



Homicides in Oakland©

**2006 Homicide Report:
An Analysis of Homicides in Oakland from
January through December, 2006**

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Introduction

Urban Strategies Council has produced quarterly reports on homicides in Oakland throughout 2006. Through the cooperation of the Oakland Police Department Homicide Section, we have obtained detailed information on the homicides occurring during 2006. From these data we have created this report on the characteristics of the 148 homicides that occurred in Oakland from January 1 through December 31, 2006. This report presents annual data from 2006 and shows how characteristics of homicides in Oakland changed from 2005 to 2006 and how 2006 homicides compare with the five-year averages from 2001-2005.

This report summarizes available information such as victim and/or suspect demographic characteristics, locations and times of the incidents. Comparing 2006 data to a five-year average of homicides helps to provide a context for understanding whether there are emerging patterns that differ substantially from the patterns in prior years.

Many of the investigations of 2006 homicides are still underway and, as a result, many details are not yet released. This especially impacts the data regarding the suspects and most of these data were not available for this report. The race of the suspect is known in only 39.2% of the cases while the age of the suspect is known in only 20.9% of the cases. Because of this we have chosen not to include some data where the number of known cases is low.

A Near-Record Year in Homicides

The 148 homicides in 2006 represent a 57.4% increase over the 94 homicides occurring in 2005. This represents an increase of 49% in the number of homicides compared to the five-year average of 99.8 and the ten year average of 99.6 homicides per year. The 2006 total of 148 ranks it the 5th highest total in homicides over the past 23 years, exceeded only by 1991 with 149, 1992 with 165, 1993 with 154 and 1995 with 155.

Youth Homicide Increase

The most alarming trend in the 2006 data for Oakland is the dramatic increase in homicide victims under the age or 18 years. Eighteen youth were killed in Oakland last year compared to only five in 2005 and just over six per year for the previous five years. This represents more than a threefold increase compared to the past five years. While even five youth homicides in a year is unacceptable to any modern city, the increase in 2006 should be of concern to all who live or work in this city.

I. Most Common Characteristics of Homicides

Table 1a summarizes the most common characteristics of Oakland homicides in 2006 compared to homicides in Oakland over the past five years.

- On average, there were 99.8 homicides in Oakland over the five-year period of 2001-2005. The 148 homicides in 2006 put Oakland alarmingly close to the number of homicides during the 1990s peak period for homicides. 2006 had the 5th highest number of homicides in the past twenty years, compared to 165 in 1992, 154 in 1993, 153 in 1995 and 149 in 1991.
- In both 2006 and during the previous five-year period, over 80% of homicide victims were male and over 95% of homicide suspects were male.
- Over the past five years, African Americans accounted for 78.2% of homicide victims; for 2006, they accounted for 69.5%.
- In both 2006 and during the previous five years, over 40% of homicides occurred between the hours of 10:00 PM and 5:59 AM.
- In 2006 and over the past five years, homicides were most likely to occur in Police Service Area 5 which accounted for over 20% of all homicides.

Table 1a: Most Common Characteristics of Homicides in Oakland for 2006 and the Five-Year Average

	Most Common Characteristics 2006	Percent of Known Total	Most Common Characteristics 5-Year Average	Percent of Known Total
Victim				
Gender	Male	84.5	Male	88.0
Race	African American	69.5	African American	78.2
Age (Years)	18 to 24	34.5	25 to 34	33.2
Parole/Probation Status	Neither	58.1	Neither	55.9
Suspect				
Gender	Male	98.3	Male	96.3
Race	African American	67.2	African American	85.7
Time, Location, Method				
Month	September	12.8	July & September	10.6
Time of Day	10:00 PM-5:59 AM	43.9	10:00 PM-5:59 AM	47.5
Police Service Area (PSA)	5	26.4	5	25.3
Total Homicides	148		99.8	

II. Total Number of Homicides

- There were 148 homicides in Oakland in 2006, exceeding the average of 99.8 homicides in the years from 2001-2005 and the five-year period high of 96 homicides in 2003.

Table 2a: Total Homicides in Oakland 2006, 2005, Five-Year Average

Total Homicides	2006	2005	5 Year Average
	148	94	99.8

III. Gender of Victims and Suspects

- Over 80% of homicide victims in 2006 and each year from 2001 through 2005 were male.
- In 2006, 39.9% of suspects were identified as male, 0.7% were identified as female and 59.5% were unknown. In 2005, 78.7% of suspects were identified as male, 2.1% were identified as female, and 19.1% were unknown.

Table 3a: Oakland Homicides by Victim's Gender 2006, 2005, Five-Year Average

Gender of Victim	2006		2005		5 Year	
	Count	Percent of Total	Count	Percent of Total	Average	Percent of Total
Male	125	84.5	88	93.6	87.8	88.0
Female	22	14.9	6	6.4	12	12.0
Unknown	1	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	148	100.0	94	100.0	99.8	100.0

Table 3b: Oakland Homicides by Suspect's Gender 2006, 2005, Five-Year Average

Gender of Suspect	2006		2005		5 Year	
	Count	Percent of Total	Count	Percent of Total	Average	Percent of Total
Male	59	39.9	74	78.7	73.4	73.5
Female	1	0.7	2	2.1	2.8	2.8
Unknown	88	59.5	18	19.1	23.6	23.6
Total	148	100.0	94	100.0	99.8	100.0

IV. Race of Victims and Suspects

- In 2006 and in 2005, about 66% of homicide victims were African-Americans compared to a five-year average of 77%.
- Because the suspect's characteristics are unknown for almost two-thirds of the cases, caution should be used in making comparisons of 2006 data to previous years.
- The percentage of Hispanic victims declined from 26.2% 2005 to 21.6% in 2006 and both years exceeded the five-year average of 15.4%. The percentage of Hispanic suspects also declined from 13.8% in 2005 to 10.8% in 2006 but still exceeded the five-year average of 8.6%.

