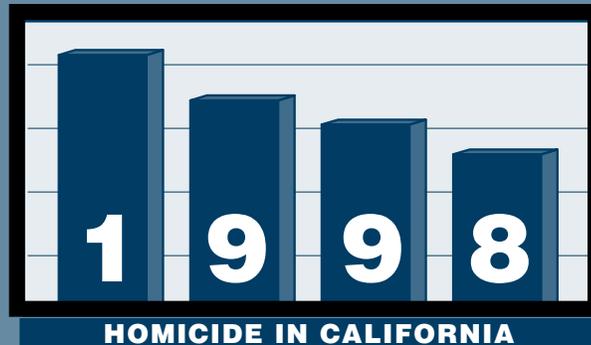


HOMICIDE CRIMES



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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 over 45 years.

From 1997 to 1998:

- The homicide rate per 100,000 population decreased 16.7 percent (7.8 to 6.5).
- The number of homicides decreased 15.9 percent (from 2,579 to 2,170).

Comparing 1989 to 1998:

- The homicide rate per 100,000 population decreased 40.9 percent (11.0 to 6.5).
- The number of homicides decreased 31.3 percent (from 3,159 to 2,170).

Comparing 1952 to 1998:

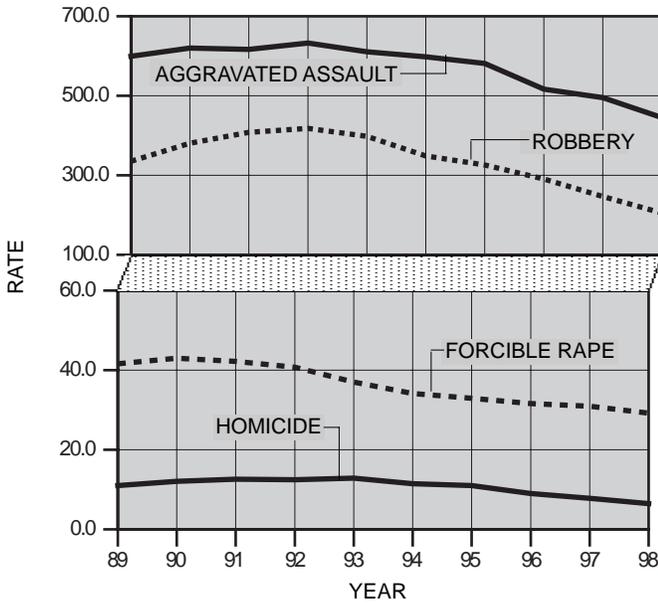
- The homicide rate per 100,000 population increased 170.8 percent (2.4 to 6.5).
- The number of homicides increased 677.8 percent (from 279 to 2,170).

□ *The 1998 homicide rate of 6.5 is the lowest since 1968 and represents the fifth consecutive year of decline.*

Table N-1
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1952-1998
Number and Rate per 100,000 Population

Year(s)	Number	Rate
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, 1989-1998
 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 1997 to 1998:

- Homicide decreased 16.7 percent (7.8 to 6.5).
- Forcible rape decreased 5.5 percent (30.9 to 29.2).
- Robbery decreased 16.9 percent (247.0 to 205.3).
- Aggravated assault decreased 10.1 percent (495.3 to 445.1).

Comparing 1989 to 1998:

- Homicide decreased 40.9 percent (11.0 to 6.5).
- Forcible rape decreased 29.8 percent (41.6 to 29.2).
- Robbery decreased 38.7 percent (335.1 to 205.3).
- Aggravated assault decreased 25.8 percent (599.5 to 445.1).

□ *Of the four offenses classified as violent crimes by the FBI, homicide maintained the lowest rate per 100,000 population for the years shown and had the highest rate of decline since 1989 (down 40.9 percent).*

