

Lost Youth: A County-by-County Analysis of 2010 California Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24



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The Violence Policy Center (VPC) is a national non-profit educational organization that conducts research and public education on violence in America and provides information and analysis to policymakers, journalists, advocates, and the general public. This study is funded by a grant from The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF). Created in 1992 as a private, independent foundation, TCWF's mission is to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education and disease prevention. This study was authored by VPC Policy Analyst Marty Langley and VPC Executive Director Josh Sugarmann. Past studies released by the VPC include:

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- *Cease Fire: A Comprehensive Strategy to Reduce Firearms Violence* (Revised, October 1997)

Violence Policy Center, 1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Suite 1014, Washington, DC 20036
202-822-8200 phone, 202-822-8205 fax, www.vpc.org web

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Introduction—Historical Data and the Effects of Violence

Homicide is the second leading cause of death for California youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 years old.

In 2008, the most recent year for which complete data is available from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), homicides in California were outpaced only by unintentional injuries—the majority of which were motor vehicle fatalities—as the leading cause of death for this age group. Of the more than 800 homicides reported, 84 percent were committed with firearms. Nationally in 2008, California had the ninth highest homicide rate for youth and young adults ages 10 to 24.¹ (Please see Appendix One for a chart ranking the states by homicide rate for this age group for the year 2008.)

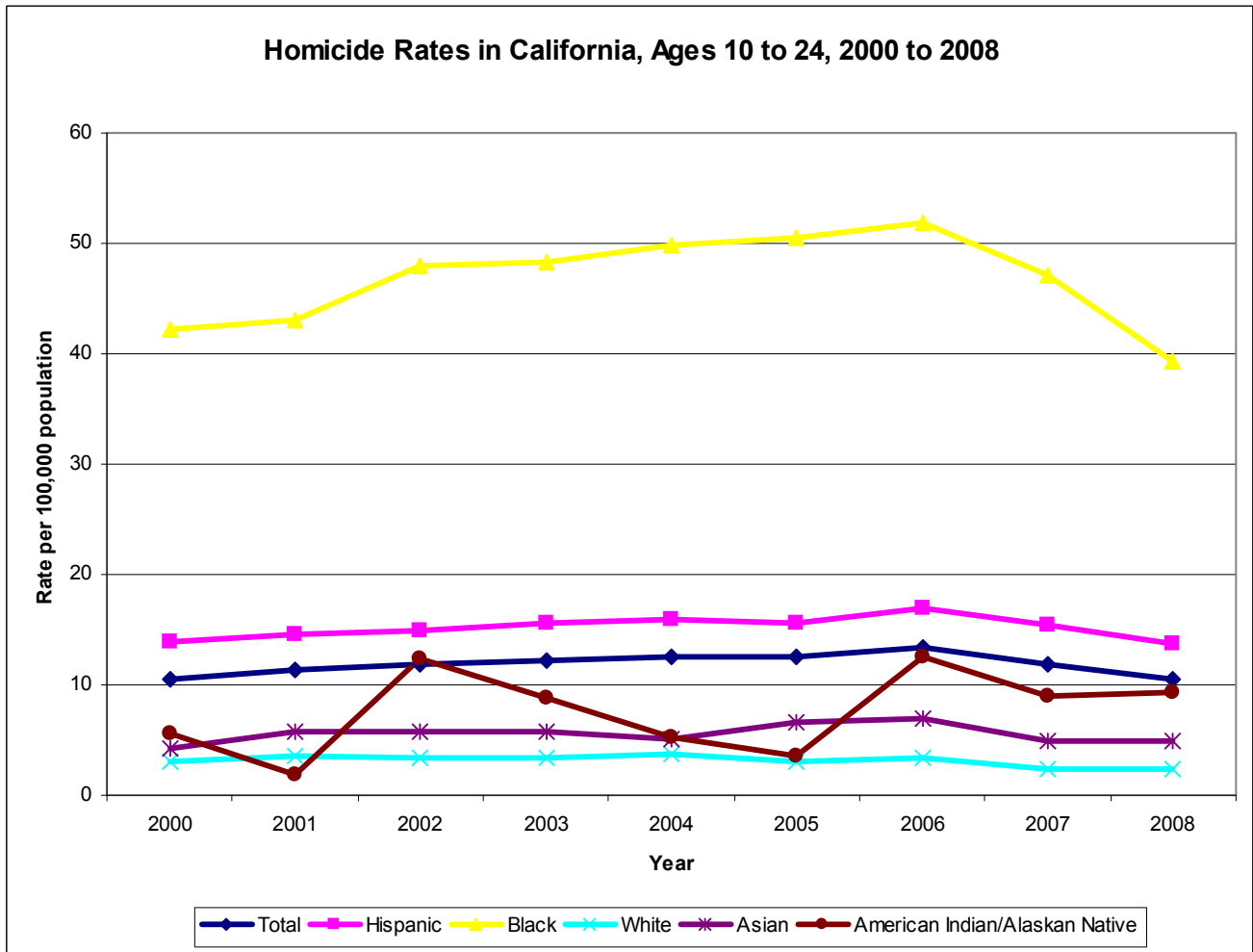
Broken out by gender, homicide retains its number two ranking for males and drops to number four for females for this age group in California. For males, of the 741 homicides reported, firearms were the weapon used in 86 percent of the killings. For females, of the 87 homicides reported, firearms were the weapon used in 66 percent of the killings.

When analyzed by race and ethnicity, however, the rankings become less uniform and the severe effects of homicide on specific segments of this age group more stark.² For blacks ages 10 to 24 in California in 2008, homicide was *the* leading cause of death. For Hispanics, American Indian and Alaska Natives, and Asian/Pacific Islanders it was the second leading cause of death. For whites it was the fourth leading cause of death.

2008 Leading Causes of Death in California, Both Sexes Ages 10 to 24, by Race					
	Hispanic	Black	White	Asian/Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native
1	Unintentional Injury	Homicide	Unintentional Injury	Unintentional Injury	Unintentional Injury
2	Homicide	Unintentional Injury	Suicide	Homicide	Homicide
3	Malignant Neoplasms	Suicide	Malignant Neoplasms	Suicide	Suicide
4	Suicide	Heart Disease	Homicide	Malignant Neoplasms	Heart Disease

¹ All leading cause of death data and state rankings calculated by the Violence Policy Center using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s WISQARS (Web-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System) database (<http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>).

