

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN INDIANA

2017 OFFENDER OVERVIEW

Created by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, this report analyzes 2017 arrest, conviction, and criminal history data, including offender characteristics, to shed light on the issue of domestic violence in Indiana.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report analyzes arrest, conviction, and criminal history data to create a profile of domestic violence offenders throughout the state of Indiana in 2017. Arrest data was sourced from the Criminal History Repository Information System (CHRIS), conviction data came from the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council (IPAC), and the criminal history data was gathered by the Management Performance Hub (MPH) using data from the Indiana State Police. The IPAC is not required to collect data on the relationship of the offender to the victim, therefore only cases that were inherently domestic violence related were included in the analysis. These offenses include domestic battery (and all the variations therein) and invasion of privacy. One limitation of this study is that it was unable to capture additional offenses outside of this scope that were instances of domestic violence.

During 2017, 11,610 domestic battery and invasion of privacy arrests were reported into CHRIS. Of those arrests, males accounted for over four times the amount of females (9,521 to 2,087) with the gender of two offenders being unknown. Most offenders were white and over 81% were between the ages of 15 and 44. Marion County represented the highest number of total arrests with 2,982, and the second highest number of arrests relative to county population, tying with Vigo County. Allen County takes the lead for the highest number of arrests relative to county population. Orange County and Ohio County saw the fewest arrests, with one and two, respectively.

IPAC reported 3,172 total convicted offenses, committed by 3,036 different offenders across 87 counties, with data for the remaining five counties being unavailable. The analysis showed that the average domestic violence offender in the state of Indiana is a white (~78%), Non-Hispanic (~86%), male (87%), and between the ages of 25 – 34 (~40%). The majority of offenses (~70%) were committed in “mostly urban” counties, as classified by the United States Census Bureau. Relative to total county population, St. Joseph County has the highest number of domestic violence offenses. 59% of domestic battery offenders were convicted with a misdemeanor and 41% were charged with a felony. The most common sentence was jail (63.4%), followed by prison (20%), and probation (13.5%). Community Correction sentences only accounted for 2.5% of sentences. 97% of invasion of privacy offenses were convicted as misdemeanors with the most common sentence being jail (74%). Over 63% of all sentences were partially or fully suspended.

Criminal history data showed 15,396 prior arrests among the offenders in the 2017 IPAC offender dataset. Meaning, that these 3,036 offenders had at least 15,396 unique instances of crime prior to being arrested for domestic battery. These figures would result in an average of over 5 prior offenses per offender, though the data is unable to reflect the number of individual offenders represented in those 15,396 arrests. INcite data showed that of the 3,036 offenders, 1,819 (59.9%) have recidivated since being convicted and sentenced for their domestic violence offense in 2017.

BACKGROUND

Currently, Indiana does not have a uniform database for collecting comprehensive domestic violence incident data, making it difficult to determine the true size and scope of the issue. Although state and local law enforcement agencies may report data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) regarding arrests and crimes via the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR), doing so is not mandatory. Moreover, domestic violence crimes are largely reported as assaults, and the local UCR data that are available does not include the characteristics of victims or offenders. While Indiana is converting to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), full participation has not yet been obtained. In an effort to learn more about domestic violence in Indiana, this report analyzes domestic violence crimes known to law enforcement, and offender characteristics, over a one-year period, using arrest, criminal history and prosecution data.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There is a substantial body of literature regarding the socioeconomic, social and psychological characteristics of domestic violence offenders. Most scholars agree on a number of domestic violence offender characteristics. Roberts (1987) posits four of the “most common” characteristics of the prosecuted batterer: between the ages of 20 and 34; cohabitating with his victim; unemployed or working in a blue collar position; and likely to abuse drugs and/or alcohol with prior convictions indicating as such (Roberts, 1987).¹ Numerous researchers have noted the importance of criminal history in predicting future domestic violence offenses. Becker and French (2004) expand upon an idea originally outlined by John Locke in the early 1700s pertaining to the “link” between animal cruelty, child abuse, and domestic violence.² Their research, along with that of a number of other scholars, suggests criminal history with instances of any of the above offenses could serve as a predictor for domestic violence offenders.

Busch and Rosenberg (2004) compared 45 men and 45 women who were arrested and convicted of domestic violence offenses, offering insight into the predictive capabilities of criminal history across gender. Men were found to have a higher likelihood of both prior domestic violence offenses and prior nonviolent offenses, though men and women were alike in their likelihood to have prior non-domestic, violent offenses. The use of substances, both drugs and alcohol, at the time of arrest were also of equal likelihood across genders. However, women were more likely than men to report abuse from their partner at the time of their offense (Busch and Rosenberg, 2004).³

¹ Roberts, A. R. (1987). Psychosocial Characteristics of Batterers: A Study of 234 Men Charged with Domestic Violence Offenses. *Journal of Family Violence*, 2(1), 81-93. doi:0885-7482/87/0300-0081505.00/0

² Becker, F., & French, L. (2004, November 2). Making the Links: Child Abuse, Animal Cruelty and Domestic Violence. *Child Abuse Review*, 13, 399-414. doi:10.1002/car.878

³ Busch, A. L., & Rosenberg, M. S. (2004, February). Comparing Women and Men Arrested for Domestic Violence: A Preliminary Report. *Journal of Family Violence*, 19(1), 49-57. doi:0885-7482/04/0200-0049/0

Eke et al. (2011) created a risk assessment and found that women who were victims of intimate partner homicide (IPH) scored higher (showed higher risk for IPH) than victims who were survivors of attempted intimate partner homicide. The risk assessment included demographic information, the circumstances of the relationship (etc. marital status, cohabitation, etc.), the offender's prior criminal history, and their prior psychiatric history. Eke et al. (2011) found that 42% of IPH offenders had prior criminal charges. A subset of the sample revealed that 43% of offenders had reportedly assaulted their partner prior to the IPH. Though, not all of these instances of abuse were officially reported to police, instead they were noted by shelters, community services, or physicians.

All of these predictors and noted incidents combined, create an overall risk indicator for the offender that can be utilized by law enforcement. As noted by Eke et al. (2011), while the majority of offenders do not end up committing IPH, the data do show that the majority continue to abuse, escalating in injury severity each time.⁴ Much can be learned from existing research of domestic violence offenders or "batterers" in the way of effective treatment and programs for offenders. However, these treatments and programs will remain unknown and/or underutilized in the state of Indiana until the true magnitude and scope of the problem is identified.

This research, coupled with the research of numerous additional scholars indicates that criminal history is telling and can be used as a predictor for future behavior. These trends are vital for law enforcement, lawmakers, and judiciaries to understand in the creation and execution of policy. However, theoretical knowledge of these trends may not be enough if there is no hard evidence of these trends being perpetuated within the state. Prior reports and studies in Indiana have focused predominately on domestic violence victims using data on victims gathered from victim serving organizations. While these reports provide valuable insight into the state of domestic violence victims, they can only provide so much in way of domestic violence offenders.

Though law enforcement, law makers, and judiciaries are often not privy to all the information needed to predict first-time and repeat offenders through means of socioeconomic, social, and psychological characteristics, they do have the ability to review criminal history which is shown to be one of the largest predictors of repeat offenses. This report examines the criminal history of known domestic violence offenders to create evidential backing for the theoretical claim that an offender's criminal history has predictive power. If this claim is substantiated for domestic violence offenders in Indiana, these findings could prove valuable to addressing the reoccurring and continually growing issue of domestic violence.

