

# Violence in Omaha

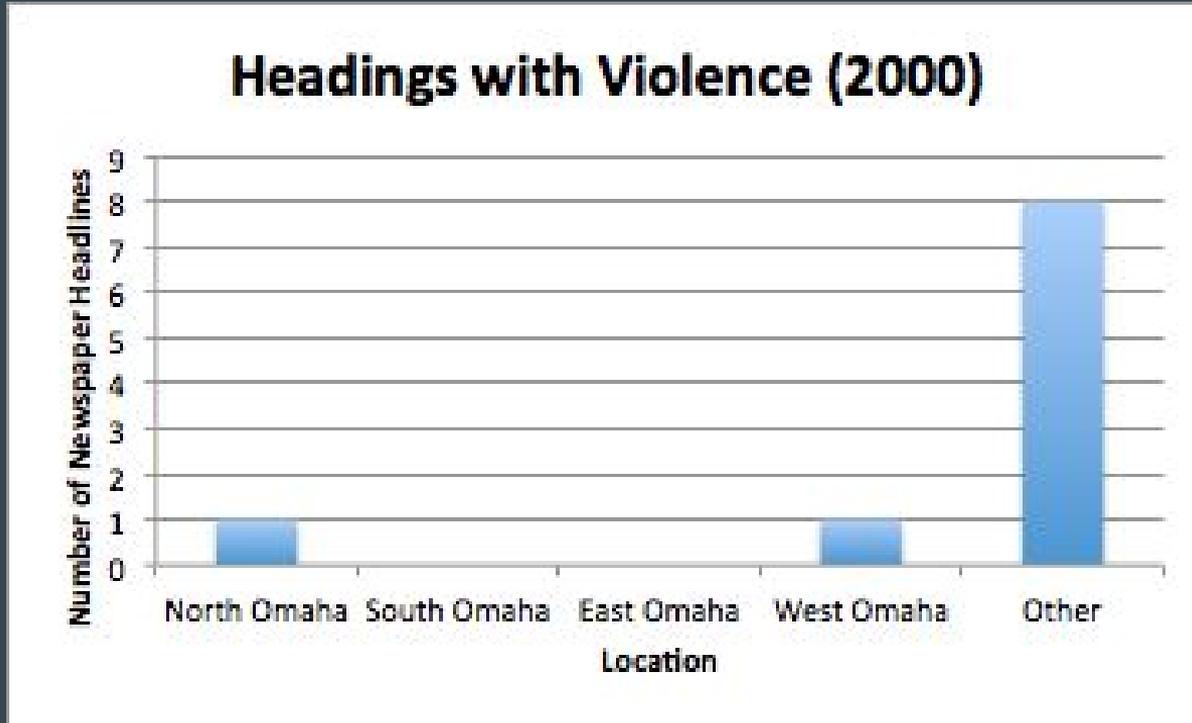


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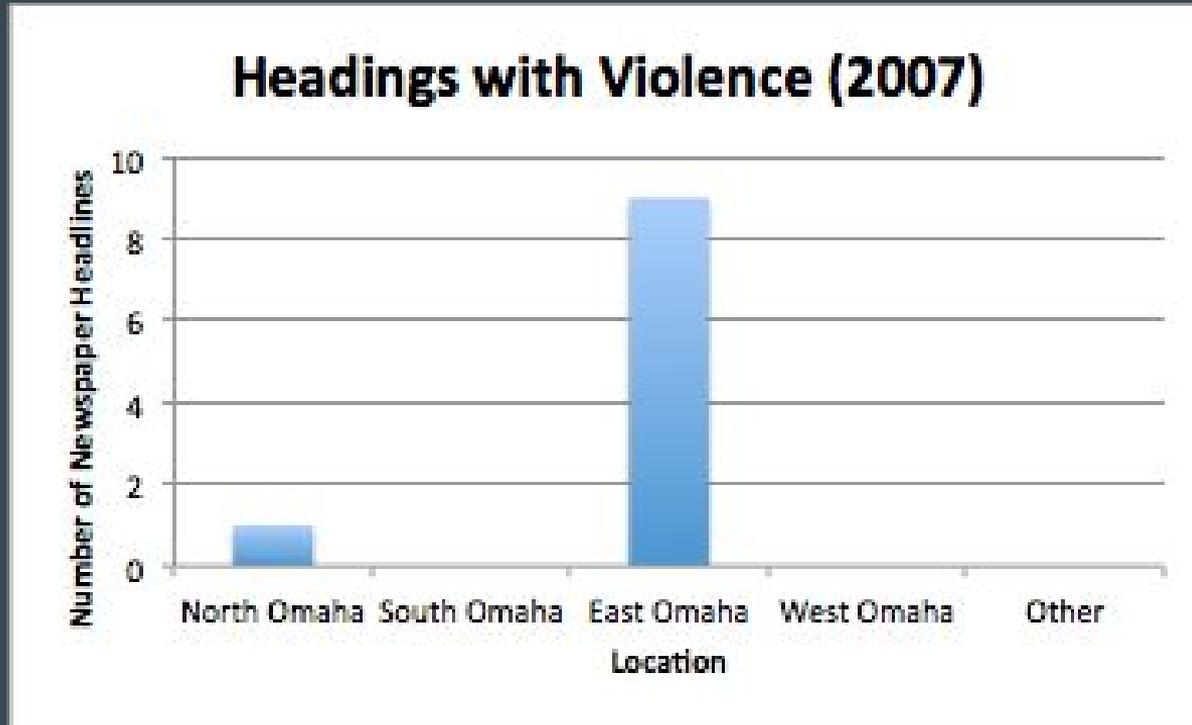
# Violence Based on Location, Sex, Age, Type, and Race

The purpose of this study is to explore violence across Omaha based on race, gender, location, age, and type of violence. Using the Access World News Database, we chose the top ten articles in *The Omaha World Herald* discussing violence. This topic is important because the rates of violence per capita in our city are higher than the national average. We care about our city and want people to be aware of how it is being portrayed in the media.

