

**VIOLENT DEATHS
IN MIAMI DADE COUNTY
2003**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
VIOLENT INJURY STATISTICS SYSTEM**

Little Haiti killings

Fallen

His is the story of the American...

Some in Little Haiti think he was caught up in what may turn out to be a feud among neighborhood drug...

Drugs

He died... "He died..."

GRIM DISCOVERY

I used to...

cocaine

before

killings

gunmen

one killed, in gas station shooting

FAMILY

TIME OF LOSS

Murder suspect made enemies

2-year-old dies of beating trauma
boyfriend charged with murder

Violence

Man is killed by two gunmen in car

Suspect

MIAMI
LOVE

MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT DIVERS DOING A SWEET SEARCH FOR A NORTHWESTERN MIAMI-DADE CANAL THURSDAY FOUND A CONTAINING SKELETAL REMAINS

relatives of the victims suspect

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY VIOLENT INJURY STATISTICS SYSTEM

found in lake

COVER STORY

police say

police say

police say

police say

police say

police say



VIOLENT DEATHS IN MIAMI DADE COUNTY 2003

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY VIOLENT INJURY STATISTICS SYSTEM

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	1
Key Findings: Violence In Miami-Dade County During 2003	2
Acknowledgements	3
VISS Methods And Procedures	4
Violent Deaths in Miami-Dade County, 2003	6
Figure 1: Intent of Violent Deaths, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	6
Figure 2: County of Residence for Victims of Violent Death, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	6
Table 1: Violent Deaths in Miami-Dade County by Police Department Jurisdiction and Intent, 2003.....	7
Table 2: Violent Deaths in Miami-Dade County by Township of Incident and Intent, 2003.....	8
Homicides	9
Figure 3: Types of Homicides, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	9
Figure 4: Seasonality of Homicides, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	9
Figure 5: Location of Homicides, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	10
Figure 6: Hour of Death for Homicide Victims, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	10
Figure 7: Weapon Used in Commission of Homicides, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	11
Table 3: Weapon Used in Homicides by Gender of Victim, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	11
Figure 8: Age Distribution of Homicide Victims, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	12
Figure 9: Gender, Race, and Ethnicity of Homicide Victims, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	12
Figure 10: Education Level of Adult Homicide Victims, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	13
Figure 11: Employment Status of Adult Homicide Victims, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	13
Figure 12: Homicide Rates by Age Group and Gender, Miami-Dade County Residents, 2003.....	14
Table 4: Homicide Totals and Rates, Miami-Dade Residents by Age Group and Gender of Victim, 2003.....	14
Figure 13: Toxicology Results for Homicide Victims, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	15
Figure 14: Prevalence of Specific Drugs by Classification All Tested Homicide Victims, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	15
Table 5: Precipitating Circumstances Associated with Homicides by Gender, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	16
Figure 15: Victim-Suspect Relationship, Adult Homicides, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	17
Table 6: Circumstances Associated with Intimate Partner Homicides by Gender, Miami-Dade County, 2003.....	18
Figure 16: Firearm Homicides by Victim Age Group, Miami-Dade County Residents, 2001-2003.....	19
Figure 17: Firearm Homicide Rates by Victim Age Group, Miami-Dade County Residents, 2001-2003.....	19
Table 7: Type and Caliber of Firearms Used in Firearm-Related Homicides, Miami-Dade Co., 2003.....	20



Suicides	21
Figure 18: Types of Suicides, Miami-Dade County, 2003	21
Figure 19: Seasonality of Suicides, Miami-Dade County, 2003	21
Figure 20: Location of Suicides, Miami-Dade County, 2003	22
Figure 21: Hour of Death for Suicide Victims, Miami-Dade County, 2003	22
Figure 22: Method of Suicide, Miami-Dade County, 2003	23
Table 8: Weapon Used in Suicides by Gender of Victim, Miami-Dade County, 2003	23
Figure 23: Age Distribution of Suicide Victims, Miami-Dade County, 2003	24
Figure 24: Gender, Race and Ethnicity of Suicide Victims, Miami-Dade County, 2003	24
Figure 25: Education Level of Adult Suicide Victims, Miami-Dade County, 2003	25
Figure 26: Marital Status of Suicide Victims, Miami-Dade County, 2003	25
Figure 27: Suicide Rates by Age Group and Gender, Miami-Dade County Residents, 2003	26
Table 9: Suicide Totals and Rates, Miami-Dade Residents by Age Group and Gender of Victim, 2003	26
Figure 28: Toxicology Results for Suicide Victims, Miami-Dade County, 2003	27
Figure 29: Prevalence of Specific Drugs by Classification All Tested Suicide Victims, Miami-Dade County, 2003	27
Table 10: External Circumstances Among Suicide Victims by Gender, Miami-Dade County, 2003	28
Table 11: Risk Factors Among Suicide Victims by Gender, Miami-Dade County, 2003	29
Figure 30: Firearm Suicides by Victim Age Group, Miami-Dade County Residents, 2001-2003	30
Figure 31: Firearm Suicide Rates by Victim Age Group, Miami-Dade County Residents, 2001-2003	30
Table 12: Type and Caliber of Firearms Used in Firearm-Related Suicides, Miami-Dade Co., 2003	31
Violent Deaths Among Children Aged 0-17 Years	32
Figure 32: Intent of Violent Deaths among Children, Miami-Dade County, 2003	32
Table 13: Weapons Used in Violent Deaths to Children Aged 0-17 Years Old by Sex of Victim and Intent, Miami-Dade, 2003	32
Figure 33: Homicides to Children by Victim's Age and Sex Miami-Dade County, 2003	33
Figure 34: Gender, Race and Ethnicity of Child Homicide Victims, Miami-Dade County, 2003	33
Figure 35: Precipitating Circumstances of Child Homicides, Miami-Dade County, 2003	33
Table 14: Relationship of Child Homicide Victims to the Suspect, Miami-Dade County, 2003	34
Table 15: Violent Deaths Witnessed by Children Aged 0-17 Years Old, Miami-Dade County, 2003	35
Appendix	36
Police Department Data Abstraction Form	37







EXECUTIVE SUMMARY


The Miami-Dade County Violent Injury Statistics System (VISS) represents one of a dozen sites nationwide collaborating with the Harvard School of Public Health in a model reporting system that provides detailed descriptions on violent death. This report provides a comprehensive picture of violence in Miami-Dade County during 2003, drawing from more than 200 variables collected from three sources of information: medical examiner records, death certificates and police department records. It represents the second year that data collection in Miami-Dade County was expanded from a system that collected information on just firearm-related deaths (2000, 2001) to one capturing data on all violent death regardless of weapon type.

During 2003, 423 persons died in Miami-Dade County due to violence (homicide, suicide, or unintentional firearm deaths). This represents 22 fewer violent deaths than was observed in 2002. Homicides (219 violent deaths) slightly outnumbered suicides (203) during 2003.

Some examples of the circumstances behind these deaths include:

 A 15 year old retrieved his uncle's gun, which was loaded and not locked, and put it to his head. His cousin tried to verbally intervene before the adolescent fatally shot himself. The victim was depressed about an intimate partner problem.

 A suspect, currently separated from his wife, became angry when she asked for a divorce. He waited outside of the victim's home, and stabbed her multiple times in front of their 9-year old son once she walked outside. The child tried unsuccessfully to intervene.

 A verbal argument occurred between 2 neighbors over volume/noise at the victim's party. The suspect left the scene but returned later and started another argument which led to the suspect randomly shooting onto victim's porch, striking and killing 3 people.

Violence is an acknowledged public health problem that affects not just individuals but entire communities and neighborhoods. Further, the impact of violence is not uniform throughout the county but adversely affects certain communities and groups of residents more than others. The findings presented in this report can not only help us to better understand the burden of violence in our community but also better inform us as to where to focus violence prevention efforts. VISS continues to work with community partners such as NOT ONE MORE: The Miami-Dade Coalition to Prevent Youth Violence; Project Safe Neighborhoods; the Miami-Dade County Health Department; local police departments; the Juvenile Assessment Center; the Criminal Justice Council; and the Youth Crime Task Force to target “at-risk” populations and assist with developing programs and policies that address juvenile assault, child abuse, suicide, and intimate partner violence. Sharing these data with programs and researchers in the field is fundamental to the concept of VISS and imperative in order to continue guiding such outreach and intervention.

Continuing to measure and evaluate the patterns and trends of violent death within the county is critical to monitoring violence as a public health threat. It is a credit to Miami-Dade County's leadership and the support of the Youth Crime Task Force that our community has such a valuable tool for prevention. Predicting our future and intervening to better our present will come from sustained knowledge of our immediate past.

VIOLENCE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DURING 2003: KEY FINDINGS

All Violent Deaths

- 423 violent deaths occurred in Miami-Dade County during 2003. Homicide accounted for 219 deaths (52%), suicide for 203 deaths (48%), and one death was due to unintentional firearm injury. This is a decline of 5% from the 445 violent deaths that occurred in 2002.

- Firearms were responsible for 266 (63%) of the violent deaths, an increase of 8% from the 245 firearm deaths observed in 2002.

Homicide

WHO were the victims of homicide?

- 35% of homicide victims were Black, non-Hispanic males between 15-34 years old.
- The homicide mortality rate for male county residents was 5 times higher than the rate for female residents.
- The relationship between the victim and suspect could not be determined for 47% of homicides. When the suspect could be identified, the majority of homicide victims knew their attackers.
- Family members or intimate partners accounted for 14% of the suspects.
- Five children less than 3 years of age were fatal victims of child abuse.

WHERE did homicides occur?

- 43% of homicides occurred in a house or apartment; 26% in a street, alley or sidewalk; and 11% in a commercial building

HOW did homicides occur?

- 165 homicides (76%) were committed with a firearm, an 8% increase from the 153 homicides from firearms observed in 2002.

WHY did homicides occur?

- Precipitating circumstances were identified for 78% of adult homicides and 100% of homicides to youth less than 18 years old.

- Most homicides were precipitated by an argument (53%), with 20% being arguments over money or property; 44% of homicides were crime-related, mostly a result of burglaries or drug dealing.

Intimate Partner Violence

- 24 of the 219 homicide victims (11%) were current or past intimate partners of the suspects. 18 of 24 victims were female.
- 9 of the 24 intimate partner homicides involved murder-suicide, all involved male perpetrators and 3 of these incidents had a documented history of on-going abuse.
- 13 of 24 victims (54%) were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of their death.

Suicide

WHO were suicide victims?

- Nearly one-half of suicide victims were Hispanic males and 15% were females.
- 11% of suicide victims were 15-24 years of age; 27% were older than 65 years of age.

WHERE did suicides occur?

- 67% of suicides were committed at the victim's residence.

HOW did suicides occur?

- The most common method of suicide was firearms (49%) followed by hanging (25%), falls (10%) and poisoning (7%).

WHY did suicides occur?

- 88% of suicide victims were in a depressed mood at the time of the incident; 42% had a diagnosed mental health problem.
- 30% percent of suicide victims had experienced a recent acute crisis; 9% had the crisis on the same day of their suicide.
- 21% of victims previously attempted suicide.
- 31% of victims experienced an intimate partner problem that contributed to their suicide.

Children Aged 0-17 Years Old

- Children 0-17 years were victims to 12 homicides, 3 suicides and 1 unintentional firearm death.
- 11 of the 16 juvenile deaths were due to firearms, which represented 3 fewer firearm deaths than seen during 2002

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VISS METHODS AND PROCEDURES

Data Collection

The Miami-Dade County VISS collects detailed information on victims and offenders of violent death, defined as any homicide, suicide or unintentional firearm death that occurred within the county. Residents and non-residents are included. Victims whose deaths occur in the county and are investigated by the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner's (ME) Office, but for whom the violent incident took place outside Miami-Dade County, are excluded. For example, an individual may be transferred to a Miami-Dade hospital from another county to receive treatment and eventually die in the county hospital but the incident location was outside the county.

Case Definition

- **Homicides:** Incidents related to interpersonal violence. For the purpose of this report, legal interventions, i.e., deaths resulting from the actions of law enforcement in the line of duty, and state executions, are defined as homicides.
- **Suicides:** Intentionally self-inflicted injuries resulting in death.
- **Unintentional Firearm Deaths:** Incidents involving accidental gun discharges (e.g. gun falls to the floor and discharges), guns discharged by a person unintentionally (e.g. a person unintentionally pulls the trigger while holstering the gun), or when a gun is discharged intentionally under circumstances in which the shooter was not attempting to harm, threaten, or control another person.

Three sources of information are used for data collection: medical examiner records, death certificates and police reports.

Data Collection Procedures at the Medical Examiner's Office:

The VISS data manager meets with the records supervisor of Miami-Dade County's ME Office once per month to obtain a list of all the homicides, suicides and undetermined or accidental firearm deaths that were investigated by their office. With the exception of legally sealed documents such as photographs, the complete medical examiner record is reviewed for each case.

Each record contains a descriptive narrative of the violent death incident that provides valuable information on the circumstances and events preceding the death. Trained data abstractors, using a standard abstraction form, gather case information on the demographics of victims and suspects, the type of weapon used, the relationship between

victims and offenders, the circumstances leading to the injury and geographic locations of the incident and victim's residence. Suicide cases are reviewed for information on the victim's physical and mental health, substance abuse, medical treatment status, and evidence of current life crises. For firearm deaths involving shooters less than 17 years of age, an attempt is made to identify the owner of the gun and the circumstances surrounding how the youth obtained the weapon. The medical examiner record also contains a toxicology report, which provides a listing of those drugs found in the victim at the time of death.

The ME record may also contain a Scene Investigation Report which portrays the clinical findings at the scene with great specificity. It also helps to corroborate some eyewitness accounts, document wound locations and characteristics, provide discussion of witness behavior, and assess the crime scene in terms of environmental issues and its effect on the deceased. As is the case in forensic medicine, this report can help unite the medical and legal facets of investigation. The Scene Investigation Report is completed for most traumatic deaths or when the police request that the ME respond to a death scene.

The ME record contains a copy of the preliminary police investigation report. This document provides a short narrative on the crime immediately after it occurred and information on the victims and suspects if known. Police case numbers are obtained to identify the investigating police department and the homicide investigator assigned to each case.

