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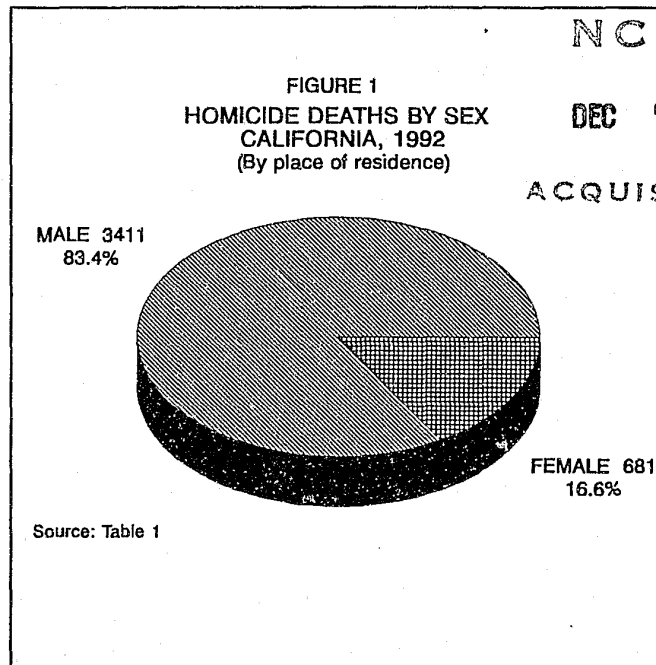
Center for Health Statistics  
**DATA SUMMARY**

REPORT REGISTER NO. 94-01001 (January 1994)

HOMICIDE DEATHS BY  
RACE/ETHNICITY, AGE, AND  
SEX CALIFORNIA, 1992

As in the U.S., homicides in California have been a highly publicized and well-documented public health problem. In 1992, homicide was again one of the ten leading causes of death among California residents. During this period, California's 4,092 homicide deaths represented 15.4 percent of all U.S. homicide deaths, or approximately one out of every six U.S. homicides.<sup>1</sup> California's 1992 homicide death rate (13.1 per 100,000 population) has increased 22.4 percent from the 1985 homicide rate (10.7). Detailed 1992 homicide numbers and rates by race/ethnicity, age, and sex for California are presented in Table 1.\*

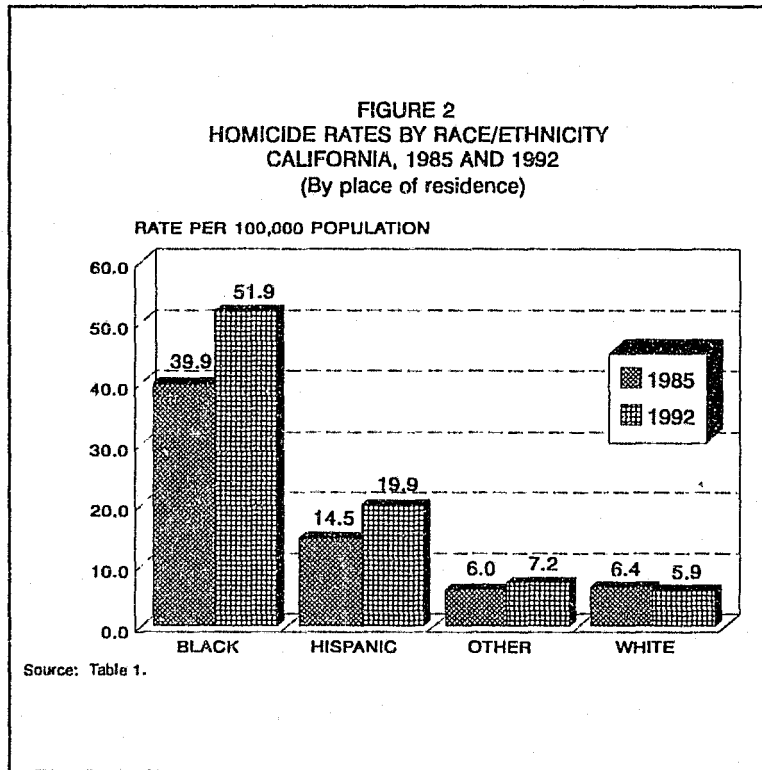
As illustrated in Figure 1, the majority of California's homicide deaths were among males in 1992. Of the 4,092 homicide deaths in California, males (3,411) accounted for 83.4 percent of the total, while females (681) accounted for the remaining 16.6 percent. The homicide death ratio was approximately five male deaths to every female death. During the same period, homicide death data by sex for the U.S. showed that males (20,950) accounted for 78.8 percent and females (5,620) accounted for the remaining 21.2 percent. The U.S. male to female homicide death ratio, approximately four to one, was somewhat lower than that of California's ratio.<sup>2</sup>



