



Congressional “Ask a Criminologist” Series

Understanding Increases in Homicide Rates: How the Opioid Epidemic and Police-Community Relations Impact Homicide

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Dr. Nancy La Vigne, Urban Institute

Dr. Howard Spivak, National Institute of Justice

Dr. Shytierra Gaston, Indiana University - Bloomington

Chief Richard Biehl, City of Dayton, Ohio

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Understanding Increases in Homicide Rates:

How the Opioid Epidemic and Police-Community Relations Impact Homicides

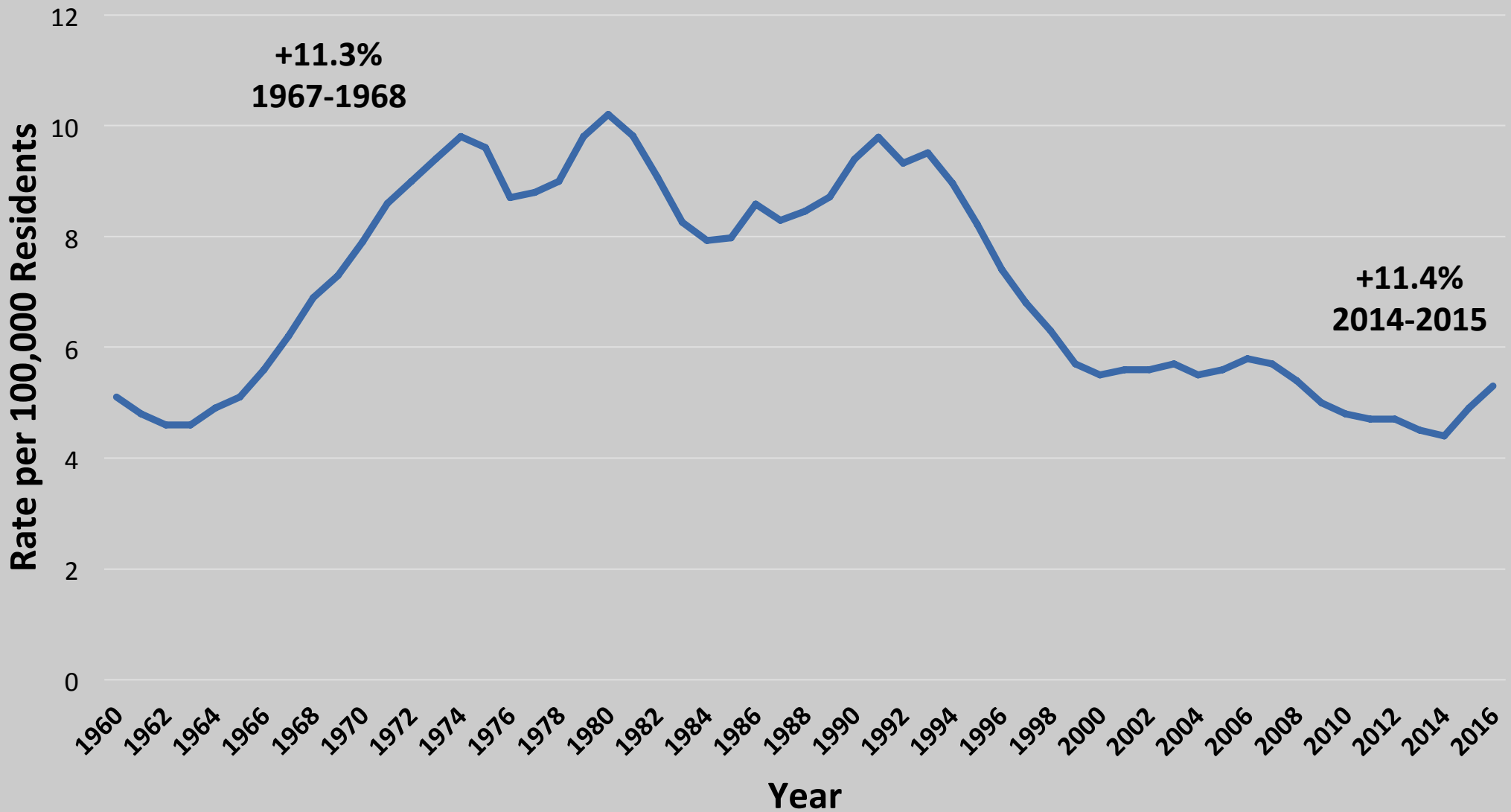
Shytierra Gaston, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, Indiana University

Washington, D.C.

