



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NETWORK

Domestic Violence  
in the  
Criminal Justice System  
Marion County, IN

April 2014

## Acknowledgements

Report prepared by The Polis Center at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.



The Polis Center produced this report as part of a data integration, assessment, and analysis project for the Domestic Violence Network. The purpose of the project was to demonstrate the feasibility of linking various data sets on domestic violence in Marion County to gain a better understanding of the state of domestic violence in the county.

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## Executive Summary

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### Overview

Up to now, it has been very difficult to generate statistics describing the state of domestic violence in Marion County. This report presents the findings of a feasibility study conducted by The Polis Center at IUPUI 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, including The Julian Center, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), Marion County Prosecutor's Office, Indiana Supreme Court. The purpose of the project was to demonstrate the feasibility of integrating the domestic violence data, given the quality and incompleteness of some of the required data sets, and to determine what analysis and reporting are possible given these limitations. Data had to be cleaned and standardized to ensure comparability across the data sets, and an algorithm was developed to identify unique individuals across all data sets.

The result is a report of statistics representing the picture of domestic violence for incidents where the legal system is involved. This does not count all of the incidents that go un-reported.

### Domestic Violence Victims and Perpetrators

- In 2011, there were an estimated 10,687 victims of domestic violence (1.5% of the population) and 9,962 perpetrators.
- 13% percent of victims experienced more than one incident of domestic violence during the 2011 and 2012 year.
- 14% of perpetrators are implicated in more than one incident.
- 8% of perpetrator-victim pairs were involved in a domestic violence incident with each other more than one time.

### Demographics/Socio-economics of Victims and Perpetrators

- Victims are predominantly females (79%), with the largest group aged 20 to 24.
- Perpetrators are predominantly males (80%), with the largest group aged 25 to 29.
- 51% of victims are Caucasian, however, African Americans are disproportionately represented among domestic violence victims.
- 84% of the perpetrator-victim pairs have the same race, with 48% of the pairs both Caucasian.
- 78% of perpetrator-victim pairs involve a male perpetrator and female victim.
- African Americans are disproportionately represented among perpetrators in crime incidents involving domestic violence as compared with Caucasians.
- Caucasian victims appear to be more likely to file a protective order than African American victims.
- Low-income neighborhoods have a higher reported incidence of domestic violence than middle- and upper-income areas.

### Where Does Domestic Violence Occur?<sup>1</sup>

- 77% of reported domestic violence incidents occur at home.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on data only from The Julian Center.

## Legal Outcomes of Domestic Violence Cases<sup>2</sup>

- In 2012, the Marion County Prosecutor's Office reviewed 6,129 domestic violence cases, a 32% increase since 2009.
- Of all the charges that resulted in a conviction from 2009 to 2012, 8.7% were guilty verdicts and 91.3% were plea agreements.
- Of cases where charges are filed and not dismissed, the large majority end up in a conviction. 96% of these cases from 2009 – 2012 resulted in conviction.
- Of the cases where the case progression is known, no charges were filed in 31% of the domestic violence cases that reach the Marion County Prosecutor's Office in 2012.
- Of those cases where charges are filed, 55% were dismissed, 43% resulted in a conviction, and 2% resulted in a 'not guilty' verdict<sup>3</sup>.
- The number of dismissals continually decreased from 2009 to 2012, and the number of cases where no charges were filed continually increased.
- Misdemeanors are more common than felonies (60% of charges<sup>4</sup> are misdemeanors).<sup>5</sup>
- In 2011, 21% of the victims that appear in The Julian Center outreach file requested a protective order, which was not necessarily related to the incident reported in The Julian Center data, at some point in the past, and 14% requested one in that same year (2011).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Based on data only from Marion County Prosecutor's Office, unless noted.

<sup>3</sup> Dismissal rates vary widely across the nation. In Rhode Island 60% of misdemeanor cases are dismissed (Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence), and on the low end in Whatcom County, Washington rates are as low as 35% (Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence).

<sup>4</sup> Charges are not to be compared with cases as reported above; cases average around 5 charges per case.

<sup>5</sup> MCPO has a policy of filing misdemeanor charges whenever possible on domestic violence cases, even when felonies are involved. It is not uncommon, for example, to have a case with one felony and three misdemeanor charges. This likely explains, in large part, the disparity between the number of felony and misdemeanor charges filed. Additionally, a basic battery (where no weapon or serious bodily injury is involved) is a misdemeanor charge in Indiana. Such cases make up a large percentage of domestic violence cases in Marion County.

<sup>6</sup> Based on data from The Julian Center and Indiana Supreme Court.

## Background

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The Domestic Violence Network is committed to engaging the community to end 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.

Domestic Violence Network has a long-term goal of creating a system that would allow public access to interactive reporting from the Domestic Violence Network data. Its first step toward that end is to establish a database that demonstrates the feasibility of integrating the domestic violence data, given the quality and incompleteness of some of the required data sets.

The greatest challenge for this project was the known data quality issues. Fields are neither consistent nor standardized across the databases (e.g., 'name' is not available in every data set), the data within the fields are not standardized (e.g., the same person could be included in the same or multiple databases with different spellings: Richard Doe, Dick Doe, Richard R. Doe), and often times the data are incomplete. Previous work documented the completeness of each field in the data sets but did not assess the quality of the data in those fields. Many questions remained: Given the gaps in the data (e.g., not all data sets have the identifiers of name, SSN, and address for the best case matching), what assumptions can we make in order to link across the data sets? What will it take to clean up the data for matching on address, names, and other designated fields? How reliable are matches by address only when name and other identifiers are not present? What are the match rates – and are these sufficient to draw conclusions from the data? What limitations are there with these data that would impact any analysis results?

The Polis Center at IUPUI developed a database to 1) demonstrate the feasibility of linking the data sets listed below for the purposes of analysis and reporting and 2) determine what types of data analyses are possible given the limitations of the data. This database will be primarily an internal repository to position Domestic Violence Network to provide information in its annual report to the broader community and to support its program evaluation.

In general, it has been very difficult to generate statistics describing the state of domestic violence in Marion County. Even at a state and national level, the statistics range very widely. 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, or even consistent reporting by the various government agencies involved in domestic violence, 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. This does not count all of the incidents that go un-reported.

## Data Sources

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This report is based on the data related to domestic violence collected from the following sources. Most of the statistics in this report reflect 2011 data, which is the most current year for which we have data across all four sources.

- **The Julian Center** – Advocates at The Julian Center review and compile Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) incident reports to identify incidents that may have been domestic violence-related so they can reach out to victims and offer services and support. The data provided for this project includes only publicly available information from those IMPD incident reports. It does not include any confidential data for clients of The Julian Center’s housing and supportive services. The data used in this assessment is referred to as The Julian Center outreach data.
- **Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD)** – The data collected from IMPD includes incident reports. These are the details about crimes, suspects, arrestees, and victims as they are reported and do not reflect whether the report materialized into a criminal charge. Race, age, gender are provided for victims and 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.
- **Indiana Supreme Court** – This report uses data about the protective orders that are tracked by the Supreme Court. While the data do not reveal a reason for the protective order, it is assumed that a large majority of these are of a domestic nature.

See Data Notes at the end of the report for more details about the data collected from each of these sources, including years, data limitations, and quality.

## Data Integration

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In order to integrate the four data sets, first the data had to be cleaned and standardized to ensure comparability across the data sets. For example, field names and methods for tracking similar data such as identifiers were not consistent and had to be standardized. In some cases the data source entered an age and in others a date of birth.

Second, an algorithm was developed to identify unique individuals across all data sets. A person can be listed multiple times within a data source and across data sources. This is further complicated by the fact that the four data sources do not track the same demographic information about victims and perpetrators (including name), so there is no simple way to link records between the four sources. The algorithm compared all of the victims and perpetrators in the four databases using the following fields if they were available and known: name, race, gender, age (+/- 2 years), IMPD identifier, and/or address. The algorithm produced an accuracy score to indicate exact matches versus likely matches. The algorithm allowed us to count each person only one time, regardless of how many times they appeared in the data in order to get unduplicated counts of victims and perpetrators. This represents a significant advancement in understanding the state of domestic violence in Marion County.

We estimate an error rate of 1.5% on matching victims to get unduplicated counts, and an error rate of 2.4% for perpetrator matches. These are cases where there are known mis-matches on gender, race, or age. Future enhancements to the algorithm can lower this rate even further.

## Domestic Violence Statistics

### Domestic Violence Victims and Perpetrators

In 2011, there were an estimated 10,687 victims of domestic violence (1.5% of the population) and 9,962 perpetrators.

This represents a 22% decrease from 2010 for victims and 6% drop in the number of perpetrators. However, it is unclear if this is a true trend in the data, or if it is the result of data quality issues. Although the data for 2012 were not yet available from all data sources, the data we do have so far suggest that the number of victims for 2012 will be at or above 2010 figures, pointing to a potential undercount for 2011. The tables below show the unduplicated counts of victims and perpetrators by data source.