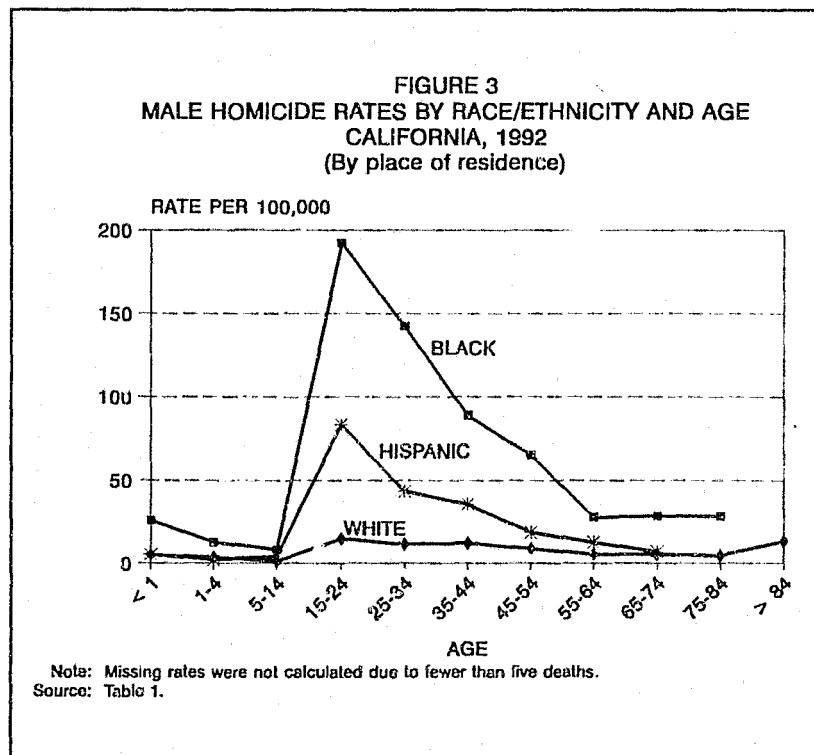
Another factor associated with homicide deaths was age. Of California's 4,092 homicide deaths in 1992, the majority (2,633) were to decedents aged 15-24 and aged 25-34 collectively. These deaths accounted for 64.3 percent of all homicides. The U.S. also experienced a majority of the homicide deaths within these two age groups. These deaths (15,850) accounted for 59.7 percent of all homicides in the U.S. which was lower than California's percentage.<sup>3</sup> During 1992, the highest age-specific homicide rates among Californians were to decedents aged 15-24 (33.2 per 100,000 population) followed by decedents aged 25-34 (19.5). The highest U.S. age-specific homicide rates in 1992, although lower than California's rates, were also among decedents aged 15-24 (22.8) and aged 25-34 (17.9) respectively.<sup>4</sup>

*This Data Summary was prepared by Les Fujitani, Vital Statistics Section, 714 P Street, Room 1494, P.O. Box 942732, Sacramento, CA 94234-7320, (916) 657-3057.*

As shown in Figure 2, California's homicide death rates among the four race/ethnic groups varied significantly in 1992.\*\* The highest rate in 1992 was among Blacks (51.9 per 100,000 population) while the lowest homicide rate was among Whites (5.9). Further analysis of the data showed that Blacks and Hispanics were approximately nine and three times respectively more likely to die from homicide than Whites. In addition, California has experienced a significant upward trend in the homicide rates among Blacks and Hispanics since 1985.\*\*\* During the same time period, homicide rates among Whites and Others showed no significant upward or downward trend.<sup>5,6</sup>



As illustrated in Figure 3, California's 1992 age-specific homicide rates were higher among Black and Hispanic males as compared to White males in nearly every age group. In particular, the age-specific homicide rates among Black males aged 15-24 (192.4 per 100,000 population),



and aged 25-34 (142.5) were significantly the highest rates. Furthermore, both of these rates were over twelve times higher than the rates among White males within the same age groups. Black males aged 35-44 had the next highest age-specific rate (89.0) which was over seven times higher than their White counterparts. Age-specific homicide rates among Hispanic males aged 15-24 (83.6), and aged 25-34 (43.4) were also high. These rates, although lower than the Black male rates, were still over five and three times higher than the rates among White males within the same respective age groups.

