An Update on Domestic Violence in the Criminal Justice System Marion County, IN

November, 2022

Acknowledgments

This report was prepared by the Polis Center at IUPUI.

The Polis Center produced this report as a part of a data integration, assessment, and analysis project for the Domestic Violence Network. The purpose of the project was to update findings released in the 2018 report to gain a better understanding of the state of domestic violence in Marion County. This project also updates a public-facing web tool to summarize the findings of this report (indydvdata.org).

This report utilizes mapping and neighborhood socio-economic conditions from the SAVI Community Information System to understand where domestic violence is reported and the related risk factors.

Table of Contents

I. Executive Summary
Overview

This report summarizes the state of domestic violence in the criminal justice system in Marion County in 2020 and presents trends in the data since 2009. It builds upon reports in 2013, 2014, and 2018 conducted by the Polis Center at IUPUI in partnership with the Domestic Violence Network.

This 2022 report provides an update on the statistics previously published in 2018 and adds an assessment of major trends in the data between 2009 and 2020 (the years for which data is available from most sources). Data in this report will also be published to an online dashboard at www.IndyDVdata.org.

Domestic Violence Victims and Perpetrators

- In 2020, there were an estimated 10,105 victims of domestic violence (one percent of the population) and 5,880 perpetrators reported in the legal system.
- Victims' gender is predominantly recorded as female (71 percent in 2020)[1], with the largest group aged 25-29. Victims of male gender make up a higher proportion in 2020 (23 percent) than in 2016 (17 percent).
- Perpetrators' gender is predominantly reported as male (81 percent in 2020), with the largest group aged 30-34.
- Forty-five percent of victims are Black and 40 percent are White[2]. Domestic violence victims are disproportionately Black. Comparatively, 27 percent of the population is Black and 51 percent is white.

Where Does Domestic Violence Occur?

- Areas in Center Township outside of downtown tend to have the highest rates of victimization. IMPD's East district has the highest victim rate among police jurisdictions (13.2 per 1000 population).
- Victimization rates for White residents have the same spatial pattern as the overall rate.
- However, for Black residents, victimization rates are high in more neighborhoods, such as downtown and area on the north side of Marion County.

---

[1] Each data source collects gender and gender identity differently. See Data Notes at the end of this report for more information.

[2] Race may be self-reported or observed. In many datasets, Hispanic is included as a race.

IMPD Victims' Assistance

- The number of Victims' Assistance cases fell by 84 percent between 2007-2014, but at 3,616 cases in 2021, the number of cases climbed again to 2007 levels.

Protective Orders[3]

- Three out of four perpetrator-victim pairs with protective orders involve a male perpetrator and a female victim.
- Victims and perpetrators are most typically between the ages of 25 and 44.
- Forty-five percent of all perpetrator-victim pairs are within 4 years of age of each other.
- For victims under 16 years of age, their paired perpetrator is typically more than 20 years older.

Legal Outcomes of Domestic Violence Cases[4]

- Marion County has prosecuted an average of 5,609 domestic violence cases each year from 2017 to 2020, nearly 1,000 more cases per year than 2009-2015.
- Among cases with charges brought, two thirds of cases are dismissed, which is higher than in previous years (55 percent of cases between 2009-2015).
- Of cases where charges are filed and not dismissed, 97 percent resulted in a conviction, similar to results in 2015.
- Felony charges are more likely than misdemeanors to be filed (77 percent compared to 69 percent). However, because these charges are mostly dismissed in the end, this does not increase the chances that a verdict will be reached for a charge.
- Only nine percent of charges resulted in a guilty verdict, and this rate is equal for felonies and misdemeanors.

Lethal Acts in Domestic Violence Cases

- Of 4,756 domestic violence cases documented by police officers using Officer Information Sheets in 2020, many involved potentially lethal acts:
    - Weapons were used in 29 percent of the 2019-2021 cases

---

[3] The data in this report pertain to Civil Protective Orders only.

[4] Based on data only from Marion County Prosecutor's Office, unless noted.

- o Twenty-nine percent of the victims believed the suspect might kill him or her.
- o Thirty-one percent of suspects had tried to strangle the victim in the past.
- o Thirty-one percent of suspects had access to a gun.
- o Fifty-nine percent of victims reported that there have been prior incidents.

Indiana 211

- In 2019, calls marked as domestic-violence-related were most numerous between April and September but made up the highest share of 2-1-1 calls between January and March.
- Callers associated with domestic violence calls most often identified ZIP codes 46204 (downtown Indianapolis) and 46201 (Near Eastside) as their home ZIP codes.
- Overall, the number of domestic violence calls fell precipitously between 2016 and 2019. In 2016, there were 2,703 calls with a domestic violence flag in Marion County alone. In 2019, there were only 890 in the entire Central Indiana region.
- Each call generates one or more needs. Housing is by far the most requested need of domestic violence callers.
- The most common service requested, by far, is "domestic violence shelter." While 86 percent of these requests were met, that still left 84 unmet requests in 2019.
- "Homelessness coordination services" was the second most requested service and had the highest number of unmet requests at 143.

II. Background

The Domestic Violence Network (DVN) is committed to engaging the community to change the culture that leads to domestic violence through advocacy, education, and collaboration. It would like to improve upon its ability to report on the state of domestic violence in Marion County by matching data from various local agencies and organizations that work with domestic violence victims and perpetrators. Its goal is to learn more about the extent of domestic violence, who is affected, and the behavior patterns of both. It also seeks to understand this in relation to the socio-economic context of the communities in which this occurs.

DVN has a long-term goal of creating a system that would allow public access to interactive reporting from available data. To facilitate that goal, we published a web tool in 2018. With the publication of this report, the web tool has been updated with 2020 data. Prior to the April 2014 report, it had been difficult to generate statistics describing the state of domestic violence in the criminal justice system in Marion County. The Polis Center conducted a feasibility study for the Domestic Violence Network to link data from four sources that collect information on victims and perpetrators of domestic violence in the legal system. The result was a report of statistics representing the picture of domestic violence for incidents where the legal system is involved. It does not count all of the incidents that go unreported.

The November 2014 report provided an update on the statistics presented in the first report. In addition, it considered other factors such as the seasonality of domestic violence activity, and geographic patterns. It also explored the effectiveness of the Baker One Initiative, which targets high-risk perpetrators and collects special data for cases where domestic violence is suspected. In 2016 and 2017, we moved data warehousing, integration, and people matching into an enterprise system to streamline data processing. We also incorporated two new data sets as well as data on two additional police jurisdictions in Marion County.

In 2022, we are using the same enterprise system to update these statistics. However, some data sources have changed or are no longer available for inclusion in this project. The Julian Center previously shared data with this project about domestic violence victims they contacted as a follow-up to a police report. However, the center declined to share data since 2016. (Data about clients of The Julian Center has never been shared.) This means we are no longer able to identify domestic violence incidents in police reports, which reduces the utility of police reports as a data source. Previously, police maintained a list of the most dangerous domestic violence perpetrators, called the Baker One list. This was on hold during the Covid-19 pandemic and was not included as a data source. Finally, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) officers complete Officer Information Sheets when responding to a domestic violence report. Full data collection began in 2013, and

data is available for January 1, 2013, to May 31, 2017. Due to a change in their data system, there is no data available until June of 2019. Since then, data were reported for the period June 20, 2019, to December 13, 2020. Between 2017 and 2020, data from the Marion County Prosecutors Office is missing records for cases where no charges were brought.

In general, it has been very difficult to generate statistics describing the state of domestic violence in the criminal justice system in Marion County. Even at the state and national levels, statistics range widely and are not reported consistently. For example, the Domestic Violence Resource Center reports, "between 600,000 and 6 million women are victims of domestic violence each year, and between 100,000 and 6 million men, depending on the type of survey used to obtain the data." While there is no central reporting system in Marion County, this report is an attempt to integrate administrative records to derive these statistics by linking the data between them. For the same reason, it is difficult to compare Marion County's statistics to state or national statistics.

It is important to note that the statistics included in this report only represent the picture of domestic violence for incidents where the legal system is involved, which does not count the incidents that are never reported. Only 41 percent of domestic violence victimizations were reported to police in 2020, according to the Department of Justice.[5]

In 2020, one percent of the population of Marion County were victims of domestic violence based on reports in the legal system. For comparative purposes, according to CDC estimates[6]:

In their lifetime, 38 percent of Indiana women and 15.4 percent of Indiana men have experienced contact sexual violence. Forty-six percent of Indiana women reported contact sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner[7].

---

[5] U.S. Department of Justice. 2021. *Criminal Victimization, 2020*. https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/cv20.pdf

[6] Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[7] No estimate available for men due to a large standard error or count <20.

III. Data Sources

This report uses data collected about domestic violence victims, incidents, and perpetrators. Each data source is described below. Data was collected through 2020 for all sources and began in 2009 for most sources. See Data Notes at the end of the report for more details about the data collected from each of these sources.

IMPD Victims' Assistance

This a civilian unit with IMPD that responds to crimes to provide on-scene crisis intervention and help after the crisis (such as referrals to support services and help with the criminal justice system). This unit responds to many incident types, but records indicate if an incident is related to domestic violence.
Data years: 2007 – 2020, Records: victims, perpetrators, incidents.

Indiana Supreme Court Protective Orders

This report uses data about the civil protective orders that are tracked by the Supreme Court. These data do not reveal a reason for the protective order. This report assumes the majority of these are related to domestic violence.
Data years: 2009 – 2020, **Records:** victims, perpetrators**.**

Marion County Prosecutor's Office

These data include information on cases, defendants, victims, charges, case outcomes, and sentences. Demographic information such as age, race, and gender are provided for defendants and victims.
Data years: Q3 1992 – 2016, **Records:** victims, perpetrators, incidents.

Officer Information Sheets

IMPD Officers who respond to a domestic violence call complete a domestic violence officer information sheet (called a "Purple Sheet"), which records details of domestic violence cases including signs and symptoms of potentially lethal actions. Examples include strangulation, death threats, and previous behaviors of the suspect.

Data years: Jan 1, 2013-May 31, 2017, Jun 20, 2019-Dec 13, 2020, **Records:** victims, perpetrators, incidents.

Indiana 211

Indiana 211 provides a crisis and helpline call center. A specialist collects and records demographic information during information, referral, and crisis calls to 2-1-1. The specialist uses the information collected about the caller to refer individuals to

resources or services. During the course of the call, the specialist may determine that the caller is in a domestic violence situation, and they will flag that call with a domestic violence marker. The marker is noted in the database in reference to the call, the caller, and their associated needs. Some referred services are specific to domestic violence needs.

Data years: 2019, **Records**: calls, caller demographics, needs, referred services.

IV. Data Integration

To integrate the six legal system data sets, first the data had to be cleaned and standardized to ensure comparability. For example, gender may be provided as a numeric code, single letter, or word. We standardized gender data to single words to reduce variability during the matching process. In some cases, the data source entered only an age and in others a date of birth, so an attribute "Birth Year" was added to all records to improve matching.

Second, we used third party data deduplication software to identify unique individuals across all six data sets. A person can be listed multiple times within a data source and across data sources and may be listed in one or many data sources. This is further complicated by the fact that the six data sources do not track the same demographic information about victims and perpetrators, so there is no direct way to link persons between each source. The matching software first compared all the victims and perpetrators in the data sets first using exact name and exact date of birth. If this was not possible, then the software matched on a combination of name, race, gender, and date of birth and/or birth year to produce an accuracy score to indicate exact matches versus likely matches. Data were matched across data sources for data years 2009-2020.

Linking the results, we can count each person only one time, regardless of how many times they appeared in the data, to get unduplicated counts of victims and perpetrators. As Figure 0 shows, 31 percent of victims and 24 percent of perpetrators in 2020 appeared in more than one data source. The trend in the chart reflects changes in Officer Information Sheets. When they were introduced in 2013, this rate increased. It fell in 2017-2018 when they were missing or incomplete and rose again in 2019.

Figure 0: Percent of Victims and Perpetrators Appearing in More than One Data Source
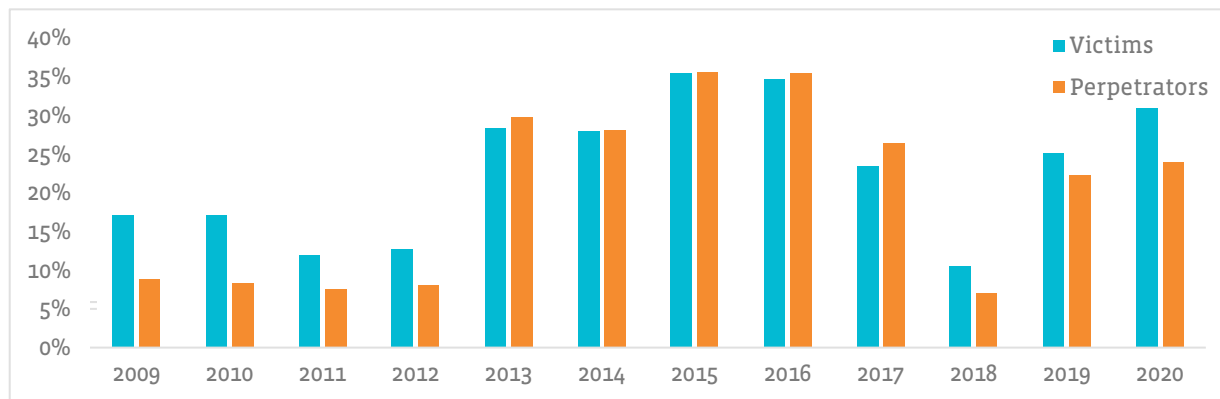
Sources: IMPD Victims' Assistance (victims only), Indiana Supreme Court, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, IMPD Officer Information Sheets (Jan 1, 2013-May 31, 2017, Jun 20, 2019-Dec 13, 2020).

V. Domestic Violence Statistics
Domestic Violence Victims and Perpetrators

In 2020, there were an estimated 10,105 victims of domestic violence (one percent of the 2020 estimated population of Marion County) and 5,880 perpetrators in the legal system (Figure 1).
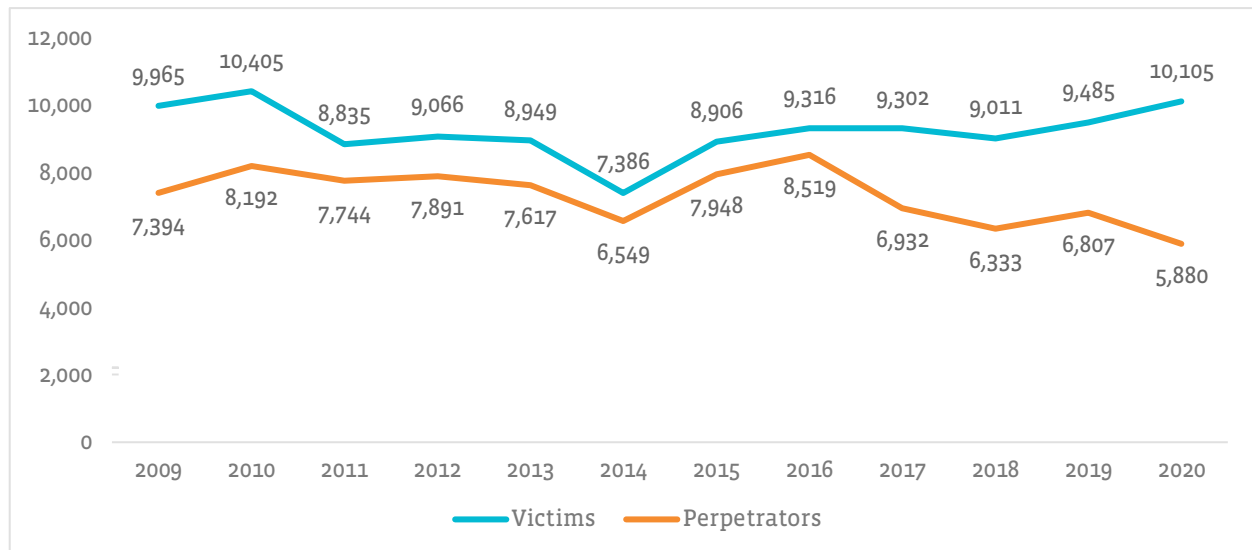
Figure 1: Total Unduplicated Victims

Sources: IMPD Victims' Assistance (victims only), Indiana Supreme Court, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, IMPD Officer Information Sheets (Jan 1, 2013-May 31, 2017, Jun 20, 2019-Dec 13, 2020).