Table 4a: Oakland Homicides by Victim's Race 2006, 2005, Five-Year Average

Race of Victim	2006		2005		5 Year	
	Count	Percent of Total	Count	Percent of Total	Average	Percent of Total
African American	98	66.2	62	66.0	76.8	77.0
Hispanic	32	21.6	25	26.6	15.4	15.4
White	6	4.1	1	1.1	3.2	3.2
Asian	5	3.4	3	3.2	2.8	2.8
Unknown	7	4.7	3	3.2	1.6	1.6
Total	148	100.0	94	100.0	99.8	100.0

Figure 4a: Oakland Homicides by Victim's Race 2006, 2005, Five-Year Average

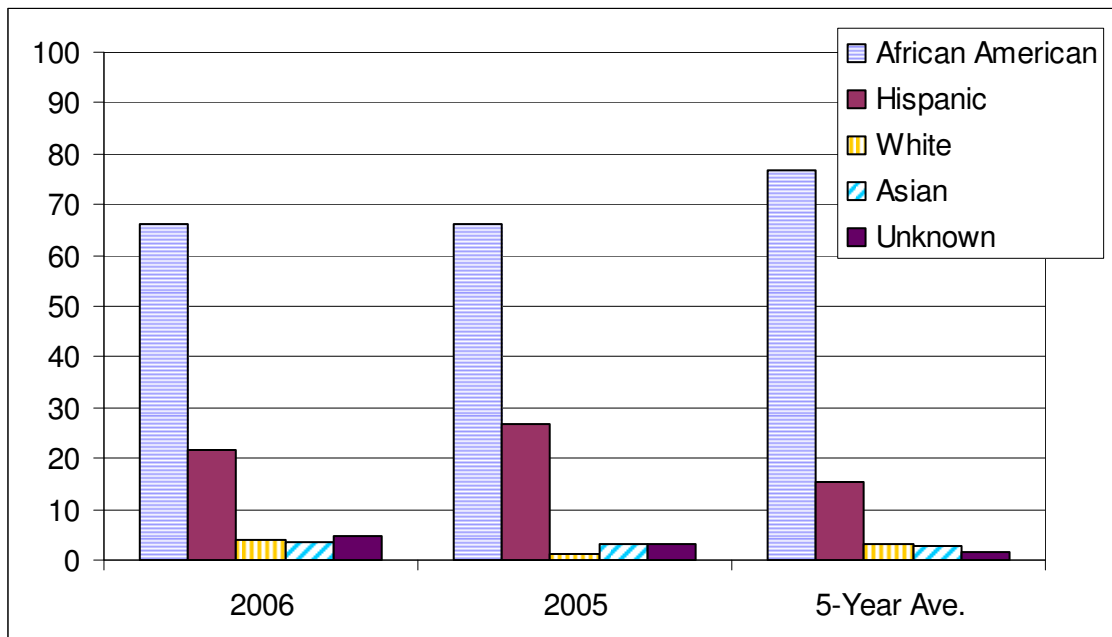
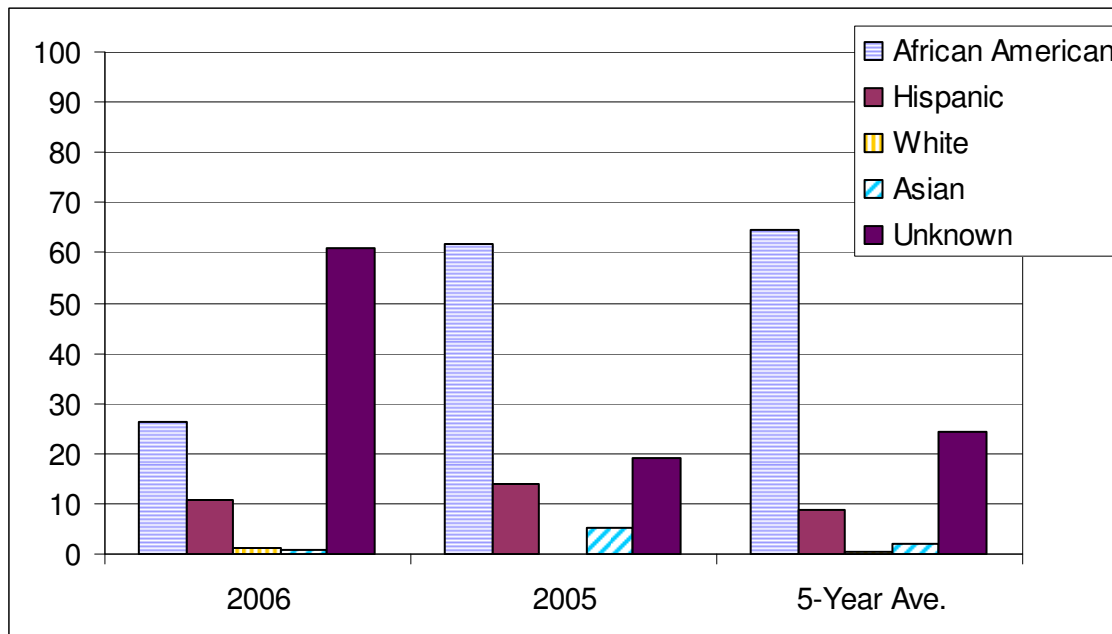


