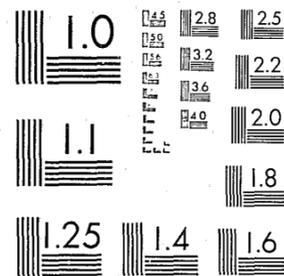


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OFFICE OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH

NEW YORK STATE DIVISION of CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

HOMICIDE IN NEW YORK STATE: 1981

April 28, 1983

91290



Division of Criminal Justice Services

Office of Program Development
and Research

Sherwood E. Zimmerman
Director

HOMICIDE IN NEW YORK STATE: 1981

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U.S. Department of Justice 91290
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

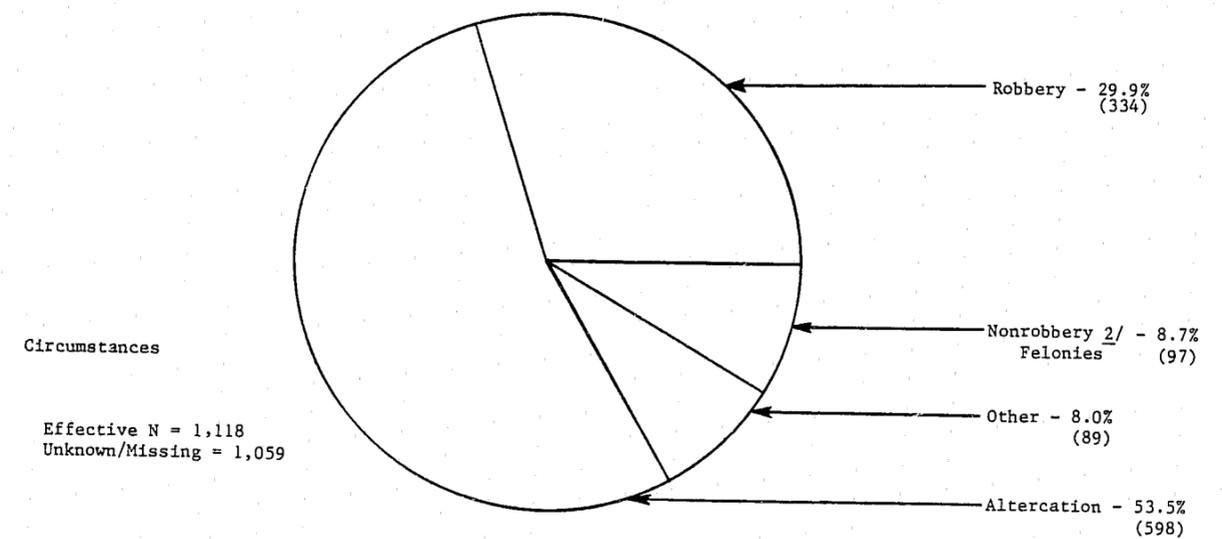
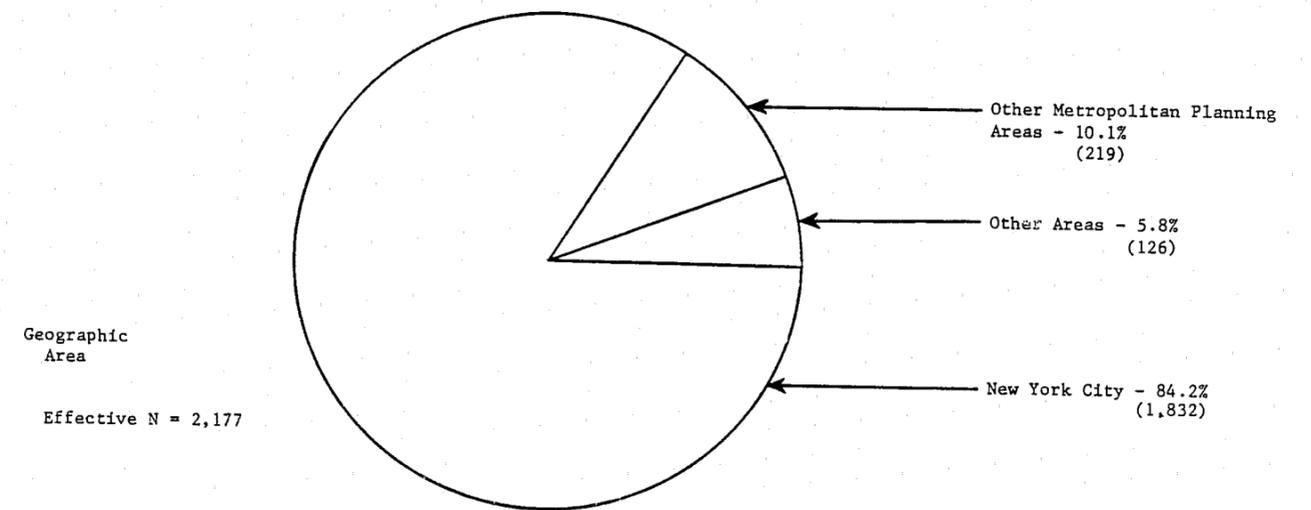
This report examines homicides that became known to police agencies in New York State in 1981 and were reported to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. It is part of a series of homicide reports that have been produced by the Division since 1976. A similar version of this analysis appears in the Division's 1981 Crime and Justice annual report.

Following are highlights from the report:

- * The 2,177 homicides reported in New York State in 1981 were slightly lower than the number reported in 1980.
- * The vast majority (1,832 or 84.2 percent) of these homicides occurred in New York City (Figure 1).
- * Over half (53.5 percent) of homicides in which the circumstances were known resulted from an altercation. An additional 29.9 percent were related to the commission of a robbery (Figure 1).
- * Handguns were used in 54.5 percent of homicides followed by "cutting or stabbing" weapons in an additional 24.5 percent (Figure 2).
- * Victims and offenders were strangers in nearly one-half (49.6 percent) of homicides where the relationship was known (Figure 2).
- * New York City homicides were more likely than homicides elsewhere in the state to be perpetrated by more than one offender, to involve a handgun and to occur in conjunction with a robbery.
- * More than 82 percent of victims were male. About half the victims were Black (49.9 percent).
- * Almost 60 percent (57.5 percent) of victims were between the ages of 20 and 39. Less than 3 percent were under 10; 8.2 percent were 60 and over. The mean victim age was 34.0 years (Figure 3).
- * Victimization of the very young and of females in general suggested a domestic rather than a "street" setting. That is, these groups were more likely than others to be killed indoors, by non-strangers, by single offenders and by weapons other than firearms.
- * Black victims were more likely to be killed as a result of an altercation (60.5 percent) than were White victims (46.9 percent).
- * In homicides where an offender was apprehended, the overwhelming majority were male (92.3 percent). More than 57 percent were Black.
- * Homicide offenders were generally younger than their victims; over one-fifth of offenders were between 16 and 19 years old. Three percent were under age 15. The mean age of homicide offenders was 27.7 years (Figure 3).

- * Younger offenders were more likely than older offenders to commit homicide as a group crime, in connection with the commission of another felony and against victims who were strangers.
- * Homicide offenders victimized members of their own race. Almost 84 percent of White offenders' victims were White and almost 80 percent of Black offenders killed Black victims.

