

HOMICIDE IN CALIFORNIA, 2003

CRIMES

(part 2)

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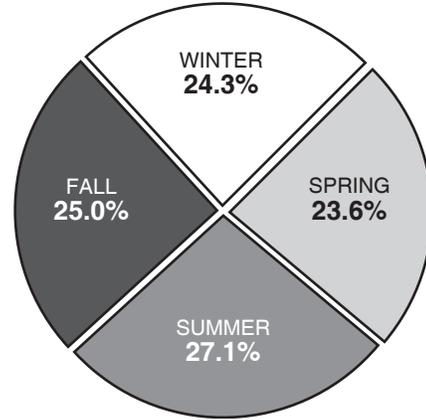
CRIMES

When homicides were examined by season of incident, it was found that:

In 2003,

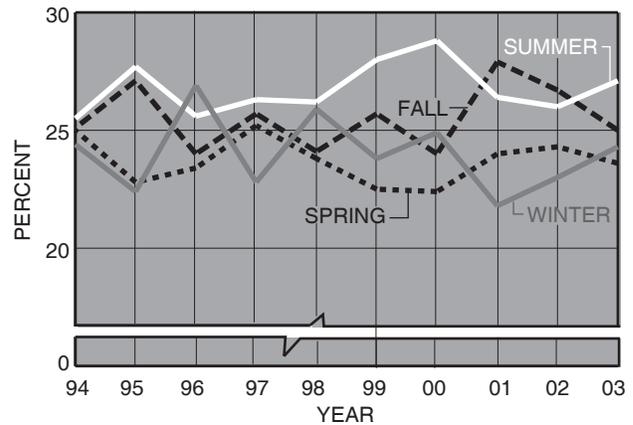
- The incidents leading to death occurred more often in the summer than in any other season (27.1 percent).

Figure 19
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2003
By Season of Incident



Source: Table 15.

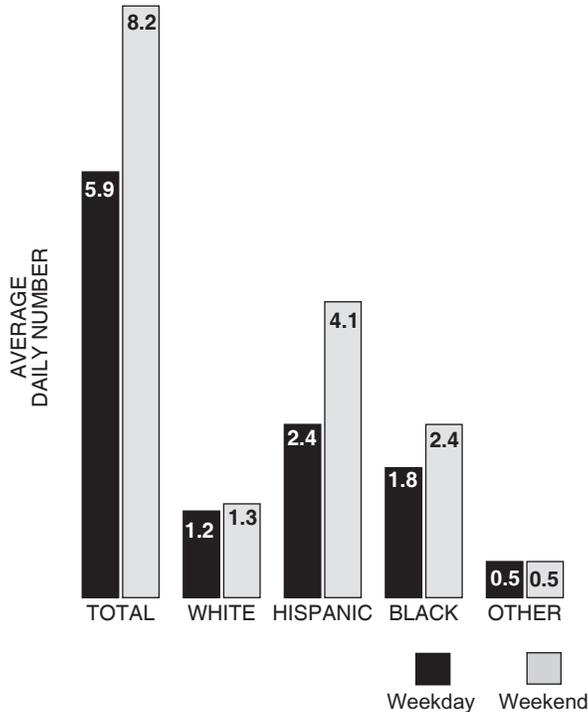
Figure 20
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1994-2003
By Season of Incident



Source: Table 15.

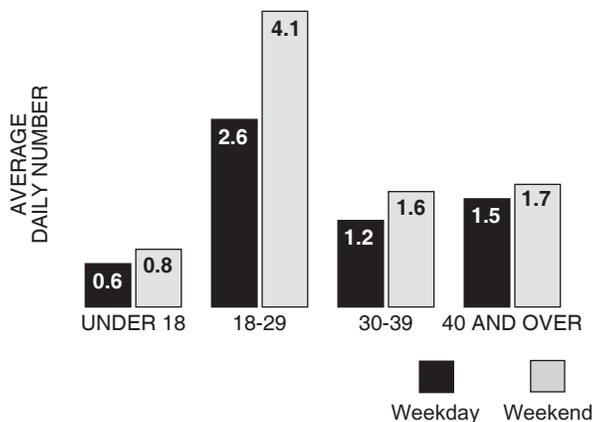
From 1994 to 2003, the average number of homicides committed during the summer exceeded the average number committed during any other season. Fall experienced the next highest average, with winter and spring following. (See Table 15.)

