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SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST:

Researchers from OCJS and the Survey Research Lab at Kent State University recently surveyed Ohioans about their attitudes towards law enforcement. A brief summary of the preliminary results is included in this issue and an additional report including further analysis will be available in the Policy and Research section of the OCJS website at a later date.



Office of Criminal Justice Services

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OCJS Research Brief

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Sexual Assault in Ohio – 2013

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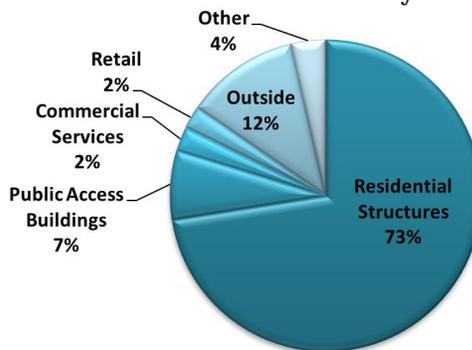
One tool that can be used to examine sexual assault in Ohio is the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS). OIBRS is a voluntary crime reporting program in which Ohio law enforcement agencies can submit crime statistics directly to the state and federal government in an automated format. At the end of 2013, 560 agencies covering approximately 75 percent of the Ohio population were reporting OIBRS data. The use of OIBRS data allows for detailed information to be obtained on the nature of the offense, the victim, the suspect/arrestee, weapon use, and property involved.

OIBRS data are used in this report on sexual assault. However, some limitations must be noted. Readers are cautioned against using the statistics contained in this report as a basis of comparison with other states or other years of data.

In 2013, the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System agencies reported 7,306 incidents of sexual assault. Thirty-seven percent (N = 2,709) of reported incidents occurred between May and August of 2013.

The majority of sexual assault incidents were reported as occurring at a person's residence. Within residential structures, seventy percent were reported to have occurred in single-family homes and 24 percent in multiple dwellings (i.e. apartment, duplex, condominium, housing project and townhouse). Outside, sixty percent were reported to have taken place in the street or parking lot. Within public access buildings, forty-nine percent occurred at schools or colleges and within commercial services, sixty-five percent were reported having occurred in a hotel/motel.

Sexual Assault Incidents by Location

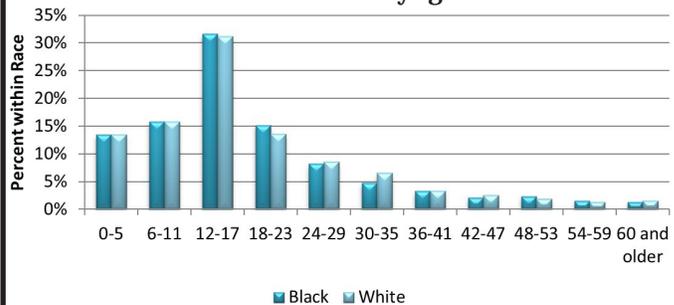


Characteristics of Victims

In 2013, there were a total of 7,934 victims. Ninety-three percent of sexual assault incidents involved a single victim. The average age of sexual assault victims was 18.3 years and approximately 31 percent of victims were between the ages of 12 and 17 years.

Eighty-four percent of victims were female. Seventy percent were White and 30 percent were Black. White females made up 70 percent of all female sexual assault victims and White males also made up 70 percent of all male sexual assault victims.

Sexual Assault Victims by age and race



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Citizen Attitudes towards Law Enforcement

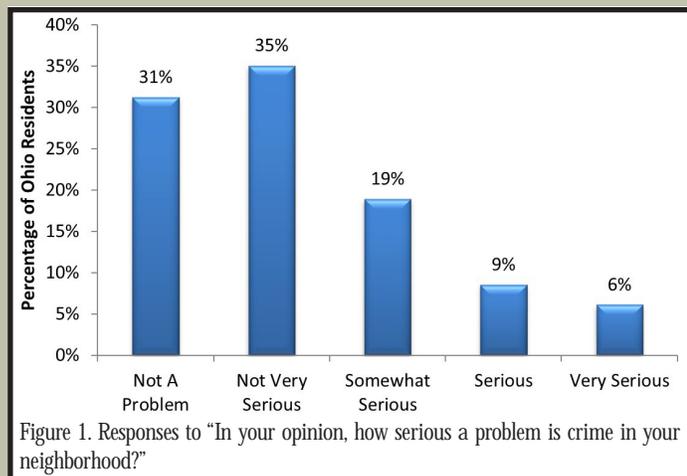
Kristina Nicholson, M.S.