FIGURE 1
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF HOMICIDES^{1/} NEW YORK STATE 1981

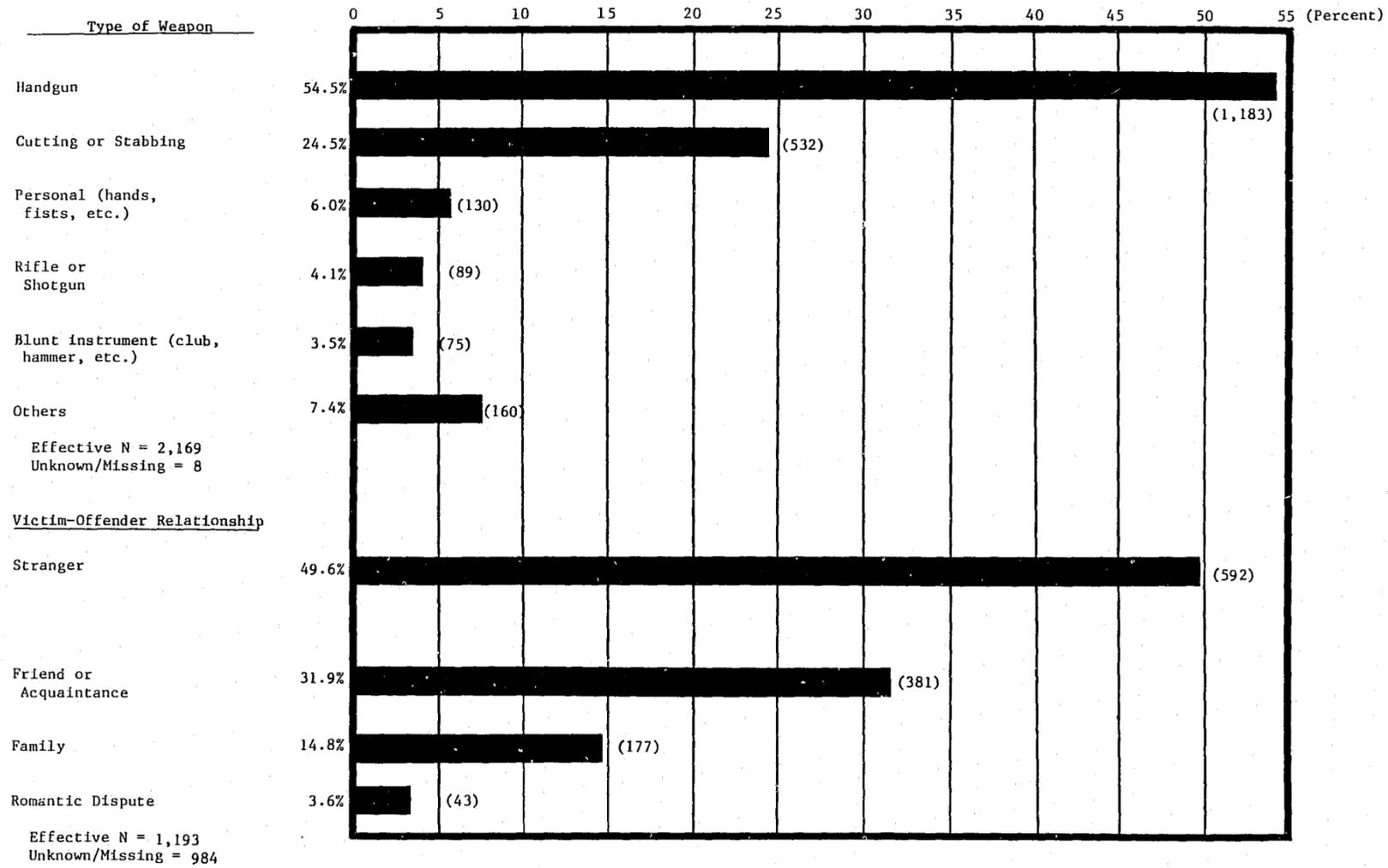


^{1/} For those having this information available.

^{2/} Includes: sex crimes, arson, other felonies and officers killed.

FIGURE 2

TYPE OF WEAPON USED AND VICTIM-OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP IN HOMICIDE OFFENSES,
NEW YORK STATE 1981



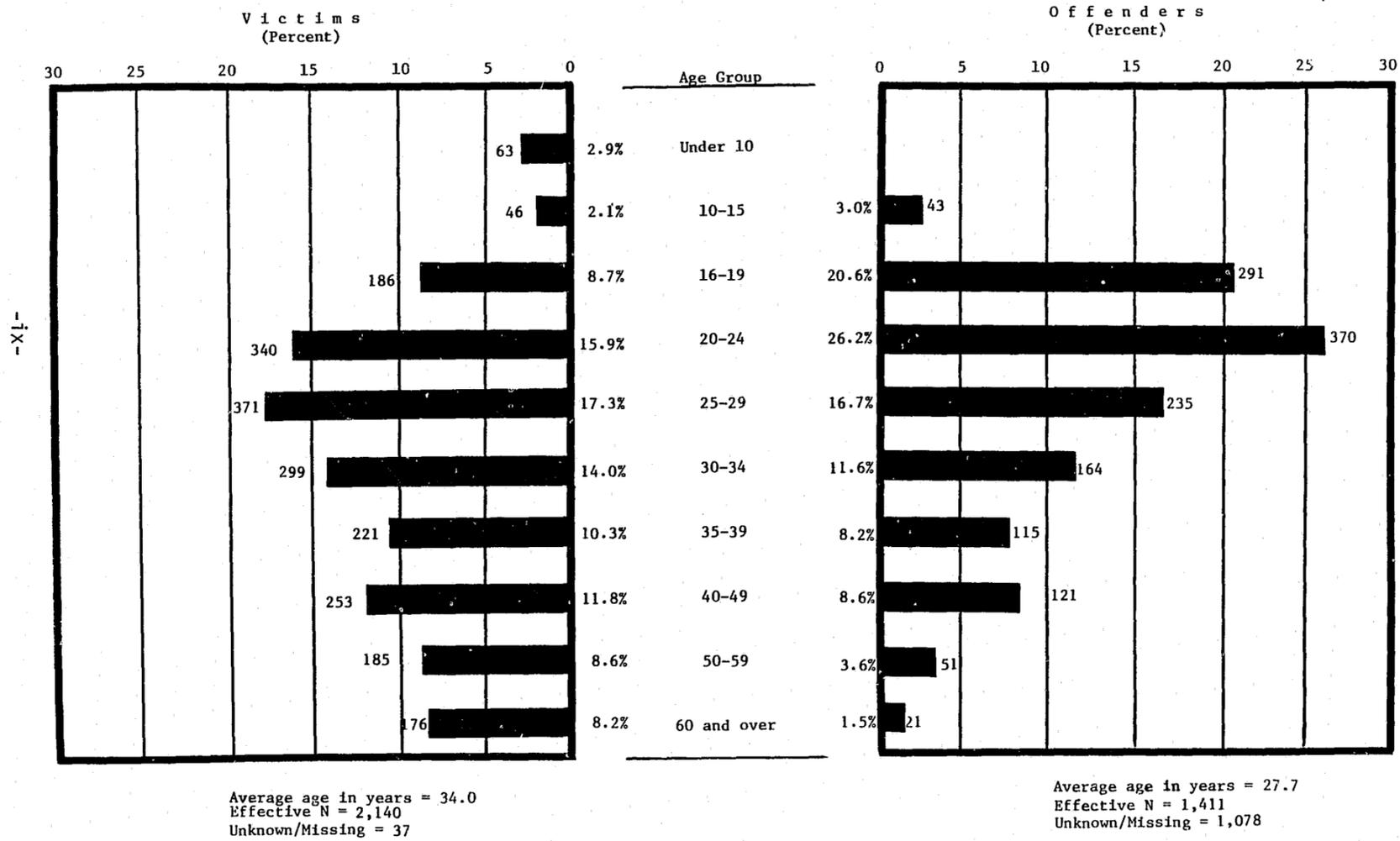
Percentages based on effective N.

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Figure 3

AGE COMPOSITION OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS, NEW YORK STATE 1981



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I
INTRODUCTION

This analysis of 1981 homicide offenses was conducted by the Bureau of Research and Evaluation of the Division of Criminal Justice Services as part of this agency's mandate to collect and disseminate data on crime and criminal justice in New York State. A somewhat abbreviated version of this monograph appears in the agency's Crime and Justice annual report for 1981.

Homicide, as defined for this analysis includes any murder, non-negligent manslaughter, or any justifiable homicide by a citizen or a peace officer. One homicide offense was counted for each victim of a homicide event, regardless of the number of offenders involved.

Data are reported to the Division of Criminal Justice Services as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system by individual police agencies throughout the State. A copy of the "Supplementary Homicide Report" form used to transmit these data is included as an appendix. The homicide incidents which form the basis of the analysis are those which became known to police agencies in 1981. Thus the analysis includes some incidents which may actually have occurred prior to 1981 but were not discovered until that year. The data do not permit an assessment of the number of such cases.

The report is divided into sections describing homicide offenses, victims, and offenders. In section one, homicide offenses are analyzed with regard to trends over time, geographic patterns, the type of weapon involved, relationship of the victim and offender and other dimensions. Geographic groupings used throughout the analysis are: "New York City," an aggregation of the five boroughs comprising the City; "Other Metropolitan Planning Areas" (MPA's), a grouping of the six largest counties outside of New York City;¹ and "Other Areas," consisting of the remaining counties of the State.

The victim analysis examines personal characteristics of homicide victims (age, sex, race, and ethnicity) and provides trend data over the past five years. In addition, these personal characteristics are examined in conjunction with various characteristics of the offense including the number of offenders involved, weapon used, circumstance and location.

