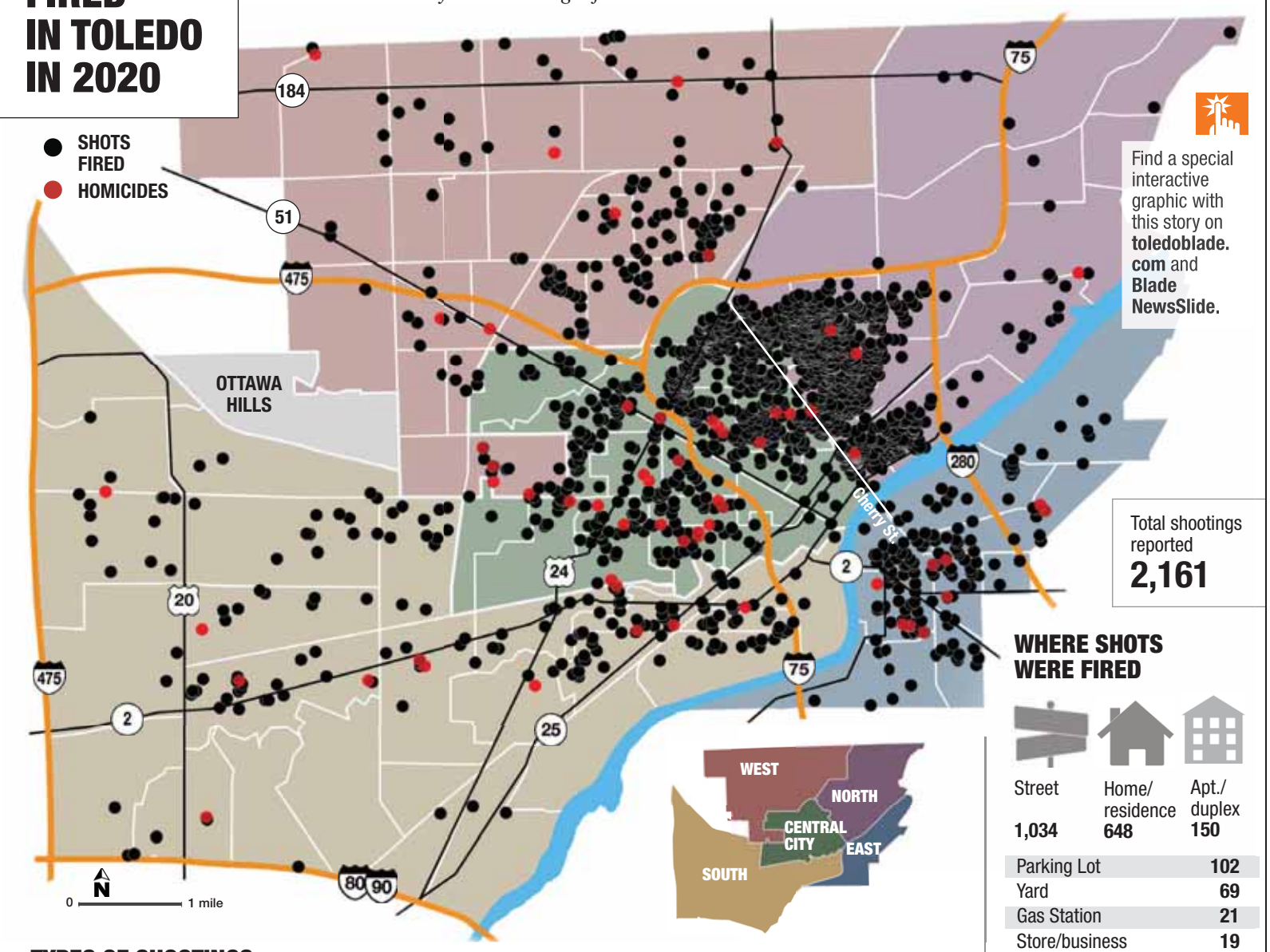
SHOTS FIRED IN TOLEDO IN 2020

Toledo Police logged 2,161 shooting incidents — from casings found to shots reported to murders — in 2020. The Blade analyzed the data to find neighborhoods where residents are most likely to encounter gunfire.



