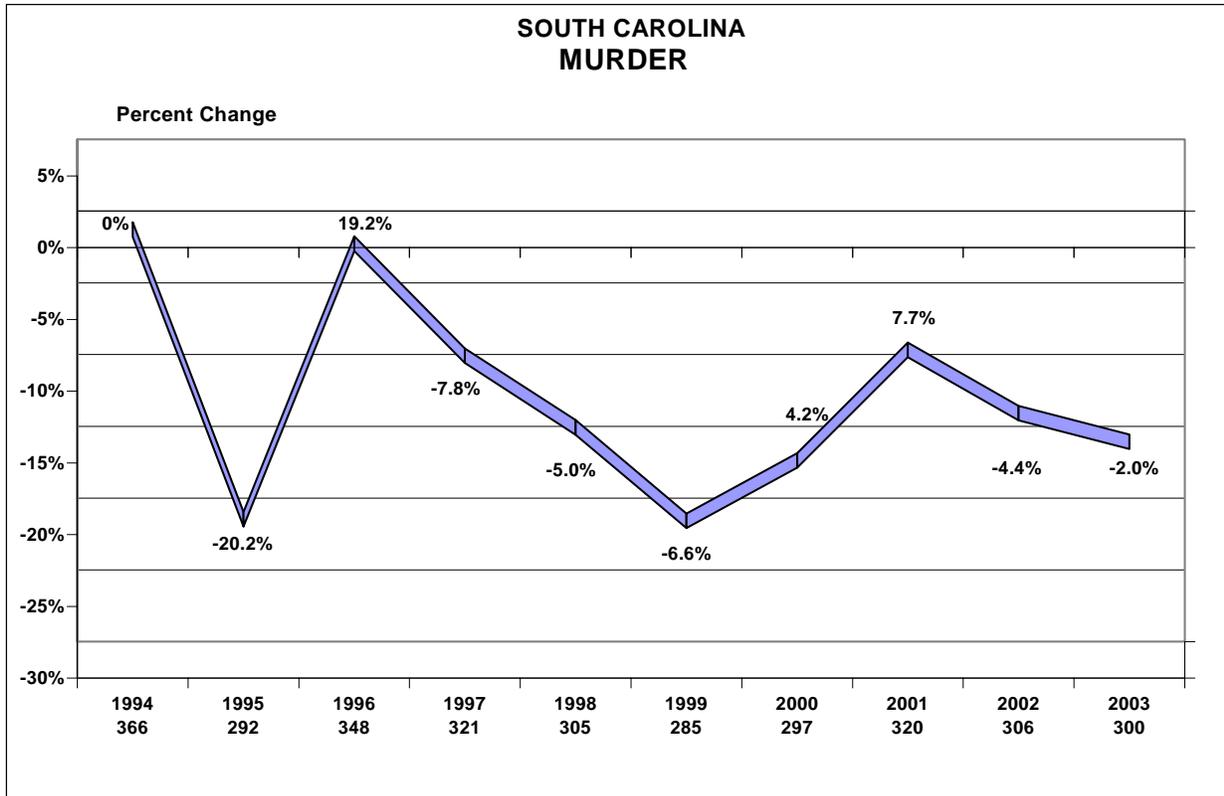


MURDER

DEFINITION

Murder is defined as the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another, except those cases classified as justifiable homicides. Under the UCR definition, justifiable homicides are specifically limited to the killing of an offender by a police officer in the line of duty, or the killing, during the commission of a serious crime, of a criminal by a private citizen. This definition does not take into consideration the findings of coroners' juries, or other courts. Suicides are not defined as murder under UCR. Attempts to commit murder are classified as aggravated assaults.



2003 SUMMARY

A total of 300 murder victims was reported in the 2003 crime index. During this year, the number of murders decreased 2.0 percent compared to those reported in 2002.

There were 228 murders cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared, amounting to a clearance rate of 75.7 percent statewide.

Murders accounted for 0.9 percent of all violent crimes and 0.1 percent of the total crime index. The index murder rate in South Carolina was 0.73 per 10,000 persons.

The age group 17-24 accounted for 48.4 percent of persons arrested for murder. Males represented 83.4 percent of the total arrests made for murder.

