

The Connecticut Violent Death Reporting System Suicide in RBHAO Region 2 2015 to 2021*

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CTVDRS Data about Violent Death Victims

The Connecticut Violent Death Reporting System (CTVDRS) collects data about the **victims of homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm injuries, and undetermined deaths**

- Data sources: LE reports, Supplementary Homicide Reports, Family Violence (DESPP), OCME investigation, autopsy and toxicology data
- Data collection began in 2015

* Data from Connecticut Violent Death Reporting System (CTVDRS) 2015 to December 31th, 2021

Suicide Trends: 2015 – 2021*

Number of Deaths by Suicide in CT from 2015 to 2021*

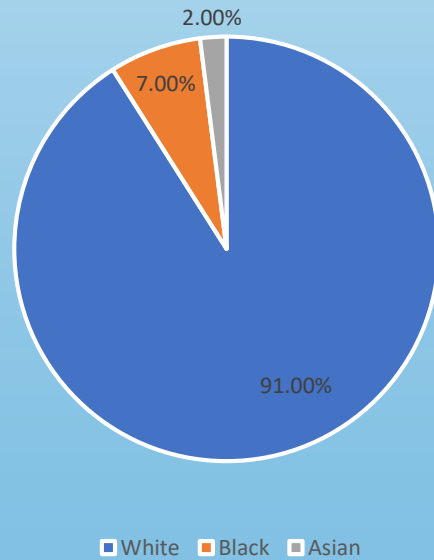


Crude Suicide Rates for CT 2015 to 2021 per 100,000 Pop.

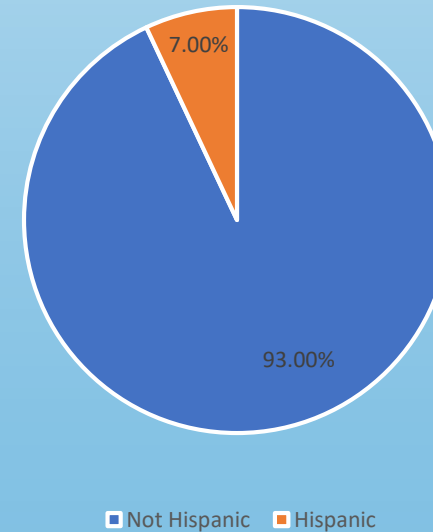


Demographics of Suicides in Connecticut, by Race and Ethnicity

CT Suicides by Race Non
Hispanic(n=2,528): 2015-2021*



CT Suicides, by Ethnicity (n=2,708): 2015-2021*





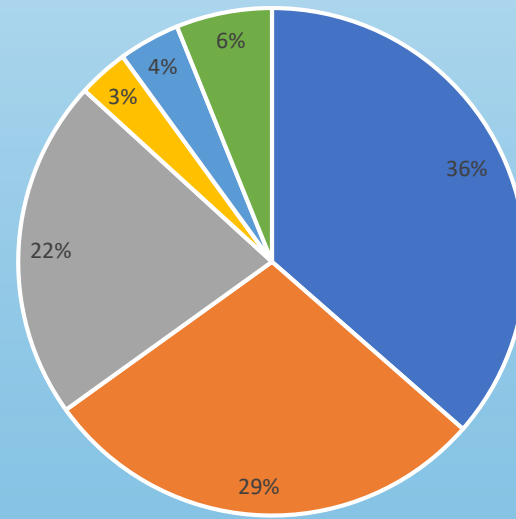
CTVDRS Age-Specific Rates Comparison 2021 to (2015-2019)

Age-Groups	Number of Suicides 2015-2019	Yearly 5 -year average (2015-2019)	Age-Specific Rate 2015-2019 per 100,000 pop	Number of Suicides 2021*	Age-Specific Rate 2021 per 100,000 pop
0-17 yrs	49	10	2.7	12	1.5
18-24 yrs	162	32	9.3	37	9.9
25-44 yrs	526	105	12.1	99	10.5
45-64 yrs	908	182	17.8	131	13.0
65+	377	75	12.7	106	16.0
Total	2,022			385	

* data as of 12/31/21

Suicide Lethal Means

Suicide Lethal Means



■ Hanging, Suffocation ■ Firearm ■ Poisoning ■ Sharp Instrument ■ Fall ■ Other

Most Common Methods – Death by Suicide:

Males

- 1) Hanging/asphyxiation (39%)
- 2) Firearm (35%)
- 3) Drug overdose (14%)

Females

- 1) Drug overdose (44%)
- 2) Hanging/asphyxiation (31%)
- 3) Firearm (9%)

Data Source: CT Violent Death Reporting System

Most Drug Overdoses Involve Multi-Drug Ingestion

Substance	Number of Incidents	Percentage of Fatal Overdoses	Major Drug
Antidepressants	248	46.8	
Opiates	235	44.3	Oxycodone
Benzodiazepines	188	35.5	
Antihistamines	121	22.8	Benadryl
Alcohol	91	17.2	
# Non-drug	64	# 23.5 deaths per 1,000 suicides	Carbon Monoxide

