



GUN VIOLENCE IN OHIO

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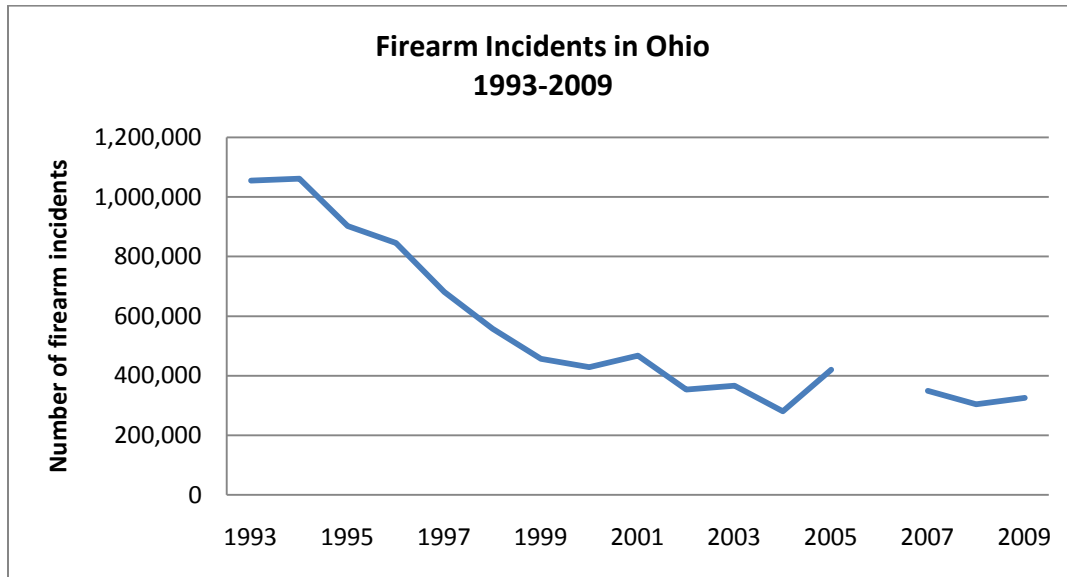
Gun violence is an issue that touches communities across the United States. Ohio's communities are no exception. Capturing data on nature, extent, and frequency of gun violence is a vital first step to conducting research and developing strategies and policies aimed at gun violence prevention.

Data on gun violence are collected by a number of criminal justice and non-criminal justice sources. Some of the data are specific to Ohio or regions within Ohio, and some are representative of the U.S. as a whole. This report pulls together statistics from numerous sources to present a snapshot of gun violence in Ohio.

National Crime Victimization Survey

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is administered annually by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. It is one measure of crime in the United States. It collects data on reported and unreported nonfatal crime. Specifically, the survey collects detailed information on rape, sexual assault, personal robbery, aggravated and simple assault, household burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft.

Analyses indicate a decline in both nonfatal firearm incidents and victims over the past several years. In 1993, the firearm crime rate was 5.9 per 1,000 residents. By 2009, this rate had decreased to 1.4 per 1,000 residents. Likewise, in 1993, 11 percent of all violent crimes involved a firearm. By 2009, this had decreased to eight percent.



