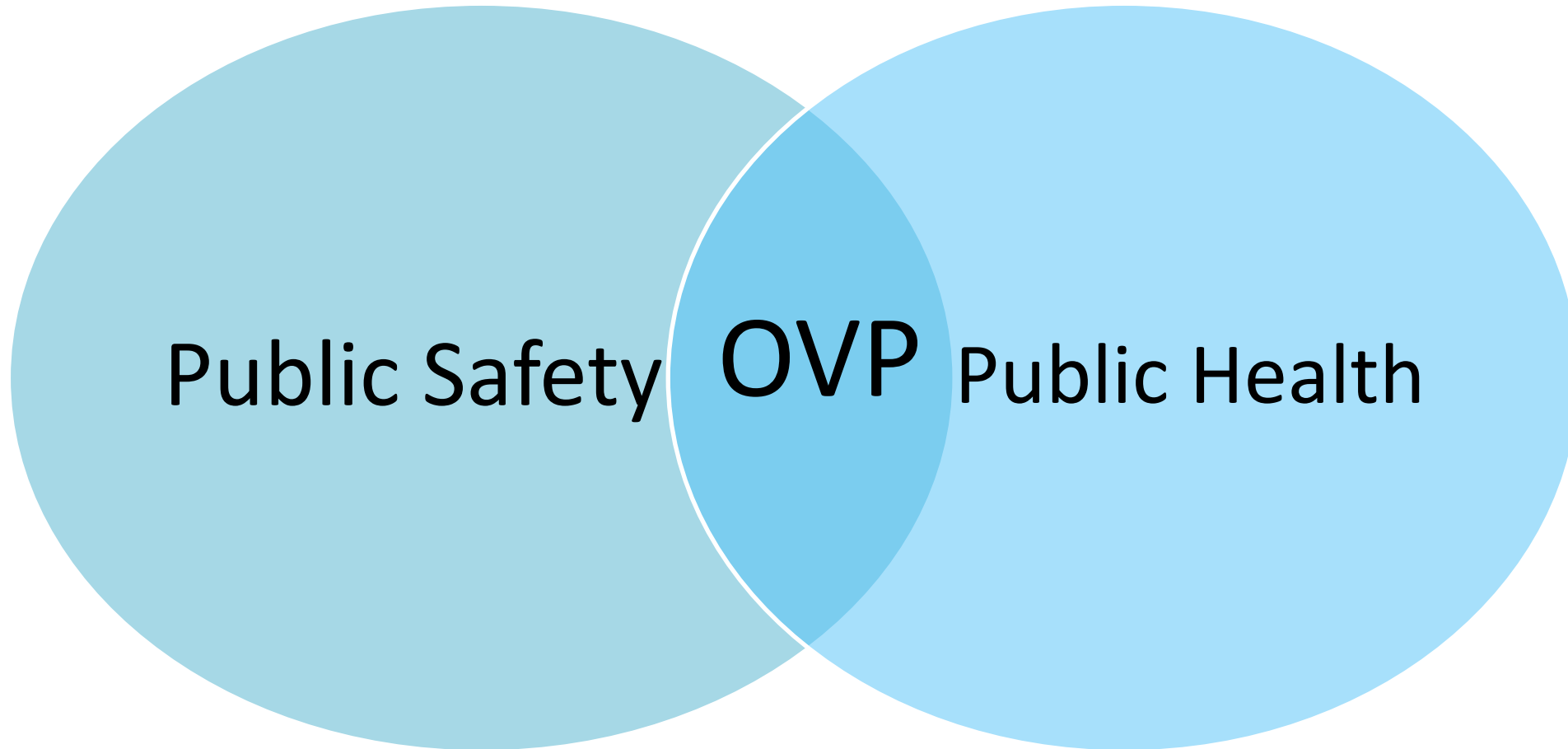
MICHELLE MYLES, MS, MANAGER

The Office of Violence Prevention

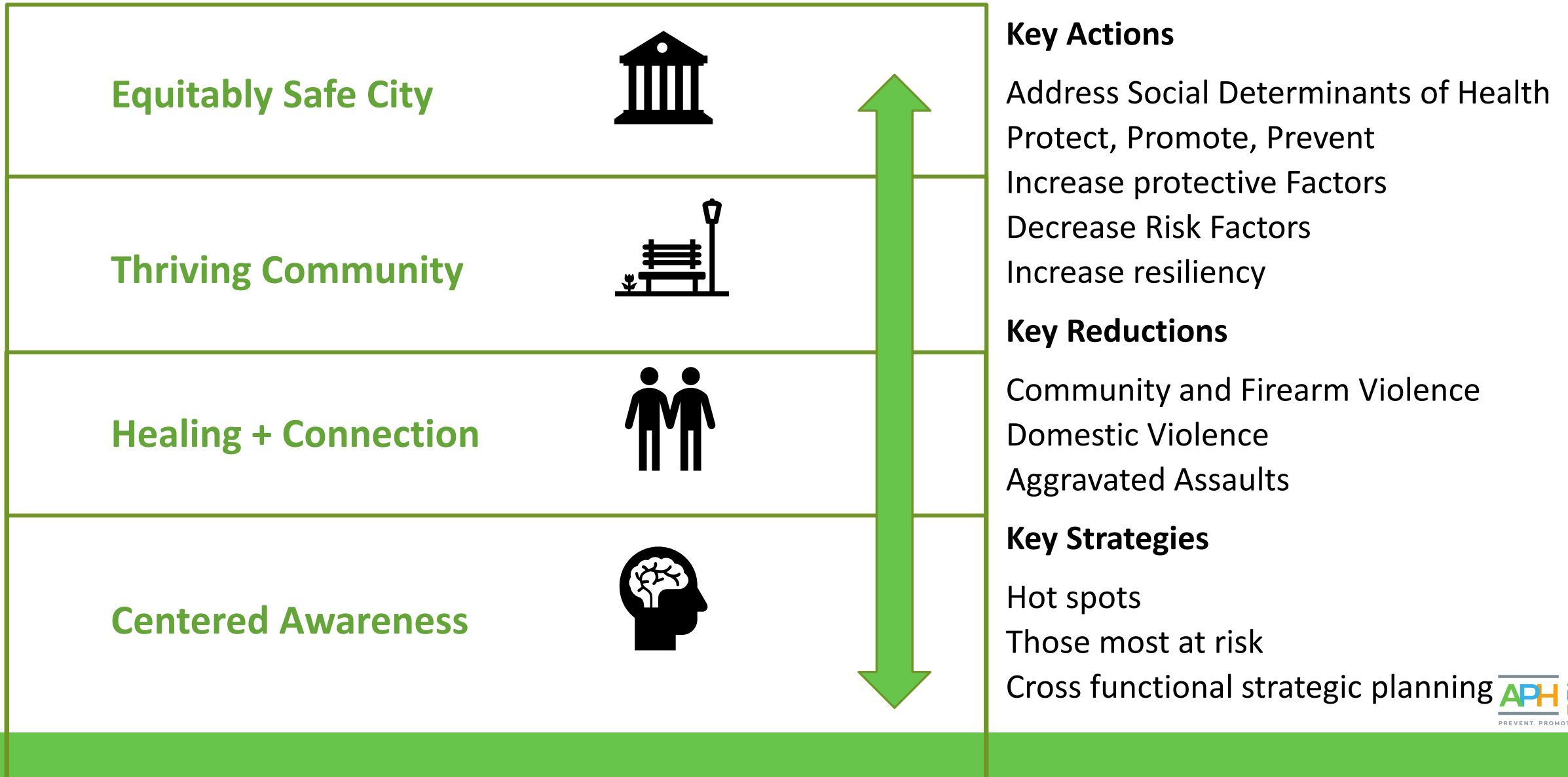
Vision: A peaceful, and safe Austin for everyone

Mission: Fostering peace in Austin by working with communities to shape policy, coordinate violence reduction strategies, and initiatives informed by data and committed to equity

Office of Violence Prevention Community Based Public Safety



Actualizing Peace Model



Public Health Approach

Co-creating Investments & Interventions

Define the Problem

Identify Risk and Protective Factors

Develop and Test Strategies

Scale to Level of Need

Assure Adoption of Strategies and Tell the story

OVP Value Proposition

ACTIONS

Invest in evidenced based programs

Community informed data analysis

Collaborate with aligned stakeholders

Build local capacity to prevent violence

Engage public in co-creating safety

IMPACTS

Build conditions for safety and peace

Improve trust by addressing local needs

Shared Vision, mission and accountability

Effective grassroots initiatives for peace

Build momentum for actualizing peace

The Office of Violence Prevention Investments

Youth Programs

- Community Art and Screen It!
- PeaceRox
- GenYW

Firearm Violence Reduction

- ATX Peace Community Violence Intervention
- Safe Gun Storage Saves Lives
- Firearms Technical Assistance Project (FTAP)

Healing and Restoration

- Harvest Trauma Recovery Center
- Address Your Stress
- Prevent Violence by Intervention and Education

Getting a Better Understanding

DRIVERS AND SOLUTIONS TO ENDING VIOLENCE

Gun Violence Problem Analysis (2021-2022)

