MARION COUNTY, OREGON

CRIME REPORT & GUN VIOLENCE PROBLEM ANALYSIS

2014 - 2023

FINAL REPORT: AUGUST 2024

MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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INTRODUCTION

In May 2023, the Salem Police Department partnered with researchers to conduct a detailed analysis of local gun violence occurring between 2018-2023. Following this report, Marion County commissioned an extended gun violence analysis in March 2024 to explore county-wide dynamics from 2014-2023.

A Gun Violence Problem Analysis (GVPA) is a set of analytical exercises designed to support the implementation of violence reduction strategies. The goal of this analysis was to examine the circumstances of incidents, explore the characteristics of individuals involved, and identify the social networks at greatest risk for involvement in violence. This analysis also explored risk factors and criminal trajectories among violence-involved youth throughout Marion County.

Marion County sits in the Willamette Valley and encompasses approximately 1,182 square miles (Figure 1). The County contains an estimated population of 346,741[1] within 20 incorporated cities and 37 unincorporated communities. Its largest cities are Salem (est. pop. 177,432), Keizer (est. pop. 38,564), Woodburn (est. pop. 29,033), Silverton (est. pop. 10,341), and Stayton (est. pop. 7,880)[1]. All other incorporated cities have populations of less than 5,000 persons.

Similar to the trends observed in many U.S. cities, Marion County also experienced increases in violent crime following the COVID-19 pandemic. The goals of this analysis include exploring long-term trends, evaluating recent upticks in county violence, and informing greater cross-jurisdictional collaboration and resource sharing.

Figure 1. Marion County Boundaries
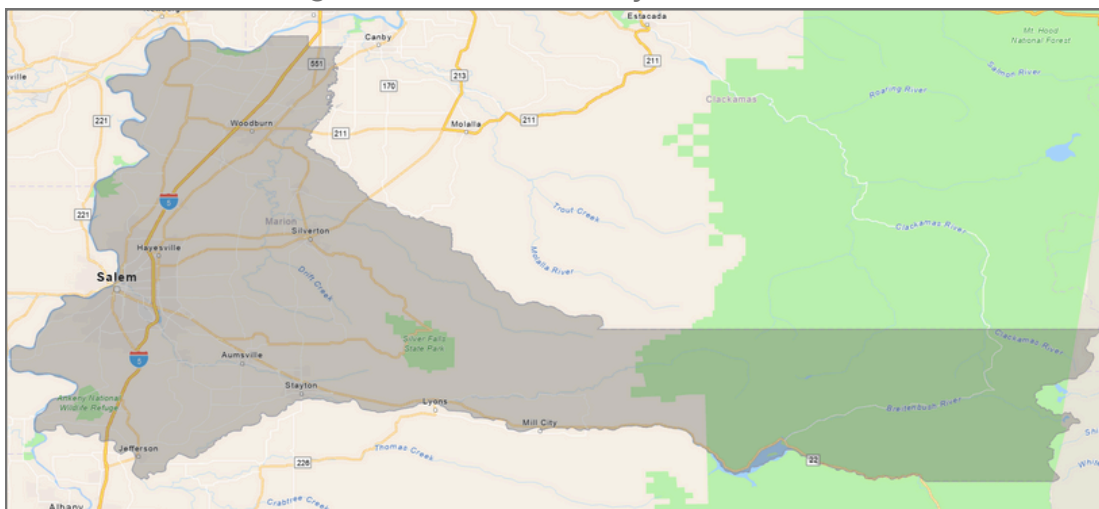
[1] U.S. Census Bureau, 2023

BACKGROUND

Marion County's ten-year average homicide rate is 3.3 per 100,000 population[2]. This rate falls below the national average, but it is often higher than Oregon's statewide homicide rate with the exception of 2020-2022 (Figure 2).

Though the County's homicide rate has remained relatively stable over the past ten years, Marion County's aggravated assault rate has steadily increased (Figure 3). In line with Oregon's statewide trends, Marion County's aggravated assault rate has increased from 157.0 per 100,000 population in 2013 to 246.2 per 100,000 population in 2022[2].

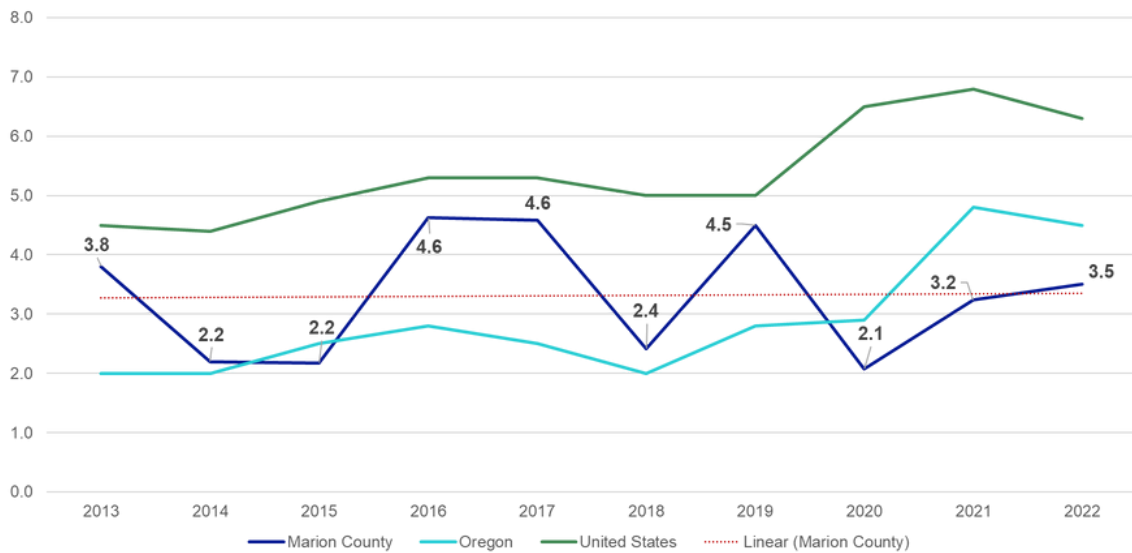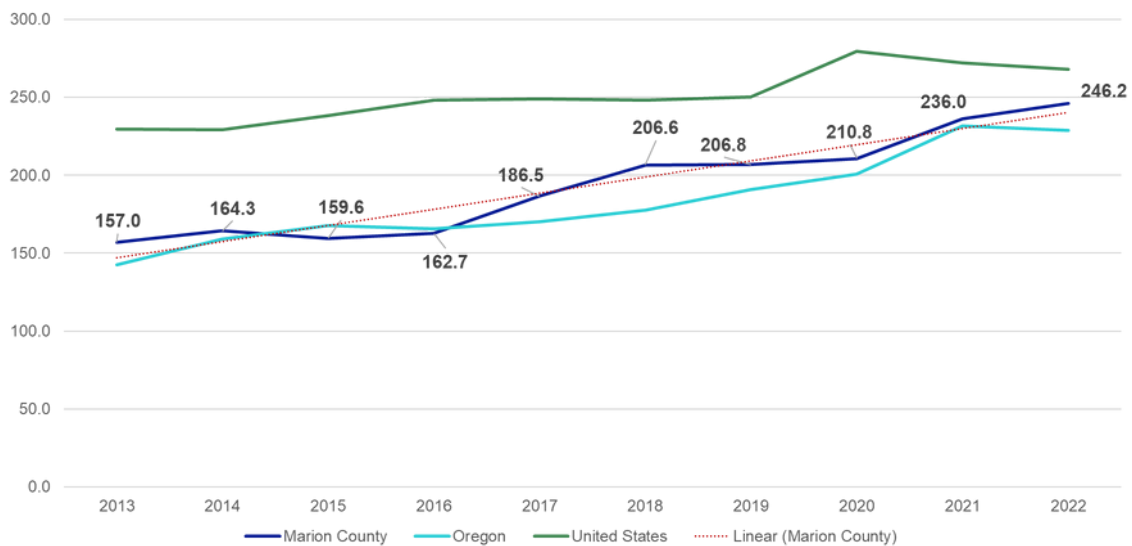**Figure 2. Marion County Homicide Rate 2013 - 2022 (per 100,000 population)**

