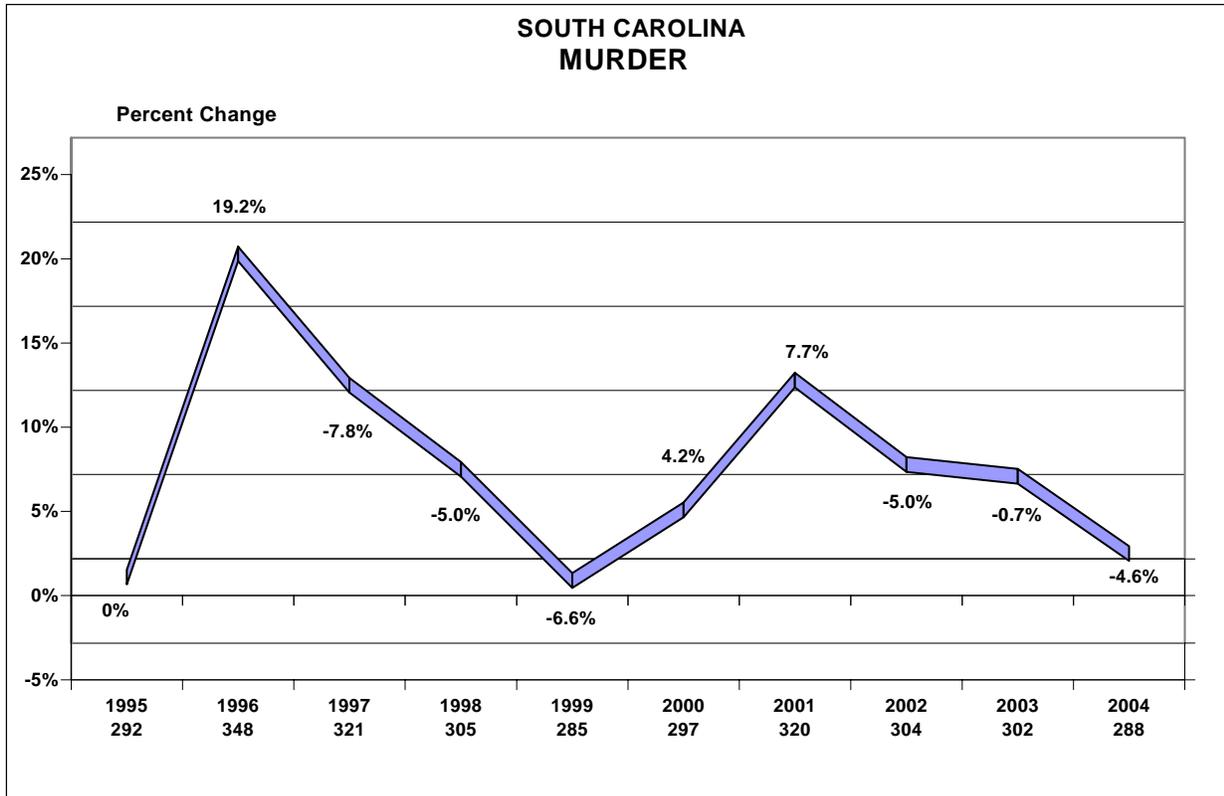


# MURDER

## **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.



### 2004 SUMMARY

A total of 288 murder victims was reported in the 2004 crime index. During this year, the number of murders decreased 4.6 percent compared to those reported in 2003.

There were 233 murders cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared, amounting to a clearance rate of 81.0 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 0.69 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.