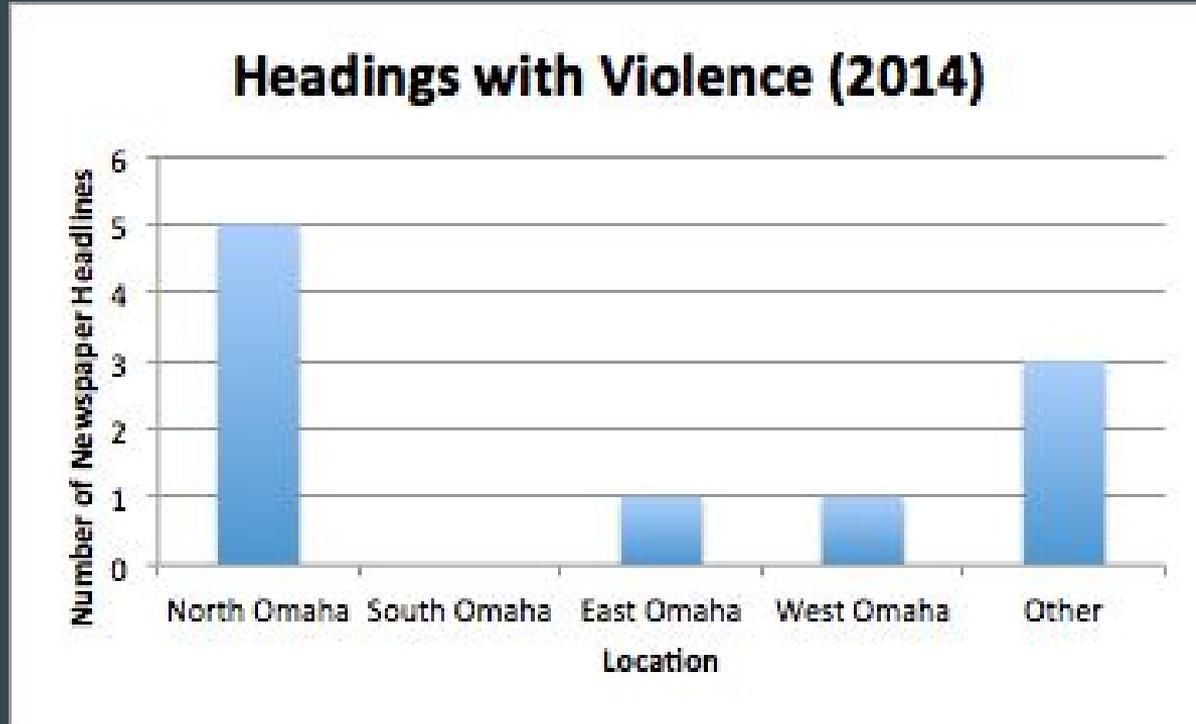
# Violence Based on Location



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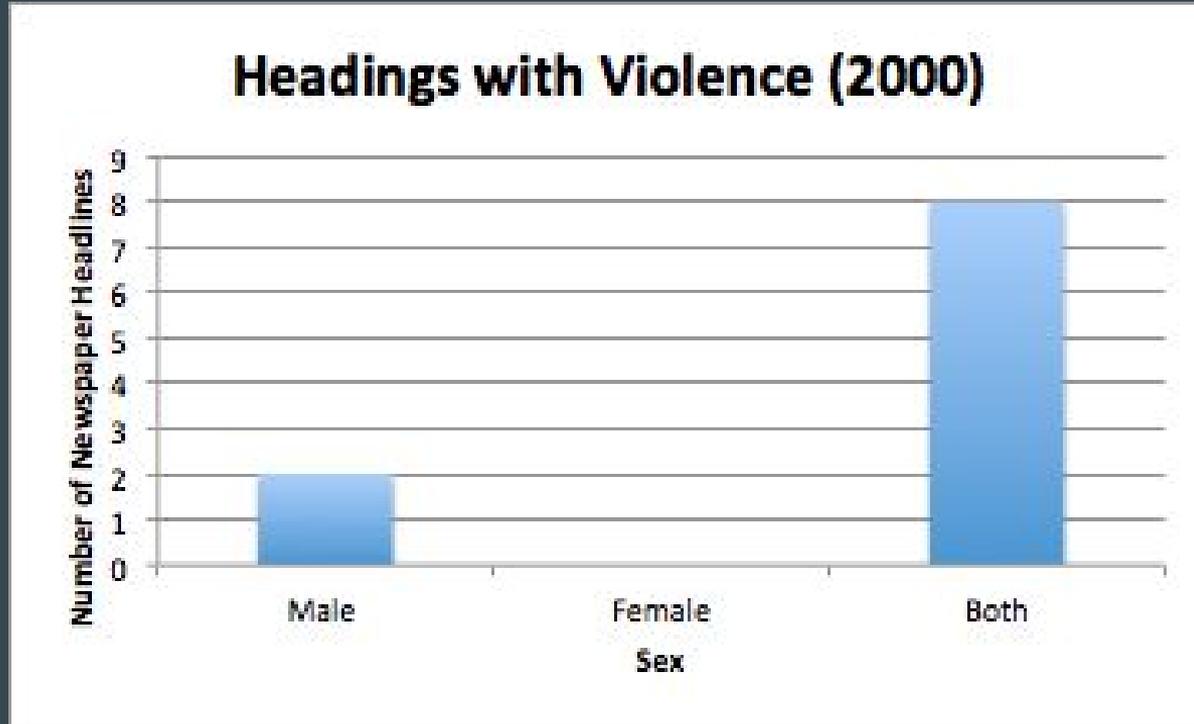