Data on offenders are provided for the subset of homicides where an offender was apprehended or otherwise identified by the police.² The analysis for offenders parallels that for victims with examination of personal characteristics, trends and cross tabulations of personal and offense characteristics. A final section compares victims and offenders with regard to race, ethnicity, and age.

¹Erie, Monroe, Nassau, Onondaga, Suffolk and Westchester.

²Offenders were not identified in 873 of the 2,177 homicide events. Despite this, the total number of known offenders is 2,489. This is greater than the total number of homicide events (which is based on the count of victims), because some homicides involved multiple offenders.

II

HOMICIDE OFFENSES

Table 1 presents data on homicide trends by month and region of the State. There were 2,177 homicide offenses reported in New York State during 1981. This is slightly more than the number of homicides in 1979 (2,098) but less than the number reported in 1980 (2,228).

While there was a net decrease of 51 homicides since 1980 for the State as a whole, the decrease was not proportionately distributed among the three regions of the State. The most populous region, New York City, showed a negligible percentage increase in homicides (.7 percent) from 1980 to 1981. The least populous Other Areas showed a decrease of 5.3 percent. However, the MPA region showed a very substantial 20.4 percent decrease in the number of reported homicides. This was a complete reversal of the 18.5 percent increase in the number of homicides for the MPAs between 1979 and 1980.

After adjusting for changes in the population, it can be seen that the homicide rate has increased for the period 1978 to 1980 and declined slightly in 1981 (1978 = 10.3 homicides per 100,000 population; 1979 - 11.9 per 100,000; 1980 = 12.7 per 100,000; 1981 - 12.3 per 100,000). Also, New York State's homicide rate increased relative to the other forty-nine states. In 1978 New York's homicide rate was fourteenth highest in the nation. In 1981 it was the ninth highest.³

The peak month for homicides was December, a finding generally consistent with data from previous years in New York State. Unlike prior years, the number of homicides in New York State did not increase in each quarter during 1981. Despite this, the overall quarterly trends do not appear substantially different from earlier years.

In New York State homicide was essentially a New York City phenomenon. While New York City contains less than 50 percent of the State's population,⁴ it accounted for the bulk (84 percent) of the homicides. Of the remaining homicides, ten percent of the total occurred in the MPAs, and six percent in the Other Areas. These proportions have remained essentially unchanged for the last five years.

Table 2 presents data for the last five years on characteristics of homicides: victim/offender relationship, circumstances, number of victims and offenders, location, and weapon used. In half of the 1,193 homicides for which the victim/offender relationship was known, the victim and offender knew each other. More than half for which the circumstances were known occurred in connection with an altercation. Just over one-half of all homicides occurred indoors. More than one out of every ten homicides (12.4 percent) was a group crime involving multiple offenders. The weapons most frequently used were firearms (58.6 percent), generally handguns, followed by cutting or stabbing instruments (24.5 percent).

³Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports - 1981, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, 1982).

⁴Bureau of the Census, 1980 Census of Population and Housing: New York, Final Population and Housing Unit Counts, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Commerce, 1981).

There are indications that in recent years, homicides in New York State have become increasingly more likely to result from predatory violence. For example, in those cases where the victim/offender relationship was known, the victim was equally likely to be killed by a stranger as by an acquaintance. This represents a steady increase since 1978 in the proportion of victims who were killed by strangers (from 27.9 percent to 49.6 percent).⁵ Also, since 1978 there has been a general increase in the proportion of homicides occurring outdoors (38.1 percent to 49.0 percent),⁶ a location generally suggesting street violence. Finally, during this period there has been a general increase in the percentage of homicides that were robbery related (from 21.6 percent to 29.9 percent, with a peak of 31.9 percent in 1980).

Table 3 shows that in addition to contributing disproportionately to the overall total of homicide cases in the State, New York City's homicides appear to be more related to "street" violence than homicides in the rest of the State. New York City homicides were three times more likely to be perpetrated as a group crime (24.1 percent versus 8.3 percent); twice as likely to involve the use of a handgun (59.8 percent versus 26.3 percent) and twice as likely to take place in conjunction with a robbery (33.4 percent versus 15.9 percent). They were also more likely to occur outdoors (50.7 percent versus 38.5 percent). New York City homicides were less likely than homicides occurring elsewhere in the State to involve victims who were White or female, or who were under ten or over sixty years of age. Both victims and offenders in New York City were younger than their counterparts elsewhere in the State. These patterns are generally similar to those noted in 1980.

DATA TABLES FOR CHAPTER II
HOMICIDE OFFENSES

⁵These percentages are based only on homicide cases for which the victim/offender relationship was known. From 1978 through 1981 the percentage of such cases has varied from a low of 42.9 percent in 1980 to a high of 57.9 percent in 1979. This percentage has neither increased nor decreased consistently from 1978 through 1981. It is reasonable to argue that homicides by strangers were less likely to be solved (and therefore to be included in these percentages), thus underestimating the true percentage of victims killed by strangers. If this selection effect remained relatively constant over the years, it would not invalidate comparisons with respect to the percentage distributions across the years.

⁶In this analysis, "outdoors" is defined as a location potentially observable by a police officer on patrol.

Table 1
 DISTRIBUTION OF HOMICIDE OFFENSES BY MONTH AND GEOGRAPHIC AREA
 NEW YORK STATE 1977 - 1981

Offense Month and Geographic Area		1977		1978		1979		1980		1981	
		Number	Percent*								
TOTAL HOMICIDE OFFENSES		1,913	100.0	1,818	100.0	2,098	100.0	2,228	100.0	2,177	100.0
<u>Month</u>	January	135	7.0	128	7.0	151	7.2	165	7.4	195	9.0
	February	113	5.9	127	7.0	156	7.4	156	7.0	139	6.4
	March	185	9.7	168	9.2	149	7.1	135	6.1	174	8.0
	April	144	7.5	156	8.6	163	7.8	163	7.3	173	7.9
	May	127	6.6	114	6.3	172	8.2	179	8.0	161	7.4
	June	170	8.9	150	8.3	159	7.6	165	7.4	173	7.9
	July	156	8.2	162	8.9	185	8.8	192	8.6	196	9.0
	August	172	9.0	137	7.5	164	7.8	199	8.9	157	7.2
	September	165	8.6	162	8.9	189	9.0	179	8.0	191	8.8
	October	129	6.7	157	8.6	217	10.3	222	10.0	187	8.6
	November	198	10.4	169	9.3	198	9.4	176	7.9	197	9.0
	December	219	11.4	188	10.3	195	9.3	297	13.3	234	10.7
<u>Quarter</u>	January-March	433	22.6	423	23.3	456	21.7	456	20.5	508	23.3
	April-June	441	23.0	420	23.1	494	23.6	507	22.8	507	23.3
	July-September	493	25.8	461	25.4	538	25.6	570	25.6	544	25.0
	October-December	546	28.5	514	28.3	610	29.1	695	31.2	618	28.4
<u>Geographic Area</u>	New York City	1,553	81.2	1,508	82.9	1,737	82.8	1,820	81.7	1,832	84.2
	Other Metropolitan Planning Areas	235	12.3	203	11.2	232	11.1	275	12.3	219	10.1
	Erie	64	3.3	58	3.2	66	3.1	80	3.6	41	1.9
	Monroe	51	2.7	43	2.4	33	1.6	39	1.8	42	1.9
	Nassau	26	1.4	22	1.2	36	1.7	32	1.4	42	1.9
	Onondaga	14	0.7	17	0.9	14	0.7	18	0.8	22	1.0
	Suffolk	39	2.0	29	1.6	30	1.4	49	2.2	41	1.9
	Westchester	41	2.1	34	1.9	53	2.5	57	2.6	31	1.4
	Other Areas	125	6.5	107	5.9	129	6.1	133	6.0	126	5.8

*Percentages do not always add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Table 2

DISTRIBUTION OF HOMICIDE OFFENSES BY TYPE OF VICTIM-OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP, CIRCUMSTANCE, SITUATION, LOCATION AND WEAPON USED NEW YORK STATE 1977 - 1981

