

HOMICIDE
IN CALIFORNIA
1974 - 1976

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ACQUISITIONS

State of California

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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HOMICIDE IN CALIFORNIA, 1974-1976

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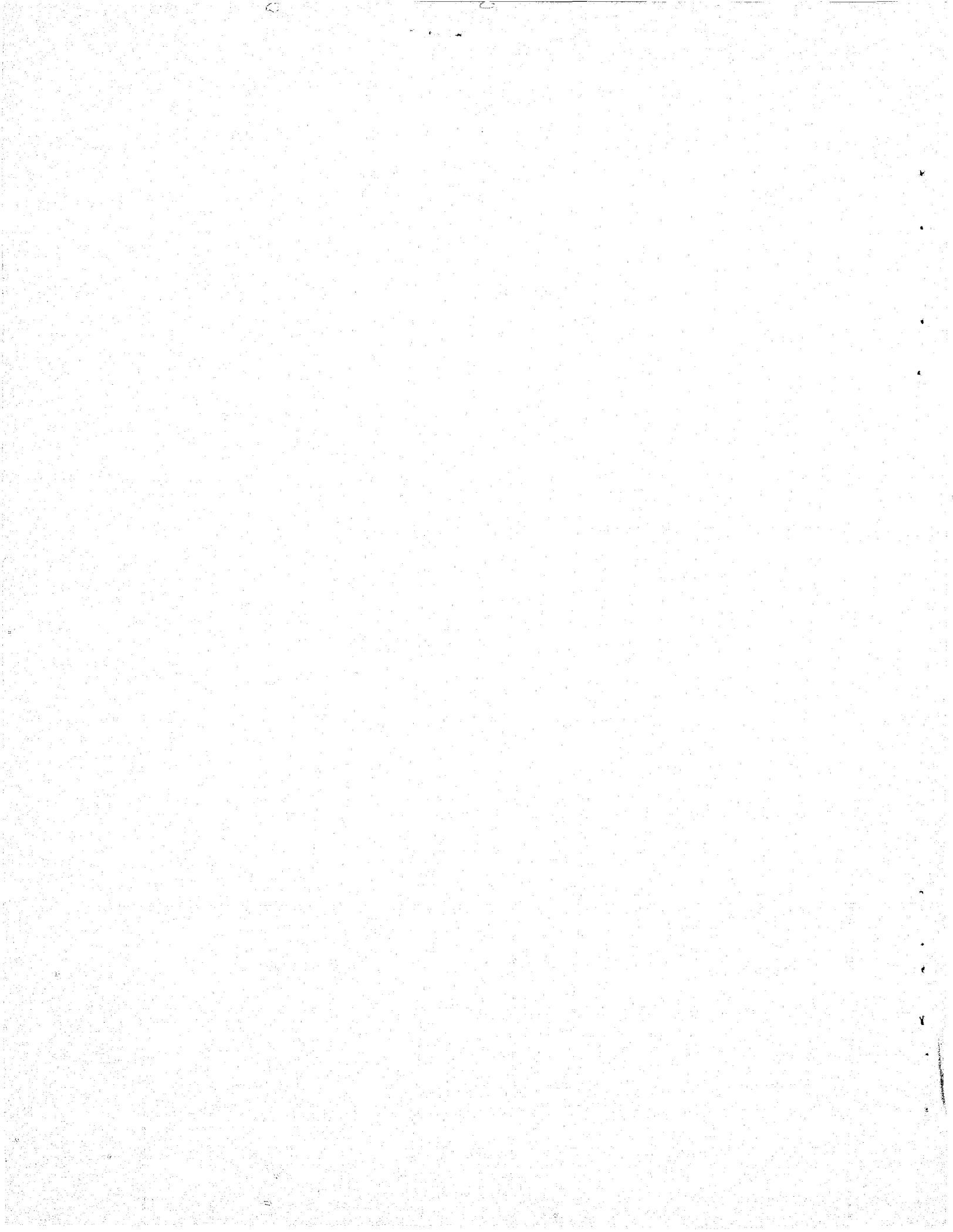
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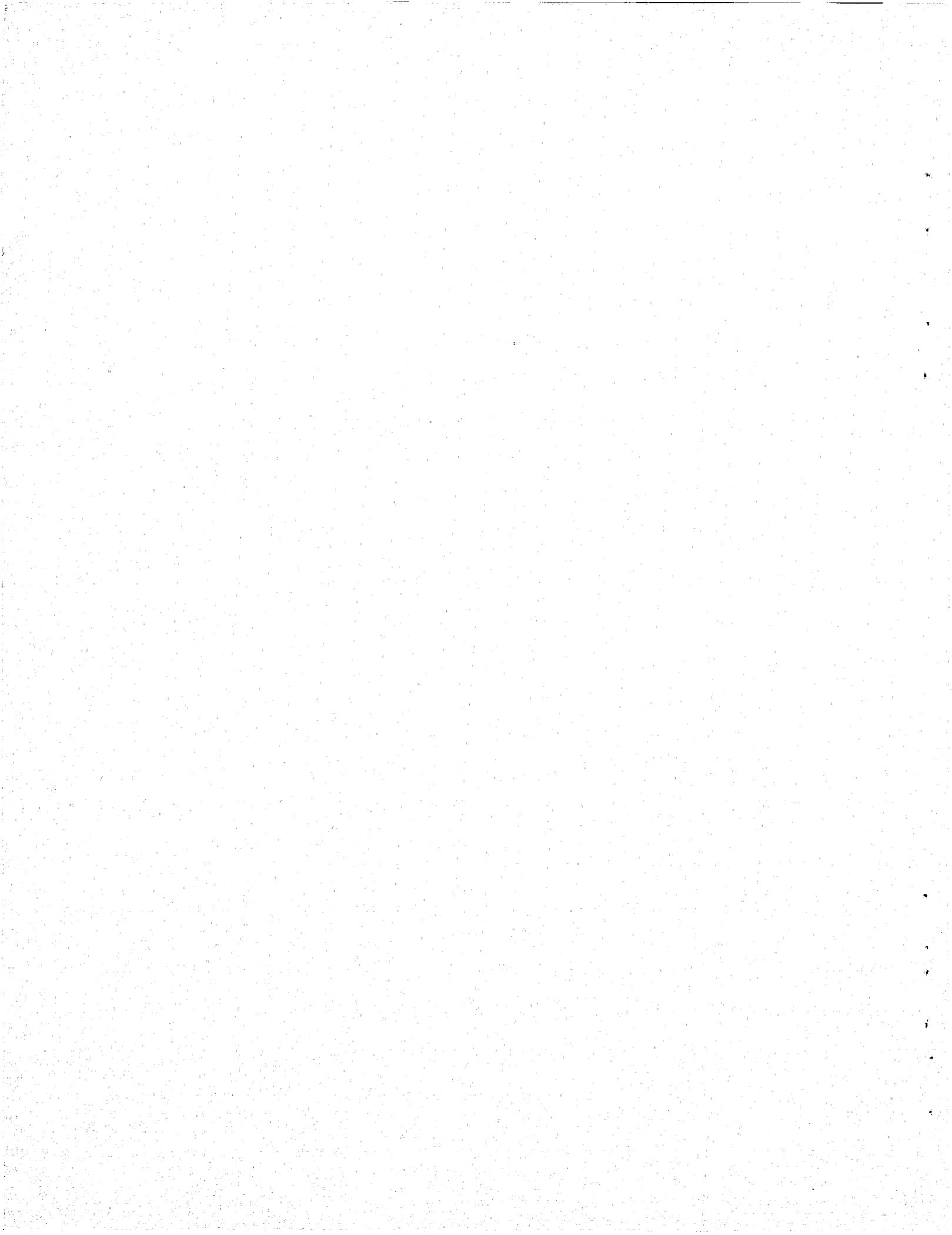


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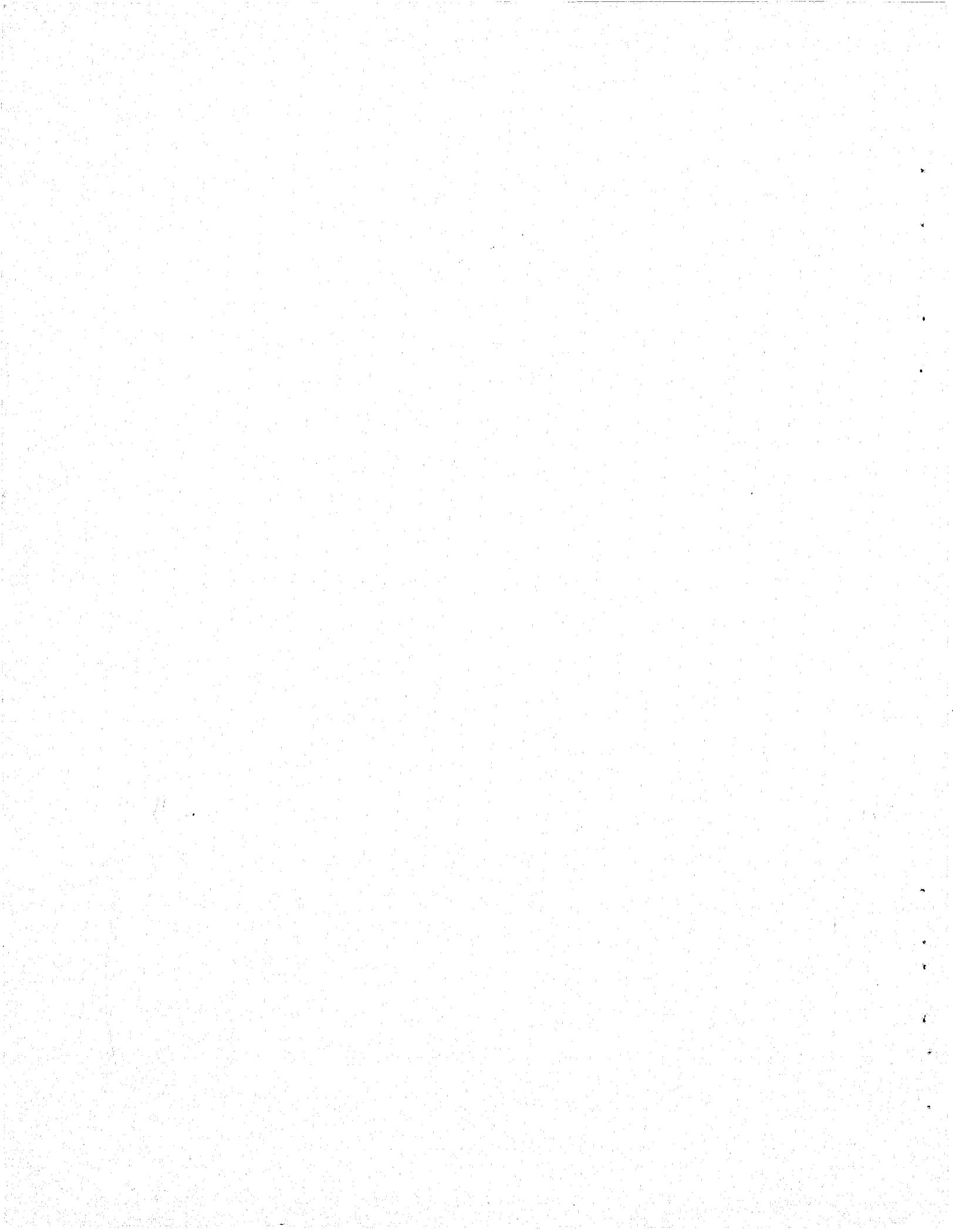
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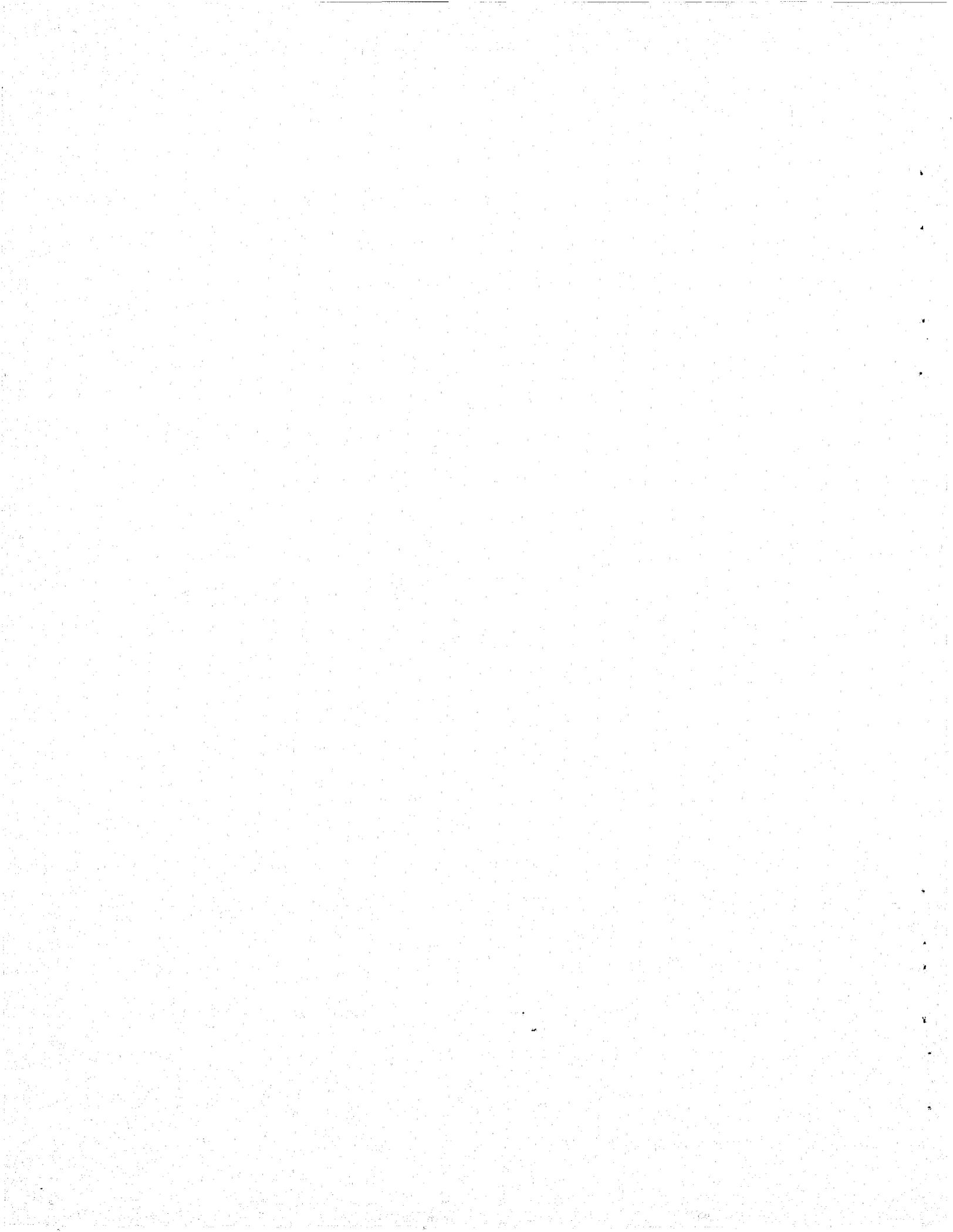


