

2014

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OHIO



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## **Introduction**

### **Overview**

Domestic violence is a serious crime that affects tens of thousands of Ohioans every year. The Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) helps victims of domestic violence by funding law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, victim service providers, and other organizations that are dedicated to preventing domestic violence. OCJS also houses the Family Violence Prevention Center (FVPC), which is an information clearinghouse that supports organizations and individuals working to end family violence. Among other duties, the FVPC helps coordinate the activities of the Ohio Family Violence Prevention Advisory Council, a group of statewide domestic and family violence prevention experts. Recently, the Advisory Council identified a statewide need for detailed data on domestic violence in Ohio. This report was created to accommodate this need by providing accurate, in-depth information about domestic violence in Ohio during 2014. It should be noted that this is only a statistical report; it does not attempt to understand why these incidents occurred, or make recommendations about what should be done to combat domestic violence. Instead, this information is designed to help domestic violence prevention experts make informed decisions about combatting domestic violence in Ohio.

## Data

Data for this report are taken from the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS), a voluntary crime reporting program that enables law enforcement agencies in Ohio to submit crime data directly to the state and federal government. OIBRS contains information about criminal incidents, including details about offenses, offenders, and victims that can be used to better understand crime in Ohio and guide public policy. During 2014, 549 law enforcement agencies covering approximately 74.8% of the Ohio population reported data to OIBRS. Information from these agencies was used in the creation of this report. It is important to note that this report only contains information on domestic violence incidents reported to law enforcement agencies participating in OIBRS. Many cases of domestic violence are not reported at all, and other cases of domestic violence are reported to agencies that do not participate in OIBRS. This means that the rates presented in this report underestimate the true frequency of domestic violence in Ohio. However, it is important to understand the data that are reported to law enforcement because they provide meaningful information that can be used to better understand and help prevent domestic violence.

## OIBRS Terminology

Each incident record in OIBRS can contain information about multiple offenses, victims, and offenders:

- ❖ An **incident** is one or more offenses committed by the same offender, or group of offenders acting in concert, at the same time and place.
- ❖ An **offense** is a single crime by one individual (the **offender**) against another (the **victim**).

A single incident in OIBRS can have multiple offenders and/or victims. To ensure continuity throughout the report, data for the Offenses and Victims sections reflect the total number of victims, while data for the section on Offenders are based on the total number of offenders.

## Definition of Domestic Violence

For the purposes of this report, domestic violence is defined in terms of the information available through OIBRS. Two types of information in the OIBRS database were considered when determining if an offense constituted an instance of domestic violence: 1) Information on the type of offense, and 2) the relationship between the offender and victim<sup>1</sup>.

Offenses occurring in 2014 from the following OIBRS categories were included in this report:

- ❖ Homicide, including murder and non-negligent manslaughter, negligent manslaughter, justifiable homicide
- ❖ Forcible Sex Offenses, including forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, forcible fondling
- ❖ Non-forcible Sex Offenses, including incest, and statutory rape
- ❖ Assault, including aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation
- ❖ Robbery
- ❖ Kidnapping/Abduction

Once offenses from these OIBRS categories were identified, the following offender-victim relationship codes were then used to find domestic violence incidents:

- ❖ Spouse
- ❖ Common-law spouse
- ❖ Ex-spouse
- ❖ Parent
- ❖ Sibling
- ❖ Child of boyfriend/girlfriend
- ❖ Grandparent
- ❖ Grandchild
- ❖ In-law
- ❖ Stepparent
- ❖ Stepchild
- ❖ Stepsibling
- ❖ Other family
- ❖ Boyfriend/girlfriend
- ❖ Homosexual relationship

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<sup>1</sup> These criteria were used in lieu of Ohio state statutes for two reasons: 1) defining domestic violence using these criteria enables other states with incident-based data to replicate this methodology, thereby facilitating comparisons of domestic violence at the state level, and 2) this method captures more instances of domestic violence, leading to a more accurate representation of domestic violence in this report. For example, a homicide involving a boyfriend and girlfriend is considered domestic violence, but it would likely be reported to OIBRS using one of several Ohio Revised Codes (ORCs) for homicide (e.g. 2903.02, 2903.03, 2903.04, etc.) instead of the ORC for domestic violence (e.g. 2919.25) because homicide is the more severe crime. Only looking at the ORC code for domestic violence would not capture this instance of domestic violence.

## Disclaimers

- ❖ Not all Ohio law enforcement agencies' data are available through OIBRS because OIBRS is a voluntary reporting system. For this reason, data are presented as rates and percentages instead of raw numbers. Percentages may not always sum to 100% due to rounding.
- ❖ The accuracy of these crime statistics is based on the information reported by participating law enforcement agencies. Information in this report may change over time based on updated or new data sent to OIBRS in future crime data submissions.
- ❖ Some technical aspects of this report (e.g. handling of missing data, confidence intervals) are omitted to make this report accessible for a wider audience; this information is available upon request.
- ❖ **Note:** This report was updated on 5/31/2016. In addition to several cosmetic changes, maps were updated to reflect OIBRS population coverage, and demographic-specific rates were added.

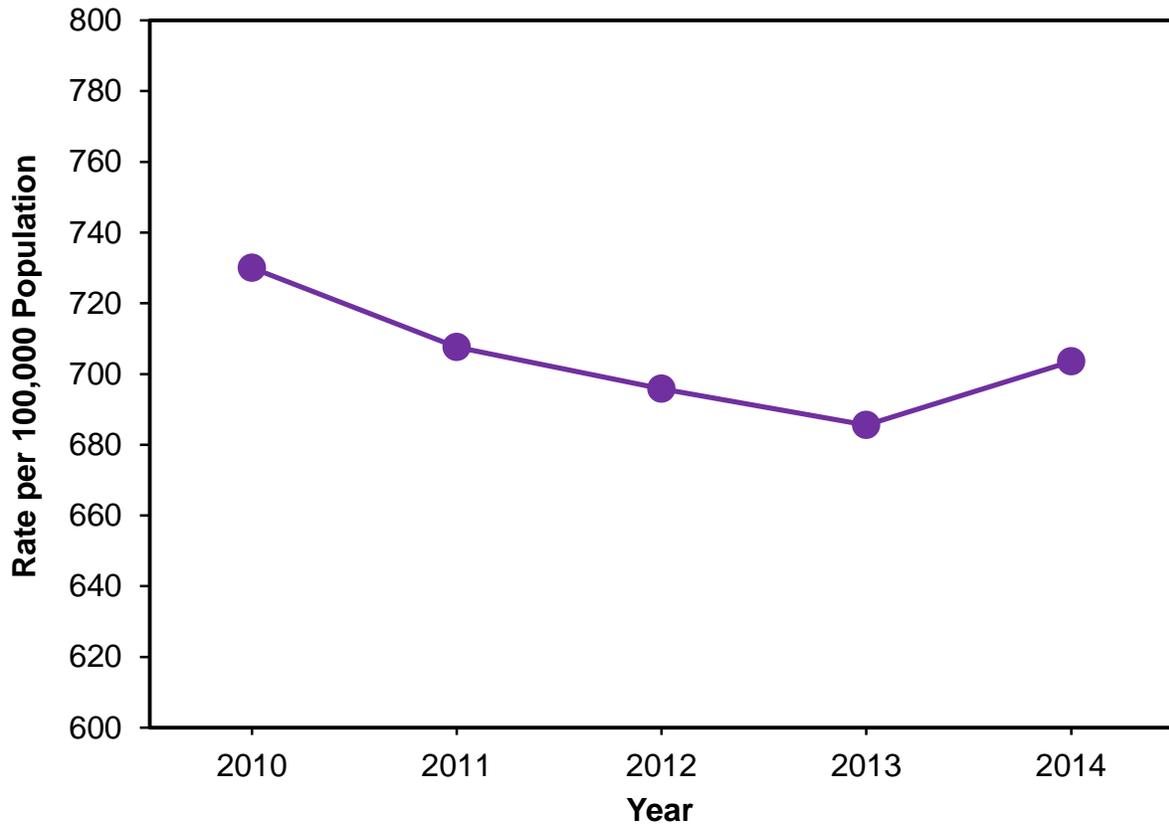
## **Summary of Findings**

- ❖ The rate of domestic violence in Ohio decreased by 3.6% from 2010 to 2014.
- ❖ Though domestic violence occurred more frequently in the summer, on weekends, and during the evenings, it still happened during all months, days of the week, and times of day.
- ❖ Assaults accounted for 94.9% of domestic violence offenses.
- ❖ Intimate partner violence accounted for 32.2% of domestic violence offenses.
- ❖ Domestic violence most frequently occurred in residential structures (82.8%).
- ❖ Domestic violence victims were most often female (71.1%), white (61.1%), and between the ages of 18-27 (28.4%).
- ❖ Black individuals between 20 and 34 were victimized at a higher rate than any other group (4,294.5 victims per 100,000). The second highest victimization rate was for black individuals between the ages of 35 and 49 (2,320.6 victims per 100,000).
- ❖ Domestic violence offenders were most frequently male (73.0%), white (56.3%), and between the ages of 18-27 (33.6%).
- ❖ Black individuals between the ages of 20 and 34 offended at the highest rate (5,499.7 per 100,000), followed by black individuals between the ages of 35 and 49 (2,888.0 per 100,000).

**Offenses**

**Domestic Violence Rate**

*Figure 1: Domestic Violence Victims per 100,000 Population, 2010-2014*



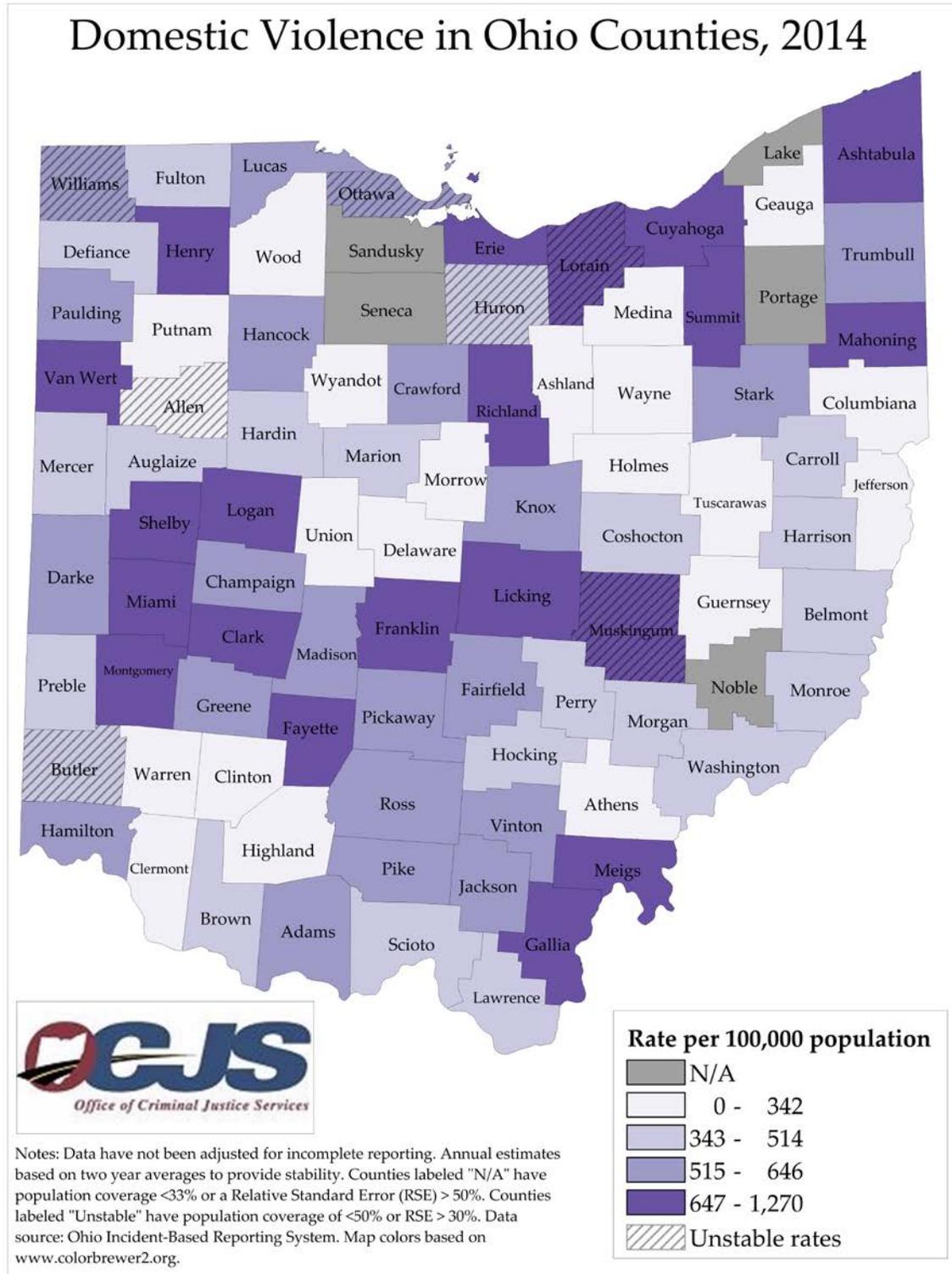
- ❖ The domestic violence rate dropped from 730 victims per 100,000 population in 2010 to 704 victims per 100,000 population in 2014 (Figure 1). This represents a decrease of 3.6%.
- ❖ The rate of domestic violence decreased every year from 2010 to 2013, before increasing by 2.6% between 2013 and 2014.
- ❖ Domestic violence reached a five year low of 686 victims per 100,000 in 2013.

### Domestic Violence Rate by County

- ❖ Out of 83 counties with available OIBRS data, 65 had a domestic violence rate that was less than the 2014 state average (Figures 1 and 2). This indicates that statewide domestic violence rates are skewed by large counties with disproportionately high levels of domestic violence.
- ❖ Counties with high levels of domestic violence are present throughout the state, suggesting that domestic violence is not regionally concentrated in Ohio.
- ❖ The domestic violence rate decreased by 3.6% in Ohio between 2010 and 2014. Out of 79 counties with available OIBRS data during that time period, 51 showed a decrease in domestic violence (Figure 3).
- ❖ Out of the eighteen counties with above average levels of domestic violence in 2014, only six showed an increase between 2010 and 2014. The average increase in the domestic violence rate among these counties was 16.0%, while the average decrease among the other twelve counties was 11.9%.

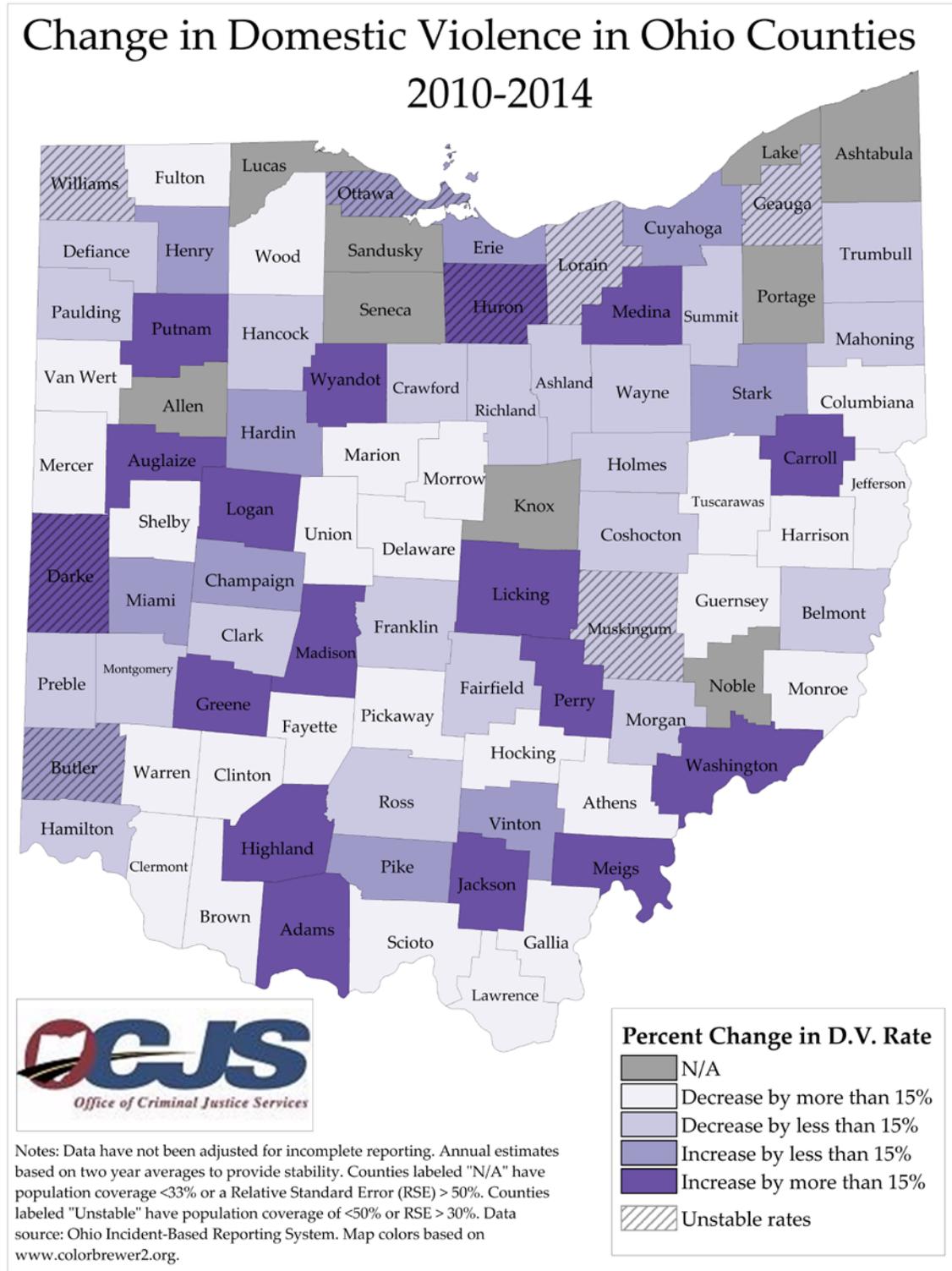
## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OHIO, 2014