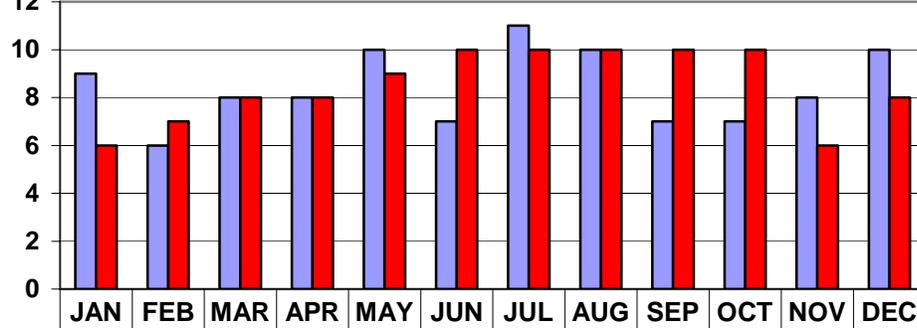
Firearms were used in 69.5 percent of the murders, cutting instruments in 13.6 percent, hands and feet in 6.6 percent, other weapons in 6.6 percent, and unknown weapons in 3.7 percent.

Victims were known to have been using alcohol at the time of the offense in 3.7 percent of the cases, drugs in 0.4 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 1.8 percent, and alcohol and drugs in 1.5 percent.

