



HOMICIDES IN OHIO IN 2005

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EDUCATION • SERVICE • PROTECTION

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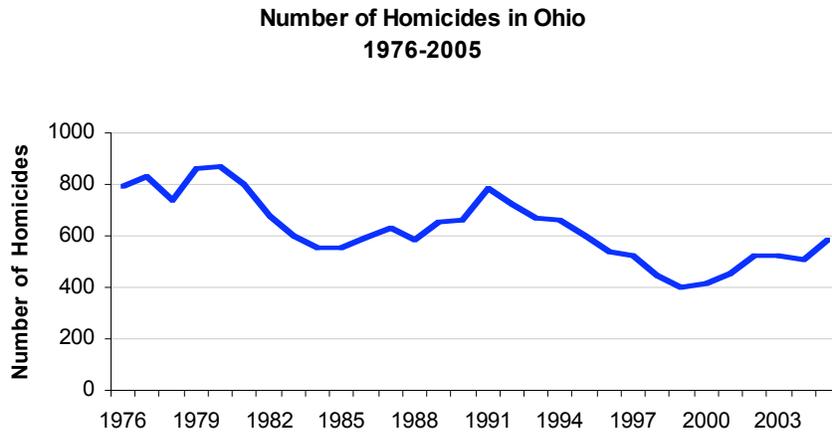
Since 1930, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has annually collected data on crime in the United States through its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR Program collects only those data that come to the attention of law enforcement through victim reports or observation. Reporting is voluntary and, in 2005, 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 2005. Unless otherwise stated, all data come from SHR.

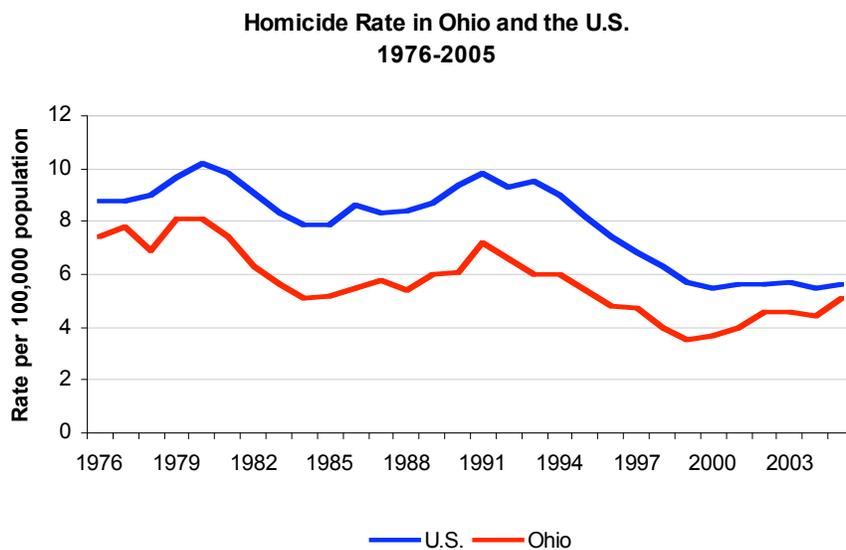
Homicides in Ohio and the U.S.

Homicides in Ohio occur at a rate of approximately five per 100,000 population. Over the past 30 years both the number and rate of homicides has fluctuated. Highs occurred in the late 1970s and early 1980s and again in the early- to mid-1990s. Lows were in the late 1990s. While the 2005 number and rate of homicides are still much lower than decades past, there has been a slight upswing in homicides since 2000.



Source: FBI's *Crime in the United States*, 1976-2005.

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. The rates are showing a convergence, however.



Source: FBI's *Crime in the United States*, 1976-2005.

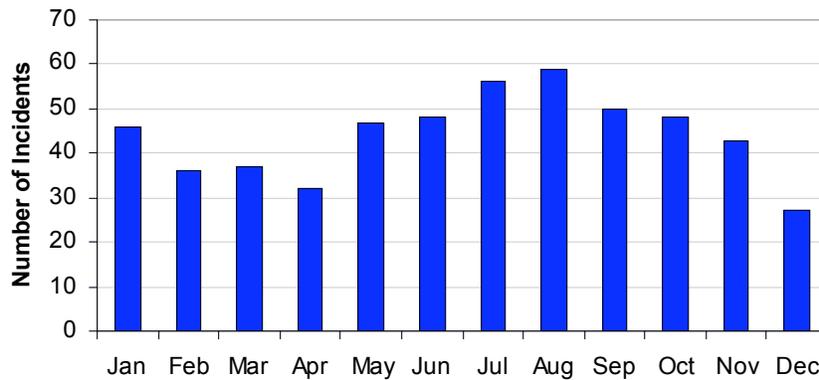
Homicides in Ohio in 2005

Number of homicides. There were 529 incidents of homicide in Ohio in 2005, resulting in 565 victims. Of the 529 occurrences, 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, 53 percent were committed by a single offender, 17 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 August, with 59 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 2005
by Month**



