



**SENATE BILL 1**  
**Criminal Law – Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms – Restrictions**  
**(Gun Safety Act of 2023)**  
**UNFAVORABLE**

Senate Bill 1 is an unnecessary overreaction to the Bruen decision and a manifestation of the lack of confidence and trust in the character of honest law-abiding Maryland citizens. If the legislature demonstrated the same zeal in addressing the root causes of criminal behavior and prosecuting criminals as it does in persecuting lawful gun owners, we would feel safer because we would be safer.

The 25 gun bills passed since 1988 have reduced the freedom of law-abiding Maryland citizens but have not had a commensurate impact on the crime rate, much less the criminals who commit these crimes.

The original version of the bill which was a blatantly unconstitutional legislative overreach crafted by a well-funded out of state gun control organization. When presented in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, it was clear that the sponsors of SB 1 had no understanding of the bill or its provisions. Most of the technical questions on the bill could not be answered by the sponsor and had to be addressed by the gun control organizations' attorney.

Even in its current form, this bill runs afoul of key provisions in the Bruen decision.

Some of the proposed wear and carry permit training provisions require teaching Maryland law topics which are not addressed in any statute. For example, §5-306 (A-1)(2)(l) requires instruction on Maryland laws relating to:

1. Self-defense
2. Defense of others
3. Defense of property

In a response to a Public Information Act to the Attorney General requesting information on Maryland laws on self-defense, defense of others or defense of property, Assistant Attorney General Mark Bowen stated that no laws exist in statute. Requiring instructors teach laws which do not exist creates an insurmountable barrier to obtaining a permit to wear and carry a handgun.

Additionally, many of the provisions in the bill before this Committee are simply “filler” which are not related to the title of the bill or permits to wear and carry a handgun. These include:

1. The circumstances under which an individual becomes prohibited from possessing a firearm under state and federal law, including becoming a respondent against whom:
  - a. A current non ex parte civil protective order has been entered under §4–506 of the family law article;
  - b. An order for protection, as defined in §4–508.1 of the family law article, has been issued by a court of another state or a native American tribe and is in effect; or
  - c. A current extreme risk protective order has been entered under subtitle 6 of this title;
2. The requirements and options for surrendering, transferring, or otherwise disposing of a firearm after becoming prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law;
3. The requirements for reporting a loss or theft of a firearm to a law enforcement agency as required by §5–146 of this title;
4. The firearms and firearm accessories which are banned under state and federal law;
5. The types of firearms that require a special permit or registration to acquire or possess under state or federal law;
6. The law prohibiting straw purchases;

§5-306 (A-1)(2) sub-sections (III), (IV), (V) & (VI) require instruction on the following topics for which firearms instructors have no training and are not certified to teach:

1. Conflict de-escalation and resolution
2. Anger management
3. Suicide prevention

None of the above three concepts are contained in the courses Maryland Firearms Instructors have been certified to teach under the requirements stipulated by the Firearms Safety Act of 2013. It is questionable whether the current instructors will be legally certified to teach this new content.

Compounding the problem is the very real possibility that instructors will be unable to secure professional liability and errors and omissions insurance when they are required to teach subject matter for which they have no formal training and for which the Maryland General Assembly has declined to provide any information or guidance. It is entirely possible that this is actually a subtle means to circumvent the Bruen decision by making it impossible for citizens to secure a permit to wear and carry a handgun.

Another consequence of this bill is that no exception has been included for Special Police Officers. This omission demonstrates yet another of the wide range of consequences inherent in this bill as all the protections details for the court of appeals are Special Police Officers. As written, SB 1 prohibits armed Special Police Officers in the court of appeals.

Since Maryland passed legislation requiring a permit to wear and carry a handgun over half a century ago, there have been in excess of ten thousand permit holders in any given year. This correlates to over a half million years of experience. Even the bill's sponsors were unable to document any problems involving criminal actions by permit holders.

Senate Bill 1 is an unfounded politically driven response to a non-existent condition.

We strongly urge an unfavorable report.

Respectfully,

John H. Josselyn  
2A Maryland

Attachments (3)

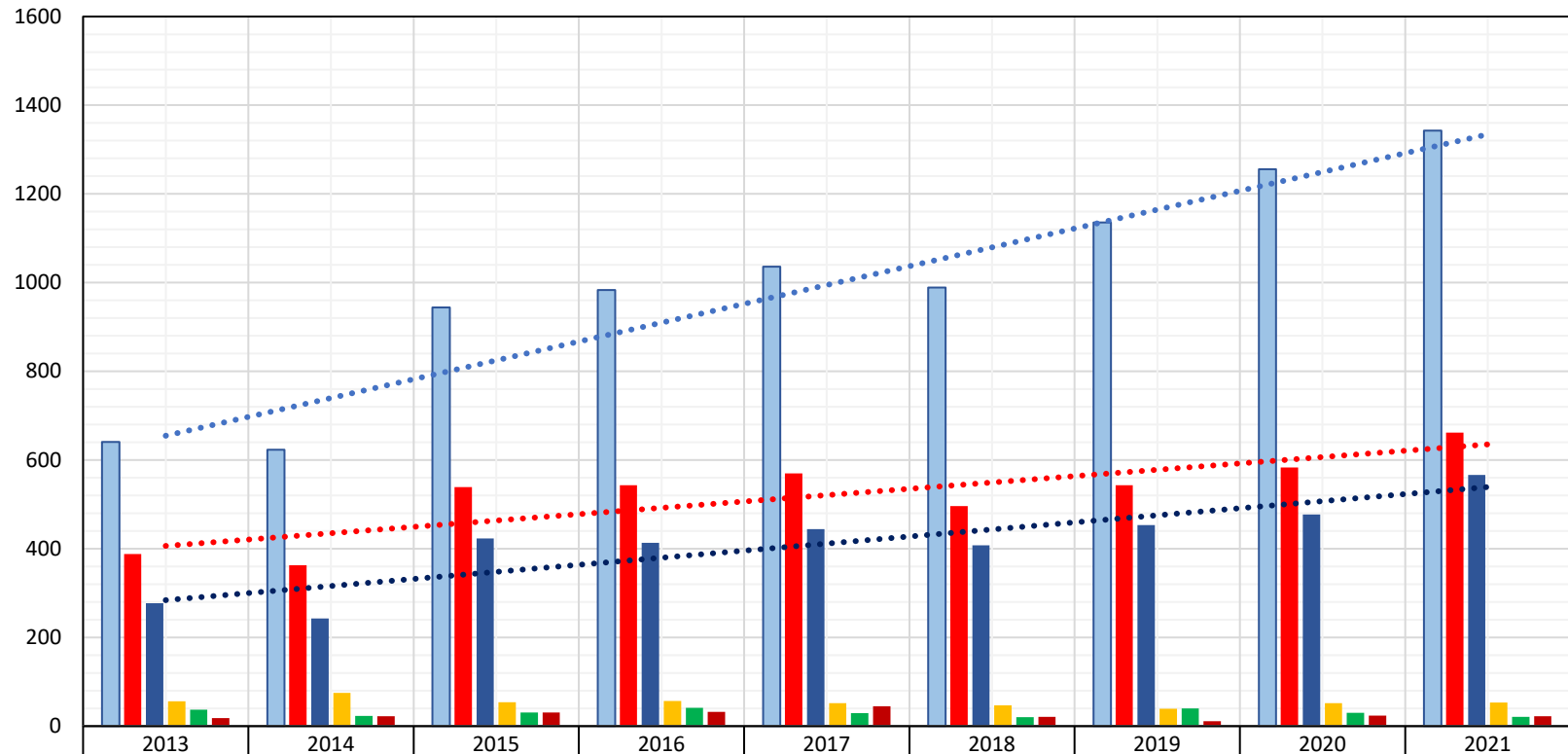
## 2A Maryland - Maryland Gun Laws 1988-2022

