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Statistical Analysis Center Publication

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Homicide in Arizona, 2004

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Homicide in Arizona, 2004

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VIOLENCE PREVENTION
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Executive Summary

In 2006, the Bureau of Justice Statistics awarded a State Justice Statistics grant to the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's Statistical Analysis Center (AZSAC) to conduct research on homicide in Arizona. The AZSAC, with assistance from local law enforcement officials, and researchers from the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University, collected homicide data from the following sources: Supplemental Homicide Reports (SHR), law enforcement homicide case files, and autopsy reports.

Homicide Incidents

In 2004, there were 448 homicides in Arizona where the SHR data could be accurately matched to a local law enforcement homicide case file. The 2004 homicide rate for Arizona was 7.7 homicides per 100,000 residents, higher than the U.S. homicide rate of 5.5[1] per 100,000 residents. Statewide, the month with the highest number of homicides was March (46) and the month with the lowest number of homicides was June (27). Also, approximately 33% of Arizona homicides took place between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 2:59 a.m.

Data collectors compiled additional information regarding location, circumstances, and neighborhood characteristics of homicides in Arizona. Homicide victims were most frequently discovered at the victim's residence, 31.7% of the time. Victims were found in a street or alley in 22.8% of homicide incidents, 7.4% were found in a business location, and 5.6% were found in a desert area. Drugs and alcohol were involved in 34.4% and 24.1% of homicide incidents, respectively, while 16.7% of incidents were linked to domestic violence. When comparing the Arizona communities in which at least one homicide occurred to all Arizona communities, the communities in which a homicide occurred have a larger urban population with a higher non-white and Hispanic percentage of the population, an increased percentage of foreign-born and non-citizen residents, a lower percentage of residents receiving a college-level education, a higher rate of poverty, a lower median family income, and a reduced percentage of owner-occupied housing.

Offenders used firearms in 76% of the homicides that occurred in 2004. Specifically, handguns were used in 49% of homicides, followed by rifles/shotguns (11.2%) and unknown firearms (15.9%). Offenders also used knives or other cutting instruments in 9.4% of homicides, blunt objects in 5.6% of homicides, and other weapons in 8.9% of homicides.

Victim and Offender Characteristics

Approximately 88% of all Arizona homicides in 2004 involved a single homicide victim. The majority of homicides (52.9%) consisted of a single victim and a single offender, and in 31% of homicides, no offenders had been identified at the time data was collected.

Victims and offenders shared many of the same characteristics. Victims and offenders were more likely to be male and between the ages of 15 and 44. Most victims and offenders were

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[1] The national rate of 5.5 per 100,000 population includes murders and non-negligent manslaughter.

White, U.S. citizens, and 41.1% of victims and 35.2% of offenders were single and never married at the time of the incident.

Data on the relationship between victims and offenders reveals that 36.5% of homicides involved acquaintances, 17.1% of homicides involved strangers, 9.9% were reported family members (3% was a spouse or ex-spouse), and 3.4% were in a non-marital, romantic relationship. In 167 incidents the victim and offender relationship could not be determined.

There was significant variation in homicide victimization rates by race and ethnicity. The highest rate of homicide victimization was 64.7 per 100,000 residents for Black males between 15 and 44 years of age. The rate for Hispanic males between the ages of 15 and 44 was 46.7 per 100,000 residents. In contrast, the rate of homicide victimization for White, Non-Hispanic males in the same age group was 7.5 in 2004.

Introduction

Considerable research has examined changes in patterns of homicide in the United States over the past 20 years. This body of research has largely focused on national-level homicide patterns and city specific trends for the purpose of assisting federal officials with allocation of resources to areas of need, and to help local officials develop more targeted responses to their homicide problem. Missing from this larger body of research, however, has been a focus on the scope and nature of the homicide problem at the state level. State governments and state law enforcement agencies could benefit from analysis on state homicide trends, as it could help them allocate resources more efficiently and cultivate a discussion about more effective strategies to respond to the homicide problem.

The purpose of this report is to provide a general description of the scope and nature of the homicide problem in Arizona. Specifically, this report examines the general characteristics of victims and offenders, the circumstances surrounding homicide incidents, temporal patterns when homicides occur, and the geographic characteristics where homicides took place.

Data and Methods

Researchers collected data for this report in three parts. The Arizona Department of Public Safety provided Arizona Supplemental Homicide Report (SHR) data for 2004. Law enforcement collects these data on a yearly basis through the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report program. SHR data include incident level information on age, sex, and ethnicity of the victim and offender, the weapon(s) used, victim/offender relationship, the jurisdiction where the homicide took place, and the agency reporting the homicide. Researchers used these data to identify the agencies to contact to collect the incident-level data on each homicide that was reported within the state.

Second, researchers collected data from homicide case files from the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction where the homicide took place. Prior to retrieving the data, researchers created a data collection instrument for the purpose of extracting specific data elements from homicide case files (See Appendix A for instrument). The data collection instrument was designed to extract information on victim, offender, and situational characteristics, address of the event, as well as evidence that had been obtained through the homicide investigation (i.e., medical examiner reports, criminal history records, etc.). Officers, sergeants, and detectives delegated to the task of investigating homicides in the jurisdiction members of the project's research team collected these data. The data collectors read all reports included in homicide case files to ensure that the data recorded on the instrument was an accurate reflection of the information that was contained in the case file. Data collection began in June 2007 and ended in mid-November 2008. Researchers linked all SHR data to the corresponding law enforcement case data. A number of SHR records (N=13) had no corresponding law enforcement match while a number of law enforcement cases (N=23) had no matching SHR record. These cases were excluded from the following homicide analysis.

Third, after researchers collected all of the homicide data, they geo-coded all address level data to identify the census tract where the victim's body was discovered and the census tract where the homicide took place. Researchers used data from the 2000 U.S. Census to provide

community-level measures of population, race, ethnicity, education, income, poverty, percent foreign born, family structure, and housing structure.

