

NCJRS

SEP 21 1994

ACQUISITIONS

CRIME TREND SERIES

Uniform Crime Reporting Program in Hawaii

Department of the Attorney General, Crime Prevention Division

Robert A. Marks, Attorney General
Ruth I. Tsujimura, First Deputy

Alan T. Shimabukuro, Administrator

150202

Murder Victim And Offender Characteristics, 1980-1991 State of Hawaii

By Thomas M. Green, James B. Richmond, and JoAnn E. Taira

In 1991, 45 murders were committed in the State of Hawaii. That number represents a 46 percent decrease from the 84 murders committed in 1980, the greatest number since UCR records have been reported.

Other findings include the following:

- The proportion of female victims to the total number of murder victims increased from 30 percent in 1980 to 42 percent in 1991.
- Handguns were involved in 33 percent of the murders in 1980 and 27 percent in 1991.
- In both 1980 and 1991, nearly 3 out of 4 victims knew their killer(s). Six percent of all murder victims in 1980 and 11 percent in 1991 were married to their killer. In 1991, the greatest percentage of the female victims, 36 percent, were killed by their spouse.
- The victim's age and the offender's age were positively correlated, indicating the tendency for younger offenders to have younger victims and older offenders to have older victims.
- In over 38 percent of the murders committed in 1980, police were unable to determine the circum-

stances which precipitated the killing. In 1991, 18 percent of the murders were committed under unknown circumstances.

- In 1980, 43 percent of the murders involved individuals of the same race/ethnicity. In 1991, 50 percent of the murders were intraracial/ethnic.
- In 1991, 31 percent of the murder victims and 51 percent of the known offenders were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the killing. Only one victim and two offenders were under the influence of drugs at the time of the offense in 1991.

Over 64 percent of the murders committed in 1991 took place in the City and County of Honolulu, down from 77 percent in 1980. Maui County increased their share of the total number murders in 1991, from 6 percent in 1980 to 13 percent in 1991. Kauai County had 1.2 percent of the State's murders in 1980 and 6.7 percent in 1991. Hawaii County accounted for nearly the same percentage of the State's total in 1980 and 1991: 15.5 percent and 15.6 percent, respectively. The number of murders by county are listed in Table 1.

The number of murders in 1980 were distributed fairly evenly throughout the year, except none took place in December. In 1991, almost 25 percent of the murders occurred during August, with 80 percent of the annual total occurring in the last half of the year.

TABLE 1. NUMBER OF MURDER VICTIMS BY COUNTY 1980 AND 1991

COUNTY	1980	1991
HONOLULU	65	29
MAUI	5	6
KAUAI	1	3
HAWAII	13	7
TOTAL	84	45

VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS

The proportion of female victims increased from 1980 to 1991. In 1980, 30 percent of the victims were female. In 1991, 42 percent of the victims were female.

The average age of murder victims in 1980 was 37 years, much older than in 1991 when the average age was 29 years. In both 1980 and 1991, 20-24 year olds were killed most often. Table 2 summarizes the number of murder victims by age group.

Male victims were generally younger than female victims in 1980. The average age of the 59 male victims was 38 years, while the average age of the 25 female victims was 34.6 years. The reverse was true in 1991: the average

150202

**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

Hawaii Dept. of the Attorney
General/Crime Prevention Div.

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

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

AGE	1980	1991
<18	4	6
18-19	4	3
20-24	15	11
25-29	10	3
30-34	9	6
35-39	13	4
40-44	5	7
45-49	2	1
50-54	8	1
55+	14	3

age of the 26 male victims was 27 years while the 19 female victims averaged 31 years.

Murder victims in 1980 were predominantly Caucasian (47.6 percent of the total), and Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian (22.6 percent). The greatest percentage of murder victims in 1991 were again Caucasian (33.3 percent), but less than in 1980. Almost 25 percent of the 1991 victims were Filipino.

Over 50 percent of the males murdered in 1980 were Caucasian; the second largest group of male murder victims was Hawaiian (20 percent). Among female murder victims, the pattern was the same: Caucasians accounted for 36 percent of the female total, Hawaiians 28 percent. In 1991, the greatest percentage of male murder victims were again Caucasian (46 percent of the total), while Filipinos were the most frequent female victims (32 percent). Table 3 reveals a breakdown of male and female murder victims by race and ethnicity for 1980 and 1991.

On the average, the youngest murder victims in 1980 were Korean (26.7 years), followed by Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians (30.6). The oldest murder victims were Chinese (51.0).

In 1991, the youngest murder victims were in a category classified as "other" (those in a racial/ethnic group other than those listed in this report): 15.4 years. The racial/ethnic group with the oldest average age was Caucasian: 35.9 years. The average

RACE/ETHNICITY	1980		1991	
	M	F	M	F
CAUCASIAN	31	9	12	3
HAWAIIAN	12	7	5	3
FILIPINO	5	4	5	6
SAMOAN	0	1	0	1
JAPANESE	8	2	0	1
BLACK	0	0	0	0
KOREAN	2	1	0	1
CHINESE	1	1	0	0
OTHER	0	0	4	4

age of murder victims in 1980 and 1991 by race or ethnicity are included in Table 4. In cases where there was only one victim, the "average age" is expressed as a whole number.

One-third of the murders committed in 1980 involved a handgun, 11 percent a rifle or shotgun, and 25 percent each a knife or cutting instrument and physical force. A smaller percentage of the murders in 1991 involved handguns: 27 percent. An equal percentage involved a knife or cutting instrument.

