

Murder

Definition

Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, as defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, is the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another.

The classification of this offense, as for all other offenses that make up the Crime Index, is based solely on police investigation as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, jury, or other judicial body. The Program does not include the following situations in the count for this offense classification: deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder or assaults to murder, which are scored as aggravated assaults.

Trend

Year	Number of offenses	Rate per 100,000 inhabitants	
2001	16,037	5.6	
2002	16,204	5.6	
Percent change	+1.0	*	

* Less than one-tenth of 1 percent.

National Volume, Trends, and Rates

An estimated 16,204 murders took place in 2002. This figure represents a 1.0 percent increase over the 2001 volume. A comparison of the data from 5 and 10 years ago showed that the 2002 estimated volume decreased 4.5 percent from the 1998 estimate, and it fell 33.9 percent from the estimate for 1993. (See Table 1.)

During 2002, the murder rate was estimated at 5.6 crimes per 100,000 inhabitants. The rate remained virtually unchanged from the rate for 2001. Five-year and 10-year trend analyses revealed that the 2002 murder rate was 10.5 percent lower than the rate in 1998 and 40.9 percent below the estimated murder rate in 1993. (See Table 1.)

Murder accounted for less than 1 percent of the offenses that make up the Crime Index reported in 2002. Among violent crimes, 1.1 percent were the offense of murder. (Based on Table 1.)

Community Types

When presenting crime data, the UCR Program designates three types of communities: Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), cities outside of MSAs, and rural counties. In 2002, MSAs, accounting for an estimated 80 percent of the Nation's population, had an estimated 87.8 percent of the Nation's murders. This equated to a murder rate of 6.2 offenses per 100,000 persons in MSAs. Cities outside of MSAs, with 8 percent of the population, had 4.4 percent of total murder offenses with a rate of 3.2 murder offenses per 100,000 inhabitants. Rural areas, making up 12 percent of the overall population, had an estimated 7.7 percent of murder offenses. Rural areas had an estimated rate of 3.6 murders per 100,000 in population. (See Table 2.)

Regional Offense Trends and Rates

The UCR Program divides the United States into four regions for data analysis: the Northeast, the Midwest, the South, and the West. (Appendix III provides more information on UCR regional definitions.) An examination of 2002 murder data showed the following information regarding the Nation's four regions.

The Northeast

Nearly 19 percent (18.8) of the Nation's population in 2002 resided in the Northeast; 13.6 percent of the estimated murder offenses for the same year were reported there. The Northeast had 2,203 murder offenses, a 3.2 percent decrease from the 2001 estimate. The 2002 murder rate per 100,000 inhabitants was 4.1, which was an estimated 3.7 percent rate decrease when compared to the rate of the previous year. (See Tables 3 and 4.)

The Midwest

With 22.6 percent of the U.S. population, the Midwest accounted for 20.4 percent of the country's murders. The estimated 3,298 murders in the Midwest represented a 3.0 percent decrease from the region's murder total in 2001. The 2002 murder rate per 100,000 population was 5.1, a decrease of 3.5 percent from the previous year's rate. (See Tables 3 and 4.)

Associated Tables

- [\(2.3\) Month, percent distribution, 1998-2002](#)
- [\(2.4\) Victims, by race and sex, 2002](#)
- [\(2.5\) Victims, by age, sex, and race, 2002](#)
- [\(2.6\) Offenders, by age, sex, and race, 2002](#)
- [\(2.7\) Victim/offender relationship, by age, 2002](#)
- [\(2.8\) Victim/offender relationship, by race and sex, 2002](#)
- [\(2.9\) Types of weapons used, percent distribution by region, 2002](#)
- [\(2.10\) Victims, by weapon, 1998-2002](#)
- [\(2.11\) Victims by age, by weapon, 2002](#)
- [\(2.12\) Circumstances, by relationship, 2002](#)
- [\(2.13\) Circumstances, by weapon, 2002](#)
- [\(2.14\) Circumstances, 1998-2002](#)
- [\(2.15\) Circumstances, by victim's sex, 2002](#)

Justifiable homicide by weapon, 1998-2002:

- [\(2.16\) Law enforcement](#)
- [\(2.17\) Private citizen](#)

Associated Figures

- [\(2.6\) Murder, 1998-2002](#)
- [\(2.7\) Murder by relationship, 2002](#)

The South

The South, the Nation's most populous region (35.8 percent of the total population), accounted for 43.1 percent of the murders in the United States. The estimated 6,982 murders in the South during 2002 were an increase of 2.0 percent over the previous year's estimate. The murder rate during 2002 was 6.8 murders per 100,000 inhabitants, an increase of 0.7 percent when compared to the 2001 rate. (See Tables 3 and 4.)