The number of victims has increased by 13 percent since 2013 and 8 percent since 2016. Relative to 2013, fewer victims appear in court cases and protective orders, but many more appear in Officer Information Sheets and Victims' Assistance data (Figures 2 and 3). We measure change from a 2013 baseline because that is the first year all data sources are available.

There were 15 percent fewer victims involved in domestic violence prosecutions in 2020 and 22 percent fewer victims who filed a protective order. Nationally, there was a statistically significant decline in domestic violence between 2013[8] and 2020[9], according to U.S. Department of Justice's Criminal Victimization Survey, from 4.2

---

[8] U.S. Department of Justice. 2014. *Criminal Victimization, 2013*. https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv13.pdf

[9] U.S. Department of Justice. 2021. *Criminal Victimization, 2020*. https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/cv20.pdf

victimizations per 100,000 people to 3.1. However, according to the 2020 survey, only 41.1 percent of domestic violence victimizations are reported to police. This has fallen from 56.9 percent in 2013.

The decline in other data sources was offset by an increase victims identified through Officer Information Sheets. Because this was a new program in 2013, reporting rates may have been lower. Officer information sheet data is missing for a portion of 2017, all of 2018, and a portion of 2019, as noted in the source for each figure.

This illustrates the importance of integrating data across sources: While some individual sources experienced significant declines in victims and perpetrators since 2013, the unique number across all data sources actually increased. Officer information sheets and Victims Assistance may have identified more victims that were not identified in other data sources.

Figure 2: Unduplicated Victims by Year and Data Source

Year	Marion Cty. Prosecutor's Office	Prot'v. Orders	IMPD D.V. Officer Info. Sheets	IMPD Victims Assist.	Total Unduplicated Count
2009	5,419	3,879		2,542	9,965
2010	6,493	3,679		2,192	10,405
2011	5,867	2,997		1,105	8,835
2012	5,957	3,056		1,287	9,066
2013	5,896	2,646	2,544	935	8,949
2014	4,486	2,326	2,474	592	7,386
2015	4,938	2,686	4,043	1,192	8,906
2016	4,873	3,095	4,432	942	9,316
2017	5,388	2,668	1,997*	1,911	9,302
2018	5,292	2,503		2,216	9,011
2019	5,371	2,504	2,656*	1,730	9,485
2020	5,032	2,073	4,296	2,502	10,105
Change since '13	-15%	-22%	69%	168%	13%

Sources: IMPD Victims' Assistance, Indiana Supreme Court, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, IMPD Officer Information Sheets (Jan 1, 2013-May 31, 2017, Jun 20, 2019-Dec 13, 2020).

*Partial year

Figure 3: Unduplicated Perpetrators by Year and Data Source

Year	Marion County Prosecutor's Office	Protective Orders	IMPD Domestic Violence Officer Information Sheets	Total Unduplicated Count
2009	4,149	3,852		7,394
2010	5,190	3,629		8,192
2011	5,340	2,951		7,744
2012	5,491	3,004		7,891
2013	4,951	2,620	2,536	7,617
2014	3,863	2,310	2,454	6,549
2015	4,303	2,696	4,034	7,948
2016	4,409	3,101	4,378	8,519
2017	4,279	2,647	1,989*	6,932
2018	4,303	2,462		6,333
2019	4,373	2,459	1,607*	6,807
2020	4,042	2,030	1,306	5,880
Change	-18%	-23%	-49%	-23%

Sources: Indiana Supreme Court, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, IMPD Officer Information Sheets (Jan 1, 2013-May 31, 2017, Jun 20, 2019-Dec 13, 2020).

*Partial year

The number of perpetrators has declined in total and in the three individual data sources with perpetrator information. The number of perpetrators identified through Officer Information Sheets fell by 49 percent since 2013. The decline began in the fall of 2019. In July and August 2019, Officer Information Sheets contained over 300 perpetrators in each month. By January 2020, that had fallen below 150 each month.
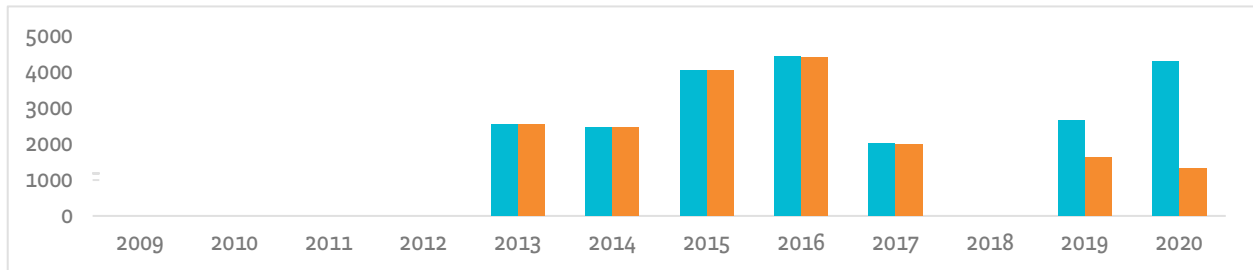
Figure 4: Victims and Perpetrators by Data Source and Year, 2009-2020
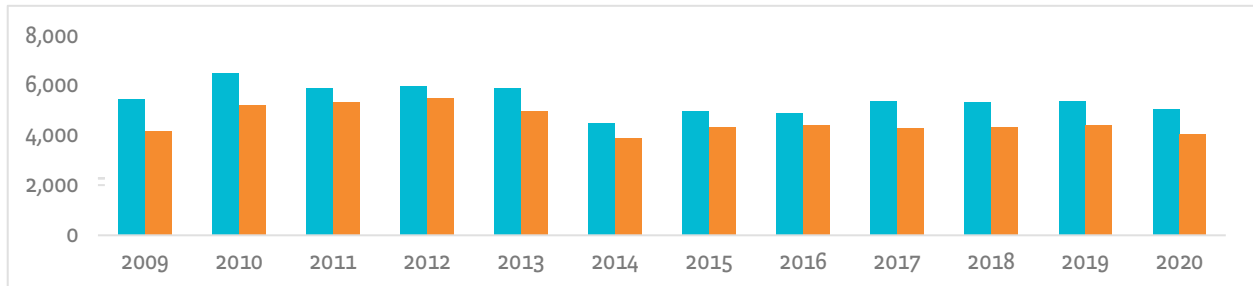
Victims   Perpetrators

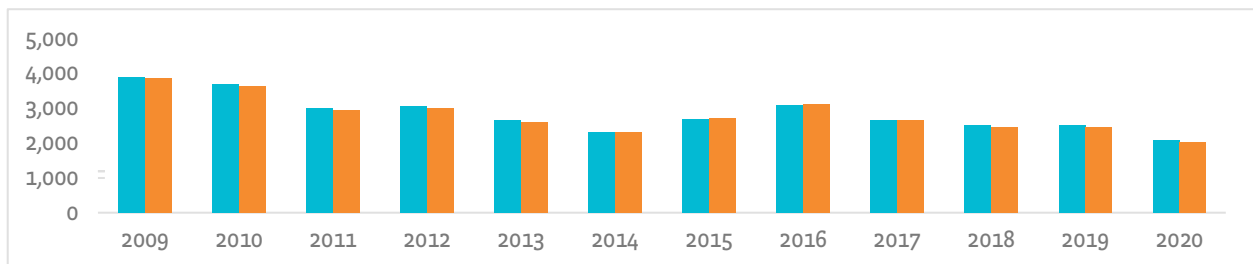*4.1. IMPD Victims Assistance – Victims*
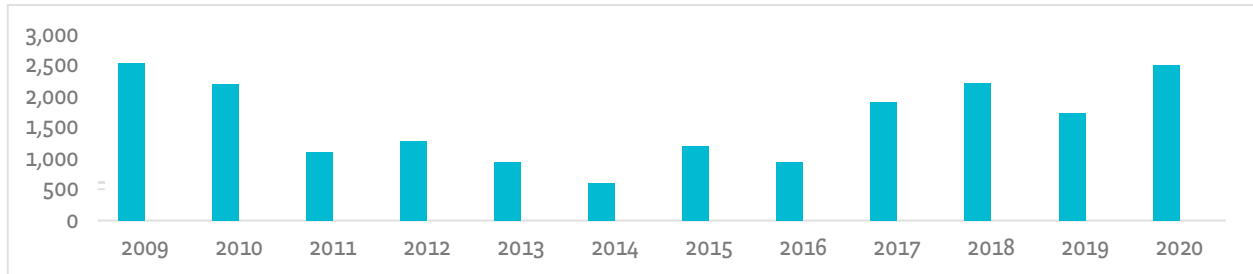
4.2. Domestic Violence Officer Information Sheets – Victims and Perpetrators

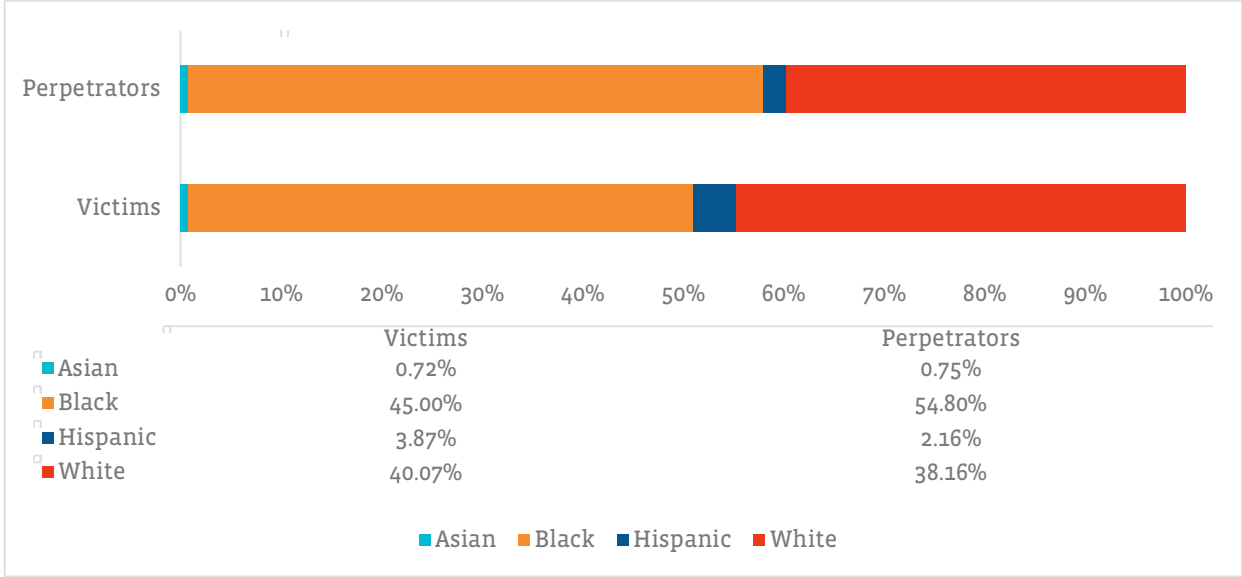*4.3. Marion County Prosecutor's Office – Victims and Perpetrators*

4.4. Protective Orders – Victims and Perpetrators

Demographic Profile: Race

In 2020, an estimated 40 percent of victims were White and 45 percent were Black (Figure 5). Hispanic or Latino victims accounted for 4.8 percent of the total, but this population is often under-reported in the criminal system. Among perpetrators, 55 percent were Black and 38 percent were White.

Figure 5: Victims and Perpetrators by Race, 2020

	Victims	Perpetrators
■ Asian	0.72%	0.75%
■ Black	45.00%	54.80%
■ Hispanic	3.87%	2.16%
■ White	40.07%	38.16%

■ Asian ■ Black ■ Hispanic ■ White

Sources: Indiana Supreme Court, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, IMPD Officer Information Sheets (Jan 1, 2013-May 31, 2017, Jun 20, 2019-Dec 13, 2020).

Figure 6: Unduplicated Victims by Race, 2009-2020
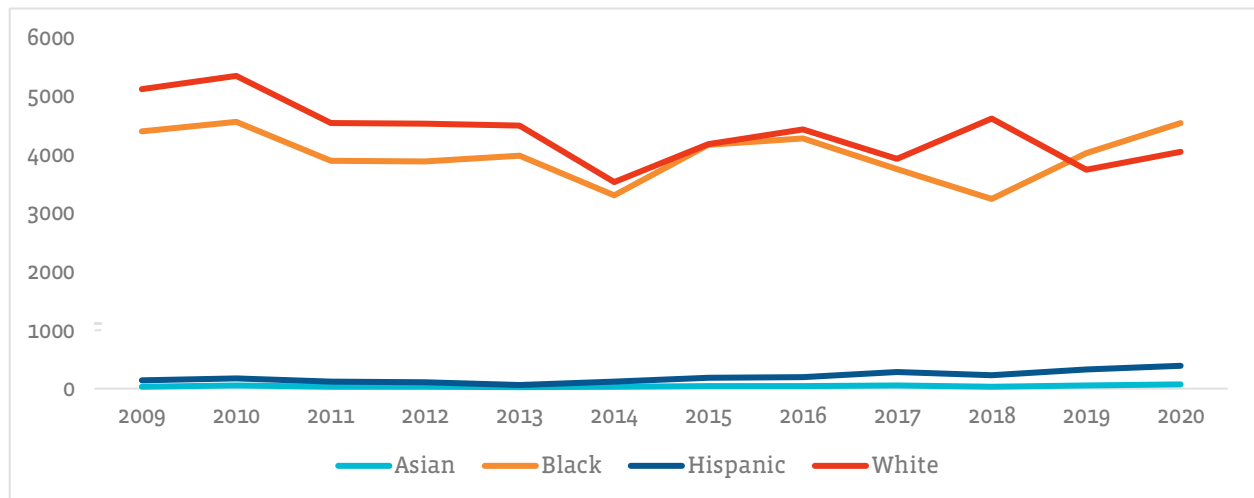
Sources: Victim's Assistance, Indiana Supreme Court, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, IMPD Officer Information Sheets (Jan 1, 2013-May 31, 2017, Jun 20, 2019-Dec 13, 2020).

Figure 6 shows Black victims now outnumber White victims in 2019 and 2020 in these data. This is partially explained by the changing frequency of particular data sources. Across all data sources between 2009-2020, 45 percent of victims are Black. Protective orders are less likely to contain Black victims (36 percent) and more likely to contain White victims (58 percent). Officer information sheets tend to identify Black victims more often in 2019 and 2020 (53 percent). As the number of victims in Officer Information Sheets increases and the number of protective orders falls, the overall racial breakdown of victims changes.

