



*HOMICIDE
CRIMES*



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 54 years.

From 2004 to 2005:

- The homicide rate per 100,000 population increased 4.6 percent (6.5 to 6.8).
- The number of homicides increased 4.6 percent (from 2,394 to 2,503).

Comparing 1996 to 2005:

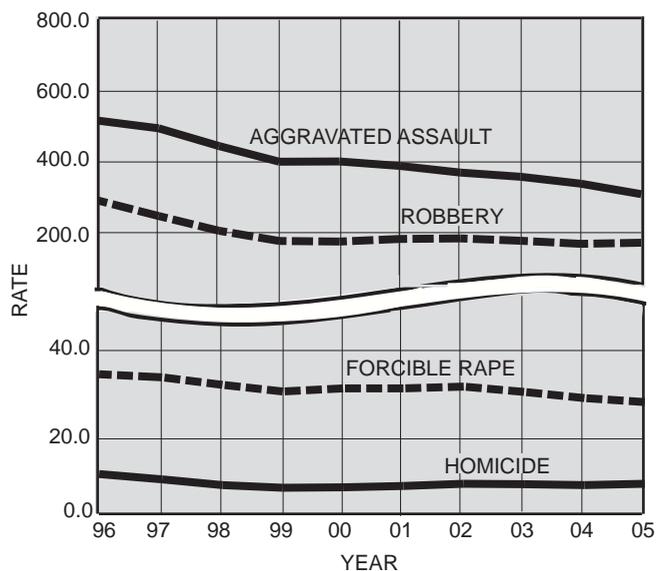
- The homicide rate per 100,000 population decreased 24.4 percent (9.0 to 6.8).
- The number of homicides decreased 14.0 percent (from 2,910 to 2,503).

 ***In 2005, the number of homicides (2,503) was the highest reported since 1997 (2,579).***

Table N-1
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1952-2005
Number and Rate per 100,000 Population

Year(s)	Number	Rate
2005	2,503	6.8
2004	2,394	6.5
2003	2,402	6.7
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

Figure 2
VIOLENT CRIMES, 1996–2005
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 2004 to 2005:

- Homicide increased 4.6 percent (6.5 to 6.8).
- Forcible rape decreased 3.4 percent (26.2 to 25.3).
- Robbery increased 1.8 percent (168.3 to 171.4).
- Aggravated assault decreased 8.7 percent (338.5 to 308.9).

Comparing 1996 to 2005:

- Homicide decreased 24.4 percent (9.0 to 6.8).
- Forcible rape decreased 19.9 percent (31.6 to 25.3).
- Robbery decreased 41.0 percent (290.7 to 171.4).
- Aggravated assault decreased 40.2 percent (516.9 to 308.9).

Figures 3, 4, and 5 display homicide rates per 100,000 population for victims classified by gender, race/ethnic group, and age.

In 2005,

- The total homicide rate was 6.8 per 100,000 population.
- The male homicide rate was over 5.0 times that of the female homicide rate (11.4 vs. 2.2).
- The black homicide rate was almost 12 times that of whites and over 3 times that of Hispanics (30.9 vs. 2.6 and 8.6, respectively).

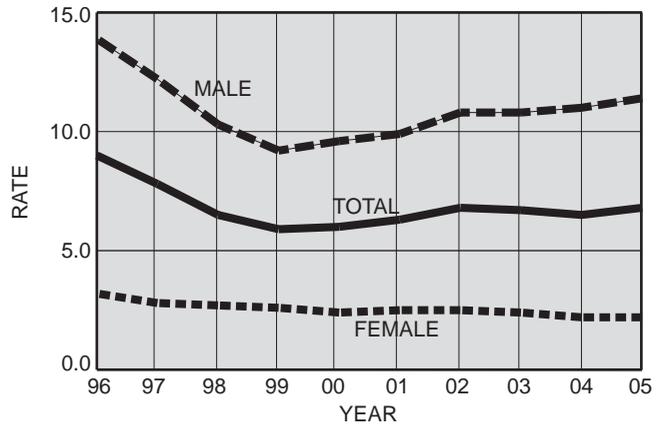
Comparing 1996 to 2005:

- The male homicide rate decreased 18.0 percent and the female homicide rate decreased 31.3 percent.
- The white homicide rate decreased 25.7 percent, the Hispanic homicide rate decreased 32.8 percent, and the black homicide rate decreased 9.4 percent.



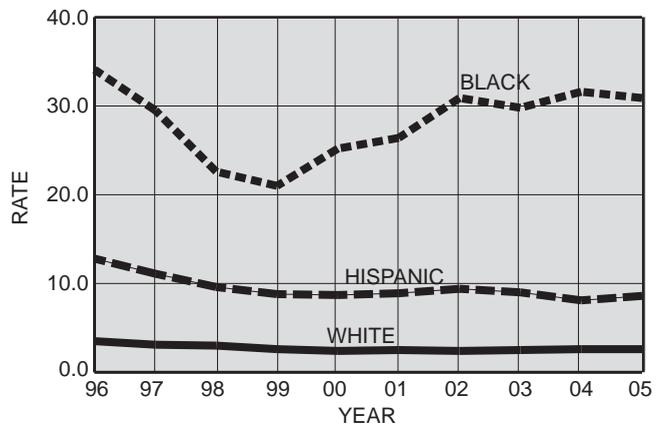
Since 1996, homicide rates have declined considerably for both males and females (down 18.0 and 31.3 percent, respectively). The homicide rate for Hispanics increased from 2004 to 2005, but has shown an overall decrease (32.8 percent) since 1996.

