

# Understanding Serious Violence in San Francisco 2017-2020

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

San Francisco Police Department  
California Partnership for Safe Communities

# Agenda

1. **Introductions and Meeting Purpose (Chief Scott, ALL)**
1. **Mission, Goals, Overview of Violence Reduction Initiative (Chief Scott)**
1. **Problem Analysis of Violence: Key Findings (CPSC)**
2. **Discussion: Implications of the Problem Analysis Findings (D. Muhammad, ALL)**
3. **Discussion: Next Steps & Questions (Chief Scott, ALL)**

# California Partnership for Safe Communities (CPSC) Background

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1. Our work has roots in community and problem-oriented policing, reentry, street outreach/intervention and procedural justice.
2. Our goal is to help Cities advance a “triple bottom line” – reduce violence (shootings); reduce the use of arrest and build community-police trust,
3. We engage in long-term partnerships with cities to apply evidence based practices to these interconnected safety problems.
  
4. To do this, we help cities and departments develop these capacities:
  - a. Analysis of violence problems and dynamics
  - b. Developing and managing violence reduction strategies
  - c. Focused outreach and violence intervention
  - d. Police-community trust building
  - e. Performance management
  - f. Learning and impact evaluations of local efforts.

# Violence Reduction Initiative: Overview (1)

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1. A collaborative violence reduction and research project developed by SFPD, CPSC and Northeastern University.
2. Overall Goal: Reduce gun violence in San Francisco, while reducing the use of arrest and enhancing trust building work between SFPD and impacted communities.
3. SF has already achieved significant reductions in violence. We will seek to *understand what has worked and why*; and *continue to make progress* in reducing victimization and arrest for those at highest risk of violence.

# Violence Reduction Initiative: Roles

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- **SFPD**: Overall lead / convener of Violence Reduction Initiative (VRI).
- **CPSC**: Technical assistance partner; applying experience supporting violence reduction efforts in a wide range of cities and communities.
- **Professor Anthony Braga / Northeastern University**: Research and evaluation partner, provides extensive academic expertise in evaluating violence reduction and police reform efforts.
- **Intervention Partners** will play key roles in providing focused support to individuals identified through the risk analysis work (problem analysis, shooting reviews).
- We will also engage a broader array of **justice system and community partners** throughout this project.

# **Problem Analysis: Introduction**

# Problem Analysis: Introduction and Overview

- A “problem analysis” is 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 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 and Overview

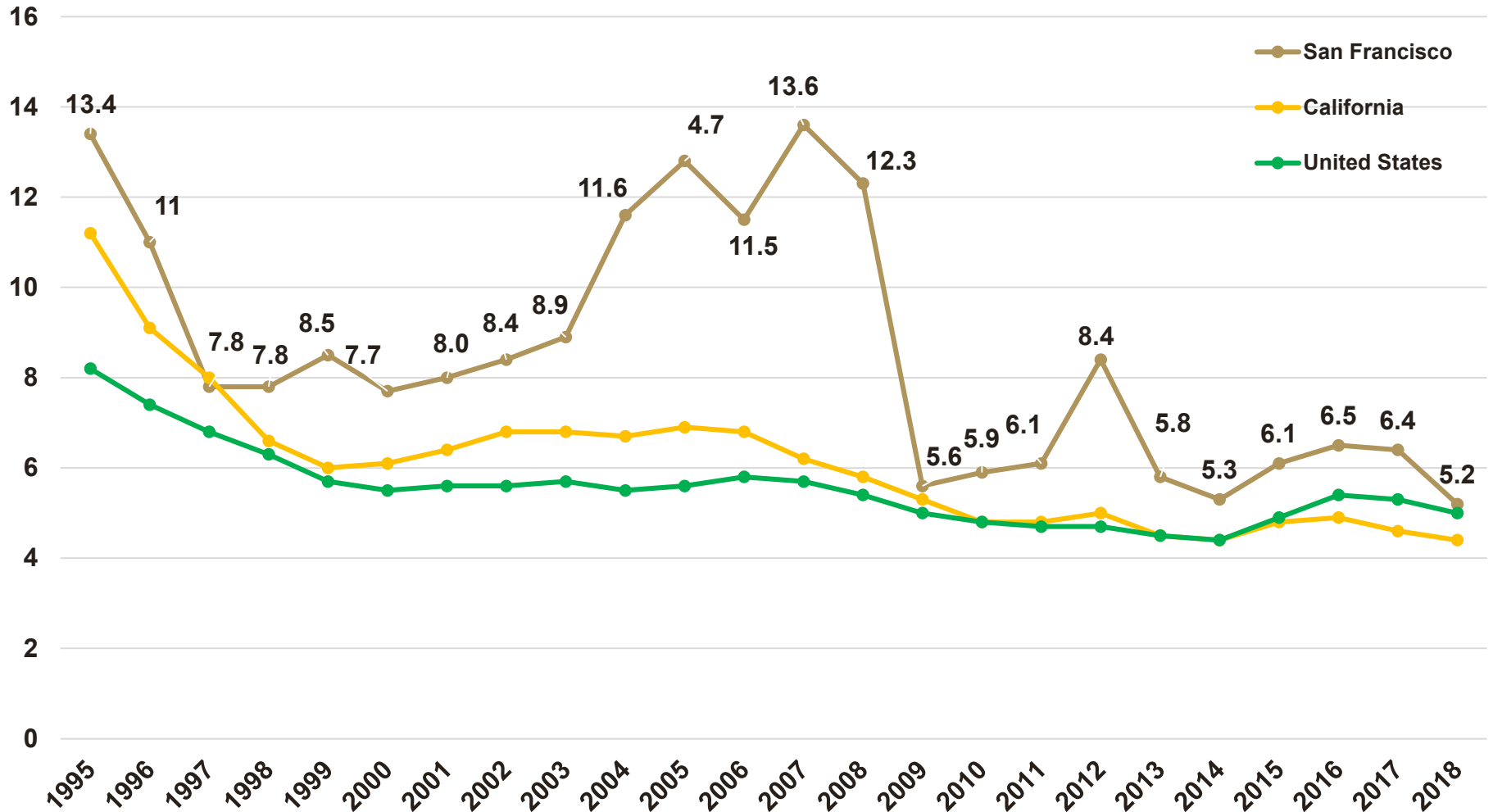
## This analysis examined:

- **All homicides in San Francisco from Jan. 2017 to June 2020 ( $n = 162$ );**
- **All injury shootings between Jan. 2019 to Dec. 2019 ( $n = 86$ );**
- **Supplemental analysis of injury shootings between Jan. and June of 2020 ( $n=38$ ).**
- **The 162 homicides involved 329 unique victims or identified suspects, and the 86 shootings involved 142 unique identified victims or suspects.**
- This analysis examines the characteristics of these incidents and the involved individuals, including motives, demographics and criminal justice system involvement.
- The analysis also includes information on social networks at high risk of violence and the spatial concentration of violence throughout the city.

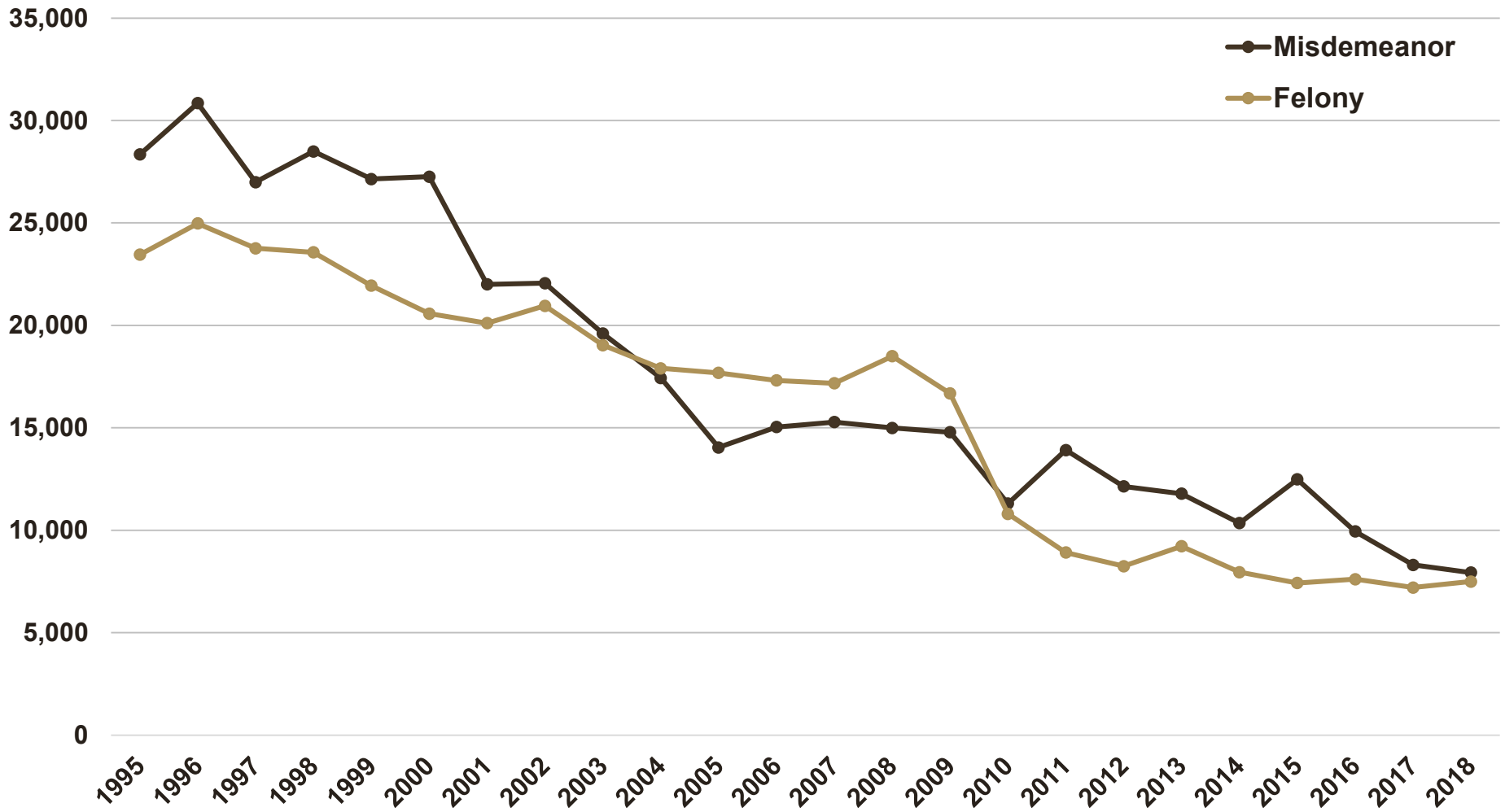


# **Trends and Summary Findings**

# San Francisco Homicide Rate (per 100,000 population): 1995 - 2018



# San Francisco Arrests: 1995 - 2018



# Problem Analysis of Violence 2017-2020

## Summary Findings (1)

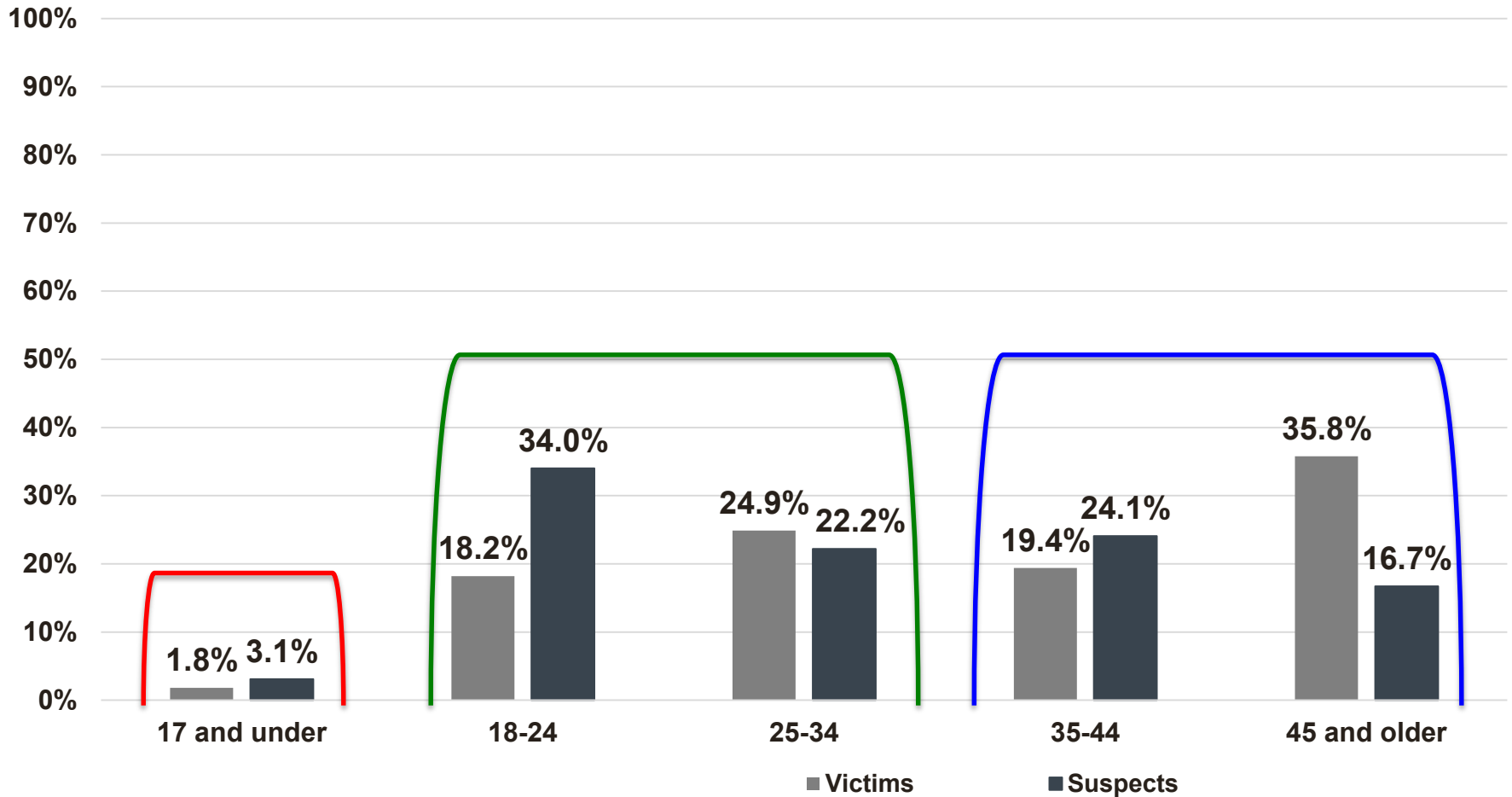
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**Suspects and victims of homicides and shootings in San Francisco are older adults with extensive justice system histories, and violence very disproportionately impacts men of color.**

