

2008 DATA REPORT

ABOUT THE MHRC

The Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission (MHRC) is a multi-level, multi-disciplinary and multi-agency homicide review process aimed at reducing the occurrence of homicide in Milwaukee. The MHRC is comprised of law enforcement and community service providers who meet regularly to exchange information on the city's homicides and identify methods of prevention from both public health and criminal justice perspectives. The mission of the MHRC is to better understand the nature of homicides, strategically focus limited enforcement and intervention activities on identifiable risks and develop innovative responses that can lead to solutions.

For more information, visit: www.milwaukee.gov/HomicideReviewComm22506.htm

IMPACT OF THE MHRC

- As compared to 2007, there was a **32% decrease** in homicides and a **8% decrease** in non-fatal shootings in 2008
- A 2007 evaluation, conducted by researchers at Harvard University, found that police districts where the MHRC was initially implemented (2, 5, 6) showed a statistically significant decrease in homicides as compared to non-MHRC districts (1, 3, 4, 7), between 2005 (pre-MHRC) and 2007
- This evaluation also surveyed MHRC members and found that 96% of survey respondents believe participating in reviews has resulted in the building and strengthening of partnerships within the criminal justice community and between the criminal justice community and community service providers
- Community service provider attendance at MHRC reviews has grown to 38 unique organizations
- Two significant legislative changes have been made as a result of MHRC recommendations
- In 2008 the review process expanded to cover homicides and shootings in all 7 police districts

JUVENILE JUSTICE

- 45% of homicide victims and 58% of suspects had been arrested as a juvenile.
- Of those with juvenile arrests, homicide victims had been arrested an average of 3.8 times as a juvenile vs. 5.5 times for homicide suspects. One suspect had 21 juvenile arrests.
- Most common juvenile arrest charges among victims and suspects were property crimes (30%), non-violent offenses (excluding motor vehicle, alcohol/drug, and disorderly conduct) (18%), sexual violence or other violence against a person (11%), court/police interference (10%), and drug offenses (10%)

The homicide review process has shed light on the extent of youth criminal activity in Milwaukee and revealed both successes and inefficiencies in our youth-serving criminal justice system. For example, a police officer investigating the involvement of a child in an allegation of illegal behavior has no efficient way of determining if the child is under a juvenile court order as a result of a prior delinquency adjudication. If a police officer confronts a minor in an alley at 2 a.m., without additional information, the officer may believe he is confronted with a simple curfew violation.

In response to these gaps in information, the MHRC assembled the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee, comprised of Milwaukee County Children's Court, Office of the Chief Judge of Milwaukee County, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, Milwaukee Police Department, and Department of Corrections (DOC) Division of Juvenile Corrections, to improve information sharing and develop juvenile violence prevention strategies. Members are making progress toward including juveniles on supervision with DOC Division of Juvenile Corrections in the TIME System, the system used by officers to identify persons on probation or parole. Also, some members recently worked to include law enforcement officers on bill AB 676, which would have allowed them access to certain juvenile records. Under this bill, in the above scenario, the officer would be able to determine if the juvenile is on probation, or if he has any court restrictions he may be violating. The officer could also determine if the appropriate placement of the child is with parents, or whether another placement has been ordered by the juvenile court. Although the bill passed in the Assembly and the Senate, it was vetoed with recommendations by Governor Doyle.

