

1972

Homicide in California, 1972

California Department of Justice

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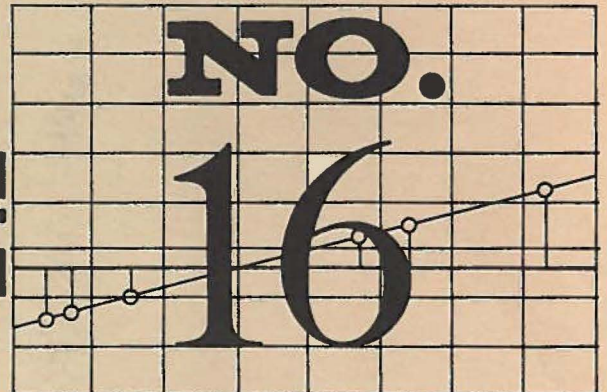
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE/DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT /BUREAU OF CRIMINAL STATISTICS

HOMICIDE IN CALIFORNIA

NON-CIRCULATING

SEARCH
REPORT

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1972



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Homicide in California

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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HOMICIDE IN CALIFORNIA

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BCS

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INTRODUCTION

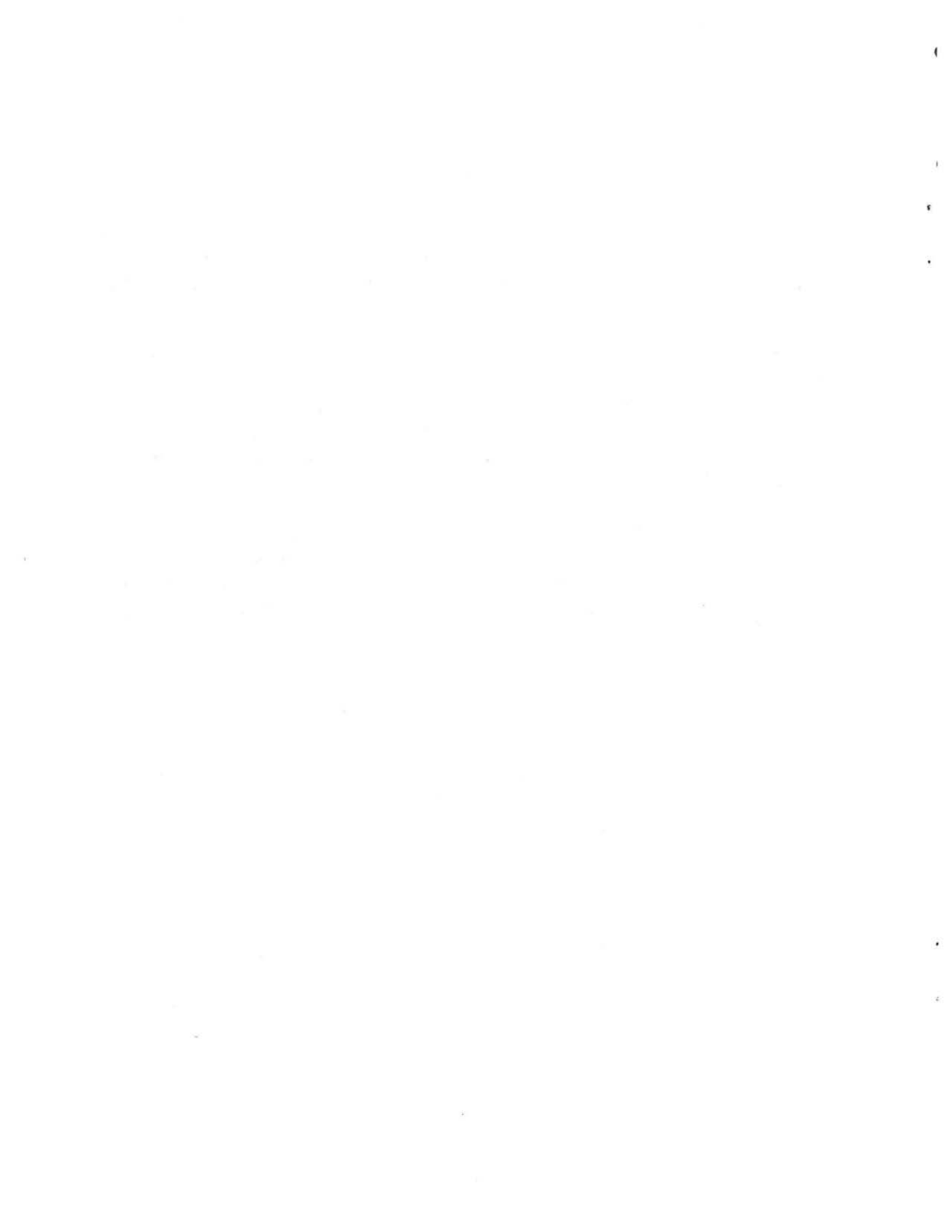
The homicides included in Part I of this study are divided into two groups - peace officers killed and suspects killed by peace officers. Other nonenforcement related homicides are shown in summary form in Part I and are treated in detail in Part II. The basic data include willful and justifiable homicide and exclude manslaughter.

This report contains features not included in the 1971 presentation. Additional offender material is shown and a brief discussion of multiple homicides has been added.

In the course of tracing the offenders and victims in multiple slayings, machine processing disclosed several duplicates in the basic file. These were eliminated, thus reducing the totals shown in previous Bureau publications.

Also, a comparison of data reported by the police, prosecutors, Bureau of Vital Statistics, county coroners and others on deaths of persons killed by the police revealed sizable discrepancies. The original data base was extensively modified to include information uncovered in the course of this collation. Hence, the 1971 statistics on those slain by the police differ in this report from those shown in the 1970-71 publication.

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SUMMARY

1. The numbers of peace officers killed and persons slain by peace officers declined in 1972.
2. Most of the victims of the police were killed in the course of committing a crime, compounded by an assault on an officer.
3. Female victims tend to be quite young or elderly.
4. In the ethnic context, white victimization increases with age, while that of Mexican-Americans and Negroes declines.
5. Bodily members are the frequent instruments of attack against the very young and very old.
6. Homicides originating in social relationships are the most common, accounting for 32 percent of the total. Those stemming from family relationships amount to 20 percent and those associated with crimes approximate 15 percent.
7. In percentage terms, white females are victims more often than members of any other ethnic-sex grouping. White males are second and Negro males third.
8. Mexican-Americans kill their spouses relatively infrequently; Negro homicides are centered among friends and acquaintances. Whites lead as victims of crime-related assaults.
9. Homicide perpetrators tend to attack persons of their own age group.
10. Whites show a strong tendency to kill whites. Whites are the second choice of minority aggressors.
11. Male offenders choose male victims in three cases out of four. Female perpetrators choose male victims in about four cases out of five.
12. In cases of multiple homicides the most common number of victims is two.
13. Women are more frequently victims of multiple slaying than are men.

