If you have issues viewing or accessing this file, please contact us at NCJRS.gov.

TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF CRIMINAL HOMICIDE IN ARIZONA: 1977 TO 1984

A REPORT FROM THE

Arizona Statistical Analysis Center

Arizona Department of Public Safety
Information Analysis Section

July 1989

128853

122853

TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF CRIMINAL HOMICIDE IN ARIZONA: 1977 TO 1984

A report from the

Arizona Statistical Analysis Center

Arizona Department of Public Safety
Information Analysis Section

July 1989

Preparation of this report was sponsored under grant 87-BJ-CX-K053 from the U.S. Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Statistics. Opinions expressed in this report are solely those of the Arizona Statistical Analysis Center.

122853

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this copyrighted material has been granted by
Arizona Department of Public Safety
to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the copyright owner.

INTRODUCTION

Homicide is defined in most dictionaries as "any killing of one human being by another." *Criminal homicide* is commonly referred to as *murder*, the more expressive term, though it is technically wrong in the legal sense.

Under Arizona statutes, the data examined in this report comprise first and second degree murders and manslaughter. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) provides a standard definition of criminal homicide which encompasses these three types of homicide under "willful, nonnegligent killing[s] of one human being by another." Unless otherwise noted, all analyses and references to criminal homicide data in this report reflect this standard.

Table 1 presents the Arizona statutory equivalents for the UCR standards of criminal, negligent, and justifiable homicide--though, as indicated, negligent and justifiable homicides will not be covered in the report.

The primary source of data for this report is the Arizona Uniform Crime Reporting (AUCR) Program. State and local law enforcement agencies furnish the AUCR program with monthly summaries of serious crimes reported or known to them and occurring within their jurisdiction. For any homicide, a supplemental report with more-detailed information about each incident is also provided by the contributing agency. AUCR then submits a state-wide summary of the agencies' crime reports to the National UCR program.

Victimization surveys conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics suggest that nearly one-half of other crimes of violence, such as forcible rape and aggravated assault, are never reported to police, and thus are not recorded under the UCR program. On the other hand, virtually all criminal homicides are reported by citizens or become known to law enforcement officials through other means. Consequently, the problem of "hidden crime," generally associated with the unreported or undiscovered crime figures of the UCR program, is largely nonexistent in the criminal homicide data that are presented throughout this report.

In general, studies have shown that the nature and frequency of criminal homicide are dependent on the size, density, and demographic composition of a given population. As a rule, these variables are significantly different in properly apportioned *urban*, *suburban*, and *rural* elements of a state's population.

To examine contrasts that may exist between urban, suburban, and rural populations within Arizona, law enforcement agencies which recorded criminal homicides between 1977 and 1984 were classified according to these three categories based on the density and yearly estimate of the population of each agency's jurisdiction. This breakdown is presented in Table 2 which shows a clear division in the size of populations between each category.

The analyses in this report are described under three general headings which define the nature of criminal homicide in Arizona: The Trend of Criminal Homicide; The Pattern of Criminal Homicide; and The Victims of Criminal Homicide. The analyses include comparisons with other states and other types of data, as well as comparisons between population types within the State. In addition, county analyses, and analyses involving more elaborate breakdowns that could not be included in the text, are included in the appendix.

TABLE 1. COMPARISON OF ARIZONA STATUTES AND UCR STANDARD DEFINITIONS

Arizona statutes	Uniform Crime Reporting Program
I. Homicide: A. First degree murder - class 1 felony 1. Kills with intent or with knowledge. 2. In conjunction with another offense. B. Second degree murder - class 2 felony 1. Kills with intent or 2. With knowledge of. 3. Reckless endangerment of another. C. Manslaughter 1. Recklessly causing death or 2. Committing second degree murder during a sudden quarrel or heat of passion resulting from adequate provocation by victim or 3. Intentionally aiding a person to commit suicide or 4. Committing second degree murder, while under threat of deadly physical force or while victim is unable to resist or 5. Causing death of unborn child by physical injury to mother. (If mother dies - would be murder.)	I. Criminal homicide: Willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another.
D. Negligent homicide: Causes death by criminal negligence.	II. Negligent homicide: Killing of another person through gross negligence.
II. Justification (defense) - class 4 felony: Not recklessly committed. A. Execution of public duty. B. Use of physical force. C. Self defense. D. Use of deadly force. E. Defense of a third person. F. Use of physical force in defense of premises. G. Use of physical force in defense of property. H. Use of physical force in law enforcement. I. Use of deadly physical force in law enforcement. J. Use of force in crime prevention. K. Duress. L. No civil liability for justified conduct.	III. Justifiable homicide: A. Killing of a felon by a peace officer in the line of duty. B. Killing (during the commission of a felony) of felon by a private citizen.

Source: Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 13, September, 1985.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook.

TABLE 2. CLASSIFICATION OF ARIZONA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES BY POPULATION

Type	Agency	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
URBAN	Phoenix	718,216	733,455	749,018	764,911	810,000	823,000	841,200	866,680
	Tucson	315,978	320,758	325,611	330,537	347,700	354,400	359,855	370,155
	Total	1,034,194	1,054,213	1,074,629	1,095,448	1,157,700	1,177,400	1,201,055	1,236,835
SUBURBAN	Glendale	77,360	83,416	89,946	96,988	102,800	105,230	108,150	117,150
	Maricopa Co	158,325	173,272	189,629	207,531	164,345	178,705	145,680	157,180
	Mesa	125,498	133,907	142,879	152,453	162,200	166,200	177,000	191,380
	Pima Co	155,049	166,213	178,180	191,009	193,460	203,362	211,255	221,950
	Scottsdale	85,468	86,423	87,388	88,364	92,620	96,825	101,500	110,120
	Tempe	102,978	104,218	105,473	106,743	121,000	125,500	132,200	143,970
	Total	704,678	747,449	793,495	843,088	836,425	875,822	875,785	941,750
RURAL	Apache Co	44,043	-	-	-	-	47,345	-	-
	Apache Junction	-	-	-	-	10,725	11,197	11,670	-
	Avondale	6,875	7,271	-	8,134	8,460	8,750	-	9,510
	Benson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,515
	Bisbee	-	-	-	7,154	7,250	-	8,040	-
	Buckeye	-	2,618	-	3,434	-	-	-	5,540
	Casa Grande	14,698	-	14,879	14,971	15,555	15,847	16,155	16,485
	Chandler	22,298	24,526	26,977	29,673	33,320	36,820	41,360	50,060
	Clarkdale	-	-	-	1,512	-	-	-	-
	Clifton	5,471	-	-	-	4,710	-	-	-
	Cochise Co	18,642	21,800	25,493	29,811	31,490	-	30,570	26,005
	Coconino Co	25,780	-	29,976	-	34,855	36,540	45,370	-
	Coolidge	7,089	-	6,929	6,851	7,040	-	7,230	-
	Douglas	-	-	-	13,058	-	-	-	14,065
	El Mirage	-	4,378	-	4,307	-	-	-	-
	Eloy	6,811	6,615	6,425	6,240	6,355	6,404	6,460	6,595
	Flagstaff	34,342	34,441	34,541	34,641	36,555	37,635	-	37,950
	Florence	-	-	3,283	-	-	-	-	5,835
	Fredonia	911	-	-	-	-	1,200	1,170	-
	Gila Co	20,762	20,615	20,468	20,323	20,650	21,637	-	20,985
	Gilbert	-	4,150	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Globe	-	-	-	6,708	6,810	6,895	-	6,685
	Greenlee Co	5,675	-	6,180	-	6,730	-	-	6,570
	Guadalupe	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,690	4,800
	Hayden/Winkleman	-	-	-	2,265	-	-	-	-
	Holbrook	5,584	-	-	5,785	-	-	-	-
	Huachuca City	-	-	-	1,661	-	-	-	-
	Kingman	-	8,839	-	-	9,355	-	-	-
	La Paz Co	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,390	10,810
	Lake Havasu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,255
	Marana	-	1,578	-	-	-	1,945	1,995	2,045
	Miami	-	-	-	2,716	-	-	-	-
	Mohave Co	20,729	23,628	26,932	30,699	31,270	31,480	32,960	36,180
	Navajo Co	42,545	43,116	43,694	44,280	-	46,420	47,690	46,285
	Nogales	-	13,165	-	15,683	16,825	-	17,665	18,165
	Page	5,250	-	5,380	-	-	-	5,650	-
	Paradise Valley	-	-	105,785	-	-	-	-	-
	Parker	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,610	-
	Payson	-	-	-	5,068	-	5,634	-	-
	Peoria	9,710	10,549	11,460	-	13,525	-	19,800	-
	Pima	-	1,731	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Pinal Co	47,832	45,206	42,724	40,378	41,250	41,689	40,220	40,120
	Prescott	19,142	19,442	-	20,055	20,505	21,275	22,105	-
	Prescott Valley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,900

TABLE 2 (cont'd). CLASSIFICATION OF ARIZONA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES BY POPULATION

Type	Agency	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
RURAL (cont'd)	Safford	7,275	-	7,237	-	7,200	7,541	-	-
	Saint John	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,725	-
	San Luis	-	-	-	-	-	1,980	-	-
	Santa Cruz Co	4,866	4,556	4,267	-	-	3,503	-	-
	Show Low	-	-	-	4,298	-	-	4,725	-
	Sierra Vista	24,654	25,084	-	25,968	-	-	-	-
	Somerton	-	-	-	5,761	5,830	-	-	6,535
	South Tucson	6,620	6,598	6,576	6,554	6,615	6,623	6,635	6,680
	Superior	-	6,625	-	-	-	-	4,560	-
	Surprise	-	-	3,745	-	-	4,065	-	-
	Thatcher	-	-	-	3,374	-	-	-	-
	Tolleson	-	4,111	4,269	4,433	4,630	-	-	-
	Tombstone	-	1,781	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Wilcox	-	-	-	3,243	-	-	-	-
	Winslow	-	-	7,895	7,921	8,035	-	-	-
	Yavapai Co	35,597	37,497	39,499	41,608	40,105	-	37,275	41,320
	Youngtown	-	-	1,903	2,254	-	-	-	-
	Yuma	34,050	36,642	39,431	42,433	43,000	44,985	45,500	48,485
	Yuma Co	35,304	36,749	38,253	39,818	38,050	38,050	-	-
	Total	512,555	453,311	564,201	543,072	516,700	485,460	476,220	495,380

Notes: If population does not appear, the agency reported no criminal homicides for the year.
County (Co) agencies refer to County Sheriff's Offices. The jurisdictions of these agencies cover any area inside the county that is not included in another law enforcement agency's jurisdiction (i.e., town or city police department).