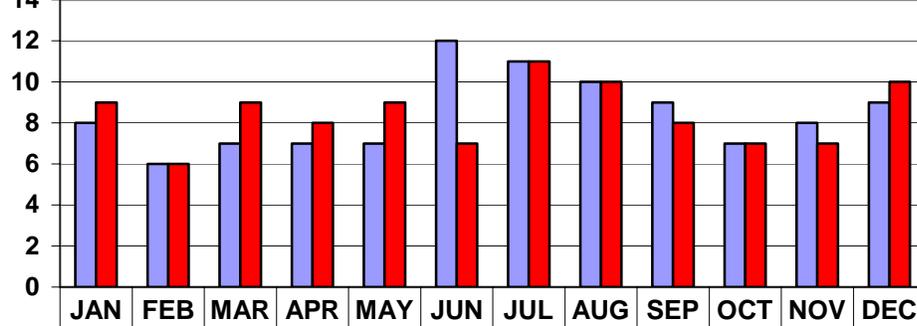
Firearms were used in 66.4 percent of the murders, cutting instruments in 12.0 percent, hands and feet in 8.6 percent, other weapons in 8.1 percent, and unknown weapons in 4.9 percent.

Victims were known to have been using alcohol at the time of the offense in 4.2 percent of the cases, drugs in 1.1 percent, and alcohol and drugs in 0.4 percent.

Offenders were known to have been using alcohol at the time of the offense in 8.5 percent of the cases, drugs in 1.4 percent, and alcohol and drugs in 0.4 percent.

