



HOMICIDES IN OHIO IN 2004

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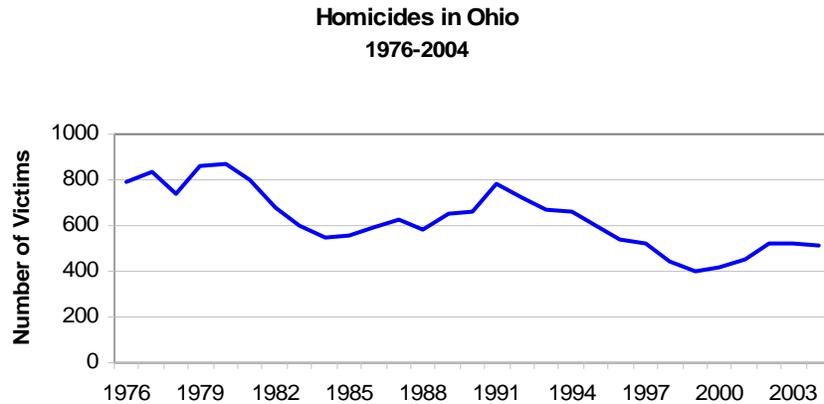
Since 1930, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has annually collected data on crime in the United States through its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR Program collects only those data that come to the attention of law enforcement through victim reports or observation. Reporting is voluntary and, in 2004, law enforcement agencies active in the UCR Program represented 94.2 percent of the total population. Data are collected on the eight Index offenses of murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

In addition to collecting summary data on the eight Index crimes, the FBI collects detailed data on homicides. Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR) provide incident-based information on criminal homicides, including information describing the victim(s), the offender(s), the relationship between victim and offender, when the incidents occurred, the weapon used, and the circumstance leading to the homicide incident. Law enforcement agencies in Ohio voluntarily report SHR data directly to the Federal Bureau of Investigation as part of the UCR Program.

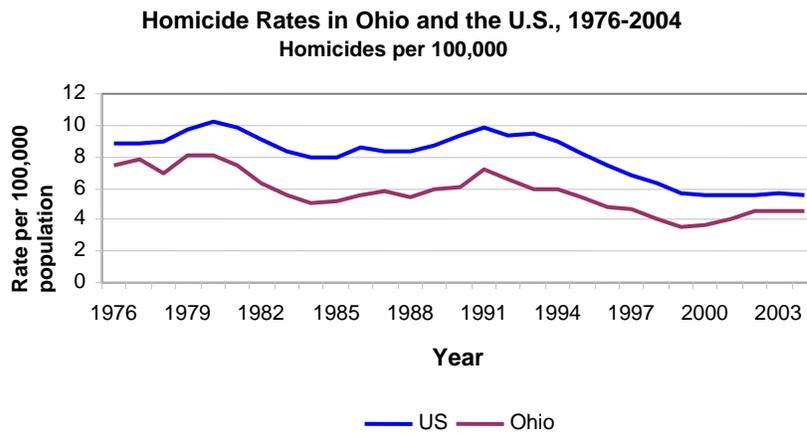
The following report is based on Ohio homicides reported by law enforcement to the FBI for 2004. Unless otherwise stated, all data come from the SHR.

Homicides in Ohio and the U.S.

Homicides in Ohio occur at a rate of approximately four per 100,000 population. Over the past 30 years, the number and rate of homicides has fluctuated, from highs in the late 1970s and early 1980s and again in the early- to mid-1990s, to lows in the late 1990s that have continued through 2004.



A comparison of Ohio's homicide rate to that of the U.S. suggests that Ohio is not unique with regard to this crime. Ohio's homicide rate patterns vary similarly to that of the U.S., although at a lower rate.



Source: FBI's *Crime in the United States*, 1976-2004.

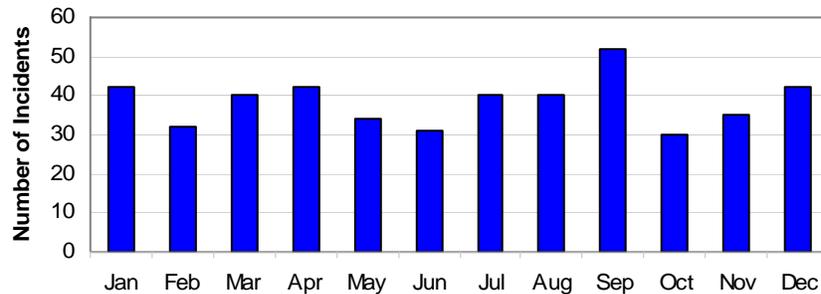
Homicides in Ohio in 2004

Number of homicides. There were 460 homicides in Ohio in 2004, resulting in 495 victims. Of the 460 homicides, 95 percent resulted in the murder of a single victim and five percent resulted in the murder of multiple victims.

