



# Homicides in Ohio 2012



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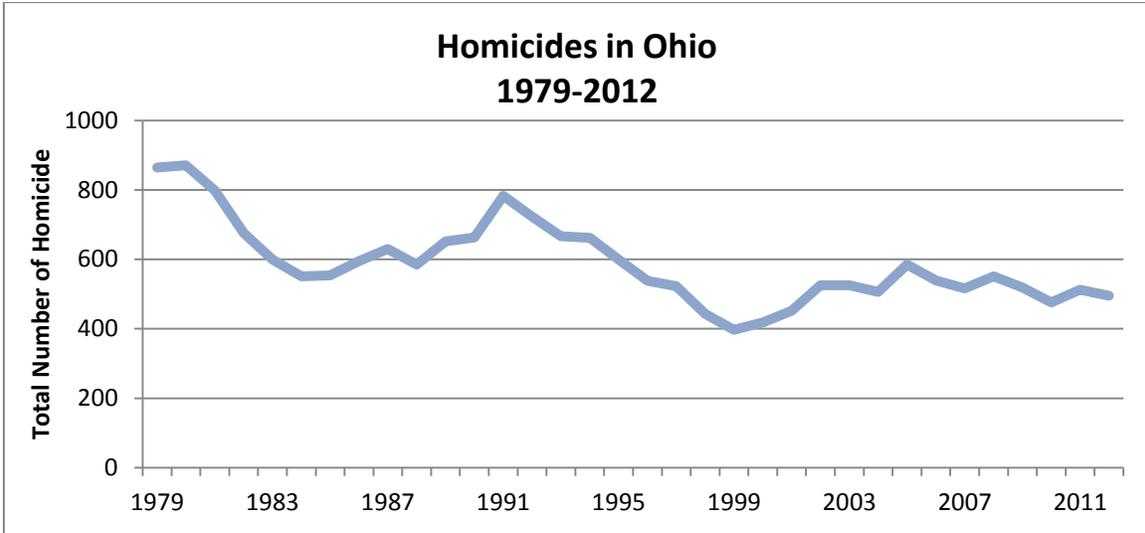
Since 1930, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has annually collected data on crime in the United States through its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR Program collects only those data that come to the attention of law enforcement through victim reports or observation. Reporting is voluntary and, in 2012, law enforcement agencies active in the UCR Program represented 98.1 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 incident occurred, the weapon used, and the circumstances 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 2012. Unless otherwise stated, data come from SHR.

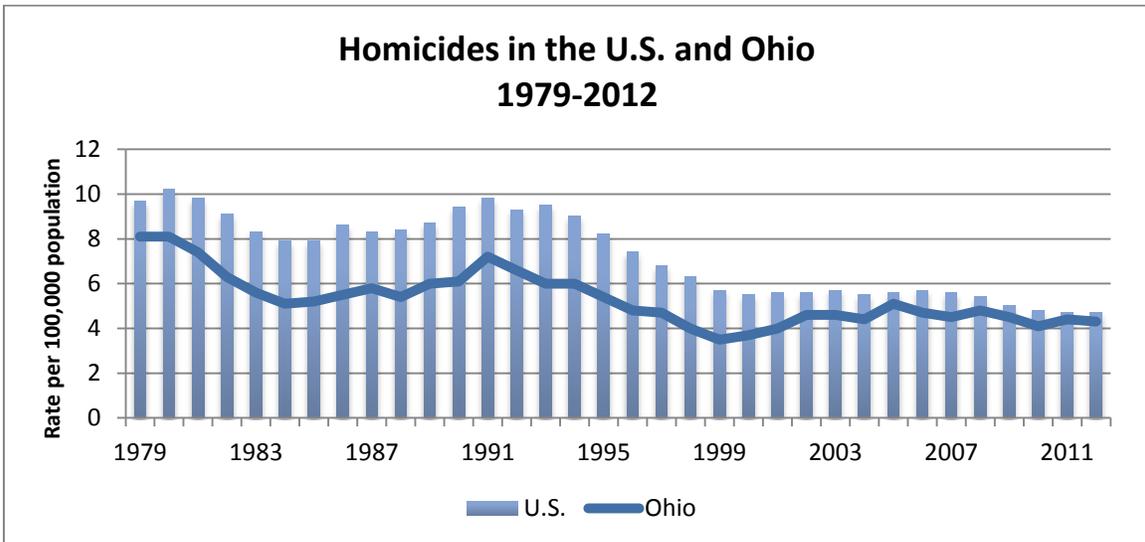
## Homicides in Ohio and the U.S.

Homicides in Ohio occur at a rate of approximately four per 100,000 population. Over the past 30 years both the number and rate of homicides has fluctuated. Highs occurred in the late 1970s and early 1980s and again in the early-1990s. While homicides in recent years are lower than in past decades, there was a slight upswing in the early 2000s that has become relatively stable the past few years.



Source: FBI's *Crime in the United States*, 1979-2012.

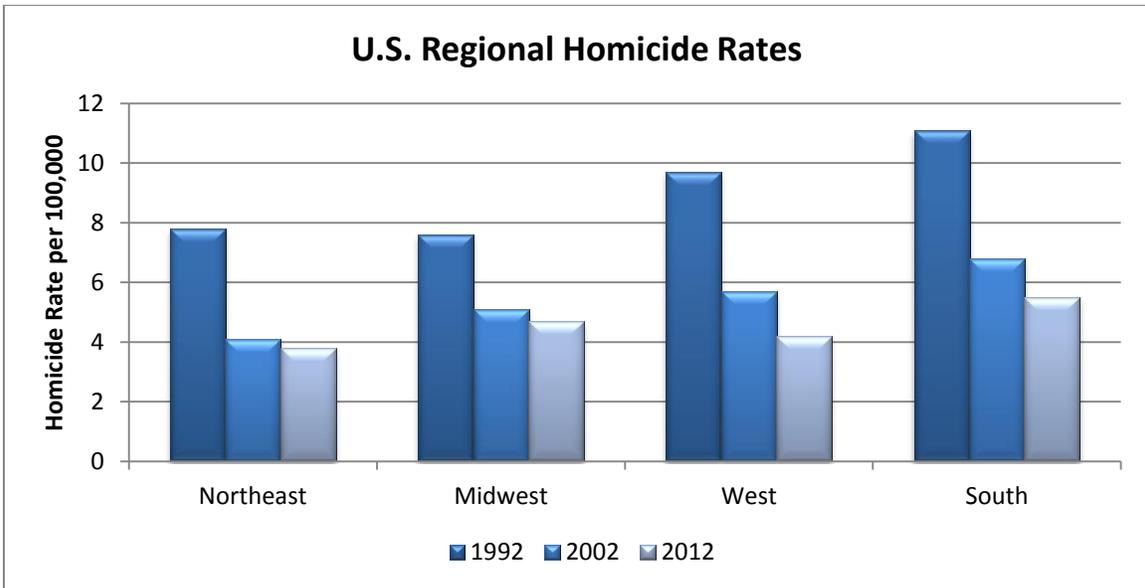
A comparison of Ohio's homicide rate to that of the U.S. suggests that Ohio is not unique with regard to this crime. Ohio's homicide rate patterns vary similarly to that of the U.S., although at a lower rate. The rates do show a convergence, however.



