

SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

Children and youth live in safe, supportive communities and environments.





OVERALL RATING:

Problematic, with a long way to go



Juvenile victims of crime:

Problematic

Homicide victims ages 7-24:

Mixed

Juvenile arrests for drug offenses:

Challenging

Assaults inside public schools:

Problematic

Youth development opportunities:

Promising

Chapter Summary

With worsening trends in homicides, gun violence, and assaults in schools, this desired result continues to be **problematic, with a long way to go**, the lowest rating of all desired results.

Perhaps the most troubling new finding contained in this year's Report Card is the significant one-year increase in homicides of young people ages 7 to 24, which increased by 41%, from 106 to 149 in 2005.

- The increase results from a 56% rise in homicides of young people between the ages of 18 and 24, from 80 in 2004 to 125 in 2005. The number of homicides of youth ages 7 to 17 dropped to 24 from 26 in 2004.
- Gun violence is a major factor in the high number of youth homicides. Ninety percent of homicides of young people ages 7-24 result from gunshot wounds.

Assaults inside public schools are also a concern. The number of reported assaults increased by 3%, to 3,264 assaults, in the 2004-05 school year. This was about double the number recorded in the 1998-99 school year.

There was little change in other Safe Communities indicators in 2005:

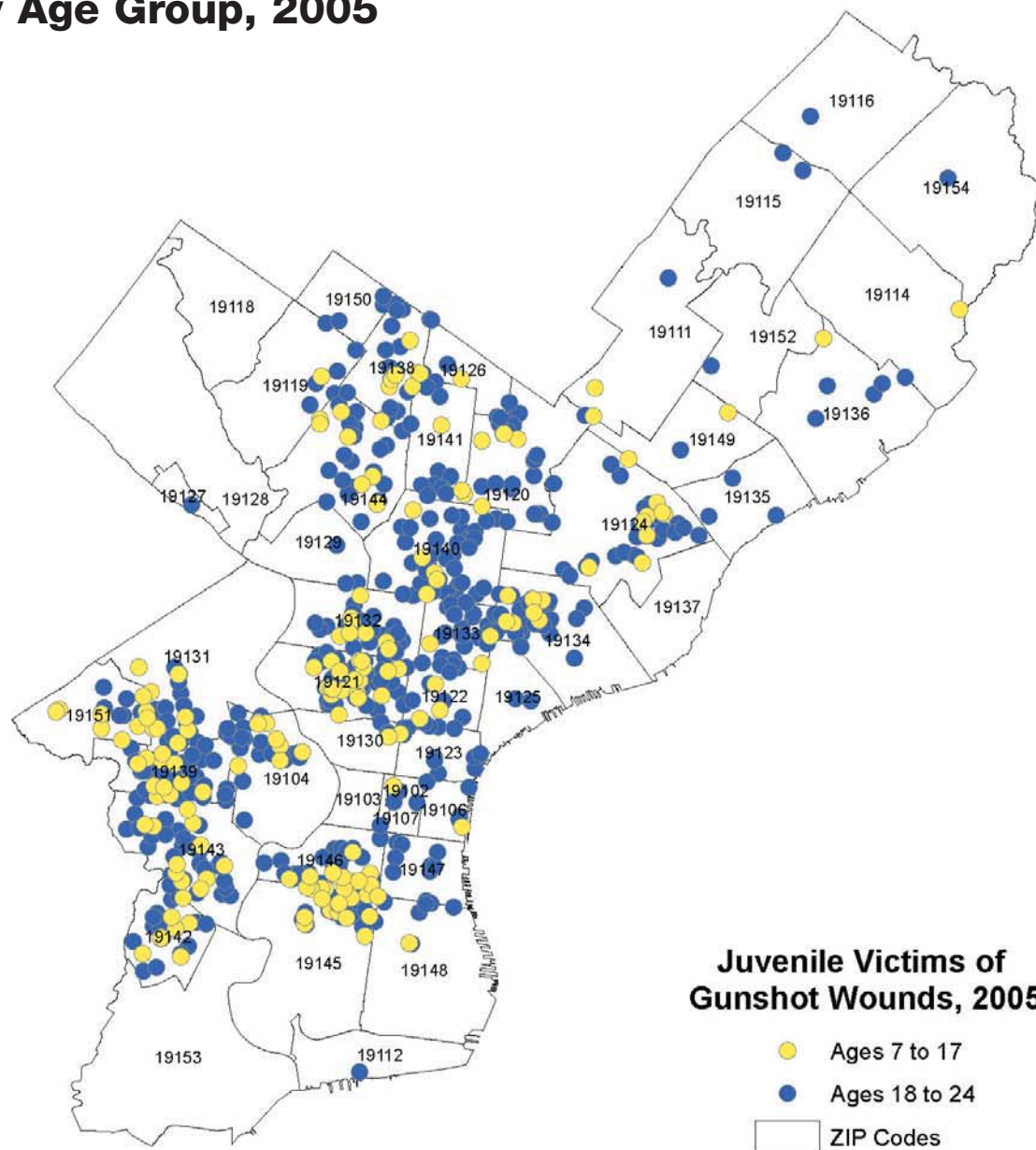
- There were 4,433 juvenile victims of major crime in 2005, five more than the prior year.
- There were 2,258 juveniles arrested for drug offenses, 19 fewer than in 2004.