² Race and ethnicity are two separate designations. To calculate Hispanic ethnicity, for all races Hispanic ethnicity was excluded from race data (e.g., white non-Hispanic, black non-Hispanic, etc.). For the purposes of this study, these definitions will be presented without the modifying descriptions “non-Hispanic” and all races and ethnicity will be referred to as race.



As detailed in the graph above, from 2000 through 2008 the homicide rate among black youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in California was far higher than the overall California homicide rate among the same age group.³ The rate for Hispanic youth in California was also consistently above the state’s overall rate for this age group, while the rates for Asian and white youth were well below the state’s overall rate. The rate for American Indian and Alaska Natives was more variable, most likely due to the smaller population of American Indian and Alaska Natives in this age group in the state. A chart containing the supporting data for this graph is on the next page.

³ Per capita homicide rates for specific races ages 10 to 24 years old determined by the Violence Policy Center using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s WISQARS (Web-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System) database (<http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>).

California Homicide Rates for Victims Ages 10 to 24 by Race, 2000 to 2008 (All Rates per 100,000 for Relevant Population)						
Year	Hispanic	Black	White	Asian/ Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Overall
2000	13.82	42.25	3.01	4.22	5.53	10.58
2001	14.56	42.98	3.56	5.70	1.79	11.35
2002	14.87	47.95	3.43	5.75	12.39	11.92
2003	15.55	48.34	3.35	5.84	8.80	12.24
2004	15.88	49.86	3.67	5.08	5.26	12.57
2005	15.66	50.53	3.09	6.55	3.52	12.52
2006	16.89	51.92	3.41	7.03	12.50	13.47
2007	15.34	47.16	2.33	4.94	9.06	11.83
2008	13.69	39.40	2.37	4.84	9.24	10.54

Compared to other nations, youth and young adults in the United States have far higher firearm homicide rates. A 2011 study published in *The Journal of Trauma—Injury, Infection, and Critical Care* compared firearm deaths for a slightly different age group, youth and young adults ages 15 to 24, in 23 high-income countries in 2003:

The U.S. age group at greatest relative risk of homicide is the 15 year olds to 24 year olds, and compared with young people in these other high-income nations, U.S. youth have a firearm homicide rate 42 times higher, and an overall homicide rate more than 14 times higher. Both young men and young women aged 15 to 24 are at higher risk: young men are being killed with firearms at more than 46 times the rate of young men in these other countries, and females at more than 23 times the rate.⁴

⁴ Richardson, Erin G., S.M., Hemenway, David, PhD, “Homicide, Suicide, and Unintentional Firearm Fatality: Comparing the United States With Other High-Income Countries, 2003,” *Journal of Trauma—Injury, Infection & Critical Care*, January 2011, Volume 70, Issue 1, pp 238-243. According to the study, “For these analyses, data were limited to 2003, the most recent year that had the most complete data for the greatest number of countries. Our analyses are confined to the 23 populous high-income Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development countries that provided mortality to the WHO for 2003 [Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom (England and Wales), United Kingdom (Northern Ireland), United Kingdom (Scotland), and the United States].”

Often left unstated is the fact that the effects of violence extend far beyond the flesh and blood toll measured in homicides and non-fatal injuries. An additional heavy price is exacted on family members and entire communities: the psychological stress of living with such violence that can often last a lifetime.

As an article published in the *San Francisco Chronicle* detailing the lives of children living in an “urban war zone” in the city noted:

The violence, layers of it overlapping year after year, can eventually take up residence in the children's minds. Like combat veterans, they develop post-traumatic stress disorder—the soldier's sickness. As many as one-third of children living in our country's violent urban neighborhoods have PTSD, according to recent research and the country's top child trauma experts—nearly twice the rate reported for troops returning from war zones in Iraq.⁵

According to the National Center for PTSD at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, 77 percent of children who witness a school shooting develop PTSD and nearly 100 percent of children who witness a parent being killed suffer from PTSD. More than a third of children who see violence in the area where they live get PTSD.⁶

Decades of research confirm that children and adolescents who witness shootings are susceptible to prolonged trauma. One 1987 study examined 159 children attending a Los Angeles school that had been attacked by a sniper:

They found that one month after the attack more than half of the children showed symptoms of PTSD. At a fourteen month follow-up, those children who were not directly exposed to the shooting showed diminished symptoms, while those children who had been near the shooting or had known one of the victims continued to show severe symptoms. They found that factors which increase the likelihood of PTSD in childhood witnesses of violence include: being physically close to the violence, knowing the victim, and previous exposure to violence.⁷

Moreover, “...the effects of repeated exposures to violence are additive, with each exposure tending to exacerbate or renew symptoms caused by earlier exposures. Chronic trauma, such as that

⁵ “Hidden Victims of Violence,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 26, 2007.

⁶ “PTSD in Children and Teens,” National Center for PTSD, United States Department of Veterans Affairs, (<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/pages/ptsd-children-adolescents.asp>).

⁷ Duncan, David F., Dr.P.H., “Growing Up Under the Gun: Children and Adolescents Coping with Violent Neighborhoods,” *The Journal of Primary Prevention*, Vol. 16, No. 4, 1996.

associated with living in a violent neighborhood, can product particularly severe reactions.”⁸

Nationally, children’s exposure to shootings rises sharply in both past-year and lifetime incidence from one age group to the next. The federal National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV), conducted between January and May 2008, found that while 1.1 percent of children younger than two years old were exposed to shootings in the past year, 10.2 percent of 14- to 17-year olds had witnessed a shooting in the past year. Looking at children who had witnessed a shooting during their lifetimes, while 3.5 percent of two- to five-year-olds had witnessed a shooting during their lifetimes, for 14- to 17-year-olds the percentage rose to 22.2 percent.⁹

In addition to the physical and emotional toll, there are also financial costs associated with gun violence that affect communities, costs that are widely shared among a “...city’s residents but disproportionately so by the most economically vulnerable among us.”¹⁰ It has been estimated that the total social costs of a single assault-related gunshot injury can be around a million dollars (the social cost estimate “...includes the intangible costs of crime, such as the fear of losing a loved one to gun violence...as well as the costs that many people incur to reduce their risk of being shot, such as living far away from where they work.”)¹¹ For example, the social cost of gun violence for the City of Chicago alone has been estimated to be approximately \$2.5 billion per year, or \$2,500 per Chicago household per year.¹²

This is the second consecutive year that the Violence Policy Center has published *Lost Youth* and it is our intent to publish this information annually. The primary goal of this series of reports is to offer localized information on the county level in California to better inform citizens, advocates, service providers, and policymakers. All too often, the devastating effects of violence are little recognized outside of those who are directly affected. By comparing on a county-by-county level the homicide rates for youth and young adults in California, it is our goal to add a new, ongoing context for information to be presented while helping support discussion, analysis, policy development, and action. Above all, this work is conducted in the belief that information aids in the development of sound prevention strategies—on the local, state, and national levels.