Figure 3. Marion County Aggravated Assault Rate 2013 - 2022 (per 100,000 population)

[2] FBI Uniform Crime Reporting, 2023

Figure 4. Marion County Property Crime Rate 2013 - 2022 (per 100,000 population)
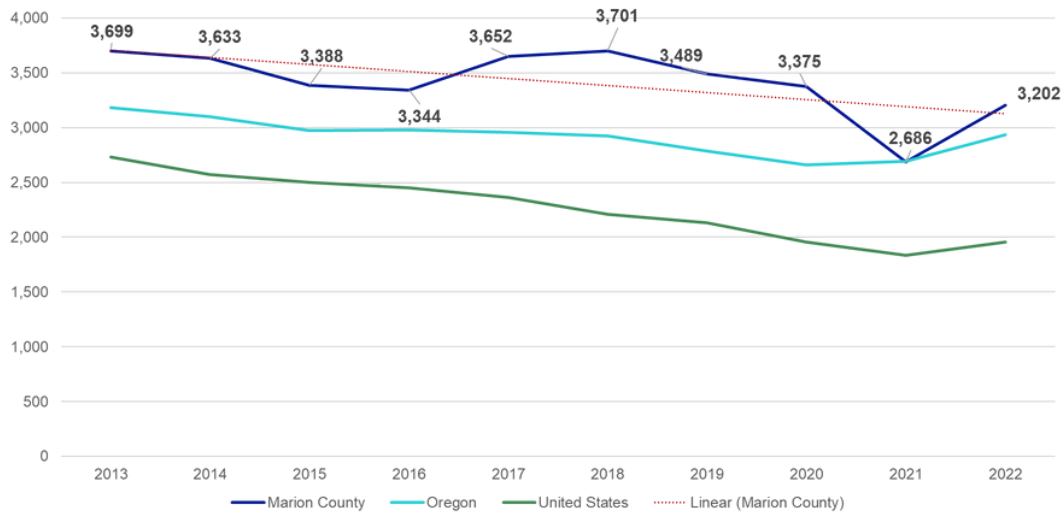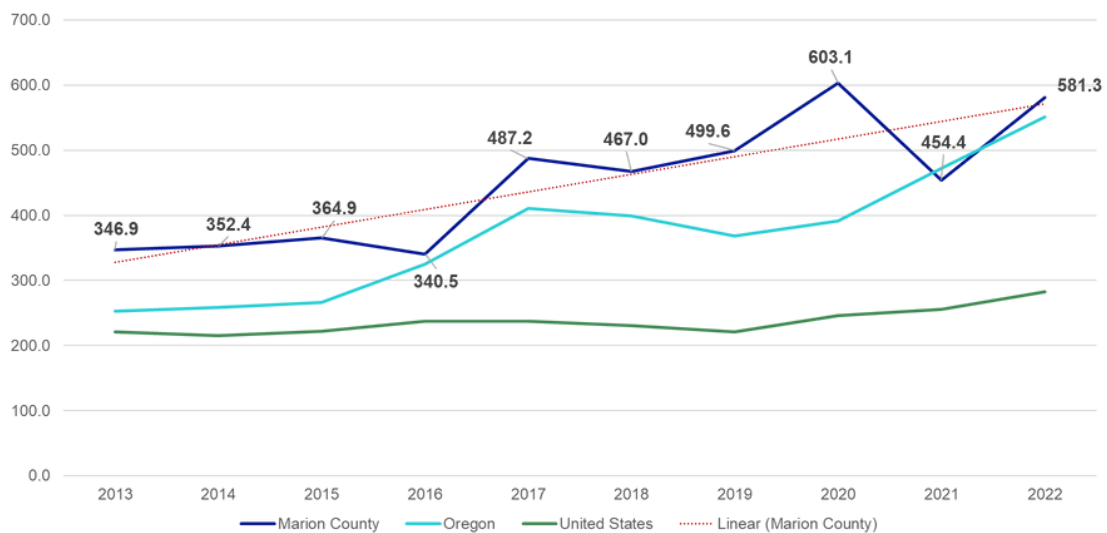

Figure 5. Marion County MV Theft Rate 2013 - 2022 (per 100,000 population)

With the exception of 2021, Marion County's property crime rate is consistently about 10-20% higher than the statewide rate and about 25-40% greater than the national rate (Figure 4). However, in contrast to the County's aggravated assault rate, property crimes in Marion County decreased more than 13% overall across this ten year period from 3,699 per 100,000 population in 2013 to 3,202 per 100,000 population in 2022[3,4].

Still, a review of motor vehicle theft specifically shows a 68% increase from a rate of 347 per 100,000 population in 2013 to 581 per 100,000 population in 2022 (Figure 5)[3,4]. Though this reflects a marked increase, this trend is not as steep as the statewide rate. Overall, Oregon saw a 119% increase in motor vehicle theft from 2013-2022.

Some of the strongest crime increases in Marion County can be observed in the incidence of fatal and nonfatal shootings. Similar to national trends, Marion County has experienced an increase in gun violence in recent years. When fatal and nonfatal shootings are combined, the County experienced a 233% percent increase in gun violence incidents from 2014-2023 (Figure 6).

[3] FBI Uniform Crime Reporting, 2023
[4] These statistics do not include Aumsville or Turner as these cities were missing UCR data for 2021-2022.

Figure 6. Marion County Fatal and Nonfatal Shootings, 2014-2023

233% increase in fatal and nonfatal violence

■ Nonfatal Shootings ■ Homicides
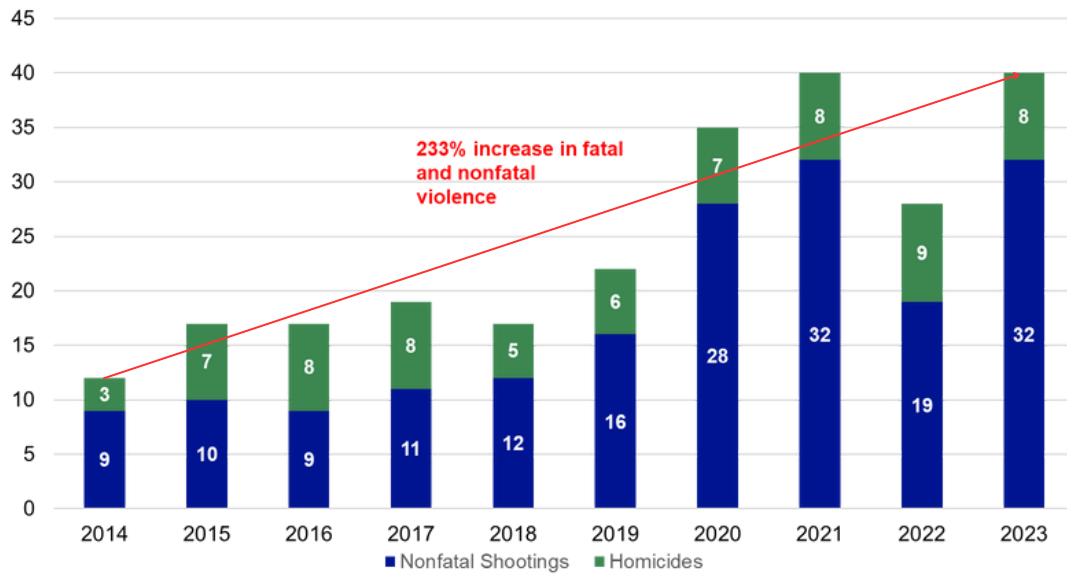
Importantly, violence in Marion County is not evenly dispersed and a small number of incorporated cities experience the highest levels of violence. On average, about 54% of homicides from 2014-2023 were investigated by Salem PD, 29% were investigated by Marion County Sheriff's Office, and 6% were investigated by Keizer PD. For recorded aggravated assaults between 2014-2023, an average of 71% were investigated by Salem PD, 9% by Keizer PD, and 8% by Woodburn PD.

GUN VIOLENCE ANALYSIS

This Gun Violence Problem Analysis examined all gun homicides (n = 69) and all nonfatal injury shootings (n = 164) between January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2023. Officer-involved shootings, confirmed self-inflictions, and cases of justified self-defense were excluded from our sample.