- The average age of victims and suspects of homicides in San Francisco is **37 years old**; **70%** have previously been arrested and those individuals averaged **15 prior arrests** at the time of the homicide.
- Victims and suspects of shootings in San Francisco are, on average, **28 years old** and have previously been arrested **13 times**.
- **67%** of homicide victims and suspects and **85%** of shooting victims and suspects are Black and Latino men, while they comprise less than 10% of the city's population.

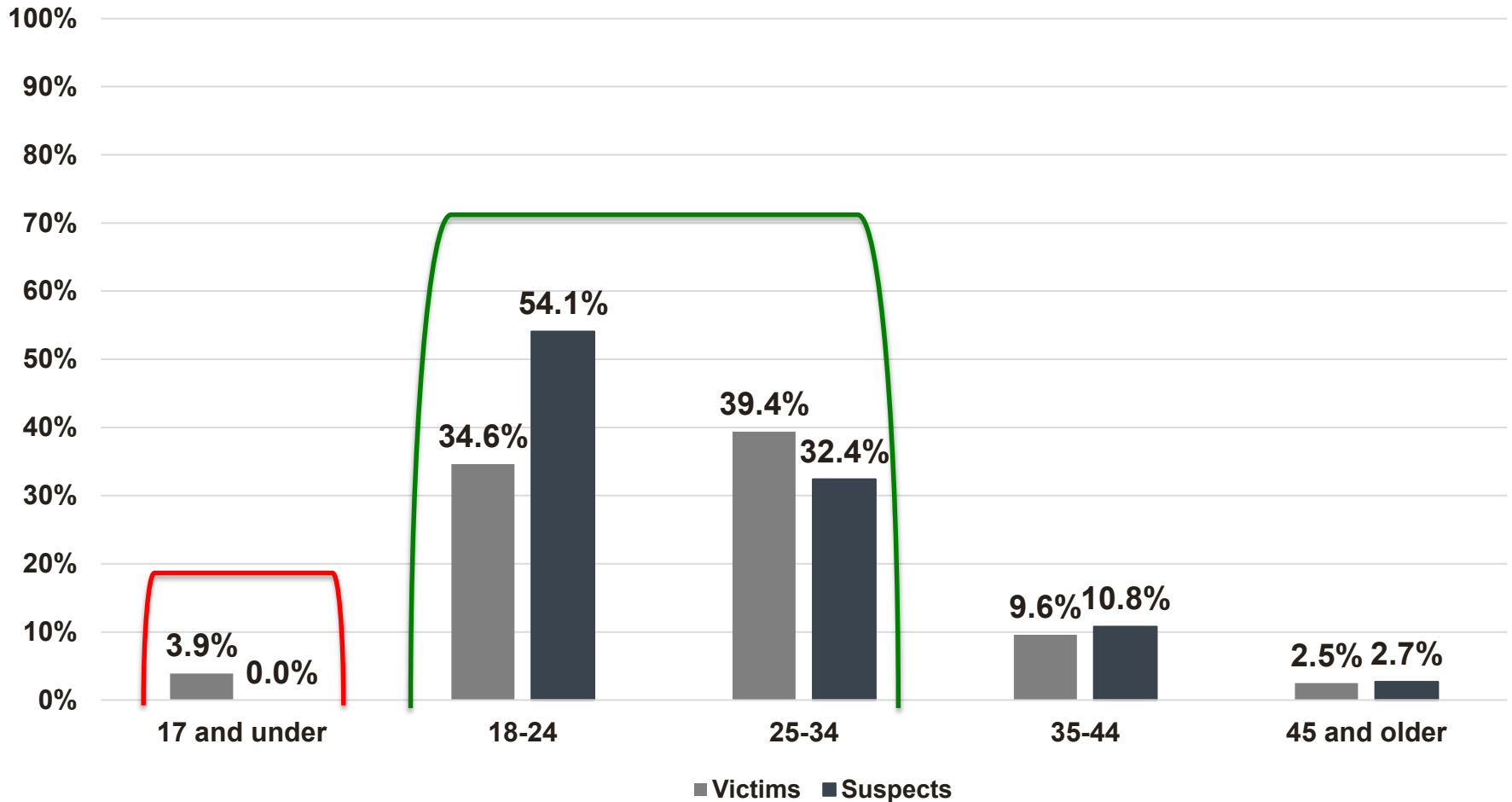
# Age:

All Known Individuals Involved in **Homicides** ( $n = 327$ )  
January 2017 – June 2020



# Age:

All Known Individuals Involved in Shootings ( $n = 141$ )  
January 2019 – December 2019



# Victims and Suspects of Homicides & Shootings: Sex and Race

	Homicides			Shootings			San Francisco Population
	Victims (n=165)	Suspects (n=164)	Victims & Suspects (n=329)	Victims (n=104)	Suspects (n=38)	Victims & Suspects (n=142)	
<b>Sex</b>							
Male	84.9%	89.0%	86.9%	89.4%	97.4%	91.6%	51.0%
Female	15.2%	10.4%	12.8%	9.6%	2.6%	7.8%	49.0%
Non-Binary	-	0.6%	0.3%	1.0%	-	0.7%	
<b>Race</b>							
White	17.7%	12.9%	15.3%	6.7%	5.3%	6.3%	40.6%
Black	<u>36.6%</u>	<u>46.6%</u>	<u>41.6%</u>	<u>53.9%</u>	<u>57.9%</u>	<u>54.9%</u>	<u>5.2%</u>
Hispanic/Latinx	<u>26.2%</u>	<u>27.0%</u>	<u>26.6%</u>	<u>32.7%</u>	<u>26.3%</u>	<u>31.0%</u>	<u>15.2%</u>
Asian	11.0%	7.4%	9.2%	1.0%	5.3%	2.1%	34.2%
Other	8.5%	6.1%	7.3%	5.8%	5.3%	5.6%	

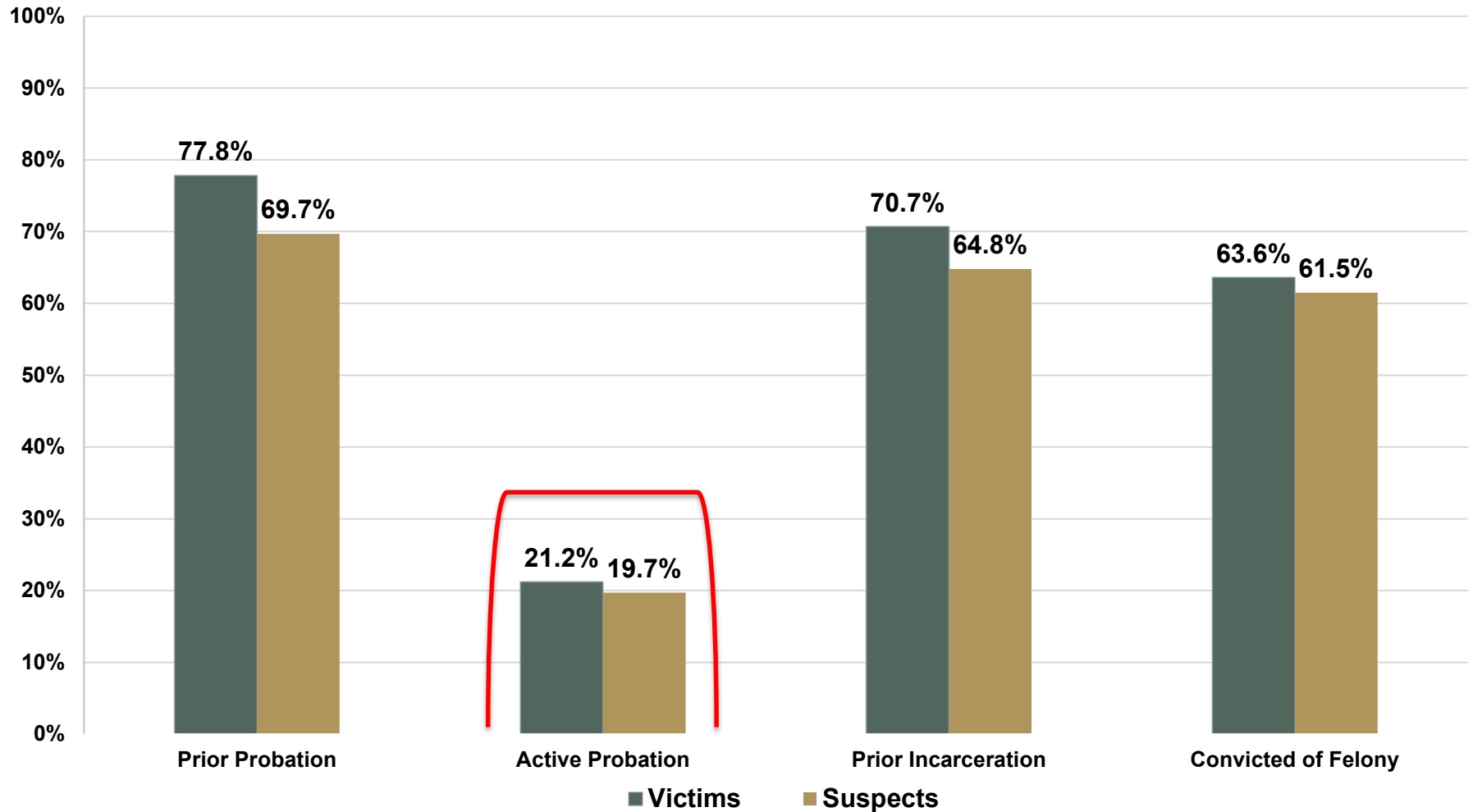
# Homicide Victims and Suspects: Criminal Justice System Involvement

	Victims (n=161)*	Suspects (n=160)*	Victims & Suspects (n=321)
Known to the CJ system prior to the incident	102 (63.4%)	124 (77.5%)	226 (70.4%)
Of those known to the CJ System:			
Average age	37.3	33.2	35.1
Average number of prior arrests	15.9	13.9	14.8
Average number of prior felony arrests	9.8	9.2	9.5
Prior probation/post-prison supervision	77.8%	69.7%	73.3%
Active probation/post-prison supervision	21.2%	19.7%	20.4%
Prior incarceration	70.7%	64.8%	67.4%
Convicted of felony	63.6%	61.5%	62.4%

