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The South Carolina Silent Witness Story : Report on Domestic Violence Homicide Victims from 2014

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The South Carolina Silent Witness Story

Report on Domestic Violence Homicide Victims from 2014

Sarah Peters
October 6, 2015
Rescheduled October 29, 2015

This year's ceremony will mark the eighteenth anniversary of Silent Witness.

In 2014, there were a total of 39 people murdered by a household member, according to the South Carolina¹² definition. Of those 39 people, 29 were women, constituting 74 percent of the total, and 10 were men, constituting 26 percent of the total.

The demographics of the victims were as follows: 54 percent were White, 44 percent were African American, and 2 percent were Hispanic. The average age of these victims was 41 years old.

The Office of the Attorney General, through its S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women program, collected the data by contacting every sheriff's office, coroner's office, police department and solicitor's office in the state. Those offices were provided with a victim information sheet to complete and asked to provide any incident reports related to domestic homicide victims. As always, these offices were gracious and provided this Office with an abundance of information. In addition, all information was cross-checked for accuracy with the records of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

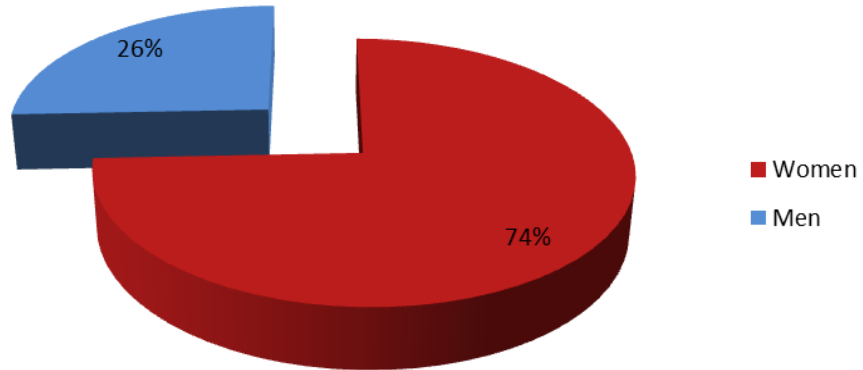
Twenty-three counties reported one or more domestic homicides for 2014.

Guns were the primary weapon used in these homicides. In 67 percent of the cases, a gunshot wound was listed as the primary cause of death. Knives were used in 23 percent of the cases, and 7 percent were from other causes. The courts have disposed of only four cases. There are twenty-five trials pending, and ten defendants have committed suicide.

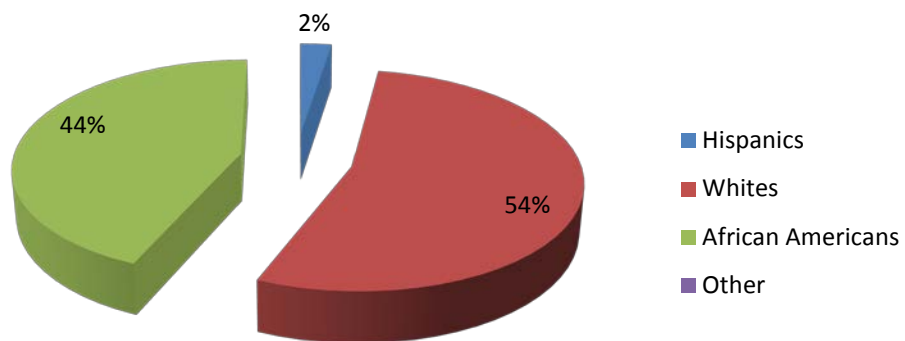
Attached to this document are county-by-county statistics and statewide graphs depicting the statistics mentioned in this report.

