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Palm Beach County Youth Violence Prevention Project

Dr. Bill Bales

Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research

**Subcommittee Meetings
West Palm Beach, September 15-16, 2005**

Presentation Outline

- Purposes of the Project
- Summary of Previous Findings

New Findings

- Offender Demographics Recalculated to include Hispanic Population
- Profile of Homicide and Violent Offenders
- Time of Homicides and Violent Crimes
- Homicide Victim Drug Use
- Offender/Victim Relationship
- Mapping

Purposes of the Project

- 1. Determine the historical and current trends of violent crime in Palm Beach County, particularly aimed at predicting youth violence and incidents involving firearms**
- 2. Identify ways to decrease the amount of violent youth crime within Palm Beach County**

Purposes of the Project

- 3. Ensure that local agencies are involved in identifying and prioritizing evidence based violence prevention strategies throughout Palm Beach County.**

Including the following agencies:

- Prevention**
- Law Enforcement**
- Courts**
- Corrections**

Summary of Previous Findings

- **Reported crime rate in PBC (UCR) has been decreasing steadily over the past 15 years**
- **Violent crime and violent crime involving firearms leveled off over the past five years**
- **Homicide was declining moderately over the last 15 years; however 2004 had the second highest number of murders (89) since 1990**

Summary of Previous Findings

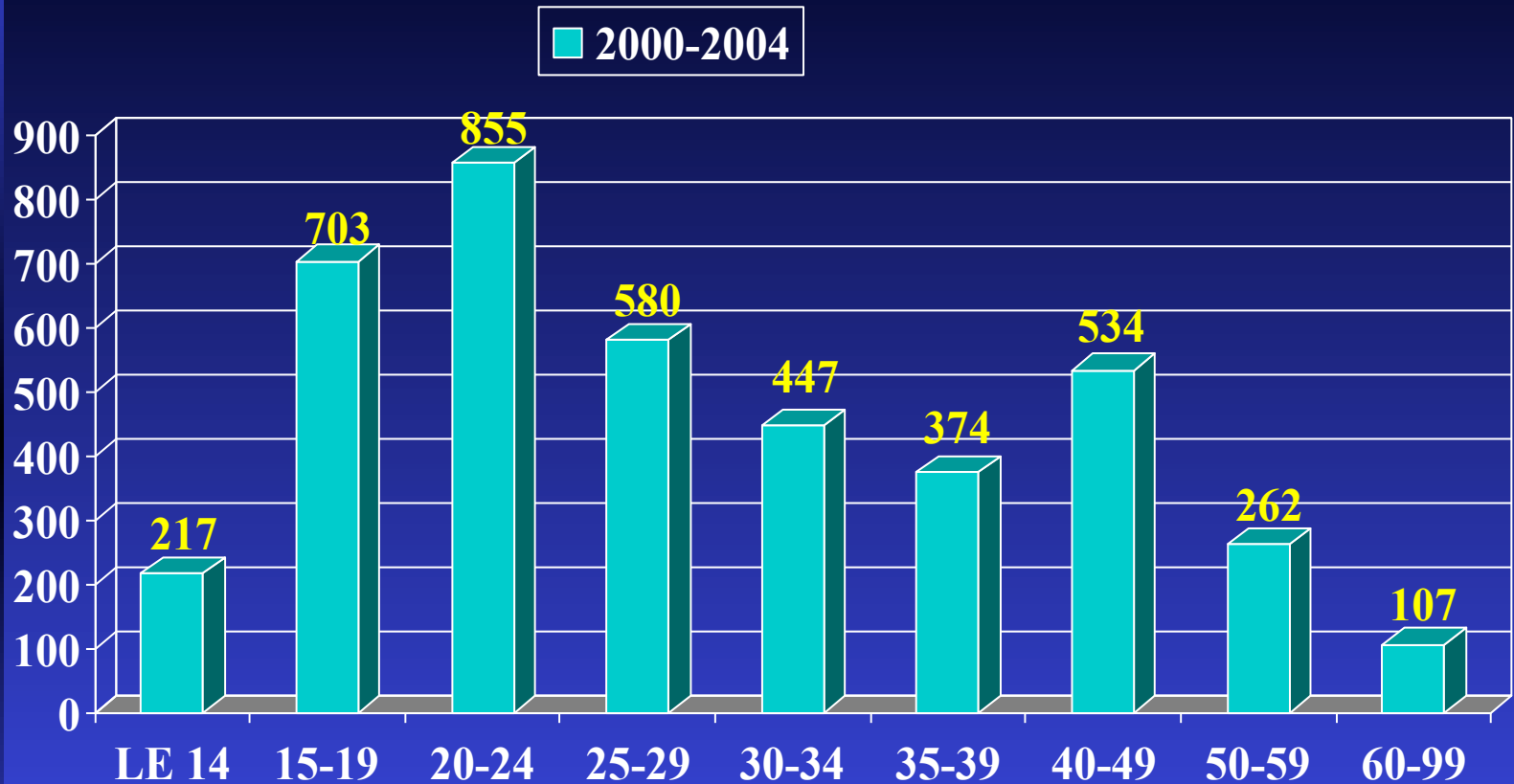
- **The use of firearms in homicides increased in last 5 years**
- **The largest and fastest growing age group of homicide offenders is 20-24 years of age**
- **Over the next 5 years, age and race groups that have a high risk of violent offending are projected to increase at a much faster rate than the overall population**



Characteristics of Individuals Arrested for Murder and Victims of Violent Crimes with Firearms in Palm Beach County

