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Robert Malvestuto, Chief Probation and Parole Officer

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Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present to you my department’s most recent analysis of the Weapons Related Injury Surveillance System (WRISS) data. Gunshot victimization in Philadelphia is of deep concern to all of us, public servants and citizens alike. Tracking these injuries over time and space can help us decide how, when, and where to target our public safety resources.

For the Adult Probation and Parole Department (APPD), tracking the number of probationers who are shot each year is one measure of our effectiveness as an agency. If we are able to tie our efforts to declines in victimization rates, we can demonstrate that what we are doing is working. Conversely, if rates rise, we know we must try even harder to find interventions that work with our population.

I hope that you will find the report helpful in your short and long term planning. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please feel free to contact a member of the research department:

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So far, gunshot victimizations are down by more than 20% citywide in 2008. Hopefully this trend will continue through the end of the year and beyond.

Yours truly,

Robert J. Malvestuto
Chief Probation Officer
About the Report

This report is a supplement to the original 2002-2006 WRISS Report and should be read in conjunction with that report. Shooting victimization data from 2007 are analyzed in relation to previous years, and are presented in graphs and text. In addition to adding a 2007 data point to many of the graphs contained in the original analysis, the following report includes new graphs and looks at the 2002-2007 data in some different lights.

A note about rates:

Where applicable, the data are represented by rates, as opposed to counts. A rate is calculated by dividing the count (e.g. the number of shooting victims) by the population at risk and then multiplying by 100,000. The city-wide shooting rate, for example, tells you the number of shooting victims for every 100,000 Philadelphia residents. Police district shooting rates are often more informative than simple counts of shooting victims in each district because different districts have various population sizes, meaning each district has a different base population that is at risk of being a shooting victim. For example, imagine District A had 10 shooting victims last year, while District B had 50. These counts would draw one’s attention to District B as a “hotspot” for shooting victimization. However, if District A has only 20 residents and District B has 300, District A emerges as a “hotspot”— Half of all District A residents (10 victims/20 residents) were shot, compared to 17% (50 victims/300 residents) of District B’s residents.

Some new additions to the WRISS report include time from shooting to arrest (for those arrested for a shooting incident), and court dispositions of those offenders arrested for shooting someone in 2005. This supplemental report also focuses on shooting victims and offenders under active APPD supervision at the time of the shooting incident.

For detailed information about WRISS data collection please see the original WRISS report for 2002 to 2006. This supplemental report is purely descriptive in nature, and is intended to be used as an undated information resource for both policy makers and criminal justice practitioners.
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1. When Did the Shootings Happen and How Many Were Fatal?
1.1 Yearly Shooting Counts, 2002-2007

From January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2007, there were 10,420 shooting victims.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>1489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>1705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From 2002 to 2007, there was a total increase of 245 shooting victims, and an average annual increase of 49 shooting victims. This represents a 17% increase (245 more shooting victims) across this time period. Although the overall trend of shootings since 2002 is upward, there was a 13.5% reduction in shooting victims from 2006 to 2007.

1.2 Number of Shootings by Month and Year, 2002-2007

Within each year, there were major swings in the number of victims per month. The year 2006 had the highest average monthly shooting victims, as well as the most extreme monthly variations of any year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Number of Shooting Victims per Month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.3 Weekend Shootings by Year, 2002-2007

Nearly half (49%) of all shooting incidents occurred on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Sunday (12am – 11:59pm) accounts for the largest percentage of shooting incidents across all years 2002-2007 (although it ties with Saturday at 17% in 2004 and 2006). The percent of shootings occurring on the weekend has remained stable around 50% since 2002.

1.4 Time of Day*, 2007 vs. 2002-2006 Average

More than half (55%) of all the shootings from 2002-2007 occurred between 8pm and 2am. The times at which shooting incidents took place in 2007 do not vary significantly from the average of 2002-2006. In 2007, 9% of all shooting occurred between 12:00 am and 12:59 am. Shootings then drop precipitously after 3am.

