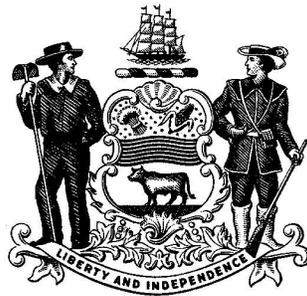


Delaware Shootings 2016

An Overview of Incidents, Suspects, and Victims

October 2017



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Criminal Justice Council
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Executive Summary

Overview

The following report is the sixth in a series examining criminal, non-accidental shooting incidents in Delaware that resulted in the injury or death of another person. This report focuses on multiple characteristics of shooting incidents that occurred in 2016, victims injured as a result, and suspects involved.

The shooting incident-related data included in this report were obtained from Delaware's Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). Complaint records filed by law enforcement agencies were downloaded from CJIS for 2016 then filtered, reviewed, and triangulated against a database of information from media and law enforcement agency websites to identify incidents where a criminal, non-accidental discharge of a firearm resulted in the death or injury of one or more victims. Once all incidents had been identified, suspect and victim demographic information and arrest histories were downloaded and matched with incident information. Analyses were then conducted to examine characteristics of shooting incidents, victims, and suspects.

Key Findings

Incidents, Victims, and Suspects

In 2016, there were 230 criminal, non-accidental shooting incidents in Delaware that resulted in the injury or death of 261 individuals. This was the second highest number of shootings since the SAC initiated its statewide report in 2011. Forty-two victims died as a result of their wounds in 42 incidents and 219 victims had non-fatal injuries. Five victims died during incidents related to an intimate relationship. The number of incidents where a bystander or unintended person was struck (15) was similar to the two prior years.

More than 360 individuals were suspected of involvement in the shooting incidents, with 131 suspects identified by name. As of August 2017, arrests had been made in 31% of all shooting incidents and 40% of homicide incidents.

Most incidents (81.3%) occurred in New Castle County. The City of Wilmington was the location for 128 incidents (55.7% of the state total, 68.5% of the county total). Kent County accounted for 29 incidents (12.6%), the second highest during the SAC's reporting effort, but a 40% decrease from 2015. Sussex County experienced 14 (6.1%) incidents, an increase of 40% compared to 2015. Maps of shooting incidents for these geographic areas are located in *Shooting Incidents in Delaware: Mapping Supplement for the 2015 and 2016 Statewide Reports*, located on the SAC's website (<https://sac.delaware.gov/crime/>).

Demographic Characteristics

Most shooting victims (87%) were male. Blacks comprised the largest racial group of victims (81.6% overall and also 82.7% of male victims). For the 83 incidents where demographic information was available for both victims and named suspects, 84.3% involved victims and suspects who were all or predominantly of the same race. The gender and race patterns are consistent with the findings of all five previous statewide shooting reports.

Prior Criminal Involvement of Suspects and Victims

Most victims and those suspects who had been identified by name had criminal histories in Delaware (84.3% and 94.1% respectively). Of those with a Delaware criminal history, most victims and suspects had at least one felony arrest (74.1% and 76.4% respectively). Most victims and identified suspects were juveniles at the time of their first Delaware arrest (83.4% and 86.8% respectively). These patterns in criminal history and age at first arrest are consistent with the findings of all five previous statewide shooting reports.

Victim and Witness Cooperation with Shooting Investigations

An examination of the cooperation of witnesses and victims in shooting investigations indicates that, in 64.7% of incidents that could be assessed, witnesses could be described as being highly cooperative. Victims had a similar level of cooperation in 35.6% of assessable incidents.

Initial Examination Gang Involvement

A preliminary, initial examination of gang involvement in shooting incidents suggests that at least 27 incidents (11.8%) appeared to have been gang-related. Almost half of these 27 incidents occurred in Wilmington and just over half involved juvenile victims.

An Overview of Delaware Shootings in 2016

The following report is the sixth in a series examining criminal, non-accidental shooting incidents in Delaware that resulted in the injury or death of another person. The first three reports covered 2011, 2012, and 2013 and focused on multiple characteristics of shooting incidents, victims injured as a result, and suspects involved. The 2013 report also included an analysis of the legal status and outcomes of incidents from 2011 and 2012. The 2014 and 2015 reports built on those prior reports and included an examination of victim and witness cooperation with subsequent shooting investigations.

The current report was modified in two ways to reflect an apparent increase in gang-related activity and significant gang-related arrest and prosecution activity in 2016 and 2017: 1) a brief section on apparent gang involvement has been added; and 2) the legal status and outcomes section will be produced as supplemental report at a later date to allow time for numerous criminal prosecutions (that will affect status and outcome data for prior years as well) to be completed and records in the Criminal Justice and Justice Information Center information systems to be fully updated.

Prior to 2011, shooting reports produced by the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) of the Delaware Criminal Justice Council focused exclusively on incidents occurring in Wilmington, Delaware.

Shooting Analysis Methodology

The data presented in this report were obtained from Delaware's Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). First, complaint records filed by law enforcement agencies were downloaded from CJIS for 2016. After the initial download, these records went through multiple stages of filtering to identify incidents where a criminal, non-accidental discharge of a firearm resulted in the death or injury of one or more victims. Detailed records were then reviewed individually to verify that every incident included at least one victim who was injured or killed by a firearm through criminal, non-accidental actions. Once all incidents had been identified, information about suspect and victim demographics and arrest histories was downloaded from CJIS and matched with incident information. Analyses were then conducted to examine characteristics of shooting incidents, victims, and suspects.

To inform the process of identifying, locating, and confirming incidents within CJIS, active monitoring of media and law enforcement agency websites was conducted throughout the year to flag shooting incidents as they were publicly announced.

Maps of shooting incidents for the state, each county, and the cities of Wilmington and Dover were also created. Please see *Shooting Incidents in Delaware: Mapping Supplement for the 2015 and 2016 Statewide Reports*, located on the SAC's website (<https://sac.delaware.gov/crime/>), for further detail and the methodology used to create them.

Considerations and Limitations

Criminal investigation of shooting incidents, as is typical for many violent crimes, can be complex. In some situations, an investigation may be quickly and definitively closed through the clear identification and speedy arrest of a suspect. In many incidents however, much time and effort is required to interview witnesses and victims, sort through and follow up on investigative leads, interview persons of interest and possible suspects, and finally build a criminal case that leads to the issuance of a warrant and eventually to an arrest. Much information can be generated during the course of the investigation and old information can change, particularly as the investigation moves through its early stages. In other cases, an investigation may reveal little information—there may be no witnesses to the incident, the victim may not be able to provide information helpful to the investigation, or, in some situations, the victim may refuse to cooperate with the investigation.

In investigations that generate much information, law enforcement agencies must update complaint records often, introducing numerous opportunities for errors and missing data and creating a large amount of data for crime analysis review. In incidents where an investigation generates little information, only limited data is available for analysis.

Occasional data issues in the complaint records submitted and maintained by law enforcement agencies (e.g., incorrectly labeled records, missing or inaccurate information in victim, suspect, and brief text fields, records updated after the SAC's filtering process begins, etc.) require the use of triangulated data sources to increase the confidence that the final data set is as complete as possible. These data issues require extensive checking and rechecking of the data to arrive at the final counts presented in this report. Despite these quality control measures, it remains a possibility that shooting incidents are undercounted in this report, although likely to only a very minor degree.