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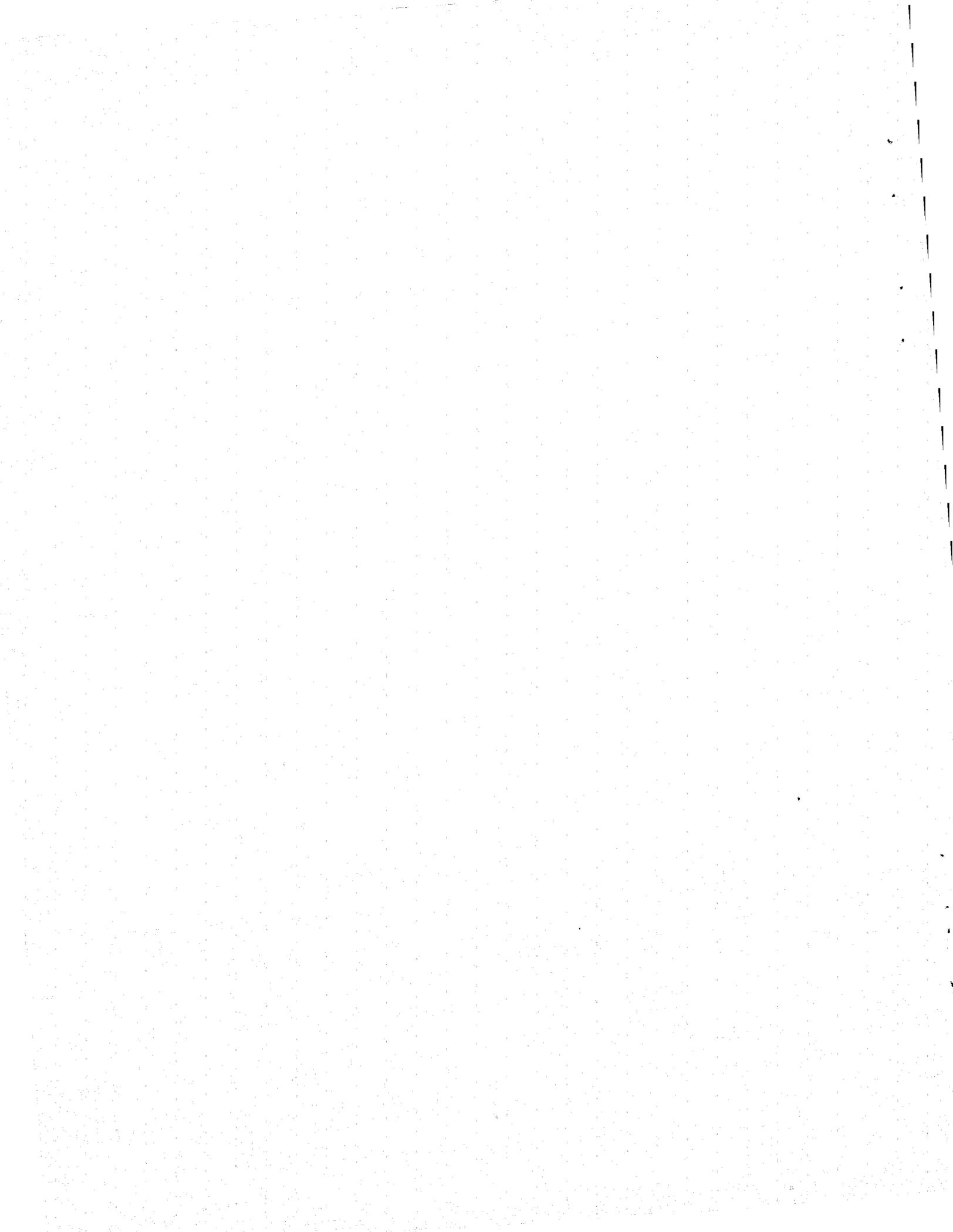
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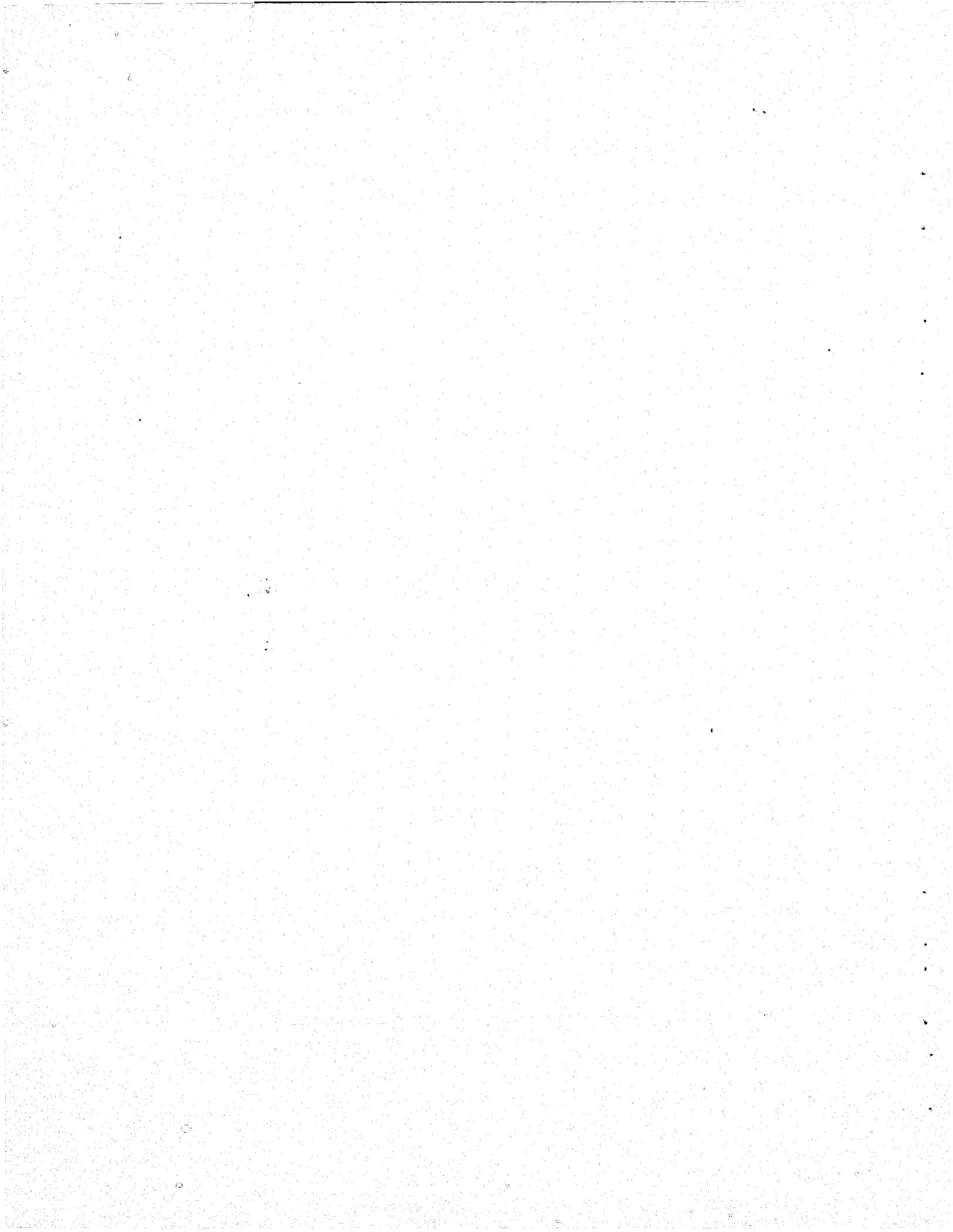
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HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of willful homicides increased each year during the three-year period 1974 through 1976.
- The rate of willful homicides per 100,000 population increased in 1974 and 1975 but decreased slightly in 1976.
- Los Angeles County, which accounted for approximately 33 percent of California's total population for the three-year period, reported about 45 percent of the total willful homicides.
- Of the willful homicides where the victim-offender relationship was known, the victim was acquainted with the offender in approximately 79 percent of the incidents.
- Where the precipitating event was known, arguments accounted for more than 60 percent of the willful homicides reported.
- Handguns were used in about one-third of the willful homicides.
- Of the willful homicides in which the location was known, approximately 40 percent occurred in the victim's home.
- For willful homicide crimes, whites were victims more frequently than any of the other ethnic groups.
- Both willful homicide victims and offenders were most often in the 20-24 age group.
- For willful homicide crimes, Negroes were offenders more frequently than any of the other ethnic groups.
- Willful homicides that occurred during the commission of a robbery accounted for approximately half of the potential death penalty cases.
- Peace officers killed in the line of duty increased from 10 in 1974 to 12 in 1975 and decreased to 6 in 1976.
- From 1974 through 1976, .03 percent of the over one million felony arrests in the state resulted in the justifiable homicide of the felon by a peace officer.



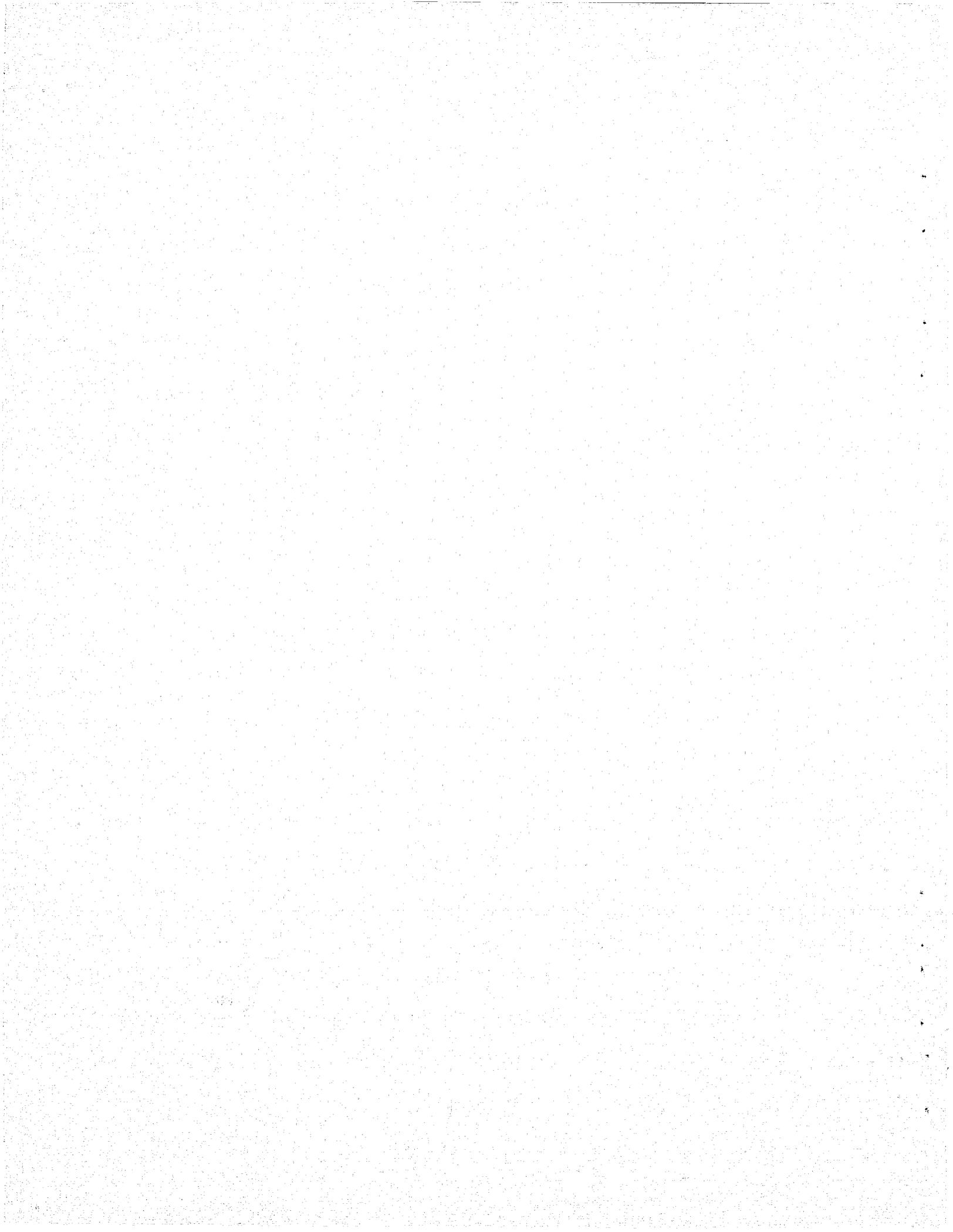
INTRODUCTION

This report is a continuation of a series of reports on the subject of homicide in California. The series was begun by the Bureau of Criminal Statistics (BCS) in the early 1960s using limited sources of data. Since that time the Bureau has continually developed new and more accurate data collection methods in order to present a more comprehensive report on the crime of homicide.

The report serves three primary purposes. First, it provides the criminal justice community of California with an overview of significant patterns relative to the crime of homicide. Second, the report provides, in an objective manner, detailed information on the circumstances surrounding homicide cases. Finally, it provides information on topics of special interest to the criminal justice community and the general public, that is, the death penalty, peace officers killed in the line of duty, and justifiable homicides.

This report covers two main categories of homicides, willful and justifiable. The definitions of these categories are those supplied by the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A willful homicide is defined as the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another. A justifiable homicide is defined as the killing of a felon, by a private citizen or a peace officer, during the commission of a felony. The California Penal Code defines self-defense as a justifiable homicide. The national UCR Program does not, and therefore they are not included in this report. A justifiable homicide is sometimes referred to as an excusable homicide.

The information contained in this report covers the three-year period 1974–1976 and includes all willful and justifiable homicides that were known to BCS during that period of time.



METHODOLOGY

The data contained in this report were gathered from many sources. The primary source was the Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) which is part of the national UCR Program. Additional data were gathered from crime reports, coroners' reports, and press clippings.

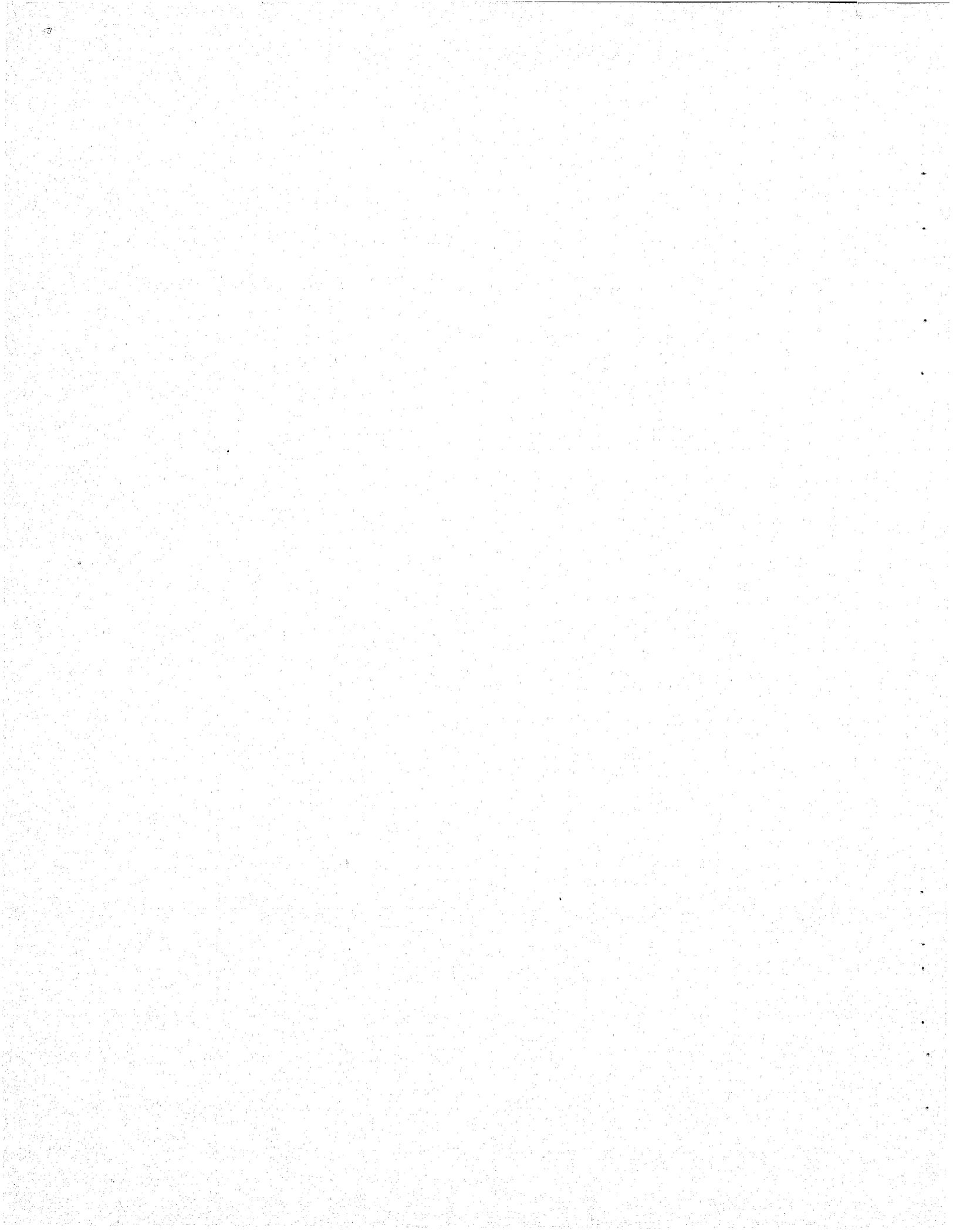
The SHR is submitted, on a monthly basis, by each California law enforcement agency in whose jurisdiction a homicide occurs. Upon receipt of this document, BCS initiates a manual file into which all subsequent information is placed.

As stated in the California Penal Code, all law enforcement agencies are required to submit to the Department of Justice (DOJ) copies of crime reports for specified felony offenses that occur within their jurisdiction. Homicide is one of these specified offenses. These crime reports contain more detailed information about the incident, victim, and offender than does the SHR. At the Bureau of Identification, these crime reports are sorted by type of crime and those relative to homicides are sent to BCS for inclusion in the manual file. Often, coroners' reports are attached to the crime reports. These are also placed in the manual file.

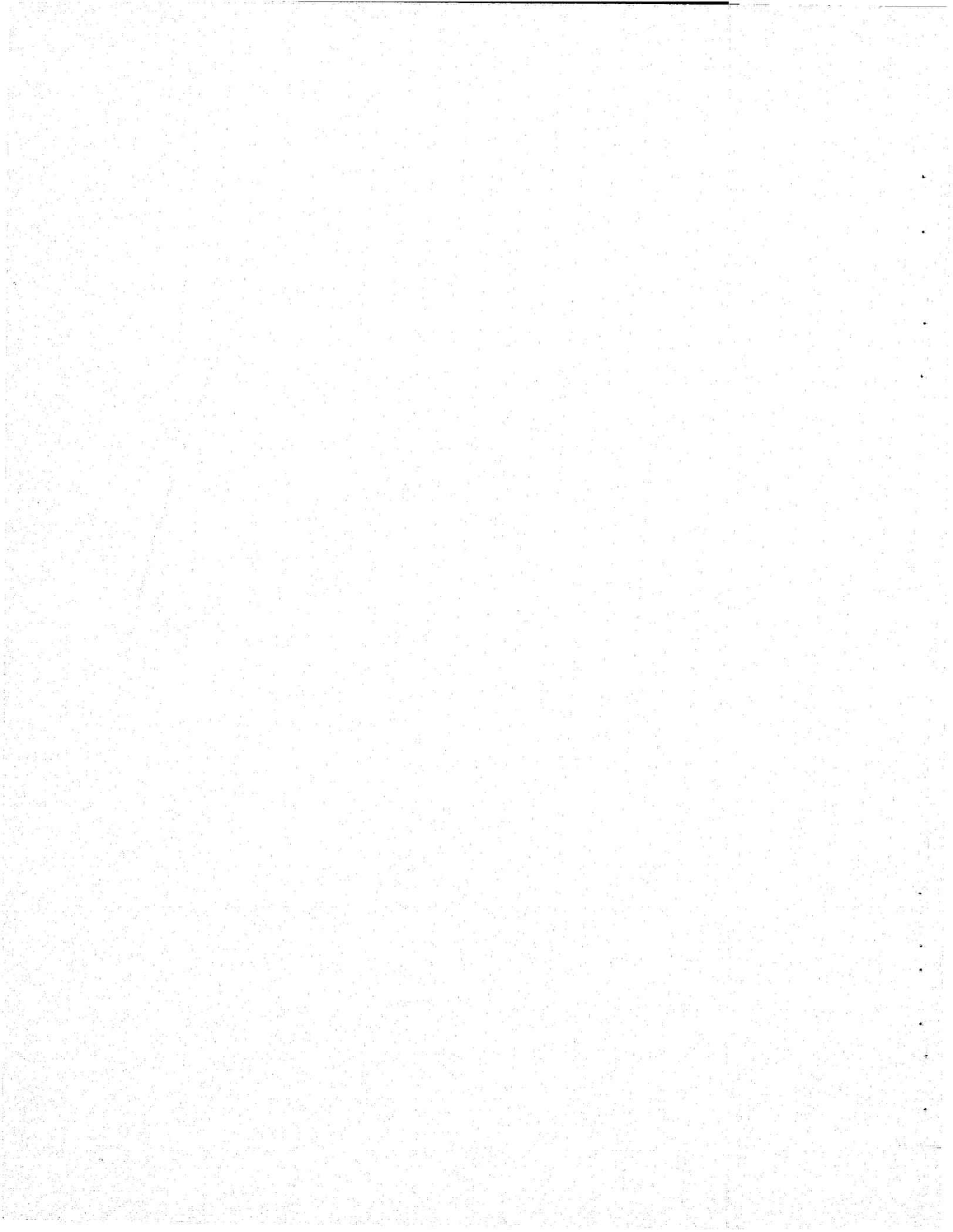
Prior to 1974, the above sources of data were all that BCS had available. However, in 1974 BCS began using press clippings as an additional source of data. The clippings not only provide supplemental data, but they also serve as a quality control function. That is, when a homicide is not reported, either by oversight or error, BCS is able to inform the law enforcement agency of their oversight thereby allowing the agency to correct their previous reports. The end result is a more complete data base on homicides.

