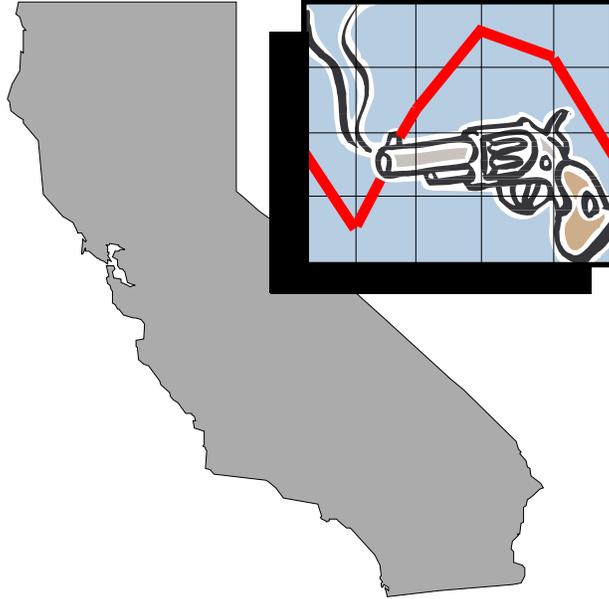


# JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES



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# justifiable homicides

## JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES

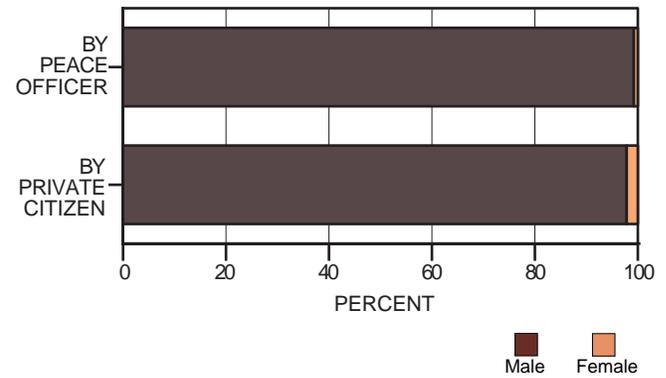
A justifiable homicide is defined by the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program as the killing of a felon by a private citizen or by a peace officer during the commission of a felony. Justifiable homicides are sometimes referred to as excusable or noncriminal homicides.

When justifiable homicides were examined, it was found that:

In 1997,

- 99.2 percent of felons killed by peace officers were male; less than one percent (.8) were female.
- 97.8 percent of felons killed by private citizens were male; 2.2 percent were female.

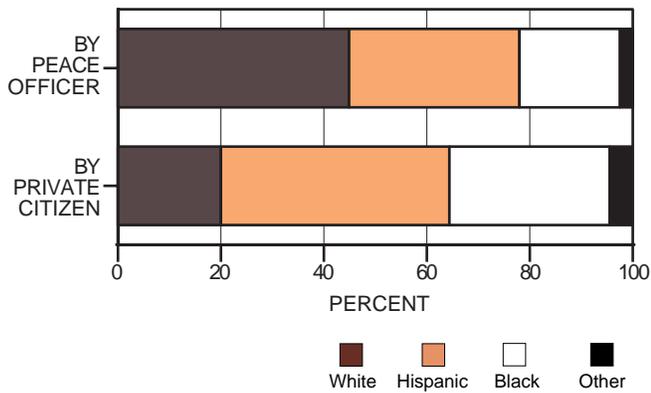
Chart 52  
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS  
OR PRIVATE CITIZENS, 1997  
By Gender of Deceased



Source: [Table 48.](#)

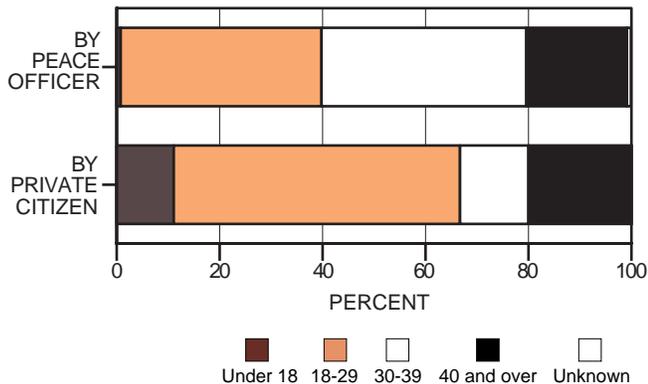


**Chart 53**  
**JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS**  
**OR PRIVATE CITIZENS, 1997**  
 By Race/Ethnic Group of Deceased



Source: [Table 48.](#)

