



Homicides in Ohio 2013



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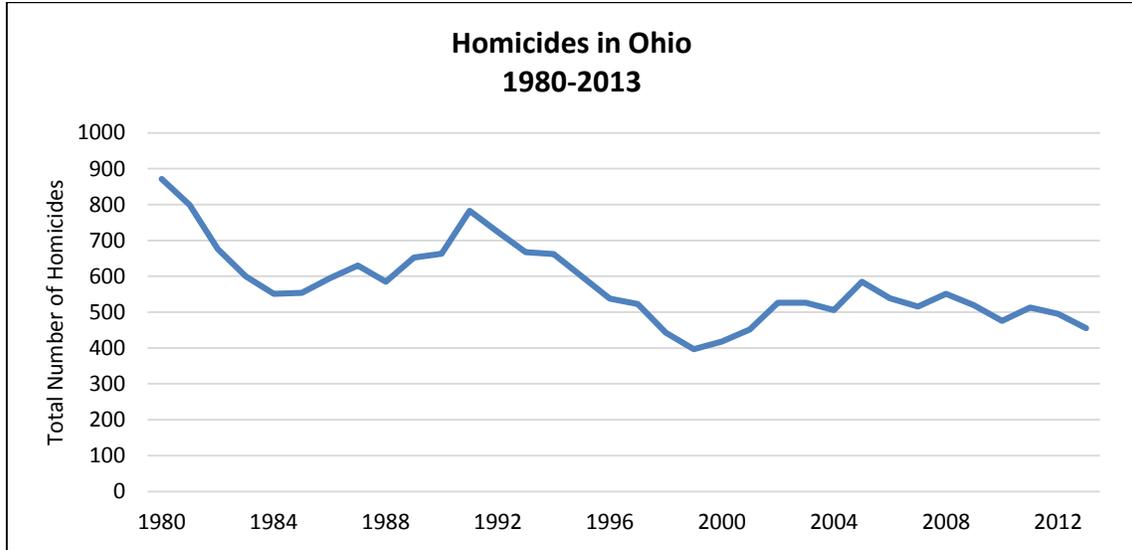
Since 1930, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has annually collected data on crime in the United States through its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR Program collects only those data that come to the attention of law enforcement through victim reports or observation. Reporting is voluntary and, in 2013, law enforcement agencies active in the UCR Program represented 98.0 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 2013. Unless otherwise stated, data come from SHR.

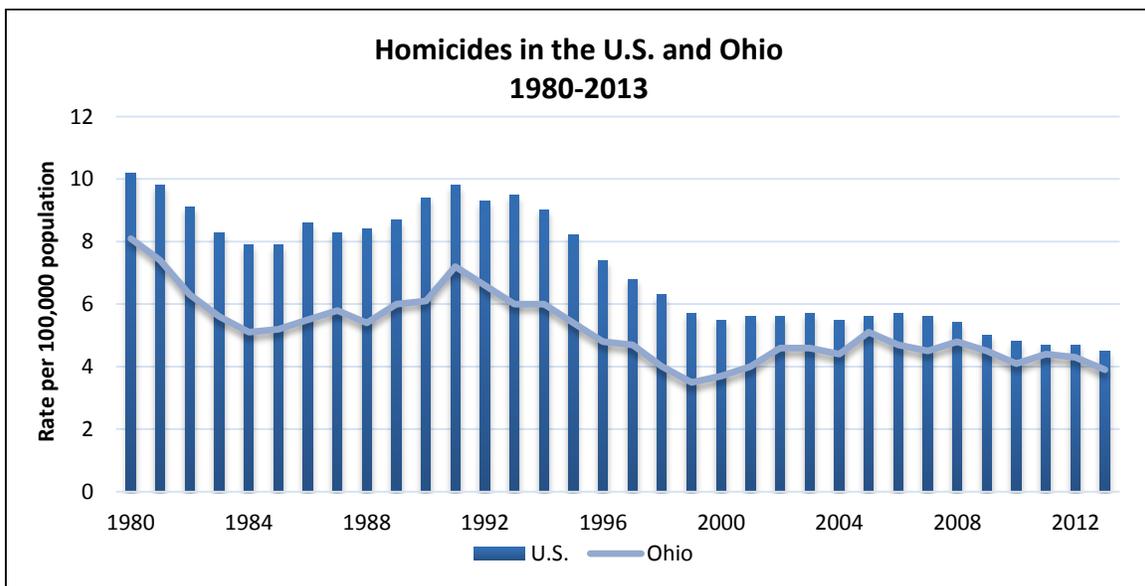
Homicides in Ohio and the U.S.

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*, 1980-2013.

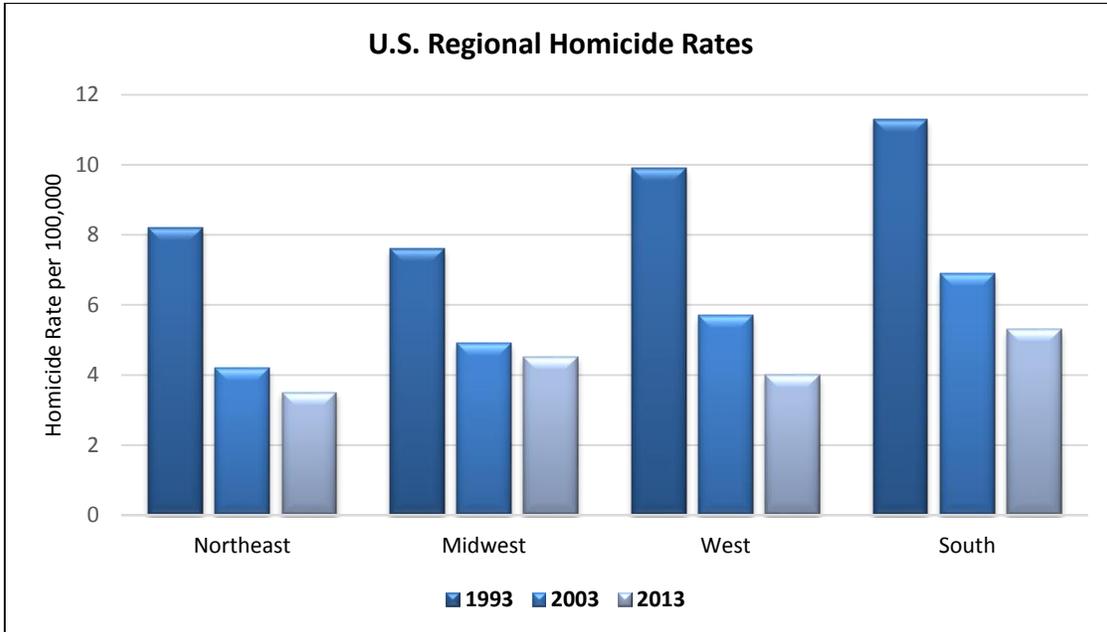
A comparison of Ohio's homicide rate to that of the U.S. suggests that Ohio is not unique with regard to this crime. Ohio's homicide rate patterns vary similarly to that of the U.S., although at a lower rate. The rates do show a convergence, however.



