2018 King County Firearm Violence

King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office - Crime Strategies Unit

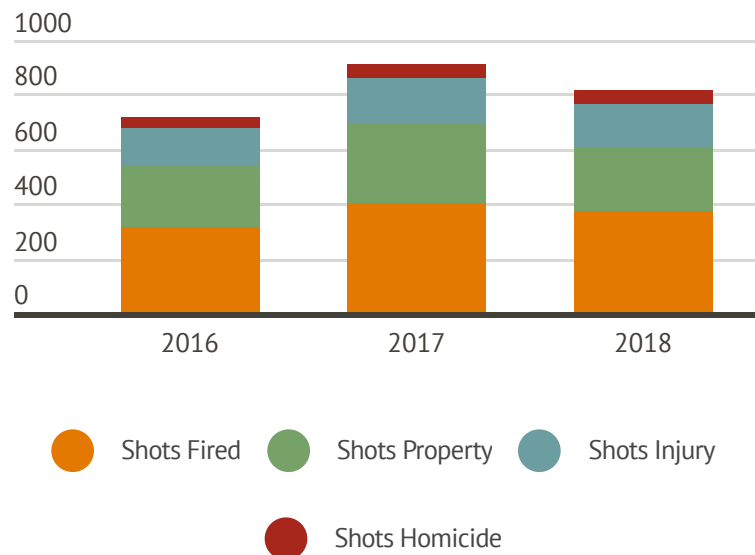paocsu@kingcounty.gov   February 2019

Regional Data Collection

"How many people were shot in King County last year?" Although a seemingly simple question, the lack of consistent and standardized data collection across the region's law enforcement agencies meant that it was a question that was difficult to answer. Based on an understanding that in order to prevent firearm violence we need to understand it, we now rely on closer coordination and improved data-sharing to collect and analyze existing law enforcement data around firearm violence. The numbers of firearm homicide victims, nonfatal shooting victims, and total shots fired incidents for 2018 are listed below. These numbers come from the 8 agencies in King County that have historically had over 90% of firearm violence (see list on Page 2), and do not include suicides or officer involved shootings.

55
Firearm Homicide Victims

191
Nonfatal Shooting Victims

817
Total Shots Fired Incidents
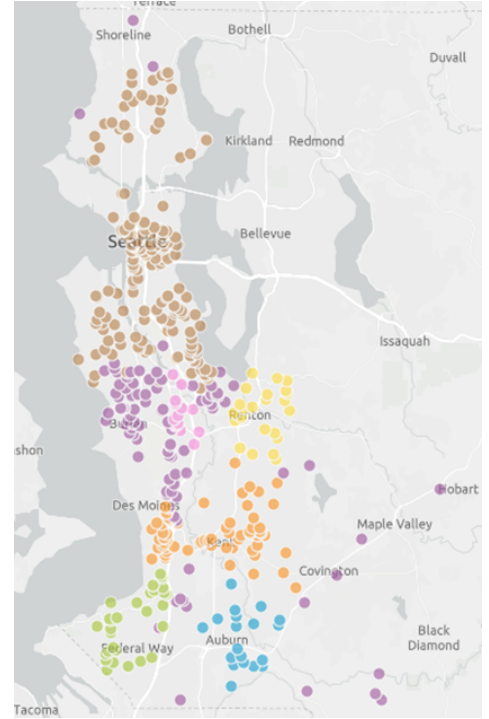
Historical Comparisons

Beyond the current, day-to-day, numbers, we are also working with our law enforcement partners to collect historical data on shots fired incidents. This data allows us to compare shots fired incidents over time and helps to place current levels of shots fired incidents in perspective. For example in 2018 total shots fired incidents were down 11% from 2017. While this is encouraging, the historical data allows us to understand that the improvement is more likely a regression to the mean and 2017 was an outlier.

