

Violence Reduction Initiative

A COMPSTAT Analysis of Homicide and Firearm Violence in the Los Angeles Police Department's 77th Street, Southwest, and Newton Divisions, January 2016–June 2019

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Simulated COMPSTAT briefing built on public LAPD crime data. It is not an official Los Angeles Police Department product.

Abstract

This simulated COMPSTAT briefing examines homicide and firearm violence in three Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) divisions—77th Street, Southwest, and Newton—using public LAPD crime data from January 2016 through June 2019, and recommends targeted responses for law enforcement. The three divisions recorded 329 criminal homicides over the period; 77th Street accounted for 49% ($n = 160$). In the 12 months ending June 30, 2019, 91 homicides occurred: 58% on streets or sidewalks, 58% from Sunday through Tuesday, 44% during the evening shift, and 77% with a firearm. Homicides concentrated on McKinley Avenue and at Vermont and Florence Avenues, and gang-on-gang firearm homicides clustered at Vermont and Florence and at Hillcrest and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Of 2,370 firearm incidents in the same 12 months, 49% occurred in 77th Street and 46% during the evening shift, and in 2019 firearm incidents rose 90% from February to May. Among gang-related reporting districts, RD 1243, near Mann Middle School, logged the most shots-fired calls from January through June 2019 ($n = 14$), and RD 1232 logged the most in the last two weeks of June. Compared with the same six months of earlier years, homicides in the first half of 2019 were down in Southwest, level in 77th Street, and up in Newton. The briefing recommends more patrol units in Hyde Park, a community watch program around Mann Middle School, and security cameras and street lighting at Vermont and Florence Avenues.

Keywords: COMPSTAT, homicide, firearm violence, hot spots, gang violence, Los Angeles Police Department

Bottom Line

Focal Points

- **RD 1232:** most shots-fired calls in the last two weeks, June 16–30, 2019 (Figure 12).
- **RD 1243 (gang-related):** most shots-fired calls in the last six months, January–June 2019 (Table 3, Figure 10).
- **Vermont & Florence Ave:** homicide hot spot and gang-on-gang firearm homicide cluster (Figures 3 and 9).
- **McKinley Ave:** homicide hot spot (Figure 3).
- **Hillcrest & MLK Blvd:** gang-on-gang firearm homicide cluster (Figure 9).
- **Hyde Park / W Slauson Ave:** cluster of firearm-involved incidents in the last two weeks (Figures 11 and 13).

Recommendations

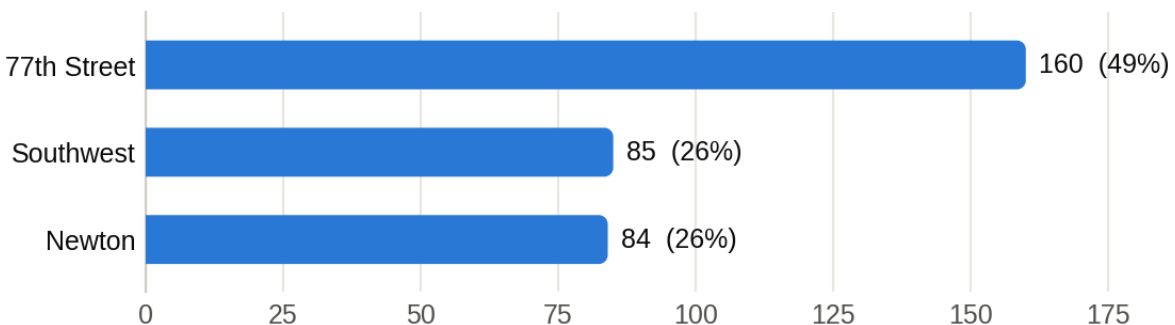
1. Increase patrol units in Hyde Park (Figures 11 and 13).
2. Implement a 'Community Watch' program in the neighborhoods surrounding Mann Middle School, in gang-related RD 1243 (Table 3, Figure 10).
3. Install security cameras and street lights at the corner of Vermont & Florence Ave (Figures 3 and 9).

Homicides, January 2016–June 2019

From January 1, 2016, to June 30, 2019, the three divisions recorded 329 criminal homicides. 77th Street had the most, 49% ($n = 160$), followed by Southwest ($n = 85$) and Newton ($n = 84$; Figure 1).