After all available information on a particular case is collected, the manual file is coded and updated to an automated master file. The automated file was used to prepare tables for this report. This file is also used to respond to requests for homicide information from the criminal justice community.

During the several years that BCS has collected information about homicides, changes in coding procedures have occurred. These changes have resulted in a more comprehensive data base. As a result, some data are not comparable to prior or following years' data. An example of this type of change is the coding of precipitating event information relative to justifiable homicides by peace officers. These codes were changed in 1976 in order to more accurately relate to the codes used by the national UCR Program. Tables included in this report that are affected by coding changes are appropriately noted.



WILLFUL HOMICIDE
INCIDENTS



WILLFUL HOMICIDE

Incidents

During the three-year period 1974–1976, there were 6,380 willful homicide crimes reported. As Table 1 indicates, they were distributed in the following manner: 1,970 in 1974, 2,196 in 1975, and 2,214 in 1976.

Although the 11.5 percent increase from 1974 to 1975 appears to be substantial, it should be pointed out that the base figure (1,970) is relatively small and easily impacted by small numerical changes.

Table 1 also displays the number and percent change of willful homicides reported for a five-year period (1971–1976). It is apparent that this change follows no set pattern or trend.

TABLE 1
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1971–1976

Year	Number
1971	1,633
1972	1,789
1973	1,862
1974	1,970
1975	2,196
1976	2,214
Percent change	
1971–1972 . . .	9.6
1972–1973 . . .	4.1
1973–1974 . . .	5.8
1974–1975 . . .	11.5
1975–1976 . . .	0.8

The rate of willful homicides per 100,000 population, beginning with 1954, is displayed in Table 2. It is interesting to note that for 1976 there was an increase in the number of willful homicides reported over 1975, but a decrease in the rate per 100,000 population. The rate per 100,000 is affected by population change and is considered a better indicator of trends than is the percent change in numbers reported.

TABLE 2
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1954-1976
Number and Rate Per 100,000 Population

Year	Willful homicide crimes ^a	Population ^b	Rate per 100,000 population
1954 . .	419	12,595,000	3.3
1955 . .	417	13,035,000	3.2
1956 . .	474	13,600,000	3.5
1957 . .	497	14,190,000	3.5
1958 . .	547	14,752,000	3.7
1959 . .	515	15,280,000	3.4
1960 . .	620	15,860,000	3.9
1961 . .	609	16,445,000	3.7
1962 . .	671	17,044,000	3.9
1963 . .	656	17,675,000	3.7
1964 . .	758	18,234,000	4.2
1965 . .	892	18,756,000	4.8
1966 . .	897	19,132,000	4.7
1967 . .	1,051	19,478,000	5.4
1968 . .	1,171	19,554,000	6.0
1969 . .	1,376	19,856,000	6.9
1970 . .	1,355	20,003,000	6.8
1971 . .	1,633	20,265,000	8.1
1972 . .	1,789	20,524,000	8.7
1973 . .	1,862	20,741,000	9.0
1974 . .	1,970	20,933,000	9.4
1975 . .	2,196	21,113,000	10.4
1976 . .	2,214	21,520,000	10.3

^a"Crime in California," California Department of Justice, Bureau of Criminal Statistics annual reports.

^bCalifornia population estimates based on Department of Finance figures.

The distribution of willful homicides by county is presented in Table 3. This table indicates that during 1976 five counties accounted for 64.6 percent (1,430) of the total willful homicides reported. These counties were: Los Angeles, 43.8 percent (969); Alameda, 6.5 percent (145); San Francisco, 5.9 percent (131); San Diego, 4.6 percent (102); and Orange, 3.7 percent (83). However, when population was considered and the rates per 100,000 population for 1976 were calculated, the five highest counties were San Francisco, 19.7; Kern, 14.1; Los Angeles, 13.8; Alameda, 13.3; and San Joaquin, 12.9. (Data are not shown.)

TABLE 3
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1976
By County

County	Total	1974	1975	1976
Total	6,380	1,970	2,196	2,214
Alameda	436	129	162	145
Alpine	0	0	0	0
Amador	0	0	0	0
Butte	23	10	3	10
Calaveras	1	0	0	1
Colusa	3	0	0	3
Contra Costa	150	56	44	50
Del Norte	13	3	7	3
El Dorado	9	2	2	5
Fresno	168	55	57	56
Glenn	3	2	0	1
Humboldt	16	5	5	6
Imperial	14	4	4	6
Inyo	4	1	3	0
Kern	137	37	50	50
Kings	18	6	9	3
Lake	7	0	3	4
Lassen	11	3	5	3
Los Angeles	2,856	890	997	969
Madera	19	5	7	7
Marin	41	6	19	16
Mariposa	1	0	1	0
Mendocino	27	10	8	9
Merced	24	6	9	9
Modoc	0	0	0	0
Mono	1	0	1	0
Monterey	78	24	22	32
Napa	20	7	6	7
Nevada	5	0	1	4
Orange	206	60	63	83
Placer	16	4	6	6
Plumas	3	0	3	0
Riverside	163	46	51	66
Sacramento	191	50	63	78
San Benito	3	0	2	1

TABLE 3—Continued
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974—1976
By County

County	Total	1974	1975	1976
San Bernardino . . .	184	69	50	65
San Diego	319	111	106	102
San Francisco . . .	408	139	138	131
San Joaquin	104	31	34	39
San Luis Obispo . .	21	8	7	6
San Mateo	110	37	30	43
Santa Barbara . . .	32	9	14	9
Santa Clara	176	55	56	65
Santa Cruz	34	9	17	8
Shasta	12	1	8	3
Sierra	1	0	0	1
Siskiyou	11	2	7	2
Solano	43	17	15	11
Sonoma	36	5	24	7
Stanislaus	46	8	20	18
Sutter	12	3	3	6
Tehama	3	3	0	0
Trinity	1	0	0	1
Tulare	66	14	29	23
Tuolumne	5	2	2	1
Ventura	55	12	18	25
Yolo	18	6	3	9
Yuba	16	8	2	6

For a willful homicide to occur there must be at least one victim and one offender. However, in some instances there are more victims than offenders or more offenders than victims. This information is presented in Table 4.

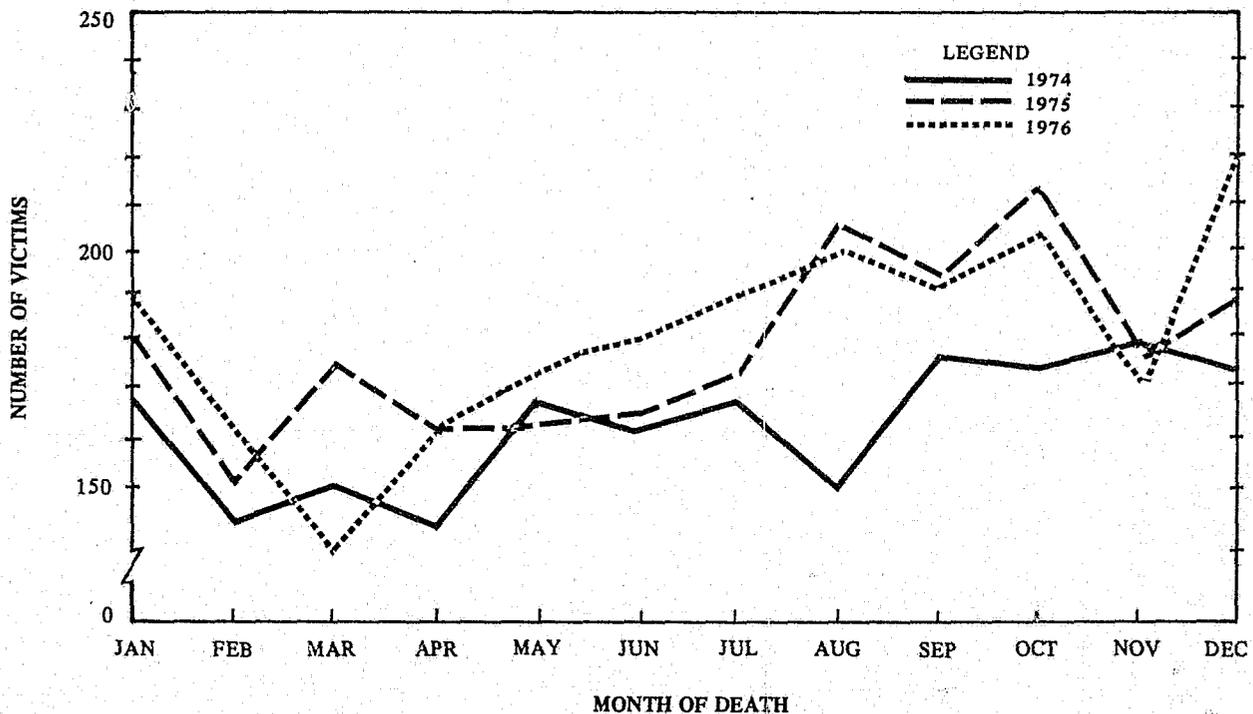
As in past years, the one-victim-to-one-offender ratio predominates in each of the three years. Of the total victims in the three-year period, 57.4 percent (3,659) were killed in situations where there was a single victim and a single offender. The remaining victims were killed in situations where there were one or more victims and/or offenders.

TABLE 4
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1976
Number of Victims and Offenders for Each Homicide Incident

Victims and offenders for each homicide incident	Total	1974	1975	1976
Total incidents	6,380	1,970	2,196	2,214
Single victim—single offender . . .	3,659	1,178	1,301	1,180
Multiple victims and/or offenders .	2,721	792	895	1,034

The number of willful homicides reported by known month for each of the three years is presented in Chart 1. As the chart indicates, the predominate month for each year was different. The chart also shows that more willful homicides occurred during the last half of the year than during the first half.

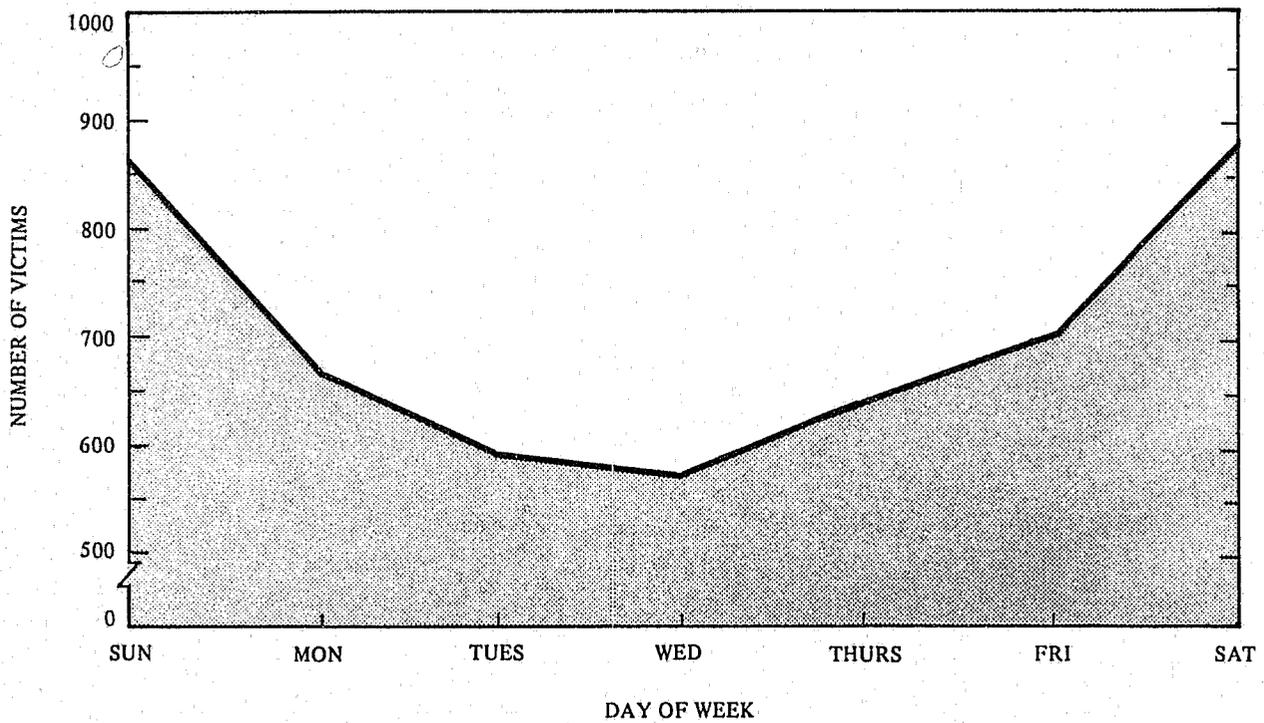
CHART 1
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1976
Number of Victims by Known Month of Death



Note: This chart excludes unknowns which accounted for 12 in 1974, 39 in 1975, and 31 in 1976.

As displayed in Chart 2, Saturday and Sunday were, by far, the known days of the week, for the three-year period, on which a willful homicide was most likely to occur. These are the days of the week during which people tend to congregate and socialize. This gathering together creates an environment where the likelihood of an argument occurring is increased.

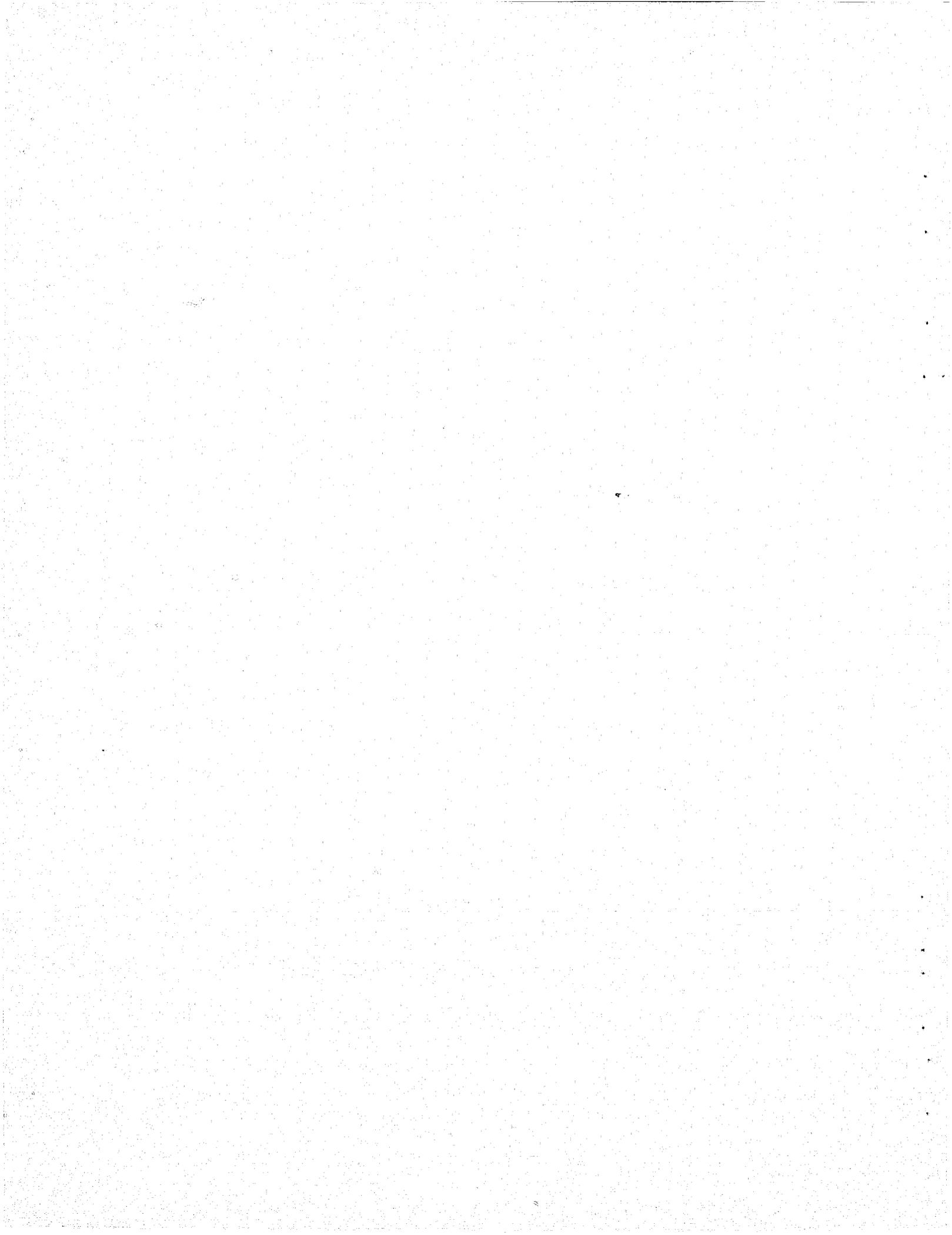
CHART 2
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1976
Number of Victims by Known Day of Week



Note: This chart excludes unknowns which accounted for 1,452 cases for the three-year period 1974-1976.

