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# **An Analysis of Austin, Texas Homicide: Offenses, Victims, and Suspects in 2011**

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Prepared by the Austin Police Department  
Crime Analysis Unit  
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## Introduction

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The following data reflects all homicide information reported to the Texas Department of Public Safety for UCR purposes for 2011 in its entirety. This report is meant as a descriptive summary of the homicide specifics and characteristics within Austin city limits. Data sources include U.S. Department of Justice's *Crime in the United States 2010*, Texas Department of Public Safety's *2010 Crime in Texas Report*, City of Austin Demographer, Versadex (APD's record management system), APD Planning Unit's log, APD Homicide Unit's log, and case jacket information directly maintained by detectives assigned to each case.

Since the release of the 2011 versions of the U.S. Department of Justice's *Crime in the United States* and the Texas Department of Public Safety's *Crime in Texas* are typically not released until September, comparison to 2010 data was used for this report. These numbers are provided as a way to put Austin's murder numbers into a broad context. The Department of Justice discourages ranking agencies on the sole basis of UCR data, so further comparison between jurisdictions should include in-depth analysis of the many variables that affect crime.

## About the Data

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### AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT DATA DISCLAIMER

Understanding the following conditions about crime information tallied from the Versadex mainframe database will allow you to get the most value out of the data provided:

- Due to methodological differences in data collection, different data sources or reports may produce different statistics.
- The data is continuously being updated. The data provided represents a particular point in time and does not reflect the dynamic nature of the Versadex mainframe database.
- The data here may not reflect official Texas DPS, FBI UCR or NIBRS numbers.
- If the information provided here is used outside the department, then the following disclaimer applies-

“The Austin Police Department cannot assume any liability for any decision made or action taken or not taken by the recipient in reliance upon any information or data provided.”

## Definition

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According to *2010 Crime in Texas* “murder and non-negligent manslaughter, as defined in the UCR program, is the willful killing of one human being by another.” Included in this category is any death resulting from a “fight, argument, quarrel, assault or commission of a crime.” Not included in the murder classification are deaths resulting from suicide, accidents, justifiable homicides, or homicides caused by criminal negligence. Attempts at murder and assault with intent to kill are recorded under Aggravated Assaults.

Police investigations are the sole basis for this classification. Any determinations made by courts, medical examiners, juries, or other judicial bodies are excluded.

## Executive Summary

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The following summation may be made from the 2011 homicide data as of March 13, 2012.

- There were 27 homicides in Austin in 2011 for a rate of 3.4 murders per 100,000 population.
- The most active months for murder were August with five murders and April and September with four murders each.
- Seven (26%) of 2011's homicides occurred in Frank sector and six (22%) in David sector.
- Twelve (44%) of the homicides occurred in a single-family residence or apartment.
- A knife or a sharp object was used in nine cases (33%).
- Thirteen (48%) of the murders were motivated by issues stemming from an argument or were revenge for an earlier issue.
- Six (22%) of the murders met the Texas Penal Code & Family Code definition for family violence.
- A robbery motive accounted for three (11%) of the murders.
- One murder was motivated by issues stemming from gang membership or affiliation.
- A total of 27 victims and 30 suspects were documented for the 2011 murders.
- Eleven victims (41%) were between the ages of 20 and 39.
- Eighteen of the suspects (60%) were between the ages of 20 and 39.
- Ten (37%) of the homicide victims in 2011 were White, nine (33%) were Hispanic, four (15%) were African American, three (11%) were Asian, and one (4%) was Indian.
- Eleven (37%) of the homicide suspects were Hispanic, nine (30%) were African American, six (20%) were White, and two (7%) was Asian.
- The relationship between victim and suspect(s) was established in 25 murders. Of those 25 murders, four murders were considered stranger-on-stranger murders (15%). These murders include cases in which the victim was chosen at random as well as cases in which the victim and suspect were brought together by a location (such as a nightclub) or an activity (such as buying drugs.) As of March 13, 2012, three of the four stranger-on-stranger murders have been solved. A likely suspect has been identified in the other case. None are believed to be related or committed by the same suspect(s).
- Two of the homicides were double murders.
- Three of the homicides involved two suspects in each case.
- As of March 13, 2012, 22 of the 27 2011 murders have been solved, for an 81% clearance rate.