Males were most likely to have been murdered by a handgun in 1980. Over 35 percent of all males killed were handgun victims, 29 percent of physical force. Three out of four

RACE/ETHNICITY	1980	1991
CAUCASIAN	36.4	35.9
HAWAIIAN	30.6	25.3
FILIPINO	49.4	31.8
SAMOAN	28	18
JAPANESE	42.2	40
BLACK	—	—
KOREAN	26.7	31
CHINESE	51.0	—
OTHER	—	15.4

handgun victims in 1980 were male and 81 percent of those murdered by physical force were male. Females were most often killed by a knife or cutting instrument in 1980: 36 percent of female victims. In 1991, males again were most often killed by a handgun (31 percent of male victims); however, females accounted for a greater percentage of handgun victims in 1980 than 1991 (33.3 percent). Females in 1991, like in 1980, were most often killed with a knife or cutting instrument (37 percent of all females). Table 5 contains the number of males and females killed by various means in 1980 and 1991.

In 1980, 57 percent of those killed with handguns were Caucasian, 25 percent were Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian. Forty percent of all Caucasians killed in 1980 were handgun victims. Hawaiians were also most often killed with handguns (37 percent of their total), but nearly as many were killed by physical force (32 percent). Nearly half of those killed with a knife or cutting instrument were Caucasian (48 percent); two-thirds of

TABLE 5. NUMBER OF MURDER VICTIMS BY SEX AND WEAPON 1980 AND 1991

WEAPON	1980		1991	
	M	F	M	F
HANDGUN	21	7	8	4
RIFLE	6	3	3	1
KNIFE	12	9	5	7
PHYSICAL FORCE	17	4	3	0
FIRE	1	2	2	1
OTHER	0	0	5	2
UNKNOWN	2	0	0	4

the Filipinos murdered in 1980 were killed in that manner. Caucasians were the most frequent targets of killers using physical force (43 percent of those killed).

In 1991, 33.3 percent of the handgun victims were Hawaiian, 25 percent were Filipinos, and only 8.3 percent Caucasian. Caucasians were almost equally as likely to be killed with any of the weapons listed in this report, while half the Hawaiians were killed by handguns. Filipinos were most often killed with a knife or cutting instrument (same as 1980). Table 6 lists the number of murder victims by race/ethnicity and weapon.

In both 1980 and 1991, nearly three out of four victims knew their killer(s) in cases where the relationship between victim and offender was known. Six percent of all murder victims in 1980 and 11 percent in 1991 were married to their killer.

For over one-third of the 1980 male victims and one-fifth of the females, the relationship with his or her offender was unknown. In cases where the relationship was known,

men were most often killed by acquaintances (46 percent) or strangers (38 percent). Where the relationship was known, all of the female victims in 1980 knew their killer(s): 35 percent were friends, and 30 percent acquaintances.

In 1991, the pattern is nearly identical. Men were most often killed by strangers or acquaintances (38 percent each, where the relationship was known). However, among female victims, the greatest number were killed by their spouse: 36 percent of the cases where the relationship was known. Overall, 93 percent of the females murdered in 1991 were killed by someone they knew. Table 7 shows the number of males and females killed in 1980 and 1991 by the relationship they had with their killer(s).

Caucasians were most likely to be killed by an acquaintance in 1980, 38 percent of the total where the relationship was known. Hawaiians were also killed more often by an acquaintance than other recorded relationships. Forty percent of those murdered by a

stranger were Caucasians, and 80 percent of the spouses murdered were Caucasian.

TABLE 7. NUMBER OF MURDER VICTIMS BY SEX AND RELATIONSHIP 1980 AND 1991

RELATIONSHIP	1980		1991	
	M	F	M	F
SPOUSE	2	3	0	5
OTHER FAMILY	3	1	1	3
IN-LAW	0	3	1	1
FRIEND	1	7	3	3
ACQUAINTANCE	18	6	8	1
STRANGER	15	0	8	1
UNKNOWN	20	5	5	5

In 1991, no Caucasians were killed by their spouse; rather, 27 percent were

TABLE 6. NUMBER OF MURDER VICTIMS BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND WEAPON 1980 AND 1991

RACE/ETHNICITY	HANDGUN		RIFLE		KNIFE		PHYSICAL FORCE		FIRE		OTHER		UNKNOWN	
	1980	1991	1980	1991	1980	1991	1980	1991	1980	1991	1980	1991	1980	1991
CAUCASIAN	16	1	2	3	10	2	9	2	1	1	0	4	2	2
HAWAIIAN	7	4	3	0	2	3	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
FILIPINO	1	3	1	0	6	4	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	1
SAMOAN	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JAPANESE	2	0	2	0	2	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BLACK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KOREAN	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHINESE	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0

killed by an acquaintance, 20 percent by a friend, and, in one-third of the cases, the relationship was unknown. Hawaiians were most often killed by a stranger or acquaintance (38 percent each). Five spouses were killed in 1991, one each of Filipino, Hawaiian, Japanese, Korean, and Samoan heritage.

In over 38 percent of the murders committed in 1980, police were unable to determine the circumstances which precipitated the killing. In 1991, 18 percent of the murders were committed under unknown circumstances. Where the circumstances were known, 52 percent of the murders in 1980 were the result of arguments, 32 percent in 1991.

Over 44 percent of the males and 24 percent of the females were killed under unknown circumstances in 1980. Where the circumstances were known, the greatest percentage of both males and females were killed in non-domestic arguments (64 percent and 32 percent, respectively). In 1991 where the circumstances were known, over 54 percent of the males were killed during non-domestic arguments, while 40 percent of the women were killed during a domestic argument. The number of males and females murdered in 1980 and 1991 are listed in Table 8 according to the circumstances under which they were killed.