Figure 7: Unduplicated Perpetrators by Race, 2009-2020

Sources: Indiana Supreme Court, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, IMPD Officer Information Sheets (Jan 1, 2013-May 31, 2017, Jun 20, 2019-Dec 13, 2020).
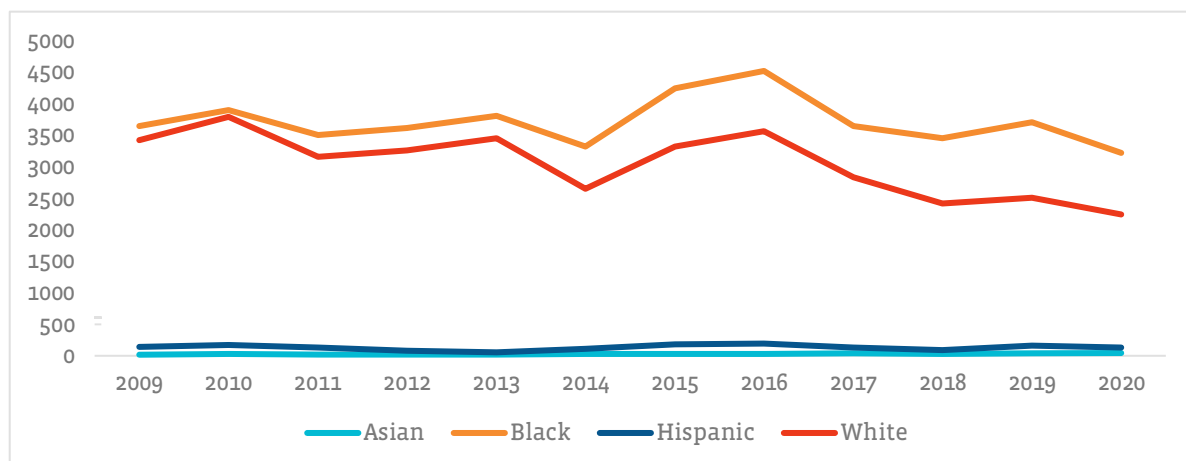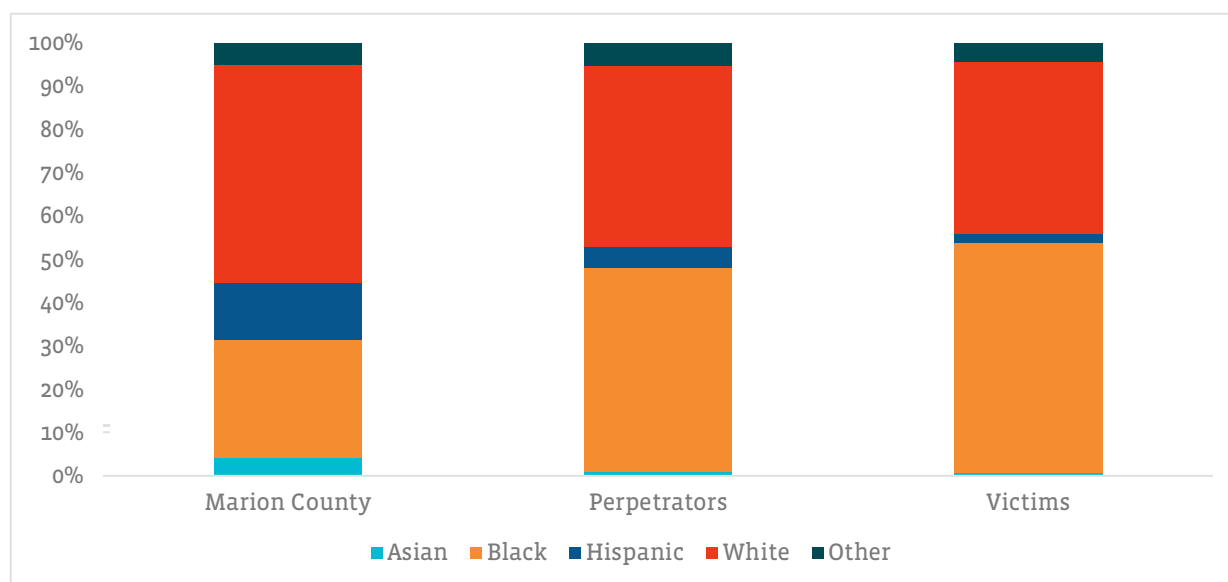
Figure 8: County Population, Perpetrators, and Victims by Race, 2020

Sources: Victim's Assistance, Indiana Supreme Court, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, IMPD Officer Information Sheets (Jan 1, 2013-May 31, 2017, Jun 20, 2019-Dec 13, 2020).

The racial makeup of victim and perpetrator groups, compared to the actual county population by those races, reveals the racial inequalities among people who are associated with domestic violence incidents in Marion County.

Figure 8 demonstrates that Black residents are overrepresented, while White residents are underrepresented.

There appear to be fewer Hispanic[10] perpetrators than the population of Marion County suggests, but this is likely related to the quality of the race attributes as they are recorded in each data set. Some datasets separate Hispanic/Latino as an ethnicity, while others count it as a race. Other data sets make no attempt to identify persons as Hispanic/Latino. Often, especially with police records record by officers on the location of an incident, race and gender are recorded by visual observation, rather than by how the associated individuals identify themselves.

Figure 9 provides another look at the differences between the racial makeup of domestic violence victims and perpetrators compared to the county. By looking at victims and perpetrators by race as a percent of the total population by that race, these differences become clear.

---

[10] For the purposes of this report, Hispanic/Latino is included as a race. It should also be noted that not all data sets attempt to capture Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

An estimated 1.7 percent and 1.2 percent of Black residents in Marion are domestic violence victims or perpetrators, respectively. For Whites, 0.8 percent are reported as domestic violence victims and 0.5 percent as perpetrators.

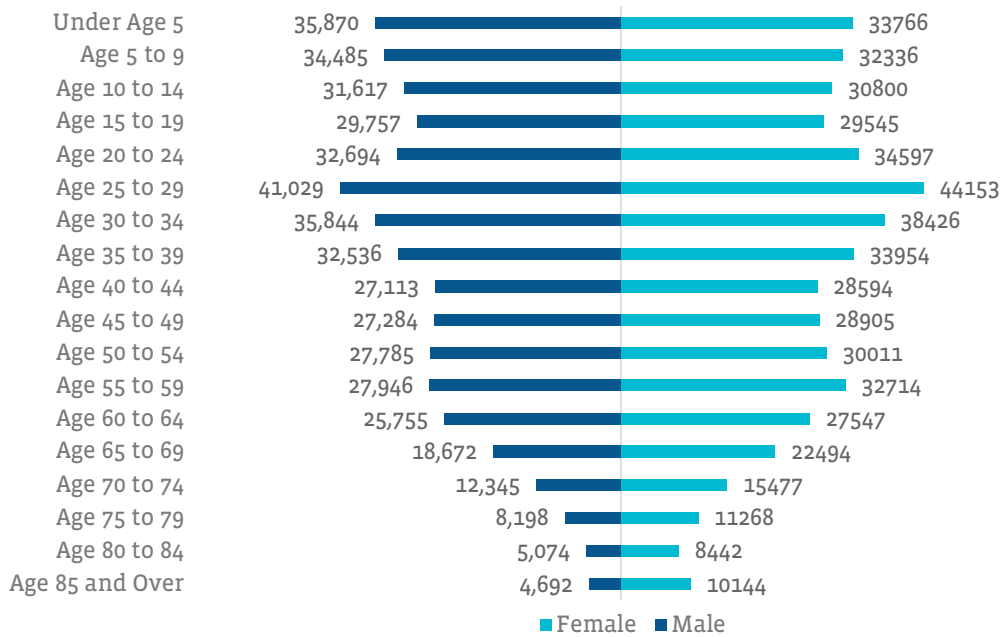*Figure 9: Victims and Perpetrators as a Percent of Population by Race, 2016*
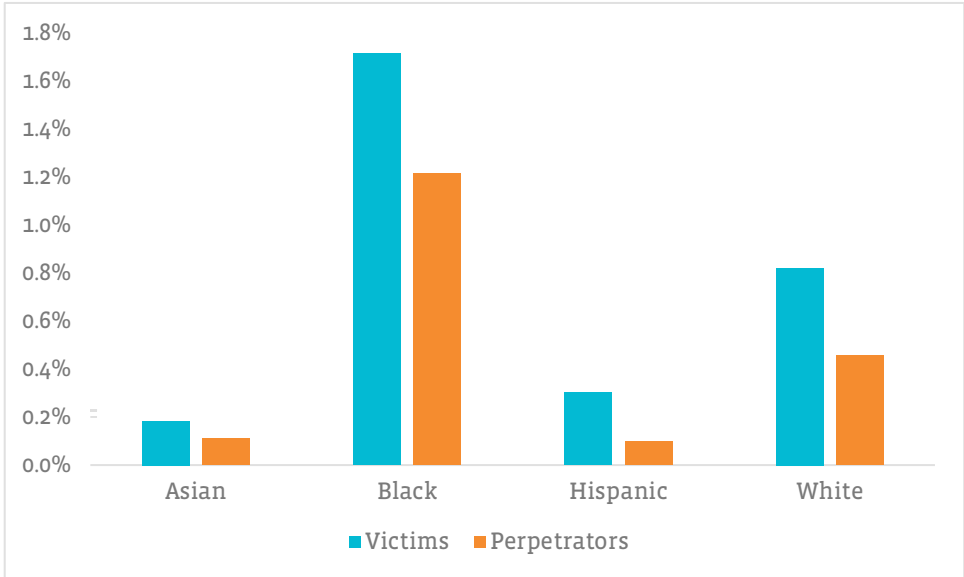
Sources: Victim's Assistance (victims only), Indiana Supreme Court, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, IMPD Officer Information Sheets (Jan 1, 2013-May 31, 2017, Jun 20, 2019-Dec 13, 2020).

Demographic Profile: Age and Gender

Figure 10 shows an age pyramid comparing the number of males and females in each five-year age increment. Compared to the age and gender distribution of victims and perpetrators for the county, the population involved in domestic violence is much younger. The peak concentration are the Millennial and Gen Z generations. Figure 11 shows the proportion of each age cohort perpetrating or being victimized by domestic violence. The highest proportion of victims are those aged 20-24, 1.9 percent of whom were victims of domestic violence in 2020. That age has a high concentration of perpetrators, but 30-34 is the age cohort with the highest concentration of perpetrators.

Figure 10: Population, Victims, and Perpetrators by Age and Gender, 2020

Marion County Population

Age Group	Male	Female
Under Age 5	35,870	33766
Age 5 to 9	34,485	32336
Age 10 to 14	31,617	30800
Age 15 to 19	29,757	29545
Age 20 to 24	32,694	34597
Age 25 to 29	41,029	44153
Age 30 to 34	35,844	38426
Age 35 to 39	32,536	33954
Age 40 to 44	27,113	28594
Age 45 to 49	27,284	28905
Age 50 to 54	27,785	30011
Age 55 to 59	27,946	32714
Age 60 to 64	25,755	27547
Age 65 to 69	18,672	22494
Age 70 to 74	12,345	15477
Age 75 to 79	8,198	11268
Age 80 to 84	5,074	8442
Age 85 and Over	4,692	10144

■ Female ■ Male

Perpetrators

■ Male ■ Female

Age	Male	Female
85+	1	1
80-84	1	0
75-79	3	0
70-74	5	1
65-69	23	5
60-64	99	3
55-59	168	27
50-54	241	45
45-49	327	65
40-44	487	100
35-39	634	145
30-34	885	154
25-29	883	204
20-24	627	166
15-19	134	48
10-14	8	0
5-9		0
0-4	2	1

Victims

■ Male ■ Female

Age	Male	Female
85+	3	4
80-84	3	4
75-79	9	15
70-74	17	23
65-69	41	48
60-64	86	107
55-59	83	174
50-54	122	264
45-49	127	371
40-44	162	498
35-39	207	717
30-34	278	926
25-29	275	1,137
20-24	238	1,068
15-19	118	355
10-14	24	40
5-9	12	19
0-4	22	25

Sources: Victim's Assistance (victims only), Indiana Supreme Court, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, IMPD Officer Information Sheets (Jan 1, 2013-May 31, 2017, Jun 20, 2019-Dec 13, 2020).

Sources: Victim's Assistance (victims only), Indiana Supreme Court, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, IMPD Officer Information Sheets (Jan 1, 2013-May 31, 2017, Jun 20, 2019-Dec 13, 2020).

VI. Where Does Domestic Violence Occur?
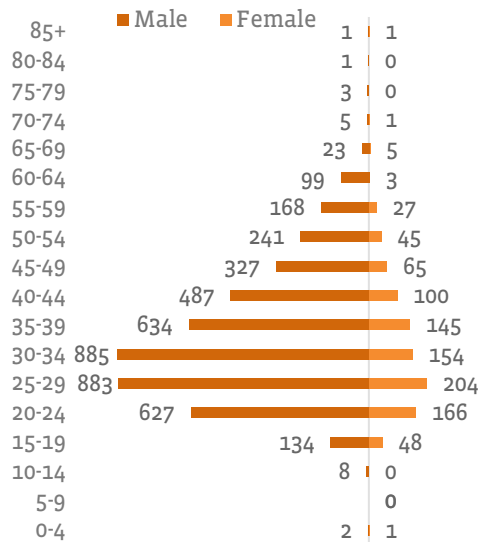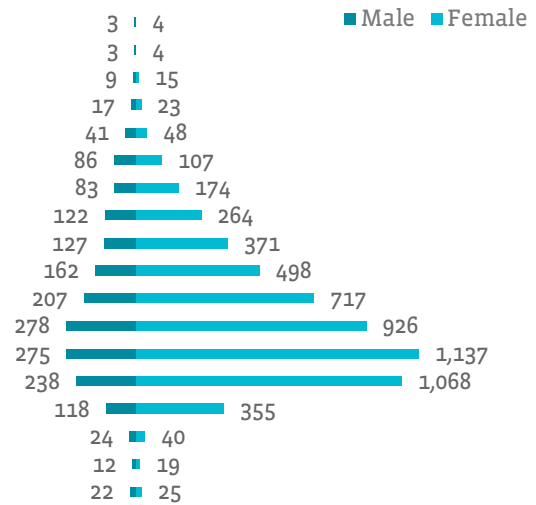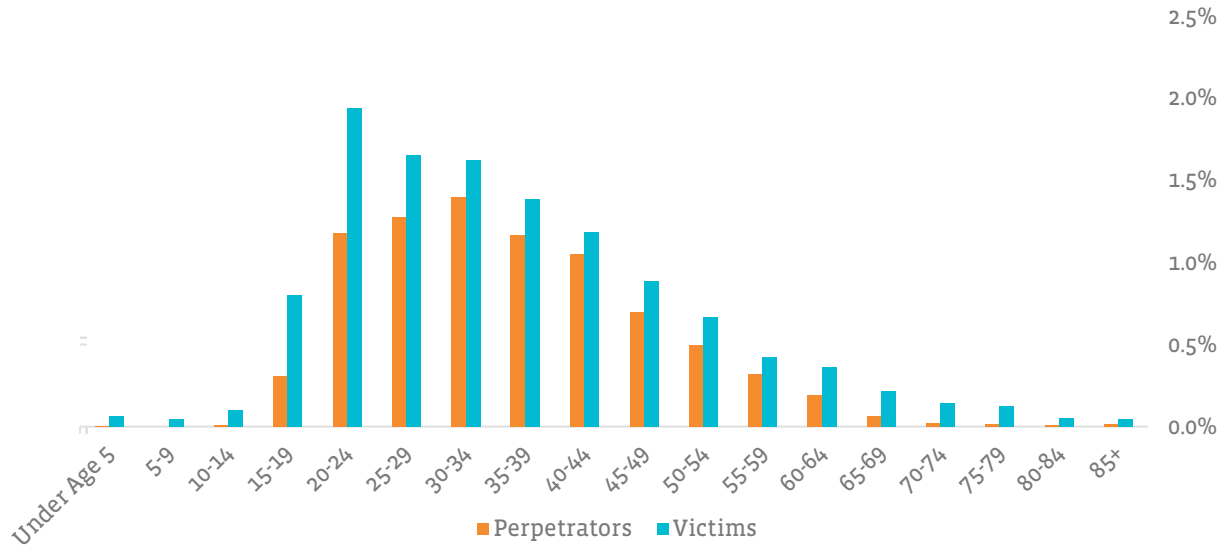
The following are based on the address of the incident as recorded by Officer Information Sheets. These records cover the period from June 2018 to March 2021.[11] Of the six IMPD districts, the East District has the highest number and rate of victims. Most districts had between seven and nine victims for every 1,000 residents. In the East District, the rate was 13.2.