Figure 7. Marion County Fatal and Nonfatal Shooting Locations, 2014-2023

Incorporated City Boundaries
MCSO District Boundaries
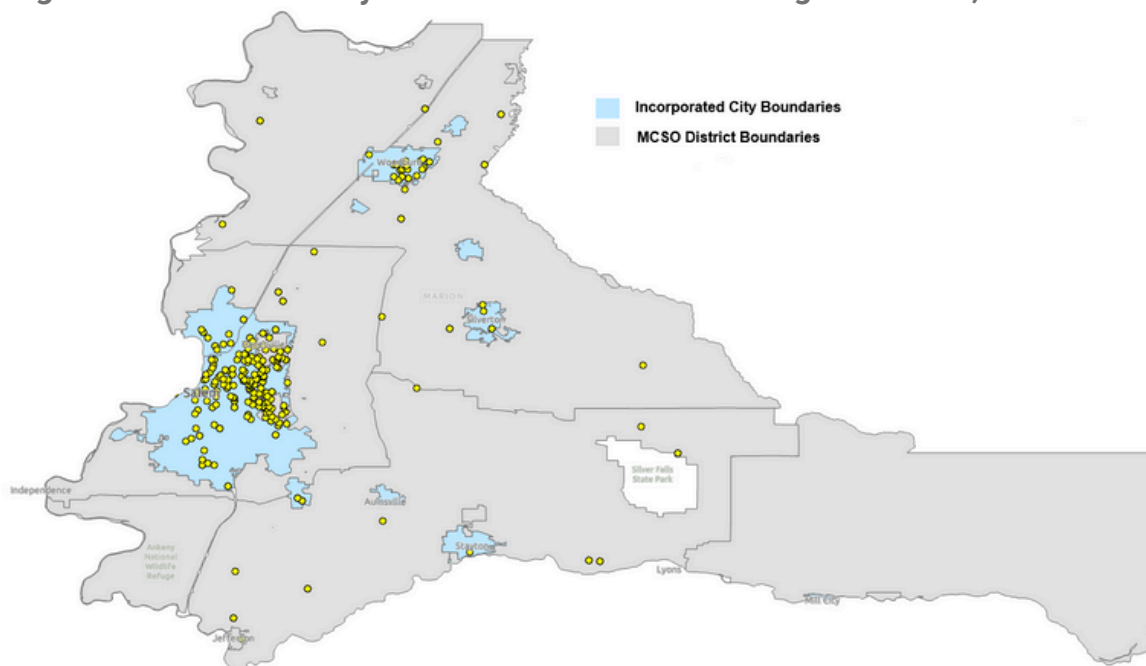
This report collected and analyzed data from all law enforcement agencies within Marion County. This includes incidents investigated by the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), which has county-wide jurisdiction. Because of this jurisdictional overlap, we report some comparisons by agency for clarity. Of all cases included in this analysis, there were 69 cases (29.6% of 233) that occurred within unincorporated areas of Marion County (Figure 7). Of the 69 cases, 46 (66.7%) occurred within East Salem Service District areas.

Demographics of Victims and Suspects

The victims and suspects of fatal and nonfatal shootings in Marion County are primarily male, Hispanic, and between the ages of 18-34. About 87% of victims and suspects were male. About 51% of victims and suspects were Hispanic despite Hispanic residents comprising only 29% of the overall population in the city (Table 1). Though making up a smaller proportion of involved individuals, Black individuals made up about 7% of victims and suspects despite only comprising about 2% of the population. Approximately 60% of victims and suspects were between the ages of 18-34, with a mean age of 28.8 (Table 2).

Table 1. Gun Violence Victims and Suspects: Sex and Race

	FATAL & NONFATAL SHOOTINGS (N=233)			MARION COUNTY POPULATION
	Victims (n=283)	Suspects (n=178)	Victims & Suspects (n=461)	
Sex				
Male	**82.6%**	**94.8%**	**87.3%**	50.0%
Female	17.4%	5.2%	12.7%	50.0%
Race				
Black	**6.1%**	**10.5%**	**7.4%**	1.7%
Hispanic	**51.8%**	**51.2%**	**51.2%**	29.3%
White	38.6%	36.6%	37.6%	61.9%
Other	3.6%	1.7%	2.9%	-

Table 2. Gun Violence Victims and Suspects: Age

	FATAL & NONFATAL SHOOTINGS (N=233)		
	Victims (n=283)	Suspects (n=178)	Victims & Suspects (n=461)
Age			
17 & under	12.4%	**16.9%**	14.1%
18-24	**31.2%**	**37.8%**	**33.7%**
25-34	**27.7%**	**25.0%**	**26.7%**
35-44	14.5%	12.8%	13.9%
45-54	8.5%	4.1%	6.8%
55+	5.7%	3.5%	4.9%
Average Age	29.9	27.0	28.8

Victims and suspects were demographically similar across agencies with two exceptions. First, 97% of victims and suspects in Woodburn were Hispanic, relative to 61% of the population overall. Second, about 74% of victims and suspects in Keizer were age 24 or younger with a median age of exactly 24.

Juvenile Involvement in Violence

Although most victims and suspects were between the ages of 18-34, juveniles made up a larger proportion of suspects (17%) relative to victims (12%), and this percentage of juvenile involvement is slightly higher than observed in other cities conducting violence analyses. A year-over-year comparison shows that the percentage of juveniles involved in victims or suspects has increased from about 2018 through 2023 (Figure 8). While juveniles comprised about 6% of victims and suspects 2018, they made up over 19% of victims and suspects in gun violence incidents 2023.

**Figure 8. Gun Violence Victims and Suspects: Percent Involved by Selected Age Group**
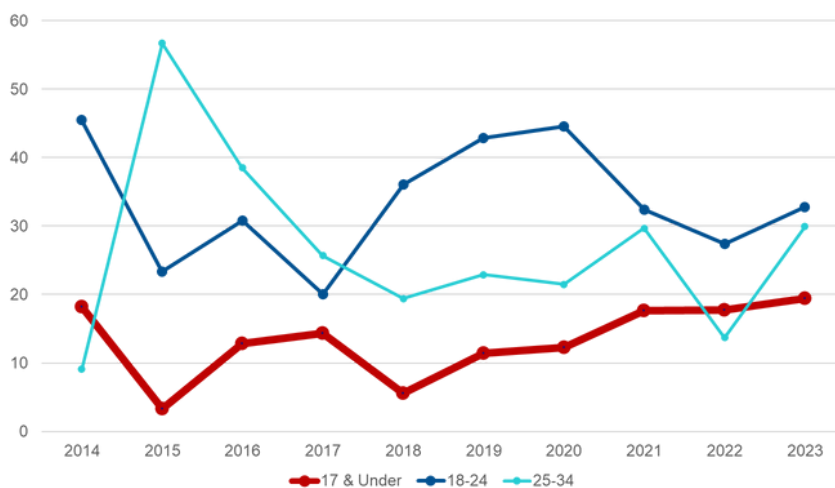
Transitions from UCR to NIBRS crime coding across Marion County agencies prevent reliable trend and offender analyses over time for this ten year period. However, additional insight into juvenile involvement in serious violence can be gleaned from data provided by the Marion County Juvenile Department. The Juvenile Department provided data for all referred juveniles from 2014-2023. Referrals were included in this database so long as the juvenile resided in Marion County, regardless of referring agency. During the study period, juvenile referrals decreased 47% from 2,371 in 2014 to 1,266 in 2023 (Figure 9).

