



CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS
DATA SUMMARY

REPORT REGISTER NO. DS99-07000
(July 1999)

***HOMICIDE DEATHS,
CALIFORNIA,
1980-1997***

Introduction

This report focuses on trends in homicide deaths during the period 1980 through 1997, and provides analysis of crude and age-adjusted death rates for California residents by sex, age, race/ethnicity, and county. The definition of homicide used in this report is based on the ICD-9 codes E960-E969 traditionally presented in California Center for Health Statistics reports. In contrast, the National Center for Health Statistics in the publication *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, presents ICD-9 codes E960-E978 which include homicide and legal intervention as a single category.¹ The United States Public Health Service has established six health objectives pertaining to homicide which are published in *Healthy People 2000*.² California's progress in meeting the first year 2000 national health objective, an age-adjusted death rate of no more than 7.2 homicides per 100,000 population, will be addressed in this report. The Center for Health Statistics publication, *Healthy California 2000* is another reference for research related to the *Healthy People 2000* goals as they pertain to California.³

Homicide Deaths

As shown in **Table 1** (page 5), homicide deaths fluctuated substantially between 1980 and 1997. The highest number of deaths occurred in 1993 (4,206) and the lowest in 1983 (2,702). During the time span covered by this report, the number of deaths attributed to homicide was consistently much higher among males than among females. The average number of deaths among males (2,672.4) was over four times higher than the average number of deaths among females (634.4) for the 18-year period.

Due to the unavailability of mutually exclusive data for Hispanics and Whites for the years prior to 1985, **Table 2** (page 6) presents homicide death data by the four major race/ethnic groups from 1985 to 1997. During this period, the average number of homicide deaths among Hispanics (1,284.9) was higher than Blacks (1,006.9), Whites (945.6), and Asian/Other (184.3).

Table 3 (page 7) displays homicide death data for 1997 by the four major race/ethnic groups, by age group, and by sex. Homicide deaths occur predominantly among males, especially young males, and this held true in 1997 with 55 percent of all homicide deaths involving males between the ages of 15 and 34. This male age group, within each respective race/ethnic group, accounted for 67 percent of all deaths among Hispanics, 60 percent of all deaths among Blacks, 48 percent of all deaths among Asian/Other, and 31 percent of all deaths among Whites. Males of all ages accounted for 83 percent of all homicide deaths in 1997. Within the Hispanic race/ethnic group, males accounted for 1,049 deaths (89 percent) and females accounted for 131 deaths (11 percent). Among Blacks, 601 homicide deaths (84 percent) were attributed to males and 116 deaths (16 percent) to females. In the White race/ethnic group, males had 505 deaths (73 percent) and females had 186 deaths (27 percent). In the Asian/Other group, males had 150 homicide deaths (78 percent) and females had 42 homicide deaths (22 percent). The number of homicide deaths among Hispanics (1,180) was higher than Blacks (717), Whites (691) or Asian/Other (192).

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Homicide Crude Death Rates

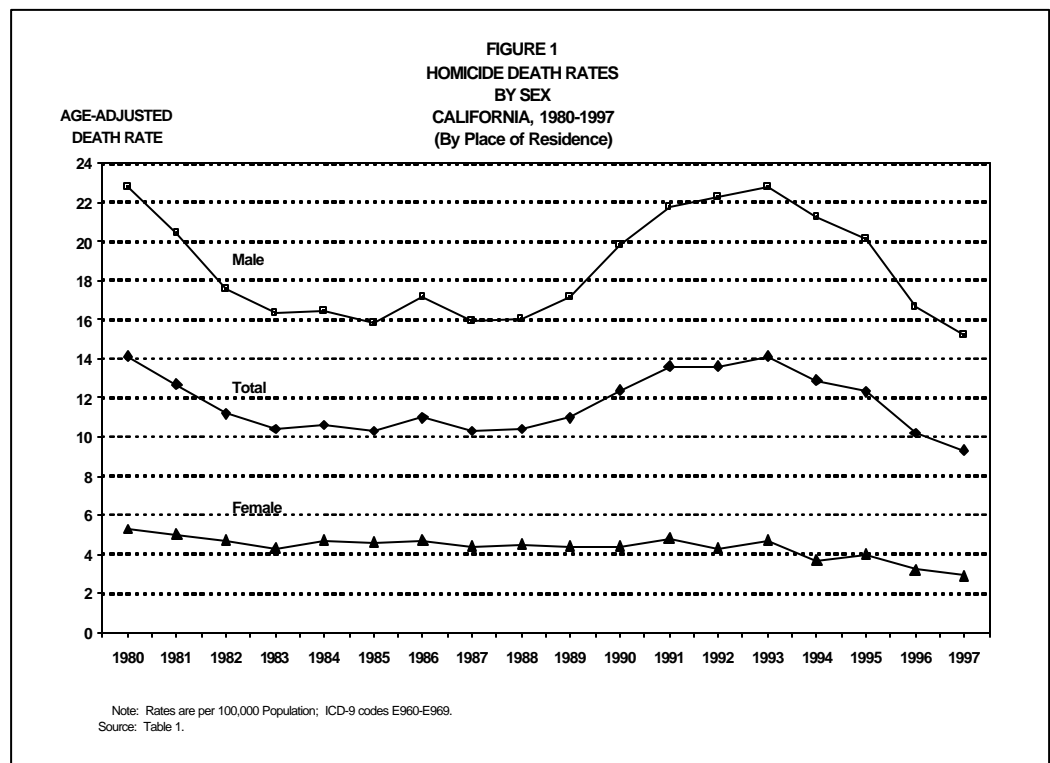
Examination of the overall crude death rate (**Table 1**, page 5) showed no statistically significant trend during the time span of this report, though the rate showed a notable decline from 1993 to 1997. The crude rate ranged from a high of 14.5 per 100,000 population in 1980 to a low of 8.4 in 1997. Analysis of the data by sex shows that from 1980 to 1997 the crude death rate for males was consistently much higher than for females. The crude death rate for males was highest in 1980 at 23.8, then declined to 16.5 in 1985, then increased to 22.0 in 1993 and then dropped to a low of 13.9 in 1997. The crude death rate for females decreased from a high of 5.5 in 1980 down to a low of 2.9 in 1997; this was a statistically significant decline.

Table 2 (page 6) shows that the crude death rate for Blacks was much higher than the crude death rate for any of the other three race/ethnic groups. The highest crude death rate for Blacks occurred in 1993 (57.8 per 100,000 population) and the lowest in 1997 (31.2). The crude death rate for Hispanics was highest in 1992 (20.2) and lowest in 1997 (12.2). For Asian/Other, the highest crude death rate occurred in 1991 (7.6) and the lowest in 1987 (4.6). Whites were the only race/ethnic group with a statistically significant trend in their crude death rate, a 38 percent decline from 1985 (6.5) to 1997 (4.0).

