
APPENDIX A

A 30-Year Review of Homicides in the District of Columbia (1972-2002)

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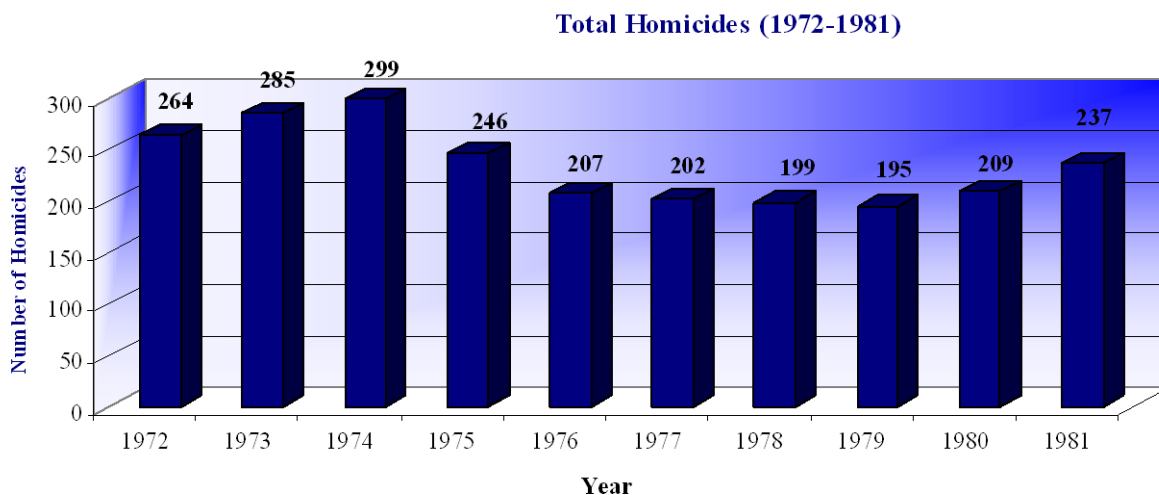
A 30-YEAR REVIEW OF HOMICIDES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (1972-2002)

INTRODUCTION

During the years 1972 – 1981 Annual Reports were available for statistical compilations needed to produce this report. Unfortunately during the years 1982 – 2002, when Washington, DC had become known as “*Dodge City (DC)*” and the “*Murder Capital of the US,*” only one (1992) annual report was published. A dramatic spike in homicides is revealed during this 20-year interval of time, spanning the years 1988 to 1998, so as a result the data for the entire twenty years (1982-2002) is compared. The absence of the annual report during these years was primarily due to chronic understaffing secondary to high turnover. The 2004 OCME Annual Report attempts to close this gap by providing statistical compilations for a subset of the data for these years with emphasis on homicides by gunfire, demographics, and the number of autopsies performed.

CALENDAR YEARS 1972 THROUGH 1981

The number of Homicides in the DC area, though demonstrating a modest increase from 1972 to 1974 (264 to 299), showed a progressive decline until 1979 when it went down to 195. Then, in 1980 the Homicide rate started rising again reaching a peak of 237 in 1981.



The study of these years reveals several compelling facts. We will begin with the use of firearms and end with alarming data regarding race, age and gender. The first annual report ever produced by the Medical Examiner's Office in 1972, after it transitioned from the Coroner's System, contained a startling statement made by then Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. James Luke:

“Homicide by gunfire is by far the leading cause of death among all causes of death in the nation's capital for persons between the ages of 15 and 44 years” (OCME Annual Report 1972 p. 2)

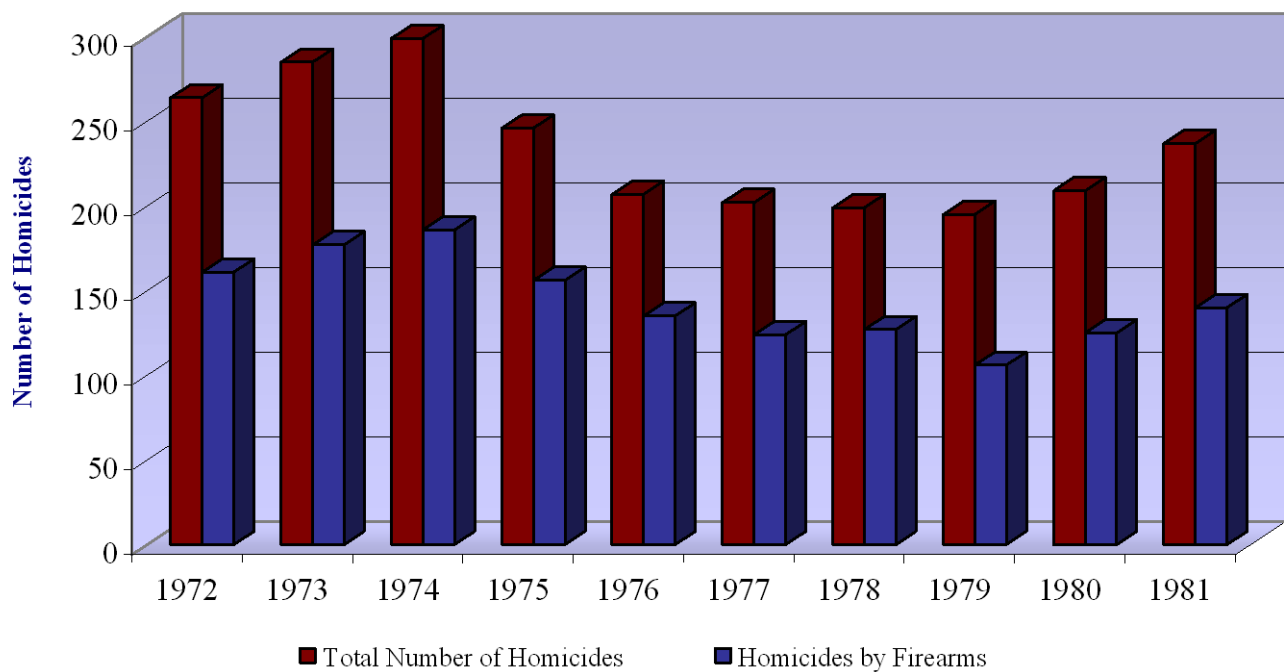
HOMICIDE BY FIREARMS

The statistics show that from 1972 through 1981 there were 2,343 homicides in the District of Columbia, and 1,437 or 63% of them occurred as a direct result of Gunfire.