Data Collection Procedures at Law Enforcement Agencies:

During 2003, seven police departments investigated the violent deaths that occurred in the county and each department voluntarily provided information from their investigations to the VISS system. The police departments were contacted usually a minimum of 9 months after the incident to permit the majority of police investigations to run their course. Most law enforcement agencies in Miami-Dade County manually completed the data abstraction form on each incident within their



jurisdiction and forwarded the information to VISS (Appendix 1). Other departments permitted the data abstractors to manually abstract data from the police files. Unique information provided by police records included incident addresses, dates and times; information on any suspects involved in the crime; felony history of the victim; firearm ballistics (type, make, model, caliber and serial number when available) from the crime lab; and circumstantial information leading to the incident.

Another source of information used for homicides are the Supplemental Homicides Reports (SHR), which are submitted voluntarily to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) by the homicide division of each investigating police department. These data are requested from FDLE every six months but, because they are voluntary, not all homicides will have an SHR. Further, the circumstantial information contained on the SHR typically does not enhance the data provided directly from the investigating police department.

Data Collection Procedures for Death Certificates:

Data from death certificates is collected from the Vital Statistics Office at the Florida Department of Health. The death certificate is the official document for certifying cause of death in the United States and serves as an important second source for case ascertainment to ensure the identification of any cases not known to the medical examiner's office. Death certificates provide unique information on the classification of death, contributing factors to the death, victim residence, demographic information such as ethnicity and marital status, and corroborate data obtained from the medical examiner and law enforcement records. The electronic death certificate data is obtained a minimum of six months after the incident to ensure that the ICD (International Classification of Disease) code for cause of death and nature of injury have been tabulated. Once obtained, death certificate information is linked to the ME and law enforcement information using unique and personal identifiers.

After data is collected from the three sources, it is reviewed and coded according to standardized protocols established by the National Violent Injury Statistics System (NVISS) and entered into an incident-based, relational Access database (NVISS database V. 3.0). All personal identifiers are removed from each case to protect confidentiality.

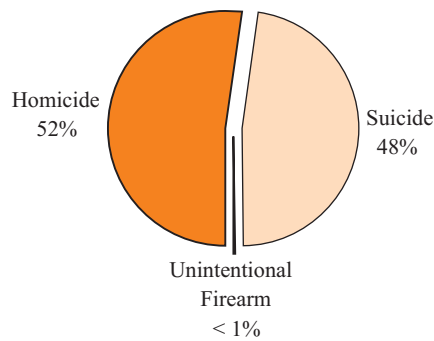
Violent Deaths in Miami-Dade County, 2003

During 2003, 423 violence-related deaths occurred in Miami-Dade County. Figure 1 shows that slightly more than one-half of these deaths were homicides (52%; n=219) followed by suicides (48%; n=203). There was one additional unintentional firearm-related death in 2003

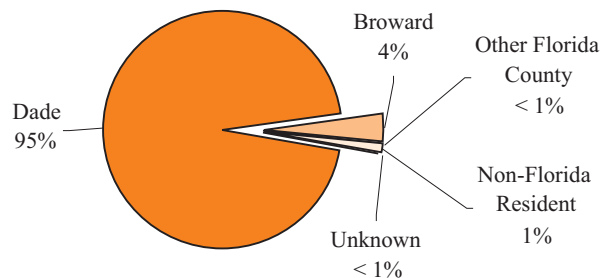
This report focuses on deaths to both Miami-Dade County residents and non-residents who suffered a violence-related

death in the county. Figure 2 shows that 94% (n=398) of the violence-related deaths occurred to Miami-Dade County residents. Approximately 5% (n=16) of victims were residents of another Florida county and 1% (n=5) occurred to out-of-state or out-of-country residents. Similar percentages for residency were seen for both homicides and suicides. All of the violent deaths to children aged 0-17 years old (n=16) were Miami-Dade County residents.

**Figure 1: Intent of Violent Deaths
Miami-Dade County, 2003**



**Figure 2: County of Residence for
Victims of Violent Death
Miami-Dade County, 2003**



Location of Violent Deaths



Table 1 shows the distribution of violence-related deaths among the police departments in Miami-Dade County that had investigative jurisdiction for the incident. The police departments provided circumstantial and location data for this report from their

investigations of these incidents. More than one-half of both homicides (58%) and suicides (60%) were investigated by the Miami-Dade County Police Department. The City of Miami Police Department investigated 32% of homicides and 19% of suicides.

Table 1: Violent Deaths in Miami-Dade County by Police Department Jurisdiction and Intent, 2003

Police Department	Homicide N (%)	Suicide N (%)	Unintentional N	Total N (%)
Miami-Dade County Police Dept	127 (58%)	122 (60%)	1	250 (59%)
City of Miami Police Dept	70 (32%)	38 (19%)	0	108 (25%)
Hialeah Police Dept	14 (6%)	22 (11%)	0	36 (9%)
Miami Beach Police Dept	6 (3%)	14 (7%)	0	20 (5%)
North Miami Beach Police Dept	1 (<1%)	3 (1%)	0	4 (1%)
Aventura Police Dept	0	4 (2%)	0	4 (1%)
North Miami Police Dept	1 (<1%)	0	0	1 (0.2%)
Total	219 (100%)	203 (100%)	1	423 (100%)

Table 2 shows the frequencies of violent deaths for the Miami-Dade County cities and towns where they occurred. Almost one-half of homicides and suicides occurred in communities defined as unincorporated Miami-Dade County. The identification of all the specific communities within unincorporated Miami-Dade was not possible at the time of this publication.

One-third of all homicides and 19% of all suicides occurred within the City of Miami. Records from the City of Miami police department permitted a breakdown of the city violent deaths by the community of occurrence. Little Haiti (17) and Model City



(15) experienced the most homicides in 2003, although 11 different communities within the City of Miami experienced at least 2 homicides. With respect to suicides, nine different communities within the City of Miami experienced at least 1 suicide led by Allapattah, Flagami, and Little Havana with eight each.

Among deaths that occurred outside the City of Miami, Hialeah (15) and Opa-Locka (13) experienced the most homicides while Hialeah (29) and Miami Beach (15) experienced the most suicides.

Table 2: Violent Deaths in Miami-Dade County by Township of Incident and Intent, 2003

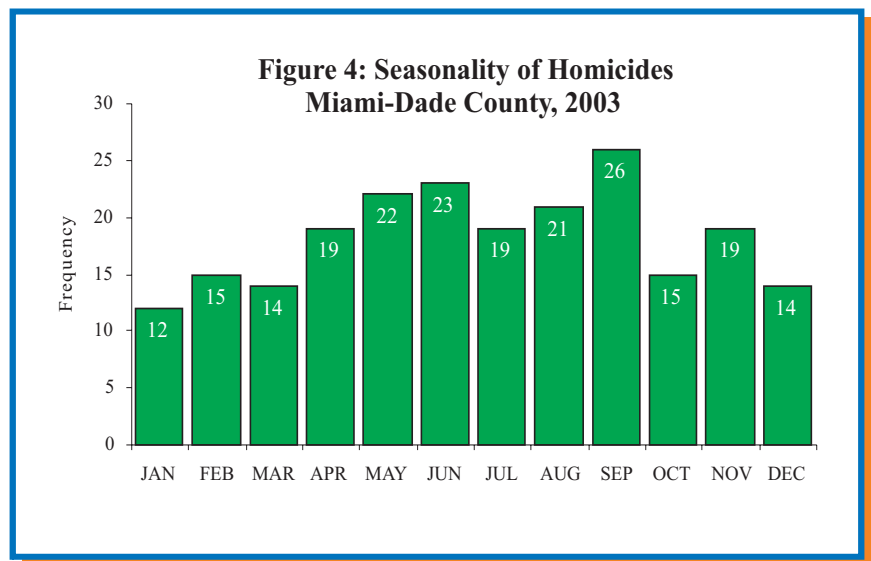
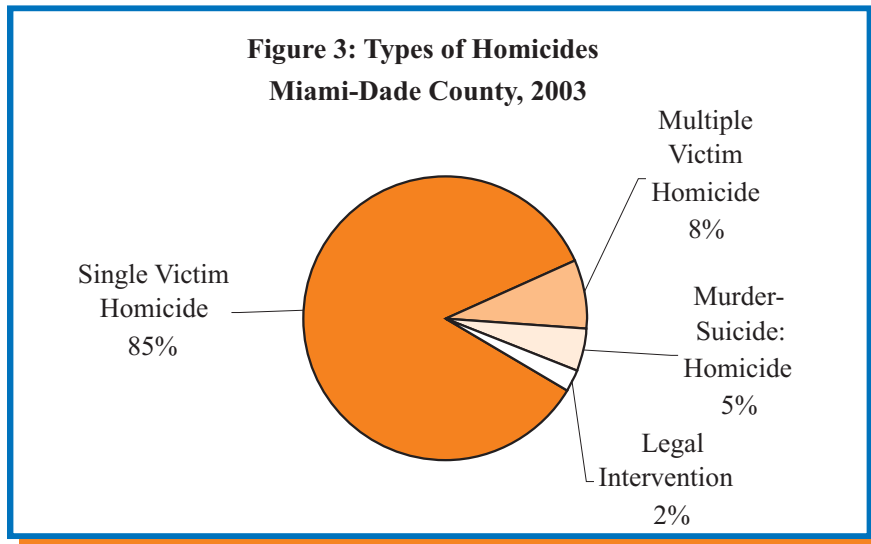
Community	Homicide N (%)	Suicide N (%)	Unintentional N	Total N (%)
Unincorporated Miami-Dade Co.	94 (43%)	89 (44%)	1	184 (44%)
City of Miami	70 (32%)	39 (19%)	0	109 (26%)
Little Haiti	17 (8%)	2 (1%)	-	19 (5%)
Model City	15 (7%)	0 (0%)	-	15 (4%)
Allapattah	6 (3%)	8 (4%)	-	14 (3%)
Little Havana	5 (2%)	8 (4%)	-	13 (3%)
Flagami	5 (2%)	8 (4%)	-	13 (3%)
Coconut Grove	7 (3%)	2 (1%)	-	9 (2%)
Overtown	6 (3%)	0 (0%)	-	6 (1%)
Upper East Side	4 (2%)	1 (<1%)	-	5 (1%)
Downtown	1 (<1%)	4 (2%)	-	5 (1%)
Wynwood	3 (1%)	2 (1%)	-	5 (1%)
Coral Way	1 (<1%)	4 (2%)	-	5 (1%)
Hialeah	15 (7%)	29 (14%)	0	44 (10%)
Miami Beach	6 (3%)	15 (7%)	0	21 (5%)
Opa-Locka	13 (6%)	3 (2%)	0	16 (4%)
Homestead	9 (4%)	4 (2%)	0	13 (3%)
Coral Gables	3 (1%)	4 (2%)	0	7 (2%)
North Miami Beach	2 (1%)	4 (2%)	0	6 (1%)
North Miami	4 (2%)	0 (0%)	0	4 (<1%)
Aventura	0 (0%)	4 (2%)	0	4 (<1%)
Miami Springs	0 (0%)	3 (2%)	0	3 (<1%)
Hialeah Gardens	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	0	2 (<1%)
Miami Shores	0 (0%)	2 (1%)	0	2 (<1%)
Eight towns with 1 death	2 (1%)	6 (3%)	0	8 (2%)
Total	219 (100%)	203 (100%)	1	423 (100%)

Homicides

In 2003, 219 homicides occurred in Miami-Dade County, which represented one more homicide than occurred in 2002. Figure 3 describes the types of homicides that occurred in the county in 2003. The majority involved a single victim (85%). There were 8 incidents that involved multiple victims of homicide (7 incidents with 2 victims each; 1 with 3 victims; 17 victims total), and five of the 8 involved both a male and female victim. Eleven homicides (5%) occurred during the commission of murder-suicides, 10 of

which involved a male perpetrator. Five additional victims died as a result of law enforcement intervention.

As seen in Figure 4, monthly homicide incidence steadily increased through the first half of the year, peaked in September and then declined to its lowest incidence in the winter months. The relatively low numbers of juvenile homicide victims resulted in no pattern of seasonality.



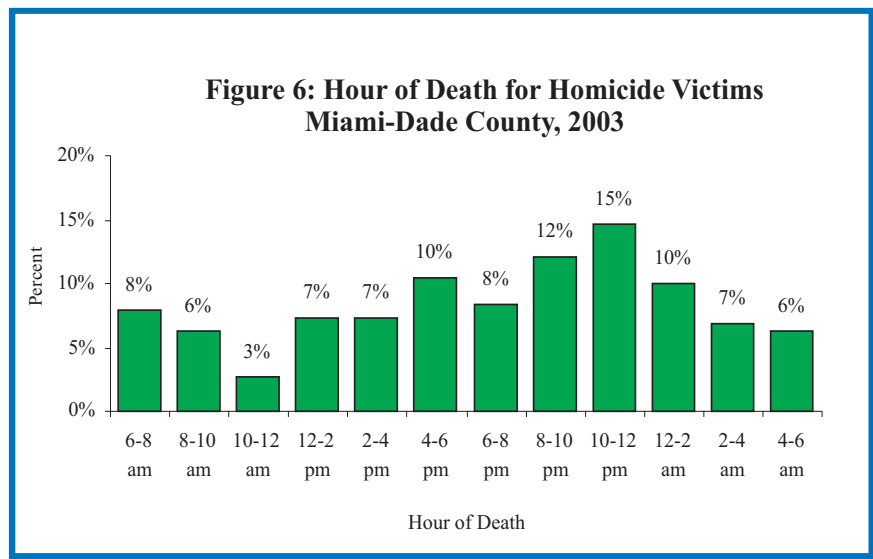
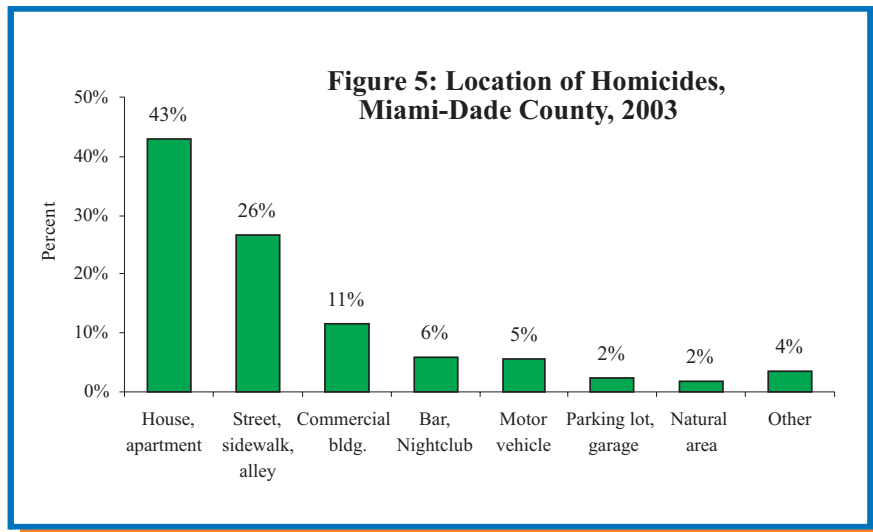
Place and Time of Homicide Occurrence



As seen in Figure 5, 43% of all homicides occurred in a private residence, and 76% of these cases occurred within the victim's own home. One in four homicides occurred in a street or alley, the location of most drive-by and gang-related shootings. The 11% of cases that occurred at a commercial building usually involved businesses where another crime was in progress. Thirteen homicides occurred at a bar or nightclub, 3 of which involved robberies of patrons by strangers after leaving the bar. The other 10 involved altercations inside a bar, usually among strangers, five of which escalated to shootings or assaults that occurred inside the bar. Homicides that involved the victim being shot inside a motor vehicle (n=12) were among the least

informative of cases. Eight of the 12 incidents involved youth aged 18-28 years and five deaths occurred within a 10-day span in March 2003

The precise time when a homicide occurs is often not known because frequently the body is found alone after the incident with no suspects or witnesses present. In 2003, the time of occurrence was unknown for 43% of homicides. Therefore, the hour of the victim's death (available for 87% of cases) is presented in Figure 6 as an estimate of when the homicides occurred. Homicides occurred during all periods of the day in 2003 with as many occurring between the afternoon hours of noon-6pm (24%) as occurred between midnight-6am (23%).