### MURDER INCIDENTS BY MONTH

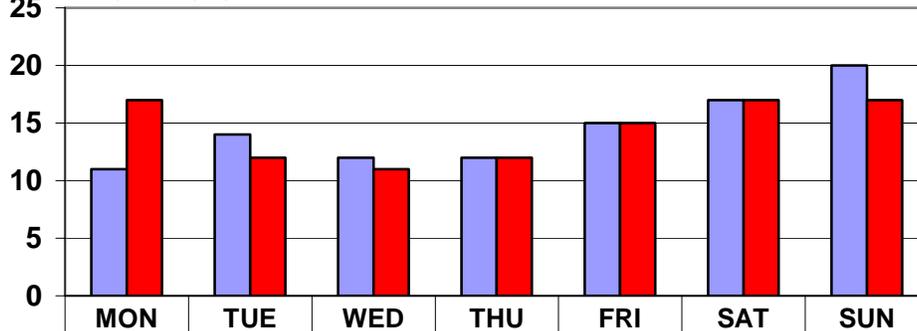
PERCENTAGES



2003	9	6	8	8	10	7	11	10	7	7	8	10
2004	6	7	8	8	9	10	10	10	10	10	6	8

### MURDER INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK

PERCENTAGES

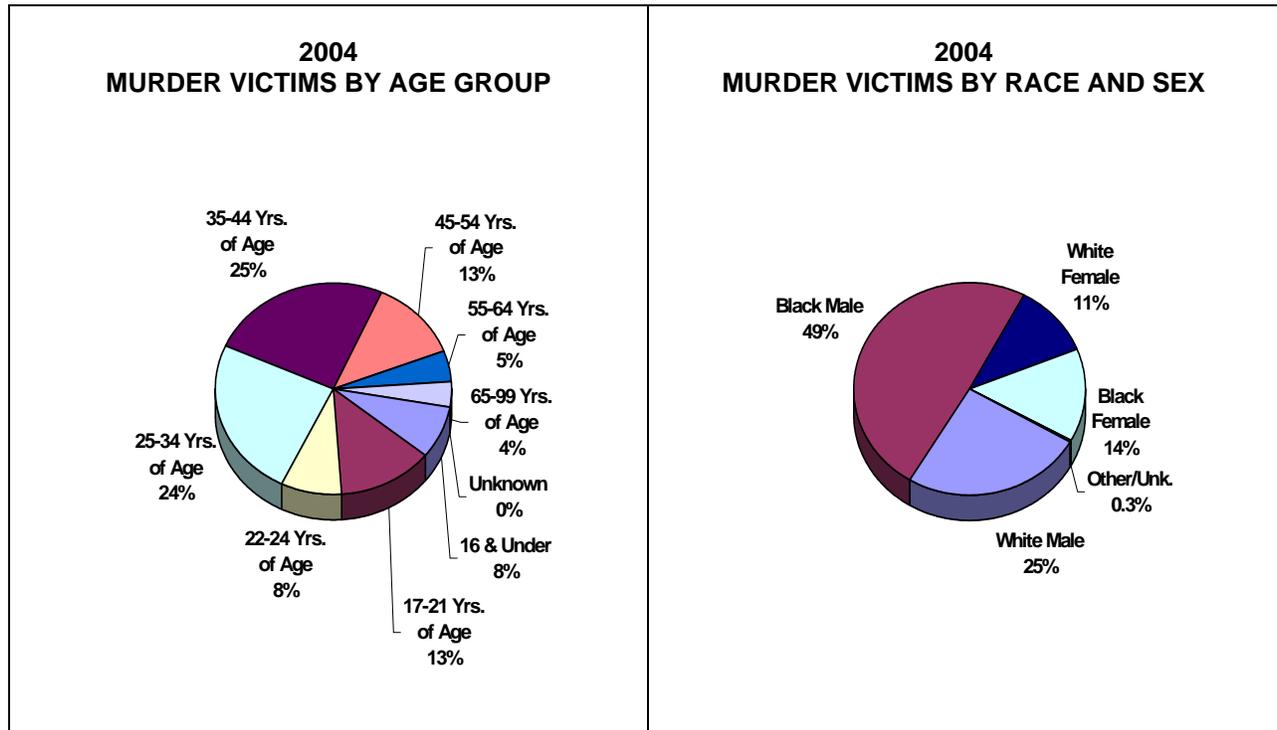


2003	11	14	12	12	15	17	20
2004	17	12	11	12	15	17	17

**2004 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	1	2	0	0	0
01 – 04	6	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
05 – 09	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
10 – 16	9	0	4	0	0	2	3	0	0	0
17 – 21	38	3	23	0	0	4	8	0	0	0