Homicide Age-Adjusted Death Rates

In 1997, the California age-adjusted death rate due to homicide was 9.3 deaths per 100,000 population, while the United States age-adjusted death rate for homicide and legal intervention was 7.5.⁴

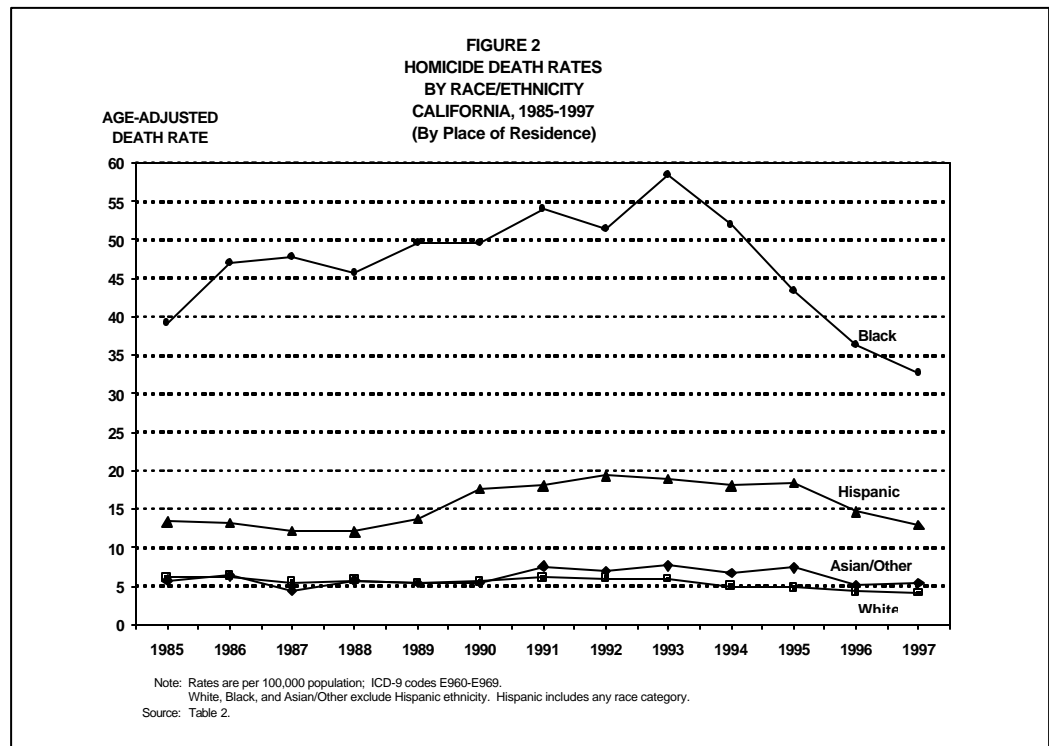
As shown in **Figure 1**, California's age-adjusted death rate varied substantially over the 18-year period; it declined from 14.1 in 1980 to 10.3 in 1987 then rose again to 14.1 in 1993 then declined to 9.3 in 1997. Regression analysis showed no significant trend in the age-adjusted death rate over this time period, though the decline in the rates from 1993 to 1997 was significant. Also, due to the fluctuation of the rates, it could not be ascertained whether



California will meet the *Healthy People 2000* goal of no more than 7.2 homicide age-adjusted deaths per 100,000 population, though the decline in the rate from 14.1 in 1993 to 9.3 in 1997 is encouraging. During all 18 years the male age-adjusted death rate was much higher than the female rate. Similar to the total age-adjusted death rates, the male age-adjusted death rate fluctuated over the years with a rate of 22.8 in 1980 dropping to 15.8 in 1985, then rising to 22.8 in 1993 and then declining to 15.2 in 1997. In contrast to the male rate, the female age-adjusted death rate experienced a significant downward trend from a high of 5.3 in 1980 to a low of 2.9 in 1997, a decline of 45 percent.

Homicide Age-Adjusted Death Rates (continued)

As illustrated in **Figure 2**, Blacks had a significantly higher homicide age-adjusted death rate than the other three race/ethnic groups. The highest age-adjusted death rate for Blacks (58.5 per 100,000 population) occurred in 1993, the lowest (32.6) occurred in 1997. Among Hispanics the highest age-adjusted death rate occurred in 1992 (19.4), the lowest in 1988 (12.1). The highest rate for Asian/Other (7.7) was in 1993, the lowest (4.5) in 1987. As in the crude death rate discussed previously, Whites were the only race/ethnic group with a statistically significant trend in their age-adjusted death rate, a 33 percent decline from 1985 (6.1) to 1997 (4.1).



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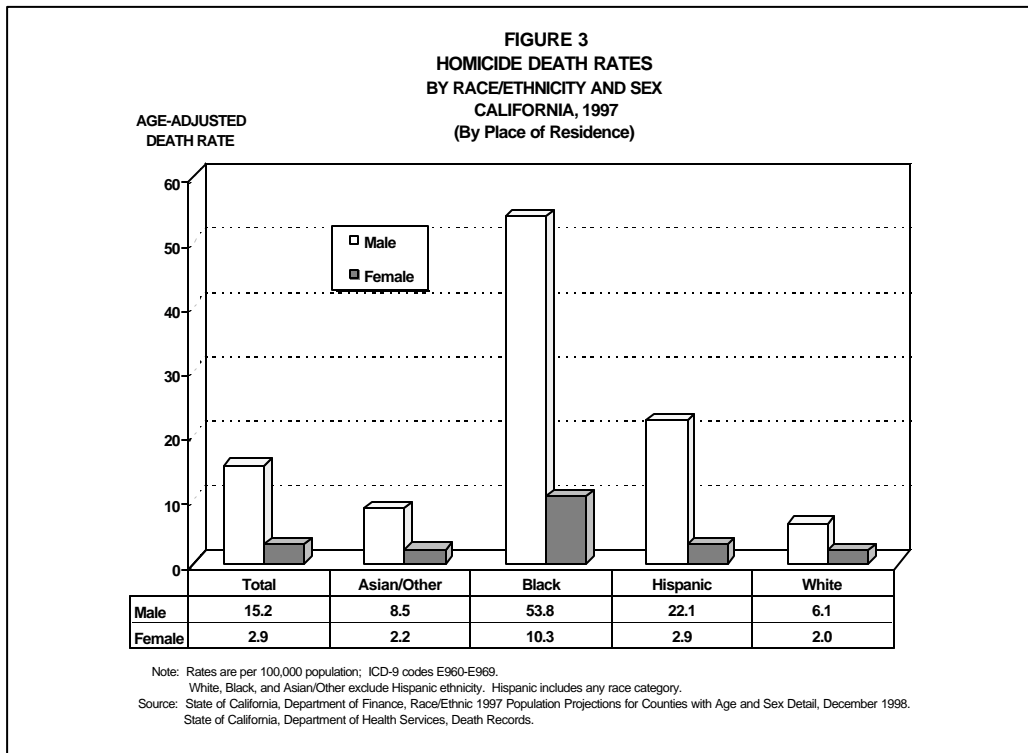
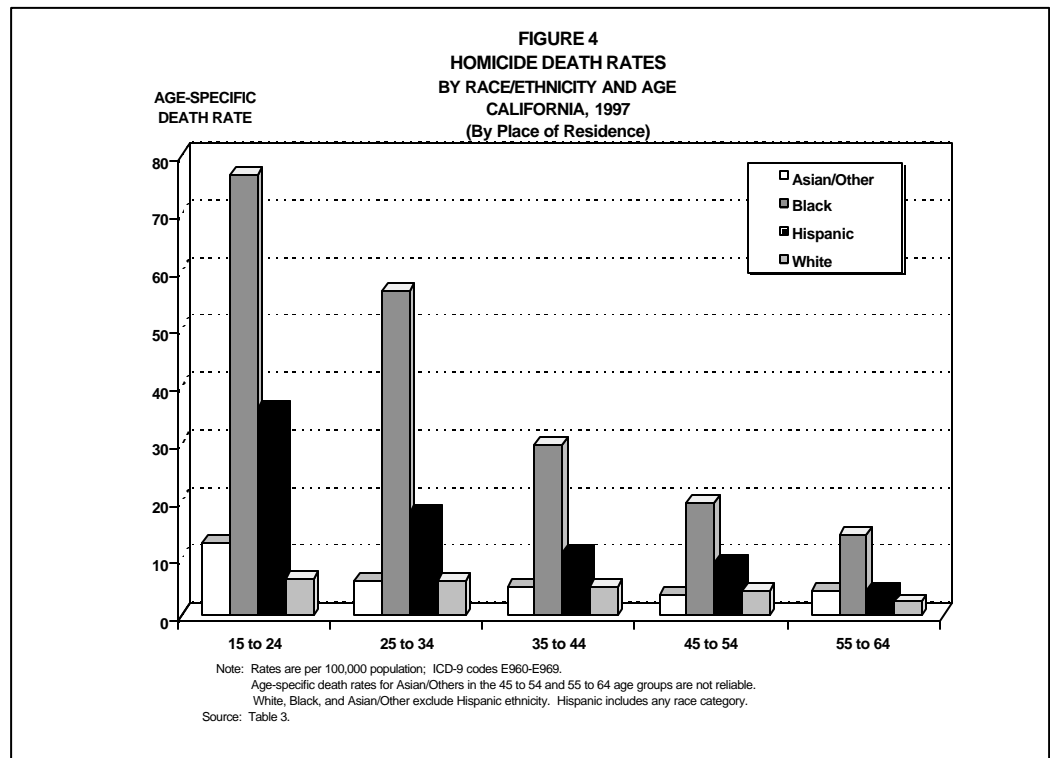


