

1972

# Homicides in California, 1970-1971

California Department of Justice

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NON-CIRCULATING

1970-1971



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KFC22.J250 H61 1972  
California. Bureau of  
Criminal Statistics  
Homicides in California,  
1970-1971

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## HOMICIDES IN CALIFORNIA

### Introduction

The homicides included in Part I of this study are divided into two groups - police officers killed and those killed by police officers. Killings among the general public are touched upon briefly in Part I and treated in detail in Part II. The descriptive data are the circumstances routinely reported to the Bureau of Criminal Statistics by law enforcement agencies.

In some breakdowns of the material there are large numbers of "not stated" items, in which details are not reported or are unknown. Since the inclusion of these items would distort the proportions of known items, they are disregarded in the percentage calculations. They are included in the first table of Part I in order to show the overall sample size, but are omitted in following tables.



LSJ, 484

CALIFORNIA BUREAU OF CRIMINAL STATISTICS

NOV 30 1972

# PART I

There were important changes in the relationships among the three homicide groups from 1970 to 1971, as shown in the following table.

Group	Number 1970	Number 1971	Percent increase 1970-1971
Total	1,486	1,789	20.4
Police officers killed	20	14	-30.0
Killed by police officers	46	70	52.2
General public killings	1,420	1,705	20.1

The general public figures include justifiable homicides, while those shown in Bureau publications do not. For the latter series, the average annual increase has been about 14 percent from 1962 through 1971. Assuming that justifiable homicides have formed a more or less consistent component of the total, it appears that the 20 percent increase from 1970 to 1971 is somewhat high.

The other aspect of the table which claims attention is the inverse relationship between police officer killings and those killed by policemen. A rise of 52 percent in those killed by police officers was accompanied by a 30 percent drop in police officer homicides. Whether these circumstances are causally connected cannot, of course, be determined from available statistics.

The racial characteristics of the two sub-groups are set forth below.

	1970		1971	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Police officers killed				
Total	20	100.0	14	100.0
White	18	90.0	13	92.9
Mexican-American	-	-	1	7.1
Negro	1	5.0	-	-
Other	1	5.0	-	-
Killed by police officers				
Total	46	100.0	70	100.0
White	21	45.7	26	37.1
Mexican-American	7	15.2	9	12.9
Negro	18	39.1	34	48.6
Other	-	-	1	1.4

Police officer victims appear to be predominantly white. Among those killed by police officers the percentage of Negroes jumped sharply, from about 39 percent to 48 percent. At the same time the proportion of Mexican-Americans remained more or less constant, while the white percentage dropped by about the same relative amount the Negro deaths rose--approximately 8 percent.

Conflicts between police and Negro populations may explain the configuration of the two police sub-groups. Increasing militancy of minority organizations may also contribute to the rise.

Age statistics are as follows:

Police officers killed	1970		1971	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	20	100.0	14	100.0
20-24	5	25.0	1	7.1
25-29	7	35.0	4	28.6
30-34	1	5.0	5	35.7
35-39	3	15.0	1	7.1
40-44	3	15.0	1	7.1
45-49	1	5.0	-	-
50 and older	-	-	2	14.3
Killed by police officers				
Total	45	100.0	69	100.0
15-19	7	15.6	13	18.8
20-24	15	33.3	16	23.2
25-29	11	24.4	13	18.8
30-34	4	8.9	5	7.3
35-39	3	6.7	9	13.0
40-44	1	2.2	7	10.2
45-49	1	2.2	2	2.9
50 and older	3	6.7	4	5.8

The peace officers who were killed were apparently an older cohort in 1971 than that in 1970. This is suggested by a comparison of median ages—28.1 years in 1970 and 31.5 in 1971. Since the samples are small, however, hard and fast conclusions cannot be drawn.

The median age of persons killed by the police do not differ greatly—24.5 years in 1970 and 24.9 in 1971. This difference could well have been produced by chance factors.

The circumstances of the deaths are detailed below.

