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SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST:

In this issue we would like to highlight January as National Stalking Awareness Month, so please check out the Stalking in Ohio – 2014 report below for Ohio specific data. For more survivor-specific information, please check the [Family Violence Prevention Center \(FVPC\) page](#) on the OCJS website for the [Self-Help Legal Manual](#) for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence and Stalking.



Office of Criminal Justice Services

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OCJS Research Brief

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Stalking in Ohio – 2014

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Similar to other states' laws, the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) statute 2903.211, Menacing by Stalking, characterizes stalking as engaging in a pattern of conduct that knowingly causes a person to believe that he or she will be physically harmed or will endure mental distress. Stalking in and of itself is considered a crime. The victim and the offender do not have to have a relationship or even know each other in order for stalking to occur. It is important to note however that stalking can be masked and charged as other crimes such as criminal trespass, burglary, or domestic violence, especially if the pattern of behavior has not been established for law enforcement. This report details the characteristics of stalking specific to ORC 2903.211.

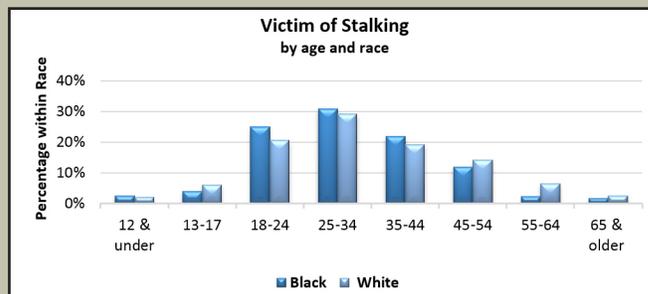
One tool that can be used to examine stalking in Ohio is the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS). OIBRS is a voluntary crime reporting program in which Ohio law enforcement agencies can submit crime statistics directly to the state and federal government in an automated format. At the end of 2014, 550 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.

In 2014, the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System agencies reported 1,356 incidents of stalking. The majority of stalking incidents were reported as occurring at a person's residence; however incidents were reported in numerous public areas as well.

Age: The average age of stalking victims was 33.2 years and approximately 51 percent of victims were between the ages of 18 and 34 years.

Gender: Eighty-one percent of victims were female.

Race: About 74 percent of victims were White, 25 percent were Black and less than one percent fell within the 'Other' category. White females made up 75 percent of all female stalking victims and White males made up 69 percent of all male stalking victims.



Of the single-victim/single-suspect cases for which relationship data was known and reported (approximately 90 percent), the data show that stalking victims nearly always knew their stalker – only seven percent of victims reported the stalker as a stranger.



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

Domestic Violence in Ohio, 2014

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Staff from the OCJS Policy and Research section work closely with the Family Violence Prevention Council Advisory Board to better understand the current state of domestic violence in Ohio. As part of the latest effort in this collaboration, OCJS researchers analyzed OIBRS data for domestic violence incidents in 2014. Selected findings from this report are included below, and the full report can be accessed [HERE](#).

Overview

- The rate of domestic violence victimization in Ohio decreased by 3.6% from 2010 to 2014, with the rate falling from 730.0 victims per 100,000 population to 703.6 victims per 100,000.
- Over half of all domestic violence victimizations involved simple assault (52.6%). An additional 36.8% involved intimidation, while 5.5% involved aggravated assault.
- Domestic violence occurred most frequently on weekends and during the summer (see Figure 1).

Victim Characteristics

- Females were victimized more frequently than males; they accounted for 71.1% of all domestic violence victims.
- Approximately 61.1% of victims were White, while 38.6% of victims were Black or African American.
- The victim in nearly one-third of all domestic violence offenses was the suspect's boyfriend or girlfriend (31.3%). Children were the second most frequently victimized group (13.4%), followed by spouses (12.0%) and parents (9.0%).

Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths – 2014

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In 2014, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) collected reports for 44 arrest-related deaths in Ohio. Eighteen counties were reported to have at least one arrest-related death, with Cuyahoga County accounting for 23 percent of the incidents. Regionally, North-east Ohio accounted for 39 percent of arrest-related death incidents.

