

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.

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 19.3 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 19.0 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.

1981 — SUMMARY ANALYSIS

A total of 1,523 murders was reported by law enforcement agencies in Florida for the year 1981.

Murders accounted for 1.6 percent of all violent crimes and 0.2 percent of all index offenses reported.

The murder rate for the reporting period was 15.1 per 100,000 population.

There were 932 murders cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared, amounting to a 61.2 percent clearance rate statewide.

The age group 25-29 accounted for 20.3 percent of persons arrested for murder. Males accounted for 86.8 percent of all persons arrested for murder.

Of all persons arrested for murder, 55.6 percent were white, 44.2 percent were black and 0.3 percent were of other races.

Of all murder victims, 60.1 were white, 38.8 percent were black and 1.1 percent of other races were murdered. Of all murder victims, males represented 77.0 percent.

Firearms were employed in 58.4 percent of all reported murders. The use of a knife or other cutting device was involved in 14.6 percent of the murders.

The murder of one family member by another accounted for 18.3 or 12.0 percent of all murders. Of these, 110 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 16.2 percent of all murders reported during the year 1981. Lovers quarrels recorded the highest involvement, accounting for 8.1 percent of the total murders.

MURDER

PERCENT BY TYPE OF WEAPON USED, 1977-1981

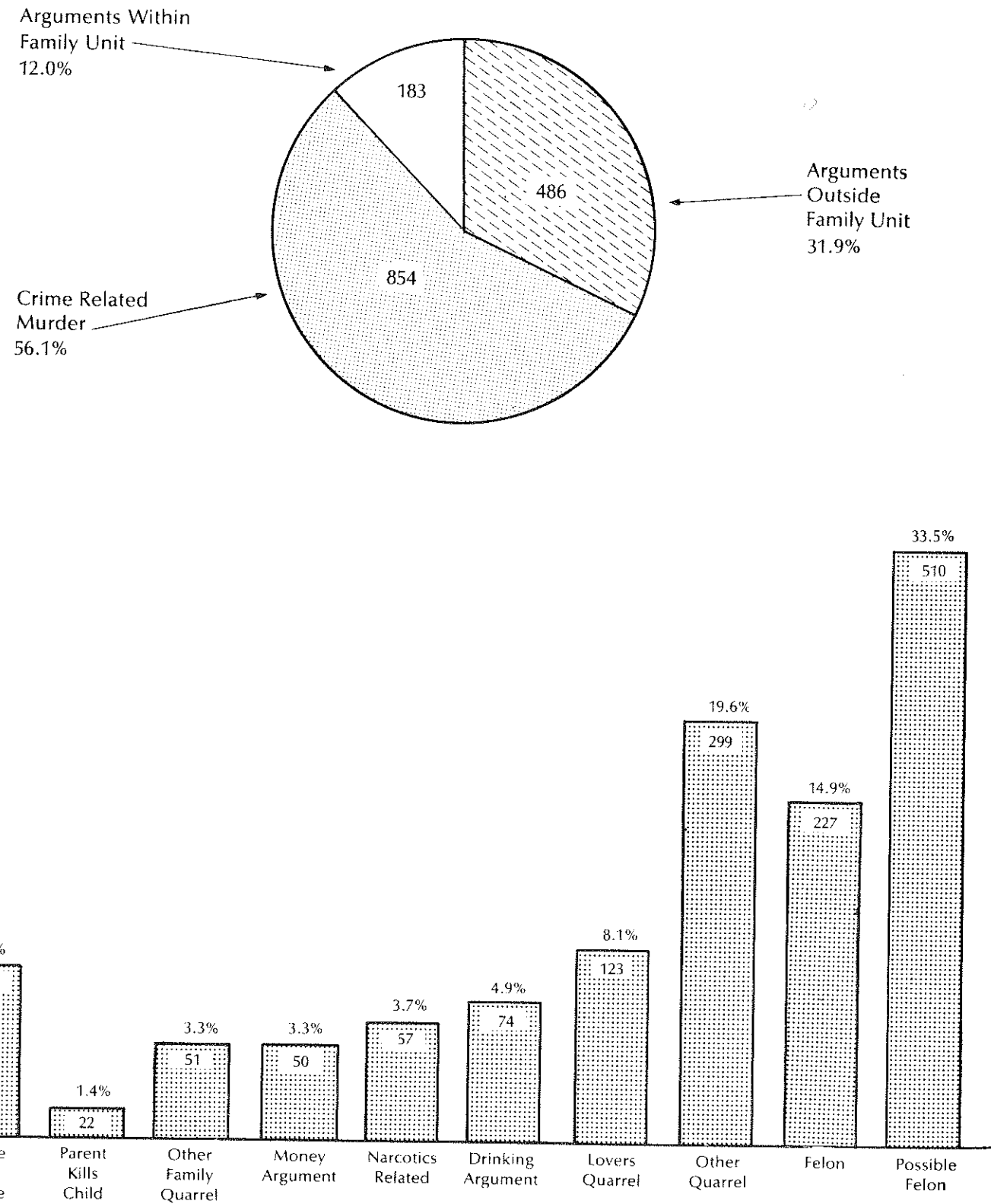
Type of Weapon Used	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Handgun	48.4%	46.0%	48.5%	50.6%	50.4%
Rifle	4.3	4.8	3.3	4.2	3.3
Shotgun	6.4	6.2	8.1	5.7	4.7
Knife	17.6	17.6	17.2	18.4	14.6
Personal	6.9	7.0	7.5	5.6	4.1
Other	16.3	18.3	15.4	15.5	22.8
TOTAL*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

PERCENT BY DAY OF THE WEEK, 1977-1981

Day of the Week	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Sunday	16.3%	15.4%	17.1%	16.7%	14.3%
Monday	11.1	12.3	14.5	13.8	12.0
Tuesday	11.9	11.4	12.8	13.0	11.8
Wednesday	11.0	13.0	12.1	11.9	13.8
Thursday	12.4	11.7	12.0	11.8	11.8
Friday	16.6	14.5	13.0	14.2	15.1
Saturday	20.8	21.7	18.5	18.7	21.3
TOTAL*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Percent distributions may not total 100.0 due to rounding.

**1981 FLORIDA MURDER ANALYSIS
DISTRIBUTION OF MURDER VICTIMS BY CIRCUMSTANCE***



*Percent distribution may not total due to rounding.

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MURDER VICTIMS BY AGE, SEX, AND RACE — 1981

AGE	Number	*Percent Distribution	Sex		Race		
			Male	Female	White	Black	Others
Under 1	7	0.5%	5	2	2	5	0
1-5	21	1.4	11	10	9	12	0
6-10	6	0.4	4	2	3	3	0
11-14	12	0.8	2	10	9	3	0
15-19	90	5.9	63	27	46	43	1
20-24	221	14.5	162	59	120	100	1
25-29	255	16.7	205	50	128	125	2
30-34	193	12.7	160	33	113	80	0
35-39	149	9.8	124	25	92	57	0
40-44	130	8.5	105	25	93	37	0
45-49	107	7.0	84	23	67	40	0
50-54	87	5.7	75	12	61	26	0
55-59	60	3.9	47	13	42	18	0
60-64	34	2.2	27	7	23	11	0
65-69	28	1.8	23	5	23	5	0
70-74	24	1.6	15	9	14	10	0
75 & Over	32	2.1	15	17	28	4	0
Unknown	67	4.4	45	22	42	12	13
TOTAL For Florida	1,523	100.0%	1,172	351	915	591	17
PERCENT*			77.0	23.0	60.1	38.8	1.1

*Percent distribution may not total 100.0 due to rounding.

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