Year	Homicides by Firearms	Total Number of Homicides
1972	161	264
1973	177	289
1974	186	299
1975	156	246
1976	135	207
1977	124	202
1978	127	199
1979	106	195
1980	125	209
1981	140	237
Total	1,437	2,343

HOMICIDES (1972-1981)

Total vs. Firearms



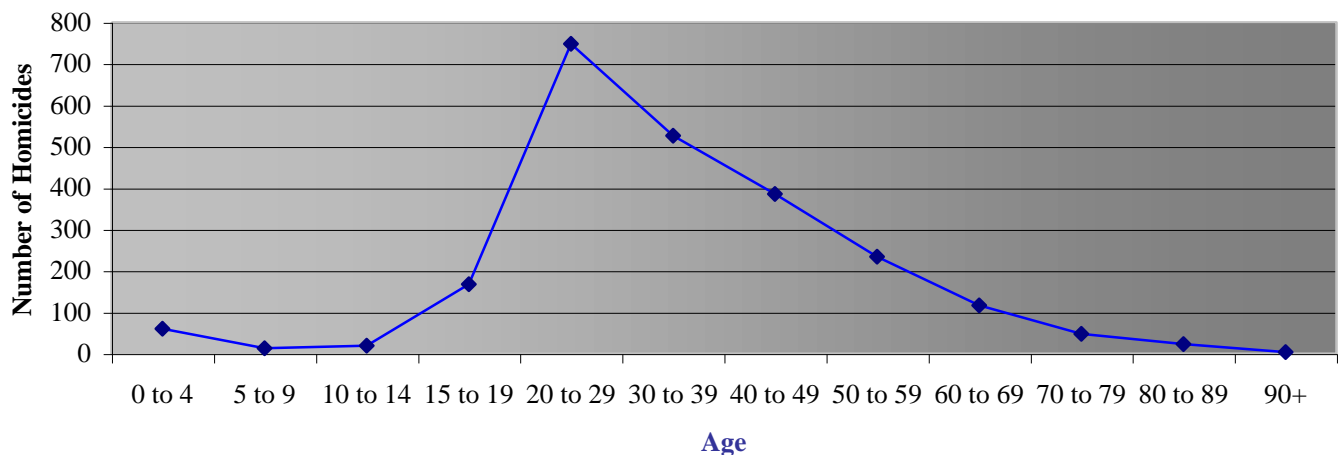
HOMICIDE BY AGE (1972-1981)

A study of the data reveals that of the 2,343 homicides that occurred during the 1972 through 1981 period, 748 of the decedents were between 20 and 29 years of age. This age group was affected more than any other. The number of homicides for those between the ages of 15 and 44 showed little variation.

HOMICIDES BY AGE

Year	0 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90+
1972	8	2	0	27	78	52	51	27	10	6	2	1
1973	13	2	5	14	100	57	46	23	15	7	3	0
1974	8	2	2	18	95	70	54	27	14	4	5	0
1975	5	1	3	15	80	49	45	30	6	11	1	0
1976	3	1	2	18	61	51	33	19	14	4	1	0
1977	2	0	2	14	60	49	31	20	19	3	2	0
1978	3	0	0	10	61	53	32	23	13	2	2	0
1979	5	0	4	14	62	36	33	29	9	3	0	0
1980	4	2	1	26	71	52	25	13	8	2	5	0
1981	6	3	0	12	80	57	36	23	9	6	2	3
TOTAL	57	13	19	168	748	526	386	234	117	48	23	4

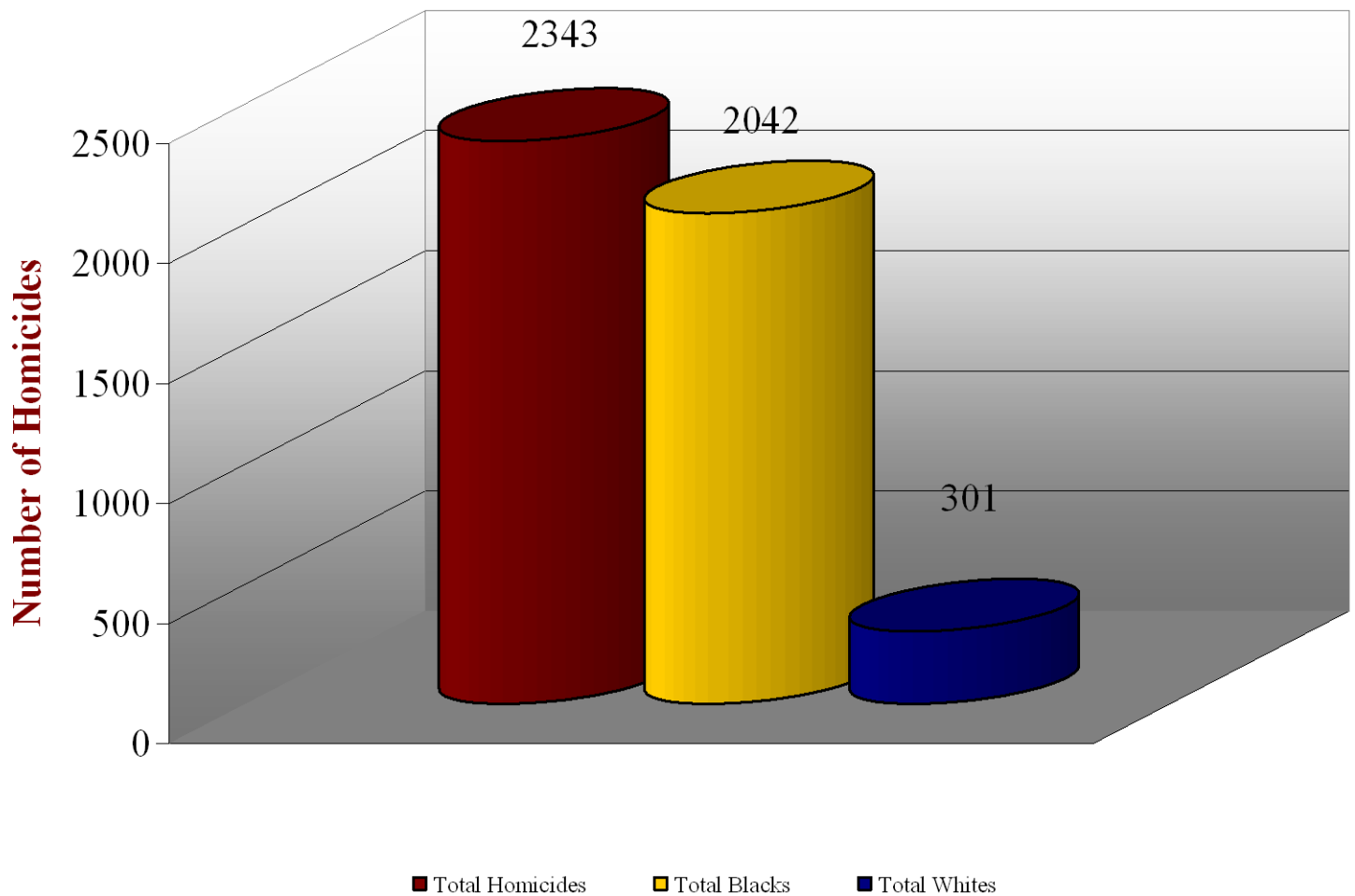
TOTAL HOMICIDES BY AGE (1972-1981)