In 2005-06, the number of youth development opportunities in the non-school hours created through the City of Philadelphia and related agencies reached 42,401. This represented more than a fivefold increase since 2000.

Why This Result Matters:

In unsafe communities, children and youth are exposed to crime and violence. This can affect many aspects of their well-being, from health to education performance to their likelihood of engaging in high risk behavior and crime.

Juvenile Victims of Gunshot Wounds by Age Group, 2005

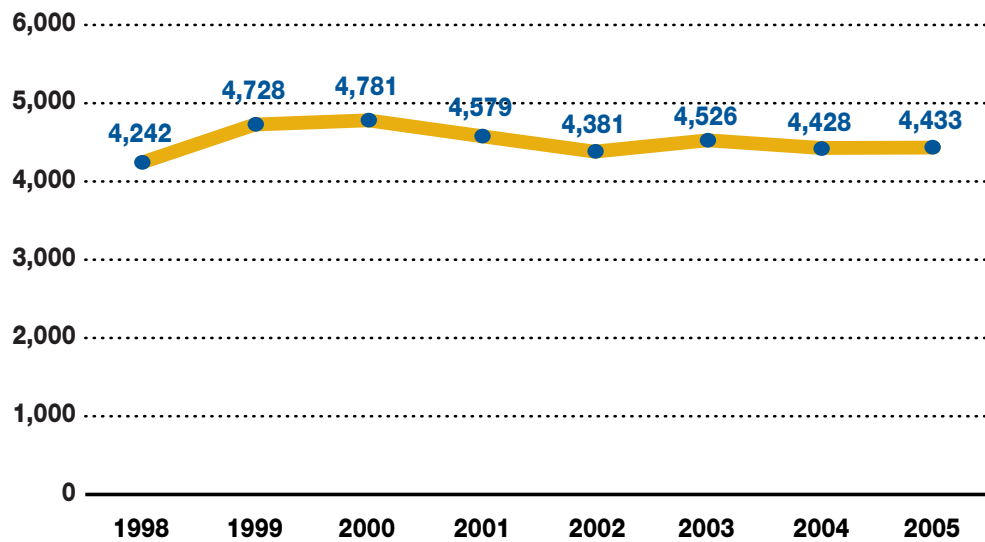


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Juvenile Victims of Crime

**Problematic,
with a long
way to go**

**Number of Juvenile Victims
of Major Crime Offenses**



*During 2005,
there was an
average of 12
major crime
offenses per day
against children
and youth under
age 18.*

There was virtually no change from 2004 to 2005 in the number of juveniles under age 18 victimized by major crime, with just five more juvenile victims of major crime in 2005 than in the prior year.

- There was an average of about 12 major crime offenses against juveniles every day in Philadelphia in 2005.
- About three in four juvenile victims of major crime in Philadelphia were victims of violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault), rather than property crimes (burglary, theft, and vehicle theft).