Of all incidents in which there was a single victim, 56 percent were committed by a single offender, 14 percent were committed by multiple offenders, and 30 percent were committed by an unknown number of offenders.

Monthly homicide occurrences. Homicides were at their highest in September, with 52 recorded incidents. The summer months of July through September showed the highest total number of homicide incidents for a consecutive three-month period.

**Homicide Incidents in Ohio in 2004
by Month**



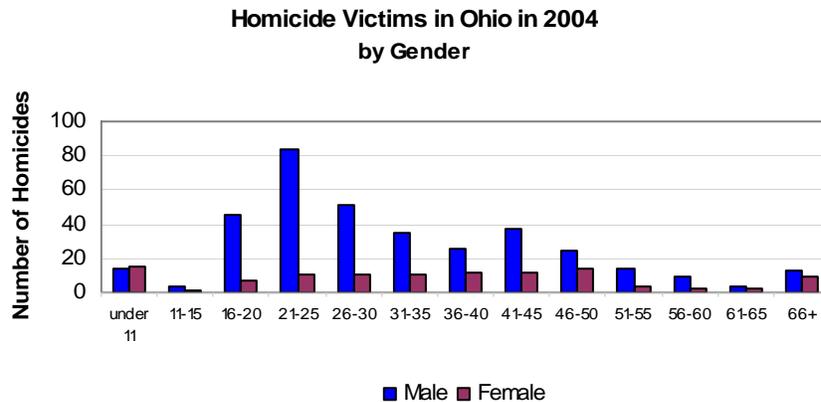
Ohio's Homicide Victims

The following data were reported for those victims for whom all or some demographic (age, gender, race) information was available. For a significant number of incidents, little or no demographic data were available.

Ohio had 495 homicide victims in 2004. Analyses of the victims' demographics indicated that not all individuals had an equal likelihood of becoming a victim of homicide.

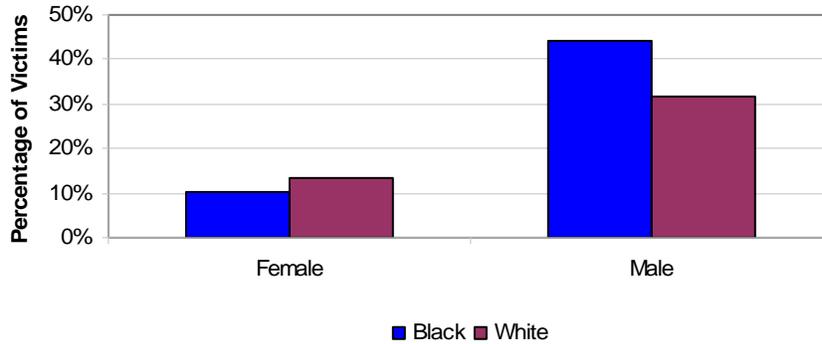
Gender. Across nearly all age groups, females were much less likely to be a victim of homicide than males. More than three quarters of all homicide victims were male.

Age. Certain age groups appeared to be more frequent targets of homicide as well. Overall, the median age of homicide victims was 30 years. Males had a median homicide age of 29 years, while females had a median homicide age of 36 years. The early adulthood years were notable particularly for males, as the peak in the following graph indicates. No such peak was evident for females.



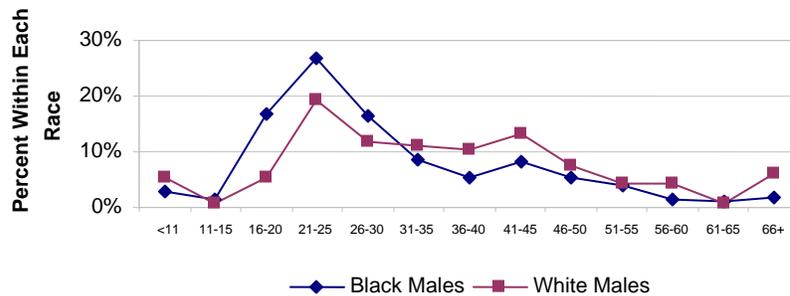
Race. The victim's race also appeared to factor into homicide rates. Nearly 55 percent of all homicide victims were Black, 45 percent were White, and less than one percent were "other" races. When broken down by gender, the discrepancy became even more apparent for Black males. Black males made up 58 percent of all male homicide victims and 44 percent of all homicide victims. White males made up 42 percent of all male homicide victims and 32 percent of all homicide victims. In contrast, Black female victims made up 44 percent of all female homicide victims and 10 percent of all homicide victims, whereas White females made up 56 percent of all female homicide victims and 13 percent of all victims.

