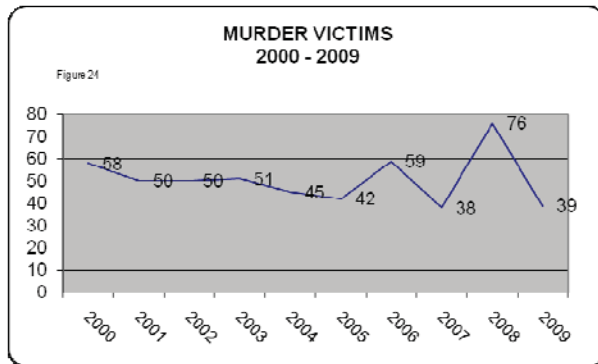


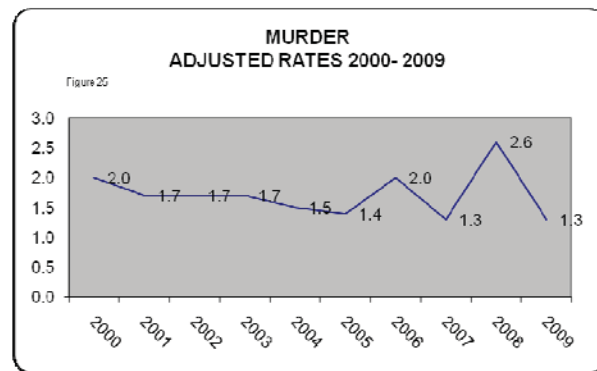
# MURDER

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



The State of Iowa has relatively low numbers of homicides each year, which makes it difficult to identify a trend. However, certain periods of increase and decrease have been identified since the Department became the repository for crime data in 1974. Murders generally increased from 1992 (44) to a period peak in 1996 (66) and 1998 (66) before declining substantially in 1999 (48). During the last decade the number of

murders generally declined from 2000 (58) through 2005 (42) with the exception of a very slight increase from 2002 to 2003. However, in the last four years we have seen a series of spikes and valleys resulting in a new recorded low number of victims in 2007 (38) followed by the second highest number recorded in 2008 (76). The number of victims recorded in 2009 (39) marked an equally significant decrease. Despite the fact that the relatively low numbers accentuate the increases and decreases, questions arise about why the spikes and valleys over the last four years have been so dramatic.



In 2008, nationally the homicide rate decreased approximately 2%. There were a handful of states that showed around a 50% increase, but the remaining states showed relatively normal rates of change. Part of the increased number of homicide victims in Iowa may be explained by a dramatic increase of juvenile victims (17), including eleven aged five and under. There were six juvenile victims in 2006, three in 2007, and six in 2009. Another explanation could be the increase of multiple victim homicides (15). There were five multiple victim homicides in 2006, three in 2007 and two in 2009.

**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...

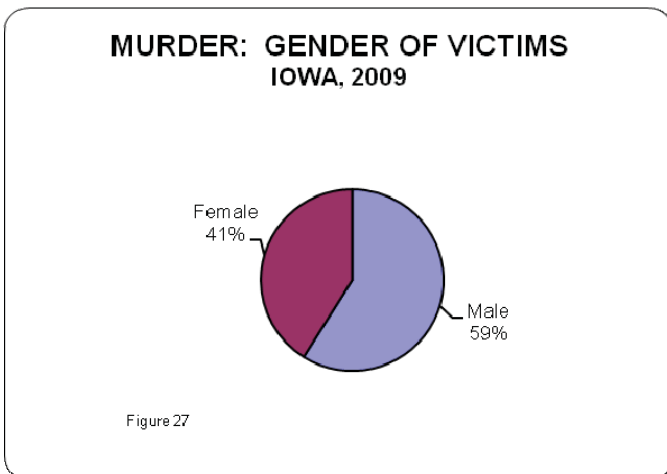


Figure 26 shows the ages of the 39 victims killed in 2009. The age category 36 - 40 accounted for the highest number of victims (6), which accounts for 15.4% of the total number of victims. Four age categories recorded the next highest number of victims (5): 0 – 5, 21 – 25, 26 – 30, and 41 – 45. In 2008, victims aged 5 and under accounted for the largest number of victims followed by the age group 41 – 45. In 2007, victims aged 36 – 40 accounted for the largest number.

