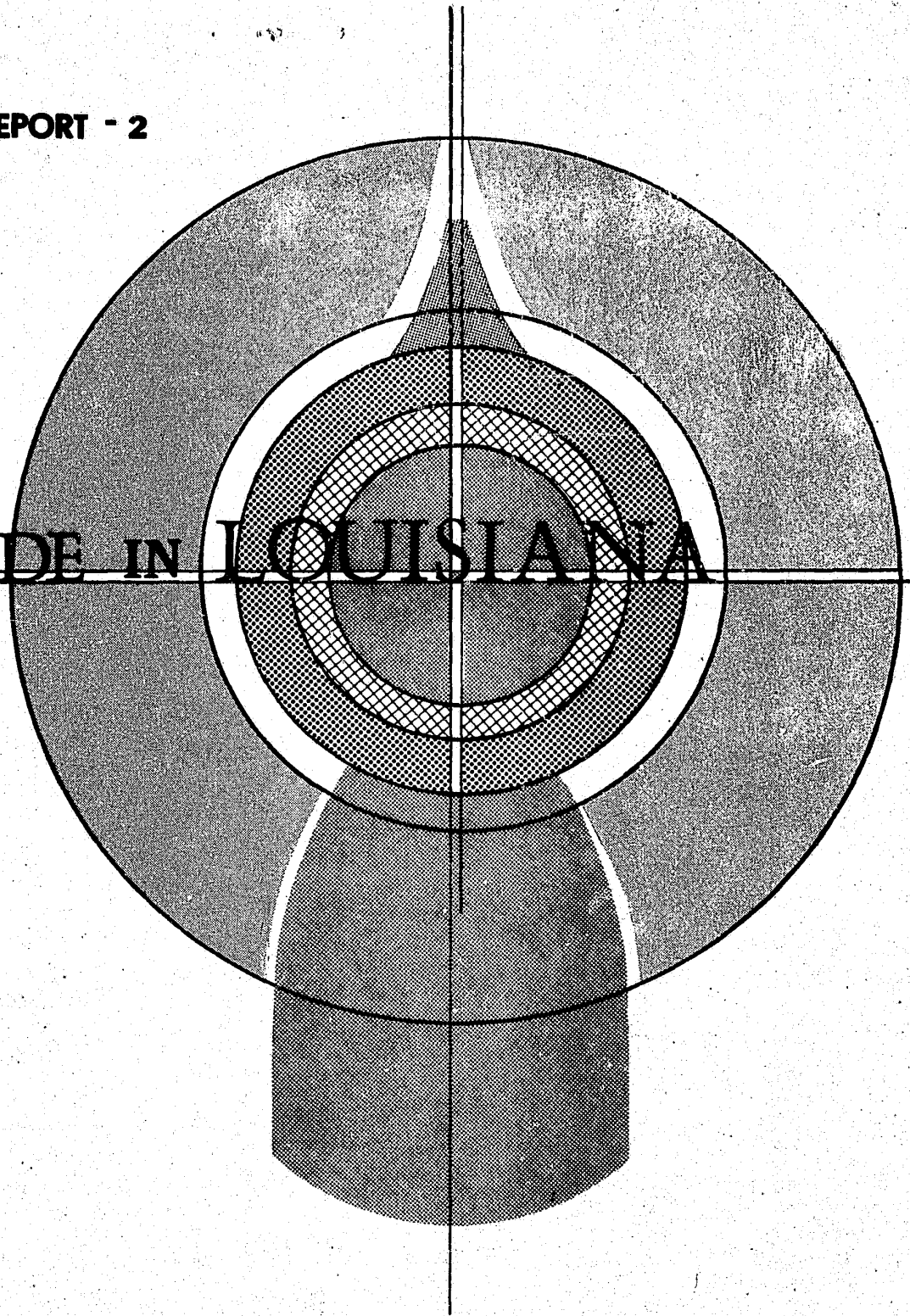


A TECHNICAL REPORT - 2

HOMICIDE IN LOUISIANA

1978



64304

COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM DIVISION

NCJRS

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HOMICIDE IN LOUISIANA

1978

October, 1979

X LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

LOUISIANA CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM DIVISION

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to increase the reader's knowledge of Homicide by providing a detailed analysis of the crime in Louisiana for 1978. The data to be described in this analysis was obtained from the Supplemental Homicide Reports (SHR) submitted monthly by local law enforcement agencies as part of their Louisiana Uniform Crime Reports (LUCR). The SHR's contain information describing the age, sex and race of the victim and offender, the relationship between the victim and the offender, the type of weapon used, and the circumstances for each Homicide offense. It should be noted that according to LUCR's definition, each Homicide victim is counted as an offense.

Homicide is a relatively infrequent crime, accounting for only 0.3 percent of Louisiana's Total Index Offenses in 1978. However, it is the severity of the crime that brings it to the forefront of public attention. Although the severity alone would indicate a need for the study of Homicide, Louisiana's having the highest Homicide Rate (15.8) in the United States in 1978 further substantiates this need. In addition, the data available for 1979 indicates that the Homicide rate is continuing to rise. There were 327 reported Homicide offenses through the end of June 1979 compared to 288 for the same period in 1978.

This report is a supplement to Crime in Louisiana, 1978, produced by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement,

Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division. In certain instances the figures in this study do not agree with those in the Annual Crime Report. This is primarily because further verification has been performed on the Homicide data since its first publication. Finally, it should be noted that this report is concerned with Criminal Homicide offenses and any instances of Justifiable Homicide occurring in 1978 are not included. The reader is encouraged to consult the Crime in Louisiana, 1978 publication to familiarize himself with the LUCR system and the weaknesses of the data generated by it.

The 1978 analysis of Homicides in Louisiana begins with an overall description of the general characteristics. Then there is a more detailed study of the characteristics of the victims and the offenders. Next a cross comparison between the victims and the offenders is performed. This is followed by an analysis of the Homicide characteristics by location, focusing on the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's).¹ Finally, the findings of this report are summarized, and some conclusions presented.

¹A Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area is a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000. In addition to the county, or counties, containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in an SMSA if, according to certain criteria, they are socially and economically integrated with the central city. In Louisiana, there are seven SMSA's and they consist of the following parishes: Alexandria SMSA - Grant and Rapides Parishes; Baton Rouge SMSA - Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston and West Baton Rouge Parishes; Lafayette SMSA - Lafayette Parish; Lake Charles SMSA - Calcasieu Parish; Monroe SMSA - Ouachita Parish; New Orleans SMSA - Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes; Shreveport SMSA - Bossier, Caddo and Webster Parishes.

HOMICIDE OFFENSES:
GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

There were 624 reported Criminal Homicides (victims) and 674 offenders in Louisiana during 1978. Offenders outnumbered victims because of different situations involving multiple victims and multiple offenders. Table 1 details these different situations and lists the number of incidents, victims, and offenders for each type of situation. By far, the most common type was the single victim and single offender.

The Homicide offenses were fairly evenly distributed throughout the twelve months of 1978 (Table 2). November and December had the highest numbers of offenses, while January had the least amount. Such an even distribution did not occur among the 64 parishes of the state (Table 3). The more populous parishes tended to have a higher number of Homicides. This fact becomes more apparent when the number of Homicides in each SMSA and the Non-SMSA parishes are compared (Table 4). The New Orleans SMSA alone accounted for 44.1 percent of the Homicides, and all the SMSA's together had 72.6 percent of the Homicide offenses. This distribution might be expected since most of the population resides in the metropolitan areas. In 1978, the seven SMSA's accounted for 63.4 percent of the state's population. It should be noted that within the New Orleans SMSA, the Parish of Orleans alone accounted for 79.3 percent of its SMSA total.