# Why Violence Based on Location Matters in Omaha

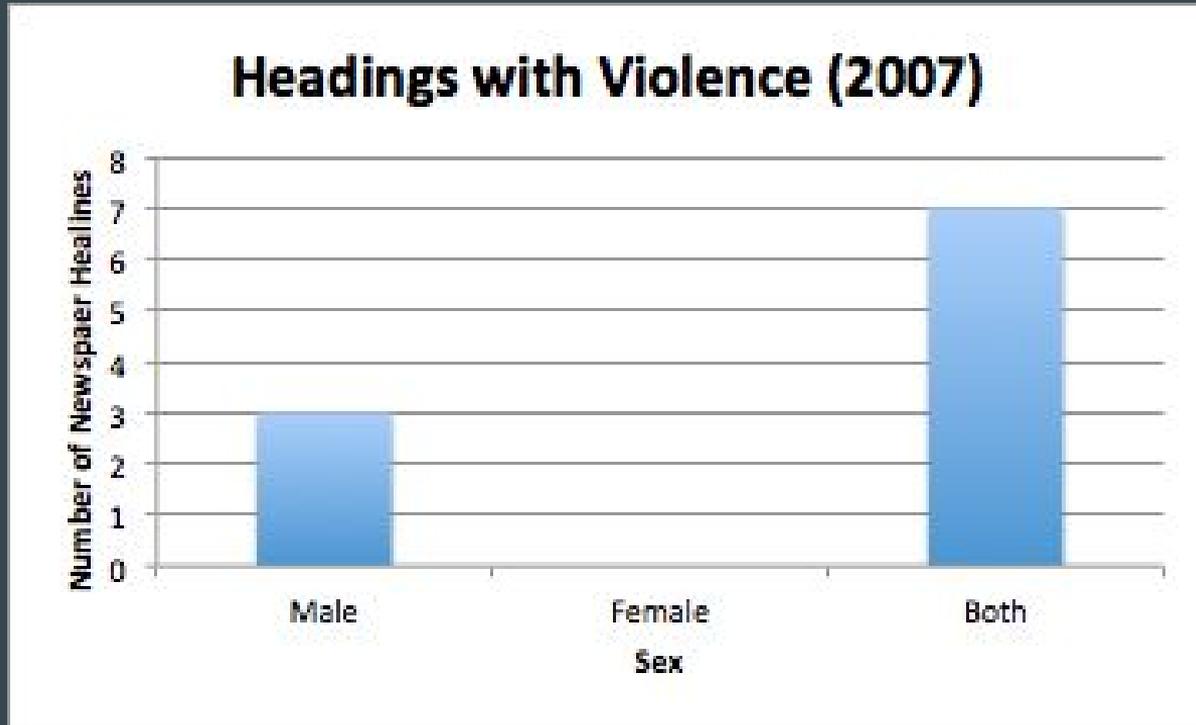
In 2000, most of the violence that occurred was inclusive of all the areas in Omaha (North, South, East, and West). In 2007, the mass shooting at Westroads mall occurred which happened in Eastern Omaha. In 2014, Payton Benson, a young girl living in North Omaha was shot and her story was covered in most of the headlines. There were also other stories covering parts of East and West Omaha. When the data was entered in the “Other” category, this means it could be inclusive of all areas of Omaha and/or other areas in the state, country, or World.

Violence and location matter because it also plays a part with race. According to the Omaha Police Commissioner's Office most of the crimes committed in North Omaha were by African Americans and in Eastern and Western Omaha, by Caucasians. Due to the demographics being the way they are in Omaha violence seems to occur more where there is a larger population of African Americans, despite the mass shooting that happened in 2007. Omaha has a higher crime rate per capita than the average U.S. rate and with Omaha being so divided, this may contribute to the high statistic.