Homicide Victims in Ohio in 2004
Percentage of Victims by Race within Each Gender Category



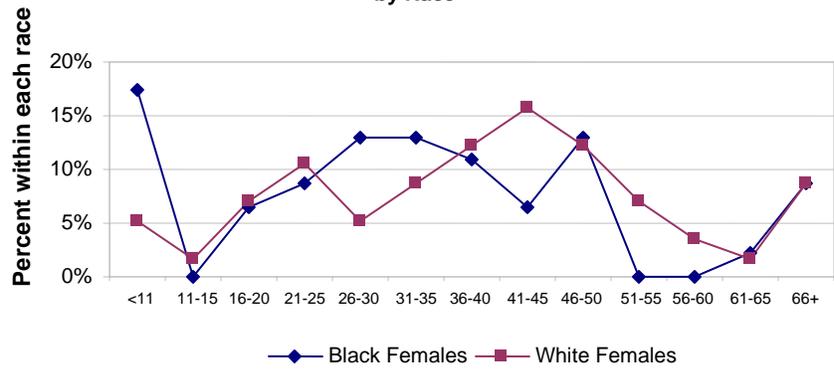
Looking at age, gender, and race together, different patterns emerge regarding Ohio's victims of homicide. In general, the percentages of Black and White male victims were similar through age 15. Ages 16 through 30 appeared to be the deadliest time for male victims, particularly Black males. From age 31 on, the trend lines for Black and White male victims patterned similarly.

Male Homicide Victims in Ohio 2004
by Race



Among females, no clear pattern emerged with regard to victim age. The majority of victims fell within the ages of 16 and 55. A higher percentage of Black female victims were in their mid-twenties to mid-thirties when they were killed. Beyond this age, there tended to be a higher percentage of White female victims than Black female victims.

Female Homicide Victims in Ohio 2004 by Race



Ohio's Homicide Offenders

Demographically, Ohio's homicide offenders were similar to homicide victims. The following data are reported only for those offenders for whom all or some demographic information was available.

Gender. Male homicide offenders outnumbered female homicide offenders by more than six to one. Additionally, males were equal to or outnumbered females across every age category.

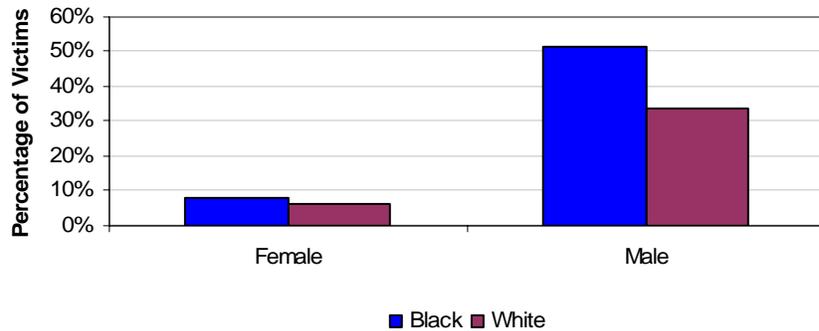
Age. The median age for homicide offenders was 25 years. The median offender age for males was 25, four years younger than the median female offender age of 29.

Looking at the number of male and female offenders within their respective gender category, the proportion of male offenders increased dramatically from age 16 through the age 25, then decreased steadily thereafter. The proportion of female homicide offenders, on the other hand, showed less of a peak and more of an increased range of offending which extended from age 16 through age 55.



Race. Black offenders made up 60 percent of all homicide offenders, and White offenders made up 40 percent of all homicide offenders. When broken down by gender, Black males made up 60 percent of male homicide offenders and 52 percent of all homicide offenders. White males made up 40 percent of male homicide offenders and 34 percent of all homicide offenders. Black females made up 55 percent of all female homicide offenders and eight percent of all homicide offenders. White females make up 45 percent of all female homicide offenders and six percent of all offenders.