Homicide in Arizona

In 2004, there were a total of 448 homicides in Arizona. The Arizona homicide rate per 100,000 population was 7.7, which was higher than the national rate of 5.5 reported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.[2] The vast majority of the homicides occurred in Maricopa County. Specifically, in 2004 69.4% (n=311) of the homicides occurred in Maricopa County, 18.8% (n=84) in Pima County, and 11.8% (n=53) occurring throughout the rest of the state (see Table 1). However, residents in Pima County were at slightly higher risk for homicide than individuals in other counties. The homicide rate in Pima County was 9.0 per 100,000, compared to 8.8 per 100,000 in Maricopa County, 7.2 per 100,000 in Mohave County, and 6.0 per 100,000 in Pinal County. There were no homicides in Apache, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, and Santa Cruz Counties.

Table 1. County Where Homicide Occurred			
County	**Number of Homicides**	**Percentage of All Arizona Homicides**	**County Population**	**Homicide rate (per 100,000)**
Apache	0	0.0%	71,320	0.0
Cochise	6	1.3%	130,220	4.6
Coconino	7	1.6%	129,570	5.4
Gila	1	0.2%	54,060	1.8
Graham	0	0.0%	36,020	0.0
Greenlee	0	0.0%	8,350	0.0
La Paz	0	0.0%	21,135	0.0
Maricopa	311	69.4%	3,524,175	8.8
Mohave	13	2.9%	180,210	7.2
Navajo	5	1.1%	107,420	4.7
Pima	84	18.8%	931,210	9.0
Pinal	13	2.9%	218,285	6.0
Santa Cruz	0	0.0%	41,985	0.0
Yavapai	5	1.1%	196,720	2.5
Yuma	3	0.7%	181,470	1.7
Arizona	**448**	**100.0%**	**5,832,150**	**7.7**

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[2] The national rate of 5.5 per 100,000 population includes murders and non-negligent manslaughter.

Researchers also examined temporal patterns among Arizona homicides. First, researchers examined homicides by month (see Chart 1). Overall, the number of individuals killed each month remained fairly stable.   Most months there were between 33 and 38 homicides. However, in June there was a low of 27 homicides, and in March there was a high of 46 homicides.

Chart 1. Month of Homicide Incidents Reported in Arizona 2004

Month	Frequency
January	44
February	38
March	46
April	40
May	33
June	27
July	38
August	44
September	33
October	35
November	35
December	35
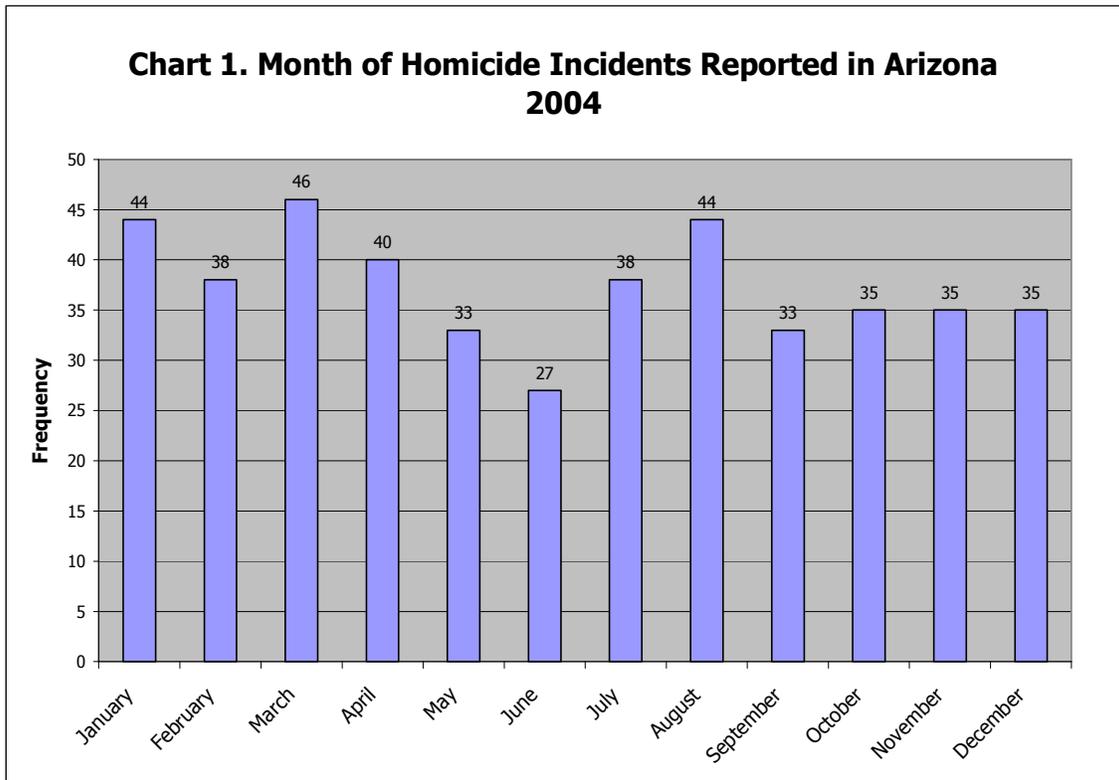
Additionally, researchers examined homicides by hour of the day (see Chart 2). The analysis indicated that between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 2:59 a.m. homicides peak, and between 3:00 a.m. and 9:59 p.m. there are relatively fewer homicides.