Table 4b: Oakland Homicides by Suspect's Race 2006, 2005, Five-Year Average

Race of Suspect	2006		2005		5 Year	
	Count	Percent of Total	Count	Percent of Total	Average	Percent of Total
African American	39	26.4	58	61.7	64.6	64.7
Hispanic	16	10.8	13	13.8	8.6	8.6
White	2	1.4	0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Asian	1	0.7	5	5.3	2	2.0
Unknown	90	60.8	18	19.1	24.4	24.4
Total	148	100.0	94	100.0	99.8	100.0

Figure 4b: Oakland Homicides by Suspect's Race 2006, 2005, Five-Year Average



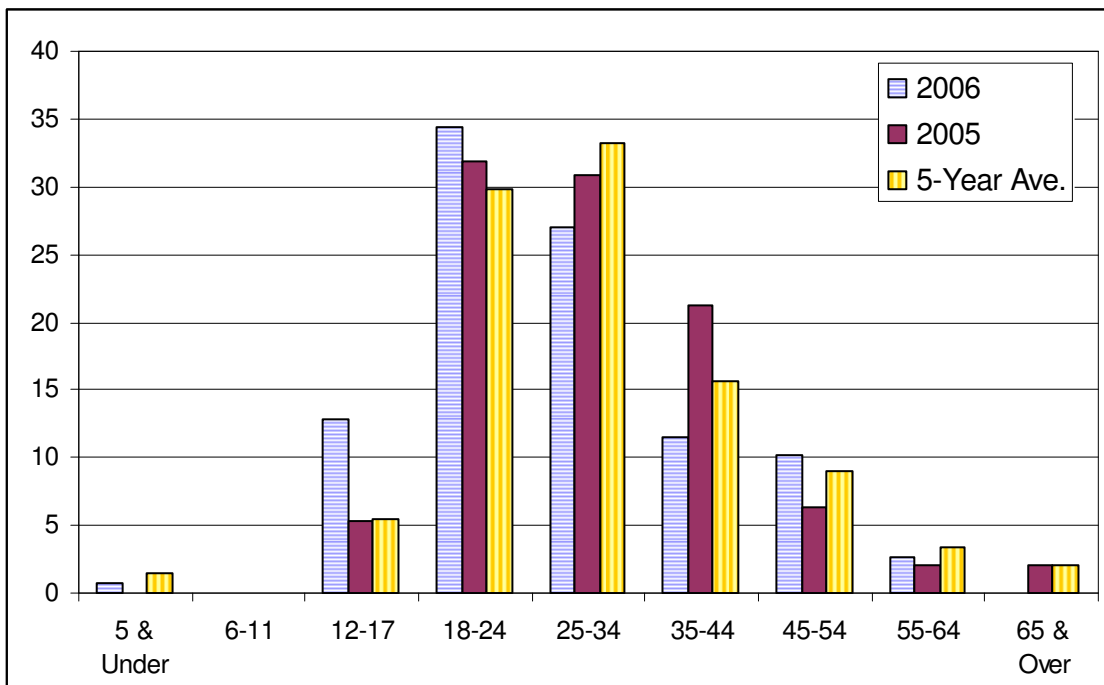
V. Age of Victims

- In 2006, 34.5% of victims were between the ages of 18 and 24 compared to 31.9% in 2005 and an average of 29.9% over the five-year period.
- In 2006, 20 victims, or 13.5% of all victims, were under 18 years old; this exceeds the 2005 figure of 5 (5.3%) victims in this age range and the five-year average of 6.8 (6.8%) victims being children and teens.
- Victims in the 35-44 year age range declined in 2006 to 11.5% of the total, declining substantially from the 2005 total of 21.3% and below the five-year average of 15.6%.

Table 5a: Oakland Homicides by Age of Victim 2006, 2005, Five-Year Average

Age of Victim	2006		2005		5 Year	
	Count	Percent of Total	Count	Percent of Total	Average	Percent of Total
5 Years and Under	1	0.7	0	0.0	1.4	1.4
6 to 11 Years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
12 to 17 Years	19	12.8	5	5.3	5.4	5.4
18 to 24 Years	51	34.5	30	31.9	29.8	29.9
25 to 34 Years	40	27.0	29	30.9	33.2	33.3
35 to 44 Years	17	11.5	20	21.3	15.6	15.6
45 to 54 Years	15	10.1	6	6.4	9	9.0
55 to 64 Years	4	2.7	2	2.1	3.4	3.4
65 and Over	0	0.0	2	2.1	2	2.0
Unknown	1	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	148	100.0	94	100.0	99.8	100.0

Figure 5a: Oakland Homicides by Age of Victim 2006, 2005, Five-Year Average



VI. Parole and Probation Status of Victims and Suspects

- In 2006, 2005 and over the five-year period, more than half of homicide victims were neither on parole nor on probation.
- The parole/probation status of more than three quarters of all of suspects in 2006 homicides was unknown at the time of this report.

