A grayscale photograph of the Oakland skyline, featuring several prominent high-rise buildings and a waterfront area with trees and a body of water in the foreground. The image is used as a background for the report cover.

OAKLAND VIOLENCE PROBLEM ANALYSIS: 2019-2020

OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

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An aerial photograph of a city, likely San Francisco, is overlaid with a network of white lines and glowing blue location pins. The pins are connected by lines, creating a web-like structure across the cityscape. The image is in a dark, blue-tinted color scheme.

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INTRODUCTION



Introduction

- A "problem analysis" is a set of analysis exercises designed to support the implementation of violence reduction strategies. This methodology has been developed over the last 25 years and used in dozens of cities nationally.
- This analysis establishes a common understanding of the local violence problem that guides and informs the work of civic, community, and criminal justice leaders to reduce violence.
- The problem analysis identifies the networks and individuals within a community who are at greatest risk of violence and helps tailor an intervention to reduce that risk.
- Though the methodology is informed by research, the problem analysis is primarily a practice document with implications for local policy.

Introduction

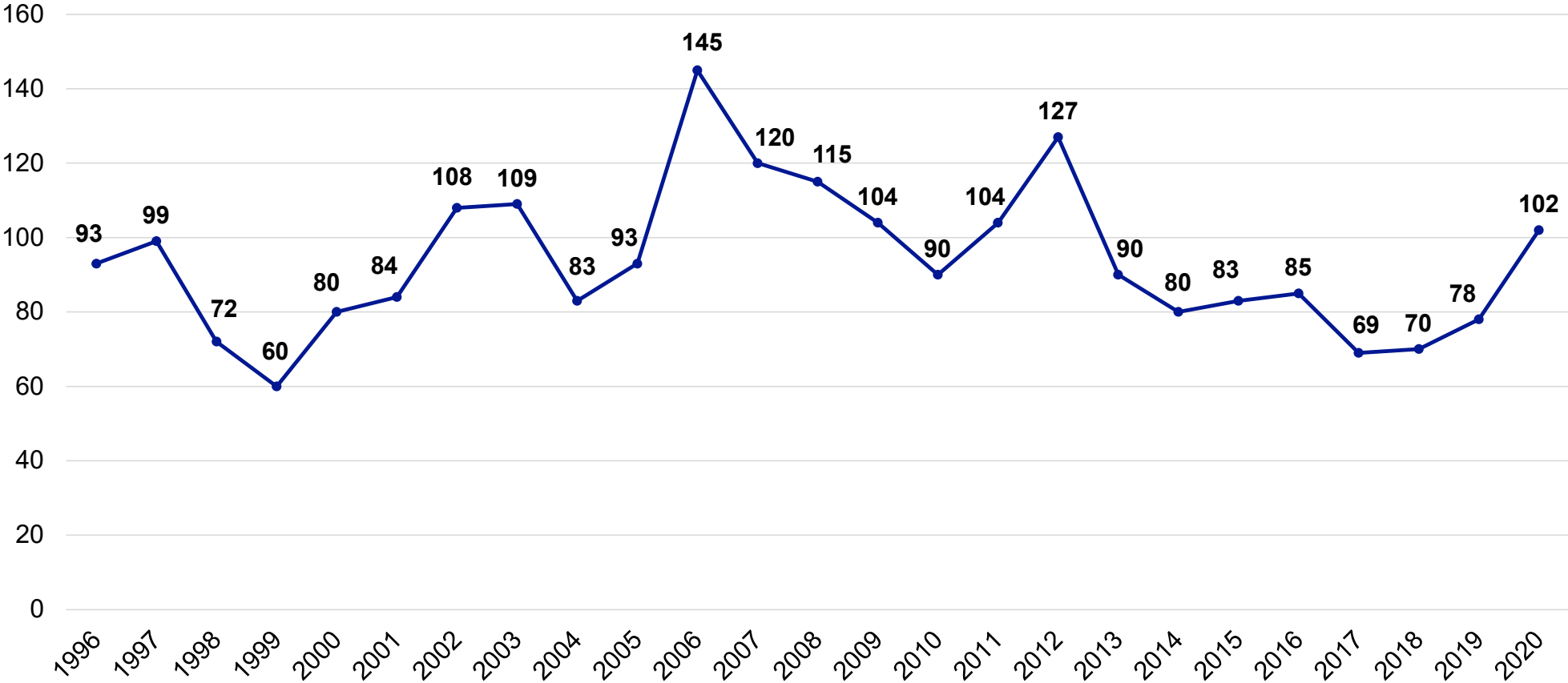
- This analysis examined all homicides in the City of Oakland from January 2019 – December 2020 ($n = 171$) and all shootings between January 2019 – December 2020 ($n = 788$).
- The 171 homicides involved 294 unique victims or identified suspects, and the 788 shootings involved 1,482* unique identified victims or suspects.
- This analysis examines the characteristics of these incidents and the involved individuals, including demographics and criminal justice system involvement.
- The analysis includes information on groups and social networks at high risk of involvement in violence, including their size, relationships, turfs, and activities as well as the spatial concentration of violence throughout the city.

*The OPD nonfatal shooting data generally did not distinguish which victims were struck by gunfire. However, for $n = 1667$ victims between 3/16/20 – 12/31/20 that had individual-level data available, 29% sustained gunshot wounds.