22 – 24	24	8	14	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
25 – 34	70	11	50	0	0	3	6	0	0	0
35 – 44	72	22	28	0	0	12	10	0	0	0
45 – 54	36	10	12	1	0	6	7	0	0	0
55 – 64	14	9	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
65 – 99	11	6	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>State Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

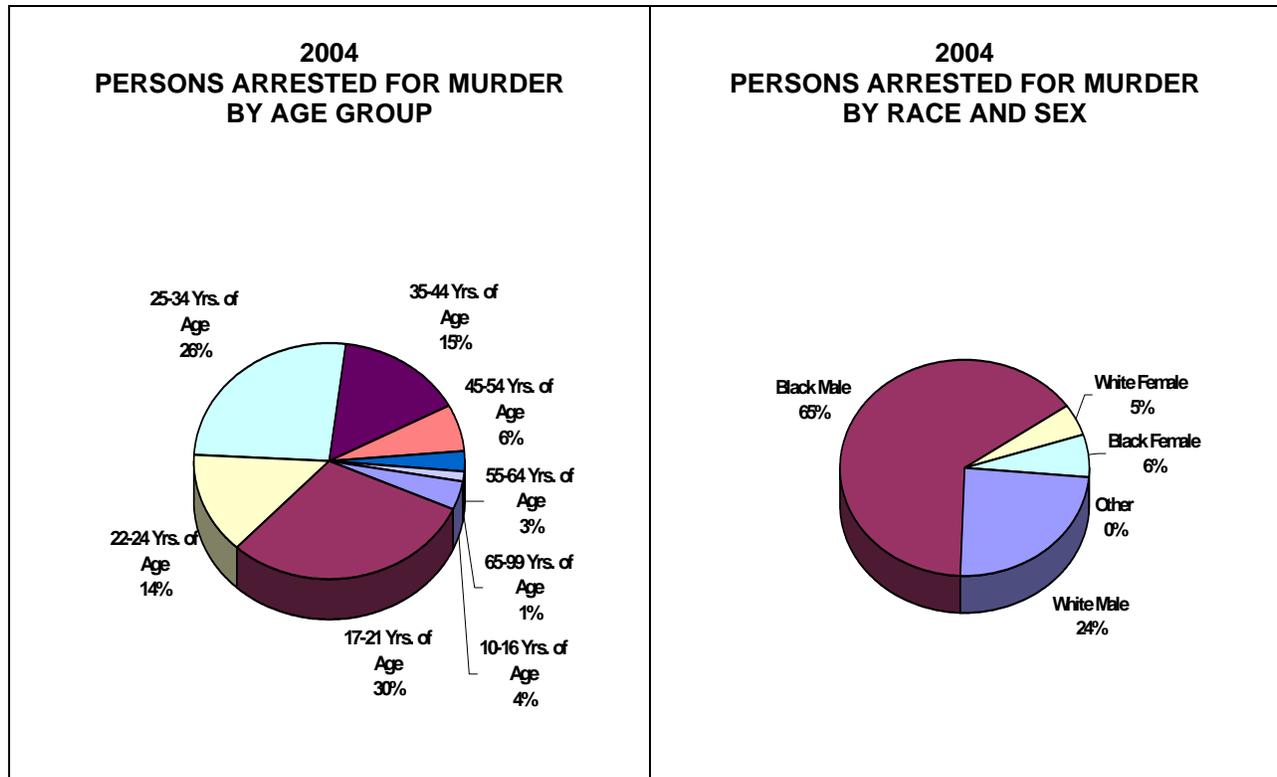
**NOTE:** The victim counts shown here are taken from a report which selects only the most serious offense (hierarchy) in an incident, and may vary from victim counts shown elsewhere.