Session	Bill Number	Bill Title
1988	HB1131	Handguns - Prohibition of Manufacture and Sale (Saturday Night Special Ban)
1989	SB0531	Firearms - Assault Weapons
1992	SB0043	Firearms - Access by Minors
1993	SB0330	Gun Shows - Sale, Trade or Transfer of Regulated Firearms
1994	HB0595?	Storehouse Breaking - Penalty
1994	SB0619	Assault Pistol Ban
1996	HB0297	Maryland Gun Violence Act of 1996
1996	HB1254	Education - Expulsion for Bringing a Firearm onto School Property
1999	HB0907	School Safety Act of 1999
2000	SB0211	Responsible Gun Safety Act of 2000
2001	HB0305	Bulletproof Body Armor - Prohibitions
2002	HB1272	Criminal Justice Information System - Criminal History Records Check
2009	HB0296	Family Law - Protective Orders - Surrender of Firearms
2009	HB0302	Family Law - Temporary Protective Orders - Surrender of Firearms
2011	HB0241	Criminal Law - Restrictions Against Use and Possession of Firearms
2011	HB0519	Firearms - Violation of Specified Prohibitions - Ammunition and Penalty
2012	HB0209	Public Safety - Possession of Firearms - Crimes Committed in Other States
2012	HB0618	Task Force to Study Access of Individuals with Mental Illness to Regulated Firearms
2013	SB0281	Firearms Safety Act of 2013
2018	HB1029	Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying or Transporting Loaded Handgun - Subsequent Offender
2018	HB1302	Public Safety - Extreme Risk Protective Orders
2018	HB1646	Criminal Procedure - Firearms Transfer
2018	SB0707	Criminal Law - Firearm Crimes - Rapid Fire Trigger Activators
2019	SB0346	Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Prohibition of Loans
2020	HB1629	Office of the Attorney General - Firearm Crime, Injuries, Fatalities, and Crime Firearms - Study
2021	HB1186	Office of the Attorney General - Firearm Crime, Injuries, Fatalities, and Crime Firearms - Study Extension
2022	HB0425	Public Safety - Untraceable Firearms (SB0387)
2022	HB1021	Public Safety – Licensed Firearms Dealers – Security Requirements

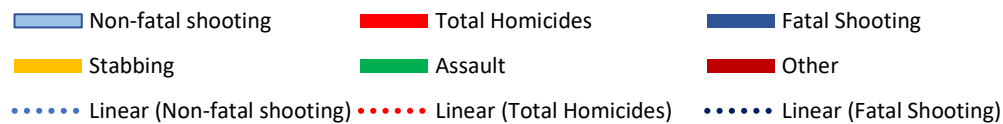
# 2A Maryland

## Maryland Homicides, Non-fatal Shootings & Trends 2013-2021

Data Source: Maryland Coordination & Analysis Center (MCAC)



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Non-fatal shooting	641	623	944	983	1036	989	1136	1256	1343
Total Homicides	388	363	539	543	570	496	543	583	662
Fatal Shooting	277	243	423	413	444	408	453	477	566
Stabbing	56	75	54	57	52	47	39	52	53
Assault	37	23	31	41	29	20	40	30	21
Other	18	22	31	32	45	21	11	24	22



**2A MARYLAND**  
**Homicide Victim / Offender Demographics**  
**Data Source: Maryland UCR 2011-2020**

Victim - Race	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
White	68	68	69	71	96	85	102	75	88	97
Black	322	301	318	283	449	446	457	402	451	472
Asian	5	3	0	5	4	2	9	5	3	3
American Indian	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
Unknown	3	0	0	2	4	1	1	6	1	0
Total	398	372	387	363	553	534	569	489	543	573
Per Capita Rate	6.8	6.3	6.5	6.1	9.2	8.9	9.4	8.1	9.0	9.5

Victim - Race	2011-2020 Total	Yearly Avg - 10 Years	Ratio to White
White	819	82	1.00
Black	3901	390	4.76
Asian	39	4	0.05
American Indian	4	0	0.00
Unknown	18	2	0.02
Total	4781	478	
Per Capita Rate		7.98	

Offender - Race	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
White	65	44	50	74	85	64	79	58	71	56
Black	258	271	260	186	242	190	305	266	268	310
Asian	1	0	2	2	2	6	2	2	1	2
American Indian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Unknown	164	159	158	159	321	339	288	224	285	282
Total	488	474	470	421	650	599	674	551	625	653

Offender - Race	2011-2020 Total	Yearly Average - 10 Years	Ratio to White
White	646	65	1.00
Black	2556	256	3.96
Asian	20	2	0.03
American Indian	4	0	0.01
Unknown	2379	238	3.68
Total	5605	561	

Victim Age Range	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Under 18	32	21	26	30	43	27	43	27	29	30
18-21	57	65	65	40	69	81	64	52	79	89
22-29	130	104	115	110	184	179	194	157	172	165
30 and over	179	182	181	183	257	244	266	251	262	290
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	2	2	1

Victim Age Range	2011-2020 Total	Yearly Average - 10 Years
Under 18	308	31
18-21	661	66
22-29	1510	151
30 and over	2295	230
Unknown	10	1

