

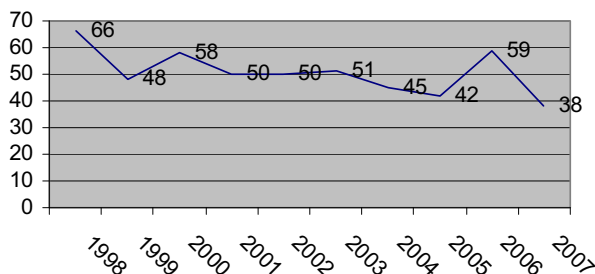
MURDER

“The willful killing of one human being by another.” (Does not include Negligent Manslaughter or Justifiable Homicide)

2007 MURDER	
Number of Victims	38
Adjusted Rate	1.3
Number of Incidents	35
Number of Offenders	35

**MURDER VICTIMS
1998 - 2007**

Figure 24

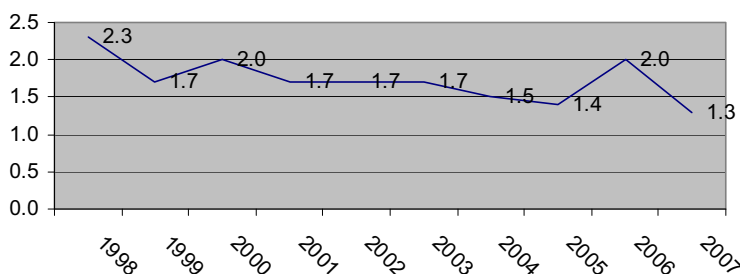


There were 38 murders reported in 2007, which is a new record low since the Department became the repository for crime data in 1974. The previous recorded low was in 2005 (42). The highest number of murder victims was recorded in 1981 (77). It is difficult to identify a trend in murders because of the relatively small numbers involved. However, murders generally increased from 1992 (44) to a period peak in 1996 (66) and 1998 (66) before declining substantially in 1999 (48).

The number of victims peaked again in 2000 (58) before a general decline to 2005 (42) where a new low had been recorded. The number of murder victims then spiked again in 2006 (59) to the highest recorded level since 1998 (66).

**MURDER
ADJUSTED RATES 1998 - 2007**

Figure 25

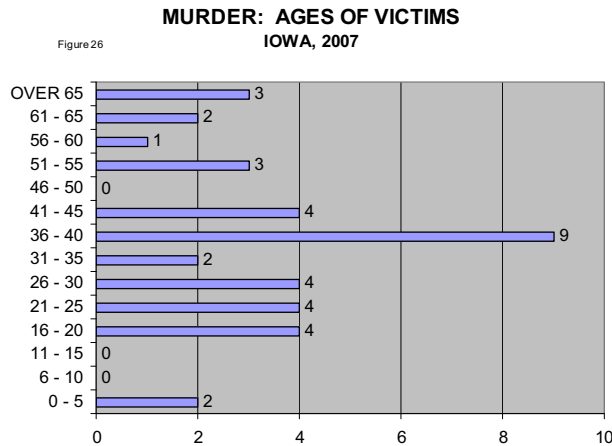


Similar to the trends found in the total above, murder rates per 100,000 population for the years 1998 – 2007 are displayed in Figure 25.

NOTE: Since statewide crime reporting was instituted, supplemental homicide reports have been submitted by law enforcement agencies to the Iowa Department of Public Safety. These reports contained more detailed homicide information than was required by the summary based crime reporting system. Since the inception of the incident-based system in 1991, supplemental homicide reports have been requested (when applicable) of law enforcement agencies that have not been able to report to the incident-based system.

VICTIMS

Who were they...



In 2007, victims under the age of 20 recorded the lowest percentage (16%) of victims since 1991, when the request for supplemental homicide reports for the incident-based system began. The highest percentage of victims under the age of 20 was recorded in 1997 at 37%.

Figure 26 shows the ages of the 38 murder victims during 2007. The age category 36 – 40 accounted for the highest number of victims (9), which is 24% of the total number of victims. There were four age categories that recorded the next highest number of victims (4): 16 – 20, 21 – 25, 26 – 30, and 41 – 45. In 2007, 5% of the victims were aged 5 and under, which is a decrease from recent years: 7% in 2006, 14% in 2005, 7% in 2004, and 16% in 2003.

