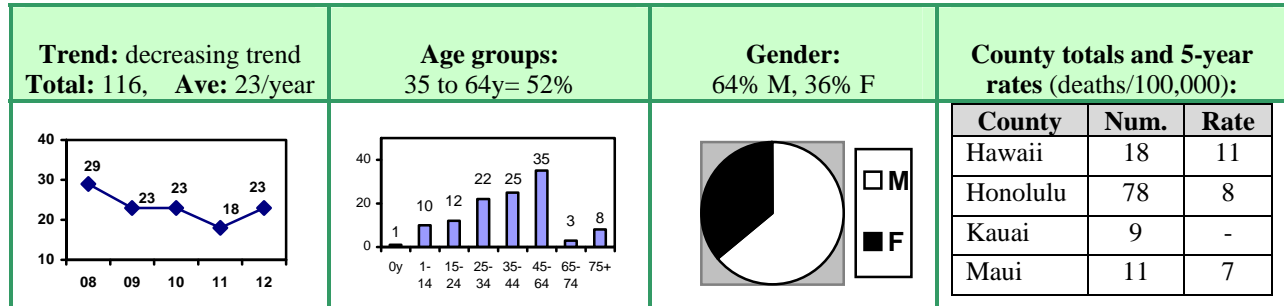


## Homicides and assaults

### Fatal injuries

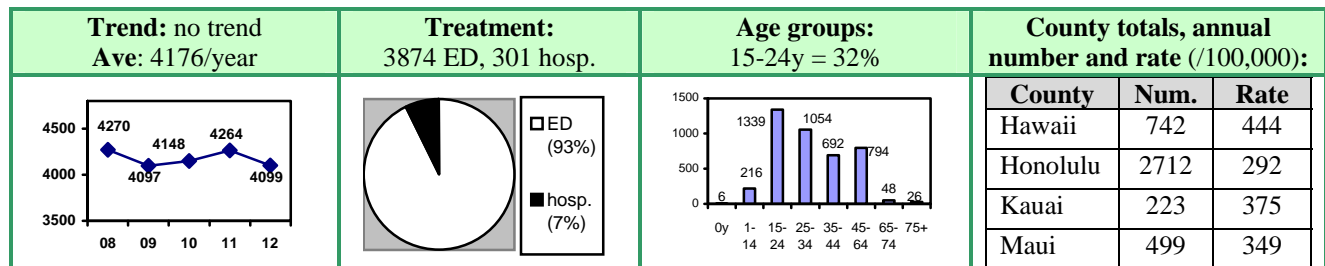
There were 112 victims of homicide over the 5-year period, with a significantly decreasing trend from 29 in 2008 to 18 in 2011, followed by 23 deaths in 2012. More than half (58%) of the victims were in the 25 to 54 year age range, but there were also 8 victims (7%) who were under 5 years of age. Males comprised 64% of the victims. The fatality rate for residents of Oahu (8.2 deaths/100,000 residents) was statistically comparable to the rate for all Neighbor Island residents (9.4/100,000).



The most common method was the use of firearms (35%), followed by stabbings (28%), and physical force or unarmed beatings (25%). According to Uniform Crime Reports from 2008 to 2011, most (74%) of the homicide victims knew their assailant, and only a minority (20%) were killed by strangers. Female victims were most likely to be killed by their intimate partner (38%, vs. 5% of male victims), while males were most likely to be killed by extra-familial acquaintances (41%) or strangers (18%).

### Nonfatal injuries

There were nearly 4200 nonfatal injuries from assaults among Hawaii residents each year, with no clear trend over time. Males comprised about two-thirds (67%) of the patients treated in EDs and an even greater proportion (88%) of those who were hospitalized. More than half (57%) of the patients were 15 to 34 years of age; few (5%) were under 15 years of age, or over 65 years of age (2%). The peak age for rates of both ED visits and hospitalizations was the 15 to 29 year age group, particularly 20 to 24 year-olds.



The injury rate for residents of Hawaii County was significantly higher than for any other county, while the rate for residents of Honolulu County was significantly lower than any other county. Patients were hospitalized for nearly 5 days on average, with over \$33,000 in charges for each admission. Unarmed beatings caused 70% of all injuries, and 62% of those that

required hospitalization. Fractures were the most common type of injury (54%) that required hospitalization, including 44% of patients admitted with a skull fracture.

### **EMS data**

The number of EMS-attended incidents generally increased over the course of the day (starting at 6 a.m.), reaching a broad peak during the 7:31 p.m. to 2:29 a.m. period (48% of the total). The home or residence of the patient was the most common location for the assault (40%), followed by other indoor location or buildings (17%), most commonly “public buildings” (7%), and bars and restaurants (6%). One-fifth (20%) of the patients were transported in serious or critical condition. That proportion was highest among the senior-aged victims (29%). Probable alcohol use was noted for 29% of the patients. Patients who had consumed alcohol were significantly less likely to be released at the scene (34%, vs. 52% for other patients), and twice as likely to be transported in serious condition (31% vs. 15%, respectively).

### **Hawaii Trauma Registry (toxicology data)**

Nearly half (46%) of the adult-aged (18 years and older) HTR resident patients who were injured by assaults were positive for alcohol, and more than one-third (38%) tested positive for illicit drugs. About three-fourths (76%, or 286) of the 375 drinkers had BAC levels of 0.08% or greater. THC was the most commonly documented drug (19% of the patients), followed by amphetamines (15%) and narcotics (15%). Considered together, about two-thirds (67%) of the patients tested positive for either alcohol or drugs. Alcohol use was significantly more likely among the male patients (49%) compared to females (27%), among those injured on weekends (54% vs. 41% for those assaulted on weekdays), and among those assaulted during night time hours (54%, vs. 30% for those injured between 6:31 a.m. and 7:29 p.m.).