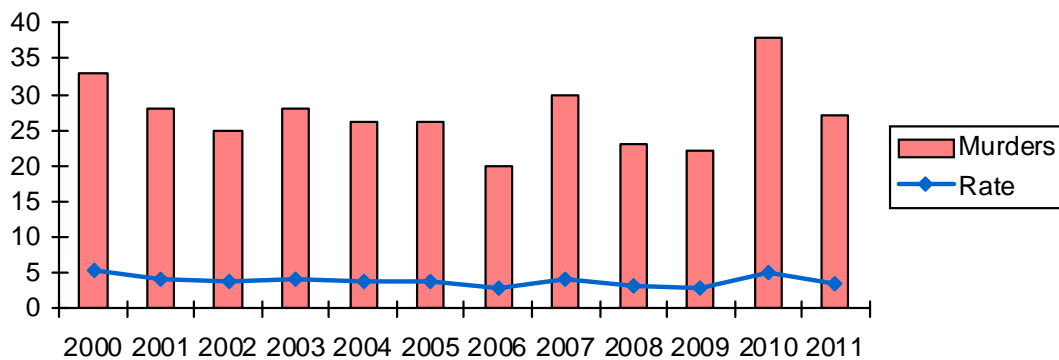
# Statistical Representation

## Homicide Data

- The analysis contained in this report was based on 2011 homicide data as of March 13, 2012.

## Homicide Totals by Year

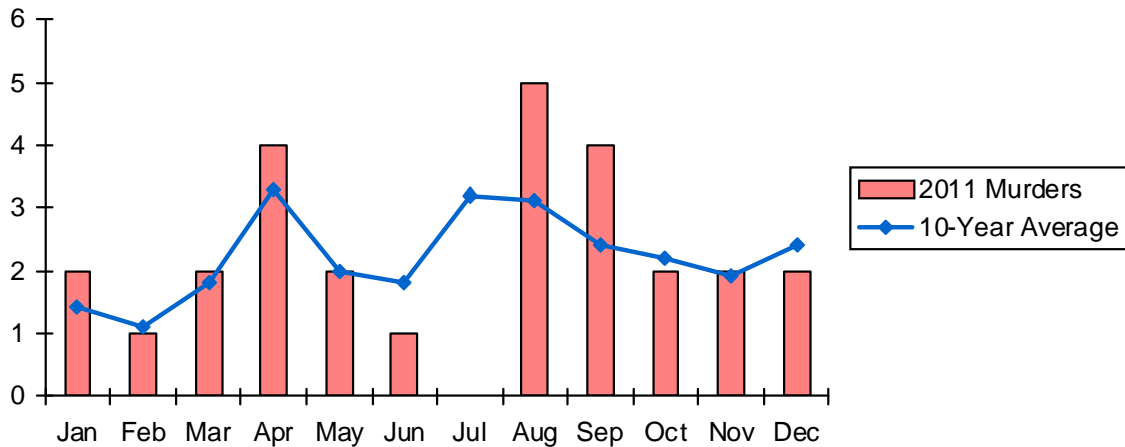
- There were 27 homicides documented in Austin, Texas in 2011. This calculates to a rate of 3.4 murders per 100,000 population.
- In 2010, there were 38 homicides in Austin, 4.9 murders per 100,000 population.
- According to the U.S. Department of Justice's *Crime in the United States 2010* report, the homicide rate for cities with populations between 500,000 and 999,999 was 10.6 per 100,000 population.