Number and Type of Shots Fired Incidents

Legend: Shots Fired, Shots Property, Shots Injury, Shots Homicide

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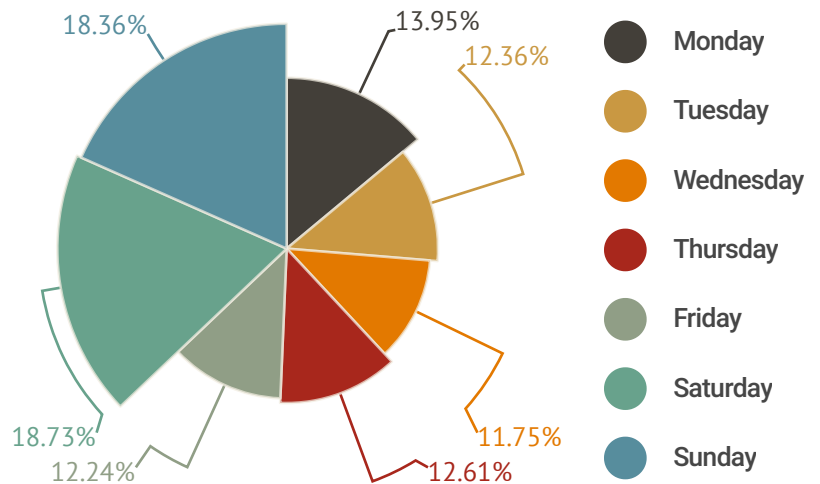
Geographic Distribution

Shootings in King County are not evenly distributed by jurisdiction. We currently collect data from 8 agencies: Seattle, Auburn, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, Tukwila, and the King County Sheriff's Office (including unincorporated King County and 16 contract cities/agencies). Per 2018 estimates, these 8 agencies account for roughly 79% of King County's total population. In 2017, 67% of the firearm homicide victims and 54% of the non-fatal shooting victims were from agencies outside of Seattle. In 2018, the percentages of both firearm homicide victims and non-fatal shooting victims from agencies outside of Seattle increased to 71% and 59% respectively. We are working closely with our law enforcement partners in King County to identify hot spots for firearm violence and to develop proactive approaches to reducing firearm violence.
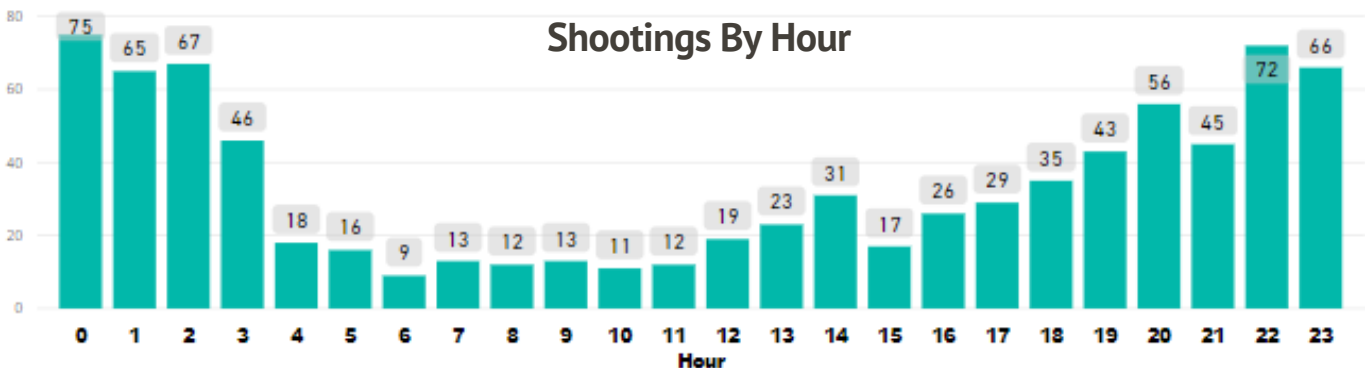
Time and Day Analysis