Offense Characteristics	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
TOTAL HOMICIDE OFFENSES	1,913	1,818	2,098	2,228	2,177
Number					
<u>Victim-Offender Relationship</u>					
Non-stranger	719	587	774	557	601
Family	181	200	211	178	177
Spouse killing spouse	101	80	106	92	80
Parent killing child	51	48	15	37	35
Other intra-family killing	29	72	90	49	62
Romantic dispute	31	36	51	27	43
Friend/Acquaintance	507	351	512	352	381
Stranger	389	227	440	398	592
Unknown	805	1,004	884	1,273	984
<u>Circumstance</u>					
Felonies	373	343	521	489	431
Robbery	276	243	417	384	334
Sex crimes	21	16	34	20	17
Arson	22	38	28	62	24
Other felonies	54	46	42	23	56
Non-felonies	923	784	1,030	714	687
Altercation	670	611	839	647	598
Other circumstances	253	173	191	67	89
Unknown	617	691	547	1,025	1,059
<u>Situation (No. of victims & offenders involved)</u>					
Single victim homicides	1,769	1,673	1,959	2,031	2,023
Single victim-Single offender	810	810	863	1,003	959
Single victim-Multiple offender	164	202	253	237	253
Single victim-Unknown offender	795	661	843	791	811
Multiple victim homicides	66	145	139	197	154
Multiple victim-Single offender	35	66	56	59	75
Multiple victim-Multiple offender	4	19	25	45	17
Multiple victim-Unknown offender	27	60	58	93	62
Unknown	78	-	-	-	-
<u>Location</u>					
Indoors	906	1,044	1,074	1,091	1,083
Outdoors	747	643	895	1,064	1,040
Unknown	260	131	129	73	54
<u>Weapons Used</u>					
Firearms	1,029	954	1,143	1,235	1,272
Handgun	902	851	1,003	1,133	1,183
Rifle	45	32	50	34	31
Shotgun	82	71	90	68	58
Cutting or stabbing	503	490	516	525	532
Blunt objects (club, hammer, etc.)	92	75	82	83	75
Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.)	119	182	180	177	130
Poison	1	-	-	3	3
Fire (arson)	29	44	29	63	31
Narcotics	2	-	-	-	-
Strangulation	69	41	84	65	39
Asphyxiation	11	2	30	34	63
Other	41	19	19	34	24
Unknown	17	11	15	9	8

Table 2--continued

DISTRIBUTION OF HOMICIDE OFFENSES BY TYPE OF VICTIM-OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP, CIRCUMSTANCE, SITUATION, LOCATION AND WEAPON USED NEW YORK STATE 1977 - 1981

Offense Characteristics	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Percent*					
<u>Victim-Offender Relationship</u>					
Non-stranger	64.9	72.1	63.8	58.3	50.4
Family	16.3	24.6	17.4	18.6	14.8
Romantic	2.8	4.4	4.2	2.8	3.6
Friend/Acquaintance	45.8	43.1	42.2	36.9	31.9
Stranger	35.1	27.9	36.2	41.7	49.6
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Effective N	1,108	814	1,214	955	1,193
Missing N	805	1,004	884	1,273	984
<u>Circumstance</u>					
Felonies	28.8	30.4	33.6	40.7	38.6
Robbery	21.3	21.6	26.9	31.9	29.9
Sex crimes, arson, other felonies	7.5	8.9	6.7	8.8	8.7
Non-felonies	71.2	69.6	66.4	59.4	61.5
Altercation	51.7	54.2	54.1	53.8	53.5
All others	19.5	15.4	12.3	5.6	8.0
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Effective N	1,296	1,127	1,551	1,203	1,118
Missing N	617	691	547	1,025	1,059
<u>Situation (No. of victims & offenders involved)</u>					
Single victim homicides	96.4	92.0	93.4	91.1	93.0
Single victim-Single offender	44.1	44.6	41.1	45.0	44.1
Single victim-Multiple offender	8.9	11.1	12.1	10.6	11.6
Single victim-Unknown offender	43.3	36.4	40.2	35.5	37.3
Multiple victim homicides	3.6	8.0	6.7	8.8	7.0
Multiple victim-Single offender	1.9	3.6	2.7	2.6	3.4
Multiple victim-Multiple offender	0.2	1.0	1.2	2.0	0.8
Multiple victim-Unknown offender	1.5	3.3	2.8	4.2	2.8
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Effective N	1,835	1,818	2,098	2,228	2,177
Missing N	78	-	-	-	-
<u>Location</u>					
Indoors	54.8	61.9	54.5	50.6	51.0
Outdoors	45.2	38.1	45.5	49.4	49.0
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Effective N	1,653	1,687	1,969	2,155	2,123
Missing N	260	131	129	73	54
<u>Weapon Used</u>					
Firearms	54.3	52.8	54.9	55.7	58.6
Handgun	47.6	47.1	48.2	51.1	54.5
Rifle/Shotgun	6.7	5.7	6.7	4.6	4.1
Cutting or stabbing	26.5	27.1	24.8	23.7	24.5
Blunt objects (club, hammer, etc.)	4.8	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.5
Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.)	6.3	10.1	8.6	8.0	6.0
Strangulation	3.6	2.3	4.0	2.9	1.8
Asphyxiation	0.6	0.1	1.4	1.5	2.9
All others	3.8	3.5	2.4	4.4	2.7
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Effective N	1,896	1,807	2,083	2,219	2,169
Missing N	17	11	15	9	8

*Percentages were calculated based on the total number of cases less number of cases with unknown or missing data. This base number is shown in the table as Effective N and varies with the number of Missing N. Percentages do not always add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Table 3

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMICIDE OFFENSES FOR NEW YORK CITY AND OUTSIDE NEW YORK CITY
NEW YORK STATE 1981

(Percent*)

Offense, Victim and Offender Characteristics	New York City	Outside New York City	Offense, Victim and Offender Characteristics	New York City	Outside New York City
<u>Offense Characteristics</u>			<u>Victim race--</u>		
Number of offenders involved--			White	45.8	62.0
Single offender	75.9	91.7	Black	52.8	34.5
Multiple offenders	24.1	8.3	Other	1.4	3.5
Total	100.0	100.0	Total	100.0	100.0
	(1,026)	(278)		(1,824)	(345)
<u>Weapon used--</u>			<u>**Victim Ethnicity--</u>		
Firearms	62.3	39.2	Hispanic	99.5	7.1
Handgun	59.8	26.3	Non-Hispanic	0.5	92.9
Rifle/Shotgun	2.5	12.9	Total	100.0	100.0
No Firearms	37.7	60.8		(548)	(196)
Cut/stab/blunt instruments	26.3	37.1	<u>Offender Characteristics</u>		
All Others	11.4	23.7	<u>Offender age--</u>		
Total	100.0	100.0	15 and under	2.7	2.4
	(1,827)	(342)	16 - 19	18.7	14.1
<u>Circumstances--</u>			20 - 29	43.6	37.6
Robbery	33.4	15.9	30 - 39	20.4	25.9
Sex crime	1.0	3.5	40 - 59	13.5	15.7
Arson	1.9	3.1	60 and over	1.1	4.3
Other felonies	5.6	2.7	Total	100.0	100.0
Altercation	52.5	57.3		(913)	(255)
All others	5.5	17.6	Average age in years	28.0	31.1
Total	100.0	100.0	<u>Offender sex--</u>		
	(891)	(227)	Male	91.7	89.1
<u>Location--</u>			Female	8.3	10.9
Indoors	49.3	61.5	Total	100.0	100.0
Outdoors	50.7	38.5		(997)	(258)
Total	100.0	100.0	<u>Offender race--</u>		
	(1,827)	(296)	White	39.0	50.2
<u>Victim Characteristics</u>			Black	59.8	47.1
<u>Victim age--</u>			Other	1.2	2.8
Under 10	2.1	7.3	Total	100.0	100.0
10 - 19	10.9	10.5		(997)	(255)
20 - 39	59.5	47.1	<u>**Offender Ethnicity--</u>		
40 - 59	20.2	21.8	Hispanic	99.1	7.5
60 and over	7.2	13.4	Non-Hispanic	0.9	92.5
Total	100.0	100.0	Total	100.0	100.0
	(1,796)	(344)		(339)	(147)
Average age in years	33.6	35.8	<u>*The total number of cases on which the percentages are based is shown enclosed in parenthesis. This total excludes cases with missing or unknown data, hence it may differ from the total shown for other variables in this table or, for the same variable in other tables. Percentages do not always add to 100.0 due to rounding.</u>		
<u>Victim sex--</u>			<u>**Because of the high rate of non reporting for ethnicity, these results cannot be considered indicative of the true incidence of Hispanic offenders or victims in 1981.</u>		
Male	85.4	66.1			
Female	14.6	33.9			
Total	100.0	100.0			
	(1,830)	(345)			

