

CRIMINAL HOMICIDE - MURDER

Murder is defined as the unlawful killing of a human being. Any death due to a fight, argument, quarrel, assault or commission of a crime is included. This index offense is scored by police on the basis of their investigation without regard to findings of a court or jury or the decision of a prosecutor. Traffic deaths, caused by the negligence of someone other than the victim, are not included here, but are counted under manslaughter. Attempts to kill and assaults to kill are scored as assaults and not as murder. Suicides, accidental deaths, and justifiable or excusable homicides are also excluded.

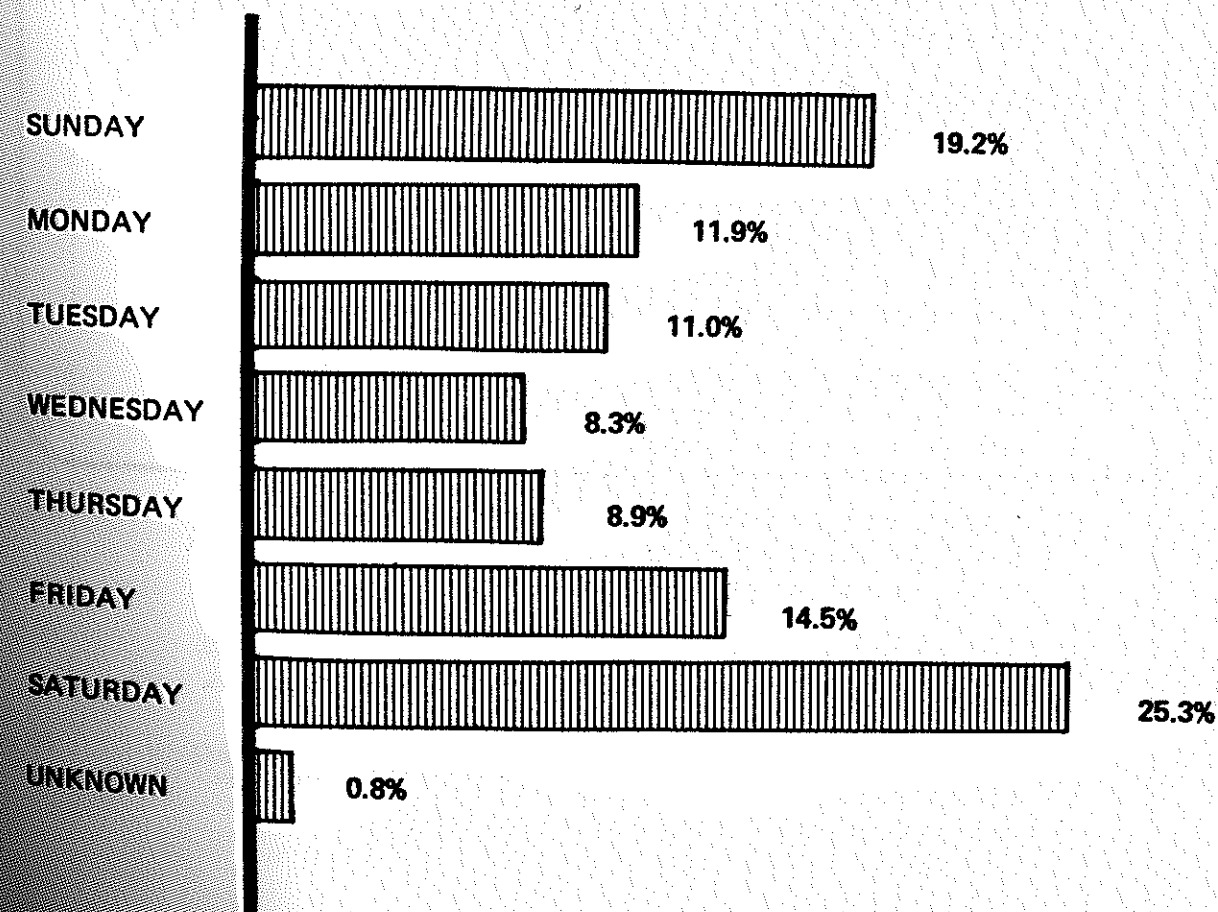
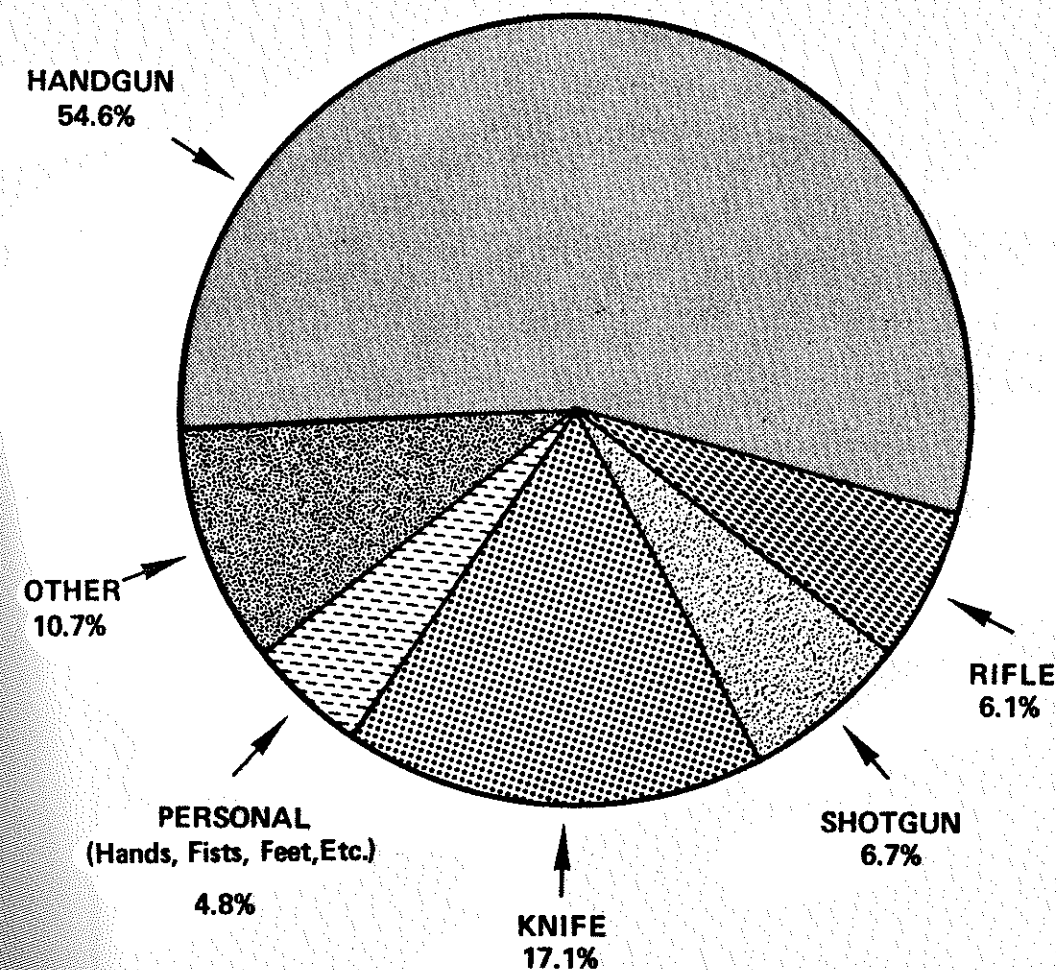
1971 SUMMARY ANALYSIS