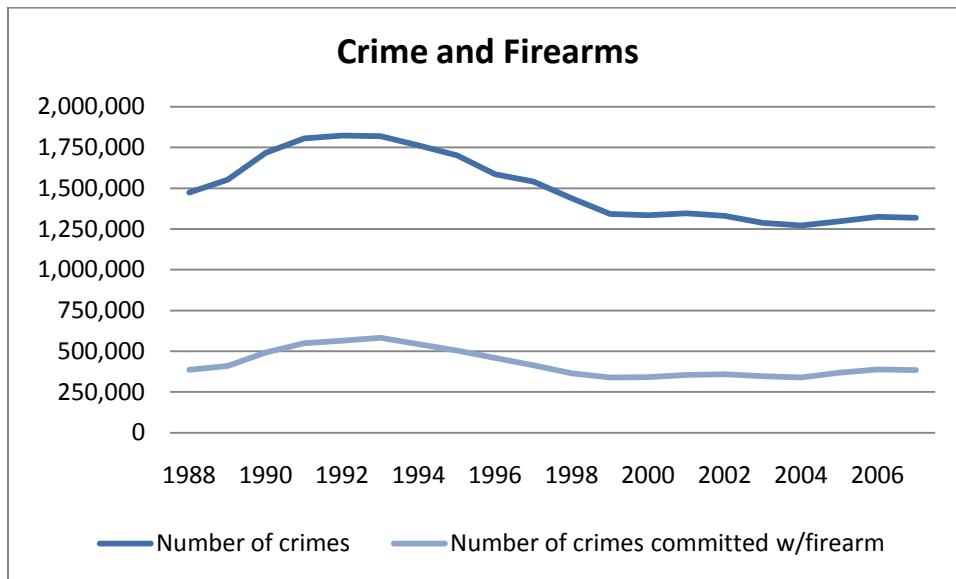
Source: National Crime Victimization Survey

Note: *Victimization rate trends excludes NCVS estimates for 2006 because of methodological inconsistencies between the data for that year and the data for other years. Changes to the NCVS and their impact upon the survey's estimates in 2006 are discussed in the Criminal Victimization, 2006 Technical Notes.

Uniform Crime Reporting Program

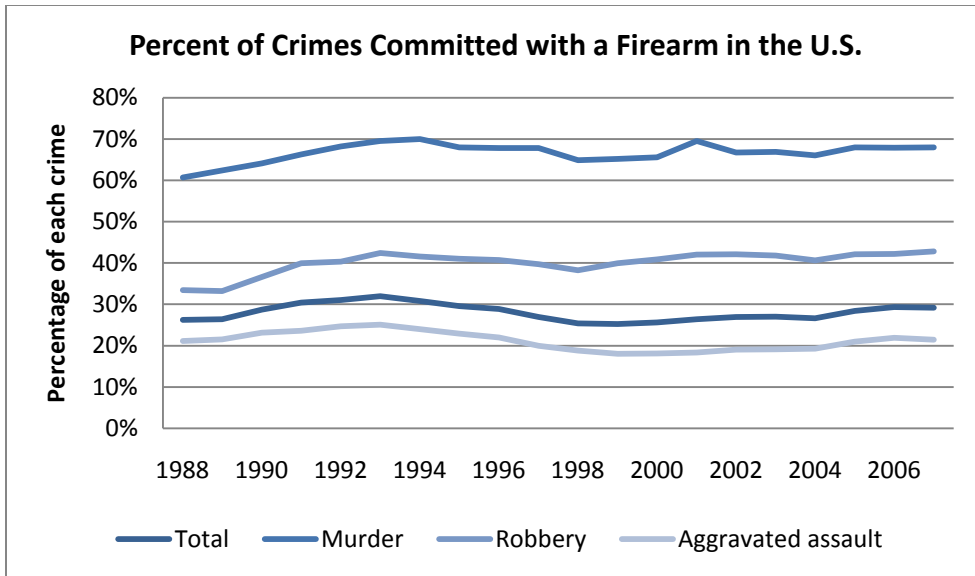
Another indicator of crime is the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. UCR collects information on various fatal and non-fatal crimes reported to law enforcement. UCR specifically collects weapon data on homicides, robberies, and aggravated assaults.

Of these three crimes, homicides were most likely to be committed with a firearm, followed by robberies and aggravated assaults. From 1988 to 2007, the total number of homicides, robberies, and aggravated assaults decreased 10.6 percent in the U.S, as shown by the dark blue line in the following table. The total number of homicides and aggravated assaults *committed with a firearm* also decreased but by a smaller percentage—three percent—as shown by the light blue line in the table.