Source: APD Planning Unit Annual Crime Rate

## Homicide Totals by Month

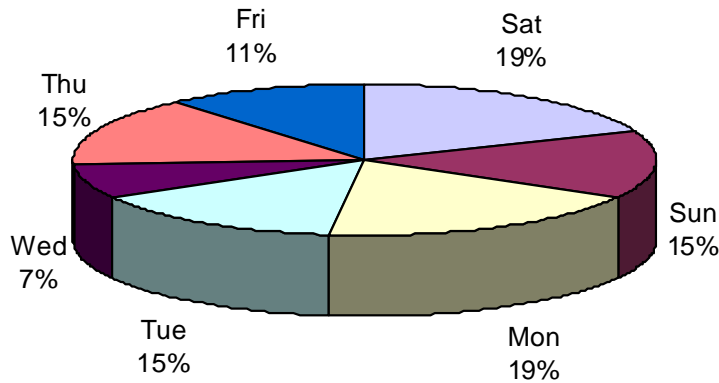
- The most active months for murder were August with five murders and April and September with four murders each.
- The least active month was July with no murders.



Source: Versadex

### *Homicides by Day of the Week*

- The greatest number of homicides occurred on Mondays and Saturdays with five (19%) each.
- The fewest number of homicides, two, occurred or were discovered on a Wednesday.

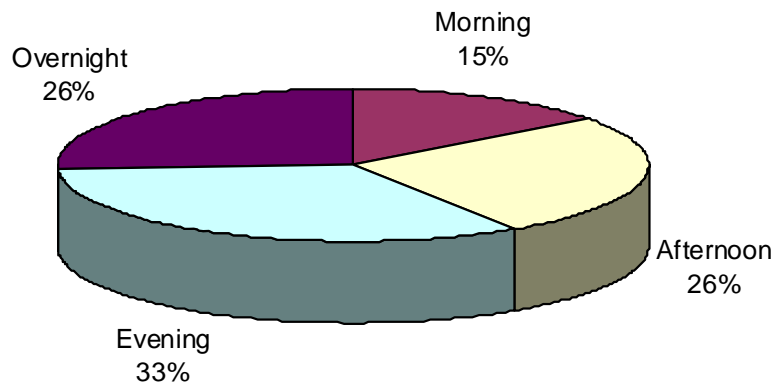


Source: Versadex

### *Homicides by Time of the Day*

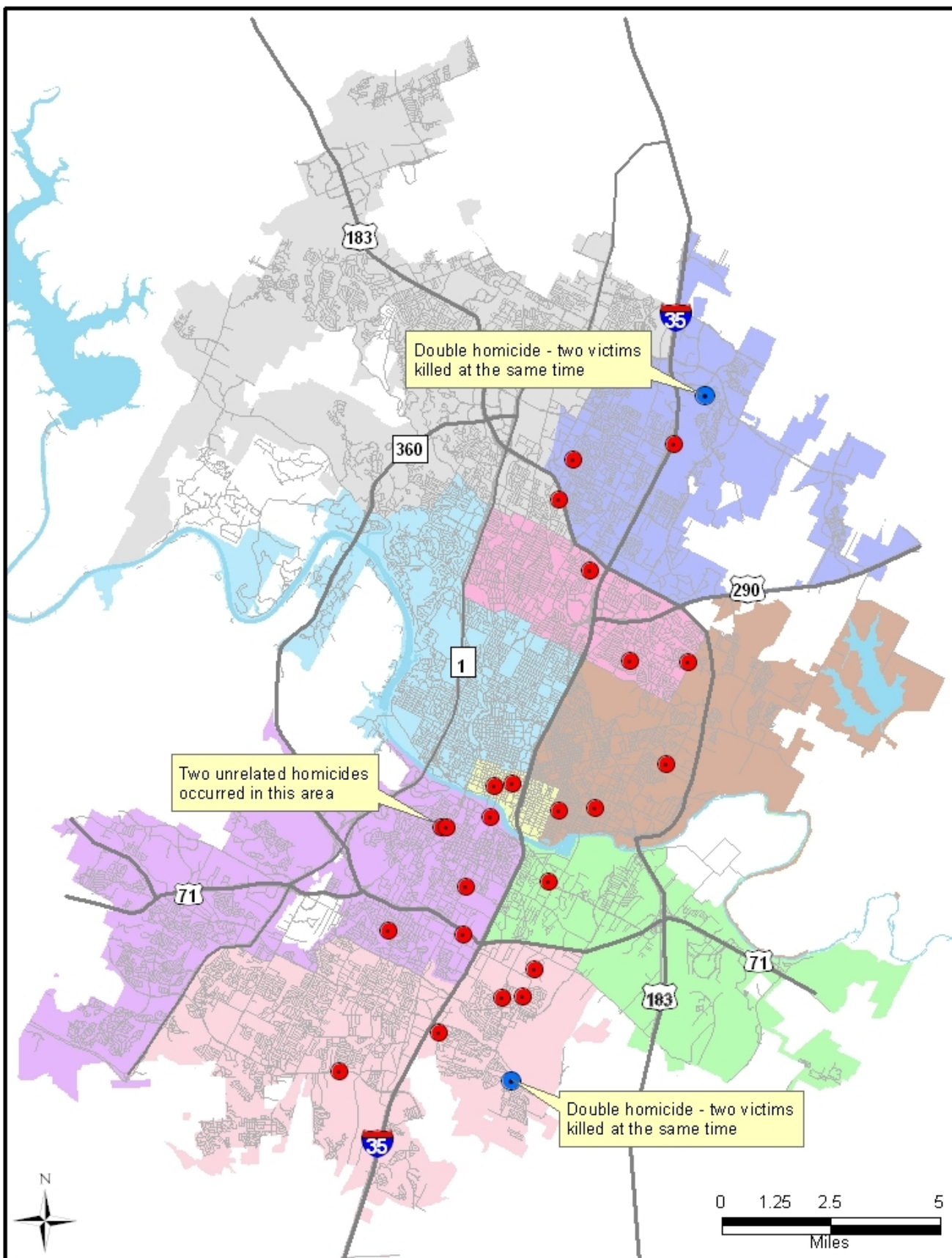
- Nine (33%) of the homicides occurred or were discovered during evening hours.
- Seven (26%) of the homicides occurred or were discovered during overnight hours and seven occurred or were discovered during afternoon hours.