Table 9 GENDER OF VICTIMS

Year	Female	%	Male	%	Total
1998	33	50	33	50	66
1999	16	33	32	67	48
2000	20	34	38	66	58
2001	21	42	29	58	50
2002	18	36	32	64	50
2003	22	43	29	57	51
2004	16	36	29	64	45
2005	20	48	22	52	42
2006	29	49	30	51	59
2007	12	32	26	68	38

MURDER: GENDER OF VICTIMS
IOWA, 2007

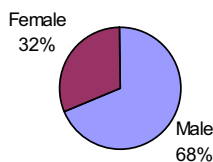


Figure 27

Males were the victim of homicide most often over the last decade. In 1998, the victim's gender was evenly distributed, but all other years in the past decade show a higher percentage of male victims. In 1993 (not shown), female victims accounted for 53% of the total. In 2007, males accounted for 68% of the total number of victims, which is a decade high.

YEAR	ASIAN		AFRICAN AM.		NATIVE AM.		WHITE		UNKNOWN		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
1998	3	5%	8	12%	0	0%	55	83%	0	0%	66
1999	3	6%	8	17%	1	2%	36	75%	0	0%	48
2000	3	5%	10	17%	0	0%	45	78%	0	0%	58
2001	2	4%	5	10%	0	0%	43	86%	0	0%	50
2002	1	2%	11	22%	1	2%	37	74%	0	0%	50
2003	0	0%	9	18%	1	2%	41	80%	0	0%	51
2004	1	2%	9	20%	0	0%	35	78%	0	0%	45
2005	0	0%	8	19%	0	0%	32	76%	2	5%	42
2006	0	0%	6	10%	0	0%	53	90%	0	0%	59
2007	0	0%	13	34%	0	0%	25	66%	0	0%	38

**MURDER: RACE OF VICTIMS
IOWA, 2007**

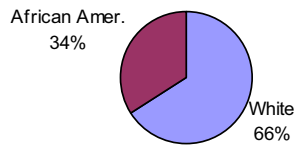


Figure 28

In 2006, African American murder victims accounted for 10% of the total, the same percentage recorded in 2001, which is the lowest percentage recorded since 1991 when the request for supplemental homicide reports for the incident-based system began. However, in 2007 the percentage spiked to 34%, which is the highest percentage recorded. White victims accounted for 66%, which is the lowest percentage recorded for the decade. The two Hispanic victims are recorded as White for their race.

There were two reported Hispanic murder victims in 2007, which is 5% of the total number of victims for the year. This is the lowest percentage since 1998 when 3% of the murder victims were Hispanic.

**MURDER: HISPANIC VICTIMS
1998 - 2007**

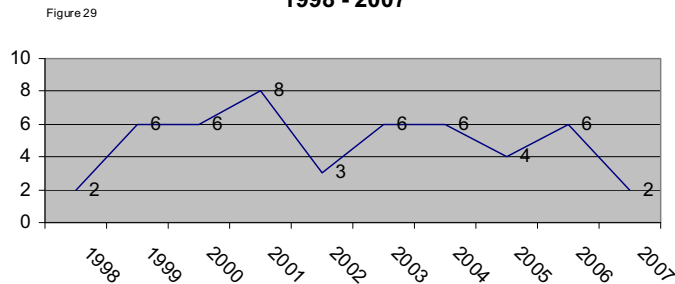
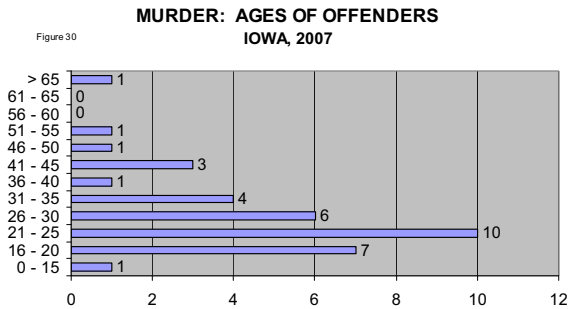


Figure 29

OFFENDERS

2007 OFFENDERS	
Number of Offenders	35
Number of Arrests	22



There are 35 known offenders, who participated in the murder of the 38 victims in 2007. Among those 35 offenders there were 22 arrests recorded. In some cases supplemental information was not received on the arrest of offenders, so it is possible that not all arrest information was recorded.