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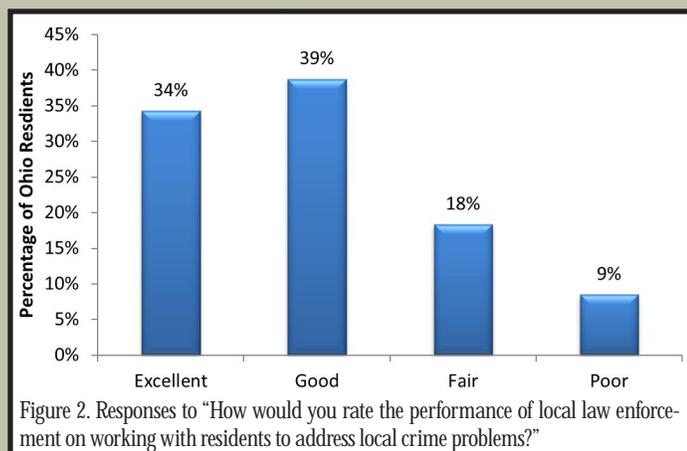
OCJS

Researchers from the Office of Criminal Justice Services and the Survey Research Lab at Kent State University recently surveyed Ohioans about their attitudes towards law enforcement. In addition to general questions about crime and law enforcement, the survey had questions about police legitimacy, procedural justice, use of force, and body cameras. Preliminary results from the survey indicate that Ohioans are generally satisfied with the law enforcement in their communities. Other preliminary findings are that:

- 15% of Ohioans believe that crime in their neighborhood is a 'serious' or 'very serious' problem (Figure 1).



- 73% of citizens believe that law enforcement has an 'excellent' or 'good' performance rating on working with the residents to address crime problems (Figure 2).

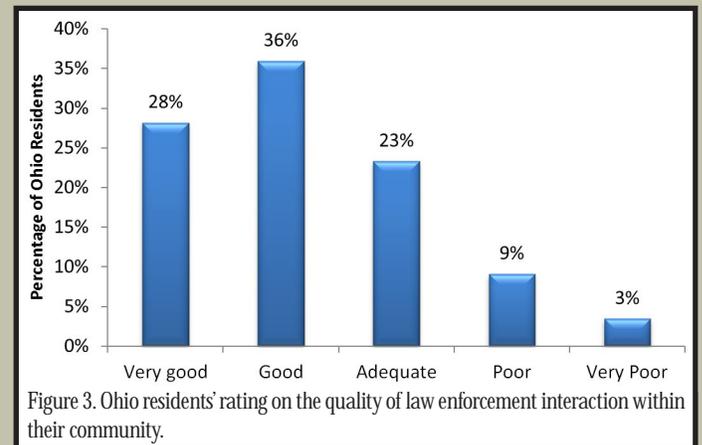


Police Legitimacy

Public trust and confidence in law enforcement are the cornerstones of police-community relations. These beliefs are part of a concept known as police legitimacy, which specifically refers to the belief that the police should be allowed to exercise their authority to address issues in their community.¹ To measure police legitimacy, citizens are asked about the trustworthiness of the police, their willingness to defer to authority, and their beliefs about the police being morally justified in their actions.

In general, Ohio residents believe law enforcement officers have a high amount of legitimacy. More specifically:

- 78% of residents are proud of the work of their local law enforcement.
- 64% of all Ohioans believe the quality of law enforcement in their community is 'good' or 'very good' (Figure 3).



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Sexual Assault in Ohio – 2013

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Victim-Suspect Relationship

- Approximately 87 percent of reports were identified as a single-victim/single-suspect case.
- Nine percent of victims reported the suspect as a stranger.
- Seven percent of victims were identified as an intimate or former intimate (boy/girlfriend, common-law spouse, homosexual partner, or current or former spouse) partner to the suspect.

[Click here](#) for the full report.