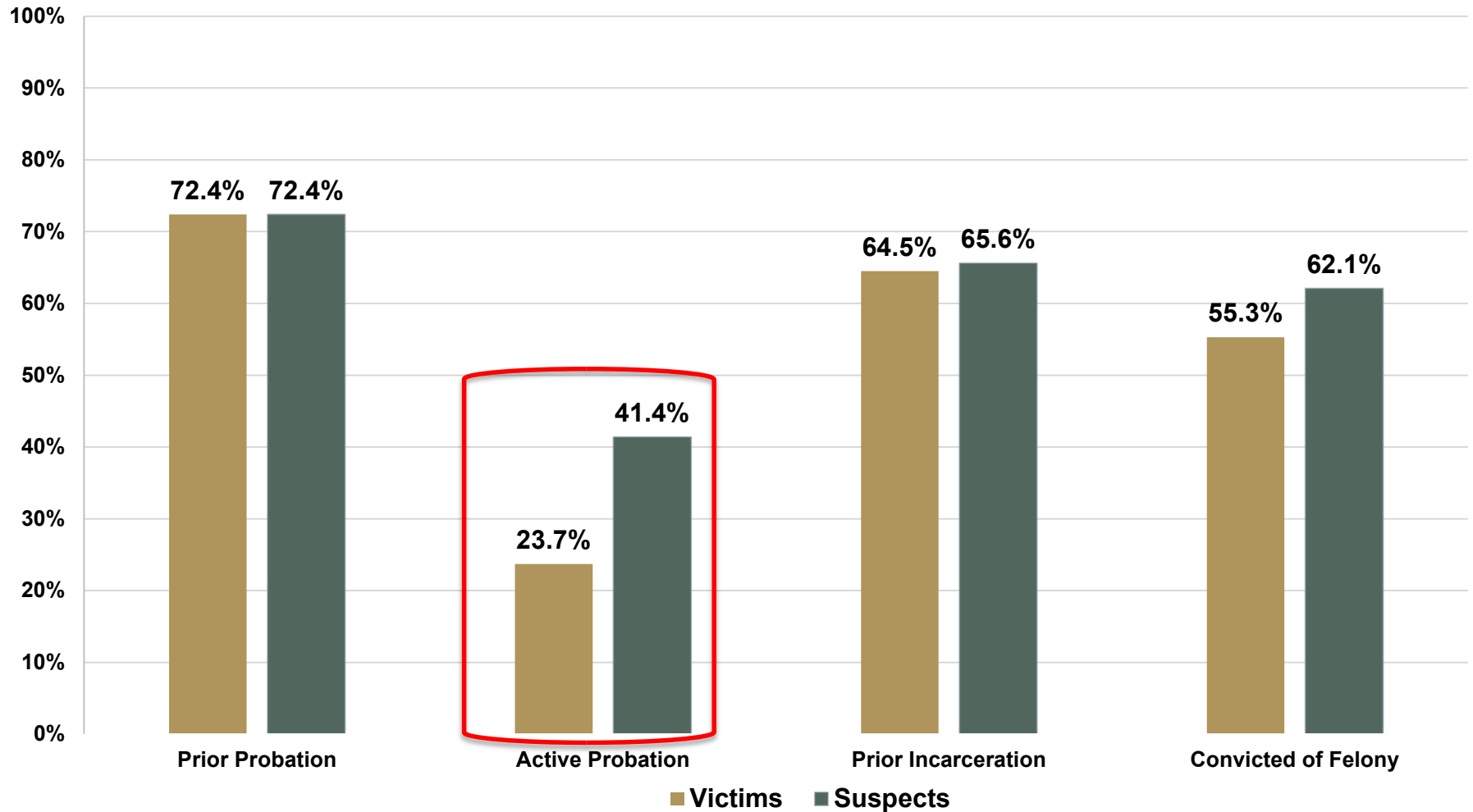
\*Criminal histories from 4 victims and 4 suspects not included due missing information.



# Homicide Victims and Suspects: Criminal Justice System Involvement



# Shooting Victims and Suspects: Criminal Justice System Involvement



# Problem Analysis of Violence 2017-2020

## Summary Findings (2)

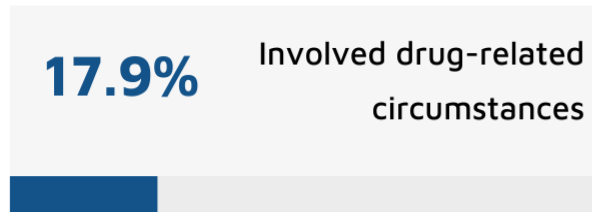
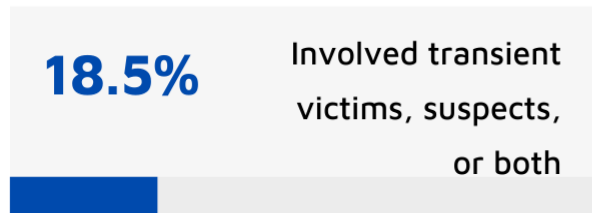
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**Two distinct but overlapping dynamics drive serious violence in San Francisco:**

- **Group Dynamics:** A majority of gun homicides (53%-70%) and non-fatal shootings (50-77%) are driven by or connected to street group dynamics.
- **Street Disorder:** A significant minority of homicides and non-fatal shootings are driven by interconnected street homeless / mental illness (19%) and drug market dynamics (18%), primarily in the Tenderloin area.
- These two dynamics require somewhat different approaches and involve different sets of stakeholders.

# Homicide Overview: January 2017 – June 2020

## HOMICIDE CIRCUMSTANCES N=162

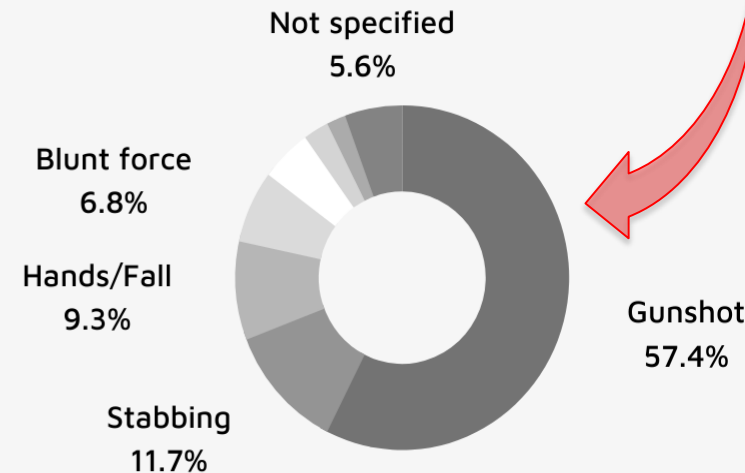
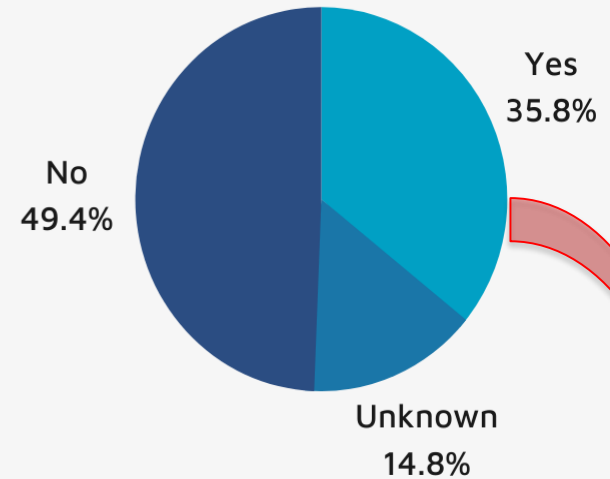


## GROUP MEMBER INVOLVED HOMICIDES

Victim, suspect, or both associated with group/gang

## CAUSE OF DEATH

cause of death as determined by case summary



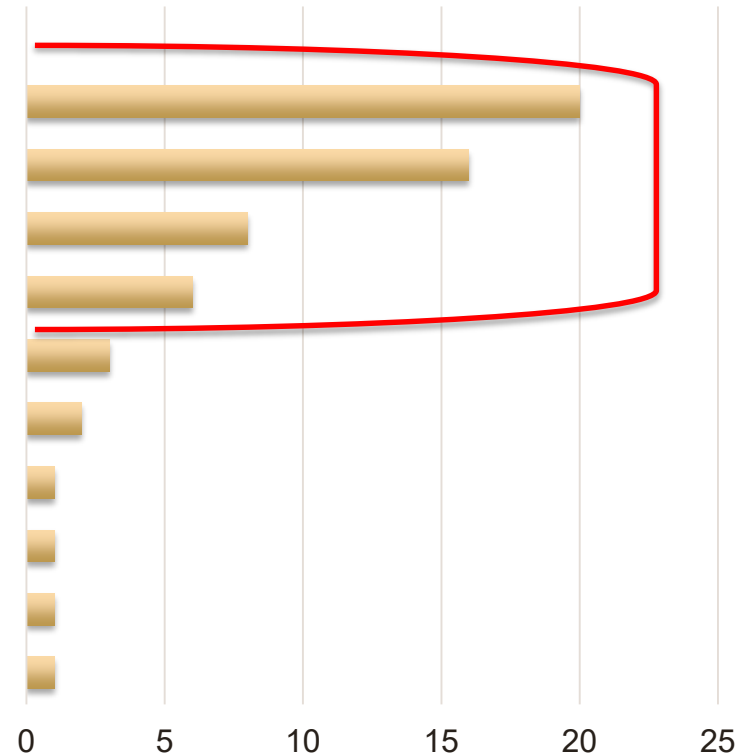
# Homicide Circumstances: Group Member Involved Homicides

## Group Member Involvement in Homicides



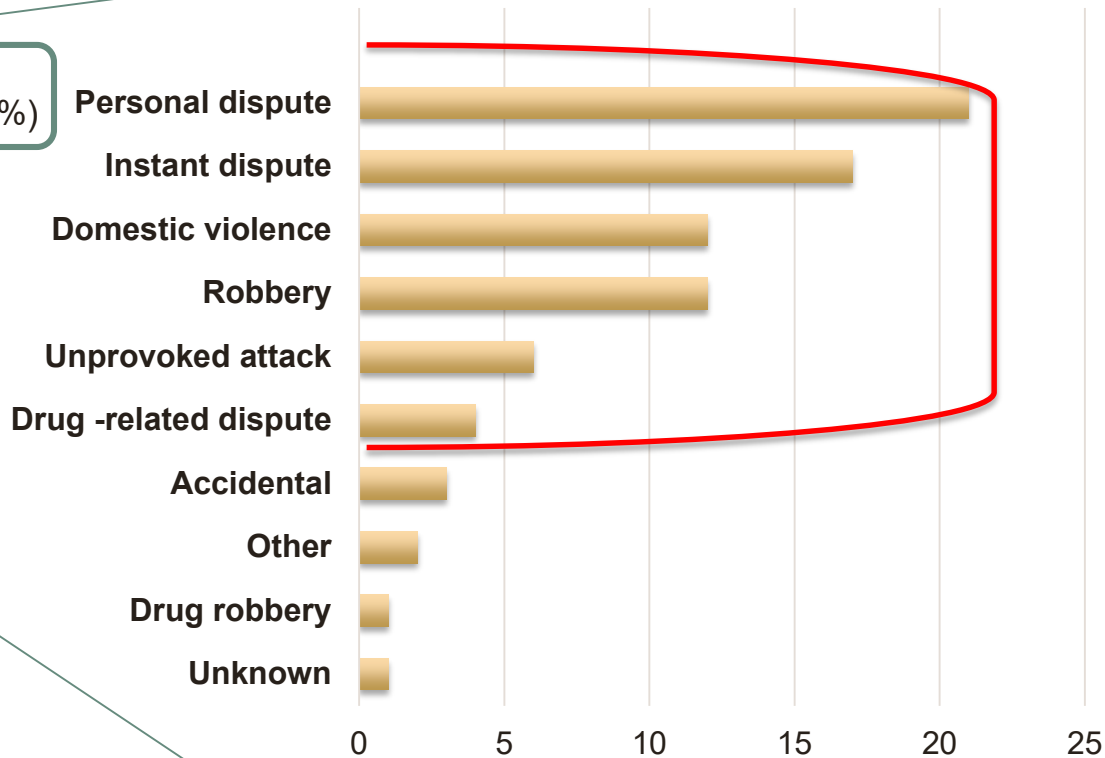
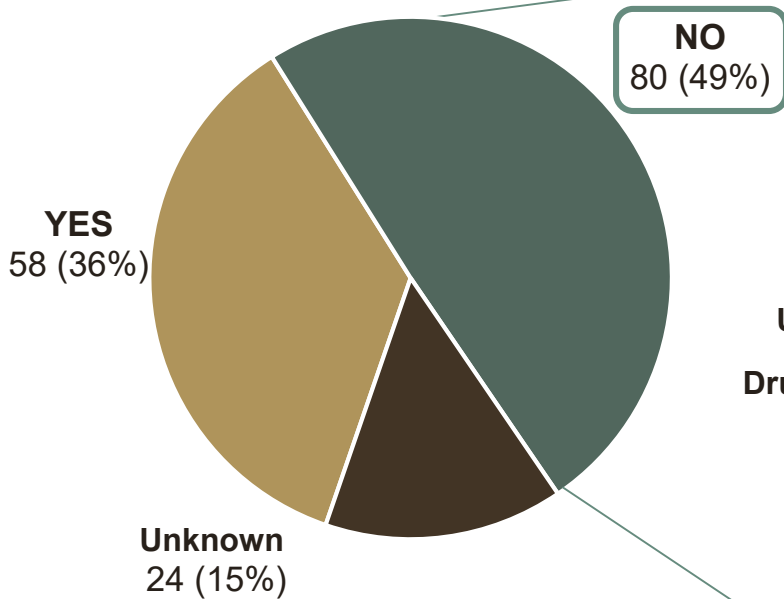
**YES**  
58 (36%)