WILLFUL HOMICIDE

VICTIMS



WILLFUL HOMICIDE

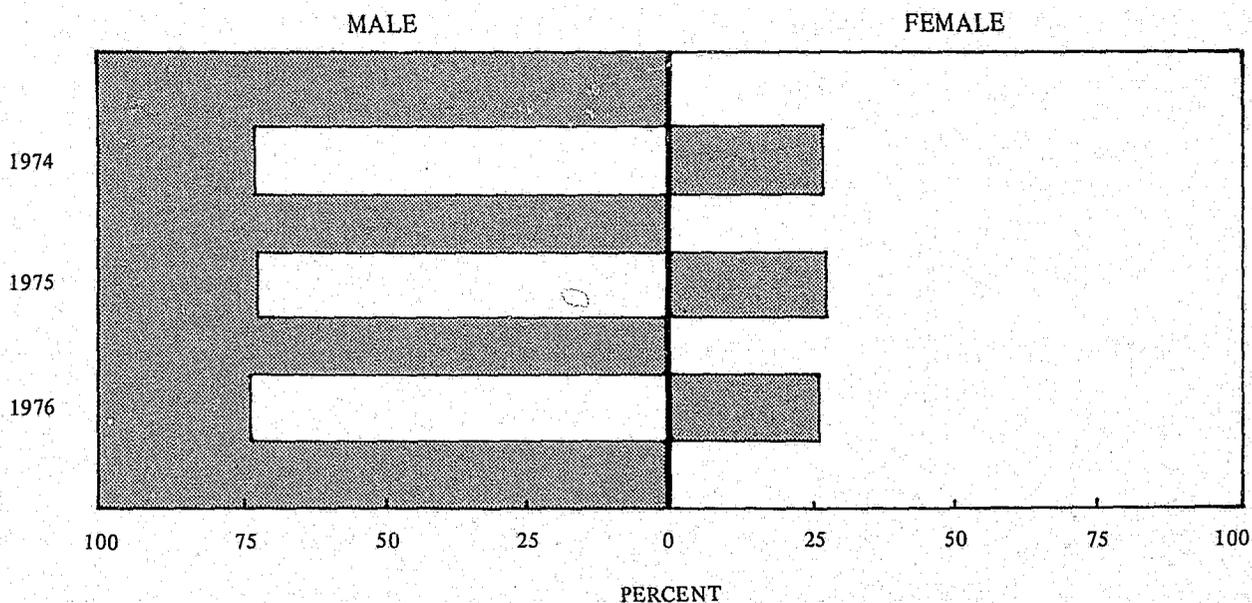
Victims

This section contains information about the characteristics of the victim. Among those characteristics are the victim's age, race, and sex.

Additional information that became known as a result of examination of the victim or further investigation into the circumstances surrounding the homicide are also included in this section. This information includes the type of weapon used to inflict the fatal wound, the wound area, the event leading up to the homicide, the location of occurrence, and the relationship between the victim and the offender.

For each of the three years, male victims were predominate. As Chart 3 shows, the percent distribution was about the same for each of the three years with males comprising approximately 74 percent (4,721) of the victims and females about 26 percent (1,659).

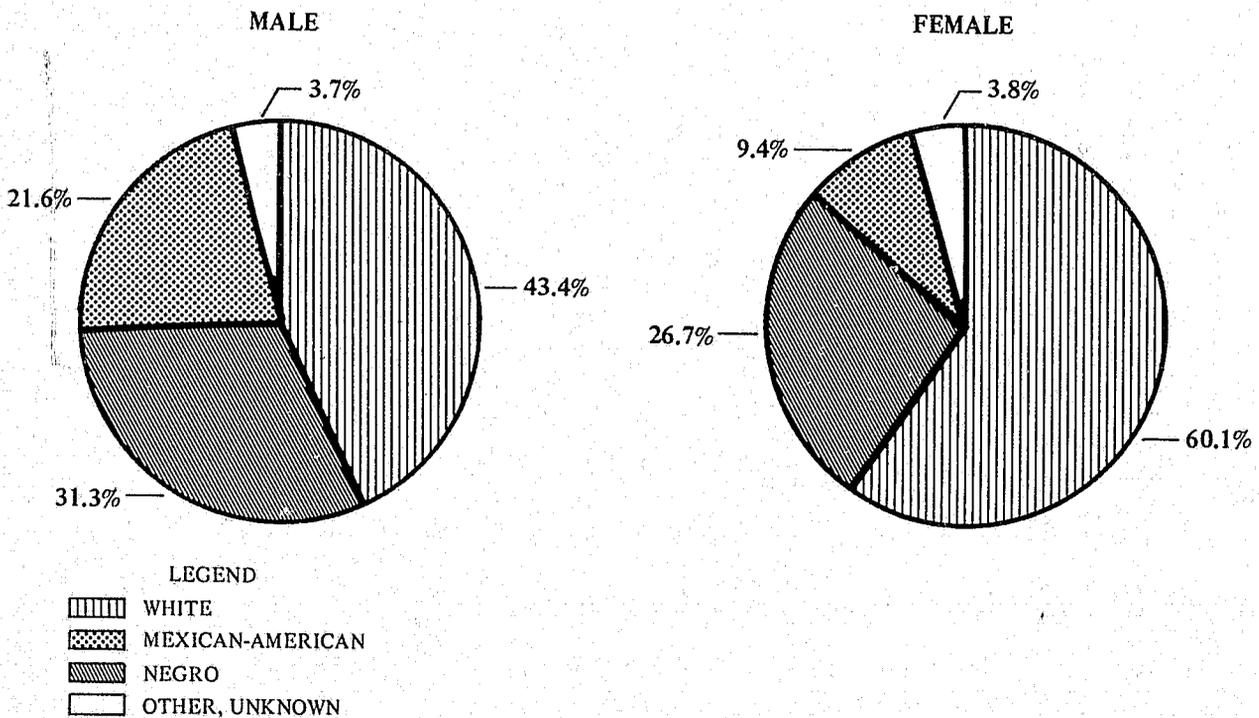
CHART 3
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1976
By Victim's Sex



Note: For source of data see Appendix Table A-2.

The racial distribution among all victims for the three-year period was: white, about 48 percent (3,044 of 6,380); Mexican-American, about 18 percent (1,176 of 6,380); Negro, about 30 percent (1,921 of 6,380); and other and unknown, about 4 percent (239 of 6,380). When the element of sex is included, there is a marked difference in the racial distribution among victims for the three-year period. About 60 percent (997 of 1,659) of the female victims were white. However, of the males only about 43 percent (2,047 of 4,721) were white. The frequency of Mexican-American victims among females was only about 9 percent (156 of 1,659) compared to approximately 22 percent for males (1,020 of 4,721). Negro representation in both sexes differed only slightly; approximately 27 percent (443 of 1,659) of the females and about 31 percent (1,478 of 4,721) of the males. Other and unknown accounted for approximately 4 percent (239 of 6,380) for both females and males. These data are displayed in Chart 4.

CHART 4
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1976
By Victim's Sex and Race



Note: For source of data see Appendix Table A-2.

Victims of willful homicide tended to be youthful. The predominate age group for the three-year period was 20–24, with the age group of 25–29 following very closely behind.

As shown in Table 5, the predominate age group for each sex was nearly the same for the three-year period. The only exception occurred in 1974 where female victims tended to be slightly older than male victims.

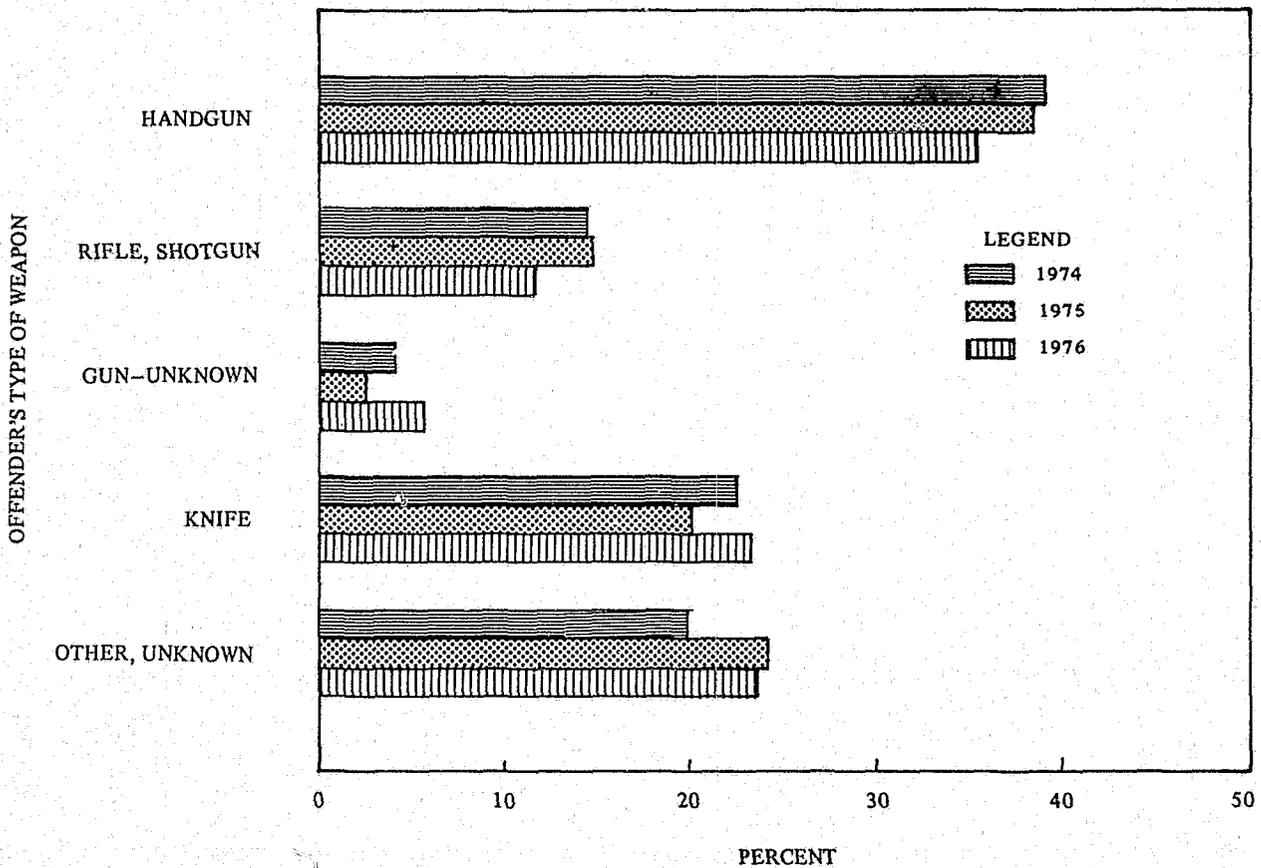
TABLE 5
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974–1976
By Victim's Sex and Age

Victim's sex and age	Total	1974	1975	1976
Total	6,380	1,970	2,196	2,214
Male	4,721	1,457	1,616	1,648
0–14	197	56	77	64
15–19	470	146	177	147
20–24	831	259	267	305
25–29	759	232	250	277
30–34	522	161	168	193
35–39	401	123	148	130
40–44	327	102	115	110
45–49	298	94	102	102
50–54	257	100	85	72
55–59	177	44	67	66
60–64	142	47	46	49
65–69	114	39	40	35
70 and over	159	45	59	55
Unknown	67	9	15	43
Female	1,659	513	580	566
0–14	152	47	55	50
15–19	166	56	49	61
20–24	267	73	93	101
25–29	225	80	76	69
30–34	147	50	55	42
35–39	128	46	48	34
40–44	96	25	40	31
45–49	89	25	28	36
50–54	83	27	29	27
55–59	65	22	20	23
60–64	39	12	14	13
65–69	48	10	22	16
70 and over	131	34	45	52
Unknown	23	6	6	11

The distribution of the type of weapon used to inflict the fatal wound is presented in Chart 5. For the three-year period 1974–1976, a handgun was the most frequently used weapon in the crime of willful homicide (37.8 percent). In fact, firearms in general constituted about 55 percent of the weapons reported.

The chart also indicates a slight year-to-year decrease in the category of “Handgun.” However, it should be noted that there was an increase in the category of “Gun–unknown.” This increase makes it difficult to determine the significance of the decrease in the “Handgun” category.

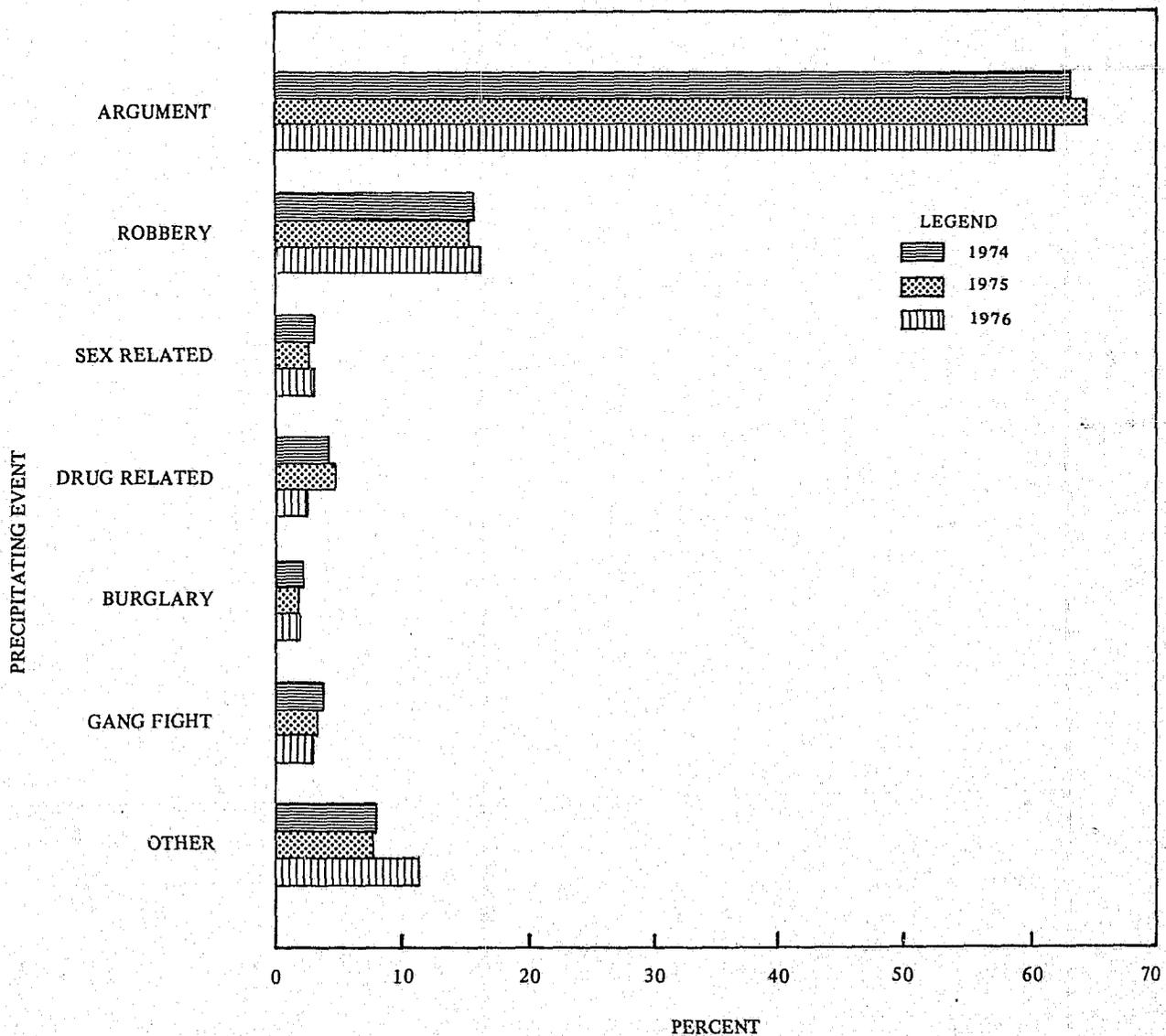
CHART 5
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974–1976
By Offender’s Type of Weapon



Note: For source of data see Appendix Table A-7.

Of the 6,380 willful homicides reported in 1974–1976, there were 5,173 cases where the precipitating event was known. For the three years included in the report, an argument was the most frequent precipitating event accounting for 3,271 or 63.2 percent. Chart 6 shows the percent distribution of precipitating event for the three years. It shows that of the known precipitating events, arguments were most closely followed by robberies which accounted for 15.7 percent (812 of 5,173) of the willful homicides.

CHART 6
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974--1976
 By Known Precipitating Event



Notes: This chart excludes unknowns which accounted for 284 in 1974, 410 in 1975, and 513 in 1976.
 For source of data see Appendix Table A-4.

Of the willful homicides in which the location was known, the largest percentage (39.5 percent) occurred in the victim's home. The second and third most frequently known homicide locations were the highway or street (16.8 percent) and a residence other than the victim's (11.0 percent). In those cases where the victim and the offender shared a common residence, the location of the homicide was coded as the victim's residence. These data are displayed in Table 6.

