



# Arizona Homicide Study

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## Arizona Homicide Study

Creating a Statewide Homicide  
Dataset

## Homicide Study at a Glance

- The Statistical Analysis Center (AZSAC) of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission was awarded a State Justice Statistics Grant for investigation into Arizona homicides
- All Arizona homicides reported in the UCR Supplemental Homicide data from 2004 are included in the study

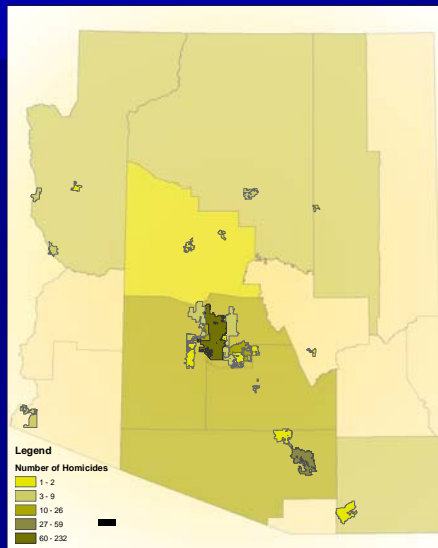
## Existing Homicide Research

- Chicago Homicide Study
- St. Louis Homicide Study
- UCR Supplementary Homicide Reports

## Goals of the Study

- Include all 2004 homicides throughout the State of Arizona
- Utilize multiple data sources for a more comprehensive investigation
- Institutionalize the collection of Arizona homicide data over multiple years

## Arizona Homicides in 2004



- Total Population: 5,744,367
- Total UCR Homicides: 459
- Number of Agencies Reporting a Homicide: 33
- Currently, 32 agencies have submitted 214 homicides matching UCR records

## Data Instrument

- The data instrument is divided into three sections:
  - Incident
  - Victim
  - Offender(s)
- One instrument was collected for each victim and included data for no more than 5 offenders

## Homicide Data Collection

- UCR Supplemental Homicide data was pulled for each of the 33 law enforcement agencies
- Each agency Chief or Sheriff was contacted and briefed on the study
- Agency-specific UCR Supplemental Homicide data was sent to the contact along with the data instrument

## Homicide Data Collection

- Assistance in collecting data was offered to each agency by AZSAC staff
- Several agencies required approval for the project through the entire chain of command

## Creating the Dataset

- UCR Supplemental Homicide data cases were matched to agency-reported homicide cases
- Agency cases that did not match to the UCR data were left out of the final dataset

## Creating the Dataset

- Available autopsy data was also used to supplant/verify reported alcohol and drug use by victims
- Future plans include matching the victims and offenders to the Arizona Computerized Criminal History (ACCH)

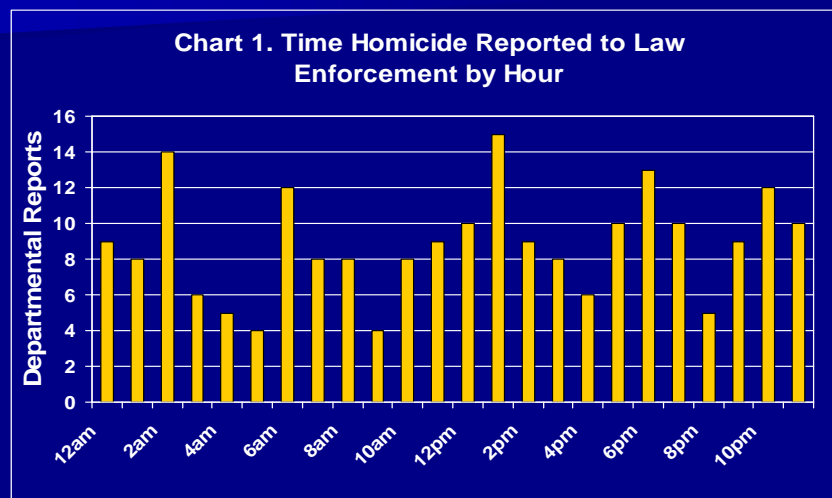
## Strengths of the Study Design

- Creation of a comprehensive, statewide homicide dataset
- Multiple data sources utilized throughout the data collection process
- Tools for analysis include mapping of homicides in ArcGIS