Half of the Caucasians murdered in 1980 were killed under unknown circumstance and 28 percent in a non-domestic argument. Over 42 percent of the Hawaiians were killed in non-domestic arguments as were 44 percent of the Filipinos.

Almost 63 percent of the Hawaiians killed in 1991 died as a result of a non-domestic argument. Filipinos accounted for 43 percent of those killed as a result of a domestic argument. The deaths of Caucasians were equally divided between non-domestic arguments and "other" circumstances.

CIRCUMSTANCE	1980		1991	
	M	F	M	F
DOMESTIC ARGUMENT	2	3	1	6
OTHER ARGUMENT	21	6	12	0
LOVE TRIANGLE	3	2	0	0
DIVORCE/BREAK UP	0	3	3	5
CHILD ABUSE	1	1	1	1
OTHER CRIME	5	4	2	1
OTHER	1	0	3	2
UNKNOWN	26	6	4	4

In 1980, 46 percent of the murders involved a single victim and a single offender, 29 percent involved a single victim and an unknown offender(s), 10 percent a single victim and multiple offenders, 13 percent multiple victims and a single offender, and 2 percent multiple victims and unknown offender(s). In 1991, 53 percent of the murders involved a single victim and a single offender, 20 percent a single victim and unknown offender(s), 7 percent a single victim and multiple offenders, 16 percent multiple victims and a single offender, and 4 percent multiple victims and unknown offender(s).

Males were more likely than females to be the victim of an unknown offender(s) or multiple offenders in 1980. In nearly 80 percent of the murders in which a single victim was killed by an unknown offender, the victim was male. Similarly, 88 percent of the victims in murders involving a single victim with multiple offenders were male. Fifty-six percent of the females murdered in 1980 were single victims of a single offender, 20

percent as one of several victims of the same offender, and 20 percent as a single victim of an unknown offender(s).

In 1991, most male and female victims were again the sole victim of a single offender (54 percent and 53 percent, respectively). In contrast to 1980, a higher percentage of the female victims were killed by an unknown offender (26 percent) than males (15 percent), and a higher percentage of males were killed as one of several victims of the same offender (19 percent) than females (11 percent).

In 1980, over half of the single victims who were killed by an unknown offender(s) were Caucasian (54 percent). Among Filipino victims, 89 percent were killed in a situation where they were the sole victim of a lone offender. In murder cases where there were multiple victims, 69 percent of those victims were Caucasian. Hawaiians and Japanese each accounted for 37.5 percent of the cases involving a single victim of multiple offenders.

Most Caucasians murdered in 1991 were the victim of a single offender (53 percent) or an unknown offender(s) (33.3 percent). Hawaiians were also most often killed as a single victim of a single offender, though 25 percent were killed by multiple offenders. Over half of the Filipino murder victims were single victims of single offenders and account for 44 percent of the multiple victims of single and unknown offender(s).

OFFENDER CHARACTERISTICS

There were 71 known offenders involved in the killing of 84 individuals in 1980 and 33 known offenders killing 45 individuals in 1991. Over 94 percent of the known offenders in 1980 were male, 97 percent in 1991.

The average age of known offenders in 1980 was 31 years, 6 years younger

than the average age of 1980 victims. The average age of known offenders in 1991 was 28, one year younger than 1991 victims. Table 9 illustrates the distribution of known murders by age groups for 1980 and 1991.

AGE	1980	1991
<18	1	2
18-19	6	5
20-24	19	5
25-29	12	8
30-34	13	6
35-39	7	4
40-44	5	2
45-49	2	1
50-54	2	0
55+	4	0

On the average age, the 67 known male offenders in 1980 were seven years younger than the four female offenders: 30.7 versus 37.7. There was only one female murderer in 1991; she was 34 years old. The average age of the 32 known male offenders in 1991 was 27.7 years.

The racial and ethnic distribution of known offenders in 1980 differs from 1991. In 1980, 30 percent of the known offenders were Caucasian, compared to 42 percent in 1991. Nearly 20 percent of the 1980 offenders were Samoan, versus 3 percent in 1991. A greater percentage of known murderers in 1991 were Filipino than in 1980, while the percentage of Hawaiians and part Hawaiians declined from 1980 to 1991.

Of the known male offenders in 1980, 28 percent were Caucasian, 21 percent Hawaiian, and 21 percent Samoan. Female offenders were equally divided between Hawaiian and Caucasian. In

1991, Caucasians comprised 41 percent of the total number of known male offenders, with Filipinos accounting for 25 percent. The only known female offender in 1991 was Caucasian. Table 10 contains a breakdown of known male and female offenders by race and ethnicity.

RACE/ETHNICITY	1980		1991	
	M	F	M	F
CAUCASIAN	19	2	13	1
HAWAIIAN	14	2	5	0
FILIPINO	9	0	8	0
SAMOAN	14	0	1	0
JAPANESE	4	0	1	0
BLACK	1	0	1	0
KOREAN	1	0	0	0
CHINESE	0	0	0	0
OTHER	5	0	3	0

On the average, the youngest known offenders in 1980 were the 14 Samoans at 25.9 years of age. The oldest offender was Filipino (78 years), the youngest Japanese (17 years). In 1991, the racial/ethnic group with the lowest average age was Filipino (23.6 years). The oldest and youngest offenders were Hawaiian: 49 and 14 years, respectively. The average age of known offenders in 1980 and 1991 by race or ethnicity are included in Table 11. In cases where there was only one known offender in a group, the "average age" is expressed as a whole number.