Table 4
 SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMICIDE OFFENSES IN WHICH FIREARM WAS USED AND NOT USED
 NEW YORK STATE 1981

(Percent*)

Offense Characteristics	Firearm Used	Firearm Not Used				Row Total
		Total	Cut/stab/ blunt instruments	Personal (hands, fists etc.)	Others	
No. of offenders involved--						
Single offender	48.5	51.5	37.5	6.7	7.3	100.0 (1,031)
Multiple offenders	68.8	31.2	20.8	4.8	5.6	100.0 (269)
Victim-offender relationship--						
Nonstranger	38.1	61.8	43.1	9.2	9.5	100.0 (598)
Stranger	66.2	33.8	25.7	3.4	4.7	100.0 (592)
Circumstance--						
Felony connected	62.2	37.8	19.7	7.7	10.4	100.0 (431)
Altercation	46.1	54.0	44.1	5.4	4.5	100.0 (597)
Other	36.8	63.1	19.5	24.1	19.5	100.0 (87)
Location--						
Inside	51.0	49.0	31.6	7.1	10.3	100.0 (1,080)
Outside	67.1	32.8	24.0	4.3	4.5	100.0 (1,036)

*The total number of cases on which the percentages are based is shown enclosed in parenthesis. This total excludes cases with missing or unknown data hence, it may differ from the total shown for other variables in this table or, for the same variable in other tables. Percentages do not always add to 100.0 due to rounding.

HOMICIDE VICTIMS

Eighty-two percent (82 percent) of the 2,177 homicide victims were male. More than one-half (57.5 percent) were 20 to 39 years old (see Table 5). Homicide victims were nearly equally divided between White (48.4 percent) and Black (49.9 percent).⁷ While the overall percentage of female victims was 17.7 percent, the percentage of females was higher in the extreme age groups (see Table 7): 38.1 percent among victims under ten years of age and 36.4 percent among victims sixty or more years of age. This close similarity in victimization between males and females in the extreme age groups is probably a result of similarities in lifestyle for both sexes during such age periods. "Because of sex role differentiation, sex is related to daily activities such as where time is spent, the number of interpersonal contacts, and the likelihood of encountering strangers. Although sex is a major indicator of lifestyle, it is a weaker indicator for the youngest and oldest members of society."⁸ Under such conditions, the victimization rates of the sexes in these extreme age groups will tend to merge (see Table 7).⁹

As expected, the killing of very young victims suggests that they died as a result of family abuse, while the killing of the elderly evidences more predatory offender behavior (see Table 8). The very young were more frequently killed by a single offender, a non-stranger, with the use of "personal" weapons (i.e., hands, fists, etc.), indoors and under circumstances unrelated to an altercation or the commission of another felony.¹⁰ These results appear to be consistent with an Illinois study of murders involving children. In that study, "The leading cause of murder of children age four and under in Illinois from 1976-1980 was abuse by a family member..."¹¹.

The elderly were more likely than younger age groups to be killed in conjunction with the commission of another felony. For victims ten years of age or older, there is no clear relationship between victim age and the probability of being killed by a stranger (see Table 8).

⁷Prior to 1981, Hispanics were coded as a category of the race variable. In 1981 a new variable, Ethnicity, was created which has two values: Hispanic and non-Hispanic. Because of this change, the distributions for race for 1981 are not comparable to those of earlier years. Given the high rate of non response to the new ethnicity variable (common when changes in reporting are made), this variable cannot be considered indicative of the true incidence of Hispanic offenders and victims in 1981.

⁸Hindelang, Michael J., Michael R. Gottfredson, and James Garofalo. Victims of Personal Crime: An Empirical Foundation for a Theory of Personal Victimization. (Cambridge, Mass.: Ballinger, 1978). p. 248.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Of the 63 victims under age ten, 20 were less than one year old (see Table 6).

¹¹Miller, Louise S., and Carolyn R. Block. "Most Murders of Children Caused by Family Abuse," The Compiler, Illinois Statistical Analysis Center, 3, No. 4 (May, 1982), p.3.

Male victims were more likely than female victims to be killed by a group of offenders, by a stranger, with the use of a firearm, or outdoors. In contrast, female victims were more likely to be killed by a single offender, by a family member, or indoors. Homicides of female victims were more likely to result from stabbing, bludgeoning, or attacks using "personal" weapons (see Table 9). Homicides involving female victims suggested a more domestic environment than did homicides in which the victim was a male.

As noted earlier, these different circumstances were probably due to differences in lifestyle between males and females. Despite differences in lifestyle, however, the majority of male and female victims were solitary victims and the majority of both sexes were killed by a single offender (see Table 9).

There was little relationship between the race of the victim and the weapon used or the victim/offender relationship. Approximately 50 percent of all victims were killed by handguns regardless of race. Forty-seven percent (47 percent) of Whites were killed by someone they knew. For Blacks, the percentage was 53.5 percent. There was a stronger relationship between victim race and circumstances of the homicide. For Black victims, 60.5 percent were killed during an altercation; for White victims, the comparable figure was 46.9 percent (see Table 10).

DATA TABLES FOR CHAPTER III
HOMICIDE VICTIMS

Table 5
 DISTRIBUTION OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS BY AGE, SEX, RACE AND ETHNICITY
 NEW YORK STATE 1977 - 1981

Victim Age, Sex, Race and Ethnicity		1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
		Number				
TOTAL VICTIMS		1,913	1,818	2,098	2,228	2,177
Age	Infant and newborn	28	18	25	15	20
	1 - 9	31	60	43	54	43
	10 - 19	189	191	241	255	232
	20 - 39	1,054	983	1,110	1,207	1,231
	40 - 59	419	391	466	452	438
	60 and over	172	145	173	204	176
	Unknown	20	30	40	41	37
Sex	Male	1,524	1,443	1,683	1,833	1,791
	Female	388	373	411	392	384
	Unknown	1	2	4	3	2
Race	White	576	526	620	685	1,050
	Hispanic	453	456	478	505	*
	Black	845	804	941	987	1,082
	Other	30	25	46	44	37
	Unknown	9	7	13	7	8
** Ethnicity	Hispanic					559
	Non-Hispanic					185
	Unknown					1,433
		Percent***				
Age	Infant and newborn	1.5	1.0	1.2	0.7	0.9
	1 - 9	1.6	3.4	2.1	2.5	2.0
	10 - 19	10.0	10.7	11.7	11.7	10.8
	20 - 39	55.7	55.0	54.0	55.2	57.5
	40 - 59	22.1	21.9	22.7	20.7	20.5
	60 and over	9.1	8.1	8.4	9.3	8.2
	Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Effective N	1,893	1,788	2,058	2,187	2,140
	Missing N	20	30	40	41	37
Sex	Male	79.7	79.5	80.4	82.4	82.3
	Female	20.3	20.5	19.6	17.6	17.7
	Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Effective N	1,912	1,816	2,094	2,225	2,175
	Missing N	1	2	4	3	2
Race	White	30.2	29.0	29.7	30.8	48.4
	Hispanic	23.8	25.2	22.9	22.7	*
	Black	44.4	44.4	45.1	44.4	49.9
	Other	1.6	1.4	2.2	2.0	1.7
	Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Effective N	1,904	1,811	2,085	2,221	2,169
	Missing N	9	7	13	7	8
** Ethnicity	Hispanic					75.1
	Non-Hispanic					24.9
	Total (%)					100.0
	Effective N					744
	Missing N					1,433

*Not a valid category in 1981. It has been replaced by the variable ethnicity.

**The variable ethnicity was added in 1981. Because of the high rate of non reporting of ethnicity, these results cannot be considered indicative of the true incidence of Hispanic offenders or victims in 1981.