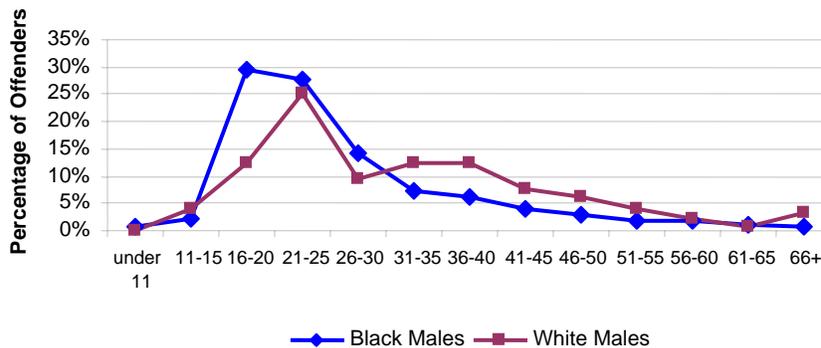
Homicide Offenders in Ohio in 2004
Percentage of Victims by Race within each Gender Category



The following two graphs highlight the patterns of offending when all three demographic factors — age, sex, and race — are taken into consideration.

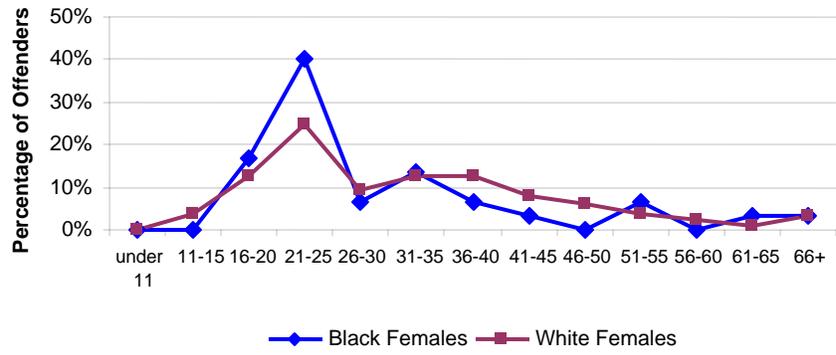
Male offenders show a definite peak of activity from age 16 through age 25. Across all Black male homicide offenders, 57 percent of their offending occurred between these ages. In contrast, 38 percent of White offenders committed their offense within this time period. A higher proportion of White offenders committed homicide for every age group thereafter, with the exception of age group 61 to 65.

Male Homicide Offenders in Ohio in 2004
Percentage of Homicides for Each Age Group Within Each Race



Black and White females showed a similar increase in offending beginning at age 16, which peaked between the ages of 21 to 25. A dramatic drop occurred for both races beginning with the 26 to 30 age group, and remained fairly steady thereafter.

Female Homicide Offenders in Ohio in 2004
Percentage of Homicides for Each Age Group Within Each Race



Characteristics of Victim-Offender Relationship

Relatively few homicides are random. Rather, the majority of homicide victims knew their offender, either as a family member, an acquaintance, or an intimate partner. Given that most homicides involve an offender known to the victim, clear patterns of gender and racial relationships are also found between victims and their offenders. The following statistics were obtained from those incidents in which relationship information could be determined.

Victim-offender gender. Eighty-six percent of male homicides and 83 percent of female homicides were perpetrated by a male offender. Seventeen percent of female homicides were perpetrated by a female offender.

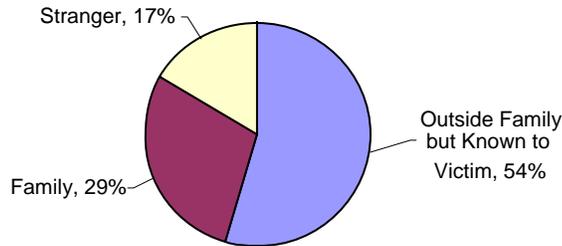
Gender Relationship between Victim and Offender		
	Female Offender	Male Offender
Female Victim	17%	83%
Male Victim	14%	86%

Victim-offender race. There is a great tendency for homicide victims and offenders to be of the same race. More than 90 percent of Black homicide victims were killed by Black offenders. Likewise, nearly 80 percent of White homicide victims were killed by White offenders.

Racial Relationship between Victim and Offender		
	Black Offender	White Offender
Black Victim	94%	6%
White Victim	22%	78%

Data were analyzed to gain a better understanding of the relationship between victim and offender. In a majority of homicide incidents, the offender was known to the victim. As the following graph shows, only 17 percent of homicide offenders were strangers. In 83 percent of homicides the victim knew the offender — of these incidents, 35 percent involved a family member.