Police officers killed	1970		1971	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	20	100.0	14	100.0
Criminal activity	14	70.0	13	92.9
All other	6	30.0	1	7.1
Killed by police officers				
Total	46	100.0	70	100.0
Attacked officer	16	34.8	26	37.1
Attacked other officer	3	6.5	1	1.4
Attacked civilians	6	13.0	2	2.9
Resisted arrest	3	6.5	14	20.0
Attempted flight	6	13.0	7	10.0
Committed crime	10	21.7	15	21.4
Undeterminable	2	4.4	5	7.1



The instrument of the killings is shown as follows:

Police officers killed	1970		1971	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	19	100.0	14	100.0
Gun (type not specified)	1	5.3	-	-
Handgun	14	73.7	9	64.3
Rifle	1	5.3	2	14.3
Shotgun	1	5.3	3	21.4
Hands and feet	1	5.3	-	-
Explosives	1	5.3	-	-
Killed by police officers				
Total	46	100.0	69	100.0
Gun (type not specified)	4	8.7	2	2.9
Handgun	35	76.1	58	84.1
Rifle	-	-	-	-
Shotgun	7	15.2	9	13.0

The numbers of persons in various jurisdictions killed by police action are displayed below. The greatest proportion occurred in Los Angeles County. Seemingly, on the basis of two years of data, this proportion is growing.

**PERSONS KILLED BY POLICE WITH POLICE JURISDICTION**

Jurisdiction	1970		Jurisdiction	1971	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Total	46	100.0	Total	70	100.0
Los Angeles County	25	54.3	Los Angeles County	45	64.3
Los Angeles Police Department	19		Los Angeles Police Department	27	
Bell Police Department	1		Sheriff's Office	4	
Burbank Police Department	1		Gardena Police Department	1	
Compton Police Department	1		Inglewood Police Department	2	
Hawthorne Police Department	1		Long Beach Police Department	3	
Long Beach Police Department	1		Carson Police Department	1	
South Gate Police Department	1		La Puente Police Department	1	
Balance of State	21	45.7	Lawndale Police Department	1	
Orange County	1		Pico Rivera Police Department	1	
Anaheim Police Department	1		Rosemead Police Department	1	
Riverside County	1		San Marino Police Department	1	
Riverside Police Department	1		Torrance Police Department	2	
San Bernardino County	1		Balance of State	25	35.7
Fontana Police Department	1		Orange County	1	
San Francisco County	4		Fountain Valley Police Department	1	
San Francisco Police Department	4		Riverside County	1	
Alameda County	2		Riverside Police Department	1	
Oakland Police Department	2		San Bernardino County	1	
Marin County	1		Upland Police Department	1	
Sausalito Police Department	1		San Diego County	2	
Santa Clara County	2		San Diego Police Department	2	
Santa Clara Police Department	2		Ventura County	1	
Solano County	1		Oxnard Police Department	1	
Vallejo Police Department	1		San Francisco County	3	
Kern County	1		San Francisco Police Department	3	
Sheriff's Office	1		Alameda County	3	
Kings County	1		Berkeley Police Department	1	
Sheriff's Office	1		Oakland Police Department	2	
San Joaquin County	2		Contra Costa County	4	
Stockton Police Department	2		Pittsburg Police Department	1	
Tulare County	1		Pleasant Hill Police Department	2	
Tulare Police Department	1		Richmond Police Department	1	
Sacramento County	3		Santa Clara County	4	
Sacramento Police Department	3		San Jose Police Department	4	
			San Joaquin County	1	
			Sheriff's Office	1	
			Kern County	1	
			Delano Police Department	1	
			Kings County	1	
			Hanford Police Department	1	
			Sacramento County	2	
			Sacramento Police Department	2	

## PART II

In this portion of the report the "normal" homicides, those in which a private citizen kills another, are explored with respect to the age, race and sex of the victim. The sex breakdown of the perpetrators is also detailed.

As before, the "not stated" characteristics are omitted, which in most cases causes totals for the same variable to differ when tabulated in relation to other study variables. For example, the age-sex tabulation totals 1,670 cases, while the sex-race table contains 1,697.

The following table shows the relationship of the victim's age and sex; victims' race and perpetrators' sex are tabulated on the next page.