Note that this report does not address accidental shooting incidents (of one's self or another), intentional self-inflicted shooting incidents, or shooting incidents determined by law enforcement investigation to be justified (e.g., self-defense).

Shooting Incidents, Victims, and Suspects

This study identified 230 shooting incidents reported to Delaware’s police agencies in 2016, second only to the high of 236 set in 2015. These incidents resulted in the injury or death of 261 victims. Eight incidents were related to an intimate partner relationship, leading to the death of five victims. The total numbers of incidents, victims, and suspects for 2016 are shown in Table 1. These totals reflect only criminal, non-accidental shootings of another person.

Wilmington accounted for 55.7% of all 2016 shooting incidents and more than half of all victims (147 victims or 56.3%). Suburban New Castle County accounted for 59 (25.7%) incidents and 26.1% of victims. Overall, 187 of the incidents (81.3%) reported in Delaware in 2016 occurred in New Castle County resulting in 215 (82.4%) victims. Kent County accounted for 29 incidents (12.6%), a 40% decrease from 2015, which resulted in 32 (12.3%) victims. Sussex County experienced 14 incidents (6.1%), a 40% increase from the prior year, with 14 (5.4%) victims. Figures 1 and 2 on page 8 provide more information about the locations of the 2016 shooting incidents (with 2012 through 2015 location data provided for comparison).

A review of police complaint records shows that at least 367 suspects were thought to be involved in the 230 incidents shown in Table 1. As of August 2017, 131 (35.7%) of the 367 suspects had been identified by name. Arrests had been made in 66 incidents (30.7%) resulting in 91 individual arrests. In another three incidents, the individual who would have otherwise been arrested for committing the shooting died at the scene. Two additional individuals were killed during later incidents while investigations were ongoing. These five total individuals are included in subsequent tables, with the incidents classified as exceptional clearances.

Note to the Reader About Suspect Counts

The *actual* number of suspects involved in the shooting incidents cannot be determined as of the report date. A number of factors affect the suspect numbers derived from CJIS, including:

- The number of suspects in an incident may not be known or revealed to police.
- Substantial differences in victim and witness accounts of suspect information.
- In incidents where multiple suspects are identified by name or arrested, determination of who discharged a weapon or otherwise materially participated in the incident (e.g., aided in an attempt to rob a victim) may not be resolved for some time.
- In many incidents, general information about suspects (such as their number, general physical descriptions, and age range) is clear, but their identities remain unknown even after extensive investigation.
- Victim criminal behavior during the incident that may preclude full disclosure of facts.

Each of these factors requires a different response when recording information in the complaint record and these factors can lead to an over- or under-count of suspects involved in the incident. SAC staff reviewed individual complaint records to make appropriate adjustments to the suspects count. However, it is likely that the number of suspects reported in this study undercounts the actual number of offenders who participated in the incidents.

Table 1: Incidents, Victims, and Suspects by County

Shootings in 2016 by Reporting Agency						
County	Agency	Incidents	Victims	Suspects		
				All Suspects	Identified by Name	Incidents with an Arrest (Individual Arrests)*
New Castle	Wilmington Police Dept.	128	147	197	62	31 (40)
	Suburban New Castle County	59	68	88	29	18 (23)
	New Castle County PD	45	52	65	15	13 (14)
	Delaware State Police Trp. 1	3	4	5	4	2 (4)
	DSP Troop 6	3	4	5	3	1 (2)
	DSP Troop 2	2	2	2	0	0
	DSP Troop 9	2	2	4	4	1 (2)
	Middletown Police Dept.	2	2	2	1	1 (1)
	New Castle City PD	1	1	4	2	0
	Newark Police Dept.	1	1	1	0	0
	New Castle County Total	187	215	285	91	49 (63)
Kent	Dover Police Dept.	19	21	33	19	9 (11)
	DSP Troop 3	7	7	12	5	2 (5)
	DSP Troop 9	2	2	7	0	0
	Milford Police Dept.	1	2	1	1	1 (1)
		Kent County Total	29	32	53	25
Sussex	DSP Troop 5	5	5	8	2	1 (1)
	DSP Troop 7	4	4	5	1	1 (1)
	DSP Troop 4	2	2	3	0	0
	Blades Police Dept.	1	1	2	2	1 (2)
	Georgetown Police Dept.	1	1	7	7	1 (5)
	Seaford Police Dept.	1	1	4	3	1 (2)
		Sussex County Total	14	14	29	15
	Statewide Total	230	261	367	131	66 (91)

*Arrest counts include five deceased suspects (two by suicide—both at the shooting scene) who would otherwise have been arrested for the shooting, with the incident classified as an exceptional clearance.

Shooting incidents in 2016 that resulted in the death of a victim are shown in Table 2. Forty-two (16.7%) of the 261 victims succumbed to their injuries as a result of 42 separate incidents. Overall, 81% of the 42 fatal shooting incidents occurred in New Castle County and 6 (14.3%) in Kent County, with two (4.8%) in Sussex County. Wilmington accounted for 20 (47.6%) of all fatal shooting incidents in Delaware in 2016.

As of August 2017, 30 (47.7%) of the at least 63 homicide suspects had been positively identified. Arrests had been made in 40.4% of all fatal incidents resulting in 23 individual arrests (36.5% of all suspects). However, in those incidents where at least one suspect has been named, 85% resulted in an arrest.

Five of the fatal incidents were related to intimate relationships, with four suspects shooting a current or former girlfriend or spouse. Two suspects committed suicide at the scene of the incident and are included as an exceptional clearance in the arrest data. In another incident, a partner was killed during a fight with family members.

Table 2: Fatal Shootings by Reporting Agency

Fatal Shootings in 2016 by Reporting Agency						
County	Agency	Incidents	Victims	Suspects		
				All Suspects	Identified By Name	Incidents with an Arrest (Individual Arrests)*
New Castle	Wilmington Police Dept.	20	20	27	12	6 (9)
	Suburban New Castle County	14	14	20	12	8 (8)
	New Castle County PD	11	11	12	7	7 (7)
	DSP Troop 1	1	1	2	1	1 (1)
	DSP Troop 9	1	1	2	2	0
	New Castle City PD	1	1	4	2	0
	New Castle County Total	34	34	47	24	14 (17)
Kent	Dover Police Dept.	3	3	6	2	2 (2)
	DSP Troop 3	2	2	5	4	1 (4)
	DSP Troop 9	1	1	1	0	0
		Kent County Total	6	6	12	6
Sussex	DSP Troop 4	1	1	1	0	0
	DSP Troop 5	1	1	3	0	0
		Sussex County Total	2	2	4	0
	Statewide Total	42	42	63	30	17 (23)

*The arrest counts include three deceased suspects who would otherwise have been arrested for committing the shooting, with the incidents classified as an exceptional clearance.

Note: Additional information about firearm homicides committed in Delaware since 1996 that involved domestic and family violence can be found in the Delaware Domestic Violence Coordinating Council’s *Fatal Incident Review Team Reports*, available at: <https://dvcc.delaware.gov/reports/> .

