

Lost Youth: A County-by-County Analysis of 2009 California Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24



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The Violence Policy Center (VPC) is a national non-profit educational organization that conducts research and public education on violence in America and provides information and analysis to policymakers, journalists, advocates, and the general public. This study is funded by a grant from The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF). Created in 1992 as a private, independent foundation, TCWF's mission is to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education and disease prevention. This study was authored by VPC Policy Analyst Marty Langley and VPC Executive Director Josh Sugarmann. Past studies released by the VPC include:

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- *Guns For Felons: How the NRA Works to Rearm Criminals* (March 2000)
- *One Shot, One Kill: Civilian Sales of Military Sniper Rifles* (May 1999)
- *Cease Fire: A Comprehensive Strategy to Reduce Firearms Violence* (Revised, October 1997)

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Introduction

Homicide is the second leading cause of death for California youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 years old.

In 2007, the most recent year for which complete data is available from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), homicides in California were outpaced only by unintentional injuries—the majority of which were motor vehicle fatalities—as the leading cause of death for this age group. Of the more than 900 homicides reported, more than 85 percent were committed with firearms. Nationally in 2007, California had the ninth highest homicide rate for youth and young adults ages 10 to 24.¹ (Please see Appendix One for a chart ranking the states by homicide rate for this age group.)

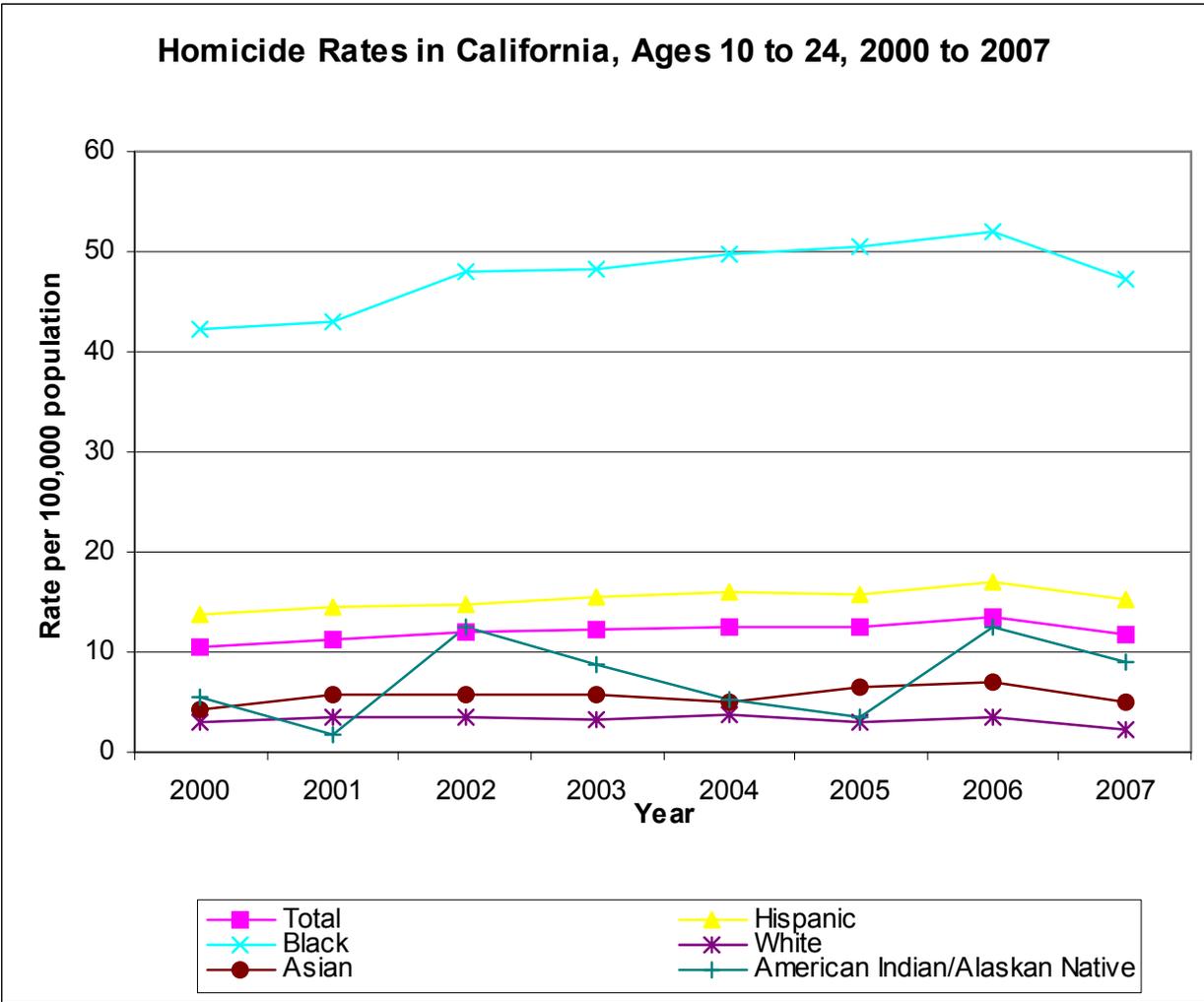
Broken out by gender, homicide retains its number two ranking for males and drops to number three for females for this age group in California. For males, of the 827 homicides reported, firearms were the weapon used in nearly 87 percent of the killings. For females, of the 79 homicides reported, firearms were the weapon used in nearly 75 percent of the killings.

When analyzed by race and ethnicity, however, the rankings become less uniform and the severe effects of homicide on specific segments of this age group more stark.² For blacks ages 10 to 24 in California in 2007, homicide was *the* leading cause of death. For Hispanics and American Indians/Alaska Natives, it was the second leading cause of death. For Asian/Pacific Islanders, it was the third leading cause of death. And for whites it was the fourth leading cause of death.