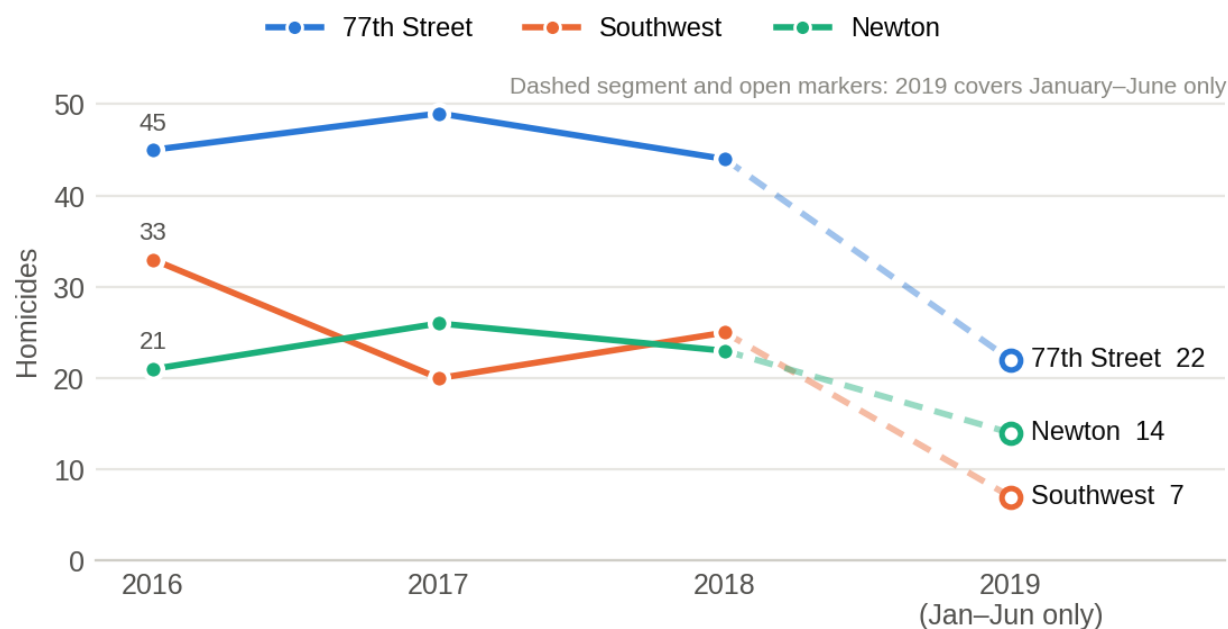
Figure 1

Criminal Homicides by Division, January 2016–June 2019



Note. Data from Los Angeles Police Department (2019a).

Figure 2 shows homicides by year. Because the data end on June 30, 2019, the 2019 values cover only January through June, so they show how 2019 started against where earlier years finished rather than a full-year change. Through June 30, 2019, Southwest had recorded 7 homicides, compared with 33 in all of 2016 (26 fewer, or 79%); 77th Street had recorded 22, compared with 45 in 2016 (23 fewer, or 51%); and Newton had recorded 14, compared with 21 in 2016 (7 fewer, or 33%).

Figure 2*Criminal Homicides by Year and Division, 2016–2019*

Note. 2019 covers January–June only. Data from Los Angeles Police Department (2019a).

Comparing the same six months of each year gives a like-for-like view (Table 1). In January–June 2019, homicides were down sharply in Southwest (6, compared with 14 in January–June 2018), level in 77th Street (22 in both years), and up in Newton (13, compared with 8).

Table 1*Criminal Homicides, January–June of Each Year*

Division	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change, 2018 to 2019
77th Street	24	27	22	22	0 (0%)
Southwest	17	10	14	6	–8 (–57%)
Newton	10	6	8	13	+5 (+63%)
Total	51	43	44	41	–3 (–7%)

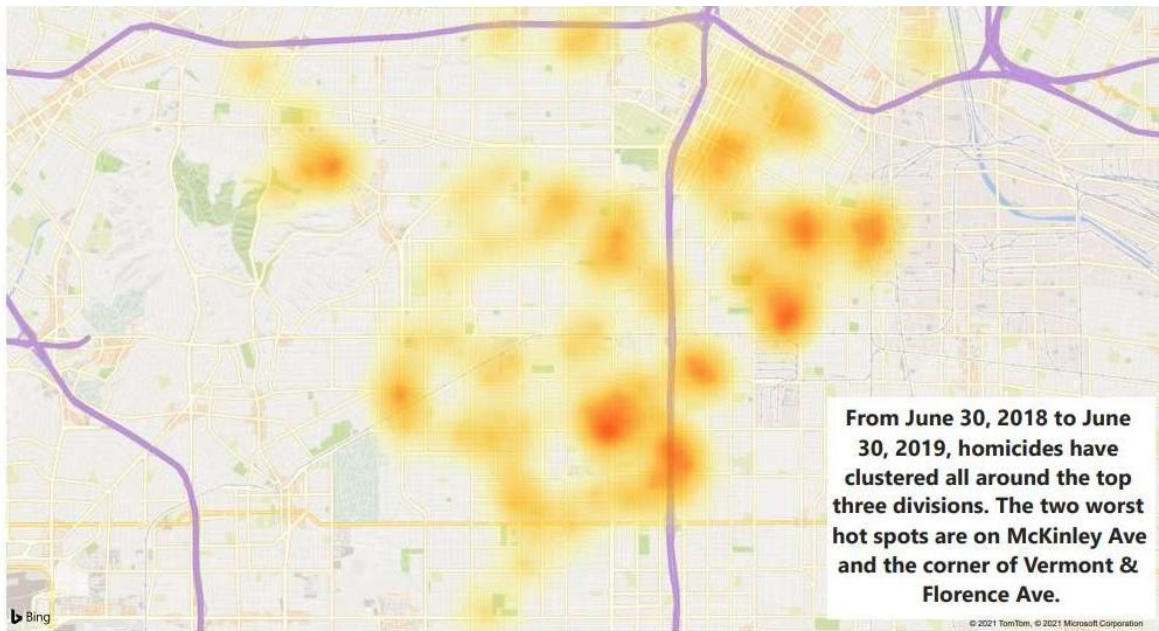
Note. January 1–June 30 of each year. Counts from the current LAPD crime data file (Los Angeles Police Department, 2019a), retrieved September 25, 2026. LAPD has updated the file since the original 2021 extract, so January–June 2019 shows 13 homicides in Newton and 6 in Southwest, compared with 14 and 7 in Figure 2.