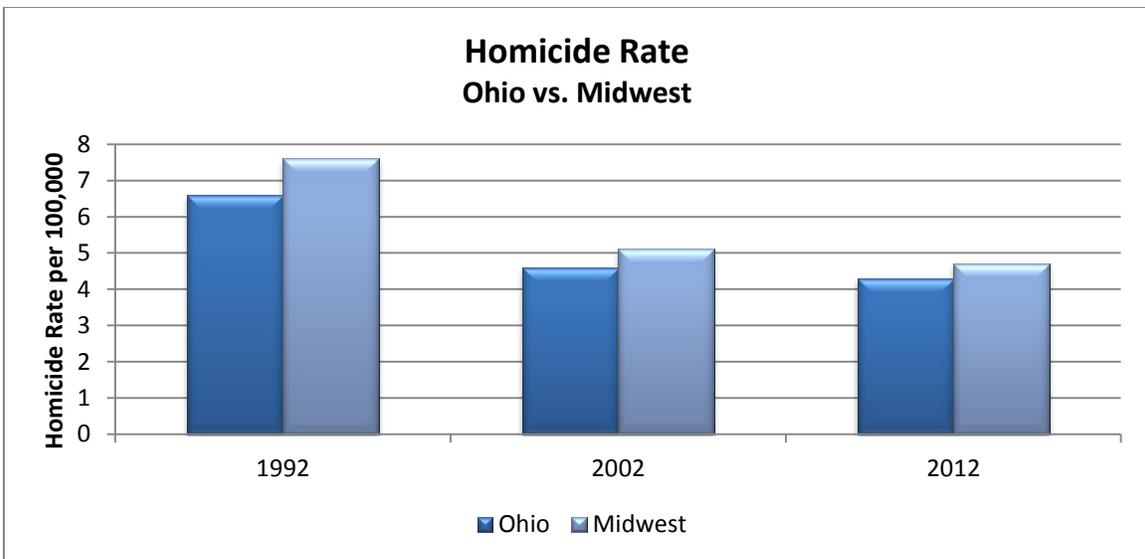
Source: FBI's *Crime in the United States*, 1979-2012.

Ohio's homicide rate of 4.3 ranked 27<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. in 2012. In 2012 the Northeast reported the lowest homicide rate, at 3.8 per 100,000 population, followed by the West at 4.2, and the Midwest, at 4.7. The South reported the highest homicide rate at 5.5 per 100,000 population in 2012.

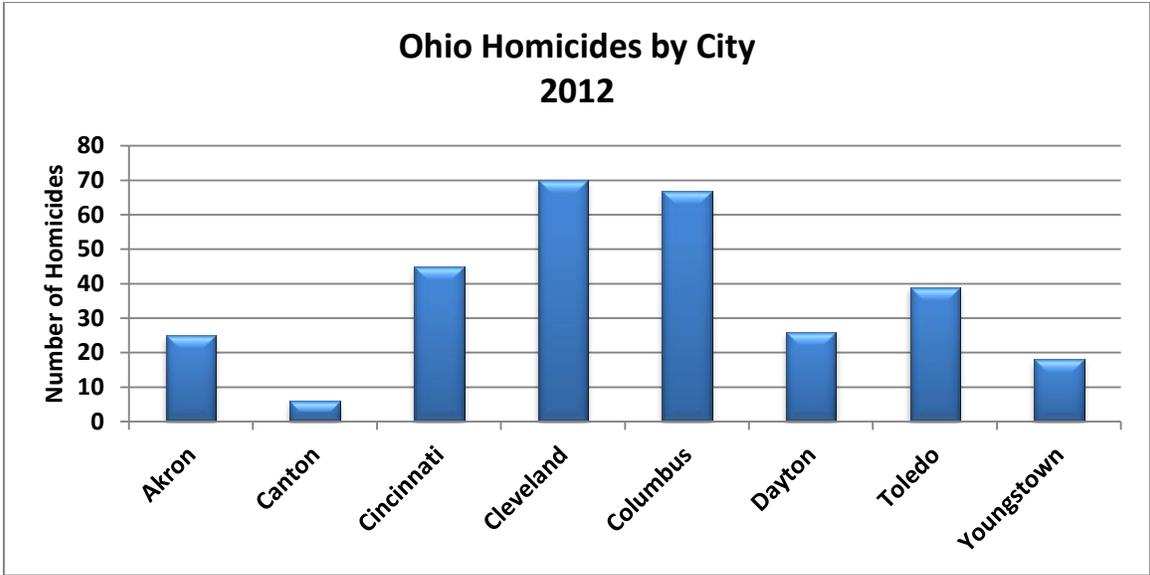
A comparison of regional homicide rates suggests that within the last 20 years homicide rates vary similarly among the four regions. Ohio's homicide rate patterns vary similarly to that of the Midwest, although at a lower rate.



Source: FBI's *Crime in the United States, 1992, 2002 & 2012*



Source: FBI's *Crime in the United States, 1992, 2002 & 2012*



Ohio's three largest police departments—Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus—reported 42 percent (182) of Ohio's homicide incidents in 2012.

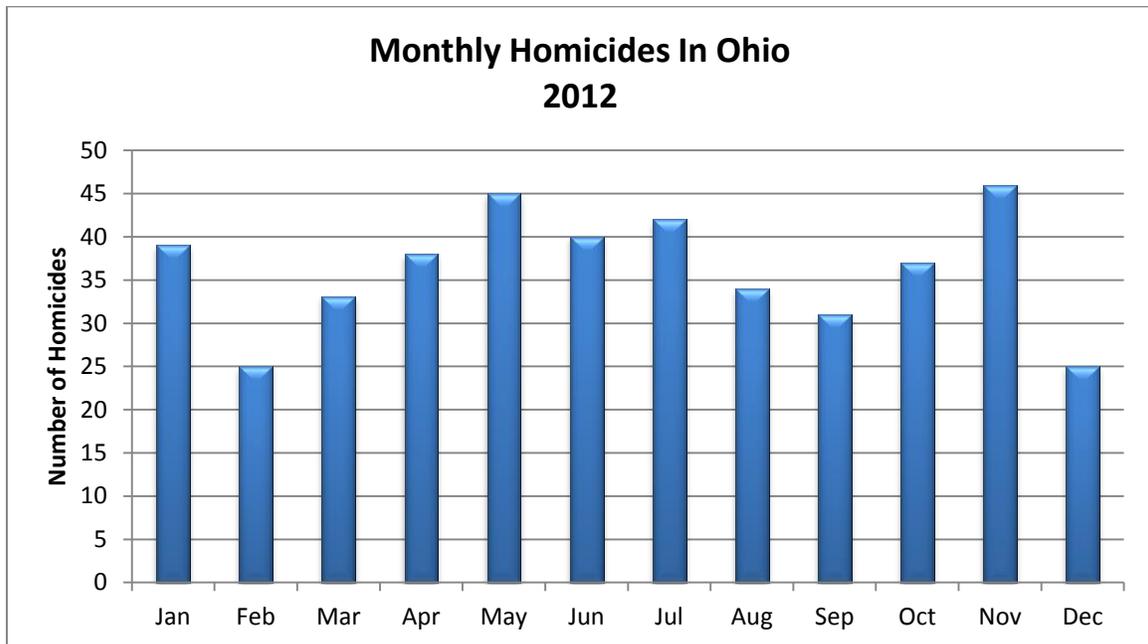
## Homicides in Ohio in 2012

*In 2012, Ohio law enforcement reported 495 homicides to the FBI in its annual Crime in the United States publication. In the FBI's Supplemental Homicide Report (SHR), 475 homicides were reported. This discrepancy often occurs when one data reporting deadline is earlier or later than another reporting deadline. Given the more complete information provided in the SHR, this report is based on data of the 475 homicides.*

**Number of homicides.** There were 435 homicide incidents reported in SHR in Ohio in 2012, resulting in 475 victims. Of the 435 occurrences, 93 percent resulted in the murder of a single victim and seven percent resulted in the murder of multiple victims.