The age group 61 – 65 recorded the largest victim increase with no victims recorded in 2008, but three victims recorded in 2009.

Victims over the age of 50 increased in 2009 accounting for 18% compared with 13.2% recorded in 2008. However, the number was much higher in 2007 accounting for 23.6% of the total.

Year	Female	%	Male	%	Total
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
2008	30	39	46	61	76
2009	16	41	23	59	39

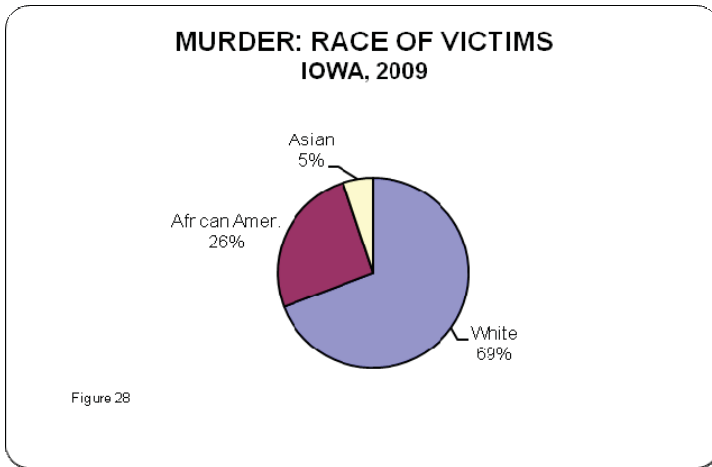


Males were the victim of homicide most often over the last decade. In 1998, victim gender was evenly distributed, but all other years since have shown a higher percentage of male victims. In 1993 (not shown), female victims accounted for 53% of the total. In 2009, males accounted for 59% of the total number of victims, which is a decrease from 2008 when 61% were male. In 2007, male victims recorded their highest percentage while females were at a decade low.

YEAR	ASIAN		AFRICAN AMER		NATIVE AMER		WHITE		UNKNOWN		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
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
2008	5	7%	18	24%	1	1%	49	64%	3	4%	76
2009	2	5%	10	26%	0	0%	27	69%	0	0%	39

The lowest percentage of African American murder victims recorded since 1991, when the request for supplemental homicide reports for the incident-based system began, were in

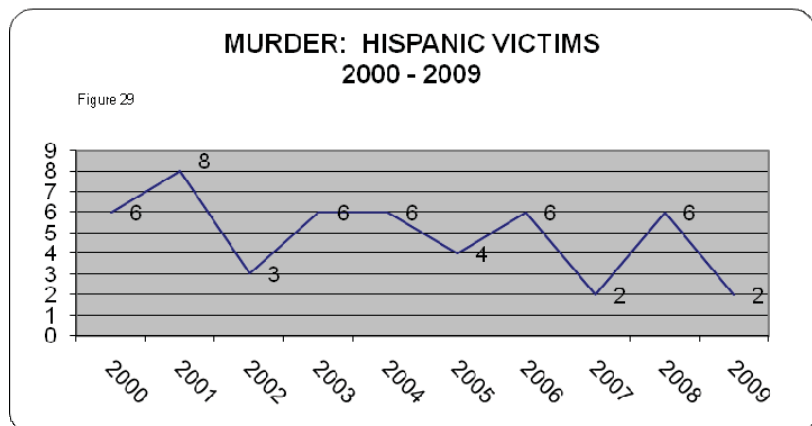
2001 and 2006 when they accounted for only 10% of the total. In 2007, the percentage spiked to 34%, which is the highest percentage recorded. The number of African American victims declined from 2008 to 2009, but the percentage increased slightly from 24% to 26%.