- Ongoing group conflict
- Personal dispute
- Instant dispute
- Internal group conflict
- Unknown
- Domestic violence
- Drug-related dispute
- Robbery
- Drug robbery
- Other



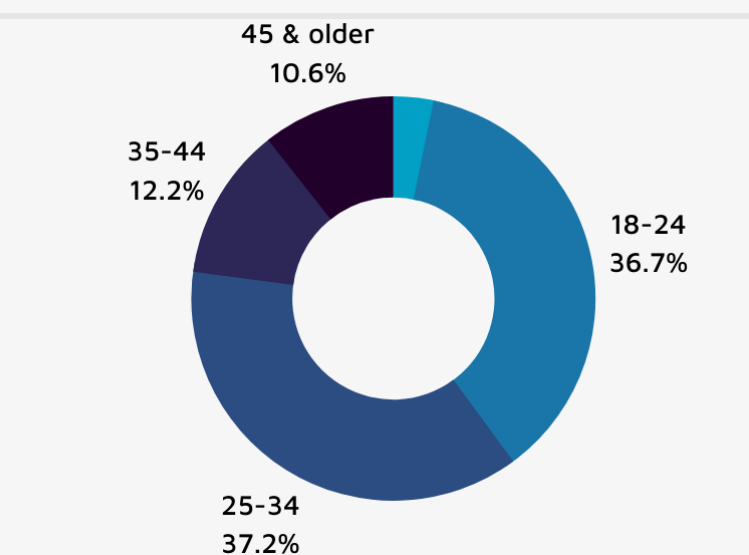
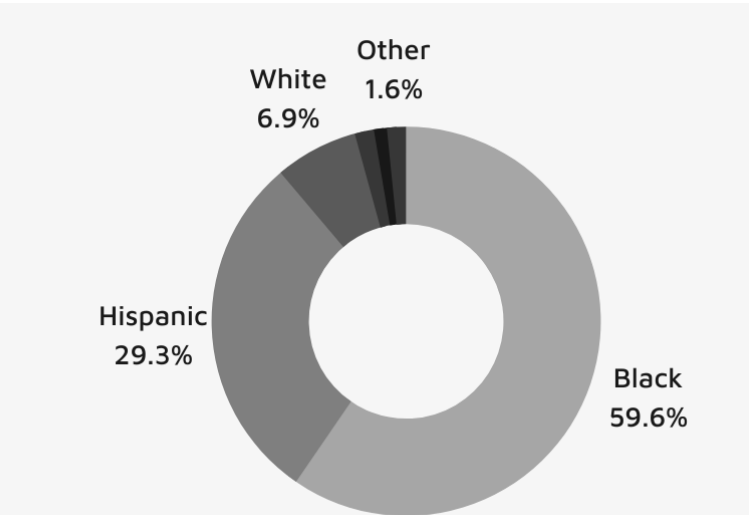
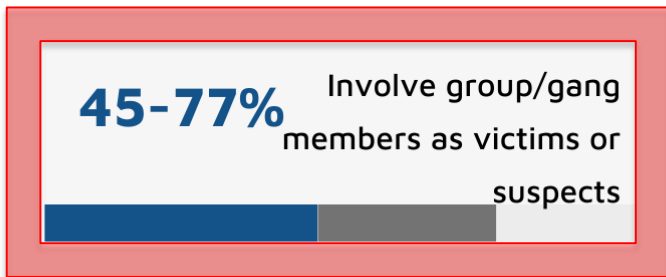
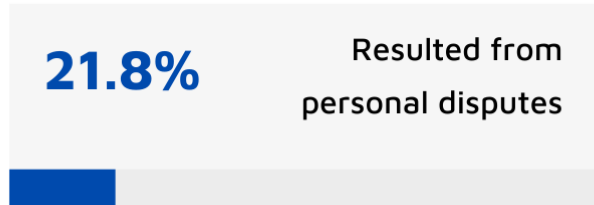
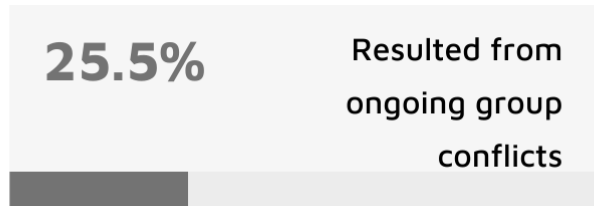
# Homicide Circumstances: Non-Group Involved Homicides

## Group Member Involvement in Homicides



# Fatal & Non-Fatal Shootings Overview

## 2019 GUN VIOLENCE N=110



# Problem Analysis

## Summary Findings (3)

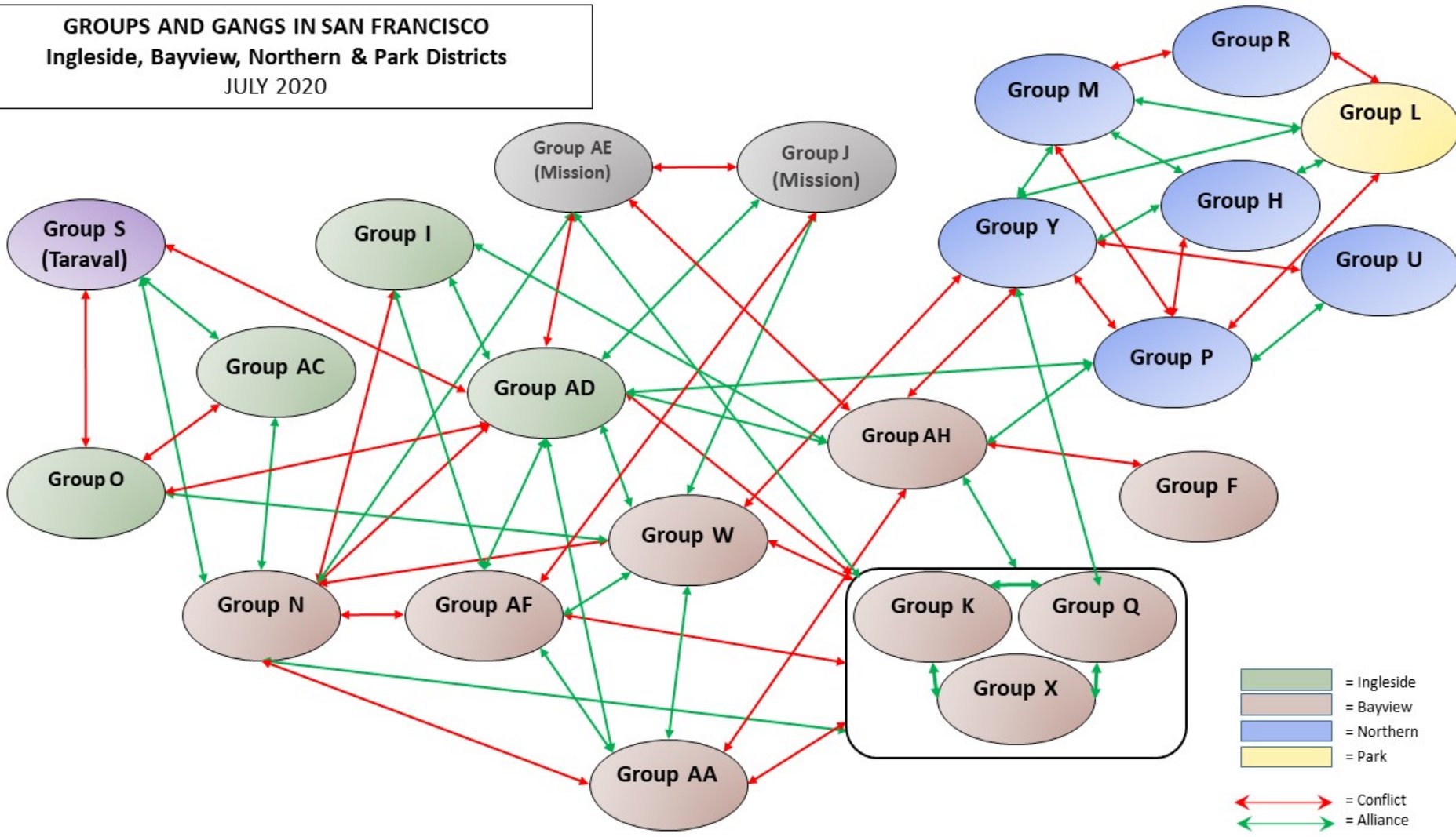
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1. **Group dynamics drive gun violence:** 12 high risk social networks (groups) are involved in the majority of gun violence in San Francisco.
1. **Those at the highest risk of gun violence in San Francisco** are primarily 18-35, Black and Latino men with extensive justice system histories (13-15 prior arrests); and social connections to these groups and conflicts.
  - Continuing to **reduce retaliation shootings requires sustained focus within SFPD** on this violence dynamic.
  - The findings have implications for **a range of justice system and community actors**, specifically probation; parole; the district attorney and community intervention partners.
  - The city would benefit from a **greater intervention focus and investment in *this very highest risk* population.**