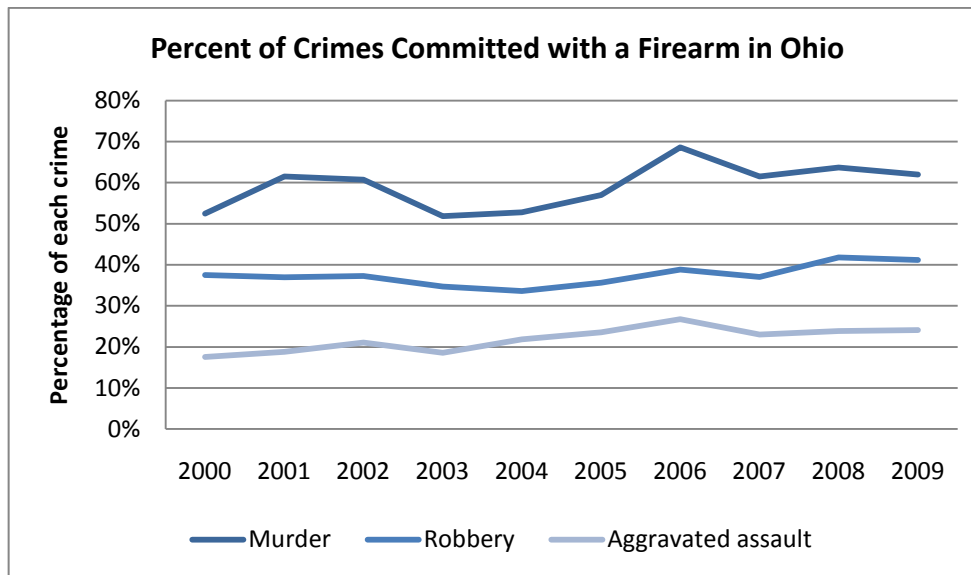
Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1988-2007.

The same holds true for murder, robbery, and aggravated assault. For instance, although there was an 18.1 percent decrease in the number of homicides between 1988 and 2007, there was only an 8.3 percent decrease in the total number of homicides committed with a firearm. Likewise, there was a six percent decrease in the total number of aggravated assaults between 1988 and 2007, but a 4.6 percent decrease in the number of aggravated assaults in which a firearm was used. In the case of robberies, although the total number of robberies decreased during these two decades, the total number of robberies committed with a firearm actually increased. The end result for these three crimes is an overall increase in the percent of crimes committed with a firearm.



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 1988-2007.

In Ohio, as in the U.S., homicide is the crime most frequently committed with a firearm. Over a 10-year period, the percentage of homicides committed with a firearm averaged 59.2 percent. On average, slightly over one-third of robberies and slightly more than 20 percent of aggravated assaults were committed with a firearm.



Source: FBI's Crime in the United States, 2000-2009.