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GGU LAW REVIEW

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HOMICIDE IN CALIFORNIA

PART I

The year 1972 saw a pronounced decline in both the number of persons killed by peace officers and the number of peace officers killed. Homicides among the "civilian" population, however, showed an increase.

TOTAL HOMICIDES IN CALIFORNIA

Type	1971	1972	Percent change
Total	1,726	1,847	7.0
Killed by peace officer	93	76	-18.3
Peace officer killed	14	6	-57.1
Other willful homicide	1,619	1,765	9.0

A peak in suspect homicides and peace officer victims apparently was reached in 1970. Both series have since declined. The rate of increase in other willful homicides has slowed from a 20.1 percent increase in 1971 to a 9.0 percent increase in 1972 over 1971.

RACE OF PEACE OFFICER AND SUSPECT HOMICIDES

Race	Peace officer		Suspect			
	1971	1972	1971 ^a		1972	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total known	14	6	93	100.0	76	100.0
White	13	6	40	43.0	38	50.0
Mexican-American ..	1	-	10	10.8	8	10.5
Negro	-	-	41	44.1	29	38.2
Other	-	-	2	2.1	1	1.3

^aExcludes one, race unknown.

The number of white suspects killed decreased slightly, while those of Mexican-Americans were relatively the same. Negro killings dropped substantially both in absolute and relative units. Because of the decrease in the total, deaths of whites increased percentage-wise.

AGE OF PEACE OFFICER AND SUSPECT HOMICIDES

Age	Peace officer		Suspect			
	1971	1972	1971		1972	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	14	6	93	100.0	76	100.0
0-14	-	-	-	-	1	1.3
15-19	-	-	20	21.5	13	17.1
20-24	1	1	21	22.6	26	34.2
25-29	4	-	16	17.2	6	7.9
30-34	5	2	12	12.9	12	15.8
35-39	1	1	7	7.5	6	7.9
40-49	-	-	14	15.1	7	9.2
50 and over ..	-	-	3	3.2	5	6.6

The median age of peace officers was not calculated owing to the small data base. The median ages of suspects dropped rather sharply - from 26.2 years in 1971 to 24.1 in 1972. The younger age brackets, 20-34 years, accounted for 52.7 percent of the victims in 1971 as against 57.9 percent in 1972. The 35 years and older segment of the distribution decreased to 23.7 percent in 1972 from 25.8 percent in 1971. The 0-24 age bloc rose from 44.1 percent to 52.6 percent. The age of persons involved in fatal confrontations with police is seemingly decreasing.

WEAPONS USED IN PEACE OFFICER AND SUSPECT HOMICIDES

Weapon	Peace officer		Suspect			
	1971	1972	1971		1972	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	14	6	93	100.0	76	100.0
Handgun	9	4	68	73.1	56	73.7
Rifle	1	2	-	-	1	1.3
Shotgun	4	-	23	24.7	19	25.0
Other than gun	-	-	2	2.2	-	-

In 1971 four peace officers were killed with shotguns and during the two years three with rifles. In 1972 the miscellaneous modalities have been eliminated, principally in favor of handguns. The three police officers slain with rifles met their ends in answering a dispatch to a domestic disturbance, in an ambush and in a traffic stop.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF SUSPECT HOMICIDES

Circumstance	1971		1972	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total known	93	100.0	76	100.0
Committed crime .	65	69.9	49	64.5
Felony	35	37.6	27	35.5
Misdemeanor ..	30	32.3	22	29.0
Serving warrant ..	1	1.1	3	3.9
Narcotic raid	7	7.5	6	7.9
Traffic stop	4	4.3	4	5.3
Investigation	14	15.0	14	18.4
Other	2	2.2	-	-

TRIGGERING EVENT OF SUSPECT HOMICIDES

Event	1971		1972	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total known	93	100.0	76	100.0
Assault	68	73.1	53	69.7
Peace officer	66	71.0	52	68.4
Non-peace officer	2	2.1	1	1.3
Appeared armed	4	4.3	5	6.6
Attempt escape or resisting	20	21.5	16	21.1
Other	1	1.1	2	2.6

These tables show remarkable relative consistency. The predominant circumstance leading to the killing of suspects is the commission of a crime. The most common triggering event is an assault, usually on a peace officer.

There are apparently only minor variations in the list from year to year. The larger counties account for the bulk of the cases, probably because of the prevalence of crime in metropolitan settings.

The Los Angeles - non Los Angeles proportions for 1972 are very similar to those of 1971.

JURISDICTION OF SUSPECT HOMICIDES

Jurisdiction	1971		Jurisdiction	1972	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Total	93	100.0	Total	76	100.0
Los Angeles County	56	60.2	Los Angeles County	45	59.2
Sheriff's Office	7		Sheriff's Office	4	
Carson ^a	1		Bell Gardens Police Department ..	1	
Gardena Police Department	1		Burbank Police Department	1	
Inglewood Police Department	4		Carson ^a	1	
La Puente ^a	1		Compton Police Department	1	
Lawndale ^a	1		Downey Police Department	1	
Long Beach Police Department	3		El Monte Police Department	2	
Los Angeles Police Department	30		Gardena Police Department	1	
Lynwood Police Department	2		Inglewood Police Department	1	
Pasadena Police Department	1		Long Beach Police Department ..	1	
Pico Rivera ^a	1		Los Angeles Police Department ..	23	
Rosemead ^a	1		Lynwood Police Department	1	
San Marino Police Department	1		Paramount ^a	1	
Torrance Police Department	2		Santa Fe Springs ^a	1	
Balance of state	37	39.8	Torrance Police Department	1	
Orange County	4		Walnut ^a	4	40.8
Sheriff's Office	1		Balance of state	31	40.8
Fountain Valley Police Department	1		Orange County	1	
Santa Ana Police Department	1		Newport Beach Police Department	1	
Seal Beach Police Department	1		Riverside County	2	
Riverside County	2		Sheriff's Office	1	
Sheriff's Office	1		Corona Police Department	1	
Riverside Police Department	1		San Bernardino County	2	
San Bernardino County	1		Fontana Police Department	1	
Upland Police Department	1		San Bernardino Police Department	1	
San Diego County	5		San Diego County	3	
Oceanside Police Department	1		Imperial Beach Police Department	1	
San Diego Police Department	4		San Diego Police Department	2	
Ventura County	1		Alameda County	2	
Oxnard Police Department	1		Fremont Police Department	1	
Alameda County	3		Oakland Police Department	1	
Berkeley Police Department	1		San Francisco County	3	
Oakland Police Department	2		San Francisco Police Department ..	3	
San Francisco County	4		Santa Clara County	1	
San Francisco Police Department ..	4		Sheriff's Office	1	
Santa Clara County	4		Contra Costa County	1	
San Jose Police Department	4		Pittsburg Police Department	1	
Contra Costa County	3		Marin County	1	
Pleasant Hill Police Department ..	2		San Rafael Police Department	1	
Richmond Police Department	1		San Mateo County	2	
San Mateo County	1		Menlo Park Police Department	1	
Sheriff's Office	1		South San Francisco Police Department	1	
Kern County	1		Kern County	1	
Sheriff's Office	1		Delano Police Department	1	
Kings County	1		Kings County	1	
Hanford Police Department	1		Sheriff's Office	1	
San Joaquin County	1		San Joaquin County	1	
Sheriff's Office	1		Stockton Police Department	1	
Sacramento County	4		Sacramento County	6	
Sheriff's Office	1		Sheriff's Office	3	
Sacramento Police Department	3		Sacramento Police Department ..	3	
Santa Cruz County	2		Monterey County	2	
Capitola Police Department	2		Salinas Police Department	2	
			Humboldt County	2	
			Sheriff's Office	1	
			Arcata Police Department	1	