Figure 1: Distribution of 2012-2016 Shooting Incidents (All Incidents)

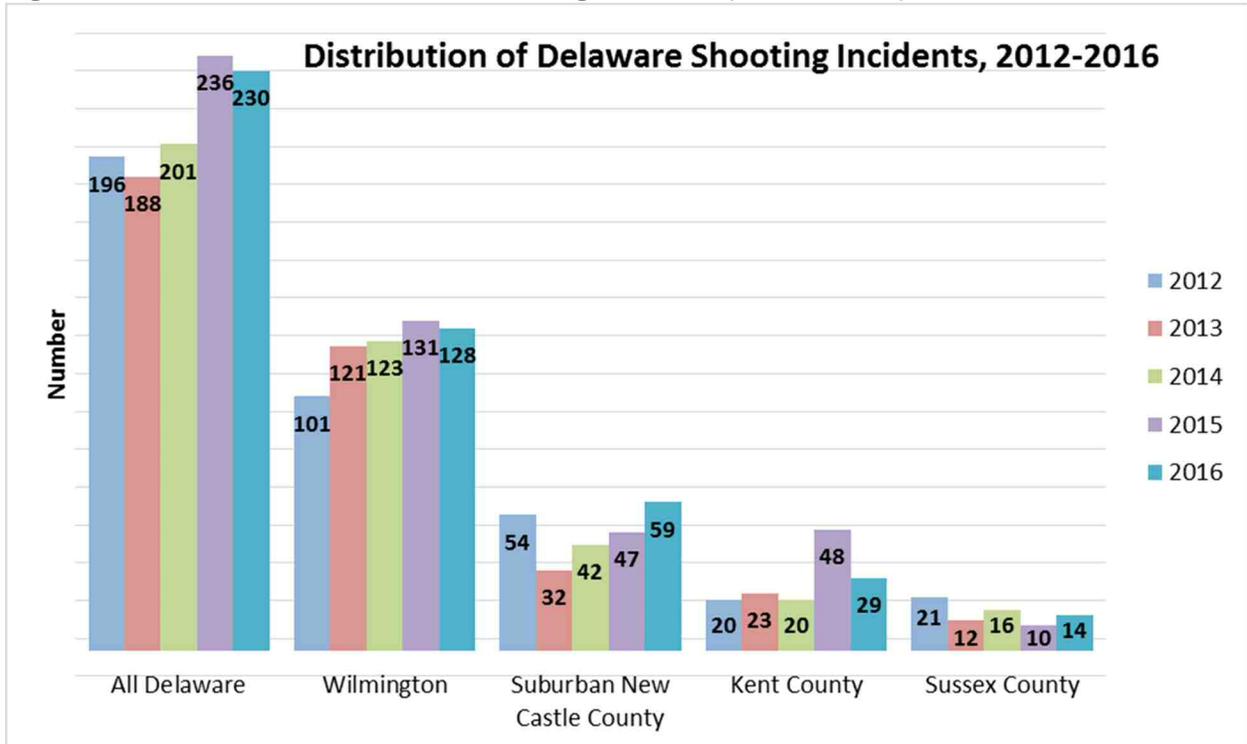
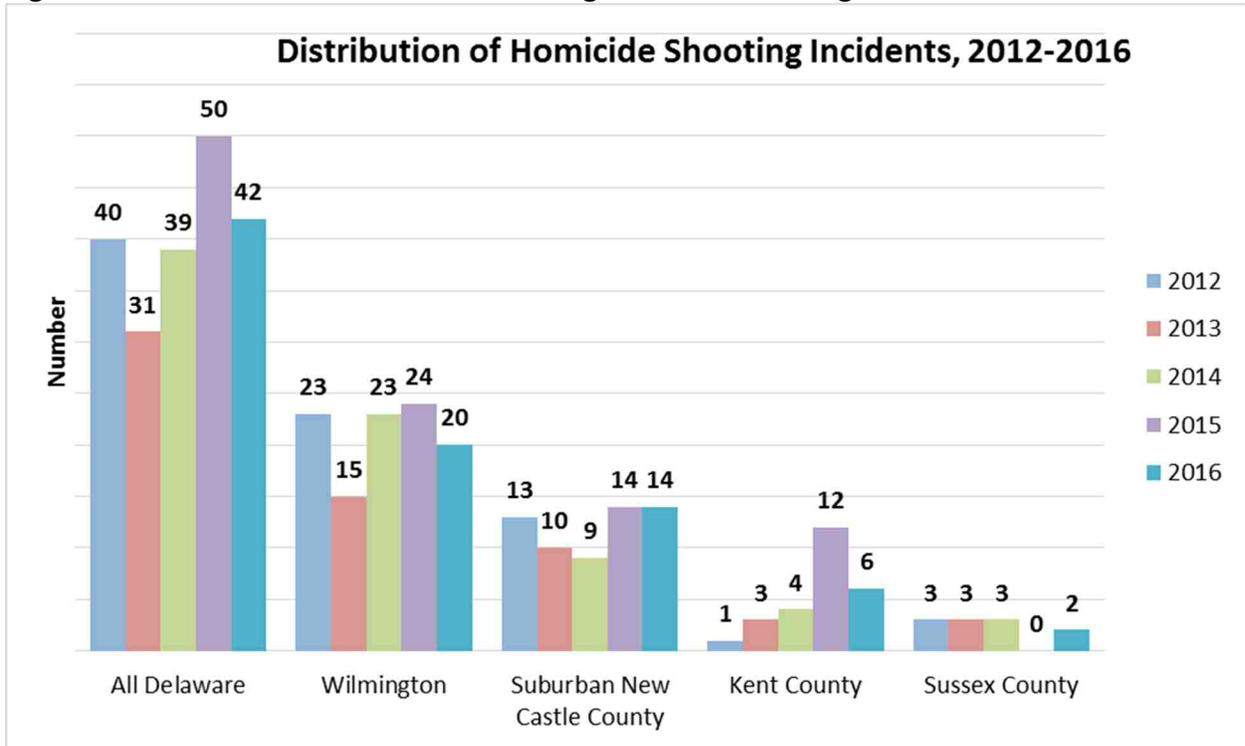


Figure 2: Distribution of 2012-2016 Shooting Incidents Involving Homicide



Note: Further geographic information regarding fatal and non-fatal shooting incidents in this report may be found in *Shooting Incidents in Delaware: Mapping Supplement for the 2015 and 2016 Statewide Reports*, located on the SAC's website (<https://sac.delaware.gov/crime/>). This supplement contains maps for the entire state (pages 3-4), each county (pages 5-10), and the cities of Wilmington (pages 11-12) and Dover (pages 13-14).

Demographic Profile of Shooting Suspects and Victims

Race, sex, and age information for the unique 2016 shooting suspects who had been identified by name and unique individuals who appear likely to have been involved in a shooting incident in a direct or accessory role but for whom the threshold for being classified as an identified suspect was not reached is shown in Table 3. The decision to include this latter group was made to provide a richer sense of the social milieu surrounding shooting incidents. As of August 2017, 153 such individuals had been identified by name. This expanded group of unique identified suspects was predominantly male (96.1%) and 91.5% were 30 years old or younger with an average age of 22.4 years. Black males comprised 80.4% of this expanded suspect group. Approximately 7% of the suspects in this table were also of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

Table 3: Demographic Profile of 2016 Identified Shooting Suspects

Demographic Profile of 2016 Identified Shooting Suspects*							
Age Range	Race, Ethnicity, and Sex						Total***
	Race and Sex				Ethnicity and Sex**		
	Black Male	White Male	Black Female	White Female	Hispanic Male	Hispanic Female	
Under 14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 to 17	38	3	0	1	2	0	42
18 to 21	40	6	2	0	3	0	48
22 to 25	20	8	1	0	4	0	29
26 to 30	19	1	1	0	1	0	21
31 to 35	5	4	0	0	1	0	9
36 to 40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41 to 45	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
46 to 50	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Over 50	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Average Age	21.5	25.9	23.4	32.1	22.9	NA	22.4
Totals	123	24	4	2	11	0	153

*All suspects in the table have been identified by name.