In 1992, the distribution of age-specific rates among California's females was similar to the distribution of the rates among males, that is, the rates were highest among decedents aged 15-24 and aged 25-34. During this period, Black females aged 25-34 (37.9 per 100,000 population) and aged 15-24 (22.7) had significantly the highest age-specific rates. These rates respectively were over nine and four times higher than the rates among White females of the same ages. During 1992, U.S. homicide data revealed results similar to that of California, in which Black females aged 25-34 (26.2) and aged 15-24 (23.2) also had the highest age-specific rates.<sup>7</sup>

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\* Age-adjusted rates were also examined, but were not included in this report due to the non-significant differences between the age-adjusted and crude rates.

\*\* "Significant" when used in the report means statistically significant at the .05 level.

\*\*\* Trend test based on the slope of a least-squares regression line being different from zero at .05 level of significance.

<sup>1</sup> National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). "Annual Summary of Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths: United States, 1992." Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 41, No. 13, September 28, 1993, page 19.

<sup>2</sup> NCHS, page 19.

<sup>3</sup> NCHS, page 19.

<sup>4</sup> NCHS, page 22.

<sup>5</sup> California Department of Health Services. "Homicides Among Young Males by Race/Ethnicity - California, 1980-1989." Data Summary, Health Data & Statistics Branch, Report Register No. 91-09000, September 1991.

<sup>6</sup> California Department of Health Services. "Homicide Deaths - California, 1980-1990." Data Summary, Health Data & Statistics Branch, Report Register No. 92-01001, January 1992.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Health United States 1992 and Healthy People 2000 Review. Hyattsville, MD: DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 93-1232, August 1993, page 79.

151577

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**TABLE 1**  
**HOMICIDES, POPULATION AND HOMICIDE RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, AGE, AND SEX**  
**CALIFORNIA, 1992**  
**(By place of residence)**

