

United States extremist crime database (ECDB), 1990- 2008: Preliminary results

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Describing the far-right

- Nationalistic
- Anti-global
- Suspicious of centralized federal authority
- Reverent of individual liberty
- Conspiracy theories
- Paramilitary training and survivalism
- Mainstream conservative movements and the mainstream Christian right are not included

The far-right poses a significant threat

- Domestic outnumber international terrorist attacks in the U.S. 7:1 (LaFree, Dugan, Fogg & Scott 2006)
- The far-right claimed over 250 lives between 1978 & 2000 (Hewitt, 2003; see also Carlson 1995; Riley 1995)
- Far-right present in more states than other extremists, including Islamic Jihadists (Freilich, Chermak & Simone 2009)
- Other case-specific examples

The criminal activities of the far-right are a neglected research topic

- Most terrorism research focuses on international terrorism and studies on the domestic far-right's crimes usually rely on anecdotal or case study data
- F.B.I. terrorism definition: "The unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives" committed by a group.
- The F.B.I.'s definition excludes important categories of crimes

Limitations of F.B.I. definition

- FBI's terrorism definition excludes important categories of crimes:
 - Excludes NON-federal (i.e., state) prosecutions
 - Excludes ideologically motivated crimes committed by lone-wolf perpetrators
 - Excludes incidents where group did not claim responsibility
 - Excludes non-violent ideologically motivated crimes
 - Excludes non-ideological/routine crimes
 - State and local municipalities subscribe to a broader definition

U.S. extremist crime study (ECDB), 1990- 2008

- Examines all known crimes committed by known far-rightists, 1990- 2008
 - Illegal incident,
 - Committed by far-rightist
 - Committed in United States
 - Committed between 1990- 2008
 - Identified in an open source
 - Led to an official response (hearsay not enough)

ECDB, 1990- 2008: Identifying cases

- *Stage 1*: A multi-tiered data collection effort that identifies incidents from a variety of sources:
 - Existing Databases
 - Official Sources
 - Scholarly and Journalist Accounts
 - Watch-group Reports
 - Media Searches

ECDB, 1990- 2008: Searching cases

- *Stage 2: Incidents treated as case studies & examined in 22 search engines:*
 - *General search engines*
 - *Newspaper databases*
 - *Other search sites*
 - Two step search process: (6) primary & (16) secondary engines

Primary Open Source Search

Enter Keywords Here

- Lexis-Nexis
- Proquest
- Yahoo
- Google
- Copernic
- News Library

Search

Reset

Secondary Open Source Search

Enter Keywords Here

- Infotrac
- Google Scholar
- Amazon
- Google U.S. Government
- Federation of American Scientists
- Google Video
- Center for the Study of Intelligence
- Surf Wax
- Dogpile
- Mamma
- Librarians' Internet Index
- Scirus
- All the Web
- Google News
- Google Blog
- [Homeland Security Digital Library](#) (Password Required)

Search

Reset

ECDB, 1990- 2008: Coding cases

- Each case assigned to a specific coder
- 5 relational ACCESS files:
 - (1) Incident,
 - (2) Suspect,
 - (3) Victim,
 - (4) Group,
 - (5) Quality of open source information

Incident Codebook

1 Name/Description	Nazi-Low Rider commits murder
2 Date of Event	8/1/1991
3 Incident Time	3:45pm
4 Related Suspects	4001
5 Related Victims	4001
6 Related Groups	4001

7 Master-file Identifier	6516
8 Case ID	4001
8b Relational ID	40016516
9 Why discrete incident	occurred w/in a limited time
10 Incident in GTD?	0
11 Incident in ATS?	0

12 Definition of terrorism?	0
13 Labeled as terrorism?	0
14 Coder's Name	
15 Prevailing Data Source	court record
16 Case Status	open
If open, explain	still in prison
17 Last date modified	9/1/2008

18 Type of incident	isolated
Ancillary Incident?	0
19 # Related Incidents	1
20 Related Incident #s	4004
21 Relevance of event	incident ideological
22 Primary categorization	anti-black
23 Secondary categ.	
24 Incident stage	completed
25 Address of incident	Main Street
26 City	Harrisburg
27 County	Dauphin
28 State	38
29 Actual location	highway/road
If other, specify	

30 Offense Types (cont)	
Cyber crime	
# counts, if any	
Sabotage	
# counts, if any	
Mail fraud	
# counts, if any	
Biological	
# counts, if any	
Nuclear	
# counts, if any	
Chemical	
# counts, if any	
Radiological	
# counts, if any	
Agroterrorism	
# counts, if any	

42 Primary Target	3
If government	
If race/ethnicity	black persons
If misc. civilian targets	
If military	
If civilian target	
If business	
If government agency	
If transportation	
43 Target Actually Struck	3
If government	
If race/ethnicity	black persons
If civilian target	
If military	
If misc. civilian targets	
If business	
If government agency	

30 Offense Types	
Homicide	1
# counts, if any	1

Suspect Codebook

1 Suspect's Name	John Smith
2 Case ID	1001

3 Master-file Identifier	1922
3b Relational ID	10011922

4 Suspect's other CBs	
5 Prevailing Data Source	News-Journalist
6 Coder's Name	

10 Tax Protestor	
11 Juvenile	0
12 Date of Birth	
13 Gender	male
14 Race	white/caucasian non-hisp
15 Sexual Orientation	heterosexual
16 Alienage	native born
If foreign, specify	
17 State of birth	22
18 County of birth	Grand Traverse
19 County residence	Grand Traverse
20 State residence	22
21 Place residence	urban
22 Homeless	
23 Suicide or killed	injured
Date death/suicide	
Suicide mission?	
Suicide attempt	
Expected capture?	
24 Suspect's Religion	
If other, specify	

52 Prior criminal arrest history	
Ideol violent	1
# if known	2
Non-ideo violent	
# if known	
Ideo property	
# if known	
Non-ideo property	1
# if known	1
Ideo drug	
# if known	
Non-ideo drug	1
# if known	1
Ideo gun	
# if known	
Non-ideo gun	
# if known	
Ideo white-collar	
# if known	
Non-ideo white-collar	
# if known	

55 False Liens	
56 Prison	1
# terms served	
Length in months	
57 Time in fed prison	
Time in state prison	1
Time in local prison	1
58 Gang in prison	
59 Survivalist	
60 Substance abuser	alcohol and drugs
If yes, specify	
61 Drugs during arrest	
If yes, specify	
62 Sbstnc durgn incdnt	alcohol
If yes, specify	
63 Weapon found (1)	illegal guns
If more than 1, list	knives
64 Explosives Found?	1
If yes, specify	bomb-making materials
64 Movement materials	1
If yes, specify	"Explosives for Sabotage" (C

Victim Codebook

1 Victim's Full Name Michael Jacobs

2 Case ID 1001

7 # Others Around a lot (11-25)

8 Victim is a: person(s)

If target, describe

9 Victim's DOB

10 Victim's Sex male

11 Victim's Race white/caucasian non-hispanic

12 Victim's Sexual Orientation heterosexual

13 Alienage native born

Alienage specified

14 State of Birth 46

15 County of Birth

16 Victim's Residence known

17 State 46

18 County Richomnd

19 Victim's Religion

Other specified

20 Victim's Age 52

21 Victim's Marital Status married

22 Children 1

If children, # 2

23 Pregnant at time of incident?

3 Coder's Name

4 Master-file Identifier 1922

28 Targeted for job 1

29 Military background Yes-previous

30 L.E. background local

31 Killed 1

32 Wounded

33 Killed/injrd line of duty 1

34 Extent physical injuries N/A

Describe injuries:

35 Extent psycho injuries N/A

Describe injuries:

36 Extent prop damage N/A

Describe damage

37 Extent financ loss N/A

Describe loss

38 Prior arrests 0

tot # ideological arrests

tot # non-ideol. arrests

39 Prior convictions 0

convictions

Ideological convictions

ideological convctns

4b Relational ID 10011922

5 Prevailing Data Source News-Journalist

6 Last date modified 10/21/2008

43 Prison no

terms served

44 Past prison length 0

Length in months

45 Time in fed prison

46 Time in state prison

47 Time in local prison

48 Gang in prison

49 Survivalist

50 Ever movement

Groups involved

51 Current movement 0

Current groups

52 Substance Abuser

Drugs used

53 Substance during incident alcohol

Drugs used

54 Self protection 1

Protection described attempted to shot susp

55 Weapon carried yes-gun

Other weapon used

Group Codebook

1 Case ID	<input type="text"/>	4 Group name	<input type="text"/>	6 Coder's Name	<input type="text"/>
2 Master-file Identifier	<input type="text"/>	Other name, specify	<input type="text"/>	7 Prevailing Data Source	<input type="text"/>
3 Why far right?	<input type="text"/>	5 Govnt defines terrorist	<input type="text"/>	8 Last Date Modified	<input type="text"/>
9 Group has chapters?	<input type="text"/>	32 Cnflct non-ideo crime org	<input type="text"/>	79 Group has website	<input type="text"/>
If yes, specify	<input type="text"/>	If yes, specify	<input type="text"/>	Manual	<input type="text"/>
10 Why group?	<input type="text"/>	Nature of link	<input type="text"/>	Newsletter	<input type="text"/>
11 Where operates	<input type="text"/>	Other or additional	<input type="text"/>	Ideological literature	<input type="text"/>
12 Year founded	<input type="text"/>	33 Conflicts with government	<input type="text"/>	Conducts training	<input type="text"/>
13 Founder	<input type="text"/>	If yes, specify	<input type="text"/>	Safehouses	<input type="text"/>
Prior Grp(s)	<input type="text"/>	Nature of link	<input type="text"/>	Member only meet	<input type="text"/>
If yes, prior role(s)	<input type="text"/>	Other or additional	<input type="text"/>	Regular meetings	<input type="text"/>
Reason 4 Founding	<input type="text"/>	34 Conflicts with other groups	<input type="text"/>	Protests	<input type="text"/>
14 Primary issue	<input type="text"/>	If yes, specify	<input type="text"/>	Membership list	<input type="text"/>
If other, specify	<input type="text"/>	Nature of link	<input type="text"/>	TV show	<input type="text"/>
All other issues	<input type="text"/>	Other or additional	<input type="text"/>	Radio show	<input type="text"/>
15 Secondary Issue	<input type="text"/>	35 Scope organization	<input type="text"/>	Conferences	<input type="text"/>
If other, specify	<input type="text"/>	Explain	<input type="text"/>	Record Prod Cmpny	<input type="text"/>
All other issues	<input type="text"/>	36 Evolve from o/group	<input type="text"/>	Runs military camps	<input type="text"/>
16 Links w/intl right-wing group	<input type="text"/>	If yes, what group(s)	<input type="text"/>	Stockpiles weapons	<input type="text"/>
If yes, specify	<input type="text"/>	Years, respectively	<input type="text"/>	Other, specified	<input type="text"/>
Nature of link	<input type="text"/>	37 Evolve into o/grps	<input type="text"/>	80 Website address	<input type="text"/>
Other or additional	<input type="text"/>	If yes, what group(s)	<input type="text"/>	81 Recruit jail/prison	<input type="text"/>
17 Links domestic rgt-wng grp	<input type="text"/>	Years, respectively	<input type="text"/>	Recruit school	<input type="text"/>

1 Case ID #	4001
2 # Police Docs	0
3 # Court Docs	1
4 # Other Gov. Docs	0
5 # Militia Watchdog Doc	0
6 # ADL Docs	0
7 # SPLC Docs	0
8 # Other WD Pubs	0
9 # News Journalists Doc	4
10 # Scholarly Work	0
11 # Scholarly Databases	0
12 # Nonscholarly DBs	0
13 # Websites	0
14 # Key Informants	0
15 # Other Sources	0

