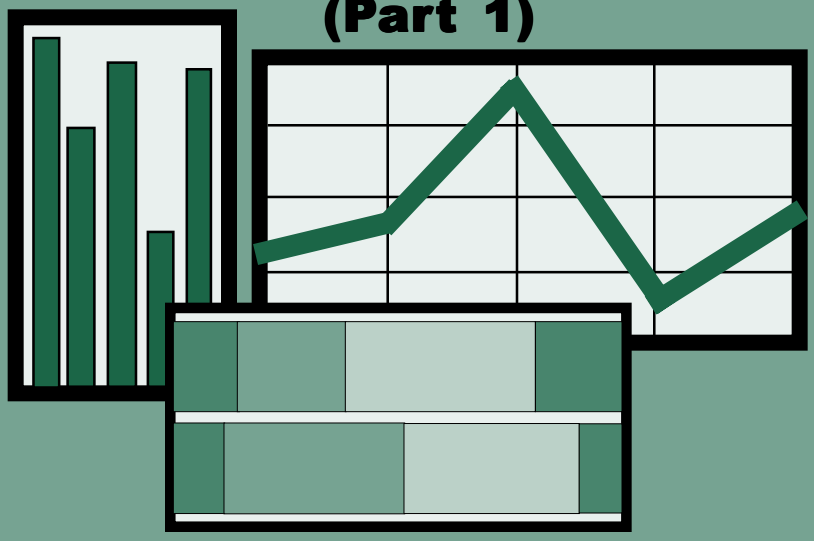
HOMICIDE CRIMES (Part 1)



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HOMICIDE CRIMES

Homicide is defined by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program as the "willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another." The homicide category comprises murder and nonnegligent manslaughter. Attempted murder, justifiable homicide, manslaughter by negligence, and suicide are excluded. Data depicting homicide in California have been collected and published for over 45 years.

From 1999 to 2000:

- The homicide rate per 100,000 population increased 1.7 percent (5.9 to 6.0).
- The number of homicides increased 3.4 percent (from 2,006 to 2,074).

Comparing 1991 to 2000:

- The homicide rate per 100,000 population decreased 52.4 percent (12.6 to 6.0).
- The number of homicides decreased 46.5 percent (from 3,876 to 2,074).

Comparing 1952 to 2000:

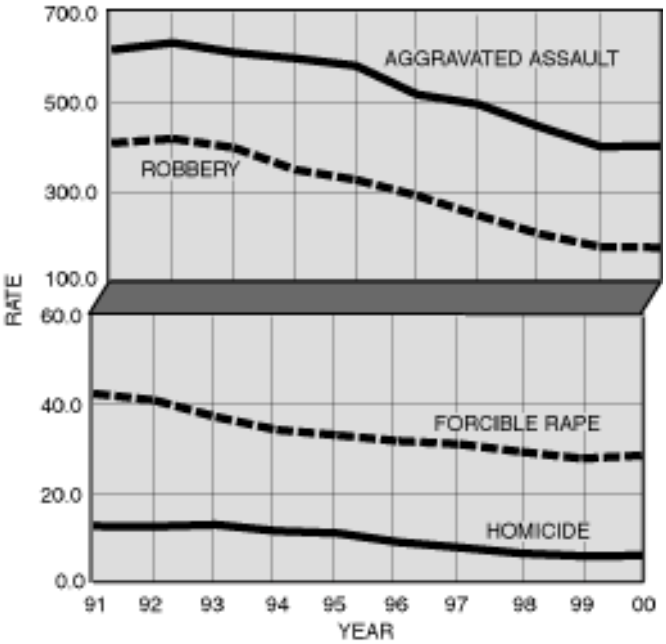
- The homicide rate per 100,000 population increased 150.0 percent (2.4 to 6.0).
- The number of homicides increased 643.4 percent (from 279 to 2,074).