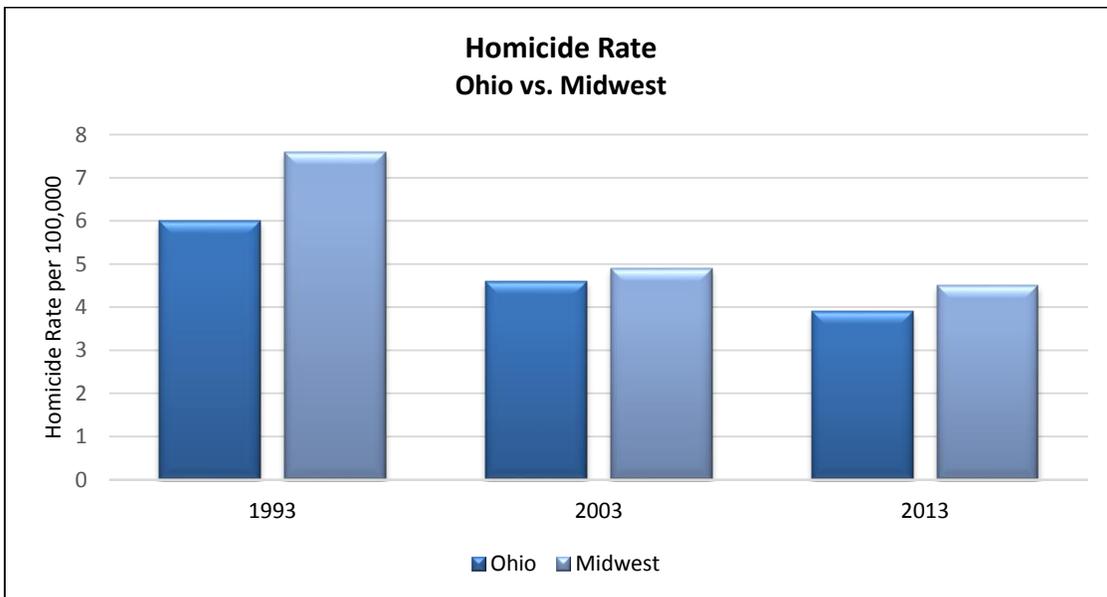
Source: FBI's *Crime in the United States*, 1980-2013.

Ohio's homicide rate of 3.9 ranked 26th (tied with Kansas) in the U.S. in 2013. In 2013 the Northeast reported the lowest homicide rate, at 3.5 per 100,000 population, followed by the West at 4.0, and the Midwest, at 4.5. The South reported the highest homicide rate at 5.3 per 100,000 population in 2013.

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.

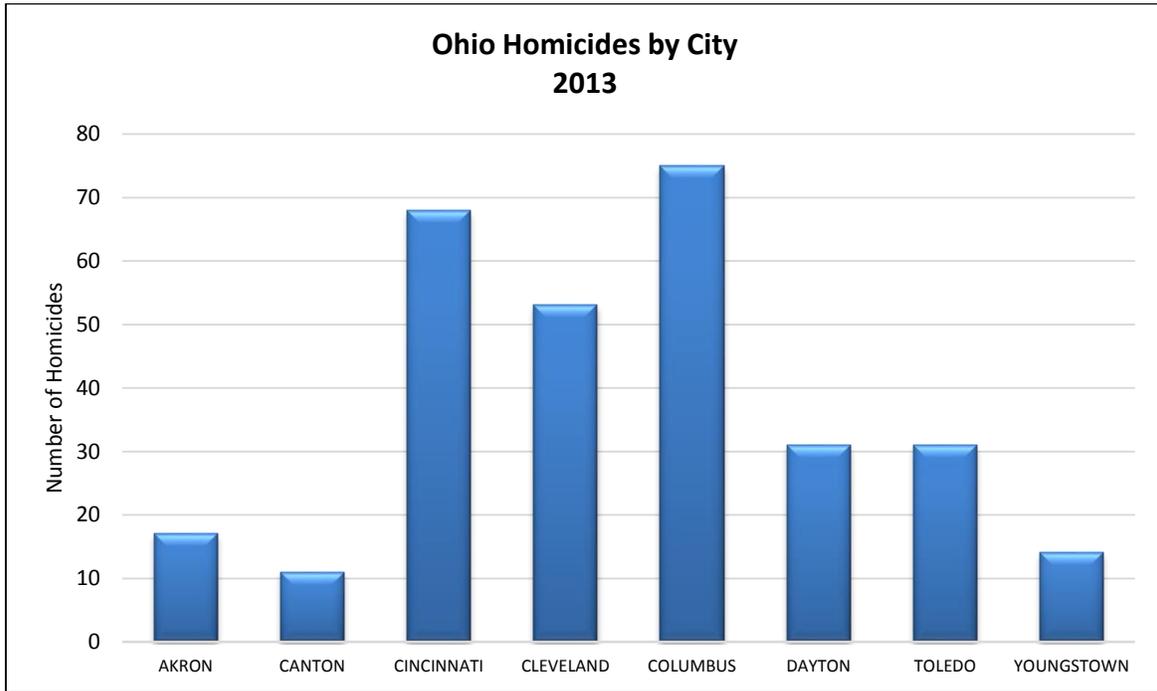


Source: FBI's *Crime in the United States, 1993, 2003 & 2013*



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Ohio's three largest police departments—Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus—reported 44 percent (196) of Ohio's homicide incidents in 2013.



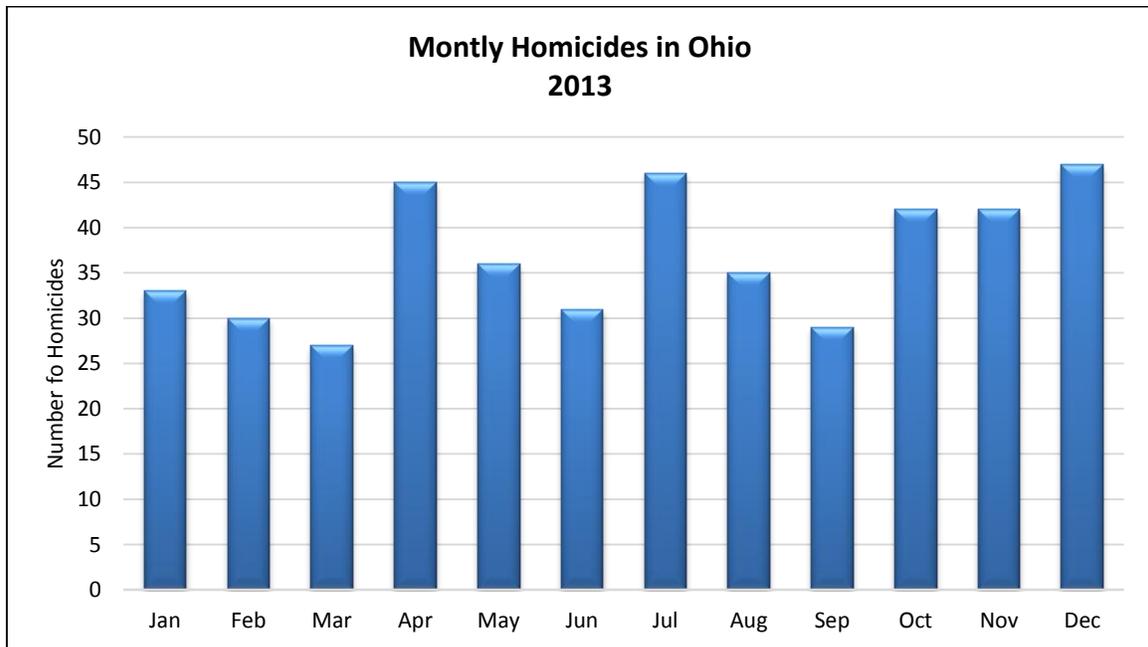
Homicides in Ohio in 2013

In 2013, Ohio law enforcement reported 455 homicides to the FBI in its annual Crime in the United States publication. In the FBI's Supplemental Homicide Report (SHR), 474 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 474 homicides.

Number of homicides. There were 443 homicide incidents reported in SHR in Ohio in 2013, resulting in 474 victims. Of the 443 occurrences, 94 percent resulted in the murder of a single victim and six percent resulted in the murder of multiple victims.

