

# 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. 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.

## 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. 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. Lovers quarrels recorded the highest involvement, accounting for 5.2 percent of the total murders.

## 1977--SUMMARY ANALYSIS

A total of 857 murders were reported by law enforcement agencies in Florida for the year 1977.

Murders accounted for 1.5 percent of all violent crimes and 0.2 percent of all index offenses reported.

The murder rate for the reporting period was 9.8 per 100,000 population.

A total of 686 murders were cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared, amounting to an 80.0 percent clearance rate statewide.

The age group 25-29 accounted for 16.3 percent of persons arrested for murder. Males accounted for 81.1 percent of all persons arrested for murder.

45.7 percent of all persons arrested for murder were white, 53.2 percent were Negro and 1.1 were of other races.

54.4 percent of all murder victims were white, 44.9 percent were Negro and 0.7 percent of other races were murdered. 75.6 percent of all murder victims were male.

Firearms were employed in 59.2 percent of all reported murders. The use of a knife or other cutting device was involved in 17.6 percent of the murders.

The murder of one family member by another accounted for 129 or 15.1 percent of all murders. Of these, 73 murders or 56.6 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 27.7 percent of all murders reported during the year 1977. Lovers quarrels recorded the highest involvement, accounting for 11.4 percent of the total murders.

# MURDER

PERCENT BY TYPE OF WEAPON USED, 1973-1977

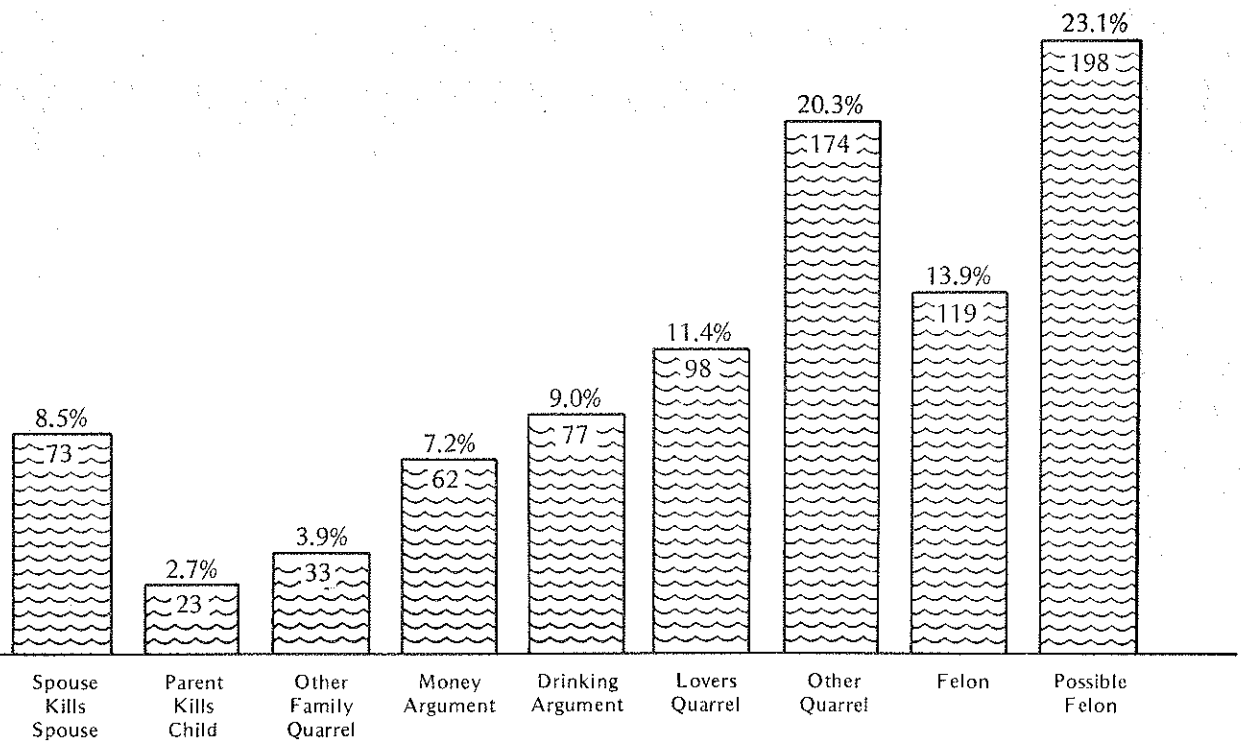
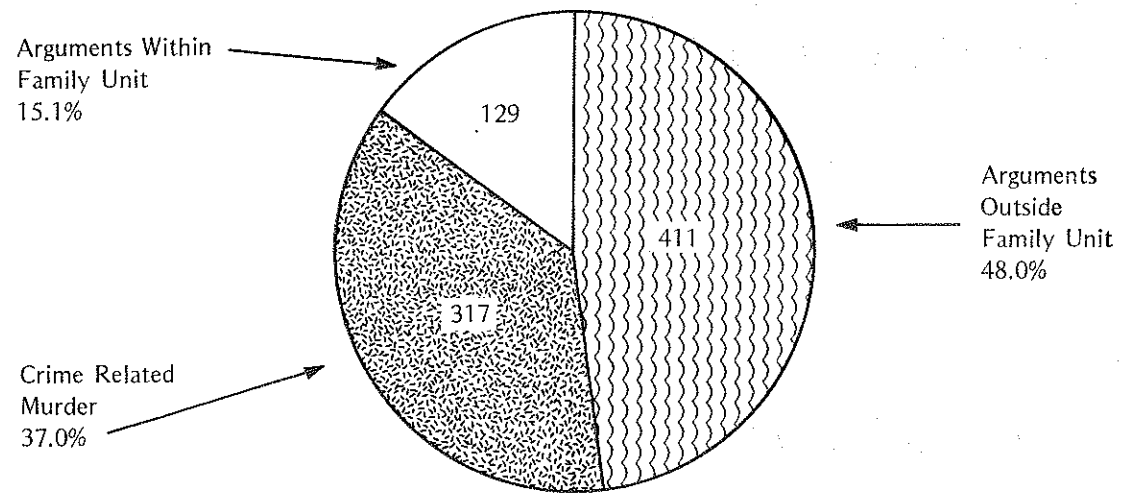
Type of Weapon Used	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Handgun	53.9%	57.7%	54.4%	51.7%	48.4%
Rifle	5.1	5.7	4.9	4.9	4.3
Shotgun	6.1	7.8	6.6	7.2	6.4
Knife	15.2	13.4	13.4	15.2	17.6
Personal	5.0	4.4	6.3	6.3	6.9
Other	14.7	11.0	14.3	14.7	16.3
TOTAL*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