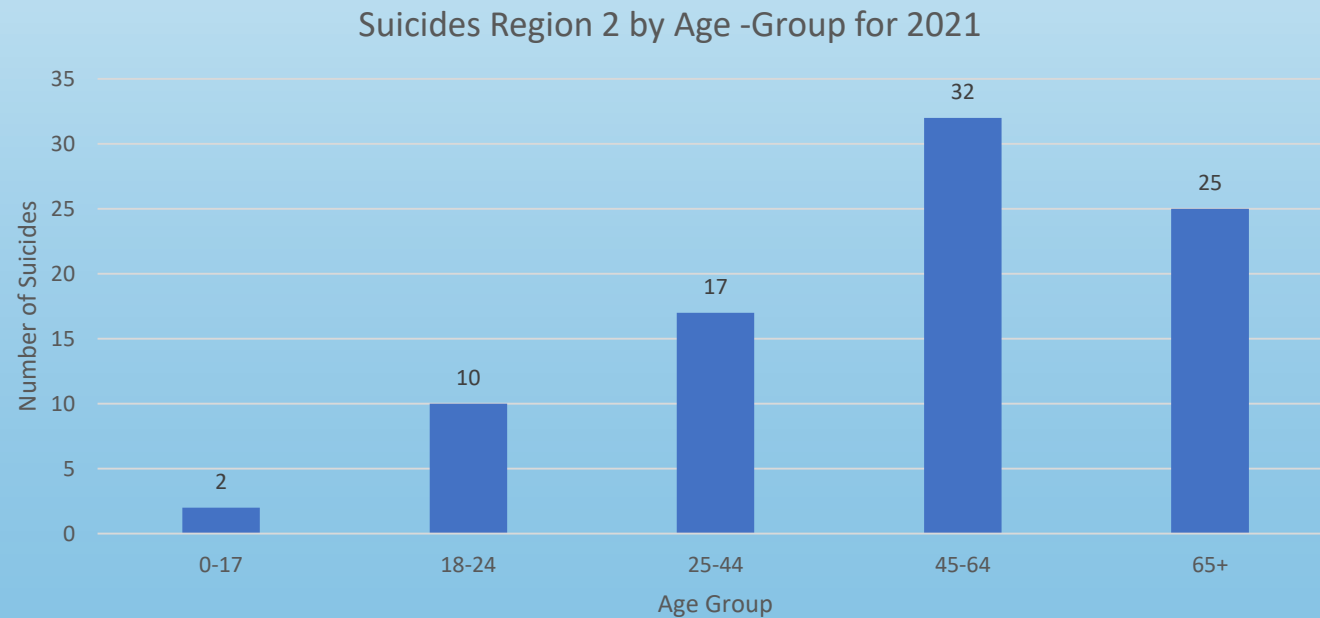
Region 2 Suicides 2021*

- N= 86 suicides

Table 1. Number of Suicides by Sex and Race/Ethnicity

Sex	White Non-Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	Other Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Totals	Percent of Suicides
Males	57 (84%)	8	0	3	68	79%
Females	16 (89%)	1	0	1	18	21%

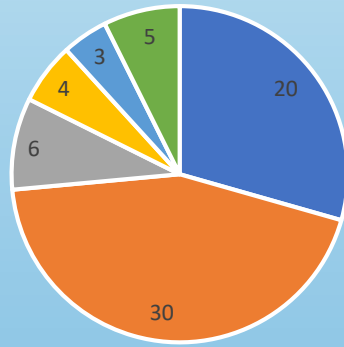
Region 2 Suicides 2021* by Age Group **CTVDRS**



Data Source: CT Violent Death Reporting System

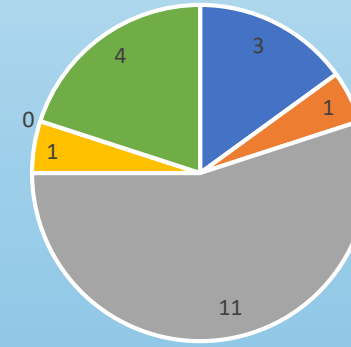
Region 2 Lethal Means for 2021* by Sex **CTVDRS**

Lethal Means for Males 2021*



- Hanging, Suffocation
- Firearm
- Poisoning
- Sharp Instrument
- Fall
- Other

Lethal Means for Females 2021*



- Hanging, Suffocation
- Firearm
- Poisoning
- Sharp Instrument
- Fall
- Other

Data Source: CT Violent Death Reporting System

Region2 Suicides 2021*by Town

Residence City	Number of Suicides
Ansonia	2
Branford	7
Clinton	2
Cromwell	1
Durham	1
East Haddam	2
East Haven	2
Guilford	2
Haddam	2
Hamden	10
Killingworth	1
Madison	1
Meriden	5
Middletown	2
Milford	6
New Haven	11
North Branford	1
North Haven	4
Old Lyme	1
Old Saybrook	2
Portland	2
Seymour	1
Shelton	4
Wallingford	6
West Haven	4
Westbrook	1
Woodbridge	3

Region 2 Suicides 2021* by Town and Age Group

10-17 yrs Suicides for 2021

Residence City	Number of Suicides
East Haddam	1
Hamden	1

18-24 yrs Suicides for 2021

Residence City	Number of Suicides
Branford	1
Durham	1
Hamden	2
Killingworth	1
Milford	1
New Haven	1
Portland	1
Wallingford	1
West Haven	1

Data Source: CT Violent Death Reporting System

Region 2 Suicides 2021* by Town and Age Group

45-64 yrs Suicides for 2021

Residence City	Number of Suicides
Ansonia	2
Branford	2
Clinton	1
Cromwell	1
East Haddam	1
East Haven	1
Hamden	1
Meriden	4
Middletown	1
Milford	3
New Haven	4
North Haven	1
Old Saybrook	1
Shelton	1
Wallingford	4
West Haven	3
Westbrook	1

25-44 yrs Suicides for 2021

Residence City	Number of Suicides
Branford	3
Hamden	4
Middletown	1
Milford	1
New Haven	6
North Branford	1
North Haven	1

