

Intimate Partner Homicides in Idaho

**Idaho State Police
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Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to describe reported intimate partner homicides in Idaho between 1998 and 2000. This analysis describes reported intimate partner homicide victims and arrestees, the circumstances of these homicides, and regional and county trends. In addition, this information is compared to all homicides in Idaho between 1998 and 2002, where appropriate.

Data Collection and Definitions

The data used for this report was extracted from Idaho's repository for the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which collects data on each crime incident reported to police. Homicide offenses for this report are murder, non-negligent manslaughter, and negligent manslaughter.

- ❖ *Murder and non-negligent manslaughter* are defined by The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program as the “willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another.”¹
- ❖ *Negligent manslaughter* is defined as “the killing of another person through negligence,” such as deaths resulting from hunting accidents and gun cleaning.¹

Deaths not included as homicides in this analysis are: deaths of persons due to their own negligence; accidental deaths not resulting from gross negligence; accidental traffic fatalities; suicides;

attempts at homicide; or justifiable homicide, such as cases of self-defense.

Data Considerations and Limitations

The reporting of homicide offenses used in this analysis was based solely on police investigation as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, jury, or other judicial body. Therefore, when the term *offender* is used, it describes a person the police believed to be the perpetrator of the crime based on preliminary evidence, such as eyewitnesses. In addition, the term *arrestee* does not mean the person arrested actually committed the crime as determined by law. The word *arrestee* only describes a person the police had enough evidence against to make an arrest.

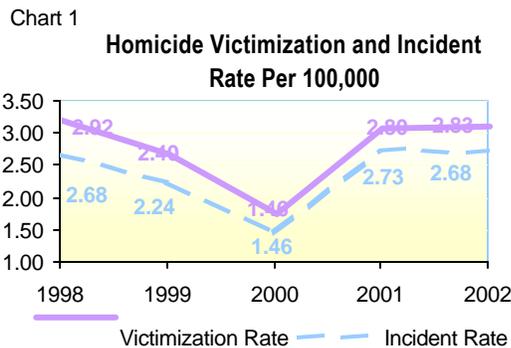
There are two data considerations when using data from NIBRS to depict the number of homicides in Idaho.

1. NIBRS only contains information about homicides reported to the police.
2. Lemhi County and Tribal law enforcement agencies are the only Idaho agencies that do not participate in NIBRS. Information about homicides occurring in these jurisdictions are not reflected in this analysis.

Description of Idaho Homicides

Idaho's homicide rate is approximately half of the national rate. According to the FBI's "Crime in the United States,"²² the national murder rate in 2002 was 5.6 murders per 100,000 inhabitants. The homicide rate in Idaho for the same year was 2.83 victims per 100,000 inhabitants. After considering that the FBI does not include negligent homicide in their murder rate (as we are here), Idaho had less than half of the national murder rate in 2002, with a murder rate of 2.68. Moreover, Idaho's murder rate was lower than the national average for rural communities, which was 3.6 murders for every 100,000 people.

Chart 1 displays Idaho's five-year homicide trend. Between 1998 and 2002, the homicide rate dropped by 3%. However, the homicide rate dropped by 50% between 1998 and 2000 and then bounced back up by 94%.



In this five year period, 160 people were killed intentionally or through gross negligence in 152 incidences (7 incidences had more than one victim). A total of 148 people were arrested for

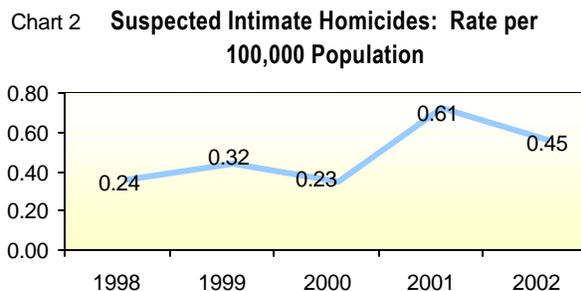
these homicides. Most people were arrested the same day the homicide was reported. The remaining arrests occurred 1 to 1,258 days after the homicide was reported.

Intimate Partner Homicides

For purposes of this report, *intimate partner homicide* is defined as murder, non-negligent manslaughter, and negligent manslaughter between intimate partners defined as current or former spouses, boyfriends and girlfriends, and common law spouses.

Between 1998 and 2002, 24 victims, or 15% of homicide victims within this time frame, were suspected to have been killed by an intimate partner. Of these 24 homicides, only 18 (75%) intimate offenders were actually arrested.

Chart 2 shows the rate of homicides with the intimate victim/offender relationship. Idaho reported an 87.5% increase in intimate partner homicides between 1998 and 2002. In 2001, the intimate homicide rate peaked at .61 after experiencing a low rate of .23 in 2000.



