

**Table 299. Murder Victims—Circumstances and Weapons Used or Cause of Death: 2000 to 2006**

[The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines murder and nonnegligent manslaughter as the willful nonnegligent killing of one human being by another. The classification of this offense is based solely on police investigation as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, jury, other judicial body. For more information on murder, go to <[http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2006/offenses/violent\\_crime/murder\\_homicide.html/](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2006/offenses/violent_crime/murder_homicide.html/)>]

Characteristic	2000	2004	2005	2006	Characteristic	2000	2004	2005	2006
<b>Murders, total. . . .</b>	<b>13,230</b>	<b>14,210</b>	<b>14,965</b>	<b>14,990</b>	Unknown. . . . .	4,070	4,984	5,635	5,223
<b>CIRCUMSTANCE <sup>1</sup></b>					<b>TYPE OF WEAPON OR CAUSE OF DEATH <sup>2</sup></b>				
Felonies, total . . . . .	2,229	2,099	2,189	2,436	Total firearms . . . . .	8,661	9,385	10,158	10,177
Rape. . . . .	58	37	45	32	Handguns . . . . .	6,778	7,286	7,565	7,795
Robbery . . . . .	1,077	993	930	1,041	Rifles . . . . .	411	403	445	436
Burglary. . . . .	76	78	91	79	Shotguns . . . . .	485	507	522	481
Narcotics . . . . .	589	558	597	796	Other not specified . .	987	1189	1626	1465
Other not specified . .	429	433	526	488	Knives or cutting instruments <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1,782	1,866	1,920	1,822
Suspected felony type . .	60	119	45	58	Blunt objects <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	617	667	608	607
Other than felony type total . . . . .	6,871	7,008	7,096	7,273	Personal weapons <sup>4</sup> . . .	927	943	905	833
Romantic triangle . . .	122	97	118	103	Fire . . . . .	134	118	125	115
Brawl due to influence of alcohol . . . . .	188	140	123	107	Strangulations . . . . .	166	156	118	135
Gangland killings. . . .	65	95	96	118	Asphyxiations. . . . .	92	109	96	107
Juvenile gang killings .	653	805	756	865	All other <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	851	966	1,035	1,194
Other not specified . .	5,637	5,650	5,793	5,882					

<sup>1</sup> Other types of circumstances not shown separately. <sup>2</sup> Other types of weapons or causes of deaths not shown separately. <sup>3</sup> Refers to club, hammer, etc. <sup>4</sup> Hands, fists, feet, etc. <sup>5</sup> 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/cius2006/index.html>>.