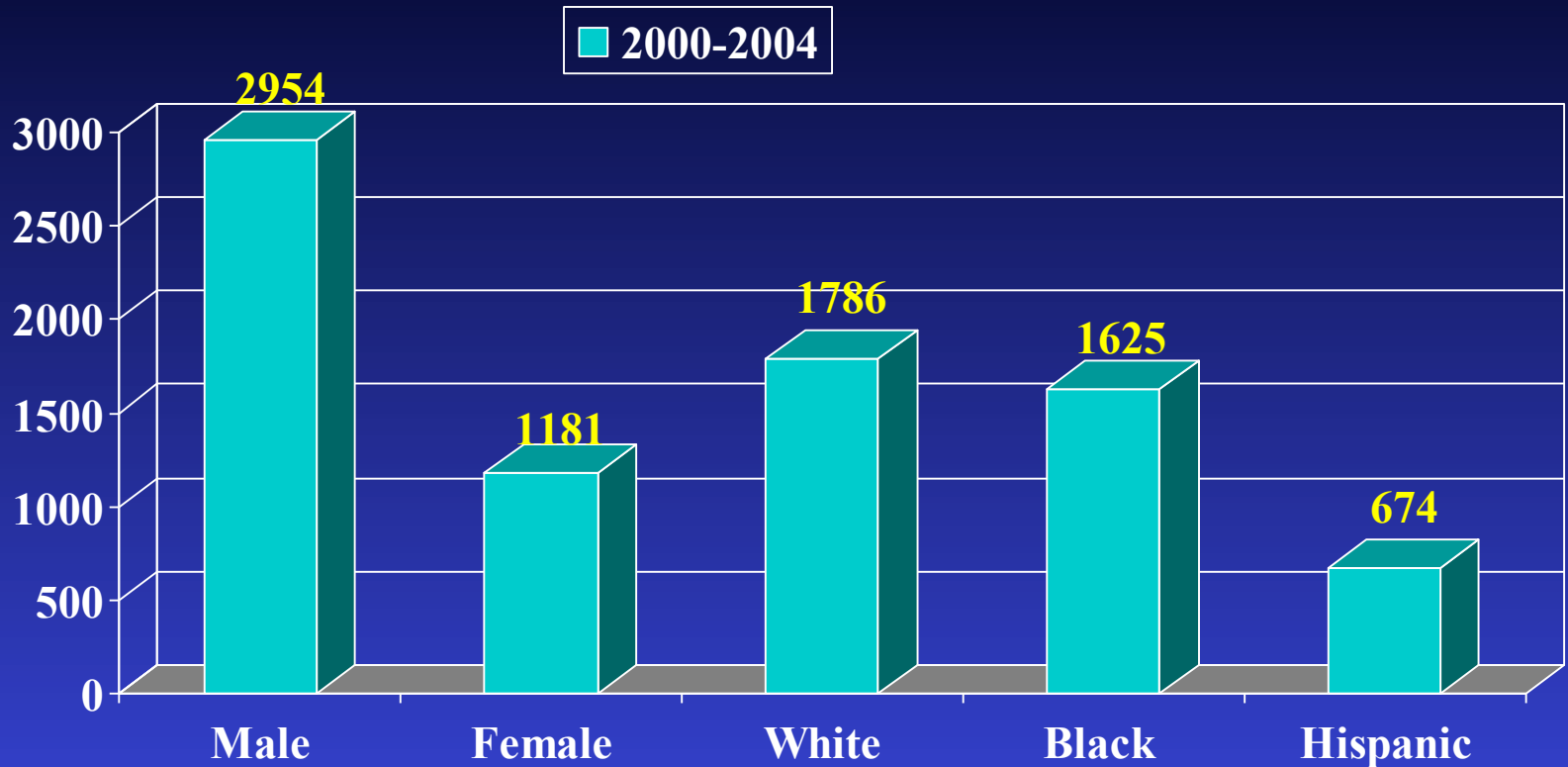


Victims of Violent Crimes Committed with a Firearm by Age Groups



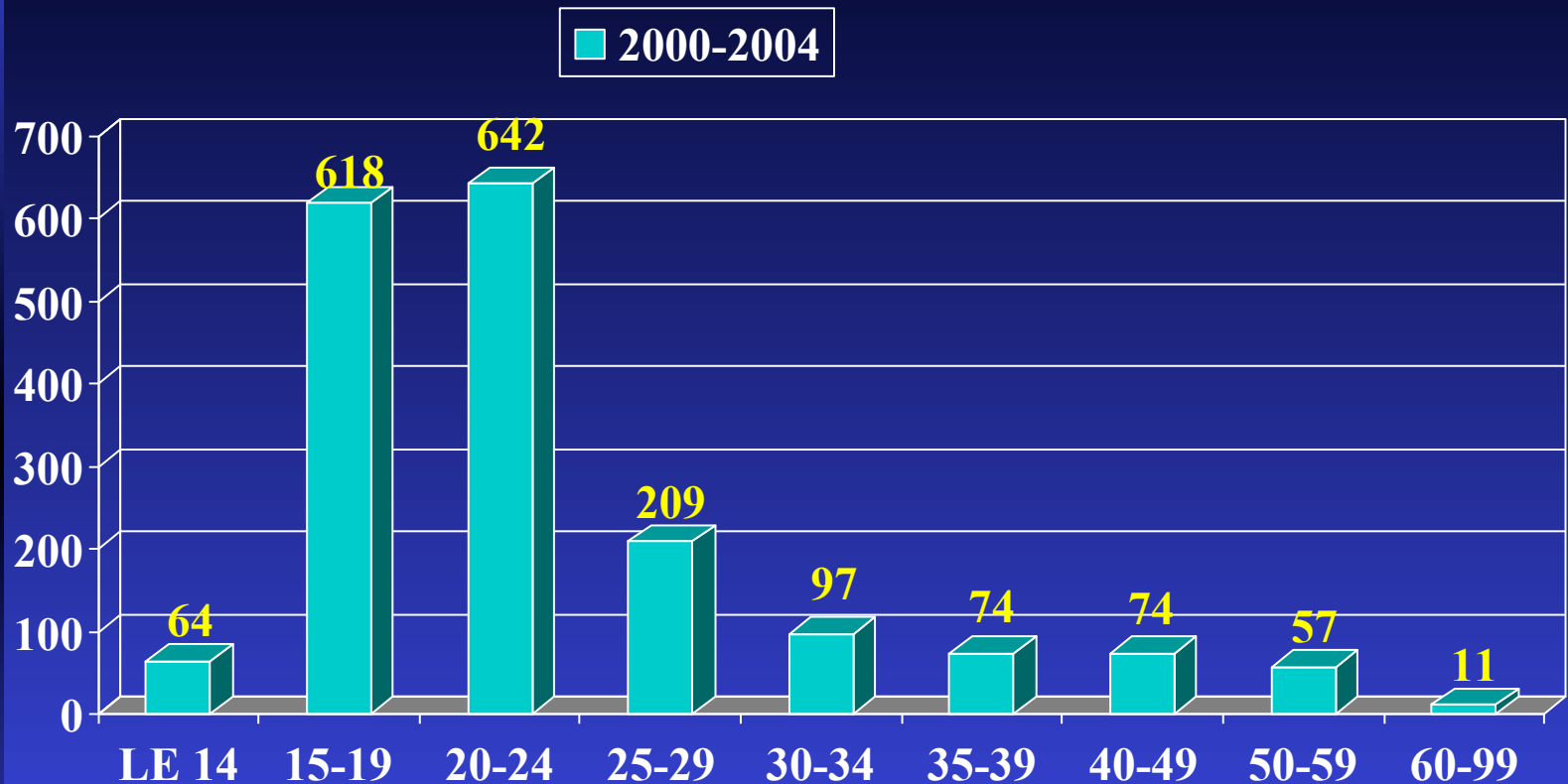
Data Source: PBC Law Enforcement Records