Of all incidents in which there was a single victim, 55 percent were committed by a single offender, 19 percent were committed by multiple offenders, and 26 percent were committed by an unknown number of offenders.

**Monthly homicide occurrences.** Ohio had an average of 36 homicide incidents per month. Homicides were at their highest in November, with 46 recorded incidents. The spring/summer months of April, May, June and July had the largest number of homicide incidents, accounting for about 38 percent of all homicide incidents in the year 2012.



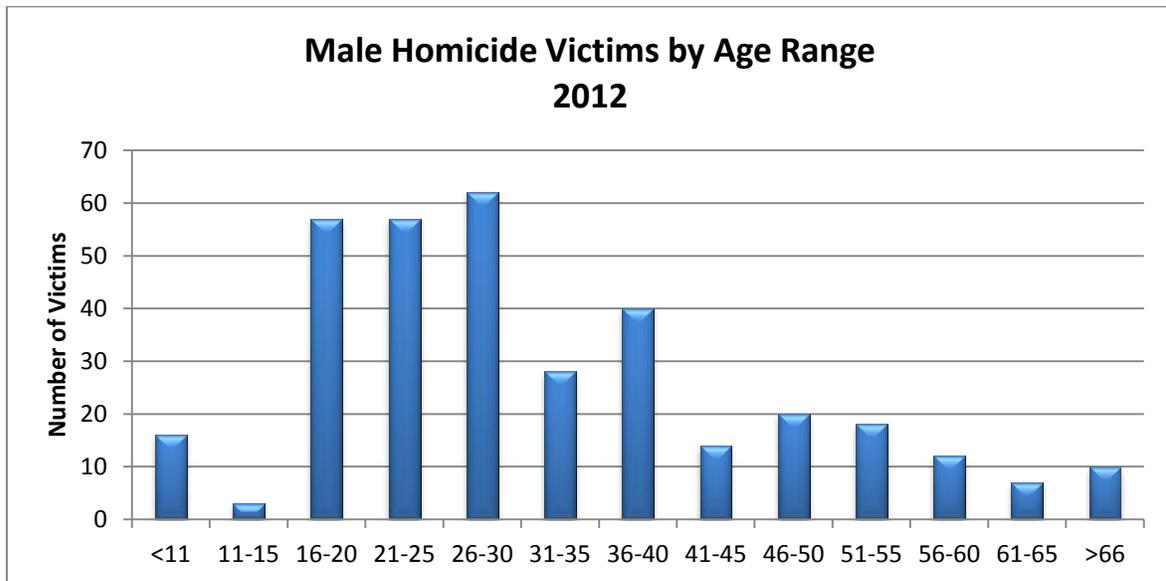
## Ohio's Homicide Victims

The following data were reported for the victims for whom all or some demographic information was available. There are some incidents in which little or no demographic data, such as age, gender, or race data, were available on victims.

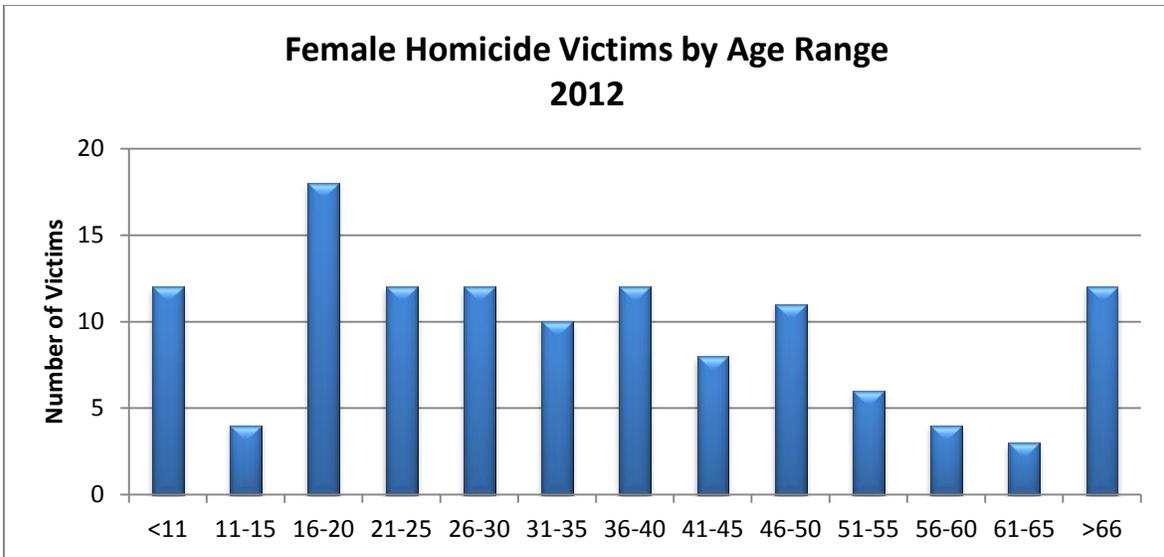
**Gender.** Across nearly all age groups, males were more frequently victims of homicide. Approximately 73 percent of all homicide victims were male. There were nearly 3 times as many male victims of homicides as female victims of homicides.

**Age<sup>1</sup>.** Certain age groups appeared to be more frequent targets of homicide. Overall, the median age of homicide victims was 29 years (mean = 33 years). Males had a median homicide age of 29 years (mean = 32 years), and females had a median homicide age of 32 years (mean = 35 years).

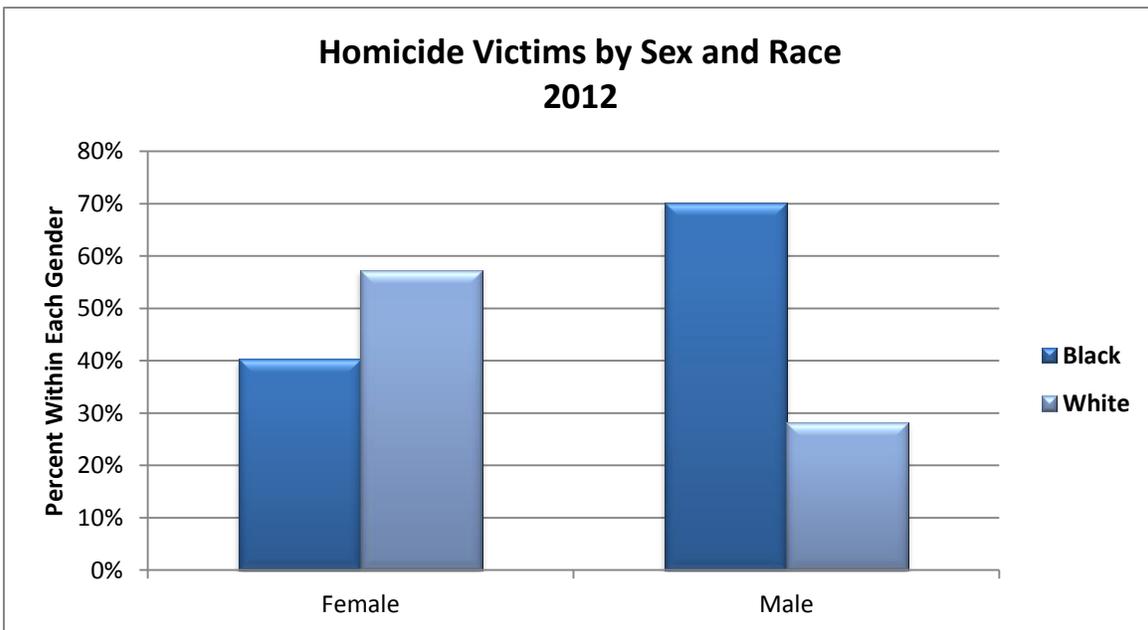
The early adulthood years were notable particularly for males, as the peak in the following graph indicates. Nearly 51 percent of all male homicide victims were between the ages of 16 and 30. In contrast, 34 percent of female victims fell between the ages of 16 and 30. There were over four times as many male victims of homicide as female victims of homicide in the 16 to 30 age range.