Table 6a: Oakland Homicides by Parole/ Probation Status of Victim 2006, 2005, Five-Year Average

Parole/Probation Status of Victim	2006		2005		5 Year	
	Count	Percent of Total	Count	Percent of Total	Average	Percent of Total
Neither	86	58.1	57	60.6	55	55.1
Parole Only	17	11.5	9	9.6	13	13.0
Probation Only	38	25.7	25	26.6	26.8	26.9
Both	7	4.7	3	3.2	3.6	3.6
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	1.4	1.4
Total	148	100.0	94	100.0	99.8	100.0

Table 6b: Oakland Homicides by Parole/Probation Status of Suspects 2006, 2005, Five-Year Average

Parole/Probation Status of Suspect	2006		2005		5 Year	
	Count	Percent of Total	Count	Percent of Total	Average	Percent of Total
Neither	20	13.5	21	22.3	23.2	23.2
Parole Only	4	2.7	10	10.6	9.2	9.2
Probation Only	8	5.4	12	12.8	12	12.0
Both	3	2.0	0	0.0	1.4	1.4
Unknown	113	76.4	51	54.3	54	54.1
Total	148	100.0	94	100.0	99.8	100.0

VII. Month of Incident

- In 2006, the highest number of homicides, 19, occurred in the month of September (12.8%), followed by March and August (10.8%) and July (10.1%). This general pattern of high numbers of homicides in late summer and early fall also appears in the five-year averages

Table 7a: Oakland Homicides by Month of Incident 2006, 2005, Five-Year Average

Month of Incident	2006		2005		5 Year	
	Count	Percent of Total	Count	Percent of Total	Average	Percent of Total
January	10	6.8	3	3.2	6.6	6.6
February	9	6.1	3	3.2	6.4	6.4
March	16	10.8	8	8.5	9.6	9.6
April	11	7.4	10	10.6	6.4	6.4
May	10	6.8	7	7.4	8.4	8.4
June	11	7.4	7	7.4	7.6	7.6
July	15	10.1	7	7.4	10.6	10.6
August	16	10.8	7	7.4	10.4	10.4
September	19	12.8	9	9.6	10.6	10.6
October	9	6.1	11	11.7	8.6	8.6
November	14	9.5	9	9.6	5.8	5.8
December	8	5.4	13	13.8	8.8	8.8
Total	148	100.0	94	100.0	99.8	100.0

VIII. Time of Day When Incident Occurred

- The deadliest hour of the day in Oakland in 2006 was between 8:00PM and 9:00PM with 12% of homicides occurring in that timeframe, followed closely by the two hours from 10:00PM to 12:00AM with 11.5% each hour.
- 43.9% of homicides in 2006 occurred between 10:00PM and 5:59AM compared to 47.9% in 2005 and 47.5% over the five-year period of 2001-2005.
- 42.6% of homicides occurred between 2:00PM and 9:59PM. This is an increase compared to 36.2% in 2005 and 38.9% for the 5-year average.

Table 8a: Oakland Homicides by Time of Day Incident Occurred 2006, 2005, Five-Year Average

Time of Incident	2006		2005		5 Year	
	Count	Percent of Total	Count	Percent of Total	Average	Percent of Total
10:00 PM - 5:59 AM	65	43.9	45	47.9	47.4	47.5
6:00 AM - 1:59 PM	20	13.5	15	16.0	13.6	13.6
2:00 PM - 9:59 PM	63	42.6	34	36.2	38.8	38.9
Total	148	100.0	94	100.0	99.8	100.0

IX. Police Service Area (PSA) Where Incidents Occurred

- The highest number of homicides occurred in PSA 5 in 2006, with 39 cases (26.4%) and in 2005 with 28 cases (29.8%).
- In 2006, the second largest number of homicides occurred in PSA 6 with 29, which was an increase over the 16 in that PSA in 2005 and a decline compared to the five-year average of 24.
- Figure 9b presents a map of homicides by PSA for 2006.
- Figure 9c presents a comparison of the homicides in 2005 and 2006 by PSA.

Table 9a: Oakland Homicides by PSA where Incident Occurred 2006, 2005, Five-Year Average

PSA	2006		2005		5 Year	
	Count	Percent of Total	Count	Percent of Total	Average	Percent of Total
Metro	0	0.0	2	2.1	2	2.0
1	28	18.9	17	18.1	18.2	18.2
2	13	8.8	7	7.4	7.4	7.4
3	16	10.8	9	9.6	9.8	9.8
4	23	15.5	15	16.0	13	13.0
5	39	26.4	28	29.8	25.2	25.3
6	29	19.6	16	17.0	23.8	23.8
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.4	0.4
Total	148	100.0	94	100.0	99.8	100.0

Figure 9a: Oakland Homicides by PSA where Incident Occurred 2006, 2005, Five-Year Average