1.5 Gun Homicides by Year, 2003-2007**

Since January 1, 2003, there have been 1487 gun homicides in Philadelphia. While shootings have increased by 2%, the number of gun homicides has increased by 22% since 2003. From 2006 to 2007, there was a 2% reduction in the number of gun homicides, while the total number of shootings decreased by 13% during this period.

** Fatality data unavailable for 2002
1.6 Percent of Shootings that Are Homicides by Year, 2003-2007**

From 2003 to 2007, 17% of shootings have been declared gun homicides. Gun homicides as a percentage of all yearly shootings have increased from 16% in 2002 to 19% in 2007. While there were 270 fewer total shooting victims in 2007 compared to 2006, there were only seven less gun homicides.

1.7 Type of Fatal Shootings (Homicides vs. Suicides) by Year, 2003-2007**

More than three quarters (81%) of all fatal shootings from 2003 to 2007 were declared homicides by the police.

Three percent of all shooting victims and 16% of all fatal shooting victims from 2003 to 2007 were declared suicides.

** Fatality data unavailable for 2002
2. Who Were the Shooting Victims?
2.1 Age, 2002-2007

The distribution of shooting victims mirrors that of the age-crime curve: victims from 2002-2007 were heavily concentrated in the late teens to mid-20s.

Nineteen year-olds make up the largest percentage of all shooting victims from 2002 to 2007.

2.2 Age Group, 2002-2007

About half of all shooting victims were between the ages of 14 and 24. Only 9% of all shooting victims were 14-17, while 40% were 18-24 years old.

2.3 Victims Ages 14 to 17, 2002-2007

Over the past five years, the number of shooting victims ages 14 to 17 has increased by 76%, from 94 in 2002 to 165 in 2007. From 2006 to 2007, there was a 21% reduction in the number of shootings of this age group (with 43 less victims ages 14 to 17.)
2.4 Victims Ages 18 to 24, 2002-2007

Forty percent of all the shooting victims from 2002 to 2007 were between the ages of 18 and 24. Since 2002, there has been an 8% increase in the number of shooting victims in this age group. However, the percent of 18 to 24 year old victims has remained stable since 2005.

The above graph has a scale that exaggerates the variation to show minor deviations from the mean of 40%.

2.5 Gender and Age, 2002-2007

The vast majority (92%) of shooting victims from 2002-2007 were male. Across all age groups, 12 males were shot for every one female shooting victim, but the ratio of males to females varies by age group. The gender disparity is smallest among the youngest victims (3 males for every female) and greatest among victims ages 18 to 24 (17 males for every female).

2.6 Repeat Shooting Victims, 2002-2007

From 2002 to 2007 there were 9995 unique shooting victims. A small percentage of these victims (4%, or 390) were shot on more than one occasion (representing 815 shooting incidents, or 8% of all shooting incidents).**

Of those 390 victims shot more than once during 2002 to 2007, most (92%, or 359) were shot on two separate occasions; 7% (27) were shot on three occasions and four victims were shot on four occasions.

**There were nine shooting victims without a police photo number who were shot twice that were not included in this analysis.
2.7 Time Between Repeat Shootings, 2002-2007

Almost half (43%) of all repeat shooting incidents occur within a year of the previous shooting.

2.8 Percent of Youth Shootings that Are Homicides by Year, 2003-2007

Overall, shooting victims ages 18 to 24 are more likely than those ages 14 to 17 to be the victim of a homicide. The percent of shootings that are declared homicides each year has increased for both age groups since 2003. While the number of gun homicide victims ages 18 to 24 increased by 11% from 2003 to 2007, the number of gun homicide victims aged 14 to 17 increased by 43% over that same period. From 2006 to 2007, the number of homicide victims ages 18-24 decreased by 22% (or 31) while the number of homicide victims ages 14-17 increased by 17% (or 4).

2.9 Age Group of Suicide Victims, 2003-2007

Suicide victims are in general much older than other shooting victims, however nearly one-fifth of all gun suicide victims since 2003 have been below the age of 25.

