

# Gun Crime in Connecticut Municipalities

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## Issue

This report compiles gun crime statistics in Connecticut's most populous municipalities for the years 2013 to 2017.

## Summary

Based on data from the annual [Crime in Connecticut](#) reports published by the state's Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), we calculated the average annual rates of murders, robberies, and aggravated assaults that involved a firearm for the state's five most populous municipalities (i.e., Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Stamford, and Waterbury) during the last five years. Overall, these municipalities generally had higher average annual rates of robbery and aggravated assault than the more severe crime of murder.

## Gun Crime Statistics

Tables 1 through 3 below show the annual number and average annual rate of firearm-related murders, robberies, and aggravated assaults from 2013 to 2017 in Connecticut's five most populous municipalities. The rates describe the number of gun crimes per 10,000 persons.

The source for the yearly total of each gun crime is DESPP's *Crime in Connecticut* report, whose data comes from law enforcement agencies in the state. For murder and aggravated assault, the totals correspond to the number of known victims. For robbery, they represent the number of known incidents. For each of these crimes the *Crime in Connecticut* reports use [standardized definitions](#) established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) rather than those in state law.

The population estimates come from the [Connecticut Department of Public Health](#).

### ***Murders with Firearm***

Table 1 shows the number and rate of firearm-related murders, arranged alphabetically by municipality. The FBI defines a “murder” as the willful killing of another person. Deaths caused by negligence, attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, and accidental deaths are not considered murder.

**Table 1: Murders with Firearm**

Municipality	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Subtotal (2013-2017)	Average Annual Estimated Population (2013-2017)	Average Annual Rate (per 10,000 persons)
Bridgeport	9	8	15	8	16	56	146,994	0.76
Hartford	19	15	26	13	23	96	124,074	1.55
New Haven	17	10	12	10	5	54	130,442	0.83
Stamford	1	1	1	0	0	3	128,709	0.05
Waterbury	2	5	1	7	9	24	108,937	0.44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>639,157</b>	<b>0.73</b>

### ***Robberies with Firearm***

Table 2 shows the number and rate of firearm-related robberies, arranged alphabetically by municipality. The FBI defines a “robbery” as the taking or attempting to take anything of value from another person by force or threat of force.

**Table 2: Robberies with Firearm**

Municipality	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Subtotal (2013-2017)	Average Annual Estimated Population (2013-2017)	Average Annual Rate (per 10,000 persons)
Bridgeport	203	218	175	193	206	995	146,994	13.54
Hartford	153	173	172	150	187	835	124,074	13.46
New Haven	298	245	186	141	129	999	130,442	15.32
Stamford	29	14	12	27	16	98	128,709	1.52
Waterbury	103	88	107	77	90	465	108,937	8.54
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>3,392</b>	<b>639,157</b>	<b>10.61</b>

## ***Aggravated Assaults with Firearm***

Table 3 shows the number and rate of firearm-related aggravated assaults, arranged alphabetically by municipality. The FBI defines an “aggravated assault” as an attack of another person with the purpose of causing severe bodily injury or death or attempting to do so by displaying or using a gun, knife, or other weapon.

**Table 3: Aggravated Assaults with Firearm**

Municipality	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Subtotal (2013-2017)	Average Annual Estimated Population (2013-2017)	Average Annual Rate (per 10,000 persons)
Bridgeport	148	142	112	159	147	708	146,994	9.63
Hartford	183	191	202	189	190	955	124,074	15.39
New Haven	152	141	145	173	140	751	130,442	11.51
Stamford	6	10	12	21	13	62	128,709	0.96
Waterbury	23	22	42	61	63	211	108,937	3.87
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>2,687</b>	<b>639,157</b>	<b>8.41</b>

## **Information on *Crime in Connecticut* and the Uniform Crime Reporting Program**

The *Crime in Connecticut* report is the statutorily-required annual publication from the state’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program ([CGS § 29-1c](#)), which aids in the administration and evaluation of law enforcement by collecting and providing reliable crime data. Created in the late 1970s, Connecticut’s UCR Program functions as the state’s repository for crime statistics and is based on the [national UCR Program](#) administered by the FBI.

A key feature of the UCR Program is that it establishes a set of standardized definitions for the criminal offenses it tracks. Its definitions are generic by design so that they can capture as many local, state, and federal variations of the same type of crime as possible. Law enforcement agencies are asked to submit their data according to this terminology rather than how the law in their jurisdiction may define a crime.

As of 2017, all 107 law enforcement agencies in Connecticut, including municipal, state, tribal, and university police departments, participate in the state’s UCR Program. These agencies submit their crime data to DESPP on a monthly basis and there are procedures in statute to address situations when an agency fails to submit its report or if it sends a report with missing, incomplete, or

incorrect information ([CGS § 29-1c\(c\)](#)). DESPP reviews submissions, ensures quality control, and forwards the data to the FBI for inclusion in the national UCR Program.

For UCR “Part I” crimes, which include murder, negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, and human trafficking, agencies are generally expected to report on the number of each crime brought to their attention as well as certain corresponding details. This includes the characteristics of a homicide (e.g., the weapon used or the age, sex, race, and relationship of the victim and offender) and information on anyone arrested (e.g., age, sex, race, and ethnicity). If multiple Part I crimes occur during an incident, such as a murder during a robbery, agencies are asked to apply the “Hierarchy Rule” that requires counting only the most serious crime, which in that example would be murder.

(The UCR Program also collects arrest data on “Part II” crimes, which encompass all other crimes, such as fraud, vandalism, and drunkenness, excluding minor traffic violations.)

Although the national and state UCR Programs measure crime, the FBI discourages ranking or judging participating agencies’ effectiveness solely on the programs’ data. Both the FBI and DESPP note that every community has unique and complex social and economic factors that impact the occurrence of crime that must be accounted for as well when evaluating a jurisdiction.

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