

Historical Violence Database

**Criminal Justice Research Center
Ohio State University**

Los Angeles Homicides, 1830-2002

Eric H. Monkkonen

Preliminary Version HVD June 2005

(Update of ICPSR 3680)



Los Angeles Homicides, 1830-2002

Principal Investigator

Eric H. Monkkonen
University of California, Los Angeles
Departments of History and Policy Studies

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c/o Randolph Roth
Department of History
Ohio State University
230 W. 17th Ave.
Columbus, OH 43210-1367
E-mail: roth.5@osu.edu

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION

Publications based on Historical Violence Database data collections should acknowledge those sources by means of bibliographic citations. To ensure that such source attributions are captured for social science bibliographic utilities, citations should appear in footnotes or in the reference section of publications. The bibliographic citation for this data collection is:

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON USE OF HISTORICAL VIOLENCE DATABASE RESOURCES

To provide funding agencies with essential information about use of archival resources and to facilitate the exchange of information about HVD participants' research activities, users of HVD data are requested to send to HVD bibliographic citations for each completed manuscript or thesis abstract. Please indicate in a cover letter which data were used.

DATA DISCLAIMER

The original collector of the data, HVD, and the relevant funding agencies bear no responsibility for uses of this collection or for interpretations or inferences based upon such uses. Please note that Eric Monkkonen, the principal investigator, passed away before he could proof the data. As a result, the database contains some inconsistent entries, duplicate records, etc., which Eric would have eliminated had he had the chance to do so. HVD hopes to eliminate these problems in the coming years.

RESTRICTIONS

None. The data are public information and are for public use. They are compiled from public sources.

DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Eric H. Monkkonen, Los Angeles Homicides, 1830-2002 (HVD June 2005)

There has been little research on United States homicide rates from a long-term perspective, primarily because there has been no consistent data series on a particular place preceding the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), which began its first full year in 1931. To fill this research gap, this project created a data series that spans two centuries on homicides per capita for the city of Los Angeles. The goal was to create a site-specific, individual based data series that could be used to examine major social shifts related to homicide, such as mass immigration, urban growth, war, demographic changes, and changes in laws. The basic approach to the data collection was to obtain the best possible estimate of annual counts and the most complete information on individual homicides.

Data were derived from multiple sources, including Los Angeles court records, as well as annual reports of the coroner and daily newspapers. Part 1 (Annual Homicides and Related Data) variables include Los Angeles County annual counts of homicides; counts of female victims; method of killing such as drowning, suffocating, or strangling; and the homicide rate. Part 2 (Individual Homicide Data) variables include the date and place of the murder; the age, sex, race, and place of birth of the offender and victim; type of weapon used; and source of data.

UNIVERSE: All homicides in Los Angeles between 1830 and 2002. The data are incomplete, however, for the second half of 1967, and the data for 1969 appear to have been entered as homicides that occurred in 1968.

SAMPLING: Not applicable.

NOTE: (1) A detailed list of the sources used to create the data files can be found in the Appendix to the codebook. (2) The codebook is provided by HVD as a WORD (DOC) file.

DATA

Part 1: Annual Homicides and Related Data

Part 2: Individual Homicide Data

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to acknowledge the research support of the National Science Foundation (SES 0111725), the National Consortium on Violence Research, and the UCLA Academic Senate. My three principal research assistants on this project deserve special thanks for their diligence and diplomacy: Evan Seamon, Tamara Myers, and Petula Iu. Thanks to also to Thomas Sitton and Kevin Mullen for helping me locate fugitive sources.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

"Homicide in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago," *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology*, 92, (2003) 101-114.

"New Standards for Historical Violence Research," *Crime, History, Society* (Switzerland), 5, (2001) 5-26.

"Estimating The Accuracy of Historic Homicide Rates: New York And Los Angeles," *Social Science History*, 25, (Spring 2001) 53-66.

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NOTE: Eric Monkkonen, the principal investigator, passed away before he could proof the data on Los Angeles homicides or write a detailed codebook. As a result, the database contains some inconsistent entries, duplicate records, etc., which Eric would have eliminated had he had the chance to do so. It also contains variables and codes (marked with asterisks) that HVD has not yet been able to identify. HVD hopes in the coming years to remedy these problems so that the data appear as Eric intended. Eric asked, however, that we post the data in their present form so that researchers could begin the work of correcting and interpreting the data.