Victim's age group	Sex of victim				
	Total	Male		Female	
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,670	1,242	74.4	428	25.6
0-4	68	39	57.4	29	42.6
5-9	17	9	52.9	8	47.1
10-14	26	19	73.1	7	26.9
15-19	178	125	70.2	53	29.8
20-24	292	232	79.5	60	20.5
25-29	233	182	78.1	51	21.9
30-34	160	122	76.2	38	23.8
35-39	162	122	75.3	40	24.7
40-44	138	105	76.1	33	23.9
45-49	121	95	78.5	26	21.5
50-54	67	53	79.1	14	20.9
55-59	67	55	82.1	12	17.9
60-64	37	26	70.3	11	29.7
65-69	37	24	64.9	13	35.1
70-74	26	13	50.0	13	50.0
75-79	18	14	77.8	4	22.2
80-89	23	7	30.4	16	69.6

Several interesting relationships emerge from consideration of these tables. One is the relatively high proportions of female victims in the 0-9 and 60+ age classes. At the low end of the scale the circumstances (shown later in the report) of the fatalities are those of parental assaults on children. This conclusion is strengthened by the sex of perpetrator data. In the 0-9 classes, 40 percent of the offenders are female, as compared with 17 percent for the entire age distribution. Parental irritation seemingly operates more independently of sex than do other homicide causes. In the 60+ classes the principal causes of the excessive female victimization are criminal activities, of which robbery is the most prominent. It is intuitively reasonable that older women offer more appealing targets for pursesnatchings and muggings and at the same time are more vulnerable to violence than younger persons. It appears from racial tabulation that the majority of the victims at both ends of the age scale are white.

Victim's age group	Total Number	Race of victim							
		White		Mexican-American		Negro		Other	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,669	826	49.5	203	12.2	581	34.8	59	3.5
0-4	68	37	54.4	6	8.8	23	33.8	2	2.9
5-9	17	11	64.7	-	-	6	35.3	-	-
10-14	26	17	65.4	2	7.7	7	26.9	-	-
15-19	178	85	47.8	34	19.1	55	30.9	4	2.2
20-24	292	114	39.0	40	13.7	124	42.5	14	4.8
25-29	233	97	41.6	31	13.3	95	40.8	10	4.3
30-34	160	54	33.8	24	15.0	75	46.9	7	4.4
35-39	161	69	42.9	19	11.8	69	42.9	4	2.5
40-44	138	70	50.7	21	15.2	42	30.4	5	3.6
45-49	121	71	58.7	10	8.3	37	30.5	3	2.5
50-54	67	42	62.7	5	7.5	18	26.9	2	3.0
55-59	67	49	73.1	6	9.0	10	14.9	2	3.0
60-64	37	26	70.3	1	2.7	8	21.6	2	5.4
65-69	37	27	73.0	-	-	7	18.9	3	8.1
70-74	26	22	84.6	1	3.8	3	11.5	-	-
75-79	18	17	94.4	-	-	-	-	1	5.6
80-89	23	18	78.3	3	13.0	2	8.7	-	-

Victim's age group	Sex of perpetrator				
	Total	Male		Female	
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,328	1,104	83.1	224	16.9
0-4	64	42	65.6	22	34.4
5-9	16	6	37.5	10	62.5
10-14	23	17	73.9	6	26.1
15-19	142	133	93.7	9	6.3
20-24	231	206	89.2	25	10.8
25-29	188	150	79.8	38	20.2
30-34	132	108	81.8	24	18.2
35-39	140	111	79.3	29	20.7
40-44	106	83	78.3	23	21.7
45-49	100	83	83.0	17	17.0
50-54	52	46	88.5	6	11.5
55-59	42	37	88.1	5	11.9
60-64	23	19	82.6	4	17.4
65-69	28	23	88.5	3	11.5
70-74	20	19	95.0	1	5.0
75-79	8	7	87.5	1	12.5
80-89	15	14	93.3	1	6.7

Before leaving the subject of age the homicide rate by age group might fittingly be studied. In the table below, 1970 census population figures are employed. Because the census age distribution consolidates certain classes, the study data have been regrouped accordingly.