Chart 2. Hour of Day of Homicide Incidents in Arizona 2004
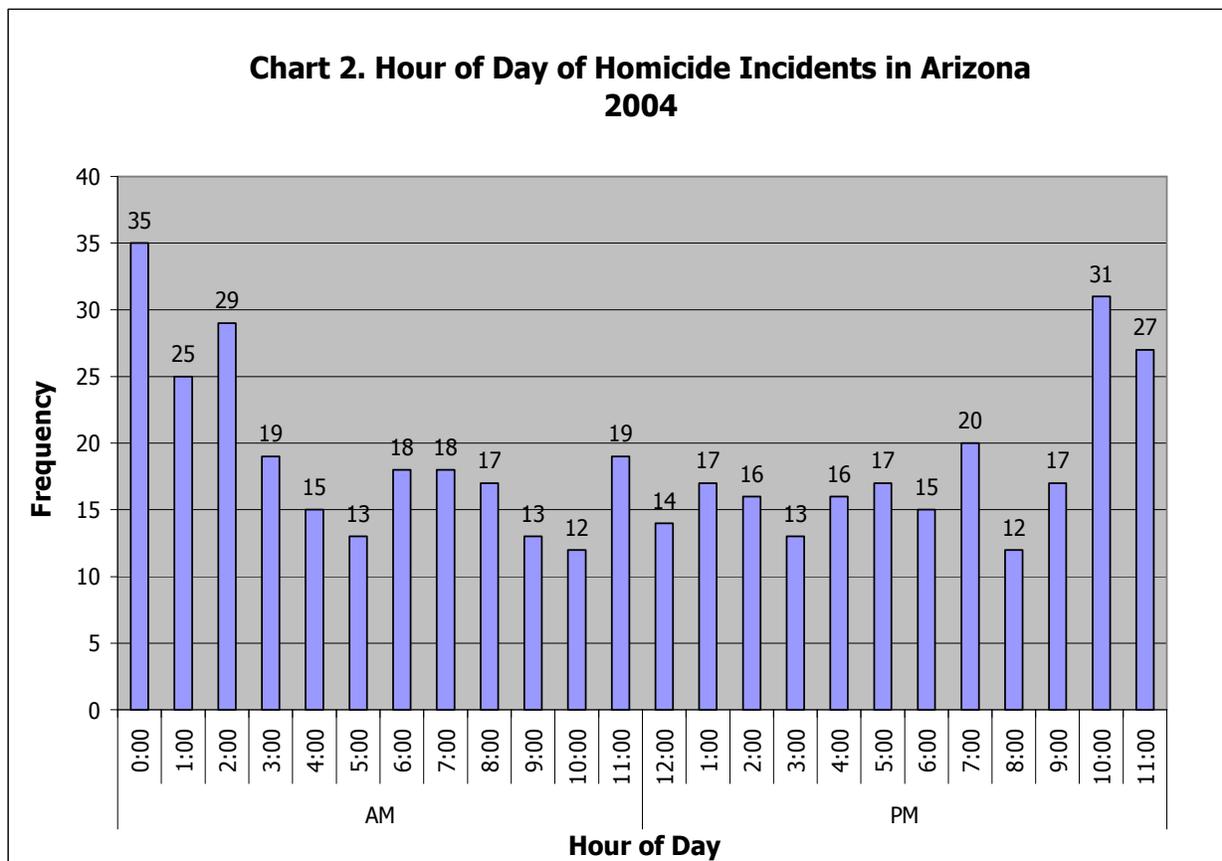
Victim and Offender Characteristics

Table 2 shows the characteristics of victims and offenders involved in Arizona homicides. The analysis showed that the majority of victims and offenders involved in homicide were male. Specifically, 83.5% of homicide victims were male and 87.1% of offenders were male. With respect to age, victims and offenders were most likely to be between the ages of 15 and 34. As seen in Table 2, 28.1% of homicide victims were between the ages of 15 to 24 and 26.8% were between the ages of 25 to 34. More than 37% of homicide offenders were between the ages of 15 to 24 and 22.9% of homicide offenders were between the ages of 25 to 34. The third highest group at risk was those between 35 to 44 years old, with 20.3% of victims and 10.3% of offenders were within this age group. The data indicated that those 14 and younger and those 45 and older were less likely to become a victim or be an offender in a homicide.

Table 2. Gender and Age Characteristics of Homicide Victims and Offenders				
	Victims (n = 448)		Offenders (n = 389)	
	Percentage	Total	Percentage	Total
Gender				
Male	83.5%	374	87.1%	339
Female	16.5%	74	6.2%	24
Unknown			6.7%	26
Age				
0 - 14	4.7%	21	0.0%	0
15 - 24	28.1%	126	37.5%	146
25 - 34	26.8%	120	22.9%	89
35 - 44	20.3%	91	10.3%	40
45 - 54	8.0%	36	6.2%	24
55 - 64	4.9%	22	1.8%	7
65 - 74	3.6%	16	1.0%	4
75 +	2.2%	10	0.5%	2
Unknown/Missing	1.3%	6	19.8%	77
Mean Age	33.20		29.18	

Table 3 shows that more Whites were involved in a homicide when compared to other racial groups. About 80% of victims were White, followed by 10.5% who were Black, 4.2% who were Native American, less than 1% who were Asian, and 3.1% who were in an "other" racial category. Likewise, 70.4% of offenders were White, 13.1% were Black, 3.3% were from an "other" racial category, 2.8% were Native Americans, and 1.3% were Asian. Table 3 also shows the findings with regard to the victim's and offender's ethnicity. Just over 51.3% of victims and 44.2% of offenders were identified as Hispanic.

While the marital status of the victims and offenders was examined, many of the homicide case files did not contain this information. Specifically, the marital status of just over 38% of the victims and 50.4% of the offenders was unknown. Case files did indicate, however, that 41.1% of victims and 35.2% of offenders were single and that 16.1% of the victims and 11.6% of the offenders were married at the time of the homicide. These files revealed very few of the victims and offenders to be divorced or widowed at the time of the homicide.

The findings indicated that the majority of those involved in homicides were U.S. citizens. About 63% of victims were U.S. citizens, 13.4% were Mexican citizens, .4% were citizens of another country, and in 23.4% of the cases the citizenship status of the victim was unknown. Similarly, 68.4% of offenders were U.S. citizens, 9.3% were Mexican citizens, .5% were citizens of another country, and in 21.9% of the cases the citizenship status of the offender was

unknown. Analysis also indicated that 11.4% of victims and 7.5% of offenders were identified as being (or suspected to be) an illegal alien.

