

Criminal History of Victims

How many victims had a prior criminal history?

Overall, 67% (139) of all victims (209), 70% (123) of all homicide and assault victims, and all 3 of the fatal legal intervention victims had a criminal history.

How often do victims with a criminal history know the suspect?

When a victim with a criminal history provided information on the suspect, 73% (57) identified the suspect as someone they knew. Victims with criminal histories knew the suspect almost twice as often as victims without criminal histories.

After suffering from a firearm-related injury, how many victims re-offended?

Sixty-three percent (60) of the assault victims with criminal histories re-offended before 2001.

How often did fatality victims with a criminal history test positive for alcohol and/or drugs?

Fatality victims with a criminal history tested positive for drugs 2.4 times as often as victims without a criminal history.

Were the incident circumstances different for victims with a criminal history compared to those without a criminal history?

Victims with a criminal history were involved in a drug-related incident seven times as often as victims who did not have a criminal history. Victims without a criminal history were injured as a result of a robbery twice as often as those with a criminal history.

Was there any difference in victims who suffered single versus multiple gunshot wounds?

Victims with a criminal history suffered multiple gunshot wounds twice as often as victims without a criminal history.

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Criminal History of Victims

Fatal and Nonfatal Firearm-related Injuries

Criminal History

Of the 209 eligible victims¹³ it was determined that two-thirds (139) of these victims had a criminal history (Table 31, Figure 59). Of the homicide and assault victims, 70% (123) had a criminal history, and 63% (60) of the assault victims re-offended before 2001. We only have information on criminal history and re-offenses for those victims who were charged in SF County. If the victim was charged in another county or state, we did not have access to this information, and therefore reported percentages may be underestimates.

Table 31: Criminal History of Victim and Re-offense Status, by Intent: San Francisco, 1999

	Overall Victims ^a n=209	Criminal History				Re-offended ^b			
		Yes n=139		No n=70		Yes n=63		No n=38	
			%		%		%		%
Suicide	21	7	33.3	14	66.7	--	--	--	--
Homicide	40	27	67.5	13	32.5	--	--	--	--
Legal Intervention fatal	3	3	100.0	0	--	--	--	--	--
Self-inflicted ^c	5	4	80.0	1	20.0	2	50.0	0	--
Assault	136	96	70.6	40	29.4	60	62.5	38	39.6
Another-inflicted ^d	2	0	--	2	100.0	0	--	0	--
Legal Intervention nonfatal	2	2	100.0	0	--	1	50.0	0	--

^aThere was a single child assault victim and 3 law enforcement officers who were victims of a nonfatal legal interventions that are not included, thus the n=209.

^bTwo victims of self-inflicted injuries were booked on the day of their injury. Also, there was a single assault victim where it was unknown whether or not he re-offended.

^cAnother-inflicted incidents are those in which victims were unintentionally shot by another person.

^dSelf-inflicted incidents are those in which victims unintentionally shot themselves.

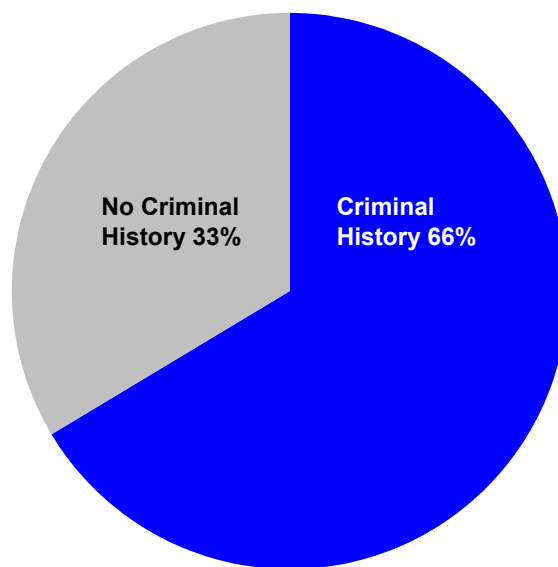


Figure 59: Criminal History of Firearm-related Injury Victims: San Francisco, 1999

Note: There were 4 victims—1 child and 3 law enforcement officers who are not included.

¹³Excluded from the total of 213 victims are 3 law enforcement officers and 1 child under the age of 5.

Prior Contacts with the San Francisco Police Department

Of the 139 victims with a criminal history, 110 had records indicating prior contacts with the SFPD. Of the remaining victims, the “rap” sheets of 28 fatality victims was purged by the SFPD prior to the time of SFFIRS data collection, and there was a single victim whose prior history was not available. Figure 60 shows, for these 110 victims with criminal histories and records of prior contacts with the SFPD, the time elapsed between the date of the first SFPD contact resulting in criminal charges, and the date of last contact with the SFPD. Approximately 57% (33) of juveniles and 35% (35) of adults had an elapsed period of 1 to 5 years between their first SFPD contact and their last SFPD contact, 19% (11) of juveniles had a single contact, and 28% (28) of the adults had an elapsed period of 5 to 10 years between their first contact and last contact with the SFPD.

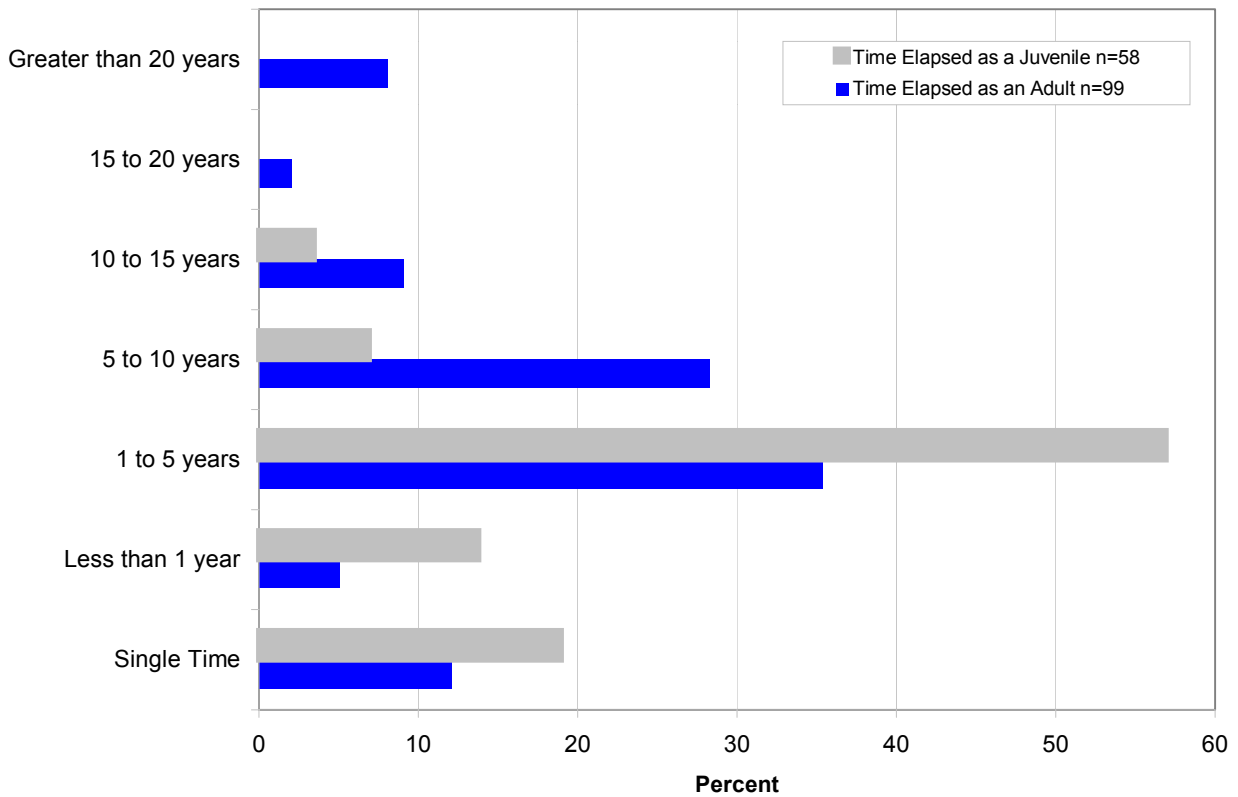


Figure 60: Elapsed Time Between First and Last Police Contact for Victims with Criminal Histories: San Francisco, 1999

Figure 61 shows the number of misdemeanor and felony charges, acquired when victims with criminal histories were either juveniles or adults, in SF. Sixty-six percent (23) of juveniles had a single misdemeanor charge, while 75% (41) had between 2 and 10 felony charges. Fifty-five percent (48) and 40% (36) of the adults had between 2 and 10 misdemeanor and felony charges, respectively.