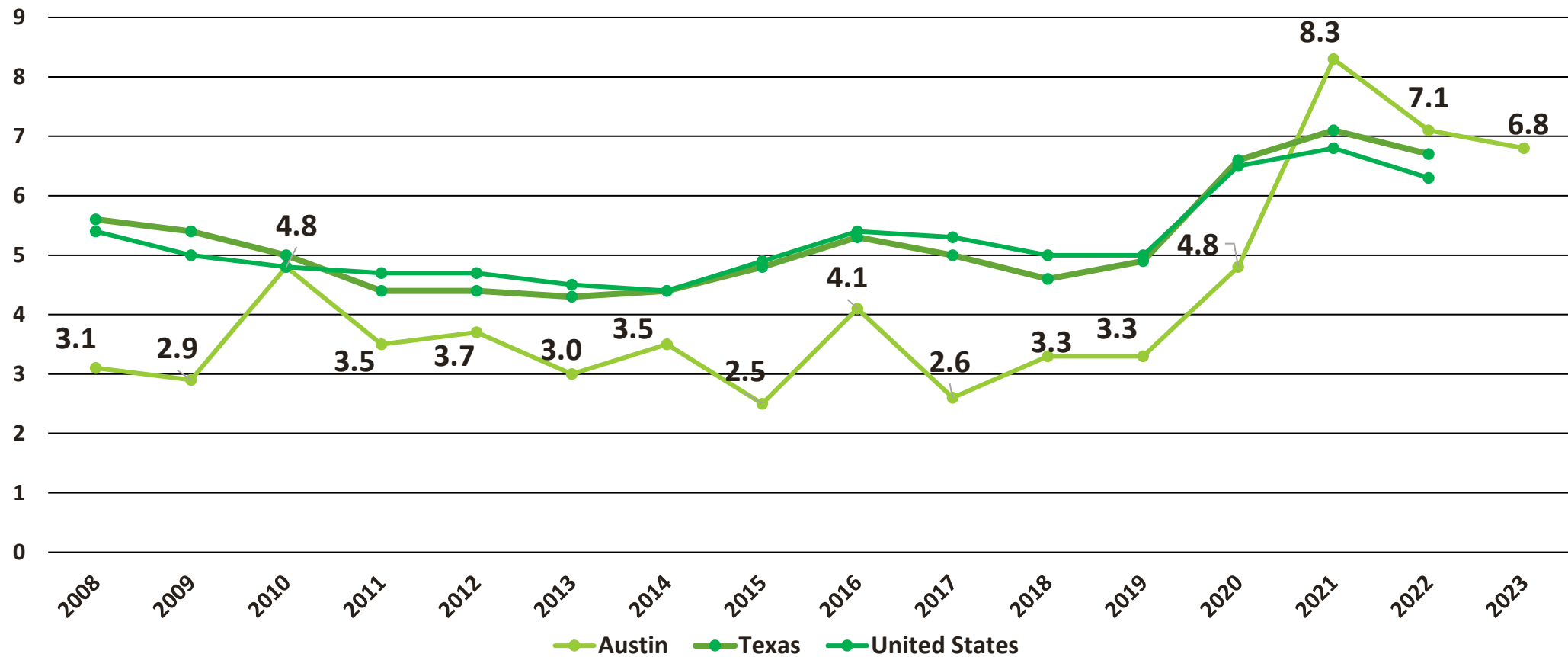
Gun Violence Problem Analysis (GVPA)

- Identifies local drivers of violence and strategies to reduce gun violence.
- Identifies networks and people who are highest risk for violence
- GVPA is primarily a practice document with implications for local policy.