Victims of Violent Crime Committed with a Firearm by Gender and Race



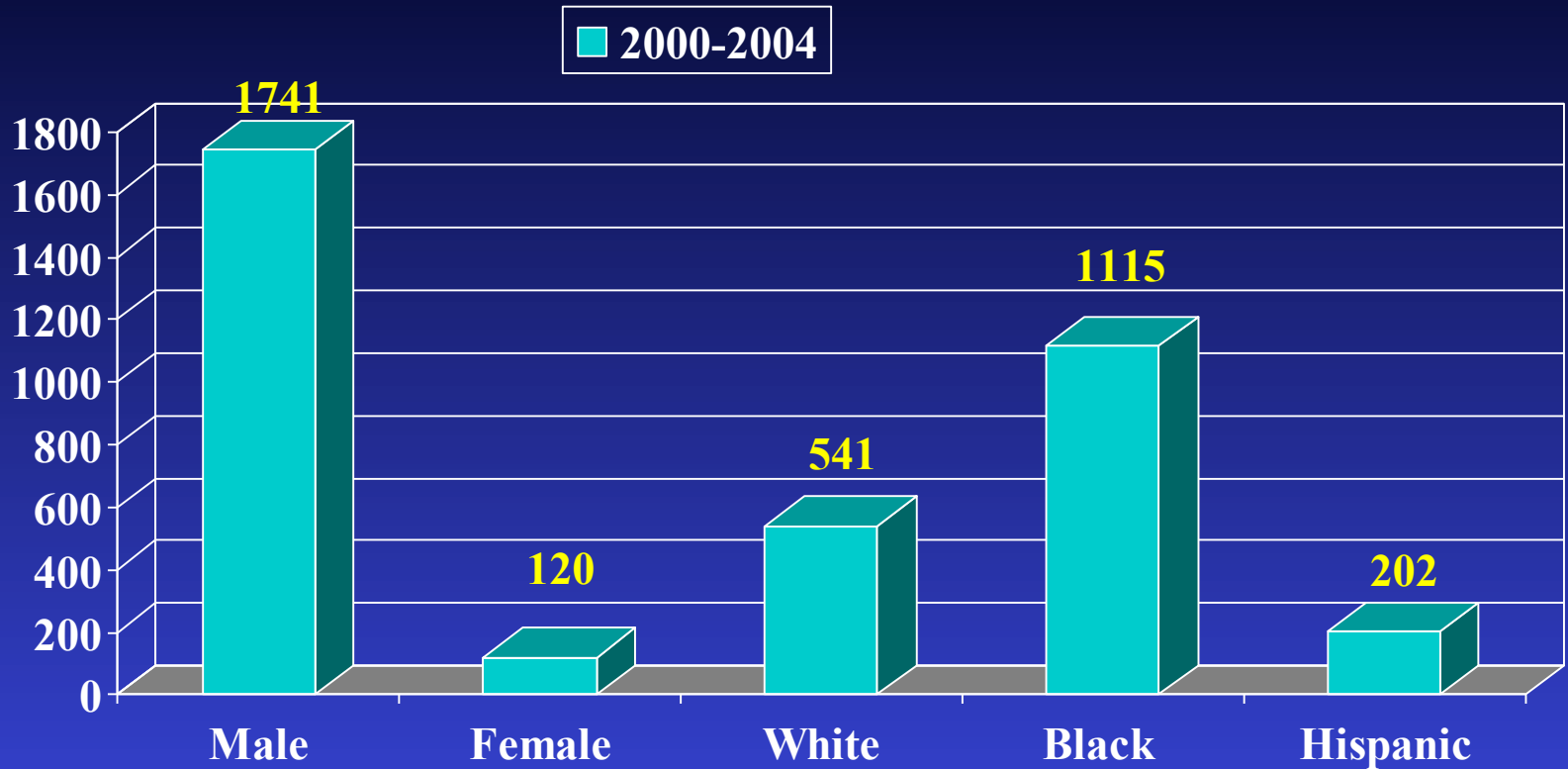
Data Source: PBC Law Enforcement Records