1b Relational ID 40016516

16 Total # of Documents 5

17 Reliability Assessment Usually reliable ▼

18 Evaluation open source Very good ▼

19 Scale 1-50: Quality 40

20 Open ended issues

21 Date open-source search last performed

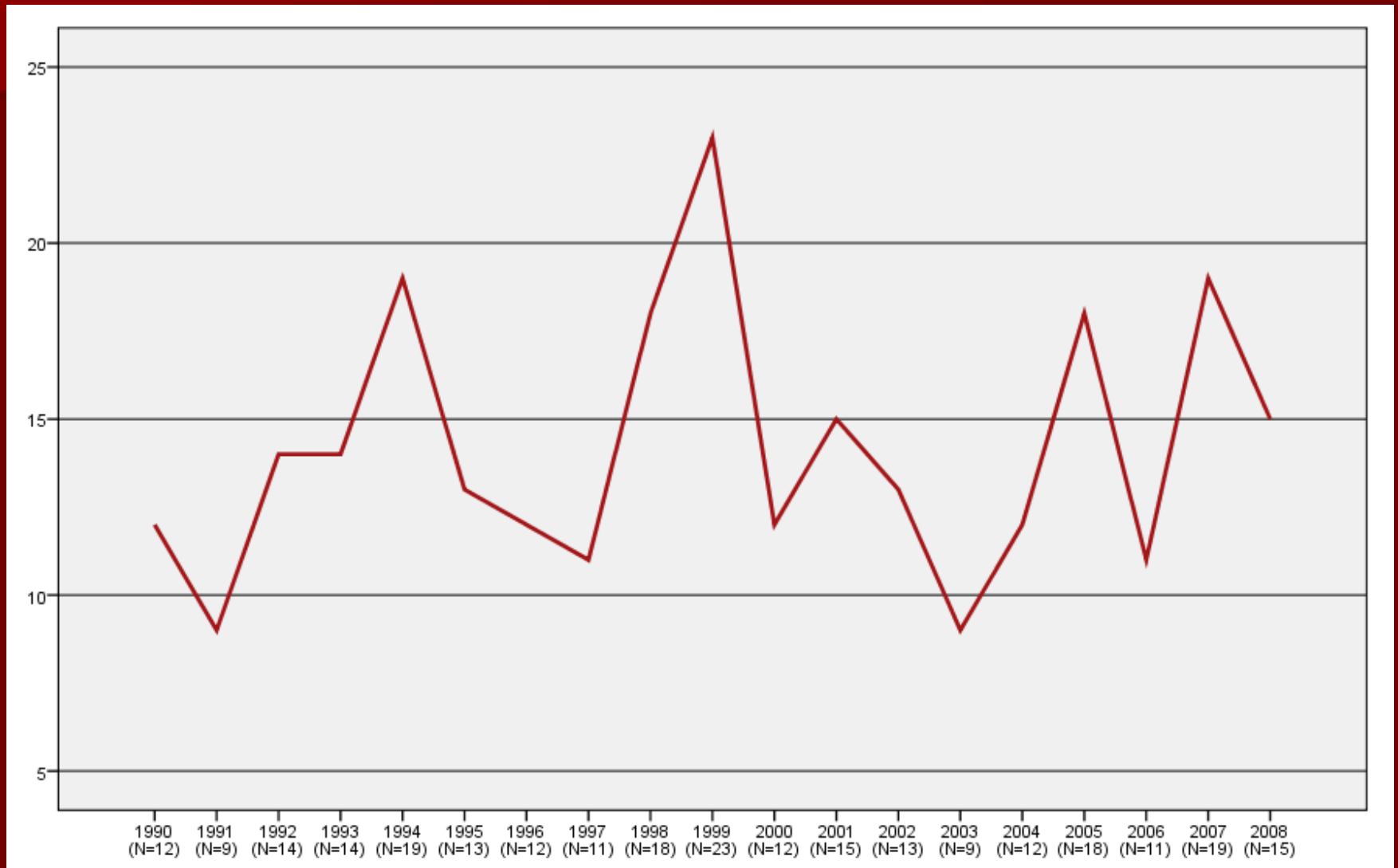
10/20/2008

22 News Library Articles DO NOT need purc ▼

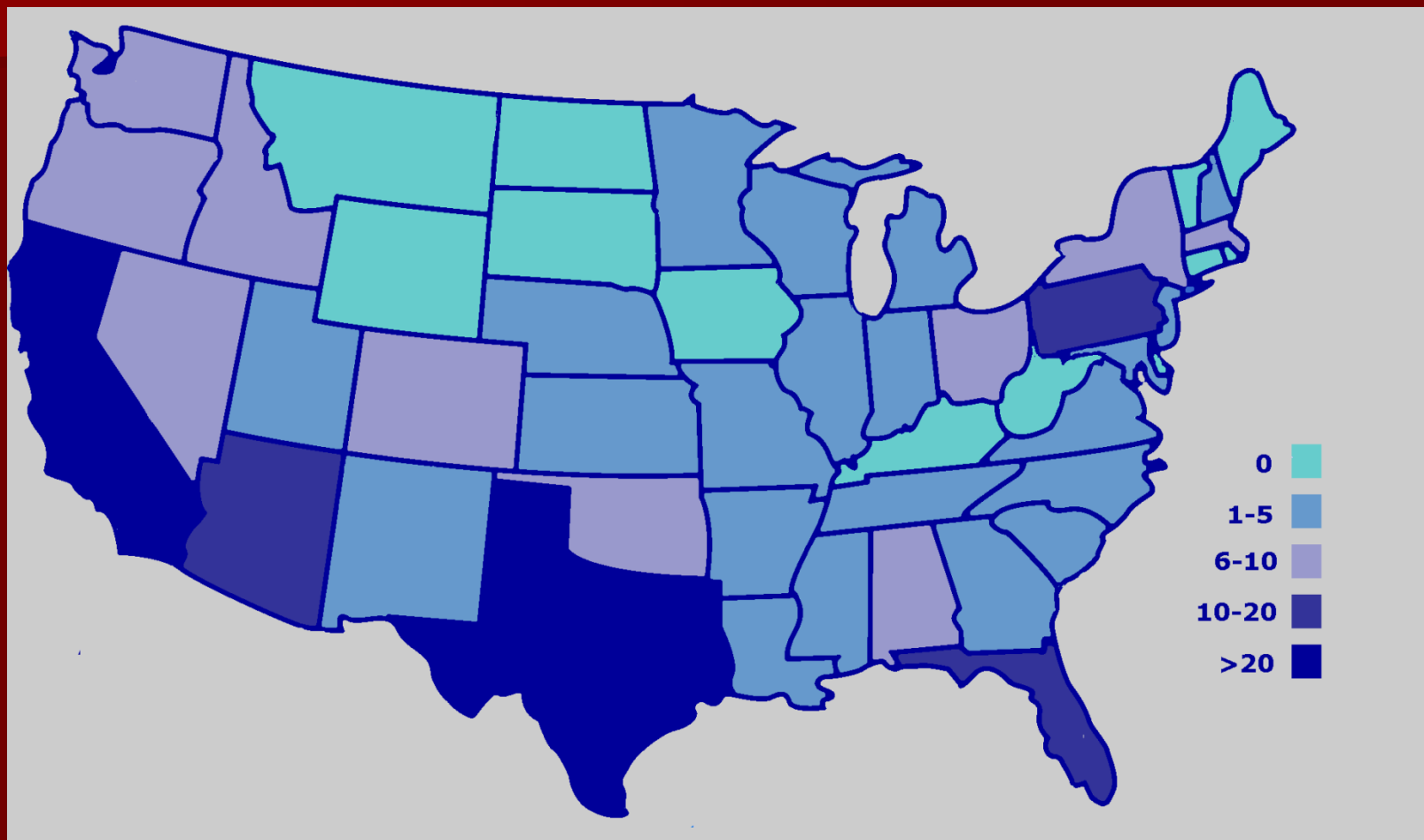
ECDB, 1990- 2008: Incidents

- 274 homicide incidents
- 120 (44%) Ideologically motivated
- 13 suicide missions that killed 33 people
- 18 homicide incidents in detention facilities
- 93 attempted homicide incidents
- 32 solicitation or conspiracy to commit homicide incidents
- Focus on homicide events (N= 274)