Figure 3
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1996–2005
By Gender of Victim
Rate per 100,000 Population



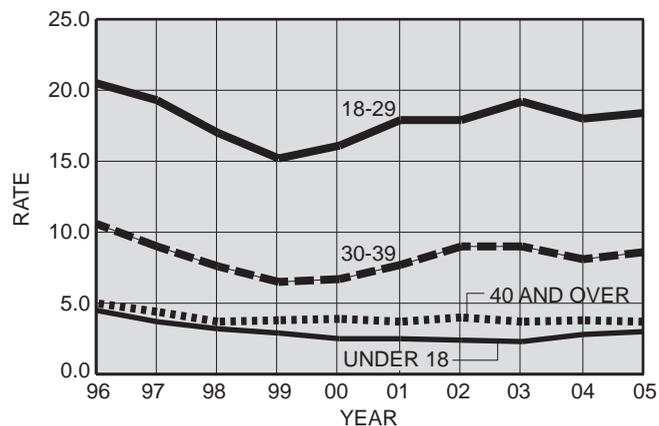
Source: Table 2.

Figure 4
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1996–2005
By Race/Ethnic Group of Victim
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 3.

Figure 5
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1996–2005
By Age of Victim
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 4.

In 2005,

- Persons aged 18–29 had the highest homicide victimization rate (18.4 per 100,000 population).

Comparing 1996 to 2005, the homicide rate:

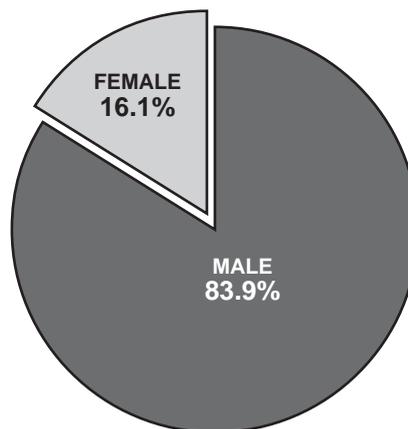
- Decreased 33.3 percent for victims under age 18.
- Decreased 10.2 percent for victims aged 18–29.
- Decreased 18.9 percent for victims aged 30–39.
- Decreased 26.0 percent for victims aged 40 and over.

The homicide rate for victims aged 18–29 has consistently been the highest of any age group.

In 2005,

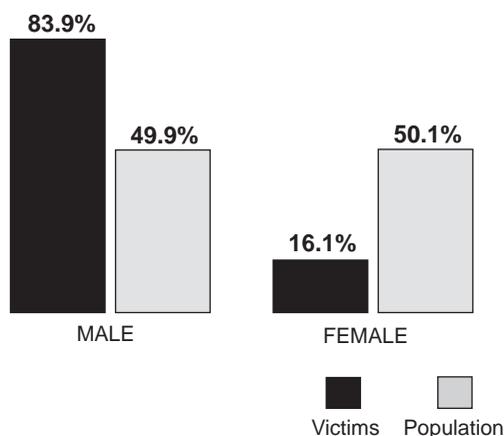
- Males represented 83.9 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 49.9 percent of the population.
- Females represented 16.1 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 50.1 percent of the population.

Figure 6
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
By Gender of Victim



Source: Table 5.

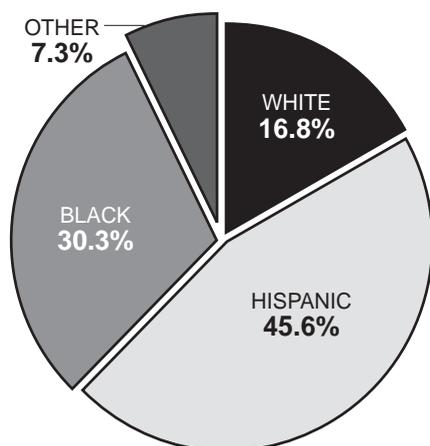
Figure 7
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Gender of Victim by Percent of Total Victims
and Percent of Population



Source: Tables 2 and 5.

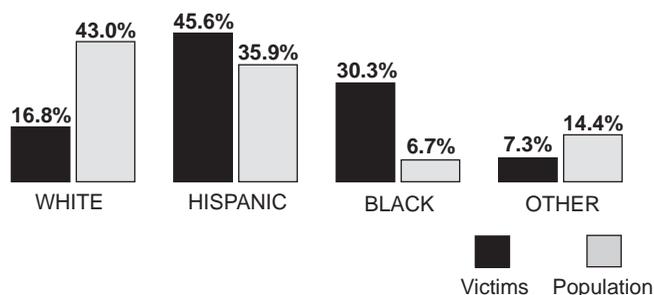
✓ *The ratio of male to female homicide victimization has been approximately 4:1. This ratio represents a consistent historical trend (see Tables 2 and 5).*

Figure 8
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
By Race/Ethnic Group of Victim



Source: Table 6.

Figure 9
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Percent of Total Victims and Percent of Population



Source: Tables 3 and 6.

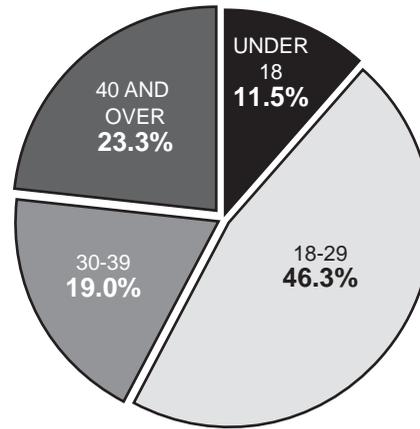
In 2005, where the victim's race was known:

- Whites represented 16.8 percent of the homicide victims; they comprised 43.0 percent of the population.
- Hispanics represented 45.6 percent of the homicide victims; they comprised 35.9 percent of the population.
- Blacks represented 30.3 percent of the homicide victims; they comprised 6.7 percent of the population.
- The “other” race/ethnic group category represented 7.3 percent of the homicide victims; they comprised 14.4 percent of the population.