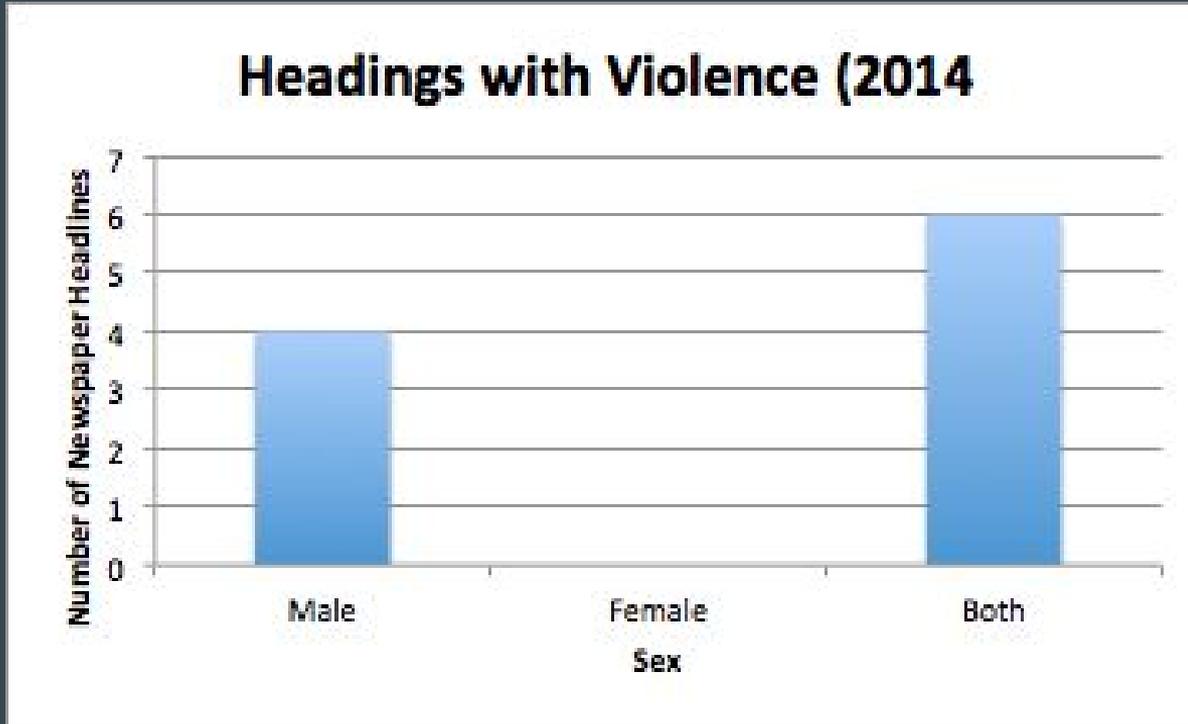
# Violence Based on Sex



# Violence Based on Sex



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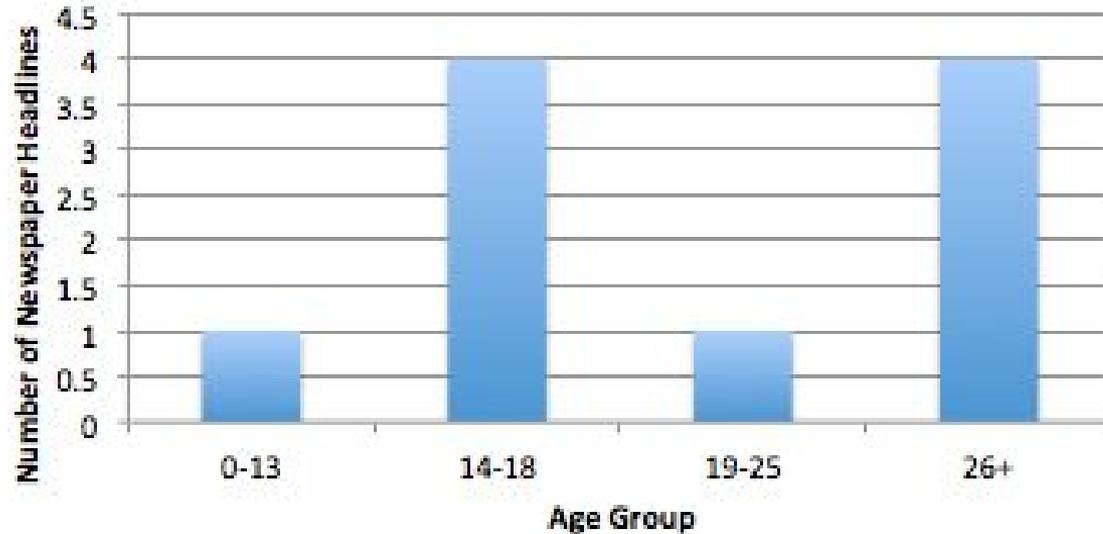
# Why Violence Based on Sex Matters

In the three years covered, most of the newspaper headlines were inclusive of both male and female sexes. In 2000, the articles discussed schools and bullying, domestic violence, and other acts of violence that included both males and females. In 2007, the Westroads Mall mass shooting occurred and while that was committed by a young male, the articles discussed the Omaha community coming together to stop violence. In 2014, many of the articles discussed how the city could end violence due to the death of a young girl living in North Omaha.

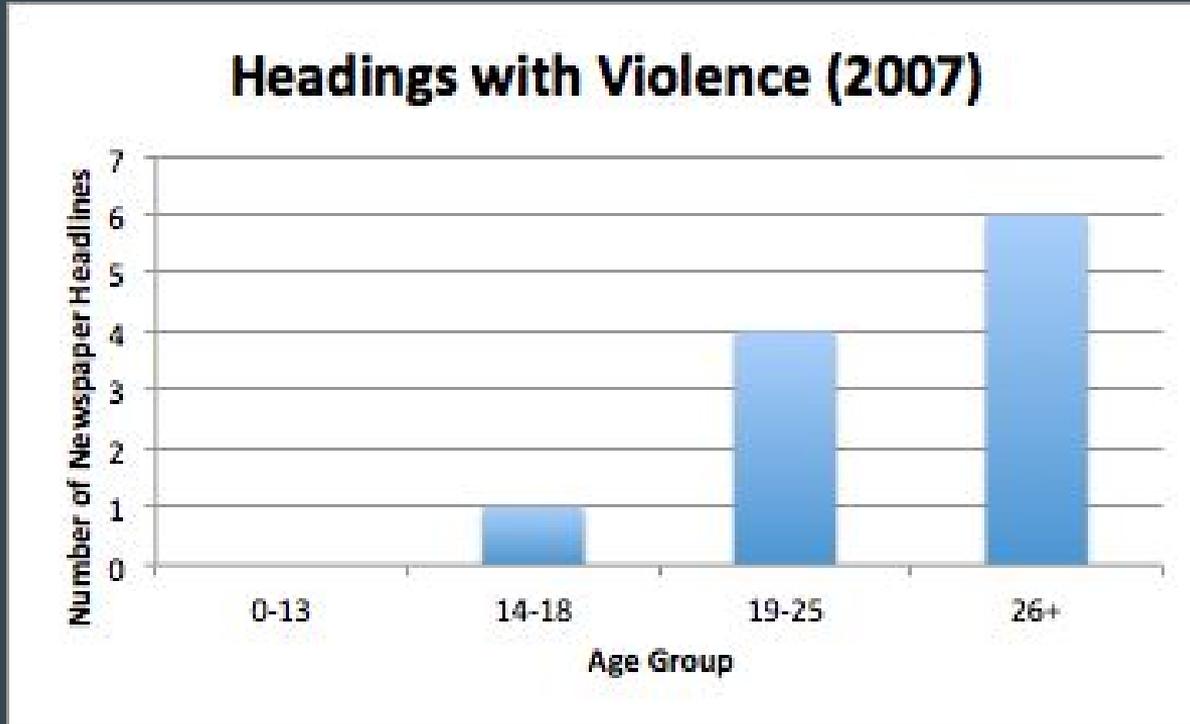
Violence based on sex matters in Omaha. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Omaha has slightly more females than males but most of the crimes committed are by men. This is important to realize because violence being committed by men is a norm and by females it seems as if it is—for lack of better words—a shock. No matter the sex, a violent act is a violent act (Deschenes 63). Whether it is committed by a male, female, or both, a crime committed by any sex in Omaha matters.