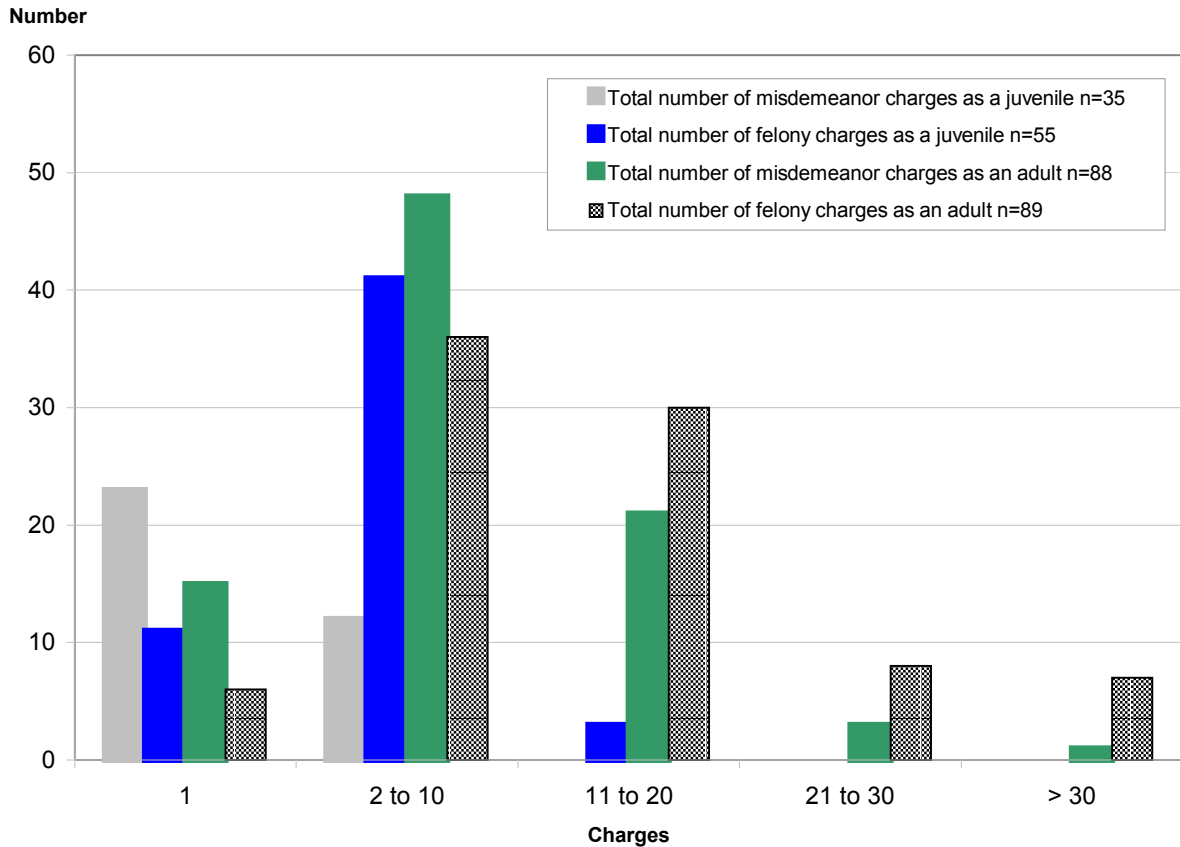


Figure 61: Number of Prior Misdemeanor and Felony Charges, by Victims with Criminal Histories: San Francisco, 1999

Hospitalization of Victims with Criminal Histories

There were 106 victims (excluding 3 victims of legal intervention) who were admitted to SFGH, with 69% (73) having a criminal history; 84% (61) of these victims with criminal histories suffered a nonfatal injury. Figure 62 shows that there were 61 nonfatality victims with criminal histories who were hospitalized. Of these hospitalized victims, 57% (35) re-offended and 43% (26) did not re-offend. Victims with criminal histories who did not re-offend and were admitted to SFGH were hospitalized on average for 9.2 days, with a median of 3.5 days, with a range from less than 1 day to 58 days; and those victims who re-offended spent on average 6.5 days in the hospital, with a median of 3 days, and a range from less than a day to 56 days.

Length of Hospitalization (days)

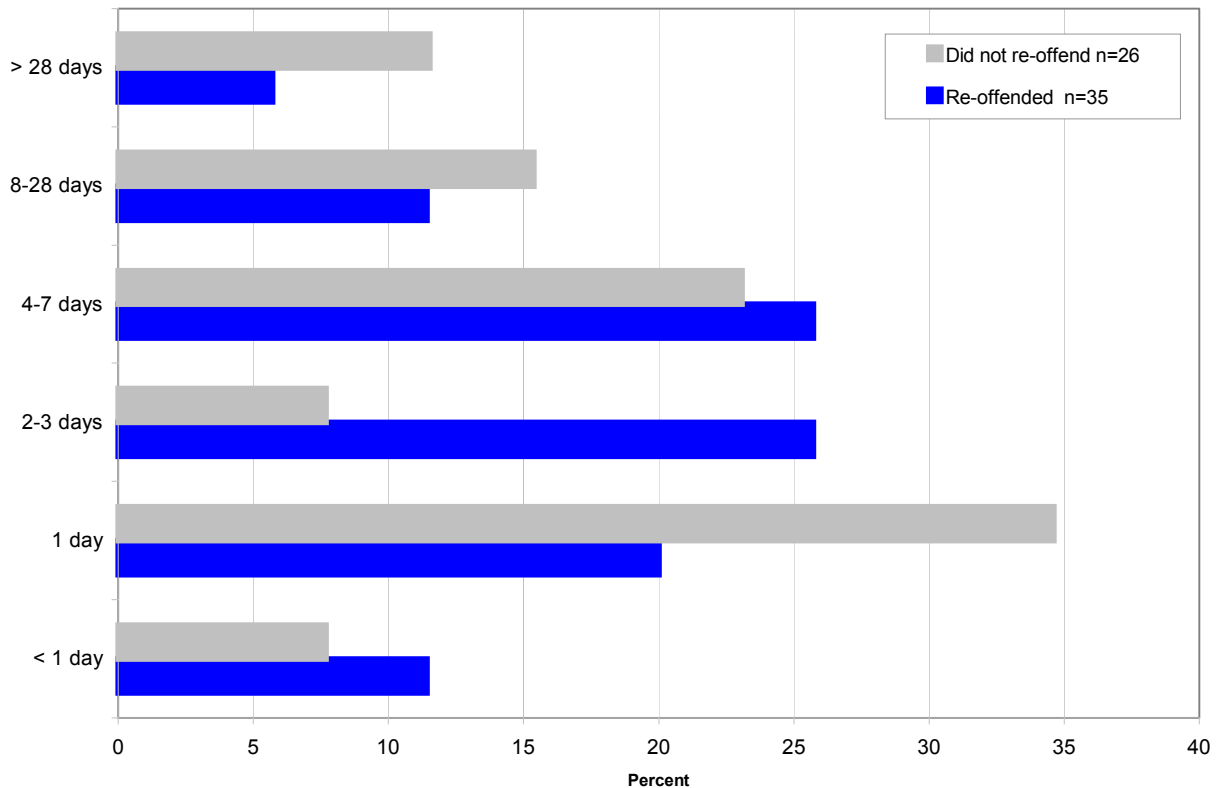


Figure 62: Firearm-related Victim's Re-offender Status, by Length of Hospitalization: San Francisco, 1999

There were 52 victims treated and released from SFGH ED. Of these victims, 73% (38) had a criminal history. Figure 63 shows the disposition of victims with criminal histories upon leaving SFGH according to whether or not they re-offended after discharge. Of the 38 victims with criminal histories who were treated and discharged from the ED, 68% (26) re-offended within the next calendar year. Overall, of the 95 (not including the 4 victims with criminal history who were booked at the time of the incident) surviving victims with prior police contacts who were seen in the SFGH ED or were hospitalized, 64% (61) re-offended in SF County before 2001.