Figure 2: Domestic Violence Victims per 100,000 Population in Ohio Counties, 2014



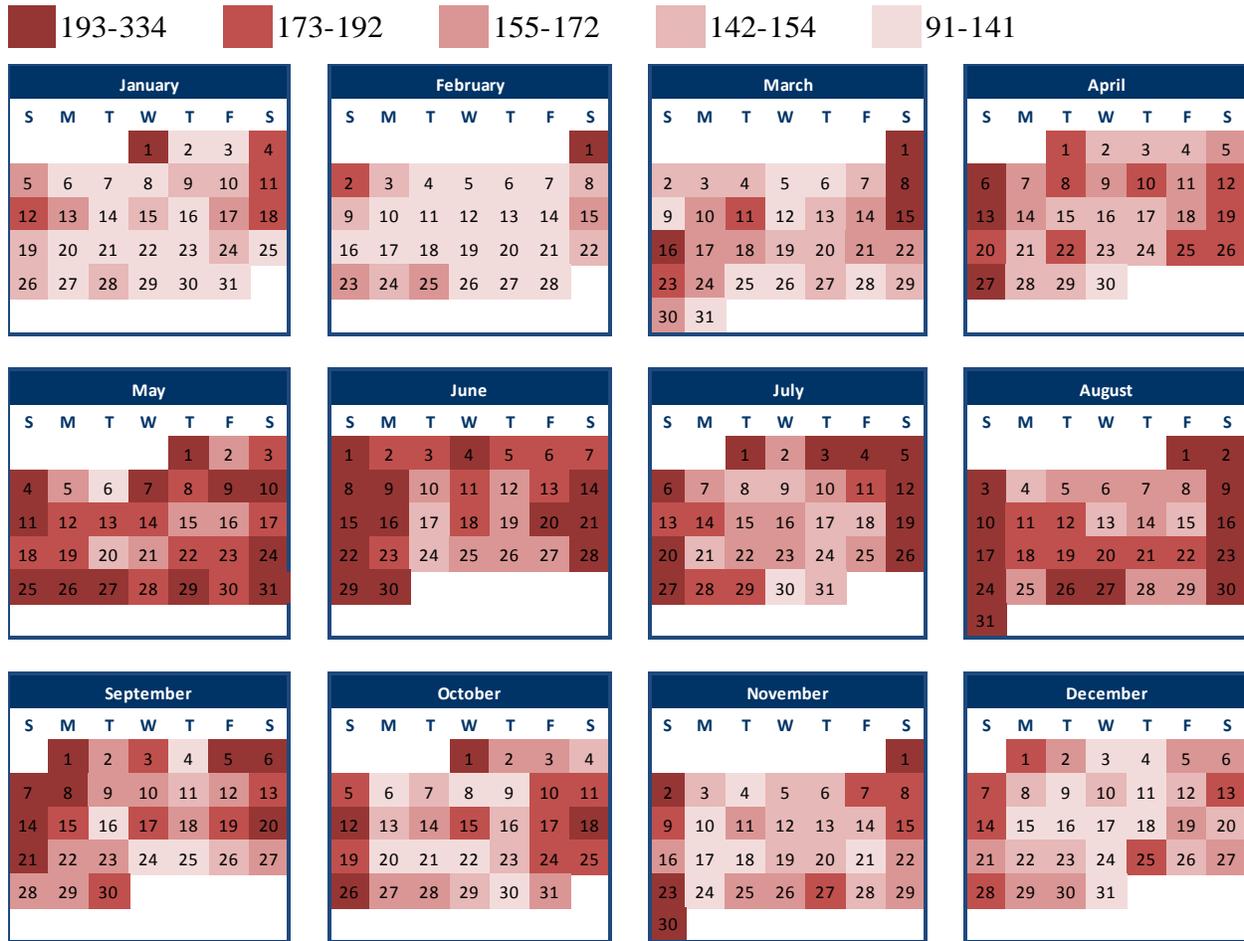
## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OHIO, 2014

Figure 3: Change in Domestic Violence Victims per 100,000 Population in Ohio Counties, 2010-2014



Timing of Domestic Violence

Figure 4: Number of Domestic Violence Victims per Day

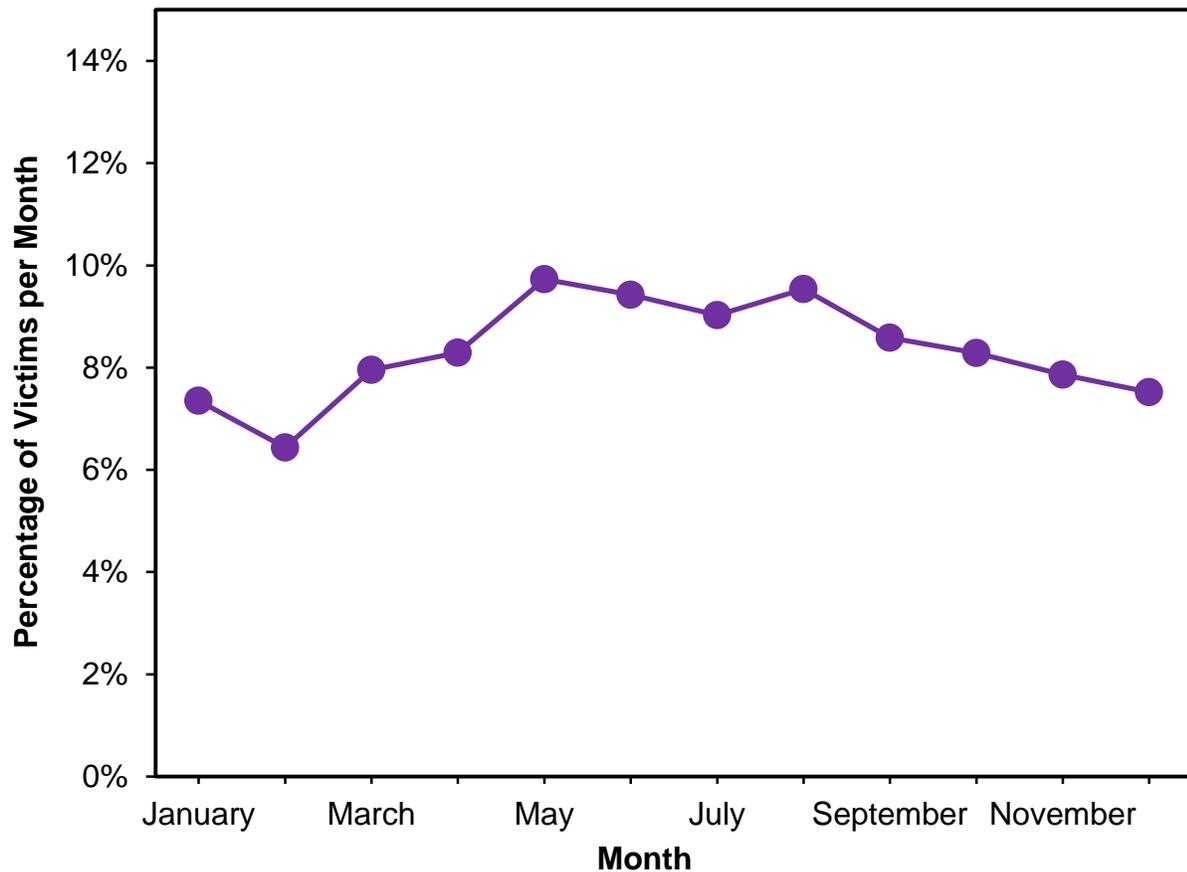


- ❖ Figure 4 is a calendar of 2014 that shows the number of domestic violence victims per day<sup>2</sup>. The days are separated into quintiles, with darker squares indicating that more domestic violence occurred on that day, and lighter squares indicating that less domestic violence occurred on that day.
- ❖ The days with the most domestic violence tend to occur during warmer months and on weekends.
- ❖ There is a reasonably high concentration of domestic violence during non-weekend holidays such as New Year’s Day (January 1<sup>st</sup>), Memorial Day (May 26<sup>th</sup>), Independence Day (July 4<sup>th</sup>), Labor Day (September 1<sup>st</sup>), Thanksgiving (November 27<sup>th</sup>), and Christmas Day (December 25<sup>th</sup>).

<sup>2</sup> Calendar visualization tool designed by Community Research Partners:  
<http://www.communityresearchpartners.org/portfolios/seasonal-and-daily-crime-patterns-in-columbus/>

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OHIO, 2014

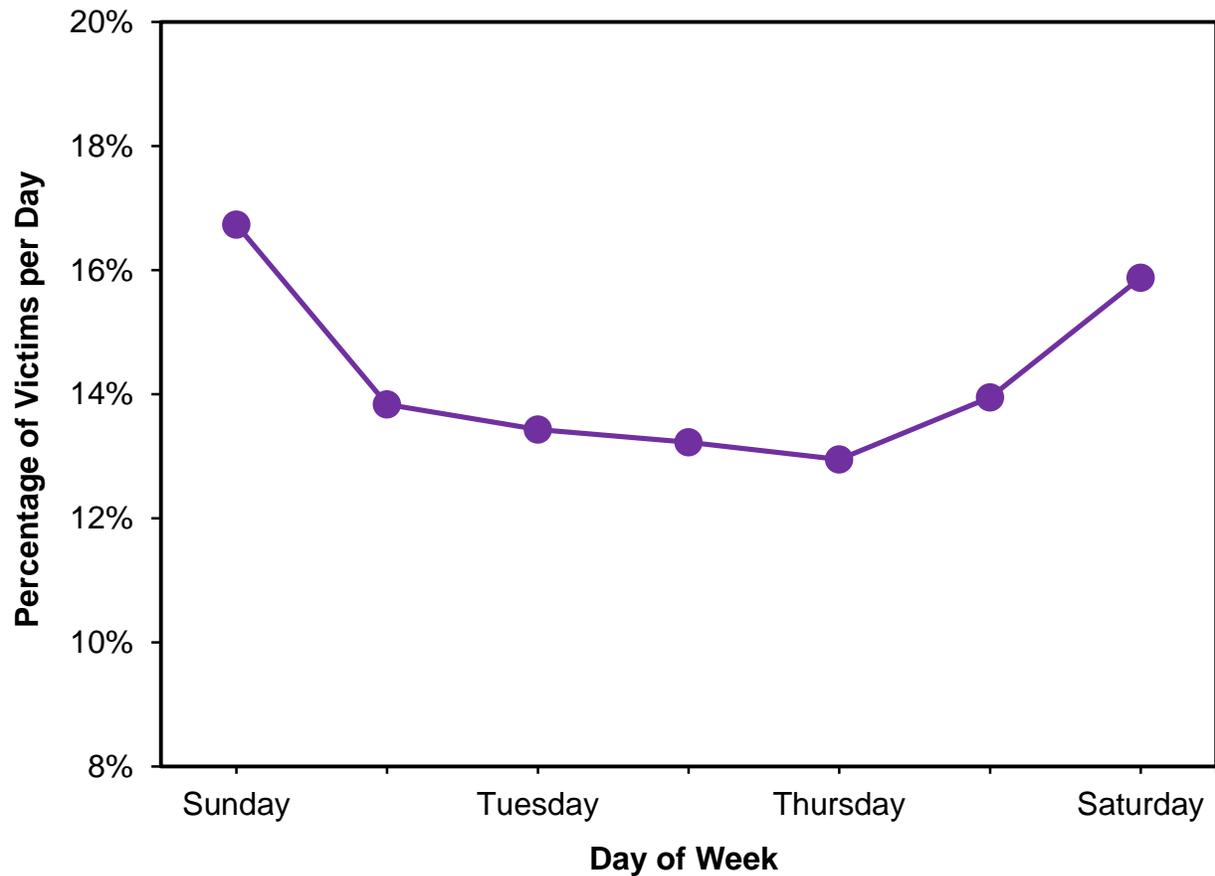
Figure 5: Percentage of Domestic Violence Victims per Month



- ❖ The months accounting for the highest percentage of domestic violence in Ohio during 2014 were May (9.7%), June (9.4%), July (9.0%), and August (9.5%) (Figure 5).
- ❖ The month that accounted for the lowest percentage of domestic violence was February (6.4%). It should be noted that this was only a few percentage points lower than the month with the highest percentage of domestic violence, suggesting that domestic violence occurs with regularity throughout the year.

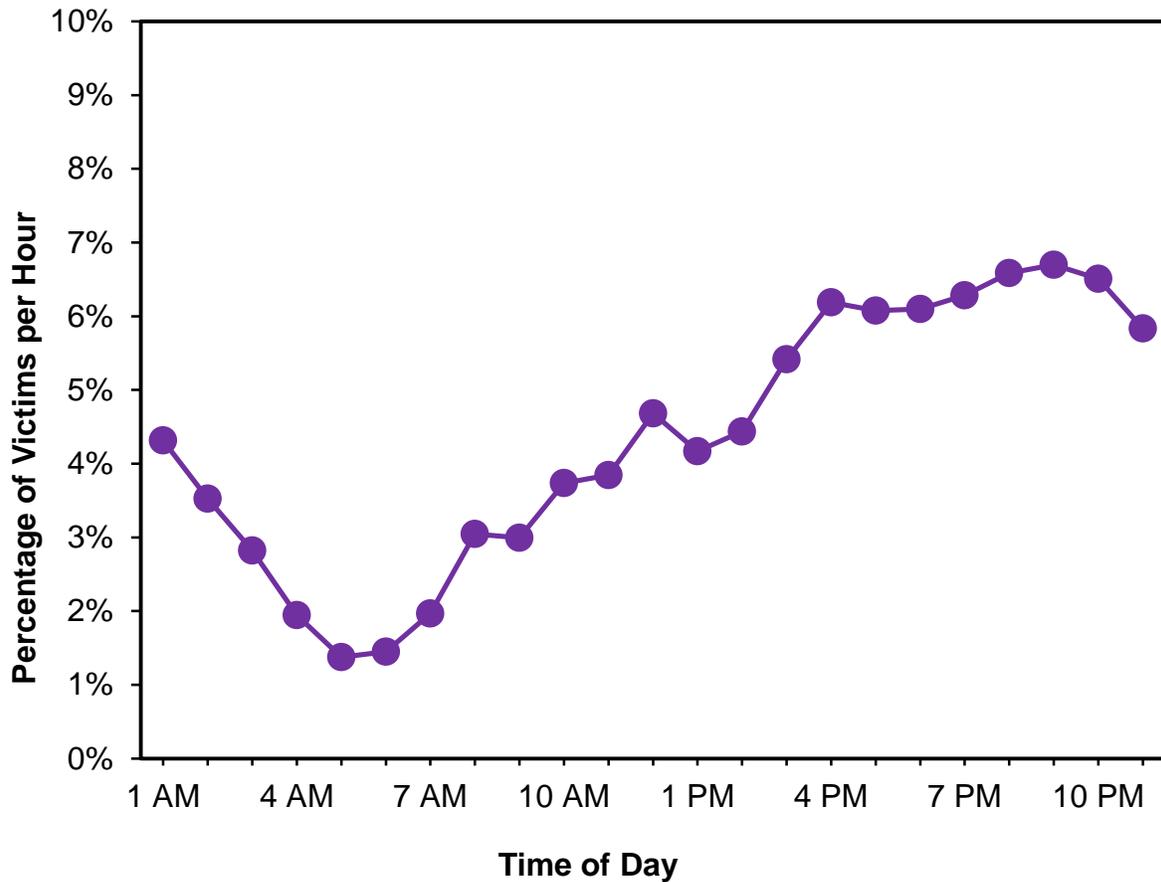
## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OHIO, 2014

Figure 6: Percentage of Domestic Violence Victims per Day



- ❖ The days with the most domestic violence were Sunday (16.7%) and Saturday (15.9%) (Figure 6).
- ❖ Each weekday accounted for between 13% and 14% of all domestic violence:
  - ❖ Monday - 13.8%
  - ❖ Tuesday - 13.4%
  - ❖ Wednesday - 13.2%
  - ❖ Thursday - 13.0%
  - ❖ Friday 14.0%
- ❖ The difference between the day accounting for the most domestic violence (Sunday) and the day accounting for the least domestic violence (Thursday) was relatively small. This suggests that domestic violence occurs with regularity throughout the week.

