

FATALITY REVIEW REPORT



SUMMIT COUNTY OHIO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITION

The information in this report may not be used in any form without written consent. Please contact Terrih@scmcbws.org with a request.



**From 2000-2010 in Summit
County, Ohio:**

.370 homicides

**.24 of those homicides were
victims of domestic violence**

THE PURPOSE

To prevent or decrease domestic violence fatalities the Summit County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee :

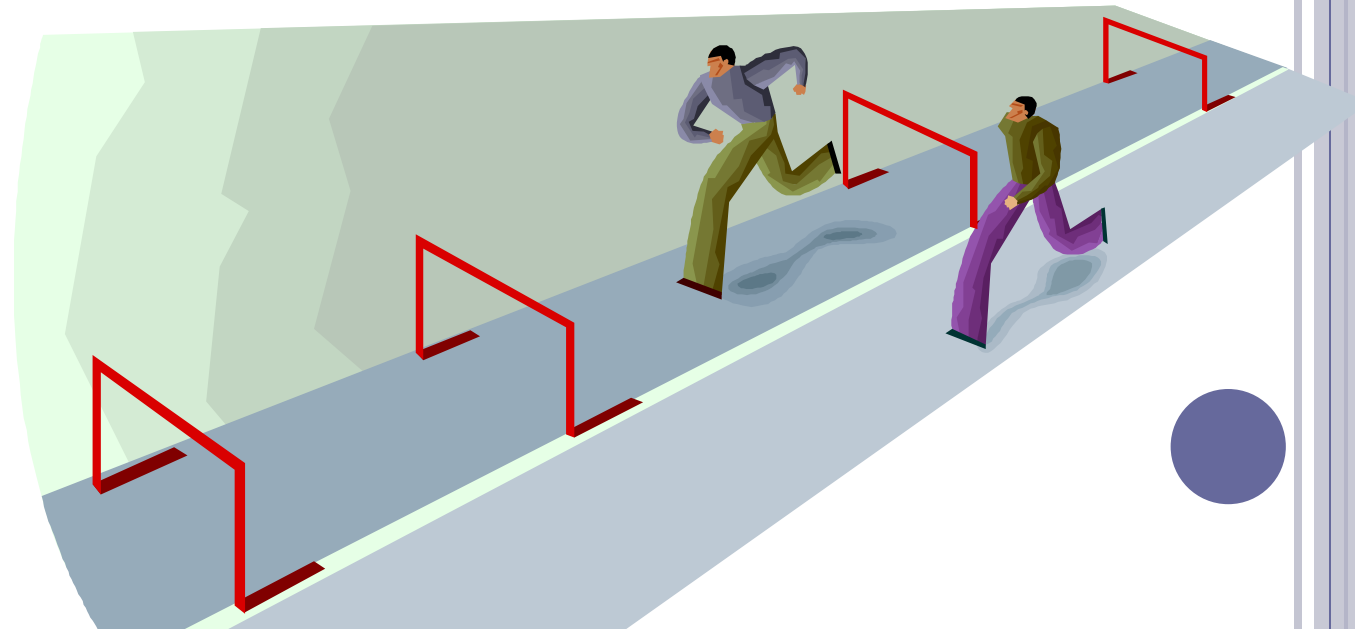
- will examine the circumstances leading up to and surrounding DV fatalities,**
- will make recommendations as a result of the fatality reviews, and**
- will increase the coordination and communication among systems and agencies involved in DV issues.**

THE COMMITTEE

- **Battered Women's Shelter**
- **Summit County Medical Examiner's Office**
- **Summit County Prosecutor's Office**
- **Akron City Prosecutor**
- **Various Municipal Prosecutors**
- **Summit County Sheriff's Department**
- **Local Police Departments**
- **Victim Assistance**
- **Akron General Medical Center**
- **DOVE, Summa Health System**
- **Summit County Children Services**