#### Victims

Data Year	Julian Outreach Only <sup>7</sup>	Marion County Prosecutor's Office	Protective Orders	Total Unduplicated Count <sup>8</sup>
2009	4,561	5,373	3,864	13,013
2010	5,657	6,453	3,784	13,748
2011	5,128	5,779	3,168	10,687
2012	5,385	6,845	n/a <sup>9</sup>	n/a <sup>6</sup>

#### Perpetrators

Data Year	Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Dept. <sup>10</sup>	Marion County Prosecutor's Office	Protective Orders	Total Unduplicated Count <sup>11</sup>
2009	3,530	4,123	3,831	9,310
2010	4,888	5,076	3,716	10,605
2011	4,690	5,086	3,121	9,962
2012	4,934	5,290	n/a <sup>6</sup>	n/a <sup>6</sup>

<sup>7</sup> About 2.5% of the records in The Julian Center outreach table have victim home addresses outside of Marion County.

<sup>8</sup> Based on The Julian Center outreach, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, and Protective Orders. There are several victims that appear in multiple data sources; this column counts each person only one time regardless of source.

<sup>9</sup> Data not provided at time of analysis.

<sup>10</sup> Includes only those records that match The Julian Center outreach table, which is how we determine which cases in IMPD are domestic violence-related. Only 72% of the records in Julian Outreach match to IMPD records, although it should be a 100% match.

<sup>11</sup> Based on IMPD, MCPO, and Protective Orders. There are several victims that appear in multiple data sources; this column counts each person only one time regardless of source.

Thirteen percent of victims experienced more than one incident of domestic violence during the two-year period of 2011 and 2012, with 283 victims experiencing domestic violence 3 or more times. Fourteen percent of perpetrators are implicated in more than one incident, with 296 perpetrators implicated in 3 or more incidents. Eight percent of victim-perpetrator pairs were involved in a domestic violence incident with each other more than one time.

### Frequency of Repeat Domestic Violence Incidents<sup>12</sup> During 2011 and 2012

Number of Incidents	Percent of Victims	Percent of Perpetrators	Percent of Perpetrator-Victim pairs
1	86.8%	86.1%	92.0%
2	10.3%	10.7%	6.6%
3	2.2%	2.5%	1.1%
4	0.5%	0.5%	0.2%
5+	0.2%	0.2%	0.03%

Source: The Julian Center, IMPD

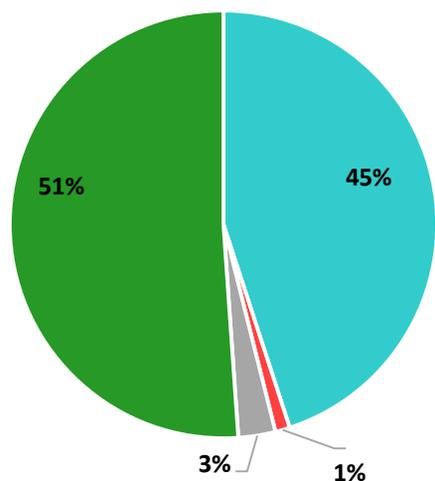
<sup>12</sup> Based on victims in The Julian Center outreach file and counts the number of incidents they match to in the IMPD incident report records.

**Demographic Profile: Race**

An estimated 51% of victims are Caucasian and 45% African American. However, comparing the victims as a percent of the population of the same race reveals that African Americans are more likely to be victims of domestic violence than their peers. The 5,462 Caucasian victims represent 0.96% of the Caucasian population, but the 4,807 African American victims represent 1.99% of the African American population. There is a similar result for perpetrators: 44% are Caucasian and 47% are African American.<sup>13</sup> It should be noted, however that until February 2013, MCPOs Domestic Violence Database did not require entry of a perpetrator’s or victim’s race.

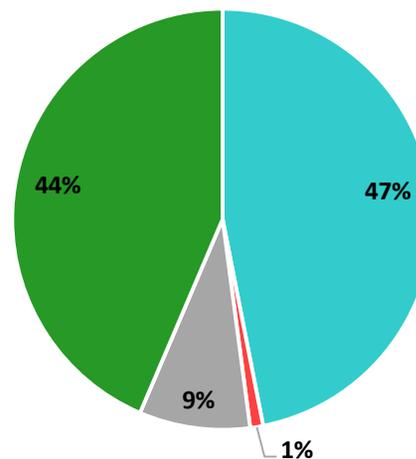
■ Caucasian ■ African American ■ Other ■ Unknown

Marion County  
2011 Domestic Violence Victims, by Race  
n = 10,687



Sources: The Julian Center, Marion County Prosecutor’s Office, Indiana Supreme Court

Marion County  
2011 Domestic Violence Perpetrators, by Race  
n = 9,962

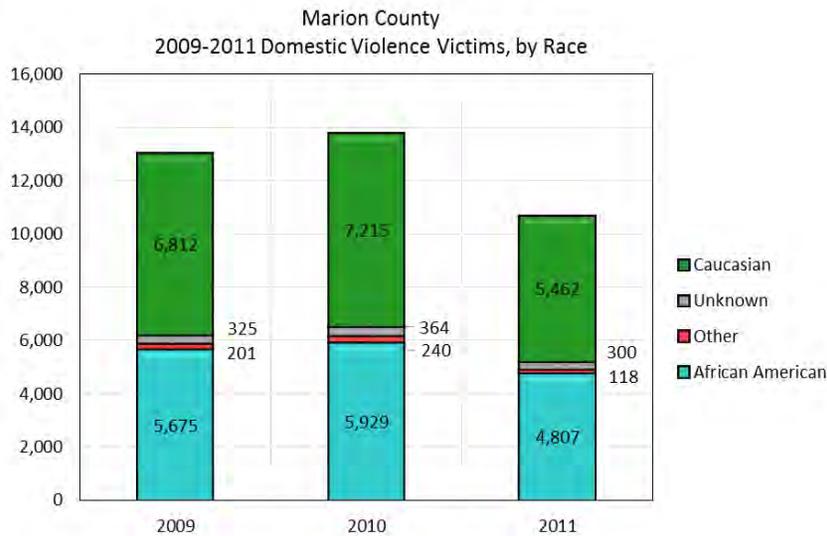


Sources: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, The Julian Center, Marion County Prosecutor’s Office, Indiana Supreme Court

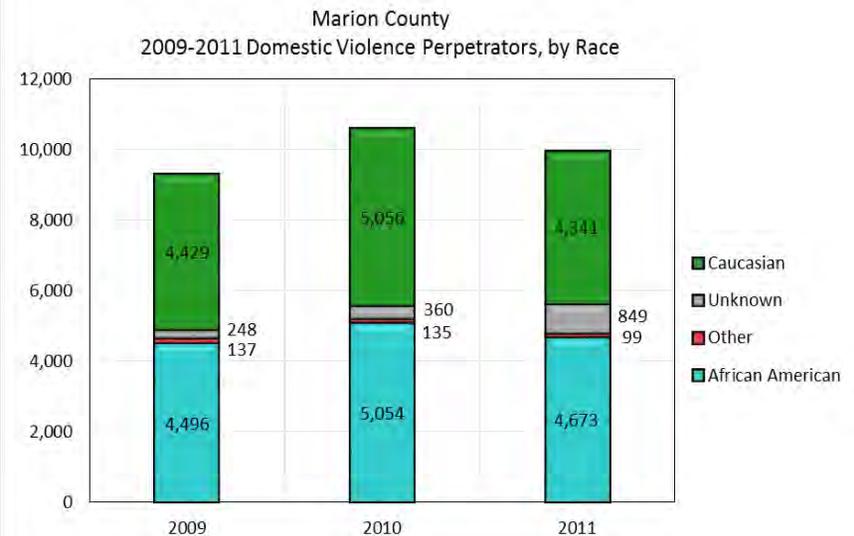
<sup>13</sup> In 2011, the number cases where the perpetrator’s race is unknown was 8.5%, up from 3.4% in 2010, mostly driven by the high number of unknowns in the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office data. Prior to February 2013, it was not mandatory to populate the race field in the MCPO database during data entry.