Figure 12. Domestic violence incidents and rates in IMPD districts

IMPD District	Victims	2020 Population	Victims per 1,000 Pop.
Downtown	136	19,972	6.8
East	2,175	164,654	13.2
North	1,547	203,713	7.6
Northwest	1,602	194,005	8.3
Southeast	1,572	204,297	7.7
Southwest	1,396	157,446	8.9

Source: IMPD Officer Information Sheets (June 2018-March 2021)

Figure 13 shows the number of victims in each census tract. For privacy, any amount greater than zero but less than five is shown as five. Tracts with the highest number of victims are mostly east and northeast of downtown. Some tracts west and northwest of downtown also have high incident rates.

To view an interactive version of these maps, visit https://bit.ly/3rXeSm5.

---

[11] When integrated with other data sources or examining trends over time, we only use record through 2020. However, when analyzing records spatially, we are able to use records from 2021, even though it does not represent a complete year of data.

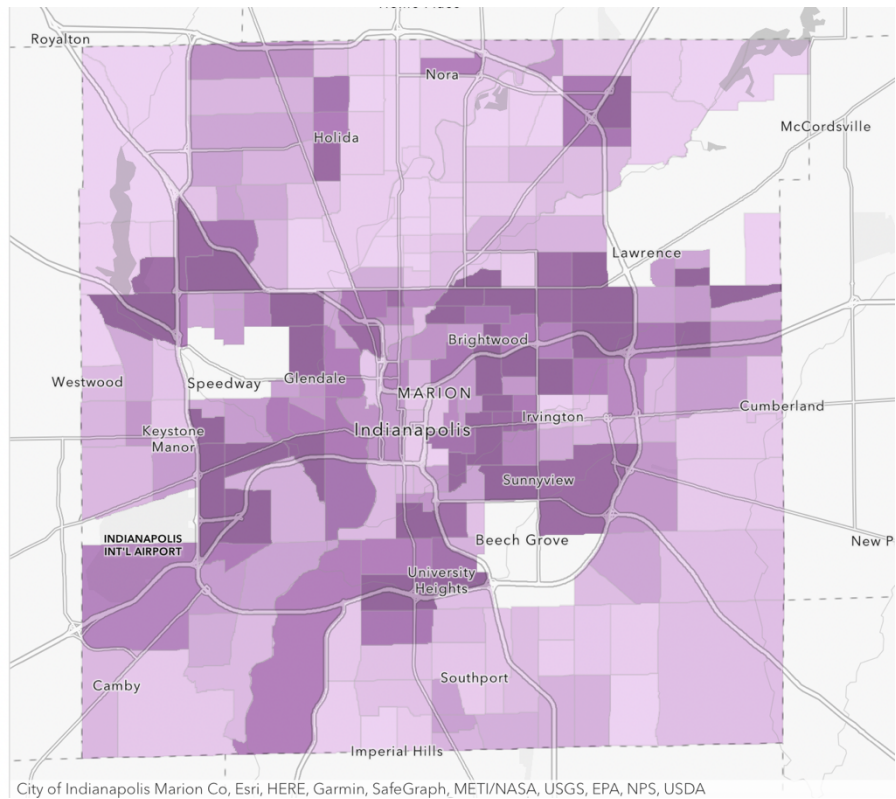*Figure 13: Domestic Violence Victims by Tract in Marion County, June 2018-March 2021*

Figure 14: Domestic Violence Victim Rate by Tract in Marion County, June 2018-March 2021

Domestic violence incidents

Victims per 1,000 pop.
◀ > 19
◀ 10.7
◀ < 3

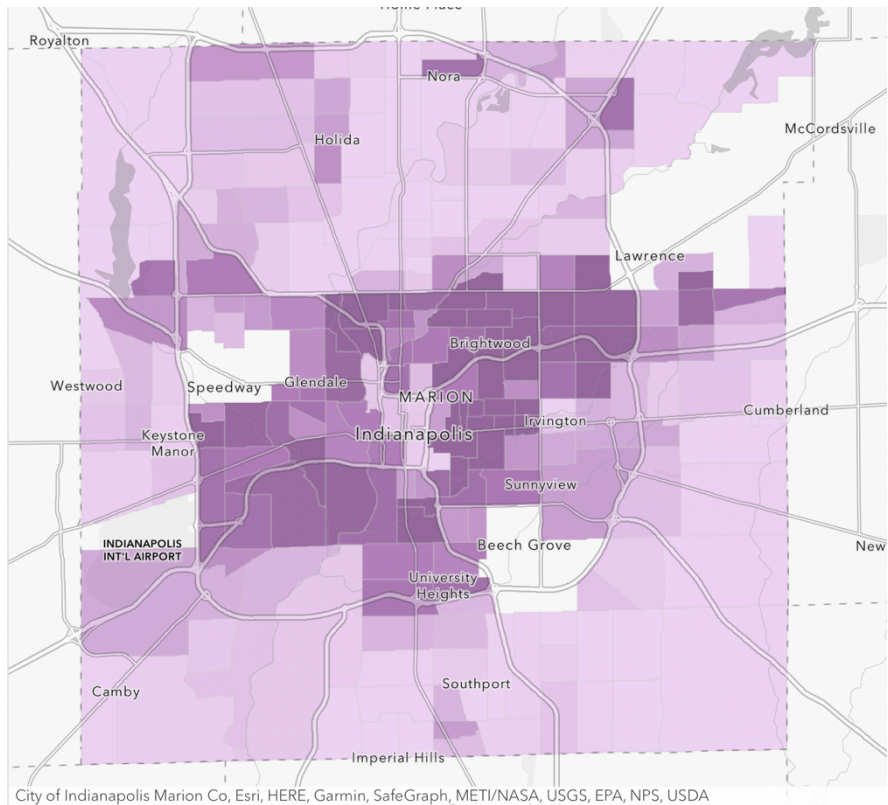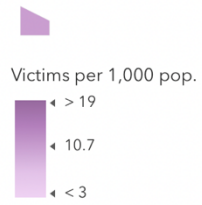City of Indianapolis Marion Co, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA
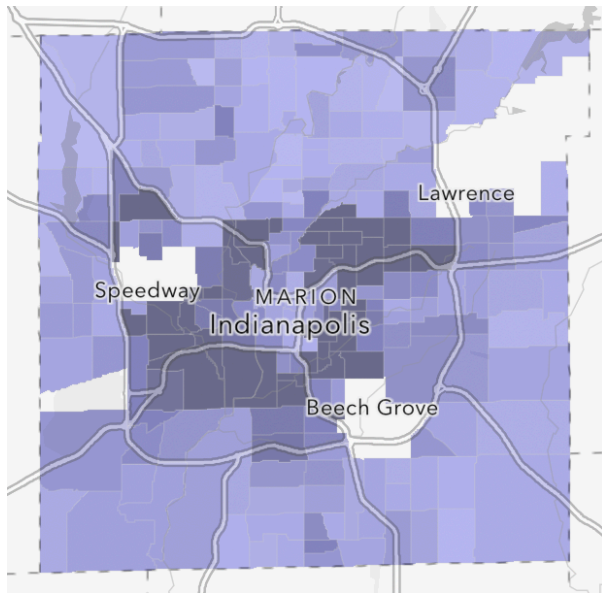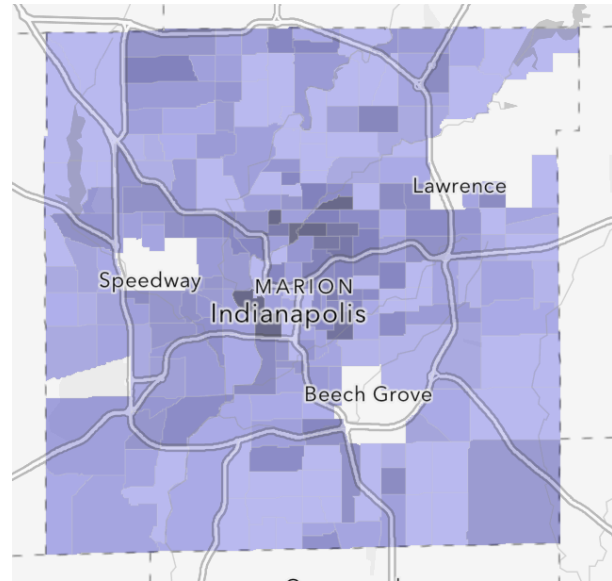
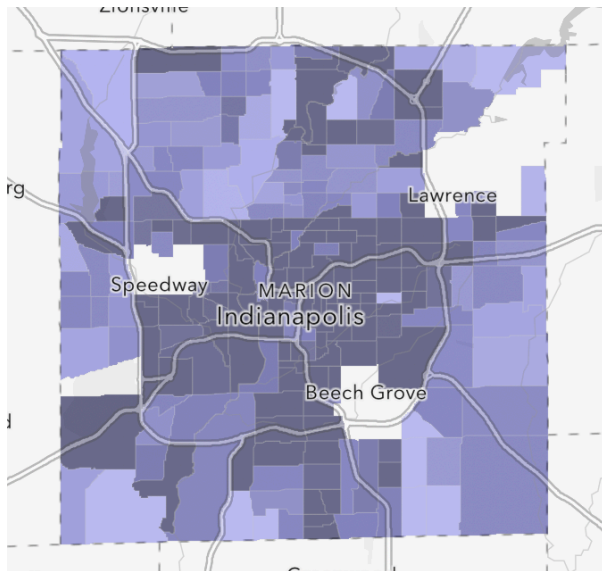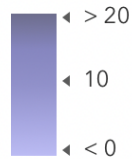*Figure 15. Domestic Violence Victim Rate by Race, June 2018-March 2021*

White

Latino

Black

Victims per 1,000 people

◄ > 20

◄ 10

◄ < 0

Victim rates for Black residents are high (20 or more victims per 1,000 people) in many parts of the city. In some of these places, the rate is high while the count is low due to low overall population numbers. The north side is an example. Latino victim rates are highest on the west side of downtown and in tracts near the neighborhoods of Mapleton-Fall Creek and Friends and Neighbors. White victim rates follow the same pattern as overall rates.

VII. IMPD Victims' Assistance

The data collected by IMPD Victims' Assistance advocates contains information on domestic violence crimes. Victims' Assistance is a civilian unit of the IMPD that provides victims with on-scene crisis intervention and support. Because complete data is available for 2007-2021, this dataset can be assessed for a longer time range than other datasets.

The number of cases fell from 2007 to 2014 but has climbed again in recent years. Between 2007 and 2014, the number of cases dropped by 84 percent. In 2021, however, the number of cases is within 4 percent of the 2007 case count.

*Figure 16: IMPD Victims' Assistance Domestic Violence Cases by Year, 2007-2021*
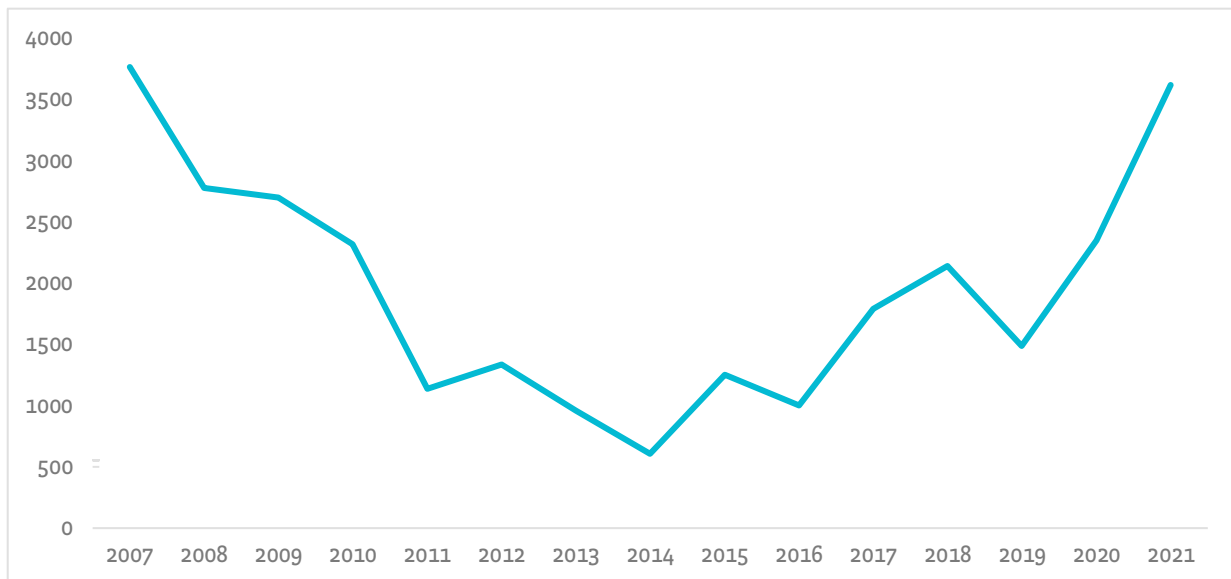
Source: IMPD Victims' Assistance

VIII. Protective Orders

Individuals can obtain a protective order against a member of their family, someone they are or were in a dating relationship with, or someone with whom they have a child in common. In addition, a protective order can be placed against someone who has committed sexual assault or stalking. The Domestic Violence Network estimates 80 percent of protective order cases are directly related to domestic violence. While there are several reasons for obtaining of protective orders, the data received from the Indiana Supreme Court did not specify the reasons for each protective order.