^aPoliced under contract by sheriff's office.

PART II

VICTIMS

The data used in Part II exclude the peace officers and peace officer-related killings discussed in Part I. The focus of the study at this point is on violent deaths arising from the more ordinary relationships of everyday life.

In contrast to the 1971 report, this report contains more extensive information on offenders, which will be analyzed later. Victim characteristics, to follow the format of the 1971 report, are tabulated first.

VICTIMS' AGE BY SEX

Age	Sex				
	Total ^a	Male		Female	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,737	1,310	75.4	427	24.6
0-4	87	57	65.5	30	34.5
5-9	17	7	41.2	10	58.8
10-14	20	6	30.0	14	70.0
15-19	168	131	78.0	37	22.0
20-24	315	251	79.7	64	20.3
25-29	235	183	77.9	52	22.1
30-34	187	160	85.6	27	14.4
35-39	158	127	80.4	31	19.6
40-44	131	96	73.3	35	26.7
45-49	122	100	82.0	22	18.0
50-54	75	52	69.3	23	30.7
55-59	67	44	65.7	23	34.3
60-64	51	36	70.6	15	29.4
65-69	31	19	61.3	12	38.7
70-74	35	23	65.7	12	34.3
75-79	19	11	57.9	8	42.1
80-99	19	7	36.8	12	63.2

^aExcludes 28, age not reported.

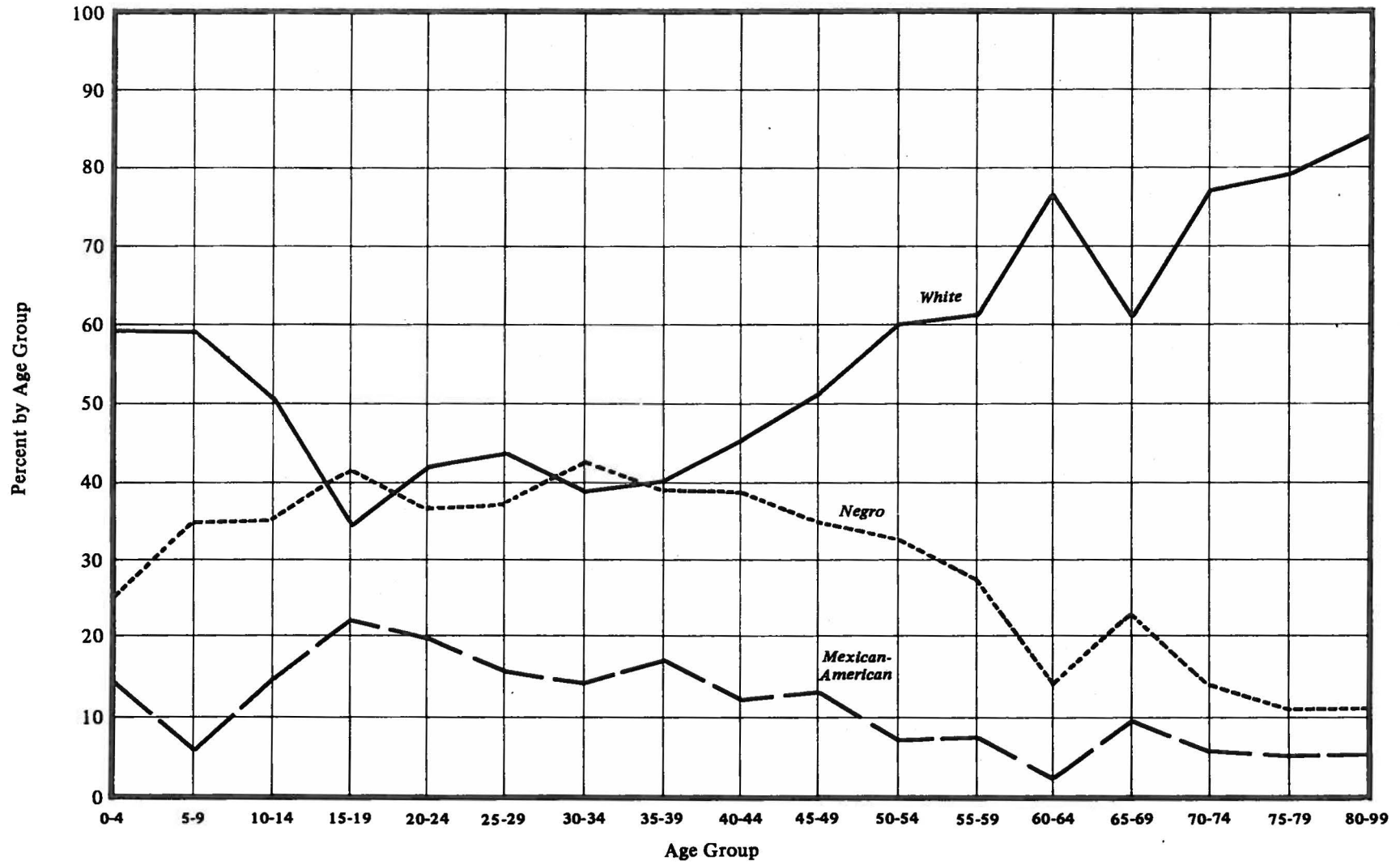
As a proportion, female victims increase through age 14 and then decline for the most part through age 49. From that point on the female percentage rises, reaching a peak of about 63 percent in the 80-99 bracket. The low frequencies in the older classes, however, make exact determinations questionable.