MURDER INCIDENTS BY MONTH

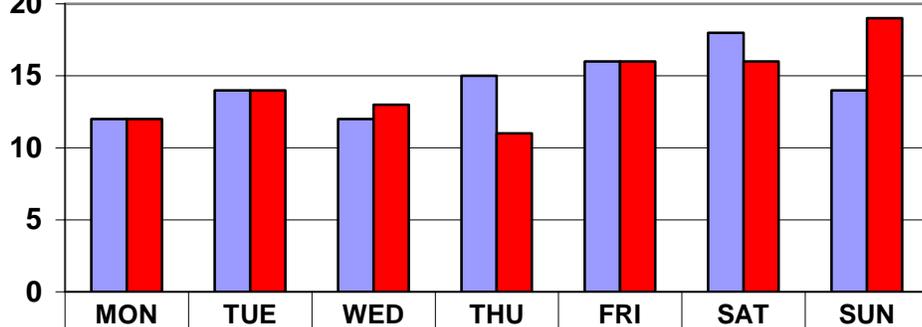
PERCENTAGES



2002	8	6	7	7	7	12	11	10	9	7	8	9
2003	9	6	9	8	9	7	11	10	8	7	7	10

MURDER INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK

PERCENTAGES

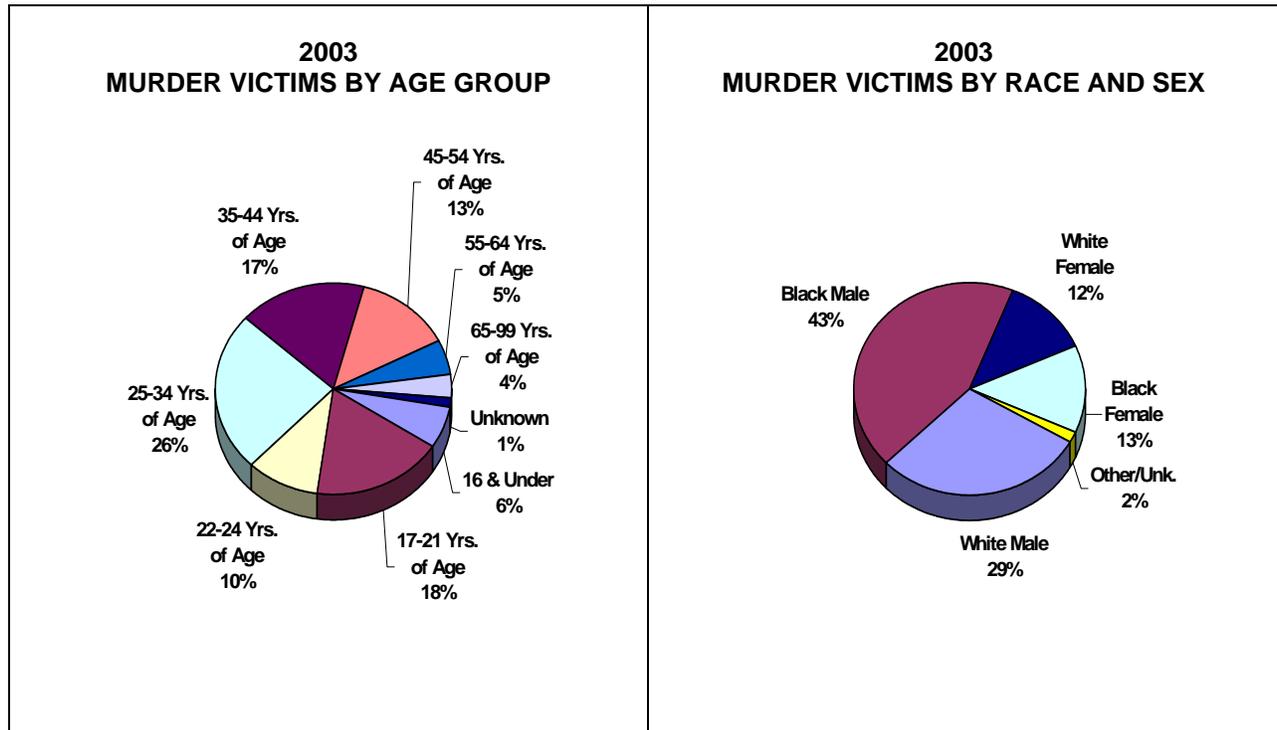


2002	12	14	12	15	16	18	14
2003	12	14	13	11	16	16	19

2003 MURDER VICTIMS BY AGE, SEX, RACE

Age Group	Total	White Male	Black Male	Other Male	Unk Male	White Female	Black Female	Other Female	Unk Female	Unk Unk
Infant	5	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
01 – 04	8	2	1	0	0	2	3	0	0	0
05 – 09	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 – 16	5	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
17 – 21	54	16	32	0	0	3	3	0	0	0
22 – 24	30	7	17	1	0	3	2	0	0	0
25 – 34	74	18	36	1	0	7	12	0	0	0
35 – 44	52	19	17	0	0	8	8	0	0	0
45 – 54	40	11	14	0	0	8	7	0	0	0
55 – 64	16	6	5	2	0	3	0	0	0	0
65 – 99	11	5	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Unknown	4	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
State Total	300	88	130	5	0	37	40	0	0	0