SECTION I:

THE TREND OF CRIMINAL HOMICIDE

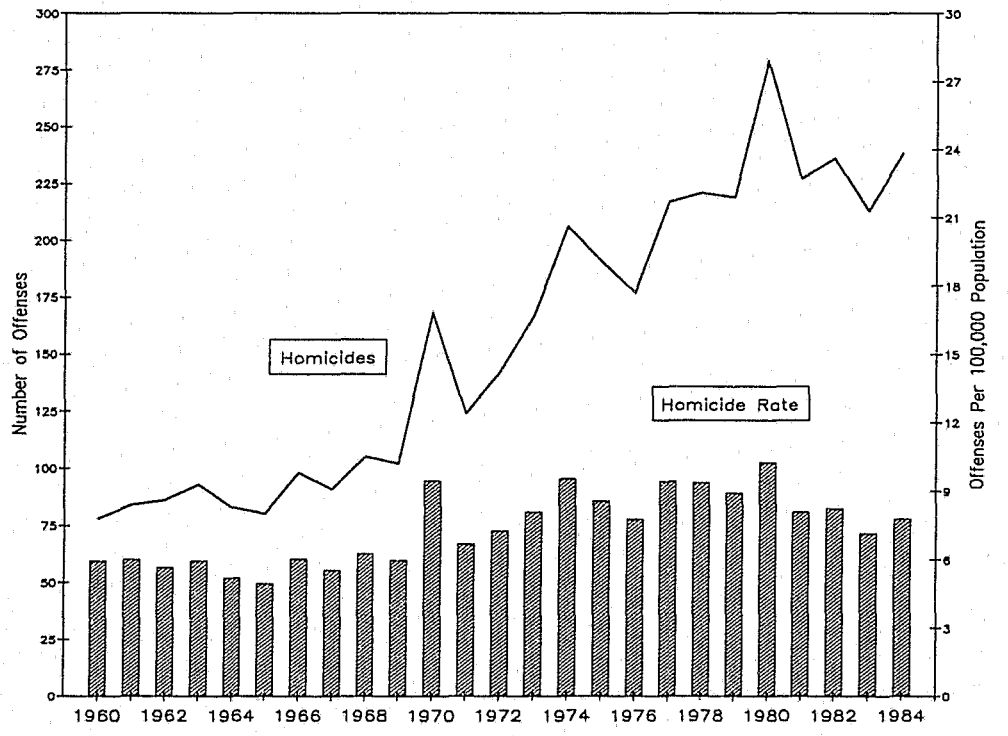
In Arizona

As shown in Figure 1.1, the number of yearly criminal homicides in Arizona trended increasingly upward from 1960 to 1984. This trend represented a 205 percent increase in criminal homicides over the 25-year period. At the same time, Arizona's population expanded by more than 134 percent. Thus, the criminal homicide *rate*, an adjustment to account for population increases, shows only a 30 percent increase for the same time span. A rise of this magnitude could be explained, in large part, by the increasing urbanization of the State's population. This would mean that the criminal homicide rates of the mid 1980's are not significantly worse than the rates of the early 1960's. However, the more extreme rates which occurred in the 1970's are not well-represented by statistics describing the entire 25-year period. Revisiting such homicide rates in the near future would suggest a much greater problem of criminal violence within the State.

Table 3. Arizona Criminal Homicides and Rate per 100,000 Population

Year	Number	Rate
1960	78	5.99
1961	84	6.04
1962	86	5.70
1963	93	5.97
1964	83	5.25
1965	80	4.98
1966	98	6.06
1967	91	5.57
1968	105	6.29
1969	102	6.02
1970	168	9.48
1971	124	6.71
1972	142	7.30
1973	167	8.11
1974	206	9.57
1975	191	8.59
1976	177	7.80
1977	217	9.45
1978	221	9.39
1979	219	8.94
1980	279	10.28
1981	227	8.13
1982	236	8.25
1983	213	7.19
1984	238	7.80

Figure 1.1: 25-Year Trend of Reported Criminal Homicide in Arizona



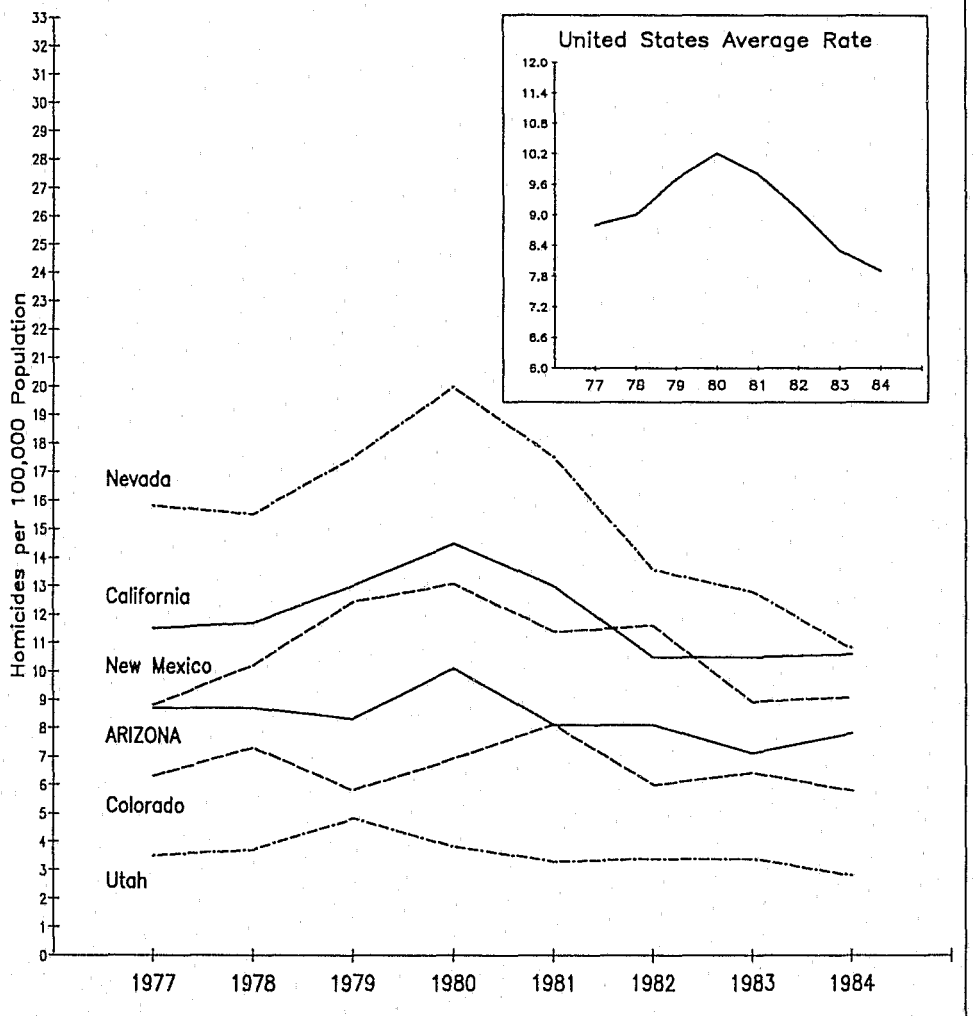
Source: Uniform Crime Reports, Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Neighboring States

From 1977 to 1984, the State of Arizona experienced moderate criminal homicide rates in contrast with its neighbors, and which closely approximated National average rates.

Through 1984, the Nation, Arizona, and many other states recorded their highest rate of criminal homicide since the time that regular records of these statistics were begun, in 1980.

Figure 1.2: Criminal Homicide Rate in Arizona and Five Border States

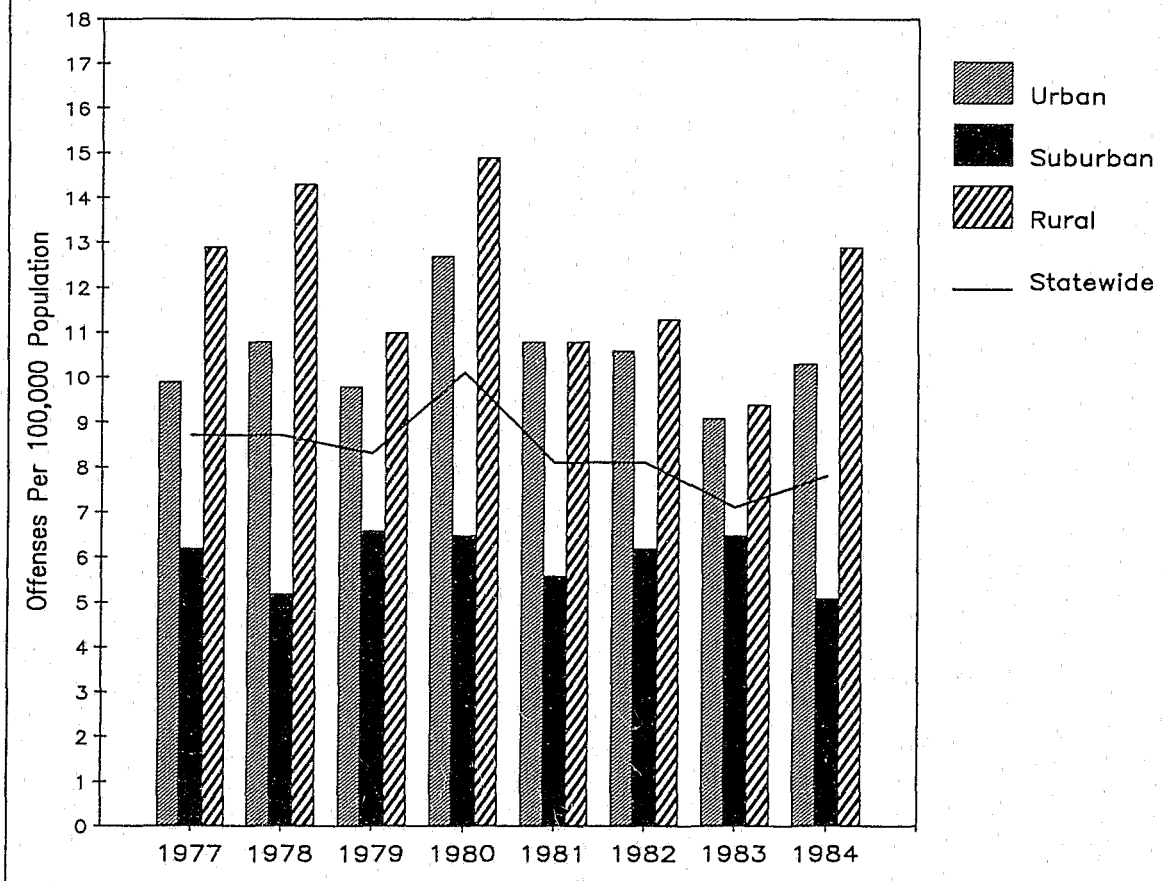


Source: Uniform Crime Reports, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Within Arizona Population Types

Figure 1.3 shows the rate of criminal homicides in the designated urban, suburban, and rural groupings of law enforcement agencies reporting such statistics during the 1977 to 1984 study period. The most striking feature of this chart is the suburban criminal homicide rate, which is not only significantly lower than urban and rural rates, but also seems to be inversely correlated. In other words, the suburban rate generally rises when the urban and rural rates fall, and falls when they rise. It is also interesting that rural rates move upward and downward with urban rates and are substantially higher. A partial explanation for the latter is that each criminal homicide event in the rural population tends to be exaggerated when calculated as a rate, since the rural population is less than one-half of that of the urban population.