In 2005, where the victim's age was known:

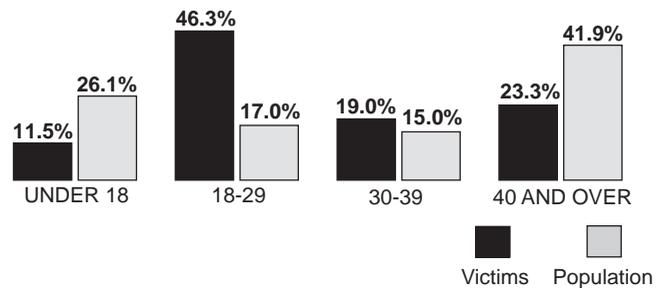
- 11.5 percent of the homicide victims were under age 18; this age group comprised 26.1 percent of the population.
- 46.3 percent of the homicide victims were aged 18–29; this age group comprised 17.0 percent of the population.
- 19.0 percent of the homicide victims were aged 30–39; this age group comprised 15.0 percent of the population.
- 23.3 percent of the homicide victims were aged 40 and over; this age group comprised 41.9 percent of the population.

Figure 10
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
By Age of Victim



Source: Table 7.
Note: Percentages do not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

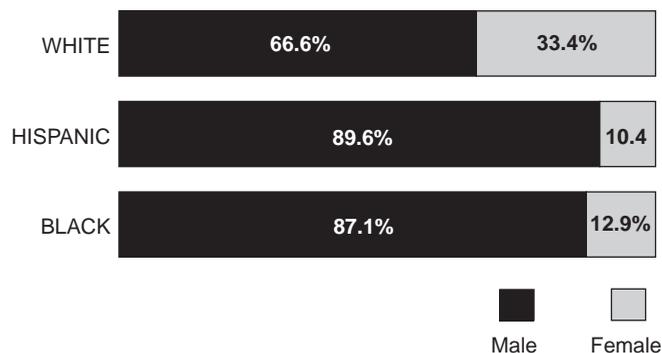
Figure 11
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Age of Victim by Percent of Total Victims
and Percent of Population



Source: Tables 4 and 7.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

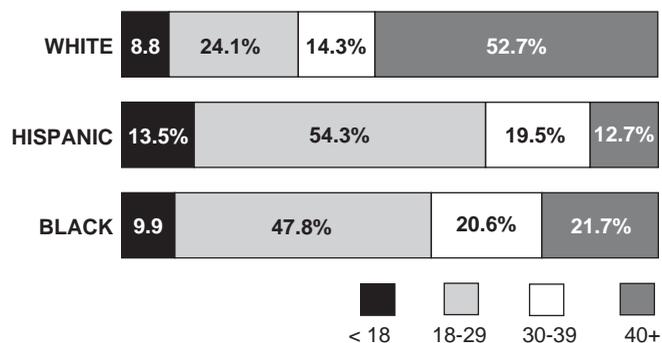
Where the age of the victim was known, victims aged 18–29 have accounted for over 40 percent of the homicides (see Table 7).

Figure 12
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Gender of Victim



Source: Table 8.

Figure 13
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Age of Victim



Source: Table 9.

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

In 2005,

- A greater percentage of white victims were female than were either Hispanic or black victims (33.4 vs. 10.4 and 12.9 percent, respectively).
- A greater percentage of Hispanic and black victims were aged 18–29 than were white victims (54.3 and 47.8 vs. 24.1 percent, respectively).
- A greater percentage of white victims were aged 40 and over than were either Hispanic or black victims (52.7 vs. 12.7 and 21.7 percent, respectively).

 ***In 2005, females constituted a higher percentage of white victims than of Hispanic or black victims. White victims tended to be older, while Hispanic and black victims tended to be younger.***

In 2005, when homicides were examined by the relationship of the victim to the offender, it was found that:

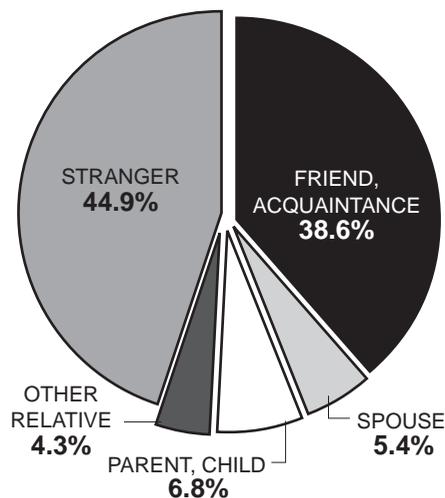
- 38.6 percent of victims were friends or acquaintances of offenders.
- 5.4 percent of victims were spouses of offenders.
- 6.8 percent of victims were parents or children of offenders.
- 4.3 percent of the relationships of victim to offender fell into the “other relative” category.
- 44.9 percent of victims were strangers to offenders.

Comparing 1996 to 2005:

- The proportion of homicides in which victims were friends or acquaintances of offenders decreased from 49.3 percent to 38.6 percent.
- The proportion of homicides in which victims were strangers to offenders increased from 36.8 percent to 44.9 percent.