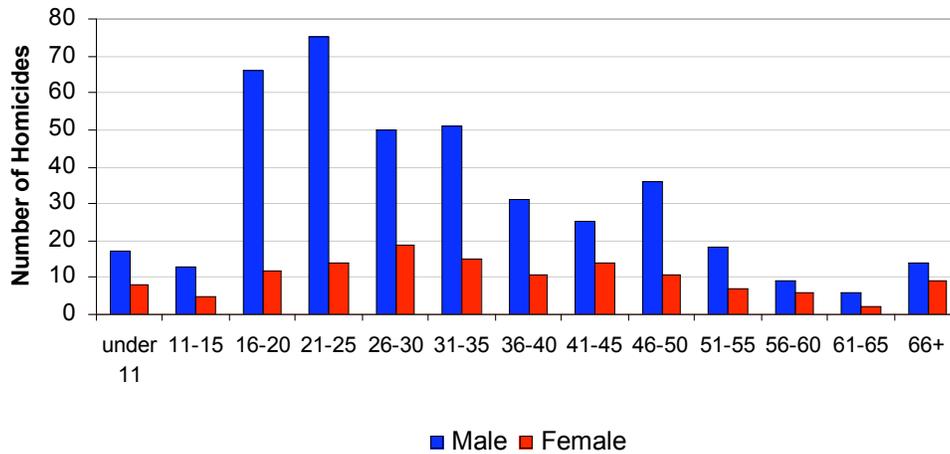
Ohio's Homicide Victims

Ohio had 565 homicide victims in 2005. 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.

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.

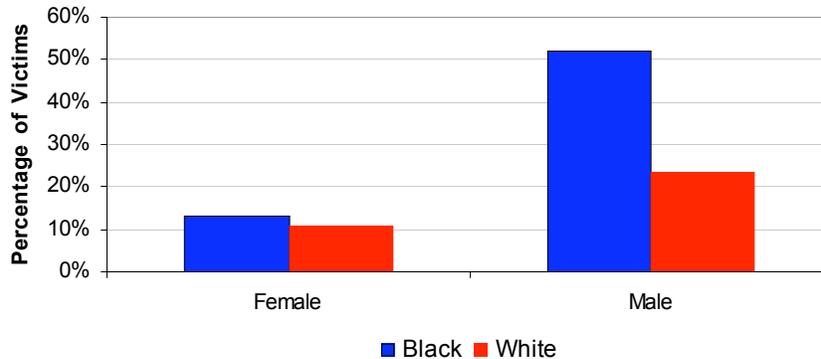
Age. Certain age groups appeared to be more frequent targets of homicide as well. Overall, the median age of homicide victims was 30 years. Males had a median homicide age of 29 years, while females had a median homicide age of 34 years. The early adulthood years were notable particularly for males, as the peak in the following graph indicates. No such peak was evident for females.

**Homicide Victims in Ohio in 2005
by Age and Gender**



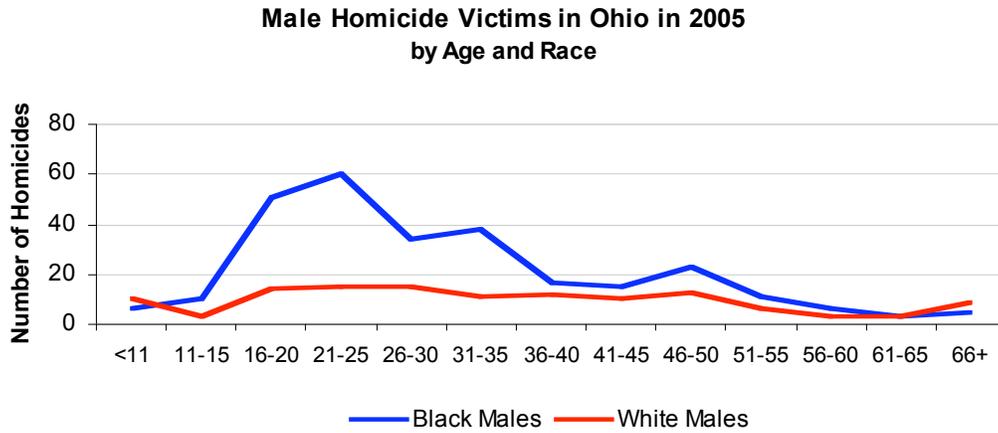
Race. The victim’s race also appeared to factor into homicide rates. Nearly 65 percent of all homicide victims were Black, 35 percent were White, and less than one percent were “other” races. Black males made up 69 percent of male homicide victims and 52 percent of all homicide victims. White males made up 31 percent of male homicide victims and 24 percent of all homicide victims. In contrast, Black female victims made up 54 percent of female homicide victims and 13 percent of homicide victims, whereas White females made up 46 percent of all female homicide victims and 11 percent of all victims.