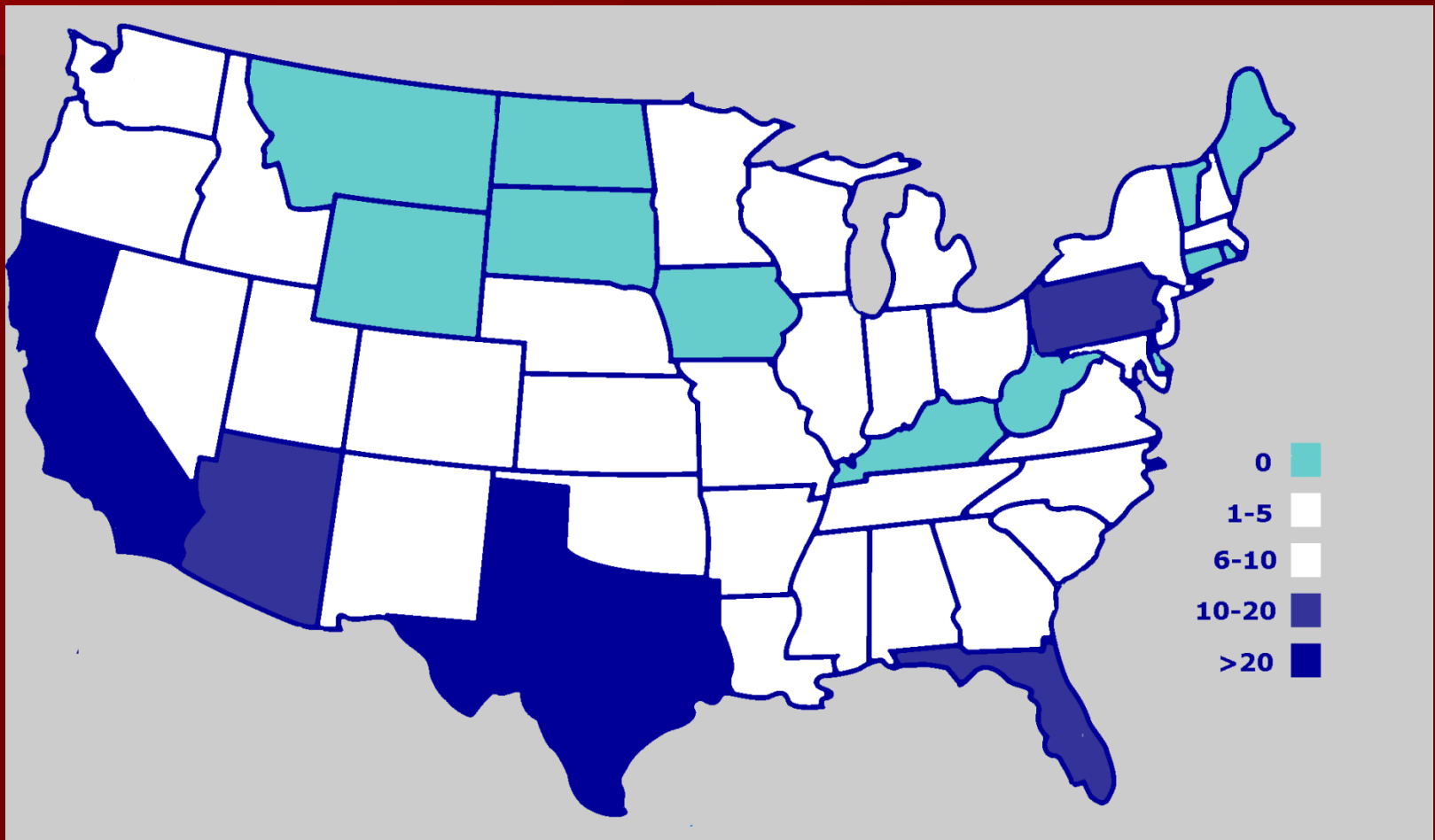
Homicide Incidents Over Time



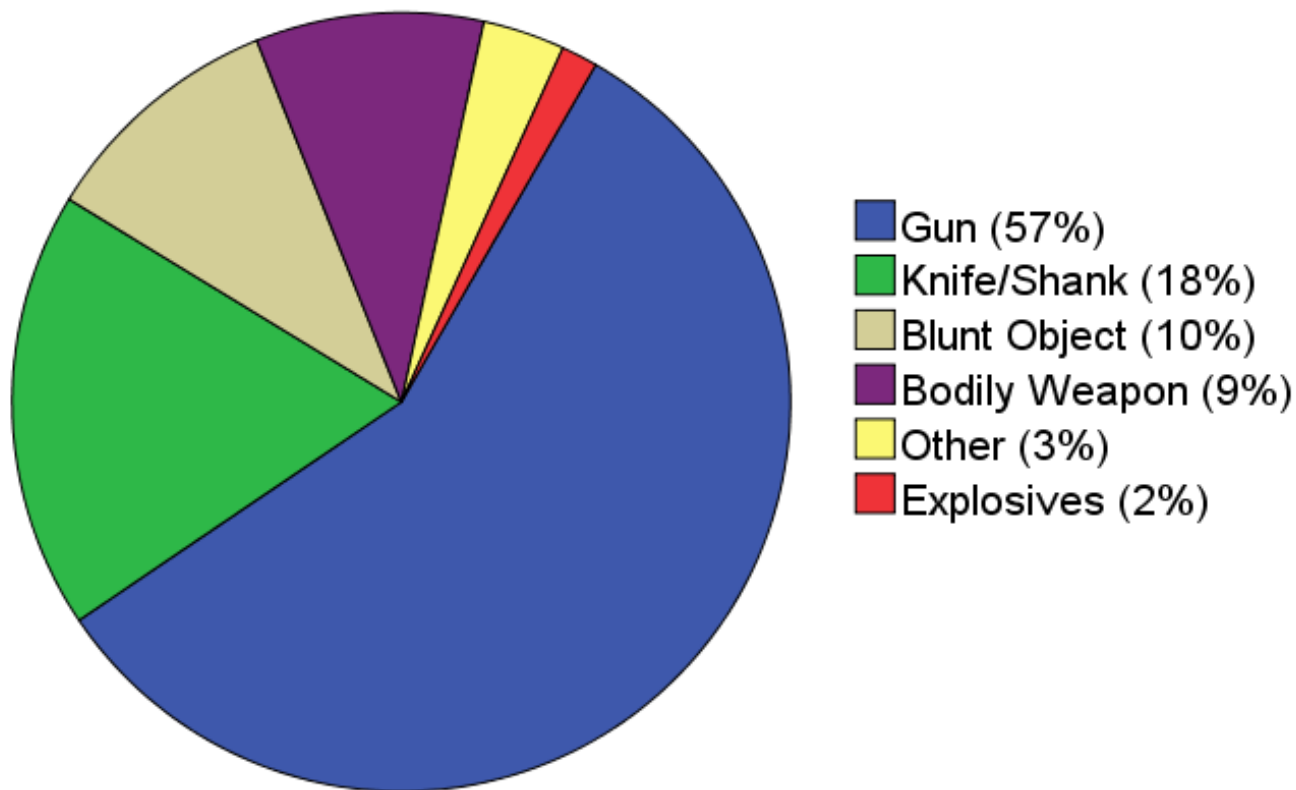
Homicide Incidents by State



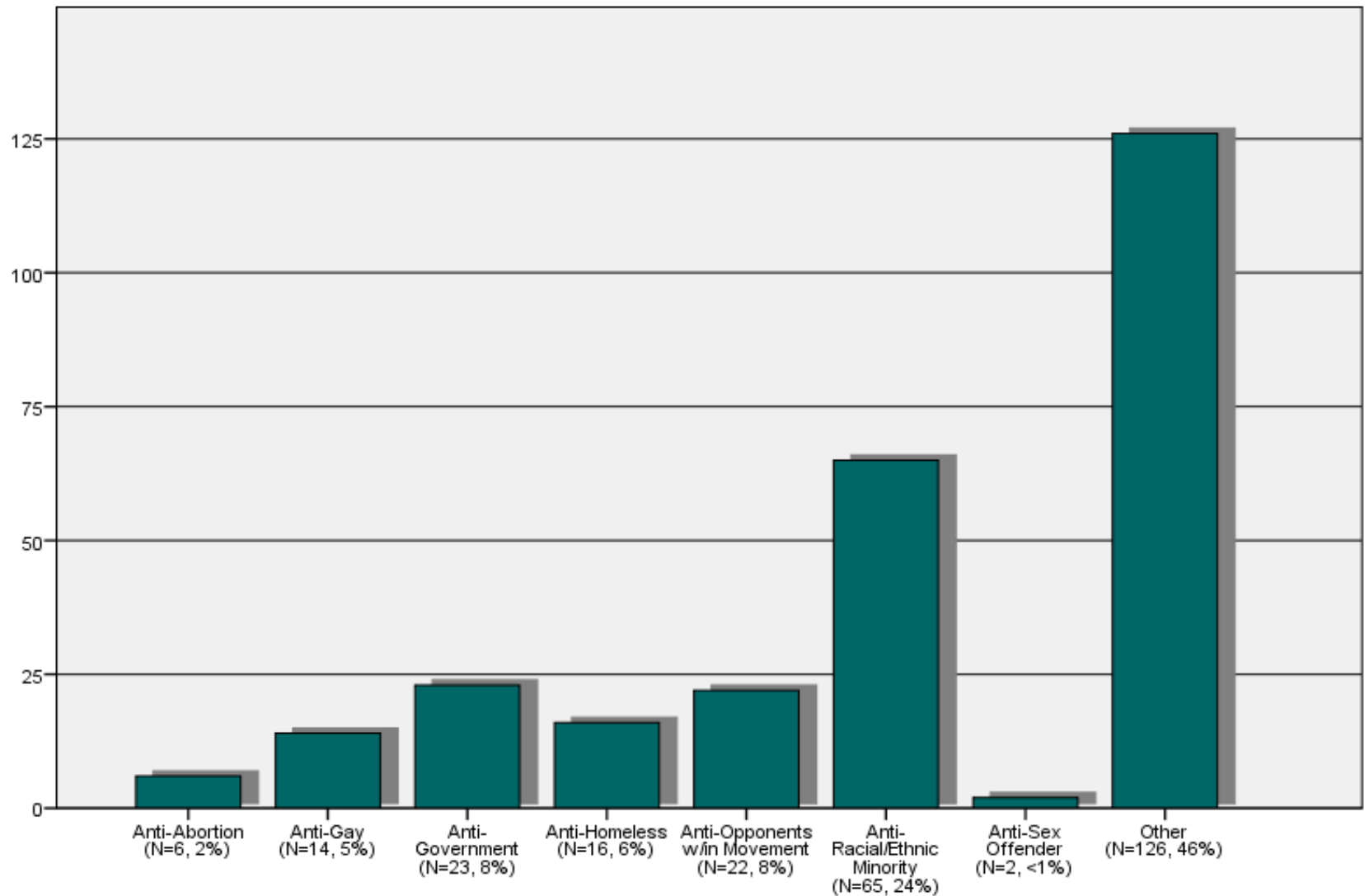
Homicide Incidents by State



Primary Weapons in Homicide Incidents



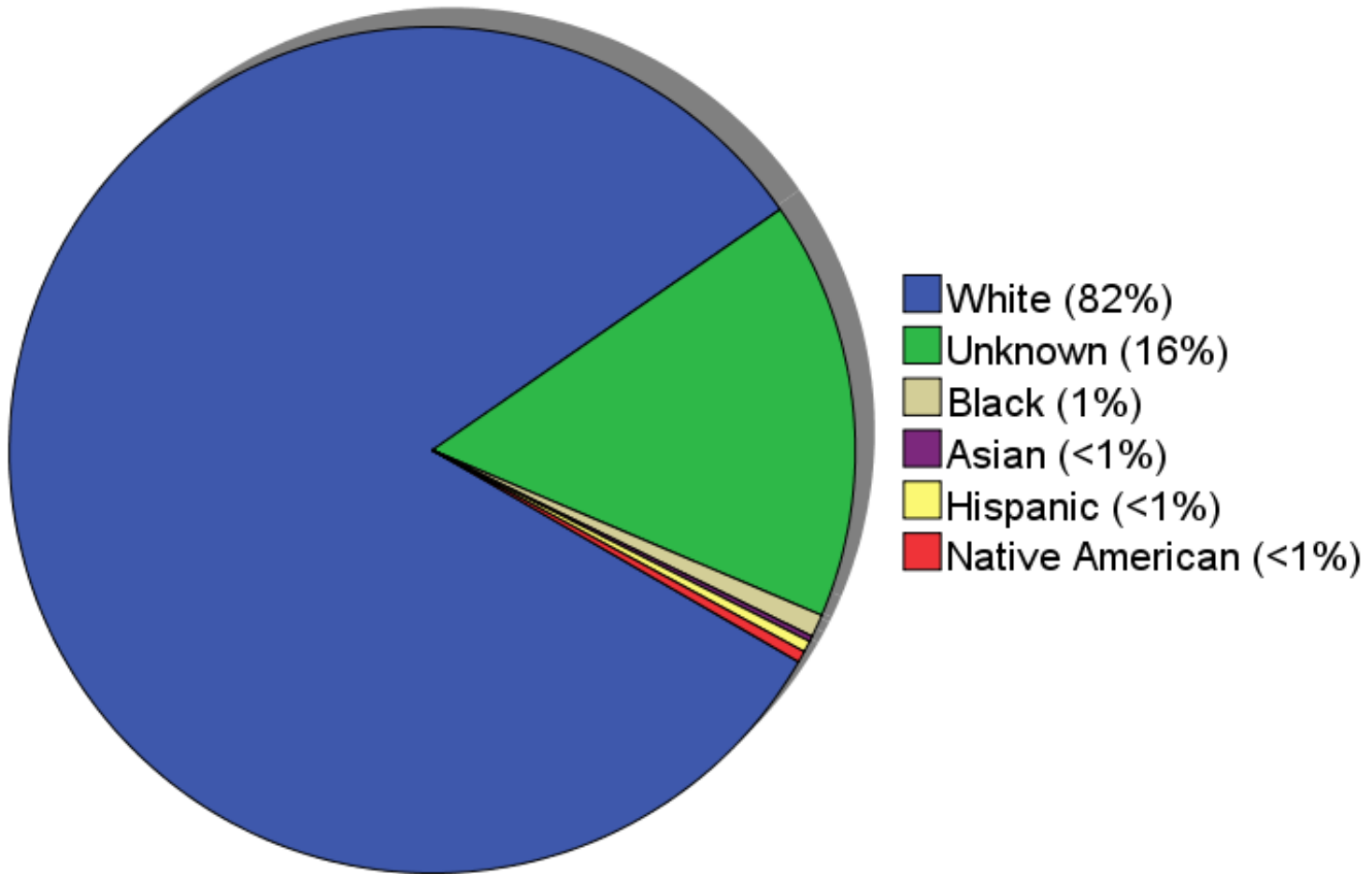
Primary Motivation