In 2006, an unusually large percent (27%) of gun suicide victims were between the ages of 18 and 24. There were 12 gun suicides in this age group in 2006, the most of any year except 2003, when 15 gun suicide victims were 18 to 24 years old.
3. Where Did the Shootings Happen?
3.1 Map of Police Sector Shooting Counts, 2002-2007

Count of Shootings by Police Sector
2002-2007
N = 10,224 (2% unmatched)

The maps above and to the right both display the number of shooting victims in each police sector, with darker areas representing sectors with the most shooting victims.

In 2007, shooting victims were heavily concentrated in the 25th district and its surrounding sectors, the northern part of the 12th district, the area that intersects the 19th, 16th and 18th districts, and the southern part of the 17th district.

3.2 Map of Police Sector Shooting Counts, 2007

The maps above and to the right both display the number of shooting victims in each police sector, with darker areas representing sectors with the most shooting victims.

In 2007, shooting victims were heavily concentrated in the 25th district and its surrounding sectors, the northern part of the 12th district, the area that intersects the 19th, 16th and 18th districts, and the southern part of the 17th district.
3.3 Map of Shooting Victims by Police District- Percent Change from 2006 to 2007

The above map shows in dark red and red the police districts that experienced the greatest percent increase in the number of shooting victims from 2006 to 2007. Districts colored light yellow experienced the greatest percent decrease in the number of shooting victims. Consistent with 270 less total shooting victims in 2007, the majority of police districts’ shooting rates declined from 2006 to 2007. The only districts with an increase in the number of shooting victims in 2007 were the 17th (+12 victims), 6th (+8), 14th (+4), and the 24th, 39th and 92nd (+1 each).

3.4 Police District Shooting Victimization Rates per 100,000 Residents, 2006 vs. 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 5 ‘07 Police Districts</th>
<th>2006 Rate</th>
<th>2007 Rate</th>
<th>‘07 Count (% of ‘07)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>157       (9%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>67        (4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>108       (6%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>155       (9%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>156       (9%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 643
37% of all shootings

YVRP districts (accounting for 40% of all shootings in 2007) are denoted by a * on the above graph.
3.6 Historical Shooting Rates of Top Five Police Districts in 2007

The five police districts with the highest shooting rates in 2007 were the 12th, 17th, 22nd, 23rd and 25th. These districts have had variable shooting rates since 2002. However, across all years, the 22nd and 23rd district shooting rates have been consistently higher than the 12th, 17th and 25th districts.

Shooting rates in the 23rd district declined by 60 victims per 100,000 district residents from 2002 to 2007. All other top five districts saw an increase in shooting rates over this time period.
3.7 APPD Shooting Victimization Rates by Police District, 2006 vs. 2007*

**Excludes self inflicted wounds and police shootings.**

Top 5 Police Districts of 2007: APPD Victims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dist.</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000</th>
<th>'07 Count (% of APPD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>1197</td>
<td>30 (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>1164</td>
<td>27 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>1164</td>
<td>18 (7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>951</td>
<td>19 (7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>866</td>
<td>10 (4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

104 APPD Victims, 41% of APPD Shooting Victims**

YVRP districts (denoted by * above) accounted for 40% (or 101) of all APPD victims in 2007.

The 1st police district had a shooting rate of 1054 APPD offenders in 2007, the fourth highest district rate of APPD shooting victimizations; this district is not included in the list of top five districts because its relatively small population (759) of APPD offenders exaggerates the shooting rate (there were eight shooting victims in the 1st district in 2007).

3.8 Map of Police District APPD Shooting Victimization Rates per 100,000 APPD Residents, 2007

2007 APPD Police District Shooting Victimization Rates

Citywide APPD Rate:
682 APPD Victims for Every 100,000 APPD Residents
(6 times greater than the general shooting rate)
N=275
3.9 Police District Gun Homicide Rates per 100,000 Residents, 2006 vs. 2007

Top 5 Police Districts of ‘07

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dist.</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000</th>
<th>Count (% of ‘07)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>31 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>12 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>33 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>17 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>30 (9%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 123
(38% of all gun homicides)

YVRP districts (accounting for 41% of all gun homicides) are denoted by a * on the graph to the right.

3.10 Map of Police District Gun Homicide Rates per 100,000 Residents, 2003-2007

The 22nd, 23rd and 16th police districts have the highest homicide rates for the years 2003-2007 combined. The 92nd district also has a high homicide rate, despite only 5 gun homicides in five years, due to the district’s small residential population.