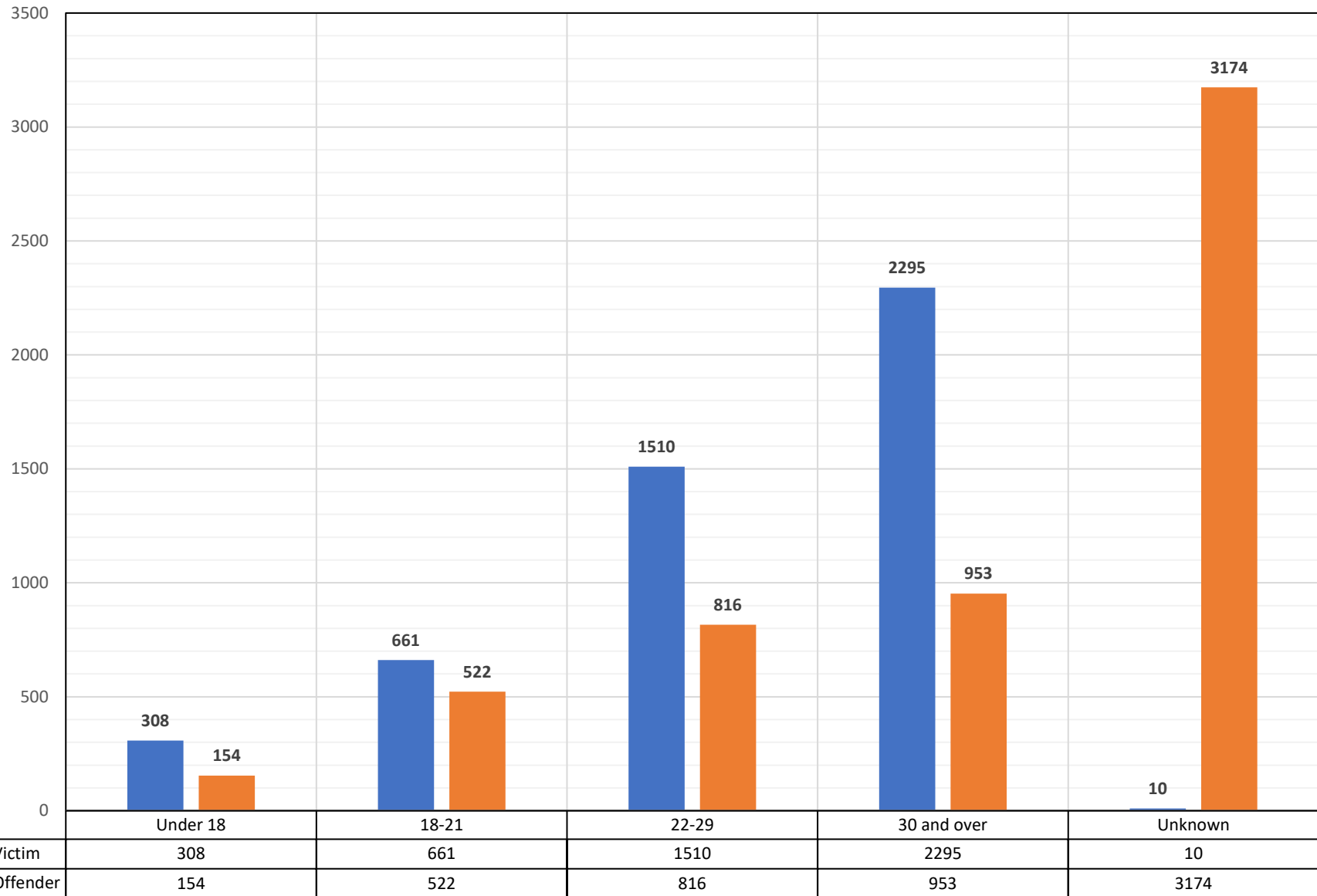
Offender Age Range	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Under 18	12	15	10	16	16	16	17	20	14	18
18-21	56	57	57	38	53	55	64	41	48	53
22-29	81	70	69	76	100	90	102	64	81	83
30 and over	99	72	83	97	103	91	107	99	91	111
Unknown	240	260	251	194	378	347	384	327	394	399

Offender Age Range	2011-2020 Total	Yearly Average - 10 Years
Under 18	154	15
18-21	522	52
22-29	816	82
30 and over	953	95
Unknown	3174	317

Population	Percent
White	55.54%
Black	29.89%
Asian	6.28%
American Indian	0.28%

## 2A Maryland

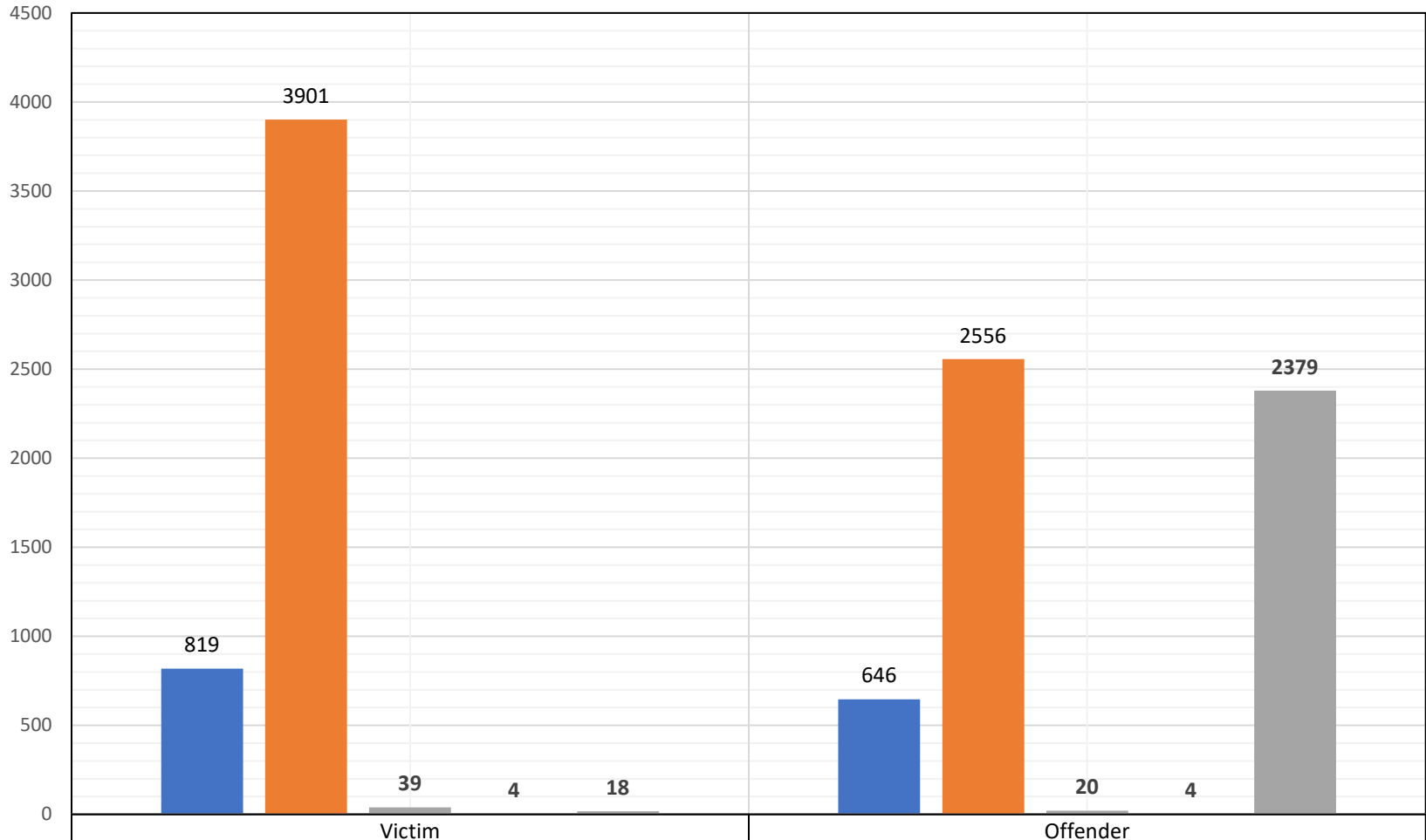
**Homicide - Victims & Offenders by Age - Source: MSP Uniform Crime Reports 2011-2020**