Figure 3 shows that Black males had the highest age-adjusted death rate (53.8 per 100,000 population) in 1997, a rate 2.4 times higher than the rate for Hispanic males (22.1), 6.3 times higher than the rate for Asian/Other males (8.5), and 8.8 times higher than the rate for White males (6.1). The differences between all four of these rates are statistically significant. The homicide age-adjusted death rate for Black females was significantly higher than the rates for females in the other three race/ethnic groups. Black females had the highest age-adjusted death rate (10.3) in 1997, a rate 3.6 times higher than Hispanic females (2.9), 4.7 times higher than Asian/Other females (2.2), and 5.2 times higher than White females (2.0).

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Homicide Age-Specific Death Rates

Figure 4 shows the significantly higher age-specific death rate for Blacks in the five age groups from 15 to 24 through 55 to 64. **Figure 4** also shows that Hispanics had the second highest age-specific death rate in these age groups. Whites had the lowest homicide age-specific death rate in four of the five age groups; the exception was the 25 to 34 age group where Whites shared the lowest rate with Asian/Other.



In **Table 3** (page 7) reliable age-specific death rates show that Black, Hispanic, and White males consistently had higher rates than their female counterparts in the same age groups (there were no reliable age-specific death rates for Asian/Other females so no comparison was made with Asian/Other males). **Table 3** also shows the extremely high age-specific death rates for Black males in the 15 to 24 age group (129.7) and in the 25 to 34 age group (97.3). Hispanic males also had a very high homicide death rate (64.5) in the 15 to 24 age group.

Homicide Death Rates among California Counties

Table 4 (page 8) displays the number of deaths, crude death rates, and age-adjusted death rates by county averaged over a three-year period, 1995 to 1997. This averaging is done to reduce the large fluctuations in the death rates that are inherent among counties with a small number of events and/or population.

The highest average number of homicide deaths occurred in Los Angeles County (1,465.7) and the lowest in Alpine, Amador, Modoc, and Sierra Counties, which had no deaths due to homicide during the three year period.

The highest and lowest reliable crude death rates due to homicide were in Los Angeles County (15.6 per 100,000 population) and Santa Clara County (3.3), respectively.

The rankings for age-adjusted death rates due to homicide were Los Angeles County with the highest reliable age-adjusted death rate (17.7 per 100,000 population) and Santa Clara County with the lowest (3.6).

TABLE 1
DEATHS DUE TO HOMICIDE
BY SEX
CALIFORNIA, 1980-1997
(By Place of Residence)