2007 Leading Causes of Death in California, Both Sexes Ages 10 to 24, by Race					
	Hispanic	Black	White	Asian/Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native
1	Unintentional Injury	Homicide	Unintentional Injury	Unintentional Injury	Unintentional Injury
2	Homicide	Unintentional Injury	Suicide	Suicide	Homicide
3	Malignant Neoplasms	Suicide	Malignant Neoplasms	Homicide	Suicide
4	Suicide	Malignant Neoplasms	Homicide	Malignant Neoplasms	Malignant Neoplasms

¹ All leading cause of death data and state rankings calculated by the Violence Policy Center using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s WISQARS (Web-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System) database (<http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>). For American Indian/Alaska Native, Diseases of Appendix and Cerebrovascular were tied with Malignant Neoplasms.

² Race and ethnicity are two separate designations. To calculate Hispanic ethnicity, for all races Hispanic ethnicity was excluded from race data (e.g., white non-Hispanic, black non-Hispanic, etc.). For the purposes of this report, these definitions will be presented without the modifying descriptions “non-Hispanic” and all races and ethnicity will be referred to as race.



As detailed in the graph above, from 2000 through 2007 the homicide rate among black youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in California was far higher than the overall California homicide rate among the same age group.³ The rate for Hispanic youth in California was also consistently above the state’s overall rate for this age group, while the rates for Asian and white youth were well below the state’s overall rate. The rate for American Indian and Alaska Natives was more variable, most likely due to the smaller population of American Indian and Alaska Natives in this age group in the state. A chart containing the supporting data for this graph is on the next page.

³ Per capita homicide rates for specific races ages 10 to 24 years old determined by the Violence Policy Center using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s WISQARS (Web-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System) database (<http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>).

California Homicide Rates for Victims Ages 10 to 24 by Race, 2000 to 2007 (All Rates Per 100,000 for Relevant Population)						
Year	Hispanic	Black	White	Asian/ Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Overall
2000	13.82	42.25	3.01	4.22	5.53	10.58
2001	14.56	42.98	3.56	5.70	1.79	11.35
2002	14.87	47.95	3.43	5.75	12.39	11.92
2003	15.55	48.34	3.35	5.84	8.80	12.24
2004	15.88	49.86	3.67	5.08	5.26	12.57
2005	15.66	50.53	3.09	6.55	3.52	12.52
2006	16.89	51.92	3.41	7.03	12.50	13.47
2007	15.34	47.16	2.33	4.94	9.06	11.83

Compared to other nations, youth and young adults in the United States have far higher firearm homicide rates. A 2010 study published in *The Journal of Trauma, Injury, Infection, and Critical Care* compared firearm deaths for a slightly different age group, youth and young adults ages 15 to 24, in 23 high-income countries in 2003:

The U.S. age group at greatest relative risk of homicide is the 15 year olds to 24 year olds, and compared with young people in these other high-income nations, U.S. youth have a firearm homicide rate 42 times higher, and an overall homicide rate more than 14 times higher. Both young men and young women aged 15 to 24 are at higher risk: young men are being killed with firearms at more than 46 times the rate of young men in these other countries, and females at more than 23 times the rate.⁴

⁴ Richardson, Erin G., S.M., Hemenway, David, PhD, "Homicide, Suicide, and Unintentional Firearm Fatality: Comparing the United States With Other High-Income Countries, 2003," *The Journal of Trauma, Injury, Infection, and Critical Care*, published online ahead of print, June 2010. According to the study, "For these analyses, data were limited to 2003, the most recent year that had the most complete data for the greatest number of countries. Our analyses are confined to the 23 populous high-income Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development countries that provided mortality to the WHO for 2003 [Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom (England and Wales), United Kingdom (Northern Ireland), United Kingdom (Scotland), and the United States]."

Often left unstated is the fact that the effects of violence extend far beyond the flesh and blood toll measured in homicides and non-fatal injuries. An additional heavy price is exacted on family members and entire communities: the psychological stress of living with such violence that often haunts residents for a lifetime.

An article published in the *San Francisco Chronicle* offered a window into the devastating effect exposure to extreme violence can have on children:

 Tierra Turner's older brother was shot and killed on a busy Bayview street last summer. By the time Tierra, 11, arrived at the scene with her mother, a yellow tarp covered 18-year-old Anthony Brooks' body. Nearby, a second tarp covered his friend, Monte Frierson. Standing outside the police tape, Tierra broke down, her small body heaving with sobs. Two weeks later, Tierra started the sixth grade. Along with a Tinker Bell backpack and pink Princess cell phone, she carried the deaths with her to Visitacion Valley Middle School each day, absentmindedly writing "RIP Ant and Monte" on the cover of her notebooks and in sidewalk chalk on the playground. As the months passed, her grades slipped and her temper often flared. At her school, the principal and staff see the signs and symptoms of trauma-related stress in many of their students—the hostile outbursts, the sliding grades, the poor test scores or the inability to pay attention.

 They are among the countless children in San Francisco's toughest neighborhoods who experience murder, violence and trauma—an often unavoidable consequence of living in an urban war zone. The violence, layers of it overlapping year after year, can eventually take up residence in the children's minds. Like combat veterans, they develop post-traumatic stress disorder—the soldier's sickness. As many as one-third of children living in our country's violent urban neighborhoods have PTSD, according to recent research and the country's top child trauma experts—nearly twice the rate reported for troops returning from war zones in Iraq.⁵

Nationally, children's exposure to shootings rises sharply in both past-year and lifetime incidence from one age group to the next. The federal National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV), conducted between January and May 2008, found that while 1.1 percent of children younger than two years old were exposed to shootings in the past year, 10.2 percent of 14- to 17-year olds had witnessed a shooting in the past year. Looking at children who had witnessed a shooting during their lifetimes, while 3.5 percent of two- to five-year-olds had witnessed a shooting during their lifetimes, for 14- to 17-year-olds the percentage rose to 22.2 percent. An analysis of the survey's findings published by the U.S. Department of Justice found:

 Children react to exposure to violence in different ways, and many children show remarkable resilience. All too often, however, children who are exposed to violence undergo lasting physical, mental, and emotional harm. They suffer from difficulties with attachment, regressive behavior, anxiety and depression, and aggression and conduct problems. They may be more prone to dating violence, delinquency, further victimization, and involvement with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Moreover, being exposed to violence

⁵ "Hidden Victims of Violence," *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 26, 2007.

may impair a child’s capacity for partnering and parenting later in life, continuing the cycle of violence into the next generation. Research has found that early identification, intervention, and continued followup are valuable strategies to prevent or decrease the impact of exposure to violence. Families, teachers, police, judges, pediatricians, mental health providers, child protection workers, domestic violence advocates, and others who interact with children have a responsibility to create interventions, both physical and psychological, that decrease or prevent the harms associated with exposure to violence. These include ways of interacting sensitively and expeditiously with children, ensuring protective environments and caregivers, and helping children use positive coping skills. Much more research is warranted about what works to mitigate the effects of exposure to violence.⁶

In addition to the physical and emotional toll, there are also financial costs associated with gun violence that affect communities, costs that are widely shared among a “...city’s residents but disproportionately so by the most economically vulnerable among us.”⁷ Testifying before the Chicago City Council in June 2010, University of Chicago Professor Jens Ludwig cited prior research he had conducted with Dr. Philip Cook at Duke University which estimated “...that the total social costs per assault-related gunshot injury is on the order of around \$1 million.... This total social cost estimate includes the intangible costs of crime, such as the fear of losing a loved one to gun violence...as well as the costs that many people incur to reduce their risk of being shot, such as living far away from where they work.”⁸ Ludwig estimated that the social cost of gun violence for the City of Chicago alone was approximately \$2.5 billion per year, or \$2,500 per Chicago household per year.

Information aids in the development of sound prevention strategies—on the local, state, and national levels. The goal of this report is to offer localized information on the county level in California to better inform citizens, advocates, service providers, and policymakers. All too often, the devastating effects of violence are little recognized outside of those who are directly affected. By comparing on a county-by-county level the homicide rates for youth and young adults in California, it is our goal to add a new context for information to be presented while helping support discussion, analysis, policy development, and action.

⁶ Finkelhor, David, et al, “Children’s Exposure to Violence: A Comprehensive National Survey,” *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, October 2009.

⁷ “The Social Costs of Handgun Violence,” Testimony of Jens Ludwig, PhD, before the Chicago City Council, June 29, 2010.

⁸ “The Social Costs of Handgun Violence,” Testimony of Jens Ludwig, PhD, before the Chicago City Council, June 29, 2010.

Section One: 2009 California County-by-County Data

This study offers both statewide and county-by-county homicide statistics for youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 utilizing 2009 California Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) data (this is the most recent California homicide data available and is separate from the historical data cited in the prior section) and 2009 census data. To help ensure more stable rates, only counties with a population of at least 25,000 10- to 24-year-olds are included. The selected counties account for 99 percent of homicide victims ages 10 to 24 in California (803 out of 808 victims) and 98 percent of California's population ages 10 to 24 (7,661,544 out of 7,843,641) for 2009.

It is important to note that the coding contained in the California Supplementary Homicide Report data used in this report comes from law enforcement reporting at the local level. While there are coding guidelines followed by the law enforcement agencies, the level of information submitted to the SHR system, and the interpretation that results in the information submitted (for example, gang involvement) will vary from county to county. While this study utilizes the best and most recent state data available, it is limited by the degree of detail in the information submitted.

County Rankings

In 2009, the homicide rate among victims 10 to 24 years old in California was 10.48 per 100,000. For that year, Monterey County ranked first as the county with the highest homicide rate among victims ages 10 to 24. Its rate of 31.24 per 100,000 was nearly three times the statewide rate. Monterey County was followed by Alameda County (20.69 per 100,000), Kern County (19.98 per 100,000), Contra Costa County (19.17 per 100,000), and Tulare County (15.31 per 100,000). The remaining counties that comprise the top 10 are detailed in the chart below.

Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24 by California County in 2009, Ranked by Rate				
Ranking	County	Number of Homicides	Population, Ages 10 to 24	Homicide Rate per 100,000
1	Monterey County	28	89,636	31.24
2	Alameda County	56	270,710	20.69
3	Kern County	39	195,229	19.98
4	Contra Costa County	40	208,712	19.17
5	Tulare County	16	104,483	15.31
6	Los Angeles County	303	2,073,358	14.61
7	San Joaquin County	22	158,734	13.86
8	Stanislaus County	16	118,631	13.49
9	Merced County	8	62,150	12.87
10	Solano County	11	87,351	12.59

A chart listing the number and rate of homicide victims 10 to 24 years old by county and ranking each county by its homicide rate for this age group can be found in Appendix Two. An alphabetical listing by county with identical information can be found in Appendix Three. Additional data for the top 10 counties—gender and race of victim, type of weapon used, relationship of victim to offender, circumstances of the homicide, and location where the homicide took place—can be found in Appendix Four. General statewide findings are summarized below.

Gender and Race of Homicide Victims

Out of the 803 homicide victims ages 10 to 24 in California in 2009, 723 were male (90 percent) and 80 were female (10 percent). For homicides in which the race of the victim was identified (803 victims): 446 were Hispanic (56 percent); 239 were black (30 percent); 80 were white (10 percent); 26 were Asian (3 percent); and 12 were “other” (1 percent). Overall, Hispanic victims were killed at a rate (12.62 per 100,000) nearly four times higher than white victims (3.17 per 100,000). Black victims were killed at a rate (46.14 per 100,000) more than 14 times higher than white victims (3.17 per 100,000). Asian victims were killed at roughly the same rate as white victims (3.25 per 100,000 compared to 3.17 per 100,000).

