

Homicide in California, 2001

H O M I C I D E
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CRIMES
Part 1

[Preface](#) [Crimes \(Part 2\)](#) [Arrests](#)

[Death Penalty Sentences](#)

[Peace Officers Killed](#)

[Justifiable Homicides](#)

[Data Tables](#)

[Appendices](#)

[CJSC Home Page](#)

[CJSC Publications](#)

[AG Home Page](#)

HOMICIDE CRIMES

Homicide is defined by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program as the "willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another." The homicide category comprises murder and nonnegligent manslaughter. Attempted murder, justifiable homicide, manslaughter by negligence, and suicide are excluded. Data depicting homicide in California have been collected and published for 50 years.

From 2000 to 2001:

- The homicide rate per 100,000 population increased 5.0 percent (6.0 to 6.3).
- The number of homicides increased 6.1 percent (from 2,074 to 2,201).

Comparing 1992 to 2001:

- The homicide rate per 100,000 population decreased 49.6 percent (12.5 to 6.3).
- The number of homicides decreased 43.9 percent (from 3,920 to 2,201).

Comparing 1952 to 2001:

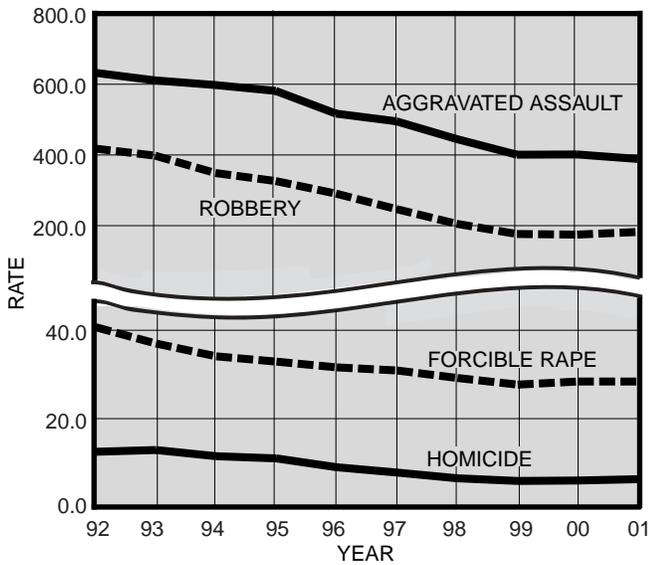
- The homicide rate per 100,000 population increased 162.5 percent (2.4 to 6.3).
- The number of homicides increased 688.9 percent (from 279 to 2,201).

□ Homicides increased in number and rate for a second consecutive year.

Table N-1
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1952-2001
Number and Rate per 100,000 Population

Year(s)	Number	Rate
2001	2,201	6.3
2000	2,074	6.0
1999	2,006	5.9
1998	2,170	6.5
1997	2,579	7.8
1996	2,910	9.0
1995	3,530	11.0
1994	3,699	11.5
1993	4,095	12.9
1992	3,920	12.5
1991	3,876	12.6
1990	3,562	12.1
1989	3,159	11.0
1988	2,947	10.5
1987	2,929	10.7
1986	3,030	11.3
1985	2,781	10.7
1984	2,724	10.6
1983	2,640	10.5
1982	2,778	11.3
1981	3,140	13.1
1980	3,405	14.4
1979	2,941	12.6
1978	2,601	11.4
1977	2,481	11.1
1976	2,214	10.1
1975	2,196	10.2
1974	1,970	9.3
1973	1,862	8.9
1972	1,789	8.7
1971	1,633	8.0
1970	1,355	6.8
1969	1,376	6.9
1968	1,171	6.0
1967	1,051	5.4
1966	897	4.7
1965	892	4.8
1964	758	4.2
1963	656	3.7
1962	671	3.9
1961	609	3.7
1960	620	3.9
1959	515	3.4
1958	547	3.7
1957	497	3.5
1956	474	3.5
1955	417	3.2
1954	419	3.3
1953	276	2.3
1952	279	2.4

Chart 1
 VIOLENT CRIMES, 1992-2001
 Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 1.

There are four offenses classified as violent crimes by the FBI: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. For comparison, changes in the rates of the four offenses follow:

From 2000 to 2001:

- Homicide increased 5.0 percent (6.0 to 6.3).
- Forcible rape experienced no change in rate (28.4).
- Robbery increased 4.2 percent (174.7 to 182.1).
- Aggravated assault decreased 3.1 percent (401.4 to 388.8).