Figure 17 shows the relative proportion of perpetrator-victim pairs by gender as found in the protective orders data. Fifteen percent of the perpetrator-victim pairs had the same gender, which is similar to 2016 (15 percent). Three out of every four pairs involved a male perpetrator and female victim, which is the same as in 2016.
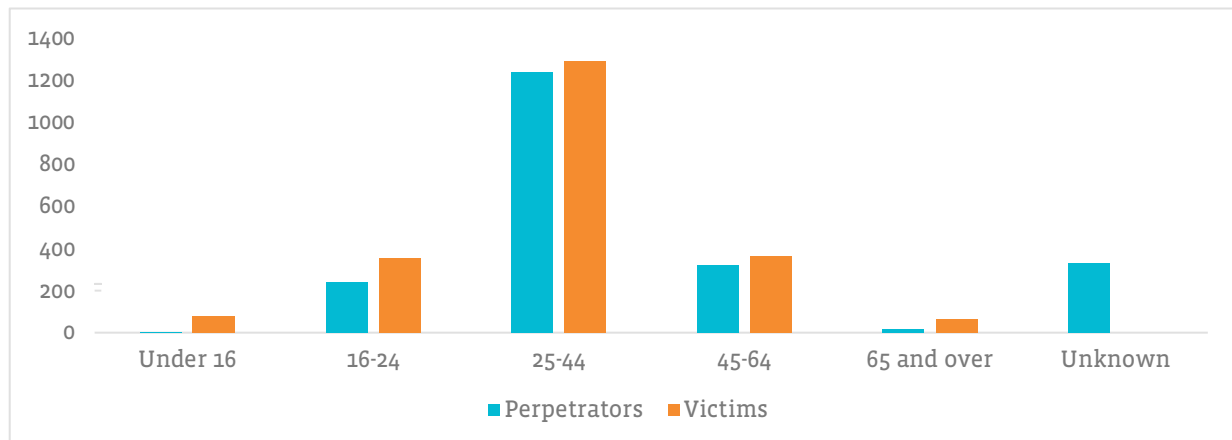
Figure 17: Perpetrator-Victim Pairs by Gender, 2020
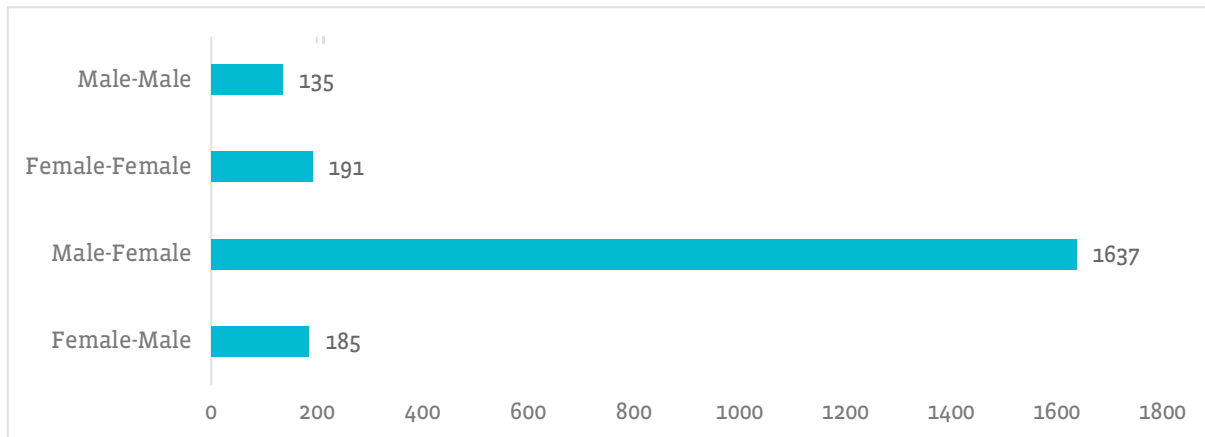
Source: Indiana Supreme Court, 2020

The majority of victims and perpetrators were between 25 and 44 years old (Figure 18). Sixty-eight percent of perpetrators and 60 percent of victims fall in the category.

Figure 18: Persons Involved in Protective Orders by Age, 2020

Source: Indiana Supreme Court, 2020

About half of victims who receive a protective order were within four years of age of the perpetrator (Figure 19). Victims were frequently younger than perpetrators. This is very similar to the pervious report's findings from 2009-2016.

Figure 19: Percent of Victims by Age Difference from Perpetrator, 2017-2020
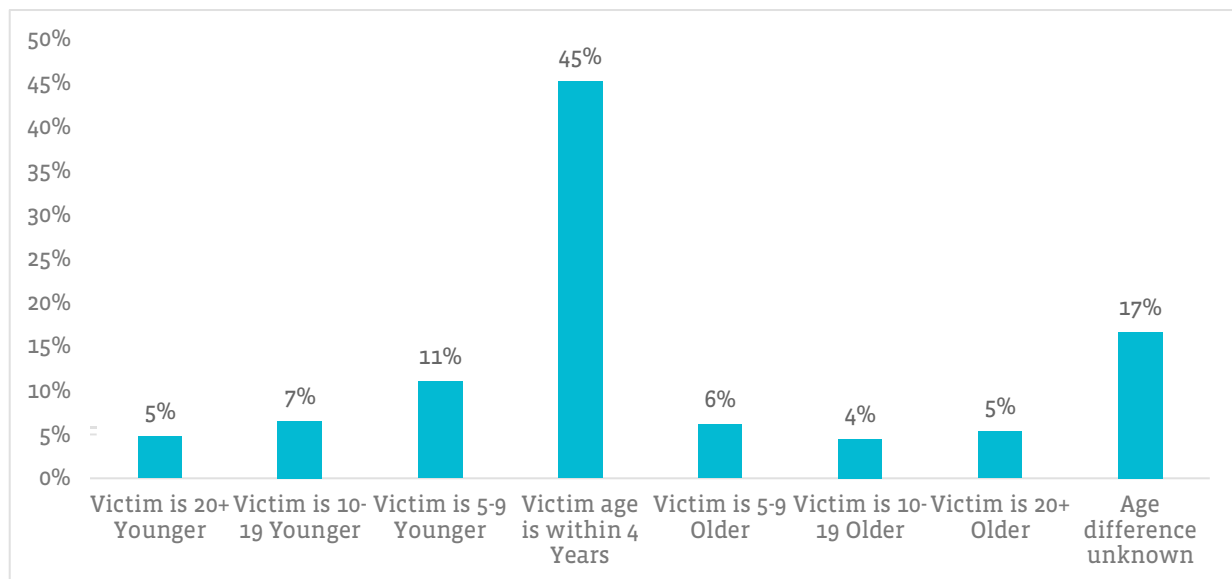
Source: Indiana Supreme Court

Figure 20 shows the relative ages of victims and perpetrators by age group. Two-thirds (63 percent) were at least 20 years younger than the perpetrator. Starting at age 16, it becomes much more common for victims and perpetrators to be close in age. Fifty-seven percent of young victims age 16-24 were within five years of their perpetrator. Otherwise, these victims tend to be younger than their perpetrators.

As victims get older, they are less likely to be near the same age as the perpetrator. For 25-44 year old victims, the portion that are the same age drops to half. For 45-64 year old victims, this falls to three in ten, and for victims over 65 years old, fewer than one in ten. Fifty-five percent of victims over 65 were older than their perpetrators. This is 25 percentage points higher than the statistic for 2009-2016.

Figure 20: Age Difference from Perpetrator, by Victim Age, 2017-2020

Under 16

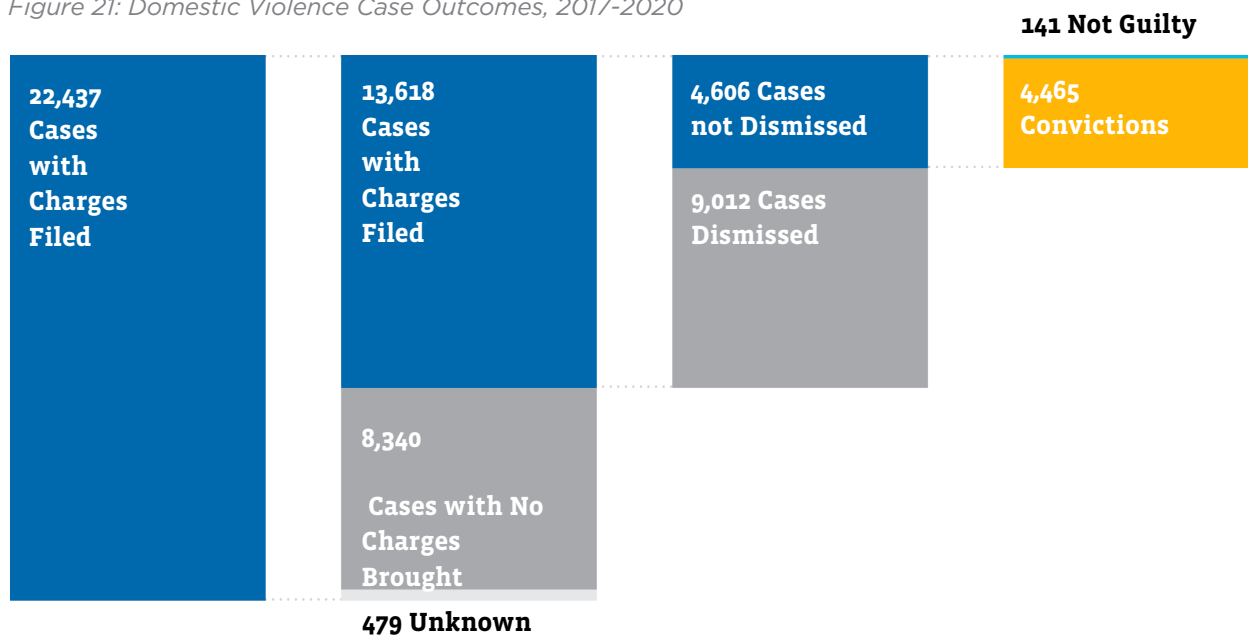| Victim is 20+ Younger	Victim is 10-19 Younger	Victim is 5-9 Younger	Victim age is within 4 Years	Victim is 5-9 Older	Victim is 10-19 Older	Victim is 20+ Older	Age difference unknown
63%	9%	3%	4%	0%	0%	0%	21%

16-24

Victim is 20+ Younger	Victim is 10-19 Younger	Victim is 5-9 Younger	Victim age is within 4 Years	Victim is 5-9 Older	Victim is 10-19 Older	Victim is 20+ Older	Age difference unknown
6%	8%	12%	57%	0%	0%	0%	16%

25-44

Victim is 20+ Younger	Victim is 10-19 Younger	Victim is 5-9 Younger	Victim age is within 4 Years	Victim is 5-9 Older	Victim is 10-19 Older	Victim is 20+ Older	Age difference unknown
2%	7%	13%	51%	7%	3%	1%	15%

45-64

Victim is 20+ Younger	Victim is 10-19 Younger	Victim is 5-9 Younger	Victim age is within 4 Years	Victim is 5-9 Older	Victim is 10-19 Older	Victim is 20+ Older	Age difference unknown
0%	3%	8%	31%	9%	12%	18%	19%

65+

Victim is 20+ Younger	Victim is 10-19 Younger	Victim is 5-9 Younger	Victim age is within 4 Years	Victim is 5-9 Older	Victim is 10-19 Older	Victim is 20+ Older	Age difference unknown
0%	0%	0%	8%	5%	9%	55%	23%

Source: Indiana Supreme Court

X. Legal Outcomes of Domestic Violence
Marion County Prosecutors Office Case Outcomes

Marion County has prosecuted an average of 5,609 domestic violence cases each year from 2017 to 2020 (Figure 21). Between 2009 and 2016, this average was 4,679 cases per year.

*Figure 21: Domestic Violence Case Outcomes, 2017-2020*

141 Not Guilty

| 22,437 Cases with Charges Filed | 13,618 Cases with Charges Filed | 4,606 Cases not Dismissed | 4,465 Convictions |
| | 8,340 Cases with No Charges Brought | 9,012 Cases Dismissed | |

479 Unknown

When charges are brought, cases may be dismissed or pursued (not dismissed). If not dismissed, suspects may either plead guilty, be found guilty, or be found not guilty. A defendant can be found guilty of some charges and not guilty of others within the same case. This report considers any case a conviction when the defendant was found guilty on at least one charge in that case.

Very few domestic violence cases result in a conviction, even though 97 percent of cases that reach that stage result in a guilty verdict. Most cases never reach a verdict because charges are not filed or are dismissed. Only 61 percent of cases result in any charges being filed. Two thirds of cases with charges are dismissed, which is higher than in previous years. Between 2009 and 2015, 55 percent of cases with charges brought were dismissed. In 2017 to 2020, this increased to 66 percent.
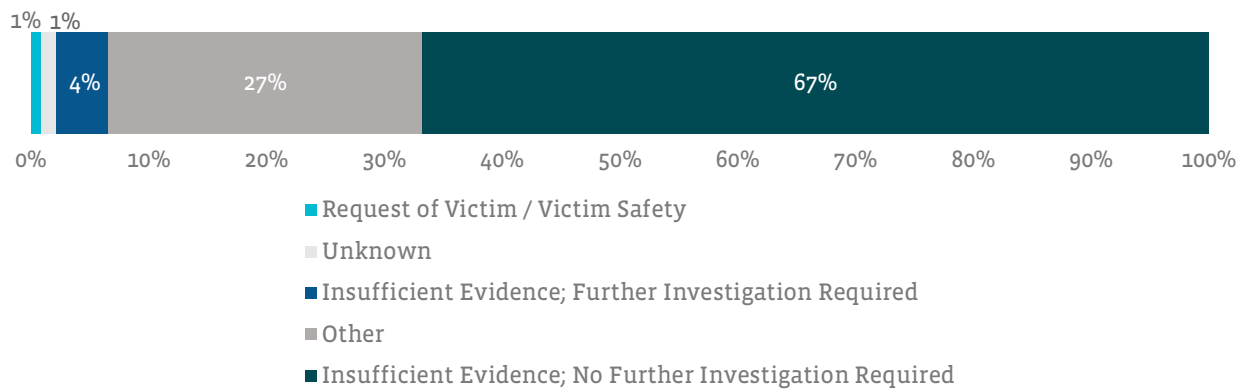
Figure 22: Percent of cases dismissed, 2009-2020
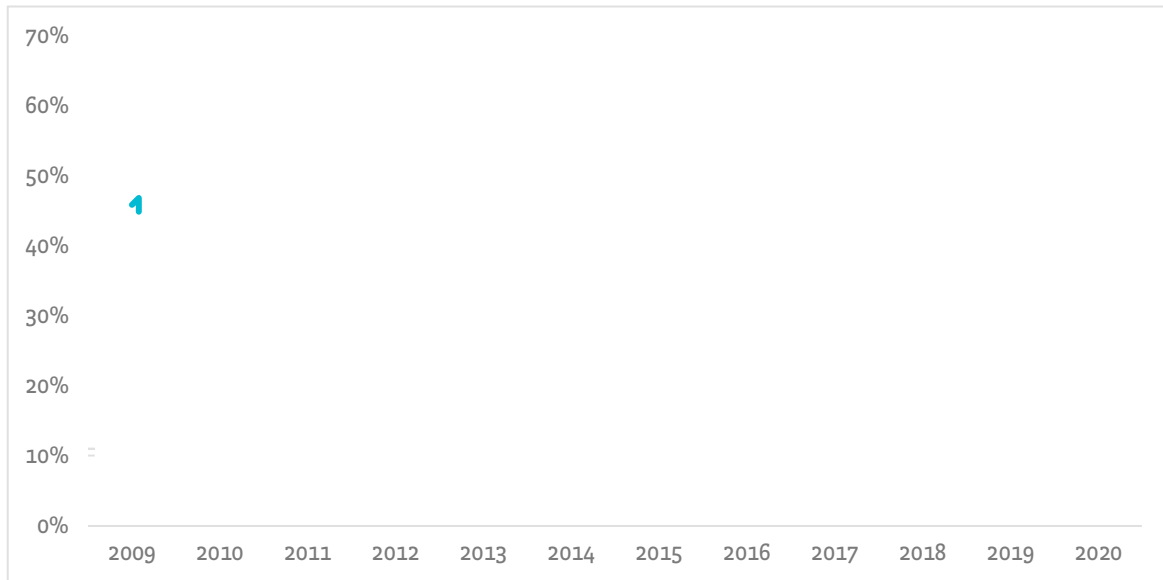
Prosecutor's Office data included reasons for dismissal through 2015, but that information is no longer included in the data source. At that time, two thirds of dismissals were due to insufficient evidence.