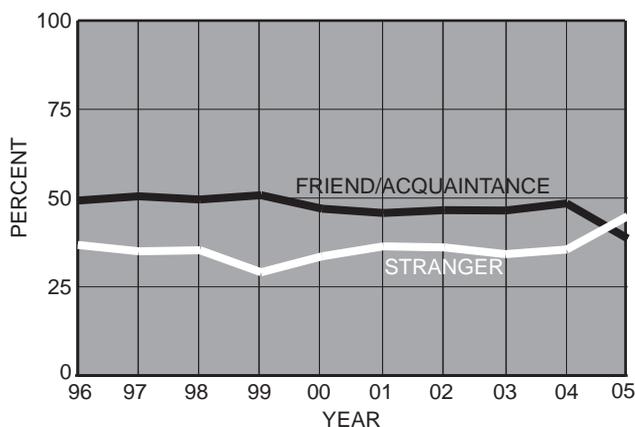
✓ In 2005, where the victim/offender relationship was known, 44.9 percent of the victims were killed by strangers.

Figure 14
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
By Relationship of Victim to Offender



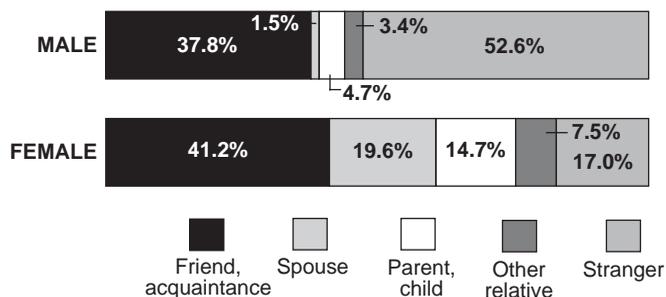
Source: Table 11.

Figure 15
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1996–2005
By Selected Relationships of Victims to Offenders



Source: Table 11.

Figure 16
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Gender of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender

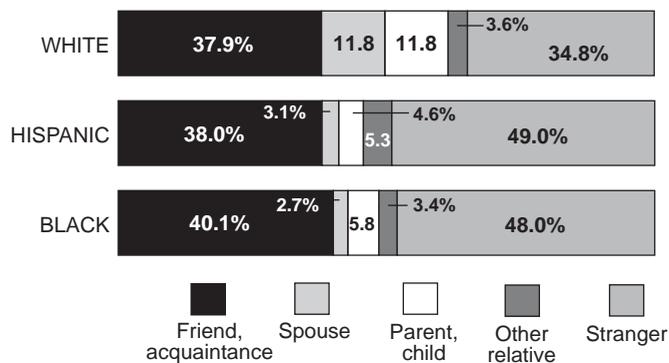


Source: Table 12.

In 2005,

- A greater percentage of female victims were spouses of offenders (19.6 percent) than were male victims (1.5 percent).
- A greater percentage of Hispanic and black victims were strangers to offenders than were white victims (49.0 and 48.0 vs. 34.8 percent, respectively).

Figure 17
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender



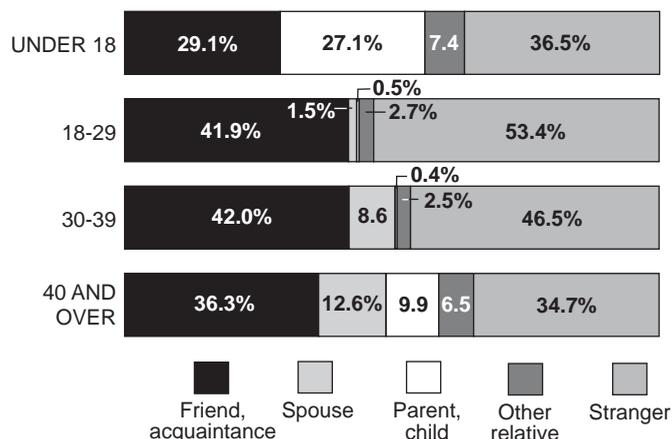
Source: Table 12.

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

In 2005,

- Victims under 18, 18–29, and 30–39 years of age were most likely strangers to the offenders (36.5, 53.4, and 46.5 percent, respectively).
- A greater percentage of victims aged 40 and over were spouses of the offenders (12.6 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.

Figure 18
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Age of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender



Source: Table 13.

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

✓ *In 2005, 27.1 percent of homicide victims under age 18 were children of the offenders. Over 50 percent of homicide victims aged 18–29 were strangers to the offenders.*

Figure 19
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
 County by Rate per 100,000 Population

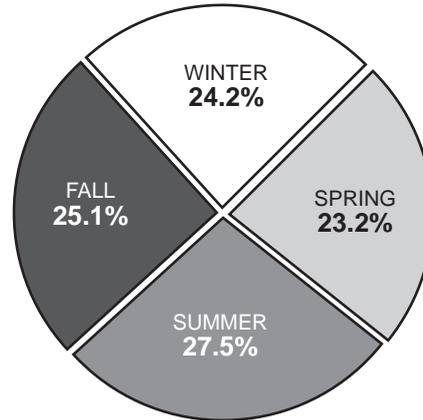


Source: Table 14.

In 2005, when homicides were examined by season of incident, it was found that:

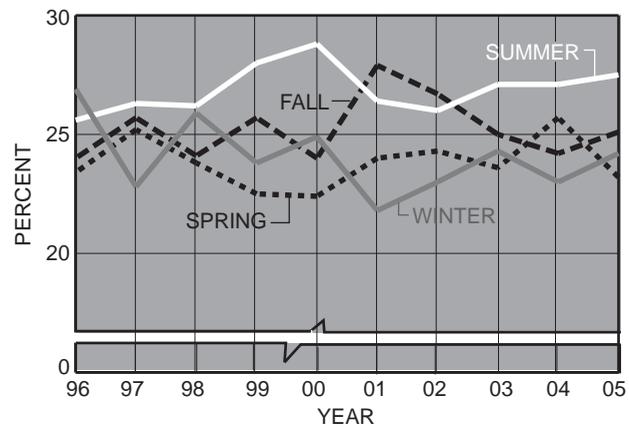
- The incidents leading to death occurred more often in the summer than in any other season (27.5 percent).