■ Victim ■ Offender

## 2A Maryland

Homicide - Victims & Offenders by Race - Source: MSP Uniform Crime Reports 2011-2020



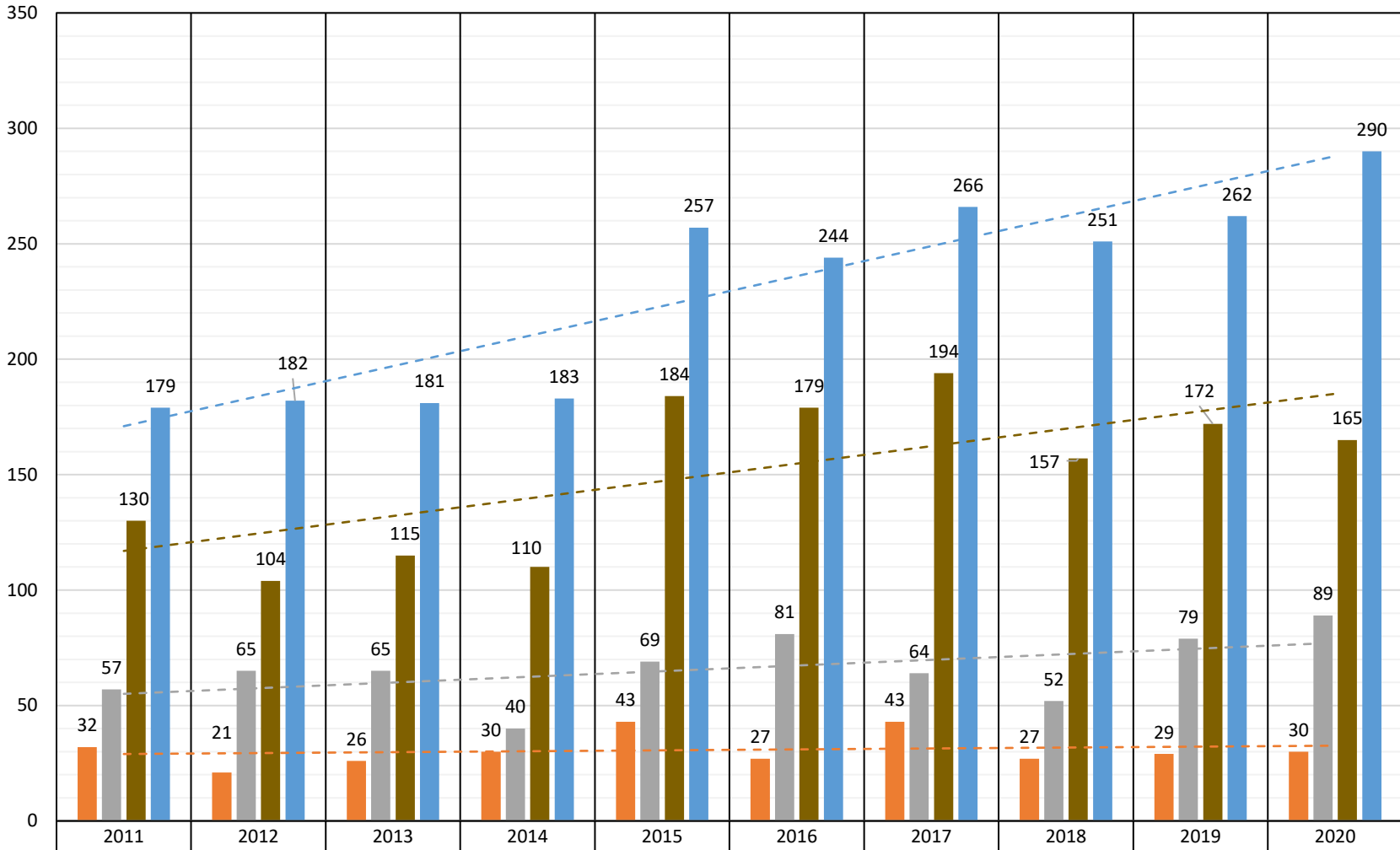
White	819	646
Black	3901	2556
Asian	39	20
American Indian	4	4
Unknown	18	2379