HOMICIDE BY RACE AND GENDER

The demographics of the affected population remained constant throughout this study period. Blacks/African Americans consistently represented 88 to 91% of the victims; Black/African American males paid the highest toll making up 70 to 81% of the group. The number of deaths for Black/African American women varied from a low of 20 to a high of 69. Homicides in the White population peaked at 32 for males and 12 for females in 1974.

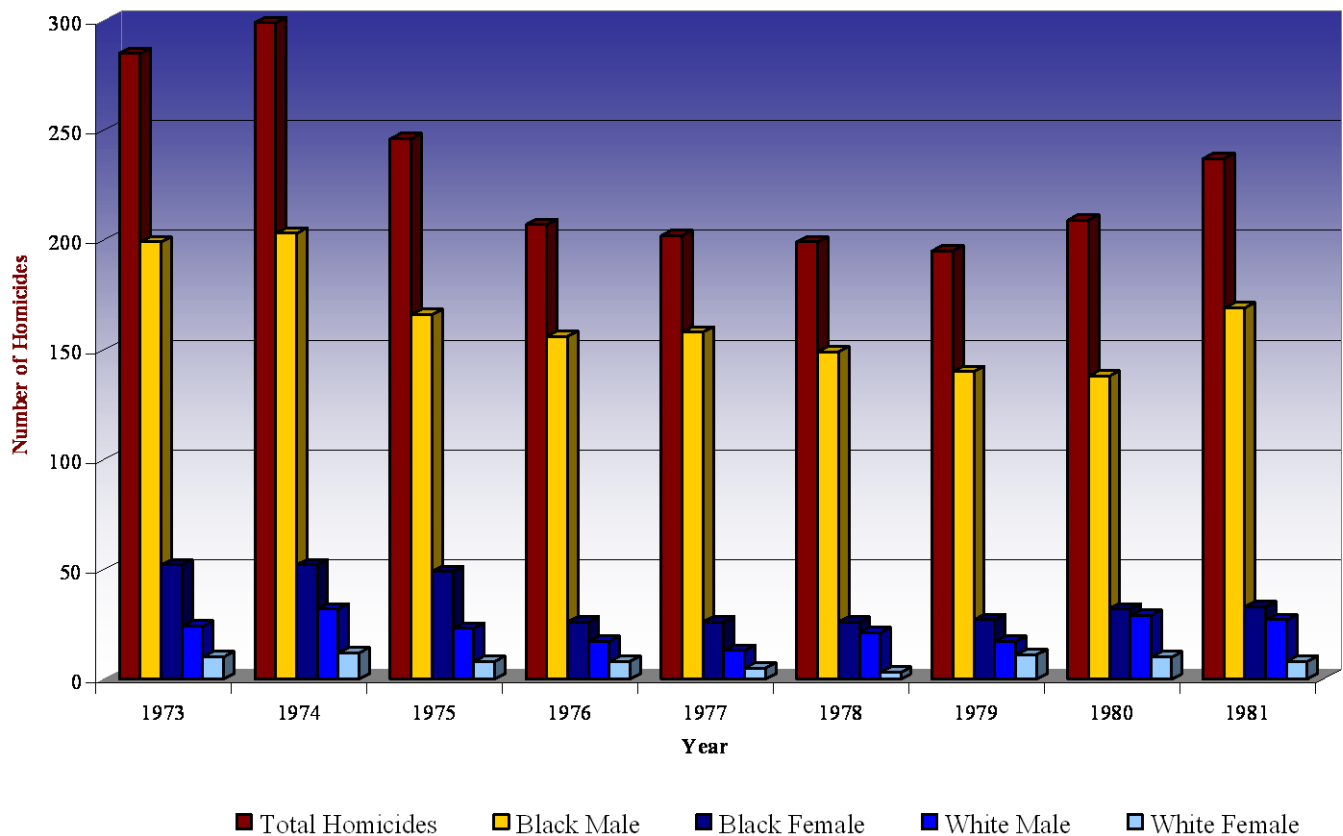
Homicides Compared by Race (1972-1981)