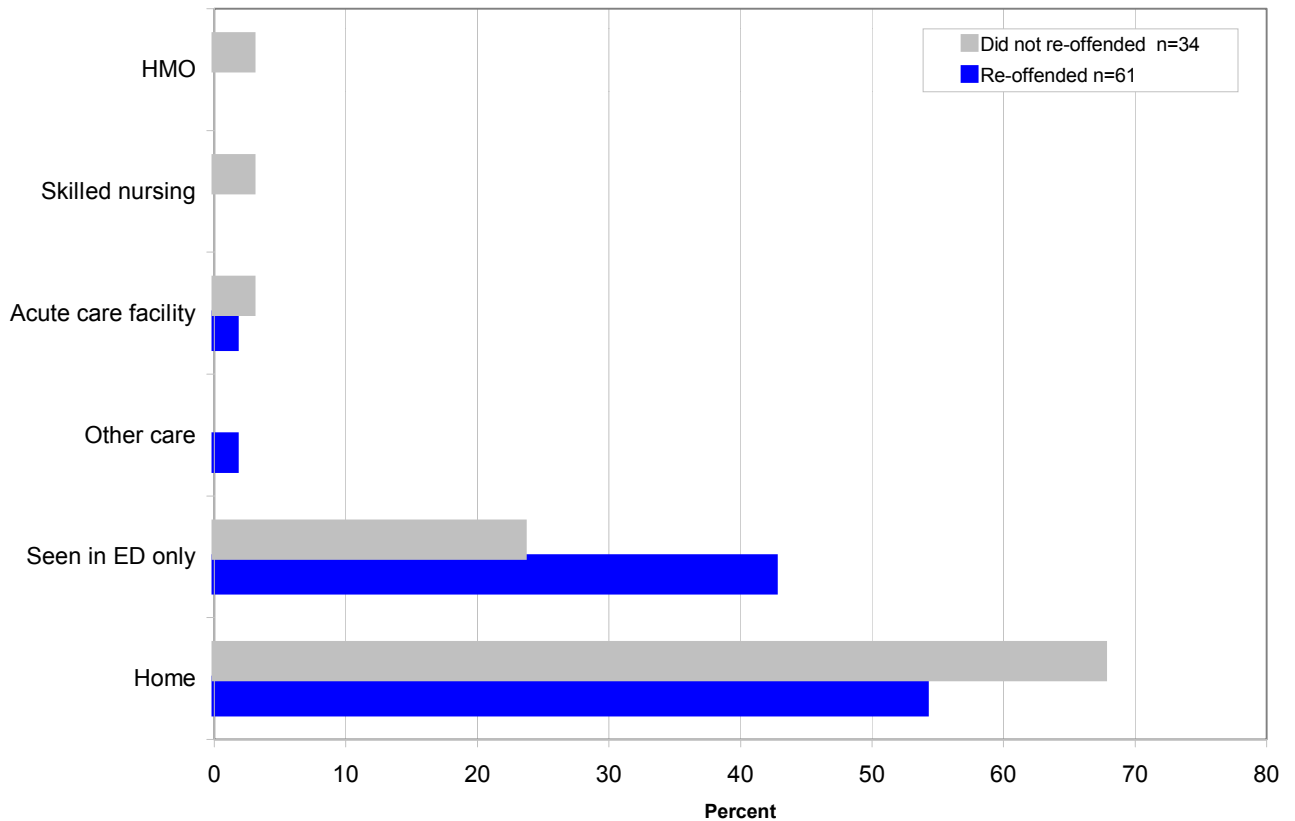


Figure 63: Firearm-related Victim's Re-offender Status, by Medical Disposition: San Francisco, 1999

Comparison of Characteristics and Circumstances of Victims with Criminal Histories to Those Victims with No Criminal Histories

Age

The age group with the highest number of victims with criminal histories was the 20 to 24-year-old group, followed by victims aged 25 to 34 years. The 35 to 44-year-old age group had the largest proportion of victims with criminal histories (76%) (Figure 64).

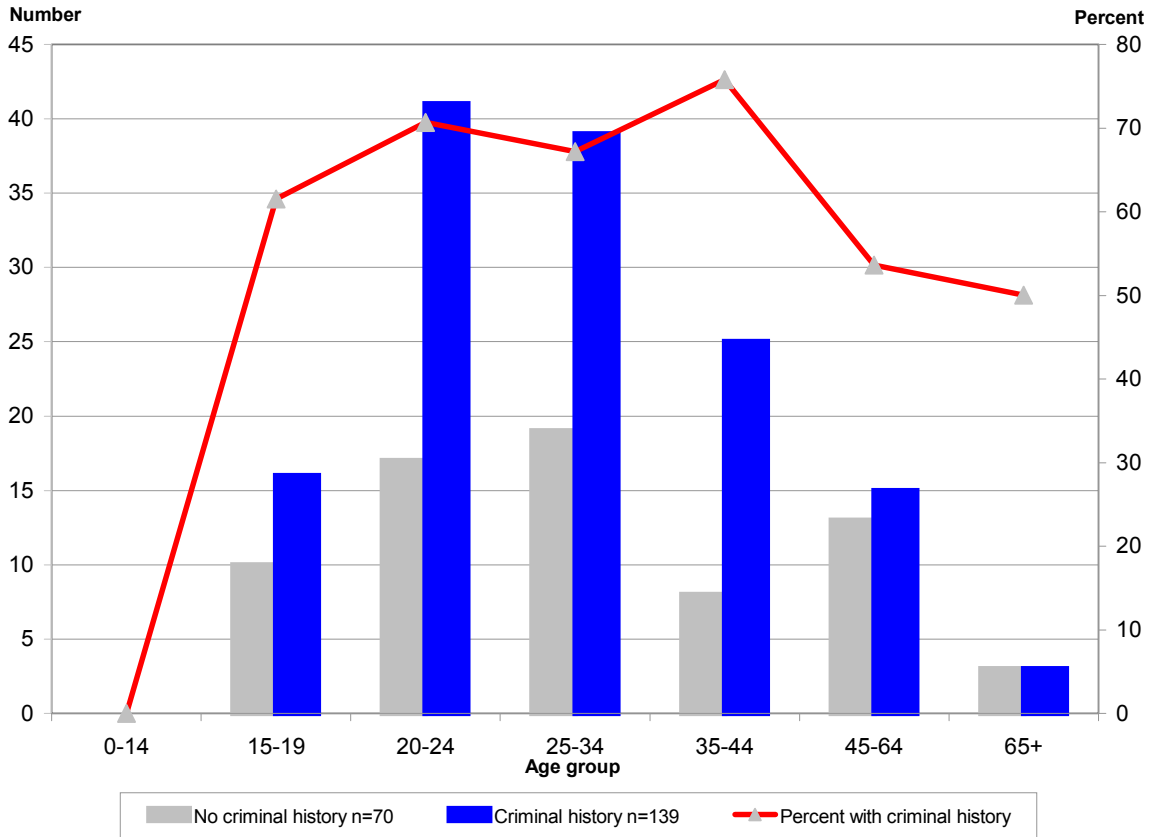


Figure 64: Victims of Firearm-related Injuries with and without Criminal Histories, by Age Group: San Francisco, 1999

Figure 65 shows the ages of the victims with criminal histories, compared with the ages of known suspects. The area between the dashed and dotted lines of the figure shows that 72% (70) of the victims with criminal histories were within 10 years of age of the suspect.