❒ **The 2000 homicide rate increase follows a six-year decline.**

Table N-1
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1952-2000
Number and Rate per 100,000 Population

Year(s)	Number	Rate
2000	2,074	6.0
1999	2,006	5.9
1998	2,170	6.5
1997	2,579	7.8
1996	2,910	9.0
1995	3,530	11.0
1994	3,699	11.5
1993	4,095	12.9
1992	3,920	12.5
1991	3,876	12.6
1990	3,562	12.1
1989	3,159	11.0
1988	2,947	10.5
1987	2,929	10.7
1986	3,030	11.3
1985	2,781	10.7
1984	2,724	10.6
1983	2,640	10.5
1982	2,778	11.3
1981	3,140	13.1
1980	3,405	14.4
1979	2,941	12.6
1978	2,601	11.4
1977	2,481	11.1
1976	2,214	10.1
1975	2,196	10.2
1974	1,970	9.3
1973	1,862	8.9
1972	1,789	8.7
1971	1,633	8.0
1970	1,355	6.8
1969	1,376	6.9
1968	1,171	6.0
1967	1,051	5.4
1966	897	4.7
1965	892	4.8
1964	758	4.2
1963	656	3.7
1962	671	3.9
1961	609	3.7
1960	620	3.9
1959	515	3.4
1958	547	3.7
1957	497	3.5
1956	474	3.5
1955	417	3.2
1954	419	3.3
1953	276	2.3
1952	279	2.4

Chart 1
VIOLENT CRIMES, 1991-2000
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 1.

There are four offenses classified as violent crimes by the FBI: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. For comparison, changes in the rates of the four offenses follow:

From 1999 to 2000:

- Homicide increased 1.7 percent (5.9 to 6.0).
- Forcible rape increased 2.5 percent (27.7 to 28.4).
- Robbery decreased 1.0 percent (176.4 to 174.7).
- Aggravated assault increased 0.2 percent (400.7 to 401.4).

Comparing 1991 to 2000:

- Homicide decreased 52.4 percent (12.6 to 6.0).
- Forcible rape decreased 32.7percent (42.2 to 28.4).
- Robbery decreased 57.2 percent (408.2 to 174.7).
- Aggravated assault decreased 34.9 percent (616.7 to 401.4).

❒ **Of the four offenses classified as violent crimes by the FBI, homicide maintained the lowest rate per 100,000 population for the years shown.**

Charts 2, 3, and 4 display homicide rates per 100,000 population for victims classified by gender, race/ethnic group, and age.

In 2000,

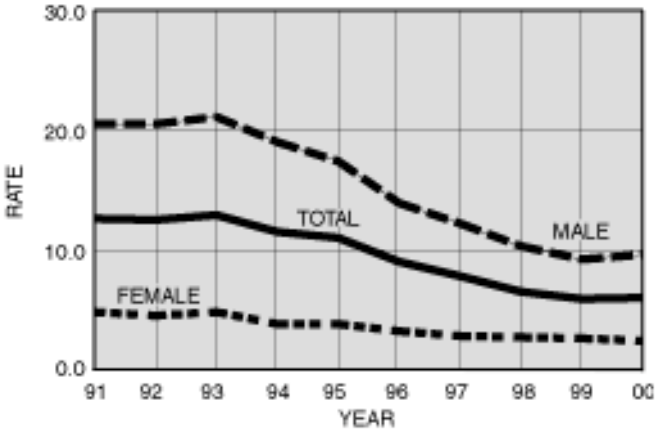
- The total homicide rate was 6.0 per 100,000 population.
- The male homicide rate was four times that of the female homicide rate (9.6 vs. 2.4).
- The black homicide rate was 10½ times that of whites and almost 3 times that of Hispanics (25.2 vs. 2.4 and 8.7, respectively).

Comparing 1991 to 2000:

- The male homicide rate decreased 53.2 percent. The female homicide rate decreased 50.0 percent.
- The white homicide rate decreased 57.1 percent, the Hispanic homicide rate decreased 54.0 percent, and the black homicide rate decreased 50.7 percent.