The West

With 22.8 percent of the country's population, the West accounted for 23.0 percent of the national murder volume, or an estimated 3,721 murder offenses. This volume was a 5.8 percent increase from the 2001 estimate. The West's 2002 murder rate was 5.7 murder offenses per 100,000 persons, a 4.1 percent increase from the 2001 rate. (See Tables 3 and 4.)

Population Groups: Trends and Rates

Murder trends in 2002 varied greatly among cities, suburban counties, and rural counties. Two-year trend data (2001–2002) indicated that the Nation's cities collectively experienced a 0.6 percent decrease in murder offenses. Among population groups labeled city, cities with less than 10,000 inhabitants had the largest decline in murder, 15.3 percent, and cities with populations of 50,000 to 99,999 had the largest increase, 7.2 percent. Suburban counties had an 11.7 percent increase in murder. In rural counties, however, murder decreased from 2001 to 2002 by 2.3 percent. (See Table 12.)

Among city population groups, rate of murder in 2002 ranged from a high of 13.2 murders per 100,000 inhabitants in cities with populations of 250,000 and over to a low of 2.4 murders per 100,000 in cities with under 10,000 in population. Collectively, the Nation's cities had a rate of 7.0 murders per 100,000 inhabitants. Suburban counties had a rate of 4.0 murder offenses per 100,000 population and rural counties, 3.8 murder offenses per 100,000 inhabitants. (See Table 16.)

Supplementary Homicide Reports

During 2002, law enforcement agencies contributing data to the UCR Program submitted Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHRs) for 14,054 homicides. The SHR supplies data on the age, sex, and race of both the victim and the offender; the type of weapon used; the relationship of the victim to the offender; and the circumstance surrounding the incident.

Victims

Based on 2002 SHR data provided (where age, sex, or race were known for the victims), 90.1 percent of murder victims were adults. Males accounted for 76.8 percent of murder victims. Just over 8 percent (8.2 percent) of male victims and 15.3 percent of female victims were under the age of 18. By race, 48.7 percent of murder victims were white, 48.5 percent were black, and 2.7 percent were other races. (Based on Table 2.5.)

Offenders

Of those who committed murder in 2002, 90.3 percent were identified as male; 91.7 percent of the male offenders were over 18 years of age. A racial breakdown of murder offenders for whom race was known showed that 49.8 percent were black, 47.8 percent were white, and 2.4 percent were persons of other races. (See Table 2.6.)

Data from single victim/single offender incidents indicated that 92.3 percent of black victims were slain by black offenders. Similarly, the majority of white victims—84.7 percent—were murdered by white offenders. (See Table 2.8.)

Weapons

The SHRs where weapon type was provided showed that 71.1 percent of murder incidents involved a firearm. Among the homicides in which firearms were the weapon, 76.6 percent involved handguns; 5.1 percent, rifles; 5.1 percent, shotguns; and 13.2 percent, other type or unknown firearms. Offenders used knives or cutting instruments in 13.4 percent of the murders they committed, personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) in 7.1 percent, and blunt objects in 5.1 percent of the incidents. Other weapon types (poison, arson, narcotics, etc.) accounted for the remainder of weapon types used in the commission of murder. (See Table 2.10.)

Victim/Offender Relationships

Of the 14,054 homicides for which 2002 SHR data were submitted, the relationship of the victim to the offender was unknown for 42.8 percent of the victims. An analysis of the 57.2 percent of the victims for whom the relationships to their offenders were known revealed the following: 24.4 percent of victims were murdered by strangers, and 75.6 percent of the victims knew their assailants. Among the incidents in which the victims knew their killers, 12.7 percent of the victims were related to their murderer, and 30.5 percent of the victims were acquainted with their offenders. Husbands and boyfriends killed 32.1 percent of female victims, and wives and girlfriends murdered 2.7 percent of male victims. (Based on Table 2.12.)

Circumstances

Supplemental data submitted in 2002 indicated that felonies (rape, robbery, arson, etc.) accounted for 16.5 percent of the circumstances surrounding murder offenses; another 0.5 percent of murder offense circumstances were suspected of being felonious in nature. Arguments resulted in 27.5 percent of the murders, and 23.0 percent of the murders involved other types of circumstances (brawls due to the influence of drugs or alcohol, juvenile gang killings, sniper attacks, etc.). Circumstances were unknown in 32.6 percent of the incidents. (Based on Table 2.14.)

Clearances

Clearances occur either by arrest or by exceptional means, i.e., when elements beyond the control of law enforcement prevent the placing of formal charges against the offender. (Section III provides more information regarding clearances.) During 2002, law enforcement cleared 64.0 percent of the murders nationwide, making murder the most frequently cleared Crime Index offense. (See Table 25.) Juveniles accounted for 5.0 percent of the total clearances for murder, the lowest percentage of juvenile involvement among the individual Crime Index offenses. (See Table 28.)