Time is broken into four intervals: Morning equals 6:00 a.m. to 11:59 a.m.  
Afternoon equals 12 noon to 5:59 p.m.  
Evening equals 6:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.  
Overnight equals 12 midnight to 5:59 a.m.



Source: Versadex

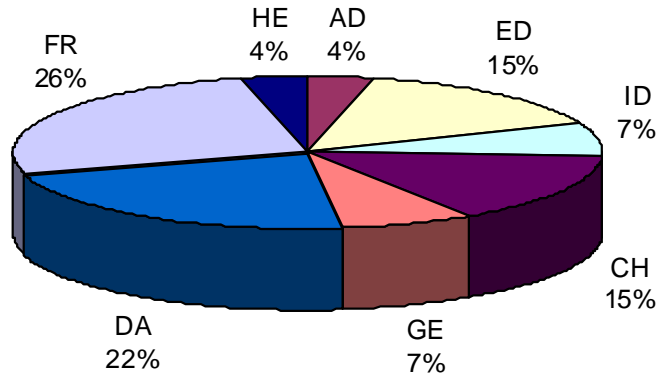
## Homicides by Location – Point Map



This map has been produced by the Austin Police Department's Crime Analysis Unit for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made for its accuracy or completeness.

### *Homicides by Area Command*

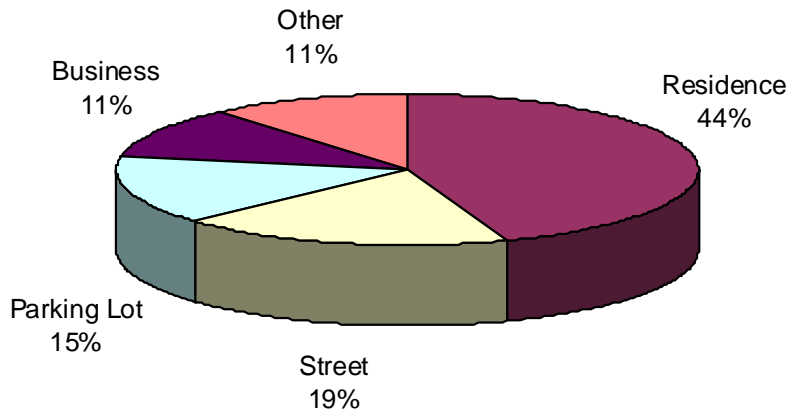
- Seven (26%) of 2011's homicides occurred in Frank sector and six (22%) in David sector.
- No murders occurred in Baker sector.