Table 3. Additional Demographic Characteristics of Homicide Victims and Offenders				
	Victims (n = 448)		Offenders (n = 389)	
	Percentage	Total	Percentage	Total
Race				
White	79.7%	357	70.4%	274
Black	10.5%	47	13.1%	51
Native American	4.2%	19	2.8%	11
Asian	0.2%	1	1.3%	5
Other	3.1%	14	3.3%	13
Unknown/Missing	2.2%	10	9.0%	35
Ethnicity				
Hispanic	51.3%	230	44.2%	172
Non-Hispanic	47.1%	211	44.2%	172
Unknown/Missing	1.6%	7	11.6%	45
Marital Status				
Single	41.1%	184	35.2%	137
Married	16.1%	72	11.6%	45
Divorced	4.0%	18	2.6%	10
Widowed	0.7%	3	0.3%	1
Unknown/Missing	38.2%	171	50.4%	196
Citizenship Status				
U.S.	62.7%	281	68.4%	266
Mexico	13.4%	60	9.3%	36
Central or South America	0.2%	1	0.0%	0
Other	0.2%	1	0.5%	2
Unknown/Missing	23.4%	105	21.9%	85
Alien Status				
U.S. Citizen	62.7%	281	68.4%	266
Legal Alien	2.9%	13	1.3%	5
Illegal/Suspected Alien	11.4%	51	7.5%	29
Unknown/Missing	23.0%	103	22.9%	89

Cumulative risk for homicide among higher risk populations in Arizona was also examined. The analysis (see Table 4) shows that the homicide rate per 100,000 for males in Arizona was 12.8. With respect to age, males between the ages of 15 and 44 experienced a homicide rate of 22.0, nearly twice the rate for males of any age. Also, when ethnicity and race are taken into account, the homicide rates among Black and Hispanic males between the ages of 15 and 44 were 64.7 and 46.7, respectively.

Table 4. Cumulative Risk for Homicide			
Victim Characteristic(s)	Number of Homicides	Population	Homicide Rate (per 100,000)
Male	374	2,917,778	12.8
Male, ages 15 to 44	291	1,320,094	22.0
Male, ages 15 to 44, Hispanic	186	397,966	46.7
Male, ages 15 to 44, Black	32	49,454	64.7

Given the geographic concentration of homicides in Maricopa and Pima Counties, Tables 5 and 6 show the cumulative risk for homicide among all males, males age 15 to 44, and for Black and Hispanic males in that age group. In comparison to Arizona as a whole, the homicide rate for males is slightly higher in Maricopa and Pima Counties, at 14.8 and 15.3 per 100,000 in the population, respectively. Additionally, males aged 15 to 44 experienced higher homicide rates in Maricopa and Pima Counties as well. The rate in both counties was 25.6 per 100,000 in the population, as compared to 22.0 for the state. For Hispanic males, age 15 to 44, the homicide rate in Maricopa County was more than 10 points higher than for the state, at 58.0. In Pima County, Hispanic males age 15 to 44 experienced only a slightly higher homicide rate of 48.6 in comparison to the state. For Black males age 15 to 44, the homicide rate in Maricopa County was lower than for the state, at 64.7. However, the rate for this group in Pima County was more than twice the level of the state, at 132.9.

Table 5. Cumulative Risk For Homicide in Maricopa County			
Victim Characteristic(s)	Number of Homicides	Population	Homicide Rate (per 100,000)
Male	262	1,765,583	14.8
Male, ages 15 to 44	214	836,490	25.6
Male, ages 15 to 44, Hispanic*	146	251,848	58.0
Male, ages 15 to 44, Black*	21	34,348	61.1

* Data on race and ethnicity by age could not be tabulated for 5 cases in Maricopa County.

Table 6. Cumulative Risk For Homicide in Pima County			
Victim Characteristic(s)	**Number of Homicides**	**Population**	**Homicide Rate (per 100,000)**
Male	70	456,747	15.3
Male, ages 15 to 44	52	203,352	25.6
Male, ages 15 to 44, Hispanic*	32	65,854	48.6
Male, ages 15 to 44, Black*	10	7,527	132.9

* Data on race and ethnicity by age could not be tabulated for 7 cases in Pima County.

Weapon Used

Table 7 shows the type of weapon used in Arizona homicides. The analysis indicated that a firearm was used in 76.1% of homicides. The most likely weapon used in a homicide was a handgun (49.0%), followed by an unknown type of firearm (15.9%), rifle or shotgun (11.2%), knife/cutting instrument (9.4%), other weapon (8.9%), and blunt object (5.6%).

Table 7. Weapon Type		
	Number of Homicides	**Percentage of Homicides**
Handgun	219	49.0%
Rifle / Shotgun	50	11.2%
Firearm - Type Unknown	71	15.9%
Knife / Cutting Instrument	42	9.4%
Blunt Object	25	5.6%
Other Weapons	40	8.9%

Victim/Offender Relationship

The relationship between the victim and offender was also examined. The analysis indicated that victims were most likely to be killed by an acquaintance (36.5%). Just over 17% of homicide victims were killed by a stranger and about 7% of victims were killed by family members other than a spouse. Approximately 3% of victims were killed by their boyfriend/girlfriend and 3% were killed by a spouse/ex-spouse. However, it should be noted in 33.1% of cases, the relationship between the offender and victim could not be determined by law enforcement officials.

Table 8. Victim/Offender Relationship		
	Number of Homicides	**Percentage of Homicides**
Spouse / Ex - Spouse	15	3.0%
Other family	35	6.9%
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	17	3.4%
Other Acquaintance	184	36.5%
Stranger	86	17.1%
Relationship Undetermined	167	33.1%

Circumstances Surrounding Homicide Incident

The circumstances surrounding homicides in Arizona are detailed in Table 9. The analysis indicates that while homicides were the consequence of several circumstances, approximately 48% of homicides were alcohol and/or drug related. Specifically, 34.4% of homicides were drug related and 24.1% were alcohol related. However, domestic violence accounted for 16.7% of homicides, 14.7% were related to illegal immigration, and gangs accounted for another 10.3% of homicides. Just over 9% of homicides were related to robbery, 5.4% were related to child abuse, 2.5% were related to a sex crime, 2.2% were related to burglary, 1.1% were related to a hate crime, and .2% were school related. Last, 8.9% of homicides in Arizona were classified as justifiable homicides.

Table 9. Circumstances Surrounding Homicide Incident		
	Number of Homicides	**Percentage of Homicides**
Robbery	43	9.6%
Burglary	10	2.2%
Alcohol Related	108	24.1%
Drug Related	154	34.4%
Sexually Related	11	2.5%
Gang Related	46	10.3%
Domestic Violence	75	16.7%
Hate Crime	5	1.1%
Child Abuse	24	5.4%
Illegal Immigration	66	14.7%
School Related	1	0.2%
Justifiable Homicide	40	8.9%

Note: Categories not mutually exclusive, so frequencies and percentages do not total 448 and 100% respectively.

