

# **New Bedford has seen a 91% increase in “Shots Fired” incidents within the past 5 years**

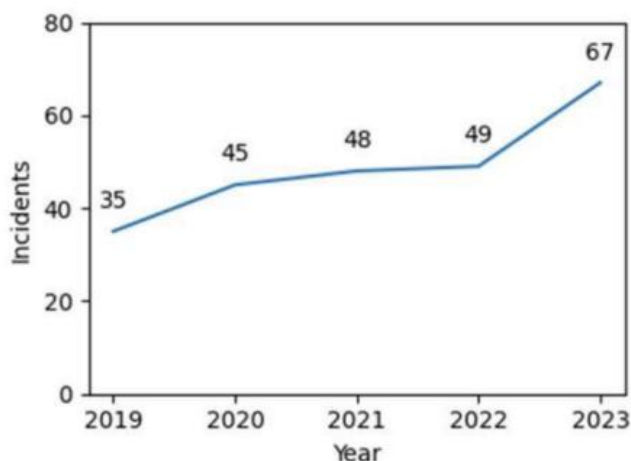
New Bedford has seen a 91% increase in reported “Shots fired” in the city within the past 5 years, according to the 2023 Annual Crime Report by the New Bedford Police Department.

With 35 incidents of shots fired reported in 2019 we have since seen a steady increase year over year until a sharp jump in 2023.

### 13. Shots Fired

There were 67 confirmed shots fired in New Bedford in 2023, an increase of 32 incidents, (91%), from 2019 when there were 35 confirmed incidents. Of these 67 shots fired incidents, 3 were fatal, 21 resulted in the injury of a total of 24 victims, and 42 resulted in property damage. In 16 cases there was no property damage, injuries or fatalities, with other evidence such as shell casings or CCTV footage confirming the incident.

**Figure 13.1 Confirmed Shots-Fired Incidents, New Bedford, MA, 2019-2023**



**Table 13.1 Shots Fired Incidents, New Bedford, MA, 2023**

Shots-Fired Category	Count
Fatal	3
Non-Fatal	21 (24 victims)
Property Damage	42
Other	16
Total Confirmed Shots Fired <sup>10</sup>	67

Shots fired incidents were highest in May, September and October in 2023, with 10 incidents in each month. February had the fewest incidents with one. November and December each had two.

*New Bedford Police Department photo.*

With 67 incidents in 2023, New Bedford averaged more than 1 incident of “shots Fired” per week. Of these 67 shots fired incidents, 3 were fatal, 21 resulted in the injury of a total of 24 victims, and 42 resulted in property damage.

In 16 cases there was no property damage, injuries or fatalities, but other evidence such as shell casings or CCTV footage confirmed the incident.

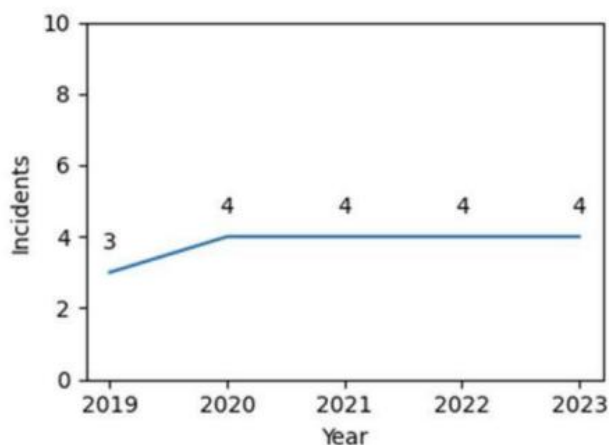
There has also been a slight increase in murders within the city of New Bedford in the past 5 years with 3 homicides in 2019 and 4 in each of the following years. Of the 4 homicides

in 2023, a firearm was used in 3 incidents, while a knife was used in 1 incident.

#### 4. Homicide

In 2023, there were four reported homicides in the city of New Bedford, each with a single victim. This was an increase of one from 2019, when there were 3 homicides, as represented in Figure 4.1. All four cases were solved.

**Figure 4.1: Homicide (NIBRS 09A) Incidents, New Bedford, MA, 2019-2023.**



Firearms were the most common weapon used in homicides in 2023 and were used in three of the four incidents.

**Table 4.1 Weapon used in homicides, 2023, New Bedford.**

Weapon Used	Count
Firearm	3
Knife	1

*New Bedford Police Department photo.*

It is important to mention that, although there has been an increase in shootings within the past 5 years, the annual crime report does show a sharp decline in crime in almost every category when comparing the statistics recorded in 2014 to the statistics reported in 2023.

<b>Crime</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Violent<sup>2</sup>:</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>-58%</b>
Murder (09A)	6	4	-33%
Rape (11A-D)	131	87	-34%
Robbery (120)	261	103	-61%
Aggravated Assault (13A)	839	320	-62%
<b>Property<sup>2</sup>:</b>	<b>3,452</b>	<b>1,583</b>	<b>-54%</b>
Arson (200)	19	6	-68%
Burglary (220)	899	260	-71%
Larceny (23A-H)	2392	1034	-57%
Motor Vehicle Theft (240)	259	347	+34%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4,573</b>	<b>2,056</b>	<b>-55%</b>

*New Bedford Police Department photo.*