

Homicide Homicide Homicide Homicide
Homicide Homicide Homicide Homicide
Homicide Homicide Homicide Homicide
Homicide in California, 2002

Homicide Homicide Homicide Homicide
Homicide Homicide Homicide Homicide
Homicide Homicide Homicide Homicide
Homicide Homicide Homicide Homicide
CRIMES

Homicide Homicide Homicide Homicide
Homicide Homicide Homicide Homicide
Homicide Homicide Homicide Homicide
More 

Links to:

**[Preface](#) [Crimes](#) [Arrests](#) [Death Penalties](#)
[Peace Officers Killed](#) [Justifiable Homicides](#)
[Data Tables](#) [Appendix](#)**

[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 51 years.

From 2001 to 2002:

- The homicide rate per 100,000 population increased 7.9 percent (6.3 to 6.8).
- The number of homicides increased 8.7 percent (from 2,201 to 2,392).

Comparing 1993 to 2002:

- The homicide rate per 100,000 population decreased 47.3 percent (12.9 to 6.8).
- The number of homicides decreased 41.6 percent (from 4,095 to 2,392).

Comparing 1952 to 2002:

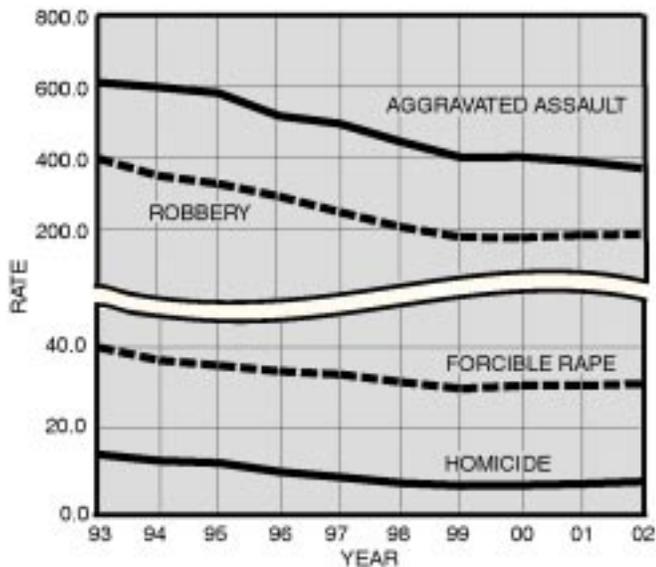
- The homicide rate per 100,000 population increased 183.3 percent (2.4 to 6.8).
- The number of homicides increased 757.3 percent (from 279 to 2,392).

* * * * *
Homicides increased in number and rate for a third consecutive year.

Table N-1
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1952-2002
 Number and Rate per 100,000 Population

Year(s)	Number	Rate
2002	2,392	6.8
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, 1993-2002
 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 2001 to 2002:

- Homicide increased 7.9 percent (6.3 to 6.8).
- Forcible rape increased 1.4 percent (28.4 to 28.8).
- Robbery increased 0.8 percent (182.1 to 183.6).
- Aggravated assault decreased 4.8 percent (388.8 to 370.0).

Comparing 1993 to 2002:

- Homicide decreased 47.3 percent (12.9 to 6.8).
- Forcible rape decreased 22.2 percent (37.0 to 28.8).
- Robbery decreased 53.9 percent (398.0 to 183.6).
- Aggravated assault decreased 39.4 percent (610.9 to 370.0).