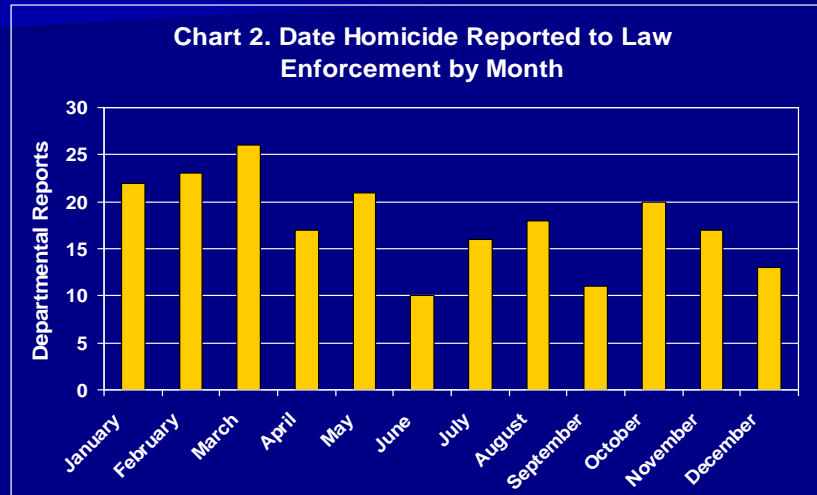
## Weaknesses of the Study

- Data collection can be a tedious process for larger law enforcement agencies
- Definitions vary across agencies making data collection for certain questions complicated
- Discrepancies were discovered between UCR Supplemental Homicide cases and agency cases

## Homicide Incident Data



# Homicide Incident Data



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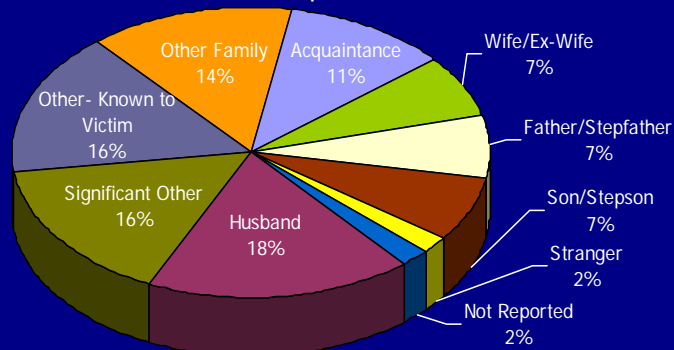
- Top 5 Locations Where Victims Were Fatally Assaulted:
  1. Victim Residence: 23%
  2. Street/Dirt Road/Sidewalk: 16%
  3. Victim/Offender Residence: 12%
  4. Offender Residence: 7%
  5. Desert Area: 6%
- Top 5 Locations Where Victims Were Found:
  1. Victim Residence: 22%
  2. Street/Dirt Road/Sidewalk: 15%
  3. Victim/Offender Residence: 11%
  - Desert Area: 11%
  5. Other Residence: 6%

## Homicide Incident Data

- Percentage of Homicides Where Alcohol Was Involved: 28%
- Percentage of Homicides Where Drugs Were Involved: 45%
- Percentage Where Both Alcohol and Drugs Were Involved: 12%
  
- Percentage of Homicides Linked to Domestic Violence: 20%
  
- Percentage of Homicides with Evidence of Illegal Immigration: 16%
  - Victim an Illegal Immigrant (68%), Offender (47%), Both (18%)