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

In 1998,

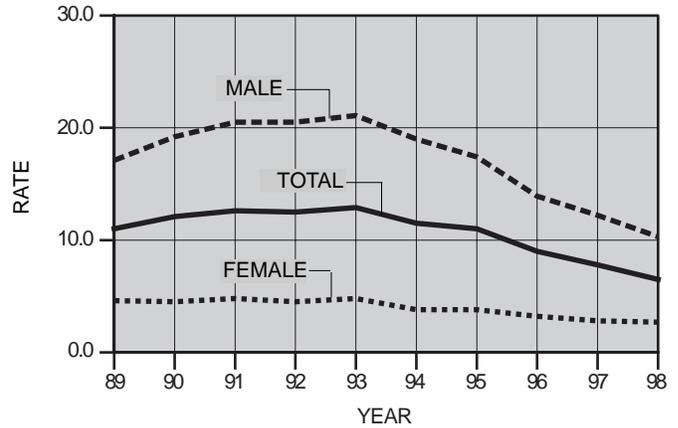
- The total homicide rate was 6.5 per 100,000 population.
- The male homicide rate was over three and one-half times that of the female homicide rate (10.3 vs. 2.7).
- The black homicide rate was over seven and one-half times that of whites and almost two and one-half times that of Hispanics (22.6 vs. 3.0 and 9.6, respectively).

Comparing 1989 to 1998:

- The male homicide rate decreased 39.8 percent. The female homicide rate decreased 41.3 percent.
- The white homicide rate decreased 42.3 percent, the Hispanic homicide rate decreased 36.4 percent, and the black homicide rate decreased 53.7 percent.

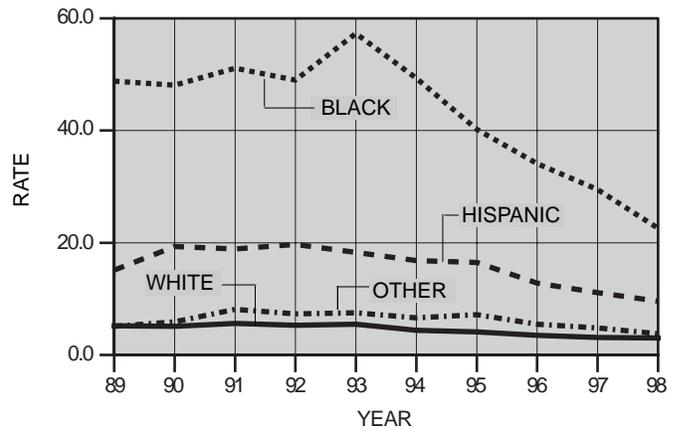
□ *Since 1989, homicide rates have decreased for all gender and race/ethnic groups shown. Blacks experienced the highest rate of decline (down 53.7 percent) but continue to maintain substantially higher homicide victimization rates compared to whites and Hispanics.*

Chart 2
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1989-1998
By Gender of Victim
Rate per 100,000 Population



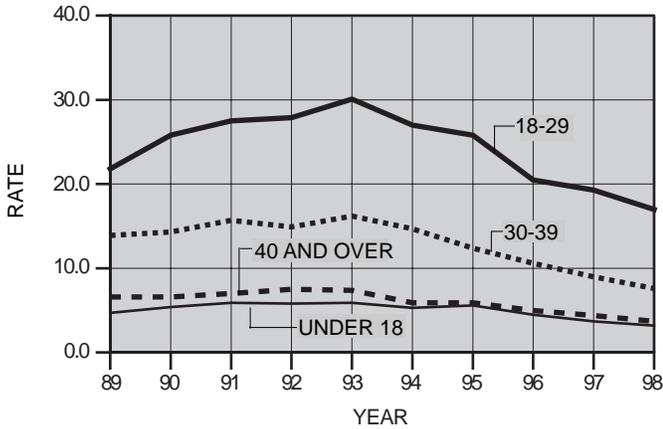
Source: Table 2.

Chart 3
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1989-1998
By Race/Ethnic Group of Victim
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 3.

Chart 4
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1989-1998
 By Age of Victim
 Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 4.

In 1998,

- Persons aged 18-29 had the highest homicide victimization rate (17.0 per 100,000 population).

Comparing 1989 to 1998:

- The homicide rate decreased 31.9 percent for victims under age 18, 22.0 percent for victims aged 18-29, 45.3 percent for victims aged 30-39, and 43.9 percent for victims aged 40 and over.