Offenders of Violent Crime Committed with a Firearm by Age Groups

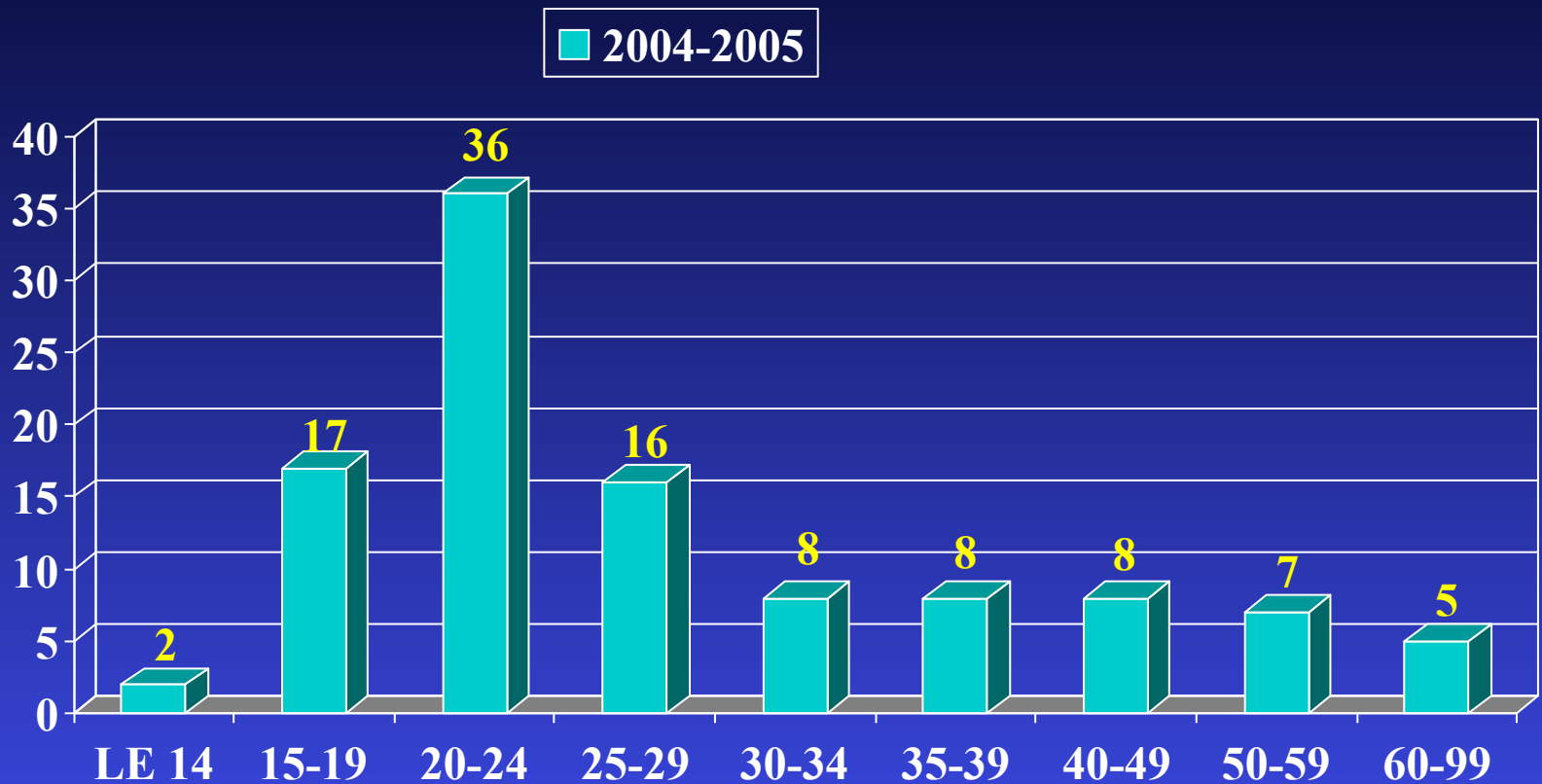


Data Source: PBC Law Enforcement Records

Offenders of Violent Crime Committed with a Firearm by Gender and Race



Murder Rates by Age Groups



Data Source: FDLE Computerized Criminal History Records

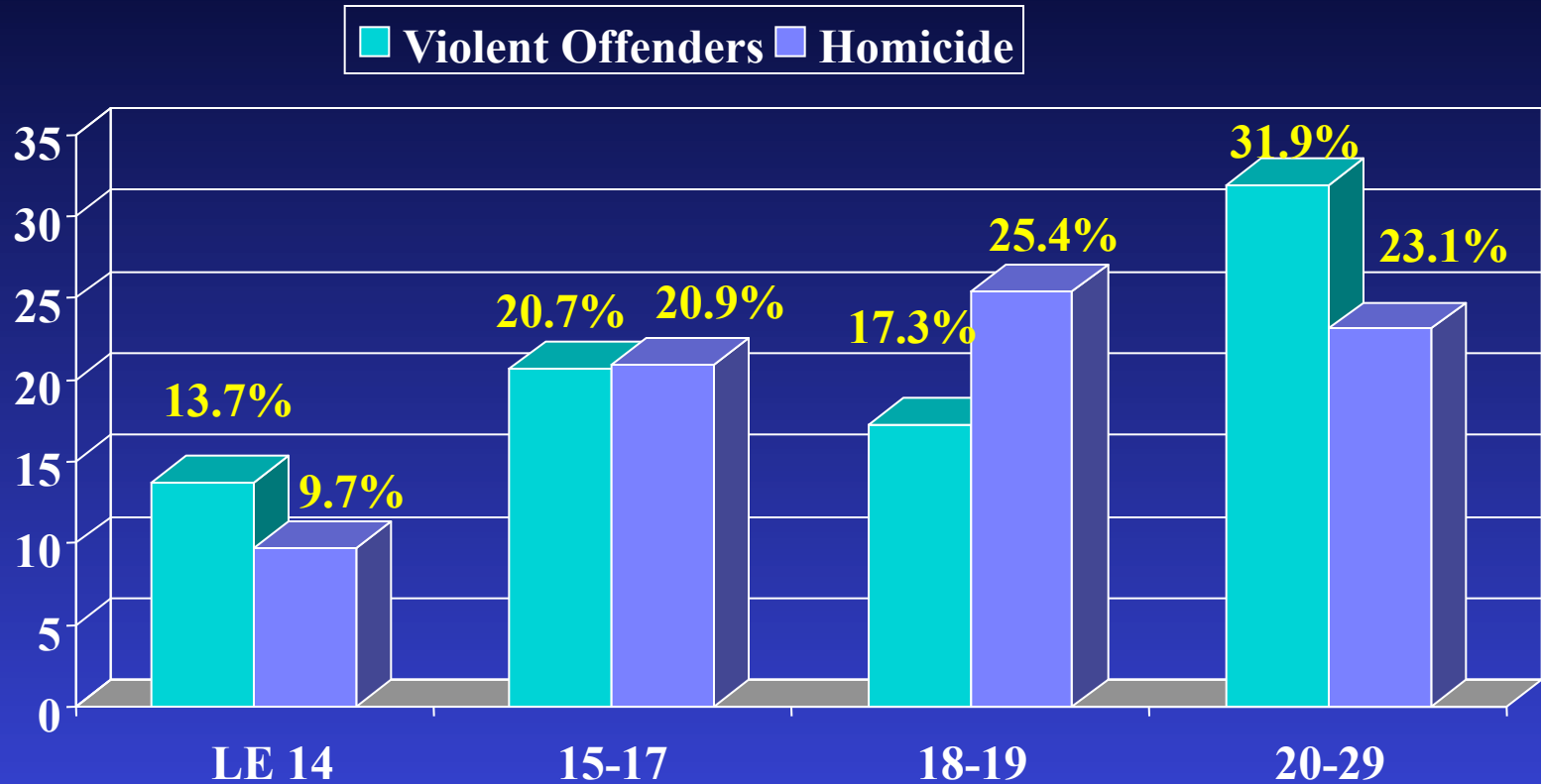


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Profile of Homicide and Violent Offenders (2004)