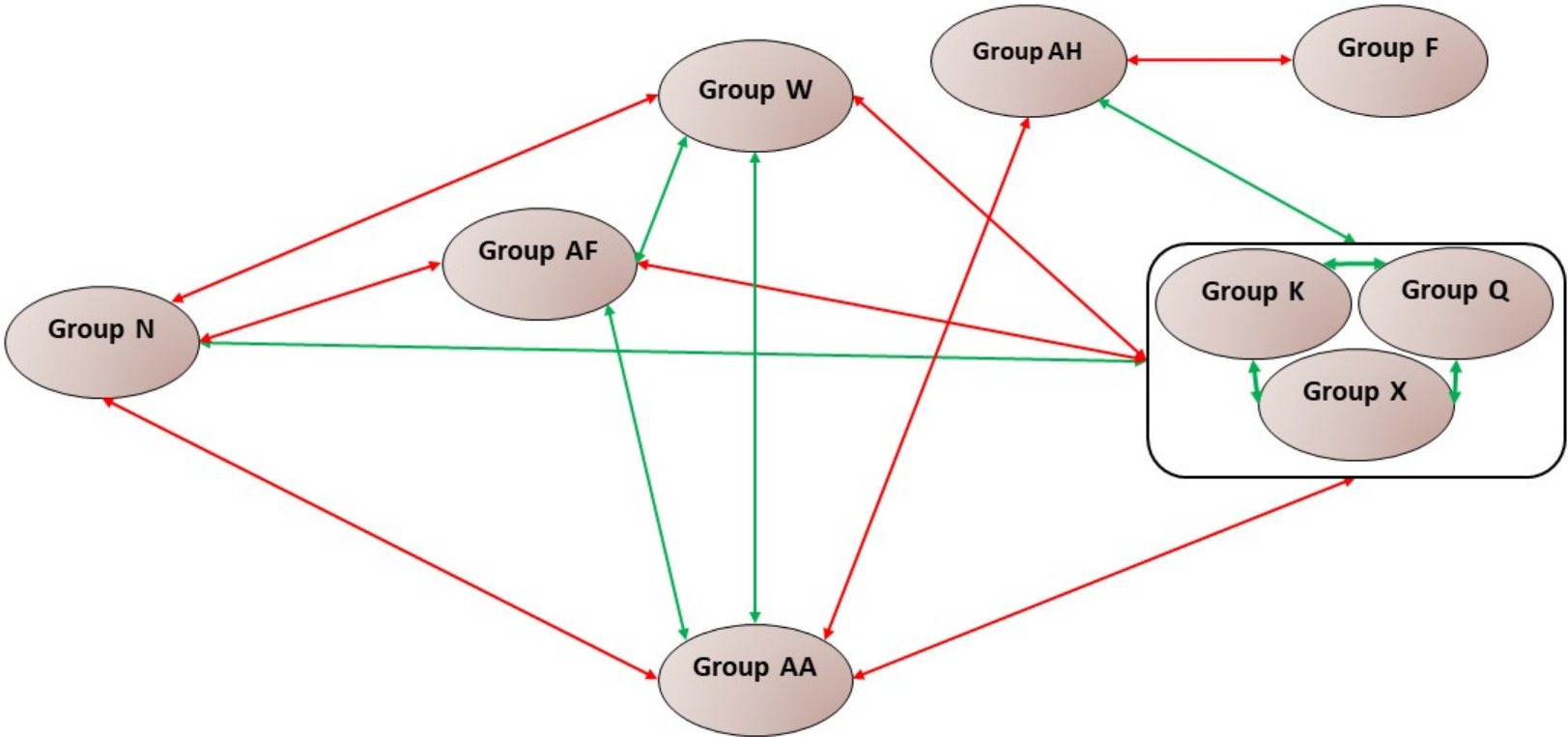
# Group Conflicts and Alliances

**GROUPS AND GANGS IN SAN FRANCISCO**  
 Ingleside, Bayview, Northern & Park Districts  
 JULY 2020



# Group Conflicts and Alliances

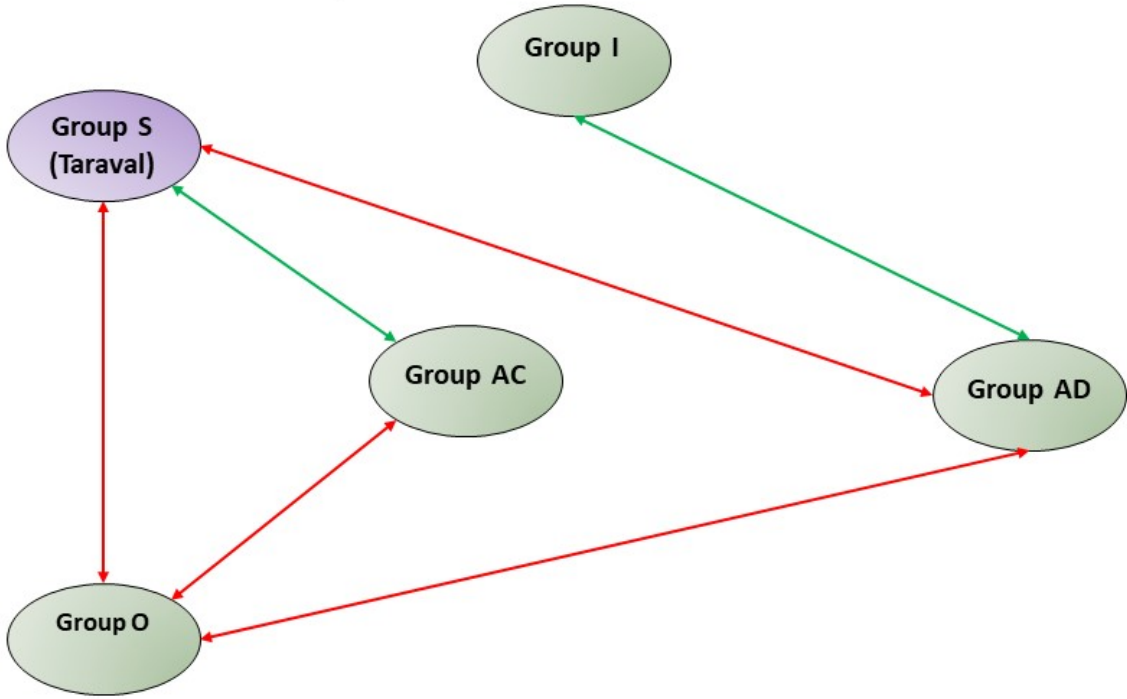
GROUPS AND GANGS IN SAN FRANCISCO  
Bayview District  
JULY 2020



↔ = Conflict  
↔ = Alliance

# Group Conflicts and Alliances

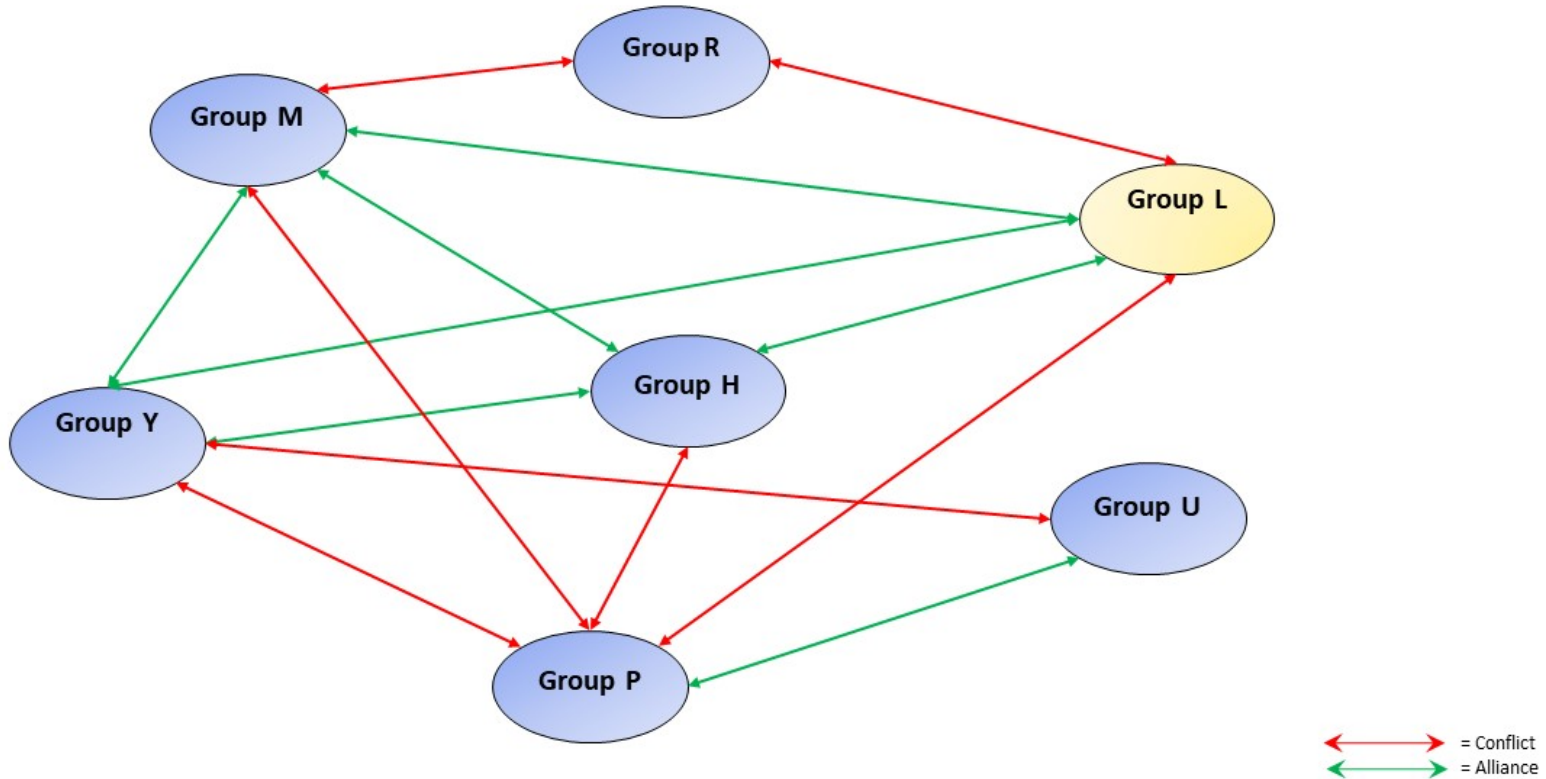
GROUPS AND GANGS IN SAN FRANCISCO  
Ingleside District  
JULY 2020