Law enforcement in the Nation's cities collectively cleared 62.0 percent of the murder offenses reported within their jurisdictions. Among city population groupings, cities with populations under 10,000 had the greatest murder clearance percentage, 73.7 percent. The largest cities, those with populations of 250,000 and greater, cleared 57.8 percent of the murders reported in their jurisdictions, the least of all city population groupings. Additionally, suburban counties and rural counties cleared 66.6 percent and 78.9 percent, respectively, of reported murders. (See Table 25.)

Arrests

Total Arrests

During 2002, there were an estimated 14,158 arrests nationwide for the offense of murder. (See Table 29.) Adults accounted for 90.4 percent of murder arrestees. (Based on Table 38.) Overall, 51.1 percent of those arrested for murder were under the age of 25. (See Table 41.)

Arrest Rates

Based upon 2002 arrest data and population figures, the Nation's rate of arrest for murder was 4.9 arrests per 100,000 inhabitants. By region, the South and the Midwest each had murder arrest rates of 5.7, the West had a rate of 4.6, and the Northeast experienced 3.2 murder arrests per 100,000 population. (See Table 30.)

Among population groups, the Nation's cities collectively had a murder arrest rate of 5.2 per 100,000 persons. The largest cities, those with 250,000 and over in population, registered the highest rate—10.4 murder arrests per 100,000 inhabitants. The lowest rate, 2.2 murder arrests per 100,000, was calculated for cities with 10,000 to 24,999 residents. Murder arrest rates for rural counties and suburban counties were, respectively, 4.0 and 4.3 arrests per 100,000 persons. (See Table 31.)

Arrest Trends

A comparison of 2002 murder arrest data to those of 2001 indicated a 1.9 percent decrease for the period. Arrests of adults also decreased, 2.2 percent. However, juvenile arrests increased 1.5 percent. By gender, murder arrests of males increased 0.1 percent, and those of females fell 15.2 percent. (See Tables 36 and 37.)

The 5-year trend data showed that overall murder arrests for 2002 fell 10.7 percent from the 1998 arrest level. Arrests of juveniles dropped 35.6 percent, but arrests of adults decreased 7.0 percent. An analysis of gender data for 1998 through 2002 showed that arrests of males for murder declined 10.6 percent, and arrests of females for murder dropped 11.0 percent. (See Tables 34 and 35.)

From 1993 to 2002, murder arrests fell 40.9 percent. Arrests of juveniles were 64.3 percent under the 1993 figure, and arrests of adults were 36.3 percent lower. The 10-year trend also revealed that arrests of males for murder were down 41.5 percent; arrests of females were 35.5 percent lower than arrests of females for murder in 1993. (See Tables 32 and 33.)

Arrest Distribution by Age, Sex, and Race

According to 2002 arrest data, by sex, males comprised 89.2 percent of all those arrested for murder. (See Table 42.) By race, blacks accounted for 50.0 percent of the murder arrestees; whites, 47.7 percent; and other races (American Indian or Alaskan Native; and Asian or Pacific Islander) made up 2.3 percent of the murder arrestees. (See Table 43.)

Justifiable Homicide

Justifiable homicide is defined in the UCR Program as the killing of a felon by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty or the killing of a felon, during the commission of a felony, by a private citizen. Because these willful killings are determined through law enforcement investigation to be justifiable, or excusable, they are tabulated separately from the murder counts.

During 2002, contributing law enforcement agencies provided supplemental data for 564 justifiable homicides. According to those data, law enforcement officers justifiably slew 339 felons, and private citizens justifiably killed 225 felons. Tables 2.16 and 2.17 provide additional information about justifiable homicides.

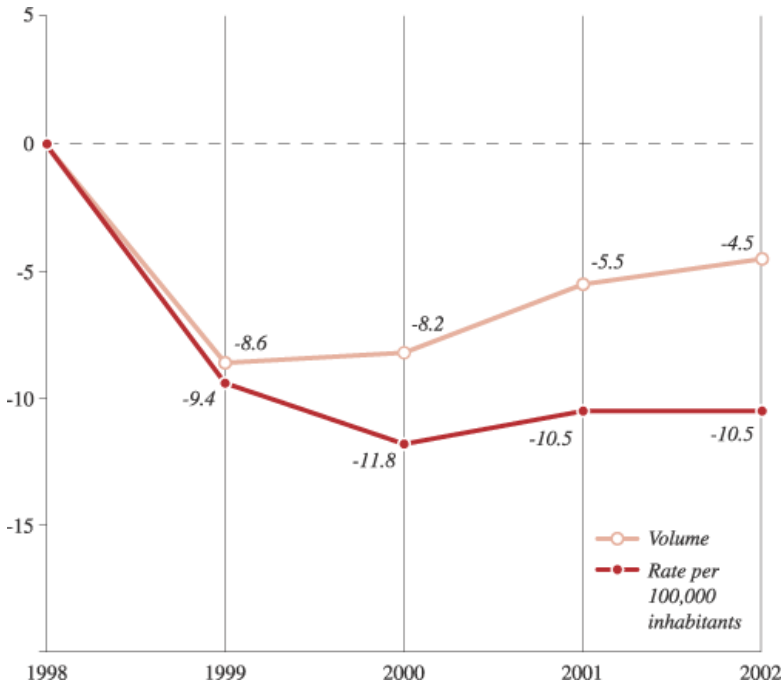
Information regarding the UCR Program's statistical methodology and table construction can be found in Appendix I.