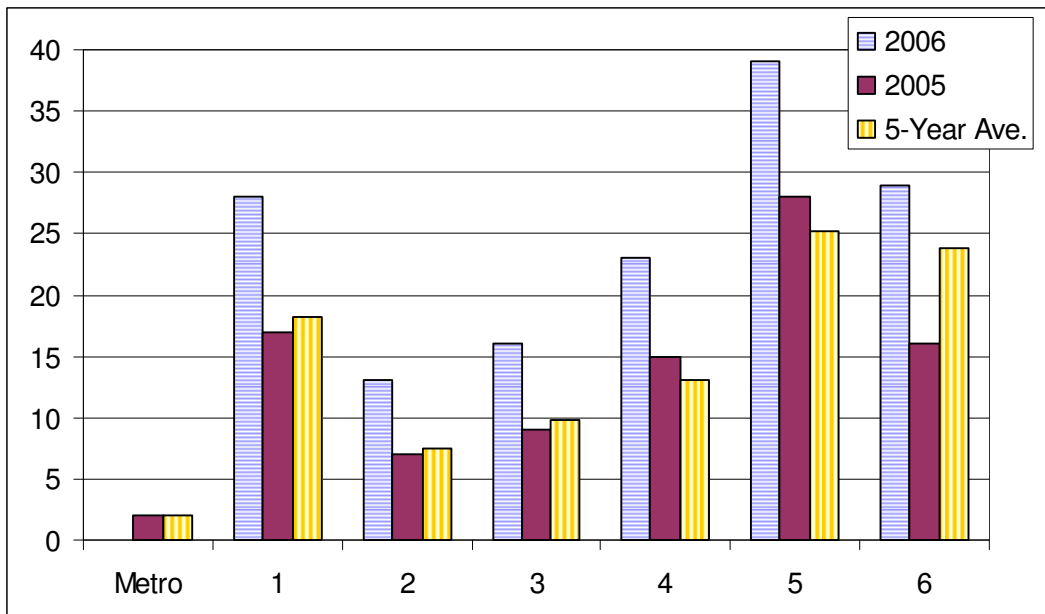
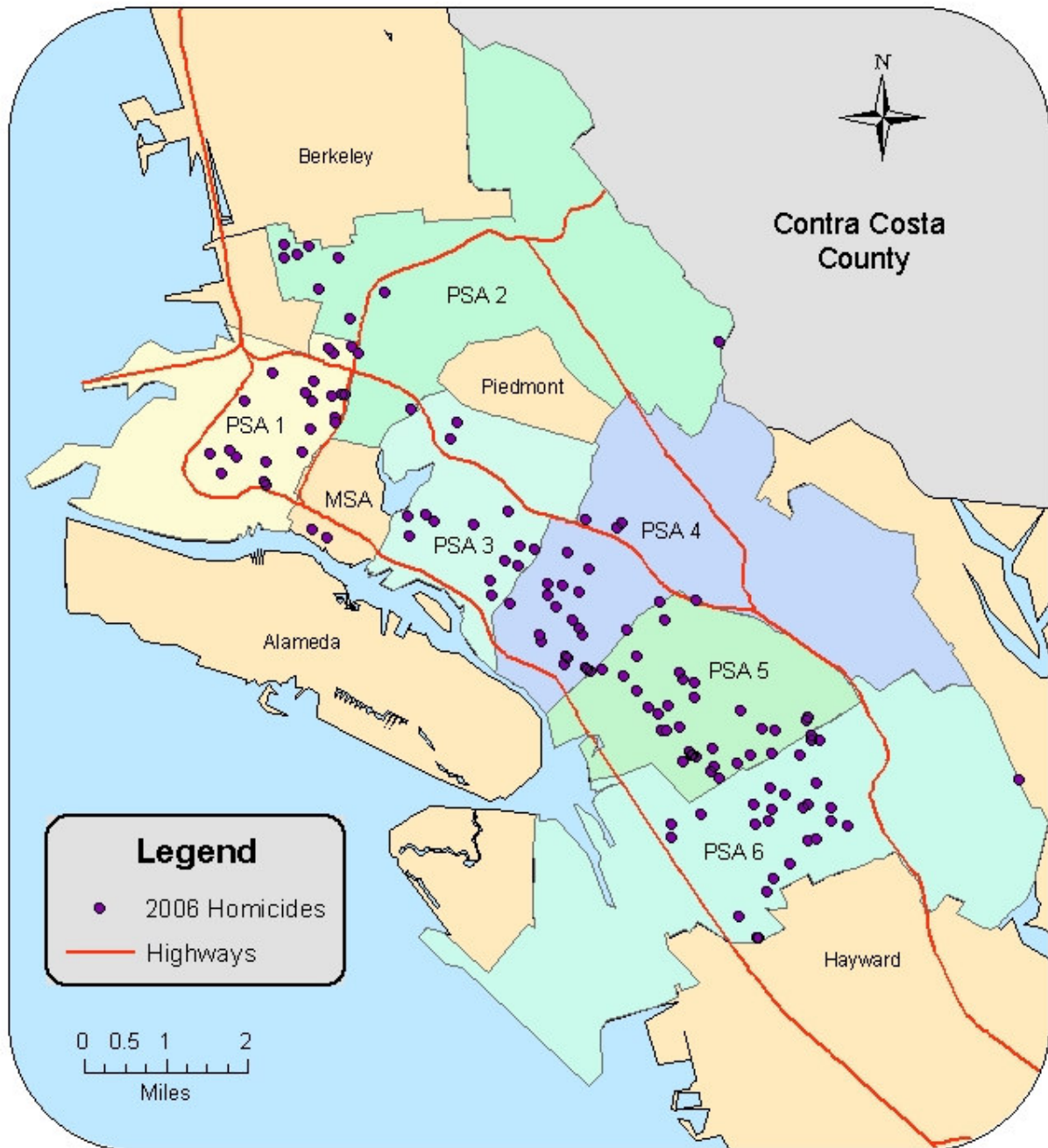