Limitations for Austin

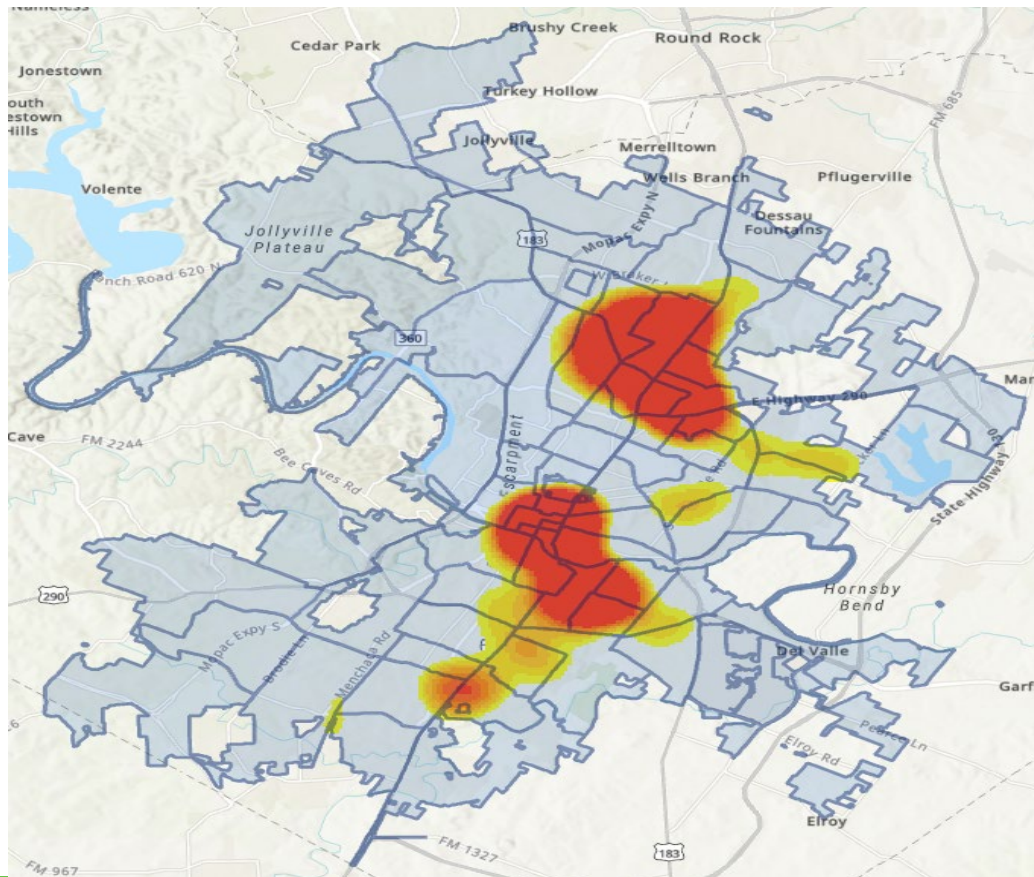
- Unable to examine nonfatal injury shootings (not tracked)
- Only Homicide Division Sergeants participated in case reviews due to staffing
- Unable to review entire victim/suspect criminal histories.