In 2018, 37% of the total shots fired incidents have taken place on Saturday or Sunday, and 42% have occurred in the 5 hour period between 10:00pm and 3:00am. This type of analysis can help provide law enforcement and community organizations with data-driven insights and can guide the development of responsive intervention programs.
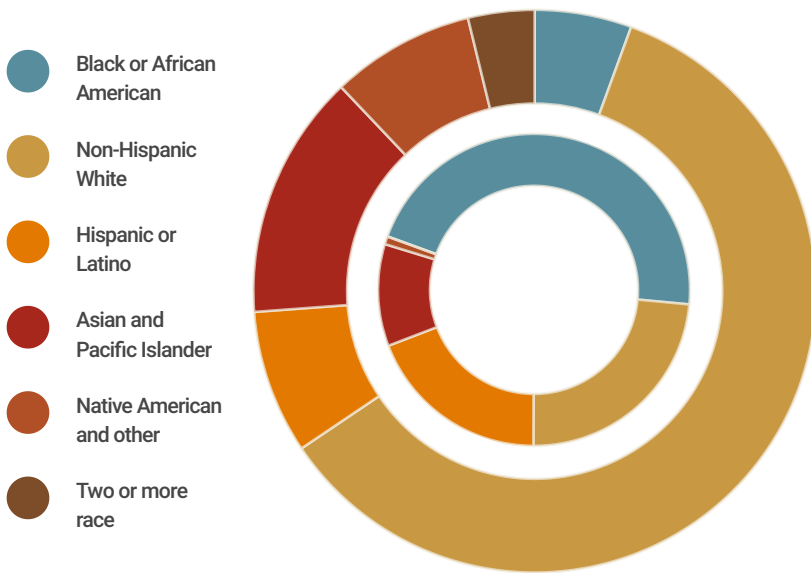
Shootings by Day of Week

13.95% Monday
12.36% Tuesday
11.75% Wednesday
12.61% Thursday
12.24% Friday
18.73% Saturday
18.36% Sunday

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday
- Sunday

Shootings By Hour

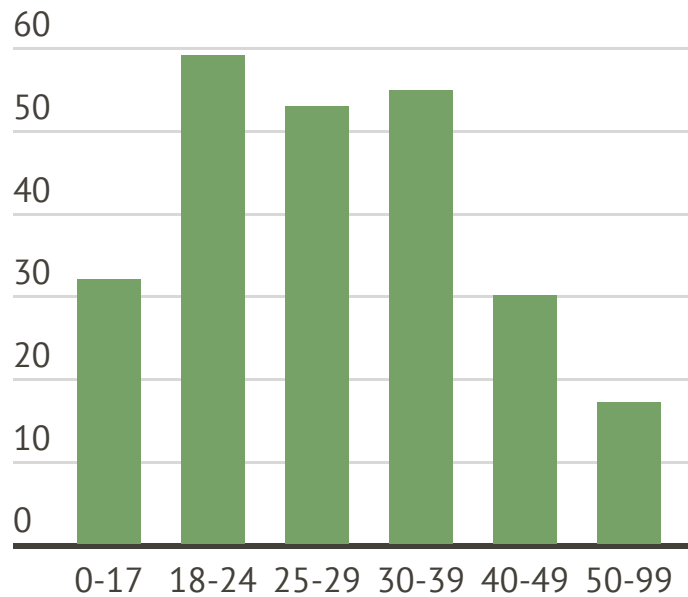| Hour	Shootings
0	75
1	65
2	67
3	46
4	18
5	16
6	9
7	13
8	12
9	13
10	11
11	12
12	19
13	23
14	31
15	17
16	26
17	29
18	35
19	43
20	56
21	45
22	72
23	66

Shooting Victim Demographics

Of the 246 shooting victims in 2018, 86% were male; 37% were under the age of 25; and 76% were people of color. Premature deaths in communities of color continue to occur due to gun violence. Therefore, we are committed to analyzing and sharing data that reflects the disproportionate impact on people of color. We are actively working with our partners in law enforcement, public health, and the community to develop focused strategies that focus on protecting young men of color from continuing to be disproportionately affected by firearm violence.

Race/Ethnicity

Outer Circle = General Population
Inner Circle = Shooting Victims

- Black or African American
- Non-Hispanic White
- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian and Pacific Islander
- Native American and other
- Two or more race

Victim Age

Gun Violence Prevention

Research has shown that individuals that have gunshot victims as part of their social network (i.e. relative, friend/acquaintance, neighbor) are at an extremely elevated risk of being victims themselves. As part of our public health approach to firearm violence, we are using Social Network Analysis to provide data-driven guidance for funneling limited law-enforcement and community resources toward the individuals who are at the highest risk of being victims or perpetrators of gun violence. As we conduct this new analysis of already existing law enforcement data, we are working closely with a small steering committee of community members, public health professionals, and and law enforcement representatives to provide oversight and help inform our use of this data to prevent future firearm violence.

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