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Homicide trends in the U.S.

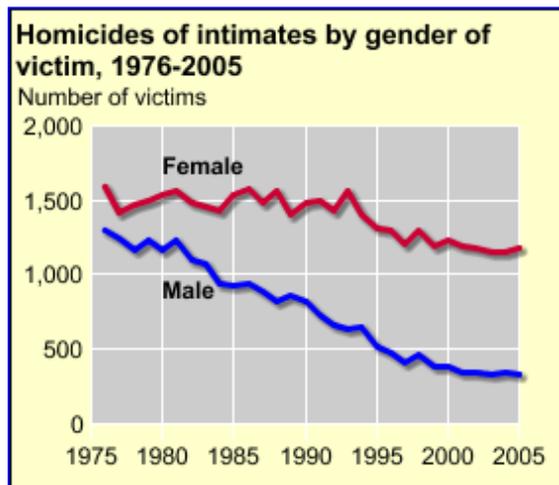
Intimate homicide

There has been a decline in homicide of intimates, especially male victims

Intimates are defined to include spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

- The number of men murdered by intimates dropped by 75% since 1976.
- The number of women killed by intimates was stable for nearly two decades. After 1993, the number declined reaching the lowest level recorded in 2004.

To view data, click on the chart.



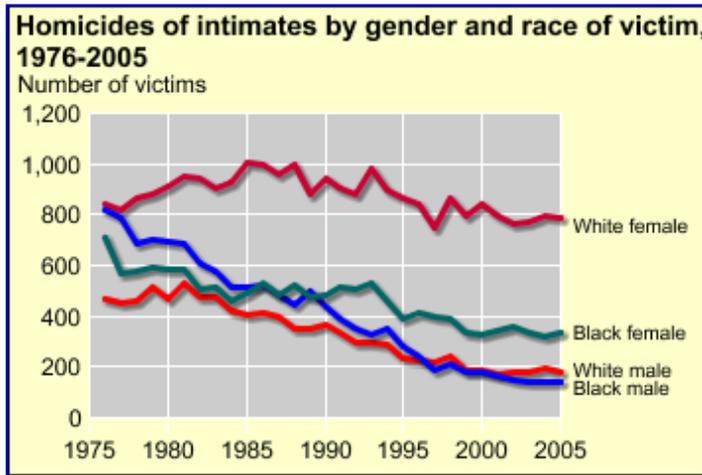
[D]

In general, the number of intimate victims in each race and gender group declined

Between 1976 and 2005 --

- the number of white females killed by intimates rose in the mid-1980's, then declined after 1993 reaching the lowest recorded in 2002. The number fluctuated slightly after 2002.
- the number of intimate homicides for all other race and gender groups declined over the period; the number of black males killed by intimates dropped by 83%, white males by 61%, black females by 52%, and white females by 6%.

To view data, click on the chart.



[D]

About 11% of murder victims were determined to have been killed by an intimate

Victim/Offender Relationship, 1976-2005

	All homicides, 1976-2005	
	Percent	Number
Total	100.0%	594,276
Intimate	10.9%	64,529
Non-intimate	53.9%	320,554
Undetermined	35.2%	209,194

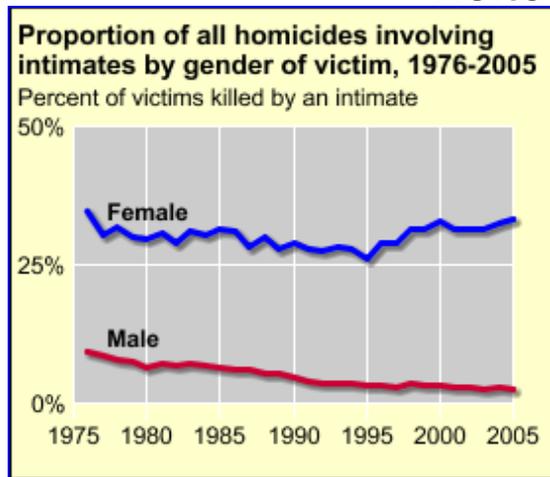
For additional detail, see [Victim/offender relationship](#).