Data Source: CT Violent Death Reporting System

Region2 Suicides 2021* by Town and Age Group

65+ yrs Suicides for 2021

Residence City	Number of Suicides
Branford	1
Clinton	1
East Haven	1
Guilford	2
Haddam	2
Hamden	2
Madison	1
Meriden	1
Milford	1
North Haven	2
Old Lyme	1
Old Saybrook	1
Portland	1
Seymour	1
Shelton	3
Wallingford	1
Woodbridge	3

Data Source: CT Violent Death Reporting System

93 % (N=80) of risk factors or circumstances are known for Region 2 suicide victims

Most Common Risks

- 1)Mental Illness (44%; N=35)74%(N=26) Diagnosed Depression; 14% (N=5) Bipolar Disorder; 9% (N=3) Anxiety
- 2)Intimate Partner Problem (divorce; break-up) (24%, N=19)
- 3)Previous Suicide Attempt (15%,N=12)
- 4)Physical Health Problem (Acute, Chronic, Terminal Illness or Pain) (13%, N=10)
- 5) Substance Use; Substance Misuse- Reported Alcohol Misuse (13%, N=10)

Data Source: CT Violent Death Reporting System

Most Common Drugs Found In Suicide Victim for Region 2

Drug	Number of Positive	Percent of Suicides
Alcohol*	18	21%
Marijuana	14	16%
Opiate	10	12%
Benzodiazepines	7	8%

* BAC \geq .08

Marijuana use has been associated with psychotic events (hallucinations, paranoia); however, its incidence hasn't reached a threshold of \geq 20 to calculate a reliable rate.

For more information about marijuana comorbidity with illness for ED Visits see [Connecticut Violent Death Reporting System CTVDRS](#), question 5 Community Questions

Data Source: CT Violent Death Reporting System



CTVDRS Data about Homicide Victims

The Connecticut Violent Death Reporting System (CTVDRS) collects data about the **victims of homicide**; limited information about perpetrator

- Data sources: LE reports, Supplementary Homicide Reports, Family Violence (DESPP), OCME investigation, autopsy and toxicology data
- Data collection began in 2015

* Data from Connecticut Violent Death Reporting System (CTVDRS) 2015 to December 31st, 2021

Theories of Homicide Victimization

- A. **Subculture of Violence:** theme of violence that make up the life-style, the socialization process, interpersonal relationships of individuals living in similar conditions; not necessary to use violence to solve problems, but have greater exposure, susceptibility to violent victimization; **retaliation a major theme**
- B. **Informal Social Control:** a form of self-help “ the expression of a grievance by unilateral aggression such as personal violence”; used by people of lower social status who have reduced access to formal control institutions- police; offenders may use crime as a means of **retaliation or censure** when they cannot or will not seek police help

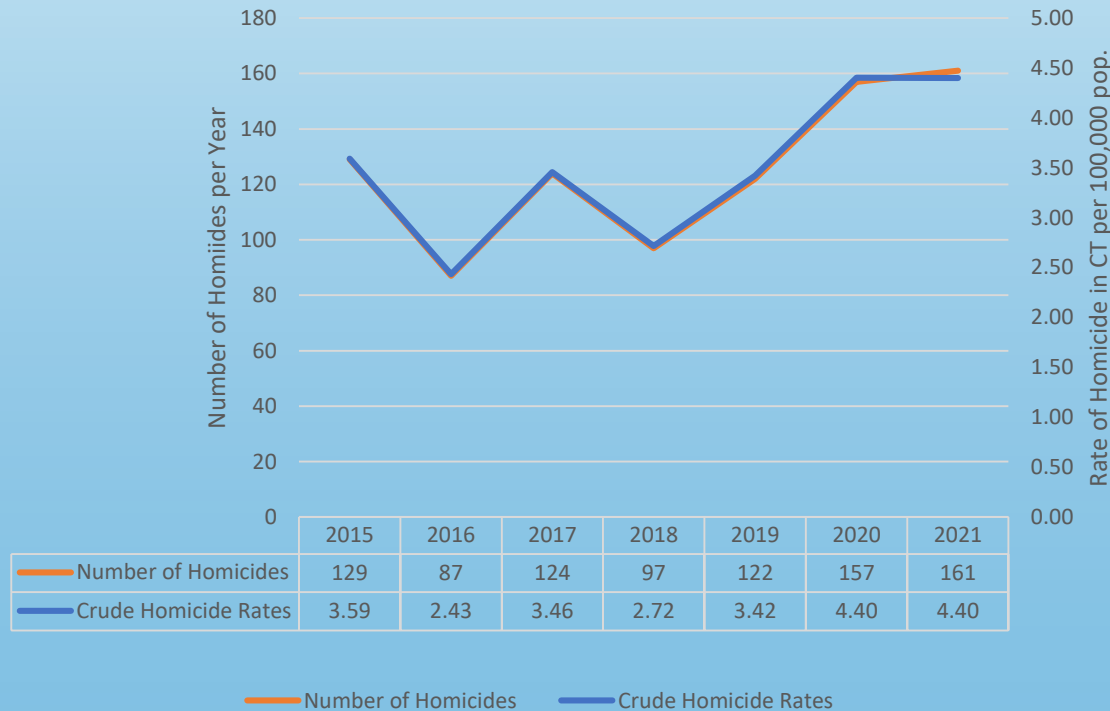
Theories of Homicide Victimization

- C. Lifestyle-** an individual's lifestyle influences their exposure to high-risk situations, placing them as a potential target for victimization
 - 1. history of alcohol, and drug misuse**
 - 2. *gang membership***
 - 3. *criminal history (incarceration, arrests)***
 - 4. routine activities- convergence of space and time of motivated offenders, and suitable targets**