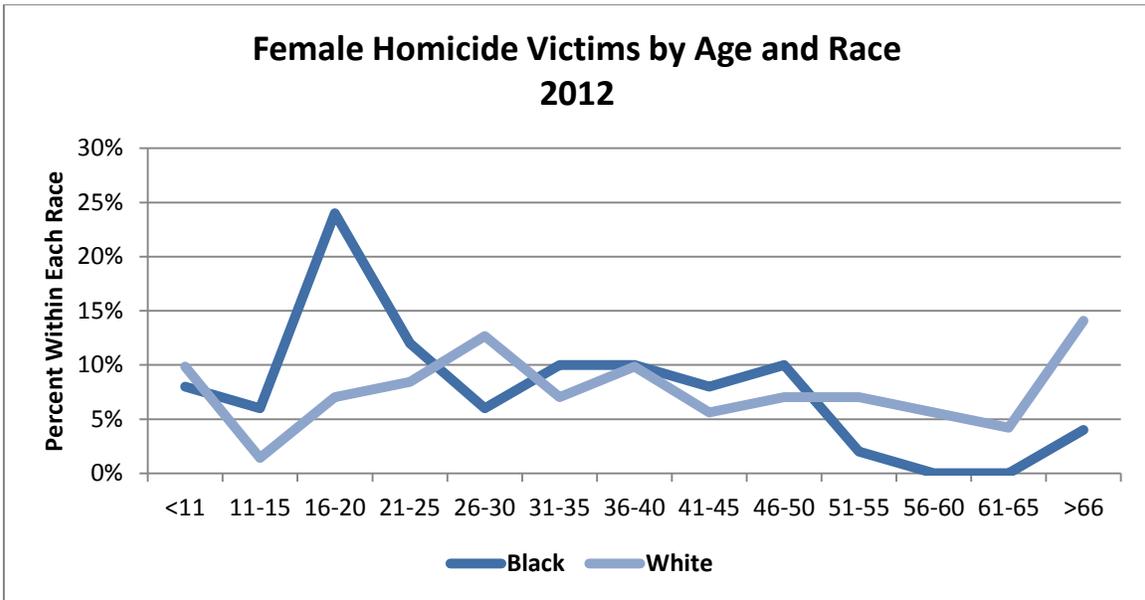
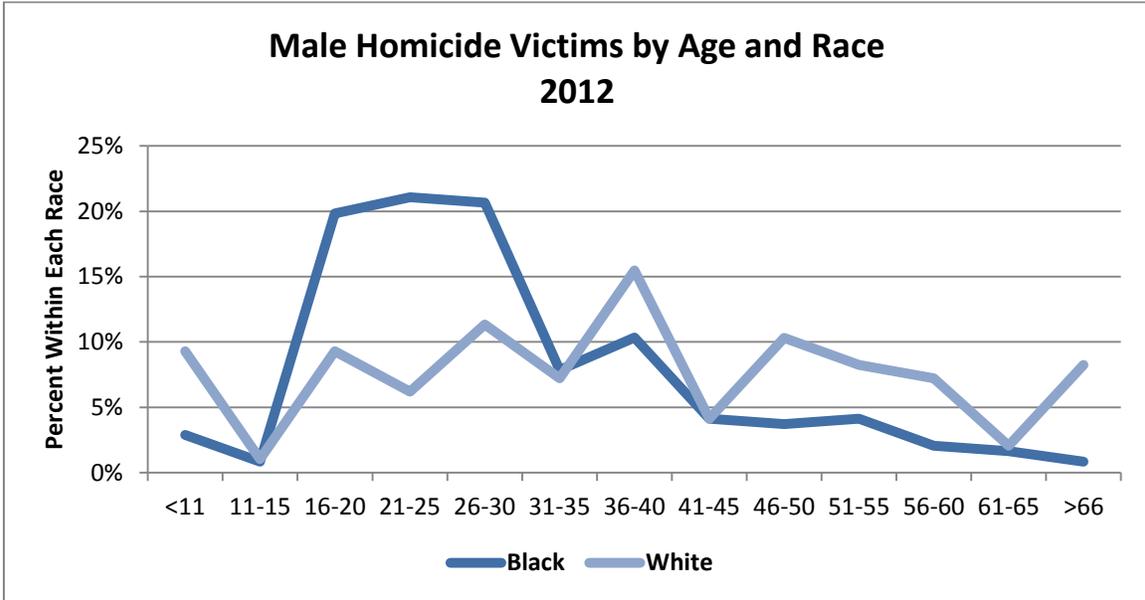
<sup>1</sup> To calculate the median and mean of the victims, newborns (birth to one week old) and babies (one week to 12 months old) ages were converted to one.



**Race.** Sixty-two percent of all homicide victims were Black and 36 percent were White. Black males made up 70 percent of male homicide victims and 51 percent of all homicide victims. White males made up 28 percent of male homicide victims and 21 percent of all homicide victims. In contrast, Black female victims made up 40 percent of female homicide victims and 11 percent of all homicide victims, whereas White females made up 57 percent of female homicide victims and 15 percent of all victims.



Looking at age, gender, and race together, different patterns emerge regarding Ohio's victims of homicide. Ages 16 through 30 appeared to be the deadliest time for Black males, as indicated by the peak in the following chart. Sixty-two percent of Black male homicide victims were between the ages of 16 and 30. There was no dramatic peak for White males, as 27 percent of White males fell within this age group. Due to the low number of female homicide victims, no patterns based on race and age were identifiable.