Comparing 1992 to 2001:

- Homicide decreased 49.6 percent (12.5 to 6.3).
- Forcible rape decreased 30.2 percent (40.7 to 28.4).
- Robbery decreased 56.4 percent (418.1 to 182.1).
- Aggravated assault decreased 38.5 percent (632.5 to 388.8).

☐ **Of the four offenses classified as violent crimes by the FBI, homicide maintained the lowest rate per 100,000 population for the years shown, accounting for approximately 1 percent of violent crimes each year.**

Charts 2, 3, and 4 display homicide rates per 100,000 population for victims classified by gender, race/ethnic group, and age.

In 2001,

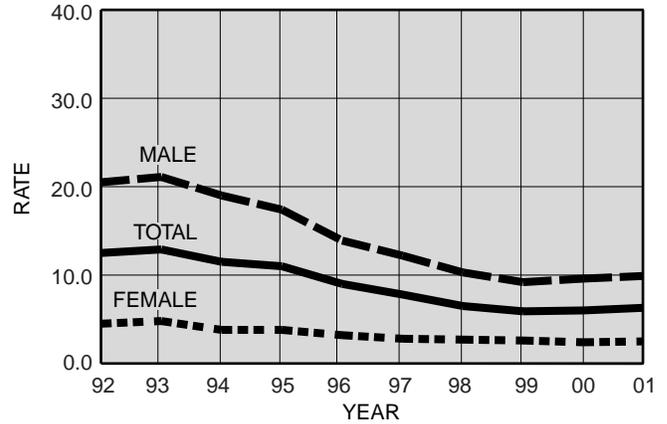
- The total homicide rate was 6.3 per 100,000 population.
- The male homicide rate was approximately four times that of the female homicide rate (9.9 vs. 2.5).
- The black homicide rate was over 102 times that of whites and almost 3 times that of Hispanics (26.4 vs. 2.5 and 8.9, respectively).

Comparing 1992 to 2001:

- The male homicide rate decreased 51.7 percent. The female homicide rate decreased 44.4 percent.
- The white homicide rate decreased 52.8 percent, the Hispanic homicide rate decreased 54.8 percent, and the black homicide rate decreased 46.1 percent.

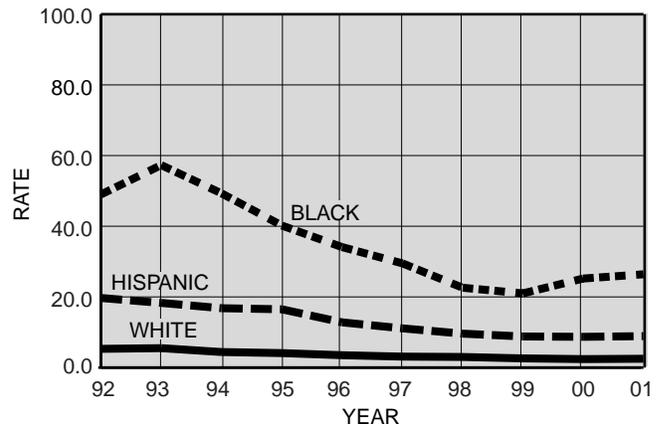
□ From 2000 to 2001, homicide rates increased for all gender and race/ethnic groups shown.

Chart 2
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1992-2001
By Gender of Victim
Rate per 100,000 Population



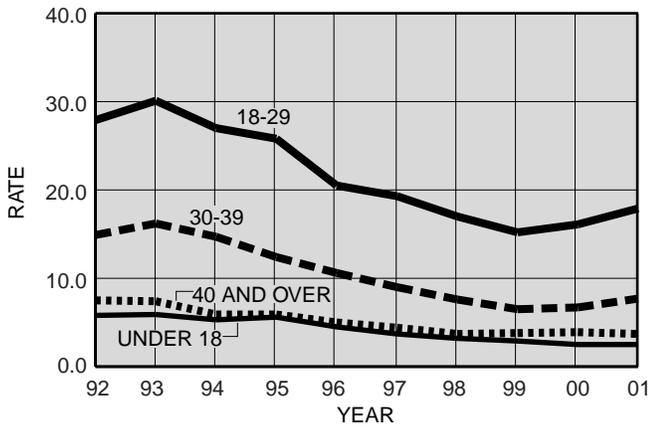
Source: Table 2.