⁸ Duncan, David F., Dr.P.H., “Growing Up Under the Gun: Children and Adolescents Coping with Violent Neighborhoods,” *The Journal of Primary Prevention*, Vol. 16, No. 4, 1996.

⁹ Finkelhor, David, et al, “Children’s Exposure to Violence: A Comprehensive National Survey,” *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, October 2009.

¹⁰ “The Social Costs of Handgun Violence,” Testimony of Jens Ludwig, PhD, before the Chicago City Council, June 29, 2010.

¹¹ “The Social Costs of Handgun Violence,” Testimony of Jens Ludwig, PhD, before the Chicago City Council, June 29, 2010.

¹² “The Social Costs of Handgun Violence,” Testimony of Jens Ludwig, PhD, before the Chicago City Council, June 29, 2010.

Section One: 2010 California County-by-County Data

This study offers both statewide and county-by-county homicide statistics for youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 utilizing 2010 California Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) data (this is the most recent California homicide data available and is separate from the historical data cited in the prior section) and 2010 census data. To help ensure more stable rates, only counties with a population of at least 25,000 10- to 24-year-olds are included. The selected counties account for 99 percent of homicide victims ages 10 to 24 in California (680 out of 684 victims) and 98 percent of California's population ages 10 to 24 (8,017,653 out of 8,190,744) for 2010.

It is important to note that the coding contained in the California Supplementary Homicide Report data used in this report comes from law enforcement reporting at the local level. While there are coding guidelines followed by the law enforcement agencies, the level of information submitted to the SHR system, and the interpretation that results in the information submitted (for example, gang involvement) will vary from county to county. While this study utilizes the best and most recent state data available, it is limited by the degree of detail in the information submitted.

County Rankings

In 2010, the homicide rate among victims 10 to 24 years old in California was 8.48 per 100,000. (In 2009, the homicide rate for this age group was 10.48 per 100,000.) In 2010, Monterey County ranked first as the county with the highest homicide rate among victims ages 10 to 24. Its rate of 24.36 per 100,000 was nearly three times the statewide rate. Monterey County was followed by Alameda County (18.41 per 100,000), San Joaquin County (18.36 per 100,000), Tulare County (18.06 per 100,000), and Merced County (13.44 per 100,000). The remaining counties that comprise the top 10 are detailed in the chart below.

Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24 by California County in 2010, Ranked by Rate				
Ranking	County	Number of Homicides	Population, Ages 10 to 24	Homicide Rate per 100,000
1	Monterey County	23	94,433	24.36
2	Alameda County	55	298,739	18.41
3	San Joaquin County	30	163,365	18.36
4	Tulare County	20	110,745	18.06
5	Merced County	9	66,969	13.44
6	Contra Costa County	27	208,579	12.94
7	Fresno County	27	232,502	11.61
8	San Francisco County	14	121,486	11.52
9	Madera County	4	35,130	11.39
10	Los Angeles County	248	2,185,605	11.35

A chart listing the number and rate of homicide victims 10 to 24 years old by county and ranking each county by its homicide rate for this age group can be found in Appendix Two.

An alphabetical listing by county with identical information can be found in Appendix Three.

An alphabetical listing by county with data comparing 2009 and 2010 can be found in Appendix Four.

Additional 2010 data for the top 10 counties—gender and race of victim, type of weapon used, relationship of victim to offender, circumstances of the homicide, and location where the homicide took place—can be found in Appendix Five.

General statewide findings are summarized below.

Gender and Race of Homicide Victims

Out of the 680 homicide victims ages 10 to 24 in California in 2010, 603 were male (89 percent) and 77 were female (11 percent). For homicides in which the race of the victim was identified (680 victims): 362 were Hispanic (53 percent); 234 were black (34 percent); 50 were white (7 percent); 24 were Asian (4 percent); and nine were “other” (1 percent). Overall, Hispanic victims were killed at a rate (10.24 per 100,000) more than five times higher than white victims (1.98 per 100,000). Black victims were killed at a rate (45.17 per 100,000) more than 22 times higher than white victims (1.98 per 100,000). Asian victims were killed at roughly one and a half times the rate of white victims (3.00 per 100,000 compared to 1.98 per 100,000).

Race and Gender of California Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24, 2010					
	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total
Hispanic	327	90%	35	10%	362
Black	212	91%	22	9%	234
White	35	70%	15	30%	50
Asian	21	88%	3	13%	24
Overall	603	89%	77	11%	680

California Homicide Rates for Victims Ages 10 to 24 by Race and Gender, 2010 (All Rates per 100,000 for Relevant Population)			
	Male	Female	Overall
Hispanic	17.90	2.05	10.24
Black	79.64	8.74	45.17
White	2.68	1.23	1.98
Asian	5.13	0.77	3.00

Victim to Offender Relationship

Among youth and young adults in 2010, for homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 50 percent (174 out of 350) were killed by a stranger. Thirty-two percent (111 out of 350) were killed by someone they knew. Sixty-five additional victims (19 percent) were identified as gang members.¹³

For this age group, black and Hispanic victims were more likely to be killed by a stranger than white or Asian victims. Nearly 60 percent of all black victims were killed by a stranger (66 out of 111). Twenty-three percent of black victims (26 out of 111) were murdered by someone they knew. Nineteen additional victims (17 percent) were identified as gang members. Forty-eight percent of Hispanic victims were killed by strangers (88 out of 184). Twenty-nine percent of Hispanic victims (53 out of 184) were murdered by someone they know. An additional 23 percent of Hispanic victims (43 out of 184) were identified as gang members.

In comparison, 56 percent of white victims were murdered by someone they knew (20 out of 36) and 42 percent (15 out of 36) were killed by a stranger. An additional one white victim was identified as a gang member. Sixty-seven percent of Asian victims (10 out of 15) were murdered by someone they knew and 20 percent (3 out of 15) were killed by strangers. An additional 13 percent of Asian victims (2 out of 15) were identified as gang members.