**Demographic Profile: Race by Year for 2009 to 2012**

The distribution of victims and perpetrators by race did not change significantly between 2009 and 2011, changing only one or two percentage points in either direction. The greatest increase was in the number of perpetrators with an unknown race, up from 360 (or 3.4% of perpetrators) in 2010 to 849 (or 8.5%) in 2011.<sup>14</sup>



Sources: The Julian Center, Marion County Prosecutor’s Office, Indiana Supreme Court

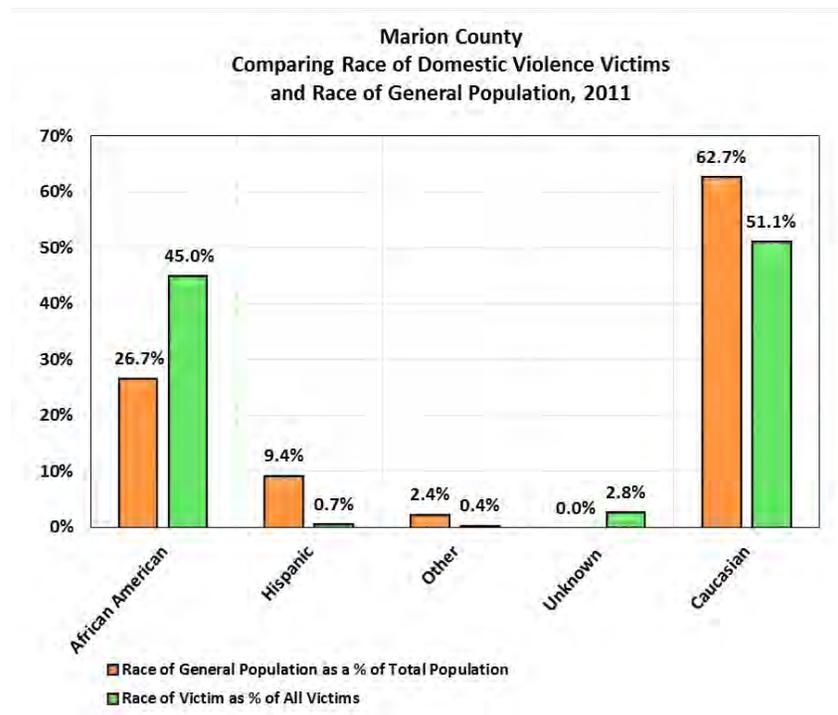


Sources: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Marion County Prosecutor’s Office Indiana Supreme Court, US Census Bureau, 2010

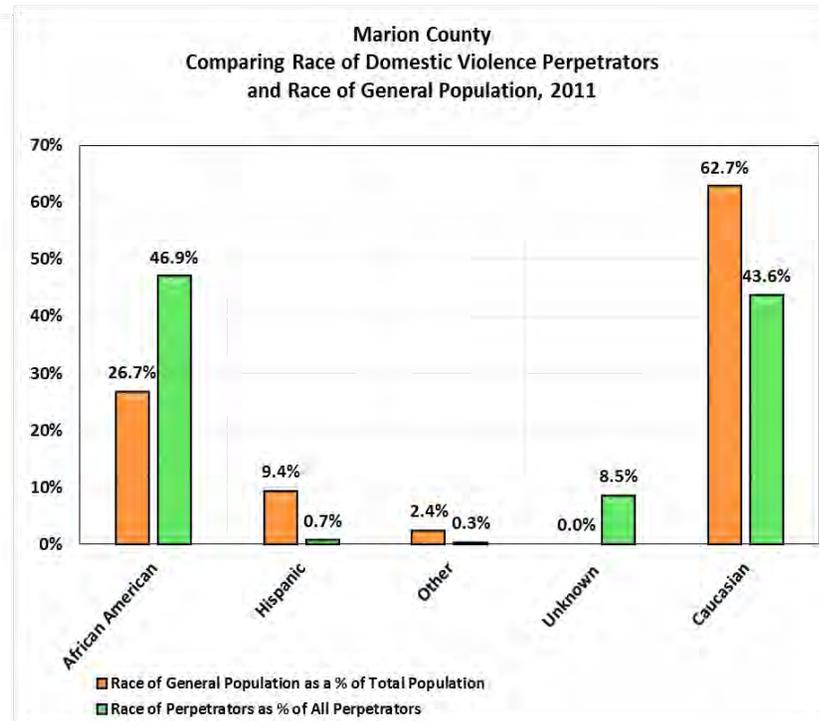
<sup>14</sup> The race field for perpetrators is less populated in the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office data beginning in 2011. In 2010, 96 of the perpetrators (2%) in the MCPO data had an unknown race, in 2011 it increased to 681 (12%) and increased again in 2012 to 799 (13%). In addition, in the MCPO database, a person is often classified as Caucasian if they are of a race other than African American.

### Comparing Race of Victims and Perpetrators to Race of the General Population

African Americans are disproportionately represented among domestic violence victims and perpetrators. African Americans make up 27% of the general population but 45% of domestic violence victims and 47% of perpetrators. Caucasians make up 63% of the general population but only 51% of domestic violence victims and 44% of perpetrators. The charts below compare the racial composition<sup>15</sup> of domestic violence victims and perpetrators to the racial composition of the general population.



Sources: The Julian Center, Marion County Prosecutor’s Office, Indiana Supreme Court



Sources: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Marion County Prosecutor’s Office Indiana Supreme Court, US Census Bureau, 2010

<sup>15</sup> Hispanic is counted as a race; IMPD does not track Hispanics separately, they are counted as Caucasian. This may also influence MCPO’s data to the extent that information from the police report is used to populate MCPO data fields. This may also influence the integrity of MCPOs data to the extent that information in the police report is used to populate data fields in MCPOs Domestic Violence Database.

### Comparing Race of Victims and Perpetrators by Data Source

The following charts compare the race composition of victims and perpetrators in each data source for the year 2011. The data show:

- Crime incidents involving domestic violence as reported by Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department are more likely to involve African American perpetrators than Caucasian.
- The large (14%) unknown population in the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office data make it difficult to know which race group makes up the highest percentage.
- Based on Indiana Supreme Court data, Caucasian victims appear to be more likely to file a protective order than African American victims. While Caucasians make up 51% of the victims, 57% of the people requesting a protective order are Caucasian.

2011	The Julian Center (and IMPD that link to The Julian Center)	Marion County Prosecutor’s Office <sup>16</sup>	Protective Orders (Indiana Supreme Court)																														
Victims	<p>n = 5,128</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Race</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Caucasian</td><td>48%</td></tr> <tr><td>African American</td><td>49%</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>3%</td></tr> <tr><td>Unknown</td><td>0.4%</td></tr> </table>	Race	Percentage	Caucasian	48%	African American	49%	Other	3%	Unknown	0.4%	<p>n = 5,779</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Race</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Caucasian</td><td>49%</td></tr> <tr><td>African American</td><td>49%</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>1%</td></tr> <tr><td>Unknown</td><td>2%</td></tr> </table>	Race	Percentage	Caucasian	49%	African American	49%	Other	1%	Unknown	2%	<p>n = 3,168</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Race</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>Caucasian</td><td>57%</td></tr> <tr><td>African American</td><td>37%</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Unknown</td><td>1%</td></tr> </table>	Race	Percentage	Caucasian	57%	African American	37%	Other	5%	Unknown	1%
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<sup>16</sup> Prior to February 2013, it was not mandatory to populate the race field in the MCPO database during data entry.

**Demographic Profile: Age and Gender<sup>17</sup>**

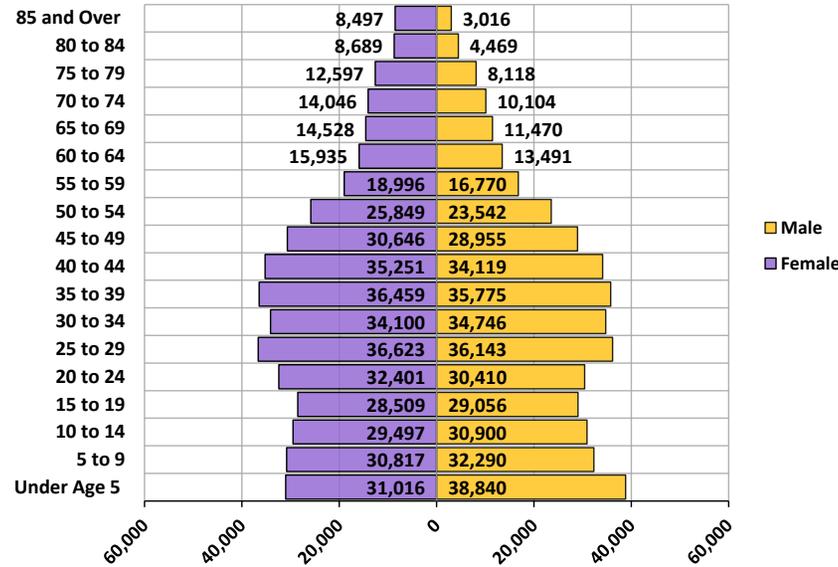
An age pyramid shows the number of males versus females in each 5-year age increment. Compared to the age and gender distribution of victims and perpetrators for the county, the population involved in domestic violence is much younger. Victims are predominantly females (79%), with the largest group aged 20 to 24, while perpetrators are predominantly males (80% of the perpetrators with a known gender<sup>18</sup>), with the largest group aged 25 to 29.