Method of Homicide



As seen in Figure 7, the most common weapon used in the commission of a homicide was a firearm (76%) followed by knives or sharp instruments (11%), personal weapons (6%, e.g. fists, kicking), and strangulation (4%; 3 by ligature and 5 by hand). Handguns (47%) accounted for the majority of firearms used in homicides.

Table 3 shows the type of weapon used in homicides contrasted by the victim's gender. Male victims were more likely to be killed by firearms than female victims (79% vs. 60%). Female victims had a higher proportion of victims killed by sharp instruments (22%) and strangulation (14%), whereas the third leading cause of homicide for male victims was being physically beaten by an assailant (7%).

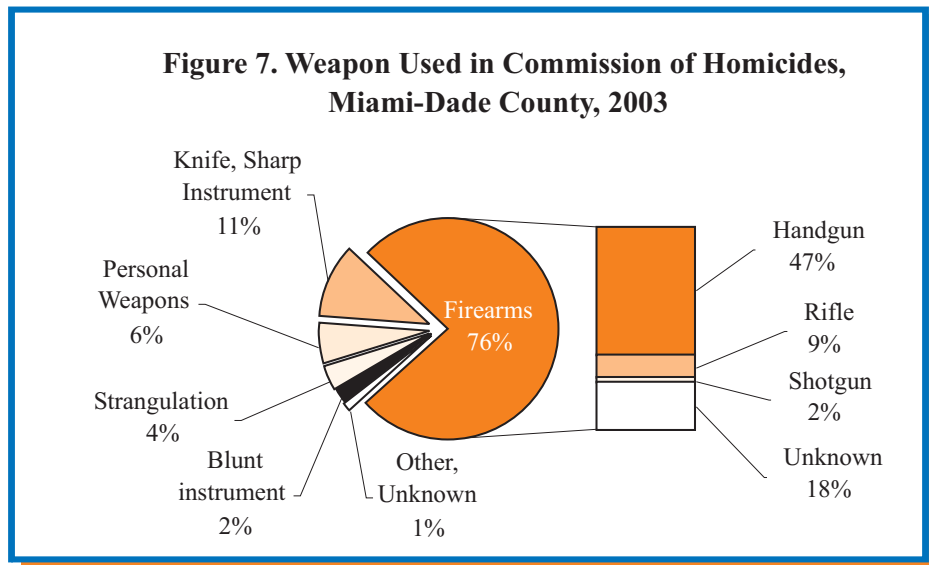


Table 3: Weapon Used in Homicides by Gender of Victim, Miami-Dade County 2003

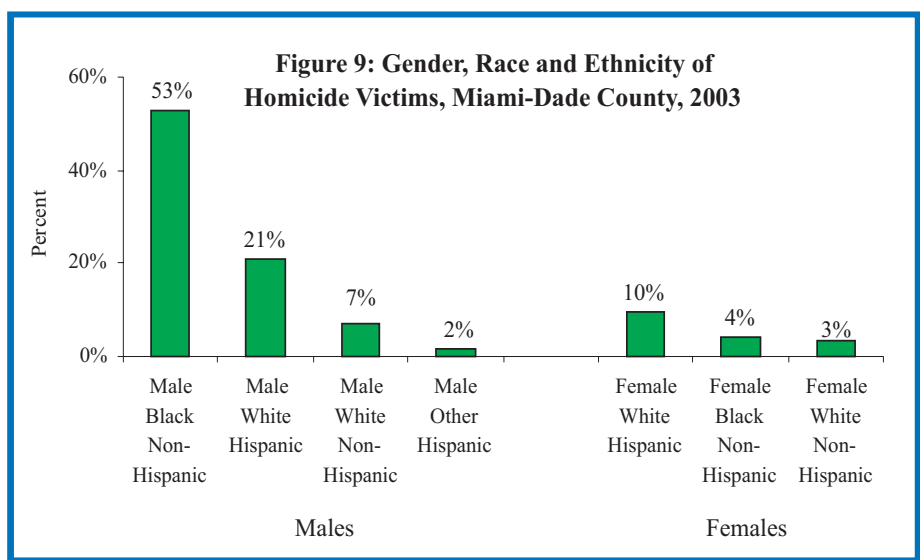
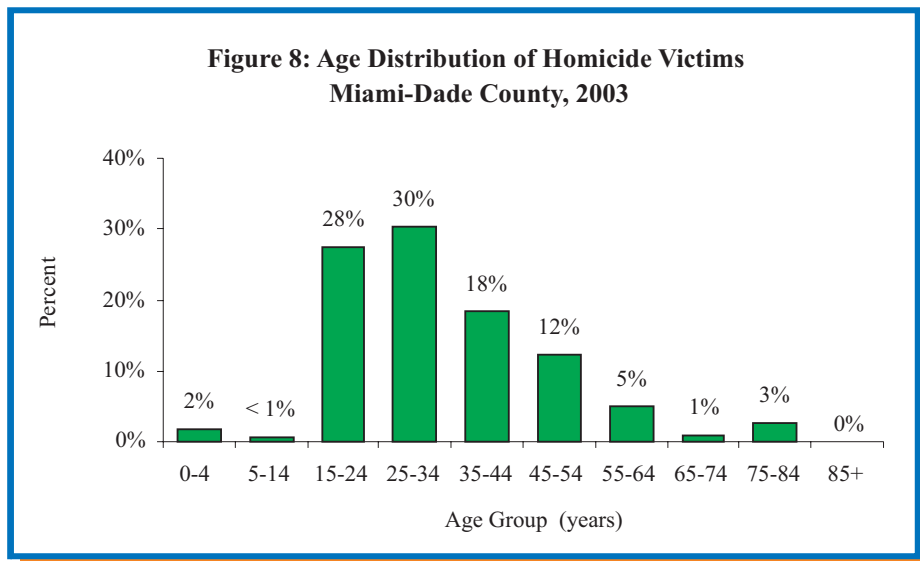
Weapon	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Firearm	143	79%	22	60%	165	76%
Knife	17	10%	8	22%	25	11%
Physical Assault	13	7%	0	--	13	6%
Strangulation	3	2%	5	14%	8	4%
Blunt Instrument	3	2%	2	5%	5	2%
Fall	1	<1%	0	--	1	< 1%
Fire, Burn	1	<1%	0	--	1	< 1%
Motor Vehicle	1	<1%	0	--	1	< 1%
Total	182	100%	37	100%	219	100%

Homicide Victim Demographics



Most homicide victims were less than 34 years of age and almost one-third were under the age of 25 years. Twelve victims were juveniles (under 18 years old), and 5 elderly victims were aged 75 years or greater.

Figure 9 shows that most of the homicide victims were male (83%) and non-Hispanic (67%). The subgroup of the population most at risk for homicide was Black non-Hispanic males (53%), followed by White Hispanic males (21%). White Hispanic females comprised 10% of all homicide victims and 61% of all female homicide victims.

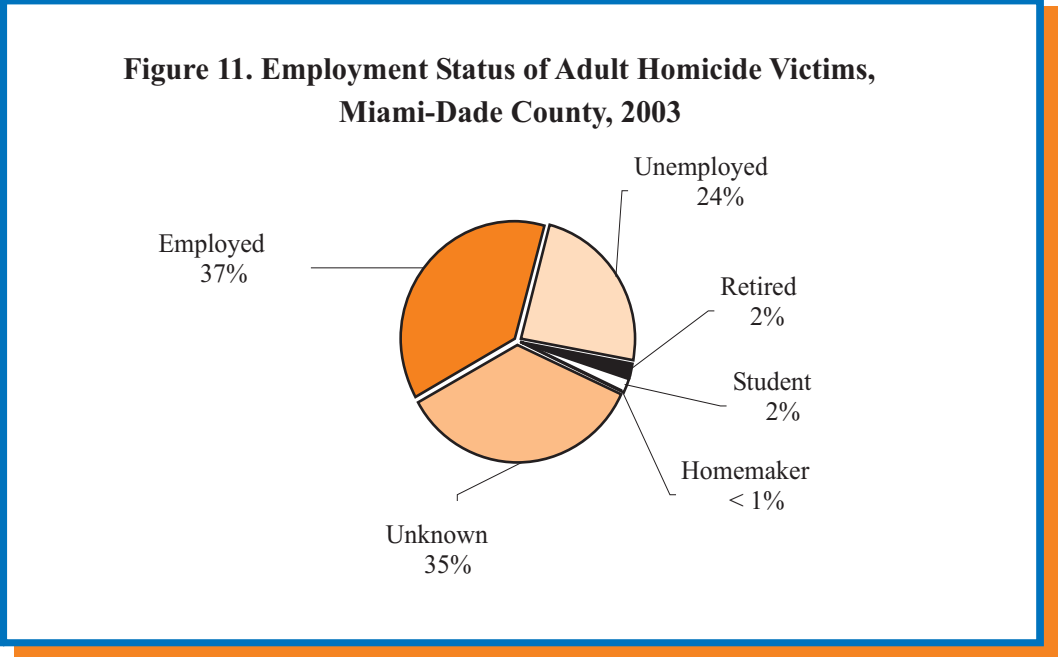
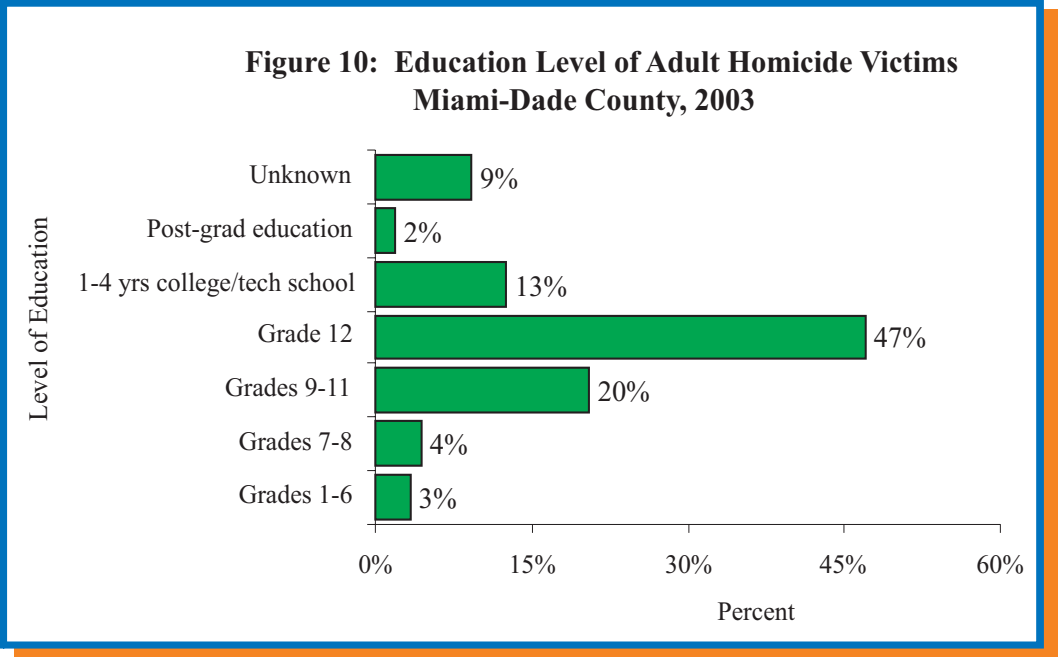


Homicide Victim Demographics



Figures 10 and 11 show the education level achieved and employment status for the 206 adult homicide victims (aged 18 and older). Twenty-seven percent of adult homicide victims never completed high school, while 15% completed some level of education beyond high school.

More than 1/3 of adult homicide victims were employed at the time of their death while 24% were unemployed.



Homicide Rates by Age Group and Gender, Miami-Dade County Resident Deaths, 2003



Figure 12 and Table 4 show the homicide rates for cases that involved only Miami-Dade County residents during 2003 (205 of 219 homicides). The homicide rate for males aged 25-34 years was 22% higher than the next highest age group (males aged 15-24 years). Male homicide rates declined steadily after age 34

through age 74, then increased again after age 74. The highest female homicide rate occurred among residents aged 15-24 years (6.4/100,000). Overall, the homicide mortality rate among male residents of Miami-Dade County (14.9/100,000) was more than 5 times higher than female residents (2.8/100,000) in 2003.