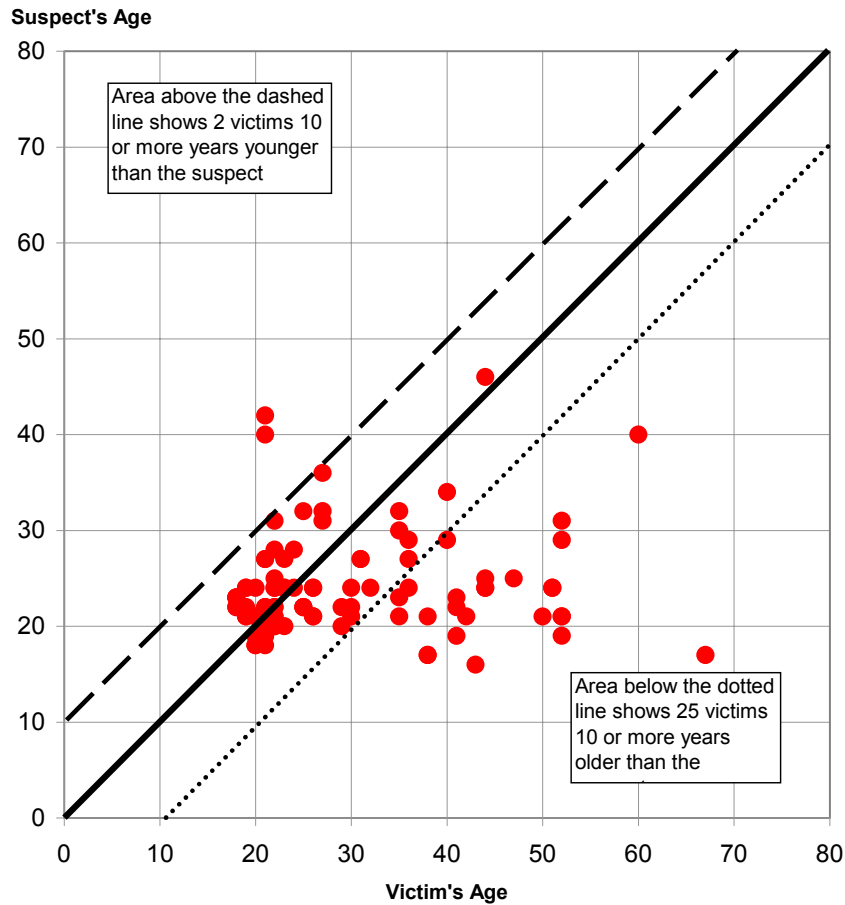


Figure 65: Relationship Between Age of Known Suspects and Age of Victims of Firearm-related Injuries with Criminal Histories: San Francisco, 1999 (n=97)

Figure 66 shows 84 victim-suspect pairs involving victims without criminal history. The area between the dashed and dotted lines of the figure shows that 55% (46) of the victim-suspect pairs were within 10 years of age of each other.

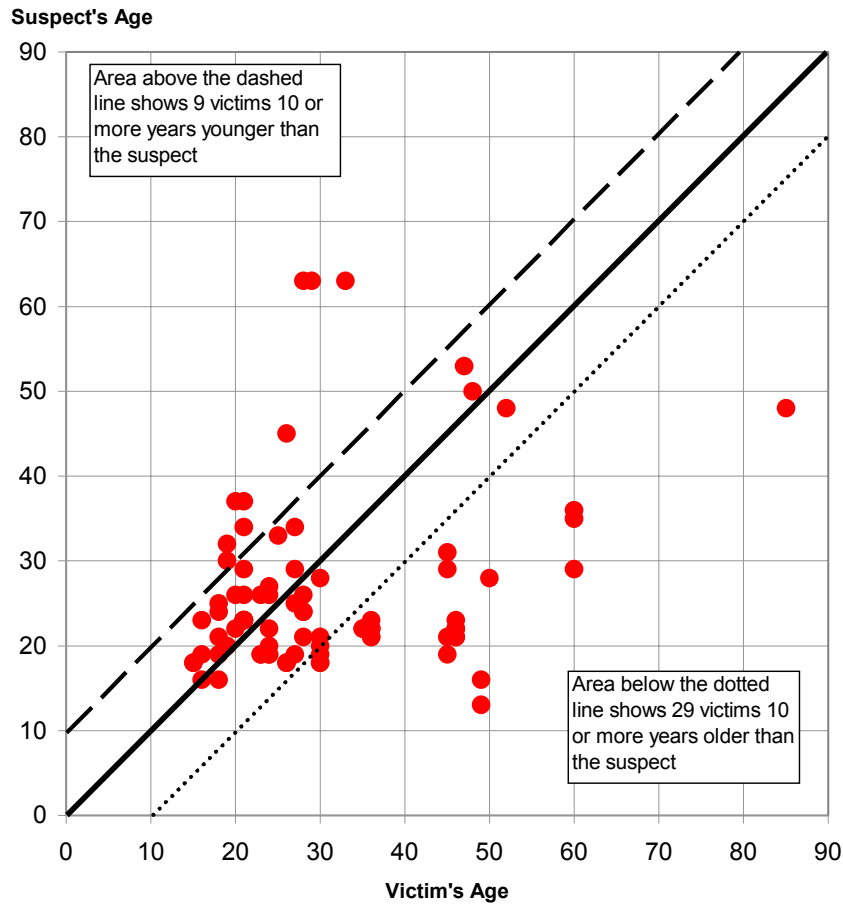


Figure 66: Relationship Between Age of Known Suspects and Age of Victims of Firearm-related Injuries without Criminal Histories: San Francisco, 1999 (n=84)

Race/Ethnicity

As shown in Figure 67, 66% (93) of all firearm-related injury victims with criminal histories were African Americans. Of all African Americans who were victims of firearm-related injuries, 82% (93) had criminal histories, followed by Hispanics with 63% (27), and then Asians with 38% (9).

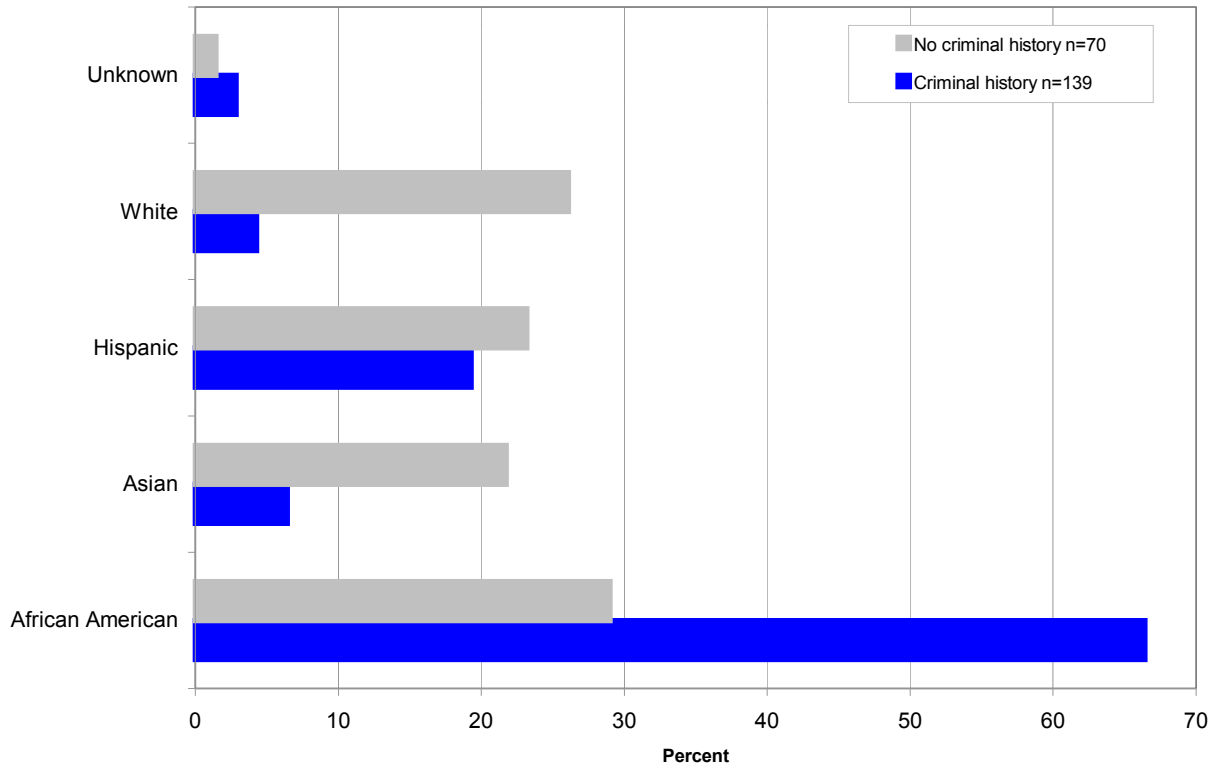


Figure 67: Criminal History of Victims of Firearm-related Injuries, by Victim's Race/Ethnicity: San Francisco, 1999 (n=209)
 Note: There were 4 victims whose criminal history status was not applicable.

Circumstances of the Incident

Of the 177 assaultive (homicide and assault) victims, 69% (123) had criminal histories. Victims with no criminal history were injured or killed as a result of a robbery twice as often as victims with criminal histories (Table 32). Victims with criminal histories were injured or killed in gang-related incidents 1.5 times more often than victims with no criminal histories. Also, victims with criminal histories were injured as a result of drug-related circumstances almost 7 times as often as victims without criminal histories (Figure 68).