Austin Homicide Rates (per capita.): 2008-2022

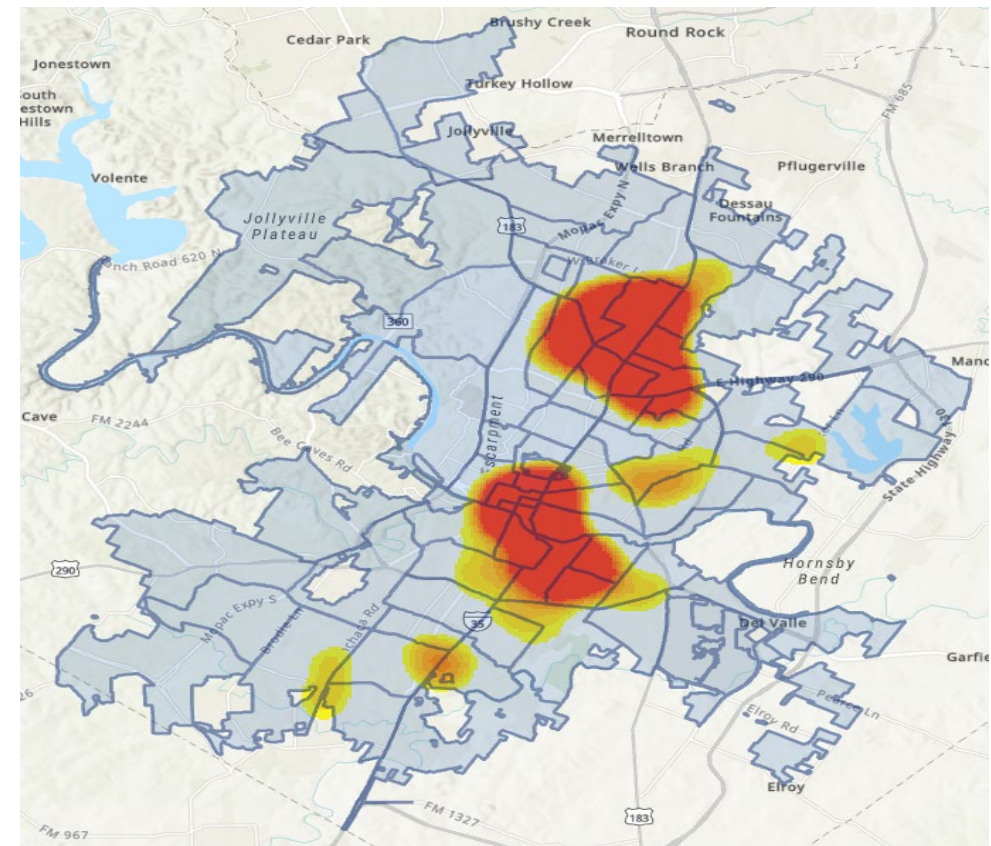


Hotspots January 2021 – December 2022

HOMICIDES HOTSPOTS



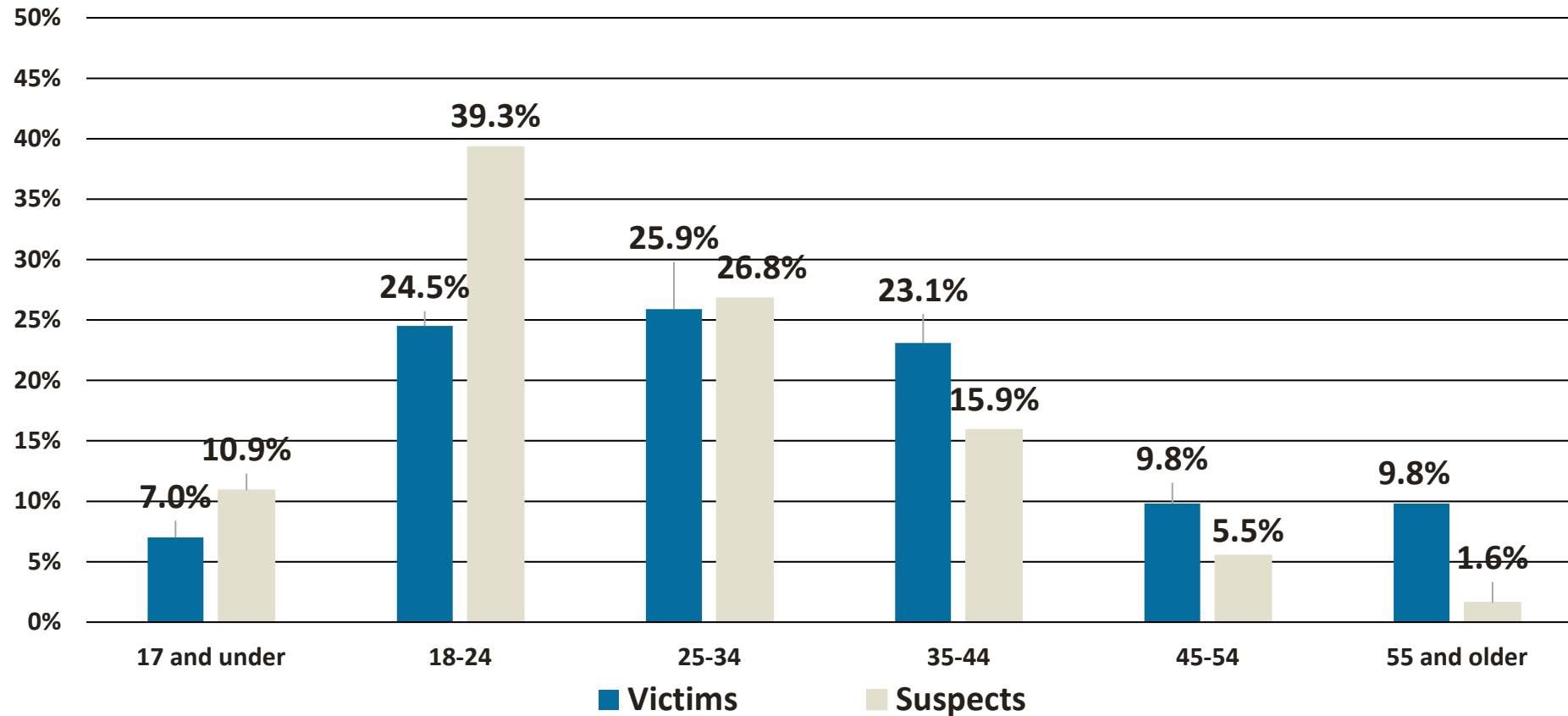
GUN HOMICIDE HOTSPOTS



Victims and Suspects Demographics

	HOMICIDES (N=142)			AUSTIN POPULATION
	Victims (n=145)	Suspects (n=190)	Victims & Suspects (n=335)	
Sex				
Male	83.1%	90.1%	87.0%	51.3%
Female	16.9%	9.9%	13.0%	48.7%
Race				
White	63.0%	46.7%	53.8%	63.2%
Black	32.6%	50.0%	42.5%	7.9%
Asian	2.2%	1.6%	1.9%	8.4%
Other	2.2%	1.6%	1.9%	-
Ethnicity				
Hispanic/Latino	36.2%	28.6%	31.9%	32.5%

Age of Victims and Suspects (n=335)