⁴ Eke, A. W., Hilton, N. Z., Harris, G. T., Rice, M. E., & Houghton, R. E. (2011). Intimate Partner Homicide: Risk Assessment and Prospects for Prediction. *Journal of Family Violence*, 26, 211-216. doi:10.1007/s10896-010-9356-y

DATA & METHODS

This study employed domestic violence data from the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council (IPAC) consisting of domestic battery and invasion of privacy convictions for the state of Indiana in 2017, whereas, 2017 was the year of conviction, not necessarily the year the offense was committed. Domestic battery and invasion of privacy offenses were chosen because these crimes are uniquely related to domestic violence incidences. IPAC's data does not track victim-offender relationships, therefore, it was not possible to obtain conviction data for all crimes involving intimate partners. The data were cleaned and supplemental data were added to the dataset using Indiana Court Information Technology Extranet (INCite), which is the Indiana Supreme Courts' secured website housing offender and court case data. Supplemental data included offender ethnicity, prior convictions, and the relationship between the victim and offender for cases in which it could be determined. Sentencing data was also gathered from INCite to determine instances of probation and community corrections for those defendants in the IPAC data that showed no reported sentence or suspended sentences. Additionally, INCite data was used to cross check the IPAC data, filling in missing and/or incorrect information such as birthdays, gender, and race. Data were then filtered and analyzed producing the findings below.

Arrest data were obtained from the Criminal History Repository Information System (CHRIS), through a dashboard maintained by Indiana's Management Performance Hub (MPH). CHRIS merges data from three sources: fingerprinting data at the time of arrest from LiveScan⁵, criminal disposition data from the Indiana Prosecution Case Management System (INPCMS)⁶, and court data from Odyssey⁷. The data were then cleaned and analyzed.

Criminal history data for the domestic violence offenders was collected from the Indiana State Police, then cleaned, de-identified, and aggregated by the Management Performance Hub (MPH) before it was received by the ICJI. IPAC data and criminal history data were analyzed both independently and together, as this data all pertained to the same group of offenders. However, arrest data was only analyzed independently as this data did not completely align with the variables and measures observed in the IPAC and criminal history data. The criminal history data show arrests for the year of 2017 in all 92 counties on charges of domestic battery and invasion of privacy. The IPAC data and criminal history data are lacking full representation from all 92 counties. Furthermore, IPAC data shows convictions for 2017, meaning some of the crimes were committed prior to 2017. For these purposes, the IPAC data and criminal history data were viewed and analyzed separately from the arrest data.

⁵ The LiveScan system houses records for fingerprints and other data captured at the time of arrest.

⁶ INPCMS is a system for prosecuting attorneys to input data pertaining to criminal cases in the state of Indiana.

⁷ Odyssey is a Case Management System which maintains live records of court cases and offender data.

LIMITATIONS

This report uses IPAC data, and the prosecutors are not required to record victim-offender relationship data. Therefore, this report only utilized data that were explicitly and/or inherently domestic violence offenses – which includes domestic battery and invasion of privacy. Any case in which the victim is a family member or current/past significant other can be classified as a domestic violence offense which broadens the scope to offenses such as homicide, assault, rape, strangulation, criminal mischief, etc. This study was unable to account for domestic violence offenses that were not explicitly defined as such. Furthermore, the IPAC data used omits five counties that do not report data through the IPAC system. This omission removes valuable conviction data from the sample. Another limitation of this study is the historical trend of victims underreporting domestic violence. This study is only able to analyze data for offenses that were reported to Indiana law enforcement, and therefore, cannot account for volume of unreported offenses. Though, the sample size of the data, in conjunction with existing literature and national statistics, suggest that results of this study do reflect the characteristics of domestic violence offenders in Indiana.

KEY FINDINGS

Arrests

- ❖ 11,610 domestic battery and invasion of privacy arrests were reported into CHRIS in 2017
- ❖ Of those arrests, males represented 82%, over four times the amount of females
- ❖ 65% of offenders were white and over 81% were between the ages of 15 and 44
- ❖ Marion County had the highest number of arrests, with 2,982
- ❖ Allen County accounted for the highest number of arrests relative to county population, followed by Marion County and Vigo County tied for second highest while Orange County and Ohio County saw the fewest arrests, with one and two, respectively

Convictions

- ❖ IPAC data reported 3,172 convictions in 2017 for domestic battery and invasion of privacy offenses
- ❖ The 3,172 convictions were committed by 3,036 different offenders across 87 counties, with data for the remaining five counties being unavailable
- ❖ Analysis of the data showed that the average domestic violence offender is white (~77%), Non-Hispanic (~86%), male (~87%), and between the ages of 25 to 44 (~65%).
- ❖ Roughly 70% of the reported offenses were committed in “mostly urban” counties, as classified by the United States Census Bureau
- ❖ Relative to total county population, St. Joseph County reported the highest number of domestic violence offenses
- ❖ Of those convicted with a domestic battery offense, the most common sentence was jail (63.4%), followed by prison (20%), and probation (13.5%), with Community Corrections only accounting for 2.5% of sentences
- ❖ The majority (63.4%) of sentences were partially or fully suspended

Criminal History & Recidivism

- ❖ Criminal history data obtained from the Indiana State Police showed a total of 15,396 prior arrests among the offenders in the 2017 IPAC offender dataset. Meaning, the 3,036 offenders had 15,396 unique arrests prior to being arrested for domestic violence
- ❖ 23% of prior arrests were drug related and 19% were arrests for violent offenses
- ❖ The above figures would result in an average of over 5 prior offenses per offender, though the data is unable to reflect the number of individual offenders represented in those 15,396 arrests
- ❖ Data from INCite showed that of the 3,036 offenders, nearly 60% have already recidivated since being convicted and sentenced for their domestic violence offense in 2017

ARREST DATA

Criminal History Repository Information System (CHRIS)

The dataset consists of 11,610 individuals that were arrested across Indiana on domestic battery charges in 2017. Of those arrested, 6,749 charges were filed by the prosecutors, and 2,124 charges were amended. 2,737 arrests did not result in charges brought forward by the prosecutors.

The majority of offenders are male, representing over four times the amount of female offenders.

Gender	Number of Offenders
Female	2,087
Male	9,521
Unknown	2
Total	11,610

Those who identified as white represented the largest amount of domestic battery arrest. Individuals who identified as black represent the second largest amount of arrests, with a total of 3,768 – less than half the amount of white offenders arrested.

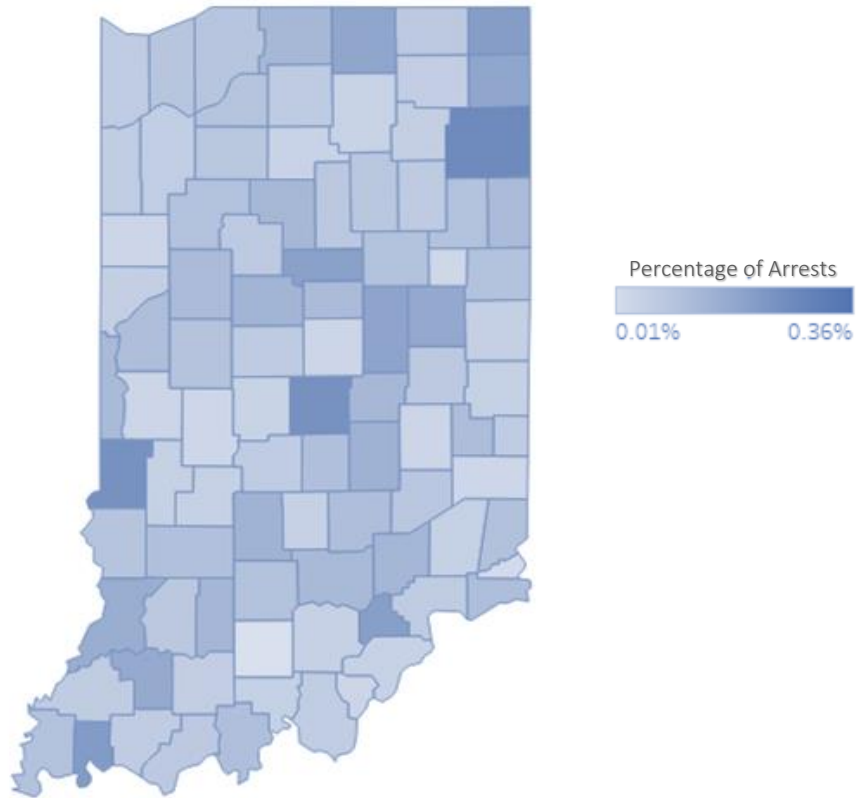
Race	Number of Offenders
American Indiana/Alaskan	26
Asian or Pacific Islander	87
Black	3,768
White	7,623
Unknown	106
Total	11,610

Most offenders fall within the 25 – 34 age group (36.79%), followed by the 35 – 44 age group with 24.46%. Those 65 and up account for the fewest number of offenders with only 0.71% of the total arrest population.