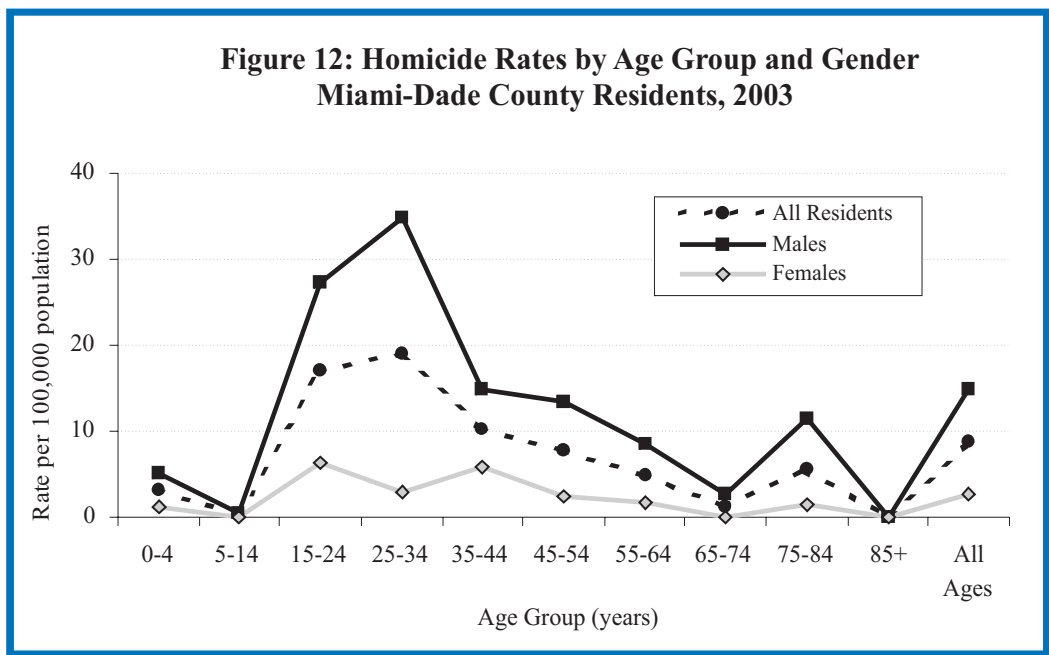


Table 4: Homicide Totals and Rates, Miami-Dade Residents by Age Group and Gender of Victim, 2003

Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
	N	Rate*	N	Rate*	N	Rate#
0-4	4	5.0	1	1.3	5	3.2
5-14	1	0.6	0	0	1	0.3
15-24	44	27.3	10	6.4	54	17.0
25-34	58	34.9	5	3.0	63	18.9
35-44	27	14.8	11	5.9	38	10.3
45-54	20	13.4	4	2.5	24	7.7
55-64	9	8.5	2	1.7	11	4.9
65-74	2	2.7	0	0	2	1.2
75-84	5	11.5	1	1.5	6	5.5
85+	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Ages	170	14.9	34	2.7	204[#]	8.7

* Rates are per 100,000 population based on 2000 Census data

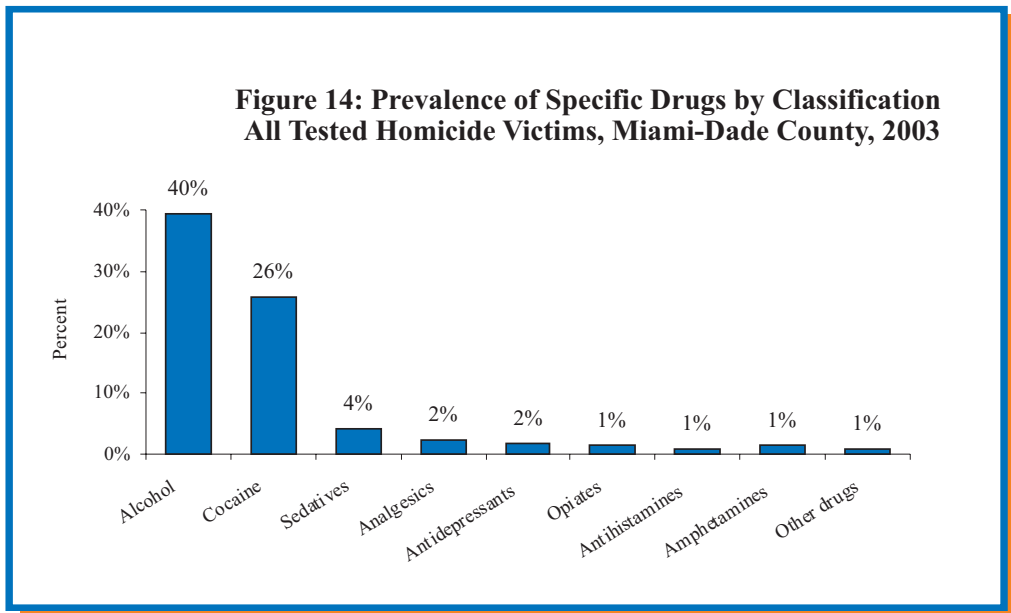
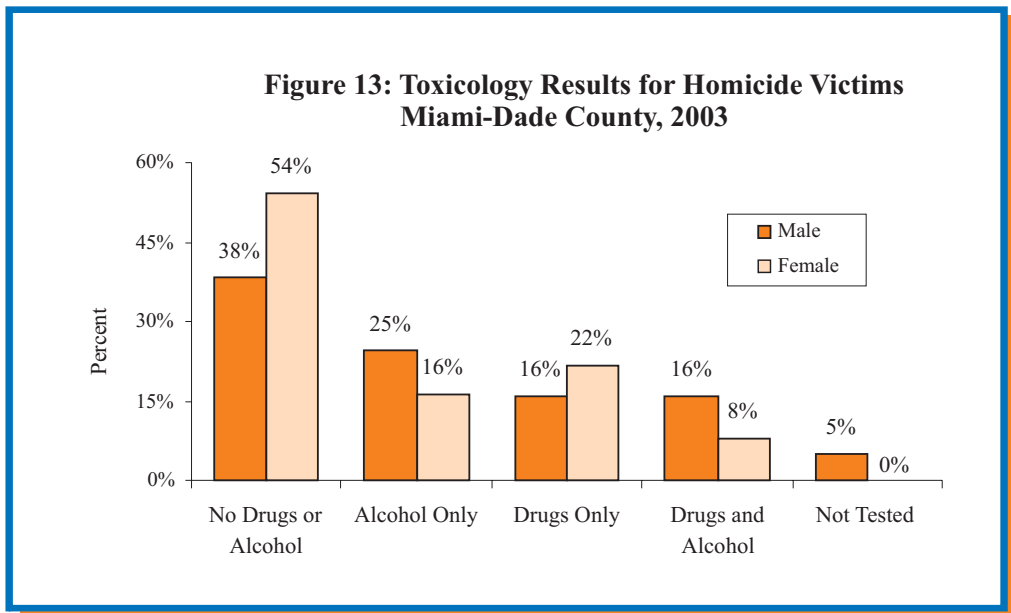
† Rates for cells with < 20 injuries are highly unstable

Age was unknown for 1 county resident death

Toxicology Results for Homicide Victims

Figure 13 shows that 57% of male homicide victims and 46% of female victims had some alcohol and/or drugs present in their system at the time of death. As shown in Figure 14, alcohol was the most commonly found substance in homicide victims (40% of all tested victims) followed by cocaine (26%) and sedatives (4%).

The sedative most common among homicide victims was Xanax (6 of 9 positive tests). The toxicology laboratory does not routinely test for marijuana so no reliable data is available on this drug.



Homicide Circumstances

The precipitating circumstances were identified for 160 of the 206 (78%) adult homicides during 2003 (child homicide circumstances are discussed in the section on youth violent death). This percentage was similar for male (77%) and female (80%) victims. Forty-four percent of homicides involved two or more precipitating circumstances. Table 5 illustrates that most homicides were precipitated by an argument (53%), either involving money/property (20%) or another type of argument or conflict (33%). Homicides precipitated by the commission of

another crime accounted for 44% of all homicides; most were associated with robbery or drug dealing.

Male homicide victims were more likely than female victims to be involved in a crime-related incident (51% vs. 18%) and to be armed (12% vs. 0%). Deaths related to romantic relationships explained nearly one-fourth of all homicides (intimate partner violence 15%; jealousy/lover's triangle 9%). Approximately two-thirds of female homicide victims died as a result of intimate-partner violence compared to 5% of male victims.

Table 5: Precipitating Circumstances Associated with Homicides by Gender, Miami-Dade County, 2003

Circumstance	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Circumstances known	132	100%	28	100%	160	100%
Homicide sparked by another crime						
Crime in progress	59	45%	4	14%	63	39%
Revenge over previous crime	5	4%	1	4%	6	4%
Other crime	2	2%	0	--	2	1%
Argument						
Over money, property	32	24%	0	--	32	20%
Other argument or conflict	41	31%	12	43%	53	33%
Defensive, law enforcement-related						
Civilian in self-defense	7	5%	0	--	7	4%
By law enforcement	4	3%	0	--	4	3%
Drug-related	28	21%	0	--	28	18%
Gang-related	4	3%	0	--	4	3%
Victim armed						
Yes (any)	16	12%	0	--	16	10%
Firearm	13	10%	0	--	13	8%
Brawl (mutual physical fight)	13	10%	1	4%	14	9%
Jealousy lovers triangle	6	5%	9	32%	15	9%
Intimate partner violence-related	6	5%	18	64%	24	15%
Drive-by	14	11%	1	4%	15	9%
All Other	7	5%	3	11%	10	6%

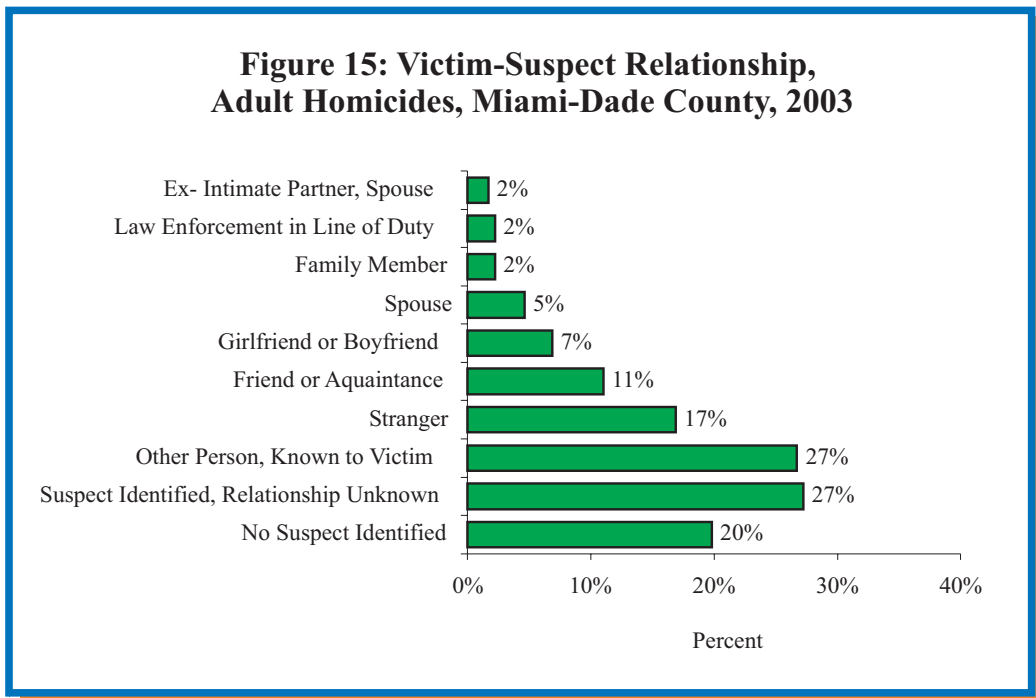
* More than one circumstance may apply to each victim; percentage is of homicides with known circumstances within each sex and total.

Homicide Victim-Suspect Relationship



Figure 15 shows the relationship of the victim to the suspected perpetrator(s) for the 206 adult homicides that occurred during 2003 (child homicide relationships are presented in the youth violent death section). The victim-to-suspect(s) relationship could not be determined for 47% of the adult homicides. In most instances no suspect(s) were identified from either the police or medical examiner records (27% of cases). Another 20% of homicides had suspect(s) under investigation, but there was no reference regarding the suspects relationship to the victim.

Where suspect information was known, the majority of homicide victims knew their attacker with the suspects being either current or ex-intimate partners (14%), friends or acquaintances (11%) or family members (2%).



Intimate Partner Homicide



Table 6 presents information on the 24 homicide victims that were current or past intimate partners (IP) of the suspects. This represents a slight decline from 26 IP-related deaths that occurred in 2002. Eighteen of the victims were female and six were male. Nine (39%) of the IP-related deaths involved a murder-suicide, all by male perpetrators. Twenty-one of the perpetrators (87%) were current intimate partners of the victim (8 spouses, 13 boy- or girlfriends).

Male victims were mostly never married (5/6 cases) and were killed by current intimate partners (4/6 cases). Six incidents had documentation of ongoing domestic violence within the relationship prior to the fatal incident and 13 of the 24 victims (54%) were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of their deaths. Five of the 18 homicides to female victims were witnessed by children < 17 years of age.

Table 6: Circumstances Associated with Intimate Partner Homicides by Gender Miami-Dade County, 2003

		Male		Female		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Injury Intent:	Single Victim Homicide	6	100%	8	44%	14	58%
	Multiple Victim Homicide	0	-	1	6%	1	4%
	Murder-Suicide: Homicide Victim	0	-	9	50%	9	38%
Victim's Age Group	18-24 yrs	0	-	4	22%	4	17%
	25-44 yrs	3	50%	10	56%	13	54%
	45-64 yrs	2	33%	3	17%	5	21%
	65-84 yrs	1	17%	1	6%	2	8%
Victim's Marital Status	Married	1	17%	8	44%	9	38%
	Never Married	5	83%	7	39%	12	50%
	Divorced	0	-	3	17%	3	13%
Victim's Relationship to Suspect	Spouse	1	17%	7	39%	8	33%
	Girlfriend or boyfriend	4	67%	9	50%	13	54%
	Ex-spouse	0	-	1	6%	1	4%
	Ex-boy/girlfriend	1	17%	1	6%	2	8%
Ongoing Abuse:	Yes	1	17%	5	28%	6	25%
	No	0	-	4	22%	4	17%
	Unknown	5	83%	9	50%	14	58%
Child Witness	Yes	0	-	5	28%	5	21%
	No	6	100%	13	72%	19	79%
Drugs or Alcohol Present in Victim	No drugs or alcohol present	3	50%	8	44%	11	46%
	Victim positive: alcohol only	1	17%	4	22%	5	21%
	Victim positive: drugs only	1	17%	3	17%	4	17%
	Victim positive: drugs & alcohol	1	17%	3	17%	4	17%
Weapon Used	Firearm	3	50%	10	56%	13	54%
	Knife	2	33%	5	28%	7	29%
	Strangulation	1	17%	2	11%	3	13%
	Blunt Instrument	0	-	1	6%	1	4%
Total		6	33%	18	100%	24	100%

Firearm Homicide Trends Among Miami-Dade County Residents, 2001 to 2003

Figure 16 shows the trend in the incidence of firearm-related homicides to county residents between 2001-2003 by the victim age group. In 2003, 155 homicides were committed using a firearm, accounting for 76% of all homicides to county residents. This is an increase of 8% compared to 2002 (143 firearm deaths) and 12% higher than 2001 (138 firearm deaths). The increase in firearm deaths between 2002 and 2003 was entirely among 25-44 year old victims, as all other age groups demonstrated a decline or remained unchanged. Of particular note, firearm-related homicides to juveniles less than 17 years of age declined by one case in 2003 after tripling (from 3 to 9 cases) between 2001-2002.