1/1/08 - 12/31/08

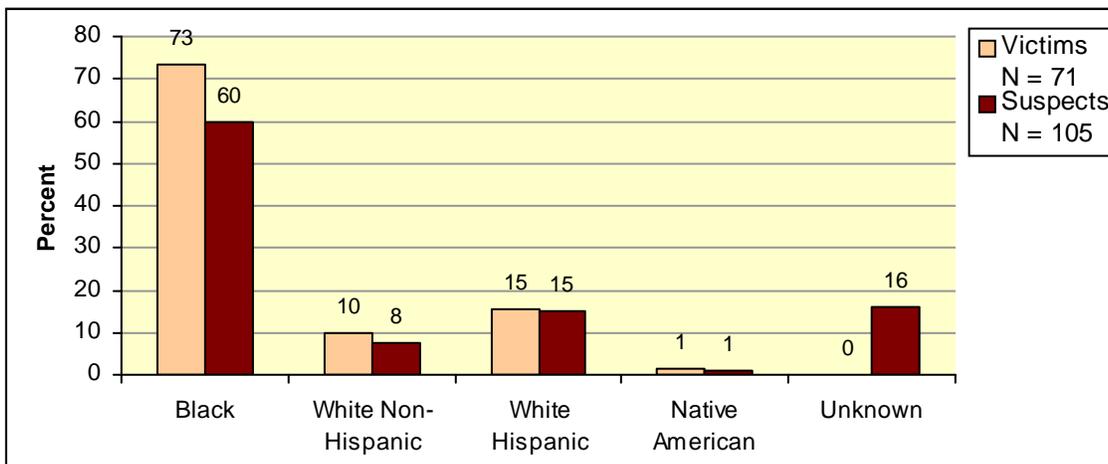
Homicide Total: 71

This is a 33% decline compared to 2007 and a 32% decline compared to 2006.

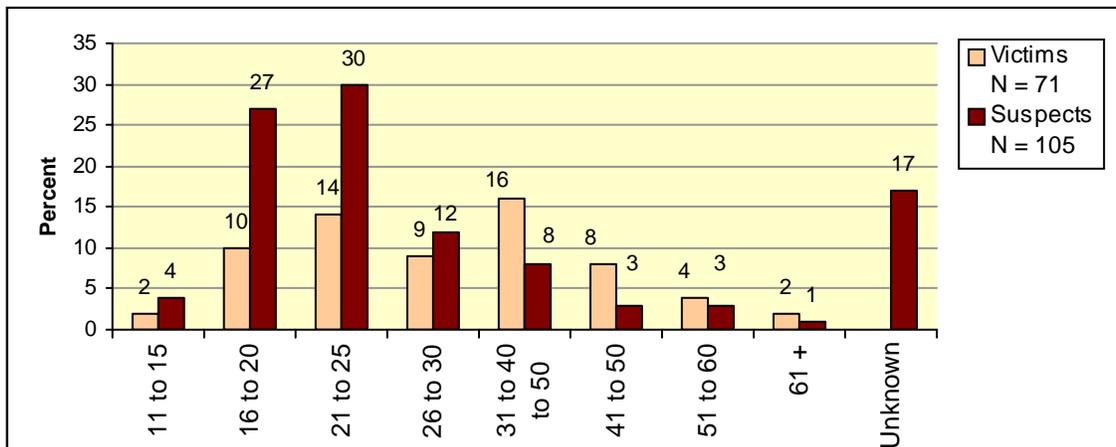
- 65% of homicides were committed with a firearm
- Six infants were victims of abuse, shaken baby syndrome or neglect.
- 39% of homicide victims and 40% of suspects were either on probation with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections at the time of the homicide or had been at some time in the past
- 19% of victim arrests and 36% of suspect arrests were as juveniles
- 29% of victims and 19% of suspects had been arrested at least once as a juvenile for a weapon offense or other violent acts against a person