Table 32: Circumstances of Assaultive Incidents, by Victim’s Criminal History: San Francisco, 1999				
	Criminal history n=123		No criminal history n=54	
		%		%
Interpersonal non-felony	55	44.7	22	40.7
Interpersonal (arguments, abuse, revenge)	44	35.8	15	27.8
Intimate partner	2	1.6	4	7.4
Argument over drugs ^a	4	3.3	0	--
Brawl due to influence of drugs ^a	1	0.8	0	--
Brawl due to alcohol	1	0.8	0	--
Other brawl	3	2.4	3	5.6
Felony-type or suspected	20	16.3	12	22.2
Narcotic drug law ^a	3	2.4	0	--
Robbery	11	8.9	11	20.4
Burglary	2	1.6	0	--
Prostitution	1	0.8	0	--
Rape	0	--	1	1.9
Arson	1	0.8	0	--
Intervener assaulted while aiding crime victim	1	0.8	0	--
Suspected felony type	1	0.8	0	--
Bystander	9	7.3	8	14.8
Sniper attack	1	0.8	0	--
Bystander	8	6.5	8	14.8
Gang-related	27	22.0	8	14.8
Other	65	52.8	20	37.0
Unspecified drug related ^a	9	7.3	1	1.9
Other	56	45.5	19	35.2
^a All drugs (combined (4+1+3+9))	17	13.8	1	1.9

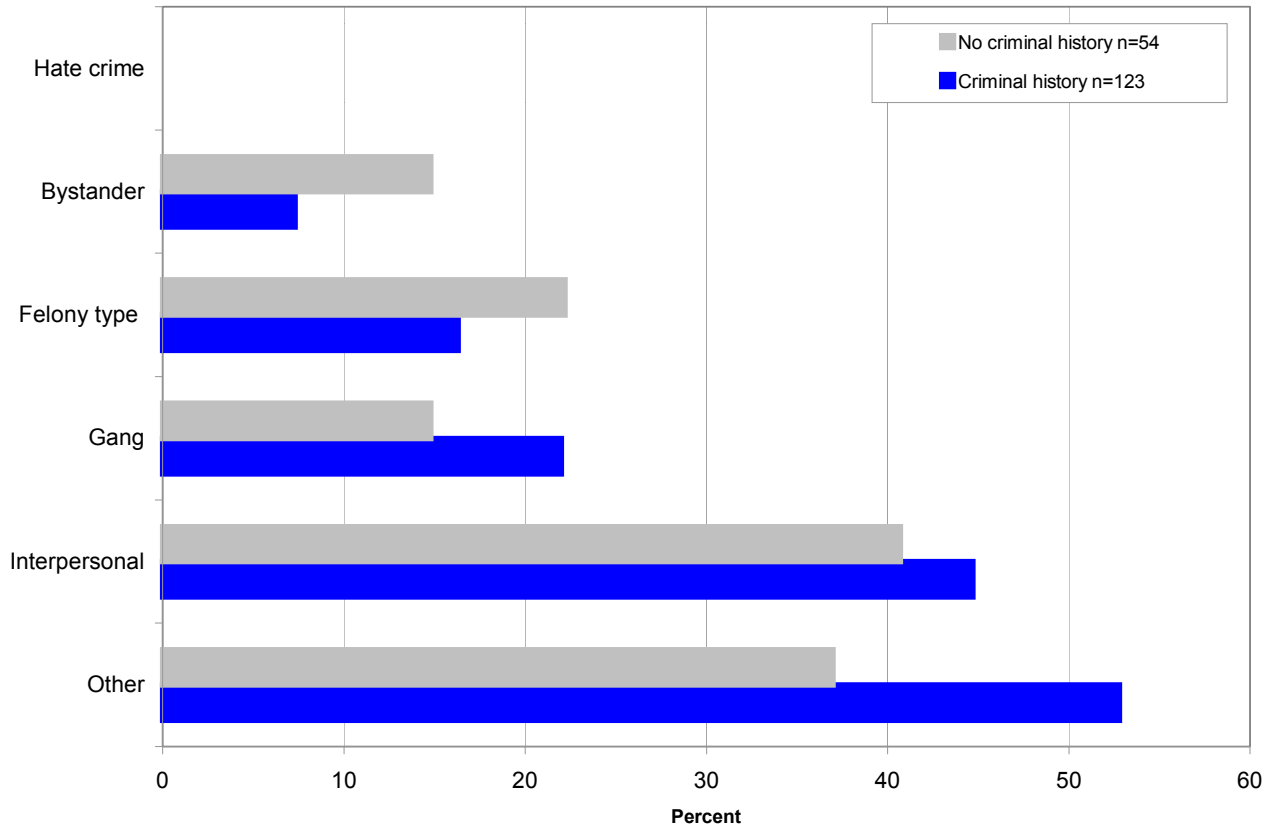


Figure 68: Criminal History of Victims of Firearm-related Injuries, by Circumstances of Incident: San Francisco, 1999

Victim-Suspect Relationship of Homicides and Assaults

Of those victims with a criminal history who provided identification information on the suspect, 73% (57) identified the suspect as someone they knew. In contrast, only 39% (31) of the victims with no criminal history identified the suspect as an acquaintance, family member, or intimate partner. Thus, victims with criminal histories knew the suspect almost twice as often as victims having no criminal history (Table 33, Figure 69).

Table 33: Comparison of Victims with and without Criminal Histories for Homicide and Assault Incidents, by Victim-Suspect Relationship: San Francisco, 1999

Relationship	Criminal history n=188	%	No criminal history n=106	%
Identified^a	57	73.0	31	38.8
Intimate partner	1	0.5	3	2.8
Spouse	0	--	1	0.9
Ex-spouse	1	0.5	1	0.9
Girlfriend	0	--	1	0.9
Family	2	1.1	7	6.6
Parent	1	0.5	3	2.8
In-law	0	--	1	0.9
Stepparent	1	0.5	0	--
Other family member	0	--	3	2.8
Acquaintance	54	28.7	21	19.8
Acquaintance	22	11.7	3	2.8
Gang	12	6.4	14	13.2
Other person known to victim	20	10.6	1	0.9
Friend	0	--	2	1.9
Current or former work	0	--	1	0.9
Stranger	21	11.2	49	46.2
Unknown	110	58.5	26	24.5

^aDenominator is the n minus the unknown: Criminal hx n=78, no criminal hx n=80.

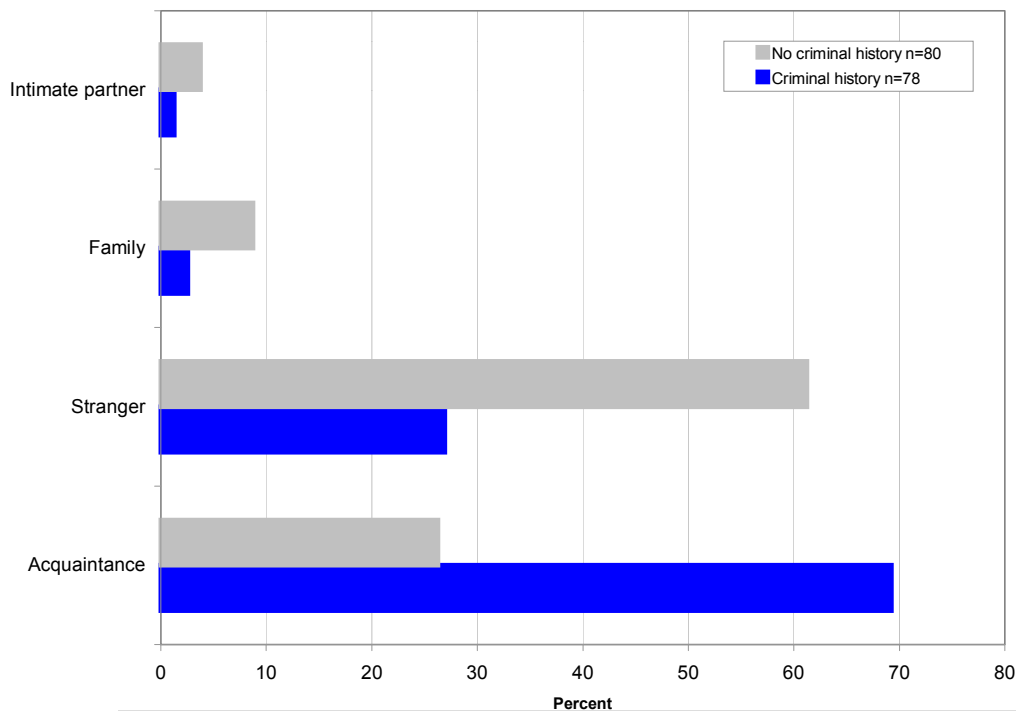


Figure 69: Homicide and Assault Incident Victim's Criminal History, by Known Relationship between Victim and Suspect: San

Alcohol and Drugs

As Table 34 shows, 60% (22) of the fatality victims with criminal histories tested positive for alcohol and/or drugs, compared with only 37% (10) of fatality victims without criminal histories. Victims with criminal histories tested positive for drugs twice as often as those victims without criminal histories.

