

Big Murder in the Big Easy

New Orleans Consistently The Murder Capital of America

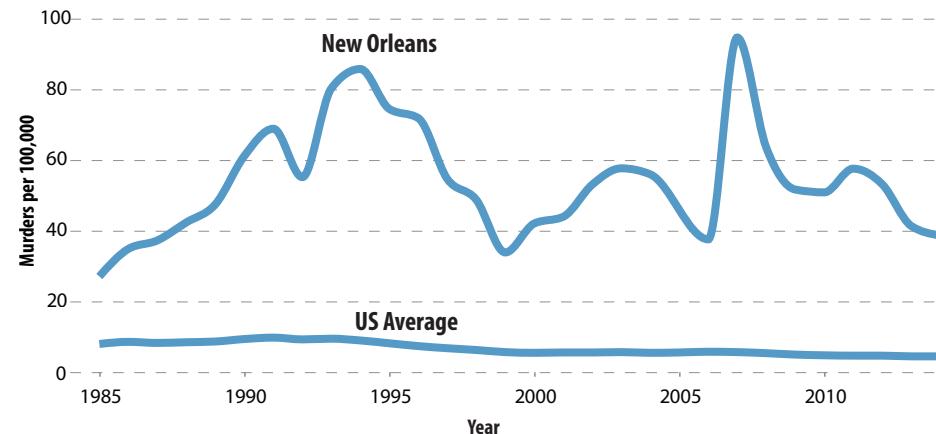
New Orleans, Louisiana carries a reputation of being unsafe - it has one of the highest murder rates of any city in America. People took it upon themselves to warn me before my first visit. I was 18 years old, basically fresh out of high school and just getting on my feet again after

nursing a broken ankle when I boarded a bus to New Orleans. I spent the two days biking around and noticed people didn't hesitate to walk around at night and indulge in the music and nightlife. What conditions are behind New Orleans' murder rate?

How does New Orleans Compare to the rest of the USA?

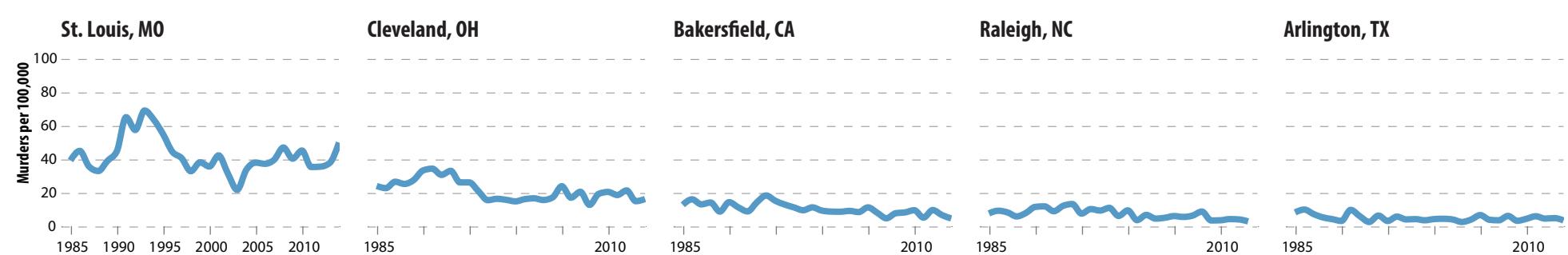
New Orleans murder rate versus the US Average

Cities that make headlines for shootings, murders, and gang violence are cities like Chicago and Detroit. While there are a high number of murders in these cities, because of large populations, the actual rate of murder is lower than in New Orleans - 8.3 in Chicago vs 44 in New Orleans per 100,000 in 2017.



New Orleans and Cities of Similar Population in the USA

As of the 2016 Census estimate, New Orleans had a population of 391,495. Other cities with similar population sizes include Cleveland, Ohio and Raleigh, North Carolina, among others identified on this map. St. Louis, Missouri is the only other city of similar size that has a murder rate comparable to New Orleans'.



Guns and Shootings in America: How and Why?

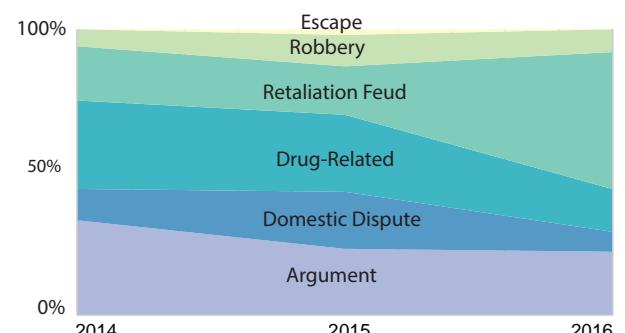
How easy is it to buy and carry a gun?