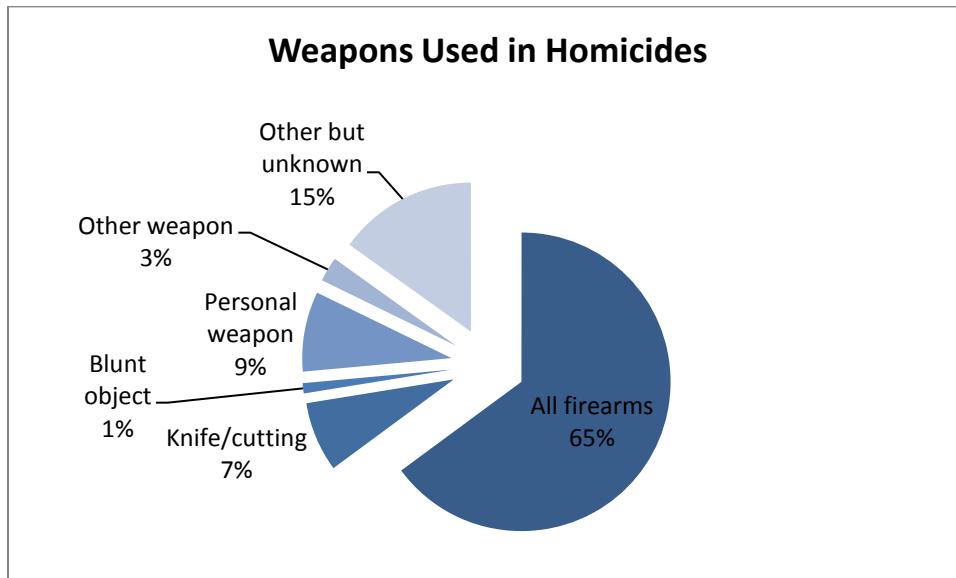
Supplementary Homicide Report

Law enforcement agencies that participate in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program are also asked to submit detailed information on criminal homicides through the Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR). The SHR provides incident-level details on location, victim, and offender characteristics. Nationally, usage of the SHR covers about 92 percent of all homicides). A significant problem of using SHR data is with regard to analysis of offender characteristics due to the sizable number of unsolved homicides contained in the data file. Missing offender data, particularly when associated with certain offender characteristics, can result in underestimation of rates of offending, distort trends, and bias patterns of offending¹. This must be taken into consideration when looking at SHR data.

Weapons Used in Homicides

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

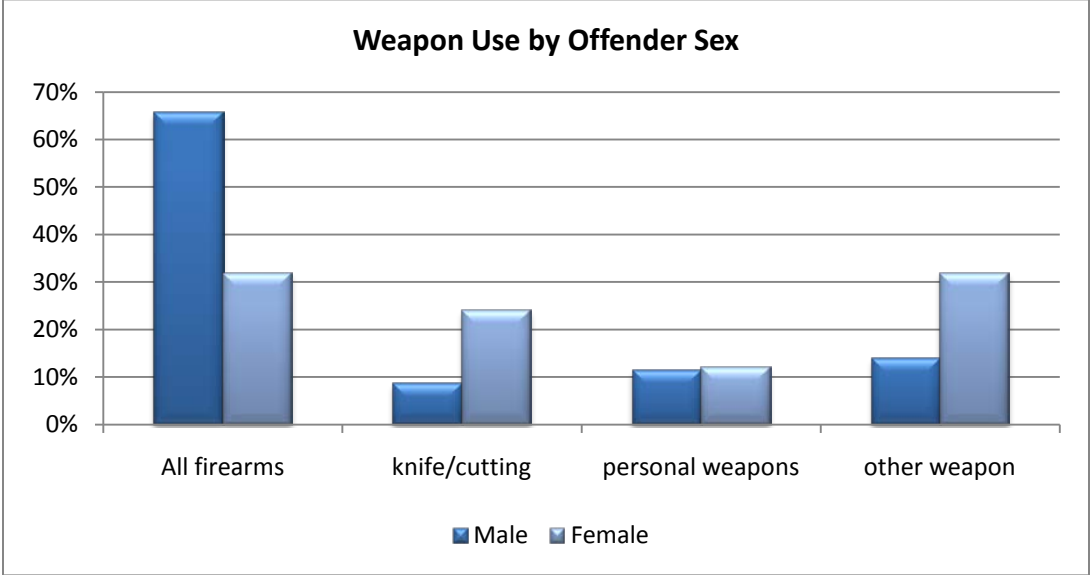
Firearms were the leading weapon identified in homicide incidents, making up 65 percent of all identified weapons. Nine percent of weapons used in homicides fell under the category 'personal weapons', which includes beatings using hands, feet, fists. Eight percent of homicides involved knives/cutting instruments. Fifteen percent of homicides were due to other unknown weapons.



Source: Supplemental Homicide Report, 2008 data

¹ National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (online). <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/SDA/shr7699d.html>

Differences in weapon usage emerge as a function of gender. Sixty-six percent of male offenders used a firearm to commit homicide, as opposed to 32 percent of females. Of all weapon types, knives/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.