↔ = Conflict  
↔ = Alliance

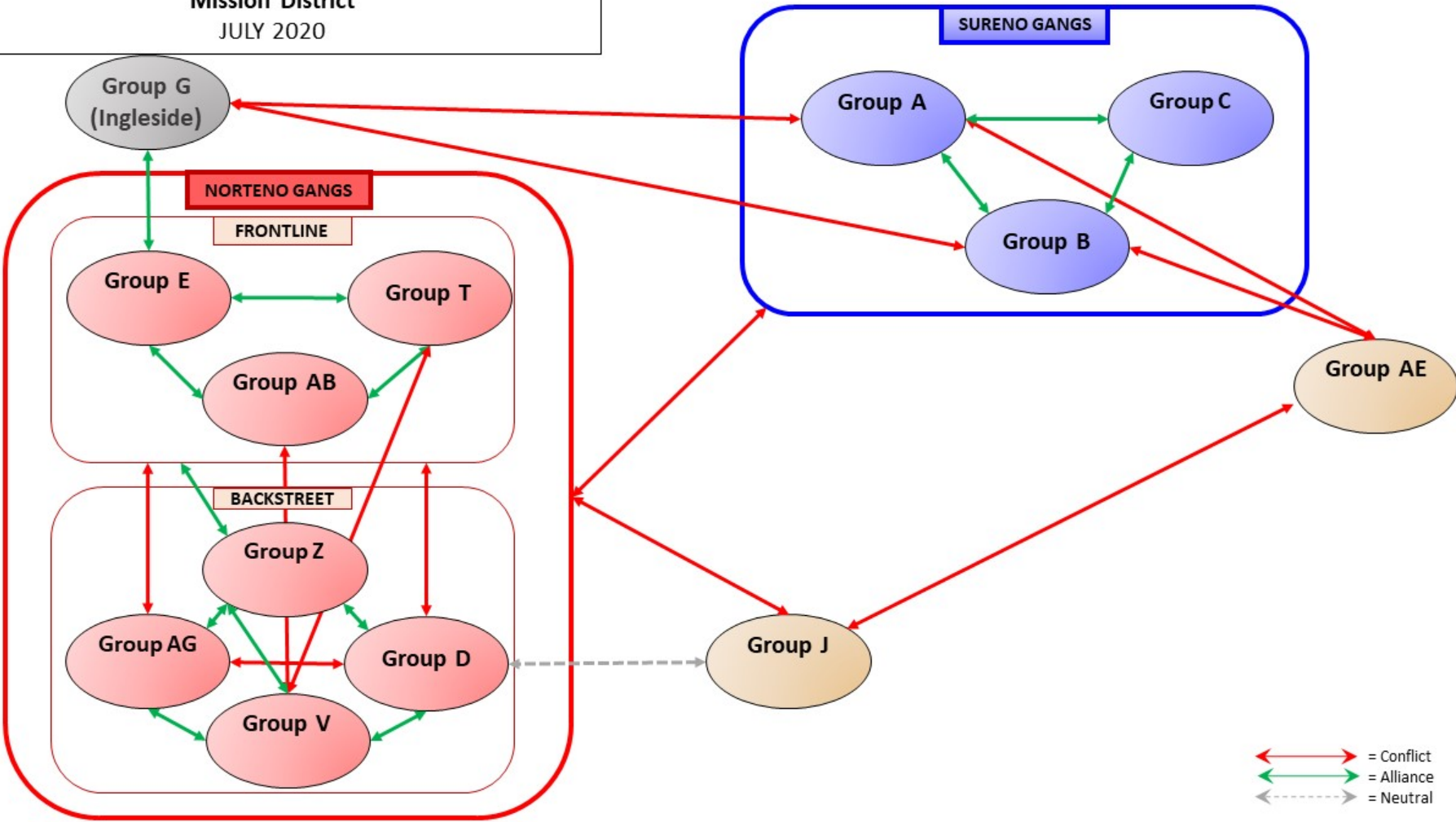
# Group Conflicts and Alliances

GROUPS AND GANGS IN SAN FRANCISCO  
Northern & Park Districts  
JULY 2020

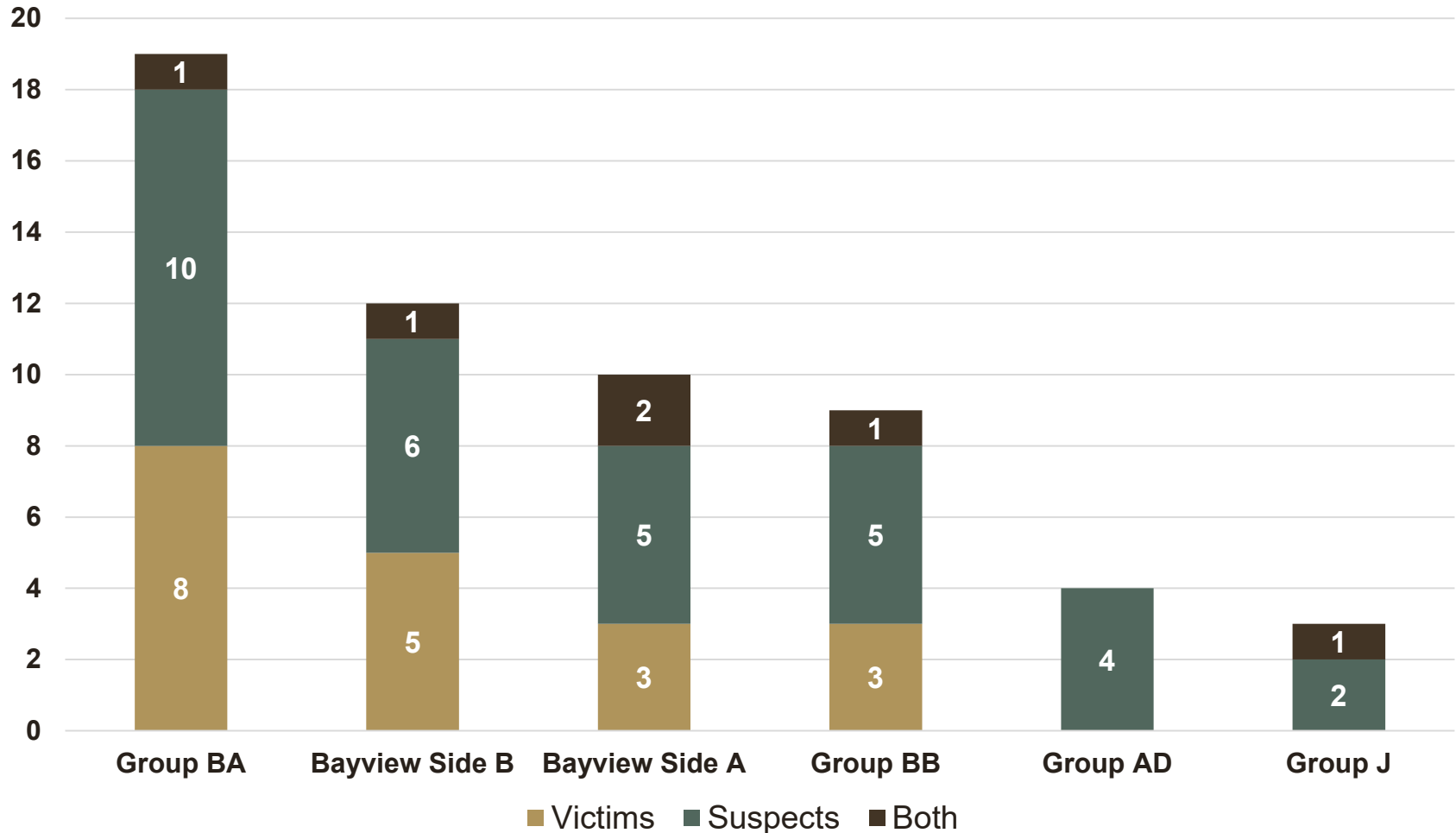


# Group Conflicts and Alliances

GROUPS AND GANGS IN SAN FRANCISCO  
Mission District  
JULY 2020



# Groups Involved in Three or More Homicides

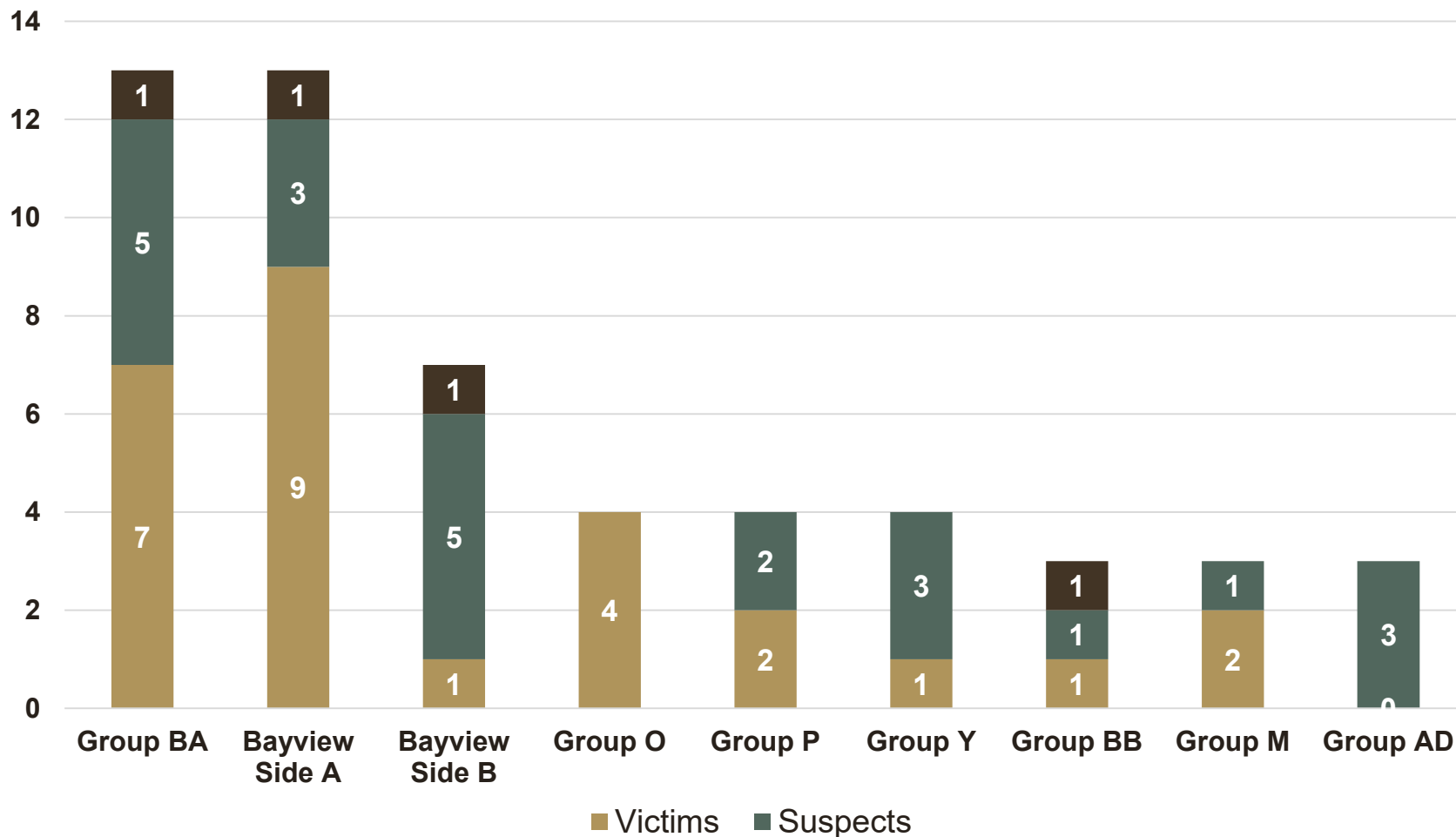


Bayview Side A: Groups K, N, Q, X, and AH

Bayview Side B: Groups W, AF, and AA



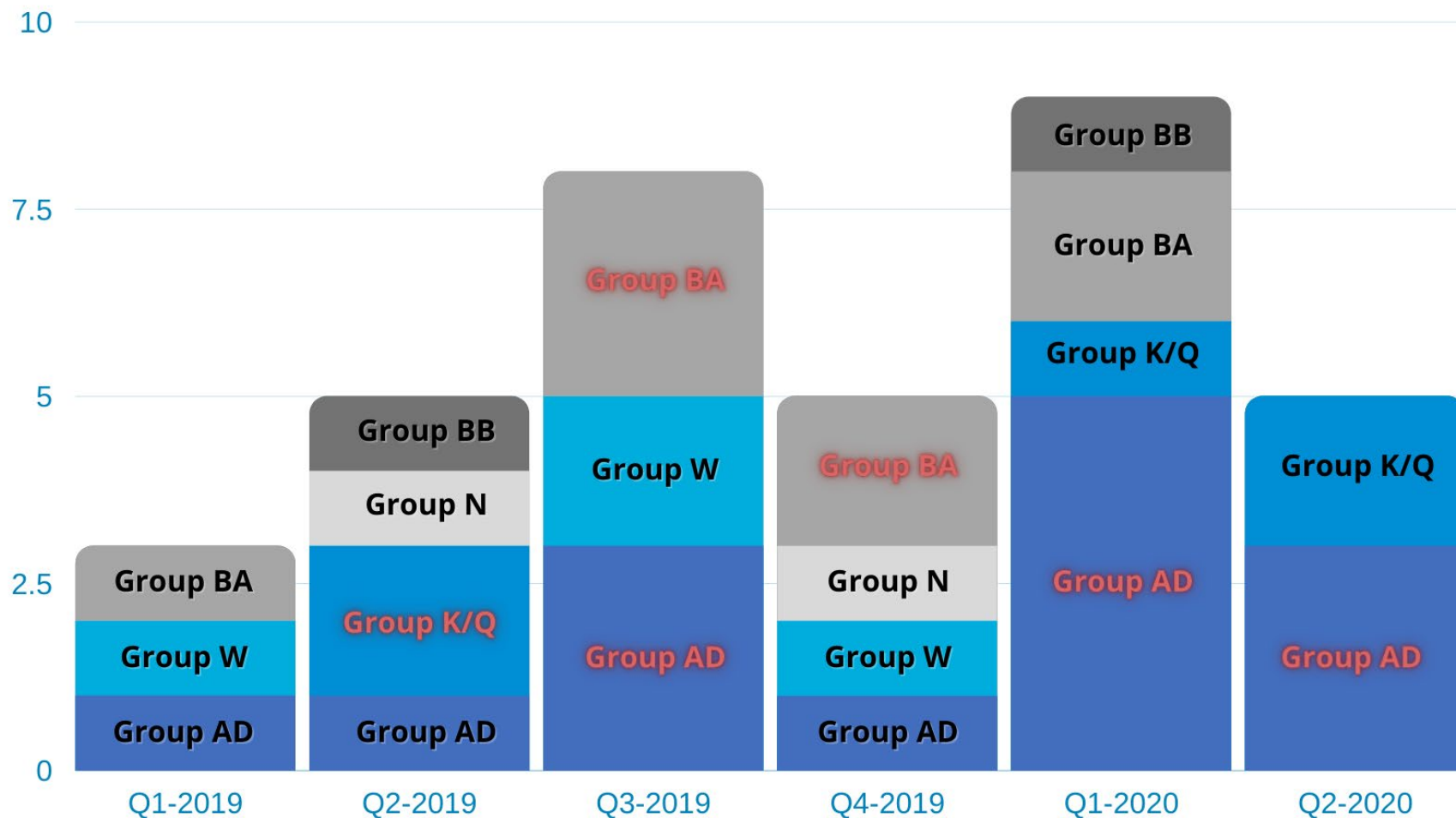
# Groups Involved in Three or More Shootings



Bayview Side A: Groups K, N, Q, X, and AH

Bayview Side B: Groups W, AF, and AA

# Fatal & Non-Fatal Shootings (Jan 2019 – Jun 2020): Groups Involved as Shooting Suspects



\*Includes only seven groups found to be most prevalent within each of the included quarters.



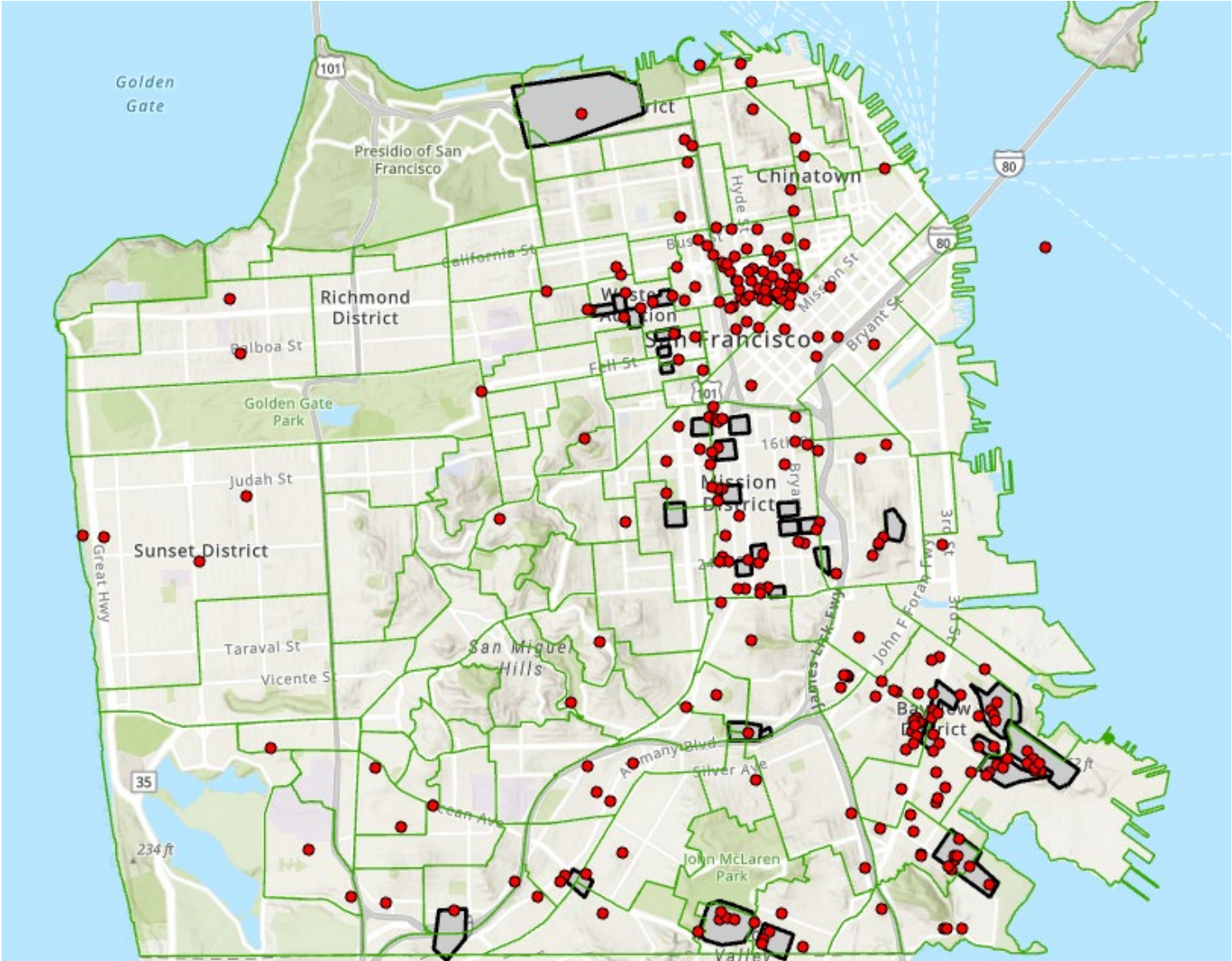
# Problem Analysis: Summary Findings (4)