| SEX | EVENT YEAR | DEATHS | POPULATION | CRUDE RATE | AGE-ADJUSTED RATE | 95% CONFIDENCE LIMITS | |
|---------------|------------|--------|------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| | | | | | | LOWER | UPPER |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | |
| | 1997 | 2,780 | 32,956,588 | 8.4 | 9.3 | 8.9 | 9.6 |
| | 1996 | 3,007 | 32,383,811 | 9.3 | 10.2 | 9.8 | 10.5 |
| | 1995 | 3,623 | 32,062,912 | 11.3 | 12.3 | 11.9 | 12.8 |
| | 1994 | 3,821 | 31,790,557 | 12.0 | 12.9 | 12.4 | 13.3 |
| | 1993 | 4,206 | 31,515,753 | 13.3 | 14.1 | 13.7 | 14.5 |
| | 1992 | 4,092 | 31,186,559 | 13.1 | 13.6 | 13.2 | 14.1 |
| | 1991 | 4,071 | 30,563,276 | 13.3 | 13.6 | 13.2 | 14.0 |
| | 1990 | 3,703 | 29,942,397 | 12.4 | 12.4 | 11.9 | 12.8 |
| | 1989 | 3,270 | 29,142,106 | 11.2 | 11.0 | 10.6 | 11.4 |
| | 1988 | 3,054 | 28,393,094 | 10.8 | 10.4 | 10.0 | 10.8 |
| | 1987 | 2,949 | 27,716,860 | 10.6 | 10.3 | 9.9 | 10.7 |
| | 1986 | 3,089 | 27,052,291 | 11.4 | 11.0 | 10.6 | 11.4 |
| | 1985 | 2,818 | 26,402,633 | 10.7 | 10.3 | 9.9 | 10.7 |
| | 1984 | 2,833 | 25,816,294 | 11.0 | 10.6 | 10.2 | 11.0 |
| | 1983 | 2,702 | 25,336,301 | 10.7 | 10.4 | 10.0 | 10.7 |
| | 1982 | 2,864 | 24,805,011 | 11.5 | 11.2 | 10.8 | 11.6 |
| | 1981 | 3,196 | 24,277,674 | 13.2 | 12.7 | 12.3 | 13.2 |
| | 1980 | 3,445 | 23,780,068 | 14.5 | 14.1 | 13.6 | 14.5 |
| MALE | | | | | | | |
| | 1997 | 2,305 | 16,526,191 | 13.9 | 15.2 | 14.5 | 15.8 |
| | 1996 | 2,498 | 16,227,924 | 15.4 | 16.7 | 16.0 | 17.3 |
| | 1995 | 2,998 | 16,062,552 | 18.7 | 20.1 | 19.3 | 20.8 |
| | 1994 | 3,236 | 15,921,009 | 20.3 | 21.3 | 20.6 | 22.1 |
| | 1993 | 3,466 | 15,782,166 | 22.0 | 22.8 | 22.0 | 23.5 |
| | 1992 | 3,411 | 15,616,376 | 21.8 | 22.3 | 21.5 | 23.0 |
| | 1991 | 3,336 | 15,301,183 | 21.8 | 21.8 | 21.0 | 22.5 |
| | 1990 | 3,044 | 14,989,516 | 20.3 | 19.8 | 19.0 | 20.5 |
| | 1989 | 2,618 | 14,573,988 | 18.0 | 17.2 | 16.6 | 17.9 |
| | 1988 | 2,384 | 14,181,700 | 16.8 | 16.0 | 15.3 | 16.6 |
| | 1987 | 2,297 | 13,825,118 | 16.6 | 15.9 | 15.2 | 16.5 |
| | 1986 | 2,435 | 13,474,197 | 18.1 | 17.2 | 16.5 | 17.9 |
| | 1985 | 2,170 | 13,130,674 | 16.5 | 15.8 | 15.1 | 16.4 |
| | 1984 | 2,193 | 12,818,768 | 17.1 | 16.4 | 15.7 | 17.1 |
| | 1983 | 2,130 | 12,559,834 | 17.0 | 16.3 | 15.6 | 17.0 |
| | 1982 | 2,245 | 12,275,613 | 18.3 | 17.6 | 16.9 | 18.4 |
| | 1981 | 2,552 | 11,993,514 | 21.3 | 20.4 | 19.6 | 21.2 |
| | 1980 | 2,786 | 11,722,769 | 23.8 | 22.8 | 22.0 | 23.7 |
| FEMALE | | | | | | | |
| | 1997 | 475 | 16,430,397 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 3.2 |
| | 1996 | 509 | 16,155,887 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 3.5 |
| | 1995 | 625 | 16,000,360 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 4.3 |
| | 1994 | 585 | 15,869,548 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 4.0 |
| | 1993 | 740 | 15,733,587 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 5.1 |
| | 1992 | 681 | 15,570,183 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 4.7 |
| | 1991 | 735 | 15,262,093 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.4 | 5.1 |
| | 1990 | 659 | 14,952,881 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 4.7 |
| | 1989 | 652 | 14,568,118 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.0 | 4.7 |
| | 1988 | 670 | 14,211,394 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 4.8 |
| | 1987 | 652 | 13,891,742 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 4.8 |
| | 1986 | 654 | 13,578,094 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 5.0 |
| | 1985 | 648 | 13,271,959 | 4.9 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 5.0 |
| | 1984 | 640 | 12,997,526 | 4.9 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 5.1 |
| | 1983 | 572 | 12,776,467 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 3.9 | 4.6 |
| | 1982 | 619 | 12,529,398 | 4.9 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 5.1 |
| | 1981 | 644 | 12,284,160 | 5.2 | 5.0 | 4.6 | 5.4 |
| | 1980 | 659 | 12,057,299 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 4.9 | 5.7 |

Note : Rates are per 100,000 population. ICD-9 codes E960-E969.

Source : State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population for Counties with Age and Sex Detail, Estimated July 1, 1970-1996 and Projections for 1997. December 1998.
State of California, Department of Health Services, Death Records.

**TABLE 2
DEATHS DUE TO HOMICIDE
BY RACE/ETHNICITY
CALIFORNIA, 1985-1997
(By Place of Residence)**

| RACE/ ETHNICITY | EVENT YEAR | DEATHS | POPULATION | CRUDE RATE | AGE-ADJUSTED RATE | 95% CONFIDENCE LIMITS LOWER | UPPER |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| ASIAN/OTHER | | | | | | | |
| | 1997 | 192 | 3,778,911 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 4.6 | 6.1 |
| | 1996 | 184 | 3,645,998 | 5.0 | 5.2 | 4.5 | 6.0 |
| | 1995 | 247 | 3,530,931 | 7.0 | 7.4 | 6.5 | 8.3 |
| | 1994 | 217 | 3,429,125 | 6.3 | 6.7 | 5.8 | 7.6 |
| | 1993 | 245 | 3,323,013 | 7.4 | 7.7 | 6.7 | 8.7 |
| | 1992 | 217 | 3,209,399 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 6.1 | 7.9 |
| | 1991 | 234 | 3,068,424 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 6.6 | 8.6 |
| | 1990 | 163 | 2,930,570 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 4.6 | 6.3 |
| | 1989 | 156 | 2,774,167 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 4.6 | 6.3 |
| | 1988 | 155 | 2,616,586 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 4.8 | 6.7 |
| | 1987 | 114 | 2,465,134 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 3.7 | 5.4 |
| | 1986 | 147 | 2,313,141 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 5.3 | 7.4 |
| | 1985 | 125 | 2,158,886 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 4.8 | 6.8 |
| BLACK | | | | | | | |
| | 1997 | 717 | 2,298,425 | 31.2 | 32.6 | 30.2 | 35.0 |
| | 1996 | 805 | 2,275,401 | 35.4 | 36.3 | 33.8 | 38.8 |
| | 1995 | 954 | 2,250,502 | 42.4 | 43.3 | 40.5 | 46.1 |
| | 1994 | 1,144 | 2,232,841 | 51.2 | 52.0 | 48.9 | 55.0 |
| | 1993 | 1,280 | 2,214,376 | 57.8 | 58.5 | 55.2 | 61.7 |
| | 1992 | 1,137 | 2,192,451 | 51.9 | 51.4 | 48.4 | 54.4 |
| | 1991 | 1,171 | 2,147,691 | 54.5 | 54.0 | 50.9 | 57.2 |
| | 1990 | 1,083 | 2,105,207 | 51.4 | 49.6 | 46.6 | 52.6 |
| | 1989 | 1,068 | 2,061,823 | 51.8 | 49.6 | 46.6 | 52.7 |
| | 1988 | 969 | 2,024,779 | 47.9 | 45.7 | 42.8 | 48.6 |
| | 1987 | 996 | 1,992,361 | 50.0 | 47.7 | 44.7 | 50.7 |
| | 1986 | 974 | 1,958,844 | 49.7 | 47.1 | 44.1 | 50.0 |
| | 1985 | 792 | 1,923,209 | 41.2 | 39.2 | 36.5 | 42.0 |
| HISPANIC | | | | | | | |
| | 1997 | 1,180 | 9,700,944 | 12.2 | 13.0 | 12.2 | 13.8 |
| | 1996 | 1,295 | 9,330,740 | 13.9 | 14.7 | 13.9 | 15.5 |
| | 1995 | 1,613 | 9,100,994 | 17.7 | 18.4 | 17.5 | 19.4 |
| | 1994 | 1,602 | 8,882,966 | 18.0 | 18.1 | 17.2 | 19.0 |
| | 1993 | 1,656 | 8,658,118 | 19.1 | 18.9 | 18.0 | 19.8 |
| | 1992 | 1,702 | 8,421,133 | 20.2 | 19.4 | 18.5 | 20.4 |
| | 1991 | 1,585 | 8,097,870 | 19.6 | 18.1 | 17.2 | 19.1 |
| | 1990 | 1,479 | 7,774,789 | 19.0 | 17.6 | 16.6 | 18.5 |
| | 1989 | 1,091 | 7,419,574 | 14.7 | 13.7 | 12.8 | 14.5 |
| | 1988 | 911 | 7,077,579 | 12.9 | 12.1 | 11.3 | 12.9 |
| | 1987 | 866 | 6,754,398 | 12.8 | 12.2 | 11.4 | 13.1 |
| | 1986 | 879 | 6,428,436 | 13.7 | 13.2 | 12.3 | 14.1 |
| | 1985 | 845 | 6,103,662 | 13.8 | 13.4 | 12.4 | 14.3 |
| WHITE | | | | | | | |
| | 1997 | 691 | 17,178,308 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 4.4 |
| | 1996 | 723 | 17,131,672 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 3.9 | 4.6 |
| | 1995 | 809 | 17,180,485 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.5 | 5.2 |
| | 1994 | 858 | 17,245,625 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 4.7 | 5.4 |
| | 1993 | 1,025 | 17,320,246 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.5 | 6.3 |
| | 1992 | 1,036 | 17,363,576 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 5.6 | 6.4 |
| | 1991 | 1,081 | 17,249,291 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 5.7 | 6.5 |
| | 1990 | 978 | 17,131,831 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 5.2 | 6.0 |
| | 1989 | 955 | 16,886,542 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 5.1 | 5.8 |
| | 1988 | 1,019 | 16,674,150 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 6.2 |
| | 1987 | 973 | 16,504,967 | 5.9 | 5.5 | 5.1 | 5.8 |
| | 1986 | 1,089 | 16,351,870 | 6.7 | 6.3 | 5.9 | 6.7 |
| | 1985 | 1,056 | 16,216,876 | 6.5 | 6.1 | 5.7 | 6.4 |