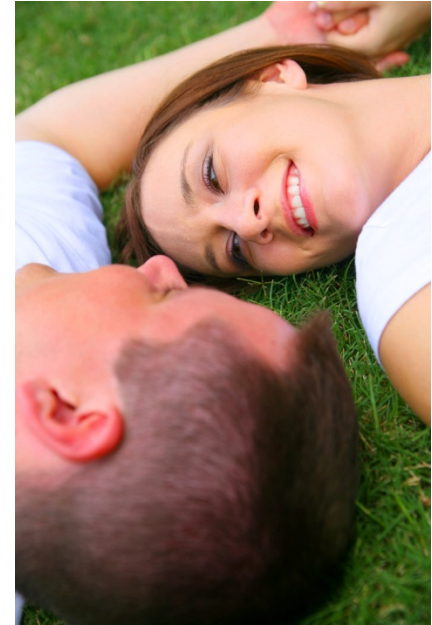
HURDLES AND STUMBLING BLOCKS THAT WE FACED AS WE STARTED THIS REVIEW PROCESS

- **Confidentiality**
- **Defensiveness**
- **Fear of Community Reaction to Findings**
- **Need for trust**



TODAY'S CASE REVIEW

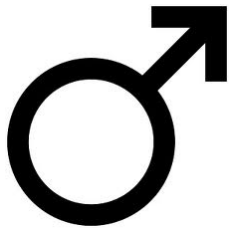
- Victim: Amy Smith
- Offender: Tom Jones



- Review Team:
 - Medical Examiners Office
 - Battered Women's Shelter
 - SANE Unit
 - Prosecutors Office / also representing the Police
 - Children's Services Board
 - Other members would be present at all reviews



DV RELATED HOMICIDE REVIEW STATS



of Male Offenders: 20

Male Offenders Age Range 13 to 81 years old



of Female Offenders: 4

Female Offenders Age Range 20 to 39 years old



Relationship of Offender to Victim

(at time of death)

Spouse— 43%

Ex-Spouse— 4%

Boyfriend—8%

Child—4%

Living Together—4%

Girlfriend—16%

Child in Common—13%

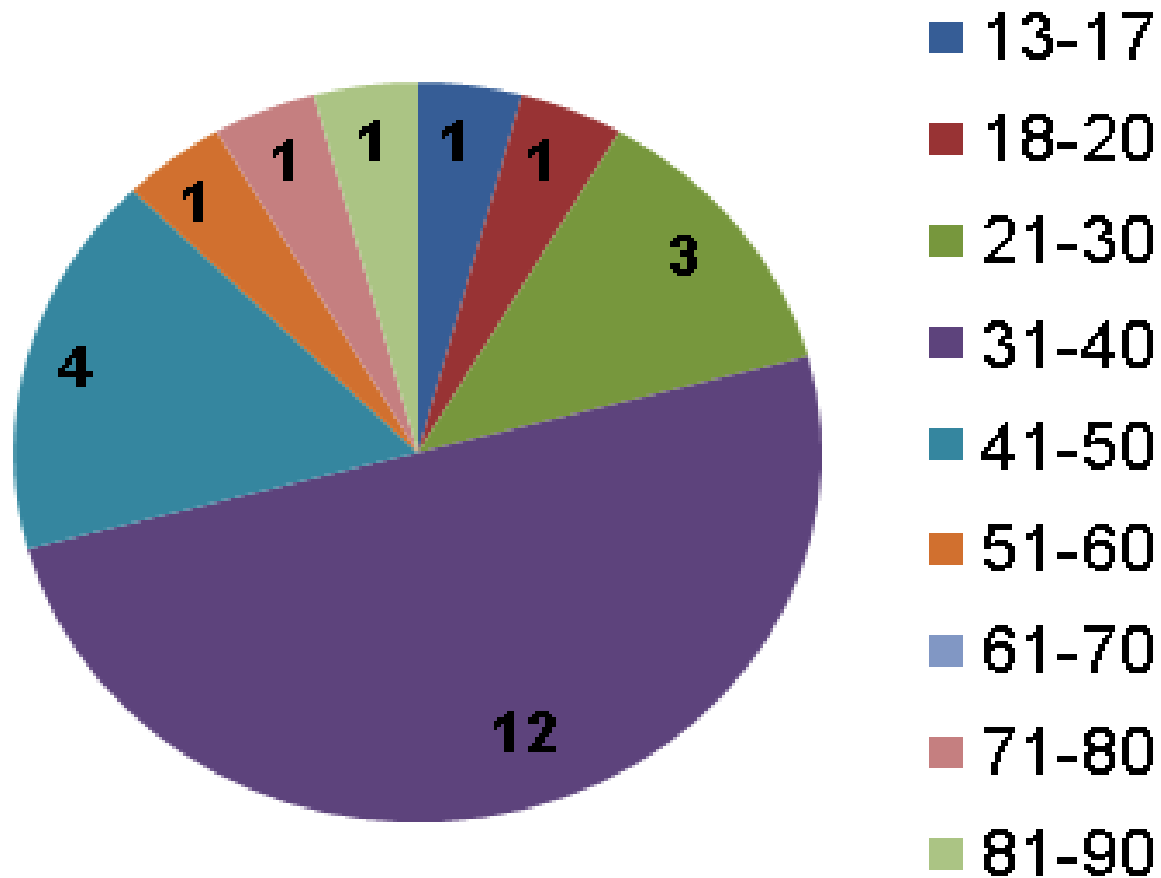
Love Triangle—8% male killed 3rd party male over “affair”



