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*Manner: HOMICIDE*

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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 2004, the Medical Examiner classified 76 deaths as homicide. This number represents 4% (76/1,863) of the Medical Examiner death investigations for the calendar year 2004. Of these 76 homicides, 66 were the result of incidents that occurred within King County. For comparison, there were 93 homicides investigated in 2003, of which 77 were incidents in King County. In 2002, 77 of 93 homicides were in King County.

The data reflect the weapons or mechanisms responsible for the homicidal deaths in 2004. Firearms were responsible for 61% (46/76), compared to 2003, when 56% (52/93) were due from firearms. Thirteen percent (10/76) of the homicide victims died as a result of stabbing by a knife or other sharp-edged instrument. Thirteen percent (10/76) of the 2004 homicide deaths were due to blunt force injuries. There was one (1) death due to strangulation/asphyxia. Six (6) deaths were due to other homicidal means.

In 2004, there were seven homicide victims under five years of age. One homicide victim was between 6 - 12 years of age and one homicide victim was between 13 - 15 years of age. Nine homicide victims were between the ages of 16 and 19 years.

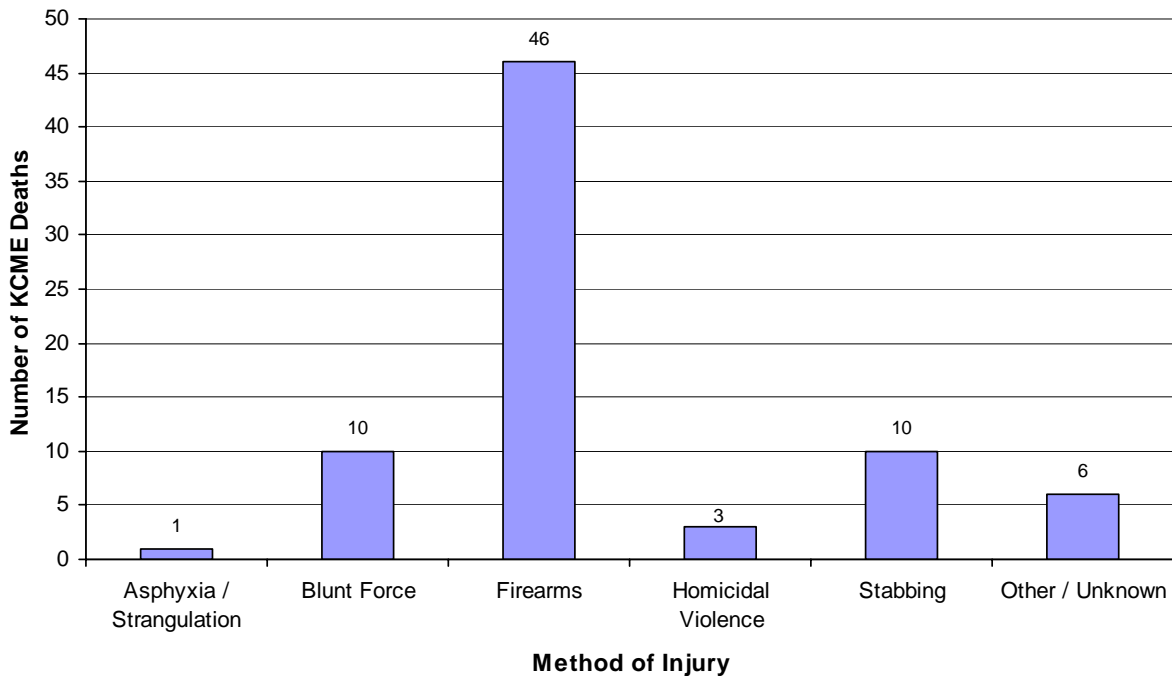
Examining racial distribution of victims of homicide, 26% (20/76) of the victims were black, compared to 2003, when 25% (23/93) of the victims were black. Whites, while representing 78% of the population, made up 53% (40/76) of the homicide victims. The remaining 21% of homicide victims (16/76) included Asian/Pacific Islanders, Native American, and Other Race. As indicated on page 5, in 18% 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 78% (59/76) and women 22% (17/76) of the homicide victims in 2004. The majority of victims, 65% (49/76), were between the ages of 20 and 49 years. Young people, 19 years old and under, comprised 24% (18/76) of the homicide victims. For comparison, this younger age group represented 16% (15/93) in the year 2003. Ninety-one percent (69/76) of the victims were tested for the presence of alcohol. Of those tested 36% (25/69) showed alcohol present at the time of death.