Race and Gender of California Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24, 2009					
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total
Hispanic	411	92%	35	8%	446
Black	210	88%	29	12%	239
White	70	88%	10	13%	80
Asian	21	81%	5	19%	26
Overall	723	90%	80	10%	803

California Homicide Rates for Victims Ages 10 to 24 by Race and Gender, 2009 (All Rates Per 100,000 for Relevant Population)			
	Male	Female	Overall
Hispanic	22.50	2.05	12.62
Black	78.89	11.52	46.14
White	5.36	0.82	3.17
Asian	5.13	1.28	3.25

Victim to Offender Relationship

Among youth and young adults in 2009, for homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 45 percent (194 out of 433) were killed by a stranger. Thirty-two percent (138 out of 433) were killed by someone they knew. One hundred one additional victims (23 percent) were identified as gang members.⁹

For this age group, black and Hispanic victims were more likely to be killed by a stranger than white or Asian victims. More than half of all black victims were killed by a stranger (53 out of 105). Thirty-one percent of black victims (33 out of 105) were murdered by someone they knew. Nineteen additional victims (18 percent) were identified as gang members. Forty-four percent of Hispanic victims were killed by strangers (113 out of 255). Twenty-five percent of Hispanic victims (64 out of 255) were murdered by someone they know. An additional 31 percent of Hispanic victims (78 out of 255) were identified as gang members.

In comparison, 57 percent of white victims were murdered by someone they knew (32 out of 56) and 36 percent (20 out of 56) were killed by a stranger. An additional four white victims were identified as gang members. Sixty-four percent of Asian victims (seven out of 11) were murdered by someone they knew and 36 percent (four out of 11) were killed by strangers.

Most Common Weapons

Firearms—especially handguns—were the most common weapon used to murder youth and young adults in 2009. Of the 794 homicides for which the murder weapon could be identified, 84 percent of victims (670 out of 794) died by gunfire. Of these, 76 percent (510 out of 670) were killed with

Use of Guns and Handguns in Homicides of Californians, Ages 10 to 24 by Race, 2009				
	Number of Gun Homicides	Gun Homicides as Percentage of All Homicides	Number of Handgun Homicides	Handgun Homicides as Percentage of All Gun Homicides
Hispanic	370	84%	283	76%
Black	215	90%	169	79%
White	54	70%	34	63%
Asian	22	88%	16	73%
Overall	670	84%	510	76%

⁹ Information on gang activity is provided in two sections of the SHR data and is dependent on how local jurisdictions define and record such data. Although relationships are defined as victim *to* offender, because of potential inconsistencies in on-scene reporting a relationship may be coded as “gang member” if the victim of the homicide *or* the offender is believed to be a gang member. In the circumstance field, it may be coded as “gangland killing” or “gang killing” if the homicide is believed to be related to gang activity, whether or not the victim is a gang member.

a handgun.

Circumstance

The overwhelming majority of homicides of youth and young adults in 2009 were not related to any other felony crime. For the 618 homicides in which the circumstances between the victim and offender could be identified, 82 percent (504 out of 618) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 68 percent (342 of 504) were gang-related.¹⁰

For all races the majority of deaths were not related to the commission of any other felony. For Hispanic victims, 86 percent (309 out of 360) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 72 percent (224 of 309) were gang-related. For black victims, 80 percent (140 out of 176) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 70 percent (98 of 140) were gang-related. For Asian victims, 72 percent (13 out of 18) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 38 percent (5 of 13) were gang-related. And for white victims, 64 percent (35 out of 55) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 31 percent (11 of 35) were gang-related.

Location

In 2009, among youth and young adults for homicides in which the location could be determined, 56 percent (426 out of 764) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Fifteen percent (113 out of 764) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Eleven percent (85 out of 764) occurred at another residence, and seven percent (57 out of 764) occurred in a vehicle.

For all races except for Asian victims, the most common homicide location was a street, sidewalk, or parking lot. For homicides in which the location could be determined, 65 percent of black victims (151 out of 232), 55 percent of Hispanic victims (230 out of 420), and 46 percent of white victims (35 out of 76) were killed in one of these locations. For homicides in which the location could be determined, 40 percent of Asian victims (10 out of 25), 25 percent of white victims (19 out of 76), 14 percent of Hispanic victims (60 out of 420), and 10 percent of black victims (24 out of 232) were killed in the home of the victim or the offender. Twenty-eight percent of Asian victims (seven out of 25), 13 percent of white victims (10 out of 76), 12 percent of Hispanic victims (51 out of 420), and seven percent of black victims (16 out of 232) were killed at another residence. Eight percent of Hispanic victims (35 out of 420), seven percent of black victims (16 out of 232), four percent of white victims (three out of 76), and four percent of Asian victims (one out of 25) were killed in a vehicle.

¹⁰ Information on gang activity is provided in two sections of the SHR data and is dependant on how local jurisdictions define and record such data. Although relationships are defined as victim *to* offender, because of potential inconsistencies in on-scene reporting a relationship may be coded as “gang member” if the victim of the homicide *or* the offender is believed to be a gang member. In the circumstance field, it may be coded as “gangland killing” or “gang killing” if the homicide is believed to be related to gang activity, whether or not the victim is a gang member.

Section Two: Hispanic Victims

In 2009, Hispanic youth and young adults were murdered at a rate nearly four times higher than white youth and young adults: 12.62 per 100,000 compared to 3.17 per 100,000. While Hispanic youth and young adults comprised 46 percent of California's population between the ages of 10 and 24, they accounted for 56 percent of the homicide victims in the same age group.

Gender of Hispanic Homicide Victims

Of the 446 Hispanic homicide victims age 10 to 24 in California in 2009, 411 were male (92 percent) and 35 were female (8 percent).

Victim to Offender Relationship

Among Hispanic youth and young adults in 2009, for homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 25 percent of victims (64 out of 255) were murdered by someone they knew. One hundred thirteen victims were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 31 percent of the victims (78 out of 255) were gang members.

Hispanic Homicide Victims and Weapons

As with youth and young adult homicide victims in general, firearms—especially handguns—were the most common weapons used to murder Hispanic youth and young adults in 2009. In the 442 homicides for which the murder weapon could be identified, 84 percent of Hispanic victims (370 victims) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 76 percent (283 victims) were killed with a handgun.