Twenty-five percent of murder victims reported in 2004 were white males, 10 percent of those were 21 years of age or younger; 49 percent were black males, 23 percent of those were 21 years of age or younger. White females accounted for 11 percent, while black females accounted for 14 percent of murder victims reported in 2004; 28 percent of the white females and 32 percent of the black females were 21 years of age or younger.

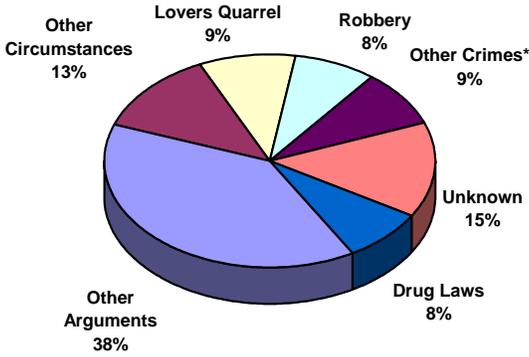
**2004 PERSONS ARRESTED FOR MURDER BY AGE, SEX, RACE**

Age Group	Total	White Male	Black Male	Other Male	White Female	Black Female	Other Female
01 – 09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 – 16	11	3	7	0	0	1	0
17 – 21	86	11	71	0	2	2	0
22 – 24	40	6	31	0	2	1	0
25 – 34	74	19	49	0	5	1	0
35 – 44	44	17	18	0	2	7	0
45 – 54	18	7	5	0	3	3	0
55 – 64	8	4	1	0	0	3	0
65 – 99	4	2	2	0	0	0	0
<b>State Total</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>



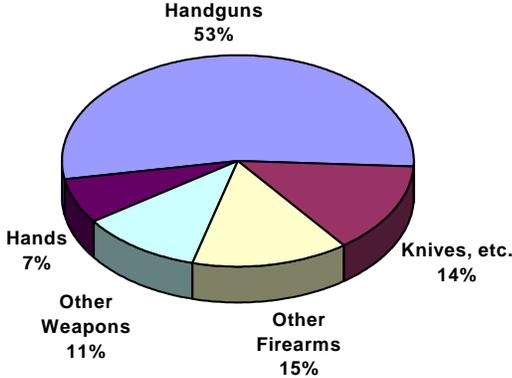
Twenty-four percent of persons arrested for murder in 2004 were white males, 20 percent of those were 21 years of age or younger; 65 percent were black males, 42 percent of those were 21 years of age or younger. White females accounted for 5 percent of persons arrested for murder, while black females accounted for 6 percent of persons arrested. Fourteen percent of the white females and 17 percent of the black females were 21 years of age or younger.