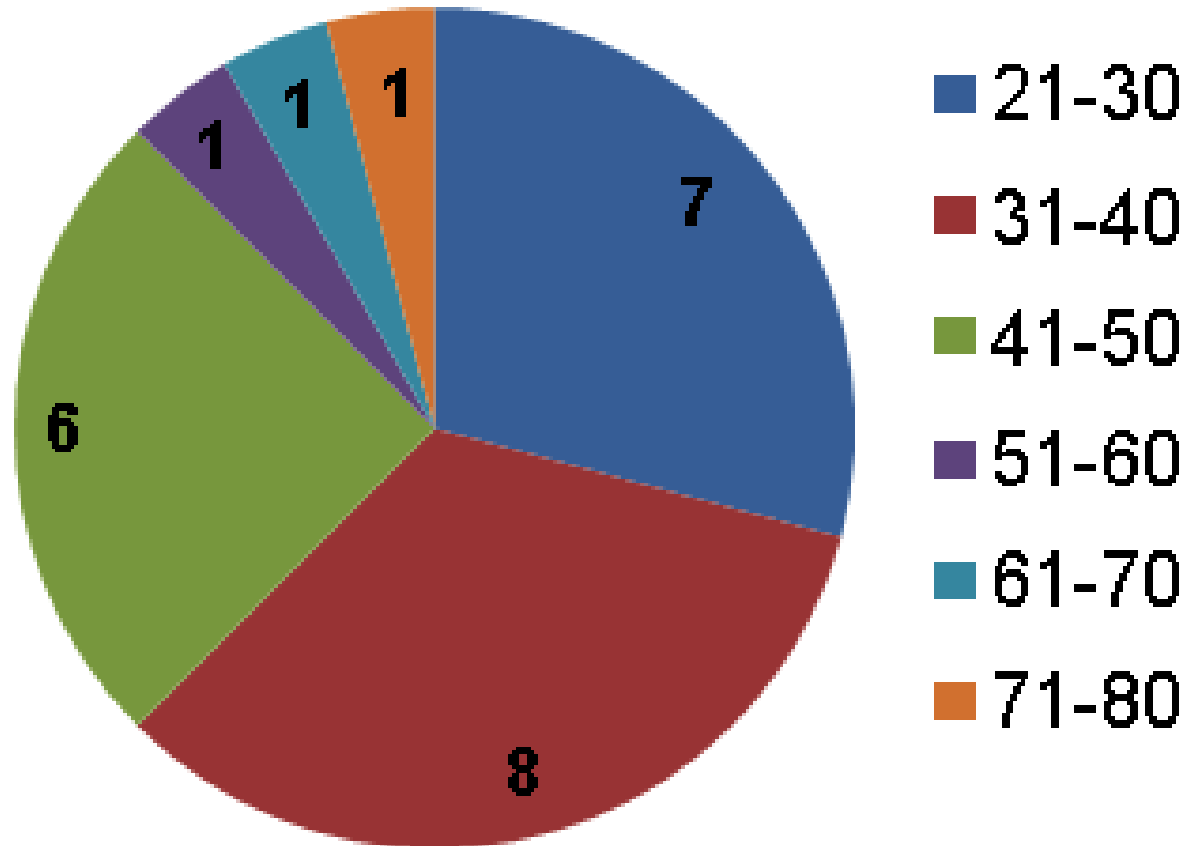
**11 out of 24 fatalities occurred in
marriage,
with marriages ranging from
months to 40 years**