Age	Number of Offenders	% of Total
15-24	2,333	20.09%
25-34	4,271	36.79%
35-44	2,840	24.46%
45-54	1,572	13.54%
55-64	512	4.41%
65+	82	0.71%

Arrests were made in all counties; Marion County saw the most arrests with 2,982 followed by Allen County with 1,290. Though, relative to total county population, Allen County had the highest ratio, with Marion and Vigo counties tied for second, and Vanderburgh County ranking third. Orange County had a single arrest and Ohio County had two arrests. More than half of the 92 counties had less than 50 arrests. The map below shows domestic battery arrests relative to total county population.

DOMESTIC BATTERY ARRESTS
(RELATIVE TO TOTAL COUNTY POPULATION)



CONVICTION DATA

Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council (IPAC)

The following analysis uses 2017 domestic battery and invasion of privacy conviction data provided by IPAC in addition to data gathered from INCite. The data show 3,172 total offenses committed by 3,036 different offenders across 87 counties. Data was unavailable for Allen, Clark, Fulton, Kosciusko, and Starke counties.⁸ The following analysis shows the demographic breakdown for the 3,036 offenders in addition to the county statistics and the conviction and sentence results for the 3,172 total offenses.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The vast majority of domestic violence offenders are male (87%). Over 77% of offenders are white and just over 20% of offenders are black. The remaining 3% is comprised of those who identify as Other, Mixed Race, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, where 0.40% are of an unknown race. Nearly 86% of offenders identified as Non-Hispanic, with just over 5% identifying as Hispanic. The ethnicities of the remaining 9% are unknown.

Race	Defendants	% of Total
American Indian or Alaska Native	8	0.26%
Asian	5	0.16%
Black	612	20.16%
Mixed Race	15	0.49%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2	0.07%
White	2,357	77.64%
Other	25	0.82%
Unknown	12	0.40%

White males are the most common offenders, comprising roughly 76% of the male race category and 66.93% of the combined gender and race categories. Black males are the second most common offenders with 20.99% of the male race category and 18.31% of the combined categories. The third most common offenders are white females accounting for over 83% of the female race category and 10.70% of the combined race and gender categories.

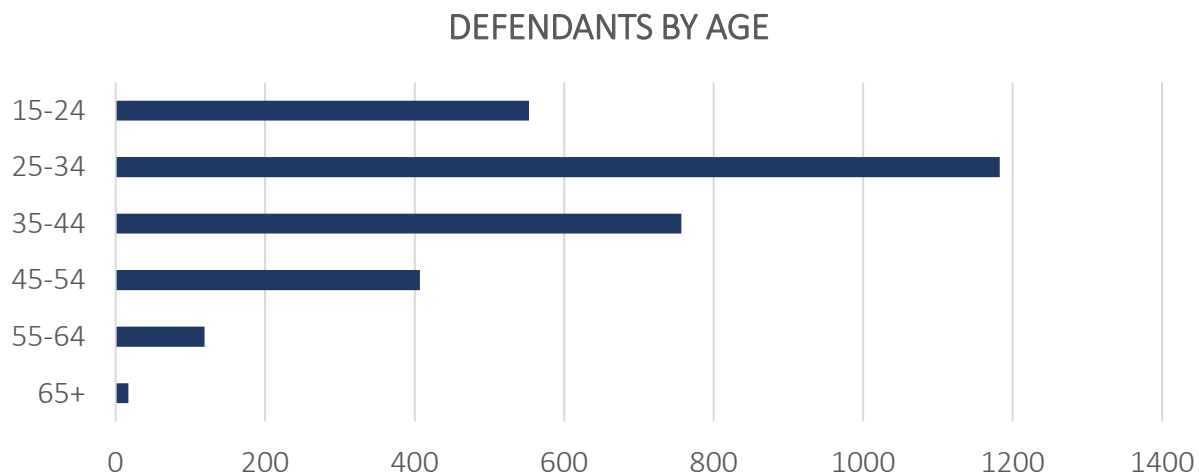
Male Race	Defendants	% of Total
American Indian or Alaska Native	7	0.26%

⁸ Those counties did not report cases into IPAC's Prosecution Case Management System in 2017.

Asian	5	0.19%
Black	556	20.99%
Mixed Race	12	0.45%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2	0.08%
White	2,032	76.71%
Other	24	0.91%

Female Race	Defendants	% of Total
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0.26%
Asian	0	0.00%
Black	56	14.47%
Mixed Race	3	0.78%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0.00%
White	325	83.98%
Other	1	0.26%

The 25 – 34 age group accounts for the highest percent of offenders at just under 40%. The second highest group is 35 – 44, representing nearly 25% of offenders. The third largest group of offenders is the 15 – 24 age group at 18.21%. The 55 – 64 and 65+ age groups hold the fewest offenders with 4.48% collectively.

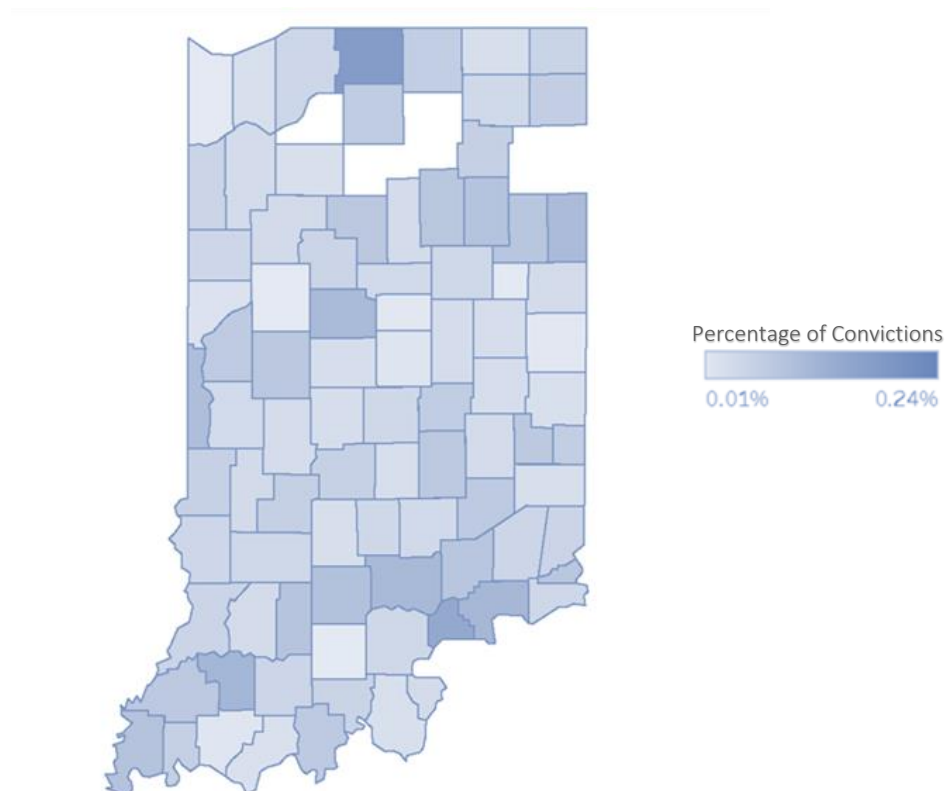


Based upon the demographic data above, the most common domestic violence offender in Indiana is a white, Non-Hispanic, male between the ages of 25 – 34.