Figure 21
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2003
 Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Average Daily Number
 of Incidents on Weekdays and Weekends



Source: Table 16.
 Note: Average daily number of incidents may not add to totals because of rounding.

Figure 22
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2003
 Age of Victim by Average Daily Number
 of Incidents on Weekdays and Weekends



Source: Table 17.

In 2003,

- An average of 5.9 homicide victims were killed each weekday and 8.2 homicide victims were killed each weekend day.
- Hispanic victims had the highest average daily number of incidents on both weekdays and weekends (2.4 and 4.1, respectively) of any race/ethnic group shown.
- Victims aged 18-29 had the highest average daily number of incidents on both weekdays and weekends (2.6 and 4.1, respectively) of any age group shown.

In 2003, with the exception of the "other" race/ethnic group category, the highest average daily number of homicide incidents occurred on weekends for whites, Hispanics, blacks, and all age groups shown.

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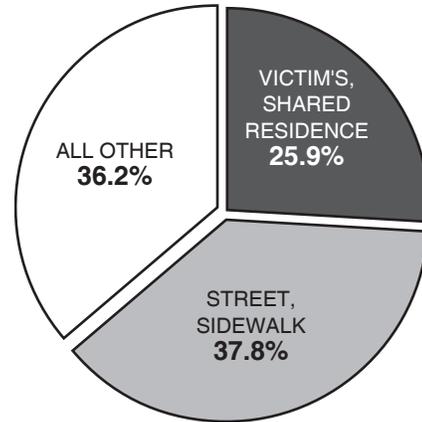
When homicides were examined by location of incident, it was found that:

In 2003,

- 25.9 percent of victims were killed at their places of residence.
- 37.8 percent of homicides occurred on streets or sidewalks.
- 36.2 percent of homicides occurred in “all other” locations.
- A greater percentage of males (43.1 percent) were killed on streets or sidewalks than were females (14.0 percent).
- A greater percentage of females (55.8 percent) were killed at their places of residence than were males (19.4 percent).

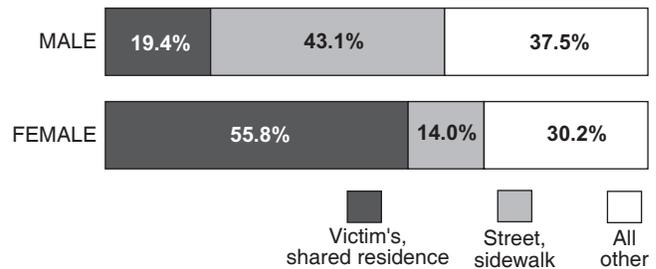
In 2003, males were more likely to be killed on streets or sidewalks (43.1 percent) than anywhere else.

Figure 23
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2003
By Location of Homicide



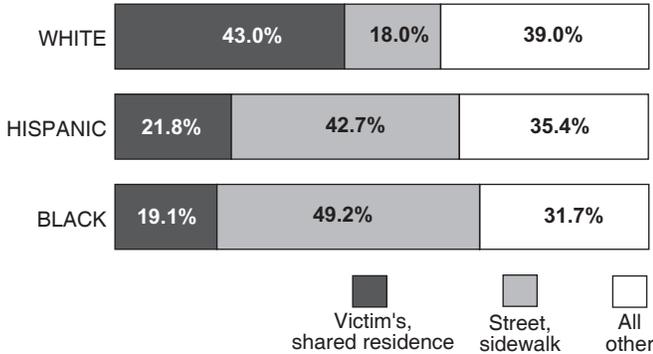
Source: Table 19.
Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Figure 24
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2003
Gender of Victim by Location of Homicide



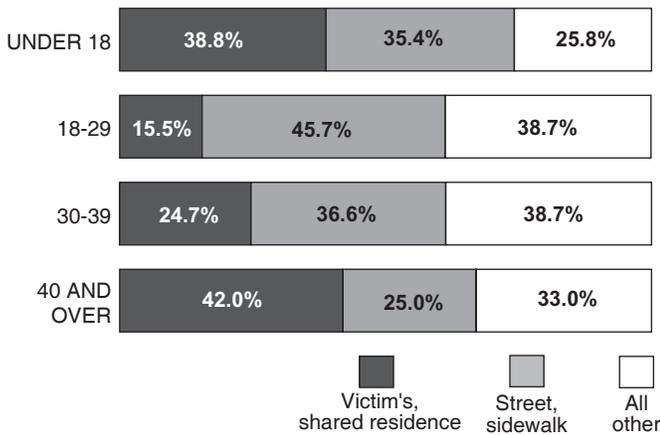
Source: Table 19.