The most frequently used weapon was the handgun (Table 5). It was used in over half of all the Homicides in 1978, and

some type of firearm was used in three-quarters of the Homicides. Used least frequently (3 percent) were personal weapons which include the hands, fists, and feet.

The most common type of relationship was one in which the offender was known by the victim (Table 6). If this type is combined with Homicides between family members, 64.2 of the Homicides in 1978 involved prior knowledge of the victim by the offender. Homicides involving strangers made up only 14.3 percent of the offenses.

The circumstances of a Homicide describe the events leading to the offense. In 1978, arguments were the most common event which preceded a Homicide (Table 7). The Felony Homicides, those in which the victim was killed while the offender was committing another crime, were much less common and comprised only 13.0 percent of the Homicide offenses with Robbery being the most frequent type of Felony Homicide.

A more detailed analysis of the last three categories of the Homicide characteristics, reveals that firearms were the most frequently used weapon in each of the relationship categories. They were used more in Homicides where the victim and offender knew each other than in Homicides between strangers, and even more so than in Homicides between family members (Table 8). There was a higher rate of firearm use in Non-Felony Homicides than in Felony Homicides (Table 10). Finally, as might be expected, most Felony Homicides occurred between strangers, while Non-Felony Homicides occurred most frequently when the victim and offender knew each other or were related (Table 9).

TABLE 1
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY SITUATION
1978

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Number of Incidents</u>	<u>Number of Victims</u>	<u>Number of Offenders</u>
Single Victim/ Single Offender	426	426	426
Single Victim/ Multiple Offenders	42	42	93
Single Victim/ Unknown Offenders	129	129	142
Multiple Victims/ Single Offenders	10	21	10
Multiple Victims/ Multiple Offenders	0	0	0
Multiple Victims/ Unknown Offenders	3	6	3
TOTAL	610	624	674

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 2
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY MONTH
1978

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
January	43	6.9
February	44	7.1
March	45	7.2
April	49	7.8
May	58	9.3
June	48	7.7
July	56	9.0
August	52	8.3
September	52	8.3
October	48	7.7
November	66	10.6
December	63	10.1
TOTAL	624	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 3
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY PARISH
1978

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PARISH</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Acadia	3	Madison	3
Allen	0	Morehouse	2
Ascension	4	Natchitoches	3
Assumption	0	Orleans	218
Avoyelles	8	Ouachita	15
Beauregard	1	Plaquemines	2
Bienville	2	Pointe Coupee	3
Bossier	9	Rapides	20
Caddo	45	Red River	2
Calcasieu	21	Richland	4
Caldwell	0	Sabine	3
Cameron	0	St. Bernard	3
Catahoula	0	St. Charles	8
Claiborne	3	St. Helena	1
Concordia	2	St. James	1
DeSoto	3	St. John	5
East Baton Rouge	33	St. Landry	10
East Carroll	0	St. Martin	6
East Feliciana	0	St. Mary	10
Evangeline	4	St. Tammany	12
Franklin	5	Tangipahoa	12
Grant	1	Tensas	0
Iberia	7	Terrebonne	17
Iberville	2	Union	4
Jackson	2	Vermilion	2
Jefferson	42	Vernon	11
Jefferson Davis	3	Washington	7
Lafayette	12	Webster	6
Lafourche	2	West Baton Rouge	6
LaSalle	1	West Carroll	0
Lincoln	3	West Feliciana	0
Livingston	6	Winn	4
TOTAL			624

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 4
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA
(SMSA), 1978*

<u>SMSA</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>PERCENT OF POPULATION</u>
Alexandria	21	3.4	3.5
Baton Rouge	49	7.8	11.1
Lafayette	12	1.9	3.4
Lake Charles	21	3.4	4.0
Monroe	15	2.4	3.3
New Orleans	275	44.1	29.2
Shreveport	60	9.6	8.9
Non-SMSA	171	27.4	36.6
TOTAL	624	100.0	100.0

SOURCE: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division.

*A Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area is a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000. In addition to the county, or counties, containing such a city or cities, contiguous counties are included in an SMSA if, according to certain criteria, they are socially and economically integrated with the central city. In Louisiana, there are 7 SMSA's and they consist of the following parishes: Alexandria SMSA - Grant and Rapides Parishes; Baton Rouge SMSA - Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston and West Baton Rouge Parishes; Lafayette SMSA - Lafayette Parish; Lake Charles SMSA - Calcasieu Parish; Monroe SMSA - Ouachita Parish; New Orleans SMSA - Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes; and Shreveport SMSA - Bossier, Caddo and Webster Parishes.

TABLE 5
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY WEAPON USED
1978

<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
TOTAL FIREARMS	465	74.5
Handgun	335	53.7
Rifle	31	5.0
Shotgun	42	6.7
Unknown Type	57	9.1
KNIFE	86	13.8
BLUNT OBJECT	28	4.5
PERSONAL WEAPON	19	3.0
OTHER, Incl. Unknown	26	4.2
TOTAL	624	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System
Division

TABLE 6
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE VICTIM
TO THE OFFENDER, 1978

<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
WITHIN FAMILY	118	18.9
Husband	15	2.4
Wife	32	5.1
Common-Law Husband	13	2.1
Common-Law Wife	9	1.4
Mother	4	0.6
Father	6	1.0
Son	7	1.1
Daughter	6	1.0
Brother	8	1.3
Sister	1	0.2
In-Law	8	1.3
Stepson	1	0.2
Other Family	8	1.3
KNOWN TO VICTIM	283	45.3
Neighbor	12	1.9
Acquaintance	236	37.8
Boy Friend	10	1.6
Girl Friend	7	1.1
Ex-Wife	2	0.3
Friend	16	2.6
STRANGER	89	14.3
UNKNOWN	134	21.5
TOTAL	624	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System
Division

TABLE 7
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY CIRCUMSTANCES
1978

<u>Circumstance</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
FELONY TYPE	81	13.0
Rape	3	0.5
Robbery	55	8.8
Burglary	3	0.5
Larceny-Theft	1	0.2
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	0.3
Sex Offense	2	0.3
Narcotic Drug Laws	7	1.1
Gambling	1	0.2
Suspected Felony	1	0.2
Other-Not Specified	6	0.9
OTHER THAN FELONY	410	65.7
Lover's Triangle	9	1.4
Child Killed by Babysitter	1	0.2
Brawl Due to Alcohol	37	5.9
Brawl Due to Narcotics	1	0.2
Argument Over Money or Property	16	2.6
Other Argument	299	47.9
Other	47	7.5
UNKNOWN	133	21.3
TOTAL	624	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 8
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY RELATIONSHIP AND WEAPON

1978

<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Within Family</u>		<u>Known To Victim</u>		<u>Stranger</u>		<u>Unknown</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Firearms	82	69.5	220	77.7	65	73.0	98	73.1
Knife	24	20.3	35	12.4	10	11.3	17	12.7
Blunt Object	1	0.9	16	5.7	3	3.4	8	6.0
Personal Weapon	6	5.1	6	2.1	6	6.7	1	0.7
Other	5	4.2	6	2.1	5	5.6	10	7.5
TOTAL	118	100.0	283	100.0	89	100.0	134	100.0

TABLE 9
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY CIRCUMSTANCES AND RELATIONSHIP

1978

<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Felony</u>		<u>Non-Felony</u>		<u>Unknown</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Within Family	2	2.5	107	26.1	9	6.8
Known to Victim	23	28.4	242	59.0	18	13.5
Stranger	36	44.4	46	11.2	7	5.3
Unknown	20	24.7	15	3.7	99	74.4
TOTAL	81	100.0	410	100.0	133	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 10
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY CIRCUMSTANCES AND WEAPON
1978