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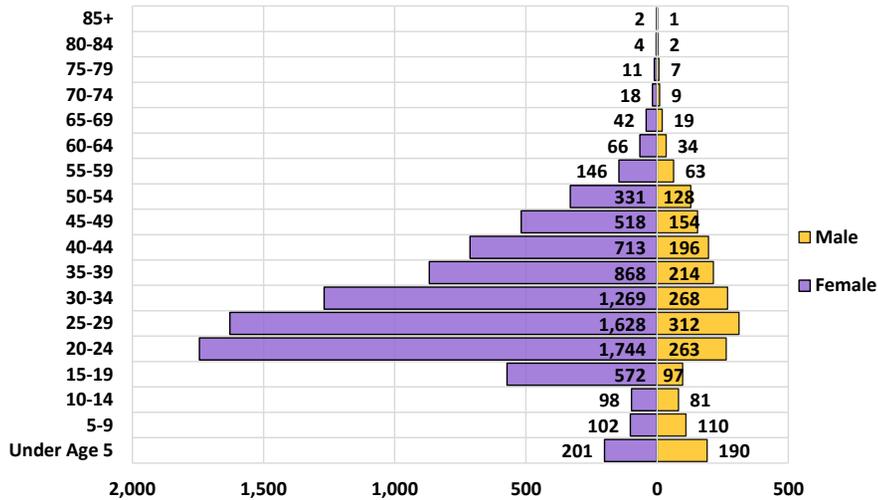
<sup>17</sup> Perpetrator chart excludes age 5-9; "5" appears to be used in the IMPD database as a marker for "unknown" age or gender

<sup>18</sup> Race is unknown for 7% of perpetrators.

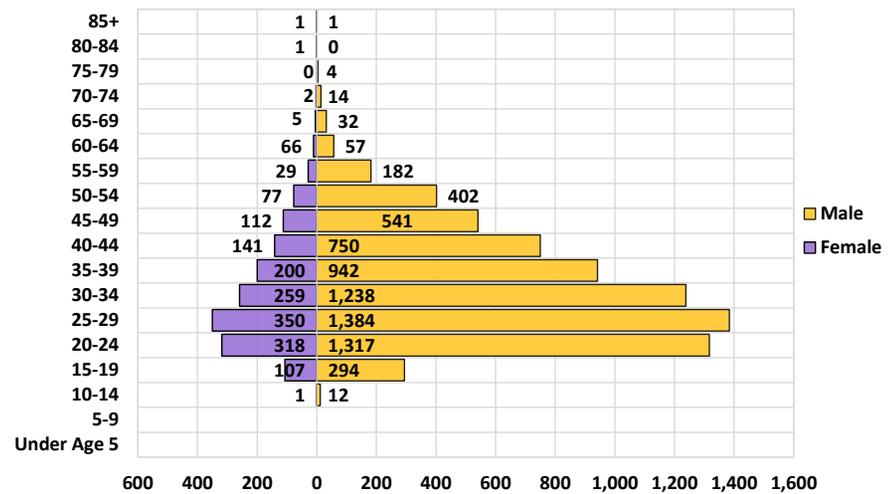
**Marion County  
2010 Population by Age and Gender**



**Marion County  
2011 Domestic Violence Victims by Age and Gender  
n = 10,481**



**Marion County  
2011 Domestic Violence Perpetrators by Age and Gender  
n = 8,784**



\*206 victims have unknown age

\*1,178 perpetrators have unknown age or gender

Sources: The Julian Center, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, Indiana Supreme Court

Sources: The Julian Center, IMPD, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, Indiana Supreme Court

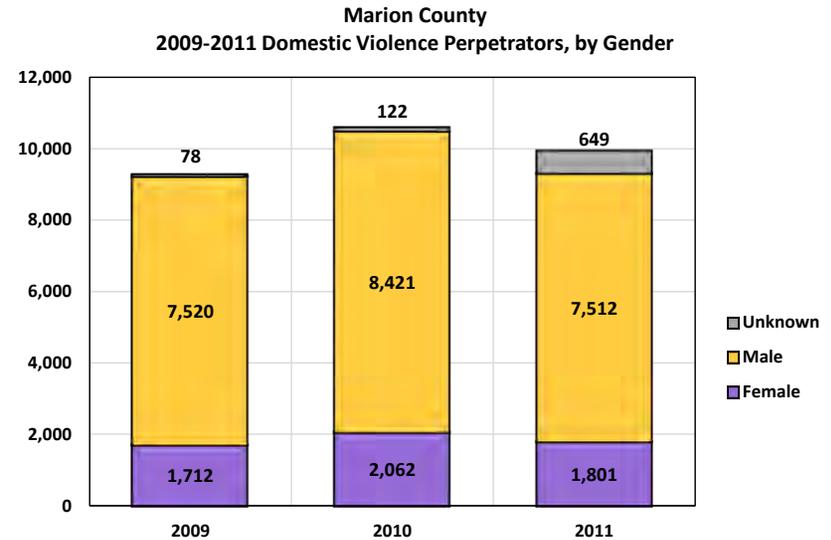
### Demographic Profile: Gender by Year, 2009 to 2011

The distribution of victims and perpetrators by gender did not change significantly between 2009 and 2011, changing only one or two percentage points in either direction. The greatest increase was in the number of perpetrators with an unknown gender.<sup>19</sup>



Not included: 9 victims of unknown race in 2009 and 4 of unknown race in 2010

Sources: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, The Julian Center, Marion County Prosecutor’s Office, Indiana Supreme Court



Sources: Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, The Julian Center, Marion County Prosecutor’s Office, Indiana Supreme Court

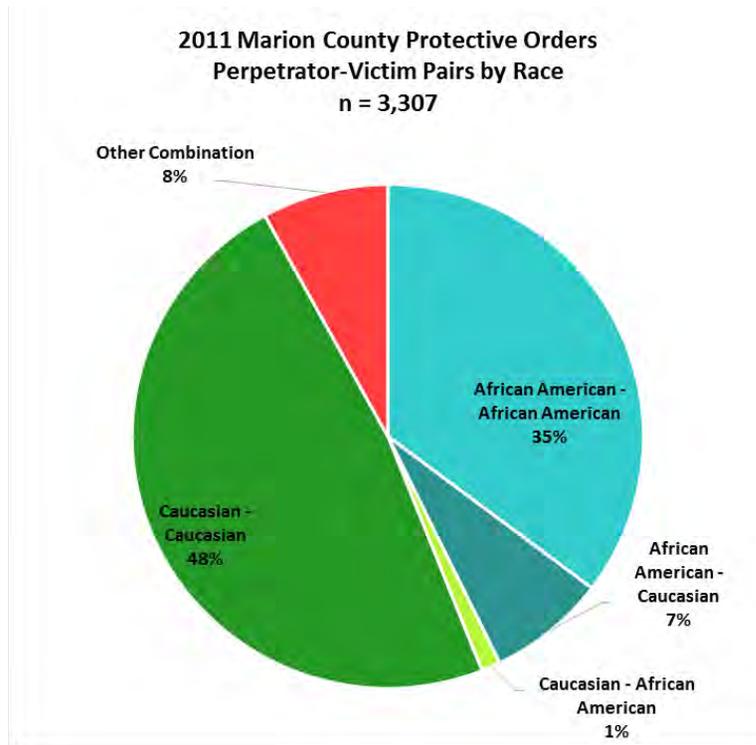
<sup>19</sup> The gender column for perpetrators in the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office data is less populated beginning in 2011. The unknown gender accounts for 14% of the MCPO records. This trend continues into 2012.

### Protective Orders

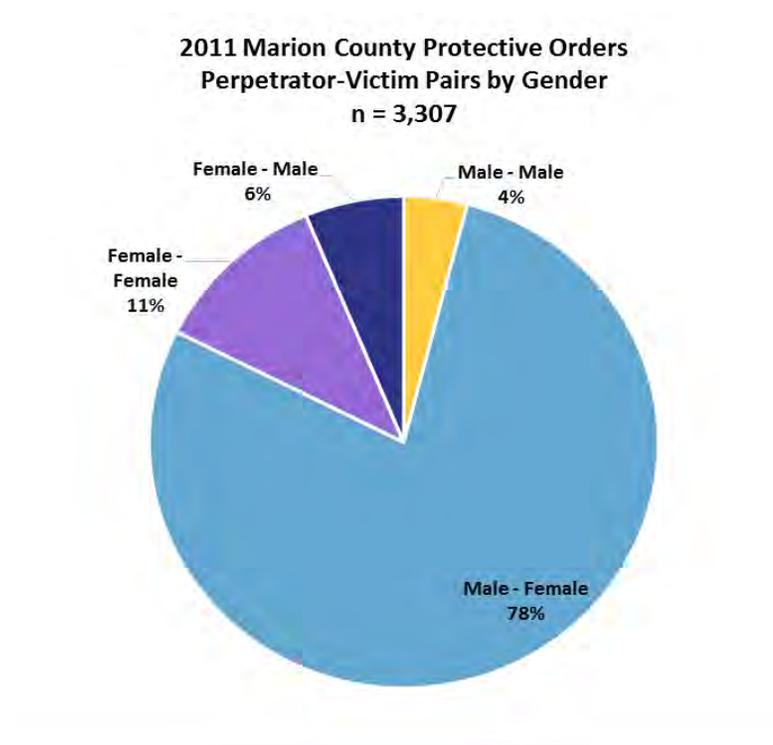
Individuals can obtain a protective order against a member of their family, someone they are in a dating relationship with, and someone with whom they have a child in common. In addition, a protective order can be placed against someone who has committed sexual assault or stalking. The Domestic Violence Network estimates 80% of the protective order cases are directly related to domestic violence.