Figure 1.3: Criminal Homicide Rate by Arizona Population Type



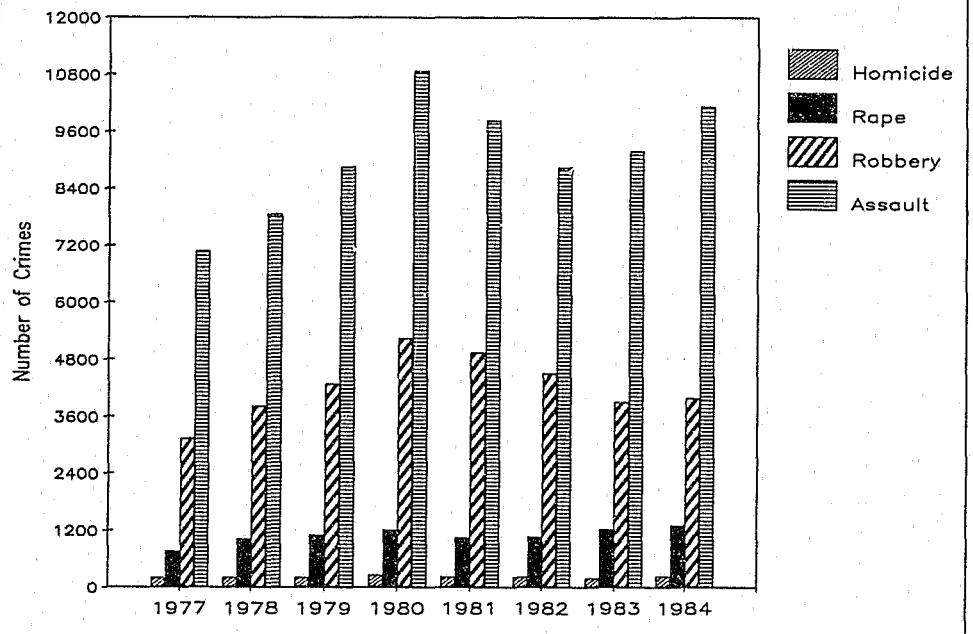
Among Other Violent Crimes

A series of charts depicting trends and relationships among aspects of four violent crimes categories (or crimes against persons) is presented in Figures 1.4, 1.5, and 1.6. Figure 1.4 shows the relative frequency with which criminal homicides, forcible rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults are reported to police. The significantly fewer incidences of homicides shown in this comparison are nonetheless inflated due to the fact that virtually all homicides are reported to or discovered by police while between 40 to 50 percent of each of the other violent crimes are never brought to police attention.

When contrasted with the reported crime numbers, Figure 1.5 indicates that most criminal homicides result in an arrest while less than half of the other violent crimes are followed by an arrest. This is only generally true, however, since some of the arrests shown in a particular year may be for crimes which occurred in a previous year.

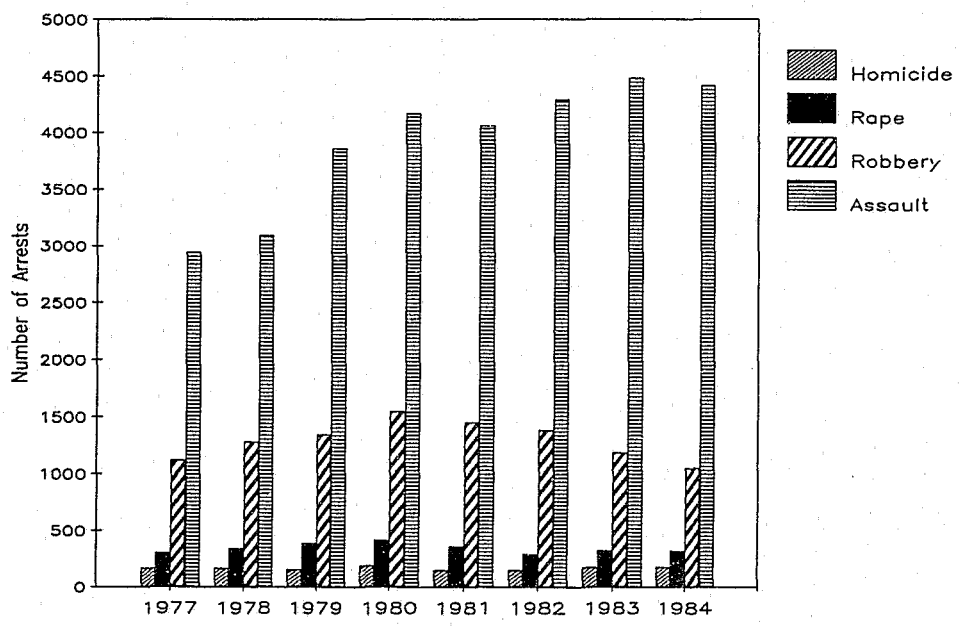
Figure 1.6 presents the average number of months served in prison by those convicted of a violent crime. Quite obviously, the length of sentence is related to the perceived relative seriousness of each crime. Interestingly, the length of sentence also appears to be inversely related to the frequency with which the crime occurs.

Figure 1.4: Reported Violent Crimes in Arizona



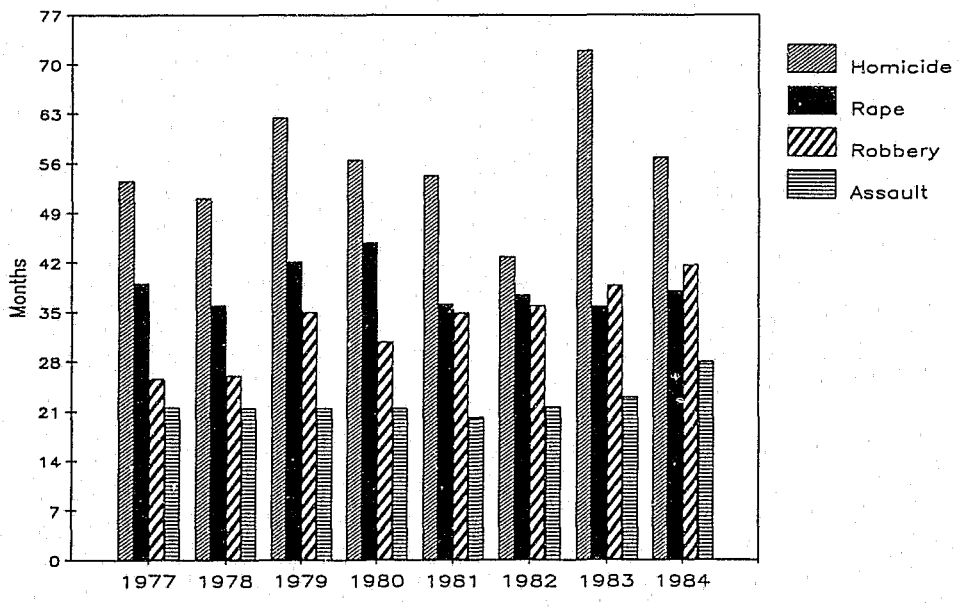
Source: Arizona Uniform Crime Reports

Figure 1.5: Violent Crime Arrests in Arizona



Source: Arizona Uniform Crime Reports

Figure 1.6: Average Sentence Served in Prison for Violent Crimes in Arizona



Source: Arizona Department of Corrections

SECTION II:

THE PATTERN OF CRIMINAL HOMICIDE

Variation by Month

Figure 2.1 indicates no apparent seasonality in the incidence of criminal homicide in Arizona. That is, there appears to be no distinct pattern of monthly variation which repeats itself from year to year.

The monthly distribution of criminal homicides over the 1977 to 1984 study period for the selected Arizona population types is presented in Figure 2.2. Again, while the urban and rural groups exhibit a remarkably similar distribution of crimes, the suburban group of reporting agencies seems to assume a quite different character.

Figure 2.2: Percent Monthly Distribution of Criminal Homicide in Arizona by Population Type, 1977 to 1984

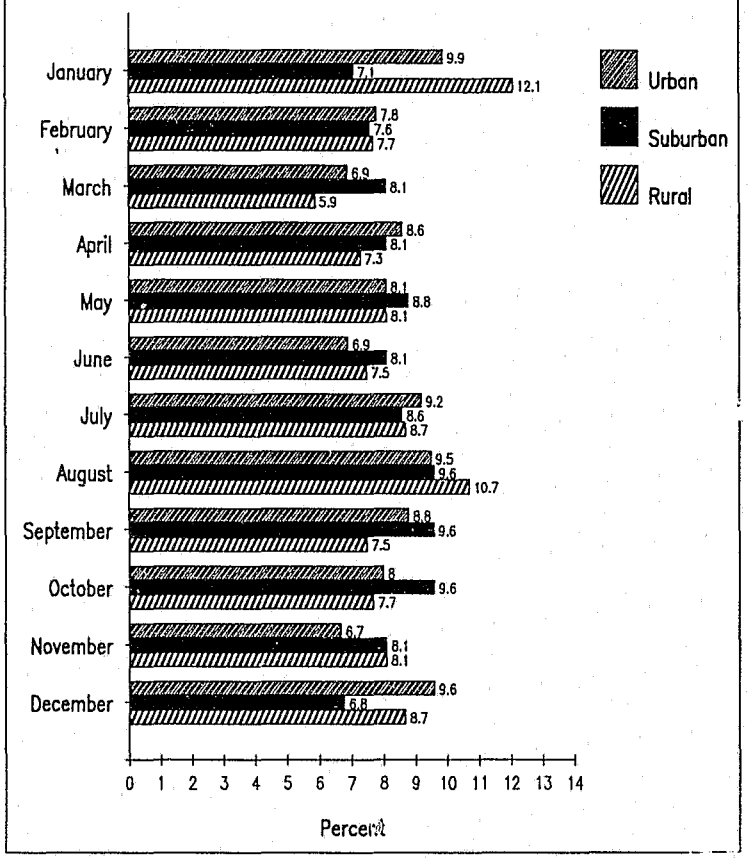
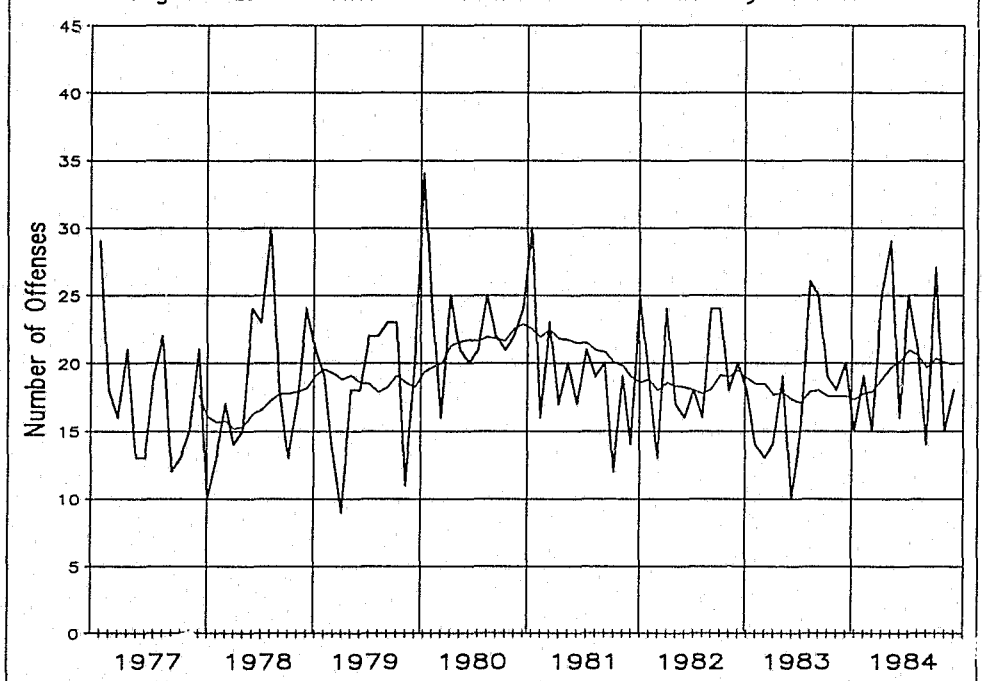


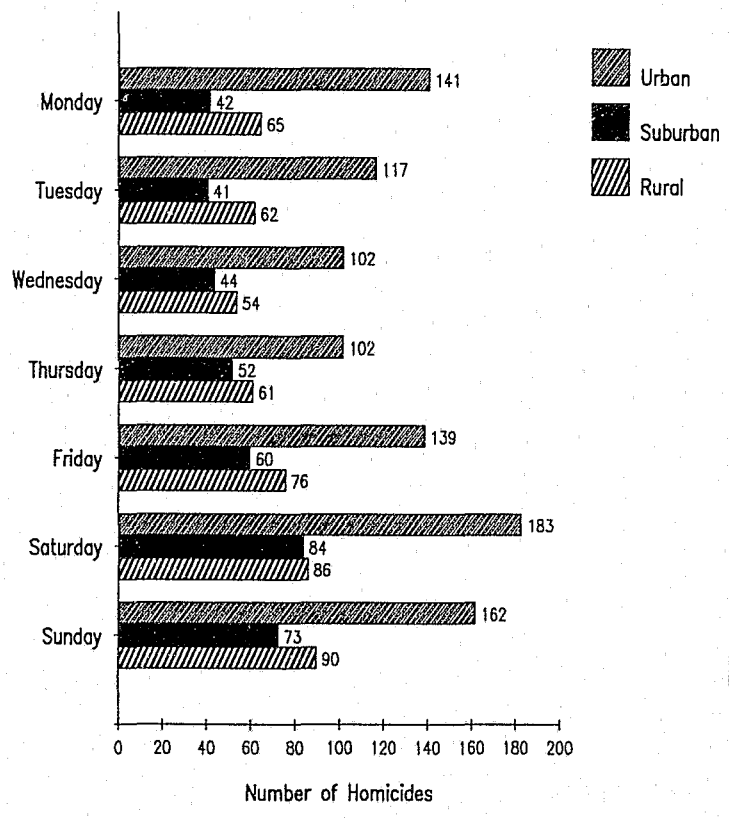
Figure 2.1: Criminal Homicide in Arizona by Month



Day of Week

Previous research suggests that criminal homicides occur more frequently on weekend days than on other days of the week. This is often explained by the fact that a majority of these crimes are committed by a member of the victim's family or by a close acquaintance (see Table A4 in the appendix), and that due to this relationship, the victim and his or her killer are more likely to be together for longer periods on weekends. Figure 2.3 shows that criminal homicide in Arizona, regardless of population type, fits the pattern of increased occurrence on weekends.