**Homicide Victims in Ohio in 2005
by Race and Gender**

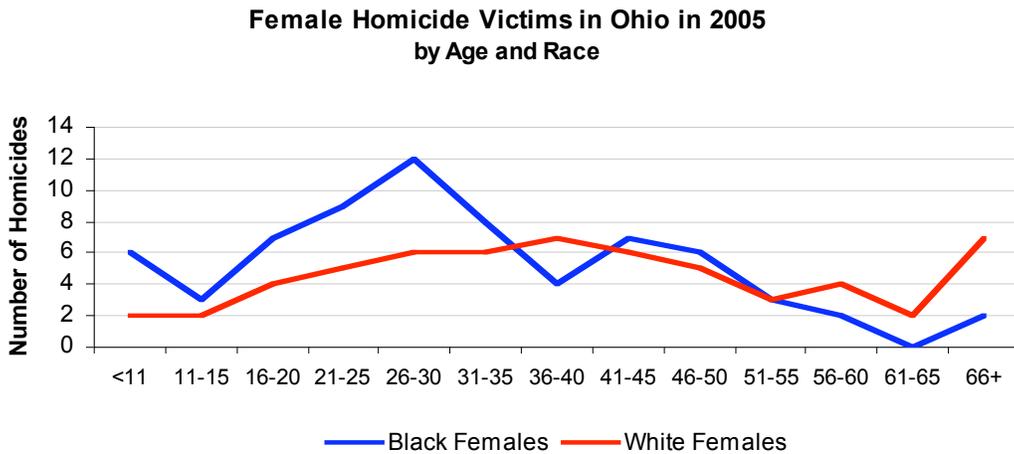


Looking at age, gender, and race together, different patterns emerge regarding Ohio’s victims of homicide. In general, the numbers of Black and White male victims were similar through age 15. Ages 16 through 35 appeared to be the deadliest time for Black males, as indicated by the peak in the following chart. Sixty-six percent of Black male homicide victims were between the ages of 16 and 35. There was no similar peak for

White males. From age 36 on, the trend lines for Black and White male victims patterned similarly.



The number of homicide victims was much lower for females than males. Black females showed a more defined peak in homicides than did White females between the ages of 26 and 30. White female victims showed a gradual increase in homicides between the ages of 16 and 40, followed by a gradual decrease continuing through age 55. However, due to the low number of female homicide victims, any apparent trends should be interpreted with caution.



Ohio's Homicide Offenders

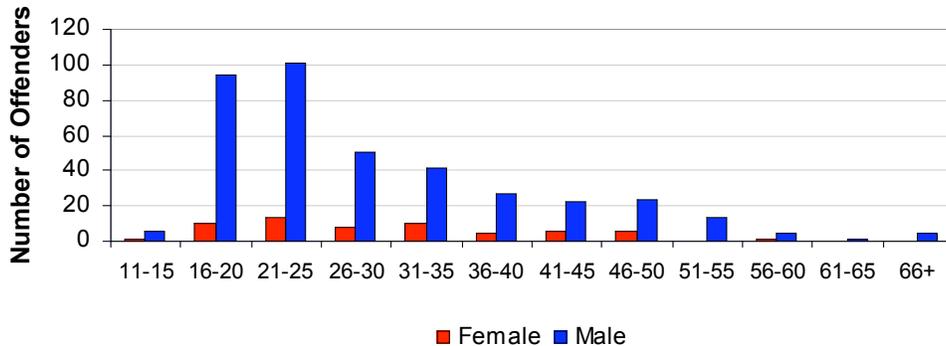
Demographically, Ohio's homicide offenders were similar to Ohio's homicide victims. The following data are reported only for those offenders for whom all or some demographic information was available.