# Violence Based on Age

## Headings with Violence (2000)

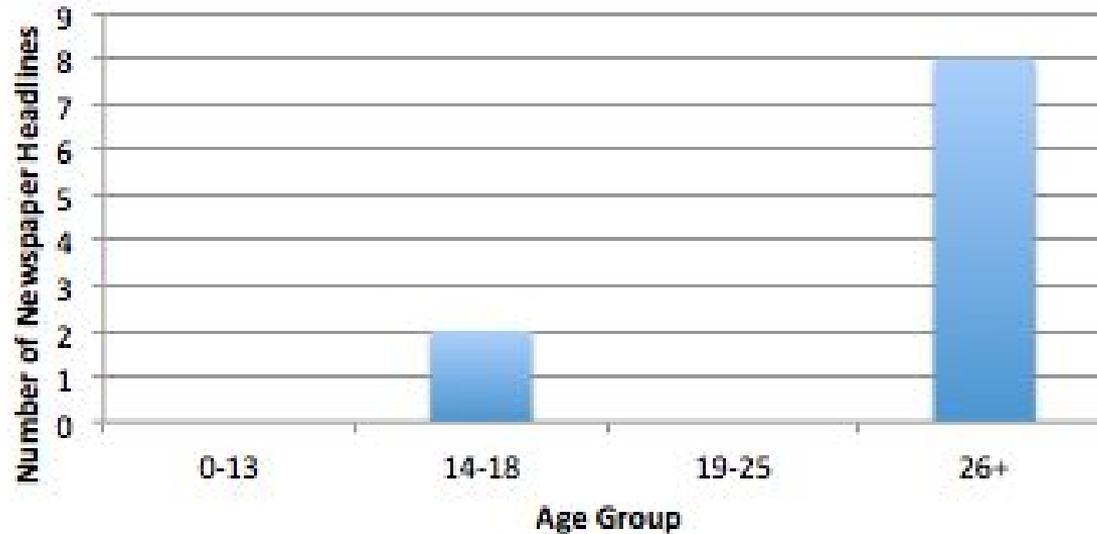


# Violence Based on Age



# Violence Based on Age

## Headings with Violence (2014)

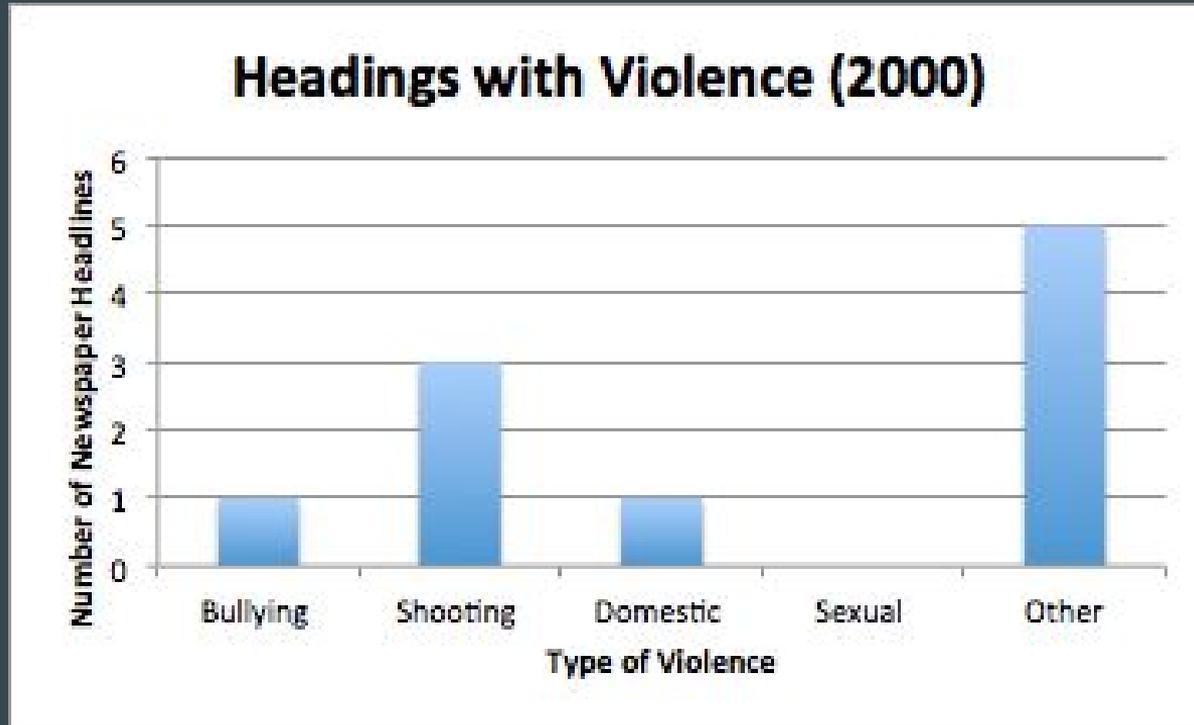


# Why Violence Based on Age Matters

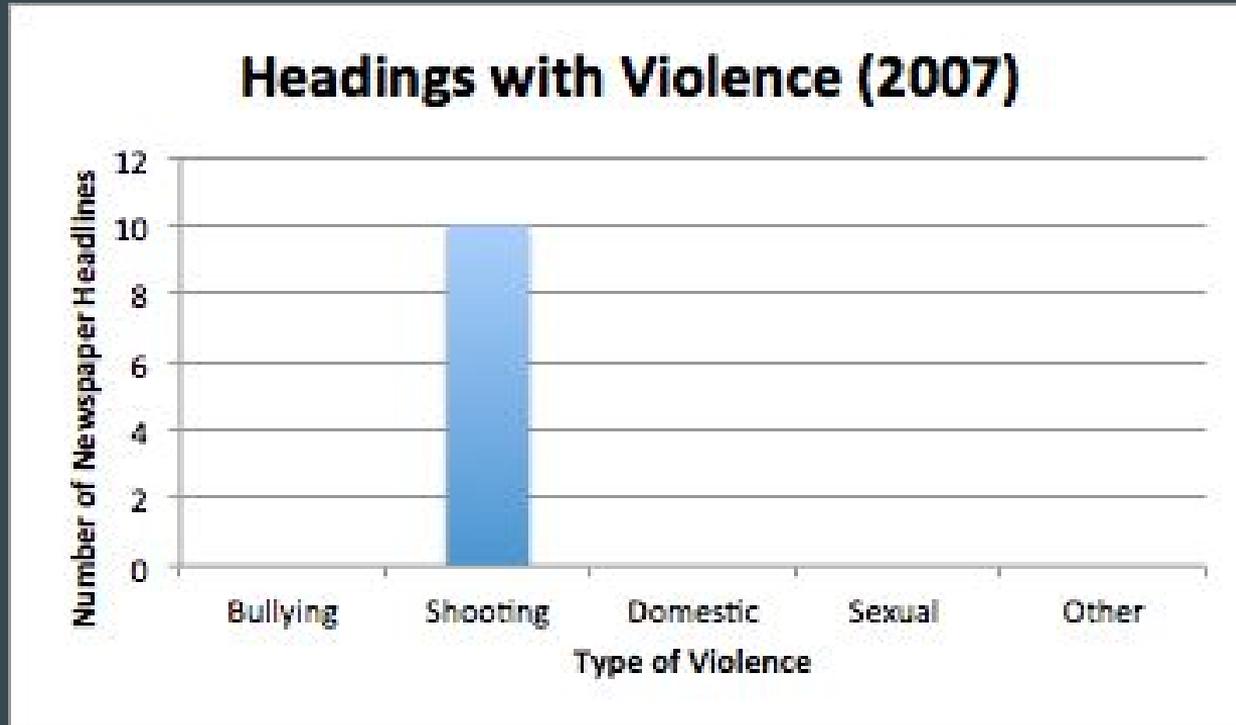
Over the three years covered, the amount of newspaper headlines and articles with violence were about 26+ year olds. Four articles in 2000 were covered over the age groups of 14-18 and 26+. The top stories that were covered in during 2000 discussed bullying and other kinds of violence committed by adults and adolescents. In 2007, six out of ten articles were inclusive of those ages 26+ and also all ages in general. These articles were discussing peace and how Omaha could overcome the tragedy at Westroads Mall. In 2014, most of the articles discussed how we could end violence by targeting adolescents. These reports are targeted towards almost all ages, which is why they were recorded in the 26+ age group.

Violence based on age matters because it is not only adults committing crimes and violent acts, but also adolescents, and even children. The past year in Omaha, a twelve-year-old boy was involved in the death of an Omaha man due to being involved in gang related activities. Violence has no age limit. It is important to realize that in order to stop violence from occurring at young ages and throughout people's' lives, they need to realize that it is morally wrong and face consequences when violent acts are committed. For a young child committing violent acts, they may not realize how wrong it is, which is why they continue committing crimes. It needs to be established on young ones that violence and committing crimes are wrong and there will be consequences for these actions.