Of all incidents in which there was a single victim, 51 percent were committed by a single offender, 16 percent were committed by multiple offenders, and 33 percent were committed by an unknown number of offenders.

Monthly homicide occurrences. Ohio had an average of 40 homicide incidents per month. Homicides were at their highest in December, with 47 recorded incidents. The fall months of October, November and December had the largest number of homicide incidents, accounting for about 30 percent of all homicide incidents in 2013.



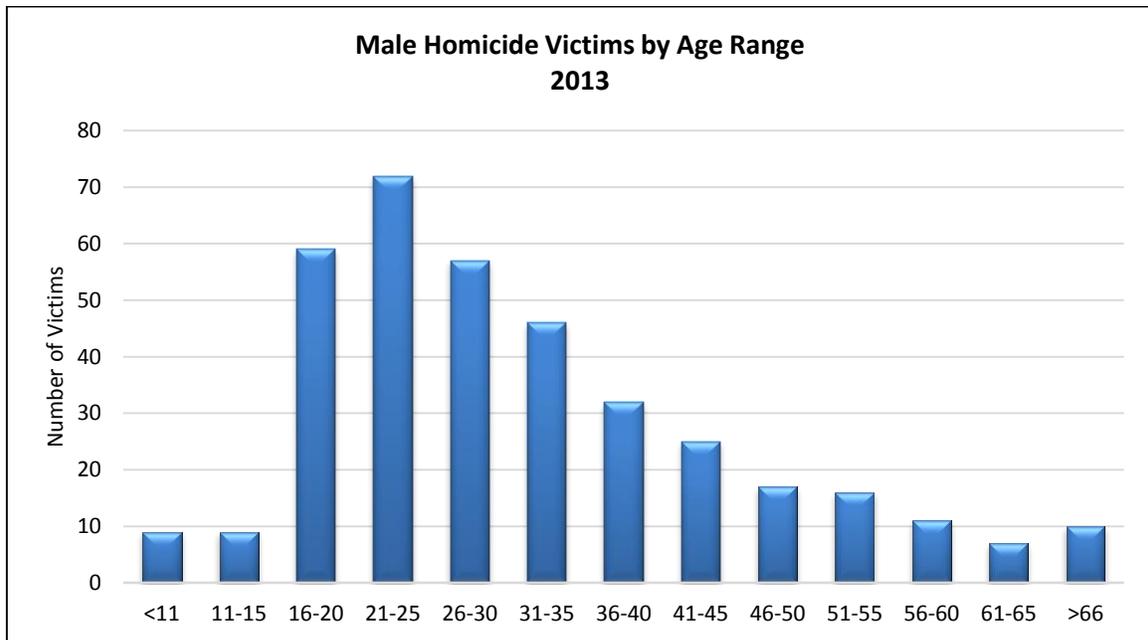
Ohio's Homicide Victims

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.

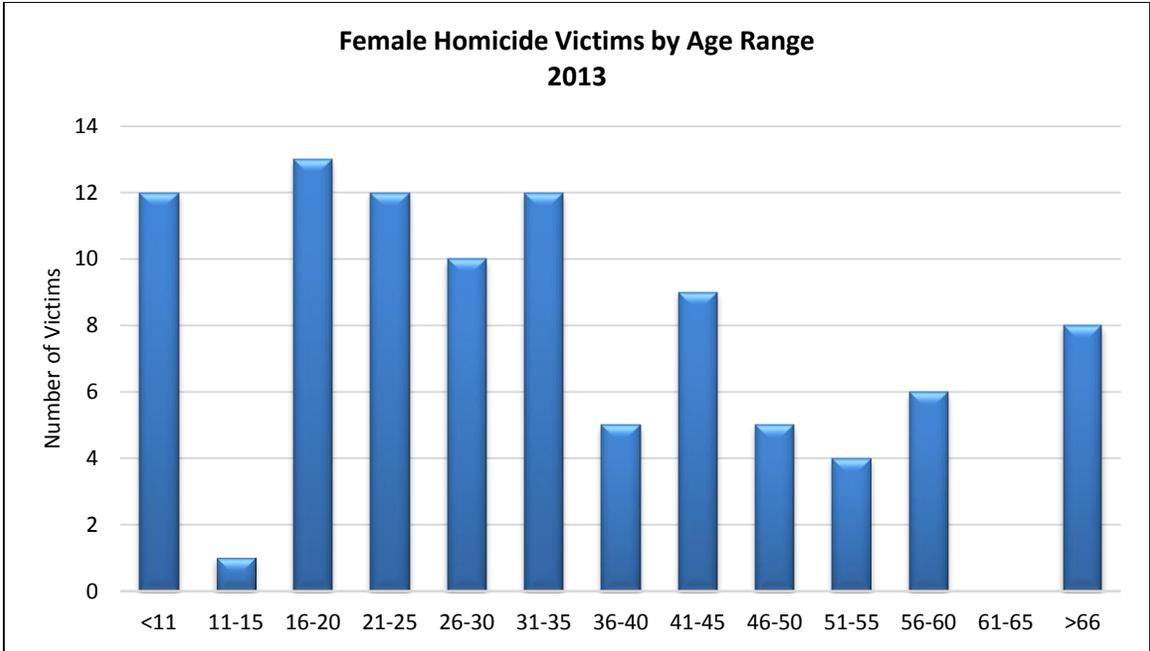
Gender. Across nearly all age groups, males were more frequently victims of homicide. Approximately 79 percent of all homicide victims were male. There were nearly 4 times as many male victims of homicides as female victims of homicides.

Age¹. Certain age groups appeared to be more frequent targets of homicide. Overall, the median age of homicide victims was 29 years (mean = 32 years). Males had a median homicide age of 28 years (mean = 32 years), and females had a median homicide age of 32 years (mean = 34 years).

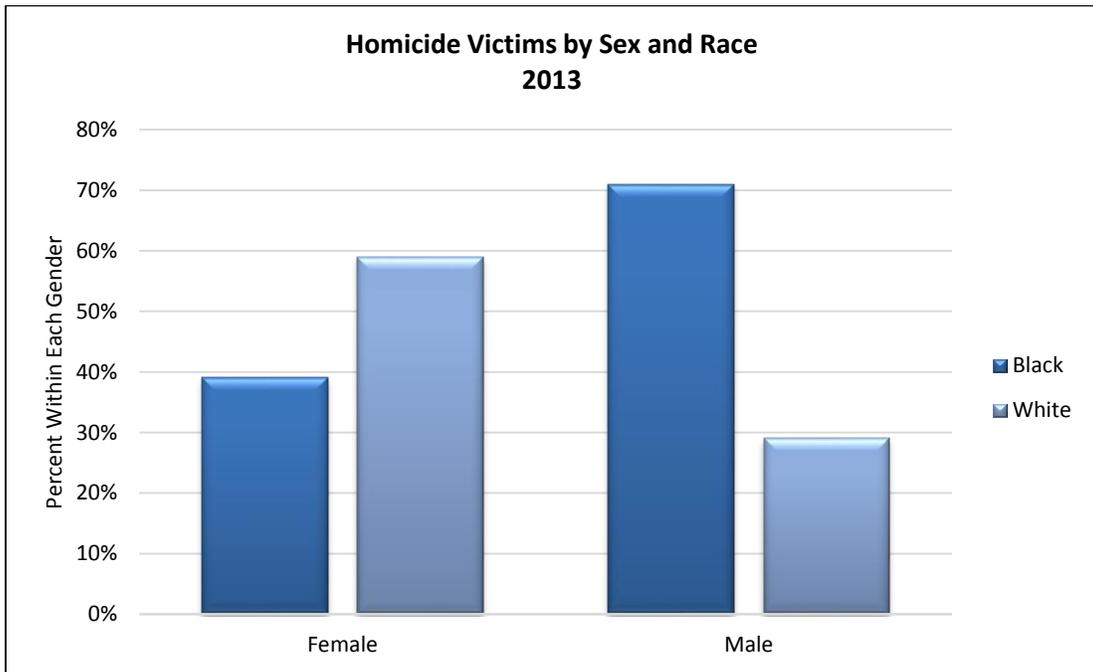
The early adulthood years were notable particularly for males, as the peak in the following graph indicates. Nearly 51 percent of all male homicide victims were between the ages of 16 and 30. In contrast, 36 percent of female victims fell between the ages of 16 and 30. There were over four times as many male victims of homicide as female victims of homicide in the 16 to 30 age range.