Victim's age group	Total		
	Homicides	Population	Homicides per 100,000
Total	1,670	19,953,134	8.4
0-4	68	1,642,683	4.1
5-9	17	1,918,127	0.9
10-14	26	1,963,681	1.3
15-19	178	1,817,379	9.8
20-24	292	1,740,966	16.8
25-34	393	2,677,003	14.7
35-44	300	2,358,549	12.7
45-54	188	2,329,755	8.0
55-59	67	933,244	7.2
60-64	37	770,770	4.8
65-74	63	1,105,236	5.7
75 & older	41	695,741	5.9

Victim's age group	Male		
	Homicides	Population	Homicides per 100,000
Total	1,242	9,816,685	12.6
0-4	39	837,303	4.7
5-9	9	975,981	0.9
10-14	19	998,536	1.9
15-19	125	930,884	13.4
20-24	232	872,256	26.7
25-34	304	1,338,206	22.7
35-44	227	1,167,556	19.4
45-54	148	1,137,095	13.0
55-59	55	451,259	12.2
60-64	26	363,840	7.2
65-74	37	481,119	7.6
75 & older	21	262,250	8.0

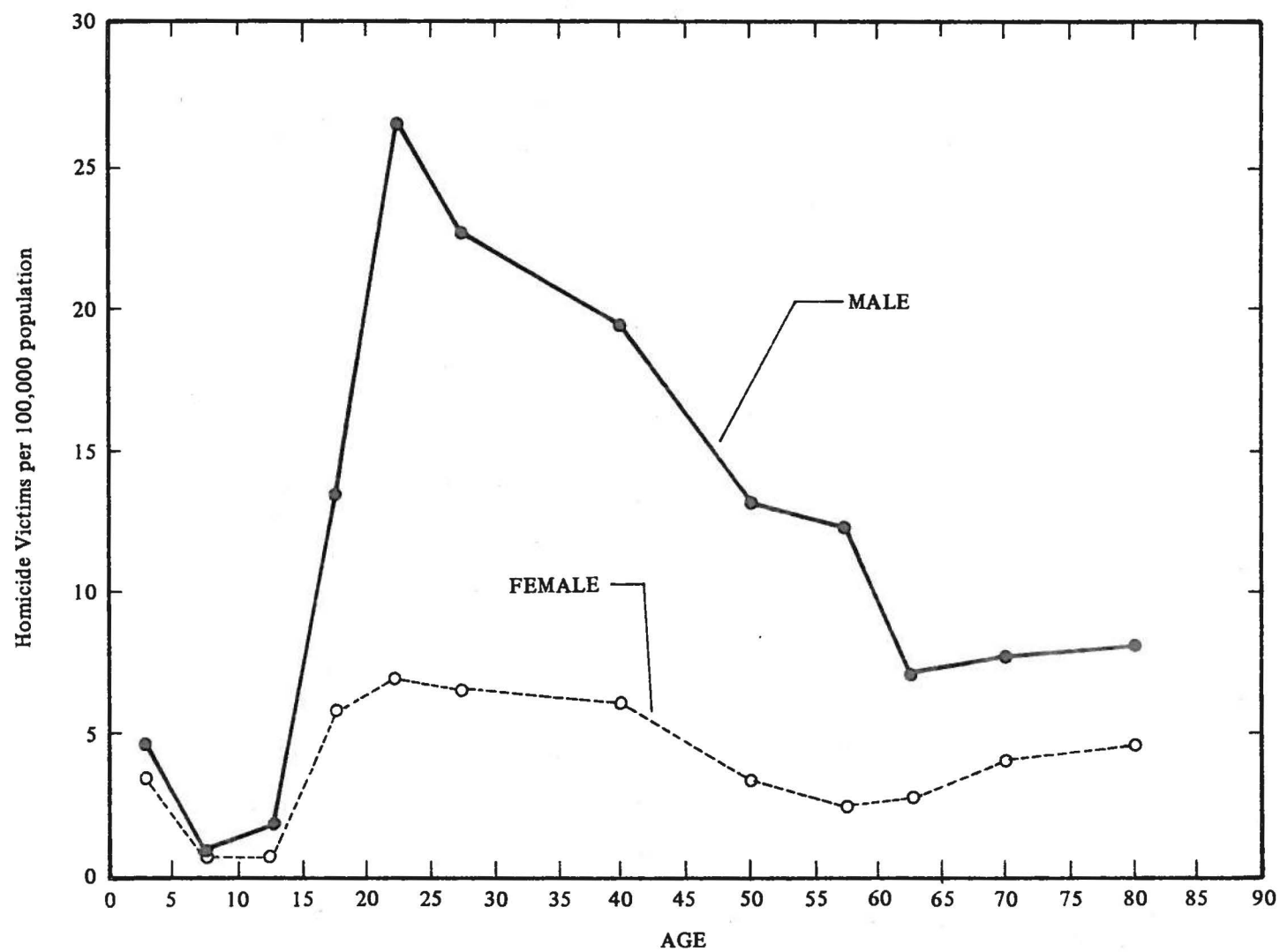
Victim's age group	Female		
	Homicides	Population	Homicides per 100,000
Total	428	10,136,449	4.2
0-4	29	805,380	3.6
5-9	8	942,146	0.8
10-14	7	965,145	0.7
15-19	53	886,495	6.0
20-24	60	868,710	6.9
25-34	89	1,338,797	6.6
35-44	73	1,190,993	6.1
45-54	40	1,192,660	3.4
55-59	12	481,985	2.5
60-64	11	406,930	2.7
65-74	26	624,117	4.2
75 & older	20	433,091	4.6