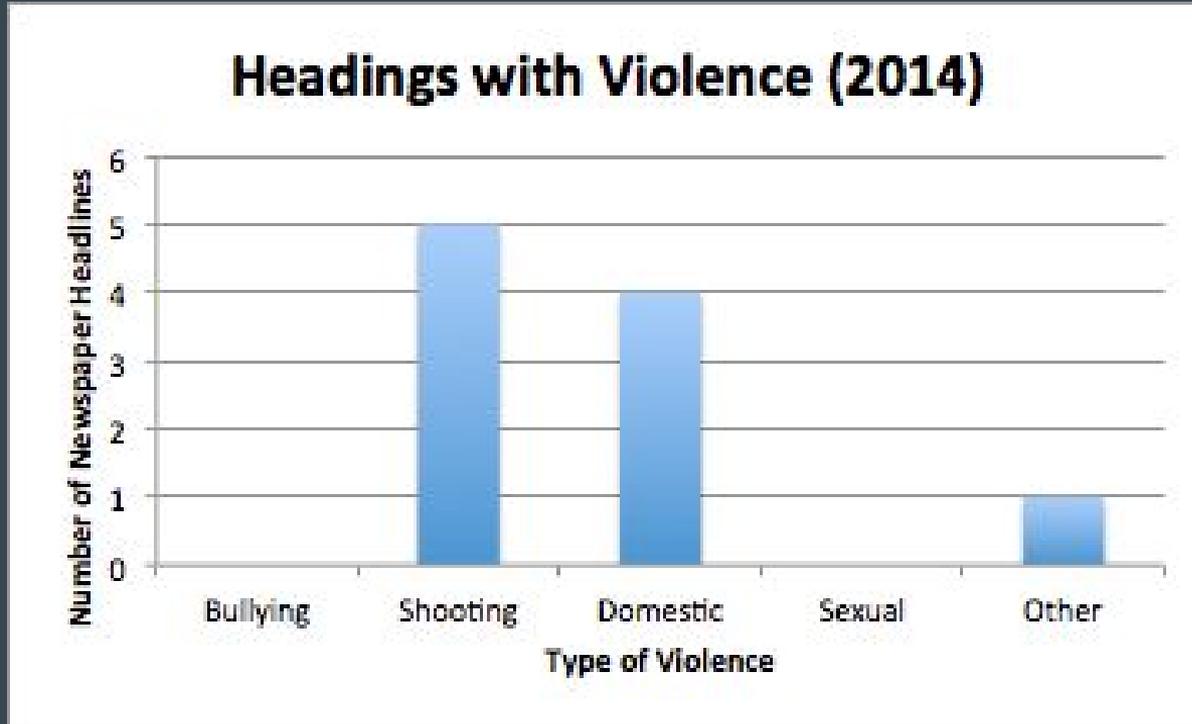
# Violence Based on Type



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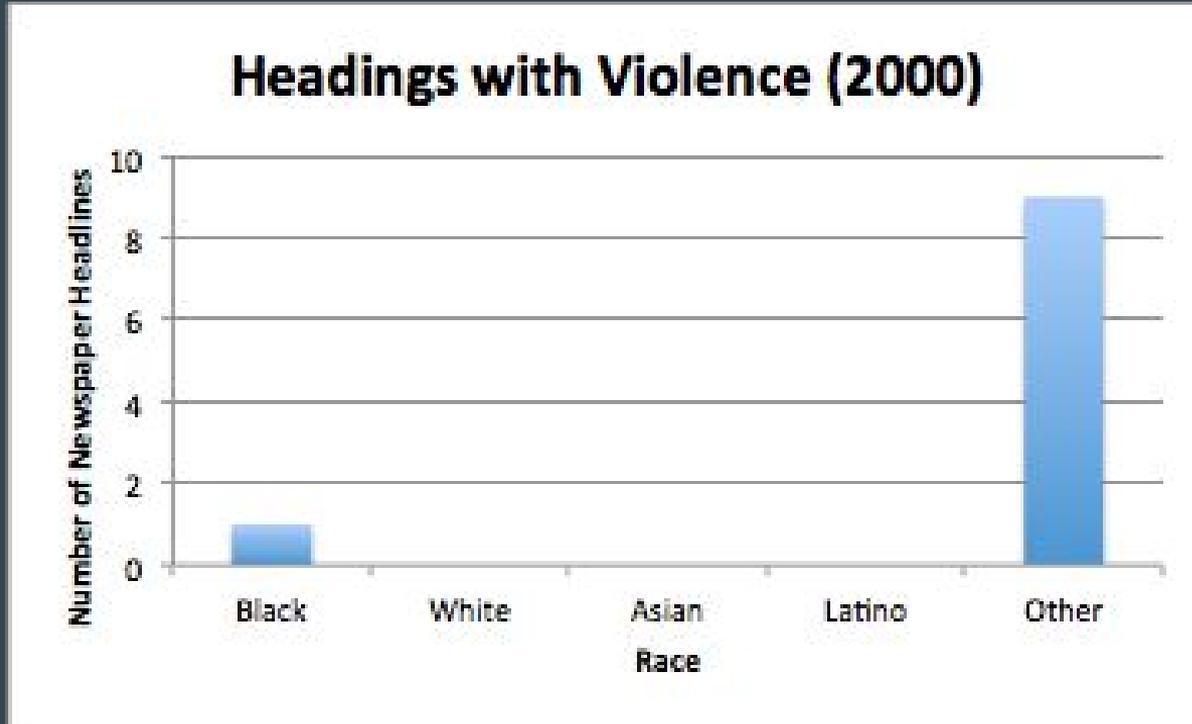
# Why Violence Based on Type Matters

In the year 2000 most of the violence that occurred was something other than Bullying, Shooting, Domestic or Sexual. This may include acts against groups of people (i.e. Religions, LGBTQIA, cultural, etc.), multiple kinds of violence (i.e. shooting and stabbing, bullying and sexual, etc.), or other types of violence. In 2007, the headlines and articles were all about the Westroads Mall shooting, so the type of violence was clearly shootings. In 2014 most of the headlines reported shooting violence, but domestic violence was headlined almost as much.