# Homicide Victims per 100,000 District Residents

Five Year Citywide Homicide Rate:
98 Homicide Victims for Every 100,000 Phila Residents

N=1487
The above graph shows the gun homicide victimization rate of all APPD offenders living in each police district. So, for example, 433 of every 100,000 APPD offenders living in the 23rd district were shot and killed in 2007. Citywide, there were 144 APPD gun homicide victims for every 100,000 APPD offenders living in Philadelphia in 2007 (compared to the citywide gun homicide rate for all residents, which was 22 in 2007). In 2007, there were major spikes in the APPD homicide rates in the 4th, 16th and 23rd districts.
4. Where Were the Victims Wounded?
4.1 Three Most Common Wounds by Year, 2003-2007*

The most common wound incurred among the 8630 non-suicide shooting victims from 2003 to 2007, was in the leg or legs, as recorded by the police, comprising a quarter (26%, or 2227) of all gunshot wounds reported to the police.

One-fifth of all the non-suicide shooting victims sustained multiple wounds. From 2003 to 2004, the percent of shooting victims with multiple wounds increased by 96%. Since 2004, the percent of victims suffering multiple gunshot wounds has remained stable around 20%.

Head wounds are the third most common gunshot wound, comprising 9% of all non-suicide shootings. The percent of shooting victims with head wounds has remained stable from 2003 to 2007.

4.2 Three Most Common Fatal Wounds by Year, 2003-2007*

Chest, head and multiple wounds combined accounted for 84% (1283) of all fatal shootings (excluding suicides) from 2003 to 2007.

*2002 data excluded because suicide data are not available for this year.

4.3 Fatality of Wounds by Year, 2003-2007*
The most common gunshot wounds to result in death were multiple wounds, head wounds, and chest/torso wounds. Just over a third (34%) of victims suffering multiple gunshot wounds, and over half (52%) of the victims with head wounds, died as a result of their injuries across all years.

*2002 data excluded because suicide data are not available for this year.*
5. What Was the Criminal Justice Status of the Shooting Victims?
5.1 Victims with a Police Photo Number (PPN) by Year, 2002-2007

From 2002 to 2007 65% (6815) of all shooting victims had been arrested at least once prior to their victimization (as indicated by the presence of a verifiable police photo number).

While the total number of shootings increased by 17% since 2002, the number of victims with a police photo number increased by 35% since 2002. (One explanation for this finding is that researchers are getting better at identifying victims’ police photo numbers.)

5.2 Age Group of Victims With and Without a Police Photo Number, 2007

Very young victims (as well as much older victims) were less likely to have a police photo number, however all shooting victims (with or without a PPN) were most likely to be between the ages of 18 and 24. By age 40, there was no real difference in the presence of any arrest history.

The graph to the right excludes suicides.

5.3 Victims with Open Bill(s), 2002-2007*

From 2002 to 2007, one-fifth (20%) of all shooting victims had open bills at the time of their shooting. The number of shooting victims with open bills increased by 55% or 145 victims from 2002 to 2007.

About a third (31%, 2123) of the 6815 victims with a prior arrest also had at least one open bill at the time of their victimization. Among those with a prior arrest, the number of victims with an open bill increased by 60% (153 victims) from 2002 to 2007.

* “Open bill” refers to an arrest or charge that is still pending disposition.
5.4 Juvenile Probation Victims, 2005-2007

From 2005-2007 (the only years for which juvenile probation data are available), 6% of all shooting victims were under active juvenile probation supervision. While the percent of all shooting victims under juvenile probation supervision remained stable over this time period, there was a 14% reduction in the number of juvenile probation victims from 2006 to 2007.

Just over half (52%, 184) of all juvenile shooting victims from 2005 to 2007 were between the ages of 18 and 21.

5.5 Adult Probation/Parole (APPD) Victims by Year, 2002-2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1701</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Half of all the APPD shooting victims from 2002 to 2007 were between the ages of 18 and 24. Conversely, one-fifth (20%) of all victims ages 18 to 24 were on adult probation/parole at the time they were shot. From 2002-2007, there was a 6% decrease in the number of 18-24 year-old victims on probation and/or parole.

