



San Diego Violent Crime Victims and Suspects in 2013

October 2014

Cynthia Burke, Ph.D.

Liz Doroski

Sandy Keaton, M.A.



401 B Street
Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 699-1900

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The 18 cities and county government are SANDAG serving as the forum for regional decision-making. SANDAG builds consensus; plans, engineers, and builds public transit; makes strategic plans; obtains and allocates resources; and provides information on a broad range of topics pertinent to the region's quality of life.

CHAIR
Hon. Jack Dale

FIRST VICE CHAIR
Hon. Jim Janney

SECOND VICE CHAIR
Hon. Don Higginson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Gary L. Gallegos

CITY OF CARLSBAD

Hon. Matt Hall, Mayor
(A) Hon. Michael Schumacher, Councilmember
(A) Hon. Lorraine Wood, Councilmember

CITY OF CHULA VISTA

Hon. Cheryl Cox, Mayor
(A) Hon. Pamela Bensoussan, Deputy Mayor
(A) Hon. Rudy Ramirez, Councilmember

CITY OF CORONADO

Hon. Michael Woiwode, Councilmember
(A) Hon. Al Ovrom, Councilmember
(A) Hon. Casey Tanaka, Mayor

CITY OF DEL MAR

Hon. Terry Sinnott, Councilmember
(A) Hon. Lee Haydu, Mayor
(A) Hon. Al Corti, Deputy Mayor

CITY OF EL CAJON

Hon. Bill Wells, Mayor
(A) Hon. Gary Kendrick, Councilmember

CITY OF ENCINITAS

Hon. Lisa Shaffer, Councilmember
(A) Hon. Teresa Barth, Councilmember
(A) Hon. Tony Kranz, Deputy Mayor

CITY OF ESCONDIDO

Hon. Sam Abed, Mayor
(A) Hon. Ed Gallo, Councilmember
(A) Hon. John Masson, Councilmember

CITY OF IMPERIAL BEACH

Hon. Jim Janney, Mayor
(A) Hon. Ed Spriggs, Councilmember
(A) Hon. Brian Bilbray, Councilmember

CITY OF LA MESA

Hon. Kristine Alessio, Vice Mayor
(A) Hon. Ruth Sterling, Councilmember
(A) Hon. Mark Arapostathis, Councilmember

CITY OF LEMON GROVE

Hon. Mary Teresa Sessom, Mayor
(A) Hon. Jerry Jones, Mayor Pro Tem
(A) Hon. George Gastil, Councilmember

CITY OF NATIONAL CITY

Hon. Ron Morrison, Mayor
(A) Hon. Luis Natividad, Vice Mayor
(A) Hon. Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, Councilmember

CITY OF OCEANSIDE

Hon. Jack Feller, Councilmember
(A) Hon. Gary Felien, Councilmember
(A) Hon. Jerry Kern, Councilmember

CITY OF POWAY

Hon. Don Higginson, Mayor
(A) Hon. Jim Cunningham, Councilmember
(A) Hon. John Mullin, Councilmember

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Hon. Kevin Faulconer, Mayor
(A) Hon. Marti Emerald, Councilmember
(A) Hon. Myrtle Cole, Councilmember
Hon. Todd Gloria, Council President
(A) Hon. Sherri Lightner, Councilmember
(A) Hon. Lorie Zapf, Councilmember

CITY OF SAN MARCOS

Hon. Chris Orlando, Councilmember
(A) Hon. Jim Desmond, Mayor
(A) Hon. Rebecca Jones, Vice Mayor

CITY OF SANTEE

Hon. Jack Dale, Councilmember
(A) Hon. John Minto, Councilmember
(A) Hon. Rob McNelis, Vice Mayor

CITY OF SOLANA BEACH

Hon. Lesa Heebner, Deputy Mayor
(A) Hon. Mike Nichols, Councilmember
(A) Hon. David A. Zito, Councilmember

CITY OF VISTA

Hon. Judy Ritter, Mayor
(A) Hon. John Aguilera, Deputy Mayor
(A) Hon. Amanda Rigby, Councilmember