White Black Asian American Indian Unknown



## 2A Maryland

### Homicide - Victims by Year & Age - Source: MSP Uniform Crime Reports 2011-2020

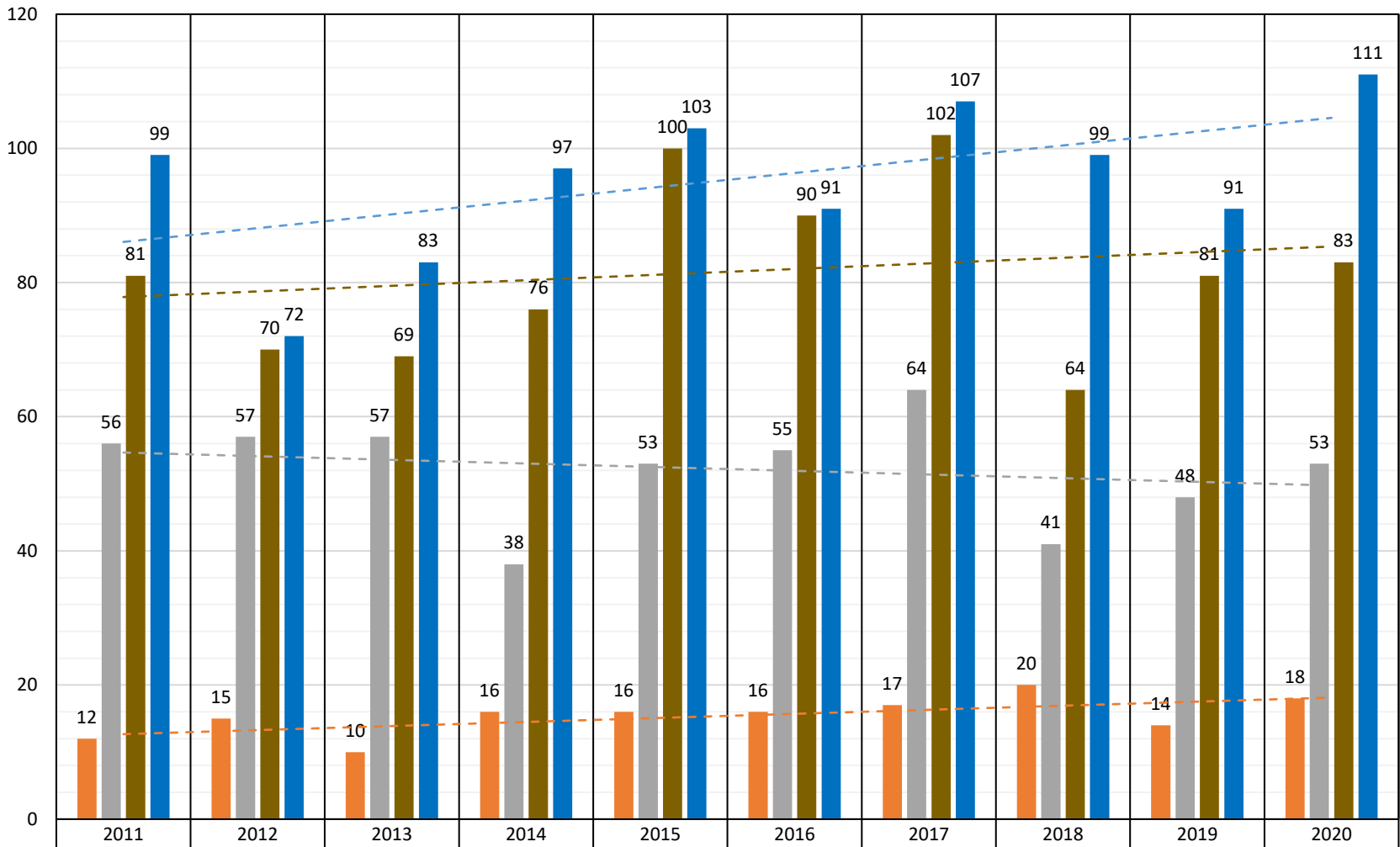


Under 18	32	21	26	30	43	27	43	27	29	30
18-21	57	65	65	40	69	81	64	52	79	89
22-29	130	104	115	110	184	179	194	157	172	165
30 and over	179	182	181	183	257	244	266	251	262	290

■ Under 18 
 ■ 18-21 
 ■ 22-29 
 ■ 30 and over 
 - - - Linear (Under 18) 
 - - - Linear (18-21) 
 - - - Linear (22-29) 
 - - - Linear (30 and over)

## 2A Maryland

Homicide - Offenders by Year & Age - Source: MSP Uniform Crime Reports 2011-2020

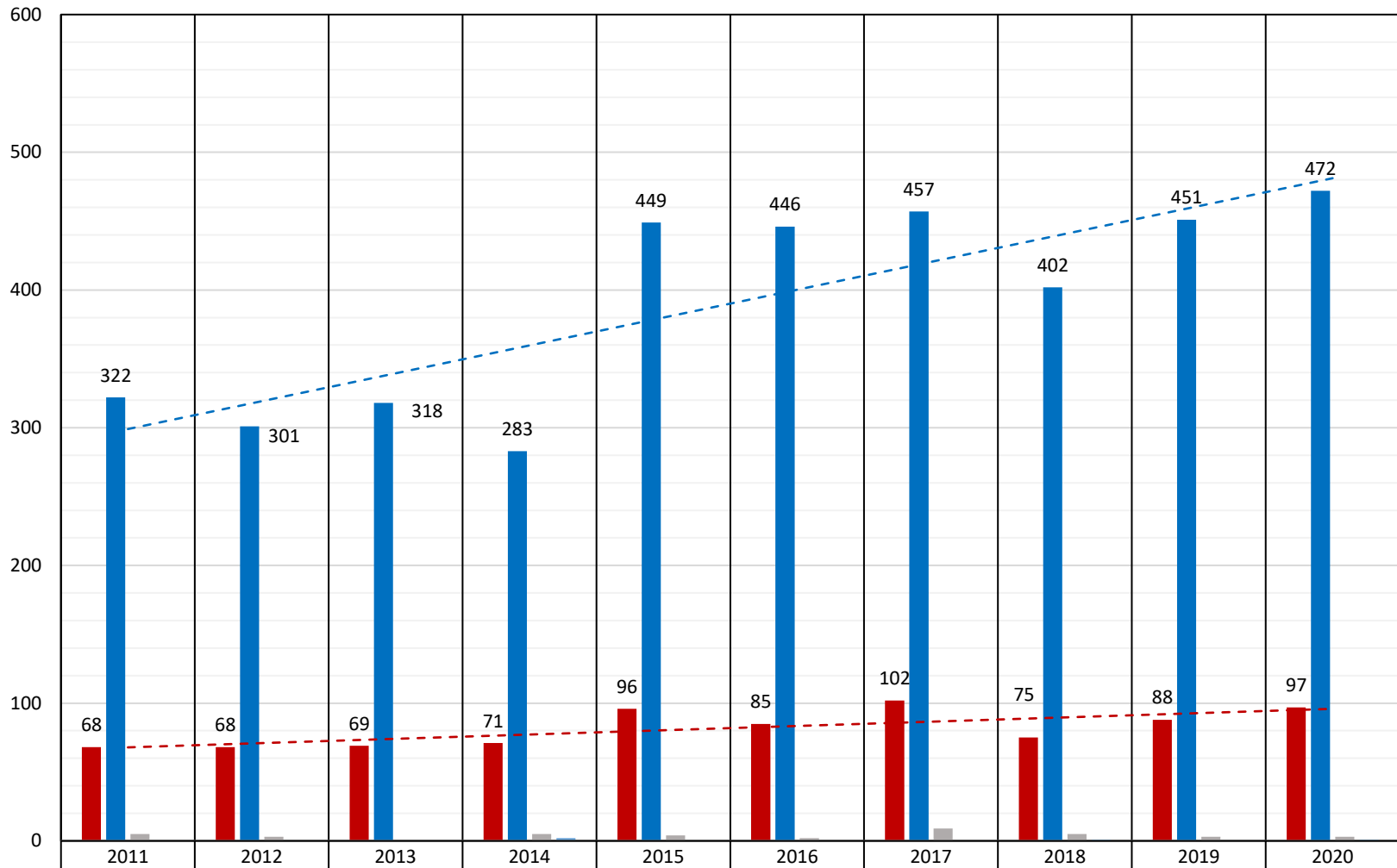


Under 18	12	15	10	16	16	16	17	20	14	18
18-21	56	57	57	38	53	55	64	41	48	53
22-29	81	70	69	76	100	90	102	64	81	83
30 and over	99	72	83	97	103	91	107	99	91	111

■ Under 18 
 ■ 18-21 
 ■ 22-29 
 ■ 30 and over 
 - - - Linear (Under 18) 
 - - - Linear (18-21) 
 - - - Linear (22-29) 
 - - - Linear (30 and over)