Figure 17 represents the same firearm trend data shown in Figure 16 but presents it in rates per 100,000 population for each age group. Residents of Miami-Dade aged 18-24 had a firearm homicide rate that was nearly twice as high as the next closest age group (ages 25-44 years). Only residents aged 25-44 years old experienced an increase in the firearm homicide rate between 2002 and 2003.

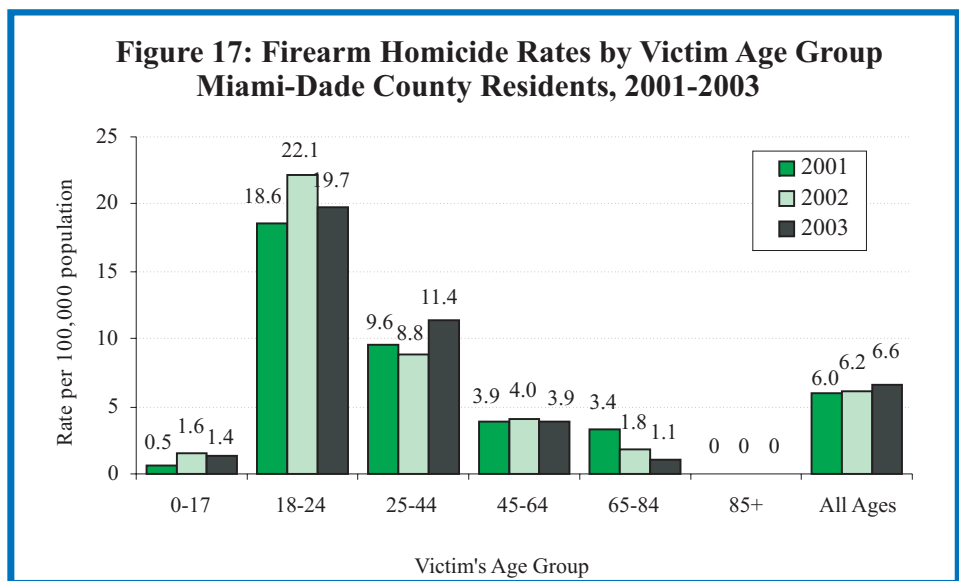
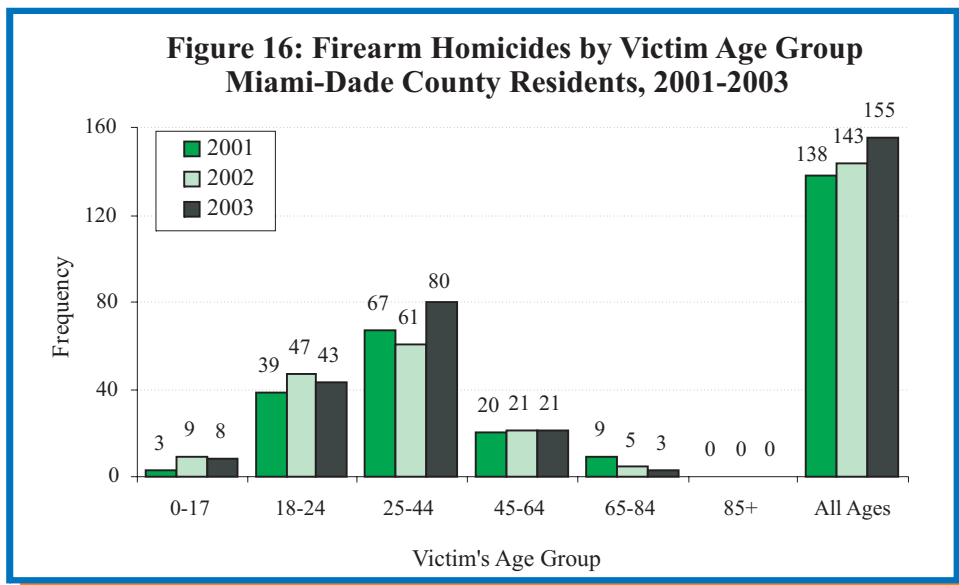




Table 7 describes the type and caliber of the firearms that were recovered by police during their investigation of homicides. Although only 27% of the firearms used in commission of homicides were documented as being recovered by police, 80% of the cases contained some information regarding what type of firearm was used. Of the 80% of cases with known information

about firearm type, the 9mm semi-automatic handgun was the most common weapon used in homicides (21%) followed by the .38 caliber revolver (13%) and assault rifles (7%). The .38 caliber revolver is the most commonly found firearm in people's homes while the 9mm handgun continues to be the most popular firearm of choice on the streets over the last decade.

**Table 7: Type and Caliber of Firearms
Used in Firearm-related Homicides, Miami-Dade Co., 2003**

	N (%)
Was Information Known about the Firearm?	
Yes	135 (80%)
No	34 (20%)
Was the Firearm Recovered?	
Yes	46 (27%)
No	89 (53%)
Unknown	34 (20%)
Firearm Type & Caliber*	
Handguns (semi-automatic)	
9 mm	28 (21%)
.40 caliber	4 (3%)
.45 caliber	8 (6%)
.380 caliber	2 (2%)
Handguns (revolvers)	
.38 caliber	17 (13%)
.357 caliber	2 (2%)
Handguns (other, unknown type)	49 (36%)
Rifles	
7.62 mm (assault rifle)	10 (7%)
.22 in.	3 (2%)
all other calibers	8 (6%)
Shotgun	4 (3%)
Total with Known Information	135 (100%)

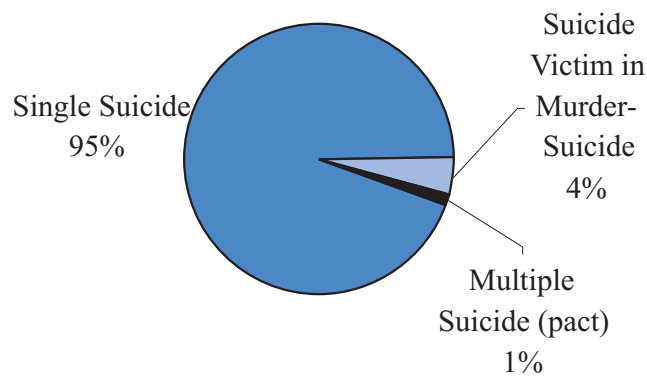
* *Note:* Percentage is of the 135 firearms where information was known
Number of firearms (169) exceeds number of firearm victims (165) due to the fact that multiple guns were used in some incidents

Suicides

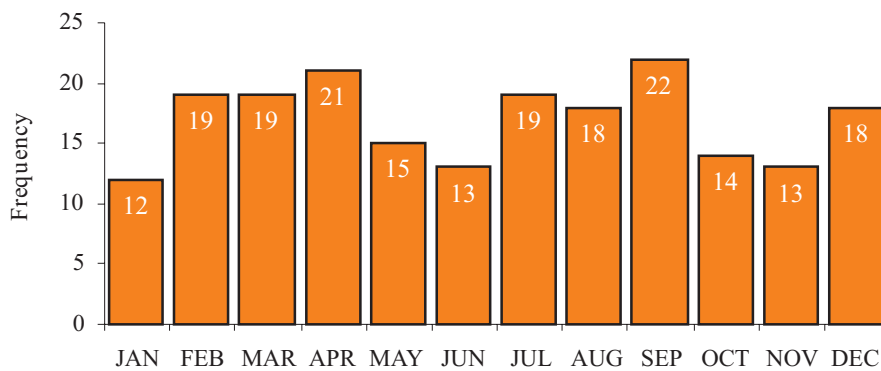
In 2003, there were 203 suicides in Miami-Dade County. Nine of the victims (5%) had committed homicides prior to taking their own life and two young adult males committed suicide together under a pact.

There was no discernable pattern for suicide incidence when examined by month of incidence. The three juvenile suicides occurred in April, July and November.

**Figure 18: Types of Suicides
Miami-Dade County, 2003**



**Figure 19: Seasonality of Suicides
Miami-Dade County, 2003**

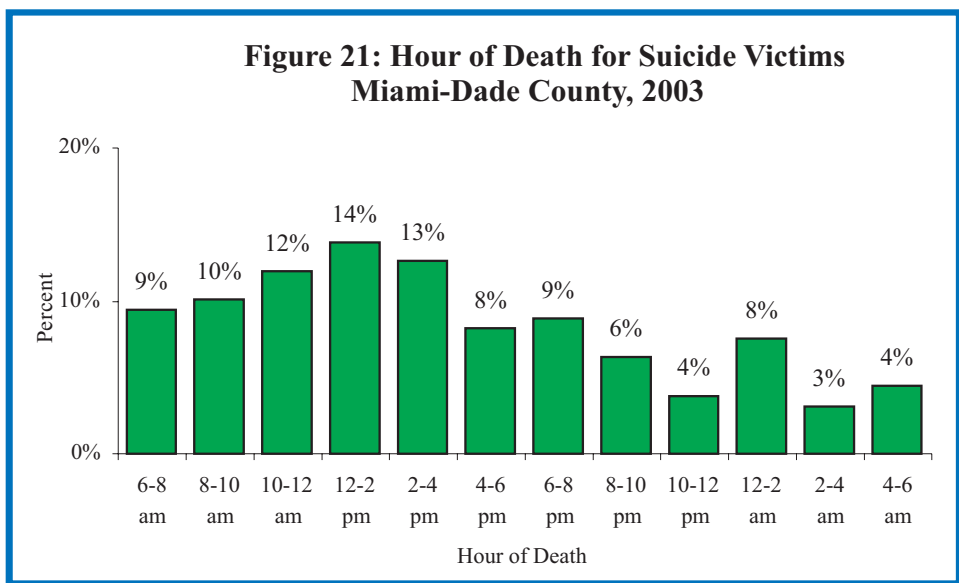
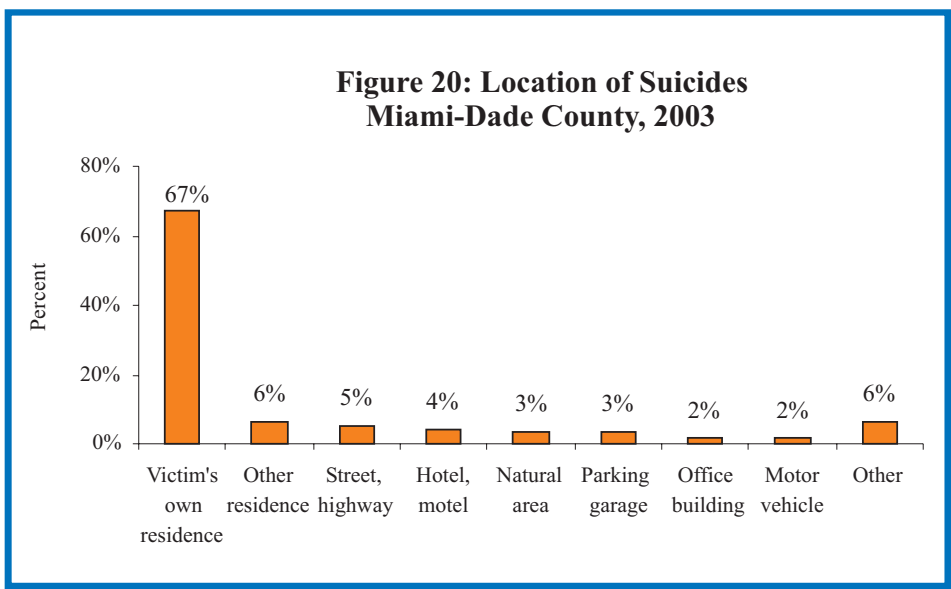


Place and Time of Suicide Occurrence



Figure 20 shows the location where suicides occurred in the county, which was usually the victim's own residence (67%) or another residence (6%).

Like homicides, the exact hour that a suicide occurred was often unknown (72% of cases). However, the hour of death (available for 78% of cases) is presented in Figure 21 as an estimate of when the suicides occurred. The four-hour period between noon and 4pm experienced the most suicides (27%) and suicides were least likely to occur after 8pm.



Method of Suicide



Most suicides were committed using a firearm (49%), followed by hanging (25%), falls from height (10%) and poisonings (7%).

Table 8 shows the type of weapon used in suicides contrasted by the victim's gender. Male victims were more likely to commit suicide using a firearm than female victims (54% vs. 23%) while

female victims were more likely to commit suicide by jumping from a height (26%). The proportion of suicides due to hanging was comparable for both sexes. Three males died after intentionally jumping into the path of a moving motor vehicle. Although more males died due to poisoning (9 cases, 5%) the proportion was greater for females (6 cases, 19%).