**2004  
MURDER CIRCUMSTANCE DISTRIBUTION**



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

**2004  
MURDER WEAPON DISTRIBUTION**



**2004 MURDER VICTIM DISTRIBUTION BY CIRCUMSTANCE AND WEAPON**

<b>Circumstance</b>	<b>Handgun</b>	<b>Shotgun</b>	<b>Other Guns</b>	<b>Knife or Cutting Instr.</b>	<b>Hands, Etc.</b>	<b>Other Wpns.</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% Distr.</b>
Rape	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0.7
Robbery	19	0	1	2	0	1	23	8.0
B & E	1	1	1	0	0	1	4	1.4
Arson	0	0	1	4	0	8	13	4.5
Other Sex Off.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Drug Laws	15	2	4	1	0	1	23	8.0
Other Crimes	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.3
Lovers Quarrel	16	1	0	5	3	2	27	9.4
Police Killed	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.3
Juvenile Gang	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
Gangland	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	1.0
Arguments	67	6	7	18	8	6	112	38.9
Other	12	0	7	1	8	8	36	12.5
Unknown	21	2	7	7	1	4	42	14.6
<b>State Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>% Distr.</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>11.1</b>		

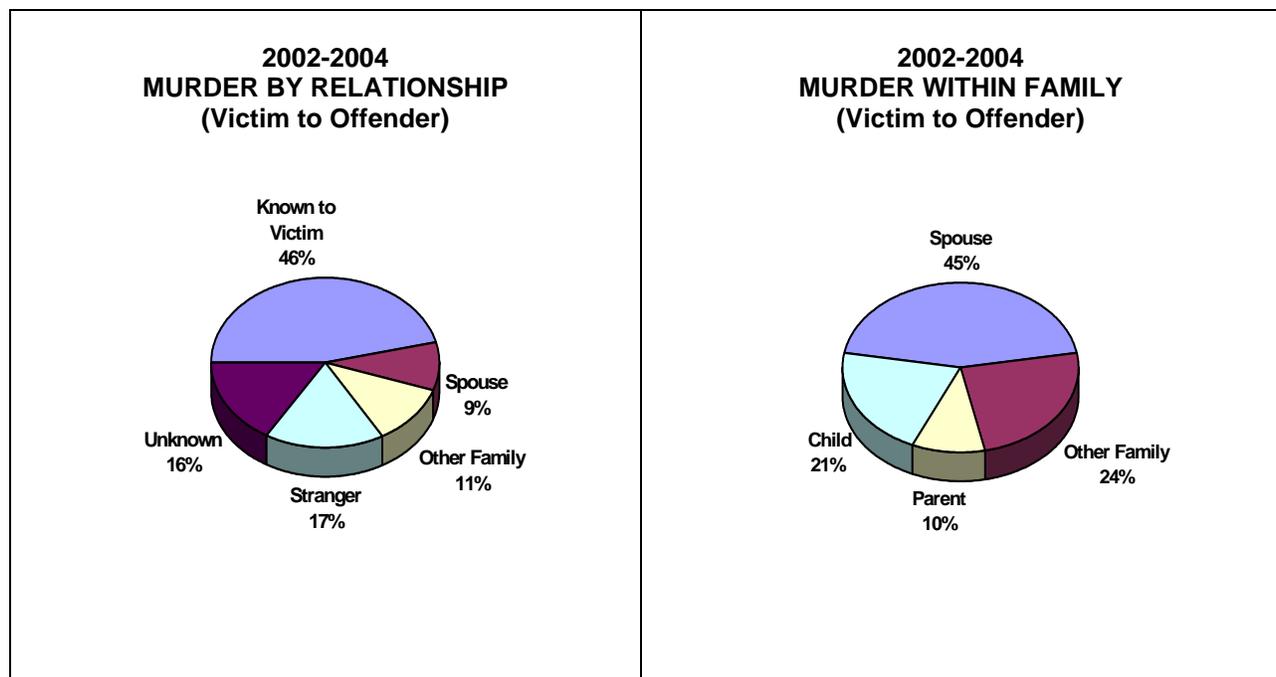
**2002-2004 MURDER VICTIM CIRCUMSTANCE DISTRIBUTION**

<b>Circumstance</b>	<b>Number of Victims 2002</b>	<b>% Distr.</b>	<b>Number of Victims 2003</b>	<b>% Distr.</b>	<b>Number of Victims 2004</b>	<b>% Distr.</b>
Rape	2	0.7	3	1.0	2	0.7
Robbery	36	11.8	33	10.9	23	8.0
B & E	5	1.6	5	1.7	4	1.4
Arson	0	0.0	2	0.7	13	4.5
Other Sex. Off.	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Drug Laws	18	5.9	26	8.6	23	8.0
Other Crimes	5	1.6	8	2.6	1	0.3
Lovers Quarrel	14	4.6	24	7.9	27	9.4
Police Killed	5	1.6	4	1.3	1	0.3
Juvenile Gang	0	0.0	2	0.7	1	0.3
Gangland	0	0.0	1	0.3	3	1.0
Arguments	110	36.2	117	38.7	112	38.9
Other	39	12.8	36	11.9	36	12.5
Unknown	70	23.0	41	13.6	42	14.6
<b>State Total</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**2002-2004 RELATIONSHIP OF MURDER VICTIMS TO OFFENDERS**

<b>Relationship Of Victim To Offender</b>	<b>Number of Victims 2002</b>	<b>% Distr.</b>	<b>Number of Victims 2003</b>	<b>% Distr.</b>	<b>Number of Victims 2004</b>	<b>% Distr.</b>
<b>Within Family</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>22.6</b>
Spouse	22	7.2	18	6.0	21	7.3
Common-Law Spouse	6	2.0	8	2.6	7	2.4
Parent, Stepparent	5	1.6	8	2.6	5	1.7
Child, Stepchild	12	3.9	16	5.3	11	3.8
Sibling, Stepsibling	2	0.7	2	0.7	4	1.4
Other Family	10	3.3	10	3.3	17	5.9
<b>Known to Victim</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>47.9</b>
Acquaintance	122	40.1	119	38.4	118	41.0
Ex-Spouse	1	0.3	1	0.3	2	0.7
Boy/Girlfriend	13	4.3	17	5.6	18	6.3
<b>Stranger</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>15.6</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>13.9</b>
<b>State Total</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100.0</b>