Table 34: Presence of Drugs and Alcohol in Victims of Firearm-related Fatalities, by Criminal History: San Francisco, 1999

	Criminal history		No criminal history	
	n=37	%	n=27	%
Tested for alcohol	37	100.0	25	92.6
Positive for alcohol	9	24.3	6	24.0
Tested for drugs	36	97.3	25	92.6
Positive for drugs	17	47.2	5	20.0
Cocaine or metabolites	13	76.5	2	40.0
Opiates or metabolites	5	29.4	1	20.0
Marijuana	0	--	1	20.0
Antidepressants	1	5.9	2	40.0
Amphetamines	4	23.5	1	20.0
Presence of 2 of these drugs	6	35.3	2	40.0
Alcohol and drugs	4	10.8	1	3.7
Alcohol or drugs	18	48.6	9	33.3
Alcohol and/or drugs	22	59.5	10	37.0
Blood alcohol level				
<0.08	4	44.4	0	--
0.08 – 0.20	3	33.3	4	66.6
> 0.20	2	22.2	2	33.3

Residence of Victims

Nearly 75% (104) of victims of firearm-related incidents in SF with criminal histories resided in SF County, followed by San Mateo, Contra Costa, and Alameda counties (Figure 70).

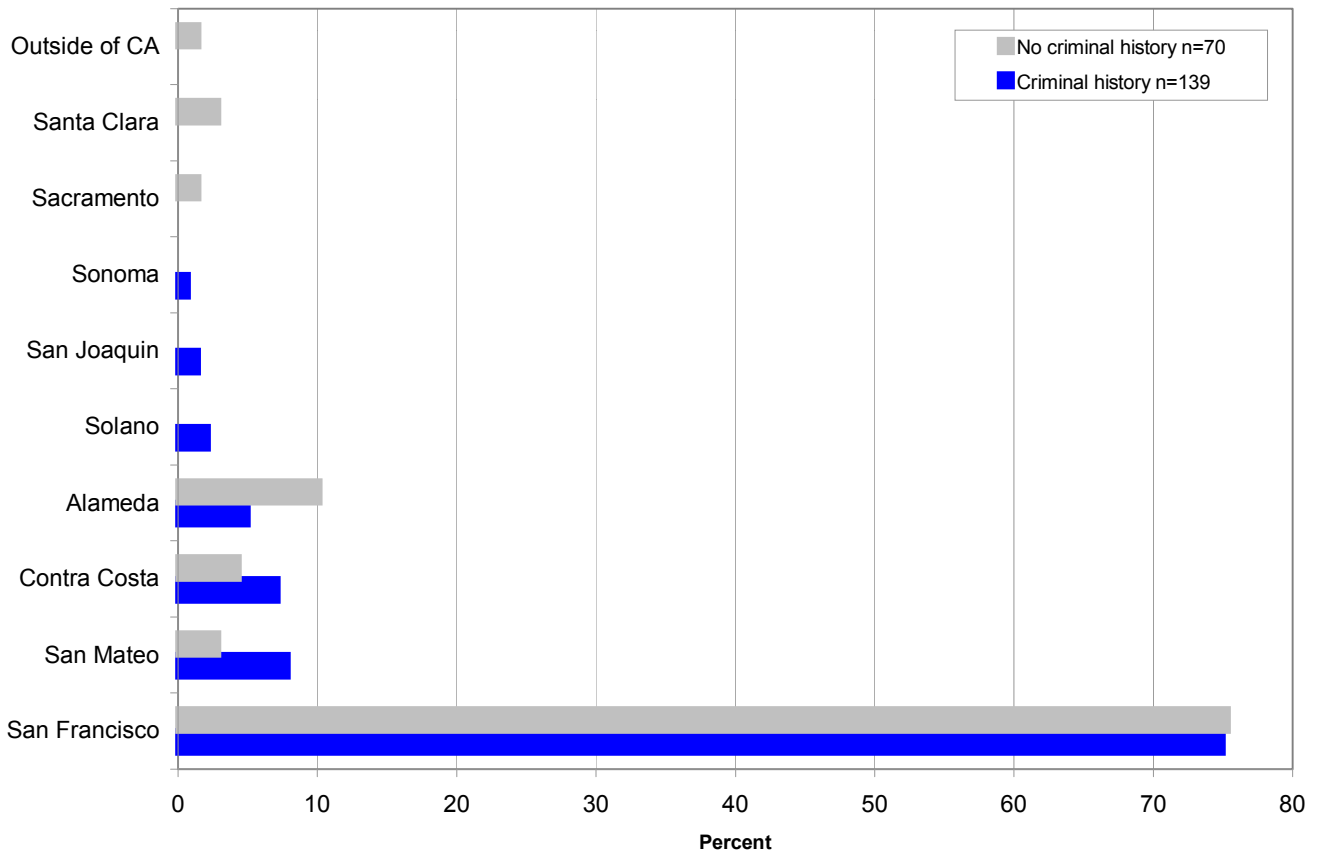


Figure 70: Firearm-related Injury Victim's Criminal History, by County of Residence: San Francisco, 1999

Education and Employment Status

Based on death certificate records, 81% (30) of the fatality victims with criminal histories had high school-level education or less, while 67% (18) of victims without criminal histories were educated beyond high school (Figure 71). Regardless of whether they had criminal histories or not, 74% (48) of fatality victims were employed (Figure 72).

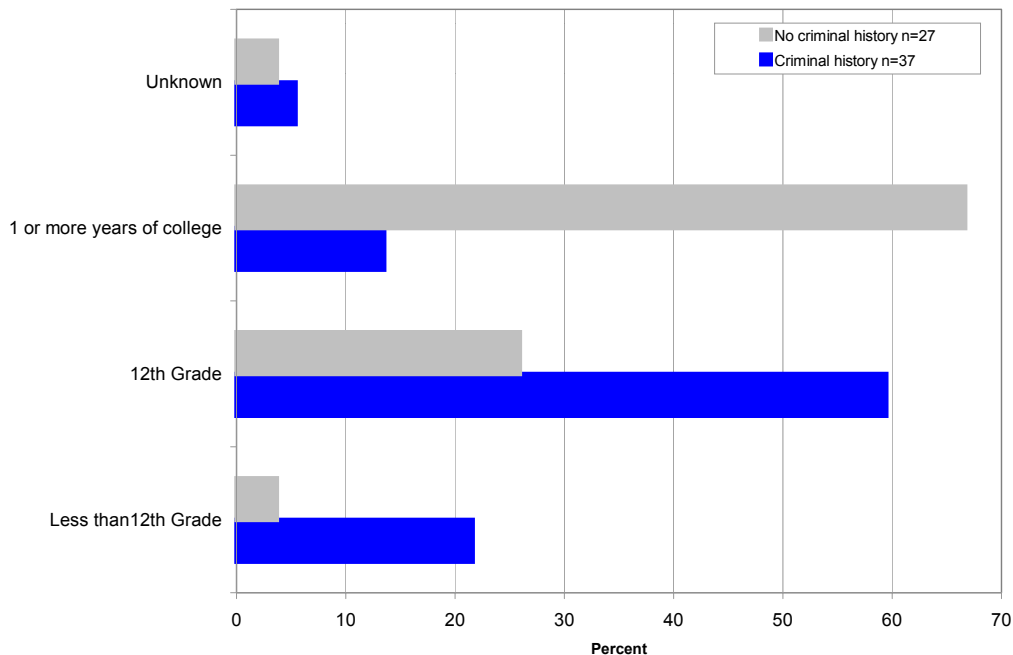


Figure 71: Firearm-related Injury Victim's Criminal History, by Education Level: San Francisco, 1999