In 2009, White victims accounted for 69% of the total, which is the lowest percentage recorded for the decade. Asian victims recorded a

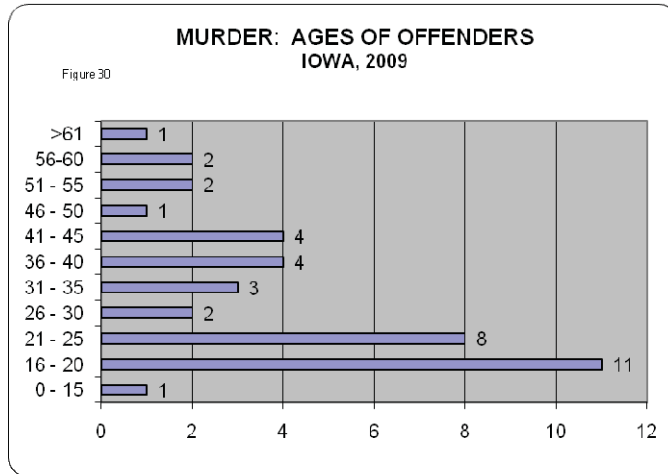
decade high 7% in 2008. Four of the five Asian victims were children in the same family and were killed in the same incident. There were two Asian victims in 2009, a slight decrease from 2008, but still the second highest percentage recorded.

There were two reported Hispanic murder victims in 2009, accounting for 5% of the total number of victims for the year. The two Hispanic victims are recorded under White for their race.



# OFFENDERS

2009 OFFENDERS	
Number of Offenders	39
Number of Arrests	32



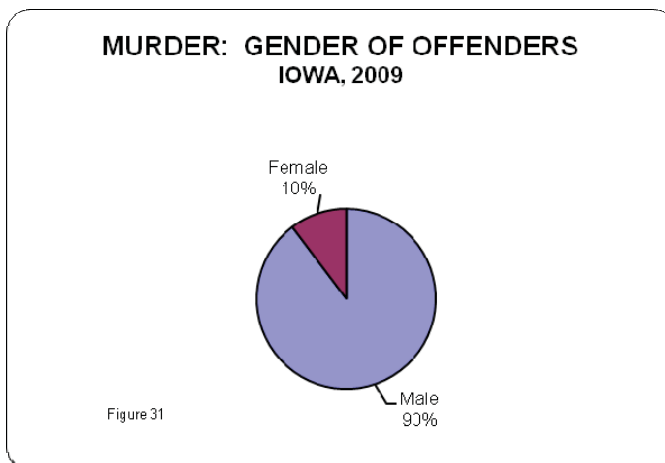
one offender and two incidents show no known offender information.

In 2009, 11 of the 39 offenders were in the age category 16 – 20, which accounts for 28.2% of the total. Over the last decade offenders between the ages of 16 and 30 have been the most reported group. In 2009, 48% of the offenders were in that age range. Specifically, the offenders in this age range were reported 52% of the time in 2008, 66% in 2007, 57% in 2006, 65% in 2004, 58% in 2003, 71% in 2002, 55% in 2001, and 60% in 2000. The only exception is in 2005 when 52% of the known offenders were recorded between the ages of 21 and 35.

There are 39 known offenders, who committed the murder of the 39 victims in 2009. Among those 39 offenders there were 32 arrests recorded. In some cases supplemental information was not received on the arrest of offender(s), so it is possible that not all arrest information was recorded. There were two incidents in which three offenders were responsible for the murder of one victim. Two incidents reported two victims for

**Table 11 GENDER OF OFFENDERS**

Year	Female	%	Male	%	Total
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
2008	9	16	49	84	58
2009	4	10	35	90	39



In 2009, female offenders accounted for 10% of the total number. The lowest percentage of female offenders was recorded in 1993 when females accounted for 4%. The highest percentage of female offenders was recorded in 2001 (25%). Males continue to account for the majority of murder offenders. The decade high was in 2006 when males accounted for 95% of the offenders.