Figure 20
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
By Season of Incident



Source: Table 15.

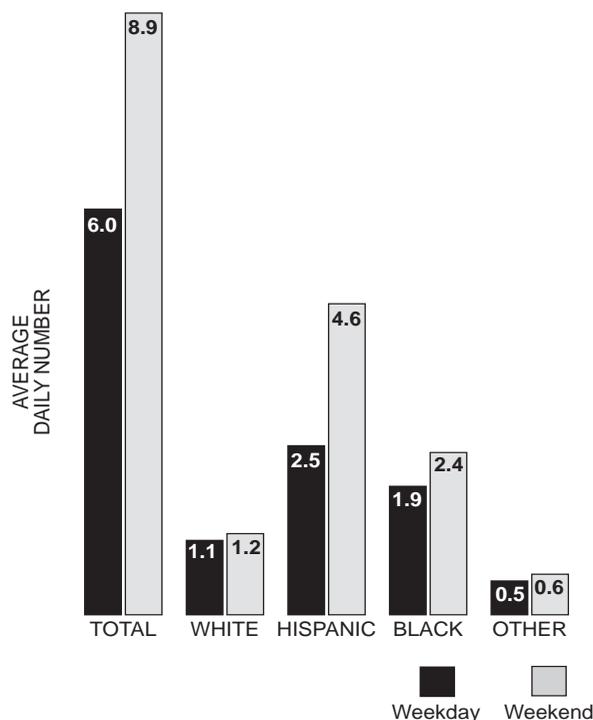
Figure 21
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1996–2005
By Season of Incident



Source: Table 15.

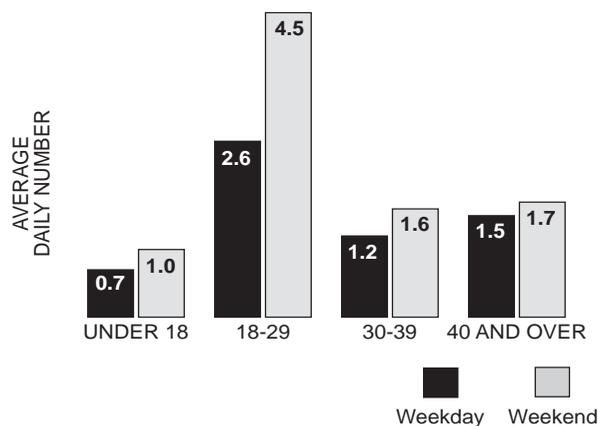
From 1996 to 2005, the average number of homicides committed during the summer exceeded the average number committed during any other season (see Table 15).

Figure 22
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Average Daily Number
of Incidents on Weekdays and Weekends



Source: Table 16.

Figure 23
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Age of Victim by Average Daily Number
of Incidents on Weekdays and Weekends



Source: Table 17.

In 2005, when homicides were examined by day of incident, it was found that:

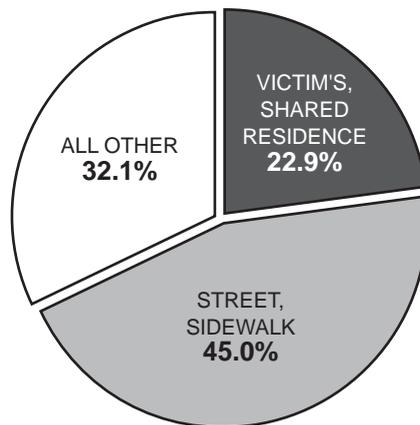
- An average of 6.0 homicide victims were killed each weekday and 8.9 homicide victims were killed each weekend day.
- Hispanic victims had the highest average daily number of incidents on both weekdays and weekends (2.5 and 4.6, respectively) of any race/ethnic group shown.
- Victims aged 18–29 had the highest average daily number of incidents on both weekdays and weekends (2.6 and 4.5, respectively) of any age group shown.

 In 2005, for all race/ethnic groups, the highest average daily number of homicide incidents occurred on weekends.

In 2005, when homicides were examined by location of incident, it was found that:

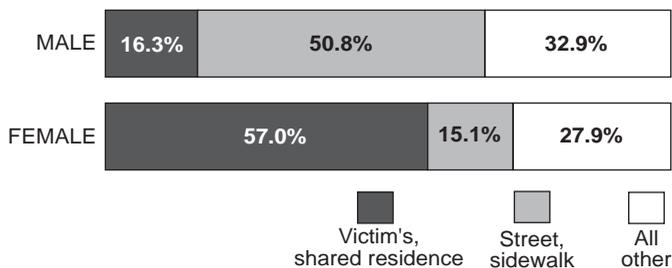
- 22.9 percent of victims were killed at their places of residence.
- 45.0 percent of homicides occurred on streets or sidewalks.
- 32.1 percent of homicides occurred in “all other” locations.
- The greatest percentage of males (50.8 percent) were killed on streets or sidewalks.
- The greatest percentage of females (57.0 percent) were killed at their places of residence.

Figure 24
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
By Location of Homicide



Source: Table 19.