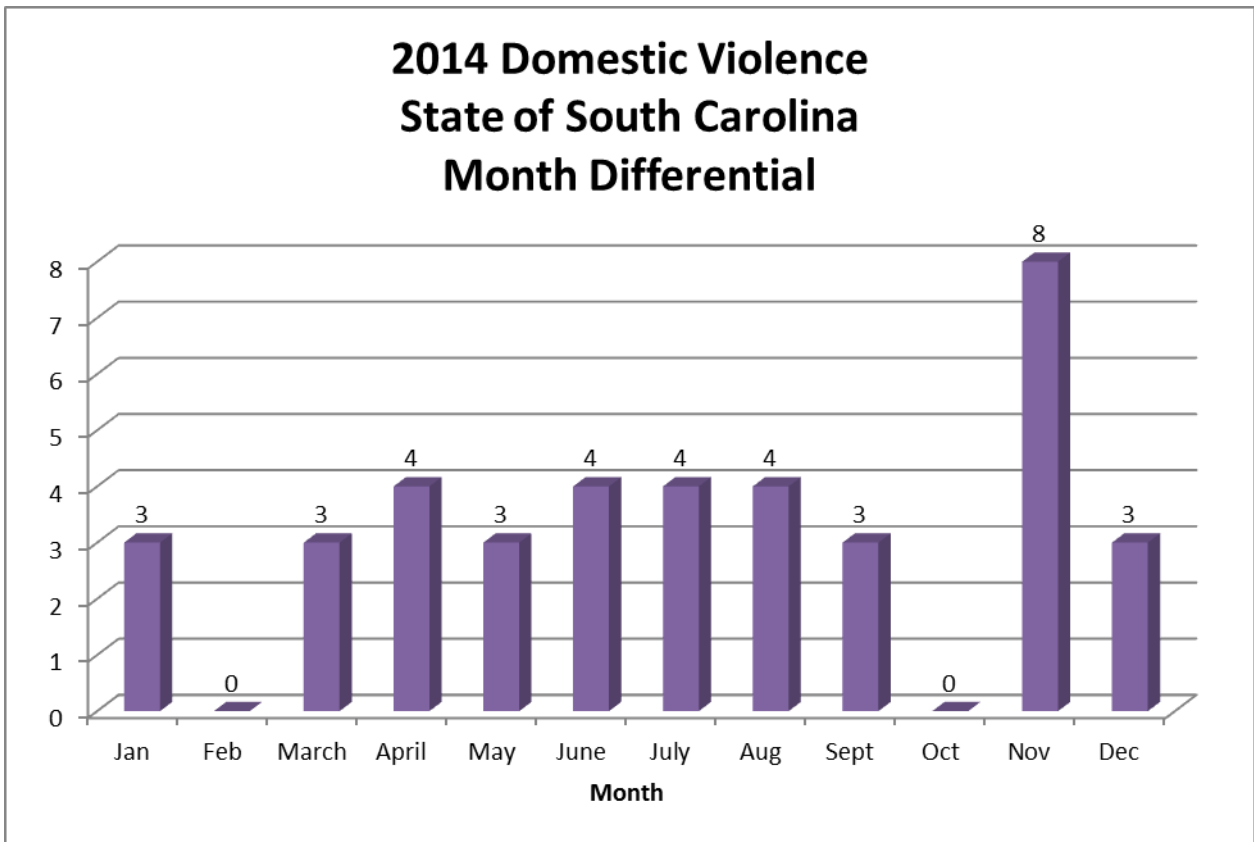
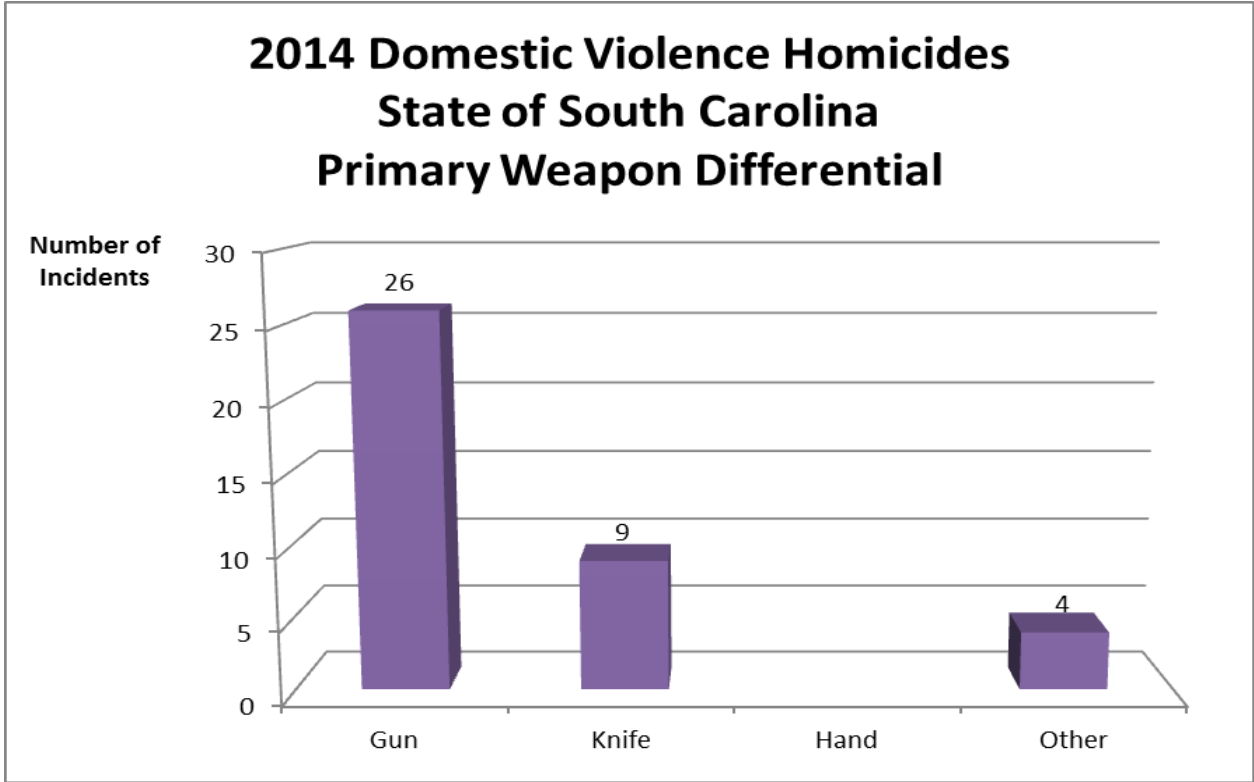
¹²S.C. Code §16-25-10 defines "household members" as spouses, former spouses, persons who have a child in common, or a male and female who are cohabiting or formerly have cohabited.