HOMICIDE BY RACE AND GENDER

HOMICIDE BY RACE, AND GENDER OF VICTIM							
Year	Black Male	Black Female	Total Black	White Male	White Female	Total Whites	Total Homicides
1972	N/A	N/A	241	N/A	N/A	23	264
1973	199	52	251	24	10	34	285
1974	203	52	255	32	12	44	299
1975	166	49	215	23	8	31	246
1976	156	26	182	17	8	25	207
1977	158	26	184	13	5	18	202
1978	149	26	175	21	3	24	199
1979	140	27	167	17	11	28	195
1980	138	32	170	29	10	39	209
1981	169	33	202	27	8	35	237
Total	1,478	323	2,042	203	75	301	2,343

**Homicides by Race and Gender
(1973-1981)**

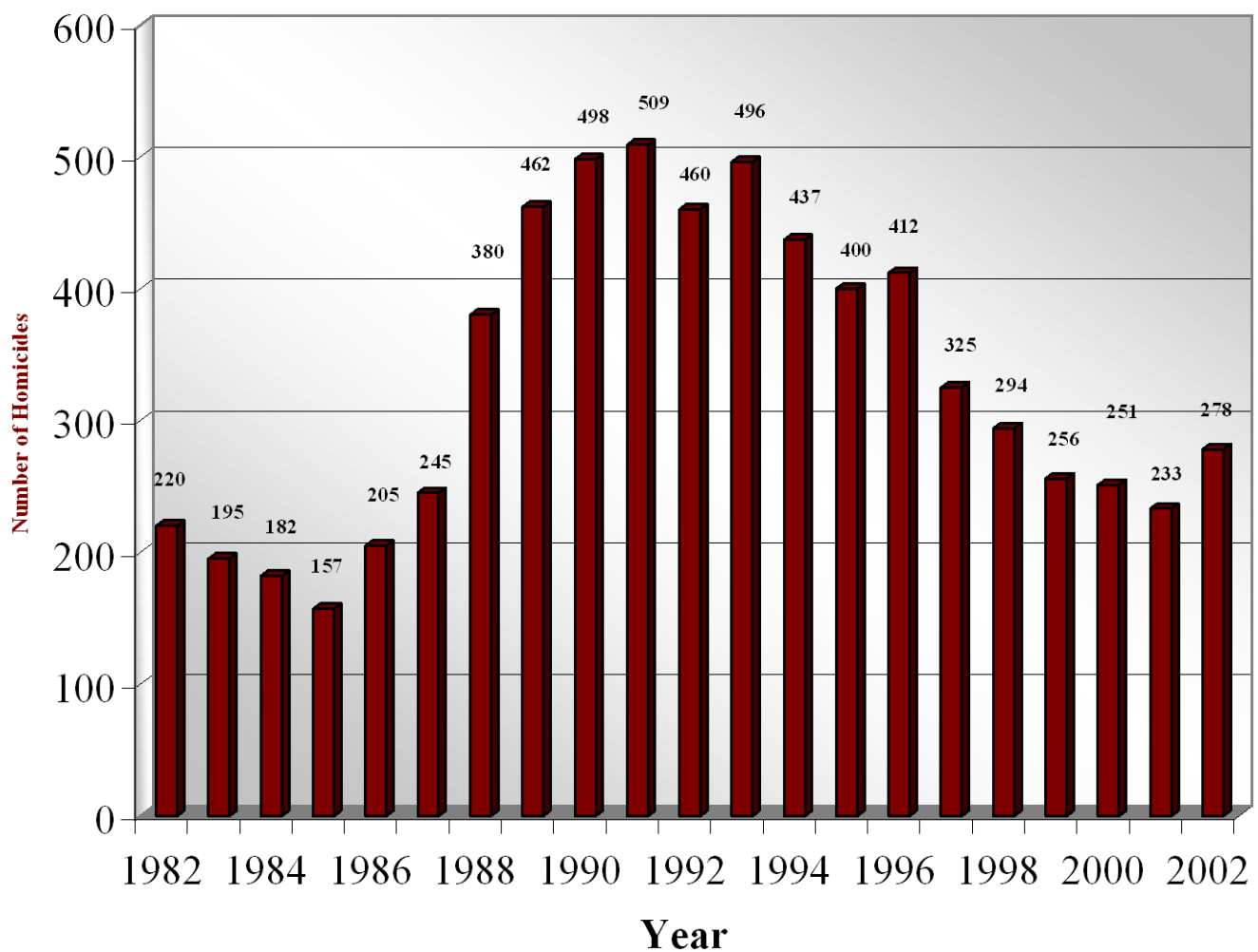


Note: The Annual Report for 1972 does not provide a breakdown of the data for “Race” and “Gender”.

CALENDAR YEARS 1982 THROUGH 2002

During the period of 1986 through 1998 homicides in the District of Columbia reached epidemic proportions, rapidly doubling and tripling in numbers to attain a peak of 509 in 1991. The loss of lives declined thereafter, and from 2000 – 2002 homicides remained between 200 and 300, which are the same as the numbers of the 1970's.

Total Homicides (1982-2002)