Figure 2.3: Distribution of Criminal Homicide in Arizona by Day of Week and Population Type, 1977 to 1984



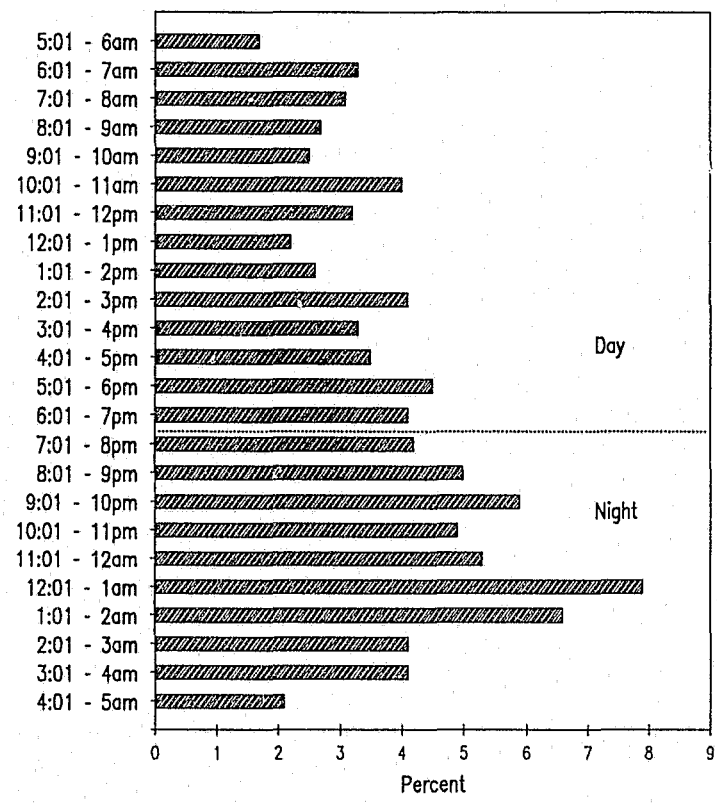
Time of Day

Figure 2.4 reflects the frequency with which criminal homicides have occurred in Arizona during each hour of the day for the period 1977 to 1984. Not suprisingly, the incidence of these crimes is higher during the evening hours when more people are in roles and situations that are conducive to the act of homicide.

However, as shown in Figure 2.5, a breakdown of the state-wide figures by population type reveals that the suburban group of crime-reporting jurisdictions exhibits a pattern of daytime/nighttime homicides contrary to its urban and rural counterparts.

Suburban criminal homicides may occur more often during daytime hours given the fact that more women are victims of homicide in this setting and more women are at home during the day where the act is more likely to occur. In other words, there are more potential female victims during the day which increases the risk of a daytime victimization in a suburban population setting. In addition, children are also more likely to be victims of criminal homicide in a suburban versus an urban or rural setting and are most often murdered during the day.

Figure 2.4: Percent Distribution of Criminal Homicide in Arizona by Time of Day, 1977 to 1984



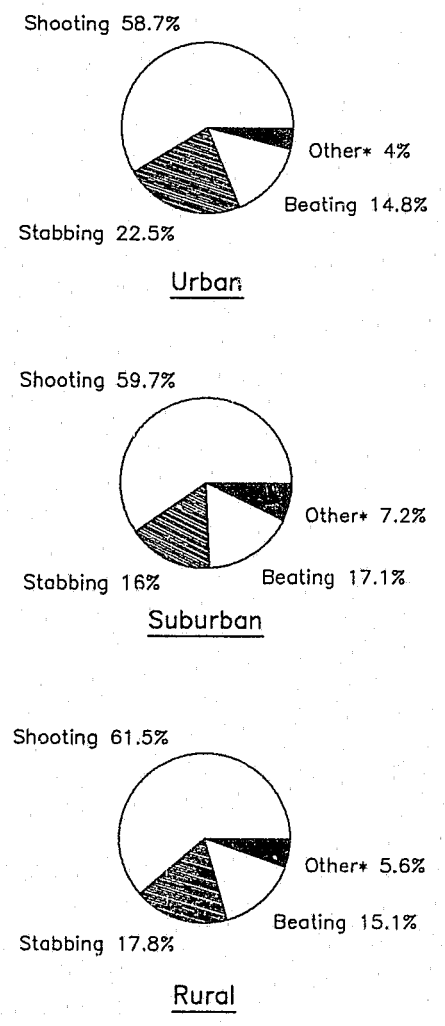
Note: Time of day was unknown in 5 percent of the cases.

Method of Killing

Figure 2.6 presents a breakdown of the different means by which criminal homicides are carried out within each of the Arizona population groups. The methods of killing are similarly distributed in each of these groups. Shooting is the preferred means of committing homicide and handguns are the offenders' weapon of choice.

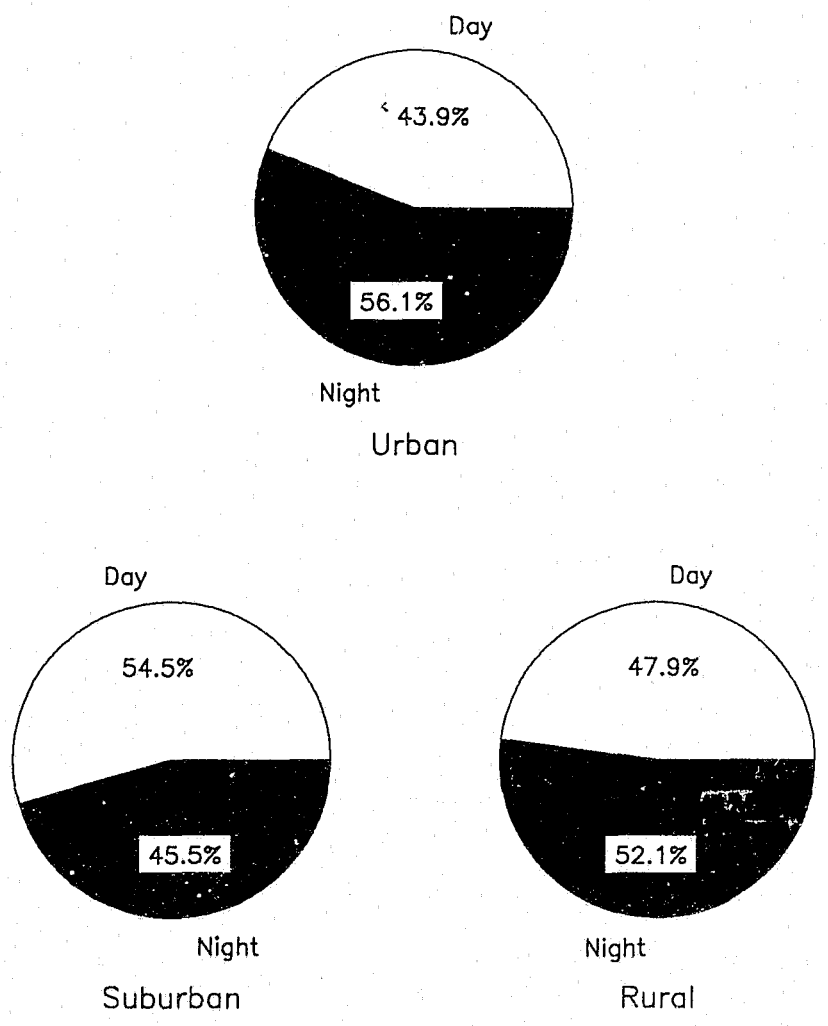
To be precise, handguns were used in these shootings 78, 70, and 75 percent of the time in the urban, suburban, and rural population groupings, respectively. A detailed breakdown of the type of weapons used in Arizona criminal homicides is presented in Table A2 (see Appendix).

Figure 2.6: Known Method of Criminal Homicide by Arizona Population Type, 1977 to 1984



*Strangulation, Fire, Asphyxiation, Drowning, Drugs, and/or Explosives

Figure 2.5: Day/Night Distribution of Criminal Homicide by Arizona Population Type



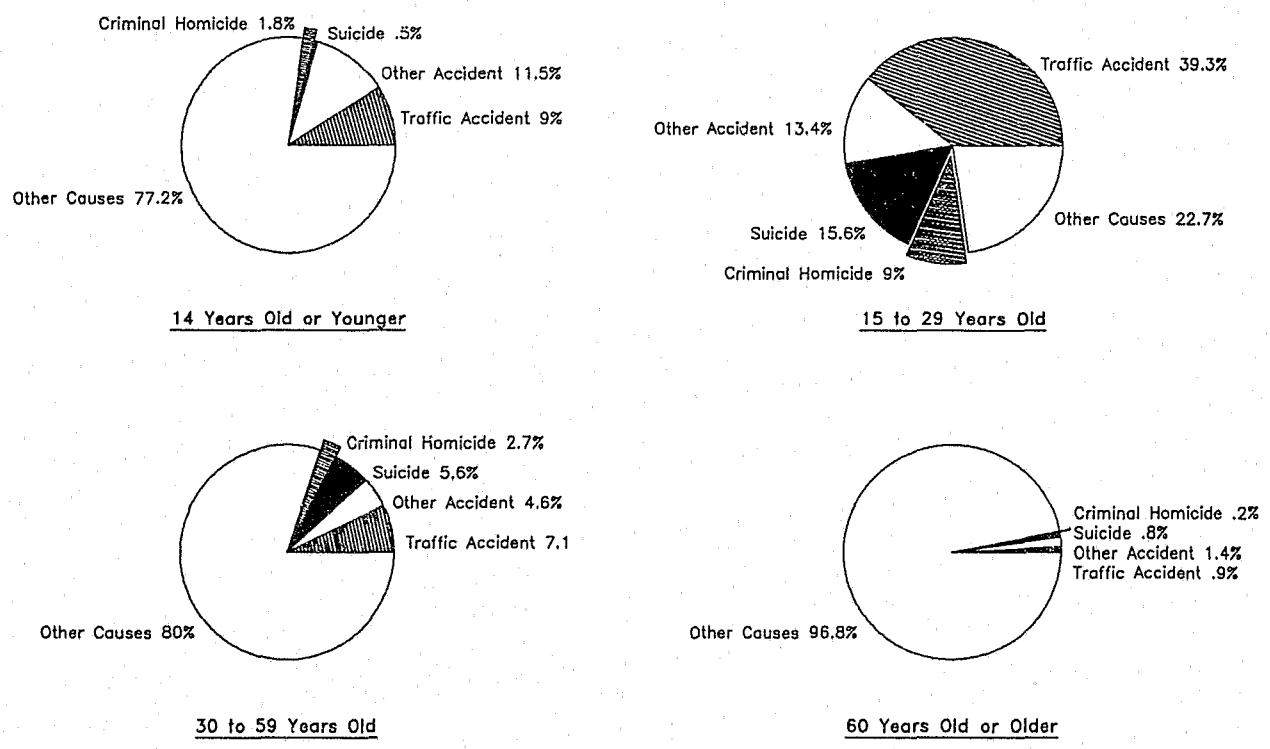
SECTION III:

THE VICTIMS OF CRIMINAL HOMICIDE

Comparison with Other Causes of Death

During the 1977 to 1984 study period, just over one percent of all deaths occurring in Arizona were the result of criminal homicide. Nevertheless, this percentage can vary substantially, upward or downward, depending on the age of the victim. As Figure 3.1 reveals, deaths resulting from criminal homicide are highest among persons aged 15 to 29. On the other hand, criminal homicide as a cause of death appears to be almost nonexistent among those persons aged 60 and older. However, though it is generally true that the youngest and oldest are least likely to be victims of criminal homicide, Figure 3.1 is somewhat skewed in its presentation of causes of death in the oldest group since death is obviously a natural occurrence at this age.