The fact that most willful homicides occurred in the victim's home is indicative of the difficulty encountered by law enforcement officers in preventing homicides. Homicide, unlike robbery or burglary where the presence of a patrol vehicle may act as a deterrent, is typically a crime that occurs in the privacy of a home.

TABLE 6
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1976
By Location of Homicide

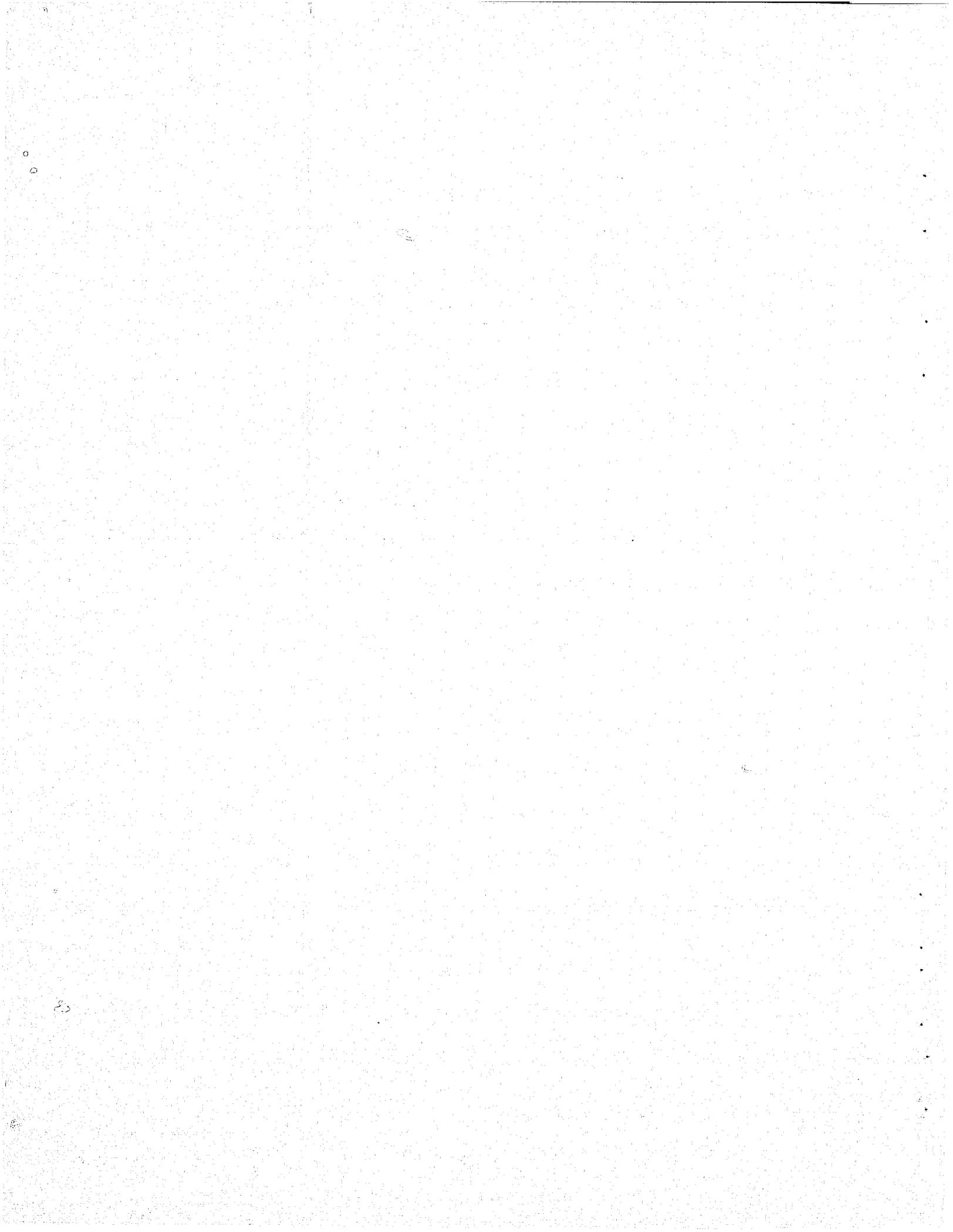
Location of homicide	Total	1974	1975	1976
Total	6,380	1,970	2,196	2,214
Victim's residence	2,265	743	771	751
Other residence	632	190	234	208
Hotel/motel	143	48	59	36
Liquor business	256	86	90	80
Other business	296	112	104	80
Parking lot	199	73	60	66
Highway/street	962	353	297	312
Field/park	376	107	128	141
In vehicle	347	124	103	120
Other	262	83	96	83
Unknown	642	51	254	337

Table 7 shows the relationship of the victim to the offender for each of the three years as well as the total for the three years. In 78.6 percent (3,690 of 4,695) of the willful homicides reported for the three-year period, where the relationship was known, the offender was acquainted with the victim prior to the homicide incident. In fact, in 24.6 percent (1,154 of 4,695) of these cases the victim and the offender were related in some manner.

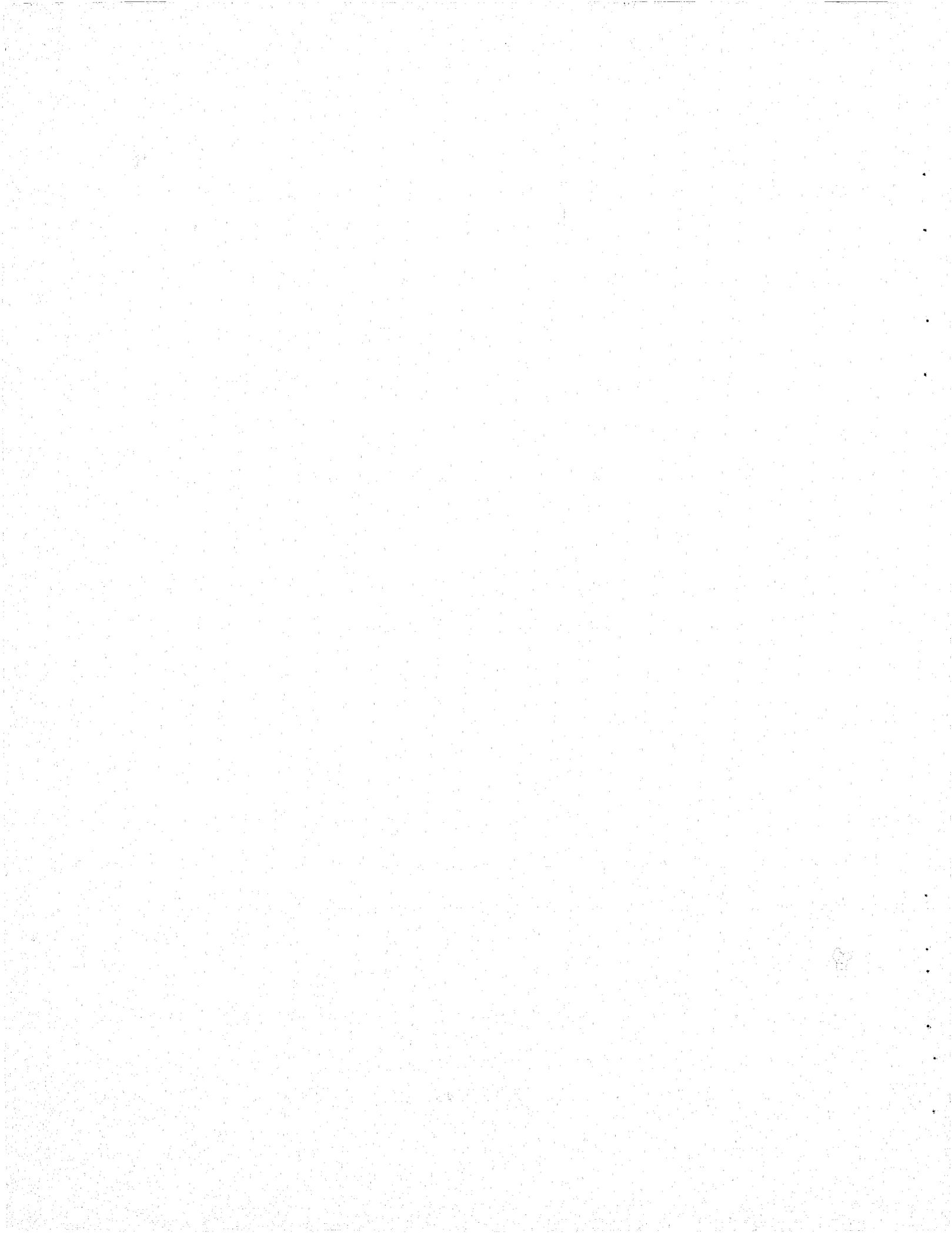
TABLE 7
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1976
By Victim-Offender Relationship

Victim-offender relationship	Total		1974		1975		1976	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	6,380	100.0	1,970	100.0	2,196	100.0	2,214	100.0
Friend/associate . .	2,536	39.7	816	41.4	951	43.3	769	34.7
Spouse	705	11.1	269	13.7	236	10.7	200	9.0
Parent/child	294	4.6	101	5.1	105	4.8	88	4.0
Brother/sister	58	0.9	13	0.7	23	1.0	22	1.0
Other relative	97	1.5	21	1.1	33	1.5	43	1.9
Peace officer	28	0.4	10	0.5	12	0.5	6	0.3
Stranger	977	15.3	280	14.2	453	20.6	244	11.0
Unknown	1,685	26.4	460	23.4	383	17.4	842	38.0

Note: Percents will not total 100.0 due to rounding.



WILLFUL HOMICIDE
OFFENDERS



WILLFUL HOMICIDE

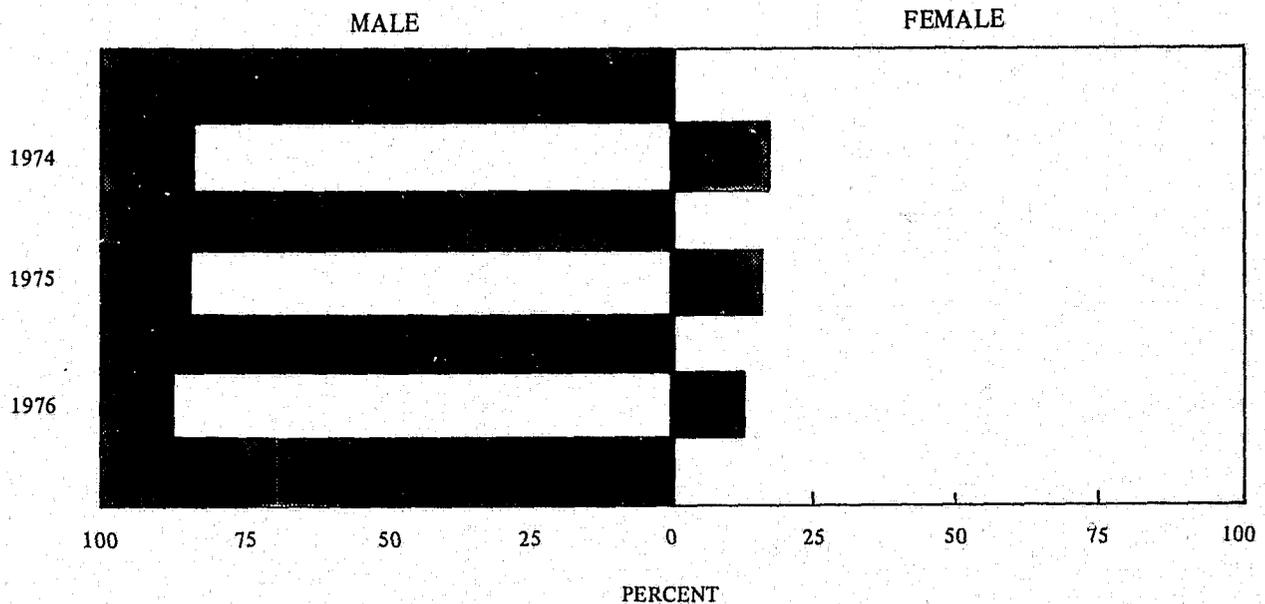
Offenders

This section presents data on offenders that were known to California law enforcement agencies and subsequently reported to BCS. As with the victim, these data include the age, sex, and race of the offender. Additional data were gathered regarding the prior criminal record of the offender and the ultimate court disposition of the homicide case. Unfortunately, not all supplemental data could be included for all years. However, it is anticipated that in future years both prior criminal record and court disposition data will be available through the Department of Justice's Offender-Based Transaction Statistics component. It should be noted that the term "offender," as used in this report, relates to the individual arrested and is not intended to imply eventual guilt or innocence.

The prior criminal record data are available only for the years 1974 and 1975. The corresponding data for 1976 could not be collected because the resources were no longer available. Court disposition data are included for only those willful homicide crimes reported in 1975. This process, like prior criminal record data collection, was costly and time-consuming and therefore discontinued.

There were far more male than female offenders. Chart 7 shows that for each of the three years, males comprised more than 80 percent of the known offenders. For the three-year total of 5,871 offenders, there were 5,022 males (85.5 percent), compared to 849 females (14.5 percent).

CHART 7
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1976
By Offender's Sex

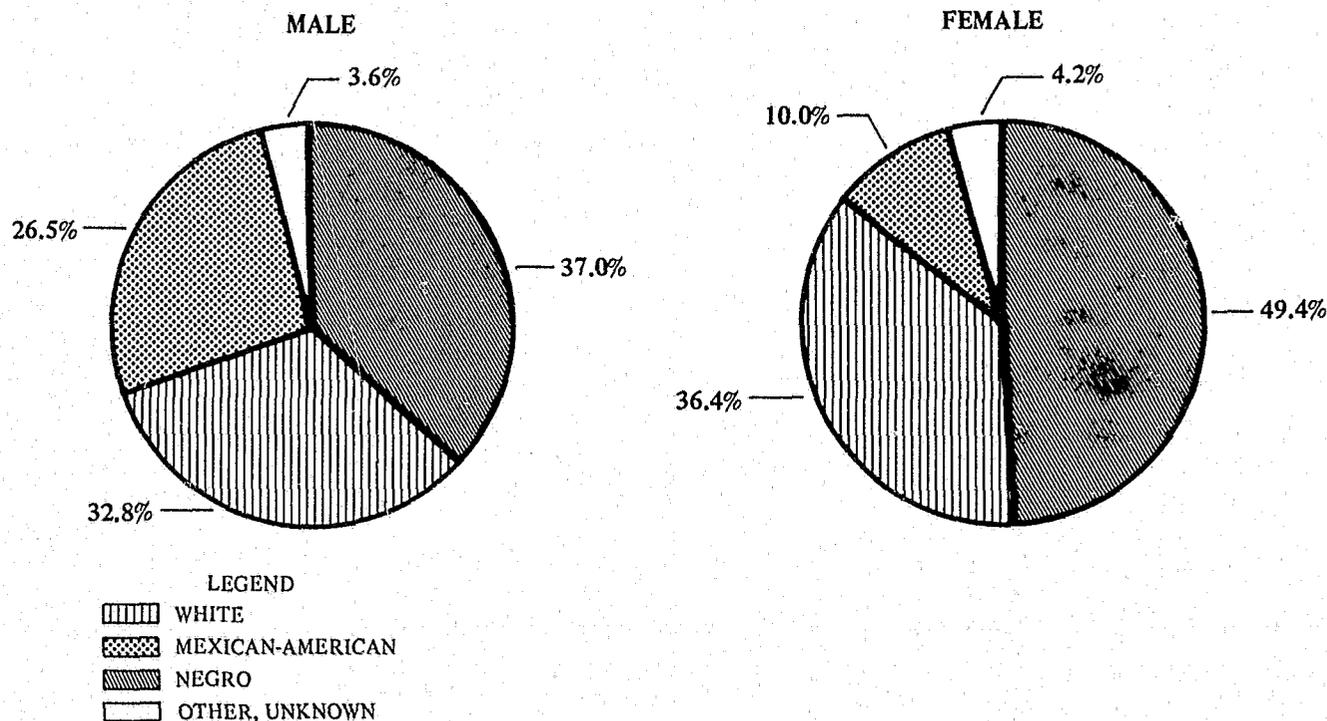


Note: For source of data see Appendix Table A-3.

The racial distribution of all offenders for the three-year period was: white, about 33 percent (1,958 of 5,871); Mexican-American, about 24 percent (1,416 of 5,871); Negro, about 39 percent (2,278 of 5,871); and other and unknown, about 4 percent (219 of 5,871). When the element of sex is included, a different racial distribution emerges. For the three-year period, nearly half (49.4 percent) of the female offenders were Negro compared to slightly over one-third (37.0 percent) of the male offenders who were Negro. Males and females in the white group show little variance in relation to the three-year total. Both white males and females constituted roughly one-third of their sex groupings (32.8 percent and 36.4 percent, respectively). Mexican-American females represented only one-tenth (10.0 percent) of female offenders for the three-year total, while Mexican-American males represented slightly more than one-fourth of the total male offenders (26.5 percent).

The percent distributions by sex and race for 1974–1976 are presented in Chart 8.

CHART 8
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974–1976
 By Offender's Sex and Race



Notes: For source of data see Appendix Table A-3.
 Percents may not total 100.0 due to rounding.

The predominate age group for each of the three years for both male and female offenders was the same as that of the victims. Table 8 shows of all age groups the predominate group is 20–24 years of age.

It is interesting to note that the age group second in frequency differs between the males and females. Male offenders were younger, down to the 15-19 age group, while females were older, up to the 25-29 age group. One reason for this disparity may be the more frequent involvement of males in juvenile, or youthful, gangs.