In 2011, 21% of the victims that appear in The Julian Center outreach file requested a protective order at some point in the past, and 14% requested one in that same year (2011). The charts below show the race and gender of the perpetrator-victim pairs. The charts show:

- 84% of the perpetrator-victim pairs have the same race, with 48% of the pairs both having a race of Caucasian.
- 16% have different race, with the most common pairing being African American perpetrator and Caucasian victim (7%)
- Only 15% of the perpetrator-victim pairs have the same gender; 78% involve a male perpetrator and female victim



Source: Indiana Supreme Court



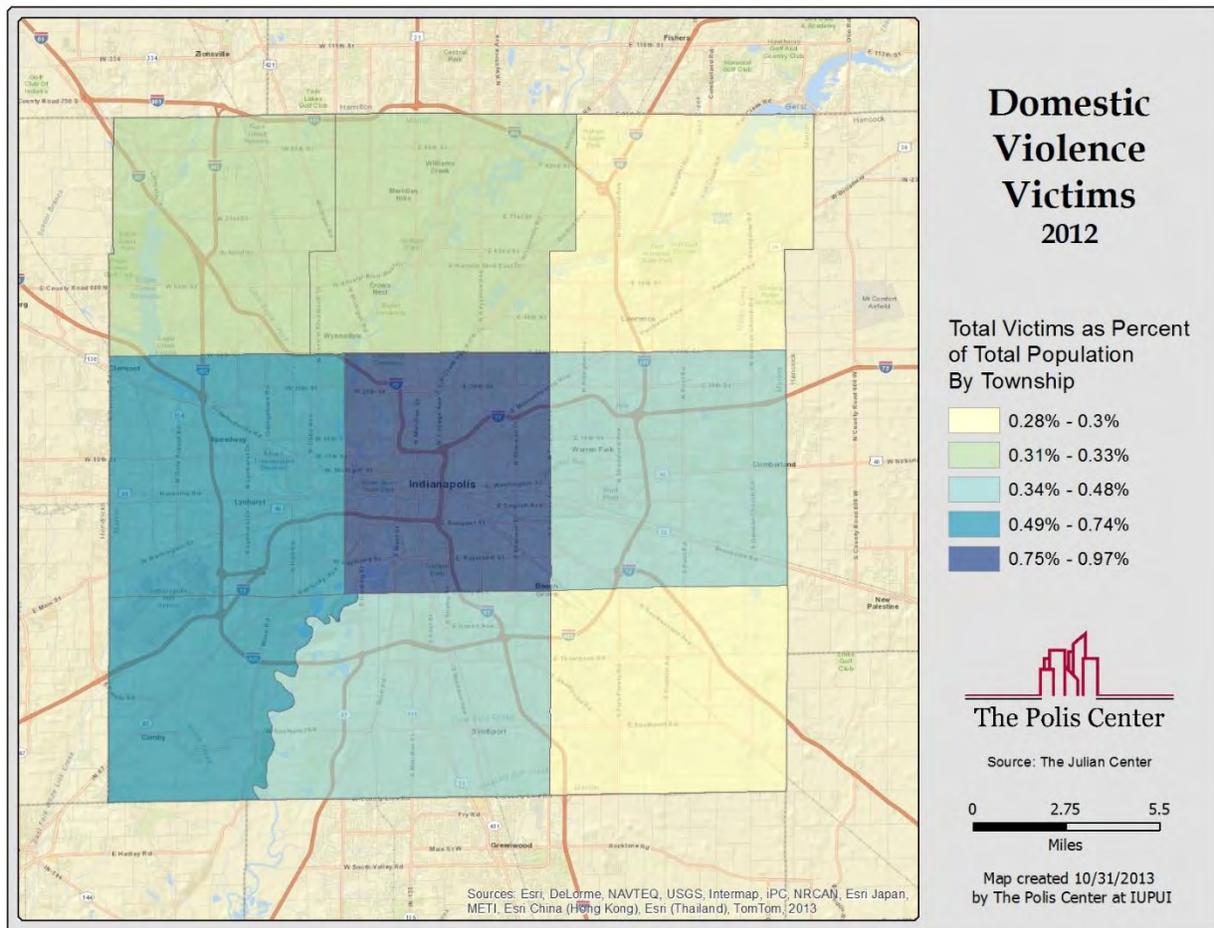
Source: Indiana Supreme Court

### Where Does Domestic Violence Occur?

77% of domestic violence incidents occur at home.<sup>20</sup> This percentage was the same for 2012 and 2011. The following maps and table are based on the home address of victims as recorded in the outreach data from The Julian Center. At 9.7 victims per 1,000 population, Center Township had the highest reported domestic violence rate in Marion County. \*

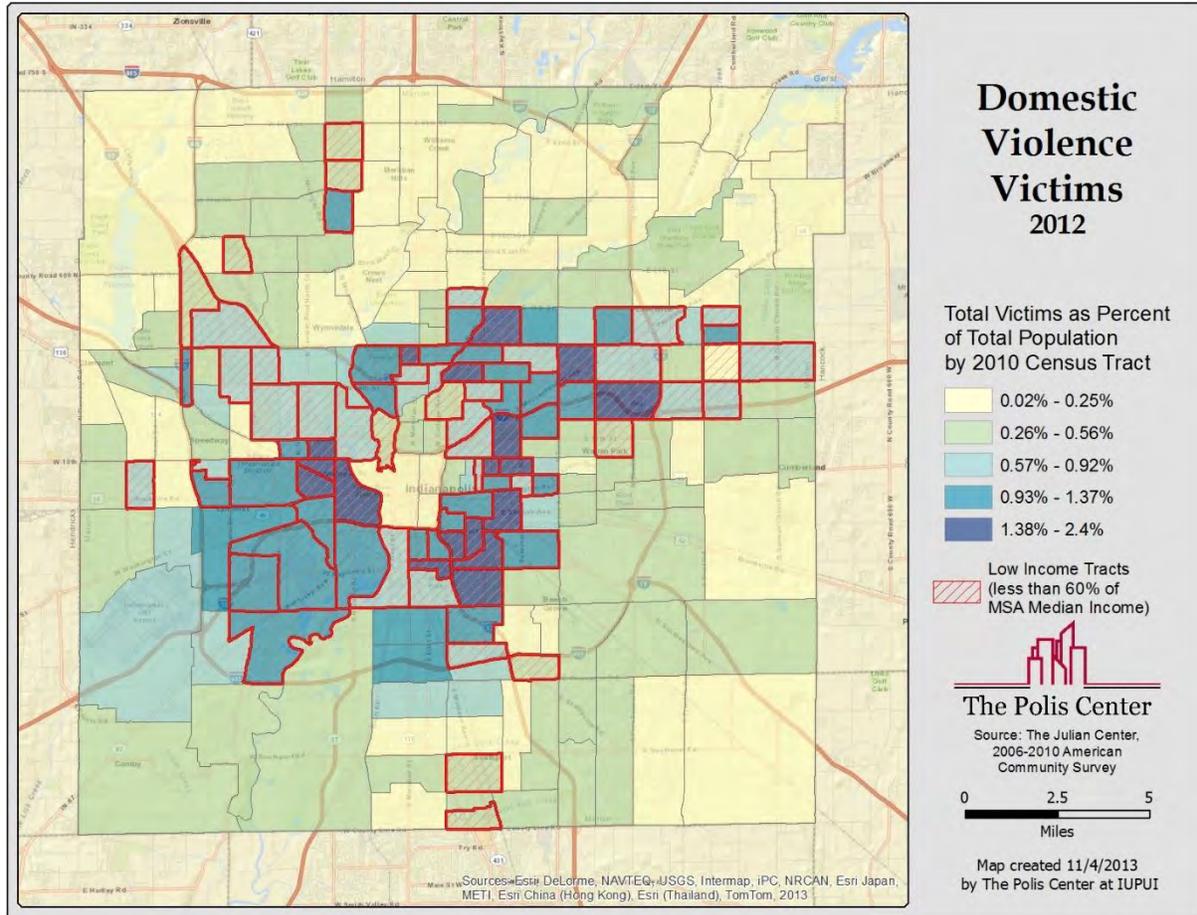
\* Prior to 2012, Central Township was the default if an address was not provided.