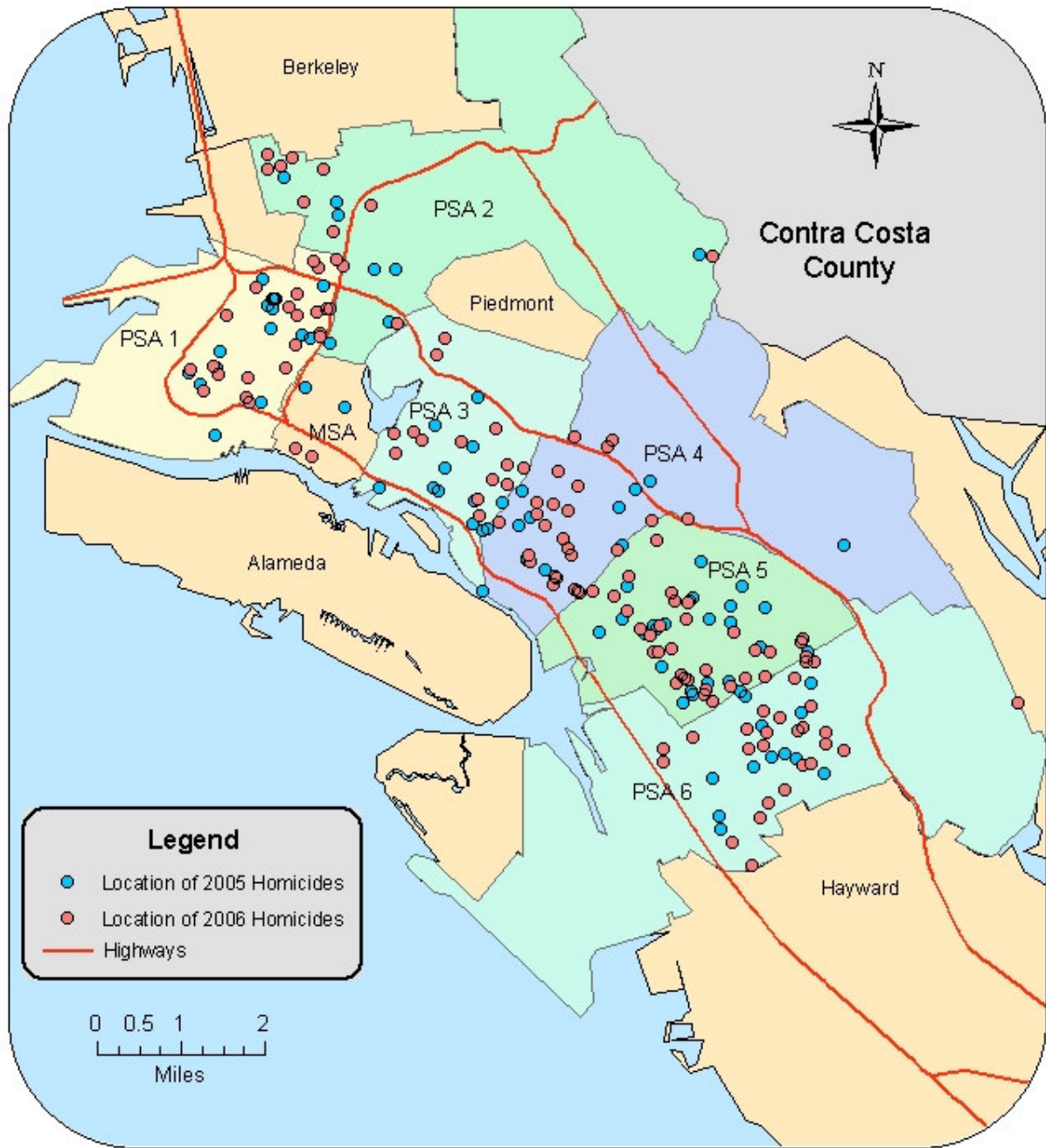