Note : Rates are per 100,000 population. ICD-9 codes E960-E969.

White, Black, and Asian/Other exclude Hispanic ethnicity. Hispanic includes any race category.

Source : State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population for Counties with Age and Sex Detail, Estimated July 1, 1970-1996 and Projections for 1997. December 1998.

State of California, Department of Health Services, Death Records.

**TABLE 3
DEATHS DUE TO HOMICIDE
BY RACE/ETHNICITY, AGE, AND SEX
CALIFORNIA, 1997
(By Place of Residence)**

| RACE/ ETHNICITY | AGE GROUPS | 1997 DEATHS | | | AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATE | | | 95% CONFIDENCE LIMITS | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|-------|--------|-------------------------|--------|--------|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| | | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL | | MALE | | FEMALE | |
| | | | | | | | | LOWER | UPPER | LOWER | UPPER | LOWER | UPPER |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Under 1 | 33 | 19 | 14 | 6.0 | 6.8 | 5.2 * | 4.0 | 8.1 | 3.7 | 9.9 | 2.5 | 8.0 |
| | 1 to 4 | 58 | 31 | 27 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 1.9 | 3.2 | 1.7 | 3.6 | 1.5 | 3.4 |
| | 5 to 14 | 69 | 52 | 17 | 1.3 | 2.0 | 0.7 * | 1.0 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 2.5 | 0.4 | 1.0 |
| | 15 to 24 | 987 | 898 | 89 | 23.0 | 40.3 | 4.3 | 21.6 | 24.5 | 37.6 | 42.9 | 3.4 | 5.2 |
| | 25 to 34 | 728 | 631 | 97 | 13.7 | 22.5 | 3.9 | 12.7 | 14.7 | 20.8 | 24.3 | 3.1 | 4.7 |
| | 35 to 44 | 451 | 345 | 106 | 8.2 | 12.3 | 3.9 | 7.4 | 8.9 | 11.0 | 13.6 | 3.2 | 4.7 |
| | 45 to 54 | 243 | 185 | 58 | 6.1 | 9.4 | 2.9 | 5.4 | 6.9 | 8.0 | 10.8 | 2.2 | 3.6 |
| | 55 to 64 | 91 | 67 | 24 | 3.7 | 5.7 | 1.9 | 3.0 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 7.0 | 1.2 | 2.7 |
| | 65 to 74 | 63 | 45 | 18 | 3.2 | 5.1 | 1.7 * | 2.4 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 6.6 | 0.9 | 2.5 |
| | 75 to 84 | 35 | 17 | 18 | 2.9 | 3.5 * | 2.5 * | 1.9 | 3.9 | 1.8 | 5.2 | 1.4 | 3.7 |
| | 85 & Older | 11 | 5 | 6 | 2.8 * | 4.2 * | 2.2 * | 1.2 | 4.5 | 0.5 | 7.8 | 0.4 | 4.0 |
| | Unknown | 11 | 10 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 2,780 | 2,305 | 475 | 8.4 | 13.9 | 2.9 | 8.1 | 8.7 | 13.4 | 14.5 | 2.6 | 3.2 |
| ASIAN/OTHER | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Under 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4.9 * | 6.4 * | 3.4 * | 0.0 | 10.5 | 0.0 | 15.3 | 0.0 | 9.9 |
| | 1 to 4 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1.6 * | 0.8 * | 2.4 * | 0.0 | 3.1 | 0.0 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 5.2 |
| | 5 to 14 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 1.9 * | 2.3 * | 1.4 * | 0.8 | 3.0 | 0.6 | 4.0 | 0.0 | 2.7 |
| | 15 to 24 | 69 | 64 | 5 | 12.6 | 22.7 | 1.9 * | 9.6 | 15.6 | 17.2 | 28.3 | 0.2 | 3.5 |
| | 25 to 34 | 37 | 29 | 8 | 6.0 | 9.4 | 2.6 * | 4.1 | 8.0 | 6.0 | 12.8 | 0.8 | 4.5 |
| | 35 to 44 | 33 | 22 | 11 | 5.1 | 7.0 | 3.3 * | 3.3 | 6.8 | 4.1 | 10.0 | 1.3 | 5.2 |
| | 45 to 54 | 17 | 13 | 4 | 3.6 * | 5.9 * | 1.6 * | 1.9 | 5.4 | 2.7 | 9.1 | 0.0 | 3.2 |
| | 55 to 64 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 4.4 * | 5.5 * | 3.5 * | 1.9 | 7.0 | 1.4 | 9.6 | 0.4 | 6.6 |
| | 65 to 74 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1.5 * | 3.5 * | 0.0 + | 0.0 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 7.5 | - | - |
| | 75 to 84 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2.0 * | 2.3 * | 1.7 * | 0.0 | 4.7 | 0.0 | 6.8 | 0.0 | 5.1 |
| | 85 & Older | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3.3 * | 7.7 * | 0.0 + | 0.0 | 9.7 | 0.0 | 22.7 | - | - |
| | Unknown | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 192 | 150 | 42 | 5.1 | 8.1 | 2.2 | 4.4 | 5.8 | 6.8 | 9.4 | 1.5 | 2.8 |
| BLACK | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Under 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 13.5 * | 10.5 * | 16.6 * | 1.7 | 25.3 | 0.0 | 25.1 | 0.0 | 35.3 |
| | 1 to 4 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 9.3 * | 12.2 * | 6.3 * | 4.6 | 14.0 | 4.6 | 19.8 | 0.8 | 11.8 |
| | 5 to 14 | 15 | 12 | 3 | 3.8 * | 5.9 * | 1.5 * | 1.9 | 5.7 | 2.6 | 9.3 | 0.0 | 3.2 |