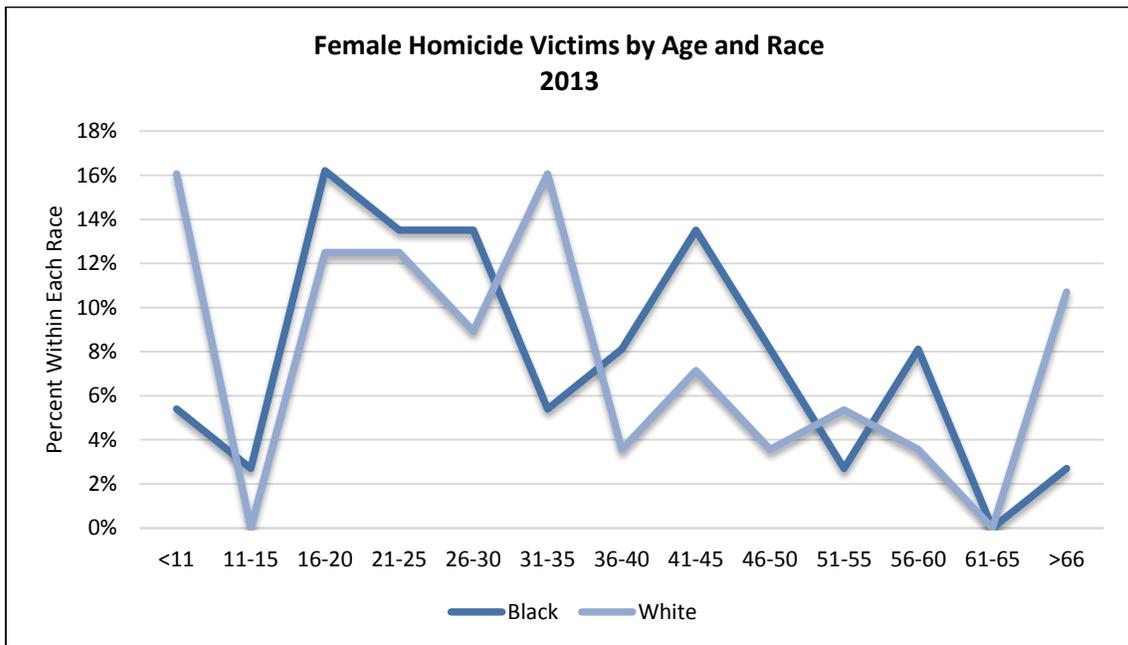
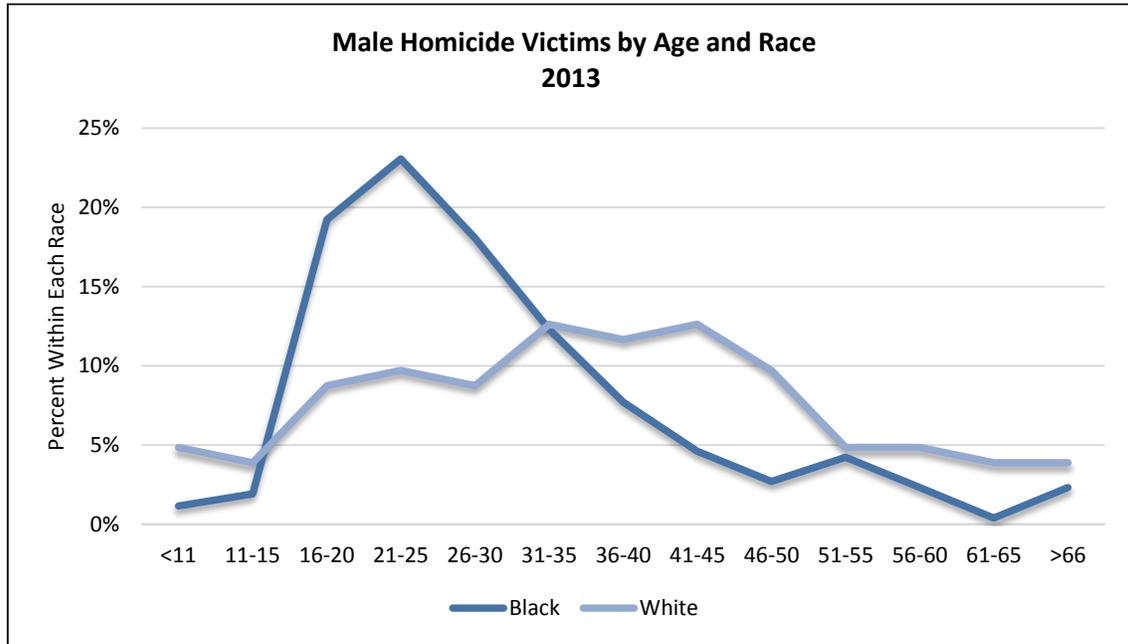
¹ To calculate the median and mean of the victims, newborns (birth to one week old) and babies (one week to 12 months old) ages were converted to one.



Race. Sixty-five percent of all homicide victims were Black and 35 percent were White. Black males made up 71 percent of male homicide victims and 56 percent of all homicide victims. White males made up 29 percent of male homicide victims and 23 percent of all homicide victims. In contrast, Black female victims made up 39 percent of female homicide victims and 8 percent of all homicide victims, whereas White females made up 59 percent of female homicide victims and 12 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 percent of Black male homicide victims were between the ages of 16 and 30. There was no dramatic peak for White males, as 28 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.