Homicides in the Last 12 Months (June 30, 2018–June 30, 2019)

In the 12 months ending June 30, 2019, the three divisions recorded 91 homicides. They clustered across all three divisions, and the two most intense hot spots were on McKinley Avenue and at the corner of Vermont and Florence Avenues (Figure 3).

Figure 3

Homicide Heat Map, June 30, 2018–June 30, 2019



Note. Original map from the 2021 analysis, shown with its original annotation. Basemap © 2021 TomTom, © 2021 Microsoft Corporation (Bing Maps).

Nearly 60% of these homicides (58%, $n = 53$) happened in public, on a street ($n = 28$) or sidewalk ($n = 25$; Table 2).

Table 2

Location of Homicides, June 30, 2018–June 30, 2019

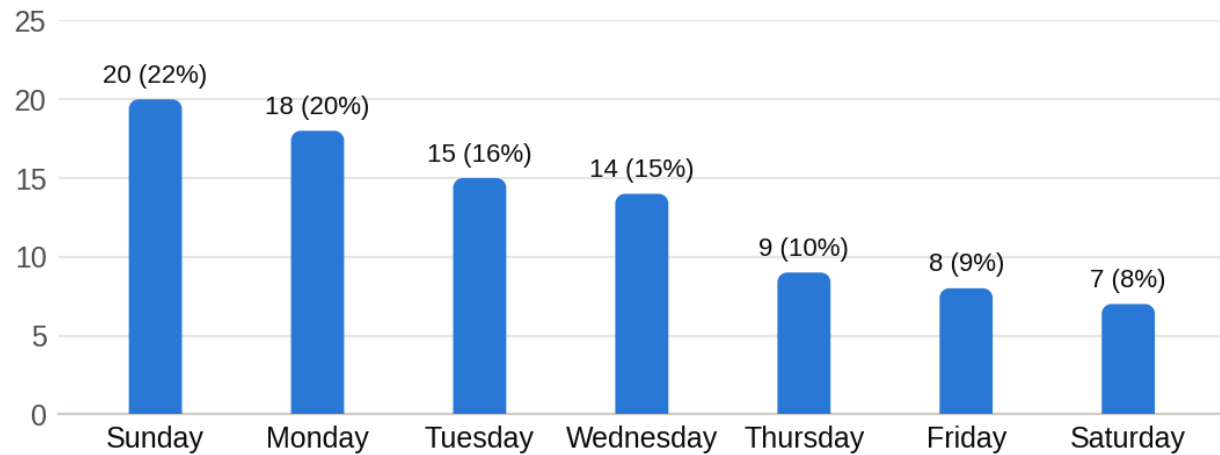
Premise	Homicides	Share
Street	28	30.8%
Sidewalk	25	27.5%
Single-family dwelling	8	8.8%
Driveway	6	6.6%
Alley	5	5.5%
Parking lot	4	4.4%
Yard (residential or business)	3	3.3%
Other premises (8 types)	12	13.2%
Total	91	100%

Note. Other premises: bus stop, multi-unit dwelling, other business, park or playground, gas station, mini-mart, nightclub, and residential porch (1–2 homicides each). Data from Los Angeles Police Department (2019a).

Homicides were most frequent early in the week and fell steadily through Saturday; Sunday through Tuesday accounted for 58% ($n = 53$; Figure 4). They were spread fairly evenly across shifts, although the evening shift had the largest share, 44% ($n = 40$). A firearm was used in 77% ($n = 70$; Figure 5).