All three theories share a common theme: the convergence of vulnerable people, risky people and risky places

Homicide Rates In Connecticut 2015 to Present

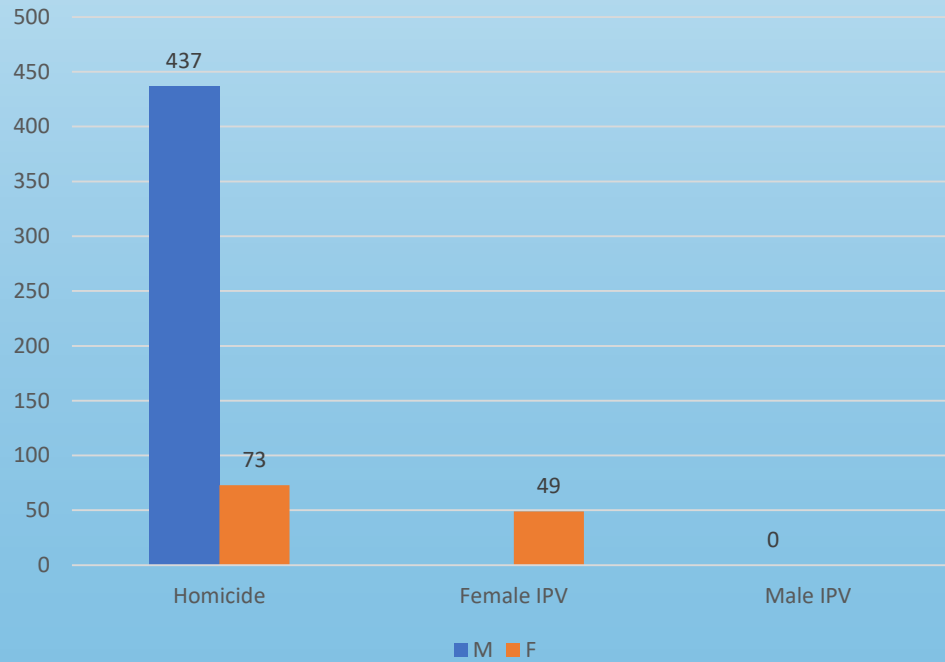
Crude Homicide Rates and Numbers for CT 2015 to 2021



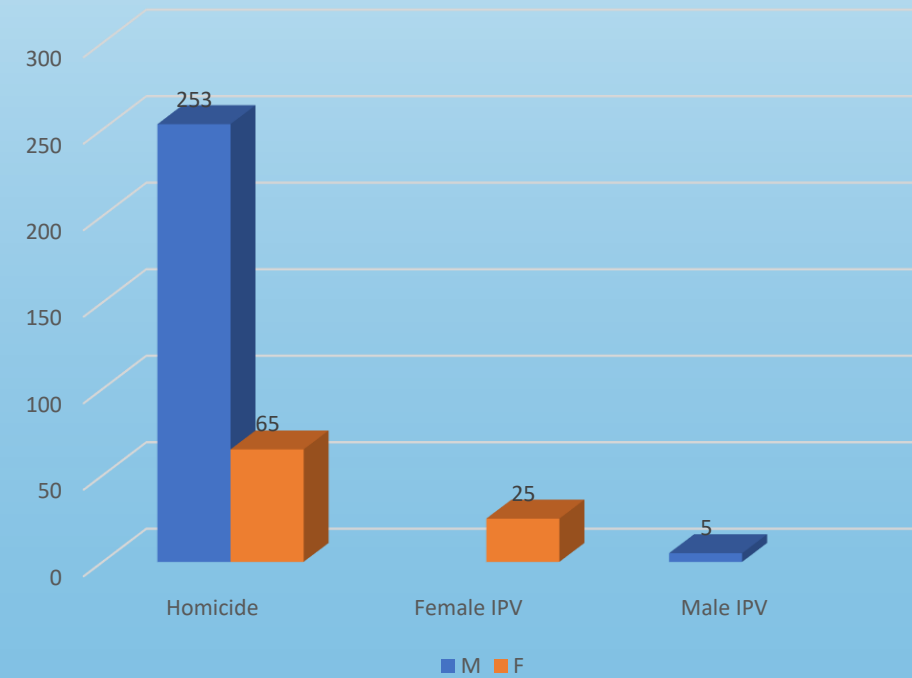
- 2020 and 2021 data is preliminary* Rates are provisional, currently using 2019 population data for CT
- As December 31, 2021 there were 161 homicides

