

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN OHIO - 2015

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Sexual Assault in Ohio

What is sexual assault?

For this report, sexual assault is a general term used to cover a range of crimes which include the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) statutes of rape, sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, gross sexual imposition and sexual imposition. In accordance with the Ohio Revised Code statute¹, the following statutes are defined as:

- **2907.02, Rape**, when the offender has sexual conduct with another AND
 - The offender substantially impaired the other in order to prevent resistance (through drugs, intoxication, or controlled substance) by force, threat of force, or deception; OR
 - The other person is younger than 13 years old; OR
 - The other person's ability to resist or consent is impaired due to mental or physical condition or advanced age, and the offender knows this
- **2907.03, Sexual Battery**, sexual conduct with another AND
 - Knowingly coercing someone to submit by any means that would prevent resistance by someone of ordinary resolution; OR
 - Knowing that someone's ability to appraise the nature of or control their own conduct is substantially impaired; OR
 - Knowing that someone submits because the other person is unaware that the act is being committed; OR
 - Knowing that someone submits because the other person mistakenly identifies the offender as the other person's spouse; OR
 - Offender has authority over someone (e.g. offender is a parent/guardian, has institutional authority, is a teacher, cleric, etc...See statute for full details.)
- **2907.04, Unlawful Sexual Conduct with a Minor**, when an offender who is 18 years or older who engages in sexual conduct with someone who is thirteen, fourteen and fifteen years old, or the offender is reckless in that regard.
- **2907.05, Gross Sexual Imposition**, no person shall have sexual contact with another or cause another to have sexual contact with the offender, or cause two or more persons to have sexual contact when the following applies:
 - Forcible compulsion; OR
 - Incapacity through force of threat of force; OR
 - Knows the person is incapacitated; OR
 - One of the victims is younger than 13 years old; OR
 - The other person cannot consent due to mental or physical condition, advanced age, or substantial impairment
- **2907.06, Sexual Imposition**, having, causing another to have or causing two or more other persons to have sexual contact AND
 - Knowing that the sexual contact is offensive to the other person, or is reckless in that regard; OR
 - Knowing that the other person's mental abilities are substantially impaired; OR
 - Knowing that the other person submits because of being unaware of the sexual contact; OR

¹ *Sexual Assault in Ohio: Fact Sheet of Legal Definitions*. 8/2/2012. Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, <http://www.oaesv.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Legal-Definitions-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

- The other person, or one of the other persons is thirteen, fourteen or fifteen years old and is at least four more years older than the other person; OR
- Offender is a mental health professional and the other person(s) is a patient/client, who the offender has falsely represented that the sexual contact is necessary for mental health treatment purposes.

OIBRS data on sexual assault

One tool that can be used to examine sexual assault 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 2015, 552 agencies covering approximately 77 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.

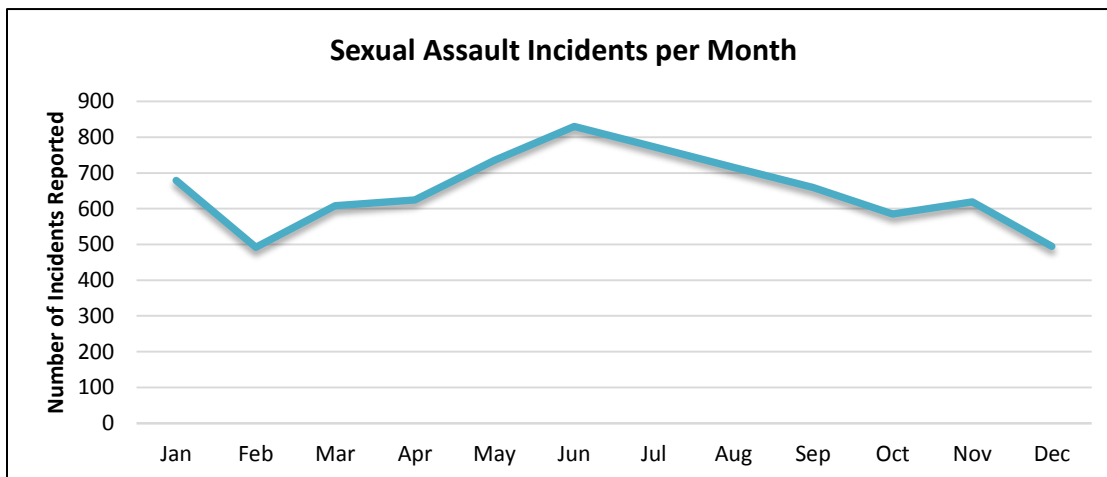
OIBRS data are used in this report on sexual assault. However, some limitations must be noted.