Source: Versadex

### *Homicides by Type of Premise*

- Twelve (44%) of the homicides occurred in a single-family residence or apartment. Of those, nine occurred inside the residence or apartment.
- Five homicides (19%) occurred along a street.

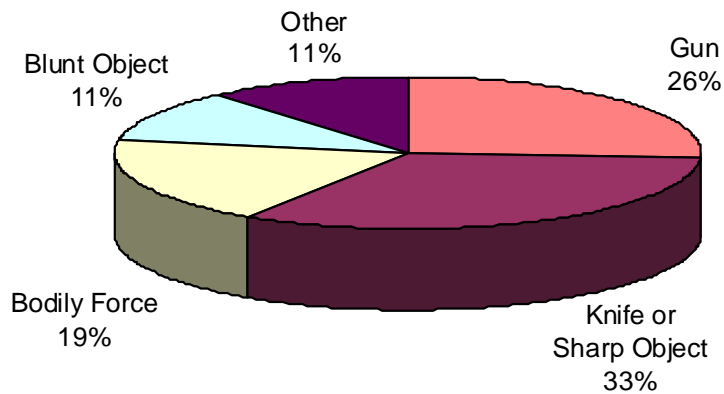


Source: APD Homicide Log



## *Types of Weapons Used*

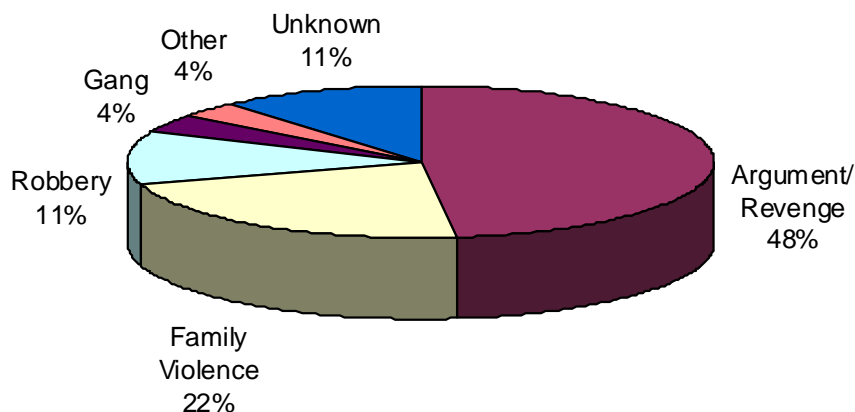
- A knife or a sharp object was used in nine cases (33%).
- A gun was used in seven of the 27 murders, accounting for 26% of the weapon types used in the 2011 murders.
  - Four of the guns were semi-automatic handguns. One was a revolver, and two were shotguns.



Source: APD Homicide Log

## *Homicide Motives*

- Thirteen (48%) of the murders were motivated by issues stemming from an argument or were revenge for an earlier issue.
- Six (22%) of the murders met the Texas Penal Code & Family Code definition for family violence.
  - The murders were motivated by issues stemming from a close family, intimate partner, or ex-partner relationship.
  - Of the six family violence murders, two were committed by intimate partners.
- A robbery motive accounted for three (11%) of the murders.
- One murder was motivated by issues stemming from gang membership or affiliation.