| | 15 to 24 | 266 | 238 | 28 | 76.7 | 129.7 | 17.1 | 67.4 | 85.9 | 113.2 | 146.2 | 10.8 | 23.5 |
| | 25 to 34 | 218 | 195 | 23 | 56.4 | 97.3 | 12.3 | 48.9 | 63.8 | 83.6 | 110.9 | 7.3 | 17.4 |
| | 35 to 44 | 113 | 80 | 33 | 29.8 | 43.5 | 16.9 | 24.3 | 35.3 | 33.9 | 53.0 | 11.1 | 22.7 |
| | 45 to 54 | 50 | 37 | 13 | 19.7 | 31.0 | 9.7 * | 14.2 | 25.2 | 21.0 | 40.9 | 4.4 | 14.9 |
| | 55 to 64 | 22 | 16 | 6 | 14.0 | 21.8 * | 7.2 * | 8.2 | 19.9 | 11.1 | 32.5 | 1.4 | 13.0 |
| | 65 to 74 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 9.7 * | 18.0 * | 3.4 * | 3.7 | 15.7 | 5.5 | 30.5 | 0.0 | 8.1 |
| | 75 to 84 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3.5 * | 9.5 * | 0.0 + | 0.0 | 8.4 | 0.0 | 22.6 | - | - |
| | 85 & Older | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 + | 0.0 + | 0.0 + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Unknown | 1 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 717 | 601 | 116 | 31.2 | 53.0 | 10.0 | 28.9 | 33.5 | 48.7 | 57.2 | 8.2 | 11.8 |
| HISPANIC | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Under 1 | 18 | 10 | 8 | 6.9 * | 7.5 * | 6.3 * | 3.7 | 10.1 | 2.9 | 12.2 | 1.9 | 10.7 |
| | 1 to 4 | 19 | 11 | 8 | 1.8 | 2.1 * | 1.6 * | 1.0 | 2.7 | 0.9 | 3.3 | 0.5 | 2.7 |
| | 5 to 14 | 16 | 14 | 2 | 0.8 * | 1.4 * | 0.2 * | 0.4 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 0.5 |
| | 15 to 24 | 531 | 494 | 37 | 36.0 | 64.5 | 5.2 | 32.9 | 39.1 | 58.8 | 70.2 | 3.5 | 6.9 |
| | 25 to 34 | 326 | 293 | 33 | 17.8 | 28.5 | 4.1 | 15.9 | 19.7 | 25.2 | 31.8 | 2.7 | 5.5 |
| | 35 to 44 | 157 | 132 | 25 | 10.9 | 17.4 | 3.7 | 9.2 | 12.6 | 14.4 | 20.3 | 2.2 | 5.1 |
| | 45 to 54 | 74 | 62 | 12 | 9.3 | 15.3 | 3.0 * | 7.1 | 11.4 | 11.5 | 19.2 | 1.3 | 4.7 |
| | 55 to 64 | 19 | 17 | 2 | 4.4 | 8.1 * | 0.9 * | 2.4 | 6.3 | 4.2 | 11.9 | 0.0 | 2.1 |
| | 65 to 74 | 12 | 9 | 3 | 4.1 * | 6.8 * | 1.9 * | 1.8 | 6.4 | 2.4 | 11.2 | 0.0 | 4.0 |
| | 75 to 84 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3.0 * | 5.6 * | 1.3 * | 0.1 | 5.9 | 0.0 | 11.9 | 0.0 | 3.7 |
| | 85 & Older | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2.0 * | 5.7 * | 0.0 + | 0.0 | 5.9 | 0.0 | 16.9 | - | - |
| | Unknown | 3 | 3 | 0 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 1,180 | 1,049 | 131 | 12.2 | 20.9 | 2.8 | 11.5 | 12.9 | 19.6 | 22.1 | 2.3 | 3.3 |
| WHITE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Under 1 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 3.7 * | 5.2 * | 2.2 * | 1.0 | 6.5 | 0.6 | 9.7 | 0.0 | 5.2 |
| | 1 to 4 | 20 | 9 | 11 | 2.5 | 2.2 * | 2.8 * | 1.4 | 3.6 | 0.8 | 3.6 | 1.2 | 4.5 |
| | 5 to 14 | 27 | 19 | 8 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 0.8 * | 0.8 | 1.7 | 0.9 | 2.5 | 0.2 | 1.3 |
| | 15 to 24 | 121 | 102 | 19 | 6.3 | 10.2 | 2.1 | 5.2 | 7.4 | 8.2 | 12.2 | 1.1 | 3.0 |
| | 25 to 34 | 147 | 114 | 33 | 6.0 | 9.0 | 2.7 | 5.0 | 6.9 | 7.4 | 10.7 | 1.8 | 3.7 |
| | 35 to 44 | 148 | 111 | 37 | 4.9 | 7.2 | 2.5 | 4.1 | 5.6 | 5.8 | 8.5 | 1.7 | 3.3 |
| | 45 to 54 | 102 | 73 | 29 | 4.2 | 6.0 | 2.4 | 3.4 | 5.0 | 4.6 | 7.3 | 1.5 | 3.2 |
| | 55 to 64 | 38 | 27 | 11 | 2.4 | 3.5 | 1.4 * | 1.7 | 3.2 | 2.2 | 4.8 | 0.6 | 2.2 |
| | 65 to 74 | 38 | 25 | 13 | 2.8 | 4.0 | 1.8 * | 1.9 | 3.7 | 2.5 | 5.6 | 0.8 | 2.7 |
| | 75 to 84 | 27 | 11 | 16 | 3.0 | 3.0 * | 2.9 * | 1.8 | 4.1 | 1.2 | 4.8 | 1.5 | 4.4 |
| | 85 & Older | 9 | 3 | 6 | 3.1 * | 3.6 * | 2.9 * | 1.1 | 5.1 | 0.0 | 7.6 | 0.6 | 5.2 |
| | Unknown | 7 | 6 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 691 | 505 | 186 | 4.0 | 5.9 | 2.1 | 3.7 | 4.3 | 5.4 | 6.5 | 1.8 | 2.5 |

Note : Rates are per 100,000 population. ICD-9 codes E960-E969.

White, Black, and Asian/Other exclude Hispanic ethnicity. Hispanic includes any race category.

* Death rate unreliable, relative standard error is greater than or equal to 23%.

+ Standard error indeterminate, death rate based on zero deaths.

- Upper and lower limits at the 95% confidence level are not calculated for zero deaths.

Source : State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic 1997 Population Projections for Counties with Age and Sex Detail. December 1998.
State of California, Department of Health Services, Death Records.