PERCENT BY DAY OF THE WEEK, 1973-1977

Day of the Week	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Sunday	17.1%	16.4%	18.7%	16.4%	16.3%
Monday	15.7	11.5	13.2	11.2	11.1
Tuesday	11.6	10.5	10.7	12.7	11.9
Wednesday	9.8	10.5	11.0	10.0	11.0
Thursday	8.2	9.7	11.7	12.5	12.4
Friday	15.0	14.3	15.2	16.6	16.6
Saturday	22.4	26.6	19.6	20.5	20.8
Unknown	0.3	0.5	0.0	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.

1977 FLORIDA MURDER ANALYSIS  
DISTRIBUTION OF MURDER VICTIMS BY CIRCUMSTANCE\*



\*Percent distribution may not total due to rounding.

FDCLE CHART 4

MURDER VICTIMS BY AGE, SEX, AND RACE—1977

AGE	Number	*Percent Distribution	Sex		Race		
			Male	Female	White	Negro	Others
Under 1	4	0.5%	4	0	1	3	0
1-5	19	2.2	12	7	10	9	0
6-10	4	0.5	1	3	2	2	0
11-14	5	0.6	1	4	4	1	0
15-19	70	8.2	53	17	36	34	0
20-24	102	11.9	79	23	55	47	0
25-29	106	12.4	83	23	51	55	0
30-34	96	11.2	84	12	44	52	0
35-39	91	10.6	69	22	52	39	0
40-44	82	9.6	65	17	41	40	1
45-49	62	7.2	48	14	35	26	1
50-54	55	6.4	43	12	27	28	0
55-59	51	6.0	39	12	31	20	0
60-64	28	3.3	19	9	20	8	0
65-69	21	2.5	13	8	11	9	1
70-74	23	2.7	17	6	18	5	0
75 & Over	33	3.9	16	17	26	7	0
Unknown	5	0.6	2	3	2	0	3
<b>TOTAL For Florida</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>PERCENT*</b>			<b>75.6%</b>	<b>24.4%</b>	<b>54.4%</b>	<b>44.9%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

\*Percent distribution may not total 100.0 due to rounding.

FDCLE TABLE 3