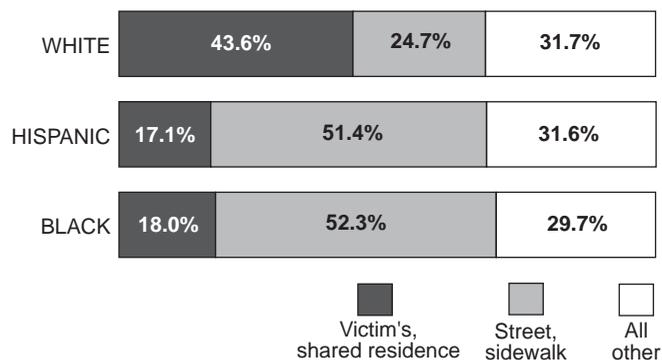
Figure 25
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Gender of Victim by Location of Homicide



Source: Table 19.

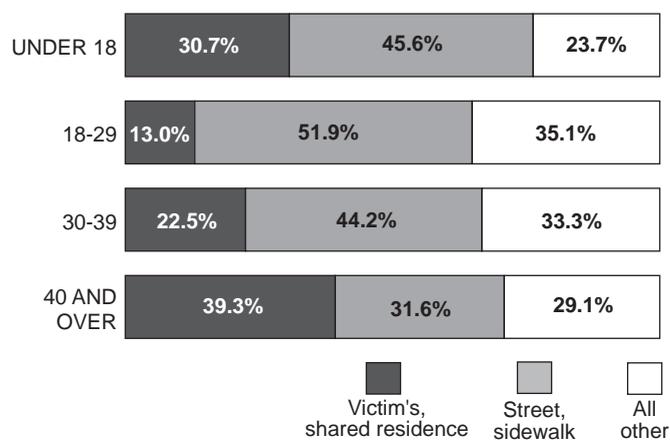
In 2005, males were killed on streets or sidewalks (50.8 percent) more than anywhere else.

Figure 26
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Location of Homicide



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

Figure 27
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Age of Victim by Location of Homicide



Source: Table 20.

In 2005,

- A greater percentage of whites than Hispanics or blacks were killed at their places of residence (43.6 vs. 17.1 and 18.0 percent, respectively).
- A greater percentage of Hispanics and blacks were killed on streets or sidewalks than were whites (51.4 and 52.3 vs. 24.7 percent, respectively).
- A greater percentage of victims aged 18–29 were killed on streets or sidewalks (51.9 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 (39.3 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.

 **Victims aged 40 and over were killed most often in their residences, while victims in all other age groups were mostly killed on streets or sidewalks.**

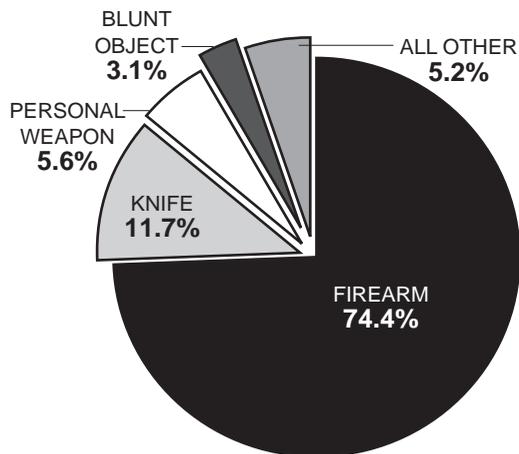
In 2005, when homicides were examined by type of weapon used, it was found that:

- 74.4 percent resulted from the use of firearms.
 - 62.4 percent resulted from the use of handguns.
 - 12.0 percent resulted from the use of all other types of firearms.
- 11.7 percent resulted from the use of knives.
- 5.6 percent resulted from the use of personal weapons (hands, feet, etc.).
- 3.1 percent resulted from the use of blunt objects (clubs, etc.).
- 5.2 percent resulted from the use of weapons grouped in the “all other” category.

Comparing 1996 to 2005:

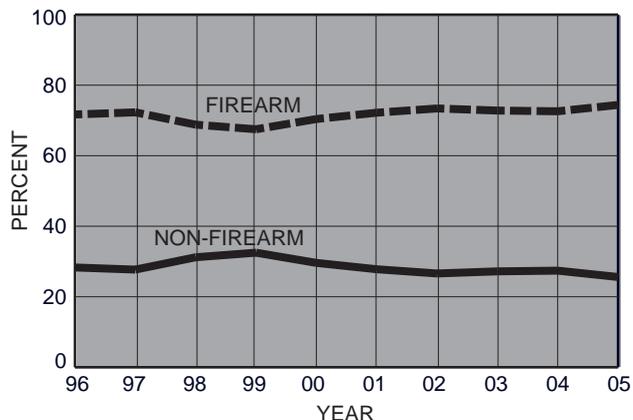
- The proportion of homicides that resulted from the use of firearms increased slightly (from 71.7 percent to 74.4 percent).
- The proportion of homicides that resulted from the use of non-firearms decreased (from 28.3 percent to 25.6 percent).

Figure 28
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
By Type of Weapon Used



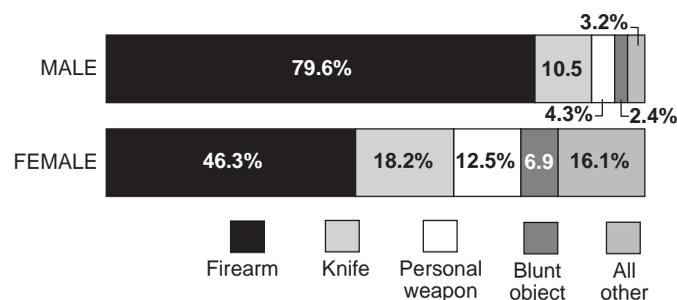
Source: Table 21.

Figure 29
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1996–2005
By Selected Types of Weapons Used



Source: Table 21.