**Race and Ethnicity are considered separate concepts for demographic purposes. In the 'Race and Sex' columns of this table, each category includes both Hispanic and non-Hispanic suspects. In the 'Ethnicity and Sex' columns, all races are included. Therefore, if a person is Hispanic, he/she would be counted twice in this table – once each in the respective columns for race and ethnicity.

***The figures in this column are based on the race and sex columns, since suspects would otherwise be counted twice if they were Hispanic.

While about almost 60% of shooting incidents remain without an identified primary suspect, the larger patterns observed in the incident, victim, and suspect characteristics data since 2011 suggest that unidentified suspects in the remaining 2016 incidents would likely be very similar in demographic characteristics to those included in Table 3.

Demographic information for the 2016 shooting victims is shown in Table 4. Most victims (87%) were male. Overall, 67.1% of victims were between 18 and 35 years old with an average age of 27.6 years. Black males accounted for 81.6% of all shooting victims in 2016. Approximately 7.3% of victims were also of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

Table 4: Demographic Profile of 2016 Shooting Victims

Demographic Profile of 2016 Shooting Victims							
Age Range	Race, Ethnicity, and Sex						Total**
	Race and Sex				Ethnicity and Sex*		
	Black Male	White Male	Black Female	White Female	Hispanic Male	Hispanic Female	
Under 14	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
14 to 17	30	3	3	0	2	0	36
18 to 21	37	8	8	1	2	0	54
22 to 25	33	8	9	1	4	1	51
26 to 30	37	8	1	0	3	0	46
31 to 35	21	0	2	0	0	0	23
36 to 40	10	4	2	2	3	0	18
41 to 45	10	2	0	0	1	0	12
46 to 50	3	1	0	0	1	0	4
Over 50	4	5	1	3	1	1	13
Average Age	26.5	31.6	24.9	41.4	30.2	37.6	27.6
Totals	186	39	27	7	17	2	259***

*Race and Ethnicity are considered separate concepts for demographic purposes. In the 'Race and Sex' columns of this table, each category includes both Hispanic and non-Hispanic victims. In the 'Ethnicity and Sex' columns, all races are included. Therefore, if a person is Hispanic, he/she would be counted twice in this table – once each in the respective columns for race and ethnicity.

**The figures in this column are based on the race and sex columns, since victims would otherwise be counted twice if they were Hispanic.

***The remaining two victims not included in this table are males whose race is 'Other.'

Demographic Profile of Shooting Incidents

Since a number of shootings involved multiple suspects and/or multiple victims, comparing the total set of victims with the total set of suspects to understand the demographics of 2016 shooting incidents can be misleading. Instead, race and age data for the victims and suspects (using the 131 suspects identified by name in Table 1) involved in each incident were examined and then consolidated so that each incident could be assigned single categories for victim age, victim race, suspect age, and suspect race. Each victim-suspect category pair could then be compared and the incident categorized on the extent to which suspects and victims were similar to or different from each other based on each pairing.

Table 5 explores the relationship between suspect and victim race based on the categories assigned for each incident. Of the 83 incidents in 2016 where race information was available for both named suspects and victims, 70 (84.3%) involved suspects and victims who were all or mostly of the same race. This percentage was notably higher for incidents that involved Black victims (92.3% of 65 incidents) and markedly lower for incidents involving White victims (55.6% of 18 incidents).

Table 5: Correlation Between Victim and Suspect Race by Incident Level

Correlation between Victim and Suspect Race – Incident Level							
	Victim Race Category Assigned to Incident						
	Black			White			Overall
	Number	% of Row Total	% of Column Total	Number	% of Row Total	% of Column Total	Number
ALL Suspects and ALL Victims of Same Race	54	88.5%	83.1%	7	10.5%	38.9%	61
MAJORITY of Victims and of Suspects BOTH of Same Race	6	66.7%	9.2%	3	33.3%	16.7%	9
Victims Shot by Suspects of DIFFERENT Race	5	38.5%	7.7%	8	61.5%	44.4%	13
Total	65			18			83

Table 6 explores the relationship between suspect and victim age based on the categories assigned for each incident. In 82 incidents, age information was available for both suspects and victims. One of five broad age categories was then assigned to victims in an incident if at least a majority belonged to the same age group. This same process was repeated for the named suspects in each incident. For 10 incidents there was no majority age group. In 72 incidents, each victim and suspect group could be assigned an age category and were then compared. In the incidents where victim and suspect age categories could be compared, overall, 54.2% of shooting incidents involved suspects and victims who were within the same age range (indicated by the shaded boxes in the table). Except for the juvenile category, the remaining groups saw only a minority of victims shot by suspects in the same age range, with proportions ranging from 0% to 33%. Overall, 48 of the 72 incidents examined (66.7%) involved suspects in the 18 to 30 age group.

Table 6: Victim-Suspect Age Correlation by Incident level

Victim-Suspect Age Correlation - Incident level							
		Victim Age Category Assigned to Incident					Suspect Category Totals
		Under 18	18-30	31-40	41-50	Over 50	
Suspect Age Category Assigned to Incident	Under 18	6	10	0	1	0	17
	18-30	3	32	8	4	1	48
	31-40	0	3	0	0	1	4
	41-50	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Over 50	0	0	0	1	1	2
Victim Category Totals		9	46	8	6	3	72

Criminal Histories of Shooting Suspects and Victims

Table 7 summarizes the Delaware criminal arrest histories for unique victims, unique shooting suspects, and unique individuals who appear likely to have been involved in a shooting incident in a direct or accessory role but for whom the threshold for being classified as an identified suspect was not reached. The decision to include this latter group was made to provide a richer sense of the social milieu surrounding shooting incidents. Most of the 153 suspects in this expanded group (94.1%) and of the 256 shooting victims (84.3%) had an arrest history in Delaware. Of those with such arrest histories, 110 suspects (76.4%) and 160 victims (74.1%) had at least one felony arrest. Of those with a felony history, 66% of victims and 61% of suspects had three or more arrests on felony charges. Note that the number of known suspects represents just 45% of the total minimum suspect count. Therefore, caution is urged when drawing conclusions about differences between suspect and victim arrest histories. The inclusion of additional known suspects could lead to smaller or larger differences in these patterns.