Number of Victims and Offenders

Researchers examined the number of victims and offenders involved in each incident. Statewide, more than 87% of incidents involved a single victim; however, in about 12% of incidents multiple victims were killed. Additionally, the analysis indicated that 60% of homicides involved only one offender, nearly 9% of homicides involved multiple offenders, and the number of offenders participating in a homicide was unknown in 31% of incidents.

Table 10. Number of Victims by Number of Offenders		
	Number of Homicides	**Percentage of Homicides**
Single Victim / Single Offender	237	52.9%
Single Victim / Multiple Offenders	32	7.1%
Single Victim / Unknown Offenders	124	27.7%
Multiple Victims / Single offender	32	7.1%
Multiple Victims / Multiple Offenders	8	1.8%
Multiple Victims / Unknown Offenders	15	3.3%

Location Where Victim Was Found

Data were collected on the location where the victim was found or recovered. More than 23% of the homicide victims were found where only the victim lived and nearly 5% of the victims were found where only the offender lived. These figures increase substantially when including those incidents where the victim and offender lived together (31.7% and 12.7%, respectively). Almost 23% of victims were found in a street or alley, 12.4% were found at another residence, 5.6% were found in a desert area, and 7.4% were found at a business. Cumulatively, 15.1% were found in such areas as vacant lots, bodies of water, parks, and other places not mentioned above.

Table 11. Location Where the Victim Was Found		
	Number of Homicides	**Percentage of Homicides**
Desert Area	25	5.6%
Street / Alley	102	22.8%
Business	33	7.4%
Victim Residence	106	23.7%
Offender Residence	21	4.7%
Victim / Offender Residence	36	8.0%
Victim Relative Residence	2	0.4%
Offender Relative Residence	2	0.4%
Other Residence	52	11.6%
Vacant Lot	7	1.6%
Park	5	1.1%
Body of Water	1	0.2%
Other	51	11.4%
Unknown	4	0.9%
Missing Data	1	0.2%

Characteristics of Neighborhoods Where Homicides Take Place

In Table 12, comparisons are made between the neighborhood characteristics where homicides occurred and the characteristics of the "average" Arizona neighborhood. For this report neighborhoods were defined by tract boundaries from the 2000 U.S. Census. As shown in Table 12, homicides were more likely to take place in neighborhoods with greater population size and that were characterized as urban. Homicides were also more likely to take place in neighborhoods with a higher percentage of non-whites and Hispanics. For instance, Hispanic residents make up about 25% of the population in an "average Arizona neighborhood"; however, Hispanics comprise more than 41% of the population in neighborhoods where homicides took place. Likewise, homicides were more likely to take place in neighborhoods that had a higher percentage of foreign born and non-citizens residing within it. For example, non-citizen residents made up 8.8% of the population in an "average Arizona neighborhood"; but non-citizens comprised over 16% of the population in neighborhoods where homicides took place.

Neighborhoods where homicides took place were also characterized as having a higher proportion of female-headed households. They also had a higher proportion of residents between the ages of 15 to 34 when compared to the "average Arizona neighborhood." Related, neighborhoods where homicide occurred were comprised of residents with less formal education than residents in the "average Arizona neighborhood." For example, those with less than a high school education comprised about 20% of the population in an "average Arizona neighborhood"; however, they comprised about 31% of the population in neighborhoods where homicides took place. Additionally, neighborhoods where homicide occurred had higher levels of unemployment, poverty, and had a median family income that was about 20.7% less than an "average Arizona neighborhood."

Table 12. Average Neighborhood* Characteristics of Homicides in Arizona 2004		
	Communities with a Homicide	**All Arizona Communities**
Population Structure		
Population Size	5,530	4,634
Percentage Urban	91.74%	86.24%
Racial / Ethnic Percentage Composition		
White	66.45%	75.19%
Black	5.24%	3.05%
Native American	2.84%	5.64%
Asian	1.63%	1.74%
Pacific Islander	0.14%	0.13%
Other	20.08%	11.44%
Hispanic	41.12%	25.11%
Non-Hispanic	58.88%	74.89%
Foreign Born Percentage Composition		
Total	20.50%	12.64%
Non-citizens	16.38%	8.80%
Family Structure Percentage Composition		
Age 15 - 34	32.64%	28.39%
Divorced	11.72%	10.91%
Female-Headed Households	14.13%	10.62%
Education Percentage Composition		
None	3.05%	1.79%
Less than High School	27.74%	18.61%
High School/GED	24.65%	24.19%
Some College	28.56%	32.53%
College Degree (4-Year)	10.50%	14.73%
College Degree (Graduate)	5.51%	8.15%
Economics Composition		
Percentage Unemployment	7.74%	6.41%
Median Family Income	$38,540	$48,581
Percentage Under Poverty	21.16%	14.49%
Percentage Households with Public Assistance	4.14%	3.24%
Housing Structure Percentage Composition		
Owner-Occupied Housing	50.92%	60.52%
Vacant Housing	9.69%	11.42%
Same Residence 5 yrs ago	42.38%	45.25%

Neighborhoods defined by tract boundaries from 2000 U.S. Census.

Conclusions and Policy Recommendations

The purpose of this report was to provide a general description of the scope and nature of the homicide problem in Arizona. Major findings of the research are as follows:

1. Risk for homicide is particularly concentrated by place and socio-demographic characteristics. For example, homicides were largely restricted to Maricopa, Mohave, and Pima Counties. These counties together accounted for over 91% of the homicides in the state and had homicide rates more than 7 per 100,000 population. Related, risk for homicide was particularly concentrated among Hispanic and Black males, aged 15 to 44. While Arizona's homicide rate was 7.7 per 100,000 in 2004, it was 46.7 per 100,000 for Hispanic males, aged 15 to 44 and is 64.7 per 100,000 for Black males, aged 15 to 44.

2. In 2004, most Arizona homicides involved guns, drugs, and/or alcohol. For example, more than 75% of homicides were the result of a gunshot, compared to 66% nationally that same year.[3] Additionally, more than 50% of homicides were characterized as being related to drugs and/or alcohol. Conversely, the analyses showed that most homicides did not involve gangs, illegal immigrants, or schools.

3. The neighborhoods in which homicides occurred in 2004 differed from the typical Arizona community. These communities had larger populations and were more likely to have higher proportions of minority and foreign born residents. Additionally, neighborhoods with homicides in 2004 exhibited greater levels of family disruption and lower levels of educational and economic status.