TABLE 8
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1976
By Offender's Sex and Age

Offender's sex and age	Total	1974	1975	1976
Total	5,871	1,812	1,972	2,087
Male	5,022	1,521	1,669	1,832
0-14	49	27	9	13
15-19	1,007	318	335	354
20-24	1,272	369	437	466
25-29	954	268	333	353
30-34	540	155	173	212
35-39	322	98	100	124
40-44	254	77	89	88
45-49	166	53	58	55
50-54	115	36	36	43
55-59	87	33	28	26
60-64	56	23	16	17
65-69	43	12	13	18
70 and over . .	51	14	20	17
Unknown	106	38	22	46
Female	849	291	303	255
0-14	7	5	0	2
15-19	96	37	32	27
20-24	199	69	71	59
25-29	155	58	46	51
30-34	113	36	43	34
35-39	80	21	28	31
40-44	63	20	25	18
45-49	40	10	24	6
50-54	35	10	17	8
55-59	22	6	7	9
60-64	14	6	2	6
65-69	7	3	4	0
70 and over . .	5	3	2	0
Unknown	13	7	2	4

As stated earlier, prior criminal record information on the known offenders was collected only for the years 1974 and 1975. This information was obtained from the Department of Justice's criminal history records. However, if there was no information on file it did not necessarily mean the individual had no criminal record. There could have been an arrest in another state without a record being established in California. Because of this, the individuals in the "None" category may be overrepresented.

If there was not sufficient information on an offender to positively link him to an individual record, the prior record was coded as "Unknown." This was done so that the "None" category would not be even more overrepresented.

Persons with prior criminal records were divided into three standard categories:

1. Minor record — criminal record of less than two years probation and/or less than 90 days in jail.
2. Major record — criminal record of two or more years probation and/or 90 or more days in jail.
3. Prison record — criminal record of time served in a federal or state penitentiary for a felonious offense.

As shown in Table 9, a greater percentage of males had some type of prior criminal record than did females. In 1974 and 1975, approximately 58 percent of the males had a prior criminal record compared to nearly 37 percent of the females. In addition, as the prior criminal record became more serious, the number of females in these categories decreased at a more rapid rate than did males.

For example, in 1974, 24.0 percent of the males and 23.0 percent of the females had minor prior criminal records. However, during the same year only 11.7 percent of the females had major prior criminal records, compared to 23.0 percent of the males. These data indicate that males, more often than females, committed more serious offenses prior to the homicide.

TABLE 9
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1975
Offender's Prior Criminal Record and Sex
by Percent Distribution

Offender's prior criminal record	1974			1975		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	1,812	1,521	291	1,972	1,669	303
Percent distribution . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
None	18.3	15.5	33.0	21.3	17.6	41.9
Minor	23.8	24.0	23.0	24.8	25.4	21.8
Major	21.2	23.0	11.7	21.7	23.1	13.9
Prison	9.2	10.6	2.1	7.9	9.2	1.0
Unknown	27.5	27.0	30.2	24.3	24.8	21.5

Note: Percents may not total 100.0 due to rounding.

Superior Court Dispositions of Adults Arrested for Willful Homicide Crimes Reported in 1975

Tables 10 and 11 contain information relating to the disposition of adult offenders arrested in connection with willful homicides reported in 1975. Because of the difficulty in collecting information on juveniles, they are not included in these two tables.

Since the judicial process surrounding most homicide cases is lengthy, it should be noted that these tables do not contain information on all offenders. They include only those offenders who appeared in superior court prior to the collection of this information. In addition, not all offenders who were found guilty had been sentenced at the time data collection was terminated.

Of the 833 offenders who appeared in superior court, 691, or 83.0 percent, were found guilty either by the plea entered of nolo contendere or guilty, or by a jury. Those who entered a plea of guilty accounted for 52.6 percent (438) of the total dispositions. It should be pointed out that the plea of guilty was not necessarily to the charge of homicide, but could have been to a lesser offense.

A total of 62 offenders (7.4 percent) were acquitted. The plea of not guilty by reason of insanity has been, and continues to be, one of great interest to the general public as well as the criminal justice community. As shown in Table 10, 15 (1.8 percent) of the 833 offenders who appeared in superior court received a verdict of not guilty by reason of insanity. An additional 48 offenders (5.8 percent) were dismissed by the court.

TABLE 10
SUPERIOR COURT DISPOSITIONS
OF ADULTS ARRESTED FOR
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES REPORTED IN 1975

Superior court disposition	Number	Percent
Total	833	100.0
Dismissed	48	5.8
Acquitted	62	7.4
Not guilty	47	5.6
Not guilty--insanity	15	1.8
Convicted	691	83.0
Nolo contendere	3	0.4
Guilty plea	438	52.6
Jury	250	30.0
Off-calendar--state hospital	32	3.8

There were 689 offenders who received sentences for willful homicides reported in 1975. Table 11 shows the sentence received according to the offense for which the offender was eventually convicted.

Of the 689 offenders convicted, 285 were convicted of murder, 352 of manslaughter, and 52 of some other type of crime. The "Other" category shown in the table includes such things as kidnapping and hit-and-run.

Of those offenders convicted of murder, the vast majority (83.2 percent) received prison sentences. The sentence of death accounted for 6.3 percent of the murder convictions. The greatest proportion (46.0 percent) of manslaughter convictions also resulted in prison sentences. However, jail with a condition of probation was very near with 39.5 percent.

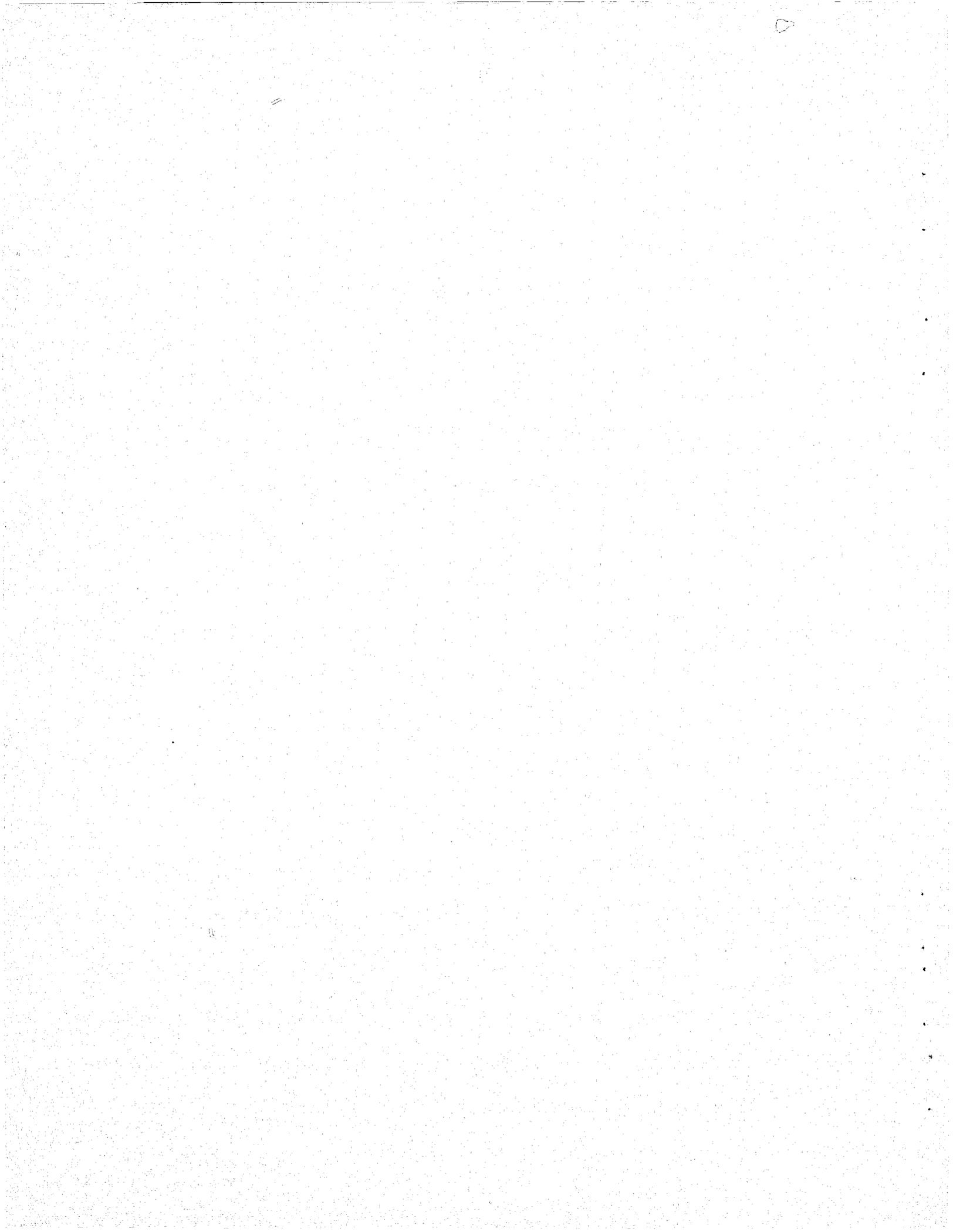
Sentences received by those convicted of all other types of crimes varied widely, from a high of 44.2 percent receiving sentences of jail with a condition of probation to a low of 3.8 percent receiving straight jail sentences.

TABLE 11
ADULTS CONVICTED AND SENTENCED IN SUPERIOR COURTS
FOR WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES REPORTED IN 1975
Convicted Offense by Sentence

Convicted offense	Total	Sentence						
		Death	Prison	California Youth Authority	Probation/jail	Probation	Jail only	California Rehabilitation Center
Total	689	18	414	27	176	49	4	1
Murder—not specified	11	0	9	0	1	1	0	0
Murder—firearm	8	5	2	1	0	0	0	0
Murder 1st	76	13	63	0	0	0	0	0
Murder 2nd	190	0	163	10	13	4	0	0
Manslaughter	352	0	162	11	139	37	2	1
Robbery	8	0	5	0	3	0	0	0
Assault	27	0	6	4	11	5	1	0
Burglary	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
Accessory	9	0	2	0	5	1	1	0
Other	5	0	2	0	2	1	0	0

WILLFUL HOMICIDE

POTENTIAL DEATH
PENALTY CASES



WILLFUL HOMICIDE

Potential Death Penalty Cases

The death penalty was abolished in California in February 1972, reinstated in January 1974, and subsequently declared unconstitutional by the California Supreme Court in March 1977.

For purposes of this study, potential death penalty cases are defined as those which meet the criteria specified in Senate Bill 450, which as a result of public vote became law on January 1, 1974.

The criteria specified in that bill are:

1. Premeditated murder by agreement (contract).
2. Killing of a peace officer while performing his duties.
3. Murdering a witness to prevent his testimony.
4. Deliberate murder during the commission of:
 - a. Robbery
 - b. Kidnapping
 - c. Rape
 - d. Child molestation
 - e. Burglary
5. Death due to deliberate train wrecking.
6. Multiple convictions for first or second degree murder.
7. Murder of a person, excluding a fellow inmate, by a prison inmate serving a life sentence.

By virtue of a veto override in August 1977, new legislation was adopted that reinstated the death penalty in California. The new legislation (Senate Bill 155-1977) contains provisions for consideration of mitigating circumstances which were not provided for in the 1974 legislation. It also retains the qualifying criteria of the 1974 legislation and adds four additional criteria.

The new criteria are:

1. Treason against the state.
2. Willful perjury which results in the conviction and execution of an innocent person.
3. Murder involving torture.
4. Murder perpetrated by means of a destructive device or explosion.

In addition, number 7 of the 1974 legislation was modified. The killing of another inmate by an inmate serving a life sentence is no longer excluded. Since what constitutes a deliberate act or premeditation is normally determined during the judicial process, the data presented represent those homicides determined to have the "potential" for a death penalty sentence for the offender. For example, if a willful homicide occurred during the commission of a robbery, it was coded as a potential death penalty homicide even though it could not be determined from the information available if the act was deliberate or premeditated.

Table 12 is based on the criteria set forth in the 1974 legislation. The data presented in the table show that over half (53.5 percent) of the homicide cases for the three-year period that met the death penalty criteria were a result of a robbery. Multiple slayings were second with 24.1 percent.

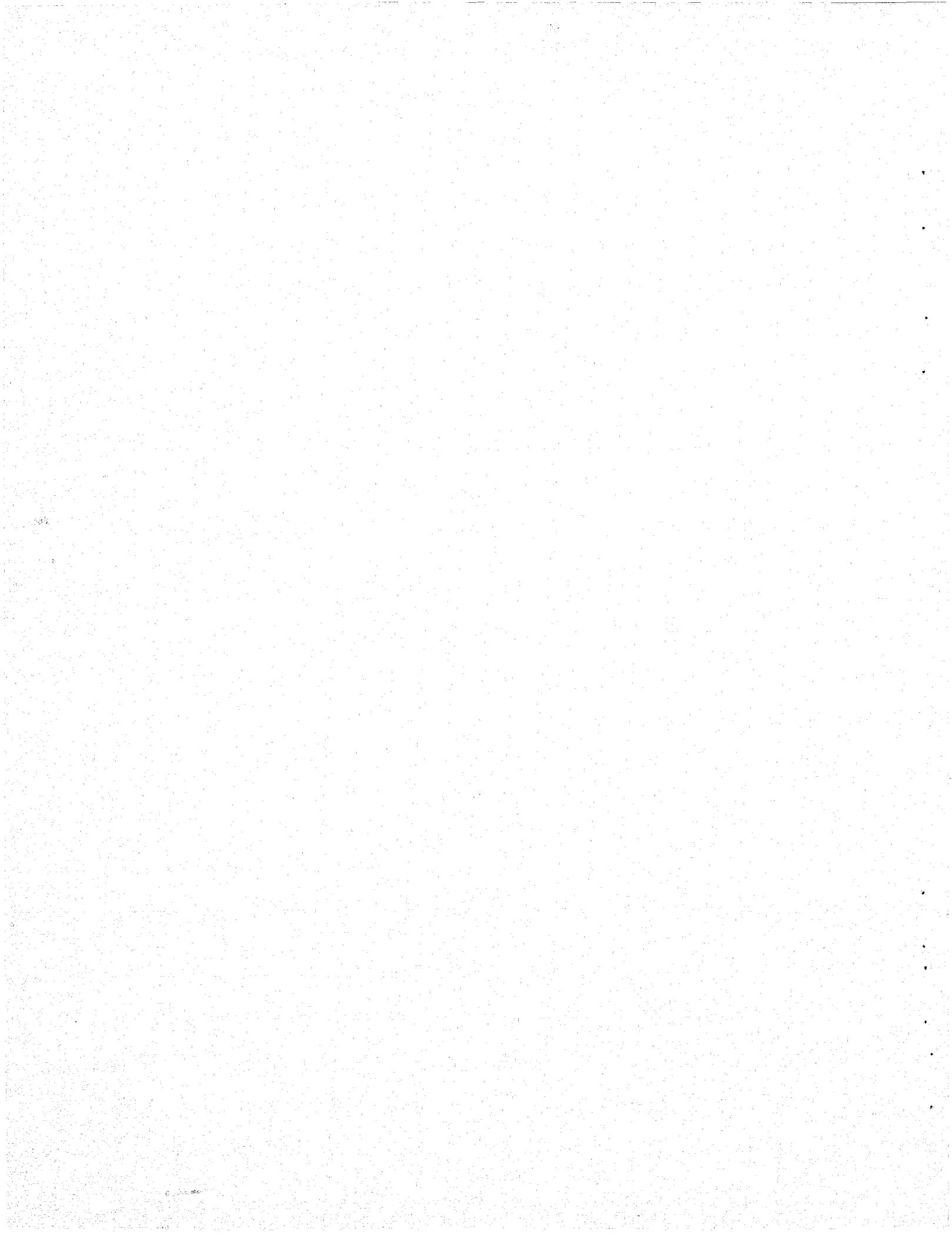
It should be noted at this point that Table 11, in the preceding section on superior court dispositions, shows that only 18 of the 285 offenders convicted of murder were actually sentenced to death.

TABLE 12
POTENTIAL DEATH PENALTY CASES
FOR WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1976
By Qualifying Circumstance

Qualifying circumstance	Total	1974	1975	1976
Total	1,450	449	490	511
Peace officer slain	28	10	12	6
Commission of robbery	776	236	267	273
Commission of kidnapping	36	18	7	11
Commission of rape	108	32	36	40
Commission of child molest	12	8	3	1
Commission of burglary	98	38	31	29
Prior murder conviction	6	5	0	1
Multiple slaying	350	100	113	137
Murder by agreement	32	2	21	9
Other	4	0	0	4

WILLFUL HOMICIDE

PEACE OFFICERS
KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY



WILLFUL HOMICIDE

Peace Officers Killed in the Line of Duty

This section provides information on those peace officers who were killed during the performance of their duties. It includes the race and sex of the officer as well as the type of weapon used and the event precipitating the homicide.

Table 13 is a historical table comparing the number of peace officers killed to the number of persons killed by peace officers while performing their duties. Detail on persons killed by peace officers is included in the section on justifiable homicides.

TABLE 13
HOMICIDES INVOLVING PEACE OFFICERS, 1971-1976

Year	Killed by peace officer ^a	Peace officer killed
1971 . .	93	14
1972 . .	76	6
1973 . .	64	16
1974 . .	84	10
1975 . .	87	12
1976 . .	94	6

^aIncludes only killings in the line of duty.

As shown in Table 14, there were 28 peace officers killed in the line of duty from 1974 through 1976. All of these were males. Three nonwhite peace officers, one Negro and two Mexican-Americans, were killed during the three-year period.

TABLE 14
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES—PEACE OFFICERS KILLED, 1974-1976
By Victim's Race and Sex

Victim's race	Total	Male	Female
Total	28	28	0
White	25	25	0
Mexican-American .	2	2	0
Negro	1	1	0
Other	0	0	0

The event precipitating the killing of a peace officer is shown in Table 15. Of the 28 peace officers killed during the three-year period, 18 were the result of criminal acts. Of these, the most frequently reported subcategory was "Other." "Other" includes such things as ambushes, traffic stops, and kidnappings. It was also used when sufficient detail was not available to determine what type of crime was involved.