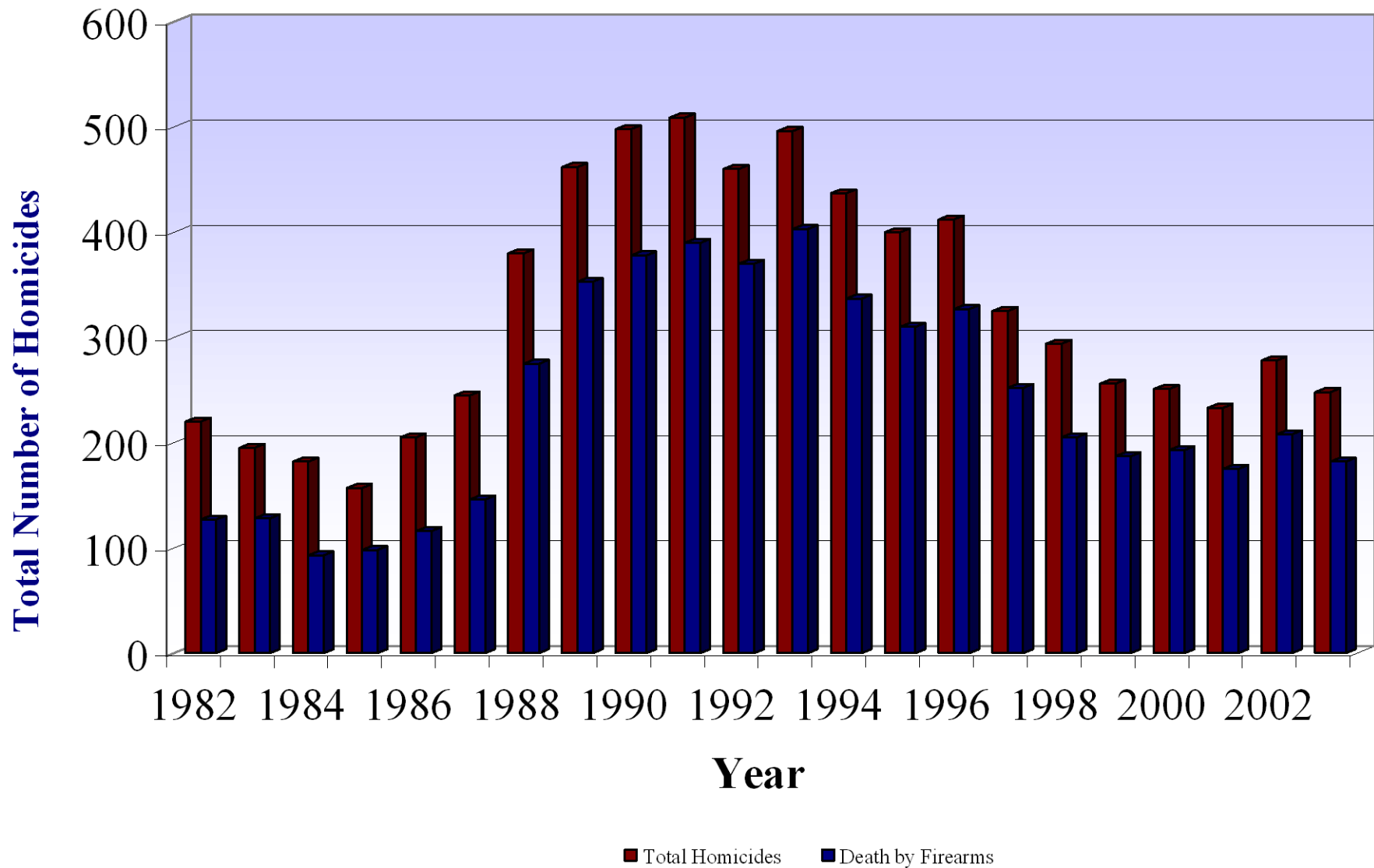
HOMICIDES BY FIREARMS (1982-2002)

The statistics show that from 1982 through 2002, there were 6,895 homicides in the District of Columbia; 5,071 or 74% of them occurred as a direct result of Gunfire.

Year	Death by Firearms	Total Homicides
1982	127	220
1983	128	195
1984	93	182
1985	98	157
1986	116	205
1987	146	245
1988	275	380
1989	353	462
1990	378	498
1991	390	509
1992	370	460
1993	403	496
1994	337	437
1995	310	400
1996	327	412
1997	252	325
1998	205	294
1999	187	256
2000	193	251
2001	175	233
2002	208	278
Total	5,071	6,895

HOMICIDES (1982-2002)

Total Homicides vs. Death by Firearms



HOMICIDES BY AGE (1982-2002)

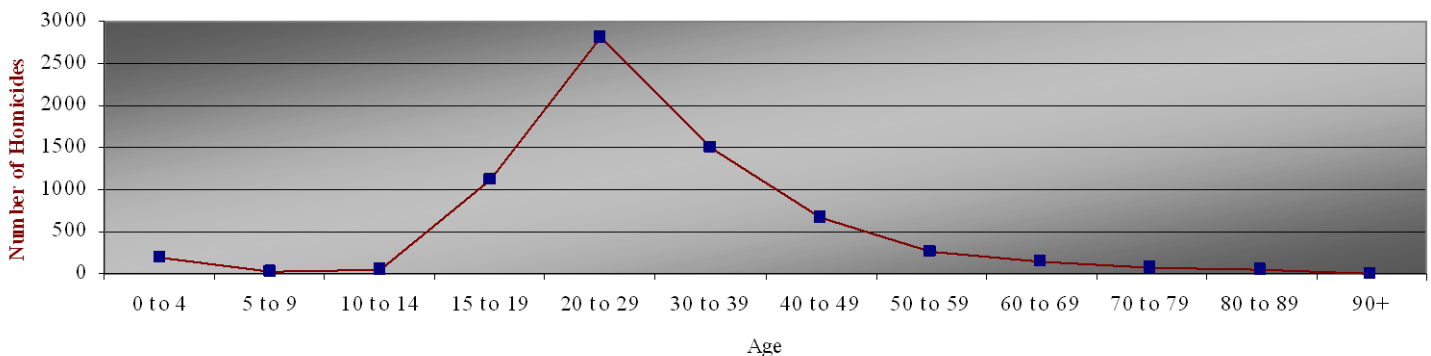
The age group with the highest number of deaths changed, especially in the Black/African American population. While the number of homicides generally affected the age group 20 to 49, there was a marked increase in the 15-19-age range during 1988 through 1997, far exceeding the numbers (10 to 20) seen in the 1970's. The number of cases in this population more than doubled in 1988 and jumped to 113 in 1993. Afterwards the count steadily declined to a minimum of 34 in 2001 and 2002, but remained twice as high as the numbers reported in the previous period.