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Hon. Ron Roberts, Supervisor
(A) Hon. Dave Roberts, Supervisor
(A) Hon. Greg Cox, Supervisor
Hon. Dianne Jacob, Chairwoman
(A) Hon. Bill Horn, Vice Chair

ADVISORY MEMBERS

IMPERIAL COUNTY

Hon. John Renison, Supervisor, District 1
(A) Hon. Bill Hodge, Mayor, City of Calexico

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Malcolm Dougherty, Director
(A) Laurie Berman, District 11 Director

METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM

Harry Mathis, Chairman
(A) Hon. Al Ovrom

NORTH COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT

Hon. Bill Horn, Chairman
(A) Hon. Ed Gallo
(A) Hon. Mike Nichols

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

CAPT Darius Banaji, CEC, USN, Commanding Officer
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest
(A) CAPT Richard L. Whipple, CEC, USN, Executive Officer
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT

Hon. Bob Nelson, Chairman
(A) Hon. Dan Malcolm, Commissioner

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

Tom Wornham, Chairman
(A) David Barnum, Director

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TRIBAL CHAIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Hon. Allen Lawson, Chairman,
San Pasqual Band of Diegueño Indians
Hon. Robert Smith, Chairman,
Pala Band of Mission Indians

MEXICO

Hon. Remedios Gómez-Arnau,
Cónsul General of Mexico
(A) Hon. Francisco J. Olivarría,
Deputy Cónsul General of Mexico

SAN DIEGO VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS AND SUSPECTS IN 2013

INTRODUCTION

This SANDAG CJ bulletin, one of three in a series presenting 2013 annual crime information, uses crime and arrest report data from local law enforcement agencies to describe characteristics of violent crime victims and suspects. Analyses are presented regarding which population subgroups were more likely to report being victimized in 2013, as well as how victims and suspects differed by crime type in terms of their ethnicity, age, and gender.

The content of this bulletin focuses exclusively on Part I violent crimes.¹ When reporting property crimes overall, there is inconsistency in who is listed as the victim, which makes it difficult to accurately document victim characteristics. As such, only data on victims and suspects of Part I violent crimes are presented. This bulletin is produced biennially since there has been little change historically in violent crime victim characteristics (with the exception of homicide victims and motives).

The victim and suspect information in this bulletin is provided earlier than they are released nationally, and therefore, are more timely and useful to anyone interested in better understanding individuals affected by violent crime in San Diego County. In addition, this information is used regionally to develop and monitor targeted crime prevention and intervention strategies. It is important to note that the descriptions of violent crime victims provided in this bulletin reflect only the characteristics of victims of crimes that were reported to law enforcement. Therefore, these descriptions may not entirely reflect all victims who chose not to report a crime.

¹ Part I violent crime includes homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

KEY FINDINGS

- In 2013, more homicides were attributed to an argument (43%) and fewer to gang activity (18%) compared to 2012 (21% and 31%, respectively).
- More than four in five (83%) female homicide victims were murdered by a spouse/intimate partner or family member, compared to 16 percent of males.
- Blacks were overrepresented as victims of all four violent crimes (27% homicide, 13% rape, 10% robbery, and 16% aggravated assault) in comparison to their representation in the population (5%).
- Individuals between 18 and 24 years old represented 12 percent of the population, but almost one in four violent crime victims.
- Domestic violence as a homicide motive was most common when the victim was described as Hispanic or other race/ethnicity.
- While the risk of homicide was greatest for males between the ages of 18 and 24, the risk for females was greatest at the ages of 40 and older.
- Over one-quarter (28%) of Hispanic homicide victims were under the age of 18, compared to between 0 and 6 percent of other ethnic groups.

WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO REPORT BEING A VIOLENT CRIME VICTIM?