Source: Supplemental Homicide Report, 2008 data

Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System

One tool that can be used to examine gun crime 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 2009, 545 agencies covering approximately 71 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, and weapon use, among others.

Some limitations must be noted regarding the use of OIBRS data:

- Because reporting for Ohio is voluntary, caution should be used in interpreting the findings reported in this paper, as the data may reflect more the composition of the OIBRS-reporting jurisdictions than the composition of the state as a whole.
- Because the number of agencies submitting OIBRS data increases yearly, no annual comparisons can be made with the data.
- Not all victims choose to report crime to law enforcement. Thus, what is reflected in this document are only those incidents that have been reported to police.
- Incidents are often reported that contain some missing data elements, such as information on demographics, weapon type, or circumstances regarding the incident. In this report, statistics are only provided for those instances in which complete information is available.

Gun incidents in Ohio

Between 2007 and 2009, law enforcement in OIBRS participating agencies reported 36,318 criminal incidents in which a gun was present. Nearly 90 percent of the incidents came from seven counties: Franklin, Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Lucas, Montgomery, Summit, and Mahoning.

County	Number of Firearm-involved Incidents	Percentage
Franklin	9,082	25.0%
Cuyahoga	8,935	24.6%
Hamilton	6,242	17.2%
Lucas	2,620	7.2%
Montgomery	2,514	6.9%
Summit	1,764	4.9%
Mahoning	1,492	4.1%
Remainder of Ohio	3,669	10.1%
Total	36,318	100%

Source: OIBRS data, 2007-2009

Type of firearm

Approximately 69 percent of firearms reported were handguns. A smaller percentage of firearms were shotguns and rifles. Twenty-four percent were unspecified.

Firearm Type	Number of Firearms	Percentage
Handgun	25,156	69.3%
Shotgun	1,105	3.0%
Rifle (incl. semi-auto and auto)	565	1.6%
Other firearm	793	2.2%
Firearm—type unspecified	8,699	24.0%
Total	36,318	100%

Source: OIBRS data, 2007-2009

Location of incident

The majority of incidents involving firearms took place in an outside location, such as a street or a parking lot. Residential structures (single-family and multi-family dwellings) were also common locations for crimes involving firearms. Across all retail establishments, restaurants, convenience stores, gas stations, and bars were the site for 75.3 percent of gun-involved incidents.

Location Type	Number of Firearm-involved Incidents	Percentage
Outside	20,287	55.9%
Residential structure	10,104	27.8%
Retail establishments	4,070	11.2%
Commercial services	930	2.6%
Public access building	493	1.4%
Other location	434	1.2%
Total	36,318	100%

Source: OIBRS data, 2007-2009

Offenses involving firearms

There is often more than one offense (i.e., crime) that occurs within a given incident. Consequently, of the 36,318 incidents reported in OIBRS between 2007-2009, there were 43,653 corresponding offenses. Three offenses—robbery, weapon law violations, and aggravated assault—made up over 78 percent of all offenses reported.

Offense Reported	Number of Firearm-involved Offenses	Percentage
Robbery	18,257	41.8%
Weapon law violations	8,754	20.1%
Aggravated assault	7,221	16.5%
Intimidation	2,228	5.1%
Burglary/B&E	1,030	2.4%
Murder	734	1.7%
All other offenses	5,429	12.4%
Total	43,653	100%

Source: OIBRS data, 2007-2009

Locations of offenses

An analysis of type of crime by location was conducted in order to determine whether certain crimes involving firearms were more commonly committed in certain locations. The specific locations analyzed were residential structures (single- and multi-family dwellings combined), schools/colleges, restaurants/bars, liquor stores, and drug stores.

The highest percentage of robberies involving firearms occurred at retail establishments—restaurants/bars, liquor stores, and drug stores. The highest percentage of firearm-involved crimes at schools and colleges were weapon law violations. Crimes in residential structures were more evenly split between robbery, weapon law violations, and aggravated assaults.

