

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.

In 2016, the FBI Director informed all state Statistical Analysis Centers that the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program would be transitioning to a National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) only data collection by January 1, 2021. The California DOJ embarked on a five year effort to develop and implement a new state repository, the California Incident-Based Reporting System (CIBRS), to house the new FBI statistical reporting format. The CIBRS repository is a combination of the federal NIBRS requirements with additional California-specific data elements. The California DOJ began collecting data in CIBRS in 2021. However, not all California law enforcement agencies (LEAs) have transitioned to the new format.

The 2021-2022 homicide data are the result of a combination of incident information collected through summary reporting and incident-based (IBR) formats. As with the implementation of any new data collection system, caution should be used when comparing these data with those of previous years.

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. The data included on the Homicide File 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 obligation.

b. The California IBR system **does not include** the following Homicide data fields:

- BCS number
- Victim number
- Month of Report
- Year of Report (for tracking purposes Year of Report has been inserted)
- Total number of Victims
- Total number of Suspects
- Incident Day of week
- Year of Death

Additional CA IBR notes:

- The location field only identifies “residence” by: Single family home, Multiple family dwelling, Residential facility, Nursing home, Yard (adjacent to a residential location), and Driveway (Residential).
 - California has expanded the sex (gender) categories it collects in CIBRS to include: male, female, non-binary, and transgender. Starting in 2022, homicide publication numbers include two non-binary individuals, which are not included in the online homicide data file due to the small population size.
- c. 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.
- d. 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).
- e. 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)
- f. To identify bias-motivated homicides, select Special Circumstance Code 160.
2. Reporting Agencies
CJSC collects homicide data from agencies that participate in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program and the California version of the National Incident-Based 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.
 - For additional agency notes, please see the Data Limitations associated with the Crime and Clearance data file.
 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 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 Blank = Value not reported
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. Blank = Value not reported
E	Month of Report	Month reported to UCR.	Numeric (01-12) Blank = Value not reported
F	Year of Report	Year reported to UCR.	4 digit numeric. Blank = Value not reported
G	Total Victim	Total number of victims associated with this case.	2-digit numeric. Blank = Value not reported
H	Total Suspects	Total number of suspects associated with this case.	2-digit numeric. Blank = Value not reported
I	Gender	Victim Gender.	0 – Unknown 1 – Male

			2 – Female Blank = Value not reported
J	Race/Ethnicity	Victim Race/Ethnicity.	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
K	Age	Victim Age.	00 – Unknown 01-98 – Corresponding age 99 – 99 years of age or over NB – Birth to one week BB – One week to 12 months
L	Crime Status	This code describes the type of homicide.	1 – Actual/Willful Homicide 2 – Citizen Justifiable 3 – Manslaughter 4 – Peace Officer Justifiable
M	Victim/Offender Relationship #1	Victim's relationship to Offender (i.e., husband kills wife, show wife as victim)	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 15 – Stepdaughter 16 – Other family 20 – Neighbor 21 – Acquaintance 22 – Boyfriend/Ex-Boyfriend 23 – Girlfriend/Ex-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 Blank = Value not reported
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.	Numeric (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 Blank = Value not reported
U	Year of Death	Year of death.	YYYY Blank = Value not reported

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 victim'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 RA – Single Family Home

			RB – Multiple Family Dwelling RC – Residential Facility RD – Nursing Home RF – Yard (adj to residential location) RG – Driveway (Residential)
X	Precipitating Event	Contributing Circumstance.	<u>Actuals</u> 02 - Rape 03 - Robbery 05 - Burglary 06 - Larceny 07 - Motor vehicle theft 09 - Arson 10 - Prostitution and commercial vice (i.e., prostitute killed by pimp during argument over money) 17 - Other sex offense (sodomy, etc.) 18 - Narcotic drug laws (not overdose) 19 - Gambling 26 - Other not specified (kidnapping, murder for hire) 32 - Abortion (not a legal abortion) 40 - Lover's triangle 41 - Child killed by babysitter 42 - Brawl due to influence of alcohol (i.e., argument while intoxicated) 43 - Brawl due to influence of narcotics (i.e., argument while under the influence) 44 - Argument over money or property (revenge over money or property) 45 - Other arguments (revenge) 46 - Execution killing(s) 47 - Gang killing(s) (street gangs, motorcycle gangs) 48 - Institutional killing(s) (jail, prison, state hospital) 49 - Sniper attack (random killing) 60 - Other - non-felony (mercy killing, suicide pacts, mentally deranged offender) 61 - Child abuse 62 - Domestic Violence (1992)

			<p>63 - Drive-by Shooting (unspecified) (1996)</p> <p>70 - All - suspected felony type</p> <p>99 - All instances where facts provided do not permit determination of circumstances (skeletal remains)</p> <p><u>Manslaughter</u></p> <p>50 - Victim killed accidentally hunting</p> <p>51 - Non self-inflicted gun cleaning</p> <p>52 - Children under 15 playing with gun</p> <p>53 - Negligent gun handling</p> <p>59 - Other manslaughter by negligence (child neglect, etc.)</p> <p><u>Justifiable by Citizen ONLY</u></p> <p>80 - Felon attacked peace officer</p> <p>82 - Felon attacked a civilian</p> <p>83 - Felon attempted flight from a crime</p> <p>84 - Felon killed in commission of a crime</p> <p>85 - Felon resisted arrest</p> <p>86 - Not enough information to determine (citizen justifiable)</p> <p><u>Justifiable by Peace Officer ONLY</u></p> <p>90 - Felon attacked peace officer</p> <p>91 - Felon attacked another peace officer</p> <p>92 - Felon attacked civilian</p> <p>93 - Felon attempted flight from a crime</p> <p>94 - Felon killed in commission of a crime</p> <p>95 - Felon resisted arrest</p> <p>96 - Not enough information to determine (peace officer justifiable)</p>
Y	Special Circumstance	Special Circumstance/ Potential Death Penalty.	<p><u>Special Circumstances (Potential Death Penalty 190.2 P.C.)</u></p> <p>000 - Non-death penalty homicide.</p> <p>010 - Murder was intentional and carried out for financial gain.</p>

			<p>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 victim's 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 victim's official duties.</p>
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