Figure 25
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2003
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Location of Homicide



Source: Table 19.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Figure 26
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2003
Age of Victim by Location of Homicide



Source: Table 20.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

In 2003,

- A greater percentage of whites than Hispanics or blacks were killed at their places of residence (43.0 vs. 21.8 and 19.1 percent, respectively).
- A greater percentage of Hispanics and blacks were killed on streets or sidewalks than were whites (42.7 and 49.2 vs. 18.0 percent, respectively).
- A greater percentage of victims aged 18-29 were killed on streets or sidewalks (45.7 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.
- A greater percentage of victims aged 40 and over were killed at their places of residence (42.0 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.

Of the locations shown, white victims and victims aged 40 and over were most likely to be killed in their residences. Hispanic and black victims and victims aged 18-29 were most likely to be killed on streets or sidewalks.

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When homicides were examined by type of weapon used, it was found that:

In 2003,

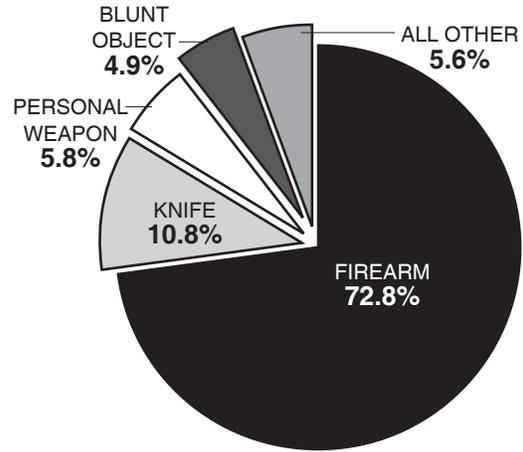
- 72.8 percent resulted from the use of firearms.
- 65.8 percent resulted from the use of handguns.
- 7.0 percent resulted from the use of all other types of firearms.
- 10.8 percent resulted from the use of knives.
- 5.8 percent resulted from the use of personal weapons (hands, feet, etc.).
- 4.9 percent resulted from the use of blunt objects (clubs, etc.).
- 5.6 percent resulted from the use of weapons grouped in the “all other” category.

Comparing 1994 to 2003:

- The proportion of homicides that resulted from the use of firearms decreased slightly (from 75.8 percent to 72.8 percent).
- The proportion of homicides that resulted from the use of non-firearms increased (from 24.2 percent to 27.2 percent).

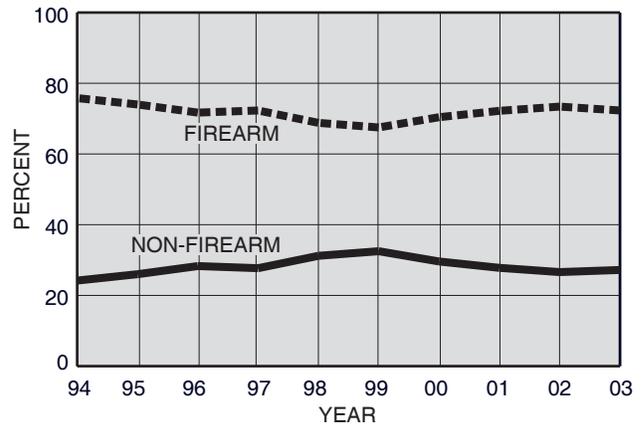
 ***On average, 72.3 percent of homicides committed from 1994 to 2003 were committed with firearms. Additionally, the proportionality of firearm and non-firearm weapons usage in homicide crimes during this period remained relatively stable.***

Figure 27
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2003
By Type of Weapon Used



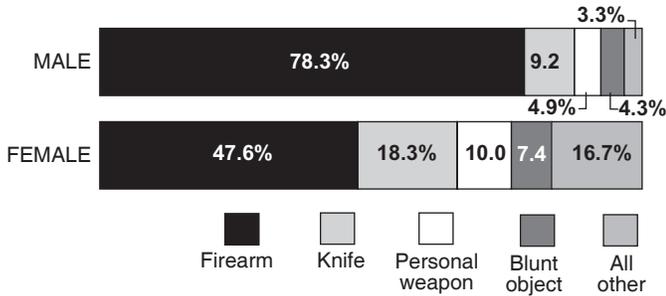
Source: Table 21.
Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Figure 28
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1994-2003
By Selected Types of Weapons Used



Source: Table 21.

