

# Homicide File

## Data Set Overview and History

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Criminal Justice Statistics Center (CJSC) collects information on Homicides reported in California by various law enforcement entities (LEA) as part of the reporting requirements for the Federal Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. These data provide detailed information about the circumstances of each homicide in addition to personal characteristics of the victim. The data are used by federal, state, and local agencies; researchers and planners; and others interested in the administration of criminal justice in California.

## Statutory Authority

The CA DOJ has statutory authority to collect Homicide data pursuant to Penal Code sections 13010-13012 and 13020-13023.

## Data Characteristics and known Limitations

### 1. General Information

- a. There are no specific data limitations for the Homicide file. The data included are accurate and reliable to the extent that they were edited for validity and consistency of logic. They are complete to the extent that the participating law enforcement agencies fulfilled their individual reporting obligations.
- b. Victim-Offender Relationship data are based on initial police identification of the “offender” as a suspect. After the annual files are closed, no follow-up is made to incorporate further investigatory findings or to determine if a conviction was obtained.
- c. The Homicide file also includes data on certain willful homicides that are classified as justifiable or excusable. In UCR terminology, justifiable homicide is defined as and limited to:
  - 1) The killing of a felon by a peace officer in the line of duty (Crime Status = 4), or
  - 2) The killing (during the commission of a felony) of a felon by a private citizen (Crime Status = 2).
- d. To identify Peace Officers feloniously killed in the line of duty, select the following Special Circumstance Codes:
  - 070 – Victim was a peace officer intentionally killed during the course of his/her duties or killed in retaliation for the performance of his/her official duties

- 080 – Victim was a federal law enforcement officer intentionally killed during the course of his/her duties or killed in retaliation for the performance of his/her official duties (Prior to 1990 only)
2. Reporting Agencies  
CJSC collects homicide data from agencies that participate in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program.
  3. Significant Agency Notes  
San Francisco PD does not report all race/ethnic groups. Beginning in 2012, the SFPD only reports using 5 categories similar to the FBI's: White, Black, Hispanic, Other Asian, and Other (see 'FBI Data vs. California Data' below).
  4. Recent UCR definition change  
In 2013, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program revised the definition of "forcible rape" (the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will) to "rape" and defined as "penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim." The California Department of Justice implemented this definition change in January 2014, leading to an increase in reported rapes.
  5. FBI Data vs. California Data  
California's Homicide data is sent to the FBI in an Incident-based format on a monthly basis. While California closes out the files on an annual basis, the FBI will accept updates from previous years. Additionally, California has expanded coding selections.

**Contributing Circumstance:**

- a. Child Abuse - FBI translation "Other than felony type"
- b. Domestic Violence - FBI translation "Other argument"
- c. Drive-by Shooting - FBI translation "Other – not specified"

**Victim-Offender Relationship:**

- a. Gang member - FBI translation "Other-Known to Victim"

**Race/Ethnicity:**

The FBI currently captures the following race groups:

- White
- Black or African American,
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Unknown

The FBI does not consider Hispanic to be a race group. All of California’s arrests of Hispanics are categorized as white when summarized by race and then counted again in the Ethnicity category as Hispanic or Latino.

**Data Element and Values Defined**

Data Layout and Codes

Cell Location	Data Element	Description/Definition	Value
A	County	The 2-digit number designating the county of the reporting agency.	County Codes
B	Jurisdiction (NCIC)	The 4-digit number assigned to the reporting agency.	NCIC Agency Codes
C	BCS number	The CJSC assigned sequential number used for all Vict and Susp of a common case.	5-digit numeric
D	Victim Number	2-digit number used to identify victims of a common case.	Victims are numbered in the order they appear on the SHR.
E	Month of Report	Month reported to UCR.	Numeric (01-12)
F	Year of Report	Year reported to UCR.	4 digit numeric.
G	Total Victim	Total number of victims associated with this case.	2-digit numeric.
H	Total Suspects	Total number of suspects associated with this case.	2-digit numeric.
I	Gender	Victim Gender.	0 – Unknown 1 – Male 2 – Female