HOMICIDES BY AGE

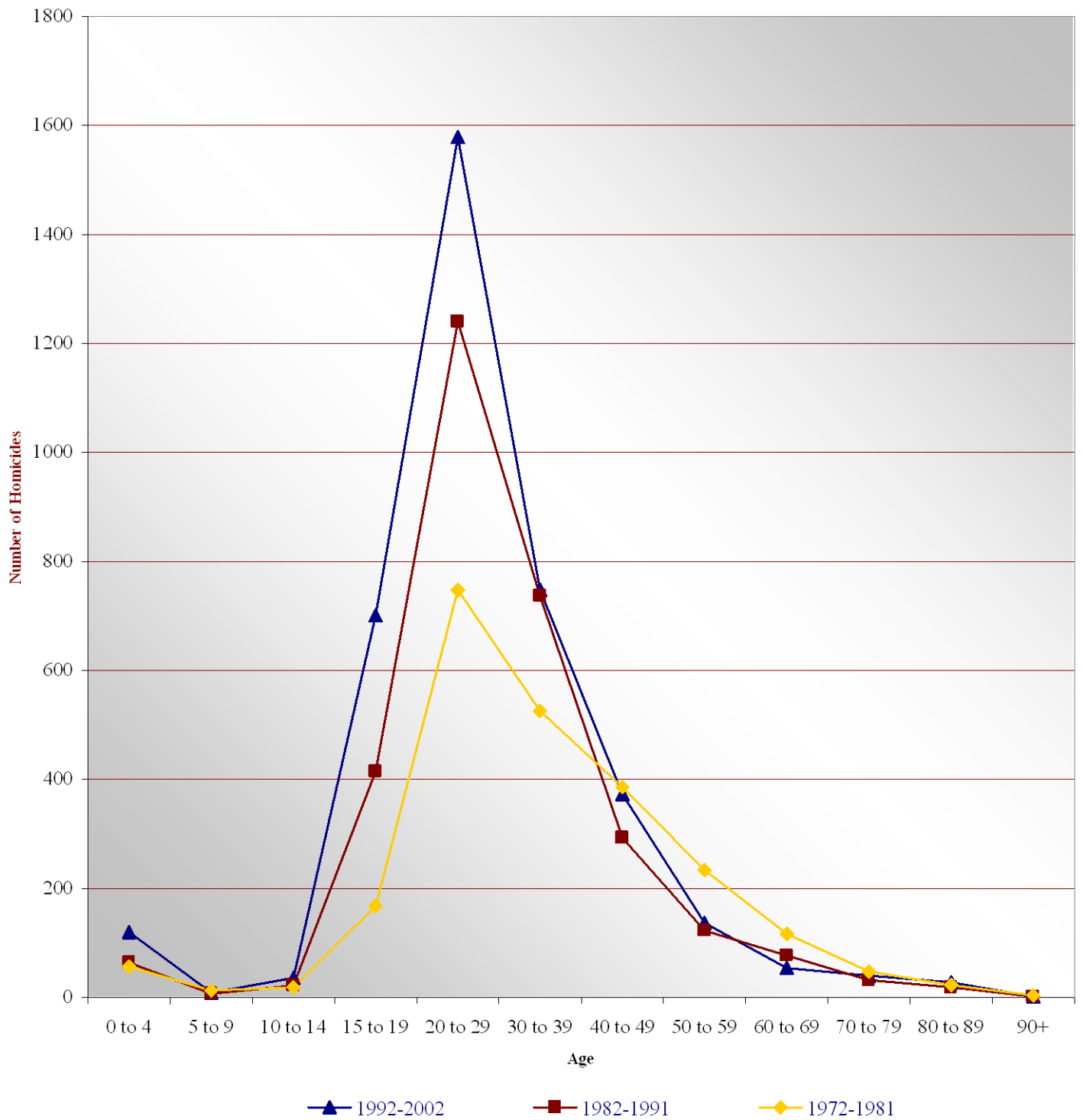
Year	0 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90+	Total
1982	8	1	1	13	72	66	26	13	15	3	1	0	219
1983	5	0	1	17	72	50	23	14	6	6	1	0	195
1984	3	0	1	17	79	41	19	11	10	0	1	0	182
1985	6	0	1	14	53	45	23	8	6	1	0	0	157
1986	7	1	0	17	69	68	23	8	6	5	1	0	205
1987	11	0	3	21	110	53	25	8	6	4	2	0	243
1988	4	3	2	49	170	92	31	14	5	4	2	1	377
1989	8	1	5	79	188	114	34	11	7	6	2	1	456
1990	5	0	1	92	212	110	38	21	8	1	5	0	493
1991	7	1	7	96	215	98	51	15	8	2	4	0	504
1992	13	0	5	76	206	92	40	12	7	4	2	0	457
1993	12	1	6	113	191	92	45	16	9	5	4	0	494
1994	10	0	5	84	171	96	41	14	11	3	2	0	437
1995	7	1	5	91	166	79	25	11	4	7	2	1	399
1996	9	3	6	72	180	75	47	8	5	4	2	0	411
1997	10	1	3	70	125	54	36	15	3	3	2	0	322
1998	15	0	1	39	110	66	30	18	6	5	3	0	293
1999	16	0	1	51	93	50	23	14	2	3	3	0	256
2000	8	1	2	37	107	49	24	10	5	2	4	0	249
2001	8	0	1	34	103	50	24	10	0	1	1	0	232
2002	12	2	1	34	127	45	38	9	2	3	3	1	277
Total	184	16	58	1116	2819	1485	666	260	131	72	47	4	6858

Note: The category "Age Unknown (n=37)" is not included in this chart.