**Figure 9. Marion County Juvenile Department: Total Referrals by Year**
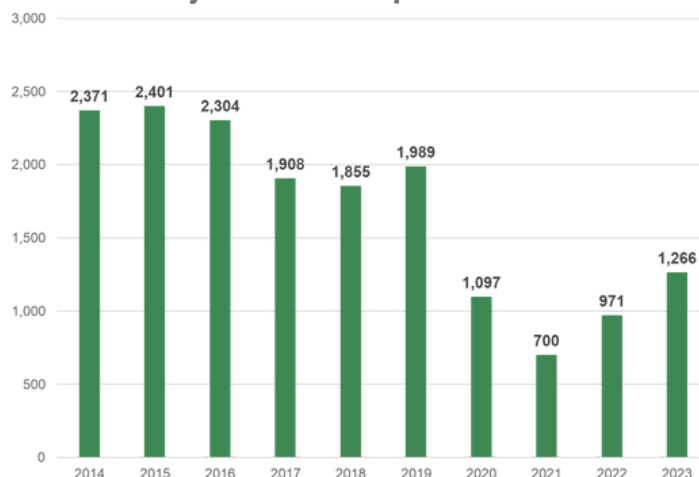
In contrast to this decrease in total referrals, the percent of criminal referrals has increased steadily from 63% of all referrals in 2014 to 77% of all referrals in 2023. In addition, while only 12% of criminal referrals were for felony offenses in 2014, about 27% of criminal referrals in 2023 were for felony offenses. The number of annual felony referrals has remained relatively stable despite overall decreases in total Juvenile Department referrals. Felony offense referrals dropped sharply during the 2020-2021 pandemic years before increasing again in both 2022 and 2023 (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Marion County Juvenile Referrals by Year: Felony Offenses
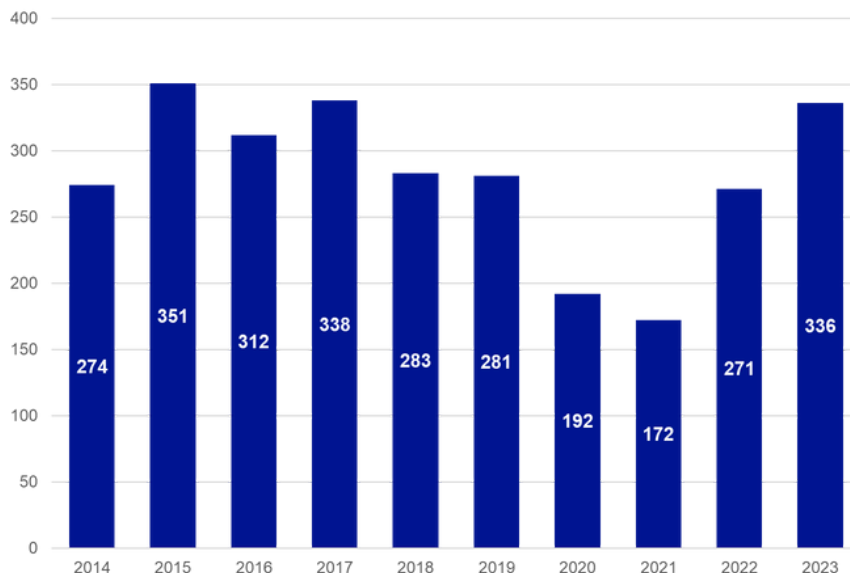
More notable recent increases can be observed in violent and gun offenses[5] specifically. Juvenile referrals for violent offenses increased from 41 in 2014 to the highest ten-year referral number of 98 in 2023 (Figure 11). Similarly, referrals for gun offenses increased from 9 in 2014 to the highest ten-year referral number of 21 in 2023.

Figure 11. Marion County Juvenile Referrals by Selected Offense Type and Year

Violent Offenses
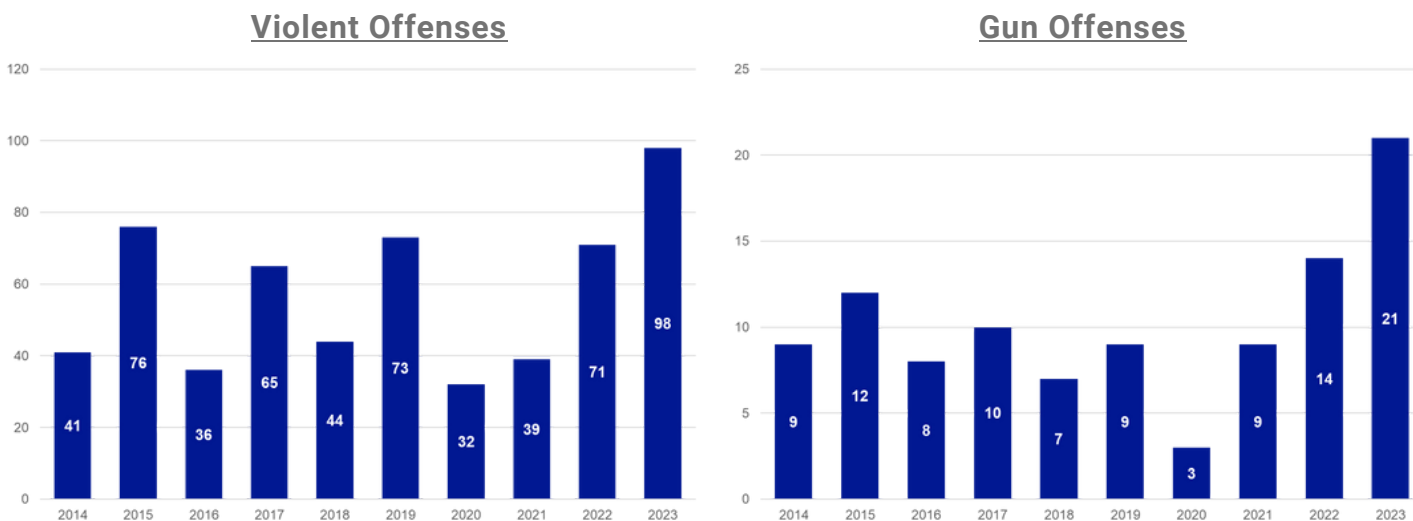
Gun Offenses

[5] Violent offenses include Assault 1st-3rd(fel), Robbery 1st-3rd(fel), and Murder. Gun offenses include unlawful possession, illegal carrying, and unlawful discharge.

Salem PD was the greatest source of criminal juvenile referrals, accounting for approximately 41% of all criminal referrals. MCSO accounted for an additional 14%, Keizer PD accounted for 9%, and Woodburn accounted for 8%, followed by all other agencies.

Juveniles referred for criminal offenses most often resided in Salem (57%; 6,051), Keizer (10.4%; 1,096), and Woodburn (10.0%; 1,050). Notably, about 63% of Keizer PD referrals from 2021-2023 were for juveniles residing in Keizer, but an additional 29% were for juveniles residing in Salem. About 68% of MCSO referrals were for juveniles residing in Salem, 5% for juveniles residing in Aumsville, and 4% for juveniles residing in Keizer and Jefferson, respectively.

Alongside observations of recent increases in juvenile involvement in fatal and nonfatal shootings, Marion County Juvenile Department data does similarly suggest an increase in juvenile violent crime. The number of juveniles referred for violent and gun offenses has increased particularly in 2022-2023. Mirroring patterns in gun violence data, juvenile criminal involvement appears to most closely affect Salem, Keizer, and Woodburn, and jurisdictional crossover appears to be most prevalent between Salem and Keizer.

Criminal Justice System Involvement

A victim or suspect of gun violence was noted to have prior criminal justice system involvement if they had any documented statewide criminal history according to criminal history reports (i.e., arrests, convictions). Prior arrests and felony arrests count the unique arrest events. Offense totals count the number of unique criminal offense types, even if they occurred within the same arrest event. For example, an arrest with burglary-related charges and drug-related charges would be counted as one arrest but two offenses.

Among the fatal and nonfatal shootings that occurred in Marion County from 2014-2023, approximately 69% of victims and suspects were known to the criminal justice system prior to the incident (Table 3). Among victims and suspects with prior arrests:
- About 50% had been previously incarcerated.
- About 52% had been convicted of a felony.
- About 58% had previously been on probation and 13% were on active probation.
- About 25% had previously been on post-prison supervision and 9% were on active post-prison supervision.

Victims and suspects of fatal and nonfatal shootings were similar in terms of the average number and type of prior criminal offenses. Of those who were known to the criminal justice system prior to the incident, most victims and suspects had been arrested for disorder (avg. 1.7), property (avg. 1.6), drug (avg. 1.1), or unarmed violent offenses (avg. 1.0), though most criminal activity was dispersed across offense categories (Table 4). Overall, most victims and suspects with prior criminal offenses had been arrested in Oregon about 6 times for about 7 different criminal offenses by the time of the homicide or shooting. Of these, about 3 of those arrests included felony charges.