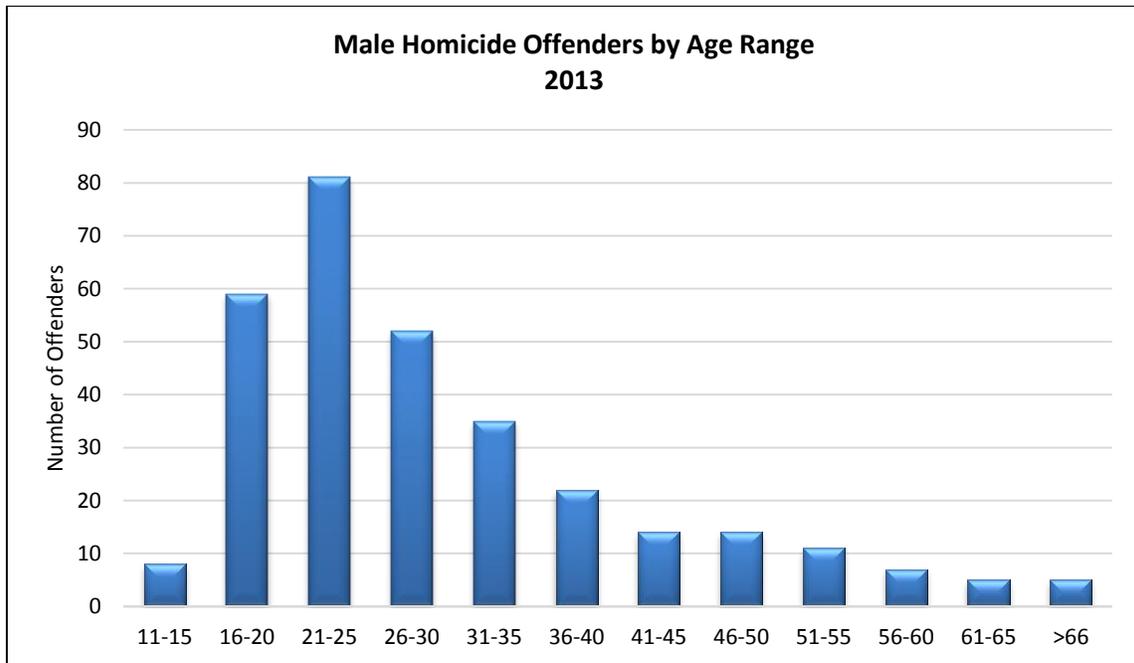
Ohio's Homicide Offenders

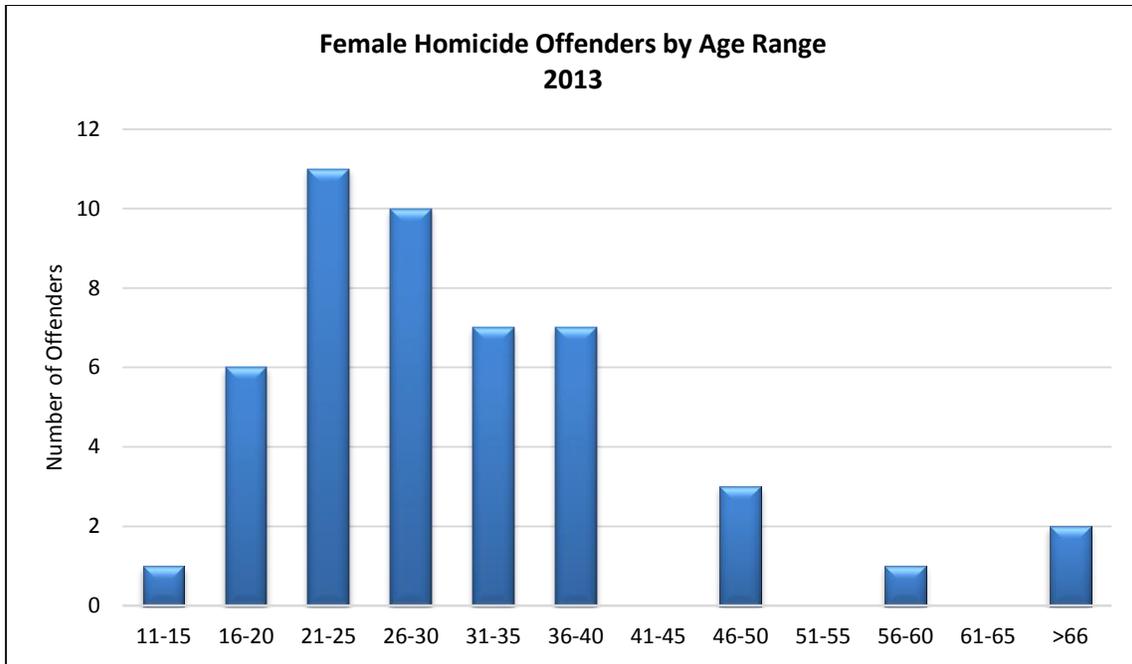
Demographically, Ohio's homicide offenders were similar to Ohio's homicide victims. The following data are reported only for those offenders for whom all or some demographic information was available.

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.

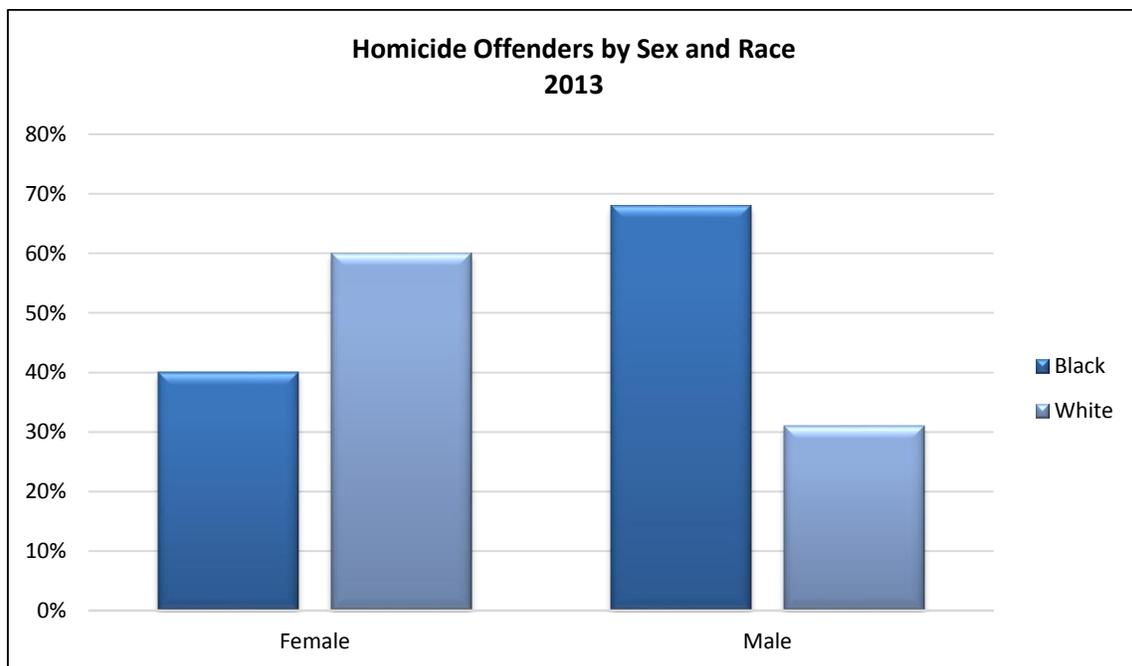
Age. The median age for homicide offenders was 27 years (mean = 30 years). The median offender age for males was 27 (mean = 30 years), which is the same median female offender age of 27 (mean = 31 years).

The number of male homicide offenders was at its highest between the ages of 16 and 30. Sixty-one percent of all male homicide offenders fell into this age range. Fifty-six 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.



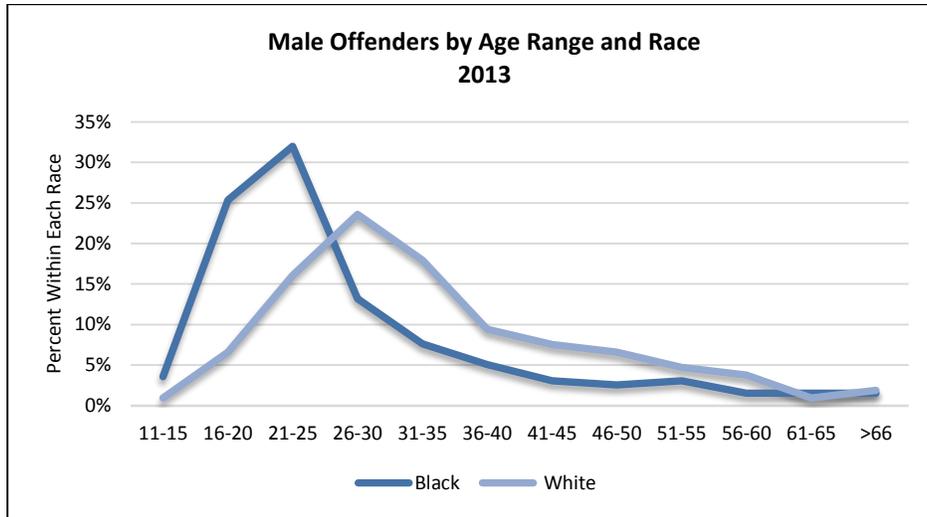


Race. Of those offenders for whom race information was known, Black offenders made up 64 percent of all homicide offenders and White offenders made up 35 percent of all homicide offenders. When broken down by gender, Black males made up 68 percent of male homicide offenders and 58 percent of all homicide offenders. White males made up 31 percent of male homicide offenders and 27 percent of all homicide offenders. Black females made up 40 percent of all female homicide offenders and five percent of all homicide offenders. White females made up 60 percent of all female homicide offenders and seven percent of all offenders.