Relationship of Homicide Victim to Offender in Ohio in 2004

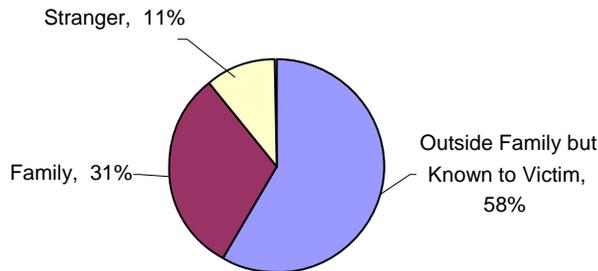


Note: In the case of a single victim and multiple offenders, the victim's relationship with each offender is noted.

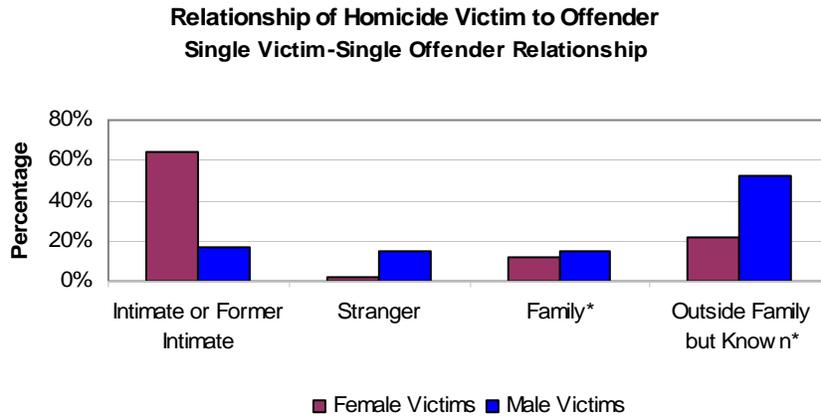
Ninety-five percent of homicide incidents involved a single victim. Of these, 56 percent involved a single victim and a single identified offender. Fourteen percent involved multiple offenders and 30 percent involved a single victim and an unknown number of offenders. Of the single victim, single offender incidents for which relationship data were known, the overwhelming proportion of offenders were known to the victim, as shown in the following graph. This was especially true for female victims. Of single victim-single offender incidents, only two percent of females were murdered by a stranger, compared to 15 percent of male victims. Additionally, 56 percent of female victims of homicides in single victim, single offender incidents were killed by a family member. This percentage is more than three times higher than that for males.

Relationship of Homicide Victim to Offender in Ohio in 2004

Single Victim-Single Offender Only



Categorization of the single victim, single offender incident data into “intimate” relationships¹ yielded interesting results. Sixty-four percent of females for whom relationship data were known were killed by an intimate partner, compared to 17 percent of males. On the other hand, 15 percent of males were a victim of stranger homicide, versus two percent of female homicide victims. Males were nearly 2.4 times as likely as females to be killed by a non-family member known to the victim.



* does not include intimate or former intimate partners

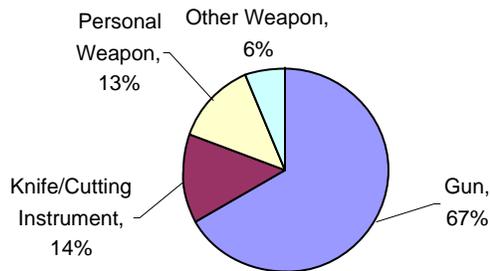
¹Intimate is defined here as a family member such as a husband, wife, common law husband or wife, or a non-family member such as a boyfriend, girlfriend, homosexual partner, ex-husband, or ex-wife.

Weapons Used in Homicides

All homicides involve some sort of weaponry, whether it is a firearm, knife, fist, poison, or other object. For all homicide incidents where the weapon could be determined, the following data were obtained.

Firearms were the leading weapon identified in homicide incidents, as they made up 67 percent of all identified weapons. The next leading weapon used in homicides was the knife/cutting instrument (14 percent), followed closely by personal weapons (13 percent) which include beatings using hands, feet, or other body parts². Six percent of homicide incidents were due to one of the following weapons: blunt objects, explosives, fire, strangulation, and asphyxiation.

Weapons used in Homicide Incidents in Ohio in 2004



Differences in weapon usage emerge as a function of gender. Males are more likely than females to use firearms. Females were more likely than males to use knives or other cutting instruments.

² Strangulation is not considered a subset of personal weapons.

Weapons used in Homicides in Ohio in 2004
by Offender Gender