<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Felony</u>		<u>Non-Felony</u>		<u>Unknown</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Firearms	54	66.7	315	76.8	96	72.2
Knife	7	8.6	62	15.1	17	12.8
Blunt Object	9	11.1	12	2.9	7	5.3
Personal Weapon	3	3.7	15	3.7	1	0.7
Other	8	9.9	6	1.5	12	9.0
TOTAL	81	100.0	410	100.0	133	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

HOMICIDE OFFENSES:
VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS

The first characteristic of the victims to be analyzed is age. Table 11 illustrates that Louisiana's Homicide victims in 1978 were young, with over half (55.3 percent) between the ages of 15 and 34. Female victims were somewhat younger than male victims (Table 12); 58.5 percent of the females were in that 20 year age span, while 54.4 percent of the male victims were in that age group. Black victims also appeared to be much younger than White victims (Table 13); 58.5 percent of the Blacks were between the ages of 15 and 34 while only 47.0 percent of the White victims were in that age group.

Turning next to the sex of the victim, over three-fourths (78.0 percent) were male (Table 14). There seemed to be a noticable difference between the two sexes in relation to other aspects of Homicides in 1978. Male victims were more likely than Female victims to have been killed by a firearm (Table 15), although firearms were the most frequently used weapon against both sexes. The remaining weapons were used more frequently against female victims than male victims. Females were more likely to be victims of someone within their family while males were more likely to be victims of acquaintances and strangers (Table 16). Males and females had similar statistics as victims of Felony and Non-Felony Homicides. However, a slightly higher percentage of females were victims of Felony Homicide as illustrated in Table 17.

Moving to an examination of the racial characteristics of the victims, Table 18 shows that the large majority of

victims were Black (65.7 percent). The differences between the races regarding weapons used can be seen in Table 19. Firearms and knives were used more frequently against Blacks; each of the remaining weapons were used more frequently against Whites. Both Black and White victims had similar rates of involvement in Homicides between family members, but Blacks were more likely to be victims of someone they knew and Whites were more likely to be victims of strangers (Table 20). Regarding the distinction between Felony and Non-Felony Homicides (Table 21), a much greater percentage of Whites were victims of Felony Homicides, with more Blacks being victims of Non-Felony Homicides.

Finally, examining the sex and race of the victims, Black Males comprised over half (52.4 percent) of the victims (Table 22). Following in descending order were White Males, Black Females, White Females, and Other Males. Firearms, knives, and personal weapons were used most frequently against Black Males, whereas blunt objects and other weapons were used most frequently against White Males (Table 23). As shown in Table 24, Black Males were the most numerous victims within each relationship category, although both Black and White Males were almost equally victims of Homicide by a stranger. A different pattern is seen in regards to circumstances (Table 25); White Males predominate as the victims of Felony Homicides, while Black Males are the most numerous victims of Non-Felony Homicides.

TABLE 11
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY VICTIM AGE
1978

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1 - 9	17	2.7
10 - 14	5	0.8
15 - 19	51	8.2
20 - 24	112	18.0
25 - 29	102	16.3
30 - 34	80	12.8
35 - 39	62	9.9
40 - 44	35	5.6
45 - 49	46	7.4
50 - 54	26	4.2
55 - 59	24	3.9
60 - 64	16	2.6
65 - 69	11	1.8
70 - 74	9	1.4
75 - 99	9	1.4
Unknown	19	3.0
 TOTAL	 624	 100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 12
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY VICTIM SEX AND AGE
1978

<u>Age</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
1 - 9	9	1.9	8	5.9
10 - 14	2	0.4	3	2.2
15 - 19	36	7.4	15	11.0
20 - 24	82	16.8	30	21.9
25 - 29	87	17.9	15	11.0
30 - 34	60	12.3	20	14.6
35 - 39	54	11.1	8	5.8
40 - 44	27	5.5	8	5.8
45 - 49	39	8.0	7	5.1
50 - 54	24	4.9	2	1.5
55 - 59	21	4.3	3	2.2
60 - 64	13	2.7	3	2.2
65 - 69	9	1.9	2	1.5
70 - 74	7	1.4	2	1.5
75 - 99	1	0.2	8	5.8
Unknown	16	3.3	3	2.2
TOTAL	487	100.0	137	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System
Division

TABLE 13
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY VICTIM RACE AND AGE
1978

<u>Age</u>	<u>White</u>		<u>Black</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
1 - 9	5	2.3	12	2.9	0	0.0
10 - 14	1	0.5	4	1.0	0	0.0
15 - 19	17	8.0	34	8.3	0	0.0
20 - 24	28	13.2	83	20.2	1	100.0
25 - 29	32	15.0	70	17.1	0	0.0
30 - 34	23	10.8	57	13.9	0	0.0
35 - 39	18	8.4	44	10.7	0	0.0
40 - 44	8	3.8	27	6.6	0	0.0
45 - 49	18	8.4	28	6.8	0	0.0
50 - 54	13	6.1	13	3.2	0	0.0
55 - 59	16	7.5	8	2.0	0	0.0
60 - 64	8	3.8	8	2.0	0	0.0
65 - 69	5	2.3	6	1.4	0	0.0
70 - 74	7	3.3	2	0.5	0	0.0
75 - 99	6	2.8	3	0.7	0	0.0
Unknown	8	3.8	11	2.7	0	0.0
TOTAL	213	100.0	410	100.0	1	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System
Division

TABLE 14
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY VICTIM SEX

1978

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	487	78.0
Female	137	22.0
TOTAL	624	100.0

TABLE 15
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY VICTIM SEX AND WEAPON

1978

<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Firearms	377	77.4	88	64.2
Knife	64	13.1	22	16.0
Blunt Object	19	3.9	9	6.6
Personal Weapon	13	2.7	6	4.4
Other	14	2.9	12	8.8
TOTAL	487	100.0	137	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System
Division

TABLE 16
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY VICTIM SEX AND RELATIONSHIP
1978

<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Within Family	64	13.1	54	39.4
Known to Victim	240	49.3	43	31.4
Stranger	75	15.4	14	10.2
Unknown	108	22.2	26	19.0
TOTAL	487	100.0	137	100.0

TABLE 17
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY VICTIM SEX AND CIRCUMSTANCES
1978

<u>Circumstances</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Felony	61	12.5	20	14.6
Non-Felony	320	65.7	90	65.7
Unknown	106	21.8	27	19.7
TOTAL	487	100.0	137	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 18
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY VICTIM RACE
1978

<u>Race</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	213	34.1
Black	410	65.7
Other	1	0.2
TOTAL	624	100.0

TABLE 19
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY VICTIM RACE AND WEAPON
1978

<u>Weapon</u>	<u>White</u>		<u>Black</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Firearms	151	70.9	313	76.4	1	100.0
Knife	20	9.4	66	16.1	0	0.0
Blunt Object	14	6.6	14	3.4	0	0.0
Personal Weapon	9	4.2	10	2.4	0	0.0
Other	19	8.9	7	1.7	0	0.0
TOTAL	213	100.0	410	100.0	1	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 20
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY VICTIM RACE AND RELATIONSHIP
1978

<u>Relationship</u>	<u>White</u>		<u>Black</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Within Family	41	19.3	77	18.8	0	0.0
Known to Victim	78	36.6	204	49.8	1	100.0
Stranger	48	22.5	41	10.0	0	0.0
Unknown	46	21.6	88	21.4	0	0.0
TOTAL	213	100.0	410	100.0	1	100.0