Tuesday May 22, 2018

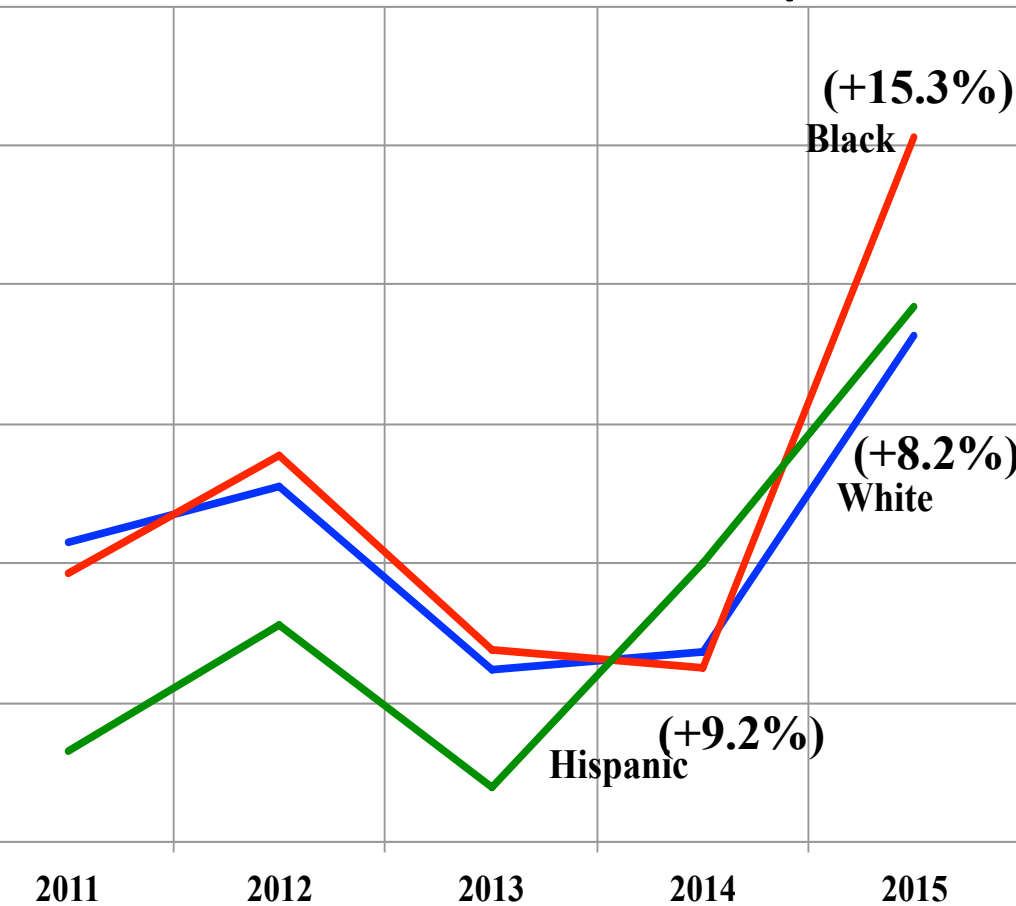
U.S. Homicide Rates per 100,000 Population, 1960-2016



Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports

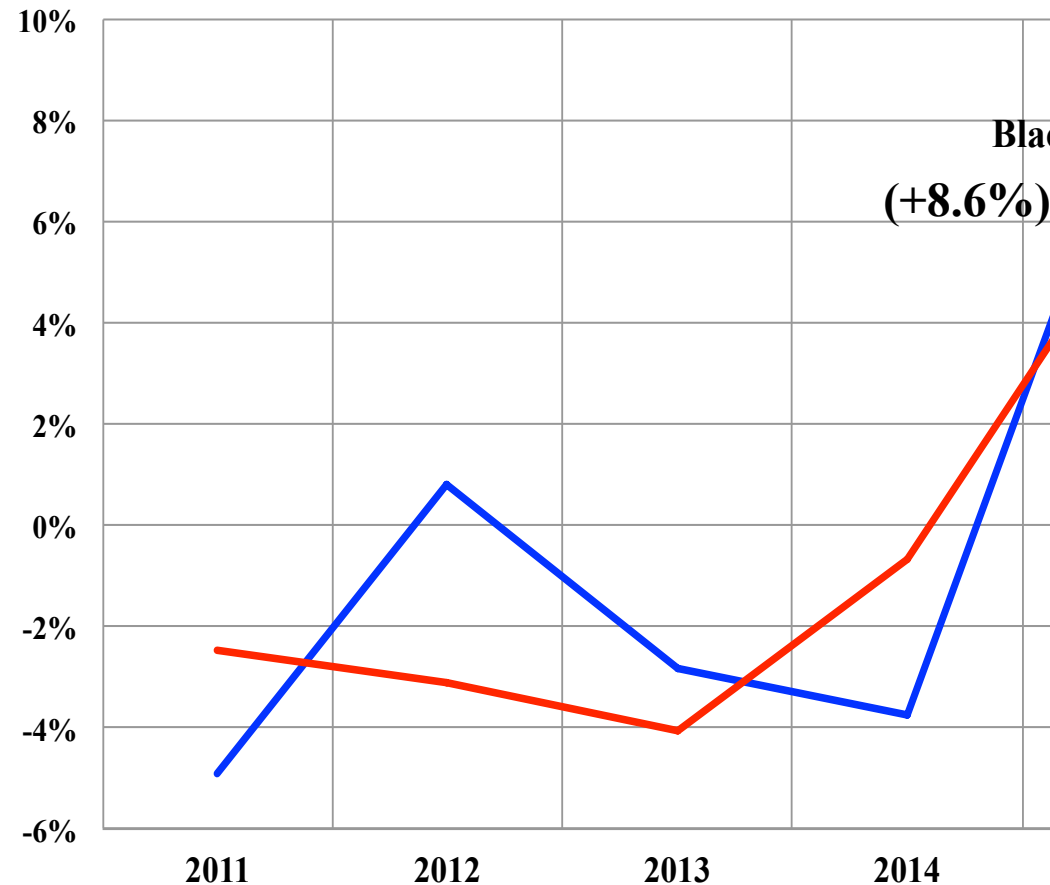
Race/Ethnicity & Homicide Rate Changes, 2011-2015

(% increase from 2014-2015)



Homicide Victims

Source: National Vital Statistics System



Homicide Offenders

Source: FBI Supplemental Homicide Reports

Increase in Homicides, 2015-2016: Is there a nexus with the opioid epidemic?

Presented by: Richard S. Biehl
Mayor and Chief of Police
May 22, 2018

Initial Considerations

There is limited data collected that may establish the overall relationship of drugs to violent crime.

- Evidence of the relationship is established, at times, when a crime is reported/discovered or when an offender is arrested.
- The data collected does not reliably identify the frequency or nature of this relationship.

Weapon possession, and at times use, is an inherent element of drug selling/trafficking.

- Violence associated with drug selling is likely overshadowed by violence caused by those involved in the drug trade but unrelated to drug selling.



ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSE DEATHS: VICTIMS' HISTORY OF ARREST FOR CRIMINAL OFFENSES

*Overdose victim data matched against any type of arrest for
each specific individual from 2012 – 2017.*

DATA ON OD DEATH VICTIMS WAS PROVIDED BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE.

2017 OD DEATHS VS. ARREST HISTORY

ACCIDENTAL
DOSE DEATHS

- *282 Dayton accidental overdose deaths were reported by the Montgomery County Coroner's Office*

144 ARRESTED
INDIVIDUALS

- *144 of the 282 individuals (51%) have an arrest history with the Dayton Police Department*
 - *Any type of arrest, non-specific, since January 2012*

473 BOOKING
NUMBERS

- *473 unique booking numbers were created from the 144 individuals arrested*
 - *Any type of arrest, non-specific*