**Chart 54**  
**JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS**  
**OR PRIVATE CITIZENS, 1997**  
 By Age of Deceased



Source: [Table 48.](#)

In 1997,

- 44.9 percent of felons killed by peace officers were white, 33.1 percent were Hispanic, 19.5 percent were black, and 2.5 percent fell into the “other” race/ethnic group category.
- 20.0 percent of felons killed by private citizens were white, 44.4 percent were Hispanic, 31.1 percent were black, and 4.4 percent fell into the “other” race/ethnic group category.<sup>1</sup>
- Less than one percent (.8) of felons killed by peace officers were under age 18, 39.0 percent were aged 18-29, 39.8 percent were aged 30-39, 19.5 percent were aged 40 and over, and less than one percent (.8) fell into the “unknown” age category.<sup>1</sup>
- 11.1 percent of felons killed by private citizens were under age 18, 55.6 percent were aged 18-29, 13.3 percent were aged 30-39, and 20.0 percent were aged 40 and over.

<sup>1</sup> Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of independent rounding.

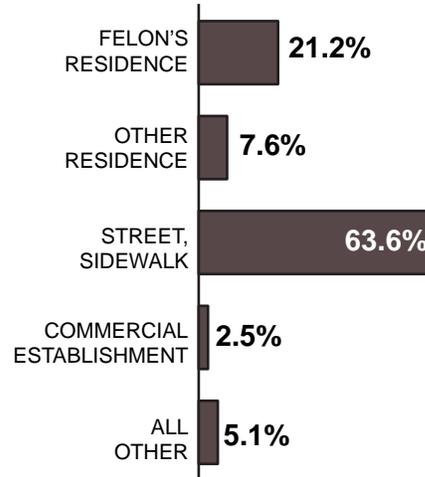
# justifiable homicides

When justifiable homicides were examined by location, it was found that:

In 1997,

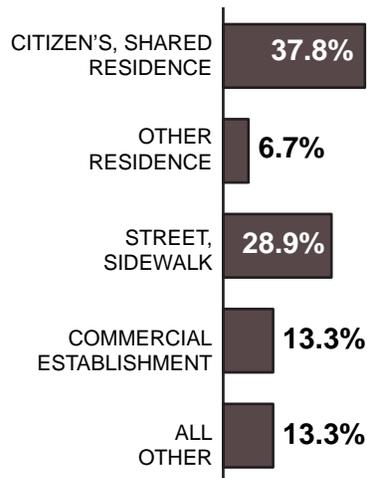
- Most felons were killed by peace officers on a street or sidewalk (63.6 percent).
- The largest proportion of felons killed by private citizens fell into the “citizen’s, shared residence” category (37.8 percent).

Chart 55  
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS,  
1997  
By Location of Justifiable Homicide



Source: [Table 49](#).

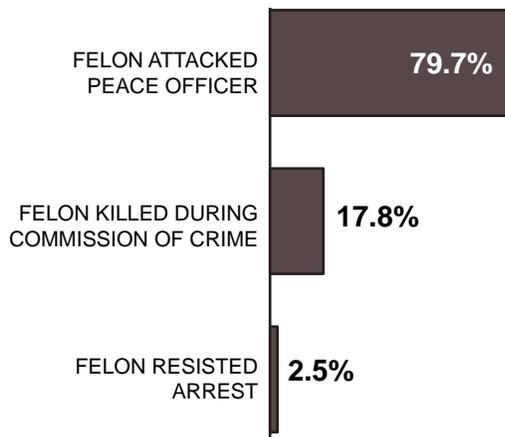
Chart 56  
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PRIVATE CITIZENS,  
1997  
By Location of Justifiable Homicide



Source: [Table 49](#).

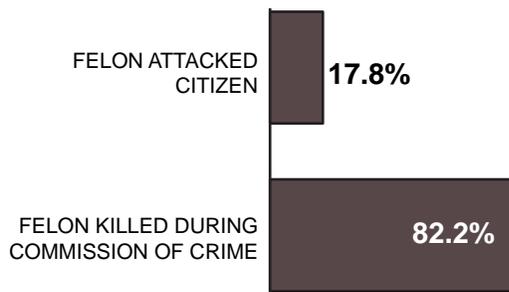


Chart 57  
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS,  
1997  
By Contributing Circumstance



Source: [Table 50](#).

Chart 58  
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PRIVATE CITIZENS,  
1997  
By Contributing Circumstance



Source: [Table 50](#).

When justifiable homicides were examined by contributing circumstance, it was found that:

In 1997,

- Most felons were killed by a peace officer while attacking the officer (79.7 percent).
- Most felons were killed by private citizens during the commission of a crime (82.2 percent).

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