

# 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.

## 1976—SUMMARY ANALYSIS

A total of 902 murders was 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.

There were 727 murders 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.

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

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

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 was 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.

There were 686 murders 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.

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

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

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.

## 1978—SUMMARY ANALYSIS

A total of 949 murders was reported by law enforcement agencies in Florida for the year 1978.

Murders accounted for 1.4 percent of all violent crimes and 0.2 percent of all index offenses reported.

The murder rate for the reporting period was 10.6 per 100,000 population.

There were 727 murders cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared, amounting to a 76.6 percent clearance rate statewide.

The age group 25-29 accounted for 17.8 percent of persons arrested for murder. Males accounted for 82.3 percent of all persons arrested for murder.

Of all persons arrested for murder, 45.4 percent were white, 54.4 percent were Negro and 0.1 percent were of other races.

Of all murder victims, 54.2 percent were white, 45.3 percent were Negro and 0.5 percent of other races were murdered. Of all murder victims, males represented 71.0 percent.

Firearms were employed in 57.1 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 183 or 19.3 percent of all murders. Of these, 121 murders or 66.1 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 26.4 percent of all murders reported during the year 1978. Lovers quarrels recorded the highest involvement, accounting for 11.2 percent of the total murders.

# MURDER

## PERCENT BY TYPE OF WEAPON USED, 1974-1978

Type of Weapon Used	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Handgun	57.7%	54.4%	51.7%	48.4%	46.0%
Rifle	5.7	4.9	4.9	4.3	4.8
Shotgun	7.8	6.6	7.2	6.4	6.2
Knife	13.4	13.4	15.2	17.6	17.6
Personal	4.4	6.3	6.3	6.9	7.0
Other	11.0	14.3	14.7	16.3	18.3
TOTAL*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

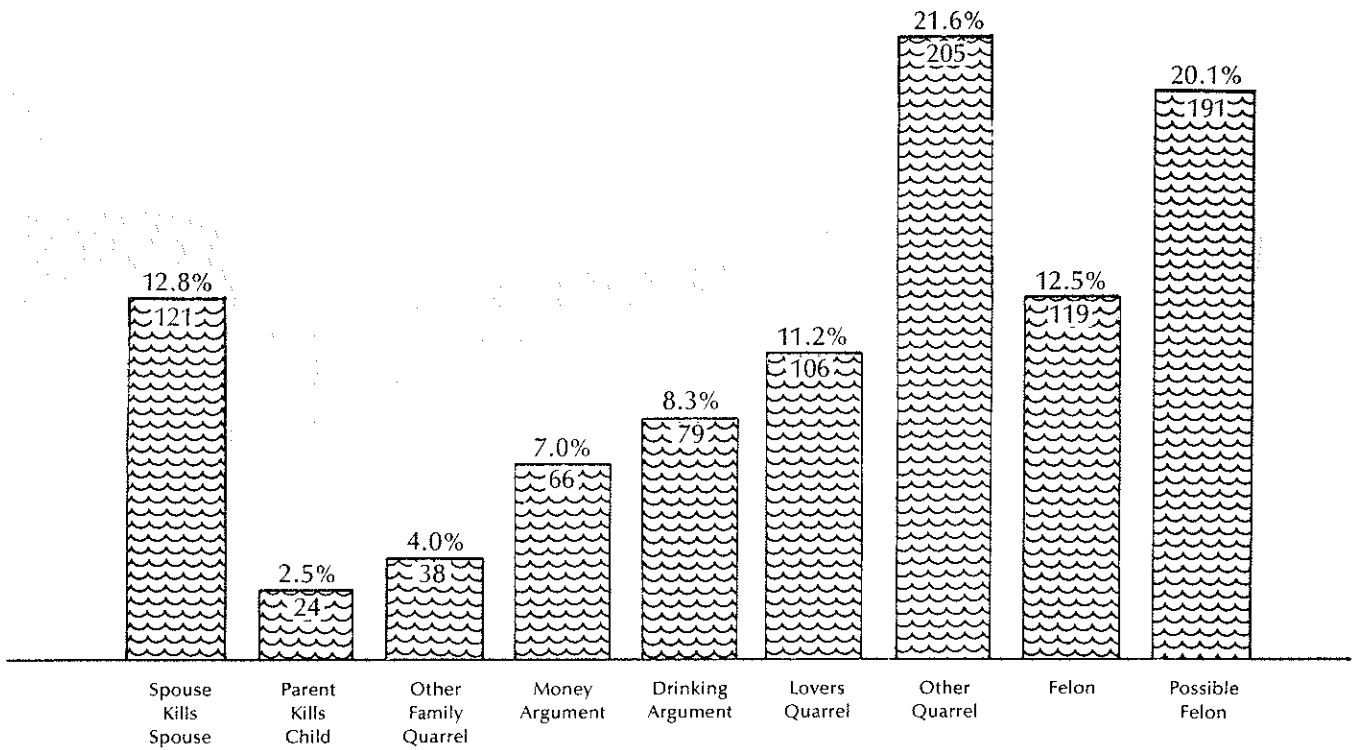
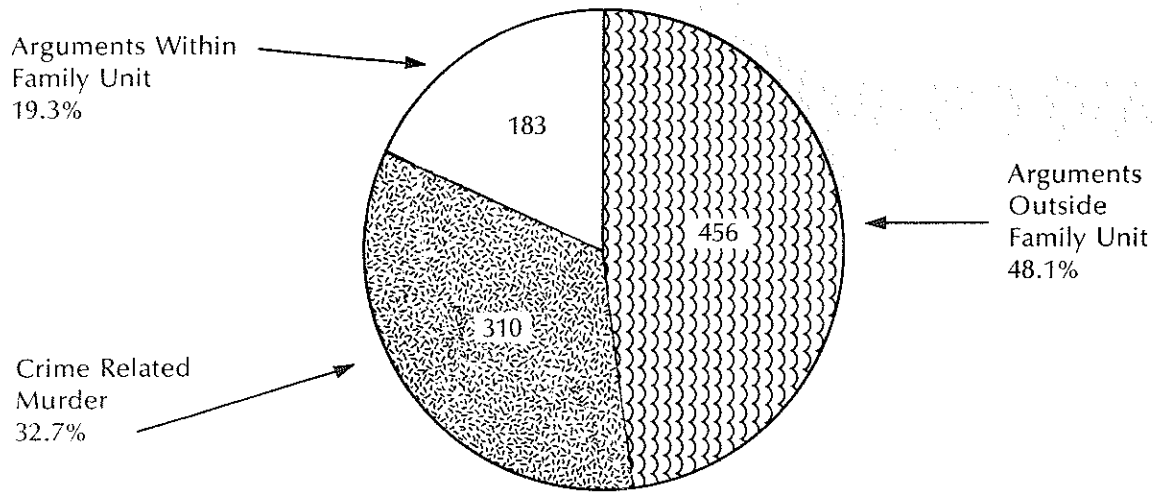
## PERCENT BY DAY OF THE WEEK, 1974-1978