CODEBOOK FOR HVD June 2005
LOS ANGELES HOMICIDES, 1830-2000
(PART 1: ANNUAL HOMICIDES AND RELATED DATA)

NAME	VARIABLE
YEAR	Year
LAPOP	Population of Los Angeles County
LAPOP1	Population of the City of Los Angeles
NONLA	Population of Los Angeles County not in the city
PCTNON	Percentage of population of Los Angeles County not in city
LAAYHOM	Los Angeles County annual homicides
LACHPC	Los Angeles County homicide rate per 100,000 persons per year
FY	Fiscal year, 1921/2 – 1958/9
RZRKNSTB	Razor, knife, or stab wound, 1928/9 – 1958/9
PSNGAS	Poison or gas, 1928/9 – 1958/9
DROWN	Drowned, 1928/9 – 1958/9
FIGHTBRL	Fight or brawl, 1928/9 – 1958/9
HITWOBJ	Hit with object, 1928/9 – 1958/9
SUFOCT	Suffocated, 1928/9 – 1958/9
STRNGL	Strangled, 1928/9 – 1958/9
OTHER	Other means of death, 1928/9 – 1958/9
LAFYHOM	Los Angeles county annual homicides from the Coroner's Fiscal Year Report, 1921/2 – 1958/9

CODEBOOK FOR HVD June 2005
LOS ANGELES HOMICIDES, 1830-2000
(PART 1: ANNUAL HOMICIDES AND RELATED DATA) con' t

NAME	VARIABLE
GUNLACNT	Los Angeles county annual gun homicides from the Coroner's Report, 1894-1906, and Fiscal Year Report, 1921/2 – 1958/9
LCNTYHM	Los Angeles County annual homicides from the Coroner's Report, 1894-1906
LACHPCEA	Los Angeles County homicide rate per 100,000 persons per year from the Coroner's Report, 1894-1906, and Fiscal Year Report, 1921/2 – 1958/9, and 1968-1995
LAHMPC	City of Los Angeles homicide rate per 100,000 persons per year, 1910-1994
* LACNKN	LACNKN, 1928/9 – 1958/9
LAFYHOM1	City of Los Angeles fiscal year homicides, 1887/8, 1910/11 – 1994/5
LACNWOM	Los Angeles County women victims, 1894-1906
FY1	Fiscal year: 1935.5=6/1935-6/36
LAAYHOM1	City of Los Angeles annual homicides
LAFYHPC	City of Los Angeles fiscal year homicide rate LA per 100,000 persons per year
LAAYHPC	City of Los Angeles annual homicide rate LA per 100,000 persons per year
LAAYHPC1	Los Angeles County annual homicide rate LA per 100,000 persons per year
LAFYHPC1	Los Angeles County fiscal year homicide rate LA per 100,000 persons per year, 1921/2 - 1958/9
LAFUSION	Los Angeles County average of annual plus fiscal year homicide rate per 100,000 persons per year, 1894-1906, 1921/2-1958/9, and 1963/4-1995/6

CODEBOOK FOR HVD June 2005
 LOS ANGELES HOMICIDES, 1830-2000
 (PART 1: ANNUAL HOMICIDES AND RELATED DATA) con' t

NAME	VARIABLE
* LAFUSI01	LAFUSI01
LAAYGUN	Los Angeles County annual gun murders, 1894-1906
LAFYGUN	Los Angeles County fiscal year gun murders, 1928/9 – 1958/9
LAAPGUN	Los Angeles County annual percentage of gun homicides, 1894-1906
LAFPGUN	Los Angeles County fiscal year percentage of gun homicides, 1928/9 – 1958/9
USHOMPC	United States annual homicide rate per 100,000 persons per year (Holling/Eckberg)
LAAYHMNU	Estimated Los Angeles County annual homicides
LAAYHPNU	Estimated Los Angeles County homicide rate per 100,000 persons per year
RECAPHPC	New York City homicide rate per 100,000 persons per year with capture-recapture estimates of annual homicides, 1853-1867
NHOMPC	New York City homicide rate per 100,000 persons per year, 1830-1998
LAHDONG	Los Angeles homicides, Don Gautier, 1915-1987
LAGDONG	Los Angeles homicides, Don Gautier, Guns, 1927-1949
LAKDONG	Los Angeles homicides, Don Gautier, Knives, 1927-1949
LAARDONG	Los Angeles homicides, Don Gautier, arr. [?], 1925-1978
* LA2000	LA2000
LAPOPEST	Estimated population of Los Angeles County

CODEBOOK FOR HVD June 2005
LOS ANGELES HOMICIDES, 1830-2000
(PART 1: ANNUAL HOMICIDES AND RELATED DATA) con' t

NAME	VARIABLE
LAHPCEST	Estimated Los Angeles County homicide rate per 100,000 persons per year
VOFF	Number of homicide victims who were law enforcement officers, 1830-1881, 1890-1949, 2000
SOFF	Number of homicide suspects who were law enforcement officers, 1830-1881, 1890-1949, 2000
PCTVOFF	Percent homicide victims who were officers
PCTSOFF	Percent homicide suspects who were officers