Chart 3
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1992-2001
By Race/Ethnic Group of Victim
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 3.

Chart 4
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1992-2001
 By Age of Victim
 Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 4.

In 2001,

- Persons aged 18-29 had the highest homicide victimization rate (17.9 per 100,000 population).

Comparing 1992 to 2001:

- The homicide rate decreased 56.9 percent for victims under age 18, 35.8 percent for victims aged 18-29, 48.3 percent for victims aged 30-39, and 50.7 percent for victims aged 40 and over.

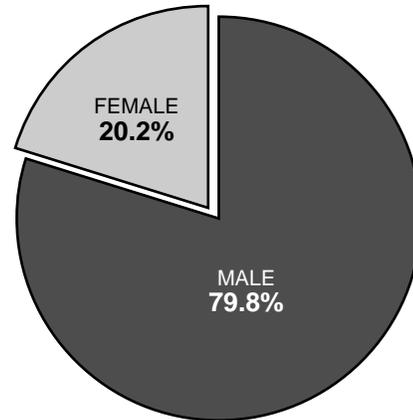
- From 2000 to 2001, homicide rates increased for the 18-29 and 30-39 age categories (11.2 and 14.9 percent, respectively). The homicide rate for victims under age 18 experienced no change. The homicide rate for victims aged 40 and over decreased 5.1 percent.

In 2001,

- Males represented 79.8 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 50.2 percent of the population.
- Females represented 20.2 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 49.8 percent of the population.

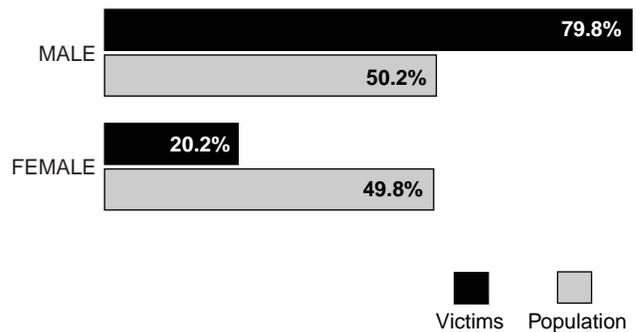
□ **As homicide victims, males are statistically over-represented when compared to females.**

Chart 5
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2001
By Gender of Victim



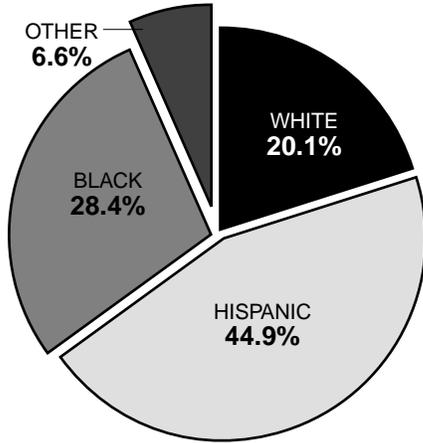
Source: Table 5.

Chart 6
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2001
Gender of Victim by Percent of Total Victims and Percent of Population



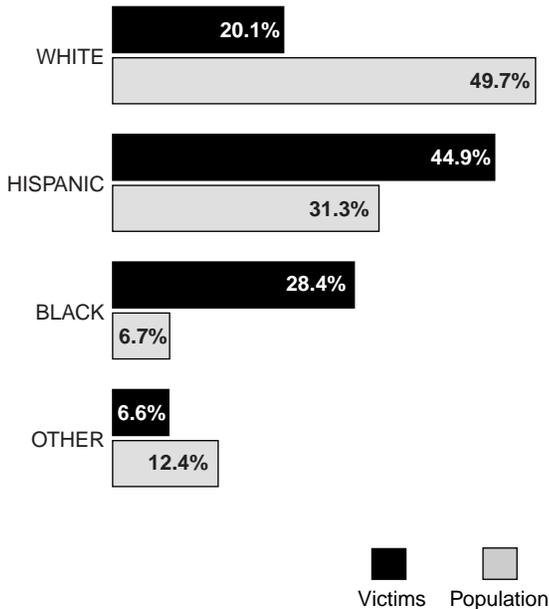
Sources: Tables 2 and 5.