In 2007, 10 of the 35 known offenders were in the age category 21 – 25, which is 29% of the total. Sixty-six percent of the offenders were between ages 16 and 30. Over the last decade offenders between the ages of 16 and 30 have been the most reported group. Specifically, the offenders in this age range were reported 57% of the time in 2006, 65% in 2004, 58% in 2003, 71% in 2002, 55% in 2001, 60% in 2000, 49% in 1999, and 65% in 1998. The only exception is in 2005 when 52% of the known offenders were recorded between the ages of 21 and 35.

Table 11 GENDER OF OFFENDERS

Year	Female	%	Male	%	Total
1998	9	13	60	87	69
1999	5	13	34	87	39
2000	9	14	53	86	62
2001	12	25	35	75	47
2002	10	15	56	85	66
2003	8	13	52	87	60
2004	4	7	51	93	55
2005	10	19	44	81	54
2006	3	5	53	95	56
2007	7	20	28	80	35

MURDER: GENDER OF OFFENDERS
IOWA, 2007

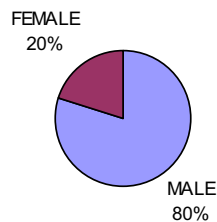


Figure 31

In 2006, female offenders recorded the lowest percentage (5%) since 1993 (not shown) when females accounted for 4%. The percentage of female offenders increased to 20% in 2007, which is the highest percentage since 2001 (25%). Males still continue to account for the majority of murder offenders.

YEAR	ASIAN		AFRICAN AM.		NATIVE AM.		WHITE		UNKNOWN		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
1998	5	7%	16	23%	0	0%	48	70%	0	0%	69
1999	3	8%	5	13%	2	5%	29	74%	0	0%	39
2000	1	2%	12	20%	0	0%	49	79%	0	0%	62
2001	2	4%	10	21%	0	0%	35	75%	0	0%	47
2002	0	0%	25	38%	1	2%	39	59%	1	2%	66
2003	0	0%	16	27%	3	5%	41	68%	0	0%	60
2004	1	2%	23	42%	1	2%	30	55%	0	0%	55
2005	0	0%	15	28%	0	0%	33	61%	6	11%	54
2006	0	0%	8	14%	0	0%	48	86%	0	0%	56
2007	0	0%	16	46%	1	3%	18	51%	0	0%	35

**MURDER: RACE OF OFFENDERS
IOWA, 2007**

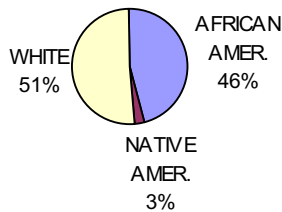


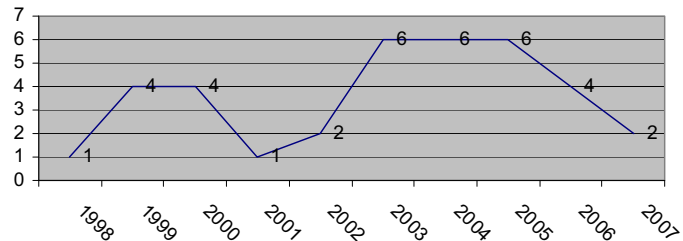
Figure 32

The percentage of White offenders (51%) decreased by 41% from 2006 to 2007, recording a new low. After setting a record high in 2004, African American offenders decreased in percentage totals until 2006 (14%), which was the lowest recorded percentage since 1999. In 2007, the percentage of African American offenders increased to a record high 46%.

In 2007, two of the white offenders were identified as being Hispanic. The reported number of Hispanic offenders has decreased since 2005 where it had held steady at six offenders for three years in a row.

