

What Were the Patterns of Black-on-Black Homicide in 2025?

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Factually

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Executive summary

Black homicide victimization remained sharply disproportionate in recent years, with Black Americans accounting for a majority of homicide victims while experiencing rates multiple times higher than White Americans [1][2]. Most homicides involving Black victims are intraracial, a pattern long documented by federal data and secondary analyses [3].

1. The scale of the disparity

National data show Black Americans have experienced homicide victimization rates far above the national average and well above White rates: the Black victimization rate was reported at 26.6 per

100,000 in 2023, compared with a national rate near 7.1 and a White rate near 3.9 per 100,000 in cited analyses [\[2\]](#)[\[1\]](#). Aggregate counts underline the human toll: recent multi-year tallies report tens of thousands of Black homicide deaths in the early 2020s—Giffords cites 63,345 total Black homicides from 2020–2024, with 55,199 involving firearms [\[4\]](#). Federal and independent compilations likewise recorded thousands of Black homicide victims in single recent years—for example, an FBI-based compilation reported 8,158 Black murder victims in 2024 [\[5\]](#).

2. Intraracial: most victims are killed by people of their own race

Law-enforcement and academic summaries indicate that most homicides are intraracial: when offender and victim race are known, roughly nine in ten Black victims were killed by Black offenders, a pattern documented in national reporting and aggregated summaries [\[3\]](#). This intraracial concentration shapes both community-level impacts and policy discussions about interventions targeted to neighborhoods and networks where violence is concentrated [\[3\]](#).

3. Trends over time and geographic concentration

Long-run data show substantial shifts: Black homicide victimization rose in the 1990s, declined through the early 2010s, and then climbed again through the early 2020s before some estimates showed a small dip to 26.6 per 100,000 by 2023 [\[6\]](#). Reporting from think tanks and the Bureau of Justice Statistics highlights that the burden is geographically concentrated, with particular states and

burden is geographically concentrated, with particular states and cities experiencing especially high Black homicide rates—reports note that Missouri, for example, ranked at or near the top for Black homicide rates in recent years [\[1\]\[7\]](#).

4. The role of firearms and age groups

Firearms account for the majority of recent Black homicides in aggregated reporting: Giffords' review of 2020–2024 data finds that most Black homicides involved firearms—55,199 of 63,345 total Black homicides in that period [\[4\]](#). Young Black men bear a disproportionate share of that burden in many cities: local data cited by national advocates show extraordinarily high risks for ages 18–24 in certain cities, with examples like one-in-85 or one-in-81 young Black men affected in Rochester or Cincinnati in 2024 [\[4\]](#).

5. Explanations offered and contested interpretations

Scholars and policy writers offer multiple, sometimes competing explanations: structural drivers such as concentrated poverty and limited services are repeatedly cited in federal and advocacy reports [\[1\]\[7\]](#), while older psychological-political perspectives argue that interventions must address intracommunity psychological dynamics as well as socioeconomic conditions [\[8\]](#). Some outlets compile incident lists emphasizing interracial assaults, but broader data emphasize intraracial patterns and the larger numerical disparities; caution is warranted when single-incident compilations are used to generalize national trends [\[9\]\[10\]](#).

6. Data limits and what remains uncertain

Several sources warn about limits in the data: participation gaps in use-of-force reporting and variations in law-enforcement submissions affect completeness, and comprehensive 2025 national homicide-by-race data were not uniformly available in the cited sources, meaning precise 2025 national rates could not be independently confirmed here [\[1\]\[11\]](#). Where sources differ in methodology or scope—FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports, CDC mortality files, BJS incident-based estimates, and third-party compilations—readers should expect differences in counts and rates driven by coverage and classification choices [\[12\]\[7\]](#).

7. Implications for policy and community responses

Because the data show concentrated, intraracial violence driven largely by firearms and concentrated among young men in particular places, many analysts argue responses should combine targeted community-based prevention, focused law enforcement strategies that rebuild trust, firearm-safety and supply-reduction policies, and investments in economic and social supports in high-burden neighborhoods—recommendations reflected across advocacy and federal literature though the efficacy of specific mixes remains an active policy debate [\[4\]\[8\]](#).