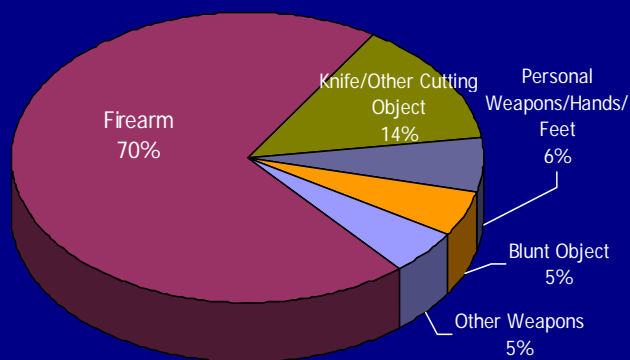
## Homicide Incident Data

Chart 3. Percentage of Domestic Violence Homicides by Offender Relationship with Victim



# Homicide Incident Data

Chart 4. Percentage of Homicides by Weapons Used



# Victim Data

Age	Gender		Race						Ethnicity		
	Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian/Pacific Islander	Other	Unknown	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Unknown
Birth to 13 Years	7	4	9	2	0	0	0	0	4	7	0
14 to 17 Years	9	2	4	0	3	0	3	1	6	4	1
18 to 24 Years	38	4	27	7	5	0	2	1	22	19	1
25 to 34 Years	42	8	38	3	1	0	4	4	33	17	0
35 to 49 Years	44	14	43	6	3	1	2	3	22	34	2
50+ Years	26	10	32	2	0	0	1	1	5	29	2
Unknown	5	1	5	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>6</b>

## Victim Data

- 16% of victims tested with a BAC of 0.08 or greater (43% Unknown/No Data)
- 30% of victims tested positive for illegal drug use (24% Unknown/No Data)
- 33% of victims reportedly have a prior criminal justice record (29% do not have a record, 38% unknown/no data)

## Offender Data

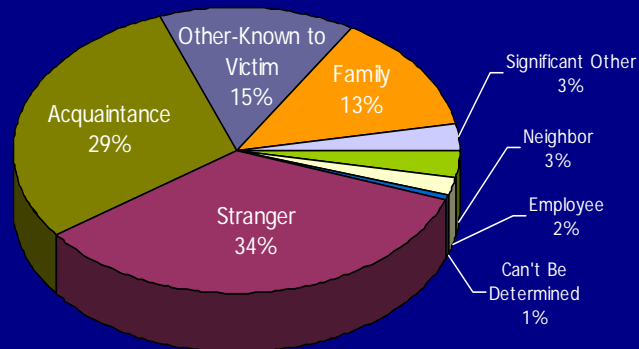
Age	Gender		Race						Ethnicity		
	Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian/Pacific Islander	Other	Unknown	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Unknown
Birth to 13 Years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 to 17 Years	13	1	12	2	0	0	0	0	7	7	0
18 to 24 Years	71	3	52	11	4	3	1	3	35	36	3
25 to 34 Years	49	6	41	5	2	2	3	2	32	21	2
35 to 49 Years	28	4	28	2	1	0	1	0	11	17	4
50+ Years	20	0	16	2	2	0	0	0	2	18	0
Unknown	17	0	9	0	0	0	1	7	2	3	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>21</b>

## Offender Data

- 76% of all homicide cases report at least one known offender
- 36% of offenders reportedly have a prior criminal justice record (17% do not have a record, 47% unknown/no data)
- 49% of offenders admitted committing the crime to police (39% never admitted to the crime, 12% No data)

## Offender Data

Chart 5. Percentage of Homicides by Offender Relationship with Victim



## Policy Implications

- Specific questions (including alcohol/drug use, domestic violence, child abuse, hate crimes, etc.) are found in the instrument
- As public safety funding decreases, such research will assist law enforcement in resource allocation and strategizing at a local level

## Next Steps in the Study

- AZSAC staff is working in conjunction with researchers from Arizona State University to create a final report
- Presentations of data will be made to all participating law enforcement agencies