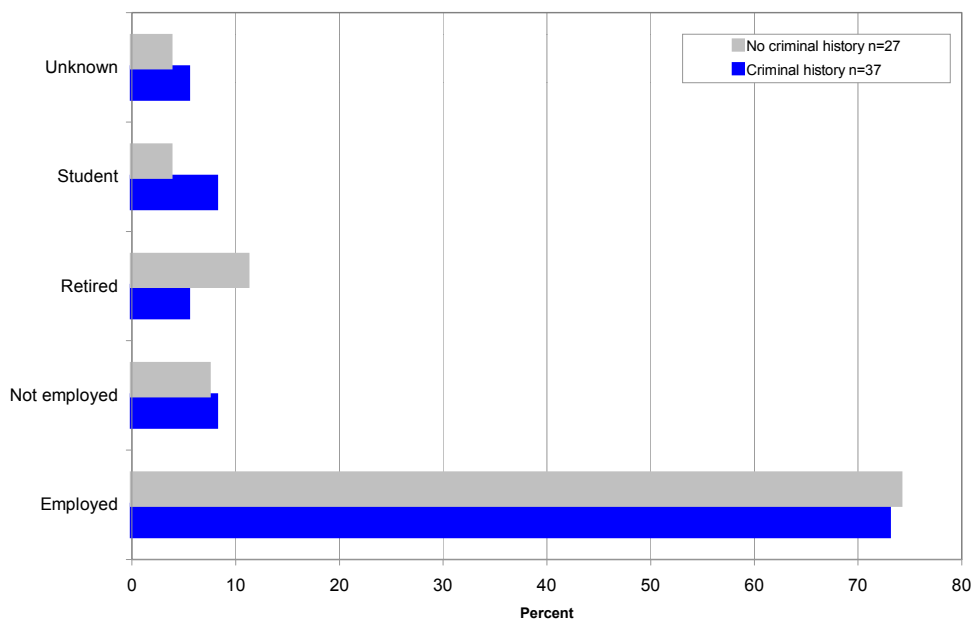


Figure 72: Firearm-related Injury Victim's Criminal History, by Employment Status: San Francisco, 1999

Insurance

Of the 73 fatality and nonfatality victims with criminal histories who were admitted to the hospital, 74% (54) relied on public funding sources to pay hospital charges. Of the 67 victims who used public funds to pay for their hospitalization, 81% (54) had a criminal history. Thus, victims with criminal histories used public funding to cover their hospitalization costs twice as often as victims without criminal histories (Figure 73).

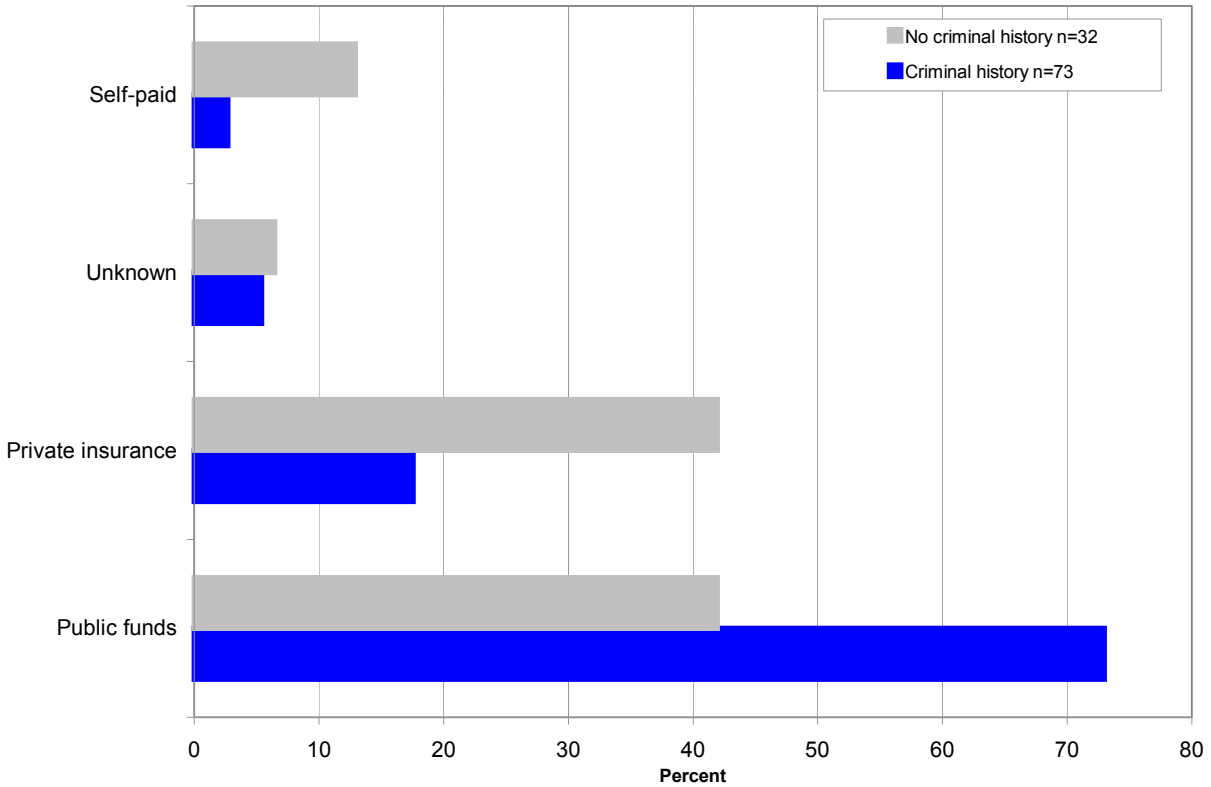


Figure 73: Firearm-related Injury Victim's Criminal History, by Source of Funding of Hospitalization Costs: San Francisco, 1999

Figure 74 shows the geographic location where victims with and without criminal histories were injured, as well as the location where nonresidents were injured. For example, a gray circle on top of a blue car signifies a nonresident victim without a criminal history suffering a firearm injury.