**CODEBOOK for HVD June 2005
LOS ANGELES HOMICIDES, 1830-2002
(PART 2: INDIVIDUAL HOMICIDE DATA)**

NAME VARIABLE

Time and Place

MONTH	Month of death
DAY	Day of death
YEAR	Year of death
DOW	Day of week (Sunday = 0, etc.)
INFYR	Year inferred from volume and file number
DECADE	Decade of homicide
POD	Place of death
CITY	City of death
LACITY	Died in City of Los Angeles
LACOUNTY	Died in the County of Los Angeles

**CODEBOOK for HVD June 2005
LOS ANGELES HOMICIDES, 1830-2002
(PART 2: INDIVIDUAL HOMICIDE DATA) con't**

NAME	VARIABLE	
	Relationship between Victim and Suspect	
VICTIM	Name of victim	
SUSPECT	Name of suspect	
NOTES	Notes on cases	
VPOFF	Victim police officer	(1 if yes)
SPOFF	Suspect police officer	(1 if yes)
GANG	Gang related	(1 if yes)
QUARREL	Quarrel, fight, altercation, brawl; Not family difficulties	(1 if yes)
IP	Intimate partner	(1 if yes)
GAY	Gay intimate partner	(1 if yes)
BANK	Bank	(1 if yes)
JH	Noted as justifiable or self-defense	(1 if yes)
AH	Accidental homicide	(1 if yes)
SUICIDES	Homicides followed by suicides	(1 if yes)

**CODEBOOK for HVD June 2005
LOS ANGELES HOMICIDES, 1830-2002
(PART 2: INDIVIDUAL HOMICIDE DATA) con't**

NAME VARIABLE

Suspect Characteristics

SRACE	Suspect race
SGENDER	Suspect gender
SMARRIED	Suspect marital status
SAGE	Suspect age
SPOB	Suspect birthplace
SSPSU	Suspect Spanish surname
SINDIAN	Suspect Native American or probably so
SNATIVITY	Suspect state or country of origin

Victim Characteristics

VRACE	Victim race
VGENDER	Victim gender
VMARRIED	Victim marital status
VAGE	Victim age
* TAGE	
VPOB	Victim birthplace
VPOB2	Victim birthplace – second entry
VPOB3	Victim place of birth (field for inconsistent information)
VSPSU	Victim has Spanish surname

**CODEBOOK for HVD June 2005
LOS ANGELES HOMICIDES, 1830-2002
(PART 2: INDIVIDUAL HOMICIDE DATA) con't**

NAME VARIABLE

Victim Characteristics (con't)

VBLACK	Victim African American
VWHITE	White victim
VCHINESE	Victim has Chinese surname
VINDIAN	Native American victim
VNONENA	Probably Native American victim – first name only
VMEXICAN	Victim Mexican [recheck]
VMEXICAN2	Victim born in Mexico
VFB	Victim foreign-born
VNB	Victim native-born
	6 victims born in Canada are listed as native-born and foreign-born: consider revising these entries
VCAL	Victim born in California
VSOUTHERN	Victim born in the South: includes the states of the former Confederacy plus Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

**CODEBOOK for HVD June 2005
LOS ANGELES HOMICIDES, 1830-2002
(PART 2: INDIVIDUAL HOMICIDE DATA) con't**

NAME VARIABLE

Weapons, Injuries, and Judicial Outcomes

WEAPON	Weapon
WCODED	Weapon – Coded (See key below)
GUN	Weapon -- Gun (1 if yes)
KNIFE	Weapon -- Sharp instrument (1 if yes)
INJURY	Character of physical injury
HOWLONG	Time between injury and death
TIME	Hours from injury to death
* DOD	Odd Date Death Codes
TRIED	1 = G, 2 = NG, 3 = <i>Nolle prosequi</i>

**CODEBOOK for HVD June 2005
LOS ANGELES HOMICIDES, 1830-2002
(PART 2: INDIVIDUAL HOMICIDE DATA) con't**

NAME VARIABLE

Sources

SOURCE	Name of source
VOLUME	Volume of Register
PAGE	Page of Register
FILE_NUM	File number
BOXCASE	Box, Case # (Hunt), Page # (Seaver)
LATIMES	In Los Angeles <i>Times</i>
LACOR	In coroner's inquests
H154B	Found in Los Angeles <i>Times</i> or <i>Star</i> by History 154B students
LASTAR	Los Angeles <i>Star</i> searched by Eric Monkkonen
LACOURT	Huntington Library, Criminal Cases
FOLSUM	In List of Prisoners, 1886
LAPD	In LAPD murder books
LAPDWEB	On LAPD website
* JURISD	[Appears to be a source listing]
* YRLINDX	[Appears to be a source listing.]