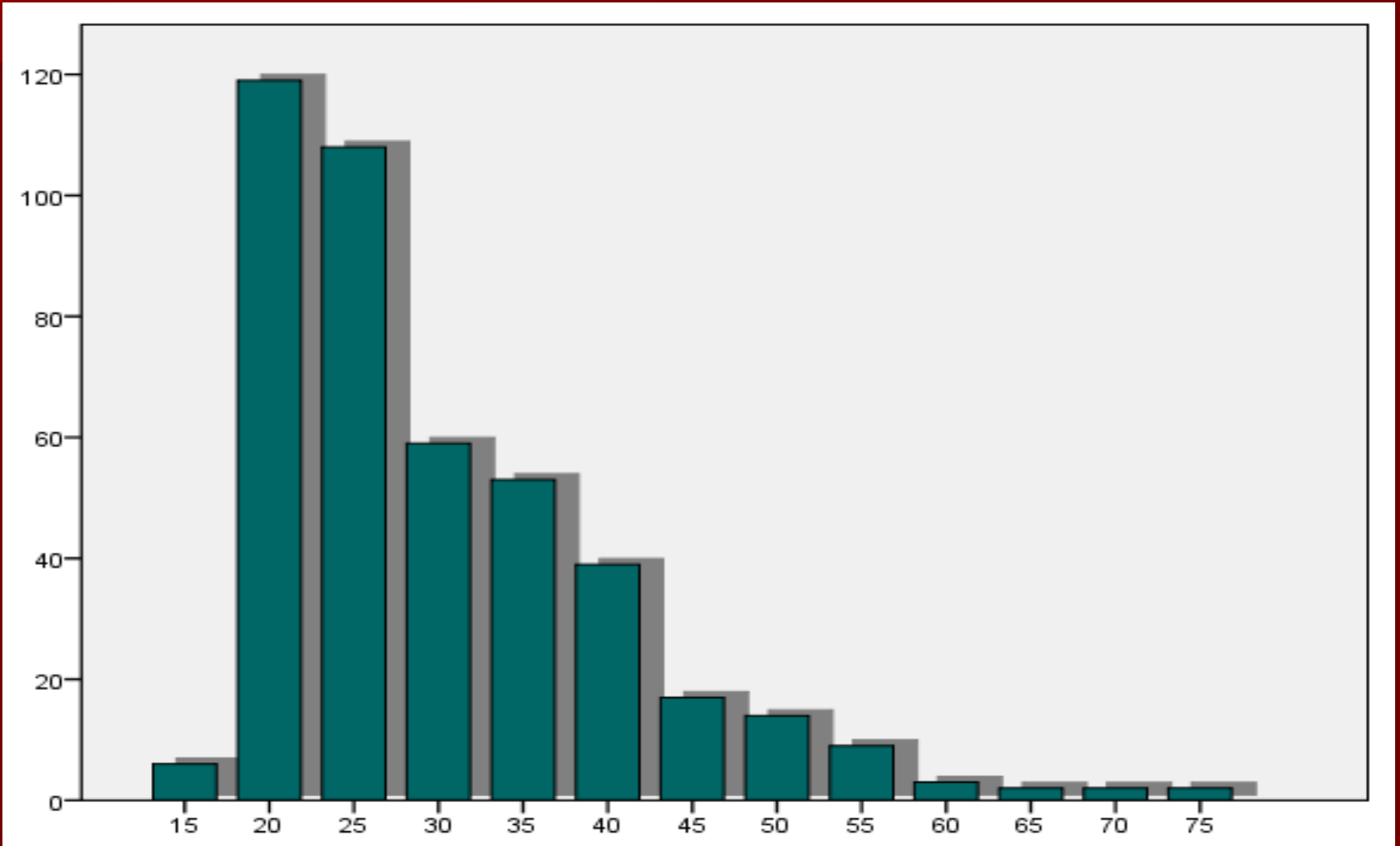
ECDB, 1990- 2008: Suspects

- 462 of 628 (74%) suspects for homicide incidents were far-right.
- 113 of 165 (68%) suspects for attempted homicide incidents were far-right
- 22 far-right suspects killed by law enforcement
- 38 far-right suspects committed suicide
- We focus on far-right homicide suspects (N=462)