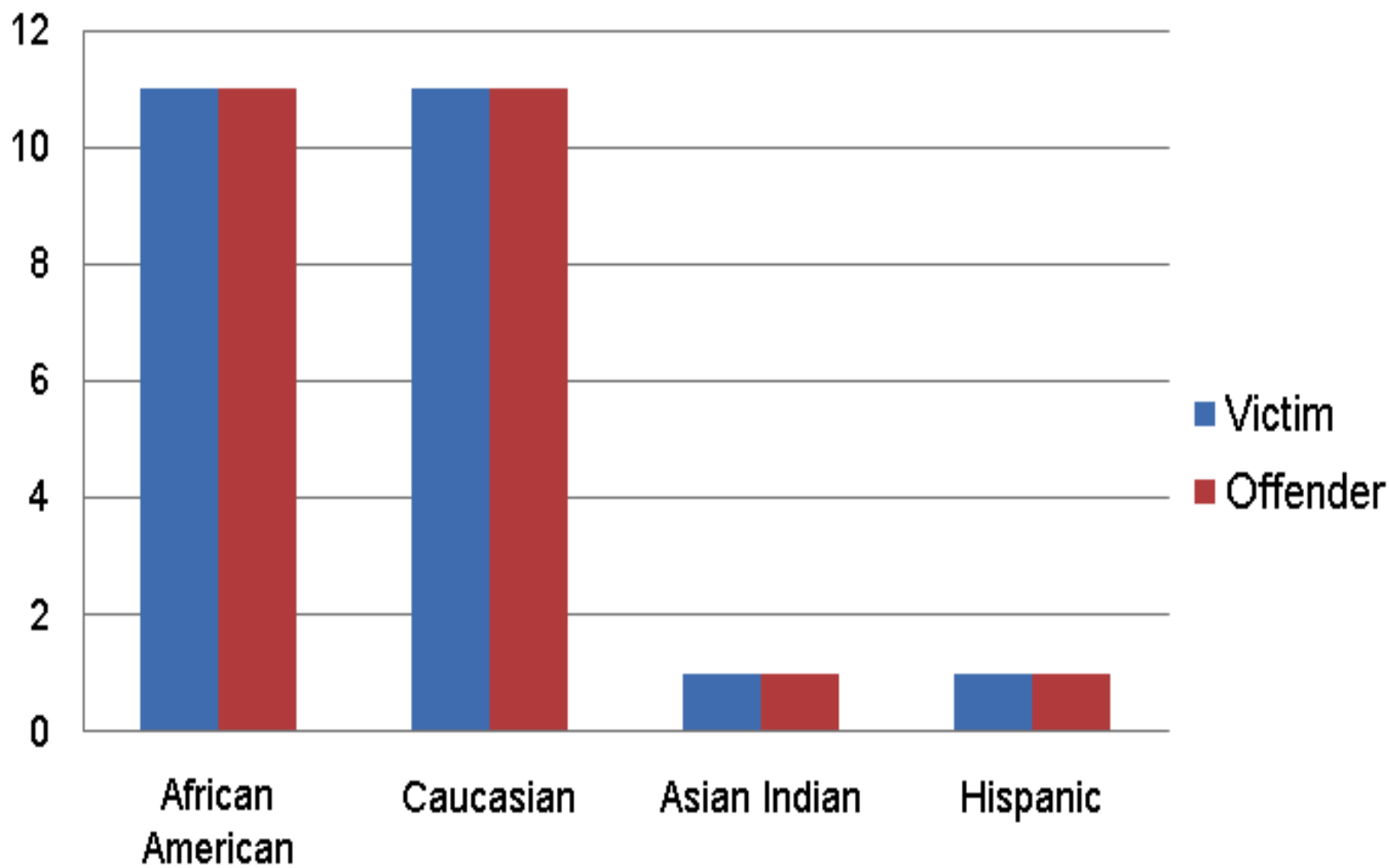
Age of Offender at time of homicide



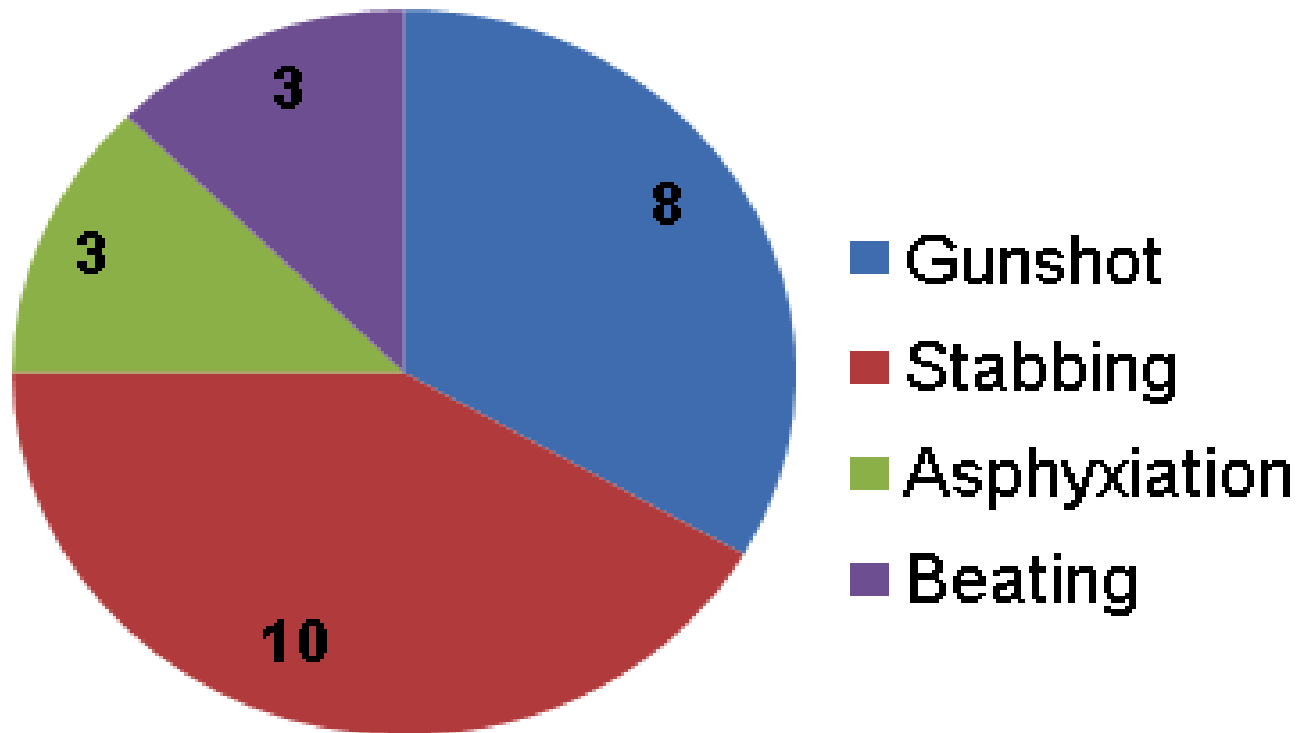
Age of Victim at time of homicide



Race