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

CRIMES * * * * *

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

In 2002,

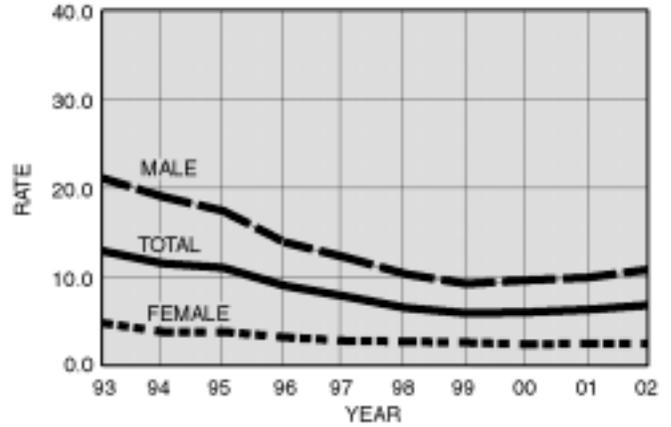
- The total homicide rate was 6.8 per 100,000 population.
- The male homicide rate was over 4 times that of the female homicide rate (10.8 vs. 2.5).
- The black homicide rate was almost 13 times that of whites and over 3 times that of Hispanics (30.9 vs. 2.4 and 9.4, respectively).

Comparing 1993 to 2002:

- The male homicide rate decreased 48.8 percent and the female homicide rate decreased 47.9 percent.
- The white homicide rate decreased 56.4 percent, the Hispanic homicide rate decreased 48.6 percent, and the black homicide rate decreased 46.1 percent.

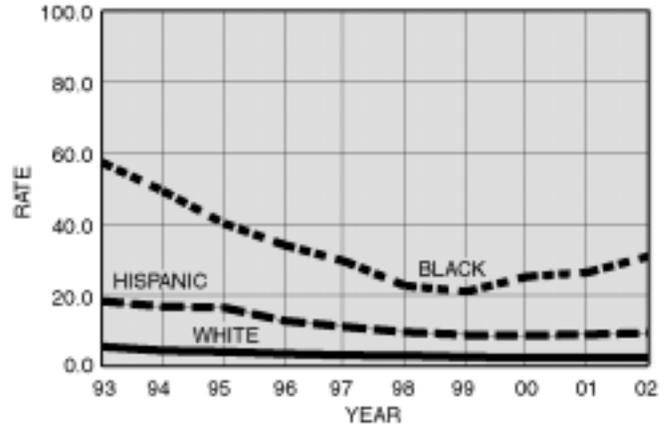
* * * * *
From 2001 to 2002, homicide rates increased for males, Hispanics, and blacks. Blacks experienced the highest increase in rate (up 17.0 percent). For the same period, females experienced no change in rate and whites experienced a decrease in rate (down 4.0 percent).

Chart 2
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1993-2002
 By Gender of Victim
 Rate per 100,000 Population



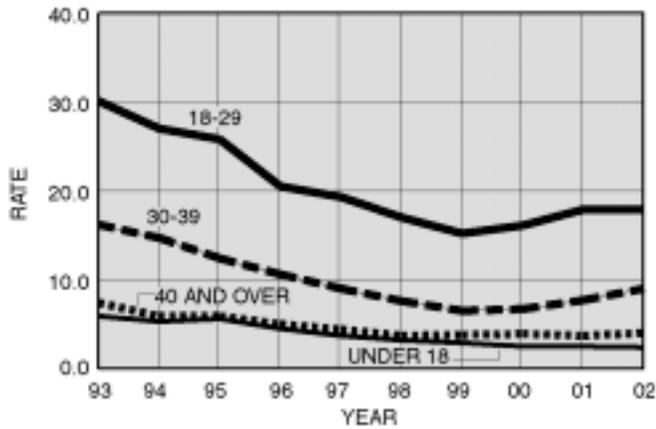
Source: Table 2.

Chart 3
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1993-2002
 By Race/Ethnic Group of Victim
 Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 3.

Chart 4
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1993-2002
 By Age of Victim
 Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 4.

In 2002,

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

Comparing 1993 to 2002:

- The homicide rate decreased 59.3 percent for victims under age 18, 40.5 percent for victims aged 18-29, 44.4 percent for victims aged 30-39, and 45.9 percent for victims aged 40 and over.