VICTIMS' AGE BY RACE

Age	Race								
	Total ^a	White		Mexican-American		Negro		Other	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total .	1,737	823	47.4	256	14.7	609	35.1	49	2.8
0-4 ...	87	51	58.6	12	13.8	22	25.3	2	2.3
5-9 ...	17	10	58.8	1	5.9	6	35.3	-	-
10-14 .	20	10	50.0	3	15.0	7	35.0	-	-
15-19 .	168	57	33.9	37	22.0	71	42.3	3	1.8
20-24 .	315	133	42.2	62	19.7	112	35.6	8	2.5
25-29 .	235	103	43.8	37	15.8	87	37.0	8	3.4
30-34 .	187	73	39.1	27	14.4	81	43.3	6	3.2
35-39 .	158	63	39.9	27	17.1	62	39.2	6	3.8
40-44 .	131	59	45.1	16	12.2	51	38.9	5	3.8
45-49 .	122	62	50.8	16	13.1	43	35.3	1	0.8
50-54 .	75	45	60.0	5	6.7	25	33.3	-	-
55-59 .	67	41	61.2	5	7.5	19	28.3	2	3.0
60-64 .	51	39	76.5	1	2.0	7	13.7	4	7.8
65-69 .	31	19	61.3	3	9.7	7	22.6	2	6.4
70-74 .	35	27	77.1	2	5.7	5	14.3	1	2.9
75-79 .	19	15	78.9	1	5.3	2	10.5	1	5.3
80-99 .	19	16	84.2	1	5.3	2	10.5	-	-

^aExcludes 28, age not reported.

Figure I RACE AND AGE GROUP OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS



It is interesting to note that in percentage terms white victims are at a minimum in the 15-19 group, while Mexican-Americans reach a peak in this age span. Among Negroes a secondary maximum occurs in the 15-19 period with the primary in the 30-34 category.

In general, white victimization increases with age, while that of the two main minority population units declines. These relationships are depicted graphically in Figure I.

VICTIMS' AGE BY HOMICIDES AND RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION

Age	Total		
	Homicides ^a	Estimated population	Rate per 100,000
Total	1,737	20,267,000	8.6
0-4	87	1,678,900	5.2
5-9	17	1,774,600	1.0
10-14	20	1,972,900	1.0
15-19	168	1,882,700	8.9
20-24	315	1,737,000	18.1
25-29	235	1,590,100	14.8
30-34	187	1,260,000	14.8
35-39	158	1,150,300	13.7
40-44	131	1,153,300	11.4
45-49	122	1,226,100	10.0
50-54	75	1,146,100	6.5
55-59	67	971,400	6.9
60-64	51	808,100	6.3
65-69	31	644,100	4.8
70-74	35	515,900	6.8
75-79	19	363,000	5.2
80-99	19	392,500	4.8

^aExcludes 28, age not reported.

VICTIMS' AGE BY HOMICIDES AND RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION - Continued

Age	Male		
	Homicides ^a	Estimated population	Rate per 100,000
Total	1,310	9,798,400	13.4
0-4	57	856,300	6.7
5-9	7	902,600	0.8
10-14	6	1,002,600	0.6
15-19	131	932,900	14.0
20-24	251	823,100	30.5
25-29	183	766,500	23.9
30-34	160	614,600	26.0
35-39	127	553,800	22.9
40-44	96	566,500	16.9
45-49	100	587,700	17.0
50-54	52	557,100	9.3
55-59	44	467,200	9.4
60-64	36	379,100	9.5
65-69	19	291,300	6.5
70-74	23	216,400	10.6
75-79	11	140,500	7.8
80-99	7	140,200	5.0

^aExcludes 17, age not reported.

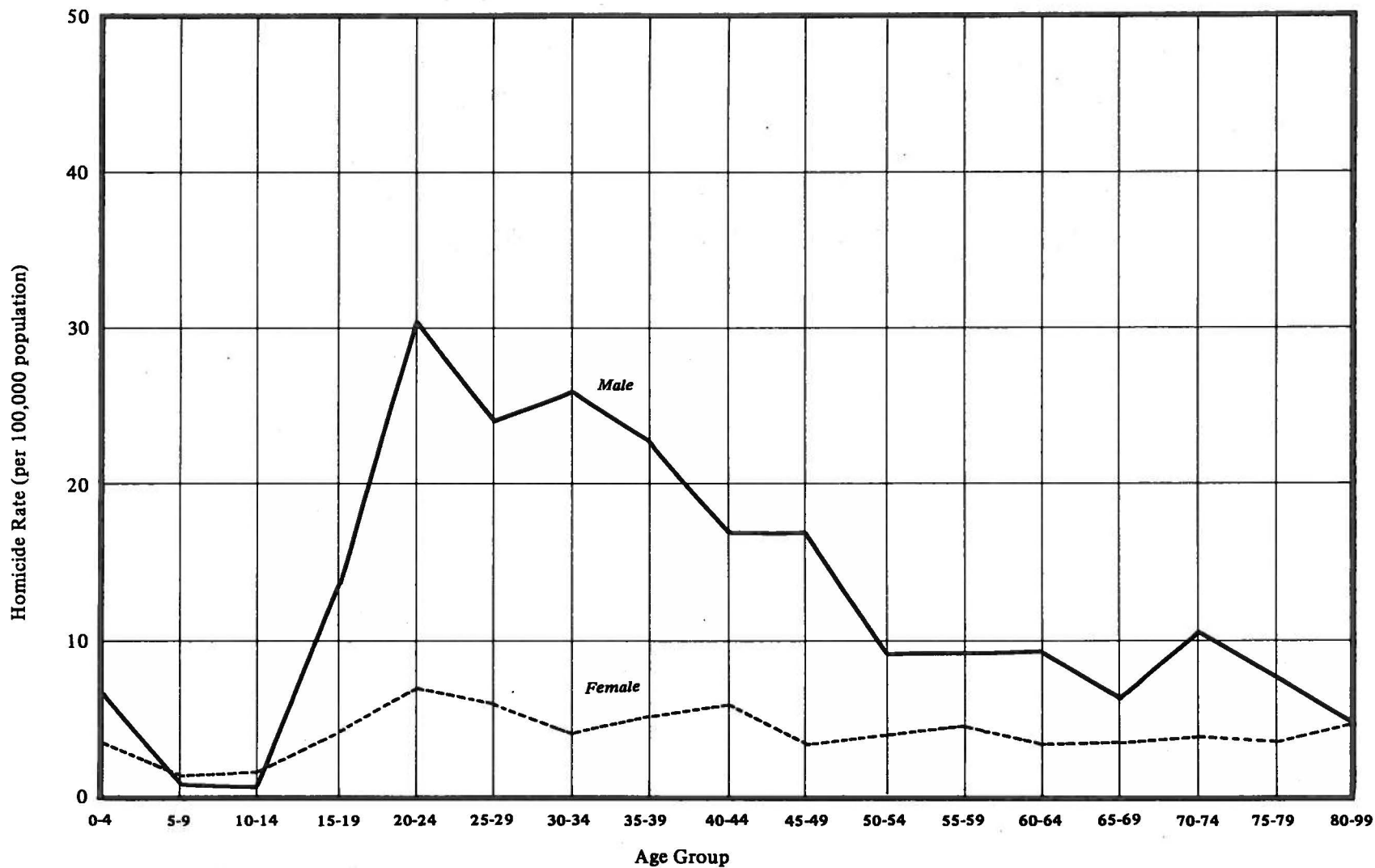
VICTIMS' AGE BY HOMICIDES AND RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION - Continued