COUNTY STATISTICS

The figure below shows the amount of domestic violence convictions by county, relative to total county population. Approximately 70% of offenses occurred in mostly urban counties, with the remaining 30% occurring in Mostly Rural or Completely Rural counties.⁹ An analysis by county grouping, showed main themes consistent with the overall findings. White males were the most common offenders in every category. The 25 – 34 year olds were the most represented group across counties, and domestic battery was the most common charge. One notable difference between counties is that Mostly Rural and Completely Rural counties saw the highest number of offenses in October, while Mostly Urban counties saw the highest number in August, followed closely by July.

DOMESTIC BATTERY CONVICTIONS BY COUNTY
(RELATIVE TO TOTAL COUNTY POPULATION)



St. Joseph County had the highest volume of domestic violence convictions relative to total county population in 2017, while Blackford, Lake, Randolph, Tippecanoe, Tipton, and Orange Counties tied for the lowest number of convictions to population.¹⁰

⁹ Mostly rural, mostly urban, and completely rural are classifications taken from the U.S Census Bureau’s 2010 County Rurality Level. The U.S. Census Bureau defines “completely rural” as counties with 100% of the population living in rural areas; “mostly rural” being between 50% to 99.9%; and “mostly urban” being less than 50% of the population.

¹⁰ The darker the shading, the higher the offender to population ratio. Those counties for which data was not available are indicated in white.

CONVICTIONS

General domestic battery comprised the majority of convictions (84.84%), followed by other forms of domestic battery at 8.8% collectively, leaving the remaining 6.37% as invasion of privacy offenses for a combined total of 3,172 offenses.

Convicted Offense Name	# of Convictions	% of Total Convictions
Domestic Battery	2,691	84.84%
Domestic Battery Against a Disabled Person	1	0.03%
Domestic Battery Against a Disabled Person Resulting in Bodily Injury	1	0.03%
Domestic Battery Against an Endangered Adult	5	0.16%
Domestic Battery by Bodily Waste	26	0.82%
Domestic Battery by Means of a Deadly Weapon	36	1.13%
Domestic Battery on a Person Less than 14 Years Old	16	0.50%
Domestic Battery Resulting in Bodily Injury to a Person Less than 14 Years of Age	13	0.41%
Domestic Battery Resulting in Bodily Injury to a Pregnant Woman	29	0.91%
Domestic Battery Resulting in Moderate Bodily Injury	120	3.78%
Domestic Battery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury	32	1.01%
Invasion of Privacy	202	6.37%
Total	3,172	100.00%

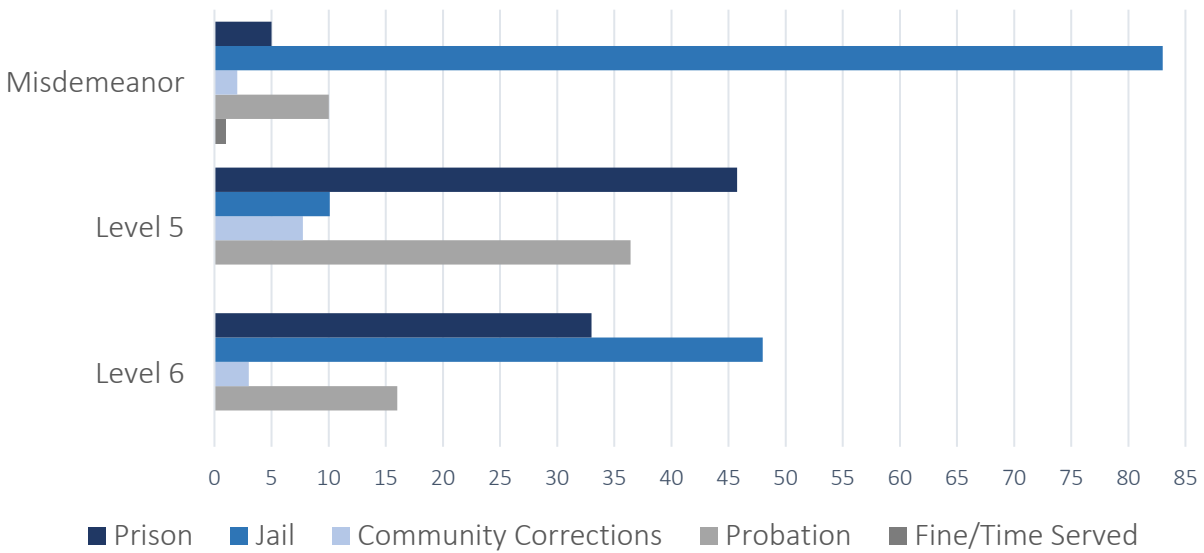
DOMESTIC BATTERY

Of the 2,691 domestic battery convictions, 59% of the offenders were charged with a misdemeanor offense and 41% were charged with a felony. Of those 41% charged with a felony, 88% were charged with a Level 6 Felony and only 12% were charged with a Level 5 Felony.¹¹ Offenders who were convicted of a misdemeanor, were predominately sentenced to serve time in jail (83%). Probation was the second most common sentence (10%), followed by prison (5%), community corrections (2%), and fine/time served (1%).¹² Of these sentences, 2,011 (63.4%) were partially or fully suspended.

¹¹ Felony levels in Indiana range from Level 1 to Level 6, with Level 1 being the most serious crimes carrying the heaviest sentences and Level 6 being the least serious crimes carrying the lightest sentences.

¹² The IPAC data offenses were pulled by offense type, however, if other offenses were charged within the same case number than the sentence reflected is often for the total sentence of all offenses. Therefore, it is likely that the actual sentence for offenses within the scope of this study is overrepresented as many cases with multiple charges drop those determined to be of lower "severity."

DOMESTIC BATTERY: PERCENTAGE OF SENTENCE BY CONVICTION TYPE



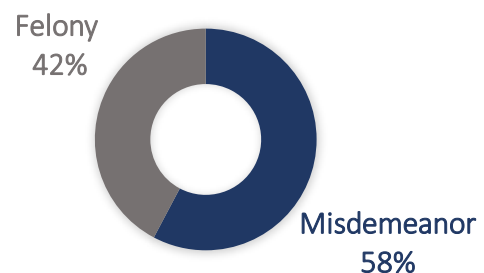
Prison time was the most common sentence for Level 5 offenders (45.74%) with probation being the second most common sentence (36.43%). Roughly 10% of Level 5 offenders received jail time, and the remaining nearly 8% were sentenced to Community Corrections. For Level 6 Felony offenders, jail time was the most common sentence at almost 48%, followed by prison time (33%), probation (16%), and community corrections (3%).

Of those convicted of domestic battery, 87% were male and 13% were female. When domestic battery offenders are broken down by gender, data shows that females are more likely to receive misdemeanors than their male counterparts. Female offenders are more likely to receive jail time than males, and over two times the amount of males receive prison sentences than females. Though, both genders have roughly the same percentage of probation and community correction sentences.