Race/Ethnicity

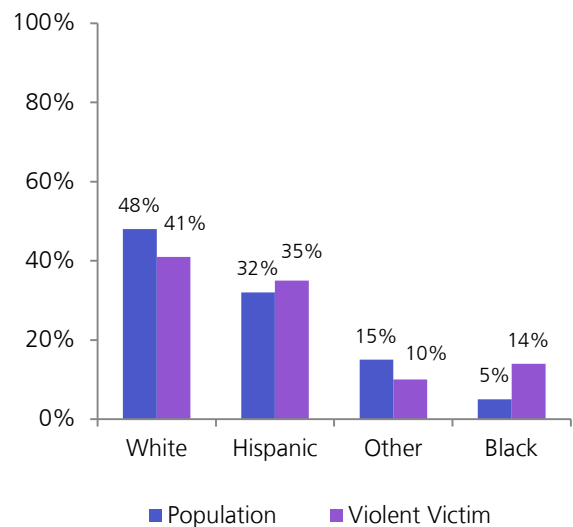
In 2013, around half (48%) of the San Diego region’s population was non-Hispanic White, around one-third (32%) Hispanic, 15 percent other ethnicities, and 5 percent non-Hispanic Black. As in prior years, these proportions differed from the ethnicity of violent crime victims. Specifically, Blacks were nearly three times more likely to be a victim of a violent crime compared to their representation in the population (14% versus 5%).² Conversely, Whites were under-represented (41% versus 48%) as violent crime victims, as were individuals of other ethnicities (10% versus 15%). Hispanics represented 32 percent of the population and 35 percent of violent crime victims in 2013 (Figure 1).

A closer examination of victim ethnicity revealed additional differences by type of violent crime victimization (Table 1). Specifically, Blacks were overrepresented in all four crime categories and more than five times more likely to be a victim of homicide (27%). Hispanics were most overrepresented as robbery victims (40%). Whites were slightly overrepresented as

According to the 2013 National Crime Victimization Survey, victims were more likely to report aggravated assault (62%) and robbery (56%), compared to rape/sexual assault (28%).³

victims of rape (49%) and most underrepresented as homicide victims (28%) given their proportion in the population (48%).

Figure 1
BLACKS AND HISPANICS OVERREPRESENTED AS VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME



NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: Automated Regional Justice Information System; San Diego County Sheriff and cities law enforcement agencies; SANDAG, 2013.

Table 1
TYPE OF VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMIZATION VARIED BY ETHNICITY

	% of Population	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault
White	48%	28%	49%	37%	42%
Hispanic	32%	30%	30%	40%	34%
Other	15%	15%	8%	13%	8%
Black	5%	27%	13%	10%	16%

SOURCE: Automated Regional Justice Information System; San Diego County Sheriff and cities law enforcement agencies, 2013.

² The relationship between minority overrepresentation in the justice system as crime suspects is a complex issue that has been identified nationally and received greater attention as jurisdictions strive to ensure equity at different points in the system. Statistics showing that minorities are overrepresented as crime victims as well also raise points for discussion and action. While it is beyond the scope of this report to examine this issue in depth, policy makers and other stakeholders are encouraged to use these data in discussions about how public safety can be enhanced, the cycle of violence ended, and equitable treatment is ensured for all citizens regardless of race/ethnicity.

³ Truman, J., and Langton, L. (2014). "Criminal Victimization, 2013". National Crime Victimization Survey. Washington, D.C. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

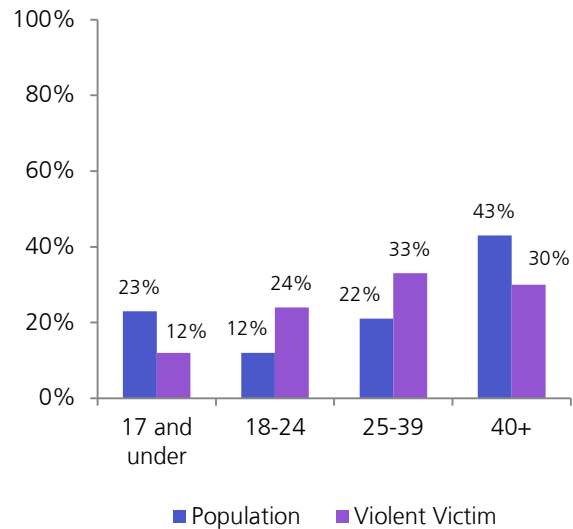
Age

As with ethnicity, there were differences in victimization by age, with young adults comprising a larger proportion of victims compared to their representation in the population. According to 2013 estimates, 23 percent of the region’s population was 17 years of age and younger, 12 percent between 18 and 24, 22 percent between 25 and 39, and 43 percent 40 and older (Figure 2).

