

Trends in Vehicle Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Victimization, 2020 – 2022, Indianapolis, Indiana

Background: Highways, streets, and parking lots appear to be the site of increasing numbers of gunshot victims found in or around vehicles.

Objective: The focus of this brief is to examine trends in vehicle and roadway gun violence victimization between January 1, 2020, and May 31, 2022.

KEY FINDINGS:

- The IGVP documented 155 total victims who suffered a gunshot wound in a vehicle between January 1, 2020, and May 31, 2022.
- Of these, 68 of the victims were fatalities and 87 were non-fatal shooting victims.
- The IGVP found vehicle and roadway victimizations generally follow macro gun violence trends of increasing during warmer months.
- The IGVP consistently documented victims shot while parked in residential areas, at apartment complexes, and at gas stations.
- The IGVP also documented several instances of vehicles with multiple passengers engaging in gun violence producing incidents with several victims.
- The IGVP found road rage was not delineated as a motive or incident type for the vast majority of recorded victims both fatal and non-fatal (although in many cases a motive is not known).
- Due to onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, victims and incidents may be underreported at certain instances within the data collection timeframe.

Figure 1. Percent of Vehicle Non-fatal Victims by Month and Year, 2020-2022 (Linear Trend)

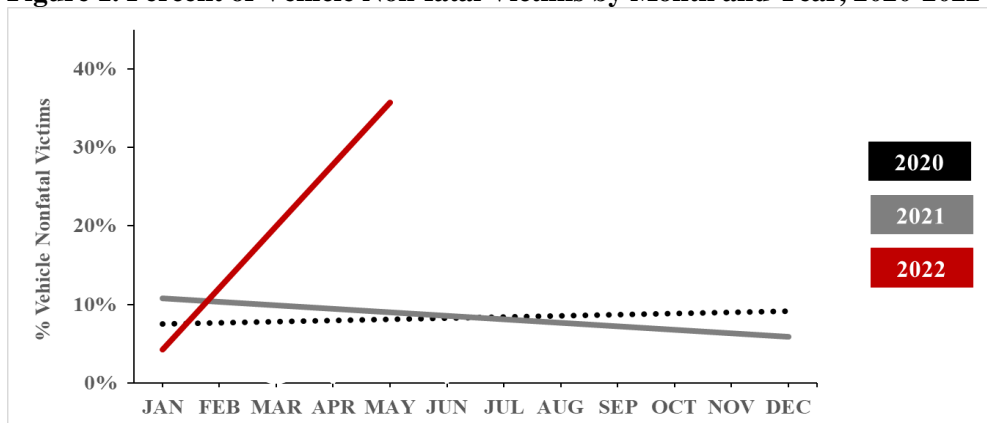
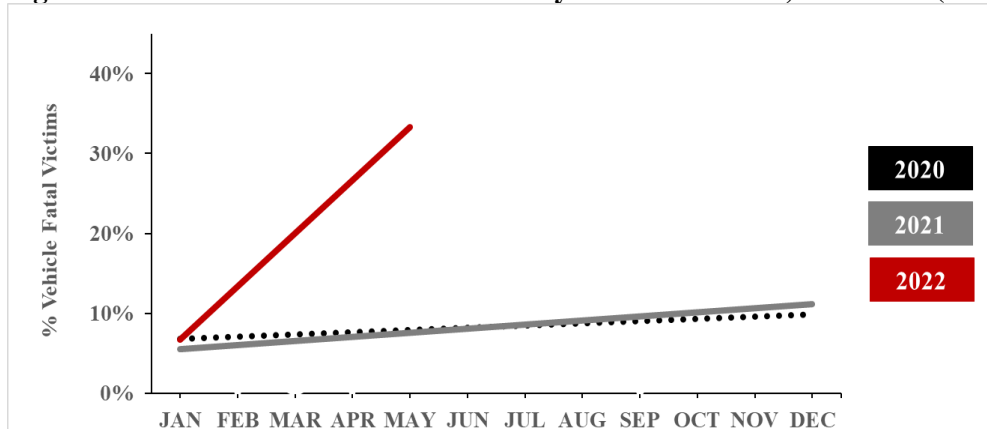


Figure 2. Percent of Vehicle Fatal Victims by Month and Year, 2020-2022 (Linear Trend)



Source: Indianapolis Gun Violence Project.

Limitations: Open-source databases have advanced knowledge on gun violence, mass shootings, police action shootings, and homicides. Open-source databases rely on media coverage and, as a result, may under-or over-report incident counts and characteristics. To provide continuous assessment of the reliability and validity of IGVP records, periodic checks are conducted against official records and the Gun Violence Archive.

About: The Indianapolis Gun Violence Project is an open-source data collection managed by faculty and students from the Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IUPUI. The project seeks to collect and share gun violence data so that organizations, practitioners, and researchers can inform policy and practice decisions.

Contact: Interested in learning more or getting involved? Email us at IndyGVP@gmail.com or follow us on Twitter @Indy_GVP

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