*Figure 23: Reasons for Charges Not Being Filed, 2009-2015*

■ Request of Victim / Victim Safety
■ Unknown
■ Insufficient Evidence; Further Investigation Required
■ Other
■ Insufficient Evidence; No Further Investigation Required

Cases by Race

Between 2017 and 2020, the majority victims were Black. Forty-four percent of victims were White. Hispanic victims make up only three percent of cases. However, data about race and ethnicity in the criminal justice system is often identified by law enforcement employees rather than self-identified by individuals. This tends to undercount Hispanics and Latinos in contexts like jail population and court cases.

Figure 24: Victims by Race, 2017-2020
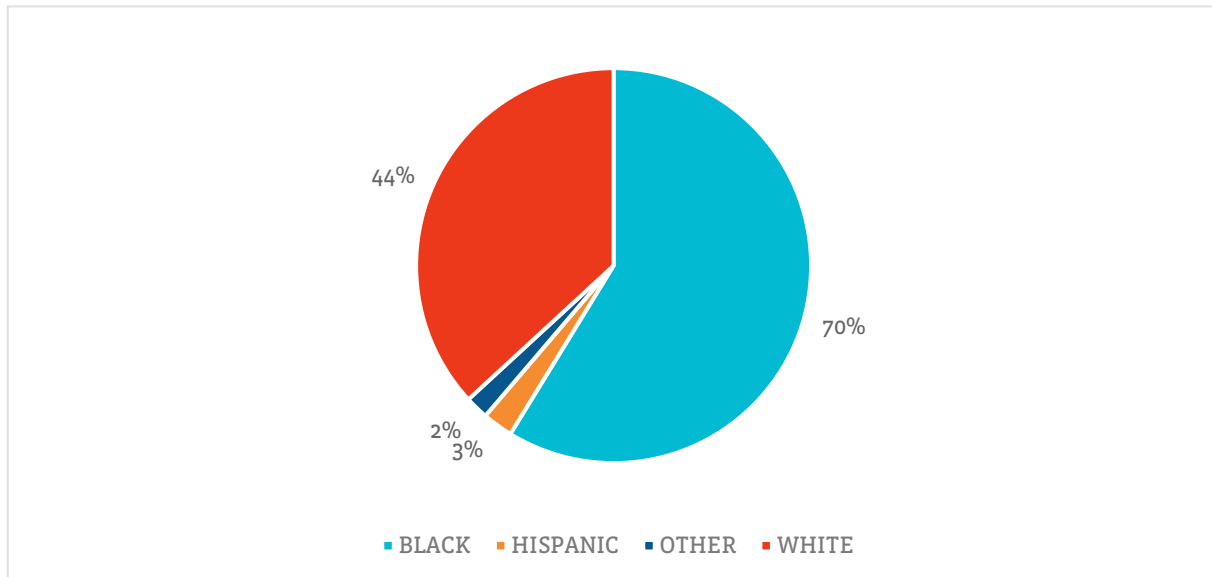
Source: Marion County Prosecutor's Office

Asian and White defendants are convicted at the highest rate. This could be related to the fact that, for White and Asian defendants, charges are more likely to be filed. Charges are filed in 87 percent of cases with an Asian defendant, 76 percent of cases with a White defendant, and 71 percent or cases with a Black defendant. Hispanic defendants have a lower dismissal rate, but this is mostly explained by more charges with an unknown outcome.

*Figure 25: Charge Outcomes by Defendant Race, 2017-2020*
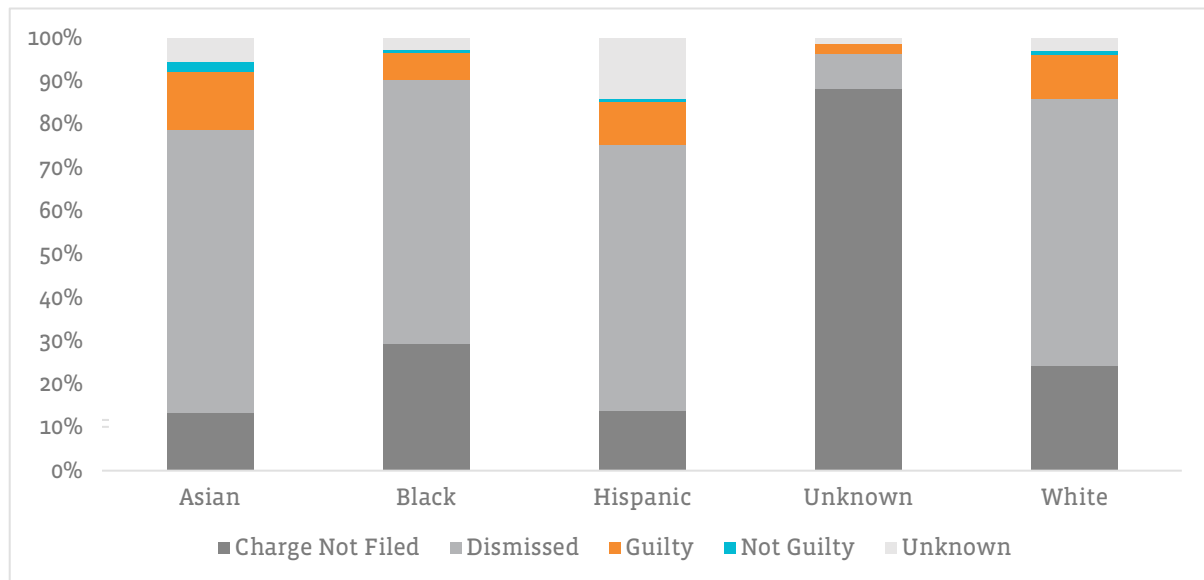
Source: Marion County Prosecutor's Office

Level of Charge: Felonies and Misdemeanors

While the preceding charts relate to cases, the following data is about charges. Cases can contain many charges, and they may each have different outcomes. A suspect may be found guilty of some charges and not guilty of others, within the same case. For this reason, there are many more charges per year than cases.

Felonies and misdemeanors each make up exactly half the domestic violence charges brought between 2017-2020. Guilty verdicts are just as likely with either charge level. For both misdemeanors and felonies, nine percent of charges result in a conviction. Most charges are dropped or dismissed before a verdict, but this varies by charge level. Misdemeanors are more likely than felonies to result in charges not being filed (31 percent compared to 23 percent), while felonies are more likely to result in charges being dismissed (65 percent compared to 56 percent). In other words, more serious charges are more likely to be filed. However, because they are mostly dismissed in the end, this does increase the chances that a verdict will be reached for a charge.

Figure 26: Charges by Case Outcome and Severity of Charge, 2017-2020
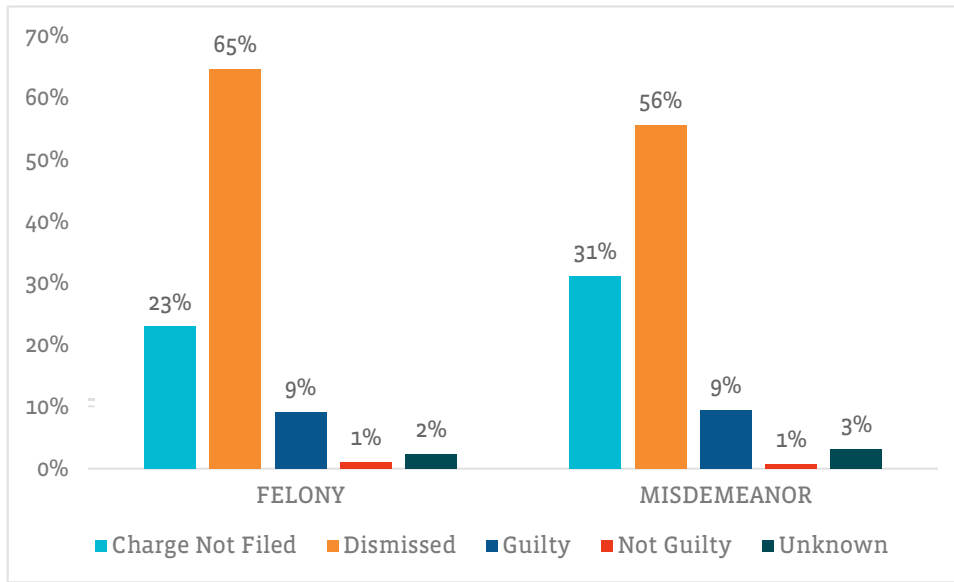
Source: Marion County Prosecutor's Office

IX. Baker One Initiative: Detailed Police Officer Reports of Domestic Violence Incidents

In 2011, IMPD began piloting the Baker One program in the East police district. The program aims to improve data collection about domestic violence. Specific focus was placed on repeat offenders, and officers filled out Officer Information Sheets during calls with suspected domestic violence cases. They recorded detailed descriptions of domestic violence such as the appearance of the victim and suspect, signs and symptoms of strangulation, and whether the suspect has made death threats against the victim. The program went city-wide in June 2012 with data from the Officer Information Sheets being recorded in an electronic database beginning in 2013.

In 2017, IMPD changed their data reporting system. This led to an interruption in data and some differences in data format, resulting in data being unavailable from June 1, 2017, to June 19, 2019. Beginning June 20, 2019, data is available, but there are some differences. (A list of frequent offenders is no longer provided, and the lethality factors vary slightly from the previous data.)

Overall Cases

The number of cases where officers fill out domestic violence information sheets increased from 2013-2016 and matched that number again in 2020.

Figure 27: Officer Information Sheets by Year, 2013-2020
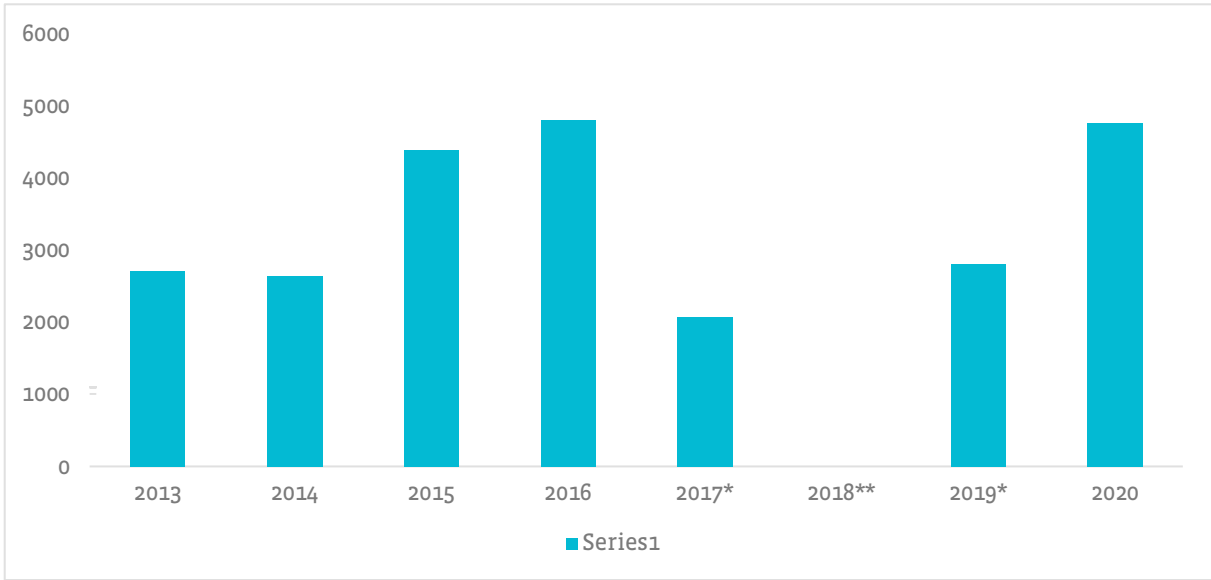
Source: Baker One Initiative Officer Sheets, 2013-2016
* Data missing for partial year, ** Data missing for entire year

Signs of Strangulation

Twenty to 26 percent of Officer Information Sheets list either visible or non-visible signs of strangulation (Figure 26). Signs of strangulation are based on visual observation of police officer and victim self-report. This figure is much lower after the break in data. Signs of strangulation were recorded in 20-25 percent of cases between 2013 and 2016, but only 13 percent in 2019 and 2020.
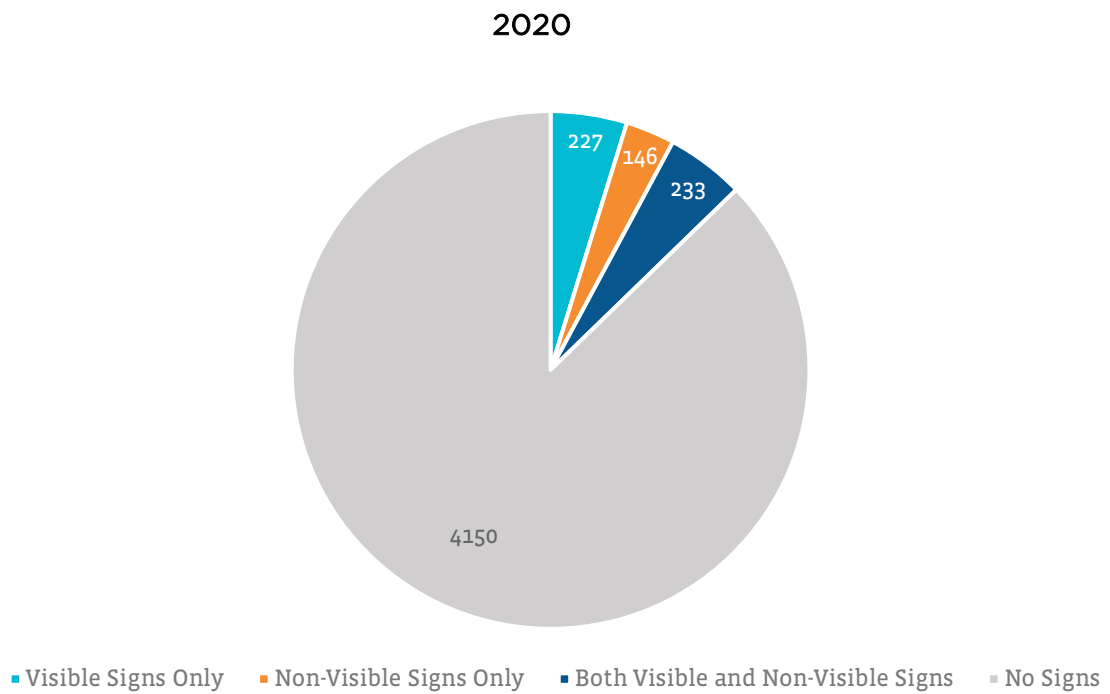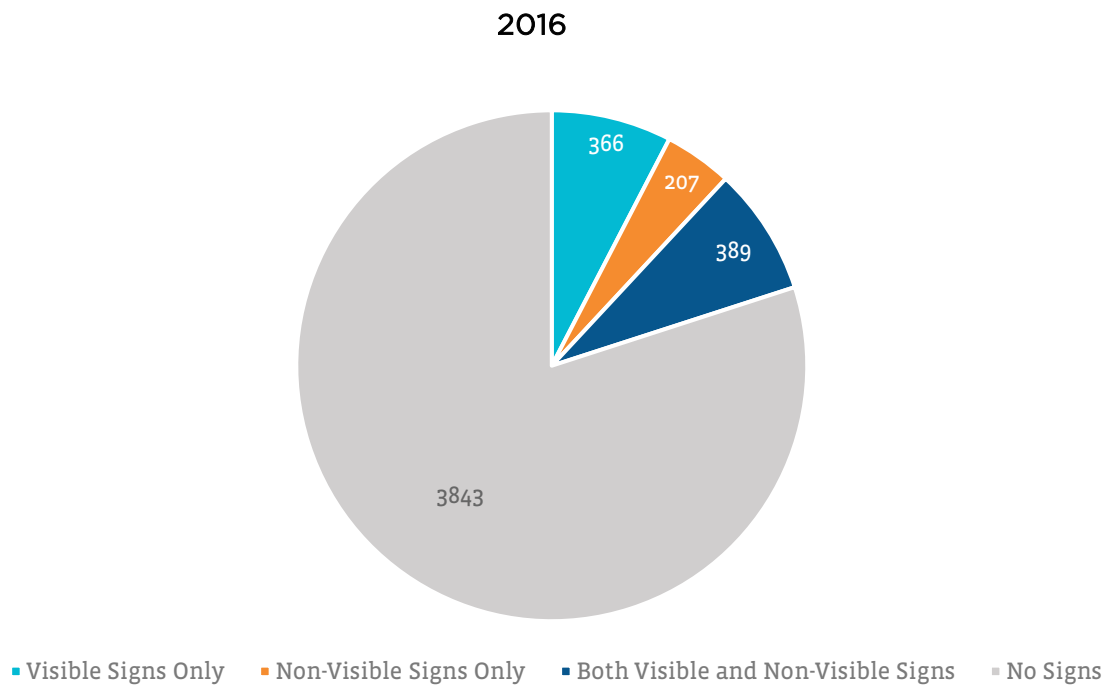
Figure 28: Percent of Cases Signs of Strangulation, 2013-2020