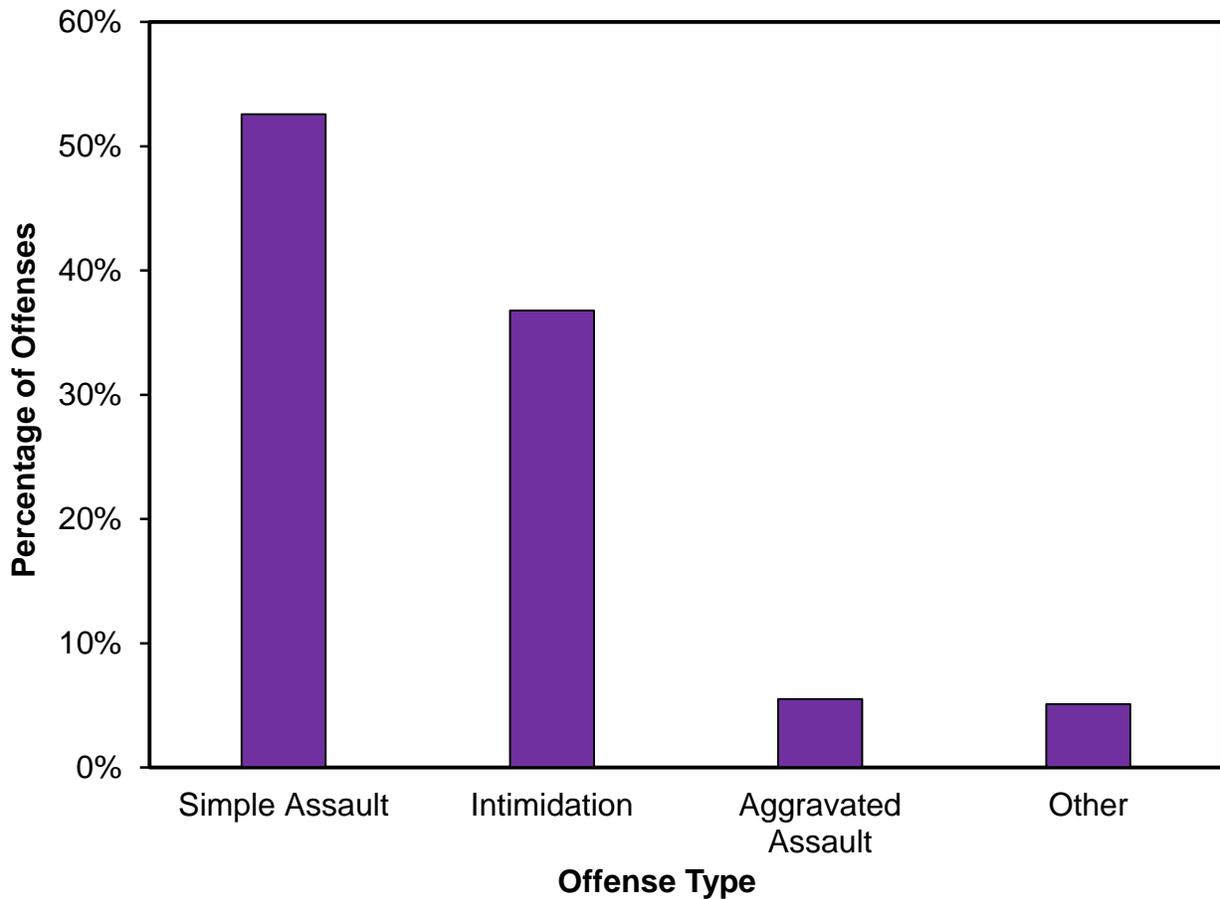
Figure 7: Percentage of Domestic Violence Victims per Hour



- ❖ Domestic violence occurs with increasing frequency throughout the day, starting at 5:00 a.m. (Figure 7). However, the percentage of victims per hour does not change by much, as it ranges from 1.4% at 5:00 a.m. to 6.7% at 9:00 p.m.
- ❖ Overall, data related to the timing of domestic violence (Figures 5, 6, and 7) suggest that it is a crime that can happen any day, at any time.

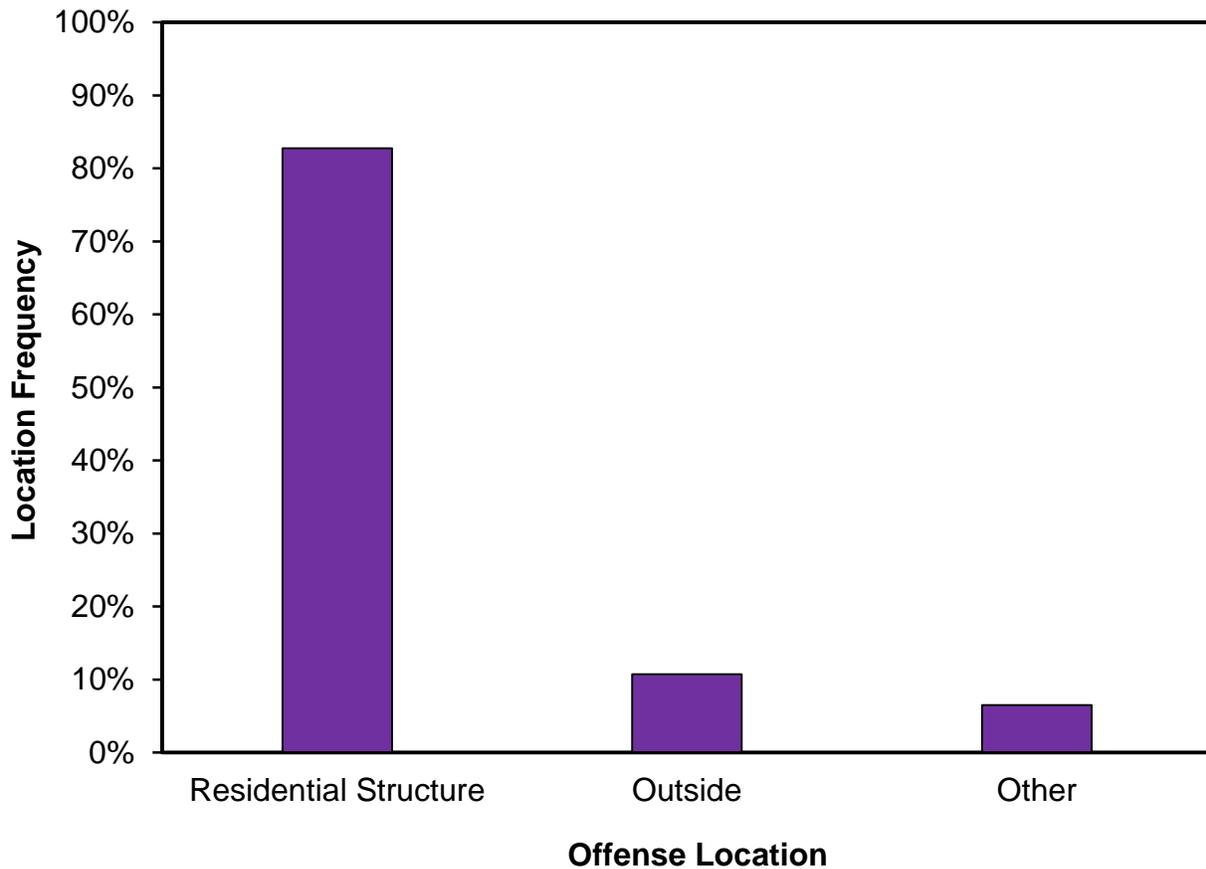
**Other Characteristics of Domestic Violence**

*Figure 8: Domestic Violence Offense Types*



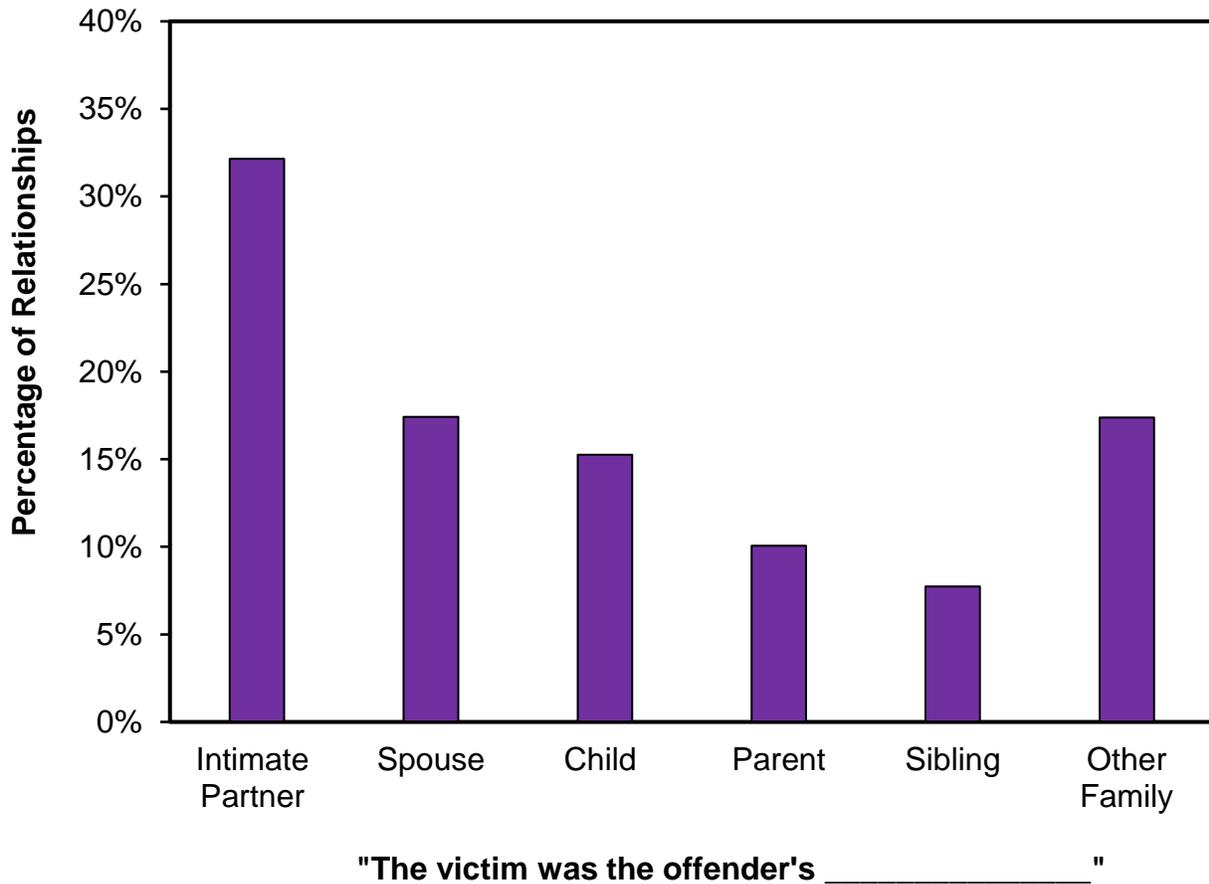
- ❖ Assaults accounted for 94.9% of domestic violence offenses (Figure 8).
- ❖ Most domestic violence offenses were either Simple Assault (52.6%) or Intimidation (36.8%). Aggravated Assaults accounted for an additional 5.5% of offenses.
- ❖ Out of the remaining offense types, 0.1% were Homicides, 1.1% were Kidnappings/Abductions, 3.8% were Forcible Sex Offenses, and 0.2% were Non-forcible Sex Offenses.

Figure 9: Domestic Violence Locations



- ❖ Most domestic violence (82.8%) occurred in residential structures (single family homes, multiple dwellings, residential facilities, other residential locations, and garages/sheds) (Figure 9).
- ❖ An additional 10.7% of domestic violence occurred outside.
- ❖ 6.5% of domestic violence occurred in other locations, such as public access structures, commercial service buildings, and retail establishments.

Figure 10: Relationship Between Victim and Offender



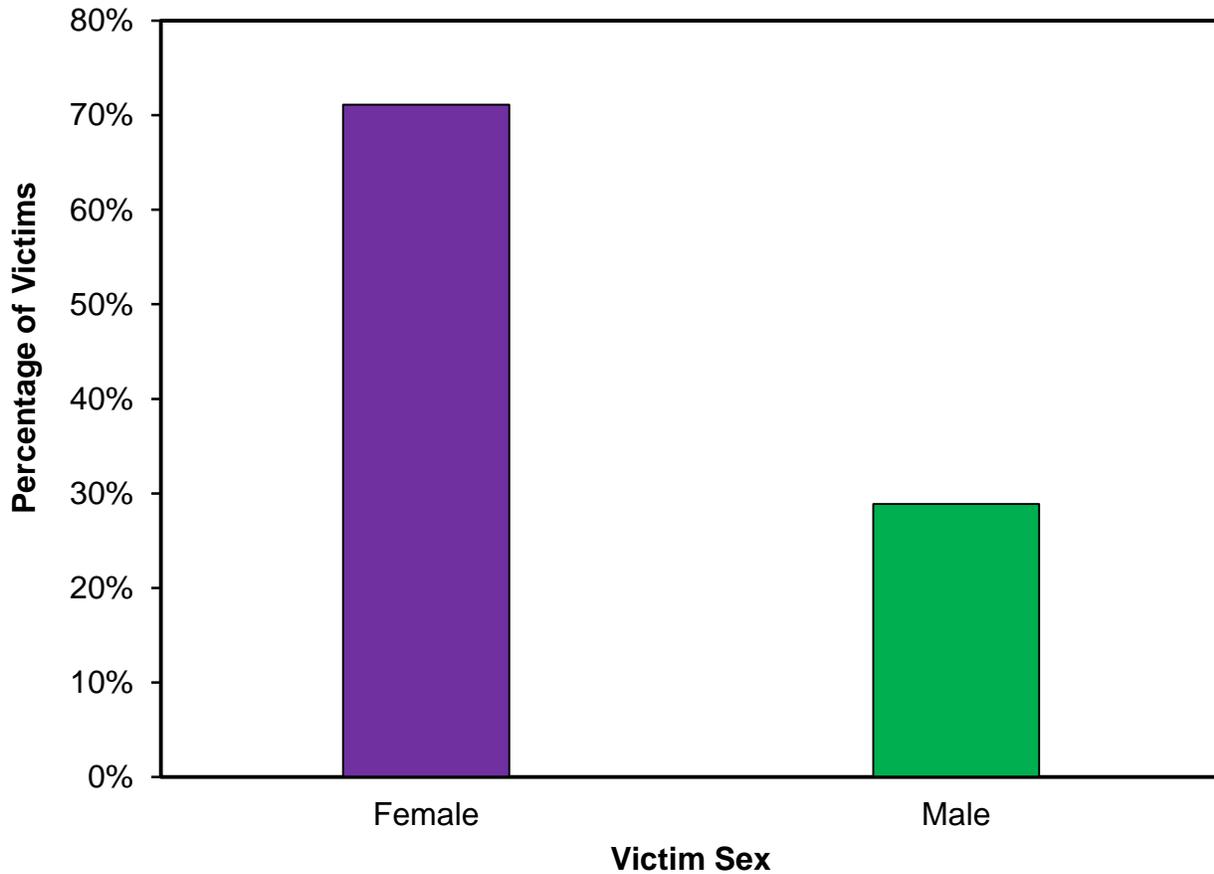
- ❖ Intimate partner violence accounted for the largest percentage (32.2%) of domestic violence<sup>3</sup> (Figure 10).
- ❖ Spouses (including common law and ex-spouses) were the victim in 17.4% of domestic violence incidents, while children (including stepchildren and children of boyfriend/girlfriend) were the victim in 15.3% of incidents.
- ❖ Parents (including stepparents) were victimized in 10.1% of domestic violence incidents, while siblings (including stepsiblings) were victimized in 7.7% of incidents.
- ❖ All other family members (e.g. grandparents, grandchildren, in-laws) accounted for 17.3% of domestic violence victims.

<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this report, a victim was considered an intimate partner if the offender-victim relationship field in OIBRS was either "Boyfriend/Girlfriend" or "Homosexual Relationship."