TABLE 21
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY VICTIM RACE AND CIRCUMSTANCES
1978

<u>Circumstances</u>	<u>White</u>		<u>Black</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Felony	56	26.3	25	6.1	0	0.0
Non-Felony	109	51.2	300	73.2	1	100.0
Unknown	48	22.5	85	20.7	0	0.0
TOTAL	213	100.0	410	100.0	1	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 22
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY VICTIM SEX AND RACE
1978

<u>Sex and Race</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White Male	159	25.5
White Female	54	8.6
Black Male	327	52.4
Black Female	83	13.3
Other Male	1	0.2
Other Female	0	0.0
TOTAL	624	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information
System Division

TABLE 23
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY WEAPON AND VICTIM SEX AND RACE
1978

Victim Sex and Race	Firearms		Knife		Blunt Object		Personal Weapon		Other	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White Male	116	25.0	14	16.3	12	42.9	6	31.6	11	42.3
White Female	35	7.5	6	7.0	2	7.1	3	15.8	8	30.8
Black Male	260	55.9	50	58.1	7	25.0	7	36.8	3	11.5
Black Female	53	11.4	16	18.6	7	25.0	3	15.8	4	15.4
Other Male	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Female	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
TOTAL	465	100.0	86	100.0	28	100.0	19	100.0	26	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 24

HOMICIDE OFFENSES

BY RELATIONSHIP AND VICTIM SEX AND RACE

1978

Victim Sex and Race	Within Family		Known To Victim		Stranger		Unknown	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White Male	19	16.1	63	22.3	37	41.6	40	29.9
White Female	22	18.7	15	5.3	11	12.3	6	4.5
Black Male	45	38.1	176	62.2	38	42.7	68	50.7
Black Female	32	27.1	28	9.9	3	3.4	20	14.9
Other Male	0	0.0	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Female	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
TOTAL	118	100.0	283	100.0	89	100.0	134	100.0

TABLE 25

HOMICIDE OFFENSES

BY CIRCUMSTANCES AND VICTIM SEX AND RACE

1978

Victim Sex and Race	Felony		Non-Felony		Unknown	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White Male	40	49.4	80	19.5	39	29.3
White Female	16	19.8	29	7.1	9	6.8
Black Male	21	25.9	239	58.3	67	50.4
Black Female	4	4.9	61	14.9	18	13.5
Other Male	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0
Other Female	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
TOTAL	81	100.0	410	100.0	133	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

HOMICIDE OFFENSES:
OFFENDER CHARACTERISTICS

The analysis of the offender characteristics also begins with an examination of age. The offenders were young; 50.1 percent of all the offenders were between the ages of 15 and 34 (Table 26). The largest single category is one in which the offender's age was unknown. If these are excluded from the count, the percentage of offenders between 15 and 34 increases to 66.3 percent. Again excluding the offenders whose age was unknown, males tended to be somewhat younger than female offenders with 67.1 percent of the male offenders in that age span compared to 63.1 percent of the female offenders (Table 27). Black offenders tended to be younger than White offenders, as 70.2 percent of the Blacks whose age was known were between 15 and 34 years old, but only 57.1 percent of the Whites were in that age group.

Examining the next offender characteristic, sex, reveals that the vast majority of offenders were male in 1978 (Table 29). Some noticeable differences appear when the offender's sex is compared to some of the other aspects of Homicide. Male offenders had a greater tendency to use firearms than female offenders (Table 30). Females on the other hand had a greater frequency of the use of knives than males. Male and female offenders both had similar percentages of Homicides of people who knew them. However, females were more likely than males to kill someone within their family while male offenders were more likely than female offenders to kill a stranger (Table 31). Comparing the two sexes, males committed a greater percentage of Felony Homicides and females committed

a greater percentage of Non-Felony Homicides. However, for both sexes, the greatest percentage of Homicides committed were Non-Felony (Table 32).

Race is the third offender characteristic to be considered. Table 33 indicates that most of the offenders in 1978 were Blacks. Comparisons of the offenders' race with the other aspects of Homicide produces some noticable variations. When race and weapon are compared, it is found that Black offenders had a higher percentage use of firearms and knives than White offenders (Table 34). Whites had a greater percentage use of the remaining weapons, although the most frequently used weapon by both races was a firearm. The most frequent type of relationship for both races was one in which they were known to the victim with both having almost equal percentages in this category (Table 35). White offenders had slightly higher percentages of Homicides within their families and with strangers than Blacks. In comparison with circumstances, White offenders had a higher percentage of Felony Homicides while Blacks had a higher percentage of Non-Felony Homicides. Both races, however, were more frequently involved in Non-Felony Homicides (Table 36).

Finally, when analyzing the sex and race of the offenders in a slightly different manner, it is seen that Black Males accounted for 61.3 percent of all the offenders whose sex and race were known (Table 37). They were followed, in descending order by their numbers, White Males, Black Females, White Females, and Other Males. Black Males predominate among the

offenders to such an extent that they are the most numerous group of offenders in most of the divisions of the other three descriptive aspects of Homicide.

Regarding type of weapon used, Black Males were the most numerous group to use firearms, knives, and personal weapons; and White Males predominated in the use of Other Weapons. Blunt instruments were used proportionately for both race and sex. As far as the relationship and circumstances are concerned, Black Males were the most numerous offenders in each relationship category (Table 39) and were also the most numerous offenders in the categories of Felony and Non-Felony Homicides (Table 40).

TABLE 26
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER AGE
1978

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1 - 9	0	0.0
10 - 14	2	0.3
15 - 19	73	10.8
20 - 24	104	15.4
25 - 29	102	15.1
30 - 34	59	8.8
35 - 39	47	7.0
40 - 44	33	4.9
45 - 49	31	4.6
50 - 54	23	3.4
55 - 59	15	2.2
60 - 64	11	1.6
65 - 69	5	0.8
70 - 74	2	0.3
75 - 99	2	0.3
Unknown	165	24.5
 TOTAL	 674	 100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System
Division

TABLE 27
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER SEX AND AGE
1978

<u>Age</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
1 - 9	0	0.0	0	0.0
10 - 14	2	0.5	0	0.0
15 - 19	66	15.5	7	8.3
20 - 24	90	21.2	14	16.7
25 - 29	84	19.8	18	21.4
30 - 34	45	10.6	14	16.7
35 - 39	35	8.2	12	14.3
40 - 44	29	6.8	4	4.7
45 - 49	22	5.2	9	10.7
50 - 54	20	4.7	3	3.6
55 - 59	14	3.3	1	1.2
60 - 64	10	2.3	1	1.2
65 - 69	4	0.9	1	1.2
70 - 74	2	0.5	0	0.0
75 - 99	2	0.5	0	0.0
TOTAL	425	100.0	84	100.0

Note: Excludes 165 cases where offender's sex or age is unknown.

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 28
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER RACE AND AGE
1978

<u>Age</u>	<u>White</u>		<u>Black</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
1 - 9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
10 - 14	0	0.0	2	0.6	0	0.0
15 - 19	18	12.1	55	15.3	0	0.0
20 - 24	25	16.8	79	22.0	0	0.0
25 - 29	26	17.5	75	20.9	1	100.0
30 - 34	16	10.7	43	12.0	0	0.0
35 - 39	16	10.7	31	8.6	0	0.0
40 - 44	14	9.4	19	5.3	0	0.0
45 - 49	12	8.1	19	5.3	0	0.0
50 - 54	6	4.0	17	4.7	0	0.0
55 - 59	6	4.0	9	2.5	0	0.0
60 - 64	7	4.7	4	1.1	0	0.0
65 - 69	1	0.7	4	1.1	0	0.0
70 - 74	0	0.0	2	0.6	0	0.0
75 - 99	2	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
TOTAL	149	100.0	359	100.0	1	100.0

NOTE: Excludes 165 cases where offender's race or age is unknown.