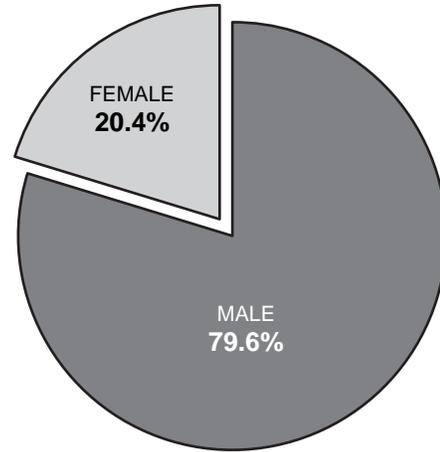
- *Since 1989, homicide rates have decreased for all age categories shown. Persons aged 18-29, however, continue to maintain the highest homicide victimization rate (in 1998, the rate was five times that of victims under age 18, two times that of victims aged 30-39, and four and one-half times that of victims aged 40 and over).*

In 1998,

- Males represented 79.6 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 50.2 percent of the population.
- Females represented 20.4 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 49.8 percent of the population.

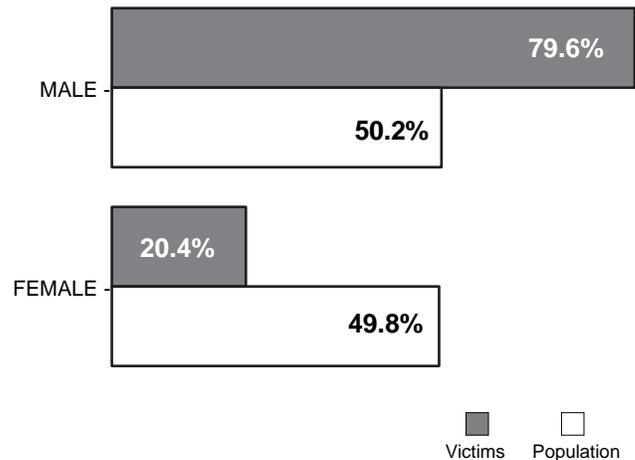
□ *As homicide victims, males are statistically over-represented when compared to females.*

Chart 5
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1998
By Gender of Victim



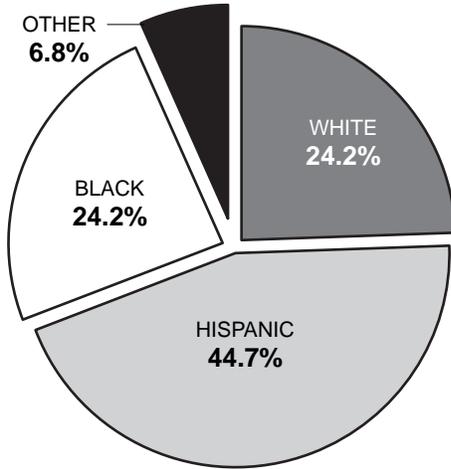
Source: Table 5.

Chart 6
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1998
Gender of Victim by Percent of Total Victims
and Percent of Population



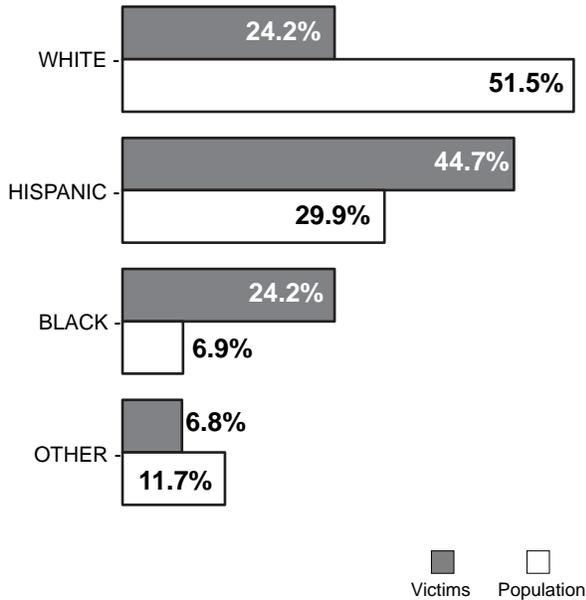
Sources: Table 2 and Table 5.

Chart 7
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1998
 By Race/Ethnic Group of Victim



Source: Table 6.
 Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of independent rounding.

Chart 8
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1998
 Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Percent of Total Victims and Percent of Population



Sources: Table 3 and Table 6.
 Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of independent rounding.

In 1998,

- Whites represented 24.2 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 51.5 percent of the population.
- Hispanics represented 44.7 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 29.9 percent of the population.
- Blacks represented 24.2 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 6.9 percent of the population.
- The “other” race/ethnic group category represented 6.8 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 11.7 percent of the population.