[Back to Top](#)

Figure 2.6

Murder

Percent Change from 1998

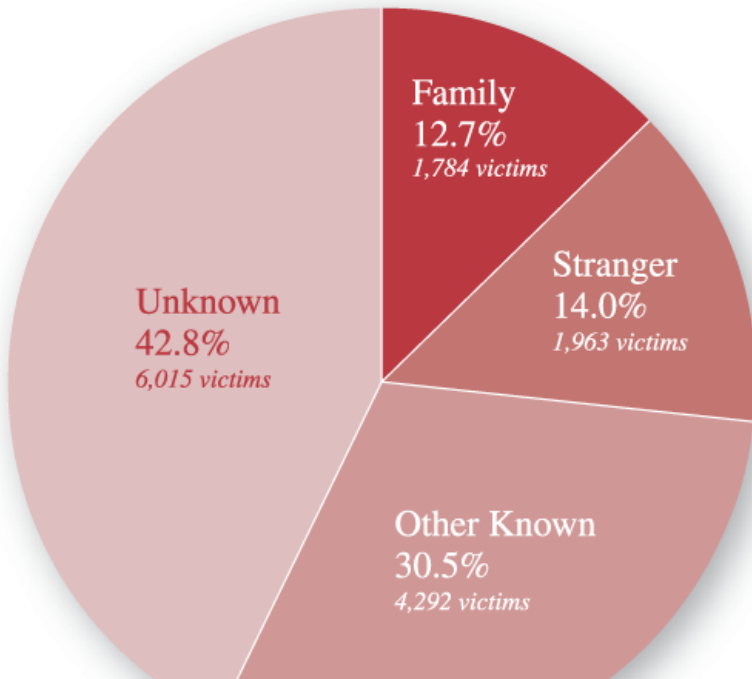


[Back to Top](#)

Figure 2.7

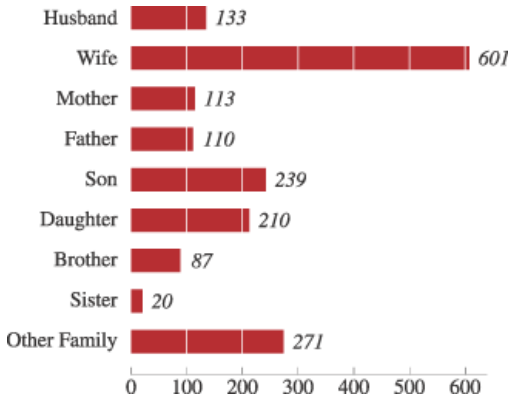
Murder by Relationship¹

Percent Distribution, Volume by Known Relationship, 2002

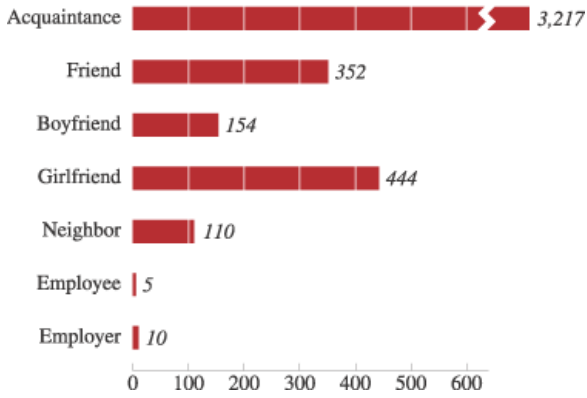




Family Relationship Category



Other Known Relationship Category



¹ Relationship is that of victim to offender.
 Figures are based on 14,054 murder victims for whom Supplementary Homicide Report data were received.