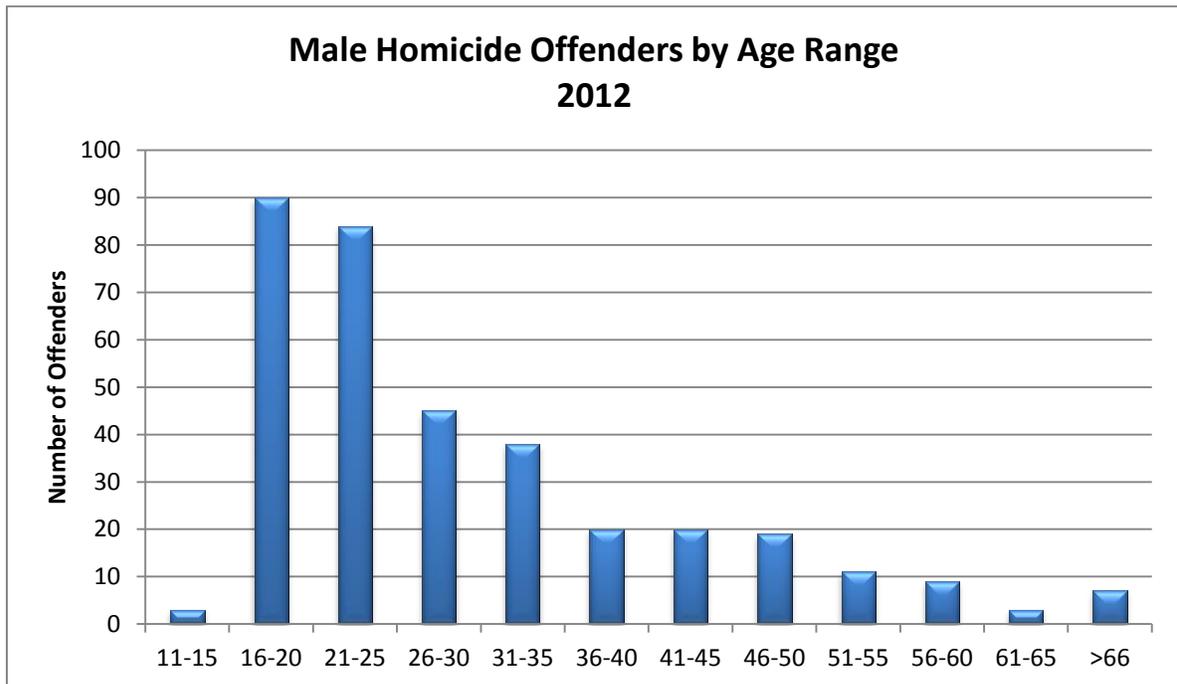
## Ohio's Homicide Offenders

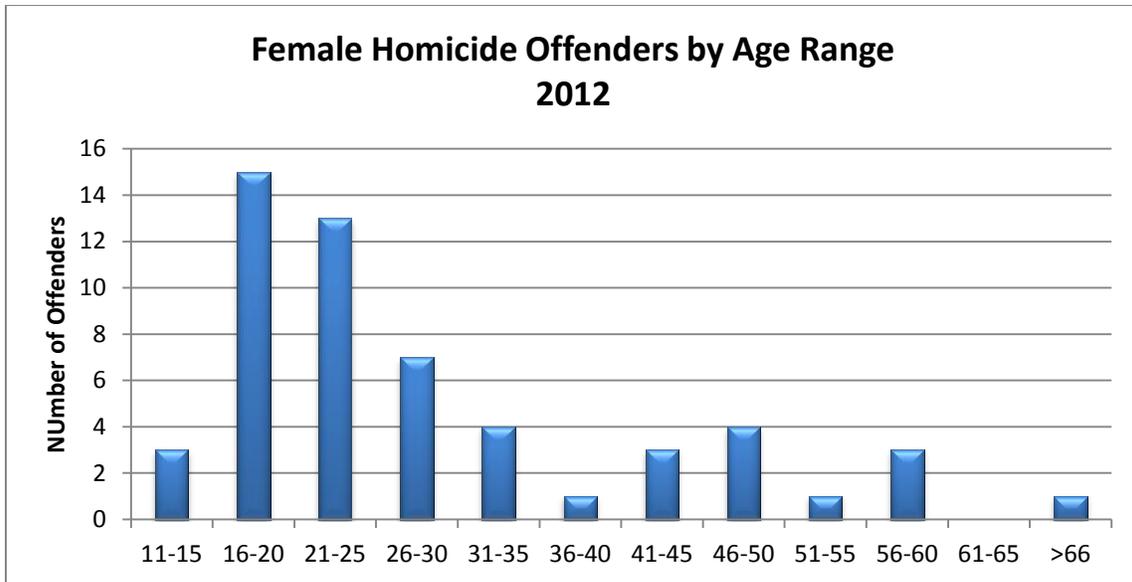
Demographically, Ohio's homicide offenders were similar to Ohio's homicide victims. The following data are reported only for those offenders for whom all or some demographic information was available.

**Gender.** Male homicide offenders outnumbered female homicide offenders by seven to one. The number of male offenders equaled or outnumbered the number of female offenders across every age category.

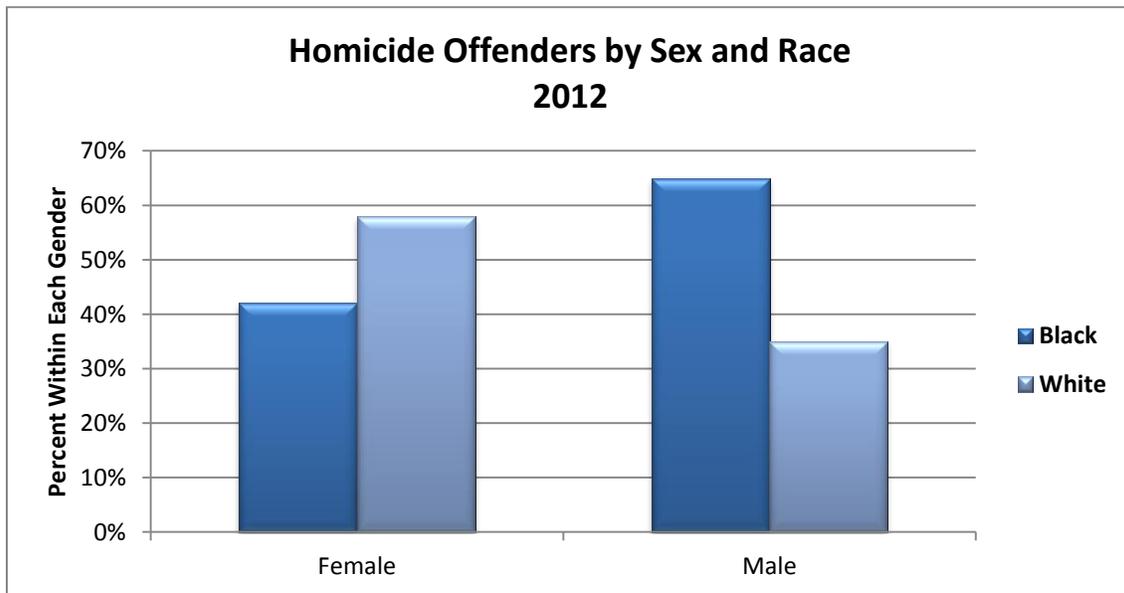
**Age.** The median age for homicide offenders was 25 years (mean = 30 years). The median offender age for males was 25 (mean = 30 years), which is the same median female offender age of 25 (mean = 29 years).

The number of male homicide offenders was at its highest between the ages of 16 and 30. Sixty-two percent of all male homicide offenders fell into this age range. Sixty-four percent of female homicide offenders fell in this age range. However, because of the low number of female offenders overall, the female offender data must be interpreted with caution.



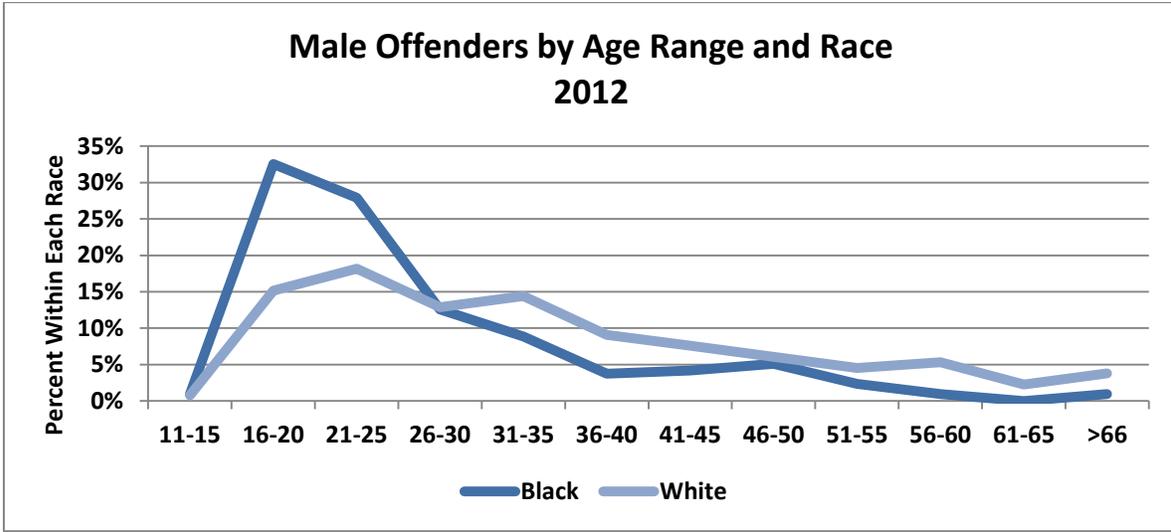


**Race.** Of those offenders for whom race information was known, Black offenders made up 62 percent of all homicide offenders and White offenders made up 38 percent of all homicide offenders. When broken down by gender, Black males made up 65 percent of male homicide offenders and 56 percent of all homicide offenders. White males made up 35 percent of male homicide offenders and 31 percent of all homicide offenders. Black females made up 42 percent of all female homicide offenders and five percent of all homicide offenders. White females made up 58 percent of all female homicide offenders and seven percent of all offenders.