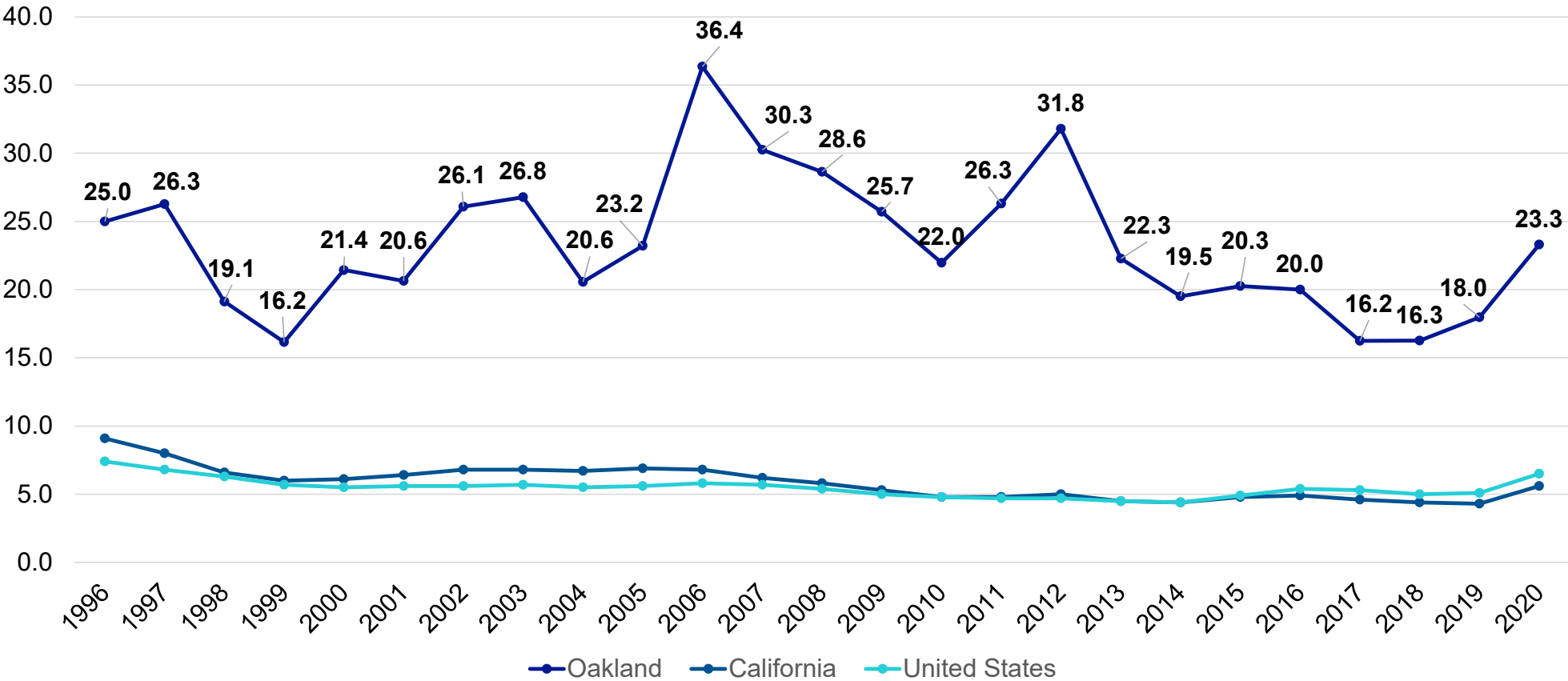
CONTEXT & TREND DATA



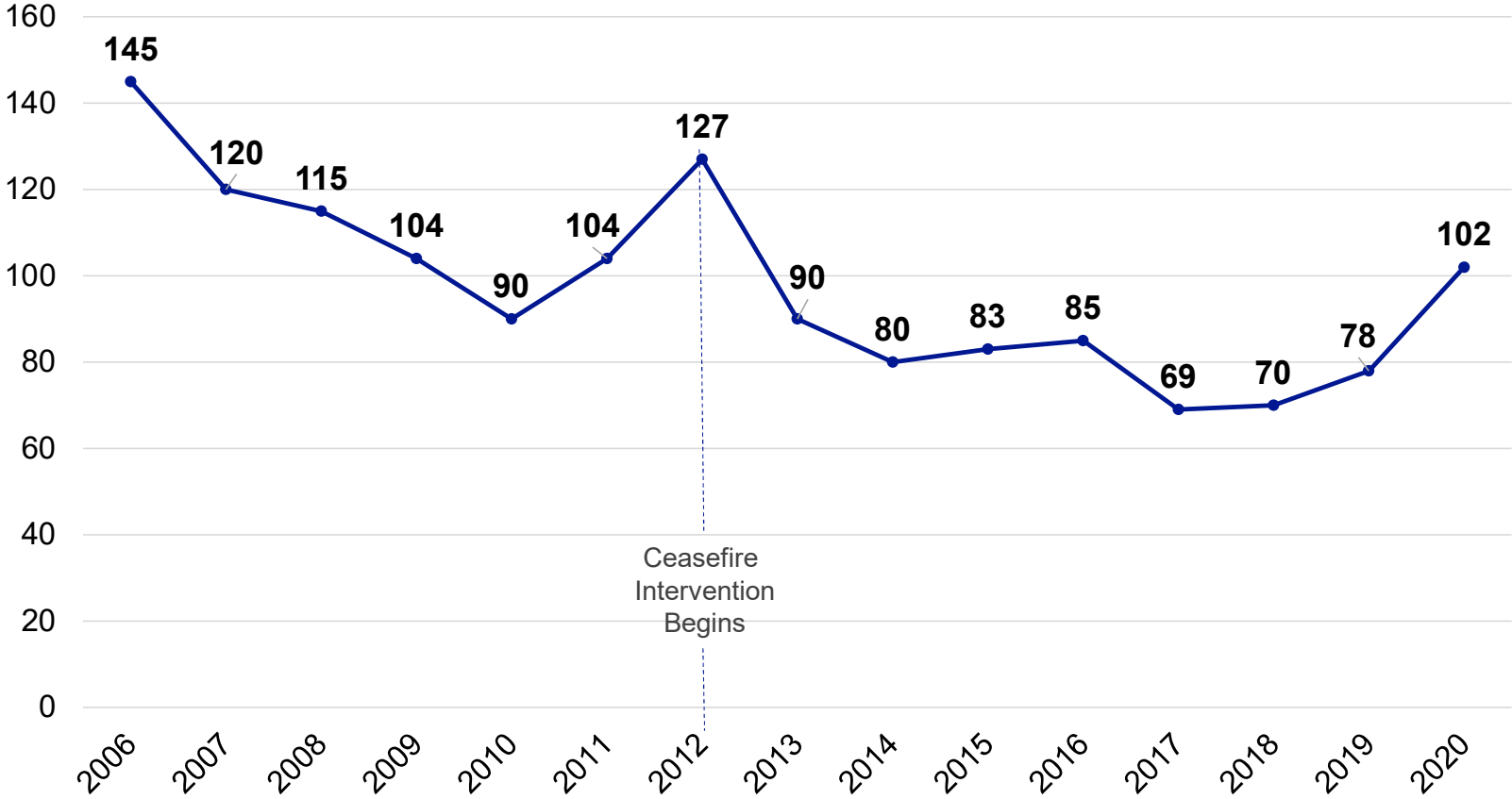
Oakland Homicides: 1996 - 2020



Oakland Homicide Rate (per 100,000 population): 1996 - 2020



Oakland Homicides: 2006 - 2020



VICTIMS & SUSPECTS OF HOMICIDES & SHOOTINGS:

DEMOGRAPHICS



Homicide Victims & Suspects: Sex and Race

	HOMICIDES (N=171)			OAKLAND POPULATION
	Victims (n = 177)	Suspects (n = 117)	Victims & Suspects (n = 294)	
Sex				
Male	89.3%	95.7%	91.8%	48.3%
Female	10.7%	4.3%	8.2%	51.7%
Race				
White	4.0%	3.5%	3.8%	35.5%
Black	65.0%	73.3%	68.3%	23.8%
Hispanic	24.9%	17.2%	21.8%	27.0%
Other	6.2%	6.0%	6.1%	

Homicide Victims & Suspects: Age

	HOMICIDES (N=171)		
	Victims (n = 177)	Suspects (n = 117)	Victims & Suspects (n = 294)
Age			
17 & under	4.0%	4.3%	4.1%
18-24	25.4%	35.3%	29.4%
25-34	33.3%	32.8%	33.1%
35-44	21.5%	17.2%	19.8%
45-54	7.9%	5.2%	6.8%
55+	7.9%	5.2%	6.8%
Average Age	32.8	30.0	31.7

Shooting Victims & Suspects: Sex and Race

	NONFATAL SHOOTINGS (N=788)			OAKLAND POPULATION
	Victims (n = 1066)	Suspects (n = 265)	Victims & Suspects (n = 1331)	
Sex				
Male	83.3%	91.3%	84.9%	48.3%
Female	16.7%	8.7%	15.1%	51.7%
Race				
White	4.5%	1.5%	3.9%	35.5%
Black	64.1%	73.0%	65.9%	23.8%
Hispanic	25.3%	22.1%	24.7%	27.0%
Other	6.2%	3.4%	5.6%	

Shooting Victims & Suspects: Age

	NONFATAL SHOOTINGS (N=788)		
	Victims (n = 1033)	Suspects (n = 265)	Victims & Suspects (n = 1298)
Age			
17 & under	6.3%	14.3%	7.9%
18-24	29.2%	30.9%	29.6%
25-34	31.7%	29.8%	31.3%
35-44	17.6%	14.3%	16.9%
45-54	9.3%	7.9%	9.0%
55+	5.9%	2.6%	5.2%
Average Age	31.2	28.4	30.6

Summary

- The victims and suspects involved in homicides are predominantly Black (68%) males (92%) between the ages of 18-34 (63%). The average age for homicide victims and suspects is 32.
- The victims and suspects involved in nonfatal shootings are predominantly Black (66%) males (85%) between the ages of 18-34 (61%). The average age for shooting victims and suspects is 31.

VICTIMS & SUSPECTS OF HOMICIDES:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT



Homicide Victims & Suspects: CJ System Contact

	HOMICIDES (N=171)		
	Victims (n = 173)	Suspects (n = 115)	Victims & Suspects (n = 288)
Known to the CJ system prior to the incident	147 (85.0%)	94 (81.7%)	241 (83.7%)
Of those known to the CJ system:			
Prior incarceration	61.9%	71.3%	65.6%
Convicted of felony	59.9%	71.3%	64.3%
Prior probation	76.2%	72.3%	74.7%
Active probation	15.0%	21.3%	17.4%
Prior parole	23.8%	26.6%	24.9%
Active parole	10.2%	7.4%	9.1%
Total prior probation and/or parole	77.6%	74.5%	76.5%
Total active probation and/or parole	25.2%	28.7%	26.9%
Average number of prior arrests	9.5	9.2	9.4
Average number of prior felony arrests	5.0	5.2	5.1

Homicide Victims & Suspects: Prior Offense Detail

	HOMICIDES (N=171)		
	Victims (n = 115)	Suspects (n = 173)	Victims & Suspects (n = 288)
Known to the CJ system prior to the incident	147 (85.0%)	94 (81.7%)	241 (83.7%)
Of those known to the CJ system:			
Armed violent offenses	0.2	0.3	0.2
Unarmed violent offenses	2.2	2.4	2.3
Weapons offenses	0.8	1.3	1.0
Drug offenses	2.3	1.9	2.1
Property offenses	2.5	2.3	2.4
Disorder offenses	2.5	2.2	2.4
Other offenses	1.4	0.8	1.1
Total	11.8	11.1	11.5

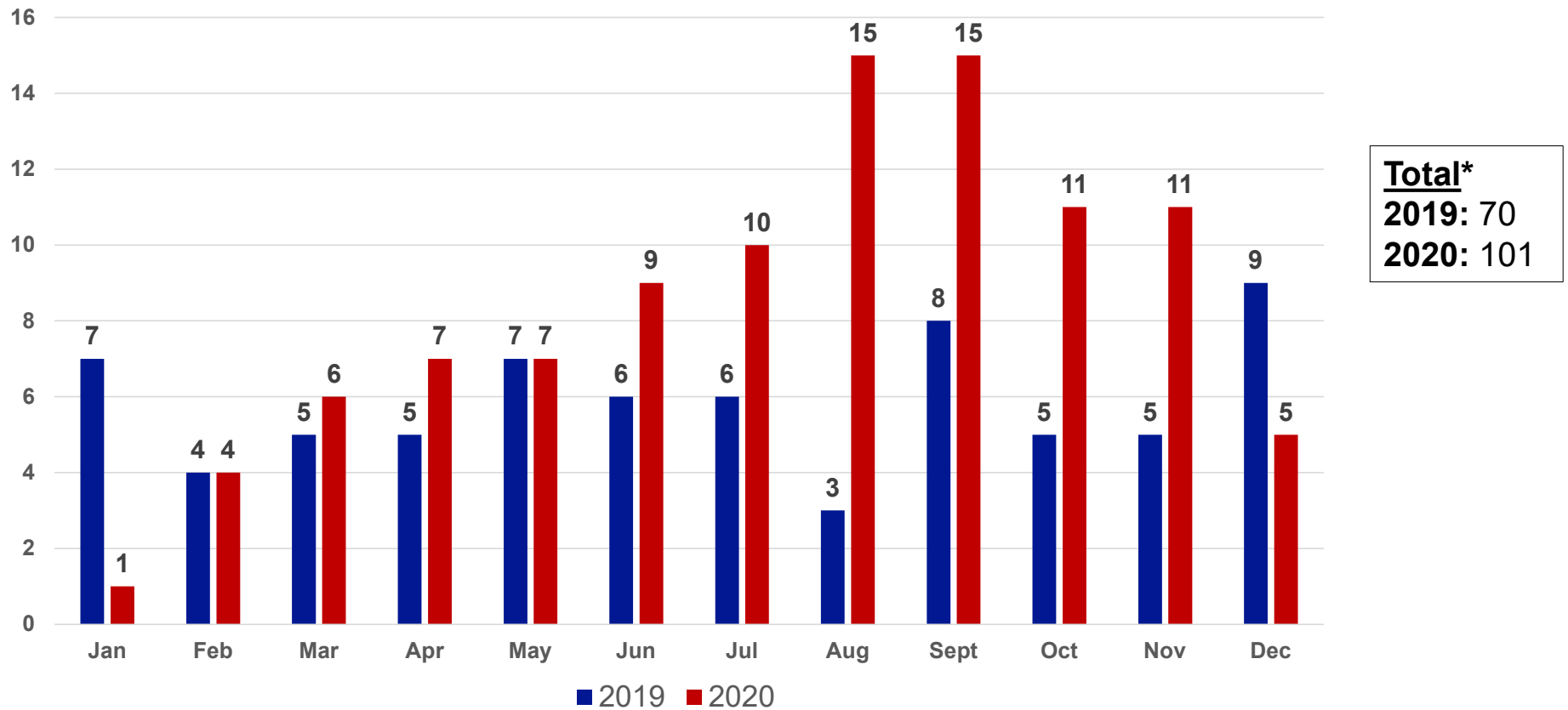
Summary

- About 84% of victims and suspects were known to the criminal justice system prior to their involvement in homicides.
- Of those, most have extensive criminal history:
 - 66% were previously incarcerated.
 - 64% had been convicted of a felony.
 - 75% had previously been on probation.
- Victims and suspects had been arrested an average of 9 times prior to the homicide incident, of which about 5 arrests involved felony offenses.
- Victims and suspects had committed about 12 prior criminal offenses prior to their involvement in the homicide.
 - Most of these are disorder, property, drug, and unarmed violent offenses.