[Back to Top](#)

Table 2.3

Murder by Month

Percent Distribution, 1998-2002

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001 ¹	2002
January	9.1	8.8	8.4	7.9	8.2
February	7.2	7.1	7.3	6.2	6.8
March	8.3	7.6	7.6	7.1	7.8
April	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.9	7.8
May	8.4	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.1
June	8.4	8.1	8.5	8.5	8.2
July	8.7	9.1	9.3	9.5	9.6
August	9.2	9.1	9.4	9.0	9.1
September	8.3	8.7	8.3	8.6	9.6
October	8.3	8.4	8.7	9.3	8.5
November	7.6	8.2	7.7	8.5	7.8
December	8.8	8.8	8.7	9.2	8.5

¹ The murder and nonnegligent homicides that occurred as a result of the events of September 11, 2001, are not included.

[Back to Top](#)

Table 2.4

Murder Victims

by Race and Sex, 2002

Race	Total	Sex		Unknown
		Male	Female	
White	6,757	4,852	1,905	0
Black	6,730	5,544	1,184	2
Other race	377	256	121	0
Unknown race	190	127	41	22
Total	14,054	10,779	3,251	24

[Back to Top](#)

Table 2.5

Murder Victims

by Age, Sex, and Race, 2002

Age	Total	Sex		Unknown	Race			Unknown
		Male	Female		White	Black	Other	
Total	14,054	10,779	3,251	24	6,757	6,730	377	190
Percent distribution ¹	100.0	76.7	23.1	0.2	48.1	47.9	2.7	1.4
Under 18 ²	1,357	867	489	1	689	610	45	13
Under 22 ²	3,398	2,624	772	2	1,581	1,683	104	30
18 and over ²	12,406	9,703	2,699	4	5,945	6,009	331	121
Infant (under 1)	180	96	84	0	102	71	4	3
1 to 4	328	180	147	1	176	134	14	4
5 to 8	86	35	51	0	50	33	3	0
9 to 12	92	50	42	0	53	35	4	0
13 to 16	390	281	109	0	180	196	11	3
17 to 19	1,184	1,018	166	0	519	615	39	11
20 to 24	2,756	2,356	398	2	1,115	1,560	58	23
25 to 29	2,059	1,746	313	0	809	1,173	48	29
30 to 34	1,587	1,212	375	0	667	851	54	15
35 to 39	1,337	976	359	2	676	624	23	14
40 to 44	1,137	812	325	0	621	470	40	6
45 to 49	856	624	232	0	487	337	25	7
50 to 54	566	412	154	0	333	214	16	3
55 to 59	353	246	107	0	237	98	14	4
60 to 64	245	181	64	0	170	60	10	5
65 to 69	162	103	59	0	116	44	2	0
70 to 74	156	96	60	0	115	35	4	2
75 and over	289	146	143	0	208	69	7	5
Unknown	291	209	63	19	123	111	1	56

¹ Because of rounding, the percentages may not add to 100.0.

² Does not include unknown ages.

[Back to Top](#)

Table 2.6

Murder Offenders

by Age, Sex, and Race, 2002

Age	Total	Sex		Unknown	Race			Unknown
		Male	Female		White	Black	Other	
Total	15,813	10,285	1,108	4,420	5,356	5,579	274	4,604
Percent distribution ¹	100.0	65.0	7.0	28.0	33.9	35.3	1.7	29.1
Under 18 ²	848	770	77	1	389	424	26	9
Under 22 ²	3,402	3,128	269	5	1,499	1,770	94	39

18 and over ²	9,525	8,511	996	18	4,714	4,464	241	106
Infant (under 1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 to 4	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
5 to 8	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
9 to 12	26	18	7	1	7	18	0	1
13 to 16	446	401	45	0	227	198	15	6
17 to 19	1,507	1,412	92	3	648	802	42	15
20 to 24	2,916	2,656	256	4	1,265	1,547	73	31
25 to 29	1,644	1,492	150	2	769	819	37	19
30 to 34	1,120	986	132	2	573	506	27	14
35 to 39	865	749	116	0	460	385	13	7
40 to 44	638	522	115	1	367	242	21	8
45 to 49	493	425	68	0	298	172	20	3
50 to 54	311	262	44	5	195	103	7	6
55 to 59	168	150	18	0	117	41	6	4
60 to 64	83	72	11	0	59	22	2	0
65 to 69	49	41	8	0	38	9	2	0
70 to 74	45	38	6	1	32	12	0	1
75 and over	60	56	4	0	48	10	2	0
Unknown	5,440	1,004	35	4,401	253	691	7	4,489

¹ Because of rounding, the percentages may not add to 100.0.

² Does not include unknown ages.