Homicide 2015 to 2021* by Sex

Homicides 2015 to 2015 by Sex



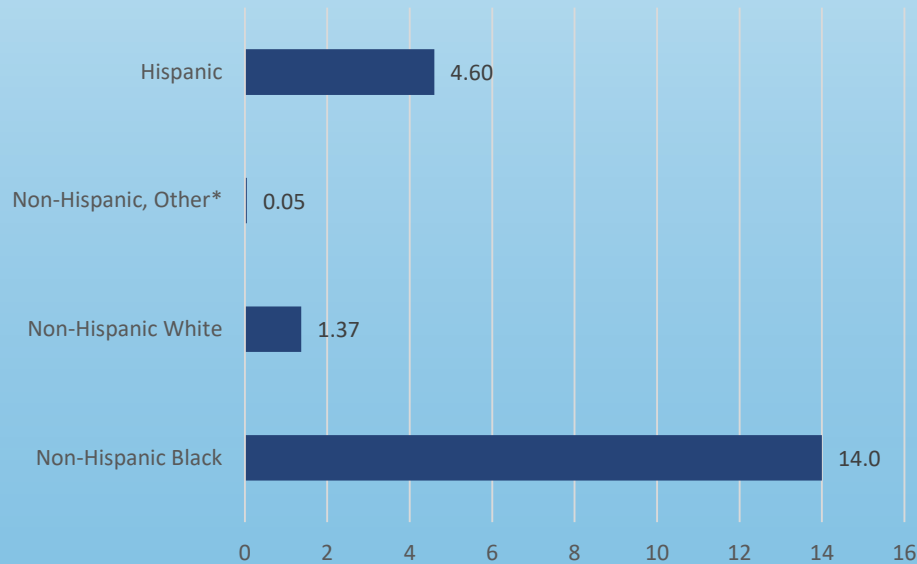
Homicide 2020 & 2021 by Sex





Comparison of Homicide Rates Pre-Pandemic (2015 to 2019) to Pandemic (2020) by Race/Ethnicity

Rate of Homicides by Race and Ethnicity per 100,000 Population, CT 2015-2019



Comparison of Homicide Rates Pre-Pandemic (2015 to 2019) to Pandemic (2020) by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Average Number Homicides (2015 to 2019)	Crude Rate *2015-2019	Crude Rate *2021	Number of Homicides 2021	Rate Difference 2015 to 2019 Compared to 2021
Non-Hispanic Black	51	14.0	24.6	89	+ 76%
Non-Hispanic White	33	1.40	1.40	33	No change
Hispanic	27	4.60	5.8	35	+ 26 %

*per 100,000 CT population



Homicide by Age

- Average age of homicide victim 34 yrs old vs 51 yrs for suicide

CTVDRS Data Lethal Means 2015 to 2021

Years	Weapon Type	Number of Homicides by Weapon Type	Total Number of Homicides for 2015 to 2019	Rate Weapon Death per 100 Homicides
Pre-Pandemic (2015to 2019)	Firearm	343	559	61.3
	Sharp Force Injury (Stabbing)	69	559	12.3
Pandemic 2020	Firearm	108	157	68.7
	Sharp Force Injury (Stabbing)	31	157	19.7
2021	Firearm	120	161	74.5
	Sharp Force Injury (Stabbing)	18	161	11.2

Circumstances of Homicide/ Possible Areas for Intervention

- For 2015 to 2019 homicide circumstances were known for 80% (N=452) of the cases (LE and OCME reports)
- Gang* or groups involvement: rate 9 per 100 homicides

* Defined by law enforcement as organized gangs as Bloods, Crips and Latin Kings

Circumstances	Number of Occurrences	Rate per 100 Homicides
Disputes/Arguments	167	36.9
Commission of a Crime:		
Assault	132	29.2
Robbery	63	13.9
Drug Trade	48	10.6
Drug Involvement	86	19.0

Substance Use in Homicides 2015 to 2021

Rate of Positive Drug Results from Blood at the Time of Autopsy

2015 to 2019 (N= Number of Homicides (559))

Drug	Number of Positives	Rate per 100 Homicides
Marijuana	171	30.5
Alcohol	135	24.1
Opiates	66	11.8
Cocaine	56	10.1
Benzodiazepines	41	7.3

Rate of Positive Drug Results from Blood at the Time of Autopsy

2020 to 2021 (N= Number of Homicides (318))

Drug	Number of Positives	Rate per 100 Homicides
Marijuana	168	52.8
Alcohol	91	28.7
Cocaine	48	15.1
Opiates	42	13.2
Benzodiazepines	12	3.7

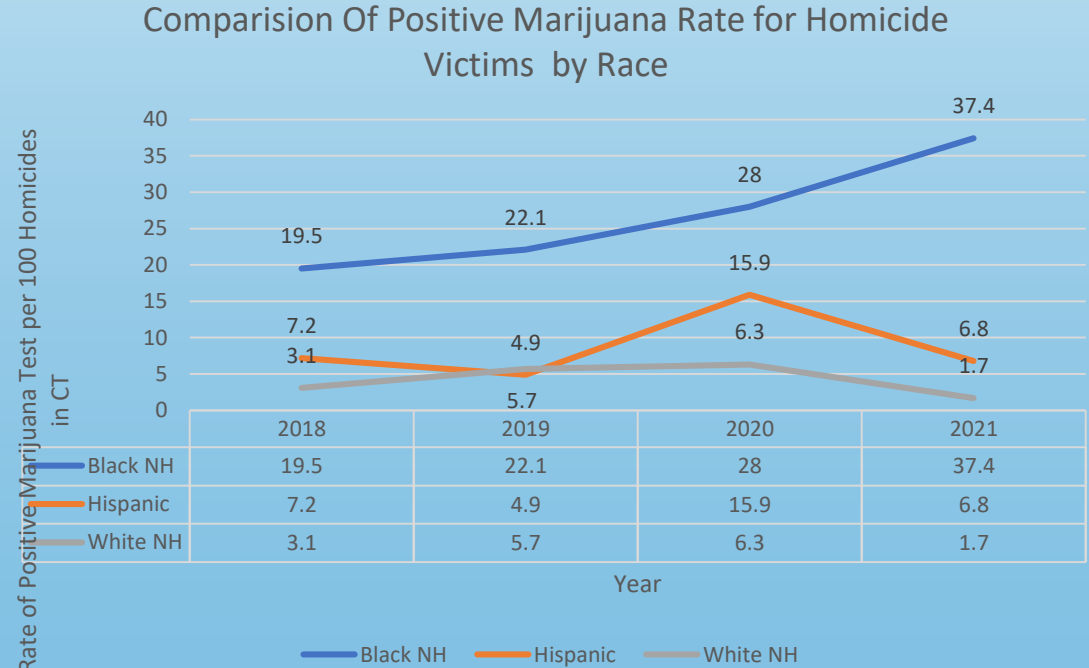
Substance Use in Homicides by Race/Ethnicity

