

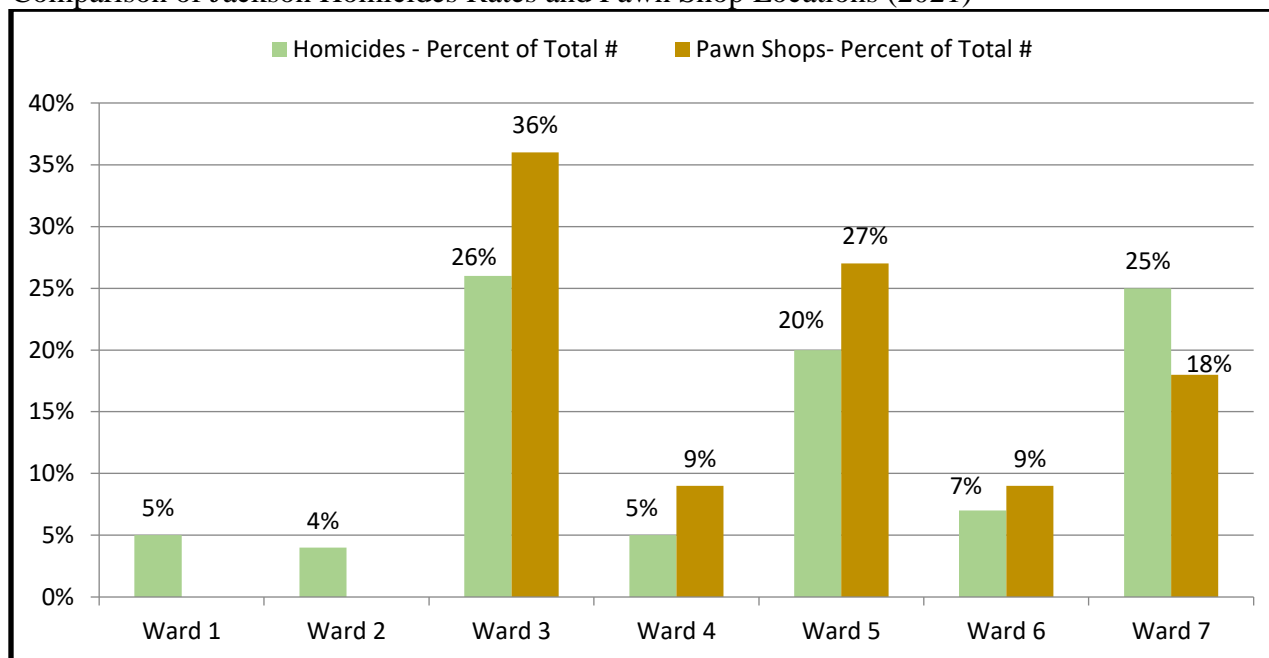
MURC Data Snapshot

Is There a Connection Between Pawnshops and Homicides in the City of Jackson?

James Kelley, MS, MURC Research Associate / Spring 2024

In 2020, violent crimes in Jackson, Mississippi increased including the frequency of homicides involving guns (FBI, 2023). There has often been speculation regarding whether Pawn shops (defined as businesses that temporarily loan money on things of value) contribute to violent or property crimes. The data below explores the issue by comparing (by each city ward) the percentage of total Jackson homicides (LeMasters, 2021), and the percentage of Jackson pawn shops (Google, 2023).

Comparison of Jackson Homicides Rates and Pawn Shop Locations (2021)*



* NOTE: A preliminary search of Pawn Shops operating in Wards 1 & 2 did not produce any findings.

In examining the above chart, at first glance there appears to be a close relationship between the percentage of homicides and the percentage of pawn shops in Jackson by city wards. However, any such relationship is only speculation without additional research accurately exploring any possible linkage. There are likely many more factors significantly contributing to the actual number of homicides in Jackson beyond the total number and location of pawn shops.

References:

FBI, Crime Data Explorer. <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/home>. Accessed December 6, 2023.

Google Search, Criteria: "Pawn shops in Jackson, MS". www.google.com. Retrieved December 18, 2023, <https://www.google.com>.

LeMaster, C. J. (2021). Analysis: Over half of Jackson's killings this year happened in two of the city's wards. <https://www.wlbt.com>. Retrieved April 28, 2022.