These rates are presented graphically in Figure I. It is evident from the chart that male homicides occur with much greater frequency than do female. Further, the age patterns of the sexes, while similar in many respects, show one outstanding difference - the great peak in male deaths in the 20-24 year span. This period is probably the most active of the lifetime and exposure to fatal potentialities may be at a maximum. However, such influences cannot be evaluated in this study.

The age-race tabulation embodies some rather striking findings. It is well known that the greatest number of homicides occurs among whites. This condition is most evident in the 0-14 and 70-89 year classes. But in the 20-39 year groupings, Negro homicides are either approximately equal to or greater than those among subjects of Caucasian extraction.

Figure 1

1971 HOMICIDE VICTIMS PER 100,000 POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX OF VICTIM



Rates by ethnic groups cannot be uniformly determined because Mexican-American figures are not available. However, it was found in the 1970 census that Negroes made up about 7 percent of California's population. On the basis of their 35 percent incidence of homicides, it appears that they are greatly over-represented among homicide victims. The age-race data are displayed in Figure II. It is interesting to observe that the Negro curve is almost the exact inverse of that of whites. It is possible that offender data might shed some light on this configuration.

The preference in weapons by age group is detailed below:

Victim's age group	Total	Handguns		Other firearms		Knife or cutting tool		Blunt object		Bodily member		Other	
		Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent	Num-ber	Per-cent
Total	1,621	609	37.6	320	19.7	371	22.9	55	3.4	168	10.4	98	6.0
0-4	63	7	11.1	1	1.6	3	4.8	1	1.6	36	57.1	15	23.8
5-9	17	3	17.6	1	5.9	2	11.8	-	-	4	23.5	7	41.2
10-14	26	9	34.6	4	15.4	2	7.7	1	3.8	3	11.5	7	26.9
15-19	176	66	37.5	48	27.3	42	23.9	5	2.8	8	4.5	7	4.0
20-24	285	132	46.3	48	16.9	69	24.2	5	1.7	15	5.3	16	5.6
25-29	228	94	41.2	51	22.4	63	27.6	4	1.8	10	4.4	6	2.6
30-34	159	63	39.6	45	28.3	36	22.6	2	1.3	9	5.7	4	2.5
35-39	158	78	49.4	23	14.5	30	19.0	8	5.1	13	8.2	6	3.8
40-44	133	56	42.1	29	21.8	27	20.3	1	0.8	14	10.5	6	4.5
45-49	119	35	29.4	27	22.7	31	26.1	6	5.0	13	10.9	7	5.9
50-54	65	17	26.2	13	20.0	16	24.6	5	7.7	8	12.3	6	9.2
55-59	63	19	30.2	17	27.0	16	25.4	2	3.2	5	7.9	4	6.3
60-64	36	11	30.6	5	13.9	14	38.9	2	5.6	4	11.1	-	-
65-69	33	10	30.3	3	9.1	9	27.3	3	9.1	5	15.2	3	9.1
70-74	26	8	30.8	3	11.5	6	23.1	1	3.8	6	23.1	2	7.7
75-79	13	-	-	1	7.7	3	23.1	4	30.8	5	38.5	-	-
80-89	21	1	4.8	1	4.8	2	9.5	5	23.8	10	47.6	2	9.5