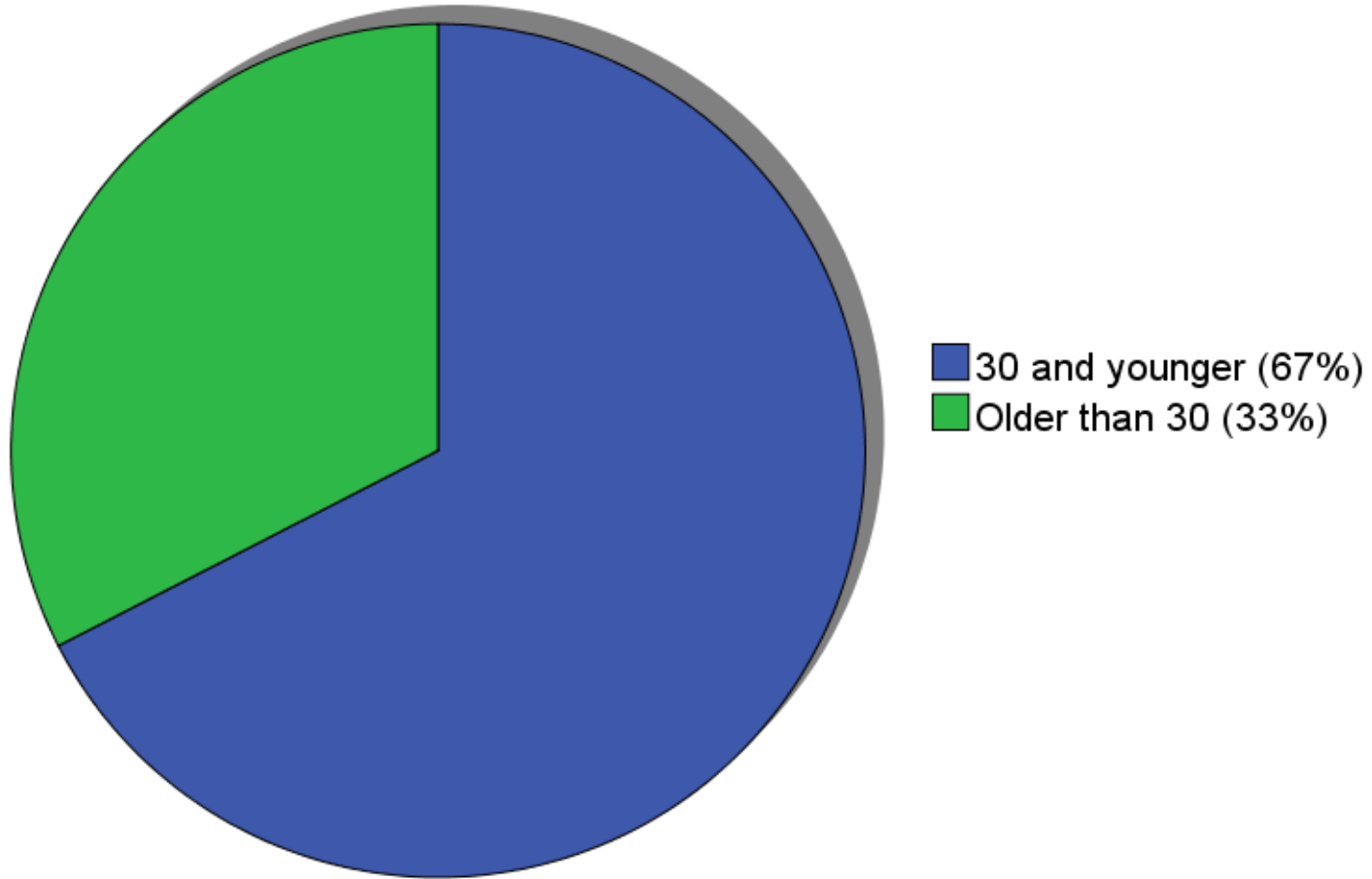
Race of Far-Right Homicide Suspects



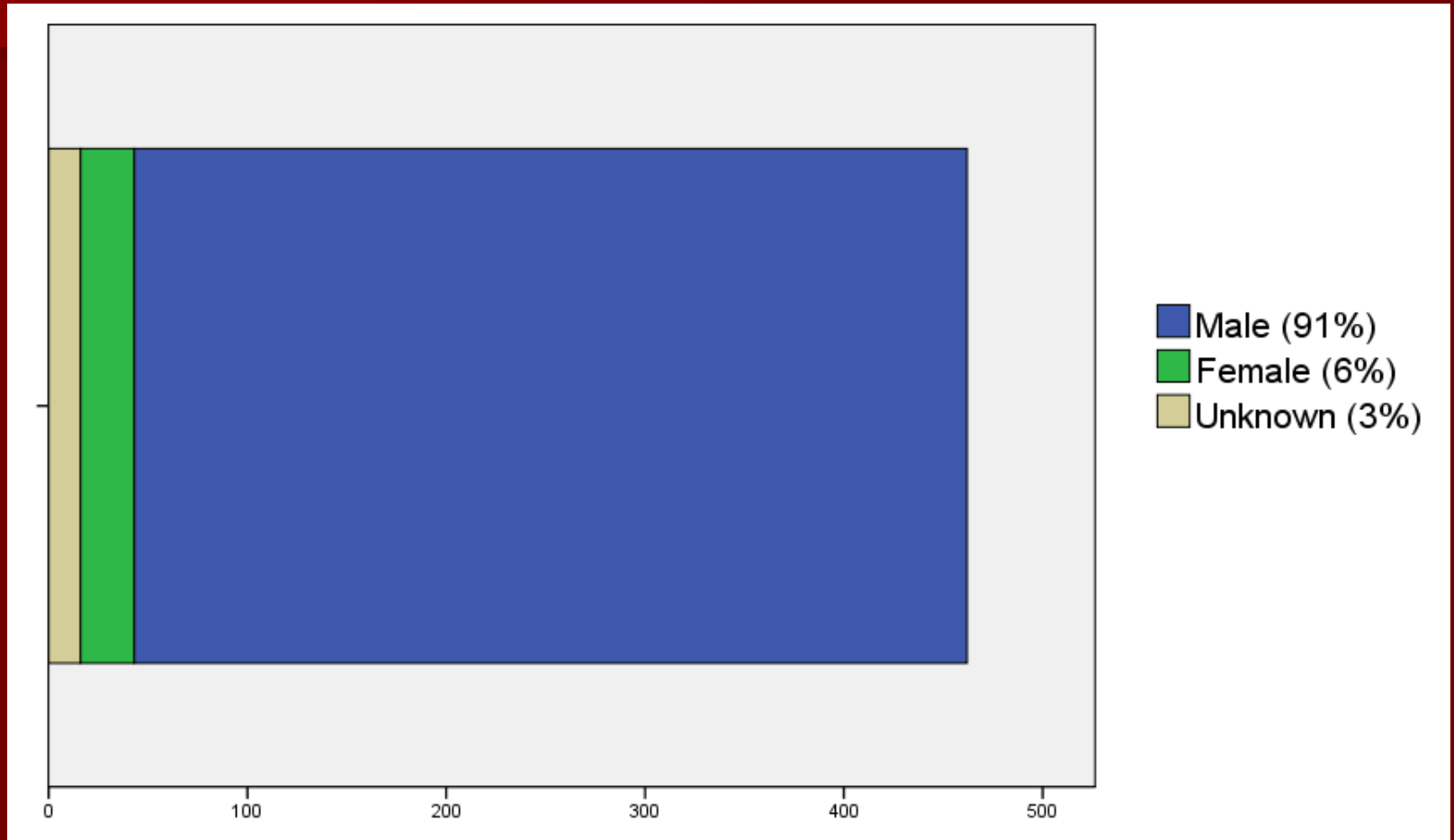
Age of Far-Right Homicide Suspects



Age of Far-Right Homicide Suspects



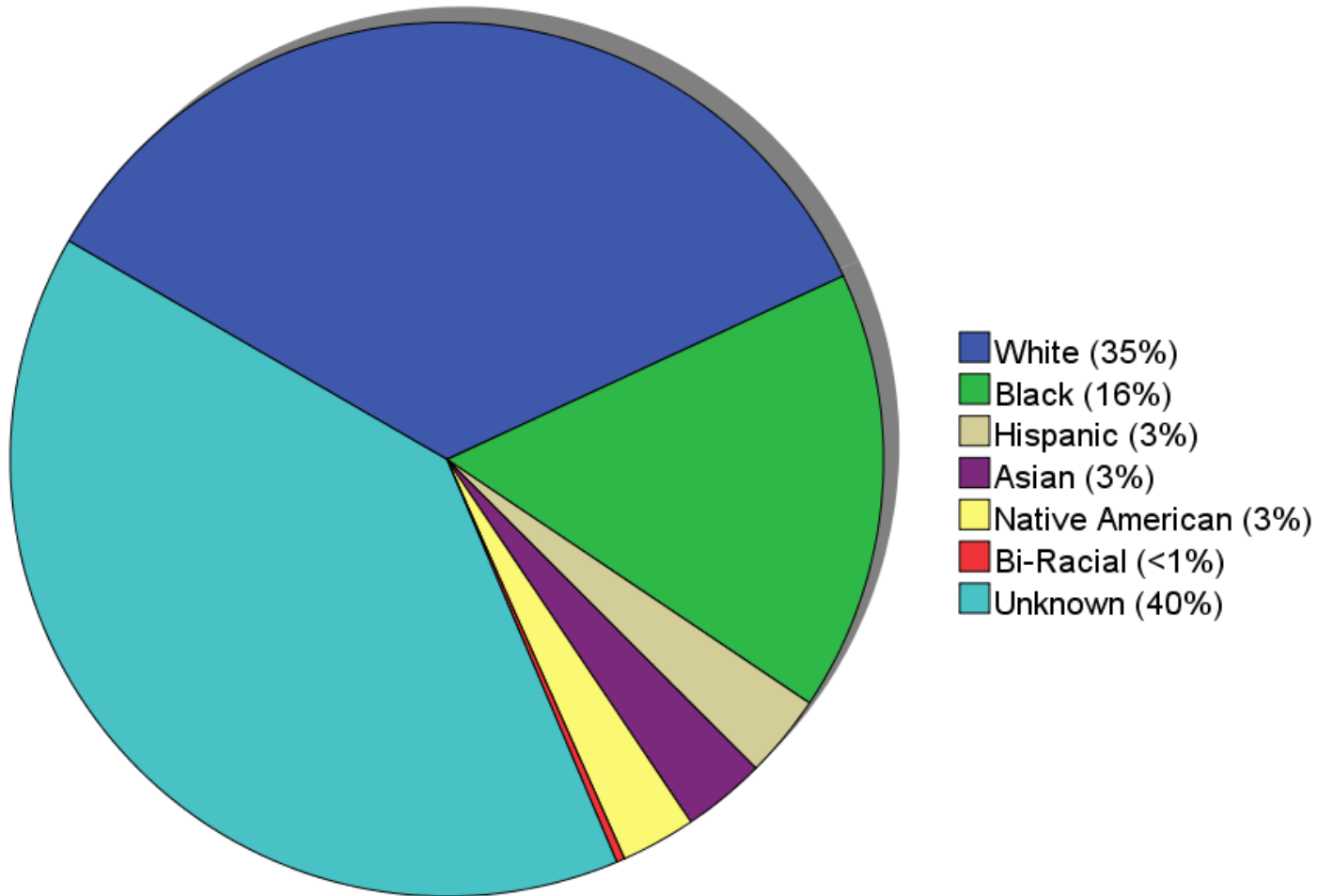
Sex of Far-Right Homicide Suspects



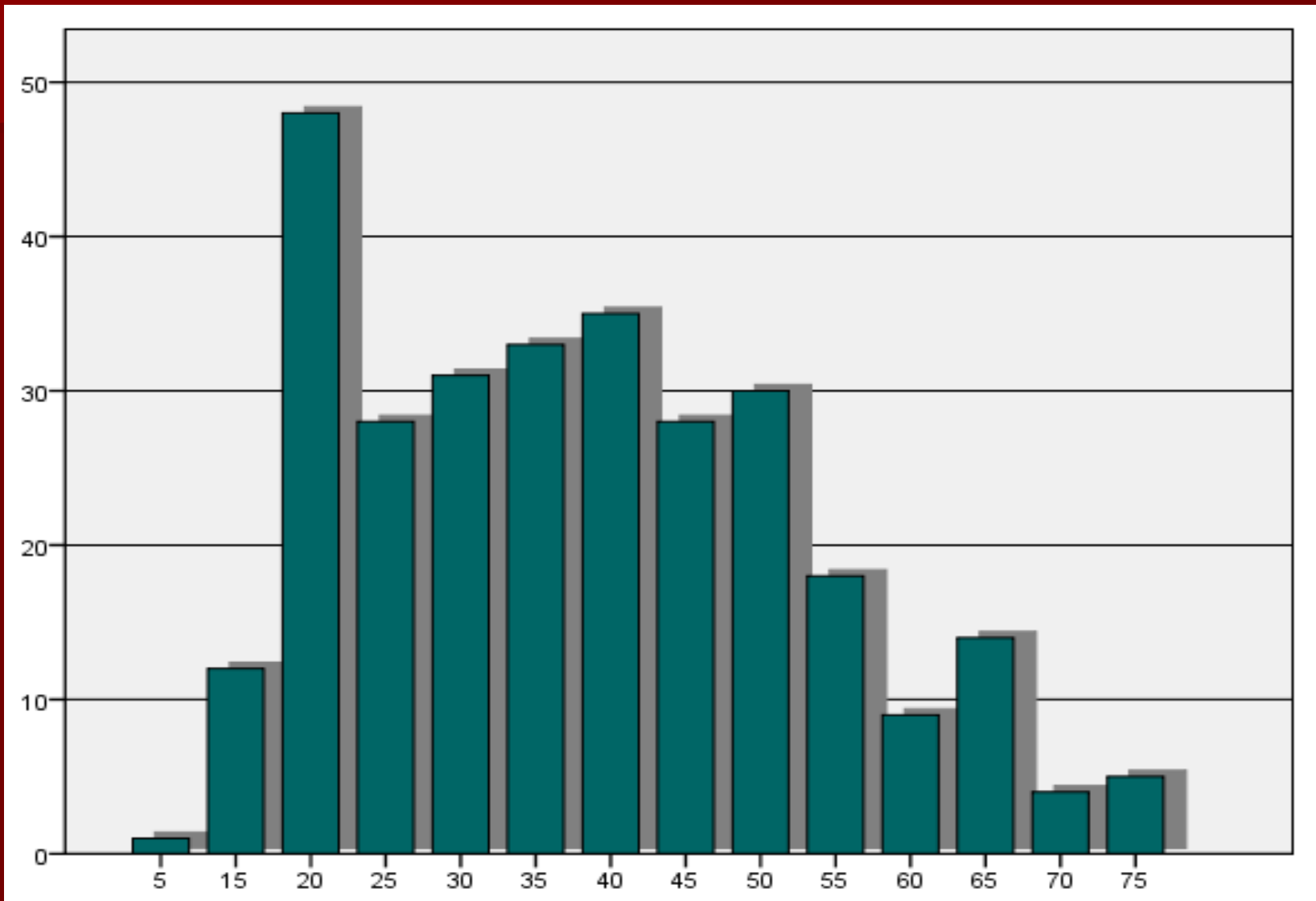
ECDB, 1990- 2008: Victims

- 522 homicide victims, 354 excluding Oklahoma City
- 34 law enforcement personnel killed in line of duty, 1 Judge, & 3 security personnel
- 125 attempted homicide victims
- 51 potential solicitation/conspiracy victims
- We focus on homicide victims (N = 354)