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HOMICIDE VICTIM AND SUSPECT RACE/ETHNICITY

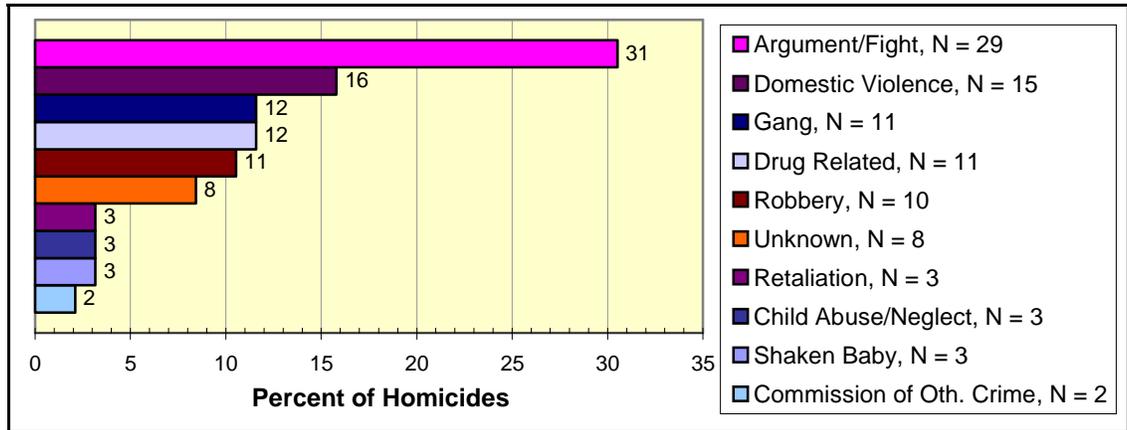


HOMICIDE VICTIM AND SUSPECT AGES



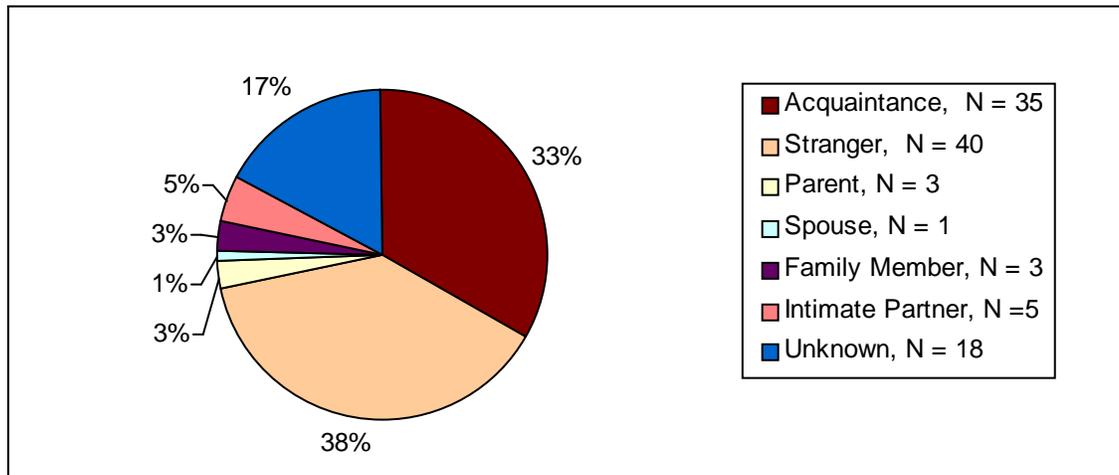
* 14% of victims and 11% of suspects were under the age of 18

HOMICIDE CIRCUMSTANCES: BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY FACTORS



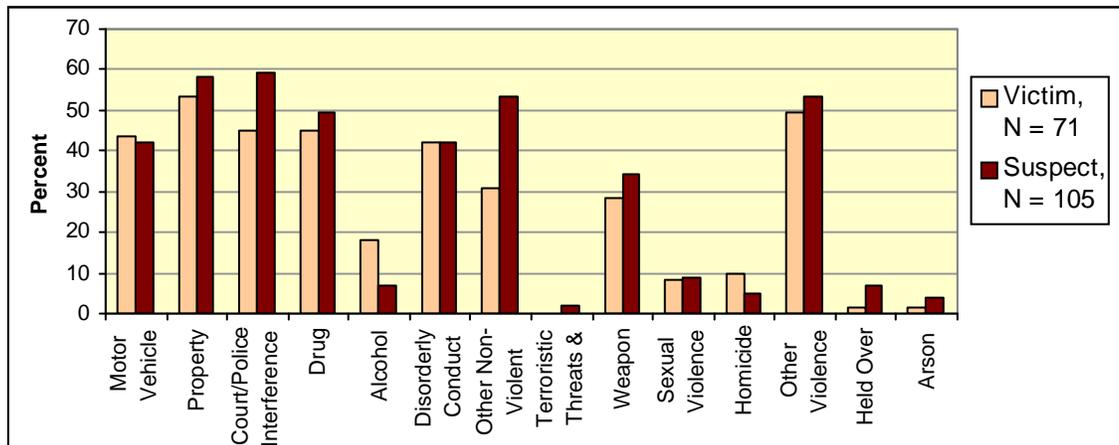
*Circumstance data are not mutually exclusive (i.e. a single homicide may be represented twice in this graph)