Number of Positive Marijuana Results by Race by Year *

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black NH	19	27	44	61
Hispanic	7	6	25	17
White NH	3	7	10	9
Other NH (Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander)	0	1	0	1
Number of Homicides	97	122	157	161

* Note: Rates calculated from counts less than 20 should be interpreted with caution due to the variability of small numbers resulting in low reliability of rates

Rate of Positive Marijuana Results at the Time of Autopsy by Race per 100 Homicides



Substance Use in Homicides by Race/Ethnicity

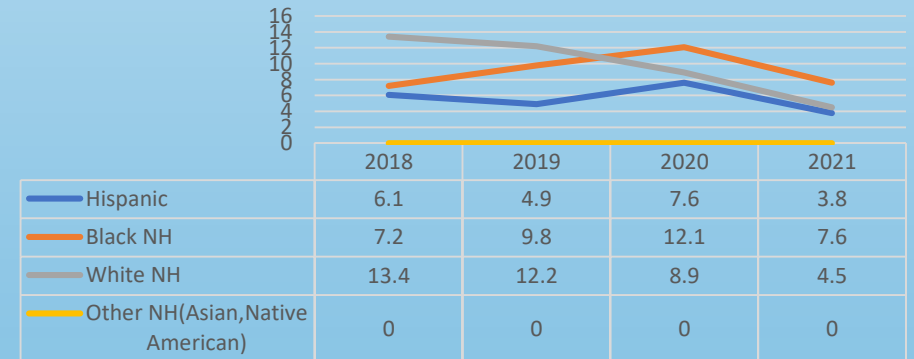
Number of Alcohol Results (BAC ≥ .08)by Race by Year *

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black NH	7	12	19	11
Hispanic	6	6	12	6
White NH	13	15	14	2
Other NH (Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander)	0	0	0	0
Number of Homicides	97	122	157	161

* note: Rates calculated from counts less than 20 should be interpreted with caution due to the variability of small numbers resulting in low reliability of rates

Rate of Alcohol Results (BAC ≥ .08) by Race per 100 Homicides

Rate of BAC ≥ .08 Results in Blood of Homicide Victims at the Time Autopsy per 100 Homicides by Race



Rate of BAC Greater Than Equal To .08 in Blood of Homicide Victims per 100 Homicides

Hispanic Black NH White NH Other NH(Asian,Native American)

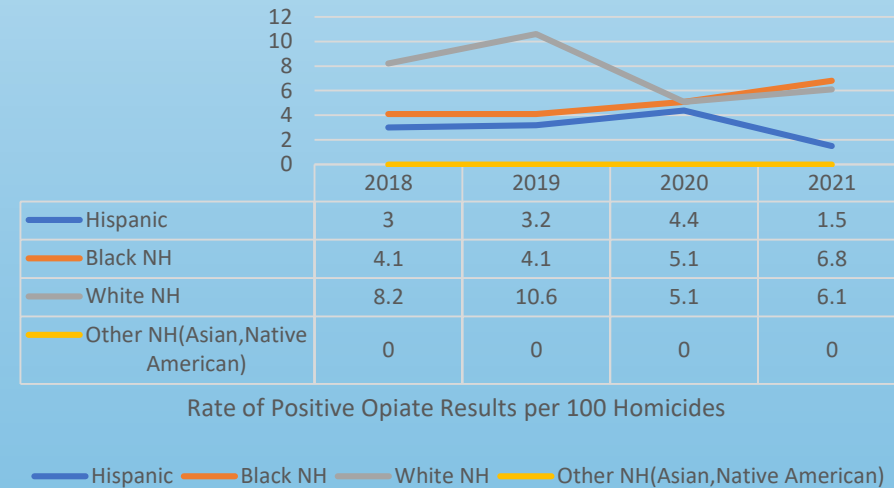
Substance Use in Homicides by Race/Ethnicity

Number of Positive Opiate Results *

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black NH	4	5	8	9
Hispanic	3	4	7	2
White NH	8	13	8	8
Other NH (Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander)	0	0	0	0
Number of Homicides	97	122	157	116

* Note: Rates calculated from counts less than 20 should be interpreted with caution due to the variability of small numbers resulting in low reliability of rates

Rate of Opiate Positive Results in Blood of Homicide Victims at the Time of Autopsy per 100 Homicides by Race



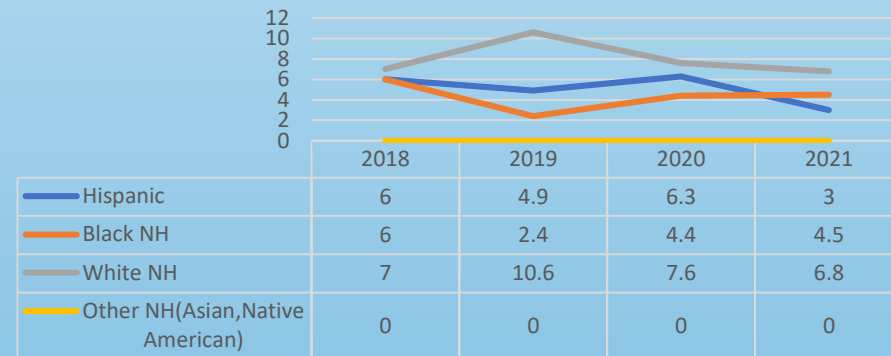
Substance Use in Homicides by Race/Ethnicity