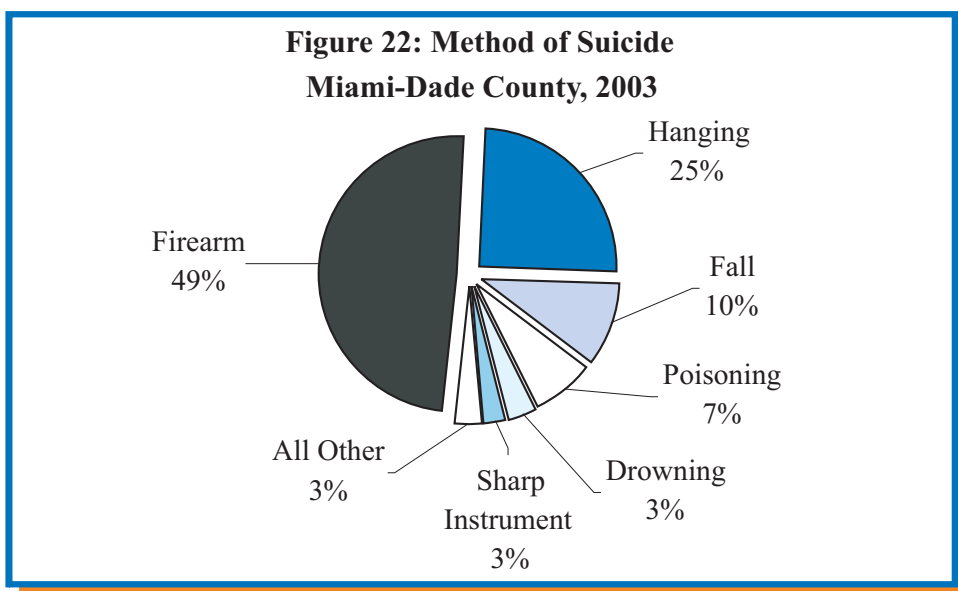


Table 8: Weapon Used in Suicides by Gender of Victim, Miami-Dade County, 2003

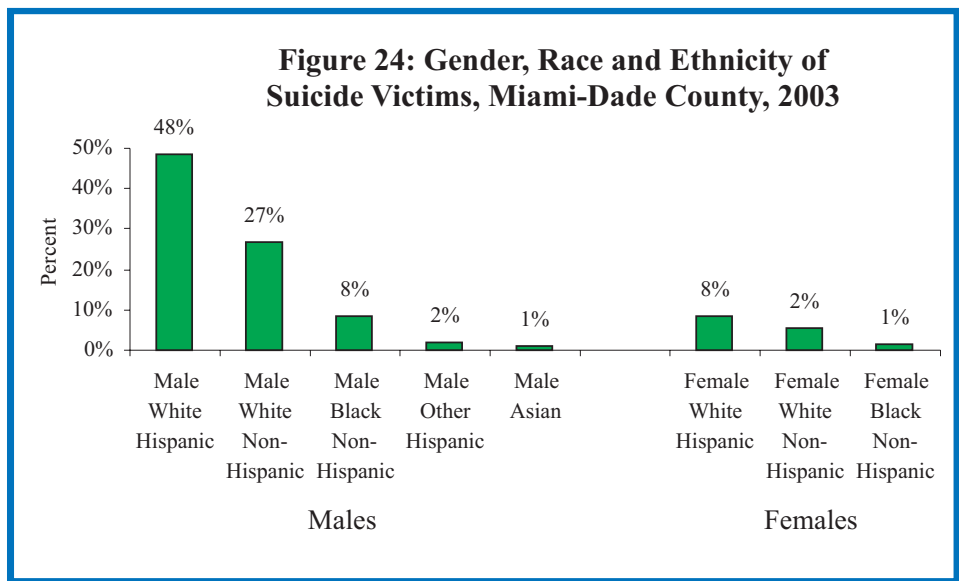
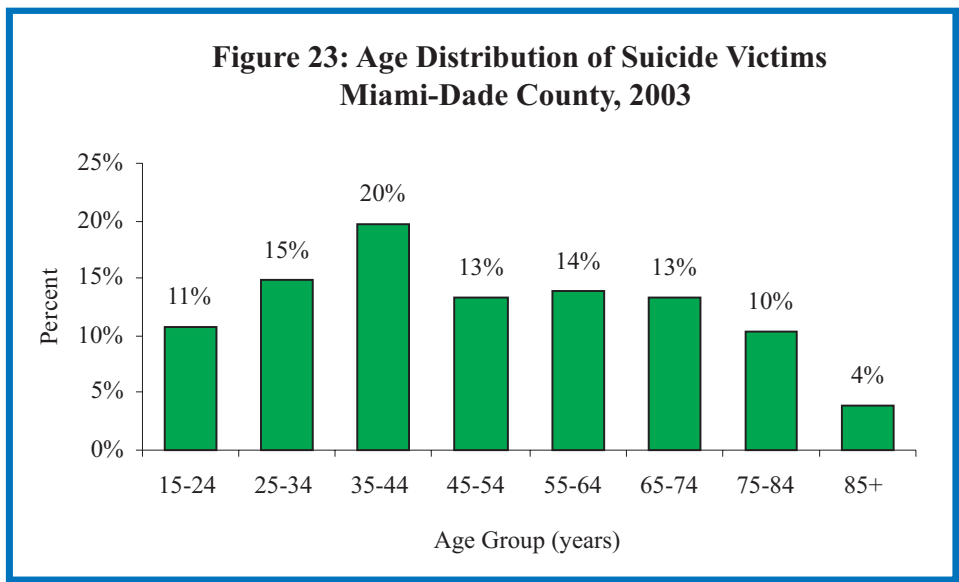
Weapon	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Firearm	93	54%	7	23%	100	49%
Hanging	43	25%	7	23%	50	25%
Fall from Height	12	7%	8	26%	20	10%
Poisoning	9	5%	6	19%	15	7%
Drowning	4	2%	2	6%	6	3%
Sharp Instrument	5	3%	1	3%	6	3%
Motor Vehicle Crash	3	2%	0	--	3	2%
All Other	3	2%	0	--	3	2%
Total	172	100%	31	100%	203	100%

Suicide Victim Demographics



As seen in Figure 23, most of the suicide victims were between the ages of 25-44 years (35%) and 14% were age 75 and older. Five suicide victims were between the ages of 15-19 years old.

Overall most suicide victims were male (85%) and Hispanic (58%). White Hispanic males (n=98) and White, non-Hispanic males (n=54) were the two subgroups most at risk for suicide.



Suicide Victim Demographics



Suicide victims achieved higher levels of education than homicide victims with 34% of victims having attended one or more years of higher education.

More than one-third of suicide victims were married at the time of their death while 28% had never married. Eleven of the 17 widowed suicide victims were males over the age of 70.

Figure 25: Education Level of Adult Suicide Victims Miami-Dade County, 2003

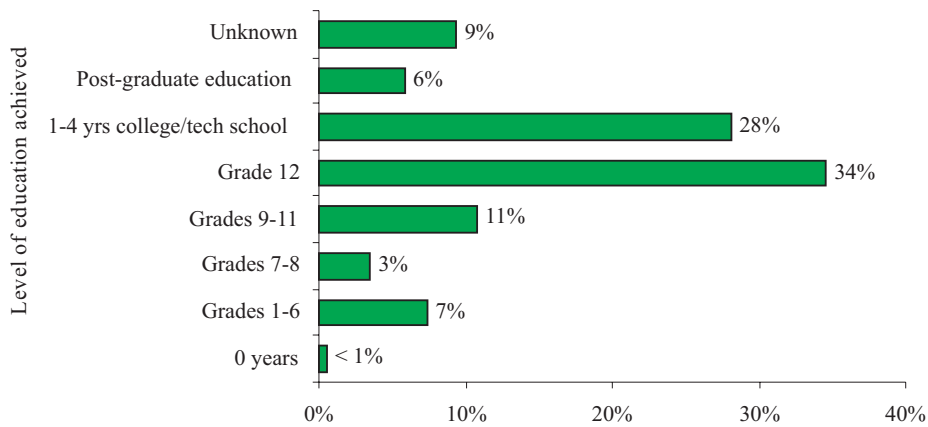
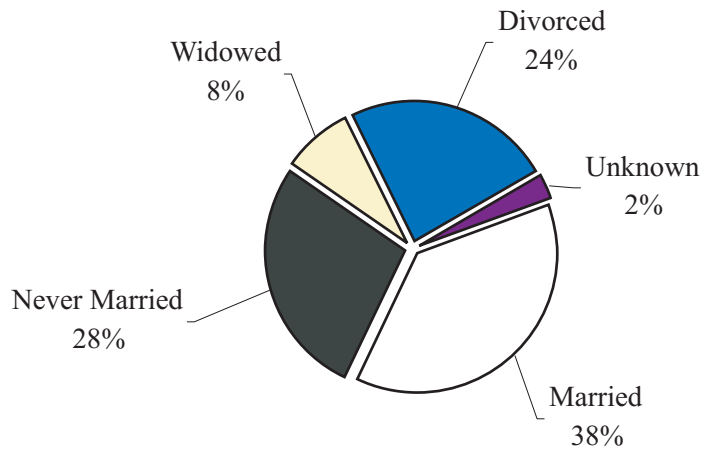


Figure 26. Marital Status of Suicide Victims Miami-Dade County, 2003



Suicide Rates by Age Group and Gender, Miami-Dade County Resident Deaths, 2003

Figure 27 and Table 9 show suicide mortality rates for Miami-Dade County residents in 2003 (192 of 203 suicide deaths). Both male and female suicide rates steadily increased after age 54 and peaked at ages 75-84 but the rate of increase was much greater in males. Male residents aged 75-84 years old had the

highest suicide rate (46.1/100,000). Overall, the suicide mortality rate was six times greater for male residents of Miami-Dade County (14.3/100,000) than female residents (2.4/100,000).

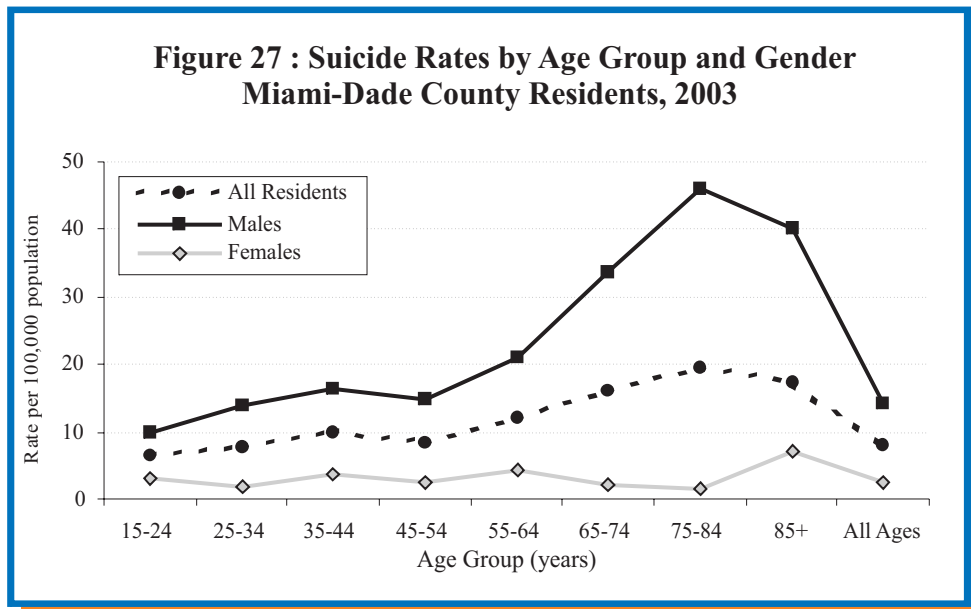


Table 9. Suicide Totals and Rates, Miami-Dade Residents by Age Group and Gender of Victim, 2003

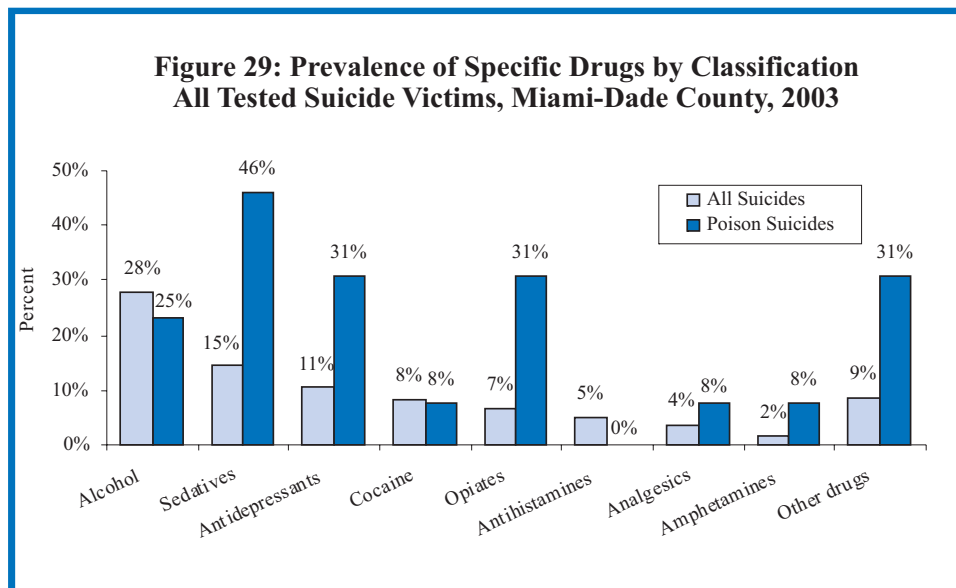
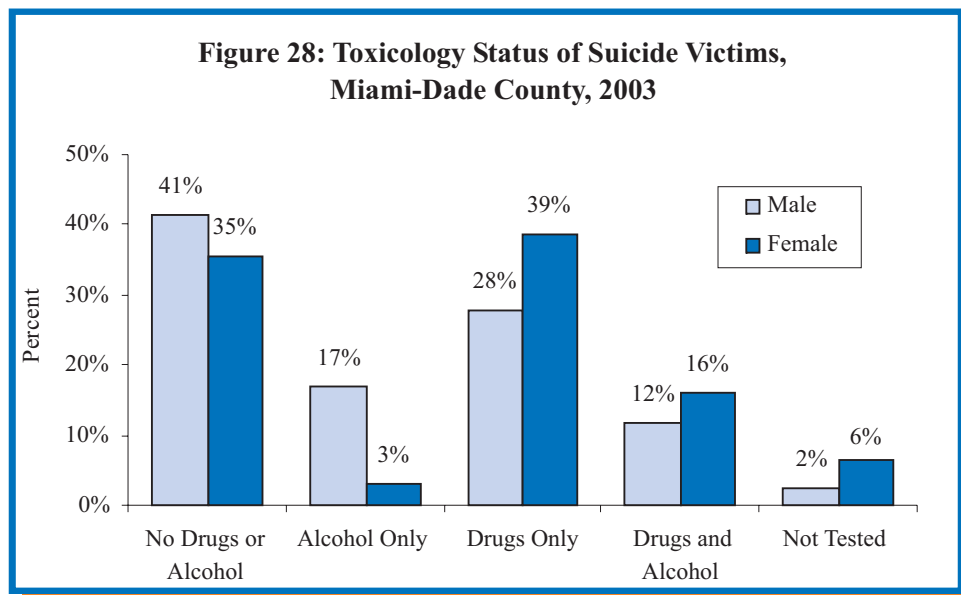
Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate
0-4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
5-14	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
15-24	16	9.9	5	3.2	21	6.6
25-34	23	13.8	3	1.8	26	7.8
35-44	30	16.5	7	3.7	37	10.0
45-54	22	14.8	4	2.5	26	8.4
55-64	22	20.9	5	4.2	27	12.0
65-74	25	33.5	2	2.2	27	16.2
75-84	20	46.1	1	1.5	21	19.3
85+	5	40.1	2	7.1	7	17.2
All Ages	163	14.3	29	2.4	192	8.2

Toxicology Results for Suicide Victims



Figure 28 shows that 57% of male suicide victims and 58% of female victims had some alcohol and/or drugs present in their system at the time of death. Figure 29 shows that alcohol was the most commonly found substance in suicide victims (28%) followed by sedatives (15%, all but one case were benzodiazepines) and antidepressants (11%). Among the 15 suicides that were directly attributed to poisoning, 10 had only drugs in their system, 3 had a combination of drugs

and alcohol, and 2 victims were not tested. Benzodiazepines were present in six (46%) of the tested victims (Restoril (3), Xanax (2), Valium (2), Ativan (1)). Five victims tested positive for opiates (Oxycodone, morphine) or opiate agonists (Hydrocodone (2), Darvon (2)). Four victims had antidepressants in their system, 2 being female victims with Desipramine present in combination with other agents.