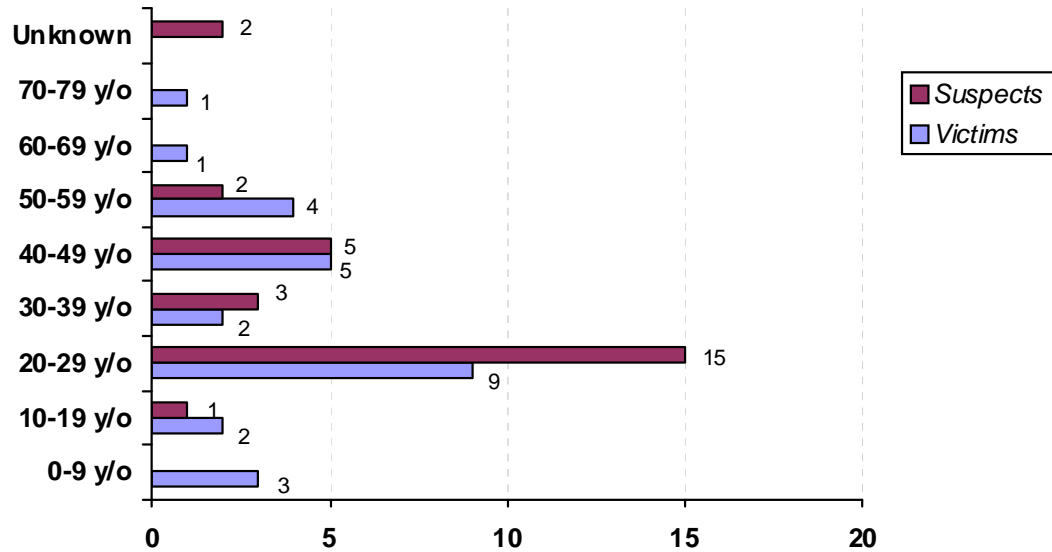
Source: APD Homicide Log

## Victims & Suspects

- A total of 27 victims and 30 suspects were documented for the 2011 murders.

### Homicides by Age

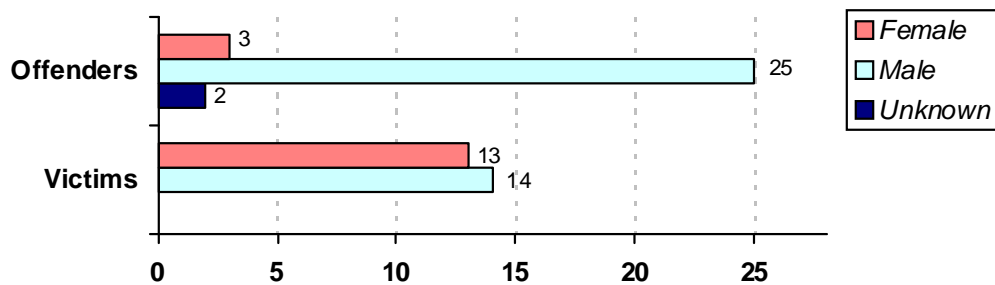
- The youngest victim was seven weeks old and the oldest was 72 years old, with 11 of the victims (41%) falling between the ages of 20 and 39.
- In the cases in which the suspect's age was known, the youngest suspect was 17 years old and the oldest was 56 years old, with 18 of the suspects (60%) falling between the ages of 20 and 39.



Source: APD Homicide Log

### Homicides by Gender

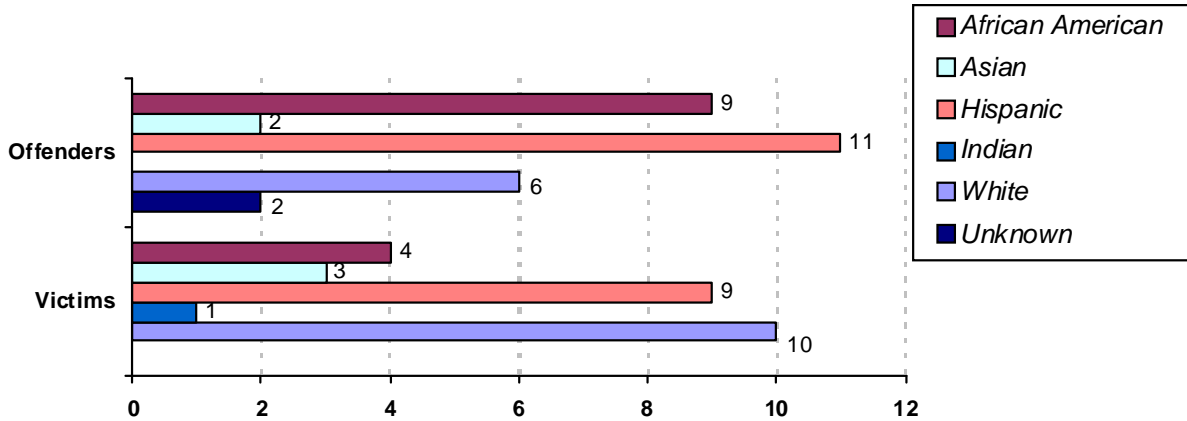
- Fourteen males (52%) were victims in 2011.
- In the cases in which the suspect's gender was known, 25 suspects were males (83%).