Township Name	DV Victims Per 1,000 Population (2012)
Center Township	9.66
Wayne Township	7.43
Decatur Township	6.48
<b>Marion County</b>	<b>5.28</b>
Warren Township	4.85
Perry Township	4.40
Pike Township	3.31
Washington Township	3.29
Lawrence Township	3.04
Franklin Township	2.78



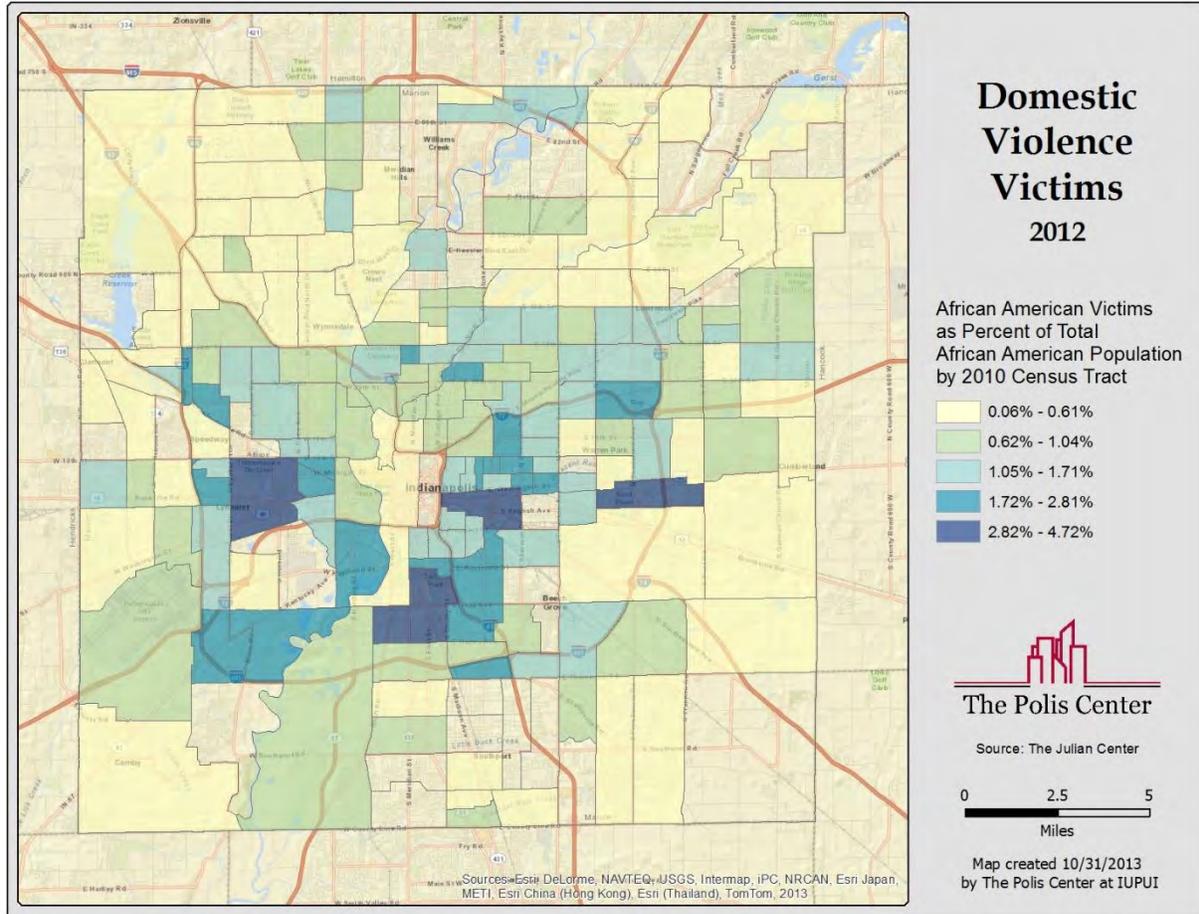
<sup>20</sup> The Julian Center, 2011 and 2012 (Domestic violence incidents identified by IMPD, victim home address from Julian Center)

Looking at a more detailed map shows that low-income neighborhoods have a higher reported incidence of domestic violence than middle- and upper-income areas. The red areas on the map below highlight the low-income census tracts.<sup>21</sup> The tracts with the darker shades of blue are areas with higher domestic violence rates, which closely align with the low-income areas.

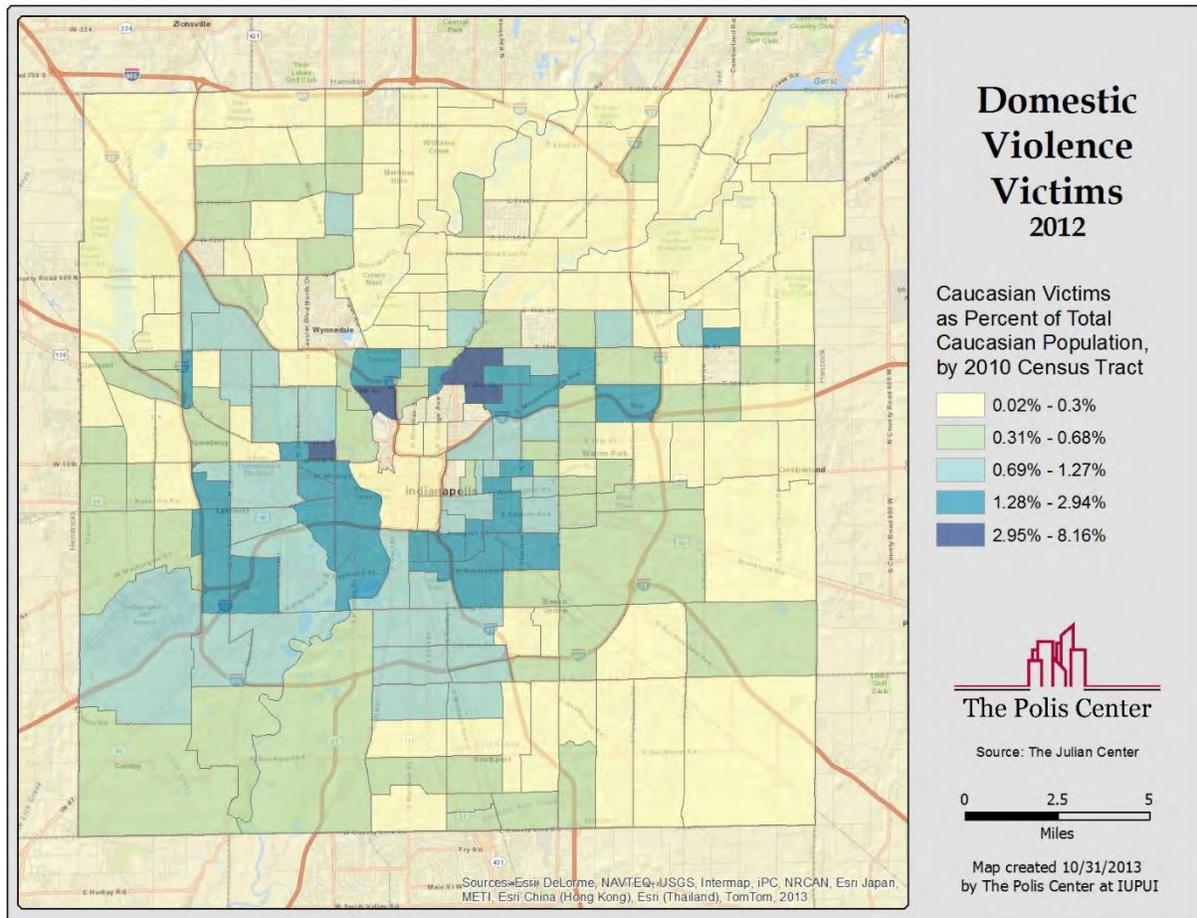


<sup>21</sup> Census Tracts are small statistical subdivisions of a county used by the US Census Bureau for tabulating and reporting data collected during the census. Census tracts generally have a population size between 1,200 and 8,000 people.

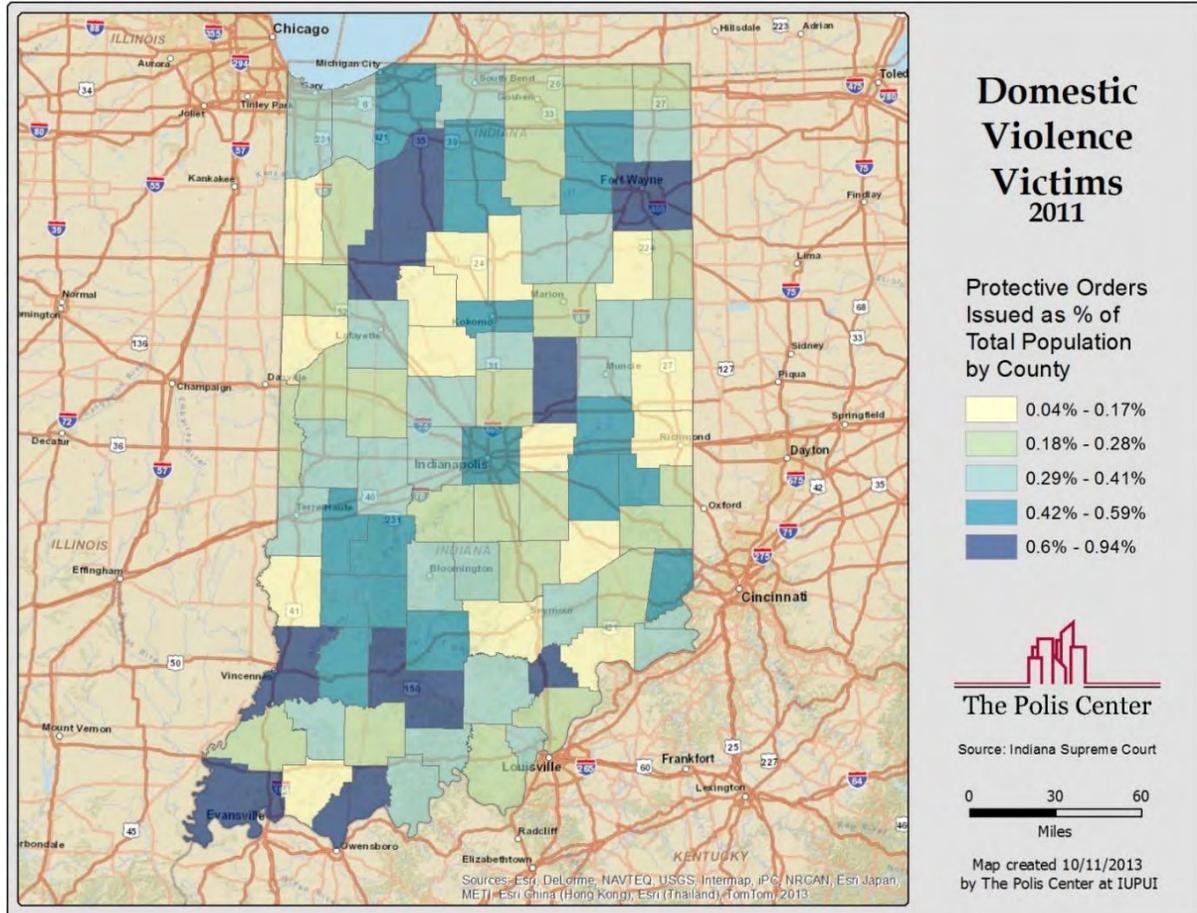
The map below shows for each census tract the African American victims as a percent of the African American population living in that tract.