HOMICIDE VICTIM TO SUSPECT RELATIONSHIP



* 45% of suspects knew their victim

HOMICIDE VICTIM AND SUSPECT PRIOR ARREST HISTORY



* Seventeen victims (24%) and 9 suspects (9%) had no criminal history

1/1/08 - 12/31/08

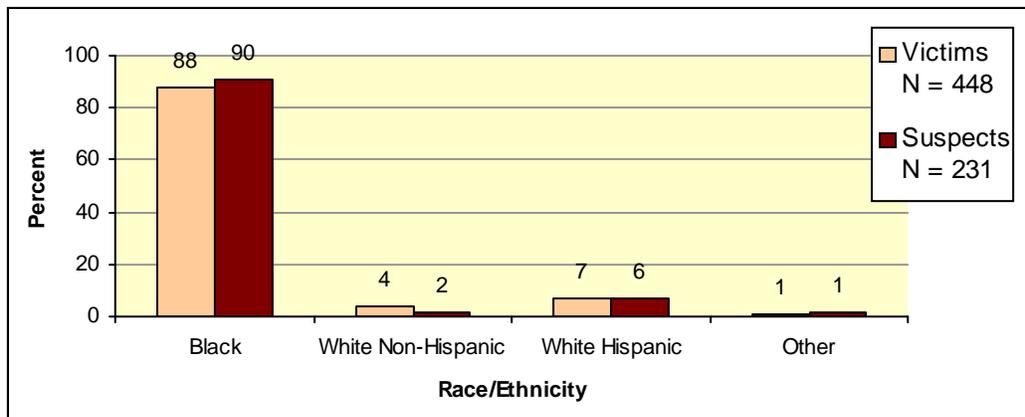
Nonfatal Shooting Victim Total: 448

This is a 8% decline compared to 2007 and a 28% decline compared to 2006.

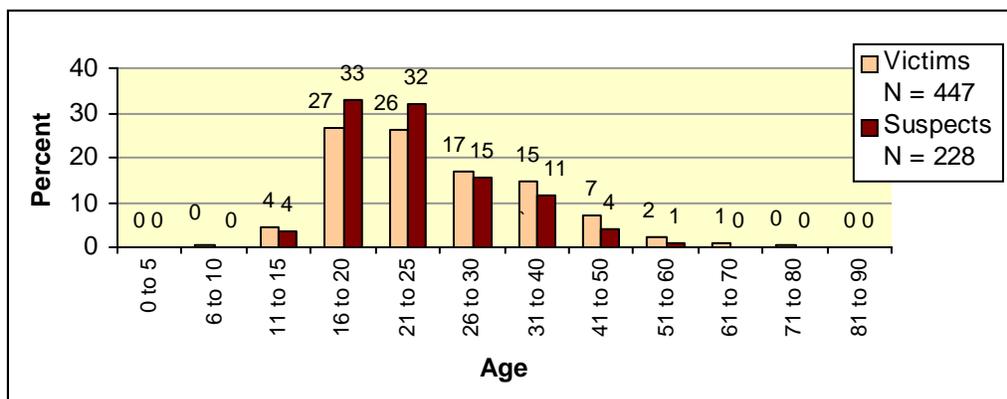
- One 21 year-old suspect had been arrested 21 times as a juvenile, committed a homicide and three days later was involved in a shooting. He was a gang member and was still on juvenile supervision with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections at the time of these incidents.
- 24 incidents involved two or more shooting victims, 1 of these involved six shooting victims.
- 54 shooting incidents, involving 54 victims (12%), occurred in or just outside a tavern.
- In the first half of 2008, 32 victims (7%) and 7 suspects (3%) had no criminal history.

