

# Domestic Violence

Statistics Information Package ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

167883

# **Domestic Violence Statistics Information Package**

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# Domestic Violence Statistics Information Package

## Introduction

According to the BJS National Crime Victimization Survey, an estimated 924,760 (8.5 percent) of all crimes of violence in 1994 were committed by a relative of the victim (BJS, *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1994*, May 1997). During this same year, approximately 243,000 persons (17 percent) required emergency department treatment for violence-related injuries inflicted by someone with whom they had an intimate relationship—husband, ex-husband, wife, ex-wife, boyfriend, ex-boyfriend, girlfriend, or ex-girlfriend (BJS, *Violence-Related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments*, August 1997). Of the 15,848 homicides in 1996 in which the victim-offender relationship was known, 206 husbands were murdered by their wives and 670 wives were killed by their husbands (FBI, *Crime in the United States, 1996: Uniform Crime Reports*, September 1997). Conservative estimates at best, these figures reflect the growing number of domestic violence incidents in the United States.

Domestic violence can occur in a number of relationships, making it difficult to standardize data collection programs and provide uniform definitions and terminology to States, agencies, and programs. The following victim-offender relationships have been classified as domestic violence: spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend, child, parent, relative, homosexual partner, and roommate.

Different terms are used to specify the various relationships, such as intimate violence, family violence, and partner violence. The intent of this package is not to provide a definition of domestic violence, but to serve as a comprehensive resource for statistical data on violence between intimates. The package brings together the major resources for domestic violence data, presenting data on incidents of abuse between spouses, former spouses, and boyfriends and girlfriends and providing references to obtain information on other domestic violence victim-offender relationships.

The package is ideal for criminal justice practitioners and policymakers, law enforcement, victim advocates and service providers, researchers, students, the media, and the public. The data presented covers the period from 1994 to 1996

from two major national domestic violence data collection programs: the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In addition, this package includes:

- Copies of the following BJS reports: *Violence by Intimates; Violence-Related Injuries in Hospital Emergency Departments; Sex Differences in Violent Victimization, 1994; Female Victims of Violent Crime; Spouse Murder Defendants in Large Urban Counties: Executive Summary*; and *Domestic and Sexual Violence Data Collection: A Report to Congress Under the Violence Against Women Act*. Additional Office of Justice Programs reports are included: *Drugs, Alcohol, and Domestic Violence in Memphis; The Crime of Stalking: How Big Is the Problem?; Office of Justice Programs Family Violence Working Group: A Report to the Assistant Attorney General Office of Justice Programs*; and *Stop the Cycle of Violence: Domestic Violence Awareness*.
- A diskette containing PDF and/or ASCII files and spreadsheets of the BJS reports, *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1994*, and the FBI's *Supplementary Homicide Report* data.
- Selected tables from the following reports: *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1994; Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 1996*; the FBI's *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Report, 1996* and the *Uniform Crime Reports: Supplemental Homicide Report*; and other OJP agency reports.
- A list of relevant data sets available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data.
- A list of subject-specific publications and products from OJP agencies.
- A collection of the most representative citations from the NCJRS Abstracts Database.
- A search of Justice Research and Statistics Association's Database of State Activities and Research (DSAR) containing completed and ongoing State domestic violence projects from 1994 to the present.

- A list of domestic violence-related online resources, including World Wide Web sites and listservs.
- A list of referrals and State contacts for domestic violence data, including each State's Statistical Analysis Center and Uniform Crime Reporting Office.
- A collection of child abuse and elder abuse citations from the NCJRS Abstracts Database, citations from the Justice Research and Statistics Association's Database of State Activities and Research, and a list of referrals.

### **Domestic Violence Data Collection Programs**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are the main sources for domestic violence statistics at the national level.

**The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)**, a component of OJP in the U.S. Department of Justice, is the primary source of crime and justice statistics. BJS collects, analyzes, publishes, and disseminates statistical information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of criminal justice systems at all levels of government. The data are critical to Federal, State, and local policymakers in combating crime and ensuring that justice is both efficient and fair. BJS maintains more than two dozen ongoing data collection activities from which it publishes and distributes reports nationwide.

Two primary BJS sources of domestic violence data are the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and the Study of Injured Victims of Violence (SIVV). Initiated in 1973 and redesigned in 1992, the *National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)* is the Nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization. Each year the U.S. Census Bureau for BJS collects NCVS data from a nationally representative sample of approximately 49,000 households comprising more than 100,000 residents ages 12 and older. Data are collected on the frequency, characteristics, and consequences of criminal victimization in the United States, including the crime event and victim-offender relationship.

The *Study of Injured Victims of Violence (SIVV)* provides data on intentional injuries, such as domestic violence, rape, and child abuse, from a national sample of hospital emergency rooms. Added to the Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System in 1994, these data provide details on the victim and perpetrator, victim-perpetrator relationship, alcohol/drug involvement in the incident, and description of circumstances of injury.

**The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**, the principal investigative arm of the U.S. Department of Justice, is responsible for sensitive foreign counterintelligence matters, important civil investigations, background inquiries on persons nominated for high public office, and criminal investigations that may involve prominent figures in both the public and private sectors. In addition, the FBI is authorized to provide other law enforcement agencies with cooperative services, such as the *Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)*. The UCR program is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 16,000 city, county, and State law enforcement agencies voluntarily reporting data on crime brought to their attention. Since 1929, the FBI has administered the program and issued periodic assessments of the nature and type of crime in the Nation. Although the program's primary objective is to generate a reliable set of criminal statistics for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management, its data have, over the years, become one of the country's leading social indicators. The Supplemental Homicide Report (SHR), added to the UCR program in 1961, includes detailed information about each homicide, including race, gender, and age of the victims and offenders; victim-offender relationship; murder weapon; and circumstances surrounding the murder.

Designed to replace the UCR program, the FBI's *National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)* is a prominent national effort to have States collect crime incident data. NIBRS represents the most likely source of reasonably comparable State statistics on reported domestic and sexual violence incidents. First implemented in 1991, NIBRS represents a shift from monthly aggregate reporting of summary crime and arrest statistics to detailed reporting of crime and arrest

activities at the incident level. The incident report captures data on demographic information on the victim and offender, victim-offender relationship, type of weapon used, location of offense, criminal activity, and property loss. NIBRS is currently in the implementation stage, and only some jurisdictions are reporting all offenses and arrests that meet

NIBRS criteria. As of 1996, 11 States (Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, North Dakota, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin) were certified for reporting NIBRS data to the FBI, and the FBI had received NIBRS data from 1,550 departments for 1996.











## State Statistical Analysis Centers

State Statistical Analysis Centers (SAC's) conduct objective analyses to meet critical planning needs and address statewide and systemwide criminal justice policy issues. These agencies contribute to viable effective policy development through statistical services, research, evaluation, and policy analysis. Although some SAC's are predominantly funded by States, they continue to maintain a close working relationship with the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, which supports special research and analysis activities. A compilation of efforts carried out by SAC's is published each year in *Criminal Justice Issues in the States*, a directory describing programs under way at the State level, the nature of research being conducted, and publications produced during the year. For more information about SAC's, contact:

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## Directory of State Uniform Crime Reporting Programs

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(334) 242-4900

### Alaska

Uniform Crime Reporting Section  
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(907) 269-5708

### American Samoa

Department of Public Safety  
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### Arizona

Uniform Crime Reporting  
Arizona Department of Public Safety  
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690 Kipling Street, Suite 3000  
Denver, CO 80215  
(303) 239-4300

### Connecticut

Uniform Crime Reporting Program  
P.O. Box 2794  
Middletown, CT 06457-9294  
(860) 685-8030

### Delaware

State Bureau of Identification  
P.O. Box 430  
Dover, DE 19903  
(302) 739-5875

### District of Columbia

Information Services Division  
Metropolitan Police Department  
300 Indiana Avenue NW., Room 5054  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 727-4301

### Florida

Uniform Crime Reports Section  
Florida Crime Information Center Bureau  
P.O. Box 1489  
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1489  
(904) 487-1179

### Georgia

Georgia Crime Information Center  
Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
P.O. Box 370748  
Decatur, GA 30037  
(404) 244-2840

### Guam

Guam Police Department  
Planning, Research, and Development  
23909 GMF  
Barrigada, GU 96921  
(671) 472-8911 ext. 418

### Hawaii

Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division  
Department of the Attorney General  
425 Queen Street, First Floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
(808) 586-1416

**Idaho**

Criminal Identification Bureau  
Department of Law Enforcement  
P.O. Box 700  
Meridian, ID 83680  
(208) 884-7156

**Illinois**

Uniform Crime Reporting Program  
Crime Studies Section  
Illinois State Police  
P.O. Box 3677  
Springfield, IL 62708-3677  
(217) 782-5791

**Iowa**

Iowa Department of Public Safety  
Wallace State Office Building  
East Ninth and Grand  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
(515) 281-8494

**Kansas**

Kansas Bureau of Investigation  
1620 Southwest Tyler Street  
Topeka, KS 66612  
(913) 296-8200

**Kentucky**

Information Services Branch  
Kentucky State Police  
1250 Louisville Road  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 227-8783

**Louisiana**

Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement  
1885 Wooddale Boulevard, Room 708  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
(504) 925-4847

**Maine**

Records Management Services  
Uniform Crime Division  
Department of Public Safety  
Maine State Police  
36 Hospital Street  
Augusta, ME 04333-0042  
(207) 624-7004

**Maryland**

Central Records Division  
Maryland State Police Department  
1711 Belmont Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21244  
(410) 298-3883

**Massachusetts**

Crime Reporting Unit  
Massachusetts State Police  
470 Worcester Road  
Framingham, MA 01701  
(508) 820-2110

**Michigan**

Central Records Division  
Uniform Crime Reporting Section  
Michigan State Police  
7150 Harris Drive  
Lansing, MI 48913  
(517) 322-1150

**Minnesota**

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension  
Minnesota Department of Public Safety  
Criminal Justice Information Systems  
1246 University Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
(612) 642-0670

**Montana**

Montana Board of Crime Control  
303 North Roberts  
Helena, MT 59620-1408  
(406) 444-2077

**Nebraska**

Uniform Crime Reporting Section  
Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement  
and Criminal Justice  
P.O. Box 94946  
Lincoln, NE 68509  
(402) 471-2194

**Nevada**

Criminal Information Services  
Nevada Highway Patrol  
555 Wright Way  
Carson City, NV 89711  
(702) 687-5713

**New Hampshire**

Uniform Crime Reporting Unit  
New Hampshire Department of Public Safety  
Division of State Police  
10 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03305  
(603) 271-2509

**New Jersey**

Uniform Crime Reporting  
Division of State Police  
P.O. Box 7068  
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0068  
(609) 882-2000 ext. 2392

**New York**

Statistical Services  
New York State Division of Criminal  
Justice Services  
Executive Park Tower  
Stuyvesant Plaza 3764  
Albany, NY 12203  
(518) 457-8381

**North Carolina**

Crime Reporting and Field Services  
Division of Criminal Information  
State Bureau of Investigation  
407 North Blount Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
(919) 733-3171

**North Dakota**

Information Services Section  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
Attorney General's Office  
P.O. Box 1054  
Bismarck, ND 58502  
(701) 328-5500

**Oklahoma**

Uniform Crime Reporting Section  
Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation  
6600 North Harvey, Suite 300  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116  
(405) 848-6724

**Oregon**

Law Enforcement Data Systems Division  
Oregon Department of State Police  
400 Public Service Building  
Salem, OR 97310  
(503) 378-3057

**Pennsylvania**

Bureau of Research and Development  
Pennsylvania State Police  
1800 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110  
(717) 783-5536

**Puerto Rico**

Puerto Rico Police  
P.O. Box 70166  
San Juan, PR 00936-8166  
(787) 793-1234 ext. 3113

**Rhode Island**

Rhode Island State Police  
311 Danielson Pike  
North Scituate, RI 02857  
(401) 444-1121

**South Carolina**

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division  
P.O. Box 21398  
Columbia, SC 29221-1398  
(803) 896-7162

**South Dakota**

South Dakota Statistical Analysis Center  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070  
(605) 773-6310

**Texas**

Uniform Crime Reporting  
Crime Information Bureau  
Texas Department of Public Safety  
P.O. Box 4143  
Austin, TX 78765-9968  
(512) 424-2091



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*(continued on reverse side)*

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## Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

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- NCJ-166377 Domestic Violence and Stalking: The Second Annual Report to Congress Under the Violence Against Women Act (7/97)
- NCJ-166403 Community Checklist: Important Steps to End Violence Against Women (forthcoming)

### Available for a fee

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- NCJ-150222 Family Strengthening in Preventing Delinquency - A Literature Review, \$13 (1/94)
- NCJ-144532 Family Violence: Interventions for the Justice System, \$15
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- NCJ-147703 Family Violence Resource Package, \$32
- NCJ-160972 The Validity and Use of Evidence Concerning Battering and Its Effects in Criminal Trials: A Report to Congress under the Violence Against Women Act, \$23 (5/96)
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- NCJ-154277 Partner Violence Among Young Adults, NIJ, \$19 (1/95)
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# **Supplemental Research and Data Bibliography**

## **Domestic Violence**

Contents  
Introduction  
How To Interpret Abstracts  
How To Obtain Documents



## **Supplemental Research and Data Bibliography**

### **Domestic Violence Data**

The NCJRS Library currently contains more than 145,000 documents including journals, government publications, magazines, and unpublished materials. The collection includes documents in the areas of courts, police, corrections, victims, juvenile justice, drugs, statistics, and much more.

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- National and State-level data on domestic violence
- Domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse information
- Findings on research on domestic violence and its effects
- Domestic violence risk factors data

Document citations are chosen from the NCJRS Abstract Database and carefully screened by a subject specialist to identify documents that are the most representative of the issue(s).

The Supplemental Research and Data Bibliography is organized by accession number, which is found at the top of each citation. The most recent documents appear first. Subject and title indexes provide easy reference to the appropriate NCJRS accession (ACCN) numbers. Availability of the information is also provided.

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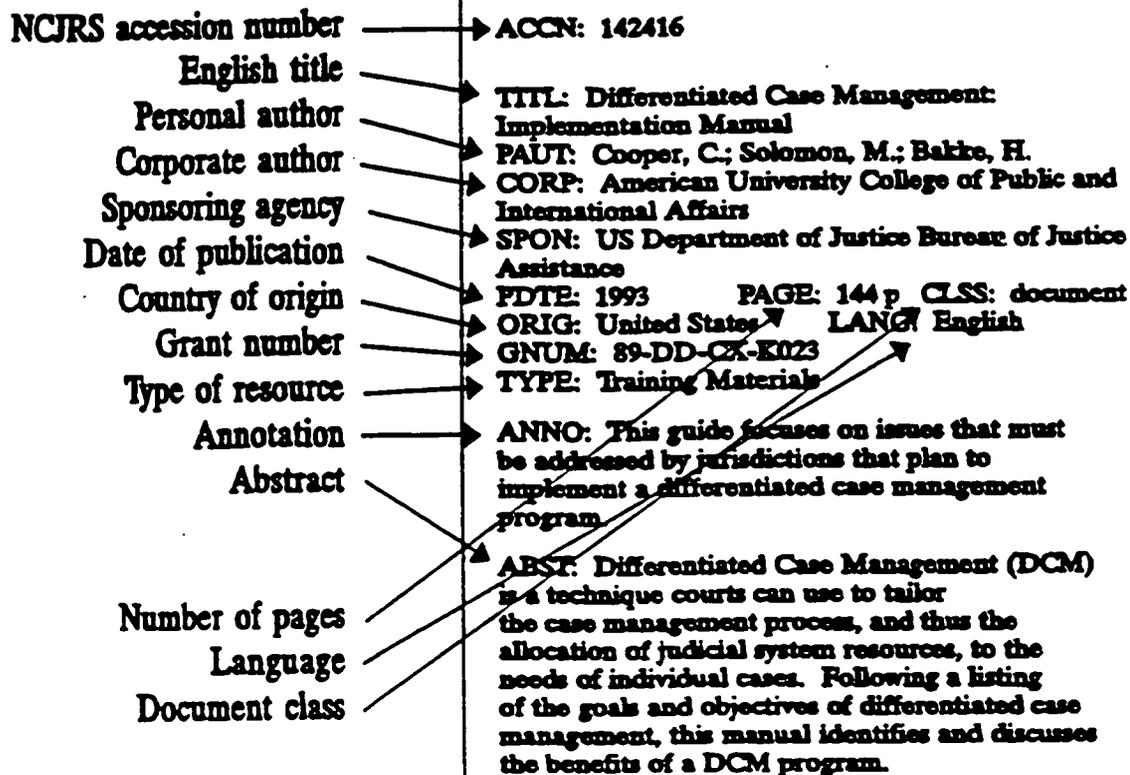
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# READ THIS FIRST

## How to interpret these abstracts

### SAMPLE ABSTRACT



### FIELD DESCRIPTIONS

ACCN = NCJRS accession number	CLSS = Document class
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NCJRS  
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Rockville, MD 20849-6000

**ACCN: 166638**

**TITL:** Pathfinder on Domestic Violence in the United States  
**CORP:** Center on Crime, Communities and Culture New York, NY 10106;  
**SALE:** Center on Crime, Communities and Culture 888 Seventh Avenue New  
York, NY 10106; DO document.  
**PDTE:** 1997 **PAGE:** 96 p  
**ORIG:** United States **LANG:** English  
**PNUM:** ISBN 0-9641568-6-5  
**TYPE:** Reference material

**ANNO:** This report is intended as a reference guide to information on domestic assault; it summarizes findings and lists and describes reference materials, databases, and organizations that are sources of further information.

**ABST:** The discussion uses a multidisciplinary approach and is based on materials from medicine, law, social service, and the mass media. It notes that efforts to compile reliable and uniform national data about domestic violence are hindered by the lack of agreement among States and legal, medical, and social service providers on the domestic violence, how it is measured and reported, and who its victims are. Little comparative data exist to compare outcomes for abused women who use shelter services with those who do not. In addition, the few studies on the effects of protective studies reveal that the rate of violence remains unchanged for individuals who obtain them. Moreover, the economic disparity between regions of the country also translates into different approaches to domestic assault. Furthermore, little research has been done regarding the indirect effects of domestic violence on victims, their families, and their communities. Major domestic violence terms include battering, battering syndrome, domestic violence, order of protection, restraining order, women's shelter, and violence. Major information sources related to domestic violence include databases, resource directories, printed and electronic bibliographies, research texts, popular readings, films, electronic media, print media, Internet resources, Congressional hearings, dissertations. List of 10 recommended journals, notes, author index, and 38 references (Publisher summary modified)

ACCN: 165186

TITL: Incarcerated Battered Women: A Comparison of Battered Women Who  
Killed Their Abusers and Those Incarcerated for Other Offenses

JCIT: Journal of Family Violence, V 12, N 1 (March 1997), P 1-19

PAUT: O'Keefe, M

PDTE: 1997

PAGE: 19 p CLSS: article

ORIG: United States

LANG: English

TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: This study compared battered women incarcerated for killing or seriously assaulting their abusers with battered women incarcerated for other offenses to explore possible similarities and differences in the characteristics and experiences of the two groups and to determine what factors may have led some battered women to use lethal force against their partners.

ABST: Comparisons were made on a number of variables, including sociodemographic factors, characteristics of the battering relationship, alcohol/drug use of battered women and their abusers, perceived social support, actions taken to end the violence, prior criminal behavior, and childhood trauma factors. Findings revealed that women in the homicide/assault group were older, in the relationship longer, and experienced a longer duration of violence in the relationship than women in the comparison group. Women in the homicide/assault group also experienced more frequent and severe battering, including sex assaults, and sustained more injuries than those in the comparison group. Further, battered women who killed or seriously assaulted their partners were more likely to believe their lives were in danger, were less likely to use violence against their partners, and were less likely to have a prior criminal record or to have previously served time than women in the comparison group. Battered women in both groups, however, shared some common experiences. For example, over 75 percent of all women reported being beaten and 60 percent reported being sexually assaulted by their partners. Most said they sustained serious injuries due to the violence, including broken bones, black eyes, cuts, and head injuries. Nearly 50 percent of all women indicated they had been victims of parental physical abuse or child sexual abuse and had witnessed interparental violence. Implications of the study findings are discussed. 44 references and 3 tables



ACCN: 162270

TITL: Understanding Violence Against Women  
CORP: National Research Council Washington, DC 20418;  
SPON: US Department of Justice National Institute of Justice  
Washington, DC 20531; US Department of Health and Human Services  
Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control Atlanta, GA  
30333  
SALE: National Academy Press 2101 Constitution Avenue NW Washington, DC  
20418; DO document.  
PDTE: 1996 PAGE: 227 p  
ORIG: United States LANG: English  
GNUM: 95-IJ-CX-0006  
TYPE: Issue overviews

ANNO: An interdisciplinary panel formed under 1994 Federal legislation examined violence against women in terms of its nature, extent, and causes and the effectiveness of prevention and treatment and developed a research agenda to aid development in prevention, research methods, knowledge, and the research infrastructure.

ABST: The panel gathered information from a literature review and the perspectives of field professionals and service providers. The research focused mainly on rape, sexual assault, and domestic assault. The analysis concluded that at least 2 million women each year are battered by an intimate partner and that at least 75 percent of the 3.8 million assaults and 500,000 rapes annually are committed by an intimate. This violence results in many short-term and long-term problems. However, significant gaps exist in understanding of the extent and causes of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive and treatment interventions. Well-organized research will be crucial to the long-term goals of preventing and addressing the effects of violence against women. Detailed recommendations, tables, figure, appended panel member biographies, and approximately 500 references

ACCN: 161528

TITL: Effects of Restraining Orders on Domestic Violence Victims (From  
Do Arrests and Restraining Orders Work? P 214-242, 1996, Eve S  
and Carl G Buzawa, eds. — See NCJ-161517)

PAUT: Harrell, A; Smith, B E

SALE: Sage Publications, Inc 2455 Teller Road Thousand Oaks, CA 91320;  
DO document.

PDTE: 1996

PAGE: 29 p

ORIG: United States

LANG: English

TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: This study assessed the impact of restraining orders in domestic violence cases, emphasizing the extent to which restraining orders protected women from further abuse.

ABST: The study was based on a sample of temporary restraining orders issued during the first 9 months of 1991 in two jurisdictions in the same State. The sample was limited to cases involving female abuse victims, and interviews were completed with 355 women who filed petitions for temporary restraining orders based on alleged abuse by male partners (spouses, former spouses, or boyfriends). Forms completed by women who received temporary restraining orders indicated multiple types of abusive behavior: severe violence, other violent acts, threats of violence or property damage, and psychological abuse. Many women thought the temporary restraining order was helpful in documenting the occurrence of abuse. Of women who obtained temporary restraining orders, 40 percent did not return to court to request permanent restraining orders. Most men and women reported contact during the first 3 months following a temporary restraining order, and over half of the women reported unwanted contacts. The process of obtaining a temporary restraining order was easier than the process of obtaining a permanent restraining order. Calls to the police due to restraining order violations were high, but arrest was rare. Sixty percent of the women reported reabuse by the man named in the temporary restraining order, with psychological abuse being the most prevalent type of reabuse. Having a permanent restraining order did not appear to deter most types of abuse. Predictors of continued abuse are identified, and enforcement aspects of temporary restraining orders are discussed. 3 notes, 2 tables, and 4 figures

ACCN: 159216

TITL: Using Couple Data To Determine Domestic Violence Rates: An  
Attempt To Replicate Previous Work

JCIT: Violence and Victims, V 10, N 2 (Summer 1995), P 133- 141

PAUT: Bohannon, J R; Dosser, D A, Jr; Lindley, S E

PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 9 p CLSS: article

ORIG: United States LANG: English

TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: The research methodology used by Szinovacz to analyze domestic assault rates was replicated using all items measuring severe violence in the latest Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS) with 94 military violence to determine if couple reports of violence indicated higher violence rates than those based on reports by only one spouse.

ABST: Szinovacz questioned research methodology that used only one spouse to report for the couple and reported higher rates of violence when both spouses responded to six items on Straus's CTS. The participants in the current study were from a military base in the southeastern United States. Military commanders distributed written invitations to participate to a computer-generated list of married military spouses. In addition, an article about the study appeared in the base newspaper for 2 weeks prior to data collection. Monetary door prizes were used as incentives for participation. The survey packet included a demographic questionnaire and the CTS. Results revealed that 40 percent of the husbands and 27 percent of the wives reported physical aggression. The rate of violence in the couples was 56 percent. Thus, findings were similar to those of Szinovacz and support the advisability of using both spouses to report violence in marriages. Tables and 14 references (Author abstract modified)





ACCN: 157541

TITL: Context for Specific Episodes of Marital Violence: Gender and  
Severity of Violence Differences

JCIT: Journal of Family Violence, V 10, N 3 (September 1995), P 265-293

PAUT: Cascardi, M; Vivian, D

SPON: US Department of Health and Human Services National Institute of  
Mental Health Rockville, MD 20857;

PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 29 p CLSS: article

ORIG: United States LANG: English

GNUM: MH44665

TYPE: Applied research

ANNO: This study was designed to evaluate the context of marital violence through husband and wife accounts of the worst violent episode in the year prior to assessment.

ABST: The primary objective was to examine severity and gender differences in reports of the worst episode of marital aggression using a functional analysis conceptualization. That is, current stressors, setting events, outcome and function of aggressive behavior, and victimization experiences were evaluated within specific episodes. Sixty-two couples who presented for marital treatment over a 3-year period and also reported at least one episode of physical aggression in the past year participated in the study. In most cases, marital aggression appeared to reflect an outgrowth of conflict between both partners. However, wives consistently reported that their aggressive husbands engaged in more psychological coercion and aggression than they did as the marital conflict escalated to physical violence. Further, there was a tendency for wives to use severe physical aggression in self-defense more often than husbands. The authors conclude that marital violence may result from conflict between both partners in which each actively contributes, but not necessarily symmetrically, to the escalation of violence. Appendixes contain additional information on the study's coding system and aggression and victimization vignettes. 41 references and 9 tables

ACCN: 157476

TITL: Intimate Partner Homicide in Chicago Over 29 Years  
JCIT: Crime and Delinquency, V 41, N 4, special issue (October 1995),  
P 496-526  
PAUT: Block, C R; Christakos, A  
PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 31 p CLSS: article  
ORIG: United States LANG: English  
TYPE: Studies/research reports

ANNO: This study presents population-based victim and offender rates for intimate-partner homicides in Chicago by racial/ethnic group and gender, discusses the major trends over a 29-year period (1965-93), and explores the evidence in the data set for and against hypotheses about risk factors for lethal outcomes in an intimate relationship.

ABST: From 1965 through 1993, a total of 2,556 people living in Chicago were killed by an intimate partner (marital, ex-marital, common-law, ex-common-law, boyfriend/girlfriend, ex-boyfriend/girlfriend, or gay domestic relationship). These homicides ranged from fewer than 70 to more than 130 per year, occurred in a variety of situations, and involved approximately half male and half female victims of diverse ages and racial/ethnic groups. The male partner was more likely than the female partner to have an arrest history for a violent offense. Repeated victimization of the woman was a high-risk factor for a lethal outcome, not only to the female partner but also the male partner. Males were much more likely than females to kill an estranged or former intimate partner. Common threads in the analysis were the effect of liquor use on intimate partner homicides and the importance of weapon. In the 1990's, levels of intimate homicide that involved liquor-use increased. An effective prevention strategy for intimate homicide of women (but not for men or for gay couples) would be to reduce the availability of firearms in the home, especially handguns and semi- or fully automatic weapons. This would be particularly important in high-risk situations where there is an estranged relationship, a male partner who is a suicide risk, and a partner who has an arrest history for violent crime. 4 tables, 6 figures, 15 notes, and 63 references

ACCN: 156322

TITL: Domestic Violence Against Women  
JCIT: Journal of the American Medical Association, V 273, N 22 (June  
14, 1995), P 1763-1767  
PAUT: Abbott, J; Johnson, R; Koziol-McLain, J; Lowenstein, S R  
PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 5 p CLSS: article  
ORIG: United States LANG: English  
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: The incidence of domestic violence among female  
emergency department patients is discussed.

ABST: This article reports the results of a study to  
determine the incidence, one-year prevalence, and  
cumulative prevalence of domestic violence among female  
emergency department patients. A confidential written  
survey was conducted at five sites in the Denver,  
Colorado, metropolitan area. A questionnaire was offered  
to all adult women at three emergency departments and two  
associated walk-in clinics during 30 simultaneous,  
randomly selected 4-hour blocks in April and May 1993. A  
total of 833 women presented for care at the five study  
sites during the surveillance periods; 648 agreed to  
participate. Analysis of the data indicates that the  
incidence of acute domestic violence is not as common  
among women visiting an emergency department as  
previously reported, although the cumulative prevalence  
of domestic violence is strikingly high. Unfortunately,  
the study concluded that women who have experienced  
domestic violence are seldom identified by emergency  
department professionals. Limitations of the study are  
noted. Tables, references

ACCN: 156320

TITL: Race, Socioeconomic Status, and Domestic Homicide  
JCIT: Journal of the American Medical Association, V 273, N 22 (June  
14, 1995), P 1755-1758  
PAUT: Centerwall, B S  
PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 4 p CLSS: article  
ORIG: United States LANG: English  
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: Characteristics of homicides are analyzed.

ABST: This article presents the results of a study designed to replicate, or not replicate as the case may be, in New Orleans, Louisiana, the findings of a 1984 retrospective study of 222 intraracial domestic homicides in Atlanta, Georgia, conducted by the author. The data for this study were 349 intraracial domestic homicides perpetrated against residents of Orleans Parish in 1979, 1982, 1985, and 1986. For both studies, domestic homicides are defined as homicides committed by a relative of the victim or by an acquaintance of the same race. The Atlanta study had concluded that, when one uses rates of household crowding as an index of socioeconomic status, Atlanta blacks were no more likely to commit domestic homicide than were whites in comparable socioeconomic circumstances. Results of the New Orleans study indicate that the findings of the Atlanta study are replicated in this study. In both cities, six-fold differences in black and white rates of intraracial domestic homicide are entirely accounted for by differences in socioeconomic status between the respective black and white populations. There are no significant residual differences requiring cultural explanations. Tables, references

ACCN: 153873

TITL: Test of Various Perspectives on the Intergenerational  
Transmission of Domestic Violence

JCIT: Criminology, V 33, N 1 (February 1995), P 141-171

PAUT: Simons, R L; Wu, C; Johnson, C; Conger, R D

SPON: US Department of Health and Human Services National Institute of  
Mental Health Rockville, MD 20857; US Department of Health and  
Human Services National Institute on Drug Abuse Rockville, MD  
20857

PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 31 p CLSS: article

ORIG: United States LANG: English

GNUM: MHH43270; DA05347

NOTE: This study is based on collaborative research that involves  
the Iowa Youth and Families Project at Iowa State University,  
Ames, and the Social Change Project at the University of North  
Carolina Chapel Hill.

TYPE: Studies/research reports

ANNO: This study examines whether children severely physically  
disciplined as children can be expected to be violent toward  
their spouses and children as adults.

ABST: This association between abuse as a child and abusing  
behavior as an adult is usually attributed to modeling or the  
learning of attitudes that legitimate hitting family members. To  
test this hypothesis, this study used four waves of data from a  
sample of midwestern families. The sample consisted of 451 two-  
parent families recruited through the cohort of all seventh-grade  
students, male and female, in eight counties in north-central  
Iowa who were enrolled in public or private schools during winter  
and spring 1989. An additional criterion for inclusion in the  
study was the presence of a sibling within 4 years of age of the  
seventh grader. Data collection was conducted annually and  
included visits to each family twice in their homes. During the  
first visit, each of the four family members completed a set of  
questionnaires that focused on family processes, individual  
family member characteristics, and economic circumstances. During  
the second visit, which usually occurred within 2 weeks of the  
first, the family was videotaped while engaging in several  
structured interaction tasks. Analysis of the data showed that  
the relationship between childhood exposure to harsh parenting  
and recurrent adult violence toward children or a spouse was  
mediated by the extent to which parents displayed an antisocial  
orientation. This pattern of findings is consistent with  
criminological theories that view criminal and deviant behavior  
of all sorts as rooted in a general antisocial orientation  
acquired in childhood largely as a result of ineffective  
parenting. 5 tables, 2 figures, and 81 references

ACCN: 152593

TITL: Fighting Fire With Fire: The Effects of Victim Resistance in  
Intimate Versus Stranger Perpetrated Assaults Against Females  
JCIT: Journal of Family Violence, V 9, N 4 (December 1994), P 317-331  
PAUT: Bachman, R; Carmody, D C  
PDTE: 1994 PAGE: 15 p CLSS: article  
ORIG: United States LANG: English  
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: Using the National Crime Victimization Survey for 1987-90,  
this research focused on the factors that may increase the  
probability that a woman will sustain an injury during a domestic  
assault or another assault, with emphasis on the role of victim  
resistance.

ABST: The analysis focused on the 647 women who had experienced  
assaults perpetrated by intimates and 257 women who had  
experienced assaults perpetrated by strangers. The research  
compared the extent to which victim resistance during an assault  
affected the injuries involved in assaults committed by intimates  
and those committed by strangers. The analysis focused on both  
physical resistance and verbal/passive resistance. Results  
revealed that female victims of assaults perpetrated by intimates  
were nearly twice as likely to sustain injury if they used either  
physical or verbal self-protective behavior. However, the only  
significant predictor of injury sustained by female victims of  
assaults perpetrated by strangers was the presence of a weapon.  
Tables and 18 references (Author abstract modified)

ACCN: 152495

TITL: Statewide Survey of Reactions to Neighbors' Domestic Violence  
JCIT: Journal of Interpersonal Violence, V 9, N 4 (December 1994),  
P 493-502

PAUT: Paquin, G W

PDTE: 1994

ORIG: United States

TYPE: Applied research

PAGE: 10 p CLSS: article

LANG: English

ANNO: Researchers have indicated the importance of neighbors in reporting spouse abuse, but little is known about the extent of neighbors' awareness of the problem or whether they informally provide respite to victims; the current study hypothesized that neighbors who viewed relationships with neighbors as important would be more likely to have knowledge of spouse abuse and provide victim respite.

ABST: A random telephone survey in Kentucky was conducted in 1991 that involved 650 respondents from predominantly rural areas. Of the sample, 53 percent were female; 66.5 percent were married; 24 percent were separated, widowed, or divorced; 9 percent were never married; 38 percent had a high school education; 39.5 percent had more than a high school education; 91 percent were white; and most had incomes between \$10,000 and \$30,000. It was found that 9.8 percent strongly suspected their neighbors of domestic violence and that 4.9 percent had provided victim respite. Respondents who knew of child abuse by neighbors were also likely to know about spouse abuse. Being a welfare recipient and living in subsidized housing were associated with knowing about spouse abuse by neighbors. Respondents who took in a neighbor's abused spouse were more likely to be parents of minor children and to have taken in a neighbor's abused child. The hypothesis relating demographic variables to the importance of neighbor relationships was only partially confirmed. Data indicate the need to further explore the role of neighbors in domestic violence, with the goal of establishing prevention and intervention programs. 19 references and 2 tables



ACCN: 152377

TITL: Health Care Response to Domestic Violence Fact Sheet

PAUT: Schaffler, M

SALE: University of Minnesota Center for Early Education and  
Development 51 East River Road Minneapolis, MN 55455; DO  
document. Trauma Foundation San Francisco, CA 94110; DO  
document.

PDTE: 1994

PAGE: 3 p

ORIG: United States

LANG: English

TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: Prevalence statistics only partially reveal the extent of domestic violence, since domestic violence tends to be seriously under-reported and undiagnosed.

ABST: In 1994, 7 percent of American women (3.9 million) who were married or living with someone as a couple were physically abused; 37 percent (20.7 million) were verbally or emotionally abused by their spouse or partner. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that 95 percent of assaults on spouses or ex-spouses are committed by men against women. Domestic violence is repetitive in nature, and more people have directly witnessed a domestic violence incident than muggings and robberies combined. One study showed that 30 percent of women presenting with injuries at a hospital emergency department had injuries caused by battering. The level of injury resulting from domestic violence is severe, and medical costs of treating abused women are high. Pregnancy is a risk factor in battering, about 30 percent of women murdered in the United States are killed by a husband or boyfriend, and close to half of all domestic violence incidents are not reported to the police. Most physically abused women do not discuss such incidents with their physicians, and many medical school students do not receive instruction about domestic violence. It is recommended that, by the year 2000, at least 90 percent of hospital emergency departments establish protocols for routinely identifying, treating, and referring victims of sexual assault and spouse abuse.



ACCN: 151976

TITL: Measurement of Family Violence and Rape by the Redesigned  
National Crime Victimization Survey

JCIT: Justice Quarterly, V 11, N 3 (September 1994), P 499-512

PAUT: Bachman, R; Taylor, B M

SPON: US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics Washington,  
DC 20531;

PDTE: 1994

PAGE: 14 p CLSS: article

ORIG: United States

LANG: English

TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: This article describes the extensive changes made by the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) over the past 10 years, particularly in the ways it estimates the incidence of rape and domestic violence.

ABST: The NCVS collects data on personal and household victimization, using detailed information about each incident and its consequences, as well as characteristics of the offender, as reported by the crime victim. The current NCVS sample consists of approximately 50,000 housing units and 101,000 persons who are interviewed every 6 months for 5 years; the first and fifth interviews are conducted in person, while the rest are conducted by telephone. The redesigned survey incorporates questions that ask respondents directly about incidents of violence perpetrated by relatives and intimates, as well as their experiences with any unwanted sexual advances. 8 notes and 31 references



ACCN: 151625

TITL: Domestic Homicide in America: Trends and Patterns for 1976-1992  
PAUT: Fox, J A  
CORP: Northeastern University College of Criminal Justice Boston, MA  
02115;  
SALE: National Institute of Justice/NCJRS Microfiche Program Box 6000,  
Department F, Rockville, MD 20850.; MF microfiche.  
PDTE: 1994 PAGE: 9 p CLSS: document  
ORIG: United States LANG: English  
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: Homicide reports submitted by local police agencies across the country for the years 1976-92 involving 36,000 female victims ages 18-34 were analyzed to determine patterns and trends in lethal domestic violence directed against women.

ABST: This group was chosen for two reasons: (1) because the majority of domestic homicides cluster among young adults and (2) to control for demographic shifts in the population. The analysis revealed that the victim was the murderer's wife or ex-wife, or was otherwise intimately involved in 34 percent of the homicides against women in this age group and for 48 percent of those cases in which the victim-offender relationship could be determined. The vast majority of these homicides were committed with firearms. The rate of domestic homicide among whites has remained fairly stable since 1976, but domestic homicide among blacks has dropped sharply. Results indicate the need for continuing diligence in efforts against domestic violence rather than an attitude that the problem has been solved. Tables and figures

ACCN: 150233

TITL: Relative Contribution of Domestic Violence to Assault and Injury  
of Police Officers

JCIT: Justice Quarterly, V 11, N 1 (March 1994), P 99-117

PAUT: Hirschel, J D; Dean, C W; Lumb, R C

PDTE: 1994 PAGE: 19 p CLSS: article

ORIG: United States LANG: English

TYPE: Applied research

ANNO: To analyze the danger faced by police officers who answer calls related to domestic violence, this study, conducted in Charlotte, North Carolina, compared data on all assaults committed against police officers between 1988 and 1990 against the total number of calls for service, which averaged 984 per day.

ABST: Domestic disturbances constituted 7.8 percent of the total, and general disturbances 13.4 percent. A total of 1,038 assault incidents on police officers occurred during the reporting period; 499 resulted in injury to the officer. Both domestic and general disturbances were overrepresented in assaults and injuries to officers. Domestic disturbance was the fourth most likely police activity to lead to an assault and fifth most likely type of call to lead to an injury. Victim officers were primarily male, white, under age 30, of nonsupervisory rank, with less than three years on the force, and more likely to be working with another officer than alone. Nearly all assault incidents involved a single offender who was male, black, under age 30, and had attacked the officer victim physically. 3 tables, 1 note, and 33 references



ACCN: 149923

TITL: Review of Domestic Violence Arrest Statistics in a Police  
Department Using a Pro-Arrest Policy: Are Pro-Arrest Policies  
Enough?

JCIT: Journal of Family Violence, V 9, N 2 (June 1994), P 177-189

PAUT: Bourg, S; Stock, H V

PDTE: 1994

PAGE: 13 p CLSS: article

ORIG: United States

LANG: English

TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: This study examined domestic assault arrest statistics in a sheriff's department in southern Florida that does not use an organized community approach and provides little police training on domestic assault, although it has had a pro-arrest policy for several years.

ABST: An analysis of all 1,870 domestic assault reports during 1991 revealed that only 28.8 percent resulted in arrest. Even the most serious charges, aggravated batteries, were more likely to end without an arrest (62.6 percent) than with an arrest (37.4 percent). Although results revealed that more men were identified (88.4 percent) and arrested (91.6 percent) as batterers than women (11.6 percent and 8.4 percent, respectively), closer analyses revealed that arrested women were more often charged with more serious charges (60 percent) than were arrested men (26.0 percent). Finally gender and race data indicated that while 84.6 percent of black females were arrested on felony charges, only 19.5 percent of white males were arrested on the same charge. Findings demonstrated a need for further research on factors that may affected the effectiveness of pro-arrest policies. Tables and 13 references (Author abstract modified)

ACCN: 148713

TITL: Spouse Abuse Research Raises New Questions About Police Response to Domestic Violence

CORP: Police Foundation Washington, DC 20037;

SPON: US Department of Justice National Institute of Justice Washington, DC 20531;

SALE: Police Foundation 1001 22nd Street, NW Suite 200 Washington, DC 20037; DO document. National Institute of Justice/ National Criminal Justice Reference Service Paper Reproduction Sales, Box 6000, Department F, Rockville, MD 20850; DO Document.

PDTE: 1992

PAGE: 6 p

ORIG: United States

LANG: English

GNUM: 87-IJ-CX-K003

TYPE: Applied research

ANNO: The National Institute of Justice funded this study, in which previous research conducted in Minneapolis was replicated in Dade County, Florida, to examine whether police treatment of domestic violence offenders has an effect on recidivism.

ABST: Over 900 suspected spouse abusers were randomly assigned to arrest or nonarrest intervention groups; in the second stage of the study, they were received or did not receive follow-up intervention from the Safe Streets Unit (SSU), comprised of police officers trained to handle domestic violence cases. Officers from the SSU would interview the disputants to determine the frequency of abuse and conditions that precipitated it, help disputants understand the long-term consequences of domestic violence, and refer the couple to outside counseling. Victims included spouses, former spouses, and women who were assaulted by male friends. Information about subsequent domestic violence was obtained from interviews with victims soon after and 6 months after the initial incident, domestic violence continuation reports, and arrest reports. Results of the study showed that arrest of spouse abusers had a significant, positive effect on the recidivism rate, and that suspects who were employed responded better to the arrest treatment than those who were unemployed. There was no significant difference in the recidivism rate between those who received the SSU follow-up intervention and those who did not. 8 figures and 3 references



ACCN: 144742

TITL: RISING CRIME RATES AND THE ROLE OF POLICE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

JCIT: Police Studies, V 16, N 2 (Summer 1993), P 39-42

PAUT: Parker, L C, Jr

PDTE: 1993

PAGE: 4 p CLSS: article

ORIG: United States

LANG: English

TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: Since the "Velvet Revolution" of 1989 when Czechoslovakia experienced the fall of communism, social and economic instability has contributed to rapidly rising crime rates, and police and the criminal justice system are struggling to cope with the problem.

ABST: Information gathered during a 2-month visit to Czechoslovakia showed that criminals have begun to capitalize on more open borders and weaker security controls. The fear of crime has become even greater than the actual incidence of crime. The liberalization process involved in rejoining the Western European mainstream, combined with the rapid transformation of society, has compounded major weaknesses and gaps in Czechoslovakia's legal system. According to the country's deputy police director, some jurisdictions have courts and prosecutor offices that are 85 percent understaffed. Police officials also indicate that crime rates have roughly tripled since 1989. Between 1990 and 1991, overall crime rates rose by 30.5 percent, from 216,852 to 282,998 offenses. Property crimes increased by 38.3 percent between 1990 and 1991, from 166,638 to 231,372. The number of homicides dropped from 212 in 1990 to 194 in 1991. Czechoslovakia's criminal justice system has been weakened by manpower losses among judges, prosecutors, and police. Nonetheless, efforts to establish better relationships between police and citizens appear to have succeeded since 1989. Organized crime represents one of the major problems facing law enforcement, while drug abuse has yet to reach the epidemic proportions it has in other western countries. 11 references



ACCN: 138797

TITL: Dating Violence Among High School Students

JCIT: Social Work, V 37, N 1 (January 1992), P 21-29

PAUT: Bergman, L

PDTE: 1992

PAGE: 9 p CLSS: article

ORIG: United States

LANG: English

TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: All 631 students attending a suburban, a rural, and an inner-city high school in three midwestern communities that differed significantly in terms of racial composition, average family income, and occupational trends were surveyed to estimate the proportion of high school students who have experienced sexual dating violence, physical dating violence, and severe violence (a combined category of physical and sexual violence), and to explore the characteristics and correlates of the violence.

ABST: The average proportion of students reporting sexual dating violence was 10.5 percent, 15.7 percent female (n=53) and 4.4 percent male (n=13). Twelve percent of the sample (15.7 percent female and 7.8 percent male) reported physical dating violence, and 17.7 percent (24.6 percent female and 9.9 percent male) reported severe dating violence. A majority of respondents told no one about the violence. Only 139 students (22 percent) disclosed the violence to someone. Forty-two female students and 16 male students continued to date the violent partner. Sexual violence was more frequent than physical violence on first dates as reported by 22 (41.5 percent) of the females and 7 (30.4 percent) of the males. The highest incidence of dating violence was found consistently in the suburban school, the second highest in the inner-city school, and the third highest in the rural school. The discussion concludes with consideration of the implications of the study findings in regard to the causes, treatment, and prevention of violence. 3 tables and 19 references



ACCN: 138578

TITL: Intimate Violence: Interdisciplinary Perspectives  
SALE: Hemisphere Publishing Corp, 1900 Frost Road, Suite 101 Bristol,  
PA 19007; BK book.  
PDTE: 1992 PAGE: 315 p  
ORIG: United States LANG: English  
PNUM: ISBN 1-56032-243-8  
TYPE: Issue overviews

ANNO: These 22 papers present the findings of theoretical and applied research regarding the nature, causes, and treatment of domestic assault and dating violence in the United States and several foreign countries.

ABST: Individual chapters present a model that requires the participation of the perpetrator, victim, and observer; describe an instrument that provides an alternative to the Conflict Tactics Scale for measuring the frequency and intensity of violent behavior; and present findings indicating the impact of locus of control and social isolation on wife abuse. Further papers analyze 10,000 crisis calls of battered women to the Atlanta Council of Battered women, review police records of homicides committed by women in Chicago and Houston, and discuss 83 homicide cases involving men and women in intimate relationships in Chicago and Philadelphia. Other papers examine the factors that influence women inflicting and sustaining sexual abuse in dating relationships, compare the characteristics of abused and nonabused females in dating relationships, describe the personality characteristics of male batterers, and explore assessment and treatment approaches. Further chapters examine attitudes and institutional responses to spousal abuse in Colombia, Austria, Australia, India, Bangladesh, and Korea.

ACCN: 138503

TITL: Predicting Batterer Recidivism Five Years After Community  
Intervention

JCIT: Journal of Family Violence, V 7, N 3 (1992), P 167-178

PAUT: Shepard, M

PDTE: 1992

PAGE: 12 p CLSS: article

ORIG: United States

LANG: English

TYPE: Applied research

ANNO: Batterer recidivism rates were examined for a sample of 100 men 5 years after community intervention to determine differences between recidivists and nonrecidivists and to identify background and intervention variables that discriminate between batterers who recidivate and those who do not.

ABST: Forty percent of the 100 men included in the sample drawn from the Duluth (Minnesota) Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP) were identified as recidivists either because they were convicted for domestic assault, the subject of a protection order, or a police suspect for domestic assault. Discriminant analysis procedures resulted in the selection of five variables that significantly discriminated between recidivist and nonrecidivist cases: duration of abuse in the relationship, court-ordered chemical dependency evaluation, chemical dependency treatment, child abuse victim in family of origin, and previous convictions for non-assault crimes. For the total sample, 60.6 percent of the cases were classified correctly: 66.7 percent of recidivists and 56.4 percent of nonrecidivists were classified correctly. Study findings indicate the need to emphasize preventive measures, as intervention projects have limited impact upon the behavior of some batterers. 2 tables and 25 references

**ACCN: 136606**

**TITL:** Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families  
**SALE:** Transaction Publishers Rutgers-the State University, Distribution  
140 West Ethel Road Units L-M Piscataway, NJ 08854; BK book.  
**PDTE:** 1992                      **PAGE:** 644 p  
**ORIG:** United States              **LANG:** English  
**PNUM:** ISBN 0-88738-263-0  
**TYPE:** Surveys

**ANNO:** This book, targeted at researchers and academics, brings together papers and articles describing the methods and results of two landmark studies: the National Family Violence Survey of 1975 and the National Family Violence Resurvey of 1985. These surveys still provide the best available data on the high rates of child and spouse abuse in the U.S.

**ABST:** The first section focuses on research and methodology issues in the study of family violence. Two of the chapters describe and critique the widely used Conflict Tactics Scale. The second section of the book discusses incidence and trends in domestic assault, addressing issues including the rates of family violence; societal changes as measured by the two surveys; and incidence rates of child abuse by age, gender, and occupational class. The chapters comprising the third part examine various aspects of the social psychology of family violence, focusing on gender differences, causes of marital stress and its relationship to assault, and the relationship between drinking and violence. Family organization in terms of marriage, family structure, maternal employment, pregnancy, and marital power, can contribute to family violence. Societal factors are also analyzed, including race, ethnic group, class, and patriarchy. The final two sections cover the aftermath of family violence and the prevention of family violence. 2 appendixes

## **Additional Domestic Violence Victim-Offender Relationships Data: Child Abuse**

The Domestic Violence Statistics Information Package presents data on incidents of abuse between spouses, former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. However, domestic violence can occur in a number of relationships. Data resources on child abuse are provided in this section. Citations from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) Abstracts Database, data sets from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, select studies from Justice Research and Statistics Association's Database of State Activities and Research (DSAR), and a list of organizations that collect and disseminate child abuse information are included. For State-level data, contact the State Statistical Analysis Centers (SAC's). To receive further information on these topics, contact the BJS Clearinghouse/NCJRS, Reference Department, P.O. Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849-6000, 800-732-3277

### **Child Abuse**

#### **Data From the NCJRS Abstracts Database**

*America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being.* Washington, DC: Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, 1997. (Accn: 165472)

*Child Abuse and Neglect Case-Level Data 1993: Working Paper 1.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, 1996. (Accn: 165894)

*Child Abuse and Neglect in West Virginia: Annual Report, October 1, 1993 to September 30, 1994.* Alexandria, VA: State Justice Institute, 1996. (Accn: 164331)

*Child Abuse Prevention, Information Kit.* McLean, VA: National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, 1995. (Accn: 152971)

*Child Maltreatment 1994: Reports From the States to the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, 1996. (Accn: 162117)

*Current or Recently Completed Research in Domestic Violence and Child Abuse.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, 1994. (Accn: 159565)

Curtis, P.A., J.D. Boyd, M. Liepold, and M. Petit. *Child Abuse and Neglect: A Look at the States—The CWLA Statistics Book.* Washington, DC: Child Welfare League of America, 1995. (Accn: 165963)

"Cycle of Violence and the Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect." *Texas Youth Commission Journal* (June 1995): 8-12. (Accn: 155916)

Daro, D. *Public Opinion and Behaviors Regarding Child Abuse Prevention: The Results of NCPA's 1995 Public Opinion Poll.* Chicago, IL: National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse, 1995. (Accn: 162567)

Gil, E. *Adolescence and Abuse: An Overview* (In *Treating Abused Adolescents*, pp. 1-22, 1996, Eliana Gil. See NCJ-166278). New York, NY: Guilford Press, 1996. (Accn: 166279)

Greenfeld, L.A. *Sex Offenses and Offenders: Analysis of Data on Rape and Sexual Assault.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1997. (Accn: 163392)



## Data Sets From the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data

Dembo, Richard

**Drug Testing of Juvenile Detainees to Identify High-Risk Youth in Florida, 1986–1987** (ICPSR 9686)

Finkelhor, David, Gerald Hotaling, and Andrea Sedlak

**National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMA), 1988** (ICPSR 9682)

Martin, Susan E., and Douglas J. Besharov

**Police and Child Abuse: Policies and Practices in the United States, 1987–1988** (ICPSR 6338)

Runyan, Desmond K., Mark D. Everson, Wanda M. Hunger, and Nancy M.P. King

**Impact of the Court Process on Sexually Abused Children in North Carolina, 1983–1986** (ICPSR 9985)

Widom, Cathy Spatz

**Child Abuse, Neglect, and Violent Criminal Behavior in a Midwest Metropolitan Area of the United States, 1967–1988** (ICPSR 9480)

## Studies From the Justice Research and Statistics Association's DSAR Database

**Title** Violence Among Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults in Maine  
**Agency** Maine SAC  
**Publication Date** 12/01/94  
**Abstract** Following a study that looked at youth violence in Maine, the Prevention and Youth Violence Work Group developed recommendations to reduce the incidence of violence in the State. The recommendations are detailed in full in this report. Four subcommittees were established in an effort to achieve goals: Prevention, Data, Regulations, and Public Education. The recommendations of each subcommittee are discussed.

**Title** Child Fatality–1994  
**Agency** New Hampshire SAC  
**End Date** 10/31/97  
**Abstract** The activity is designed to examine circumstances surrounding the death of every child under 18 years of age.

**Title** The Abuse of Minors  
**Agency** Puerto Rico SAC  
**Publication Date** 01/31/96  
**Abstract** This report, written in Spanish, presents crime statistics on the abuse of children.

## **Sources for Further Information**

### **American Association for Protecting Children**

63 Inverness Drive East  
Englewood, CO 80112  
(800) 227-5242

The American Association for Protecting Children conducts ongoing research into the nature and course of child maltreatment and compiles statistics on child abuse.

### **Child Abuse Institute of Research**

P.O. Box 1217  
Cincinnati, OH 45201  
(606) 441-7409

The Child Abuse Institute of Research promotes education and research into the cause and prevention of child abuse and compiles statistics.

### **Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information**

P.O. Box 1182  
Washington, DC 20013  
(800) 394-3366  
(703) 385-7565

The Clearinghouse provides information and referrals; publications targeting professionals as well as the general public working in the field of child abuse and neglect; research in the area of child abuse and neglect; free database searches and bibliographies; and a reading room open to the public.

### **International Association of Chiefs of Police**

515 North Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(800) 843-4227  
(703) 836-6767

Publishes and distributes *Family Violence in America: Breaking the Cycle for Children Who Witness*.

### **National Child Welfare Resource Center for Management and Administration**

University of Southern Maine  
96 Falmouth Street  
Portland, ME 04103  
(800) 435-7543  
(207) 780-4430

The Clearinghouse provides research and practical information on children's issues; research and evaluation on child abuse and neglect, foster care, and risk assessment.

### **National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse**

107 Lincoln Street  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
(800) 543-7006  
(205) 534-6868

Publishes annual 50 State Survey on trends in child abuse and fatalities.

## Additional Domestic Violence Victim-Offender Relationships Data: Elder Abuse

The Domestic Violence Statistics Information Package presents data on incidents of abuse between spouses, former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. However, domestic violence can occur in a number of relationships. Data resources on elder abuse are provided in this section. Citations from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) Abstracts Database, data sets from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, select studies from Justice Research and Statistics Association's Database of State Activities and Research (DSAR), and a list of organizations that collect and disseminate elder abuse information are included. For State-level data, contact the State Statistical Analysis Centers (SAC's). To receive further information on these topics, contact the BJS Clearinghouse/NCJRS, Reference Department, P.O. Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849-6000, 800-732-3277

### Elder Abuse

#### Data From the NCJRS Abstracts Database

Anetzberger, G.J. *Etiology of Elder Abuse by Adult Offspring*. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas, 1987. (Accn: 105013)

Anetzberger, G.J., J.E. Korbin, and C. Austin. "Alcoholism and Elder Abuse." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 9,2 (June 1994): 184-193. (Accn: 149328)

Bachman, R. "Double Edged Sword of Violent Victimization Against the Elderly Patterns of Family and Stranger Perpetration." *Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect*, 5,4 (1993): 59-76. (Accn: 147572)

Boudreau, F.A. *Elder Abuse* (From *Family Violence: Prevention and Treatment*, pp. 142-158, 1993, Robert L. Hampton, Thomas P. Gullotta, et al., eds. See NCJ-149818). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc., 1993. (Accn: 149824)

*Dependent Adult/Elder Abuse Characteristics Survey: Study Period of February 15, 1987 Through March 16, 1987*. Sacramento, CA: California Health and Welfare Agency Department of Social Services, 1988. (Accn: 112998)

*Elder Abuse: Curbing a National Epidemic: Hearing Before the House Select Committee on Aging, 101st Congress, 2nd Session, Cleveland, Ohio, December 10, 1990*. Washington, DC: U.S. Congress House Select Committee on Aging, 1990. (Accn: 150574)

*Elder Abuse: Effectiveness of Reporting Laws and Other Factors*. Washington, DC: U.S. General Accounting Office Human Resources Division, 1991. (Accn: 150682)

*Elderly Crime Victims*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1994. (Accn: 147186)

Gebotys, R.J., D. O'Connor, and K.J. Mair. "Public Perceptions of Elder Physical Mistreatment." *Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect*, 4,1-2 (1992): 151-171. (Accn: 145888)

Greenberg, J.R., M. McKibben, and J.A. Raymond. "Dependent Adult Children and Elder Abuse." *Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect*, 2,1-2 (1990): 73-86. (Accn: 145871)



**Clearinghouse on the Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly**

College of Human Resources

University of Delaware

Newark, DE 19716

(302) 831-3525

The Clearinghouse conducts research on elder abuse and neglect and provides computerized database searches of more than 3,000 publications on issues relevant to elderly victims.

**National Aging Resource Center on Elder Abuse (NARCEA)**

810 First Street NE.

Washington, DC 20002

In addition to conducting research on elder abuse and neglect, NARCEA provides information, referrals, and news on legislation at the Federal and State levels on elder abuse and neglect.