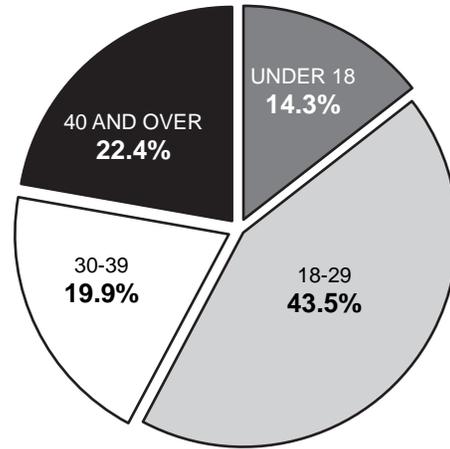
□ *As homicide victims, Hispanics and blacks are statistically over-represented when compared to the white and “other” race/ethnic group categories.*

In 1998,

- Victims under age 18 represented 14.3 percent of total homicides; this age group comprised 28.1 percent of the population.
- Victims aged 18-29 represented 43.5 percent of total homicides; this age group comprised 16.3 percent of the population.
- Victims aged 30-39 represented 19.9 percent of total homicides; this age group comprised 16.9 percent of the population.
- Victims aged 40 and over represented 22.4 percent of total homicides; this age group comprised 38.7 percent of the population.

□ *Persons aged 18-29 display the greatest disparity between proportion of population and proportion of homicide victimization.*

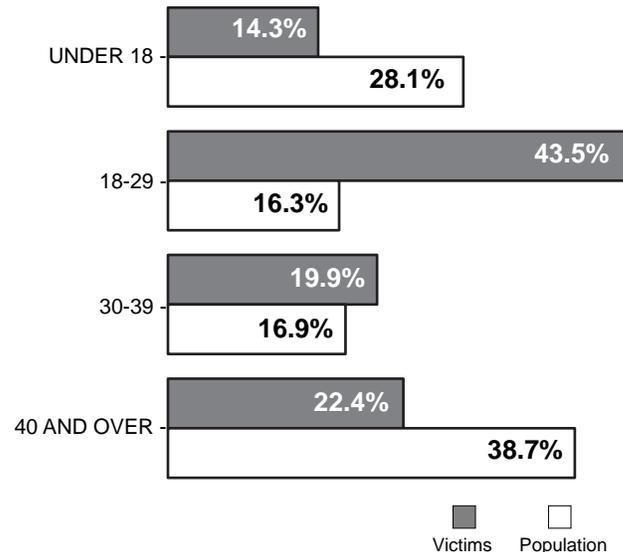
Chart 9
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1998
By Age of Victim



Source: Table 7.

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

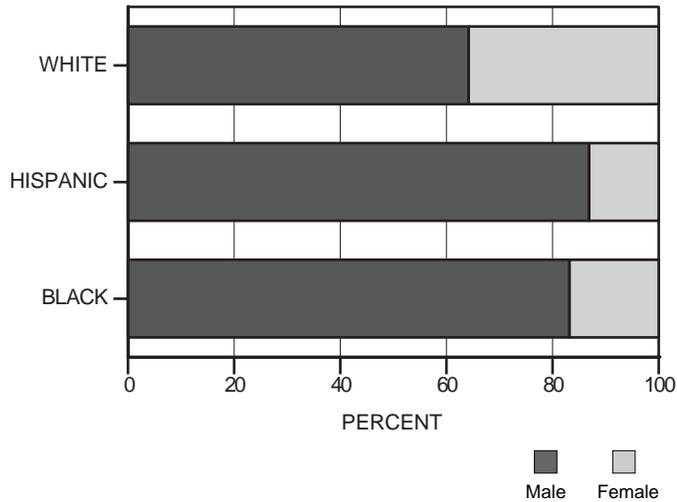
Chart 10
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1998
Age of Victim by Percent of Total Victims and Percent of Population



Sources: Table 4 and Table 7.