Males were most likely to have killed using physical force in 1980 while women used a handgun (42 percent and 50 percent of the known total, respectively). In 1991, males most often used a knife or cutting instrument to commit murder (35 percent of

RACE/ETHNICITY	1980	1991
CAUCASIAN	35.4	28.8
HAWAIIAN	27.4	24.8
FILIPINO	39.6	23.6
SAMOAN	25.9	22
JAPANESE	36.0	27
BLACK	26	28
KOREAN	27	—
CHINESE	—	—
OTHER	22.8	28.3

the known total), while the only female murderer used a handgun. Table 12 reveals the number of known murderers and the weapons they used in 1980 and 1991 (the 1991 total equals 34: one offender used both a handgun and fire to kill his victims).

One-third of the known Caucasian offenders used a handgun to commit

WEAPON	1980		1991	
	M	F	M	F
HANDGUN	18	2	9	1
RIFLE	4	1	2	0
KNIFE	16	1	13	0
PHYSICAL FORCE	28	0	3	0
FIRE	1	0	1	0
OTHER	0	0	5	0

**TABLE 13. NUMBER OF KNOWN OFFENDERS BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND WEAPON
1980 AND 1991**

RACE/ ETHNICITY	HANDGUN		RIFLE		KNIFE		PHYSICAL FORCE		FIRE		OTHER	
	1980	1991	1980	1991	1980	1991	1980	1991	1980	1991	1980	1991
CAUCASIAN	7	4	4	1	3	5	6	2	1	0	0	2
HAWAIIAN	8	1	0	0	4	2	4	1	0	0	0	0
FILIPINO	2	2	1	1	6	4	0	0	0	1	0	2
SAMOAN	0	0	0	0	0	1	14	0	0	0	0	0
JAPANESE	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
BLACK	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
KOREAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
CHINESE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KOREAN	1	2	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1

their crime in 1980, while nearly 29 percent used physical force. All of the known Samoan offenders used physical force. One-half of the Hawaiians used handguns, the remainder were equally divided between using a knife or cutting instrument and physical force. In 1991, the weapon of choice among known Caucasian offenders was equally divided between handguns and knife or cutting instrument. Table 13 lists the number of known offenders by race/ethnicity and weapon (1991 total again equals 34).

Most of the known male offenders in 1980 killed a stranger (43 percent) or an acquaintance (30 percent). Half of the known female offenders killed their spouse. Again in 1991, known male offenders most often killed a stranger (30 percent) or an acquaintance (30 percent). The only female offender in 1991 killed a friend. Table 14 includes the relationship known offenders had with their victims in 1980 and 1991 (1991 total equals 34: one offender killed 2 strangers and one killed 2 in-laws and 3 strangers).

In 1980, Caucasians most often killed an acquaintance (48 percent), while

Samoans and Hawaiians most often killed a stranger (93 percent and 38 percent, respectively). Sixty percent of the known offenders killing their spouse were Caucasian.

In 1991, 36 percent of the known Caucasian offenders killed an acquaintance, 29 percent killed a stranger. Forty-four percent of the known Filipino offenders killed a stranger. Five spouses were killed in 1991, one

**TABLE 14. NUMBER OF KNOWN OFFENDERS BY SEX AND RELATIONSHIP
1980 AND 1991**

RELATIONSHIP	1980		1991	
	M	F	M	F
SPOUSE	3	2	5	0
OTHER FAMILY	3	0	3	0
IN-LAW	3	0	1	0
FRIEND	8	1	5	1
ACQUAINTANCE	21	1	11	0
STRANGER	29	0	9	0

each by a Black, Filipino, Hawaiian, Samoan, and Caucasian.

The greatest percentage of both known male and female offenders in 1980 killed their victim(s) during a non-domestic argument (40 percent and 50 percent, respectively). This was also the case for males in 1991 (41 percent), while the known female offender killed her victim during a domestic argument. Table 15 shows a breakdown of known offenders and the circumstances under which they committed murder.

**TABLE 15. NUMBER OF KNOWN OFFENDERS BY SEX AND CIRCUMSTANCE
1980 AND 1991**

CIRCUMSTANCE	1980		1991	
	M	F	M	F
DOMESTIC ARGUMENT	3	1	6	1
OTHER ARGUMENT	27	2	15	0
LOVE TRIANGLE	4	0	0	0
DIVORCE/BREAKUP	3	0	8	0
CHILD ABUSE	1	0	1	0
OTHER CRIME	5	0	1	0
OTHER	10	0	6	0
UNKNOWN	14	1	0	0

Nearly half of the known Caucasian offenders and 50 percent of the known Hawaiian offenders in 1980 committed murder during a non-domestic argument. Similarly, in 1991 40 percent of the known Caucasian offenders and 60 percent of the known Hawaiian offenders committed their crime during a non-domestic argument.

One Filipino offender committed five murders during a divorce or break-up.

Over 50 percent of the known male offenders in 1980 acted alone and killed a single victim. Forty percent of the known male offenders acted in concert with others to kill single victims and 7.5 percent of the male offenders killed multiple victims. All four known female offenders in 1980 killed a single victim.

In 1991, 62 percent of the known male offenders acted alone killing a single victim. An equal percentage (19 percent) of the known male offenders were single offenders of multiple victims and multiple offenders killing single victims.

In 1980, 93 percent of the 15 known Samoan offenders were involved in the murder of a single victim. Nearly 44 percent of the known Hawaiian offenders were involved in the killing of single victim; an equal percentage were single offenders killing a single victim. Over 71 percent of the known Caucasian offenders acted alone, killing a single victim.

Most known Caucasian offenders in 1991 (60 percent of the total) again acted alone killing a single victim. Eighty percent of the known Hawaiian offenders acted alone killing a single victim. Filipino offenders were equally divided between single offender-single victim and single offender-multiple victim (42 percent each).

