Expanded Homicide Data

Data collection

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program collects supplementary homicide data that provide the age, sex, race, and ethnicity of the murder victim and offender; the type of weapon used; the relationship of the victim to the offender; and the circumstance surrounding the incident. Statistics gleaned from these supplemental data are provided in this section.

This section also includes information about justifiable homicide—certain willful killings that must be reported as justifiable or excusable. In the UCR Program, justifiable homicide is defined as and limited to:

- The killing of a felon by a peace officer in the line of duty.

- The killing of a felon, during the commission of a felony, by a private citizen.

Because these killings are determined through law enforcement investigation to be justifiable, they are tabulated separately from murder and nonnegligent manslaughter. Justifiable homicide information can be found in Expanded Homicide Data Table 14, "Justifiable Homicide, by Weapon, Law Enforcement, 2013–2017" and Expanded Homicide Data Table 15, "Justifiable Homicide, by Weapon, Private Citizen, 2013–2017."

Overview

- In 2017, most (78.4 percent) of the 15,129 murder victims for whom supplemental data were received were male. (Based on Expanded Homicide Data Table 1.)

- Of the murder victims for whom race was known, 51.9 percent were Black or African American, 43.5 percent were White, and 3.0 percent were of other races. Race was unknown for 243 victims. (Based on Expanded Homicide Data Table 2.)

- More than 45 percent (45.6) of all murders for which the UCR Program received supplemental data were single victim/single offender situations. (See Expanded Homicide Data Table 4.)

- Of the offenders for whom gender was known, 88.1 percent were male. (Based on Expanded Homicide Data Table 3.)

- When the race of the offender was known, 54.2 percent were Black or African American, 43.1 percent were White, and 2.6 percent were of other races. The race was unknown for 5,368 offenders. (Based on Expanded Homicide Data Table 3.)

- More than 72 percent (72.6) of the homicides for which the FBI received weapons data in 2017 involved the use of firearms. Handguns comprised 64.0 percent of the firearms used in murder and nonnegligent manslaughter incidents in 2017. (Based on Expanded Homicide Data Table 8.)

- In 2017, 28.0 percent of homicide victims were killed by someone they knew other than family members (acquaintance, neighbor, friend, boyfriend, etc.), 12.3 percent were slain by family members, and 9.7 percent were killed by strangers. The relationship between murder victims and offenders was unknown in 50.0 percent of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter incidents. (Based on Expanded Homicide Data Table 10.)

- Circumstances were known for 59.8 percent of murders for which supplementary details were reported in 2017. Of those, 39.0 percent of victims were murdered during arguments and romantic triangles. Felony-type murders (i.e., murders that occurred in conjunction with the commission of another felony crime such as rape, robbery, burglary, etc.) accounted for 24.7 percent of homicides for which circumstances were known. (Based on Expanded Homicide Data Table 11.)

- Law enforcement reported 782 justifiable homicides in 2017. Of those, law enforcement officers justifiably killed 429 felons, and private citizens justifiably killed 353 people during the commission of crimes. (See Expanded Homicide Data Tables 14 and 15.)

< Expanded Homicide Data Figure here>

What you won't find on this page

- The estimated number of murders known to law enforcement.

- Clearance and arrest data for murder.

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Expanded homicide data tables

The following tables were compiled using information from the Supplementary Homicide Data:

Expanded Homicide Data Table 1—"Murder Victims by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex, 2017"

Expanded Homicide Data Table 2—"Murder Victims by Age, Sex, Race, and Ethnicity, 2017"

Expanded Homicide Data Table 3—"Murder Offenders by Age, Sex, Race, and Ethnicity, 2017"

Expanded Homicide Data Table 4—"Murder, by Victim/Offender Situations, 2017"

Expanded Homicide Data Table 5—"Murder, Age of Victim by Age of Offender, 2017 [Single victim/single offender]"

Expanded Homicide Data Table 6—"Murder, Race, Ethnicity, and Sex of Victim by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex of Offender, 2017 [Single victim/single offender]"

Expanded Homicide Data Table 7—"Murder, Types of Weapons Used, Percent Distribution by Region, 2017"

Expanded Homicide Data Table 8—"Murder Victims by Weapon, 2013–2017"

Expanded Homicide Data Table 9—"Murder Victims by Age, by Weapon, 2017"

Expanded Homicide Data Table 10—"Murder Circumstances by Relationship, 2017"

Expanded Homicide Data Table 11—"Murder Circumstances by Weapon, 2017"

Expanded Homicide Data Table 12—"Murder Circumstances, 2013–2017"

Expanded Homicide Data Table 13—"Murder Circumstances by Sex of Victim, 2017"

Expanded Homicide Data Table 14—"Justifiable Homicide by Weapon,
Law Enforcement, 2013–2017"

Expanded Homicide Data Table 15—"Justifiable Homicide by Weapon, Private
Citizen, 2013–2017"

Table 20—"Murder, by State, Types of Weapons, 2017"