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 29
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER SEX
1978

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	473	70.2
Female	85	12.6
Unknown	116	17.2
TOTAL	674	100.0

TABLE 30
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER SEX AND WEAPON
1978

<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Firearms	361	76.3	56	65.9
Knife	57	12.1	19	22.4
Blunt Object	26	5.5	4	4.7
Personal Weapon	17	3.6	3	3.5
Other	12	2.5	3	3.5
TOTAL	473	100.0	85	100.0

Note: Excludes 116 cases where offender's sex is unknown.

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 31
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER SEX AND RELATIONSHIP
1978

<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Within Family	81	17.1	34	40.0
Known to Victim	256	54.1	44	51.8
Stranger	95	20.1	6	7.0
Unknown	41	8.7	1	1.2
TOTAL	473	100.0	85	100.0

Note: Excludes 116 cases where offender's sex is unknown.

TABLE 32
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER SEX AND CIRCUMSTANCES
1978

<u>Circumstances</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Felony	78	16.5	4	4.7
Non-Felony	344	72.7	77	90.6
Unknown	51	10.8	4	4.7
TOTAL	473	100.0	85	100.0

Note: Excludes 116 cases where offender's sex is unknown.

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 33
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER RACE

1978

<u>Race</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	151	22.4
Black	406	60.2
Other	1	0.2
Unknown	116	17.2
TOTAL	674	100.0

TABLE 34
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER RACE AND WEAPON

1978

<u>Weapon</u>	<u>White</u>		<u>Black</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Firearms	105	69.5	311	76.6	1	100.0
Knife	14	9.3	62	15.3	0	0.0
Blunt Object	15	9.9	15	3.7	0	0.0
Personal Weapon	8	5.3	12	2.9	0	0.0
Other	9	6.0	6	1.5	0	0.0
TOTAL	151	100.0	406	100.0	1	100.0

Note: Excludes 116 cases where offender's race is unknown.

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 35
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER RACE AND RELATIONSHIP
1978

<u>Relationship</u>	<u>White</u>		<u>Black</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Within Family	38	25.2	77	19.0	0	0.0
Known to Victim	81	53.6	218	53.7	1	100.0
Stranger	30	19.9	71	17.5	0	0.0
Unknown	2	1.3	40	9.8	0	0.0
TOTAL	151	100.0	406	100.0	1	100.0

Note: Excludes 116 cases where offender's race is unknown.

TABLE 36
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER RACE AND CIRCUMSTANCES
1978

<u>Circumstances</u>	<u>White</u>		<u>Black</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Felony	27	17.9	55	13.6	0	0.0
Non-Felony	108	71.5	312	76.8	1	100.0
Unknown	16	10.6	39	9.6	0	0.0
TOTAL	151	100.0	406	100.0	1	100.0

Note: Excludes 116 cases where offender's race is unknown.

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 37
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER SEX AND RACE
1978

<u>Sex and Race</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White Male	130	23.3
White Female	21	3.7
Black Male	342	61.3
Black Female	64	11.5
Other Male	1	0.2
Other Female	0	0.0
TOTAL	558	100.0

Note: Excludes 116 cases where offender's sex and race are unknown.

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 38

HOMICIDE OFFENSES

BY WEAPON AND OFFENDER SEX AND RACE

1978

Offender Sex and Race	Firearms		Knife		Blunt Object		Personal Weapon		Other	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White Male	91	21.8	12	15.8	13	43.3	6	30.0	8	53.3
White Female	14	3.4	2	2.6	2	6.7	2	10.0	1	6.7
Black Male	269	64.5	45	59.2	13	43.3	11	55.0	4	26.7
Black Female	42	10.1	17	22.4	2	6.7	1	5.0	2	13.3
Other Male	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Female	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
TOTAL	417	100.0	76	100.0	30	100.0	20	100.0	15	100.0

Note: Excludes 116 cases where offender's sex or race is unknown.

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 39

HOMICIDE OFFENSES

BY RELATIONSHIP AND OFFENDER SEX AND RACE

1978

Offender Sex and Race	Within Family		Known To Victim		Stranger		Unknown	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White Male	27	23.5	73	24.3	28	27.7	2	4.8
White Female	11	9.6	8	2.7	2	2.0	0	0.0
Black Male	54	46.9	182	60.7	67	66.3	39	92.8
Black Female	23	20.0	36	12.0	4	4.0	1	2.4
Other Male	0	0.0	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Female	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
TOTAL	115	100.0	300	100.0	101	100.0	42	100.0

Note: Excludes 116 cases where offender's sex or race is unknown.

TABLE 40

HOMICIDE OFFENSES

BY CIRCUMSTANCES AND OFFENDER SEX AND RACE

1978

Offender Sex and Race	Felony		Non-Felony		Unknown	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White Male	25	30.5	91	21.6	14	25.5
White Female	2	2.4	17	4.0	2	3.6
Black Male	53	64.7	252	59.9	37	67.3
Black Female	2	2.4	60	14.3	2	3.6
Other Male	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0
Other Female	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
TOTAL	82	100.0	421	100.0	55	100.0

Note: Excludes 116 cases where offender's sex or race is unknown.

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

HOMICIDE OFFENSES:
VICTIM AND OFFENDER COMPARISON

This section of the report directly compares the offenders and victims. Beginning with a comparison of the victims' and offenders' sex, Table 41 indicates that male offenders tended to have male victims and, to an even stronger degree, females also tended to kill males. In fact, there was a greater percentage of males killing females than females killing females. More of an intra-group relationship is seen when the victims' and offenders' race are compared (Table 42). Blacks tended to kill Blacks and Whites tended to kill Whites to a very large degree. With regard to inter-racial Homicides, although the numbers are small, a larger percentage of Blacks killed Whites than vice versa.

Expanding this analysis and comparing the victims' and offenders' sex while holding the offenders' race constant (Table 43), it is seen that among White offenders, females had a much higher percentage of male victims than males. Among Black offenders males and females had similar percentages of male victims and similar percentages of female victims. All four groups had very large percentages of male victims, but the group most likely to have female victims were the White Males.

The next step in this more in-depth analysis is to compare the victims' and offenders' race while holding the offenders' sex constant (Table 44). The very strong intra-racial character of Homicide remains when this is done, but some variations can be detected. Male offenders, both White

and Black, have larger percentages of inter-racial Homicide than the female offenders. Among both male and female offenders, Blacks have a greater percentage of White victims than vice versa. Of all the groups, Black Males were most likely to have victims outside their own race.

Comparing the victims' and offenders' sex and race while controlling for the circumstances produces the most noticeable differences in this expanded analysis. Male offenders tended to have about the same percentages of male victims and female victims whether they committed a Felony or Non-Felony Homicide (Table 45). In both Homicide types, males had a much larger percentage of male victims than female victims. However, female offenders had a larger percentage of female victims than male victims when they committed a Felony Homicide. When females committed a Non-Felony Homicide, they had a larger percentage of male victims than female victims.

The same pattern is seen when the victims' and offenders' race are compared while controlling for the circumstances (Table 46). White offenders had almost exactly the same percentage distribution of White and Black victims whether they were involved in a Felony or Non-Felony Homicide. The vast majority of their victims were White. Black offenders on the other hand, had a higher proportion of White victims when they committed a Felony Homicide and a much higher percentage of Black victims when they committed a Non-Felony Homicide.