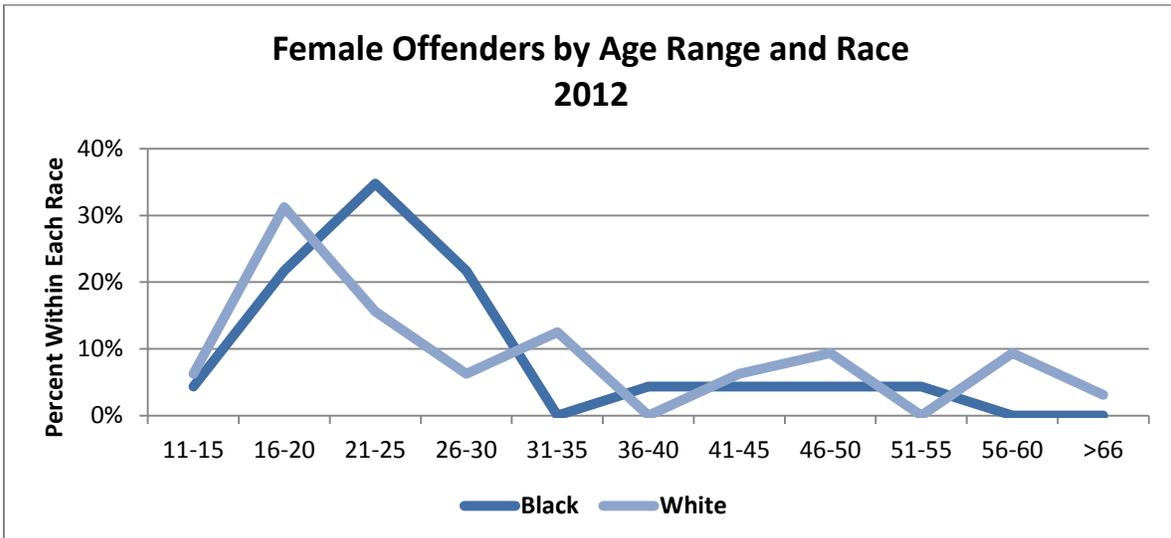


The following two graphs highlight the patterns of offending when all three demographic factors — age, sex, and race — are taken into consideration.

Seventy-four percent of all male offenders fall within the age range of 16 and 35. Broken down further, Black male offenders show a definite peak of activity from age 16 through age 25, with 82 percent of their offending occurring between these ages in particular. The data for White male offenders showed a heightened period of activity between the ages of 16 and 30, but did not display quite as distinct of a peak as did the Black offenders.



Black females showed slight similarities in offending with an increase between the ages of 16-30. White females showed a slightly different increase in offending between the ages of 16-20 years. 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.



## 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-seven percent of male homicides and 89 percent of female homicides were perpetrated by a male offender. Across all male and female homicides, about 13 percent were perpetrated by a female offender.

Gender Relationship between Victim and Offender		
	Female Offender	Male Offender
Female Victim	11%	89%
Male Victim	13%	87%

**Victim-offender race.** There is a great tendency for homicide victims and offenders to be of the same race. Ninety-one percent of Black victims were killed by Black offenders. Likewise, 78 percent of White victims were killed by White offenders.

Racial Relationship between Victim and Offender		
	Black Offender	White Offender
Black Victim	91%	9%
White Victim	22%	78%

**Single victim-single offender incidents.** Ninety-three percent of homicide incidents involved a single victim. Of these, 55 percent involved a single victim and a single identified offender. Nineteen percent were committed by multiple offenders. Twenty-six percent were committed by an unknown<sup>2</sup> offender.

The single victim-single offender data were analyzed to gain a better understanding of the relationship between victim and 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 the following graph shows, only nine percent of homicide offenders were identified as being strangers. For 65 percent of homicides the victim knew the offender, and often the perpetrator was a non-family member or intimate/former intimate partner<sup>3</sup>.

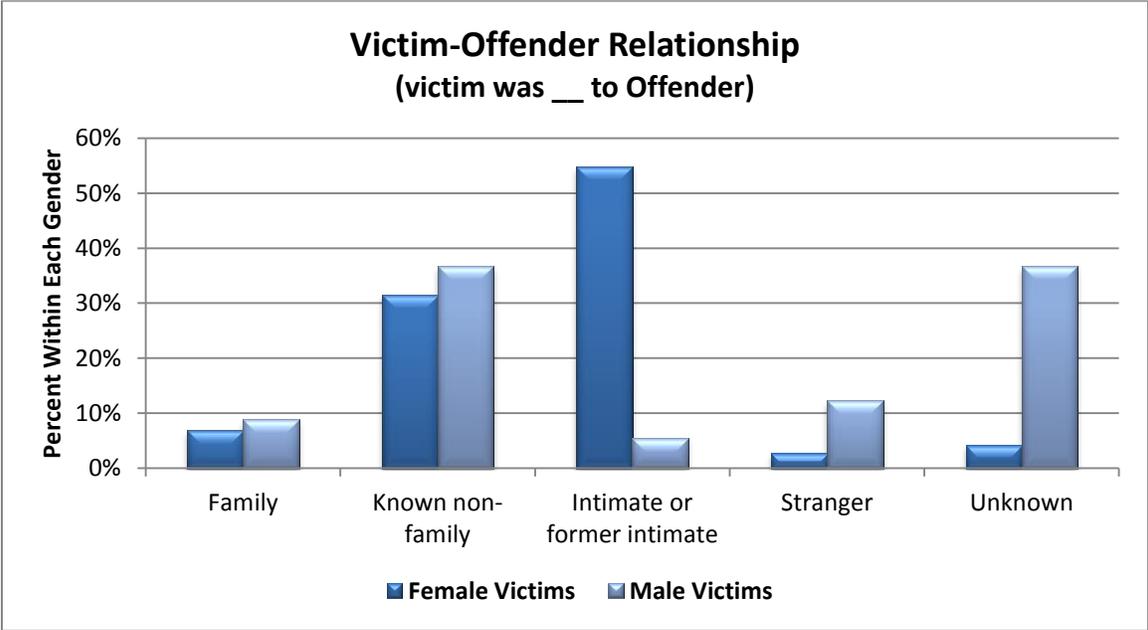
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<sup>2</sup> Note the distinction between 'unknown' and 'stranger'. 'Unknown' means that there is no information on the relationship between victim and offender. 'Stranger' means that the victim and offender did not know each other.

<sup>3</sup> Individuals are placed in only one category. For the purposes of this document, 'intimate or former intimate' refers to husband, wife, boyfriend, girlfriend, ex-husband, or ex-wife.



That the victim knew the offender was especially true for female victims. Of the single victim-single offender incidents, three percent of females (out of all female victims) were murdered by someone identified as a stranger, compared to 19 percent of male victims (out of all male victims). Additionally, 57 percent of females were murdered by an intimate or former intimate partner, in contrast to nine percent of male victims<sup>4</sup>.