Source: APD Homicide Log

## Homicides by Race/Ethnicity

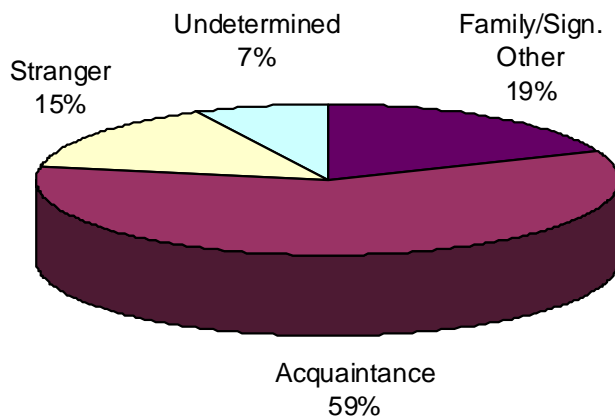
- Ten (37%) of the homicide victims in 2011 were White, nine (33%) were Hispanic, four (15%) were African American, three (11%) were Asian, and one (4%) was Indian.
- In the cases in which the suspect's race/ethnicity was known, 11 (37%) of the homicide suspects were Hispanic, nine (30%) were African American, six (20%) were White, and two (7%) were Asian.



Source: APD Homicide Log

## Relationship between Victim and Suspect

- The relationship between victim and suspect(s) was established in 25 murders, while the relationship was undetermined in two (7%) murders.
- At least one suspect was an acquaintance in 16 murders (59%). The suspect was a family member or significant other in five cases (19%).
- Four murders were considered stranger-on-stranger murders (15%).
  - These murders include cases in which the victim was chosen at random as well as cases in which the victim and suspect were brought together by a location (such as a nightclub) or an activity (such as buying drugs.)
  - As of March 13, 2012, three of the four stranger-on-stranger murders have been solved. A likely suspect has been identified in the other case.
  - None are believed to be related or committed by the same suspect(s).



Source: APD Homicide Log

### ***Miscellaneous Victim and Suspect Information***

- Four victims were transients. Two of the known suspects were transients.
- Gang membership of victims is not tracked. Six suspects were possible gang members.
- Two of the homicides were double homicides – two victims.
- One homicide involved multiple victims (three total) but only one victim died.
- Three of the homicides involved two suspects in each case.

*Source: Versadex & APD Homicide Log*

### ***Homicide and Additional Offenses, Miscellaneous Information***

- Alcohol was believed to be a contributing factor in four (15%) of the homicides.
- Drugs were believed to be a contributing factor in one (4%) of the homicides.
- Eleven (41%) of the homicides were documented as Capital Murder, which includes the commission of an additional felony at the time of the murder, the murder of a law enforcement officer, the murder of more than one victim, or the murder of an individual under six years of age.

*Source: Versadex & APD Homicide Log*

### ***Homicide Clearance Rate***

- As of March 13, 2012, 22 of the 27 2011 murders have been solved, for an 81% clearance rate.
  - Twenty-one of the 2011 cases were cleared during 2011.
  - A warrant for the suspect in one of the 2011 cases has been issued, but the suspect has not been arrested yet.
  - In two of the unsolved cases, the suspects have been identified but charges have not been filed yet. In one of these cases, the suspect is in jail for another felony offense.
  - Four 2010 murders were cleared during 2011. Two of these were cleared by the arrest of the suspect. Two were cleared exceptionally.
- According to the U.S. Department of Justice's *Crime in the United States 2010*, the clearance rate for cities with populations between 500,000 and 999,999 was 56.7%.

*Source: Versadex & APD Homicide Log*