

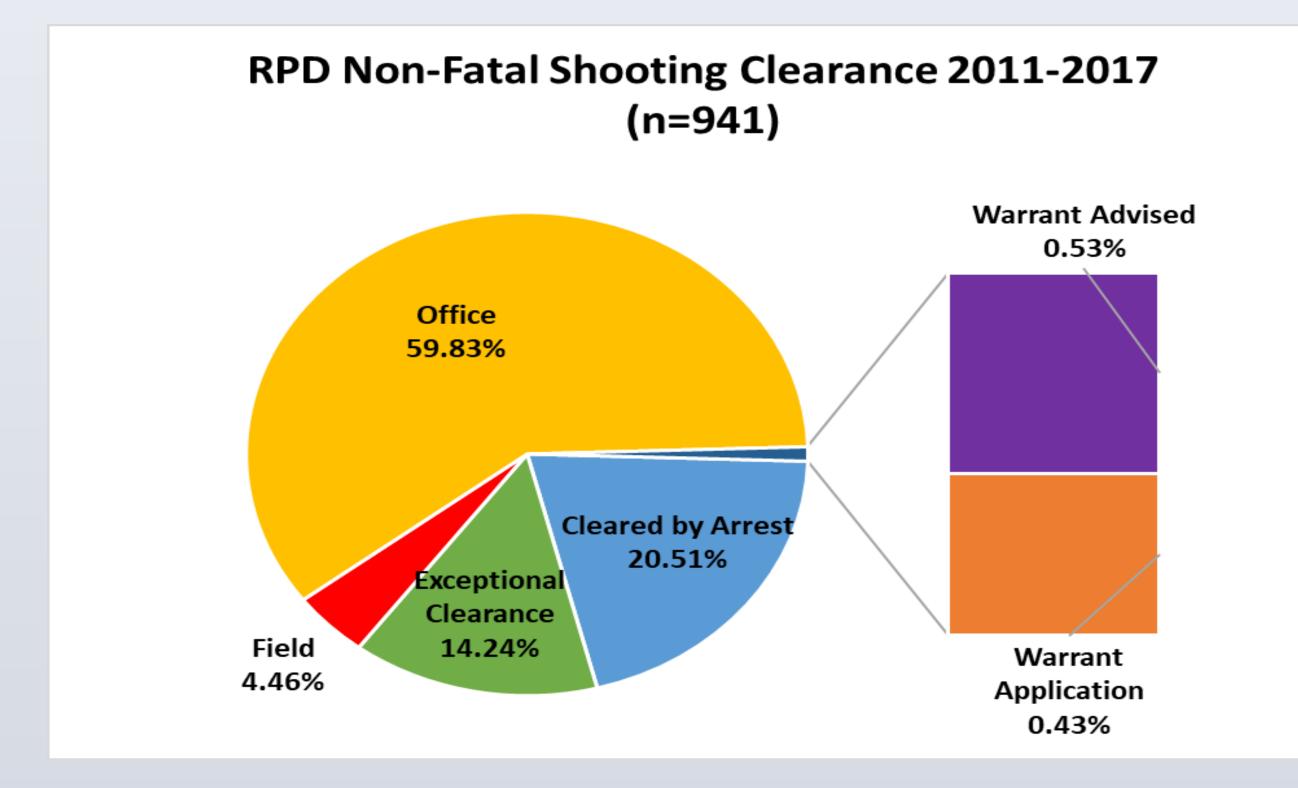
Case Clearance Project in Rochester, NY: Data from the RPD Open Portal Liam Fanning, Chris Sweadner, John Klofas Ph.D., Irshad Altheimer, Ph.D

Center for Public Safety Initiatives

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What is Case Clearance?

- Case Clearance to the closing of a criminal investigation
- Types of Case Clearance
 - Arrest
 - Field (Open)
 - Exceptional Clearance
 - Administrative Clearance (Officed)



Here we will be looking at what factors influence how a case is cleared in reference to non-fatal shootings in Rochester between the years 2011 and 2017

- About 20% of cases are cleared by arrest
- The national average for cities like Rochester is about 26%

For Shooting Homicides Data

- About 50% cleared by arrest
- The national average for cities like Rochester is about 45%

Past Research

Investigations into both fatal and non-fatal shootings rely on several key factors which can help to identify persons involved (e.g. a suspect), collect evidence, and ultimately solve a case. Traditionally, these key factors include:

- **Depositions** statements from witnesses or other individuals who have information pertinent to the investigation
- Witness/Victim Cooperation willingness of a witness or victim to provide information relevant to the case. Intimidation poses as an obstacle to this.
- **Physical evidence** physical items or material pertinent to the investigation (i.e. a bullet or DNA)

While past research has focused on such factors for homicide data, this project has been dedicated to a fairly new area of research focusing on non-fatal shootings.