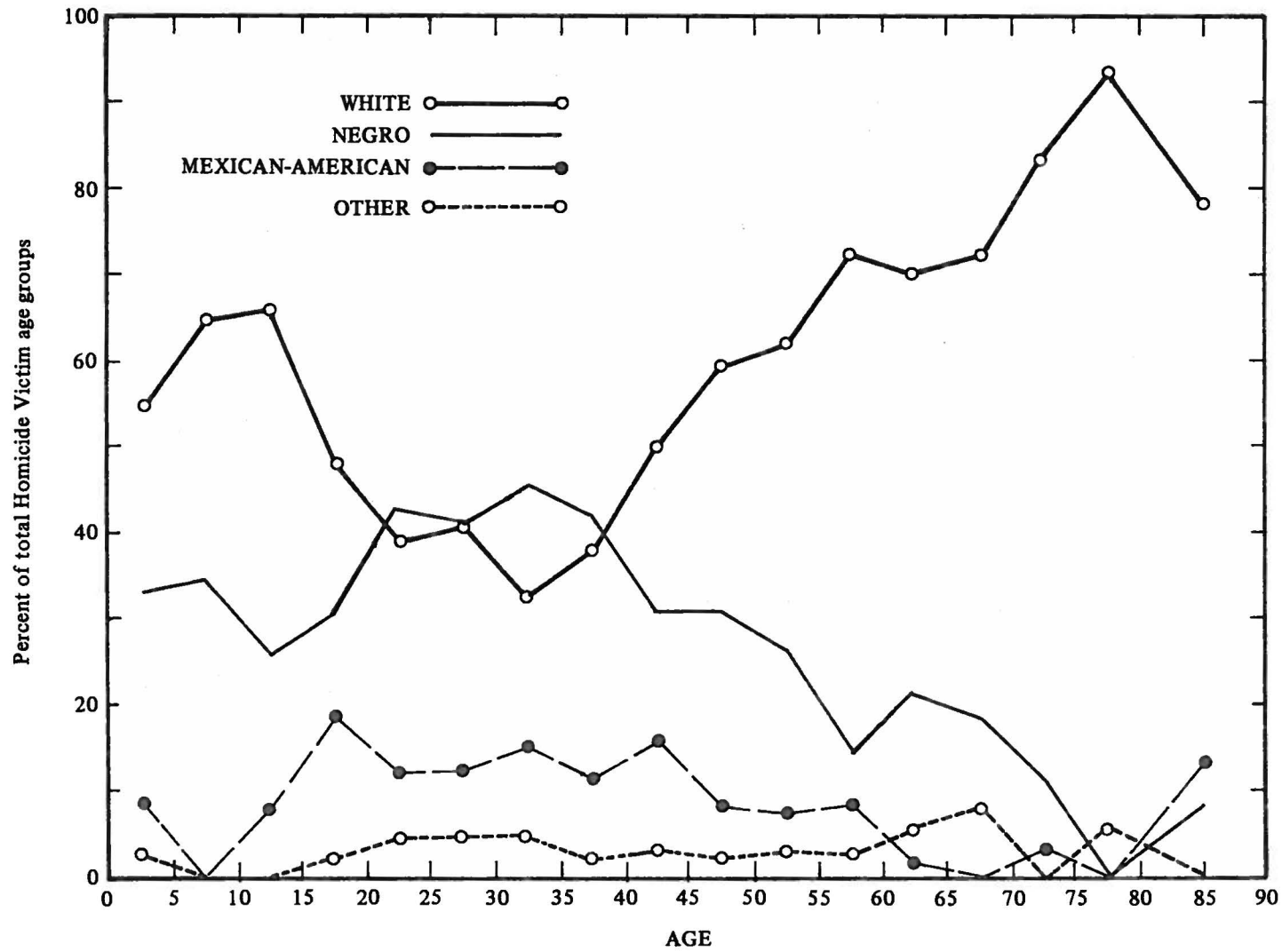
The Other Firearms category includes unspecified types of guns, plus rifles and shotguns. The Other classification contains deaths by poisoning (2), explosives (5), strangulation (5) and miscellaneous methods (87). Bodily Member refers to beatings and kickings which had fatal outcomes.

It may be fairly inferred that the choice of weapon fluctuates according to the capacity of the victim to defend himself. Thus, in assaults on children firearms play a minor role, while hands-and-feet and miscellaneous modes of attack predominate. From age 10 through 59, firearms are used in 50 percent or more of all homicides. From age 60 to the end of the scale, knifings, beatings and unspecified agencies are the major means of dispatching the victim.