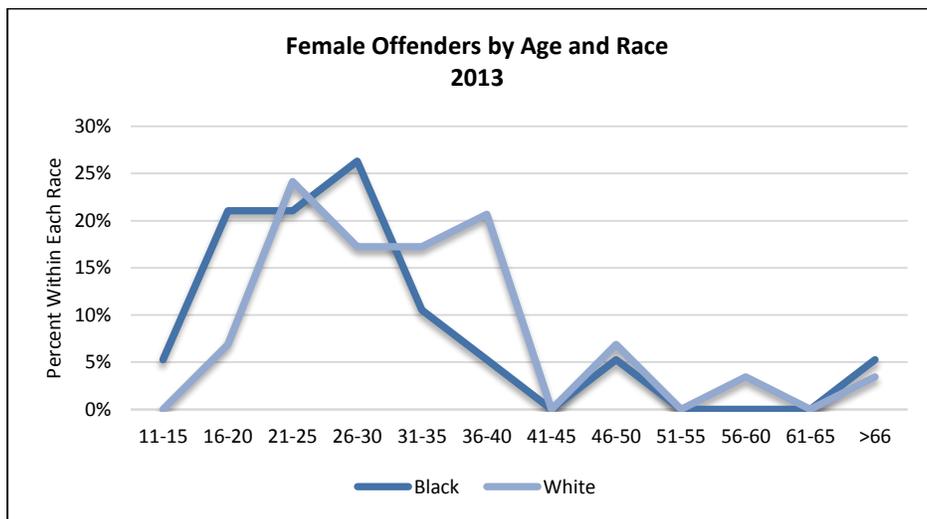


The following two graphs highlight the patterns of offending when all three demographic factors — age, sex, and race — are taken into consideration.

Seventy-three 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 57 percent of their offending occurring between these ages. The data for White male offenders showed a heightened period of activity between the ages of 21 through 30, with 40 percent of their offending occurring between these ages.



Black females showed slight similarities in offending with an increase between the ages of 16 and 30. White females showed a slightly different increase in offending between the ages of 16 and 20 and again between 36 and 40 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. Ninety-three percent of male homicides and 89 percent of female homicides were perpetrated by a male offender. Across all male and female homicides, about 12 percent were perpetrated by a female offender.

Gender Relationship between Victim and Offender		
	Female Offender	Male Offender
Female Victim	11%	89%
Male Victim	7%	93%

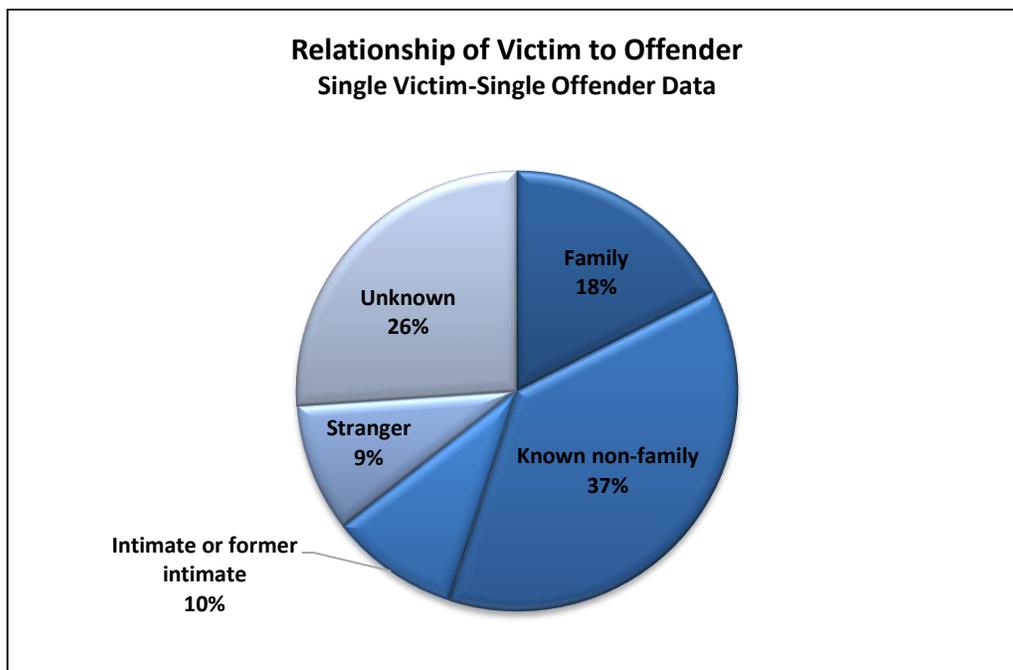
Victim-offender race. There is a great tendency for homicide victims and offenders to be of the same race. Ninety-three percent of Black victims were killed by Black offenders. Likewise, 76 percent of White victims were killed by White offenders.

Racial Relationship between Victim and Offender		
	Black Offender	White Offender
Black Victim	93%	8%
White Victim	24%	76%

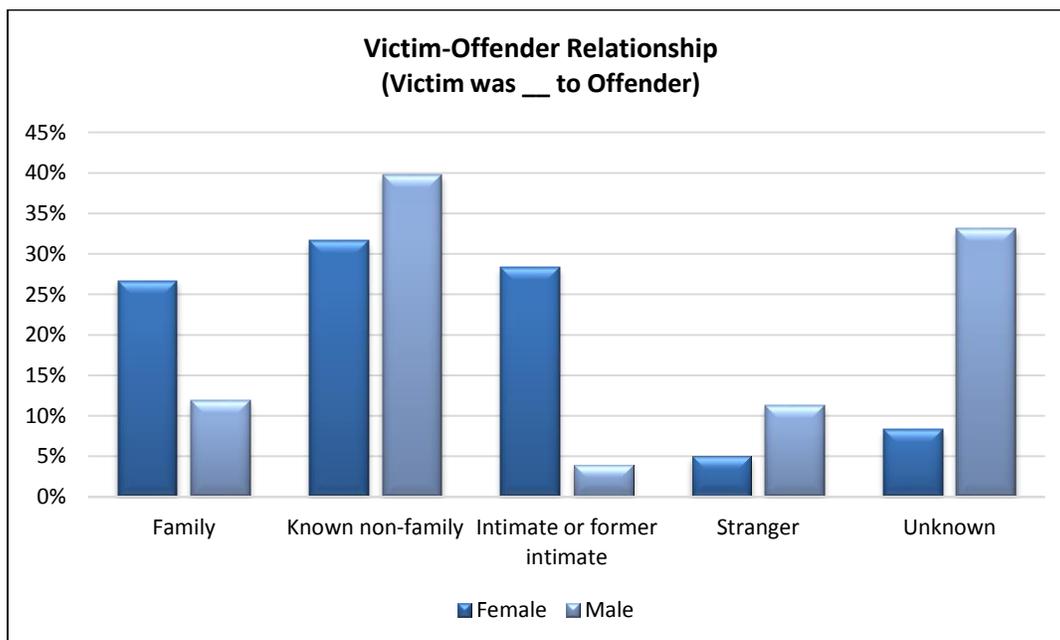
Single victim-single offender incidents. Ninety-four percent of homicide incidents involved a single victim. Of these, 51 percent involved a single victim and a single identified offender. Sixteen percent were committed by multiple offenders. Thirty-three percent were committed by an unknown² offender or offenders.

