VIOLENT DAY LEAVES 2 DEAD , 5 INJURED - 3 DETROIT SHOOTINGS INVOLVE MALES 21 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Saturday, January 21, 2006 Author: MARISOL BELLO FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER. Staff writer Ben Schmitt contributed to this report.

The fatal shootings of two young men early Friday morning brought the number of people killed in Detroit this month to 23 - an average of slightly more than one a **day**.

Friday's fatalities capped a **violent** morning in the city, with three separate shootings that left five other people injured. All seven victims were men ages 21 or younger, police said. In the first incident, two men were shot to death about 1 a.m. in the 12000 block of Nashville on the city's east side as they sat in a white Ford Explorer, police said. An assailant walked up to the car and shot into it multiple times. The victims, ages 17 and 21, were pronounced **dead** at the scene.

A person in the backseat was not injured. Police were tracking leads.

In the second shooting, three young men from Harrison Township drove a black Cadillac Escalade to the city's east side about 3:45 a.m., looking to buy marijuana. Near Harper and Outer Drive, the trio picked up two men they didn't know. They drove several blocks and the two men robbed them and shot two of them in the legs. The Macomb County men made it to a nearby gas station, where the two who were injured, both 21, were taken to St. John Hospital. Both were listed in serious condition Friday afternoon, police said.

"Obviously we've got people from our community going down there to buy drugs. ... It's sad to see," said Macomb County Sheriff Mark Hackel. "I hope it sends a message out to other kids not to do this. The characters and people involved in the drug business are not the most reputable on Earth."

The third shooting occurred at 10:30 a.m. Friday in the 3000 block of Scovel, near Grand River and Jeffries on the west side. Three teenagers were shot in the back of a house, apparently with a shotgun, police said. Investigators said they are looking for a red car.

Two 17-year-olds were shot in the leg and a 19-year-old was shot in the chest. The three were listed in serious condition Friday at Henry Ford Hospital, police said.

Police are not releasing the names of any of the shooting victims.

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