

Homicide in California, 2001

**H O M I C I D E**  
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**JUSTIFIABLE**  
**HOMICIDES**

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# justifiable homicides

## JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES

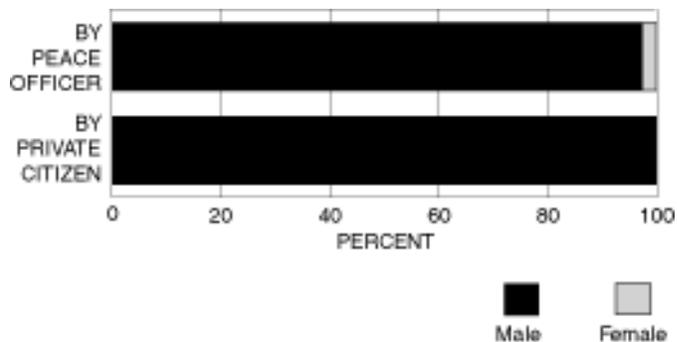
A justifiable homicide is defined by the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program as the killing of a felon by a private citizen or by a peace officer during the commission of a felony. Justifiable homicides are sometimes referred to as excusable or noncriminal homicides.

When justifiable homicides were examined, it was found that:

In 2001,

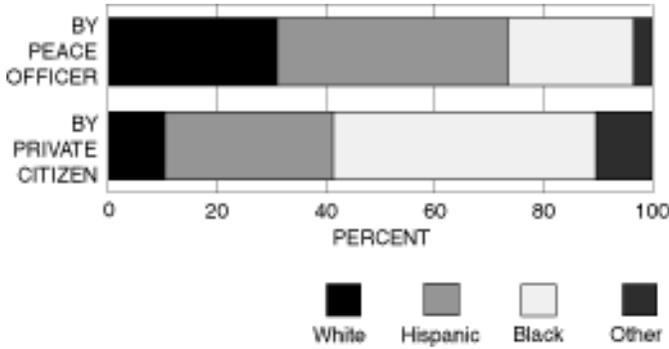
- 97.3 percent of felons (110) killed by peace officers were male; 2.7 percent were female (3).
- All felons (29) killed by private citizens were male.

Chart 45  
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS  
OR PRIVATE CITIZENS, 2001  
By Gender of Deceased



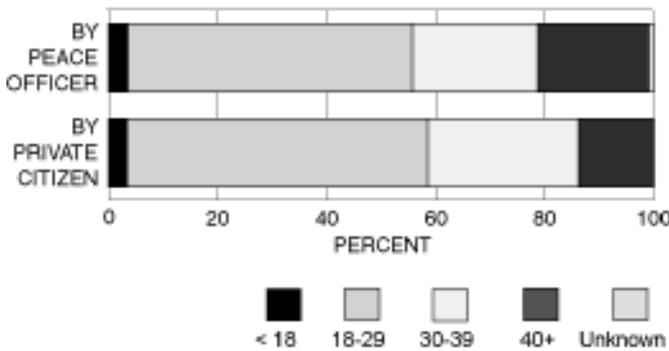
Source: Table 39.

Chart 46  
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS  
OR PRIVATE CITIZENS, 2001  
By Race/Ethnic Group of Deceased



Source: Table 39.

Chart 47  
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS  
OR PRIVATE CITIZENS, 2001  
By Age of Deceased



Source: Table 39.

In 2001,

- 31.0 percent (35) of felons killed by peace officers were white, 42.5 percent (48) were Hispanic, 23.0 percent (26) were black, and 3.5 percent (4) fell into the “other” race/ethnic group category.
- 10.3 percent (3) of felons killed by private citizens were white, 31.0 percent (9) were Hispanic, 48.3 percent (14) were black, and 10.3 percent (3) fell into the “other” race/ethnic group category.<sup>1</sup>
- 3.5 percent (4) of felons killed by peace officers were under age 18, 52.2 percent (59) were aged 18-29, 23.0 percent (26) were aged 30-39, 20.4 percent (23) were aged 40 and over, and 0.9 percent (1) fell into the “unknown” age category.
- 3.4 percent (1) of felons killed by private citizens were under age 18, 55.2 percent (16) were aged 18-29, 27.6 percent (8) were aged 30-39, and 13.8 percent (4) were aged 40 and over.

<sup>1</sup> Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

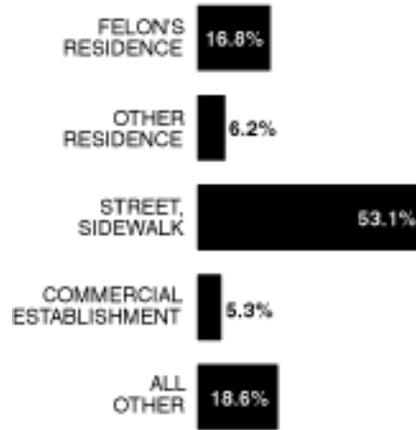
When justifiable homicides were examined by location, it was found that:

In 2001,

- Most felons killed by peace officers were killed on a street or sidewalk (53.1 percent).
- The largest percentage of felons killed by private citizens fell into the “commercial establishment” category (31.0 percent).

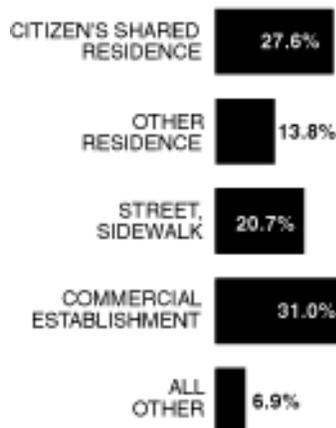
When justifiable homicides were examined by contributing

Chart 48  
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS, 2001  
By Location of Justifiable Homicide



Source: Table 40.

Chart 49  
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PRIVATE CITIZENS, 2001  
By Location of Justifiable Homicide



Source: Table 40.

Chart 50  
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS, 2001  
By Contributing Circumstance



Source: Table 41.

Chart 51  
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PRIVATE CITIZENS, 2001  
By Contributing Circumstance



Source: Table 41.

circumstance, it was found that:

In 2001,

- Most felons killed by peace officers were killed while attacking a peace officer (79.6 percent).
- Most felons killed by private citizens were killed during the commission of a crime (55.2 percent).

To Appendices 