Total Homicides by Age (1982-2002)



HOMICIDES BY AGE A 30-YEAR COMPARISON



HOMICIDE BY RACE AND GENDER (1982-2002)

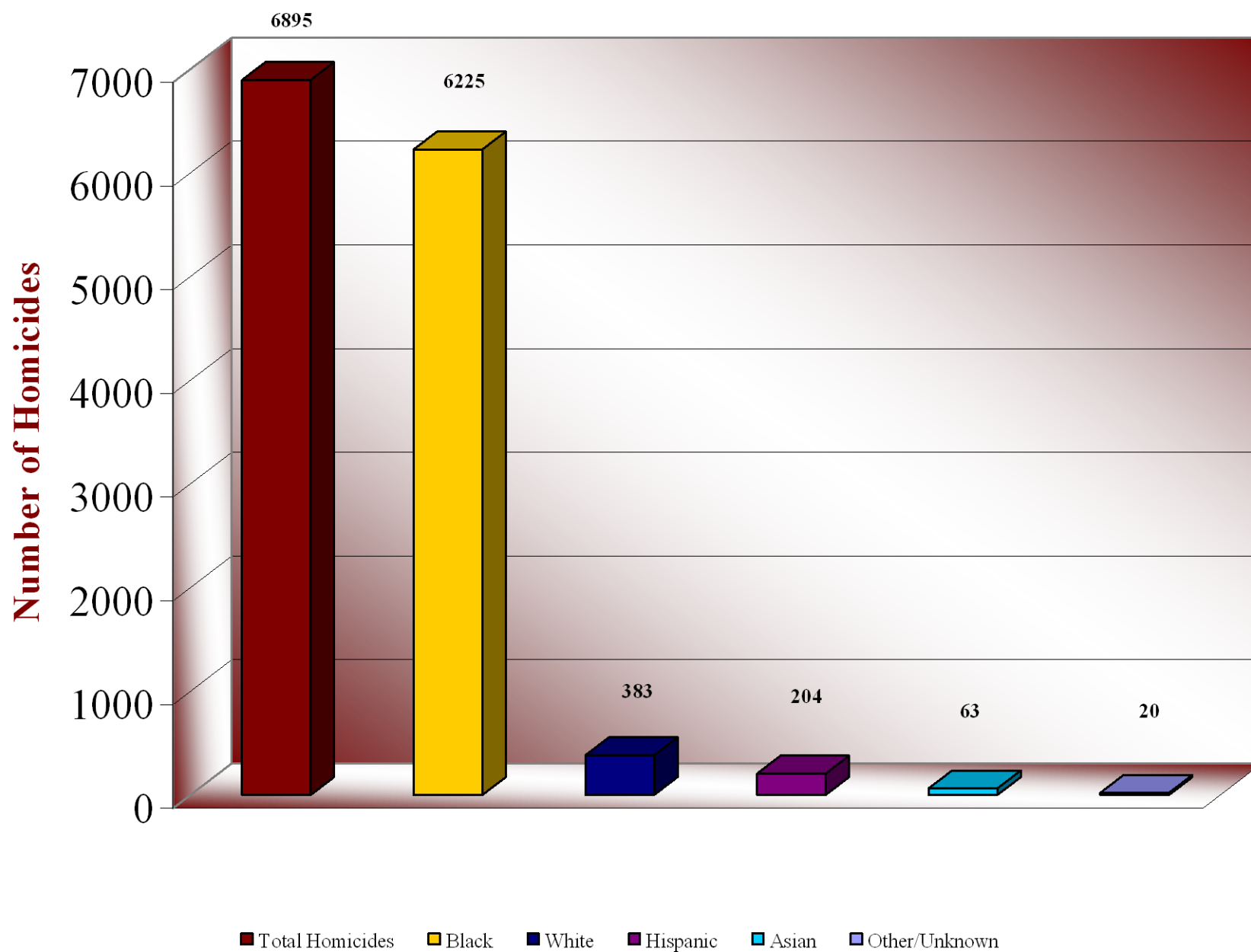
From 1986 through 1998, when the number of homicides per year surged in the District of Columbia, the number of homicides was more dominant in the black and white races, so our comparison will focus on these 2 primary races. The data reflects that white males peaked at 22 in 1990, but during this same timeframe the peak for black males were 409 in 1993. White females had the lowest number of deaths, reaching a peak of 10 in 1989, but in general this category remains below 10 homicidal deaths per year, while their counterpart the black female peaked at 69 in 1991.

HOMICIDES BY RACE, AND GENDER OF VICTIM							
Year		Black	White	Hispanic	Asian	Other/ Unknown	Total Homicides
1982	Male	147	20	5	2	2	176
	Female	33	9	1	0	1	44
Total by Race		180	29	6	2	3	220
1983	Male	149	9	4	1	2	165
	Female	19	8	1	0	2	30
Total by Race		168	17	5	1	4	195
1984	Male	127	18	4	0	0	149
	Female	30	3	0	0	0	33
Total by Race		157	21	4	0	0	182
1985	Male	114	10	2	1	0	127
	Female	26	2	1	1	0	30
Total by Race		140	12	3	2	0	157
1986	Male	144	11	3	3	2	163
	Female	35	4	2	1	0	42
Total by Race		179	15	5	4	2	205
1987	Male	182	12	3	2	0	199
	Female	42	3	1	0	0	46
Total by Race		224	15	4	2	0	245
1988	Male	305	10	9	5	0	329
	Female	47	3	0	1	0	51
Total by Race		352	13	9	6	0	380
1989	Male	375	21	12	2	1	411
	Female	39	10	1	1	0	51
Total by Race		414	31	13	3	1	462
1990	Male	395	22	14	4	1	436
	Female	58	2	2	0	0	62
Total by Race		453	24	16	4	1	498
1991	Male	400	14	14	2	0	430
	Female	69	6	1	3	0	79
Total by Race		469	20	15	5	0	509
1992	Male	388	20	9	1	0	418
	Female	36	4	1	1	0	42
Total by Race		424	24	10	2	0	460
1993	Male	409	12	6	10	0	437
	Female	54	3	1	1	0	59
Total by Race		463	15	7	11	0	496