Figure 3.1: Victim Age and Cause of Death in Arizona, 1977 to 1984

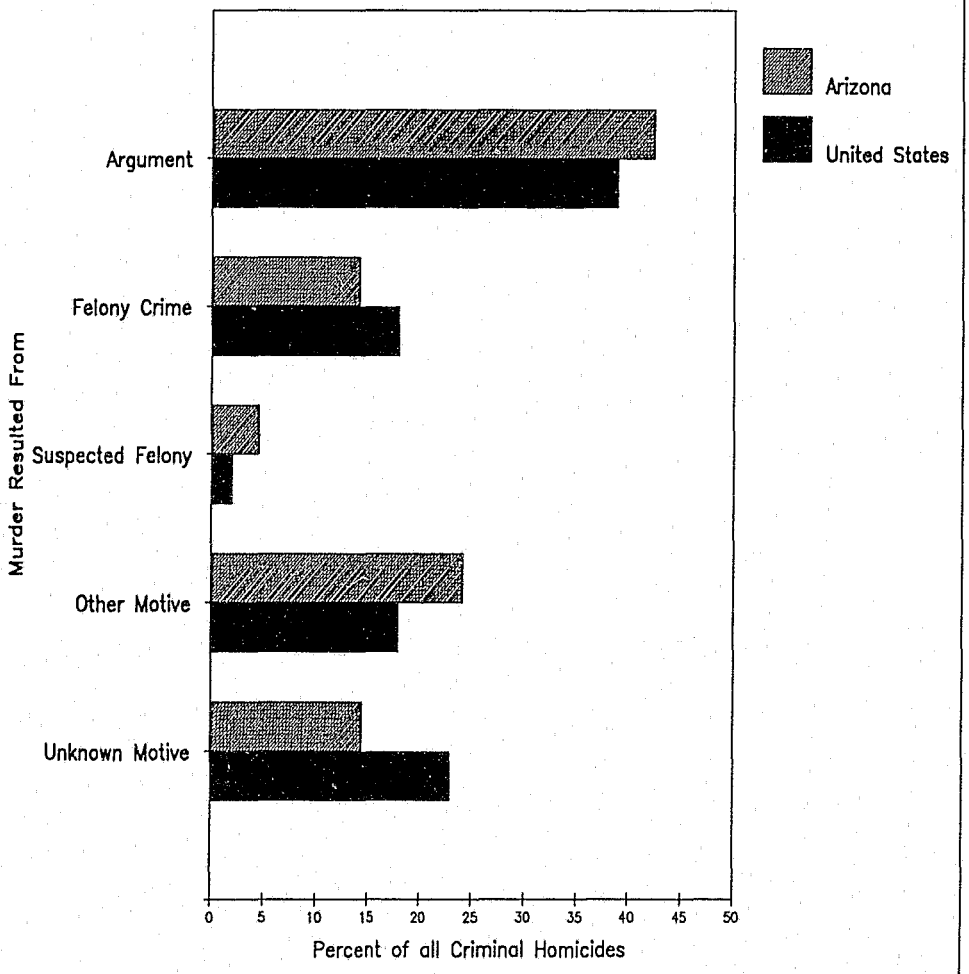


Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Uniform Crime Reports

Motives for Criminal Homicide

Few murders are committed with the absence of a motive. The act of criminal homicide usually stems from an argument or another crime. When a murder results from an argument, it is very likely that the offender is related to or a friend of the victim. When a murder is precipitated by another crime, it most often occurs during a robbery, with burglaries, drug offenses, and sex offenses that result in murder far less frequent competing for second. A general breakdown of the motives or precipitating events that lead to criminal homicides in Arizona and nationally is presented in Figure 2.7. The distributions are not significantly different. It should be noted that an "unknown motive" does not necessarily indicate a lack of motive.

Figure 2.7: Distribution of Motives for Criminal Homicide in Arizona (1977-1984) and the United States (1985)



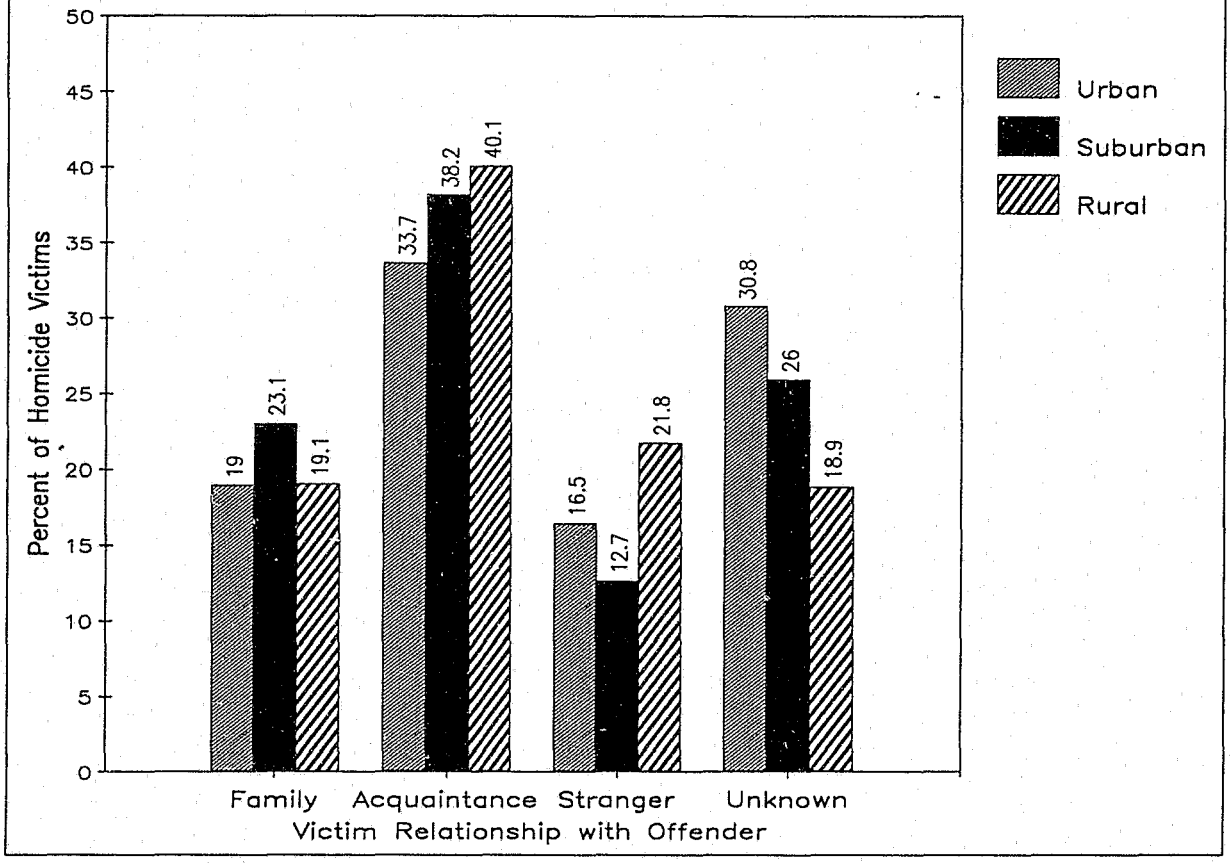
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics (U.S. figures)

Victim Relationship with Offender by Population Type

Criminologists have long noted that criminal homicides occur more often among persons who know each other than among persons who are complete strangers. This is clearly the case in Arizona as indicated in Figure 3.2. It is true even when one assumes that most of the homicides where the victim/offender relationship could not be established fall under the "stranger" classification--an assumption which is probably correct.

The most interesting feature of Figure 3.2 is the relatively larger portion of criminal homicides occurring among non-strangers in the suburban population group. Taken together, family, friends, and acquaintances serve as homicide victims and offenders in the suburban population in much greater proportion than the urban population and slightly greater proportion than the rural population. A detailed listing of victim/offender relationships with state-wide statistics is presented in Table A4 in the Appendix.

Figure 3.2: Percent of Victims and Relationship with Offender by Arizona Population Type, 1977 to 1984



Age of Victim by Relationship with Offender

When considering young children as victims of criminal homicide, we often conjure up the image of a homicidal stranger, lurking around playgrounds and pouncing on his prey at some propitious moment. This stereotype is made more vivid by its numerous portrayals in the media. Are young children more likely the victims of strangers? The accompanying series of charts may provide some insight to this question.

Figure 3.3 presents bi-yearly age groupings of criminal homicide victims for the 1977 to 1984 study period, as a percentage of the total cases where the victim is killed by a family member, a friend, or an acquaintance. Figures 3.4 and 3.5 present the same age distribution for those cases where the offender was a stranger to the victim, and where the relationship between the offender and victim was unknown, respectively. The most conspicuous disparity among the charts is found in the age groupings representing young children. Six percent of all victims that were related to or acquainted with their killer were six years old or younger (see Figure 3.3). In contrast, less than one percent of victims killed by strangers were aged six or under (see Figure 3.4), and just over two percent of victims killed by assailants of unknown relationship were six and under (see Figure 3.5). Clearly, when young children are the victims of criminal homicide, it seems that their killers are most likely a non-stranger--a family member, a friend, or an acquaintance.

