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Australian Institute of Criminology, National Homicide Monitoring Program, 1989-90 to 1992-93

Note:

Since 1990 the National Homicide Monitoring Program has been collecting information about the characteristics of homicide incidents, victims and offenders. The development of long data sets gives a unique understanding of the characteristics of homicide incidents, perpetrators and victims.

Incidents included in the Monitoring Program are gathered from the reports on each homicide coming to attention of the Police that are available at the date of collection. Therefore, the number of homicides recorded in this database differs slightly from data in published police annual reports which include later revisions (see Chapter 3).

Violent Deaths & Firearms

■ *Number of Incidents, Victims and Accused Persons* (see Figure 2.1).

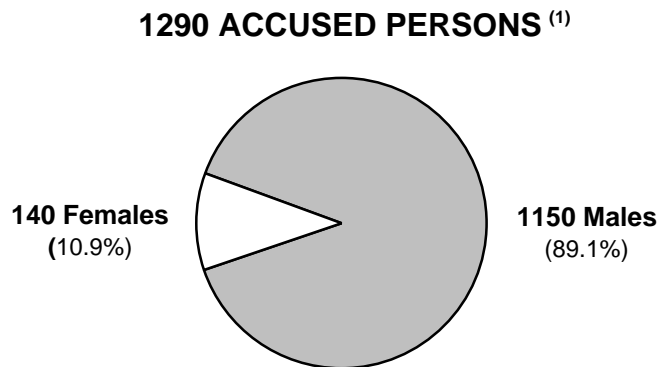
- From July 1989 to June 1993, there were 1267 homicide incidents in Australia 22.8 per cent of these involved firearms.
- There were 1367 victims associated with these incidents, of whom 532 (38.9 per cent) were female and 835 (61.1 per cent) were male.
- Gender was known for 1290 of the 1484 accused persons. Of these, 140 (10.9 per cent) were female and 1150 (89.1 per cent) were male.

Homicide, like other violent offences, is committed predominantly by males; indeed the data indicate that males are more than 8 times likely as females to commit homicide.

■ *Victim-Accused Relationship and Use of Firearms* (see Figures 2.2 and 2.3).

- Just under one-third of homicide incidents for the four-year period took place within the family. One-third of these were committed with a firearm.
- Homicides between friends and acquaintances accounted for another one-third of all incidents. One-fifth of these were firearm related.
- Over 11 per cent of all homicides for the four-year period where the offender was identified, were stranger homicides. One-tenth of these deaths were committed with a firearm. This is likely to be an underestimate because a greater proportion of unsolved homicides are likely to have been committed by strangers.

Figure 2.1
Australian Institute of Criminology National Homicide Monitoring Program
Number of Victims and Number of Accused Persons, Gender
1989-90 to 1992-93



⁽¹⁾ There were an additional 194 accused persons whose gender was not recorded at time of data collection.

Figure 2.2
Australian Institute of Criminology National Homicide Monitoring Program
Victim-Accused Relationship
1989-90 to 1992-93

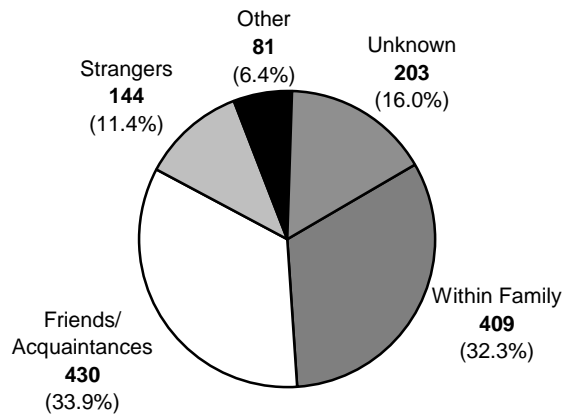
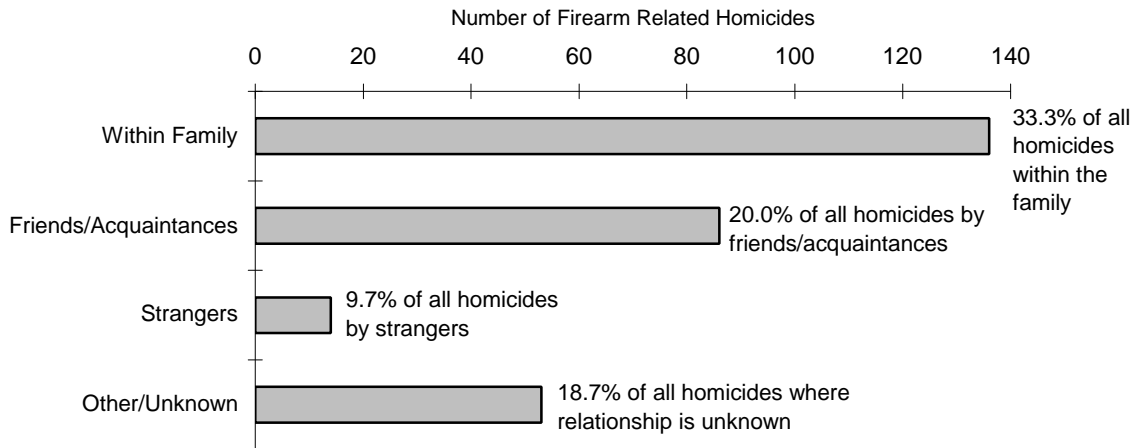


Figure 2.3
Australian Institute of Criminology National Homicide Monitoring Program
Firearm-related homicides (n=289) by Victim-Accused Relationship



Place of Occurrence and Use of Firearms

- Six out of ten of the 1267 homicide incidents recorded for the period from 1989 to 1993 occurred in a residential location (*see* Figure 2.4).
- 593 (46.8 per cent) occurred in the victim's home; 98 (7.7 per cent) occurred in the accused's home; and 68 (5.4 per cent) occurred in other residential locations (*see* Figure 2.5).
- About one-third of the homicides that occurred in the victim's home or in the accused's home were committed with a firearm. A firearm was used in almost one-sixth of the homicides occurring in other residential locations.
- There were 338 (26.7 per cent) homicide incidents that occurred in the street and other open areas (for example, the bush, public park, car park). A firearm was used in one-fifth of these cases.
- Pubs, clubs and discos accounted for 28 (2.2 per cent) of the homicides. About one-third of these cases involved firearms.
- 22 (1.7 per cent) of the homicide incidents occurred in other public places (for example, shop, shopping mall) with 45 per cent of these involving use of firearms. 28 (2.2 per cent) incidents occurred in public transport or other motor vehicle and a firearm was used in one-third of them.

Figure 2.4
Australian Institute of Criminology National Homicide Monitoring Program
Place of Occurrence of Homicide
1989-90 to 1992-93