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 of these, 18 percent were family, 31 percent were known non-family and 10 percent were intimate/former intimate partners.

² 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.



That the victim knew the offender was especially true for female victims. Of the single victim-single offender incidents, 5 percent of females (out of all female victims) were murdered by someone identified as a stranger, compared to 11 percent of male victims (out of all male victims). Additionally, 28 percent of females were murdered by an intimate or former intimate partner, in contrast to four percent of male victims³.

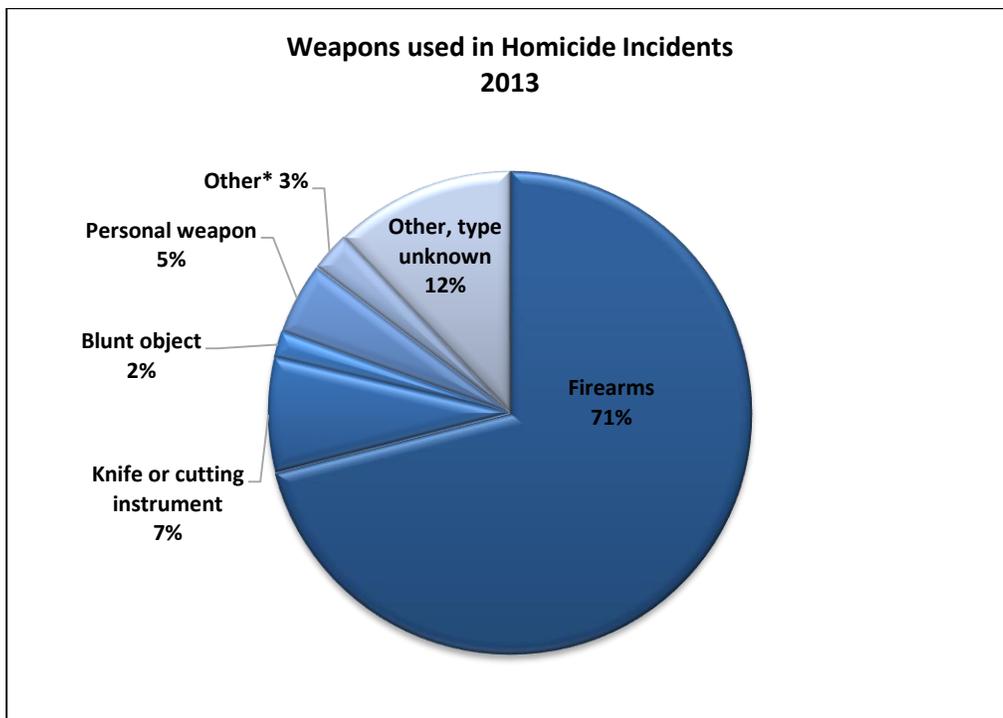


³ Note for this data, “unknown” relationships between the victim and the offender were not included in this section.

Weapons Used in Homicides

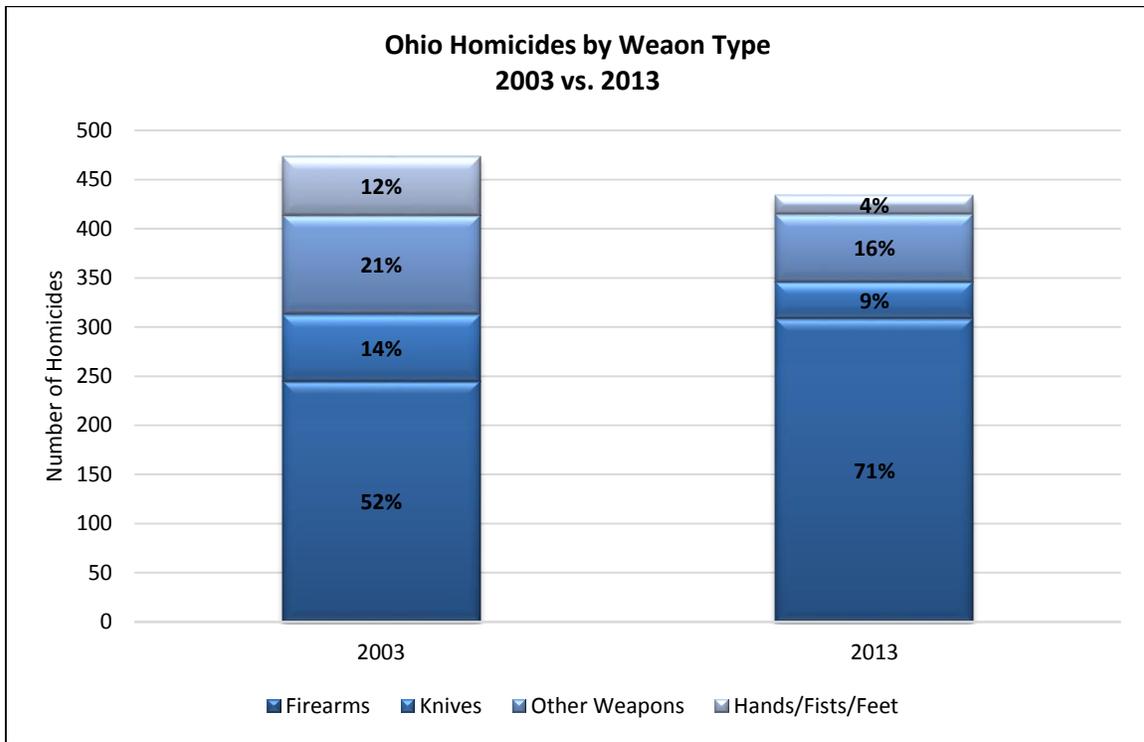
All homicides involve some sort of weaponry, whether it is a firearm, knife, fist, poison, or other object. For all homicide incidents where the weapon could be determined, the following data were obtained.

Firearms were the leading weapon identified in homicide incidents, making up 71 percent of all identified weapons. Five percent of weapons used in homicides fell under the category 'personal weapon', which includes beatings using hands, feet or fists. Eight percent of homicides involved knives or cutting instruments. Twelve percent of homicides involved other unknown weapons.



*Includes weapons such as narcotics/drugs, strangulation, fire, narcotics/drugs, drowning and asphyxiation used in homicides.