Find a special interactive graphic with this story on **toledoblade.com** and **Blade NewsSlide.**

Total shootings reported **2,161**

WHERE SHOTS WERE FIRED

Street	Home/ residence	Apt./ duplex
1,034	648	150

Parking Lot	102
Yard	69
Gas Station	21
Store/business	19
Bar	18
Park	18
Field/vacant lot	18
Medical Facility	8
School	3
Hotel	1
Church	1
Other/unclassified	51

*There were 61 homicides in 2020 (as represented by the red dots above); not all were shootings and some shootings had multiple victims named

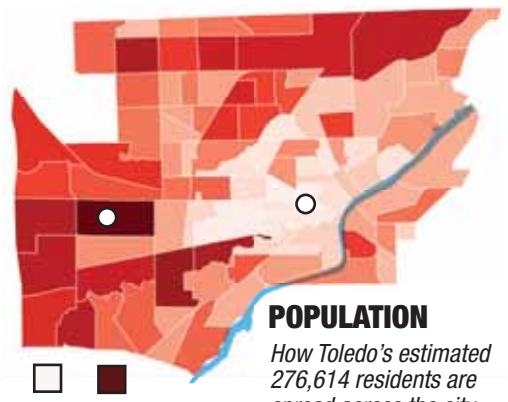
TYPES OF SHOOTINGS

An analysis of shooting data provided by Toledo Police by report type:

Discharge of Firearm / COPRS	1,421	Aggravated Menacing	41	Injured Child	1
Aggravated Assault	305	Aggravated Robbery	12	Injured Adult	1
Shooting into Habitation	249	Aggravated Burglary	10	Felonious Assault	1
Shooting Investigation	67	Criminal Damaging	2	Unclassified	6
Homicide*	44	Animal Cruelty	1		

TOLEDO DEMOGRAPHICS

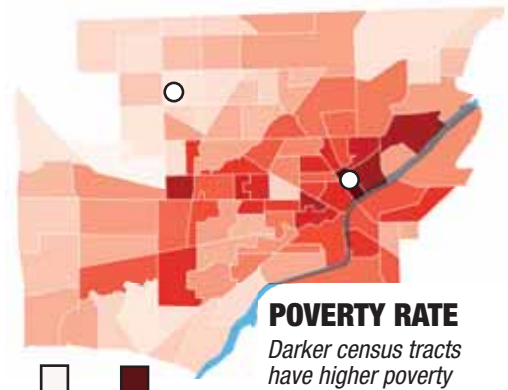
U.S. Census estimates offer a neighborhood-level view of the city and its people.



POPULATION

How Toledo's estimated 276,614 residents are spread across the city.

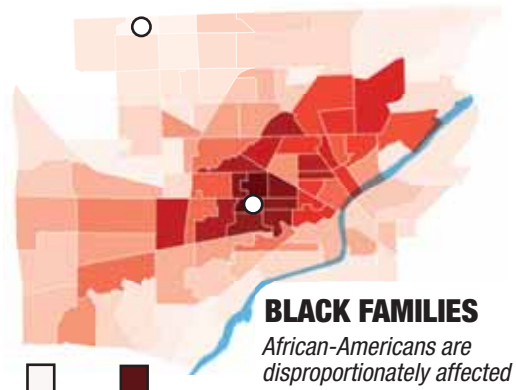
764 to 6,437
(Census tract 32) (Census tract 74)



POVERTY RATE

Darker census tracts have higher poverty rates.

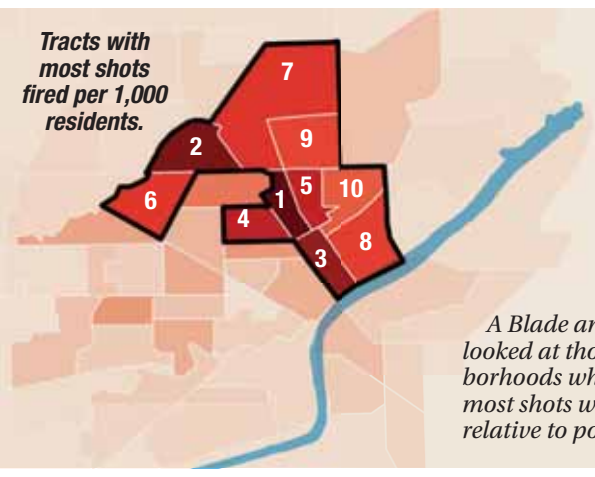
5.2% to 72.7%
(Census tract 60) (Census tract 29)



BLACK FAMILIES

African-Americans are disproportionately affected by poverty and more likely to live near gunfire.