Table 3. Gun Violence Victims and Suspects: CJ System Involvement

	FATAL & NONFATAL SHOOTINGS (N=233)		
	Victims (n=283)	Suspects (n=178)	Victims & Suspects (n=461)
Known to the CJ system prior to the incident	67.1%	71.2%	68.8%
Of those known to the CJ system:			
Prior incarceration	**52.6%**	**47.2%**	**50.3%**
Convicted of felony	**53.2%**	**50.4%**	**52.0%**
Prior probation	**56.1%**	**60.0%**	**57.8%**
Active probation	**10.5%**	**16.8%**	**13.2%**
Prior post-prison supervision	26.3%	23.2%	25.0%
Active post-prison supervision	9.9%	7.2%	8.8%
Average prior arrests	6.0	5.6	5.8
Average prior felony arrests	2.7	2.8	2.7

Table 4. Gun Violence Victims and Suspects: Prior Offenses

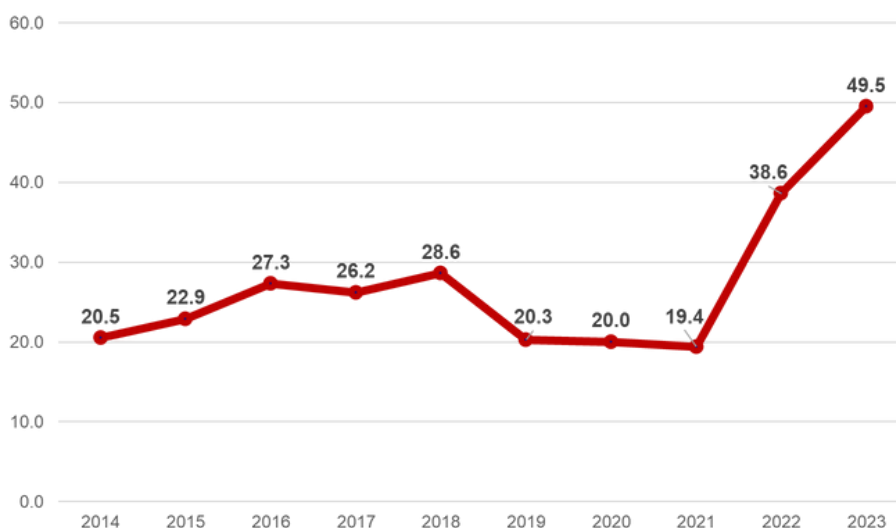|	FATAL & NONFATAL SHOOTINGS (N=233)		
	Victims (n=283)	Suspects (n=178)	Victims & Suspects (n=461)
Of those with prior arrests:	(67.1%)	(71.2%)	(68.8%)
Armed violent offenses	0.1	0.2	0.1
Unarmed violent offenses	**1.1**	**0.9**	**1.0**
Firearm offenses	0.4	0.3	0.4
Drug offenses	**1.2**	**1.1**	**1.1**
Property offenses	**1.6**	**1.6**	**1.6**
Disorder offenses	**1.9**	**1.5**	**1.7**
Fraud offenses	0.2	0.3	0.2
Other offenses	0.8	0.8	0.8
Total	7.2	6.6	7.0

Among a subset of the 65 juveniles involved in gun violence, fewer victims and suspects had prior arrests. About 44% of juvenile victims and 43% of juvenile suspects were known the criminal justice system prior to their involvement in the homicide or nonfatal shooting. Though a smaller proportion had prior criminal justice system involvement, those juveniles who had previously been arrested appeared to share similar profiles to the adult population (Table 5). They tended to have about 6-7 prior arrests, of which an average of 3-4 were for felony offenses, and their profile of offending mirrored adults. However, the median number of prior arrests for these juveniles was 3, and there was only a small number of juveniles with high arrest counts over 15. This suggests that overall, juveniles had minimal recorded criminal history, if they had any at all, prior to being involved in a gun violence incident.

Alongside the observed increase in juvenile involvement in gun violence in recent years, data from the Marion County Juvenile Department also suggests that these juveniles have a very quick detected criminal trajectory to gun violence. Of those juveniles referred for a serious violent offense in 2014, nearly 21% had no prior referrals (Figure 12). Though in 2023, nearly 50% of juveniles referred for a serious violent offense had no prior referrals. These observations highlight the need to expand early identification and intervention efforts, especially among school-based and community-based partners.

Table 5. Juvenile Gun Violence Victims and Suspects: CJ System Involvement

	Juvenile Victims (n=35)	Juvenile Suspects (n=30)	Juvenile Victims & Suspects (n=65)
Known to the CJ system prior to the incident	44.4%	42.9%	43.8%
Of those known to the CJ system:			
Convicted of felony	54.6%	50.0%	52.2%
Prior probation	27.3%	66.7%	47.8%
Average prior arrests	6.1	7.3	6.7
Average prior felony arrests	3.5	3.3	3.4
Offense types:			
Armed violent offenses	0.2	0.4	0.3
Unarmed violent offenses	**1.0**	**2.1**	**1.6**
Firearm offenses	0.7	0.5	0.6
Drug offenses	1.2	0.8	1.0
Property offenses	**1.8**	**1.7**	**1.7**
Disorder offenses	**1.9**	**1.5**	**1.7**

Figure 12. Marion County Juvenile Violent Crime Referral: Percent First Referral

Incident Analysis

This section analyzes the circumstances of fatal and nonfatal shooting incidents from January 2014 – December 2023 (N=233). This analysis collected homicide and shooting circumstance information from case summaries and detective interviews (Table 6). Fatal and nonfatal shootings most often occurred as a result of personal disputes between known individuals (24%), group/gang-related conflicts (17%), and instant disputes (12%). Instant disputes are conflicts that emerge suddenly without prior history and often occur between individuals previously unknown to each other (e.g., road rage, bar fight). Group/gang members were involved in a significant share of both personal disputes (35%) and instant disputes (26%).

In Marion County, personal disputes most often involved arguments related to money, perceived disrespect, and fights over women. A smaller number of disputes involved motives for retaliation or revenge (e.g., for cooperating with police, prior criminal activity). Though some regions throughout the U.S. have reported increases in gun violence that is tied to other growing crime problems like motor vehicle theft, this was not a theme that emerged in this analysis. Instead, the overwhelming majority of gun violence evolved from personal arguments, group/gang related conflicts, and drug-related or drug-induced disputes.

Table 6. Gun Violence Circumstances and Group/Gang Member Involvement

Circumstance	N	All GV Incidents (n = 233)	% Incidents GMI
Personal dispute	55	23.6%	34.5%
Group/gang-related dispute	39	16.7%	100%
Instant dispute	27	11.6%	25.9%
Drug-related robbery/dispute	23	9.9%	17.4%
Domestic dispute	19	8.2%	5.3%
Accidental	10	4.3%	40.0%
Robbery	5	2.1%	20.0%
Other	6	2.6%	-
Unknown*	49	21.0%	18.4%

Though only 17% of gun violence incidents were motivated by a gang-on-gang conflict, a significant share of fatal and nonfatal shootings were group/gang member involved (GMI). About 33% of gun homicides and shootings were confirmed to involve group/gang members as victims, suspects, or both, and in another 47% of incidents, the group/gang involvement of victims and/or suspects was unknown. Incidents are coded with "unknown" group/gang member involvement if detectives do not have enough information to confirm victim/suspect affiliation or if a suspect had not yet been identified. Therefore, 33%, and potentially up to 80%, of gun violence incidents involved group/gang members as victims, suspects, or both, though the exact percentage within that range is unknown.

By agency, Keizer PD had the highest proportion of personal disputes and drug-related disputes/robberies (Table 7). The greatest share of group/gang related gun violence (18.2%) was investigated by Salem PD followed by MCSO (17.7%).