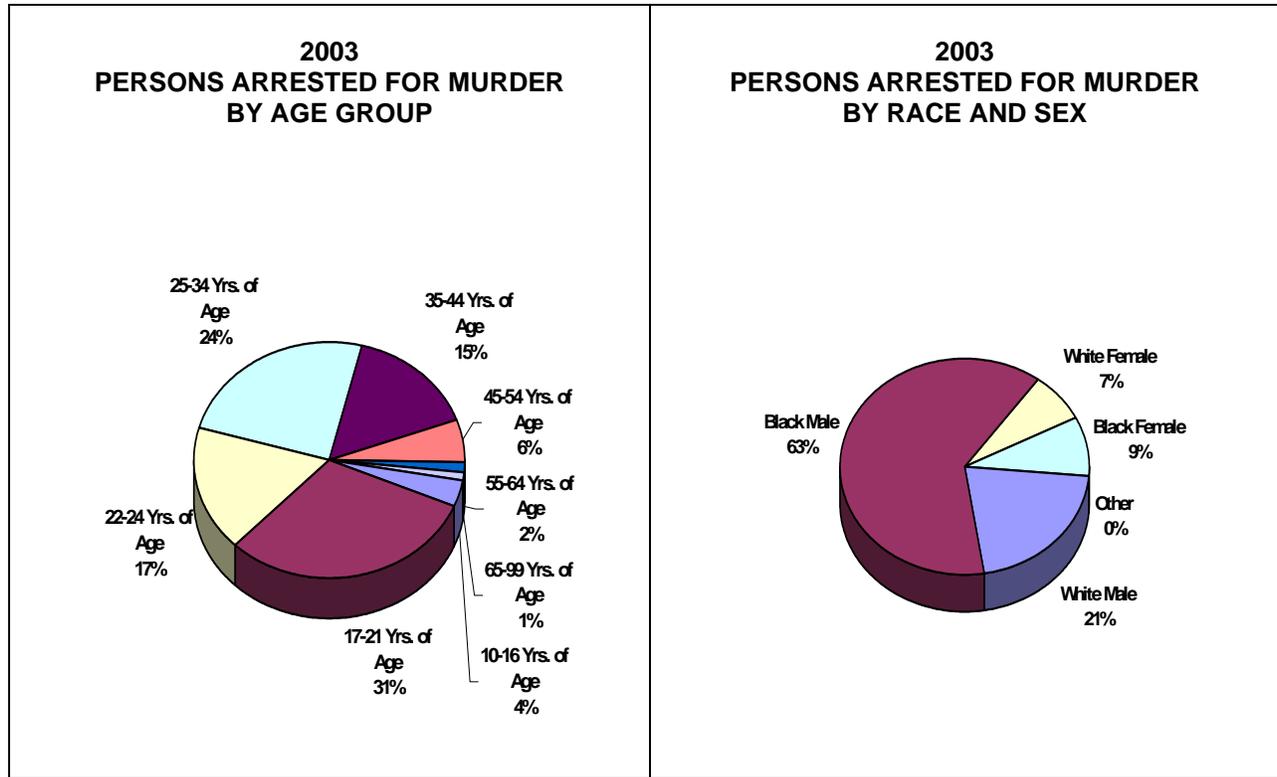
NOTE: The victim counts shown here are taken from a report which selects only the most serious offense (hierarchy) in an incident, and may vary from victim counts shown elsewhere.



Twenty-nine percent of murder victims reported in 2003 were white males, 23 percent of those were 21 years of age or younger; 43 percent were black males, 29 percent of those were 21 years of age or younger. White females accounted for 12 percent, while black females accounted for 13 percent of murder victims reported in 2003; 14 percent of the white females and 25 percent of the black females were 21 years of age or younger.

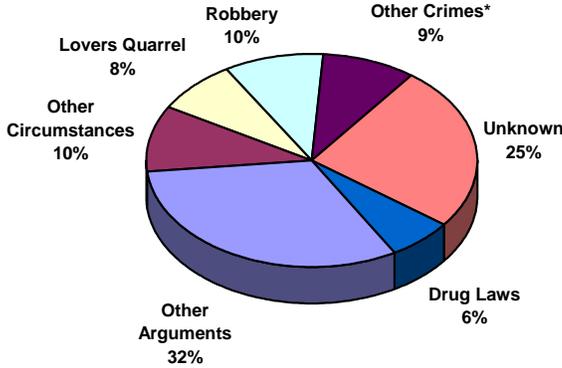
2003 PERSONS ARRESTED FOR MURDER BY AGE, SEX, RACE

Age Group	Total	White Male	Black Male	Other Male	White Female	Black Female	Other Female
01 – 04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
05 – 09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 – 16	11	1	10	0	0	0	0
17 – 21	95	17	66	0	6	6	0
22 – 24	53	9	35	0	4	5	0
25 – 34	75	17	45	0	4	9	0
35 – 44	47	13	24	0	5	5	0
45 – 54	18	6	7	0	3	2	0
55 – 64	5	1	3	0	1	0	0
65 – 99	3	1	2	0	0	0	0
State Total	307	65	192	0	23	27	0



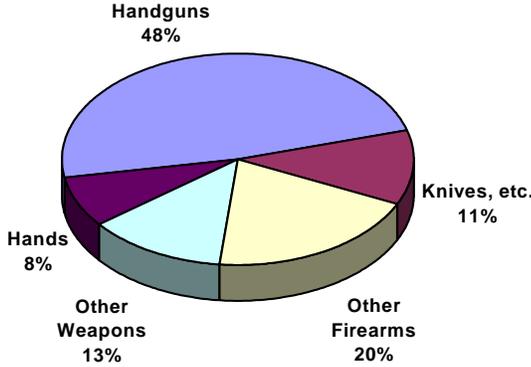
Twenty-one percent of persons arrested for murder in 2003 were white males, 28 percent of those were 21 years of age or younger; 63 percent were black males, 40 percent of those were 21 years of age or younger. White females accounted for 7 percent of persons arrested for murder, while black females accounted for 9 percent of persons arrested. Twenty-six percent of the white females and 22 percent of the black females were 21 years of age or younger.