Figure 4

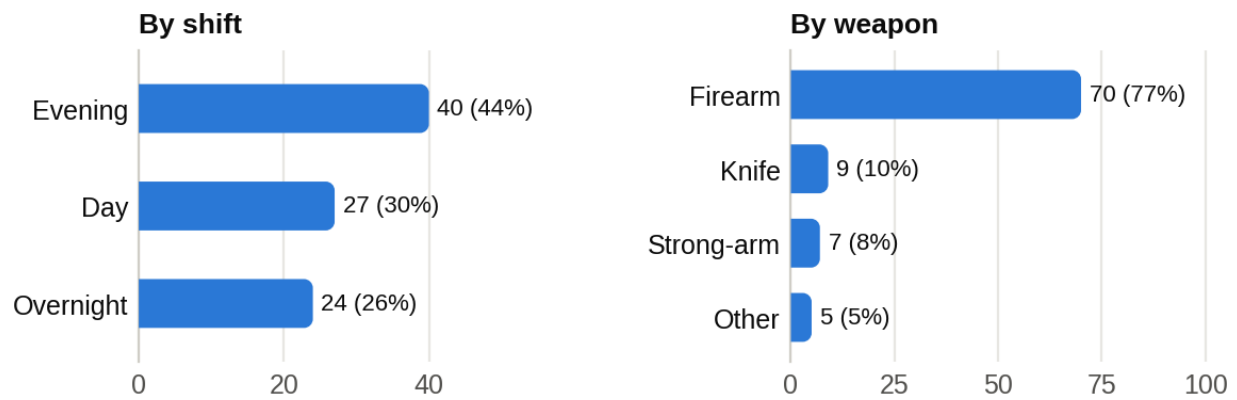
Homicides by Day of Week, June 30, 2018–June 30, 2019



Note. The original slides numbered days 1–7; Day 1 is Sunday, confirmed against LAPD data. Data from Los Angeles Police Department (2019a).

Figure 5

Homicides by Shift and Weapon, June 30, 2018–June 30, 2019

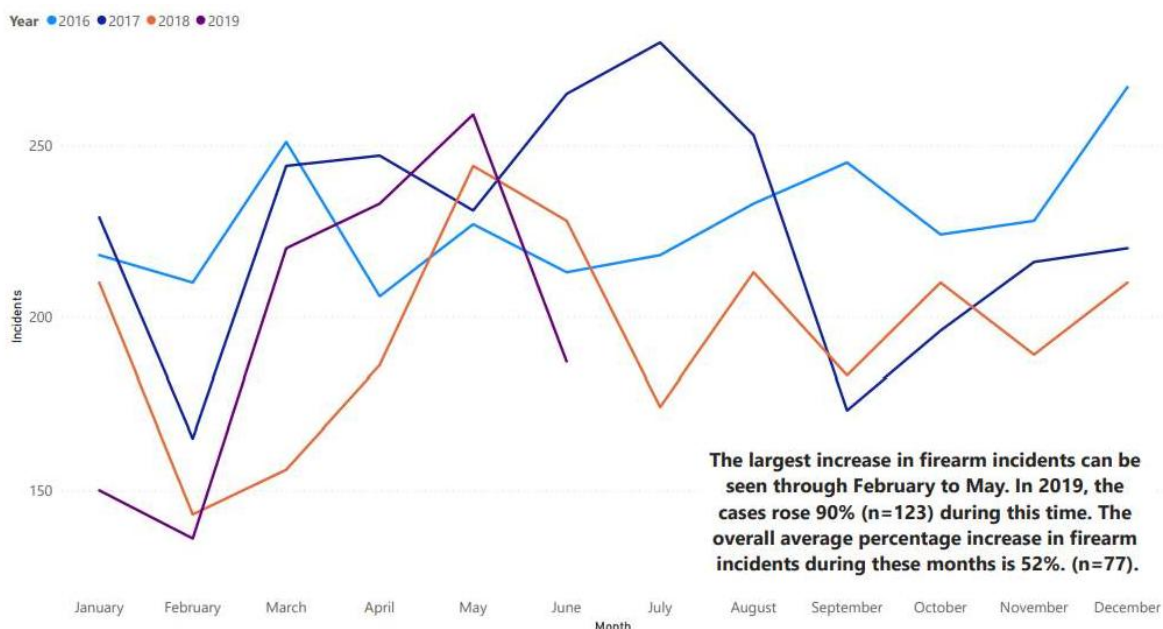


Note. Percentages are of all 91 homicides. Shift hours were not recorded in the original analysis. Data from Los Angeles Police Department (2019a).

Firearm Incidents

Firearm incidents showed their largest increase from February to May. In 2019, incidents rose 90% ($n = 123$) over those months; across 2016–2019, the average increase over the same months was 52% ($n = 77$; Figure 6).