Victims and Suspects Prior Criminal History

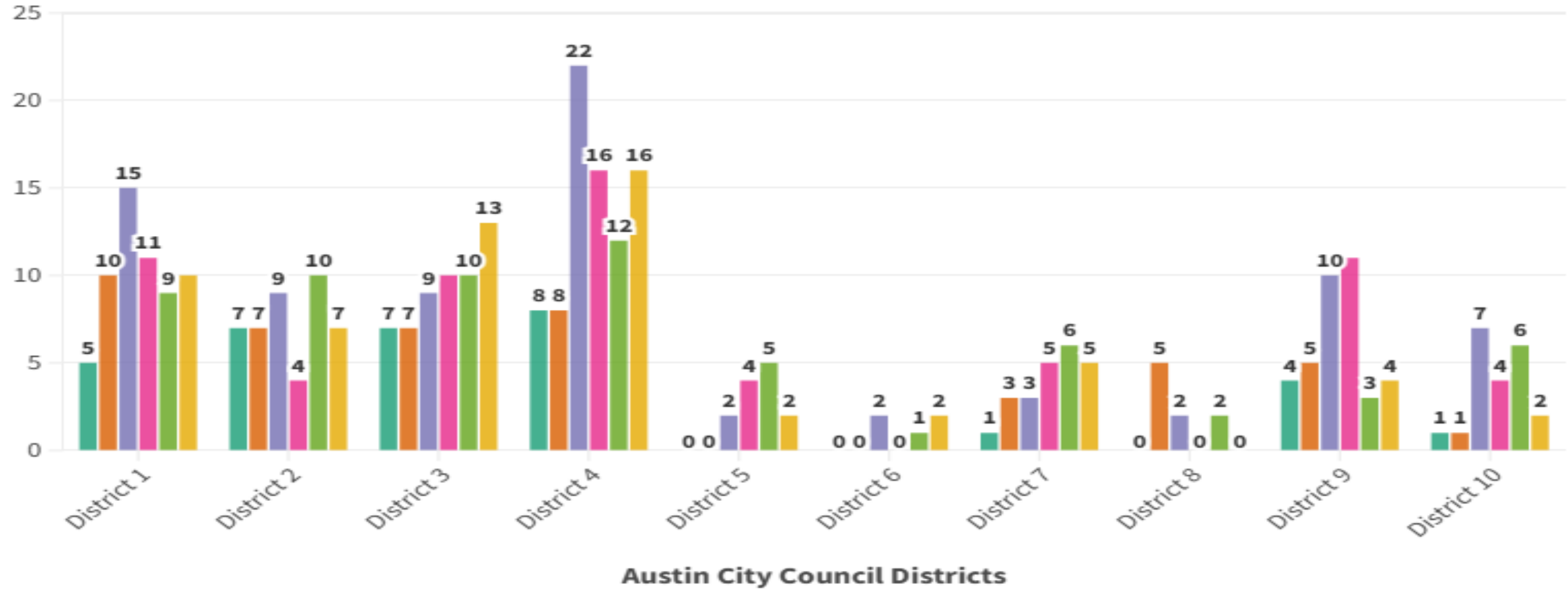
At least **66%** of homicide suspects and **59%** of homicide victims had prior criminal justice system involvement. Of those:

- At least 54% of homicide victims and suspects had prior felony convictions.
- At least 34% of homicide victims and suspects had previously been incarcerated.
- At least 32% of homicide suspects and 34% of homicide victims had prior probation.

Homicide Circumstances and Group Involvement

	All Homicide Circumstances		Proportion Group-Member Involved	
	Frequency	Percent		
Instant dispute	29	20.4%	7	24.1%
Personal dispute	24	16.9%	7	29.2%
Domestic dispute	18	12.7%	1	5.6%
Drug-related dispute	16	11.3%	5	31.3%
Robbery	18	12.7%	4	22.2%
Mental illness	12	8.5%	0	-
Drug robbery	4	2.8%	1	25.0%
Group-related dispute	2	1.4%	2	100%
Child abuse/neglect	2	1.4%	0	-
Other	2	1.4%	0	-
Unknown	15	10.6%	2	13.3%
TOTAL	142		29	20.4%

