

Homicide in California, 2002

ARRESTS

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ARRESTS * * * * *

HOMICIDE ARRESTS

Unlike crimes, which are classified by nationwide Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) standards, arrests are reported by California statute definition of the offense.¹ This may cause some differences in the definitions of certain crimes and the reporting of the arrests for those crimes. For instance, the California definition of a homicide arrest includes murder and *nonvehicular* manslaughter. The federal definition of a homicide crime includes murder and *nonnegligent* (nonaccidental) manslaughter.

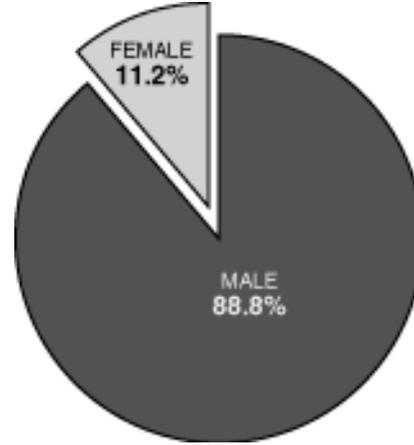
All California law enforcement agencies report arrest and citation information to the California Department of Justice on the "Monthly Arrest and Citation Register," which lists each arrestee; includes information about age, gender, and race/ethnic group; and specifies the "most serious" arrest offense and law enforcement disposition.

In 2002, of 1,864 arrests for homicide:

- 88.8 percent (1,655) of arrestees were male.
- 11.2 percent (209) were female.

* * * * *
**In 2002, nearly 9 out of 10
homicide arrestees were male
(88.8 percent).**

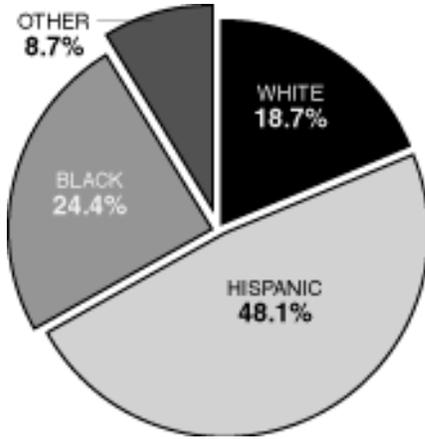
Chart 38
HOMICIDE ARRESTS, 2002
By Gender of Arrestee



Source: Table 30.

¹ The following penal codes for homicide arrest offenses were valid at the time of the closeout of the 2002 arrest offense code file: 128, 187(a), 189, 192(a), 192(b), 193(a), 193(b), 273ab, 399, and 12310(a).

Chart 39
HOMICIDE ARRESTS, 2002
By Race/Ethnic Group of Arrestee

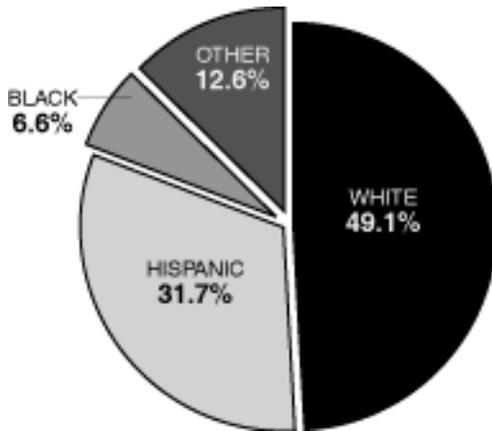


Source: Table 31.
Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

In 2002, of 1,864 arrests for homicide:

- 18.7 percent (349) of arrestees were white.
- 48.1 percent (897) were Hispanic.
- 24.4 percent (455) were black.
- 8.7 percent (163) fell into the "other" race/ethnic group category.

Chart 40
POPULATION IN CALIFORNIA, 2002
By Race/Ethnic Group



Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit.