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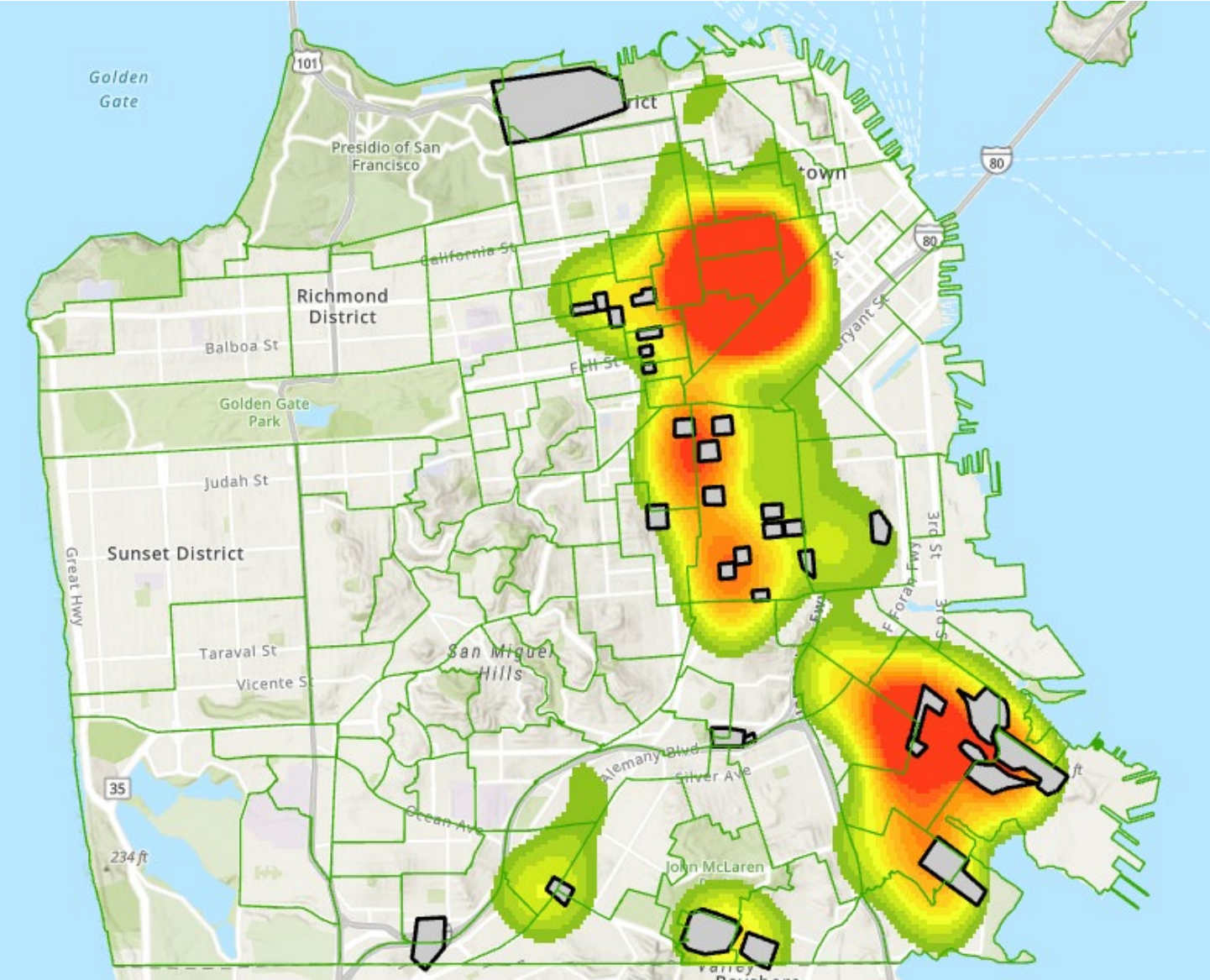
**The Challenge of the Tenderloin:** The analysis reveals a significant concentration of homicides and non-fatal shootings in the greater Tenderloin area.

- These incidents are primarily driven by instant disputes and (regional) drug market dynamics. These incidents often involve individuals who are not housed; drug addicted and/or mentally ill.
- SFPD, and partners', strategy for addressing public safety conditions in the Tenderloin should take into account the violence dynamics that drive shootings in this neighborhood.
- Recent research suggests that paying attention to the physical features of neighborhoods that contribute to disorder can also reduce violent crime in those places.