Age	Female		
	Homicides ^a	Estimated population	Rate per 100,000
Total	427	10,468,800	4.1
0-4	30	822,600	3.6
5-9	10	872,100	1.1
10-14	14	970,300	1.4
15-19	37	949,800	3.9
20-24	64	913,900	7.0
25-29	52	823,600	6.3
30-34	27	645,500	4.2
35-39	31	596,400	5.2
40-44	35	586,800	6.0
45-49	22	638,400	3.4
50-54	23	589,100	3.9
55-59	23	504,300	4.6
60-64	15	429,000	3.5
65-69	12	352,800	3.4
70-74	12	299,500	4.0
75-79	8	222,500	3.6
80-99	12	252,200	4.8

^aExcludes 11, age not reported.

Note: 1972 population data from Department of Finance estimates.

Figure II HOMICIDE RATES PER AGE GROUP FOR MALES AND FEMALES



The overall homicide rate based on totals including unknowns, shows from revised 1971 figures a 7.4 percent rise in the rate per 100,000, from 8.1 to 8.7. This increase is traceable to the male component of the sample, where the rate mounted from 12.2 to 13.5 - a 10.6 percent gain. The greatest increase occurred in the 20-24 grouping - 30.5 per 100,000 in 1972 as contrasted with 26.7 in 1971. The male and female rate data are embodied in Figure II.

VICTIMS' AGE BY WEAPON USED

Age	Total ^a	Handgun		Other firearm		Knife or cutting tool		Blunt object		Bodily member		Other	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total ..	1,737	602	34.7	347	20.0	387	22.3	93	5.3	159	9.1	149	8.6
0-4	87	8	9.2	2	2.3	7	8.1	2	2.3	41	47.1	27	31.0
5-9	17	4	23.5	3	17.6	-	-	2	11.8	2	11.8	6	35.3
10-14 . .	20	7	35.0	6	30.0	1	5.0	2	10.0	2	10.0	2	10.0
15-19 . .	168	62	36.9	37	22.0	43	25.6	10	6.0	4	2.4	12	7.1
20-24 . .	315	107	34.0	89	28.2	79	25.1	8	2.5	11	3.5	21	6.7
25-29 . .	235	96	40.9	53	22.6	59	25.1	10	4.2	7	3.0	10	4.2
30-34 . .	187	76	40.7	40	21.4	44	23.5	7	3.7	12	6.4	8	4.3
35-39 . .	158	53	33.5	30	19.0	47	29.8	8	5.1	7	4.4	13	8.2
40-44 . .	131	59	45.1	21	16.0	29	22.1	11	8.4	5	3.8	6	4.6
45-49 . .	122	59	48.4	14	11.5	20	16.4	7	5.7	15	12.3	7	5.7
50-54 . .	75	18	24.0	14	18.7	20	26.7	4	5.3	10	13.3	9	12.0
55-59 . .	67	17	25.4	15	22.4	16	23.9	10	14.9	4	6.0	5	7.4
60-64 . .	51	17	33.3	9	17.6	8	15.7	3	5.9	8	15.7	6	11.8
65-69 . .	31	6	19.4	4	12.9	5	16.1	4	12.9	8	25.8	4	12.9
70-74 . .	35	8	22.9	4	11.4	7	20.0	3	8.6	8	22.8	5	14.3
75-79 . .	19	2	10.5	4	21.0	-	-	-	-	7	36.9	6	31.6
80-99 . .	19	3	15.8	2	10.5	2	10.5	2	10.5	8	42.2	2	10.5

^aExcludes 28, age not reported.

As in 1971, the choice of weapon appears to be age related. The use of bodily members is especially prominent in the under five and the 75 and over categories. With the exception of blunt objects, other weapons are employed against victims who would be presumed able to offer more effective resistance - principally those between 25 and 49 years.

VICTIMS' AGE BY CIRCUMSTANCES

Age	Total ^a	Parent kills child		Child kills parent		Spouse kills spouse		Other family	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total .	1,737	63	3.6	18	1.0	208	12.0	56	3.2
0-4 ..	87	43	49.4	-	-	-	-	2	2.3
5-9 ..	17	7	41.1	1	5.9	-	-	1	5.9
10-14	20	4	20.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-19	168	6	3.6	-	-	5	3.0	6	3.6
20-24	315	-	-	-	-	28	8.9	15	4.8
25-29	235	1	0.4	1	0.4	39	16.6	3	1.3
30-34	187	1	0.5	2	1.1	25	13.4	4	2.1
35-39	158	-	-	2	1.3	26	16.5	6	3.8
40-44	131	1	0.8	2	1.5	22	16.8	3	2.3
45-49	122	-	-	1	0.8	21	17.2	6	4.9
50-54	75	-	-	1	1.3	14	18.7	1	1.3
55-59	67	-	-	4	6.0	10	14.9	5	7.5
60-64	51	-	-	1	2.0	10	19.6	2	3.9
65-69	31	-	-	1	3.2	1	3.2	-	-
70-74	35	-	-	1	2.9	6	17.1	2	5.7
75-79	19	-	-	1	5.3	-	-	-	-
80-99	19	-	-	-	-	1	5.3	-	-