This report's key findings suggest four policy recommendations:

1. In coming years, Arizona will face a number of challenges in prioritizing the delivery of criminal justice services. First, state and local criminal justice agencies are increasingly being asked to address issues pertaining to homeland security. These requests often require an increase in state and local resources dedicated toward homeland security issues long believed to be a federal responsibility. Second, over the past ten years Arizona's population has increased significantly, causing a strain on all parts of the criminal justice system. Last, state and local budgets have been cut as a consequence of the faltering economy. As such, criminal justice agencies are being asked to make do with fewer resources.

   With the above said, homicide is the most serious crime any community can experience, and the findings suggest that homicides are highly concentrated by place and victim/ offender characteristics. Accordingly, it should be possible to tailor violence intervention

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[3] FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-2005. Accessed at
http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/homicide/tables/weaponstab.htm on December 21, 2008.

efforts toward specific places and people. Violence intervention efforts targeting high risk places and high risk persons are more likely to conserve financial resources and are more likely to result in a reduction in homicides.

2. These findings suggest that further research is needed on gun carrying and gun markets in Arizona. This research should focus on the scope and nature of gun violence, access to firearms, risk of sanctions for those who illegally possess firearms, and offender-based determinants of gun-carrying behavior. This research should be used to determine the most appropriate strategies and tactics for reducing gun-related violence in the state.

3. The concentration of homicides by place suggests that communities experiencing lethal violence may differ in key structural features from other neighborhoods. Further research is needed to understand the social context and intersection of race/ethnicity, immigration, economics, and violence. Specific focus should be given to the manner in which community contexts and public policy interact to reduce homicide incidents in Arizona neighborhoods.

4. Last, it is recommended that the state continue to survey homicide trends in Arizona. Current geo-political boundaries often make it difficult to collect homicide data from law enforcement agencies across the state. This data is needed to examine homicide patterns across time, which could foster increased communication about emerging trends. This could, in turn, aid law enforcement agencies' efforts to respond to ever-changing contingencies in their environment.

Appendix A

Data Collection Instrument

PART I: Incident Information

Collector: _____   Completed on: _____

Police Agency_____

DR# _____

UCR Incident #_____ *(UCR – data gathered from UCR database)*

SJS Grant Incident # _____ *(to be created by ACJC)*

Situation *(UCR – data gathered from UCR database)*

1. Single Victim/Single Offender
2. Single Victim/Multiple Offenders
3. Single Victim/Unknown Offender
4. Multiple Victims/Single Offender
5. Multiple Victims/Multiple Offenders
6. Multiple Victims/Unknown Offender

Date of Departmental Report (MM/DD/YY) _____

Time incident reported to Police (24 hr clock) _____

Date of death (MM/DD/YY) _____

Time of death (24 hr clock) _____

Medical Treatment:

1. Victim dead at the scene
2. Victim died on way to or upon arriving at hospital
3. Victim admitted to hospital
9. Unknown

Data Collection Instrument

Location (address) where victim found (will be geo-coded to census block)

Street Number _____
       Direction   _____
       Street Name _____
       Apt Nbr _____
       City _____
       ZIP _____

If victim found at intersection, record cross streets and direction of corner

Victim found at: NE   SE   NW   SW   corner of:

_____ (Street #1) and

_____ (Street #2)

Additional comments re location: _____

_____

Location (address) of assault leading to death (will be geo-coded to census block)

       Street Number _____
       Direction   _____
       Street Name _____
       Apt Nbr _____
       City _____
       ZIP _____

If victim assaulted at intersection, record cross streets and direction of corner

Victim assaulted at: NE   SE   NW   SW   corner of:

_____ (Street #1) and

_____ (Street #2)

Data Collection Instrument

Additional comments re location: _____

_____

Are the location where the assault took place and where the body was found:

1. The same   2. Different   9. Unknown

Description of location of fatal assault:

1. Bar
2. Street
3. Desert area
4. Abandoned building
5. Body of Water
6. Hotel
7. Gas Station
8. Grocery
9. Package Liquor store
10. Bank
11. Other Commercial
    Establishment
12. Office Building
13. Personal Transportation
14. Public Transportation
15. Crack house
16. Prostitute house
17. Victim residence inside
18. Victim residence transition
    area
19. Victim residence outside
20. Offender residence inside
21. Offender residence transition
    area
22. Offender residence outside
23. Victim/Offender residence
    inside
24. Victim/Offender residence
    transition area
25. Victim/Offender residence
    outside
26. Relative of victim residence
    inside
27. Relative of victim residence
    transition area
28. Relative of victim residence
    outside
29. Relative of offender residence
    inside
30. Relative of offender residence
    transition area
31. Relative of offender residence
    outside
32. Other residence inside
33. Other residence transition
    area
34. Other residence outside
35. Primary or secondary School
36. Alley
37. Field/vacant lot
38. City/county park
39. Other _____
40. Missing from File
99. Unknown

Data Collection Instrument

Description of location where body found:

1. Bar
2. Street
3. Desert area
4. Abandoned building
5. Body of Water
6. Hotel
7. Gas Station
8. Grocery
9. Package Liquor store
10. Bank
11. Other Commercial Establishment
12. Office Building
13. Personal Transportation
14. Public Transportation
15. Crack house
16. Prostitute house
17. Victim residence inside
18. Victim residence transition area
19. Victim residence outside
20. Offender residence inside
21. Offender residence transition area
22. Offender residence outside
23. Victim/Offender residence inside
24. Victim/Offender residence transition area
25. Victim/Offender residence outside
26. Relative of victim residence inside
27. Relative of victim residence transition area
28. Relative of victim residence outside
29. Relative of offender residence inside
30. Relative of offender residence transition area
31. Relative of offender victim residence outside
32. Other residence inside
33. Other residence transition area
34. Other residence outside
35. Primary or secondary School
36. Alley
37. Field/vacant lot
38. City/county park
39. Other _____
40. Missing from File
99. Unknown

Data Collection Instrument

Was Robbery a motive?

1 Strong arm robbery
2 Armed Robbery
3 Victim was a robber
9 Robbery not involved.

Was Burglary a motive?

1 Burglary involved 2 Victim is a burglar   9 Burglary not involved

Is there positive information to indicate this was an incident involving alcohol? Check all that apply.