Offense Reported	Percentage of Firearm-involved Offenses Occurring in Specific Locations					
	Residential Structure N=12,737	Schools and Colleges N=309	Restaurants and Bars N=1,659	Liquor Stores N=45	Drug Stores N=150	
Robbery	29.6%	16.2%	65.6%	83.7%	95.7%	
Agg assault	24.6%	9.5%	14.0%	7.0%	1.4%	
Weapon law	28.1%	64.8%	16.3%	4.7%	2.2%	
Burglary	9.0%	0.8%	0.3%	2.3%	0.0%	
Intimidation	8.6%	8.7%	3.7%	2.3%	0.7%	
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	

Source: OIBRS data, 2007-2009

Suspect age

The age of the suspect(s) in each gun-involved incident were analyzed. Note that in many cases the suspect was unknown or at large; thus, in such cases the age variable was left blank or reported as unknown. If the age variable was left blank or was reported as 0 or 99 (two numbers used by law enforcement to mean 'unknown'), it was not included in the analysis. Additionally, if the suspect was involved in multiple offenses within a single incident, his or her age was included in the analysis only once.

Analysis of 29,734 suspects for whom age information was known indicated that the mean suspect age was 23.9. Both the median and the mode (two other measures of central tendency) were 20.0.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

A key component of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) enforcement mission is the tracing of firearms on behalf of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Firearms trace data provides insight into the nature and frequency of firearms recoveries in Ohio and in the U.S.

ATF notes the following disclaimers with regard to firearm trace data: 1) Firearm traces are designed to assist law enforcement authorities in conducting investigations by tracking the sale and possession of specific firearms. Law enforcement agencies may request firearms traces for any reason, and those reasons are not necessarily reported to the Federal Government. Not all firearms used in crime are traced and not all firearms traced are used in crime. 2) Firearms selected for tracing are not chosen for purposes of determining which types, makes, or models of firearms are used for illicit purposes. The firearms selected do not constitute a random sample and should not be considered representative of the larger universe of all firearms used by criminals, or any subset of that universe. Firearms are normally traced to the first retail seller, and sources reported for firearms traced do not necessarily represent the sources or methods by which firearms in general are acquired for use in crime.

Types of Firearms Recovered in Ohio

In 2009, there were 10,390 firearms recovered and traced in Ohio. Recovery does not include gun buybacks and firearms turned in. Of the firearms recovered and traced, the majority, 78 percent, were pistols and revolvers.

Firearm Type	Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced in Ohio	Percentage of Firearms Recovered and Traced in Ohio
Pistol	5,693	54.8%
Revolver	2,341	22.5%
Shotgun	1,090	10.5%
Rifle	1,082	10.4%
All other	184	1.8%
Total	10,390	100%

Source: ATF Firearms Tracing System data, 2009

Categories Reported on Firearm Traces

The top category reported on firearm traces with an Ohio recovery was *possession of weapon*, which constituted over one-third of the gun traces. This was followed by *dangerous drugs*, which made up nearly 12 percent of firearm traces.

Category	Number of Cases in Ohio	Percentage of Cases in Ohio
Possession of weapon	3,683	35.4%
Dangerous drugs	1,222	11.8%
Carrying concealed weapon	789	7.6%
Found firearm	659	6.3%
Health safety	645	6.2%
Homicide	403	3.9%
Firearm under investigation	336	3.2%
Robbery	336	3.2%
Simple assault	330	3.2%
Other	1,478	14.2%
None provided	509	4.9%
Total	10,390	100%

Source: ATF Firearms Tracing System data, 2009

Time to Crime

'Time-to-crime' was calculated for firearm traces with an Ohio recovery. This was calculated for those traces in which the purchase date could be subtracted from the recovery date (N=6,696). Of these, the average time to crime in Ohio was 10.43 years, and the national average was 10.77 years. Approximately 4.5 percent of firearms with an Ohio recovery had a time-to-crime rate of less than three months.