5.6 Female APPD Victims, 2002-2007

Females made up 3% of all APPD shooting victims from 2002 to 2007. While the percentage of all victims on adult probation/parole decreased slightly from 2002-2007, the number of female APPD victims more than tripled since 2002 (from 3 in 2002 to 14 in 2007).
5.7 Repeat Shooting Victims by Probation/Parole Status (None, Juvenile, Adult), 2002-2007

Among the 390 repeat shooting victims, the likelihood of being on adult probation increased with each shooting incident. Where 16% of all shooting victims from 2002 to 2007 were under APPD supervision, 24% of the repeat victims were on adult probation/parole at the time of their first shooting; 32% of the repeat victims were on probation/parole at the time of their second shooting. Two of the four victims shot on four separate occasions were on adult probation at the time of their 4th shooting.

Two-thirds of repeat victims on adult probation/parole at the time of their first victimization were also under APPD supervision at the time of their second victimization.

5.8 Adult Probation/Parole Victims by APPD Unit, 2007

While less than 1% (.6%) of the entire APPD population was shot in 2007, 4% of West 4 (YVRP) offenders were shot. The 2nd most affected unit was the Strategic Anti-Violence (SAV) Unit, with 2.9% of their caseload being shot.

While offenders with absconder warrants accounted for 9% (25) of all APPD victims in 2007, only 0.2% of all wanted APPD offenders were shot.
5.9 APPD Gun Homicide Victims, 2003-2007

From January, 2003 through December, 2007, 270 people with open probation or parole supervision cases were shot and killed.

APPD offenders were the victim of nearly one-fifth (18%) of all 1480 gun homicides from 2003-2007, but this percent varied by year (see the chart to the right).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>APPD Homicide</th>
<th>% of All Homicides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.10 Percent of Shootings that Are Homicides, by Year and APPD Status, 2003-2007

Overall, APPD shooting victims were more likely than non-APPD shooting victims to be the victim of a homicide. From 2002 to 2005, APPD victims were killed at a higher rate than non-APPD victims. From 2005 to 2006, there was only a marginal difference in the two groups’ fatalities, but in 2007, APPD victims again experienced a higher fatality rate than shooting victims not on probation or parole. Despite the fact that there were less total shootings in 2007, there were three more APPD homicide victims in 2007 than in 2006.

5.11 Age Group of APPD Homicide Victims by Year, 2003-2007

As with all shooting victims, APPD homicide victims are most likely to be between the ages of 18 and 24. The number of APPD homicide victims ages 18-24 decreased by 36% between 2006 and 2007, nearly converging with the APPD homicide victims ages 25-30.

The graph to the right excludes self-inflicted wounds and police shootings.
In 2007, there were 275 APPD shooting victims under supervision, being supervised on 353 cases. The majority (80% or 219) of the APPD shooting victims in 2007 were serving a single probation, parole or other disposition sentence at the time of their victimization. One sixth (16% or 43) of the APPD victims had two open cases at the time they were shot and a small group (5% or 13) had three or more open supervision cases.

**5.14 Time on Probation/Parole, 2007**

Nearly half (43% or 117) of all 275 APPD victims in 2007 had been on probation less than a year at the time they were shot. The largest percentage of APPD victims (7%, or 18) were shot within three months of their probation/parole start date. A third (33%, or 92) of all APPD victims were shot after two years on probation/parole.
Most (46%, or 116) of the 252 APPD victims with any contact prior to the shooting were seen by a PO in the two weeks prior to their shooting. Eight percent (or 23) of the APPD victims had never had any contact with the Adult Probation/Parole Department. Another 9% (24) of the APPD Victims had not had contact with APPD in over 90 days; probation warrants had been issued on half of these offenders (some of these offenders may have been in custody or under the supervision of another jurisdiction).
6. Who Was Arrested for the Shootings?
6.1 Number of Arrests, Number of Offenders, 2005-2007

There were 5531 instances of someone being wounded by gunshot between 2005 and 2007. One third (1758, 32%) of these incidents resulted in the arrest of at least one offender. Three quarters (76%) of the 1758 incidents that resulted in any arrest involved only one offender.

