

# 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.

## 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.

## 1979—SUMMARY ANALYSIS

A total of 1,084 murders was reported by law enforcement agencies in Florida for the year 1979.

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 11.7 per 100,000 population.

There were 773 murders cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared, amounting to a 71.3 percent clearance rate statewide.

The age group 25-29 accounted for 18.1 percent of persons arrested for murder. Males accounted for 83.5 percent of all persons arrested for murder.

Of all persons arrested for murder, 51.3 percent were white, 48.3 percent were Negro and 0.4 percent were of other races.

Of all murder victims, 57.5 percent were white, 42.4 percent were Negro and 0.1 percent of other races were murdered. Of all murder victims, males represented 73.3 percent.

Firearms were employed in 60.0 percent of all reported murders. The use of a knife or other cutting device was involved in 17.2 percent of the murders.

The murder of one family member by another accounted for 193 or 17.8 percent of all murders. Of these, 116 murders or 60.1 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 23.3 percent of all murders reported during the year 1979. Lovers quarrels recorded the highest involvement, accounting for 9.7 percent of the total murders.

# MURDER

PERCENT BY TYPE OF WEAPON USED, 1975-1979

Type of Weapon Used	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Handgun	54.4%	51.7%	48.4%	46.0%	48.5%
Rifle	4.9	4.9	4.3	4.8	3.3
Shotgun	6.6	7.2	6.4	6.2	8.1
Knife	13.4	15.2	17.6	17.6	17.2
Personal	6.3	6.3	6.9	7.0	7.5
Other	14.3	14.7	16.3	18.3	15.4
TOTAL*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

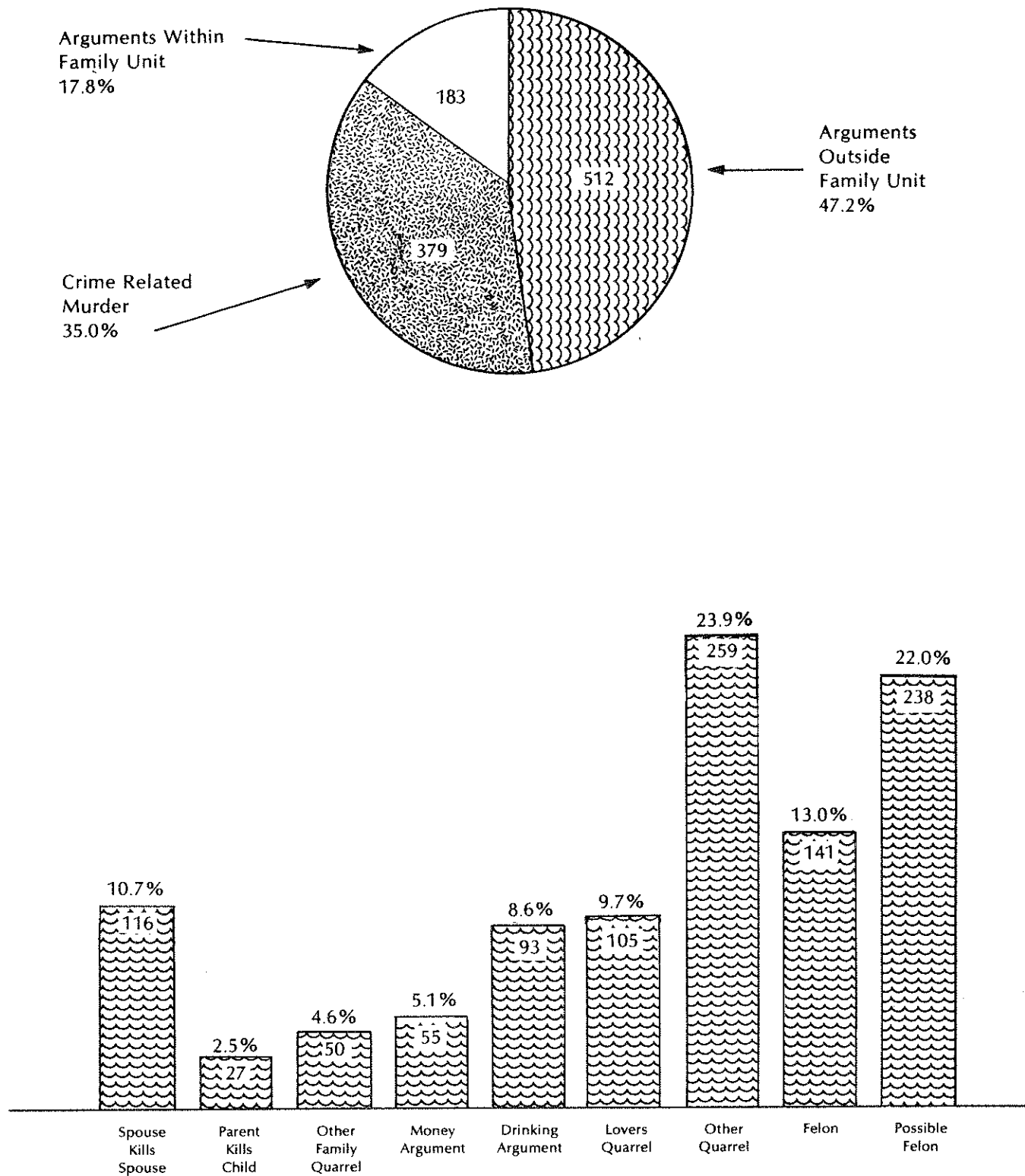
PERCENT BY DAY OF THE WEEK, 1975-1979

Day of the Week	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Sunday	18.7%	16.4%	16.3%	15.4%	17.1%
Monday	13.2	11.2	11.1	12.3	14.5
Tuesday	10.7	12.7	11.9	11.4	12.8
Wednesday	11.0	10.0	11.0	13.0	12.1
Thursday	11.7	12.5	12.4	11.7	12.0
Friday	15.2	16.6	16.6	14.5	13.0
Saturday	19.6	20.5	20.8	21.7	18.5
Unknown	0.0	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

**1979 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—1979**

AGE	Number	*Percent Distribution	Sex		Race		
			Male	Female	White	Negro	Others
Under 1	7	0.6%	3	4	4	3	0
1-5	16	1.5	11	5	7	9	0
6-10	9	0.8	6	3	5	4	0
11-14	2	0.2	1	1	0	2	0
15-19	87	8.0	51	36	52	35	0
20-24	170	15.7	120	50	93	77	0
25-29	176	16.2	132	44	97	78	1
30-34	150	13.8	116	34	74	76	0
35-39	111	10.2	85	26	65	46	0
40-44	92	8.5	69	23	42	50	0
45-49	56	5.2	46	10	39	17	0
50-54	55	5.1	45	10	35	20	0
55-59	41	3.8	33	8	32	9	0
60-64	29	2.7	22	7	18	11	0
65-69	21	1.9	14	7	16	5	0
70-74	21	1.9	14	7	13	8	0
75 & Over	30	2.8	19	11	24	6	0
Unknown	11	1.0	8	3	7	4	0
<b>TOTAL For Florida</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PERCENT*</b>			<b>73.3%</b>	<b>26.7%</b>	<b>57.5%</b>	<b>42.4%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>

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

FDLE TABLE 3