



# **MAYOR'S STRATEGIC COMMAND TO REDUCE MURDERS**

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## **2012-2013 Executive Summary: Murders and Non-Fatal Shootings New Orleans, LA**

**Released: July 14, 2014**



## **SUMMARY 2012-2013**

### **OVERVIEW**

This report is the first comprehensive summary report of analyses of murders and non-fatal shootings in New Orleans conducted by the Mayor's Strategic Command to Reduce Murders. In this report, we examine key neighborhood indicators and offer comparison of city-wide characteristics versus characteristics of the NOLA FOR LIFE's five major target neighborhoods in 2012-2013 (Central City, Little Woods, Seventh Ward, St. Claude, and St. Roch). We also present analyses of murder and non-fatal shooting data from January 2012-December 2013. The report provides incidence data, as well as data on the contextual environment of murders and non-fatal shootings, characteristics of victims, and characteristics of arrested suspects in cleared cases. This report is intended to inform policy makers, law enforcement, community programs, and other groups who are committed to the reduction of murders and other violent crime in New Orleans.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD INDICATORS**

Our examination of neighborhood indicators<sup>1</sup> revealed differences in racial and ethnic composition, such that African-Americans constituted a much higher proportion of residents in the five target neighborhoods versus citywide. Our examination further revealed large disparities in the target neighborhoods versus citywide indicators related to estimated unemployment rates, annual household income, the percentage of residents living below the poverty line, the percent of children living below the poverty line, and the percent of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent. Disparities were also evident for the percentage of vacant housing units, the percentage of owner occupied housing units, and educational attainment. Finally, differences were present with regard to the percentage of single parent families, percent of children living with their grandparents, and percent of children living with married parents.

### **MURDERS AND NON-FATAL SHOOTINGS**

Data for the summary presented below were obtained primarily through analyses of NOPD Case Management reports. Additional information was obtained through NOPD's Motion database and the Orleans Parish Prison public access database.

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<sup>1</sup> Neighborhood indicator data was collected from GNOCDC and Healthy Nola resources. Data are the most recent available and may not reflect recent growth or changes in neighborhood indicators. Neighborhood indicator data is based on 2010 statistics, the most recent year for which data was available.

In analyzing data related to murders and non-fatal shootings that occurred in 2012-2013, the Strategic Command focused on four content areas: incidence, contextual characteristics of murder and non-fatal shooting cases, victim characteristics, and suspect characteristics (based on cleared cases). This report examines murder data from multiple perspectives: (1) Citywide, (2) By target neighborhoods (Central City, Little Woods, Seventh Ward, St. Claude, St. Roch) versus non-target neighborhoods (all other NOPD-defined neighborhoods in New Orleans), (3) By whether the victim lived in the same neighborhood in which s(he) was murdered/non-fatally shot or whether the victim was murdered/non-fatally shot outside of his/her neighborhood of residency, and (4) By age (0-12, 13-20, 21-29, 30+).

Data analyzed in this report included all murders and non-fatal shootings that occurred in New Orleans from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013. Not included in these analyses were other types of fatal and non-fatal shootings that occurred in New Orleans in 2012-2013, including: justifiable homicides and shootings, accidental homicides and shootings, suicides, and officer-related fatalities and shootings. We also do not include 2012-2013 deaths that resulted from incidents which occurred in prior years (e.g., someone who was shot in 2011 but who did not die from these wounds until 2012). NOPD annual reports do include murders resulting from prior year incident.

Data were accurate as of January 6, 2014. More recent information about 2012-2013 murder and non-fatal shooting cases that may have emerged after this date are not included in this report.

## **Incidence**

From January 1, 2012-December 31, 2013, there were 346 murder victims (322 incidents) and 696 non-fatal shooting victims (549 incidents) in New Orleans. In about one in every 20 murder incidents and one in every five non-fatal shooting incidents, there were multiple victims. From 2012-2013, the number of murder victims and non-fatal shooting victims declined 20.7% and 13.4%, respectively. More longitudinally, there was a 26.4% reduction in murders from 2007 to 2013 and a 23.8% reduction in non-fatal shootings from 2009 to 2013.

