
Manner: HOMICIDE

The Medical Examiner classifies a death as a homicide when the death results from injuries inflicted by another person. The prosecuting attorney may either charge the person responsible for the injuries with murder or manslaughter, or decline to file charges. During 2006, the Medical Examiner classified 91 deaths as homicide. This number represents 4% (91/2,055) of the Medical Examiner death investigations for the calendar year 2006. Of these 91 homicides, 77 were the result of incidents that occurred within King County. For comparison, there were 80 homicides investigated in 2005, of which 72 were incidents in King County. In 2004, 68 of 76 homicides occurred in King County.

The data reflect the weapons or mechanisms responsible for the homicidal deaths in 2006. Firearms were responsible for 57% (52/91), compared to 2005, when 59% (47/80) were due to firearms. Stabbing by a knife or other sharp-edged instrument caused fifteen percent (14/91) of deaths of homicide victims. Blunt force injuries were responsible for eighteen percent (16/91) of the 2006 homicide deaths. There was one (1) death due to strangulation/asphyxia and eight (8) deaths due to other homicidal means.

In 2006, there were six homicide victims under five years of age. There were no homicide victims between 6 - 12 years of age and there were two homicide victims between 13 - 15 years of age. Seven homicide victims were between the ages of 16 and 19 years.

Examining the racial distribution of victims of homicide, 24% (22/91) of the victims were black, compared to 2005, when 32% (26/80) of the victims were black. Whites, while representing 78% of the population, made up 55% (50/91) of the homicide victims. The remaining 21% of homicide victims (19/91) included Asian/Pacific Islanders, Native American, and Other Race. As indicated on page 5, in 17% of the Medical Examiner cases the incident leading to death occurred outside of King County and the decedent was likely not a resident of King County. Therefore, Medical Examiner figures cannot be directly compared to the racial distribution of King County residents (refer to Table 1-9 on page 19).

Males comprised 81% (74/91) and women 19% (17/91) of the homicide victims in 2006. The majority of victims, 68% (62/91), were between the ages of 20 and 49 years. Young people, 19 years old and under, comprised 16% (15/91) of the homicide victims. For comparison, this younger age group represented 16% (13/80) in the year 2004. Ninety-two percent (84/91) of the victims were tested for the presence of alcohol. Of those tested 31% (26/84) showed alcohol present at the time of death.

Of the 91 homicidal deaths in 2006, 85% (77/91) of the fatal incidents occurred within King County, and of these deaths, 33 (36%) occurred within the city limits of Seattle. In fourteen of the 91 homicidal deaths, the incident occurred outside of King County, but death occurred within King County.

The relationship of victim to assailant was not tabulated as part of this report. In order to investigate such associations, additional review of police records would be necessary.