Figure 29
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2003
Gender of Victim by Type of Weapon Used

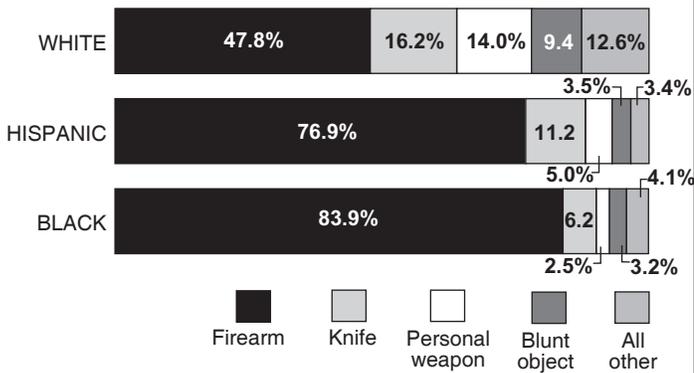


Source: Table 22.

In 2003,

- A greater percentage of males (78.3 percent) were killed with firearms than were females (47.6 percent).
- A greater percentage of females (35.7 percent) were killed with knives, personal weapons, or blunt objects than were males (18.5 percent).
- A greater percentage of Hispanics and blacks were killed with firearms than were whites (76.9 and 83.9 vs. 47.8 percent, respectively).

Figure 30
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2003
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Type of Weapon Used



Source: Table 22.

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

 ***In 2003, Hispanics and blacks were far more likely than whites to be killed with firearms than with any other type of weapon (76.9 and 83.9 vs. 47.8 percent, respectively).***

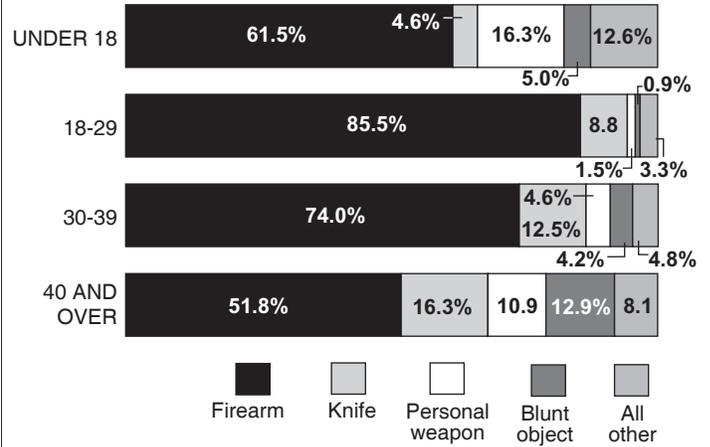
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In 2003,

- A greater percentage of victims aged 18-29 were killed with firearms (85.5 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.
- A lower percentage of victims aged 40 and over were killed with firearms (51.8 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.

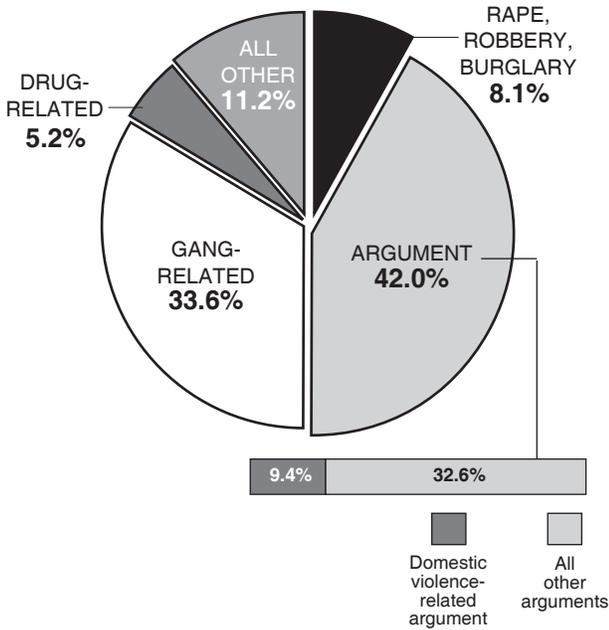
Figure 31
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2003
Age of Victim by Type of Weapon Used