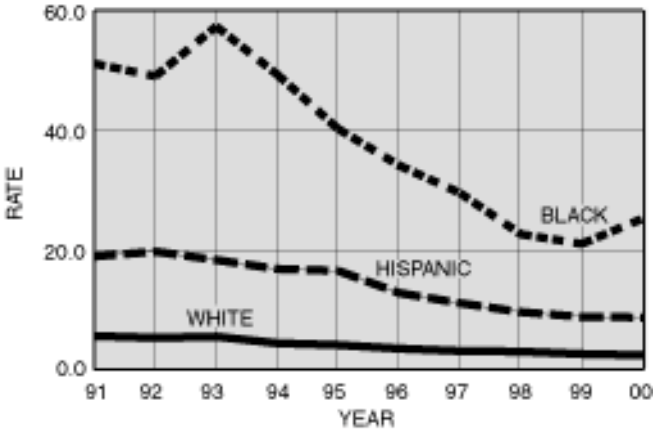
❒ **Comparing 1991 to 2000, homicide rates decreased for all gender and race/ethnic groups shown. From 1999 to 2000, however, the male homicide rate increased 4.3 percent and the black homicide rate increased 20.0 percent.**

Chart 2
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1991-2000
By Gender of Victim
Rate per 100,000 Population



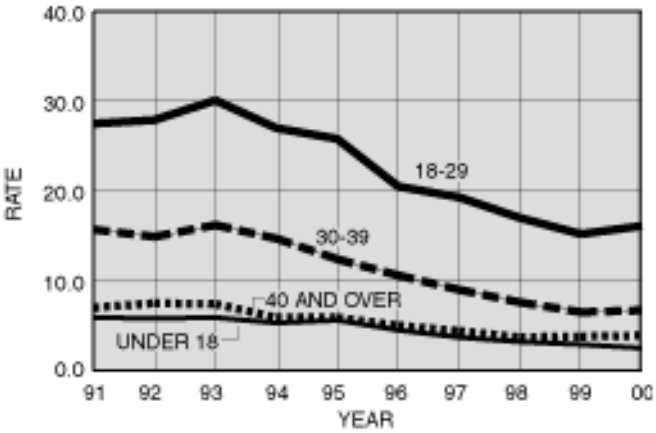
Source: Table 2.

Chart 3
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1991-2000
By Race/Ethnic Group of Victim
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 3.

Chart 4
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1991-2000
By Age of Victim
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 4.

In 2000,

- Persons aged 18-29 had the highest homicide victimization rate (16.1 per 100,000 population).

Comparing 1991 to 2000:

- The homicide rate decreased 57.6 percent for victims under age 18, 41.5 percent for victims aged 18-29, 57.3 percent for victims aged 30-39, and 44.3 percent for victims aged 40 and over.

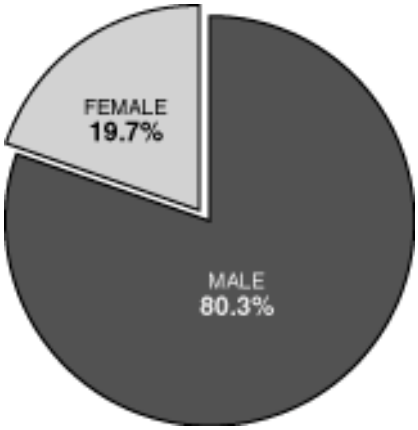
❒ **Comparing 1991 to 2000, homicide rates decreased for all age categories shown. From 1999 to 2000, the homicide rate for juvenile victims (under age 18) decreased while the rates for the adult age groups (aged 18 and over) increased.**

In 2000,

- Males represented 80.3 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 50.2 percent of the population.
- Females represented 19.7 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 49.8 percent of the population.