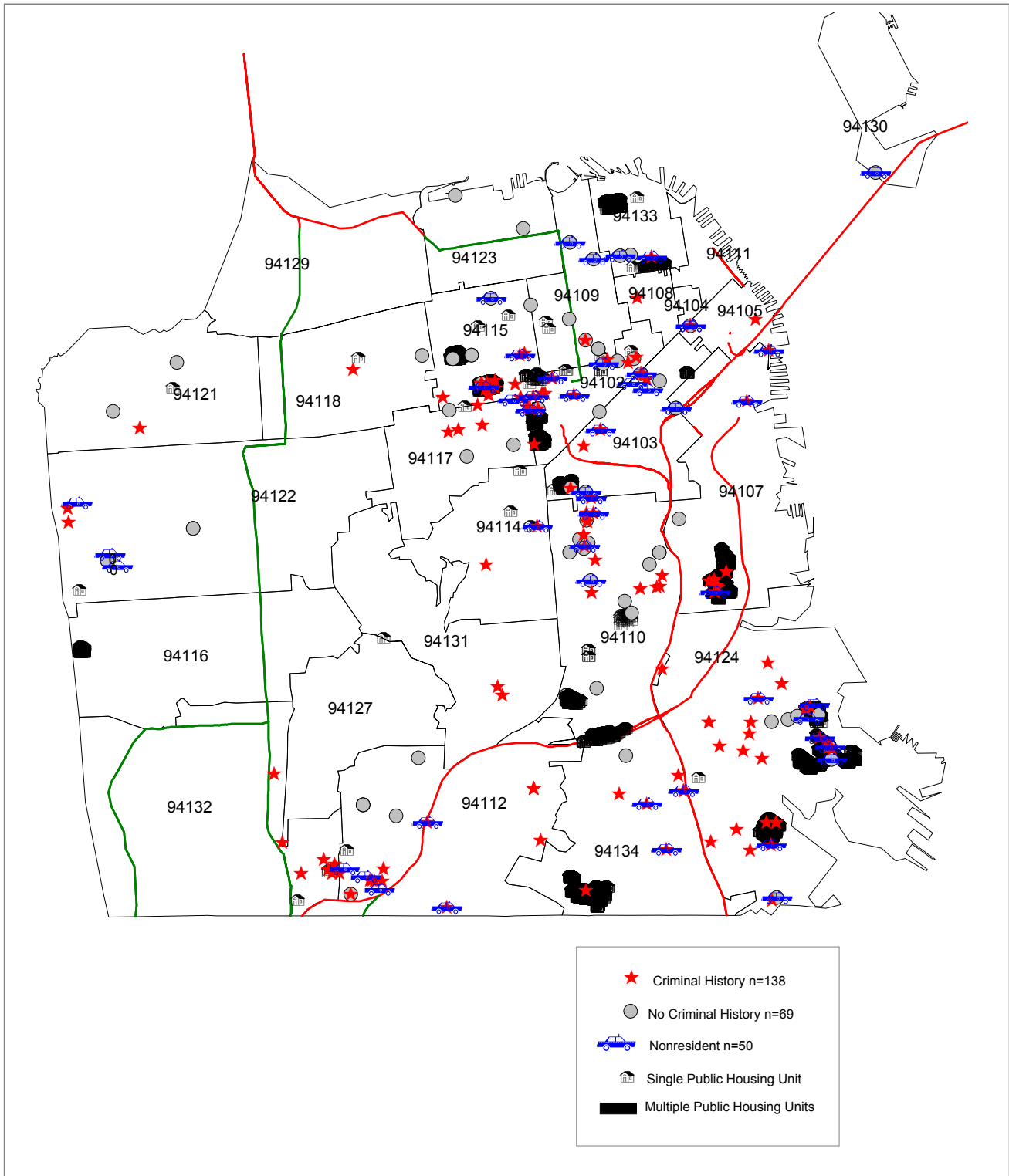


Figure 74: Location of Injury of Those Victims with Criminal Histories and Those without, and of Nonresidents: San Francisco, 1999

Note: Not included were 1 assault victim (resident) whose incident location was unknown who had a criminal history, and 1 victim (nonresident) of a self-inflicted injury who had no criminal history whose incident location was also unknown. There was a single nonresident who was injured at an unknown location.

Number of Bullets

As Figure 75 shows, 86% (60) of victims with no criminal histories were shot a single time, while only 67% (93) of victims with criminal histories were shot a single time. Of all victims who were shot multiple times, 82% (45) were victims with prior criminal histories.

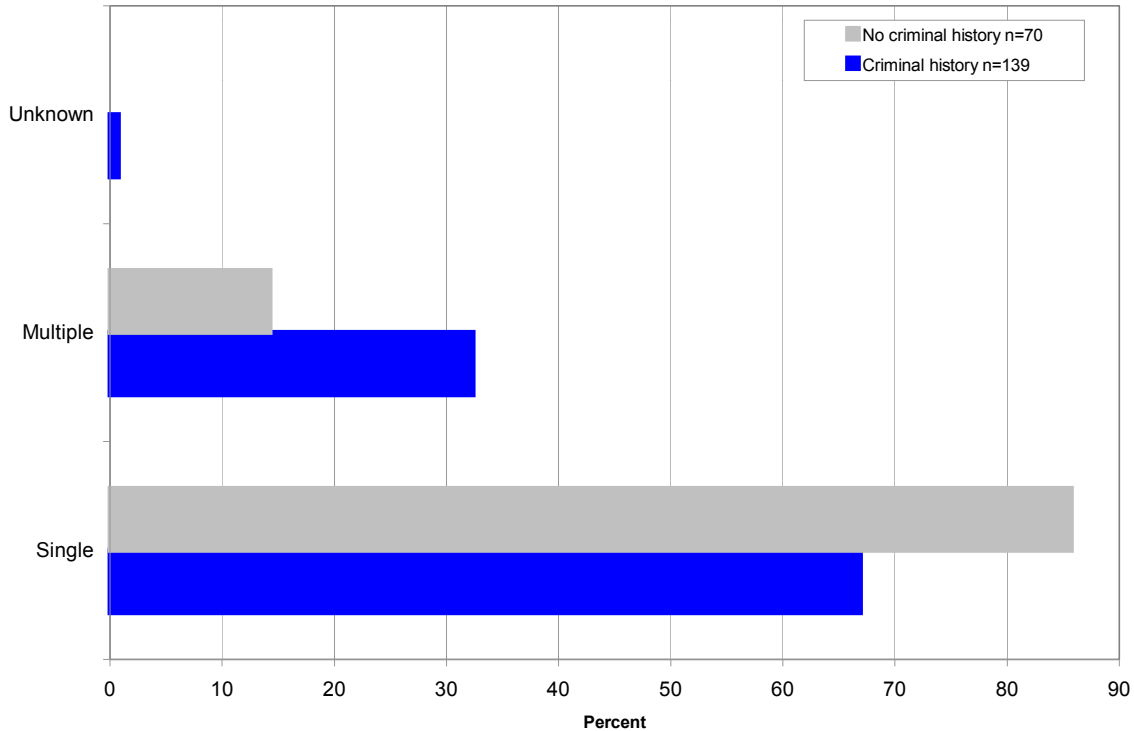


Figure 75: Firearm-related Injury Victim's Criminal History, by Number of Bullets Used: San Francisco, 1999

Suicide Circumstances

Seven of the 21 suicide victims had criminal histories. Figure 76 compares the suicide circumstances of those victims with and those without criminal histories. Although the numbers are small, victims with criminal histories reported being in treatment for depression or mental disorder and having a substance dependence or abuse problem more than victims without a criminal history.

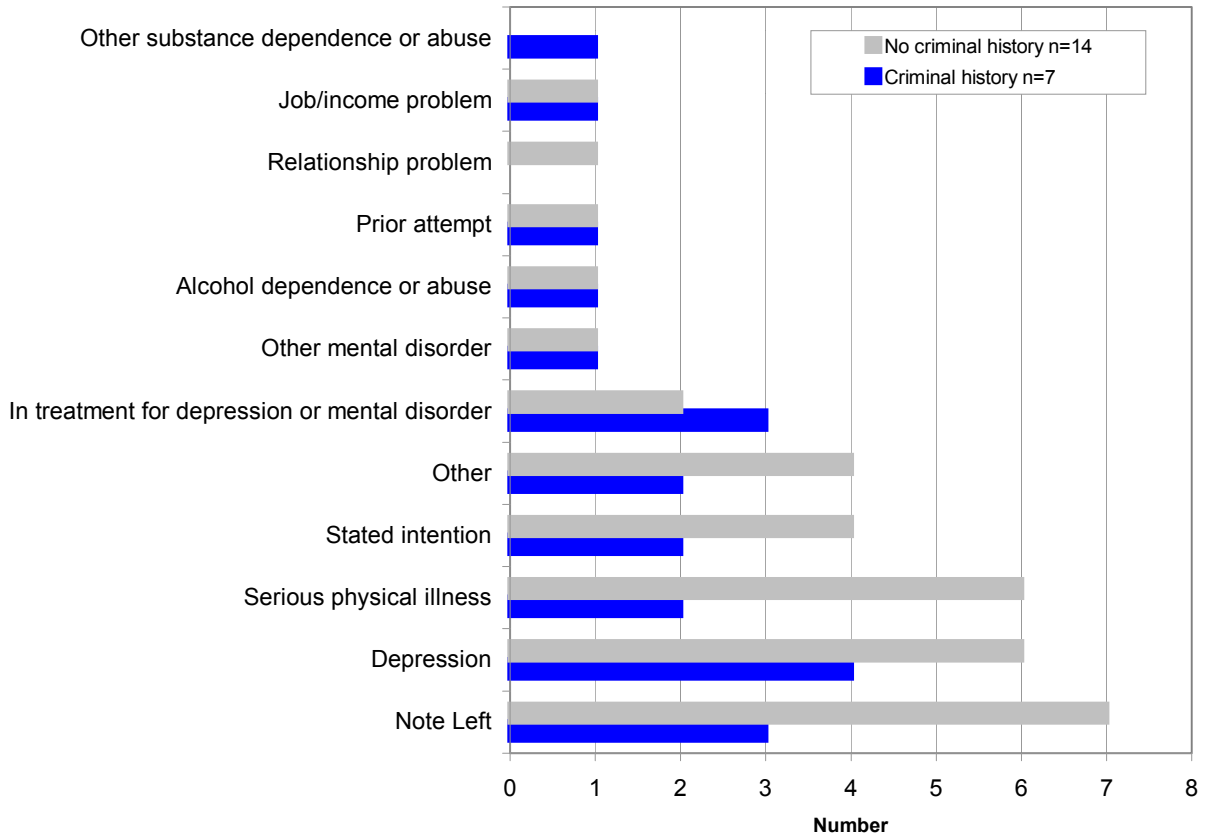


Figure 76: Incidence of Reported Suicide Circumstances, by Criminal History of Victims: San Francisco, 1999