Chart 7
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2001
 By Race/Ethnic Group of Victim



Source: Table 6.

Chart 8
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2001
 Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Percent of Total Victims and Percent of Population



Sources: Tables 3 and 6.
 Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

In 2001,

- Whites represented 20.1 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 49.7 percent of the population.
- Hispanics represented 44.9 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 31.3 percent of the population.
- Blacks represented 28.4 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 6.7 percent of the population.
- The “other” race/ethnic group category represented 6.6 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 12.4 percent of the population.

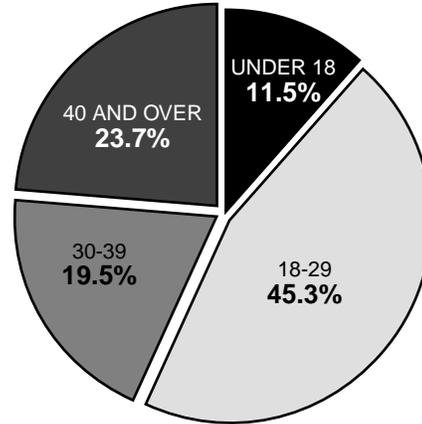
□ In 2001, blacks displayed the largest difference between their percentage of homicide victimization and their percentage of the population.

In 2001,

- 11.5 percent of total homicide victims were under age 18; this age group comprised 28.2 percent of the population.
- 45.3 percent of total homicide victims were aged 18-29; this age group comprised 15.8 percent of the population.
- 19.5 percent of total homicide victims were aged 30-39; this age group comprised 15.7 percent of the population.
- 23.7 percent of total homicide victims were aged 40 and over; this age group comprised 40.3 percent of the population.

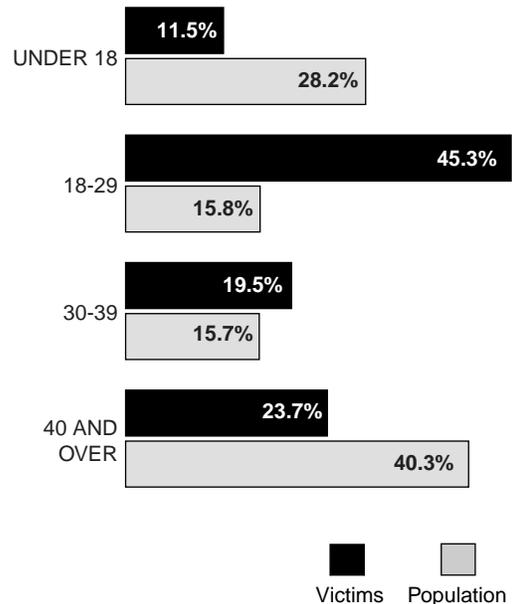
□ In 2001, persons aged 18-29 displayed the largest difference between their percentage of homicide victimization and their percentage of the population.

Chart 9
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2001
By Age of Victim



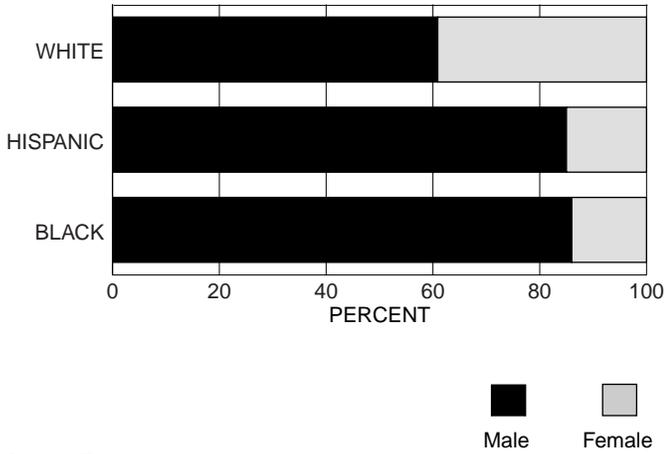
Source: Table 7.