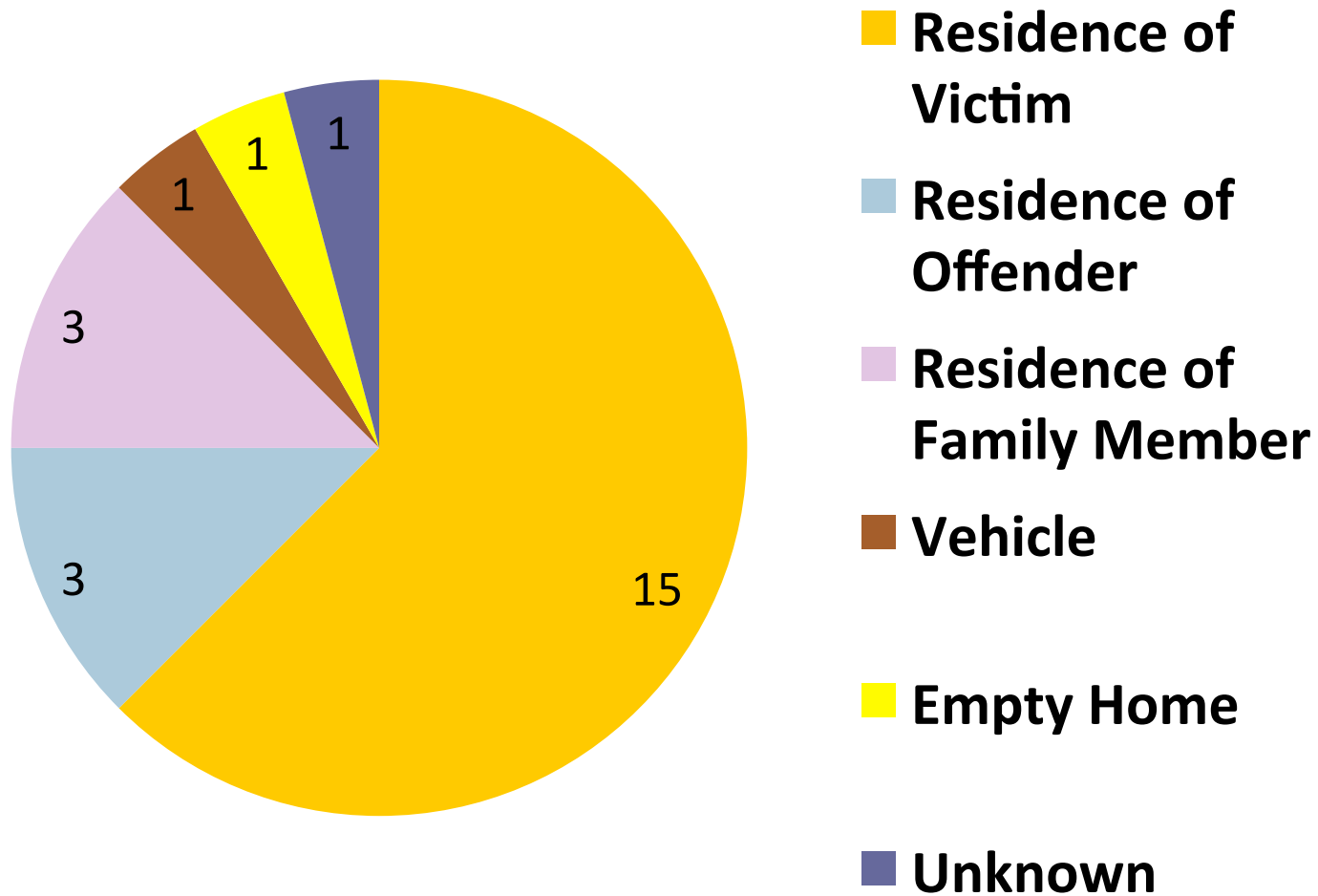
Cause of Death



In all 4 cases where the Female was the Offender, the cause of deaths were all ruled as stabbings.

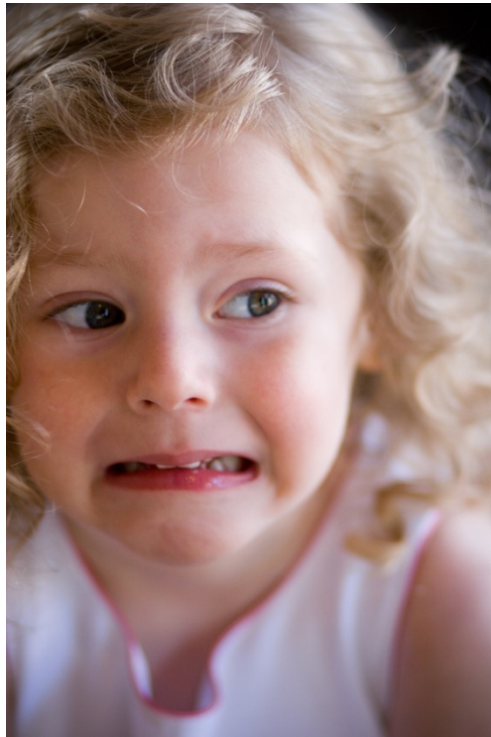


Location of Fatality



FACTS

OF THE 24 FATALITIES, 9 OCCURRED WHILE CHILDREN WERE IN THE HOME.



In total, there were 15 children present, in the residence, at the time of the homicides.