Gender. Male homicide offenders outnumbered female homicide offenders by nearly seven to one. Additionally, males equaled or outnumbered females across every age category.

Age. The median age for homicide offenders was 26 years. The median offender age for males was 25, three years younger than the median female offender age of 28.

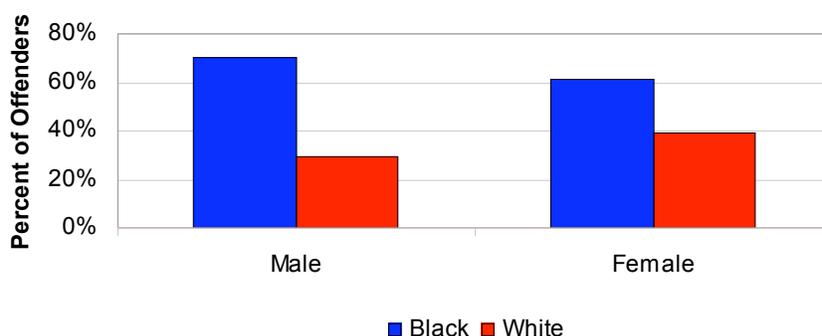
Looking at the number of male and female offenders within their respective gender category, the number of male offenders increased dramatically from age 16 through the age 25, then decreased steadily thereafter. The number of female homicide offenders, on the other hand, showed less of a peak and more of an increased range of offending which extended from age 16 through age 50. Again, because of the low number of female offenders, any apparent trends must be interpreted with caution.

**Homicide Offenders in Ohio in 2005
By Age and Gender**



Race. Black offenders made up 69 percent of all known homicide offenders, and White offenders made up 30 percent of all homicide offenders. When broken down by gender, Black males made up 70 percent of male homicide offenders and 61 percent of all homicide offenders. White males made up 29 percent of male homicide offenders and 26 percent of all homicide offenders. Black females made up 60 percent of all female homicide offenders and eight percent of all homicide offenders. White females make up 38 percent of all female homicide offenders and five percent of all offenders.

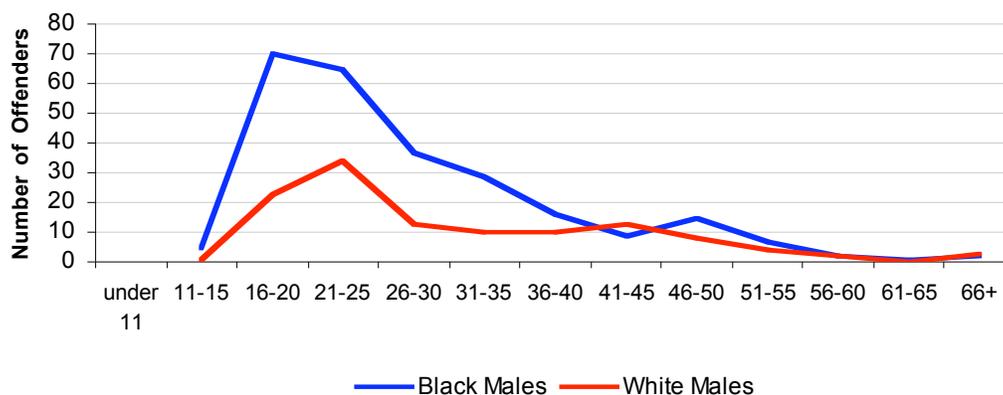
Homicide Offenders in Ohio in 2005
Percentage of offenders by race within each gender category



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

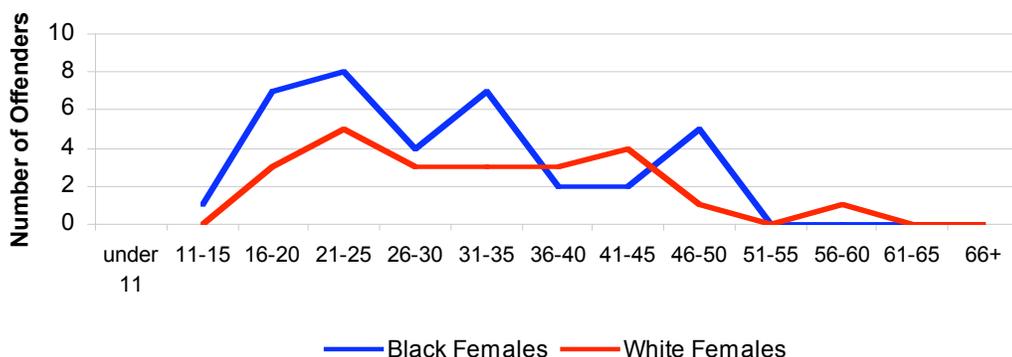
Male offenders show a definite peak of activity from age 16 through age 25. Across all Black male homicide offenders, 52 percent of their offending occurred between these ages, and 47 percent of White male offenders committed their offense within this age range.