Hispanic Homicide Victims and Circumstance

The overwhelming majority of homicides of Hispanic youth and young adults in 2009 were not related to any other felony crime. For the 360 homicides in which the circumstances between the victim and offender could be identified, 86 percent (309 out of 360) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 72 percent (224 of 309) were gang-related.

Hispanic Homicide Victims and Location

In 2009, among Hispanic youth and young adults, for homicides in which the location could be determined, 55 percent (230 out of 420) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Fourteen percent (60 out of 420) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Twelve percent (51 out of 420) occurred at another residence, and eight percent (35 out of 420) occurred in a vehicle.

Section Three: Black Victims

In 2009, black youth and young adults were murdered at a rate more than 14 times higher than white youth and young adults: 46.14 per 100,000 compared to 3.17 per 100,000. While black youth and young adults comprised seven percent of California's population between the ages of 10 and 24, they accounted for 30 percent of the homicide victims in the same age group.

Gender of Black Homicide Victims

Of the 239 black homicide victims age 10 to 24 in California in 2009, 210 were male (88 percent) and 29 were female (12 percent).

Victim to Offender Relationship

Among black youth and young adults in 2009, for homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 31 percent of victims (33 out of 105) were murdered by someone they knew. Fifty-three victims were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 18 percent (19 out of 105) of the victims were gang members.

Black Homicide Victims and Weapons

As with youth and young adult homicide victims in general, firearms—especially handguns—were the most common weapons used to murder black youth and young adults in 2009. In the 238 homicides for which the murder weapon could be identified, 90 percent of black victims (215 victims) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 79 percent (169 victims) were killed with a handgun.

Black Homicide Victims and Circumstance

The overwhelming majority of homicides of black youth and young adults in 2009 were not related to any other felony crime. For the 176 homicides in which the circumstances between the victim and offender could be identified, 80 percent (140 out of 176) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 70 percent (98 of 140) were gang-related.

Black Homicide Victims and Location

In 2009, among black youth and young adults, for homicides in which the location could be determined, 65 percent (151 out of 232) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Ten percent (24 out of 232) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Seven percent (16 out of 232) occurred at another residence, and seven percent (16 out of 232) occurred in a vehicle.

Section Four: White Victims

In 2009, white youth and young adults were murdered at a rate of 3.17 per 100,000. While white youth and young adults comprised 33 percent of California's population between the ages of 10 and 24, they accounted for 10 percent of the homicide victims in the same age group.

Gender of White Homicide Victims

Of the 80 white homicide victims age 10 to 24 in California in 2009, 70 were male (88 percent) and 10 were female (13 percent).

Victim to Offender Relationship

Among white youth and young adults in 2009, for homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 57 percent of victims (32 out of 56) were murdered by someone they knew. Twenty victims were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, seven percent (four out of 56) of the victims were gang members.

White Homicide Victims and Weapons

As with youth and young adult homicide victims in general, firearms—especially handguns—were the most common weapons used to murder white youth and young adults in 2009. In the 77 homicides for which the murder weapon could be identified, 70 percent of white victims (54 victims) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 63 percent (34 victims) were killed with a handgun.

White Homicide Victims and Circumstance

The majority of homicides of white youth and young adults in 2009 were not related to any other felony crime. For the 55 homicides in which the circumstances between the victim and offender could be identified, 64 percent (35 out of 55) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 31 percent (11 of 35) were gang-related.

White Homicide Victims and Location

In 2009, among white youth and young adults, for homicides in which the location could be determined, 46 percent (35 out of 76) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Twenty-five percent (19 out of 76) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Thirteen percent (10 out of 76) occurred at another residence, and four percent (three out of 76) occurred in a vehicle.

Section Five: Asian Victims

In 2009, Asian youth and young adults were murdered at roughly the same rate as white youth and young adults: 3.25 per 100,000 compared to 3.17 per 100,000. While Asian youth and young adults comprised 10 percent of California's population between the ages of 10 and 24, they accounted for three percent of the homicide victims in the same age group.

Gender of Asian Homicide Victims

Of the 26 Asian homicide victims age 10 to 24 in California in 2009, 21 were male (81 percent) and five were female (19 percent).

Victim to Offender Relationship

Among Asian youth and young adults in 2009, for homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 64 percent of victims (seven out of 11) were murdered by someone they knew. Four victims were killed by strangers.

Asian Homicide Victims and Weapons

As with youth and young adult homicide victims in general, firearms—especially handguns—were the most common weapons used to murder Asian youth and young adults in 2009. In the 25 homicides for which the murder weapon could be identified, 88 percent of Asian victims (22 victims) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 73 percent (16 victims) were killed with a handgun.

Asian Homicide Victims and Circumstance

The majority of homicides of Asian youth and young adults in 2009 were not related to any other felony crime. For the 18 homicides in which the circumstances between the victim and offender could be identified, 72 percent (13 out of 18) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 38 percent (five of 13) were gang-related.

Asian Homicide Victims and Location

In 2009, among Asian youth and young adults, for homicides in which the location could be determined, 16 percent (four out of 25) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Forty percent (10 out of 25) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Twenty-eight percent (seven out of 25) occurred at another residence, and four percent (one out of 25) occurred in a vehicle.

Conclusion

The findings of this study demonstrate that homicide, and particularly gun homicide, continues to be one of the most pressing public health concerns in California among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24.

The findings also demonstrate that effective violence prevention strategies must include measures that prioritize preventing youth and young adults from accessing firearms, especially handguns. With firearms accounting for 84 percent of homicides in the 10 to 24 age range in California (compared to 69 percent among all age groups nationally) and handguns accounting for 76 percent of all gun homicides, the importance of prevention strategies to limit exposure to firearms in this age range are of the utmost importance. Important components of such a strategy would be the identification of the make, model, and caliber of weapons most preferred by this age group as well as analyses identifying the sources of the weapons. It should be kept in mind that a large percentage of this age group—those under the age of 21—cannot legally purchase a handgun. It is also generally illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess a handgun.¹¹

While most youth and young adults can neither buy nor possess a handgun, this in no way protects them from the emotional and psychological effects of gun violence. As has been noted by others before, this study's findings support the expansion of comprehensive violence intervention and prevention strategies that include a focus on the psychological well-being of witnesses and survivors of gun violence.