Age	Total ^a	Friends or acquaintances		Robbery		Rape		Other crimes		Miscellaneous	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total .	1,737	550	31.7	181	10.4	14	0.8	68	3.9	579	33.4
0-4 ..	87	9	10.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	37.9
5-9 ..	17	2	11.8	-	-	1	5.9	4	23.5	1	5.9
10-14	20	6	30.0	-	-	1	5.0	2	10.0	7	35.0
15-19	168	68	40.4	5	3.0	1	0.6	9	5.4	68	40.4
20-24	315	117	37.1	13	4.1	1	0.3	15	4.8	126	40.0
25-29	235	89	37.9	16	6.8	1	0.4	7	3.0	78	33.2
30-34	187	78	41.7	17	9.1	-	-	7	3.8	53	28.3
35-39	158	56	35.4	16	10.1	-	-	2	1.3	50	31.6
40-44	131	38	29.0	19	14.5	-	-	3	2.3	43	32.8
45-49	122	43	35.3	21	17.2	-	-	1	0.8	29	23.8
50-54	75	15	20.0	8	10.7	1	1.3	1	1.3	34	45.4
55-59	67	12	17.9	12	17.9	3	4.5	2	3.0	19	28.3
60-64	51	6	11.8	15	29.4	-	-	4	7.8	13	25.5
65-69	31	5	16.1	7	22.6	2	6.5	2	6.5	13	41.9
70-74	35	3	8.6	12	34.2	1	2.9	3	8.6	7	20.0
75-79	19	3	15.8	7	36.8	1	5.3	4	21.0	3	15.8
80-99	19	-	-	13	68.4	1	5.3	2	10.5	2	10.5

^aExcludes 28, age not reported.

Of the readily classifiable causes of death, those originating among relatives accounted for about 20 percent of the total, those stemming from social relationships 32 percent, and those associated with crimes approximately 15 percent. The remaining 33 percent were too varied to fit into common groupings.

As would be expected, children slain by parents are very young. The frequencies in the child kills parent category are scanty; hence, extremely variable. On the basis of two years' study, however, it seems that the peak period for this type of slaying is roughly from 35-44, probably at the time the children have reached adolescence or early adulthood.

Friends and acquaintances seemingly meet their ends with greatest frequency between the ages of 15 and 49. Robbery, in relative terms, takes its greatest toll among the aged. Rape, again combining 1971 and 1972 data, appears to occur only slightly more often in youth than over the entire age spectrum.

VICTIMS' RACE BY SEX

Race	Total ^a	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Total	1,762	100.0	1,325	100.0	437	100.0
White	837	47.5	566	42.7	271	62.0
Mexican-American .	259	14.7	221	16.7	38	8.7
Negro	616	35.0	497	37.5	119	27.2
Other	50	2.8	41	3.1	9	2.1

^aExcludes 3, sex not reported.

As in 1971, a greater percentage of white females were victimized, with white males in second place and Negro males third. The white female proportion is the only one in the four ethnic groups that exceeds that of the male.

CHOICE OF WEAPON BY SEX OF VICTIM

Weapon	Total ^a	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Total	1,762	100.0	1,325	100.0	437	100.0
Handgun	610	34.6	492	37.1	118	27.0
Other firearm	352	20.0	282	21.3	70	16.0
Knife or cutting tool	389	22.1	312	23.5	77	17.6
Blunt object	95	5.4	65	4.9	30	6.9
Bodily member	164	9.3	91	6.9	73	16.7
Other	152	8.6	83	6.3	69	15.8

^aExcludes 3, sex not reported.

Firearms continue to be the most popular means of dispatching victims, accounting for about 58 percent of male deaths and 43 percent of female. Knives are also used relatively more often on males than on females. The reverse is true of bodily members, since women are more susceptible to manual attacks than are men.

CIRCUMSTANCES BY SEX OF VICTIM

Circumstance	Total ^a	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Total	1,762	100.0	1,325	100.0	437	100.0
Parent kills child	63	3.6	40	3.0	23	5.3
Child kills parent	18	1.0	12	0.9	6	1.4
Spouse kills spouse	208	11.8	81	6.1	127	29.1
Other family killing	56	3.2	43	3.3	13	3.0
Friends, acquaintances	554	31.4	490	37.0	64	14.6
Robbery	185	10.5	153	11.5	32	7.3
Rape	15	0.9	1	0.1	14	3.2
Other crimes	69	3.9	44	3.3	25	5.7
Miscellaneous	594	33.7	461	34.8	133	30.4

^aExcludes 3, sex not reported.

Family relationships lead to female deaths in about 39 percent of the cases as against 13 percent of male. Men, on the other hand, are the victims of friends and acquaintances much more frequently. Crime claims very similar proportions of victims from the sexes - approximately 15 percent of males and 16 percent of females.

CIRCUMSTANCES BY RACE OF VICTIM

Circumstance	Total		White		Mexican-American		Negro		Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,765	100.0	837	100.0	259	100.0	616	100.0	53	100.0
Parent kills										
child	63	3.6	36	4.3	9	3.5	16	2.6	2	3.8
Child kills										
parent	18	1.0	13	1.6	1	0.4	4	0.6	-	-
Spouse kills										
spouse	208	11.8	107	12.8	13	5.0	80	13.0	8	15.1
Other family										
killing	56	3.2	20	2.4	9	3.5	25	4.1	2	3.8
Friends,										
acquaintances ..	554	31.4	180	21.5	96	37.0	264	42.9	14	26.4
Robbery	185	10.5	123	14.6	17	6.6	37	6.0	8	15.1
Rape	15	0.8	13	1.6	1	0.4	1	0.2	-	-
Other crimes	69	3.9	50	6.0	7	2.7	12	1.9	-	-
Miscellaneous	597	33.8	295	35.2	106	40.9	177	28.7	19	35.8

Cases of mates killing mates are relatively equal among whites and Negroes, while Mexican-Americans trail in this respect. With regard to friends and acquaintances, Negroes rank first, Mexican-Americans second and whites third. Whites lead decisively as victims in crime-related homicides.

Offenders

With the coding changes instituted in 1972 some offender data became available. Certain relationships not included in the 1971 report can be explored via the new information. The number of offenders differs from that of victims because of unsolved cases, multiple victims and other factors.