Top Recovery Cities in Ohio

The top recovery cities in Ohio were also the largest in population. Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland accounted for nearly half (49%) of all firearms recovered in Ohio in 2009.

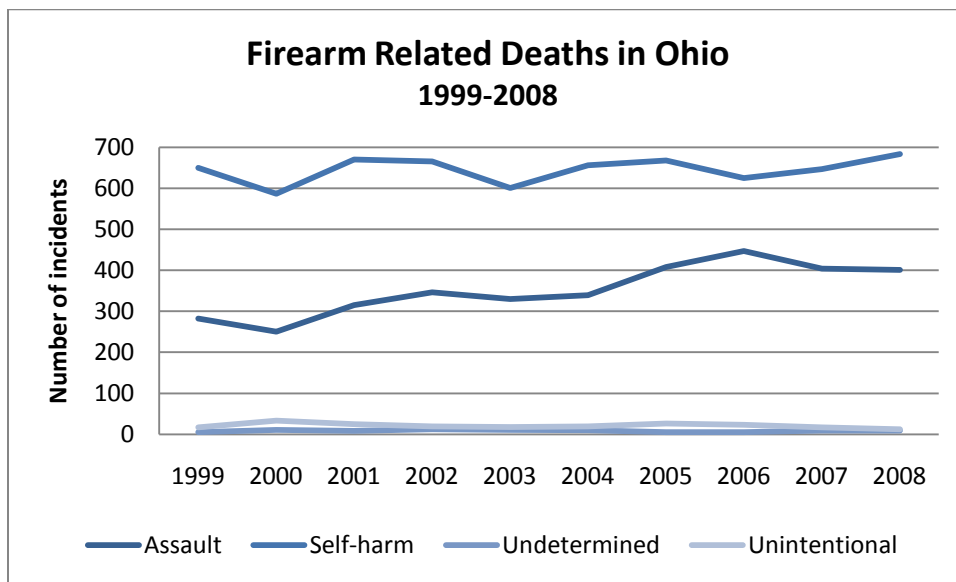
City	Number of Recoveries	Percentage of Recoveries
Columbus	2,309	22.4%
Cincinnati	1,401	13.6%
Cleveland	1,371	13.3%
Toledo	798	7.8%
Dayton	686	6.7%
Akron	538	5.2%
Youngstown	225	2.2%
Canton	164	1.6%
Mansfield	143	1.4%
Warren	141	1.4%
All others (N=370 other agencies)	2,520	24.5%
Total	10,390	100%

Source: ATF Firearms Tracing System data, 2009

Ohio Department of Health

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) collects data on all births and deaths in the state. Statistics are kept on intentional and unintentional firearm deaths, which include accidental discharge, intentional self-harm, and homicide.

Between 1999 and 2008, there were 10,270 deaths caused by firearms. Suicides were the most frequently reported cause of death due to firearms, accounting for 63 percent of all deaths. Thirty-four percent were assaults (homicides) by firearms. Two percent of deaths were due to the accidental discharge of a firearm, and in less than one percent the intent was undetermined.



