

MURDER

Murder is defined as the willful (nonnegligent) 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 law enforcement officials 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 rather 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.

1974--SUMMARY ANALYSIS

A total of 1,190 murders were reported by law enforcement agencies in Florida for the year 1974.

Murders accounted for 2.2 percent of all violent crimes and 0.2 percent of all index offenses reported.

The murder rate for the reporting period was 14.4 per 100,000 population.

A total of 999 murders were cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared, amounting to an 83.9 percent clearance rate statewide.

The age group 25-29 accounted for 15.7 percent of persons arrested for murder. Males accounted for 82.1 percent of all persons arrested for murder.

38.2 percent of all persons arrested for murder were white, 60.9 percent were Negro and 0.9 were of other races.

48.0 percent of all murder victims were white, 51.9 percent were Negro and 0.1 percent of other races were murdered. 75.7 percent of all murder victims were male.

Firearms were employed in 71.3 percent of all reported murders. The use of a knife or other cutting device was involved in 13.4 percent of the murders.

The murder of one family member by another accounted for 252 or 21.2 percent of all murders. Of these, 174 murders or 69.0 percent resulted from one spouse killing the other.

Altercations or quarrels between the victim and perpetrator, including money quarrels, lovers quarrels and drinking quarrels, accounted for 16.6 percent of all murders reported during the year 1974. Specifically, drinking quarrels recorded the highest involvement, accounting for 7.9 percent of the total murders.

1975--SUMMARY ANALYSIS

A total of 1,132 murders were reported by law enforcement agencies in Florida for the year 1975.

Murders accounted for 2.0 percent of all violent crimes and 0.2 percent of all index offenses reported.

The murder rate for the reporting period was 13.3 per 100,000 population.

A total of 925 murders were cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared, amounting to an 81.7 percent clearance rate statewide.

The age group 25-29 accounted for 15.2 percent of persons arrested for murder. Males accounted for 80.1 percent of all persons arrested for murder.

43.4 percent of all persons arrested for murder were white, 56.1 percent were Negro and 0.5 were of other races.

50.9 percent of all murder victims were white, 49.1 percent were Negro and 0.0 percent of other races were murdered. 73.7 percent of all murder victims were male.

Firearms were employed in 66.0 percent of all reported murders. The use of a knife or other cutting device was involved in 13.4 percent of the murders.

The murder of one family member by another accounted for 262 or 23.1 percent of all murders. Of these, 186 murders or 71.0 percent resulted from one spouse killing the other.

Altercations or quarrels between the victim and perpetrator, including money quarrels, lovers quarrels and drinking quarrels, accounted for 18.3 percent of all murders reported during the year 1975. Specifically, drinking quarrels recorded the highest involvement, accounting for 5.9 percent of the total murders.

1976--SUMMARY ANALYSIS

A total of 902 murders were reported by law enforcement agencies in Florida for the year 1976.

Murders accounted for 1.7 percent of all violent crimes and 0.2 percent of all index offenses reported.

The murder rate for the reporting period was 10.5 per 100,000 population.

A total of 727 murders were cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared, amounting to an 80.6 percent clearance rate statewide.

The age group 25-29 accounted for 17.5 percent of persons arrested for murder. Males accounted for 83.1 percent of all persons arrested for murder.

47.0 percent of all persons arrested for murder were white, 52.1 percent were Negro and 0.9 were of other races.

51.6 percent of all murder victims were white, 48.1 percent were Negro and 0.3 percent of other races were murdered. 72.7 percent of all murder victims were male.

Firearms were employed in 63.7 percent of all reported murders. The use of a knife or other cutting device was involved in 15.2 percent of the murders.

The murder of one family member by another accounted for 173 or 19.2 percent of all murders. Of these, 118 murders or 68.2 percent resulted from one spouse killing the other.

Altercations or quarrels between the victim and perpetrator, including money quarrels, lovers quarrels and drinking quarrels, accounted for 12.6 percent of all murders reported during the year 1976. Specifically, lovers quarrels recorded the highest involvement, accounting for 5.2 percent of the total murders.