Figure 3.3: Distribution of Victims by Age in Criminal Homicides where Victim knows Offender(s)

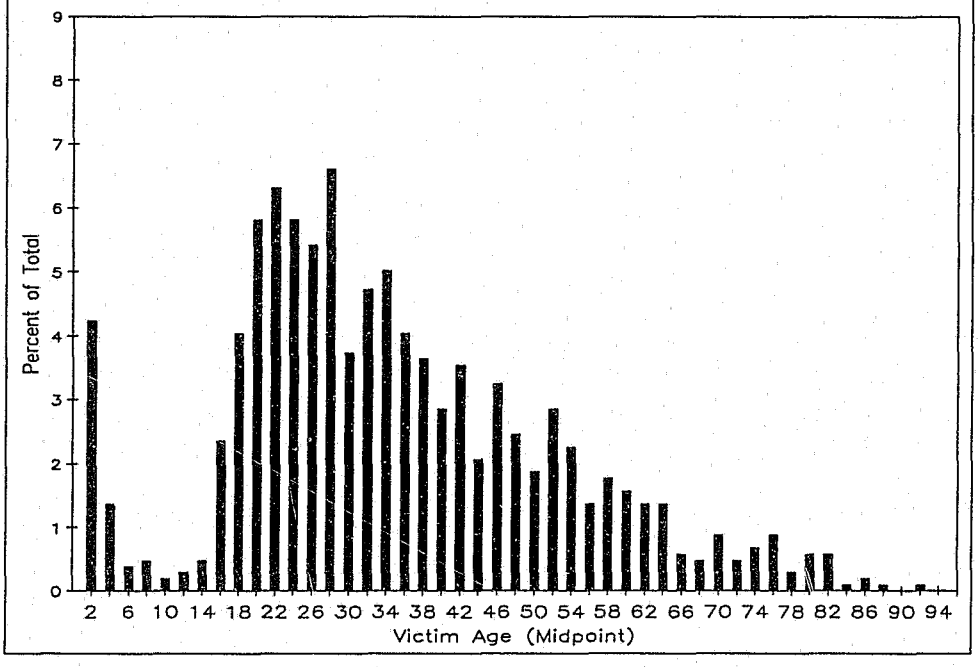


Figure 3.4: Distribution of Victims by Age in Criminal Homicides where Victim does not know Offender(s)

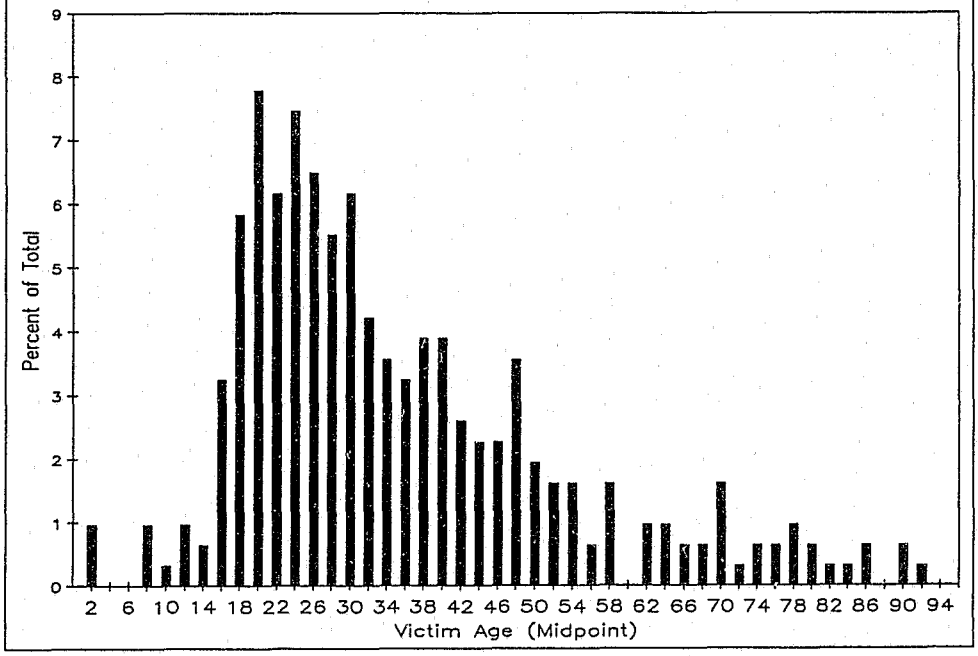
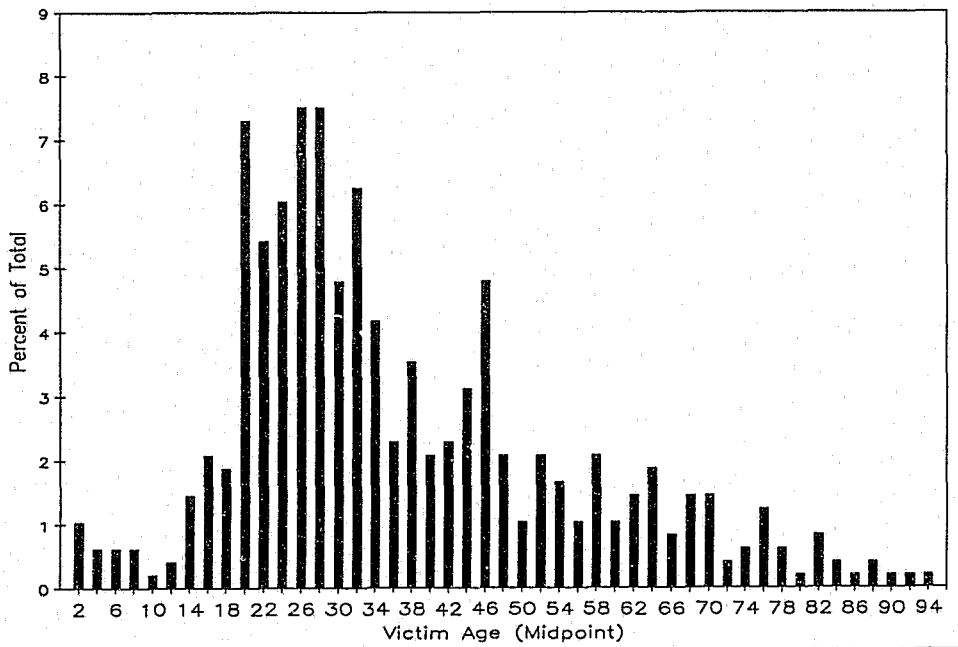


Figure 3.5: Distribution of Victims by Age in Criminal Homicides where Victim's Relationship with Offender(s) is Unknown

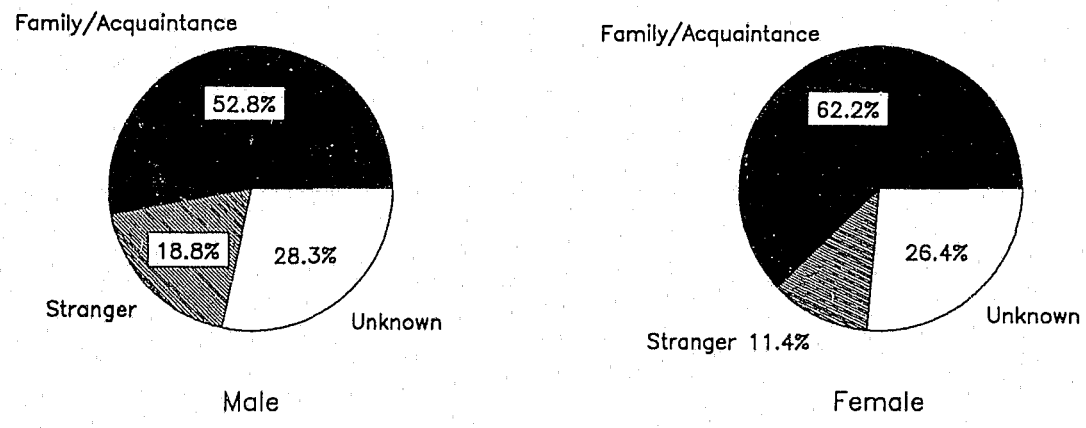


Sex of Victim by Relationship with Offender

Again, largely due to the ubiquitous media characterizations, the sex of a criminal homicide victim may also conjure up a predisposed image of their assailant. Like young children, but to a lesser extent, women are seen as more likely to be attacked and murdered by strangers. Though they are also seen as victims of husbands, ex-husbands, boyfriends and the like, this perception is not quite as strong as the stranger "laying in wait." As shown in Figure 3.6, nevertheless, the image of strangers preying on women is somewhat distorted, at least in Arizona. By nearly 2 to 1, even when the victim's relationship to the offender has in many cases not been determined, the killers of women are non-strangers.

Men, on the other hand, are more often the victims of strangers than women, but are still victimized by non-strangers in over half of the criminal homicides committed against men. A possible explanation for this: due to general societal factors, the potential for being in a position at risk of stranger victimization is greater for men than for women. In the future, though, this gap may close, since women are quickly moving into work situations from the relative safety from stranger victimizations at home.

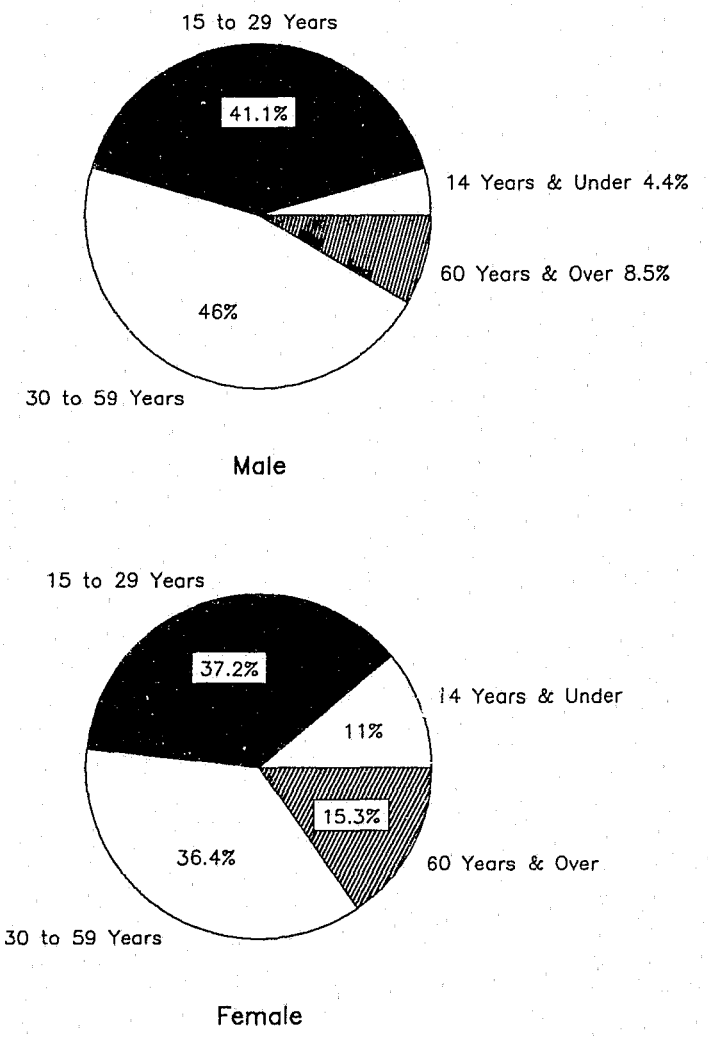
Figure 3.6: Distribution of Victim/Offender Relationships by Sex in Criminal Homicide in Arizona, 1977 to 1984



Sex and Age of Victim

Figure 3.7 shows a breakdown of male and female criminal homicide victims by selected age groupings. The most interesting difference between the distributions is the fact that both younger- and older-aged females are victimized in significantly higher proportions than their male counterparts. To a smaller degree, the percentage of male victims is substantially higher than females in those victims aged 30 to 59. Table A5 (see Appendix) presents a more-detailed breakdown of victim age groups by sex.

Figure 3.7: Age Distribution of Criminal Homicide in Arizona by Sex, 1977 to 1984



Age of Victim and Arizona Population Type

Victim-age distributions by urban, suburban, and rural population groupings are presented in Figures 3.8, 3.9, and 3.10. In general, the age of victims in Arizona criminal homicides is similarly distributed in each of these population groups. On close inspection, nevertheless, the distribution of age in urban and suburban populations reveals a tendency towards younger victims, while the age distribution in rural populations shows a tendency towards older victims. This seems to be a demographic phenomena in that cities and other well-populated localities tend to have younger populations than their less-populated and rural counterparts.