Male Homicide Offenders in Ohio in 2005
By Age and Race



Black and White females showed a similar increase in offending beginning at age 16. However, there were so few female offenders—and even fewer with complete age, gender, and race information available—that small fluctuations in the statistics are exaggerated. It is thus difficult to identify specific age trends in the female offender group.

Female Homicide Offenders in Ohio in 2005 By Age and Race



Characteristics of Victim-Offender Relationship

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.

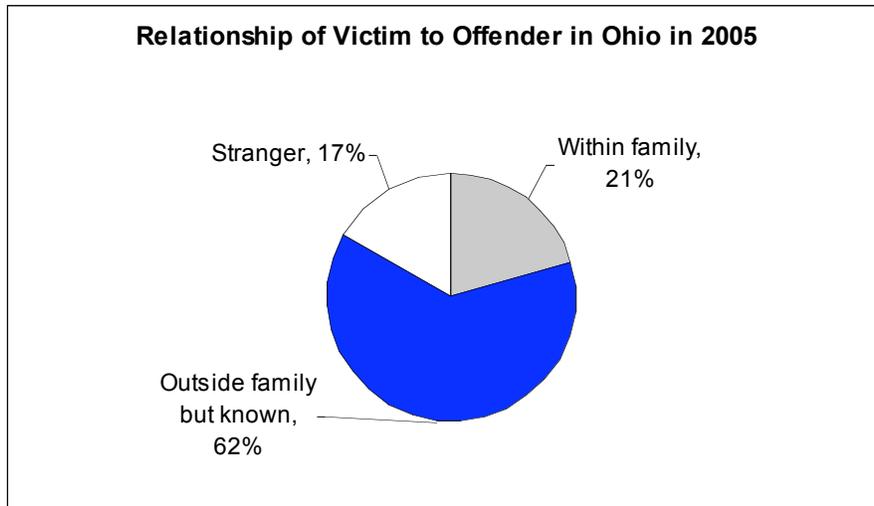
Victim-offender gender. Eighty-nine percent of male homicides and 90 percent of female homicides were perpetrated by a male offender. Nearly 11 percent of all homicides were perpetrated by a female offender.

Gender Relationship between Victim and Offender		
	Female Offender	Male Offender
Female Victim	10%	90%
Male Victim	11%	89%

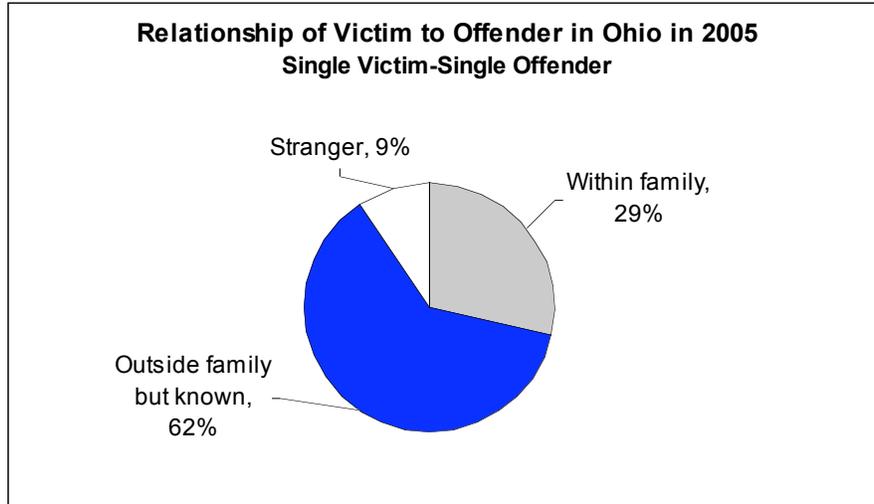
Victim-offender race. There is a great tendency for homicide victims and offenders to be of the same race. Ninety-six percent of Black victims were killed by Black offenders. Likewise, 71 percent of White victims were killed by White offenders.