Source: Table 23.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

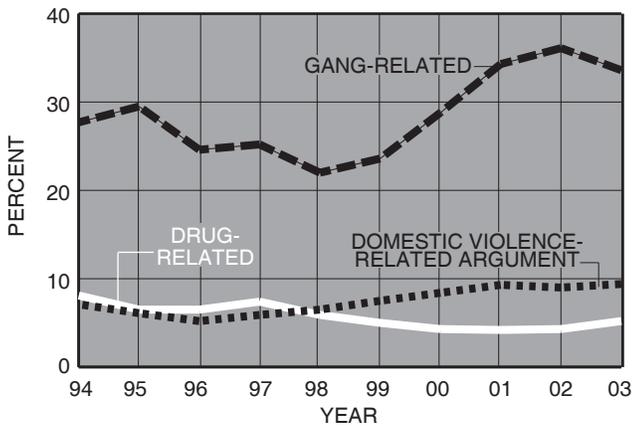
In 2003, over 85 percent of homicide victims aged 18-29 were killed with firearms.

Figure 32
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2003
By Contributing Circumstance



Source: Table 24.
Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Figure 33
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1994-2003
By Selected Contributing Circumstance



Source: Table 24.

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

In 2003,

- 8.1 percent occurred as a result of a rape, robbery, or burglary.
- 42.0 percent occurred as a result of an argument.
- 9.4 percent occurred as a result of a domestic violence-related argument.
- 32.6 percent occurred as a result of all other types of arguments.
- 33.6 percent were gang-related.
- 5.2 percent were drug-related.
- 11.2 percent occurred as a result of “all other” contributing circumstances.

Comparing 1994 to 2003:

- The percentage of homicides in which the contributing circumstance was a domestic violence-related argument increased from 7.1 percent to 9.4 percent.
- The percentage of homicides in which the contributing circumstance was gang-related increased from 27.7 percent to 33.6 percent.
- The percentage of homicides in which the contributing circumstance was drug-related decreased from 8.1 percent to 5.2 percent.



In 2003, one-third of homicides were gang-related.

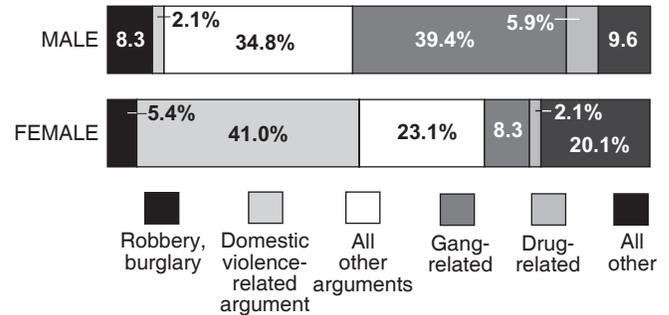
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In 2003,

- A greater percentage of females (41.0 percent) were victims of domestic violence-related homicides than were males (2.1 percent).
- A greater percentage of males (39.4 percent) were victims of gang-related homicides than were females (8.3 percent).
- A greater percentage of whites were victims of domestic violence-related homicides than were Hispanics or blacks (17.5 vs. 7.1 and 5.9 percent, respectively).
- A greater percentage of Hispanics and blacks were victims of gang-related homicides than were whites (41.5 and 44.6 vs. 3.7 percent, respectively).