Of the 76 homicidal deaths in 2004, 87% (66/76) of the fatal incidents occurred within King County, and of these deaths, 41 (62%) occurred within the city limits of Seattle. In eight of the 76 homicidal deaths, the incident occurred outside of King County, but death occurred within King County. In two cases, the place of death was unknown.

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 / 2004**



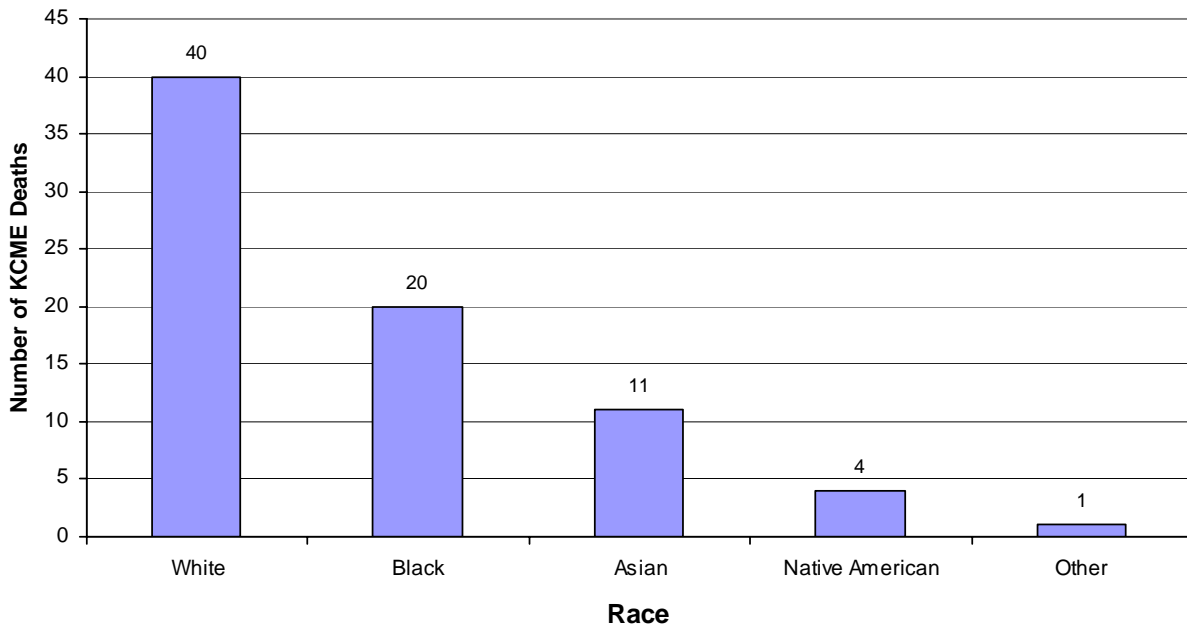
**Table 4-1 Homicide Methods / Race / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2004**

CIRCUMSTANCES / SEX	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER		
Asphyxia / Strangulation	0	0	1	0	0		1
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Blunt Force	7	1	1	1	0		10
<i>Male</i>	5	1	1	1	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Firearms	23	13	8	1	1		46
<i>Male</i>	18	13	8	0	1	40	
<i>Female</i>	5	0	0	1	0	6	
Homicidal Violence	2	1	0	0	0		3
<i>Male</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	1	1	0	0	0	2	
Stabbing	5	4	1	0	0		10
<i>Male</i>	4	4	0	0	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	1	0	0	2	
Other / Unknown	3	1	0	2	0		6
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	2	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	3	1	0	0	0	4	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>76</b>
Percent	53%	26%	15%	5%	1%		100%

**Table 4-2 Homicide Methods / Age / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2004**

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Blunt Force	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0		10
<i>Male</i>	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Firearms	0	0	1	1	6	16	11	7	2	1	0	1	0		46
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	1	6	15	9	6	2	1	0	0	0	40	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	6	
Homicidal Violence	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		3
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Stabbing	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	4	1	0	0	0	0		10
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	8	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Other / Unknown	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1		6
<i>Male</i>	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>76</b>
Percent	8%	1%	1%	1%	12%	33%	15%	17%	7%	1%	1%	1%	1%		100%