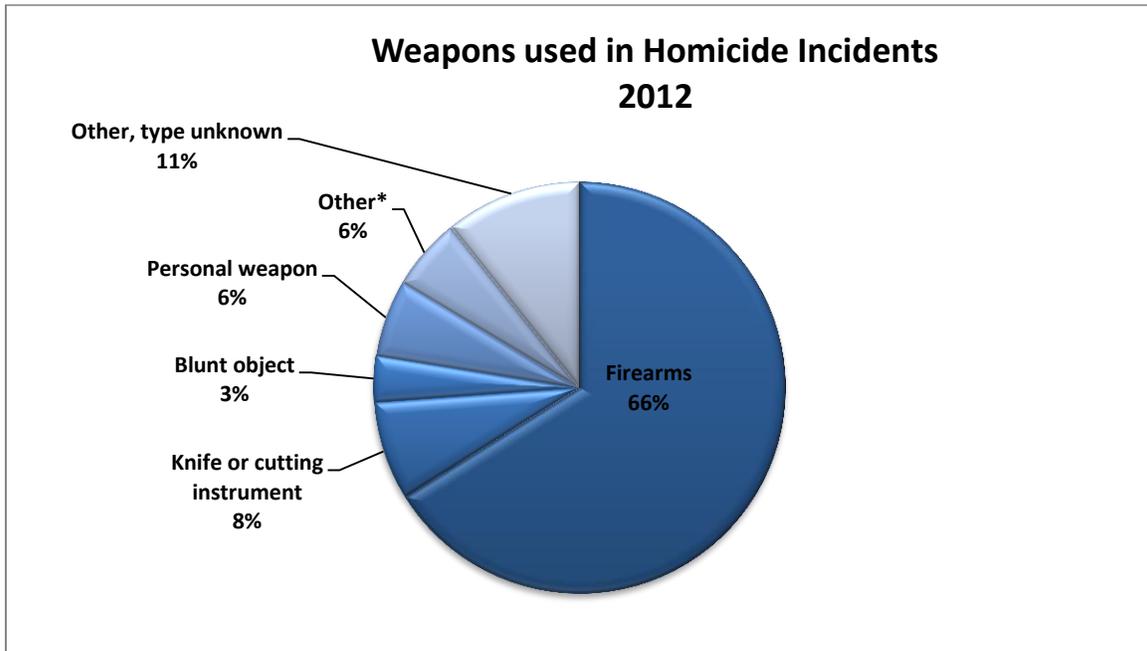


<sup>4</sup> Note for this data, “unknown” relationships between the victim and the offender were not included in this section.

## 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 66 percent of all identified weapons. Six percent of weapons used in homicides fell under the category 'personal weapon', which includes beatings using hands, feet, fists. Eight percent of homicides involved knives/cutting instruments. Eleven percent of homicides were due to other unknown weapons.

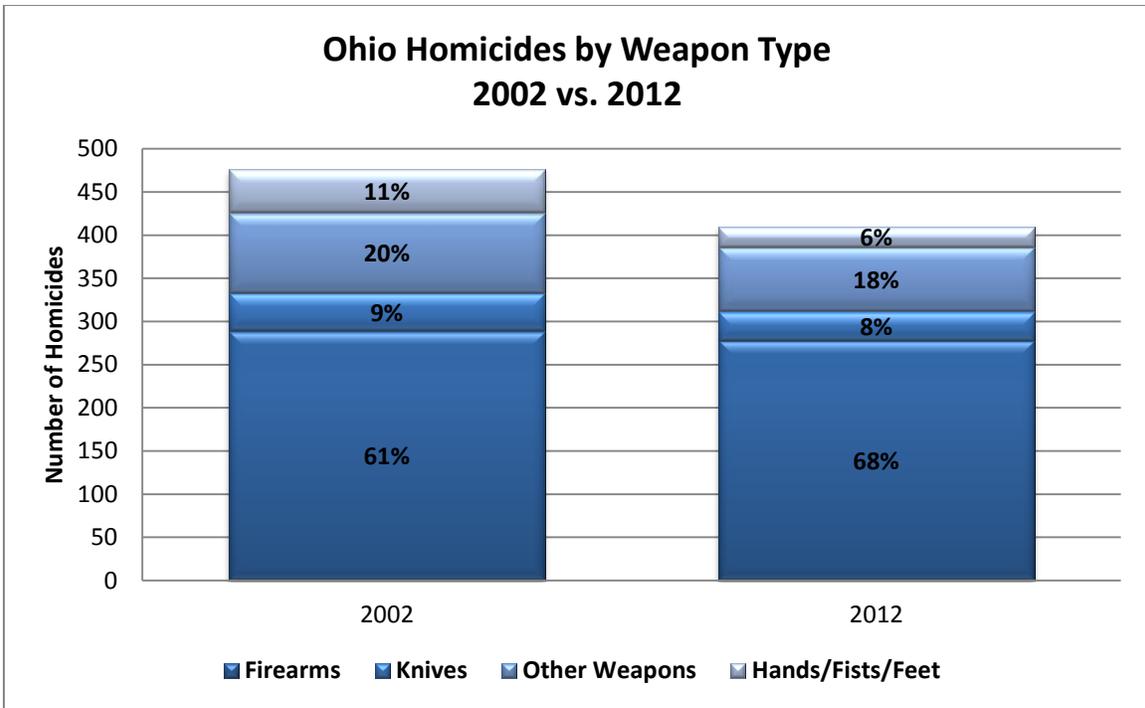


\*Includes weapons such as Poison, Pushed/Thrown out Window, Strangulation, Fire, Narcotics/Drugs, Drowning and Asphyxiation used in homicides.

A comparison of weapon usage in homicides between 2002 and 2012 shows some change over the decade, especially with an increased use of firearms on homicide victims. Firearms were used on 61 percent of homicide victims in 2002 and 68 percent in 2012<sup>5</sup>.

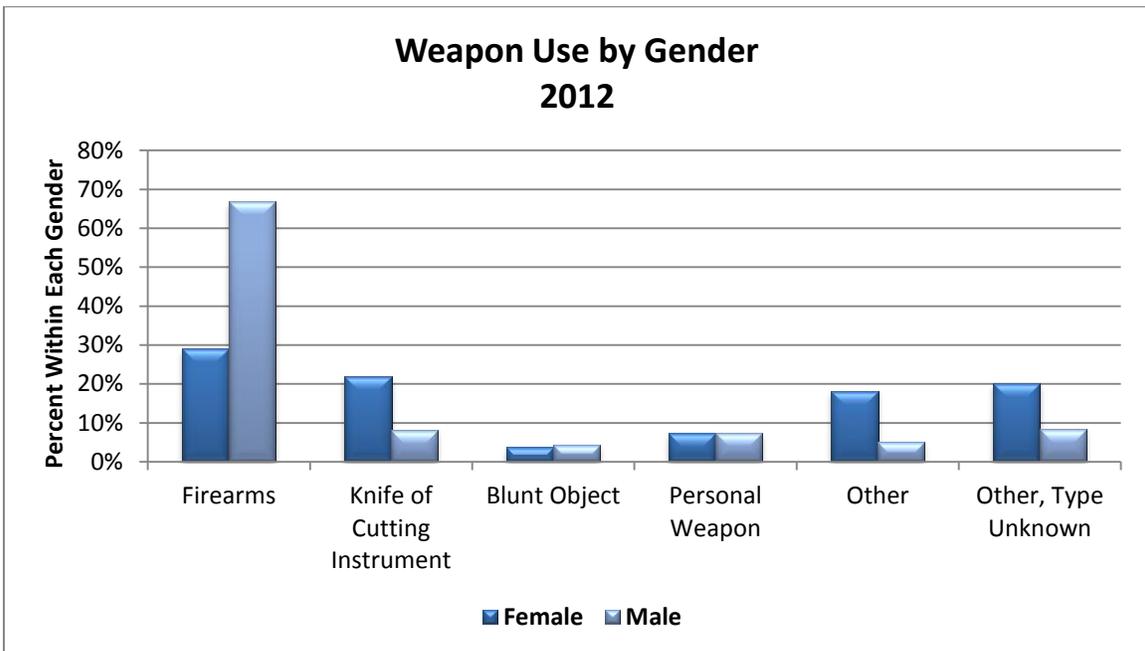
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<sup>5</sup> Note that in this chart homicides by weapon type are broken down as a percentage of all victims (e.g., 70% of victims were killed by firearm). This contrasts to the previous chart, which is broken down by incident (e.g., 73% of homicide incidents involved a firearm).