CODEBOOK for HVD June 2005
LOS ANGELES HOMICIDES, 1830-2002
(PART 2: INDIVIDUAL HOMICIDE DATA) con't

Codes for WCODED

4	blank
5	57
6	club
7	fall
8	knife
9	pick to
10	poison
11	axe
12	beaten
13	beaten/d
14	blow to
15	blunt instrument
16	burned i
17	carbolic acid
18	club
19	comp. fo
20	drowning
21	fist fig
22	gas asphyxiation
23	gun
24	gunshot
25	hatchet
26	knife
27	knife/bladed weapon
28	poison
29	pushed o
30	razor
31	shotgun
32	skull fracture
33	stabbed
34	train
35	assault
36	lack of care and vi
37	bottles
38	burning
39	carbon monoxide
40	crushing of skull

CODEBOOK for HVD June 2005
LOS ANGELES HOMICIDES, 1830-2002
(PART 2: INDIVIDUAL HOMICIDE DATA) con't

Codes for WCODED (con't)

41	cuspidor
42	drowned & blows
43	iron
44	lethal gas
45	pick to head
46	placed on road
47	pushed down stairs
48	rock
49	skull fracture
50	stoned
51	arsenic poisoning
52	auto over cliff
53	axe & knife wound
54	b instrument
55	b with pipe
56	b with instrument
57	bat
58	bayonet
59	beaten
60	beaten to death
61	beaten on head with object
62	beaten on the head
63	beaten with a wrench
64	beaten/drowned
65	beating
66	blow
67	blow from unk.
68	blow to head
69	blow to head/spade
70	blow to head/wrench
71	blows
72	blows to head
73	blunt instrument
74	blunt object
75	bodily injuries from fight
76	bodily injury
77	boiling water

CODEBOOK for HVD June 2005
LOS ANGELES HOMICIDES, 1830-2002
(PART 2: INDIVIDUAL HOMICIDE DATA) con't

Codes for WCODED (con't)

78	bomb
79	burned
80	burned in house
81	burning
82	carb mon poison
83	carb. acid/laudanum
84	carbon monoxide
85	carbon monoxide -- auto exhaust
86	chloroform poison
87	cleaver
88	comp. following fist
89	concussion
90	cut
91	cutting of throat
92	cyanid poisoning
93	cyanide poisoning
94	decapitation
95	defenestration
96	drowned
97	exposure & neglect
98	exposure & neglect
99	fell at home or beaten by husband, Harle B. Ni
100	fell from or struck by auto
101	fight
102	fire
103	fist fight
104	fracture of skull
105	fractured skull
106	g + Bottle
107	g + b
108	gas
109	gas asphyxiation
110	gunshot wound
111	h
112	hammer
113	hatchet
114	head injuries

CODEBOOK for HVD June 2005
LOS ANGELES HOMICIDES, 1830-2002
(PART 2: INDIVIDUAL HOMICIDE DATA) con't

Codes for WCODED (con't)

- 115 head injury
- 116 head injury -- run over by auto
- 117 head trauma
- 118 instrument
- 119 internal injury
- 120 iron bar
- 121 k + g
- 122 kick
- 123 knife wound
- 124 knife/blows to head
- 125 knife/blunt inst.
- 126 lynching
- 127 maltreatment
- 128 mutilated
- 129 mutilation
- 130 mutilation & blunt object
- 131 pipe
- 132 poisoning
- 133 poisoning -- arsenic
- 134 poisoning -- gas on
- 135 punch
- 136 pushed down stairs
- 137 pushed from moving auto 138 pushed off cliff
- 139 pushed off moving train
- 140 pushed over cliff
- 141 see above
- 142 shot by trap gun
- 143 shrapnel
- 144 skull fracture
- 145 skull fractured
- 146 slapped and fell
- 147 smothered
- 148 spade
- 149 stab & gunshot
- 150 stab wound
- 151 stab wound
- 152 stabbed with ice pick

CODEBOOK for HVD June 2005
LOS ANGELES HOMICIDES, 1830-2002
(PART 2: INDIVIDUAL HOMICIDE DATA) con't

Codes for WCODED (con't)

153	stick
154	strangled
155	strangulation
156	struck
157	struck and strangled
158	struck by axe
159	struck by insane patient
160	struck by unknown
161	struck during drunken brawl
162	struck during fight
163	struck on head
164	struck or pushed
165	struck w/brick
166	struck with a piece of pipe
167	struck with auto crank
168	struck with billiard cue
169	struck with blunt object
170	struck with fist
171	strychnine poisoning
172	sub-dural hemorrhage
173	suffocation
174	undetermined
175	unknown

List of Sources by the Principal Investigator

LA homicide sources.