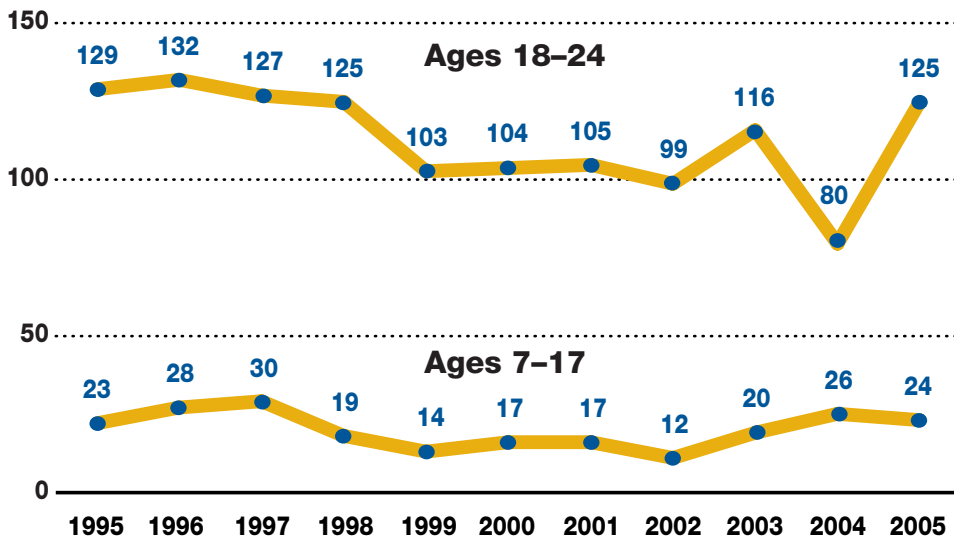
- The split between property crimes and violent crimes has been fairly stable the last three years.
- The most common crimes against juveniles are robberies (31% of juvenile victimizations) and aggravated assaults (35% of juvenile victimizations).

Homicide Victims Ages 7-24

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**Mixed, with
inconsistent
progress**

Homicide Victims



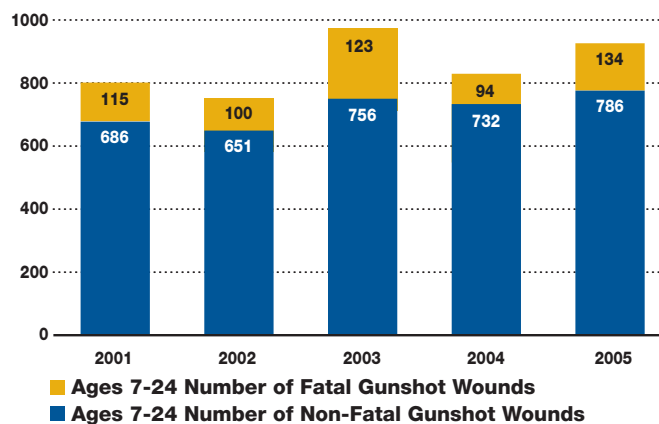
The most troubling information contained in this year's Report Card is the significant one-year increase in the number of homicides of young people ages 7 to 24.

- The number of homicides of young people ages 7-24 in 2005 increased by 41% over 2004, from 106 to 149. This is the highest number since 1997.
- The increase results from a 56% increase in homicides of young people between the ages of 18 and 24, from 80 in 2004 to 125 in 2005.

Gunshot wounds are a major factor in most of Philadelphia's youth homicides: 90% of youth homicides resulted from gunshot wounds.

- The number of gunshot victims ages 7 to 24 (both fatal and non-fatal) increased by 11% in 2005. This was the highest level since the Report Card began tracking this data in 2001.
- There were 920 gunshot victims ages 7-24, an average of about two-and-a-half gunshot wounds per day.

Total Number of Gunshot Wounds, Ages 7-24



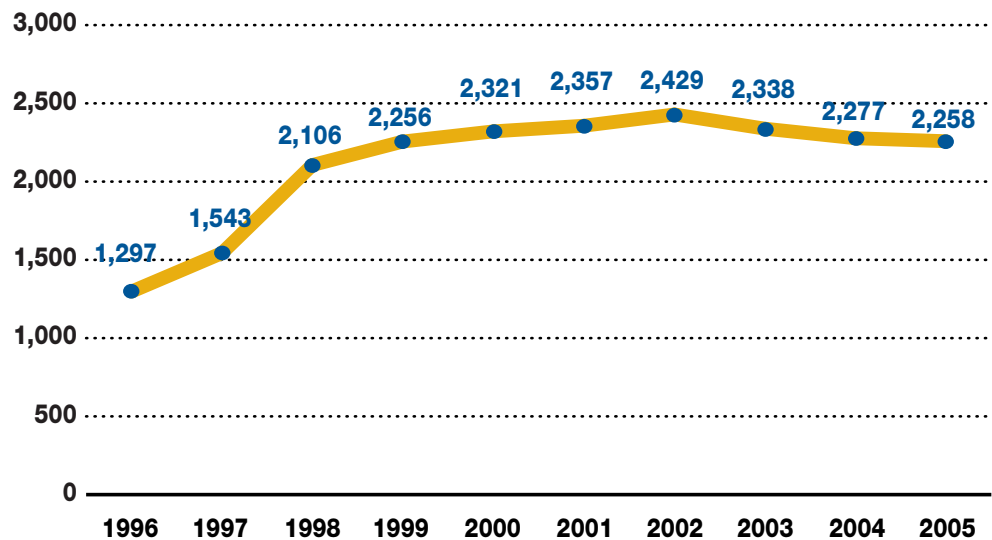
Youth homicides increased significantly between 2004-2005, driven by a 56% increase in homicides of young people ages 18-24.