Table 7: Suspect and Victim Delaware Criminal Histories (Unique Individuals)

Delaware Criminal Histories for Shooting Victims and Suspects Identified by Name				
Criminal History	Identified Suspects		Victims	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Known Suspects and Victims	153		256	
Have Arrest History in Delaware*	144	94.1%	216	84.3%
≥1 Arrest was for a Felony	110	76.4%	160	74.1%
Felony Drug Arrests	50	34.7%	80	37.0%
1 or 2 Arrests	34	68.0%	50	62.5%
3 Arrests of More	16	32.0%	30	37.5%
Felony Weapons Arrests	63	43.8%	92	42.6%
1 or 2 Arrests	51	81.0%	78	84.8%
3 Arrests of More	12	19.1%	14	15.2%
Other Felony Arrests	92	63.9%	138	63.9%
1 or 2 Arrests	52	56.5%	75	54.3%
3 Arrests of More	40	43.5%	63	45.7%
Violent Felony Arrests**	101	70.1%	145	67.1%
1 or 2 Arrests	53	52.5%	67	46.2%
3 Arrests of More	48	47.5%	78	53.8%

*Felony percentages are of those with an arrest history.

**Violent felonies included in this table are those defined in Title 11, §4201c of the Delaware Code.

Around 35% of victims and suspects with felony arrests had been arrested for a felony drug offense. Most suspects and victims had at least one arrest for a violent felony (as defined in Title 11, §4201c of the Delaware Code, which includes certain drug and weapons felonies) or a non-violent, non-drug-related felony (termed ‘other felony’). About 43% of suspects and victims had at least one arrest for a felony weapons offense percentage for victims. Across all four felony categories, the differences in arrest percentages between victims and suspects were small.

Table 8 compares the age at first contact with the Delaware criminal justice system for the shooting suspects and victims who had criminal histories prior to the shooting incident. The table shows that 86.8% of the included 144 identified shooting suspects in 2016 with histories and 83.4% of 216 shooting victims with histories were younger than age 18 at the time of their first arrest in Delaware.

Table 8: Age at First Contact with Delaware’s Criminal Justice System

Age of Suspects and Victims with Delaware Arrest Histories at First Contact with Delaware’s Criminal Justice System				
Age Range	Known Suspects		Victims	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 14	70	48.6%	82	38.0%
14 to 17	55	38.2%	98	45.4%
18 to 21	14	9.7%	18	8.3%
22 to 25	4	2.8%	8	3.7%
26 to 30	0	0.0%	2	0.9%
31 to 35	0	0.0%	3	1.4%
36 to 40	1	0.7%	2	0.9%
41 to 45	0	0.0%	2	0.9%
46 to 50	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Over 50	0	0.0%	1	0.5%
Total with a Delaware History	144		216	

Day and Time Analysis of 2016 Shootings in Delaware

Table 9 and the three figures that follow show the distribution of 2016 shooting incidents by the day of the week and the month in which they occurred. Incidents most frequently occurred on a Tuesday (42 incidents) and least often on a Friday (27 incidents). More shooting incidents occurred in March (32 incidents) with the fewest occurring in April (9). For illustrative purposes, figures for Delaware and Wilmington showing the monthly progression of shootings for 2011 through 2016 are also included (see Figures 5 and 6).

Table 9: 2016 Shooting Incidents by Month and Day of Week

Incidents by Month and Day of Week								
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Month Total
January	2	2	1	2	1	0	0	8
February	2	3	1	0	3	5	4	18
March	4	3	10	4	6	4	1	32
April	1	2	2	0	1	3	0	9
May	3	3	4	4	2	0	5	21
June	3	3	4	1	1	2	4	18
July	4	3	4	3	4	3	7	28
August	2	3	4	2	2	2	5	20
September	2	1	3	2	5	3	5	21
October	4	5	3	4	4	2	1	23
November	3	4	2	6	2	1	2	20
December	0	2	4	1	3	2	0	12
Day Total	30	34	42	29	34	27	34	230