- Because reporting for Ohio is incomplete, 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 changes yearly, no annual comparisons can be made with the data.
- Not all victims choose to report incidents of sexual assault 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 missing information (e.g., demographic information) on the victim, the suspect, the victim-suspect relationship, or the particular circumstances of the incident. In this report, statistics are only provided for those instances in which complete information is available.

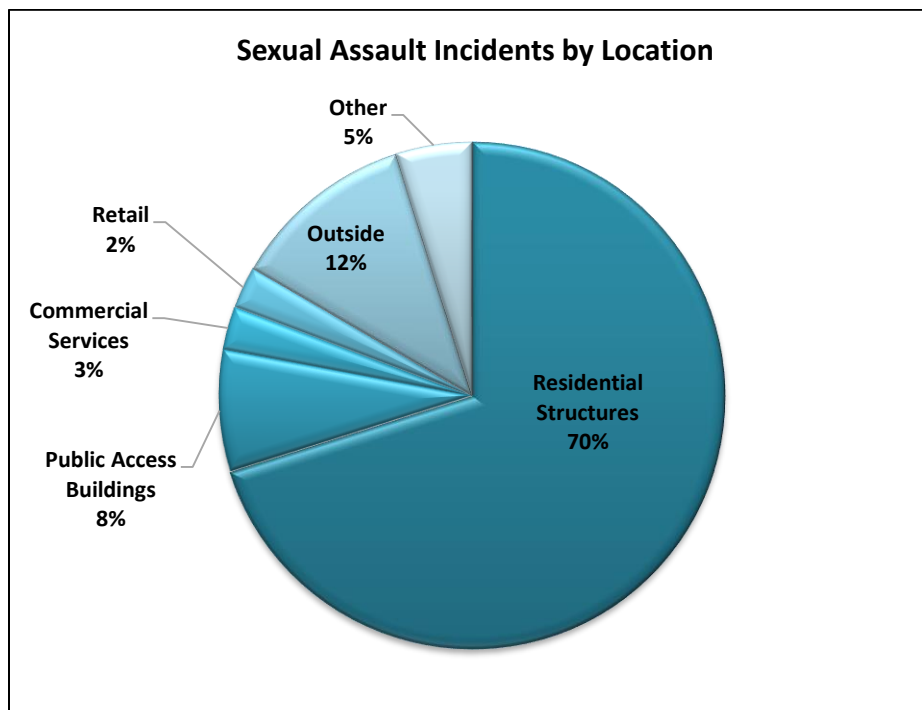
Readers are cautioned against using the statistics contained in this report as a basis of comparison with other states or other years of data.

Characteristics of Sexual Assault

In 2015, the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System agencies reported 7,815 incidents of sexual assault. The number of sexual assaults reported peaked in June and thirty-seven percent (N = 3,054) of reported incidents occurred between May and August of 2015.