YEAR	ASIAN		AFRICAN AMER		NATIVE AMER		WHITE		UNKNOWN		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
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
2008	1	2%	19	33%	0	0%	37	63%	1	2%	58
2009	1	2.5%	12	31%	1	2.5%	25	64%	0	0%	39

**MURDER: RACE OF OFFENDERS  
IOWA, 2009**

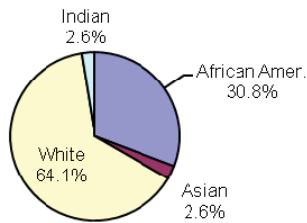


Figure 32

Following a marked decrease from 2006 to 2007, White offenders increased to 63% in 2008 and then 64% of the total number of offenders in 2009. The percentage of African American offenders decreased to 33% in 2008 after having set a decade high 46% in 2007. The percentage decreased to 31% in 2009. The Native American and Asian race each recorded one offender.

In 2009, four of the white offenders were identified as being Hispanic. Hispanic offenders accounted for 10.3% of the total in 2009, which is an increase from the 6.6% reported in 2008.

**MURDER: HISPANIC OFFENDERS  
2000 - 2009**

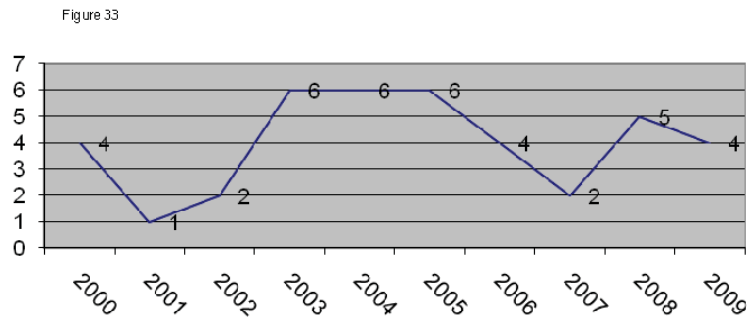
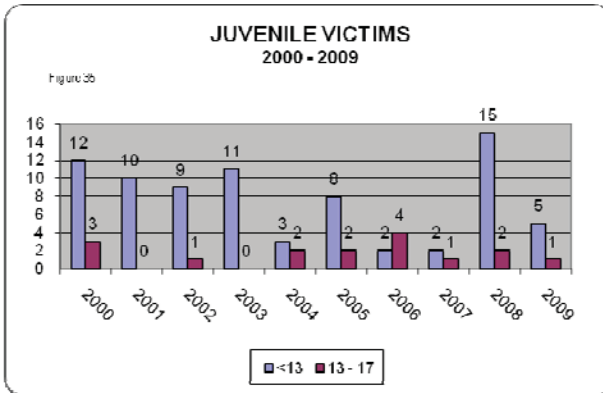
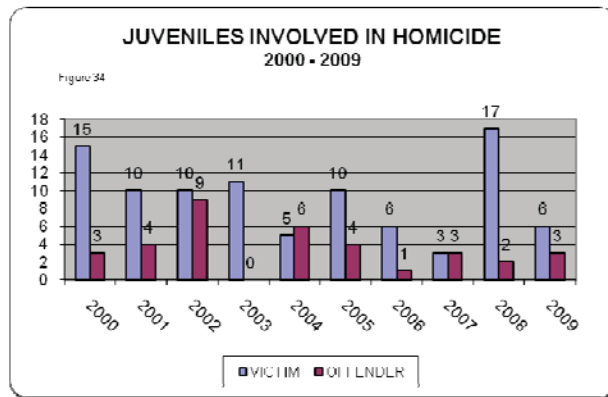