Citizen Attitudes towards Law Enforcement

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Procedural Justice

Procedural justice is the process through which the police can attain legitimacy. There are four components of procedural justice: 1) dialogue between law enforcement and citizens that encourages participation prior to the officer reaching a decision, 2) neutrality in officer decision making, 3) dignity and respect displayed by the officer throughout an interaction, and 4) trust in officer motives and knowledge of the law.²

On average, Ohio residents believe that law enforcement officers utilize a high amount of procedural justice. More specifically:

- 71% of residents stated that law enforcement officers ‘frequently’ or ‘always’ take people’s needs and concerns into account when making a decision;
- 74% of residents believed that officers treat people with dignity and respect.
- 69% of residents believe that officers ‘frequently’ or ‘always’ make their decisions based upon facts and not their personal biases or opinions (Figure 4).

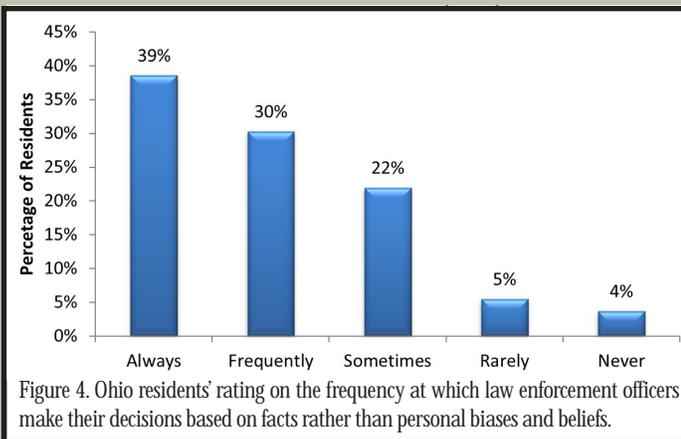


Figure 4. Ohio residents' rating on the frequency at which law enforcement officers make their decisions based on facts rather than personal biases and beliefs.

Law Enforcement Use of Force

While a majority of Ohio residents have not witnessed law enforcement use excessive force first-hand (74%), residents generally agree that officers are justified in use of force when facing an unruly suspect (Figure 5). Attitudes shift slightly, when these interactions involve an unarmed suspect (Figure 6).

Body Cameras

Some law enforcement officers in Ohio have started wearing body cameras while on duty. Research from other states suggests that these body cameras reduce both citizen complains about police behavior and law enforcement use-of-force.³

In general, Ohio citizens are in favor of body cameras for the police:

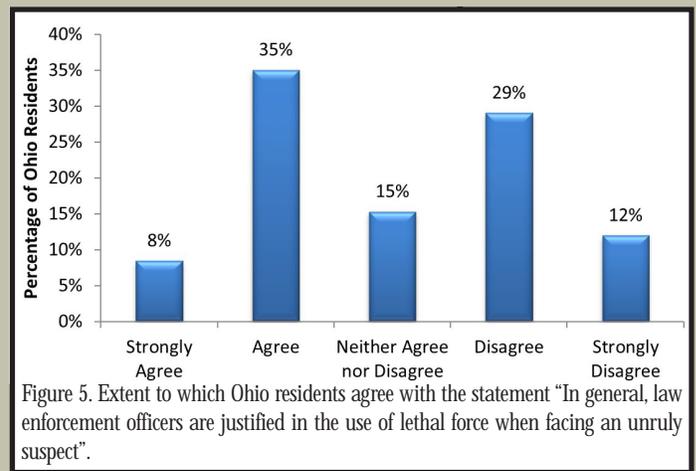


Figure 5. Extent to which Ohio residents agree with the statement “In general, law enforcement officers are justified in the use of lethal force when facing an unruly suspect”.

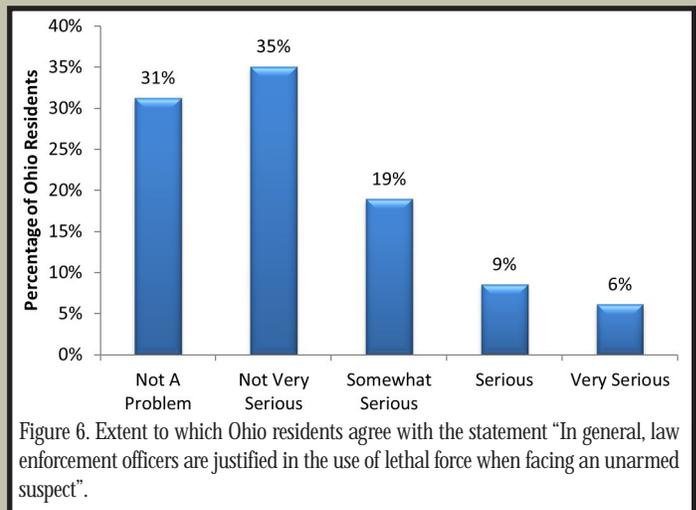


Figure 6. Extent to which Ohio residents agree with the statement “In general, law enforcement officers are justified in the use of lethal force when facing an unarmed suspect”.