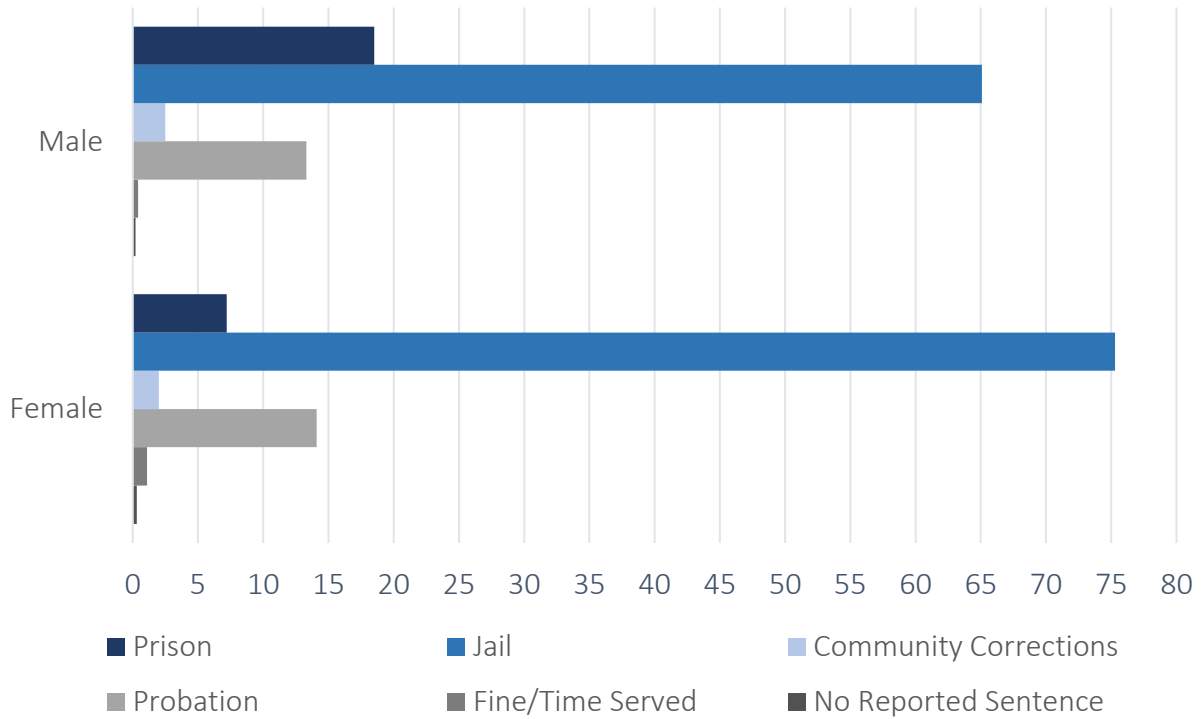
DOMESTIC BATTERY: FEMALE CONVICTIONS



DOMESTIC BATTERY: MALE CONVICTIONS

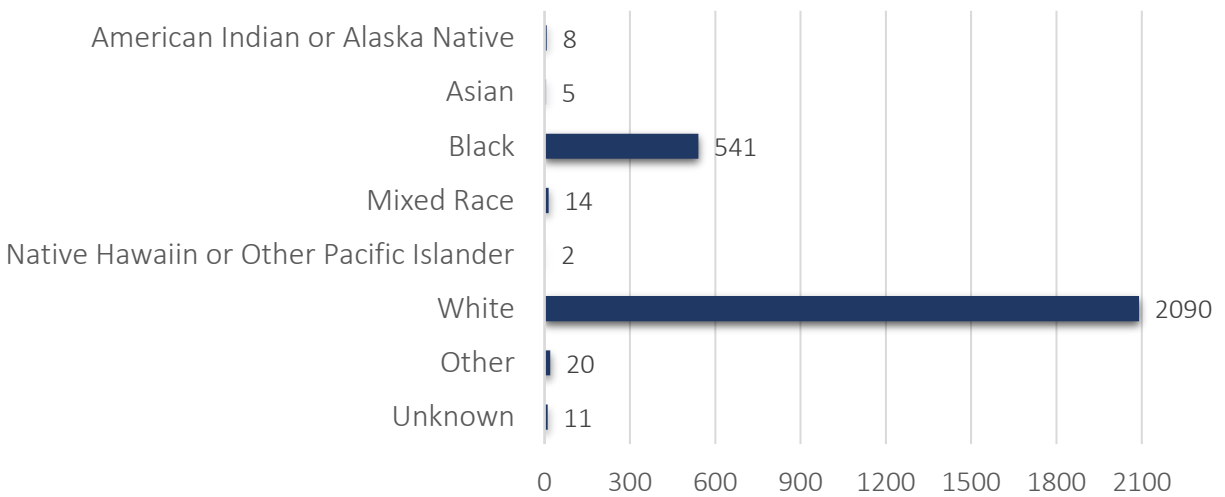


DOMESTIC BATTERY: MALE VS. FEMALE SENTENCES (PERCENTAGE OF SENTENCES)

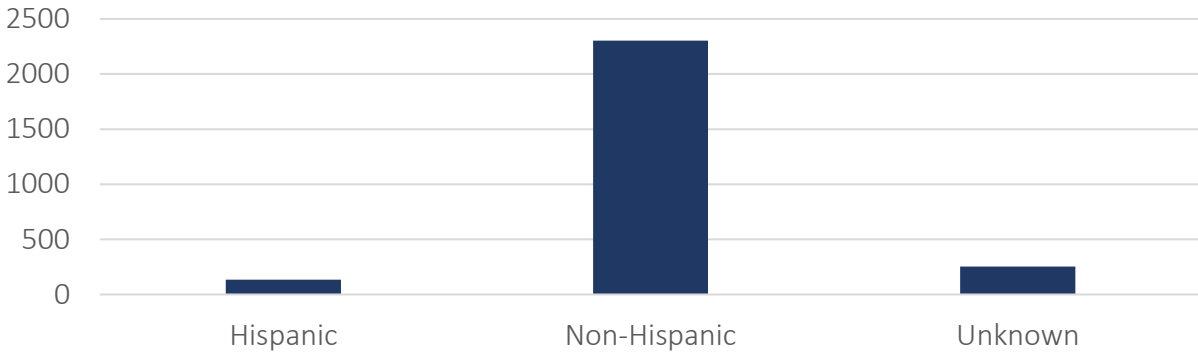


Data show that the majority of domestic battery offenders are white (78%), with nearly four times as many white offenders as there are black. The majority of domestic battery offenders identified as Non-Hispanic (86%).

DOMESTIC BATTERY OFFENDERS BY RACE



DOMESTIC BATTERY BY ETHNICITY



The following tables and figures show the convictions and sentences for the remaining forms of domestic battery, including: domestic battery against a disabled person, domestic battery against a disabled person resulting in bodily injury, domestic battery against an endangered adult, domestic battery by bodily waste, domestic battery by means of a deadly weapon, domestic battery on a person less than 14 years old, domestic battery resulting in bodily injury to a person less than 14 years of age, domestic battery resulting in bodily injury to a pregnant woman, domestic battery resulting in moderate bodily injury, and domestic battery resulting in serious bodily injury.