Figure 33

# JUVENILES INVOLVED IN HOMICIDE

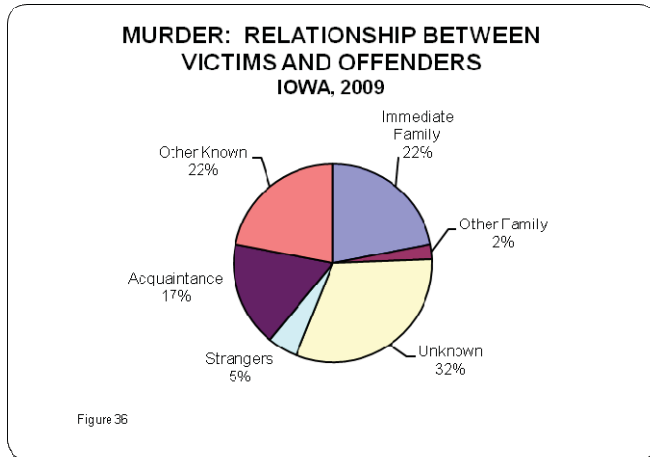
In 2009, six juvenile victims were recorded accounting for 15.4% of the total. This is a decrease from the 22.4% recorded in 2008, when a record high number (17) were reported. The decade low was recorded in 2007 with only three juvenile victims. Among the juveniles killed in 2009, five children were under age five and one was 16 years old.



The year also recorded three juvenile offenders including a 14 year old Hispanic male, a 16 year old African American female and a 17 year old African American male. 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.

YEAR	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
TOTAL HOM.	58		50		50		51		45		45		59		38		76		39	
JUV. HOM.	15	3	10	4	10	9	11	0	5	6	10	4	6	1	3	3	17	2	6	3
AGE	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF	VIC	OFF
0-5	11		4		6		8		3		6		2		2		11		5	
6			2		2		1				1									
7																				
8			1				1										2			
9			1		1		1													
10																	2			
11	1		1																	
12			1																	
13	1										1		1					1		
14											2		1							1
15		1				1							1		1	2	1			
16	1					4				5		1		1	1	1			1	1
17	1	2		4	1	4			2	1	1	1	1		1					1
UNK																				

# RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN VICTIM AND OFFENDER



No victim/offender relationship was identified in two of the cases due to no known offender being recorded. Two incidents each had three offenders listed for one victim. There were 41 victim/offender relationships identified, 17% of which were recorded as Acquaintance. Spouse was the second most recorded relationship accounting 10.3%. Offenders identified as Immediate Family (including spouses) accounted for 22% of the total relationships. This

category peaked in 1998 accounting for 35% of the total. The offender was otherwise known by the victim in 22% of the cases in 2009. The relationship was listed as unknown in 32% of the cases.

**Table 14 RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO OFFENDER**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Spouse	5	5	6	2	2	1	5	2	7	4
CL Spouse	3	4			1	1				1
Parent/Step	1		2	3	1		5	2	1	2
Sibling/Step					3	2	4	1	1	1
Child/Step	9	4	6	7	2	5	3	1	11	1
Oth Fam		1	1	2	2	1				1
Sub	18	14	15	14	11	10	17	6	20	10
Acquaintance	12	20	14	10	8	3	14	14	20	7
Friend	4		1	2	1	1	2		1	1
Neighbor				2			2	1	1	
Babysittee/er	1			1				1		
B/G Friend	2	0	5	5	3	6	7	7	6	3
Child of B/G Fr	1		1	1			1		2	1
Oth Known	1	2	1	3	3	10	6		5	3
Homosexual										
X Spouse	2	1				1	2		1	1
Employer/ee				1						
Sub	23	23	22	25	15	21	34	23	36	16
Stranger	9	4	5	3	4	3	3	4	5	2
Unk	8	9	8	9	15	8	10	5	15	13
Sub	17	13	13	12	19	11	13	9	20	15
Total	58	50	50	51	45	42	64	38	76	41