HOMICIDE & SHOOTING INCIDENT ANALYSIS

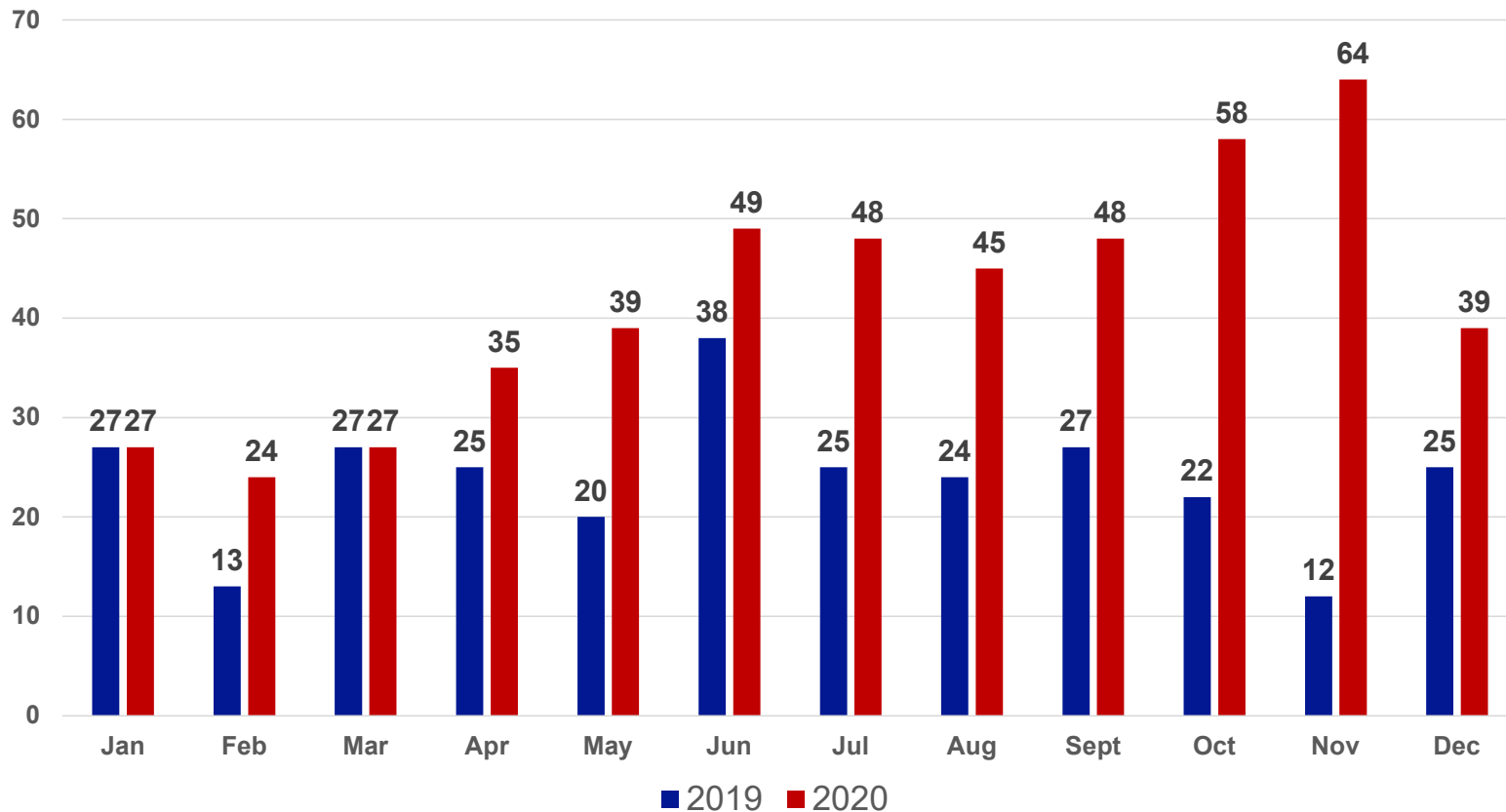


Homicides by Month and Year



*Counts exclude cases which, through case reviews, were identified as self-defense, self-inflicted, or accidental.

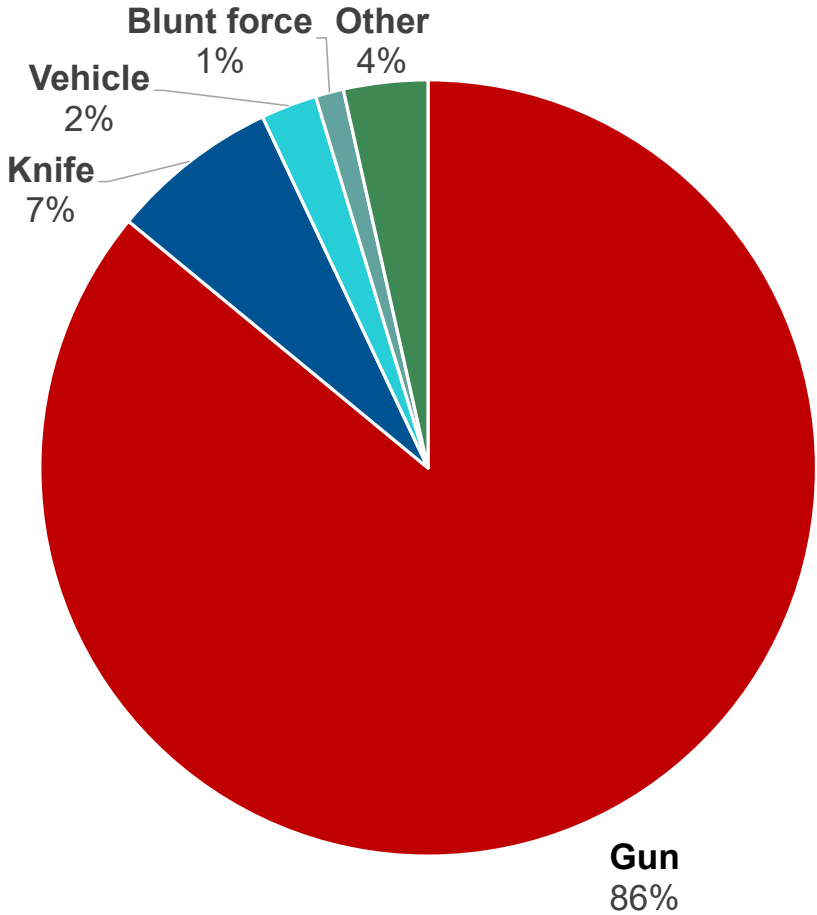
Nonfatal Shootings by Month and Year



Total*
2019: 285
2020: 503

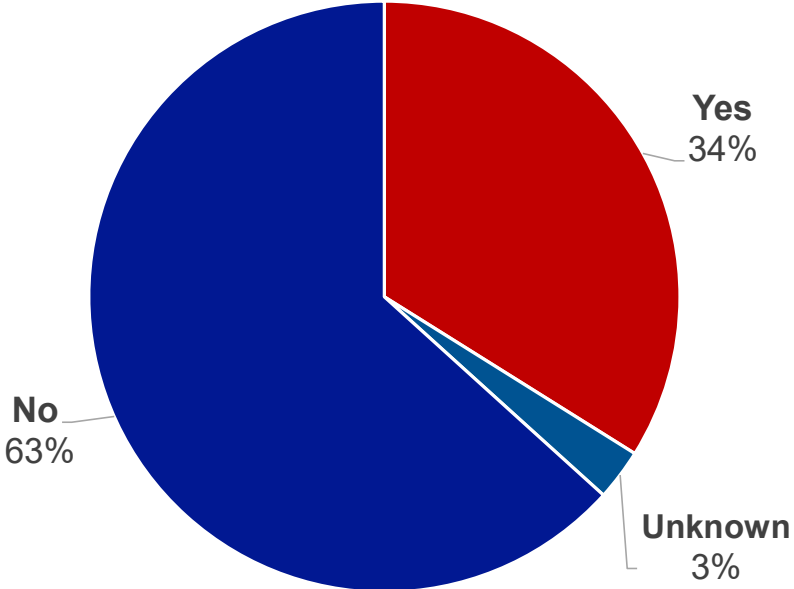
*Counts exclude cases which, through case reviews, were identified as self-defense, self-inflicted, or accidental.