Table 7. Gun Violence Circumstances by Agency

Circumstance	Keizer (n=11)	MCSO (n=68)	Salem (n=132)	Woodburn (n=20)
Personal dispute	45.5%	14.7%	26.5%	25.0%
Group/gang-related dispute	-	17.7%	18.2%	15.0%
Instant dispute	9.1%	11.8%	11.4%	15.0%
Drug-related robbery/dispute	36.4%	11.8%	7.8%	5.0%
Domestic dispute	-	16.2%	5.3%	-
Accidental	-	4.4%	3.0%	-
Robbery	-	2.9%	2.3%	-
Other	-	2.9%	3.0%	-
Unknown	9.1%	17.7%	22.7%	25.0%

In fatal and nonfatal shootings, between 19-56% of victims and 37-71% of identified suspects were group/gang-involved (Figure 13). Almost all active groups/gangs in Marion County are Sureño or Norteño sets with varying levels of organization and formality. These groups have been noted to primarily be involved in narcotics and weapons trafficking, and members also generate criminal profit through thefts, carjackings, and marijuana crimes. The most violently active groups/gangs during the study period were Sureño sets (Figure 14), and members were more often identified as shooting suspects rather than victims.

Victims and suspects associated with groups/gangs were significantly younger than the full population of individuals involved in gun violence. Approximately 25% of group/gang associated victims and suspects were 17 or younger and 47% were between the ages of 18-24. The average age of group/gang associated victims and suspects was 22.7.

Similar to descriptions gathered during the Salem GVPA analysis, identified groups/gangs were again described as being scattered throughout the city. Rather than holding to designated "turfs," groups are increasingly transient and often engage in gang activity and conflicts in online venues. Conflicts emerging online can often evolve into personal and group-related disputes carried out in physical spaces.

Figure 13. Group/Gang Associated Victims & Suspects, 2014-2023
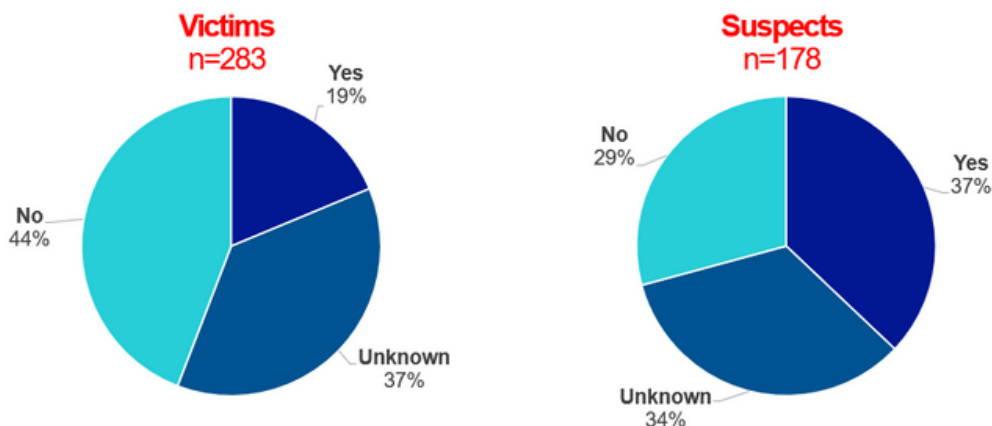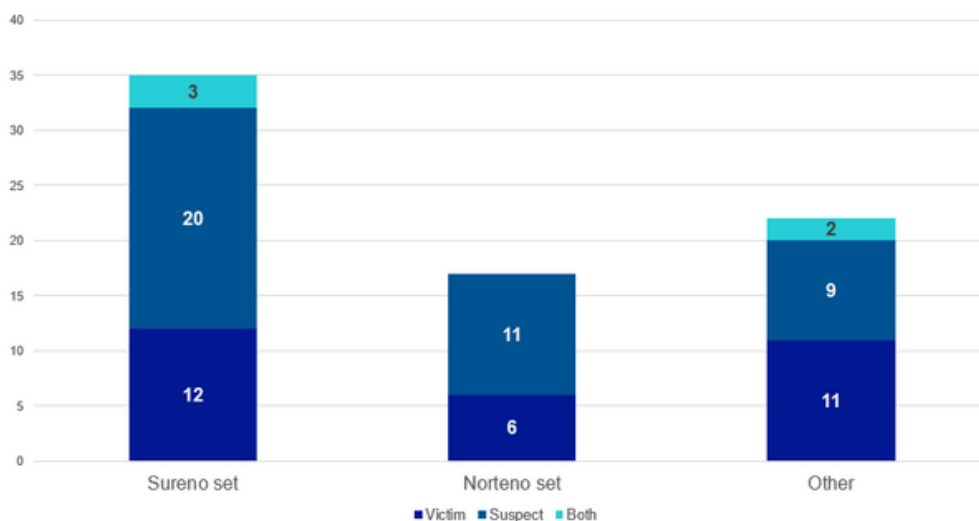

Figure 14. Groups/Gangs Involved in Marion County Fatal & Nonfatal Shootings, 2014-2023

Gun violence incidents in Marion County clustered consistently in stable major hotspots in Salem as well as a smaller stable hot spot in Woodburn (Figures 15 & 16). These countywide hot spots cover just over 22 square miles, or about 2% of the county's land area. About 86% of homicides and shootings occurring between 2014-2023 occurred within these identified hot spots.

Figure 15. Point Locations of Fatal & Nonfatal Shootings, 2014-2023
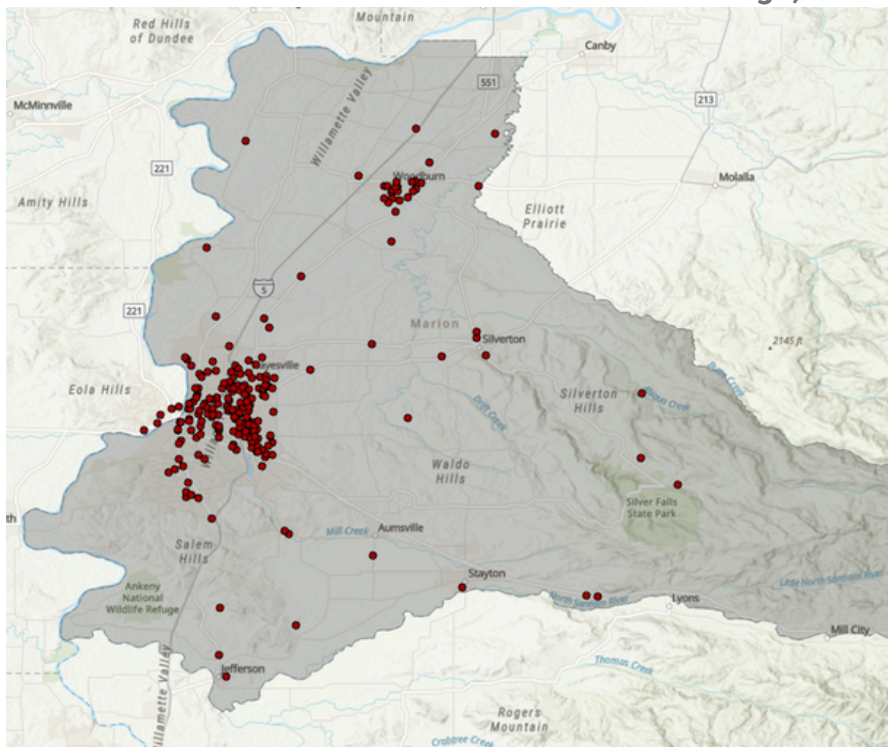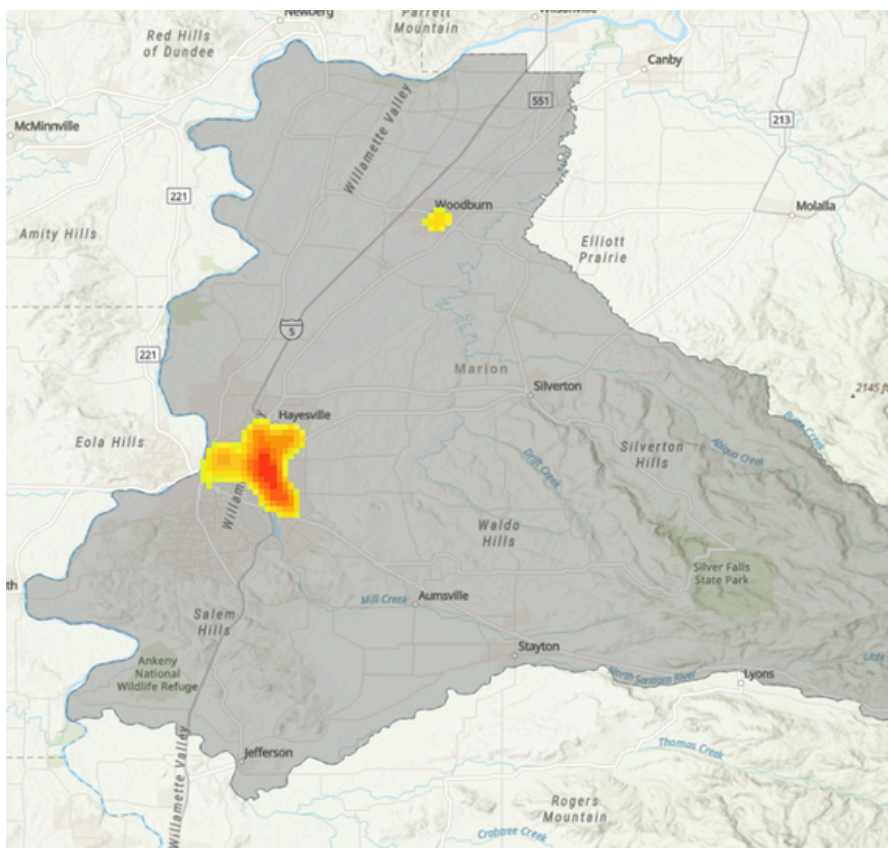