Figure 3: Shooting Incidents by Day of the Week—Wilmington and Rest of Delaware

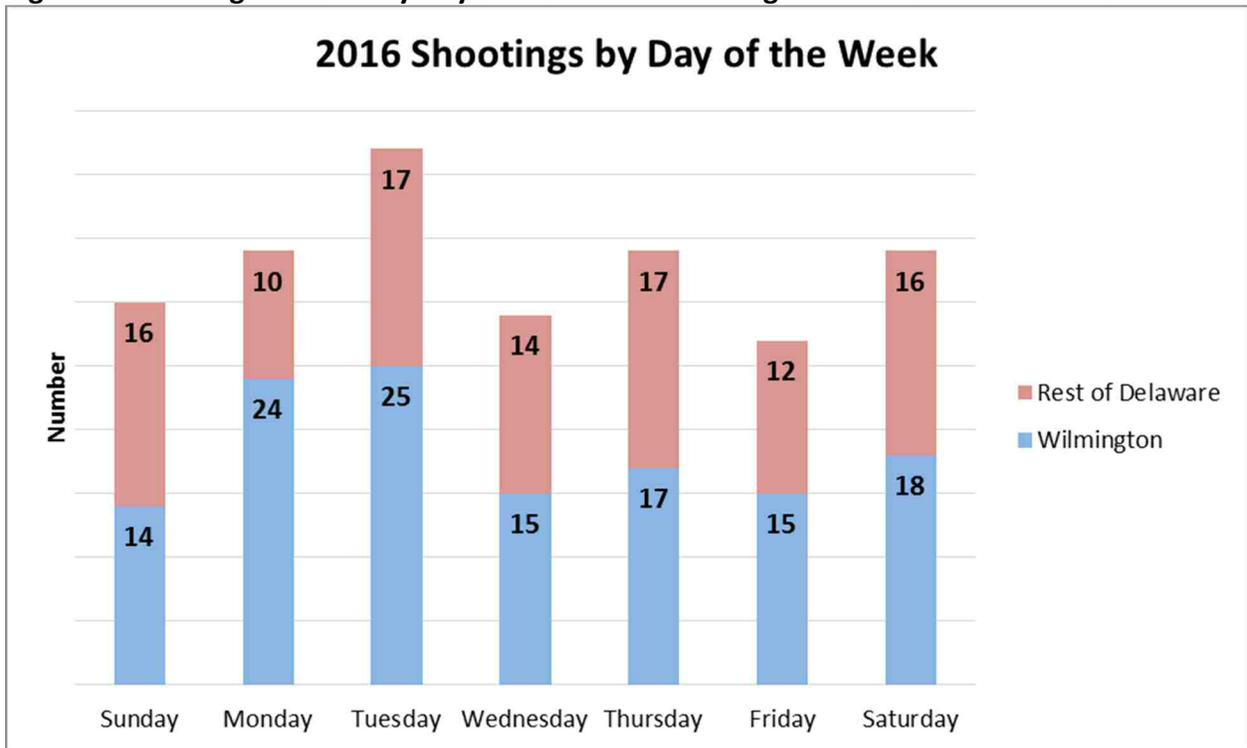


Figure 4: Shooting Incidents by Month—Wilmington and Rest of Delaware

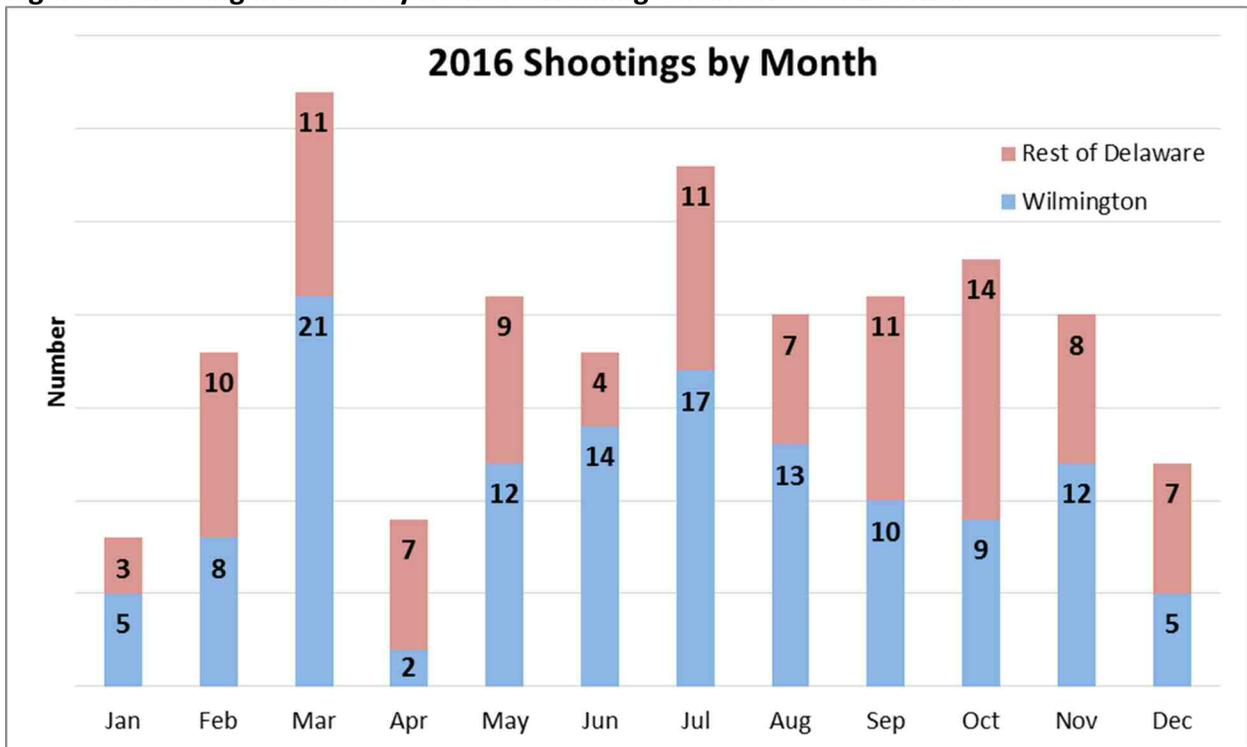


Figure 5: Monthly Progression of Delaware Shooting Incidents, 2011-2016

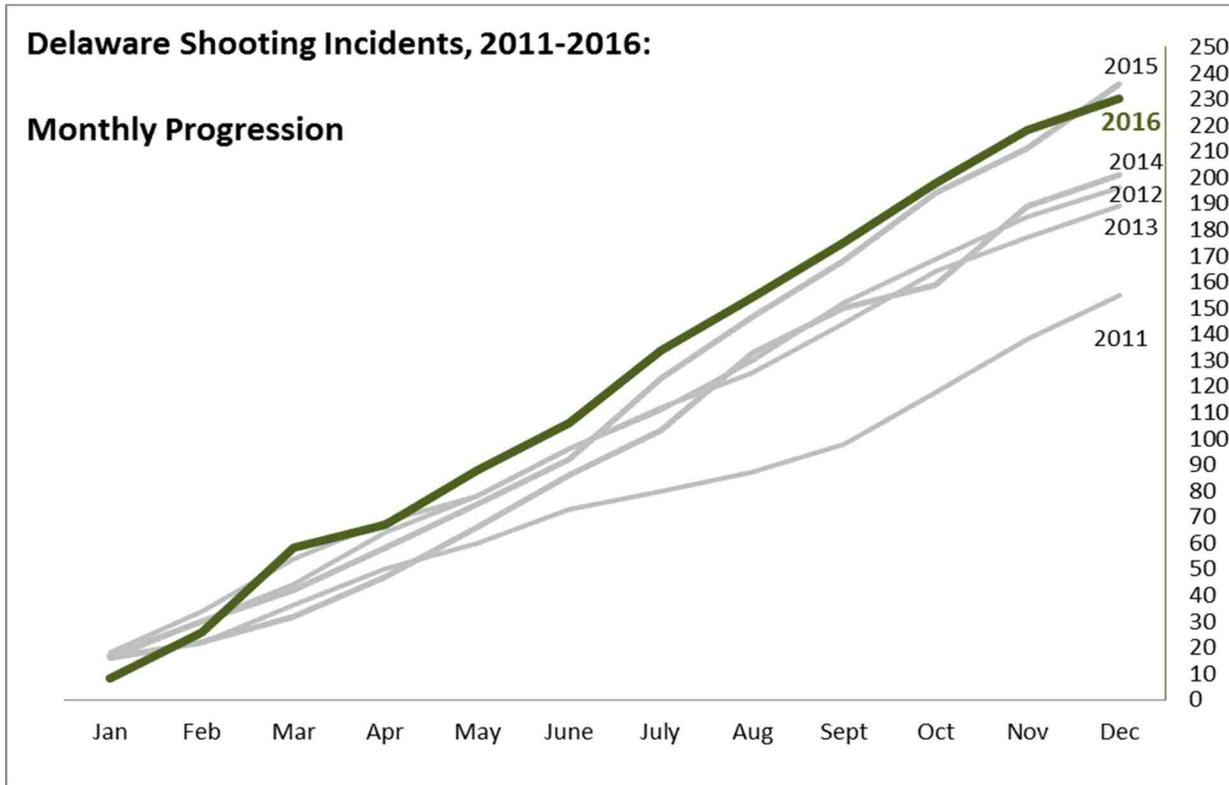


Figure 6: Monthly Progression of Wilmington Shooting Incidents, 2011-2016

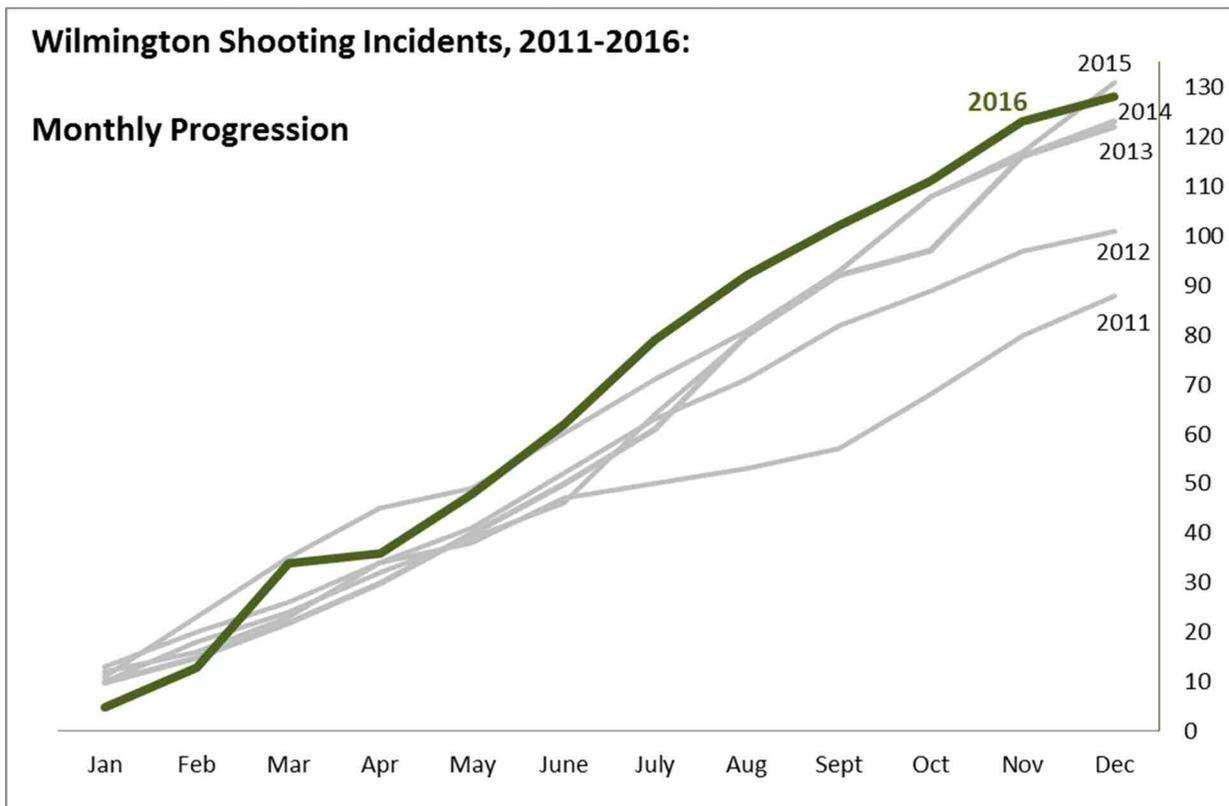
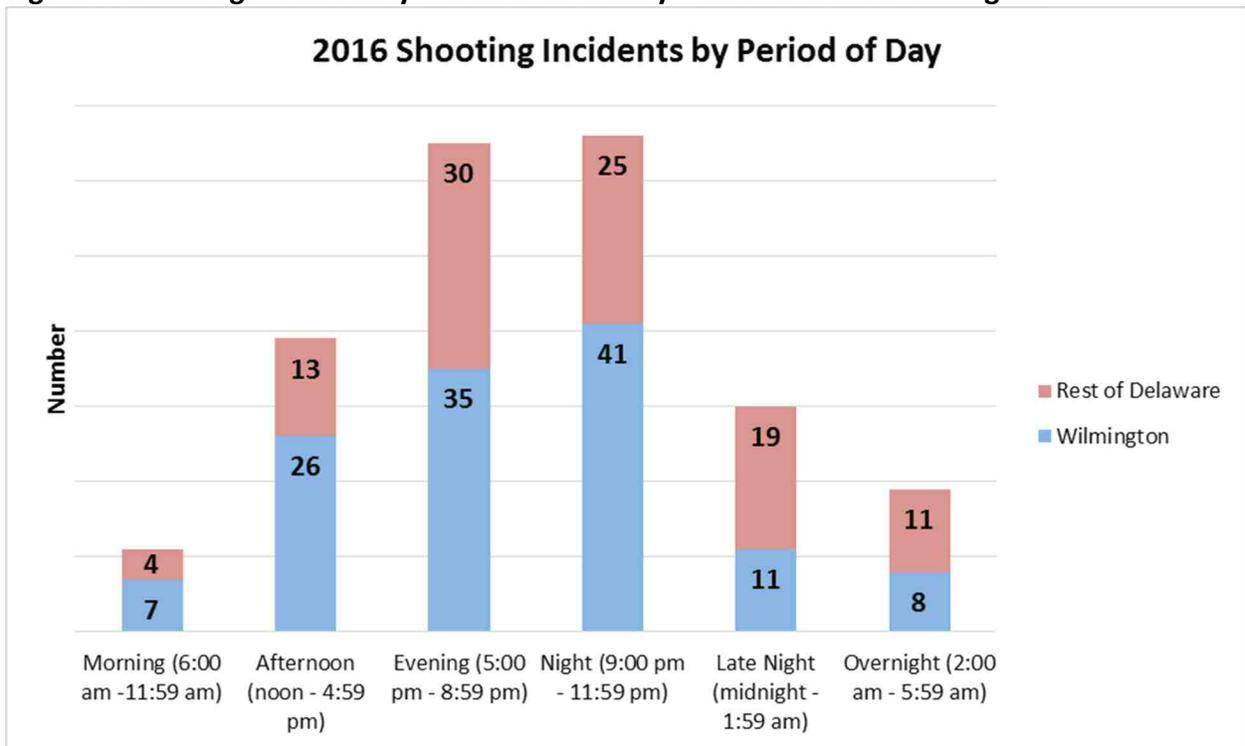


Figure 7 shows the distribution of 2016 shooting incidents by the time period of the day in which they occurred. More than 55% of all incidents statewide occurred between 5:00 pm and midnight, with 11 incidents (4.8%) occurring between 6:00 am and noon and 16.7% during the afternoon hours. Wilmington accounted for less than 40% of incidents that occurred between midnight and 6:00 am, but 60% of incidents which occurred between 6:00 am and midnight. There was not a single distinct peak period for either Wilmington or Delaware as a whole; comparable proportions of shootings occurred from 5:00 pm to 8:59 pm and from 9:00 pm to midnight.

Figure 7: Shooting Incidents by Time Period of Day—Delaware and Wilmington*



*Time categories were created based on expected variations in criminal behavior. As a result, there is variation in the size of the time span covered by each category.

Victim Injuries, Suspect Motives, and Victim-Offender Relationships