***Percentages were calculated based on the total number of cases less number of cases with unknown or missing data. This base number is shown in the table as Effective N and varies with the number of Missing N. Percentages do not always add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Table 6

HOMICIDE VICTIM AGE BY SEX, RACE, ETHNICITY AND LOCATION OF OFFENSE
NEW YORK STATE 1981

Victim Age	Total Victims	Victim Sex			Victim Race				Victim Ethnicity*			Location of Offense		
		Males	Female	Unknown	White	Black	Other	Unknown	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Unknown	Inside	Outside	Unknown
ALL AGES, TOTAL	2,177	1,791	384	2	1,050	1,082	37	8	559	185	1,433	1,083	1,040	54
Infant and Newborn	20	13	7	-	13	7	-	-	1	7	12	15	2	3
1 - 4	20	11	9	-	4	15	1	-	-	5	15	19	-	1
5 - 9	23	15	8	-	12	11	-	-	5	3	15	21	2	-
10 - 14	28	16	10	2	14	11	1	2	5	2	21	14	12	2
15 - 19	204	174	30	-	98	97	9	-	62	16	126	71	131	2
20 - 24	340	285	55	-	151	183	6	-	99	21	220	139	192	9
25 - 29	371	311	60	-	142	225	4	-	102	31	238	161	203	7
30 - 34	299	255	44	-	148	149	2	-	88	20	191	126	162	11
35 - 39	221	187	34	-	114	102	5	-	62	18	141	108	109	4
40 - 44	148	132	16	-	74	72	2	-	44	10	94	77	69	2
45 - 49	105	88	17	-	53	50	2	-	27	10	68	65	35	5
50 - 54	106	95	11	-	47	57	2	-	20	11	75	66	37	3
55 - 59	79	67	12	-	46	32	1	-	19	9	51	53	26	-
60 - 64	64	46	18	-	37	27	-	-	4	9	51	46	17	1
65 - 69	29	19	10	-	14	14	1	-	2	2	25	20	9	-
70 and over	83	47	36	-	65	17	1	-	4	11	68	68	11	4
Unknown	37	30	7	-	18	13	-	6	15	0	22	14	23	-

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*Because of the high rate of non reporting of ethnicity, these results cannot be considered indicative of the true incidence of Hispanic offenders or victims in 1981.



Table 7
HOMICIDE VICTIMS: SEX, RACE AND ETHNICITY BY AGE, NEW YORK STATE 1981
(Percent*)

Victim Sex, Race and Ethnicity	Victim Age					Row Total
	Under 10	10 - 19	20 - 39	40 - 59	60 & over	
Sex						
Male	61.9	82.6	84.3	87.2	63.6	
Female	38.1	17.4	15.7	12.8	36.4	
Total	100.0 (63)	100.0 (230)	100.0 (1,231)	100.0 (438)	100.0 (176)	
Race						
Male	2.2	10.8	58.9	21.7	6.4	100.0(1,761)
Female	6.4	10.6	51.2	14.9	17.0	100.0 (377)
White	46.0	48.7	45.1	50.2	65.9	
Black	52.4	47.0	53.5	48.2	33.0	
Other	1.6	4.3	1.4	1.6	1.1	
Total	100.0 (63)	100.0 (230)	100.0 (1,231)	100.0 (438)	100.0 (176)	
White	2.8	10.9	53.8	21.3	11.2	100.0(1,032)
Black	3.1	10.1	61.6	19.7	5.4	100.0(1,069)
Other	2.7	27.0	45.9	18.9	5.4	100.0 (37)
** Ethnicity						
Hispanic	28.6	78.8	79.6	73.3	31.3	
Non-Hispanic	71.4	21.2	20.4	26.7	68.8	
Total	100.0 (21)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Hispanic	1.1	12.3	64.5	20.2	1.8	100.0 (544)
Non-Hispanic	8.1	9.7	48.6	21.6	11.9	100.0 (185)

Table 8
HOMICIDE VICTIMS: SELECTED OFFENSE CHARACTERISTICS BY VICTIM AGE
NEW YORK STATE 1981
(Percent*)

Offense Characteristics	Victim Age				
	Under 10	10 - 19	20 - 39	40 - 59	60 & over
Number of offenders involved--					
Single offender	90.4	83.5	78.4	76.6	78.4
Multiple offenders	9.6	16.5	21.6	23.4	21.6
Total	100.0 (52)	100.0 (164)	100.0 (704)	100.0 (278)	100.0 (97)
Weapon used--					
Firearms	4.9	65.8	65.5	54.6	30.0
Cut/stab/blunt instruments	14.8	21.6	26.7	35.6	32.0
Personal (hands, fists, etc.)	36.1	4.8	3.1	6.2	17.7
All others	44.3	7.8	4.7	3.7	20.0
Total	100.0 (61)	100.0 (231)	100.0 (1,227)	100.0 (438)	100.0 (175)
Victim-offender relationship--					
Nonstranger	95.8	46.1	50.0	49.1	42.7
Stranger	4.2	53.9	50.0	50.9	57.3
Total	100.0 (48)	100.0 (141)	100.0 (626)	100.0 (265)	100.0 (103)
Circumstance					
Felony connected	24.4	30.3	33.0	42.3	71.4
Altercation	2.4	61.3	62.3	52.3	21.8
All others	73.2	8.4	4.7	5.4	6.7
Total	100.0 (41)	100.0 (119)	100.0 (594)	100.0 (241)	100.0 (119)
Location--					
Indoors	93.2	37.3	44.5	61.0	78.4
Outdoors	6.8	62.7	55.5	39.0	21.6
Total	100.0 (59)	100.0 (228)	100.0 (1,200)	100.0 (428)	100.0 (171)

*The total number of cases on which the percentages are based is shown enclosed in parenthesis. This total excludes cases with missing or unknown data; hence, it may differ from the total shown in other variables in this table or, for the same variable in other tables. Percentages do not always add to 100.0 due to rounding.

**Because of the high rate of non reporting of ethnicity, these results cannot be considered indicative of the true incidence of Hispanic offenders or victims in 1981.

Table 9
HOMICIDE VICTIMS: SELECTED OFFENSE CHARACTERISTICS BY VICTIM SEX
NEW YORK STATE 1981
(Percent*)

Offense Characteristics	Victim Sex	
	Male	Female
Number of victims involved--		
Single victim	94.4	86.2
Multiple victims	5.6	13.8
Total	100.0 (1,791)	100.0 (384)
Number of offenders involved--		
Single offender	76.1	92.4
Multiple offenders	23.9	7.6
Total	100.0 (1,039)	100.0 (263)
Weapon used--		
Firearms	64.1	32.6
Cut/stab/blunt instruments	26.7	33.9
Personal (hands, fists, etc.)	4.8	11.8
All others	4.4	21.6
Total	100.0 (1,787)	100.0 (380)
Victim-offender relationship--		
Nonstranger	44.6	71.4
Family	9.1	35.9
Romantic dispute	1.7	10.5
Friend/Acquaintance	33.8	25.0
Stranger	55.4	28.5
Total	100.0 (937)	100.0 (256)
Location--		
Indoors	46.0	74.2
Outdoors	54.0	25.8
Total	100.0 (1,749)	100.0 (372)

Table 10
HOMICIDE VICTIMS: SELECTED OFFENSE CHARACTERISTICS BY VICTIM RACE
NEW YORK STATE 1981
(Percent*)

Offense Characteristics	Victim Race			Victim Ethnicity**	
	White	Black	Other	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
Weapon used--					
Firearms	56.6	61.0	50.0	68.3	39.4
Handgun	52.5	56.8	47.2	65.6	25.7
Rifle/Shotgun	4.1	4.2	2.8	2.7	13.7
Cut/stab/blunt instruments	26.5	29.2	36.1	23.7	38.8
Personal (hands, fists, etc.)	7.4	4.6	5.6	3.2	11.5
All others	9.5	5.2	8.3	4.8	10.4
Total	100.0 (1,047)	100.0 (1,078)	100.0 (36)	100.0 (558)	100.0 (183)
Victim-offender relationship--					
Nonstranger	47.1	53.5	55.0	49.0	67.7
Stranger	52.9	46.5	45.0	51.0	32.3
Total	100.0 (586)	100.0 (587)	100.0 (20)	100.0 (251)	100.0 (155)
Circumstance--					
Felony connected	44.9	32.0	30.0	35.6	23.8
Altercation	46.9	60.5	55.0	60.4	58.5
All others	8.2	7.4	15.0	4.0	17.7
Total	100.0 (559)	100.0 (537)	100.0 (20)	100.0 (275)	100.0 (130)

*The total number of cases on which the percentages are based is shown enclosed in parenthesis. This total excludes cases with missing or unknown data; hence, it may differ from the total shown for other variables in this table or, for the same variable in other tables. Percentages do not always add to 100.0 due to rounding.

**Because of the high rate of non reporting of ethnicity, these results cannot be considered indicative of the true incidence of Hispanic offenders or victims in 1981.

IV

HOMICIDE OFFENDERS

As with victims, homicide offenders were predominantly male (92.3 percent).¹² Over one-half (57.3 percent) of offenders whose race was known were Black. Offenders appeared to be, on the average, younger than victims. These patterns have been fairly consistent for the past five years.¹³ However, since 1978 it appears that the percentage of offenders who were male, or in the 16 to 19 year old age group has increased slightly (see Table 11).