Figure 16. Kernel Density Analysis of Fatal & Nonfatal Shootings, 2014-2023

These gun violence incidents do cluster in Salem, which is the most highly populated city in the County, but it is also important to note that these areas reflect the highest levels of concentrated disadvantage in the County. Concentrated disadvantage scores[6] in Marion County census tracts range from a low of -1.13 to a high of 2.42. Figure 17 shows shooting and homicide points over concentrated disadvantage by census tract, with darker shading reflecting higher levels of disadvantage.

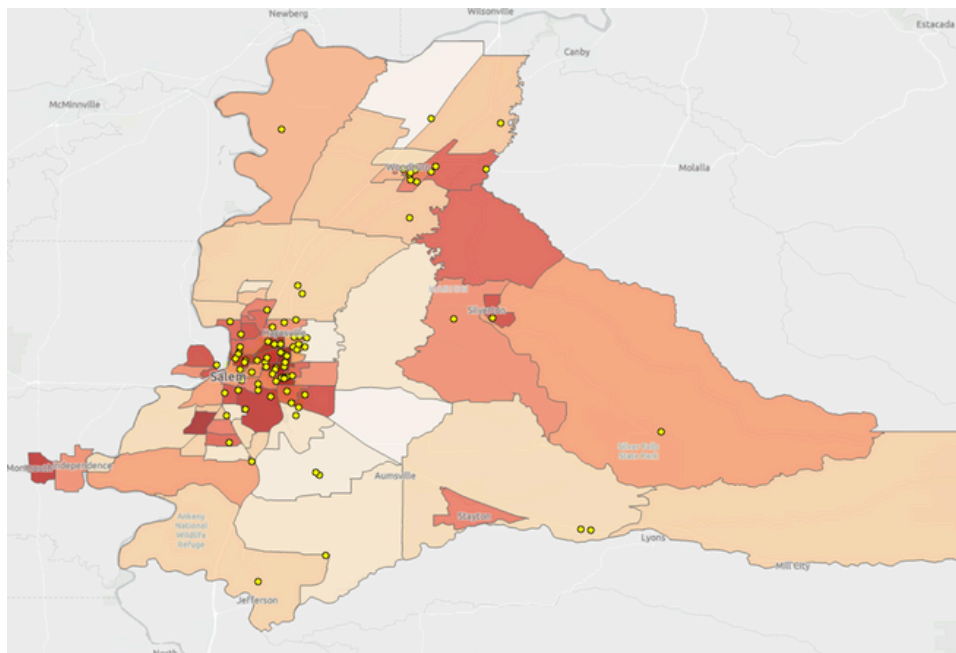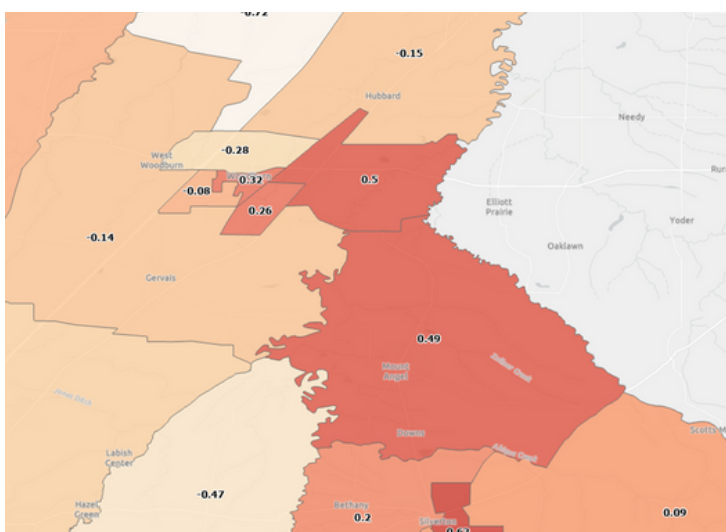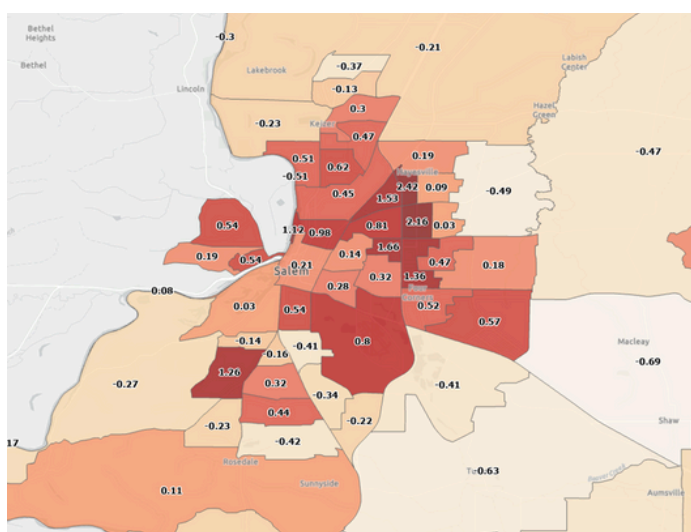**Figure 17. Fatal & Nonfatal Shootings over Concentrated Disadvantage, 2014-2023**

Figure 18. Concentrated Disadvantage Scores Hot Spots

<u>**Salem Concentration Area**</u> <u>**Woodburn Concentration Area**</u>

[6] Concentrated disadvantage was measured as the z-score normalized average of the percent: 1) female-headed households, 2) below poverty line, 3) population under 18 years old, 4) receiving public assistance, and 5) unemployed based on U.S. Census 2022 ACS population estimates.

TIME PERIOD COMPARISONS

Given recent increases in violence, this analysis also compares three key time periods to observe potential changes in the people and circumstances driving violence over time. Period 1 comprises 2014-2018, during which time the County experienced a relatively low and stable level of nonfatal shootings. Period 2 consists of years 2019-2020, during which the initial upward trend in gun violence can be observed. Period 3 consists of 2021-2023, which has seen more consistently elevated levels of gun violence.

Victims and suspects during all three periods are demographically similar, though gun violence suspects have trended significantly younger over time (Table 8). In particular, 29% of gun violence suspects from 2021-2023 were juveniles.

Gun violence circumstances were also similar across time periods, although the proportion of personal and instant disputes has increased slightly over time. However, group/gang member involvement has increased steadily (Figure 14). Group/gang member involvement in fatal and nonfatal shootings has grown from 22% in 2014-2018 to 42% in 2021-2023.