## 2A Maryland

Homicide - Victims by Year & Race - Source: MSP Uniform Crime Reports 2011-2020

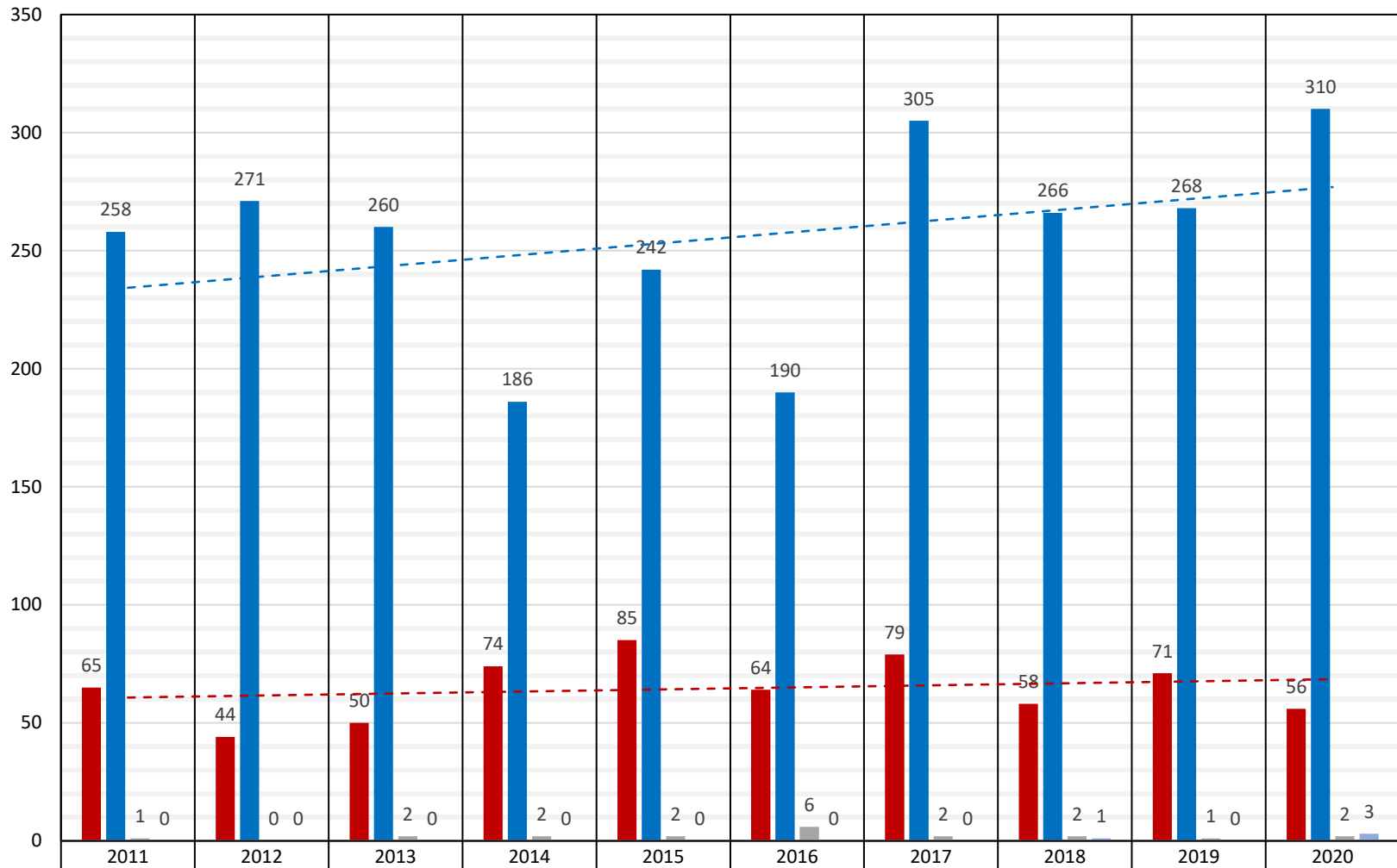


White	68	68	69	71	96	85	102	75	88	97
Black	322	301	318	283	449	446	457	402	451	472
Asian	5	3	0	5	4	2	9	5	3	3
American Indian	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1

White Black Asian American Indian Linear (White) Linear (Black)

## 2A Maryland

Homicide - Offenders by Year & Race - Source: MSP Uniform Crime Reports 2011-2020

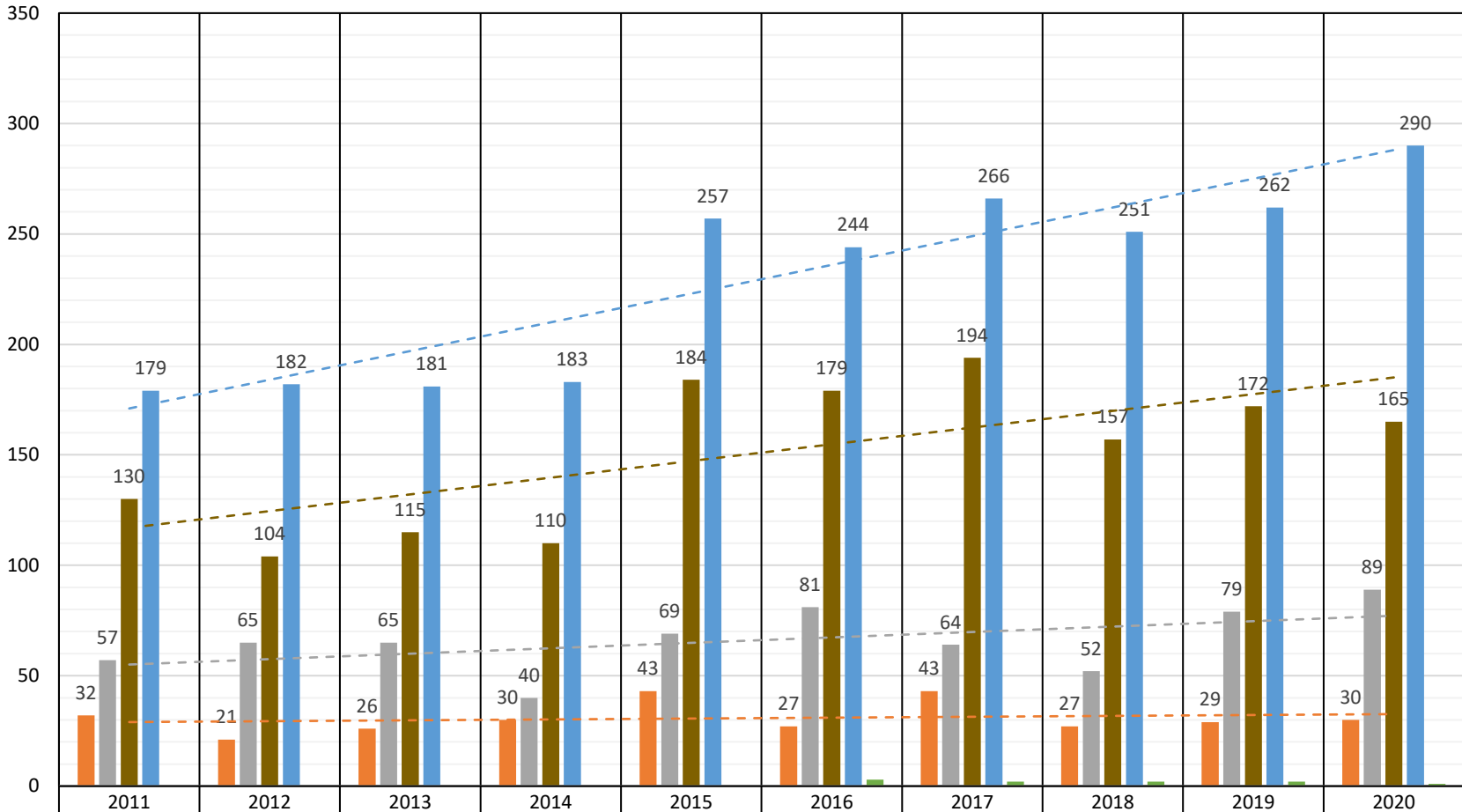


White	65	44	50	74	85	64	79	58	71	56
Black	258	271	260	186	242	190	305	266	268	310
Asian	1	0	2	2	2	6	2	2	1	2
American Indian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3