Female murder victims are substantially more likely than male murder victims to have been killed by an intimate

In recent years -

- About one third of female murder victims were killed by an intimate.
- About 3% of male murder victims were killed by an intimate.
- Of all female murder victims, the proportion killed by an intimate has been increasing.
- Of male murder victims, the proportion killed by an intimate has dropped.

To view data, click on the chart.



[D]

For every age group female murder victims are more likely than male victims to have been killed by an intimate

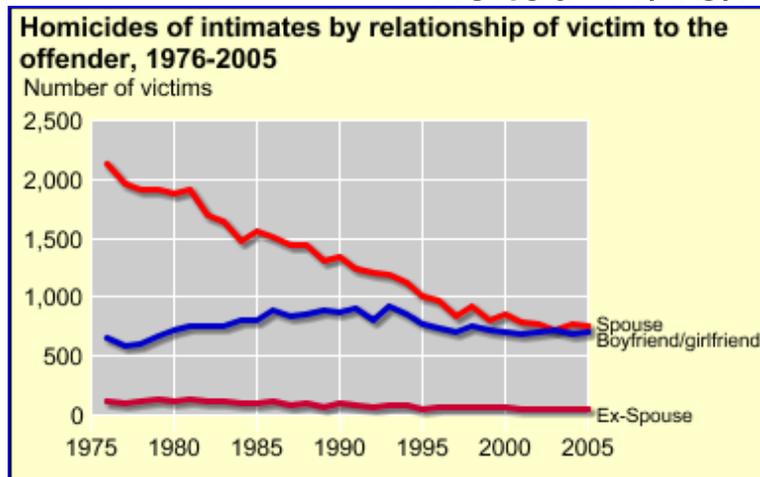
Percent of all murders by intimates, 1976-2005

	Male victims	Female victims
12-17	--	5%
18-24	2%	29
25-29	4	37
30-34	6	41
35-39	8	43
40-44	9	42
45-49	10	40
50-59	10	32
60+	6	21

-- Less than 0.5%

Most intimate homicides involved spouses, although in recent years the number of deaths by boyfriends and girlfriends was about the same

To view data, click on the chart.



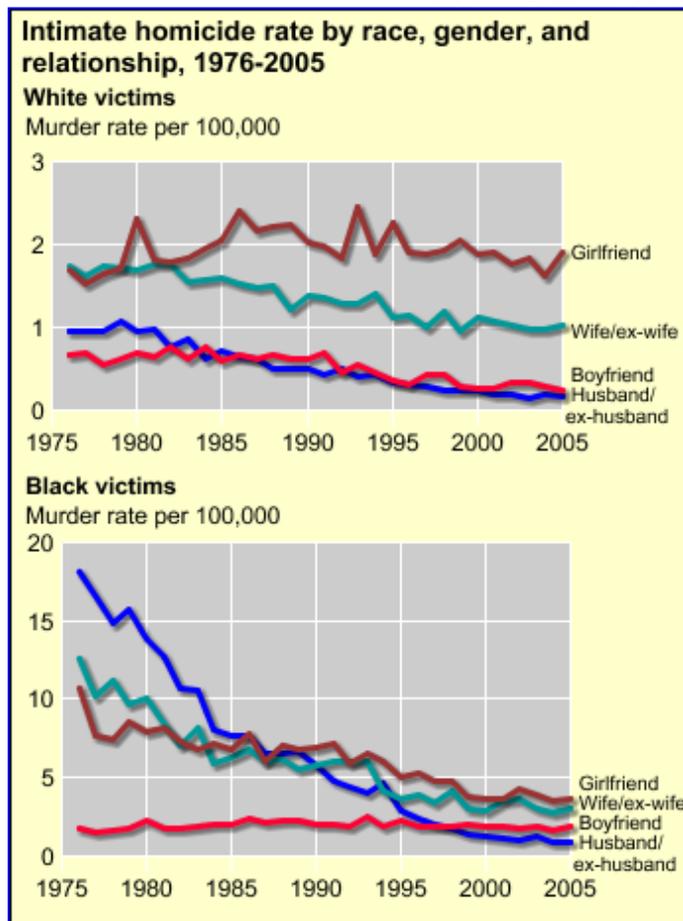
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The intimate homicide rate has fallen for blacks in every gender and relationship category while the rate for whites has not declined for all categories

