
Manner: HOMICIDE

The Medical Examiner classifies a death as a homicide when the death results from injuries inflicted by another person. The prosecuting attorney may either charge the person responsible for the injuries with murder or manslaughter, or decline to file charges. During 2005, the Medical Examiner classified 80 deaths as homicide. This number represents 4% (80/1,945) of the Medical Examiner death investigations for the calendar year 2005. Of these 80 homicides, 72 were the result of incidents that occurred within King County. For comparison, there were 76 homicides investigated in 2004, of which 68 were incidents in King County. In 2003, 77 of 93 homicides occurred in King County.

The data reflect the weapons or mechanisms responsible for the homicidal deaths in 2005. Firearms were responsible for 59% (47/80), compared to 2004, when 61% (46/76) were due to firearms. Stabbing by a knife or other sharp-edged instrument caused eighteen percent (14/80) of deaths of homicide victims. Blunt force injuries were responsible for fifteen percent (12/80) of the 2005 homicide deaths. There were four (4) deaths due to strangulation/asphyxia and one (1) death was due to other homicidal means.

In 2005, there were three homicide victims under five years of age. There were no homicide victims between 6 - 12 years of age and there was one homicide victim was between 13 - 15 years of age. Nine homicide victims were between the ages of 16 and 19 years.

Examining the racial distribution of victims of homicide, 32% (26/80) of the victims were black, compared to 2004, when 26% (20/76) of the victims were black. Whites, while representing 78% of the population, made up 54% (43/80) of the homicide victims. The remaining 14% of homicide victims (11/80) included Asian/Pacific Islanders, Native American, and Other Race. As indicated on page 5, in 17% of the Medical Examiner cases the incident leading to death occurred outside of King County and the decedent was likely not a resident of King County. Therefore, Medical Examiner figures cannot be directly compared to the racial distribution of King County residents (refer to Table 1-9 on page 19).

Males comprised 85% (68/80) and women 15% (12/80) of the homicide victims in 2005. The majority of victims, 68% (54/80), were between the ages of 20 and 49 years. Young people, 19 years old and under, comprised 16% (13/80) of the homicide victims. For comparison, this younger age group represented 24% (18/76) in the year 2004. Ninety-two percent (74/80) of the victims were tested for the presence of alcohol. Of those tested 34% (25/74) showed alcohol present at the time of death.

Of the 80 homicidal deaths in 2005, 90% (72/80) of the fatal incidents occurred within King County, and of these deaths, 30 (42%) occurred within the city limits of Seattle. In eight of the 80 homicidal deaths, the incident occurred outside of King County, but death occurred within King County.

The relationship of victim to assailant was not tabulated as part of this report. In order to investigate such associations, additional review of police records would be necessary.