LA Dept of Coroner. Register of Inquests. 1894-

Huntington Library. Manuscript collections. Los Angeles Area Court Records. Los Angeles District Court, Criminal: Register of Actions Criminal, vol. I.

Huntington Library. Manuscript collections. Los Angeles Area Court Records. Los Angeles Criminal Cases (1861-1879) [boxes 1-24]

Huntington Library. Manuscript collections. List of Civil and Criminal Cases presented in Los Angeles, March 21, 1847 - June, 1850 [in Spanish]

Seaver Center, LA County Museum of Natural History. Alcalde Court Records, Criminal, Finding Guide by Miraslava Chavez. These cover 1830 -1850. They include trial transcripts and in a few cases describe the exhumations of bodies, so they are more complete than court records. In Spanish and really hard to read, with some very distant seeming coverage. E.g. -- San Diego.

Seaver Center, LA County Museum of Natural History. Los Angeles county Court Records [Criminal, includes Justices, District and Session courts]. 1850-1860. This is the first decade of the series continued at the Huntington. Exact same contents and format. Very trial oriented, so includes jury information but not much about the crimes. No cases with unknown offenders.

Los Angeles Star (film, missing issues) 1851-

Los Angeles Daily News (film) reel I (1869-72) poor source

Los Angeles Times. Dec. 4, 1881- Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Herald. Los Angeles Daily Herald Oct. 1873-Mar. 22, 1890 [(1881-84) DEC (1885) in microform room]. 1880 at Huntington.

Other newspapers for short runs include the Daily California Chronicle (12/30/1854) and the Los Angeles Daily News (1871).

Los Angeles (Calif.). Dept. of Health. Annual report of the Department of Health of the City of Los Angeles, California. Database Control no: 07-AOX-3545 B (1888-1890). Use at srlf.

DA Archives, 5300 Harbor St. Commerce CA 90040 (323)881-5144

LA County Law Library. Annual report of the coroner. Los Angeles County (Calif.). Coroner's Dept. 19 -1959. Location: At the Main Library Call Number: KB88.C7AI L8 s

Horace Bell, *Reminiscences of a Ranger* (LA, 1927) p. 13, "The year '53 showed an average mortality form fights and assassinations of over one per day in Los Angeles. In the year last referred to, police statistics showed a greater number of murders in California than in all the United States besides, and a great number in Los Angeles than in all of the rest of California." No source cited!

coverage	Court	Newspaper	Coroner	misc.
1830-1850	Alcalde, Seaver. List of cases, Huntington 47- 50			
1850-1860	Courts, Seaver	LA Star 1851-72 (missing years); Southern Californian 1854-5		Newmark, Bell
1861-1879	Courts & Register, Huntington			
1881-1889		LA Times		
1894-1958			Inquest Reg.	

Population sources.

I don't trust the census of 1850, having looked at the ms. Not enough Indians.

LA Star, 9/11/69 says that the City Assessor est 1866 at 8700 and 1867 at 9500, and 9/18/69 the 1869 pop at 14500.

LA Star by 1859 or so seems to drop local news, and murder very erratically reported.

Note that in the early years, LA county included Riverside and San Bernadino, and I have occasionally [added] and should drop included cases from San Bernadino, Fort Tejon, and Santa Ana.

LA coroner missing vol 352-376, much of 1939

A weird source: Young Research Library, UCLA, Special collections, Shelf List Drawers, for Daily Star, a card index of "murder and attempts to murder." This index includes dates note on the microfilm of the Star. The index is typed and could be pre 1950.

Newmark, Harris, 1834-1916. *Sixty years in southern California, 1853-1913: containing the reminiscences of Harris Newmark*, edited by Maurice H. and Marco R. Newmark. 1984.

I wish to acknowledge the research support of the National Science Foundation (SES 0111725), the National Consortium on Violence Research, and the UCLA Academic Senate. My three principal research assistants on this project deserve special thanks for their diligence and diplomacy: Evan Seamon, Tamara Myers, and Petula Iu. Thanks to also to Thomas Sitton and Kevin Mullen for helping me locate fugitive sources.

Data errors: several entries in 1898 seem to have been misdated: I have recoded these as noted by the presence of a variable estimated date.

Gaps in the data: only the year 1967 is incomplete.