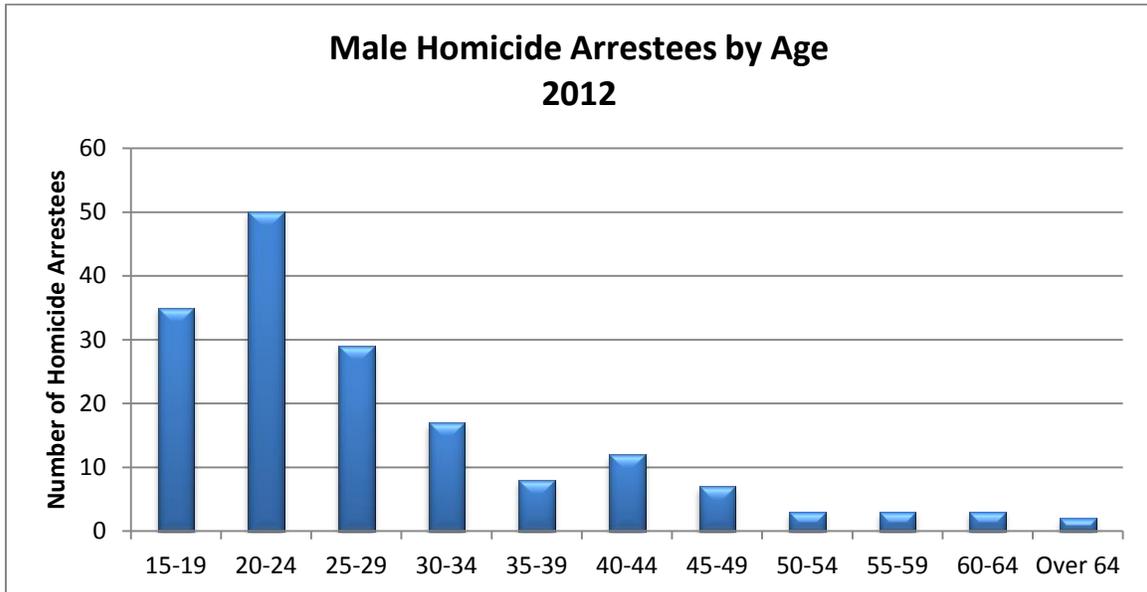
Source: FBI's *Crime in the United States*, 2002 and 2012.

Differences in weapon usage emerge as a function of gender. Sixty-seven percent of male offenders used a firearm to commit homicide, as opposed to 29 percent of females. Knives and cutting instruments were used by a higher percentage of females than males, although the overall number of homicides committed by females using these weapons remains low.



## Arrestees

In 2012, 206 individuals were arrested for homicide. Eighty-two percent of those arrested were male. Fifty percent of all male arrestees fell between the ages of 15 and 24.



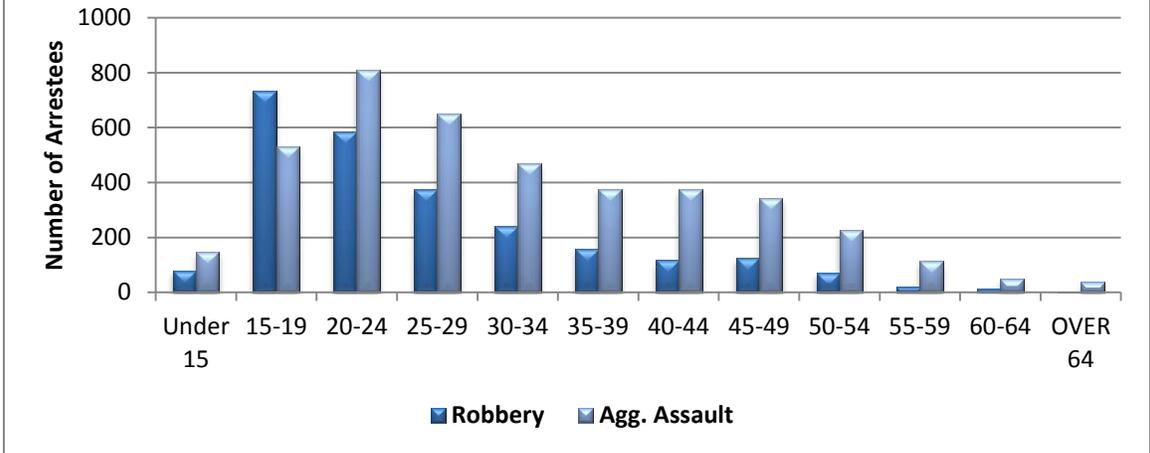
Source: FBI's Arrest by County 2012 tables

The majority of arrestees for other violent crimes were male. Ninety-eight percent of forcible rape<sup>6</sup> arrestees, 86 percent of robbery arrestees and 74 percent of aggravated assault arrestees were male. Other violent crimes show the same general age pattern, with the number of violent crimes committed by individuals peaking in those in their late teens and twenties. Forty-seven percent of forcible rape arrestees, 67 percent of robbery arrestees, and 48 percent of aggravated assault arrestees fell between the ages of 15 and 29.

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<sup>6</sup> Forcible rape is defined by the FBI as "The carnal knowledge of a female against her will." Sexual attacks on males are counted as aggravated assaults or other sex offenses.

### Robbery & Aggravated Assault Arrestees by Age\* 2012



Source: FBI's Arrest by County 2012 tables  
\*Includes both Male & Female data

## Homicides Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means

In 2012, the FBI reported that nationally over 62 percent of homicides were cleared by arrest or exceptional means<sup>7</sup>. Homicide has the highest clearance rate of all Part I violent crimes. Fifty-six percent of aggravated assaults, 40 percent of forcible rapes, and 28 percent of robberies were cleared by arrest or exceptional means nationwide.

Differences in clearance rates emerge as a function of population group, as the following table shows.

Population Group	Clearance Rate
<b>250,000 or more</b>	57.0%
<b>100,000-249,999</b>	59.5%
<b>50,000-99,999</b>	58.5%
<b>25,000-49,999</b>	67.6%
<b>10,000-24,999</b>	70.1%
<b>Under 10,000</b>	71.5%

Source: FBI's *Crime in the United States* 2012

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<sup>7</sup> According to the FBI's *Crime in the United States* annual report, to clear an arrest by exceptional means, law enforcement must have: 1) Identified the offender; 2) Gathered enough evidence to support an arrest, make a charge, and turn over the offender to the court for prosecution; 3) Identified the offender's exact location so that the suspect could be taken into custody immediately; 4) Encountered a circumstance outside the control of law enforcement that prohibits the agency from arresting, charging, and prosecuting the offender. Examples include the death of the offender, the victim's refusal to cooperate with the prosecution, or the denial of extradition.