

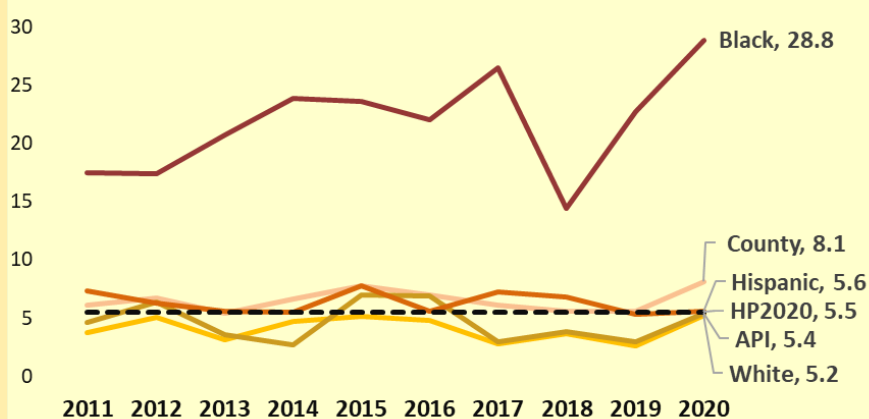
HOMICIDE FACT SHEET 2020

Violence, including homicide, has increasingly been recognized as a public health problem requiring public health solutions after reaching epidemic proportions in the United States during the 1980s among specific segments of the population (e.g., youth). Violence is devastating for individuals and families and also has negative economic and social impacts on communities. Homicide is the act of one human killing another. This fact sheet includes all homicides in Sacramento County, regardless of perpetrator intent or legal category of homicide (e.g., manslaughter). There were 971 homicide victims in the County in the past ten years, with an average of 97 homicide deaths each year.

Homicide trends by select race/ethnicity

There were 127 homicide deaths in Sacramento County in 2020, a rate of 8.1 per 100,000 population. The County rate increased 32.6% compared to 2011, and did not meet the Healthy People 2020 goal of 5.5 [Figure 1]. Blacks were consistently disproportionately affected by homicide over the ten-year period from 2011-2020, with a rate over 5.5 times that of Whites in 2020, and over five times higher than that of the Healthy People 2020 goal of 5.5.

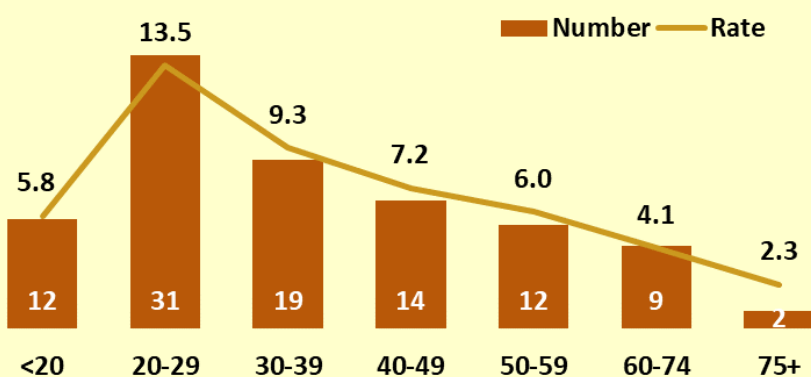
Figure 1: Homicide Rates by Select Race/Ethnicity, Sacramento County, 2011-2020



Homicide by age group

Figure 2 shows the three-year average homicide deaths and rates by age group for years 2018 to 2020. Young adults were at greatest risk of homicide; the highest average number and rate of homicide deaths occurred among persons age 20-29. Persons age 75 and older had the lowest average rate of homicide in the County.

Figure 2: Three-Year Average Homicide Deaths and Rates by Age Group, Sacramento County, 2018-2020



Mechanism of homicide by victim sex

Males accounted for more than 80% of all homicide deaths in the County in the ten-year period from 2011-2020 [Table 1]. The most common mechanism of injury for homicide deaths was firearms, accounting for about half of all homicides in which the victim was female, and about 70% of homicides in which the victim was male.

Table 1: Homicide Deaths by Sex of Victim and Mechanism of Injury, Sacramento County, 2011-2020

Mechanism	Female (N=176)	Male (N=795)	Total (N=971)
Firearms	49.4%	69.9%	66.2%
Sharp Object	13.1%	9.9%	10.5%
Suffocation/Hanging	8.5%	1.1%	2.5%
Other	29.0%	19.0%	20.8%