A total of 1940 offenders were arrested for a shooting that occurred between 2005 and 2007, representing 1888 unique offenders (52 were arrested in multiple years).

From 2005 to 2007, there was no real change in the percent of shooting incidents resulting in an arrest, or in the number of arrests made for each shooting incident.

6.2 Repeat Offenders, 2005-2007

While 85% of all 1888 unique offenders were arrested for shooting one victim, a total of 285 offenders (15%) wounded multiple victims within a single year from 2005 to 2007.

A small percentage (3%, or 52) of the 1888 unique offenders were arrested for shooting victims in more than one of the three years (two of the 52 multiple year offenders shot someone in all three years).

6.3 Arrests of Adult Probationers/Parolees, 2005-2007

Nearly one-fifth (19%, or 375) of the 1940* offenders arrested for shooting someone between 2005 and 2007 were on adult probation or parole at the time of the shooting. Nearly a quarter (24%, or 90) of these 375 APPD offenders were arrested for shooting someone also under APPD supervision. Four percent (or 15) of the 375 APPD offenders shot someone who was under juvenile probation supervision.

* This figure includes repeat offenders who shot people in more than one year

*Arrest data for 2005 shootings are valid through 11/29/07; for 2006 through 12/4/07 and for 2007 through 12/5/07.
6.4 Age of Offenders vs. Age of Victims, 2005-2006

Both shooting victims and offenders are most often 19 years old. Between 2005 and 2006, 8% (or 277) of all shooting victims were 19 years old, while 10% (or 137) of shooting offenders were 19 years old.

6.5 Age Difference Between Victim and Offender, 2005 vs. 2006

Nearly one-fifth (19%) of offenders in 2005 and 2006 were the same age as their victim, and 29% were within one year of the victim’s age (younger or older by no more than a year). About half (48%) of the offenders in 2005 and 2006 were younger than their victim. In 2005, offenders were on average 11 years younger than their victim (median of 7 years) and in 2006, they were on average 9 years younger than their victim (median of 6 years).

6.6 Victim Offender Overlap, 2005-2007**

Of the 1940 offenders arrested for a shooting incident between 2005 and 2006, 13% or 245 were also a shooting victim either before or after the shooting incident for which they were arrested. Almost three quarters (73%, or 178) of these 245 offender/victims were shot once and arrested once, and 18% (44) were involved in three or more separate shootings, either as a victim or offender.

** A small group (154, or 8%) of the offenders arrested for a shooting between 2005 and 2007 were arrested for their own shooting; these are most often instances of a shooting victim reporting to the police an offense that did not occur, or a violation of the Uniform Firearms Act. Instances where the shooting victim was arrested for the incident were excluded for the purpose of determining how many offenders are themselves ever the victim of a shooting.
6.7 Time to Arrest, 2005

Ninety-two percent of the offenders were arrested within six months of the incident.

One third (33%) of the arrests for a shooting incident in 2005 or 2006 occurred within one day of the incident. Exactly three quarters of the arrests took place within one month.

Twenty offenders were arrested a year after the shooting incident. One offender was arrested nearly three years (34 months) after the incident.
7. What Happened to Those Arrested for the Shootings in 2005?
7.1 General Court Processing in Philadelphia

In Philadelphia, all cases begin in Municipal Court (MC), usually with multiple charges on the same docket (or case). Depending on the circumstances of the case, charges can be amended, merged, dropped (withdrawn or dismissed), sentenced, or held for Common Pleas (CP) Court. More serious cases, such as those with charges associated with shooting someone are generally disposed of in CP court, after passing through MC. After a final guilty disposition, there can be multiple sentences for the same offender and offense (a sentence for each charge with a guilty disposition), resulting in a single offender possibly having multiple dockets, or cases, within which exist multiple charges, each with a possible unique sentence.

7.2 Lead Charges, Municipal Court

Attempted murder or some derivation thereof was the lead charge on over half (58%, or 472) of the 819 MC Dockets with a final disposition as of March 4, 2008. About a quarter of the lead charges were for murder or some derivation thereof.