Charge	Felony (L5)	Felony (L6)	Misdemeanor
Domestic Battery Against a Disabled Person	0	1	0
Domestic Battery Against a Disabled Person Resulting in Bodily Injury	1	0	0
Domestic Battery Against an Endangered Adult	0	5	0
Domestic Battery by Bodily Waste	0	22	4
Domestic Battery by Means of a Deadly Weapon	36	0	0
Domestic Battery on a Person Less than 14 Years Old	0	16	0
Domestic Battery Resulting in Bodily Injury to a Person Less than 14 Years of Age	13	0	0
Domestic Battery Resulting in Bodily Injury to a Pregnant Woman	29	0	0
Domestic Battery Resulting in Moderate Bodily Injury	0	120	0
Domestic Battery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury	32	0	0

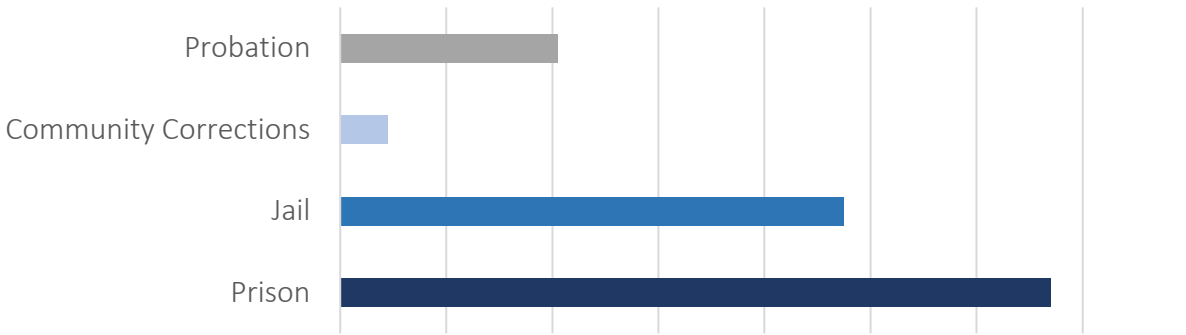
Total	111	164	4
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Domestic battery resulting in moderate bodily injury is the most common offense accounting for 43% of the “other” domestic battery charges, followed by domestic battery by means of a deadly weapon (12.9%), domestic battery resulting in serious bodily injury (11.5%), domestic battery resulting in bodily injury to a pregnant woman (10.4%), and domestic battery by bodily waste (9.3%). The remaining offenses collectively comprised the other 13%. The overwhelming majority of these “other” domestic battery offenses were felony offenses (99%) with only 1% being misdemeanors.

Charge	Prison	Jail	Community Corrections	Probation
Domestic Battery Against a Disabled Person	0	1	0	0
Domestic Battery Against a Disabled Person Resulting in Bodily Injury	0	0	0	1
Domestic Battery Against an Endangered Adult	3	2	0	0
Domestic Battery by Bodily Waste	4	8	3	11
Domestic Battery by Means of a Deadly Weapon	24	8	1	3
Domestic Battery on a Person Less than 14 Years Old	5	9	0	2
Domestic Battery Resulting in Bodily Injury to a Person Less than 14 Years of Age	10	3	0	0
Domestic Battery Resulting in Bodily Injury to a Pregnant Woman	18	2	0	9
Domestic Battery Resulting in Moderate Bodily Injury	47	5	3	11
Domestic Battery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury	23	3	2	4
Total	134	95	9	41

The majority of offenders were sentenced to time in prison or jail. Around 40 offenders were solely placed on probation and 9 were sentenced to community corrections.

DEFENDANTS BY SENTENCE

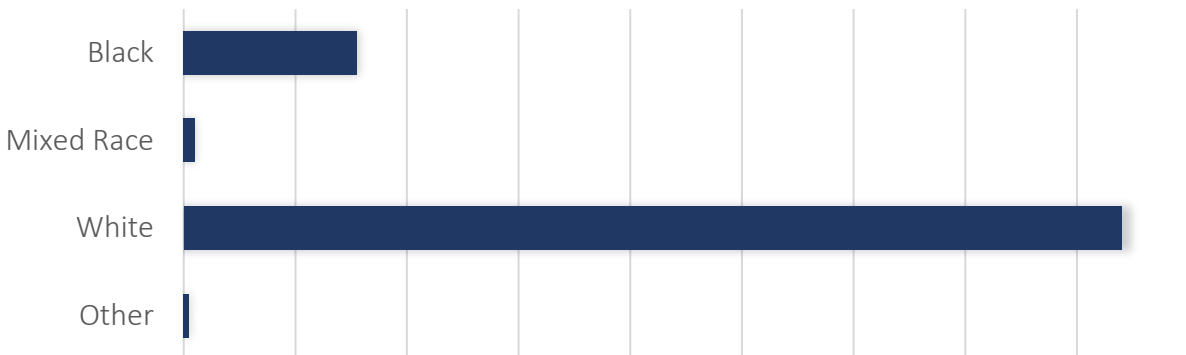


When examining the full range of domestic violence offenses (see above table), the trends align with that of the overall all domestic violence offenders. The offenders represented in the combined domestic violence offenses are predominately white (77%), Non-Hispanic (86%), and male (87%).

INVASION OF PRIVACY

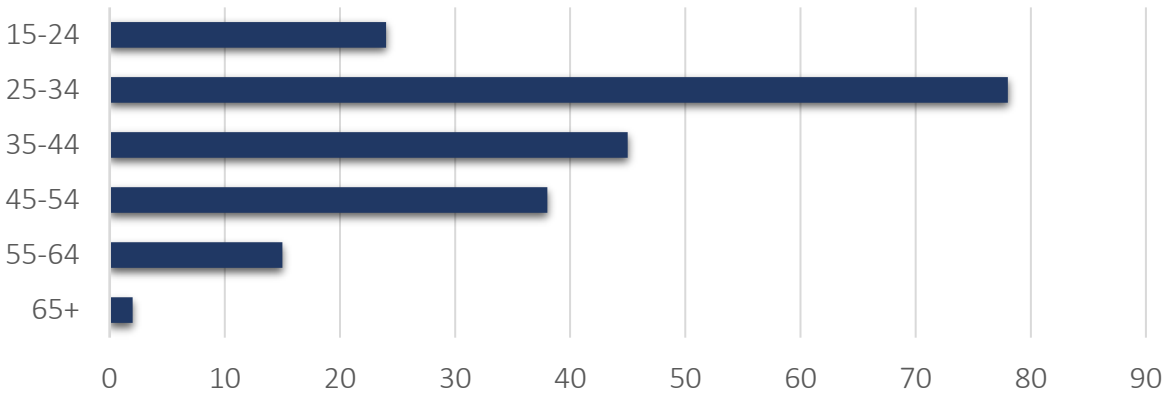
Males account for 91% of invasion of privacy offenders. The majority of invasion of privacy offenders are white (83%), with the remaining 17% comprised of black (15%), Mixed Race (1%), and Other (1%) offenders.

INVASION OF PRIVACY OFFENDERS BY RACE



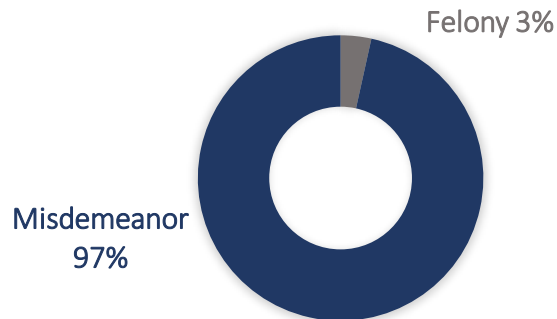
The 25 – 34 age group houses the most offenders (39%), followed by those 35-44 (22%), 45-54 (19%), 15-24 (12%), and 65+ (1%). Consistent with the overall domestic violence offender themes, white males between the ages of 25 and 34 are the most common invasion of privacy offenders.

INVASION OF PRIVACY OFFENDERS BY AGE



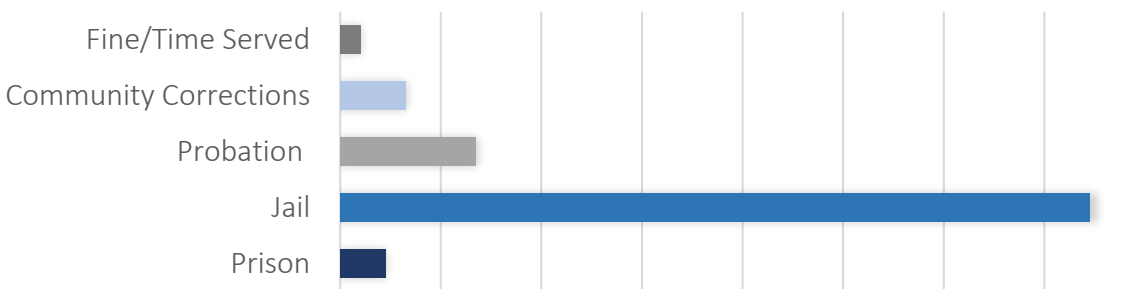
As shown below, 97% of defendants charged with invasion of privacy, received a Misdemeanor while only 3% received a Felony conviction.