TABLE 15
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES—PEACE OFFICERS KILLED, 1974–1976
By Precipitating Event

Precipitating event	Total	1974	1975	1976
Total	28	10	12	6
Criminal acts	18	4	9	5
Robbery	5	1	2	2
Burglary	2	1	0	1
Narcotics	1	0	0	1
Other	10	2	7	1
Noncriminal acts	9	5	3	1
Argument	3	2	1	0
Other	6	3	2	1
Unknown	1	1	0	0

Table 16 displays the type of weapon used against the peace officer for each year reported. Handguns were used more frequently in each of the three years. Of the 28 peace officers killed during the three-year period, 15 (53.6 percent) were killed with a handgun. Rifles, shotguns, and other types of weapons followed, with 17.9, 14.3, and 14.3 percent, respectively. Of the 15 officers killed with a handgun, 6 were killed with either their own weapon or the weapon of a fellow officer. As the table shows, there were five such instances in 1974, one in 1975, and none in 1976. Improved equipment and procedures were often cited as the reasons for the decrease in these instances.

TABLE 16
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES—PEACE OFFICERS KILLED, 1974–1976
By Weapon Used by Offender

Weapon used by offender	Total	1974	1975	1976
Total	28	10	12	6
Handgun	15	8	5	2
Offender's	9	3	4	2
Officer's	4	3	1	0
Fellow officer's	2	2	0	0
Rifle	5	1	3	1
Offender's	5	1	3	1
Shotgun	4	1	2	1
Offender's	4	1	2	1
Other	4	0	2	2

The use of armored vests by peace officers has always been a topic of interest in the criminal justice community. The effectiveness of this type of equipment in preventing certain types of injuries is not questioned. However, the limitations should become obvious from the data presented in Table 17.

Of the 28 peace officers killed during the reporting period 1974–1976, 9 deaths were the result of wounds to the head. In other words, 32.1 percent of the peace officers killed would have suffered fatal wounds even if armored vests had been worn. Seven of the remaining 19 peace officers killed suffered multiple wounds and were coded “Multiple” without regard to the fatal wound area. In one case the wound area was unknown. For these eight cases the effect of an armored vest is unknown.

On the other hand, 11 (39.3 percent) of the peace officers killed, died as a result of gunshot wounds to the chest, back, or abdomen. These fatalities may have been prevented if an armored vest had been worn.

TABLE 17
 WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES—PEACE OFFICERS KILLED, 1974–1976
 Offender's Type of Weapon by Officer's Wound Area

Offender's type of weapon	Total	Officer's wound area					
		Head	Upper torso	Lower torso	Internal	Multiple	Unknown
Total	28	9	7	3	1	7	1
Handgun	15	3	3	3	0	5	1
Rifle	5	1	3	0	0	1	0
Shotgun	4	3	1	0	0	0	0
Club	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Other	2	0	0	0	1	1	0

JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE

9

JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE

As stated in the introduction to this report, a justifiable homicide is defined as the killing of a felon, by a private citizen or a peace officer, during the commission of a felony. These types of homicides are sometimes termed noncriminal. That is, in the eyes of the law the person responsible for the homicide was justified in killing the felon and therefore did not commit a crime. Since a justifiable homicide may be committed by either a private citizen or a peace officer, each type will be discussed separately.

Justifiable Homicides by Peace Officers

Table 18 shows, by year, the sex of those felons killed by peace officers. For the three-year period 1974–1976, there were 265 justifiable homicides by peace officers. Of the deceased, 10 were female and 255 were male.

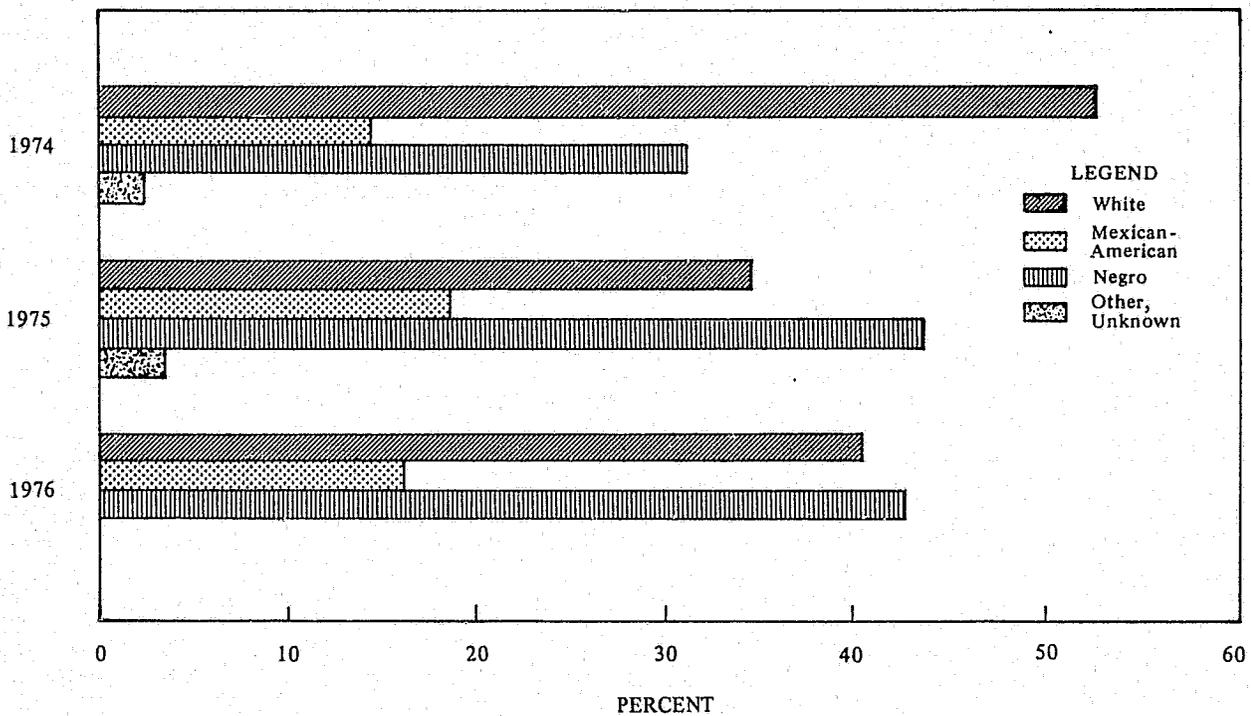
TABLE 18
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS, 1974–1976
By Sex of Deceased

Sex of deceased	Total	1974	1975	1976
Total	265	84	87	94
Male	255	79	84	92
Female	10	5	3	2

During this same period California peace officers effected over one million felony arrests. Many of these arrests had the potential of becoming a violent situation. Of these situations, only 265 or .03 percent resulted in the death of the felon.

Chart 9 shows the percent distribution by race and year reported of those felons killed by peace officers. It is interesting to note that while the percent distribution of Mexican-Americans remained relatively constant, those for whites and Negroes fluctuated each year. In 1974, more white felons were killed than Negro felons. However, in 1975 just the opposite was true. Finally, in 1976 whites and Negroes each accounted for about 40 percent of the felons killed by peace officers.

CHART 9
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS, 1974-1976
By Race of Deceased



Note: For source of data see Appendix Table A-9.

As shown in Table 19, a handgun was the weapon most frequently used by peace officers in justifiable homicides. The second most frequently used weapon was a shotgun. Since both of these weapons are standard among California law enforcement agencies, these frequencies were expected.

TABLE 19
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS, 1974-1976
By Officer's Type of Weapon

Officer's type of weapon	Number	Percent
Total	265	100.0
Handgun	191	72.1
Rifle	14	5.3
Shotgun	37	14.0
Gun-unknown	15	5.7
Other	8	3.0

Note: Percents will not total 100.0 due to rounding.

During 1976 a concentrated effort was made by BCS to collect data on the event preceding a justifiable homicide by a peace officer. Similar data were gathered for 1974 and 1975 but were not considered complete enough for inclusion in this report.

The data for 1976 are presented in Table 20. This table shows that most justifiable homicides by peace officers were a result of a felonious attack upon the peace officer. The second most frequently reported precipitating event was when the officer discovered the felon in the act of committing a crime.

TABLE 20
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS, 1976
By Precipitating Event

Precipitating event	Number	Percent
Total	94	100.0
Felon attacking peace officer	47	50.0
Felon attacking civilian	1	1.1
Felon attempting flight	7	7.4
Felon in commission of a crime	26	27.7
Felon resisting arrest	10	10.6
Not stated	3	3.2

Justifiable Homicides by Private Citizens

Extensive changes in data collection methods and coding procedures during 1975 make all prior years' data for this category of homicides incomparable. Therefore, only data for the years 1975 and 1976 are included.

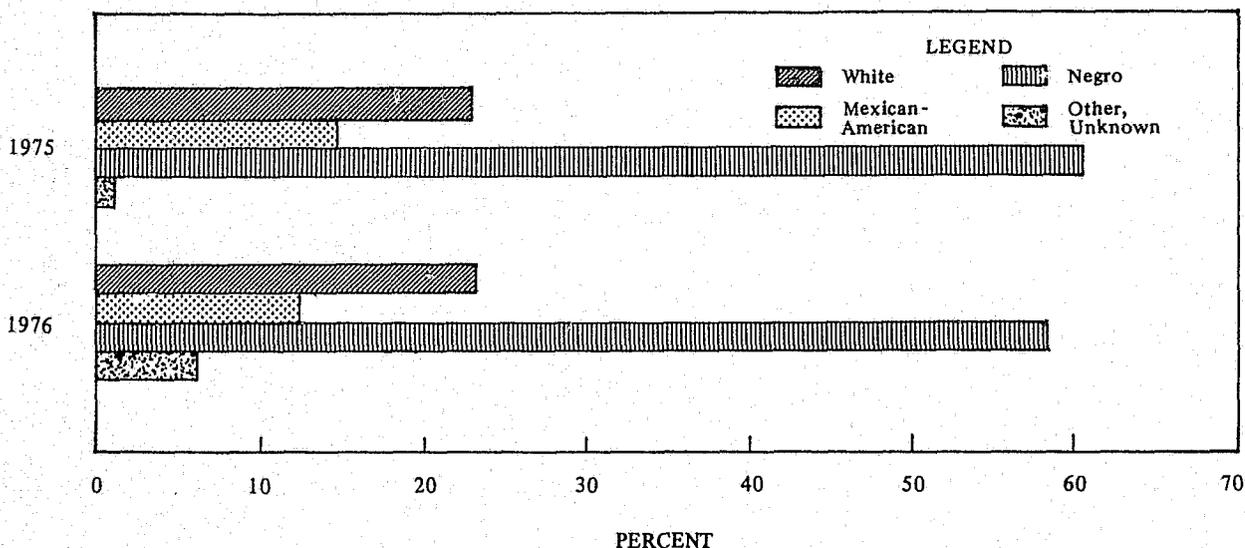
During the two-year period 1975-1976, 126 justifiable homicides by private citizens were reported to the Bureau of Criminal Statistics. Of these, 124 were male and 2 were female. This information is displayed on a yearly basis in Table 21.

TABLE 21
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PRIVATE CITIZENS, 1975-1976
By Sex of Deceased

Sex of deceased	Total	1975	1976
Total	126	61	65
Male	124	61	63
Female	2	0	2

The racial distribution of felons killed by private citizens is shown in Chart 10. These data are shown by year reported; no significant changes occurred from 1975 to 1976.

CHART 10
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PRIVATE CITIZENS, 1975-1976
By Race of Deceased



Note: For source of data see Appendix Table A-11.

As shown in Table 22, handguns constituted about 71 percent of the weapons used by private citizens. The categories "Other" and "Shotgun" followed with 10.3 and 9.5 percent, respectively.

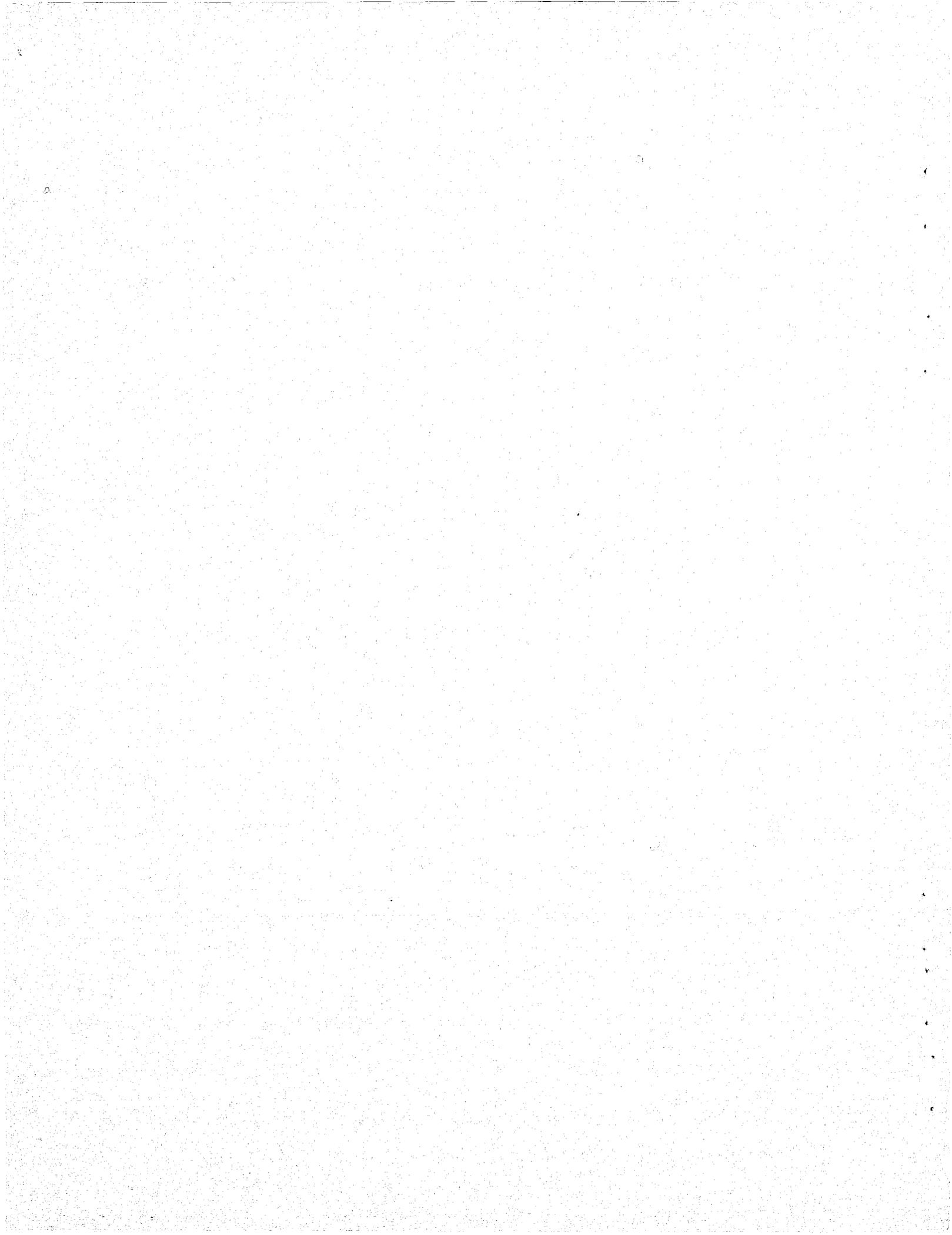
TABLE 22
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PRIVATE CITIZENS, 1975-1976
By Private Citizen's Type of Weapon

Private citizen's type of weapon	Number	Percent
Total	126	100.0
Handgun	90	71.4
Rifle	7	5.6
Shotgun	12	9.5
Gun-unknown	4	3.2
Other	13	10.3

As was the case in justifiable homicides by peace officers, precipitating event information is presented for 1976 only. Table 23 displays the number and percent distribution of justifiable homicides by private citizens by the type of precipitating event. The event most frequently encountered was the commission of a crime. The precipitating event where the felon was discovered in the commission of a crime accounted for 72.3 percent (47) of the justifiable homicides by private citizens. A felon attacking a civilian was second with 20.0 percent (13).