Federal law states that no one under 18 may purchase a handgun from a licensed dealer. Some states like California and Illinois have set their age to 21. Applying for a permit to carry a handgun usually requires an online application requiring identification information and short questionnaires on drug and alcohol use and criminal history.

	LA	MO	OH	CA	NC	TX
Need permit to buy handgun?	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Need permit to carry handgun?	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

What are the underlying motives of shootings in New Orleans?

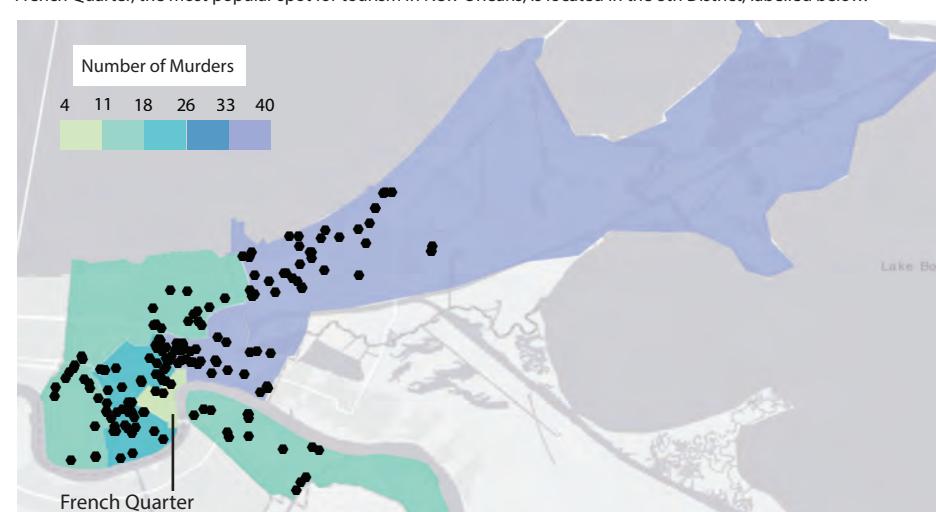
With the majority of fatal shootings in New Orleans, the motives of the killer are identified. The City of New Orleans Office of Criminal Justice Coordination keeps these statistics in their public records and releases quarterly and yearly reports. In these, they detail locations of shootings, reasons for shootings, and demographics of the shooters and victims for both fatal and non-fatal shootings. Clearly, conflict is the main cause of shootings. No murders or non-fatal shootings have been listed as 'no motive'.



A Look at Murders in New Orleans in 2016:

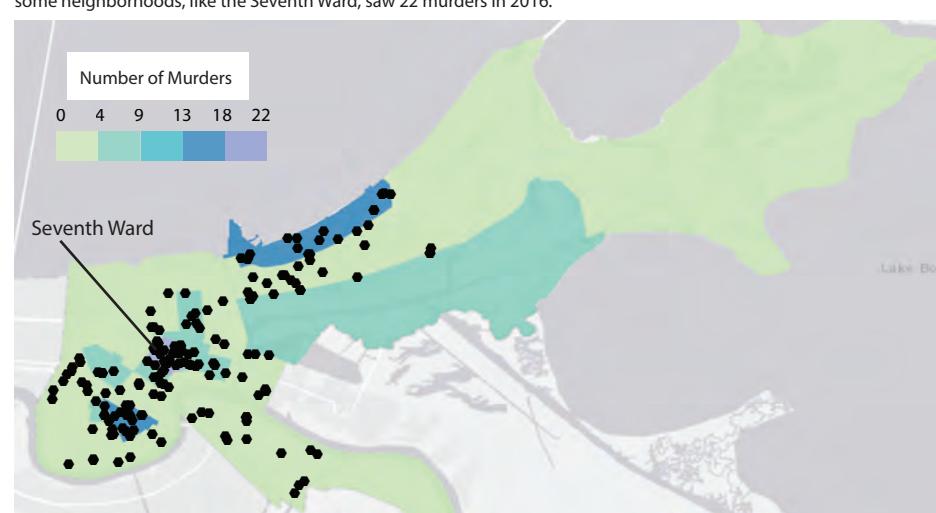
Total Murders by District in 2016

Each black hexagon represents the location of a murder in 2016. New Orleans is broken up into eight police districts. The French Quarter, the most popular spot for tourism in New Orleans, is located in the 8th District, labelled below.



Murders by Neighborhood

New Orleans is broken up into 73 different neighborhoods. Most neighborhoods saw four murders or less in 2016. But some neighborhoods, like the Seventh Ward, saw 22 murders in 2016.



Murder Density in 2016

The area of each of the eight police districts vary greatly so another way to view each district is the number of murders per square mile.



Hot Spots Identified by the City of New Orleans

The City of New Orleans has identified a number of neighborhoods they consider hot spots for murders. Together, these accounted for 40% of all murders in New Orleans in 2016.