Figure 30
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Gender of Victim by Type of Weapon Used

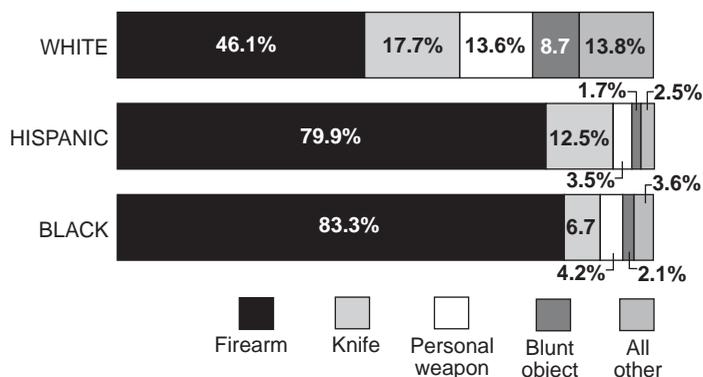


Source: Table 22.

In 2005,

- A greater percentage of males (79.6 percent) were killed with firearms than were females (46.3 percent).
- A greater percentage of females (53.7 percent) were killed with non-firearms than were males (20.4 percent).
- A greater percentage of Hispanics and blacks were killed with firearms than were whites (79.9 and 83.3 vs. 46.1 percent, respectively).

Figure 31
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Type of Weapon Used



Source: Table 22.

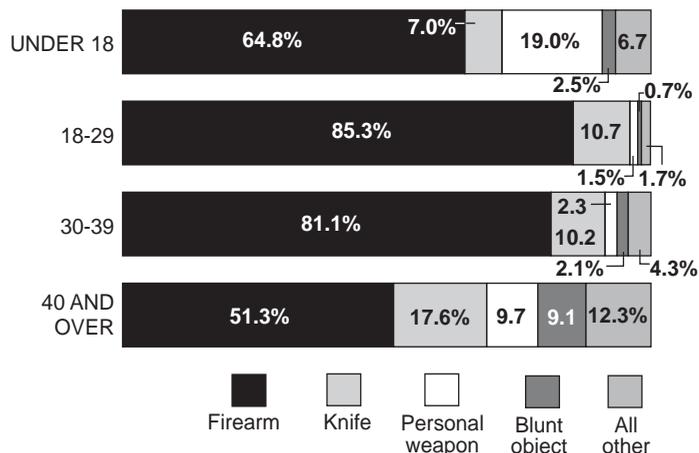
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

 In 2005, for victims of the race/ethnic groups shown, a higher percentage were killed by a firearm than by any other type of weapon.

In 2005,

- A greater percentage of victims aged 18–29 were killed with firearms (85.3 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.

Figure 32
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Age of Victim by Type of Weapon Used

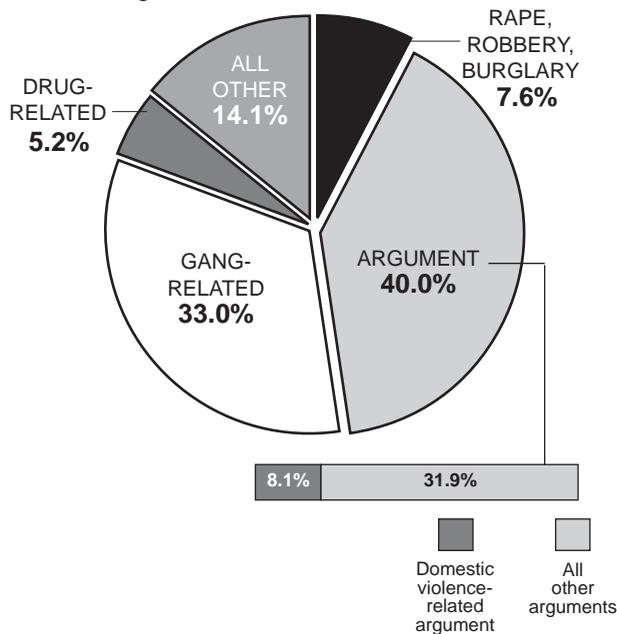


Source: Table 23.

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

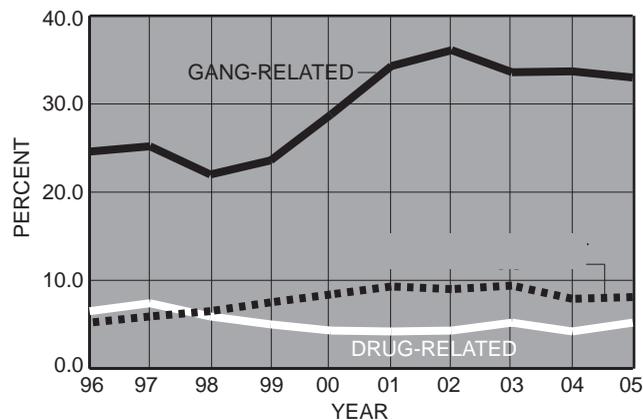
In 2005, over 85 percent of homicide victims aged 18–29 were killed with firearms.

Figure 33
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
By Contributing Circumstance



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

Figure 34
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1996–2005
By Selected Contributing Circumstance



Source: Table 24.

In 2005, when homicides were examined by contributing circumstance, it was found that:

- 7.6 percent occurred as a result of a rape, robbery, or burglary.
- 40.0 percent occurred as a result of an argument.
 - 8.1 percent occurred as a result of a domestic violence-related argument.
 - 31.9 percent occurred as a result of all other types of arguments.
- 33.0 percent were gang-related.
- 5.2 percent were drug-related.
- 14.1 percent occurred as a result of “all other” contributing circumstances.