**MURDER: HISPANIC OFFENDERS
1998 - 2007**

Figure 33



JUVENILES INVOLVED IN HOMICIDE

Juvenile victims were at the lowest recorded number for the decade with three homicides. The year also recorded three juvenile offenders including a 15 year old female, and two males aged 16 and 17. The decade high for juvenile victims was in 2000 with fifteen deaths, eleven of which were under the age of 5. The decade high for juvenile offenders was in 2002 with nine young persons involved in the commission of a murder: one 15 year old, four 16 year olds, and four 17 year olds.

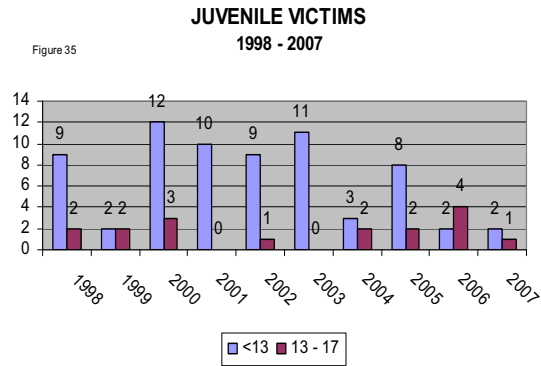
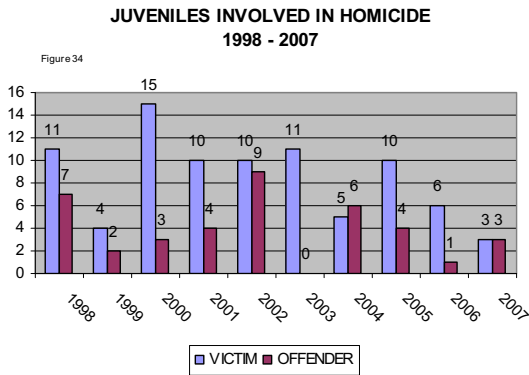


Table 13

**JUVENILES INVOLVED IN HOMICIDE
BY AGE, 1998 - 2008**

YEAR	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
TOTAL HOM.	66		48		58		50		50		51		45		45		59		38	
JUV. HOM.	11	7	4	2	15	3	10	4	10	9	11	0	5	6	10	4	6	1	3	3
AGE	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF
0-5	7		2		11		4		6		8		3		6		2		2	
6							2		2		1				1					
7	2																			
8							1				1									
9							1		1		1									
10																				
11					1		1													
12							1													
13				1	1										1		1			
14																2	1			
15	1		1	1		1				1							1			1
16		3	1		1					4				5		1		1	1	1
17	1	4			1	2		4	1	4			2	1	1	1	1			1
UNK																				

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN VICTIM AND OFFENDER

MURDER: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS IOWA, 2007

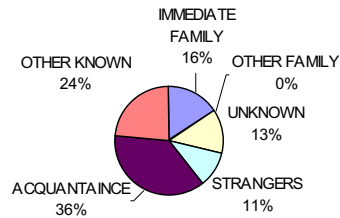


Figure 36

No victim/offender relationship was identified in five of the cases due to no known offender being recorded. Several of the incidents also had more than one offender listed. There were 38 victim/offender relationships identified, 37% of which were recorded as Acquaintance. Boyfriend/Girlfriend accounted for the second highest category at 18%. Offenders identified as Immediate Family decreased to its lowest percentage for the decade, specifically from 2006 (27%) to 2007 (16%). This category peaked in 1998 accounting for 35% of the total.

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Spouse	8	4	5	5	6	2	2	1	5	2
CL Spouse	3		3	4			1	1		
Parent/Step	3		1		2	3	1		5	2
Sibling/Step	1						3	2	4	1
Child/Step	7	4	9	4	6	7	2	5	3	1
Other Family	1	2		1	1	2	2	1		
Sub	23	10	18	14	15	14	11	10	17	6
Acquaintance	19	7	12	20	14	10	8	3	14	14
Friend		1	4		1	2	1	1	2	
Neighbor	1					2			2	1
Babysittee/er	1		1			1				1
B/G Friend	2	1	2	0	5	5	3	6	7	7
Child of B/G Fr	2		1		1	1			1	
Other Known		4	1	2	1	3	3	10	6	
Homosexual										
X Spouse		1	2	1				1	2	
Employer/ee						1				
Sub	25	14	23	23	22	25	15	21	34	23
Stranger	3	2	9	4	5	3	4	3	3	4
Unknown	15	21	8	9	8	9	15	8	10	5
Sub	18	24	17	13	13	12	19	11	13	9
Total	66	48	58	50	50	51	45	42	64	38