* * * * *

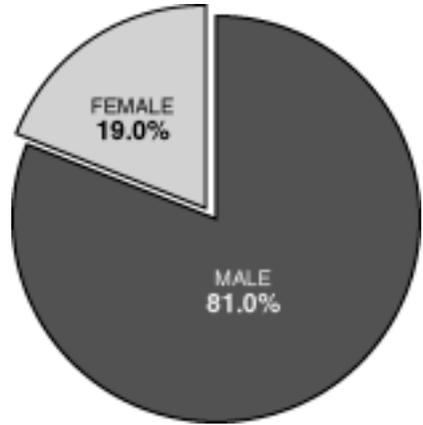
The homicide rate for victims aged 30-39 increased 16.9 percent from 2001 to 2002. A third consecutive-year increase for this age category follows a yearly decline since 1993.

CRIMES * * * * *

In 2002,

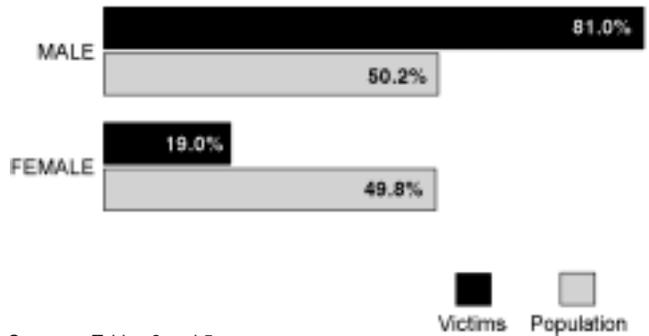
- Males represented 81.0 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 50.2 percent of the population.
- Females represented 19.0 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 49.8 percent of the population.

Chart 5
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2002
By Gender of Victim



Source: Table 5.

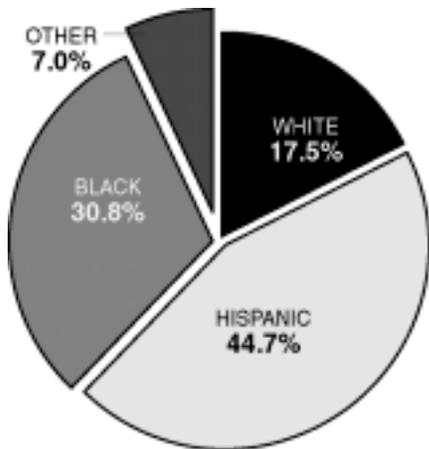
Chart 6
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2002
Gender of Victim by Percent of Total Victims
and Percent of Population



Sources: Tables 2 and 5.

* * * * *
 In 2002, the ratio of male to female population was approximately 1:1. The ratio of male to female homicide victimization was approximately 4:1. These ratios represent a consistent historical trend (see Tables 2 and 5).

Chart 7
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2002
 By Race/Ethnic Group of Victim

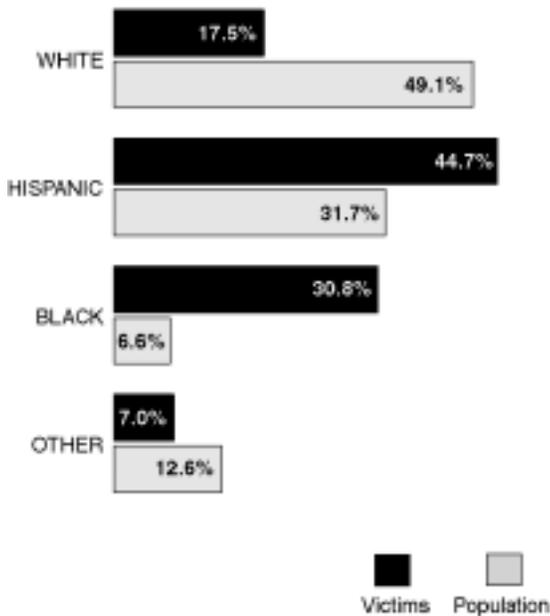


Source: Table 6.

In 2002,

- Whites represented 17.5 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 49.1 percent of the population.
- Hispanics represented 44.7 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 31.7 percent of the population.
- Blacks represented 30.8 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 6.6 percent of the population.
- The “other” race/ethnic group category represented 7.0 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 12.6 percent of the population.

Chart 8
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2002
 Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Percent of Total Victims
 and Percent of Population



Sources: Tables 3 and 6.