Number of Positive Cocaine Results *

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black NH	6	3	7	6
Hispanic	6	6	10	4
White NH	7	13	12	9
Other NH (Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander)	0	0	0	0
Number of Homicides	97	122	157	116

* Note: Rates calculated from counts less than 20 should be interpreted with caution due to the variability of small numbers resulting in low reliability of rates

Rates of Cocaine Positive Results in Blood of Homicide Victims at Time of Autopsy per 100 Homicides by Race



Rate of Positive Cocaine Results per 100 Homicides

— Hispanic — Black NH — White NH — Other NH(Asian,Native American)

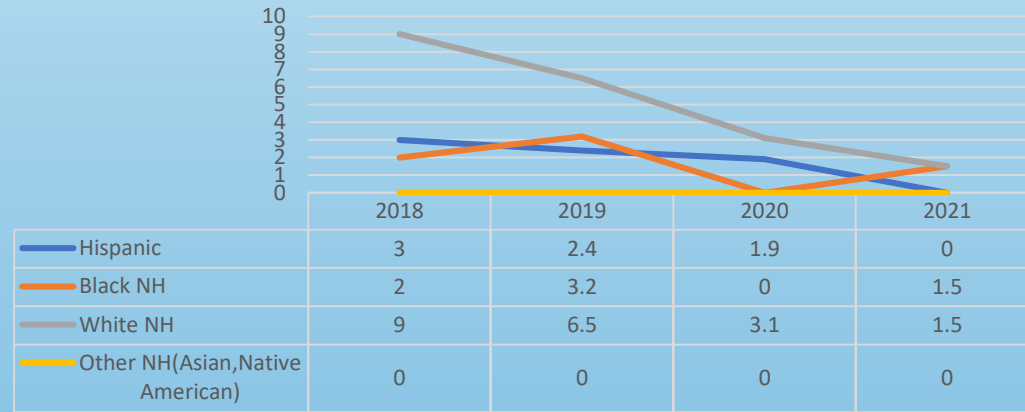
Substance Use in Homicides by Race/Ethnicity

Number of Positive Benzodiazepine Results *

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black NH	2	4	0	2
Hispanic	3	3	3	0
White NH	9	8	5	2
Other NH (Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander)	0	0	0	0
Number of Homicides	97	122	157	116

* Note: Rates calculated from counts less than 20 should be interpreted with caution due to the variability of small numbers resulting in low reliability of rates

Rates of Benzodiazepine Results in Blood of Homicide Victims at Time of Autopsy per 100 Homicide by Race



Rate of Positive Benzodiazepines Results per 100 Homicides

— Hispanic — Black NH — White NH — Other NH(Asian,Native American)

Region 2 Homicides for 2020&2021*

- N= 86 homicides

Number of Homicides by Sex and Race/Ethnicity

Sex	White Non-Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	Other Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Totals	Percent of Homicides
Males	8	40(60%)	1	18	67	78%
Females	6	8 (42%)	0	5	19	22%

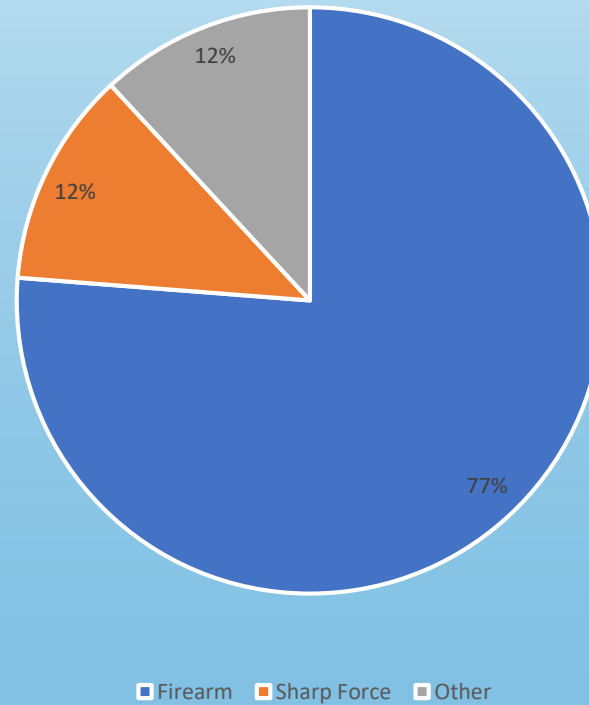


Region 2 Homicides for 2020&2021* by Town

Resident City	Number of Homicides
New Haven	38
Hamden	11
Meriden	8
West Haven	8
Middletown	5
Ansonia	3
Derby	3
East Haven	2
Wallingford	2
Durham	1
Guilford	1
North Haven	1
Orange	1
Seymour	1
Shelton	1

Region 2 Homicides for 2020&2021* by Lethal Means

Homicide Lethal Means





86 Homicides for Region 2 in 2020 and 2021

Sex	NH White	NH Black	NH Other	Hispanic
Male	8	40	1	18
Female	6	7	0	5

Circumstances	Number of Occurrences	Rate per 100 Homicides
Disputes/Arguments/Fist Fights	34	57.6
During a Commission of a Crime:	32	54.2
1. Assault	17	28.8
2. Drug Trade	3	5.1
3. Robbery	4	6.7
4. Other	8	13.5
Drug Involvement	9	15.3
Drive -By Shooting	7	11.8
Walk by Assault	9	15.3
Intimate Partner Violence	8	13.5