Age at First Arrest for Homicide and Violent Offenders Arrested in 2004

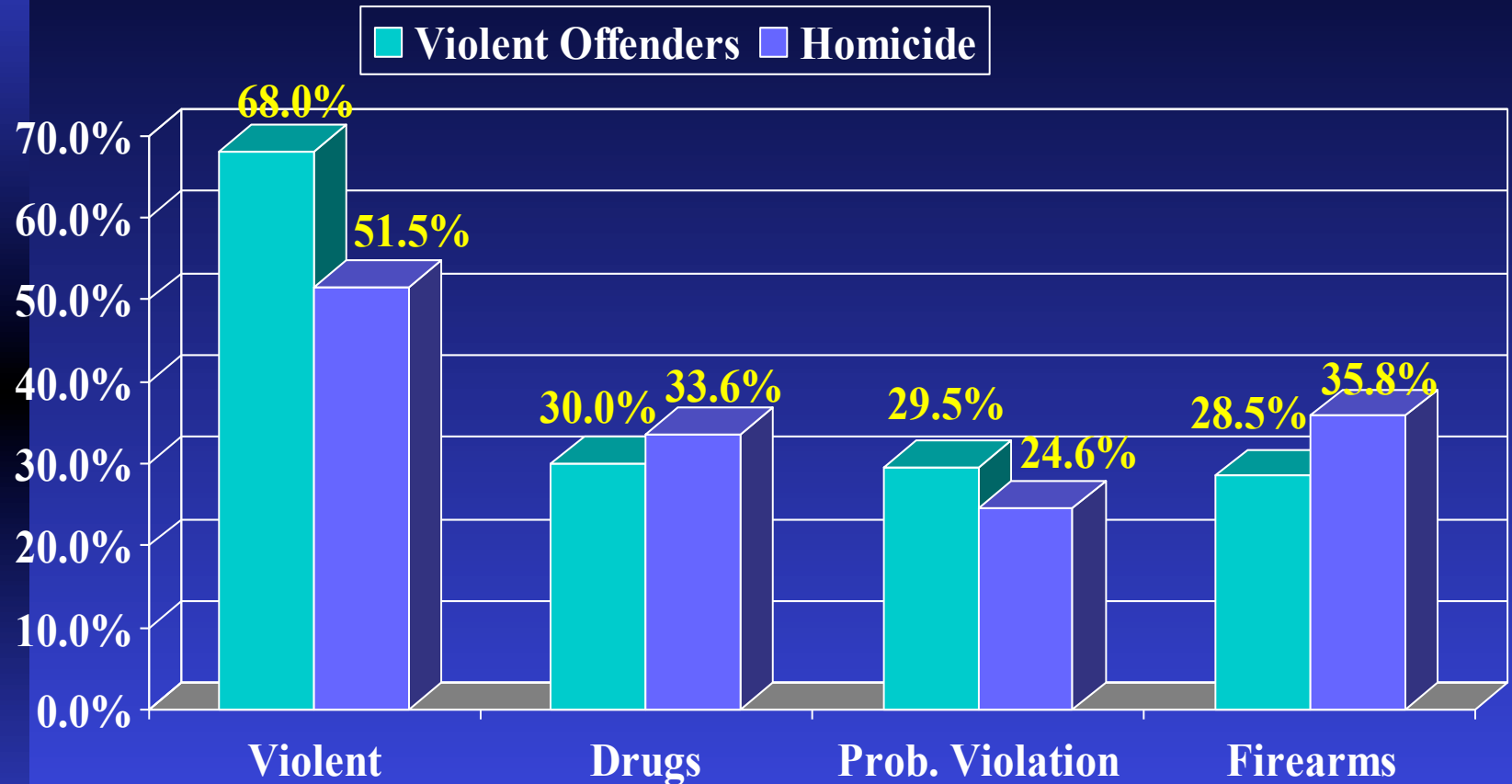


84% of Violent Offenders have an arrest record before the age of 30

79% of Homicide Offenders have an arrest record before the age of 30

Data Source: FDLE Computerized Criminal History Records

Prior Offenses of Homicide and Violent Offenders Arrested in 2004



Data Source: FDLE Computerized Criminal History Records



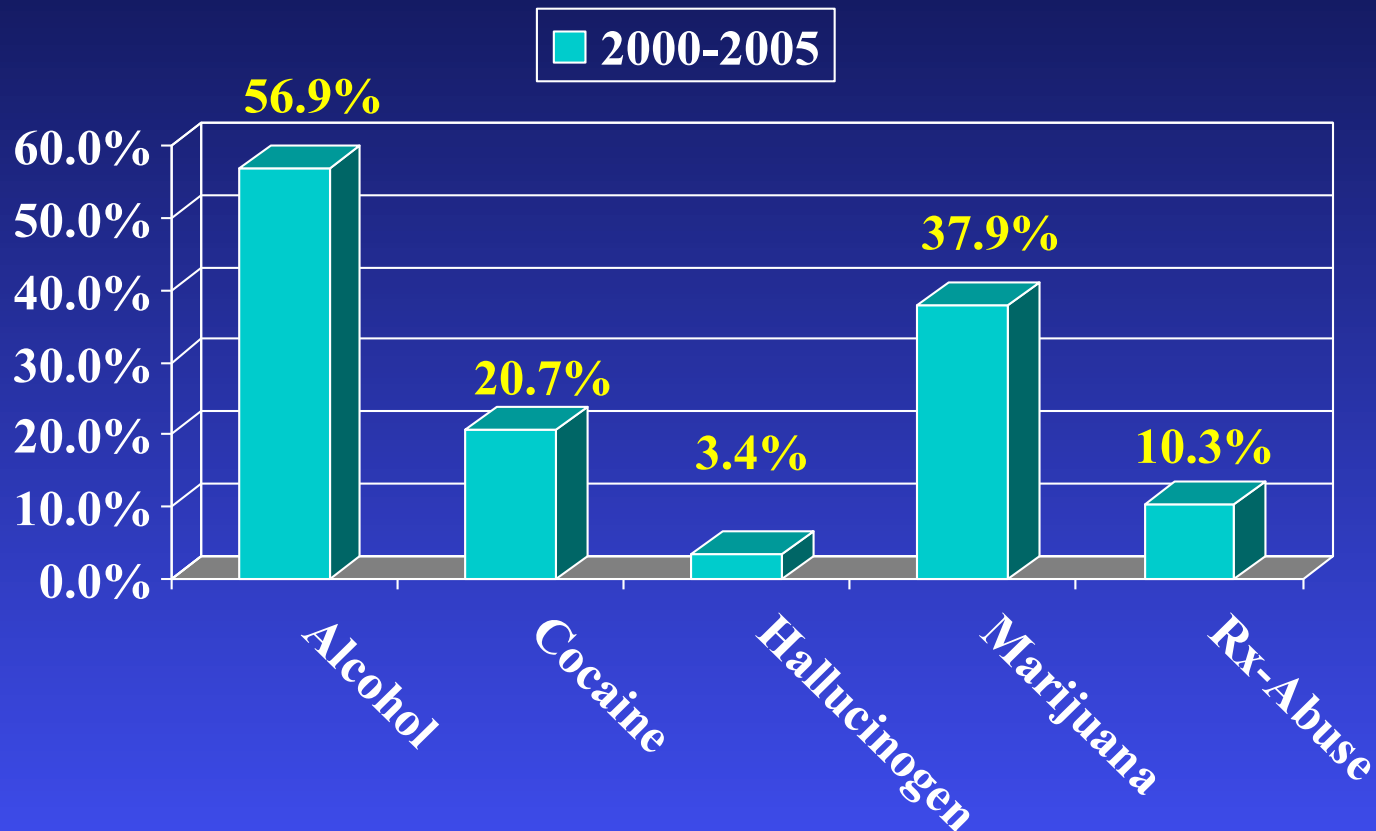
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Victims of Homicide – Drug Use



Homicides Involving a Firearm with A Victim Under 30 - Toxicology Results

45.3% of the 121 of Homicide Victims had some form of dangerous drugs in their system at the time of death

