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Homicide in California, 2002

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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 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 2002,

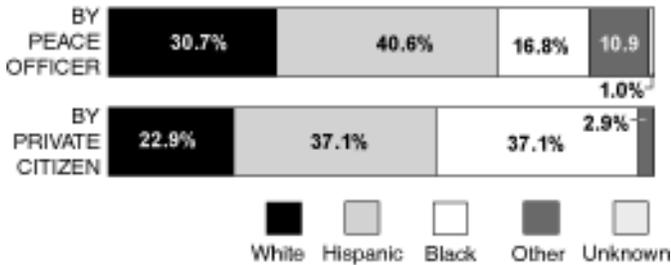
- 96.0 percent of felons (97) killed by peace officers were male; 4.0 percent were female (4).
- 88.6 percent of felons (31) killed by private citizens were male; 11.4 percent were female (4).

Chart 46
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS
OR PRIVATE CITIZENS, 2002
By Gender of Deceased



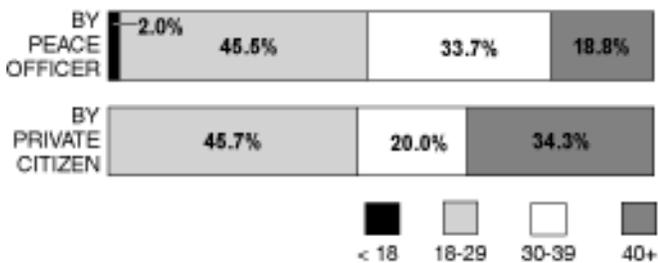
Source: Table 39.

Chart 47
 JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS
 OR PRIVATE CITIZENS, 2002
 By Race/Ethnic Group of Deceased



Source: Table 39.

Chart 48
 JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS
 OR PRIVATE CITIZENS, 2002
 By Age of Deceased



Source: Table 39.

In 2002,

- 30.7 percent (31) of felons killed by peace officers were white, 40.6 percent (41) were Hispanic, 16.8 percent (17) were black, 10.9 percent (11) fell into the “other” race/ethnic group category, and 1.0 percent (1) fell into the “unknown” race/ethnic group category.
- 22.9 percent (8) of felons killed by private citizens were white, 37.1 percent (13) were Hispanic, 37.1 percent (13) were black, and 2.9 percent (1) fell into the “other” race/ethnic group category.
- 2.0 percent (2) of felons killed by peace officers were under age 18, 45.5 percent (46) were aged 18-29, 33.7 percent (34) were aged 30-39, and 18.8 percent (19) were aged 40 and over.
- No felons killed by private citizens were under age 18, 45.7 percent (16) were aged 18-29, 20.0 percent (7) were aged 30-39, and 34.3 percent (12) were aged 40 and over.

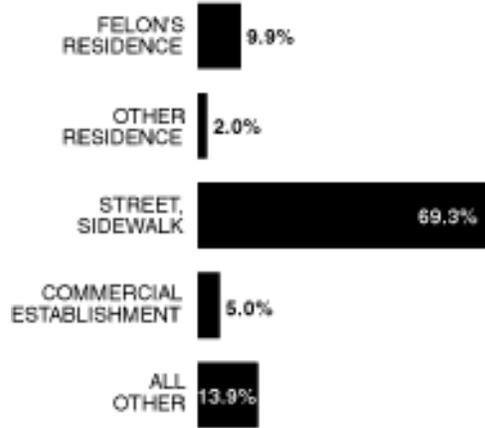
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES* * * * *

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

In 2002,

- Most felons killed by peace officers were killed on a street or sidewalk (69.3 percent).
- The largest percentage of felons killed by private citizens fell into the “commercial establishment” category (28.6 percent).

Chart 49
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS, 2002
By Location of Justifiable Homicide



Source: Table 40.
Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

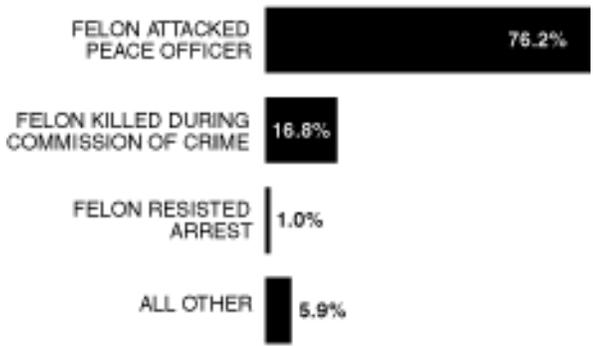
Chart 50
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PRIVATE CITIZENS, 2002
By Location of Justifiable Homicide



Source: Table 40.

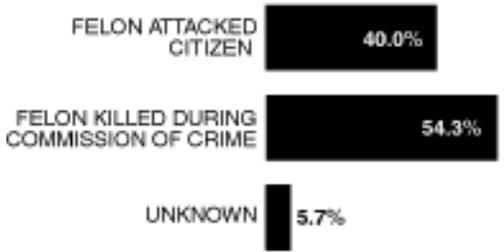


Chart 51
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS, 2002
By Contributing Circumstance



Source: Table 41.
Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Chart 52
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PRIVATE CITIZENS, 2002
By Contributing Circumstance



Source: Table 41.

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

In 2002,

- Most felons killed by peace officers were killed while attacking a peace officer (76.2 percent).
- Most felons killed by private citizens were killed during the commission of a crime (54.3 percent).

More 
(To Appendix)