195 SPECIFIC CRIME
CATEGORY ARRESTS

- *195 (41%) unique booking numbers, for targeted*

SPECIFIC CRIME
CATEGORY

DRUG RELATED

ALCOHOL RELATED

PART 1 VIOLENT

MENACING

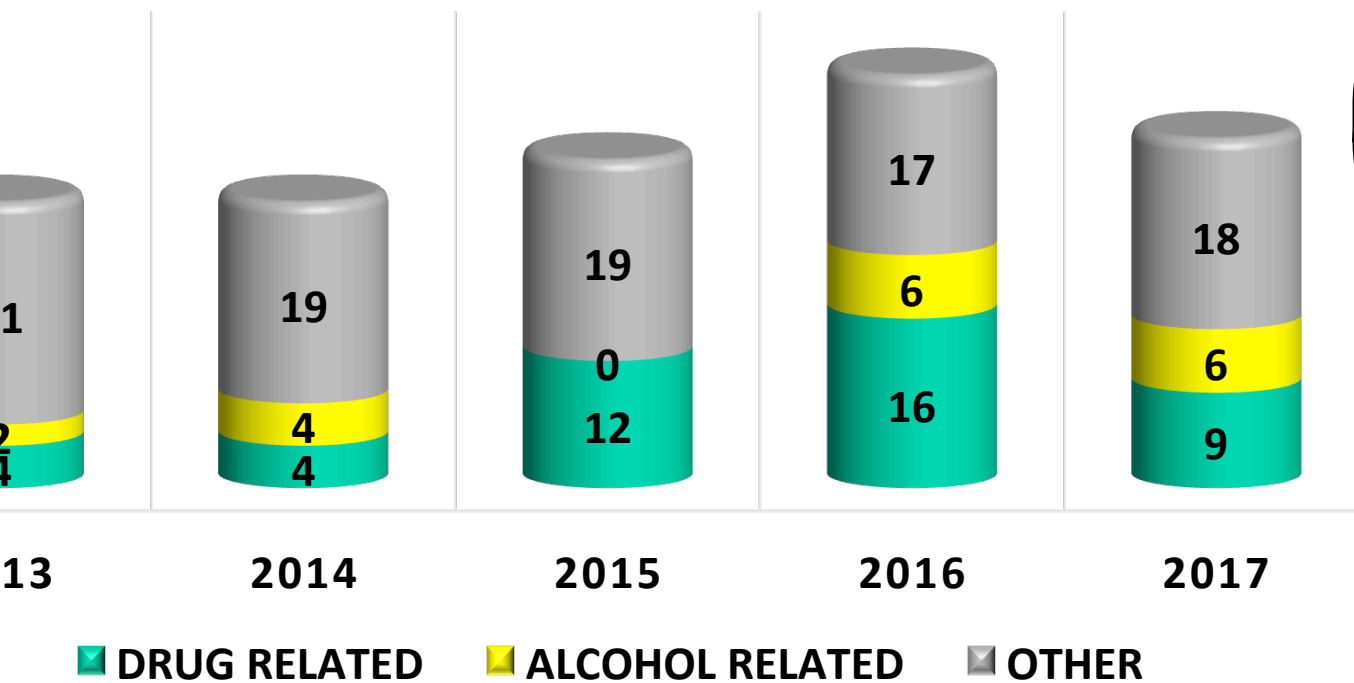
WEAPONS



DAYTON POLICE HOMICIDE DATA

Homicide reports were read in order to determine whether or not the crime consisted of elements that drug/s and/or alcohol were involved per the assigned detective.