WEAPONS

Three-fourths of the handgun murders in 1991 occurred in the City and County of Honolulu, down from 86 percent in 1980. All of the murders by fire in both 1980 and 1991 occurred in Honolulu. Table 16 summarizes the number and type of murder weapons by county for 1980 and 1991.

In cases where the murder weapon was

TABLE 16. NUMBER OF MURDER VICTIMS BY WEAPON AND COUNTY 1980 AND 1991

WEAPON	HONOLULU		HAWAII		MAUI		KAUAI	
	1980	1991	1980	1991	1980	1991	1980	1991
HANDGUN	24	9	2	1	1	2	1	0
RIFLE	5	1	4	1	0	1	0	1
KNIFE	14	8	4	1	3	1	0	2
PHYSICAL FORCE	19	2	1	0	1	1	0	0
FIRE	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	0
UNKNOWN	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0

known in 1980, the average age of handgun victims was the youngest: 32.6 years. The oldest victim in 1980 was 84 years old, killed by a rifle. The youngest victim was four years old, killed by physical force.

Among murder victims in 1991, the average age of those killed by fire was the youngest: 11.0 years. The youngest individuals killed in 1991 were under one year: one was killed by physical force, one by fire, and a third by unknown means. The oldest murder victim was 76 years, killed by unknown means.

Murderers in 1980 who used physical force had the youngest average age: 25.8 years. The youngest murderer, age 17 years, used a knife to kill his victim. The oldest killer, 78 years, used a rifle.

The youngest average age among murder offenders in 1991 were those who used physical force: 24.7 years. The youngest murderer, 17 years old, used a handgun; the oldest offender, age 58 years, also used a handgun. A complete accounting of the average age of murder victims and offenders for 1980 and 1991 is found in Table 17. In cases where there was only one victim or offender, the "average age"

is expressed as a whole number.

In 1980, handguns were most often used to kill an acquaintance (32 percent of handgun murders), though 60 percent of the spouses killed died as a result of handgun use.

Rifle and shotgun murders were fairly evenly distributed among the different relationships between victim and offender. In 33.3 percent of the cases where a knife or cutting instrument

TABLE 17. AVERAGE AGE OF MURDER VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS BY TYPE AND WEAPON 1980 AND 1991

WEAPON	VICTIMS		OFFENDERS	
	1980	1991	1980	1991
HANDGUN	32.6	32.9	35.8	31.2
RIFLE	43.2	30.8	45.4	37.0
KNIFE	41.0	30.4	30.1	25.4
PHYSICAL FORCE	34.8	25.7	25.8	24.7
FIRE	55.7	11.0	36.0	37.0
OTHER	—	26.7	—	26.4
UNKNOWN	26.0	30.5	—	—

was used, the relationship between victim and offender was unknown; 19 percent were acquaintances. Physical force was also slightly more common where the relationship was unknown (33.3 percent), with an equal percentage of those murders occurring against strangers and acquaintances (29 percent each). All murders by fire were committed against acquaintances.

One-fourth of the handgun murders in 1991 involved strangers and 40 percent of murdered spouses died from a handgun. Half of the knife and cutting instruments deaths involved a spouse or acquaintance, half strangers, friends, and unknown. Two-thirds of the deaths from physical force involved acquaintances; in the remaining one-third, the relationship between victim and offender was unknown. All of the fire deaths in 1991 involved strangers.

Murder committed during a domestic argument in 1980 was equally as likely to involve a handgun or rifle; together, firearms were involved in 80 percent of the domestic-argument deaths. However, handguns were five times more likely to be used in non-domestic arguments. The circumstances in which a knife or cutting instrument was the cause of death were most often unknown (43 percent), though one-third involved non-domestic arguments. Physical force was most common in non-domestic arguments and unknown circumstances (33.3 percent and 29 percent of the murders by physical force, respectively).

In 1991, murder during a domestic argument was most often caused by a knife or cutting instrument (57 percent of the domestic argument deaths); 14 percent involved handguns. Handgun murders most often occurred during non-domestic arguments (42 percent of handgun murders). All of the killings by fire concerned a divorce or break-up.

The greatest percentage of murders by all weapon types in 1980 involved a

single offender and a single victim. In cases where multiple offenders killed a single victim, 63 percent involved physical force. In cases where a single offender killed multiple victims, 55 percent involved a handgun and 27 percent involved fire.

In 1991, two-thirds of the handgun and knife or cutting instrument, 50 percent of the rifle or shotgun, one-third of the physical force, and 71 percent of the other dangerous weapon murders involved a single offender and a single victim. Single victims of multiple offenders were slightly more likely to be killed by a knife or cutting instrument than physical force. Multiple victims of single offenders were slightly more likely to be killed by a handgun than fire.

KNOWN OFFENDERS AND THEIR VICTIMS

Of the 71 known offenders in 1980, 19 (26.8 percent) were Caucasian males. Among their victims, 71.4 percent were male: 47.6 percent were other Caucasian males and 23.8 percent Hawaiian males. One-third of their female victims were Caucasian and one-third were Hawaiian.

Fourteen Hawaiian males were known to have committed murder in 1980, 19.7 percent of all known offenders. Their victims included four Japanese males, three Caucasian males, two Caucasian females, two Hawaiian females, and one each Hawaiian male and Filipino male.

There were also 14 known Samoan offenders in 1980, responsible for the death of three known victims. All of the victims were Hawaiian males.

Nine Filipino murderers have killed eight victims. Three-fourths of their victims were Filipino, equally divided among males and females. The other two victims were Caucasian, one male and one female.