Table 10 displays the areas of the body where shooting victims were hit by gunfire. Two-thirds of the 259 victims with available injury information had a single gunshot wound: more than 25% to the lower body (legs, feet, buttocks), 21% to the upper body (chest, back, abdomen), with the remaining victims struck in either the arm or hand, or the head, face or neck.

One-third of victims, however, were struck multiple times: 7.7% of all victims received injuries to same area of the body (e.g., struck once in each leg; multiple times in the chest), while just over 25% had injuries to more than one body area (e.g., head and chest; leg and abdomen).

Table 10: Shooting Victims by Area of Body Shot

Victims by Area of Body Shot		
Area of Victim's Body	Number of Victims	Percent of Victims
<i>Single Injury to Single Area</i>	173	66.8%
Legs/Feet/Buttocks	72	27.8%
Chest/Back/Abdomen	54	20.9%
Arm/Hand	22	8.5%
Head/Face/Neck	25	9.7%
<i>Multiple Injuries to Single Area</i>	20	7.7%
<i>Injuries to Multiple Areas</i>	66	25.5%
Total Victims*	259	

*Injury locations could not be determined for 2 victims.

The ultimate motives for committing a crime may not become apparent until well into a criminal investigation or sometimes not even until a case is being adjudicated. Table 11 displays information about apparent motives and/or relevant circumstances for 156 shooting incidents where specific information about any/all motives or circumstances surrounding an incident was available. The most common motive or circumstance was an Altercation (36.5%), followed by a Robbery (34.6%) and Drug-Related issue (32.7%). The number of incidents where a bystander or otherwise unintended person was struck was consistent with the two prior years.