Most Common Weapons

Firearms—especially handguns—were the most common weapon used to murder youth and young adults in 2010. Of the 668 homicides for which the murder weapon could be identified, 87 percent of victims (581 out of 668) died by gunfire. Of these, 76 percent (439 out of 581) were killed with a handgun.

¹³ Information on gang activity is provided in two sections of the SHR data and is dependent on how local jurisdictions define and record such data. Although relationships are defined as victim *to* offender, because of potential inconsistencies in on-scene reporting a relationship may be coded as “gang member” if the victim of the homicide *or* the offender is believed to be a gang member. In the circumstance field, it may be coded as “gangland killing” or “gang killing” if the homicide is believed to be related to gang activity, whether or not the victim is a gang member.

Use of Guns and Handguns in Homicides of Californians, Ages 10 to 24 by Race, 2010				
	Number of Gun Homicides	Gun Homicides as Percentage of All Homicides	Number of Handgun Homicides	Handgun Homicides as Percentage of All Gun Homicides
Hispanic	315	88%	233	74%
Black	216	93%	172	80%
White	27	61%	18	67%
Asian	15	65%	10	67%
Overall	581	87%	439	76%

Use of Guns and Handguns in Homicides of Californians, Ages 10 to 24 by Race, 2009 Compared to 2010								
	Number of Gun Homicides		Gun Homicides as Percentage of All Homicides		Number of Handgun Homicides		Handgun Homicides as Percentage of All Gun Homicides	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Hispanic	370	315	84%	88%	283	233	76%	74%
Black	215	216	90%	93%	169	172	79%	80%
White	54	27	70%	61%	34	18	63%	67%
Asian	22	15	88%	65%	16	10	73%	67%
Overall	670	581	84%	87%	510	439	76%	76%

Circumstance

The overwhelming majority of homicides of youth and young adults in 2010 were not related to any other felony crime. For the 500 homicides in which the circumstances between the victim and offender could be identified, 83 percent (415 out of 500) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 64 percent (266 of 415) were gang-related.¹⁴

¹⁴ Information on gang activity is provided in two sections of the SHR data and is dependant on how local jurisdictions define and record such data. Although relationships are defined as victim *to* offender, because of potential inconsistencies in on-scene reporting a relationship may be coded as “gang member” if the victim of the homicide *or* the offender is believed to be a gang member. In the circumstance field, it may be coded as “gangland killing” or “gang killing” if the homicide is believed to be related to gang activity, whether or not the victim is a gang member.

For all races, the majority of deaths were not related to the commission of any other felony.

For Hispanic victims, 84 percent (239 out of 283) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 70 percent (168 out of 239) were gang-related.

For Asian victims, 84 percent (16 out of 19) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 44 percent (7 out of 16) were gang-related.

For black victims, 82 percent (126 out of 153) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 67 percent (84 out of 126) were gang-related.

For white victims, 73 percent (30 out of 41) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 20 percent (6 out of 30) were gang-related.

Location

In 2010, among youth and young adults for homicides in which the location could be determined, 54 percent (361 out of 666) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Fourteen percent (90 out of 666) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Twelve percent (79 out of 666) occurred at another residence, and nine percent (57 out of 666) occurred in a vehicle.

For all races, the most common homicide location was a street, sidewalk, or parking lot. For homicides in which the location could be determined, 61 percent of black victims (142 out of 231), 54 percent of Hispanic victims (191 out of 353), 35 percent of Asian victims (8 out of 23), and 29 percent of white victims (14 out of 49) were killed in one of these locations.

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 26 percent of Asian victims (6 out of 23), 24 percent of white victims (12 out of 49), 14 percent of Hispanic victims (51 out of 353), and eight percent of black victims (19 out of 231) were killed in the home of the victim or the offender.

Fourteen percent of Hispanic victims (50 out of 353), 14 percent of white victims (7 out of 49), 13 percent of Asian victims (3 out of 23), and eight percent of black victims (18 out of 231) were killed at another residence.

Ten percent of white victims (5 out of 49), nine percent of black victims (21 out of 231), and eight percent of Hispanic victims (30 out of 353) were killed in a vehicle. No Asian victims were killed in a vehicle.

Section Two: Hispanic Victims

In 2010, Hispanic youth and young adults were murdered at a rate more than five times higher than white youth and young adults: 10.24 per 100,000 compared to 1.98 per 100,000. While Hispanic youth and young adults comprised 44 percent of California's population between the ages of 10 and 24, they accounted for 53 percent of the homicide victims in the same age group.

Gender of Hispanic Homicide Victims

Of the 362 Hispanic homicide victims age 10 to 24 in California in 2010, 327 were male (90 percent) and 35 were female (10 percent).

Victim to Offender Relationship

Among Hispanic youth and young adults in 2010, for homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 29 percent of victims (53 out of 184) were murdered by someone they knew. Eighty-eight victims were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 23 percent of the victims (43 out of 184) were gang members.

Hispanic Homicide Victims and Weapons

As with youth and young adult homicide victims in general, firearms—especially handguns—were the most common weapons used to murder Hispanic youth and young adults in 2010. In the 358 homicides for which the murder weapon could be identified, 88 percent of Hispanic victims (315 victims) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 74 percent (233 victims) were killed with a handgun.

Hispanic Homicide Victims and Circumstance

The overwhelming majority of homicides of Hispanic youth and young adults in 2010 were not related to any other felony crime. For the 283 homicides in which the circumstances between the victim and offender could be identified, 84 percent (239 out of 283) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 70 percent (168 out of 239) were gang-related.

Hispanic Homicide Victims and Location

In 2010, among Hispanic youth and young adults, for homicides in which the location could be determined, 54 percent (191 out of 353) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Fourteen percent (51 out of 353) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Fourteen percent (50 out of 353) occurred at another residence, and eight percent (30 out of 353) occurred in a vehicle.

Section Three: Black Victims

In 2010, black youth and young adults were murdered at a rate more than 22 times higher than white youth and young adults: 45.17 per 100,000 compared to 1.98 per 100,000. While black youth and young adults comprised six percent of California's population between the ages of 10 and 24, they accounted for 34 percent of the homicide victims in the same age group.

Gender of Black Homicide Victims

Of the 234 black homicide victims age 10 to 24 in California in 2010, 212 were male (91 percent) and 22 were female (9 percent).

Victim to Offender Relationship

Among black youth and young adults in 2010, for homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 23 percent of victims (26 out of 111) were murdered by someone they knew. Sixty-six victims were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 17 percent (19 out of 111) of the victims were gang members.