Source: Baker One Initiative Officer Sheets, 2013-2020

Figure 29 shows the proportion of victims in 2016 and 2020 who exhibited signs of strangulation. Fewer cases showed signs of strangulation in 2020 than in 2016 (13 percent compared to 23 percent).

*Figure 29: Cases by Signs of Strangulation, 2016 compared to 2020*

2016

- Visible Signs Only
- Non-Visible Signs Only
- Both Visible and Non-Visible Signs
- No Signs

2020

- Visible Signs Only
- Non-Visible Signs Only
- Both Visible and Non-Visible Signs
- No Signs

Source: Baker One Initiative Officer Sheet

Lethality Factors

The Baker One Initiative is especially interested in reducing domestic violence that results in homicide or serious assault. Officers collect information about lethality when responding to domestic violence reports. Figures 30 and 31 show that:

- Weapons were used in 29 percent of the 2019-2021 cases
- Twenty-nine percent of the victims believed the suspect might kill him or her.
- Thirty-one percent of suspects had tried to choke the victim in the past.
- Thirty-one percent of suspects had access to a gun.
- Fifty-nine percent of victims reported that there have been prior unreported incidents.

Figure 30: Incident Lethality, 2019-2021
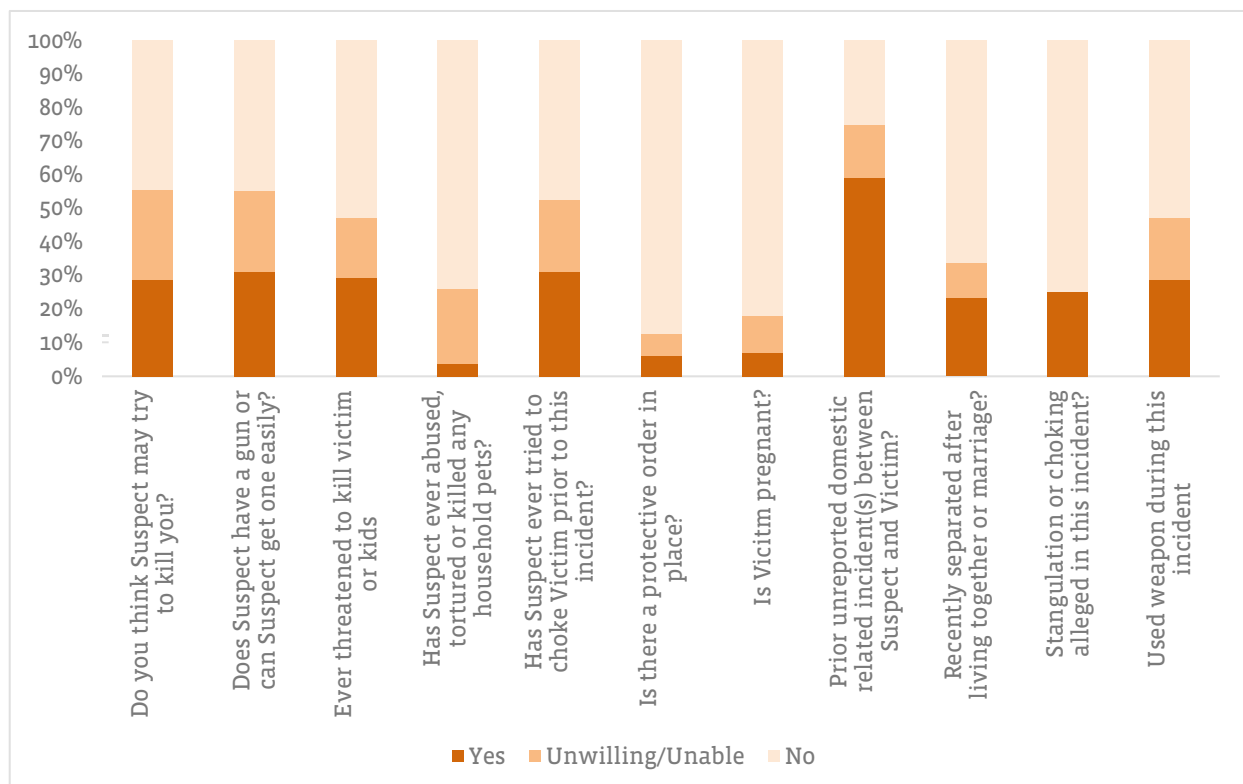
Source: Baker One Initiative Officer Sheet

Figure 31: Pct. Of Victims with a Known Response, Responding "Yes" to Lethality Questions, 2019-2021

Do you think suspect may try to kill you?	29%
Does suspect have a gun or can Suspect get one easily?	31%
Ever threatened to kill victim or kids	29%
Has suspect ever abused, tortured or killed any household pets?	4%
Has Suspect ever tried to choke Victim prior to this incident?	31%
Is there a protective order in place?	6%
Is victim pregnant?	7%
Prior unreported domestic related incident(s) between Suspect and Victim?	59%
Recently separated after living together or marriage?	23%
Strangulation or choking alleged in this incident?	25%
Used weapon during this incident	29%

Source: Baker One Initiative Officer Sheets

XI. Indiana 211

Indiana 211 is a free resource for residents in Indiana to receive information or referrals to various social and human service agencies. Trained specialists collect information from callers to identify their needs and the direct them to the appropriate resources to help them resolve those needs. During the call, a specialist determines if the caller is in a domestic violence situation and flags the call and its associated needs accordingly. All data in this section refers to calls with this domestic violence flag – not the totality of all 2-1-1 calls.

The information in this section summarizes data for callers whose home ZIP Codes are fully or partly within the eleven-county Central Indiana area. The term "Central Indiana" will be used to describe the areas covered by those ZIP Codes. Some of these ZIP Codes extend into other counties outside the Central Indiana region.

Because of the anonymized nature of these data, we are not able to link these callers to the data in other parts of this report. As a result, this section is intended to stand alone as its own analysis. It serves to supplement the information put forward elsewhere in this report.

Calls for Domestic Violence Help and Resources

In Central Indiana, 2-1-1 calls flagged as domestic violence-related accounted for one percent of all 2-1-1 calls in 2019 (1,556 out of 134,955; Figure 32). When the call specialist determines the caller requires services relating to domestic violence, they use a marker to indicate that the caller's needs are specific to those resources. The presence of the domestic violence marker may change the specific referrals the caller receives. For example, The Julian Center may be referred if the caller is in a domestic violence situation, but not necessarily if they are in a homelessness situation.

Figure 32: Calls Marked "Domestic Violence" in the Marion County Area, 2019

	Domestic Violence Calls	All Connect2Help Calls	Percent of Total
Quarter 1	227	22,464	1.9%
Quarter 2	245	18,279	1.3%
Quarter 3	253	16,867	1.5%
Quarter 4	165	12,851	1.3%
Total (2019)	890	70,461	1.3%

Source: C2H, 2019

In 2019, 2-1-1 calls marked "domestic violence" were most numerous in the Spring and Summer months between April and September. This is consistent with the 2016 data in the previous report. Normalized by population, these calls were concentrated in and around central Indianapolis (Figure 33).

Figure 33: Domestic Violence Calls per 1,000 Population by ZIP Code, 2019
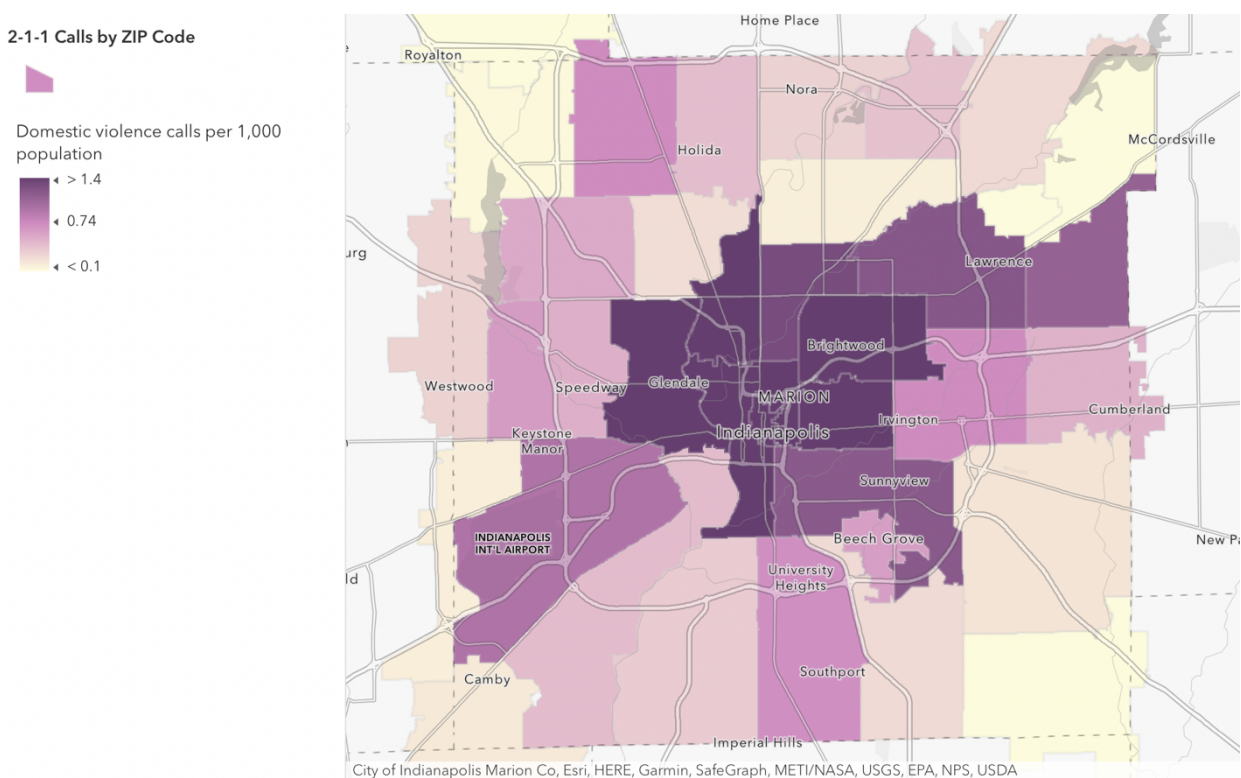
Sources: Indiana 211, 2019; 2020 Decennial Census via SAVI Community Information System

For all domestic violence calls in 2019, ZIP codes 46204 (downtown Indianapolis) and 46201 (Near Eastside) had the highest rate of calls, normalized by population (2.4 calls per 1000 population). These rates are much lower than in 2016. Downtown (46204), the number of domestic violence calls fell from 119 to 21 between 2016 and 2019, while population rose from 5,277 (2011-2015 ACS estimate) to 8,667 (2020 Census). On the Near Eastside (46201), the number of calls fell from 398 to 79 while the population rose from 30,638 to 32,264.

Overall, the number of domestic violence calls fell precipitously between 2016 and 2019. In 2016, there were 2,703 calls with a domestic violence flag in Marion County alone. In 2019, there were only 890 in the entire Central Indiana region. This could, in part, be related to increased awareness campaigns and other domestic violence hotlines that have emerged or grown in awareness.
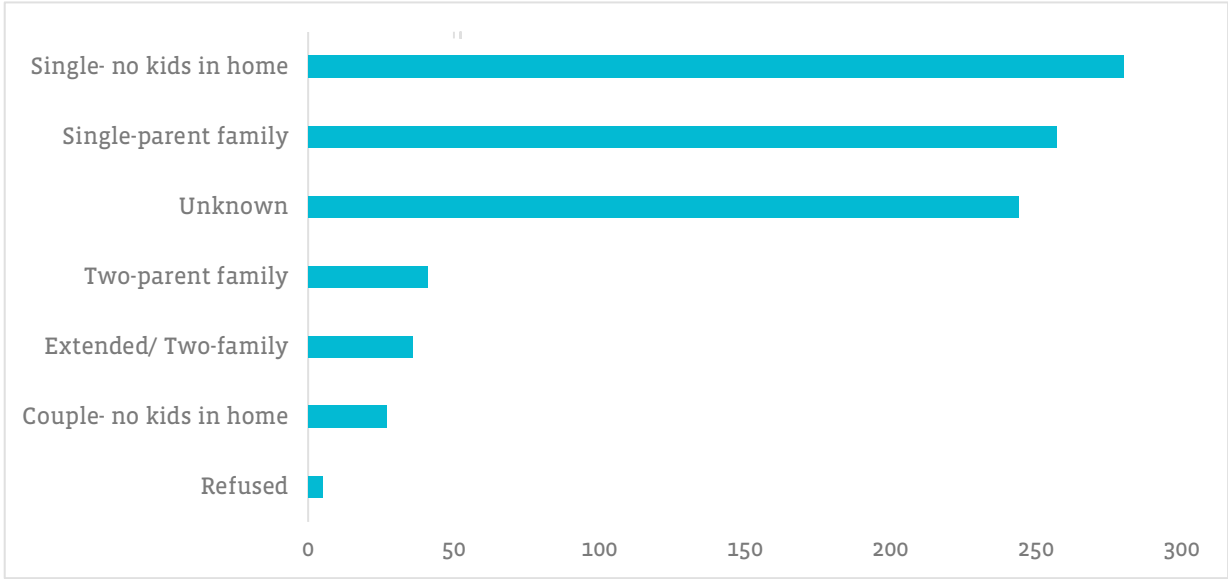
Caller Characteristics

Call specialists collect some demographic information on callers while they attempt to connect the caller with appropriate resources, including race, gender, age, and family type (specifically, whether the caller lives with other adults or children). For

calls marked "domestic violence," this section summarizes the information about the callers themselves.