Victim's Relationship To Offender

As shown in Table 1, when an intimate was the offender in a homicide, it was likely to be the victim's spouse, rather than a former spouse or boy/girlfriend. Chart 3 illustrates that 1999 experienced an exception, when the most common intimate offender in a homicide was the victim's boy/girlfriend.

Males account for 66% of all homicide victims; however, only 3% of them were suspected to have been killed by an intimate. In contrast, female victims account for 34% of homicide victims but 38% of them were suspected to have been killed by an intimate. Indeed, females account for 88% of all suspected intimate homicides.

Compared to males, females were 13 times more likely to have been suspected of being killed by an intimate. Male victims on the other hand were most likely to have been suspected of being killed by an acquaintance or someone they knew (53% compared to 24%).

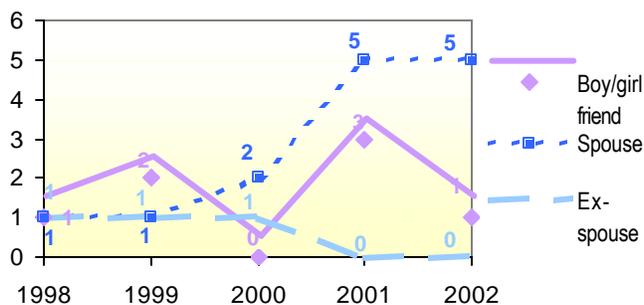
Table 1:

Victim's Relationship to Offender by Gender: 1998-2002

Relationship	All		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Intimate	24	15	21	38	3	3
Boy/Girlfriend	7	29	7	33	-	-
Spouse	14	58	12	57	2	67
Ex-spouse	3	13	2	10	1	33
Family	26	16	8	15	18	17
Grandparent	1	4	1	13	-	-
Parent	4	15	1	13	3	17
In-Law	3	12	1	13	2	11
Sibling	2	8	-	-	2	11
Child	9	35	2	25	7	39
Step-child or child of boy/girlfriend	5	20	2	26	3	17
Other Family	1	4	-	-	1	6
Multiple Family members	1	4	1	13	-	-
Acquaintance/ Known	68	43	13	24	55	53
Friend	15	22	1	8	14	25
Acquaintance	31	46	6	46	25	45
Neighbor	2	3	-	-	2	4
Baby Sitter	2	3	1	8	1	2
Otherwise Known	16	24	5	38	11	20
Multiple Relations	2	3	-	-	2	4
Stranger	7	4	2	4	5	5
Multiple Offender	14	9	3	5	11	10
Undetermined	21	13	8	15	11	10
Total	160	100	55	34	105	66

Chart 3

Intimate Homicides by Relationship of Victim to Offender: 1998-2002



Age

In comparison to all homicide victims between 1998 and 2002, suspected intimate homicide victims were significantly older (at .05 significance level). Referring to Chart 4, homicide victims, in which their relationship to the offender was intimate, averaged an age of 40.5 years, ranging from 19-83, with a median age of 39. The average age of homicide victims was 32, ranging from less than one year to 92, with a median age of 30. This difference in age may be attributed to 17% of all homicide victims in this time frame being under the age of 18 and all suspected intimate homicide victims being at least 19 years of age (see Table 2).

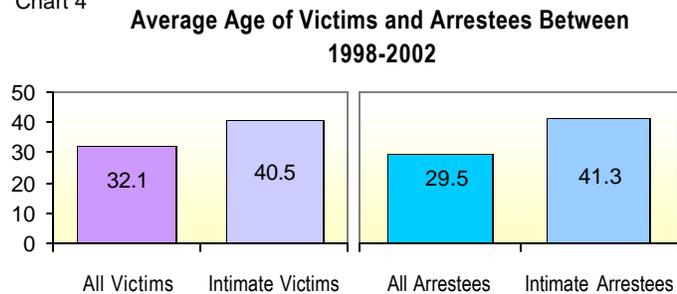
As Chart 4 displays, the comparison is similar between all people arrested for homicide and those arrested for the homicide of their intimate. Intimate homicide arrestees were significantly older than other homicide arrestees (at .01 significance level). Intimate homicide arrestees averaged an age of 41, ranging from 19-80, with a median age of 38. Conversely, all homicide arrestees averaged an age of 29, ranging from 14-80, with a median age of 26. Even when adults arrested for non-intimate homicides are compared to arrested intimates, intimate homicide arrestees are still significantly older than all homicide arrestees

(at .05 significance level). Intimate homicide arrestees average an age of 41 years compared to non-intimate homicide adults who average an age of 29.5 years.