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SHOOTING VICTIM AND SUSPECT RACE/ETHNICITY

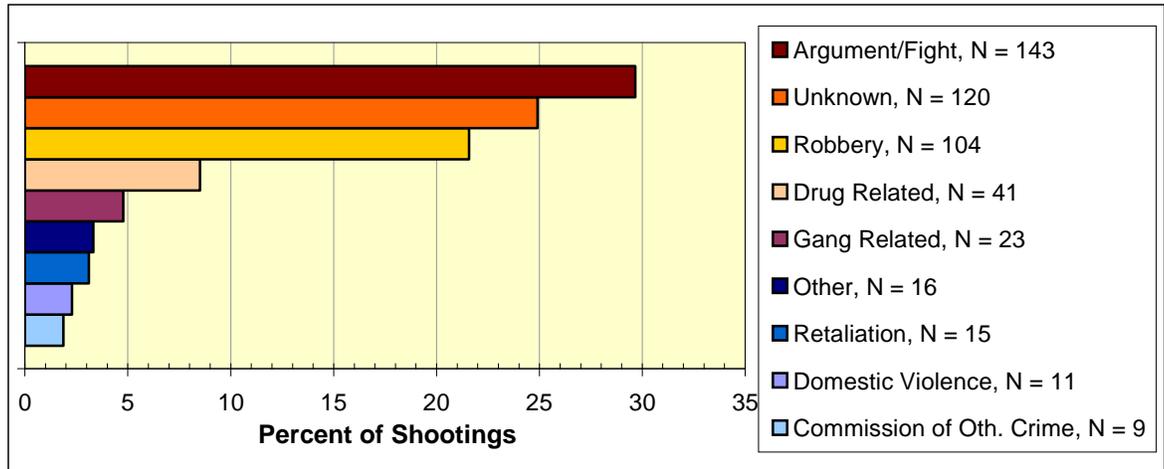


SHOOTING VICTIM AND SUSPECT AGES



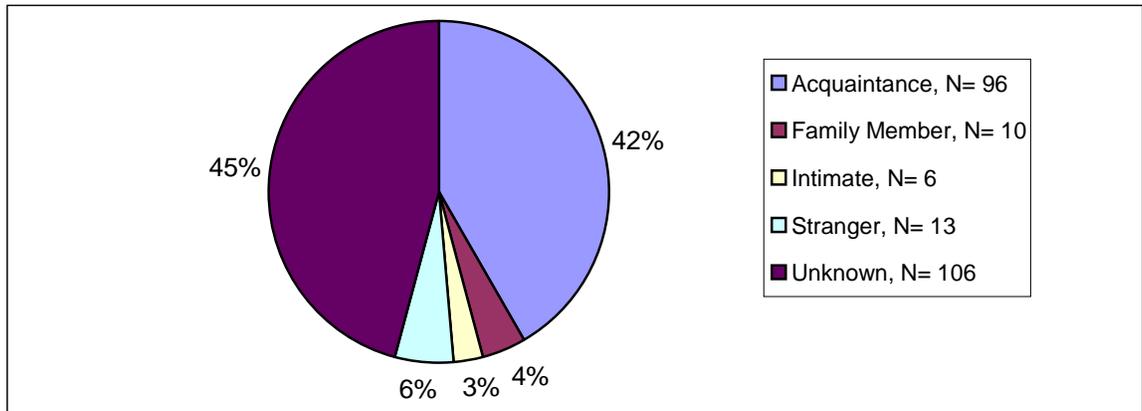
*The age of one victim and three suspects are unknown

SHOOTING CIRCUMSTANCES: BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY FACTOR



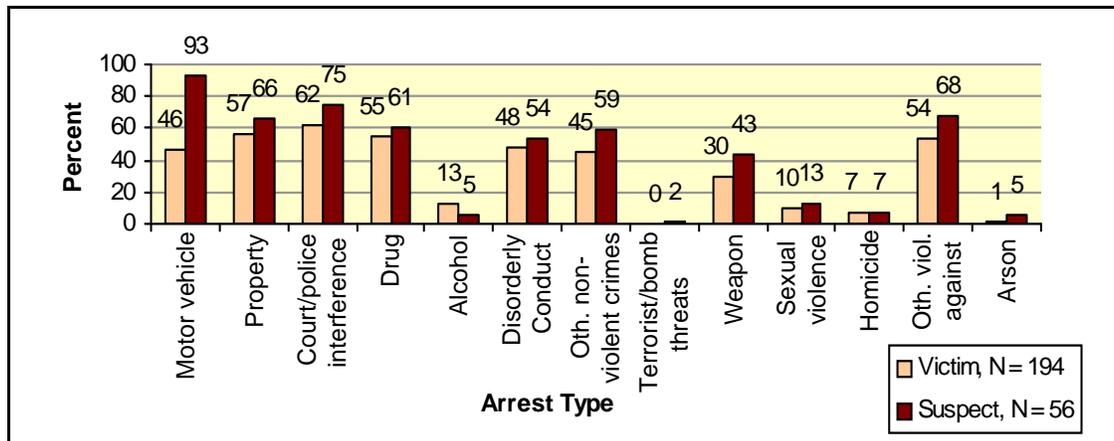
*Circumstance data are not mutually exclusive (i.e. a single shooting may be represented twice in this graph)