The final comparison of offender and victim characteristics is between their ages (Table 47). No pattern is evident when this comparison is made. Offenders between the ages of 20 and 29, 30 and 39, and 40 and 49 tended to have victims whose average ages were within these age groups. However, offenders in the other age spans had victims whose average ages fell outside of their particular age groupings. Male offenders, on the average, had younger victims than female offenders. Black offenders had victims whose average age was less than the victims of White offenders.

TABLE 41
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER SEX AND VICTIM SEX
1978

<u>Victim Sex</u>	<u>Offender Sex</u>			
	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	378	78.1	72	83.7
Female	106	21.9	14	16.3
TOTAL	484	100.0	86	100.0

Note: Excludes 118 cases where offender's or victim's sex is unknown.

TABLE 42
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER RACE AND VICTIM RACE
1978

<u>Victim Race</u>	<u>Offender Race</u>					
	<u>White</u>		<u>Black</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
White	152	95.6	51	12.4	0	0.0
Black	7	4.4	359	87.6	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0
TOTAL	159	100.0	410	100.0	1	100.0

Note: Excludes 118 cases where offender's or victim's sex is unknown.

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 43
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER RACE AND SEX AND VICTIM SEX
1978

<u>White Offenders</u>				
<u>Victim Sex</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	97	70.8	20	90.9
Female	40	29.2	2	9.1
TOTAL	137	100.0	22	100.0

<u>Black Offenders</u>				
<u>Victim Sex</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	280	80.9	52	81.3
Female	66	19.1	12	18.7
TOTAL	346	100.0	64	100.0

Note: Excludes 118 cases where offender's sex and race or victim's sex is unknown.
Excludes 1 case where offender's race is Other.

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 44
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER SEX AND RACE AND VICTIM RACE,
1978

Victim Race	<u>Male Offenders</u>			
	<u>White</u>		<u>Black</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
White	130	94.9	49	14.2
Black	7	5.1	297	85.8
TOTAL	137	100.0	346	100.0

Victim Race	<u>Female Offenders</u>			
	<u>White</u>		<u>Black</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
White	22	100.0	2	3.1
Black	0	0.0	62	96.9
TOTAL	22	100.0	64	100.0

NOTE: Excludes 118 cases where offender's sex and race or victim's race is unknown. Excludes one case where offender's race and victim's race is Other.

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System
Division

TABLE 45

HOMICIDE OFFENSES

BY OFFENDER SEX AND VICTIM SEX AND CIRCUMSTANCES

1978

FelonyOffender Sex

<u>Victim Sex</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	64	77.1	1	25.0
Female	19	22.9	3	75.0
Total	83	100.0	4	100.0

Non-FelonyOffender Sex

<u>Victim Sex</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	270	77.6	67	87.0
Female	78	22.4	10	13.0
Total	348	100.0	77	100.0

UnknownOffender Sex

<u>Victim Sex</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	44	83.0	4	80.0
Female	9	17.0	1	20.0
Total	53	100.0	5	100.0

Note: Excludes 118 cases where offender's or victim's sex is unknown.

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System
Division

TABLE 46
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER RACE AND VICTIM RACE
AND CIRCUMSTANCES,
1978

<u>Victim Race</u>	<u>Felony Offender Race</u>			
	<u>White</u>		<u>Black</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
White	31	96.9	32	58.2
Black	1	3.1	23	41.8
TOTAL	32	100.0	55	100.0

<u>Victim Race</u>	<u>Non-Felony Offender Race</u>			
	<u>White</u>		<u>Black</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
White	105	96.3	12	3.8
Black	4	3.7	303	96.2
TOTAL	109	100.0	315	100.0

<u>Victim Race</u>	<u>Unknown Offender Race</u>			
	<u>White</u>		<u>Black</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
White	16	88.9	7	17.5
Black	2	11.1	33	82.5
TOTAL	18	100.0	40	100.0

Note: Excludes 118 cases where offender's or victim's race is unknown. Excludes 1 case where offender's and victim's race was Other.

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 47
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY OFFENDER AGE, SEX AND RACE AND
AVERAGE VICTIM AGE,
1978

<u>Offenders Age Range (Years)</u>	<u>Average Victims Age</u>
1 - 9	-
10 - 19	32
20 - 29	29
30 - 39	34
40 - 49	40
50 - 59	41
60 - 69	53
70 - 99	45
<u>Offender Sex</u>	
Male	33
Female	36
<u>Offender Race</u>	
White	35
Black	33

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information
System Division.

HOMICIDE OFFENSES:

LOCATION

The final area of analysis in this report concerns the location of the Homicides in 1978. As discussed earlier in the Introduction, the various Homicide characteristics will be compared by SMSA. However, if Table 4 is recalled, to compare each SMSA individually would result in too few cases to perform any meaningful analysis. Therefore in this section, the Homicide aspects were compared by the New Orleans SMSA, the six remaining SMSA's grouped together, and the Non-SMSA parishes together. Because of the large number of Homicides in the New Orleans SMSA, if it were combined with the others the results would be biased towards characteristics typical of only New Orleans, also this arrangement provides a scale of urbanization with the New Orleans SMSA at the top as the most urban region in the state. The Other SMSA's are in the middle of the scale, being more like each other than either New Orleans or the Non-SMSA parishes, i.e., not being extremely urban or extremely rural. At the third level of the scale is the Non-SMSA parishes, the more rural, less populated areas of the state.

To begin with the victims' characteristics, and specifically the victims' age, the victims in all three regions tended to be young, but more so in the New Orleans SMSA than in the other two areas (Table 48). Fifty-nine percent of the victims in the New Orleans SMSA were between the ages of 15 and 34, while 57.8 percent of the victims in the Other SMSA's and 46.8 percent of the victims in the Non-SMSA parishes were included in that age category. The largest percentage of

victims in each area were male (Table 49), and, though the variation was rather small, the New Orleans' SMSA had the highest percentage of male victims with 81.1 percent, followed by the Non-SMSA parishes with 78.4 percent and the Other SMSA's with 73.0 percent. A greater variation between the regions is seen when the victims' race is compared (Table 50). While in all three the highest percentage of victims were Black, the New Orleans SMSA, again, had the highest percentage of Black victims (70.9). Next were the Other SMSA's where 65.7 percent of the victims were Black and the Non-SMSA parishes with 57.3 percent Black victims.

The percentage of offenders whose sex was unknown was 25.7 percent in the New Orleans SMSA in contrast to about 10 percent in both the other two groups (Table 52). Considering only those offenders whose sex was known provides a clearer picture of the offender sexual distribution. All three areas had similarly high rates of male offenders. In the New Orleans' SMSA 86.2 percent of the known offenders were male, closely followed by the other two regions where about 84 percent of the known offenders in each were male.

The percentages of offenders whose race were unknown are the same as those whose sex were unknown (Table 53), therefore this analysis continues the procedure of excluding the unknown offenders when computing percentages to clarify the racial distribution of the offenders. The New Orleans SMSA had the largest percentage of Black offenders with 80.0, while in the Other SMSA's 69.3 percent of the offenders whose race was known were Black, which was close to the level of 64.6 percent in the Non-SMSA parishes.

Comparing the weapons used in each of the three regions reveals that firearms were by far the most frequently used weapons in all three and the frequency of their use was very similar (Table 54). The Non-SMSA parishes had the highest percentage of firearm use at 76.6 percent, but they were closely followed by the New Orleans SMSA at 74.2 percent and the Other SMSA's at 73.0 percent. Knives, while only accounting for a small portion of the weapons used, were used much more frequently in the New Orleans SMSA and the Other SMSA's than in the Non-SMSA parishes.