Table 2:

Relationship to Offender	All		Victim Age			
			< 18		Adult	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Acquaintance/Known	68	43	7	26	61	47
Intimate	24	15	-	-	24	19
Family	26	16	14	52	12	9
Stranger	7	4	-	-	7	5
Unknown relationship	21	13	1	4	16	12
Multiple relations	14	9	5	19	9	7
Total	160	100	27	17	129	82

Chart 4



Race/Ethnicity

For purposes of this report, Hispanic means a white Hispanic and white describes a person of Caucasian origin.

Most intimate homicides between 1998 and 2002, in which an arrest occurred, were between intimates of the same race/ethnicity (77.8%). This is similar to all homicides in this time frame. Regardless of victim/offender relationship, 81% of all homicides were between people of the same race/ethnicity.

The majority of victims and arrestees in intimate homicides were white. Between 1998 and 2002, 83% of suspected intimate homicide victims were white and 72% of intimate homicide arrestees were white. As shown in Tables 3 and 4, whites comprised 73% of all homicide victims and 70% of all homicide arrestees during the same time period. Despite this, Hispanics in Idaho are overrepresented as homicide victims and offenders.

Just as blacks are over represented nationally as homicide victims and offenders², the same is true for Hispanics in Idaho. The 2000 U.S. Census³ recorded a 7.9% Hispanic population in Idaho. Nonetheless, 22% of all homicide

victims and 25% of all homicide arrestees between 1998 and 2002 were Hispanic.

Hispanics are also over represented as intimate homicide victims and arrestees, although to a lesser extent. Eleven percent of victims in intimate homicides, in which an arrest occurred, were Hispanic and 11% of intimate homicide arrestees were Hispanic.

Table 3:

	All		Victim Race/Ethnicity							
	N	%	White		Hispanic		Other		Unknown	
			N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Relationship to Offender										
Acquaintance/Known	68	43	50	43	13	38	4	80	1	33
Intimate	24	15	20	17	2	6	1	20	1	33
Family	26	16	22	19	4	12	-	-	-	-
Stranger	7	4	5	4	2	6	-	-	-	-
Unknown relationship	21	13	10	9	8	24	-	-	1	33
Multiple relations	14	9	9	8	5	15	-	-	-	-
Total	160	100	116	73	34	22	5	3	3	2

Table 4:

	All		Victim's Relationship to Arrestee			
	N	%	Intimate partner		Other relationship	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Arrestee Race/Ethnicity						
White	103	70	13	72	90	69
Hispanic	37	25	2	11	35	27
Other	8	5	3	17	5	4
Total	148	100	18	12	130	88

Circumstances

For purposes of the following analysis, an intimate homicide victim means a victim in which an intimate was arrested for their homicide.

As Table 5 displays, most intimate homicides between 1998 and 2002 occurred due to an argument or a lover's quarrel when the circumstances of the homicides were known (22% each). One killing was a negligent killing and 9 (50%) involved unknown circumstances.

Also shown in Table 5, males were more likely than females to be killed by an intimate during an argument (33% compared to 20%). However, when the circumstances of an argument and lover's quarrel are combined, women were more likely (47%) to be killed during these circumstances than men (33%). On the other hand, males are more likely to be arrested for killing their intimate during an argument or lover's quarrel (47%) than females (33%). This is contrary to the overall picture of homicides in Idaho during this time frame.

Table 5:
Intimate Homicide Victim's and Arrestee's Gender: 1998-2002

Circumstances	All		Victim's Gender		Arrestee's Gender	
	N	%	Female N %	Male N %	Female N %	Male N %
Argument	4	22	3 20	1 33	1 33	3 20
Lovers' Quarrel	4	22	4 27	- -	- -	4 27
Unknown	9	50	7 47	2 67	2 67	7 47
Negligent Act	1	6	1 7	- -	- -	1 7
Total	18	100	15 83	3 17	3 17	15 83

Table 6:
All Homicide Victim's and Arrestee's Gender: 1998-2002

Circumstances	All		Victim's Gender		Arrestee's Gender	
	N	%	Female N %	Male N %	Female N %	Male N %
Argument	46	29	9 16	37 36	2 10	39 31
Lovers' quarrel	10	6	9 16	1 1	- -	5 4
Drug dealing	2	1	- -	2 2	1 5	1 1
Gang related	5	3	- -	5 5	- -	10 8
Assault on an Officer	3	2	1 2	2 2	- -	1 1
Other Felony Involved	1	1	- -	1 1	- -	3 2
Other Circumstances	32	20	9 16	22 21	8 38	23 18
Negligent Act	15	9	6 11	9 9	3 14	11 9
Unknown	46	29	21 38	25 24	7 33	34 27
Total	160	100	55 35	104 65	21 14	127 86

As Table 6 shows, most homicides, in which the circumstances of the homicide were known to the police, occurred during an argument (29%). Yet, compared to females, males were more likely to kill and be killed during an argument. Sixteen percent of female victims were killed during an argument, compared to 36% of male victims; further, only 10% of female arrestees were arrested for a homicide occurring during an argument, compared to 31% of male arrestees. When an argument and lover's quarrel are combined, males were still more likely (37%) to be killed during an argument than females (32%).