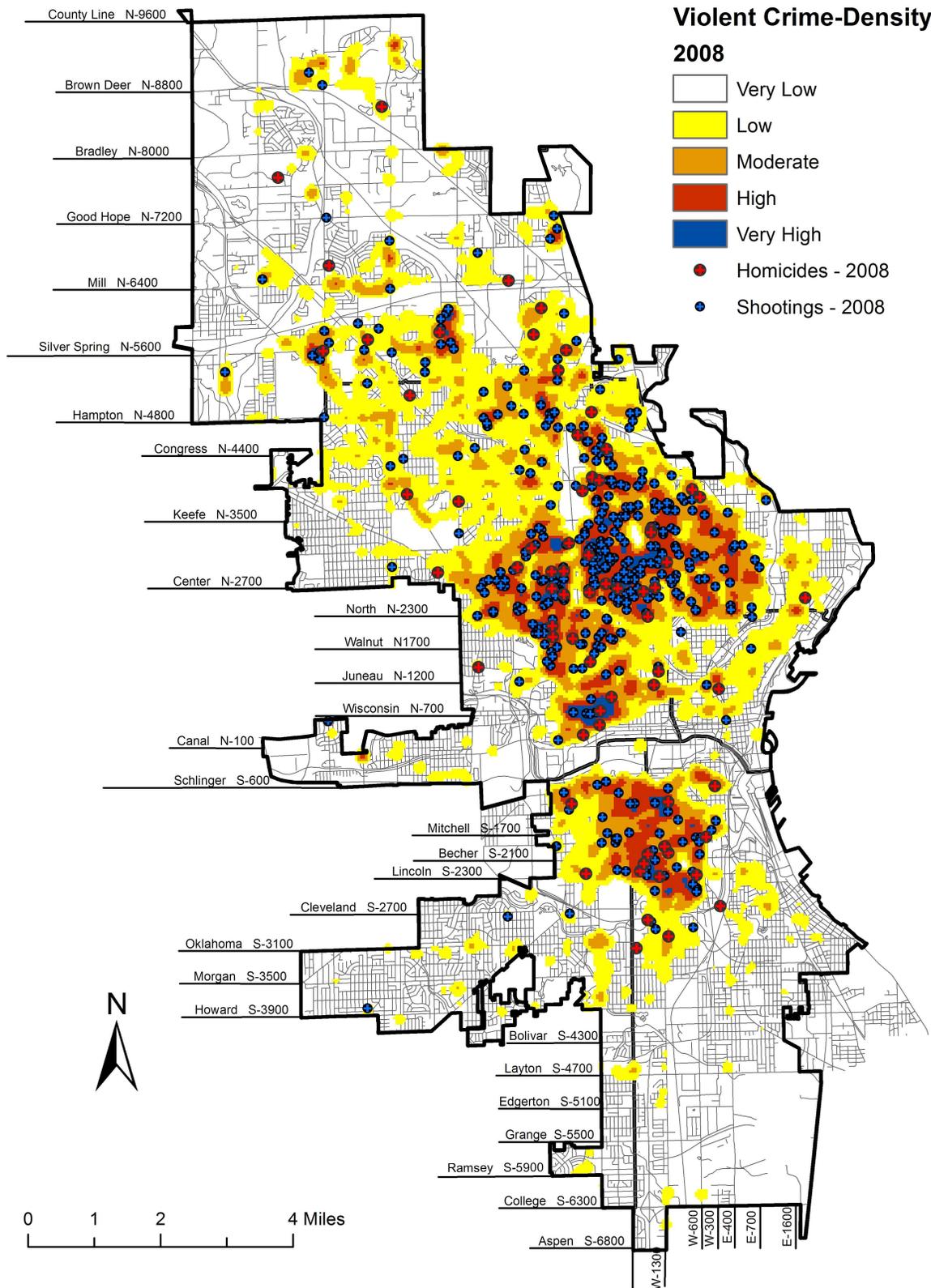
SHOOTING VICTIM TO SUSPECT RELATIONSHIP



* At least 48% of suspects knew their victim

SHOOTING VICTIM AND SUSPECT PRIOR ARREST HISTORY





Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission

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www.milwaukee.gov/HomicideReviewComm22506.htm