Circumstances of Suicide



Table 10 summarizes the external circumstances believed to have played a role in adult suicides. Of the suicide victims with known circumstances (n=181, 91%) over 80% had three or more precipitating circumstances thought to have contributed to their suicide.

Suicide victims most commonly had experienced a physical health problem (34%) and/or an intimate partner problem (31%). Sixteen victims (9%) committed suicide on the same day they experienced an acute crisis, 9 of whom were males who killed

themselves after having just committed a homicide. Another 37 victims (21%) experienced a crisis within 2 weeks of their suicide. The national VISS sites use a uniform definition of crisis as a recent event (within 2 weeks) or acute precipitating event that appeared to have contributed to the suicide.

Twice as many female victims left a suicide note at the scene than male victims (36% vs. 19%). Male suicide victims were more likely to have experienced a job (13% vs. 7%) or financial (13% vs. 7%) problem than female suicide victims.

Table 10: External Circumstances Among Suicide Victims by Gender, Miami-Dade County, 2003

External Circumstance*	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No. with circumstances identified	153	100%	28	100%	181	100%
Circumstance						
Suicide note left	29	19%	10	36%	39	22%
Physical health problem	56	37%	6	21%	62	34%
Intimate partner problem	48	31%	8	29%	56	31%
Job problem	20	13%	2	7%	22	12%
Financial problem	20	13%	2	7%	22	12%
Death of friend or family member	13	9%	2	7%	15	8%
Other relationship problem	8	5%	2	7%	10	6%
Legal problem	9	6%	1	4%	9	5%
Recent acute crisis						
Same day	13	9%	3	11%	16	9%
Within 2 weeks	33	22%	4	14%	37	20%
School problem	3	2%	0	--	3	2%
All other circumstances	21	14%	6	21%	27	15%

*More than one circumstance may apply to each victim; percentage is of suicides with known circumstances within each sex and total (total adult suicides, males n=170; females n=30).

Risk Factors for Suicide



Suicide victims in Miami-Dade County frequently had associated risk factors present (Table 11). Among the 181 cases with known circumstances, 88% were in a depressed mood at the time of the incident, yet only 41% had a diagnosed mental health problem and only 29% were in current mental health treatment. More female suicide victims had a history of treatment for mental health problems than male victims (57% vs. 35%). Among those with documentation of a mental health problem, depression was the most common diagnosis (32% of all suicide victims).

Thirty-eight victims (21%) had documentation of a previous suicide attempt. Twenty of these attempts occurred within one year preceding their suicide and 4 victims previously attempted suicide within 4 weeks of their suicide. Another 29 victims (25 were males) previously disclosed their intent to commit suicide to someone but never attempted suicide. More than twice as many female victims had previously attempted suicide (39% vs. 18%) than male victims.

Table 11: Risk Factors Among Suicide Victims by Gender, Miami-Dade County, 2003

Risk Factor*	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No. with circumstances identified	153	100%	28	100%	181	100%
Circumstance						
Depressed mood	133	87%	26	93%	159	88%
Victim had mental health problem	57	37%	18	64%	75	41%
No. with a diagnosis of depression	46	30%	12	43%	58	32%
No. in current treatment for mental health problem	39	26%	13	46%	52	29%
No. ever in treatment for mental health problem	54	35%	16	57%	70	39%
Previous suicide attempts	27	18%	11	39%	38	21%
Previously disclosed intent to commit suicide	32	21%	5	18%	37	20%
Alcohol or substance abuse	50	33%	7	25%	57	31%

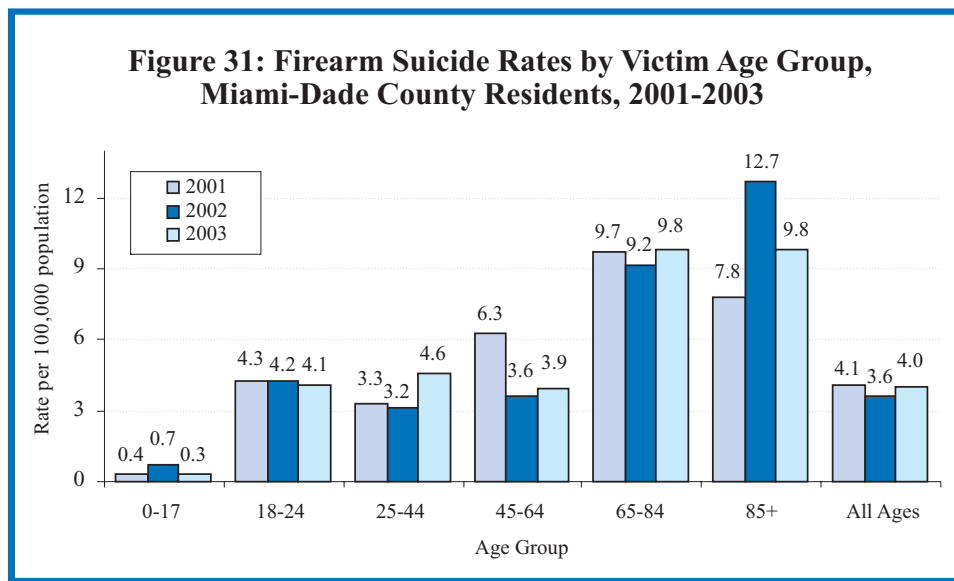
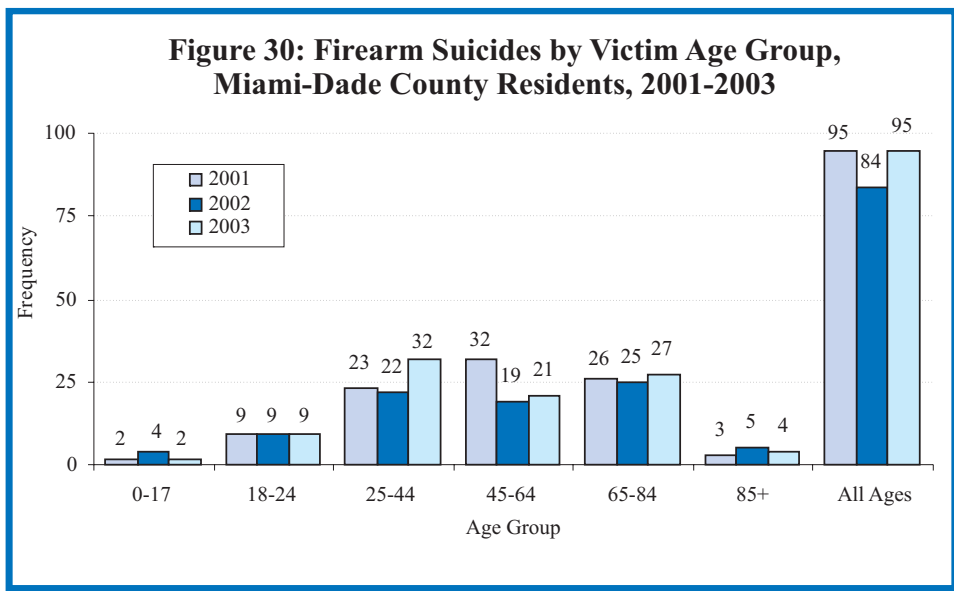
* More than one risk factor may apply to each victim; percentage is of suicides with known circumstances within each sex and total.

Firearm Suicide Trends among Miami-Dade County Residents, 2001 to 2003



In 2003, 50% of suicides to county residents were committed with a firearm, accounting for 95 deaths. This is an increase of 12% from 2002 when there were 84 firearm-related suicides in the county (Figure 30). Eight firearm-related suicides have occurred to children aged 0-17 years between 2001 and 2003.

Figure 31 illustrates that from 2002 to 2003, the overall firearm-related suicide mortality rate increased from 3.6 to 4.0/100,000, an increase driven primarily by the increase observed for the 25-44 year age group. The seemingly large decline in the firearm suicide rate for residents aged 85+ years is accounted for by a decrease of 1 suicide from 2002 to 2003 (Figure 30) and illustrates the instability of rates calculated on less than 20 deaths.



Firearms Used in Suicides



Table 12 shows the type and caliber of firearms recovered during the course of the police investigation of suicides during 2003. Firearms were recovered from 92% of suicides, which is consistent with conventional wisdom and logic that firearms are more likely to be recovered from suicides than homicides.

Of the 92% of cases with known information, the two most common types of firearms recovered from the scene of suicides were the .38 caliber revolver (24%) and the 9 mm semi-automatic handgun (23%).

**Table 12. Type and Caliber of Firearms
Used in Firearm-related Suicides, Miami-Dade Co**

	N (%)
Was Information Known about the Firearm?	
Yes	92 (92%)
No	8 (8%)
Was the Firearm Recovered?	
Yes	92 (92%)
Unknown	8 (8%)
Firearm Type & Caliber	
Handguns (semi-automatic)	
9 mm	21 (23%)
.40 caliber	3 (3%)
.45 caliber	4 (4%)
.380 caliber	3 (3%)
other semi-automatic	11 (12%)
Handguns (revolvers)	
.38 caliber	22 (24%)
.357 caliber	9 (10%)
other revolver	11 (12%)
Handguns (other, unknown type)	6 (7%)
Rifle	
.22 in.	2 (2%)
Total with Known Information*	92 (100%)

* Note: Percentage is of the 92 firearms where information was known.

Violent Deaths Among Children Aged 0-17 Years Old

In 2003, there were 16 violent deaths among children aged 0-17 years in Miami-Dade County. This is a 36% decline from the 25 violent deaths to youth in 2002. Nine of the deaths were single victim homicides, 2 were victims in a murder-suicide, 3 were suicides, one victim died from a legal intervention shooting, and there was one unintentional firearm death.

Table 13 shows the weapons that were used in the youth violent deaths by sex of the victim. Eleven of the violent deaths were from firearm injuries (8 homicides, 2 suicides, and 1 unintentional death). Four of the 10 male homicide victims (children < 3 years old) were physically beaten (personal weapons).

Figure 32: Intent of Violent Deaths to Children, Miami-Dade County, 2003

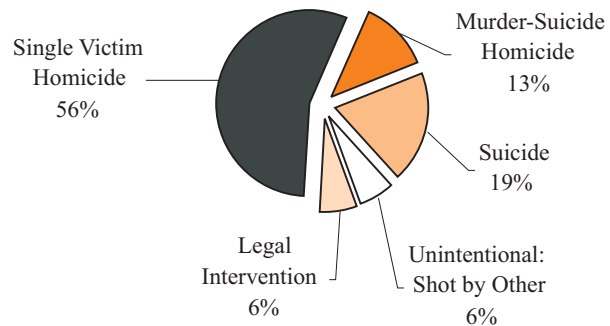
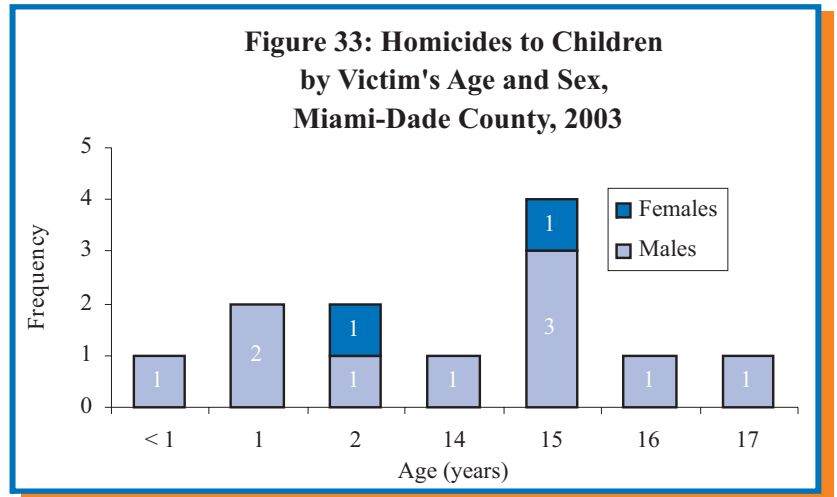


Table 13: Weapons Used in Violent Deaths to Children Aged 0-17 Years Old by Sex of Victim and Intent, Miami-Dade County, 2003

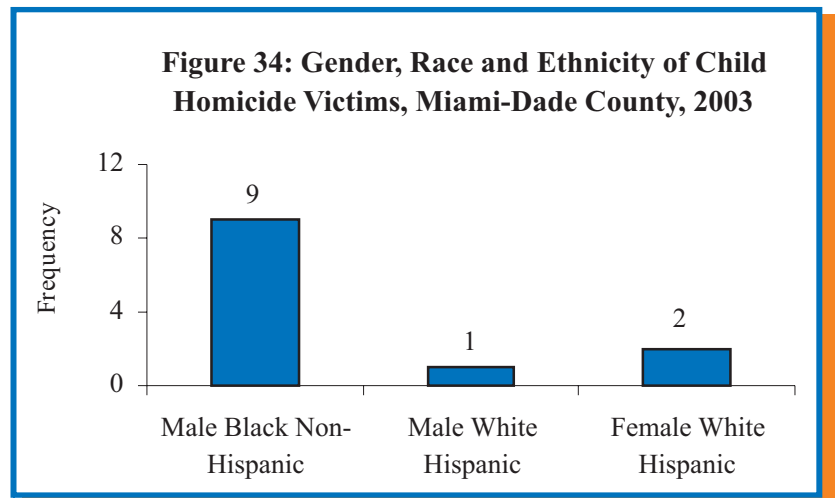
Weapon	Male	Female	Total	
	N	N	N	%
Homicides				
Firearms	6	2	8	50%
Physical Assault	4	-	4	25%
Suicide				
Firearms	2	-	2	13%
Hanging	-	1	1	6%
Unintentional				
Firearms	1	-	1	6%
Total	13	3	16	100%

Homicides to Children Aged 0-17 Years Old

Twelve child homicides occurred in Miami-Dade County during 2003, 10 involved males and 2 were to females. Six of the homicides occurred to adolescent males aged 14-17 years while 5 were to children less than 3 years old. No homicides occurred among children between the ages of 3 and 13 years old.