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Juvenile Arrests for Drug-Related Offenses

Challenging, with major obstacles

Number of Arrests of Juveniles for Drug-Related Offenses



There was minimal change in 2005 in the number of arrests of juveniles for drug-related offenses, with 19 fewer arrests than in 2004.

- However, this was the third decline in as many years.
- After nearly doubling between 1996 and 2002, the annual number of juvenile drug-related arrests fell 7% between 2002 and 2005.

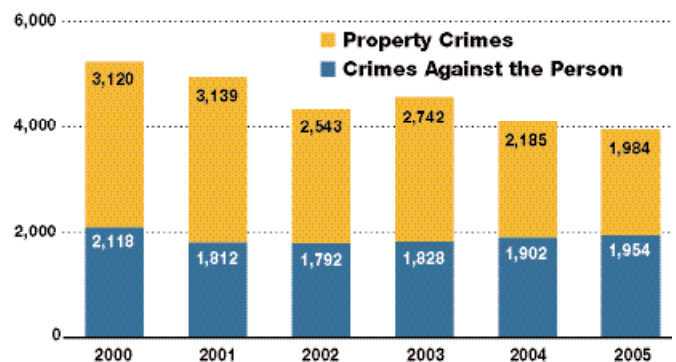
Year-to-year trends in the number of drug-related arrests may result from changing levels of drug-related activities, drug enforcement strategies, or a combination of both. Nevertheless, the three-year decline in juvenile drug-related arrests warrants an upgrading of this indicator from *problematic* to *challenging*.

Research shows a correlation between serious drug involvement and other criminal activity. A multi-year decline in arrests of juveniles for major crime offenses continued in 2005.

- The number of arrests dropped below 4,000 for the first time in at least a decade (the period for which Report Card data is available).
- There was a 25% reduction in major crime arrests from 2000 to 2005.

The annual number of juvenile drug-related arrests fell 7% between 2002 to 2005.

Juvenile Arrests for Major Crime Offenses

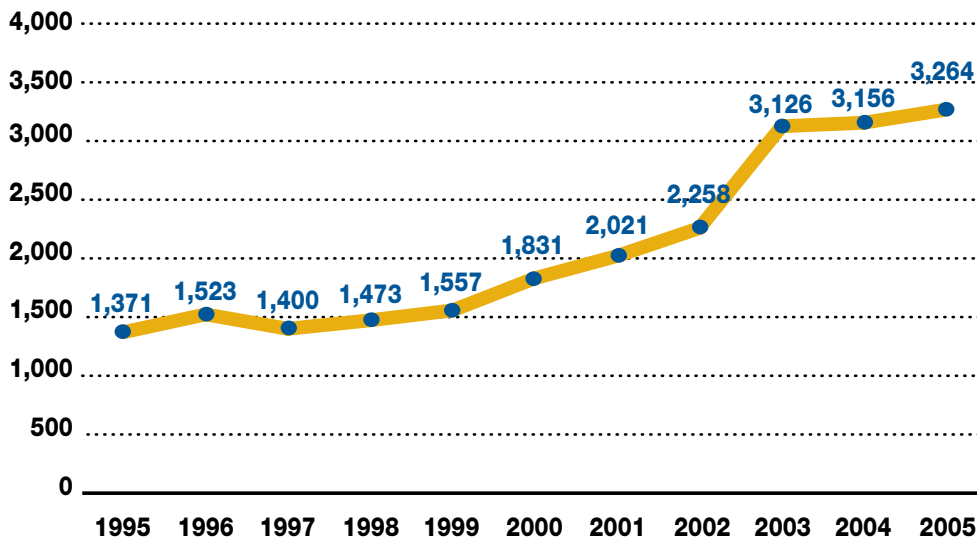


Assaults Inside Public Schools

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Problematic, with a long way to go