Graph 4-2 Homicide Deaths / Race / King County Medical Examiner / 2004



Graph 4-3 Homicide Deaths / Age Group / King County Medical Examiner / 2004

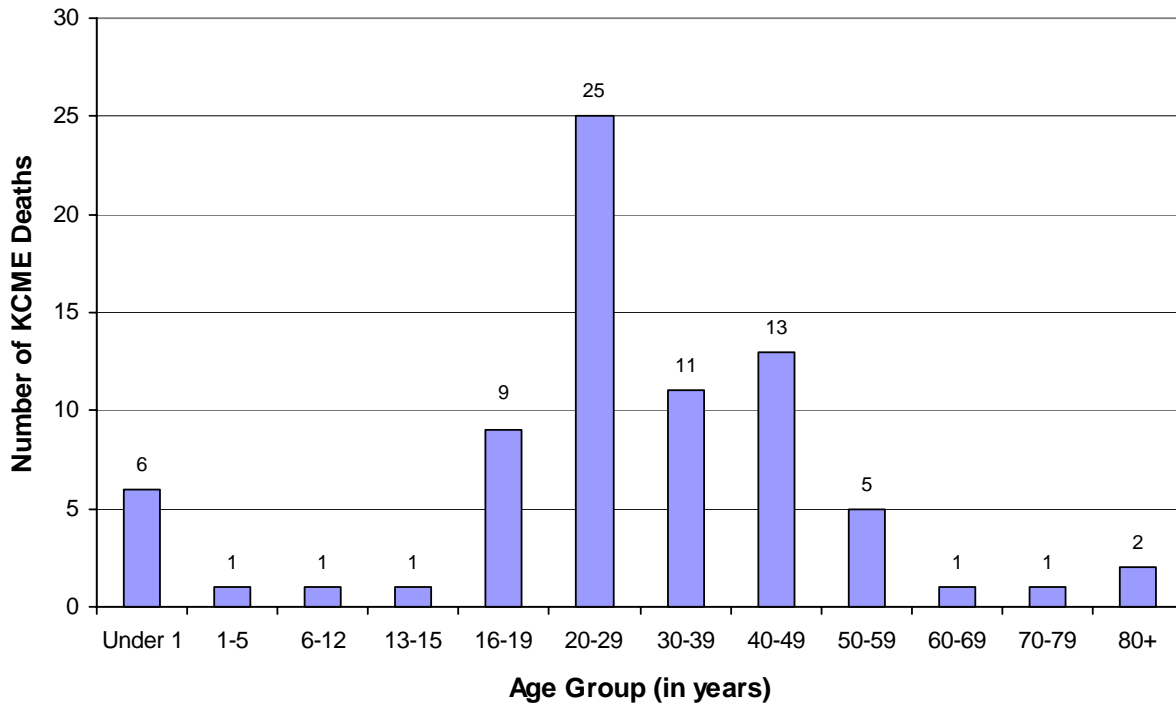


Table 4-3 Homicide Deaths / Age / Race / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2004

METHOD		AGE						SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
		< 16	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50+		
Asphyxia / Strangulation	Asian	0	0	1	0	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Blunt Force	White	4	0	0	0	1	2		7
	Male	2	0	0	0	1	2	5	
	Female	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	
	Black	0	0	1	0	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Asian	0	0	1	0	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Nat. American	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
	Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Firearms	White	2	2	7	5	4	3		23
	Male	1	2	7	3	3	2	18	
	Female	1	0	0	2	1	1	5	
	Black	0	3	5	3	2	0		13
	Male	0	3	5	3	2	0	13	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Asian	0	1	3	3	0	1		8
	Male	0	1	3	3	0	1	8	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Nat American	0	0	1	0	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Other		0	0	0	0	1	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Homicidal Violence	White	0	1	0	0	1	0		2
	Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
	Black	0	0	1	0	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	

**Table 4-3 Homicide Deaths / Age / Race / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2004**

METHOD		AGE						SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
		< 16	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50+		
Stabbing	White	0	1	1	0	2	1	4	5
	<i>Male</i>	0	1	1	0	1	1		
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
	Black	0	0	3	0	1	0	4	4
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	3	0	1	0		
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Asian	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0			
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	1		
Other / Unknown	White	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	
	Black	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
	Nat American	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
<i>Male</i>	2	0	0	0	0	0			
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>76</b>

**Table 4-4 Homicide Methods / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2004**

METHOD	SEX		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Asphyxia / Strangulation	0	1	1
Blunt Force	8	2	10
Firearms	40	6	46
Homicidal Violence	1	2	3
Stabbing	8	2	10
Other / Unknown	2	4	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>76</b>
Percent	78%	22%	100%

**Table 4-5 Homicide Methods / Blood Alcohol Results / KCME / 2004**

METHOD	TESTED			TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	NOT TESTED	
Asphyxia / Strangulation	0	1	0	1
Blunt Force	1	7	2	10
Firearms	19	24	3	46
Homicidal Violence	0	1	2	3
Stabbing	4	6	0	10
Other / Unknown	1	5	0	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>76</b>
Percent	33%	57%	10%	100%