

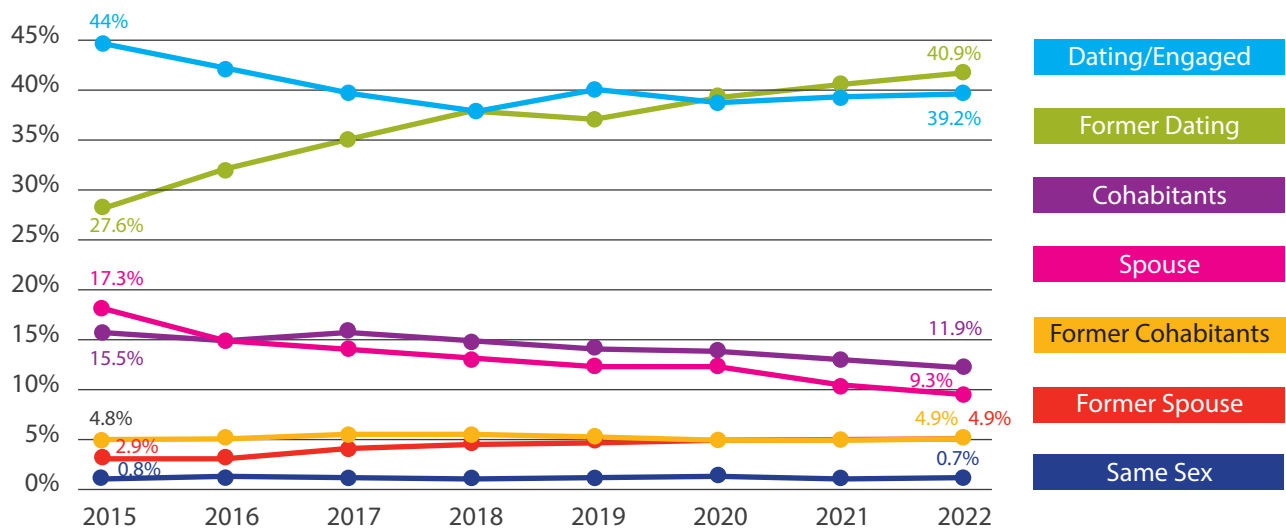
# Omaha-Specific Data

## STATE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2015 -2022

The following information is available only for incidents and arrests through the Omaha Police Department.

Dating relationships (whether former or current) have consistently been the most common relationship type identified in domestic violence-related incidents (Figure 1). A small yet constant percent of domestic violence incidents occur among same-sex partners. Percentages have increased for former spouse and former dating relationships and decreased for spouse, cohabitants, and dating or engaged relationships. This shows that domestic violence doesn't always stop for a victim when they leave, and it can continue even after the relationship is over. Additionally, law enforcement may identify more than one relationship option in a single case. Because law enforcement can identify more than one relationship for a single case, these numbers add up to more than 100%.

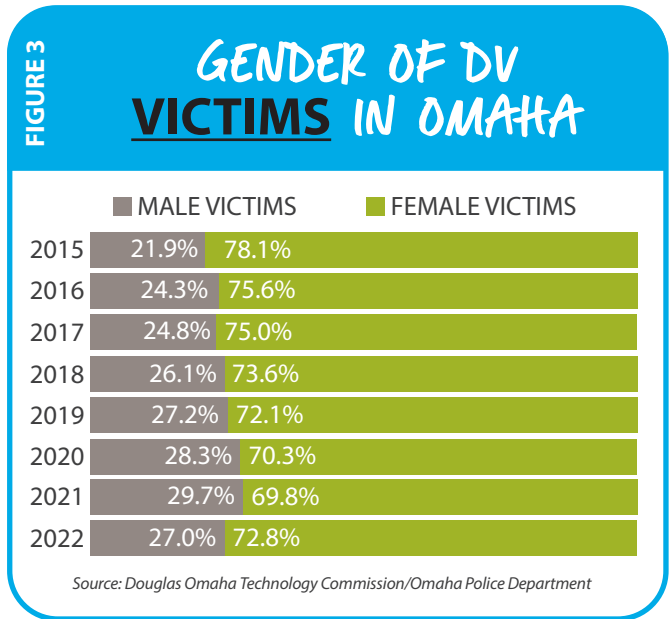
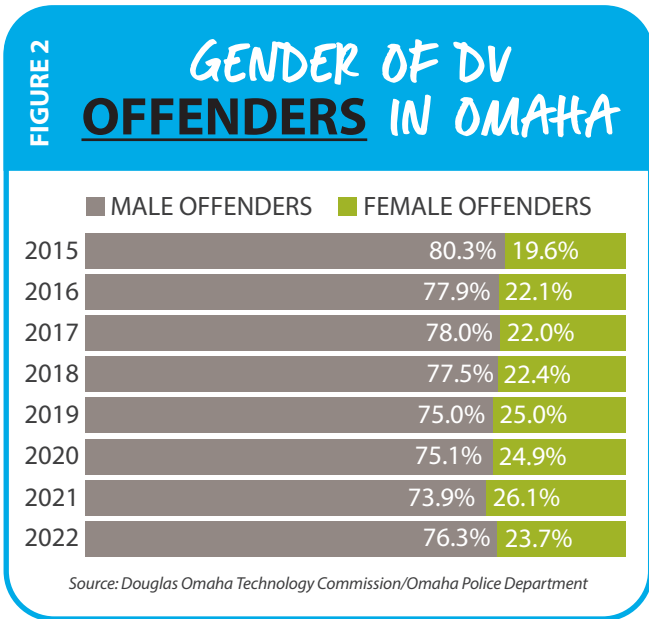
FIGURE 1: RELATIONSHIPS AMONG DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED INCIDENTS IN OMAHA