**National Center on Elder Abuse**

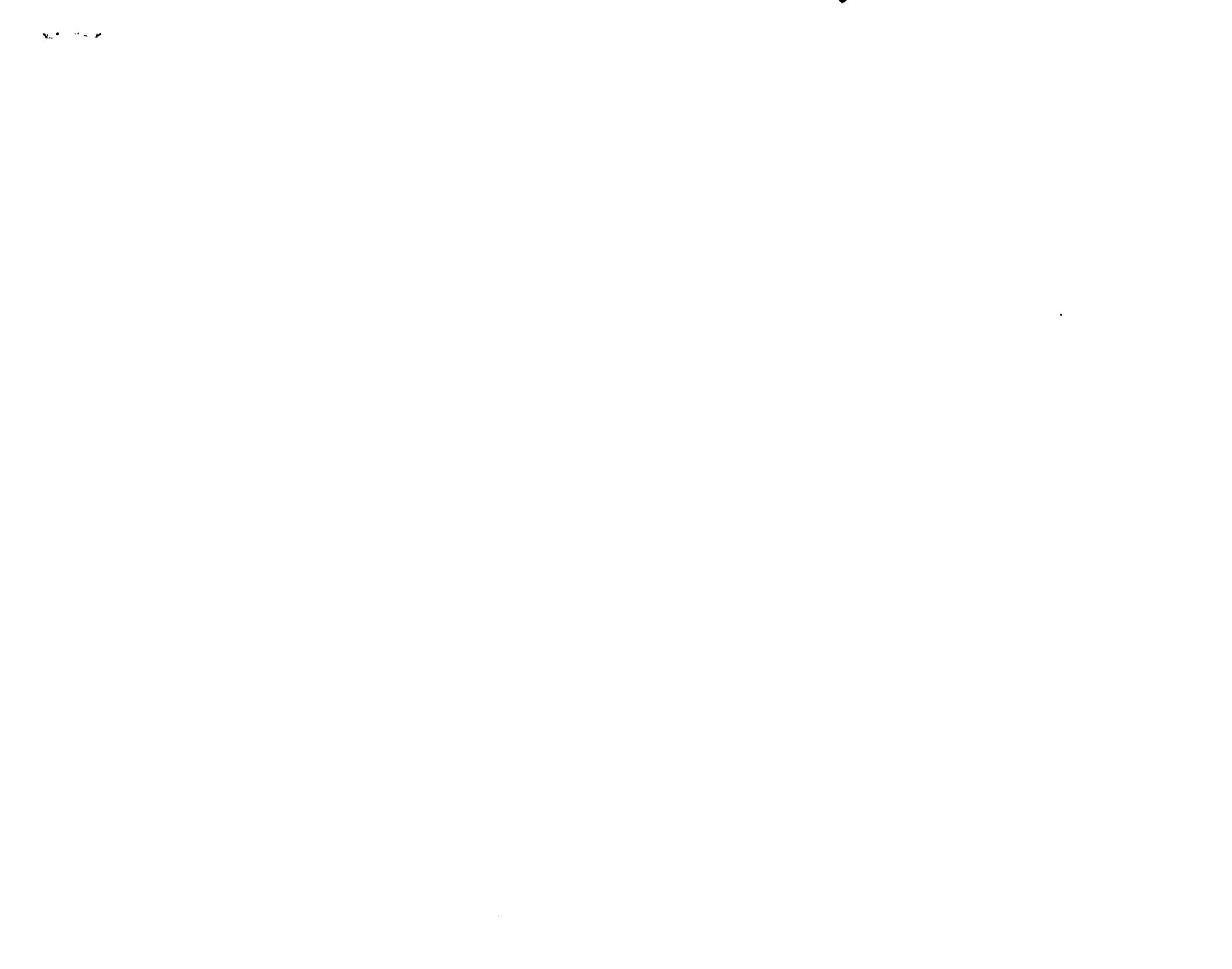
810 First Street NE.

Suite 500

Washington, DC 20002

(202) 682-2470

The National Center on Elder Abuse tracks legislation related to elder abuse and neglect; conducts research; provides legislative advocacy, testimony, and assistance in preparing legislation; and offers training programs and technical assistance to law enforcement, attorneys, judges, prosecutors, victim service providers, health and medical personnel, and adult protective service workers.



## **Search of the Justice Research and Statistics Association Clearinghouse's Database of State Activities and Research**

The Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) was formed by the Directors of each State's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) to function as a clearinghouse. JRSA's Clearinghouse for criminal justice information is a comprehensive collection of information at the State level, including criminal justice programs, research, publications, and policy analysis. The Clearinghouse identifies sources of State criminal justice information and serves as a key to major criminal justice issues under debate and analysis in the States. The following is a list of projects completed and currently in progress from 1994 to the present. The list was obtained from JRSA's Database of State Activities and Research (DSAR) and JRSA's Firearms Research Information Services (FARIS). Both databases can be accessed on line at <http://www.jrsainfo.org>.

### **JRSA Database Search Results**

- |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Title</b>            | <b>1995 Domestic Violence in Alabama</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Agency</b>           | Alabama SAC                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Publication Date</b> | 01/01/95                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Abstract</b>         | This report presents data provided by the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Division of ACJIC. The statistics include adult and juvenile victims. Domestic violence involving robbery, rape, homicide, and aggravated assault are covered.   |
| <b>Title</b>            | <b>Domestic Violence</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Agency</b>           | Alabama SAC                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Abstract</b>         | This annual report shows the incidence of reported domestic violence in Alabama. It contains information on the victim (age, sex, and race) and offender (age, sex, and race), relationship of victim to offender, weapon, and injuries. |
| <b>Title</b>            | <b>Family Violence Arrest Data 1987-1994</b>                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Agency</b>           | Connecticut SAC                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Publication Date</b> | 12/01/95                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Abstract</b>         | This report details arrest data on family violence, assault, and kidnaping in Connecticut from 1987-1994.                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Title</b>            | <b>Analysis of Family Violence Incidents</b>                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Agency</b>           | Connecticut SAC                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Start Date</b>       | 08/01/96                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Abstract</b>         | The SAC has begun looking more closely at ten years of data collected by the Family Violence Reporting Program. A committee of research analysts from the criminal justice system and local universities will participate.               |

**Title** **Domestic Violence in Delaware with Special Focus on Stalking**  
**Agency** Delaware SAC  
**End Date** 11/30/96  
**Abstract** The Domestic Violence in Delaware project provides victim-offender relationship information for such crimes as homicide, forcible rape, other sexual assault, aggravated assault, and simple assault. In addition to victim-offender relationships, age and gender information of victim and offenders are provided. The 1996 report includes a special study about stalkers. Ethnic, gender, relationships, and age characteristics of stalkers are examined for victims and offenders. Analysis was conducted regarding who stalks whom, the dangerousness of stalkers, the recidivism of stalkers, as well as the legal processing and sentencing of stalkers.

**Title** **Domestic Violence in Delaware 1994—An Analysis of Victim to Offender Relationships**  
**Agency** Delaware SAC  
**Publication Date** 09/01/96  
**Abstract** This report offers general descriptive statistics as well as analyses of victim-offender relationships for five categories of domestic violence: (1) homicide, (2) forcible rape, (3) aggravated assault, (4) simple assault, and (5) other sexual assault. The report begins with an overview of domestic violence in Delaware. There is a special focus on stalking.

**Title** **Domestic Violence in Delaware 1990–1992 Victim to Offender Relationships**  
**Agency** Delaware SAC  
**Publication Date** 11/01/94  
**Abstract** This report is a followup to the 1991 Delaware SAC report. Because Delaware does not have specific criminal statutes relating to domestic violence, the focus on domestic violence is based on inferences drawn from information on violent crimes and victim-offender relationships.

**Title** **SAC Notes: An Overview of the Domestic Violence Problem in Florida**  
**Agency** Florida SAC  
**Publication Date** 06/01/95  
**Abstract** This issue of SAC Notes looks at the problem of domestic violence in Florida. It provides a brief history, the numbers of domestic violence-related crimes, the percent change in these numbers between 1992 and 1993, an examination of the victims, and various other facts.

**Title** **Domestic Violence in Florida 1994 and 1995**  
**Agency** Florida SAC  
**Publication Date** 08/31/96  
**Abstract** This SAC Notes provides statistics on domestic violence in Florida for the years 1994 and 1995.

**Title** **SAC Notes: Focusing on Murder in Florida**  
**Agency** Florida SAC  
**Publication Date** 06/01/96  
**Abstract** This issue of SAC Notes looks at various aspects of the murder problem in Florida. Among these are a comparison of the problem in Florida with that in other states, changes in the number of murders, victim profiles, juvenile murder victims, juvenile arrests for murders, domestic violence related murders, firearm use, and murder clearance rates.

**Title** **Domestic Violence Research**  
**Agency** Illinois SAC  
**End Date** 08/01/98  
**Abstract** Under a grant from the National Institute of Justice, the Illinois SAC has undertaken a two-year study of domestic violence in Chicago. The study seeks to identify factors associated with life-threatening injury or death by linking a sample of battered women to a sample of women and men killed in intimate violence. The project will develop high-risk intimate violence profiles for each group with statistically established relative risk factors for a lethal outcome. Abused women will be sampled from populations of emergency room patients and health clinic patients and tracked by prospective interviews over one year. The lethal sample will be tracked retrospectively through proxy interviews. The design will permit analysis of the interactive effects of events, changing circumstances and interventions on a lethal or life-threatening outcome, including stalking, harassment, and controlling behavior; attempts to leave the relationship; arrest and other interventions; and other circumstances such as pregnancy and gun availability.

**Title** **Clemency for Battered Women Convicted of Killing Their Partners**  
**Agency** Illinois SAC  
**Publication Date** 05/01/94  
**Abstract** In light of the clemency question, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority was urged by the Senate of the Illinois General Assembly to review statistical data about battered women convicted of killing their partners. The research and statistical information is contained in this brief.

**Title** **Violence Against Women**  
**Agency** Kansas SAC  
**Start Date** 01/01/96  
**Abstract** This research will show the trend in violence against women in Kansas and will document race and other demographic characteristics of the victims. Data by county, circumstances of the offense, and type of weapon used.

**Title** **Uniform Crime Reporting—Annual Report**  
**Agency** Maine SAC  
**Start Date** 01/01/95  
**Abstract** The Maine Department of Public Safety compiles and publishes an annual crime report based on summary-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) standards. The report lists Part I and Part II crime statistics for over 140 municipalities, including state and county law enforcement agencies. Also included in the report are sections on domestic violence and hate crimes.

**Title** **Domestic Homicide in America: Trends and Patterns for 1976-1992**  
**Agency** Northeastern University College of Criminal Justice  
Boston, MA 02115  
**End Date** 01/01/94  
**Abstract** Homicide reports submitted by local police agencies across the country for the years 1976-92 involving 36,000 female victims ages 18 to 34 were analyzed to determine patterns and trends in lethal domestic violence directed against women. This group was chosen for two reasons: (1) because the majority of domestic homicides cluster among young adults and (2) to control for demographic shifts in the population.  
The analysis revealed that among women in this age group, the victim was the murderer's wife or ex-wife, or was otherwise intimately involved, in 48 percent of those cases in which the victim-offender relationship could be determined, and in 34 percent of cases overall. The vast majority of these homicides were committed with firearms. The rate of domestic homicide among whites has remained fairly stable since 1976, but domestic homicide among blacks has dropped sharply. Results indicate the need for continuing diligence in efforts against domestic violence rather than an attitude that the problem has been solved.

**Title** **Police Arrests for Domestic Violence**  
**Agency** Massachusetts SAC  
**Publication Date** 01/01/93  
**Abstract** This study was conducted by the author and Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) Director, Dr. William Holmes, and published in the *American Journal of Police*, 12,4 (1993): 101. The study examines arrest data collected from eight Massachusetts police agencies stratified by size of community served over a three-month period between October and December 1986, and examines the data in light of contemporary issues such as mandatory arrest policies and the effects of domestic violence cases on organizational resources.

**Title** **Domestic Violence "Polaroid" Survey**  
**Agency** North Carolina SAC  
**Start Date** 10/01/96  
**Abstract** Polaroid cameras were provided to city and county law enforcement agencies and domestic violence service providers to generate photographic evidence for domestic violence cases. Survey incident reports will be collected for each case in which photographs are taken. These reports will be analyzed in an effort to gather basic demographic and statistical data on domestic violence in North Carolina. Secondary analyses will be conducted to determine the extent to which this evidence affected the probability of sustaining offender convictions.

**Title** **Criminal Justice Statistics Special Report: Homicide in North Dakota, 1994**  
**Agency** North Dakota SAC  
**Publication Date** 03/01/95  
**Abstract** This document is a statistical report on homicide in North Dakota from 1978 to 1994. Included are homicide statistics by age, gender, weapon, and domestic versus nondomestic incidents.



- Title** **Domestic Violence: Rhode Island's Comprehensive Status Report**  
**Agency** Rhode Island SAC  
**Publication Date** 06/01/93  
**Abstract** The report takes an in-depth look at domestic abuse in Rhode Island and includes more condensed information about Connecticut and Massachusetts. Among the topics covered are the impact of domestic abuse, stalking, and elder abuse. Various graphics and exhibits (news items and fact sheets) are included.
- Title** **Domestic Violence Monitoring System**  
**Agency** Vermont SAC  
**End Date** 10/31/98  
**Abstract** This project will result in a database of statewide domestic violence projections and an ongoing analysis of domestic violence case dispositions and sentencing. Results will be used to evaluate the effect of domestic violence prosecution efforts.
- Title** **The Dateline Justice Research Bulletin: Domestic Violence in VT: The Court Response**  
**Agency** Vermont SAC  
**Publication Date** 07/31/95  
**Abstract** In this report, simple and aggravated assaults prior to July 1, 1993 (the effective date of the legislation—domestic assault and stalking laws) are examined and compared to the charges and convictions for simple and aggravated domestic assaults subsequent to the legislation.
- Title** **An Exploratory Study to Measure the Availability and Use of Firearms in West Virginia Domestic Violence Incidents: A Rural Perspective**  
**Agency** West Virginia SAC  
**End Date** 12/31/97  
**Abstract** The project is a study of gun use in domestic violence incidents and how the weapons were acquired. Domestic violence shelters and their residents will be surveyed and the information will be linked with law enforcement data. Recommendations for training to reduce gun acquisition by domestic violence perpetrators will be offered. The project will also create a database to be used by policymakers in developing new ways to reduce gun involvement in domestic violence. Areas in which information is needed to prevent illegal acquisition of guns will be identified.
- Title** **Domestic Violence**  
**Agency** West Virginia SAC  
**Start Date** 01/01/95  
**Abstract** The West Virginia SAC is providing technical assistance on questionnaire development, data entry, and training to the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence. SAC and the Coalition are working to establish a better system for reporting domestic violence statistics, including exploring the possibility of a pilot test. The SAC is conducting a pilot study with Branches, the Huntington area domestic violence shelter.
- Title** **Domestic Violence Reporting Program**  
**Agency** Wyoming SAC  
**Start Date** 01/01/88  
**Abstract** The Division of Criminal Investigation publishes quarterly and annual reports on the number of domestic violence incidents, the types of violence involved, the times of occurrence, and the disposition of all domestic violence incidents reported.

## Selected Domestic Violence Data Sets From the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data

The National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) was established in 1978 under the auspices of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). ICPSR is a membership-based organization that acquires, processes, and distributes social science data for research and instructional use. NACJD is headquartered, along with ICPSR, in the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

The central mission of NACJD, which is sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), is to facilitate and to encourage research in the field of criminal justice through sharing of data resources. NACJD provides access to computer readable criminal justice data collections and supplies technical assistance in the selection of data collections and the necessary hardware and software for data analysis. NACJD also offers training in quantitative methods of social science research, maintains a mailing list, and publishes several guides and bulletins available at no charge.

NACJD routinely receives data from our agencies within the U.S. Department of Justice: BJS, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Individual scholars and researchers in the criminal justice field may also deposit data with NACJD and interested individuals should contact staff for more information on this process.

The following data sets are available from NACJD and are searchable online at: <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/home.html>. Individuals at member institutions can order data and inquire about services through their official representatives. Individuals at nonmember institutions may obtain data by paying an access fee and should contact staff directly for more information. For more information about NACJD or ICPSR, contact:

National Archive of Criminal Justice Data  
ICPSR  
P.O. Box 1248  
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248  
(800) 999-0960  
(313) 763-5011  
Internet: <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/home.html>  
E-mail: [nacjd@icpsr.umich.edu](mailto:nacjd@icpsr.umich.edu)

### Domestic Violence Data Sets

Berk, Richard A., Lawrence W. Sherman, and the Police Foundation, Minneapolis  
**Specific Deterrent Effects of Arrest for Domestic Assault: Minneapolis, 1982-1992**  
(ICPSR 8250)

Black, Howard, Richard Berk, James Lily, Robert Owenbey, and Giannina Rikoski  
**Evaluating Alternative Police Responses to Spouse Assault in Colorado Springs: An Enhanced Replication of the Minneapolis Experiment** (ICPSR 9982)

Blane, Howard T., Brenda A. Miller, and Kenneth E. Leonard  
**Intra- and Intergenerational Aspects of Serious Domestic Violence and Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Buffalo, 1987** (ICPSR 9984)

Block, Carolyn Rebecca, Richard L. Block, and Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority  
**Homicides in Chicago, 1965-1994** (ICPSR 6399)

Boston Police Department  
**Boston Police Department Domestic Violence Research Project, 1993-1994** (ICPSR 6483)

CBS News. The New York Times  
**CBS News/New York Times Monthly Poll, June 1994** (ICPSR 6599)



## Important Facts About Domestic Violence

- Each year, approximately one million women are victims of violence at the hands of an intimate compared to approximately 143,000 men. BJS Selected Findings, *Female Victims of Violent Crime*, December 1996.
- In 1996, 30 percent of all female murder victims in the United States were slain by their husbands or boyfriends. FBI, *Crime in the United States 1996: Uniform Crime Reports*, October 1997.
- In 1994, intimates injured approximately 17 percent of the 1.4 million people treated in hospital emergency rooms for violence-related injuries. BJS Special Report, *Violence-Related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments*, August 1997.
- Between 1995 and 1996, 80 percent of women who were stalked by former husbands were physically assaulted by that partner and 30 percent were sexually assaulted. *Stalking in America: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey*, Center for Policy Research, July 1997.
- Ninety-four percent of the men convicted of killing their wives were sentenced to prison, including 15 percent who were sentenced to life terms. Women who killed their husbands were less likely to receive a prison sentence: 81 percent were sentenced to prison, including 8 percent who received life terms. BJS Selected Findings, *Violence Between Intimates*, November 1994.
- In 1994, 3 percent (328,820 incidents) of all crimes of violence were committed by one's spouse. BJS Report, *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1994*, May 1997.
- During 1992, about one in five females victimized by their spouse or ex-spouse reported that they had been a victim of a series of three or more assaults in the last 6 months that were so similar that they could not distinguish one from another. BJS Selected Findings, *Violence Between Intimates*, November 1994.
- In 1992, divorced or separated (legally or due to marital discord) women had higher victimization rates of violence by intimates (16 per 1,000 persons) than women who never married (7 per 1,000) or married women (1.5 per 1,000). BJS Special Report, *Violence Between Intimates*, November 1994.
- In 1993 dollars, domestic violence accounts for almost \$67 billion per year or 15 percent of total crime costs. NIJ Research Report, *Victim Costs and Consequences: A New Look*, February 1996.
- Of the 32 States that report domestic violence caseloads, 18 experienced an increase in cases of 20 percent or more between 1993 and 1995. National Center for State Courts, *Examining the Work of State Courts*, 1995.





## Organizations and Associations

### **American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence**

**<http://www.abanet.org/domviol/home.html>**

Provides facts about domestic violence, national resources, hotline numbers, and related sites of interest.

### **American Medical Association (AMA)**

**<http://www.ama-assn.org/>**

Report card on family violence, public opinion polls, violence in families and between intimates, in addition to facts on elder abuse, child physical and sexual abuse, and suicide.

### **Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVND)**

**<http://www.igc.apc.org/fund>**

Statistical facts on domestic violence and news releases and stories from across the country.

### **Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA)**

**<http://www.jrsainfo.org>**

Two searchable databases are provided: the Database of State Activities and Research (DSAR) and the Firearms Research Information System (FARIS). DSAR contains information on State Statistical Analysis Centers' (SACs') research, analyses, clearinghouse activities, and other projects, as well as SAC reports and publications from 51 States and 2 territories. SAC activities and publications cover a broad range of State and Federal criminal justice issues. FARIS contains firearms-related information from surveys, research, evaluations, and statistical reports.

### **National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD)**

**<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/home.html>**

Data sets available from archived crime and justice data collection series and research studies on intimate violence from DOJ, BJS, NIJ, the FBI, and researchers.

### **National Domestic Violence Hotline**

**<http://www.inetport.com/~ndvh>**

Provides data on the number of calls from victims of domestic violence, their families and friends, the number of crisis interventions and referrals made, and domestic violence statistics for the United States.

### **National Organization for Women (NOW)**

**<http://now.org/issues/violence/index.html>**

Data on violence against women in the United States and legislative updates on the issue.

### **National Victim Center (NVC)**

**<http://www.nvc.org>**

Statistical summaries on domestic violence, spousal abuse, intimate homicide, costs, the criminal justice system response, as well as resources for victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

## Domestic Violence Discussion Lists

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (MMWR-toc)**

This list makes available CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Statistical Bulletin. To subscribe to MMWR-toc, send an e-mail to **[lists@list.cdc.gov](mailto:lists@list.cdc.gov)**. Leave the subject line blank and type **subscribe mmwr-toc your name** in the body of the message.

### **Homicide Research Working Group List (HRWG)**

This list facilitates discussions by researchers on homicide data. To subscribe to HRWG, send an e-mail to **[listproc@apollo.it.luc.edu](mailto:listproc@apollo.it.luc.edu)**. Leave the subject line blank and type **subscribe hmcide-l your name your affiliation** in the body of the message.

### **National Crime Survey List (NCS-L)**

This list deals with methodological issues relative to the BJS National Crime Victimization Survey. To subscribe to NCS-L, send an e-mail to **[listserv@umdd.umd.edu](mailto:listserv@umdd.umd.edu)**. Leave the subject line blank and type **subscribe ncs-l your name your affiliation** in the body of the message.

## ACCESS TO BJS DATA

# BJS

### **Bureau of Justice Statistics Clearinghouse**

P.O. Box 179

Annapolis Junction MD 20701-0179

(800) 732-3277

(301) 519-5500

(410) 792-4358 (FAX)

<http://www.ncjrs.org>

To order copies of BJS publications and information packages, to be placed on the BJS mailing list, or to request information on criminal justice statistics, call or write the BJS Clearinghouse. All telephone lines are staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., eastern time, Monday-Friday.

### **Ask BJS:**

*[Askbjs@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:Askbjs@ojp.usdoj.gov)*

Please send an email to the above address if you have specific questions on criminal justice statistics.

### **BJS World Wide Web:**

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>

This site maintains all BJS data collection programs and provides access to data sets and documents published since the mid-1970's. Data and publications cover the stages of data collection in the criminal justice system, including crimes reported to the police, courts and sentencing, characteristics of criminal victimization and the correctional population, and the operation of the criminal justice system. Publications are available in ASCII text, which can be viewed online and downloaded to any personal computer, and Acrobat format that allows full text and graphics to be downloaded. Acrobat Reader software, which allows users to view and print these publications, is available on the BJS homepage by selecting **Search this site** and clicking on **free viewer**.



### **BJS Fax-on-Demand:**

(301) 519-5550

To receive faxed copies of BJS' latest releases, in addition to the most frequently requested reports, call BJS' fax-on-demand service (24 hours a day).

### **BJS Publication Online Order Form:**

<http://www.ncjrs.org/statordr.htm>

The online order form allows you to order up to 5 free BJS publications electronically.

### **NCJRS World Wide Web:**

<http://www.ncjrs.org>

NCJRS' Justice Information Center (JIC) provides publications and products from each of the Office of Justice Program agencies and the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as well as information from other criminal justice resources around the world. Click on the **Criminal Justice Statistics** section to link to BJS data and statistical resources.

### **Ask NCJRS:**

[askncjrs@ncjrs.org](mailto:askncjrs@ncjrs.org)

Please send an email to the above address if you have specific questions on crime and justice data, criminal or juvenile justice topics

### **Justice Information (JUSTINFO) Electronic Newsletter:**

JUSTINFO is a free electronic newsletter that is distributed on the 1st and 15th of every month. It contains Office of Justice Program and ONDCP Agency news, new releases, data bits and more. To subscribe:

1. Type an email to this address:  
[listproc@aspensys.com](mailto:listproc@aspensys.com)
2. Leave the subject line blank.
3. In the body of the message type "subscribe justinfo" and your name, (i.e., subscribe justinfo john doe).

# **Selected Data on Domestic Violence**



***Examining the Work of State Courts, 1995***  
***A National Perspective from the Court Statistics Project***

***By Brian J. Ostrom and Neal B. Kauder***

**Court Statistics Project Staff**

**Brian J. Ostrom, Director**  
**Carol R. Flango, Senior Research Analyst**  
**Karen Gillions Way, Research Analyst**

**Neal B. Kauder, Consultant, Visual Research**  
**Robert C. LaFountzain, Research Analyst**  
**Margaret J. Fonnez, Administrative Secretary**

A joint project of the Conference of State Court Administrators, the State Justice Institute, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the National Center for State Courts' Court Statistics Project.



### Characteristics of crimes against the elderly

The NCVS data have consistently demonstrated that the elderly have a lower probability of becoming victims of crime than do younger people. However, of the crimes they do experience, the elderly appear to be particularly susceptible to crimes motivated by economic gain such as robbery, personal and household larceny, and burglary. For example, those under age 65 were almost four times more likely to be victimized by an assault than by robbery, whereas for those 65 or older, the likelihood of assault was 1½ times that of robbery. Like the general population, the elderly are most susceptible to household crimes and least susceptible to crimes of violence. For specific crimes of violence, however, differences by age can be found.

Among the elderly, the victimization rates for assault and robbery are not significantly different. For the younger age groups, however, assault rates are much higher than robbery rates. Almost 38% of violent crime victimizations against the elderly were robberies, while robberies accounted for only 15% of violent victimizations against those under age 25 and for 20% against all persons under age 65.

A pattern of age-related differences also exists for homicides. Most homicide victims age 65 or older were killed during the commission of another felony, like a robbery, and victimization rates for the elderly were equivalent for homicides committed by relatives, acquaintances, and strangers (tables 16 and 17). By contrast, younger homicide victims were more likely to be killed by an acquaintance and to die during events such as a fight rather than to fall victim to a stranger during the commission of another crime.

**Table 2. Perceived presence of weapons in violent crimes, by age of victim, 1987-90**

	Percent of violent crime victims	
	Under 65	65 or older
Unarmed offenders	65%	62%
Armed offenders	35	38
<b>Type of weapon used</b>		
Guns	36%	41%
Knives or sharp instruments	30	29
Blunt objects	19	18
Other weapons	15	12

### Weapons

About the same percentage of elderly victims of violent crimes (38%) as younger victims (35%) perceived their assailants using weapons (table 2). For those victims who believed their assailants were armed, however, elderly victims were somewhat more likely than younger victims to face offenders armed with guns (41% versus 36%). Offenders wielding weapons like knives or blunt objects victimized about the same percentage of violent crime victims age 65 or older as those who were younger.

### Crimes by strangers

While victims of violent crime, regardless of age, were more likely to be victimized by strangers than by acquaintances or

relatives, robbery victims age 65 or older were more likely than other victims to have been robbed by a stranger (83% versus 74%) (table 3). This was not true of assault victims. The percentage of assaults committed by strangers was not significantly different between elderly victims and their younger counterparts.

### Crimes occurring at home

Elderly violent crime victims were almost twice as likely as younger victims to be victimized at or near their home (table 4). For example, elderly robbery victims were 53% more likely to be victimized in their own home and more than twice as likely to be victimized near their home than were younger victims of robbery. This was true for assault as well. This finding may reflect the lifestyle differences discussed earlier.

**Table 3. Relationship of offenders to victims of violent crime by age of victim and type of crime, 1987-90**

	Percent of violent crime victims whose offenders were:			
	Relatives	Acquaintances	Strangers	Relationship not ascertained
<b>Crimes of violence</b>				
Under 65	8%	33%	56%	3%
65 or older	8	20	64	8
<b>Robbery</b>				
Under 65	5	17	74	4
65 or older	3	5	83	9
<b>Assault</b>				
Under 65	9	36	52	3
65 or older	13	32	47	8

**Table 4. Place of occurrence of crimes of violence, by age of victim and type of crime, 1987-90**

	Place of occurrence					
	Total	At home	Near home	On the street	In commercial or public establishment	Elsewhere
<b>Crimes of violence</b>						
Under 65	100%	14%	11%	39%	21%	15%
65 or older	100	25	25	31	9	10
<b>Robbery</b>						
Under 65	100	13	9	52	16	10
65 or older	100	20	21	37	13	10
<b>Assault</b>						
Under 65	100	14	12	36	21	15
65 or older	100	27	29	27	7	10



## Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report

# Elderly Victims

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Persons age 65 or older are the least likely of all age groups in the Nation to experience either lethal or non-lethal forms of criminal victimization. Data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and from the Comparative Homicide File (CHF) are used in this report to give a detailed accounting of criminal victimization of the elderly. Although older persons were found to be less likely to experience a criminal victimization than younger people, they were more likely to suffer the more harmful consequences of a victimization such as sustaining injury or requiring medical care.

Some of the major findings in this report include:

- The elderly were significantly less likely than younger age groups to become the victims of virtually all types of crime. For example, persons age 65 or older comprise about 14% of persons aged 12 or older in this sample but less than 2% of all victimizations.
- Elderly robbery victims were more likely than younger victims to face multiple offenders and also more likely to face offenders armed with guns.
- Elderly victims of violent crime were more likely than other victims to report that their assailants were strangers. Consistent with this, it was also found that among victims of homicide the elderly were more likely to be killed by a stranger during the commission of a felony; younger individuals were more likely to be killed by someone known to them in a conflict situation such as an argument or fight.

The elderly comprise the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population, and their protection and well being are a high priority in our society. Violent crime victimization, which challenges residents of all ages, may hold especially serious physical consequences for the elderly.

This report uses the most recent data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and the Comparative Homicide File to examine the characteristics of crime against the elderly. The central conclusion is that although the elderly are *less* likely than those who are younger to sustain a victimization by crime, they are *more* likely—

- Elderly victims of violent crime were significantly more likely to be victimized at or near their home than victims under the age of 65.
- Elderly victims of violent crime were less likely to use measures of self-protection compared to victims under the age of 65.
- Elderly victims of all forms of crime, including crimes of violence, crimes of theft, and household crime, were significantly more likely to report their victimizations to the police compared to victims under the age of 65.
- When the elderly were divided into two groups — age 65 to 74 and age 75 or older — the older group was generally found to have had lower rates of crime victimization.

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when victimized— to be harmed by strangers and to sustain grievous injuries. Estimated homicide rates bear out similar conclusions about the elderly and their vulnerability to crime.

The NCVS establishes in this report, as in many others, its central importance in identifying the facts about crime victimization. Based on interviews with almost 50,000 households every 6 months, the continuous survey provides valuable, up-to-date knowledge essential for sound policies.

Steven D. Dillingham, Ph.D., LL.M.  
Director

- Among the elderly, certain groups were generally more likely to experience a crime than others: males, blacks, divorced or separated persons, urban residents, and renters. Those elderly in the lowest income categories were more likely to experience a crime of violence but less likely to experience a crime of theft than those with higher household incomes.

### Lifestyle and vulnerability

The lifestyle of a group may affect its vulnerability to certain crimes. In general, compared to younger persons, the elderly are more likely to live alone and to stay at home because they are less likely to work full time or regularly participate in activities after dark. These characteristics or routines may contribute to the elderly having a lower likelihood of assault or robbery by a

Table 104. Personal crimes of violence, 1994:

**Percent of reasons for not reporting victimizations to the police,  
by victim-offender relationship and type of crime**

Relationship and type of crime	Number of reasons for not reporting	Percent of reasons for not reporting						
		Total	Reported to another official	Private or personal matter	Object recovered; offender unsuccessful	Not important enough	Insurance would not cover	Not aware crime occurred until later
<b>Involving strangers</b>								
Crimes of violence	2,948,680	100 %	10.3 %	16.5 %	22.0 %	6.2 %	0.0 %*	0.5 %*
Rape/Sexual assault:	148,200	100 %	5.1 *	16.3	8.7 *	8.8 *	0.0 *	1.4 *
Robbery	293,380	100 %	2.6 *	4.4 *	17.3	1.0 *	0.0 *	1.8 *
Assault	2,507,100	100 %	11.5	17.9	23.3	6.7	0.0 *	0.3 *
<b>Involving nonstrangers</b>								
Crimes of violence	4,335,540	100 %	12.2	23.1	17.2	4.5	0.0 *	0.4 *
Rape/Sexual assault:	256,600	100 %	1.9 *	18.8	3.0 *	3.4 *	0.0 *	0.9 *
Robbery	408,140	100 %	3.5 *	11.7	16.8	2.8 *	0.0 *	1.1 *
Assault	3,670,800	100 %	13.9	24.6	18.2	4.8	0.0 *	0.2 *

Relationship and type of crime	Percent of reasons for not reporting						
	Unable to recover property; no ID no.	Lack of proof	Police would not want to be bothered	Police inefficient, ineffective, or biased	Fear of reprisal	Too inconvenient or time consuming	Other reasons
<b>Involving strangers</b>							
Crimes of violence	0.5 %*	3.8 %	8.2 %	4.6 %	2.1 %	5.0 %	20.4 %
Rape/Sexual assault:	0.0 *	4.8 *	4.1 *	8.8 *	7.5 *	4.5 *	30.0
Robbery	5.1 *	5.6 *	15.0	12.3	4.0 *	7.6	23.5
Assault	0.0 *	3.5	7.7	3.4	1.5	4.7	19.5
<b>Involving nonstrangers</b>							
Crimes of violence	0.3 *	2.9	4.3	3.9	5.1	3.1	23.1
Rape/Sexual assault:	0.0 *	1.8 *	1.9 *	7.9 *	18.6	0.9 *	41.1
Robbery	2.7 *	8.6	7.6	6.3	8.4	3.6 *	26.8
Assault	0.0 *	2.3	4.1	3.4	3.8	3.2	21.5

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.  
Some respondents may have cited more than one reason for not reporting victimizations to the police.  
\* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.  
Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 94. Violent crimes, 1994:

**Percent of victimizations reported to the police, by type of crime, victim-offender relationship and race of victims**

Type of crime	Percent of all victimizations reported to the police					
	All victimizations		Involving strangers		Involving nonstrangers	
	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>40.5 %</b>	<b>48.0 %</b>	<b>43.8 %</b>	<b>51.0 %</b>	<b>36.4 %</b>	<b>44.7 %</b>
Completed violence	53.4	59.3	59.7	62.3	47.5	55.5
Attempted/threatened violence	35.5	40.4	38.7	42.5	31.2	38.5
Rape/Sexual assault <sup>†</sup>	29.5	40.8	30.9	37.7 *	28.7	42.3 *
Robbery	52.5	64.1	51.5	59.2	55.9	78.7
Completed/property taken	63.0	67.8	61.8	63.8	67.4	82.5
With injury	61.4	82.8	57.9	83.4	72.4	81.4 *
Without injury	64.0	60.9	64.3	55.8	63.1	83.2
Attempted to take property	39.9	51.0	39.0	37.8 *	43.0	71.4
With injury	54.7	45.9 *	57.5	27.9 *	48.8 *	67.6 *
Without injury	35.0	52.5	33.9	40.3 *	39.8	72.7 *
Assault	39.6	43.4	42.9	47.5	35.8	39.8
Aggravated	49.5	58.1	51.4	60.5	46.2	55.1
With injury	59.3	64.5	66.8	74.1	52.2	55.4
Threatened with weapon	46.1	54.8	47.6	54.7	42.8	55.0
Simple	36.2	34.8	39.2	37.1	33.2	33.2
With minor injury	50.7	42.5	56.7	46.6	46.6	40.4
Without injury	32.1	32.5	35.5	34.9	28.3	30.7

Note: Excludes data on persons of "Other" races.  
 \* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.  
 † Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 95. Violent crimes, 1994:

**Percent of victimizations reported to the police, by type of crime, victim-offender relationship and ethnicity of victims**

Type of crime	Percent of all victimizations reported to the police					
	All victimizations		Involving strangers		Involving nonstrangers	
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>39.0 %</b>	<b>41.8 %</b>	<b>37.6 %</b>	<b>45.6 %</b>	<b>41.3 %</b>	<b>37.3 %</b>
Completed violence	45.2	55.8	35.8	63.8	60.8	48.2
Attempted/threatened violence	36.0	36.0	38.4	39.1	31.9	32.1
Rape/Sexual assault <sup>†</sup>	21.7 *	32.5	27.3 *	33.7	17.7 *	31.8
Robbery	34.8	58.3	28.9	56.7	64.6 *	63.8
Completed/property taken	37.9	69.0	30.8	68.3	100.0 *	71.6
With injury	41.1 *	72.0	29.4 *	71.3	100.0 *	73.6
Without injury	35.9	67.4	31.6	66.7	100.0 *	70.0
Attempted to take property	28.1 *	42.4	23.6 *	39.4	38.6 *	52.4
With injury	66.3 *	52.8	67.7 *	54.0	64.7 *	50.2 *
Without injury	15.8 *	39.2	13.4 *	35.4	23.2 *	53.4
Assault	40.8	40.0	40.5	43.8	41.2	35.9
Aggravated	51.7	51.3	48.6	54.0	59.4	46.9
With injury	55.2	61.3	50.5	70.8	61.3	52.8
Threatened with weapon	50.3	47.5	48.0	49.6	58.0	43.5
Simple	35.1	36.0	35.0	39.1	35.3	32.9
With minor injury	44.5	50.5	29.8 *	58.3	55.2	45.3
Without injury	32.4	31.9	36.1	35.0	27.6	28.6

Note: Excludes data on persons whose ethnicity was not ascertained.  
 \* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.  
 † Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 92. Personal crimes, 1994:

**Percent of victimizations reported to the police,  
by selected characteristics of victims and type of crime**

Characteristic	Percent of all victimizations reported to the police		
	All personal crimes	Crimes of violence <sup>1</sup>	Purse snatching/ Pocket picking
<b>Sex</b>			
Both sexes	41.2 %	41.6 %	32.6 %
Male	39.3	39.7	28.7
Female	43.5	44.0	35.6
<b>Race</b>			
White	40.2	40.5	33.4
Black	47.1	48.0	31.3
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
Hispanic	37.7	39.0	15.0 *
Non-Hispanic	41.5	41.8	35.3

\* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>1</sup>Crimes of violence includes data on rape, sexual assault, robbery, and both aggravated and simple assault, not shown separately.

Table 93. Violent crimes, 1994:

**Percent of victimizations reported to the police, by type of crime,  
victim-offender relationship and sex of victims**

Type of crime	Percent of all victimizations reported to the police								
	All victimizations			Involving strangers			Involving nonstrangers		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>41.6 %</b>	<b>39.7 %</b>	<b>44.0 %</b>	<b>44.7 %</b>	<b>43.3 %</b>	<b>47.6 %</b>	<b>37.7 %</b>	<b>32.9 %</b>	<b>41.5 %</b>
Completed violence	54.7	53.8	55.6	60.0	58.4	63.0	49.2	45.3	51.5
Attempted/threatened violence	36.1	34.5	38.3	39.0	37.8	41.4	32.2	28.2	35.7
Rape/Sexual assault <sup>1</sup>	31.7	38.9 *	31.2	32.9	0.0 *	34.1	31.0	49.5 *	29.5
Robbery	55.4	51.0	63.5	53.0	49.2	62.2	63.9	61.4	65.7
Completed/property taken	64.4	60.4	70.8	61.9	58.4	68.5	73.8	70.9	76.3
With injury	66.7	62.8	72.9	63.4	59.7	71.0	76.4	76.9	76.1
Without injury	63.1	59.0	69.6	61.2	57.8	67.4	71.7	66.6	76.5
Attempted to take property	41.1	38.0	48.4	38.2	37.1	42.8	50.3	44.4 *	53.6
With injury	53.4	53.2	53.6	53.8	52.0	63.0 *	52.5 *	63.6 *	49.8 *
Without injury	37.2	33.8	46.2	34.0	33.0	38.2	49.2	39.9 *	56.3
Assault	40.1	37.9	43.1	43.3	42.0	46.1	36.4	31.0	41.1
Aggravated	51.6	49.0	56.1	53.5	51.5	58.4	48.3	43.5	53.7
With injury	60.6	59.7	61.9	68.2	67.6	69.6	53.4	48.4	58.0
Threatened with weapon	48.2	45.4	53.4	49.6	47.1	55.5	45.2	41.0	50.6
Simple	35.8	33.2	39.1	38.5	37.4	40.8	33.1	26.8	38.1
With minor injury	49.6	46.9	52.4	55.1	53.7	58.7	46.0	38.3	50.6
Without injury	31.9	29.7	34.7	34.9	33.7	37.5	28.5	23.5	32.8

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.

\* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>1</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 80. Personal crimes of violence, 1994:

**Percent distribution of victimizations in which injured victims received hospital care, by selected characteristics of victims, type of crime and type of hospital care**

Characteristic and type of crime	Number of victimizations	Percent of injured victims receiving care						
		Total	Emergency room care	Inpatient care				Not available
				Total	Less than 1 day	1-3 days	4 days or more	
<b>Sex</b>								
Both sexes								
Crimes of violence:	560,620	100 %	65.1 %	34.9 %	19.5 %	6.6 %	6.5 %	2.3 %
Robbery	114,280	100 %	60.9	39.1	18.6 *	11.0 *	4.0 *	5.6 *
Assault	416,280	100 %	67.3	32.7	19.5	5.8	6.3	1.1 *
Male								
Crimes of violence:	331,030	100 %	63.8	36.2	21.7	6.9	6.3 *	1.4 *
Robbery	85,280	100 %	62.6	37.4	17.7 *	12.2 *	2.3 *	5.3 *
Assault	245,750	100 %	64.3	35.7	23.0	5.0 *	7.7 *	0.0 *
Female								
Crimes of violence:	229,590	100 %	66.8	33.2	16.4	6.1 *	6.9 *	3.8 *
Robbery	29,000	100 %	55.8 *	44.2 *	21.2 *	7.3 *	9.0 *	6.7 *
Assault	170,530	100 %	71.6	28.4	14.4	7.0 *	4.4 *	2.7 *
<b>Race:</b>								
White								
Crimes of violence:	384,730	100 %	68.0	32.0	17.7	7.5	4.6 *	2.2 *
Robbery	65,270	100 %	68.7	31.3 *	14.9 *	10.5 *	3.0 *	3.0 *
Assault	300,900	100 %	68.8	31.2	18.1	7.3	4.3 *	1.5 *
Black								
Crimes of violence:	140,490	100 %	56.7	43.3	24.3	2.2 *	13.5 *	3.2 *
Robbery	41,700	100 %	47.9 *	52.1	27.6 *	7.5 *	6.2 *	10.7 *
Assault	89,560	100 %	63.0	37.0	22.1 *	0.0 *	14.9 *	0.0 *
<b>Victim-offender relationship</b>								
Involving strangers								
Crimes of violence:	337,360	100 %	61.3	38.7	21.5	8.2	6.4 *	2.6 *
Robbery	89,020	100 %	57.0	43.0	19.5 *	14.1 *	2.2 *	7.2 *
Assault	244,000	100 %	63.0	37.0	21.8	6.2 *	8.0 *	1.0 *
Involving nonstrangers								
Crimes of violence:	223,260	100 %	70.7	29.3	16.5	4.1 *	6.8 *	1.9 *
Robbery	25,260	100 %	74.3 *	25.7 *	15.4 *	0.0 *	10.3 *	0.0 *
Assault	172,270	100 %	73.3	26.7	16.3	5.3 *	3.9 *	1.3 *

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.

\* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

†Includes data on rape and sexual assault, not shown separately.

‡Excludes data on persons of "Other" races.

**Table 77. Personal crimes of violence, 1994:**

**Percent of victimizations in which victims incurred medical expenses, by selected characteristics of victims and type of crime**

Characteristic	Percent of victimizations		
	Crimes of violence <sup>1</sup>	Robbery	Assault
<b>Race</b>			
All races:	7.1 %	11.3 %	6.5 %
White	6.2	10.0	5.8
Black	11.6	14.3	10.6
<b>Victim-offender relationship</b>			
Strangers	7.0	11.1	6.3
Nonstrangers	7.2	11.7	6.7

Note: Data includes victimizations in which the amount of medical expenses incurred was not ascertained.

<sup>1</sup>Includes data on rape and sexual assault, not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup>Includes data on persons of "Other" races, not shown separately.

**Table 79. Personal crimes of violence, 1994:**

**Percent of victimizations in which victims received hospital care, by selected characteristics of victims and type of crime**

Characteristic	Percent of victimizations		
	Crimes of violence <sup>1</sup>	Robbery	Assault
<b>Sex</b>			
Both sexes	5.2 %	8.8 %	4.6 %
Male	5.4	10.1	4.6
Female	4.9	6.4	4.5
<b>Age</b>			
12-19	4.2	3.8 *	4.0
20-34	5.5	7.5	5.1
35-49	5.8	15.4	4.6
50-64	3.2 *	5.3 *	2.9 *
65 and over	12.3 *	23.9 *	7.9 *
<b>Race:</b>			
White	4.3	7.5	3.9
Black	8.9	11.6	7.8
<b>Victim-offender relationship</b>			
Strangers	5.6	8.8	5.0
Nonstrangers	4.6	8.9	4.0

\* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>1</sup>Includes data on rape and sexual assault, not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup>Excludes data on persons of "Other" races.

Table 68. Personal crimes of violence, 1994:

**Percent of victimizations in which victims took self-protective measures, by type of crime and victim-offender relationship**

Type of crime	Percent of all victimizations		
	All victimizations	Involving strangers	Involving nonstrangers
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>72.3 %</b>	<b>69.8 %</b>	<b>75.3 %</b>
Completed violence	72.4	63.2	81.8
Attempted/threatened violence	72.2	72.3	72.1
Rape/Sexual assault <sup>1</sup>	81.9	77.1	84.6
Robbery	63.1	58.8	78.1
Completed/property taken	50.5	43.2	78.0
With injury	59.8	50.7	86.6
Without injury	45.2	39.4	71.2
Attempted to take property	83.0	84.5	78.3
With injury	81.3	80.5	82.7
Without injury	83.6	85.6	76.1
Assault	73.1	71.9	74.5
Aggravated	74.0	70.8	79.2
With injury	74.6	65.4	83.3
Threatened with weapon	73.7	72.2	76.8
Simple	72.8	72.4	73.2
With minor injury	82.0	81.3	82.5
Without injury	70.2	70.5	69.9

<sup>1</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 75. Personal robbery and assault, 1994:

**Percent of victimizations in which victims sustained physical injury, by selected characteristics of victims and type of crime**

Characteristic	Percent of all victims who sustained physical injury		
	Robbery and assault	Robbery	Assault
<b>Sex</b>			
Both sexes	24.5 %	31.5 %	23.5 %
Male	22.8	30.0	21.7
Female	26.9	34.4	26.0
<b>Age</b>			
12-15	24.8	23.0	25.0
16-19	26.6	21.8	27.2
20-34	26.2	30.1	25.6
35-49	20.4	41.5	17.0
50-64	19.1	35.9	15.9
65 and over	30.0	43.6 *	24.6
<b>Race:</b>			
White	24.0	33.1	23.0
Black	27.4	29.6	26.8
<b>Victim-offender relationship</b>			
Strangers	20.7	29.2	18.9
Nonstrangers	29.4	39.8	28.7
<b>Income:</b>			
Less than \$7,500	29.0	41.2	27.0
\$7,500-\$14,999	27.0	31.1	26.4
\$15,000-\$24,999	26.1	22.1	26.6
\$25,000-\$34,999	21.1	33.0	19.9
\$35,000-\$49,999	23.8	33.8	22.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.1	23.0	19.9
\$75,000 or more	16.1	11.1 *	16.7

<sup>1</sup>Excludes data on persons of "Other" races.

<sup>2</sup>Excludes data on persons whose family income level was not ascertained.

\* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

Table 66. Personal crimes of violence, 1994

**Percent of incidents, by victim-offender relationship, type of crime and weapons use**

	Percent of incidents						
	Total incidents		No weapon used	Weapon used			
	Number	Percent		Total	Total firearm	Hand gun	Other gun
All incidents							
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>9,797,680</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>64.3 %</b>	<b>26.8 %</b>	<b>10.9 %</b>	<b>10.0 %</b>	<b>0.8 %</b>
Completed violence	2,923,010	100	61.7	30.5	11.9	11.3	0.4
Attempted/threatened violence	6,874,670	100	65.4	25.3	10.5	9.5	1.0
Rape/Sexual assault:	426,020	100	78.2	14.7	5.9	5.9	0.0 *
Robbery	1,210,200	100	37.6	46.8	26.1	25.5	0.7 *
Completed/property taken	735,160	100	32.3	51.0	32.3	31.2	1.0 *
With injury	267,440	100	36.9	42.6	11.5	10.6	0.8 *
Without injury	467,720	100	29.6	55.8	44.1	43.0	1.1 *
Attempted to take property	475,030	100	45.7	40.4	16.7	16.5	0.2 *
With injury	117,600	100	51.9	34.5	5.5 *	5.5 *	0.0 *
Without injury	357,430	100	43.7	42.3	20.4	20.1	0.2 *
Assault	8,161,470	100	67.5	24.5	8.9	8.0	0.9
Aggravated	2,120,370	100	4.9	94.2	34.3	30.6	3.3
With injury	592,690	100	17.6	79.4	15.8	14.0	1.0 *
Threatened with weapon	1,527,680	100	...	100.0	41.5	37.1	4.3
Simple:	6,041,100	100	89.5	...	...	...	...
With minor injury	1,333,110	100	93.8	...	...	...	...
Without injury	4,707,980	100	88.3	...	...	...	...
<b>Involving strangers</b>							
Crimes of violence	5,301,590	100	54.6	33.1	15.6	14.6	0.9
Rape/Sexual assault:	152,690	100	66.0	20.3	8.8 *	8.8 *	0.0 *
Robbery	944,630	100	29.8	51.0	30.5	29.6	0.9 *
Aggravated assault	1,288,150	100	3.0	96.2	40.7	37.2	3.1
Simple assault:	2,916,120	100	84.8	...	...	...	...
<b>Involving nonstrangers</b>							
Crimes of violence	4,496,090	100	75.7	19.5	5.4	4.7	0.7
Rape/Sexual assault:	273,330	100	85.0	11.5	4.2 *	4.2 *	0.0 *
Robbery	265,560	100	65.1	31.7	10.7	10.7	0.0 *
Aggravated assault	832,220	100	7.9	91.2	24.4	20.5	3.7
Simple assault:	3,124,970	100	93.9	...	...	...	...

	Percent of incidents						
	Weapon used						
	Gun type unknown	Knife	Sharp object	Blunt object	Other weapon	Weapon type unknown	Don't know if weapon present
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>0.1 %</b>	<b>5.5 %</b>	<b>0.8 %</b>	<b>3.8 %</b>	<b>4.5 %</b>	<b>1.2 %</b>	<b>8.9 %</b>
Completed violence	0.2 *	5.6	1.3	4.6	5.7	1.4	7.8
Attempted/threatened violence	0.0 *	5.5	0.6	3.5	4.0	1.1	9.3
Rape/Sexual assault:	0.0 *	7.1	0.5 *	0.0 *	1.3 *	0.0 *	7.1
Robbery	0.0 *	9.8	0.8 *	5.2	3.1	1.7 *	15.6
Completed/property taken	0.0 *	7.6	1.2 *	5.1	3.5	1.3 *	16.8
With injury	0.0 *	10.5	1.0 *	12.3	5.5 *	1.8 *	20.5
Without injury	0.0 *	5.9	1.4 *	0.9 *	2.4 *	1.0 *	14.6
Attempted to take property	0.0 *	13.3	0.0 *	5.5	2.5 *	2.5 *	13.9
With injury	0.0 *	11.4 *	0.0 *	9.3 *	4.0 *	4.3 *	13.6 *
Without injury	0.0 *	13.9	0.0 *	4.3 *	2.0 *	1.8 *	14.0
Assault	0.1 *	4.8	0.8	3.8	4.9	1.2	8.0
Aggravated	0.3 *	18.6	3.1	14.8	18.9	4.5	0.8 *
With injury	0.8 *	13.9	4.5	16.3	23.8	5.1	3.0 *
Threatened with weapon	0.1 *	20.4	2.6	14.2	17.1	4.3	0.0 *
Simple:	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.5
With minor injury	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.2
Without injury	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.7
<b>Involving strangers</b>							
Crimes of violence	0.1 *	6.3	1.1	4.6	4.4	1.2	12.4
Rape/Sexual assault:	0.0 *	11.5 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	13.7 *
Robbery	0.0 *	10.6	0.6 *	5.6 *	2.2	1.5 *	19.1
Aggravated assault	0.4 *	16.7	3.9	15.0	16.3	3.6	0.8 *
Simple assault:	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.2
<b>Involving nonstrangers</b>							
Crimes of violence	0.0 *	4.7	0.5	2.9	4.7	1.2	12.4
Rape/Sexual assault:	0.0 *	4.6 *	0.8 *	0.0 *	2.0 *	0.0 *	3.5 *
Robbery	0.0 *	7.0 *	1.2 *	4.0 *	6.3 *	2.5 *	3.2 *
Aggravated assault	0.2 *	21.5	2.0 *	14.5	23.0	5.8	0.9
Simple assault:	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.1

Note: Responses for weapons use are tallied once, based upon a hierarchy. In previous editions, multiple responses for weapons were tallied.

\* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

...Not applicable.

1Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

2Simple assault, by definition, does not involve the use of a weapon.

Table 63. Personal crimes of violence, 1994:

**Percent distribution of incidents, by victim-offender relationship, type of crime and place of occurrence**

Relationship and type of crime	Number of incidents	Percent of incidents						
		Total	At or in respondent's home	Near home	On the street near home	At, in, or near a friend's relative's or neighbor's home	Inside a restaurant, bar, or nightclub	Other commercial building
<b>Involving strangers</b>								
Crimes of violence	5,301,590	100 %	3.1 %	7.1 %	3.5 %	4.4 %	6.6 %	9.1 %
Rape/Sexual assault	152,690	100 %	12.6 *	1.5 *	1.5 *	10.9 *	4.3 *	9.0 *
Robbery	944,630	100 %	4.9	6.0	3.3	3.9	3.2	6.2
Assault	4,204,270	100 %	2.4	7.6	3.6	4.3	7.4	9.7
<b>Involving nonstrangers</b>								
Crimes of violence	4,496,090	100 %	27.7	9.6	2.8	11.1	2.9	7.3
Rape/Sexual assault	273,330	100 %	45.5	3.4 *	0.8 *	27.2	0.8 *	2.2 *
Robbery	265,560	100 %	44.0	11.5	4.6 *	5.9 *	0.8 *	1.5 *
Assault	3,957,200	100 %	25.4	9.9	2.9	10.4	3.2	8.0

Relationship and type of crime	Percent of incidents					
	Parking lot or garage	Inside school building/on school property	In apartment yard, park, field, or playground	On street other than near own home	On public transportation or inside station	Other
<b>Involving strangers</b>						
Crimes of violence	10.6 %	9.3 %	3.2 %	30.5 %	2.1 %	10.5 %
Rape/Sexual assault	8.9 *	3.6 *	10.8 *	19.5	0.0 *	17.4
Robbery	15.2	1.9 *	2.0 *	43.8	4.0	5.7
Assault	9.7	11.1	3.2	27.9	1.8	11.4
<b>Involving nonstrangers</b>						
Crimes of violence	4.3	17.7	2.4	7.2	0.0 *	6.9
Rape/Sexual assault	5.1 *	2.4 *	1.0 *	1.3 *	0.0 *	10.3
Robbery	1.9 *	12.6	1.3 *	12.3	0.0 *	3.8 *
Assault	4.4	19.1	2.5	7.3	0.0 *	6.9

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.  
 \* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.  
 † Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 49. Personal crimes of violence, 1994:

**Percent distribution of multiple-offender victimizations, by type of crime and detailed victim-offender relationship**

Type of crime	Number of multiple-offender victimizations	Percent of multiple-offender victimizations						
		Total	Some or all related					
			Total	Spouses and ex-spouses	Parents	Own children	Brothers and sisters	Other relatives
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>2,444,530</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>1.3 %</b>	<b>0.4 %*</b>	<b>0.1 %*</b>	<b>0.0 %*</b>	<b>0.3 %*</b>	<b>0.5 %*</b>
Completed violence	872,120	100 %	0.9 *	0.3 *	0.0 *	0.0*	0.0*	0.6 *
Attempted/threatened violence	1,572,410	100 %	1.5	0.4 *	0.1 *	0.0*	0.4 *	0.5 *
Rape/Sexual assault:	39,980	100 %	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*
Robbery	586,440	100 %	1.0 *	0.4 *	0.0 *	0.0*	0.0*	0.6 *
Completed/property taken	376,540	100 %	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*
Attempted to take property	209,900	100 %	2.7 *	1.1 *	0.0 *	0.0*	0.0*	1.7 *
Assault	1,818,100	100 %	1.4	0.4 *	0.1 *	0.0*	0.4 *	0.5 *
Aggravated	686,250	100 %	1.0 *	0.4 *	0.3 *	0.0*	0.0*	0.3 *
Simple	1,131,850	100 %	1.6 *	0.4 *	0.0 *	0.0*	0.6 *	0.6 *

Type of crime	Some or all well known, not related:	Some or all casual acquaintances	Don't know	Stranger
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>10.4 %</b>	<b>10.7 %</b>	<b>1.0 %</b>	<b>76.6 %</b>
Completed violence	12.7	9.6	0.6 *	76.2
Attempted/threatened violence	9.1	11.4	1.1 *	76.8
Rape/Sexual assault:	24.0 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	76.0
Robbery	6.2	4.1	0.4 *	88.4
Completed/property taken	8.3	4.1 *	0.6 *	87.0
Attempted to take property	2.4 *	4.1 *	0.0 *	90.8
Assault	11.5	13.1	1.2 *	72.9
Aggravated	8.4	13.4	1.6 *	75.6
Simple	13.4	13.0	0.9 *	71.2

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.  
 \* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.  
 †Includes data on offenders well known to the victim whose relationship to the victim was not ascertained.  
 ‡Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 43. Personal crimes of violence, 1994:

**Percent distribution of single-offender victimizations, by type of crime and detailed victim-offender relationship**

Type of crime	Number of single-offender victimizations	Percent of single-offender victimizations							
		Related							
		Total	Total	Spouse	Ex-spouse	Parent	Own child	Brother or sister	Other relative
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>8,169,830</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>11.2 %</b>	<b>4.0 %</b>	<b>1.3 %</b>	<b>1.0 %</b>	<b>1.0 %</b>	<b>1.7 %</b>	<b>2.2 %</b>
Completed violence	2,268,890	100 %	17.1	8.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	2.1	1.9
Attempted/threatened violence	5,900,940	100 %	8.9	2.2	1.2	0.8	0.8	1.5	2.3
Rape/Sexual assault <sup>2</sup>	382,590	100 %	12.5	6.2	3.2 *	0.7 *	0.0 *	0.7 *	1.8 *
Robbery	682,470	100 %	10.4	2.8 *	1.1 *	1.5 *	1.8 *	1.7 *	1.5 *
Completed/property taken	399,810	100 %	10.5	1.7 *	1.2 *	1.9 *	2.5 *	1.2 *	2.0 *
Attempted to take property	282,660	100 %	10.2	4.4 *	0.8 *	0.9 *	0.7 *	2.6 *	0.7 *
Assault	7,104,760	100 %	11.2	4.0	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.7	2.3
Aggravated	1,689,350	100 %	9.7	3.5	1.0 *	0.9 *	1.2 *	1.3	1.8
Simple	5,415,420	100 %	11.6	4.1	1.3	0.9	1.0	1.9	2.5

Type of crime	Well known, not related <sup>1</sup>	Casual acquaintance	Don't know	Stranger
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>22.5 %</b>	<b>18.5 %</b>	<b>0.6 %</b>	<b>47.3 %</b>
Completed violence	27.5	16.1	0.2 *	39.2
Attempted/threatened violence	20.6	19.4	0.7	50.4
Rape/Sexual assault <sup>2</sup>	35.0	22.5	0.6 *	29.4
Robbery	15.2	6.2	0.3 *	67.9
Completed/property taken	15.4	4.3 *	0.0 *	69.9
Attempted to take property	15.1	8.8	0.8 *	65.1
Assault	22.5	19.5	0.6	46.3
Aggravated	20.0	16.1	0.1 *	54.1
Simple	23.3	20.5	0.8	43.8

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.

\* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>1</sup>Includes data on offenders well known to the victim whose relationship could not be ascertained.

<sup>2</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 37. Personal crimes of violence, 1994:

**Percent distribution of incidents, by victim-offender relationship, type of crime and number of offenders**

Relationship and type of crime	Number of incidents	Percent of incidents						Not known and not available
		Total	Number of offenders					
			One	Two	Three	Four or more		
<b>All incidents</b>								
Crimes of violence	9,797,680	100 %	76.9 %	8.0 %	5.0 %	6.7 %	3.4 %	
Completed violence	2,923,010	100 %	72.8	10.8	7.0	6.7	2.7	
Attempted/threatened violence	6,874,670	100 %	78.7	6.7	4.2	6.7	3.7	
Rape/Sexual assault <sup>1</sup>	426,020	100 %	88.2	4.1 *	1.9 *	3.4 *	2.4 *	
Robbery	1,210,200	100 %	54.0	19.9	12.8	10.3	3.1	
Completed/property taken	735,160	100 %	51.4	20.7	13.3	11.0	3.6	
Attempted to take property	475,030	100 %	57.8	18.8	12.0	9.1	2.3 *	
Assault	8,161,470	100 %	79.8	6.4	4.0	6.4	3.5	
Aggravated	2,120,370	100 %	71.1	8.5	5.0	9.3	6.0	
Simple	6,041,100	100 %	82.8	5.6	3.7	5.3	2.6	
<b>Involving strangers</b>								
Crimes of violence	5,301,590	100 %	66.1	11.3	7.2	9.5	6.0	
Completed violence	1,451,660	100 %	56.3	16.9	10.6	10.8	5.3	
Attempted/threatened violence	3,849,930	100 %	69.8	9.2	5.9	9.0	6.2	
Rape/Sexual assault <sup>1</sup>	152,690	100 %	73.4	9.7 *	4.0 *	6.2 *	6.7 *	
Robbery	944,630	100 %	47.7	22.4	14.8	11.1	4.0	
Completed/property taken	585,100	100 %	46.2	22.7	14.4	12.1	4.5	
Attempted to take property	359,530	100 %	50.0	22.0	15.5	9.5	3.0 *	
Assault	4,204,270	100 %	70.0	8.8	5.6	9.2	6.4	
Aggravated	1,288,150	100 %	61.9	11.0	6.2	11.3	9.6	
Simple	2,916,120	100 %	73.5	7.9	5.3	8.3	5.0	
<b>Involving nonstrangers</b>								
Crimes of violence	4,496,090	100 %	89.7	4.0	2.4	3.4	0.4 *	
Completed violence	1,471,350	100 %	88.9	4.9	3.3	2.7	0.2 *	
Attempted/threatened violence	3,024,730	100 %	90.1	3.6	2.0	3.8	0.4 *	
Rape/Sexual assault <sup>1</sup>	273,330	100 %	96.5	0.9 *	0.8 *	1.8 *	0.0 *	
Robbery	265,560	100 %	76.3	11.0	5.5 *	7.2 *	0.0 *	
Completed/property taken	150,060	100 %	71.8	12.8 *	8.8 *	6.7 *	0.0 *	
Attempted to take property	115,500	100 %	82.3	8.6 *	1.2 *	8.0 *	0.0 *	
Assault	3,957,200	100 %	90.2	3.8	2.4	3.3	0.4 *	
Aggravated	832,220	100 %	85.4	4.7	3.3	6.2	0.4 *	
Simple	3,124,970	100 %	91.4	3.5	2.1	2.5	0.4 *	

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.

\* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>1</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 35. Family violence, 1994:

**Victimization rate by victim-offender relationship,  
by type of crime and selected victim characteristics**

Characteristic	Total population	Crimes of violence:				Assault			
		Relatives	Well-known	Casual acquaintances	Strangers	Relatives	Well-known	Casual acquaintances	Strangers
<b>Sex</b>									
Male	103,369,260	2.5	9.9	8.0	36.1	2.2	9.2	7.8	29.5
Female	110,378,010	6.0	12.2	6.5	16.4	5.3	10.2	5.5	12.8
<b>Race</b>									
White	180,541,530	4.5	10.3	7.2	25.4	4.0	9.1	6.6	21.2
Black	25,630,100	3.1	17.7	8.7	28.3	2.1	14.5	7.7	18.2
Other	7,575,640	3.1	8.3	3.8	29.3	3.1	7.0	3.2	20.6
<b>Age</b>									
12-15	15,300,000	4.6	35.6	28.3	41.6	3.3	32.6	26.0	33.6
16-19	14,294,780	3.5	31.1	19.3	63.0	3.3	28.5	16.4	52.8
20-24	18,304,850	7.4	19.2	10.7	56.4	6.3	15.9	9.7	46.9
25-34	41,698,770	7.1	13.1	7.3	31.7	6.2	10.7	6.9	25.3
35-49	59,055,130	4.8	6.6	4.5	21.6	4.2	5.8	4.1	17.1
50-64	33,909,560	2.1	2.4	1.6	8.1	2.1	2.0	1.6	6.2
65 and over	31,184,190	0.5 *	0.6 *	0.5 *	3.1	0.4 *	0.6 *	0.5 *	1.8
<b>Marital status:</b>									
Married	112,250,160	2.6	3.7	3.2	13.5	2.3	3.4	3.0	11.4
Widowed	13,494,890	0.6 *	1.3 *	0.9 *	4.8	0.6 *	1.0 *	0.7 *	3.4
Divorced or separated	22,115,530	17.9	16.8	7.4	32.4	15.4	13.4	6.7	23.1
Never married	65,287,000	3.5	24.0	15.5	49.3	3.0	21.0	14.0	39.9
<b>Family income:</b>									
Less than \$7,500	17,331,290	7.2	21.4	12.7	37.9	6.2	16.6	11.1	28.8
\$7,500-\$14,999	25,710,750	7.5	13.9	7.0	26.7	6.9	12.2	6.3	20.1
\$15,000-\$24,999	33,216,830	5.1	11.1	5.5	25.8	4.3	9.8	4.8	21.1
\$25,000-\$34,999	30,332,460	3.7	11.6	7.5	24.1	3.2	10.6	6.9	20.6
\$35,000-\$49,999	34,288,530	3.8	9.5	6.7	25.2	3.4	8.9	6.3	21.3
\$50,000-\$74,999	28,152,360	2.8	8.6	8.6	25.0	2.3	7.9	8.4	21.5
\$75,000 or more	19,338,380	1.4	7.7	5.1	24.2	1.2	7.2	4.8	20.2

\* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

† Crimes of violence includes data on rape, sexual assault, and robbery, not shown separately.

Table 34. Family violence, 1994:

**Percent distribution of victimizations,  
by type of crime and relationship to offender**

Type of crime	Total number of victimizations	Total crimes	Percent of victimizations					
			Total	Spouse	Ex-spouse	Parent	Own child	Other relatives
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>10,860,630</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>8.5 %</b>	<b>3.0 %</b>	<b>1.0 %</b>	<b>0.7 %</b>	<b>0.8 %</b>	<b>2.9 %</b>
Completed violence	3,205,410	100 %	12.3	6.0	1.2	1.0	1.1	2.9
Attempted/threatened violence	7,655,220	100 %	6.9	1.8	0.9	0.6	0.6	3.0
Rape/Sexual assault <sup>2</sup>	432,750	100 %	10.6	5.5	2.8 *	0.6 *	0.1*	1.7 *
Robbery	1,298,750	100 %	5.9	1.5 *	0.7 *	0.8 *	0.9 *	2.0
Completed/property taken	795,130	100 %	5.3	0.9 *	0.6 *	0.9 *	1.3 *	1.6 *
Attempted to take property	503,620	100 %	6.9	2.5 *	0.9 *	0.5 *	0.4 *	2.5 *
Assault	9,129,120	100 %	8.8	3.1	1.0	0.7	0.8	3.1
Aggravated	2,478,150	100 %	6.8	2.5	0.7 *	0.7 *	0.8 *	2.1
Simple	6,650,970	100 %	9.5	3.4	1.1	0.7	0.8	3.5

Type of crime	Percent of victimizations				
	Well-known <sup>1</sup>	Casual acquaintances	Don't know relationship	Strangers	Don't know number of offenders
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>21.9 %</b>	<b>14.2 %</b>	<b>2.1 %</b>	<b>51.0 %</b>	<b>2.3 %</b>
Completed violence	25.4	11.5	2.5	46.3	2.0
Attempted/threatened violence	20.4	15.4	1.9	53.0	2.4
Rape/Sexual assault <sup>2</sup>	33.1	20.3	2.6 *	30.9	2.4 *
Robbery	12.4	3.2	3.1	73.1	2.3
Completed/property taken	12.9	2.2 *	4.7	72.6	2.4 *
Attempted to take property	11.6	4.9	0.5 *	73.9	2.2 *
Assault	22.7	15.5	2.0	48.8	2.3
Aggravated	19.4	11.5	2.4	55.7	4.1
Simple	23.9	17.0	1.8	46.2	1.6

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.

\* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>1</sup>Includes data on offenders well known to the victim whose relationship to the victim could not be ascertained.

<sup>2</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 33. Family violence, 1994:

**Number of victimizations, by type of crime and relationship to offender**

Type of crime	Total number of victimizations	Number of victimizations Related					
		Total	Spouse	Ex-spouse	Parent	Own child	Other relatives
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>10,860,630</b>	<b>924,760</b>	<b>328,820</b>	<b>111,250</b>	<b>80,340</b>	<b>84,620</b>	<b>319,730</b>
Completed violence	3,205,410	392,940	192,250	38,550	33,620	35,250	93,280
Attempted/threatened violence	7,655,220	531,820	136,580	72,700	46,720	49,370	226,450
Rape/Sexual assault:	432,750	45,890	23,610	12,200 *	2,630 *	0 *	7,450 *
Robbery	1,298,750	76,580	19,350 *	9,590 *	10,110 *	12,170 *	25,360
Completed/property taken	795,130	41,970	6,860 *	4,930 *	7,490 *	10,140 *	12,550 *
Attempted to take property	503,620	34,610	12,490 *	4,660 *	2,620 *	2,030 *	12,810 *
Assault	9,129,120	802,290	285,860	89,470	67,600	72,450	286,920
Aggravated	2,478,150	169,090	61,400	16,600 *	17,840 *	20,640 *	52,610
Simple	6,650,970	633,200	224,450	72,870	49,760	51,810	234,300

Type of crime	Number of victimizations				
	Well-known <sup>1</sup>	Casual acquaintances	Don't know relationship	Strangers	Don't know number of offenders
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>2,374,770</b>	<b>1,546,120</b>	<b>229,800</b>	<b>5,538,910</b>	<b>246,270</b>
Completed violence	813,850	368,840	81,570	1,483,810	64,390
Attempted/threatened violence	1,560,920	1,177,270	148,230	4,055,090	181,880
Rape/Sexual assault:	143,390	88,060	11,350 *	133,880	10,180 *
Robbery	160,920	42,040	40,330	949,050	29,840
Completed/property taken	102,600	17,190 *	37,700	576,890	18,780 *
Attempted to take property	58,320	24,850	2,630 *	372,160	11,060 *
Assault	2,070,460	1,416,010	178,120	4,455,980	206,250
Aggravated	480,500	284,350	60,370	1,381,280	102,550
Simple	1,589,960	1,131,670	117,750	3,074,700	103,700

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.

\* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>1</sup>Includes data on offenders well known to the victims whose relationship to the victim could not be ascertained.

<sup>2</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 28. Personal crimes of violence, 1994:

**Number of victimizations and victimization rates for persons age 12 and over, by type of crime and victim-offender relationship**

Type of crime	Total population	Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 and over					
		Total		Involving strangers		Involving nonstrangers	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>213,747,270</b>	<b>10,860,630</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>6,008,350</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>4,852,270</b>	<b>22.7</b>
Completed violence		3,205,410	15.0	1,626,920	7.6	1,578,490	7.4
Attempted/threatened violence		7,655,220	35.8	4,381,430	20.5	3,273,790	15.3
Rape/Sexual assault		432,750	2.0	155,410	0.7	277,350	1.3
Rape/Attempted rape		316,160	1.5	96,340	0.5	219,820	1.0
Rape		167,550	0.8	37,720	0.2	129,830	0.6
Attempted rape <sup>1</sup>		148,610	0.7	58,620	0.3	89,990	0.4
Sexual assault <sup>2</sup>		116,590	0.5	59,060	0.3	57,530	0.3
Robbery		1,298,750	6.1	1,013,740	4.7	285,020	1.3
Completed/property taken		795,130	3.7	630,520	2.9	164,610	0.8
With injury		287,620	1.3	214,440	1.0	73,190	0.3
Without injury		507,510	2.4	416,080	1.9	91,430	0.4
Attempted to take property		503,620	2.4	383,220	1.8	120,400	0.6
With injury		121,790	0.6	81,440	0.4	40,350	0.2
Without injury		381,830	1.8	301,780	1.4	80,050	0.4
Assault		9,129,120	42.7	4,839,210	22.6	4,289,910	20.1
Aggravated		2,478,150	11.6	1,544,200	7.2	933,950	4.4
With injury		678,580	3.2	329,720	1.5	348,850	1.6
Threatened with weapon		1,799,570	8.4	1,214,480	5.7	585,100	2.7
Simple		6,650,970	31.1	3,295,010	15.4	3,355,960	15.7
With minor injury		1,466,060	6.9	583,510	2.7	882,550	4.1
Without injury		5,184,900	24.3	2,711,490	12.7	2,473,410	11.6

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.

<sup>1</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape.

<sup>2</sup>Includes threats.

Table 27. Personal crimes of violence, 1994:

**Number and percent distribution of incidents,  
by type of crime and victim-offender relationship**

Type of crime	All incidents		Percent of incidents			
	Number	Percent	Involving strangers		Involving nonstrangers	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	<b>9,797,680</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>5,301,590</b>	<b>54.1 %</b>	<b>4,496,090</b>	<b>45.9 %</b>
Completed violence	2,923,010	100 %	1,451,660	49.7	1,471,350	50.3
Attempted/threatened violence	6,874,670	100 %	3,849,930	56.0	3,024,730	44.0
Rape/Sexual assault	426,020	100 %	152,690	35.8	273,330	64.2
Rape/Attempted rape	312,140	100 %	96,340	30.9	215,800	69.1
Rape	165,180	100 %	37,720	22.8	127,460	77.2
Attempted rape <sup>1</sup>	146,960	100 %	58,620	39.9	88,340	60.1
Sexual assault <sup>2</sup>	113,870	100 %	56,340	49.5	57,530	50.5
Robbery	1,210,200	100 %	944,630	78.1	265,560	21.9
Completed/property taken	735,160	100 %	585,100	79.6	150,060	20.4
With injury	267,440	100 %	202,320	75.7	65,120	24.3
Without injury	467,720	100 %	382,780	81.8	84,940	18.2
Attempted to take property	475,030	100 %	359,530	75.7	115,500	24.3
With injury	117,600	100 %	77,250	65.7	40,350	34.3
Without injury	357,430	100 %	282,280	79.0	75,150	21.0
Assault	8,161,470	100 %	4,204,270	51.5	3,957,200	48.5
Aggravated	2,120,370	100 %	1,288,150	60.8	832,220	39.2
With injury	592,690	100 %	277,240	46.8	315,460	53.2
Threatened with weapon	1,527,680	100 %	1,010,910	66.2	516,770	33.8
Simple	6,041,100	100 %	2,916,120	48.3	3,124,970	51.7
With minor injury	1,333,110	100 %	507,380	38.1	825,730	61.9
Without injury	4,707,980	100 %	2,408,740	51.2	2,299,240	48.8

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.

<sup>1</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape.

<sup>2</sup>Includes threats.

Table 12. Personal crimes, 1994:

**Victimization rates for persons age 12 and over,  
by sex and marital status of victims and type of crime**

Sex and marital status	Total population	Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 and over						
		Crimes of violence	Completed violence	Attempted/ threatened violence	Rape/ Sexual assault	Robbery		
						Total	With injury	Without injury
<b>Male</b>								
Never married	34,939,860	109.6	31.6	78.0	0.5 *	15.3	4.2	11.0
Married	57,099,770	27.9	5.3	22.7	0.1 *	2.8	0.8	2.0
Widowed	2,297,470	14.2	1.9 *	12.3	0.0 *	1.9 *	0.8 *	1.1 *
Divorced or separated	8,767,210	77.2	26.3	50.9	0.3 *	15.6	5.8	9.8
<b>Female</b>								
Never married	30,347,140	82.0	25.8	56.2	7.0	7.5	2.1	5.5
Married	55,150,390	19.7	6.0	13.6	1.1	2.1	0.6	1.5
Widowed	11,197,420	6.9	3.3	3.6	1.2 *	0.8 *	0.8 *	0.0 *
Divorced or separated	13,348,320	78.1	30.3	47.9	9.1	7.9	4.0	4.0

Sex and marital status	Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 and over			
	Total	Assault		Purse snatching/ Pocket picking
		Aggra- vated	Simple	
<b>Male</b>				
Never married	93.8	28.4	65.5	3.7
Married	25.0	7.1	17.9	0.8
Widowed	12.2	1.0 *	11.2	6.7 *
Divorced or separated	61.2	19.9	41.3	1.7 *
<b>Female</b>				
Never married	67.4	15.2	52.2	3.5
Married	16.5	3.4	13.2	1.5
Widowed	4.9	1.3 *	3.6	3.6
Divorced or separated	61.1	17.5	43.6	4.0

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.  
 Excludes data on persons whose marital status was not ascertained.  
 \* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.  
 † Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

Table 11. Personal crimes, 1994:

**Victimization rates for persons age 12 and over,  
by type of crime and marital status of victims**

Type of crime	Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 and over			
	Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced or separated
<b>All personal crimes</b>	<b>100.4</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>80.8</b>
Crimes of violence	96.8	23.9	8.1	77.7
Completed violence	28.9	5.7	3.1	28.7
Attempted/threatened violence	67.9	18.2	5.1	49.1
Rape/Sexual assault	3.5	0.6	1.0 *	5.6
Rape/Attempted rape	2.5	0.4	0.8 *	4.5
Rape	1.3	0.2 *	0.4 *	2.7
Attempted rape <sup>1</sup>	1.2	0.2	0.5 *	1.7
Sexual assault:	1.0	0.2	0.2 *	1.1
Robbery	11.7	2.5	1.0 *	11.0
Completed/property taken	6.5	1.7	0.8 *	7.4
With injury	2.1	0.6	0.8 *	3.2
Without injury	4.4	1.1	0.0 *	4.2
Attempted to take property	5.2	0.7	0.2 *	3.6
With injury	1.1	0.1 *	0.0 *	1.5
Without injury	4.1	0.6	0.2 *	2.1
Assault	81.6	20.8	6.1	61.2
Aggravated	22.3	5.3	1.2 *	18.5
With injury	6.2	1.1	0.3 *	6.3
Threatened with weapon	16.0	4.1	0.9 *	12.1
Simple	59.3	15.6	4.9	42.7
With minor injury	14.0	2.5	1.4 *	11.2
Without injury	45.3	13.1	3.5	31.5
Purse snatching/Pocket picking	3.6	1.1	4.1	3.1
Population age 12 and over	65,287,000	112,250,160	13,494,890	22,115,530

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.  
Excludes data on persons whose marital status was not ascertained.

\* Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>1</sup>Includes verbal threats of rape.

<sup>2</sup>Includes threats.

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
Bureau of Justice Statistics



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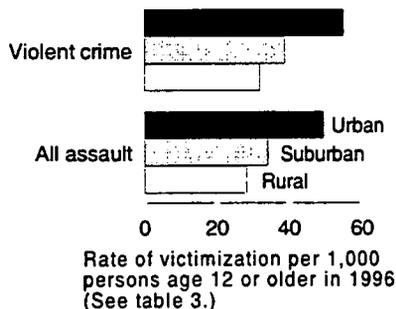
# Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1994

*A National Crime Victimization Survey Report*

May 1997, NCJ-162126

## Urbanization

City dwellers had a significantly greater likelihood than suburbanites and rural residents to be victims of all types of violent crime and of personal theft. Except for robbery and rape/sexual assault, for which differences were negligible, individuals in suburban areas were more likely than those in rural areas to experience violent crime.



Note: The crime survey includes as violent crime rape, robbery, and assault.

## Victim-offender relationship

Half of the victims of nonfatal violent victimizations knew the offender. If the victim knew the offender, a violent crime was more likely to be completed rather than left as a threat or attempt. Among categories of violent crime included in the NCVS, the greatest likelihood of the victim's knowing the offender occurred with rape — 68% of the rape victims. The least likelihood was with robbery; 23% of robbery victims knew the offender.

	Percent of violent crime victimizations, 1996	
	Stranger	Nonstranger
NCVS violent crime	47.5%	48.2%
Attempted	48.9	46.7
Completed	44.1*	51.3*
Rape/sexual assault	29.1%*	67.5%*
Robbery	71.1*	23.3*
Assault	44.7*	50.8*
Aggravated	48.5	45.2
Simple	43.5*	52.9*

Note: The National Crime Victimization Survey includes as violent crime rape, robbery, and assault but not murder or manslaughter.  
\*Significant at 95-percent level of confidence.

## Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, by characteristics of victims and location, 1993-96

Characteristic of victim or location	Percent of murders and nonnegligent manslaughters			
	1993	1994	1995	1996
<b>Race of victim</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
White	46.0	46.2	48.0	48.3
Black	50.7	50.8	48.4	48.2
Other	2.4	2.3	2.7	2.7
Not reported	.9	.8	1.0	.9
<b>Sex of victim</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Male	77.1	78.4	76.6	76.9
Female	22.7	21.5	23.2	22.9
Not reported	.2	.1	.2	.2
<b>Age of victim</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Under 18	11.6	11.4	12.1	12.4
18 or over	87.0	86.8	86.2	86.3
Unknown	1.4	1.8	1.7	1.3
<b>Type of weapon used</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Firearm	69.6	70.0	68.2	67.8
Knife	12.7	12.7	12.7	13.5
Blunt object	4.4	4.1	4.5	4.6
Personal weapon	5.0	5.3	5.9	5.9
Other	8.2	7.8	8.7	8.2
	<b>Murder rate per 100,000 residents</b>			
<b>Overall U.S. rate</b>	9.5	9.0	8.2	7.4
<b>Region</b>				
Northeast	8.2	7.1	6.2	5.4
Midwest	7.6	7.5	6.9	6.4
South	11.3	10.7	9.8	9.0
West	9.9	9.4	9.0	7.7
<b>Urban character</b>				
Metropolitan cities*	10.6	10.0	9.1	8.1
Smaller cities*	5.3	4.8	4.7	4.5
Rural counties	5.4	5.0	5.0	4.7
<b>Number of murders and nonnegligent manslaughters</b>	24,530	23,330	21,610	19,650

\*Metropolitan cities are those in Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA), and smaller cities are those outside an MSA.

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports.

## Murder in the United States, 1996

Statistics on murder are compiled from over 16,000 city, county and State law enforcement agencies as part of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program (UCR). For 1996 the UCR showed 19,645 murders — a rate of 7.4 murders per 100,000 persons. The number of murders per 100,000 U.S. population in 1996 is 10% lower than in 1995.

The FBI defines murder in its annual report *Crime in the United States* as the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another. The incidence of murder varies across different victim characteristics.

- 77% of the victims were male.

- 13% of murder victims were under age 18; 28% were under age 23. Individuals age 18-22 represent 15% of murder victims but only 7% of the U.S. population.

- Whites and blacks each made up 48% of murder victims.

- Firearms were the weapons used in about 7 of every 10 murders.

- The number of murders declined from 1995 to 1996 for all regions, with the largest decrease — 13% — occurring in both the Northeast and West.

- In 1993-96 the murder rate dropped 22%. During this period the Northeast experienced a 34% decrease and city dwellers a 24% decrease.



# Bureau of Justice Statistics

## National Crime Victimization Survey

November 1997, NCJ-165812

# Criminal Victimization 1996

## Changes 1995-96 with Trends 1993-96

By Cheryl Ringel  
BJS Statistician

In 1996 U.S. residents age 12 or older experienced nearly 37 million criminal victimizations, according to data collected from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). Of these victimizations, 27.3 million involved property crimes against households, 9.1 million involved the violent crimes of rape, robbery, and assault, and 0.3 million involved personal thefts such as purse snatching.

Translated into the number of violent and property crimes per 1,000 persons or households, crime rates for 1996 show 42 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons and 266 property crimes per 1,000 households. The victimization rates declined from 1995, and are the lowest recorded by the NCVS since its inception in 1973.\*

From 1995 to 1996 the violent crime rate overall, as measured by the NCVS, decreased about 10%, and the rate of property crime went down 8%. These declines followed a general downward trend of criminal victimization rates over the past 3 years.

The trends reported in this Bulletin encompass 1993 through 1996. The redesigned NCVS first used a full

sample of households in 1993; therefore, the trends presented begin with that year.

Compared to 1993 rates, the 1996 victimization rates for all property crimes,

for personal theft, and for the measured violent crimes except robbery showed a significant decrease. Between 1993 and 1996, the violent crime rate fell 16%, and property crime rates dropped 17%.

### Highlights

- The 1994-95 general downward trend in criminal victimizations continued in 1996.
- The NCVS property and violent crime rates for 1996 are the lowest recorded since the survey's inception in 1973.\*
- The murder rate dropped 10% between 1995 and 1996 — the largest decrease in the past 4 years.
- Though overall violent crime rates decreased significantly from 1995 to 1996, the decline in the rates for robbery and aggravated assault were not statistically significant.
- In 1996 males experienced significantly higher victimization rates than females for all violent crimes except rape/sexual assault. Males were 2 times more likely than females to experience robbery and aggravated assault.
- In 48% of violent victimizations in 1996, the victim knew the offender.
- In 1996, 4 in 10 violent crimes and 3 in 10 property crimes were reported to the police. Females and blacks were more likely to report a crime to police than were males and whites.
- In 1996 violent crime rates were 16% lower and property crime rates 17% lower than they were in 1993.
- Between no two consecutive years from 1993 to 1996 did a violent, personal, or property crime rate increase a statistically significant amount.
- The decreasing victimization trends during 1993-96 were experienced about equally by both males and females and by the racial and income groups.
- Between 1993 and 1996 Hispanic households experienced a greater decrease than non-Hispanic households in the rate of property crime victimization.

\*After rates were adjusted following the 1992 NCVS redesign.

\*After rates were adjusted following the 1992 NCVS redesign.

**Table 2.14 — Murder Circumstances, 1992-1996**

Circumstances	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total <sup>1</sup> .....	22,716	23,180	22,084	20,232	15,848
<b>Felony type total:</b> .....	<b>4,917</b>	<b>4,461</b>	<b>4,070</b>	<b>3,585</b>	<b>3,018</b>
Rape .....	138	115	78	82	68
Robbery .....	2,266	2,305	2,076	1,872	1,493
Burglary .....	212	179	157	124	117
Larceny-theft .....	41	31	30	26	26
Motor vehicle theft .....	66	61	53	49	23
Arson .....	148	154	132	112	95
Prostitution and commercialized vice .....	32	18	14	9	8
Other sex offenses .....	34	28	41	30	27
Narcotic drug laws .....	1,302	1,295	1,239	1,031	819
Gambling .....	20	10	12	22	12
Other - not specified .....	658	265	238	228	330
<b>Suspected felony type</b> .....	<b>280</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Other than felony type total:</b> .....	<b>11,244</b>	<b>12,210</b>	<b>11,691</b>	<b>10,686</b>	<b>8,176</b>
Romantic triangle .....	334	440	371	282	187
Child killed by babysitter .....	36	34	22	24	28
Brawl due to influence of alcohol .....	429	383	316	262	253
Brawl due to influence of narcotics .....	253	261	211	185	161
Argument over money or property .....	483	445	387	340	327
Other arguments .....	6,066	6,289	5,820	5,229	4,383
Gangland killings .....	137	142	111	88	83
Juvenile gang killings .....	813	1,145	1,157	1,158	855
Institutional killings .....	18	15	14	31	13
Sniper attack .....	33	7	2	14	8
Other - not specified .....	2,642	3,049	3,280	3,073	1,878
<b>Unknown</b> .....	<b>6,275</b>	<b>6,364</b>	<b>6,187</b>	<b>5,848</b>	<b>4,582</b>

<sup>1</sup> Total number of murder victims for whom supplemental homicide information was received.

**Table 2.15 — Murder Circumstances by Victim Sex, 1996**

Circumstances	Total murder victims <sup>1</sup>	Male	Female	Unknown
Total <sup>1</sup> .....	15,848	12,195	3,631	22
<b>Felony type total:</b> .....	<b>3,018</b>	<b>2,438</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>1</b>
Rape .....	68	8	60	—
Robbery .....	1,493	1,262	231	—
Burglary .....	117	71	46	—
Larceny-theft .....	26	25	1	—
Motor vehicle theft .....	23	19	4	—
Arson .....	95	54	41	—
Prostitution and commercialized vice .....	8	4	4	—
Other sex offenses .....	27	11	16	—
Narcotic drug laws .....	819	725	94	—
Gambling .....	12	12	—	—
Other - not specified .....	330	247	82	1
<b>Suspected felony type</b> .....	<b>72</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Other than felony type total:</b> .....	<b>8,176</b>	<b>6,171</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>3</b>
Romantic triangle .....	187	139	48	—
Child killed by babysitter .....	28	16	12	—
Brawl due to influence of alcohol .....	253	224	29	—
Brawl due to influence of narcotics .....	161	149	12	—
Argument over money or property .....	327	302	25	—
Other arguments .....	4,383	3,248	1,134	1
Gangland killings .....	83	79	4	—
Juvenile gang killings .....	855	808	47	—
Institutional killings .....	13	13	—	—
Sniper attack .....	8	6	2	—
Other - not specified .....	1,878	1,187	689	2
<b>Unknown</b> .....	<b>4,582</b>	<b>3,537</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>18</b>

<sup>1</sup> Total number of murder victims for whom supplemental homicide information was received.

Table 2.13 — Murder Circumstances by Weapon, 1996

Circumstances	Total murder victims	Total firearms	Hand-guns	Rifles	Shot-guns	Other guns or type not stated	Knives or cutting instruments	Blunt objects (clubs, hammers, etc.)	Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.)	Poison	Pushed or thrown out window	Explosives	Fire	Narcotics	Drown-ing	Strangu-lation	Asphyxi-ation	Other
Total <sup>1</sup> .....	15,848	10,744	8,594	546	673	931	2,142	733	932	8	7	14	151	32	24	243	92	726
Felony type total .....	3,018	2,120	1,845	78	106	91	314	166	155	—	—	4	88	17	2	50	22	80
Rape .....	68	6	6	—	—	—	13	13	22	—	—	—	—	1	—	8	1	4
Robbery .....	1,493	1,087	943	36	52	56	190	96	54	—	—	1	2	—	—	20	12	31
Burglary .....	117	65	51	1	11	2	21	16	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4
Larceny-theft .....	26	18	18	—	—	—	1	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Motor vehicle theft .....	23	12	10	—	—	2	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Arson .....	95	4	4	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	82	—	—	—	2	4
Prostitution and commercialized vice .....	8	6	6	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other sex offenses .....	27	3	3	—	—	—	4	2	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2
Narcotic drug laws .....	819	685	608	25	27	25	52	17	20	—	—	2	3	15	1	9	2	13
Gambling .....	12	8	6	1	—	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other - not specified .....	330	226	190	15	16	5	25	15	33	—	—	—	1	1	1	7	4	17
Suspected felony type .....	72	41	31	2	1	7	7	3	4	—	—	1	2	—	3	—	2	9
Other than felony type total .....	8,176	5,483	4,285	365	440	393	1,317	334	611	6	3	2	39	13	14	80	43	231
Romantic triangle .....	187	134	103	11	18	2	36	7	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	2
Child killed by babysitter .....	28	2	2	—	—	—	—	3	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Brawl due to influence of alcohol .....	253	130	100	12	9	9	76	16	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	8
Brawl due to influence of narcotics .....	161	132	95	5	10	22	16	5	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Argument over money or property .....	327	240	190	10	25	15	53	16	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3
Other arguments .....	4,383	2,856	2,262	197	270	127	936	200	213	—	2	2	23	3	2	49	8	89
Gangland killings .....	83	76	62	3	5	6	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Juvenile gang killings .....	855	794	717	40	16	21	44	10	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Institutional killings .....	13	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sniper attack .....	8	8	4	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other - not specified .....	1,878	1,111	750	86	87	188	145	76	330	6	1	—	15	9	12	19	34	120
Unknown .....	4,582	3,100	2,433	101	126	440	504	230	162	2	4	7	22	2	5	113	25	406

<sup>1</sup>Total murder victims for whom supplemental homicide data were received.

**Table 2.12 — Murder Circumstances by Relationship,<sup>1</sup> 1996**

Circumstances	Total	Husband	Wife	Mother	Father	Son	Daughter	Brother	Sister	Other Family	Acquaintance	Friend	Boyfriend	Girlfriend	Neighbor	Employee	Employer	Stranger	Unknown
Total <sup>1</sup> .....	15,848	206	679	107	125	261	207	98	19	283	4,797	478	163	424	162	8	12	2,321	5,498
Felony type total .....	3,018	4	13	6	8	33	25	4	2	35	868	58	2	19	31	1	5	901	1,003
Rape .....	68	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	24	2	—	2	2	—	—	11	24
Robbery .....	1,493	—	1	4	4	—	—	—	—	15	290	18	—	2	14	1	5	641	498
Burglary .....	117	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	26	1	—	2	4	—	—	46	32
Larceny-theft .....	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	11	3
Motor vehicle theft .....	23	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	4
Arson .....	95	1	4	—	—	8	5	—	—	4	12	1	1	1	5	—	—	18	35
Prostitution and commercialized vice .....	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
Other sex offenses .....	27	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	12	—	—	—	1	—	—	8	4
Narcotic drug laws .....	819	—	3	—	2	1	1	1	—	7	404	30	1	6	3	—	—	98	262
Gambling .....	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other - not specified .....	330	1	3	1	1	24	17	1	2	4	71	4	—	6	2	—	—	59	134
Suspected felony type .....	72	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	1	—	—	—	—	—	13	42
Other than felony type total .....	8,176	184	560	82	102	202	156	83	16	211	3,315	346	150	360	113	4	7	1,143	1,142
Romantic triangle .....	187	1	12	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	110	8	5	17	2	—	—	23	8
Child killed by babysitter .....	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brawl due to influence of alcohol .....	253	2	5	1	2	1	—	2	—	7	138	20	1	9	5	—	—	42	18
Brawl due to influence of narcotics .....	161	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	80	7	1	1	—	—	—	16	51
Argument over money or property .....	327	1	1	2	7	1	—	3	—	10	205	25	—	4	14	—	2	14	38
Other arguments .....	4,383	152	397	56	74	50	18	75	8	136	1,705	216	132	263	75	2	5	600	419
Gangland killings .....	83	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36	—	—	1	—	—	—	17	28
Juvenile gang killings .....	855	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	427	1	—	—	1	—	—	226	199
Institutional killings .....	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Sniper attack .....	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2
Other - not specified .....	1,878	27	143	23	18	150	137	2	5	55	577	69	11	65	16	2	—	201	377
Unknown .....	4,582	18	106	19	15	26	26	11	1	37	598	73	11	45	18	3	—	264	3,311

<sup>1</sup> Relationship is that of victim to offender.

<sup>2</sup> Total murder victims for whom supplemental homicide data were received.

- The majority of violent offenders, regardless of the age of the victim of their imprisonment offense, reported no prior experience as a child or an adult with having been physically or sexually abused (table 6).

- Inmates with child victims were more than twice as likely as inmates with adult victims to report having suffered prior instances of physical or sexual abuse. The differences were particularly striking with respect to sexual abuse. While an estimated 22% of child victimizers reported having been sexually abused, less than 6% of adult victimizers reported such backgrounds.

- Among all violent offenders with a history of having been sexually

abused, nearly half had child victims. Among all violent offenders with a history of having been physically abused, nearly 30% had child victims. Among violent offenders with no history of physical or sexual abuse, 15.5% had child victims.

- About 95% of child victimizers and 86% of adult victimizers who reported having been abused physically or sexually said that such abuse had occurred while they were children. Among those who suffered physical or sexual abuse before age 18, 36% had child victims; among those who suffered abuse after entering adulthood, 13% had child victims.

- For about 9 out of 10 violent offenders experiencing prior physical or sexual abuse, the abuser was someone they had known. For both inmates with child victims and inmates with adult victims, about half reported that the abuse they suffered was by a parent or guardian. However, child victimizers (13.7%) were about twice as likely as adult victimizers (6.5%) to have suffered parental abuse. The percentage of child victimizers varied according to who had abused them:

Who abused the offenders	Percent of violent offenders with child victims
No abuse	15.5%
Stranger	24.5
Parent/guardian	32.4
Other relative	46.6
Acquaintances	43.1

### Violent offenders with child victims reported less involvement than adult victimizers with drugs or alcohol at the time of the crime

About 6 in 10 inmates who committed their violent crime against an adult reported that they had either been drinking alcohol, using drugs, or doing both at the time they committed the offense (table 7). About 6 in 10 child victimizers reported that they were using neither drugs nor alcohol at the time of their crime.

- Among violent inmates reporting no use of drugs or alcohol at the time of the crime, 23.8% reported having victimized a child. Among those who reported alcohol use, 17.1% said they had committed their crime against a child. About 10% of drug users and 13% of those using both drugs and alcohol at the time of the crime reported that their victim had been a child.

- Nearly 4 in 10 child victimizers reported that they had been drinking at the time of the crime. Among drinkers, about half reported that they had been drinking for 6 hours or more preceding the offense.

Number of hours drinking	Percent of drinking child victimizers
1 hour or less	8.6%
2 hours	12.3
3 hours	10.7
4 hours	11.9
5 hours	7.9
6 or more hours	48.6

- About a third of adult victimizers and a fifth of child victimizers said they were using drugs at the time of the offense. The most commonly reported drugs used by all violent offenders, regardless of victim age, were marijuana and cocaine. About 1 in 71 child victimizers and 1 in 24 adult victimizers said that they had been using crack at the time of the offense.

**Table 7. Drug and alcohol use by violent offenders, by age of victim**

Alcohol and drug use at time of the offense	Percent of State prison inmates serving time for a violent offense	
	Child victims	Adult victims
Total	100.0%	100.0%
None	56.9	41.8
Drugs only	5.3	10.9
Alcohol only	23.9	26.5
Both alcohol and drugs	13.9	20.8
<b>Type of drug used</b>		
None	80.8%	68.3%
Any drug*	19.2	31.7
Marijuana	5.2	8.0
Cocaine	4.2	6.9
Crack	1.4	4.2
Heroin	1.7	4.4
LSD	.7	.8
PCP	.6	.8
Barbituates	.7	1.1
Amphetamines	1.2	1.3
Methamphetamines	.9	1.3

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.  
 \*Includes other drugs not separately shown. The percentages reflect the use of a hierarchy for inmates reporting more than one type of drug; only the most serious drug is considered.

**Age**

- The age of victims varied inversely with the age of offenders— inmates who were older at the time of the arrest for the violent crimes for which they had been imprisoned were more likely to have had child victims (figure 5). At the time of the arrest for the violent crime which brought them to prison, child victimizers were an average 5 years older than those who victimized adults.
- While about 11% of child victimizers were age 50 or older when arrested, about 3% of those who victimized adults were at least 50. Among those who had been arrested at age 24 or younger, about 1 in 8 had victimized a child; among those age 55 or older, nearly 4 in 8 had a child victim.

**Offenders serving time for crimes against children were more likely to have grown up in homes with both parents present and to have suffered sexual abuse as a child**

- Overall, in terms of the type of family background they had as children, white and black violent offenders differed sharply— 56% of the whites and 31% of the blacks grew up in homes with both parents present. The family background of white offenders, who made up three-fourths of those with a child victim, characterized a majority of child victimizers (table 5).
- Black victimizers of children had the same family background as black victimizers of adults. White victimizers of children were more likely than white

victimizers of adults to have lived with both parents.

Primarily grew up with—	Child victimizers		Adult victimizers	
	White	Black	White	Black
Single parent	25%	55%	34%	53%
Both parents	63	30	53	31
Other	12	15	13	16

- Adult and child victimizers did not substantially differ in the percentage who had ever been in an institution or foster home as a child, the percentage who said their parents or guardians had abused drugs or alcohol, and the percentage who reported that an immediate family member, parent, or sibling had ever served time for a crime.

**Table 5. Family background of violent offenders, by age of victim, 1991**

Characteristic of violent offenders	Percent of violent offenders in State prison having—		
	All	Child victims	Victims of other ages
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Primarily grew up with—</b>			
Mother only	39.0%	30.1%	41.0%
Father only	3.6	2.8	3.8
Both parents	43.7	54.2	41.2
Grandparents	7.3	5.7	7.7
Other relatives	3.0	2.2	3.2
Foster home or institution	2.7	4.3	2.3
Other	.7	.7	.8
<b>Ever spent time in a foster home or institution</b>			
Yes	18.5%	16.6%	18.8%
No	81.6	83.4	81.2
<b>Parents/guardians abused drugs or alcohol</b>			
Yes	27.7%	31.5%	26.9%
No	72.3	68.5	73.1
<b>Immediate family member ever served time</b>			
Yes	37.0%	35.6%	37.3%
No	63.0	64.4	62.7
<b>Total number</b>	<b>327,958</b>	<b>61,037</b>	<b>266,920</b>

**Table 6. Prior physical or sexual abuse experienced by violent offenders, by age of victim, 1991**

Characteristic of violent offenders	Percent of violent offenders in State prison having—		
	All	Child victims	Victims of other ages
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Ever physically or sexually abused</b>			
No	82.9%	69.0%	86.1%
Yes	17.1	31.0	13.9
Physical abuse only	8.2	8.8	8.1
Sexual abuse only	3.1	8.7	1.9
Both physical and sexual abuse	5.7	13.5	4.0
<b>Age at which abuse occurred</b>			
No abuse	82.9%	69.0%	86.1%
Abused	17.1	31.0	13.9
Less than 18 years old	12.4	25.7	9.3
18 years old or older	2.0	1.4	2.1
Both as a child and an adult	2.9	3.9	2.6
<b>Who the abuser was</b>			
No prior abuse	82.9%	69.0%	86.1%
Stranger	2.0	2.7	1.9
Known	15.1	28.3	12.0
Parent/guardian	7.9	13.7	6.5
Other relative	2.9	6.4	2.1
Acquaintance	4.3	8.1	3.4
<b>Total number</b>	<b>327,958</b>	<b>61,037</b>	<b>266,920</b>

Note: Other relatives includes spouses and ex-spouses and acquaintances includes boyfriends and girlfriends. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.



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# Child Victimizers: Violent Offenders and their Victims

Jointly published with the  
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By Lawrence A. Greenfeld  
*Statistician, Bureau of Justice Statistics*

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### ***Examining the Work of State Courts (NCSC)***

P. 41. Domestic violence caseloads in 32 States, 1993-1995.

### ***National Assessment Program: 1994 Survey Results (NIJ)***

Pp. 2-3. Violent crimes contributing to workload problems.

### ***Prosecutors in State Courts, 1994 (BJS)***

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### ***Sex Offenses and Offenders: An Analysis of Data on Rape and Sexual Assault (BJS)***

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P. 6. Methodology.

P. 8. Average annual rate of violent victimizations per 1,000 persons, by sex, 1987-93.



## Domestic Violence Cases

The most rapid growth in domestic relations caseloads is occurring in domestic violence filings. States able to provide three years of comparable data are ranked by their domestic violence filing rate per 100,000 population in 1995.

The table also includes a population rank and a three-year growth index, which is the percentage change in the number of domestic violence filings between 1993 and 1995.

Domestic violence is a problem common to all states, not just those that are urban and populous. For example, population-adjusted filing rates in Alaska and Vermont greatly exceed the rates in Florida and New York. All states, except Massachusetts, have experienced growth in their domestic violence caseloads since 1993. Of the 32 states that report three-year filing figures, 18 reported an increase of 20 percent or more.

A legislative change in 1994 made civil protection orders (CPO) available in Delaware, which contributes to Delaware's high filing figures in 1994 and 1995. CPOs are now available in all states for domestic violence victims.

What else accounts for the wide variation in both the number of domestic violence filings per 100,000 and in the percentage change in filings from 1993 to 1995? Some of this variation is attributable to differences in statutory definitions of domestic violence, police arrest policies, and access to protection orders.

Domestic Violence Caseloads in 32 States, 1993-1995

State	Filings per 100,000 Population	Number of Filings			Percent Growth 1993-95	Population Rank
		1995	1994	1993		
<b>Unified Courts</b>						
Massachusetts	901	54,694	54,618	55,601	-2%	13
District of Columbia	705	3,906	3,496	3,216	21	51
Minnesota	683	31,484	29,898	28,313	11	20
Idaho	673	7,833	7,197	6,069	29	42
Missouri	628	33,407	28,647	24,694	35	16
Iowa	189	5,979	4,288	2,689	100	31
Connecticut	166	5,450	5,147	4,420	23	29
<b>General Jurisdiction Courts</b>						
New Jersey	952	75,650	65,508	62,517	21	9
Vermont	792	4,633	4,114	4,057	14	50
New Mexico	771	12,994	11,721	4,759	173	37
West Virginia	765	13,992	12,889	11,969	17	36
Alaska	745	4,497	4,459	4,255	6	49
Kentucky	699	27,002	23,419	21,115	28	24
New Hampshire	650	7,459	5,651	5,313	40	43
Arizona	588	24,784	21,094	18,378	35	23
Washington	581	31,556	30,099	26,975	17	15
Maine	566	7,026	6,348	6,069	16	40
Oregon	534	16,785	17,122	14,828	13	30
Florida	488	69,175	63,284	57,070	21	4
Rhode Island	457	4,519	4,166	4,097	10	44
Delaware	359	2,575	860	263	879	47
Maryland	328	16,537	14,513	10,113	64	19
New York	280	50,717	49,802	49,448	3	3
Indiana	258	14,855	15,897	13,428	11	14
Utah	255	4,980	3,590	2,704	84	35
Wyoming	252	1,212	1,258	1,055	15	52
Hawaii	247	2,928	2,732	2,812	4	41
Arkansas	235	5,833	4,790	3,676	59	34
North Dakota	164	1,055	720	620	70	48
Virginia	134	8,886	8,115	7,240	23	12
Ohio	59	6,573	5,506	4,983	32	7
Louisiana	16	691	481	603	15	21



# National Institute of Justice

## Research in Brief

Jeremy Travis, Director

May 1995

### Issues and Findings

#### *Discussed in this Research in*

**Brief:** The findings of the most recent NIJ-sponsored National Assessment Program (NAP) survey, which is conducted approximately every 3 years to identify the most pressing problems faced by the various components of the criminal justice system at the State and local levels. More than 2,500 officials in the criminal justice community participated.

**Key issues:** Respondents were asked whether various problems contributed to their workload, what they were doing to solve them, whether their approaches needed improvement, and what their priorities were for future research and evaluation.

**Key findings:** Overall, the survey found that like most other Americans, criminal justice system directors were concerned with violence, drugs, and firearms—particularly as they affected young people, both as victims of crime and as offenders.

● More than 65 percent of respondents indicated that cases involving violence caused problems in workload management. Police chiefs and sheriffs indicated domestic violence as the primary concern, and prosecutors highly ranked child abuse and domestic violence.

● Drug-related crime caused workload difficulties to an even greater extent than violent crime.

*continued . . .*

## National Assessment Program: 1994 Survey Results

by Tom McEwen

The National Assessment Program (NAP) is a major part of an ongoing dialog between the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the criminal justice community. The NAP survey, conducted approximately every 3 years, is designed to bring to light the issues that police chiefs and sheriffs, prosecutors, judges, probation and parole agency directors, and others in the criminal justice system see as most important.<sup>1</sup> By identifying what these officials confront on a day-to-day basis, the survey can provide direction in developing programs and strategies to respond to their problems. That direction comes in part through the role of the survey findings in shaping NIJ's plans for research and evaluations. This Research in Brief summarizes the findings of the 1994 NAP survey.

### The continuing problems: violence, drugs, and firearms

These findings indicate that the views of the survey participants mirror those of most other Americans. The themes of violence, drugs, and firearms dominated the responses, and respondents repeatedly expressed concern about young people, both as victims of violence and as offenders, as indicated by these comments:

*Increased reporting by the public in child abuse, sexual assaults, and family violence has greatly increased our workload. (sheriff)*

*Domestic violence, child abuse, larceny, and robbery cases are increasing due to drug abuse, and in our area many people are unemployed and the pressures of keeping a job are putting people under a lot of stress. (police chief)*

*Most of the violent crimes are gang-related. They are difficult to investigate due to lack of cooperation [from victims and witnesses]. Most of the gang problems are over drug selling territories. (sheriff)*

**Violent Crime.** When asked about the effect of violent crime on workload problems, the vast majority of respondents (more than 65 percent of all agencies asked) said they experienced significant problems. (See exhibit 1.) All the violent crimes they were asked about—assault, homicide, rape, domestic violence, and child abuse—caused workload problems for their agency. Of the jail administrators, more than 80 percent said that arrests for violent crime contributed to crowding in their facilities. They cited only arrests for drug charges as contributing more.

## Issues and Findings

*continued . . .*

- More than 80 percent of police chiefs and sheriffs said crimes committed with a firearm contributed to their workload problems, and they were concerned particularly about the availability of firearms to juveniles.

- Police chiefs and sheriffs cited community policing most frequently as their approach to deter crime.

- Almost three-fourths of the police chiefs had programs for at-risk youths, and most others would like to see them established.

- The response to gang-related crime, a problem in the vast majority of large jurisdictions and a growing concern in less populous areas, has involved enforcement and prevention. Among correctional facilities, gangs were a more serious problem in prisons than jails.

- Correctional facilities seem to have succeeded to an extent in reducing crowding because of new construction and such initiatives as alternative sanctions, the most common of which were work release centers.

- The vast majority of police and sheriff's offices have strategies in recruitment and training for working with culturally diverse communities.

- Information systems needs were greater than any other revealed in the survey, although specific need varied by category of respondent.

**Target audience:** Police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, public defenders, judges, trial court administrators, jail administrators, prison wardens, probation agency directors, parole agency directors, and State commissioners of corrections.

For police chiefs and sheriffs, domestic violence was the primary concern among crimes of violence, with almost all of them saying it caused workload problems. They also cited gang-related problems as consuming an inordinate amount of resources. Among prosecutors, child abuse and domestic violence were at the top of the list. By contrast, homicide was ranked lowest by police chiefs and sheriffs, although public defenders and judges ranked it high. Carjacking and asset forfeiture were cited by relatively few agency representatives.

Workload problems related to violent crime were also caused in part by factors unrelated, at least directly, to the high crime rate. For example, the number of reports of violent crime has increased,

arrest policies for domestic violence have changed, and State laws have permitted more police action with regard to mandatory arrest.

The extraordinary amount of resources required to handle certain types of violent crime cases was cited by some respondents. Respondents noted, for example, the time needed in child abuse incidents for followup investigation and the complexity of prosecution of these cases. Some public defenders noted the shift to heavy prosecution and away from plea negotiation for certain violent crimes, such as domestic violence. They also said that mandatory sentencing had led to more jury trials and a consequent need for staff and training.

**Exhibit 1: Violent Crimes Contributing to Workload Problems**

	Police Chiefs	Sheriffs	Prosecutors	Public Defenders	Judges
<b>Assault</b>	98%	95%	79%	74%	70%
<b>Child Abuse</b>	91%	94%	92%	82%	79%
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	99%	97%	91%	83%	85%
<b>Homicide</b>	69%	65%	88%	86%	84%
<b>Rape</b>	77%	74%	88%	79%	75%

Drug-related crime. The survey findings indicate that drug crimes caused workload difficulties to an even greater extent than violent crime. More than 80 percent of the respondents noted drug possession and/or drug sales as creating these problems. In comments such as the following, respondents suggested that the volume of drug cases was the primary reason for workload problems in criminal justice:

*Our workload problems are a result of the overwhelming number of cases that are a direct or indirect result of drugs. (sheriff)*

*Drug activity is the one factor most affecting our court. (judge)*

*Most crime is related to drug use. (judge)*

*Current drug treatment slots are less than one-fourth of what they were 10 years ago. (prosecutor)*

Drug crime has so dominated police operations in the past few years that large percentages of the departments, according to the survey, have undertaken special activities to respond. These activities include asset forfeiture, programs in the schools, buy-busts, directed

patrol, Neighborhood Watch, drug units, civil enforcement, and enforcement in public housing.

Whereas police and sheriffs have focused on enforcement aimed at drug crime, other agencies have been more directly involved with treatment. These agencies were asked to rate the adequacy of the drug treatment programs in their jurisdictions. Most of them offered treatment as an alterna-

tive sanction for offenders. However, at least 80 percent indicated that improvements were needed in treatment services. Sixty-nine percent of the public defenders and over half the probation and parole agency directors said *major* improvements were needed. In their comments, the respondents generally noted the need for expanded service: more programs and beds, longer time in treatment, and availability of treatment for indigent offenders.

Drug testing programs for offenders under community supervision have become almost universal. Ninety-three percent of the probation and parole agency directors surveyed reported having them. However, their views on the value of testing were mixed. Some saw it as effective in discouraging illicit drug use and as a useful supervision tool, but at the same time, they said it was time-consuming and may



## How the Survey Was Conducted

The National Assessment Program survey is conducted approximately every 3 years to find out the needs and problems of criminal justice agencies. This year's survey, administered by the Institute for Law and Justice, is the fourth, with the others conducted in 1983, 1986, and 1990.

Because the survey began in 1993, the responses reflect figures for 1992, the most recent year for which complete information was available to the respondents.

**Who Participated.** Representatives of virtually the entire criminal justice system took part. At the local level, this year's questionnaire was sent to police chiefs and sheriffs, jail administrators, prosecutors and public defenders, judges and trial court administrators, and probation and parole directors, and at the State level, to attorneys general, commissioners of corrections, State court administrators, directors of probation and parole, and prison wardens.

**Number of Participants.** The sample encompassed all 50 States and the District of Columbia. Within the States, a sample of 411 counties was selected.

This included all counties with a population greater than 250,000 (211 in number) and a random sample of 200 smaller counties (with populations of 50,000 to 250,000). The police chiefs were selected by identifying the city in each county with the highest population (as indicated by the 1990 census).

The number of questionnaires sent was 3,739 and the number completed was 2,585, for a response rate of 69.1 percent.

**What They Were Asked.** The survey questions were tailored to the specific responsibilities of the various kinds of agencies. Thus, for example, jail administrators were asked about such issues as crowding and inmates' medical needs, whereas prosecutors, judges, and trial court administrators were asked about sentencing alternatives and pre-trial practices, among other issues. Questions on staffing and training needs were common to all types of agencies. Before the questionnaires were sent, they were reviewed by criminal justice practitioners and researchers from throughout the country.

There were three major areas of inquiry: workload problems, staffing, and opera-

tions and procedures. Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which particular issues contribute to workload problems. For example, they were asked this question about a number of violent crimes, such as domestic violence and child abuse. The key issue was whether the agencies have been able to handle the workload adequately or whether they have had problems doing so.

Respondents also were asked about solutions to the problems they identified. They indicated what approaches they now take to handle specific problems and whether they believed these approaches need improvement. Priorities for future research and evaluation were also explored.

Throughout the survey, open-ended questions enabled respondents to comment on details of their problems and needs and to describe their own experiences. These comments, which are presented throughout this report, complemented and enhanced the quantitative results by providing insights from the respondents on the reasons for the workload problems.



## Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

October 1996, NCJ-151656

# Prosecutors in State Courts, 1994

By Carol J. DeFrances  
Steven K. Smith  
Louise van der Does  
BJS Statisticians

Across the Nation about 2,350 prosecutors' offices handle felony cases in State trial courts. A chief prosecutor is the attorney who advocates for the public in felony cases and in a variety of other cases. State law determines the number of chief prosecutors in a State and whether they are elected or appointed. Over 95% of chief prosecutors are elected locally.<sup>1</sup> Office titles for State court prosecutors include district attorney, county attorney, prosecuting attorney, Commonwealth attorney, and State's attorney (*Appendix 1*). This study does not include municipal and county attorneys who primarily operate in courts of limited jurisdiction.

In 1994 State court prosecutors' offices employed approximately 65,000 total staff, with a median annual office budget of \$226,000. The median staff size was eight. In about 70% of prosecutors' offices, the chief prosecutor served full time. In 1994 half the offices closed 250 or more felony cases and obtained convictions in 180 or more. These findings are from the 1994 National Survey of Prosecutors,

<sup>1</sup> *Prosecutors in State Courts, 1990*, BJS Bulletin (NCJ-134500), March 1992, p. 2.

### Highlights

#### State court prosecutors' offices, 1994

	All offices	Full-time office (population served)		Part-time office
		500,000 or more	Less than 500,000	
Number of offices	2,343	127	1,533	683
<b>Median</b>				
Population served, 1992	29,480	724,418	43,812	16,196
Adult felony arrests in district, 1992	157	5,964	264	29
Staff size, 1994	8	179	10	4
Budget for prosecution, 1994	\$226,000	\$8,500,000	\$255,000	\$75,000

#### All prosecutors' offices

- In 1994, 2,343 State court prosecutors employed about 65,000 attorneys, investigators, and support staff; a 14% increase from 1992.
- Almost 90% of all offices prosecuted domestic violence and child abuse cases during 1994. About half the offices prosecuted cases involving new kinds of firearms offenses.
- 75% of the offices provided security or assistance for felony case victims or witnesses who had been threatened.
- Half the offices reported a staff member received a work-related threat or was assaulted.
- 25% of chief prosecutors carried a firearm for personal security.

#### Full-time prosecutors' offices in large jurisdictions

- In 1994 about 127 full-time prosecutors' offices served jurisdictions with a population of 500,000 or more. In total these offices represented 49% of the Nation's population.
- A majority of the larger offices prosecuted cases involving stalking, elder abuse, hate crime, and parental abduction of children.
- More than half the larger offices had specialized units to handle juvenile cases in adult criminal court.
- 48% of offices in larger jurisdictions had at least one assistant prosecutor cross-designated to prosecute cases in Federal court.
- 68% of the chief prosecutors in larger jurisdictions had a civil suit filed against them.

cutors' offices reported an annual budget of \$198,000 in 1993 and \$226,000 in 1994. The reported budgets ranged from \$8,150 to over \$155 million in 1994.

The median budget for full-time large offices was about \$8 million in 1993 and \$8.5 million in 1994. In 1994 full-time offices in small jurisdictions had an average budget of \$255,000, and part-time offices, \$75,000.

### Number of cases and convictions

In 1994 more than half the prosecutors' offices nationwide closed over 900 criminal cases (table 2). In at least half the offices, 87% of all cases closed resulted in a felony or misdemeanor conviction. The median number of felony cases closed by each prosecutor's office was 250.

Half the offices closed more than twice as many misdemeanor cases as felony cases. Half of the full-time large offices closed over 5,200 felony cases and 15,000 misdemeanor cases. In at least half of full-time large offices, 86% of felony cases and 74% of misdemeanor cases resulted in a conviction. On average, full-time small offices closed 270 felony and 820 misdemeanor cases. Half the part-time offices closed at least 20 felony and 380 misdemeanor cases.