MURDER CIRCUMSTANCES

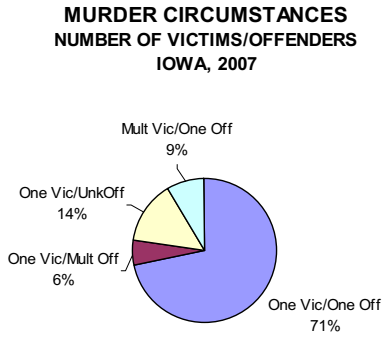


Figure 37

Figure 37 shows the 2007 murder situations broken down by number of victims and offenders for each incident. One victim/one offender accounted for 71% of the situations, which is the highest percentage since 1997 (73%, not shown). There were three incidents of multiple victims/one offender and two cases of one victim/multiple offenders. A relationship was identified in 86% of the cases.

Table 15 MURDER CIRCUMSTANCES: NUMBER OF VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
One Vic/One Off	39	22	36	25	31	31	26	19	34	25
One Vic/Mult Off	11	6	7	9	10	7	8	12	7	2
One Vic/UnkOff	7	12	4	6	1	5	5	3	3	5
Mult Vic/One Off	4	3	3	2	3	3	2	4	4	3
Mult Vic/Mult Off	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Mult Vic/Unk Off	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Total	61	44	51	43	46	47	42	38	49	35

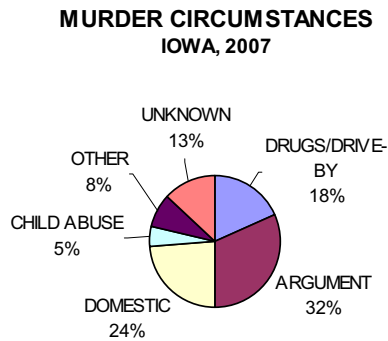


Figure 38

Escalating arguments accounted for 32% (12 of 38) of the murder circumstances in 2007. Domestic murders accounted for the second highest percentage (24%) with 9 reported incidents. Drug related circumstances accounted for 18% (7 of 38). Child Abuse circumstances recorded the same number of victims as in 2006, but this is a decrease from previous years: 2005 was 16%, 2004 was 7%, and 2003 was 19%.

MURDER WEAPONS

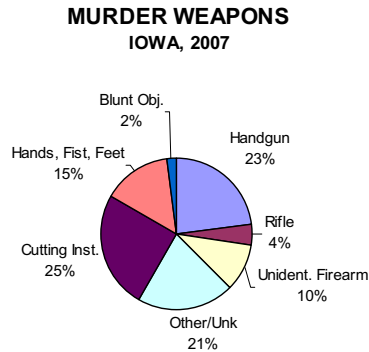
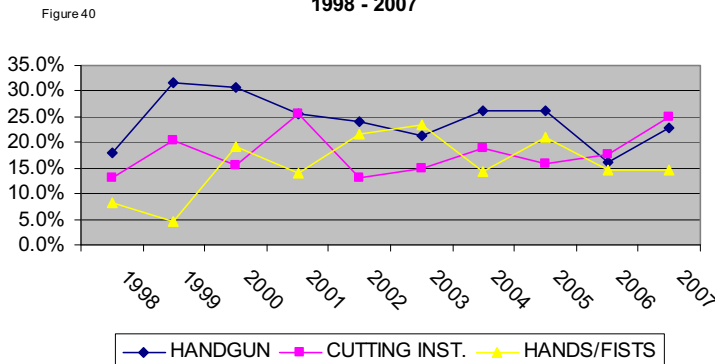


Figure 39

The combined Firearm category accounted for 37.5% of weapons used during the commission of a murder. Handguns (11 of 18) were the most used firearm. Knives or Cutting Instruments accounted for 25% (12 of 48) of the total, which was the most often used weapon. Handguns were used more often than Cutting Instruments in 2003 to 2005, but Cutting Instruments have surpassed Handguns for the past two years.