Five-Year Homicide Trends: Regional and County Homicide Rates

Table 7 describes the number of intimate partner homicide victims and intimate partner homicide rates for each county. Table 7 describes the number of all homicides and homicide rates in Idaho between 1998 and 2002 for each region and county. These rates were calculated using the number of homicide victims and county population figures furnished by the U.S. Census.

Use caution when interpreting changes in the number of reported homicides and homicide rates. Victimization rates in sparsely populated areas are greatly affected by deviations in crime incidences.

For example, Oneida County had a homicide rate of 24.1 homicides per 100,000 people in 2000 even though they only had one homicide (an intimate homicide). On the other hand, 16 counties only account for about 9% of Idaho's population and did not have any reported homicides between 1998-2002. These counties were: Benewah, Clearwater, Idaho, Lewis, Adams, Gem, Washington, Camas, Lincoln, Minidoka, Caribou, Power, Butte, Clark, Custer, and Teton.

Table 7:

**Number of Intimate Homicide Victims and Rate of Homicides
Per 100,000 Population by County**

	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002	
	N	Rate								
County										
Ada	1	0.36	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.63
Bannock	-	-	-	-	1	1.32	-	-	-	-
Bonner	-	-	1	2.77	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonneville	1	1.24	-	-	-	-	3	3.58	-	-
Boundary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9.92
Canyon	-	0.83	-	0.8	-	-	2	1.44	1	0.69
Cassia	-	-	1	4.64	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fremont	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8.45	-	-
Kootenai	-	-	-	-	1	0.91	-	-	-	-
Latah	-	-	1	3.08	-	-	-	-	1	2.84
Oneida	-	-	-	-	1	24.22	-	-	-	-
Payette	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4.81	-	-
Valley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13.29
Statewide	3	0.24	4	0.32	3	0.23	7	0.61	6	0.45

Table 8:

**Number of Homicide Victims and Rate of Homicides
Per 100,000 Population by County and Region**

	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002	
	N	Rate								
Region 1	4	2.36	7	4.03	4	2.23	5	2.76	7	3.8
Bonner	-	-	2	5.54	-	-	-	-	-	-
Boundary	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10.1	3	29.8
Kootenai	4	3.95	3	2.86	3	2.74	3	2.69	4	3.51
Shoshone	-	-	2	14.7	1	7.28	1	7.43	-	-
Region 2	-	-	2	2.05	1	1	3	3.01	2	2
Latah	-	-	2	6.15	1	2.87	1	2.84	1	2.84
Nez Perce	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5.4	1	2.69
Region 3	16	3.24	9	1.77	6	1.11	16	2.88	21	3.69
Ada	7	2.54	4	1.41	3	0.99	5	1.6	7	2.19
Boise	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	14.4	-	-
Canyon	6	4.98	3	2.41	2	1.5	8	5.76	6	4.14
Elmore	-	-	-	-	1	3.43	-	-	3	10.2
Owyhee	1	9.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payette	2	9.78	-	-	-	-	1	4.81	2	9.52
Valley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13.3
Region 4	8	5.09	4	2.52	1	0.61	6	3.67	2	1.21
Blaine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4.91
Cassia	-	-	2	9.27	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gooding	-	-	-	-	1	7.04	1	7.02	-	-
Jerome	2	11.1	-	-	-	-	1	5.41	-	-
Twin Falls	4	6.43	2	3.18	-	-	2	3.09	1	1.53
Region 5	3	1.95	4	2.59	6	3.89	2	1.29	4	2.58
Bannock	3	4.04	2	2.67	2	2.65	1	1.32	2	2.64
Bear Lake	-	-	1	15.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bingham	-	-	1	2.37	3	7.17	1	2.37	1	2.36
Franklin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8.55
Oneida	-	-	-	-	1	24.2	-	-	-	-
Region 6	5	3.15	4	2.5	1	0.61	5	3.04	2	1.2
Bonneville	4	4.96	4	4.91	1	1.21	4	4.77	1	1.17
Fremont	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8.45	-	-
Jefferson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5.06
Madison	1	3.98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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