Slightly more than a third of murder and about one-fourth of non-fatal shooting cases that occurred during 2012-2013 had been cleared as of January 6, 2014. In all, 157 unique suspects had been arrested for 2012-2013 murders. These arrests cleared 129 murder victims across 119 unique incidents. Similarly, 155 unique suspects had been arrested for 2012-2013 non-fatal shootings. These arrests cleared 172 non-fatal shooting victims across 116 unique incidents.

Murders and non-fatally shootings were relatively evenly dispersed across police districts with the exception of District 8, which experienced the fewest number of incidents. From 2012 to 2013, reductions in the number of murders and non-fatal

shootings were observed in police districts 1, 6 and 7. Police district 2 recorded an increase in the number of murders from 2012 to 2013, but saw a decrease in the number of non-fatal shootings. Police districts 4 and 5 recorded reductions in the number of murders from 2012 to 2013, but saw an increase in the number of non-fatal shootings. Increases in both the number of murders and non-fatal shootings were observed in police district 3, while police district 8 had an increase in non-fatal shootings and no change in the number of murder cases.

Most zip codes and most neighborhoods in New Orleans experienced one or more murder and/or non-fatal shooting during the reporting period. Among zip codes with 20 or more murder victims and 40 or more non-fatal shooting victims from 2012 to 2013, there were decreases in the number of both murder and non-fatal shooting cases in zip codes 70118, 70119, and 70126. Zip codes 70114 and 70117 observed a decrease in murders but an increase in non-fatal shootings. Zip code 70125 saw an increase in murders but a decrease in non-fatal shootings. An increase in the number of non-fatal shootings but no change in the number of murders was observed in the 70116 zip code. Zip code 70122 recorded increases in both murders and non-fatal shootings.

All five target neighborhoods experienced decreases in the number of murders and non-fatal shootings from 2012 to 2013 except the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward. While this neighborhood did have a 25.0% decrease in the number of murders from 2012 to 2013, there was a 44.8% increase in the number of non-fatal shootings during this time period, which was attributable to a single incident involving 19 non-fatally shot victims. Nonetheless, about a third of all murders and non-fatal shootings occurred in a target neighborhood, comparable to recent years. Yet only about a fourth of all murder and non-fatal shooting victims and suspects lived in a target neighborhood. Further, over 50% of murder and non-fatal shooting victims and about three-fourths of all suspects lived in a different neighborhood than which the incident occurred.

Murder and non-fatal shooting incidents that occurred in a target neighborhood were more likely to involve multiple victims than incidents in non-target neighborhoods. The percentage of victims who lived in the neighborhood in which they were murdered was higher among victims aged 13-20 and aged 30+ years compared to 21-29 year old victims.

A higher percentage of victims aged 30+ years were non-fatally shot in a target neighborhood than victims aged 13-20 or 21-29 years. The percentage of non-fatal shooting victims who lived in the same neighborhood in which the shooting occurred was higher in non-target neighborhoods; for suspects the percentage was higher in target neighborhoods.

## Context

Murders and non-fatal shootings were evenly dispersed across the days of the week, although a higher percentage of victims aged 13-20 were murdered on a Sunday or Monday compared to victims aged 21-29 or victims aged 30+ years. About two-thirds of cases occurred between noon and midnight. About three-fourths of murder cases and over 90% of non-fatal shooting cases occurred in a public space<sup>2</sup>, the most common of which were the street, in a home or apartment, or in a vehicle. Guns, predominantly handguns, were the primary murder weapon in most murders and accounted for the vast majority of non-fatal shooting cases in which the firearm was specified. Among cases with an identified motive, over three-fourths of murder and non-fatal shooting cases were attributed to feud/retaliation, drugs, and/or an argument. Slightly more than one in every eight murder cases and one in every twenty non-fatal shooting cases were known to be related to a separate murder case. About one-third of 2013 murder cases and 2013 non-fatal shooting cases were designated as having likely or definitive gang member involvement.<sup>3</sup>

## Victims and Suspects

Victims and suspects were predominantly male and African-American. The mean age was 29.9 years for murder victims and 25.5 years for non-fatal shooting victims. Over half of the murder victims and about three-fourths of the non-fatal shooting victims were under the age of 30. More than three-fourths of all suspects were under the age of 30. About two-thirds of murder suspects and half of non-fatal shooting suspects were younger than their victims. The majority of victims and suspects had a documented history of ever being arrested, about a third to a half had ever been arrested on a drug-related charge, about a third had ever been arrested on a gun-related charge, and more than one in ten had been convicted of a gun-related charge.