Chart 10
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2001
Age of Victim by Percent of Total Victims and Percent of Population



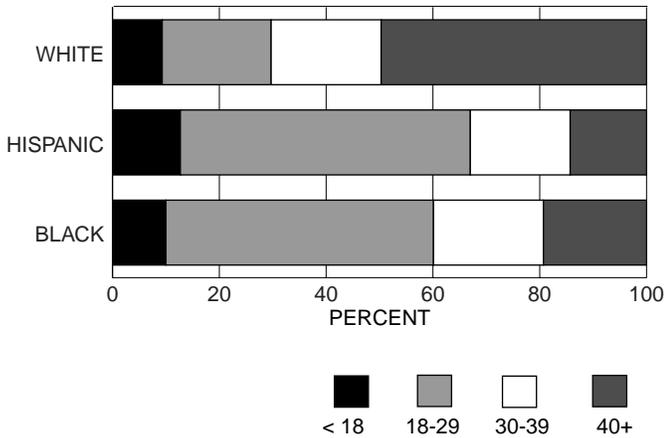
Sources: Tables 4 and 7.

Chart 11
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2001
 Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Gender of Victim



Source: Table 8.

Chart 12
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2001
 Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Age of Victim



Source: Table 9.

In 2001,

- A greater percentage of white victims were female than were either Hispanic or black victims (39.1 vs. 15.0 and 14.0 percent, respectively).
- A greater percentage of Hispanic and black victims were aged 18-29 than were white victims (54.3 and 50.1 vs. 20.4 percent, respectively).
- A greater percentage of white victims were aged 40 and over than were either Hispanic or black victims (49.7 vs. 14.3 and 19.3 percent, respectively).

□ In 2001, the percentage of white homicide victims who were female was over 22 times the percentage of Hispanic or black victims who were female. Additionally, white victims tended to be older, Hispanic and black victims younger.

When homicides were examined by the relationship of the victim to the offender, it was found that:

In 2001,

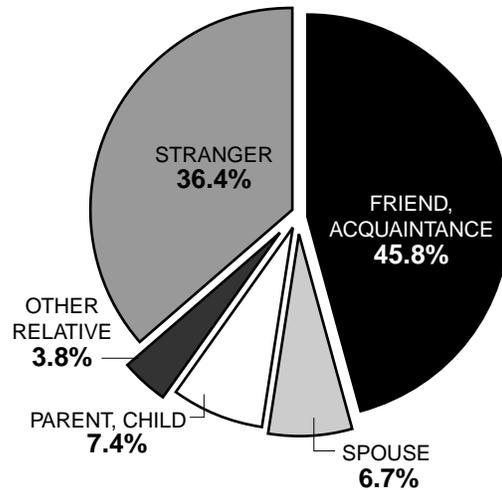
- 45.8 percent of victims were friends or acquaintances of offenders.
- 6.7 percent of victims were spouses of offenders.
- 7.4 percent of victims were parents or children of offenders.
- 3.8 percent of the relationships of victim to offender fell into the “other relative” category.
- 36.4 percent of victims were strangers to offenders.

Comparing 1992 to 2001:

- The proportion of homicides in which victims were friends or acquaintances of offenders decreased (from 57.6 percent in 1992 to 45.8 percent in 2001).
- The proportion of homicides in which victims were strangers to offenders increased (from 29.4 percent in 1992 to 36.4 percent in 2001).

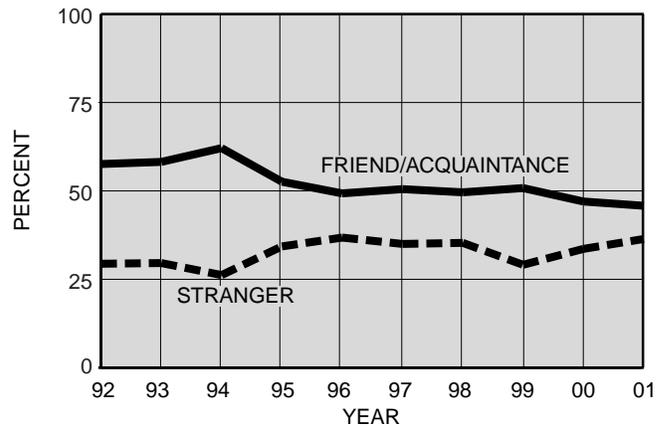
□ **The percentage of homicide victims killed by friends or acquaintances in 2001 is the lowest for the period shown.**

Chart 13
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2001
By Relationship of Victim to Offender