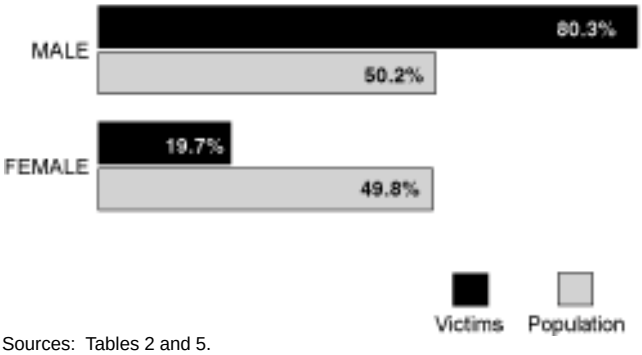
❒ **As homicide victims, males are statistically over-represented when compared to females.**

Chart 5
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2000
By Gender of Victim



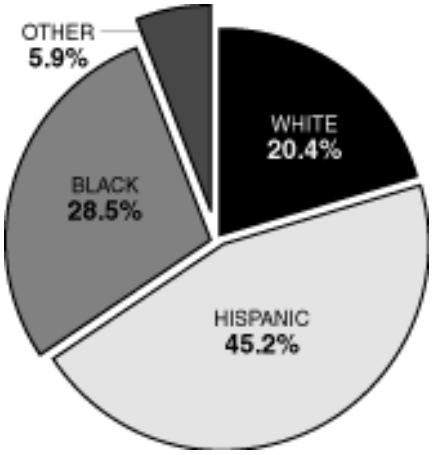
Source: Table 5.

Chart 6
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2000
Gender of Victim by Percent of Total Victims and Percent of Population



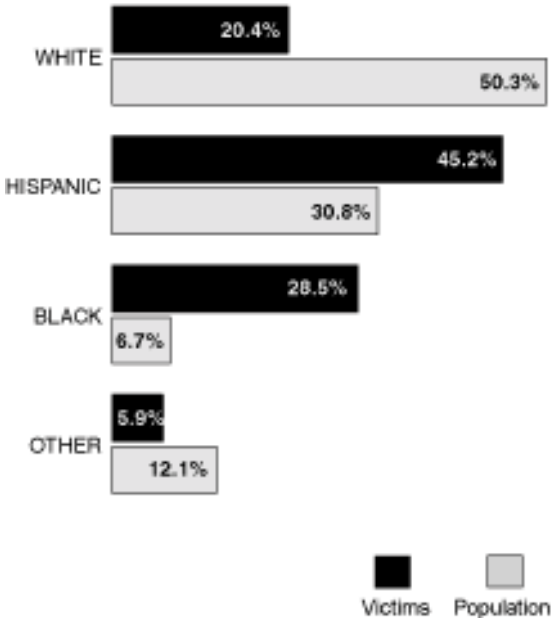
Sources: Tables 2 and 5.

Chart 7
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2000
By Race/Ethnic Group of Victim



Source: Table 6.

Chart 8
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2000
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Percent of Total Victims and Percent of Population



Sources: Tables 3 and 6.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

In 2000,

- Whites represented 20.4 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 50.3 percent of the population.
- Hispanics represented 45.2 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 30.8 percent of the population.
- Blacks represented 28.5 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 6.7 percent of the population.
- The "other" race/ethnic group category represented 5.9 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 12.1 percent of the population.

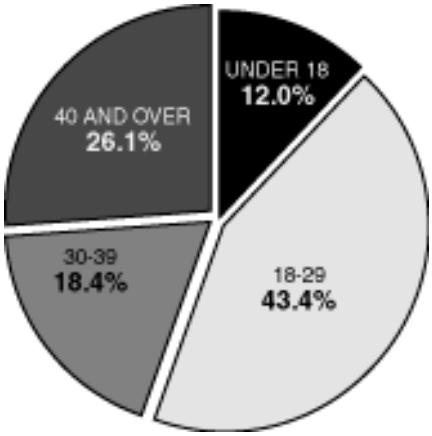
❒ **In 2000, whites displayed the largest difference between their percentage of homicide victimization and their percentage of the population.**

In 2000,

- Victims under age 18 represented 12.0 percent of total homicides; this age group comprised 28.2 percent of the population.
- Victims aged 18-29 represented 43.4 percent of total homicides; this age group comprised 15.9 percent of the population.
- Victims aged 30-39 represented 18.4 percent of total homicides; this age group comprised 16.2 percent of the population.
- Victims aged 40 and over represented 26.1 percent of total homicides; this age group comprised 39.7 percent of the population.