- A total of 932 murders were reported by law enforcement agencies in Florida for the months January through December, 1971.
- Murders accounted for 2.4 percent of all violent index crimes and 0.3 percent of all index offenses.
- The murder rate for the reporting period was 13.2 per 100,000 population.
- A total of 840 murders were cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared, amounting to a 90.1 percent clearance rate statewide.
- The age group accounting for the highest percent of persons arrested for murder, 14.3 percent, occurred in the 25 to 29 age category. Males accounted for 76.9 percent of all persons arrested for murder.
- 30.3 percent of all persons arrested for murder were White, 68.4 percent were Negro and 1.3 percent were of other races.
- 39.2 percent of all murder victims were White, 59.4 percent were Negro and 1.4 percent were of other races. 75.6 percent of all murder victims were male.
- Firearms were employed in 68.1 percent of all reported murders. The use of a knife or other cutting device was involved in 17.1 percent of the murders.
- The murder of one family member by another accounted for 280, or 30.0 percent, of all murders. Of these 280 murders, 63.6 percent resulted from one spouse killing the other.
- Lovers quarrels or lovers triangles were involved in 11.6 percent of all murders. Persons killed by felons during the commission of a felony accounted for 6.7 percent of all murders reported.

MURDER

*PERCENT BY DAY
OF THE WEEK
AND
BY TYPE OF
WEAPON USED

January - December
1971



*Percent Distribution does not total 100.0 due to rounding.