### Special categories of felony prosecution

Nearly 90% of all the offices reported they had prosecuted domestic violence and child abuse cases in 1994 (table 3). Stalking cases were prosecuted in 68% of all offices, nonpayment of child support in 57%, elder abuse and parental abduction of children in 41%, and bank fraud in 34%.

The type of felony cases prosecuted varied by the type of office. Hate crimes were more likely to be prosecuted by full-time large offices (85%) than by full-time small offices (32%) or part-time offices (13%). Elder abuse was prosecuted in 82% of the full-time large offices, compared to 50% of full-time small offices and 15% of part-time offices. Almost two-thirds of the

full-time large offices prosecuted at least one case related to computer fraud, compared to almost a fifth of the full-time small offices and none of the part-time offices.

### New firearm prosecutions

Based on statutes enacted by the State legislature in the previous 3

years, half of all offices prosecuted criminal cases addressing newly defined crimes involving firearms. About a third of all offices prosecuted at least one case involving possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and more than a quarter prosecuted possession of a firearm by a juvenile.

**Table 2. Cases closed and convictions by prosecutors' offices in State courts, 1994**

	All offices	Median		Part-time office
		Full-time office (population served)		
		500,000 or more	Less than 500,000	
Criminal cases closed (felonies and misdemeanors) <sup>a,b</sup>	985	23,389	1,201	586
Percent convicted	87%	75%	87%	88%
Felony cases closed <sup>c</sup>	250	5,214	270	20
Percent convicted	87%	86%	86%	90%
Misdemeanor cases closed <sup>d</sup>	649	15,291	820	380
Percent convicted	88%	74%	90%	88%

Note: Data on the total number of criminal cases closed were available for 1,092 offices; the number of felony cases closed for 1,252; and the number of misdemeanor cases closed, for 1,093 offices. Conviction percentages for total criminal cases closed were available for 928 offices; for felony cases closed, 1,037 offices; and for misdemeanor cases closed, 913 offices.

<sup>a</sup>Case refers to a defendant. A defendant with multiple charges was counted as one case.

<sup>b</sup>Closed case means any case with a judgment of conviction, acquittal, or dismissal with or without prejudice entered by the court.

<sup>c</sup>Each respondent categorized cases as felonies according to State statute.

<sup>d</sup>Misdemeanor cases refer to cases in which criminal defendants had no felony charges against them.

**Table 3. Special types of felony offenses prosecuted by prosecutors' offices, 1994**

At least one case of:	All offices	Percent of offices		Part-time office
		Full-time office (population served)		
		500,000 or more	Less than 500,000	
<b>Case type</b>				
Domestic violence	88%	100%	92%	79%
Stalking	68	94	73	50
Elder abuse	41	82	50	15
Hate crime	29	85	32	13
Environmental pollution	26	68	28	13
Gang membership	12	46	15	0
HIV exposure	10	27	13	0
<b>Child related</b>				
Child abuse	88%	100%	91%	80%
Nonpayment of child support	57	58	63	45
Parental abduction of children	41	81	54	6
<b>Fraud</b>				
Bank/thrift fraud	34%	58%	43%	11%
Health care fraud	21	49	27	4
Computer fraud/tampering	16	64	19	0
Number of offices	2,336	120	1,533	683

Note: Zero indicates no cases in the sample.

Survey question: Did your office prosecute any of the following types of felony offenses?

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
Bureau of Justice Statistics



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# **Sex Offenses and Offenders**

## **An Analysis of Data on Rape and Sexual Assault**

**By Lawrence A. Greenfeld**  
*Statistician*  
*Bureau of Justice Statistics*

**February 1997, NCJ-163392**

- Rapists and sexual assaulters serving time in State prisons were less likely to have had a prior conviction history or a history of violence than other incarcerated violent offenders. However, they were substantially more likely to have had a history of convictions for violent sex offenses — imprisoned sex offenders, while accounting for about 20% of all violent offenders, accounted for about 66% of all violent offenders with a prior history of sex offenses.

Prior convictions	Offenders in State prison		
	All violent	Rape	Sexual assault
Any felony	71%	64%	58%
Violence	31%	26%	25%
Sex offenses	4%	10%	15%

- Sexual assault offenders were substantially more likely than any other category of offenders to report having experienced physical or sexual abuse while growing up (figure 24). However, two-thirds of sexual assault offenders

reported that they had never been physically or sexually abused as a child.

- About 14% of imprisoned sex offenders reported that their sentence included a special court condition that they receive psychological or specialized sex-offender treatment. Overall, about 4% of the sentences of confined violent offenders had a similar requirement.

*The victims of imprisoned rape and sexual assault offenders*

- Imprisoned rape offenders were more likely than those convicted of sexual assault to report having had a single victim for the offense for which they were serving time.

Number of victims	Offenders in State prison		
	All violent	Rape	Sexual assault
1	76.1%	85.9%	78.8%
2 or more	23.9%	14.1%	21.2%

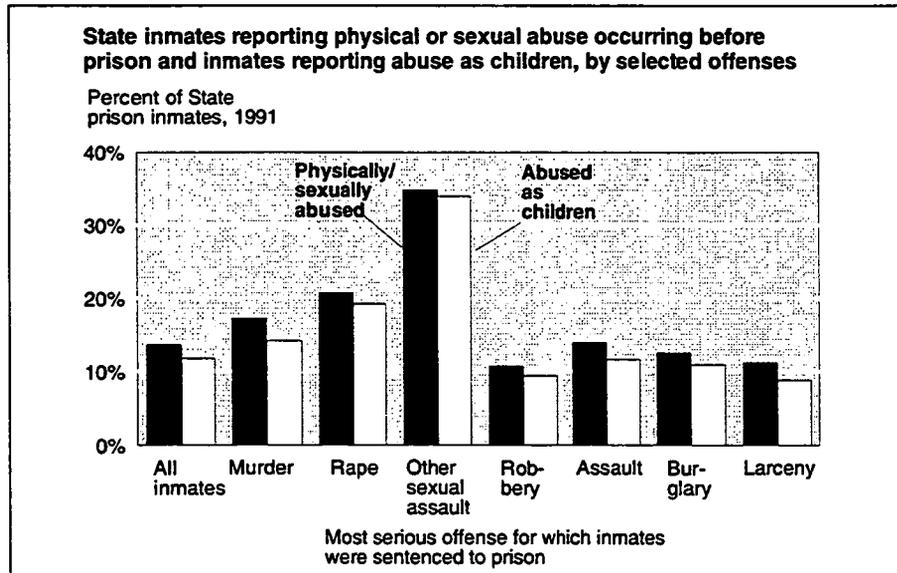


Figure 24

- Sexual assault offenders were about 3 times as likely as those serving time for rape to have had a male victim (table 3). Both categories of violent sex offenders, however, reported that the vast majority of their victims had been female.

- The victims of sexual assault, like the offenders, were more likely to have been white than was the case among victims and offenders in rape and other violent crimes.

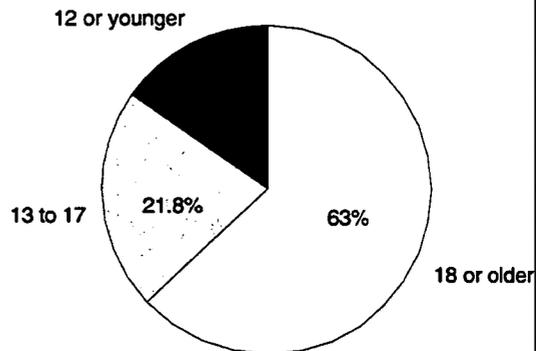
- Violent sex offenders with single victims reported that two-thirds of their victims had been under the age of 18 (figures 25 and 26). About 4 in 10 rapists reported their victim had been a child, and 8 out of 10 sexual assaulters said their victim had been less than 18 years old. Victims of sexual assault were the youngest victims among those persons described by incarcerated violent State prisoners. The median age of the victims of imprisoned sexual assaulters was less than 13 years old; the median age of rape victims was about 22 years.

- While nearly half of all violent offenders committed the crime for which they had been imprisoned against a stranger, about 30% of rapists and less than 15% of sexual assaulters reported their victim had been a stranger to them. Sexual assaulters were about 3 times as likely as all violent offenders

**Table 3. Victims of imprisoned rape and sexual assault offenders**

Characteristic	Violent offenders in State prison reporting single victims		
	All	Rape	Sexual assault
<b>Sex of victim</b>			
Male	55.8%	5.5%	15.2%
Female	44.2	94.5	84.8
<b>Race of victim</b>			
White	64.5%	67.8%	76.4%
Black	29.8	27.6	20.1
Other	5.7	4.6	3.5
<b>Age of victim</b>			
12 or younger	9.9%	15.2%	44.7%
13 to 17	8.8	21.8	33.0
18 to 24	17.5	25.1	9.4
25 to 34	31.1	25.4	7.7
35 to 54	26.5	10.2	4.3
55 or older	6.3	2.3	.9
Median age	29 yrs	22 yrs	13 yrs
<b>Relationship to offender</b>			
Family	12.9%	20.3%	37.7%
Spouse	2.5	1.2	.6
Child/stepchild	6.1	14.0	25.9
Other relative	4.3	5.1	11.2
Intimate	5.5	9.1	6.2
Boyfriend/girlfriend	5.0	8.8	5.4
Ex-spouse	.5	.3	.8
Acquaintance	34.7	40.8	41.2
Stranger	46.9	29.8	14.9

**Age of victims of rape offenders in State prison**



Note: Based on offenders with lone victims.

Figure 25

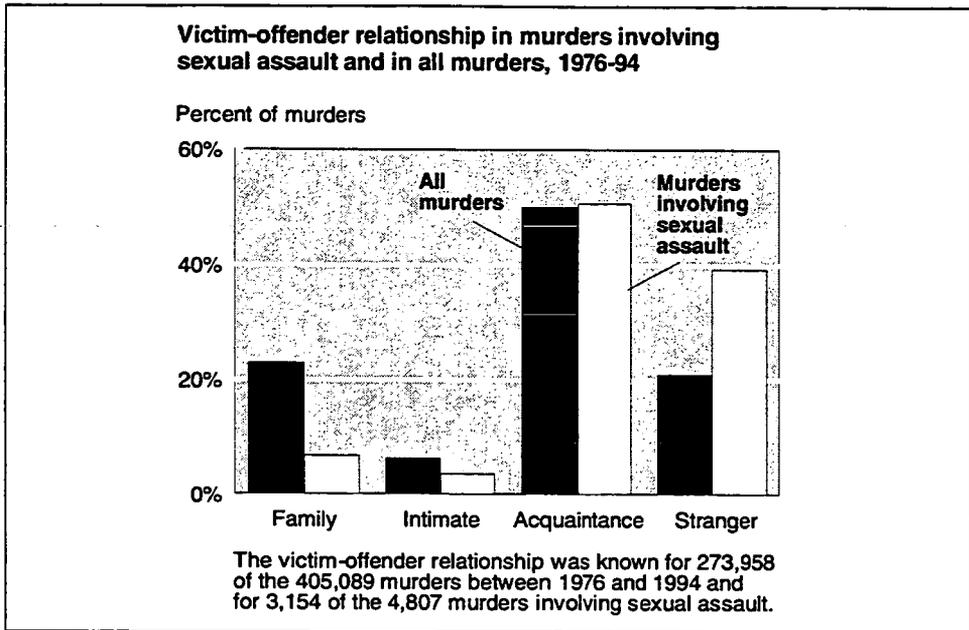


Figure 31

- About 8 out of 10 sexual assault murders were intraracial. White victims and white offenders accounted for 55% of sexual assault murders, black victims and black offenders accounted for 24% of all murders involving sexual assault, 2% involved black victims and white offenders, 15% involved white victims and black offenders, and the remainder involved victims and offenders of other races.

- Sexual assault murders were about twice as likely as all murders (39.2% versus 20.9%) to involve victims and offenders who were strangers (figure 31). Sexual assault murders and all murders were equally likely to have involved acquaintances, but family murders were far less likely to have involved sexual assault.

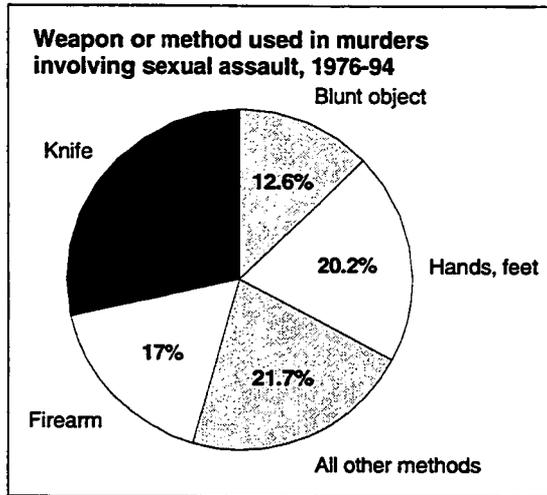


Figure 32

- The most commonly used weapon in sexual assault murders was a knife (figure 32). About 2.2% of murders in which a knife was used involved sexual assault. Less than 0.4% of firearm murders involved sexual assault.

Table 2.5

Adults' and teenagers' attitudes toward problems in the community

By sex, United States, 1996

Question: "Compared to two years ago, would you say that . . . is/are getting better, getting worse or staying about the same?"

(Percent responding problems in community are "getting worse":

	Adults			Teenagers		
	Total	Sex		Total	Sex	
		Male	Female		Male	Female
Drug and alcohol abuse	54%	48%	59%	67%	63%	71%
Robberies, shootings, and other kinds of violent crime	53	48	57	40	34	46
Child abuse or neglect	39	33	44	33	27	35
Violence between family members	32	27	35	29	24	34
Violence against women	36	31	42	27	22	32

Note: These data were collected by Louis Harris and Associates for the YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association). A total of 1,004 public school students in grades 7 through 12, and 903 adults 18 years of age and older were interviewed between Mar. 4 and Apr. 7, 1996. Adults were surveyed by telephone and teens responded to a written survey administered in school. The text of some questions varied slightly between the two survey formats. The questions presented in this table and 2.36 reflect the basic text of the questions in both the adult and teenager surveys. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix E.

Source: YWCA, *Families Taking Action: A YWCA Survey About Making Homes and Communities Safer* (New York: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., 1996), p. 16. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.8

Attitudes toward problems facing young adults

United States, 1995

Question: "Do you think each of the following items is a very serious problem among young adults aged 17 to 21 in your community, a fairly serious problem, only a somewhat serious problem, or not serious at all?"

(Percent responding "very serious" or "fairly serious":

Problem	Percent
Drug abuse	69%
Lack of job skills	63
Broken or dysfunctional families	63
Alcohol abuse	62
Teenage pregnancy	61
Participation in crime	52
Sexually transmitted diseases	48
Poverty	43
High school drop out rates	42
Sexual abuse	41
Poor quality schools	35

Note: These data are from a telephone survey of 2,801 American adults conducted Apr. 29 to May 9, 1995. The survey was conducted by Yankelovich Partners Inc. and sponsored by Covenant House. The sample consisted of 1,201 adults age 21 and older nationwide and an additional 200 residents age 21 and older in each of the following cities where Covenant House facilities are located: Anchorage, AK; Fort Lauderdale, FL; Houston, TX; Los Angeles, CA; several cities in New Jersey; New Orleans, LA; New York, NY; and Washington, DC. The sampling error for the entire sample is plus or minus 3 percent.

Source: Covenant House, "Young Adults at-Risk: Public Perceptions about a Growing National Problem and What Should be Done" (New York: Covenant House, July 1995) (mimeographed.) P. 9. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

# **BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS**

# **SOURCEBOOK**

## **OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS - 1996**

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Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 1996, page 342

Table 3.135

Workplace homicides

By victim characteristics, type of event, and circumstances, United States, 1995<sup>a</sup>

	Homicides			Homicides	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Total	1,024	100%			
<b>Victim characteristics</b>			<b>Major occupation</b>		
<b>Employee status</b>			Managerial and professional specialty occupations	199	19%
Wage and salary workers	817	80	Technical, sales, and administrative support jobs	374	37
Self-employed <sup>b</sup>	207	20	Service occupations	212	21
			Police and detectives	81	8
<b>Sex</b>			Guards	59	6
Male	780	76	Operators, fabricators, and laborers	160	16
Female	244	24	Other and unspecified	79	8
			<b>Major industry</b>		
<b>Age</b>			Agriculture, forestry, fishing	19	2
18 or 19 years	25	2	Construction	15	1
20 to 24 years	69	7	Manufacturing	44	4
25 to 34 years	262	26	Transportation and public utilities	97	9
35 to 44 years	255	25	Taxicabs	68	7
45 to 54 years	213	21	Wholesale trade	25	2
55 to 64 years	125	12	Retail trade	416	41
65 years and older	64	6	Grocery stores	150	15
Other or unspecified	11	1	Eating and drinking places	119	12
			Gasoline service stations	36	4
<b>Race, ethnicity</b>			Finance, insurance, real estate	53	5
White	666	65	Services	137	13
Black	208	20	Business services	39	4
Asian or Pacific Islander	90	9	Detective and armored car services	25	3
Other or unspecified	60	6	Government	211	2
Hispanic <sup>c</sup>	128	13	Federal	109	11
			State	17	2
<b>Type of event</b>			Local	83	8
Shooting	754	74	Other and unspecified	7	1
Stabbing	67	7			
Hitting, kicking, beating	44	4			
Other <sup>d</sup>	159	16			
<b>Type of circumstance</b>					
Work associates	113	11			
Co-worker, former co-worker	88	9			
Customer or client	25	2			
Personal acquaintances	44	4			
Husband, ex-husband	14	1			
Boyfriend, ex-boyfriend	11	1			
Other relative or acquaintance	19	2			
Police in the line of duty	81	8			
Security guards in the line of duty	59	6			
Robberies and other crimes	727	71			

Note: These data were collected through the 1995 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in cooperation with numerous Federal, State, and local agencies. Data were collected from various Federal, State, and local administrative sources including death certificates, workers' compensation reports and claims, medical examiner reports, police reports, news reports, and reports to various regulatory agencies.

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, therefore, includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether they are covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), another Federal or State agency, or are outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Federal agencies participating in the census include OSHA, the Employment Standards Administration, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the U.S. Coast Guard. State and local agencies participating in the census include State and local police departments; State vital statistics registrars; State departments of health, labor, and industries; and local coroners and medical examiners. Multiple sources were used because studies have shown that no single source captures all job-related fatalities. Source documents were matched so that each fatality is counted only once. To ensure that a fatality occurred at work, information

was verified from two or more independent source documents or from a source document and a followup questionnaire. It was not possible to verify independently a small number of work-related fatalities included in the 1995 census. However, information in the initiating source document for these cases was sufficient to determine that the incident was likely to be work-related.

<sup>a</sup>Detail may not add to total because of the omission of miscellaneous categories and because of rounding.

<sup>b</sup>Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses or members of partnerships.

<sup>c</sup>Persons identified as Hispanic may be of any race; therefore detail may not add to total.

<sup>d</sup>Includes bombing.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Job-Related Homicides Profiled," Fatal Work Injuries and Work Hazards Fact Sheet, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor, 1996. (Mimeographed.) Pp. 2-5. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 3.154

Law enforcement officers killed

By circumstances at scene of incident, United States, 1978-95

Circumstances at scene of incident	Total	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total	1,420	93	106	104	91	92	80	72	78	66	74	78	66	66	71	63	70	76	74
Disturbance calls	226	10	17	12	19	18	15	8	13	7	23	7	13	10	17	11	10	8	8
Bar fights, man with gun, etc.	122	5	13	6	14	11	10	7	6	5	10	4	5	5	8	2	5	4	2
Family quarrels	104	5	4	6	5	7	5	1	7	2	13	3	8	5	9	9	5	4	6
Arrest situations	563	39	47	49	38	36	31	33	29	26	27	33	24	30	14	26	29	31	21
Burglaries in progress/pursuing burglary suspects	64	3	7	8	6	3	4	2	4	1	6	3	0	1	3	5	1	3	4
Robberies in progress/pursuing robbery suspects	207	15	19	22	17	14	11	9	12	9	4	7	8	13	4	10	10	16	7
Drug-related matters	95	6	6	9	2	5	6	4	6	7	4	12	7	5	3	3	3	3	4
Attempting other arrests	197	15	15	10	13	14	10	18	7	9	13	11	9	11	4	8	15	9	6
Civil disorders (mass disobedience, riot, etc.)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handling, transporting, custody of prisoners	60	7	3	1	1	3	3	3	4	5	6	2	6	2	6	2	1	1	4
Investigating suspicious persons/circumstances	207	8	9	16	10	11	10	12	9	11	5	23	10	9	10	7	15	15	17
Ambush situations	140	12	11	7	9	9	9	8	7	4	4	6	4	8	11	7	4	6	14
Entrapment/premeditation	77	11	8	2	5	7	6	4	5	2	3	2	2	2	5	5	2	0	6
Unprovoked attack	63	1	3	5	4	2	3	4	2	2	1	4	2	6	6	2	2	6	8
Mentally deranged	28	3	4	2	2	2	1	0	0	3	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	4	1
Traffic pursuits/stops	195	14	15	17	12	12	11	8	16	10	8	6	7	6	13	10	10	11	9

Note: These data include Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers feloniously killed in the United States, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and abroad.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted*, 1987, p. 17; 1990, p. 17; 1994, p. 31; 1995, p. 31; FBI Uniform Crime Reports (Washington, DC: USGPO). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 3.155

Law enforcement officers killed

By circumstances at scene of incident and type of assignment, United States, 1986-95  
(aggregate)

Circumstances at scene of incident	Total	Type of assignment							Off-duty
		2-officer vehicle	1-officer vehicle		Foot patrol		Detective, special assignment		
			Alone	Assisted	Alone	Assisted	Alone	Assisted	
Total	706	84	219	121	5	5	51	112	109
Disturbance calls	114	26	35	37	0	0	0	6	10
Bar fights, man with gun, etc.	50	12	8	18	0	0	0	5	7
Family quarrels	64	14	27	19	0	0	0	1	3
Arrest situations	261	23	40	46	2	3	14	72	61
Burglaries in progress/pursuing burglary suspects	28	4	12	3	0	0	1	3	5
Robberies in progress/pursuing robbery suspects	88	8	10	11	1	1	3	7	47
Drug-related matters	51	4	3	5	0	0	7	32	0
Attempting other arrests	94	7	15	27	1	2	3	30	9
Civil disorders (mass disobedience, riot, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handling, transporting, custody of prisoners	35	4	9	2	0	0	11	9	0
Investigating suspicious persons/circumstances	122	15	52	18	2	2	7	12	14
Ambush situations	71	5	16	4	1	0	17	9	19
Entrapment/premeditation	31	2	7	4	1	0	5	1	11
Unprovoked attack	40	3	9	0	0	0	12	8	8
Mentally deranged	14	3	4	4	0	0	0	3	0
Traffic pursuits/stops	89	8	63	10	0	0	2	1	5

Note: See Note, table 3.154.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 1995*, FBI Uniform Crime Reports (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997), p. 30.

Table 3.156

Law enforcement officers killed

By circumstances at scene of incident and type of assignment, United States, 1995

Circumstances at scene of incident	Total	Type of assignment							Off-duty
		2-officer vehicle	1-officer vehicle		Foot patrol		Detective, special assignment		
			Alone	Assisted	Alone	Assisted	Alone	Assisted	
Total	74	10	19	14	0	0	10	8	13
Disturbance calls	8	3	2	2	0	0	0	1	0
Bar fights, man with gun, etc.	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Family quarrels	6	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
Arrest situations	21	3	2	5	0	0	0	4	7
Burglaries in progress/pursuing burglary suspects	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Robberies in progress/pursuing robbery suspects	7	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	4
Drug-related matters	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Attempting other arrests	6	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	1
Civil disorders (mass disobedience, riot, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handling, transporting, custody of prisoners	4	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0
Investigating suspicious persons/circumstances	17	3	6	2	0	0	0	2	4
Ambush situations	14	0	2	1	0	0	8	1	2
Entrapment/premeditation	6	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	1
Unprovoked attack	8	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	1
Mentally deranged	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Traffic pursuits/stops	9	1	6	2	0	0	0	0	0

Note: See Note, table 3.154.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 1995*, FBI Uniform Crime Reports (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997), p. 31.

Table 3.161

Law enforcement officers assaulted

By circumstances at scene of incident and type of weapon, United States, 1995<sup>a</sup>

Circumstances at scene of incident	Total	Type of weapon			
		Firearm	Knife or cutting instrument	Other dangerous weapon	Personal weapon
Total	56,686	2,238	1,301	6,299	46,848
Percent of total	100%	3.9	2.3	11.1	82.6
Disturbance calls (family quarrels, man with gun, etc.)	18,709	719	637	1,488	15,865
Percent	100%	3.8	3.4	8.0	84.8
Burglaries in progress or pursuing burglary suspects	710	42	23	150	495
Percent	100%	5.9	3.2	21.1	69.7
Robberies in progress or pursuing robbery suspects	611	148	10	127	326
Percent	100%	24.2	1.6	20.8	53.4
Attempting other arrests	10,023	256	167	869	8,731
Percent	100%	2.6	1.7	8.7	87.1
Civil disorders (mass disobedience, riot, etc.)	661	13	28	103	517
Percent	100%	2.0	4.2	15.6	78.2
Handling, transporting, custody of prisoners	6,628	32	50	362	6,184
Percent	100%	0.5	0.8	5.5	93.3
Investigating suspicious persons and circumstances	6,063	337	128	719	4,879
Percent	100%	5.6	2.1	11.9	80.5
Ambush (no warning)	243	97	4	49	93
Percent	100%	39.9	1.6	20.2	38.3
Mentally deranged	773	42	65	89	577
Percent	100%	5.4	8.4	11.5	74.6
Traffic pursuits and stops	5,761	251	58	1,488	3,964
Percent	100%	4.4	1.0	25.8	68.8
All other	6,504	301	131	855	5,217
Percent	100%	4.6	2.0	13.1	80.2

Note: These data are based on 8,938 agencies reporting assaults to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program for all 12 months of 1995. These agencies cover approximately 74% of the total population. (Source, p. 65.)

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 1995*, FBI Uniform Crime Reports (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997), p. 69.

<sup>a</sup>Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Table 3.162

Law enforcement officers assaulted

By circumstances at scene of incident and type of assignment, United States, 1995<sup>a</sup>

Circumstances at scene of incident	Total	2-officer vehicle	Type of assignment					
			1-officer vehicle		Detective, special assignment		Other	
			Alone	Assisted	Alone	Assisted	Alone	Assisted
Total	56,686	11,992	13,608	21,422	985	2,068	2,147	4,464
Percent of total	100%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Disturbance calls (family quarrels, man with gun, etc.)	18,709	4,227	4,231	8,780	160	257	282	772
Percent	33.0%	35.2	31.1	41.0	16.2	12.4	13.1	17.3
Burglaries in progress or pursuing burglary suspects	710	174	177	295	11	9	14	30
Percent	1.3%	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.1	0.4	0.7	0.7
Robberies in progress or pursuing robbery suspects	611	189	105	212	13	31	30	31
Percent	1.1%	1.6	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.4	0.7
Attempting other arrests	10,023	2,190	2,318	3,800	207	630	277	601
Percent	17.7%	18.3	17.0	17.7	21.0	30.5	12.9	13.5
Civil disorders (mass disobedience, riot, etc.)	661	141	132	247	11	24	31	75
Percent	1.2%	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.7
Handling, transporting, custody of prisoners	6,628	1,142	1,214	1,693	99	244	598	1,638
Percent	11.7%	9.5	8.9	7.9	10.1	11.8	27.9	36.7
Investigating suspicious persons and circumstances	6,063	1,572	1,494	1,939	176	400	202	280
Percent	10.7%	13.1	11.0	9.1	17.9	19.3	9.4	6.3
Ambush (no warning)	243	78	62	47	5	15	18	18
Percent	0.4%	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.4
Mentally deranged	773	144	155	373	14	21	11	55
Percent	1.4%	1.2	1.1	1.7	1.4	1.0	0.5	1.2
Traffic pursuits and stops	5,761	1,228	1,879	2,206	58	118	100	172
Percent	10.2%	10.2	13.8	10.3	5.9	5.7	4.7	3.9
All other	6,504	907	1,841	1,830	231	319	584	792
Percent	11.5%	7.6	13.5	8.5	23.5	15.4	27.2	17.7

Note: See Note, table 3.161.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 1995*, FBI Uniform Crime Reports (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997), p. 70.

<sup>a</sup>Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding.



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# Survey of State Prison Inmates, 1991

By  
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March 1993, NCJ-136949

# Most inmates did not live with both parents while growing up, over 25% had parents who abused drugs or alcohol, and 31% had a brother with a jail or prison record

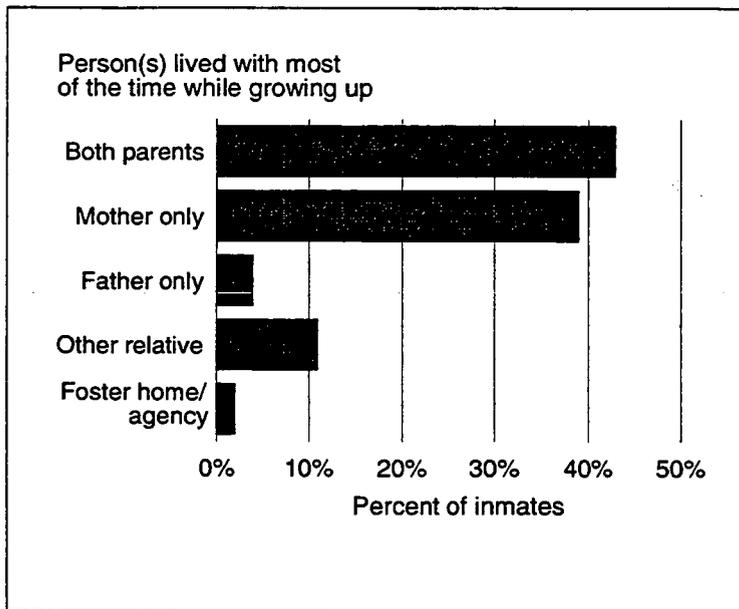


Fig. 14

- Most of the time while growing up, 43% of the inmates lived in a single-parent household: 39% with their mother and 4% with their father.
- 53% of black inmates grew up in single-parent households, compared to 33% of white inmates and 40% of Hispanic inmates.
- An estimated 14% of the inmates had lived in households with neither parent.
- About 17% of the inmates had lived in a foster home, agency, or other institution at some time.

## More than a quarter of inmates reported that their parents or guardians had abused alcohol or drugs

- 26% of inmates reported that their parents or guardians had abused alcohol; 4%, that they had abused drugs.
- Among all inmates, those who had lived with both parents were least likely to report parental/guardian substance abuse (23%). Thirty-seven percent of inmates who lived with their father reported substance abuse in the home, compared to 27% of those who lived with their mother and 34% of those who had other living arrangements.
- 36% of white inmates and 19% of black inmates reported parental alcohol abuse.
- 6% of white inmates and 3% of black inmates reported their parents using drugs.

## More than 4 in 10 female inmates reported they had been physically or sexually abused

- A third of female inmates reported being sexually abused and a third, physically abused, before they entered prison.
- 31% of women in prison had been abused before age 18, and 24% after age 18.
- Female inmates (43%) were at least 3 times more likely than male inmates (12%) to have sustained physical or sexual abuse in their past.

## Inmates who had an immediate family member who was ever incarcerated —

	Percent of inmates			
	All	White	Black	Hispanic
At least one family member	37%	33%	42%	35%
Father	6	8	5	5
Mother	2	2	2	1
Brother	31	26	35	29
Sister	4	4	5	4
Other	1	1	<1	1

Fig. 15

## 37% of inmates had an immediate family member who had served time

- At least 7% of prisoners said a parent had served a jail or prison sentence.
- 31% said their brother had been incarcerated.
- 4% said their sister had been incarcerated.
- Black inmates (42%) were more likely than white (33%) or Hispanic (35%) inmates to report an immediate family member ever being in jail or prison.

# 32% of inmates sentenced for a violent offense had victimized relative, intimate, or person whom they knew well

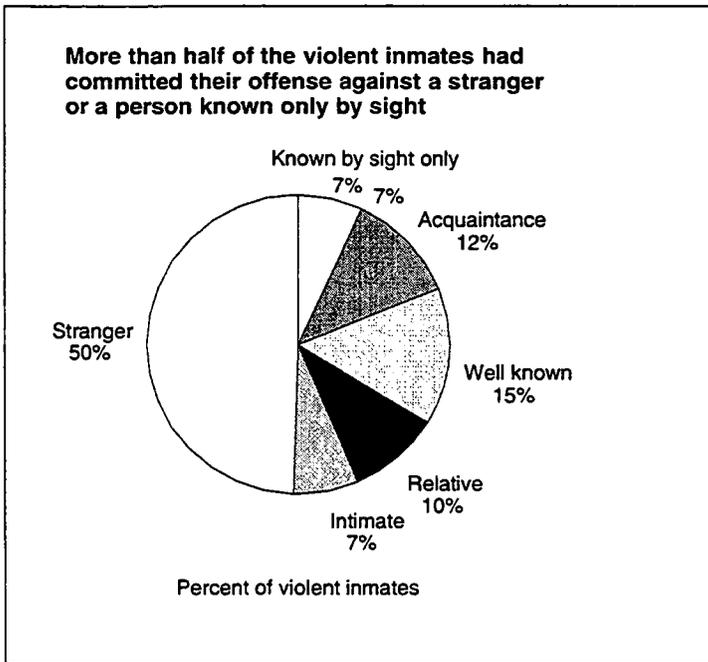


Fig. 29

Among violent inmates, women (36%) were more likely than men (16%) to have victimized a relative or intimate

Relationship of inmates to their victims	Percent of violent inmates	
	Male	Female
Close	16%	36%
Intimate	7	20
Relative	10	16
Known	33%	29%
Well known	15	14
Acquaintance	12	11
By sight only	7	4
Stranger	51%	35%

Fig. 30

- Among inmates sentenced for a violent offense, women (48%) were nearly twice as likely as men (26%) to have committed a homicide. Nearly half of these women had murdered a relative or intimate.
- 21% of violent male prisoners had committed a rape or other sexual assault; 38% of the sex offenders had assaulted a relative or intimate.
- More than 80% of both men and women in prison for robbery had victimized a stranger or a person known by sight only.
- Among inmates in prison for assault, 44% of the men, compared to 30% of the women, had victimized a stranger.

White inmates were about twice as likely as black and Hispanic inmates to have victimized a relative or inmate

Relationship of inmates to their victims	Percent of violent inmates			
	White	Black	Other	Hispanic
Close	26%	11%	24%	12%
Known	35	33	28	29
Stranger	39	56	48	59

Fig. 31

Nearly a quarter of white inmates in prison for homicide had killed a relative or intimate

Among inmates, by race or ethnicity and offense, percent who victimized a relative or intimate

Offense	Race or ethnicity of inmates			
	White	Black	Other	Hispanic
Homicide	23%	12%	26%	13%
Sexual	46	26	44	31
Robbery	1	1	3	1
Assault	22	17	20	12

Fig. 32

- Among those who had committed rape or other sexual assault, black (26%) inmates were less likely than white (46%) inmates to have victimized a relative or intimate.

35% of violent inmates who committed their offense at age 45 or older had victimized a relative or intimate

Among inmates, by inmate's age and offense, percent who victimized a relative or intimate

Offense	Age of inmate at time of offense			
	24 or younger	25-34	35-44	45 or older
All offenses	9%	18%	32%	35%
Homicide	10	19	33	31
Sexual assault	28	35	54	46
Robbery	1	2	2	4
Assault	8	25	25	32

Fig. 33

- Overall, inmates age 45 or older at the time of their offense were about 4 times as likely as those under age 25 to have victimized a relative or intimate.
- In contrast, the younger the inmate at the time of the offense, the greater the likelihood of victimizing a stranger. More than 60% of violent inmates under age 25 when they committed their offense victimized a stranger, compared to fewer than 50% of those age 25 to 34, 35% of those age 35 to 44, and 23% age 45 or older.

# **Victim Costs and Consequences: A New Look**

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A Final Summary Report Presented to the National Institute of Justice  
**January 1996**

cal and wage losses are labeled “annual” costs due to crime, more precisely, they are the “total discounted present value of short-term and long-term costs associated with 1 year of crime.” Thus, they are the total losses imposed by crimes that occur in a given year—regardless of when the losses actually occurred.

Overall, rape has the highest annual victim costs at \$127 billion per year (excluding child sex abuse), followed by assault at \$93 billion, murder (excluding arson and drunk driving deaths) at \$71 billion, drunk driving (including fatalities) at \$61 billion, and child abuse at \$56 billion. Table 5 shows the annual costs by crime and major cost category.

**Excluded crimes.** As mentioned earlier, several crime categories were not included in this study. However, other estimates of two common crimes—fraud and drug abuse—are reported, as is a preliminary estimate of the cost of child neglect.

**Personal fraud.** A recent survey of personal fraud victimization estimated the annual tangible costs for fraud to be \$45 billion (Titus et al., 1995).

**Drug abuse.** Although drug abuse might lead to other forms of crime (either through violence associated with the distribution process or property crimes in support of a drug habit), these costs are already included in this study’s victim cost estimates. The cost of illegal drug abuse itself, however, was not estimated. According to data published by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (1992), the annual health care costs for illegal drug users were \$5.2 billion in 1985, and drug treatment costs were an estimated \$1.73 billion in 1989. Other costs not included were property losses caused by drug abuse and lost labor productivity due to drug abuse of those in (or who would otherwise have been in) the legitimate labor force. One other indicator of the cost of drug abuse is the value of sales, estimated at \$40 billion to \$50 billion annually.

**Table 6**  
**Incidence and Annual Losses Due to Adult Domestic Violence (in 1993 dollars)**

Incidence	Victims	Victimizations	
		Series = 1	Series = r
Fatal Crime, No Arson/DWI	4,001	4,001	4,001
Rape	259,000	259,000	327,000
Other Assault or Attempt	1,960,000	1,960,000	2,287,000
Robbery or Attempt	40,000	40,000	48,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,300,000</b>	<b>2,300,000</b>	<b>2,700,000</b>

Annual Losses	Medical	Other Tangible	Quality of Life	Total
	Fatal Crime, No Arson/DWI	85 M	4,000 M	7,700 M
Rape	389 M	400 M	24,000 M	25,000 M
Other Assault or Attempt	1,322 M	2,700 M	26,000 M	30,000 M
Robbery or Attempt	21M	90 M	270 M	380 M
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,800 M</b>	<b>7,000 M</b>	<b>58,000 M</b>	<b>67,000 M</b>

**Notes:**  
(1) All of the incidents and costs reported here are included in tables 1 and 4.  
(2) The series = r rape count is tenuous and may be low. It assumes the NCVS average rapes per victim applies to domestic rapes. This does not affect total costs for rape, however.  
(3) Totals were computed before rounding.

**Child neglect.** As mentioned above, although some preliminary estimates of child neglect were made, they were excluded from total crime estimates due to definitional and consistency concerns. Following the same methodology as for child abuse, the researchers estimated the cost per child neglect case (shown in table 2) and the aggregate cost of child neglect. The estimated total cost of educational neglect is \$3 billion, while the annual cost of other forms of child neglect is \$12 billion. These are very tentative estimates.

## Special breakdown of cost estimates: domestic crime and crimes against children

Table 6 provides more details on the incidence and cost of domestic crimes against adults—all of which were also included in the previous tables. Domestic crime against adults accounts for almost 15 percent of total crime costs—\$67 billion per year. Table 7 provides more details about child abuse (ages 0 through 17). Children under age 18 suffer at least 4.9 million personal crimes annually. Losses due to these crimes exceed \$164 billion, of which about 40 percent results from domestic crime.

## Who pays the crime bill?

As table 8 shows, insurers pay \$45 billion annually due to crime. That's \$265 per American adult. Government pays \$8 billion annually for restorative and emergency services to victims, plus perhaps one-fourth of the \$11 billion in health insurance payments.

Crime victims and their families pay the bill for some crimes, while the public largely pays the bill for others. Taxpayers and insurance purchasers cover almost all the tangible victim costs of arson and drunk driving. They cover \$9 billion of the \$19 billion in tangible nonservice costs of larceny, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. They cover few of the tangible expenses of other crimes.

Victims pay about \$44 billion of the \$57 billion in tangible nonservice expenses for traditional crimes of violence—murder, rape, robbery, assault, and abuse and neglect. Employers pay almost \$5 billion because of these crimes, primarily in their health insurance bills. (This estimate excludes sick leave and disability insurance costs other than workers' compensation.) Government bears the remaining costs through lost tax revenues and Medicare and Medicaid payments.

Crime victim compensation accounts for 38 percent of homeowners' insurance payments and 29 percent of auto insurance payments.

## Uncertainty of the estimates and sensitivity analysis

This section explores the uncertainty in the study's estimates but cannot provide confidence intervals. Since this study relies on a wide range of disparate sources of data, the data are not in a format that would support a systematic study of the confidence interval around the estimates. Although the researchers attempted to be conservative, the estimates have a high degree of uncertainty. Some of the key problems are discussed below.

### Number of victimizations

■ **Confidence intervals for NCVS.** The NCVS is based on a complex sampling design. Although this research team does not have adequate information to be able to compute standard errors for all its derived estimates, the NCVS series=1 victimization estimates can be examined over the 4-year period (for which this study took the average). These standard errors are relatively small, implying that the NCVS estimates are generally within 5–10 percent of the true population. Although standard errors are low, NCVS estimates are only as good as the survey design and respondents' ability to recall and be truthful. For example, these confidence intervals tell nothing about the true underlying population of rape victims if women are reluctant to volunteer information about rape incidents. Moreover, these confidence intervals apply only to the aggregate victimization count estimates, not for the various breakouts used in this research. For example, although there is a high degree of confidence about the number of robbery victims reported in NCVS, there can be less confidence in the estimated proportion of robbery victims who were hospitalized for broken bones.

■ **Series victimization.** Few researchers have used the series victimization counts in the NCVS. This study's team carefully analyzed the raw sample data and checked the series victims for outliers and reasonableness. Although a few of the outliers were obvious miscodings (and thrown out of the sample for purposes of analysis), this study found that these observations generally were quite plausible. Ultimately, when presenting national cost estimates in table 5, the researchers decided to truncate the few remaining possible outliers at 10 victimizations in a 6-month period.



# Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report

August 1995, NCJ-154348

## *National Crime Victimization Survey*

# Violence against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey

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Estimating rates of violence against women, particularly sexual assault and other incidents which are perpetrated by intimate offenders, continues to be a difficult task. Many factors inhibit women from reporting these victimizations both to police and to interviewers, including the private nature of the event, the perceived stigma associated with one's victimization, and the belief that no purpose will be served in reporting it.

### **The redesign of the National Crime Victimization Survey**

After an extensive 10-year redesign project, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) has been revised. A redesigned questionnaire was in wide use by January 1992. One goal of the redesign was to produce more accurate reporting of incidents of rape and sexual assault and of any kind of crimes committed by intimates or family members.

The new NCVS questionnaire encourages reporting of incidents in several ways. *Questions were added* to let respondents know that the interviewer

is interested in a broad spectrum of incidents, not just those involving weapons, severe violence, or violence perpetrated by strangers. *New methods of cuing* respondents about potential experiences with victimizations

increased the range of incident types that are being reported to interviewers. And *behavior-specific wording* has replaced criminal justice terminology to make the questions more understandable.

## Highlights

- Women age 12 or older annually sustained almost 5 million violent victimizations in 1992 and 1993. About 75% of all lone-offender violence against women and 45% of violence involving multiple-offenders was perpetrated by offenders whom the victim knew. In 29% of all violence against women by a lone offender, the perpetrator was an intimate (husband, ex-husband, boyfriend, or ex-boyfriend).
- Women were about 6 times more likely than men to experience violence committed by an intimate.
- Women annually reported about 500,000 rapes and sexual assaults to interviewers. Friends or acquaintances of the victims committed over half of these rapes or sexual assaults. Strangers were responsible for about 1 in 5.
- Women of all races and Hispanic and non-Hispanic women were about equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate.
- Women age 19 to 29 and women in families with incomes below \$10,000 were more likely than other women to be victims of violence by an intimate.
- Among victims of violence committed by an intimate, the victimization rate of women separated from their husbands was about 3 times higher than that of divorced women and about 25 times higher than that of married women. Because the NCVS reflects a respondent's marital status at the time of the interview, which is up to 6 months after the incident, it is possible that separation or divorce followed the violence.
- Female victims of violence by an intimate were more often injured by the violence than females victimized by a stranger.

**Victim-offender relationship for lone-offender victimizations**

Among victims of offenders acting alone, men were just as likely to be victimized by a stranger as by someone they knew (table 4). By contrast, women were more likely to be victim-

ized by known offenders than by strangers. About three-quarters of all lone-offender violence against women was perpetrated by an offender whom the victim knew. In 29% of all violence against women by a lone offender, the perpetrator was a husband, ex-husband, boyfriend,

or ex-boyfriend — an intimate. Compared to men, women were about 6 times more likely to experience violence committed by an intimate.

Violence at the hands of an intimate involved about 9 in 1,000 women annually (table 5). This rate translates into about 1 million women who became the victims of such violence every year.

Men were about twice as likely as women to experience acts of violence by strangers. Men were victims of almost 2 million acts of stranger-perpetrated violence annually, while women experienced about 800,000.

**Table 4. Victim-offender relationship and sex of victim, by type of violent victimization committed by lone offenders, 1992-93**

Victim-offender relationship	Average annual percent of victimizations				
	Total	Rape/Sexual assault	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Simple assault
<b>Female victims</b>					
Intimate	29%	26%	28%	28%	29%
Spouse	9	5	6	5	11
Ex-spouse	4	5	5	5	4
Boy/girlfriend (or ex-)	16	16	18	17	15
Other relative	9	3	5	7	11
Acquaintance/friend	40	53	19	36	41
Stranger	23	18	48	30	19
<b>Male victims</b>					
Intimate	4%	*	3%	5%	3%
Spouse	1	*	*	1	1
Ex-spouse	1	*	*	*	1
Boy/girlfriend (or ex-)	2	*	2	3	1
Other relative	3	*	2	4	3
Acquaintance/friend	44	54	26	40	49
Stranger	49	46	69	51	45

Note: Excludes homicide. Intimate includes spouse or ex-spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend, and ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.  
\*Ten or fewer sample cases.

**Table 5. Average annual rate of violent victimization, by sex of victim, victim-offender relationship, and type of crime committed by lone offenders, 1992-93**

Type of crime	Average annual rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older			
	Intimate	Other relative	Acquaintance/friend	Stranger
<b>Female victims</b>				
Crimes of violence	9.3	2.8	12.9	7.4
Rape/Sexual assault	1.0	.1	2.0	.7
Robbery	.7	.1	.5	1.2
Aggravated assault	1.5	.4	2.0	1.6
Simple assault	6.1	2.2	8.5	3.9
Annual average number of violent crimes	1,008,000	304,500	1,402,500	802,300
<b>Male victims</b>				
Crimes of violence	1.4	1.2	17.2	19.0
Rape/Sexual assault	*	*	.2	.2
Robbery	.1	.1	.9	2.4
Aggravated assault	.5	.4	3.8	4.8
Simple assault	.8	.7	12.4	11.6
Annual average number of violent crimes	143,400	122,000	1,754,000	1,933,100

Note: Excludes homicide. Intimate includes spouse or ex-spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend, and ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend. Average annual numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.  
\*Ten or fewer sample cases.

**Table 6. Average annual rate of violent victimizations of women by a lone offender, by victim characteristics and victim-offender relationship, 1992-93**

Victim characteristic	Average annual rate of violent victimizations per 1,000 females age 12 or older				
	Total	Intimate	Other relative	Acquaintance/friend	Stranger
<b>Crimes of violence</b>	36.1	9.3	2.8	12.9	7.4
<b>Race</b>					
White	35.2	9.1	2.6	12.5	7.1
Black	44.6	10.9	3.5	17.2	9.5
Other	27.8	6.5	4.5	8.4	5.7
<b>Ethnicity</b>					
Hispanic	33.9	7.3	3.2	10.0	9.0
Non-Hispanic	36.3	9.4	2.8	13.2	7.2
<b>Age</b>					
12-18	74.6	9.6	6.1	39.1	11.9
19-29	63.7	21.3	4.7	18.2	13.9
30-45	37.5	10.8	2.8	12.4	7.4
46-64	12.5	2.2	1.2	4.1	3.7
65 or older	4.8	1.2	0.3	1.1	1.2
<b>Education</b>					
Some high school or less	47.7	9.9	4.7	20.5	7.5
High school graduate	27.9	9.2	2.2	8.8	4.9
Some college or more	35.9	8.7	2.1	11.6	9.6
<b>Annual family income</b>					
\$9,999 or less	57.1	19.9	6.1	18.5	7.8
\$10,000-\$14,999	46.8	13.3	4.0	14.1	9.1
\$15,000-\$19,999	42.2	10.9	3.1	17.3	7.0
\$20,000-\$29,999	38.0	9.5	2.7	14.8	7.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	30.6	5.4	1.8	11.5	8.4
\$50,000 or more	24.8	4.5	1.8	9.7	6.3
<b>Marital status</b>					
Married	16.9	2.7	1.6	5.7	4.9
Widowed	10.4	1.9	0.6	3.6	2.5
Divorced	61.8	23.1	4.2	19.5	10.2
Separated	123.5	82.2	10.0	19.9	7.4
Never married	63.9	12.0	4.6	27.2	12.9
<b>Location of residence</b>					
Urban	45.4	10.7	3.0	15.9	10.8
Suburban	33.6	9.2	2.7	11.5	7.1
Rural	29.5	7.7	2.7	12.2	3.7

Note: Rates of violence for this table include rapes, sexual assaults, robberies, and aggravated and simple assaults from the NCVS. Rates exclude homicide victimizations. Relationship-specific rates do not add to the total because some victims did not identify their relationship to the offender.

### Demographic and contextual characteristics of violence against women

Violence against women perpetrated by intimates was consistent across racial and ethnic boundaries. No statistically significant differences existed between these groups. Black and white women and Hispanic and non-Hispanic women sustained about the same amount of violence by intimate partners (table 6).

Compared to all other age groups, women age 19 to 29 reported more violence by intimates. Women age 12 to 18 were more likely than women older than 18 to report violence against them by friends or acquaintances. In general, women age 65 or older were the least likely to experience an act of violence.

Women with an annual family income under \$10,000 were more likely to report having experienced violence by an intimate than those with an income of \$10,000 or more.

Among victims of violence committed by an intimate, the victimization rate of women separated from their husbands was about 3 times higher than that of divorced women and about 25 times higher than that of married women. Because the NCVS reflects a respondent's marital status at the time of the interview, it is not possible to determine whether a woman was separated or divorced at the time of

### Homicide of men and women

Because the NCVS is a survey of individuals about their victimization experiences, it does not gather data on homicides. The Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, provides the number of homicides known to police.

The 1992 UCR reported the victim-offender relationship for 61% of the homicide incidents. The reported patterns of intimate perpetration for men and women were similar to those for other types of victimizations collected by the NCVS.

Female victims of homicide were significantly more likely to be killed by a husband, ex-husband, or boyfriend than male victims were to be killed by their wife, ex-wife, or girlfriend. In 1992 approximately 28% of female victims of homicide (1,414 women) were known to have been killed by their husband, ex-husband, or boyfriend. In contrast, just over 3% of male homicide victims (637 men) were known to have been killed by their wife, ex-wife, or girlfriend.

Homicide	Percent of all homicides in 1992	
	Female victims	Male victims
<b>Victim-offender relationship</b>		
Spouse/ex-spouse	18.0%	2.2%
Boy/girlfriend	10.3	1.4
Other relative	10.2	5.5
Acquaintance/friend	22.0	34.6
Stranger	8.6	15.0
Relationship not identified	30.9	41.3
<b>Number of incidents</b>		
Relationship identified	3,454	10,351
Relationship not identified	1,547	7,824
Total number of incidents	5,001	17,635

Note: Because in 41% of male homicides and 31% of female homicides the victim-offender relationship was not identified, readers are urged to use caution in interpreting these estimates.

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, 1992.

the violence or whether separation or divorce followed the violence.

In general, there was little variation in the extent to which women living in urban, suburban, and rural locations experienced violence by intimates. However, urban women were more likely than either suburban or rural women to experience violence by strangers.

### Weapons and violence against women

About a fifth of all lone-offender violence against women involved a weapon. Compared to known offenders, violent offenders who were strangers to the female victim were more likely to carry or use a weapon.

	Percent of violent victimizations against women involving weapons
<b>All lone-offender violent crimes</b>	20%
<b>Victim-offender relationship</b>	
Intimate	18%
Other relative	17
Acquaintance/friend	16
Stranger	30

### Injured female victims of crime

Women were more likely to be injured in violent incidents committed by intimates than in incidents committed by strangers. However, there was no significant difference across relationship categories in the extent to which injured victims required medical care. This lack of difference may reflect less severe injuries for intimate victims or may reflect factors which keep some women from seeking medical care.

	Female victims	
	Sustain- ing injury	Percent of injured who required medical care
<b>All lone-offender violent crimes</b>	33%	41%
<b>Victim-offender relationship</b>		
Intimate	52%	41%
Other relative	38	35
Acquaintance/friend	26	43
Stranger	20	37

### Women's injury and reporting to police

Compared to violence without injury, a higher percentage of violence against women involving injury was reported to police. Victimizations that resulted in injury were equally likely to be reported to police regardless of the relationship between the victim and offender.

	Percent of violent victimizations against women reported to police
<b>All lone-offender violent crimes</b>	
Injured	54%
Not injured	39
<b>Victim-offender relationship</b>	
Intimate	
Injured	55%
Not injured	46
Other relative	
Injured	52
Not injured	39
Acquaintance/friend	
Injured	50
Not injured	33
Stranger	
Injured	56
Not injured	42

### Rapes and other sexual assaults against women

The redesigned NCVS now obtains information on a broad scope of sexual assaults, ranging in severity from a completed rape to a verbal threat of sexual assault. Sexual assaults other than rape were not measured in the earlier victimization survey.

A completed rape is a report of a respondent physically forced or psychologically coerced to engage in sexual intercourse. Intercourse is an act of vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by the offender(s), including penetration by a foreign object. (For more information on NCVS methodology as it relates to rape and sexual assault, see *Methodology* on pages 6-7. Also see the forthcoming *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1993*, NCJ-151657, Appendix.)

Victimizations not involving completed or attempted sexual intercourse but having some form of sexual behavior forced on the victim were categorized as sexual assault. These crimes in-

**Table 7. Number and rate of rapes and sexual assaults of female victims age 12 or older, by type of assault, 1992-93**

Type of victimization	Average annual number of incidents	Percent of all rapes/sexual assaults	Average annual rate per 1,000 females age 12 or older
Rape/Sexual assault	500,200	100%	4.6
Completed rape	172,400	34	1.6
Attempted rape	141,200	28	1.3
Sexual assault with serious injury	23,600	5	0.2
Sexual assault with minor injury	20,700	4	0.2
Sexual assault without injury	75,800	15	0.7
Verbal threat of rape	29,200	6	0.3
Verbal threat of sexual assault	37,300	7	0.3

Note: Detailed numbers and percentage distribution may not add to total because of rounding. Average annual numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100. This table does not include sexual contact without force.

**Table 8. Victim-offender relationship in rapes and sexual assaults of female victims age 12 or older, by type of assault, 1992-93**

Type of victimization	Percent of lone-offender victimizations against females				
	Total	Intimate	Other relative	Acquaintance/friend	Stranger
Rape/Sexual assault	100%	26%	3%	53%	18%
Completed rape	100	39	*	50	8
Attempted rape	100	24	*	49	23
Sexual assault with injury	100	23	*	42	28
Sexual assault without injury	100	13	*	75	*
Verbal threat of rape or sexual assault	100	*	*	53	42

Note: This table does not include sexual contact without force. Percentage distributions may not total 100% because some victims did not identify the offender's relationship to them and because of rounding.

\*Ten or fewer sample cases.

cluded assaults and threats, and they generally involved sexual contact, such as the offender's grabbing or fondling of the victim.

Sexual assaults also included incidents in which the offender's motive was not clear. If victims reported that they had been sexually attacked but could not or would not say that it was a rape or an attempted rape, the incident was classified as a sexual assault. (For more information about screening questions, see *Methodology* and the comparisons on page 8.)

Each year an estimated 500,000 women were the victims of some form of rape or sexual assault (table 7). Thirty-four percent of these victimizations were completed rapes, and an additional 28% were attempted rapes.

Women were more likely to report being raped or sexually assaulted by friends or other acquaintances than by intimates, relatives, or strangers (table 8). Friends and acquaintances committed about half of all rapes and sexual assaults. Intimates committed an additional 26%. Altogether, offenders known to the victim accounted for about three-quarters of all rapes and sexual assaults against women. Strangers committed 18% of such assaults.

## Methodology

Except for homicide data provided by the Uniform Crime Reports, the tables in this report include data from the redesigned National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) for 1992 and 1993. The NCVS obtains information about crimes, including incidents not reported to police, from a continuous, nationally representative sample of households in the United States. Approximately 50,000 households and 100,000 individuals age 12 or older are interviewed for the survey annually. References in this report to "women" or "females" include adolescents, but not children under age 12. For more information about the NCVS sample, see *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1993*, NCJ-151657, forthcoming, published in an annual series by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

This report includes data on series victimizations. A series crime incident is defined by the NCVS as a crime in which a respondent experienced at least six similar victimization incidents during the given reference period (previous 6 months) but could not report the date and details of each clearly enough to report them separately. These incidents are recorded as one series incident and included in all tables. The characteristics of the incident are based on those represented in the last incident in the series.

### *The redesigned screening instrument*

A goal of the NCVS redesign was to produce more accurate reporting of incidents of rape and sexual assault and other crimes committed by intimates and family members. The new NCVS methodology encourages respondents to report incidents of this nature in a number of ways. Questions were added to let respondents know that the interviewer is interested in a broad spectrum of incidents, not just those involving weapons, severe violence, or violence perpetrated by strangers. In addition to the new questions, new methods of cuing respondents about potential experiences with victimizations have also been added. For example, instead of the yes/no question-and-answer format of the previous screener, the new screener provides an extended list of cues regarding crime victimizations and situations in which victimizations might have occurred. (See page 8.) Another general change in the new screener has been the replacement of criminal justice terms with more behavior-specific language.

### *The redesign's enhanced ability to measure sexual assaults and intimate-perpetrated violence*

To more accurately capture sexual assaults and intimate-perpetrated violence, two frames of reference have been added or more explicitly defined in the NCVS screener. The first relates to crimes being committed by someone the respondent knows, and the second relates to possible locations of a crime or activities the respondent may have been involved in.

In addition, explicit cuing for rape and other sexual assault is included in the new screening instrument.

### *Definitions of relationships*

*Intimates:* Includes spouses or ex-spouses, boyfriends and girlfriends, or ex-boyfriends and ex-girlfriends.

*Other relatives:* Parents or step-parents, children or stepchildren, brothers or sisters, or some other relative.

*Acquaintances/friends:* Friends or former friends, roommates or boarders, schoolmates, neighbors, someone at work, or some other known nonrelative.

*Strangers:* Anyone not known previously by the victim.

### *Definitions of violent crimes*

*Rape:* Carnal knowledge through the use of force or threat of force, including attempts; attempted rape may consist of verbal threats of rape. It includes male as well as female victims.

The definition from the NCVS interviewer's manual is as follows: "Rape is forced sexual intercourse and includes both psychological coercion as well as physical force. Forced sexual intercourse means vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by the offender(s). This category also includes incidents where the penetration is from a foreign object such as a bottle."