The propensity to commit group homicide was strongest among offenders under twenty years of age and weakened sharply for older offender groups. Older offender groups tended to be arrested for relatively fewer felony connected homicides than younger offenders and to victimize strangers less frequently (see Table 14). For offenders less than sixty years of age, there is little relationship between age and handgun use. Homicides by those over age 60 were generally suggestive of domestic rather than "street" encounters: 76.5 percent were not criminally motivated; all were single offender crimes in which the victim was usually a non-stranger; and 90 percent occurred indoors.

A slightly higher percentage of Black offenders were female than was the case of White offenders (see Table 15).

Female offenders were less likely to engage in group homicide, or to use handguns, or to be criminally motivated than were male offenders. They were more likely to commit homicide indoors, or kill a family member, or to kill during an altercation; circumstances which are suggestive of domestic violence (see Table 16).

With regard to the number of offenders involved and the type of weapon used, there was very little difference between the races on these characteristics. In fact, for those cases for which data were available, the distribution was almost identical. For the circumstances of the homicide, Blacks and Whites were about equally likely to kill as a result of an altercation. However, 41.0 percent of the Black offenders killed someone during a robbery while this was true of only 28.0 percent of the White homicide offenders (see Table 17).

Homicide offenders clearly victimize members of their own race with little difference between White and Black offenders. Approximately 84 percent of the White offenders were arrested for killing White victims while approximately 80 percent of the Black offenders were arrested for killing Black victims (see Table 18).

The data for 1981 suggest a tendency of offenders to victimize persons of similar age to themselves that was not evident in 1980. This relationship between offender and victim age appears to strengthen in the older offender groups (see Table 20).

¹²Data on the characteristics of homicide offenders are based only on those cases where an offender was apprehended or otherwise identified by the police. (See note 2 above.)

¹³This statement does not apply to race characteristics because coding of the race variable was changed for 1981 and thus the 1981 data are not comparable to earlier years.

DATA TABLES FOR CHAPTER IV

HOMICIDE OFFENDERS

DISTRIBUTION OF HOMICIDE OFFENDERS BY AGE, SEX, RACE, AND ETHNICITY
NEW YORK STATE 1977-1981

Offender Age, Sex, Race, and Ethnicity		1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
		Number				
TOTAL OFFENDERS		2,059	2,030	2,465	2,494	2,489
Age	Under 10	-	-	-	-	-
	10 - 15	36	43	31	49	43
	16 - 19	190	205	281	294	291
	20 - 24	216	325	383	390	370
	25 - 29	189	223	262	238	235
	30 - 34	126	139	146	209	164
	35 - 39	103	82	97	98	115
	40 - 49	95	98	104	118	121
	50 - 59	56	36	54	47	51
	60 and over	31	22	24	21	21
	Unknown	1,017	857	1,083	1,030	1,078
Sex	Male	1,138	1,203	1,446	1,489	1,482
	Female	127	120	137	137	124
	Unknown	794	707	882	868	883
Race	White	286	279	354	350	659
	Hispanic	334	353	366	396	*
	Black	615	664	802	853	918
	Other	11	15	39	25	24
	Unknown	813	719	904	870	888
**Ethnicity	Hispanic					472
	Non-Hispanic					153
	Unknown					1,864
		Percent***				
Age	Under 10	-	-	-	-	-
	10 - 15	3.5	3.7	2.2	3.3	3.0
	16 - 19	18.2	17.5	20.3	20.1	20.6
	20 - 24	20.7	27.7	27.7	26.6	26.2
	25 - 29	18.1	19.0	19.0	16.3	16.7
	30 - 34	12.1	11.8	10.6	14.3	11.6
	35 - 39	9.9	7.0	7.0	6.7	8.2
	40 - 49	9.1	8.4	7.5	8.1	8.6
	50 - 59	5.4	3.1	3.9	3.2	3.6
	60 and over	3.0	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.5
	Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Effective N	1,042	1,173	1,382	1,464	1,411
	Missing N	1,017	857	1,083	1,030	1,078
Sex	Male	90.0	90.9	91.3	91.6	92.3
	Female	10.0	9.1	8.7	8.4	7.7
	Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Effective N	1,265	1,323	1,583	1,626	1,606
	Missing N	794	707	882	868	883
Race	White	22.9	21.3	22.7	21.6	41.2
	Hispanic	26.8	26.9	23.4	24.4	*
	Black	49.4	50.6	51.4	52.5	57.3
	Other	0.9	1.1	2.5	1.5	1.5
	Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Effective N	1,246	1,311	1,561	1,624	1,601
	Missing N	813	719	904	870	888
**Ethnicity	Hispanic					75.5
	Non-Hispanic					24.5
	Total (%)					100.0
	Effective N					625
	Missing N					1,864

*Not a valid category in 1981. It has been replaced by the variable ethnicity.

**The variable Ethnicity was added in 1981. Because of the high rate of non reporting of ethnicity, these results cannot be considered indicative of the true incidence of Hispanic offenders or victims in 1981.

***Percentages were calculated based on the total number of cases less number of cases with unknown or missing data. This base number is shown in the table as Effective N and varies with the number of Missing N. Percentages do not always add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Table 12

HOMICIDE OFFENDER AGE BY SEX, RACE, ETHNICITY AND LOCATION OF OFFENSE
NEW YORK STATE 1981

Offender Age	Total Offenders	Offender Sex			Offender Race				Offender Ethnicity*			Location of Offense		
		Male	Female	Unknown	White	Black	Other	Unknown	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Unknown	Inside	Outside	Unknown
ALL AGES, TOTAL	2,489	1,482	124	883	659	918	24	888	472	153	1,864	1,247	1,185	57
Under 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 12	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-
13 - 15	41	38	3	-	22	18	1	-	14	5	22	20	20	1
16 - 19	291	280	11	-	115	170	6	-	84	21	186	141	142	8
20 - 24	370	337	33	-	157	207	5	1	115	32	223	178	177	15
25 - 29	235	221	14	-	91	138	2	4	67	24	144	134	97	4
30 - 34	164	141	23	-	64	98	2	-	51	20	93	98	56	10
35 - 39	115	102	13	-	48	64	2	1	35	17	63	68	44	3
40 - 44	80	72	8	-	29	50	1	-	23	9	48	52	26	2
45 - 59	41	35	6	-	20	20	1	-	13	6	22	26	14	1
50 - 54	27	22	5	-	12	15	-	-	5	4	18	16	10	1
55 - 59	24	19	5	-	11	12	-	1	6	2	16	16	8	-
60 - 64	11	11	-	-	6	5	-	-	-	3	8	10	1	-
65 - 69	2	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
70 and over	8	8	-	-	5	3	-	-	1	4	3	7	1	-
Unknown	1,078	192	3	883	78	115	4	881	58	3	1,017	479	588	11

*Because of the high rate of non reporting of ethnicity, these results cannot be considered indicative of the true incidence of Hispanic offenders or victims in 1981.

Table 13
HOMICIDE OFFENDERS: SEX BY AGE, NEW YORK STATE 1981
(Percent*)

Offender Sex	Offender Age						Row Total
	15 and under	16-19	20-29	30-39	40-59	60 and over	
Male	93.0	96.2	92.2	87.1	86.0	100.0	
Female	7.0	3.8	7.8	12.9	14.0	0.0	
Total	100.0 (43)	100.0 (291)	100.0 (605)	100.0 (279)	100.0 (172)	100.0 (21)	
Male	3.1	21.7	43.3	18.8	11.5	1.6	100.0 (1,290)
Female	2.5	9.1	38.8	29.8	19.8	0.0	100.0 (121)

Table 14
HOMICIDE OFFENDERS: SELECTED OFFENSE CHARACTERISTICS BY OFFENDER AGE
NEW YORK STATE 1981
(Percent*)