[Back to Top](#)

Table 2.7

Murder Victim/Offender Relationship

by Age, 2002
[Single victim/single offender]

Age of victim	Total	Age of offender		
		Under 18	18 and over	Unknown
Total	7,005	344	6,106	555
Under 18	758	98	624	36
18 and over	6,144	243	5,402	499
Unknown	103	3	80	20

[Back to Top](#)

Table 2.8

Murder Victim/Offender Relationship

by Race and Sex, 2002
[Single victim/single offender]

Race of victim	Total	Race of offender				Unknown	Male	Sex of offender	
		White	Black	Other	Female			Unknown	
White victims	3,582	3,000	483	58	41	3,169	372	41	
Black victims	3,137	227	2,852	11	47	2,768	320	49	
Other race victims	192	51	28	109	4	169	19	4	
Unknown race	94	31	23	2	38	45	11	38	
Sex of victim	Total	Race of offender				Unknown	Male	Sex of offender	
		White	Black	Other	Female			Unknown	
Male victims	4,931	2,192	2,545	121	73	4,328	528	75	
Female victims	1,980	1,086	818	57	19	1,778	183	19	
Unknown sex	94	31	23	2	38	45	11	38	

[Back to Top](#)

Table 2.9

Murder, Types of Weapons Used

Percent Distribution by Region, 2002

Region	Total all weapons ¹	Firearms	Knives or cutting instruments	Unknown or other dangerous weapons	Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) ²
Total	100.0	66.7	12.6	14.1	6.6
Northeast	100.0	62.6	17.4	12.6	7.5
Midwest	100.0	66.4	10.3	16.5	6.8
South	100.0	66.9	12.1	14.6	6.4
West	100.0	68.9	12.3	12.4	6.4

¹ Because of rounding, the percentages may not add to 100.0.

² Pushed is included in personal weapons.

[Back to Top](#)

Table 2.10

Murder Victims

by Weapon, 1998-2002

Weapons	1998	1999	2000	2001 ¹	2002
Total	14,209	13,011	13,230	14,061	14,054
Total firearms:	9,220	8,480	8,661	8,890	9,369
Handguns	7,405	6,658	6,778	6,931	7,176
Rifles	546	400	411	386	480
Shotguns	626	531	485	511	476
Other guns	16	92	53	59	74
Firearms, type not stated	627	799	934	1,003	1,163
Knives or cutting instruments	1,890	1,712	1,782	1,831	1,767
Blunt objects (clubs, hammers, etc.)	750	756	617	680	666
Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) ²	959	885	927	961	933
Poison	6	11	8	12	23
Explosives	10	0	9	4	11
Fire	132	133	134	109	104
Narcotics	33	26	20	37	48
Drowning	28	28	15	23	18
Strangulation	213	190	166	153	143
Asphyxiation	99	106	92	116	103
Other weapons or weapons not stated	869	684	799	1,245	869

¹ The murder and nonnegligent homicides that occurred as a result of the events of September 11, 2001, are not included.

² Pushed is included in personal weapons.

[Back to Top](#)

Table 2.11

Murder Victims by Age

by Weapon, 2002

Age	Total murder victims	Weapons										
		Firearms	Knives or cutting instruments	Blunt objects (clubs, hammers, etc.)	Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) ¹	Poison	Explosives	Fire	Narcotics	Strangulation	Asphyxiation	Other weapon or weapon not stated ²
Total	14,054	9,369	1,767	666	933	23	11	104	48	143	103	887
Percent distribution ³	100.0	66.7	12.6	4.7	6.6	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.3	1.0	0.7	6.3
Under 18 ⁴	1,357	661	90	52	299	5	5	21	11	16	41	156
Under 22 ⁴	3,398	2,358	256	94	345	6	5	29	14	23	47	221
18 and over ⁴	12,406	8,568	1,646	595	607	18	6	76	36	125	58	671

Age Group	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990
Infant (under 1)	180	9	4	12	91	0	1	0	3	0	19	41	
1 to 4	328	45	10	19	166	2	1	7	3	2	12	61	
5 to 8	86	26	14	2	11	2	2	7	1	2	7	12	
9 to 12	92	56	11	2	4	1	0	2	0	3	0	13	
13 to 16	390	299	30	11	17	0	0	5	3	6	2	17	
17 to 19	1,184	972	101	23	32	1	1	3	4	6	3	38	
20 to 24	2,756	2,244	250	55	72	0	3	9	7	7	5	104	
25 to 29	2,059	1,628	227	42	56	0	0	11	2	16	7	70	
30 to 34	1,587	1,168	197	45	57	0	2	14	5	15	4	80	
35 to 39	1,337	864	193	74	78	2	0	7	5	25	11	78	
40 to 44	1,137	663	221	63	84	3	1	9	1	13	8	71	
45 to 49	856	461	151	80	74	0	0	8	1	15	3	63	
50 to 54	566	312	101	48	50	2	0	3	2	3	1	44	
55 to 59	353	172	66	46	23	0	0	1	0	7	2	36	
60 to 64	245	107	41	37	16	0	0	7	1	7	4	25	
65 to 69	162	67	27	20	15	1	0	0	3	5	5	19	
70 to 74	156	53	35	28	14	0	0	0	0	6	2	18	
75 and over	289	83	57	40	46	9	0	4	6	3	4	37	
Unknown	291	140	31	19	27	0	0	7	1	2	4	60	

¹ Pushed is included in personal weapons.
² Includes drowning.
³ Because of rounding, the percentages may not add to 100.0.
⁴ Does not include unknown ages.