Source: Douglas Omaha Technology Commission/Omaha Police Department

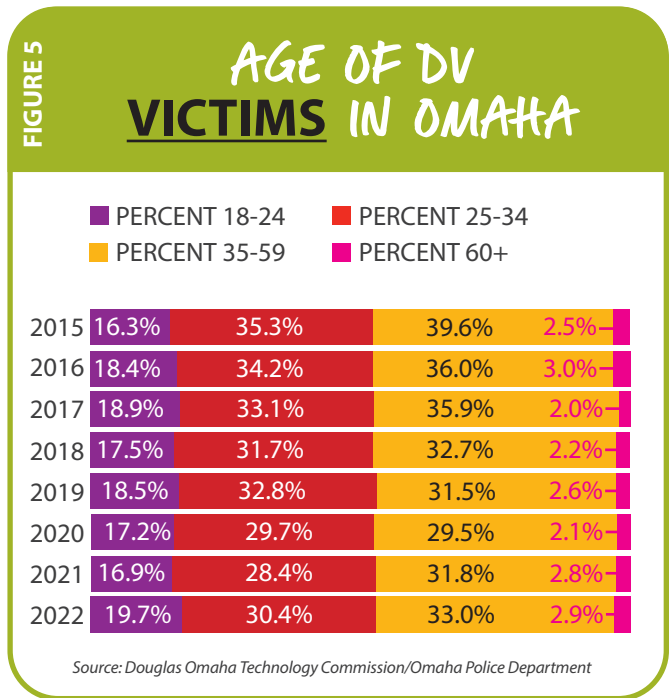
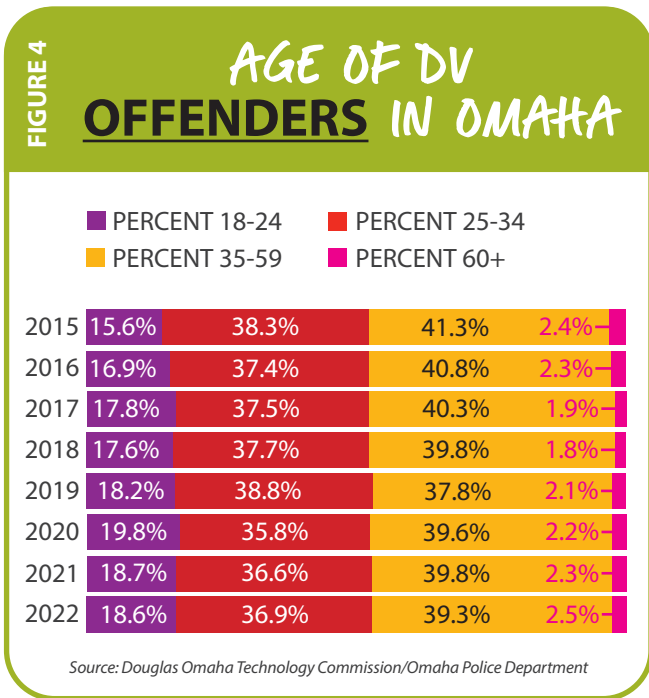
While women remain the majority of domestic violence victims, there have been shifts in the gender of offenders and victims over time (Figure 2 and Figure 3).<sup>1</sup> The majority of individuals arrested for domestic violence are male, however, the percentage of male offenders decreased from 2015 to 2022 while the percentage of female offenders increased. When a domestic violence situation occurs, sometimes both the victim and offender are initially arrested. This may result in a female victim being categorized as a female offender, which would result in a recorded percentage of offenders being female that is larger than the true percentage. This situation could be one reason why there is a percentage increase in female offenders seen in Figure 2. Figure 3 shows that the percent of victims who are male has slowly and steadily increased since 2015. Possible reasons for this trend include a reduction in social barriers and stigma that allow men to feel more comfortable disclosing the domestic violence they are experiencing. Women, however, remain the majority of domestic violence victims. As a result, women continue to be disproportionately impacted by domestic violence and it remains a gendered issue. It should be noted that the gender data available only reports in the binary of male or female as determined by law enforcement. Law enforcement does not capture gender data outside of these two categories.