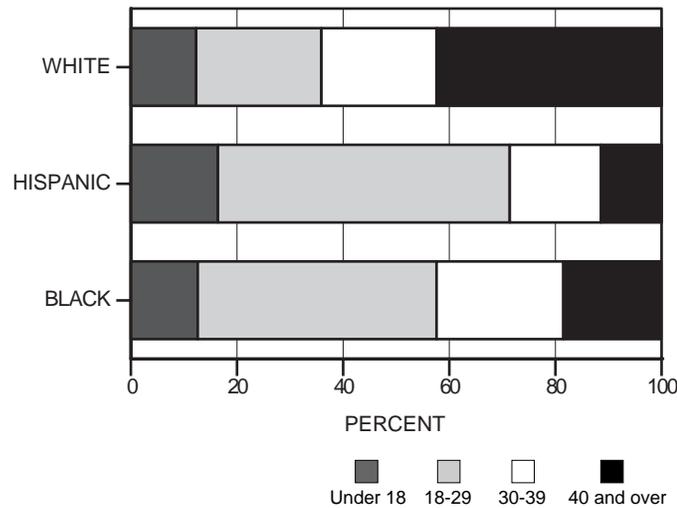
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of independent rounding.

Chart 11
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1998
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Gender of Victim



Source: Table 8.

Chart 12
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1998
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Age of Victim



Source: Table 9.

In 1998,

- More white victims were female than were either Hispanic or black victims (35.8 vs. 13.1 and 16.8 percent, respectively).
- More Hispanic and black victims were aged 18-29 than were white victims (55.0 and 45.0 vs. 23.6 percent, respectively).
- More white victims were aged 40 and over than were either Hispanic or black victims (42.4 vs. 11.4 and 18.4 percent, respectively).

□ *White victims tended to be older, Hispanic and black victims younger.*

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

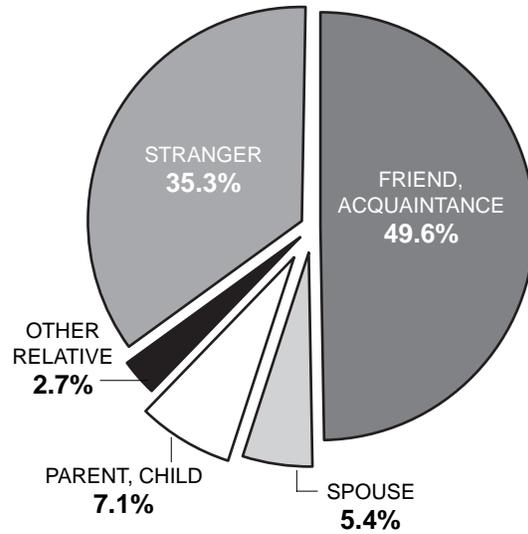
In 1998,

- 49.6 percent of victims were friends or acquaintances of offenders.
- 5.4 percent of victims were spouses of offenders.
- 7.1 percent of victims were parents or children of offenders.
- 2.7 percent of the relationships of victim to offender fell into the "other relative" category.
- 35.3 percent of victims were strangers to offenders.

Comparing 1989 to 1998:

- The proportion of homicides in which victims were friends or acquaintances of offenders decreased from 51.1 percent in 1989 to 49.6 percent in 1998.
- The proportion of homicides in which victims were strangers to offenders increased from 32.3 percent in 1989 to 35.3 percent in 1998.

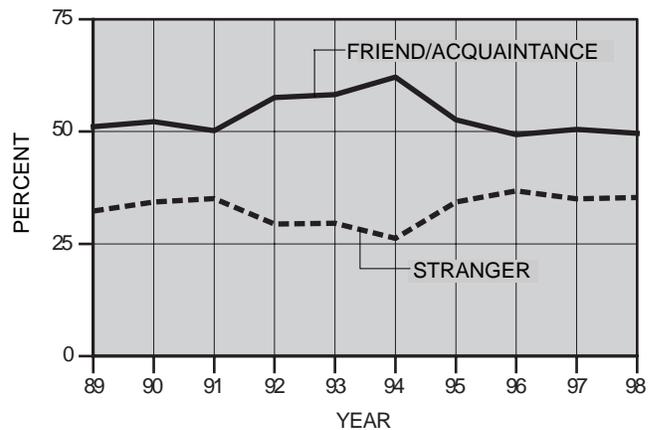
Chart 13
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1998
By Relationship of Victim to Offender



Source: Table 11.