Figure II

PERCENTAGES OF 1971 HOMICIDE VICTIMS BY AGE AND RACE



The circumstances surrounding the study of homicides are tabulated as follows:

Victim's age group	Total	Parent kills child		Child kills parent		Spouse kills spouse		Other family		Friends, acquaintances	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,290	13	5.6	17	1.3	192	14.9	63	4.9	529	41.0
0-9	72	53	73.6	-	-	-	-	2	2.8	10	13.9
10-19	155	13	8.4	-	-	4	2.6	12	7.7	56	36.1
20-24	232	5	2.2	-	-	23	9.9	12	5.2	177	50.4
25-29	185	-	-	1	0.5	38	20.6	6	3.2	98	53.0
30-34	124	-	-	-	-	34	27.4	1	0.8	65	52.5
35-39	130	-	-	2	1.5	30	23.1	8	6.2	55	42.3
40-44	108	1	0.9	4	3.7	26	24.1	10	9.3	42	38.9
45-49	89	-	-	5	5.6	14	15.7	4	4.5	38	42.7
50-54	46	-	-	1	2.2	6	13.0	4	8.7	18	39.1
55-59	45	1	2.2	1	2.2	8	17.8	2	4.5	12	26.7
60-69	52	-	-	2	3.8	5	9.6	1	1.9	14	26.9
70-79	35	-	-	-	-	3	8.6	1	2.9	4	11.4
80-89	17	-	-	1	5.9	1	5.9	-	-	-	-

Table continued below

Victim's age group	Robbery		Rape		Other crimes		Miscellaneous	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	176	13.7	44	3.4	67	5.2	129	10.0
0-9	-	-	3	4.2	2	2.8	2	2.8
10-19	8	5.2	8	5.2	9	5.8	45	29.0
20-24	19	8.2	9	3.9	15	6.4	32	13.8
25-29	17	9.2	3	1.6	8	4.3	14	7.6
30-34	7	5.6	1	0.8	7	5.6	9	7.3
35-39	16	12.3	4	3.1	1	0.8	14	10.7
40-44	16	14.8	3	2.8	1	0.9	5	4.6
45-49	15	16.9	6	6.7	3	3.4	4	4.5
50-54	13	28.2	1	2.2	1	2.2	2	4.4
55-59	16	35.5	1	2.2	4	8.9	-	-
60-69	20	38.5	-	-	9	17.3	1	1.9
70-79	19	54.3	4	11.4	3	8.6	1	2.9
80-89	10	58.8	1	5.9	4	23.5	-	-

This table tends to substantiate conclusions drawn earlier as to age-related homicides. It is shown, for example, that the aggressors in child killings are predominately parents. And in terms of percentages, persons 60 and older are most frequently the victims of robberies - the table on weapons suggests that these attacks are of the strongarm variety.

The Spouse vs. Spouse category probably follows a marriage frequency curve - the greatest number of homicides from this source occur when the greatest number of marriages are in force. The danger from friends and acquaintances, however, apparently prevails over the greater portion of the lifetime. From 20-34 years, over 50 percent of all killings originate in this category.

Deaths occurring as a result of criminal assaults make up about 22 percent of the total. As noted earlier, those associated with robbery show a sharp upturn from age 50 on, perhaps owing to a greater frequency of attacks against elderly victims. It is highly probable that the infirmities attendant on old age make such subjects more likely to succumb to violent assaults.

Rape and other sex crimes show an indeterminate pattern, while Other Crimes apparently include many of the violent variety; there is a moderate rise in mortality after age 60.

Sex-race proportions are presented in the following table:

Victim's race	Total	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Total	1,697	100.0	1,264	100.0	433	100.0
White	841	49.6	570	45.1	271	62.6
Mexican-American	207	12.2	173	13.7	34	7.9
Negro	589	34.7	475	37.6	114	26.3
Other	60	3.5	46	3.6	14	3.2

In relative terms the most frequent victims are white females, followed by white males and Negro males. Again comparing percentages, it is seen that only in the case of whites is the female proportion greater than the male.