Figure 9b: Map of Oakland Homicides by Police Service Area (PSA) 2006



Source: Oakland Police Department, 2006
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Figure 9c: Map of Oakland Homicides by Police Service Area (PSA) for 2005 and 2006



Source: Oakland Police Department, 2006
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X. City Council District Where Incident Occurred

- In 2006, the greatest number of homicides occurred in District 7 with 37 cases and almost doubling the 2005 total of 20 cases. In 2005, District 3 and District 6 both had the highest number of homicides with 21 each.
- The percent of homicides that occurred in District 3 decreased to 16.9% of the total in 2006 from 22.3% in 2005 and an average of 21.0% over the five-year period.
- Figure 10b presents a map of homicides by City Council District for 2006.
- Figure 10c presents a comparison of the homicides in 2005 and 2006 by Council District.

Table 10a: Oakland Homicides by City Council District where Incident Occurred 2006, 2005, 5-Year Average

City Council District	2006		2005		5 Year	
	Count	Percent of Total	Count	Percent of Total	Average	Percent of Total
1	15	10.1	5	5.3	8	7.2
2	12	8.1	6	6.4	8.8	7.9
3	25	16.9	21	22.3	23.4	21.0
4	11	7.4	4	4.3	6.2	5.6
5	23	15.5	17	18.1	17.2	15.4
6	25	16.9	21	22.3	20	17.9
7	37	25.0	20	21.3	27.8	24.9
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Total	148	100.0	94	100.0	111.6	100.0

Figure 10a: Oakland Homicides by City Council District where Incident Occurred 2006, 2005, 5-Year Average

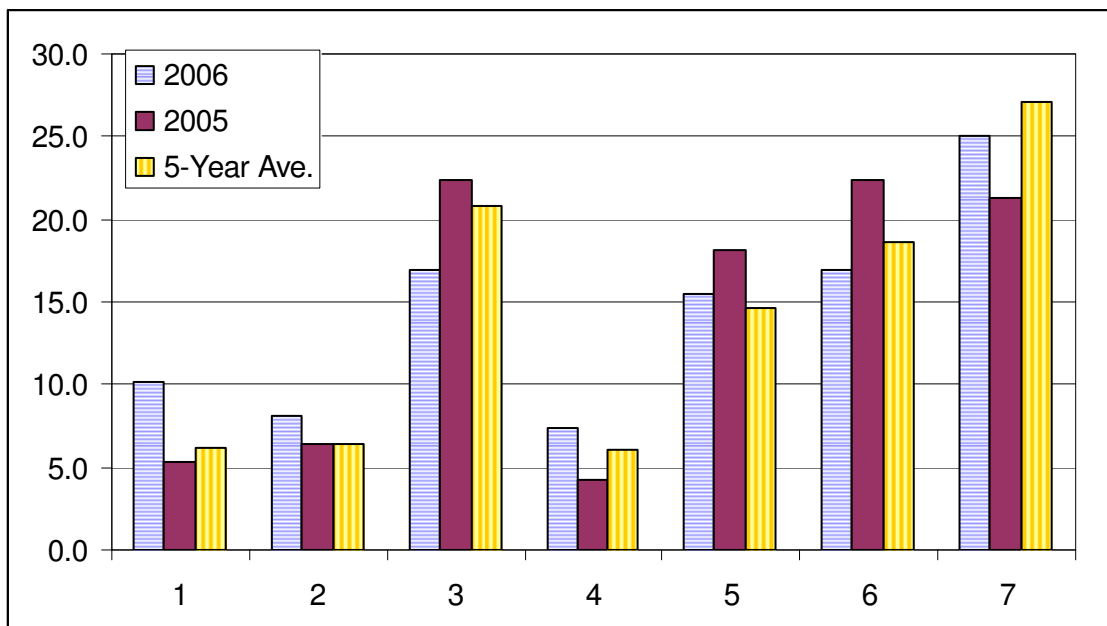
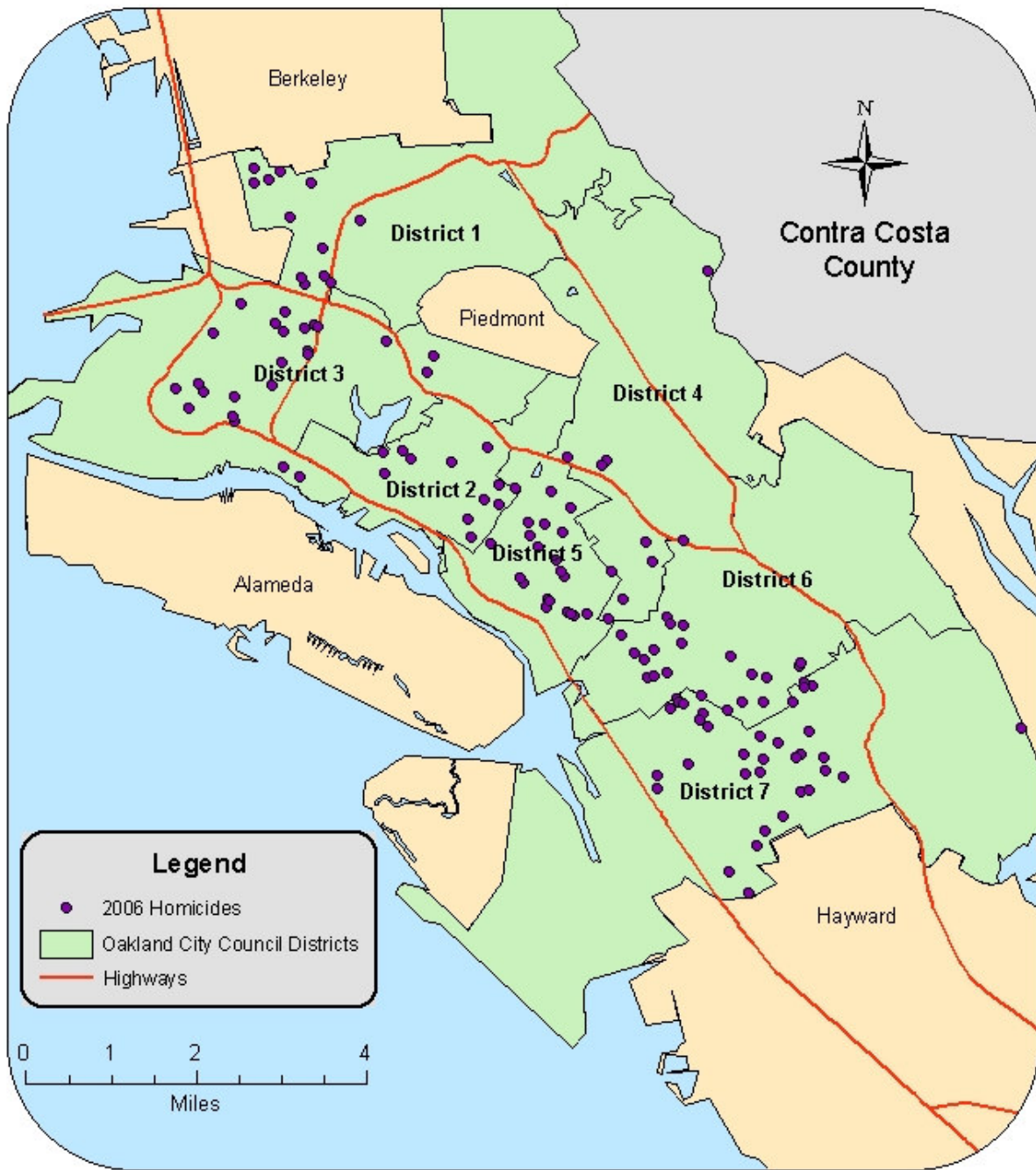
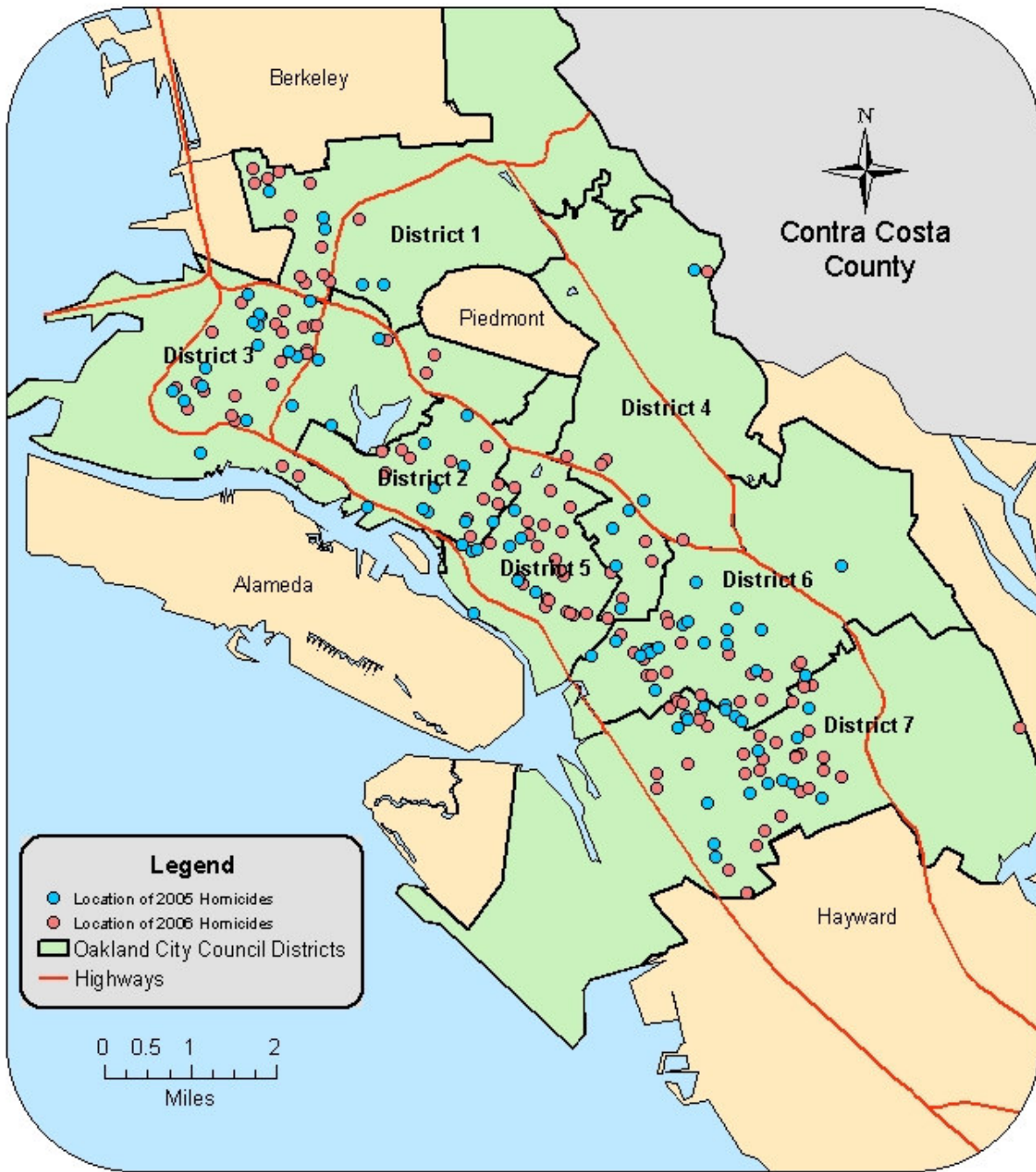


Figure 10b: Map of Oakland Homicides by City Council District, 2006



Source: Oakland Police Department, 2006
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Figure 10c: Map of Oakland Homicides by City Council District, 2005-2006



Source: Oakland Police Department, 2006
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Sources

Homicide data for 2000-2006 provided by the Homicide Division of the Oakland Police Department.

Base map data provided by the City of Oakland Planning Department.