While individuals ages 25 to 39 accounted for the largest percentage of violent crime victims (33%) (Figure 2), those individuals between 18 and 24 were twice as likely to be victims of a violent crime (24%) compared to their proportion in the population (12%). Specifically, 18 to 24 year olds were overrepresented as victims in all violent crime categories, including homicide (27%), rape (34%), robbery (31%), and aggravated assault (21%) (Table 2).

Individuals in both the youngest (17 years and under) and oldest (40 years and older) age categories were the least likely to be violent crime victims, compared to their proportions in the population. Specifically, youth age 17 and younger comprised 23 percent of the population but only 12 percent of violent victims; and older individuals (40 years and older) made up 43 percent of the population but only 30 percent of victims (Figure 2 and Table 2).

Figure 2
ADULTS 18 TO 39 OVERREPRESENTED AS VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS



NOTE: Cases with missing information not included. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: Automated Regional Justice Information System, 2013; San Diego County Sheriff and cities law enforcement agencies, 2013; SANDAG, 2013.

Table 2
TYPE OF VIOLENT VICTIMIZATION VARIED BY AGE

	% of Population	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault
17 and under	23%	8%	18%	11%	13%
18 to 24	12%	27%	34%	31%	21%
25 to 39	22%	24%	31%	32%	34%
40 and older	43%	41%	17%	26%	32%

SOURCE Automated Regional Justice Information System; San Diego County Sheriff and cities law enforcement agencies; SANDAG, 2013.

Gender

In 2013, half (50%) of the region’s population was male and half (50%) was female. Overall, there were differences between these proportions and the percent of those who were violent crime victims (39% female and 61% male) (not shown). There also was variation between gender and the types of crime of which males and females were more likely to be victims. Specifically, males were overrepresented as victims of homicide (72%), robbery (68%), and aggravated assault (63%) in comparison to their representation in the population (Table 4). It is important to note that rape victims were all females because males were not included in 2013 rape victim statistics.⁴

WHAT WERE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN 2013?

Because both the tragedy associated with the loss of a human life and the fact that homicide is one of the most reliable measures of violent crimes,⁵ more detailed information is provided on the 71⁶ individuals who died in 2013 as a result of criminal homicide. Understanding the precipitating event (i.e., motive) contributing to the homicide sheds light on where to target prevention and enforcement efforts.

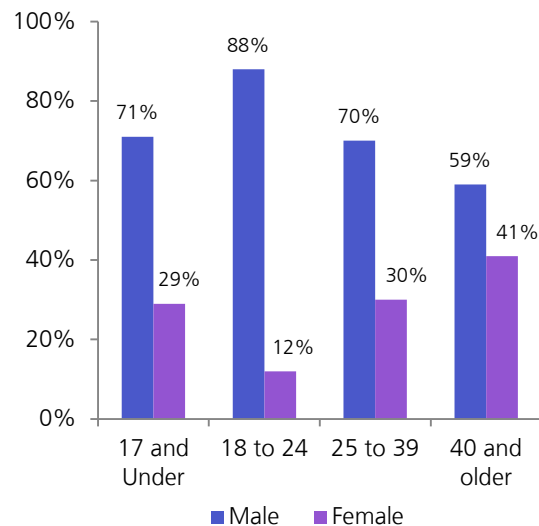
Age and Gender

Of the 71 homicides in 2013, females represented 28 percent of victims overall (Table 4). However, as Figure 3 shows, the risk of homicide was greatest for males between the ages of 18 and 24

(88%) and decreased as males aged. For females, however, the risk of being a homicide victim was lowest between 18 and 24 (12%), then increased with 30 percent of females between 25 and 39 and 41 percent 40 and older.

