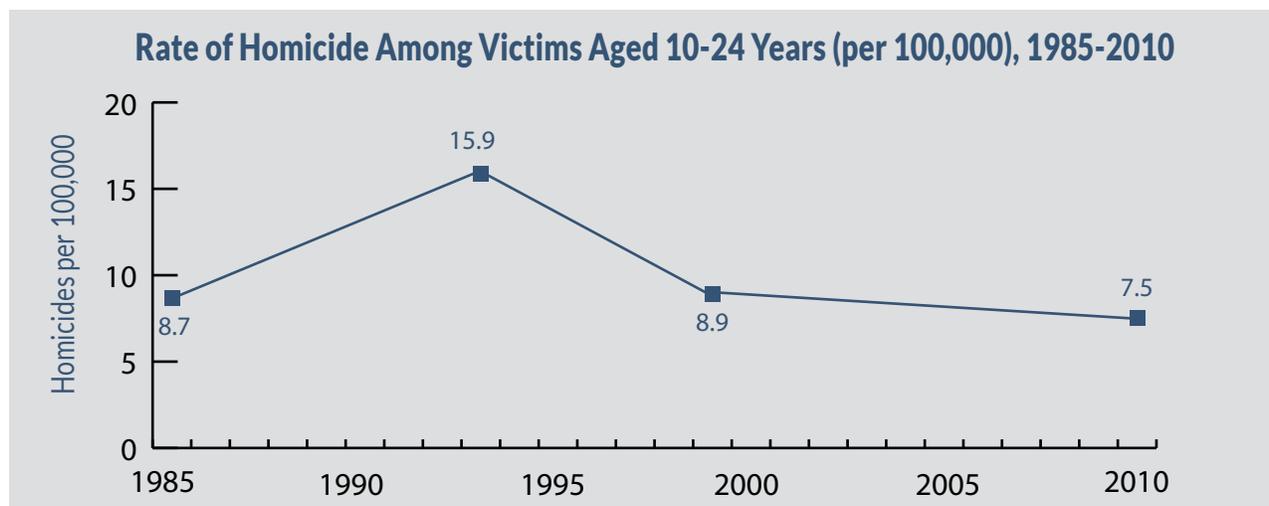




## Homicide Rates of Victims Aged 10-24 Continue to Fall, But at Slower Pace; Prevention and Focused Deterrence Needed

Homicide rates among victims aged 10 to 24 years old have fluctuated over the past three decades, according to a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The overall rate for this age group rose precipitously between 1985 and 1993 and has been falling since then, with a slower descent since 1999.<sup>1</sup> Between 1985 and 1993, the rate rose 83%, from 8.7 to 15.9 homicides per 100,000 population. By 1999, the rate had dropped to 8.9 per 100,000. Continuing its decline at a slower pace, the rate reached its lowest point in 30 years in 2010, at 7.5 per 100,000. Despite these decreases, some groups – males, those aged 20-24, and African Americans – remain at disproportionately high risk. In 2010, homicide rates for these groups were 12.7, 13.2, and 28.8 per 100,000, respectively. Researchers note that these findings demonstrate progress toward reducing homicides among young people, but indicate that slowing progress reveals the need for primary prevention strategies, which include school-based programs that build non-violent communication and problem-solving skills, and family approaches that help caregivers provide age-appropriate rules and effectively monitor adolescents' activities and relationships.



**Source:**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2013). Homicide Rates Among Persons Aged 10-24 Years – United States, 1981-2010. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, 2013;62:545-48.

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Authors reference previous research linking the fluctuations in homicide and violent crime rates during this period to various factors, including changes in drug use and drug-related crime, community-based and problem-oriented policing, and varying economic conditions. They note the importance of evidence-based primary prevention strategies and the promise of well-implemented focused deterrence strategies to address violence and homicide, which often include collaboration between law enforcement and social service providers.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at [www.centerforhealthandjustice.org](http://www.centerforhealthandjustice.org).

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