Table 8. Gun Violence Incident Circumstances by Time Period

	FATAL & NONFATAL SHOOTINGS (N=233)					
	2014-2018 (n=163)		2019-2020 (n=104)		2021-2023 (n=194)	
	Victims	Suspects	Victims	Suspects	Victims	Suspects
Male	82.3%	98.5%	87.9%	88.9%	80.0%	94.4%
Black	5.3%	13.6%	4.6%	5.9%	7.6%	9.7%
Hispanic	47.4%	48.5%	59.1%	52.9%	51.3%%	52.8%
Age Categories						
17 & under	12.5%	7.6%	13.6%	8.8%	11.7%	**29.2%**
18-24	22.9%	40.9%	39.4%	**52.9%**	33.3%	27.8%
25-34	30.2%	31.8%	22.7%	20.6%	28.3%	20.8%
Mean Age	32.1	28.6	28.0	26.3	29.2	25.8

Figure 14. Group/Gang Member Involvement in Gun Violence by Time Period
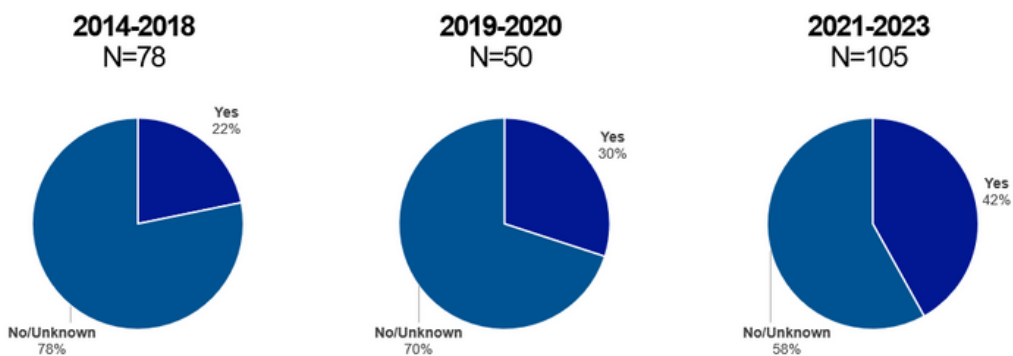
SUMMARY FINDINGS

Within Marion County, most gun violence is tightly concentrated among a small number of very high-risk individuals who share a common set of risk factors like group/gang involvement and significant criminal justice history. Gun violence similarly concentrates in places, with most incidents occurring in Salem, Woodburn, and Keizer, and within areas with high levels of concentrated disadvantage. About 86% of homicides and shootings from 2014-2023 occurred in less than 2% of the County's land area.

Group/gang members were involved in a significant share of violence over the study period. At least 33% of gun violence incidents during the study period involved group/gang members as victims, suspects, or both, and the greatest share of group/gang involved incidents occurred Salem. Additionally, group/gang involvement increased substantially over the study period from 22% in the period of 2014-2018 to 42% in the period of 2021-2023.

However, even when gun violence incidents involved group/gang members, the motive for these shootings was not always a gang-on-gang conflict. Instead, most shootings were precipitated by personal disputes between individuals over money, prior criminal activities, and other interpersonal conflicts.

In line with perceptions of local partners and mirroring findings from a prior Salem GVPA assessing 2018-2023, the current Marion County data does indicate an increase in the involvement of juveniles in serious violence. Juveniles comprised an increasing share of countywide gun violence victims and suspects in recent years. Examining Marion County Juvenile Department data also shows an increasing number of juvenile referrals for violent crimes and gun crimes in 2022-2023. Despite these observations about juvenile involvement, it is important to recognize that the majority of victims and suspects in homicides and shootings (60%) were between the ages of 18-34.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Acknowledging the complexities of gun violence problems, the patterns in individual risk factors and gun violence motives noted in this report suggest that partners within Marion County can generate substantial public safety benefits by emphasizing collaborative partnerships, countywide intelligence sharing, and focused, data-informed intervention strategies. This GVPA should be used to guide conversations among community members and criminal justice partners, and it should be used as a tool for local policy and intervention development. Still, several key initial recommendations emerge from the findings of this analysis:

1. ADDRESS HIGH-RISK GROUPS/GANGS

Individuals associated with groups/gangs drive a significant proportion of gun violence in Marion County, particularly in Salem, even though group/gang member involved violence typically results from personal disputes rather than gang-on-gang conflicts. This data demonstrates that those associated with groups/gangs have a much greater risk of being involved in a variety of violent incidents (e.g., personal disputes, group/gang-related conflicts, sudden disputes).

- The City of Salem has already begun its efforts to mount a focused Community Violence Reduction Initiative. As an extension to this program or in separate County efforts led by MCSO, similar initiatives should be expanded to communities like Keizer and Woodburn due to their level of group/gang involved violence and gun violence crossover with Salem.

- Although gang members may have associations throughout the County, their violent offenses cluster primarily in northeastern areas of Salem. Regional resources should be shared to address this concentration through focused proactive investigations, hot spot patrols, and intentional community engagement.

2. ENHANCE COUNTY PARTNERSHIPS AND INTELLIGENCE SHARING

The majority of gun violence incidents in Marion County occur in Salem, with both Salem PD and MCSO sharing investigative responsibilities over these cases. However, meaningful proportions of incidents and individuals involved in gun violence had ties to multiple County jurisdictions, though the greatest overlap was observed between Salem and Keizer. While some Cities may experience lower rates of gun violence, regular information-sharing may yield important insights and actionable intelligence for agencies actively investigating cases in their own jurisdictions.

- While partners do hold regular intelligence-sharing meetings, the County should consider increasing meeting frequency, and the involvement of all agencies, regardless of gun violence volume, should be encouraged. The MCSO's gang intelligence is especially comprehensive and could likely serve as an asset to ongoing investigations throughout the County. County partners should also explore the use of specialized communication platforms that may help facilitate regular information sharing across jurisdictions.

3. ENGAGE VHR PEOPLE

Those at the very highest risk (VHR) for involvement in gun violence as victims and/or offenders are identifiable and share several common characteristics. Victims and suspects are primarily Hispanic males aged 18-34. Involvement with a group/gang, especially Sureño sets, significantly increases one's risk of being involved in a gun violence incident. The majority of victims and suspects also have extensive criminal justice system involvement.

- Utilize these data-informed VHR characteristics to inform who is prioritized for outreach, service delivery, and/or enforcement as part of County violence reduction initiatives.

- Develop regional processes to share information about VHR individuals and generate referrals outreach and intervention efforts. Given the range of partners involved in multi-jurisdictional violence reduction initiatives, the County should develop multiple referral pathways to ensure accessibility to programming.

4. EXPAND PROGRAMMING TO ENGAGE HIGHEST-RISK YOUTH

The majority of individuals involved in gun violence were aged 18-34, but an increasing number of juveniles were involved in violence, gun offenses, and fatal and nonfatal shootings in 2022-2023.

- Strengthen partnerships and communication among County school districts in collaboration with law enforcement personnel. Partnerships should focus on identifying and intervening with young people at the highest risk for gang involvement and gun violence. Develop consistent risk assessment criteria to be used countywide.

- Identify regional community-based organizations that specialize in intensive case management with at-risk youth. Create multi-jurisdictional processes that allow the County agencies to make referrals to these CBOs as at-risk youth are identified.

5. STRENGTHEN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS

About 69% of gun violence victims and suspects were known to the criminal justice system prior to their involvement in a homicide or shooting. Of those, most were extensively criminal justice system involved. About 50% had been previously incarcerated, 52% had been convicted of a felony, and they had committed an average of seven prior criminal offenses.

- Develop processes to identify to court personnel the VHR and/or group-involved individuals who are arrested for gun or violent offenses with the goal of immediate intervention to reduce one's risk of violent victimization or offending.

- These partnerships can aid in bond/sanction considerations that may reduce the likelihood that individuals known to law enforcement will reoffend, retaliate, or be released back into gang-on-gang conflicts where further violence can occur.

- Since a large share of victims and suspects have prior felony convictions and previous incarceration, examine regional reentry programs to identify opportunities to expand case management and bolster services for transition.