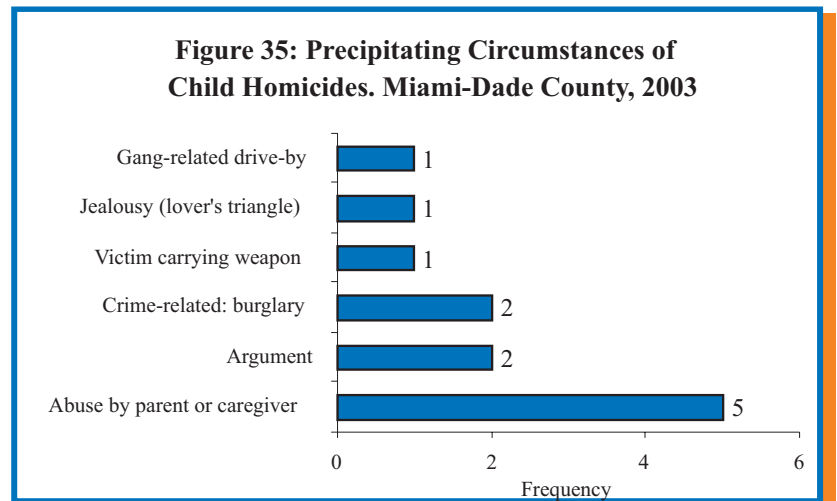


Three-fourths of homicides occurred to Black non-Hispanic male children (Figure 34).



Circumstances of Child Homicides

The precipitating circumstances associated with child homicides in Miami-Dade County in 2003 were known for all 12 incidents. Figure 35 shows that five homicides resulted from abuse by a parent or caregiver. Two victims were killed over an argument and another two victims were shot during the course of a burglary. Only 3 juvenile victims tested positive for substance use at the time of their death: 1 child tested positive for alcohol only, 1 tested positive for cocaine, and 1 tested positive for the presence of both alcohol and cocaine.



Child Homicide Victim-Suspect Relationships



Table 14 shows that most child homicide victims, like adult homicide victims, knew the person who killed them. Suspects for the 7 teenage homicides were either not identified (2) or were persons known to the victim other than family or friends (3). One teenager was killed along with her mother by her mother's boyfriend and another was killed by law enforcement.

The five homicides due to child abuse involved one infant < 1 year of age, two 1-year olds and two 2-year olds. Four of the five deaths involved children that were physically beaten by their father (2), foster father (1) or mother's boyfriend (1). The fifth child died along with his mother of a gunshot wound inflicted by the father.

Table 14: Relationship of Child Homicide Victim to Suspect, Miami-Dade County, 2003

Victim-suspect relationship	Victims Aged 0-2	Victims Aged 14-17	Total	
	N	N	N	%
Child of suspect	3	-	3	25%
Child of suspect's girlfriend	1	1	2	17%
Foster child	1	-	1	8%
Other person known to victim	-	3	3	25%
Law enforcement in line of duty	-	1	1	8%
No suspect identified	-	2	2	17%
Total	5	7	12	100%

Suicides among Children

There were three suicides among children less than 18 years old in the county during 2003, a decline from 7 suicides seen in 2002. Two suicides involved firearm deaths by male victims and the third incident involved a female suicide by hanging. All three youths were between the ages of 15 and 17 years old and all were reported to be depressed at the time of their suicide, although none were in mental health treatment at the time of their death. The female victim and one of the male victims reportedly were despondent over relationship problems. The female and one male victim also left notes behind at the scene of the suicide.

Both male firearm victims tested positive for substance use (one tested positive for sedatives and alcohol use; the other was positive for marijuana use) and both shot themselves in the witness of another person(s). Both firearms (handguns) were recovered from the scene by law enforcement, one gun was owned by a parent and the other by an uncle living with the family of the victim. Both weapons were kept on the premises loaded but not locked and both youths were unauthorized by the owners to have access to the guns.

Child Witnesses to Violent Deaths

Eleven incidents of violent death involving 16 victims were witnessed by children less than 18 years old during 2003. Five of these incidents involved domestic disputes where seven children ranging in age from 3 to 10 years old witnessed the fatal shooting

or stabbing of their mother by their father or mother's boyfriend. Table 15 summarizes these 11 incidents, identifying the relationship of the witness to the victim and suspect, and describes the circumstances surrounding the incidents.

Table 15: Violent deaths witnessed by children aged 0-17 years old, Miami-Dade County, 2003

Type of Death	Age & Sex of Witness	Relationship of Victim to Witness	Relationship of Suspect to Witness	Location	Circumstance
Multiple Victim Homicide	3 y/o female 6 y/o female	Mother	Father	Country Walk	Failed Relationship: Father strangled wife in front of his 2 daughters. The children tried to stop father; both were later abducted but found unharmed.
Single Victim Homicide	6 y/o male	Mother	Mother's boyfriend	Hialeah	Lover's Triangle: Boyfriend caught girlfriend with lover. Later, boyfriend shot girlfriend in leg after she slapped her son. Son applied first aid but victim exsanguinated in front of child.
Murder-Suicide	4 y/o male 10 y/o male	Mother & Sister	Mother's boyfriend	Hialeah	Lover's Triangle: Boyfriend shot his girlfriend and her daughter, then aimed gun at victim's 2 sons but spared them. Victim then committed suicide.
Single Victim Homicide	9 y/o male	Mother	Father	Kendall	Divorce: Father stabbed wife in front of child over her demand for divorce. Child tried to intervene.
Murder-Suicide	10 y/o female	Mother & Father	Father	Brownsville	Divorce: Father shot wife in front of their children over separation, then shot himself.
Multiple Victim Homicide	1 y/o male	Father	None	City of Miami	Drug Related Shooting; 2 suspects killed multiple victims execution style in barbershop; infant of one victim was present in stroller.
Legal Intervention	17 y/o female	Stranger	Police officer	Hialeah	Home Invasion Robbery: Child trapped in house with robber; later escaped and witnessed police officer shoot suspect.
Single Victim Homicide	Multiple teenage males	Friends	Unknown	Hialeah	Youth Brawl: Witnesses were at scene of a retaliation over a fight the night before between 2 youths.
Unintentional	Multiple males (12-16 y/o)	Friend	Friend	Allapattah	Gun play: 16 y.o. approached his friends with a found handgun; repeatedly fired gun until it discharged, killing one friend.
Suicide	16 y/o male 17 y/o male	Friend	Not applicable	Olympia Hts	Depression: Depressed youth shot himself in front of friends.
Suicide	Teenage male	Cousin	Not applicable	Aladdin City	Failed Relationship: Girlfriend broke up with victim. Victim threatened suicide with uncle's loaded gun. Teen witness tried to intervene but victim locked self in room and shot himself.

APPENDIX

VISS Police Department Data Collection Instrument

Miami-Dade County Injury Surveillance System Police Agency Data Collection

VISS ID# (UM will enter) _____	
Police Department	<input type="checkbox"/> MDPD <input type="checkbox"/> City Miami PD <input type="checkbox"/> Hialeah PD <input type="checkbox"/> Miami Beach PD <input type="checkbox"/> North Miami PD <input type="checkbox"/> Aventura PD <input type="checkbox"/> N. Miami Beach PD <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Police Case ID # _____	Detective _____
Incident Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Homicide <input type="checkbox"/> Accidental Shooting by Victim <input type="checkbox"/> Suicide <input type="checkbox"/> Accidental Shooting by Other Person <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Intervention <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Number of: Fatal Victims in Incident ____ Number of: Non-fatal Victims in Incident ____	
Incident Information	
Date of Incident ____/____/____	Time of Incident _____ am pm
Date of Death <input type="checkbox"/> Same as incident date or ____/____/____	Time of Death: Same as incident time or _____ am pm
Location of Incident	<input type="checkbox"/> Victim's Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect's Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Street <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input type="checkbox"/> Alley, Sidewalk <input type="checkbox"/> Parking lot <input type="checkbox"/> Inside Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> Park, Wooded Area <input type="checkbox"/> Bar, Nightclub <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant, Store <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Place of Death	<input type="checkbox"/> Scene <input type="checkbox"/> At ER, Hospital (specify if known) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Address of Incident	Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Community, Neighborhood or NET Area of Incident:	_____ (examples: Opa Locka, Kendall, Carol City, Perrine, Little Haiti, Naranja, El Portal, Olympia Hts., Princeton, Redland, Richmond Hts, Palmetto, South Miami Hts, Sweetwater, Westchester, West Miami, Medle Leisure City, Cutler, Brownsville, Pinecrest, etc.)
Witnesses Present	# Adult Witnesses: ____ # Child Witnesses < 18 yrs old: ____ Child Witness Ages: _____
Incident Narrative	
_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	

Victim Information

Victim's Name Last _____ First _____ Middle _____

Victim's Address SAME AS INCIDENT LOCATION
Street _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Victim's Community,
Neighborhood or
NET Area of Residence _____

Victim's Demographics DOB ____/____/____

Age _____

Sex: Male Female

Race: White Black Asian Other Unknown

Ethnicity: Hispanic Non-Hispanic Unknown

Marital Status: Married Single Divorced Widowed Unknown

Did Victim Have Prior Felony Convictions: Yes No

Weapon Information

Mechanism of Death Firearm Blunt Instrument Hanging
 Non-powder Firearm Fist, foot, other body part Strangulation
 Knife Motor Vehicle Fall
 Other Sharp Instrument Fire/Burns Drowning
 Other Weapon: _____ Neglect

If Weapon was a Firearm, please complete the following questions

Firearm Type Revolver Pistol Semi-Automatic
 Rifle Shotgun
 Other/Discussion _____

Was Weapon Recovered: Yes No Not Applicable

Firearm Information: Make _____ Model _____ Caliber _____

Serial #: _____

Was Firearm Stolen? Yes No Unknown

Access to Firearm: Owner of Firearm: Victim Parent Other Family Member
 Friend Stranger Unknown
 Other _____

Was Firearm stored loaded? Yes No Unknown

Was Firearm stored locked? Yes No Unknown

Youth Access to Firearm: Authorized Unauthorized Unknown N/A

Did the owner of firearm believe that the weapon was stored locked and out of reach from children or youth? Yes No Unknown N/A

Circumstances

Are the circumstances surrounding this death known? Yes No

If yes, please complete the section below that applies to this type of death

Homicide Circumstances

- Gang-related No Yes Unknown
- Intimate partner-related No Yes Unknown
- Drug-related No Yes, drug use Yes, drug dealing Unknown
- Justifiable No Yes, civilian in self-defense Yes, police on duty Unknown
- Was Victim Armed? No Yes Unknown

- Circumstances (check all that apply)
- Argument over money or property
 - Other argument; interpersonal conflict
 - Jealousy (lover's triangle)
 - Bystander
 - Drive-by shooting
 - Sniper attack or random violence
 - Victim was police officer injured in duty
 - Intervener (not police) assisting crime victim
 - Brawl (physical fight)
 - School-related
 - Mercy Killing
 - Mentally ill suspected
 - Hate crime
 - Terrorist attack
 - Legal Execution
 - Other (specify in narrative)

Number of Suspects _____

If Known: Primary Suspect's Age _____ Sex _____ Race _____ Hispanic: Yes No

Does suspect have prior felony conviction: _____

Was Suspect(s) Arrested: _____ or Still at Large _____

- Victim-Suspect Relationship (check all that apply)
- Acquaintances
 - Spouse, partner (live together)
 - Siblings
 - Other relative
 - Unknown
 - Parent, child, step-child
 - Boy/girlfriend (not living together)
 - Strangers
 - Gang-related
 - Other _____

Suicide Circumstances

(check all that apply)

- Suicide note left
- Disclosed intent to someone prior to committing suicide
- Previously attempted suicide

Victim's Health (check all that apply)

- Known by family, friends or others to be depressed prior to suicide
- Had a mental health disorder diagnosed by MD:
Diagnosis: _____
- Was currently being treated for a mental health problem
- Was ever treated for a mental health problem
- Known alcohol dependence or abuse
- Known abuse/dependence of other substance
- Was ever treated for alcohol/substance abuse
- Physical health problem

External Circumstances (check all that apply)

- Recent suicide of friend or family
- Other death of friend or family
- Intimate partner problem
- Victim of violence
- Perpetrator of violence
- School problem (failure)
- School problem (bullying)
- Other _____
- Acute crisis: same day
- Acute crisis: within past 2 weeks
- Other relationship problem
- Job problem (layoff, pressure)
- Criminal legal problem
- Other or unspecified legal problem
- Financial problem (bankruptcy, debts)

Accidental Shooting Circumstances

(check all that apply)

- Cleaning gun
- Showing gun to others
- Child playing with gun
- Unintentionally pulled trigger
- Gun defect/malfunction
- Hunting-related
- Loading/Unloading- disengaged
- Bullet ricochet
- Dropped gun- disengaged
- Thought gun was unloaded- disengaged
- Accidentally self-inflicted (in self-defense)
- Other (please specify in incident Narrative)

**Comments and observations by readers
are welcome and should be sent to:**

Miami-Dade County Violent Injury Statistics System
University of Miami / Jackson Memorial Medical Center
Division of Adolescent Medicine
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