

# 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.

## 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 black and 0.1 percent were of other races.

Of all murder victims, 54.2 percent were white, 45.3 percent were black 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 black and 0.4 percent were of other races.

Of all murder victims, 57.5 percent were white, 42.4 percent were black 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.

## 1980 — SUMMARY ANALYSIS

A total of 1,387 murders was reported by law enforcement agencies in Florida for the year 1980.

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 14.5 per 100,000 population.

There were 898 murders cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared, amounting to a 64.7 percent clearance rate statewide.

The age group 25-29 accounted for 18.7 percent of persons arrested for murder. Males accounted for 87.6 percent of all persons arrested for murder.

Of all persons arrested for murder, 50.1 percent were white, 49.2 percent were black and 0.7 percent were of other races.

Of all murder victims, 57.9 percent were white, 41.3 percent were black and 0.8 percent of other races were murdered. Of all murder victims, males represented 76.4 percent.

Firearms were employed in 60.5 percent of all reported murders. The use of a knife or other cutting device was involved in 18.4 percent of the murders.

The murder of one family member by another accounted for 190 or 13.7 percent of all murders. Of these, 114 murders or 60.0 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 20.6 percent of all murders reported during the year 1980. Lovers quarrels recorded the highest involvement, accounting for 9.2 percent of the total murders.

# MURDER

PERCENT BY TYPE OF WEAPON USED, 1976-1980

Type of Weapon Used	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Handgun	51.7%	48.4%	46.0%	48.5%	50.6%
Rifle	4.9	4.3	4.8	3.3	4.2
Shotgun	7.2	6.4	6.2	8.1	5.7
Knife	15.2	17.6	17.6	17.2	18.4
Personal	6.3	6.9	7.0	7.5	5.6
Other	14.7	16.3	18.3	15.4	15.5
TOTAL*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

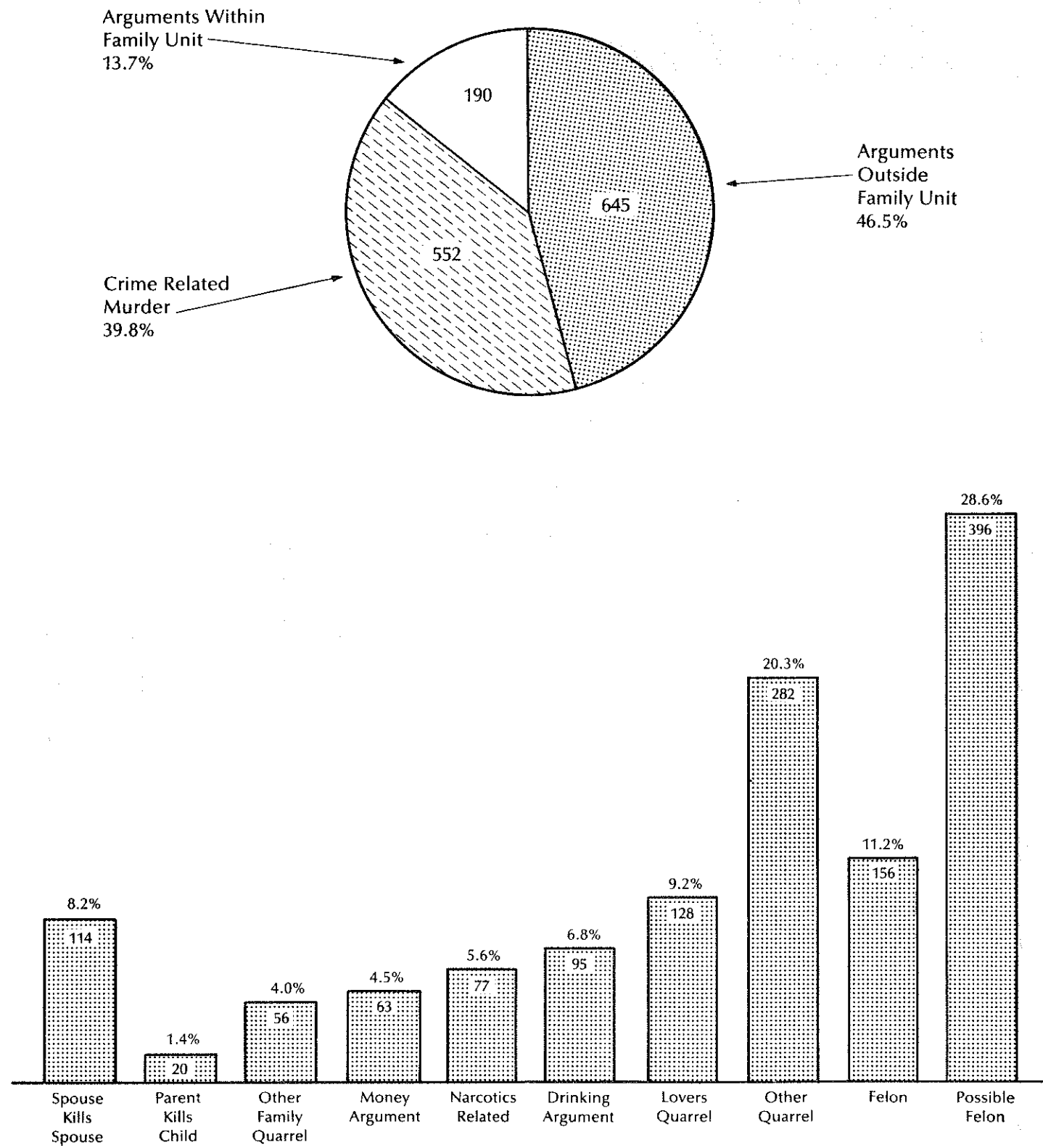
PERCENT BY DAY OF THE WEEK, 1976-1980

Day of the Week	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sunday	16.4%	16.3%	15.4%	17.1%	16.7%
Monday	11.2	11.1	12.3	14.5	13.8
Tuesday	12.7	11.9	11.4	12.8	13.0
Wednesday	10.0	11.0	13.0	12.1	11.9
Thursday	12.5	12.4	11.7	12.0	11.8
Friday	16.6	16.6	14.5	13.0	14.2
Saturday	20.5	20.8	21.7	18.5	18.7
TOTAL*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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

FDLE TABLE 3

**1980 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 — 1980**

AGE	Number	*Percent Distribution	Sex		Race		
			Male	Female	White	Black	Others
Under 1	8	0.6%	5	3	1	7	0
1-5	18	1.3	11	7	11	7	0
6-10	6	0.4	3	3	5	1	0
11-14	10	0.7	5	5	3	6	1
15-19	94	6.8	72	22	49	45	0
20-24	226	16.3	158	68	127	98	1
25-29	200	14.4	158	42	102	97	1
30-34	170	12.3	131	39	88	81	1
35-39	150	10.8	125	25	90	59	1
40-44	101	7.3	79	22	64	37	0
45-49	98	7.1	77	21	62	36	0
50-54	87	6.3	75	12	50	37	0
55-59	61	4.4	55	6	40	21	0
60-64	34	2.5	23	11	25	9	0
65-69	32	2.3	25	7	21	10	1
70-74	20	1.4	15	5	11	9	0
75 & Over	31	2.2	16	15	27	4	0
Unknown	41	3.0	27	14	27	9	5
<b>TOTAL For Florida</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,060</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>PERCENT*</b>			<b>76.4</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>

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

**FDLE TABLE 4**