Respondents are asked a series of questions about attacks, rapes, attempted rapes, sexual attacks, and forced or coerced unwanted sex. These questions are asked directly and are accompanied by cues about the offender (casual acquaintance, co-worker, neighbor, friend, relative, and so on). If the respondent replies in the affirmative to any of these questions or cues, an Incident Report is filled out to gather details. In gathering these details, interviewers are instructed to ask "Do you mean forced or coerced sexual intercourse?" to determine whether the incident should be re-corded as a rape. If the respondent requests clarification of the terms

## Appendix: Comparison of new and old screener questions

### Screener questions for violent crimes

#### New (beginning January 1992)

1. Has anyone attacked or threatened you in any of these ways—
  - a. With any weapon, for instance, a gun or knife—
  - b. With anything like a baseball bat, frying pan, scissors, or stick—
  - c. By something thrown, such as a rock or bottle—
  - d. Include any grabbing, punching, or choking,
  - e. Any rape, attempted rape or other type of sexual assault—
  - f. Any face to face threats—

OR

  - g. Any attack or threat or use of force by anyone at all? Please mention it even if you were not certain it was a crime.
2. Incidents involving forced or unwanted sexual acts are often difficult to talk about. Have you been forced or coerced to engage in unwanted sexual activity by—
  - a. Someone you didn't know before
  - b. A casual acquaintance OR
  - c. Someone you know well.

#### Old (1972-92\*)

1. Did anyone take something directly from you by using force, such as by a stickup, mugging, or threat?
2. Did anyone TRY to rob you by using force or threatening to harm you?
3. Did anyone beat you up, attack you, or hit you with something, such as a rock or bottle?
4. Were you knifed, shot at, or attacked with some other weapon by anyone at all?
5. Did anyone THREATEN to beat you up or THREATEN you with a knife, gun, or some other weapon, NOT including telephone threats?
6. Did anyone TRY to attack you in some other way?

\*During 1992 half of the sampled households responded to the old questionnaire, and half to the redesigned survey.

### Screener questions for all types of crimes

#### New

1. Were you attacked or threatened OR did you have something stolen from you—
  - a. At home including the porch or yard—
  - b. At or near a friend's relative's, or neighbor's home—
  - c. At work or school—
  - d. In place such as a storage shed or laundry room, a shopping mall, restaurant, bank or airport—
  - e. While riding in any vehicle—
  - f. On the street or in a parking lot—
  - g. At such places as a party, theater, gym, picnic area, bowling lanes, or while fishing or hunting.

OR

  - h. Did anyone ATTEMPT to attack or attempt to steal anything belonging to you from any of these places?
2. People often don't think of incidents committed by someone they know. Did you have something stolen from you OR were you attacked or threatened by—
  - a. Someone at work or school—
  - b. A neighbor or friend—
  - c. A relative or family member—
  - d. Any other person you've met or known?
3. Did you call the police to report something that happened to YOU which you thought was a crime?
4. Did anything happen to you which you thought was a crime, but did NOT report to the police?

#### Old

1. Was anything stolen from you while you were away from home, for instance, at work, in a theater or restaurant, or while traveling.
2. Did you call the police to report something that happened to YOU that you thought was a crime?
3. Did anything happen to YOU that you thought was a crime, but did NOT report to the police?

The table below compares results from this report, based on the redesigned NCVS methodology, with results from an earlier report, using data from the old questionnaire (*Violence against Women*, NCJ-145325, January 1994).

The new survey instrument captures more incidents of violence across all categories than did the old questionnaire. The extent of increase, however, does vary according to the sex of the vic-

	Average annual rate of violent victimizations per 1,000 persons	
	Female	Male
<b>Old survey methodology, 1987-91</b>		
Intimate	5.4	.5
Other relative	1.1	.7
Acquaintance/friend	7.6	13.0
Stranger	5.4	12.2
<b>New NCVS methodology, 1992-93</b>		
Intimate	9.3	1.4
Other relative	2.8	1.2
Acquaintance/friend	12.9	17.2
Stranger	7.4	19.0

tim and the victim-offender relationship. The rates presented in this table are based on different time periods; however, analysis of data for overlapping periods confirms these patterns. (See *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1993*, NCJ-151657, Appendix, forthcoming, by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.)

Appendix table





# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS UPDATE CARD

- Yes, I am interested in updates to this package. Please send notices of forthcoming supplements to:

**Name:**

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**Organization:**

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**Address:**

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**Phone:**

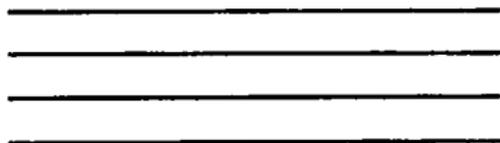
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**Fax:**

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**E-mail:**

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**Place  
Stamp  
Here**

**Bureau of Justice Statistics Clearinghouse  
P.O. Box 179  
Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0179**



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# Domestic Violence Awareness



*What You Can Do*





Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D.C.

All of you know how much needs to be done to take meaningful steps to end domestic violence and sexual assault. We need tough law enforcement, aggressive prosecutions, effective prevention programs and available shelters for families in distress. Most importantly, we need to insure that more people know and understand that domestic violence is not a private matter. It is a critical national problem that affects us all — in every community, in every work place and in every school.

Each of us can do more — and this booklet shows us how.

President Clinton recognized the seriousness of the problem when he signed the Violence Against Women Act as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. In the past year, we have sought to combine tough federal penalties along with substantial resources to the states to begin dealing with the problem of domestic violence in a comprehensive, multi-faceted way. We have encouraged the states and local law enforcement agencies to begin programs that will enhance their ability to prevent domestic violence, to punish it and to stop the cycle of violence. The Act also established a National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-800-799-SAFE.

Here at the Justice Department, Bonnie Campbell and the Violence Against Women Office have worked to get the message out and to provide guidance to law enforcement agencies throughout the country. HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala and I have a very active Advisory Council which is proposing creative ideas on implementing the Violence Against Women Act. In addition, President Clinton has called on all the departments of the Federal government to develop employee awareness campaigns to help combat domestic violence.

I encourage you to share this booklet with anyone you know who might be at risk of domestic violence. By working together, exchanging ideas, and coordinating our work in this area, we can begin to end the terrible cycle of violence that destroys so many American lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Reno".

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# **BREAKING THE SILENCE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**.Bonnie J. Campbell**  
**Director of the Violence Against Women Office**

Tough new laws are one way to reduce domestic violence and sexual assaults. Nothing sends a clearer message to a wife-beater — and Department of Justice statistics confirm that women are battered far more than men — than prosecuting and jailing other wife-beaters. New laws, however, are not the only answer.

Too many people continue to believe that domestic violence is a private matter between a couple, rather than a criminal offense that merits a strong and swift response. Even today, the victim of a domestic assault runs the risk of being asked, “What did you do to make your husband angry?” This question implies the victim is to blame for this abuse. People in our criminal justice system — police, prosecutors, judges, and jurors — need to be educated about the role they can play in curbing acts of domestic violence.

Even when cases are brought, domestic crimes are difficult to prosecute. All too often victims are so terrorized that they fear for their lives if they call the police. Silence is the batterer’s best friend. We have to end the silence and change our attitudes toward domestic crime.

Neighbors must contact the police when they hear violent fights in their neighborhoods. Don’t turn up the television to block out the sounds of the drunken argument next door. Call the police.

Teachers should be alert to signs that students have witnessed violence at home. Children who grow up in violent homes are more likely to become violent themselves.

Medical professionals who see the victims of violence need to ask them about these crimes. Too often, doctors or emergency room personnel accept the statement of fearful victims that their bruises or cuts are the result of household accidents or falls. When a woman with a black eye says that she fell and hit the doorknob, doctors and nurses must ask: “Did someone hit you?”

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Members of the clergy need to become more involved as well. We just can't tell a battered spouse to "go home and make it work," as was done in the past. Sending a woman back to a battering husband often places her life at risk. Of course, we can't tell a woman who lives in a violent relationship what to do, but we can make a greater effort to let her know that other options are available for her and her children. Early intervention is crucial.

These crimes are serious. Experience shows that levels of violence in these relationships tend to escalate, and many police departments cite domestic violence as their number one problem. Tough laws and effective prosecutions, combined with education and a cooperative approach among law enforcement and social service agencies, will take time to be effective. Until then, we all must take a greater role in reporting domestic abuse. Our efforts to break the silence can make a difference.

# NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

1-800-799-SAFE  
TDD 1-800-787-3224

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## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE . . . WHAT IS IT?**

As domestic violence awareness has increased, it has become evident that abuse can occur within a number of relationships. The laws in many states cover incidents of violence occurring between married couples, as well as abuse of elders by family members, abuse between roommates, dating couples and those in lesbian and gay relationships.

In an abusive relationship, the abuser may use a number of tactics other than physical violence in order to maintain power and control over his or her partner:

### ***Emotional and verbal abuse:***

Survivors of domestic violence recount stories of put-downs, public humiliation, name-calling, mind games and manipulation by their partners. Many say that the emotional abuse they have suffered has left the deepest scars.

### ***Isolation:***

It is common for an abuser to be extremely jealous, and insist that the victim not see her friends or family members. The resulting feeling of isolation may then be increased for the victim if she loses her job as a result of absenteeism or decreased productivity (which are often associated with people who are experiencing domestic violence).

### ***Threats and Intimidation:***

Threats — including threats of violence, suicide, or of taking away the children — are a very common tactic employed by the batterer.

The existence of emotional and verbal abuse, attempts to isolate, and threats and intimidation within a relationship may be an indication that physical abuse is to follow. Even if they are not accompanied by physical abuse, the effect of these incidents must not be minimized. Many of the resources listed in this book have information available for people who are involved with an emotionally abusive intimate partner.

**For additional information on the domestic violence definitions and laws in your state, please contact the state resource listed in the back of this book.**

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## WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

- Women were attacked about six times more often by offenders with whom they had an intimate relationship than were male violence victims.
- Nearly 30 percent of all female homicide victims were known to have been killed by their husbands, former husbands or boyfriends.
- In contrast, just over 3 percent of male homicide victims were known to have been killed by their wives, former wives or girlfriends.
- Husbands, former husbands, boyfriends and ex-boyfriends committed more than one million violent acts against women.
- Family members or other people they knew committed more than 2.7 million violent crimes against women.
- Husbands, former husbands, boyfriends and ex-boyfriends committed 26 percent of rapes and sexual assaults.
- Forty-five percent of all violent attacks against female victims 12 years old and older by multiple offenders involve offenders they know.
- The rate of intimate-offender attacks on women separated from their husbands was about three times higher than that of divorced women and about 25 times higher than that of married women.
- Women of all races were equally vulnerable to attacks by intimates.
- Female victims of violence were more likely to be injured when attacked by someone they knew than female victims of violence who were attacked by strangers.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics National Crime Victimization Survey, August 1995

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## MYTHS FEED DENIAL ABOUT FAMILY VIOLENCE

**Myth:** *Family violence is rare...*

**Truth:** Although statistics on family violence are not precise, it's clear that millions of children, women and even men are abused physically by family members and other intimates.

**Myth:** *Family violence is confined to the lower classes...*

**Truth:** Reports from police records, victim services, and academic studies show domestic violence exists equally in every socioeconomic group, regardless of race or culture.

**Myth:** *Alcohol and drug abuse are the real causes of violence in the home...*

**Truth:** Because many male batterers also abuse alcohol and other drugs, it's easy to conclude that these substances may cause domestic violence. They apparently do increase the lethality of the violence, but they also offer the batterer another excuse to evade responsibility for his behavior. The abusive man — and men are the abusers in the overwhelming majority of domestic violence incidents — typically controls his actions, even when drunk or high, by choosing a time and place for the assaults to take place in private and go undetected. In addition, successful completion of a drug treatment program does not guarantee an end to battering. Domestic violence and substance abuse are two different problems that should be treated separately.

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**Myth:** *Battered wives like being hit, otherwise they would leave...*

**Truth:** The most common response to battering— “Why doesn’t she just leave?”— ignores economic and social realities facing many women. Shelters are often full, and family, friends, and the workplace are frequently less than fully supportive. Faced with rent and utility deposits, day care, health insurance, and other basic expenses, the woman may feel that she cannot support herself and her children. Moreover, in some instances, the woman may be increasing the chance of physical harm or even death if she leaves an abusive spouse.

Adapted from: “Preventing Violence Against Women, Not Just a Women’s Issue,”  
National Crime Prevention Council, 1995.

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## WHAT CAN YOU SAY TO A VICTIM?

- I'm afraid for your safety.
- I'm afraid for the safety of your children.
- It will only get worse.
- We're here for you when you are ready or when you are able to leave.
- You deserve better than this.
- Let's figure out a safety plan for you.

Adapted from: Sarah Buel, Esq., in "Courts and Communities: Confronting Violence in the Family," Conference Highlights, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 1994.

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## WHAT IS A SAFETY PLAN?

Every individual in an abusive relationship needs a safety plan. The District of Columbia Coalition Against Domestic Violence has published a wallet-sized card that gives names and phone numbers of shelters, legal services, and support groups, and lists basic elements of a safety plan. (The number is listed in the back.) Shelters and crisis counselors have been urging safety plans for years, and police departments, victim services, hospitals, and courts have adopted this strategy. Safety plans should be individualized — for example, taking account of age, marital status, whether children are involved, geographic location, and resources available — but still contain common elements.

### When creating a safety plan:

- **Think about all possible escape routes.** Doors, first-floor windows, basement exits, elevators, stairwells. Rehearse if possible.
- **Choose a place to go.** To the home of a friend or relative who will offer unconditional support, or a motel or hotel, or a shelter – most importantly somewhere you will feel safe.
- **Pack a survival kit.** Money for cab fare, a change of clothes, extra house and car keys, birth certificates, passports, medications and copies of prescriptions, insurance information, checkbook, credit cards, legal documents such as separation agreements and protection orders, address books, and valuable jewelry, and papers that show jointly owned assets. Conceal it in the home or leave it with a trusted neighbor, friend, or relative. Important papers can also be left in a bank deposit box.
- **Try to start an individual savings account.** Have statements sent to a trusted relative or friend.
- **Avoid arguments with the abuser in areas with potential weapons.** Kitchen, garage, or in small spaces without access to an outside door.
- **Know the telephone number of the domestic violence hotline.** Contact it for information on resources and legal rights.
- **Review the safety plan monthly.**

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## WHAT CAN EACH OF US DO?

- ✓ Call the police if you see or hear evidence of domestic violence.
- ✓ Speak out publicly against domestic violence.
- ✓ Take action personally against domestic violence when a neighbor, a co-worker, a friend, or a family member is involved or being abused.
- ✓ Encourage your neighborhood watch or block association to become as concerned with watching out for domestic violence as with burglaries and other crimes.
- ✓ Reach out to support someone whom you believe is a victim of domestic violence and/or talk with a person you believe is being abusive.
- ✓ Help others become informed, by inviting speakers to your church, professional organization, civic group, or workplace.
- ✓ Support domestic violence counseling programs and shelters.

Pages 9 and 10 adapted from: "Preventing Domestic Violence" by Laura Crites in Prevention Communique, March 1992, Crime Prevention Division, Department of the Attorney General, Hawaii.

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## WHAT CAN COMMUNITIES DO TO PREVENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Expand **education and awareness** efforts to increase positive attitudes toward nonviolence and encourage individuals to report family violence.
- Form **coordinating councils** or **task forces** to assess the problem, develop an action plan, and monitor progress.
- Mandate **training** in domestic violence for all social services and criminal justice professionals.
- Advocate **laws and judicial procedures** at the state and local levels that support and protect battered women.
- Establish centers where visits between batterers and their children may be supervised, for the **children's safety**.
- Fund **shelters** adequately.
- Recruit and train **volunteers** to staff **hotlines**, accompany victims to court, and provide administrative support to shelters and victim services.
- Improve collection of **child support**.
- Establish **medical protocols** to help physicians and other health care personnel identify and help victims of domestic abuse.
- Provide **legal representation** for victims of domestic violence.
- Advocate for the **accessibility of services** for all population groups, especially undeserved populations which include immigrants and refugees, gays and lesbians, racial and ethnic minorities and the disabled.

Adapted from: "Preventing Violence Against Women: Not Just A Women's Issue," the National Crime Prevention Council, 1995.

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## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE WORKPLACE**

As awareness about domestic violence has grown, so has the recognition that this crime has a major impact in the workplace. The abuse an employee receives at home can lead to lost productivity, higher stress, increased absenteeism and higher health care costs. A 1994 survey of senior corporate executives conducted by Roper Starch Worldwide on behalf of Liz Claiborne, Inc. found that:

- **Fifty-seven percent believe domestic violence is a major problem in society.**
- **One-third thought this problem had a negative impact on their bottom lines.**
- **Four out of ten executives surveyed were personally aware of employees and other individuals affected by domestic violence.**

To ensure that the Federal government will be a leader in educating employees about the serious implications of domestic violence, President Clinton has directed the heads of every Federal department to conduct employee awareness campaigns on the issue. Similar programs are underway in corporate America, led by companies such as the Polaroid Corporation, Marshalls Inc., Liz Claiborne Inc., and Aetna.

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## WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

This resource book is another step in the Federal Employee Awareness Campaign on Domestic Violence, the goal of which is to educate and foster awareness about domestic violence for United States government employees worldwide.

Through this campaign, we hope to put people in touch with resources, such as Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) and publications which will be helpful in combatting the crime of domestic violence. On February 21, 1996, President Clinton announced a nationwide, 24-hour, toll-free domestic violence hotline. The number is **1-800-799-SAFE** and the TDD number for the hearing impaired is **1-800-787-3224**. Help is also available to callers in Spanish and to other non-English speakers.

The hotline provides immediate crisis intervention for those in need. Callers can receive counseling and be referred directly to help in their communities, including emergency services and shelters. Also, operators can offer information and referrals, counseling and assistance in reporting abuse to survivors of domestic violence, family members, neighbors, and the general public.

In many areas, there are local domestic violence agencies which can provide crisis services such as shelter, counseling, and legal assistance. These numbers can be obtained from state or regional coalitions, from the phone book, or by calling information.

Your department's Employee Assistance Program can also provide you with assistance and referrals, support groups, counseling and other services.

This booklet contains a list of state, regional, and national resources which can be of assistance.

# STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITIONS

ORGANIZATION	PHONE/FAX NUMBERS
Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault 130 Seward Street, Room 501 Juneau, AK 99801	(907) 586-3650 (907) 463-4493 fax
Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence P.O. Box 4762 Montgomery, AL 36101	(334) 832-4842 (334) 832-4803 fax
Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence 523 South Louisiana, Suite 230 Little Rock, AR 72201	(501) 399-9486 (501) 371-0450 fax
Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence 100 West Camelback Road, Suite 109 Phoenix, AZ 85013	(602) 279-2900 (602) 279-2980 fax
California Alliance Against Domestic Violence 619 13th Street, Suite I Modesto, CA 95354	(209) 524-1888 (209) 524-0616 fax
Colorado Domestic Violence Coalition	(303) 573-9018
Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence 135 Broad Street Hartford, CT 06105	(860) 524-5890 (860) 249-1408 fax
D.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence P.O. Box 76069 Washington, D.C. 20013	(202) 783-5332 (202) 387-5684 fax
Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence P.O. Box 847 Wilmington, DE 19899	(302) 658-2958 (302) 658-5049 fax

ORGANIZATION	PHONE/FAX NUMBERS
<p>Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence 1535 C-5 Killearn Center Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32308</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-500-1119</li> </ul>	<p>(904) 668-6862 (904) 668-0364 fax</p>
<p>Georgia Advocates For Battered Women and Children 250 Georgia Avenue, S.E., Suite 308 Atlanta, GA 30312</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-643-1212</li> </ul>	<p>(404) 524-3847 (404) 524-5959 fax</p>
<p>Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence 98-939 Moanalua Road Aiea, HI 96701-5012</p>	<p>(808) 486-5072 (808) 486-5169 fax</p>
<p>Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence 1540 High Street, Suite 100 Des Moines, IA 50309-3123</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-942-0333</li> </ul>	<p>(515) 244-8028 (515) 244-7417 fax</p>
<p>Idaho Coalition Against Sexual &amp; Domestic Violence 200 North Fourth Street, Suite 10-K Boise, ID 83702</p>	<p>(208) 384-0419 (208) 331-0687 fax</p>
<p>Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence 730 East Vine Street, Suite 109 Springfield, Illinois 62703</p>	<p>(217) 789-2830 (217) 789-1939 fax</p>
<p>Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence 2511 E. 46th Street, Suite N-3 Indianapolis, IN 46205</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-332-7385</li> </ul>	<p>(317) 543-3908 (317) 568-4045 fax</p>

ORGANIZATION	PHONE/FAX NUMBERS
Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence 820 S.E. Quincy, Suite 416 Topeka, KS 66612	(913) 232-9784 (913) 232-9937 fax
Kentucky Domestic Violence Association P.O. Box 356 Frankfort, KY 40602	(502) 875-4132 (502) 875-4268 fax
Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence P.O. Box 3053 Hammond, LA 70404-3053	(504) 542-4446 (504) 542-6561 fax
Massachusetts Coalition of Battered Women's Service Groups/Jan Doe Safety Fund 14 Beacon Street, Suite 507 Boston, MA 02108	(617) 248-0922 (617) 248-0902
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence 11501 Georgia Avenue, Suite 403 Silver Spring, MD. 20902-1955  • HOTLINE: 1-800-MD-HELPS	(301) 942-0900 (301) 929-2589 fax
Maine Coalition For Family Crisis Services 128Main Street Bangor, ME 04401	(207) 941-1194 (207) 941-1194 fax
Michigan Coalition Against Domestic Violence P.O. Box 16009 Lansing, MI 48901	(517) 484-2924 (517) 372-0024 fax
Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women 450 North Syndicate Street, Suite 122 St. Paul, MN 55104  ° HOTLINE: 1-800-646-0994 (in 612 area code)	(573) 646-6177 (573) 646-1527 fax

ORGANIZATION	PHONE/FAX NUMBERS
Missouri Coalition Against Domestic Violence 331 Madison Street Jefferson City, MO 65101	(314) 634-4161 (314) 636-3728 fax
Mississippi State Coalition Against Domestic Violence P.O. Box 4703 Jackson, MS 39296-4703  •HOTLINE: 1 (800) 898-3234	(601) 981-9196 (601) 982-7372 fax
Montana Coalition Against Domestic Violence PO Box 633 Helena, MT 59624	(406) 443-7794 (406) 449-8193 fax
Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition 315 South 9th - # 18 Lincoln, NE 68508-2253  • HOTLINE: 1-800-876-6238	(402) 476-6256
New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence P.O. Box 353 Concord, NH 03302-0353  • HOTLINE: 1-800-852-3388	(603) 224-8893 (603) 228-6096 fax
New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women 2620 Whitehorse/Hamilton Square Road Trenton, NJ 08690  • HOTLINE: for Battered Lesbians: 1-800-224-0211 (in NJ only)	(609) 584-8107 (609) 584-9750 fax
New Mexico State Coalition Against Domestic Violence P.O. Box 25363 Albuquerque, NM 87125  • HOTLINE: 1-800-773-3645 (in NM only)	(505) 246-9240 (505) 246-9434 fax

ORGANIZATION	PHONE/FAX NUMBERS
<p>Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence 2100 Capurro Way, Suite E Sparks, NV 89431</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-500-1556</li> </ul>	<p>(702) 358-1171 (702) 358-0546 fax</p>
<p>New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence 79 Central Avenue Albany, NY 12206</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-942-6906</li> </ul>	<p>(518) 432-4864 (518) 432-4864 fax</p>
<p>North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence P.O. Box 51875 Durham, NC 27717</p>	<p>(919) 956-9124 (919) 682-1449 fax</p>
<p>North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services State Networking Office 418 East Rosser Avenue, Suite 320 Bismarck, ND 58501</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-472-2911</li> </ul>	<p>(701) 255-6240 (701) 255-1904 fax</p>
<p>Ohio Domestic Violence Network 4041 North High Street, Suite 101 Columbus, OH 43214</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-934-9840</li> </ul>	<p>(614) 784-0023 (614) 784-0033 fax</p>
<p>Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault 2200 N Classen Blvd. - Suite 610 Oklahoma City, OK 73106</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-522-9054</li> </ul>	<p>(405) 557-1210 (405) 557-1296 fax</p>
<p>Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence 520 N.W. Davis, Suite 310 Portland, OR 97209</p>	<p>(503) 223-7411 (503) 223-7490 fax</p>

ORGANIZATION	PHONE/FAX NUMBERS
<p>Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence/ National Resource Center on Domestic Violence 6400 Flank Drive, Suite 1300 Harrisburg, PA 17112</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-932-4632</li> </ul>	<p>(717) 545-6400 (717) 545-9456 fax</p>
<p>Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence 422 Post Road, Suite 104 Warwick, RI 02888</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-494-8100</li> </ul>	<p>(401) 467-9940 (401) 467-9943 fax</p>
<p>South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence &amp; Sexual Assault P.O. Box 7776 Columbia, SC 29202-7776</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-260-9293</li> </ul>	<p>(803) 750-1222 (803) 750-1246 fax</p>
<p>South Dakota Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault PO Box 141 Pierre, SD 57401</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-572-9196</li> </ul>	<p>(605) 945-0869 (605) 945-0870 fax</p>
<p>Tennessee Task Force Against Domestic Violence P.O. Box 120972 Nashville, TN 37212</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-356-6767</li> </ul>	<p>(615) 386-9406 (615) 383-2967 fax</p>
<p>Texas Council on Family Violence 8701 North Mopac Expressway, Suite 450 Austin, TX 78759</p>	<p>(512) 794-1133 (512) 794-1199 fax</p>
<p>Domestic Violence Advisory Council 120 North 200 West Salt Lake City, UT 84145</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-897-LINK</li> </ul>	<p>(801) 538-4100 (801) 538-3993 fax</p>

ORGANIZATION	PHONE/FAX NUMBERS
<p>Virginians Against Domestic Violence 2850 Sandy Bay Road, Suite 101 Williamsburg, VA 23185</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-838-VADV</li> </ul>	<p>(804) 221-0990 (804) 229-1553 fax</p>
<p>Vermont Network Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault P.O. Box 405 Montpelier, VT 05601</p>	<p>(802) 223-1302 (802) 223-6943 fax</p>
<p>Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence 2101 4th Avenue, E - Suite 103 Olympia, WA 98506</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-562-6025 (separate org. from above)</li> </ul>	<p>(360) 352-4029 (360) 352-4078 fax</p>
<p>Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence 1400 East Washington Avenue, Suite 232 Madison, WI 53703</p>	<p>(608) 255-0539 (608) 255-3560 fax</p>
<p>West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence P.O. Box 85 181B Main Street Sutton, WVA 26601</p>	<p>(304) 765-2250 (304) 765-5071 fax</p>
<p>Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence &amp; Sexual Assault 341 East E. Street - Suite 135A Pinedale, WY 82601</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOTLINE: 1-800-990-3877</li> </ul>	<p>(307) 367-4296 (307) 235-4796 fax</p>

# OTHER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATION	PHONE/FAX NUMBERS
Interagency Council Domestic Violence Program 2180 McCulloch Blvd. Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403	(520) 453-5800 (520) 453-2787 fax
Southern CA Coalition on Battered Women P.O. Box 5036 Santa Monica, CA 90405  • HOTLINE: 1-800-978-3600	(213) 655-6098 (213) 655-6098 fax
Delaware Domestic Violence Coordinating Council 900 King Street Wilmington, DE 19801	(302) 577-2684 (302) 577-6022 fax
Georgia Coalition on Family Violence, Inc. 1827 Powers Ferry Rd., Bldg. 3 - Suite 325 Atlanta, GA 30339	(770) 984-0085 (770) 984-0068 fax
Victim's Services Domestic Violence Program P.O. Box 157 McComb, IL 61455	(309) 837-6622 (309) 836-3640 fax
Maryland Alliance Against Family Violence University of Maryland 525 W. Redwood Street Baltimore, MD 21202	(410) 545-4545 (410) 706-6046 fax
Otter Tail County Intervention Project Box 815 Fergus Falls, MN 56538	(218) 739-0983
Region IV Council on Domestic Violence Traverse County Outreach 1112 1st Avenue N. Wheaton, MN 56296	(612) 563-4121

ORGANIZATION	PHONE/FAX NUMBERS
<p>North Carolina Victim Assistance Network 505 Oberlin Road, Suite 151 Raleigh, NC 27605</p>	<p>(919) 831-2857 (919) 831-0824 fax</p>
<p>Action Ohio Coalition for Battered Women P.O. Box 15673 Columbus, OH 43215</p>	<p>(614) 221-1255 (614) 221-6357 fax</p>
<p>Missouri Shores Domestic Violence Center PO Box 398 Pierre, SD 57501</p>	<p>(605) 224-7187 (crisis) (605) 244-0256 (bus.)</p>
<p>White Buffalo Calf Women's Shelter P.O. Box 227 Mission, SD 57555</p>	<p>(605) 856-2317 (605) 856-2994 fax</p>
<p>Women's Coalition of St. Croix Box 2734 Christiansted St. Croix, VI 00822</p>	<p>(809) 773-9272 (809) 773-9062 fax</p>
<p>Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewaw Homeless Shelter/Family Violence Programs P.O. Box 529 Bayfield, WI 54814</p>	<p>(715) 779-3707 (715) 779-3711 fax</p>
<p>Anti-Violence Project National Gay and Lesbian Task Force 2320 17th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20009-2702</p>	<p>(202) 332-6483 (202) 332-0207 fax TTY: (202) 332-6219</p>

# NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATION	PHONE/FAX NUMBERS
<p>Family Violence Prevention Fund            383 Rhode Island Street, Suite 304            San Francisco, CA 94103-5133</p>	<p>(415) 252-8900            (415) 252-8991 fax</p>
<p>National Coalition Against Domestic Violence            Policy Office            P.O. Box 34103            Washington, D.C. 20043-4103</p>	<p>(703) 765-0339            (202) 628-4899 fax</p>
<p>National Coalition Against Domestic Violence            P.O. Box 18749            Denver, CO 80218</p>	<p>(303) 839-1852            (303) 831-9251 fax</p>
<p>National Battered Women's Law Project            275 7th Avenue, Suite 1206            New York, NY 10001</p>	<p>(212) 741-9480            (212) 741-6438 fax</p>
<p>National Resource Center on DV            Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence            6400 Flank Drive, Suite 1300            Harrisburg, PA 17112</p>	<p>(800) 537-2238            (717) 545-9546 fax</p>
<p>Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence            Family Violence Prevention Fund            383 Rhode Island Street, Suite 304            San Francisco, CA 94103-5133</p>	<p>(800) 313-1310            (415) 252-8991 fax</p>
<p>Battered Women's Justice Project            Minnesota Program Development, Inc.            4032 Chicago Avenue South            Minneapolis, MN 55407</p> <p>•HOTLINE 1 (800) 903-011 ext. 1</p>	<p>(612) 824-8768            (612) 824-8965 fax</p>

ORGANIZATION	PHONE/FAX NUMBERS
<p>Resource Center on Child Custody and Child Protection NCJFCJ P.O. Box 8970 Reno, NV 89507</p>	<p>(800) 527-3223 (702) 784-6160 fax</p>
<p>Battered Women's Justice Project c/o National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women 125 South 9th Street, Suite 302 Philadelphia, PA 19107</p> <p>• HOTLINE 1(800) 903-0111 ext. 3</p>	<p>(215) 351-0010 (215) 351-0779 fax</p>
<p>National Clearinghouse on Marital and Date Rape 2325 Oak Street Berkeley, CA 94708</p>	<p>(510) 524-1582</p>
<p>Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence 936 North 34th Street, Suite 200 Seattle, WA 98103</p>	<p>(206) 634-1903 (206) 634-0115 fax</p>
<p>National Network to End Domestic Violence - Administrative Office c/o Texas Council on Family Violence 8701 North Mopac Expressway, Suite 450 Austin, TX 78759</p>	<p>(512) 794-1133 (512) 794-1199 fax</p>
<p>Battered Women's Justice Project c/o PCADV - Legal Office 524 McKnight Street Reading, PA 19601</p>	<p>(610) 373-5697 (610) 373-6403 fax</p>
<p>National Network to End Domestic Violence 701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 900 Washington, D. C. 20004</p> <p>•HOTLINE: 1 (800) 903-0111 ext. 3</p>	<p>(202) 434-7405 (202) 434-7400 fax</p>

OJP

A Report to the  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Justice Programs

OJP Family Violence  
Working Group



March 1997

**U.S. Department of Justice  
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**Department of Justice Response Center:**  
1-800-421-6770

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**Office of Justice Programs**  
**World Wide Web Homepage:**  
*<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov>*

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# JUSTICE PROGRAMS ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

*A Report to:*

*The Assistant Attorney General  
for the Office of Justice Programs*

*From:*

*The Office of Justice Programs  
Family Violence Working Group*

*March 1997*

*"Unless we do something about violence in the home, we'll never be able to do something about violence in the streets."*

**Janet Reno**

**Attorney General**

At the American Medical Association National Conference on Family Violence  
Washington, D.C. March 13, 1994

*"In addition to reducing the numbers of women and children affected by violent crime, we need to change the way violence against women is perceived in our society. We need to let women victims, the judiciary, other criminal justice personnel, and all members of society know that violence against women will not be tolerated, and that those who commit violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, will be punished to the fullest extent of the law."*

**Laurie Robinson**

**Assistant Attorney General**

**Office of Justice Programs**

At the Conference on Collaborating to S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women  
Washington, D.C., July 27, 1995

## FOREWORD

This report provides a glimpse of how the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), through its bureaus and offices, is addressing family violence in all its dimensions. The report offers a broad overview of the programmatic, statistical, evaluation, and research efforts being supported by OJP.

Reflecting our society's increasing acknowledgment that violence within families is a criminal and social problem, rather than a private matter, each year we are marshaling more resources at the federal, state and local levels to address this issue. More programs offering support to victims of family violence are available today than ever before and, increasingly, they are part of a coordinated criminal justice system response to this problem.

As this report outlines, coordinated intra- and interagency efforts are underway in OJP and across the country to enhance the personal safety of all family members, especially women and children. An example of this type of collaborative initiative is a program called "Safe Kids - Safe Streets." Based on the premise that there is a strong relationship between child abuse and neglect and subsequent juvenile delinquency, this OJP-sponsored project seeks to break the cycle of child and adolescent abuse and neglect by encouraging jurisdictions to structure and strengthen the criminal and juvenile justice systems to be more comprehensive and proactive in helping children and adolescents. The effort is being funded jointly by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Executive Office for Weed and Seed, and the Violence Against Women Grants Office, with additional support from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

Violence in our families is everyone's responsibility. Silence on this issue is simply unacceptable. Abuse within the family is as much a crime as assaults perpetrated by strangers. Everyone in the community must become involved and help stop the violence. We need to work with all Americans, in every community, to provide answers and hope for women and families in need of help. We need to move forward to bridge the span between government and the private sector. We need to be creative and energetic, envisioning new ideas while focusing on effective, integrative approaches to the problems of sexual assault and domestic violence.

OJP is committed to devoting its resources and attention to building and strengthening the response of communities around the country to ending family violence and ensuring that the family home is not a place of fear. The programs and initiatives outlined in this report are all part of a national effort to bring harmony into the lives of all Americans.

Bonnie J. Campbell  
Director  
Violence Against Women Office



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## **I. MISSION AND GOALS OF THE OJP FAMILY VIOLENCE WORKING GROUP**

The mission of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Family Violence Working Group is to provide a prominent OJP focus on violent crime within the family and among intimates by promoting improved intra-agency and interagency information exchange, coordinated planning, and collaborative projects. This mission is guided by legislation authorizing the work of the OJP bureaus and offices and by legislation concerning family violence.

The OJP Working Group on Family Violence was established by the Assistant Attorney General in November 1993 and is currently comprised of representatives from seven OJP bureaus and offices: the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS); the Violence Against Women Grants Office (VAWGO); and the Violence Against Women Office (VAWO). The Working Group on Family Violence is chaired jointly by Bernie Auchter of the National Institute of Justice and Kathy Schwartz of the Violence Against Women Grants Office. Other members of the Working Group include Cheri Crawford, Angela Moore Parmley, Cynthia Nahabedian, Lois Mock, and Richard Titus from NIJ; Marti Speights, Olga Trujillo and Judy Bonderman from OVC; Sharie Cantelon and Robin Delaney-Shabazz from OJJDP; Diane Craven from BJS; Jennifer Knobe from BJA; Preet Kang and Kim Cross from VAWGO; Sarah Connell from the VAWO; and Meg Morrow, Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Attorney General of OJP.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994 has provided additional impetus to the Family Violence Working Group's emphasis on spouse and partner abuse, and its programs to address rural domestic violence and child abuse enforcement, and encourage arrest policies in domestic violence cases have provided new opportunities for the group's activities. The Act is directed toward a variety of criminal justice problems including domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. It responds to the needs of millions of women who are the victims of violence each year. The Violence Against Women Act also responds to the need for fundamental changes in addressing violence against women, and it responds to the special needs of women in minority and Indian communities who are violently victimized. It provides for a comprehensive approach to fighting all forms of violence against women through a broad array of legal and practical reforms.

To implement the Act, the Department of Justice established the Violence Against Women Office under the Associate Attorney General and the Violence Against Women Grants Office within the Office of Justice Programs. Bonnie Campbell is the Director of the Violence Against Women Office which is dedicated to carrying out the vision of the Violence Against Women Act by encouraging coordination and cooperation among the various justice and service agencies at all levels of government. The Office is also working to transform public attitudes toward these

crimes and dispel the notion that these acts of violence against women are private disputes not fit for public scrutiny or legal judgement.

Chapter 2 under Subtitle A of VAWA is a major effort to provide support to the States and Indian tribal governments for criminal justice responses and victim assistance efforts. It is being implemented by the Violence Against Women Grants Office which is administered by Kathy Schwartz. Details of the program are presented under the section on the Violence Against Women Grants Office. These VAWA grants are intended to establish on-going interventions that promote and increase an effective criminal justice system response to violence against women, and to increase the range of services for the victims of such violence.

The goals of the working group are to:

- Coordinate and collaborate in planning, funding, and knowledge dissemination activities within OJP and sharing information with other Federal agencies having responsibilities in this area;
- Identify and assess the areas that need to be developed through research, evaluation, training, technical assistance, data collection, demonstration programs, and program funding through the bureaus and offices of OJP;
- Coordinate, as appropriate, with relevant components in the Department of Justice including the Violence Against Women Office, the Criminal Division, the Office of Policy Development, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, and the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys;
- Develop an annual report to the Assistant Attorney General on OJP family violence programs and projects within the bureaus and offices. The report provides the status of these efforts, and contains general information on the dimensions of family violence, OJP publications, and a listing of contacts;
- Review and comment on proposed legislation regarding family violence issues and provide recommendations on family violence to the Assistant Attorney General as requested;
- Meet monthly to exchange information and keep all bureaus and offices informed of significant events, publications, conferences and meetings that focus on family violence;
- Encourage involvement in the Working Group by having meetings that are open to all interested individuals and by inviting members and other staff to meetings with visiting practitioners, researchers and other family violence experts.

## II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Not long ago, what happened within the home was considered to be a private, family matter and was excluded from scrutiny by the public. During the last two decades, there has been an increase in awareness of the seriousness of child abuse and neglect, spouse/partner abuse, and elder abuse not only as critical societal problems but as crimes. As a result, there has been an increase in the use of the criminal process in addressing family and domestic violence. National incidence reports and research studies reveal the dramatic increase in family violence and the increasing tendency to respond to the problem not only as crime within the family but also as the prevention of crime outside the family.

The Department of Justice focus on the family violence problem increased with the 1984 report of the Attorney General's Task Force on Family Violence. The Task Force stated: "A great proportion of those who assault both strangers and loved ones were raised themselves in violent households. This is learned behavior. To tolerate family violence is to allow the seeds of violence to be sown into the next generation." A justice focus on family violence is thus one that concerns violence prevention as well as a just outcome in individual cases.

Family violence has not only been acknowledged as a critical criminal justice issue, but as a major public health concern. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala stated, "Domestic violence is a serious public health problem. . . We need doctors to do a lot more than treat injuries. We need our medical personnel to find out how the patient was injured. We need them to help prevent it from happening over and over. And we need medical workers to learn guidelines for treating abuse and learn where they can send victims for help. . ." (White House news conference, July 13, 1995). Similar to justice professionals, medical professionals play a significant role in the identification, intervention, and prevention of family violence.

The nature and extent of violence within the family is tragic and alarming. The following statistics and research findings suggests a continued burden and challenge to our society:

- In 1995 an estimated 1,215 children died as a result of child abuse and neglect; approximately 3,111,000 children were reported as potential victims of maltreatment; and, of those reported, an estimated 996,000 children were confirmed as victims of maltreatment by child protective services (National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse, April 1996).
- In 1995 approximately 10 percent of substantiated child maltreatment cases (approximately 109,230) involved sexual abuse (National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse, April 1996).
- There is a demonstrated correlation between early childhood abuse and neglect and risk for delinquency, adult criminality, and violent criminal behavior. "Being abused

or neglected as a child increased the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 53 percent, as an adult by 38 percent; and for a violent crime by 38 percent” (The Cycle of Violence, Cathy Spatz Widom, NIJ, 1992, p.1).

- Compared to victims of childhood physical abuse and neglect, victims of childhood sexual abuse are at greater risk of being arrested for one type of sex crime: prostitution. (Victims of Childhood Sexual Abuse - Later Criminal Consequences, Cathy Spatz Widom, NIJ, 1995, p.2).
- In 43 percent of serious child abuse or neglect cases, at least one parent has a documented substance abuse problem. Alcohol, cocaine, and heroin were the most frequently abused drugs (Murphy, Jellinek, Quinn, Smith, Poitras, and Goshko, Child Abuse and Neglect, V 15 N 3, 1991).
- According to estimates from the redesigned National Crime Victimization Survey, women age 12 or older experienced nearly five million victimizations in 1992 and 1993. More than 75% of these victims knew or were related to their attacker, and injuries occurred more often when the offender was an intimate (Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey, BJS, Bachman and Saltzman, 1995).
- Women are six times more likely than men to experience violence committed by an intimate (Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey, BJS, Bachman and Saltzman, 1995).
- Women annually report approximately 500,000 rapes and sexual assaults. Twenty-six percent of these incidents were committed by an intimate (Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey, BJS, Bachman and Saltzman, 1995).
- Offenders committed over a half million violent crimes against a spouse or ex-spouse. Of these 9% were rapes or sexual assaults, 6% were robberies, 14% aggravated assaults, and 71% were simple assaults. ("Criminal Victimization 1993," Lisa Bastian, BJS, May 1995).
- Twenty-six percent of all female murder victims in 1995 were slain by husbands or boyfriends (Crime in the United States, 1995, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1996).
- Family and intimate assaults involving firearms are 12 times more likely to be fatal than assaults that do not involve firearms (Saltzman, JAMA, 3043, 3045, 1992).
- About 5 percent of the nation's elderly may be victims of moderate to severe abuse (Elder Abuse: A Decade of Shame and Inaction, Subcommittee on Health and Long-Term Care of the Select Committee on Aging of the U.S. House of Representatives,

May 1990). The National Aging Resource Center on Elder Abuse estimates that nearly 1.57 million older people became victims of domestic elder abuse during 1991.

- According to a survey of states by the Subcommittee on Health and Long-Term Care only one out of every eight cases of elder abuse is reported (Tatara, National Aging Resource Center on Elder Abuse, Washington, DC, 1993).
- Neglect is the most common form of elder maltreatment in domestic settings. Forty-five percent of non self-neglect reports that were substantiated in 1991 involved neglect (Tatara, National Aging Resource Center on Elder Abuse, Washington, DC, 1993).
- The most frequent abusers of the elderly in domestic settings are adult children. Almost 33% of the substantiated cases of elder abuse in 1991 involved adult children as abusers. Over half of the abusers were male, while approximately two-thirds of victims were females (Tatara, National Aging Resource Center on Elder Abuse, Washington, DC, 1993).
- A national survey of criminal justice practitioners reveals that virtually all police chiefs and sheriffs indicated that domestic violence contributed to workload problems. Over 91% of the responding prosecutors and 82% of public defenders cited domestic violence and child abuse cases as contributors to workload problems in their offices. Of the judges responding to the survey, 79% indicated child abuse cases contributed to workload problems and 85% indicated domestic violence cases contributed to workload problems. Finally, two-thirds of jail administrators report domestic violence as a moderate or major contributor to their jail crowding problems. (National Institute of Justice, National Assessment Program: 1994 Survey Results, June 1995).

Given the important role of the criminal and civil justice systems, the limited resources available to address family violence, and the goals relative to family violence that are embodied in the Crime Act, particularly the Violence Against Women Act, it is important that OJP and other DOJ agencies closely examine current efforts, prioritize the use of available funds and resources, and coordinate efforts within DOJ, and other responsible Federal agencies.

The Department of Justice has begun to respond with an expanded and coordinated focus on the many justice related needs surrounding this grave national problem of violence within families. One example of the coordinated and collaborative efforts occurring within OJP is the "Safe Kids - Safe Streets" program. "Acknowledging the correlation between child abuse and neglect and later violent delinquency and the need to improve system response, OJP set out to create a single program aimed at helping to break the cycle of early childhood victimization and later juvenile or adult criminality" (OJP Safe Kids - Safe Streets Joint Solicitation, 1996, p.3). The funding partners for the program are the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Executive Office for Weed and Seed, and the Violence Against Women's Grants Office, with

additional support being provided by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office for Victims of Crime. The Safe Kids - Safe Streets initiative represents a unique partnership that pools the resources, experiences, and expertise of all the OJP agencies. (OJP Safe Kids - Safe Streets Joint Solicitation, 1996, p.3)

The sections that follow detail further efforts of the OJP offices and bureaus to individually and jointly address the problem of family violence.

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANTS OFFICE

## **I. Legislative Mandate**

In 1994, Congress passed and President Clinton signed into law the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, which included the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994. The Violence Against Women Grants Office (VAWGO) was created within the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) to establish policy and administer the formula and discretionary grant programs authorized under this landmark legislation. Through its efforts, VAWGO serves as a catalyst for bringing about fundamental change in the way communities across this country are addressing crimes of violence against women and pursuing efforts to ensure victim safety. Working in partnership with state, local, and tribal government officials as well as private, non-profit organizations, VAWGO encourages the development and support of innovative, effective programs for preventing, identifying, and stopping violence against women.

## **II. Background**

Over the past several years public attitudes towards violence against women have gradually begun to change. Unfortunately, insidious prejudices, a shortage of reliable information, and the criminal justice system's inexperience with the complexities of violence against women have continued to impede progress. VAWA was enacted in part to provide communities with tools and resources to change the system's response to violence against women. The resources provided under VAWA enable communities to offer a constellation of services from police departments, prosecutors' offices, pretrial service agencies, the courts, probation and parole, and non-profit, non-governmental victim service agencies, thereby creating a seamless web of support for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. At its core, this comprehensive approach was designed, above all, to enhance women's safety and to bring the perpetrators of violence against women to justice.

Following the enactment of VAWA in 1994, Congress appropriated \$26 million to fund violence against women programs in fiscal 1995. Lawmakers reaffirmed their support for these programs in subsequent years by increasing the appropriation to \$166 million in FY 1996 and \$193 million in FY 1997.

Upon receiving its funding for fiscal 1994, VAWGO invited states, territories, and tribal governments to apply for grants to develop and implement a coordinated criminal justice system response to violence against women. Each grant recipient was required to submit an implementation plan outlining its priorities for the coming year. To ensure the development and implementation of responsive, effective programs reflecting local priorities, these plans were to be produced in consultation with victim service providers, victims' advocates, and other interested community members, along with police, prosecutors, and the courts.

The grants and technical assistance provided to violence against women programs in the first year of VAWA have helped lay the foundation for an ongoing, collaborative system of support whose primary mission is ensuring women's personal safety both within and outside their homes.

### **III. Current Programs**

#### **S•T•O•P Violence Against Women Formula Grants**

To carry out its mandate, VAWGO is implementing the formula grant program known as S•T•O•P (Services•Training•Officers•Prosecutors) Violence Against Women, which encourages states and territories to adopt coordinated, multi-disciplinary approaches to addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Predicated on the belief that no one entity can solve the problem alone, the S•T•O•P program promotes integrated strategies that seek to unite law enforcement, prosecution, the judiciary, probation/parole, and victim advocates and service agencies in their efforts to fight violence against women. This unified approach envisions the creation of a seamless web of support for women who have sought the protection of the criminal justice system, as well as outreach to potential victims of domestic violence.

Programs funded through S•T•O•P grants must meet one or more of the following broad purposes:

- 1) training law enforcement officers and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including sexual assault and domestic violence;
- 2) developing, training, or expanding specialized units of law enforcement officers and prosecutors targeting violent crimes against women, including sexual assault and domestic violence;
- 3) developing and implementing more effective police and prosecution policies, protocols, orders, and services specifically dedicated to preventing, identifying, and responding to violent crimes against women, including sexual assault and domestic violence;
- 4) developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems that link police, prosecutors, and courts or that are designed to identify and track arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions for violent crimes against women, including sexual assault and domestic violence;
- 5) developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim service programs, including sexual assault and domestic violence programs to previously underserved populations, such as minorities and disabled women;
- 6) developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing stalking; and

- 7) developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Indian tribes focusing on violent crimes against women, including sexual assault and domestic violence.

Each S•T•O•P grantee must allocate 25 percent of its funds to law enforcement, 25 percent to prosecution, and 25 percent to non-profit, non-governmental victim services, with the remainder to be distributed at the grantee's discretion, within the established guidelines.

In FY 1995, the S•T•O•P program was allocated \$26 million. VAWGO awarded 56 S•T•O•P grants to states and territories which in turn awarded more than 650 subgrants. Reflecting the diversity of needs around the country, States awarded S•T•O•P subgrants to support programs ranging from those seeking to enhance victim services to those attempting to improve supervision of perpetrators of violence against women. Communities served range from rural Wyoming to New York City; from children who witness domestic violence to senior citizens who are victims of domestic violence; and from students to farm workers. Some of the recipients of the FY 1995 S•T•O•P program funds include:

- *The Farmworker Women Leadership Project in California.* The project supports development of a model for identifying farmworker women in various California communities to receive training in sexual assault and domestic violence awareness, prevention strategies, and available resources. These women in turn will train others in their communities about these issues.
- *The Self-Help Center in Wyoming.* Under the Center's phone-lending program, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking who have an active protection order are lent cellular phones to enable them to communicate quickly with emergency dispatchers. The phones are programmed to call 9-1-1. As part of its outreach and prevention efforts, the Center, in cooperation with the District Attorney's Office, the Department of Probation and Parole, the Sheriff's Office, and local police departments, has also developed referral cards. Police officers responding to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking calls encourage victims to complete these referral cards, which are forwarded to the Center for follow-up contact with victims to provide them with support, legal advocacy, and services.
- *The Delaware Center for Justice.* The Center provides such services as court accompaniment, crisis intervention, and transportation assistance to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault who are over the age of 50.
- *Lamar University in Florida.* The University is conducting a detailed analysis of approximately 230 domestic murder cases in Florida in 1994 to examine why these tragedies occurred and to develop preventive strategies to reduce the risk of future fatalities.

- *Family and Children's Services in Maryland.* The program targets children living with domestic violence by providing counseling and teaching conflict resolution through storytelling and play-acting.
- *The Center for Elimination of Violence in the Family, Inc., in New York.* The Center offers a "Mom Survival Skills" support program that teaches non-violent alternatives in child-rearing to survivors of domestic violence.
- *Jewish Family Services of the Jewish Federation of Greater Passaic/Clifton in partnership with the Passaic County Women's Center in New Jersey.* The program provides a culturally-sensitive domestic violence response system to Orthodox Jews and Russian-speaking refugees from the former Soviet Union.
- *Emory University in Georgia.* The University's School of Medicine, in collaboration with law enforcement groups and the Georgia Sexual Assault Task Force, will develop a model sexual assault training curriculum for law enforcement.

Congress appropriated \$130 million for the S•T•O•P Program in FY 1996 and \$145 million in FY 1997. Consistent with the objectives established in the first year of the program, S•T•O•P grant recipients were encouraged in FY 1996 and FY 1997 to build on the foundation laid with previous years' investments by continuing their coordinated, multi-disciplinary response system; to strengthen programs enforcing protection orders both within and among states; and to increase the number and types of services and criminal justice programs supported with S•T•O•P funds, including judicial education and court-related projects. The FY 1996 S•T•O•P grants were awarded in August and September 1996, while the FY 1997 S•T•O•P grants were awarded in November 1996. Subgrantees for FY '96 funds include:

- *The Forensics Services Bureau in Idaho.* The Bureau provides DNA analysis, expert testimony and training to assist local authorities manage sexual assault cases more effectively.
- *The Piedmont Judicial Circuit Project in Georgia.* This project seeks to provide consistent, coordinated prosecution and services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault through circuit-wide team training and automated information-sharing among police officers, clerk's offices, emergency dispatchers and judges. The special prosecution team will manage domestic violence and sexual assault cases from the initial report to the final disposition.
- *The State Supreme Court in Montana.* Funds will be used to develop a manual for prosecutors and bench books for judges to encourage consistent handling of domestic violence and sexual assault cases. Funds will also be used for developing additional training opportunities for judges and prosecutors.

Working in partnership with the states, VAWGO will continue to support efforts to eliminate all crimes of violence against women. Through the S•T•O•P Violence Against Women Grants Program, VAWGO is committed to building and strengthening the response of communities around the country to ensuring the personal safety of women and to holding perpetrators of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking accountable for their actions.

### **S•T•O•P Violence Against Indian Women Discretionary Grants**

The Violence Against Women Act mandates that 4 percent of the amount budgeted each year for the S•T•O•P Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program be awarded to Indian tribal governments. In FY 1995, the S•T•O•P Violence Against Indian Women (VAIW) Discretionary Grant Program awarded nearly \$1 million to 11 tribal governments and 3 consortia representing 35 villages, 9 pueblos, and 5 tribes, while in FY 1996 the program funded 68 grants totaling \$5.2 million. In FY 1997, \$5.8 million has been budgeted for this program. Grant funds may be used for the same broad purposes as outlined above for the formula program.

Similar to the S•T•O•P formula grant program, the VAIW Discretionary Grant program seeks to reduce and prevent violence against Indian women by encouraging tribal governments to design and carry out innovative, effective approaches that are sensitive and responsive to the needs of Native American women. Grantees are required to implement a coordinated and integrated program developed in collaboration with the various offices of the tribal justice system and non-profit, non-governmental victim service providers, or women in the community if no non-profits exist in the jurisdiction. Victim services providers and Indian women from the community must be an integral part of not only the planning process but also the implementation phase.

For instance, with its S•T•O•P VAIW grant funds, the Osage Nation in Oklahoma has developed written policies and procedures on domestic violence for law enforcement officers; the prosecutor and courts are establishing a more specific domestic violence code; the Osage Nation Counseling Center hired a domestic violence/sexual assault counselor who is available during non-business hours; and the Counseling Center and the tribal court are collaborating to set up a treatment group for offenders. In addition, as part of a coordinated response to violence against Indian women, a community coalition consisting of health care providers, victims, law enforcement personnel, victim service providers, and Indian women has been established to explore prevention strategies and collaborate on implementing the strategies identified as most promising for the Nation.

Similarly, the Oglala Sioux Tribe received a VAIW grant to strengthen its existing efforts to reduce and prevent violence against Lakota women. Grant funds are being used to train representatives of various tribal agencies, including mental health and alcoholism programs. The Tribe has developed a model domestic violence code to be shared with other tribes across the country.

S•T•O•P VAIW resources are helping to support a cadre of committed individuals who, through their activities, are raising awareness of domestic violence concerns and seeking to create a climate of support for addressing this issue within the various Indian nations. The Osage Nation's Chief of Police now provides training on police policies and procedures concerning domestic violence to other Indian nations. Similarly, the director of the Oglala Sioux Tribe's domestic violence prevention project is training colleagues from other tribes on the provision of appropriate services to victims of domestic violence. These activities and resource investments have led to a significant change in the level of the tribal justice system's commitment to tackling domestic violence.

The FY '96 S•T•O•P VAIW grants are continuing to build on the gains achieved with the previous year's funds, as well as expanding the tribal justice system's response to domestic violence. Besides renewing the 14 S•T•O•P VAIW grants awarded in FY '95, an additional 54 tribal grantees received funds in FY '96, bringing the total number to 68 for fiscal 1996. With these funds, the programs are enhancing shelter services and hiring law enforcement officers and prosecutors, who specialize in domestic violence cases. The deadline for submission of grant applications for FY '97 funds is April 15, 1997, for renewals and April 30, 1997, for new applicants.

To further support tribal efforts, VAWGO is making available \$1 million for the Tribal Courts Development Project. It is a series of initiatives designed to strengthen the tribal courts' adjudication of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse cases. Under one of the initiatives, two tribal governments will receive a total of \$365,000 to create family courts to improve the coordination and handling of cases involving children and families. The family court will have jurisdiction over marital cases, custody matters, adult criminal proceedings involving family violence, and juvenile delinquency and dependency cases. A special division of the courts will manage domestic violence cases.

As part of its effort to support culturally-appropriate judicial responses, this Project is providing funds to convene a focus group to develop traditional approaches to preventing and reducing domestic violence and using alternative sentencing when appropriate. The focus group will define standards for determining which cases are appropriate for traditional adjudication and identify promising practices in this area.

Under another initiative of the Tribal Courts Development Project, VAWGO is supporting the development of a domestic violence curriculum for tribal courts by a native organization. The curriculum will be tested in two regions of the country. In addition, the Project is supporting several efforts to train tribal court judges on effective judicial management of domestic violence and sexual assault cases.

Over the next several years, the S•T•O•P Violence Against Indian Women Discretionary Grant program will continue to devote resources to restructuring and strengthening the Indian tribal

governments' response to the needs of Indian women who are, or could become, victims of violence.

### **Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies**

Traditionally, police officers responding to a domestic violence incident have been reluctant to become involved, preferring to dismiss the dispute as a private, family matter to be resolved internally by the couple or through informal counseling and mediation. This hesitation by law enforcement to treat domestic violence like any other violent crime is not only in deference to social custom, but also springs from an absence of police protocols for addressing these types of situations. To fill this void, many police departments around the country began implementing policies that encourage or even mandate arrests. Currently, at least 27 States and the District of Columbia have adopted laws that encourage or mandate arrest of an individual who assaults a family member or violates a domestic violence protection order. The overarching purpose of these policies is to ensure victim safety and bring perpetrators to justice.

Mandatory arrest and pro-arrest policies, however, are only the first step in ensuring victim safety and offender accountability. To be successful interventions, arrests must be part of a coordinated and integrated response by the entire criminal justice system. Mandatory or pro-arrest policies will be effective:

- only if police departments implement clear guidelines and protocols for arresting perpetrators of domestic violence;
- only if police and prosecutors conduct thorough and careful investigations of domestic violence cases;
- only if the courts institute improved management techniques to process domestic violence cases more efficiently;
- only if judges impose appropriate sentences;
- only if batterers remain in custody after they are arrested;
- only if probation and parole departments enforce protection orders and devise improved ways to effectively supervise batterers; and
- only if victims feel confident that all professionals in the system are committed to their safety and the safety of their children.

The Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies, a new program funded for the first time in FY 1996, provide resources and support to help states, local governments, and tribal governments treat violence against women as a serious crime requiring the coordinated involvement of the entire

criminal justice system, including police officers, prosecutors, judges, probation officers, and other court personnel to ensure the victim's safety. Congress appropriated \$28 million for arrest grants in FY 1996 and \$33 million in FY 1997. With the resources provided through this program, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, and the courts will collaborate with each other and with non-profit, non-governmental victims' services agencies to develop and implement programs strengthening the community response to mandatory and pro-arrest policies. Specific goals of the program are:

- to implement mandatory arrest or pro-arrest programs and policies in police departments, including mandatory or pro-arrest programs and policies for violations of protection orders;
- to develop policies and training programs in police departments and other criminal justice and tribal agencies to improve tracking of cases involving domestic violence;
- to centralize and coordinate police enforcement, prosecution, probation, parole, or judicial responsibility for domestic violence cases in groups or units of police officers, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, or judges;
- to coordinate computer tracking systems to ensure communication among police, prosecutors, and both criminal and family courts;
- to strengthen legal advocacy service programs for victims of domestic violence by providing complete information and support to the victim as the case against the perpetrator develops and moves through the criminal justice system; and
- to educate judges and others responsible for judicial handling of domestic violence cases about violence against women and improve judicial handling of such cases.

In December 1996, VAWGO announced 112 grants totaling more than \$42 million to states, counties, and local jurisdictions to implement mandatory arrest policies and to strengthen their response to crimes of violence against women. In addition, 11 demonstration programs were funded to explore innovative approaches to combating violence against women in communities around the country. To ensure the effectiveness of arrest policies, grant funds will be used by:

- *Colorado Springs, Colorado*, to help its multi disciplinary team of patrol officers, detectives, prosecutors, victim advocates, and human service case workers identify and respond to high-risk-for-fatality domestic violence cases. The team also will mentor and train law enforcement officers and victim advocates in surrounding rural jurisdictions.
- *Quincy, Massachusetts*, to create a new Domestic and Sexual Violence Protection Unit, which will establish an escort service to encourage and assist victims and a quick response team to apprehend offenders who threaten victims, abscond, or violate their protection orders.

- *Los Angeles, California*, to form a partnership among the City Attorney's Office, the California Alliance Against Domestic Violence, and the Police Department to design a training curriculum aimed at helping police officers identify the aggressor in domestic violence situations and to distinguish between offensive and defensive injuries.
- *The State of Alaska* to develop an automated registry to track protective orders for use by the courts, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and probation officers; to train rural Village Public Safety Officers in the mandatory arrest law; and to enable small police departments to gather evidence necessary for prosecution.
- *The Osage Nation of Pawhuska, Oklahoma*, to establish a partnership between the Osage Police Department and all tribal and local law enforcement agencies in Osage County to respond to domestic violence cases and to create a reservation and county-wide information and tracking system for domestic violence offenses that will be used by the police, the courts, and probation and parole officials.
- *Dade County, Florida*, to develop an intervention program for children and parents who come from homes where there is a history of domestic violence. The Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, in cooperation with mental health professionals, child protective services, and domestic violence advocates, will establish this program.
- *Carbondale, Illinois*, to create a Coordinating Council consisting of the city's police department, the Jackson County State's Attorney, the county probation office, and the Carbondale Women's Center. The Council will review and revise current pro-arrest policies, develop a policy for responding to issues related to police officers who batter, provide training to law enforcement officers, prosecutors and probation officers; and review and revise procedures for intensive supervision of perpetrators of domestic violence.
- *LaVergne, Tennessee*, to provide a centralized communications database system for the 16th Judicial District of Tennessee. This system will enable prosecutors, judges, probation officers, and domestic violence crisis center staff to obtain information about prior incidents or convictions, pending case dispositions, family circumstances, and available community resources to allow for informed decision making and sentencing of offenders.
- *Austin, Texas*, to train law enforcement officers, judges, and prosecutors on crafting more effective protection orders and developing sentencing practices tailored to individual offenders. Funds will also be used to initiate long-term counseling for domestic violence victims and long-term intervention strategies for offenders.

Through its commitment to provide resources and attention, VAWGO is dedicated to supporting efforts by communities around the country to implement mandatory or pro-arrest policies for perpetrators of violence against women. In addition, support will also be extended to efforts

devoted to implementing mandatory or pro-arrest policies for those who violate protection orders.

### **Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program**

Although victims of domestic violence face considerable challenges regardless of where they live, residents of rural communities confront added obstacles: fewer law enforcement resources, a shortage of victim services, lack of privacy in tight-knit communities, geographic isolation, cultural pressures to keep family matters private, and an inability to keep locations of shelters confidential. Unfortunately, few statistics are available about the extent of domestic violence and child abuse in rural communities. What little is known is based only on those who have successfully contacted authorities or service providers. While the added barriers are likely to discourage victims from reporting abuse, there is no reason to believe that these problems are more or less prevalent there than in other areas of the country. Increasingly, rural areas have become popular destinations among immigrant communities, whose isolation may be compounded further by cultural and language barriers.

In response to the unique characteristics of rural communities and the additional hurdles faced by victims living in these areas, the Violence Against Women Act authorized the creation of the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program to address the needs of rural women and children. This program attempts to improve and increase services available to rural women and children by encouraging community involvement in developing a coordinated response to domestic violence and child abuse. As in other areas of the country, police, prosecutors, judges, non-profit, non-governmental victim service agencies, and community organizations in rural jurisdictions are required to collaborate in the development and implementation of programs designed to reduce and prevent violence against rural women and children.

The Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program seeks to:

- develop and implement policies, protocols, and services intended to promote early identification, intervention, and prevention of domestic violence and child victimization;
- increase victims' safety and access to treatment and counseling;
- strengthen the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence and child abuse cases; and
- develop and implement innovative, comprehensive strategies that draw on a rural jurisdiction's unique characteristics and resources to enhance understanding of the complexities of domestic violence and child victimization.

Rural grants were awarded for the first time in FY 1996 to support domestic violence and child victimization programs in 20 rural communities. The grantees received their awards in

September 1996, with programs expected to begin in January 1997. The rural grants program is supporting efforts by:

- *The North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services* to present educational programs aimed at increasing community awareness and encouraging appropriate responses to domestic violence and child victimization in rural and remote communities. In addition, the Council will create three different booklets targeting three separate populations: victims of domestic violence, friends and neighbors in remote areas, and high school age students. The program will also train a cadre of committed individuals in domestic violence and child victimization crisis intervention skills.
- *The State of Vermont* to develop a multi disciplinary and unified approach to increasing the range of domestic violence and child victimization services, as well as improving access to these services in the remote part of the state known as the Northeast Kingdom. The state will develop a cooperative relationship between the state child protection agency and the state's domestic violence programs.
- *The Criminal Justice and Highway Safety Division of West Virginia* to increase coordination of services to women victims of violence in four rural counties, to create transportation networks to transport rural domestic violence victims to safe houses and shelters, to provide training to professionals who encounter domestic violence victims, and raise public awareness.
- *The City of Provo, Utah* to develop a program that will provide intervention and critical service referrals to children victimized by crime and to children who witness violent crime in their homes.
- *The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina* to establish a domestic violence/sexual assault unit consisting of specially trained staff who will provide culturally appropriate services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Continuing its commitment to victims of violence in rural areas, VAWGO will be awarding the FY 1997 Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grants shortly. Congress appropriated \$8 million for this grant program for FY 1997.

### **Training and Technical Assistance Grants**

As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the programs it administers, the Violence Against Women Grants Office is awarding cooperative agreements to a number of expert organizations specializing in training and technical assistance on various aspects of violence against women. These resources enable police officers, prosecutors, judges, victim assistance providers, and others involved in reducing and preventing violence against women to receive training, education, and support to help strengthen their responses to domestic violence.

Funds have been awarded to:

- *The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence* to support ongoing, in-depth training and technical assistance to states and their subgrantees by holding regional meetings for State administrators and subgrantees, conducting individualized on-site visits to selected states, offering phone consultations through a toll-free telephone line, providing resource materials, making referrals to national experts or peers, and sharing exemplary program models.
- *The Police Executive Research Forum* to educate law enforcement leaders about the Violence Against Women Act and its various programs and to develop a domestic violence issues curriculum for police officers.
- *The American Prosecutors Research Institute* to develop four regional workshops for state and local prosecutors committed to exploring and implementing effective policies for investigating and prosecuting violence against women.
- *The Family Violence Prevention Fund* to conduct video teleconferences for judges in Ohio and Arizona on managing domestic violence cases.
- *The International Association of Chiefs of Police* to hold four regional workshops on partner and domestic violence among police officers, to develop strategies for reducing domestic violence involving police officers, and to produce a focused and comprehensive set of policy recommendations and program strategies to reduce domestic violence.
- *The NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund* to provide training to judges in five states on effective judicial management of sexual assault cases, with the first workshop to be held in Colorado in March 1997.
- *The National Center for State Courts* to provide the foundation for assisting state and tribal courts in achieving greater consistency in issuing protection orders that comply with the due process requirements of the VAWA and providing enforcement mechanisms that maximize the safety of and minimize the burdens on victims of domestic violence.
- *The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges* to collaborate with the Battered Women's Justice Project to hold a national conference to educate participants about the full faith and credit provisions of the VAWA and to design regional plans to address the issues raised by these provisions.
- *The Migrant Clinicians Network, Inc.*, to collaborate with Ayuda, Inc., to collect information about the needs of abused migrant women, explore strategies for developing a service network, and formulate plans for helping abused migrant women obtain protection orders.

- *The American Bar Association* to produce a 50-minute video focusing on four provisions of the VAWA: the federal interstate domestic violence remedy, the federal civil rights remedy for gender-motivated violence, the relief available to battered immigrant spouses and the full faith and credit mandate for protection orders.
- *The Battered Women's Justice Project* to hold five peer-to-peer cluster meetings addressing the statutory goals of the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies; to provide customized technical assistance, information and referrals; and to produce monographs on three topics: pro-arrest policies and battered women charged with crimes, different approaches to the implementation of prosecution policies on domestic violence cases, and legal advocacy and improving access to the courts for battered women.
- *African American Task Force on Violence Against Women/ Harlem Legal Services* to develop a culturally-based, community-wide initiative to address the needs of African American women who are victims of violence by assessing and documenting needs, establishing community linkages, and developing a strategic plan for the implementation of culturally-sensitive interventions.
- *Minnesota Program Development, Inc. (Mending the Sacred Hoop)*, to provide direct assistance through a toll-free hotline and a resource library, to hold program development consultation meetings, and to provide on-site and peer-to-peer consultations to recipients of the S•T•O•P Violence Against Indian Women grants .

In addition, VAWGO provided training and technical assistance to Byrne Grant administrators who also administer S•T•O•P grants during the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) regional conferences beginning in late August.

#### **IV. Anticipated Plans**

Pending Congressional approval of VAWA funding, over the next several years, VAWGO will continue to support states as they transform the criminal justice system's response to crimes of violence against women. Through its various grant programs, VAWGO is committed to devoting the resources and attention needed to continue to fuel the momentum generated by VAWA and help ensure women's personal safety both within and outside their homes.



# BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

## I. Legislative Mandate

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the Edward Byrne State and Local Assistance Program, which was established by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 and re-authorized by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988. The Byrne program consists of a Discretionary and a Formula Grant Program. The Discretionary Program is designed to determine what is most effective in criminal justice and drug control, to disseminate that information to State and local agencies, and to assist in the replication of effective programs and practices. The Formula Grant Program provides States with funds that are distributed to State and local criminal justice agencies to implement each State's drug control and violent crime strategy. These funds can be used to replicate effective demonstration proposals. Family violence is one of twenty-six purpose areas in the State and local assistance program.

The mission for the Bureau of Justice Assistance is to provide leadership and assistance in support of local criminal justice strategies to achieve strong neighborhoods and safe communities. BJA's programmatic goals are: (1) to promote effective innovative crime control and prevention strategies; (2) to demonstrate and promote replication of effective crime control programs that support public-private partnerships, planning and criminal justice system improvement; and (3) to leverage and efficiently administer available resources. BJA also develops and tests new approaches in criminal justice and crime control and encourages replication of effective programs and practices by State and local agencies.

## II. Background

Following the Attorney General's Task Force on Family Violence in 1984, which advocated criminal intervention and prosecution in appropriate cases, BJA funded a series of local demonstration programs between 1986 and 1990, primarily in prosecutors' offices, showing that the criminal justice system can successfully prosecute, convict, and sentence abusers. These programs have also determined that cooperation between criminal justice systems and social services systems is desirable, if, early on, an approach is fostered and maintained by a coordinating body comprised of the leaders of the participating agencies.

These demonstration programs, with accompanying evaluation efforts, involved eleven spouse abuse intervention projects and seven child abuse prosecution efforts, for a total investment of over \$3.5 million. They were designed to develop and document improved justice system practices for handling family violence cases. The Family Violence Program resulted in a comprehensive document entitled *Family Violence: Intervention for the Justice Systems*. This publication is a valuable source of information for initiating or enhancing criminal justice intervention and treatment efforts in a jurisdiction.

### **III. Current Programs**

#### **Discretionary Grant Program**

The FY96 discretionary grant program includes several projects:

**Violence Against Women--Demonstration Sites.** Originally awarded prior to the passage of the Violence Against Women Act, in FY94 three demonstration sites were identified for their progressive efforts in establishing a prototype to enhance and coordinate jurisdiction-wide responses to issues concerning violence against women. Currently, this effort is completing FY95 project activities identifying mechanisms and procedures which affect the jurisdiction-wide coordination of criminal justice agencies, victim services, social services, medical services and others, as appropriate, to ensure that a jurisdiction's issues and problems concerning violence against women are handled effectively. There is a city-wide program in Baltimore, Maryland; a county-wide program in Santa Clara, California; and a statewide program through the Administrative Office of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Two of the three pilot programs have received new FY96/97 sources of funding through the Violence Against Women STOP grant and VAWGO discretionary programs.

**Violence Against Women--Training and Technical Assistance.** The American Prosecutors' Research Institute, in cooperation with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges act as resource centers for the three violence against women coordinating councils. Both professional organizations provide technical assistance to support implementation of critical elements that outline the tasks and responsibilities of the coordinating councils in the demonstration sites. The scope of the technical assistance includes practitioners in the criminal and civil courts as well as those working in related areas such as social services, mental health, battered women's shelters, victim advocacy, and barterer and substance abuse treatment.

**Non-Traditional Law Enforcement Responses to Minority and Low Income Families.** This training program is designed for and presented to law enforcement executives and policy-makers on how police can effectively deal with potentially violent domestic situations at the earliest possible point of intervention, in a home, to help resolve problems and avoid the need for a major criminal justice response at a later date. The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), in partnership with the Jefferson Institute train law enforcement personnel to recognize families in trouble, and respond using social and economic support systems accessible in the community.

**Public Education Campaign to Prevent Date/Spousal Violence.** The Foundation for Advancements in Science and Education (FASE) working in cooperation with Olmos Productions Inc. (OPI) are collaborating to develop, produce and distribute an original documentary and supplemental viewers guide to prevent domestic violence as it relates to teen dating violence. The film, *It Ain't Love*, examines domestic violence in relationships between young men and women, how such relationships are influenced by family, peers and cultural values, and examines domestic violence in young relationships within the broader context of

domination and control through intimidation and violence. The distribution of this film is expected to reach a national audience of 10 million young men and women.

### Formula Grant Program

BJA provides FY96 funds for many family violence programs throughout State and local jurisdictions. Funding is determined by the Statewide strategy submitted annually to BJA. These programs are diverse, including prevention, intervention, and treatment methods addressing: child abuse, elder abuse, spousal abuse, response teams, prosecution, and multi-agency cooperative efforts. The following programs are selected examples of the variety of projects supported under the FY96 Byrne formula grant program:

### **HAWAII**

**Domestic and Family Violence Prosecution Program.** Recognizing that expeditious prosecution of perpetrators is a key element in successful handling of domestic violence cases, Hawaii County Prosecutor's Office established a vertical prosecution unit that would allow the same deputy prosecuting attorney to take the case from intake screening to court disposition. A county wide interagency task force was established as well, to address the effort of coordinating workloads of agencies involved in domestic violence to cover gaps in services and to maximize funding and other resources in training and informational resources.

**Multi-Agency Family Violence Program.** The objectives of this program are to respond to domestic violence incidents quickly and effectively by improving case management and patrol officer training; expedite the prosecution of domestic violence cases by creating a Domestic Violence Prosecution Team and a career criminal classification system; increase interagency cooperation by establishing a task force comprising members of law enforcement, social service, and local government agencies; and to provide treatment and support for victims by providing crisis counseling on domestic violence calls.

### **OHIO**

**Victim Advocacy Project.** This project provides victims of domestic violence with judicial system support to enhance victim safety and improve the responsiveness of the judicial system to the special needs of domestic violence. The advocates and trained volunteers assist victims through crisis call response, court accompaniment, completion of temporary protection order requests, police escorts to recover possessions, and the assistance of pro-bono attorneys when needed.

**The Huron County Prosecutor's Office Domestic Violence Advocacy Program.** The objectives of this project are two fold: (1) to establish collaboration within Huron County among the county's court advocates, human services providers, schools, the domestic violence program for Huron County and the shelters providing the continuum of services for victims of domestic violence, and (2) to conduct domestic violence awareness training for children to make them

aware of domestic violence and how they can report domestic violence incidences to service providers. The long range goal of the Huron County Domestic Violence Program is to identify children at risk of domestic violence and to build a bridge for them to use to escape from domestic violence and seek help without fear of retribution.

## **LOUISIANA**

**Domestic Violence Prosecution.** The objectives of this program are to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of domestic violence prosecution in each district; form a data directory of available domestic violence services in each judicial district; conduct a training conference for Louisiana's prosecutors that will provide instruction on successfully charging and trying domestic violence cases; and to present the evaluation directory, and results of the conference to the Louisiana District Attorneys Association and Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement.

**Tracking Drug Related Domestic Violence.** Through this program 450 defendant participants will be tracked from arrest or arraignment through final court disposition and/or parole to measure recidivism for drug and family violence and evaluate successful interventions. The goals of this program are to reduce drug usage in New Orleans; reduce drug related domestic violence in New Orleans; and improve communication between New Orleans Municipal Courts and other Criminal Justice Agencies.

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

**Massachusetts Attorney General's Elderly Protection Project.** The Project provides multi-disciplinary training designed to promote collaboration between police officers and local elder protective service workers, which enhances officers' skills in reducing, reporting and responding to instances of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of older citizens. Training explores the following topics: the demographics of an increasing elder population and its implications for police services; myths and facts about aging; effective communication techniques, including background on the concerns, fears, and vulnerabilities of the elderly; enhanced investigation through detailed report writing and photographs; financial exploitation in its various forms; the elder abuse reporting law and coordination with the protective services system; and understanding domestic violence and its applicability to the elderly.

## **MINNESOTA**

**Largo Domestic Violence Intervention Project.** The focus of Largo's domestic violence program is to increase the prosecution rate of domestic violence cases and to relieve the victim from the burden of prosecution through enhanced evidence gathering at the scene. This would supply attorneys, judges, and abuse shelters with the most complete information in the most expeditious manner possible.

## **MISSISSIPPI**

**The Mississippi Children's Advocacy Center.** The Mississippi Children's Advocacy Center (MCAC) was opened to provide intervention, assessment, and treatment services to child victims and their families. The goals of the MCAC are to provide a safe, child-oriented facility to serve the needs of abused children; provide intervention, assessment, and treatment by trained therapists; provide education and support to families of abused children; and improve case management.

## **MONTANA**

**Cascade County Attorney's Office: Campaign to Combat Child Abuse.** The goal of this program is to deter further abuse through prompt prosecution of cases. Cascade County Attorney's office has hired a special prosecutor for child abuse/neglect cases. This prosecutor will work closely with the Youth Court Judge to eliminate delays and continuances in court hearings and improve overall court services to child victims. The special prosecutor will also provide training and education to members of the legal profession on child abuse/neglect, especially child sexual abuse. The project will also gather experts to speak on this topic to community gatherings such as PTA meetings. Informational handouts will be distributed as well as a video tape wherein professionals from several disciplines address child abuse/neglect issues. The video tape will be presented to groups and used as public service spots.

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

**Cumberland County Child Abuse Investigators.** This project develops and utilizes a multi-disciplinary team approach to child abuse and neglect cases. This reduces the trauma victims and families encounter by reducing the number of times a victim is interviewed. With this approach it is hoped that no child will have to be interviewed about their abuse more than twice.

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Criminal Sexual Assault Investigator.** The goal of the Child Sexual Abuse Special Investigator is to enhance investigation and thereby prosecution of child sexual abuse cases. The Special Investigator receives reports of child sexual abuse through an incident report, referral letter from the Department of Social Services, schools or hospitals. The investigator, who is assigned solely to sexual abuse cases, then initiates an investigation that includes interviews, medical examinations and witness statements. When appropriate, charges are filed. If the Department of Social Services is involved, the Special Investigator testifies at the DSS Family Court hearing. In the interim between preliminary hearing and general sessions, the investigator maintains contact with the child victim and addresses any needs of the victim.

## **TENNESSEE**

**Contractual Services for Advocacy for the Mentally Ill Chemical Abuser.** In a collaborative effort the Domestic Violence Division and the Public Defenders office, of Nashville/Davidson County, will create a counseling service for mentally ill chemical abusers and their family

members. Many domestic violence cases arise out of situations where the stress of living with a loved one who is dually-diagnosed becomes too much to handle. Frequently, the prosecutors/victims of dual diagnosis crimes are the family members. These families need assistance in relieving these pressures and bringing balance to their homes.

## **VIRGINIA**

**Training on the Use of Closed-Circuit Television and Videotape Testimony of Child Witnesses.** A multi-disciplinary training conference is scheduled for prosecutors, law enforcement investigators, child protective service workers, mental health professionals, and judges. This program is designed to improve the criminal justice system's response to child abuse cases; reduce or limit additional trauma to child victims as they encounter the criminal justice process; improve the use of technology in the taking of out-of-court testimony of children; and to provide a forum to share information among states. The conference topics include current research and theory; state statutes; legal requirements; available technology, operations protocols; forensic interviewing; and a variety of workshops addressing current concerns surrounding this issue.

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

**West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence.** The short term goal of this project is to provide for the training and certification of six regional teams of professionals, representing law enforcement, prosecution, and victim advocacy, to assure that West Virginia has a pool of trained professionals available for response to domestic violence cases. The long term goal of the project is to connect regional law enforcement training teams and regional domestic violence response teams in on-going efforts to develop a coordinated response to domestic violence. Through this program, the curriculum, trainer manual, trainee manual, and teaching resources used in law enforcement training will be updated. In addition, training will be developed and presented that will assure participants certification and provide time for regional teams to meet and develop action plans.

BJA's publication, *Domestic and Family Violence: Highlighted Programs from the State Annual Reports*, outlines many of the previously supported formula grant funded family violence programs. Publications produced from BJA's Innovative Programs working meetings are another valuable resource.

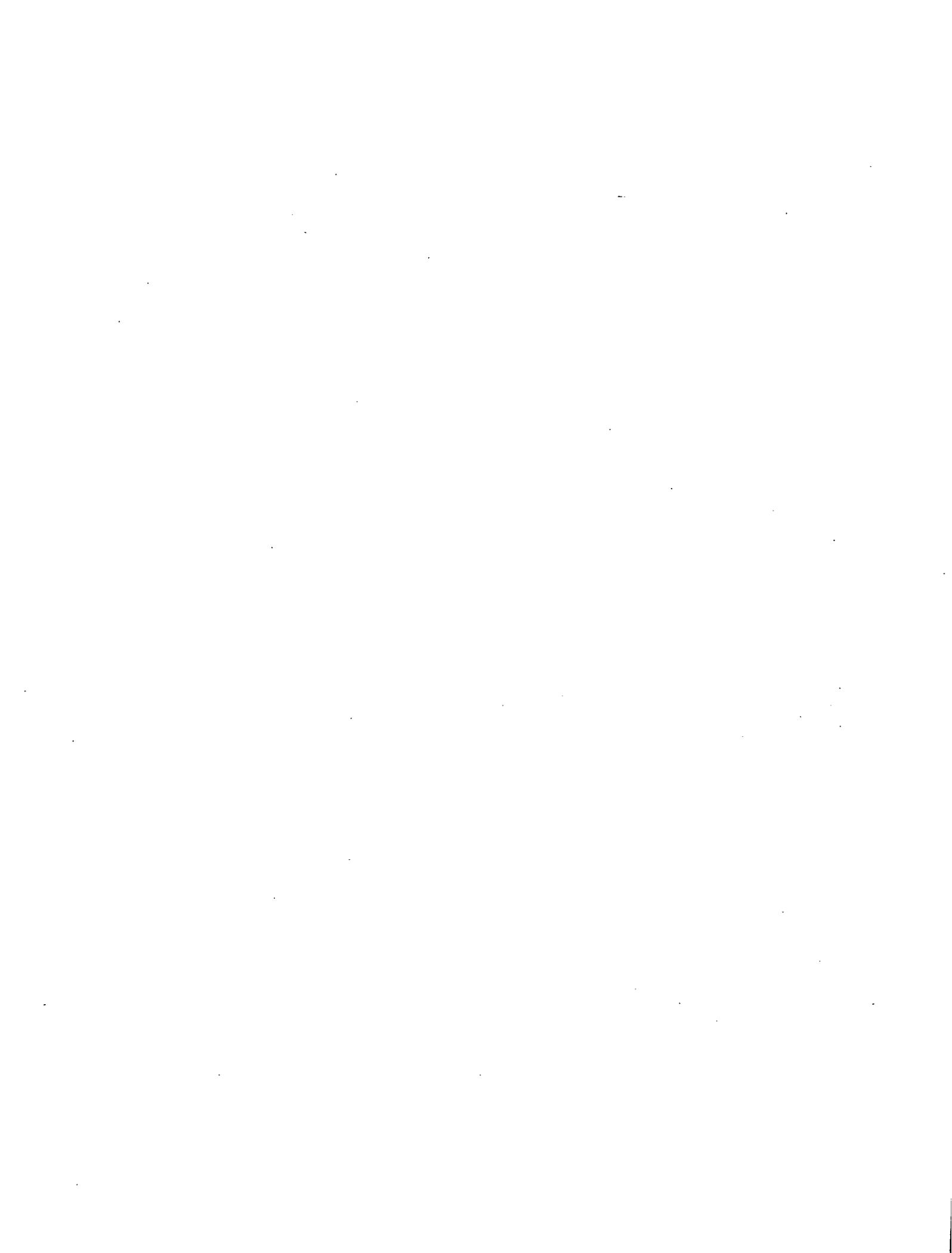
## **IV. Anticipated Plans**

In the Spring of 1997, BJA anticipates two reports addressing domestic violence and stalking to be available. The domestic violence document examines issues of substance abuse and other factors in the context of domestic violence. The second report, a monograph highlighting multi disciplinary training, addresses the issue of stalking as it relates to domestic violence. A copy of both publications will be distributed to all the VAWGO STOP State Administrators.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance will have available a publication that discusses the policy and operational issues surrounding coordinated responses to violence against women issues in the third quarter of 1997. The implementation manual will be formatted to provide practical and relevant information to enhance communities' ability to coordinate their efforts in responding to violence against women in their local jurisdictions and society at large. This report will be disseminated to civil and criminal justice practitioners as well as those working in related services such as social services, mental health, battered women's shelters, victim advocacy groups, and batterer and substance abuse treatment. This implementation manual will be distributed to all VAWGO STOP State Administrators.

BJA will partially support a symposium on elder issues with the Massachusetts Attorney General's office. The symposium will be organized to develop a national training model and curriculum directed at education and prevention of elder abuse, neglect, mistreatment and financial exploitation of residents both in long term care facilities and in their own residence. This anticipated replication model will include a video training component as well as training curricula for health care workers surrounding victimization of the elderly and the criminal justice system.

To help tribal court judges address violent crime against children, domestic violence, and youth gang violence in Indian Country, the National Indian Justice Center will develop a training and technical assistance program tailored to the needs of American Indian communities. The project will examine the origins, dynamics and scope of violent crime in Indian Country and support tribal courts as they explore sentencing alternatives and other ways to restore health and safety to their communities.



# BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

## **I. Legislative Mandate**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) collects, analyzes, publishes, and disseminates statistical information on crime including criminal victimization, criminal offenders, and the operations of justice systems at all levels of government and internationally. These objective data and analyses are used by key policy makers at the Federal, State, and local levels in their efforts to combat drugs and crime.

Additionally, BJS administers the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) which assists states in improving the quality and availability of criminal history records and improving the interface between state systems and the national criminal history record system. The program implements the requirements of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, the National Child Protection Act of 1993, relevant sections of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended, and those sections of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) which require that assistance (including grants and technical assistance ) be made available to the states to ensure that complete and accurate data on domestic violence and stalking are identified and included in local, state, and Federal data bases.

## **II. Background**

The primary source of information sponsored by BJS on family violence comes from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). This survey, which began in 1973, collects data on personal and household victimizations through an ongoing national survey of residential addresses. Specifically, the survey provides measures for the following types of crimes including attempts: rape, sexual assault, robbery, assault, larceny, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. Detailed information about each victimization incident and its consequences is recorded as well as the characteristics of the offender insofar as the victim can report them. Individuals residing in selected households are interviewed every 6 months for a period of 3 years. Since individuals are asked about crimes they might have experienced during the previous six months, the survey is able to include both crimes reported to the police and those that go unreported.

Domestic violence incidents have traditionally been the most difficult to enumerate and document. Many factors inhibit women from reporting their victimizations to researchers, including the private nature of the event, the perceived stigma associated with one's victimization, the belief that no purpose will be served in reporting it, as well as fear of retaliation from the offender. Existing attitudes and stereotypes pertaining to family violence undoubtedly affect the extent to which all surveys, including the NCVS, can accurately quantify the problem.

After an extensive 10-year redesign project, the NCVS , beginning with a 1992 phase-in process, utilizes a survey instrument which more directly queries respondents about rape and other acts of violence perpetrated by intimates. The survey also queries respondents much more directly about their experiences with unwanted sexual contact, including those with intimates such as husbands, boyfriends, or other family members. Incidents are categorized into the following very specific types of sexual victimization: Completed Rape, Attempted Rape, Verbal Threat of Rape, Completed Sexual Attack (Grabbing, Fondling, etc.), Verbal Threat of Sexual Attack, and Unwanted Sexual Contact. When the survey was initially designed in the early 1970's, social and cultural constraints precluded this extent of specificity in asking questions about personal victimization.

### **III. Current Programs**

#### **The National Crime Victimization Survey**

The 1995 NCVS sample consists of approximately 49,000 households and 100,000 persons age 12 or older; the average response rate is about 95%.

The impact of the NCVS survey redesign is dramatically demonstrated in the magnitude of difference in the number of incidents of completed and attempted rapes in 1991 (173,000) compared to 1993 (312,580), the first annual estimate after complete implementation of the survey redesign. In addition, the redesigned survey asks about a category of crimes not previously measured, i.e., sexual assaults. In 1993, sexual assaults accounted for an additional 172,700 incidents of personal violence. A BJS publication scheduled for release early in 1997 will analyze long term trends and a method for adjusting for the effects of the redesign.

Initial 1992-93 estimates of violence against women from the redesigned NCVS instrument reveal that out of the nearly 5 million violent victimizations against women which occur annually, 29% were perpetrated by intimates including, husbands and ex-husbands and boyfriends and ex-boyfriends. Over three-quarters of all violent incidents against women were perpetrated by offenders known to the victim.

Rates of intimate perpetrated violence from the redesigned NCVS were found to be over six times higher for women than for men. Intimate perpetrated violence affected women of all races and ethnic backgrounds to about the same extent.

#### **The NEISS Program**

BJS contracted with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to utilize the CPSC's ongoing National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) to obtain injury data related to intentional injuries, especially injuries related to violence or abuse within households. From a national sample, the CPSC collected data for the BJS Intentional Injury Study at 31 hospitals. Specially trained coders at each hospital examined the record of every patient treated in the hospital's emergency department for information about the cause of any injury for which the

patient was being treated. For the Intentional Injury Study, the coders used information present on the record to code whether or not the injury was caused intentionally or whether information on the record was consistent with an intentional injury. For 1994, the study contains information on almost 12,000 patients with injuries coded as "intentional". Analyses of these data are scheduled for publication in early 1997.

### **National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)**

Under this program, BJS provides funds to assist states in identifying, collecting, classifying, transferring, and assessing data on persons wanted, arrested, or convicted for domestic violence offenses, stalking, or those persons subject to civil restraining orders.

Since the inception of the NCHIP program in 1995, 29 states have received funds to improve the identification and collection of records involving domestic violence (including protective orders) and to ensure that such records are available in local, state and national data bases. Funds for these purposes were provided under both the Advanced State Award Program (ASAP) component of the FY 1995 NCHIP program and the FY 1996 NCHIP program, which specifically incorporated \$1.5 million appropriated to BJS under the Violence Against Women Act. In addition, consistent with OJP policy, interested states were permitted to make early application for funding from the \$1.75 million appropriated to BJS under the Violence Against Women Act in FY 1997. Seven states applied and awards of \$30,000 were made to all applicants by December 1, 1996. The remainder of the states will each receive \$30,000 from this appropriation as part of their regular FY 1997 NCHIP application.

As states improve their capacities to identify, flag, enumerate, and describe criminal incidents which occur within a family or domestic context, state-level estimates will improve in validity, reliability, and comparability. BJS has encouraged states to undertake more expansive efforts relating to domestic violence under the NCHIP program by suggesting that states may wish to combine both basic NCHIP and VAWA funds for these purposes.

### **Family Violence Caseload Tracking Project**

In addition, also under the NCHIP program, BJS has funded the National Center for State Courts to review current working definitions of domestic violence as applied by the courts and to develop protocols for possible uniform data collection in this area. This effort will be expanded to incorporate state statistical agencies in order to ensure coordinated input on the issue.

Additionally, BJS, in discussion with SEARCH Group, Inc. and the National Center for State Courts, is considering the establishment of a Task Force to review data collection requirements imposed on courts under recent domestic violence and sexual offender registry legislation. This effort may also include an analysis of data element definitions and procedures for identifying and accessing such information on a real time basis.

#### **IV. Anticipated Plans**

Using NCSC's court data collection prototype as a product for initial discussion, BJS will fund a national project to broaden the consensus of common definition standards for domestic violence to include a wider range of state level criminal justice system entities as well as domestic violence advocacy groups. This project will include state-level consensus building activities and will culminate in a national conference.

The FY 1997 Omnibus Appropriations Act provides additional funding for BJS to extend the stalking and domestic violence component of the NCHIP program.

Also, BJS plans to sponsor a working conference for representatives from state criminal history repositories and policy makers to assist states in their efforts to comply with the recently passed sex offender registry legislation.

Two reports to be published in the first quarter of 1997 will analyze 1994 and 1995 data from the NCVS with respect to female victims of violent crimes. Essentially, the first will update the prior BJS report "Violence against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey" (August 1995) with 1994 survey data. The second and more comprehensive report will include 1995 data and will focus on a targeted aspect of victimization disproportionately affecting women.

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

## **I. Legislative Mandate**

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research and development agency of the United States Department of Justice. NIJ was established to prevent and reduce crime and to improve the criminal justice system. Specific mandates established by Congress in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended, and the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 direct the National Institute of Justice to:

- Sponsor special projects, and research and development programs that will improve and strengthen the criminal justice system and reduce or prevent crime;
- Conduct national demonstration projects that employ innovative or promising approaches for improving criminal justice;
- Develop new technologies to fight crime and improve criminal justice;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of criminal justice programs and identify programs that promise to be successful if continued or repeated;
- Recommend actions that can be taken by Federal, State, and local governments, as well as private organizations, to improve criminal justice;
- Carry out research on criminal behavior; and
- Develop new methods to prevent and reduce crime and delinquency.

## **II. Background**

The justice system mandate cited above concerns both serious crime committed by strangers as well as violence within the family and among other intimates. The National Institute of Justice has conducted research on child abuse and spouse assault for many years. In recent years, family violence research and evaluation addressing primarily justice system concerns have been established as a major program area at NIJ.

NIJ's research program includes the sponsorship and co-sponsorship of applied and basic research, as well as occasional intramural projects. The results of these projects have increased our understanding of crime and criminal justice issues and have informed policy and practice through a variety of useful publications. The more recent publications are cited under the publications section of this report.

Experimental research on spouse assault has primarily addressed the police response to the problem. An initial experiment in Minneapolis found positive effects of arrest in decreasing repeat offenses, while published results from the individual spouse assault replications and extensions are incomplete and inconsistent. One interpretation of these data suggests that being employed or married is a key factor in determining the positive effects of arrest for spouse assault. Where consistent analysis across all sites is possible, researchers report a consistent and positive, but marginal, effect for arrest. More recent research on spouse and partner assault has gone beyond this initial focus on the police response and has taken a more systemic view.

Past NIJ sponsored projects on child abuse have addressed a variety of topics including: the impact of the juvenile and criminal court process on the child; police investigations of child abuse; the impact of child abuse and neglect on later delinquency and adult criminality; improvements in interviewing techniques with children; trial considerations in the prosecution of child abuse; and an examination of the penalties imposed for sexual abuse when the victim is a child compared to when the victim is an adult. In addition to the publications resulting from these research projects, many informative presentations on the project findings have been made at various professional meetings and conferences.

Other past projects have addressed topics such as: the impacts of arrest on the social control of violence among intimates; evaluations of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and the Virginia Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program; and an examination of how the nation's probation and parole agencies are responding to the increased demand for supervision and management of sex offenders. Data collected from these and other projects will serve as a valuable source of new information for policymakers and practitioners.

### **III. Current Program**

NIJ's current program includes a host of recently completed research and evaluation studies and many ongoing and newly funded projects. The mechanisms used to support these projects include the use of NIJ base appropriations, both with and without co-sponsorship, and the use of funds from Crime Act offices, particularly the Violence Against Women Grants Office (VAWGO), for evaluation and related research. In addition, in FY96 NIJ joined eight other federal institutes, offices, and centers in sponsoring a three year research program on violence against women and within the family. The results of all of these various funding approaches comprise NIJ's current program on family violence and violence against women and are summarized below.

Research on family and intimate violence has been a multi-million dollar thrust and includes more than thirty projects. The Violence Against Women Act and NIJ activities with other agencies have added new responsibilities and promise to NIJ's program in this area. In addition, a portion of several major NIJ contracts, such as the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, are responsive to numerous requests for family violence information. A Partnerships Against Violence Network (PAVNET) provides an online search and retrieval system that lists promising

programs, information sources, and technical assistance and funding sources from various federal agencies. Family violence programs are included in PAVNET.

One major project that addresses family violence interventions is being supported by NIJ, various HHS agencies, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. This comprehensive effort involves a multi disciplinary panel of experts convened by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences. The study committee is in the process of synthesizing the relevant research literature on family violence and will produce a report by the Fall of 1997. Another synthesis of issues and practices in the batterer treatment field is being completed with a report expected by the Summer of 1997.

Projects in progress are addressing many issues, including research on both the victims and the perpetrators of domestic violence; childhood victimization, including child maltreatment; the needs of children of battered women; and the handling of cases involving both custody disputes and domestic violence. A current Visiting Fellow at NIJ, James Collins, is conducting research on the linkage of domestic violence and substance abuse services.

Numerous projects have recently concluded and various types of NIJ, academic, and practitioner journal publications have been issued or are in progress. NIJ publishes a Research Preview or a Research in Brief of the results of most projects. These are available through the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) at (800) 851-3420. Full reports from projects can also be provided by NCJRS via inter-library loan or at cost of copying. Selected results from some recently completed projects are highlighted below.

- A conservative estimate is that from 40 to 50 percent of defendants or respondents in domestic violence cases used alcohol or other drugs of abuse at or near the time of the incident (Goldkamp, Dade County's Domestic Violence Court Experiment, Grant # 93-IJ-CX-0028).
- A majority of defendants and respondents had prior histories of arrest: 59 percent of civil injunction respondents; 65 percent of misdemeanor defendants; and 69 percent of felony defendants (Goldkamp, Dade County's Domestic Violence Court Experiment, Grant # 93-IJ-CX-0028).
- Domestic violence is a common factor in divorce mediation programs, but varies greatly from case to case. Some mediation programs estimate that it occurs in almost 80% of cases; none of the programs put the incidence at less than 50% (Pearson, Divorce Mediation and Domestic Violence, Grant # 93-IJ-CX-0036).
- Most mediation programs have changed their procedures to enhance the safety of victims during and after mediation (Pearson, Divorce Mediation and Domestic Violence, Grant # 93-IJ-CX-0036).

- While victims whose partners have a history of violent crime are more likely than other victims to be re-victimized after receiving protection orders, they are also more likely than other victims with protection orders to believe that the orders have improved their well-being in terms of feelings of security and self-esteem (Keilitz, The Effectiveness of Civil Protection Orders, Grant # 93-IJ-CX-0035).
- A survey of prosecutors' offices representing medium to large jurisdictions demonstrates a growing commitment of district attorneys to vigorously prosecute domestic violence. Two-thirds of the prosecutors' offices report having no-drop policies, although there is usually some flexibility in these policies (Rebovich, Prosecution of Domestic Violence Offenses, Grant # 93-IJ-CX-0039).
- Slightly over two-thirds of prosecutors in jurisdictions between 250,000 and 500,000 notify the victim of the defendant's release, while only half in jurisdictions over 500,000 do so (Rebovich, Prosecution of Domestic Violence Offenses, Grant # 93-IJ-CX-0039).
- In a recent national survey, fifteen percent of the women surveyed were raped at least once in their lifetime; eight percent were stalked; forty percent were physically abused as a child by a caretaker; and thirty-one percent were physically assaulted as an adult by another adult (Tjaden, Violence and Threats of Violence Against Women in America Survey, Grant # 93-IJ-CX-0012).

### **The Violence Against Women Act: Research and Evaluation**

NIJ has had responsibility for the conduct of various studies required under the VAWA and for the development and management of an evaluation and research program supported by the VAWGO. The NIJ studies were completed and the reports were forwarded to Congress in 1996. These reports include:

- Understanding Violence Against Women, a report conducted by a panel convened by the National Academy of Sciences to develop a research agenda on the understanding and control of violence against women.
- Domestic and Sexual Violence Data Collection, a publication that combines NIJ's report on State level data and the BJS report on Federal level data on these crimes.
- Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Anti-Stalking Legislation, a report addressing the incidence of stalking and domestic violence, and antistalking efforts and legislation.
- Public Access to Information Concerning Whereabouts of Domestic Violence Victims, a report that illustrates the danger of non-confidentiality of personal information of victims of domestic violence and makes several recommendations for the management of such information.

- The Validity and Use of Evidence Concerning Battering and Its Effects in Criminal Trials. This report is comprised of three separate reports: one on the validity of battered women syndrome in criminal cases; the second provides a trend analysis of cases involving expert testimony on battering and its effects; and the third addresses the impact of evidence concerning battering and its effects in criminal trials.

In addition to NIJ's responsibility for these Congressionally required studies, NIJ has been working closely with the Violence Against Women Grants Office (VAWGO) to provide an independent evaluation and research component to the overall mission of this program office. In Fiscal Year 1997 this program is entering its third year. The initial two years of the projected six year program witnessed the development of a comprehensive national evaluation of the Violence Against Women STOP Grant Program. This ongoing effort involves 1) documenting the range of activities and programs supported by the grants, 2) assessing the outcomes and accomplishments of grantees, 3) examining grantee planning and implementation efforts, 4) developing a strategy for documenting long-term impacts in coordination with evaluation grants that are focussed on the VAWA Chapter Two purpose areas, and 5) writing annual reports as the basis for reports to Congress. The initial years of this national evaluation are based on the analysis of grantee plans and reports, telephone interviews and site visits.

This national evaluation is complemented by other research and evaluation projects aimed at providing results to further the purposes of the VAWA. These related research and evaluation efforts will offer new ideas and information to better address violence against women at the state and local levels. Some of these projects will conclude in 1997 while several others only began at the close of 1996. Included among these projects are a focus on models of community coordination in response to partner violence; an exploration of the experiences and needs of former intimate stalking victims; an evaluation of the coordinated response to domestic violence in Alexandria, Virginia; a study of domestic violence prosecution strategies in Iowa; a national survey on the extent and nature of sexual victimization of college women; a study in Broward County, Florida, of court mandated counseling for domestic violence offenders; a study of alcohol problems and violence against women; a study of judicial and prosecutorial decision making in domestic violence cases and factors that influence victim/witness reluctance in these cases; and a follow-up study on improving domestic violence and sexual assault data systems in the states.

Several other NIJ projects that address domestic violence are supported through another Crime Act office, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). These include various police domestic violence intervention studies in Portland, Oregon; Seattle,

Washington; and Berkeley, California. COPS support for NIJ research is also addressing the effectiveness of a joint police and social service response to elder abuse in New York City.

## **Interagency Consortium for Research on Violence Against Women and Violence within the Family**

In January of 1996, NIJ and eight other federal offices announced a special Request for Applications (RFA) focusing on "Research on Violence Against Women and Violence within the Family." The RFA, released by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), especially encouraged research on the abuse of children and elderly, partner violence, sexual violence, and perpetrators and victims of multiple episodes of family violence. This program was coordinated by the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research and included cosponsorship by the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health, the NIH Office of Research on Minority Health, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute on Aging, the National Institute of Justice, the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The RFA represents the first interdepartmental and trans-NIH research funding program on violence. It was intended to bring together perspectives of the participating agencies, encompassing criminal justice, mental health, public health and prevention, alcohol and drug abuse, and child development perspectives, for the purpose of advancing our knowledge of family violence and violence against women.

The sponsoring organizations provided over \$5 million to fund a total of ten three-year grants to conduct research on the causes, course, treatment, management, and prevention of family violence and violence against women, as well as on the health and legal consequences of this violence for victims. This interagency effort produced a synergy, attracting new and important applications that combined at-risk populations, outcomes, programs, and researchers in a way never seen in a single-organization solicitation. Two other applications submitted under the RFA are planned for support directly by NIH Institutes in FY 97. The National Institute of Justice will coordinate the activities of this program by hosting annual grantee meetings over the three year period.

The following lists the titles of the grants funded from the RFA pool:

- "Children of Battered Women: Reducing Risk for Abuse."
- "Protection of Women: Health and Justice Outcomes."
- "Domestic Abuse Among Latinos: Description and Intervention."
- "Maltreated Children's Emotions and Self-Cognition."
- "Understanding Partner Violence in Native American Women."
- "Intervention for Abuse of Aging Caregivers."
- "Risk Factors for Homicide in Violent Intimate Relationships."
- "The Effects of Community Violence on Women and Children."
- "Prevention of Post-Rape Psychopathology in Women."
- "Treatment of Violent Adolescent Males from Abusive Homes."

### **IV. Anticipated Plans**

Family violence and violence against women will continue to be a major focus of the NIJ research program. In the years ahead NIJ will continue to solicit research, evaluation, and

demonstration on child abuse; violence against women, including domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking; and elder abuse.

With the 1994 Violence Against Women Act, NIJ has a particular focus on evaluative research in this area, and the portfolio will continue to stress program evaluation and research that is consistent with the purposes of the Act. This program responds to both the Congressional and public demand for accountability and the need to develop a knowledge base that examines policy and programmatic experiences and continually recommends improvements to them. It is anticipated that the evaluation and research program accompanying the Violence Against Women Act Chapter 2 efforts will continue to provide answers to significant questions, and ultimately address the question of the impact of the six year, \$800 million dollar program.

The Violence Against Women research agenda required by the VAWA and developed by the National Research Council provides a blueprint for future research and evaluation in this field. A request for new funding in the 1998 Fiscal Year budget to implement work on this agenda was developed jointly with the Centers for Disease Control and NIJ. In addition, the comprehensive work by the National Research Council on Family Violence Interventions discussed earlier is due for completion by the Fall of 1997. It will be a useful resource to both practitioners and researchers.

The various family violence studies that have recently concluded will result in publications that offer insights and recommendations for improvements in the criminal justice system response to family and intimate violence. Over the next year, the Institute will continue to develop new partnerships, as well as continue current ones, with bureaus in the Department of Justice, other federal agencies, and private foundations, in order to effectively address the multidimensional problem of family and intimate violence.



# OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

## I. Legislative Mandate

The mission of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is to provide national leadership, direction, coordination, and resources to prevent, treat, and control juvenile delinquency; improve the effectiveness and fairness of the juvenile justice system; and address the problem of missing and exploited children. In fulfilling this mission, OJJDP contributes to developing the full potential of America's most valuable resource - its youth.

In 1974, Congress enacted the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act (Public Law 93-415, 42 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.). This landmark legislation established OJJDP to provide Federal leadership and support to State and local governments in their efforts to prevent delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system. The Act requires OJJDP to address juvenile justice issues in a comprehensive, coordinated manner and to support research, training, and program initiatives that respond to a broad spectrum of juvenile justice issues. Specifically, Section 261(a)(4) and (5) of the JJDP Act of 1974, as amended, states OJJDP's primary program authority regarding families as "establishing or supporting programs (including self-help programs for parents) stressing advocacy activities aimed at improving services to juveniles affected by the juvenile justice system, including services that provide for the appointment of special advocates by courts for such juveniles, including programs that work with families during the incarceration of juvenile family members and which take into consideration the special needs of families with limited-English speaking ability; and developing or supporting model programs to strengthen and maintain the family unit in order to prevent or treat juvenile delinquency."

Additionally, Congress enacted the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990, Public Law 101-647, as amended by P. L. 102-586 (1992). This Act authorizes the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to promote the development of local children's advocacy centers and establish regional children's advocacy centers to support local programs; strengthen court appointed special advocates programs; and improve the prosecution and court management of child abuse and neglect cases.

OJJDP carries out its policies, programs, and goals through the coordinated activities of seven organizational components: 1) Research and Program Development Division, 2) Training and Technical Assistance Division, 3) Special Emphasis Division, 4) State Relations and Assistance Division, 5) Information Dissemination and Planning Unit, 6) Concentration of Federal Efforts Program, and 7) Missing and Exploited Children's Program. The 1992 reauthorization of the JJDP Act authorized OJJDP to support a number of new priority program areas, including: hate crime education, gender bias and gender-specific services, mentoring, boot camps, due process

and right to counsel, services to juveniles in secure custody, graduated sanctions, and family involvement in the treatment of delinquents.

The reauthorizations of the JJDP Act have focused OJJDP's attention and activities on family violence and other pressing juvenile justice issues of the day. Through a variety of initiatives, OJJDP continues to address important juvenile justice issues related to family violence.

## **II. Background**

Prevention, intervention, treatment, and the study of family violence are common threads through many OJJDP endeavors, even though previous programs or research projects have not focused solely on "family violence" or utilized it as a main theme.

The Missing and Exploited Children's Program has addressed family violence issues while meeting its responsibility to coordinate activities pertaining to missing and exploited children--preventing abductions, investigating cases, locating missing and exploited children and reuniting them with their families, providing treatment, and prosecuting abductors. Since 1984, OJJDP has been the principal funding source for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), a private nonprofit organization spearheading national efforts to locate and recover missing children and raise public awareness about the prevention of child abduction, molestation, and sexual exploitation. The OJJDP/NCMEC partnership coordinates the efforts of law enforcement agencies, social service providers, elected officials, judges, prosecutors, educators, and public and private organizations to address these crimes against children.

Several OJJDP studies have touched on family violence issues. Among them are "Families of Missing Children, Final Report" prepared by the Center for the Study of Trauma, University of California, San Francisco (1992), "Child Victim as Witness Research and Development Program: Final Report," prepared by D. Whitcomb, et al (1986); and "Strengthening America's Families: Promising Parenting Strategies for Delinquency Prevention, User's Guide," prepared by the University of Utah and the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (1992).

OJJDP's Program of Research on the Causes and Correlates of Delinquency has clarified the relationship between the family and involvement in juvenile delinquency. Low family socioeconomic status has been found to be associated with chronic delinquency. In addition, low family socioeconomic status is correlated with other risk factors to delinquency, including large family size, perinatal complications, parental mental illness, and low levels of parent education. Research has shown that poor family attachment is directly related to both delinquency and drug use. Poor parenting behavior (failure to communicate with and monitor children) and parental conflicts (inconsistency of punishment and avoidance of discipline) are also related to subsequent delinquency.

These OJJDP studies have shed new light on the relationship between domestic violence and subsequent violent behavior by children in violent families. For example, research conducted at the State University of New York at Albany shows that:

- Abused children are more likely to commit violent offenses as they grow older than are children not abused in the home;
- The percentage of children committing violent offenses increases more than 20% when they are exposed to one form of family violence (domestic violence, family climate of hostility, or child maltreatment); and
- Adolescents from multiple violent families are twice as likely to be violent as those from nonviolent families.

OJJDP has developed a “Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders” (1993) that calls for early intervention in troubled families that are at risk of producing such juvenile offenders. Program development work has identified effective prevention, intervention, and treatment programs from prenatal care to after care. OJJDP’s *Guide for Implementing the Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent and Chronic Juvenile Offenders* (1995) contains an inventory of promising and successful program models and techniques to assist interested jurisdictions in implementing their local prevention, early intervention and graduated sanction programs.

OJJDP has provided support to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to develop model practices for juvenile and family courts in handling domestic violence cases. Improved coordination among social services, child care agencies, and the courts is expected to result from adoption of these practices.

OJJDP has also helped practitioners examine the interrelationship between family violence and child abuse and develop strategies and practices to improve family outcomes. This has been accomplished primarily through efforts of the National Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers with support from the Office for Victims of Crime.

### **III. Current Programs**

**Children’s Advocacy Center Program.** Since 1994, OJJDP has supported the nationwide development and improvement of local children’s advocacy centers (CACs). Children’s advocacy centers are child-focused, facility-based programs that use multi disciplinary teams to coordinate the judicial and social service systems’ response to victims of child abuse. The teams work to prevent revictimization of abused children. Typically, they conduct joint interviews and make team decisions about management of these cases and provision of services to child victims and their families.

Under the Victims of Child Abuse Act authorization, the Fiscal Year 1996 Appropriations Act provided \$2 million to support local children's advocacy centers (the funding of which was administered by the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers) and \$500,000 to continue support of four regional children's advocacy centers (RCACs) established in 1995. Another \$500,000 was allocated to support efforts of the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers to promote national standards and effective practices through training and technical assistance to local communities.

The CAC grantees have developed valuable resource materials for the field that address the skills and organizational development needed to improve the prosecution, investigation and treatment of child abuse and neglect. This includes understanding the interrelationship of family violence with child abuse and neglect. The materials include an organizational development manual, two videos on CACs and the CAC team, a four-step methodology to help communities assess and plan multi disciplinary programs, and forensic interviewing manuals.

Under the leadership of OJJDP, the CAC grantees have also begun to establish and develop linkages with allied organizations and grantees to improve services to the field. These linkages include the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, the National Center for the Prosecution of Child Abuse, Fox Valley Technical College, and M/CAP.

With supplemental funding from the Office for Victims of Crime, the CAC grantees have begun to enhance core activities through a number of projects. These include: assisting a Native American tribal community to establish a pilot children's advocacy center, developing a video illustrating properly conducted forensic medical examinations, establishing formal mentoring programs to facilitate CAC replication, and continuing to forge more effective relationships between family violence and children's advocacy center practitioners.

**The Parent Project: The Parents Anonymous (PA) Replication Network.** As noted, research has shown that child abuse can significantly contribute to acts of aggression and delinquent behavior by some children. Conversely, adolescents who exhibit antisocial behavior may become targets of abuse by their parents. Recognizing the link between child abuse and juvenile delinquency, OJJDP began providing grant support to Parents Anonymous, Inc. in FY1994. The purpose was to enhance the capability of PA's state and local organizations to prevent child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency by strengthening families through unique, self-help programming with a special focus on expanding services to families of color living in low-income, high crime areas. This national initiative is being implemented in 11 states by PA organizations dedicated to serving a range of cultural groups, including Native American, African-American, Asian, Latino, and Appalachian families.

PA is completing development of "best practices" materials that identify successful elements and strategies for program development and implementation, as reported by those who established and are implementing the programs initiated under this initiative. PA is also giving special attention to developing successful linkages to the juvenile justice system and to meeting the

needs of minority families in both urban and rural communities, including those who are non-English speaking.

**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).** In FY96, OJJDP provided \$6 million to the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association for training and technical assistance to local CASA programs and subgrants to communities to assist in the development and strengthening of CASA programs. CASA programs train volunteers (known as CASAs) who supplement and assist overburdened court officials and social workers. Generally handling one or two cases at a time, they perform court-supervised fact-finding in cases where there are charges of child abuse and neglect in dependency proceedings. CASAs also make permanent placement recommendations to the court.

**Improving the Juvenile and Family Courts' Handling of Child Abuse and Neglect Cases: A Model Training and Technical Assistance Program.** The purpose of this grant to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) is to use the successful dependency court demonstration project in Cincinnati, Ohio as the basis for administrative reform of juvenile and family courts across the nation. The NCJFCJ is currently assisting nine additional courts to implement this demonstration program. The model streamlines the juvenile and family court's handling of child abuse and neglect cases through front-loading (bringing together at the initial hearing all the parties to the matter), assignment of one hearing officer for the life of a case, and instituting case tracking systems to help courts make speedy but well informed decisions about placement. The goal is to ensure that children do not languish unnecessarily in temporary foster care. Other NCJFCJ activities are designed to assist State courts in the provision of training and technical assistance for judicial personnel, attorneys, and other key juvenile and family court staff and to improve procedures for determining whether child service agencies have made "reasonable efforts" to prevent out of home placement.

**Child Abuse and Exploitation Investigative Techniques Training Program.** Since 1982, OJJDP has offered a five-day training for thousands of national, State and local law enforcement officers in the investigation of child abuse and exploitation that includes a segment providing technical assistance on the investigation of specific cases of child abuse. An advanced course on investigative techniques and resources for missing and exploited child cases is now being offered to those who have completed the basic course. Training is provided at the request of individual police departments. The programs utilize experienced law enforcement and child abuse investigators as trainers. These trainings are delivered through a contract with Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, Wisconsin.

**Child Abuse Prosecution Training and Technical Assistance.** An OJJDP grant supports the American Prosecutors Research Institute's National Center for the Prosecution of Child Abuse. The Center works to improve the quality of child abuse prosecution by providing training, technical assistance and resource materials to elected and appointed prosecutors at the local, State, and Federal levels. Workshops, conferences, and informational materials provided by the

Center also benefit law enforcement, social workers, therapists, and other personnel handling child abuse cases.

**Child Abuse and Exploitation Team Investigative Program.** CAE-TIP is an intensive "team" training program designed for four-member local teams. Participants represent law enforcement, prosecution, social services, and medical personnel (optional). The focus of the program is the development of an interagency process and protocols for the enhanced enforcement, prevention, and intervention of child abuse cases. Hands-on, team activity involving investigations, case preparation and prosecution form the basis of this fast-paced offering. Teams are assisted in the development of their own interagency implementation plan for the improved management and investigation of these important and sensitive cases.

**Responding to Missing and Abducted Children.** The purpose of this 4 1/2 day training is to provide law enforcement and other professionals with the information necessary to properly understand, recognize, investigate, and resolve missing and abducted children's cases. Topics covered include: investigation of non-family abductions, family abductions, investigation of runaway/throwaway children, victim impact, reunification/recovery, media, case management, and case enhancement resources.

**Child Sexual Exploitation Investigations.** This course, also four 1/2 days, is designed to provide law enforcement professionals with the information necessary to properly understand, recognize, investigate, and resolve cases of child sexual exploitation. In this class, participants learn to understand the behavior of the child predator, obtain an understanding of how a child predator solicits and accomplishes his/her sexual satisfaction, and gain expertise in how to obtain and execute search warrants. Topics covered include computer child exploitation, missing children, child prostitution, interviewing the victim, suspect interrogation, prosecution, Federal agencies' roles and resources, Federal statutes, case enhancement/victim services, and managing the child exploitation problem.