Black Homicide Victims and Weapons

As with youth and young adult homicide victims in general, firearms—especially handguns—were the most common weapons used to murder black youth and young adults in 2010. In the 233 homicides for which the murder weapon could be identified, 93 percent of black victims (216 victims) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 80 percent (172 victims) were killed with a handgun.

Black Homicide Victims and Circumstance

The overwhelming majority of homicides of black youth and young adults in 2010 were not related to any other felony crime. For the 153 homicides in which the circumstances between the victim and offender could be identified, 82 percent (126 out of 153) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 67 percent (84 out of 126) were gang-related.

Black Homicide Victims and Location

In 2010, among black youth and young adults, for homicides in which the location could be determined, 61 percent (142 out of 231) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Eight percent (19 out of 231) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Eight percent (18 out of 231) occurred at another residence, and nine percent (21 out of 231) occurred in a vehicle.

Section Four: White Victims

In 2010, white youth and young adults were murdered at a rate of 1.98 per 100,000. While white youth and young adults comprised 31 percent of California's population between the ages of 10 and 24, they accounted for seven percent of the homicide victims in the same age group.

Gender of White Homicide Victims

Of the 50 white homicide victims age 10 to 24 in California in 2010, 35 were male (70 percent) and 15 were female (30 percent).

Victim to Offender Relationship

Among white youth and young adults in 2010, for homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 56 percent of victims (20 out of 36) were murdered by someone they knew. Fifteen victims were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, three percent (1 out of 36) of the victims were gang members.

White Homicide Victims and Weapons

As with youth and young adult homicide victims in general, firearms—especially handguns—were the most common weapons used to murder white youth and young adults in 2010. In the 44 homicides for which the murder weapon could be identified, 61 percent of white victims (27 victims) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 67 percent (18 victims) were killed with a handgun.

White Homicide Victims and Circumstance

The majority of homicides of white youth and young adults in 2010 were not related to any other felony crime. For the 41 homicides in which the circumstances between the victim and offender could be identified, 73 percent (30 out of 41) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 20 percent (6 of 30) were gang-related.

White Homicide Victims and Location

In 2010, among white youth and young adults, for homicides in which the location could be determined, 29 percent (14 out of 49) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Twenty-four percent (12 out of 49) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Fourteen percent (7 out of 49) occurred at another residence, and 10 percent (5 out of 49) occurred in a vehicle.

Section Five: Asian Victims

In 2010, Asian youth and young adults were murdered at roughly one and a half times the rate of white youth and young adults: 3.00 per 100,000 compared to 1.98 per 100,000. While Asian youth and young adults comprised 10 percent of California's population between the ages of 10 and 24, they accounted for four percent of the homicide victims in the same age group.

Gender of Asian Homicide Victims

Of the 24 Asian homicide victims age 10 to 24 in California in 2010, 21 were male (88 percent) and three were female (13 percent).

Victim to Offender Relationship

Among Asian youth and young adults in 2010, for homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 67 percent of victims (10 out of 15) were murdered by someone they knew. Three victims were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 13 percent (2 out of 15) of the victims were gang members.

Asian Homicide Victims and Weapons

As with youth and young adult homicide victims in general, firearms—especially handguns—were the most common weapons used to murder Asian youth and young adults in 2010. In the 23 homicides for which the murder weapon could be identified, 65 percent of Asian victims (15 victims) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 67 percent (10 victims) were killed with a handgun.

Asian Homicide Victims and Circumstance

The majority of homicides of Asian youth and young adults in 2010 were not related to any other felony crime. For the 19 homicides in which the circumstances between the victim and offender could be identified, 84 percent (16 out of 19) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 44 percent (7 out of 16) were gang-related.

Asian Homicide Victims and Location

In 2010, among Asian youth and young adults, for homicides in which the location could be determined, 35 percent (8 out of 23) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Thirty-nine percent (9 out of 23) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Thirteen percent (3 out of 23) occurred at another residence.

Conclusion

Homicide, and particularly gun homicide, continues to be one of the most pressing public health concerns in California among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24.

Effective violence prevention strategies must include measures that prioritize preventing youth and young adults from accessing firearms, especially handguns. With firearms accounting for 87 percent of homicides in the 10 to 24 age range in California (compared to 68 percent among all age groups nationally) and handguns accounting for 76 percent of all gun homicides, the importance of prevention strategies to limit exposure to firearms in this age range are of the utmost importance. Important components of such a strategy would be the identification of the make, model, and caliber of weapons most preferred by this age group as well as analyses identifying the sources of the weapons. It should be kept in mind that a large percentage of this age group—those under the age of 21—cannot legally purchase a handgun. It is also generally illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess a handgun.¹⁵

While most youth and young adults can neither buy nor possess a handgun, this in no way protects them from the emotional and psychological effects of gun violence. As has been noted by others before, an ongoing need exists for the expansion of comprehensive violence intervention and prevention strategies that include a focus on the psychological well-being of witnesses and survivors of gun violence.

Finally, this year's county-by-county rankings also point to the continuing urgent need for tailored, localized approaches to reducing youth homicide that integrate prevention and intervention while engaging local leaders and community stakeholders. At the same time, state and regional policies should incorporate elements necessary to help ensure effective community practices.

¹⁵ Federal law prohibits Federal Firearms License holders from selling handguns to anyone under the age of 21. California law prohibits the sale of handguns by any person or corporation to anyone under the age of 21. Federal and California law prohibit the possession of handguns by anyone under the age of 18 with exceptions including hunting and competitive shooting. For exceptions see Ca. Penal Code 12101 Sections (a)(1), (a)(2). (Legal Community Against Violence, California State Law Summary, <http://www.lcav.org/states/Californiadetailedsummary.pdf#page=7>).