0.05% to 95.9%
(Census tract 89.01) (Census tract 32)

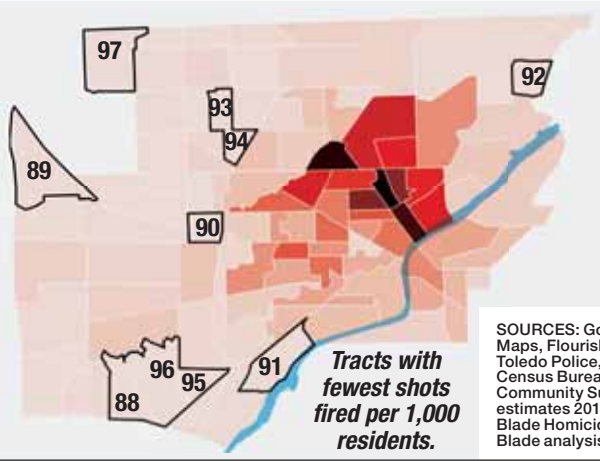


Tracts with most shots fired per 1,000 residents.

A Blade analysis looked at those neighborhoods where the most shots were fired, relative to population.

HIGHEST-RISK NEIGHBORHOODS

Rank	Census tract	Shots fired	Gunshots /1,000 residents	Population estimate	Median income	Poverty rate	HS grad rate	Black	Hispanic	White
					Income & poverty			Racial demographics		
1.	Tract 17	96	**81.01**	1,185	$22,115	50.2%	69.9%	68.44%	3.63%	21.27%
2.	Tract 8	94	**77.11**	1,219	$23,727	39%	82%	81.62%	5.74%	10.5%
3.	Tract 29	144	**72.65**	1,982	$9,528	72.7%	66%	61.6%	11.3%	30.37%
4.	Tract 22	83	**63.36**	1,310	$22,391	49.5%	68.9%	76.87%	10.46%	9.54%
5.	Tract 18	169	**62.38**	2,709	$24,015	43%	66.8%	51.53%	10.3%	39.13%
6.	Tract 9	100	**53.22**	1,879	$26,471	34.1%	82.8%	57.85%	5.59%	31.93%
7.	Tract 15	65	**52.04**	1,249	$21,164	39.5%	67.9%	73.1%	5.36%	10.89%
8.	Tract 30	94	**49.81**	1,887	$15,714	64%	71.6%	33.28%	20.93%	47.43%
9.	Tract 10	207	**48.47**	4,271	$38,681	36%	73.6%	62.42%	6.35%	28.17%
10.	Tract 19	60	**42.89**	1,399	$19,449	55.8%	79.2%	58.47%	9.58%	22.8%



Tracts with fewest shots fired per 1,000 residents.

LOWEST-RISK NEIGHBORHOODS

Rank	Census tract	Shots fired	Gunshots /1,000 residents	Population estimate	Median income	Poverty rate	HS grad rate	Black	Hispanic	White
					Income & poverty			Racial demographics		
88.	Tract 72.02	1	**0.28**	3,610	$49,067	12.6%	91.8%	14.96%	7.12%	77.15%
89.	Tract 84	0	**0.00**	4,524	$56,625	6.5%	91.9%	9.35%	5.77%	79.2%
90.	Tract 104	0	**0.00**	3,471	$19,792	60.5%	95.9%	12.76%	6.19%	74.88%
91.	Tract 45.01	0	**0.00**	2,394	$61,111	9.8%	92.2%	4.93%	13.03%	90.48%
92.	Tract 55.02	0	**0.00**	3,042	$52,844	17.8%	94.2%	0.72%	4.27%	95.96%
93.	Tract 61	0	**0.00**	3,235	$67,911	7.5%	92.7%	9.09%	5.53%	86.46%
94.	Tract 63	0	**0.00**	3,355	$60,098	10.2%	92.7%	15.89%	7.45%	68.35%
95.	Tract 69	0	**0.00**	2,627	$58,836	8.6%	90%	5.02%	11%	93.87%
96.	Tract 72.03	0	**0.00**	3,742	$66,576	6.2%	95.7%	9.19%	4.14%	85.52%
97.	Tract 80	0	**0.00**	3,642	$73,977	11.1%	93.9%	6.73%	2.42%	92.81%

SOURCES: Google Maps, Flourish.studio, Toledo Police, U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year estimates 2014-2019, Blade Homicide Database, Blade analysis

Shootings

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under attack, the billboards have been turned into memorials to the people loved and lost there. They serve as a constant reminder of the reality those Toledo residents know: You could die young here.