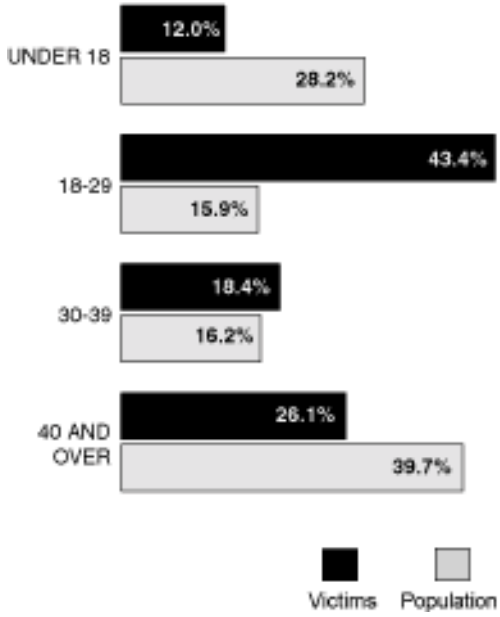
❒ **In 2000, persons aged 30-39 displayed little difference between their percentage of homicide victimization and their percentage of the population.**

Chart 9
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2000
By Age of Victim



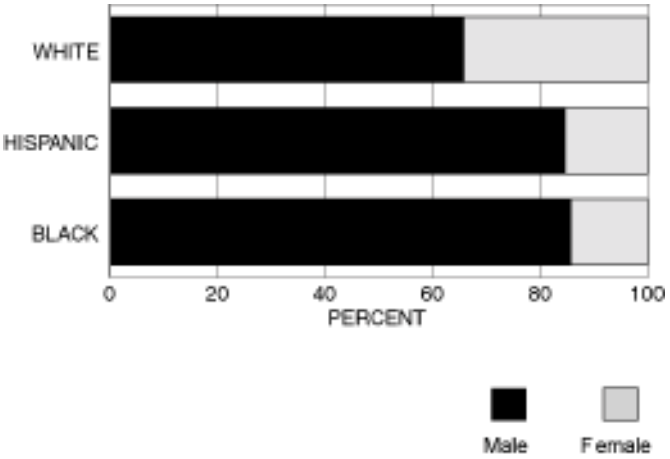
Source: Table 7.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Chart 10
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2000
Age of Victim by Percent of Total Victims and Percent of Population



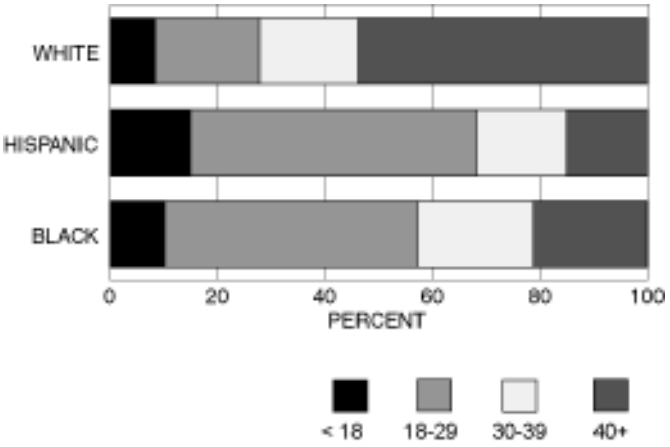
Sources: Tables 4 and 7.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Chart 11
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2000
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Gender of Victim



Source: Table 8.

Chart 12
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2000
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Age of Victim



Source: Table 9.

In 2000,

- Proportionately, more white victims were female than were either Hispanic or black victims (34.2 vs. 15.4 and 14.3 percent, respectively).
- More Hispanic and black victims were aged 18-29 than were white victims (53.2 and 47.0 vs. 19.4 percent, respectively).
- More white victims were aged 40 and over than were either Hispanic or black victims (53.8 vs. 15.0 and 21.1 percent, respectively).