The four known male Japanese offenders in 1980 killed three other males: one Hawaiian and two Japanese. The one Black male murderer killed a Caucasian female. The one Korean male killed a Korean female.

Four females were known to have committed murder in 1980: two Caucasians and two Hawaiians. The Caucasian women killed one Samoan female and one Caucasian male. The Hawaiian women killed one Filipino female and one Caucasian male.

All but one of the 33 known offenders in 1991 were male. The 13 Caucasian males (39 percent of all known offenders) were responsible for the deaths of eight males and four females. Among the male victims, three were Caucasian, three Hawaiian, and two Filipino. Among the female victims, one each was Hawaiian, Korean, Caucasian, and "other."

Eight Filipino males were known to have committed murder in 1991. Half of their victims were male, half female. Four of the five female victims were Filipino, one "other." Two of the male victims were Filipino, two Caucasian, and one "other."

There were five known Hawaiian male offenders in 1991 who killed two Caucasian males, two Hawaiian males, and one Hawaiian female.

The one Samoan male offender in 1991 killed a Samoan female. One female, whose race/ethnicity was classified as "other" was the victim of the only known Japanese male offender in 1991. In addition, one Black male was involved in the death of a Japanese female.

The one known female offender in 1991 was Caucasian. Her murder victim was a Caucasian male.

ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Beginning in 1987, the UCR Program recorded information regarding alcohol and drug use by the victim and the offender, whether a suicide or attempted suicide accompanied a murder, whether the offense occurred at a correctional facility, and whether the offender had or seemed to have psychiatric problems. Information concerning these characteristics is reported for 1991 only.

Alcohol Use

Fourteen of the murder victims in 1991 (31 percent) were under the influence of alcohol at the time of their death. Twelve of these victims (86 percent) were male. The average age of the alcohol-use victims was 32 years.

The greatest percentage of alcohol-use victims were Caucasian (57 percent), followed by Hawaiian (29 percent), Filipino (7 percent), and "other" (7 percent). Alcohol-use victims were slightly more likely to be killed with a handgun than a knife or cutting instrument (43 percent and 36 percent, respectively).

Alcohol-use victims were most often killed by an acquaintance (43 percent) or stranger (36 percent). Only 1 of 5 murdered spouses had used alcohol. Alcohol-use victims were most likely to be killed during a non-domestic argument (64 percent); in fact, 75 percent of those killed during a non-domestic argument in 1991 had been drinking.

Over 51 percent of the known offenders (27 of 33) had used alcohol. Of those offenders who had used alcohol, 94 percent were male. The average of alcohol-use offenders was 28 years.

Eight of the alcohol-use offenders were Caucasian (47 percent of the

total). There were four Hawaiians (24 percent), four Filipinos (24 percent), and one "other" (6 percent) who had used alcohol prior to committing murder. Alcohol-use offenders most often used a knife or cutting instrument or a handgun to kill their victim(s) (47 percent and 29 percent, respectively).

Forty-seven percent of the alcohol-use offenders were acquaintances with their victim(s) and 29 percent were strangers. Only 1 of 5 offenders who killed their spouse had used alcohol. Alcohol-use offenders most often killed during a non-domestic argument (53 percent of the alcohol related murders) or "other" circumstances (27 percent).

Over 76 percent of the alcohol-use offenders' victims were male, 23.5 percent were female. Victims of alcohol-use offenders were, on the average, slightly older than their killer(s): 32 years versus 30 years. Over 71 percent of the alcohol-use offenders' victims had also been using alcohol.

Drug Use

Drug use did not appear to be an important factor in murders committed in 1991. Only one victim and two offenders were under the influence of drugs at the time of the offense. Moreover, no murders were committed in 1991 involving an offender in a correctional facility.

Suicide and Attempted Suicide

Four offenders (11 percent of all murderers) committed or attempted suicide in 1991; all were male. Three of the offenders killed a female prior to killing themselves, two of whom was their spouse. The average age of those offenders who committed or attempted suicide was 36 years.

Alcohol was a factor in only one of the murder-suicides: both offender and

victim had been drinking. Drugs were not involved in any of the four instances.

In three of the four cases, the murderer killed his victim with a gun before killing, or attempting to kill, himself.

Mental Illness

Four offenders had or seemed to have psychiatric problems, all males. Their average age was 29.5 years. Four of the five victims of suspected mentally ill offenders were male.

Two of the suspected mentally ill offenders were Caucasian, two Filipino. Two of their victims were Caucasian, two Filipino, and one Hawaiian. Two of the victims were strangers, one an immediate family member, one an acquaintance, and one a friend. Two of the murders involved a handgun, one a rifle, one physical force, and one "other."

None of the suspected mentally ill offenders was under the influence of alcohol, though two of their five victims were. One of the mentally ill offenders, a 31-year-old Caucasian male who killed a 37-year-old Caucasian male, committed or attempted suicide.

CONCLUSIONS

Murder is an uncommon occurrence in the State of Hawaii. Murder represents the smallest portion of the State's total Crime Index. The 45 murders in 1991 account for only 0.07 percent of the total Crime Index and only 2 percent of the violent crimes. Since 1980, there have been a total of 585 murders in Hawaii. In 1991, the city of Detroit, with a population slightly smaller than the State of Hawaii (albeit with much different demographics), had 615 murders. In 1991, there were 2,154 murders in New York City, 1,027 in Los Angeles, and 925 in Chicago.

The murder rate in Hawaii (the number of murders per 100,000 residents) in 1991 was 4.0, almost two and one-half times less than the national rate of 9.8 per 100,000. The Pacific States' rate, 10.7 murders per 100,000 in 1991, was 2.7 times higher than Hawaii's rate.