DRUG / ALCOHOL RELATED HOMICIDES



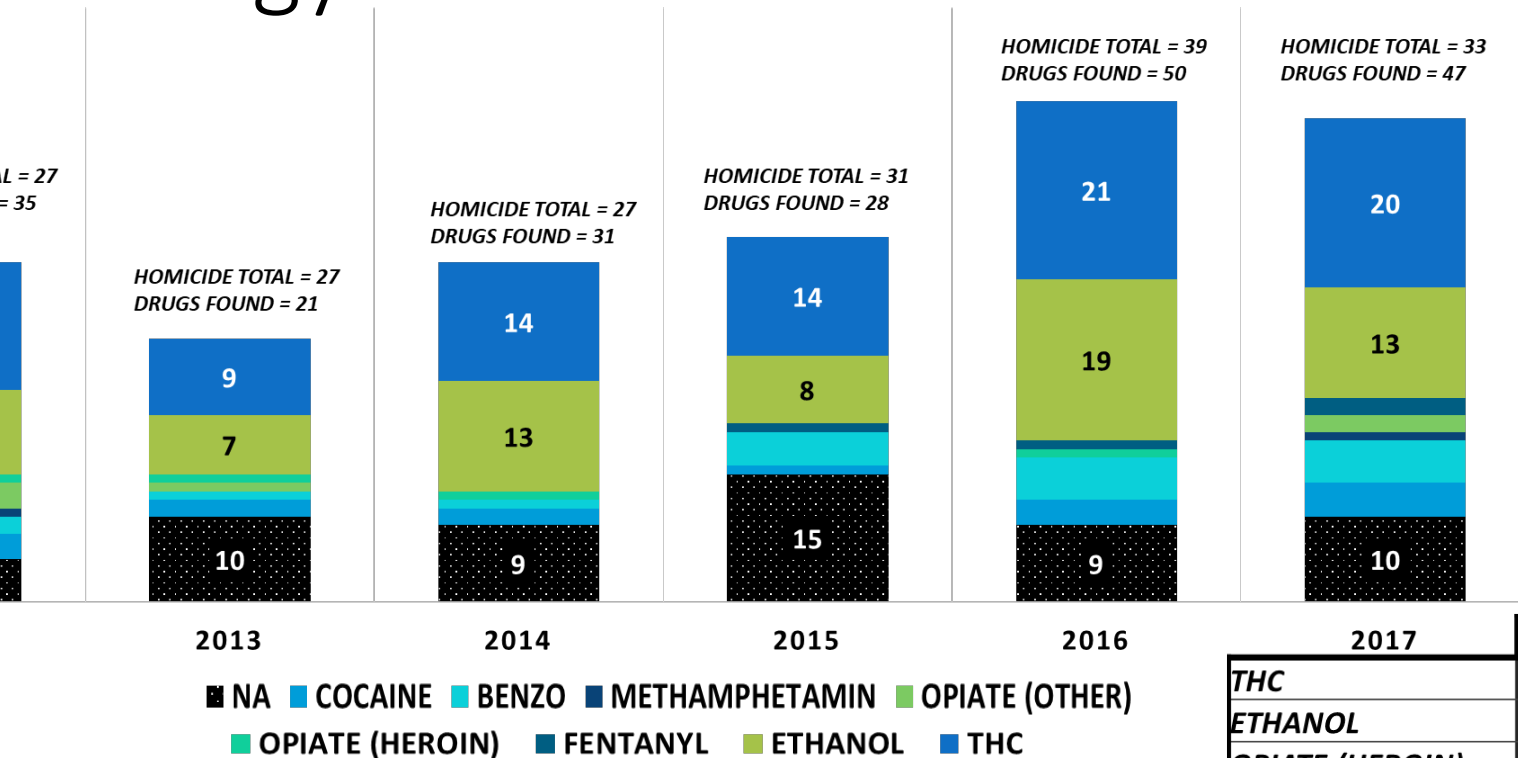
DRUG RELATION	2015	2016
OPIOID	8	12
MARIJUANA	3	4
METH	0	0
CRACK	1	0

OPIOID RELATIONS	2015
Drug deal gone bad	3
Drug Robberies	0
Theft of drugs from Supplier	3
Retaliation to/from Dealer	0
Money owed to Dealer	1
Shooting up a Drug house	1
TOTALS	8

THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED HOMICIDES, CONSISTED OF ELEMENTS THAT DRUG/S AND/OR ALCOHOL WERE INVOLVED PER THE DETECTIVE.

2012 – 2017 HOMICIDE VICTIMS

Toxicology Results



WAS PROVIDED BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE'S TOXICOLOGY REPORTS; AND IS IN NO WAY AN INDICATION OF HOW EACH VICTIM PERISHED.

DRUGS LISTED WERE FOUND WITHIN THE TOXICOLOGY REPORT OF EACH HOMICIDE VICTIM, HAVING METABOLITE TRACES OF LISTED DRUGS.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
THC	15 52%	9 50%	14 50%	14 61%	21 50%	20 61%
ETHANOL	10 34%	7 39%	13 46%	8 35%	19 45%	13 35%
OPIATE (HEROIN)	1 3%	1 6%	1 4%	0 0%	1 2%	1 3%
OPIATE (OTHER)	3 10%	1 6%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 5%
FENTANYL	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 4%	1 2%	2 5%
METHAMPHETAMIN	1 3%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 3%
BENZO	2 7%	1 6%	1 4%	4 17%	5 12%	5 13%
COCAINE	3 10%	2 11%	2 7%	1 4%	3 7%	4 10%
TOTAL	35	21	31	28	50	47
NA*	5	10	9	15	9	1