**2003
MURDER CIRCUMSTANCE DISTRIBUTION**



* (Rape, B & E, Arson, Other Sex, Other Crimes, Police Killed, Gang Killings)

**2003
MURDER WEAPON DISTRIBUTION**



2003 MURDER VICTIM DISTRIBUTION BY CIRCUMSTANCE AND WEAPON

Circumstance	Handgun	Shotgun	Other Guns	Knife or Cutting Instr.	Hands, Etc.	Other Wpns.	Total	% Distr.
Rape	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0.7
Robbery	16	0	6	3	0	4	29	9.7
B & E	5	0	1	3	1	2	12	4.0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.3
Other Sex Off.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Drug Laws	10	0	7	0	1	1	19	6.3
Other Crimes	5	0	1	0	1	0	7	2.3
Lovers Quarrel	10	2	6	3	0	3	24	8.0
Police Killed	1	0	2	0	0	0	3	1.0
Juvenile Gang	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.7
Gangland	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.3
Arguments	51	7	8	15	9	5	95	31.7
Other	13	0	0	2	8	7	30	10.0
Unknown	32	4	14	7	2	16	75	25.0
State Total	145	13	46	34	23	39	300	100.0
% Distr.	48.3	4.3	15.3	11.3	7.7	13.0		

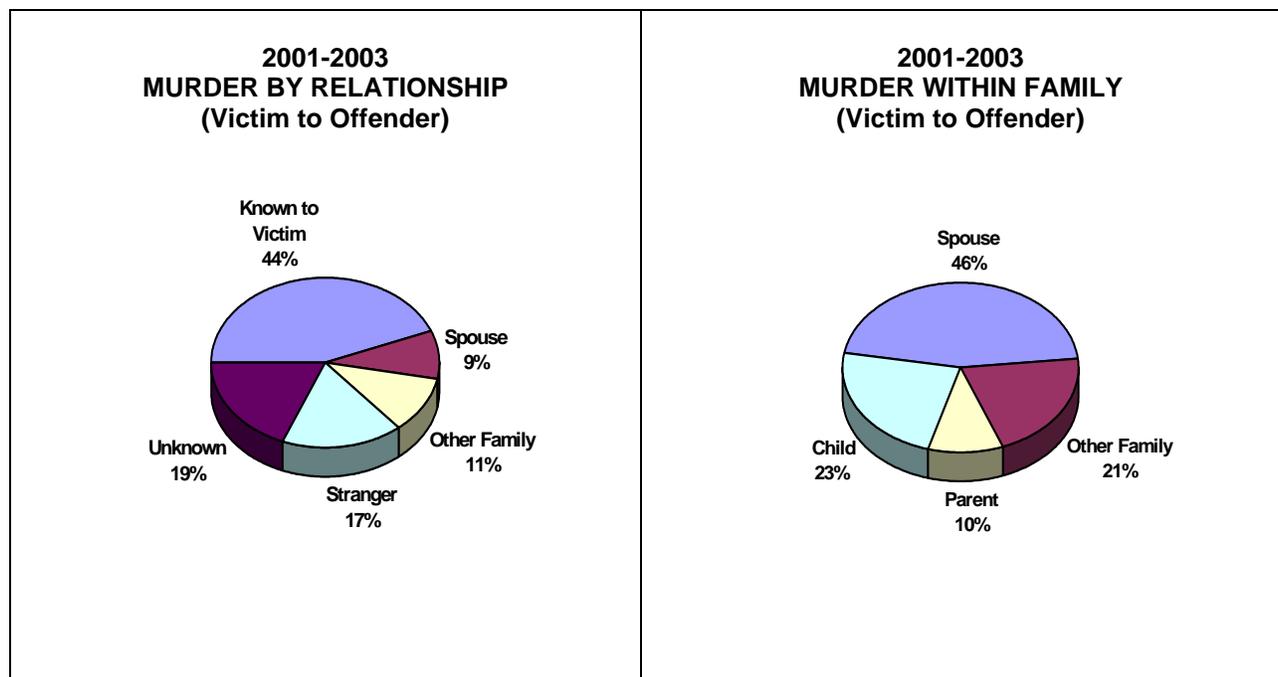
2001-2003 MURDER VICTIM CIRCUMSTANCE DISTRIBUTION

Circumstance	Number of Victims 2001	% Distr.	Number of Victims 2002	% Distr.	Number of Victims 2003	% Distr.
Rape	3	0.9	2	0.7	2	0.7