Graph 1 shows the number and rate of murders in Hawaii since 1980. Since the beginning of the UCR program in Hawaii, the greatest number of murders in any given year was 1980 with 84. Since 1980, the number of murders decreased 63 percent to hit a low point in 1982 (31), followed by an 84 percent increase to 57 in 1983. Since 1986, the number of murders has fluctuated little.

Murder victims in 1991 differed from those in 1980 in several ways. In 1980, the "typical" murder victim was male, 37 years old, and Caucasian. In 1991, murder victims were again most frequently male, but females accounted for a higher percentage than in 1980: 70 percent of the victims in 1980 were

male, 58 percent in 1991.

While nearly half of the murder victims in 1980 were Caucasian (48 percent), that percentage dropped to 33.3 in 1991. Victims were less likely to be Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian in 1991 than in 1980, while a greater percentage of murder victims were of Filipino ancestry in 1991 than in 1980.

Two other important changes took place between 1980 and 1991 concerning the race or ethnicity of murder victims. In 1980, 10 individuals of Japanese ancestry were killed, while only one died in 1991.

Perhaps as significant is the change which took place in the category labeled "other." In 1980, none of the murder victims were in this category. In 1991, eight (18 percent of the annual total) were classified as "other." For UCR purposes, these eight individuals were classified as "Asian or Pacific Islander." While Hawaii expands the classification of

such persons beyond the FBI's reporting requirements to those mentioned in this report, those eight fall outside Hawaii's expanded definition. It is likely that this increase in "other" victims reflects an increase of immigration from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Tonga, and other Asia/Pacific Island countries.

Changes in the characteristics of known offenders from 1980 to 1991 are more subtle than those of victims. Murder in Hawaii is almost exclusively the domain of males. In 1980, four murders were known to be committed by females (6 percent of the total); in 1991, only one known murderer was female (3 percent of the total).

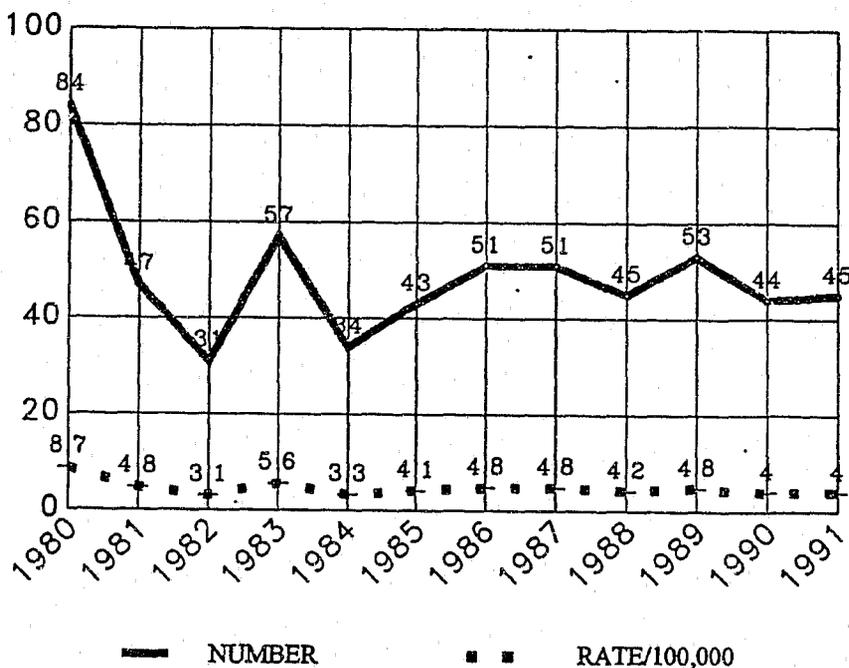
The average age of offenders was slightly younger in 1991 than 1980: 28 versus 31, respectively. A higher percentage of known murderers were Caucasian in 1991 than in 1980 (42 percent versus 30 percent, respectively). In 1980, 22.5 percent of the known offenders were Hawaiian, 20 percent Samoan. In 1991, the group most involved in murder other than Caucasians was Filipino, accounting for 24.2 percent of the total of known offenders.

Firearms in general were the most common murder weapons in both 1980 and 1991, though the percentage declined considerably: 44 percent and 35.5 percent, respectively. Handguns accounted for 75 percent of the firearm deaths in both 1980 and 1991.

Murder by knife or cutting instrument accounted for a similar percentage of murders in 1980 and 1991: 25 percent and 26.6 percent, respectively. Physical force was involved in one-fourth of the 1980 murders and only 6.6 percent in 1991.

Handgun victims in 1980 were, on the average, younger than those killed by other means. Two infants murdered

Graph 1. Number and Rate of Murders, 1980-1991
State of Hawaii



by fire in 1991 lowered the average age of fire victims to 11 years.

In both 1980 and 1991, the youngest offenders tended to be those who used physical force.

Three of four murder victims in both 1980 and 1991 knew their killer(s). There were five spousal murders in 1980 and again in 1991. The preponderance of murders happened during an argument not involving a spouse.

Most murders in Hawaii do not appear to be racially or ethnically motivated. Forty-three percent of the murders in 1980 where the race of the victim and their killer(s) was known were intraracial/ethnic. Of the known interracial/ethnic murders, the most unusual case involved the killing of one Hawaiian by ten Samoans. Seven of the 14 known Hawaiian victims were killed by Caucasians.