DOJ CJSC Homicide File Context

J	Race/Ethnicity	Victim Race/Ethnicity.	<p>0, X - Unknown            1, W - White            2, H - Hispanic            3, B - Black            4, I - American Indian            5, C - Chinese            6, J - Japanese            7, F - Filipino            8, O - Other            9, P - Pacific Islander            A - Other Asian            D - Cambodian            G - Guamanian            K - Korean            L - Laotian            S - Samoan            U - Hawaiian            V - Vietnamese            Z - Asian Indian</p>
K	Age	Victim Age.	<p>00 – Unknown            01-98 – Corresponding age            99 – 99 years of age or over            NB – Birth to one week            BB – One week to 12 months</p>
L	Crime Status	This code describes the type of homicide.	<p>1 – Actual            2 – Citizen Justifiable            3 – Manslaughter            4 – Peace Officer Justifiable</p>
M	Victim/Offender Relationship #1	Victim’s relationship to Offender (i.e., husband kills wife, show wife as victim)	<p>01 – Husband            02 – Wife            03 – Common-law husband            04 – Common-law wife            05 – Mother            06 – Father            07 – Son            08 – Daughter            09 – Brother            10 – Sister            11 – In-law            12 – Stepfather            13 – Stepmother            14 – Stepson</p>

			15 – Stepdaughter 16 – Other family 20 – Neighbor 21 – Acquaintance 22 – Boyfriend 23 – Girlfriend 24 – Ex-husband 25 – Ex-wife 26 – Employer 27 – Employee 28 – Friend 29 – Homosexual relationship 30 – Other, known to Victim 40 – Stranger 45 – Gang member (Beginning 1992) 50 – Unable to determine relationship
N	Victim/Offender Relationship #2	Victim’s relationship to Offender.	See Victim/Offender Relationship #1
O	Victim/Offender Relationship #3	Victim’s relationship to Offender.	See Victim/Offender Relationship #1
P	Victim/Offender Relationship #4	Victim’s relationship to Offender.	See Victim/Offender Relationship #1
Q	Month of Incident	Month of the assault that ultimately caused death.	Numeric (01-12)
R	Day of month of Incident	Day of month of the assault that ultimately caused death.	01-31
S	Year of Incident	Year of the assault that ultimately caused death	YYYY
T	Day of week	Day of week of the assault that ultimately caused death.	1 – Sunday 2 – Monday 3 – Tuesday 4 – Wednesday 5 – Thursday 6 – Friday 7 - Saturday
U	Year of Death	Year of death.	YYYY

V	Means of death	2 digit code describing Weapon/Mean of Death.	00 – Unknown 01 – Firearm (not specified) 02 – Handgun (pistol/revolver) 03 – Rifle 04 – Shotgun 05 – Other firearm 06 – Knife or other stabbing instrument 07 – Blunt object 08 – Personal weapon (hands/feet, etc) 09 – Poison 10 – Drugs/Narcotics (overdose) 11 – Rope/Garrote 13 – Arson/Fire 14 – Explosion 15 – Other 16 – Neglect 17 – Pellet gun 20 – Drowning 25 - Asphyxiation
W	Location	Location where the assault occurred (not where the death occurred).	00 - Unknown 01 - Hotel, motel 02 - Victim’s residence 03 - Residence of offender 04 - Gas station/conv store/ fast food 05 - Liquor store 06 - Parking lot 07 - Other commercial business 08 - Financial institution 12 - Warehouse 13 - Other residence (not vict’s or offender’s) 14 – Bar/restaurant 15 - Any vehicle 16 – Street/side walk 17 - Highway or freeway 18 - Park, public use area 19 - Vacant field 20 - Jail 21 - CYA 24 - Shared residence 25 - School or grounds 99 - Other