Homicides: Manner of Death

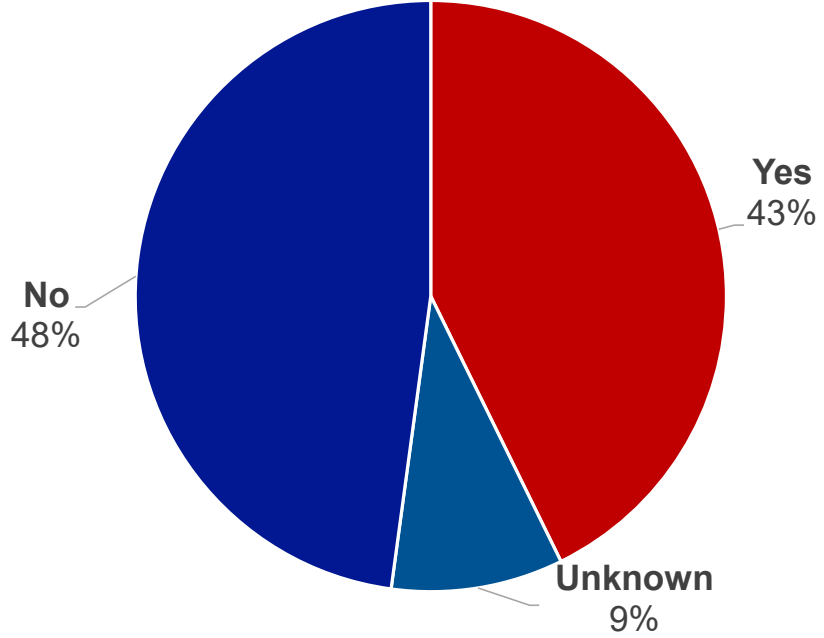


Homicide Victims & Suspects: Group Involvement

Victims



Suspects

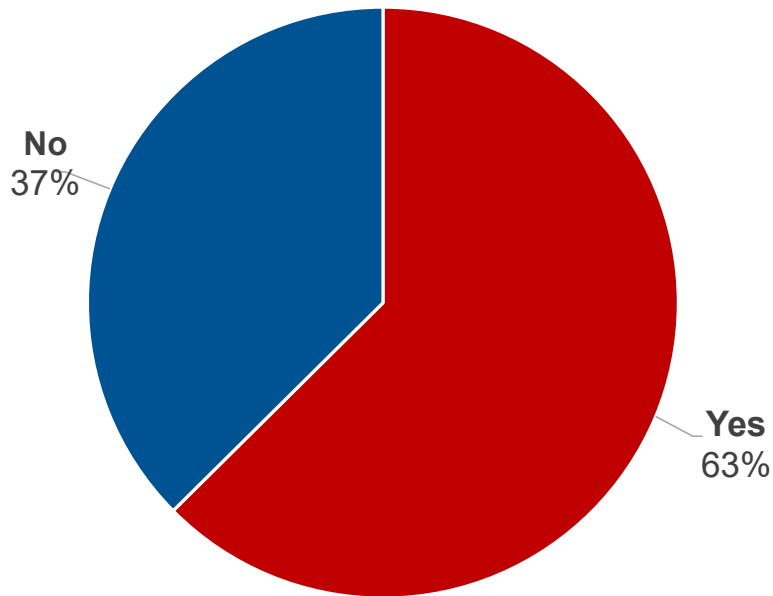


Homicides: Circumstance

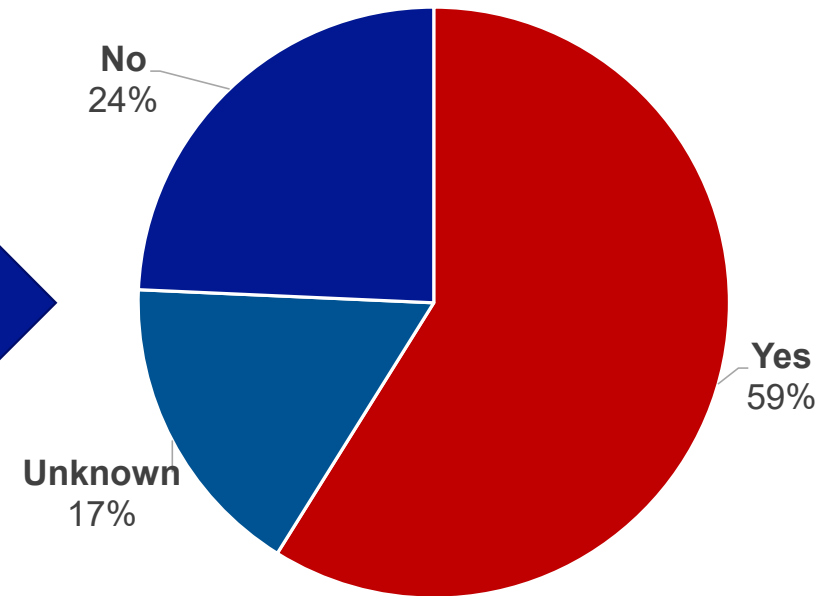
Circumstance	N	Percent	N Group-Member Involved	% GMI
Ongoing personal dispute	41	24.0%	18	43.9%
Sudden dispute	34	19.9%	18	52.9%
Group-related dispute	21	12.3%	21	100%
Robbery/Carjacking/Burglary	18	10.5%	7	38.9%
Drug-related dispute	9	5.3%	4	44.4%
Domestic dispute	5	2.9%	1	20.0%
Drug robbery	5	2.9%	3	60.0%
Internal group dispute	2	1.2%	2	100%
Other	5	2.9%	-	-
Unknown	31	18.1%	10	32.3%
Total	171	100%	84	49.1%

Dispute-Related Homicides

Dispute-Related Homicides*



Group-Member Involvement in Disputes

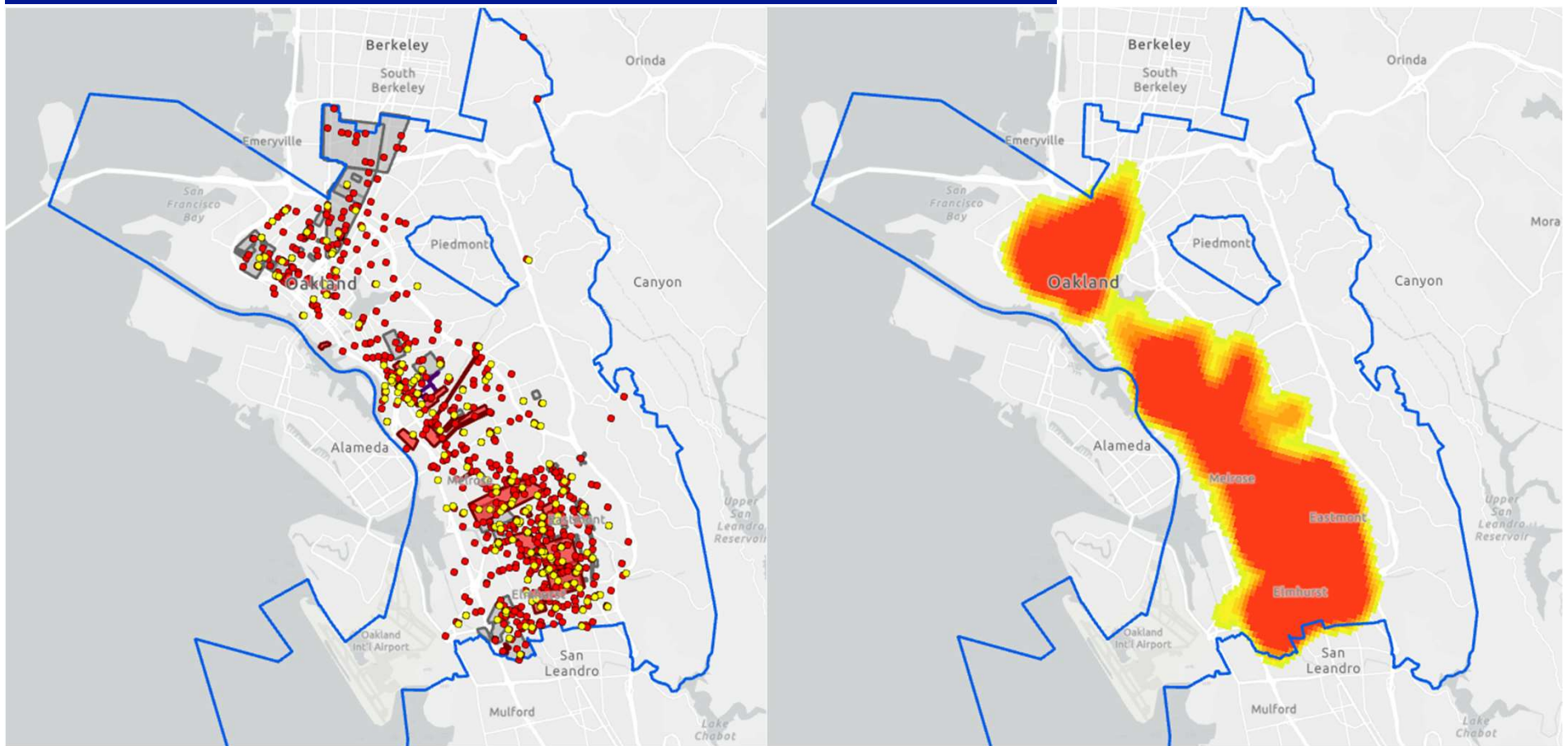


*Includes ongoing personal, sudden, group-related, internal group, and drug-related disputes.

2019 vs. 2020 Homicides

	HOMICIDES (N=171)	
	2019 Homicides (n = 70)	2020 Homicides (n = 101)
Victim/Suspect Sex		
Male	90.4%	93.1%
Victim/Suspect Race		
Black	71.9%	64.8%
Hispanic	18.5%	24.5%
White/Asian/Other	9.6%	10.7%
Victim/Suspect Average Age	31.5	31.9
Percent Group-Member Involved	45.7%	51.5%

Homicides & Nonfatal Shootings: 2019-2020



● Nonfatal Shootings ● Homicides

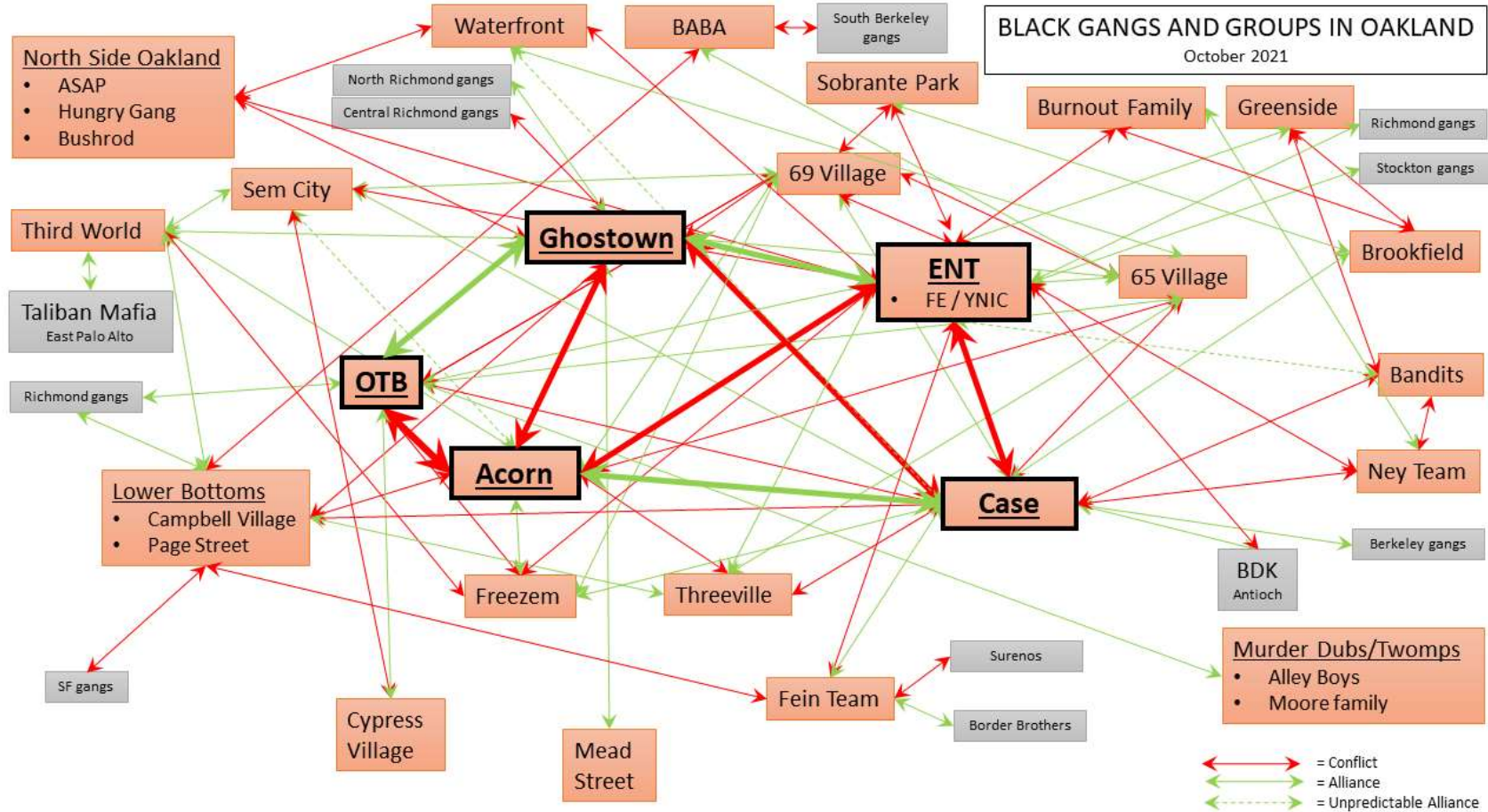
Summary

- 86% of homicides from 2019-2020 were gun homicides.
- Most homicides evolve from ongoing personal disputes (24%), sudden disputes (20%), and group-related disputes (12%).
- Although only 12% of incidents involved a group-related conflict, at least 49% of all homicides involve group/gang members as victims, suspects, or both.
 - About 34-37% of victims and 43-52% of suspects were identified as group/gang-associated.
 - 63% of homicides evolved from dispute-related circumstances. Of these disputes, 59% involved group members as victims, suspects, or both.