Finally, this study's county-by-county rankings also point to the continuing urgent need for tailored, localized approaches to reducing youth homicide that integrate prevention and intervention while engaging local leaders and community stakeholders. At the same time, state and regional policies should incorporate elements necessary to help ensure effective community practices.

¹¹ Federal law prohibits Federal Firearms License holders from selling handguns to anyone under the age of 21. California law prohibits the sale of handguns by any person or corporation to anyone under the age of 21. Federal and California law prohibit the possession of handguns by anyone under the age of 18 with exceptions including hunting and competitive shooting. For exceptions see Ca. Penal Code 12101 Sections (a)(1), (a)(2). (Legal Community Against Violence, California State Law Summary, <http://www.lcav.org/states/Californiadetailedsummary.pdf#page=6>).

**Appendix One: Youth and Young Adult Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24 in
the United States by State, Ranked by Rate, 2007**

State Ranking by Rate	State	Number of Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000
1	Louisiana	203	21.04
2	Maryland	220	18.97
3	Alabama	140	14.49
4	Mississippi	90	13.77
5	Arizona	176	13.48
6	South Carolina	117	12.80
7	Nevada	62	12.17
8	Illinois	330	12.13
9	California	931	11.83
10	Tennessee	142	11.49
11	Florida	394	11.35
12	Georgia	228	11.19
13	New Mexico	46	10.87
14	Arkansas	58	9.98
15	North Carolina	184	9.89
16	Pennsylvania	248	9.82
17	Delaware	17	9.78
18	Missouri	120	9.68
19	Michigan	205	9.56
20	New Jersey	150	8.92
21	Virginia	140	8.68
22	Oklahoma	67	8.59
23	Texas	425	8.07
24	Indiana	102	7.57
25	Alaska	12	7.33
26	Ohio	169	7.19

**Appendix One: Youth and Young Adult Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24 in
the United States by State, Ranked by Rate, 2007**

State Ranking by Rate	State	Number of Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000
27	New York	279	7.04
28	Kansas	41	6.68
29	Massachusetts	81	6.14
30	Wisconsin	73	6.09
31	Kentucky	45	5.20
32	Connecticut	37	5.17
33	Rhode Island	10	4.53
34	Colorado	45	4.50
35	Montana	9	4.36
36	Nebraska	16	4.08
37	West Virginia	14	4.04
38	Washington	51	3.86
39	Minnesota	39	3.56
40	Wyoming	4	3.49
41	Idaho	11	3.27
42	Utah	21	3.11
43	South Dakota	5	2.84
44	Maine	6	2.37
45	Vermont	3	2.25
46	Oregon	16	2.14
47	Iowa	11	1.71
48	Hawaii	4	1.59
49	North Dakota	2	1.29
50	New Hampshire	3	1.10
	U.S. Total	5,862	9.29

Appendix Two: Youth and Young Adult Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24 in California by County, Ranked by Rate, 2009

County Ranking by Rate	County	Number of Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000
1	Monterey ¹²	28	31.24
2	Alameda	56	20.69
3	Kern	39	19.98
4	Contra Costa	40	19.17
5	Tulare	16	15.31
6	Los Angeles	303	14.61
7	San Joaquin	22	13.86
8	Stanislaus	16	13.49
9	Merced	8	12.87
10	Solano	11	12.59
11	San Francisco	12	11.84
12	Fresno	25	11.54
13	Sacramento	33	11.39
14	Kings	4	11.06
15	Santa Cruz	6	9.45
16	San Bernardino	42	8.29
17	San Mateo	9	7.39
18	Ventura	11	6.38
19	Humboldt	2	6.23
20	Madera	2	6.01
21	Riverside	28	5.71
22	San Luis Obispo	4	5.62

¹² To help ensure more stable rates, only counties with a population of at least 25,000 youth and young adults between the ages of 10 to 24 are included. The selected counties account for 99 percent of homicide victims ages 10 to 24 in California (803 out of 808 victims) and 98 percent of California's population ages 10 to 24 (7,661,544 out of 7,843,641) for 2009.

Appendix Two: Youth and Young Adult Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24 in California by County, Ranked by Rate, 2009

County Ranking by Rate	County	Number of Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000
23	Santa Clara	18	5.49
24	Placer	3	4.48
25	Santa Barbara	5	4.46
26	Orange	25	4.10
27	San Diego	26	4.03
28	Yolo	2	3.13
29	El Dorado	1	2.83
30	Shasta	1	2.72
31	Imperial	1	2.56
32	Marin	1	2.50
33	Sonoma	2	2.20
34	Butte	1	1.61
35	Napa	0	0.00
	California Total	803	10.48

Appendix Three: Youth and Young Adult Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24 in California and Rates, Alphabetically by County, 2009

County Ranking by Rate	County	Number of Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000
2	Alameda ¹³	56	20.69
34	Butte	1	1.61
4	Contra Costa	40	19.17
29	El Dorado	1	2.83
12	Fresno	25	11.54
19	Humboldt	2	6.23
31	Imperial	1	2.56
3	Kern	39	19.98
14	Kings	4	11.06
6	Los Angeles	303	14.61
20	Madera	2	6.01
32	Marin	1	2.50
9	Merced	8	12.87
1	Monterey	28	31.24
35	Napa	0	0.00
26	Orange	25	4.10
24	Placer	3	4.48
21	Riverside	28	5.71
13	Sacramento	33	11.39
16	San Bernardino	42	8.29
27	San Diego	26	4.03
11	San Francisco	12	11.84

¹³ To help ensure more stable rates, only counties with a population of at least 25,000 youth and young adults between the ages of 10 to 24 are included. The selected counties account for 99 percent of homicide victims ages 10 to 24 in California (803 out of 808 victims) and 98 percent of California's population ages 10 to 24 (7,661,544 out of 7,843,641) for 2009.