* * * * *

In 2002, the percentage of homicide victims who were black was over 4 1/2 times larger than their percentage of the population (30.8 percent vs. 6.6 percent). This difference far exceeds the disparities between homicide victims belonging to the other race/ethnic groups shown and their percentages of the population.

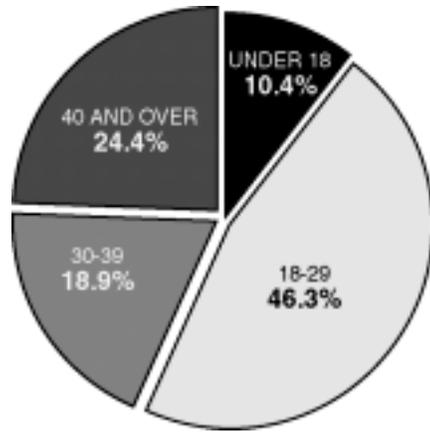
In 2002,

- 10.4 percent of total homicide victims were under age 18; this age group comprised 28.2 percent of the population.
- 46.3 percent of total homicide victims were aged 18-29; this age group comprised 17.1 percent of the population.
- 18.9 percent of total homicide victims were aged 30-39; this age group comprised 14.0 percent of the population.
- 24.4 percent of total homicide victims were aged 40 and over; this age group comprised 40.7 percent of the population.

* * * * *

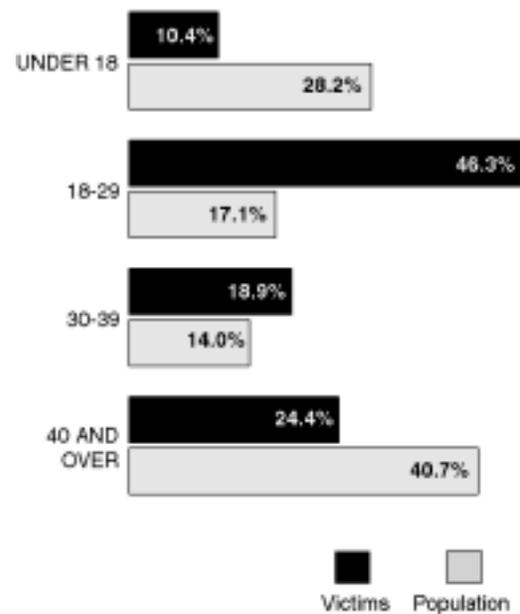
In 2002, the percentage of homicide victims aged 18-29 was over 2 1/2 times larger than the percentage of the population aged 18-29 (46.3 percent vs. 17.1 percent).

Chart 9
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2002
By Age of Victim



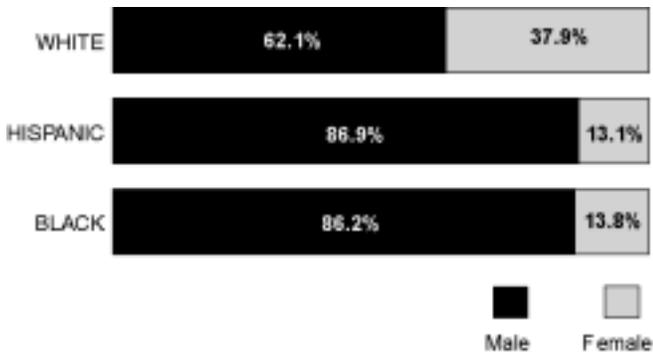
Source: Table 7.

Chart 10
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2002
Age of Victim by Percent of Total Victims and Percent of Population



Sources: Tables 4 and 7.