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<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of this report, public space is defined as "any murder or non-fatal shooting which occurred outside a building or a private yard" (e.g., street, park, front yard, vehicle).

<sup>3</sup> Gang member involvement data were not available for 2012 murder or non-fatal shooting cases.

## **BETWEEN GROUP DIFFERENCES**

### **Differences by Year**

- Compared to 2013:
  - A higher percentage of 2012 murder and non-fatal shooting cases were known to be related to a separate murder case.
  - A higher percentage of 2012 murder victims had ever been arrested.
  - Suspects arrested for a 2012 non-fatal shooting were younger and less likely to be female.

### **Differences by Target Neighborhood**

- Murder incidents that occurred in a target neighborhood compared to those which occurred in a non-target neighborhood were more likely to:
  - Include another fatal or non-fatal shooting victim.
  - Involve a victim who was female and/or had ever been arrested on a drug-related charge.
- Non-fatal shooting incidents that occurred in a target neighborhood compared to those which occurred in a non-target neighborhood were more likely to:
  - Be designated as a confirmed or likely gang member involved (2013 data only).
  - Be related to a separate murder incident.
  - Be cleared through suspect arrest.

### **Differences by the Whether Victim Lived in the Same neighborhood in Which (S)He Was Murdered**

- Victims who lived in the same neighborhood in which they were murdered, compared to those who did not reside in the neighborhood in which they were murdered, were less likely to:
  - Be designated as gang member involved (2013 data only).
  - Be attributed to an argument, feud, retaliation, and/or drugs in cases with a known motive.
  - Be associated with a separate murder.
  - Involve a victim who was female and, on average, older.
- Non-fatal shooting cases in which the victim lived in the same neighborhood in which they were shot, compared to those who did not reside in the neighborhood in which they were shot, were less likely to:
  - Occur on the street (but more likely to occur within a private residence).
  - Be attributed to an argument, feud, retaliation, and/or drugs in cases with a known motive.

- People involved in a non-fatal shooting were more likely to live in the same neighborhood in which the incident occurred when it happened in:
  - Victims: a non-target neighborhood.
  - Suspects: a target neighborhood.

### **Differences by Age**

- Victims aged 13-20 years, compared to victims aged 21+ years, were more likely to be:
  - Murdered on a Sunday or Monday.
  - Murdered or non-fatally shot due to an argument, feud, retaliation, and/or drugs.
- Victims aged 13-20 years, compared to victims aged 21+ years, were less likely to be have ever been:
  - Arrested (any type) and/or arrested on a drug-related charge.
  - Arrested and/or convicted for a gun-related charge (non-fatal shooting victims only).
- Non-fatal shooting suspects aged 21-29 years, compared to suspects aged 13-20 years or aged 30+, were more likely to have ever been:
  - Arrested (any type) and/or arrested on a drug-related charge.
  - Arrested for a gun-related charge.
- Incidents involving 13-29 year old victims, compared to victims 30+ years, were more likely to:
  - Be gun-related fatalities (murder incidents only).
  - Designated as gang member involved (2013 data only) (murder incidents only).
  - Associated with a separate murder incident (non-fatal shooting incidents only).
- Victims aged 30+ years, compared non-fatal shooting victims aged 13-29 years, were more likely to be shot in a target neighborhood and be female.
- Declines with age were observed for the percentage of:
  - Murder and non-fatal shooting cases known to be associated with a separate murder incident.
  - Non-fatal shooting cases that were designated as confirmed or likely gang-member involvement (2013 data only).
- Declines with age were observed for the percentage of suspects who were women.
- Victims aged 13-20 years or 30+ years, compared to victims aged 21-29, were more likely to:
  - Live in the neighborhood in which they were murdered.
  - Have their non-fatal shooting case cleared through suspect arrest.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THIS REPORT**

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE MAYOR'S STRATEGIC COMMAND TO REDUCE MURDERS**

Effective January 1, 2014, the activities of the Mayor's Strategic Command to Reduce Murders were transferred to the Office of Criminal Justice Coordination in the Mayor's Office (City of New Orleans). For further information about future activities and reports, contact:

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