# MURDER CIRCUMSTANCES

**MURDER CIRCUMSTANCES  
NUMBER OF VICTIMS/OFFENDERS  
IOWA, 2009**

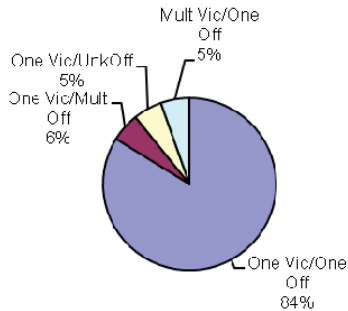


Figure 37

Figure 37 shows the 2009 murder circumstances broken down by number of victims and offenders for each incident. One victim/one offender accounted for 84% of the incidents, which is an increase from the 49% reported in 2008. Two victims were recorded in incidents where there were multiple offenders. Two incidents occurred with multiple victims and one offender. A relationship was identified in 95% of the cases.

**Table 15 MURDER CIRCUMSTANCES: NUMBER OF VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
One Vic/One Off	36	25	31	31	26	19	34	25	38	31
One Vic/Mult Off	7	9	10	7	8	12	7	2	15	2
One Vic/UnkOff	4	6	1	5	5	3	3	5	8	2
Mult Vic/One Off	3	2	3	3	2	4	4	3	15	2
Mult Vic/Mult Off	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Mult Vic/Unk Off	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	51	43	46	47	42	38	49	35	76	37

Escalating arguments accounted for 32% (12 of 39) of the murder circumstances in 2009. Domestic abuse murders accounted for the second highest percentage (24%) with 9 reported incidents. Child abuse murders accounted for 11% (4) of the incidents. In 2008, child abuse murders were at an all time high accounting for 20% of the murders with 15 reported incidents.

**MURDER CIRCUMSTANCES  
IOWA, 2009**

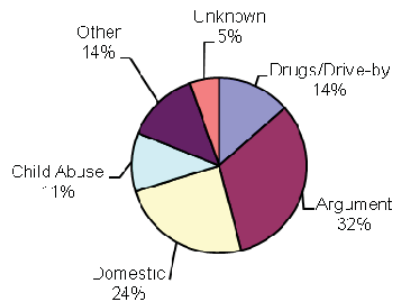
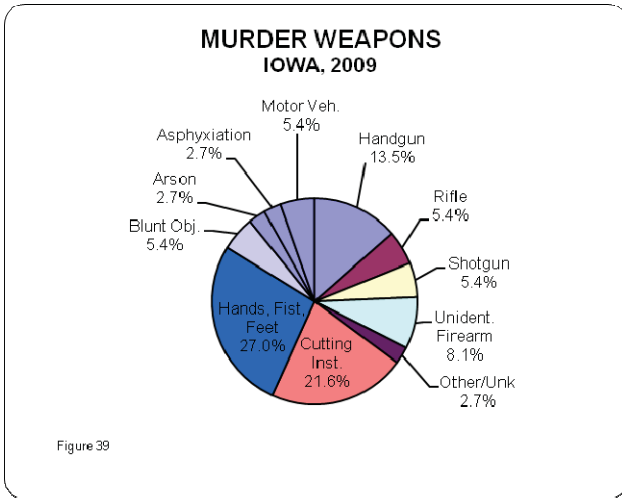