Chart 11
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2002
 Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Gender of Victim

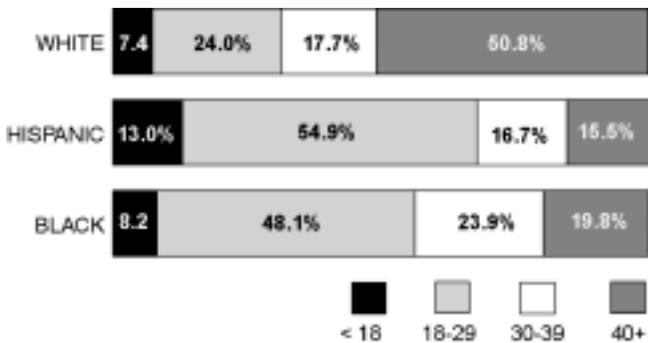


Source: Table 8.

In 2002,

- A greater percentage of white victims were female than were either Hispanic or black victims (37.9 vs. 13.1 and 13.8 percent, respectively).
- A greater percentage of Hispanic and black victims were aged 18-29 than were white victims (54.9 and 48.1 vs. 24.0 percent, respectively).
- A greater percentage of white victims were aged 40 and over than were either Hispanic or black victims (50.8 vs. 15.5 and 19.8 percent, respectively).

Chart 12
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2002
 Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Age of Victim



Source: Table 9.

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

* * * * *

In 2002, the percentage of white homicide victims who were female was almost 3 times the percentage of Hispanic or black female victims. White victims also tended to be older, Hispanic and black victims younger.

CRIMES * * * * *

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

In 2002,

- 46.6 percent of victims were friends or acquaintances of offenders.
- 6.8 percent of victims were spouses of offenders.
- 7.5 percent of victims were parents or children of offenders.
- 3.0 percent of the relationships of victim to offender fell into the "other relative" category.
- 36.1 percent of victims were strangers to offenders.

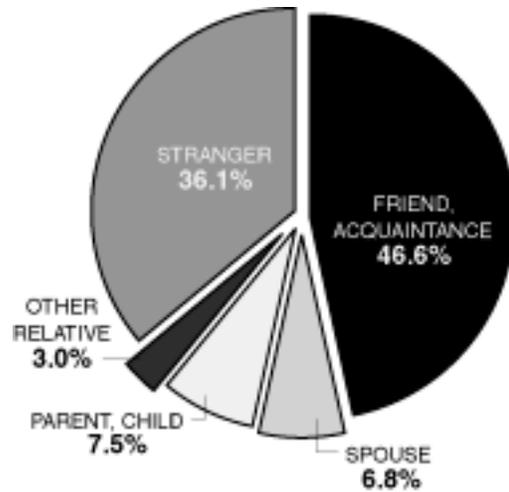
Comparing 1993 to 2002:

- The proportion of homicides in which victims were friends or acquaintances of offenders decreased from 58.2 percent to 46.6 percent.
- The proportion of homicides in which victims were strangers to offenders increased from 29.6 percent to 36.1 percent.

* * * * *

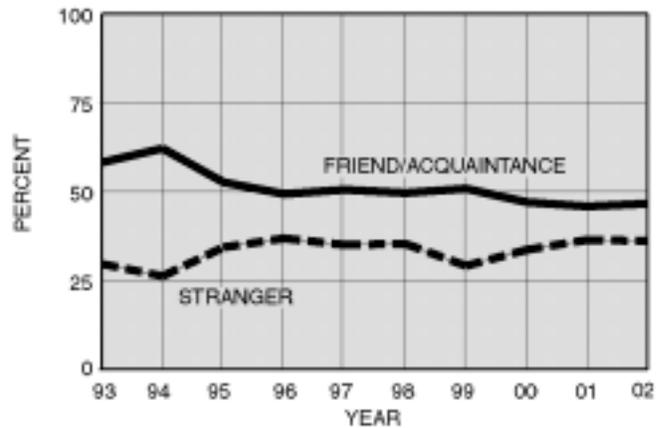
From 2001 to 2002, the number of homicide victims killed by friends or acquaintances increased 11.2 percent. The number of victims killed by strangers also increased, but by less (8.7 percent).