Comparing 1996 to 2005:

- The percentage of homicides in which the contributing circumstance was a domestic violence-related argument increased from 5.2 percent to 8.1 percent.
- The percentage of homicides in which the contributing circumstance was gang-related increased from 24.6 percent to 33.0 percent.
- The percentage of homicides in which the contributing circumstance was drug-related decreased from 6.5 percent to 5.2 percent.

 ***In 2005, where the contributing circumstance was known, 40.0 percent of homicides were the result of an argument.***



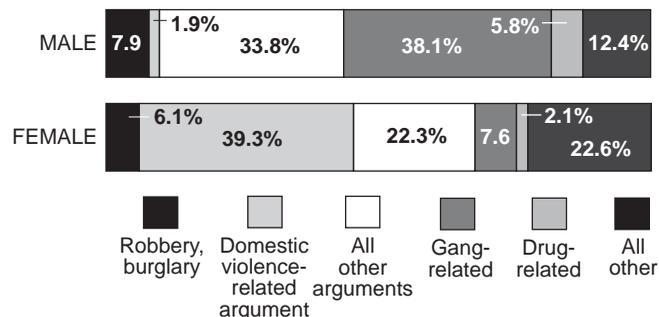
In 2005,

- The greatest percentage of males (38.1 percent) were victims of gang-related homicides.
- The greatest percentage of females (39.3 percent) were victims of domestic violence-related homicides.

In 2005,

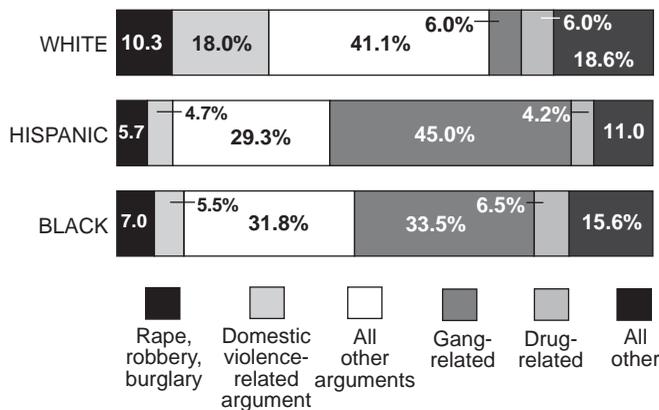
- The proportion of gang-related homicides was much greater for Hispanics and blacks than for whites (45.0, 33.5, and 6.0 percent, respectively).

Figure 35
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Gender of Victim by Contributing Circumstance



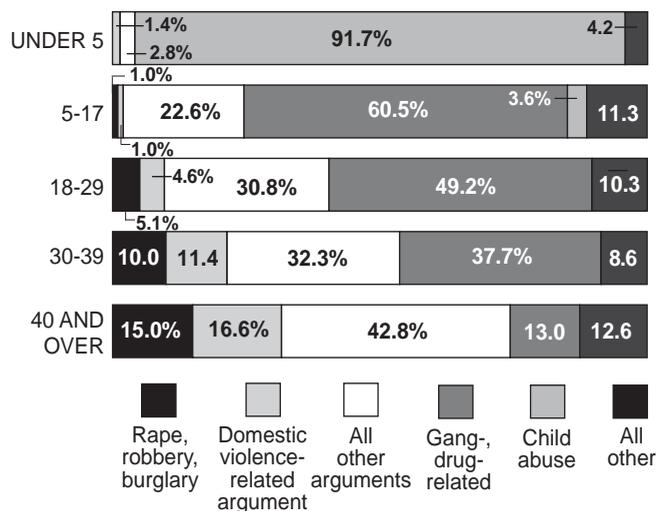
Source: Table 25.
Notes: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding. Figures 33, 36, and 37 include rape with robbery and burglary. However, for a more relevant comparison between male and female victims, rape is included in the "all other" category in Figure 35. In 2005, 2.1 percent of homicide crimes involving females were rape-related.

Figure 36
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Contributing Circumstance



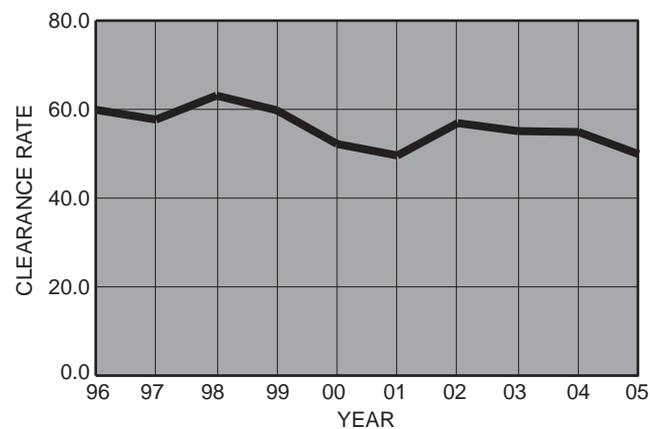
Source: Table 25.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Figure 37
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2005
Age of Victim by Contributing Circumstance



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

Figure 38
HOMICIDE CRIMES CLEARED, 1996–2005
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 2005, where the contributing circumstance was known:

- The majority of homicide victims under age 5 were killed as a result of child abuse (91.7 percent).
- The greatest percentage of homicide victims aged 5–17 and aged 18–29 were killed as a result of gang- or drug-related activities (60.5 and 49.2 percent, respectively).
- The greatest percentage of homicide victims aged 30–39 and aged 40 and over were killed as a result of argument-related conflicts (43.7 and 58.0 percent, respectively).

From 1996 to 2005:

- Homicide clearance rates fell from 59.9 to 49.9.
- Clearance rates ranged from a high of 63.1 in 1998 to a low of 49.6 in 2001.