Figure 38

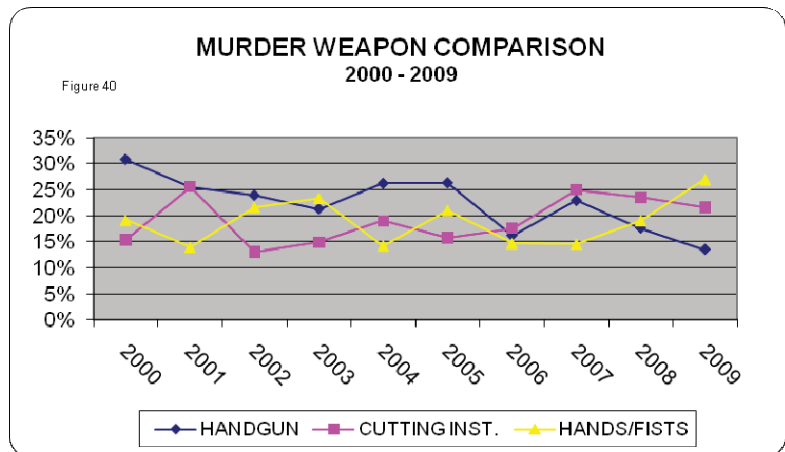
# MURDER WEAPONS



The combined Firearm category accounted for 32.4% of weapons used during the commission of a murder. Handguns (5 of 12) were the most used firearm. Knives or Cutting Instruments accounted for 21.6% (8 of 37) of the total, which was the most often used weapon other than personal weapons (hands, feet, etc). Handguns were used more often than Cutting Instruments in 2003 to 2005, but Cutting Instruments have surpassed Handguns for the past four years.

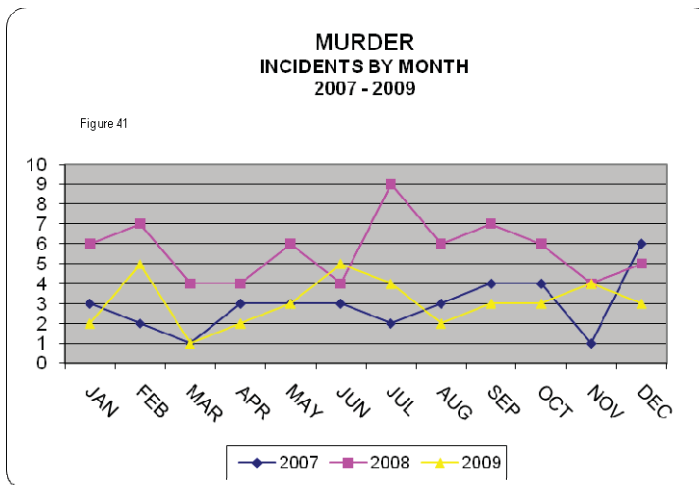
	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Handgun	10	26.3	11	16.2	11	22.9	12	17.6	5	13.5
Rifle	1	2.6	2	2.9	2	4.2	2	2.9	2	5.4
Shotgun	2	5.3	7	10.3	0	0.0	3	4.4	2	5.4
Unidentified Firearm	5	13.2	9	13.2	5	10.4	7	10.3	3	8.1
<i>Firearm Total</i>	18	47.4	29	42.6	18	37.5	24	35.3	12	32.4
Cutting Inst.	6	15.8	12	17.6	12	25.0	16	23.5	8	21.6
Hands, Fist, Feet	8	21.1	10	14.7	7	14.6	13	19.1	10	27.0
Blunt Obj.	3	7.9	1	1.5	1	2.1	7	10.3	2	5.4
Motor Vehicle									2	5.4
Arson	1	2.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.7
Asphyxiation									1	2.7
Other/Unknown	2	5.3	16	23.5	10	20.8	8	11.8	1	2.7
TOTAL	38		68		48		68		37	

Over the last decade handguns, cutting instruments, and personal weapons (hands, feet, etc.) have consistently been the most commonly used weapons. Figure 40 shows a comparison of the change in usage of those weapons over the last decade. For the first time since 2003, personal weapons were the most often used weapon in a homicide in 2009.