❒ **In 2000, the percentage of white homicide victims who were female was twice the percentage of Hispanic and black victims who were female. Additionally, white victims tended to be older, Hispanic and black victims younger.**

When homicides were examined by the relationship of the victim to the offender, it was found that:

In 2000,

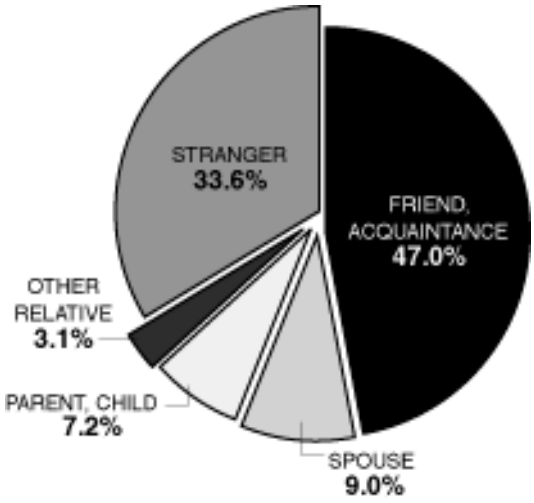
- 47.0 percent of victims were friends or acquaintances of offenders.
- 9.0 percent of victims were spouses of offenders.
- 7.2 percent of victims were parents or children of offenders.
- 3.1 percent of the relationships of victim to offender fell into the "other relative" category.
- 33.6 percent of victims were strangers to offenders.

Comparing 1991 to 2000:

- The proportion of homicides in which victims were friends or acquaintances of offenders decreased slightly (from 50.2 percent in 1991 to 47.0 percent in 2000).
- The proportion of homicides in which victims were strangers to offenders also decreased slightly (from 35.1 percent in 1991 to 33.6 percent in 2000).

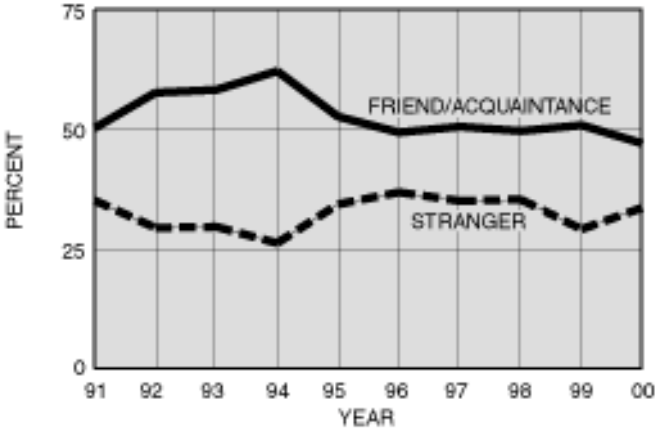
❒ **Throughout the period shown, homicide victims were most likely to be killed by friends or acquaintances.**

Chart 13
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2000
By Relationship of Victim to Offender



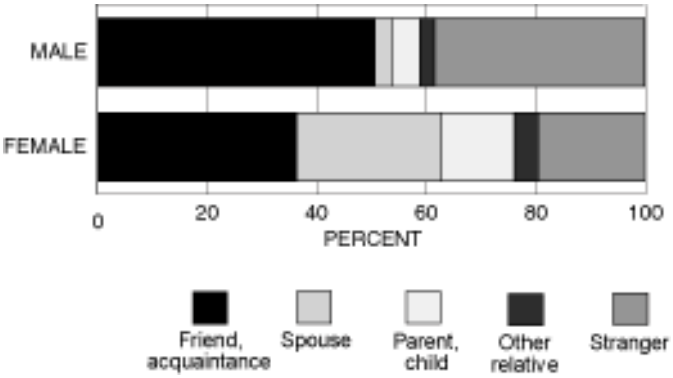
Source: Table 11.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Chart 14
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1991-2000
By Selected Relationships of Victims to Offenders