**Appendix One: Youth and Young Adult Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24 in
the United States by State, Ranked by Rate, 2008**

State Ranking by Rate	State	Number of Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000
1	Louisiana	193	19.89
2	Maryland	201	17.46
3	Mississippi	90	13.83
4	Alabama	127	13.11
5	Illinois	351	12.96
6	Florida	408	11.79
7	Delaware	20	11.50
8	Arizona	143	10.81
9	California	828	10.54
10	Missouri	130	10.52
11	Michigan	219	10.36
12	Georgia	204	9.91
13	North Carolina	185	9.78
14	South Carolina	88	9.57
15	Tennessee	117	9.46
16	Pennsylvania	237	9.44
17	New Mexico	38	9.07
18	Nevada	46	8.94
19	Virginia	132	8.19
20	New Jersey	127	7.57
21	Texas	397	7.48
22	Indiana	99	7.35
23	Connecticut	51	7.12
24	New York	278	7.05
25	Arkansas	41	7.04
26	Oklahoma	54	6.95
27	Ohio	161	6.90

**Appendix One: Youth and Young Adult Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24 in
the United States by State, Ranked by Rate, 2008**

State Ranking by Rate	State	Number of Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000
28	Nebraska	25	6.41
29	Kansas	36	5.87
30	Washington	68	5.12
31	Massachusetts	67	5.07
32	Rhode Island	11	5.02
33	Kentucky	41	4.75
34	Colorado	47	4.67
35	Minnesota	35	3.22
36	West Virginia	10	2.91
37	Oregon	21	2.80
38	Wisconsin	32	2.69
39	Iowa	15	2.35
	Alaska	fewer than 10 deaths ¹⁶	NA
	Hawaii	fewer than 10 deaths	NA
	Idaho	fewer than 10 deaths	NA
	Maine	fewer than 10 deaths	NA
	Montana	fewer than 10 deaths	NA
	New Hampshire	fewer than 10 deaths	NA
	North Dakota	fewer than 10 deaths	NA
	South Dakota	fewer than 10 deaths	NA
	Utah	fewer than 10 deaths	NA
	Vermont	fewer than 10 deaths	NA
	Wyoming	fewer than 10 deaths	NA
	U.S. Total	5,422	8.62

¹⁶ Beginning with 2008 data, the National Center for Health Statistics has begun suppressing data if fewer than 10 deaths were reported in a given state. Death counts and rates are not included for those states. They are, however, included in the U.S. total for deaths and rate.

Appendix Two: Youth and Young Adult Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24 in California by County, Ranked by Rate, 2010

County Ranking by Rate	County	Number of Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000
1	Monterey ¹⁷	23	24.36
2	Alameda	55	18.41
3	San Joaquin	30	18.36
4	Tulare	20	18.06
5	Merced	9	13.44
6	Contra Costa	27	12.94
7	Fresno	27	11.61
8	San Francisco	14	11.52
9	Madera	4	11.39
10	Los Angeles	248	11.35
11	Kern	23	11.12
12	Solano	9	10.24
13	Sacramento	30	9.75
14	Santa Cruz	6	9.73
15	San Mateo	9	7.26
16	San Bernardino	34	6.67
17	Stanislaus	7	5.78
18 (tie)	Shasta	2	5.75
18 (tie)	Riverside	30	5.75
20	Marin	2	5.35
21	Ventura	9	4.96

¹⁷ To help ensure more stable rates, only counties with a population of at least 25,000 youth and young adults between the ages of 10 to 24 are included. The selected counties account for 99 percent of homicide victims ages 10 to 24 in California (680 out of 684 victims) and 98 percent of California's population ages 10 to 24 (8,017,653 out of 8,190,744) for 2010.

Appendix Two: Youth and Young Adult Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24 in California by County, Ranked by Rate, 2010

County Ranking by Rate	County	Number of Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000
22	San Diego	26	3.73
23	Orange	22	3.37
24	San Luis Obispo	2	3.16
25	Kings	1	2.79
26	Imperial	1	2.33
27	Santa Clara	7	2.05
28	Butte	1	1.87
29	Yolo	1	1.69
30	Santa Barbara	1	0.93
31 (tie)	El Dorado	0	0.00
31 (tie)	Humboldt	0	0.00
31 (tie)	Napa	0	0.00
31 (tie)	Placer	0	0.00
31 (tie)	Sonoma	0	0.00
	California Total	680	8.48

Appendix Three: Youth and Young Adult Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24 in California and Rates, Alphabetically by County, 2010

County	County Ranking by Rate	Number of Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000
Alameda ¹⁸	2	55	18.41
Butte	28	1	1.87
Contra Costa	6	27	12.94
El Dorado	31 (tie)	0	0.00
Fresno	7	27	11.61
Humboldt	31 (tie)	0	0.00
Imperial	26	1	2.33
Kern	11	23	11.12
Kings	25	1	2.79
Los Angeles	10	248	11.35
Madera	9	4	11.39
Marin	20	2	5.35
Merced	5	9	13.44
Monterey	1	23	24.36
Napa	31 (tie)	0	0.00
Orange	23	22	3.37
Placer	31 (tie)	0	0.00
Riverside	18 (tie)	30	5.75
Sacramento	13	30	9.75
San Bernardino	16	34	6.67
San Diego	22	26	3.73
San Francisco	8	14	11.52

¹⁸ To help ensure more stable rates, only counties with a population of at least 25,000 youth and young adults between the ages of 10 to 24 are included. The selected counties account for 99 percent of homicide victims ages 10 to 24 in California (680 out of 684 victims) and 98 percent of California's population ages 10 to 24 (8,017,653 out of 8,190,744) for 2010.

Appendix Three: Youth and Young Adult Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24 in California and Rates, Alphabetically by County, 2010

County	County Ranking by Rate	Number of Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000
San Joaquin	3	30	18.36
San Luis Obispo	24	2	3.16
San Mateo	15	9	7.26
Santa Barbara	30	1	0.93
Santa Clara	27	7	2.05
Santa Cruz	14	6	9.73
Shasta	18 (tie)	2	5.75
Solano	12	9	10.24
Sonoma	31 (tie)	0	0.00
Stanislaus	17	7	5.78
Tulare	4	20	18.06
Ventura	21	9	4.96
Yolo	29	1	1.69
California Total		680	8.48

Appendix Four: Youth and Young Adult Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24 in California and Rates, Alphabetically by County, 2009 Compared to 2010

County	County Ranking by Rate		Number of Homicide Victims		Homicide Rate per 100,000	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Alameda	2	2	56	55	20.69	18.41
Butte	34	28	1	1	1.61	1.87
Contra Costa	4	6	40	27	19.17	12.94
El Dorado	29	31 (tie)	1	0	2.83	0.00
Fresno	12	7	25	27	11.54	11.61
Humboldt	19	31 (tie)	2	0	6.23	0.00
Imperial	31	26	1	1	2.56	2.33
Kern	3	11	39	23	19.98	11.12
Kings	14	25	4	1	11.06	2.79
Los Angeles	6	10	303	248	14.61	11.35
Madera	20	9	2	4	6.01	11.39
Marin	32	20	1	2	2.50	5.35
Merced	9	5	8	9	12.87	13.44
Monterey	1	1	28	23	31.24	24.36
Napa	35	31 (tie)	0	0	0.00	0.00
Orange	26	23	25	22	4.10	3.37
Placer	24	31 (tie)	3	0	4.48	0.00
Riverside	21	18 (tie)	28	30	5.71	5.75
Sacramento	13	13	33	30	11.39	9.75
San Bernardino	16	16	42	34	8.29	6.67
San Diego	27	22	26	26	4.03	3.73
San Francisco	11	8	12	14	11.84	11.52
San Joaquin	7	3	22	30	13.86	18.36
San Luis Obispo	22	24	4	2	5.62	3.16

