

Table 303. Murder Victims—Circumstances and Weapons Used or Cause of Death: 1990 to 2005

[Based solely on police investigation. For definition of crimes, go to <<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/about/offensedefinitions.html>>]

Characteristic	1990	2000	2004	2005	Characteristic	1990	2000	2004	2005
Murders, total. . . .	20,273	13,230	14,249	14,860	Other motives	19.4	20.2	18.9	19.1
Percent distribution. . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Unknown.	24.8	30.8	35.0	37.6
CIRCUMSTANCES					TYPE OF WEAPON OR CAUSE OF DEATH				
Felonies, total	20.8	16.8	14.8	14.9	Guns	64.3	65.5	66.0	67.8
Robbery	9.2	8.1	7.0	6.2	Handguns	49.8	51.2	51.3	50.5
Narcotics	6.7	4.5	3.9	4.0	Cutting or stabbing	17.4	13.5	13.1	12.8
Sex offenses	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.4	Blunt objects ¹	5.4	4.7	4.7	4.1
Other felonies	3.7	3.7	3.4	4.0	Personal weapons ²	5.5	7.0	6.6	6.0
Suspected felonies	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.3	Strangulations, asphyxiations	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.4
Argument, total.	34.4	31.8	30.4	28.5	Fire	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.8
Property or money. . . .	2.5	1.6	1.6	1.4	All other ³	4.0	6.4	6.8	7.0
Romantic triangle	2.0	0.9	0.7	0.8					
Other arguments	29.8	29.3	28.8	26.3					

¹ Refers to club, hammer, etc. ² Hands, fists, feet, etc. ³ Includes poison, drowning, explosives, narcotics, and unknown.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States*, annual. See also <<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/>>.