## Victims

### Victim Demographics

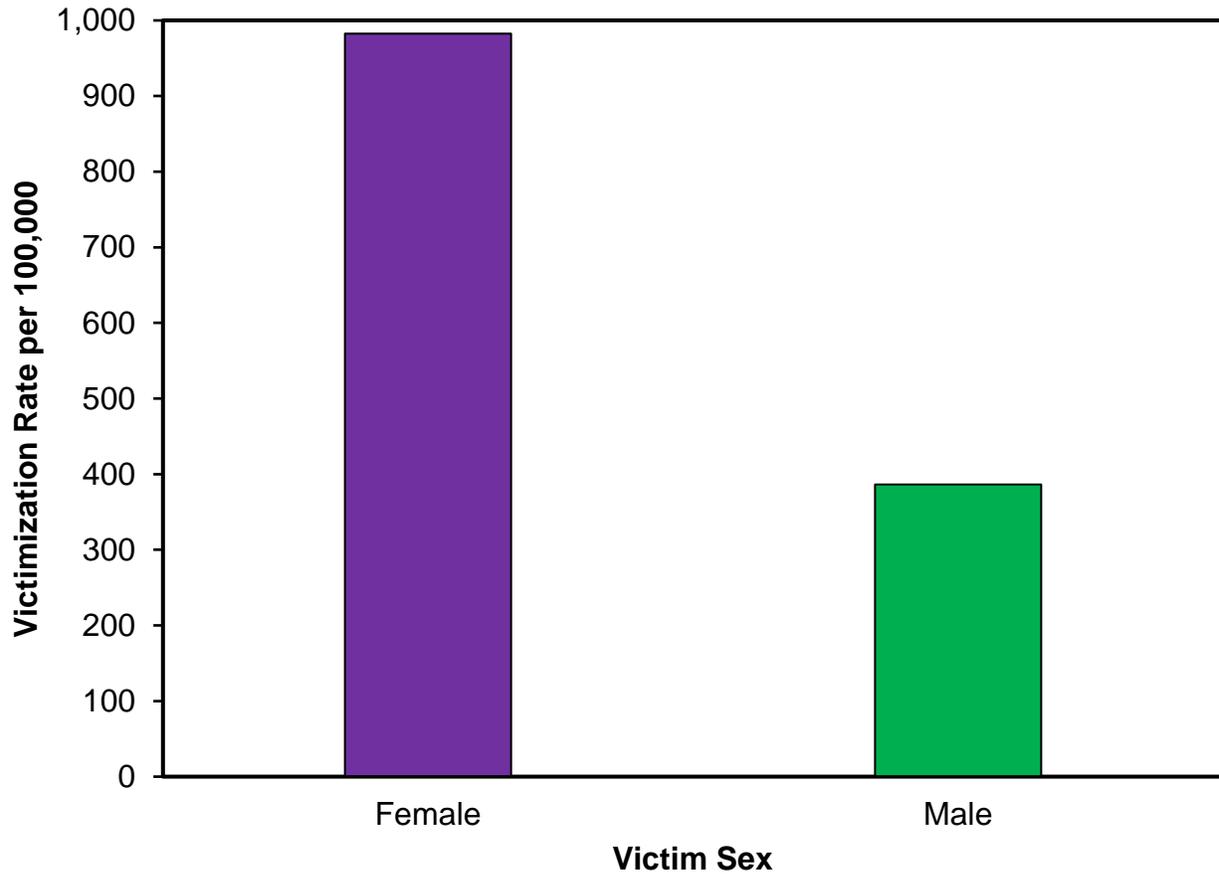
Figure 11: Percentage of Domestic Violence Victimization by Sex



- ❖ Females accounted for 71.1% of domestic violence victims, and males accounted for 28.9% of victims (Figure 11).

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OHIO, 2014

Figure 12: Rate of Domestic Violence Victimization by Sex

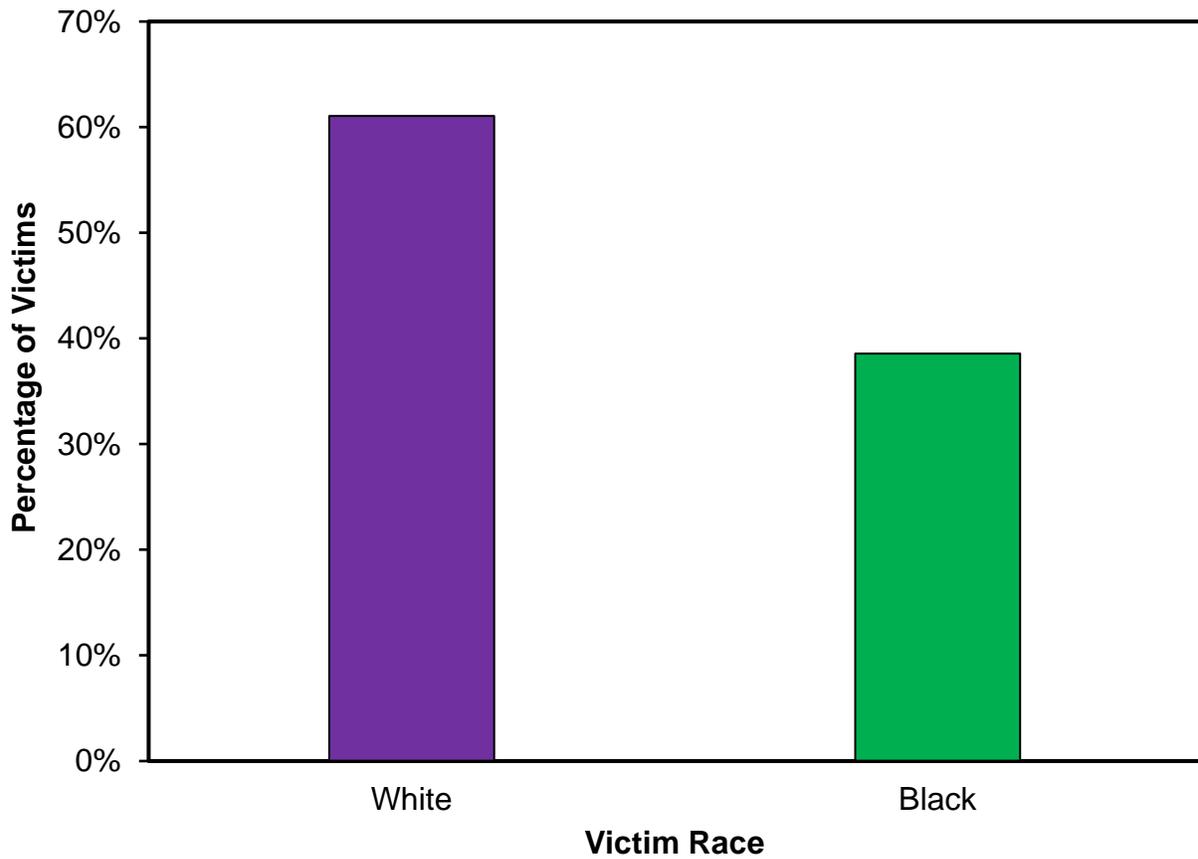


- ❖ The victimization rate<sup>4</sup> for females (982.5 victims per 100,000 population<sup>5</sup>) was more than 2.5 times higher than the rate for males (386.4 victims per 100,000 population) (Figure 12).

<sup>4</sup> Census data are used throughout the Victim and Offender sections to calculate demographic-specific rates. Since OIBRS data do not cover the entire population of Ohio, Census estimates are multiplied by the percentage of the Ohio population covered by OIBRS (75.75%) to adjust population denominators for rate calculations. This procedure does not account for the specific demographic characteristics of the population covered by OIBRS, as ZIP code level, Census demographic estimates are not yet available for 2014. For that reason, please use caution when interpreting these data. Further analyses are needed to accurately determine which groups are disproportionately affected by domestic violence.

<sup>5</sup> Population figures taken from: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division (2014). *Annual State Resident Population Estimates for 6 Race Groups (5 Race Alone Groups and Two or More Races) by Age, Sex, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014*. Retrieved 4/29/2016.

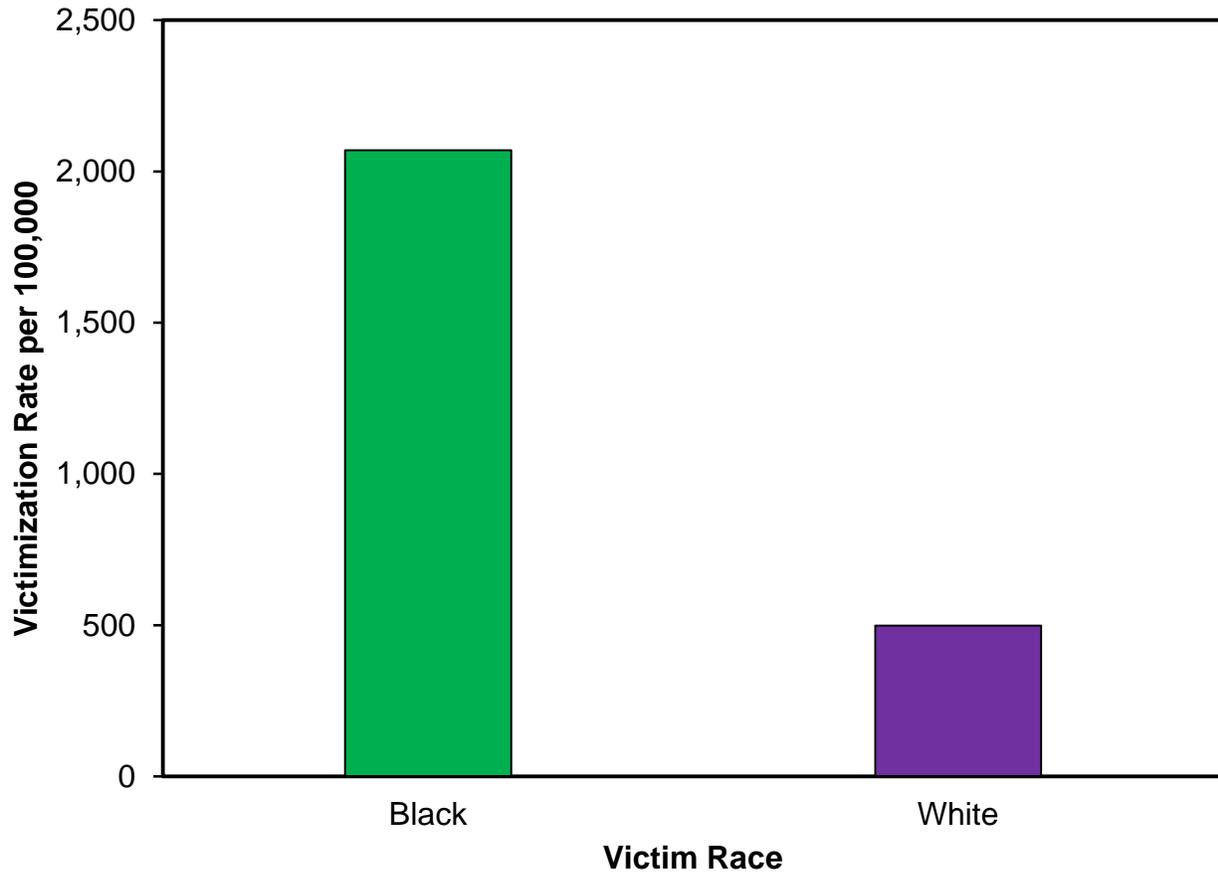
Figure 13: Percentage of Domestic Violence Victimization by Race



- ❖ 61.1% of domestic violence victims were white, and 38.6% of domestic violence victims were black<sup>6</sup> (Figure 13).

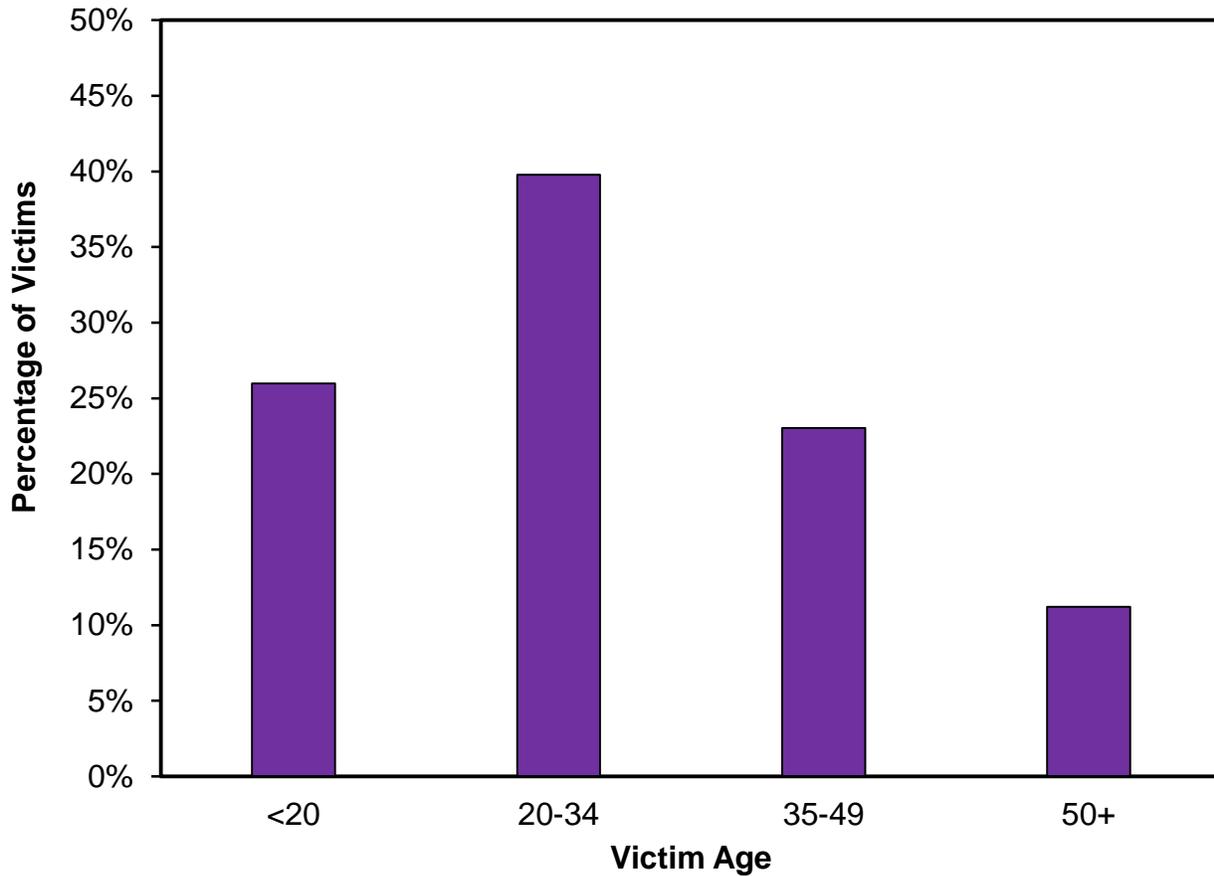
<sup>6</sup> Total victim counts for all other races in the OIBRS database were too low to generate reliable estimates.

Figure 14: Rate of Domestic Violence Victimization by Race



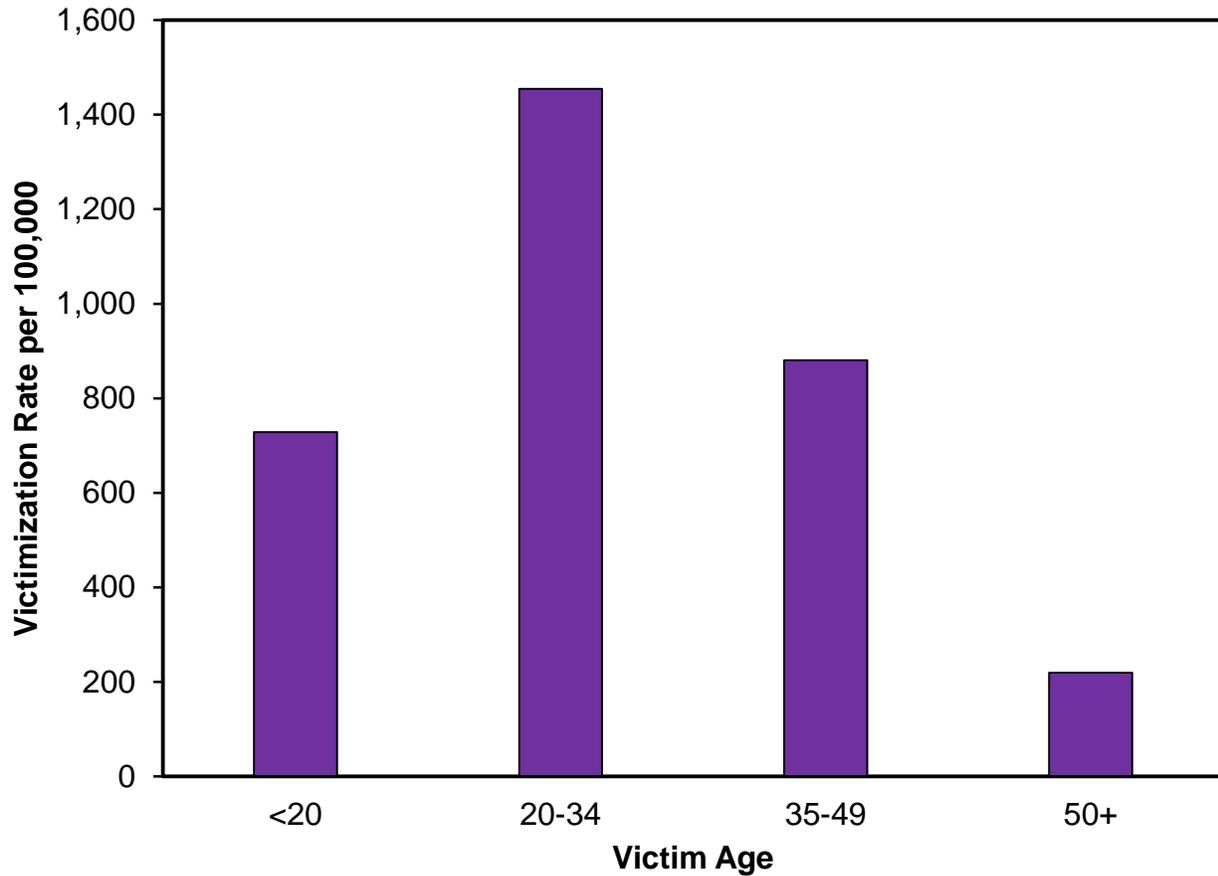
- ❖ The domestic violence rate for black victims (2,070.4 per 100,000) was more than four times higher than the rate for white victims (498.1 per 100,000) (Figure 14).

