

18 are slain in Detroit over five - day period - Gunfire blamed in 17 deaths, eight of which were drug-related

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There were **18** homicides **in Detroit in five days** of the last week eight of them drug-related, police said.

During the **period** from Jan. 23 to Wednesday, 16 men and two women were killed. Seventeen of them died from gunfire and one man was beaten to death.

"None of the shootings were random," said Inspector Marilyn Hall-Beard, head of the Homicide Section. "It is too early into the investigations to say whether the eight narcotic-related homicides **are** connected."

There was one triple homicide, and three double homicides **in the five - day period**.

Of the **18** slayings, only two cases have been solved, so far, Hall-Beard said.

Detroit has recorded 35 homicides so far this month. There were 26 killings **in the city in** January 2003, when the murder rate dropped to 361 the lowest since 1967, when there were 281 slayings.

"Our investigations into the recent homicides have revealed various motives," Hall-Beard said. "The motives range from domestic arguments, fights and drug transactions."

The last recorded drug-related homicide happened Wednesday, when two men were found shot to death inside a reported crack house **in** the 14000 block of San Juan, Hall-Beard said.

Among those killed during the **five days** were three men were found shot to death last Friday **in** the 9200 block of Haverhill a man killed on Saturday **in** the 18000 block of East Warren when he allegedly tried to rob an off-duty police officer and two men shot to death Wednesday inside a car at Puritan and Inverness. Drugs were found inside the car, police said.

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