The map below shows for each census tract the Caucasian victims as a percent of the Caucasian population living in that tract.



The following map shows where protective orders have been issued across the state. Marion County is in one of the highest categories with about 0.5% of the population issued a protective order against them. Across the state, protective order rates tend to be highest in several rural areas, and counties with mid-sized cities (Allen County, Madison County, and Vanderburgh County).



### Legal Outcomes of Domestic Violence Cases

In 2012, the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office reviewed 6,129 domestic violence cases, a 32% increase since 2009. The case progression is not known for 17% of those cases. Of the cases where a charging decision had been made (excluding the 1,014 cases with an unknown case progression), 69% resulted in one or more charges filed, a continual drop from 87% in 2009.

The number of cases where the progression or outcome is unknown has been decreasing (a 31% drop from 2009 to 2012), suggesting better data collection in recent years. The Marion County Prosecutor’s Office reports that new data entry requirements for cases were instituted in February 2013, so there should be fewer “unknown” cases in future reports.

Marion County Prosecutor’s Office:  
Case Progression (2009 – 2012)

Data Year	Charges Filed	No Charges Filed	Unknown Case Progression <sup>22</sup>	Total # Cases
2009	2,887	436	1,327	<b>4,650</b>
2010	4,086	662	1,161	<b>5,909</b>
2011	3,799	1,100	993	<b>5,892</b>
2012	3,551	1,564	1,014	<b>6,129</b>
2009-2012	<b>14,323</b>	<b>3,762</b>	<b>4,495</b>	<b>22,580</b>
2009-2012%	<b>63%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Percent of Cases\*  
Resulting in  
Charges Filed*

*2009      87%*  
*2010      86%*  
*2011      78%*  
*2012      69%*

\* When Case Progression  
is Known

<sup>22</sup> Unknown cases: cases with no additional information about whether or how the case was pursued. Additionally, cases filed in November or December of 2012, would not have “known” outcomes until they were resolved in 2013.

In 2012, of the 3,551 case where charges were filed, 56% were dismissed, 42% resulted in a conviction, and 2% resulted in a not guilty verdict. Of 1,565 cases where charges are filed and not dismissed, the large majority end up in a conviction. 96% of these cases (1,497 out of 1,565 cases) in 2012 resulted in a conviction, a pattern consistent with the prior 3 years. Of the 7,447 charges<sup>23</sup> that resulted in a conviction from 2009 to 2012, 8.7% were guilty verdicts and 91.3% were plea agreements.<sup>24</sup>

**Marion County Prosecutor's Office:  
Outcome of Domestic Violence Cases Where Charges Were Filed<sup>25</sup>  
(2009 – 2012)**

Data Year	Convicted <sup>26</sup>	Not Guilty	Dismissed <sup>27</sup>	Total # Cases Filed
2009	1,312	69	1,506	2,887
2010	1,602	67	2,417	4,086
2011	1,426	64	2,309	3,799
2012	1,497	68	1,986	3,551
2009-2012	5,837	268	8,218	14,323
2009-2012 %	41%	2%	57%	100%
2012 %	42%	2%	56%	100%

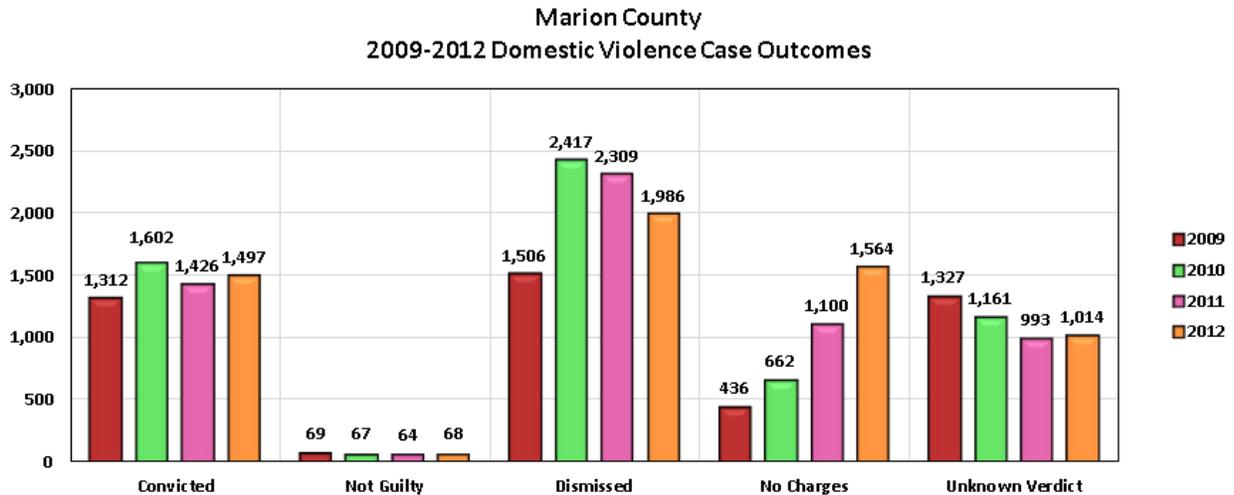
<sup>23</sup> Charges are not to be compared with *cases*; cases average around 5 charges per case.

<sup>24</sup> Dismissal rates vary widely across the nation. In Rhode Island 60% of misdemeanor cases are dismissed (Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence), and on the low end in Whatcom County, Washington rates are as low as 35% (Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence).

<sup>25</sup> For cases with a known outcome.

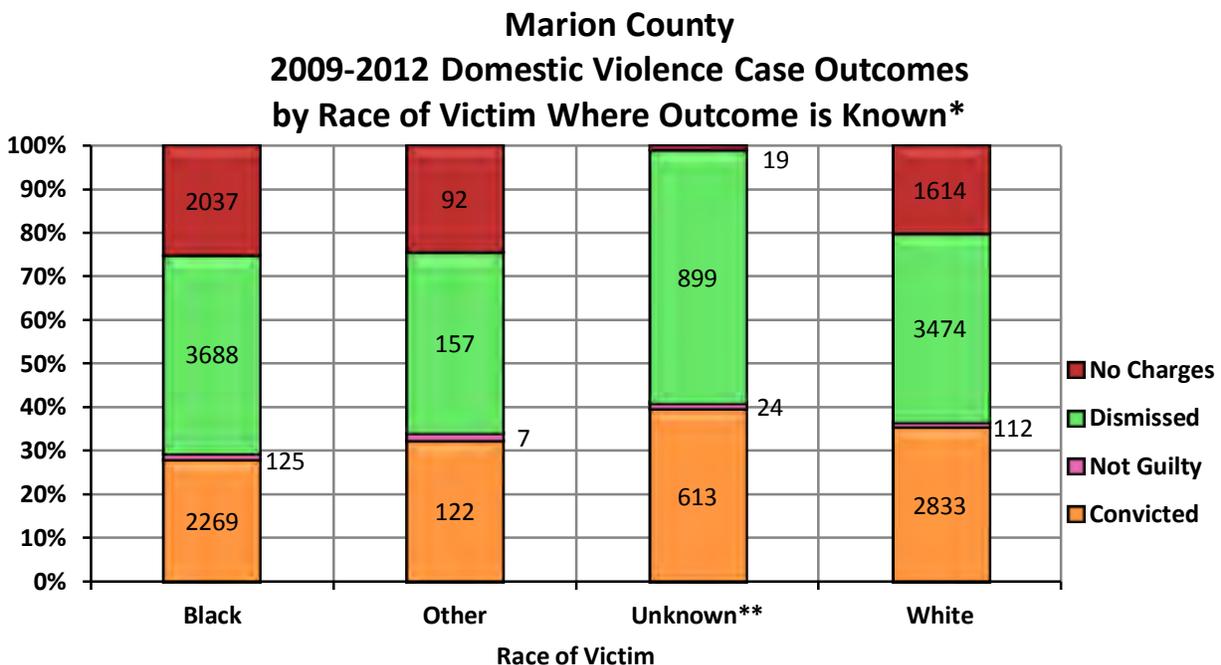
<sup>26</sup> Convicted: includes plea agreements.