Robbery	35	10.9	32	10.5	29	9.7
B & E	5	1.6	10	3.3	12	4.0
Arson	4	1.3	0	0.0	1	0.3
Other Sex. Off.	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Drug Laws	27	8.4	18	5.9	19	6.3
Other Crimes	5	1.6	5	1.6	7	2.3
Lovers Quarrel	28	8.8	14	4.6	24	8.0
Police Killed	1	0.3	5	1.6	3	1.0
Juvenile Gang	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.7
Gangland	1	0.3	0	0.0	1	0.3
Arguments	109	34.1	109	35.6	95	31.7
Other	62	19.4	40	13.1	30	10.0
Unknown	40	12.5	71	23.2	75	25.0
State Total	297	100.0	306	100.0	300	100.0

2001-2003 RELATIONSHIP OF MURDER VICTIMS TO OFFENDERS

Relationship Of Victim To Offender	Number of Victims 2001	% Distr.	Number of Victims 2002	% Distr.	Number of Victims 2003	% Distr.
Within Family	68	21.3	57	18.6	59	19.7
Spouse	26	8.1	22	7.2	17	5.7
Common-Law Spouse	5	1.6	6	2.0	8	2.7
Parent, Stepparent	6	1.9	5	1.6	8	2.7
Child, Stepchild	17	5.3	12	3.9	14	4.7
Sibling, Stepsibling	6	1.9	2	0.7	1	0.3
Other Family	8	2.5	10	3.3	11	3.7
Known to Victim	146	45.6	137	44.8	124	41.3
Acquaintance	116	36.3	123	40.2	105	35.0
Ex-Spouse	1	0.3	1	0.3	1	0.3
Boy/Girlfriend	29	9.1	13	4.2	18	6.0
Stranger	53	16.6	47	15.4	59	19.7
Unknown	53	16.6	65	21.2	58	19.3
State Total	320	100.0	306	100.0	300	100.0