Graph 4-1 Homicide Injury Methods / King County Medical Examiner / 2005

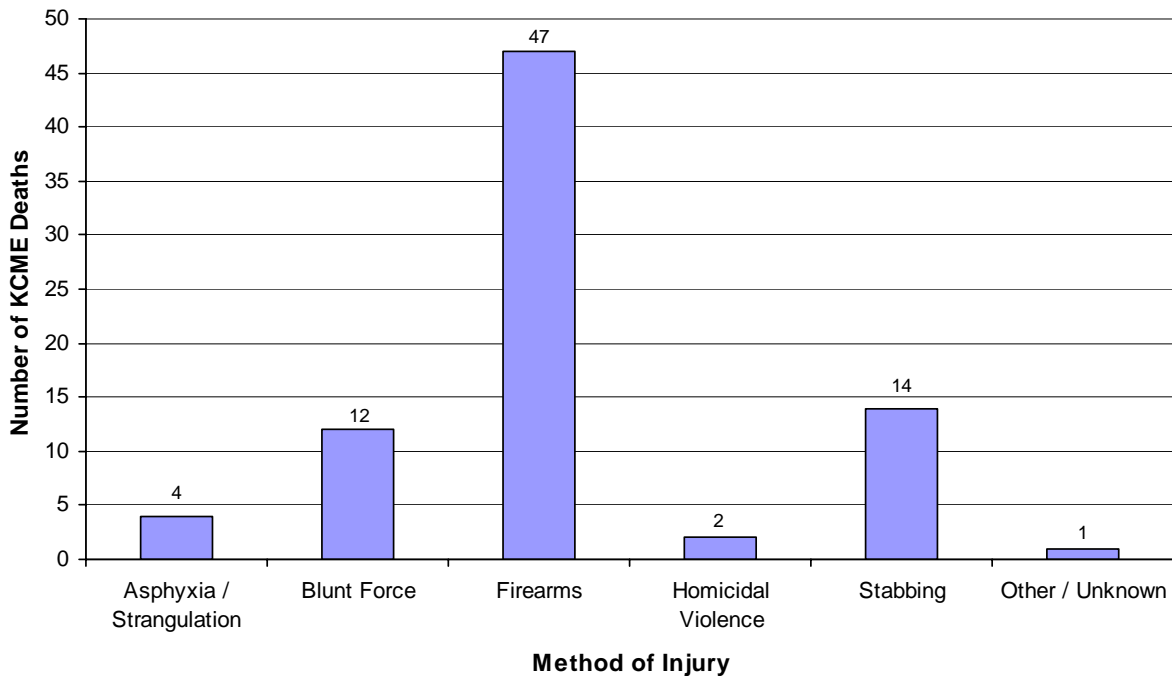


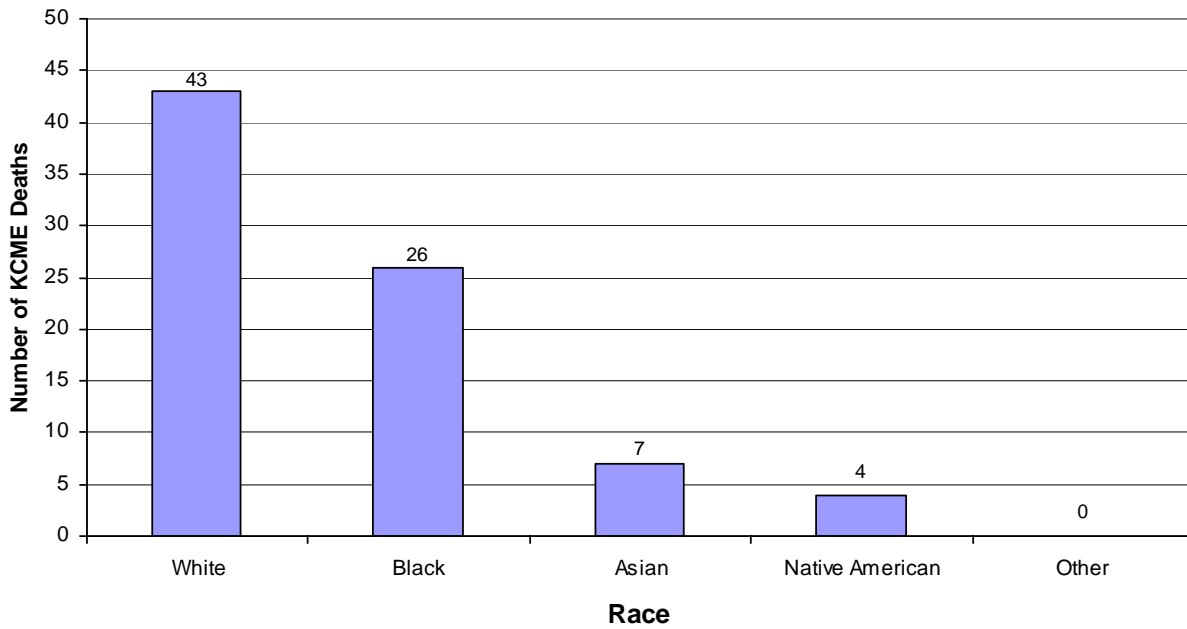
Table 4-1 Homicide Methods / Race / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2005

CIRCUMSTANCES / SEX	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER		
Asphyxia / Strangulation	3	0	0	1	0		4
<i>Male</i>	1	0	0	1	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Blunt Force	6	1	2	3	0		12
<i>Male</i>	5	1	1	1	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	1	2	0	4	
Firearms	25	18	4	0	0		47
<i>Male</i>	23	18	4	0	0	45	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Homicidal Violence	2	0	0	0	0		2
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Stabbing	6	7	1	0	0		14
<i>Male</i>	6	5	1	0	0	12	
<i>Female</i>	0	2	0	0	0	2	
Other / Unknown	1	0	0	0	0		1
<i>Male</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	43	26	7	4	0		80
Percent	54%	32%	9%	5%	0%		100%

Table 4-2 Homicide Methods / Age / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2005

METHOD / SEX	AGE GROUP (YEARS)													SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	< 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 to 15	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 +		
Asphyxia / Strangulation	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0		4
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Blunt Force	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	1	0	0	2		12
<i>Male</i>	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	8	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	4	
Firearms	0	0	0	1	6	14	9	11	4	2	0	0	0		47
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	1	6	14	9	10	3	2	0	0	0	45	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	
Homicidal Violence	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		2
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Stabbing	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	7	1	0	1	0	0		14
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	7	1	0	1	0	0	12	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Other / Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		1
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	3	0	0	1	9	16	14	24	7	3	1	0	2		80
Percent	4%	0%	0%	1%	11%	20%	18%	30%	9%	4%	1%	0%	2%		100%