- 79% of Ohio residents believe that body cameras will enhance law enforcement performance.
- 80% feel that their rights would not be violated if they interacted with a law enforcement officer using a body camera.

These findings have been included in the final report from the Ohio Task Force on Community-Police relations to Governor Kasich’s office in response to Executive Order 2014-06K. An additional report including further analysis of survey results will be available in the Policy and Research section of the OCJS website.

¹Tyler, T. (2014). Legitimacy and Procedural Justice: A New Element of Police Leadership.

²Mazerolle, L., Bennett, S., Davis, J., Sargeant, E., & Manning, M. (2013). Procedural Justice and Police Legitimacy: A Systematic Review of the Research Evidence. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 9(3), 245-274.

³Farrar, W., & Ariel, B. (2013). Self-Awareness to Being Watched and Socially-Desirable Behavior: A Field Experiment on the Effect of Body-Worn Cameras and Police Use-of-Force. Washington, DC: Police Foundation.

Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths – 2013

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An arrest-related death (ARD) has been defined by the Bureau of Justice Statistics as any death (e.g., gunshot wound, cardiac arrest, or drowning) that occurs during an interaction with state or local law enforcement personnel, including those that occur:

- Shortly after freedom to leave is restricted, all deaths that occur shortly after a person's freedom to leave is restricted by state or local law enforcement personnel.
- During an attempt to arrest or in the process of arrest, all deaths that occur during the interaction with law enforcement personnel.
- Without any direct action by law enforcement. This would include deaths attributed to suicide, intoxication, accidental injury, medical emergencies or health complications.
- While in custody (before transfer to jail), all deaths that occur after law enforcement have established physical custody of an arrestee. These in-custody deaths can occur at the scene of the incident, during transport or while the suspect is being held at a law enforcement facility.

It should be noted that not all deaths that occur during an interaction with state or local law enforcement personnel are reported to the ARD program, and they include:

- Deaths of bystanders, hostages and law enforcement personnel.
- Deaths by federal law enforcement. However, fatal incidents that include interactions between federal law enforcement, along with state or local law enforcement are reportable to the ARD program¹.
- Deaths of wanted criminal suspects before police contact. If a death occurred before law enforcement interaction of a wanted criminal suspect, it is not within the scope of the ARD program.
- Deaths by vehicular pursuits **without** any direct police action. If law enforcement did not take direct action against the subject or their vehicle, these deaths are excluded from the ARD program. These types of incidents require that law enforcement take some kind of direct action against the subject. Direct action would include shooting at the subject's vehicle, ramming it, or otherwise forcing the vehicle to stop or leave the road (e.g., roadblocks or spike strips). When law enforcement take direct action against the subject, only then is it reportable to the ARD program.
- Deaths that occur in a jail or other long-term holding facility are also outside of the scope of the ARD program and are not collected by the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS)².

In 2013, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) collected reports for 39 arrest-related deaths in Ohio. Twenty-two counties were reported to have at least one arrest-related death, with Franklin County accounting for 23 percent of the incidents. Regionally, Central Ohio accounted for 36 percent of arrest-related death incidents.

Region	Total	Percent
Central	14	36%
Southeast	2	5%
Southwest	11	28%
Northeast	10	26%
Northwest	2	5%

Twenty-eight incidents reported that the decedent attempted to injure or injured others. Of those incidents, the following were reported:

- 43 percent attempted to injure law enforcement personnel
- 21 percent non-fatally injured civilian(s)
- 18 percent attempted to injure civilian(s)
- 18 percent fatally injured civilian(s)
- 14 percent non-fatally injured law enforcement personnel

During the arrest-related death incidents,

- Seventy-seven percent of decedents were reported to have resisted being handcuffed or arrested.
- Fifty-four percent were reported to have made an attempt to escape or flee from custody.