[Back to Top](#)

Table 2.12
Murder Circumstances

by Relationship,¹ 2002

Circumstances	Total murder										Other Acquaintance								
	victims	Husband	Wife	Mother	Father	Son	Daughter	Brother	Sister	family	Friend	Boyfriend	Girlfriend	Neighbor	Employee	Employer	Stranger	Unknown	
Total	14,054	133	601	113	110	239	210	87	20	271	3,217	352	154	444	110	5	10	1,963	6,015
Felony type total:	2,314	4	17	4	3	8	9	4	1	32	586	50	8	18	16	0	1	595	958
Rape	43	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	11	2	0	0	1	0	0	7	17
Robbery	1,092	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	13	221	10	4	1	11	0	0	396	432
Burglary	96	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	21	1	1	1	0	1	1	39	26
Larceny-theft	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5
Motor vehicle theft	16	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	6
Arson	59	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	9	3	0	3	0	0	0	17	21
Prostitution and commercialized vice	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Other sex offenses	8	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
Narcotic drug laws	657	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	245	22	2	2	0	0	0	67	315
Gambling	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Other - not specified	315	4	14	2	0	6	5	1	0	10	68	11	1	9	3	0	0	51	130
Suspected felony type	67	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	57
Other than felony type total:	7,097	109	516	93	88	199	184	69	17	202	2,179	257	134	348	77	4	7	999	1,615
Romantic triangle	130	1	9	0	0	1	0	1	0	9	57	10	2	14	1	0	0	15	10
Child killed by babysitter	38	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	7	23	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Brawl due to																			

Brawl due to influence of alcohol	153	1	6	0	3	0	2	0	0	5	68	10	1	4	0	0	0	41	12
Brawl due to influence of narcotics	84	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	36	3	0	3	1	0	0	8	25
Argument over money or property	203	0	4	5	1	0	0	0	0	7	104	13	0	3	8	0	1	17	40
Other arguments	3,527	81	334	45	47	52	29	51	11	111	1,154	170	105	243	48	4	3	496	543
Gangland killings	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	30
Juvenile gang killings	911	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	221	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	489
Institutional killings	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Sniper attack	11	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3
Other - not specified	1,955	26	160	43	36	145	151	15	6	59	484	48	26	81	19	0	3	193	460
Unknown	4,576	20	68	15	19	32	17	14	2	37	446	44	12	78	17	1	2	367	3,385

¹ Relationship is that of victim to offender.

[Back to Top](#)

Table 2.13

Murder Circumstances

by Weapon, 2002

Circumstances	Total murder		Handguns	Rifles	Shotguns	stated	Other guns or type Knives or cutting instruments	Blunt objects (clubs, hammers, feet, etc.)	Personal weapons (hands, fists, etc.)	Poison	window	Explosives	Fire	Narcotics	Drowning	Strangulation	Asphyxiation	Other
	victims	Total																
Total	14,054	9,369	7,176	480	476	1,237	1,767	666	929	23	4	11	104	48	18	143	103	869
Felony type total:	2,314	1,640	1,304	63	64	209	198	116	99	1	1	5	44	12	0	38	26	134
Rape	43	6	4	0	0	2	9	5	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	5	0
Robbery	1,092	797	664	24	34	75	93	74	47	0	0	0	3	0	0	17	10	51
Burglary	96	56	45	2	6	3	18	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5
Larceny-theft	15	9	8	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Motor vehicle theft	16	9	4	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Arson	59	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	35	0	0	4	0	12
Prostitution and commercialized vice	8	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Other sex offenses	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Narcotic drug laws	657	553	425	22	14	92	39	13	11	0	1	0	2	12	0	1	2	23
Gambling	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other - not specified	315	201	145	13	9	34	32	9	20	1	0	0	4	0	0	5	7	36
Suspected felony type	67	53	40	7	1	5	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Other than felony type total:	7,097	4,522	3,532	281	284	425	1,072	330	639	20	1	6	29	26	12	69	55	316
Romantic triangle	130	92	64	11	4	13	27	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Child killed by babysitter	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Brawl due to influence	153	72	60	2	5	5	38	12	23	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	6

of alcohol																		
Brawl due to influence of narcotics	84	65	50	4	4	7	5	6	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3
Argument over money or property	203	134	110	6	8	10	42	12	9	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	1
Other arguments	3,527	2,166	1,726															
				134	149	157	733	196	253	4	0	2	11	0	2	35	17	108
Gangland killings	73	68	59	2	0	7	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Juvenile gang killings	911	870	752	37	18	63	23	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Institutional killings	12	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Sniper attack	11	11	3	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other - not specified	1,955	1,043	708	78	95	162	200	92	311	16	0	2	18	23	10	28	34	178
Unknown	4,576	3,154	2,300	129	127	598	490	218	191	2	2	0	31	10	6	35	22	415