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Handgun	10	21.3	11	26.2	10	26.3	11	16.2	11	22.9
Rifle	1	2.1	1	2.4	1	2.6	2	2.9	2	4.2
Shotgun	2	4.3	3	7.1	2	5.3	7	10.3	0	0.0
Unident. Firearm	6	12.8	6	14.3	5	13.2	9	13.2	5	10.4
<i>Firearm Total</i>	19	40.4	21	50.0	18	47.4	29	42.6	18	37.5
Cutting Inst.	7	14.9	8	19.0	6	15.8	12	17.6	12	25.0
Hands, Fist, Feet	11	23.4	6	14.3	8	21.1	10	14.7	7	14.6
Blunt Obj.	6	12.8	2	4.8	3	7.9	1	1.5	1	2.1
Arson	1	2.1	0	0.0	1	2.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other/Unk	3	6.4	5	11.9	2	5.3	16	23.5	10	20.8
TOTAL	47		42		38		68		48	

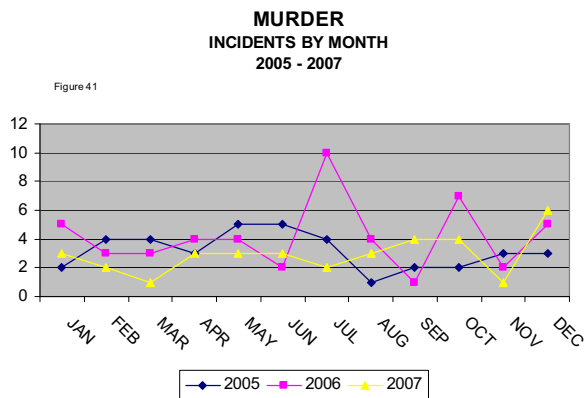
MURDER WEAPON COMPARISON 1998 - 2007



Over the last decade Handguns, Cutting Instruments, and Hands/Feet/etc. have consistently been the most commonly used weapon. Figure 40 shows a comparison of the change in usage of those weapons over the last decade.

WHEN

Usually no clear pattern emerges when comparing previous years' murder incidents by month. In 2007, the most incidents occurred in December and the least were in November and March. In 2006, the most incidents occurred in July however, the most victims were killed in October due to two incidents that had multiple victims. In 2005, May and June had the highest number of incidents with five each. January and February were the highest months in 2004. In 2003, August and January accounted for the highest number of murder incidents. The least number of murder incidents varied by year as well with September being the lowest month in 2006, August in 2005, September in 2004, and April and May in 2003.



MURDER: INCIDENTS BY MONTH					
Table 17 2003 - 2007					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
JAN	8	6	2	5	3
FEB	5	6	4	3	2
MAR	2	5	4	3	1
APR	1	2	3	4	3
MAY	1	3	5	4	3
JUN	2	2	5	2	3
JUL	6	2	4	10	2
AUG	9	4	1	4	3
SEP	4	0	2	1	4
OCT	5	3	2	7	4
NOV	0	5	3	2	1
DEC	4	4	3	5	6
TOTAL	47	42	38	50	35

DAY OF INCIDENTS

Over the last five years no specific day of the week has been identified as having more murder incidents. Saturday, with 10 incidents was the most reported day of the week for a murder to occur in 2007. In 2006, the most reported day was Sunday with 13 incidents. Sunday and Monday, each with 8, were the most common day in 2005. In 2004, Tuesday had twelve incidents, which was the highest day. In 2003, Thursday was the most recorded day with 12 incidents.

The least reported day showed some similarities with Tuesday having the least amount of occurrences in three of the years: 2007 had no occurrences, 2006 had 4 incidents, and 2003 had 3 incidents.