<sup>27</sup> Dismissed: a case where a charge was filed but later dropped.



Source: Marion County Prosecutor’s Office

The following chart shows the outcome of cases by race for those cases where the outcome is known. Conviction rates are highest in cases in which the victim is Caucasian (35% of all cases where the victim is Caucasian), compared to a 28% conviction rate for African American victims and a 32% conviction rate for cases in which the victim is of another race. The outcome of “not guilty verdict” is consistently 1-2% of cases across all race groups.



\*4,495 (20% of cases) have no known outcome.

\*\*1,555 (9% of cases with known outcome) have no known race.

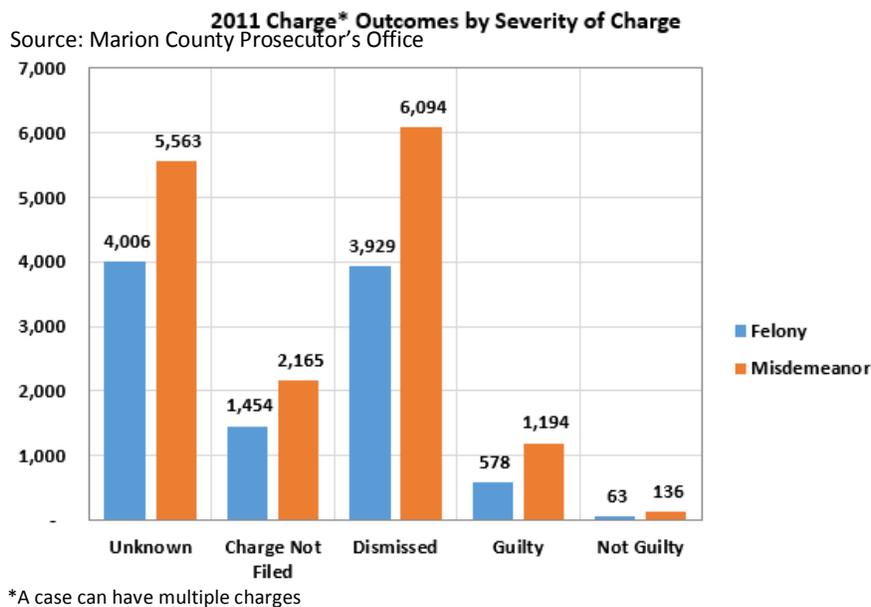
Until February 2013, race of a victim was not a required field in the database. As such these numbers may not accurately reflect outcomes of cases according to race.

Source: Marion County Prosecutor’s Office

### Level of Charge: Felonies and Misdemeanors

The outcomes of charges<sup>28</sup> that involved misdemeanors versus those that involved felonies is similar. In general, the data show:

- Misdemeanors are more common than felonies (60% of charges are misdemeanors).<sup>29</sup>
- Of the charges with a known outcome in 2011,<sup>30</sup> 64% were dismissed, and 23% resulted in “no charge filed.” This is true for both misdemeanors and felonies.
- When charges are filed and not dismissed, 90% of the charges (both felony and misdemeanor) result in a conviction.



<sup>28</sup> Not to be compared with cases as reported above; cases average around 5 charges per case.

<sup>29</sup> MCPO has a policy of filing misdemeanor charges whenever possible on domestic violence cases, even when felonies are involved. It is not uncommon, for example, to have a case with one felony and three misdemeanor charges. This likely explains, in large part, the disparity between the number of felony and misdemeanor charges filed. Additionally, a basic battery (where no weapon or serious bodily injury is involved) is a misdemeanor charge in Indiana. Such cases make up a large percentage of domestic violence cases in Marion County.

<sup>30</sup> The outcome is unknown for 9,569 charges (38% of all charges).

**Other Criminal Activity by Convicted Domestic Violence Perpetrators**

37% of the 1,011 convicted perpetrators<sup>31</sup> in 2011 were arrested or suspects of another crime in the 365 days following their conviction. About half (52%) of those are arrested multiple times during that one-year period and the other half only one time. 20% of convicted perpetrators are arrested for domestic battery or domestic disturbance during the 365 days following the conviction.

**Number of Times a Person Convicted of Domestic Violence is Arrested for or Suspected of another Crime within 1 Year of the Domestic Violence Conviction**

Number of Times Arrested for or Suspected of Another Crime After DV Conviction	Number of Convicted DV Perpetrators (2010)	Number of Convicted DV perpetrators (2011)
None	678	722
1	186	183
2	102	91
3	55	48
4	39	24
5	17	15
6	11	10
7+	16	8
<b>TOTAL Convicted Persons</b>	<b>1104</b>	<b>1101</b>

Source: Indianapolis Marion County Police Department

<sup>31</sup> The number of cases resulting in conviction in 2011 was 1,461 as reported on page 24. Some individuals were involved in multiple cases, which is why the number of individuals convicted is lower (1,101).

## Data Notes

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The following data were evaluated and analyzed for this project.

Source	Table	Date Range	Number of Records
The Julian Center	Julian Outreach	October 2008 – 2012	23,767
Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department	IMPD_Victims	2009 - June 2013	307,203
	IMPD_Perpetrators	2009 - June 2013	473,374
Marion County Prosecutor's Office	MCPO Cases	October 2008 - July 2013	26,103
	MCPO Victims	October 2008 - July 2013	41,765
	MCPO Charge Details	October 2008 - July 2013	82,259
	MCPO Placements	October 2008 - July 2013	5,591
Indiana Supreme Court	Protective Orders (Protected Person)	2009-2011	78,250
	Protective Orders (Respondent/Person the order is filed against)	2009-2011	78,250

### Data Limitations and Quality Concerns

#### 1. The Julian Center Data

- a. It should be noted that The Julian Center data collection conforms to grant requirements and not this particular study.
- b. Addresses of victims were collected in 2011 and later. About 2.5% of records have a home address outside of Marion County.
- c. The geocoding match rate for mapping the 2011 and 2012 addresses to x and y coordinates was 91.2%.
- d. Age data starts in 2011. The date of birth was not required for collection until 2012, at the request of the Domestic Violence Network.
- e. There is no unique person identifier.
- f. The victims in the outreach table originate from the police department. Therefore, we would expect 100% of the records in this table to match to the IMPD data. However, only 72% actually match up. The primary reason for this is due to case numbers not being formatted the same in every record. In 2012, The Julian Center changed the database to force the formatting to match IMPD.

#### 2. Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Data

- a. IMPD indicates that its data is messy. It is "incident" data and is preliminary by nature. They urge us to not "lead" with the data, but we can use it for the purpose of linking to other datasets and acquiring additional details about a case.

- b. Future analysis should assess the use of “domestic battery” and “domestic disturbance” qualifiers, which appear frequently in the IMPD table.
  - c. XY coordinates are available beginning in 2012. Previous data includes addresses, which can be geocoded to determine the coordinates.
  - d. IMPD makes no attempt to identify people as Hispanic.
  - e. IMPD victim data has no names, but we are able to match to Julian data on IMPD\_DR when there are matching records.
  - f. The value “5” is used frequently in the age field for perpetrators, seemingly to mean something besides 5 years old. Ages 5 to 9 were excluded from the data for this reason.
3. Marion County Prosecutor’s Office Data
- a. In 2011, the percent of cases where the defendant’s gender is unknown begins to increase to about 14%.
  - b. In 2011, the number of cases where the defendant’s race is unknown was 12%, up from 2% in 2010.
  - c. Not all cases have a resolution defined. Technically, there are about 38.5% records in the MCPO\_Charge\_Details table that have null verdicts.
  - d. 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 2012, the outcomes of the majority of those cases will be “unknown” until those cases are resolved sometime in 2013.
  - e. These data also include pleas, so a case may start with a felony charge, but may end with a conviction where the accused plead to a misdemeanor charge.
  - f. For the purposes of this report, unless otherwise noted, each case is counted only once. So if the perpetrators has five charges, then here, it is counted as one case.
  - g. Charges and cases are different. A single case may consist of one or multiple 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.
4. Protective orders.
- a. No exact date of order issue is provided, only data year.
  - b. No “reason” for the order is provided. It is unknown if that is tracked.
  - c. Otherwise, this is a very clean, well-populated dataset including date of births.
  - d. Limitation: Protective orders are issued for reasons other than domestic violence, such as stalking. This report assumes a large majority of the cases are domestic violence related.