Appendix Three: Youth and Young Adult Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24 in California and Rates, Alphabetically by County, 2009

County Ranking by Rate	County	Number of Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000
7	San Joaquin	22	13.86
22	San Luis Obispo	4	5.62
17	San Mateo	9	7.39
25	Santa Barbara	5	4.46
23	Santa Clara	18	5.49
15	Santa Cruz	6	9.45
30	Shasta	1	2.72
10	Solano	11	12.59
33	Sonoma	2	2.20
8	Stanislaus	16	13.49
5	Tulare	16	15.31
18	Ventura	11	6.38
28	Yolo	2	3.13
	California Total	803	10.48

**Appendix Four:
Additional Information for the 10 Counties with the
Highest Rates of Youth and Young Adult
Homicide Victimization**

California

803 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in California in 2009

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in California was 10.48 per 100,000 in 2009¹⁴

Gender

Out of 803 homicide victims, 723 were male (90 percent), and 80 were female (10 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 803 homicide victims, 446 were Hispanic (56 percent), 239 were black (30 percent), 80 were white (10 percent), 26 were Asian (3 percent), and 12 were “other” (1 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 84 percent of victims (670 out of 794) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 76 percent (510 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 86 victims (11 percent) killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 15 victims (2 percent) killed by a blunt object, and 10 victims (1 percent) killed by bodily force.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 32 percent of victims (138 out of 433) were murdered by someone they knew. One hundred ninety four victims were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 23 percent (101 out of 433) were gang members.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 82 percent (504 out of 618) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 68 percent (342 homicides) were gang-related. Eighteen percent (92 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender. Five percent (27 homicides) were drive-by shootings.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 56 percent (426 out of 764) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Fifteen percent (113 out of 764) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Eleven percent (85 out of 764) occurred at another residence, and 7 percent (57 out of 764) occurred in a vehicle.

¹⁴ To help ensure more stable rates, only counties with a population of at least 25,000 youth and young adults between the ages of 10 to 24 are included. The selected counties account for 99 percent of homicide victims ages 10 to 24 in California (803 out of 808 victims) and 98 percent of California’s population ages 10 to 24 (7,661,544 out of 7,843,641) for 2009.

Monterey County

28 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Monterey County in 2009

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Monterey County was 31.24 per 100,000 in 2009

Ranked 1st in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 28 homicide victims, 27 were male (96 percent), and 1 was female (4 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 28 homicide victims, 26 were Hispanic (93 percent), and 2 were black (7 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 93 percent of victims (26 out of 28) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 31 percent (8 victims) were killed with handguns. There was 1 victim (4 percent) killed with a knife or other cutting instrument, and 1 victim (4 percent) killed by a blunt object.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 9 percent of victims (1 out of 11) were murdered by someone they knew. One victim was killed by a stranger. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 82 percent (9 out of 11) were gang members.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 91 percent (21 out of 23) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 100 percent (21 homicides) were gang-related.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 50 percent (14 out of 28) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Seven percent (2 out of 28) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Twenty-one percent (6 out of 28) occurred at another residence, and 11 percent (3 out of 28) occurred in a vehicle.

Alameda County

56 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Alameda County in 2009

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Alameda County was 20.69 per 100,000 in 2009

Ranked 2nd in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 56 homicide victims, 45 were male (80 percent), and 11 were female (20 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 56 homicide victims, 33 were black (59 percent), 12 were white (21 percent), 7 were Hispanic (13 percent), 3 were Asian (5 percent), and 1 was “other” (2 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 93 percent of victims (52 out of 56) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 46 percent (24 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 3 victims (5 percent) killed with knives or other cutting instruments, and 1 victim (2 percent) killed by bodily force.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 37 percent of victims (7 out of 19) were murdered by someone they knew. Twelve victims were killed by strangers.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 71 percent (17 out of 24) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 29 percent (5 homicides) were gang-related. Forty-one percent (7 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender. Six percent (1 homicide) were drive-by shootings

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 71 percent (39 out of 55) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Eleven percent (6 out of 55) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Two percent (1 out of 55) occurred at another residence.

Kern County

39 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Kern County in 2009

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Kern County was 19.98 per 100,000 in 2009

Ranked 3rd in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 39 homicide victims, 38 were male (97 percent), and 1 was female (3 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 39 homicide victims, 27 were Hispanic (69 percent), 11 were black (28 percent), and 1 was white (3 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 87 percent of victims (33 out of 38) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 48 percent (16 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 5 victims (13 percent) killed with knives or other cutting instruments.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 29 percent of victims (7 out of 24) were murdered by someone they knew. Twelve victims were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 21 percent (5 out of 24) were gang members.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 76 percent (22 out of 29) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 64 percent (14 homicides) were gang-related. Nine percent (2 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender. Eighteen percent (4 homicides) were drive-by shootings.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 50 percent (19 out of 38) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Twenty-six percent (10 out of 38) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Thirteen percent (5 out of 38) occurred at another residence, and 5 percent (2 out of 38) occurred in a vehicle.

Contra Costa County

40 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Contra Costa County in 2009

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Contra Costa County was 19.17 per 100,000 in 2009

Ranked 4th in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 40 homicide victims, 37 were male (93 percent), and 3 were female (8 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 40 homicide victims, 23 were black (58 percent), 9 were Hispanic (23 percent), 5 were white (13 percent), and 3 were “other” (8 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 97 percent of victims (38 out of 39) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 84 percent (32 victims) were killed with handguns. There was 1 victim (3 percent) killed with a knife or other cutting instrument.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 37 percent of victims (7 out of 19) were murdered by someone they knew. Twelve victims were killed by strangers.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 56 percent (9 out of 16) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 44 percent (4 homicides) were gang-related. Thirty-three percent (3 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender. Twenty-two percent (2 homicides) were drive-by shootings.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 42 percent (16 out of 38) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Eight percent (3 out of 38) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Eight percent (3 out of 38) occurred at another residence, and 21 percent (8 out of 38) occurred in a vehicle.