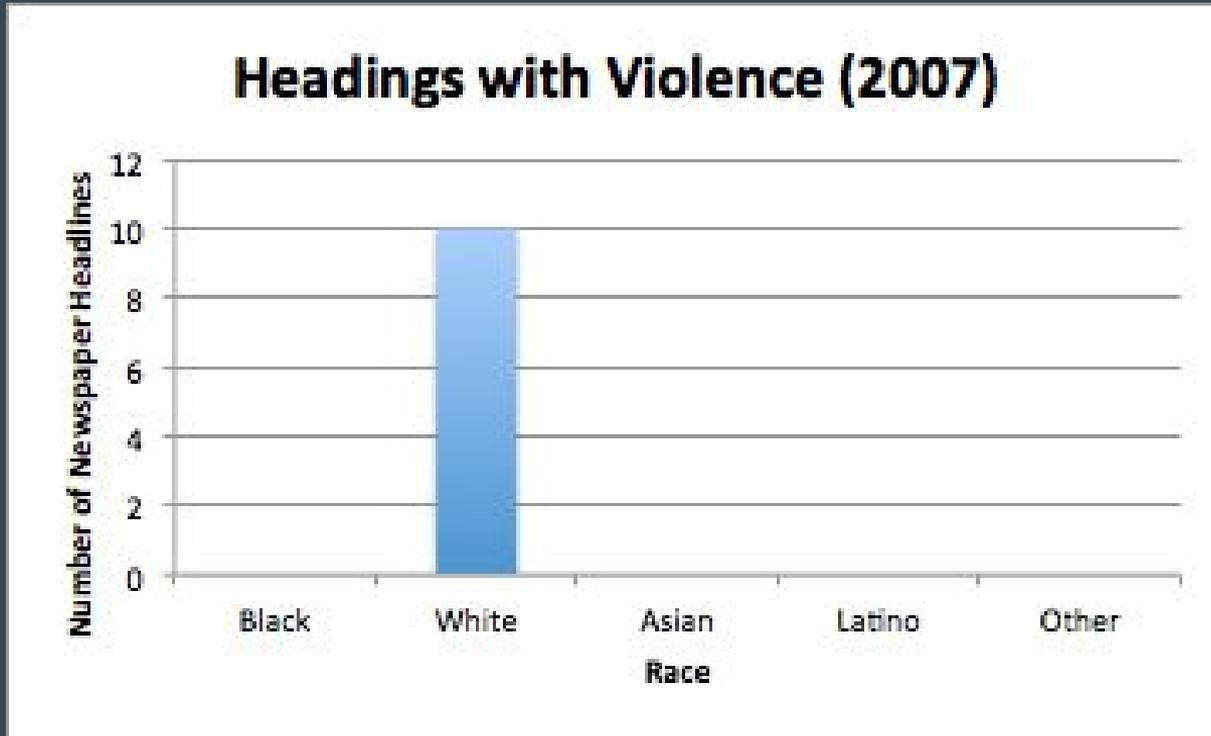
Violence based on type matters because no matter what kind of violent act may occur, it is just as bad as the next act. Whether physical, sexual, emotional, shooting, stabbing, bullying, domestic, or any other kind of violence, it is still an act of violence to say the least. Punishments and consequences may be more harsh depending on the type of violence that has occurred, but that does not make one any better than the next. It is important to know that there are a lot of violent acts that occur that are not reported and people end up in emotional, physical, or mental distress.