## WHEN

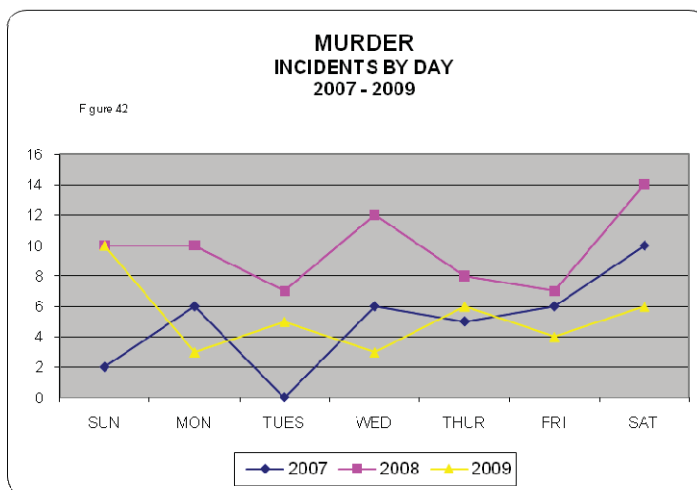
Usually no clear pattern emerges when comparing previous years' murder incidents by month. In 2009, the highest number of incidents occurred in February and June (5). In 2008, the highest recorded month was July (9) and December (6) recorded the most homicides in 2007. In 2006, July (10) recorded the most homicide incidents. May and June (5) had the highest number of incidents in 2005.



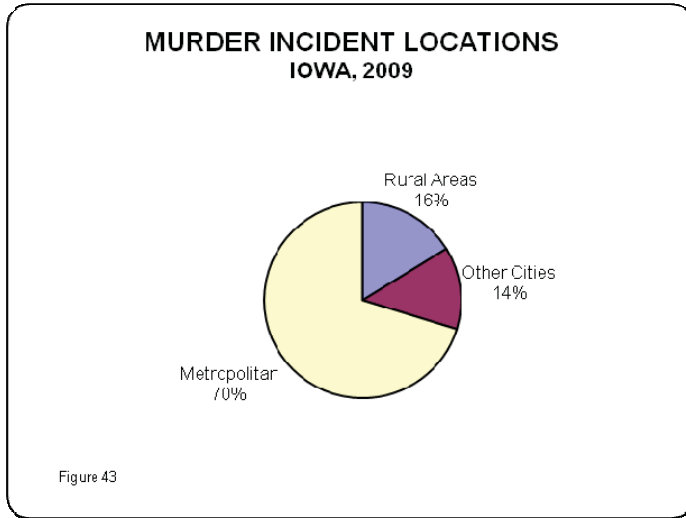
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
JANUARY	2	5	3	6	2
FEBRUARY	4	3	2	7	5
MARCH	4	3	1	4	1
APRIL	3	4	3	4	2
MAY	5	4	3	6	3
JUNE	5	2	3	4	5
JULY	4	10	2	9	4
AUGUST	1	4	3	6	2
SEPTEMBER	2	1	4	7	3
OCTOBER	2	7	4	6	3
NOVEMBER	3	2	1	4	4
DECEMBER	3	5	6	5	3
TOTAL	38	50	35	68	37

The least number of murder incidents reported per month varied by year as well. In 2009, there was only one incident recorded in March. In 2008, there were four months that reported four incidents each: March, April, June, and November. The other three years represented in Table 17 varied as follows: March and November were the lowest months in 2007, September in 2006, and August in 2005.

Over the last five years no specific day of the week has been identified as having more murder incidents, however, Saturday was the most reported day in 2007 (10) and 2008 (14). Sunday was the most common day in 2006 (13) and 2009 (10), as well as in 2005 when it shared the top spot with Monday (8 each). Tuesday was the least reported day in 2006, 2007 and 2008. In 2009, Monday and Wednesday were the least reported days with 3 incidents each.



# WHERE



Metropolitan incidents accounted for 70% of the murders in 2009, which is a decrease from the 72% reported in 2008 and 83% in 2007. In recent years metropolitan incidents have accounted for the majority of the reported murders as follows: 52% of incidents in 2006 were located within metropolitan areas, 55% in 2005, and 79% in 2004. “Other” refers to the cities, usually over 2,500 population, which submit their own statistical data. Other cities accounted for 14% of the reported homicides in

2009 and 11% in both 2007 and 2008. Rural areas are the county sheriffs’ jurisdictions that are not in a Metropolitan area. Rural county sheriffs’ offices recorded 16% of the murder incidents in 2009, which is a decrease from 17% reported in 2008 but still a higher percentage than the 6% reported in 2007.

## 2009 HOMICIDES BY COUNTY