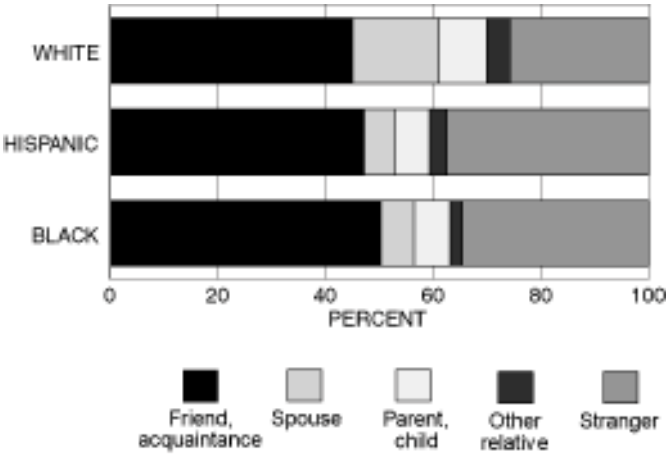
Source: Table 11.

Chart 15
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2000
Gender of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender



Source: Table 12.

Chart 16
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2000
Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender



Source: Table 12.

In 2000,

- More female victims were spouses of offenders (26.4 percent) than were male victims (3.1 percent).
- Proportionately, more black victims were friends or acquaintances of offenders than were either white or Hispanic victims (50.2 vs. 45.0 and 47.1 percent, respectively).

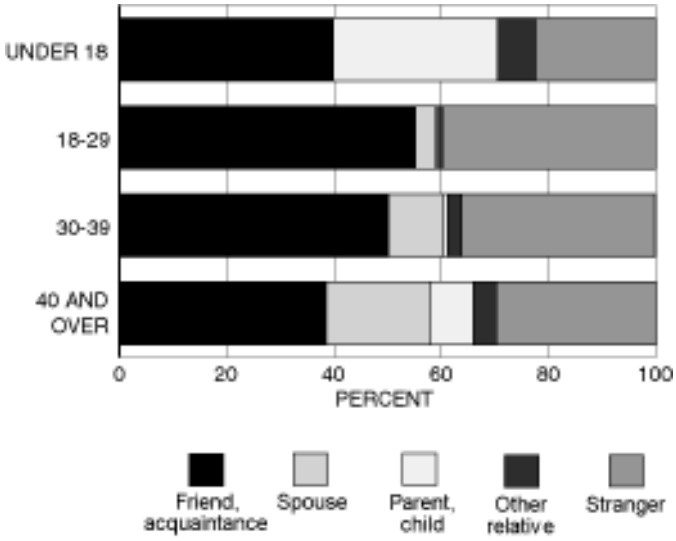
❒ **In 2000, the percentage of females killed by their spouses was 8½ times larger than the percentage of males killed by their spouses.**

In 2000,

- Victims under age 18 were least likely to be strangers to offenders (22.4 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.
- More victims aged 18-29 were friends or acquaintances of offenders (55.2 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.
- More victims aged 40 and over were spouses of offenders (19.4 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.