In 1991, half of the cases where the race/ethnicity of the victim and offender was known were intraracial/ethnic. The greatest number of known interracial/ethnic murders involved Caucasians killing Hawaiians: 4 of the 8 Hawaiian victims were killed by Caucasians (five Caucasians were also killed by other Caucasians).

Alcohol was a factor in 42 percent of the murders in 1991 (where either the victim or offender was under the influence). In 12 cases, both the victim and the offender(s) had been drinking; three cases involved multiple offenders killing a single victim.

Perhaps the most dramatic murder case of 1991 involved a single male who killed five persons, two with a handgun and three by fire. The offender was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the killings.

Statistical Relationships

No fewer than 20 of the relationships between victim and offender characteristics discussed in this report are statistically significant at the .01 level

as measured by chi-square. However, most of the relationships, or associations, are too weak to be of much interest or use in trying to understand the phenomenon of murder in Hawaii.

In 1980, the associations between the offender's sex and their relationship to their victim and the situation under which the murder took place were both significant at the .001 level and had lambda values of .8333 and .8667, respectively. Lambda is a PKE (proportional reduction in error) statistic which shows how much one characteristic helps reduce the error in predicting the value of the other characteristic. Values for lambda range from 0 to 1. In the above case, knowing the relationship between the victim and the offender reduces the error in predicting the offender's sex 83 percent. While these associations are very strong, their utility is limited by the fact that the distribution of the offender's sex is so skewed: 67 of 71 (94 percent) of the offenders were male. It is worth noting, however, that all of the women and half of the male offender acted alone and killed a single victim (the situation). Women were most likely to kill a spouse and men were most likely to kill a stranger or acquaintance (the relationship).

Also significant at the .001 level are the associations between the relationship between the victim and the offender and the circumstances and situation of the killing (lambda values of .4444 and .4861, respectively, moderately strong associations).

The association between relationship and circumstances is best understood by looking at several examples: 60 percent of the murders involving a spouse were the result of a domestic argument or love-triangle; 65 percent of the murder victims who were acquainted with their killer were killed during a non-domestic argument.

The association between relationship and situation has several interesting aspects. First, family and friends were

usually single victims of a single offender. In situations where there were multiple victims, the offender and victims were more often acquainted than strangers (46 percent versus 27 percent, respectively). In situations where there were multiple offenders for a single victim, most involved strangers (78 percent).

Similarly, the association between the situation and circumstances was significant (.001) and moderately strong (.4531). Nearly 38 percent of the 1980 murders involved single victims and a single offender. This accounted for the majority of the killings that took place during domestic arguments, non-domestic arguments, love-triangles, and child abuse. Where there were multiple victims of a single offender, the situations were equally divided between domestic arguments, non-domestic arguments, love-triangle, and unknown circumstances. Multiple offenders usually killed single victims during circumstances categorized as "other" (37 percent of the total, all of which occurred during a prison riot), unknown (30 percent), and non-domestic arguments (26 percent).

Several other associations, all significant at the .001 level, are worth noting: the association between the victim's race and the offender's race (lambda equal to .3030), between the victim's sex and the circumstances (.2955; see Table 8), and between the victim's sex and the situation (.2727; see the discussion on page 4).

A significant (.002) and positive correlation (.4213, Pearson's *r*) exists between the victim's age and the offender's age. This correlation indicates the tendency that younger offenders tend to have younger victims, older offenders have older victims.

Similar associations exist between the murder victim and offender characteristics in 1991. The associations between the offender's sex and the

situation, relationship, and offender's race are all significant at the .001 level and very strong (lambda values above .8333). Again, it is important to note in explaining those associations that 97 percent of the offenders were male.

Knowing the situation in which the murder took place reduced a good deal of the error in predicting the offender race (lambda equal to .4118, chi square .001). One hundred percent of the Black, Japanese, Samoan, and other Asian offenders acted alone to kill single victims. Moreover, 80 percent of the Hawaiian and 60 percent of the Caucasian offenders acted alone to kill individuals. In cases where there were multiple victims, the offender was most likely to be Filipino (71 percent of the total).

The associations between the relationship of the victim to the offender and both the situation and circumstances

were significant (.001) and fairly strong: .3684 and .3947, respectively. Cases in which there was a single victim and a single offender accounted for all murders between spouses, aunts and uncles, friends, and "other," plus two-thirds of the killings of other immediate family members. Multiple victims of a single offender were most often strangers and single victims of multiple offenders were most often acquaintances.

As in 1980, spouses were most often killed during a domestic argument or during a divorce or break-up; strangers and acquaintances were most often killed during non-domestic arguments.

Another notable association in 1991 includes that between the victim's sex and their race (.001 level of significance and lambda equal to .3478). All of the Samoan, Korean, and Japanese victims were female; 80 percent of the

Caucasian and 63 percent of the Hawaiian victims were male.

The information provided to the UCR Program by county police departments concerning murder victim and offender characteristics is rich in detail. Such data are useful in understanding the trends concerning who murders whom and under what circumstances. Several interesting trends discussed in this report include the relative stability in the number of murders per year since 1986, the increasing percentage of female victims, the decrease in the average age of offenders, and the near doubling of the percentage of all murders accounted for by spousal murder.

The data for the Crime Trend Series comes from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR Program in Hawaii gathers offense and arrest data from each of the four county law enforcement agencies: Honolulu, Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

The Research and Statistics Branch of the Crime Prevention Division, Department of the Attorney General, operates as a clearinghouse for the UCR Program, reporting the county offense and arrest data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and publishing the results annually in Crime in Hawaii.

June, 1993

Department of the Attorney General
Crime Prevention Division
810 Richards Street, Suite 701
Honolulu, HI 96813
Tel. (808) 586-1416