

Homicide as a Public Health Concern in Communities of Color FIBCO Community Health Fair

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• **Premise**

- Homicide is a frequently over-looked public health concern in the United States, particularly in the African-American and Latino communities.
- Efforts should be made to ameliorate this “disease” in the same way that cardio-vascular illness, cancer and diabetes education and prevention is addressed.

Leading Causes of Death Black Males: 2017

Leading Causes of Death, United States, Non-Hispanic black Males, 2017, all ages	
Black, Male, All ages	Percent
1) Heart disease	23.7%
2) Cancer	20.2%
3) Unintentional injuries	7.9%
4) Homicide	5.0%
5) Stroke	4.9%
6) Diabetes	4.3%
7) Chronic lower respiratory diseases	3.2%
8) Kidney disease	2.6%
9) Septicemia	1.7%
10) Hypertension	

Leading Causes of Death Hispanic Males, 2017

Hispanic, Male, All ages		Percent
1) Heart disease	20.3%	
2) Cancer	19.4%	
3) Unintentional injuries	11.5%	
4) Stroke	4.7%	
5) Diabetes	4.7%	
6) Chronic liver disease	4.0%	
7) Suicide	2.9%	
8) Chronic lower respiratory diseases	2.5%	
9) Homicide	2.4%	
10) Alzheimer's disease	2.1%	

Leading Causes of Death Black Females: 2017

Black, Female, All ages	Percent
1) Heart disease	22.8%
2) Cancer	21.5%
3) Stroke	6.5%
4) Diabetes	4.5%
5) Alzheimer's disease	4.0%
6) Unintentional injuries	3.7%
7) Chronic lower respiratory diseases	3.5%
8) Kidney disease	3.1%
9) Septicemia	2.2%
10) Hypertension	2.1%

Leading Causes of Death, Female Hispanic 2017

Leading Causes of Death, United States, Females, 2017, Hispanic, all ages	
Hispanic, Female, All ages	Percent
1) Cancer	22.0%
2) Heart disease	19.6%
3) Stroke	6.4%
4) Alzheimer's disease	5.7%
5) Unintentional injuries	4.9%
6) Diabetes	4.7%
7) Chronic lower respiratory diseases	3.2%
8) (tie rank) Influenza and pneumonia Kidney disease	2.2%
9) — ³	— ³
10) Chronic liver disease	2.2%

Leading Causes of Death White Males: 2017

Leading Causes of Death, United States, Females, 2017, Hispanic, all ages	
Hispanic, Female, All ages	Percent
1) Cancer	22.0%
2) Heart disease	19.6%
3) Stroke	6.4%
4) Alzheimer's disease	5.7%
5) Unintentional injuries	4.9%
6) Diabetes	4.7%
7) Chronic lower respiratory diseases	3.2%
8) (tie rank) Influenza and pneumonia Kidney disease	2.2%
9) — ³	— ³
10) Chronic liver disease	2.2%

Leading Causes of Death, White Females: 2016

Leading Causes of Death, United States, Non-Hispanic white Females, 2016, all races and origins, all ages	
White, Female, All ages	Percent
1) Heart disease	22.1%
2) Cancer	20.8%
3) Chronic lower respiratory diseases	6.8%
4) Alzheimer's disease	6.4%
5) Stroke	6.0%
6) Unintentional injuries	4.3%
7) Diabetes	2.2%
8) Influenza and pneumonia	2.0%
9) Kidney disease	1.6%
10) Septicemia	1.5%

Let's take a closer look at the numbers.

- **In fact, homicide is the number 1 cause of death in African-American males ages 1 to 44 years.**

Causes of death by age and race

- Black males: 1-19 years **#1** 35.3%
 20-44 years **#1** 27.6%
- Black females: 1-19 years #2 14.9%
 20-44 years #4 6.7%

- Latino males: 1-19 years #2 14.4%
 20-44 years #3 10.6%
- Latino females: 1-19 years #5 7.1%
 20-44 years #5 5.3%

- White males: 1-19 years #4 5.2%
 20-44 years #5 2.8%
- White female: 1-19 years #5 4.7%
 20-44 years #6 4.7%

- **Risk of being killed by police use of force in the United States by age, race–ethnicity, and sex**

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- **Risk of being killed by police use of force in the United States by age, race–ethnicity, and sex**
- Black Male **3.45** percent per 100,000
- LatinX Male **1.80** percent per 100,000
- White Male **1.15** percent per 100,000

- Black Female **0.12** percent per 100,000
- LatinX Female **0.07** percent per 100,000
- White Female **0.07** percent per 100,000

Covid-19 Impact

- Nationwide there was a **53 percent** increase in homicides between June thru August 2020 by comparison to the same time period in 2019
- 2019 represented the 4th consecutive year that the US murder rate had fallen.

- Homicides in Phoenix, Az have increased **52 percent** in 2020, compared to 2019
- **187** homicides in 2020 **123** in 2019
- Homicide rate in 2020 was the highest in the past 10 years.

Solutions

- Education
- Unemployment
- Non Violent Conflict Resolution
- Institutional/Systemic Racism
 - Effective Police Training
 - Family Structure
 - Gun Control
 - Vaccine
 - Other

- **“Ferguson Effect”**
- **“Minneapolis Effect”**

- Anti-police protests and rioting lead to less proactive policing.
Absence of police presence leads to a spike in violent crime.

Minneapolis cont'd

- Minneapolis: 48 homicides in 2019
82 homicides in 2020 (not including George Floyd)
--70 percent increase.
--Greatest increase seen after May of 2020. (George Floyd death May 25, 2020)
--January 2020 there were 877 police officers
January 2021 there are 638 police officers (27percent decrease)

- **References:**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Minority Health and Health Equity

Leading Causes of Death 2017

Impact Report: Covid-19 and Crime

Richard Rosenfeld, Professor Emeritus of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Missouri-St. Louis; Ernesto Lopez University of Missouri-St. Louis; Thomas Abt, Senior Fellow and Commission Director, Council on Criminal Justice

Council on Criminal Justice, January 31, 2021

Center of the American Experience

www.americanexperience.org Conservative Minneapolis based think-tank

January 26, 2021

Minneapolis Violent Crimes Soared in 2020 Amid Pandemic, Protests

Minneapolis Star Tribune

Libor Jany, Minneapolis Star Crime Reporter

February 6, 2021

Risk of being killed by police use of force in the United States by age, race–ethnicity, and sex

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