When exploring the relationship, if any, between the homicide victim and suspect, data revealed that 83 percent of female victims were murdered by a spouse/intimate partner or family member, compared to 16 percent of males.

Figure 3
FEMALE HOMICIDE VICTIMS MORE LIKELY TO BE OLDER, MALE VICTIMS YOUNGER



TOTAL = 71

SOURCE: Automated Regional Justice Information System,; San Diego County Sheriff and cities law enforcement agencies, 2013.

⁴In January 2012, the FBI expanded the rape definition in the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) as follows: “The 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.” Previously, UCR standards for rape required that victims were female and suspects were male. The State of California will apply the new definition beginning January 2015.

⁵Fox, A., & Zawitz, M. (2007). “Homicide Trends in the United States”. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>.

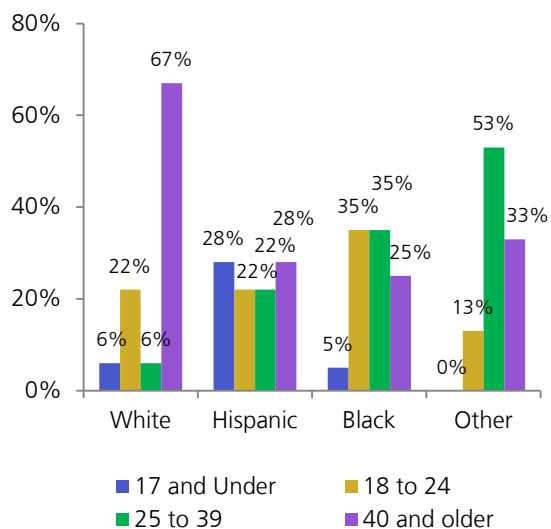
⁶One homicide reported in SANDAG’s annual 2013 crime bulletin was later determined to be a justifiable homicide and was removed from the analysis for this bulletin.

Age and Ethnicity

When examining how the age of homicide victims varied by race/ethnicity, there were also some differences worth noting:

- While fewer than one in ten (0% to 6%) of White, Black, and other race/ethnicity victims were under the age of 18, 28 percent of Hispanic homicide victims were not yet adults.⁷
- Around one-third (35% each) of Black victims were between 18 and 24 or 25 and 39, and more than half (53%) of victims of other race/ethnicity were between 25 and 39.
- Around two-thirds (67%) of White homicide victims were 40 years of age or older, compared to 25 percent to 33 percent for all other races/ethnicities (Figure 4).

Figure 4
HOMICIDE VICTIMS VARIED BY AGE AND ETHNICITY



TOTAL = 71

NOTE: Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

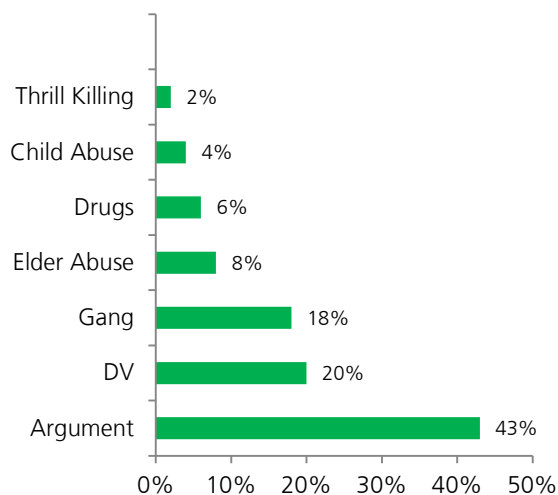
SOURCE: Automated Regional Justice Information System; San Diego County Sheriff and cities law enforcement agencies, 2013.

⁷ Of the 14 homicide victims (where motive could be determined) described as Hispanic, 5 were under the age of 18, compared to 0 of the 11 White victims, 14 “other” ethnicity victims, and 1 of the 12 Black victims. Three of these 5 homicides were related to gang violence, 1 to child abuse, and 1 to an argument.