Graph 4-1 Homicide Injury Methods / King County Medical Examiner / 2006

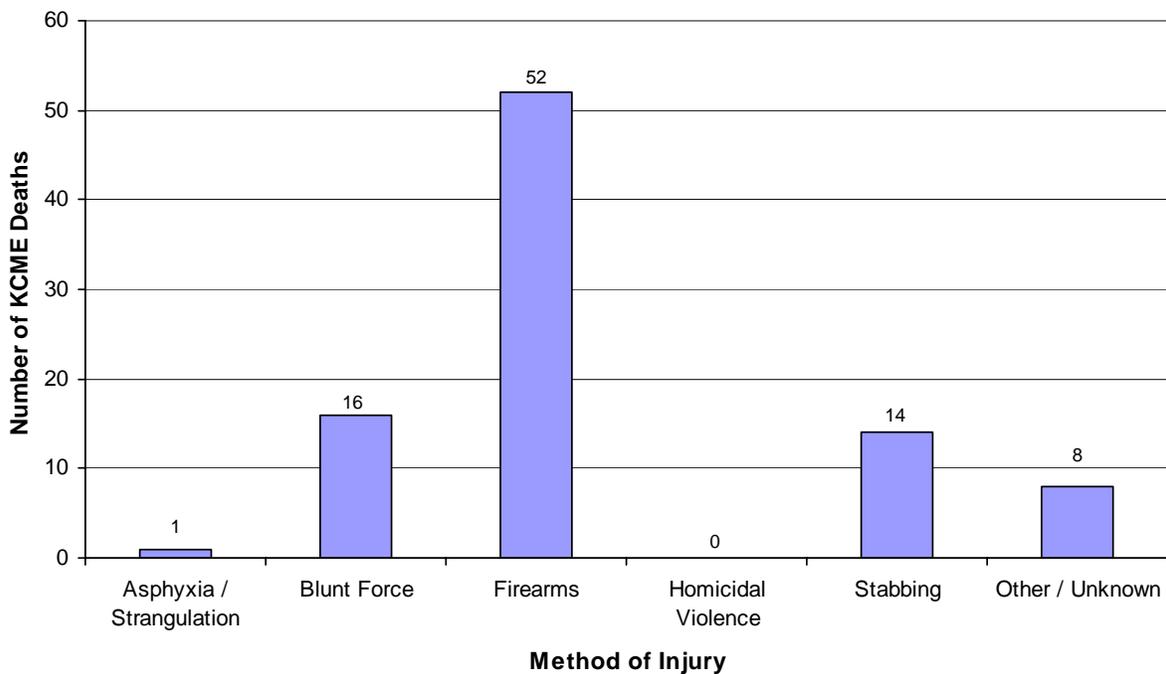


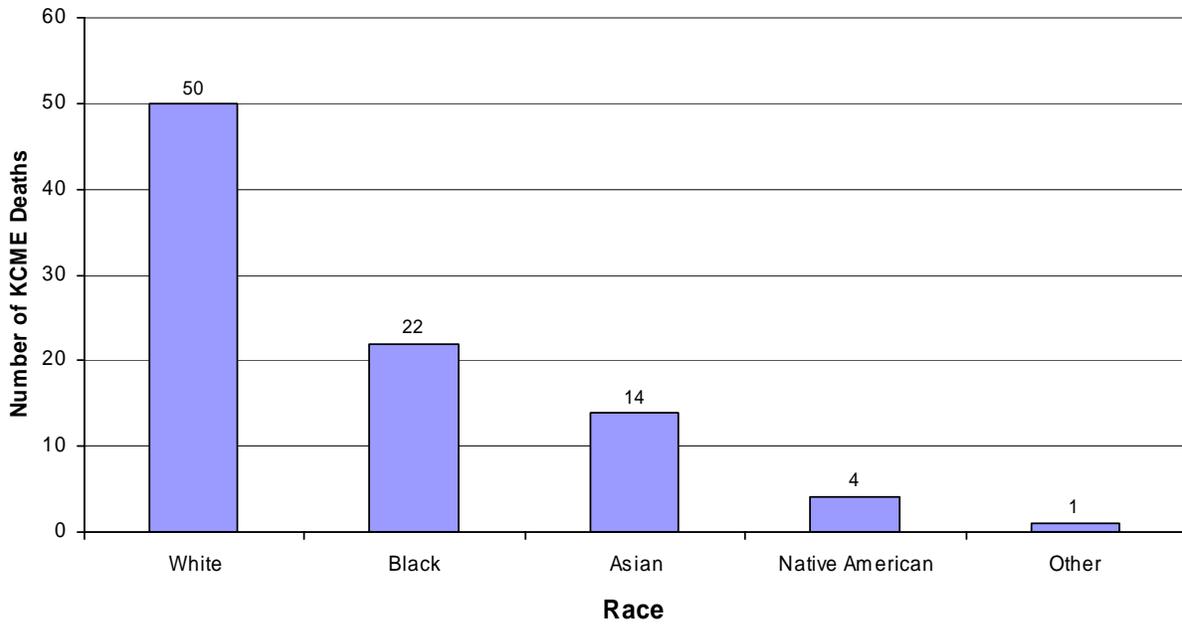
Table 4-1 Homicide Methods / Race / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2006

CIRCUMSTANCES / SEX	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER		
Asphyxia / Strangulation	1	0	0	0	0		1
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Blunt Force	8	4	1	2	1		16
<i>Male</i>	6	3	1	2	1	13	
<i>Female</i>	2	1	0	0	0	3	
Firearms	27	11	12	2	0		52
<i>Male</i>	23	11	11	2	0	47	
<i>Female</i>	4	0	1	0	0	5	
Homicidal Violence	0	0	0	0	0		0
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Stabbing	9	5	0	0	0		14
<i>Male</i>	6	3	0	0	0	9	
<i>Female</i>	3	2	0	0	0	5	
Other / Unknown	5	2	1	0	0		8
<i>Male</i>	3	1	1	0	0	5	
<i>Female</i>	2	1	0	0	0	3	
Totals	50	22	14	4	1		91
Percent	55%	24%	16%	4%	1%		100%

Table 4-2 Homicide Methods / Age / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2006

METHOD / SEX	AGE GROUP (YEARS)													SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	< 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 to 15	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 +		
Asphyxia / Strangulation	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		1
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Blunt Force	4	0	0	0	0	1	4	3	2	0	0	1	1		16
<i>Male</i>	3	0	0	0	0	1	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	13	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	
Firearms	0	0	0	2	5	23	8	9	3	2	0	0	0		52
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	5	23	8	8	2	1	0	0	0	47	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	5	
Homicidal Violence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Stabbing	0	2	0	0	0	5	1	5	1	0	0	0	0		14
<i>Male</i>	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	9	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	
Other / Unknown	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	0		8
<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	5	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	
Totals	4	2	0	2	7	29	14	19	9	2	0	2	1		91
Percent	4%	2%	0%	2%	8%	32%	16%	21%	10%	2%	0%	2%	1%		100%