VICTIMS' AGE BY OFFENDERS' AGE

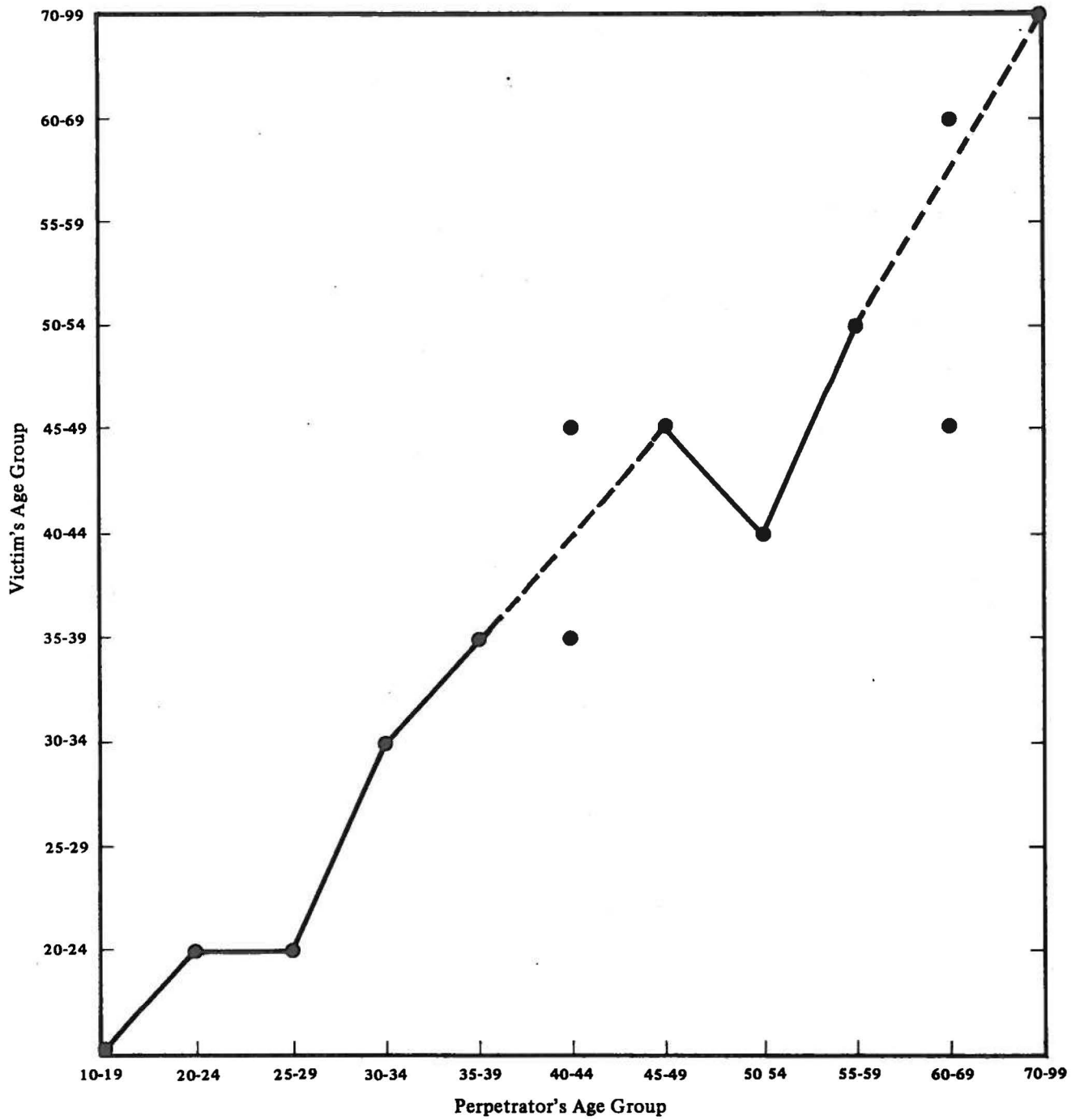
Age of victim	Age of offenders									
	Total ^a		0-9		10-19		20-24		25-29	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total ..	1,300	100.0	1	100.0	219	100.0	299	100.0	223	100.0
0-9	93	7.1	1	100.0	18	8.2	22	7.4	26	11.7
10-19 ..	152	11.7	-	-	76	34.7	36	12.0	15	6.7
20-24 ..	243	18.7	-	-	42	19.2	95	31.8	49	22.0
25-29 ..	183	14.1	-	-	24	11.0	57	19.1	35	15.7
30-34 ..	143	11.0	-	-	16	7.3	23	7.7	37	16.6
35-39 ..	115	8.8	-	-	9	4.1	10	3.3	13	5.8
40-44 ..	92	7.1	-	-	8	3.7	14	4.7	10	4.5
45-49 ..	101	7.8	-	-	5	2.3	15	5.0	17	7.6
50-54 ..	53	4.1	-	-	2	0.9	7	2.3	7	3.1
55-59 ..	43	3.3	-	-	8	3.6	5	1.7	5	2.3
60-69 ..	47	3.6	-	-	4	1.8	7	2.3	7	3.1
70-99 ..	35	2.7	-	-	7	3.2	8	2.7	2	0.9

Age of victim	Age of offenders									
	Total ^a		30-34		35-39		40-44		45-49	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total ..	1,300	100.0	159	100.0	110	100.0	99	100.0	68	100.0
0-9	93	7.1	11	6.9	8	7.3	3	3.0	33	4.4
10-19 ..	152	11.7	6	3.8	8	7.3	4	4.0	2	2.9
20-24 ..	243	18.7	20	12.6	10	9.1	12	12.1	7	10.3
25-29 ..	183	14.1	26	16.3	20	18.2	10	10.1	5	7.4
30-34 ..	143	11.0	29	18.2	15	13.6	14	14.2	6	8.8
35-39 ..	115	8.8	27	17.0	21	19.1	15	15.2	9	13.2
40-44 ..	92	7.1	10	6.3	8	7.3	14	14.2	10	14.7
45-49 ..	101	7.8	13	8.2	9	8.2	15	15.2	11	16.2
50-54 ..	53	4.1	7	4.4	5	4.5	3	3.0	5	7.4
55-59 ..	43	3.3	3	1.9	2	1.8	3	3.0	6	8.8
60-69 ..	47	3.6	5	3.1	4	3.6	3	3.0	1	1.5
70-99 ..	35	2.7	2	1.3	-	-	3	3.0	3	4.4

Age of victim	Age of offenders									
	Total ^a		50-54		55-59		60-69		70-99	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total ..	1,300	100.0	45	100.0	37	100.0	26	100.0	14	100.0
0-9	93	7.1	1	2.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-19 ..	152	11.7	1	2.2	2	5.4	2	7.7	-	-
20-24 ..	243	18.7	3	6.7	1	2.7	4	15.4	-	-
25-29 ..	183	14.1	3	6.7	2	5.4	1	3.8	-	-
30-34 ..	143	11.0	2	4.4	-	-	1	3.8	-	-
35-39 ..	115	8.8	4	8.9	4	10.8	2	7.7	1	7.2
40-44 ..	92	7.1	9	20.0	5	13.5	4	15.4	-	-
45-49 ..	101	7.8	8	17.8	4	10.8	4	15.4	-	-
50-54 ..	53	4.1	7	15.6	9	24.4	-	-	1	7.2
55-59 ..	43	3.3	1	2.2	5	13.5	2	7.7	3	21.4
60-69 ..	47	3.6	4	8.9	4	10.8	5	19.3	3	21.4
70-99 ..	35	2.7	2	4.4	1	2.7	1	3.8	6	42.8

^aExcludes 65, age not reported.