Homicide Motive

Motive could be determined in 51 of the 71 homicides that took place in 2013. Of these 51 homicides, more than two-fifths (43%) were related to an argument, 20 percent to domestic violence, 18 percent to gang activity, 8 percent to elder abuse, 6 percent to drug activity, 4 percent to child abuse, and 2 percent to “thrill killing” (Table 3, Figure 5).

Figure 5
MOST HOMICIDES IN 2013 RELATED TO AN ARGUMENT



TOTAL = 51

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included. Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: San Diego County Sheriff and cities law enforcement agencies, 2013.

Over the past six years, there has been some fluctuation among homicide motives as shown in Table 3, including:

- Domestic violence as a motive varied from 16 percent of all homicides in 2008 to 30 percent in 2011. In 2013, it was the second most common motive, with one in five (20%) homicides related to it.
- Arguments were the primary homicide motive for four of the six years, including 2013 (43%).
- Gang activity was the identified motive in 18 percent to 31 percent of homicides across all six years. While gang activity was the most common motive in 2012 (31%), it dropped in 2013 (18%).
- Child abuse as a motive increased from 2008 (2%) to 2012 (15%), but fell in 2013 (4%).

Homicide Motive by Race/Ethnicity, Age, and Gender

Closer examination of all homicide victims in 2013 provides insight into victim characteristics, including race/ethnicity, age, and gender. The relationship between the homicide victim and suspect is also presented. While the numbers used in these analyses are small, the findings are noteworthy in learning more about the variation in homicide among different demographic groups.

In 2013, female homicide victims in San Diego County were more likely to be older and victims of a domestic violence incident. Male homicide victims were younger and more likely a victim of an argument or gang-related homicide.

Table 3
 ARGUMENTS WERE THE PRIMARY HOMICIDE MOTIVE IN FOUR OF PAST SIX YEARS

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Argument	32%	31%	37%	26%	21%	43%
DV	16%	22%	18%	30%	18%	20%
Gang	31%	26%	18%	18%	31%	18%
Child Abuse	2%	4%	5%	8%	15%	4%
*Other	19%	17%	23%	18%	15%	16%

TOTAL = 51 - 85

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

SOURCES: San Diego County Sheriff and cities law enforcement agencies, 2008 – 2013.

*Other motives included drugs, elder abuse, "thrill killing," robbery, murder/suicide, money/financial, lover's triangle, depression, silencing a witness, and sexual bondage.

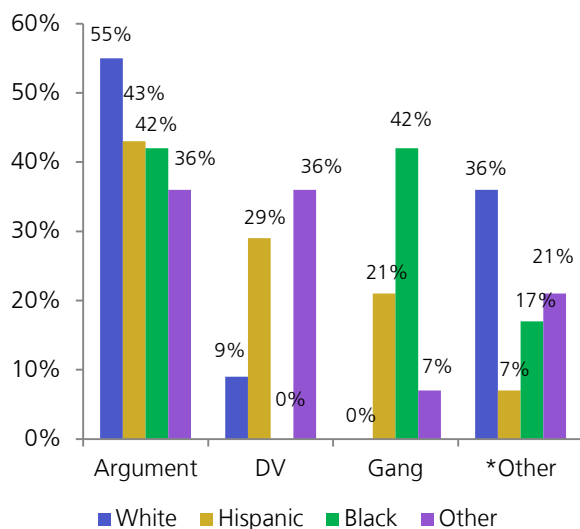
In terms of how motive varied by victim race in 2013, some differences worth noting include:

- While arguments were one of the most common motives regardless of victim race, they represented over half (55%) of motives when the victim was White, but only around one-third (36%) when the victim was from an “other” race/ethnicity.
- Domestic violence was more often a motive when a victim was Hispanic (29%) or an “other” race/ethnicity (36%), compared to White (9%) or Black (0%).
- Gang activity was a motive for 42 percent of all homicides involving a Black victim, compared to Hispanic (21%), “other” (7%), or White (0%) (Figure 6).