[Back to Top](#)

Table 2.14

Murder Circumstances, 1998-2002

<i>Circumstances</i>	1998	1999	2000	2001 ¹	2002
Total	14,209	13,011	13,230	14,061	14,054
Felony type total:	2,510	2,215	2,229	2,364	2,314
Rape	62	47	58	61	43
Robbery	1,243	1,057	1,077	1,080	1,092
Burglary	92	81	76	80	96
Larceny-theft	17	14	23	17	15
Motor vehicle theft	15	12	25	22	16
Arson	83	66	81	71	59
Prostitution and commercialized vice	15	8	6	5	8
Other sex offenses	20	19	10	7	8
Narcotic drug laws	682	581	589	575	657
Gambling	12	17	12	3	5
Other - not specified	269	313	272	443	315
Suspected felony type	104	65	60	72	67
Other than felony type total:	7,203	6,880	6,871	7,073	7,097
Romantic triangle	187	137	122	118	130
Child killed by babysitter	23	34	30	37	38
Brawl due to influence of alcohol	211	203	188	152	153
Brawl due to influence of narcotics	117	127	99	118	84
Argument over money or property	241	213	206	198	203
Other arguments	4,115	3,471	3,589	3,618	3,527
Gangland killings	73	122	65	76	73
Juvenile gang killings	625	580	653	862	911
Institutional killings	15	13	10	8	12
Sniper attack	16	5	8	7	11
Other - not specified	1,580	1,975	1,901	1,879	1,955
Unknown	4,392	3,851	4,070	4,552	4,576

¹ The murder and nonnegligent homicides that occurred as a result of the events of September 11, 2001, are not included.

[Back to Top](#)

Table 2.15

Murder Circumstances

by Victim Sex, 2002

Circumstances	Total murder			
	victims	Male	Female	Unknown
Total	14,054	10,779	3,251	24
Felony type total:	2,314	1,894	419	1
Rape	43	3	40	0
Robbery	1,092	936	156	0
Burglary	96	68	28	0
Larceny-theft	15	14	1	0
Motor vehicle theft	16	14	2	0
Arson	59	28	31	0
Prostitution and commercialized vice	8	3	5	0
Other sex offenses	8	1	7	0
Narcotic drug laws	657	595	61	1
Gambling	5	5	0	0
Other - not specified	315	227	88	0
Suspected felony type	67	56	11	0
Other than felony type total:	7,097	5,193	1,897	7
Romantic triangle	130	89	41	0
Child killed by babysitter	38	15	23	0
Brawl due to influence of alcohol	153	131	22	0
Brawl due to influence of narcotics	84	72	12	0
Argument over money or property	203	165	38	0
Other arguments	3,527	2,567	957	3
Gangland killings	73	69	4	0
Juvenile gang killings	911	869	42	0
Institutional killings	12	11	1	0
Sniper attack	11	8	3	0
Other - not specified	1,955	1,197	754	4
Unknown	4,576	3,636	924	16

[Back to Top](#)

Table 2.16

Justifiable Homicide

by Weapon, Law Enforcement,¹ 1998-2002

Year	Total	Firearms, Knives or Other							
		firearms	Handguns	Rifles	Shotguns	type not stated	cutting instruments	dangerous weapons	Personal weapons
1998	369	367	322	15	18	12	0	0	2
1999	308	305	274	11	15	5	0	1	2
2000	309	308	274	14	13	7	0	1	0
2001	378	375	318	25	11	21	0	3	0
2002	339	335	294	18	7	16	1	3	0

¹ The killing of a felon by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty.

[Back to Top](#)

Table 2.17

Justifiable Homicide

JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE

by Weapon, Private Citizen,¹ 1998-2002

Year	Total	Firearms, Knives or					Other		Personal	weapons
		Handguns	Rifles	Shotguns	type not stated	cutting instruments	dangerous weapons			
1998	196	170	150	6	14	0	17	5	4	
1999	192	158	137	5	10	6	18	9	7	
2000	164	138	123	4	7	4	15	8	3	
2001	222	183	143	10	13	17	26	6	7	
2002	225	184	154	11	13	6	26	9	6	

¹ The killing of a felon, during the commission of a felony, by a private citizen.