Figure 15: Percentage of Domestic Violence Victimization by Age



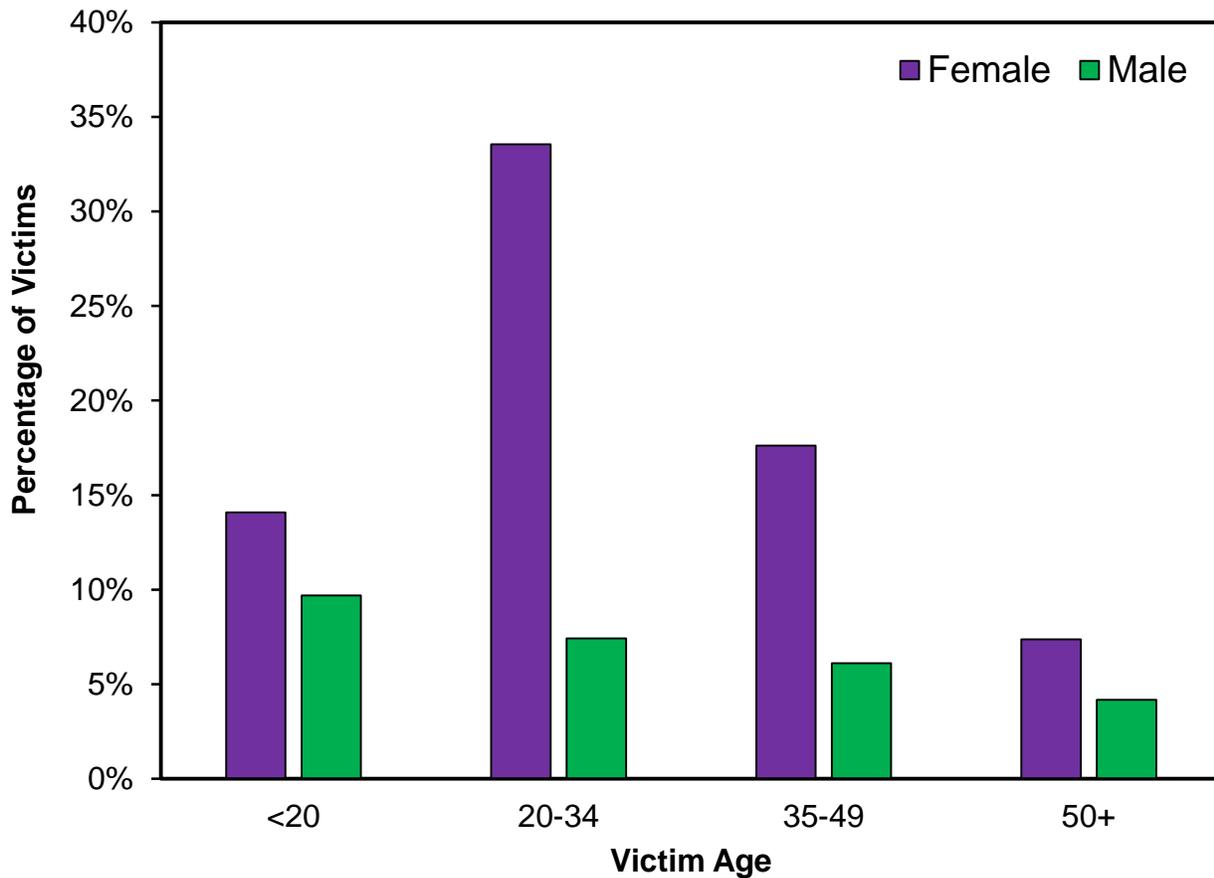
- ❖ The percentage of domestic violence victims increases from the “Less than 20” age range to the 20-34 age range, then decreases across all successive age ranges (Figure 15).
- ❖ Most domestic violence victims (88.8%) were less than 49 years old. A total of 26.0% of domestic violence victims were less than 20 years old, while 39.8% of victims were between 20-34 years old, and 23.0% were between 35 and 49 years old.

Figure 16: Rate of Domestic Violence Victimization by Age



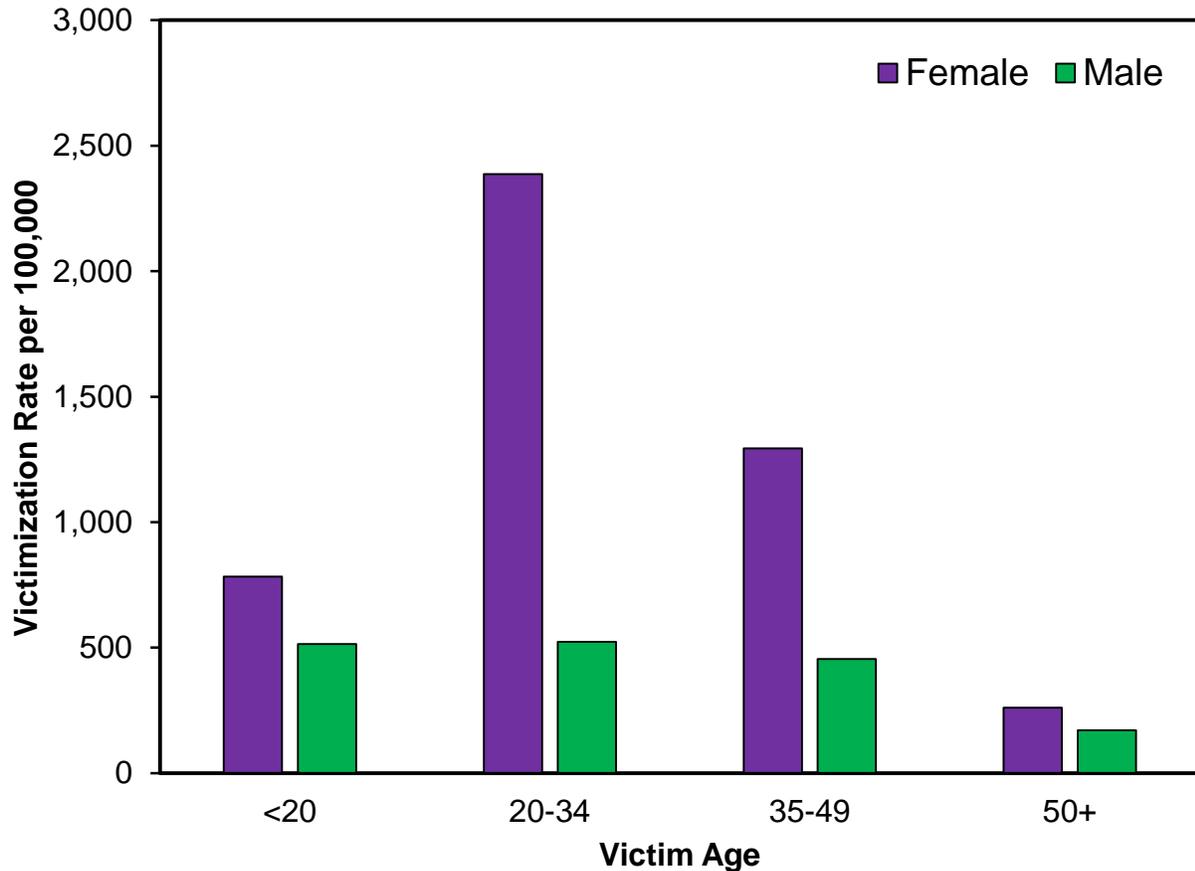
- ❖ The victimization rate was highest for persons between 20 and 34 years of age (1,454.8 per 100,000) (Figure 16).
- ❖ The next highest victimization rate was for individuals between 35 and 49 years of age (880.4 per 100,000), followed by individuals less than 20 years old (728.7 victims per 100,000).

Figure 17: Percentage of Domestic Violence Victimization by Sex and Age



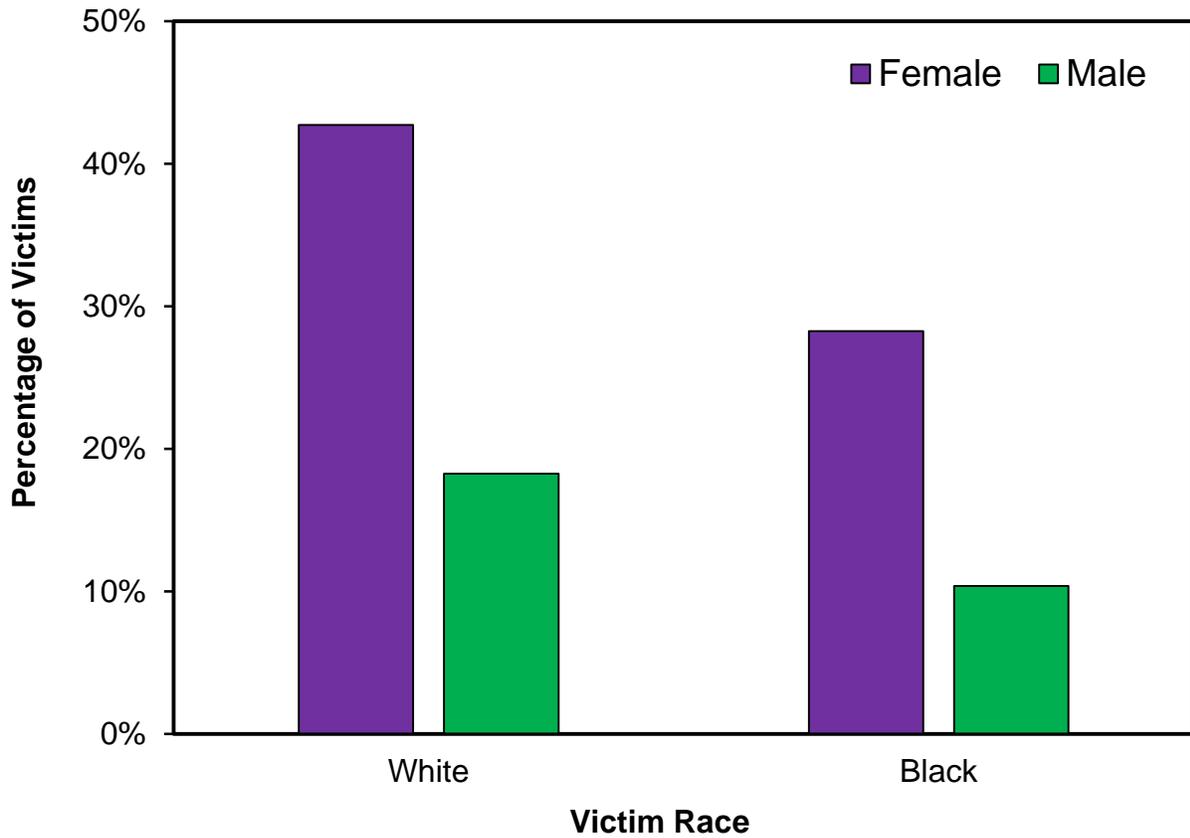
- ❖ Females accounted for a greater percentage of domestic violence victims than males across all age ranges (Figure 17).
- ❖ The percentage of female domestic violence victims declined across each age range after the ages of 20-34.
- ❖ The percentage of male domestic violence victims decreased across all age ranges, from 9.7% in the “Less than 20” age range, to 4.2% in the 50+ age range.

Figure 18: Rate of Domestic Violence Victimization by Sex and Age



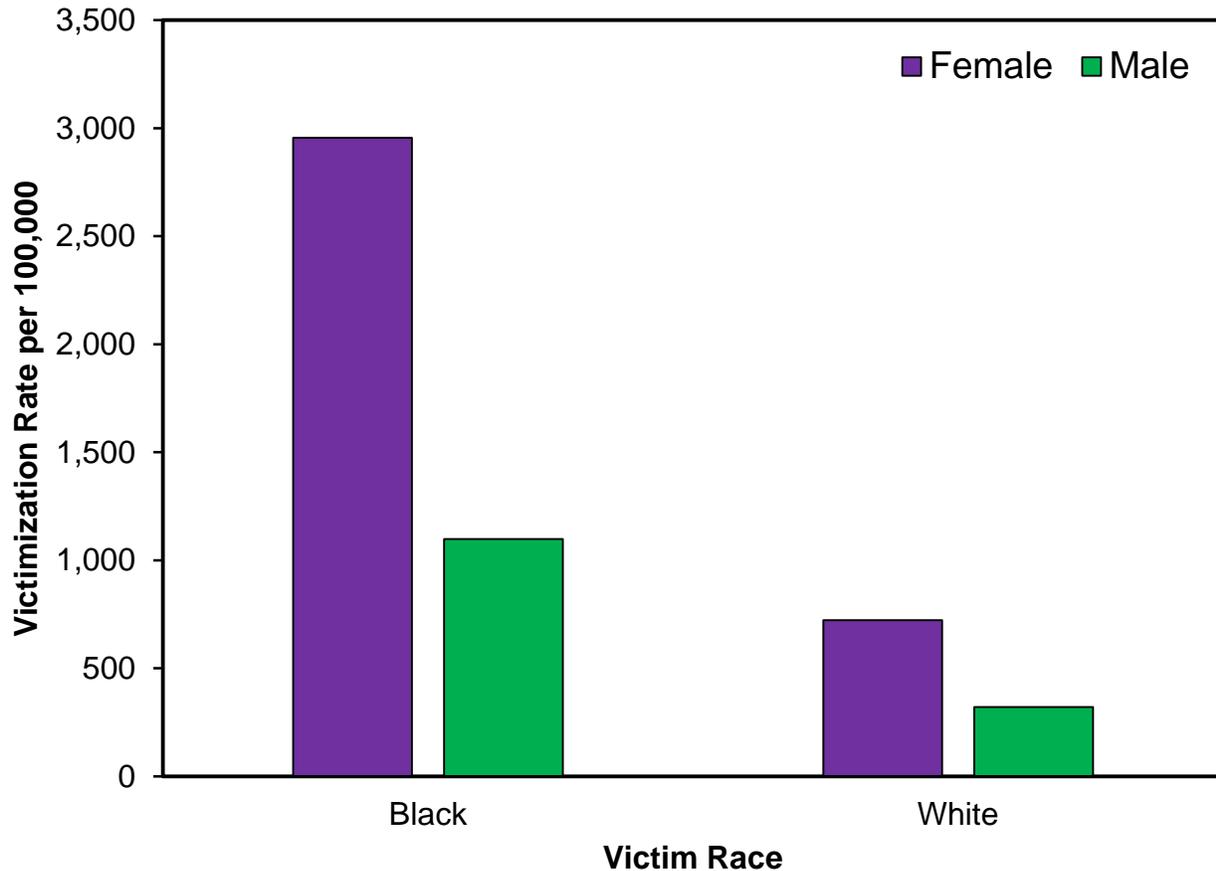
- ❖ Females were victimized at higher rates than males across all age ranges (Figure 18).
- ❖ Females between the ages of 20-34 had a higher rate of victimization than any other group (2,386.7 per 100,000). Females between the ages of 35-49 were the next most frequently victimized group (1,294.6 per 100,000).
- ❖ Both males and females experienced the highest rate of domestic violence victimization between the ages of 20 and 34; however, the second highest victimization rate for males occurred in the “Less than 20” age group, while the second highest victimization rate for females occurred between the ages of 35 and 49.