Region	Total	Percent
Central	11	25%
Southeast	1	2%
Southwest	15	34%
Northeast	17	39%
Northwest	0	0%

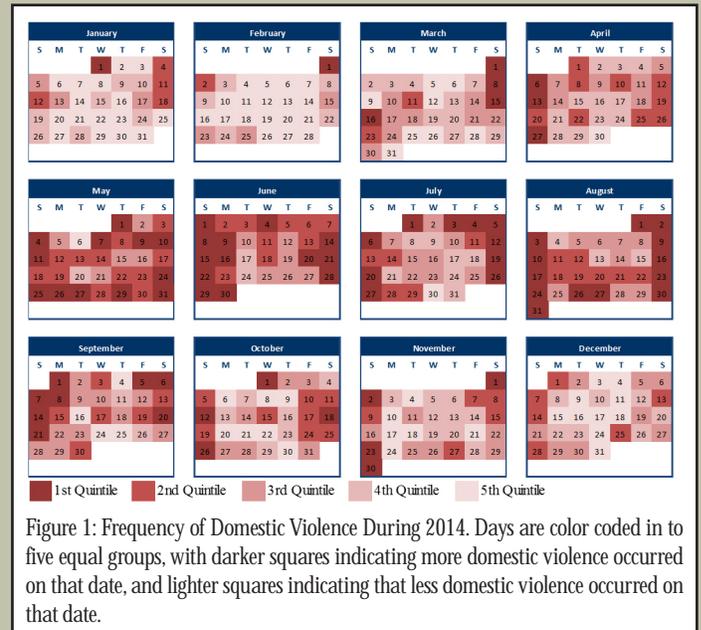


Figure 1: Frequency of Domestic Violence During 2014. Days are color coded in to five equal groups, with darker squares indicating more domestic violence occurred on that date, and lighter squares indicating that less domestic violence occurred on that date.

Suspect Characteristics

- Most suspects in domestic violence cases were male (73.0%).
- Approximately 56.3% of suspects were White, while 43.4% of suspects were Black or African American.
- Nearly one-third (32.6%) of all suspects fell between the ages of 18-27. Individuals aged 28-37 accounted for an additional 29.0% of all suspects.

When circumstances were known, 17 incidents involved the decedent attempting to injure or injuring others. Of those incidents, the following were reported:

- Nine or 41% attempted to injure law enforcement personnel
- Three or 14% non-fatally injured law enforcement personnel
- Three or 14% non-fatally injured civilian(s)
- Five or 23% attempted to injure civilian(s)
- Two or 9% fatally injured civilian(s)

Seventy-one percent (29) of the decedents displayed a weapon during an arrest-related incident. Of the 17 incidents that involved a decedent attempting to injure or injuring others, 88 percent (15) of the decedents displayed a weapon.

During the arrest-related death incidents,

- Sixty-eight percent of decedents were reported to have resisted being handcuffed or arrested.

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Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths – 2014

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- Fifty-three percent were reported to have made an attempt to escape or flee from custody.

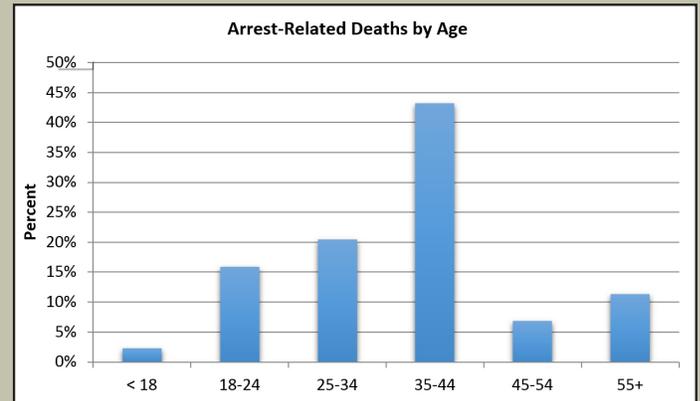
Sixty-four percent (28) of the deaths were ruled a homicide by law enforcement and 30 percent (13) were the result of a suicide. The remaining 7 percent (3) were ruled an accident.

Decedent Characteristics

Of the decedents identified in an arrest-related death, there were a total of 42 males and two females.

	Female Total	Percent	Male Total	Percent
Black	1	2%	17	39%
White	1	2%	25	57%

The average age of a decedent was 36.6 years and 43 percent of decedents were between the ages of 35 and 44 years. Of the Black decedents, 44 percent fell between the ages of 35 and 44 years, while 42 percent of White decedents fell between the ages of 35 and 44 years.