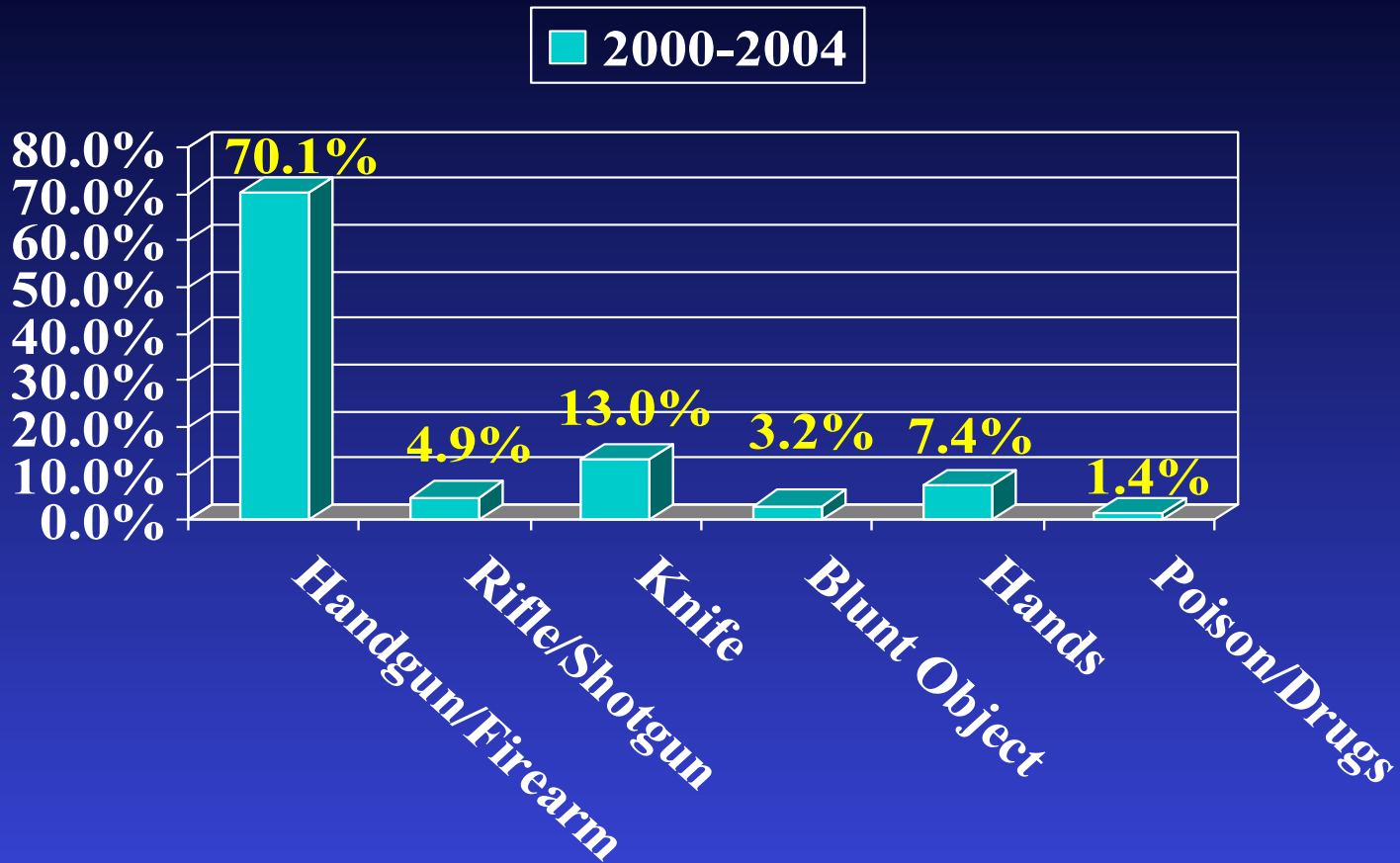




Characteristics of Homicide and Violent Crimes with a Firearm

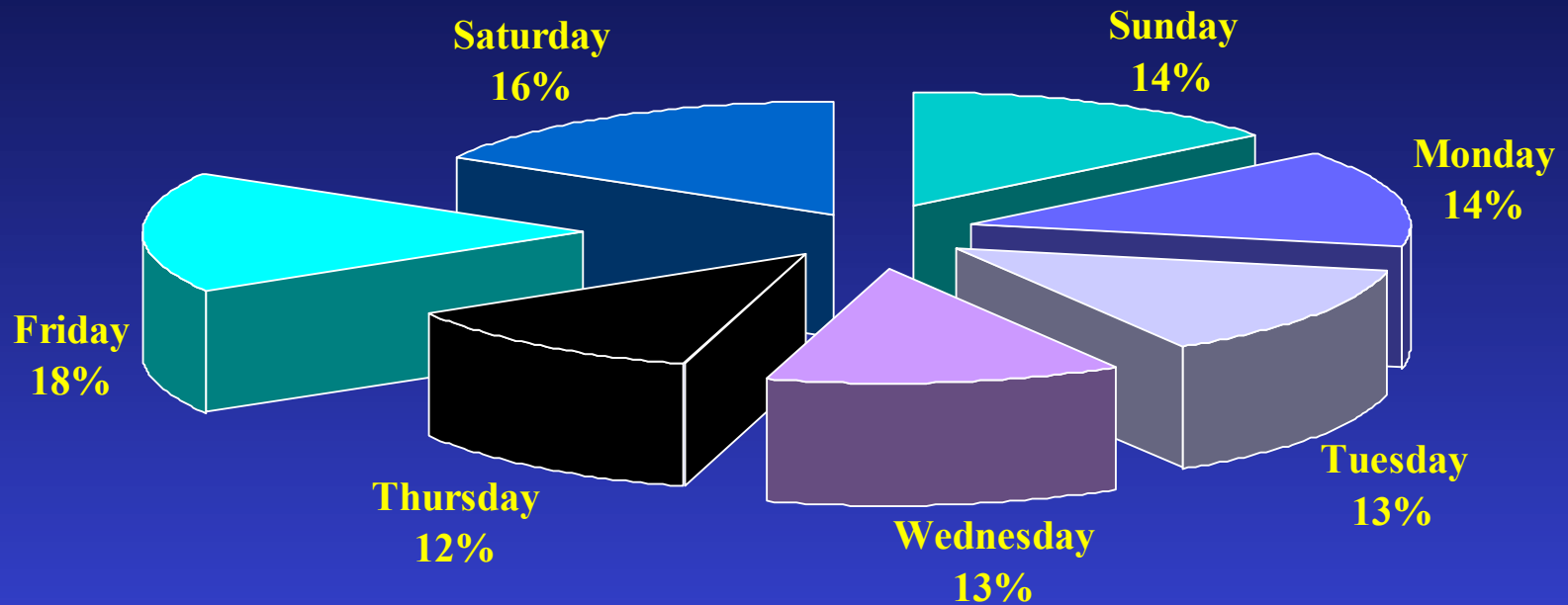


Weapons Used in Homicides

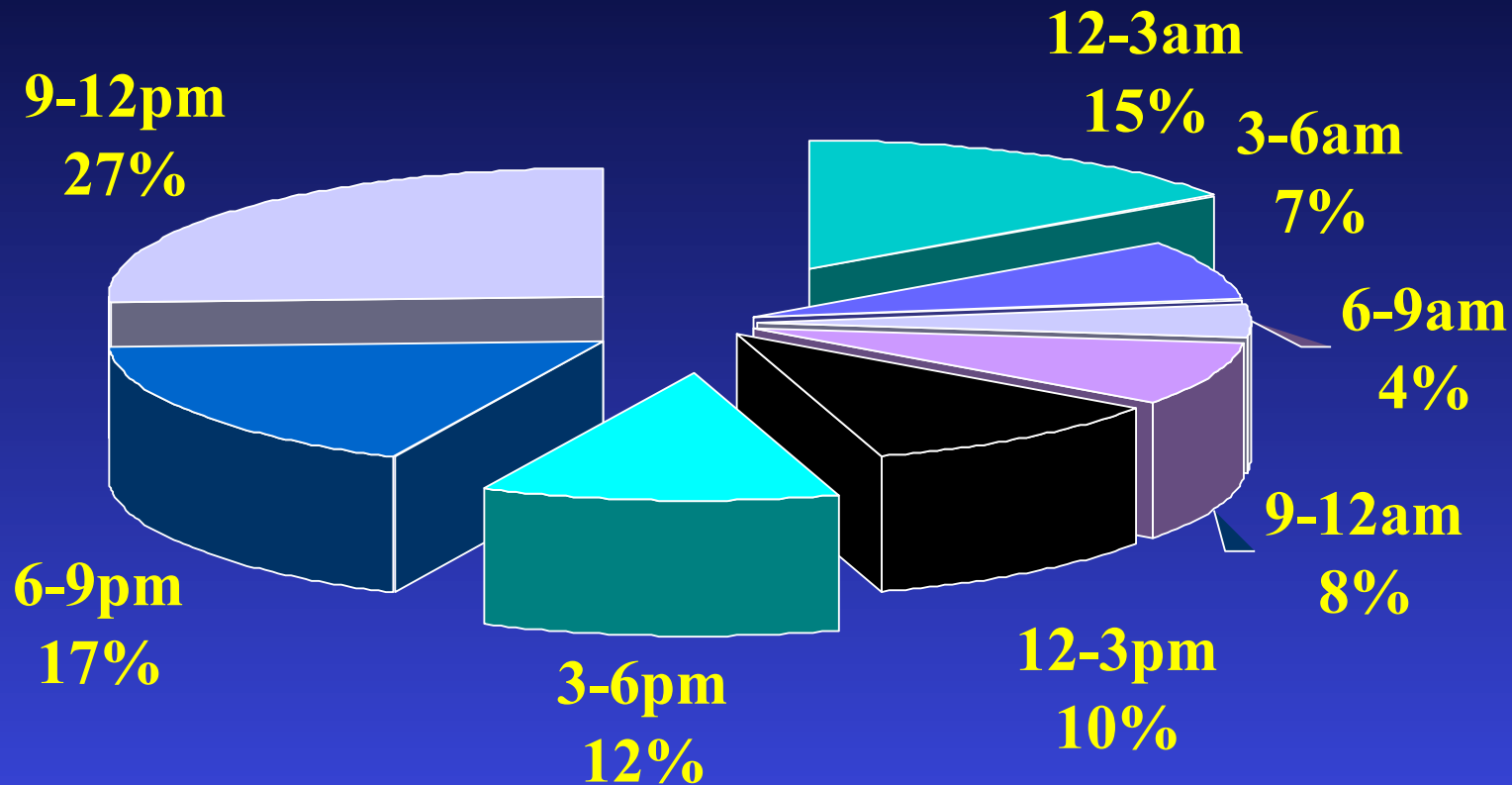


Data Source: FDLE Supplemental Homicide Reports

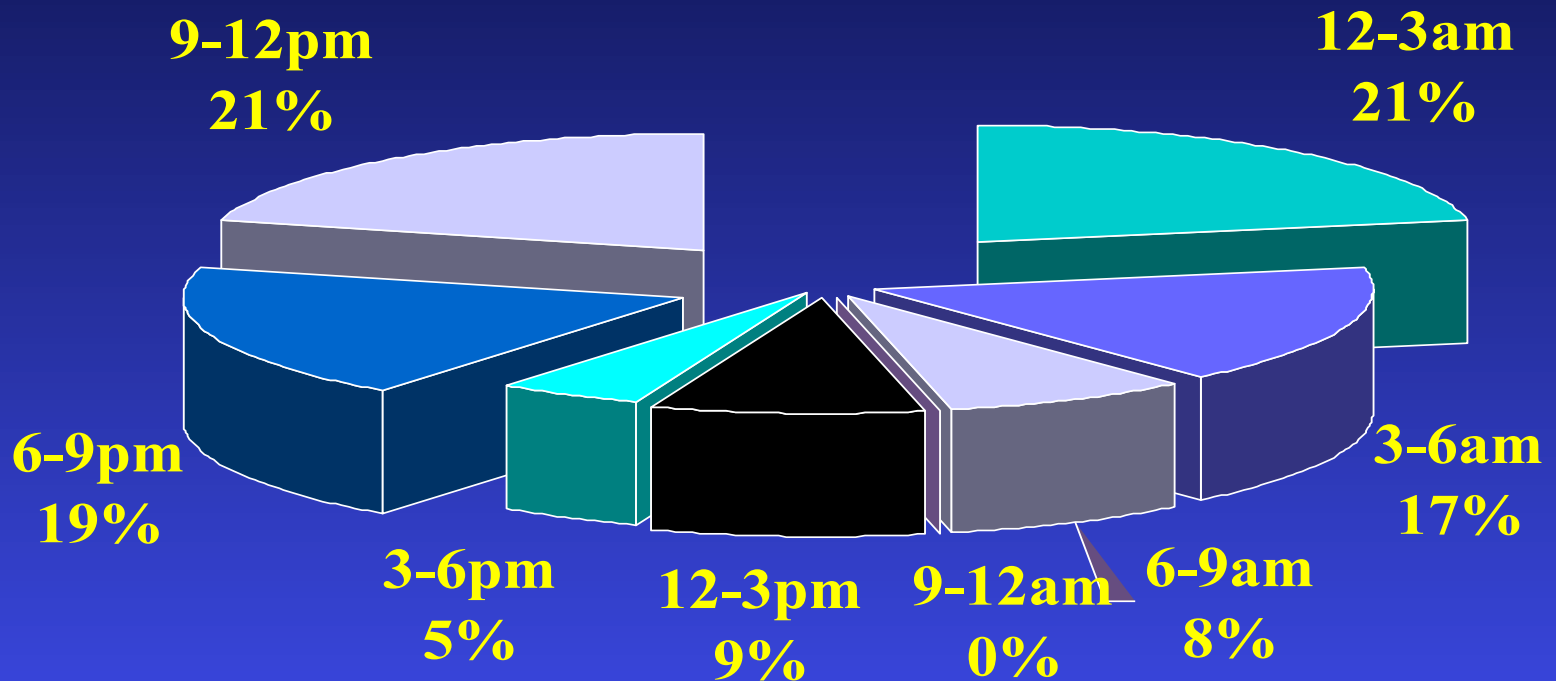
Percent of Violent Firearm Crimes by Day of the Week: 2000-2004