Table 11: Motives/Circumstances Related to Shooting Incidents—Incident-Level

Motives/Circumstances – Incident Level		
Motives/Circumstances	Incidents*	Percent of Incidents
Altercation/Dispute/Argument	57	36.5%
Robbery	54	34.6%
Drug-related	51	32.7%
Retaliation	19	12.2%
Bystander	15	9.6%
Intimate Partner Violence	8	5.1%
Other	21	13.5%
Unknown, but with secondary circumstances	21	13.5%
Total Where Motive/Circumstances Known	156	

*Many incidents have more than one motive/circumstance; therefore, counts and percentages reflect the inclusion of multiple motives/circumstances within an incident.

For the 96 incidents where at least one suspect had been identified by name (or where there was good evidence that the victim knew the suspect) and victim-offender relationship information was available, the relationships between all suspects and all victims involved in an incident were examined. The victim-offender relationship for the incident was then classified based on the closest relationship between any suspect and any victim. For example, if the incident involved three suspects and one victim and the three offender-victim relationships were friend, stranger, and someone known in the community, 'friend' would be the relationship level assigned to the incident. This approach provides an additional way of examining the circumstances that may have brought a shooting suspect and victim into the proximity required for the shooting to occur.

The relationships between shooting suspects and their victims at the incident level are shown in Table 12. The most frequent victim-to-offender relationship was Otherwise Known (57.3%), followed by Acquaintance (17.8%), and Stranger (10.4%).

Table 12: Victim to Suspect Relationship—Incident-Level

Victim-Suspect Relationship-Incident Level		
Type of Relationship	Number	Percent
Otherwise Known	55	57.3%
Acquaintance	17	17.8%
Stranger	10	10.4%
Family (e.g., sibling, parent, child, in-law)	6	6.3%
Spouse/Boyfriend/Girlfriend (current/former)	6	6.3%
Employee	1	1.0%
Friend	1	1.0%
Total Where Relationship Is Known	96	

Important Issues and Considerations

Victim and Witness Cooperation

The data in this report indicate that, where specific suspects are identified by name, most are subsequently arrested (79.5% statewide). However, the cooperation of shooting victims and of witnesses to shooting incident investigations is often critical in securing the accurate identification of suspects, and the subsequent generation of arrests and successful criminal prosecutions.

In this shooting report, both victim and witness cooperation were explored for all incidents, with cooperation classified at the level of the incident. Based on a review of information available in the complaint reports, cooperation for each group was classified at one of three levels: full cooperation, limited cooperation, or no cooperation. Where possible, statements of police officers were used as the primary criteria in determining cooperation.

This review indicates that 64.7% of incidents, witnesses could be classified as being fully cooperative with the investigation. In 35.6% of incidents, victims were similarly cooperative.

Table 16: Level of Witness Cooperation (Incident-Level)

	Number*	Percent
Full Cooperation	121	64.7%
Limited Cooperation	32	17.1%
Witnesses-Refused to Cooperate	4	2.1%
No Known Witnesses	30	16.0%
Total	187	

*Could not classify 43 incidents

Table 17: Level of Victim Cooperation (Incident-Level)

	Number*	Percent
Full Cooperation	67	35.6%
Limited Cooperation	64	34.0%
No Cooperation	18	9.6%
Victim Deceased/Unable to Cooperate	39	20.8%
Grand Total	188	

*Could not classify 42 incidents

An Initial Look at Gang Involvement

Delaware news reports in the last two years suggest an increase in shooting incidents as a result of gang-related activity. These reports are bolstered by law enforcement actions since 2015 that resulted in the arrests of a significant number of individuals for alleged gang-related activity in the Wilmington and Dover areas. In response to these developments, the SAC elected to include a preliminary examination of gang activity in 2016 shooting incidents.

The data in this section present an initial and conservative look at gang-related shooting incidents. An incident was classified as gang-related if there were direct references by police, victims, witnesses, suspects, and/or family members of the latter three groups, or other compelling information in the incident report data (within or across incidents) the SAC reviewed. The simple presence of an identified gang member in an incident did not automatically lead to that incident receiving a 'gang-related' classification—the presence of additional information was required to support the determination. In classifying incidents, a loose definition of 'gang' was used to include groups (also called street crews) that are less structured and formal than traditional criminal gangs (e.g., the Bloods).

Twenty-seven incidents (11.8% of all incidents) in 2016 were identified as involving gang-related activity. Wilmington accounted for 13 incidents (48.2%), 10.2% of the city's shooting incidents total, followed by Dover with eight (29.6), which equates to 42% of its shooting incidents (see Table 18). Among the gangs mentioned were Shoot to Kill (STK) and Only My Brothers (OMB) (both Wilmington), First 48, West Side, and 3 Block (all Dover), 450 gang (Elsmere), Drop Boys (Newark-area), and Rosegate Boys (New Castle).

Table 18: 2016 Shooting Incidents with Suspected Gang Involvement, by Agency

Agency	Number	Percent
Wilmington Police Dept.	13	48.2%
Dover Police Dept.	8	29.6%
New Castle County Police Dept.	4	14.8%
Delaware State Police, Troop 2	1	3.7%
Delaware State Police, Troop 3	1	3.7%
Total	27	

Fourteen incidents (51.9%) involved juvenile victims, while in nine of the 15 incidents where suspects had been identified by name, one or more suspects were juveniles.

Levels of victim and witness cooperation with police were generally consistent with the findings in these areas for all incidents (see the previous section).

Conclusion

In 2016, there were 230 criminal, non-accidental shooting incidents in Delaware that resulted in the injury or death of another person. The year-end total was second highest, trailing only 2015, since the Center began producing the statewide shooting report in 2011. More than half of all incidents (55.7%) occurred in the City of Wilmington, with another 26% occurring in suburban New Castle County, 13% in Kent County, and 6% in Sussex County.

Two-hundred-nineteen individuals had non-fatal injuries as a result of these incidents and 42 died of their wounds in 42 homicide incidents, also the highest for the center's reporting. Five victims died during incidents related to an intimate relationship. More than 360 individuals were suspected of involvement in the shooting incidents, with 131 suspects identified by name. As of August 2017, arrests had been made in 31% of all shooting incidents and 40% of homicide incidents.

Most shooting victims (87%) were male, with Blacks comprising the largest racial group of victims (81.6% of all victims, 82.7% of male victims). For the 83 incidents where demographic information was available for both victims and suspects, 84.3% involved victims and suspects who were predominantly of the same race.

Around 85% of victims and 94.1% of identified suspects had criminal histories in Delaware. Of those with a Delaware arrest history, 74.1% of victims and 76.4% of identified suspects had at least one felony arrest. Most victims and identified suspects were juveniles at the time of their first Delaware arrest (83.4% and 86.8% respectively).

It is worth noting that the findings for gender, race, arrest history, and age at first Delaware arrest have been highly consistent across all six statewide shooting reports the Center has produced, reflecting an important set of dynamics relevant to decreasing the occurrence of shooting incidents.

An examination of the cooperation of witnesses and victims in shooting investigations indicates that, in 64.7% of incidents, witnesses could be described as being fully cooperative. Victims had a similar level of cooperation in 35.6% of incidents.

A preliminary, initial examination of gang involvement in shooting incidents suggests that at least 27 incidents (11.8%) appeared to have been gang-related. Almost half of these 27 incidents occurred in Wilmington and just over half involved juvenile victims.