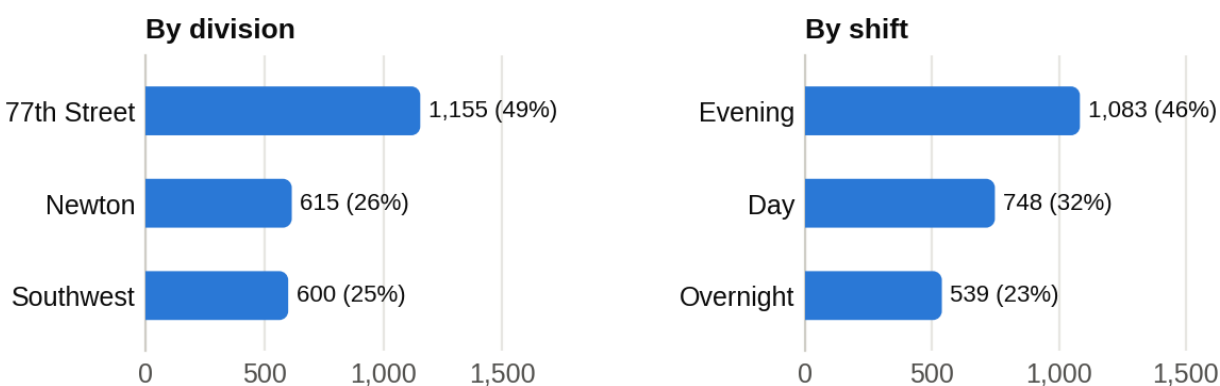
Figure 6
Monthly Firearm Incidents by Year, January 2016–June 2019



Note. Original chart from the 2021 analysis, shown with its original annotation; monthly values are not labeled in the original. Data from Los Angeles Police Department (2019a).

In the 12 months ending June 30, 2019, the three divisions recorded 2,370 firearm incidents. Of these, 49% ($n = 1,155$) occurred in 77th Street, and 46% ($n = 1,083$) occurred during the evening shift (Figure 7).

Figure 7
Firearm Incidents by Division and Shift, June 30, 2018–June 30, 2019

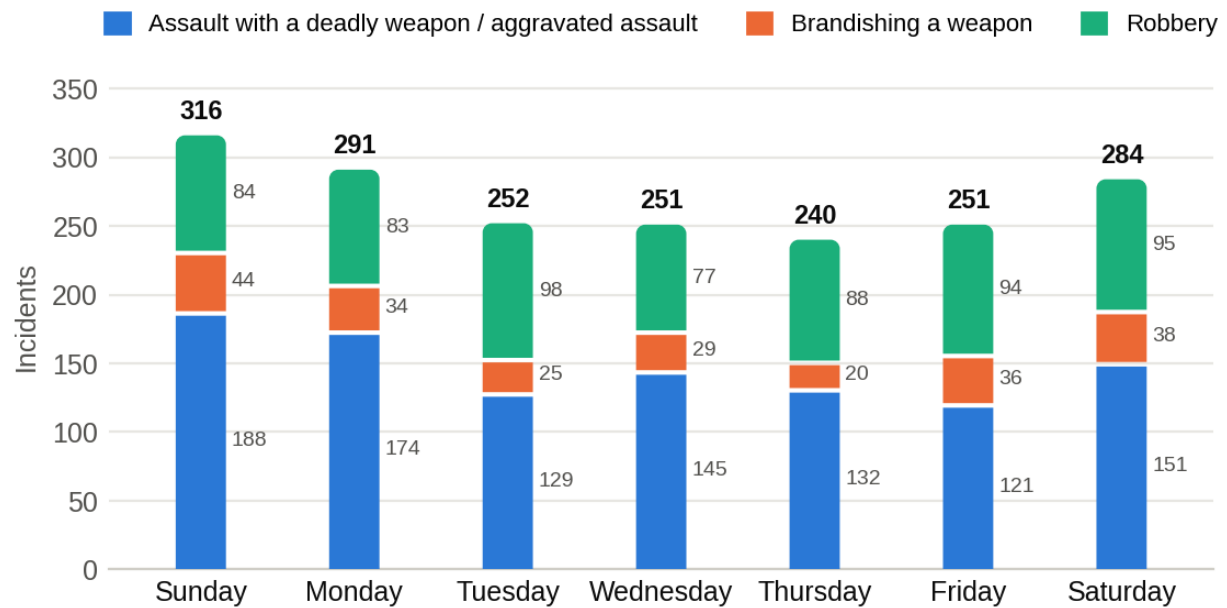


Note. Percentages are of all 2,370 firearm incidents. Data from Los Angeles Police Department (2019a).

Among the three most common firearm-involved offenses (assault with a deadly weapon, brandishing a weapon, and robbery), Sunday had the most incidents, 17% ($n = 316$) of the weekly total (Figure 8).