Percent of Violent Firearm Crimes by Time of Day: 2000-2004



Percent of Homicides Involving a Firearm by Time of Day: 2000-2004



Data Source: PBC Medical Examiner Records

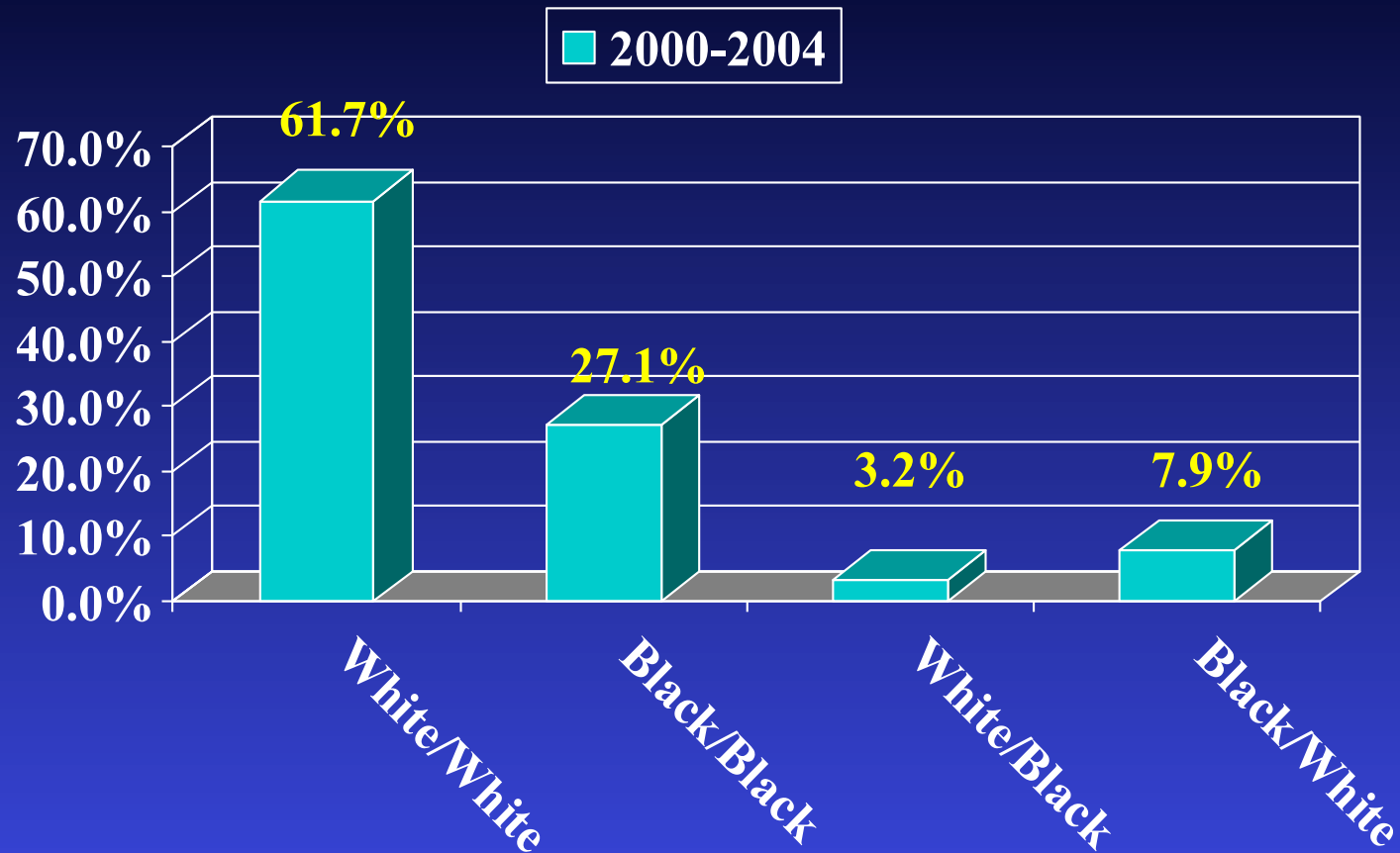


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Homicide Offender/Victim Relationships