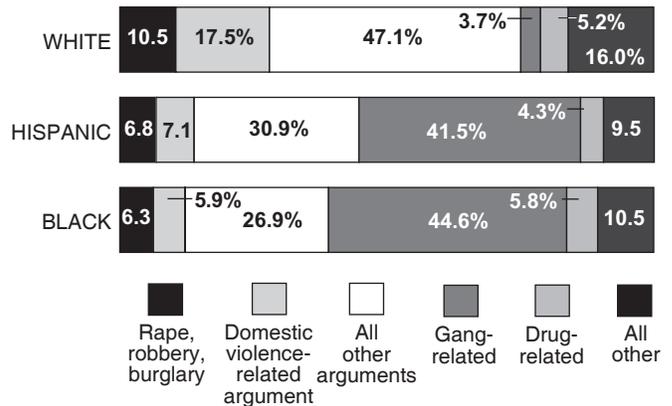
✓ In 2003, the percentage of females killed in domestic violence-related homicides was over 19.5 times that of males (41.0 vs. 2.1 percent). The percentages of Hispanics or blacks killed in gang-related homicides were over 11 times the percentage of whites killed in gang-related incidents (41.5 and 44.6 vs. 3.7 percent, respectively).

Figure 34
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2003
Gender of Victim by Contributing Circumstance



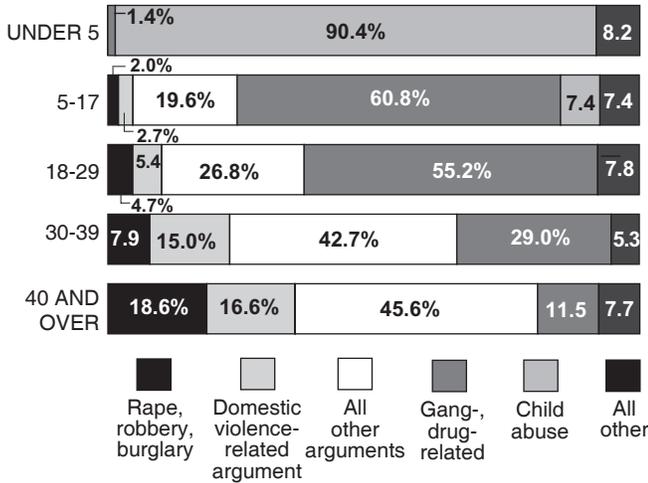
Source: Table 25.
Notes: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding. Figures 32, 35, and 36 include rape with robbery and burglary. However, for a more relevant comparison between male and female victims, rape is included in the "all other" category in Figure 34. In 2003, 1.9 percent of homicide crimes involving females were rape-related.

Figure 35
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2003
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Contributing Circumstance



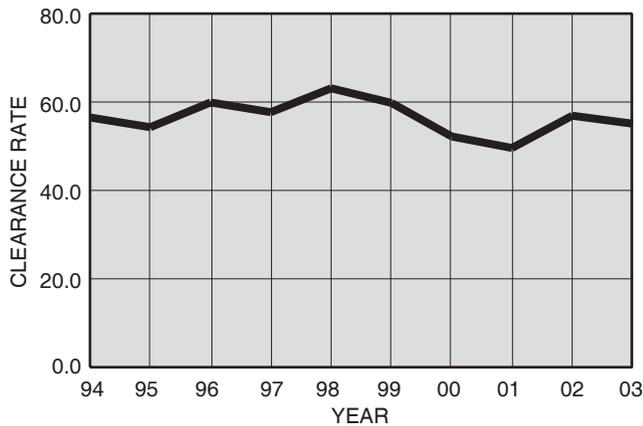
Source: Table 25.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Figure 36
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2003
 Age of Victim by Contributing Circumstance



Source: Table 26.
 Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Figure 37
 HOMICIDE CRIMES CLEARED, 1994-2003
 Clearance Rate



Source: Table 28.
 Note: A clearance rate is the percentage of crimes (homicides) reported that have been cleared. It is calculated by dividing the number of homicides cleared by the number of homicides reported. The result is multiplied by 100. Please see "Appendix II - Criminal Justice Glossary" for a detailed explanation of clearances.

In 2003,

- Most homicide victims under age 5 were killed as a result of child abuse (90.4 percent).
- The majority of homicide victims aged 5-17 and aged 18-29 were killed as a result of gang- or drug-related activities (60.8 and 55.2 percent, respectively).
- The majority of homicide victims aged 30-39 and aged 40 and over were killed as a result of domestic violence-related and all other arguments (57.8 and 62.2 percent, respectively).

 **On average, 56.5 percent of homicides were cleared by an arrest or by "exceptional means" from 1994 to 2003.**

More -->