**Model Treatment and Service Approaches for Mental Health Professionals Working with Families of Missing Children.** A grant to the Western Center for Child Protection is designed to provide mental health personnel with information on effective treatment approaches for rehabilitating families traumatized by child abduction and faced with reestablishing a state of normalcy in its aftermath.

**Investigation and Prosecution of Parental Abduction Cases.** A grant to the American Prosecutors Research Institute (APRI) assists local prosecutors in bringing more informed and more effective prosecution of non-custodial parents who abduct their children. APRI identifies the legal and social issues in these cases, analyzes and summarizes existing research in this area, identifies experts who handle these cases, and produces and disseminates legal analysis and guidelines for local prosecutors and law enforcement agencies concerning such cases.

**National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrownaway Children (NISMART II).** In the 1984 Missing Children's Assistance Act, OJJDP was authorized to conduct periodic studies of the number of children abducted in a given year and the number who have been recovered. In 1995, a cooperative agreement was awarded to Temple University's Institute for Survey Research to design and conduct the second such study of missing, abducted, runaway and thrownaway children in America. The second study will build upon the first NISMART study by: improving the definitions for counting incidents; interviewing a larger national sample of parents or primary care givers and children about their experiences; sampling police records from a larger number of agencies; and studying a more representative sample of residential facilities from which youth may run away. The project will complete the design and pretest work in 1997 and begin interviews in January of 1998. Results from the studies are anticipated to be released early in 1999.

**Remember, They're Children: Using Video to Train Law Enforcement.** A grant was awarded to the University of Southern Maine for a project to minimize the negative impact of law enforcement investigative procedures on maltreated children. This was accomplished by developing and disseminating to law enforcement personnel a comprehensive video training curriculum designed to improve investigative responses to child victims of maltreatment. The National Child Welfare Resource Center is providing small- and medium-sized police departments with the resources to train and support their staff on how to conduct effective, but non-traumatizing, child abuse investigations.

**Missing and Exploited Children Comprehensive Action Program (MCAP).** MCAP is a multi-agency juvenile services coordination community action program that was administered by Public Administration Services. OJJDP is now offering MCAP as a training and technical assistance project through Fox Valley Technical College. The program provides directed and supportive training and technical assistance to encourage, guide, and focus community development and planning on important missing and exploited children's issues. The resulting program development provides sound programmatic, policy, and procedural approaches. It also encourages multi-agency community planning and delivery of services to focus more cooperatively and responsively on recognized missing and exploited children problems and services.

**Strengthening America's Families.** In 1996, OJJDP established a three-year grant project to expand efforts to assist communities in strengthening family programs. The University of Utah's Health and Education Department was awarded a cooperative agreement to implement a training and technical assistance model designed to identify and disseminate information about exemplary and promising family strengthening programs. Under the project, a national conference was held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Individual workshops were offered on the most effective programs to guide practitioners and administrators in enhancing, establishing, or adapting model programs in their communities. The project's efforts will be continued in 1997 and 1998 through tailored training and support to individual communities.

**Study of Child Abuse Offenders.** Under the National Child Protection Act of 1993, Section 2(f), the Administrator of OJJDP is tasked to study and report on child abuse offenders. The report, based on the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991, has been completed. It reflects what is known about the most serious and dangerous child abusers in the nation and details current projects and ongoing research that OJJDP and BJS have funded in this subject area. The report was submitted to Congress in March 1996.

**Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs.** The 1992 amendment to the JJDP Act established OJJDP's Title V. The Community Prevention Grants Program provides funds to States for sub-grants to communities to support the implementation of local prevention plans focused on at-risk children, teenagers, and their families. Some of the risk factors for delinquency addressed by Title V include: family history of high-risk behavior, family management problems, family conflict, inconsistent discipline, and a lack of parental involvement.

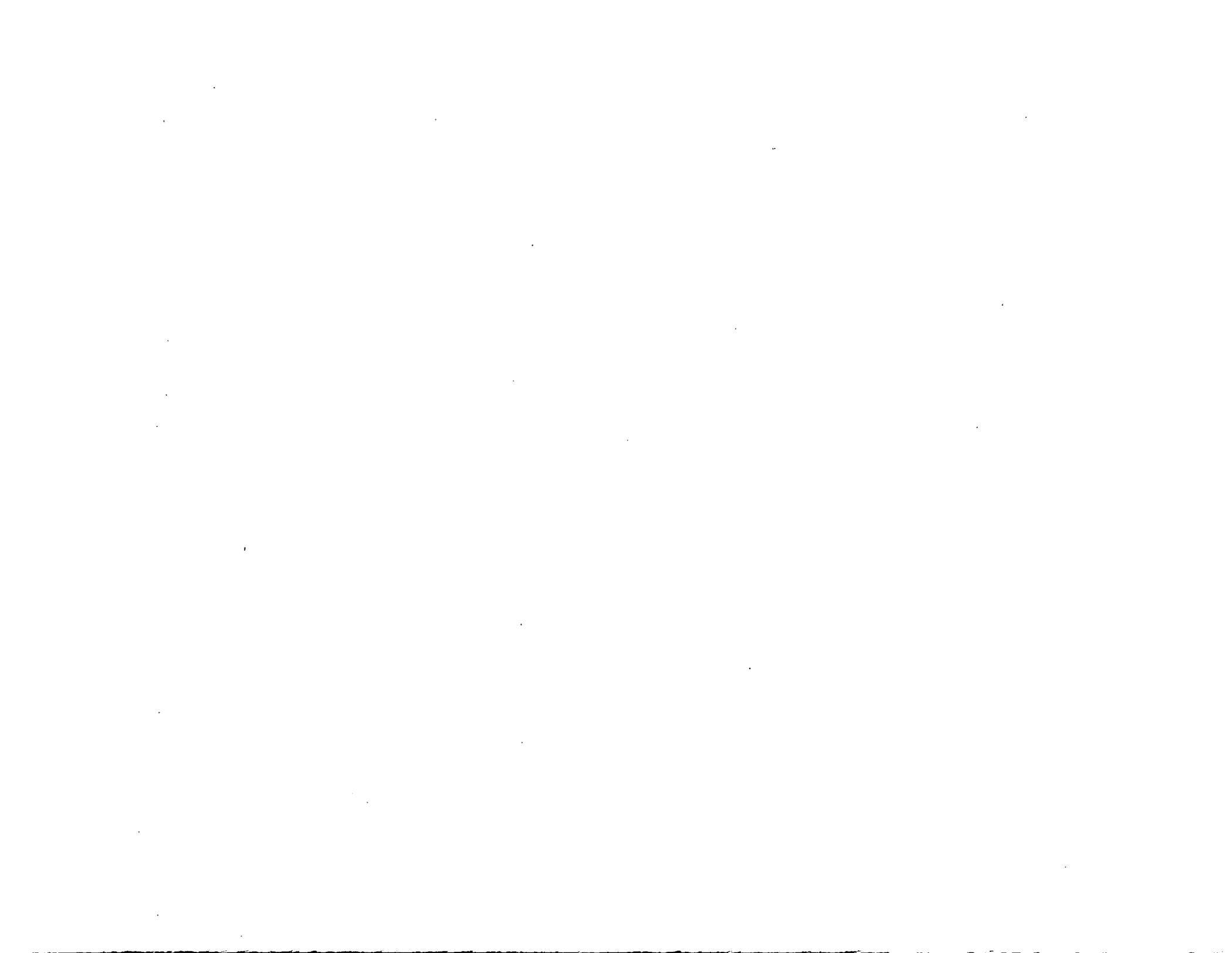
#### **IV. Anticipated Plans**

OJJDP is committed to designing programs to help parents, communities, and practitioners address the problems of juvenile crime and stem the wave of violence that is plaguing our nation. As a major component of this effort, OJJDP developed "A Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders." OJJDP has used this strategy as the basis for a five-year program entitled "SafeFutures: Partnerships to Reduce Youth Violence and Delinquency." Through a range of SafeFutures program components including family strengthening, mentoring, day treatment, graduated sanctions, and aftercare, OJJDP is providing each of six SafeFutures sites with funding and a comprehensive technical assistance package. With these resources, the sites are focusing program efforts in targeted neighborhoods to: 1) prevent youth violence and delinquency by reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors; 2) develop a continuum of care for juveniles consisting of both institutional and systems change and a focused effort on the most at-risk youth and families in the jurisdiction; 3) build the capacity to institutionalize and sustain coordinated efforts; and 4) measure outcomes. Because dysfunctional or violent families are a significant risk factor for delinquency and related negative behaviors, these family-related issues are a key component of the SafeFutures Program.

A major new Fiscal Year 1996 Program is *Safe Kids, Safe Streets: Community Approaches to Combating Child Abuse and Neglect*. This program, based on input from practitioners, researchers and policy makers, is designed to reduce juvenile delinquency by helping break the cycle of child and adolescent abuse and neglect, thereby substantially reducing child maltreatment and fatalities and improving outcomes for children and families. Funded jointly by three agencies of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP)--OJJDP, the Executive Office for Weed and Seed, and the Violence Against Women's Grants Office--this solicitation invited proposals to improve community response to abuse and neglect of children and adolescents.

Additional support is being provided by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

Three to six cooperative agreements will be awarded early in 1997 ranging from \$425,000 to \$925,000 each for the initial 18-month budget period of a 66-month project period. The goals of the program are to: (1) encourage localities to restructure and strengthen the criminal and juvenile justice systems to be more comprehensive and proactive in helping children and adolescents and their families who have been or are at risk of being abused and neglected; (2) implement or strengthen coordinated management of abuse and neglect cases by improving policy and practice of the criminal and juvenile justice systems and the child welfare, family services, and related systems; and (3) develop comprehensive community wide, cross-agency strategies to reduce child and adolescent abuse and neglect and resulting child fatalities. Communities are encouraged to coordinate family violence and child abuse and neglect intervention and prevention work.



# OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

## **I. Legislative Mandate**

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) was established in 1984 as a result of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). OVC is responsible for administering and managing deposits into the Crime Victims Fund. Furthermore, OVC makes grants available for training and technical assistance to eligible crime victims compensation programs, including programs compensating victims of domestic violence, and crime victims assistance programs, with priority given to those programs that provide assistance to victims of sexual assault, spousal abuse, or child abuse.

## **II. Background**

The 1988 amendment to VOCA mandates that State compensation programs extend benefits to victims of domestic violence as a condition of continued eligibility for Federal funding. Prior to these amendments, victims of domestic violence were often denied compensation benefits solely based on their relationship to the offender. Since these mandates, over half of all VOCA victims assistance grant funds are awarded to public and private nonprofit organizations providing services to victims of domestic violence, including victims of child abuse.

VOCA requires priority consideration for awarding state formula victim assistance funding to programs serving victims of sexual assault, spousal abuse, and child abuse. Furthermore, OVC has awarded discretionary grants to crime victims assistance programs for technical assistance services and training for criminal justice system professionals and victim service providers.

The Victims of Crime Act also requires OVC to review Federal law enforcement compliance with Federal victim assistance statutes and, to strengthen and expand services for Federal crime victims. The Victims of Child Abuse Act (passed as part of the 1990 Crime Control Act) emphasizes children's rights and requires the Federal justice system to adapt procedures to the needs and abilities of child victims and witnesses. Examples of requirements in that Act include: speedy trials; alternatives to live, in-court testimony; appointment of a guardian ad litem or adult attendant; and a multi disciplinary approach to reduce the number of child interviews.

## **III. Current Programs**

### **Discretionary Grant Programs**

#### **DISCRETIONARY PROGRAMS IN INDIAN COUNTRY**

Under the discretionary grant programs OVC funds, there are a number of programs which are targeted for Indian Nations. Grants under these programs are awarded directly to the tribes and are focused on various family violence issues.

**Children's Justice Act Discretionary Grant Program for Native Americans (CJA).** Initiated in 1990, OVC awards eight to 10 grants annually to Indian tribes to improve the investigation, prosecution, and handling of cases of child sexual abuse and serious child physical abuse in a manner that increases support for and reduces trauma to child victims. The program goal is to strengthen existing child abuse programs or develop new programs that deal effectively with cases of child sexual abuse and serious child physical abuse and to promote these projects as models for other tribes to use in developing similar programs.

**Children's Advocacy Centers in Indian Country.** Two tribes will receive funding to establish demonstration sites for child-focused, multi-disciplinary settings for the investigation of child sexual abuse cases. The center will allow for a coordinated strategy to meet the needs of child victims and the criminal justice system. OVC will make funding available through OJJDP under a cooperative agreement with regional Children's Advocacy Centers.

**Victim Assistance in Indian Country Program (VAIC).** The VAIC grant program provides funding directly to tribes to establish "on-reservation" victim assistance programs for federal crime victims in Indian country, where the U.S. Government is responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes. To date, OVC has expended \$6,600,000 on this effort and, as a result, has funded approximately 52 tribes in 19 states that provide services such as crisis intervention, emergency shelter for family violence victims, mental health counseling, and court advocacy. The majority of the services provided under this program assist child victims.

**Tribal Court Appointed Special Advocate Programs (CASA).** These programs will enable tribal court systems to assign advocates to represent the best interests of Native American children. This funding will provide for two tribal CASA and for those programs to participate in the National CASA Conference.

## **DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS**

**Domestic Violence In Kentucky: Model Law Enforcement Response.** This program is a joint effort with the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and the Violence Against Women Grants Office to establish a demonstration program in Kentucky. The effort is designed to implement the Full Faith and Credit provisions of the Violence Against Women Act. It is both an intra-state and inter-state enforcement effort.

**Hospital-Based Emergency Shelter for Women and Children Victimized by Domestic Violence.** The Los Angeles County/University of Southern California Medical Center (LAC/USC) currently provides services to children who are victims of abuse, and will be expanding its focus to establish an emergency shelter within the Medical Center, as well as needed services, for victims of domestic violence and their children.

## **NATIONAL SCOPE TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

OVC has funded national scope training and technical assistance projects that focus on special categories of victims, such as victims of domestic violence, child victims, the elderly, and minorities. Other projects target specific professional groups, such as law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges, as well as corrections, probation, and parole personnel. In addition, training and technical assistance have been provided to victim service providers and allied professionals who work with victims, such as mental health professionals. Some projects have addressed multi-disciplinary audiences, composed of representatives from different fields. Over the past couple of years OVC has provided funding for a number of training and technical assistance programs focused specifically on domestic violence, child abuse, and other family violence issues.

**Educating to End Domestic Violence.** The goal of this program is to encourage law schools to establish, develop, and expand Domestic Violence Assistance Programs in Law School Clinics to assist victims of domestic violence. The American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence received funding to examine some of the most successful and innovative clinical programs and curricula in law schools throughout the country, and to develop and disseminate a report outlining course innovations, written protocols, curricula, and other related materials currently utilized to teach domestic violence within the law school curriculum.

**Promising Strategies and Practices to Enhance Workplace Response to Victims of Domestic Violence.** The San Francisco based Family Violence Prevention Fund was funded to create a blueprint for galvanizing workplaces, a central force in most Americans' lives, to ensure that employers and unions support victims of domestic violence to obtain the services they need to end violent relationships. The first step will be a "victim needs assessment" and a white paper articulating the rationale for employer and union involvement on this issue. The project will create materials outlining model policies and programs which can be jointly adopted by employers and labor unions. Workplaces that adopt the models will become part of the victims' safety net. By providing protection and services in the workplace, where victims frequently are vulnerable, the project fills a gap in the community's response to domestic violence. Finally, the project will work with trade and labor organizations and others to build a network for distributing the model policies and practices. These networking and collaboration activities will serve to increase public awareness of domestic violence as a workplace issue.

**Full Faith & Credit Training & Technical Assistance Project.** The goal of this training and technical assistance cooperative agreement is to develop effective law enforcement, prosecution, court, and advocacy practices to promote accessible, consistent enforcement of civil and criminal protection orders in appropriate state and tribal courts throughout the country, pursuant to the Full Faith and Credit provisions of the Violence Against Women Act,

(VAWA), 18 U.S.C. Section 2265. The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc., Battered Women's Justice Project has received funding to implement this program.

**Finding Common Ground.** This conference, hosted by the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, brought together experts in the fields of domestic violence and child abuse to explore the relationship between child abuse and domestic violence and recommend proposals for collaboration between professionals working in these two fields.

**Regional Conference on Family Violence.** The American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence, the American Medical Association, and the Department of Health and Human Services co-sponsored a conference that brought together multi disciplinary, community teams to discuss their efforts and enhance their skills in addressing family violence issues.

**When the Cry Comes.** This national teleconference on domestic violence sought to train law enforcement officials on best practices when handling a case of domestic violence. This teleconference aired at 165 locations, in 45 states, across the country, and viewed by nearly 4000 criminal justice professions and victim advocates. OVC is currently working with the Violence Against Women Grants Office to develop a follow-up teleconference on the impact of domestic violence on children.

**Battered Foreign-Spouse Program.** The American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence and AYUDA, Inc. are developing a nationally applicable training curriculum and resource manual for law enforcement and justice system personnel, domestic violence and victim advocates, and attorneys. The products will address the immigration provisions of the Violence Against Women Act, which allow battered immigrant spouses to self-petition for the right to remain in the United States.

**Across State Lines: Collaborating to Keep Women Safe.** This national conference is a joint project with the Violence Against Women Grants Office to engage states in efforts to improve implementation of the Full Faith and Credit provisions of the Violence Against Women Act. During the past few years OVC has funded several projects aimed at assisting the states to implement this provision of the Act. This conference will provide needed training and technical assistance to state teams of law enforcement and court professionals on the implementation of the Full Faith and Credit provisions of the Violence Against Women Act.

**Safe Kids/Safe Streets: Community Based Approaches to Intervening in Child Abuse and Neglect.** This OJP-wide program will create systemic reforms to improve services for abused children, provide training and technical assistance support to practitioners who service child victims and their families, strengthen a continuum of family support services to assure that assessment, counseling, and victim assistance services are available, assure the uniformity of evaluation protocols across sites, and provide prevention education and public information. OVC will provide the grantees with training, technical assistance, and training materials on

improving services for child victims. Assistance will focus on expanding the availability of medical services to sexually and physically abused children and mentoring or training programs for communities wishing to establish a Children's Advocacy Center. New technologies, use of specially trained nurse practitioners, and coordination with facilities that are providing quality forensic examinations and other medical services to child victims are some of the approaches to be utilized in improving medical services for young victims.

**Sexual Victimization of Youth.** The National Child Advocacy Center, Huntsville, AL will conduct a symposium to identify issues and challenges in responding effectively to young victims of sexual violence, including promising practices, and new strategies for further action. Up to 20 leading practitioners, policy makers, and researchers will be invited to attend the symposium. With a comprehensive focus on sexual victimization, including sexual homicide, forcible rape, incest, acquaintance rape, and sexual exploitation, the symposium will concentrate on the experience of adolescents (ages 11 through 18 years).

**Young Teen Girls Sexually Victimized by Older Men: Improving the Criminal Justice Response.** The American Bar Association, Center on Children and the Law, has been funded to identify promising practices of prosecutors, victim advocates, police, and judges in handling statutory rape cases, and to develop a Compendium, with specific guidance for prosecutors, victim advocates, law enforcement officers, and judges to help young teen girls who are victims in these types of cases.

**Support for Grieving and Bereaved Children.** The National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) is developing a training curriculum to assist victim service providers who work with children who are grieving as a result of violent crime, whether it be as victims themselves, as relatives of injured or murdered victims, or as witnesses of violent acts. The curriculum will expand on a guidebook NOVA produced which addresses various methods for working with grieving and bereaved children. Once the curriculum is developed, NOVA will conduct three regional trainings.

In addition to these specific training and technical assistance programs on family violence issues, OVC will continue to integrate information on family violence into training and technical assistance activities and into materials produced by the majority of the discretionary projects funded by the Office. Specifically, the topic will be covered in the training and technical assistance that will be provided to corrections personnel, the clergy, mental health practitioners, the media, and law enforcement. Finally, another series of State and regional multi-disciplinary training conferences on victims' issues will be sponsored, all of which will include a number of workshops on family violence. The regional workshops on elder abuse will be co-sponsored with the Administration on Aging (HHS), the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Institute of Justice, the National Sheriff's Association, and the American Association of Retired Persons. The initial law enforcement "train the trainers" grants designed to provide officers with the best methods to respond to family violence have

been completed. And as planned, the curricular materials have been incorporated in the regular police academy training requirements in all the states where the grants were awarded.

## **TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR FEDERAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE OFFICIALS**

In addition to the national scope training and technical assistance, OVC conducts training programs for federal prosecutors, investigators, and victim-witness coordinators on handling child abuse cases in the federal criminal justice system.

**National Symposium on Child Sexual Abuse in Huntsville, Alabama.** Since 1988, OVC has sponsored the participation of federal criminal justice personnel on the issue of child sexual abuse. United States Attorneys' Offices nominate multi-disciplinary teams consisting of federal prosecutors, criminal investigators, and victim-witness coordinators to attend this specialized training. A federal training day precedes the Symposium and focuses on handling child sexual abuse cases in the federal criminal justice system. In 1996, for the first time, OVC funded a domestic violence track at the Huntsville conference. The goal of this track was to explore collaboration between service providers that assist victims of domestic violence and child abuse.

**Four Corners Indian Country Victim's Rights - Child Abuse Conference.** This conference brings together approximately 200 federal, tribal and state prosecutors, law enforcement officials, and health, social services, and victim assistance professionals who work in Indian country on behalf of child victims. Four contiguous U.S. Attorneys' Offices jointly present this four-day conference, which features interactive, regional problem-solving workshops.

**District-Specific Training Initiative.** OVC sets aside \$50,000 to \$80,000 each year to fund U.S. Attorney's Offices for multi-disciplinary training efforts in regions or Federal Districts. One common theme that runs through each of these regional conferences in Indian country is an emphasis on the recognition of importance and dynamics of family violence and how best to assist those who have been victimized within their family environment.

**Violence Against Women Act Specialist.** This position was funded to assist the Executive Office for United States Attorneys to provide training and technical assistance to Assistant United States Attorneys and Victim-Witness Coordinators on dealing with victims of domestic violence. In January 1997, the Violence Against Women Act Specialist worked with the Department of Justice to develop and conduct training for AUSA's identified as Points of Contact with respect to VAWA cases.

## **Formula Grant Programs**

The Victim Assistance State Grant Program is a rich source of services for domestic violence and child abuse victims. From 1986 through 1995 states have allocated over 50 percent of

VOCA victim assistance funds (over \$287 million) to this area. Services under these programs included intervention, group therapy, court accompaniment, transportation, emergency shelter, and counseling for victims of domestic violence and child abuse.

The State Crime Victim Compensation Program is another major resource for child victims and their families. Surpassing all other categories of victims seeking financial assistance from victim compensation programs, the number of innocent child victims receiving benefits has accelerated dramatically since the inception of the Federal VOCA Crime Victim Compensation Program. Awards for child victims surged from approximately \$13 million in FY 1986 to over \$36 million in FY 1995. Additionally, nearly 30 percent of all compensation awards were paid on behalf of adult and child victims of domestic violence in FY 1994.

#### **IV. Anticipated Plans**

Clearly, family violence is an area that demands a great deal of attention, resources, and creativity. OVC has worked, and will continue to work, on the myriad of issues facing victims of family violence. In recent years, the focus has been primarily domestic violence and child abuse. Among these areas alone, there are a multitude of issues to address. OVC has extended these issues to examine the very complex issue of domestic violence and its relationship to child abuse and its impact on children. In doing so, OVC recognizes the great challenges that exist in creating collaborative relationships among the service providers that work with these two groups of victims. However, OVC also recognizes the urgent need for such collaborations and the importance of focusing on this issue.



#### **IV. OJP PUBLICATIONS ON FAMILY VIOLENCE**

**"Bitter Earth: Child Sexual Abuse in Indian Country," A 45-Minute film produced under the sponsorship of the Office for Victims Of Crime, 1993.**

**"Coordinating Criminal and Juvenile Court Proceedings in Child Maltreatment Cases," Debra Whitcomb and Mark Hardin, Research Preview, National Institute of Justice, October 1996.**

**"Confidentiality of Domestic Violence Victims' Addresses," the National Criminal Justice Association, November 1995, sponsored by the National Institute of Justice.**

**"Child Rape Victims, 1992," Patrick A. Langan and Caroline Wolf Harlow, Crime Data Brief, Bureau of Justice Statistics, June 1994.**

**"Criminal Victimization 1994," Craig Perkins and Patsy Klaus, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Bulletin, April 1996.**

**"Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1993," National Crime Victimization Survey Report, Bureau of Justice Statistics, May 1996.**

**"The Cycle of Violence," Cathy Spatz Widom, Research in Brief, National Institute of Justice, October 1992.**

**"Domestic and Sexual Violence Data Collection: A Report to Congress under the Violence Against Women Act," Justice Research and Statistics Association, National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, July 1996.**

**"Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Antistalking Legislation: An Annual Report to Congress under the Violence Against Women Act," National Institute of Justice, 1996.**

**"The Emotional Effects of Testifying on Sexually Abused Children," Deborah Whitcomb, Gail S. Goodman, Desmond K. Runyan, and Shirley Hoak, Research in Brief, National Institute of Justice, April 1994.**

**"Evaluation of Family Violence Training Programs," Lisa Newmark, Adele Harrell, and William P. Adams, Research Preview, National Institute of Justice, November 1995.**

**"Family Life, Delinquency, and Crime: A Policymaker's Guide," Kevin N. Wright and Karen E. Wright, Research Summary, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, May 1994.**

**"Family Strengthening in Preventing Delinquency - A Literature Review," Karol Kumpher, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 1994.**

**"Family Violence: Interventions for the Justice System," Program Brief, Bureau of Justice Assistance, October 1993.**

**"Female Victims of Violent Crime," Diane Craven, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Selected Findings, December 1996.**

**"Helping to Prevent Child Abuse and Its Future Criminal Consequences: Hawaii Healthy Start," Ralph Earle, Program Focus, National Institute of Justice, 1995.**

**"Highlights from 20 Years of Surveying Crime Victims," The National Crime Victimization Survey, 1973-92, Bureau of Justice Statistics, October 1993.**

**"Improving the Police Response to Domestic Elder Abuse: Instructor Training Manual," Prepared by the Police Executive Research Forum for the Office for Victims of Crime, September 1993.**

**"Intervening in Family and Domestic Violence: A Resource Manual for Community Corrections Professionals," American Probation and Parole Association, Bureau of Justice Assistance, 1996.**

**"Joint Investigations of Child Abuse: Report of a Symposium," Research Report, National Institute of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, July 1993.**

**"Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Throwaway Children in America," David Finklehor, Gerry Hotaling, Andrea Sedlak, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 1990.**

**"Murder in Families," John M. Dawson and Patrick A. Langan, Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, July 1994.**

**"New Approach to Interviewing Children: A Test of Its Effectiveness," Research in Brief, National Institute of Justice, May 1992.**

**"Obstacles to the Recovery and Return of Parentally Abducted Children," Linda K. Girdner and Patricia M. Hoff, Research Summary, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 1994.**

**"Parental Abductors: Four Interviews," Geoffrey Greif, Video in VHS format, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 1993.**

**"Police and Child Abuse: New Policies for Expanded Responsibilities," Susan E. Martin and Douglas J. Besharov, Issues and Practices, National Institute of Justice, June 1991.**

**"Preserving Families To Prevent Delinquency," Juvenile Justice Bulletin, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 1992.**

**"Prosecuting Child Physical Abuse Cases: A Case Study in San Diego," Barbara Smith, Research in Brief, National Institute of Justice, June 1995.**

**"A Regional Seminar Series for States on Implementing Anti-Stalking Codes" the National Criminal Justice Association, Bureau of Justice Assistance, June 1996.**

**A Report of the Violence Against Women Research Strategic Planning Workshop, Sponsored by the National Institute of Justice in Cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services, March 31, 1995.**

**"Spouse Murder Defendants in Large Urban Counties," Patrick A. Langan, Ph.D. and John M. Dawson, Bureau of Justice Statistics, September 1995.**

**"Understanding Violence Against Women," Nancy A. Crowell and Ann W. Burgess, editors, National Academy Press, 1996, sponsored by the National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control.**

**"The Validity and Use of Evidence Concerning Battering and Its Effects in Criminal Trials: A Report to Congress under the Violence Against Women Act," May 1996, sponsored by the National Institute of Justice, the State Justice Institute, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the Administration for Children and Families.**

**"Victims of Childhood Sexual Abuse - Later Criminal Consequences," Cathy Spatz Widom, Research in Brief, National Institute of Justice, March 1995.**

**"The Violence Against Women Act of 1994: Evaluation of the STOP Block Grants to Combat Violence Against Women," Martha Burt with Lisa Newmark, Mary Norris, Daryl Dyer, and Adele Harrell, The Urban Institute, March 1996, sponsored by the National Institute of Justice.**

**"Violence Against Women," Ronet Bachman, National Crime Victimization Survey Report, Bureau of Justice Statistics, January 1994.**

**"Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned National Crime Victimization Survey," Ronet Bachman and Linda E. Saltzman, Bureau of Justice Statistics, June 1995.**

**"Violence Between Intimates," Marianne Zawitz, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Selected**

**Findings, November 1994.**

**"Violent Families and Youth Violence," Fact Sheet, T.P. Thornberry, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, December 1994.**

**"VOCA: Helping Victims of Child Abuse," Robin V. Delany-Shabazz, Fact Sheet, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, June 1995.**

**"When the Victim is a Child," Deborah Whitcomb, Issues and Practices, National Institute of Justice, March 1992.**

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**For these and additional publications and reports on justice issues in family violence contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850. Phone Toll Free 800 851-3420 or Locally 301 251-5500.**

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**This report is available on the World Wide Web at the Office of Justice Programs Home Page: [www.ojp.usdoj.gov](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov) under the publications section.**

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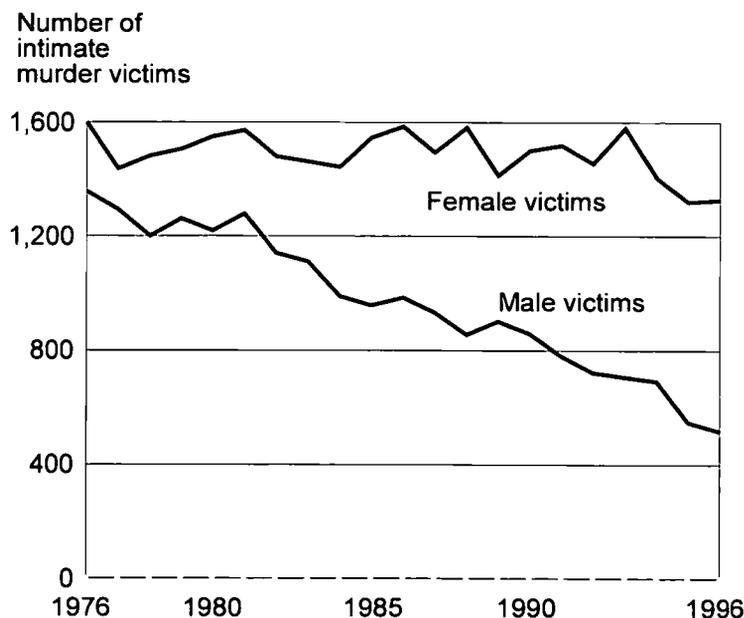
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# Violence by Intimates

Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends

**Intimates committed fewer murders in 1995 and 1996 than in any other year since 1976.**

**Between 1976 and 1996, for persons murdered by intimates, the number of male victims fell an average 5% per year, and the number of female victims went down an average 1%.**



Note: Intimates include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same-sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

## Bureau of Justice Statistics reports

(Revised May 1998)

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## BJS overview reports

**BJS fiscal year 98: At a glance**, NCJ 169285, 4/98, 56p  $\times$

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**CD-ROM: Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1994-95 editions**, NCJ 164253, 10/97, postage/handling \$11.50, \$15 Canada and other countries

**Presale handgun checks, 1996: A national estimate**, NCJ 165704, 9/97, 6p  $\times$

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**Publications of BJS, 1971-84**, library of 330 microfiches, PRO30012, 10/86, \$203

**Report to the Nation on crime and justice: Second edition**, NCJ 105506, 6/88, 134p Technical appendix, NCJ 112011, 8/88, 93p, \$8.40

## Crimes and victims

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**Domestic violence statistics information package**, NCJ 167883, 3/98, \$29 U.S., \$31 Canada and other countries

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**Victimization and fear of crime: World perspectives**, NCJ 93872, 1/85, 102p, \$9.15

**Drugs and crime**

**State drug resources: 1997 national directory** (<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/states/states.html>)  $\times$

**Drugs, crime, and the justice system: A national report**, NCJ 133652, 5/93, 224p

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# Violence by Intimates

## *Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends*

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NCJ-167237, March 1998

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**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Bureau of Justice Statistics

Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D.  
Director

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Dr. Mark Rosenberg, Director, and staff of the National Center for Injury Prevention in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In addition, Professor Michael Maltz, Ph.D., a BJS Visiting Fellow from the University of Illinois, gave helpful guidance.

This report and other reports and data are available from the BJS Internet Web site:  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

All of the data analyzed in this report may be obtained from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960. Access to the archive may be achieved through the BJS Web site or directly at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/archive.html>

# Foreword

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In a joint effort by the Justice Department and the Department of Health and Human Services, a comprehensive review is under way of the information available to Federal decisionmakers about domestic violence and possible needs for the government to undertake enhanced or improved surveillance for statistical data about violence between intimates. At the Department of Justice this effort is being coordinated by Noël Brennan, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs, and at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, by Dr. Mark Rosenberg, Director, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

This report prepared by the Bureau of Justice Statistics presents a summary of the statistical information about violence committed against intimates that is currently available and is based on information gathered from victims, law enforcement agencies, hospital emergency departments, and those convicted of crimes against intimates. For the purposes of this study, intimates were defined as those with whom the offender had a relationship as a current or former spouse or boyfriend or girlfriend. The kinds of violent crimes examined ranged from murder to simple assault.

I am particularly pleased that this valuable report represents the efforts of both BJS staff and Professor James Alan Fox of Northeastern University, a BJS Visiting Fellow. In addition, the FBI provided valuable support to this effort by supplying updated Supplementary Homicide Report data in a very timely fashion.

Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D.  
Director



# Highlights

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This report is a compilation of statistical data maintained by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on violence between people who have an intimate relationship — spouses, exspouses, boyfriends, girlfriends, and former boyfriends and girlfriends.

The violent offenses encompass crimes such as murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Intimate violence predominantly affects women as victims. Violence by an intimate accounts for about 21% of the violent crime experienced by women and about 2% of the violence sustained by males.

## Lethal

- In 1996 just over 1,800 murders were attributable to intimates; nearly 3 out of 4 of these had a female victim. In 1976 there were nearly 3,000 victims of intimate murder.
- The decline over the past two decades was larger for spouse killings, compared to the killings of other intimates.
- The percentage of female murder victims killed by intimates has remained at about 30% since 1976.
- There has been a sharp decrease in the rate of intimate murder of men, especially black men.
- The number of intimate murders with guns has declined. However, in 1996, 65% of all intimate murders were committed with a firearm.
- There is some evidence of a slight increase in the rate of white females killed by a boyfriend.

## Nonlethal

- The number of female victims of intimate violence has been declining. In 1996 women experienced an estimated 840,000 rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault victimizations at the hands of an intimate, down from 1.1 million in 1993.

- Intimate violence against men did not vary significantly from 1992 to 1996. In 1996 men were victims of about 150,000 violent crimes committed by an intimate.
- Women age 16-24 experience the highest per capita rates of intimate violence.

**Reporting to the police** About half of the incidents of intimate violence experienced by women are reported to the police; black women are more likely than women of other races to report such victimizations to the police.

- The most common reasons given by victims for not contacting the police were that they considered the incident a private or personal matter, they feared retaliation, or they felt the police would not be able to do anything about the incident.

**Police response** According to victims, about 1 in 5 incidents reported to the police resulted in an arrest at the scene.

**Presence of children** Slightly more than half of female victims of intimate violence live in households with children under the age of 12. About 40% of imprisoned intimate offenders report that one or more children under age 18 resided with them at some time before the offenders entered prison.

**Treatment of injuries** About 1 in 10 women victimized by a violent intimate sought professional medical treatment.

- About half of victims of intimate violence report a physical injury; about 1 in 5 *injured* female victims of intimate violence sought professional medical treatment.
- Hospital emergency department data show women are about 84% of those seeking hospital treatment for an intentional injury caused by an intimate assailant.
- About half these injured intimate victims were treated for bruises or similar trauma.

- 
- About half of those treated had sustained injuries to the head and face.

***Incarcerated offenders*** Those who committed a violent crime against an intimate represent about 25% of convicted violent offenders in local jails and about 7% of violent offenders in State prisons.

- 3 in 4 offenders serving time in local jails for intimate violence had been convicted of assault; just over 40% of such offenders in State prisons had been convicted of murder.
- The criminal justice system has extensive prior contact with those convicted of intimate violence. Among those in jail 78% have a prior conviction history, though not necessarily for intimate violence.

- 4 in 10 jail inmates convicted of a violent crime against an intimate had a criminal justice status at the time of the crime: about 20% were on probation, 9% were under a restraining order, and just under 10% were on parole, pretrial release, or other status.

- More than half of both prison and jail inmates serving time for violence against an intimate had been using drugs or alcohol or both at the time of the incident for which they were incarcerated.
- The average prison sentence for those who victimized a spouse or other intimate appears similar to the average sentences for victimizing strangers or acquaintances. Prisoners who had assaulted their spouse, however, received longer sentences than offenders convicted of assault against other categories of victims.

# Introduction

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## How we measure the incidence of intimate violence

*Estimates from the National Crime Victimization Survey indicate that in 1996 there were about a million rapes, sexual assaults, robberies, aggravated assaults, and simple assaults in which the victim and offender had an intimate relationship. Intimate relationships include spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends, girlfriends, and former boyfriends and girlfriends. More than 8 in 10 of these violent crimes involved a female victim.*

### *National Crime Victimization Survey*

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is one of two statistical series maintained by the Department of Justice to learn about the extent to which crime is occurring. The NCVS, which gathers data on criminal victimization from a national sample of household respondents, provides annual estimates of crimes experienced by the public without regard to whether a law enforcement agency was called about the crime. Initiated in 1972, the NCVS was designed to complement what is known about crimes reported to local law enforcement agencies under the FBI's annual compilation known as the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR).

The NCVS gathers information about crime and its consequences from a nationally representative sample of U.S. residents age 12 or older about any crimes they may have experienced. For personal contact crimes the survey determines who the perpetrator was. Asking the victim about his/her relationship to the offender is critical to determining whether the crime occurred between intimates.

In the latter half of the 1980's, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), together with the Committee on Law and Justice of the American Statistical Association, sought to improve the NCVS components to enhance the measurement of crimes including rape, sexual assault, and intimate and family violence. The new questions and revised procedures were phased in from January 1992 through June 1993

in half the sampled households. Since July 1993 the redesigned methods have been used for the entire national sample.

Based on the half-sample, BJS determined that the new questionnaire would produce substantially higher estimated counts of incidents of intimate violence than the old questionnaire. The old questionnaire resulted in estimates of a half million incidents of intimate violence, compared to an estimate of nearly a million incidents with the new questionnaire. Such a difference demonstrated the increased ability of the NCVS to capture information on hard-to-measure crimes.

### *Uniform Crime Reporting Program*

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) of the FBI provides another opportunity to examine the issue of intimate violence. The summary-based component of the UCR, launched 70 years ago, gathers aggregate data on eight categories of crime from law enforcement agencies nationwide. The UCR does not, however, provide the detail necessary to identify violent crimes involving intimates. Two other incident-based components of the UCR, the National Incident-Based Reporting Program (NIBRS) and the Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), provide rich detail on the victim-offender relationship in violent crimes recorded by police agencies.

### *National Incident-Based Reporting Program*

NIBRS represents the next generation of crime data from law enforcement agencies. Rather than being restricted to a group of 8 Index crimes that the summary-based program uses, NIBRS obtains information on 57 types of crimes. The information collected on each violent crime incident includes victim-offender demographics, victim-offender relationship, time and place of occurrence, weapon use, and victim injuries. As of the end of 1997, jurisdictions certified by the FBI as capable of reporting incident-based data in the required format account for just over 7% of the U.S. population (about 19

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million Americans) and just over 6% of all Index crimes (murders, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies, and motor vehicle thefts). In those States with certified NIBRS systems, about 50% of the population is now covered by NIBRS reporting to the FBI. BJS is currently funding preliminary studies of NIBRS data and their utility for improving our knowledge of violence with special regard for such concerns as intimate violence, family violence, and domestic violence.

### *Supplementary Homicide Reports*

The SHR is another component of the UCR program. Under SHR, incident-level homicide data from local law enforcement agencies have been collected annually since 1961. On average, the SHR obtains detailed information on about 92% of the homicides in the United States, including victim and offender demographics, victim-offender relationship, weapon use, and circumstances surrounding the homicide. The SHR reports received from law enforcement agencies describe the characteristics of perpetrators in an average of about 70% of all cases compiled at the national level. However, individual jurisdictions vary in the percentage of cases in which the perpetrator is either unknown or not described.

### *Study of Injured Victims of Violence*

Another source for information on intimate violence is a special collection of hospital emergency department data during 1994. The BJS Study of Injured Victims of Violence obtained data on intentional injuries brought to the attention of hospital personnel. These data are part of a larger program carried out by the Consumer Product Safety Commission known as the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), which involves a national sample of hospitals where emergency department staff are asked to record information on patients. The BJS study sought information on intentional injury victims, including victim demographics, type of injury, type of weapon, place of occurrence, victim-offender relationship, and case disposition. The

NEISS data reveal that a quarter of the 1.4 million intentional injuries treated in emergency departments resulted from violence between intimates.

### *Surveys of jail and prison inmates*

BJS also conducts national surveys of persons confined in local jails and State and Federal prisons. These nationally representative surveys are the principal source of information on those serving time following a conviction: their backgrounds, their prior criminal histories, and the circumstances surrounding the offense for which they had been incarcerated. Both jail and prison surveys obtain from violent offenders details about the offender's relationship to the victim and how the crime was carried out.

### **How we count violent victimizations of intimates**

#### *Variations in reported numbers*

Sometimes estimates in the annual National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) reports differ from those in BJS topical reports based on special analyses of data. A major reason for these differences is the treatment of "series" victimizations.

#### *Variations in defining the victim-offender relationship*

The data series used in this report share the objective of measuring the extent to which victims and offenders know each other prior to the criminal incident. This is an important distinction not simply for law enforcement purposes but, more significantly, for considering the types of interventions most likely to help reduce the incidence of the problem and its consequences for victims.

Generally, all of the data collection programs used in this study obtain information on those violent offenses which affect spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. While victimizations arising in same sex relationships are explicitly recognized in the FBI collection programs, none of the series excludes such criminal incidents, which are

categorized as crimes against boyfriends or girlfriends. Crimes committed against former boyfriends and girlfriends are not separately reported in any of the series but are combined with those victims with current relationships of this type, probably because of the difficulty of establishing whether such a relationship had been terminated prior to the incident.

*Appendix 1* (pages 34-36) offers the details of how the relationship variables in each data series were classified in this study to create the general category of *intimate violence*.

### *Series victimizations*

These victimizations in the NCVS are six or more incidents similar in nature and for which the victim is unable to furnish details of each incident separately. Information on only the most recent incident in the series is collected by the survey.

These crimes are problematic because it remains unclear how or whether these victimizations should be combined with the majority of crime incidents that are separately reported. BJS continues to study how these types of victimizations should be handled in our published estimates. As a result, series victimizations are excluded from the victimization estimates published in the annual BJS reports on the NCVS.

However, series victimizations are included for some special analyses, counted as "1" victimization to represent all the incidents in the series. This is done when repeat victimization is an important aspect of the subject being analyzed, as it is, for example, in domestic violence. For this reason, estimates published in reports on domestic violence have included series victimizations, and therefore differ from estimates published in the annual NCVS reports.

Generally, series victimizations represent about 6-7% of all violent victimizations measured by the NCVS, although variation exists across types of crime and characteristics of victims:

### **Average annual 1992-96**

	Nonseries	Series	Total
<b>Violent crime victimizations</b>			
Number	10,137,384	680,604	10,817,989
Percent	93.7%	6.3%	100%
<b>Rape/Sexual assault</b>			
Number	434,566	27,191	461,757
Percent	93.1%	6.9%	100%
<b>Robbery</b>			
Number	1,227,550	36,845	1,264,395
Percent	97.5%	2.5%	100%
<b>Aggravated assault</b>			
Number	2,230,174	117,167	2,347,341
Percent	93.1%	5.1%	100%
<b>Simple assault</b>			
Number	6,245,095	499,402	6,744,496
Percent	93.1%	6.9%	100%

### **Intimate violence, 1992-96**

	Non-series	Series	Total
Female victims	88.5%	11.5%	100%
Male victims	90.2	9.8	100



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## **Trends in violence against intimates**

More than 960,000 incidents of violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend occur each year, and about 85% of the victims are women. The number of female victims has been declining in recent years.

**Source: National Crime Victimization Survey, 1992-96**

In 1996 there were about 2,000 murders attributable to intimates, down substantially from the nearly 3,000 murders recorded two decades ago.

Decreases in intimate murders have occurred among men, among blacks (both male and female), and for murders involving firearms.

White females murdered by a nonmarital intimate represent the only category of victims to have experienced a small increase between 1976 and 1996.

Intimate murder now accounts for about 9% of the murders which occur nationwide.

**Source: Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-96**

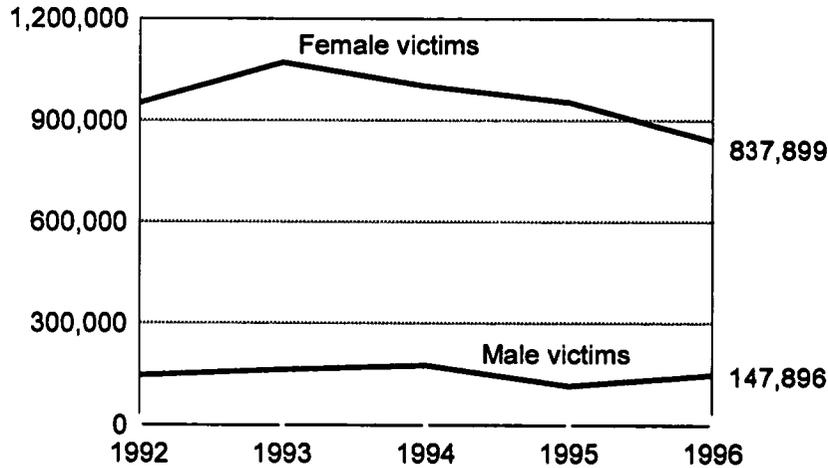


# Trends in violence against intimates

On average each year from 1992 to 1996, there were more than 960,000 violent victimizations of women age 12 or older by an intimate (a current or former spouse, girlfriend, or boyfriend).

- The estimated number of violent victimizations of women by intimates declined from 1993 to 1996; the number of such victimizations of men did not vary significantly from 1992 to 1996.

Number of violent victimizations committed by intimates

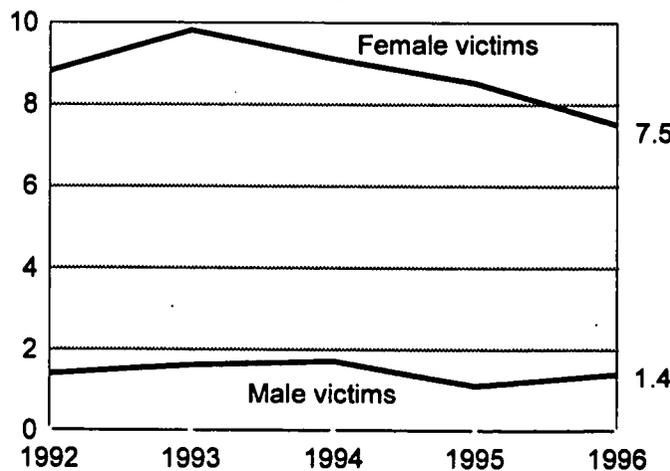


Note: Violent victimizations include murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

On average each year from 1992 to 1996, about 8 in 1,000 women and 1 in 1,000 men age 12 or older experienced a violent victimization inflicted by a current or former spouse, girlfriend, or boyfriend.

- The rate of violent victimization of women by an intimate declined from 1993 to 1996.

Rate of violent victimization by intimates per 1,000 persons of each sex age 12 or older

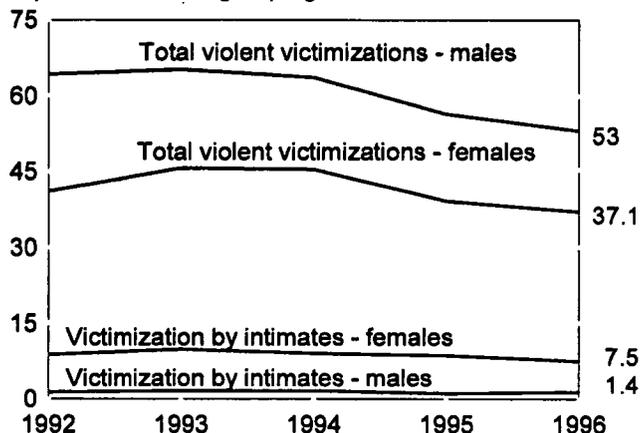


**Although less likely than males to experience violent crime overall, females are 5 to 8 times more likely than males to be victimized by an intimate.**

- From 1992 to 1996 victimization by an intimate accounted for about 21% of the violence experienced by females. It accounted for about 2% of the violent crime sustained by males.

- Overall violent victimization rates of both women and men declined from 1993 to 1996.

Rate of violent victimizations per 1,000 persons of each group age 12 or older

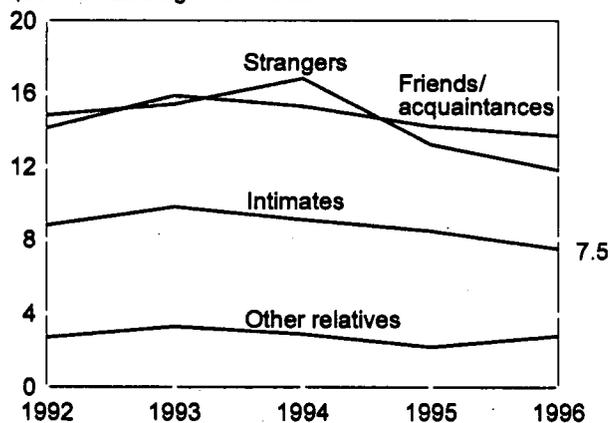


Note: Violent victimizations include murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

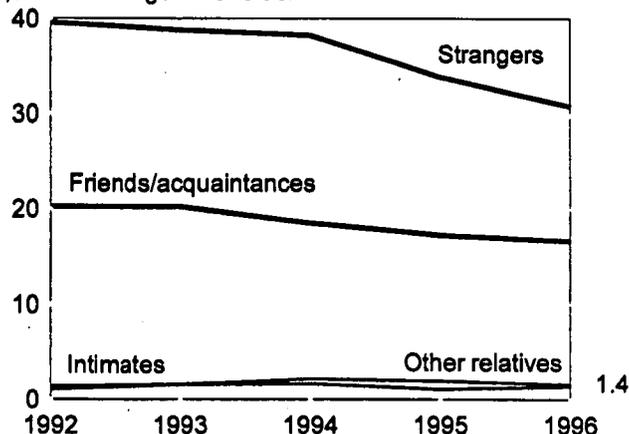
**For female victims of violence, strangers and friends or acquaintances rather than intimates were responsible for the highest rates of crime.**

- Intimate violence accounts for about a fifth of all violence against females. The two categories of violence by friends and acquaintances and violence by strangers are each over a third of the victimizations. Violence by relatives other than intimates are less than a 10th of all violence that women, age 12 or older, experience.

Rate of murder, rape, robbery, and assault per 1,000 females age 12 or older



Rate of murder, rape, robbery, and assault per 1,000 males age 12 or older



## Analysis of trends in intimate murder, 1976-96

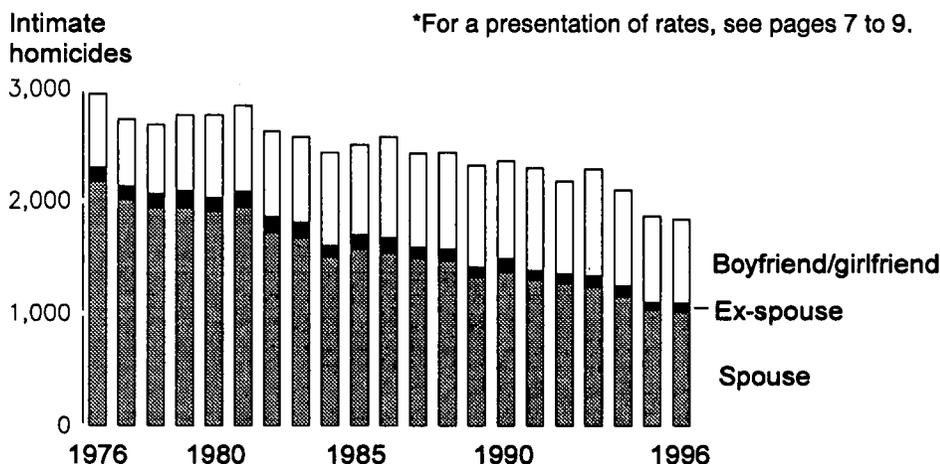
by James Alan Fox, Ph.D., BJS Visiting Fellow

The number, percentage, and per capita rate\* of murders involving spouses, ex-spouses, or other intimates have declined over the past two decades.

The number of intimates killed has dropped from nearly 3,000 per year and 13.6% of all homicides in 1976 to fewer than 2,000 and 8.8% of all homicides in 1996.

In 1996 the number of intimate murders was 36% lower than in 1976. The number of spouse murders, the largest component of intimate murder, fell 52%.

\*For a presentation of rates, see pages 7 to 9.

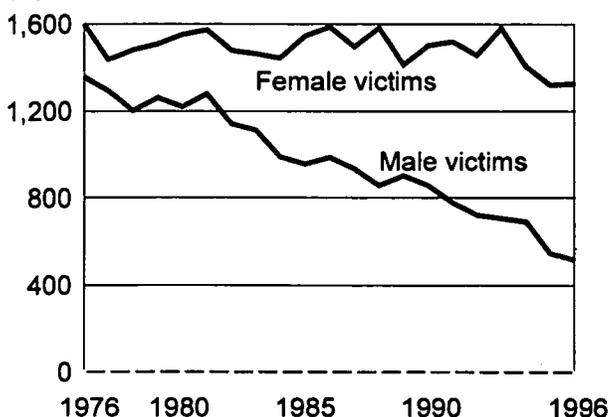


Female murder victims are substantially more likely than male murder victims to have been killed by an intimate.

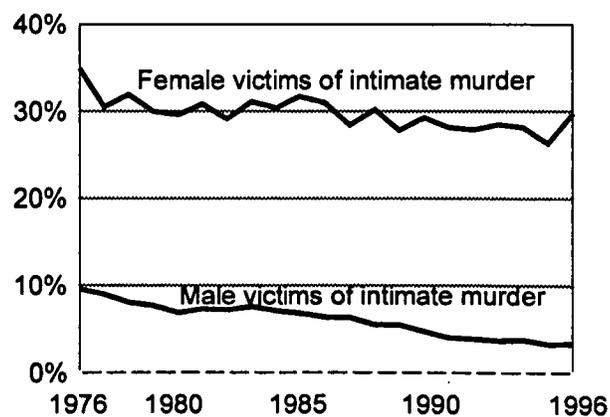
For 1976-96, 18.9% of women victims were murdered by husbands, 1.4% by ex-husbands, and 9.4%

by nonmarital partners (with an undetermined victim-offender relationship in 27.7% of the cases). Over the same period, 3.7% of male victims were killed by wives, 0.2% by ex-wives, and 2.0% by nonmarital partners (with an undetermined victim-offender relationship in 34.3% of the cases).

Number of intimate murder victims



Percent of all murders of each sex



Note: Analysis in this section is based on murders and nonnegligent manslaughters included in the Supplementary Homicide Reports. All percentages are based on the total number of murders, regardless of whether the perpetrator was known or unknown. Intimates include spouses, ex-spouses, common law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

**Since 1976 nearly 52,000 men and women have been murdered by those with whom they shared an intimate relationship.**

Intimate murders accounted for 30% of all female murders and 6% of all male murders. Of the 32,580 spouses who were murder victims between 1976 and 1996, about 6 in 10 were women.

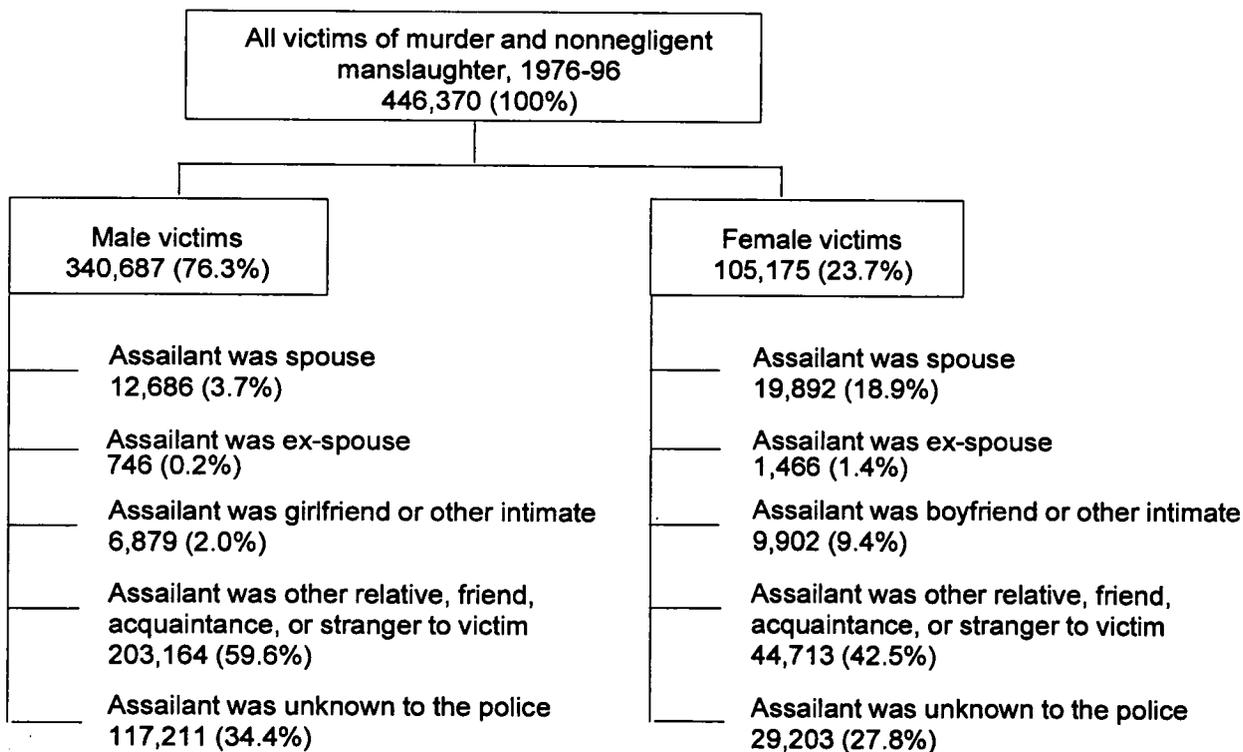
Murders of ex-spouses accounted for about 1 out of every 200 murders that occurred nationwide during the two decades. About 1 out of every 25 intimate murder victims were ex-spouses. About two-thirds of the ex-spouse murder victims were women.

