

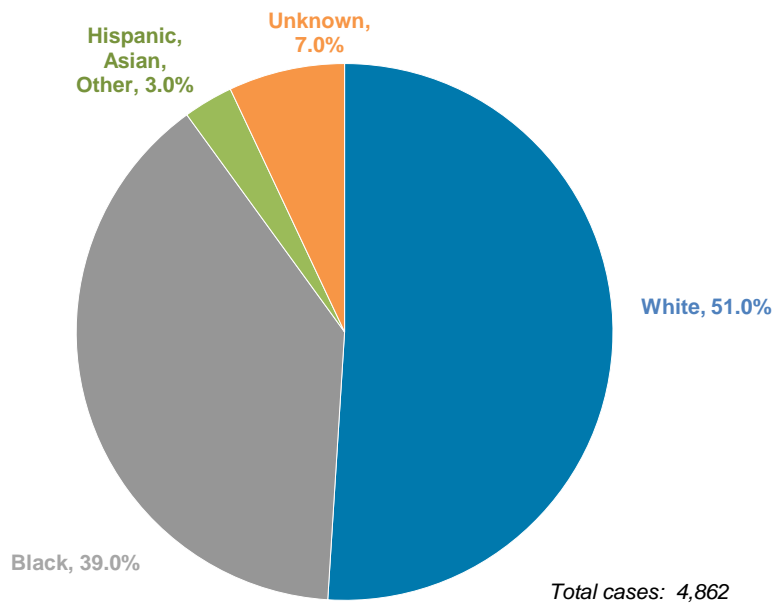
Domestic Violence

Table 1. Domestic Violence Charges Filed in Franklin County, 1999-2009

Year	Domestic Violence Charges	Violation of Protection Order Charges	Total
			DV/VPO Charges
1999	5,863	235	6,098
2000	5,920	367	6,287
2001	5,325	377	5,702
2002	6,157	561	6,718
2003	5,727	580	6,307
2004	4,862	619	5,481
2005	4,487	726	5,213
2006	4,059	753	4,812
2007	4,081	723	4,804
2008	4,094	767	4,861
2009	4,040	733	4,777

- In 2009, there were 4,040 misdemeanor domestic violence charges in Franklin County, representing 16.6% of all criminal misdemeanors in the county (24,731).
- The 4,861 domestic violence/VPO charges in 2009 represented a 25.4% decrease from the 6,098 charges in 1999.

Chart 1. Franklin County Domestic Violence Cases by Race of Victims, 2004



- In 2004, there were 4,862 domestic violence cases. Among those cases, females made up 81.0% of domestic violence victims. Black females constituted 31.0% of total victims while black females made up only 9.5% of the total Franklin County population in 2000.

About the Data

Data Sources:

- Franklin County Municipal Court, Annual Report (annual DV/VPO charges)
- Columbus City Attorney's Office, Domestic Violence/Stalking Unit (victim race and gender characteristics)

Definitions:

- **Domestic violence (DV):** Section 2919.25 of the Ohio Revised Code defines domestic violence as (a) knowingly causing or attempting to cause physical harm to a family or household member; or (b) recklessly causing serious physical harm to a family or household member; or (c) by threat of force, knowingly causing a family or household member to believe that the offender will cause imminent physical harm to the family or household member.
- **Protection Order (PO):** A court order issued in response to a Motion for Temporary Protection Order that requires a domestic violence offender to stop abusing and to stay away from the victim(s) named in the Motion

Explanations and Caveats:

- In 1994 the state of Ohio adopted a "preferred arrest" policy with the passage of H.B. 335 (ORC 2935.03). The policy mandates that where a peace officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the offense of domestic violence has been committed, it is the preferred course of action in Ohio to arrest the offender. This law resulted in a significant increase in domestic violence charges in Franklin County beginning in 1995.
- According to the Columbus City Attorney's office, all DV charges are processed as misdemeanors in order to process the person charged more easily. The DV squad sends all charged to the Grand Jury. Roughly 20% of the cases become felonies.
- The data on domestic violence charges and violation of protection orders do not represent unduplicated counts of offenders. An individual may have multiple charges filed against them during one year.
- Data on race and gender are from only those cases filed in the Franklin County Municipal Court.

Update Status:

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