INVASION OF PRIVACY: DEFENDENTS PER CONVICTION TYPE



For invasion of privacy offenders, jail time was the most common sentence (74%), followed by probation (13%), community corrections (6%), prison (5%), and a fine and/or time served (2%).

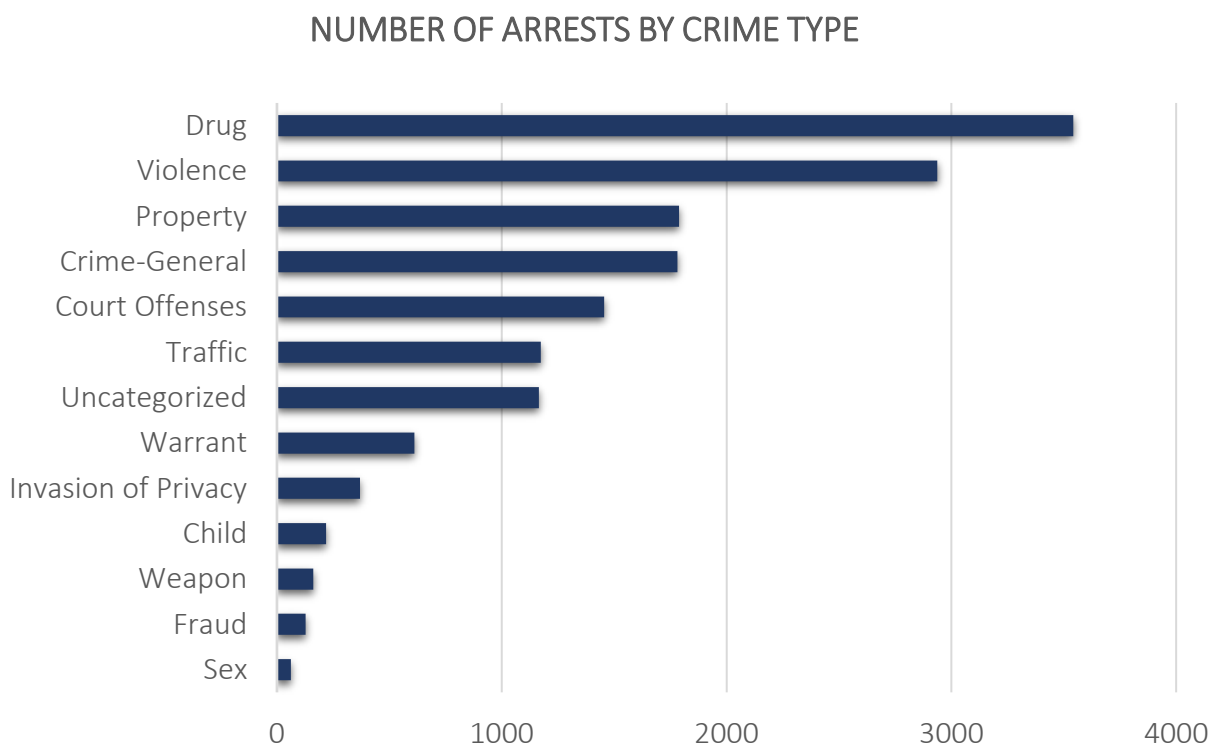
INVASION OF PRIVACY SENTENCES



CRIMINAL HISTORY DATA

Criminal history data for all 3,036 domestic violence offenders was gathered and cleaned by Indiana’s Management Performance Hub (MPH) before being given to the ICJI. MPH took the list of offenders and pulled their criminal history and de-identified the data which was then aggregated and sorted by crime type. Considering arrests were aggregated by crime and not by individual, this report cannot specify the actual number of individuals that are repeat offenders, but rather the number of prior arrests for crimes presumably committed by the domestic violence offenders.

An analysis of the criminal history data shows that the 3,036 domestic violence offenders have a combined total of 15,396 prior arrests, for an average of roughly 5 priors per offender. Of those prior arrests, drug and alcohol crimes were the highest with 3,543 arrests. The second highest number of arrests were violent crimes which accounted for 2,937 arrests. Property crimes represent the third highest number at 1,788, followed closely by general criminal offenses, such as disorderly conduct, criminal recklessness, and resisting arrest, with 1,782 arrests. The offenders had a total of 1,113 prior domestic battery arrests and 370 prior invasion of privacy violation arrests. Drug and alcohol offenses, which accounted for the highest number of arrests, were predominately made up of alcohol related offenses (1,768), followed by drug related offenses (1,690), with “other” drug and alcohol offenses comprising the remaining 85 arrests.



The violent crimes category encompassed a broad scope, including crimes of battery, domestic battery, homicide/murder, intimidation, robbery, and strangulation. The offenders had 1,102 prior battery arrests, 1,113 prior domestic battery arrests, 392 prior intimidation arrests, 265 prior strangulation arrests, and 55 prior robbery arrests. The offenders had a total of 7 prior arrests for homicide/murder. There were 5 prior arrests for rape, 14 for sexual battery/assault, and 16 for sex with a minor. Child abuse/neglect arrests accounted for 158 arrests and child molestation/exploitation represented 23 prior arrests.

RECIDIVISM

Post-conviction offenses were gathered through INcite for each offender showing that 1,819 offenders of the 3,036 had recidivated since their 2017 domestic violence conviction. Of those offenders that did not have post-conviction offenses, 79 could reasonably be expected to still be in jail or prison as a result of their domestic violence conviction. Removing those offenders from the sample raises the percentage of recidivism from 59.9% to 61.5%.

Those that recidivated were predominately white (77%), followed by those who identified as black (21%). Males represented the overwhelming majority of reoffenders with 1,611 (89%). 90% were Non-Hispanic. 25 to 34 year olds represented the most offenders with 40%, followed by those 35 to 44 at 26%.

Of the 1,819 offenders that recidivated, at least 88% had offenses prior to their domestic violence offense. Nearly 59% of these offenders received suspended sentences for their domestic violence offense. 80 of the offenders had only received probation as their domestic violence offense sentence, 9 received fines or time-served, and 5 had no reported sentence. 44 of the offenders were sentenced to some type of Community Corrections. 95 offenders should have still been in jail according to the length of their recorded sentence.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

In a groundbreaking 1987 study, Albert Roberts of Indiana University in Indianapolis, examined cases of 234 male abusers in Marion county using case data and intake forms completed by their female victims. He analyzed offenders with regard to age, race, marital status, alcohol and drug abuse, employment status, criminal history, and severity of abuse (Roberts, 1987). In his study, Roberts (1987) echoes the sentiments of numerous scholars who proclaim that abuse occurs across socioeconomic statuses, though is often more predominant in those of lower socioeconomic status with additional hardships such as financial strain, and is often correlated with substance abuse. Consistent with the ICJI's findings, Roberts (1987) found that the majority of offenders (70.9%) were between the ages of 20 – 34, with the 25 – 34 age range accounting for 50.7% of offenders. Also in alignment with ICJI's findings, Robert found the most common offender is white. Roberts (1987) noted that 70.5% of the victims reported that their abusers were under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs during the committed offense. 60% of the abusers had a criminal history, many with multiple prior convictions.¹³

