Homicide

The homicide rate for juveniles of all ages is lower than for adults.

- In 2002, the number of juvenile homicide victims was 1,570. The homicide rate was 2.2 per 100,000 persons ages 0 through 17, compared to 6.7 for adults.
- Ten percent of the homicides in 2002 occurred in the 17 or younger age group.

- There was an 84% increase in the number of juvenile homicide victims between 1985 and 1993. Almost all of the increase was in the 12 through 17 age group.
- The number of juvenile homicide victims declined 48% between 1993 and 2002 to levels the lowest in over 20 years.
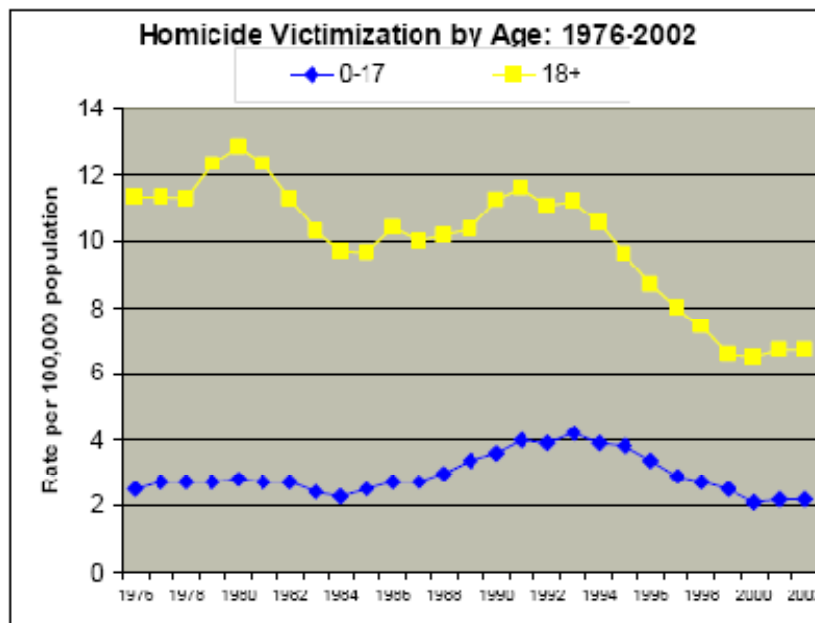
Fox, JA & Zawitz, M. 2001. *Homicide Trends in the United States.* Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. (website: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/homicide/homtrnd.htm)

Year	Number of Juvenile Homicides	Rate per 100,000	Number of Adult Homicides	Rate per 100,000
1976	1,629	2.5	16,906	11.3
1977	1,692	2.7	17,186	11.3
1978	1,727	2.7	17,571	11.3
1979	1,690	2.7	19,376	12.3
1980	1,813	2.8	20,833	12.9
1981	1,690	2.7	20,415	12.3
1982	1,688	2.7	18,991	11.3
1983	1,536	2.4	17,472	10.3

1984	1,463	2.3	16,798	9.7
1985	1,573	2.5	16,992	9.7
1986	1,719	2.7	18,406	10.4
1987	1,714	2.7	18,013	10.0
1988	1,937	3.0	18,409	10.2
1989	2,154	3.4	19,054	10.4
1990	2,295	3.6	20,779	11.2
1991	2,574	4.0	21,697	11.6
1992	2,563	3.9	20,869	11.0
1993	2,841	4.2	21,357	11.2
1994	2,663	3.9	20,261	10.5
1995	2,623	3.8	18,623	9.6
1996	2,427	3.4	16,963	8.7
1997	2,404	2.9	15,803	8.0
1998	1,926	2.7	14,684	7.4
1999	1,797	2.5	13,468	6.6
2000	1,581	2.1	13,687	6.5
2001	1,640	2.2	14,065	6.7
2002	1,570	2.2	14,300	6.7

Graph of Homicide Victimization by Age: 1976-2002

Homicide Victimization by Age: 1976-2002
0-17   18+

Fox, JA & Zawitz, M. 2004. *Homicide Trends in the United States*. Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.(website: http://www.gip.usdoj.gov/bjs/homicide/homtrnd.htm) Rates calculated by CCRC

Homicide is one of the five leading causes of juvenile mortality.

**2002
Leading Causes of Death**

Causes of Death in Rank Order	Ages 1 - 4	Ages 5 – 14	Ages 15 - 24
	accidents*	accidents*	accidents*
	birth defects	cancer	**homicide**
	homicide	birth defects	suicide
	cancer	**homicide**	cancer
	heart disease	suicide	heart disease

*motor vehicle and other

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Web-based Injury Staistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [Online] (2004). National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (producer). Available from: URL: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars. [2005 Jan 3]

- Homicide is the only one of these causes to have increased in the last generation.

  - Juvenile homicide rates are substantially higher for African American and Hispanic American youth.
  - Large cities have levels that greatly exceed those of rural areas. Washington DC, has 9 times more child murders than the national average.
  - Five highly urban counties accounted for a quarter of all juvenile victimization homicides in 1997, while 85% of counties had none.

Finkelhor, D. & Ormrod, R. (2001). The homicides of children & youth. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Snyder, H. & Sickmund, M. (1999). Juvenile offenders and victims: 1999 National report. Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Teenagers, children in middle childhood, and young children face different homicide perils.

- The homicides of teens (12-17 years) mostly involve male victims and male offenders, many of whom are other youths or young adults, using firearms.
- The homicide risk for middle childhood (6-11 years) is very low compared to that of teenagers or young children.
- The homicides of young children (0-5 years) are committed largely by family members using beatings and suffocation and victimize boys and girls about equally. A large portion of offenders are female.

Finkelhor, D. & Ormrod, R. (2001). The homicides of children & youth. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.