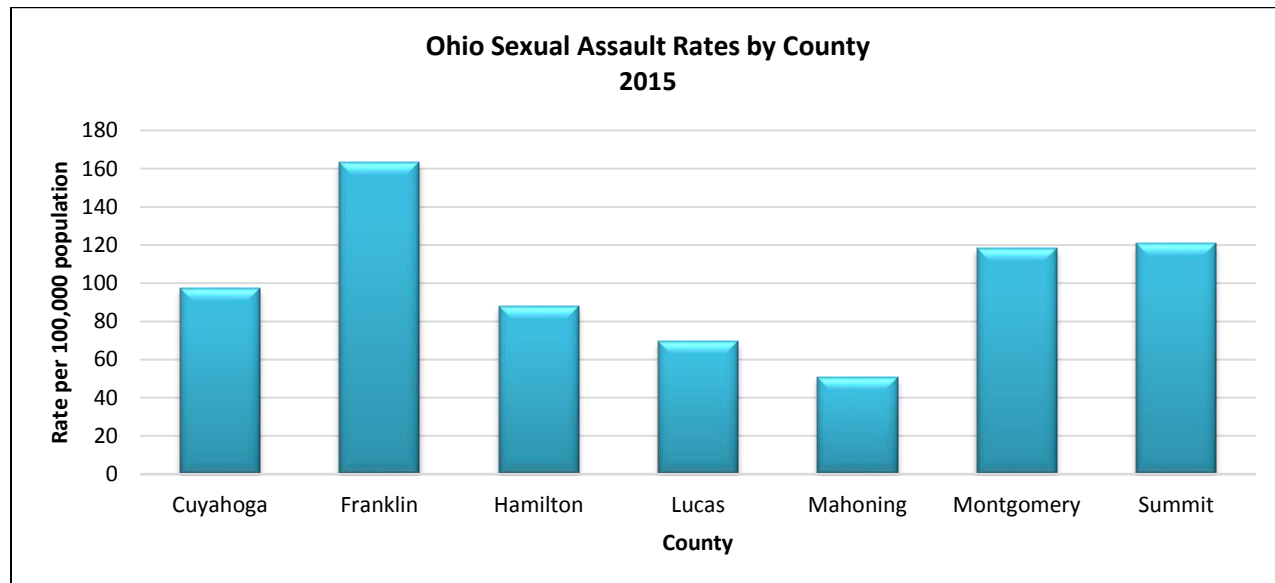


The majority of sexual assault incidents were reported as occurring at a person's residence. Within residential structures, 72 percent were reported to have occurred in single-family homes and 22 percent in multiple dwellings (i.e. apartment, duplex, condominium, housing project and townhouse). Outside, 57 percent were reported to have taken place in the street or parking lot. Within public access buildings, 49 percent occurred at schools or colleges and 18 percent within jail/prison. Lastly, within commercial services, 64 percent were reported having occurred in a hotel/motel.