The subjectivity of the classification and labeling process must be considered in the analysis of race/ethnic group data. As commonly used, race refers to large populations which share certain similar physical characteristics such as skin color. Because these physical characteristics can vary greatly within groups as well as between groups, determination of race is frequently, by necessity, subjective. Ethnicity refers to cultural heritage and can cross racial lines. For example, the ethnic designation "Hispanic" includes persons of any race. Most commonly, self-identification of race/ethnicity is used in the classification and labeling process.

* * * * *

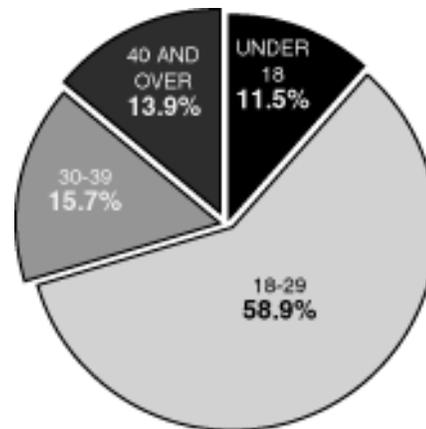
In 2002, the largest percentage of homicide arrestees were Hispanic (48.1 percent).

ARRESTS * * * * *

In 2002, of 1,864 arrests for homicide:

- 11.5 percent (215) of arrestees were under age 18.
- 58.9 percent (1,097) were aged 18-29.
- 15.7 percent (293) were aged 30-39.
- 13.9 percent (259) were aged 40 and over.

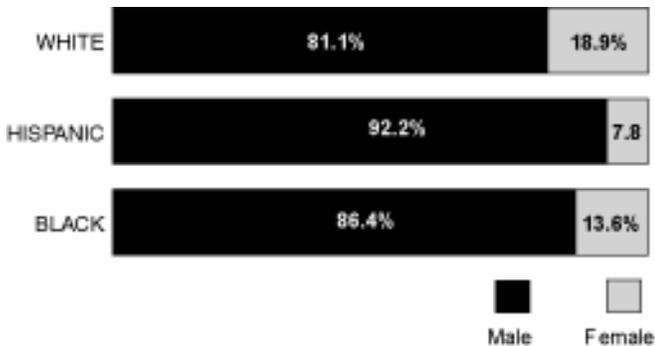
Chart41
HOMICIDE ARRESTS, 2002
By Age of Arrestee



Source: Table 32.

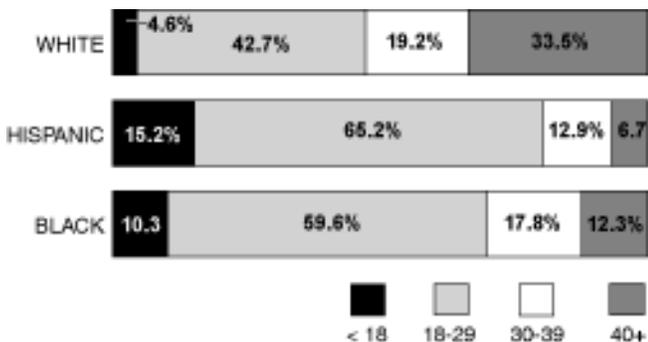
* * * * *
The majority of homicide arrestees were aged 18-29 (58.9 percent).

Chart 42
 HOMICIDE ARRESTS, 2002
 Race/Ethnic Group of Arrestee by Gender of Arrestee



Source: Table 33.

Chart 43
 HOMICIDE ARRESTS, 2002
 Race/Ethnic Group of Arrestee by Age of Arrestee



Source: Table 33.

In 2002,

- Homicide arrestees for all three race/ethnic groups shown were predominately male.

And,

- A greater percentage of white arrestees were aged 40 and over than were Hispanic or black arrestees (33.5 vs. 6.7 and 12.3 percent, respectively).
- Regardless of race/ethnic group, the largest percentage of homicide arrestees fell into the "18-29" age category.

More 
(To Death Penalties)