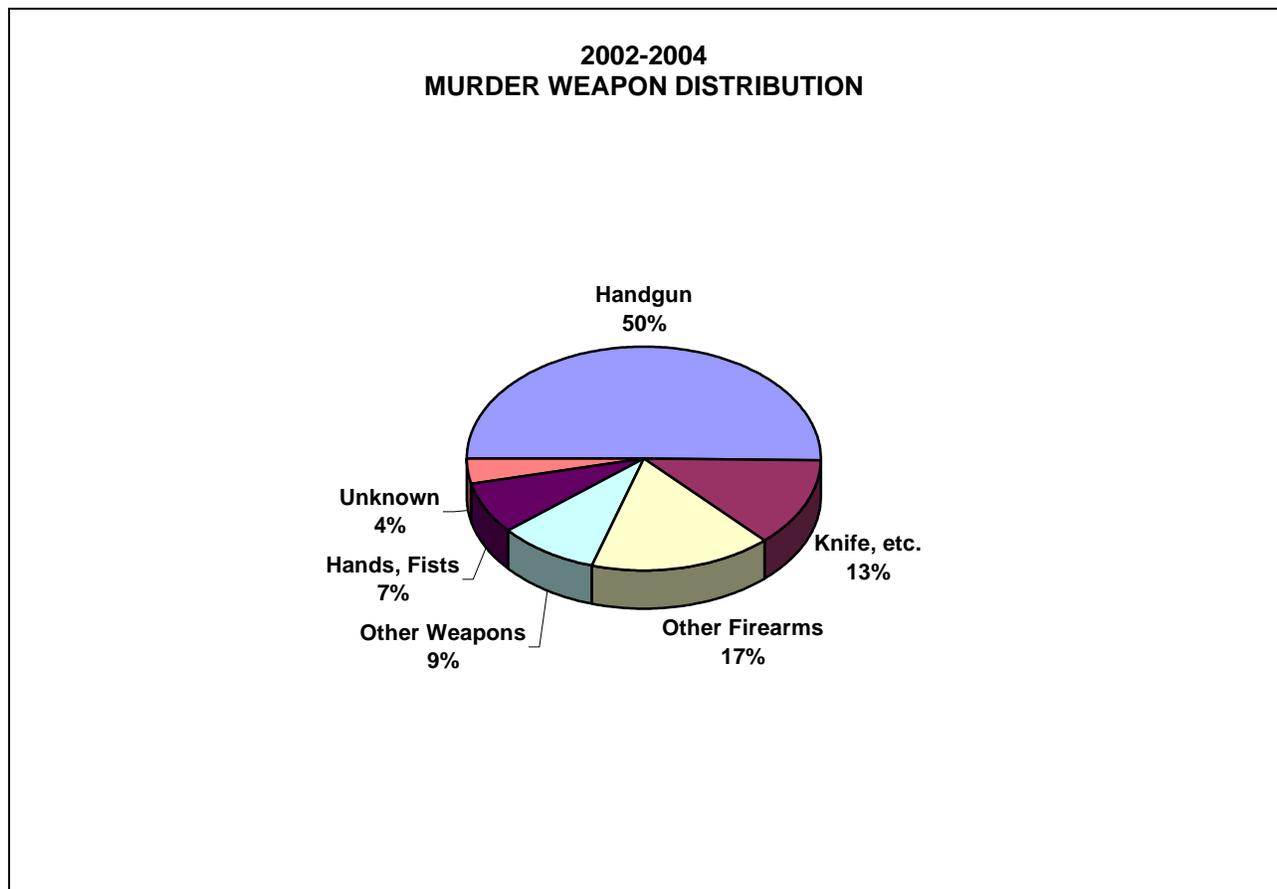
**NOTE:** The victim counts in this table have not been subjected to the "hierarchy rule" (explained elsewhere), therefore, all victims linked to this offense type are counted. For simplicity, only one relationship category has been counted for each victim. (If there was more than one offender related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



**2002-2004 MURDER INCIDENT WEAPON DISTRIBUTION**

<b>Weapons</b>	<b>2002 Incidents</b>	<b>% Distr.</b>	<b>2003 Incidents</b>	<b>% Distr.</b>	<b>2004 Incidents</b>	<b>% Distr.</b>
Handgun	122	42.5	157	55.2	146	53.7
Shotgun	21	7.3	17	6.0	12	4.4
Rifle	8	2.8	6	2.1	15	5.5
Other Firearm	38	13.2	8	2.8	16	5.9
Knife, Cutting Instrument	32	11.1	37	13.0	37	13.6
Hands, Fists	18	6.3	27	9.6	18	6.6
Other Weapons	34	11.8	25	8.8	18	6.6
Unknown	14	4.9	7	2.5	10	3.7
<b>State Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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.)



**2002-2004 MURDER INCIDENTS BY PREMISE**

<b>Premise</b>	<b>2002 Incidents</b>	<b>% Distr.</b>	<b>2003 Incidents</b>	<b>% Distr.</b>	<b>2004 Incidents</b>	<b>% Distr.</b>
Residences, Apts.	161	56.1	178	62.6	162	59.5
Roads, Parking Lots, etc.	58	20.2	53	18.7	69	25.4
Commercial	14	4.9	13	4.6	6	2.2
Nightclubs, Bars	13	4.5	6	2.1	12	4.4
Hotels, Motels	2	0.7	4	1.4	4	1.5
Convenience Stores, etc.	5	1.7	4	1.4	4	1.5
Schools, Churches	2	0.7	0	0.0	1	0.4
Woods, etc.	21	7.3	21	7.4	9	3.3
Other	11	3.8	5	1.8	5	1.8
<b>State Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