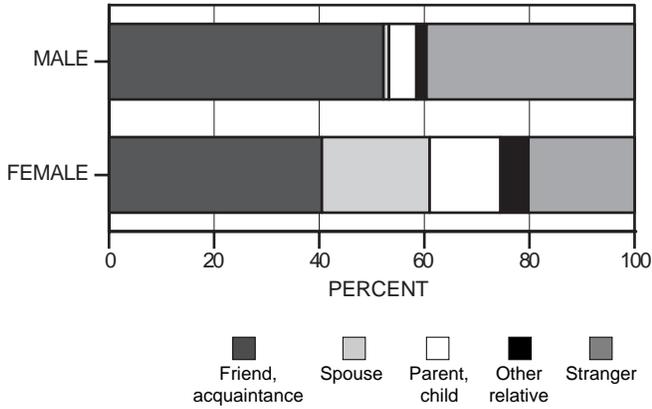
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of independent rounding.

Chart 14
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1989-1998
By Selected Relationships of Victims to Offenders



Source: Table 11.

Chart 15
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1998
 Gender of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender

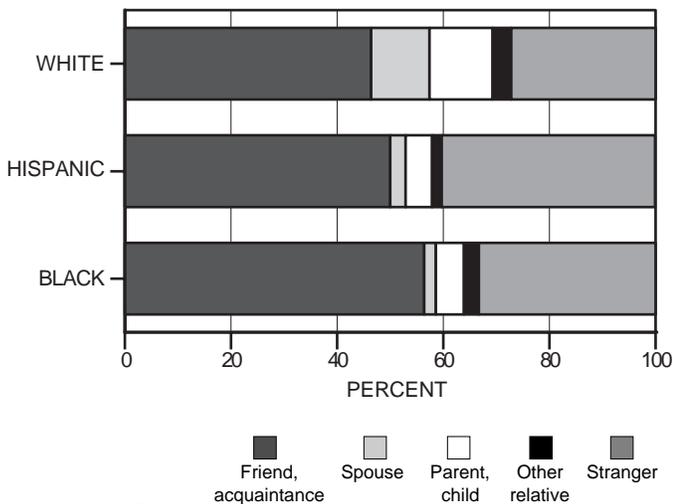


Source: Table 12.

In 1998,

- More female victims were spouses of offenders (20.5 percent) than were male victims (1.1 percent).
- More white victims were spouses, parents, or children of offenders than were either Hispanic or black victims (23.0 vs. 8.0 and 7.5 percent, respectively).

Chart 16
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1998
 Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender



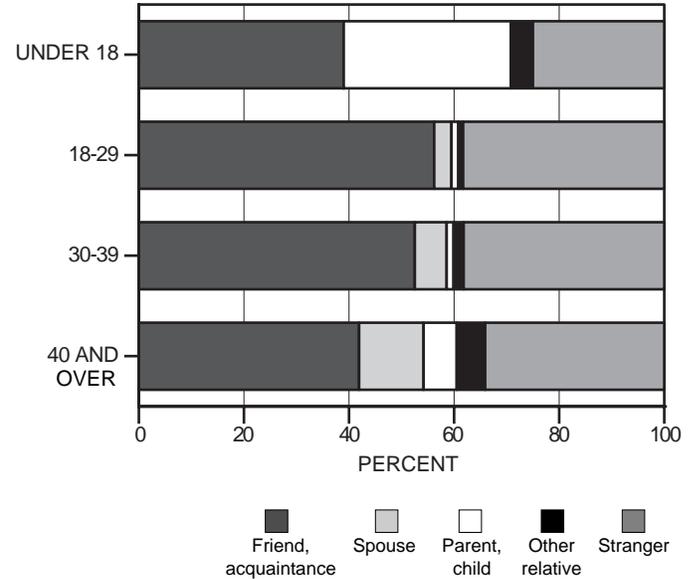
Source: Table 12.

□ *Proportionately, females were eighteen and one-half times more likely to be killed by their spouses than were males.*

In 1998,

- Victims under age 18 were least likely to be strangers to offenders (25.0 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.
- More victims aged 18-29 were friends or acquaintances of offenders (56.2 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.
- More victims aged 40 and over were spouses of offenders (12.3 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.

Chart 17
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1998
Age of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender



Source: Table 13.

□ *Regardless of age group, the largest proportion of homicide victims were killed by friends or acquaintances.*