Appendix Four: Youth and Young Adult Homicide Victims Ages 10 to 24 in California and Rates, Alphabetically by County, 2009 Compared to 2010

County	County Ranking by Rate		Number of Homicide Victims		Homicide Rate per 100,000	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
San Mateo	17	15	9	9	7.39	7.26
Santa Barbara	25	30	5	1	4.46	0.93
Santa Clara	23	27	18	7	5.49	2.05
Santa Cruz	15	14	6	6	9.45	9.73
Shasta	30	18 (tie)	1	2	2.72	5.75
Solano	10	12	11	9	12.59	10.24
Sonoma	33	31 (tie)	2	0	2.20	0.00
Stanislaus	8	17	16	7	13.49	5.78
Tulare	5	4	16	20	15.31	18.06
Ventura	18	21	11	9	6.38	4.96
Yolo	28	29	2	1	3.13	1.69
California Total			803	680	10.48	8.48

**Appendix Five:
Additional Information for the 10 Counties with the
Highest Rates of Youth and Young Adult
Homicide Victimization**

California

680 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in California in 2010

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in California was 8.48 per 100,000 in 2010¹⁹

Gender

Out of 680 homicide victims, 603 were male (89 percent), and 77 were female (11 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 680 homicide victims, 362 were Hispanic (53 percent), 234 were black (34 percent), 50 were white (7 percent), 24 were Asian (4 percent), 1 was American Indian/Alaska Native (less than 1 percent), and 9 were “other” (1 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 87 percent of victims (581 out of 668) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 76 percent (439 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 62 victims (9 percent) killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 8 victims (1 percent) killed by a blunt object, and 10 victims (1 percent) killed by bodily force.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 32 percent of victims (111 out of 350) were murdered by someone they knew. One hundred seventy-four victims were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 19 percent (65 out of 350) were gang members.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 83 percent (415 out of 500) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 64 percent (266 homicides) were gang-related. Seventeen percent (70 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender. Nine percent (37 homicides) were drive-by shootings.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 54 percent (361 out of 666) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Fourteen percent (90 out of 666) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Twelve percent (79 out of 666) occurred at another residence, and 9 percent (57 out of 666) occurred in a vehicle.

¹⁹ To help ensure more stable rates, only counties with a population of at least 25,000 youth and young adults between the ages of 10 to 24 are included. The selected counties account for 99 percent of homicide victims ages 10 to 24 in California (680 out of 684 victims) and 98 percent of California’s population ages 10 to 24 (8,017,653 out of 8,190,744) for 2010.

Monterey County

23 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Monterey County in 2010

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Monterey County was 24.36 per 100,000 in 2010

Ranked 1st in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 23 homicide victims, 21 were male (91 percent), and 2 were female (9 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 23 homicide victims, 21 were Hispanic (91 percent), and 2 were white (9 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 90 percent of victims (19 out of 21) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 37 percent (7 victims) were killed with handguns. There was 1 victim (5 percent) killed with a knife or other cutting instrument, and 1 victim (5 percent) killed by a blunt object.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 25 percent of victims (1 out of 4) were murdered by someone they knew. One victim was killed by a stranger. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 50 percent (2 out of 4) were gang members.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 100 percent (13 out of 13) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 92 percent (12 homicides) were gang-related.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 70 percent (16 out of 23) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Four percent (1 out of 23) occurred in the home of the victim or offender.

Alameda County

55 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Alameda County in 2010

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Alameda County was 18.41 per 100,000 in 2010

Ranked 2nd in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 55 homicide victims, 53 were male (96 percent), and 2 were female (4 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 55 homicide victims, 37 were black (67 percent), 6 were white (11 percent), 6 were Hispanic (11 percent), 3 were Asian (5 percent), and 3 were “other” (5 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 93 percent of victims (51 out of 55) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 51 percent (26 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 4 victims (7 percent) killed with knives or other cutting instruments.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 19 percent of victims (3 out of 16) were murdered by someone they knew. Thirteen victims were killed by strangers.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 69 percent (11 out of 16) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 27 percent (3 homicides) were gang-related. Thirty-six percent (4 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender. Eighteen percent (2 homicides) were drive-by shootings.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 77 percent (41 out of 53) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Four percent (2 out of 53) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Two percent (1 out of 53) occurred at another residence.

San Joaquin County

30 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in San Joaquin County in 2010

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in San Joaquin County was 18.36 per 100,000 in 2010

Ranked 3rd in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 30 homicide victims, 27 were male (90 percent), and 3 were female (10 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 30 homicide victims, 14 were Hispanic (47 percent), 10 were black (33 percent), 3 were white (10 percent), 2 were Asian (7 percent), and 1 was “other” (3 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 83 percent of victims (25 out of 30) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 84 percent (21 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 3 victims (10 percent) killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 1 victim (3 percent) killed by a blunt object, and 1 victim (3 percent) killed by bodily force.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 38 percent of victims (6 out of 16) were murdered by someone they knew. Eight victims were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 13 percent (2 out of 16) were gang members.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 84 percent (21 out of 25) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 43 percent (9 homicides) were gang-related. Thirty-three percent (7 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender. Nineteen percent (4 homicides) were drive-by shootings.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 43 percent (13 out of 30) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Thirteen percent (4 out of 30) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Seven percent (2 out of 30) occurred at another residence, and 30 percent (9 out of 30) occurred in a vehicle.