TABLE 4
DEATHS DUE TO HOMICIDE
BY COUNTY
CALIFORNIA, 1995-1997
(By Place of Residence)

| COUNTY | 1995-1997 DEATHS (Average) | PERCENT | 1996 POPULATION | CRUDE RATE | AGE-ADJUSTED RATE | 95% CONFIDENCE LIMITS | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| | | | | | | LOWER | UPPER |
| CALIFORNIA | 3,136.7 | 100.0 | 32,383,811 | 9.7 | 10.6 | 10.3 | 11.0 |
| ALAMEDA | 166.7 | 5.3 | 1,365,041 | 12.2 | 13.5 | 11.3 | 15.6 |
| ALPINE | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1,194 | 0.0 + | 0.0 + | - | - |
| AMADOR | 0.0 | 0.0 | 32,925 | 0.0 + | 0.0 + | - | - |
| BUTTE | 9.3 | 0.3 | 196,522 | 4.7 * | 5.4 * | 1.9 | 9.0 |
| CALAVERAS | 1.3 | a | 36,881 | 3.6 * | 3.6 * | 0.0 | 9.8 |
| COLUSA | 1.0 | a | 18,197 | 5.5 * | 6.6 * | 0.0 | 19.5 |
| CONTRA COSTA | 81.3 | 2.6 | 877,965 | 9.3 | 10.5 | 8.2 | 12.9 |
| DEL NORTE | 2.0 | 0.1 | 27,527 | 7.3 * | 7.3 * | 0.0 | 17.7 |
| EL DORADO | 3.0 | 0.1 | 144,710 | 2.1 * | 2.3 * | 0.0 | 5.0 |
| FRESNO | 97.0 | 3.1 | 769,709 | 12.6 | 13.5 | 10.8 | 16.3 |
| GLENN | 0.3 | a | 26,699 | 1.2 * | 1.2 * | 0.0 | 5.2 |
| HUMBOLDT | 6.0 | 0.2 | 125,100 | 4.8 * | 5.2 * | 1.0 | 9.4 |
| IMPERIAL | 10.3 | 0.3 | 141,229 | 7.3 * | 7.5 * | 2.8 | 12.1 |
| INYO | 0.3 | a | 18,225 | 1.8 * | 3.4 * | 0.0 | 14.7 |
| KERN | 62.3 | 2.0 | 624,092 | 10.0 | 10.6 | 8.0 | 13.3 |
| KINGS | 10.0 | 0.3 | 115,774 | 8.6 * | 8.6 * | 3.2 | 14.0 |
| LAKE | 4.0 | 0.1 | 54,884 | 7.3 * | 7.4 * | 0.0 | 15.3 |
| LASSEN | 1.7 | 0.1 | 32,631 | 5.1 * | 4.5 * | 0.0 | 11.3 |
| LOS ANGELES | 1,465.7 | 46.7 | 9,396,389 | 15.6 | 17.7 | 16.7 | 18.6 |
| MADERA | 11.7 | 0.4 | 110,298 | 10.6 * | 11.1 * | 4.7 | 17.5 |
| MARIN | 5.0 | 0.2 | 239,630 | 2.1 * | 2.5 * | 0.1 | 4.8 |
| MARIPOSA | 1.0 | a | 15,965 | 6.3 * | 9.8 * | 0.0 | 29.1 |
| MENDOCINO | 7.0 | 0.2 | 84,817 | 8.3 * | 8.2 * | 1.9 | 14.5 |
| MERCED | 12.0 | 0.4 | 198,390 | 6.0 * | 6.7 * | 2.9 | 10.5 |
| MODOC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 10,028 | 0.0 + | 0.0 + | - | - |
| MONO | 0.3 | a | 10,565 | 3.2 * | 3.2 * | 0.0 | 14.2 |
| MONTEREY | 31.3 | 1.0 | 360,253 | 8.7 | 10.0 | 6.4 | 13.6 |
| NAPA | 1.7 | 0.1 | 118,949 | 1.4 * | 1.4 * | 0.0 | 3.8 |
| NEVADA | 2.7 | 0.1 | 87,001 | 3.1 * | 3.5 * | 0.0 | 8.2 |
| ORANGE | 136.0 | 4.3 | 2,649,846 | 5.1 | 5.8 | 4.8 | 6.9 |
| PLACER | 7.0 | 0.2 | 209,167 | 3.3 * | 3.6 * | 0.8 | 6.3 |
| PLUMAS | 1.3 | a | 20,239 | 6.6 * | 8.3 * | 0.0 | 23.3 |
| RIVERSIDE | 128.3 | 4.1 | 1,393,289 | 9.2 | 10.4 | 8.5 | 12.2 |
| SACRAMENTO | 101.3 | 3.2 | 1,132,189 | 9.0 | 10.0 | 8.0 | 12.0 |
| SAN BENITO | 0.7 | a | 44,008 | 1.5 * | 1.5 * | 0.0 | 5.1 |
| SAN BERNARDINO | 183.3 | 5.8 | 1,592,711 | 11.5 | 12.4 | 10.6 | 14.2 |
| SAN DIEGO | 168.3 | 5.4 | 2,694,956 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 5.2 | 7.1 |
| SAN FRANCISCO | 63.0 | 2.0 | 768,263 | 8.2 | 9.0 | 6.6 | 11.5 |
| SAN JOAQUIN | 65.7 | 2.1 | 533,177 | 12.3 | 13.5 | 10.2 | 16.9 |
| SAN LUIS OBISPO | 6.7 | 0.2 | 230,691 | 2.9 * | 3.0 * | 0.6 | 5.3 |
| SAN MATEO | 31.7 | 1.0 | 698,042 | 4.5 | 5.3 | 3.4 | 7.2 |
| SANTA BARBARA | 16.3 | 0.5 | 393,716 | 4.1 * | 4.3 * | 2.1 | 6.4 |
| SANTA CLARA | 53.7 | 1.7 | 1,638,352 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 2.6 | 4.6 |
| SANTA CRUZ | 7.0 | 0.2 | 243,657 | 2.9 * | 3.0 * | 0.7 | 5.3 |
| SHASTA | 9.7 | 0.3 | 161,688 | 6.0 * | 6.5 * | 2.2 | 10.7 |
| SIERRA | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3,401 | 0.0 + | 0.0 + | - | - |
| SISKIYOU | 3.0 | 0.1 | 43,945 | 6.8 * | 7.5 * | 0.0 | 16.3 |
| SOLANO | 25.7 | 0.8 | 372,493 | 6.9 | 7.3 | 4.4 | 10.2 |
| SONOMA | 12.7 | 0.4 | 424,481 | 3.0 * | 3.3 * | 1.4 | 5.2 |
| STANISLAUS | 36.3 | 1.2 | 418,455 | 8.7 | 9.2 | 6.2 | 12.2 |
| SUTTER | 4.0 | 0.1 | 74,591 | 5.4 * | 5.3 * | 0.0 | 10.7 |
| TEHAMA | 3.7 | 0.1 | 54,353 | 6.7 * | 8.4 * | 0.0 | 17.2 |
| TRINITY | 1.7 | 0.1 | 13,328 | 12.5 * | 16.5 * | 0.0 | 43.7 |
| TULARE | 32.7 | 1.0 | 353,645 | 9.2 | 10.0 | 6.5 | 13.5 |
| TUOLUMNE | 0.3 | a | 51,583 | 0.6 * | 0.6 * | 0.0 | 2.6 |
| VENTURA | 30.3 | 1.0 | 714,845 | 4.2 | 4.7 | 3.0 | 6.4 |
| YOLO | 6.7 | 0.2 | 152,535 | 4.4 * | 4.3 * | 1.0 | 7.6 |
| YUBA | 4.7 | 0.1 | 60,575 | 7.7 * | 8.6 * | 0.7 | 16.5 |

Note : Rates are per 100,000 population. ICD-9 codes E960-E969.