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

Drug Crime in Ohio, 2004-2014

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Most crime in Ohio decreased steadily over the past decade; however, the rate of drug-related crime actually increased from 2004-2014. Data from the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS¹) suggests that drug-related crime increased by 50% during this timeframe, while violent crime decreased by 17%, and property crime decreased by 24%. To better understand the characteristics of these crimes, data from OIBRS were analyzed for 2004-2014. Preliminary findings are included below, and more information will be available in a forthcoming report from OCJS.

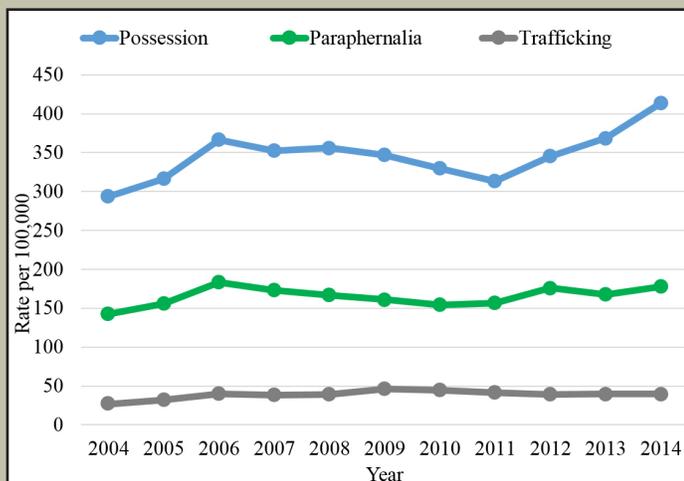


Figure 1: Drug Possession, Paraphernalia, and Trafficking Offense Rates in Ohio, 2004-2014

Offense Characteristics

- Drug possession offenses increased by 62.7%, while drug trafficking offenses increased by 70.3%, and drug paraphernalia offenses increased by 43.8% (Figure 1).
- Offense rates for five major drug categories in the OIBRS database are shown in Figure 2. The offense rate for cocaine and/or crack decreased by 49.6%, while the offense rate for all other drug categories increased from 2004-2014.
- The rate of opiate-related offenses increased by nearly 600% from 2004-2014. This was primarily driven by an increase in heroin offenses, which increased by over 1000%.
- Stimulant offenses increased by 273.2% from 2004-2014. However, this increase has largely occurred since 2010, and has primarily been driven by an increase in methamphetamine-related offenses.
- The rate for marijuana-related offenses increased by 90.3% and exceeded the rate of all other drug types combined.

Suspect Characteristics

- Offenders were most likely to be white males between the ages of 18-34.
- Males were involved in the majority of drug-related offenses, ranging from 83% of all offenders in 2004 to 76% of all offenders in 2014.

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Drug Crime in Ohio, 2004-2014

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- The proportion of white suspects increased from 59% in 2004 to 69% in 2014. During that same time period, the proportion of black suspects decreased from 41% to 31%.
- Individuals between the ages of 18-34 were the most frequent offenders, ranging from 63% in 2004 to 68% in 2014.

¹ OIBRS is a voluntary crime reporting program that enables law enforcement to submit crime statistics. Since not all Ohio law enforcement agencies report data to OIBRS, data are reported as rates and percentages instead of totals.

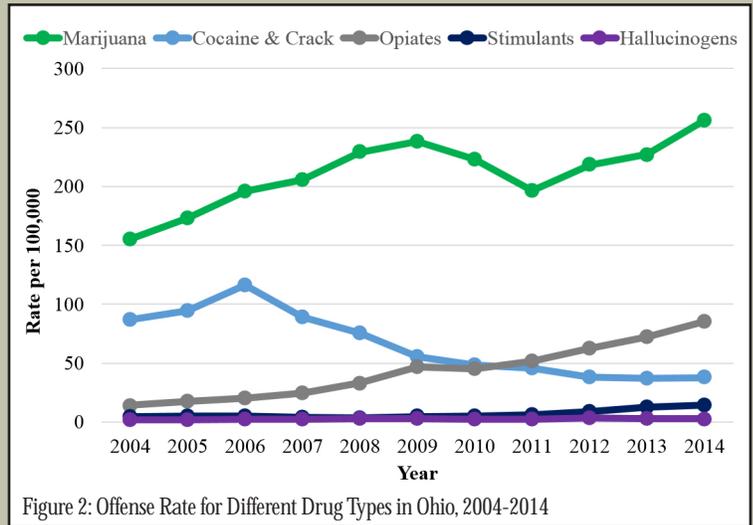


Figure 2: Offense Rate for Different Drug Types in Ohio, 2004-2014