Fifty-six percent of the deaths were ruled a homicide by law enforcement and 28 percent were the result of a suicide. The remaining 13 percent were ruled an accident and three percent ruled a natural death. A firearm caused the death of 85 percent of the decedents.

Decedent Characteristics

Of the decedents identified in an arrest-related death, there were a total of 36 males and three females.

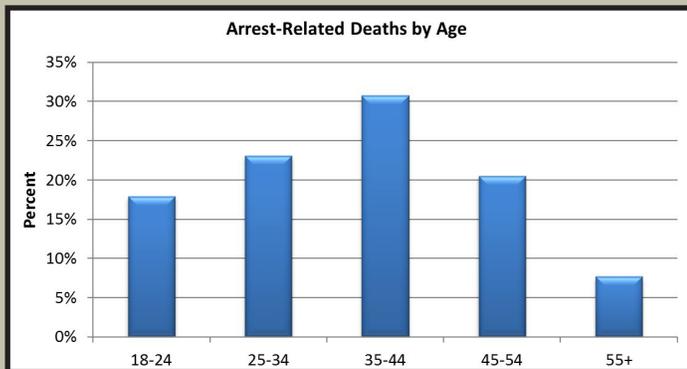
	Female Total	Percent	Male Total	Percent
Black	1	3%	13	33%
White	2	5%	23	59%

The average age of a decedent was 37.7 years and 31 percent of decedents were between the ages of 35 and 44 years.

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Of the Black decedents, 36 percent fell between the ages of 18 and 24 years, while 40 percent of White decedents fell between the ages of 35 and 44 years.

[Click here](#) for the full report.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) Sustainability Analysis

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Though criminal justice programs offer essential services to their communities, many still struggle to maintain key program operations over time. The ability to maintain these program operations, hereby referred to as “sustainability,” has been the focus of recent OCJS research efforts.¹ OCJS staff evaluated the sustainability of OCJS during the first phase of this research project. Due to the success of this evaluation, OCJS researchers conducted a follow-up, sustainability assessment of its JAG-funded programs as part of its program to measure, understand, and improve program sustainability.

Sustainability was measured using the Program Sustainability Assessment Tool (PSAT)², which is a 40 question survey that measures eight sustainability factors (see Table 1). OCJS staff sent an online version of the PSAT to the program administrator of every OCJS JAG-funded program. Program administrators were then asked to complete the survey and forward it to their staff. A total of 83 people from 75 different JAG programs completed the survey. Data from the PSAT were analyzed to measure overall program sustainability.

Table 1: PSAT Sustainability Factors

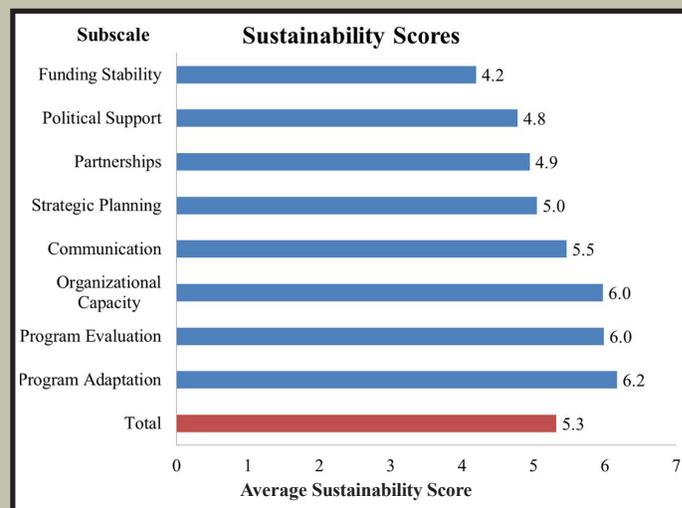
Sustainability Factor	Description
Communication	Strategic communication with stakeholders and the public
Strategic Planning	Processes that guide directions, goals, and strategies
Program Evaluation	Assessments to inform planning and document results
Political Support	Internal/external political environments that support OCJS
Partnerships	Connections between OCJS and stakeholders
Organizational Capacity	Internal support and resources within DPS
Program Adaptation	Actions that adapt OCJS to ensure its ongoing effectiveness
Funding Stability	An established, consistent financial base for OCJS

¹Current Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-242) includes federal law enforcement within scope.

²The Federal Deaths in Custody Reporting Program quarterly collects inmate death records from the nation’s state prison systems, state juvenile correctional authorities, and 3,000+ local jail jurisdictions.