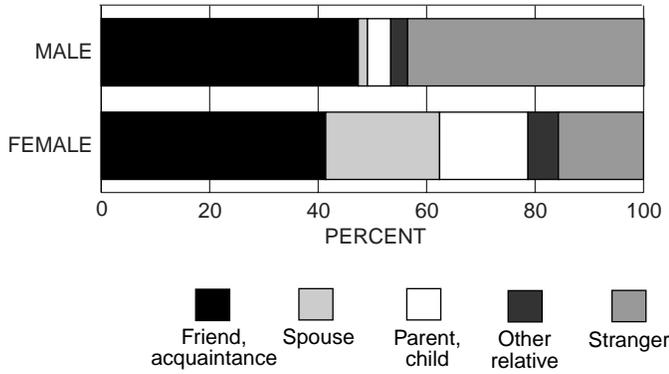
Source: Table 11.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Chart 14
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1992-2001
By Selected Relationships of Victims to Offenders



Source: Table 11.

Chart 15
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2001
 Gender of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender

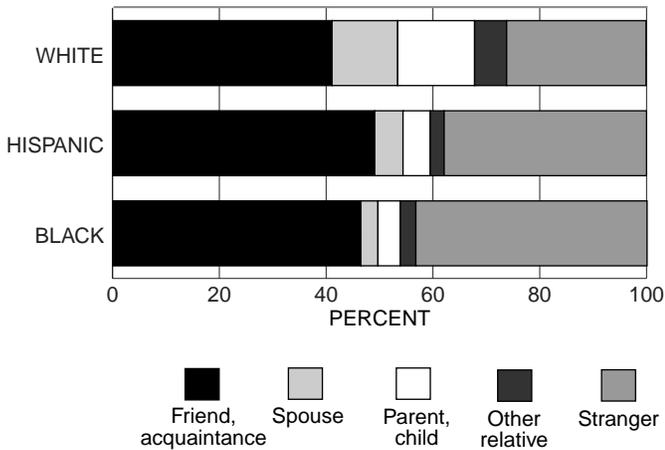


Source: Table 12.

In 2001,

- A greater percentage of female victims were spouses of offenders (21.0 percent) than were male victims (1.7 percent).
- A greater percentage of Hispanic victims were friends or acquaintances of offenders than were either white or black victims (49.1 vs. 41.1 and 46.5 percent, respectively).

Chart 16
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2001
 Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender



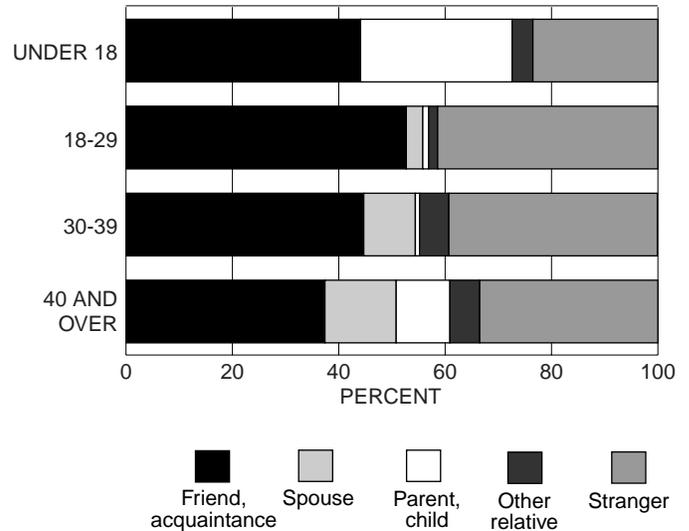
Source: Table 12.

□ In 2001, the percentage of females killed by their spouses was over 12 times larger than the percentage of males killed by their spouses.

In 2001,

- Victims under age 18 were least likely to be strangers to offenders (23.5 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.
- A greater percentage of victims aged 18-29 were friends or acquaintances of offenders (52.7 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.
- A greater percentage of victims aged 40 and over were spouses of offenders (13.4 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.