HIGH-RISK GROUPS AND NETWORKS



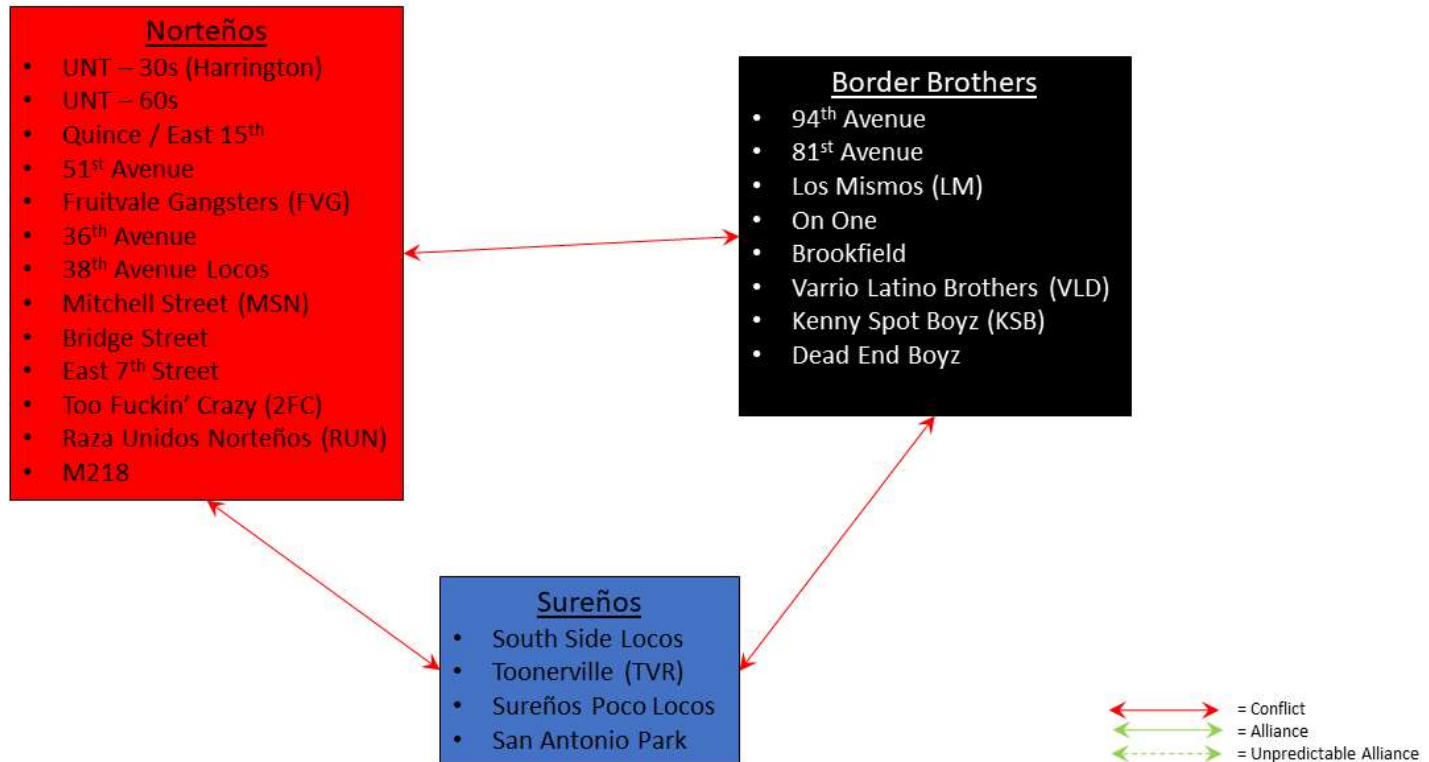
Group/Gang Conflicts and Alliances



Group/Gang Conflicts and Alliances

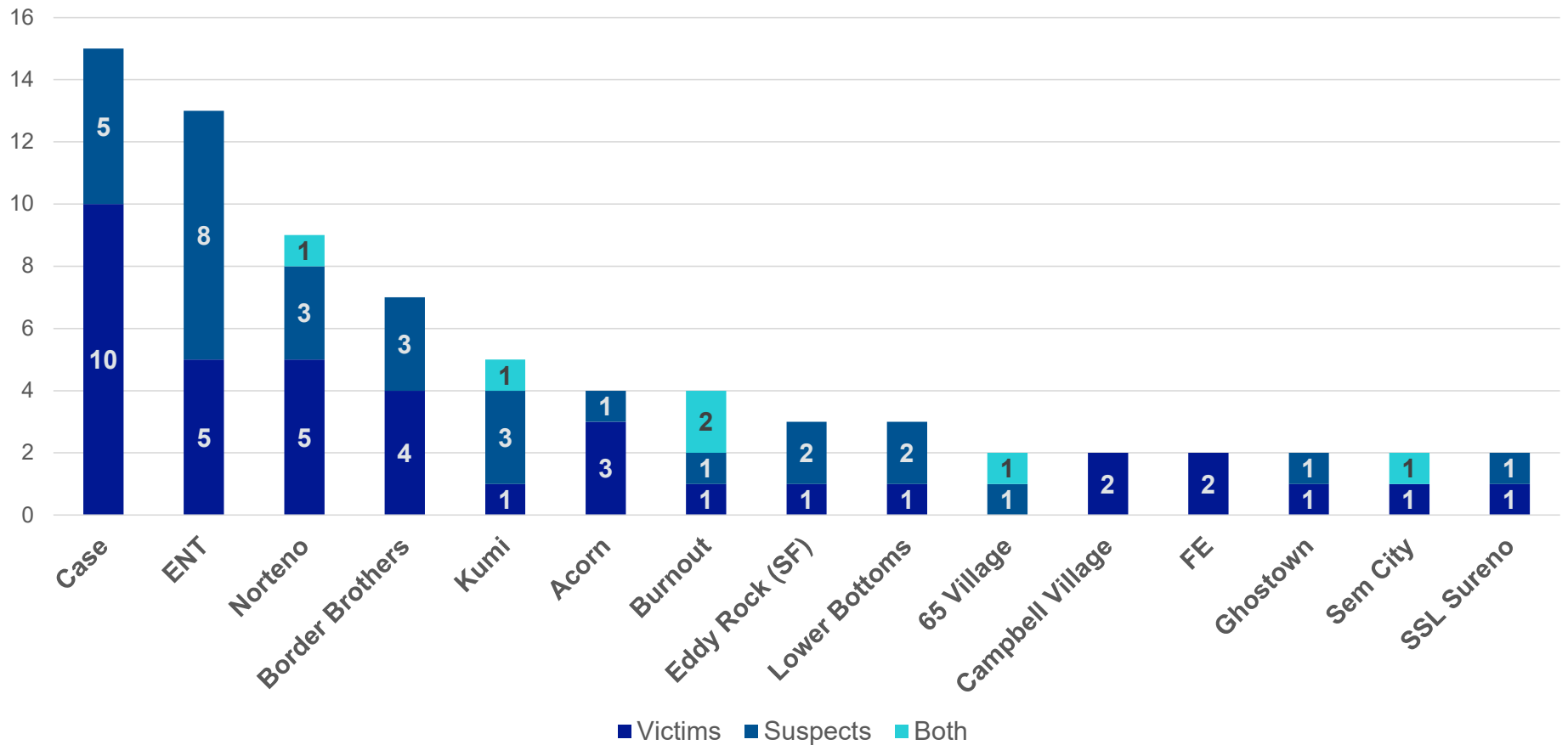
HISPANIC GANGS AND GROUPS IN OAKLAND

October 2021

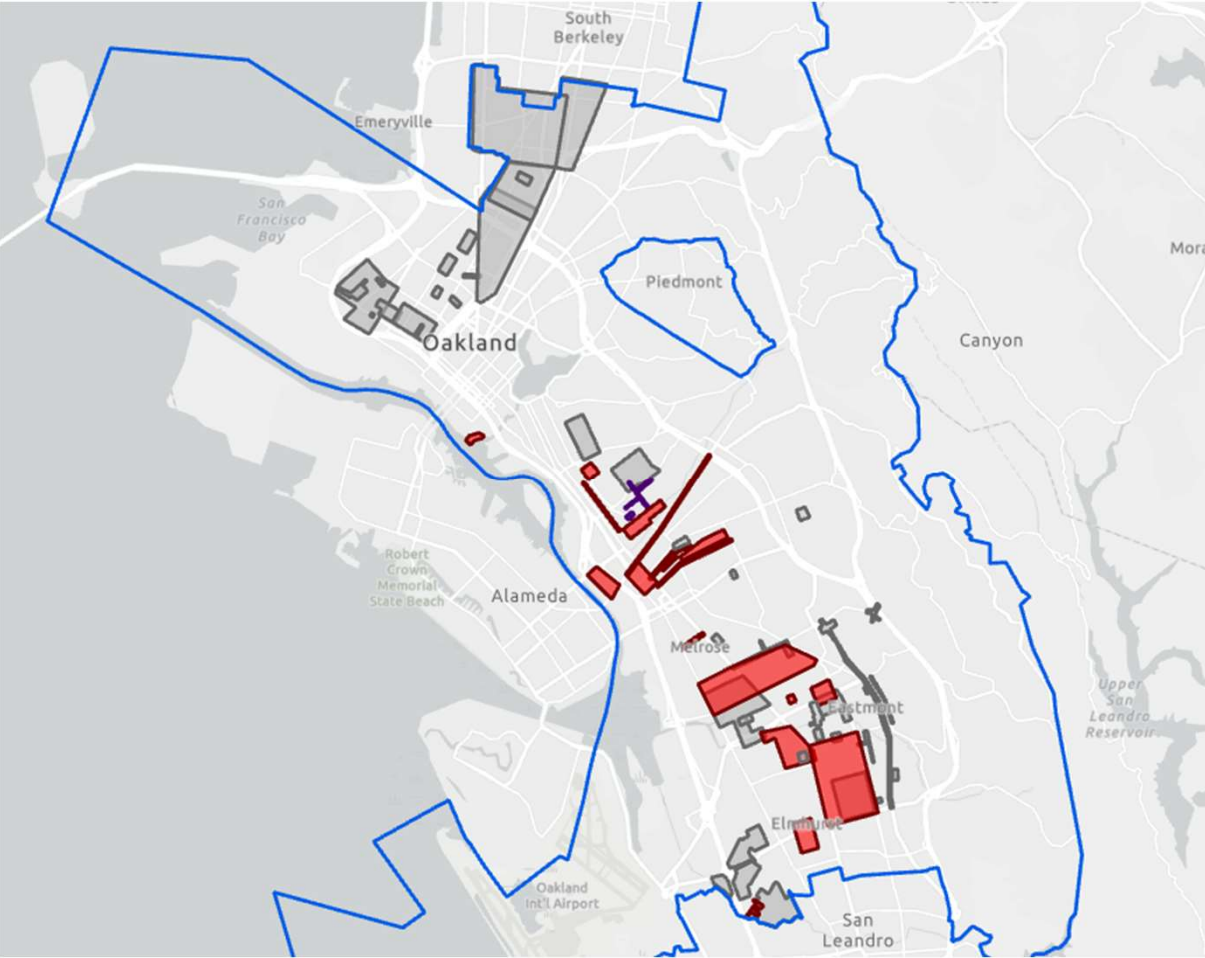


Group Involvement in Homicides

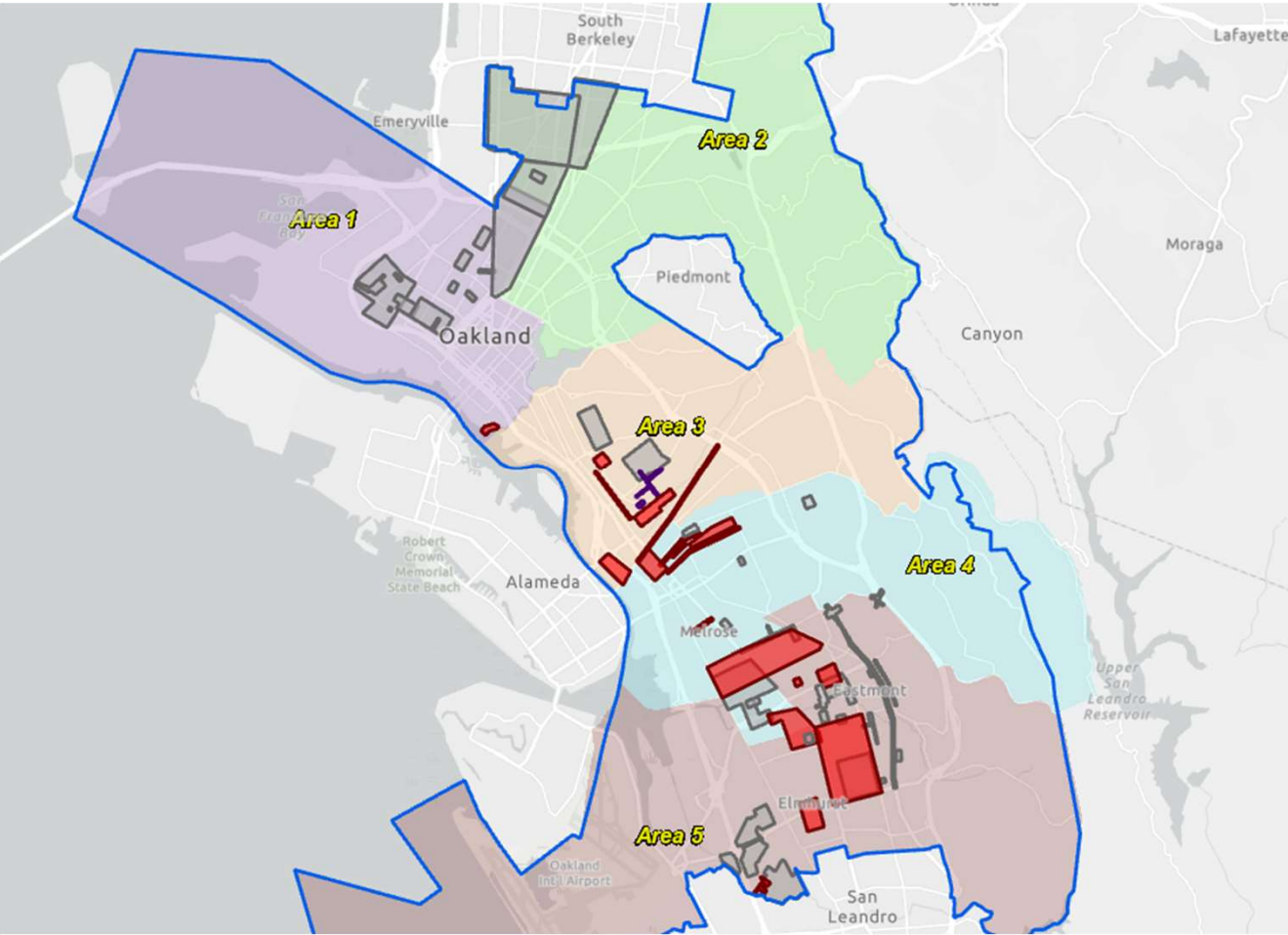
Groups involved in 2 or more homicides



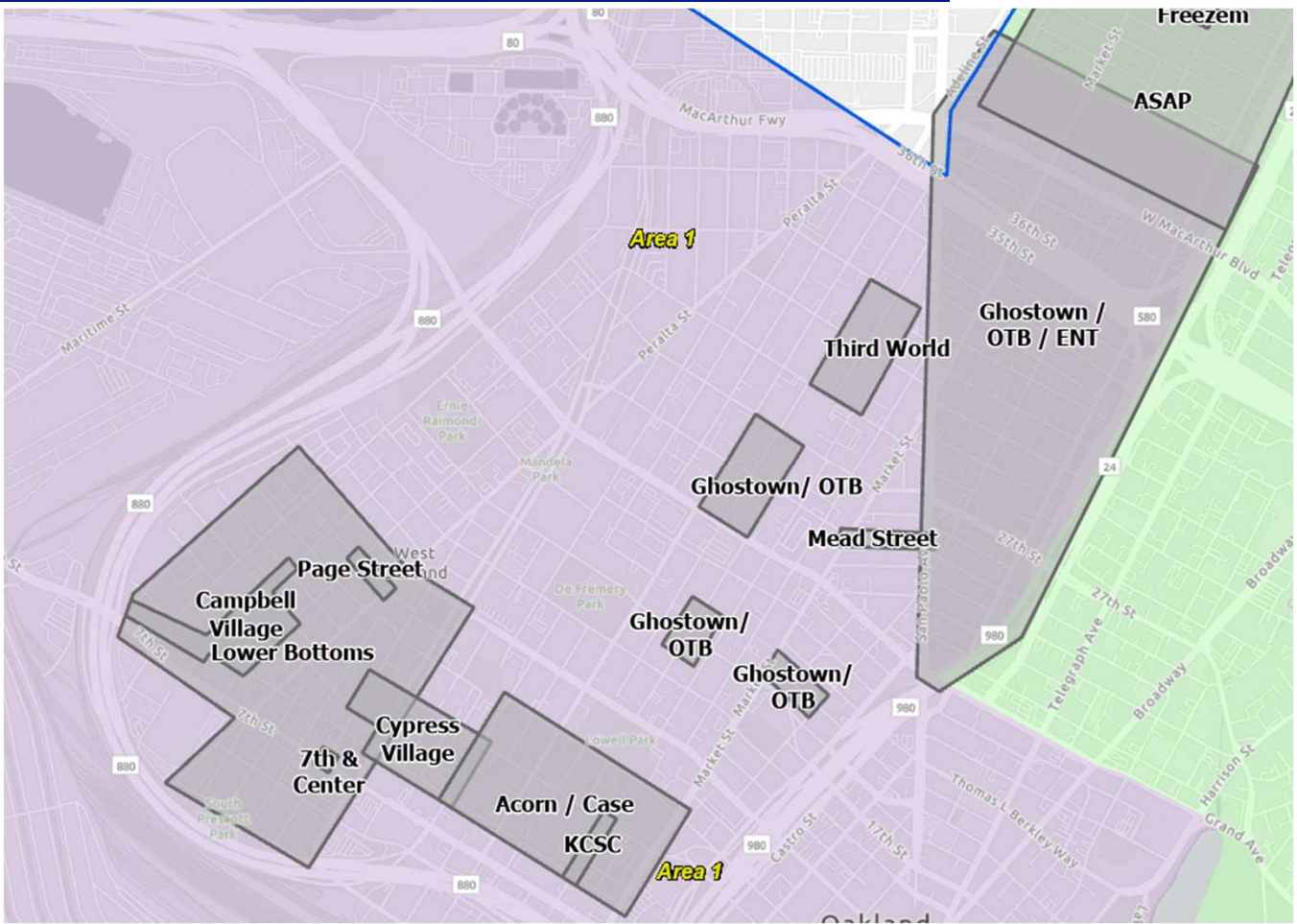
Group/Gang Territories: Citywide



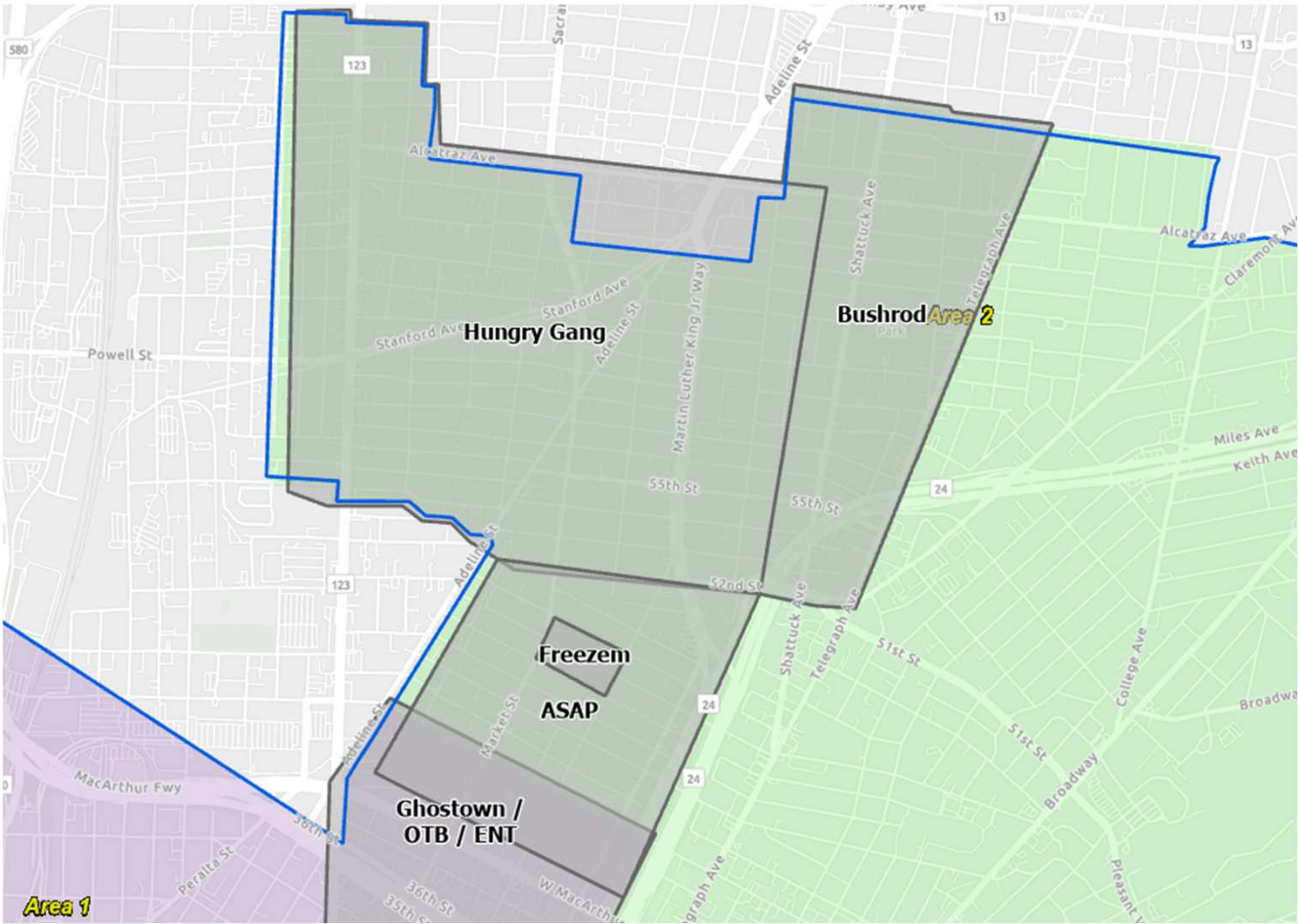
Group/Gang Territories: Citywide



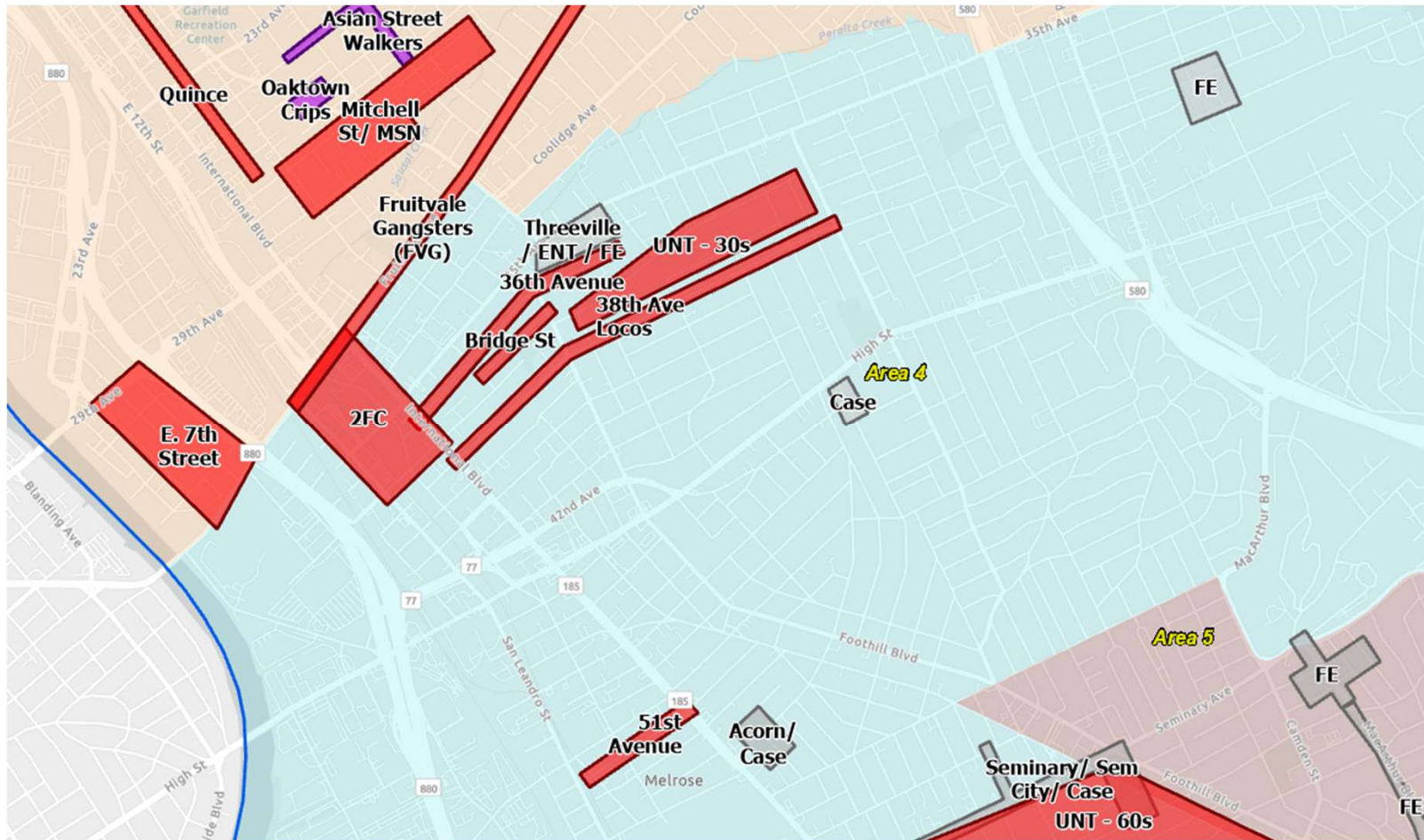
Group/Gang Territories: Area 1