When the relationship of the victim to the offender is compared, the New Orleans SMSA stands in marked contrast to the other two areas (Table 55). The Other SMSA's and the Non-SMSA parishes had very similar percentages of Homicides in each of the relationship categories. In both regions over half of the Homicides were between individuals who knew each other and about 24 percent of them were within families. In the New Orleans SMSA, the relationship was unknown in more Homicides than were in any of the other categories, 37.4 percent. Homicides between acquaintances accounted for 36.4 percent, and those between family members made up 12.0 percent. All three regions had about the same distribution of Homicides between strangers, around 14 percent.

Finally, there are again some noticable differences between the New Orleans SMSA and the other two areas when the circumstances are compared. While the majority of Homicides in all three areas were Non-Felony Homicides, in the Other SMSA's

and the NON-SMSA's parishes the percentages were much higher, 77.5 and 74.8 percent respectively, than the New Orleans SMSA, 52.4 percent (Table 56). The New Orleans SMSA had a much higher percentage of Homicides where the circumstances were unknown, more than the other two regions combined. Also, the New Orleans SMSA had a greater percentage of Felony Homicides than the other two regions, 15.6 percent, though the differences were not that great. Suprisingly, the Non-SMSA parishes had the second highest percentage with 12.9 percent Felony Homicides, and the Other SMSA's had the fewest Felony Homicides with only 9 percent.

Because Orleans Parish had such a great number of Homicides, accounting for 79.3 percent of its SMSA total and 34.9 percent of the Homicides in the state, it is imperative to examine this area more closely and compare it to the rest of the state. Almost two-thirds of the known victims (63.6 percent) in Orleans Parish were between the ages of 20 and 39, 82.1 percent were male and 78.0 percent were Black. In the rest of the state, 56.3 percent of the known victims were between 20 and 39, 75.9 percent were male and 59.1 percent were Black (Tables 57, 58 and 59).

In Orleans Parish, the age of almost half (45.9 percent) of the offenders was unknown, while in the remainder of the state in 12.2 percent of the cases the age of the offender was unknown. Among those offenders whose age was known in Orleans Parish, 72.1 percent were between the ages of 15 and 29, but in the other parishes in the state there was a wider age distribution with 71.6 percent of the known offenders

between the ages of 15 and 39 (Table 60). Nearly eighty-seven percent of the known offenders in Orleans were male and 89.0 percent were Black. In 73 or 29.7 percent of the cases in Orleans Parish the sex and race of the offender were not known as compared to 43 or 10 percent in the rest of the state. Among the known offenders in the remaining parishes, 83.9 percent were male and 65.5 percent were Black (Tables 61 and 62).

Firearms were the most frequently used weapon in both Orleans Parish and the remainder of the state (Table 63). There was a slightly greater frequency of their use in the rest of the state (76.1 percent) than in Orleans Parish (71.6 percent). Knives ranked second and were used more often in Orleans Parish (19.7 percent of the cases) than the rest of the state (10.6 percent of the cases). With regard to the relationship of the victim to the offender, a large percentage (42.7 percent) of the cases in Orleans Parish were those where the relationship was unknown. The percentage of cases elsewhere in the state with unknown relationship categories was a smaller 10.0 percent. Analyzing only those cases with known victim-offender relationships (Table 64), it is apparent that both Orleans Parish and the rest of the state had similar distributions of relationship categories. In both areas, the most frequent relationship was the one where the offender was known to the victim with Orleans (56.8 percent) slightly lower than the rest of the state (58.1 percent).

Finally, Table 65 indicates that Non-Felony circumstances associated with Homicides prevailed to a large degree over Felony-type circumstances. It should be noted that in a large portion (36.2 percent) of the Homicide cases in Orleans Parish,

the circumstances were not known. Correspondingly, the remainder of the state had 13.3 percent of its Homicides with unknown circumstances.

TABLE 48
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY LOCATION AND VICTIM AGE

1978						
Victim Age	New Orleans SMSA		Other SMSA's		Non-SMSA Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1 - 9	9	3.3	4	2.2	4	2.3
10 - 14	2	0.7	2	1.1	1	0.6
15 - 19	21	7.7	18	10.1	12	7.0
20 - 24	63	22.9	28	15.7	21	12.3
25 - 29	42	15.3	34	19.1	26	15.2
30 - 34	36	13.1	23	12.9	21	12.3
35 - 39	27	9.8	18	10.1	17	10.0
40 - 44	13	4.7	8	4.5	14	8.2
45 - 49	14	5.1	14	7.9	18	10.5
50 - 54	11	4.0	6	3.4	9	5.3
55 - 59	8	2.9	6	3.4	10	5.9
60 - 64	8	2.9	6	3.4	2	1.2
65 - 69	3	1.1	4	2.2	4	2.3
70 - 74	5	1.8	1	0.6	3	1.7
75 - 99	3	1.1	3	1.7	3	1.7
Unknown	10	3.6	3	1.7	6	3.5
TOTAL	275	100.0	178	100.0	171	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 49
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY LOCATION AND VICTIM SEX
1978

Victim Sex	New Orleans SMSA		Other SMSA's		Non-SMSA Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	223	81.1	130	73.0	134	78.4
Female	52	18.9	48	27.0	37	21.6
TOTAL	275	100.0	178	100.0	171	100.0

TABLE 50
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY LOCATION AND VICTIM RACE
1978

Victim Race	New Orleans SMSA		Other SMSA's		Non-SMSA Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	79	28.7	61	34.3	73	42.7
Black	195	70.9	117	65.7	98	57.3
Other	1	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
TOTAL	275	100.0	178	100.0	171	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 51
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY LOCATION AND OFFENDER AGE,
1978

Offender Age	New Orleans SMSA		Other SMSA's		Non-SMSA Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1 - 9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
10 - 14	0	0.0	2	1.1	0	0.0
15 - 19	36	11.6	16	8.7	21	11.7
20 - 24	45	14.5	29	15.8	30	16.8
25 - 29	49	15.7	25	13.6	28	15.6
30 - 34	13	4.2	23	12.5	23	12.9
35 - 39	13	4.2	19	10.3	15	8.4
40 - 44	11	3.5	12	6.5	10	5.6
45 - 49	5	1.6	14	7.6	12	6.7
50 - 54	5	1.6	9	4.9	9	5.0
55 - 59	3	1.0	8	4.4	4	2.2
60 - 64	2	0.6	3	1.6	6	3.3
65 - 69	3	1.0	1	0.5	1	0.6
70 - 74	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.1
75 - 99	1	0.3	1	0.5	0	0.0
Unknown	125	40.2	22	12.0	18	10.1
TOTAL	311	100.0	184	100.0	179	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 52
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY LOCATION AND OFFENDER SEX,
1978

Offender Sex	New Orleans SMSA		Other SMSA's		Non-SMSA Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	199	64.0	139	75.5	135	75.4
Female	32	10.3	27	14.7	26	14.5
Unknown	80	25.7	18	9.8	18	10.1
TOTAL	311	100.0	184	100.0	179	100.0

TABLE 53
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY LOCATION AND OFFENDER SEX,
1978

Offender Race	New Orleans SMSA		Other SMSA's		Non-SMSA Parishes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	43	13.8	51	27.7	57	31.8
Black	187	60.2	115	62.5	104	58.1
Other	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	80	25.7	18	9.8	18	10.1
TOTAL	311	100.0	184	100.0	179	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 54
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY LOCATION AND WEAPON,
1978