Etter and Birzer (2007) analyzed nearly 2,000 cases of “protection from abuse” orders in Kansas, finding similar trends to those found in this report's analysis of “invasion of privacy” offenses in Indiana. In Kansas, white males were the most common offenders, with an average age of 33 – which falls into the gender, race, and age categories identified as containing the highest number of offenders in Indiana, and is only 2.7 years shy of the average age of invasion of privacy offenders which is 37.5. Additionally, the Kansas offenders had “extensive” criminal histories (Etter & Birzer, 2007).¹⁴

Past research aligns with the findings of this report in nearly every regard. With the criminal history data reflecting over 15,000 prior arrests for these domestic violence offenders, prior research's claim of the predictive power of criminal history in future arrests is substantiated in Indiana. With an arrest rate nearly 3 times the amount of offenders and with nearly 60% of offenders having already recidivated, it is especially problematic that these individuals were still committing crimes, suggesting that the punishment being given to these offenders is not effective. Debate will ensue on what making those punishments effective looks like, whether it's harsher sentences or rehabilitation focused sentences. However, research shows that preventative treatment and rehabilitation are the most effective ways to avoid repeat offenses. Over 15,000 prior arrests represents over 15,000 opportunities for rehabilitation.

Prior offenses correlating with future offenses indicates an issue with the offenders just as much as it indicates a problem with the system. The system has the opportunity to decide whether to

¹³ Roberts, A. R. (1987). Psychosocial Characteristics of Batterers: A Study of 234 Men Charged with Domestic Violence Offenses. *Journal of Family Violence*, 2(1), 81-93. doi:0885-7482/87/0300-0081505.00/0

¹⁴ Etter Sr., G. W., & Birzer, M. L. (2007). Domestic Violence Abusers: A Descriptive Study of the Characteristics of Defenders in Protection from Abuse Orders in Sedgwick County, Kansas. *Journal of Family Violence*, 22, 113-119. doi:10.1007/s10896-006-9047-x

be punitive or preventative with its sentencing. A long line of research shows sociological and psychological intricacies of “typical” batterers. These intricacies are rarely, if ever, untangled and addressed through punitive measures. Substantial evidence points to the effectiveness of rehabilitative measures. Batterer programs are an effective way to address the issues faced by batterers, and thereby, their victims. Though, seemingly consistent across time, domestic violence offenders are predominately receiving neither punitive nor rehabilitative measures, but rather they are receiving dismissals, probation, time-served, fines, or suspended sentences.

Roberts (1987) found that the majority of cases were dismissed (~60%), 18.8% received a suspended sentence, 18% were fined, and 3.9% were jailed with a maximum sentence of 29 days. 57.9% were not referred to any sort of counseling or treatment program. Of those who were recommended counseling or treatment, those referrals were predominately to the Family Services Agency and the Salvation Army Family Service Division. Only 1.7% of referrals were for mental health services (Roberts, 1987). The types of sentencing reported by Roberts (1987) in the 80s have not changed much, three decades later. When examining the numbers on the surface, it is reasonable to assume that Indiana continues to have a high dismissal rate for domestic violence cases. CHRIS arrest data showed 11,610 arrests, whereas the IPAC data showed only 3,172 convictions which equates to roughly 73% of cases being dismissed. The caveat here being that the IPAC data showed 2017 convictions, meaning that though most of the crimes were committed in 2017, not all were. Some of the crimes were committed in 2016 and were not prosecuted until 2017. Additionally, some counties included in the arrest data were missing from the IPAC conviction data. These discontinuities prevent the IPAC conviction data from being directly compared to the CHRIS arrest data, meaning this report cannot calculate a true conviction rate. This report also found that 63.4% of sentences received some degree of a suspended sentence, over three times Robert’s finding of 18.8%.

When such a high volume of cases are not even making it to the courtroom, and so many of those that are result in probation, time-served, fines, or suspended sentences, there is not much room left for rehabilitation. The findings of this report showed less than 20% of offenders receiving community corrections sentences. If jail or prison sentences are received (and actually served), they are often not long enough to warrant participation in effective rehabilitative programming, if that programming is even available within the facility. This report’s findings, as well as existing literature, support the notion that substance abuse issues are a centric theme in the lives of many domestic violence offenders. Many offenders have prior drug/alcohol related offenses and/or were under the influence of drugs/alcohol at the time of their domestic violence arrest as shown by probable cause affidavits and additional charges within the case. These findings suggest that rehabilitative programs for substance abuse in conjunction with rehabilitative programs geared towards domestic violence, could be effective options addressing the core issues of offenders and for reducing repeat offenses.

Moving forward with domestic violence research in the state of Indiana, we look to reports such as the 2018 piece produced by the Domestic Violence Network (DVN) entitled, “An Update on

Domestic Violence in the Criminal Justice System Marion County, IN.”¹⁵ This report takes a comprehensive approach utilizing data from nonprofits, local law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and other victim services providers. By combining multiple data types and sources, the intricacies and interactions of domestic violence victims and offenders can be better understood. This ICJI report aims to examine and fill the gap in domestic violence offender data that exists in Indiana. Once this gap is filled, the methodology applied in reports such as the 2018 DVN report can be replicated with a larger scope, giving a more accurate depiction of the true issue of domestic violence in Indiana.

Identifying the issue and prevalence of domestic violence in Indiana is only the first step. After the problem has been identified, potential solutions need to be researched and ultimately proposed. There are existing initiatives that have been introduced in Indiana to combat issues of domestic violence, but these initiatives need additional research to determine their effectiveness as well as subsequent support if they are indeed deemed effective.

One such initiative is Baker One. Originating in 2013 from a similar program in North Carolina, Baker One is defined by the Beacon of Hope Crisis Center as a program “that addresses domestic violence homicide and serious assault by objectively identifying high risk domestic violence victims and perpetrators with repeated police runs and offering early intervention to both the victim and the abuser” (2013).¹⁶ This program was spearheaded in Indianapolis and the surrounding area by a collaborative effort between the Beacon of Hope Crisis Center, the Domestic Violence Network, and The Julian Center. The program was adopted by various police agencies around the Indianapolis area such as the Speedway Police Department and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD). A database of Baker One offenders and victims is utilized by participating criminal justice response systems in the area in addition to the aforementioned nonprofit organizations. Programs such as Baker One offer innovative and proactive solutions to address the domestic violence issues in Indiana.

Future research aims to continue gathering offender data, painting a more accurate and comprehensive view of the scope and breadth of the issue, and then gaining a deeper understanding of potential solutions. Initiatives such as Baker One warrant further exploration and analysis to determine effectiveness and feasibility. If proven to be effective, processes can be explored to push implementation of Baker One outside the scope of Indianapolis and across the state.

Domestic violence not only takes a physical toll on the victim, but it takes a mental toll as well. As shown in countless studies, the psychological effect of domestic violence on victims is not the only mental health concern in this equation, but also the psychological characteristics of offenders that contributes to the occurrence of the offense. Untreated mental health issues are

¹⁵ Domestic Violence Network. (2018, January). An Update on Domestic Violence in the Criminal Justice System Marion County, IN. In Domestic Violence Network. Retrieved from <https://dvnconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Domestic-Violence-in-the-Criminal-Justice-System-January-2018.pdf>

¹⁶ Beacon of Hope Crisis Center. (2013, August). Speedway Project Partnership. In Beacon of Hope Crisis Center. Retrieved from <https://beaconofhopeindy.org/criminal-justice-program.html>

directly correlated with a myriad of physical, social and socioeconomic outcomes. Aside from the responsibility the state of Indiana has to the overall well-being of its citizens, the repercussions of failing to understand and thereby inadequately address issues of domestic violence and the mental health components, both contributing to and resulting from domestic violence, jeopardizes the overall stability of the state's economy and social landscape.