X	Precipitating Event	Contributing Circumstance.	<p><b>Actuals</b></p> <p>02 - Rape</p> <p>03 - Robbery</p> <p>05 - Burglary</p> <p>06 - Larceny</p> <p>07 - Motor vehicle theft</p> <p>09 - Arson</p> <p>10 - Prostitution and commercial vice (i.e., prostitute killed by pimp during argument over money)</p> <p>17 - Other sex offense (sodomy, etc.)</p> <p>18 - Narcotic drug laws (not overdose)</p> <p>19 - Gambling</p> <p>26 - Other not specified (kidnapping, murder for hire)</p> <p>32 - Abortion (not a legal abortion)</p> <p>40 - Lover's triangle</p> <p>41 - Child killed by babysitter</p> <p>42 - Brawl due to influence of alcohol (i.e., argument while intoxicated)  </p> <p>43 - Brawl due to influence of narcotics (i.e., argument while under the influence)</p> <p>44 - Argument over money or property (revenge over money or property)</p> <p>45 - Other arguments (revenge)</p> <p>46 - Execution killing(s)</p> <p>47 - Gang killing(s) (street gangs, motorcycle gangs)</p> <p>48 - Institutional killing(s) (jail, prison, state hospital)</p> <p>49 - Sniper attack (random killing)</p> <p>60 - Other - non-felony (mercy killing, suicide pacts, mentally deranged offender)</p> <p>61 - Child abuse</p> <p>62 - Domestic Violence (1992)</p> <p>63 - Drive-by Shooting (unspecified) (1996)</p> <p>70 - All - suspected felony type</p>
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			<p>99 - All instances where facts provided do not permit determination of circumstances (skeletal remains)</p> <p><b><u>Manslaughter</u></b>                      50 - Victim killed accidentally hunting                      51 - Non self-inflicted gun cleaning                      52 - Children under 15 playing with gun                      53 - Negligent gun handling                      59 - Other manslaughter by negligence (child neglect, etc.)</p> <p><b><u>Justifiable by Citizen ONLY</u></b>                      80 - Felon attacked peace officer                      82 - Felon attacked a civilian                      83 - Felon attempted flight from a crime                      84 - Felon killed in commission of a crime                      85 - Felon resisted arrest                      86 - Not enough information to determine (citizen justifiable)</p> <p><b><u>Justifiable by Peace Officer ONLY</u></b>                      90 - Felon attacked peace officer                      91 - Felon attacked another peace officer                      92 - Felon attacked civilian                      93 - Felon attempted flight from a crime                      94 - Felon killed in commission of a crime                      95 - Felon resisted arrest                      96 - Not enough information to determine (peace officer justifiable)</p>
Y	Special Circumstance	Special Circumstance/ Potential Death Penalty.	<p><b><u>Special Circumstances (Potential Death Penalty 190.2 P.C.)</u></b></p> <p>000 - Non-death penalty homicide.                      010 - Murder was intentional and carried out for financial gain.                      020 - Offender/suspect was previously convicted of murder in the first or second degree.</p>



		<p>030 - Offender/suspect is convicted of more than one offense of murder in the first or second degree.</p> <p>040 - Murder was committed by means of a destructive device, bomb or explosive.</p> <p>050 - Murder was committed to avoid or prevent arrest; or to escape or attempt to escape from custody.</p> <p>060 - Murder was committed by means of a destructive device, bomb or explosive that offender/suspect mailed or delivered or attempted to mail or deliver.</p> <p>070 - Victim was a peace officer intentionally killed during the course of his duties or killed in retaliation for the performance of his official duties.</p> <p>080 - Victim was a federal law enforcement officer intentionally killed during the course of his duties or killed in retaliation for the performance of his official duties.</p> <p>090 - Victim was a fireman intentionally killed during the course of his duties.</p> <p>100 - Victim was a witness to a crime and intentionally killed to prevent his testimony in any criminal proceeding or killed in retaliation for his testimony in any criminal proceeding.</p> <p>110 - Victim was a prosecutor or assistant prosecutor and was killed in retaliation for or to prevent the performance of the victims official duties.</p> <p>120 - Victim was a judge or former judge and was killed in retaliation for or to prevent the performance of the victims official duties.</p> <p>130 - Victim was a Federal, State or local elected official and was killed in retaliation for or to prevent the</p>
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			<p>performance of the victims official duties.</p> <p>140 - The murder was especially heinous, atrocious or cruel, manifesting exceptional depravity.</p> <p>150 - The suspect/offender intentionally killed the victim while lying in wait.</p> <p>160 - Victim was intentionally killed because of his race, color, religion, nationality or country of origin.</p> <p>171 - Murder was committed while the offender/suspect was engaged in the commission of a robbery.</p> <p>172 - Murder was committed while the offender/suspect was engaged in the commission of a kidnapping.</p> <p>173 - Murder was committed while the offender/suspect was engaged in the commission of a rape.</p> <p>174 - Murder was committed while the offender/suspect was engaged in an act of sodomy.</p> <p>175 - Murder was committed while the offender/suspect was engaged in the performance of a lewd or lascivious act upon a child under the age of 14.</p> <p>176 - Murder was committed while the offender/suspect was engaged in an act of oral copulation.</p> <p>177 - Murder was committed while the offender/suspect was engaged in the commission of a second or first degree burglary.</p> <p>178 - Murder was committed while the offender/suspect was engaged in the commission of an arson.</p> <p>179 - Murder was committed while the offender/suspect was engaged in the commission of a train wrecking.</p> <p>180 - The murder was intentional and involved the infliction of torture.</p>
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