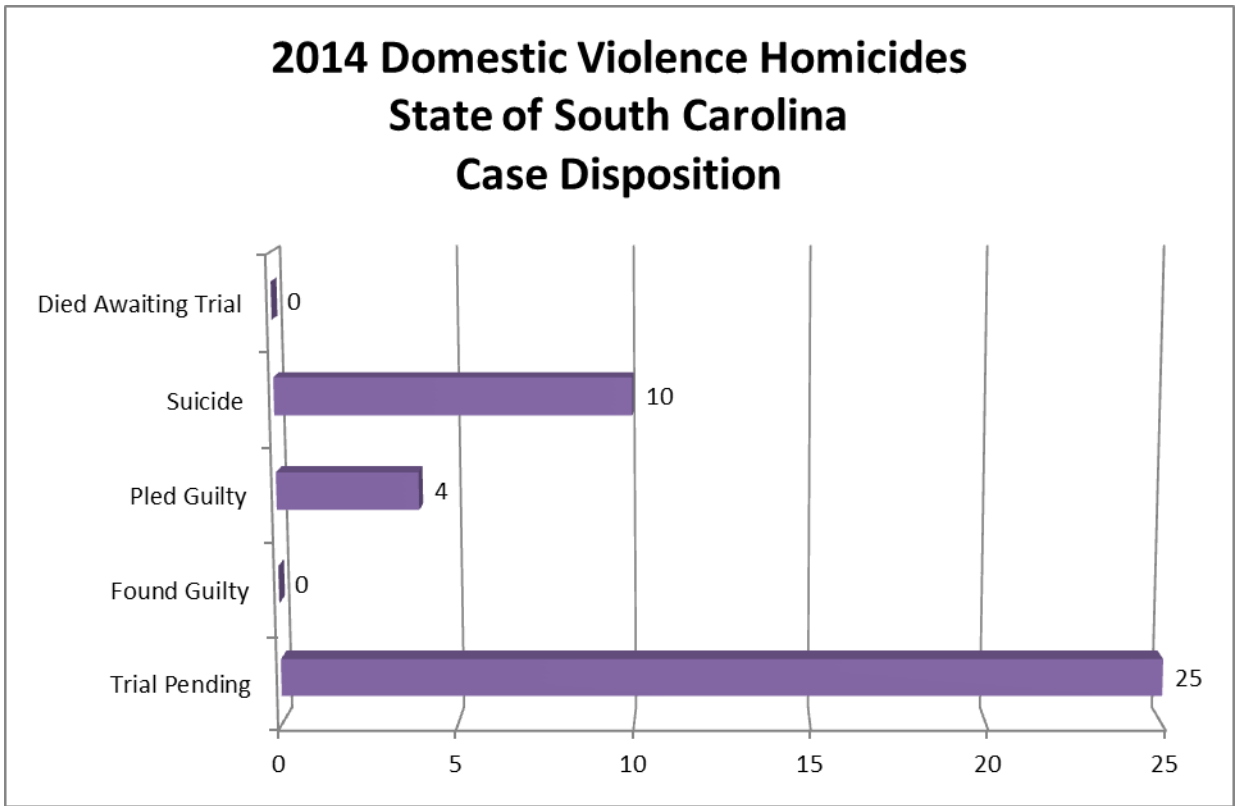
2014 Domestic Violence State of South Carolina Gender Differential