Figure 8

Firearm-Involved Incidents by Day of Week and Offense, June 30, 2018–June 30, 2019

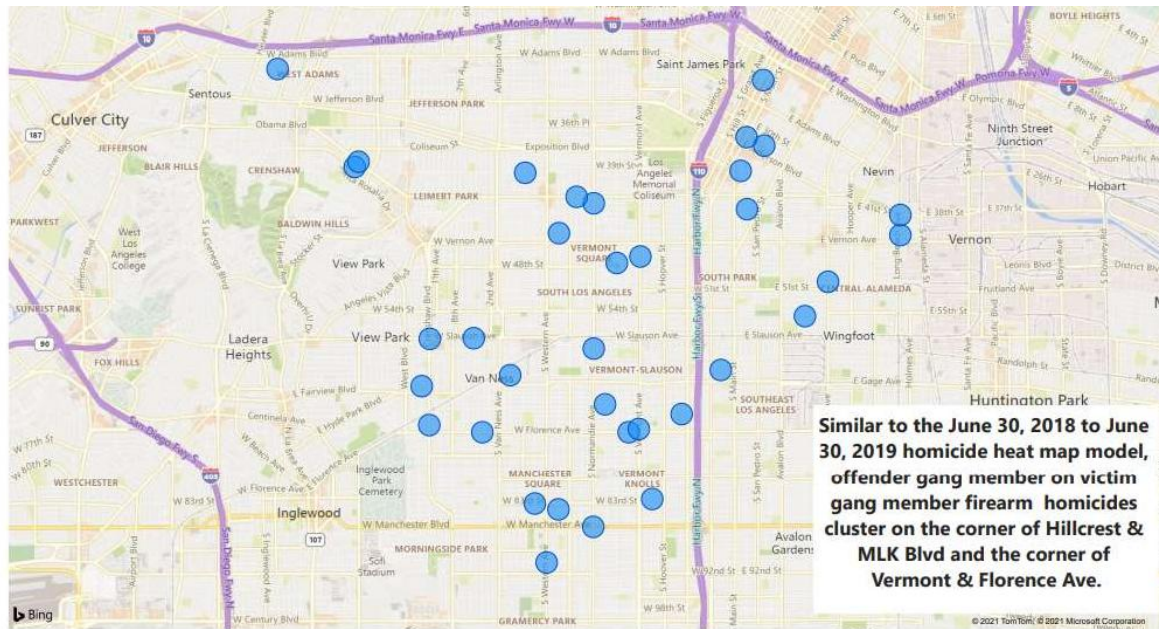


Note. Totals above each column; segment values beside each column. Data from Los Angeles Police Department (2019a).

Gang-Related Violence and Shots-Fired Calls

Like the homicide heat map, gang-on-gang firearm homicides (offender and victim both gang members) clustered at the corner of Hillcrest and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and at Vermont and Florence Avenues (Figure 9).

Figure 9
Gang-on-Gang Firearm Homicides, June 30, 2018–June 30, 2019



Note. Original map from the 2021 analysis, shown with its original annotation. Basemap © 2021 TomTom, © 2021 Microsoft Corporation (Bing Maps).

From January 1 to June 30, 2019, reporting districts tied to primary gang locations logged 116 shots-fired calls for service. RD 1243 had the most, 12% ($n = 14$; Table 3), and five of those calls occurred within 150–200 yards of Mann Middle School (Figure 10).

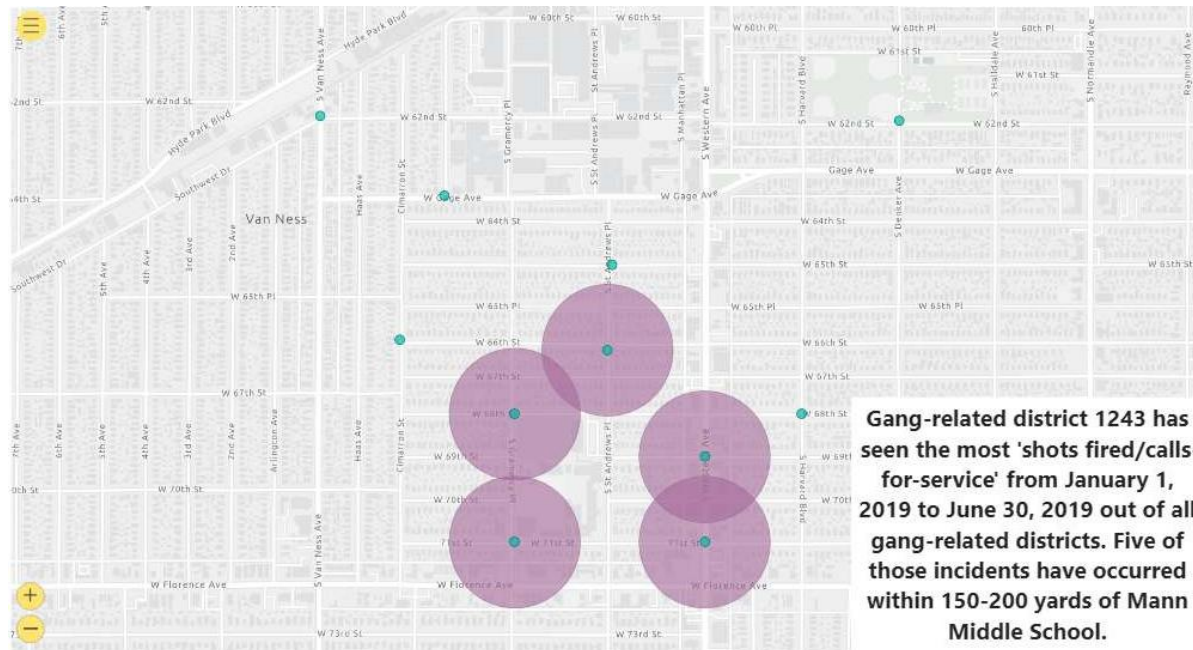
Table 3
Shots-Fired Calls for Service in Gang-Related Reporting Districts, January–June 2019