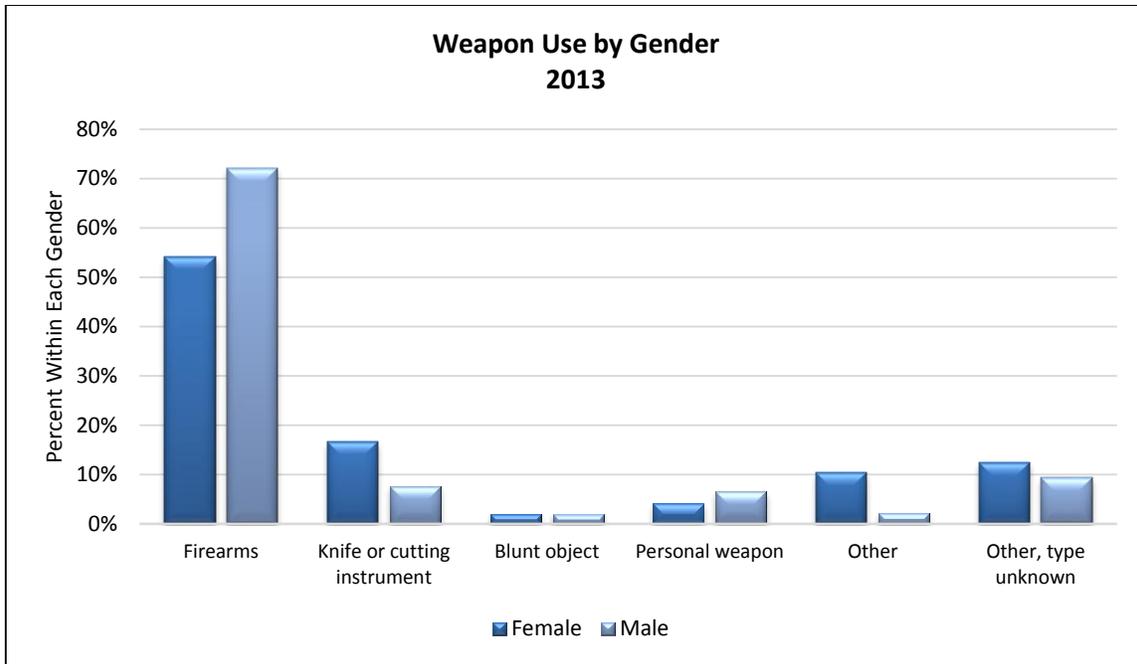
A comparison of weapon usage in homicides between 2003 and 2013 shows some change over the decade, especially with an increased use of firearms on homicide victims. Firearms were used on 52 percent of homicide victims in 2003 and 71 percent in 2013⁴.



Source: FBI's *Crime in the United States*, 2003 and 2013.

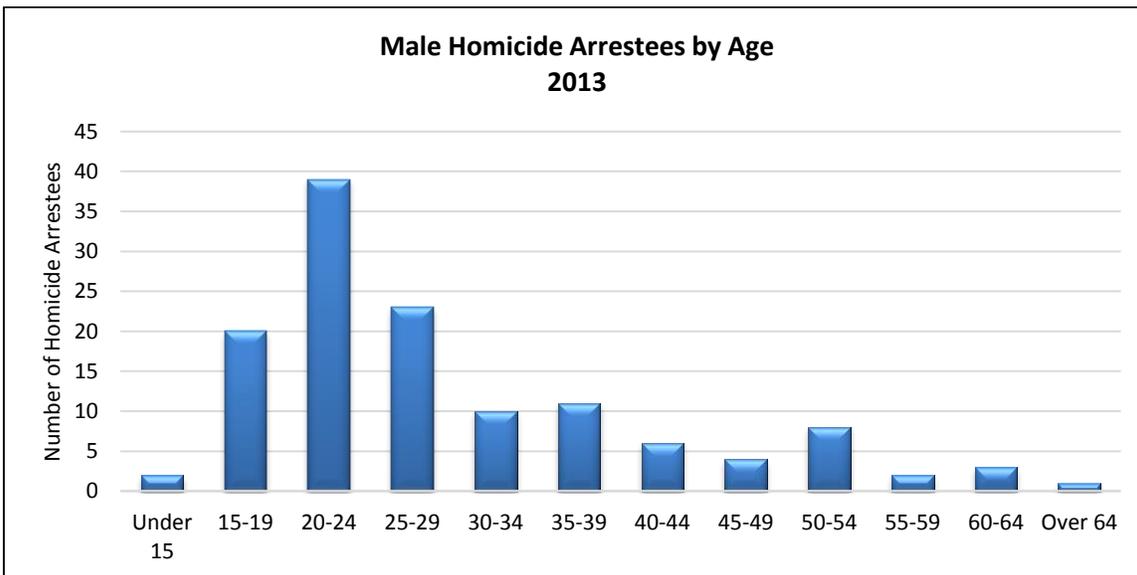
Differences in weapon usage emerge as a function of gender. Seventy-two percent of male offenders used a firearm to commit homicide, as opposed to 54 percent of females. Knives and cutting instruments were used by a higher percentage of females than males, although the overall number of homicides committed by females using these weapons remains low.

⁴ Note that in this chart homicides by weapon type are broken down as a percentage of all victims (e.g., 71% 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).



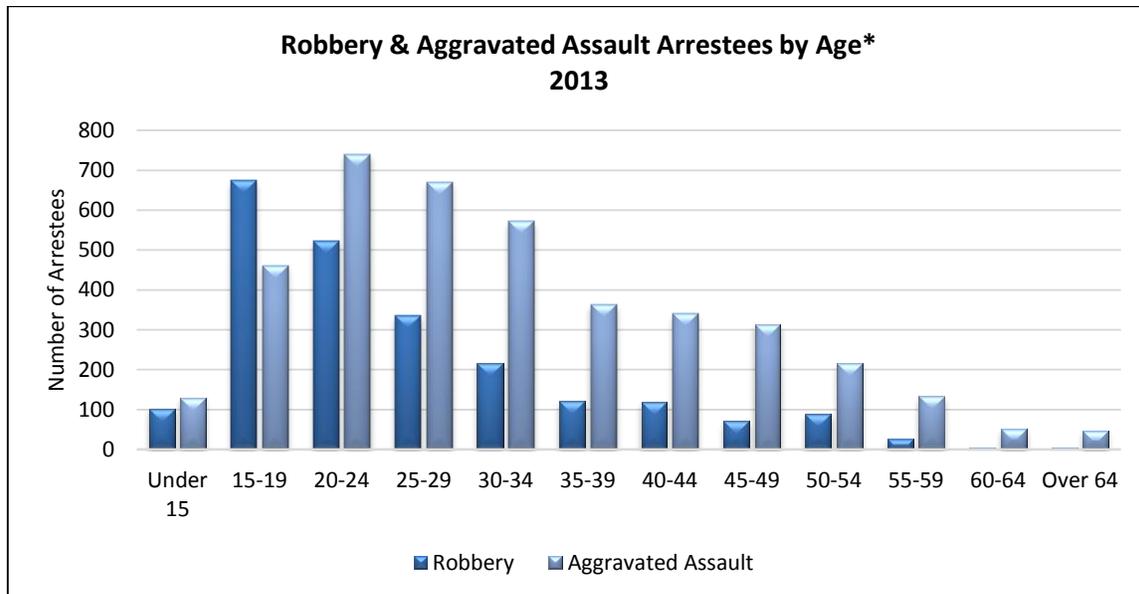
Arrestees

In 2013, 150 individuals were arrested for homicide. Eighty-six percent of those arrested were male. Forty-six percent of all male arrestees fell between the ages of 15 and 24.



Source: FBI's Arrest by County 2013 tables

The majority of arrestees for other violent crimes were male. Ninety-nine percent of rape⁵ arrestees, 81 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-two percent of forcible rape arrestees, 67 percent of robbery arrestees, and 46 percent of aggravated assault arrestees fell between the ages of 15 and 29.



Source: FBI's Arrest by County 2013 tables
 *Includes both Male & Female data

⁵ Beginning in 2013, rape is defined by the FBI as the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. The revised definition expands rape to include both male and female victims and offenders, and reflects the various forms of sexual penetration understood to be rape, especially non-consenting acts of sodomy, and sexual assaults with objects.

Homicides Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means

In 2013, the FBI reported that nationally over 64 percent of homicides were cleared by arrest or exceptional means⁶. Homicide has the highest clearance rate of all Part I violent crimes. Fifty-eight percent of aggravated assaults, 41 percent of forcible rapes (revised definition), and 29 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.

City Population Size	Clearance Rate
250,000 or more	63.0%
100,000-249,999	61.3%
50,000-99,999	57.5%
25,000-49,999	65.2%
10,000-24,999	69.0%
Under 10,000	67.0%

Source: FBI's *Crime in the United States* 2013

⁶ 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.