Figure III MODAL AGE FREQUENCIES OF HOMICIDE PERPRETRATORS VS VICTIMS



The general import of this table is that killers choose victims of much the same age groups as themselves. For example, about 70 percent of the victims of 20-24 year-old offenders were between 0 and 29 years of age; slightly more than 62 percent of those slain by 55-59 year-olds were between the ages of 45 and 99.

This concept is presented in a different form in Figure III, where the modal frequencies of the killers' age group are plotted against those of the victims. If the two coincided - if 20-24 year-olds in the main killed 20-24 year-olds, 25-29 year-olds overwhelmingly killed 25-29 year-olds, the graph would be a straight line running from the lower left-hand corner to the upper right.

It is apparent from the chart that there is a tendency for this condition to be fulfilled. (Where a dashed line passes between two points on the same ordinate, the age group distribution is bi-modal.) Some of the deviations from linearity are purely statistical - that is, small numerical bases tend to cause random fluctuations to stand out. Some of the deviations, however, are based on adequate sample sizes, and may have a basis in fact. One such is the apparent preference of 25-29 year-old perpetrators for victims in the 20-24 year category.

RACE OF VICTIM BY RACE OF OFFENDER

Race of victim	Race of offender									
	Total ^a		White		Mexican-American		Negro		Other	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,342	100.0	506	100.0	204	100.0	594	100.0	38	100.0
White	586	43.5	457	90.3	37	18.1	80	13.5	12	31.6
Mexican-American . .	208	15.5	25	4.9	156	76.5	26	4.4	1	2.6
Negro	513	38.4	18	3.6	8	3.9	483	81.3	4	10.5
Other	35	2.6	6	1.2	3	1.5	5	0.8	21	55.3

^aExcludes 23, race not reported.

Intragroup homicides dominate this table, with whites showing the strongest tendency to kill their own kind. Over 90 percent of white slayings are white-caused. Whites are also the second choice of the other ethnic groups, accounting for 18 percent of Mexican-American killings, 14 percent of Negro and 32 percent of other nationalities.

SEX OF VICTIM BY SEX OF OFFENDER

Sex of victim	Sex of offender					
	Total ^a		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,364	100.0	1,167	100.0	197	100.0
Male	1,026	75.2	865	74.1	161	81.7
Female	338	24.8	302	25.9	36	18.3

^aExcludes 1, sex not reported.

Male fatalities continue to outweigh female by a ratio of 3 to 1. In both intrasex and intersex relationships men become victims much more frequently than do women. Male offenders kill men in 74 percent of the male-male cases; female offenders do away with men in 82 percent of homicides. This circumstance may be related to the more active and aggressive role played by men in everyday life.

Multiple Homicides

The instances of murders involving more than one victim have seemingly become more frequent in recent years. It seemed therefore that a section of the report treating this phase of the subject would be timely. However, since this is the first year multiple killings have been discussed, comparison statistics are not available.

MULTIPLE HOMICIDES IN 1972

Victims per case	Number of cases	Total victims
Total	53	117
Two	45	90
Three	6	18
Four	1	4
Five	1	5

It is clear that the commonest number of victims is two; mass murders are apparently rare occurrences.

AGE AND SEX OF PERPETRATORS BY SEX OF VICTIMS

Age and sex of perpetrators	Total perpetrators	Sex of victims		
		Total ^a	Male	Female
Total	53	114	69	45
Male				
Age unknown .	2	4	2	2
10-19	10	22	14	8
20-24	8	15	8	7
25-29	9	17	14	3
30-34	5	11	4	7
35-39	4	11	9	2
40-44	6	15	9	6
45-49	3	6	3	3
50-54	3	7	4	3
Female				
25-29	1	2	-	2
30-34	2	4	2	2

^aExcludes 3, age not reported.

One of the striking features of the table is the limited age span of the offenders - 10-54 for males and 25-34 for females. Adolescence and early youth appear to be the prime time for this type of homicide - 28 of the 53 offenders fall in the 10-29 age classes. Women make up 39.5 of the victims, as against 24.8 percent of single homicides.

AGE OF PERPETRATORS BY AGE OF VICTIMS

Age of perpetrator	Total	Age of victim							
		Total ^a	0-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79
Total	53	114	42	25	19	15	7	1	5
Unknown	2	4	-	1	1	1	-	-	1
10-19	10	22	12	4	3	-	1	-	2
20-29	18	34	11	11	6	5	1	-	-
30-39	11	26	11	5	4	-	4	1	1
40-49	9	21	7	4	3	6	-	-	1
50-59	3	7	1	-	2	3	1	-	-

^aExcludes 3, age not reported.

The tendency to kill within the perpetrator's age group is not as well defined as that noted in the general discussion. However, the preponderance of the murders tabulated occur in the offender's age group or in younger groups. For example, 22 of the 34 - or 65 percent - of the mass slayings by those 20-29 years of age take place among victims up to age 29; 20 of the 26 - or 77 percent - victims of the 30-39 year-old killers are 39 years old or younger, and so on.

RACE OF PERPETRATORS BY RACE OF VICTIMS

Race of perpetrator	Total	Race of victim				
		Total ^a	White	Mexican-American	Negro	Other
Total	53	116	77	9	26	4
White	33	71	69	2	-	-
Mexican-American ..	4	8	1	7	-	-
Negro	14	33	7	-	26	-
Other	2	4	-	-	-	4

^aExcludes 1, race not reported.

Negroes seemingly have the highest potential for multiple killings - 2.4 victims per offender as compared with 2.2 for whites. Mexican-Americans and other nationalities average exactly 2 victims per offender.

Again, intraracial relationships predominate in this type of incident.

1