1. Victim was under the influence of alcohol just prior to or during the incident.
2. Offender was under the influence of alcohol just prior to or during the incident.
3. Other alcohol (explain)_____.
9. No information to indicate alcohol was involved in incident.

Is there positive information to indicate this was an incident involving illegal use of drugs? (Check all that apply.)

1. Victim was under the influence of illegal drugs.
2. Offender(s) was under the influence of illegal drugs.
3. Victim was buying, selling or transporting illegal drugs.
4. Offender was buying, selling or transporting illegal drugs.
5. Victim was attempting to get money for drugs (personal use).
6. Offender was attempting to get money for drugs (personal use).
7. Incident involved an argument over possession, use, quality, or cost of drugs.
8. Other drug involvement (explain)_____.
9. Illegal drugs not involved in incident.

Data Collection Instrument

Is there positive information to indicate this was an incident involving sexual assault or commercial sex? (Check all that apply.)

1. Victim was sexually assaulted
2. Victim was threatened with sexual assault
3. Offender was sexually assaulted
4. Offender was threatened with sexual assault
5. Incident involved act of prostitution
6. Incident involved business of prostitution (Pimp was offender or victim).
7. Undetermined – some evidence of sexual motive, but unclear (explain)
   _____
8. Other (explain) _____
9. Sexual motive not involved.

Is there positive information to indicate this was an incident involving gangs? (Check all that apply.)

1. Victim a gang member
2. Offender a gang member
3. Offender initiated incident as act of gang retaliation
4. Victim initiated incident as act of gang retaliation
5. Offender and victim were members of rival gangs
6. Offender and victim were members of same gangs
7. Either Offender or Victim was member of a gang, bust incident not gang-related.
8. Other (explain) _____
9. Incident not gang related.

Is there positive information to indicate this was an incident of domestic violence? (Check all that apply.)

1. Victim and offender are legally married
2. Victim and offender are cohabitating
3. Victim and offender were divorced
4. Victim and offender once cohabitated
5. Victim or defendant is pregnant by the other party
6. Victim and offender were in a same sex relationship at time of incident
7. Victim and offender once had a same sex relationship

Data Collection Instrument

8. Victim or offender is a child residing (or has resided)in the same house and is related by blood to a former spouse of the other party
9. Other (explain) _____
10. Incident not one of domestic violence.

Is there positive information to indicate this was a hate crime? (Check all that apply.)

1. Offender was motivated by racial or ethnic hatred
2. Offender was motivated by hatred of victim's sexual orientation
3. Victim was motivated by racial or ethnic hatred
4. Victim was motivated by hatred of victim's sexual orientation
5. Other (explain) _____
9. Incident not a hate crime.

Is there positive information to indicate this was an incident related to child abuse? (Check all that apply.)

1. Victim was a minor with an ongoing relationship with the offender
2. Offender was a minor with an ongoing relationship with the victim
3. Other (explain) _____
9. Incident not one of child abuse.

Is there positive information to indicate this was an incident involving illegal immigration? (Check all that apply.)

1. Victim was an illegal alien
2. Offender was an illegal alien
3. Victim was involved in transporting illegal aliens
4. Offender was involved in transporting illegal aliens
5. Other (explain) _____
9. Incident not related to illegal immigration.

Is there positive information to indicate this incident was school related? (Check all that apply.) School is defined as elementary or secondary school only.

1. Incident occurred on school grounds during school hours
2. Incident occurred at school sponsored event
3. Victim and offender attended same school

Data Collection Instrument

    4. Victim and offender attended different schools
    5. Other (explain) _____
    9. There is no information to connect school attendance with this incident.

Was victim a third person intervening in another crime or fight?

1.   Yes victim was a police officer/security guard.
2.   Yes but victim was not a police officer/security guard.
3.   Victim was a passive bystander (e.g.: mistaken identity, unintended target, caught in gang crossfire)
9.   No.

Was this an incident of criminal negligence? 1. Yes 2. No (UCR)

Was this a Justifiable homicide? *(UCR – data gathered from UCR database)*

    1. Police Involved   2. Self Defense   9. Not Justifiable Homicide

Weapon used by offender.

1. Firearm, type not stated	10.	Pushed
2. Rifle	11.	Explosives
3. Shotgun	12.	Fire
4. Handgun	13.	Narcotics/Drugs
5. Other Gun	14.	Drowning
6. Knife, Other Cutting Instrument	15.	Strangulation (incl. Hanging)
7. Blunt Object	16.	Asphyxiation
8. Personal Weapons hands, feet	17.	Other _____
9. Poison	18.	Unknown
	19.	Vehicle

Was weapon recovered? 1. Yes 2. No   9 No data

Status of Case

    1. Suspect(s) arrested   2. No arrest(s)

Data Collection Instrument

How was case closed/cleared?

1. Death of Offender
2. Bar to prosecution
3. Not cleared

4. Cleared by Arrest
5. Out of Country; can not extradite
6. No Data

Number of Offenders identified _____

Number of Offenders arrested _____

Number of offenders charged _____

Data Collection Instrument

II. Victim Information

Complete one form per Victim.

There will be a separate set of "victim" variables for each victim.

This victim is #_____ of _____ in this incident.

VICTIM NAME

        Last _____
        First _____
        Middle_____
        Suffix _____

Soc Sec Nbr _____

Date of Birth _____

Age at time of Incident _____

      0 = Birth to 11 months   1 = 12 to 23 months   999 = No data

Gender _____ M = 1; F = 2.

Race

1. White	4. Asian/Pacific Islander
2. Black	5. Other
3. American Indian/Alaskan Native	9. Unknown

Ethnicity

1. Hispanic	9. Unknown
2. Non-Hispanic	

Marital Status

    1. Single   2. Married   3. Divorced   4. Widowed   9. Unknown

Data Collection Instrument

Citizenship

1.	United States	3.	Other
2.	Mexico	9.	Unknown

Alien Status:
1. Legal
2. Illegal
3. Suspected Illegal
4. US Citizen
9. Unknown

Did victim have outstanding warrant?   1 Yes   2 No   9 Unknown

Victim blood alcohol level _____

Victim urinalysis result
1. Positive   Name of Drug _____
2. Negative
3. No urinalysis _____

Victim's CJ system status (choose only most severe)

1. No status
2. Parolee
3. Probationer
4. Pending Trial
5. Pending Sentencing
9. Unknown

Does victim have a prior criminal record?