In terms of how motive varied by victim age, the following data are noteworthy:

- An argument was the most common motive for victims 18 and older, and represented over half for those 18 to 24 (54%) and 25 to 39 (53%)
- A domestic violence incident was the most common motive involving victims 25 and older, representing 27 percent of those between 25 and 39 and 29 percent 40 and older. No victims under the age of 18 died in a domestic violence-related homicide and only 8 percent of 18 to 24-year olds did.
- Gang-related motive was most common for those under the age of 18 (50%) and decreased for each subsequent age group to 6 percent of those 40 and older (Figure 7).

Figure 6
HOMICIDE MOTIVE VARIED BY RACE/ETHNICITY



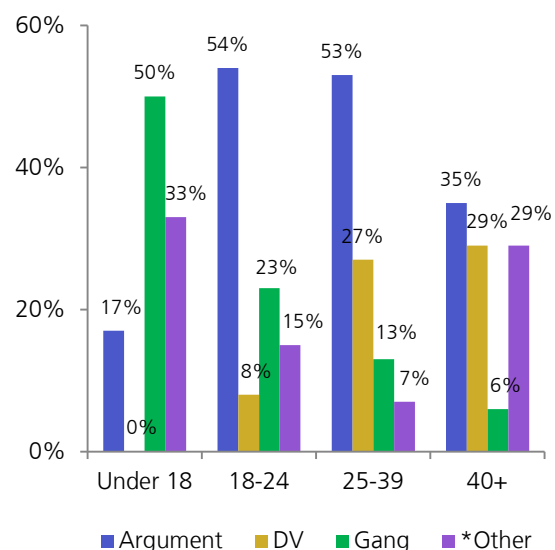
TOTAL = 51

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: San Diego County Sheriff and cities law enforcement agencies, 2013.

*Other motives include child abuse (along with the motives listed as “other” in Table 3).

Figure 7
HALF OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS UNDER 18 WERE MURDERED IN A GANG-RELATED INCIDENT



TOTAL = 51

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

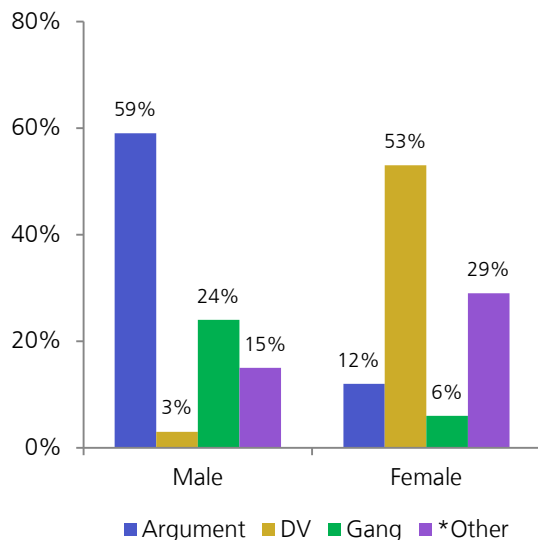
SOURCE: San Diego County Sheriff and cities law enforcement agencies, 2013.

*Other motives include child abuse (along with the motives listed as “other” in Table 3).

Finally, there also was variation among homicide motive and gender. As Figure 8 shows:

- An argument represented over half (59%) of male homicides compared to female homicides (12%); and while domestic violence was the motive for over half (53%) of female homicides, it was the motive for only 3 percent of male homicides.
- Males were four times more likely to be a victim of a gang-related homicide compared to females (24% and 6%, respectively).

Figure 8
OVER HALF OF FEMALE HOMICIDE VICTIMS WERE MURDERED AS A RESULT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



NOTE: Cases with missing information not included. Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: San Diego County Sheriff and cities law enforcement agencies, 2013.

*Other motives include child abuse (along with the motives listed as "other" in Table 3).

Firearms were the weapon used most often (42%) in the 71 homicides in 2013. Other weapons used were knives/sharp objects (32%), personal weapons (hands, feet) (13%), blunt objects (8%), fire (3%), or strangulation/hanging (1%). The use of firearms as a homicide weapon varied somewhat from 2010 (41%) to 2011 (55%) and 2012 (53%) (not shown).

WHAT WERE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF VICTIMS AND SUSPECTS FOR EACH OF THE CRIME TYPES?