Callers with domestic violence-related needs were predominantly single, with or without children (Figure 34).

Figure 34: Callers by Family Type, 2019

Most domestic callers did not identify their race. Of those who did, Black callers (194) outnumber White callers (156), while 36 identified as Hispanic or Latino.

Despite many callers of unknown age, domestic violence 2-1-1 callers skew older than domestic violence victims. Thirty-two percent of domestic violence victims fall between age 34-54, while 46 percent of callers of a known age are in this group. Victims aged 20-24 make up 11 percent of victims, but people aged 18-24 make up only 8 percent of callers with an identified age.

Figure 35: Callers by Race, 2019[12]
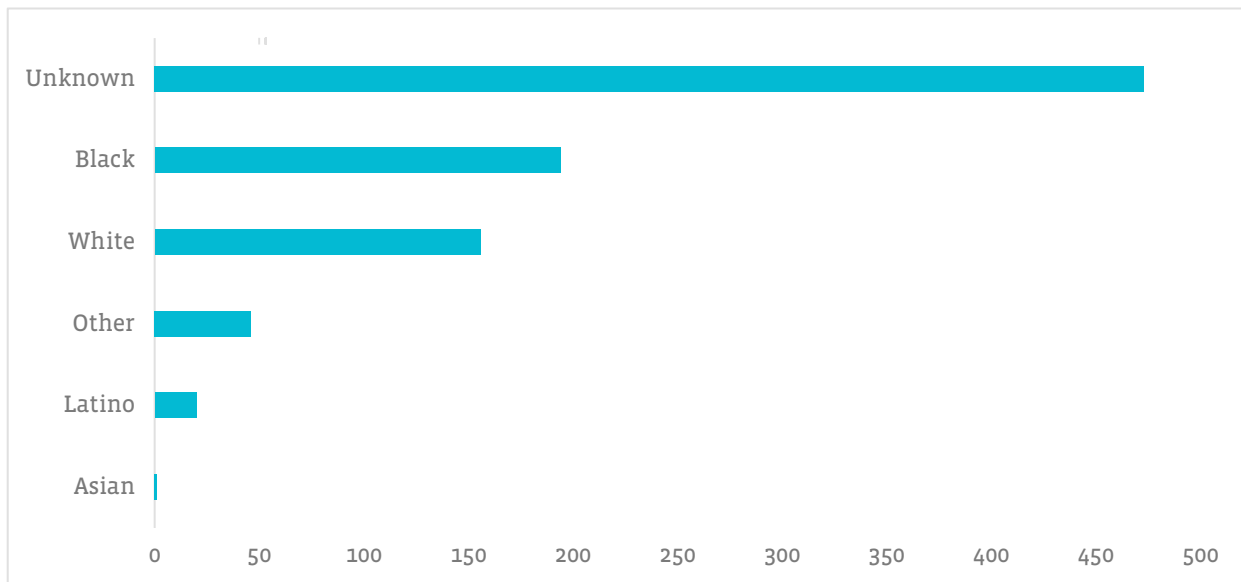
Source: Indiana 211, 2019

Figure 36: Callers by Age, 2019
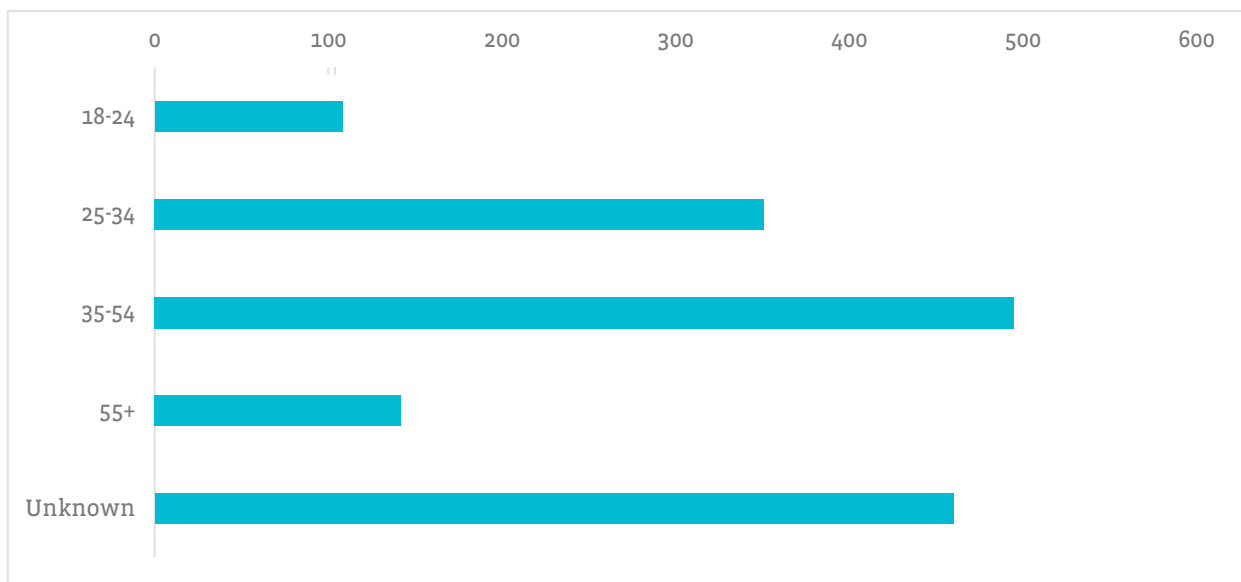
Source: Indiana 211, 2019

[12] Note: "Latino" is included as a race in this dataset

Caller Needs and Referred Resources

When an individual dials 2-1-1 looking for help connecting to resources, they may have multiple needs that are addressed in a single call. Some of these needs may be specific to domestic violence (e.g., domestic violence shelter) while others are not (e.g., utility assistance). A need is "met" if the caller receives information or a referral to an agency that may help them address their need. The need is "unmet" if no referral can be made. It is important to note that a "met" need does not indicate the caller's problem was resolved.

Figure 37 lists the top ten needs for calls marked "domestic violence" in 2019. Housing is, by far, the most common need associated with domestic violence calls. Figure 38 breaks out the needs of domestic violence callers by the top ten requested services, including whether the needs were met (that is, whether the caller was connected with a resource).

The most common service requested is "domestic violence shelter." While 86 percent of these requests were met, that still left 84 unmet requests in 2019. "Homelessness coordination services" was the second most requested service and also had the highest number of unmet requests (143).

Figure 37: Top Ten Needs for Domestic Violence Calls, 2019
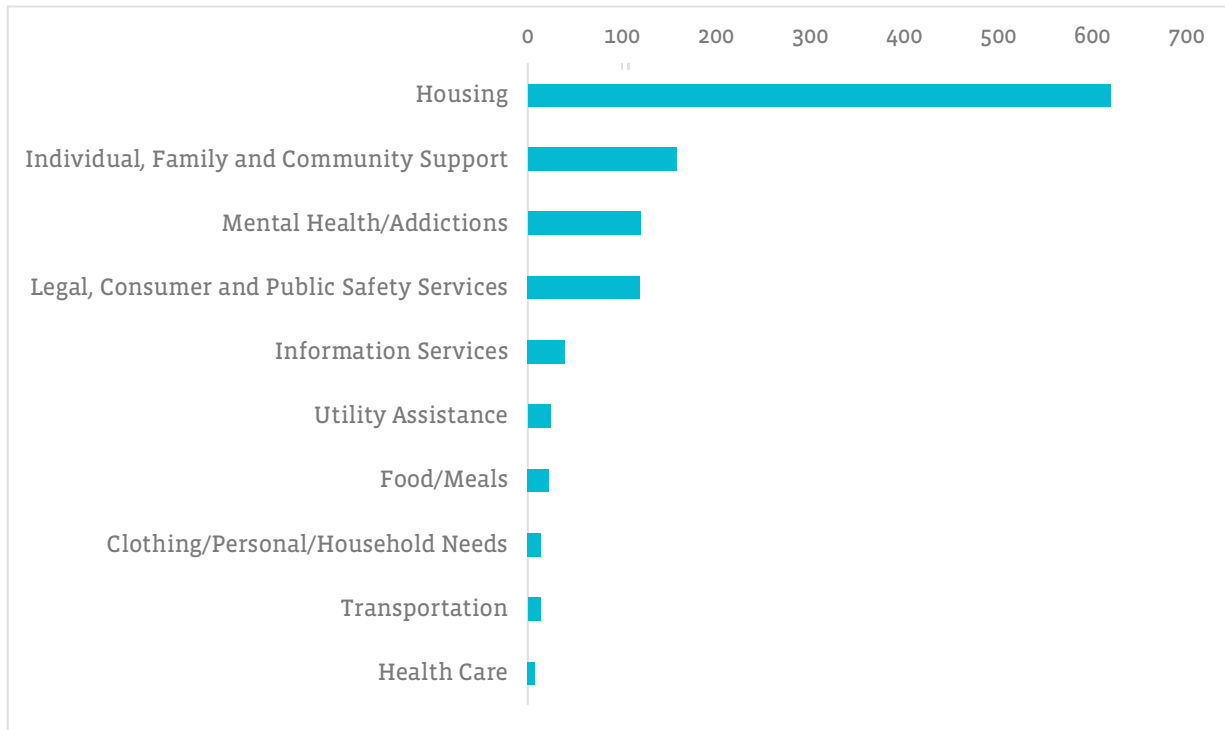
Source: Indiana 211, 2019

Figure 38: Top Ten Referral Services for Domestic Violence Calls, 2019
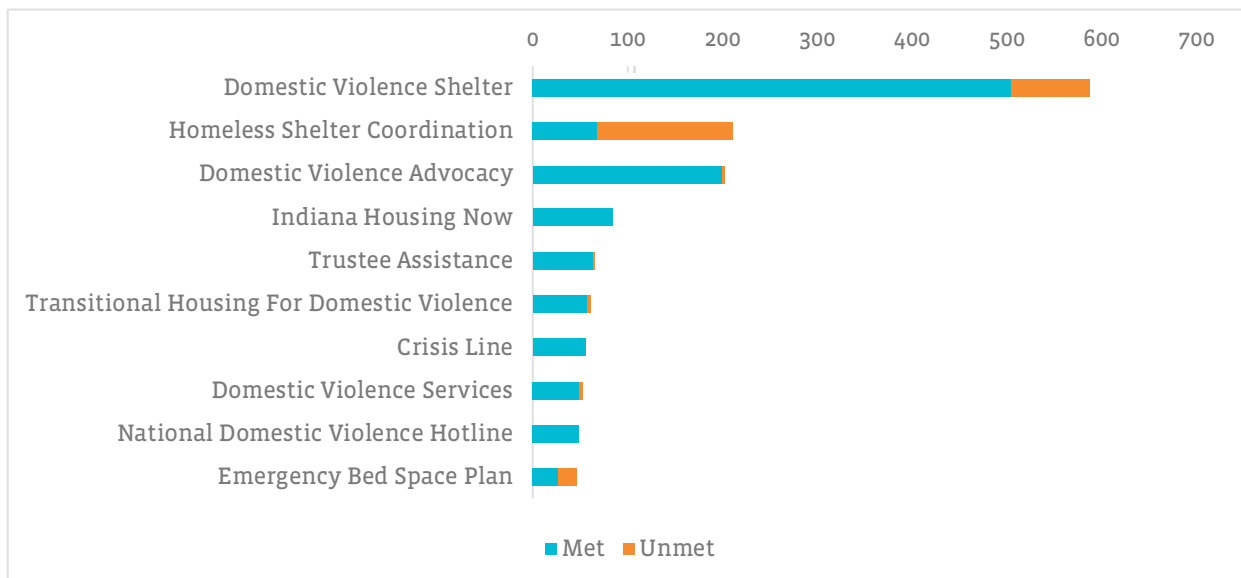
Source: Indiana 211, 2019

XII. Data Notes
Data Limitations and Quality Concerns
IMPD Victims' Assistance

- This a civilian unit with IMPD that responds to crimes to provide on-scene crisis intervention and help after the event (such as referrals to support and services and help with the criminal justice system).
- This unit responds many incident types. A "domestic violence flag" present in one of the data tables provided by Victims' Assistance was used to determine if an incident was related to domestic violence.
- IMPD Victims' Assistance records gender only as "Female", "Male", and "Other".

Indiana Supreme Court Protective Orders

- The data in this report pertain to Civil Protective Orders only.
- No exact date of issue is provided with these data, only the year in which the order was issued.
- No "reason" for the protective order is provided. It is unknown if the Indiana Supreme Court records data about the reason for requesting an order.
- It is known that protective orders may be issued for reasons other than domestic violence. This report assumes a large majority of the cases are domestic violence related.
- The Indiana Supreme Court records gender only as "F" or "M".

Marion County Prosecutor's Office Data

- Prior to 2014, many records lacked race and gender information. From 2014 onward, all records have a race and gender identified.
- Not all cases have a resolution defined. There are 19,852 records (13.4 percent) in the MCPO_Charge_Details table that have null verdicts.
- Due to the length of time that cases are pending in the criminal justice system prior to being resolved, there is a lag in case outcomes reporting. If data is entered on the last days, weeks, or months of 2016, the outcomes of most of those cases will be "unknown" until those cases are resolved, possibly sometime in 2017. This is similar for cases entered in 2021. Therefore, our updated report focuses on outcomes for 2017-2020 cases, for which data is complete.
- These data also include pleas, so a case may start with a felony charge, but may end with a conviction where the accused pleads to a misdemeanor charge.

- For the purposes of this report, unless otherwise noted, each case is counted only once. So even if a case contains five charges, then here, it is counted as one case.
- Charges and cases are different. A single case may consist of one or many charges. (Some cases have no charges.) A stalking case, for example may have included in it a charge for stalking, a charge for battery, four charges for invasion of privacy, and a charge for intimidation. Under this example, one case would be filed against the perpetrator, but that case would contain seven charges.
- The Marion County Superior Court records gender only as "Female" or "Male".

Baker One Initiative

- These data are captured when police officers complete an Officer Information Sheet at the scene of an incident in which domestic violence is reported or suspected. The reports are sometimes incomplete. Data are captured at the scene only and are not updated later, even if new information about the case emerges.
- The data are based on victim's report and officer observation only.
- The appearance of the victim and suspect are based on officer's observation.
- The Baker One initiative began as a pilot in the East District in 2011 and went city-wide in June 2012. Data were put into electronic records beginning in 2013.
- Data is missing from May 2017 to June 2019.

Indiana 211

- Domestic Violence-related calls are determined by call specialists during the needs assessment during the call. The method used to determine this may be subjective.
- Each call may be associated with one or many needs.
- For each need the caller has, the call specialist attempts to refer the caller to a relevant service for which they are eligible. If they succeed in referring a caller, this need is flagged as "met." Needs for which a referral was not made are flagged as "unmet." This does not indicate if the caller followed up on the referral or received any services via the referral.