WHERE

**MURDER INCIDENT LOCATIONS
IOWA, 2007**

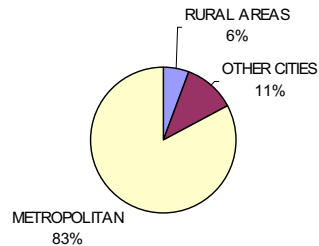
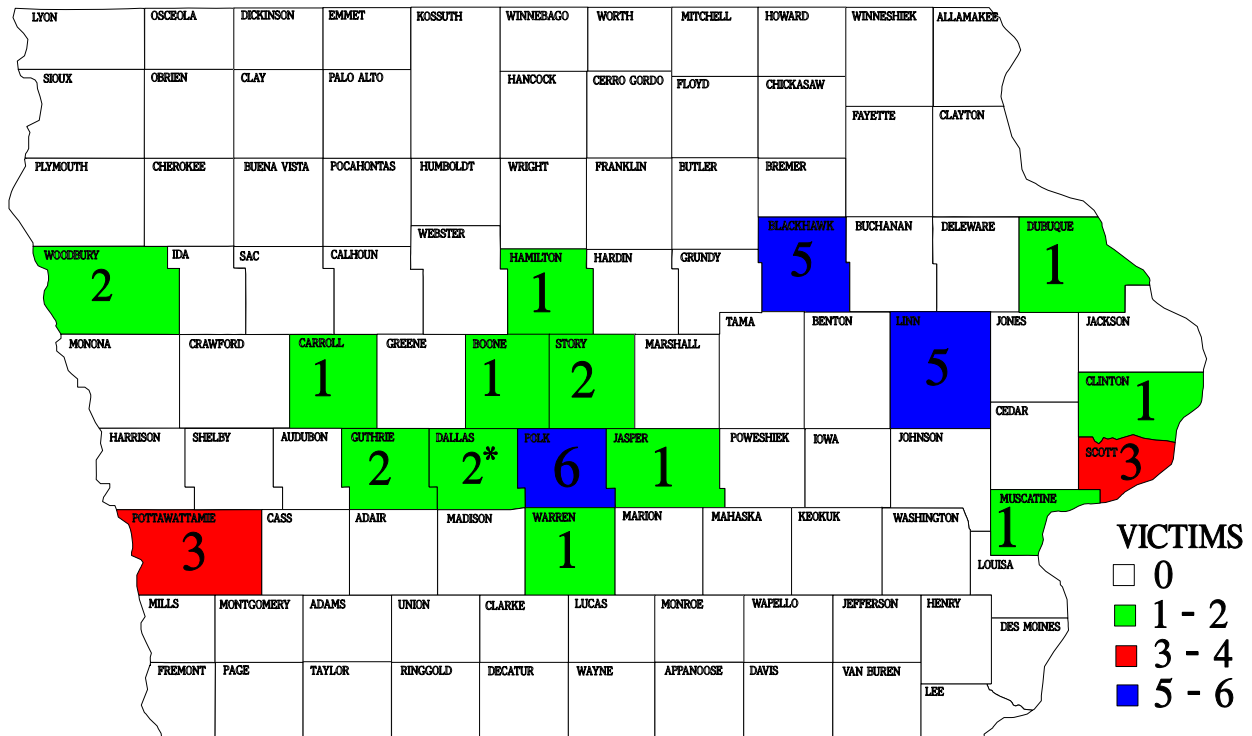


Figure 42

Metropolitan incidents accounted for 83% of the murders in 2007, which is an increase from recent years. In 2006, Metropolitan incidents accounted for 52% of the total and 55% in 2005. In 2004, Metropolitan areas recorded 79% of the homicide incidents. In 2003, 72% of the homicide incidents occurred in Metropolitan areas. Jurisdictions were re-classified in 2003 to account for growth. Refer to page 6 of the introduction for specific changes.

“Other” refers to the cities, usually over 2,500 population, which submit their own statistical data. Rural areas are the county sheriffs’ jurisdictions that are not in a Metropolitan area. Rural county sheriffs’ offices recorded two murder incidents in 2007 and “other cities” recorded four incidents.

2007 HOMICIDES BY COUNTY



*Both homicides were reported through West Des Moines Police Department, whose crime data is recorded under Polk County. However, the homicides both occurred within Dallas County.