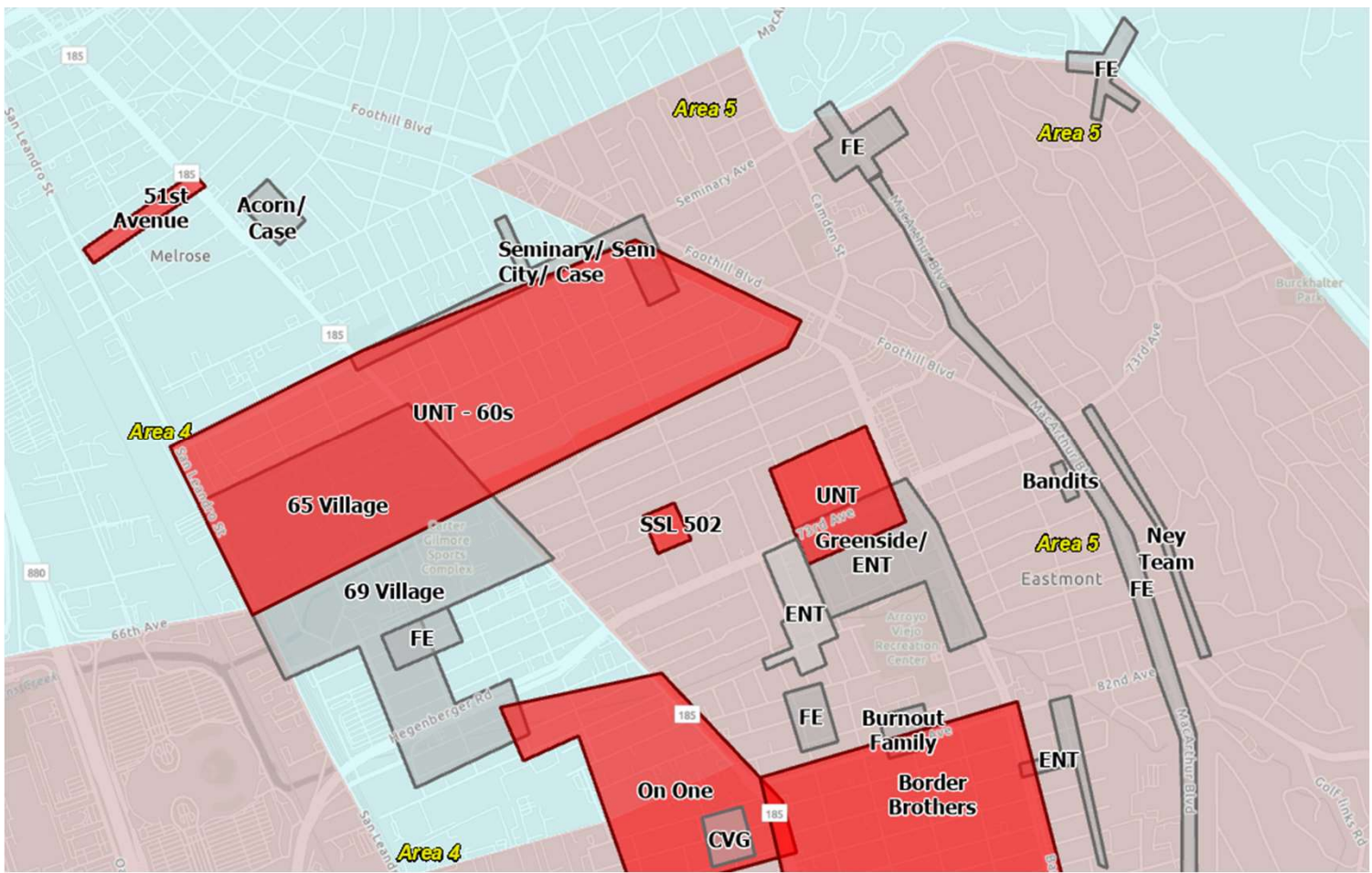
Group/Gang Territories: Area 2



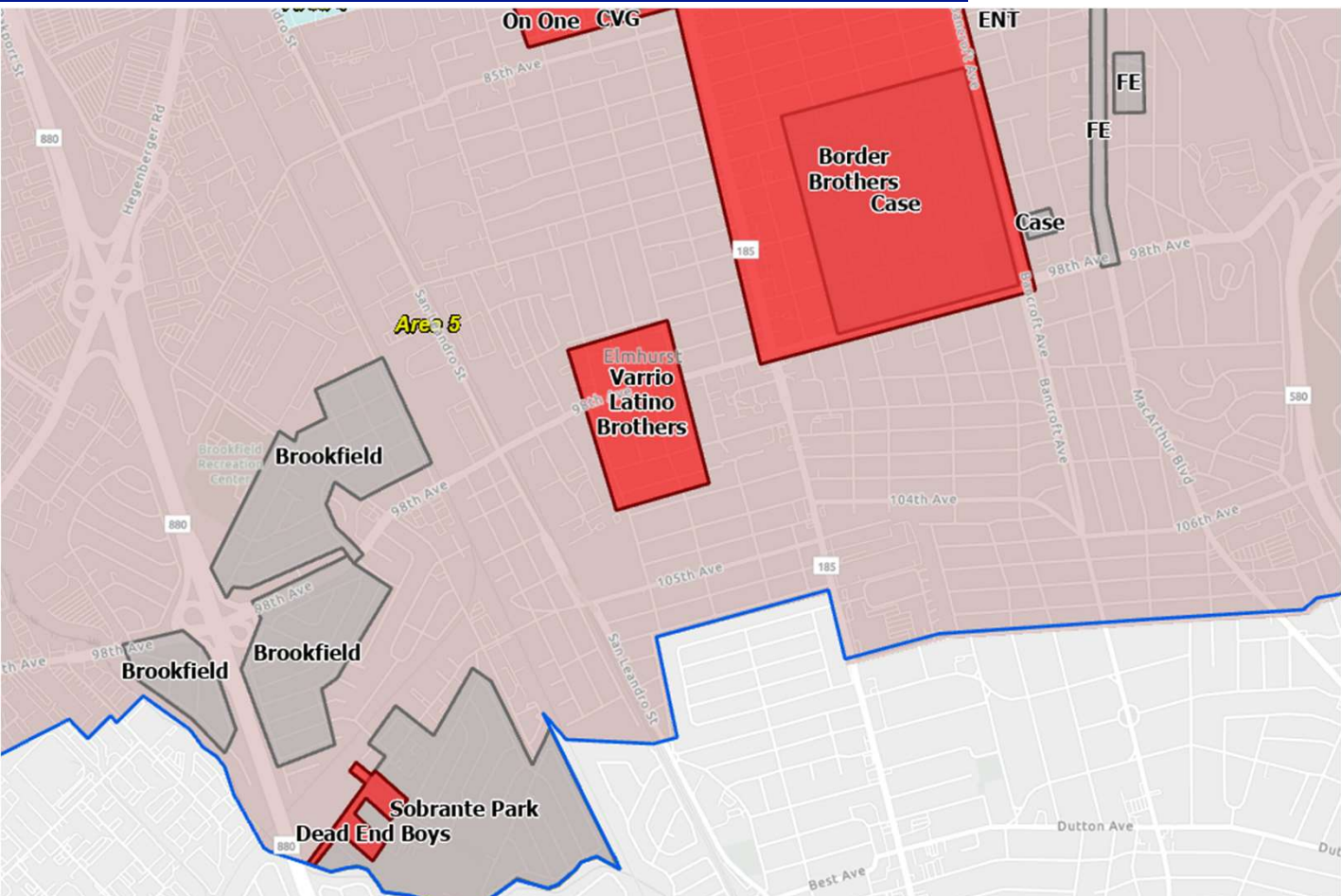
Group/Gang Territories: Area 4



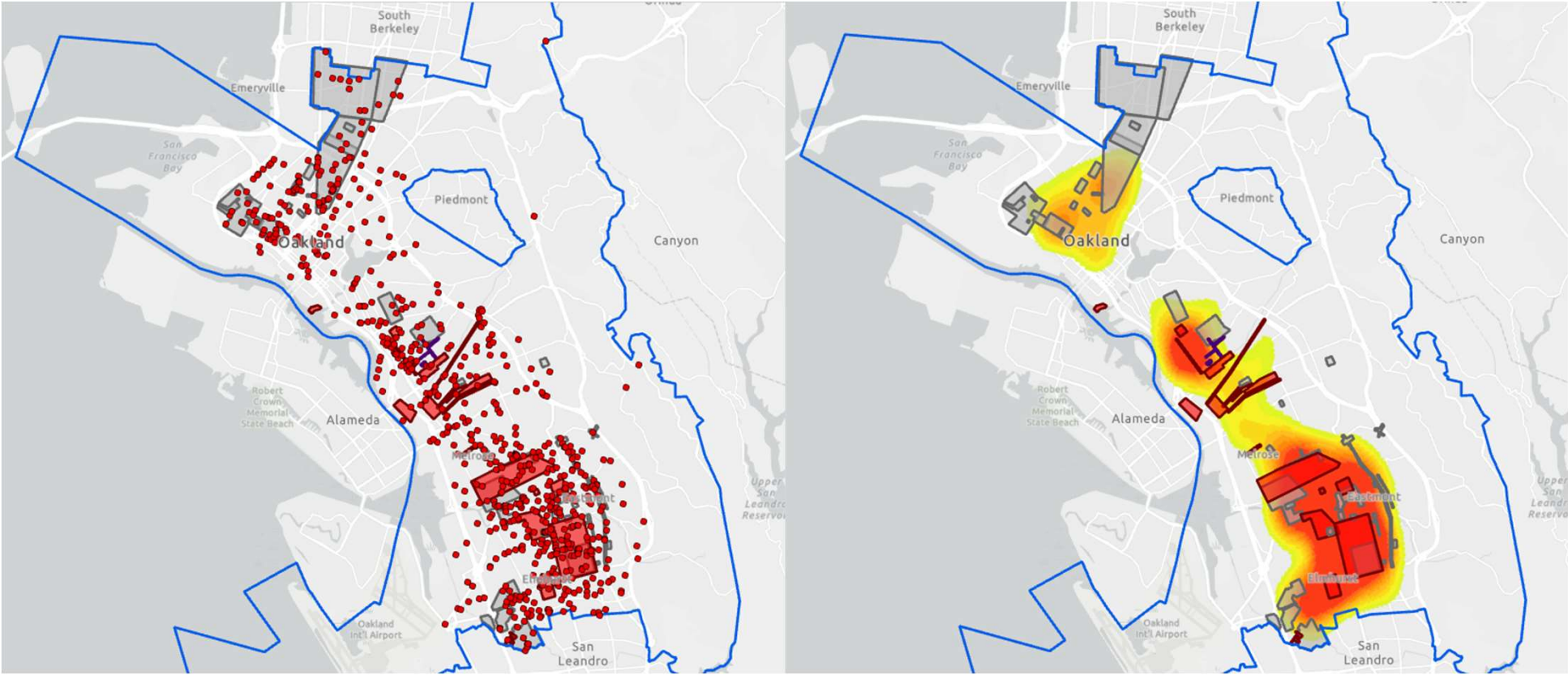
Group/Gang Territories: Area 5



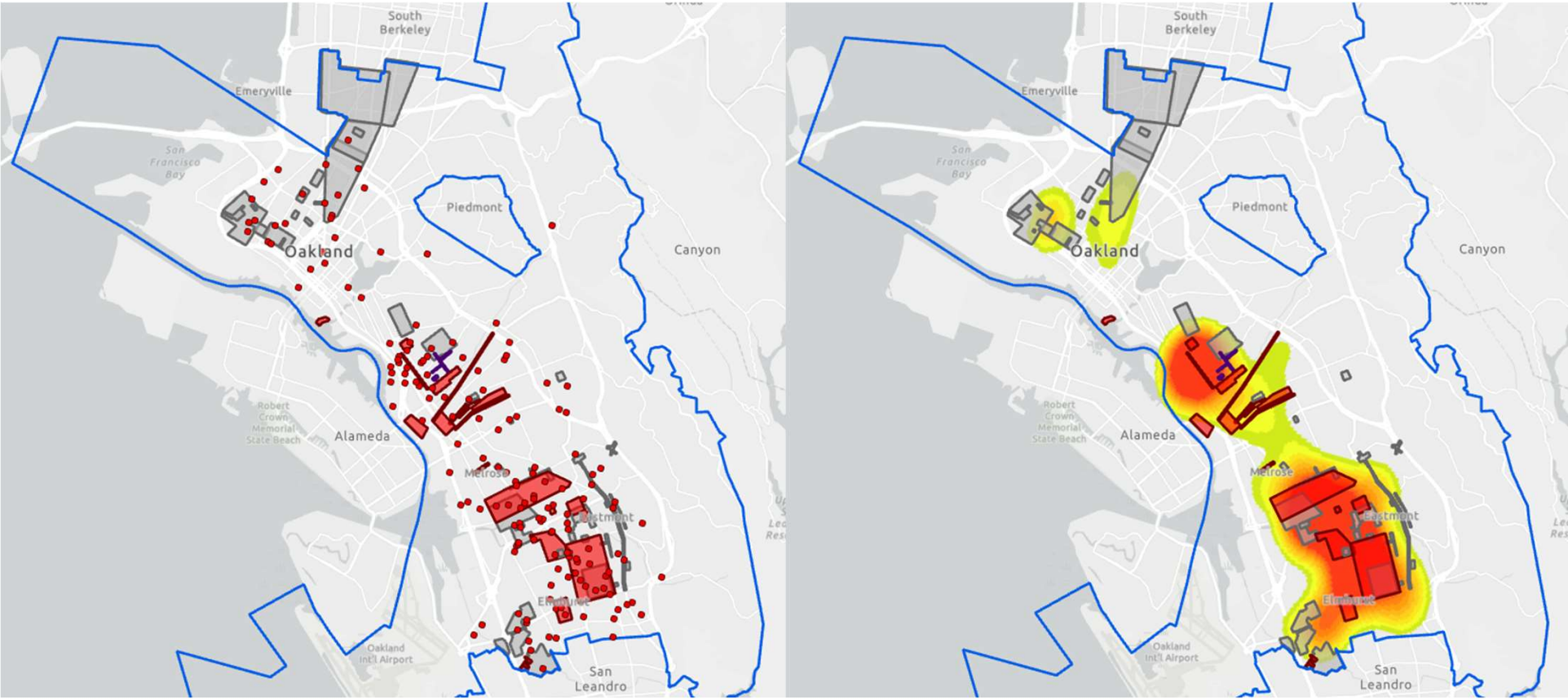
Group/Gang Territories: Area 5 (cont.)



Group/Gang Territories and Nonfatal Shootings



Group/Gang Territories and Homicides



Summary

- Oakland PD personnel identified 59 active groups/gangs in the City.
 - Of these groups, 14 have been involved in two or more homicides from 2019-2020.
 - Case, ENT, and Norteño groups have been involved in the greatest share of violence.
- The estimated membership size of all 59 groups is 1516-1751 individuals, or about 0.4% of Oakland's total population. However, these groups are involved in almost half of all homicides.
- Identified group/gang areas align closely with hot spots for homicides and nonfatal shootings.
 - 47.6% of homicides and 43.8% of nonfatal shootings from 2019-2020 occurred in identified gang territories.
 - Most violence concentrates in and arounds group territories in OPD Areas 3 and 5.

RECOMMENDATIONS



Recommendations

- Oakland homicides continue to be largely driven by a small number of group-involved individuals who are well known to the CJ system.
- Group member involved homicides increased by 62.5% from 32 in 2019 to 52 in 2020.
- The results of the problems analysis are supportive of group violence reduction strategy.
- It is recommended that the City of Oakland closely audits the resources allocated and activities of the organizations responsible for implementing Ceasefire. This audit will assess whether the challenges of the pandemic and demands for police reform have diminished focus.
- The audit should determine whether each of the key components (communications, service provision, law enforcement) have the necessary focus, quality, and scale to reduce the violence problem the city now faces.