Number of Assaults Inside Public Schools

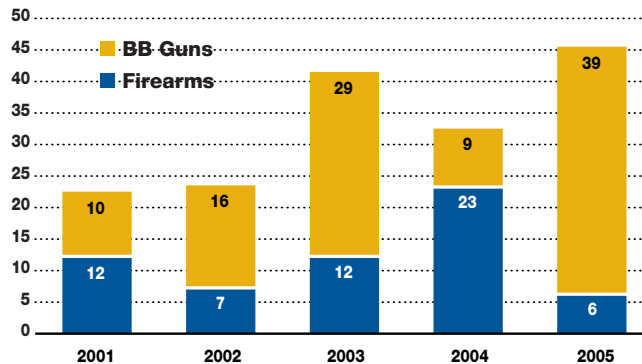


Schools must be safe havens for children, where they can be free to learn without the intimidation, fear, and disruption of violence and criminal activity.

- In 2005, the number of assaults inside public schools was up 3% over the prior year. That was the eighth consecutive increase.
- The number was more than double the reported assaults in 1999, though more rigorous reporting and more aggressive enforcement may have contributed to this trend.

- Reported firearm incidents in public schools in each of the last two years have been about double the number reported in 2002. The majority of firearm incidents in schools involved BB guns.

Gun-Related Incidents in Public Schools



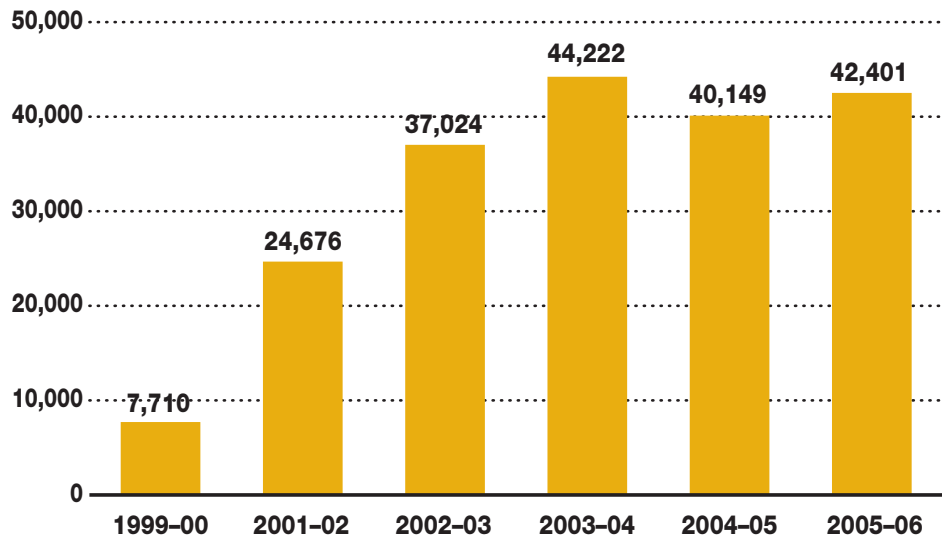
The number of reported assaults in 2005 was about double the number in 1999. More rigorous reporting may have contributed to this trend.

2

Youth Development Opportunities

Promising,
with some
progress

Number of City-Supported After-School and Youth Development Opportunities



The number of City-supported after-school and youth development opportunities available in Philadelphia increased to 42,401 in 2005-06.

Research has linked after-school programs and other positive youth development activities to lower juvenile crime and victimization, higher student achievement and school attendance, and reduced exposure to situations leading to risky behavior. The number of youth development opportunities created through the City of Philadelphia and related agencies has increased considerably since the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

- The number of youth development opportunities delivered through the City's Children's Investment Strategy – including after-school programs, Beacons, Teen Centers, and youth employment opportunities – increased to 42,401 in 2005-06.²
- This 2005-06 number represents more than a five-fold increase since 2000, which results in a new rating for this indicator of *promising, with some progress*.

- There was a dip in youth development opportunities between 2003-04 and 2004-05, largely because some time-limited federal grants came to an end, but the upward trend resumed in 2005-06.

There has been an expansion of youth development activities for older youth (ages 13 and above) throughout the city.

- Teen Center participation increased from 1,146 youth in 2002-03 to 2,210 youth in 2004-05.
- 4,070 teenagers (ages 13 and older) participated in Beacon programs in FY 05.
- The number of employer-paid internships for teenagers increased from 164 to 360 slots over the past three years.

² Due to changes in reporting criteria of youth development opportunities and difficulties in obtaining final comparable annual data for 2000-01, data from that year are not included in the chart.