Case Files



For this project, case files from fatal and non-fatal shooting cases in Rochester, between the years 2015 and 2017, were analyzed on a variety of variables related to the solvability factors of a case.

Factors that influence case clearance:

- Number of Investigators Related to the amount of effort and resources attributed towards a case
- Depositions Obtained by Patrol Officers Information given to police from relevant parties. Used for a variety of means
- Traceable Evidence Serial numbers, bar codes, ID, room keys, etc.
- Witness Intimidation Person feels threatened, coerced, or otherwise pressured not to talk to police. Intersects with witness cooperation
 - Also applicable for Suspects and Persons with Knowledge
- Narrative Subjective, qualitative aspect of case files filled out by officers and investigators
 - Variation between how different officers fill this out
 - Detail of information
 - Information added or left out

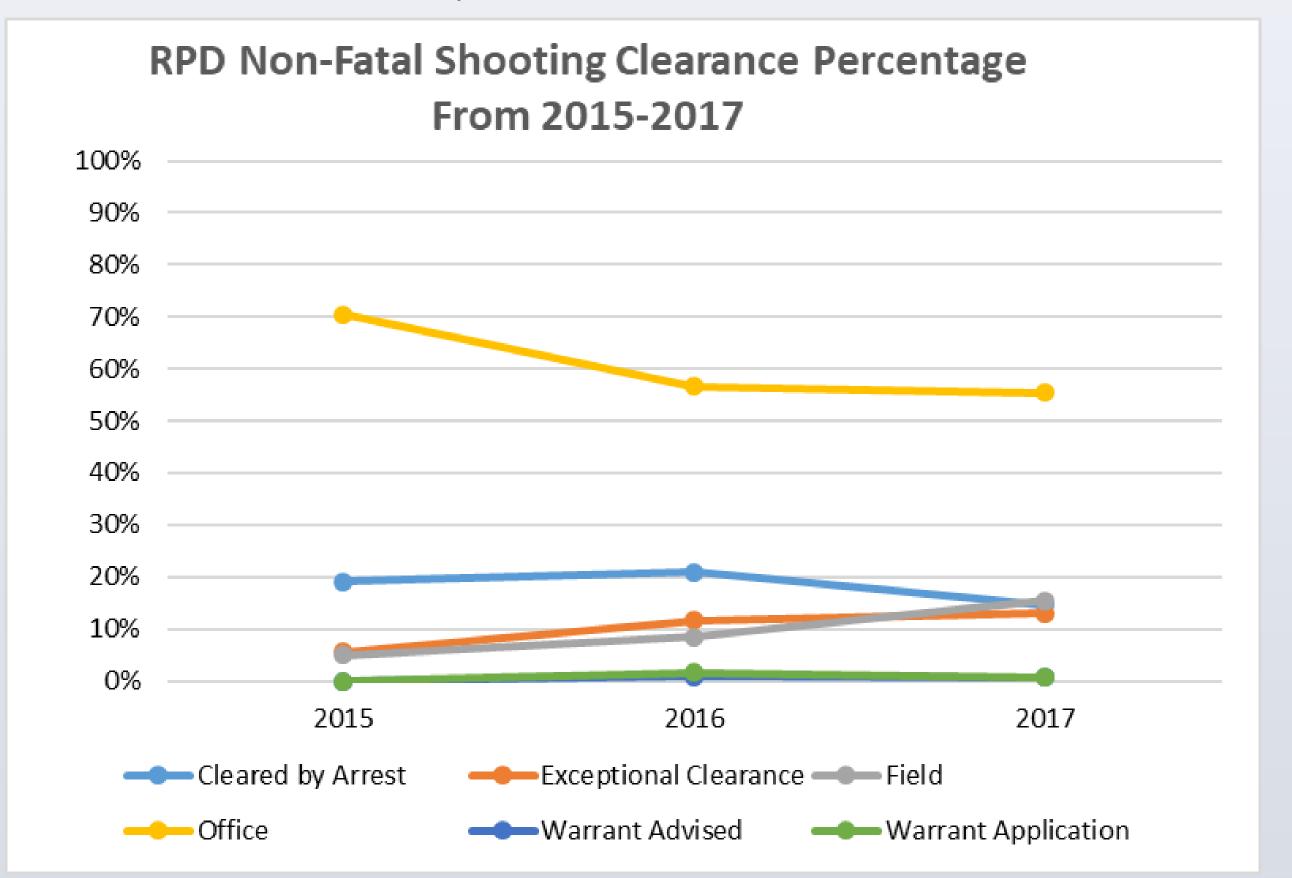
CPSI Contact Information

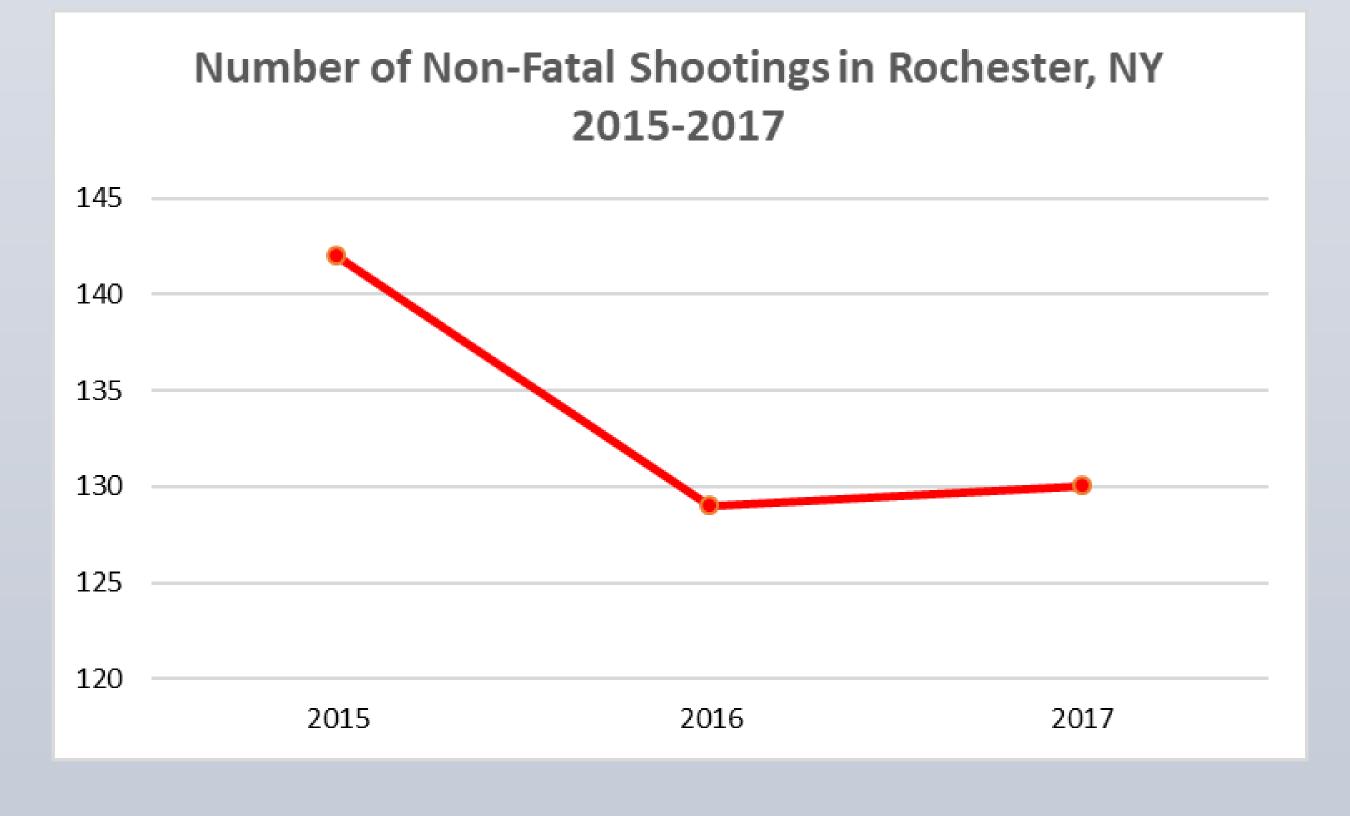
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RPD Open Data Portal

The RPD Open Portal started back in 2014 as a means of sharing data related to criminal justice topics.

• Includes data directly related to case clearance





RPD Open Data Portal:

http://data-rpdny.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/crime-analysis-resources

References

National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. (2014) National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2014: Extract Files. ICPSR36421-v1. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2016-04-01. https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36421.v1

RPD (2014). *Open Data Portal*. Retrieved March 26, 2018, from http://data-rpdny.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/crime-analysis-resources