Figure 3.8: Age Distribution of Victims of Criminal Homicide in Urban Populations in Arizona, 1977 to 1984

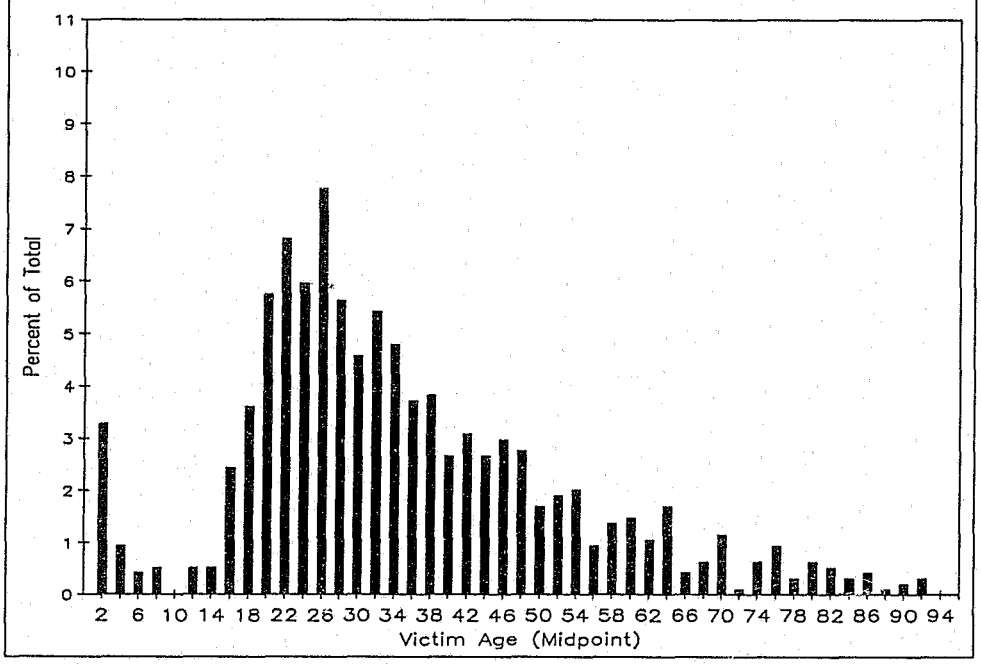


Figure 3.9: Age Distribution of Victims of Criminal Homicide in Suburban Populations in Arizona, 1977 to 1984

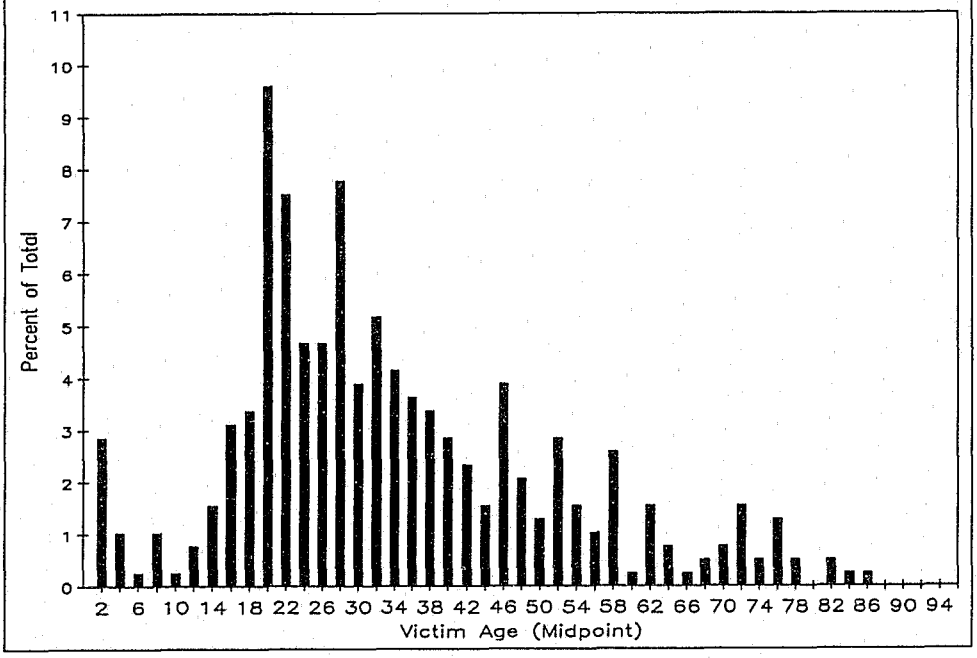
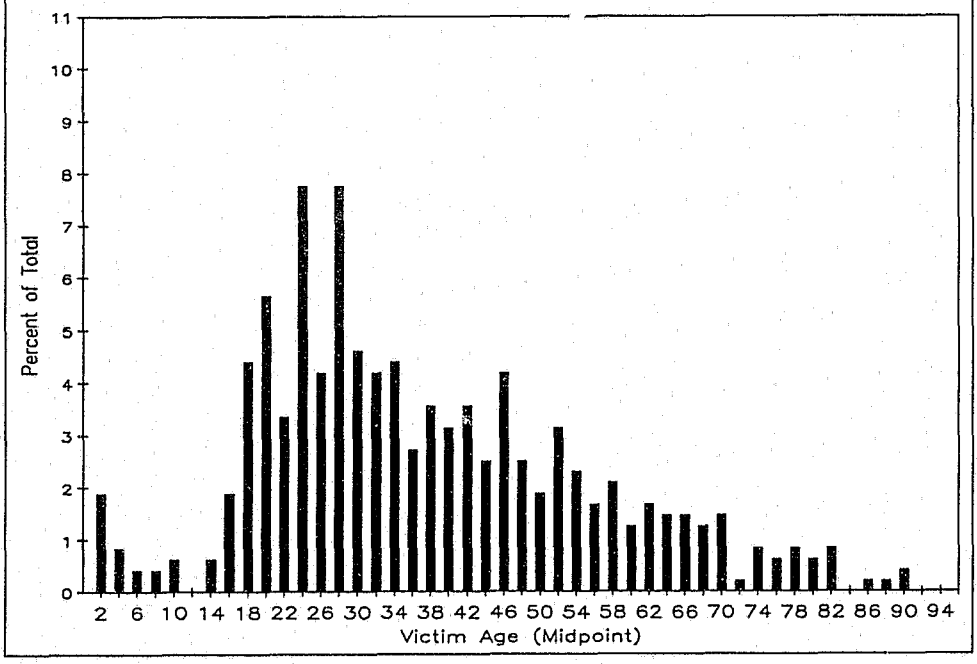


Figure 3.10: Age Distribution of Victims of Criminal Homicide in Rural Populations in Arizona, 1977 to 1984



APPENDIX

TABLE A1. NUMBER AND RATE (PER 100,000 POPULATION) OF CRIMINAL HOMICIDES BY ARIZONA COUNTY

County	1977		1978		1979		1980		1981		1982		1983		1984	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Apache	1	2.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.9	1	1.9	0	0.0
Cochise	9	11.2	6	7.3	5	6.0	10	11.7	2	2.3	0	0.0	3	3.3	11	11.8
Coconino	7	10.2	1	1.4	8	11.0	1	1.3	4	5.2	9	11.4	5	6.2	1	1.2
Gila	2	5.8	1	2.8	2	5.5	10	27.0	2	5.3	4	10.4	0	0.0	5	12.9
Graham	1	4.8	1	4.6	1	4.5	1	4.4	3	12.9	1	4.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
Greenlee	2	16.8	0	0.0	1	8.6	0	0.0	1	9.1	1	9.4	0	0.0	1	10.2
Maricopa	106	8.0	130	9.4	137	9.5	155	10.3	144	9.2	133	8.3	136	8.3	140	8.2
Mohave	8	18.5	9	19.1	1	2.0	2	3.6	5	8.4	2	3.2	4	6.2	4	5.8
Navajo	3	4.9	1	1.6	4	6.1	6	8.9	1	1.5	3	4.4	3	4.4	2	2.9
Pima	46	9.5	36	7.2	28	5.4	49	9.2	38	7.1	53	9.7	40	7.2	45	7.8
Pinal	18	20.7	9	10.2	12	13.4	19	20.9	18	19.4	14	14.8	9	9.4	16	16.3
Santa Cruz	1	5.5	6	31.6	1	5.1	1	4.9	1	4.8	4	18.5	1	4.6	1	4.5
Yavapai	5	8.4	6	9.6	2	3.1	3	4.4	6	8.4	2	2.7	2	2.6	4	4.8
Yuma	3	3.8	12	15.3	17	22.0	18	23.6	3	3.9	7	8.9	4	5.0	6	7.3
La Paz	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	22.6	3	22.2
ARIZONA	212	8.7	218	8.7	219	8.3	275	10.1	228	8.1	234	8.1	211	7.1	239	7.8

Note: La Paz County was not formed until January, 1983; Prior to that it was part of Yuma County

TABLE A2. WEAPON AND METHOD OF KILLING USED IN ARIZONA CRIMINAL HOMICIDES, 1977 TO 1984

Weapon	Number	Percent	Method of killing	Number	Percent
Handgun	783	42.6	Shooting	1,038	56.5
Rifle	90	4.9			
Shotgun	97	5.3			
Firearm-not specified	64	3.5			
Other gun	4	0.2			
Knife or cutting instrument	346	18.8	Stabbing	346	18.8
Blunt instrument	135	7.4	Beating	267	14.5
Hands, feet, etc.	132	7.2			
Explosives	1	0.1	Other methods	88	4.8
Fire	22	1.2			
Narcotics/drugs	2	0.1			
Drowning	3	0.2			
Strangulation	46	2.5			
Asphyxiation	14	0.8			
Unknown	97	5.3	Unknown	97	5.3
TOTAL	1,836	100.0	TOTAL	1,836	100.0

TABLE A3. PRECIPITATING CRIME OR EVENT FOR ARIZONA CRIMINAL HOMICIDES, 1977 TO 1984

Precipitating crime or event	Number	Percent	Type of crime	Number	Percent
Rape	21	1.1	Felony	261	14.2
Robbery	143	7.8			
Burglary	25	1.4			
Larceny	6	0.3			
Motor vehicle theft	7	0.4			
Arson	8	0.4			
Prostitution and commercialized vice	1	0.1			
Other sex offense	5	0.3			
Narcotic drug laws	22	1.2			
Gambling	3	0.2			
Abortion	19	1.0			
Other felony	1	0.1			
Lovers' triangle	75	4.1	Insufficiently defined felony or non-felony	1,218	66.3
Child killed by babysitter	4	0.2			
Brawl due to influence of alcohol	169	9.2			
Brawl due to influence of narcotics	21	1.1			
Argument over money or property	93	5.1			
Other argument	417	22.7			
Gangland killing	9	0.5			
Juvenile gang killing	9	0.5			
Killing within correctional facility	15	0.8			
Other	406	22.1			
Hunting accident	1	0.1	Negligent manslaughter	6	0.3
Children playing with gun	1	0.1			
Other manslaughter	4	0.2			
Unconfirmed felony	85	4.6	Suspected felony	85	4.6
Unknown	266	14.5	Unknown	266	14.5
TOTAL	1,836	100.0	TOTAL	1,836	100.0

