

Violence and Homicide

- Criminal Homicide– the willful, non-negligent killing of one human being by another

*NOT INCLUDED: deaths as the result of negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; attempted murder or assaults with the intent to murder

- What is a justifiable homicide?

The killing of a felon by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty or the killing of a felon during the commission of a felony by a private citizen

- Forcible Rape– used to be: the carnal knowledge of a female, forcibly and against her will

-In 2011, the UCR changed the official definition to: “Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim”

- Reasons for change: NBRIS definition, gender neutrality, state definition

*INCLUDED: assaults or attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force

*NOT INCLUDED: statutory rape (without force), victim under age of consent

- Aggravated Assault – unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury

*INCLUDED: attempts

This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means to produce injury or death

- Robbery – taking, or the attempt to take, anything of value from the care, custody or control of a person or persons by force, threat of violence, by violence or by putting the victim in fear

*NOT INCLUDED: attempts

Patterns In Violence

1. Victim-Offender Relationship:

- Overall, 52% of victims did not know their assailant
- Family, intimate, stranger, acquaintances
- 7 out of 10 robberies were committed by strangers
- 3 out of 10 rapes/ sexual assaults were committed by strangers
- Approximately 13% of murders were committed by strangers

2. Time of Occurrence:

- While overall violent crimes were more likely to occur during the day than at night, some crimes exhibited different patterns
- In 2002, 53% of incidents of violent crime occurred between 6 am and 6 pm
- In 2002 2/3 of rapes/sexual assaults occurred at night between 6 pm to 6 am

3. Place of Occurrence:

- In 2002, about 25 % of violent crime incidents occurred at or near the victims home
- 14% of violent crimes were on streets
- 15% were at school
- 7% were at a commercial establishment

4. Weapon Use:

- 95% of all aggravated assaults involved a weapon
 - * handguns are the most commonly used weapon
- Offenders had or used a weapon in 46% of all robberies, compared with 7% of rapes/ sexual assaults in 2002

Patterns in Homicide

1. Age

- Homicide victimization rate for 14 to 17 years olds increased almost 150% from 1985 to 1993
- 18 to 24 year olds experienced the highest homicide victimization rates

2. Gender

- 65%- male offender and male victim
- 25%- male offender and female victim
- 7%- female offender and male victim
- 2%- female offender and female victim
- Males are 3.2 times more likely than females to be murdered
- Males are 10 times more likely than females to commit murder

3. Race

- Blacks are 6 times more likely than white to be murdered
- Blacks are over 7 times more likely than whites to commit homicide
- Most murders are intraracial
- From 1976 to 2000: 86% of white victims were killed by whites, 94% of black victims were killed by blacks

4. Circumstance

- The number of homicides
 - Where the circumstances were unknown has tripled since 1976
 - Resulting from arguments has declined (but still remains the most frequent circumstance)
 - Involving drugs has increased significantly

5. Clearance

- Why don't the police know info on homicides today?
 - *Stop Snitching* Campaigns
 - Started in Baltimore in 2004
- Lack of attachment and involvement in the community

- Homicides are most often committed with guns, especially handguns
- The southern regions historically have had higher rates than other regions
- The percentage of homicides cleared by arrest has been declining until recently