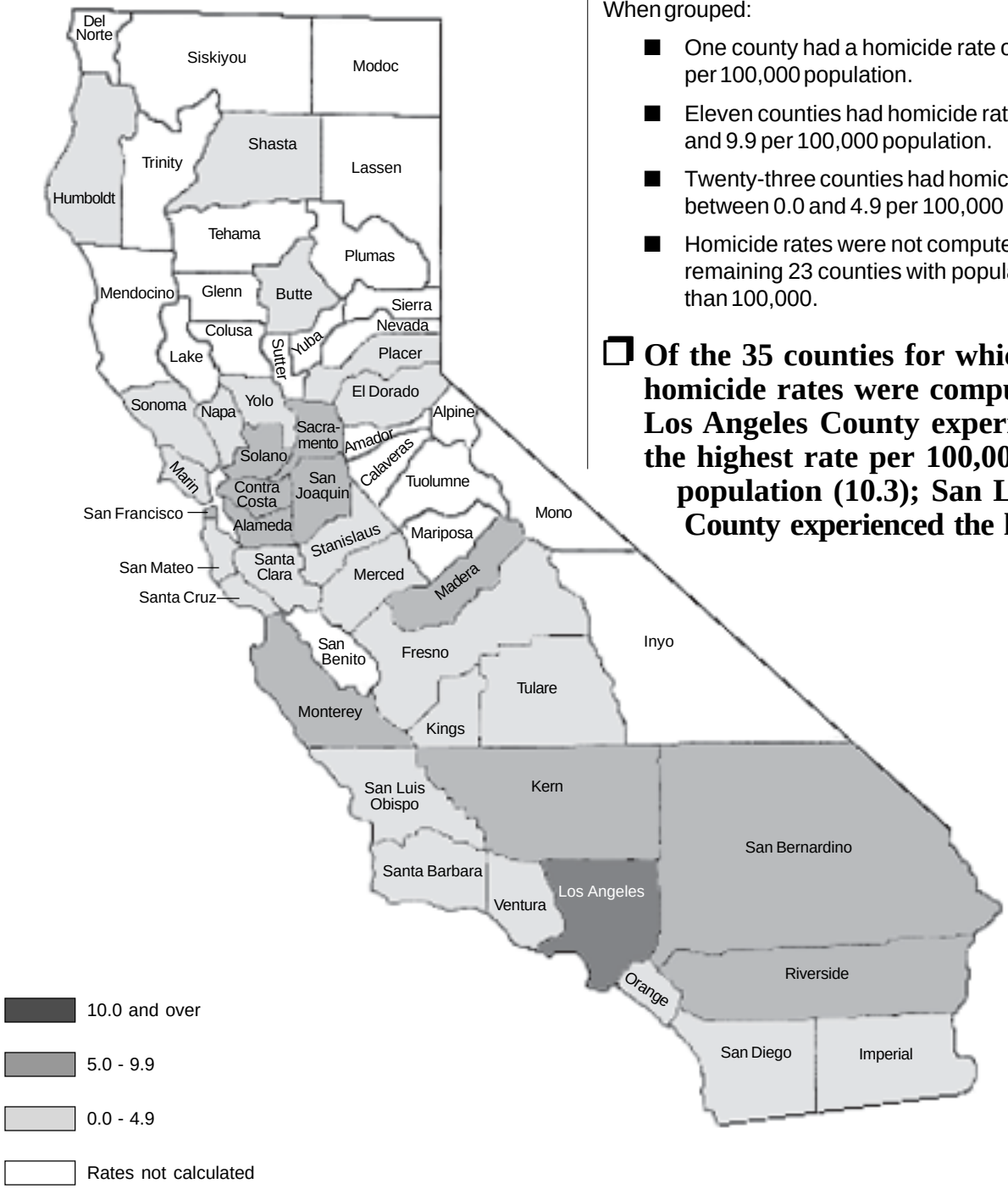
❒ **Regardless of age group, the largest proportion of homicide victims were killed by friends or acquaintances.**

Chart 17
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2000
Age of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender



Source: Table 13.

Chart 18
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 2000
County by Rate per 100,000 Population



10.0 and over

5.0 - 9.9

0.0 - 4.9

Rates not calculated

Source: Table 14.

In 2000, seven of California's 58 counties exceeded the statewide homicide rate of 6.0 per 100,000 population. When grouped:

- One county had a homicide rate of 10.0 and over per 100,000 population.
- Eleven counties had homicide rates between 5.0 and 9.9 per 100,000 population.
- Twenty-three counties had homicide rates between 0.0 and 4.9 per 100,000 population.
- Homicide rates were not computed for the remaining 23 counties with populations of less than 100,000.

❒ **Of the 35 counties for which 2000 homicide rates were computed, Los Angeles County experienced the highest rate per 100,000 population (10.3); San Luis Obispo County experienced the lowest (1.2).**

Continue on to CRIMES (Part 2) ☛