White Black Asian American Indian Linear (White) Linear (Black)

## 2A Maryland

### Homicide - Victims by Year & Age - Source: MSP Uniform Crime Reports 2011-2020



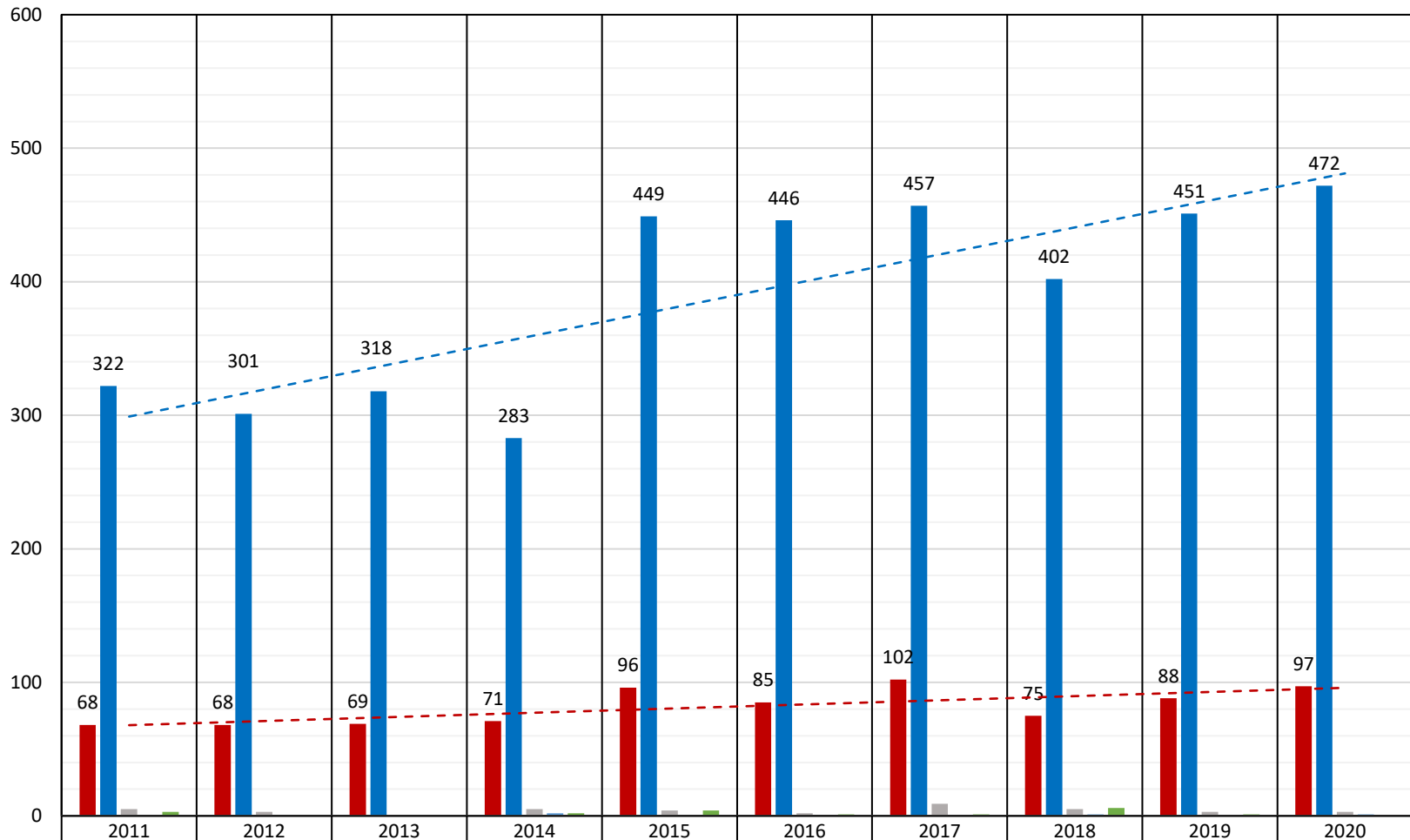
Under 18	32	21	26	30	43	27	43	27	29	30
18-21	57	65	65	40	69	81	64	52	79	89
22-29	130	104	115	110	184	179	194	157	172	165
30 and over	179	182	181	183	257	244	266	251	262	290
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	2	2	1

■ Under 18    
 ■ 18-21    
 ■ 22-29    
 ■ 30 and over    
 ■ Unknown  
- - - Linear (Under 18)    
- - - Linear (18-21)    
- - - Linear (22-29)    
- - - Linear (30 and over)

This chart includes "unknown" age category.

## 2A Maryland

Homicide - Victims by Year & Race - Source: MSP Uniform Crime Reports 2011-2020



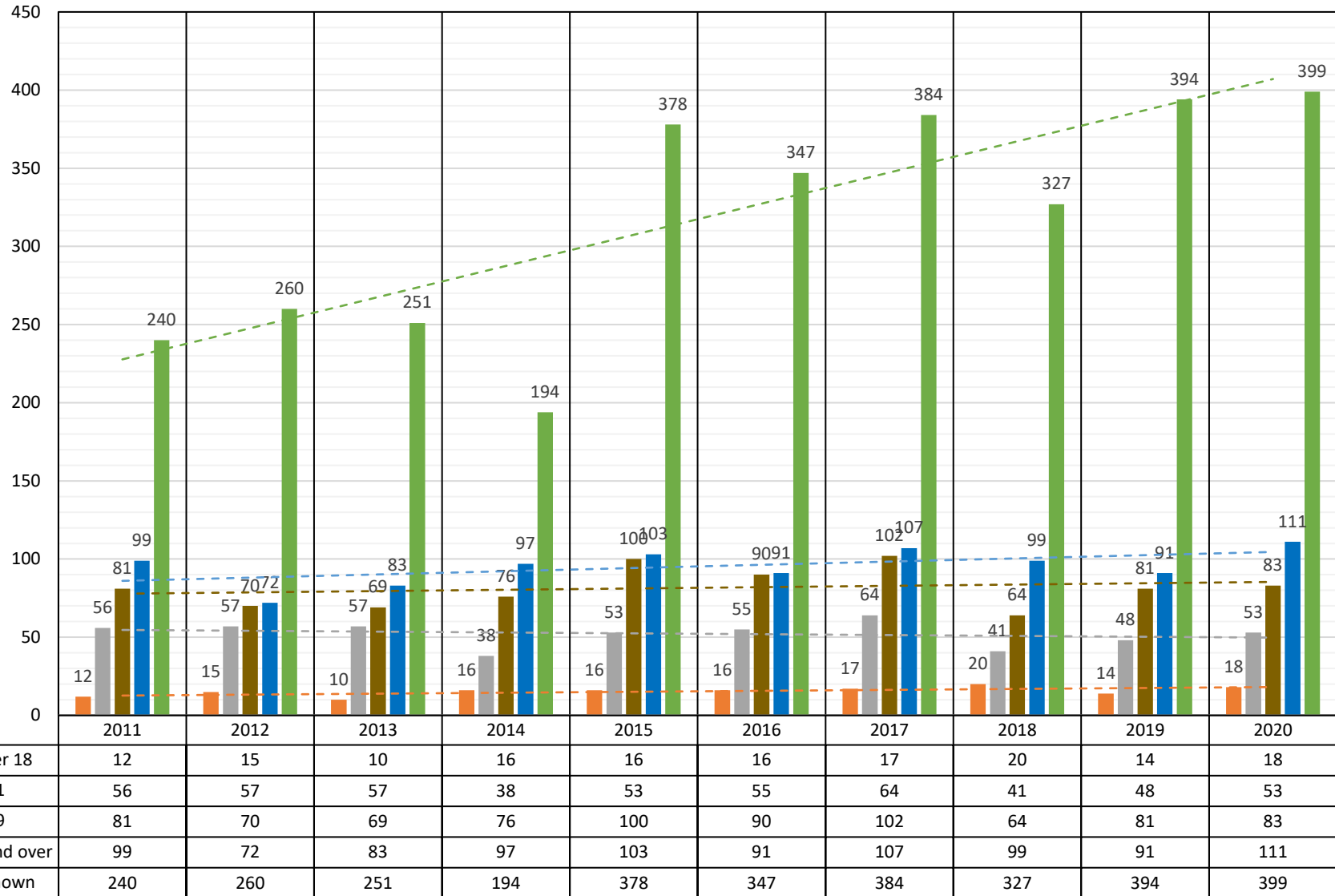
White	68	68	69	71	96	85	102	75	88	97
Black	322	301	318	283	449	446	457	402	451	472
Asian	5	3	0	5	4	2	9	5	3	3
American Indian	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
Unknown	3	0	0	2	4	1	1	6	1	0