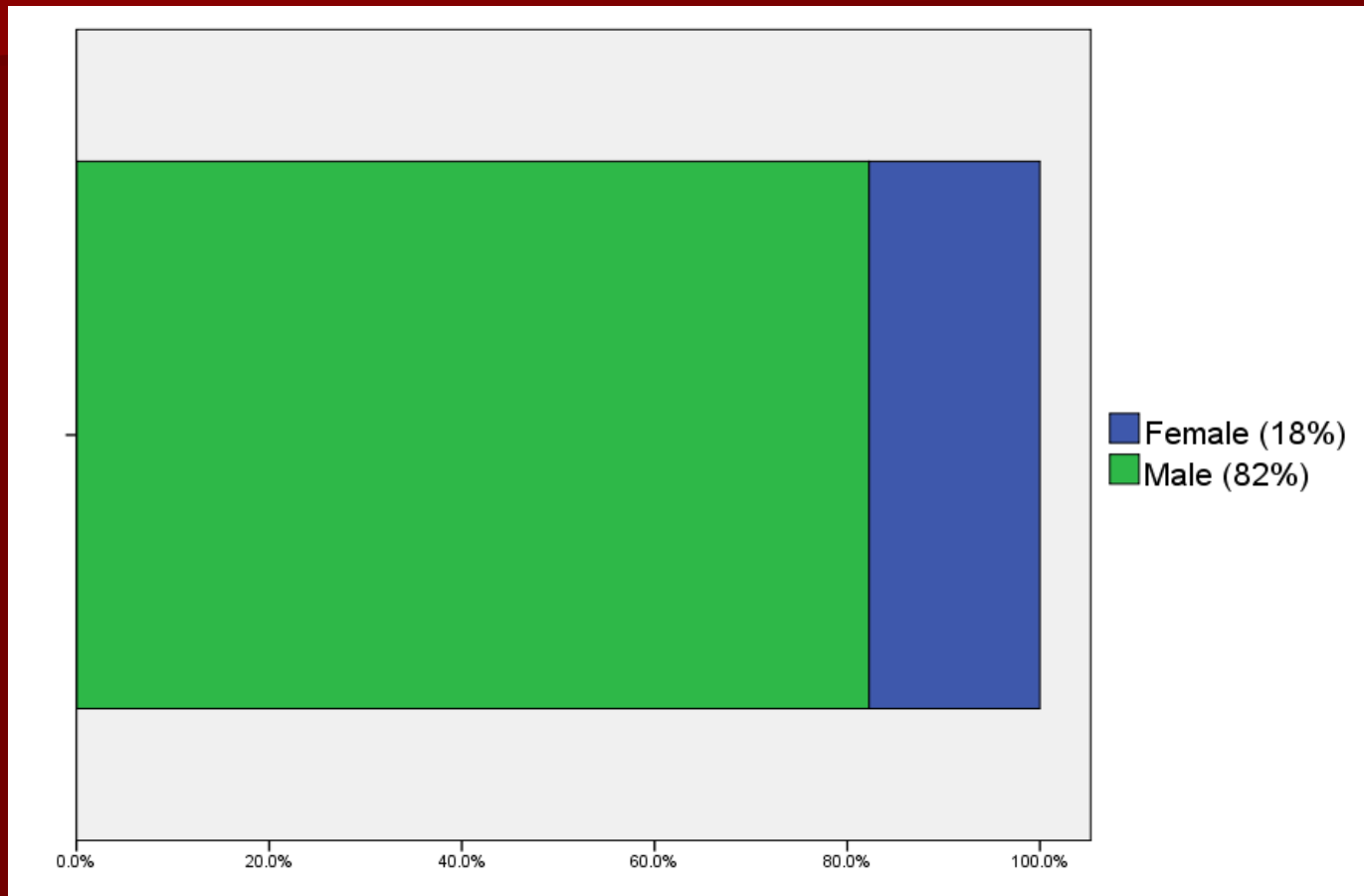
Race of Homicide Victims



Age of Homicide Victims

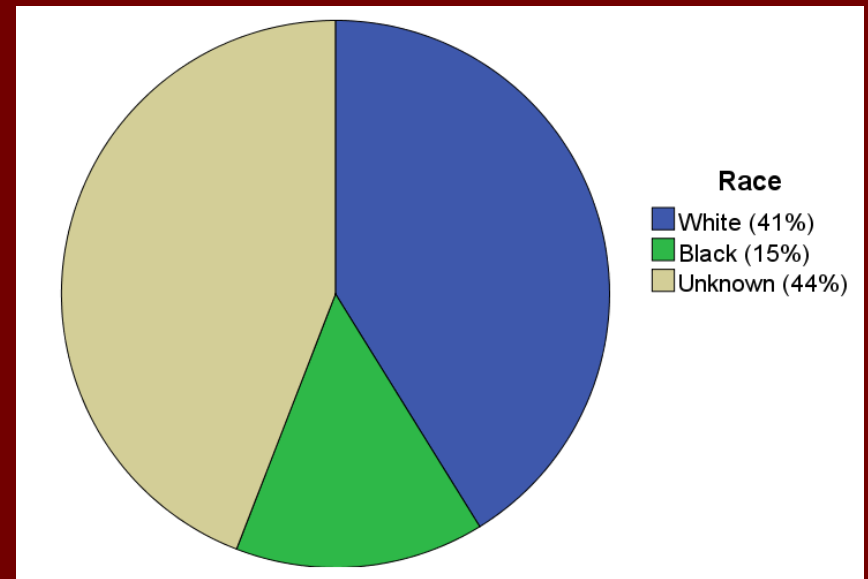
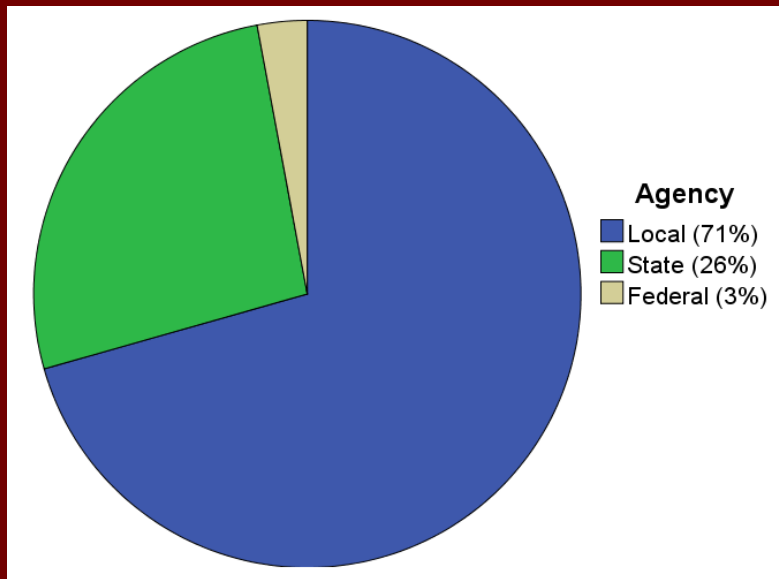


Sex of Homicide Victims



Homicide Victims: Law Enforcement

- 34 killed in 30 incidents (11% of homicide incidents)
- 26% killed during a traffic stop
- 11% killed were correctional officers



Home Create External Data Database Tools Design

Results Query Type Query Setup Show/Hide

View Run Select Make Table Append Update Crosstab Delete Union Pass-Through Data Definition

Insert Rows Insert Columns Delete Rows Delete Columns Show Table Builder Return: All

Property Sheet Table Names Parameters

tbl_Incident_DB

- I_name
- I_doe
- I_year
- I_id
- I_id2
- I_id3

Navigation Pane

Field:	I_id	I_niprior						
Table:	tbl_Incident_DB	tbl_Incident_DB						
Sort:								
Show:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria:	<10000	0						
or:								

Microsoft Access window: DHS Law Enforcement Query - Microsoft Access

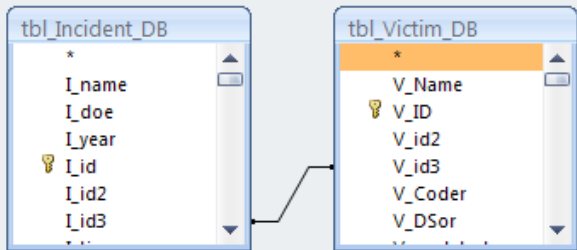
Query Tools ribbon: Design

Results: View, Run

Query Type: Select, Make Table, Append Update, Crosstab, Delete, Union, Pass-Through, Data Definition

Query Setup: Insert Rows, Insert Columns, Delete Rows, Delete Columns, Show Table, Builder, Return: All

Property Sheet: Table Names, Parameters



Navigation Pane

Field:	I_id	I_niprior	V_killed	V_duty	V_lawen			
Table:	tbl_Incident_DB	tbl_Incident_DB	tbl_Victim_DB	tbl_Victim_DB	tbl_Victim_DB			
Sort:								
Show:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria:	<10000	0	1	1	= "local"			
or:								