A small percentage of the lead charges were brought against shooting victims who, for example, were found to be in possession of drugs.

7.3 Final MC Dispositions

While more than half (59%, or 484) of dockets with a final MC disposition were “Held for Court” (determined to proceed to the Court of Common Pleas (CP)), a substantial number of dockets (40%, or 325) were either Withdrawn or Dismissed (thereby terminating the case) prior to a CP docket being generated. Other MC dispositions included: Transferred to Family Court (4 dockets), Not Guilty (3 dockets), and Guilty (3 dockets). Four offenders were sentenced in Municipal Court, half of them (2) to probation. A total of 214 offenders (37% of 582 offenders with a final MC disposition) did not proceed to CP Court.

7.4 Lead Charges, Common Pleas Court

In general, lead charges for the most serious of crimes are more common in Common Pleas Court than Municipal Court; the MC dockets with most serious of lead charges are more likely to proceed to Common Pleas Court. Almost half (45%) of the CP lead charges were for murder or derivation thereof, compared with 24% of MC charges. Where Attempted Murder or some derivation thereof comprised 58% of lead charges in Municipal Court, only 3% of lead charges on the CP dockets were for some type of Attempted Murder. Aggravated assault comprised one third (32%) of the lead charges in CP court, as opposed to only 9% of MC charges.
7.5 Final Common Pleas Dispositions

Of the 819 dockets with a final disposition in Municipal Court, 39% (320) had a final disposition in the Court of Common Pleas as of March 4, 2008. Almost three quarters (70%) of CP dockets with a final disposition were found guilty (44%) or were closed with a guilty plea (28%). Twelve percent of the CP dockets were closed with a not guilty judgment and 12% were Nolle Prossed (not prosecuted). A total of 90 offenders (15% of offenders with a final MC disposition, 30% of offenders with a final CP disposition) did not proceed to sentencing in CP court as of March 4, 2008.

7.7 Number of Sentenced Charges per Offender

The vast majority (95%) of offenders who were sentenced to any penalty were convicted of multiple charges within the same case or docket, receiving a sentence for each convicted charge.

7.8 Sentences: Incarceration, Probation or Both

All but seven (4%) of the 190 offenders sentenced in CP Court for a 2005 shooting received some term of incarceration. More than a third (35%, or 68) received a sentence of probation, most (31%, or 61) of which were in combination with a term of incarceration.
7.9 Court Processing Summary
The following is a docket, or case-based analysis, so the sum of offenders in each disposition stage, while valid, usually exceeds the number of offenders charged or sentenced; see 6.1. The data were extracted on March 4, 2008

585 Offenders charged on 823 Dockets in Municipal Court (MC) for a 2005 shooting
546 victims, 31% of total shooting victims in 2005

Municipal Court Final Disposition
819 Dockets (582 offenders)

Withdrawn/Dismissed
325 Dockets, 40%
(244 offenders)

Held for Common Pleas (CP) Court
484 Dockets, 59%
(368 offenders)

Other
10, 1%
(10)

360 Offenders charged on 381 Dockets in CP Court
62% of offenders charged in MC, 46% of MC Dockets generated

Common Pleas Final Disposition
320 Dockets, 66% of Dockets Held for CP Court (301 offenders)

Other
19 Dockets, 6% of CP Disposition
(19 offenders)

Nolle Pross
39 Dockets, 12% of CP Dispositions
(38 offenders)

Not Guilty
39 Dockets, 12% of CP Dispositions
(36 offenders)

Guilty
141 Dockets, 44% of CP Dispositions
(131 offenders, 23% of offenders charged in MC)

Guilty Plea
82 Dockets, 28% of CP Dispositions
(81 offenders, 14% of offenders charged in MC)

190 Offenders sentenced on 200 Dockets in CP Court
34% of offenders arrested,
53% of offenders charged in CP Court,
92% of offenders with guilty plea or judgment

Probation
69 Dockets
35% of Sentenced Dockets
(68 Offenders)

Confinement
192 Dockets
96% of Sentenced Dockets
(183 offenders)