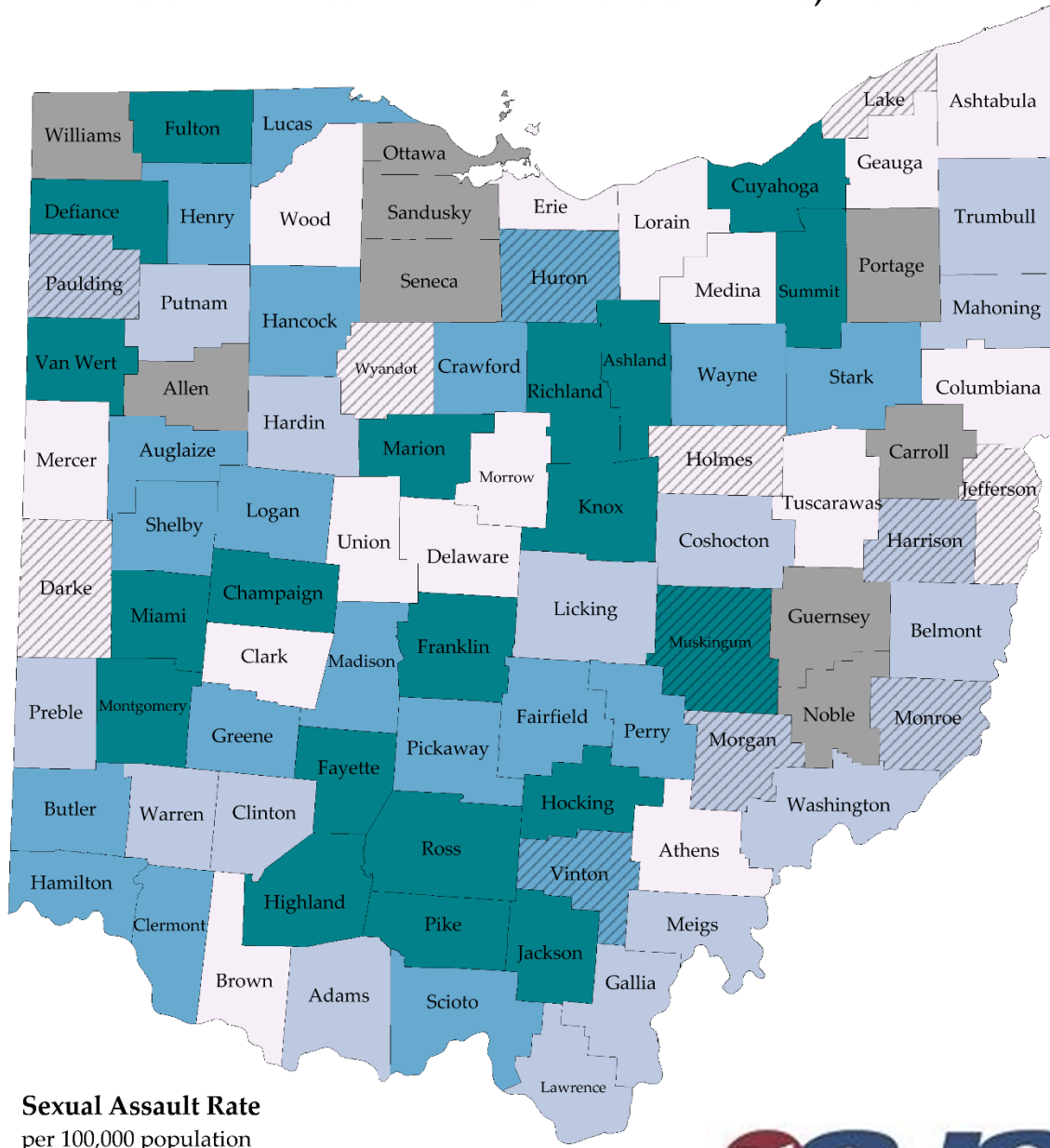


Of the incidents where weapon information was reported, the majority of offenders, 66 percent, were reported to have not used or displayed a weapon. Thirty percent of offenders used a personal weapon (hands, fists, feet, etc.).

In Ohio, sexual assaults were reported at a rate of 86.9 per 100,000 population in 2015. Of the larger populated counties in Ohio, Franklin County had the highest rate at 163.2 reported sexual assaults per 100,000 population.