Microsoft Access Query Tools: DHS Law Enforcement Query - Microsoft Access

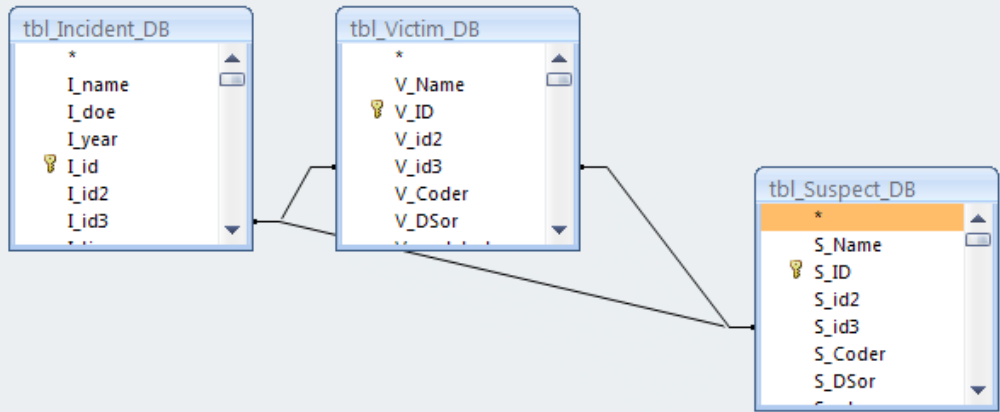
Home Create External Data Database Tools Design

Results: View Run

Query Type: Select Make Table Append Update Crosstab Delete Union Pass-Through Data Definition

Query Setup: Show Table Builder Return: All

Property Sheet: Table Names Parameters



Navigation Pane

Field:	I_id	I_niprior	V_killed	V_duty	V_lawen	S_wlf		
Table:	tbl_Incident_DB	tbl_Incident_DB	tbl_Victim_DB	tbl_Victim_DB	tbl_Victim_DB	tbl_Suspect_DB		
Sort:								
Show:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria:	<10000	0	1	1	= "local"			
or:								

DHS Law Enforcement Query - Microsoft Access

Home Create External Data Database Tools

Import: Saved Imports, Access, Excel, SharePoint List, Text File, XML File, More

Export: Saved Exports, Excel, SharePoint List, Word, Text File, More

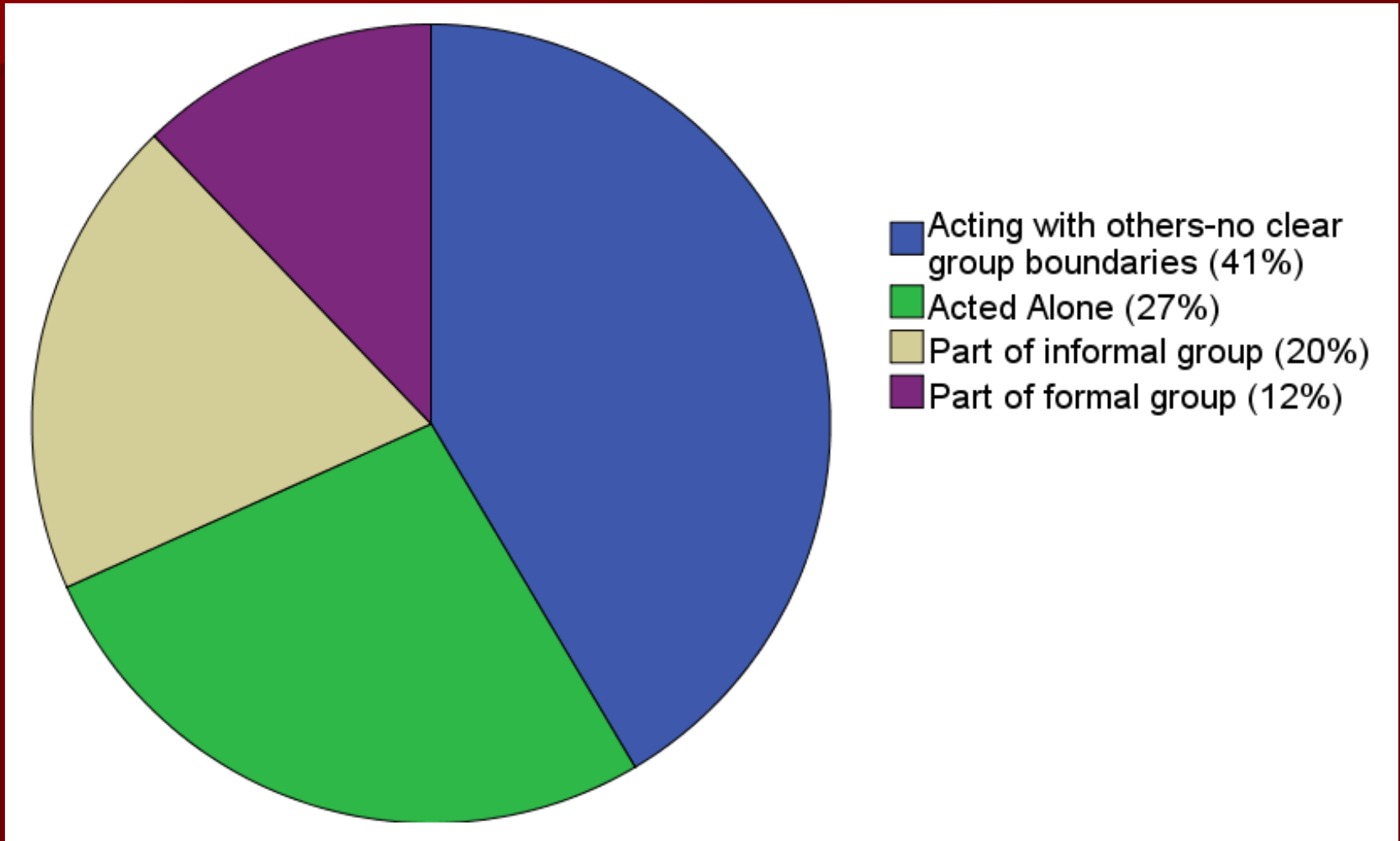
SharePoint Lists: Create E-mail Replies, Manage Collect Data, Work Online, Synchronize, Discard Changes, Cache List Data, Relink Lists, Move to SharePoint

I_id	I_niprior	V_killed	V_duty	V_lawen	S_wlf
1001	0	1	1	1 local	acted alone
1024	0	1	1	1 local	acting with others no
1024	0	1	1	1 local	acting with others no
1028	0	1	1	1 local	acted alone
1029	0	1	1	1 local	part of formal group
1094	0	1	1	1 local	acted alone
1094	0	1	1	1 local	acted alone
1120	0	1	1	1 local	part of formal group
1120	0	1	1	1 local	part of formal group
1120	0	1	1	1 local	part of formal group
1130	0	1	1	1 local	acting with others no
1144	0	1	1	1 local	part of informal group
1144	0	1	1	1 local	part of informal group
1144	0	1	1	1 local	part of informal group
1144	0	1	1	1 local	part of informal group
1144	0	1	1	1 local	part of informal group
1144	0	1	1	1 local	part of informal group
1144	0	1	1	1 local	part of informal group
1151	0	1	1	1 local	acting with others no
1151	0	1	1	1 local	acting with others no
1184	0	1	1	1 local	part of formal group
1188	0	1	1	1 local	acted alone
1188	0	1	1	1 local	acted alone
3012	0	1	1	1 local	acting with others no
3012	0	1	1	1 local	acting with others no
3012	0	1	1	1 local	part of informal group

Record: 1 of 42 No Filter Search

Lone wolf or group member Num Lock

Group Involvement for Suspects Involved in Incidents where Local Law Enforcement Killed



Student projects

■ PhD student projects

- Gruenewald (START 2007-08; 08-09; ICPSR)– homicides (Dissertation)
- Caspi (START 2007-08; GC, CUNY 2007)– network analysis (Dissertation)
- Belli (START 2008-09) - financial crimes (Dissertation)
- Parkin- Victims (Dissertation)
- Martz-GLB homicides (Dissertation)
- Kress- drug use (Dissertation)
- Viollaz- Marital status (Dissertation)
- Belli- SCP & crimes of omission (tax refusal)
- Parkin- Suicide missions

■ Undergraduate student projects

- Duran (John Jay)- Comparing far-right groups inside prison to groups outside prison
- Simone (START 2006-07; 07-08; John Jay)– surveyed state police agencies
- Raehetz (START 2007-08; MSU)– geospatial
- Williamson (START 2007-08; MSU)– sovereign citizens
- Ghirsi- (START 2008-09)- far-right groups

Conclusion

- Database will be valuable tool for law enforcement and scholars
 - Document the types & frequency of crimes, regional variations & assess threats
 - Compare the behavior of groups that employ terrorist methods with those that do not
 - Examine “preparatory” crimes committed by far-right extremists
 - Develop/refine domestic terrorism training curriculum for law enforcement and other criminal justice personnel-- unique threat of traffic stops

- Next steps:
 - Coding far-right financial crimes (START 2008- 11)
 - MAROB collaboration (START 2008- 11; 2009- 14)
 - Integration project with ATS, GTD, TOP (START 2009- 14)
 - Expand to ELF/ALF & jihadi homicides, attempted homicides, bombings & financial crimes (START 2009- 14)
 - Protecting law enforcement project (future proposal)
 - Measurement issues (selectivity bias) (future proposal)