Racial Relationship between Victim and Offender		
	Black Offender	White Offender
Black Victim	96%	4%
White Victim	29%	71%

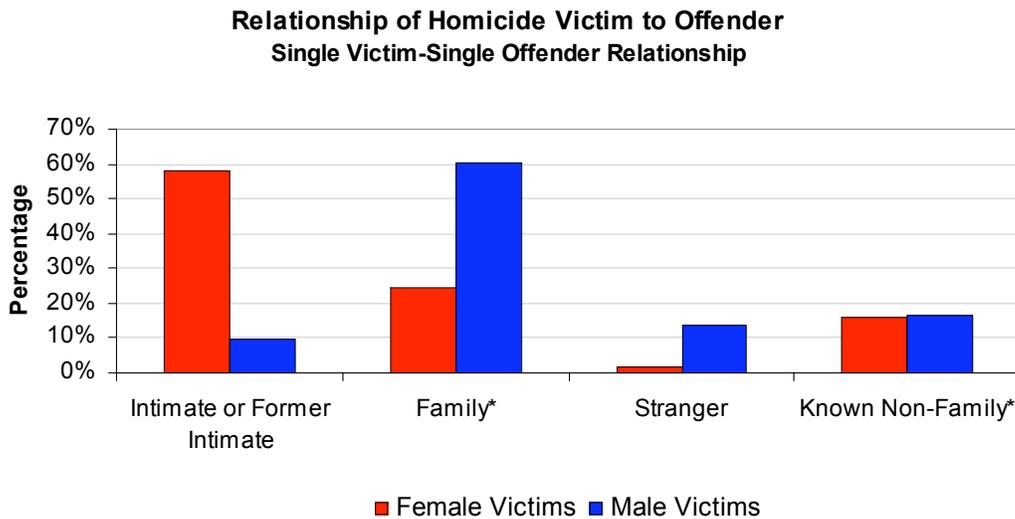
Data were analyzed to gain a better understanding of the relationship between victim and offender. In a majority of homicide incidents, the offender was known to the victim. As the following graph shows, only 17 percent of homicide offenders were strangers. In 83 percent of homicides the victim knew the offender — of these incidents, 21 percent involved a family member.



Ninety-five percent of homicide incidents involved a single victim. Of these, 50 percent involved a single victim and a single identified offender. 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 the single victim-single offender incidents, only two percent of females were murdered by a stranger, compared to 14 percent of male victims. Additionally, 44 percent of female victims of homicides in single victim, single offender incidents were killed by a family member. This percentage is more than twice as high as that for males.



Categorization of the single victim, single offender incident data into “intimate” relationships¹ yielded interesting results. Fifty-eight percent of females for whom relationship data were known were killed by an intimate partner, compared to 10 percent of males. On the other hand, 14 percent of males were a victim of stranger homicide, versus two percent of female homicide victims. Males were nearly 2.5 times as likely as females to be killed by a non-intimate family member.



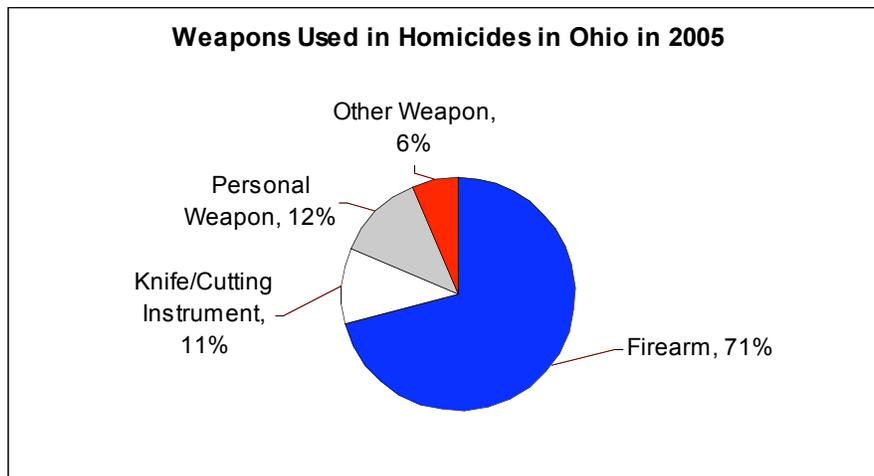
* does not include intimate or former intimate partners

¹Intimate or former intimate 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, making up 71 percent of all identified weapons. The next leading weapon used in homicides were knives/cutting instruments (11 percent), followed closely by personal weapons (12 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.



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 2005
by Gender of Offender**