Chart 13
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2002
By Relationship of Victim to Offender



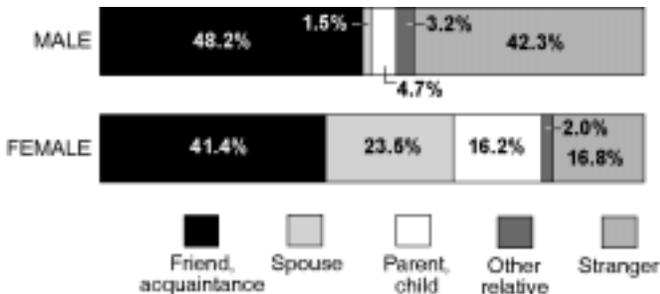
Source: Table 11.

Chart 14
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1993-2002
By Selected Relationships of Victims to Offenders



Source: Table 11.

Chart 15
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2002
 Gender of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender

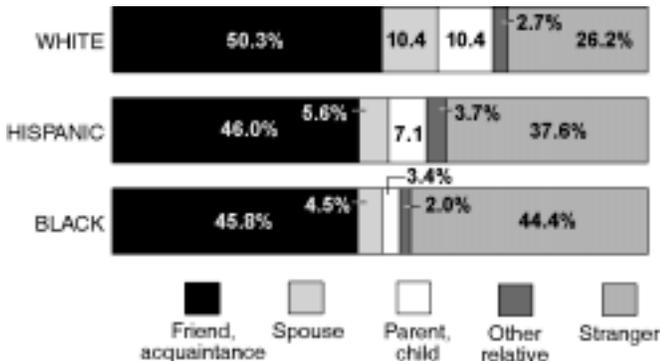


Source: Table 12.
 Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

In 2002,

- A greater percentage of female victims were spouses of offenders (23.5 percent) than were male victims (1.5 percent).
- A greater percentage of white victims were friends or acquaintances of offenders than were either Hispanic or black victims (50.3 vs. 46.0 and 45.8 percent, respectively).

Chart 16
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2002
 Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender



Source: Table 12.
 Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

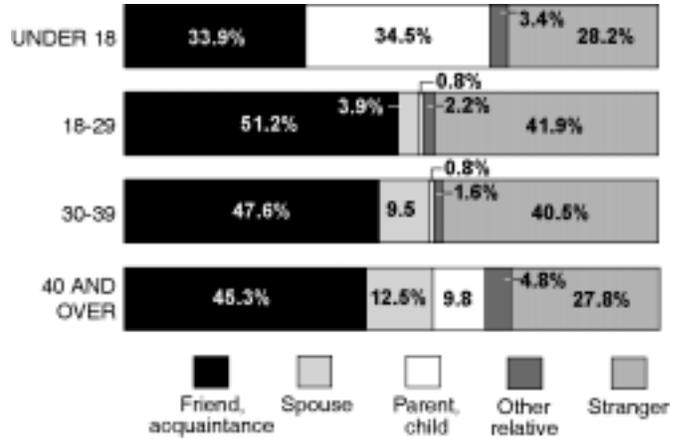
* * * * *

In 2002, approximately 24 percent of all female homicide victims were killed by their spouses. In contrast, less than 2 percent of male victims were killed by theirs.

In 2002,

- The largest percentage of homicide victims under age 18 were parents or children of offenders (34.5 percent).
- The largest percentage of homicide victims aged 18-29, 30-39, and 40 and over were friends or acquaintances of offenders (51.2, 47.6, and 45.3 percent, respectively).
- A greater percentage of victims aged 40 and over were spouses of offenders (12.5 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.

Chart 17
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2002
 Age of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender



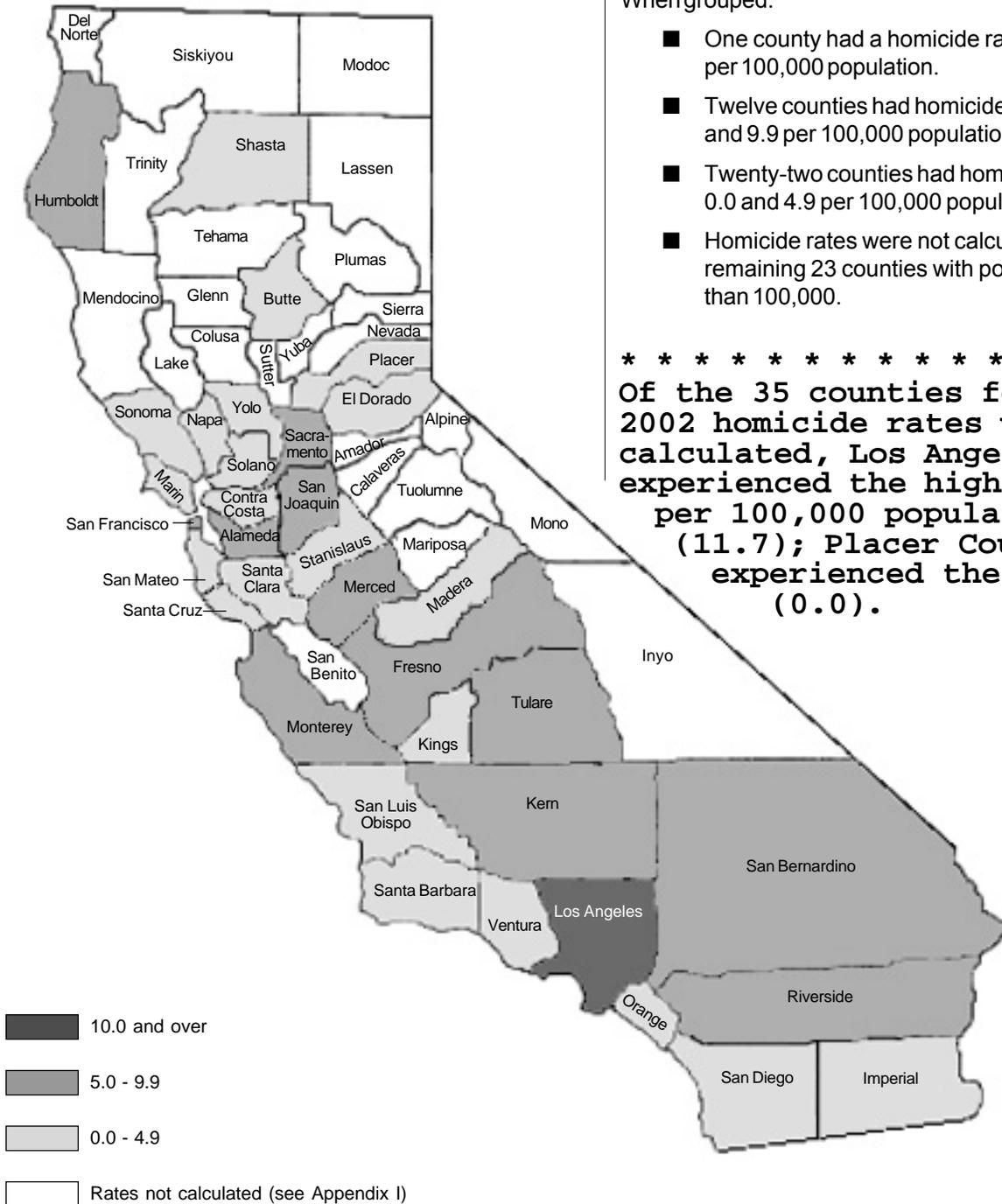
Source: Table 13.
 Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

* * * * *

In 2002, twice as many homicide victims aged 40 and over were killed by their spouses than were victims in the 18-29 or 30-39 age categories. No victims under age 18 were killed by their spouses in 2002. (See Table 13.)



Chart 18
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2002
 County by Rate per 100,000 Population



In 2002, 10 of California's 58 counties exceeded the statewide homicide rate of 6.8 per 100,000 population. When grouped:

- One county had a homicide rate of 10.0 and over per 100,000 population.
- Twelve counties had homicide rates between 5.0 and 9.9 per 100,000 population.
- Twenty-two 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 2002 homicide rates were calculated, Los Angeles County experienced the highest rate per 100,000 population (11.7); Placer County experienced the lowest (0.0).

Source: Table 14.

More 
(To Crimes-Part 2)