In many of the newspaper articles it talked about gun violence in North Omaha. This part of violence is so high in that area of town due to many of the gangs in Omaha living in that area of town. Nebraska is ranked number 2 in the country for highest black homicide. This could be due to the number of shootings in Omaha specifically in North Omaha.

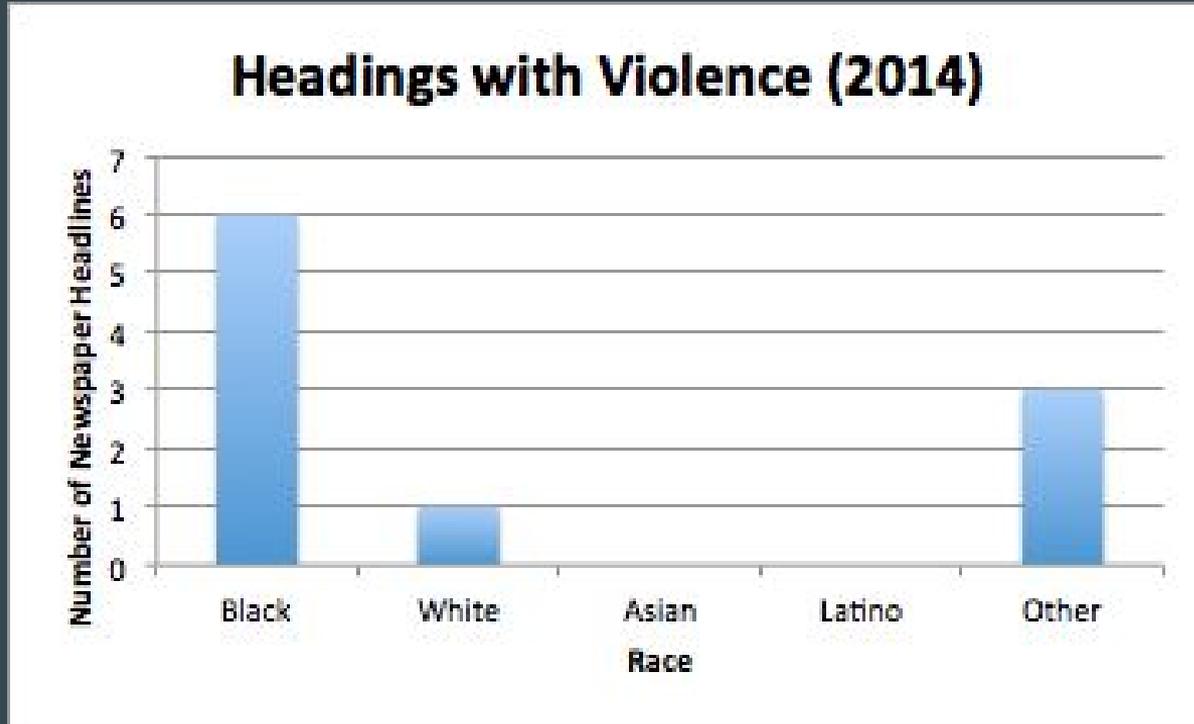
# Violence Based on Race



# Violence Based on Race



# Violence Based on Race



# Why Violence Based on Race Matters

In the year 2000, most of the violence that occurred or that was reported about in the newspaper articles was inclusive of all races. This is why most of the data was recorded as “other” because this specific category includes those who are Black, White, Asian, or Latino, and/or some other race. In 2007 all of the headlines were reported over the Westroads shooting that were committed by a 19-year-old Caucasian male which is why the White racial category is dominant in this year. In 2014, most of the headlines and articles were discussing the death of a young Black girl, Payton Benson, who was shot and killed in North Omaha. This is why six out of ten headlines were covering her story. Other headlines in 2014 were inclusive of all races and one was specifically about the Caucasian race.

A lot of the violence that occurs in Omaha takes place in North Omaha where majority of African Americans reside in the city. Most Hispanics reside in South Omaha and other races are spread throughout the city. Race plays a large role in violence. While most of the crimes we covered were committed by African American males in Omaha, the mass shooting at Westroads mall was committed by a Caucasian male and fifteen people were either injured or died. Many of the violent acts in Omaha are committed by males, a lot of them African American, and majority of the time in North Omaha. Omaha is one of the most dangerous places for a young black man to live due to the amount of violence and gang related activities that occur. Violence and race matter in Omaha and definitely correlate.

# Why Violence in Omaha Matters

When it comes down to the core of violence based on location, sex, age, type, and race, they are all interdependent of each other. Due to the facts and reported data, most of the crimes committed are by African American males, and occurs in North Omaha. This city is trying to make people more aware of the dangers of violence, being related in gangs or gang-like activities, and other illegalities. By educating and having a positive influence on people, the rates will (hopefully) drop. There is a lot of inequality and segregation in our city that also needs to end. Everyone in this city needs to take responsibility and realize that violence does matter and is affecting lives. By addressing the inequality, segregation, educating people, and taking responsibility, this city can be aware of why violence matters and take strides to make this city a less violent place to endure.

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