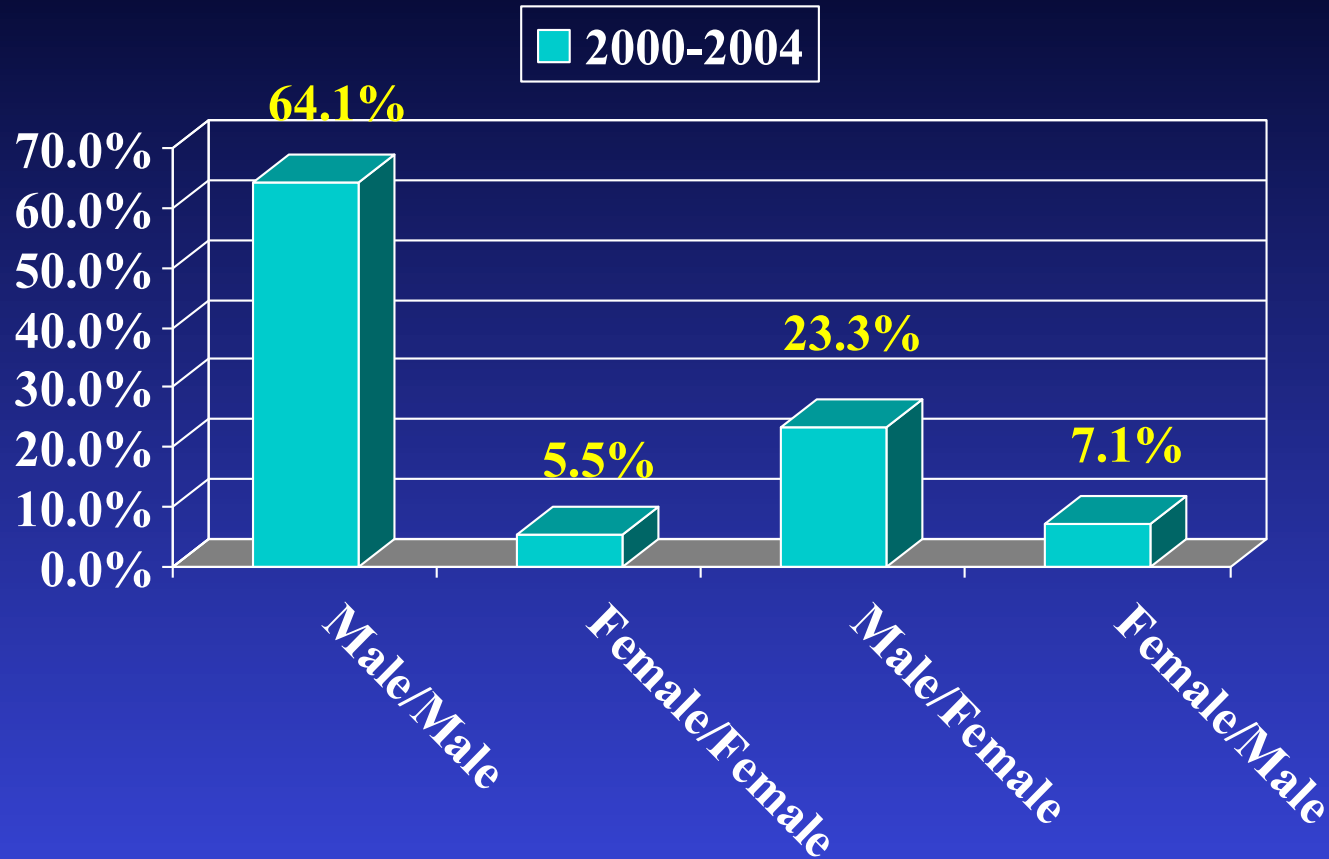


Homicide Offender/Victim Race



Data Source: FDLE Supplemental Homicide Reports

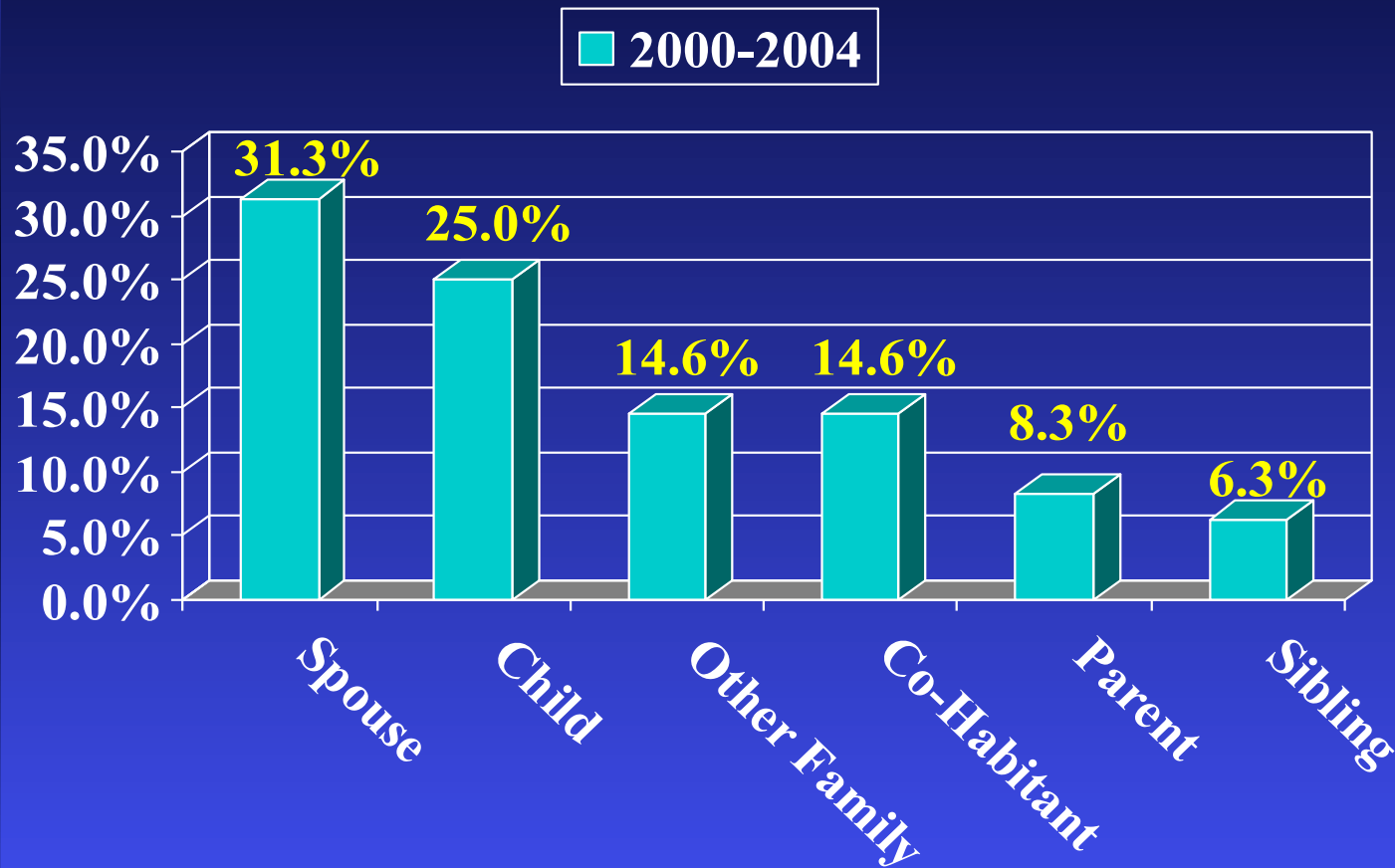
Homicide Offender/Victim Gender



Data Source: FDLE Supplemental Homicide Reports

Homicide Offender/Victim Relative

16.3% of Homicide victims had some relationship to their offenders



Data Source: FDLE Supplemental Homicide Reports



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Crime Mapping