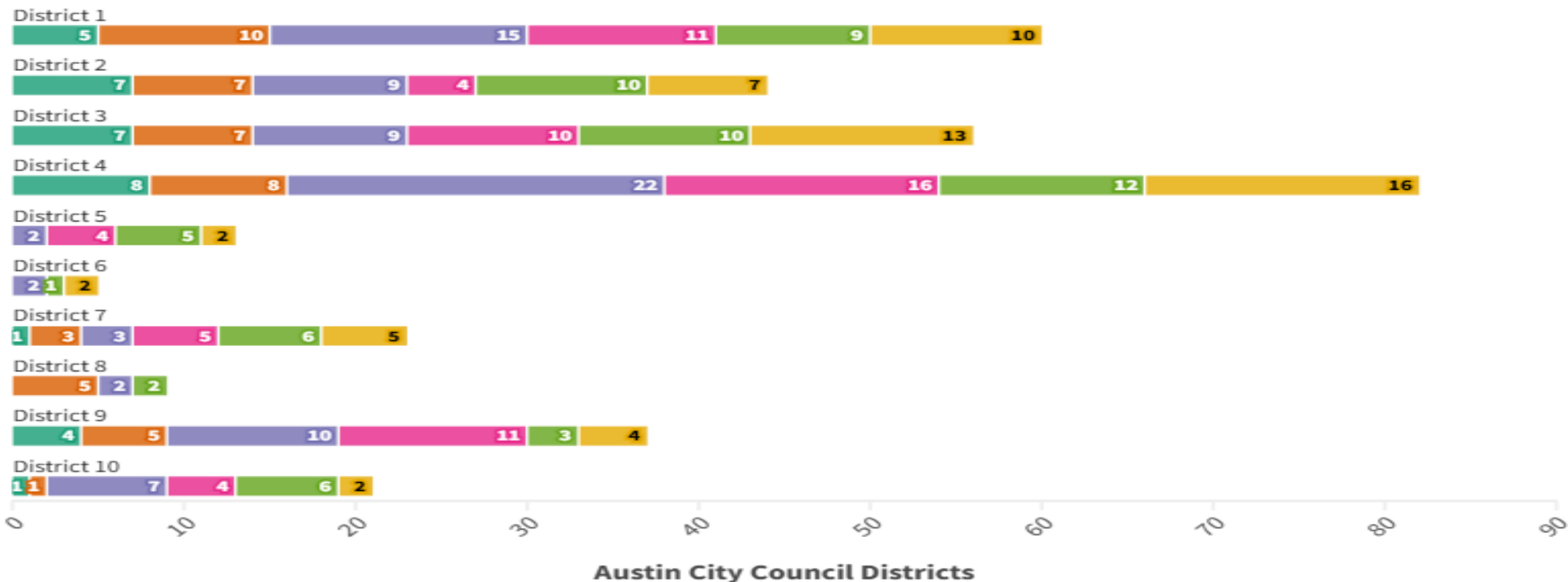
Austin Homicides: Murder and Non Negligent Manslaughter by Council District 2019-2024



Years 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

Source: APD Crime Statistics - NIBRS Group A Offenses
2024 data is through January-November. This graph covers only 09A Homicide: Murder and Non Negligent Manslaughter offenses.

Austin Homicides: Murder and Non Negligent Manslaughter by Council District 2019-2024



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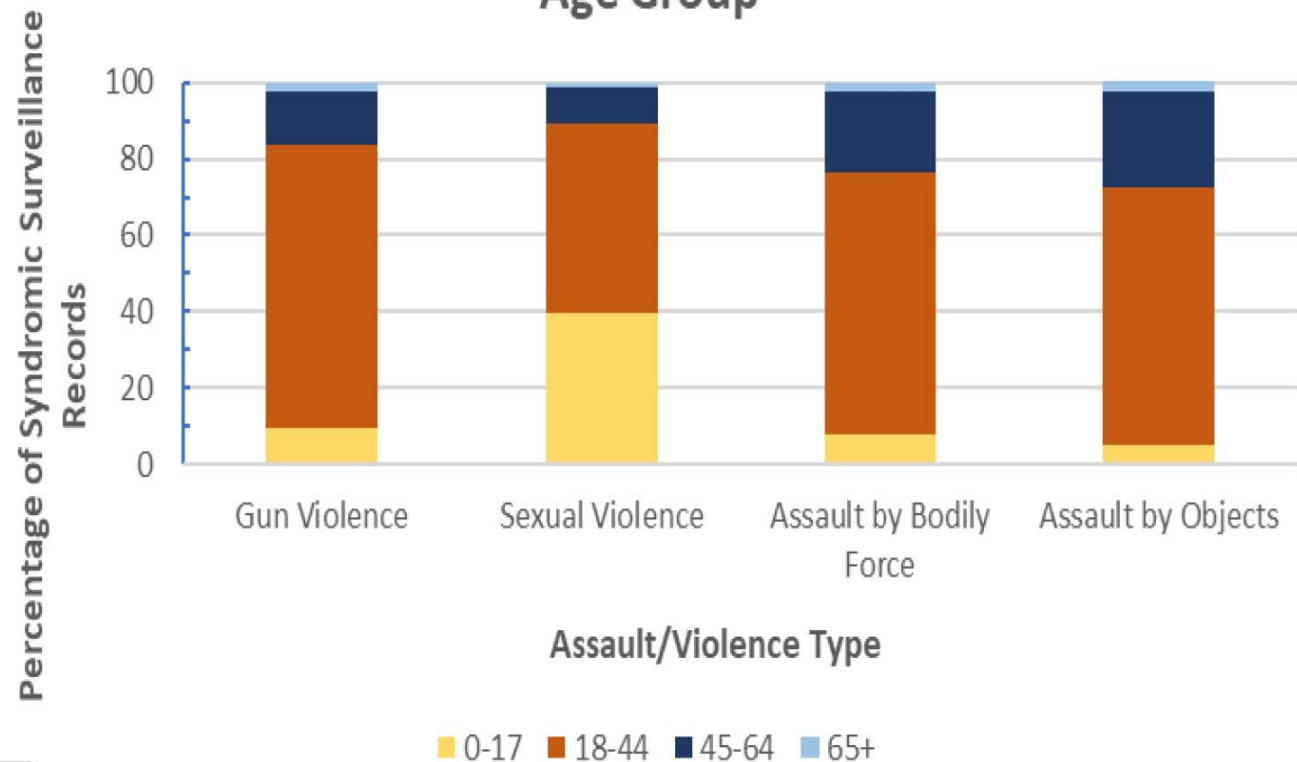
Source: APD Crime Statistics - NIBRS Group A Offenses
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Texas Syndromic Surveillance System (2020-2022)