Figure 19: Percentage of Domestic Violence Victimization by Race and Sex



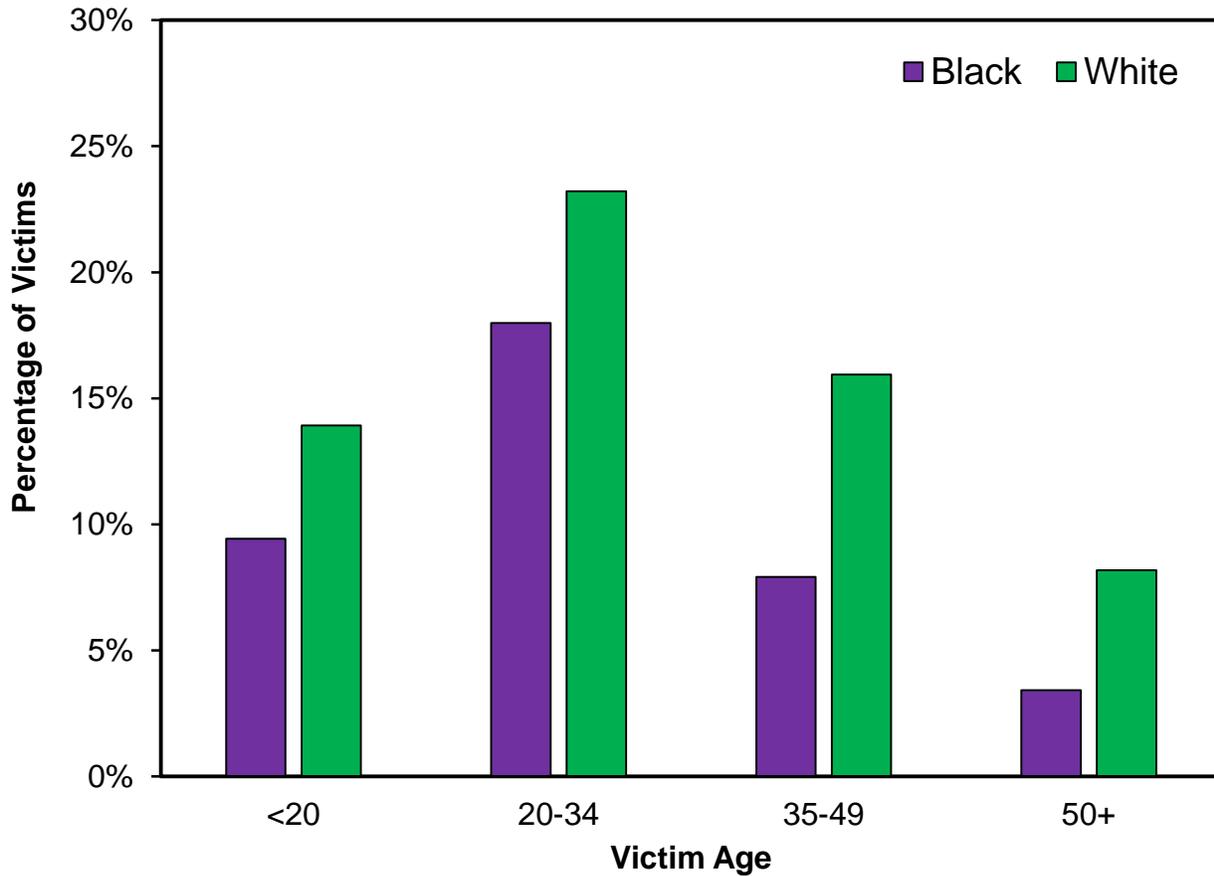
- ❖ Females accounted for a greater percentage of domestic violence victims than males across both race categories (Figure 19).
- ❖ White victims were more frequent than black victims across both sex categories.
- ❖ White females accounted for the greatest percentage of all domestic violence victims, (42.7%), followed by black females (28.3%).

Figure 20: Rate of Domestic Violence Victimization by Race and Sex



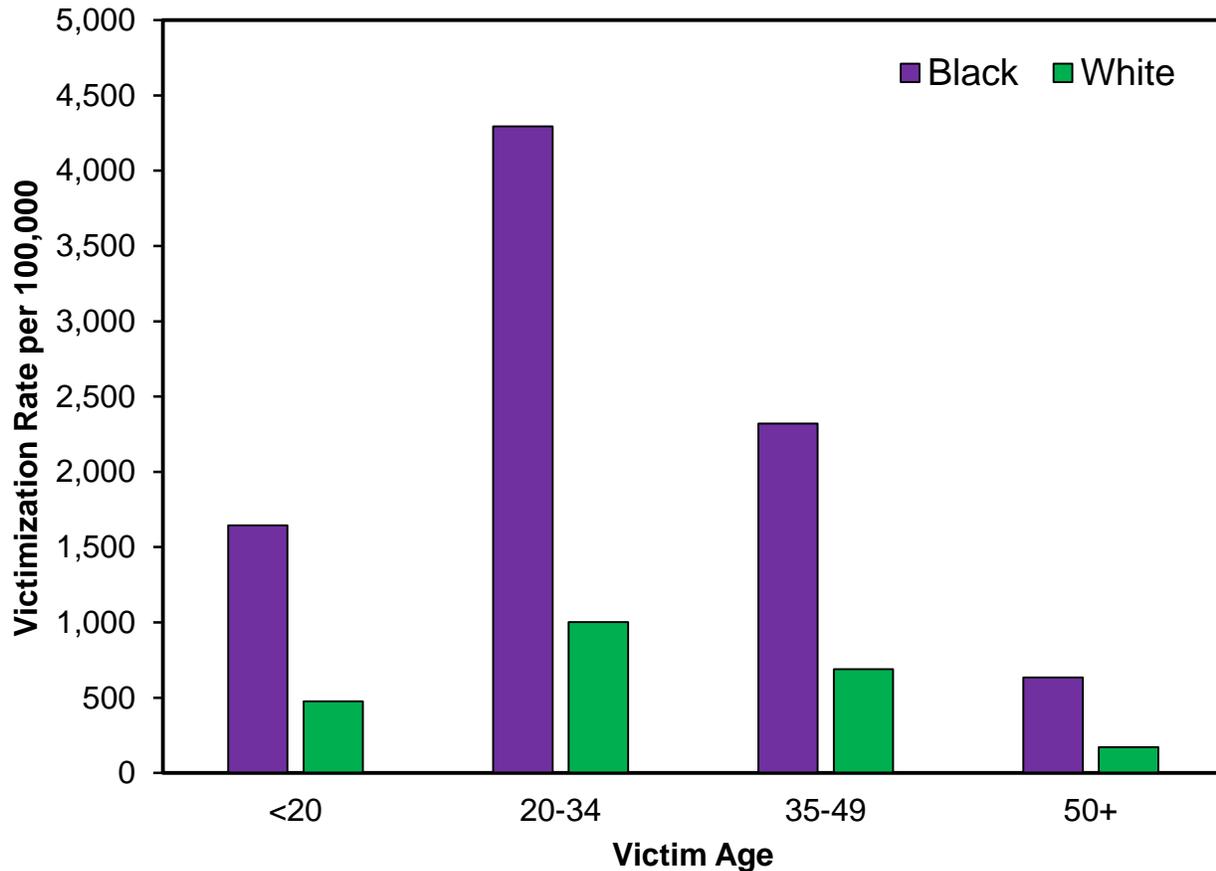
- ❖ The victimization rate was higher for females than males across both race categories (Figure 20).
- ❖ The domestic violence rate was higher for black victims than white victims across both sex categories.
- ❖ Black females had the highest rate of victimization (2,955.4 per 100,000 population), followed by black males (1,097.9 per 100,000 population).

Figure 21: Percentage of Domestic Violence Victimization by Age and Race



- ❖ White victims were more frequent than black victims across all age ranges (Figure 21).
- ❖ Individuals aged 20-34 accounted for the highest percentage of victims across both race categories.
- ❖ The second most frequent age range for victimization was 35-49 for white victims, and “Less than 20” for black victims.

Figure 22: Rate of Domestic Violence Victimization by Age and Race

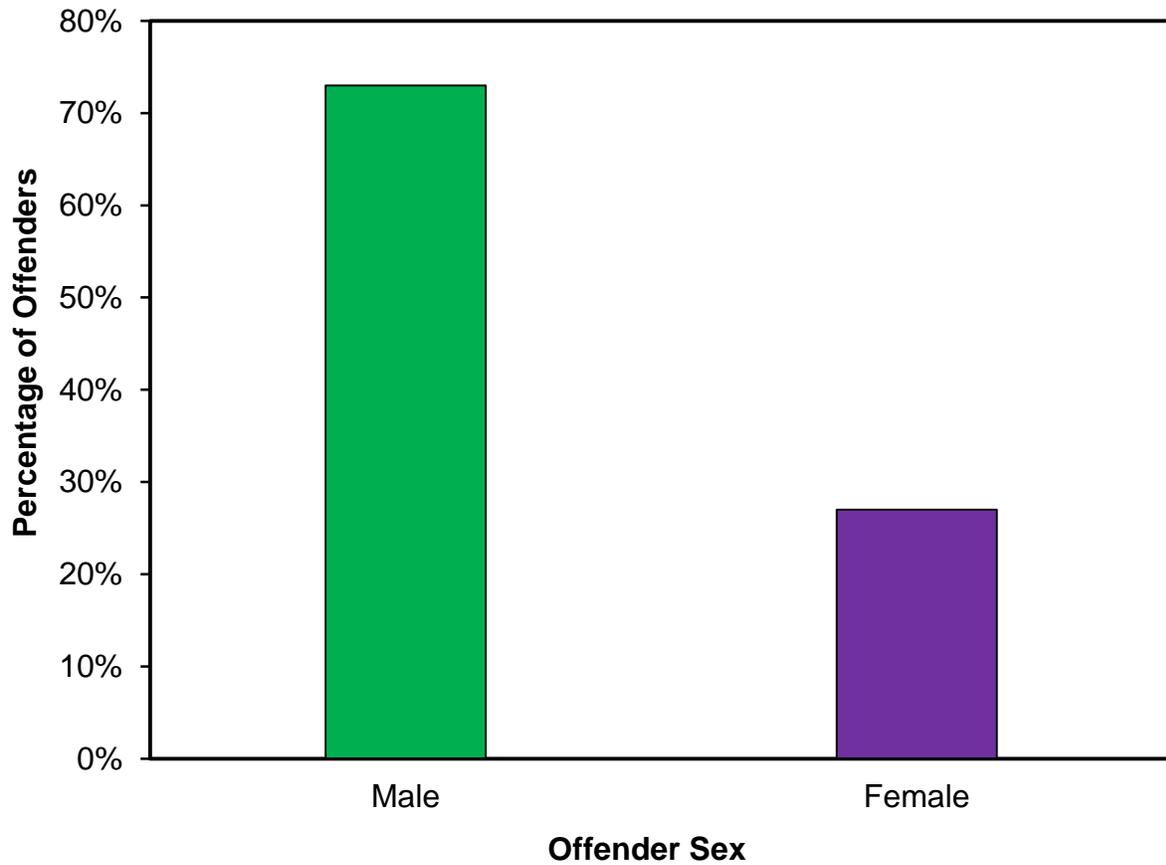


- ❖ The domestic violence rate was higher for black victims than white victims across all age ranges (Figure 22).
- ❖ The highest rates of victimization for both race groups occurred between the ages of 20 and 34.
- ❖ Black individuals between 20 and 34 were victimized at a higher rate than any other group covered in this report (4,294.5 victims per 100,000). The second highest victimization rate was for black individuals between the ages of 35 and 49 (2,320.6 victims per 100,000).

## Offenders

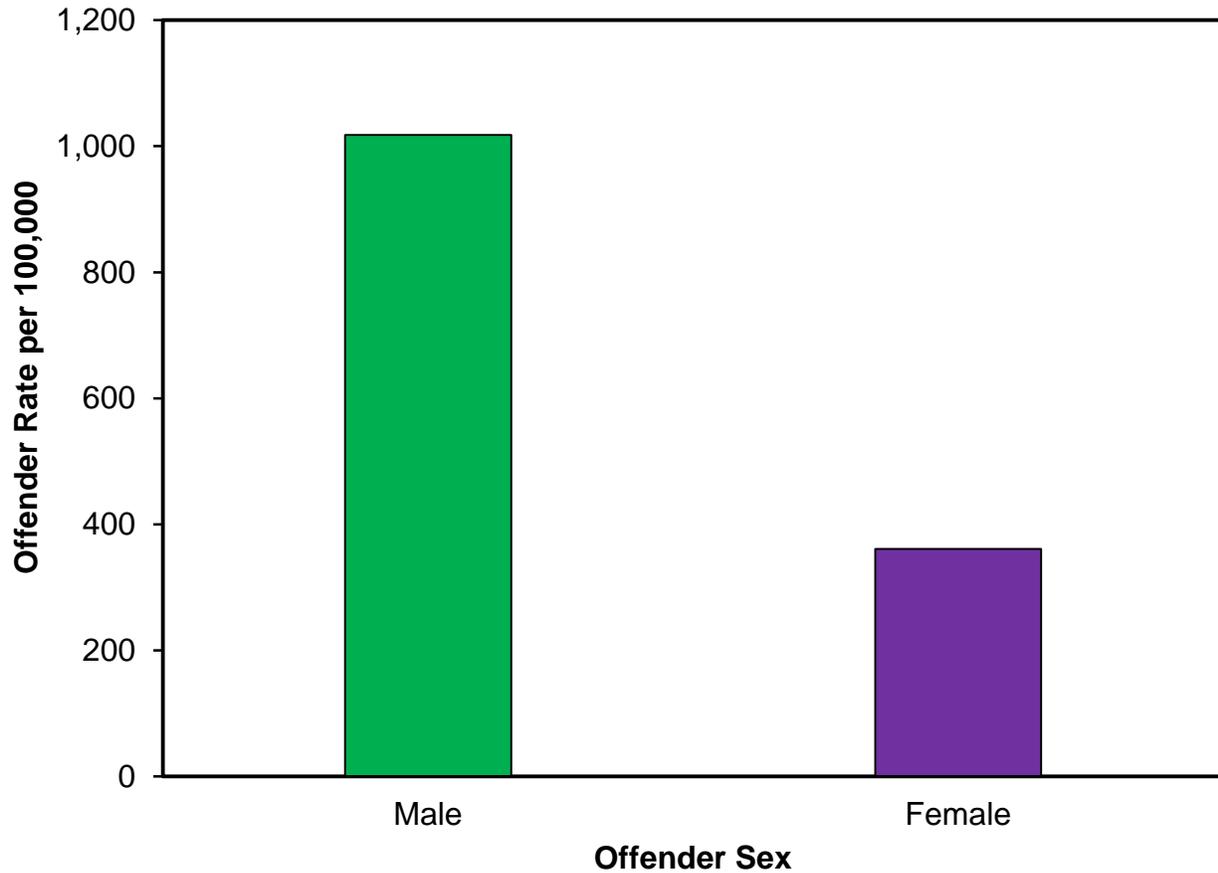
### Offender Demographics

Figure 23: Percentage of Domestic Violence Offenders by Sex



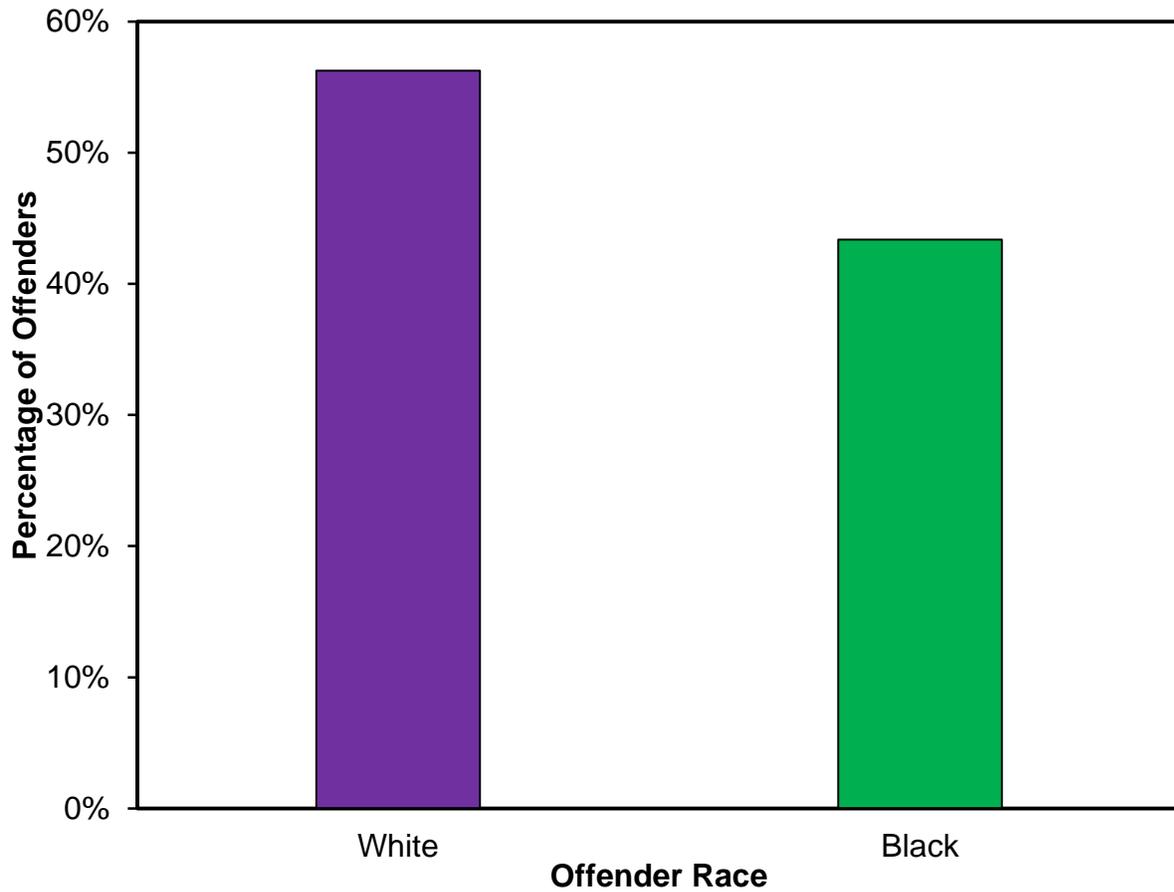
- ❖ Males accounted for 73.0% of domestic violence offenders, while females accounted for 27.0% of domestic violence offenders (Figure 23).