Substance Use in Homicides Region 2 2015 to 2021

Rate of Positive Drug Results from Blood at the Time of Autopsy
2015 to 2019 (N= Number of Homicides (126))

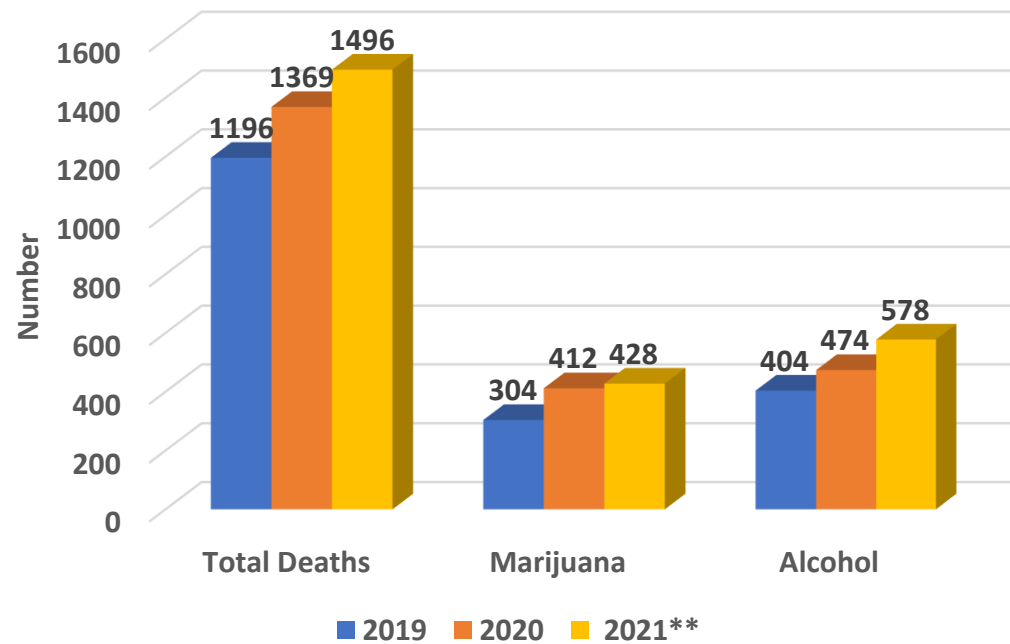
Drug	Number of Positives	Rate per 100 Homicides
Marijuana	32	25.4
Alcohol	26	20.6
Opiates	14	11.1
Cocaine	21	16.6
Benzodiazepines	12	7.3

Rate of Positive Drug Results from Blood at the Time of Autopsy
2020 to 2021 (N= Number of Homicides (86))

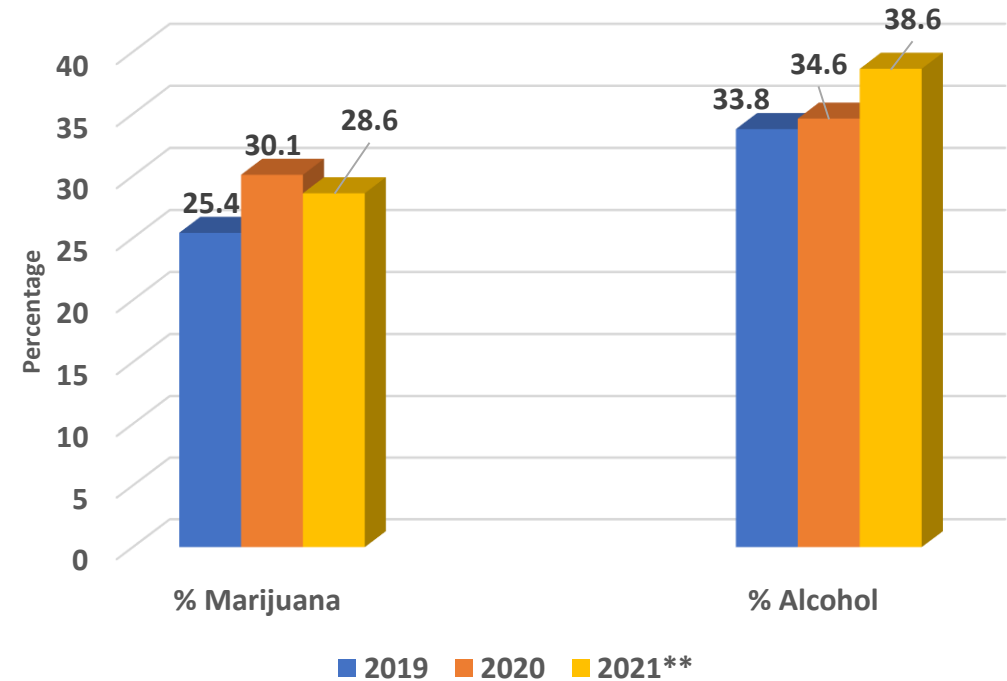
Drug	Number of Positives	Rate per 100 Homicides
Marijuana	50	58.1
Alcohol	22	25.6
Cocaine	15	17.4
Opiates	9	10.5
Benzodiazepines	4	4.7

Presence of Marijuana and Alcohol in Accidental Overdoses Statewide

Number of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths with Presence of Marijuana and Alcohol, Connecticut, 2019-2021*



Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths with Presence of Marijuana and Alcohol, Connecticut, 2019-2021*





The Connecticut Violent Death Data

Questions?

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