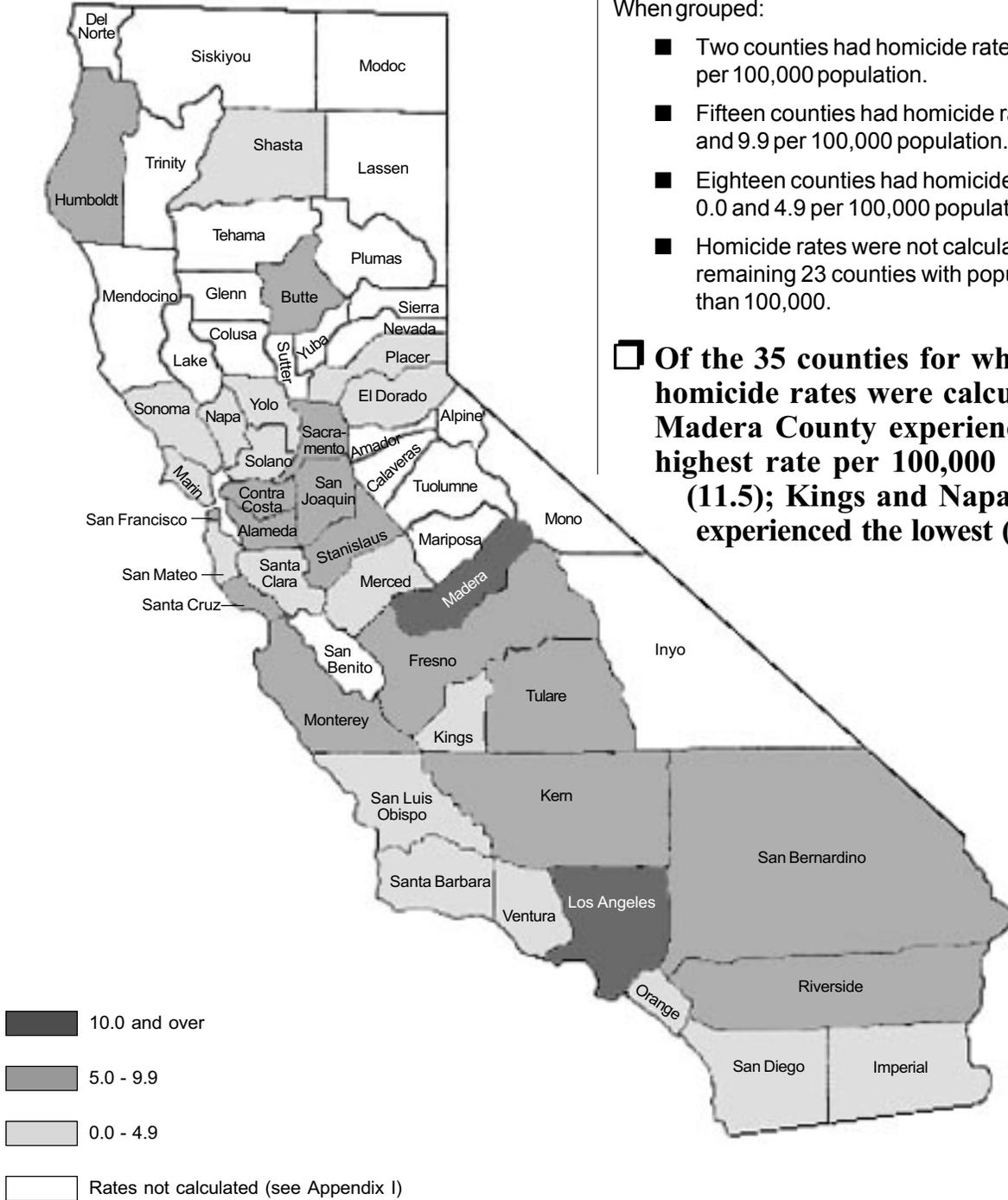
Chart 17
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2001
Age of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender



Source: Table 13.

□ **Regardless of age group, the largest proportion of homicide victims were killed by friends or acquaintances.**

Chart 18
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2001
 County by Rate per 100,000 Population



In 2001, 10 of California's 58 counties exceeded the statewide homicide rate of 6.3 per 100,000 population. When grouped:

- Two counties had homicide rates of 10.0 and over per 100,000 population.
- Fifteen counties had homicide rates between 5.0 and 9.9 per 100,000 population.
- Eighteen counties had homicide rates between 0.0 and 4.9 per 100,000 population.
- Homicide rates were not calculated for the remaining 23 counties with populations of less than 100,000.

□ **Of the 35 counties for which 2001 homicide rates were calculated, Madera County experienced the highest rate per 100,000 population (11.5); Kings and Napa counties experienced the lowest (0.8).**

Source: Table 14.