TABLE 23
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PRIVATE CITIZENS, 1976
By Precipitating Event

Precipitating event	Number	Percent
Total	65	100.0
Felon attacking peace officer	0	0.0
Felon attacking civilian	13	20.0
Felon attempting flight	4	6.2
Felon in commission of a crime	47	72.3
Felon resisting arrest	0	0.0
Not stated	1	1.5



APPENDIX

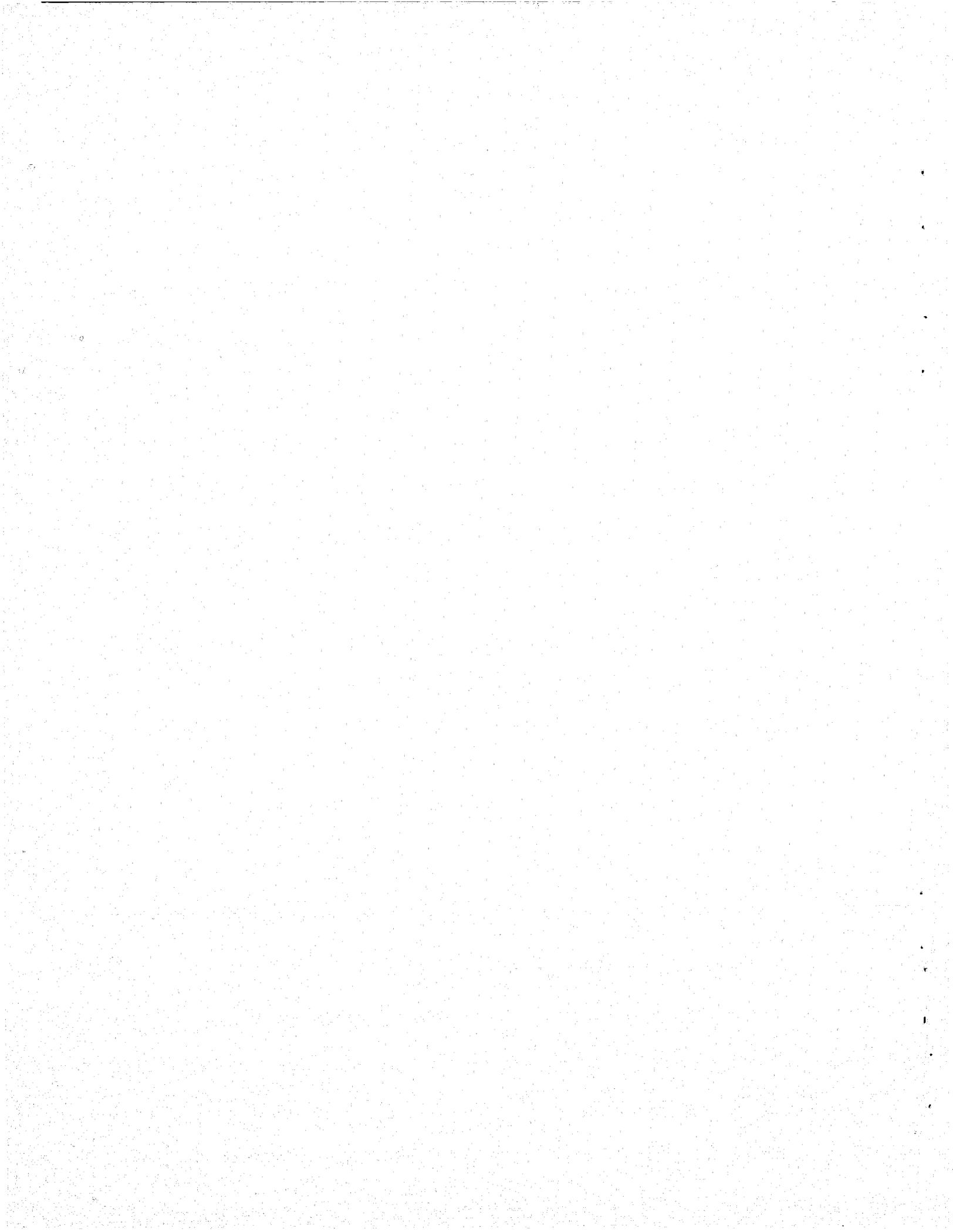


TABLE A-1
TYPE OF HOMICIDE, 1974-1976

Type of homicide	Total	Year			Percent change	
		1974	1975	1976	1974-1975	1975-1976
Total	—	—	2,344	2,373	—	1.2
Willful	6,380	1,970	2,196	2,214	11.5	0.8
Justifiable by peace officer	265	84	87	94	3.6	8.0
Justifiable by private citizen	—	—	61	65	—	6.6

Note: Dash indicates data are unavailable.

TABLE A-2
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1976
By Victim's Sex and Race

Victim's sex and race	Total	1974	1975	1976
Total	6,380	1,970	2,196	2,214
Male	4,721	1,457	1,616	1,648
White	2,047	616	714	717
Mexican-American	1,020	277	355	388
Negro	1,478	505	491	482
Other	142	59	49	34
Unknown	34	0	7	27
Female	1,659	513	580	566
White	997	320	339	338
Mexican-American	156	48	50	58
Negro	443	128	169	146
Other	54	14	18	22
Unknown	9	3	4	2

TABLE A-3
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1976
By Offender's Sex and Race

Offender's sex and race	Total	1974	1975	1976
Total	5,871	1,812	1,972	2,087
Male	5,022	1,521	1,669	1,832
White	1,649	522	540	587
Mexican-American	1,331	348	437	546
Negro	1,859	589	645	625
Other	152	60	47	45
Unknown	31	2	0	29
Female	849	291	303	255
White	309	94	106	109
Mexican-American	85	22	39	24
Negro	419	157	147	115
Other	23	8	11	4
Unknown	13	10	0	3

TABLE A-4
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1976
Precipitating Event By Location of Homicide

Precipitating event and year reported	Total	Location of homicide										
		Victim's residence	Other residence	Hotel/motel	Liquor business	Other business	Parking lot	Highway/street	Field/park	In vehicle	Other	Unknown
Total	6,380	2,265	632	143	256	296	199	962	376	347	262	642
1974	1,970	743	190	48	86	112	73	353	107	124	83	51
Argument	1,069	488	128	21	58	28	45	187	31	37	27	19
Robbery	265	67	14	6	17	55	12	46	13	19	10	6
Sex related	50	21	2	3	0	0	2	4	10	0	6	2
Drug related	66	18	10	6	1	2	0	7	4	9	3	6
Burglary	38	28	3	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	0
Kidnapping	18	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	6	3	4	0
Gang fight	62	2	3	0	1	5	1	33	4	9	4	0
Other	118	41	17	2	1	9	2	15	3	16	11	1
Unknown	284	77	12	9	7	11	9	58	36	31	17	17
1975	2,196	771	234	59	90	104	60	297	128	103	96	254
Argument	1,152	448	177	23	65	30	34	135	34	28	40	138
Robbery	275	61	4	11	18	56	8	49	17	28	5	18
Sex related	44	18	3	3	0	0	1	1	11	3	3	1
Drug related	82	23	12	2	0	1	0	7	8	4	4	21
Burglary	34	32	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Kidnapping	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Gang fight	59	6	4	0	1	2	2	22	1	3	4	14
Other	136	55	12	10	1	6	2	18	5	8	7	12
Unknown	410	128	22	10	5	9	13	63	51	29	32	48
1976	2,214	751	208	36	80	80	66	312	141	120	83	337
Argument	1,050	389	155	12	59	24	34	144	24	33	17	159
Robbery	272	75	8	8	8	44	6	58	9	18	5	33
Sex related	51	22	2	0	0	0	1	0	12	2	2	10
Drug related	45	11	10	0	1	0	1	5	4	4	0	9
Burglary	35	26	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kidnapping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gang fight	51	2	1	0	0	1	3	25	2	5	3	9
Other	197	99	10	5	4	1	2	13	7	7	24	25
Unknown	513	127	21	10	6	7	19	67	83	51	32	90

TABLE A-5
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1976
Precipitating Event By Victim-Offender Relationship

Precipitating event and year reported	Total	Victim-offender relationship							
		Friend/associate	Spouse	Parent/child	Brother/sister	Other relative	Peace officer	Stranger	Unknown
Total	6,380	2,536	705	294	58	97	28	977	1,685
1974	1,970	816	269	101	13	21	10	280	460
Argument . . .	1,069	571	263	81	12	20	2	44	76
Robbery	265	41	0	0	1	0	1	146	76
Sex related . . .	50	15	0	1	0	0	0	7	27
Drug related . .	66	52	2	0	0	0	0	2	10
Burglary	38	3	0	0	0	0	1	17	17
Kidnapping . . .	18	8	0	0	0	0	0	7	3
Gang fight . . .	62	41	0	1	0	0	0	10	10
Other	118	47	2	17	0	1	5	32	14
Unknown	284	38	2	1	0	0	1	15	227
1975	2,196	951	236	105	23	33	12	453	383
Argument	1,152	650	229	100	16	29	1	78	49
Robbery	275	30	0	1	2	0	2	204	36
Sex related . . .	44	9	1	0	0	0	0	24	10
Drug related . .	82	65	0	2	0	0	0	4	11
Burglary	34	4	0	0	0	0	0	26	4
Kidnapping . . .	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
Gang fight . . .	59	53	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
Other	136	48	5	1	3	4	9	51	15
Unknown	410	92	1	1	2	0	0	59	255
1976	2,214	769	200	88	22	43	6	244	842
Argument	1,050	557	149	62	21	38	0	65	158
Robbery	272	39	1	0	0	2	2	96	132
Sex related . . .	51	11	0	0	0	0	0	12	28
Drug related . .	45	24	0	0	0	1	1	2	17
Burglary	35	3	0	0	0	0	1	17	14
Kidnapping . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gang fight . . .	51	34	0	0	0	0	0	8	9
Other	197	46	48	25	0	2	2	13	61
Unknown	513	55	2	1	1	0	0	31	423

TABLE A-6
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1975
Offender's Sex and Race By Prior Criminal Record

Offender's sex, race, and year reported	Total	Prior criminal record				
		None	Minor	Major	Prison	Unknown
1974	1,812	331	432	384	167	498
Male	1,521	235	365	350	161	410
White	522	89	125	119	68	121
Mexican-American . . .	348	60	90	58	32	108
Negro	589	64	141	163	59	162
Other	60	21	9	10	2	18
Unknown	2	1	0	0	0	1
Female	291	96	67	34	6	88
White	94	40	23	6	2	23
Mexican-American . . .	22	8	4	1	0	9
Negro	157	46	38	27	4	42
Other	8	2	1	0	0	5
Unknown	10	0	1	0	0	9
1975	1,972	420	490	427	156	479
Male	1,669	293	424	385	153	414
White	540	122	127	110	45	136
Mexican-American . . .	437	83	119	82	36	117
Negro	645	79	167	182	66	151
Other	47	9	11	11	6	10
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	303	127	66	42	3	65
White	106	56	21	8	0	21
Mexican-American . . .	39	13	5	6	1	14
Negro	147	53	38	28	1	27
Other	11	5	2	0	1	3
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Prior criminal record data are not available for 1976.

TABLE A-7
WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1974-1976
Offender's Type of Weapon By Victim's Wound Area

Offender's type of weapon and year reported	Total	Victim's wound area						
		Head	Upper torso	Lower torso	Internal	Multiple	Other	Unknown
Total	6,380	1,502	2,249	264	170	1,144	75	976
1974	1,970	514	913	78	64	339	0	62
Handgun	774	238	375	29	0	114	0	18
Rifle	146	48	60	5	0	27	0	6
Shotgun	136	35	68	9	0	22	0	2
Gun-unknown	78	24	31	3	0	16	0	4
Knife	445	20	283	26	0	110	0	6
Club	108	82	5	0	2	16	0	3
Hands, feet	142	54	35	6	17	23	0	7
Rope, garrote	48	0	44	0	0	2	0	2
Drugs	31	0	0	0	31	0	0	0
Other	44	10	12	0	12	8	0	2
Unknown	18	3	0	0	2	1	0	12
1975	2,196	507	688	96	62	345	45	453
Handgun	847	238	244	38	0	120	0	207
Rifle	166	47	56	12	0	8	0	43
Shotgun	155	36	55	10	0	10	0	44
Gun-unknown	53	14	14	2	0	7	0	16
Knife	444	8	219	29	0	103	0	85
Club	139	99	3	1	0	25	0	11
Hands, feet	205	55	52	4	12	54	11	17
Rope, garrote	44	0	44	0	0	0	0	0
Drugs	38	0	0	0	38	0	0	0
Other	76	5	0	0	10	18	30	13
Unknown	29	5	1	0	2	0	4	17
1976	2,214	481	648	90	44	460	30	461
Handgun	789	246	221	34	0	135	0	153
Rifle	144	44	33	9	0	23	0	35
Shotgun	115	20	40	11	0	18	0	26
Gun-unknown	122	31	22	2	0	20	0	47
Knife	516	10	240	27	0	133	0	106
Club	121	82	0	0	0	21	0	18
Hands, feet	205	39	57	6	4	68	3	28
Rope, garrote	37	0	31	0	0	5	0	1
Drugs	36	0	0	0	36	0	0	0
Other	82	4	1	1	4	32	27	13
Unknown	47	5	3	0	0	5	0	34

TABLE A-8
 SUPERIOR COURT DISPOSITIONS OF ADULTS ARRESTED FOR
 WILLFUL HOMICIDE CRIMES REPORTED IN 1975
 By Prior Criminal Record

Superior court disposition	Total	Prior criminal record				
		None	Minor	Major	Prison	Unknown
Total	833	192	228	255	87	71
Dismissed	48	12	14	8	5	9
Acquitted	62	11	23	15	2	11
Not guilty	47	10	15	12	2	8
Not guilty-insanity	15	1	8	3	0	3
Convicted	691	160	181	224	77	49
Nolo contendere	3	0	2	0	0	1
Guilty plea	438	120	111	129	39	39
Jury	250	40	68	95	38	9
Off-calendar-state hospital	32	9	10	8	3	2

TABLE A-9
 JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS, 1974-1976
 By Sex and Race of Deceased

Sex and race of deceased	Total	1974	1975	1976
Total	265	84	87	94
Male	255	79	84	92
White	108	40	30	38
Mexican-American	43	12	16	15
Negro	99	25	35	39
Other	1	1	0	0
Unknown	4	1	3	0
Female	10	5	3	2
White	5	4	0	1
Mexican-American	0	0	0	0
Negro	5	1	3	1
Other	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0

TABLE A-10
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PEACE OFFICERS, 1974-1976
By Officer's Type of Weapon

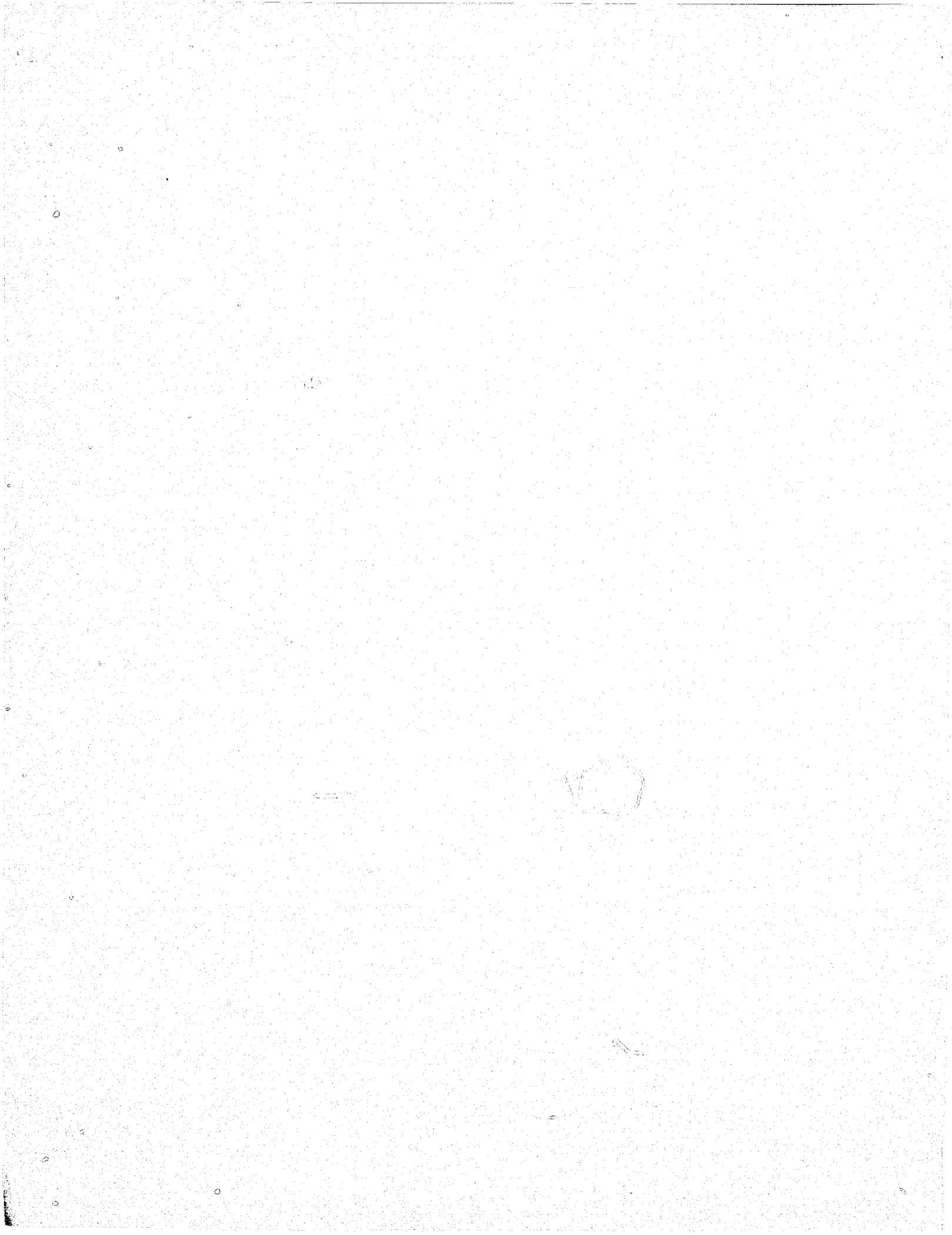
Officer's type of weapon	Total	1974	1975	1976
Total	265	84	87	94
Handgun	191	65	58	68
Rifle	14	3	5	6
Shotgun	37	10	13	14
Gun-unknown	15	0	11	4
Knife	1	1	0	0
Other	6	5	0	1
Unknown	1	0	0	1

TABLE A-11
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PRIVATE CITIZENS, 1975-1976
By Sex and Race of Deceased

Sex and race of deceased	Total	1975	1976
Total	126	61	65
Male	124	61	63
White	29	14	15
Mexican-American	17	9	8
Negro	74	37	37
Other	3	1	2
Unknown	1	0	1
Female	2	0	2
White	0	0	0
Mexican-American	0	0	0
Negro	1	0	1
Other	1	0	1
Unknown	0	0	0

TABLE A-12
 JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY PRIVATE CITIZENS, 1975-1976
 By Private Citizen's Type of Weapon

Private citizen's type of weapon	Total	1975	1976
Total	126	61	65
Handgun	90	46	44
Rifle	7	2	5
Shotgun	12	7	5
Gun-unknown	4	2	2
Knife	9	3	6
Club	3	0	3
Hands, feet	1	1	0



END