1. Yes   2. No   9. Unknown

Number of Prior Felony Arrests for Victim _____ *(ACCH – data gathered from Az Computerized Criminal History data base)*

Number of Prior Arrests for Crimes against Persons for Victim _____*(ACCH – data gathered from Az Computerized Criminal History data base)*

Data Collection Instrument

Number of Prior Felony Convictions for Victim _____ *(ACCH – data gathered from Az Computerized Criminal History data base)*

Months on Probation for Victim _____ *(ACCH – data gathered from Az Computerized Criminal History data base)*

Months in Prison for Victim _____ *(ACCH – data gathered from Az Computerized Criminal History data base)*

Victim's SID _____ *(ACCH – data gathered from Az Computerized Criminal History data base)*

Data Collection Instrument

PART III: Offender Information

Complete one form per Offender.

There will be a separate set of "offender" variables for each offender – up to 5 – on each victim record.

_____

This offender is #_____ of _____ offenders in this incident.

Offender Name

Last _____

      First _____

      Middle_____

      Suffix _____

Offender Soc Sec No_____

Offender SID#_____

Date Offender Arrested (MM/DD/YY)_____

Time Offender Arrested (24 hr clock) _____

Offense for which arrested _____ (ARS designation)

Offender Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY)_____

Age at time of Incident _____

Offender Gender _____ M = 1; F = 2.

Race
      1. White
      2. Black
      3. American Indian/Alaskan Native
      4. Asian/Pacific Islander
      5. Other
      9. Unknown

Data Collection Instrument

Offender Ethnicity _____

      a. Hispanic   2 Non-Hispanic 9. Unknown

Marital Status

      1. Single   2. Married   3. Divorced   4. Widowed   9. Unknown

Citizenship

      1. United States
      2. Mexico
      3. Other _____
      9. Unknown

Alien Status:
      1. Legal
      2. Illegal
      3. Suspected Illegal
      8. US Citizen
      9. Unknown

Did Offender have outstanding warrant at time of Incident?
      1 Yes   2 No 9 Unknown

Offender's CJ system status at time of incident (choose only most severe)

      1. No status
      2. Parolee
      3. Probationer
      4. Pending Trial
      5. Pending Sentencing
      9. Unknown

Did offender have a prior criminal record at time of incident? *(ACCH – data gathered from Az Computerized Criminal History data base)*

    1. Yes   2. No   9. Unknown

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Number of Prior Felony Arrests for Offender _____ *(ACCH – data gathered from Az Computerized Criminal History data base)*

Number of prior arrests for crimes against person for offender_____ *(ACCH – data gathered from Az Computerized Criminal History data base)*

Number of Prior Felony Convictions for Offender _____ *(ACCH – data gathered from Az Computerized Criminal History data base)*

Months on Probation for Offender _____*(ACCH – data gathered from Az Computerized Criminal History data base)*

Months in Prison for Offender _____ *(ACCH – data gathered from Az Computerized Criminal History data base)*

Offender's blood alcohol level _____
Date tested _____

Offender's urinalysis result _____
Date tested (MMDDYY)_____

Data Collection Instrument

What was offender's relationship to victim? (UCR)

'HU'	Husband
'WI'	Wife
'CH'	Common Law Husband
'CW'	Common Law Wife
'MO'	Mother
'FA'	Father
'SO'	Son
'DA'	Daughter
'BR'	Brother
'SI'	Sister
'IL'	In-law
'SF'	Stepfather
'SM'	Stepmother
'SS'	Stepson
'SD'	Stepdaughter
'OF'	Other Family
'NE'	Neighbor
'AQ'	Acquaintance
'BF'	Boyfriend
'GF'	Girlfriend
'XH'	Ex-husband
'XW'	Ex-Wife
'EE'	Employee
'ER'	Employer
'HO'	Homosexual relationship
'OK'	Other – known to victim
'ST'	Stranger
'UN'	Can't be determined.

Data Collection Instrument

Weapon used by Offender (UCR)

11	Firearm, type not stated
12	Handgun
13	Rifle
14	Shotgun
15	Other Gun
20	Knife, other cutting instrument
30	Blunt object
40	Personal weapons, hands, feet
50	Poison
55	Pushed out of window
60	Explosives
65	Fire
70	Narcotics/Drugs
75	Drowning
80	Strangulation (incl hanging)
85	Asphyxiation
90	Other (type weapon undesignated or unknown)

Was the Offender Arrested at the Scene?

1. Yes 2. No 3. Offender Unknown 9. No data

Was the Offender identified at the scene?

1. Yes 2. No 3. Offender Unknown 9. No data

Was the Offender identified through investigation?

1. Yes 2. No 3. Offender Unknown 9. No data

Did the Offender admit to the crime?

1. Yes 2. No 3. Offender Unknown 9. No data

Data Collection Instrument

The offender was taken into custody by:

      1. Patrol   2. Detectives   3. Other jurisdiction   4. FBI

In re this offender, case was exceptionally cleared by:

      1. Death of Offender   2. Bar to Prosecution. 9. No Data.

In re this offender, date case was cleared: _____(MM/DD/YY) 888888 = case not cleared   999999 = no data.

Did the offender die before the final disposition of the case?

      1. Killed subsequent to and as a result of the incident.
      2. Killed subsequent to but not as a result of the incident.
      3. Killed at the scene.
      4. Suicide.
      5. Died of natural causes.
      6. Died, but cause of death unknown.
      7. Offender not dead.
      8. No Data

Disposition of Incident for this offender. *(ACCH – data gathered from Az Computerized Criminal History data base)*

      1. Unsolved/no judicial action
      2. Outcome pending trial
      3. Outcome pending sentencing
      4. Conviction - murder
      5. Conviction - manslaughter
      6. Conviction - lesser homicide
      7. Conviction – other charge
      8. Dismiss
      9. Acquitted after trial
   10. Case closed
   11. Exceptionally cleared
   12. Unfounded
   99. No data

In re this offender, date of disposition: _____ (MM/DD/YY)
888888 = case not cleared   999999 = no data.

The remainder of this page left for comments and explanation as needed.