Graph 4-2 Homicide Deaths / Race / King County Medical Examiner / 2006



Graph 4-3 Homicide Deaths / Age Group / King County Medical Examiner / 2006

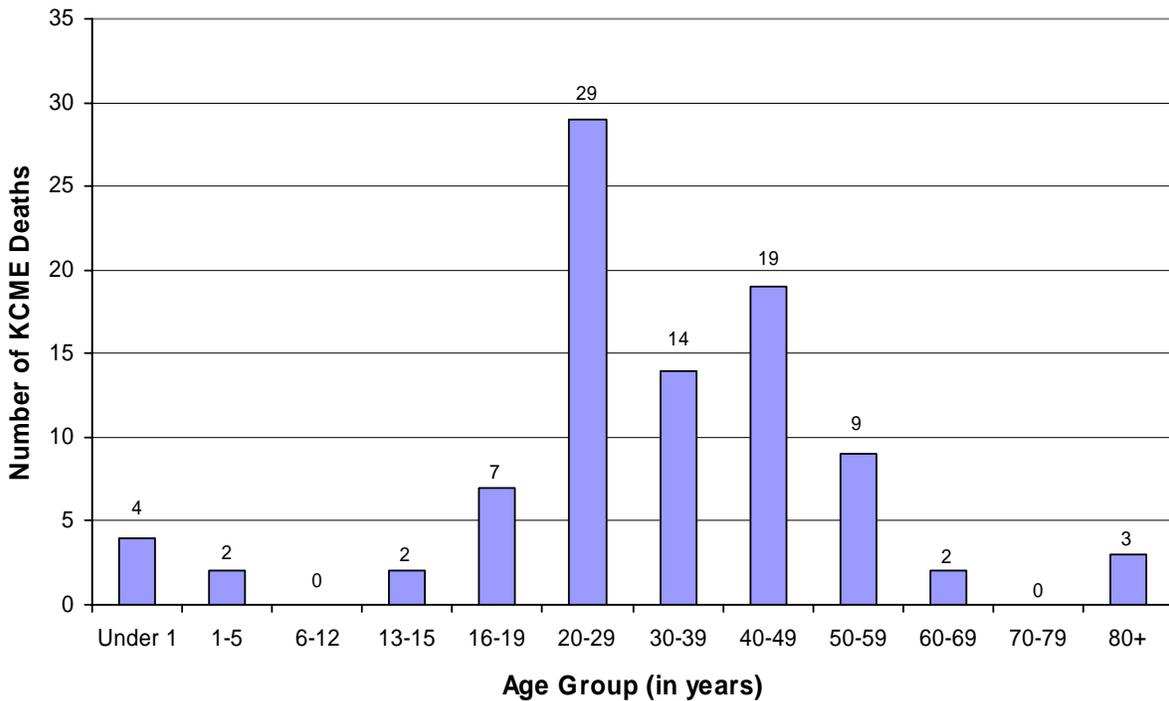


Table 4-3 Homicide Deaths / Age / Race / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2006

METHOD		AGE						SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
		< 16	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50+		
Asphyxia / Strangulation	White	0	0	0	1	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Blunt Force	White	2	0	1	2	2	1		8
	Male	1	0	1	2	2	0	6	
	Female	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	
	Black	0	0	0	1	0	3		4
	Male	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
	Asian	0	0	0	1	0	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Nat. American	2	0	0	0	0	0		2
	Male	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	Other	0	0	0	0	1	0		1
	Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Firearms	White	2	2	10	4	4	5		27
	Male	0	2	10	4	4	3	23	
	Female	2	0	0	0	0	2	4	0
	Black	0	0	7	2	2	0		11
	Male	0	0	7	2	2	0	11	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Asian	0	3	5	1	3	0		12
	Male	0	3	5	1	2	0	11	
	Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Nat. American	Nat. American	0	0	1	1	0	0		2
	Male	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Homicidal Violence	None	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Table 4-3 Homicide Deaths / Age / Race / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2006

METHOD		AGE						SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
		< 16	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50+		
Stabbing	White	2	0	4	1	1	1	6	9
	<i>Male</i>	2	0	1	1	1	1		
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	3	0	0	0		
	Black	0	0	1	0	4	0	3	
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	1	0	2	0		
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	2	0		
Other / Unknown	White	0	1	0	0	1	3	3	5
	<i>Male</i>	0	1	0	0	0	2		
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1		
	Black	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	
	<i>Male</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0		
	<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1		
	Asian	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0		
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
TOTALS		8	7	29	14	19	14		91

Table 4-4 Homicide Methods / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2006

METHOD	SEX		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Asphyxia / Strangulation	0	1	1
Blunt Force	13	3	16
Firearms	47	5	52
Homicidal Violence	0	0	0
Stabbing	9	5	14
Other / Unknown	5	3	8
Totals	74	17	91
Percent	81%	19%	100%

Table 4-5 Homicide Methods / Blood Alcohol Results / KCME / 2006

METHOD	TESTED			TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	NOT TESTED	
Asphyxia / Strangulation	0	1	0	1
Blunt Force	3	11	2	16
Firearms	17	31	4	52
Homicidal Violence	-	-	-	0
Stabbing	5	9	0	14
Other / Unknown	1	6	1	8
Totals	26	58	7	91
Percent	28%	64%	8%	100%