At Bancroft Street and North Detroit Avenue, the casualties follow one after another:

- Christopher "Big Wax" Carrington, 34, killed at an after hours club March 15, 2020.
- James "JayJay" Smith, Jr., 19, killed on June 24, 2020, two days after his father.
- Glenn "Geezy" Scurles, Jr., 18, killed in a drive-by shooting targeting someone else on July 14, 2019.

Despite the different paths they took to survive the crime, poverty, gang violence, and constant threat of death in their neighborhoods, they each met the same end.

"You can't run from it," Carrington said. "If I had the means to relocate out of Toledo, I would."

'Crimes of vicinity'

Not all of Toledo is equally under attack.

Where a person lives in Toledo determines their probability of being disproportionately impacted by gun violence, a Blade analysis of 2020 shooting data showed.

Carrington

Smith

Scurles

There were 207 shooting incidents last year in Census Tract 10, in the area of Lagrange Street and East Central Avenue. Police characterize an incident as any call where gunfire is reported to have occurred or where evidence or victims prove it has, including fatalities, injuries, property damage, animal cruelty, or even casings found and collected.

Directly to the south of that neighborhood, Census tracts 18 and 29 followed closely behind with 169 and 144 shooting incidents, respectively.

While few of those shootings resulted in injury, they represent the unrelenting risk residents there say they face when stepping outside their front door.

In central Toledo, where the top 10 Census tracts with the highest volume of shooting incidents are clustered, the probability of residents encountering a shooting is as high as 1 in 12.

toledoBlade.com

Watch Quentin Carrington speak about his brother Christopher, who was fatally shot last year.

Comparatively, the probability for residents living in tracts along the outskirts of the city is as low as 1 in 3,362. Nine tracts did not report any shootings in 2020; Ottawa Hill's numbers are tracked separately and were not included.

The concentration of gunfire disproportionately impacts communities of color.

According to Census data, 28 percent of Toledo's population is Black or African-American, yet 80 percent of homicide victims in 2020 were Black. At least 70 percent of this year's victims are.

The trend isn't unique to Toledo.

Black men and boys ages 15 to 34 make up just 2 percent of the nation's population, yet they were victims in more than a third — 37 percent — of all 2019 gun homicides, the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence and Coalition to Stop Gun Violence found in its analysis, "A Public Health Crisis Decades in the Making."

Firearms, that year, were the leading cause of death for all Americans ages 1 to 24. But the gun homicide rate for Black men and boys was more than 20 times higher than their white counterparts.

One race isn't targeted more than others, Toledo Council member Vanice Williams, who is Black, stressed. It has more to do with where Black residents tend to live — in low-income housing in poorer neighborhoods with higher crime rates.

In nearly all of the Census tracts with the highest poverty and shooting rates, 50-80 percent of the population is Black or African-American, putting them at greater risk.

"Don't try to stigmatize one race and say they're trying to kill each other. They're killing who is by them," Ms. Williams, who represents District 4, where the majority of gunfire is concentrated, said. "They're crimes of vicinity."

Residents agree.

Living in neighborhoods where gunfire is most prevalent doesn't just physically put them in the potential line of fire, they say. It encapsulates them in a culture of violence they can't seem to escape, whether they're contributing to it or not. (The Blade will explore the root causes of the violence in part 2 of the series).

JOE LANDSBERGER AND KAITLIN DURBIN/THE BLADE

THE BLADE/AMY E. VOIGT

Quentin 'Ski-lo' Carrington shows the 900 tattooed on his right hand. It represents the 900 gang, a subgroup of the Folk-based Southside Gangster Disciples tied to the 900 block of Vance Street, where the Carringtons grew up.

"When you from over here, you know shit happens," Geezy's older sister, Jasmine Tucker, 34, said. "In these neighborhoods you see killings every day, you see drugs being sold in front of your kids, you see gang-banging, you see drive-bys, you see overdoses. When you go out to Perrysburg or go out to Ottawa Hills you don't see that."

In some ways, residents have become resigned to the violence, she said. Even walking around the neighborhoods where her family grew up and where they are welcomed, she warned her sisters and their children to be on alert.

"You can be standin' over here right now, just like we standin' outside, and they can come up and do a drive-by while we right here," she said. "That's the type of neighborhood this is."

'The right place at the wrong time'

Big Wax's risk of dying young was high to begin with.

According to his brother, Big Wax was a member of the 900 gang, a subgroup of the Folk-based Southside Gangster

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