Source: Ohio Dept. of Health, Office of Vital Statistics

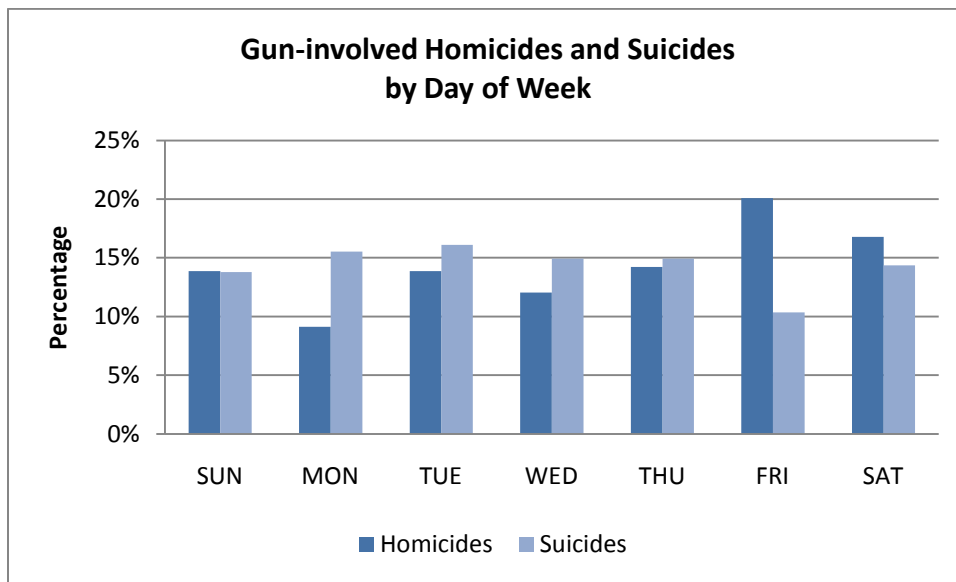
Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office

The Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office collects data on gun-involved deaths as the result of homicide, suicide, or accident. Between 2007 and 2009, there were 491 gun-involved deaths. Of these, 294 (59.9%) were homicides, 190 (38.7%) were suicides, four (0.8%) were accidental, and three (0.6%) were violence of undetermined origin.

The demographic characteristics of gun-involved homicide and suicide victims are somewhat different. Although males constitute the majority of victims of both homicides and suicides involving a gun, the race and age of victims differ.

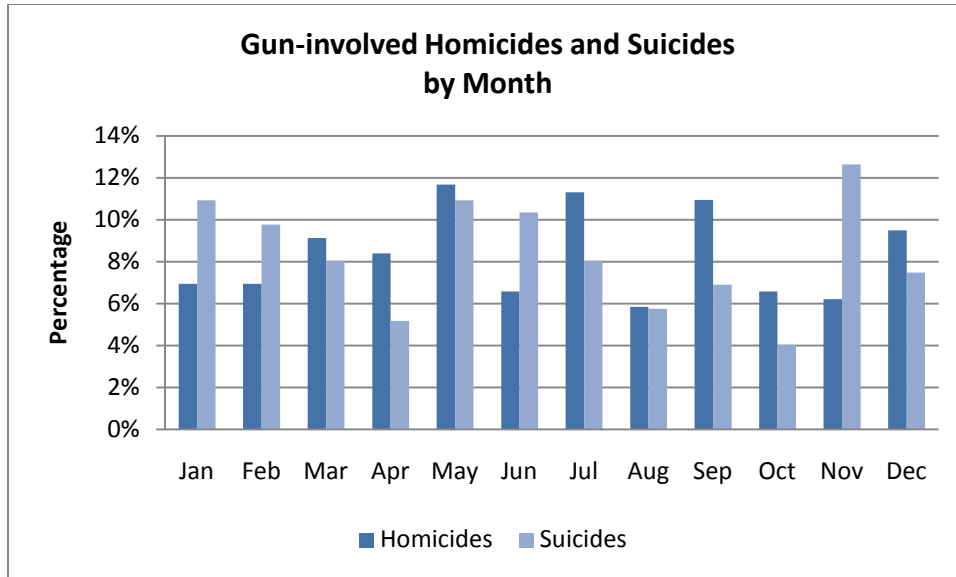
Manner of Death	Gender		Race		Median Age
	Male	Female	White	Non-White	
Homicide	89.1%	10.9%	22.4%	77.6%	27.0 years
Suicide	90.0%	10.0%	77.4%	22.6%	47.0 years

Over a third of gun-involved homicides occurred on the weekend (Friday or Saturday). Gun-involved suicides were more spread out throughout the week.



Source: Cuyahoga County Coroner, 2007-2009 data

The highest number of gun-involved homicides occurred during the months of May (32), July (31), and September (30). November recorded the highest number of gun-involved suicides (22).



Source: Cuyahoga County Coroner, 2007-2009 data