Results from the survey indicate that OCJS’ JAG-funded programs have good sustainability. The programs had an average sustainability score of 5.3 out of 7, with scores on each sustainability factor ranging from 4.2-6.2. Programs scored highest on measures of program adaptation, program evaluation, and organizational capacity. The lowest scores were on the funding stability and political support factors, though neither of those scores fell below the midpoint on the scale.

Overall, these results suggest that OCJS’ JAG-funded programs are sustainable; however, they also highlight potential areas for improvement. Based on these findings, OCJS staff will continue work in evaluating and providing tools and technical assistance for funded programs to improve sustainability of program services.



¹See “OCJS Sustainability Report” in the January 2015 Research Brief.

²Luke DA, Calhoun A, Robichaux CB, Elliot MB, Moreland-Russell S (2014). The Program Sustainability Assessment Tool: A New Instrument for Public Health Programs. Preventing Chronic Disease, 11. doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd11.130184

Domestic Violence Offenses in Ohio, 2008-2012

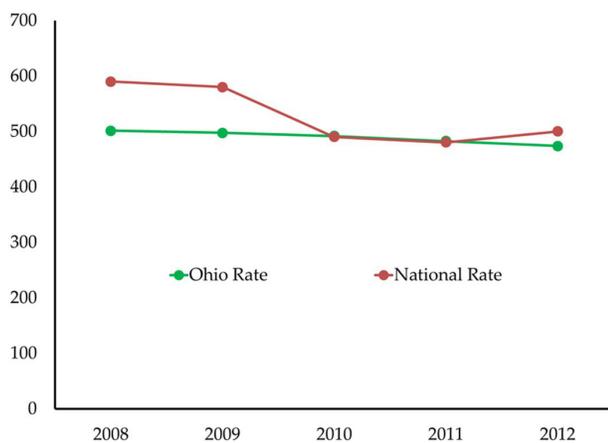
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Domestic violence accounts for approximately 21% of all violent crime in the United States¹. The prevalence of these crimes is a serious issue, and stopping domestic violence is an important step towards reducing violence in the U.S. Understanding the nature and scope of domestic violence is one essential component of preventative efforts. For this reason, OCJS researchers have been conducting a detailed analysis of domestic violence incidents in Ohio from 2008-2012². These analyses will be summarized in a series of reports describing the characteristics of domestic violence offenses, victims, and offenders.

The first of these reports focuses on domestic violence offenses. Preliminary findings indicate that:

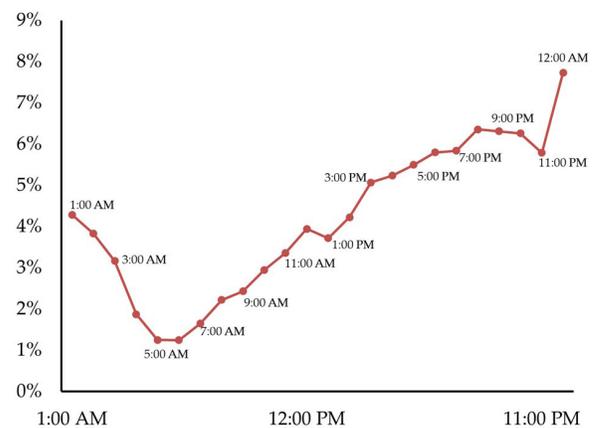
- The rate of domestic violence in Ohio has remained mostly the same from 2008-2012, while the rate of domestic violence in the U.S. has decreased during the same time period (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: National and Ohio domestic violence rates per 100,000 population, 2008-2012



- Domestic violence occurs in residential settings 86% of the time. Only 10% of domestic violence incidents occur outside, while 4% occur in other settings (e.g. public access buildings, retail establishments, etc.).
- Like most crime, domestic violence is much more likely to occur during summer months (June, July, August) and on weekends.
- Domestic violence occurs with the lowest frequency at 6:00 a.m. The frequency of domestic violence increases throughout the day before peaking at midnight.

Figure 2: Frequency of domestic violence by time of day, 2008-2012



For more information on domestic violence, please see the Policy and Research section of the OCJS website.

¹Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2003-2012.

²These analyses were conducted using data from the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS). OIBRS is a voluntary crime reporting program in which Ohio law enforcement agencies can submit crime statistics.