# GENDER OF OFFENDERS AND VICTIMS




Both victims and offenders tend to be younger in age. For instances where age is reported, around half of both offenders and victims have been 34 years old and under (Figures 4 and 5).<sup>2</sup> Nonetheless, there are still a considerable portion of both victims and offenders who are 35 and older. Though not depicted directly in the data, it can often take victims years to be able to safely leave an abusive relationship. It is never a victim's fault as offenders will often resort to emotional, mental, financial or physical abuse that can make it unsafe for a victim to leave the relationship.

# AGE OF OFFENDERS AND VICTIMS



**KEY TAKEAWAY:** Many incidents of domestic violence are not reported to the criminal legal system, and are not reflected in the demographic data within this document.





"Before I reached my teens, I was abused and exploited for several years by people around me who were supposed to be trustworthy. It came as no surprise when my girlfriend in college became controlling, abusive and isolating. When I wanted to do what she didn't want to do, she would threaten to tell people I was a lesbian. **When I didn't want to do the things she wanted to do, she would tell me that no one would love me like she did.** I knew if she shared my secret, I would lose everything, and I believed that no one could love me anyway."



Many individuals within the system are observed as repeat offenders, meaning they have been arrested for domestic violence multiple times. Although the overall number of repeat offenders has tended to rise over time, the proportion of repeat offenders, in comparison to the total number of offenders, has typically decreased, as indicated in Table 1. This trend is attributed to an increase in the total number of offenders apprehended, regardless of whether they are repeat offenders or not.

## REPEAT OFFENDERS

OFFENDERS IN OMAHA THAT HAVE BEEN **PREVIOUSLY CHARGED OR CONVICTED** WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

TABLE 1	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Offenders Arrested	1,606	2,109	2,367	2,500	2,388	2,430	2,342	2,291
<b>Number</b> of Offenders Arrested—Previously <b>CHARGED</b> with DV	827	1,060	1,141	1,224	1,117	1,156	1,065	982
<b>Percent</b> of Offenders Arrested—Previously <b>CHARGED</b> with DV	51.5%	50.3%	48.2%	49.0%	46.8%	47.6%	45.5%	42.9%
<b>Number</b> of Offenders Arrested—Previously <b>CONVICTED</b> with DV	668	851	902	951	887	902	808	774
<b>Percent</b> of Offenders Arrested—Previously <b>CONVICTED</b> with DV	41.6%	40.4%	38.1%	38.0%	37.1%	37.1%	34.5%	33.8%

Source: Douglas Omaha Technology Commission/Omaha Police Department

## REPEAT VICTIMS

OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OMAHA

TABLE 2	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Victims Overall	1,610	2,203	2,625	2,957	2,645	2,965	2,900	2,658
<b>Number</b> of Repeat Victims	856	1,109	1,243	1,365	1,155	1,236	1,180	1,087
<b>Percent</b> of Repeat Victims	53.2%	50.3%	47.4%	46.2%	43.7%	41.7%	40.7%	40.9%

Source: Douglas Omaha Technology Commission/Omaha Police Department

**Similar to repeat offenders, victims of domestic violence may find themselves repeatedly interacting with the criminal legal system.** Similar the pattern observed with repeat offenders, the total number of repeat victims has typically increased over time, while the proportion of repeat victims relative to all victims has generally decreased (Table 2).

In recent years, there has been a higher proportion of repeat offenders compared to repeat victims. This suggests that offenders are more likely to be involved in domestic violence incidents on a habitual basis.

### NOTES

- 1 Gender is only reported in the binary as male and female, as determined by law enforcement. Law enforcement does not capture gender outside of these two categories.
  - 2 Since the age isn't recorded for every victim and offender, the percentages in the tables do not add up to 100%.
- \* Due to a wide variety of systemic issues, racial dynamics evidenced in criminal legal system data are not a reliable proxy for understanding which demographic groups tend to have experiences with domestic violence. As a starting point to understand more about racial dynamics and domestic violence, please see: Ragavan, M. I., Thomas, K. A., Fulambarker, A., Zaricor, J., Goodman, L. A., & Bair-Merritt, M. H. (2020). Exploring the Needs and Lived Experiences of Racial and Ethnic Minority Domestic Violence Survivors Through Community-Based Participatory Research: A Systematic Review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 21(5), 946–963. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838018813204>