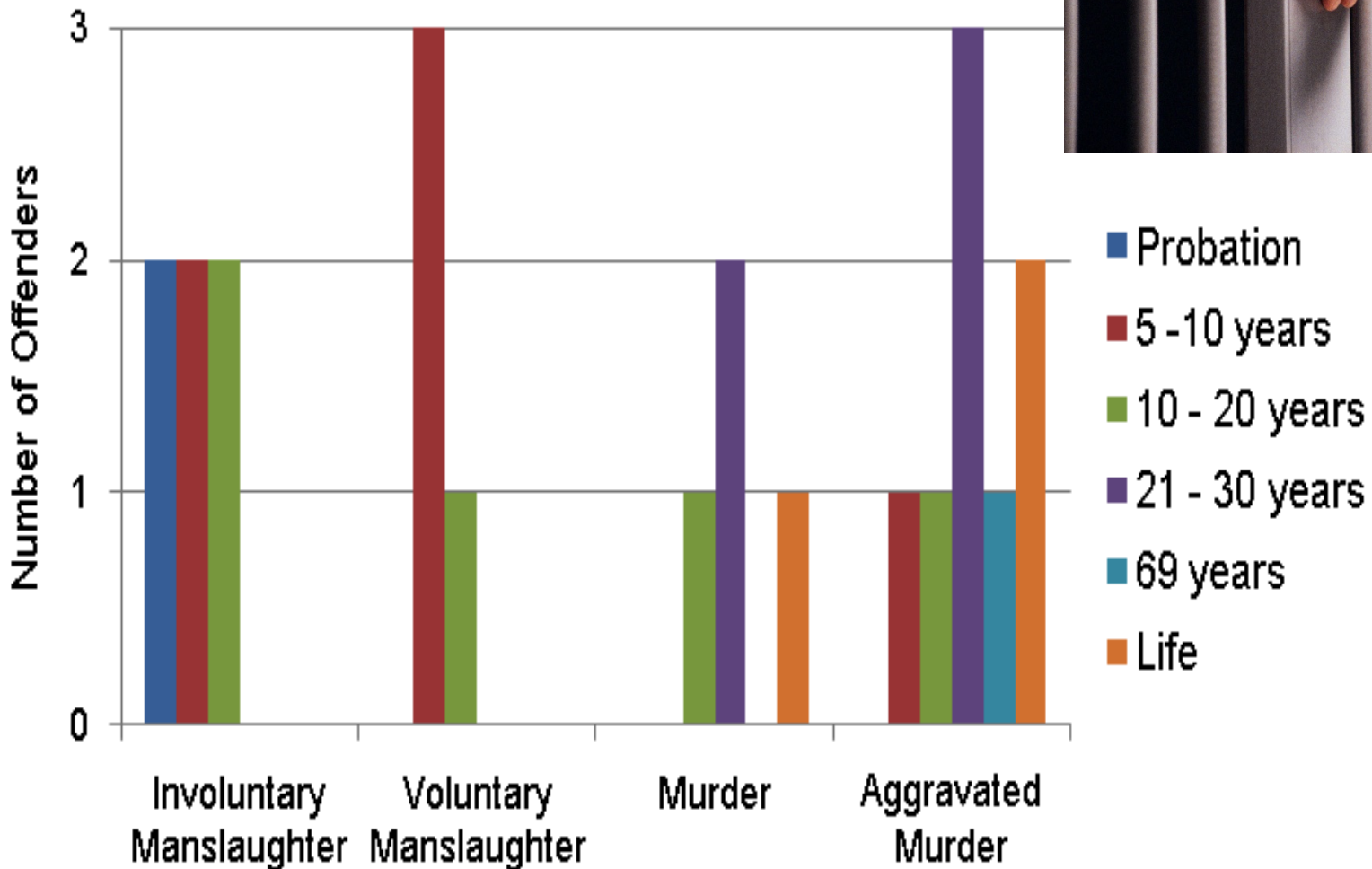


FACT

About 21% of the offenders had alcohol and/or drugs in their systems at the time of the homicide.



Offenders' Sentence



**** two offenders committed suicide at the scene**

IMPACT OF REVIEWS

- a. Unified DV Court
- b. Cross Jurisdictional Communication
 - Domestic Relations Judges now review the record on cases where emergency motions or agreed entries are filed to look at the history
 - Sheriff to share his information on criminal case histories on booking so that all information is available at time of bond hearing and sentencing
- c. Akron Police Department 911 Priority
- d. CBCF Recognition of Protection Orders
- e. General Education and Community Workshops
- f. CSB: Internal Fatherhood Initiative
- g. Know Your Date Project