Graph 4-2 Homicide Deaths / Race / King County Medical Examiner / 2005



Graph 4-3 Homicide Deaths / Age Group / King County Medical Examiner / 2005

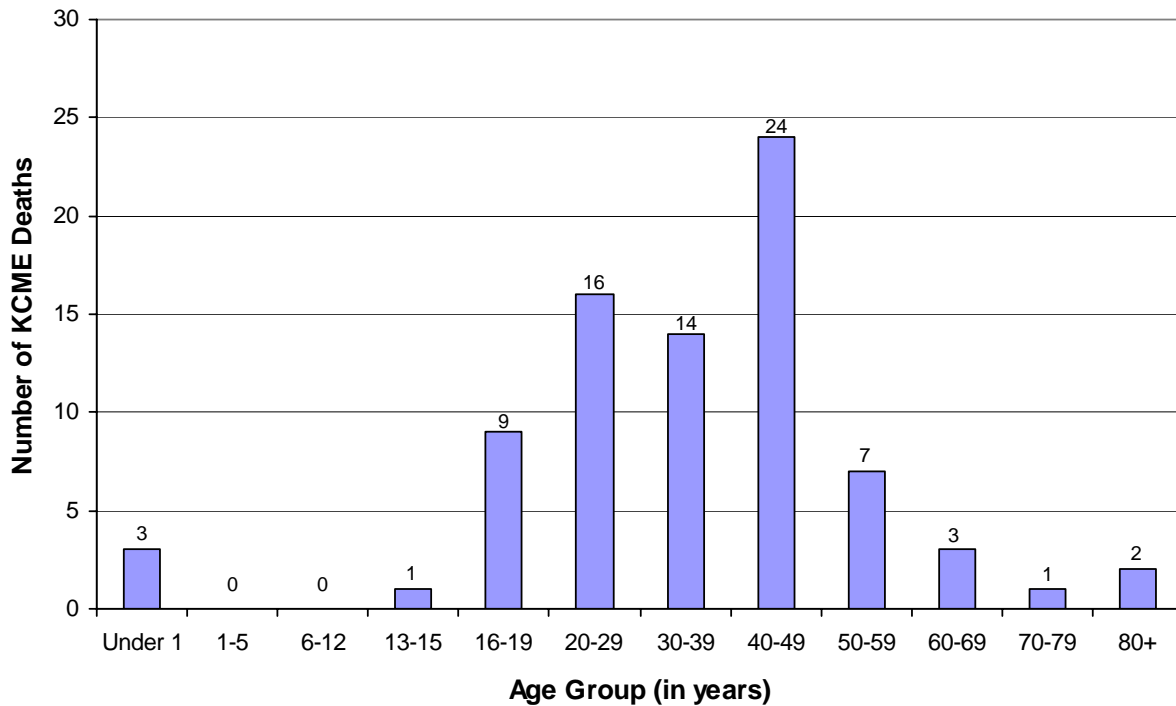


Table 4-3 Homicide Deaths / Age / Race / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2005

METHOD		AGE						SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
		< 16	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50+		
Asphyxia / Strangulation	White	0	0	0	1	2	0		3
	Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	
	Nat. American	0	0	1	0	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Blunt Force	White	1	0	0	0	3	2		6
	Male	1	0	0	0	3	1	5	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
	Black	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
	Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Asian	0	0	0	0	0	2		2
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
	Nat. American	1	0	0	1	1	0		3
	Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
	Female	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	
Firearms	White	0	2	3	6	9	5		25
	Male	0	2	3	6	8	4	23	
	Female	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	
	Black	0	2	10	3	2	1		18
	Male	0	2	10	3	2	1	18	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Asian	1	2	1	0	0	0		4
	Male	1	2	1	0	0	0	4	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Nat. American	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Homicidal Violence	White	0	2	0	0	0	0		2
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	

Table 4-3 Homicide Deaths / Age / Race / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2005

METHOD		AGE						SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
		< 16	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50+		
Stabbing	White	0	0	1	0	4	1		6
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	1	0	4	1	6	
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Black	0	1	0	3	2	1		7
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	2	2	1	5	
	<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	
	Asian	0	0	0	0	1	0		1
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other / Unknown	White	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTALS		4	9	16	14	24	13		80

Table 4-4 Homicide Methods / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2005

METHOD	SEX		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Asphyxia / Strangulation	2	2	4
Blunt Force	8	4	12
Firearms	45	2	47
Homicidal Violence	0	2	2
Stabbing	12	2	14
Other / Unknown	1	0	1
Totals	68	12	80
Percent	85%	15%	100%

Table 4-5 Homicide Methods / Blood Alcohol Results / KCME / 2005

METHOD	TESTED			TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	NOT TESTED	
Asphyxia / Strangulation	1	3	0	4
Blunt Force	4	7	1	12
Firearms	15	30	2	47
Homicidal Violence	0	0	2	2
Stabbing	5	8	1	14
Other / Unknown	0	1	0	1
Totals	25	49	6	80
Percent	31%	61%	8%	100%