Tulare County

16 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Tulare County in 2009

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Tulare County was 15.31 per 100,000 in 2009

Ranked 5th in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 16 homicide victims, 13 were male (81 percent), and 3 were female (19 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 16 homicide victims, 14 were Hispanic (88 percent), and 2 were Asian (13 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 75 percent of victims (12 out of 16) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 75 percent (9 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 3 victims (19 percent) killed with knives or other cutting instruments, and 1 victim (6 percent) killed by a blunt object.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 36 percent of victims (4 out of 11) were murdered by someone they knew. Two were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 45 percent (5 out of 11) were gang members.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 89 percent (8 out of 9) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 63 percent (5 homicides) were gang-related. Thirteen percent (1 homicide) was a drive-by shooting.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 38 percent (6 out of 16) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Thirty-eight percent (6 out of 16) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Six percent (1 out of 16) occurred at another residence, and 6 percent (1 out of 16) occurred in a vehicle.

Los Angeles County

303 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Los Angeles County in 2009

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Los Angeles County was 14.61 per 100,000 in 2009

Ranked 6th in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 303 homicide victims, 273 were male (90 percent), and 30 were female (10 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 303 homicide victims, 182 were Hispanic (60 percent), 102 were black (34 percent), 7 were white (2 percent), 5 were Asian (2 percent), and 7 were “other” (2 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 89 percent of victims (268 out of 302) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 90 percent (241 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 22 victims (7 percent) killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 4 victims (1 percent) killed by a blunt object, and 2 victims (1 percent) killed by bodily force.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 19 percent of victims (31 out of 160) were murdered by someone they knew. Ninety victims were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 24 percent (39 out of 160) were gang members.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 88 percent (234 out of 266) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 82 percent (193 homicides) were gang-related. Nine percent (22 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender. Three percent (7 homicides) were drive-by shootings.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 62 percent (170 out of 274) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Ten percent (28 out of 274) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Ten percent (28 out of 274) occurred at another residence, and 10 percent (28 out of 274) occurred in a vehicle.

San Joaquin County

22 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in San Joaquin County in 2009

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in San Joaquin County was 13.86 per 100,000 in 2009

Ranked 7th in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 22 homicide victims, 19 were male (86 percent), and 3 were female (14 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 22 homicide victims, 13 were Hispanic (59 percent), 4 were black (18 percent), 3 were Asian (14 percent), and 2 were white (9 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 82 percent of victims (18 out of 22) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 78 percent (14 victims) were killed with handguns. There was 1 victim (5 percent) killed with a knife or other cutting instrument, and 2 victims (9 percent) killed by a blunt object.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 11 percent of victims (1 out of 9) were murdered by someone they knew. Six victims were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 22 percent (2 out of 9) were gang members.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 83 percent (15 out of 18) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 20 percent (3 homicides) were gang-related. Forty-seven percent (7 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender. Twenty-seven percent (4 homicides) were drive-by shootings.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 52 percent (11 out of 21) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Fourteen percent (3 out of 21) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Nineteen percent (4 out of 21) occurred at another residence, and 10 percent (2 out of 21) occurred in a vehicle.

Stanislaus County

16 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Stanislaus County in 2009

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Stanislaus County was 13.49 per 100,000 in 2009

Ranked 8th in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 16 homicide victims, 15 were male (94 percent), and 1 was female (6 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 16 homicide victims, 12 were Hispanic (75 percent), 2 were white (13 percent), 1 was black (6 percent), and 1 was Asian (6 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 94 percent of victims (15 out of 16) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 87 percent (13 victims) were killed with handguns. There was 1 victim (6 percent) killed with a knife or other cutting instrument.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 22 percent of victims (2 out of 9) were murdered by someone they knew. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 78 percent (7 out of 9) were gang members.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 100 percent (15 out of 15) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 67 percent (10 homicides) were gang-related. Seven percent (1 homicide) involved an argument between the victim and the offender. Twenty percent (3 homicides) were drive-by shootings.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 81 percent (13 out of 16) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Thirteen percent (2 out of 16) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Six percent (1 out of 16) occurred at another residence.

Merced County

8 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Merced County in 2009

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Merced County was 12.87 per 100,000 in 2009

Ranked 9th in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 8 homicide victims, 8 were male (100 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 8 homicide victims, 6 were Hispanic (75 percent), 1 was black (13 percent), and 1 was Asian (13 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 100 percent of victims (7 out of 7) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 57 percent (4 victims) were killed with handguns.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For the 1 homicide in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, the victim was a gang member.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 100 percent (7 out of 7) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 86 percent (6 homicides) were gang-related. Fourteen percent (1 homicide) involved an argument between the victim and the offender.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 13 percent (1 out of 8) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Thirteen percent (1 out of 8) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Fifty percent (4 out of 8) occurred at another residence.

Solano County

11 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Solano County in 2009

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Solano County was 12.59 per 100,000 in 2009

Ranked 10th in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 11 homicide victims, 11 were male (100 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 11 homicide victims, 5 were black (45 percent), 4 were Hispanic (36 percent), 1 was white (9 percent), and 1 was Asian (9 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 91 percent of victims (10 out of 11) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 100 percent (10 victims) were killed with handguns. There was 1 victim (9 percent) killed by a blunt object.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 25 percent of victims (1 out of 4) were murdered by someone they knew. Three victims were killed by strangers.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 20 percent (1 out of 5) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 100 percent (1 homicide) were drive-by shootings.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 73 percent (8 out of 11) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Nine percent (1 out of 11) occurred at a residence other than the victim or offender's, and 9 percent (1 out of 11) occurred in a vehicle.



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