RACE/ ETHNICITY	AGE GROUPS	HOMICIDES			POPULATION			HOMICIDE RATES <sup>1</sup>		
		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
<b>TOTAL</b>		4,092	3,411	681	31,300,134	15,680,019	15,620,115	13.1	21.8	4.4
	<b>UNDER 1</b>	40	21	19	598,979	306,109	292,870	6.7	6.9	6.5
	1-4	62	39	23	2,145,544	1,096,719	1,048,825	2.9	3.6	2.2
	5-14	91	71	20	4,466,881	2,287,975	2,178,906	2.0	3.1	0.9
	15-24	1,507	1,357	150	4,538,619	2,410,542	2,128,077	33.2	56.3	7.0
	25-34	1,126	935	191	5,768,576	3,008,755	2,759,821	19.5	31.1	6.9
	35-44	692	568	124	5,009,478	2,525,210	2,484,268	13.8	22.5	5.0
	45-54	294	230	64	3,203,390	1,589,747	1,613,643	9.2	14.5	4.0
	55-64	113	86	27	2,263,815	1,087,899	1,175,916	5.0	7.9	2.3
	65-74	81	57	24	1,934,180	858,959	1,075,221	4.2	6.6	2.2
	75-84	50	25	25	1,044,700	411,161	633,539	4.8	6.1	3.9
	85 & OVER	21	14	7	325,972	96,943	229,029	6.4	14.4	3.1
<b>BLACK</b>		1,137	946	191	2,191,898	1,084,720	1,107,178	51.9	87.2	17.3
	<b>UNDER 1</b>	11	6	5	45,626	23,278	22,348	24.1	25.8	22.4
	1-4	21	11	10	173,069	87,472	85,597	12.1	12.6	11.7
	5-14	18	15	3	356,865	180,925	175,940	5.0	8.3	a
	15-24	393	356	37	348,058	185,059	162,999	112.9	192.4	22.7
	25-34	386	308	78	422,193	216,164	206,029	91.4	142.5	37.9
	35-44	181	148	33	342,478	166,223	176,255	52.9	89.0	18.7
	45-54	77	63	14	203,903	96,948	106,955	37.8	65.0	13.1
	55-64	20	18	2	139,630	64,861	74,769	14.3	27.8	a
	65-74	14	12	2	99,211	42,364	56,847	14.1	28.3	a
	75-84	9	5	4	47,631	17,534	30,097	18.9	28.5	a
	85 & OVER	4	3	1	13,234	3,892	9,342	a	a	a
<b>HISPANIC</b>		1,702	1,537	165	8,561,349	4,463,750	4,097,599	19.9	34.4	4.0
	<b>UNDER 1</b>	12	7	5	265,366	135,527	129,839	4.5	5.2	3.9
	1-4	14	8	6	847,514	432,638	414,876	1.7	1.8	1.4
	5-14	44	36	8	1,586,821	810,452	776,369	2.8	4.4	1.0
	15-24	814	762	52	1,650,108	910,973	739,135	49.3	83.6	7.0
	25-34	468	422	46	1,768,758	972,994	795,764	26.5	43.4	5.8
	35-44	239	209	30	1,128,197	584,602	543,595	21.2	35.8	5.5
	45-54	63	54	9	585,091	290,974	294,117	10.8	18.6	3.1
	55-64	26	21	4	371,495	175,733	195,762	7.0	12.5	a
	65-74	10	7	3	229,518	101,385	128,133	4.4	6.9	a
	75-84	5	4	1	98,202	37,694	60,508	5.1	a	a
	85 & OVER	1	1	-	30,279	10,778	19,501	a	a	a
<b>WHITE</b>		1,024	745	279	17,362,245	8,576,103	8,786,142	5.9	8.7	3.2
	<b>UNDER 1</b>	14	6	8	227,974	116,643	111,331	6.1	5.1	7.2
	1-4	22	16	6	911,882	467,777	444,105	2.4	3.4	1.4
	5-14	19	14	5	2,036,359	1,047,066	989,293	0.9	1.3	0.5
	15-24	209	157	52	2,034,957	1,052,304	982,653	10.3	14.9	5.3
	25-34	234	174	60	2,996,201	1,536,103	1,460,098	7.8	11.3	4.1
	35-44	236	183	53	2,984,894	1,512,432	1,472,462	7.9	12.1	3.6
	45-54	128	94	34	2,087,808	1,045,968	1,041,840	6.1	9.0	3.3
	55-64	58	41	17	1,532,991	748,422	784,569	3.8	5.5	2.2
	65-74	51	34	17	1,448,970	647,085	801,885	3.5	5.3	2.1
	75-84	33	15	18	832,924	326,446	506,478	4.0	4.6	3.6
	85 & OVER	15	10	5	267,285	75,857	191,428	5.6	13.2	2.6
<b>OTHER</b>		229	183	46	3,184,642	1,555,446	1,629,196	7.2	11.8	2.8
	<b>UNDER 1</b>	3	2	1	60,013	30,661	29,352	a	a	a
	1-4	5	4	1	213,079	108,832	104,247	2.3	a	a
	5-14	10	6	4	486,836	249,532	237,304	2.1	2.4	a
	15-24	91	82	9	505,496	262,206	243,290	18.0	31.3	3.7
	25-34	38	31	7	581,424	283,494	297,930	6.5	10.9	2.3
	35-44	36	28	8	553,909	261,953	291,956	6.5	10.7	2.7
	45-54	26	19	7	326,588	155,857	170,731	8.0	12.2	4.1
	55-64	9	5	4	219,699	98,833	120,816	4.1	5.1	a
	65-74	6	4	2	156,481	68,125	88,356	3.8	a	a
	75-84	3	1	2	65,943	29,487	36,456	a	a	a
	85 & OVER	1	-	1	15,174	6,416	8,758	a	a	a

<sup>1</sup> Homicide rates are per 100,000 population; ICD-9 codes E960-E969.

<sup>a</sup> Rates are not calculated for fewer than five events.

Note: Hispanic includes any race category; Black, White, and Other race groups exclude Hispanics.  
Other race group includes Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, Other and Unknown.  
15 homicide deaths of unknown age are included in the total and the totals of each race/ethnic group.

Source: State of California, Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, 1992 Population: Population Estimates for California State and Counties, Report 92 E-2, July 1, 1992, February 1993.

State of California, Department of Health Services, Death Records.