In 2009, New York on Track for Fewest Homicides on Record

Andrew W. Lehren contributed reporting.

"And the answer is, 'Yes,'" he said, "if the federal government would shut off the flow of illegal guns from other states to New York." Can murders drop again? That is always the question, said

Killers and their victims were overwhelmingly men, and were between 18 and 40 years old.

The borough breakdown of the 461 homicides that were counted through Sunday showed 200 in Brooklyn, 108 in the Bronx, 79 in

Heights and Boerum Hill; and in Manhattan, the Fifth,

Brooklyn, the 68th in Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights and Fort Hamilton, the 78th in Park Slope and the 84th, which includes Brooklyn

includes Co-op City, and the 50th, which covers Riverdale, Kingsbridge and other neighborhoods in the northwest Bronx; in

The Central Park Precinct is the only one that has logged no homicides so far this year. The dozen that have had

led to the seizure of 7,000 weapons this year, including 800 guns. He also cited the department's program of questioning and frisking some people on the streets as a "lifesaving" strategy that had

Curbing gun use is linked to lowering the homicide rate, officials said, and Mr. Kelly lauded the mayor's effort to stop illegal guns


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this year from injuries sustained in the past.

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homicides caused by negligence or those deemed justifiable by prosecutors are not counted. In 2008, at least five deaths fit those

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