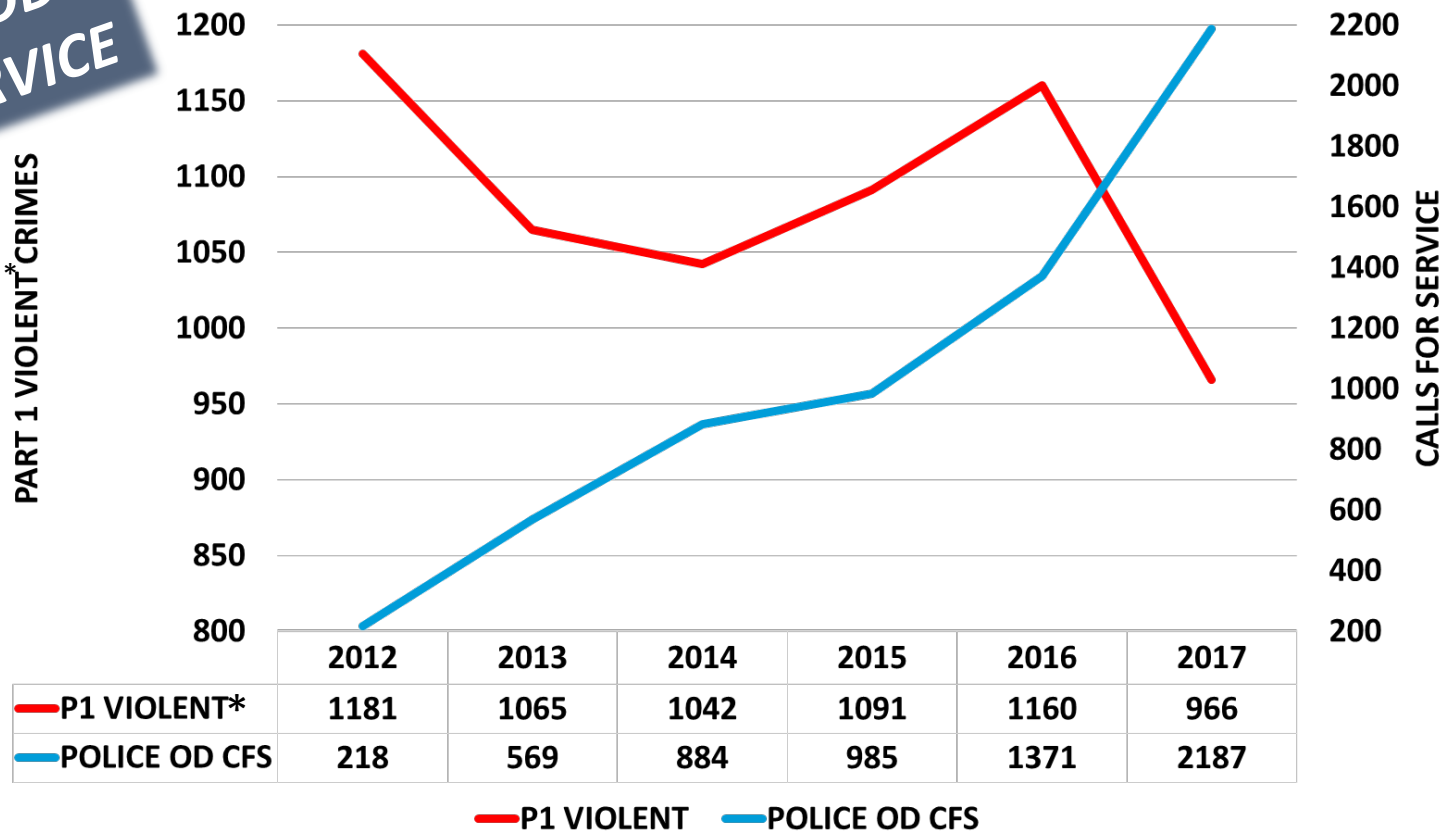
*NA IS WHEN THERE WERE NO TOX REPORT GIVEN OR DRUGS WERE NOT INCLUDED WITH THE REPORT.



PART 1 VIOLENT CRIME TRENDS VS. OVERDOSE CALLS FOR SERVICE

1 VIOLENT CRIMES* VS. OD CALLS FOR SERVICE

PART 1 VIOLENT* CRIMES



PART 1 VIOLENT* CRIMES	2012	2013	%CNG	2014	%CNG	2015	%CNG	2016	%CNG	2017	%CNG
AGG ASSAULT	499	501	0%	470	-6%	544	16%	586	8%	517	-12%
ARMED ROBBERY	382	300	-21%	315	5%	295	-6%	342	16%	259	-24%
UNARMED ROBBERY	273	237	-13%	230	-3%	221	-4%	193	-13%	156	-19%
HOMICIDE	27	27	0%	27	0%	31	15%	39	26%	34	-13%

**EXCLUDING FORCIBLE RAPE*

Key Observation

I would like to argue this afternoon that we know too little about changing crime rates, and know that too late, and that we should think about designing a much more ambitious research agenda to understand crime in its local context as our challenge for the next century.”

Declining Crime and Our National Research Agenda: A New Yorker's View

Jeremy Travis

Director, National Institute of Justice

Inaugural Lecture

The Jack and Lewis Rudin Distinguished Visiting Scholar Program

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

March 9, 1998

New York, New York



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