2014 Domestic Violence Homicides State of South Carolina Race Differential







County Statistics

Abbeville

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
Disposition:

Aiken

Women: 2 Men: 2 Total: 4 Avg Age: 40
Whites: 4 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
Gun: 4 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 1 Suicide, 3 Awaiting Trial

Allendale

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
Disposition:

Anderson

Women: 1 Men: 0 Total: 1 Avg Age: 39
Whites: 1 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 1
Disposition: Awaiting Trial

Bamberg

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
Disposition:

Barnwell

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
Disposition:

Beaufort

Women: 2 Men: 0 Total: 2 Avg Age: 67
Whites: 2 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
Gun: 1 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 1
Disposition: 1 Suicide, 1 Awaiting Trial

Berkeley

Women: 2 Men: 1 Total: 3 Avg Age: 49
Whites: 0 Blacks: 3 Hispanic/Other: 0
Gun: 1 Knife: 2 Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 3 Awaiting Trial

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Calhoun

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition:

Charleston

Women: 1 Men: 0 Total: 1 Avg Age: 32
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 1
 Gun: 0 Knife: 1 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition: Trial Pending

Cherokee

Women: 1 Men: 0 Total: 1 Avg Age: 59
 Whites: 1 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 1 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition: Awaiting Trial

Chester

Women: 1 Men: 0 Total: 1 Avg Age: 41
 Whites: 1 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 1 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition: Committed Suicide

Chesterfield

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition:

Clarendon

Women: 1 Men: 0 Total: 1 Avg Age: 57
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 1 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 1 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition: Awaiting Trial

Colleton

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition:

Darlington

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition:

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Dillon

Women: 1 Men: 0 Total: 1 Avg Age: 30
Whites: 1 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
Gun: 1 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: Committed Suicide

Dorchester

Women: 1 Men: 0 Total: 1 Avg Age: 52
Whites: 1 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
Gun: 1 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: Committed Suicide

Edgefield

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
Disposition:

Fairfield

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
Disposition:

Florence

Women: 0 Men: 1 Total: 1 Avg Age: 25
Whites: 0 Blacks: 1 Hispanic/Other: 0
Gun: 1 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: Awaiting Trial

Georgetown

Women: 0 Men: 1 Total: 1 Avg Age: 60
Whites: 1 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
Gun: 1 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: Awaiting Trial

Greenville

Women: 3 Men: 1 Total: 4 Avg Age: 38
Whites: 2 Blacks: 2 Hispanic/Other: 0
Gun: 1 Knife: 3 Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 4 Awaiting Trial

Greenwood

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
Disposition:

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Hampton

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition:

Horry

Women: 1 Men: 0 Total: 1 Avg Age: 21
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 1 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 1
 Disposition: Awaiting Trial

Jasper

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition:

Kershaw

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition:

Lancaster

Women: 1 Men: 0 Total: 1 Avg Age: 18
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 1 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 1 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition: Awaiting Trial

Laurens

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition:

Lee

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition:

Lexington

Women: 1 Men: 0 Total: 1 Avg Age: 59
 Whites: 1 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 1 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition: Awaiting Trial

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Marion

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition:

Marlboro

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition:

McCormick

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition:

Newberry

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition:

Oconee

Women: 0 Men: 0 Total: 0 Avg Age: 0
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition:

Orangeburg

Women: 0 Men: 1 Total: 1 Avg Age: 24
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 1 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 0 Knife: 1 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition: Awaiting Trial

Pickens

Women: 1 Men: 1 Total: 2 Avg Age: 44
 Whites: 2 Blacks: 0 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 2 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 0
 Disposition: 1 Committed Suicide, 1 Guilty Plea

Richland

Women: 5 Men: 0 Total: 5 Avg Age: 30
 Whites: 0 Blacks: 5 Hispanic/Other: 0
 Gun: 4 Knife: 0 Hand/Other: 1
 Disposition: 3 Committed Suicide, 2 Awaiting Trial

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Saluda

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:							

Spartanburg

Women:	3	Men:	0	Total:	3	Avg Age:	47
Whites:	3	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	3	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	1	Committed Suicide, 2 Awaiting Trial					

Sumter

Women:	0	Men:	1	Total:	1	Avg Age:	22
Whites:	0	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	1	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Awaiting Trial						

Union

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:							

Williamsburg

Women:	0	Men:	1	Total:	1	Avg Age:	39
Whites:	0	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Awaiting Trial						

York

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg Age:	71
Whites:	1	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Guilty Plea						