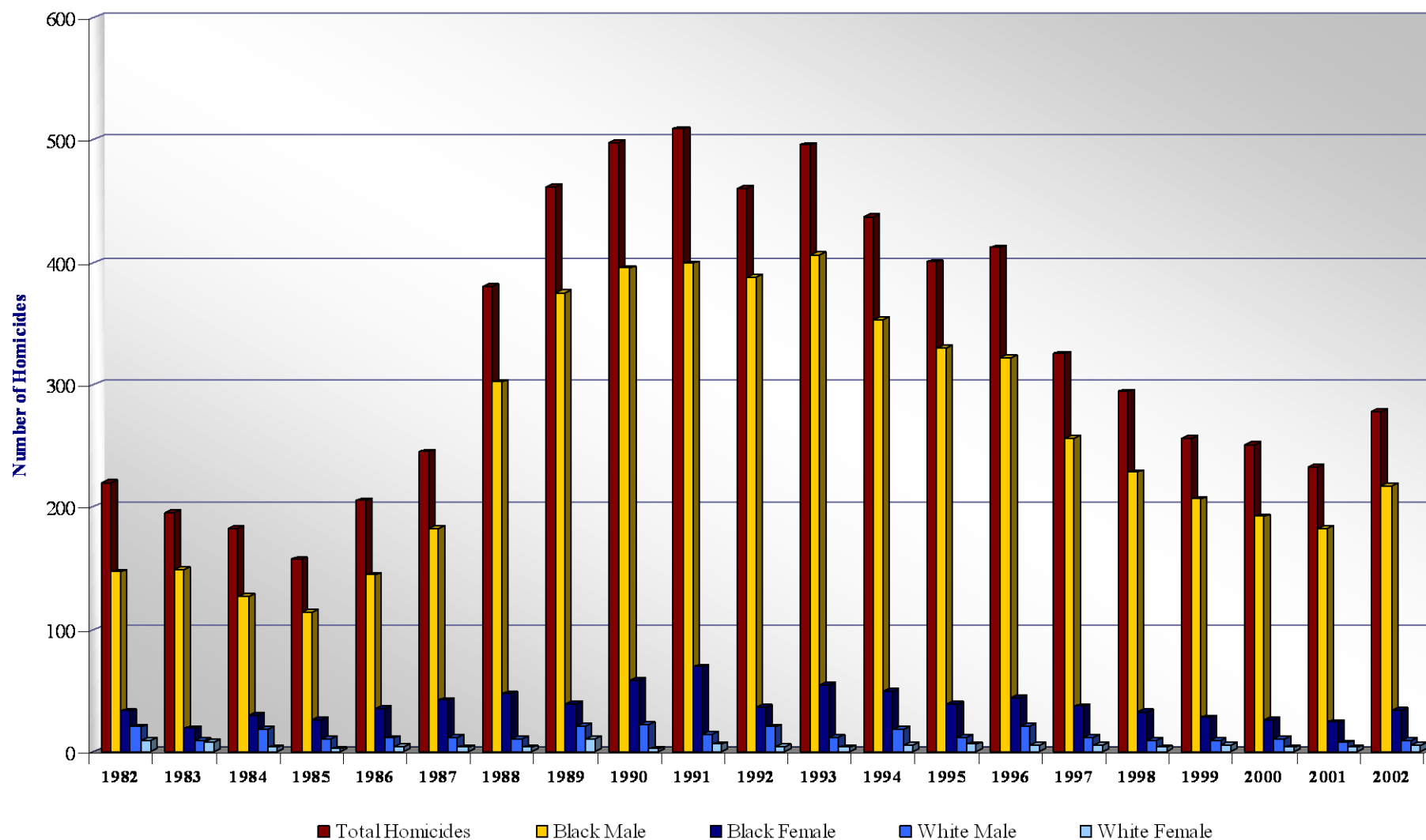
HOMICIDE BY RACE AND GENDER (1982-2002) - Continued

HOMICIDES BY RACE, AND GENDER OF VICTIM							
Year		Black	White	Hispanic	Asian	Other/ Unknown	Total Homicides
1994	Male	353	18	10	2		383
	Female	49	5	0	0		54
Total by Race		402	23	10	2	0	437
1995	Male	330	12	10	1	1	354
	Female	39	6	1	0	0	46
Total by Race		369	18	11	1	1	400
1996	Male	322	21	15	4	n/a	362
	Female	44	5	0	0	n/a	49
Total by Race		366	26	15	4	1	412
1997	Male	257	12	9	1	0	279
	Female	37	5	2	2	0	46
Total by Race		294	17	11	3	0	325
1998	Male	228	9	12	2	4	255
	Female	32	3	4	0	0	39
Total by Race		260	12	16	2	4	294
1999	Male	206	9	6	1	0	222
	Female	28	5	0	1	0	34
Total by Race		234	14	6	2	0	256
2000	Male	192	10	11	5	3	221
	Female	26	3	1	0	0	30
Total by Race		218	13	12	5	3	251
2001	Male	182	7	13	0	0	202
	Female	24	3	2	2	0	31
Total by Race		206	10	15	2	0	233
2002	Male	218	9	11	0	0	238
	Female	35	5	0	0	0	40
Total by Race		253	14	11	0	0	278
GRAND TOTAL		6,225	383	204	63	20	6,895

Total Homicides Compared by Race (1982-2002)



TOTAL HOMICIDES COMPARED BY RACE AND GENDER (1982-2002)



Note: For visual purposes, only the statistically higher races are compared in this chart.

TOTAL HOMICIDES AND AUTOPSIES PERFORMED (1972-2004)

Presented below are the total number of homicides and the number of autopsy examinations performed between 1972 and 2004.

Year	Total Number of Homicides	Total Number of Autopsies
1972	264	1,142
1973	285	1,147
1974	299	1,112
1975	246	1,105
1976	207	1,040
1977	202	1,066
1978	199	978
1979	195	1,005
1980	209	1,041
1981	237	1,040
1982	220	1,092
1983	195	940
1984	182	1,010
1985	157	1,126
1986	205	1,147
1987	245	1,283
1988	380	1,383
1989	462	1,380
1990	498	1,385
1991	509	1,333
1992	460	1,234
1993	496	1,088
1994	437	1,339
1995	400	1140
1996	412	1129
1997	325	1118
1998	294	1129
1999	256	1297
2000	251	1367
2001	233	1303
2002	278	1328
2003	248	1337
2004	201	1137