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Homicide trends in the U.S.
Trends by race

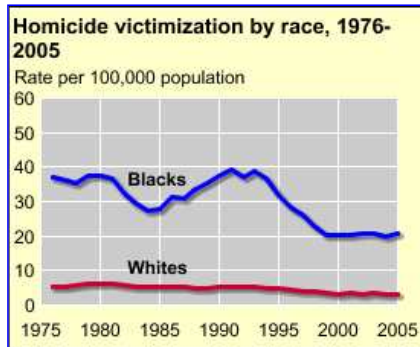
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Racial differences exist, with blacks disproportionately represented among homicide victims and offenders

In 2005, homicide victimization rates for blacks were 6 times higher than the rates for whites.

To view data, click on the chart.

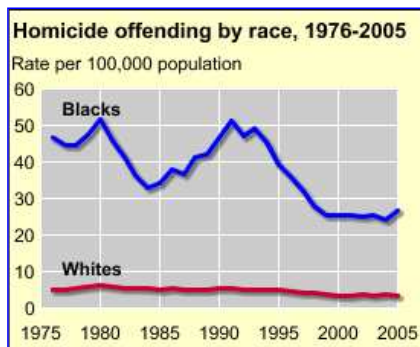


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For more information about racial patterns in violent victimization see [Key Facts at a Glance](#).

In 2005, offending rates for blacks were more than 7 times higher than the rates for whites

To view data, click on the chart.



[D]

The race distribution of homicide victims and offenders differs by type of homicide

For the years 1976-2005 combined -

- Black victims are over represented in homicides involving drugs. Compared with the overall involvement of blacks as victims, blacks are less often the victims of sex-related homicides, workplace killings, and homicide by poison.
- Race patterns among offenders are similar to those among victims.

Homicide Type by Race, 1976-2005

	Victims			Offenders		
	White	Black	Other	White	Black	Other
All homicides	50.9%	46.9%	2.1%	45.8%	52.2%	2.0%
Victim/offender relationship						
Intimate	56.6%	41.2%	2.2%	54.4%	43.4%	2.2%
Family	60.7%	36.9%	2.4%	59.2%	38.5%	2.3%
Infanticide	55.9%	41.6%	2.5%	55.4%	42.1%	2.5%
Eldercide	69.2%	29.1%	1.6%	54.5%	43.8%	1.6%
Circumstances						
Felony murder	54.7%	42.7%	2.6%	39.1%	59.3%	1.6%
Sex related	66.9%	30.5%	2.5%	54.7%	43.4%	1.9%
Drug related	37.4%	61.6%	.9%	33.9%	65.0%	1.1%

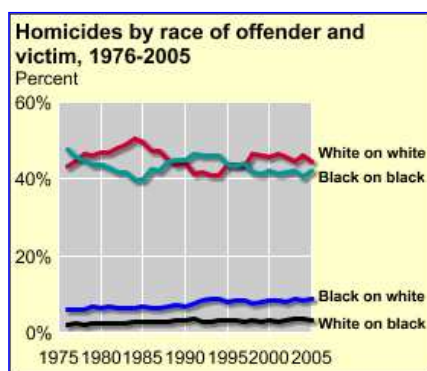
Gang related	57.5%	39.0%	3.5%	54.3%	41.2%	4.4%
Argument	48.6%	49.3%	2.1%	46.8%	51.1%	2.2%
Workplace	84.6%	12.2%	3.2%	70.5%	26.7%	2.8%
Weapon						
Gun homicide	47.2%	50.9%	1.9%	41.9%	56.4%	1.7%
Arson	58.9%	38.1%	2.9%	55.7%	42.0%	2.3%
Poison	80.6%	16.9%	2.5%	79.8%	18.4%	1.8%
Multiple victims or offenders						
Multiple victims	63.4%	33.2%	3.3%	55.7%	40.8%	3.5%
Multiple offenders	54.8%	42.5%	2.7%	44.6%	53.0%	2.4%

Although slightly less true now than before, most murders are intraracial

From 1976 to 2005 --

- 86% of white victims were killed by whites
- 94% of black victims were killed by blacks

To view data, click on the chart.



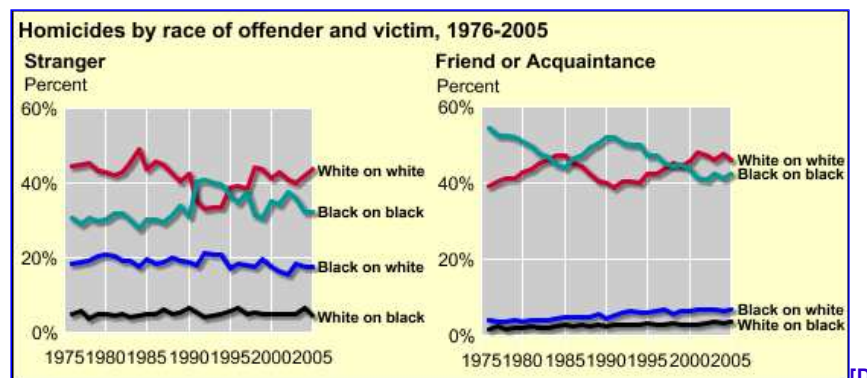
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Stranger homicides are more likely to cross racial lines than those that involve friends or acquaintances

For homicides committed by --

- a friend or acquaintance of the victim, less than one-tenth (8%) were interracial
- a stranger to the victim, one-quarter were interracial

To view data, click on the chart.



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Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-2005.

See also [Additional information about the data](#).

Note: The victims of the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks are not included in this analysis.

Related charts on this site

- [The number of homicides of children under age 5 by race, 1976-2005](#)
- [Homicide victimization rates for children under age 5 by race, 1976-2005](#)
- [Homicides of intimates by gender and race of victim, 1976-2005](#)
- [Intimate homicide rates by race, gender and relationship, 1976-2005](#)

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