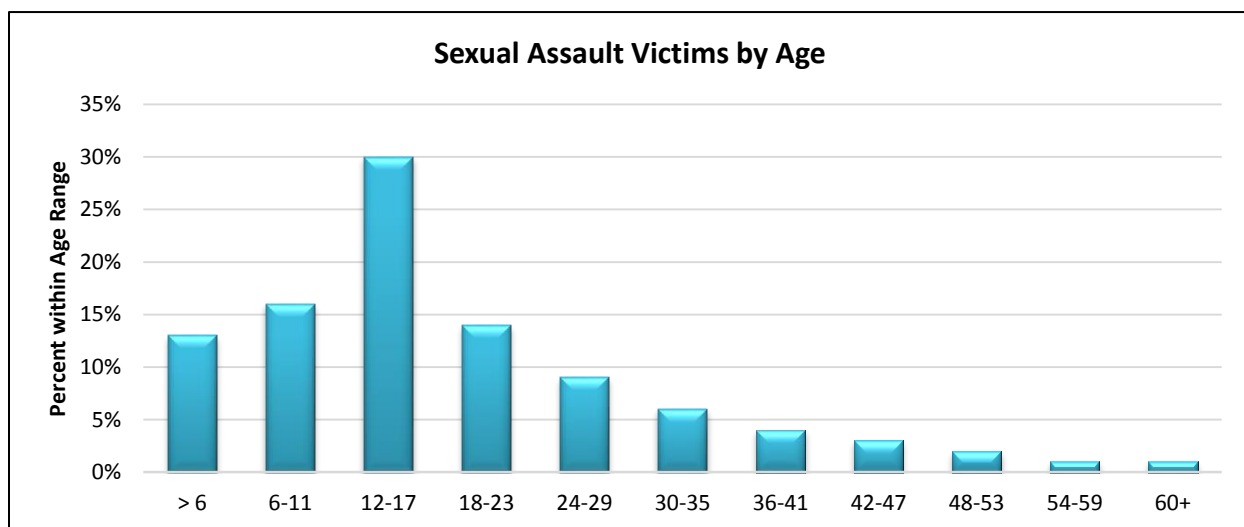
Sexual Assault in Ohio Counties, 2015



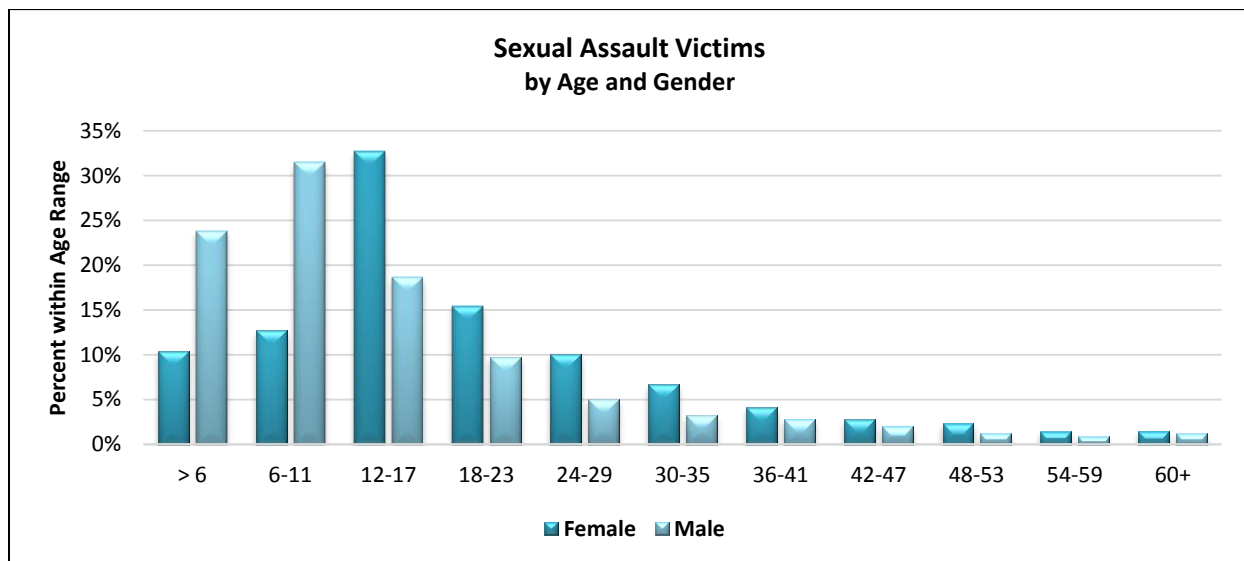
Notes: Data have not been adjusted for incomplete reporting. Counties labeled "N/A" have population coverage <33% or a Relative Standard Error (RSE) > 50%. Counties labeled "Unstable" have population coverage of <50% or RSE > 30%. Data source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System. Map colors based on www.colorbrewer2.org.

Characteristics of Victims²

In 2015, there were a total of 8,447 victims. Ninety-four percent of sexual assault incidents involved a single victim. The average age of sexual assault victims was 18.9 years and approximately 30 percent of victims were between the ages of 12 and 17 years.



Eighty-three percent of victims were female and 33 percent were reported to be between the ages of 12 and 17 years. Thirty-one percent of male victims were between the ages of 6 and 11 years.

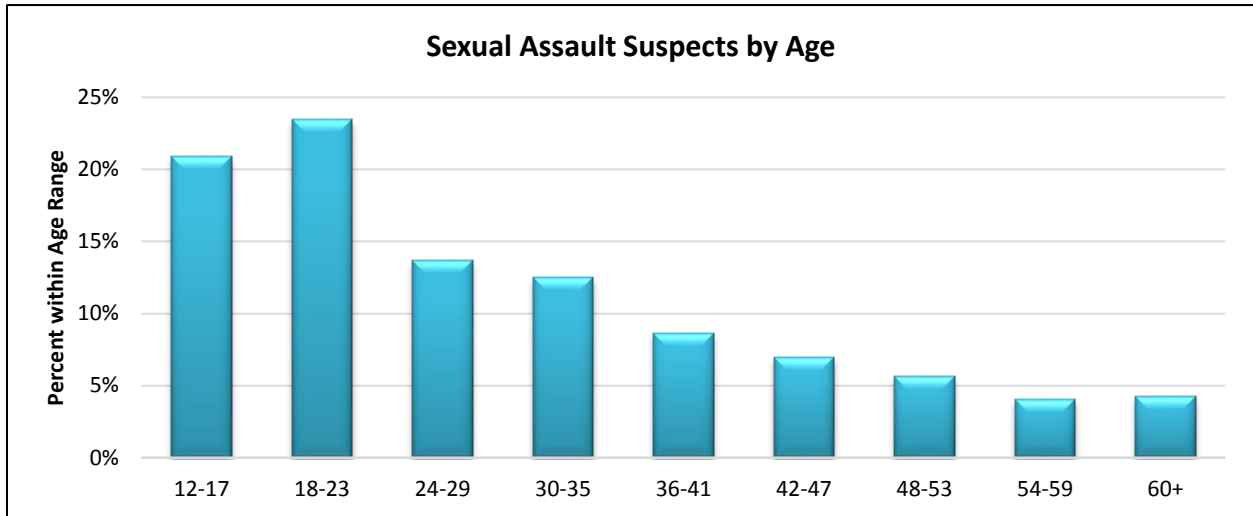


Seventy percent of sexual assault victims were White and 30 percent were Black. White females made up 70 percent of all female sexual assault victims and White males made up 68 percent of all male sexual assault victims.

