Pathfinder

EVERY WEEK FROM THE NATION'S CAPITAL

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## PROHIBITION KILLINGS

The Hoover crime commission's probe of liquor law killings struck a snag when the Department of Justice professed inability to determine the number of civilians and officers who have met death in prohibition enforcement and thereupon abandoned its inquiry. Atty. Gen. Mitchell explains that many states and municipalities cannot furnish a record of such deaths. Naturally the probers will not accept the highly conflicting estimates made by wets and drys.

The government's failure to obtain figures on those killed would indicate that many tear ducts opened by recent shootings were regulated by the viewpoint. The sensational way killings are played up by the respective sides is passing example of the art of propaganda. However, unwarranted shootings are back of Prohibition Commissioner Doran's ban against the use of rifles by federal dry agents except in sparsely settled or mountainous sections. Records at the Prohibition Bureau list 142 civilians killed by prohibition agents as against 55 enforcement officers slain by rum runners.

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U.S. Urban Homocide Rate: 1929 - 1936

*The Literary Digest: December 12, 1936; page 12*

| CITY | 1929 Homicide Total | 1929 Rate per 100,000 | 1930 Homicide Total | 1930 Rate per 100,000 | 1931 Homicide Total | 1931 Rate per 100,000 | 1932 Homicide Total | 1932 Rate per 100,000 | 1933 Homicide Total | 1933 Rate per 100,000 | 1934 Homicide Total | 1934 Rate per 100,000 | 1935 Homicide Total | 1935 Rate per 100,000 | 1936** Homicide Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New York City | 425 | 6.2 | 494 | 7.1 | 586 | 8.3 | 580 | 8.0 | 541 | 7.4 | 458 | 6.1 | 447 | 5.9 | 279 |
| Chicago | 401 | 12.1 | 489 | 14.4 | 489 | 14.1 | 452 | 12.8 | 510 | 14.2 | 487 | 13.3 | 351 | 9.4 | 162 |
| Boston | 23 | 3.0 | 15 | 1.9 | 28 | 3.6 | 20 | 2.5 | 32 | 4.0 | 29 | 3.6 | 32 | 4.0 | 9 |
| Philadelphia | 173 | 8.9 | 150 | 7.7 | 141 | 7.2 | 154 | 7.8 | 133 | 6.7 | 97 | 4.8 | 121 | 6.0 | 81 |
| Cleveland | 120 | 8.9 | 153 | 17.0 | 121 | 13.3 | 125 | 13.5 | 144 | 15.4 | 120 | 12.7 | 103 | 10.8 | 64 |
| Detroit | 257 | 16.9 | 209 | 13.3 | 177 | 10.8 | 162 | 9.6 | 130 | 7.4 | 102 | 5.6 | 105 | 5.6 | 49 |
| Milwaukee | 17 | 3.0 | 23 | 4.0 | 21 | 3.5 | 18 | 3.0 | 13 | 2.1 | 10 | 1.6 | 4 | 0.6 | 8 |
| Seattle | 23 | 6.4 | 23 | 6.3 | 18 | 4.8 | 24 | 6.4 | 22 | 5.8 | 21 | 5.4 | 24 | 6.1 | 11 |
| San Francisco | 40 | 6.4 | 41 | 6.4 | 52 | 8.0 | 46 | 6.9 | 43 | 6.4 | 51 | 7.4 | 30 | 4.3 | 13 |
| Los Angeles | 77 | 6.5 | 83 | 6.6 | 92 | 7.0 | 116 | 8.4 | 110 | 7.6 | 93 | 6.2 | 111 | 7.0 | 52 |
| Denver | 24 | 8.4 | 27 | 9.4 | 18 | 6.2 | 30 | 10.2 | 24 | 8.1 | 18 | 6.0 | 25 | 8.2 | 26 |
| St. Louis | 105 | 12.8 | 138 | 16.8 | 131 | 15.8 | 119 | 14.3 | 141 | 16.8 | 130 | 15.4 | 103 | 12.1 | 60 |
| Kansas City, Mo. | 97 | 24.6 | 91 | 22.7 | 96 | 23.5 | 85 | 20.4 | 89 | 21.0 | 89 | 20.6 | 101 | 22.9 | ..... |
| New Orleans | 124 | 27.4 | 106 | 23.0 | 123 | 26.3 | 100 | 21.1 | 96 | 19.9 | 105 | 21.6 | 114 | 23.1 | 63 |
| Memphis | 127 | 51.6 | 150 | 58.8 | 138 | 52.2 | 148 | 54.2 | 143 | 52.8 | 164 | 56.5 | 147 | 49.1 | 43 |
| Macon, Ga. | 16 | 29.8 | 17 | 31.6 | 24 | 44.5 | 18 | 33.3 | 24 | 44.4 | 36 | 66.7 | 29 | 53.5 | ..... |
| Nashville | 333 | 21.9 | 58 | 37.6 | 58 | 36.7 | 33 | 20.4 | 60 | 36.4 | 81 | 48.0 | 84 | 48.8 | 37 |
| Montgomery | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 29 | 42.8 | 30 | 43.6 | 29 | 41.5 | 35 | 49.2 | 33 | 45.6 | ..... |
| Atlanta | 130 | 49.1 | 143 | 52.6 | 144 | 49.5 | 122 | 39.7 | 154 | 47.6 | 178 | 52.3 | 162 | 45.2 | 54 |
| Dallas | 39 | 15.4 | 62 | 23.6 | 66 | 24.2 | 81 | 29.7 | 64 | 22.7 | 92 | 31.4 | ..... | ..... | 78 |
| Mobile | 21 | 31.1 | 21 | 30.7 | 24 | 34.7 | 25 | 35.8 | 24 | 34.0 | 27 | 37.9 | 32 | 44.5 | 23 |
| Jacksonville, Fla. | 66 | 52.1 | 45 | 34.5 | 65 | 48.5 | 72 | 52.2 | 67 | 47.4 | 72 | 49.6 | 66 | 44.3 | 23 |
| National Total | 9,900 | 8.5 | 10,617 | 9.0 | 11,134 | 9.4 | 11,035 | 9.2 | 12,123 | 9.6 | 12,055 | 9.5 | *12,000 | 8.1 | ..... |

*Approximate

Prepared by Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman for *The Spectator*

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