Figure 24: Rate of Domestic Violence Offenders by Sex



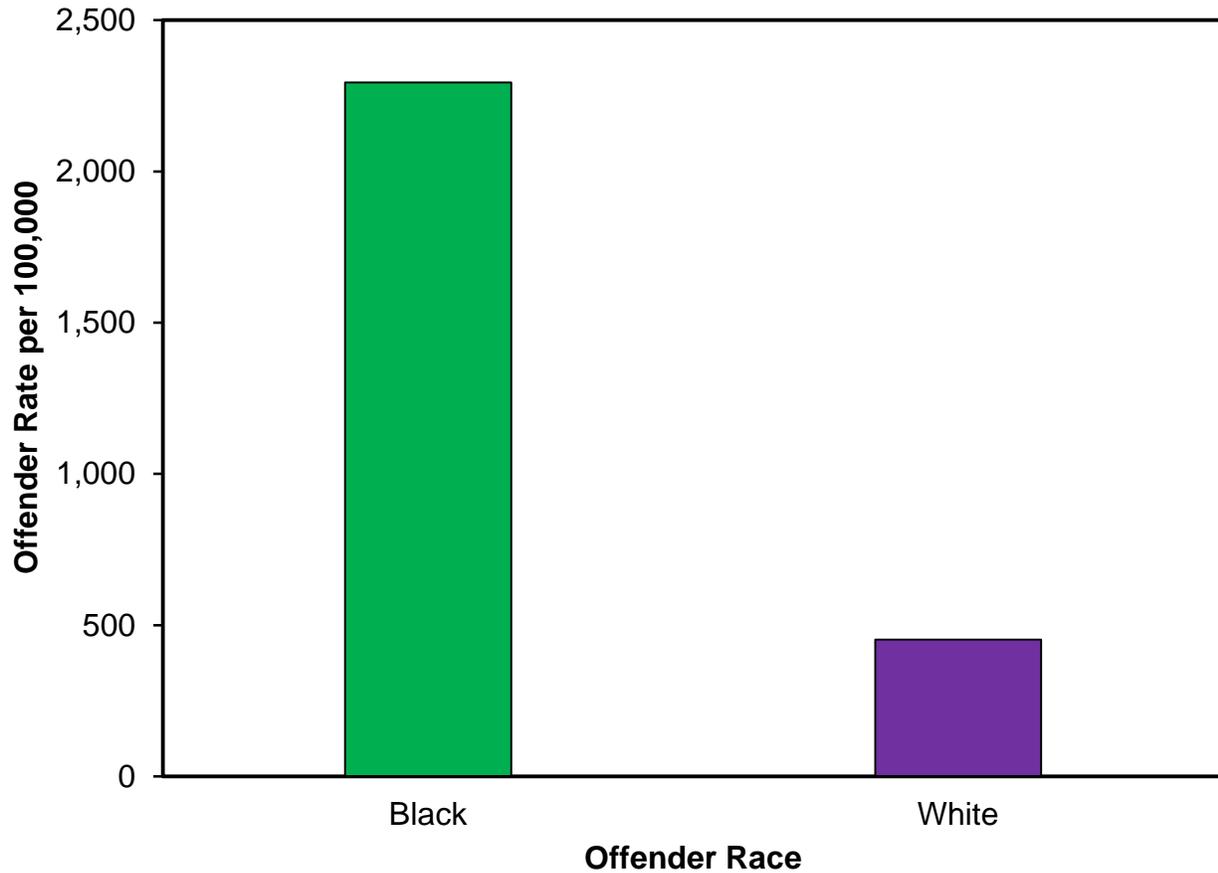
- ❖ Males committed offenses at a rate (1,017 offenders per 100,000 population) that was more than 2.5 times higher the rate of females (360.9 offenders per 100,000 population) (Figure 24).

Figure 25: Percentage of Domestic Violence Offenders by Race



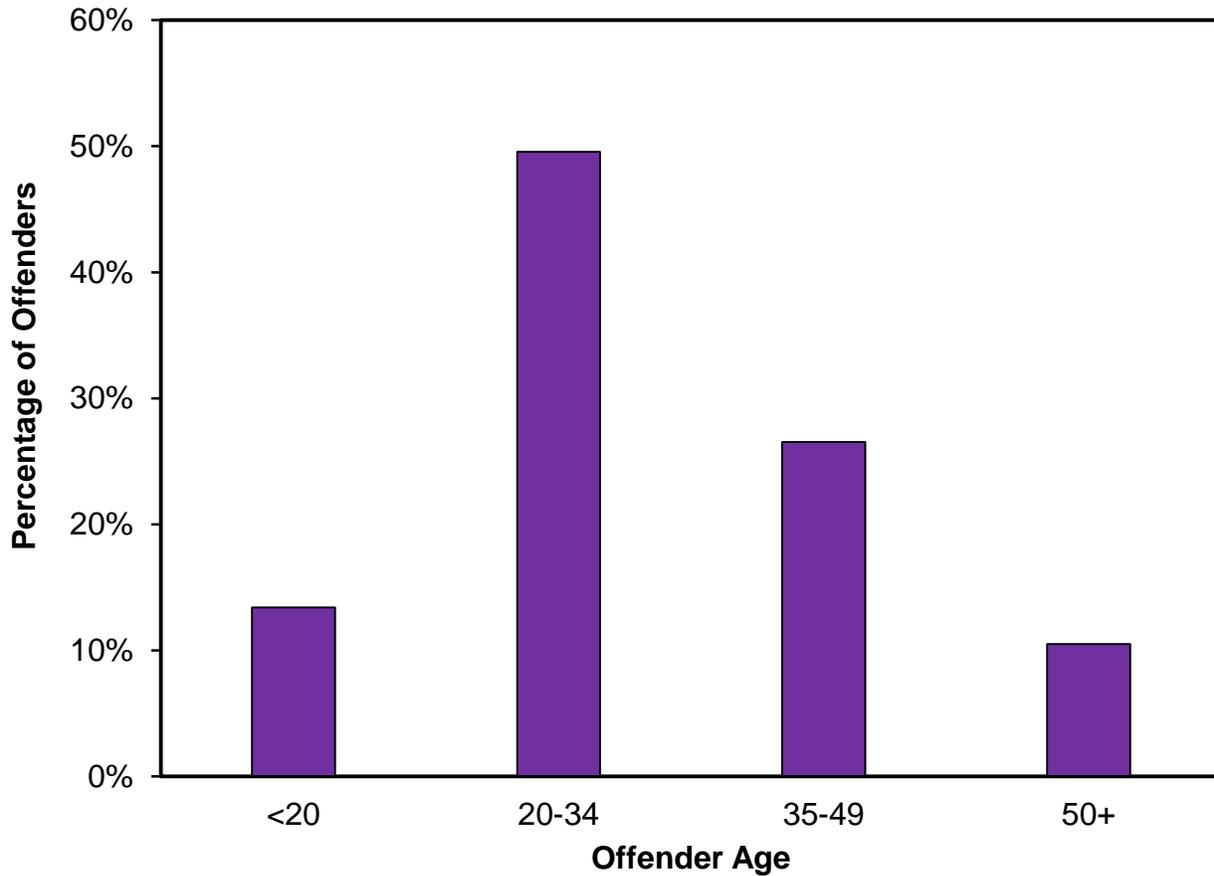
- ❖ 56.3% of all domestic violence offenders were white, while 43.4% of domestic violence offenders were black (Figure 25).

Figure 26: Rate of Domestic Violence Offenders by Race



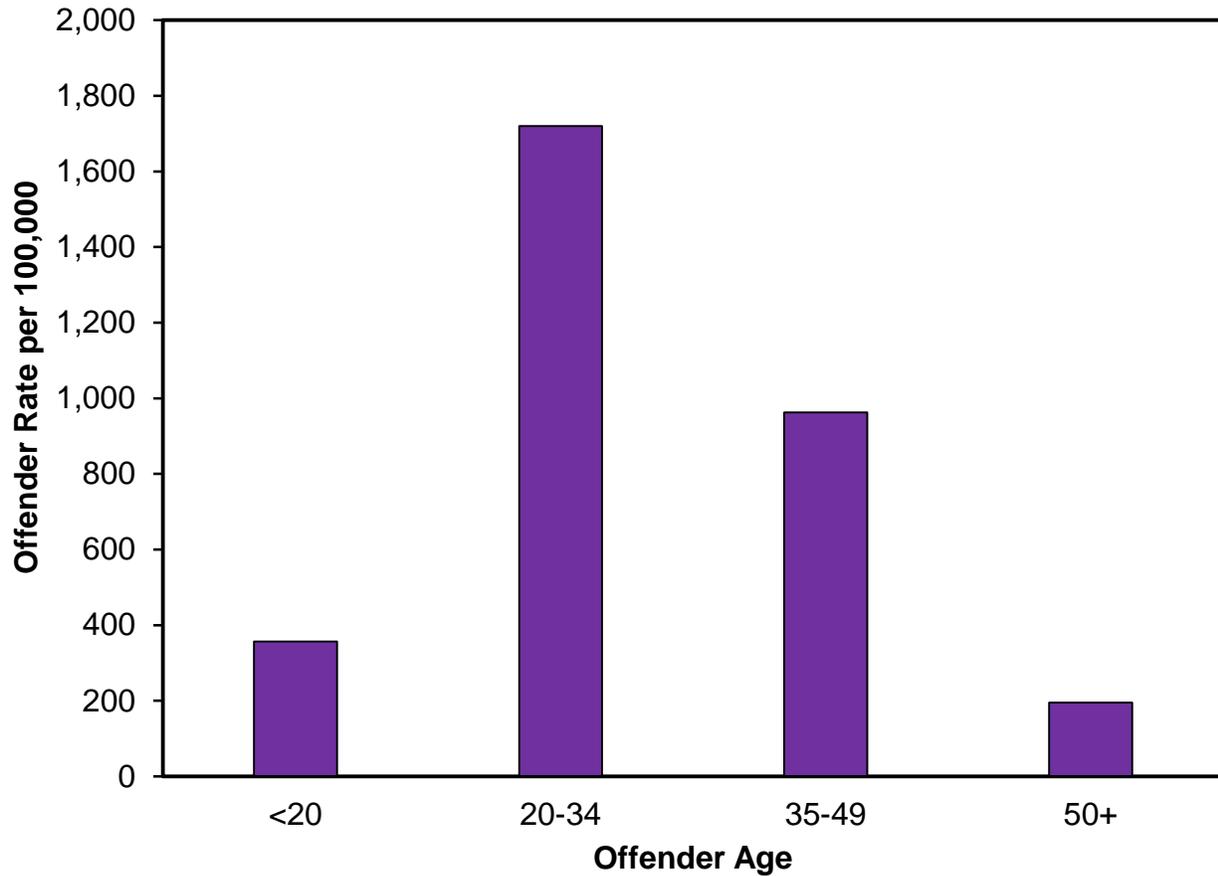
- ❖ The rate for black offenders (2,294.5 per 100,000) was more than five times higher than the rate for white offenders (452.7 per 100,000) (Figure 26).

Figure 27: Percentage of Domestic Violence Offenders by Age



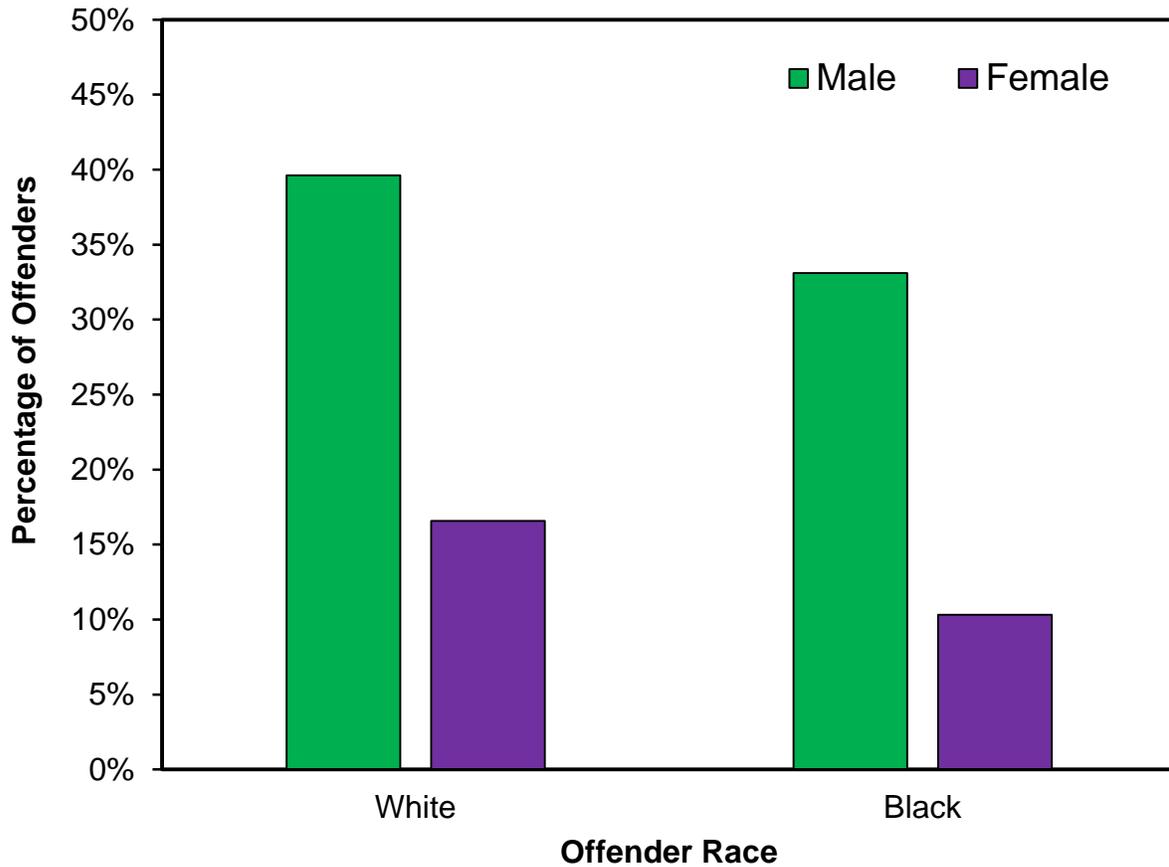
- ❖ The age trend for domestic violence offenders mirrors the age trend for domestic violence victims. The percentage of domestic violence offenders peaks between the ages of 20-34, then decreases across subsequent age ranges (Figure 27).
- ❖ Most domestic violence offenders were younger than 50 years old (89.5%). Individuals between the ages of 20-34 comprised the majority (49.6%) of domestic violence offenders, followed by individuals between the ages of 35-49 (26.5%).

Figure 28: Rate of Domestic Violence Offenders by Age



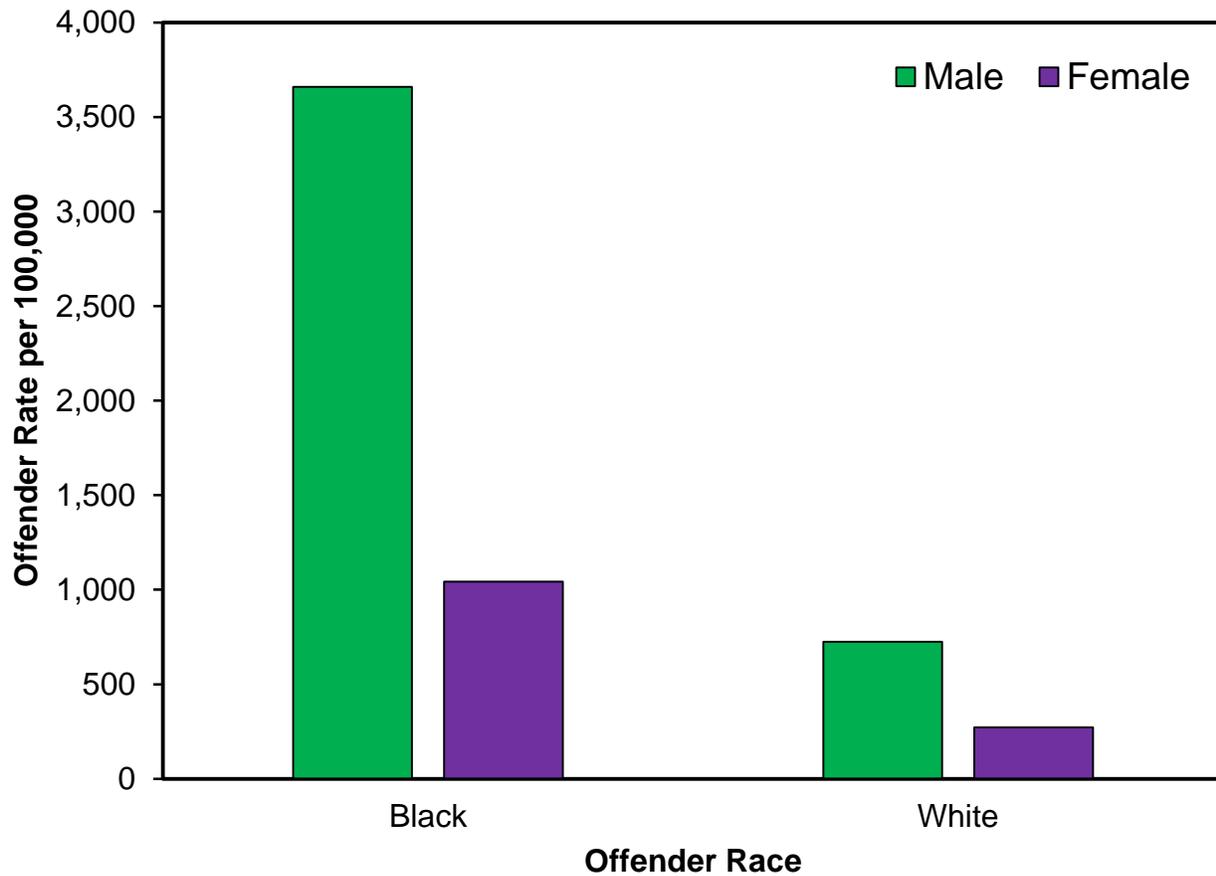
- ❖ The highest rate of offending was for individuals between the ages of 20 and 34 (1,720.3 per 100,000) (Figure 28).
- ❖ The next highest offense rate was for individuals aged 35 through 49 (962.7 per 100,000 population).