RD	Division	Calls	RD	Division	Calls
311	Southwest	2	1253	77th Street	10
363	Southwest	3	1263	77th Street	4
395	Southwest	5	1273	77th Street	13
397	Southwest	4	1322	Newton	3
1204	77th Street	5	1323	Newton	4
1241	77th Street	7	1345	Newton	3
1243	77th Street	14	1347	Newton	6
1245	77th Street	8	1362	Newton	7
1249	77th Street	5	1373	Newton	4
1251	77th Street	4	1395	Newton	5
Total					116

Note. RD = LAPD reporting district. Division follows LAPD numbering: 3xx is Southwest, 12xx is 77th Street, and 13xx is Newton. Call counts from the original 2021 analysis; see Data and Methods.

Figure 10

Shots-Fired Calls in RD 1243 Near Mann Middle School, January–June 2019

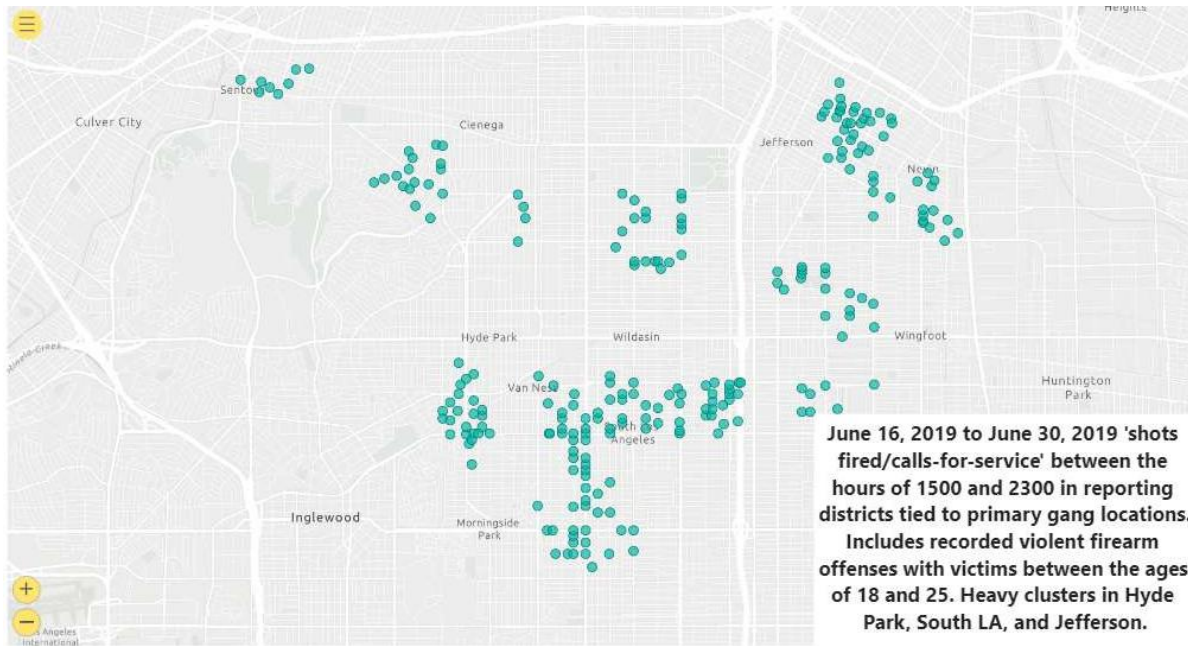


Note. Original map from the 2021 analysis, shown with its original annotation. Basemap © 2021 TomTom, © 2021 Microsoft Corporation (Bing Maps).