Day of the Week	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Sunday	16.4%	18.7%	16.4%	16.3%	15.4%
Monday	11.5	13.2	11.2	11.1	12.3
Tuesday	10.5	10.7	12.7	11.9	11.4
Wednesday	10.5	11.0	10.0	11.0	13.0
Thursday	9.7	11.7	12.5	12.4	11.7
Friday	14.3	15.2	16.6	16.6	14.5
Saturday	26.6	19.6	20.5	20.8	21.7
Unknown	0.5	0.0	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.

FDLE TABLE 2

# 1978 FLORIDA MURDER ANALYSIS DISTRIBUTION OF MURDER VICTIMS BY CIRCUMSTANCE\*



\*Percent distribution may not total due to rounding.

FDLE CHART 4

MURDER VICTIMS BY AGE, SEX, AND RACE—1978

AGE	Number	*Percent Distribution	Sex		Race		
			Male	Female	White	Negro	Others
Under 1	5	0.5%	3	2	2	3	0
1-5	17	1.8	8	9	7	10	0
6-10	7	0.7	3	4	6	1	0
11-14	8	0.8	1	7	6	2	0
15-19	71	7.5	46	25	44	27	0
20-24	138	14.5	85	53	71	66	1
25-29	140	14.8	105	35	69	71	0
30-34	110	11.6	86	24	58	52	0
35-39	108	11.4	80	28	48	59	1
40-44	86	9.1	62	24	47	39	0
45-49	61	6.4	47	14	36	24	1
50-54	53	5.6	41	12	29	24	0
55-59	44	4.6	39	5	23	21	0
60-64	35	3.7	29	6	21	14	0
65-69	27	2.8	18	9	18	9	0
70-74	20	2.1	12	8	13	7	0
75 & Over	15	1.6	8	7	14	1	0
Unknown	4	0.4	1	3	2	0	2
TOTAL For Florida	949	100.0%	674	275	514	430	5
PERCENT*			71.0%	29.0%	54.2%	45.3%	0.5%

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