The intimate homicide rate --

- for white girlfriends was higher in 2005 than it was in 1976
- for white wives and ex-wives has declined but not as much as that for white husbands and ex-husbands
- for black husbands and ex-husbands was 20 times greater in 1976 than it was in 2005
- is higher for black girlfriends than any other group in 2005, although it has declined 66% since 1976.

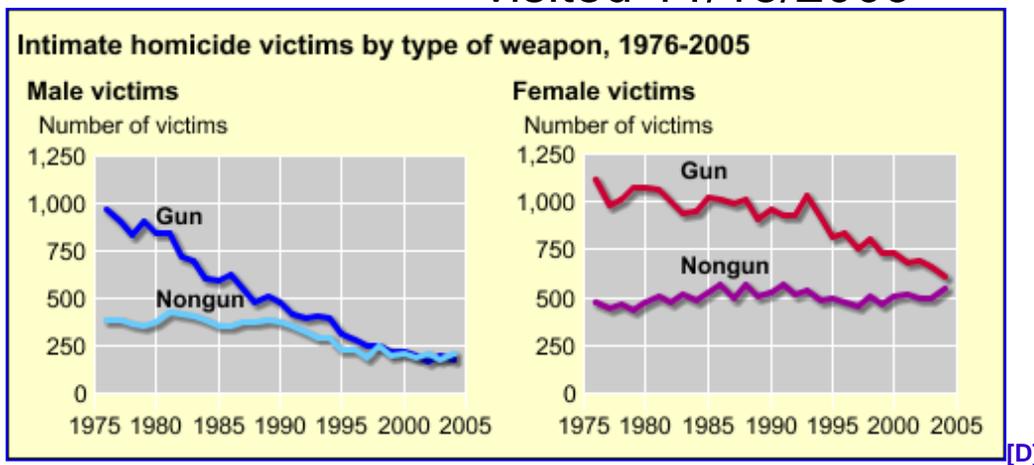
To view data, [click on the chart.](#)



Note: This chart refers to persons ages 20-44. The number of married or divorced persons is the population base used to calculate spouse and ex-spouse rates and the number of never married or widowed persons is the population base used to calculate boyfriend/girlfriend rates.

The number of male and female intimate victims killed with guns has fallen.

To view data, [click on the chart](#).



In general, guns are most often used in intimate homicide but weapon type varies by relationship. From 1990 to 2005 --

- Over two-thirds of the spouse and ex-spouse victims were killed by guns.
- Boyfriends were more likely to be killed by knives than any other group of intimates.
- Girlfriends were more likely to be killed by force than any other group of intimates.

Homicides by relationship and weapon type, 1990-2005

Relationship of victim to offender	Total	Gun	Knife	Blunt object	Force	Other weapon
Husband	100%	69%	26%	2%	1%	3%
Ex-husband	100	86	10	1	0	3
Wife	100	68	14	5	10	4
Ex-wife	100	77	12	3	5	3
Boyfriend	100	45	47	3	3	3
Girlfriend	100	56	20	5	14	5

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-2005.

See also [Additional information about the data.](#)

Note: The victims of the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks are not included in this analysis. Due to refinements in the analysis, the data presented may differ from previous editions.

See also: [Intimate Partner Violence](#)

Related charts on this site

- [Percent of all homicides involving intimates by urban, suburban, and rural area, 1976-2005](#)
- [Victim offender relationship by victim gender, 1976-2005](#)

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