* Death rate unreliable, relative standard error is greater than or equal to 23%.

+ Standard error indeterminate, death rate based on zero deaths.

- Upper and lower limits at the 95% confidence level are not calculated for zero deaths.

a Represents a percentage of more than zero but less than 0.05.

Source : State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population Estimates by County with Age and Sex Detail, 1970-1996, December 1998.
State of California, Department of Health Services, Death Records.

**TABLE 5
POPULATION PROJECTIONS
BY RACE/ETHNICITY, SEX, AND AGE
CALIFORNIA, 1997**

| RACE/ ETHNICITY | TOTAL | AGE GROUPS | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | | Under 1 | 1 to 4 | 5 to 14 | 15 to 24 | 25 to 34 | 35 to 44 | 45 to 54 | 55 to 64 | 65 to 74 | 75 to 84 | 85 & Older |
| TOTAL | 32,956,588 | 546,131 | 2,249,298 | 5,126,178 | 4,286,123 | 5,295,602 | 5,515,973 | 3,967,625 | 2,429,264 | 1,946,517 | 1,202,900 | 390,977 |
| MALE | 16,526,191 | 279,304 | 1,150,795 | 2,623,010 | 2,230,566 | 2,801,396 | 2,804,567 | 1,968,640 | 1,181,279 | 880,656 | 485,972 | 120,006 |
| FEMALE | 16,430,397 | 266,827 | 1,098,503 | 2,503,168 | 2,055,557 | 2,494,206 | 2,711,406 | 1,998,985 | 1,247,985 | 1,065,861 | 716,928 | 270,971 |
| ASIAN/OTHER | 3,778,911 | 61,048 | 253,970 | 590,572 | 547,654 | 611,613 | 650,006 | 466,296 | 270,313 | 195,736 | 101,250 | 30,453 |
| MALE | 1,857,107 | 31,238 | 130,697 | 302,505 | 281,371 | 308,552 | 312,746 | 221,016 | 127,549 | 85,009 | 43,392 | 13,032 |
| FEMALE | 1,921,804 | 29,810 | 123,273 | 288,067 | 266,283 | 303,061 | 337,260 | 245,280 | 142,764 | 110,727 | 57,858 | 17,421 |
| BLACK | 2,298,425 | 37,118 | 161,406 | 399,123 | 346,981 | 386,835 | 379,215 | 253,810 | 156,691 | 103,210 | 56,622 | 17,414 |
| MALE | 1,134,572 | 18,999 | 81,910 | 202,091 | 183,464 | 200,505 | 184,086 | 119,474 | 73,379 | 44,398 | 21,083 | 5,183 |
| FEMALE | 1,163,853 | 18,119 | 79,496 | 197,032 | 163,517 | 186,330 | 195,129 | 134,336 | 83,312 | 58,812 | 35,539 | 12,231 |
| HISPANIC | 9,700,944 | 259,482 | 1,033,436 | 1,950,967 | 1,474,904 | 1,830,949 | 1,440,680 | 799,904 | 434,968 | 292,243 | 133,418 | 49,993 |
| MALE | 5,026,168 | 132,657 | 526,924 | 995,128 | 766,061 | 1,027,720 | 760,047 | 403,910 | 210,015 | 132,556 | 53,617 | 17,533 |
| FEMALE | 4,674,776 | 126,825 | 506,512 | 955,839 | 708,843 | 803,229 | 680,633 | 395,994 | 224,953 | 159,687 | 79,801 | 32,460 |
| WHITE | 17,178,308 | 188,483 | 800,486 | 2,185,516 | 1,916,584 | 2,466,205 | 3,046,072 | 2,447,615 | 1,567,292 | 1,355,328 | 911,610 | 293,117 |
| MALE | 8,508,344 | 96,410 | 411,264 | 1,123,286 | 999,670 | 1,264,619 | 1,547,688 | 1,224,240 | 770,336 | 618,693 | 367,880 | 84,258 |
| FEMALE | 8,669,964 | 92,073 | 389,222 | 1,062,230 | 916,914 | 1,201,586 | 1,498,384 | 1,223,375 | 796,956 | 736,635 | 543,730 | 208,859 |

Note : White, Black, and Asian/Other exclude Hispanic ethnicity. Hispanic includes any race category.

Source : State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic 1997 Population Projections for Counties with Age and Sex Detail. December 1998.

Notes:

The homicide death data presented in this report is ICD-9 codes E960-E969.

The term “significant” within the text indicates either statistically significant based on the slope of a least-squares line not equal to zero ($p < .05$), or statistically significant based on the difference between two independent rates ($p < .05$).

As with any vital statistics data, caution needs to be exercised when analyzing small numbers, including the rates derived from them. Death rates calculated from a small number of deaths and/or population tend to be unreliable and subject to significant variation from one year to the next. To assist the reader, 95 percent confidence intervals are provided in the data tables as a tool for measuring the reliability of the death rates. Rates with a relative standard error (coefficient of variation) greater than or equal to 23 percent are indicated with an “*” (asterisk). Also, three-year averages were used in Table 4 (page 8) to increase the reliability of the rates derived from small numbers, and to reduce the year-to-year variability inherent among these rates.

The four race/ethnic groups presented in the tables are mutually exclusive. White, Black, and Asian/Other exclude Hispanic ethnicity, while Hispanic includes any race/ethnic group. In order to remain consistent with the population data obtained from the Department of Finance, the “White race/ethnic group” includes: White, Other (specified), Not Stated, and Unknown; and the “Asian/Other race/ethnic group” includes: Aleut, American Indian, Asian Indian, Asian (specified/unspecified), Cambodian, Chinese, Eskimo, Filipino, Guamanian, Hawaiian, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Other Pacific Islander, Samoan, Thai, and Laotian. Race/ethnic data are not presented for years prior to 1985 due to the unavailability of mutually exclusive data for Hispanics and Whites. In addition, caution should be exercised in the interpretation of mortality data by race/ethnicity. Misclassification of race/ethnicity on the death certificate may contribute to death rates that may be underestimated among Hispanics and Asian/Other.⁵

The method used to analyze vital statistics data is also important. Analyzing only the number of deaths has its disadvantages and can be misleading because the population at risk is not taken into consideration. Crude death rates, on the other hand, show the actual rate of dying in a given population, but the age composition of that population is not taken into consideration. Therefore, the use of age-adjusted death rates becomes the preferred method for measuring death rates over time, and for comparing death rates between race/ethnic groups, sex, and geographic areas. For homicide as the cause of death, the victims tend to be younger than for other leading causes such as heart disease or diabetes. Consequently, the effect of age-adjusting is less significant, and the homicide age-adjusted death rates are relatively similar to their crude rates. The 1940 United States (standard million) population was used as the basis for age-adjusting in this report.

For a more complete explanation of the age-adjusting methodology see the *Healthy People 2000 Statistical Notes* publication.⁶ Detailed information on data quality and limitations as well as the formulas used to calculate vital statistics rates are presented in the appendix of the annual report, *Vital Statistics of California*.⁷ Another source of information is the Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics Home Page [www.dhs.ca.gov/org/hisp/chs/chsindex.htm].

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