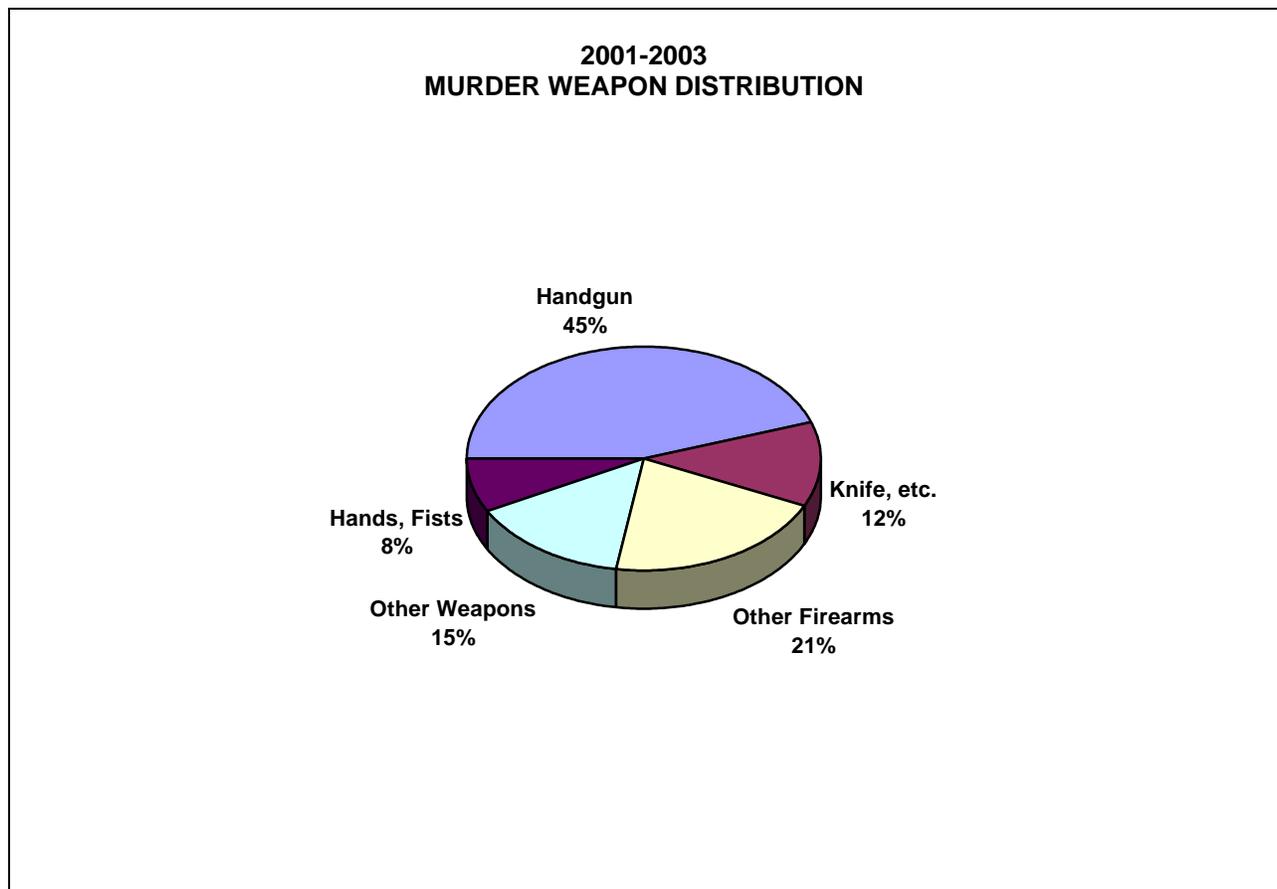
NOTE: The victim counts in this table have not been subjected to the "hierarchy rule" (explained elsewhere), therefore, all victims linked to this offense type are counted. For simplicity, only one relationship category has been counted for each victim. (If there was more than one offender related to a victim, only the relationship "closest" to that victim was counted.)



2001-2003 MURDER INCIDENT WEAPON DISTRIBUTION

Weapons	2001 Incidents	% Distr.	2002 Incidents	% Distr.	2003 Incidents	% Distr.
Handgun	136	44.3	122	42.5	135	47.7
Shotgun	17	5.5	21	7.3	12	4.2
Rifle	6	2.0	8	2.8	5	1.8
Other Firearm	38	12.4	38	13.2	36	12.7
Knife, Cutting Instrument	40	13.0	32	11.1	34	12.0
Hands, Fists	26	8.5	18	6.3	24	8.5
Other Weapons	35	11.4	34	11.8	23	8.1
Unknown	9	2.9	14	4.9	14	4.9
State Total	307	100.0	287	100.0	283	100.0

NOTE: The incident counts in this table have not been subjected to the "hierarchy rule" (explained elsewhere), therefore, all incidents in this category are counted. For simplicity, only one weapon type has been counted for each incident. (If there was more than one weapon type used in an incident, only the primary weapon - as listed in order in this table - was counted.)



2001-2003 MURDER INCIDENTS BY PREMISE

Premise	2001 Incidents	% Distr.	2002 Incidents	% Distr.	2003 Incidents	% Distr.
Residences, Apts.	189	61.6	161	56.1	177	62.5
Roads, Parking Lots, etc.	63	20.5	58	20.2	53	18.7
Commercial	9	2.9	14	4.9	13	4.6
Nightclubs, Bars	10	3.3	13	4.5	7	2.5
Hotels, Motels	4	1.3	2	0.7	5	1.8
Convenience Stores, etc.	6	2.0	5	1.7	5	1.8
Schools, Churches	3	1.0	2	0.7	0	0.0
Woods, etc.	13	4.2	21	7.3	20	7.1
Other	10	3.3	11	3.8	3	1.1
State Total	307	100.0	287	100.0	283	100.0

NOTE: The counts in this table have not been subjected to the "hierarchy rule" (explained elsewhere).