² The victim data are based on those victims for whom the information was provided or known. There were instances in which a victim's age, race, sex and/or relationship data were not available.

Suspect Characteristics³

Of the suspects for whom demographic information is known, 93 percent of the suspects were male. The average age of suspects was 31.7 years and 44 percent of the suspects fell within the age range of 12 and 23 years⁴.



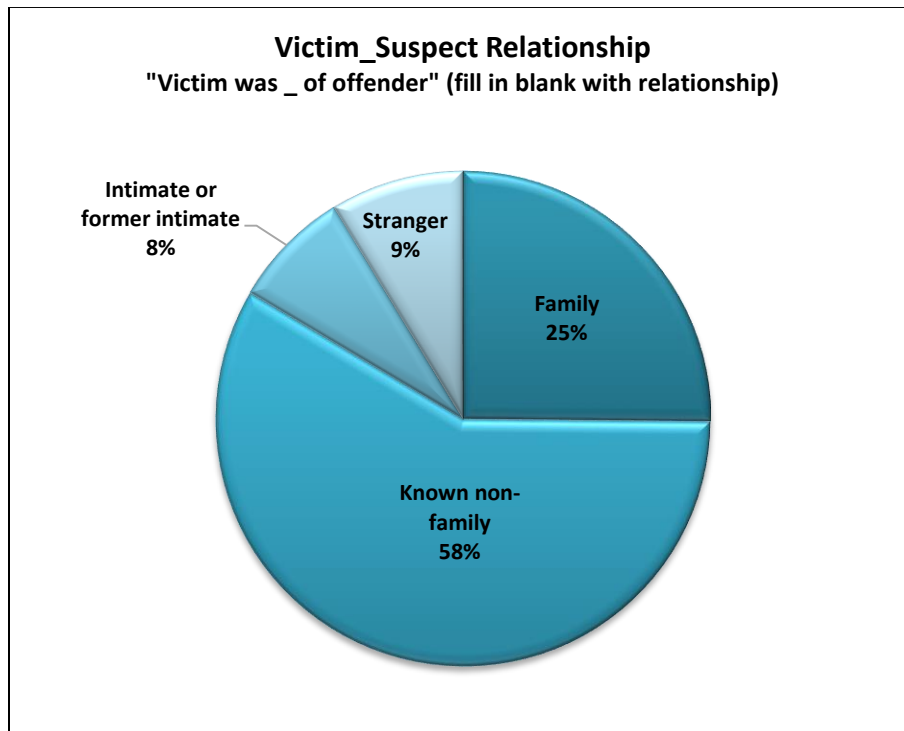
Fifty-eight percent of sexual assault suspects were White and 41 percent were Black. Furthermore, White males made up 57 percent of all male suspects and White females made up 67 percent of all female suspects. Eighty-nine percent of Black victims reported a Black suspect and 70 percent of White victims reported a White suspect.

³ The suspect data are based on those suspects for whom the information was provided or known. There were instances in which a suspect's age, race, sex and/or relationship data were not available.

⁴ For analysis and reliability purposes, ages reported less than 12 years old were excluded from this section of the report. There were a total of 382 cases reported in which the suspect was reported to be between the ages of 1-11 years. Approximately 26 percent of suspects were recorded as being one year old and 41 percent of suspects were recorded as being between the ages of 10 and 11 years. Circumstances surrounding these reported cases were not clear and therefore excluded.

Victim-Suspect Relationship

Approximately 87 percent of reports were identified as a single-victim/single-suspect case. The data show that sexual assault victims nearly always knew the suspect – only nine percent of victims reported the suspect as a stranger. Approximately eight percent of victims were identified as an intimate or former intimate (boy/girlfriend, common-law spouse, homosexual partner, or current or former spouse) partner to the suspect. Within the 'known non-family' category, 56 percent of victims were identified as acquaintances, 26 percent were identified generically as 'otherwise known', 9 percent were identified as a friend, and three percent identified as a neighbor to the suspects. Within the 'family' category, 39 percent of victims were identified as other family member, 22 percent of victims were identified as the child of the suspect and 18 percent were identified as a sibling to the suspect.



Breaking down the victim-suspect relationship data into gender categories revealed that 59 percent of female victims (out of all female victims) reported sexual assaults by a known non-family member, with 58 percent being identified as an acquaintance. Similarly, 56 percent of male victims (out of all male victims) reported sexual assaults by a known non-family member, with 45 percent being identified as an acquaintance.