Figure 29: Percentage of Domestic Violence Offenders by Sex and Race



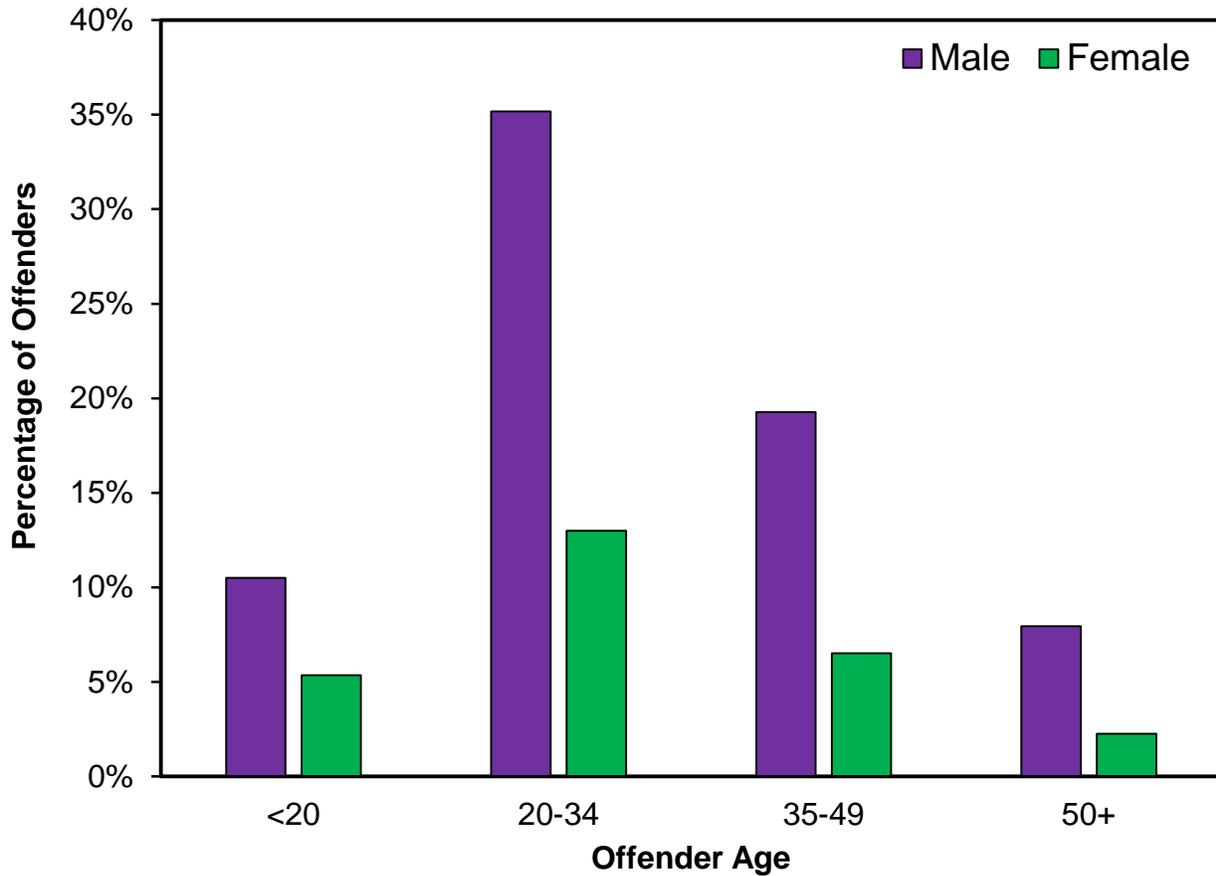
- ❖ White offenders were more frequent than black offenders across both sex categories (Figure 29).
- ❖ Males comprised a greater percentage of domestic violence offenders than females across both race categories.
- ❖ White males accounted for the greatest percentage of domestic violence offenders (39.8%) followed by black males (33.1%).

Figure 30: Rate of Domestic Violence Offenders by Sex and Race



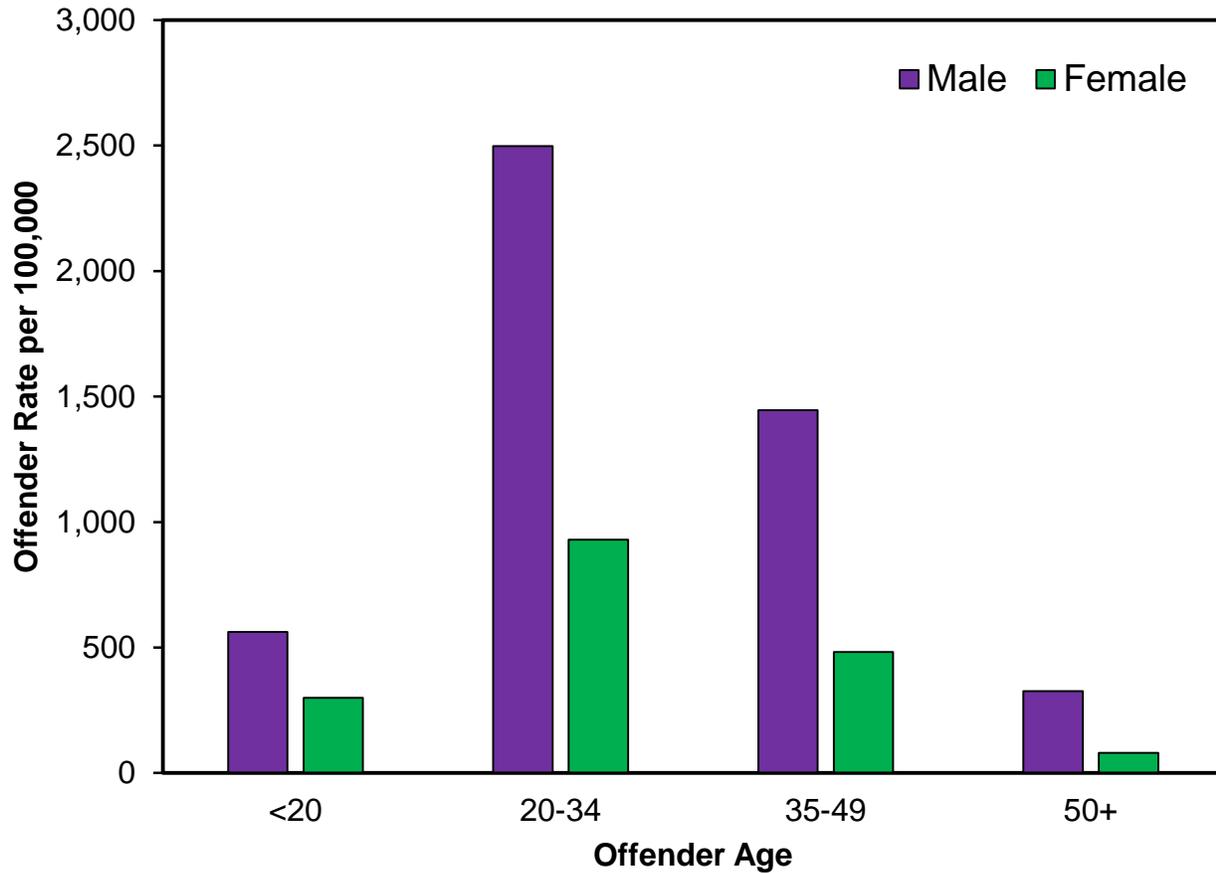
- ❖ The rate for black offenders was higher than the rate for white offenders across both sexes (Figure 30).
- ❖ Males had higher rates of offending than females across both race categories.
- ❖ Black males had the highest rate of domestic violence offending (3,659.3 offenders per 100,000 population), followed by black females (1,042.5 offenders per 100,000 population).

Figure 31: Percentage of Domestic Violence Offenders by Age and Sex



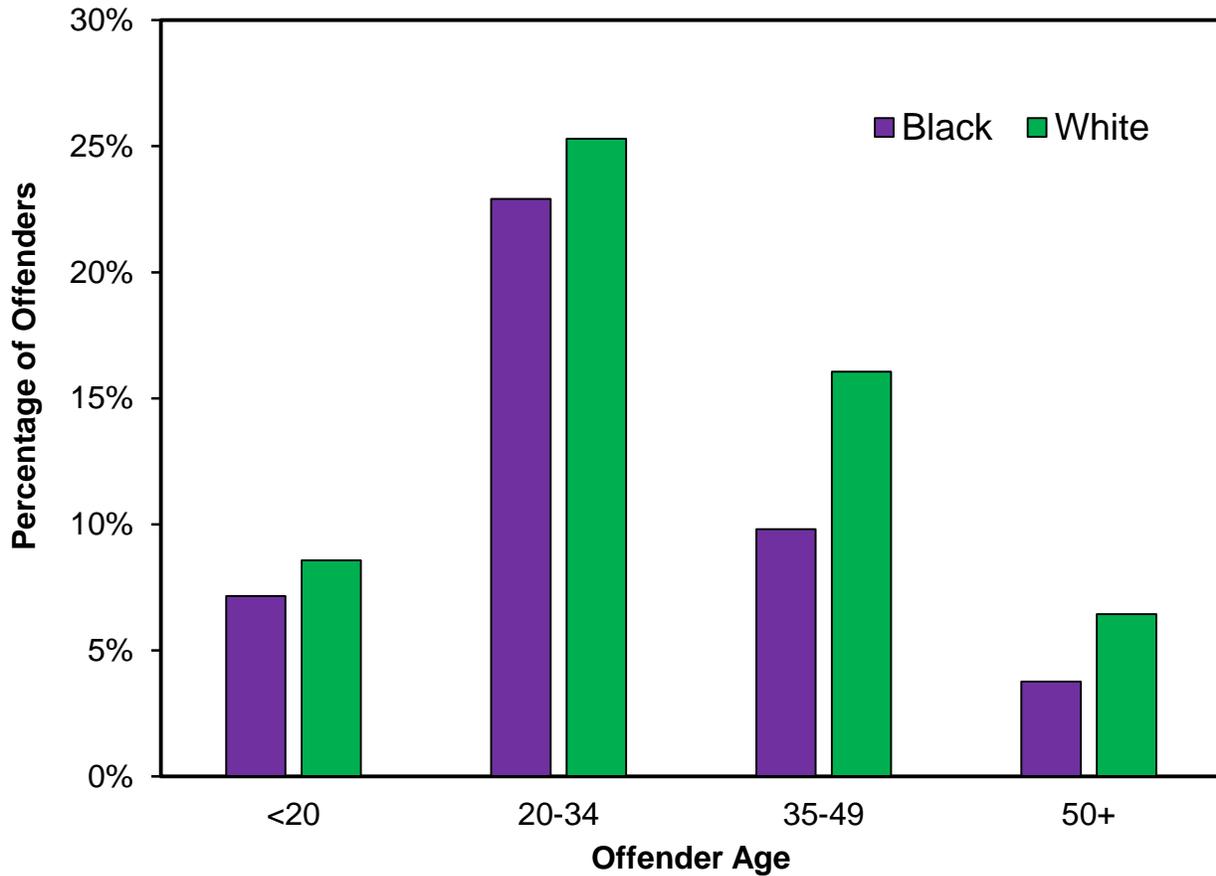
- ❖ There were more male offenders across all age groups than females (Figure 31).
- ❖ Offending peaked between 20 and 34 years old for both sexes, before decreasing across the rest of the lifespan.

Figure 32: Rate of Domestic Violence Offenders by Age and Sex



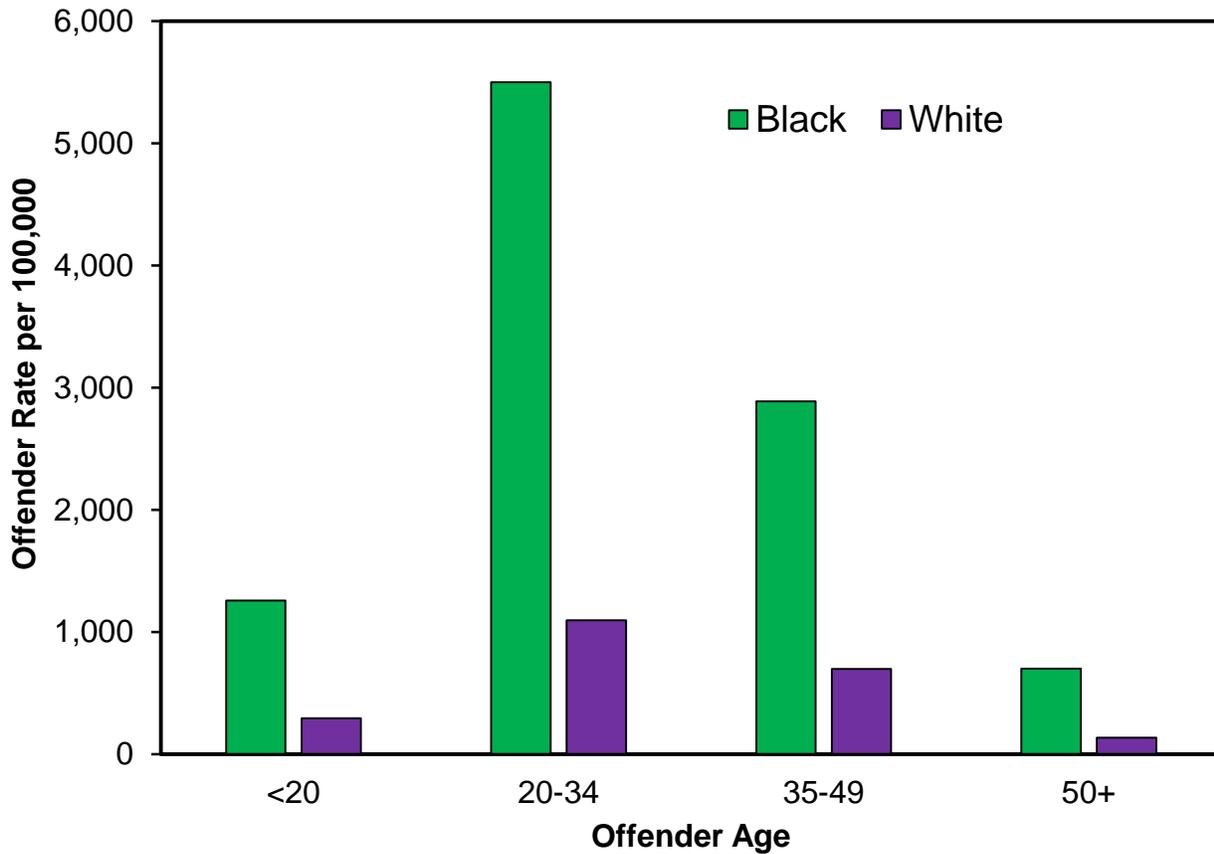
- ❖ The offender rate was higher for males than females across all age ranges (Figure 32).
- ❖ Offender rates for both sexes peaked between 20 and 34 years of age before decreasing across the rest of the lifespan.
- ❖ Males between the ages of 20 and 34 had the highest offender rate (2,497.5 offenders per 100,000), followed by males between the ages of 35 and 49 (1,446.2 offenders per 100,000 population).

Figure 33: Percentage of Domestic Violence Offenders by Age and Race



- ❖ White offenders were more frequent than black offenders across all age ranges (Figure 33).
- ❖ The percentage of offenders was highest between 20 and 34, followed by 35 through 49 for both race categories.
- ❖ The percentage of black offenders declined across all age ranges after 18-27, but it did not decline for white offenders until after 28-37.

Figure 34: Rate of Domestic Violence Offenders by Age and Race



- ❖ The rate for black offenders was higher than the rate for white offenders across all age categories (Figure 34).
- ❖ The offense rate was highest between the ages of 20 and 34 for both race categories.
- ❖ Black individuals between the ages of 20 and 34 offended at the highest rate (5,499.7 per 100,000), followed by black individuals between the ages of 35 and 49 (2,888.0 per 100,000).