Offense Characteristics	Offender Age					
	Under 15	16-19	20-29	30-39	40-59	60 & over
Number of offenders involved--						
Single offender	48.8	47.6	64.9	79.6	90.7	100.0
Multiple offenders	51.2	52.4	35.1	20.4	9.3	0.0
Total	100.0 (43)	100.0 (290)	100.0 (604)	100.0 (279)	100.0 (172)	100.0 (21)
Weapon used--						
Firearms	41.9	53.6	56.7	47.6	52.6	23.8
Handguns	37.2	46.4	51.2	40.1	45.6	14.3
Rifle/Shotgun	4.7	7.2	5.5	7.5	7.0	9.5
Cut/stab/blunt instruments	41.9	31.3	30.9	38.7	39.8	42.9
Personal (hands, fists, etc.)	4.7	9.3	6.3	6.5	4.7	14.3
All others	11.6	5.8	6.0	7.2	2.9	19.0
Total	100.0 (43)	100.0 (291)	100.0 (601)	100.0 (279)	100.0 (171)	100.0 (21)
Victim-offender relationship--						
Nonstranger	32.4	33.2	52.1	68.7	75.9	94.7
Stranger	67.6	66.8	47.9	31.3	24.1	5.3
Total	100.0 (37)	100.0 (220)	100.0 (434)	100.0 (217)	100.0 (133)	100.0 (19)
Circumstance--						
Felony connected	61.8	58.7	38.4	21.4	5.0	5.9
Nonfelony connected	38.3	41.2	61.7	78.7	95.0	94.1
Altercation	26.5	33.9	54.4	69.3	85.8	76.5
Other	11.8	7.3	7.3	9.4	9.2	17.6
Total	100.0 (34)	100.0 (218)	100.0 (414)	100.0 (192)	100.0 (120)	100.0 (17)
Location--						
Indoors	50.0	49.8	53.2	62.4	65.5	90.0
Outdoors	50.0	50.2	46.8	37.6	34.5	10.0
Total	100.0 (42)	100.0 (283)	100.0 (586)	100.0 (266)	100.0 (168)	100.0 (20)

*The total number of cases on which the percentages are based is shown enclosed in parenthesis. This total excludes cases with missing or unknown data; hence, it may differ from the total shown in other tables. Percentages do not always add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Table 15
HOMICIDE OFFENDERS: RACE AND ETHNICITY BY SEX, NEW YORK STATE 1981
(Percent*)

Offender Race and Ethnicity	Offender Sex		Row Total
	Male	Female	
Offender Race			
White	42.2	27.4	
Black	56.2	71.8	
Other	1.6	0.8	
Total	100.0 (1,475)	100.0 (124)	
White	94.8	5.2	100.0 (657)
Black	90.3	9.7	100.0 (918)
Other	95.8	4.2	100.0 (24)
** Offender Ethnicity			
Hispanic	77.3	50.0	
Non-Hispanic	22.7	50.0	
Total	100.0 (581)	100.0 (42)	
Hispanic	95.5	4.5	100.0 (470)
Non-Hispanic	86.3	13.7	100.0 (153)

Table 16
HOMICIDE OFFENDERS: SELECTED OFFENSE CHARACTERISTICS BY OFFENDER SEX, NEW YORK STATE 1981
(Percent*)

Offense Characteristics	Offender Sex	
	Male	Female
Number of offenders involved--		
Single offender	60.3	78.2
Multiple offenders	39.7	21.8
Total	100.0 (1,480)	100.0 (124)
Weapon used--		
Firearms	59.8	23.2
Handgun	53.8	14.9
Rifle/Shotgun	6.0	8.3
Cut/stab/blunt instruments	29.4	57.0
Personal (hands, fists, etc.)	5.9	6.6
All others	4.9	13.2
Total	100.0 (1,480)	100.0 (121)
Victim-offender relationship--		
Nonstranger	45.5	87.3
Family	11.5	37.3
Romantic	2.2	13.6
Friend/Acquaintance	31.8	36.4
Stranger	54.5	12.7
Total	100.0 (1,096)	100.0 (110)
Circumstance--		
Felony connected	42.6	15.2
Nonfelony connected	57.4	84.9
Altercation	50.7	67.7
Other	6.8	17.2
Total	100.0 (1,022)	100.0 (99)
Location--		
Indoors	54.5	70.6
Outdoors	45.5	29.4
Total	100.0 (1,440)	100.0 (119)

*Percentages were calculated based on the total number of cases less number of cases with unknown or missing data. This base number is shown in the table as Effective N and varies with the number of Missing N. Percentages do not always add to 100.0 due to rounding.

**Because of the high rate of non reporting of ethnicity, these results cannot be considered indicative of the true incidence of Hispanic offenders or victims in 1981.

Table 17
HOMICIDE OFFENDERS: SELECTED OFFENSE CHARACTERISTICS BY
OFFENDER RACE AND ETHNICITY, NEW YORK STATE 1981
(Percent*)

Offense Characteristics	Offender Race			Offender Ethnicity**	
	White	Black	Other	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
Number of offenders involved--					
Single offender	61.9	61.4	66.7	53.9	82.4
Multiple offender	38.1	38.6	33.3	46.1	17.6
Total	100.0 (658)	100.0 (917)	100.0 (24)	100.0 (471)	100.0 (154)
Weapon used--					
Firearms	57.0	57.5	41.7	64.7	40.2
Handgun	49.8	51.8	41.7	60.4	22.4
Rifle/Shotgun	7.2	5.7	0.0	4.3	17.8
Cut/stab/blunt instruments	30.6	31.6	50.0	29.6	41.4
Personal (hands, fists, etc.)	6.5	5.7	4.2	2.6	9.9
All others	5.9	5.2	4.2	3.2	8.6
Total	100.0 (657)	100.0 (915)	100.0 (24)	100.0 (470)	100.0 (152)
Circumstance--					
Robbery	28.0	41.0	0.0	30.3	19.2
Sex, arson, other felony	7.5	2.9	6.3	6.7	2.4
Altercation	53.7	50.6	81.3	57.8	58.4
All others	10.8	5.5	12.5	5.2	20.0
Total	100.0 (443)	100.0 (656)	100.0 (16)	100.0 (327)	100.0 (125)

*The total number of cases on which the percentages are based is shown enclosed in parenthesis. This total excludes cases with missing or unknown data; hence, it may differ from the total shown in other tables. Percentages do not always add to 100.0 due to rounding.

**Because of the high rate of non reporting of ethnicity, these results cannot be considered indicative of the true incidence of Hispanic offenders or victims in 1981.

Table 18
HOMICIDE OFFENDERS: OFFENDER RACE BY VICTIM RACE, NEW YORK STATE 1981
(Percent*)

Victim Race	Offender Race		
	White	Black	Other
White	83.9	19.7	21.1
Black	15.0	79.7	15.8
Other	1.2	0.6	63.2
Total	100.0 (515)	100.0 (716)	100.0 (19)

Table 19
HOMICIDE OFFENDERS: OFFENDER ETHNICITY BY
VICTIM ETHNICITY, NEW YORK STATE 1981
(Percent*)

Victim Ethnicity **	Offender Ethnicity **	
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
Hispanic	98.0	2.2
Non-Hispanic	2.0	97.8
Total	100.0 (244)	100.0 (138)

Table 20
HOMICIDE OFFENDERS: OFFENDER AGE BY VICTIM AGE, NEW YORK STATE 1981
(Percent*)

Age of Victim	Age of Offender					
	15 and under	16-19	20-29	30-39	40-59	60 and over
15 and under	46.5	35.6	22.9	15.8	7.6	4.8
16-19	18.6	12.8	7.3	5.0	5.3	0.0
20-29	9.3	23.2	33.8	27.0	15.9	0.0
30-39	7.0	10.7	15.3	29.5	25.9	9.5
40-59	11.6	10.7	16.4	16.9	39.4	28.6
60 and over	7.0	6.9	4.3	5.8	5.9	57.1
Total	100.0 (43)	100.0 (289)	100.0 (603)	100.0 (278)	100.0 (170)	100.0 (21)

*The total number of cases on which the percentages are based is shown enclosed in parenthesis. This total excludes cases with missing or unknown data; hence, it may differ from the total shown in other tables. Percentages do not always add to 100.0 due to rounding.

**Because of the high rate of non reporting of ethnicity, these results cannot be considered indicative of the true incidence of Hispanic offenders or victims in 1981.

CONCLUSION

These data on 1981 homicides show strong similarities with data from previous years: the vast majority of homicides occurred in New York City and were committed by males on male victims. A majority involved the use of firearms, specifically handguns, and most were perpetrated on victims of the same race as the offender. In general, killings involving the very young, the very old, and females suggested domestic rather than "street" settings. The number of homicides appears to be leveling off; however, there are indications in the data that killings resulting from predatory violence may be on the rise.

Future analyses in this series will monitor changing patterns in this crime in New York State.

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APPENDIX
SUPPLEMENTARY HOMICIDE REPORT
DATA COLLECTION FORM (DCJS-1997)

END