The choice of weapon is distributed by sex as follows:

Weapon	Total	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Total	1,655	100.0	1,231	100.0	424	100.0
Handguns	621	37.5	488	39.7	133	31.4
Other firearms	326	19.7	266	21.6	60	14.1
Knife or cutting tool	382	23.1	302	24.5	80	18.9
Blunt object	58	3.5	43	3.5	15	3.5
Bodily member	169	10.2	85	6.9	84	19.8
Other	99	6.0	47	3.8	52	12.3

Proportionally, male victims meet their ends more frequently through the agencies of firearms or knives than do women. Beatings and kickings account for a high percentage of women because of the lesser capacity of women to defend themselves against this type of attack. In the Other class it is noteworthy that of the five deaths attributed to explosives, all the victims were male; of the five attributed to strangulation, all were female.

The circumstances of the homicides as related to sex are shown in the following table. It is evident from the percentage columns that females are more frequently victims of homicides in domestic settings, while men succumb more often to robbery and other crimes - except rape, which includes other sex crimes. (The 16 men listed in this class were apparently killed in other sexual offenses.) The largest component of the miscellaneous group was made up of 51 men, whose deaths were adjudged justifiable homicide.

Circumstance	Total	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Total	1,306	100.0	977	100.0	329	100.0
Parent kills child	73	5.6	47	4.8	26	7.9
Child kills parent	16	1.2	10	1.0	6	1.8
Spouse kills spouse	193	14.8	85	8.7	108	32.8
Other family killing	65	5.0	45	4.6	20	6.1
Friends, acquaintances	536	41.0	456	46.7	80	24.3
Robbery	177	13.5	149	15.3	28	8.5
Rape	45	3.4	16	1.6	29	8.8
Other crimes	69	5.3	46	4.7	23	7.0
Miscellaneous	132	10.2	123	12.6	9	2.7

The sex of the known offenders is applied to the victim data as follows:

Sex of perpetrator	Sex of victim				
	Total	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Total	1,349	1,001	74.2	348	25.8
Male	1,125	815	72.4	310	27.6
Female	224	186	83.0	38	17.0

In other words, male murderers choose male victims 72 percent of the time and female, 28 percent. Female killers, on the other hand, attack males 83 percent of the time and members of their own sex only 17 percent.

The choice of murder weapon, with respect to race, is tabulated below:

Weapon	Total		White		Mexican-American		Negro		Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,648	100.0	808	100.0	205	100.0	577	100.0	58	100.0
Handguns	618	37.5	269	33.3	66	32.2	264	45.8	19	32.8
Other firearms	325	19.7	153	19.0	38	18.6	121	21.0	13	22.4
Knife or cutting tool	381	23.1	173	21.4	69	33.6	127	22.0	12	20.7
Blunt object	58	3.5	37	4.6	7	3.4	12	2.1	2	3.4
Bodily member	168	10.2	106	13.1	20	9.8	34	5.9	8	13.8
Other	98	6.0	70	8.6	5	2.4	19	3.2	4	6.9

The use of all types of firearms according to race ranges from 50 to 55 percent among whites, Mexican-Americans and other races. With Negroes, however, it approaches 67 percent. Mexican-Americans are highest in the predilection for knives and cutting instruments.

Homicide circumstances, broken down by race, are as follows:

Circumstance	Total		White		Mexican-American		Negro		Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,306	100.0	614	100.0	160	100.0	490	100.0	42	100.0
Parent kills child	73	5.6	46	7.5	6	3.8	20	4.1	1	2.4
Child kills parent	16	1.2	12	2.0	2	1.2	1	0.2	1	2.4
Spouse kills spouse	193	14.8	97	15.8	21	13.1	67	13.7	8	19.0
Other family killing	65	5.0	27	4.4	4	2.5	33	6.7	1	2.4
Friends, acquaintances	536	41.0	192	31.3	72	45.0	258	52.7	14	33.3
Robbery	177	13.5	115	18.7	17	10.6	31	6.3	14	33.3
Rape	45	3.4	31	5.0	2	1.2	12	2.5	-	-
Other crimes	69	5.3	42	6.8	4	2.5	23	4.7	-	-
Miscellaneous	132	10.2	52	8.5	32	20.0	45	9.1	3	7.2

Homicides of family members is apparently more common among whites (about 30 percent) than among Mexican-Americans (21 percent) or Negroes (25 percent). On the other hand, killings of friends and acquaintances is outstandingly high among Negroes and considerably greater among Mexican-Americans than among whites. Whites are also slightly more frequent victims of rape and other crimes.