TABLE A4. WEAPON USED AND VICTIM RELATIONSHIP TO OFFENDER IN ARIZONA CRIMINAL HOMICIDES, 1977 TO 1984

Victim relationship to offender	Handgun	Rifle	Shotgun	Firearm not specified	Other gun	Knife or cutting instrmnt	Blunt object	Hands, feet, etc.
Husband	46	3	3	-	-	7	4	-
Wife	67	4	6	-	-	8	6	3
Common-law husband	7	-	2	-	-	4	-	-
Common-law wife	5	2	1	-	-	2	-	2
Mother	6	1	-	-	-	6	2	3
Father	11	2	2	-	-	1	1	4
Son	4	1	2	-	-	2	3	11
Daughter	7	1	-	-	-	1	-	9
Brother	5	7	2	-	-	2	-	1
Sister	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
In-law	10	-	-	-	-	3	1	1
Stepfather	3	3	1	-	-	2	-	-
Stepmother	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Stepson	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Stepdaughter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Other family	6	2	-	-	-	3	-	1
Neighbor	13	3	2	-	-	9	2	3
Acquaintance	207	27	39	8	2	100	28	41
Boyfriend	17	-	-	-	-	6	1	-
Girlfriend	12	4	1	1	-	8	2	3
Ex-husband	4	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Ex-wife	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Employee	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Employer	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Friend	37	6	3	-	-	12	3	2
Homosexual relation	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Other known to victim	7	1	-	-	-	2	6	2
Sub-total	486	68	69	9	2	179	62	92
Stranger	149	17	17	7	-	61	22	17
Unknown	148	5	11	48	2	106	51	23
TOTAL	783	90	97	64	4	346	135	132

TABLE A4 (cont'd). WEAPON USED AND VICTIM RELATIONSHIP TO OFFENDER IN ARIZONA CRIMINAL HOMICIDES, 1977 TO 1984

Victim relationship to offender	Explosives	Fire	Narcotics and drugs	Drowning	Strangulation	Suffocation	Other	TOTAL
Husband	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	64
Wife	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	97
Common-law husband	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Common-law wife	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Mother	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	20
Father	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Son	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	27
Daughter	-	2	-	-	-	3	1	24
Brother	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	18
Sister	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
In-law	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Stepfather	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Stepmother	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Stepson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Stepdaughter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Other family	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	13
Neighbor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
Acquaintance	-	2	1	1	7	1	11	475
Boyfriend	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	27
Girlfriend	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	33
Ex-husband	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Ex-wife	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Employee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Employer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Friend	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	65
Homosexual relation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Other known to victim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Sub-total	-	6	1	2	15	8	17	1,016
Stranger	-	1	-	-	6	2	9	308
Unknown	1	15	1	1	25	4	71	512
TOTAL	1	22	2	3	46	14	97	1,836

TABLE A5. SEX AND AGE GROUPINGS OF CRIMINAL HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN ARIZONA, 1977 TO 1984

Victim Sex/Age	1977		1978		1979		1980		1981		1982		1983		1984	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
TOTAL	212	100.0	218	100.0	219	100.0	275	100.0	228	100.0	234	100.0	211	100.0	239	100.0
0-4	14	6.6	6	2.8	8	3.7	8	2.9	5	2.2	10	4.3	7	3.3	10	4.2
5-9	2	0.9	1	0.5	1	0.5	4	1.5	0	0.0	7	3.0	2	0.9	4	1.7
10-14	2	0.9	2	0.9	1	0.5	3	1.1	4	1.8	3	1.3	2	0.9	6	2.5
15-19	21	9.9	23	10.6	24	11.0	31	11.3	13	5.7	16	6.8	13	6.2	23	9.6
20-24	31	14.6	37	17.0	29	13.2	42	15.3	37	16.2	42	17.9	29	13.7	39	16.3
25-29	25	11.8	34	15.6	27	12.3	42	15.3	35	15.4	33	14.1	41	19.4	33	13.8
30-34	25	11.8	24	11.0	21	9.6	37	13.5	21	9.2	26	11.1	31	14.7	29	12.1
35-39	18	8.5	19	8.7	19	8.7	20	7.3	21	9.2	16	6.8	23	10.9	15	6.3
40-44	12	5.7	20	9.2	16	7.3	12	4.4	17	7.5	22	9.4	13	6.2	14	5.9
45-59	38	17.9	37	17.0	48	21.9	43	15.6	33	14.5	33	14.1	29	13.7	29	12.1
60-74	17	8.0	7	3.2	16	7.3	15	5.5	21	9.2	13	6.2	13	6.2	19	7.9
75+	4	1.9	4	1.8	5	2.3	11	4.0	16	7.0	9	3.8	7	3.3	9	3.8
Unknown	3	1.4	4	1.8	4	1.8	7	2.5	5	2.2	4	1.7	1	0.5	9	3.8
MALE	139	100.0	160	100.0	162	100.0	198	100.0	165	100.0	176	100.0	159	100.0	175	100.0
0-4	3	2.2	4	2.5	6	3.7	2	1.0	3	1.8	8	4.5	3	1.9	3	1.7
5-9	1	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	2.0	0	0.0	4	2.3	2	1.3	1	0.6
10-14	0	0.0	1	0.6	1	0.6	1	0.5	4	2.4	2	1.1	1	0.6	4	2.3
15-19	18	12.9	17	10.6	16	9.9	26	13.1	8	4.8	8	4.5	9	5.7	14	8.0
20-24	20	14.4	23	14.4	23	14.2	36	18.2	27	16.4	33	18.8	21	13.2	27	15.4
25-29	14	10.1	28	17.5	25	15.4	36	18.2	26	15.8	23	13.1	31	19.5	29	16.6
30-34	19	13.7	19	11.9	14	8.6	22	11.1	17	10.3	24	13.6	22	13.8	27	15.4
35-39	12	8.6	18	11.3	14	8.6	9	4.5	13	7.9	12	6.8	20	12.6	12	6.9
40-44	9	6.5	14	8.8	13	8.0	9	4.5	12	7.3	19	10.8	12	7.5	12	6.9
45-59	27	19.4	29	18.1	35	21.6	34	17.2	27	16.4	28	15.9	23	14.5	26	14.9
60-74	12	8.6	5	3.1	12	7.4	11	5.6	16	9.7	8	4.5	11	6.9	11	6.3
75+	1	0.7	0	0.0	1	0.6	4	2.0	9	5.5	5	2.8	3	1.9	2	1.1
Unknown	3	2.2	2	1.3	2	1.2	4	2.0	3	1.8	2	1.1	1	0.6	7	4.0
FEMALE	73	100.0	58	100.0	57	100.0	76	100.0	63	100.0	58	100.0	52	100.0	63	100.0
0-4	11	15.1	2	3.4	2	3.5	6	7.9	2	3.2	2	3.4	4	7.7	7	11.1
5-9	1	1.4	1	1.7	1	1.8	0	0.0	0	5.2	3	5.2	0	0.0	3	4.8
10-14	2	2.7	1	1.7	0	0.0	2	2.6	0	0.0	1	1.7	1	1.9	2	3.2
15-19	3	4.1	6	10.3	8	14.0	5	6.6	5	7.9	8	13.8	4	7.7	9	14.3
20-24	11	15.1	14	24.1	6	10.5	6	7.9	10	15.9	9	15.5	8	15.4	12	19.0
25-29	11	15.1	6	10.3	2	3.5	6	7.9	9	14.3	10	17.2	10	19.2	4	6.3
30-34	6	8.2	5	8.6	7	12.3	15	19.7	4	6.3	2	3.4	9	17.3	2	3.2
35-39	6	8.2	1	1.7	5	8.8	11	14.5	8	12.7	4	6.9	3	5.8	3	4.8
40-44	3	4.1	6	10.3	3	5.3	3	3.9	5	7.9	3	5.2	1	1.9	2	3.2
45-59	11	15.1	8	13.8	13	22.8	9	11.8	6	9.5	5	8.6	6	11.5	3	4.8
60-74	5	6.8	2	3.4	4	7.0	4	5.3	5	7.9	5	8.6	2	3.8	8	12.7
75+	3	4.1	4	6.9	4	7.0	7	9.2	7	11.4	4	6.9	4	7.7	7	11.1
Unknown	0	0.0	2	3.4	2	3.5	2	2.6	2	3.2	2	3.4	0	0.0	1	1.6

TABLE A6. SEX AND RACE OF CRIMINAL HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN ARIZONA, 1977 TO 1984

Victim Sex/Race	1977		1978		1979		1980		1981		1982		1983		1984	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
TOTAL	212	100.0	218	100.0	219	100.0	275	100.0	228	100.0	234	100.0	211	100.0	239	100.0
White	172	81.1	180	82.6	165	75.3	159	57.8	140	61.4	134	57.3	119	56.4	143	59.8
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	76	27.6	59	25.9	55	23.5	50	23.7	64	26.8
Black	32	15.1	20	9.2	40	18.3	27	9.8	20	8.8	31	13.2	28	13.3	22	9.2
Native Amer	6	2.8	17	7.8	13	5.9	12	4.4	6	2.6	14	6.0	13	6.2	6	2.5
Other	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	0	0.0	2	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.8
Unknown	1	0.5	-	-	-	-	1	0.4	1	0.4	0	0.0	1	0.5	2	0.8
MALE	139	100.0	160	100.0	162	100.0	198	100.0	165	100.0	176	100.0	159	100.0	175	100.0
White	109	78.4	127	79.4	119	73.5	103	52.0	93	56.4	96	54.5	85	53.5	96	54.9
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	64	32.3	46	27.9	45	25.6	43	27.0	57	32.6
Black	26	18.7	17	10.6	33	20.4	24	12.1	18	10.9	25	14.2	21	13.2	15	8.6
Native Amer	3	2.2	15	9.4	9	5.6	7	3.5	6	3.6	10	5.7	9	5.7	5	2.9
Other	-	-	1	0.6	1	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.6
Unknown	1	0.7	-	-	-	-	0	0.0	1	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.6	1	0.6
FEMALE	73	100.0	58	100.0	57	100.0	76	100.0	63	100.0	58	100.0	52	100.0	63	100.0
White	63	86.3	53	91.4	46	80.7	56	73.7	47	74.6	38	65.5	34	65.4	47	74.6
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	15.8	13	20.6	10	17.2	7	13.5	7	11.1
Black	6	8.2	3	5.2	7	12.3	3	3.9	2	3.2	6	10.3	7	13.5	7	11.1
Native Amer	3	4.1	2	3.4	4	7.0	5	6.6	0	0.0	4	6.9	4	7.7	1	1.6
Other	1	1.4	-	-	-	-	0	0.0	1	1.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.6
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Note: Prior to 1980, Hispanic ethnic origin was not recorded

TABLE A7. SEX AND ETHNIC ORIGIN OF CRIMINAL HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN ARIZONA, 1977 TO 1984

Victim	1977		1978		1979		1980		1981		1982		1983		1984	
Sex/Ethnicity	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
TOTAL	212	100.0	218	100.0	219	100.0	275	100.0	228	100.0	234	100.0	211	100.0	239	100.0
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	76	27.6	59	25.9	55	23.5	50	23.7	64	26.8
Non-Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	195	70.9	167	73.2	179	76.5	158	74.9	171	71.5
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1.5	2	0.9	0	0.0	3	1.4	4	1.7
MALE	139	100.0	160	100.0	162	100.0	198	100.0	165	100.0	176	100.0	159	100.0	175	100.0
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	64	32.3	46	27.9	45	25.6	43	27.0	57	32.6
Non-Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	131	66.2	117	70.9	131	74.4	115	72.3	116	66.3
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1.5	2	1.2	0	0.0	1	0.6	2	1.1
FEMALE	73	100.0	58	100.0	57	100.0	76	100.0	63	100.0	58	100.0	52	100.0	63	100.0
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	15.8	13	20.6	10	17.2	7	13.5	7	11.1
Non-Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	64	84.2	50	79.4	48	82.8	43	82.7	55	87.3
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.8	1	1.6

Note: Prior to 1980, ethnic origin was not recorded