Unlike victim data, which is based on crime incident reports, suspect information is gathered from arrest data. Thus, the suspect information could be from a crime committed in a previous year. As with victimization, the pattern of suspect characteristics (i.e., ethnicity, age, and gender) typically varies across crime type. These data, along with all victimization characteristics, are provided in more detail in Table 4. Analyses of violent crime suspect data revealed several noticeable differences:

- With the exception of rape, males were more likely to be a victim *and* a suspect of violent crime.
- Females represented over one-third (37%) of aggravated assault victims, but 27 percent of aggravated assault suspects, a higher proportion than any other violent crime.
- More than two-fifths (43%) of homicide suspects were Hispanic, while aggravated assault suspects were more likely to be White (39%).
- Fifteen percent (15%) of youth under 18 years old were suspects of robbery, the highest proportion of all violent crimes for that age category.
- Rape victims were younger than rape suspects. Specifically, fewer than one in five (18%) rape victims were under the age of 18, but 42 percent of rape suspects (all males) were 25 to 39 years old.

Table 4
CHARACTERISTICS OF VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS AND SUSPECTS VARIED BY TYPE OF CRIME

	% of Population	HOMICIDE		RAPE		ROBBERY		AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	
		Victims	Suspects	Victims	Suspects	Victims	Suspects	Victims	Suspects
White	48%	28%	22%	49%	23%	37%	29%	42%	39%
Hispanic	32%	30%	43%	30%	38%	40%	38%	34%	35%
Other	15%	15%	6%	8%	7%	13%	5%	8%	8%
Black	5%	27%	29%	13%	31%	10%	29%	16%	18%
17 and under	23%	8%	8%	18%	3%	11%	15%	13%	6%
18 to 24	12%	27%	36%	34%	26%	31%	38%	21%	23%
25 to 39	22%	24%	27%	31%	42%	32%	31%	34%	42%
40+	43%	41%	29%	17%	29%	26%	16%	32%	29%
Male	50%	72%	90%	0%	100%	68%	85%	63%	73%
Female	50%	28%	10%	100%	0%	32%	15%	37%	27%

NOTE: Cases with missing information are not included. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: Automated Regional Justice Information System; San Diego County Sheriff and cities law enforcement agencies, 2013.

SUMMARY

Understanding who is at greatest risk for being a victim or suspect of violent crime provides a fuller picture of how crime impacts the San Diego region. While San Diego County is still experiencing relatively low violent crime rates, perceptions are changing about whether crime might be on the rise.

Overall, data regarding 2013 violent crime victims and suspects in San Diego County indicate similar trends as in previous years, with young adult males, especially Black males, at greatest risk for victimization as evidenced by the fact that Blacks were overrepresented in every violent crime category in comparison to their proportion in the population.

With regard to the region's 71 homicides in 2013, females were more likely to be murdered as a result of domestic violence, while males were more often a homicide victim due to an argument, robbery, or gang-related incident. Overall, arguments accounted for the largest proportion of homicides in 2013, followed by domestic violence and gang activity. Suspect data also highlight the need for continued early interventions as young individuals (under 18 years old) were found to be committing serious violent crimes, especially robberies.

METHODOLOGY

The numbers presented in this report were mainly derived from the Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS), with the exception of homicide motive which was gathered directly from local law enforcement agencies. A few qualifying statements should be considered when interpreting this information.

Information regarding crime victim characteristics was available from incident reports that were completed when a crime was reported to law enforcement. However, not all crimes are reported and some sectors of the population may be more likely than others to report crime to law enforcement.³

Information regarding crime suspect characteristics was retrieved from arrest reports. Obviously, descriptives from individuals who committed a crime but were not arrested are not included; and it is possible that some individuals in the suspect sample did not commit the crime for which they were arrested.

Because of changes in the California Department of Justice's reporting system, data on homicide motives were gathered directly from local jurisdictions.

The number of victims reported in this bulletin varies from the number of crimes reported in other publications because of missing information for some crimes, the inclusion of simple assault, and the inclusion of some crimes later determined to be unfounded.