# All Homicides & Shootings: Jan 2017 – June 2020

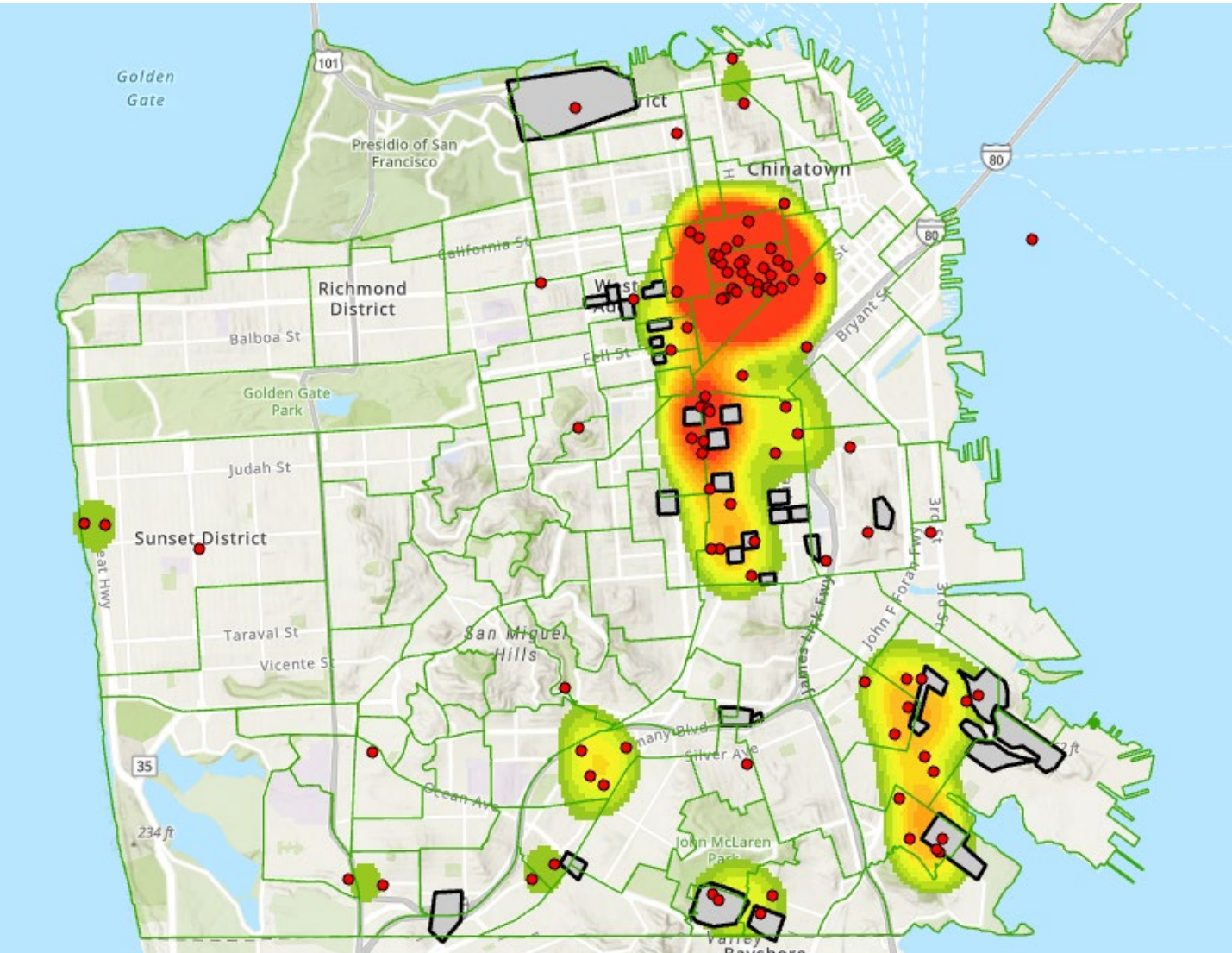


# All Homicides & Shootings: Jan 2017 – June 2020

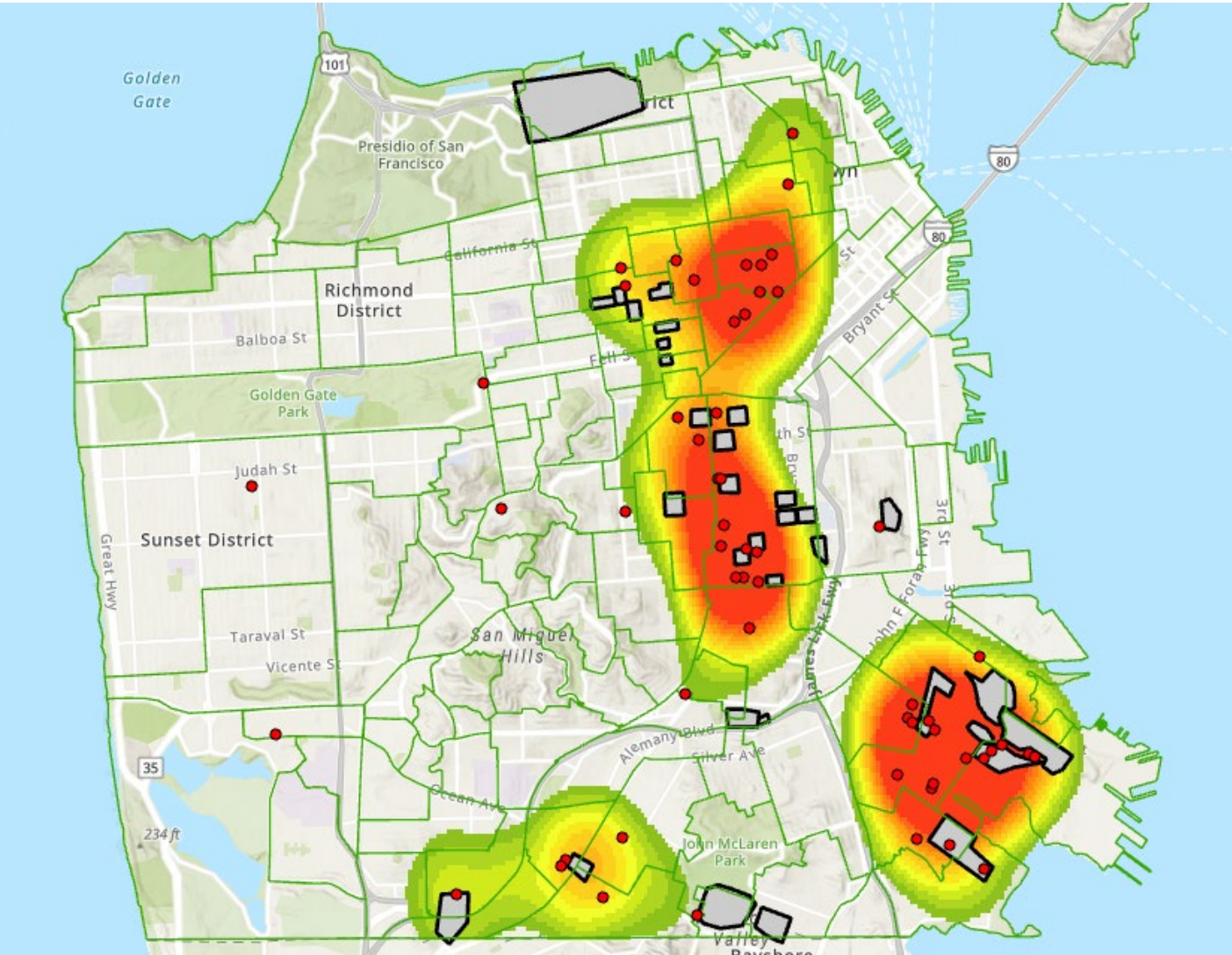




# Non Group-Involved Homicides

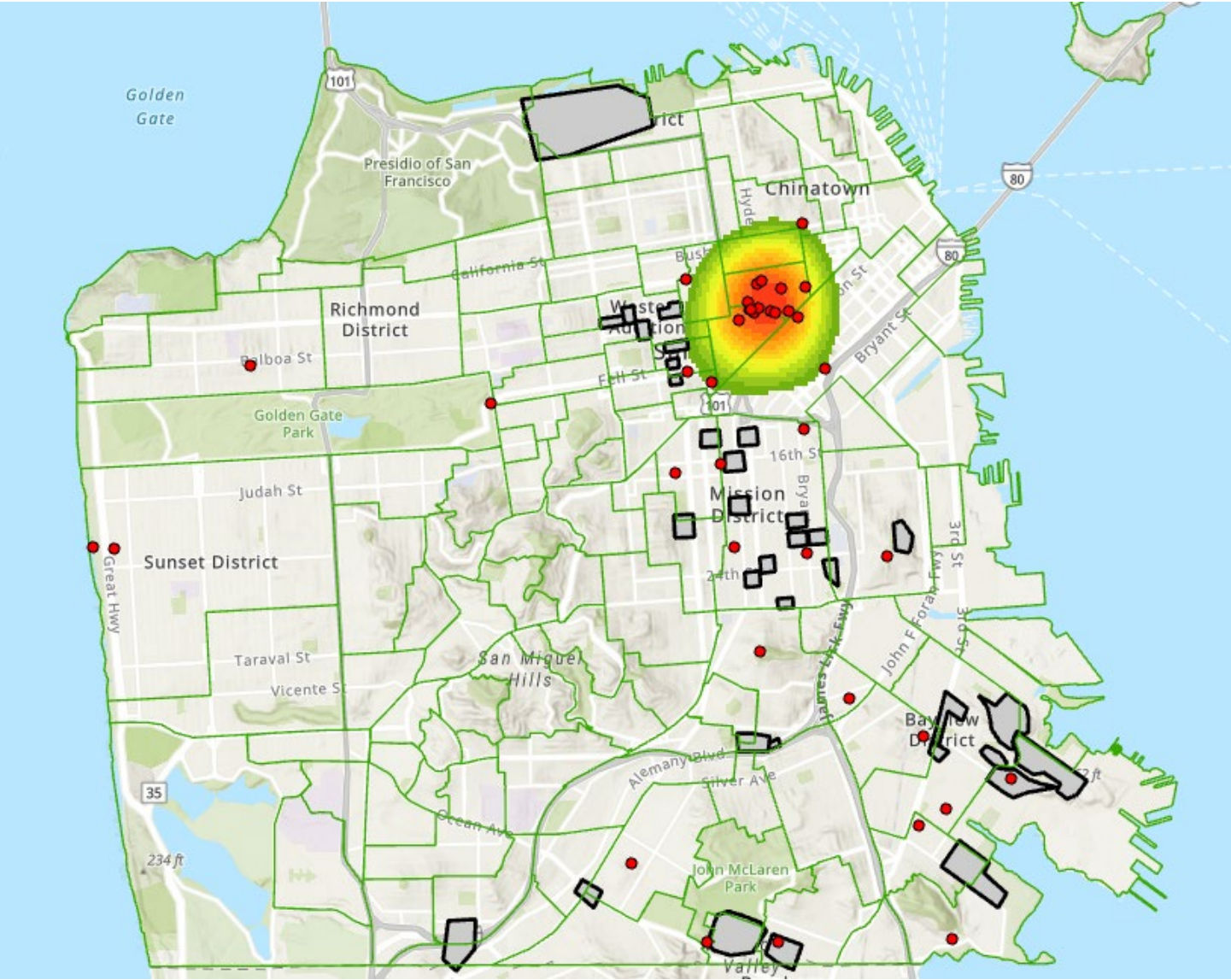


# Group-Involved Homicides

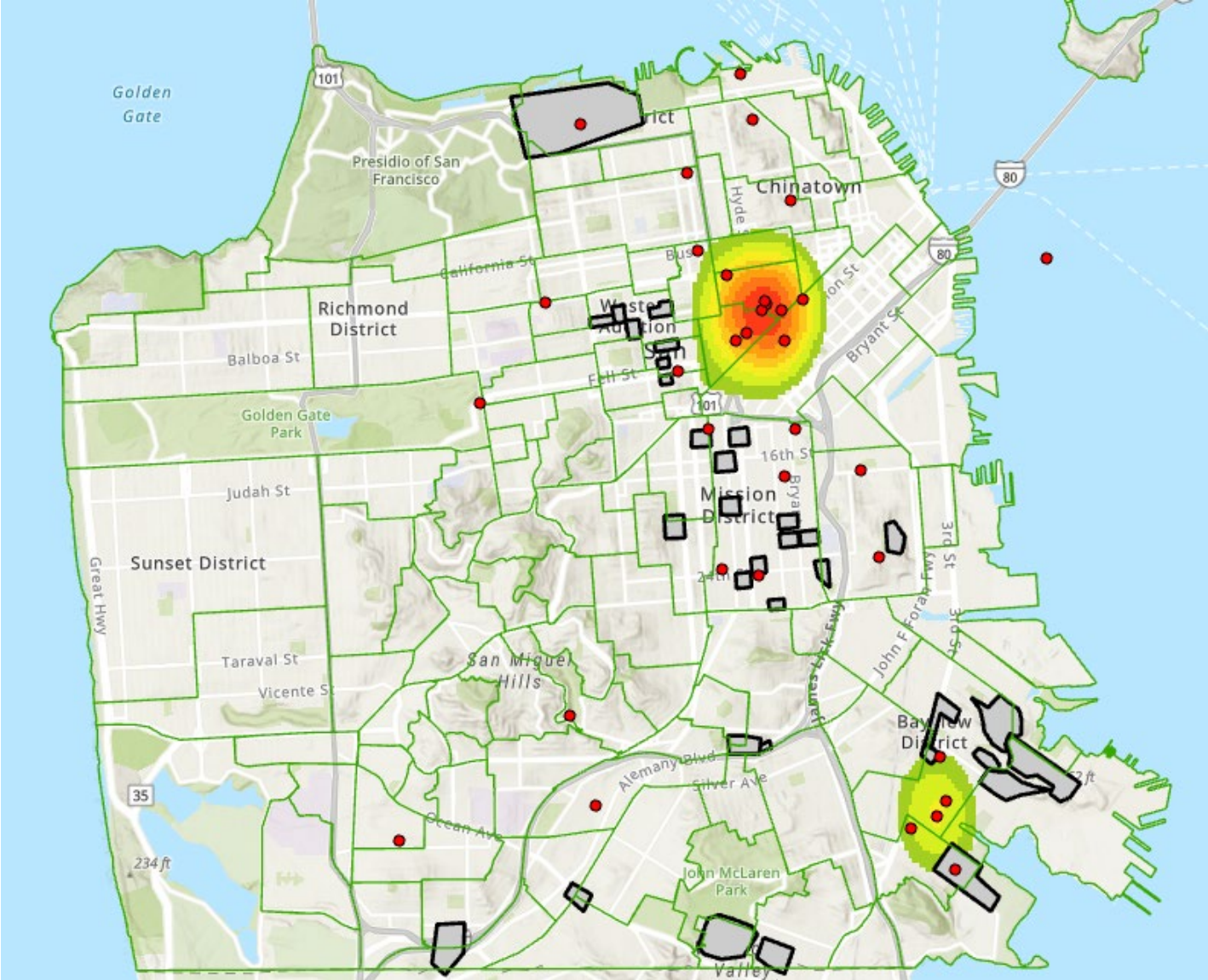




# Drug-Related Shootings/Homicides

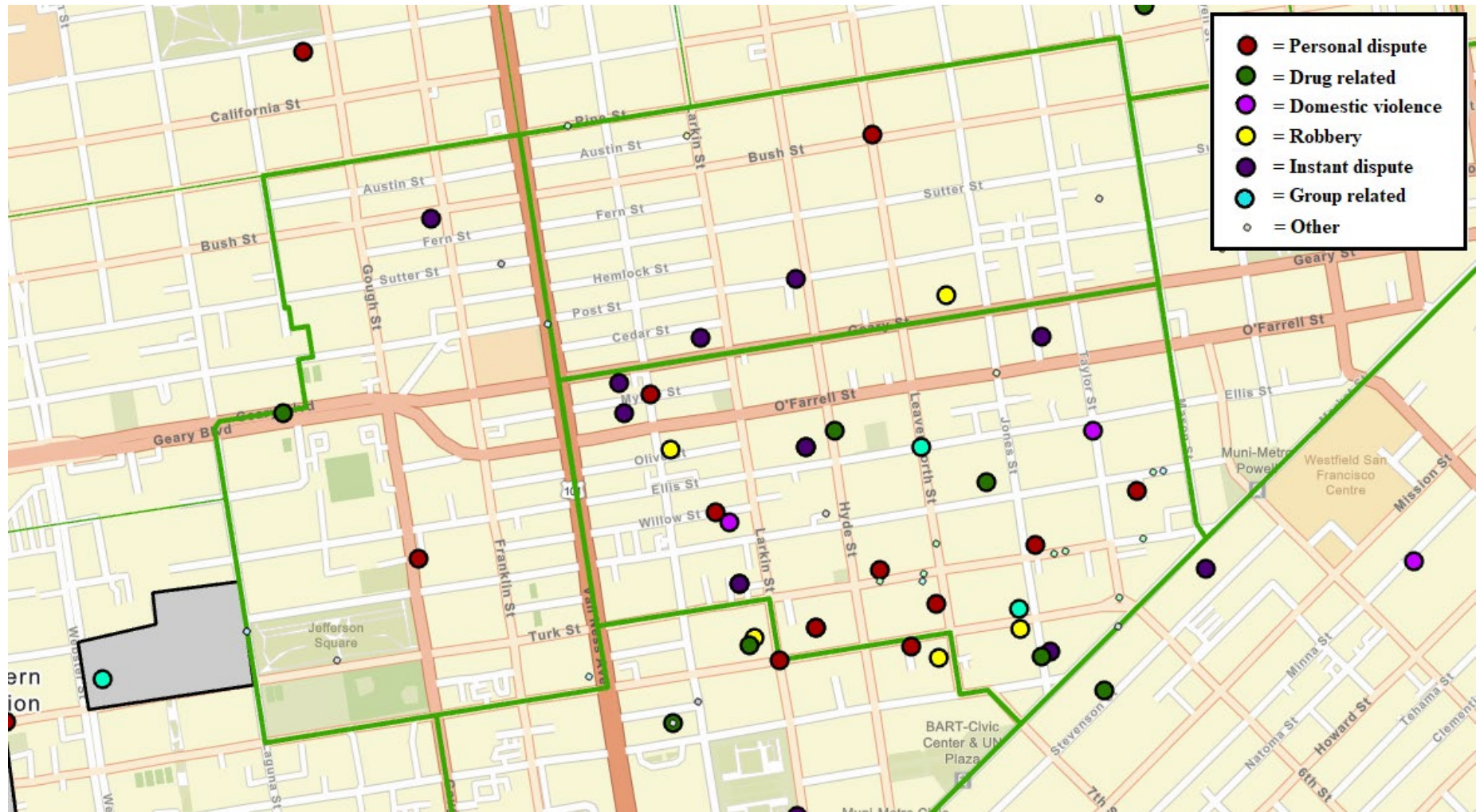


# Shootings/Homicides with Transient Victims and/or Suspects





# All Violence: Tenderloin Area Concentration by Circumstance





## Problem Analysis

### Summary Findings (3): POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

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1. **Group dynamics drive gun violence:** 12 high risk social networks (groups) are involved in the majority of gun violence in San Francisco.
1. **Those at the highest risk of gun violence in San Francisco** are primarily 18-35, Black and Latino men with extensive justice system histories (13-15 prior arrests); and social connections to these groups and conflicts.
  - Continuing to **reduce retaliation shootings requires sustained focus within SFPD** on this violence dynamic.
  - The findings have implications for **a range of justice system and community actors**, specifically probation, parole, the district attorney and community intervention partners.
  - The city would benefit from a **greater intervention focus and investment in this population**.

# NEXT STEPS

# NEXT STEPS: SF VIOLENCE REDUCTION INITIATIVE

## *Moving from design to implementation*

- 1. The Problem analysis is finished.**
- 2. A shooting review is held weekly at SFPD to analyze violence dynamics and identify opportunities for intervention.**
- 3. A New SFPD Violence Reduction Team is under development.**
- 4. SVIP is in the hiring process for life coaches. Next, an intervention referral process will be developed.**
- 1. SFPD will continue to share the problem analysis findings with potential community and justice partners.**

# **Acknowledgements, Sources, & Bibliography**

# Sources

## Context and Trend Data

- United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. *Crime in the United States, 1995 – 2018*. Retrieved from <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s>
- Data SF, City and County of San Francisco. *Police Department Incident Reports, 1995 – 2018*. Retrieved from <https://data.sfgov.org/browse?category=Public+Safety>

## Victims and Suspects of Homicides & Shootings: Demographics

- U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. *Population Estimates Program, QuickFacts, 2019*. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/sanfranciscocitycalifornia,US#>
- **All other suspect and victim information was provided by the San Francisco Police Department.**
- **All criminal history information is based on criminal history information contained in The California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (CLETs).**
- **Group and social network information is based on working knowledge and intelligence of the SFPD Gang Task Force; Major Crimes Division; felony assault and homicide investigators.**

# **APPENDICES**

# SFPD's Violence Reduction Initiative: Where We Are