Most disparate impacts were found in the following zip codes:

- 78701
- 78753
- 78758
- 78724

Percentage of Records of Assault/Violence Type by Age Group



Getting a Better Understanding: Key Take Aways

- Crime clusters in hotspots
- Crime spiked during COVID-19 pandemic across the nation
- African American and Hispanic males aged 18-44 are mostly impacted by homicides
- Across violence types presented individuals 18-44 are overly represented
- Disputes are the precipitating event in most homicides
- Roughly 60% of perpetrators and victims of homicide had prior criminal justice involvement
- Council districts 1,2,3, and 4 are experiencing higher instances of homicides.

OVP Goal: Design a robust data infrastructure to understand the drivers and solutions to violence reductions incorporating community knowledge, crime data, hospital data and other data sets to truly understand how to reduce violence and have greater safety.

Getting Better at Working Together

COMMUNITY BASED PROJECT PLANNING

Integrated Structure for Impact



Community

Guides priorities



City

Collaborative
leadership



Partners

Meaningful
implementation



Givens Park Community Initiative Overview

Office of Violence Prevention, Parks and Recreation Department, and Watershed Protection, Austin Police Department, Life Anew, Hungry Hill Foundation and Community members worked in collaboration to bring more resources to Givens Park leading to greater safety.

Key Focus Areas

- Data Collection (APD, Surveys, Community)
- Community Engagement and Collaboration
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
- Enhance PARD Programs

Givens Park Initiative Accomplishments



- Established Givens Park Advisory Board (recommendation from community members)
- Created clear sightlines throughout the park, enhancing safety and beauty
- Removed debris from Grow Zones, placed new signage and held community education opportunities
- ATX Peace (Life Anew and Hungry Hill Foundation) provided Community Violence Intervention (CVI) work to build relations, conduct surveys, and reduce crime.

Firearms Technical Assistance Project (FTAP)

Address the nexus of
Domestic Violence and Gun
Violence

Establish a standardized
firearm surrender protocol in
domestic violence protective
order and criminal cases
across jurisdictions in Austin
and Travis County

Austin/Travis County Family Violence Task Force 2016



Austin/Travis County Family Violence Task Force 2020

*County Attorney Office (agency specific) 2021

OVP FTAP Grant Award 2022

FTAP Working Group established December 2023

Firearms Technical Assistance Project (FTAP)
Evolution of Firearm Surrender Protocols in Austin/Travis County

Firearms
Technical
Assistance
Project (FTAP)

Working Group
Goals

Prevent Domestic Violence and reduce homicides

Increase reporting of firearms in Domestic Violence cases

Decrease Domestic Violence recidivism

Increase number of guns surrendered

Increase arrest for failure to surrender firearm

Increase overall safety of the survivor and their children

Interagency Integration of protocol

Increase Number of Protective Orders filed

Getting Better at Getting Better

RELENTLESS COMMITMENT TO PROCESS IMPROVEMENT,
ACCOUNTABILITY, AND SUCCESS

Integration of OVP into Austin's Public Safety Ecosystem

Comprehensive Violence Reduction Public Safety Plan

Invest to the level of need

Create systems of accountability

Ensure decision makers involvement

Be committed to making a peaceful, and safe Austin for everyone

Thank you! Questions?

The Office of Violence Prevention

<https://www.austintexas.gov/ovp>

Address Your Stress

<https://www.austintexas.gov/stress>

Harvest Trauma Recovery Center

<https://harvesttrc.org/>

ATX Peace

<https://www.atxpeace.org/>

Safe Gun Storage Saves Lives

<https://safegunstoragesaveslives.org/>