In the two weeks from June 16 to June 30, 2019, shots-fired calls and violent firearm offenses with victims aged 18 to 25 in the gang-related districts, between 1500 and 2300 hours, clustered heavily in Hyde Park, South Los Angeles, and Jefferson (Figure 11). Over the same two weeks, RD 1232 logged the most shots-fired calls, 33% ($n = 4$) of calls in the five reporting districts with the most calls (Figure 12), and firearm-involved incidents in Hyde Park clustered within about 200 yards of each other (Figure 13).

Figure 11

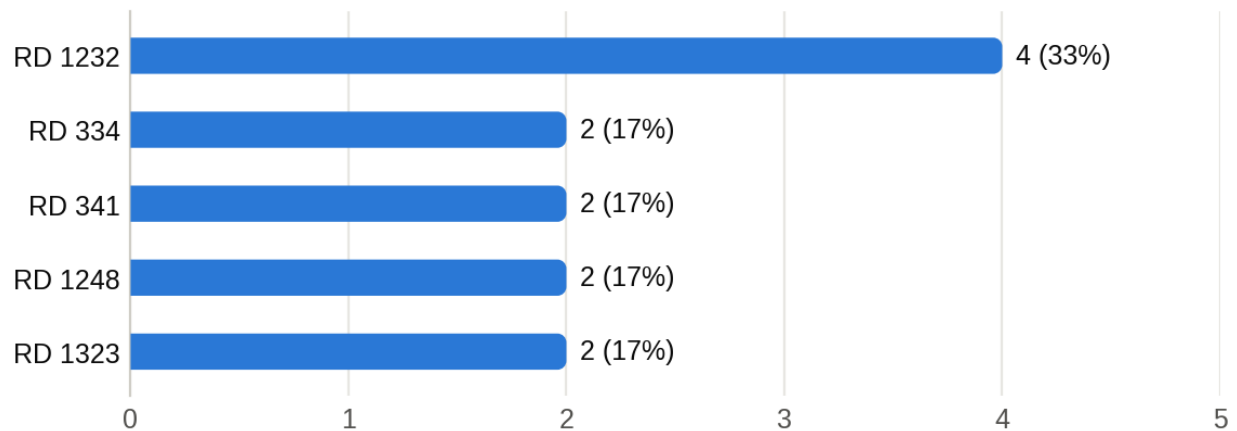
Shots-Fired Calls and Violent Firearm Offenses in Gang-Related Districts, June 16–30, 2019



Note. Original map from the 2021 analysis, shown with its original annotation. Basemap © 2021 TomTom, © 2021 Microsoft Corporation (Bing Maps). The original chart title read "6mon"; the data cover June 16–30, 2019.

Figure 12

Shots-Fired Calls by Reporting District, June 16–30, 2019



Note. Percentages are of the 12 calls in these five districts. Call counts from the original 2021 analysis.

Figure 13
Firearm-Involved Incidents in Hyde Park, June 16–30, 2019



Note. Original map from the 2021 analysis, shown with its original annotation. Basemap © 2021 TomTom, © 2021 Microsoft Corporation (Bing Maps).

Data and Methods

Data. Crime counts come from the LAPD’s *Crime Data From 2010 to 2019* file on the Los Angeles Open Data Portal (Los Angeles Police Department, 2019a), as extracted for the original 2021 analysis. Rerunning the same queries against the current file reproduces the 2016–2018 homicide counts exactly; later counts differ by one or two incidents because LAPD has updated the file since then. Shots-fired calls for service most likely come from LAPD’s 2019 calls-for-service data (Los Angeles Police Department, 2019b); the original analysis did not record which call types were counted.

Periods. Full period: January 1, 2016–June 30, 2019. Last 12 months: June 30, 2018–June 30, 2019. Last six months: January 1–June 30, 2019. Last two weeks: June 16–30, 2019.

Definitions. Criminal homicide is LAPD crime code 110. Firearm incidents are crimes with an LAPD weapon code from 101 to 125, a range that also includes starter pistols, toy and simulated guns, and air or BB guns. Days of the week run Sunday through Saturday. Hours for the day, evening, and overnight shifts were not recorded in the original analysis. All figures are counts, not population-based rates.

References

Los Angeles Police Department. (2019a). *Crime data from 2010 to 2019* [Data set]. Los Angeles Open Data Portal. <https://data.lacity.org/Public-Safety/Crime-Data-from-2010-to-2019/63jg-8b9z>

Los Angeles Police Department. (2019b). *LAPD calls for service 2019* [Data set]. Los Angeles Open Data Portal. <https://data.lacity.org/A-Safe-City/LAPD-Calls-for-Service-2019/r4ka-x5je>