MURDER

PERCENT BY TYPE OF WEAPON USED

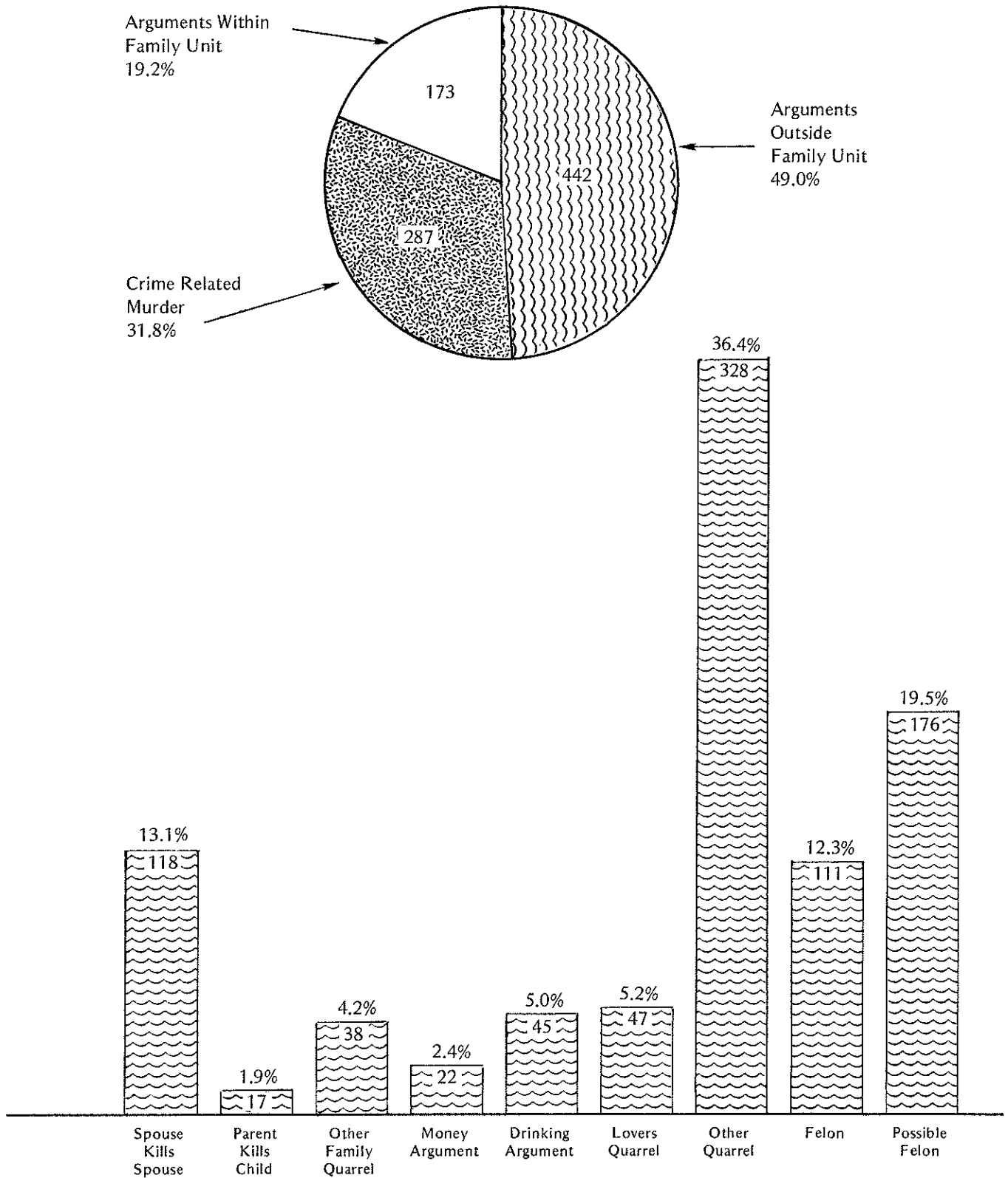
Type of Weapon Used	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Handgun	58.8%	53.9%	57.7%	54.4%	51.7%
Rifle	4.8	5.1	5.7	4.9	4.9
Shotgun	6.4	6.1	7.8	6.6	7.2
Knife	13.8	15.2	13.4	13.4	15.2
Personal	5.1	5.0	4.4	6.3	6.3
Other	11.2	14.7	11.0	14.3	14.7
TOTAL*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

PERCENT BY DAY OF THE WEEK

Day of the Week	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Sunday	19.6%	17.1%	16.4%	18.7%	16.4%
Monday	10.8	15.7	11.5	13.2	11.2
Tuesday	8.8	11.6	10.5	10.7	12.7
Wednesday	11.0	9.8	10.5	11.0	10.0
Thursday	10.1	8.2	9.7	11.7	12.5
Friday	14.1	15.0	14.3	15.2	16.6
Saturday	25.6	22.4	26.6	19.6	20.5
Unknown	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0
TOTAL*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Percent distributions may not total 100.0 due to rounding.

**1976 FLORIDA MURDER ANALYSIS
DISTRIBUTION OF MURDER VICTIMS BY CIRCUMSTANCE***



*Percent distribution may not total due to rounding.

MURDER VICTIMS BY AGE, SEX, AND RACE—1976

AGE	Number	*Percent Distribution	Sex		Race		
			Male	Female	White	Negro	Others
Under 1	6	0.7%	4	2	6	0	0
1-5	14	1.6	7	7	7	7	0
6-10	7	0.8	5	2	5	2	0
11-14	7	0.8	4	3	5	2	0
15-19	58	6.4	34	24	29	29	0
20-24	116	12.9	86	30	47	69	0
25-29	120	13.3	83	37	54	65	1
30-34	100	11.1	75	25	52	48	0
35-39	81	9.0	64	17	44	36	1
40-44	87	9.6	68	19	41	46	0
45-49	70	7.8	56	14	40	30	0
50-54	73	8.1	56	17	33	40	0
55-59	46	5.1	34	12	23	23	0
60-64	38	4.2	30	8	21	17	0
65-69	30	3.3	20	10	19	11	0
70-74	20	2.2	12	8	15	5	0
75 & Over	25	2.8	14	11	22	3	0
Unknown	4	0.4	4	0	2	1	1
TOTAL for Florida	902	100.0%	656	246	465	434	3
PERCENT*			72.7%	27.3%	51.6%	48.1%	0.3%

*Percent distribution may not total 100.0 due to rounding.