Tulare County

20 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Tulare County in 2010

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Tulare County was 18.06 per 100,000 in 2010

Ranked 4th in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 20 homicide victims, 16 were male (80 percent), and 4 were female (20 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 20 homicide victims, 1 was black (5 percent), 17 were Hispanic (85 percent), 1 was Asian (5 percent), and 1 was “other” (5 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 95 percent of victims (19 out of 20) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 79 percent (15 victims) were killed with handguns. There was 1 victim (5 percent) killed with a knife or other cutting instrument.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 50 percent of victims (7 out of 14) were murdered by someone they knew. Three victims were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 29 percent (4 out of 14) were gang members.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 92 percent (11 out of 12) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 64 percent (7 homicides) were gang-related. Nine percent (1 homicide) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 60 percent (12 out of 20) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Twenty percent (4 out of 20) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Fifteen percent (3 out of 20) occurred in a vehicle.

Merced County

9 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Merced County in 2010

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Merced County was 13.44 per 100,000 in 2010

Ranked 5th in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 9 homicide victims, 9 were male (100 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 9 homicide victims, 6 were Hispanic (67 percent), 2 were black (22 percent), and 1 was white (11 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 89 percent of victims (8 out of 9) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 88 percent (7 victims) were killed with handguns. There was 1 victim (11 percent) killed with a knife or other cutting instrument.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 17 percent of victims (1 out of 6) were murdered by someone they knew. Three were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 33 percent (2 out of 6) were gang members.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 100 percent (6 out of 6) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 83 percent (5 homicides) were gang-related. Seventeen percent (1 homicide) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 44 percent (4 out of 9) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Twenty-two percent (2 out of 9) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Thirty-three percent (3 out of 9) occurred at another residence.

Contra Costa County

27 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Contra Costa County in 2010

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Contra Costa County was 12.94 per 100,000 in 2010

Ranked 6th in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 27 homicide victims, 25 were male (93 percent), and 2 were female (7 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 27 homicide victims, 6 were Hispanic (22 percent), 19 were black (70 percent), 1 was white (4 percent), and 1 was “other” (4 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 96 percent of victims (26 out of 27) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 77 percent (20 victims) were killed with handguns. There was 1 victim (4 percent) killed by a blunt object.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 22 percent of victims (2 out of 9) were murdered by someone they knew. Seven victims were killed by strangers.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 69 percent (9 out of 13) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Thirty-three percent (3 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender. Sixty-seven percent (6 homicides) were drive-by shootings.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 63 percent (17 out of 27) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Fifteen percent (4 out of 27) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Four percent (1 out of 27) occurred at another residence, and 15 percent (4 out of 27) occurred in a vehicle.

Fresno County

27 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Fresno County in 2010

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Fresno County was 11.61 per 100,000 in 2010

Ranked 7th in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 27 homicide victims, 27 were male (100 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 27 homicide victims, 14 were Hispanic (52 percent), 8 were black (30 percent), 2 were Asian (7 percent), and 3 were white (11 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 89 percent of victims (24 out of 27) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 29 percent (7 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 2 victims (7 percent) killed with knives or other cutting instruments, and 1 victim (4 percent) killed by bodily force.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 15 percent of victims (2 out of 13) were murdered by someone they knew. Ten victims were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 8 percent (1 out of 13) were gang members.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 79 percent (19 out of 24) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 84 percent (16 homicides) were gang-related. Eleven percent (2 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender. Five percent (1 homicide) were drive-by shootings.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 42 percent (11 out of 26) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Fifteen percent (4 out of 26) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Fifteen percent (4 out of 26) occurred at another residence, and 8 percent (2 out of 26) occurred in a vehicle.

San Francisco County

14 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in San Francisco County in 2010

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in San Francisco County was 11.52 per 100,000 in 2010

Ranked 8th in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 14 homicide victims, 13 were male (93 percent), and 1 was female (7 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 14 homicide victims, 3 were Hispanic (21 percent) and 11 were black (79 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 93 percent of victims (13 out of 14) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 92 percent (12 victims) were killed with handguns. There was 1 victim (7 percent) killed with a knife or other cutting instrument.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 40 percent of victims (2 out of 5) were murdered by someone they knew. One victim was killed by a stranger. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 40 percent (2 out of 5) were gang members.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 91 percent (10 out of 11) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 80 percent (8 homicides) were gang-related. Twenty percent (2 homicides) involved an argument between the victim and the offender.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 57 percent (8 out of 14) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Twenty-one percent (3 out of 14) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Seven percent (1 out of 14) occurred at another residence, and 7 percent (1 out of 14) occurred in a vehicle.

Madera County

4 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Madera County in 2010

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Madera County was 11.39 per 100,000 in 2010

Ranked 9th in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 4 homicide victims, 4 were male (100 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 4 homicide victims, 4 were Hispanic (100 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 75 percent of victims (3 out of 4) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 67 percent (2 victims) were killed with handguns. There was 1 victim (25 percent) killed with a knife or other cutting instrument.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 33 percent (1 out of 3) were gang members. Two victims were killed by strangers.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 75 percent (3 out of 4) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 67 percent (2 homicides) were gang-related. Thirty-three percent (1 homicide) were drive-by shootings.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 25 percent (1 out of 4) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Fifty percent (2 out of 4) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Twenty-five percent (1 out of 4) occurred at another residence.

Los Angeles County

248 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Los Angeles County in 2010

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Los Angeles County was 11.35 per 100,000 in 2010

Ranked 10th in California among counties with a population of 10- to 24-year olds 25,000 or greater

Gender

Out of 248 homicide victims, 221 were male (89 percent), and 27 were female (11 percent).

Race/Ethnicity

Out of 248 homicide victims, 143 were Hispanic (58 percent), 94 were black (38 percent), 4 were white (2 percent), 5 were Asian (2 percent), and 2 were “other” (1 percent).

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 91 percent of victims (225 out of 246) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 89 percent (201 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 15 victims (6 percent) killed with knives or other cutting instruments, and 3 victims (1 percent) killed by bodily force.

Victim to Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 22 percent of victims (27 out of 121) were murdered by someone they knew. Seventy victims were killed by strangers. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 20 percent (24 out of 121) were gang members.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 89 percent (185 out of 209) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 78 percent (144 homicides) were gang-related. Eight percent (15 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender. Six percent (12 homicides) were drive-by shootings.

Location

For homicides in which the location could be determined, 60 percent (146 out of 242) occurred on a street, sidewalk, or in a parking lot. Twelve percent (30 out of 242) occurred in the home of the victim or offender. Ten percent (24 out of 242) occurred at another residence, and 9 percent (22 out of 242) occurred in a vehicle.



Violence Policy Center

1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW Suite 1014
Washington, DC 20036

202-822-8200 VOICE 202-822-8205 FAX www.vpc.org WEB