White Black Asian American Indian Unknown Linear (White) Linear (Black)

This chart includes "unknown" age category.

## 2A Maryland

### Homicide - Offenders by Year & Age - Source: MSP Uniform Crime Reports 2011-2020



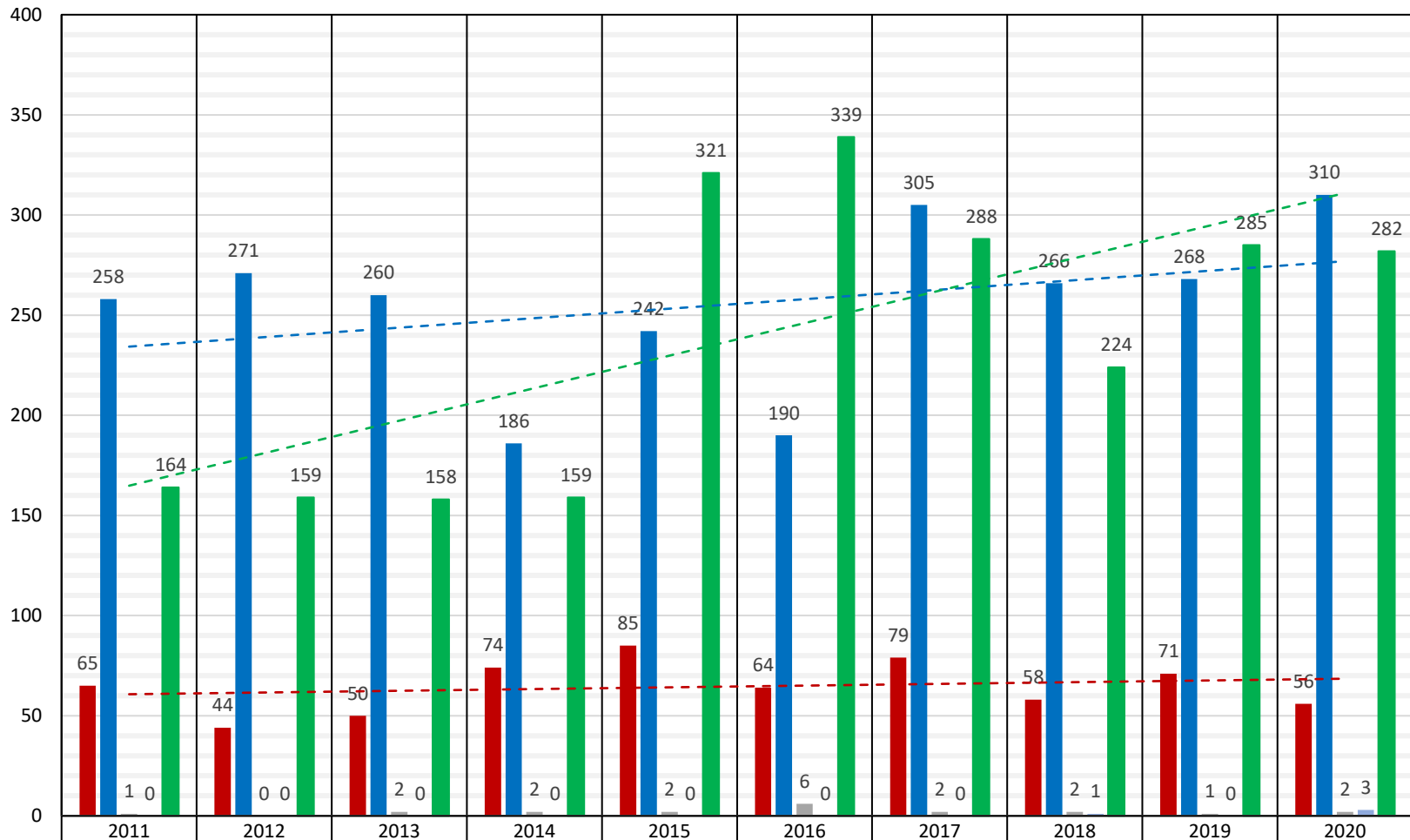
Under 18	12	15	10	16	16	16	17	20	14	18
18-21	56	57	57	38	53	55	64	41	48	53
22-29	81	70	69	76	100	90	102	64	81	83
30 and over	99	72	83	97	103	91	107	99	91	111
Unknown	240	260	251	194	378	347	384	327	394	399

■ Under 18    
 ■ 18-21    
 ■ 22-29    
 ■ 30 and over    
 ■ Unknown  
- - - Linear (Under 18)    
- - - Linear (18-21)    
- - - Linear (22-29)    
- - - Linear (30 and over)    
- - - Linear (Unknown)

This chart includes "unknown" age category.

## 2A Maryland

Homicide - Offenders by Year & Race - Source: MSP Uniform Crime Reports 2011-2020



White	65	44	50	74	85	64	79	58	71	56
Black	258	271	260	186	242	190	305	266	268	310
Asian	1	0	2	2	2	6	2	2	1	2
American Indian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Unknown	164	159	158	159	321	339	288	224	285	282

White Black Asian American Indian Unknown Linear (White) Linear (Black) Linear (Unknown)

This chart includes "unknown" age category.