

Table B
*Race of Defendant by Race of Victim, Percentages and
 Frequencies, All Cases, 1850–1930*

	White Victim % N	Black Victim % N	Total % N
White Defen- dant	96% 6295	46% 833	85% 7128
Black Defen- dant	4% 275	54% 963	15% 1238
Total	100% 6570	100% 1796	100% 8366

(N=8,366—includes only cases where both race of victim and race of defendant were known)

Table B shows the cross tabulation for race of defendant and victim. The majority of cases were intra-racial killings, as they are in most homicide databases, and as they are today. The percentage of white victims was about 78%, and the percentage of black victims was 19%. The percentage of white defendants was about 83% of all cases for which there was data on race of defendant and 65% of all cases. The percentage of black defendants was 15% of all cases for which there was data on race of defendant, and 11% of all cases. Other racial categories were too small to be reported.²⁹²

Table B shows that white defendants were 85% of all defendants

²⁹² A total of 57 victims were identified as Asian and another 199 identified as other. Race of victim was missing in 171 cases, or 1.6% of all cases. Later corrections to the database may provide additional data on race of victim or defendant from other sources. The classifications are the classifications of the period: colored and negro, both of which were coded black for race and African American for ethnicity. In the defendant category, 39 cases were identified as Asian, and a total of 157 cases as other race. In the defendant file, 22% of the cases were missing race of defendant. For a history of how these categories were adopted, revised, and interpreted by the United States Census, see NOBLES, *supra* note 57, at 25–84, 187–190. The term negro was not officially adopted by the U.S. Census in 1930. Prior to 1930, black was the code for negroes, and the U.S. Census had elaborate codes for mixed-race persons, which were found rarely in this data set and coded black. The contemporaneous reports and literature use the term “colored” or “negro.” A word search for racial identifications would identify those cases where a mixed-race defendant or victim was mentioned.

and that the great majority of cases, 75%, were white-on-white homicides. Blacks were slightly more likely to be killed by other blacks, 54% of black victims were killed by blacks as against 46% of black victims killed by whites. The number of black defendants and black victims was in each case higher than their representation in the population, which never exceeded seven percent of the entire population.²⁹³

Coding for Ethnicity

The coding protocol included a variable for ethnicity, based upon the name of the victim. Those classifications, however, are impressionistic, at best. For this reason, the ethnicity variables are not tabulated or reported here. Where there was a name easily identifiable as Spanish, Irish, Polish, or German, the coding for ethnicity may provide an initial identification of subsets of victims or defendants by ethnic origin. There were, however, many cases where an ethnic identification was not obvious on the basis of a name. And the ethnicity of married women would not necessarily be accurately reported by their husband's name. And people frequently changed names, or simplified their names, or adopted new names when they came to Chicago from abroad or from the countryside. A systematic analysis of ethnicity remains to be done by an ethnographer who can coordinate the distribution patterns of ethnic names with an historical analysis of neighborhoods and immigration patterns throughout the time period.

Additional Aggregate Characteristics of the Data Set: Weapon and Manner of Killing; Circumstances of the Offense, Relationship between Victim and Offender; Disposition and Dates of Disposition, Names of Judges and Other Information

In the entire database there are more than 10,000 cases for which there are data on weapon or cause of death, and some indication of

²⁹³ In 1870, the African American population of Chicago was 3691, or 1.2% of the total Chicago population. In this discussion the term negro and black are used interchangeably. The United States Census reports and the contemporaneous commentary typically use the term negro after 1900. In 1930, the negro population was 233,903, or 6.9%. SPEAR, *supra* note 61, at 12. There were, however, black belts and black wards, which were over 50% black. *Id.* at 14. Spear's book includes a detailed analysis of the racial composition of census tracts and wards, including census tract maps over the census decades, indicating negro population and residence by wards. *Id.* at 11-27.