<u>Weapon</u>	<u>New Orleans SMSA</u>		<u>Other SMSA's</u>		<u>Non-SMSA Parishes</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Firearms	204	74.2	130	73.0	131	76.6
Knife	46	16.7	27	15.2	13	7.6
Blunt Object	10	3.6	8	4.5	10	5.9
Personal Weapon	8	2.9	7	3.9	4	2.3
Other	7	2.6	6	3.4	13	7.6
TOTAL	275	100.0	178	100.0	171	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 55
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY LOCATION AND RELATIONSHIP,
1978

<u>Relationship</u>	<u>New Orleans SMSA</u>		<u>Other SMSA's</u>		<u>Non-SMSA Parishes</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Within Family	33	12.0	43	24.2	42	24.6
Known to Victim	100	36.4	95	53.4	88	51.4
Stranger	39	14.2	25	14.0	25	14.6
Unknown	103	37.4	15	8.4	16	9.4
TOTAL	275	100.0	178	100.0	171	100.0

TABLE 56
HOMICIDE OFFENSES
BY LOCATION AND CIRCUMSTANCES,
1978

<u>Circumstances</u>	<u>New Orleans SMSA</u>		<u>Other SMSA's</u>		<u>Non-SMSA Parishes</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Felony	43	15.6	16	9.0	22	12.9
Non-Felony	144	52.4	138	77.5	128	74.8
Unknown	88	32.0	24	13.5	21	12.3
TOTAL	275	100.0	178	100.0	171	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 57

HOMICIDE OFFENSES: ORLEANS PARISH
VS. STATE LESS ORLEANS, BY VICTIM AGE
1978

<u>Victim Age</u>	<u>Orleans Parish</u>		<u>State Less Orleans</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
1 - 9	8	3.8	9	2.3
10 - 14	1	0.5	4	1.0
15 - 19	18	8.6	33	8.3
20 - 24	51	24.4	61	15.4
25 - 29	32	15.3	70	17.7
30 - 34	29	13.9	51	12.9
35 - 39	21	10.0	41	10.3
40 - 44	10	4.8	25	6.3
45 - 49	8	3.8	38	9.6
50 - 54	7	3.4	19	4.8
55 - 59	7	3.4	17	4.3
60 - 64	7	3.4	9	2.3
65 - 69	3	1.4	8	2.0
70 - 74	4	1.9	5	1.3
75 - 99	3	1.4	6	1.5
TOTAL	209	100.0	396	100.0
Unknown	9	--	10	--

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 58

HOMICIDE OFFENSES: ORLEANS PARISH
VS. STATE LESS ORLEANS, BY VICTIM SEX
1978

<u>Victim Sex</u>	<u>Orleans Parish</u>		<u>State Less Orleans</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	179	82.1	308	75.9
Female	39	17.9	98	24.1
TOTAL	218	100.0	406	100.0

TABLE 59

HOMICIDE OFFENSES: ORLEANS PARISH VS.
STATE LESS ORLEANS, BY VICTIM RACE
1978

<u>Victim Race</u>	<u>Orleans Parish</u>		<u>State Less Orleans</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
White	48	22.0	165	40.6
Black	170	78.0	240	59.1
Other	0	0.0	1	0.3
TOTAL	218	100.0	406	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 60

HOMICIDE OFFENSES: ORLEANS PARISH
VS. STATE LESS ORLEANS, BY OFFENDER AGE

1978

<u>Offender Age</u>	<u>Orleans Parish</u>		<u>State Less Orleans</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
1 - 9	0	0.0	0	0.0
10 - 14	0	0.0	2	0.5
15 - 19	27	20.3	46	12.3
20 - 24	34	25.5	70	18.6
25 - 29	35	26.3	67	17.8
30 - 34	11	8.3	48	12.8
35 - 39	9	6.8	38	10.1
40 - 44	5	3.8	28	7.4
45 - 49	3	2.3	28	7.4
50 - 54	3	2.3	20	5.3
55 - 59	2	1.5	13	3.5
60 - 64	1	0.7	10	2.7
65 - 69	2	1.5	3	0.8
70 - 74	0	0.0	2	0.5
75 - 99	1	0.7	1	0.3
TOTAL	133	100.0	376	100.0
Unknown	113	-	52	-

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 61
HOMICIDE OFFENSES: ORLEANS PARISH VS.
STATE LESS ORLEANS, BY OFFENDER SEX

1978

<u>Offender Sex</u>	<u>Orleans Parish</u>		<u>State Less Orleans</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Male	150	86.7	323	83.9
Female	23	13.3	62	16.1
TOTAL	173	100.0	385	100.0
Unknown	73	--	43	--

TABLE 62
HOMICIDE OFFENSES: ORLEANS PARISH VS.
STATE LESS ORLEANS, BY OFFENDER RACE

1978

<u>Offender Race</u>	<u>Orleans Parish</u>		<u>State Less Orleans</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
White	19	11.0	13?	34.3
Black	154	89.0	252	65.5
Other	0	0.0	1	0.2
TOTAL	173	100.0	385	100.0
Unknown	73	--	43	--

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 63
HOMICIDE OFFENSES: ORLEANS PARISH VS.
STATE LESS ORLEANS, BY WEAPON
1978

<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Orleans Parish</u>		<u>State Less Orleans</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Firearms	156	71.6	309	76.1
Knife	43	19.7	43	10.6
Blunt Object	7	3.2	21	5.2
Personal Weapon	7	3.2	12	2.9
Other	5	2.3	21	5.2
TOTAL	218	100.0	406	100.0

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

TABLE 64
HOMICIDE OFFENSES: ORLEANS PARISH VS.
STATE LESS ORLEANS, BY RELATIONSHIP
1978

<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Orleans Parish</u>		<u>State Less Orleans</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Within Family	25	20.0	93	25.5
Known to Victim	71	56.8	212	58.1
Stranger	29	23.2	60	16.4
TOTAL	125	100.0	365	100.0
Unknown	93	--	41	--

TABLE 65
HOMICIDE OFFENSES: ORLEANS PARISH VS.
STATE LESS ORLEANS, BY CIRCUMSTANCES
1978

<u>Circumstances</u>	<u>Orleans Parish</u>		<u>State Less Orleans</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Felony	31	22.3	50	14.2
Non-Felony	108	77.7	302	85.8
TOTAL	139	100.0	352	100.0
Unknown	79	--	54	--

Source: Louisiana Criminal Justice Information System Division

CONCLUSION

Homicides in Louisiana during 1978 occurred predominately in the metropolitan areas, in particular, Orleans Parish. Firearms, especially handguns, were the most frequently used weapons. In most of the Homicides, the victim and offender were familiar with each other, either as acquaintances, friends or family members. Also, the Homicides were largely the result of some sort of argument.

The majority of the victims and known offenders were young, male and Black. The Homicides were very much of an intra-group nature, more so for race than sex. Blacks tended to kill Blacks and Whites tended to kill Whites, but, while males tended to kill males, females also tended to kill males.

The data presented in this report highlights the difficulties associated with trying to prevent Homicides. Since many result from arguments, making it mainly a "crime of passion", Homicide is difficult for law enforcement agencies to prevent. Though this study has shown where and between whom Homicides occur, the police cannot be expected to stop arguments between family members or friends from resulting in violence.

Finally, this report has analyzed Homicides by providing a general description of the characteristics involved. It is difficult to reach any definite conclusions or spot any trends with only one year's worth of data. However, this report is to become our annual supplement to Crime in Louisiana. Therefore, as more data become available, a deeper insight into Homicide will be possible and more definite conclusions can be drawn.

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