A third of all intimate murders involved boyfriends and girlfriends. As with murders of spouses and ex-spouses, about two-thirds of these victims were women.

The distribution of categories of murderers was similar for the male and female victims of intimate murder between 1976 and 1996:

During the two decades 20,311 men were intimate murder victims —  
 62% killed by wives,  
 4% by ex-wives, and  
 34% by nonmarital partners such as girlfriends.

During the two decades 31,260 women were intimate murder victims —  
 64% killed by husbands,  
 5% by ex-husbands, and  
 32% by nonmarital partners such as boyfriends.



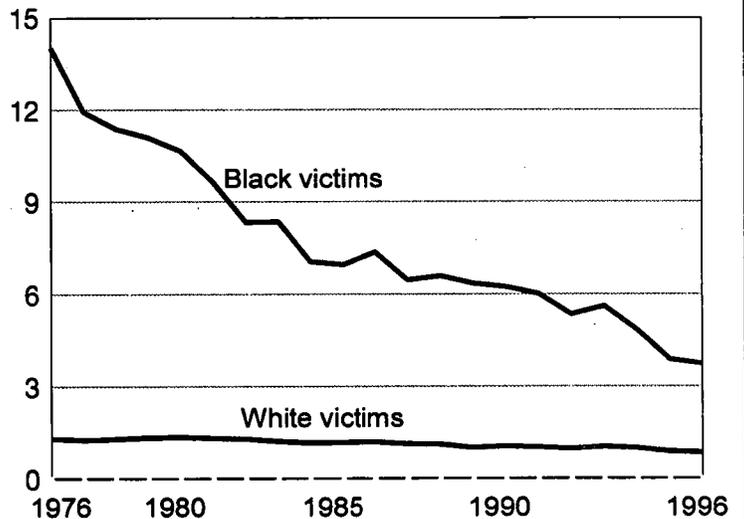
**Over the last two decades intimate murder rates dropped far more rapidly among blacks than among whites.**

In 1976 the per capita rate of intimate murders among blacks was nearly 11 times that among whites; in 1996 the black rate was just over 4 times higher than the white rate.

From 1976 to 1996 the number of murders of black spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends decreased from 14 per 100,000 blacks age 20-44 to just under 4 per 100,000. The murder rate decreased an average of 6% each year.

Intimate murder rates for whites during the same years decreased by an annual average of 2%. The rate declined from about 1.3 intimate murders per 100,000 whites age 20-44 to 0.85 murders per 100,000.

Rate of intimate murder per 100,000 persons age 20-44 in each group

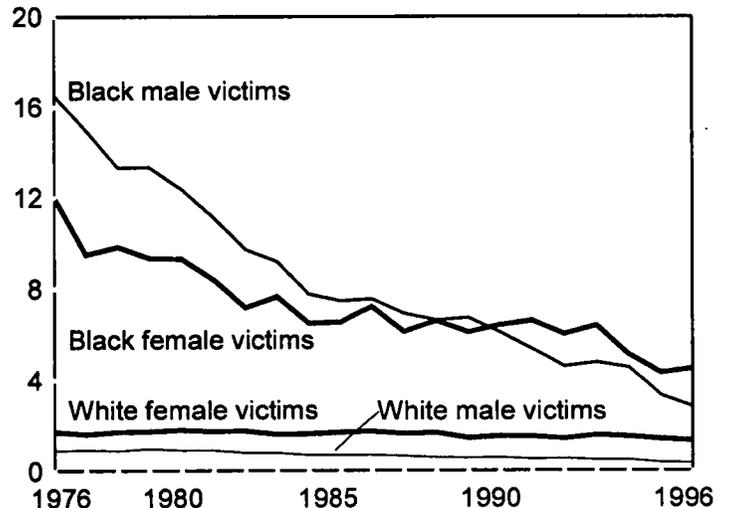


**Since 1976 the sharpest decrease in per capita rates of intimate murder has been among black male victims.**

In 1976 the per capita rate of intimate murder of black men was nearly 19 times higher than that of white men. The rate among black females that year was 7 times higher than the rate among white females. In 1996 the black male rate was 8 times that of white males, and the black female rate was 3 times higher than the white female rate.

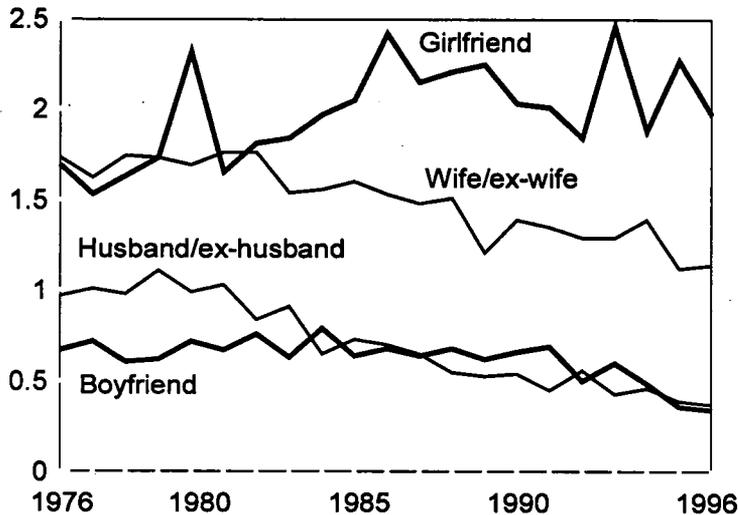
During the 20-year period after 1976, per capita rates of intimate murder declined an annual average of 8% among black males, 5% among black females, 4% among white males, and 1% among white females.

Rate of intimate murder per 100,000 persons age 20-44 in each group



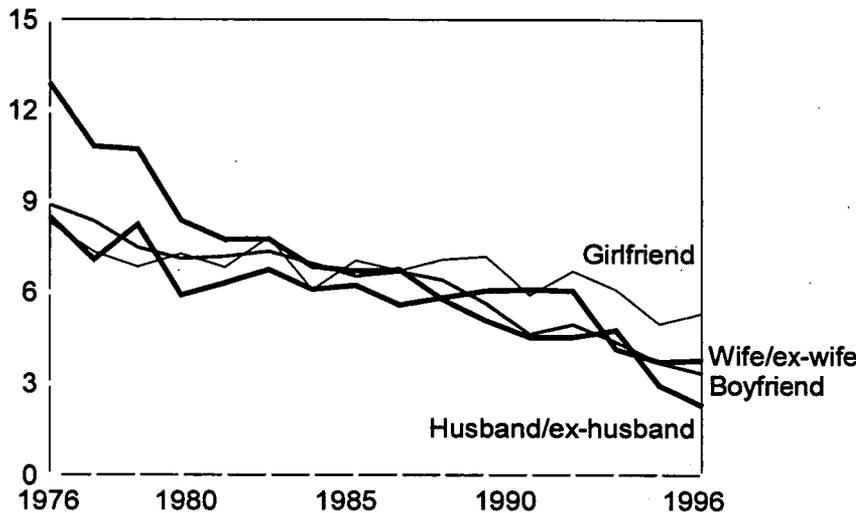
### White victims of murder by an intimate

Rate per 100,000 persons  
age 20-44\*



### Black victims of murder by an intimate

Rate per 100,000 persons  
age 20-44\*



\*Rates are based on the following segments of the population for each race: married and divorced for spouse/ex-spouse rates and never married and widowed for boyfriend/girlfriend rates.

The decline in the rate of intimate murder among black husbands/ex-husbands has been greater than for any other category of intimate murder victims.

From 1976 to 1996 the per capita murder rate of black husbands and former husbands declined an average of 10% a year.

Between 1976 and 1989 more black men were killed by their wives than black women were killed by their husbands. After 1990 the order was reversed, and the murder rate among black wives and ex-wives was higher than that among black husbands and ex-husbands.

Only one category of intimate murder victims, white girlfriends, has increased over the past two decades.

In 1976 there were 1.69 murders of white women (shown as *girlfriends*) killed by their boyfriends or other non-marital intimates per 100,000 unmarried white women age 20-44 in the U.S. resident population. In 1996 the intimate murder rate for white girlfriends was 1.97 per 100,000.

The average annual percentage changes in the rates of intimate murder between 1976 and 1996, classified by victim-offender relationship, were as follows:

	Victims	
	White	Black
Husbands/ ex-husbands	-5%	-10%
Boyfriends	-3	-7
Wives/ex-wives	-2	-6
Girlfriends	+1	-3

The number of intimate murders has declined or remained fairly stable for all sex/race relationship groups except for white females murdered by non-marital partners. The incidence of intimate murder of white women by their boyfriend or other nonmarital intimate has increased.

Over 1976-96 the number of never-married white women ages 20-44 nearly doubled. Over the same period the number of intimate murders of victims of this age, race, sex, and marital background slightly more than doubled, resulting in a small increase in the per capita rate of murder. That is, while the number of such victims increased, unlike the case for other victim groups, the rate of murder has not changed greatly.

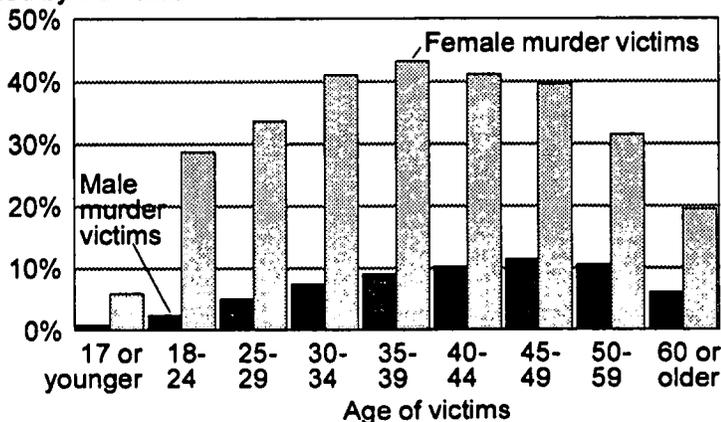
Year	Murders of white females (ages 20-44) by boyfriends or other nonmarital intimates	Population of never married or widowed white women, ages 20-44	Rate of murder per 100,000 white women
1976	90	5,329,000	1.7
1977	89	5,821,000	1.5
1978	102	6,239,000	1.6
1979	116	6,712,000	1.7
1980	163	7,014,000	2.3
1981	124	7,507,000	1.7
1982	145	7,999,000	1.8
1983	155	8,415,000	1.8
1984	173	8,782,000	2.0
1985	182	8,862,000	2.1
1986	219	9,056,000	2.4
1987	200	9,294,000	2.2
1988	209	9,442,000	2.2
1989	216	9,610,000	2.2
1990	198	9,742,000	2.0
1991	202	10,051,000	2.0
1992	187	10,174,000	1.8
1993	250	10,161,000	2.5
1994	195	10,361,000	1.9
1995	230	10,133,000	2.3
1996	199	10,133,000	2.0

Among murder victims for every age group, females are much more likely than males to have been murdered by an intimate.

For victims from age 30 to 49, intimates had committed over 4 in every 10 murders of women. About 1 in 10 murders of men of similar age were by intimates.

The difference between men and women was the largest in the 18-to-24 age bracket: Intimate offenders were responsible for the deaths of 2.5% of the male murder victims but 28.5% of the female victims.

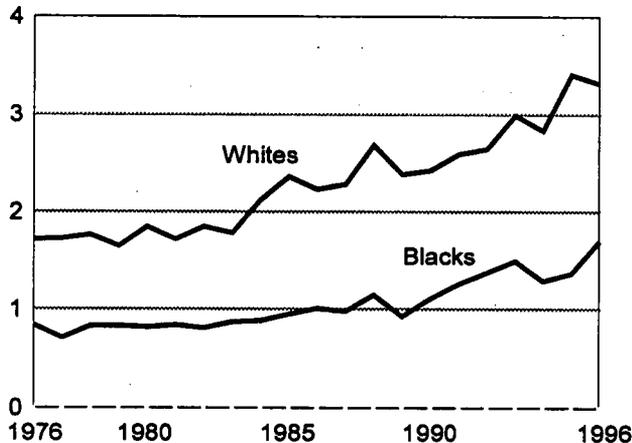
Percent of murder victims killed by intimates



**The female-to-male gender ratio has been climbing for both white and black victims of intimate murder. When intimate murder occurs, increasingly it is the female rather than the male who is the victim.**

Because rates of intimate murder have declined faster among male than female victims, the ratio of female-to-male victims of intimate murder has risen among both whites and blacks. Prior to the mid-1980's, fewer than two white females were murdered by intimate partners for every white male; by the mid-1990's, this ratio surpassed three white females for every white male.

Ratio of females to males as victims of intimate murder



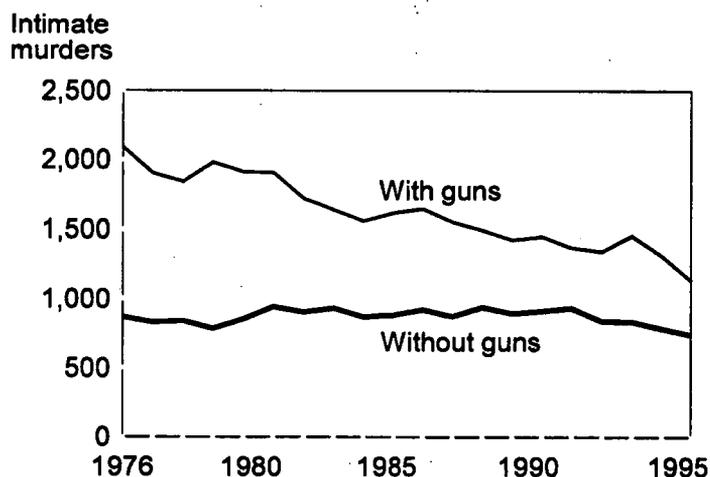
Among blacks the gender ratio was below 1.0 prior to the mid-1980's, as fewer black females than black males were murdered by intimate partners; by the mid-1990's, the ratio reached 1.5 black female victims for every black male.

Race-specific trends in the gender ratio have remained parallel over the past two decades, both having doubled over this period.

**Among the nearly 52,000 men and women murdered by an intimate between 1976 and 1996, 65% were killed with a firearm. However, firearms accounted for a smaller share of intimate murders in 1996, about 61%, than they did in 1976 (71%).**

The decrease in the number of intimate murders between 1976 and 1996 is primarily attributable to the substantial drop in the number of such murders committed with a firearm — an average decline of 3% annually. The number of intimate murders committed by means other than a firearm, by contrast, has remained nearly constant over the period.

Over the two decades more than 33,500 persons were murdered by a current or former spouse or by a current boyfriend, girlfriend, or other intimate using a firearm. In 1996 just over 1,100 people were murdered by intimates wielding a firearm, a thousand fewer than in 1976.



## **Characteristics of victims and of incidents of intimate violence**

Rates of nonlethal intimate violence are highest among black women, women age 16 to 24, women in households in the lowest incomes categories, and women residing in urban areas.

About 3 out of 4 women experiencing violence at the hands of an intimate report the offense occurred at or near their own home. Half report that it occurred between 6 pm and midnight.

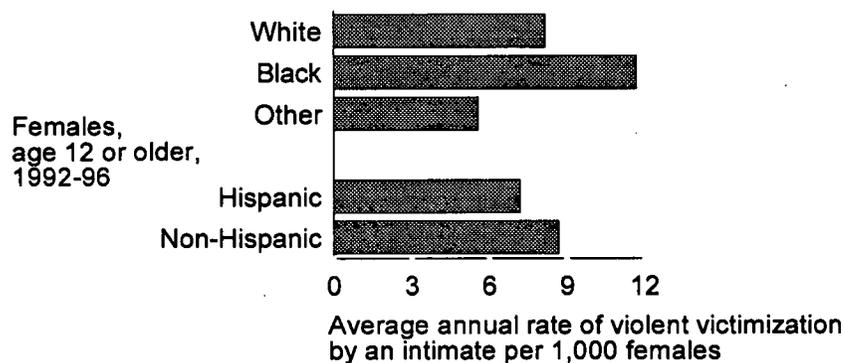
About a third of female victims of intimate violence experienced such violence more than once during the 6 months preceding their interview.

Source: **National Crime Victimization Survey,  
1992-96  
National Incident-Based Reporting  
System, 1995**



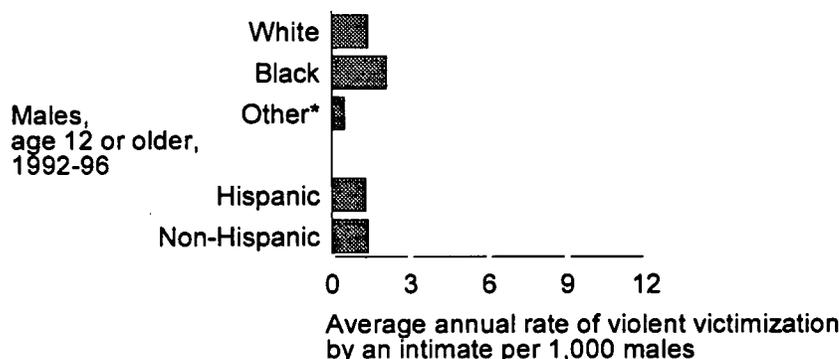
# Characteristics of victims of violence by intimates

Among female victims of nonlethal intimate violence, blacks experienced higher rates than whites. White and black males experienced the same rates of intimate violence.



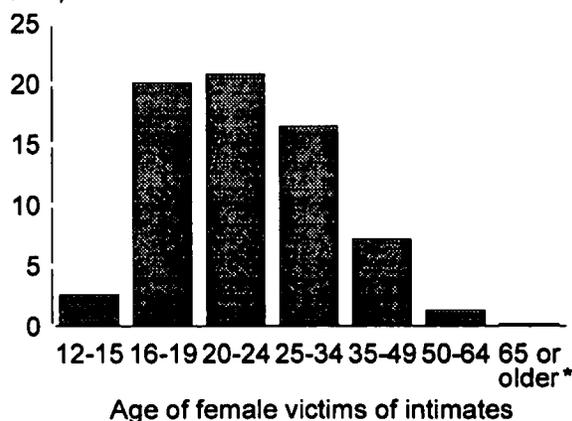
- On average each year between 1992 and 1996 about 12 per 1,000 black women experienced violence by an intimate, compared to about 8 per 1,000 white women.

- For men the rate of victimization by an intimate was about a fifth of the rate for women.



Note: Nonlethal violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.  
\*Fewer than 10 sample cases.

Average annual rate of violent victimization per 1,000 females, 1992-96



The highest rates of intimate violence affected women ages 16 to 24.

- Women age 16 to 19 and women age 20 to 24 had nearly identical rates of intimate victimization — about 1 violent victimization for every 50 women.

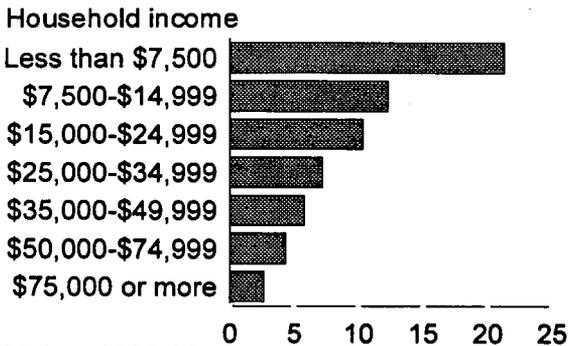
- Annual rates of intimate violence by age of female victims showed little change from 1992 to 1996.

Note: Violent victimizations include murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assaults. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.  
\*Fewer than 10 sample cases.

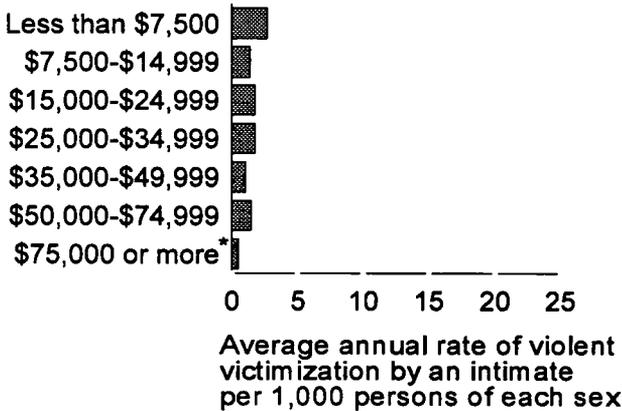
**Women in low-income households experienced a higher rate of nonlethal violence by an intimate than did women in households with larger incomes.**

- The rate of intimate violence against women generally decreased as household income levels increased.

**Females, 1992-96**



**Males, 1992-96**



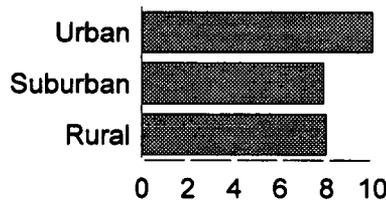
Note: Nonlethal violent victimizations are rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

\*Fewer than 10 sample cases.

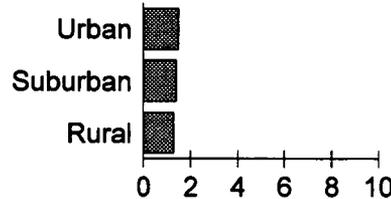
**Urban women experienced a higher rate of nonlethal violence from an intimate than suburban and rural women.**

- The rates of intimate violence experienced by urban, suburban, and rural men had little variation.

**Females, 1996**



**Males, 1992-96**



Rate of violent victimization by an intimate per 100,000 persons of each sex

Note: Nonlethal violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates are current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

**About 7 in 10 female victims of intimate violence reported that they were physically attacked.**

**For the remainder, the attack was attempted or threatened — nearly a third of these victims saying that the offender threatened to kill them.**

Victim hit, knocked down, or attacked 70%  
 Attempted or threatened attack\* 29

Offender —	
Threatened to kill	31%
Threatened to rape	1
Threatened other attack	53
Threatened with weapon	17
Threw object at victim	3
Followed/surrounded victim	5
Tried to hit, slap, or knock down victim	13

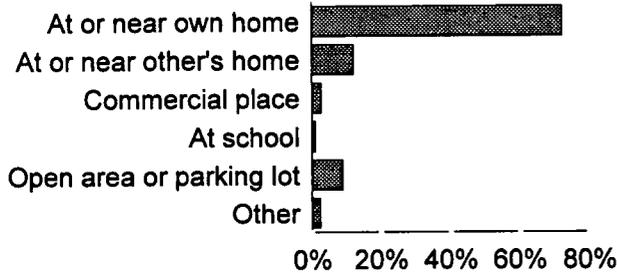
\*Victims may report more than one type of threat.

# Characteristics of violent victimizations by intimates

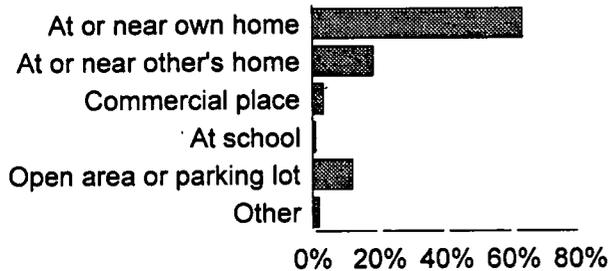
**Three-quarters of the incidents of nonlethal intimate violence against women occur at or near the victim's home.**

- The patterns are similar for men and women.

## Female victims of violence by intimates



## Male victims of violence by intimates



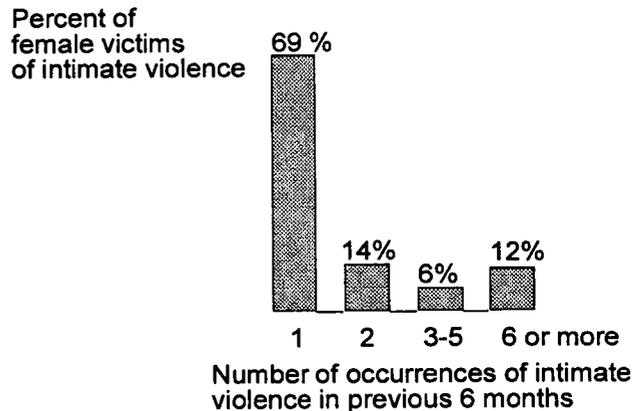
Note: Nonlethal violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

**For both male and female victims, nonlethal intimate violence is most likely to occur between 6 pm and midnight.**

	Percent of incidents of intimate violence against —	
	Female victims	Male victims
6 am - noon	11%	8%
Noon - 6 pm	24	30
6 pm - midnight	46	50
Midnight - 6 am	16	11
Don't know	4	2*

Note: Nonlethal violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.  
\*Fewer than 10 sample cases, 1992-96.

**Nearly a third of female victims of nonlethal intimate violence were victimized at least twice during the previous 6 months.**



Note: Nonlethal violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Series victimizations involve 6 or more occurrences in one 6-month reporting period. See page 6.

**A larger percentage of female than male victims of nonlethal intimate violence live in households with children under age 12.**

**Women:** Slightly more than half of the female victims live in households with children under age 12. There is no information on whether the children witnessed any of the violence against these women.

**Men:** About 22% of the male victims of intimate violence live in households with young children.

**About 4 in 10 violent offenders in State prisons for crimes against intimates were residing with their children (natural, adopted, or step-children) under age 18 prior to entering prison.**

- The prisoners who were convicted of intimate violence and who had children under age 18 had an average of 2.2 young children.

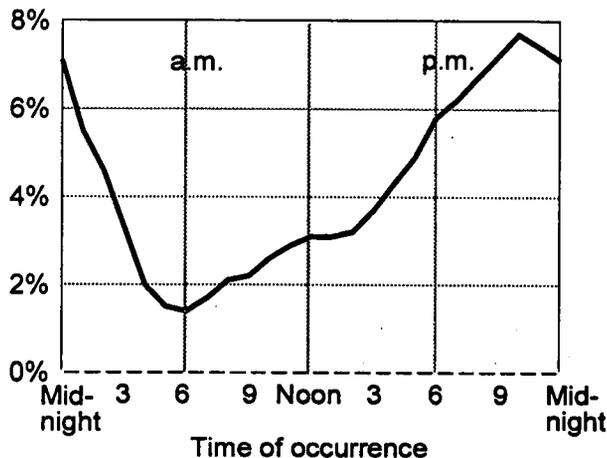
	Percent of State prisoners convicted of crimes against intimates
No children under age 18	36%
Children under age 18	64
Living with offender before prison	40%
Not living with offender	25

**Incident-based data, from jurisdictions which maintained such records of crime in 1995, provide details on intimate violence not available from most law enforcement agencies —**

- **3 In 4 Intimate violence victims are between ages 20 and 39**
- **8 In 10 incidents occur in the home**
- **4 In 10 incidents occur on weekends**
- **1 In 4 incidents involved an offender who had been drinking**
- **3 In 10 incidents occur between 9 p.m. and midnight.**

The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) represents the next generation of crime data from law enforcement agencies. It is designed to replace the nearly 70-year-old summary Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the FBI that compiles aggregate data on eight crimes. NIBRS utilizes information from individual crime reports recorded by police officers at the time of the incident. Rather than relying on a group of eight Index offenses to convey the overall crime situation, NIBRS collects information on 57 types of crimes.

**Percent of intimate violence incidents**



In addition, NIBRS provides the opportunity to analyze a wide array of contingencies of crime: who the victim was, the relationship of the victim to the offender, age of both victim and offender, where and when the incident occurred, and the consequences of the crime for the victim such as injuries and property loss.

A significant benefit of NIBRS is that it makes possible the ability to evaluate and monitor the incidence and prevalence of domestic violence, both family violence and intimate violence, nationally and at the jurisdiction level.

	Percent of incidents of intimate violence			
	All intimate assaults*	Aggravated assault	Simple assault	Intimidation
<b>Victim/offender relationship</b>				
Spouse	53.1%	52.5%	54.8%	41.0%
Ex-spouse	4.9	3.3	3.8	16.4
Other intimate	42.0	44.2	41.4	42.6
<b>Age of victim</b>				
Under 20	8.8%	7.1%	9.1%	9.1%
20-29	40.2	37.0	41.3	38.2
30-39	35.7	37.0	35.5	35.5
40 or older	15.2	18.9	14.2	17.2
<b>Circumstances</b>				
Argument	81.0%	81.2%	84.7%	76.4%
Lovers' quarrel	14.4	14.3	11.0	13.9
Other	4.6	4.5	4.3	9.7
<b>Location</b>				
Home	80.0%	78.2%	81.0%	75.6%
Bar/club	1.2	1.1	1.3	.7
Hotel	1.2	1.2	1.2	.7
Road/garage	8.1	10.6	7.5	7.5
Other	9.5	8.9	9.0	15.3
<b>Day of the week</b>				
Sunday	18.6%	18.9%	19.0%	14.8%
Monday	12.1	11.8	12.0	13.4
Tuesday	12.4	12.1	12.2	15.0
Wednesday	12.0	11.7	11.9	14.0
Thursday	12.2	12.0	12.0	13.6
Friday	13.9	14.0	13.7	14.9
Saturday	18.8	19.4	19.2	14.3
<b>Alcohol use</b>				
Evidence of offender drinking	24.9%	28.0%	25.8%	12.7%

Note: These data were obtained from law enforcement agencies in 9 States. Coverage for these data is estimated to be about 2% of murders, 4% of reported aggravated assaults, and an unknown percentage of simple assaults and intimidation offenses.

\* All intimate assaults includes murder but excludes violent sex crimes.

## **Responses to nonlethal intimate violence**

About 3 out of 4 female victims of intimate violence defended themselves during the incident.

About half the female victims reported the incident to law enforcement authorities — black female victims being more likely than others to call the police. Most victims reported that the police responded to their call for assistance and for a majority of those, within 10 minutes of the call. In about 20% of these cases, the victim reported that the offender was immediately arrested.

About 160,800 female victims of violence are estimated to receive services from a victim service agency each year.

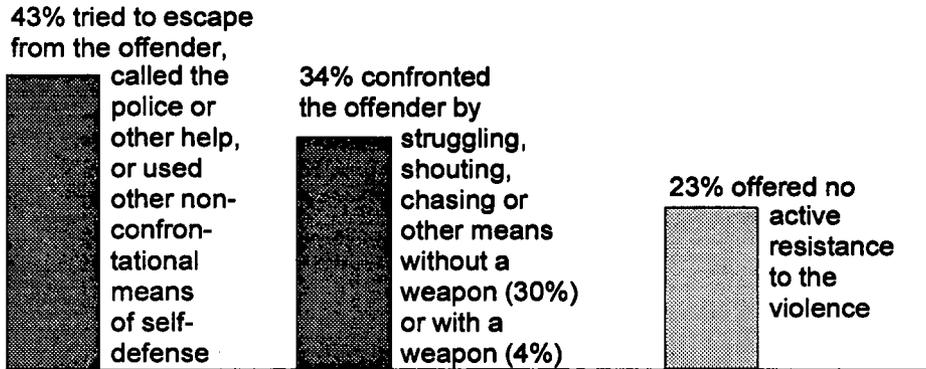
About half of all female victims of intimate violence report an injury of some type, and about 20% of these seek medical assistance. In 1994 hospitals recorded nearly a quarter million hospital visits resulting from intimate violence. Female victims of intimate violence suffer medical expenses and other costs of crime which total about \$150 million annually.

**Sources: National Crime Victimization Survey, 1992-96  
Study of Injured Victims of Violence, 1994**



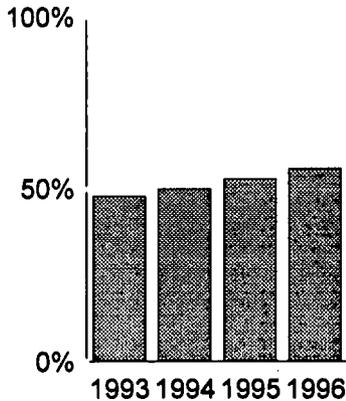
# Responses to nonlethal intimate violence

About three-fourths of female victims of nonlethal intimate violence actively defended themselves against the offender.



About half the women victimized by an intimate reported the violence to law enforcement.

Percent of female victims of intimate violence reporting the crime to the police



- For female victims of intimate violence, the likelihood of reporting an incident to the police did not change significantly between 1993 and 1996.

- 1 in 3 of the female victims of intimate violence who did not report their crime to the police (and 1 in 6 of all female victims of intimate violence) said that they had considered the victimization a "private or personal matter."

Female victims of intimate violence, 1992-96

Violent crime against an intimate reported to the police	Violent crime against an intimate not reported to the police
52.1%	47.8%

Most important reasons given for not reporting

Private or personal matter	15.4%
Afraid of offender retaliation	7.3
Police would do nothing	4.4
Incident was not important enough	3.5
No one reason most important	1.7
Reported to another official	1.1
Don't know	.7*
Other	13.6

\*Fewer than 10 cases.

Among women victimized by a violent intimate, about two-thirds of the black women but about half of the white women report the crime to the police.

Percent of female victims of intimate violence

White	49%
Black	68
Other	44

**When notified of the incident, the police responded to about 90% of the calls for assistance from intimate violence victims, according to the victims themselves.**

Female victims of intimate violence, 1992-96

Violent crime against an intimate reported to the police 51%	Violent crime against an intimate not reported to the police 49%
-----------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------

Police responded or victim went to the police 88%	Police did not respond 11%
------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------

**Actions taken by the police**

Took an official report	70%
Questioned witness/suspect	29
Arrested the offender	20
Searched for/collected evidence	6
Promised surveillance/investigation	4

Ultimately, about 1 in 3 offenders identified by the victim were eventually arrested or charged for the victimization between the time of the incident and the interview with the victim.

**Between 1992 and 1996 an estimated 800,000 female victims of intimate violence received assistance from a victim service agency shortly after the crime.**

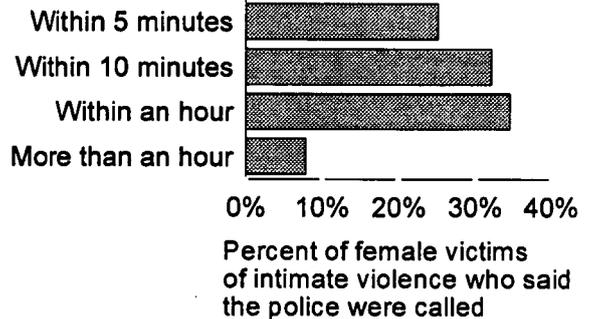
- An annual average of 160,800 women victimized by an intimate got help from victim service agencies — about half of which were governmental and half private. This average translates to about 1 in 6 of all female victims of intimate violence.

The estimate of the number of women receiving assistance from a victim service agency is probably too low. The NCVS obtains information only on a brief period following the incident.

- During or after an intimate victimization an annual average of nearly 500,300 female victims reported the victimization to a law enforcement agency.

**Among female victims of intimate violence reporting that the police were called for assistance, nearly 6 in 10 said the police arrived within 10 minutes.**

Police response time, according to the victims



**More than half of female victims of intimate violence reported the incident to the police or had contact with a victim assistance agency shortly after the crime.**

Annual average number of female victims of intimate violence  
960,400

Female victims who reported the victimization to —	
51,000	A victim service agency (governmental or private)
390,500	The police or another law enforcement agency
109,800	Both a victim service agency and the police
411,000	Neither a victim service agency nor the police

# Injuries and losses reported by victims of intimate violence

**About half of the female victims of violence by an intimate were injured.**

## Female victims of intimate violence, 1992-96

Injured 51%				Not injured 49%
Rape or sexual assault	Gun, knife or stab wound	Other serious injury*	Other injury*	
6%	0.5%	4%	41%	

\*Categories of injuries: Serious injuries include broken bones, internal injuries, being knocked unconscious, and any injuries requiring 2 or more days in a hospital. Other injuries include bruises, black eyes, cuts, swelling, chipped teeth, and unspecified injuries requiring less than 2 days' hospitalization.

**Among female victims of intimates, 1 in 10 sought treatment at a medical care facility for physical injury; among those injured 1 in 5 sought treatment.**

## Female victims of intimate violence, 1992-96

Physically injured 51%				No reported physical injury 49%	
Not treated	Cared for at the scene or at home	Treated at doctor's office or clinic	Treated at an emergency room	Hospitalized	
32%	9%	3%	7%	<1%*	

Note: Nonlethal violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

\*Fewer than 10 sample cases in the source data from the NCVS.

**Based on the reports of female victims of nonlethal intimate violence, medical expenses from the physical trauma, broken or stolen property, and lost pay cost these victims nearly \$150 million a year.**

Type of expense or loss	Female victims of intimate violence, 1992-96		
	Percent of victims experiencing an expense or loss	Average expense or loss per victim reporting a loss	Estimated total loss annually
Medical expenses	6.0%	\$1,075	\$61,800,000
Cash loss	1.1	455	4,900,000
Property			
Loss	4.3	734	30,300,000
Repair	5.8	189	10,500,000
Replacement	5.3	478	24,300,000
Lost pay from —			
Injury	4.3	261	10,800,000
Other causes	2.8	255	6,900,000

- Each year, on average, an estimated 57,500 female victims of intimate violence incurred over \$61 million in medical expenses. Medical expenses represented nearly 40% of all costs associated with incidents of intimate violence against a woman.

Medical expenses, however, may be substantially underestimated in the NCVS, based on findings from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (see page 27).

- On average, each year, female victims of intimate violence spent nearly \$35 million to replace or repair property that was stolen or broken during the violent incident.

- Property losses accounted for about 44% of all costs women face as a consequence of violence by an intimate.

## Study of Injured Victims of Violence: Intimate violence and its health consequences

The National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, a data collection program in a national sample of hospital emergency departments, provides another source of information on intimate violence.

In 1994 about 1.4 million people, injured as a result of intentional violence, were examined in the emergency departments. About a quarter of all these intentional injuries had resulted from violence by an intimate. Intimates include current or former spouses and current boyfriends and girlfriends.

- About half of all persons treated for intimate violence were treated for bruises or similar injuries. About a fourth were treated for cuts, stab wounds or internal injuries.

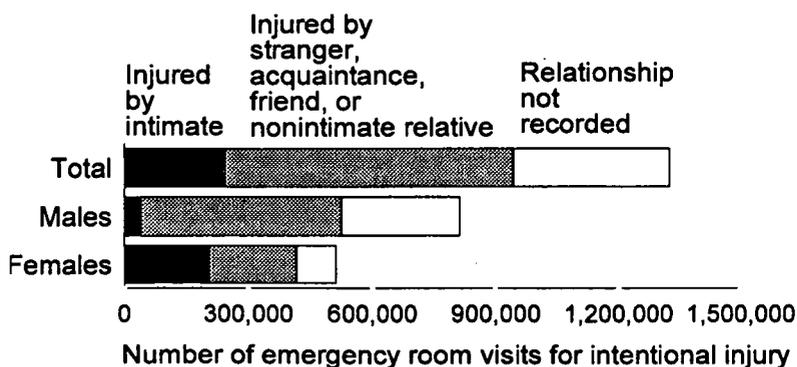
- About half of the persons treated for intimate violence related injuries had head or facial injuries.

Patients treated in hospital emergency departments

	Victims of intimate violence	Victims of violence by nonintimate
--	------------------------------	------------------------------------

	Victims of intimate violence	Victims of violence by nonintimate
Victim's age		
13-19	9.7%	29.7%
20-29	42.2	32.4
30-45	41.6	29.2
46 or older	6.5	8.7
Weapons used to injure victim		
No weapon used	73.5%	61.9%
Weapon used	21.0	32.0
Firearm	1.1	3.5
Knife/sharp object	7.4	6.6
Bat, or object used to hit	9.6	15.9
Other	2.9	6.0
Not recorded	5.6	6.1
Diagnosis of injury		
Bruise	48.6%	32.7%
Cut/stab wound/internal injury	24.1	31.3
Muscular/skeletal injury	16.9	20.6
Concussion/head injury	.9	1.4
Rape/sexual assault	2.2	4.1
Gunshot wound	1.0	3.4
All other	6.4	6.3
Part of body injured		
Head/face	51.1%	57.4%
Upper trunk	9.6	9.9
Lower trunk	4.8	3.5
Hands/arms	18.1	14.5
Feet/legs	4.5	5.1
Other	2.1	3.5
25%-50% of body	6.4	3.6
All parts of the body	2.5	2.2
Not recorded	.9	.3
Number	243,000	701,000

Note: The table excludes 384,000 patients who either could not or did not report the victim-offender relationship. Intimates include spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.



**Females accounted for 39% of the hospital emergency department visits for violence-related injuries in 1994 but 84% of the persons treated for injuries inflicted by intimates.**

- Among those treated for violence-related injuries and with a known relationship to the offender, about 50% of the women and 8% of the men had been injured by an intimate.

## **Profile of convicted intimate offenders**

About 24% of convicted violent offenders in local jails and 7% of violent offenders in State prisons nationwide committed their crime against an intimate.

Nearly 40% of convicted violent offenders in local jails who committed their crime against an intimate had a criminal justice status at the time of the offense: on probation or parole or under a restraining order.

More than half of prison and jail inmates with an intimate victim had been drinking or using drugs when they committed the violent crime. Among those drinking, half had been drinking for more than 6 hours before the violence and had consumed about 10 drinks.

Nearly 30% of State prisoners with intimate victims were armed with a firearm at the time of the incident.

Sentences received by intimate offenders did not differ substantially from other offenders for the same crimes.

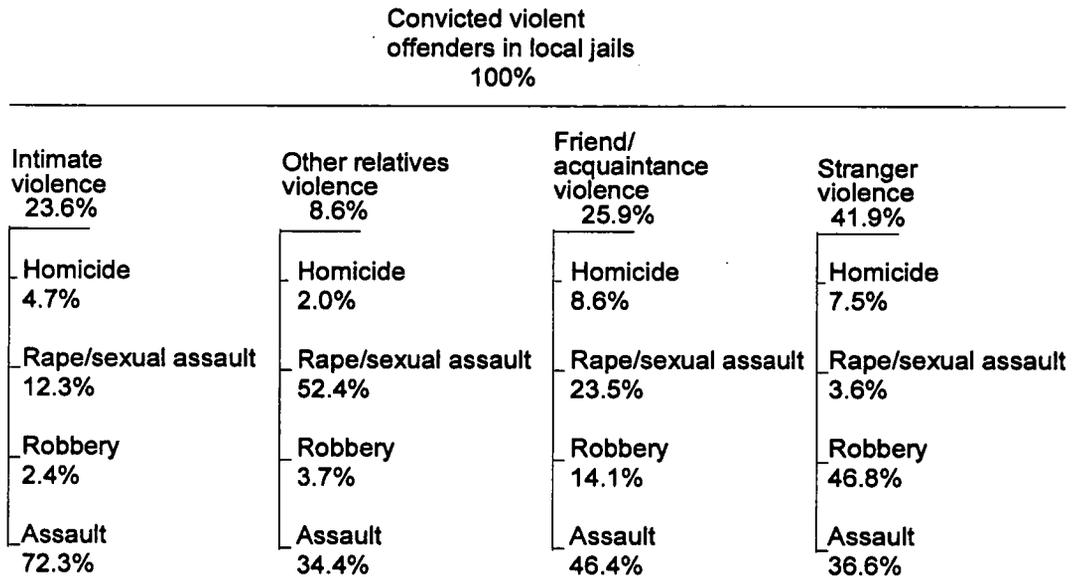
Sources: **Survey of Inmates of State Correctional Facilities, 1991**  
**Survey of Inmates in Local Jails, 1995**



# Profile of convicted intimate offenders

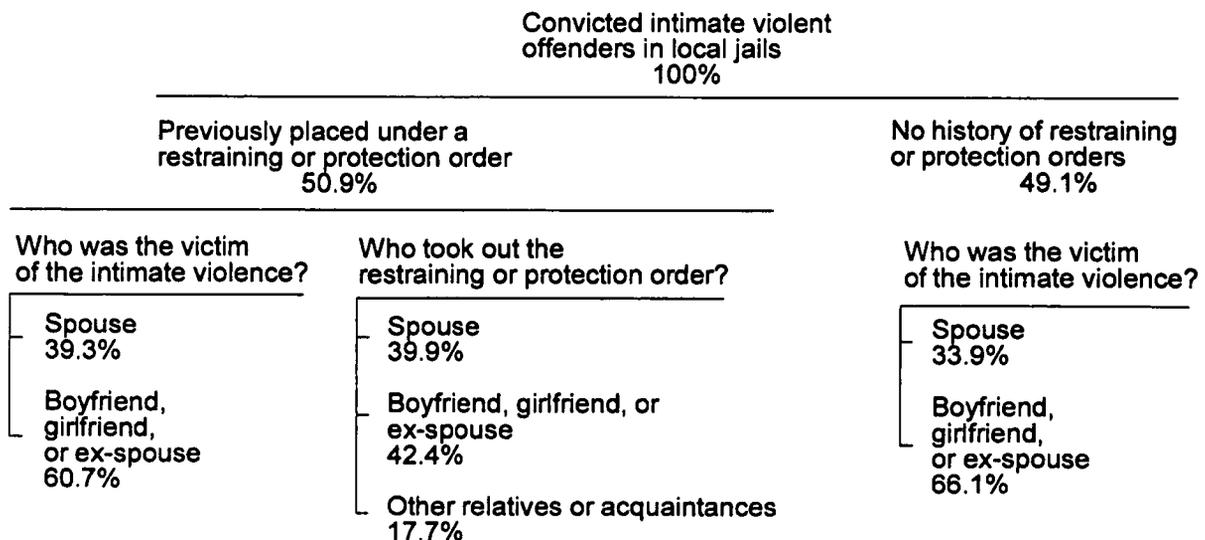
**About 1 in 4 convicted violent offenders in local jails said they had committed their offense against an intimate.**

- For 3 in 4 jailed violent offenders whose victim was a current or former spouse, girlfriend, or boyfriend, the conviction offense was assault. Other crimes included murder, manslaughter, rape, sexual assault, kidnaping, robbery, and other violent offenses.
- Violent offenders with an intimate victim were about twice as likely as those who had committed their crime against a stranger to have been convicted of assault.

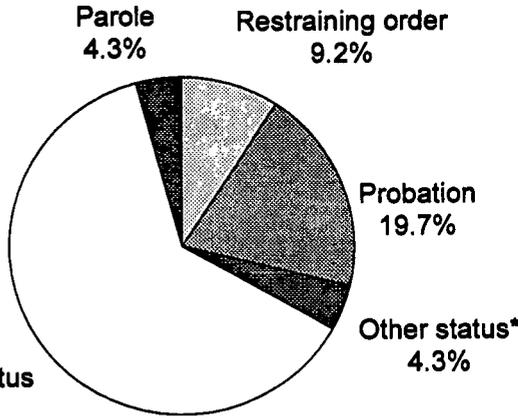


Note: Intimate violence includes violent offenses committed against current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

**About half of all convicted inmates in local jails serving time for violence against an intimate had a history of having been placed under a restraining or protection order.**



Nearly 4 in 10 offenders sentenced to jail for violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend had a criminal justice status or a restraining order against them when they committed their crime.



- Among those who were in jail for violence against an intimate and who had been on probation or parole when they committed their crime, about 1 in 4 also had a restraining order against them.

**An estimated three-fourths of local jail inmates convicted of intimate violence had prior convictions, and most of these had a history of convictions for violence.**

Note: Intimate violence includes violent offenses committed against current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

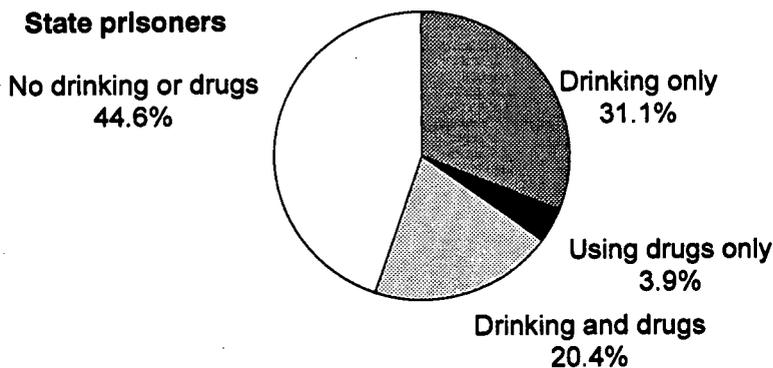
\*"Other status" includes programs such as electronic monitoring, alcohol/drug diversion, and weekend sentences.

Criminal history	Inmates convicted of violence against an intimate	
	State prison	Local jail
Total	100%	100%
First conviction	33.4	21.8
Recidivist —		
Prior violence	33.2	58.0
No prior violence	33.4	20.2

**More than half of both prison and jail inmates convicted of a violent crime against an intimate were drinking or using drugs at the time of the offense.**

- Less than a quarter of the State prisoners or jail inmates were using drugs, alone or in combination with alcohol.

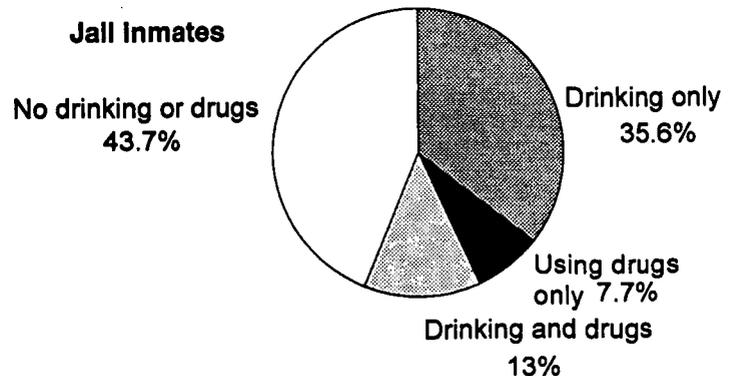
**State prisoners**



- Among State prisoners serving time for intimate violence, about 2 out of 3 had a prior conviction history.

- Chronic violent offenders accounted for 3 in 10 of State prisoners serving time for violence against an intimate and nearly 6 in 10 local jail inmates convicted of intimate violence.

**Jail inmates**



**Among prisoners who had been drinking before they committed a crime against an intimate, about half of State prison inmates and a third of convicted jail inmates had been drinking for 6 or more hours.**

Hours spent drinking before the offender committed the crime against an intimate	State prisoners	Convicted jail inmates
1 hour	9.4%	19.7%
2	14.4	21.2
3	11.1	4.5
4	7.3	11.6
5	8.9	9.1
6-12	20.9	24.5
More than 12 hours	28.1	9.4

**Jail inmates who committed a violent crime against an intimate and who reported that they had been drinking at the time had consumed an average (median) of about 5 ounces of ethanol — equivalent to about 10 beers or mixed drinks.**

Of jail inmates who were convicted of a violent crime against an intimate and who were drinking before the offense —

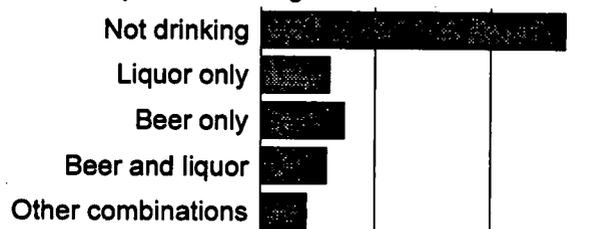
- about 4 in 10 reported consuming the equivalent of about one six-pack of beer before their crime.
- about 1 in 5 reported drinking the equivalent of two dozen or more beers before their crime.

Number of ounces of ethanol reported to have been consumed	Cumulative percentage of jail inmates who were drinking when they committed a violent crime against an intimate	Approximate number of drinks to equal the amount of ethanol consumed
1 oz. or less	25.5%	2 drinks
2 ozs. or less	35.6	4
3 ozs. or less	42.3	6
4 ozs. or less	44.4	8
5 ozs. or less	52.9	10
6 ozs. or less	56.6	12
7 ozs. or less	69.2	14
11 ozs. or less	79.6	22
15 ozs. or less	100	30

About half of prison and jail inmates were drinking beer or liquor when they committed a violent crime against an intimate companion.

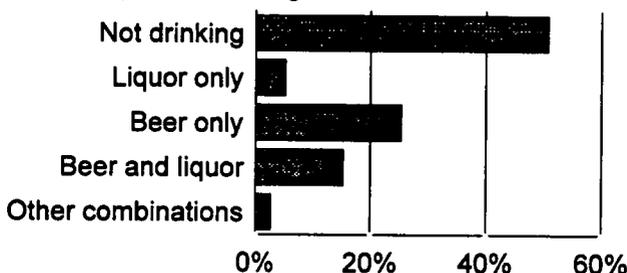
**State prisoners**

What they were drinking



**Jail inmates**

What they were drinking



Percent of inmates who had been convicted of a violent crime against an intimate

**Victim and Inmate surveys report similar estimates of offender alcohol and drug use in intimate violence.**

Nearly half the female victims of intimate violence report that the offender was drinking or using illegal drugs at the time of the crime. This is about the same pattern of alcohol and drug use reported from surveys of jail and prison inmates.

**Offenders in State prisons convicted of a violent offense against an intimate were more likely than violent offenders with other types of victims to be serving a sentence for homicide.**

Violent offenders  
in State prisons  
100%

• About 4 in 10 violent offenders in State prison who had intimate victims had killed their victim.

Intimate violence 7.3%	Other relative violence 9.8%	Friend/ acquaintance violence 26.9%	Stranger violence 56.0%
Homicide 41.6%	Homicide 16.7%	Homicide 33.8%	Homicide 24.0%
Rape/sexual assault 21.0%	Rape/sexual assault 66.0%	Rape/sexual assault 30.1%	Rape/sexual assault 8.2%
Robbery 2.8%	Robbery 1.9%	Robbery 13.5%	Robbery 48.5%
Assault 29.6%	Assault 10.0%	Assault 19.3%	Assault 16.1%

Note: Intimate violence includes violent offenses committed against current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

**Among violent offenders in State prisons, women were about 3 times as likely as men to have committed their crime against an intimate.**

Who was the victim?	Violent offenders in State prison	
	Male	Female
Intimate*	6.8%	20.1%
Not an intimate	93.2	79.9

\*Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

**State inmates serving time for violence against an intimate were somewhat more likely to be white and less likely to be black or Hispanic.**

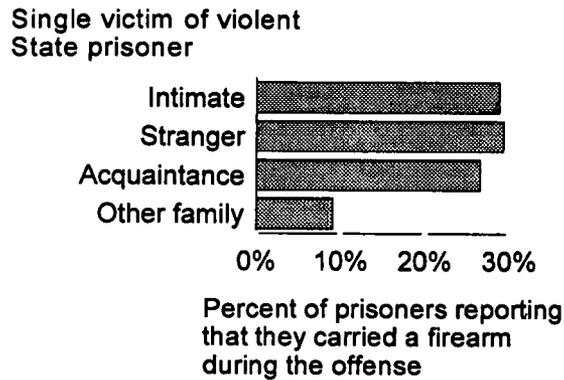
• Offenders with intimate victims were also likely to be somewhat older than other violent offenders.

Characteristic of violent offenders in State prisons	When the victim was an intimate*	When the victim was not an intimate
Male	89.6%	96.8%
Female	10.4	3.2
White	46.8%	36.9%
Black	40.8	46.5
Hispanic	9.5	13.9
Other	2.9	2.6
Age 24 or younger	9.8%	19.5%
25-34	41.1	44.9
35 or older	49.1	35.6
8th grade or less	14.6%	14.3%
9th-11th grade	24.3	24.9
High school graduate	45.2	49.3
Some college	15.9	11.4

\*Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

**An estimated 29% of State prisoners who committed a violent crime against an intimate — a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend — were armed at the time with a gun.**

- Whether against an intimate, an acquaintance, or a stranger — about the same percentage of State prison inmates convicted of a violent crime used a firearm in their crime.



**Among victims of intimate violence, 17% of the female victims and 29% of the males reported that the offender had used a weapon.**

- For those men who had faced an intimate wielding a weapon, the weapon was more likely to have been a sharp or blunt object rather than a knife or firearm.
- Among the women reporting violence by an armed intimate, firearms, knives, and objects used as weapons were mentioned with about the same frequency.

**8 in 10 inmates serving time in State prison for violence against an intimate killed or injured their victim.**

Victim injury	Victim's relation to the prisoner			
	Intimate <sup>a</sup>	Other relative	Acquaintance	Stranger
Any	79.2%	47.8%	69.8%	51.5%
Death	47.3	18.4	38.7	28.6
Rape/sexual assault	12.6	19.3	11.6	6.4
Stab wound	5.0	1.4	3.9	4.0
Gunshot wound	2.2	2.4	6.9	3.7
Severe internal injuries <sup>b</sup>	1.9	1.6	2.7	3.0
Bruises or cuts	7.9	2.5	5.0	4.8
Other	2.3	2.2	1.1	1.0

- Among all victims of violent crime committed by State prisoners, the rate of death or injury was higher for intimates than for any other category.

<sup>a</sup>Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

<sup>b</sup>Injuries include broken bones, lost teeth, and being knocked unconscious.

**The median sentence of State prisoners for assault was 4 years longer if the victim was the offender's spouse rather than a stranger.**

Offense	All violent offenders	Victim's relation to the prisoner				
		Spouse	Ex-spouse, nonmarital intimate	Other relative	Friend/acquaintance	Stranger
<b>Median sentence</b>						
All violent offenses	180 mo	180 mo	180 mo	144 mo	180 mo	168 mo
Homicide	264	300	240	240	264	300
Assault	120	168	120	108	108	120
<b>Percent of prisoners</b>						
With a life sentence	16.6%	32.5%	14.9%	10.3%	18.4%	18.3%
Having a life sentence, were convicted of homicide	46.8%	47.9%	29.7%	35.4%	41.2%	52.5%



## **Appendix 1: Defining the victim-offender relationship**



## Defining the victim-offender relationship

The various sources used in this report obtain data on the relationship between victims and the offenders who committed the violent crimes against them. While the series have slight differences in the level of specificity, they are generally quite similar in the types of relationships described. These relationship categories, when aggregated to more general groupings, result in a category of intimates which includes current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Each data series provides an option for coding an unknown relationship between the victim and offender.

The **NCVS** queries victims of personal contact crimes about their relationship to the offender, if any. The sequence of questions is similar for both those victims who report a single offender and attacked them and those who report multiple offenders attacked them. For purposes of this report, the victim/offender relationship categories contained in the questionnaire were grouped into the following:

Offender's relation to the victim was—			
Stranger	Acquaintance	Intimate	Other family
Known by sight only	Spouse	Parent/	
Casual	Ex-spouse	step-parent	
Friend/ex-friend	Boyfriend/	Own child/	
Roommate/boarder	girlfriend/	stepchild	
Schoolmate	ex-boyfriend/	Brother/sister	
Neighbor	ex-girlfriend	Other relative	
Someone at work/ customer			
Other nonrelative			

The sex of offenders coded as intimates may be the same as or different from the victim's sex.

The Supplementary Homicide Reports of the FBI (**SHR**), which gathers data from local police departments on each homicide, provides 28 categories for the victim-offender relationship. These relationships were recoded to more general categories paralleling those used for the **NCVS**:

Victim's relation to the offender was—			
Stranger	Acquaintance	Intimate	Other family
	Acquaintance	Husband	Mother
	Friend	Common-law husband	Father
	Neighbor	Ex-husband	Son
	Employee	Wife	Daughter
	Employer	Common-law wife	Brother
	Other known	Ex-wife	Sister
		Boyfriend	In-law
		Girlfriend	Stepfather
		Homosexual relationship	Stepmother
			Stepson
			Stepdaughter
			Other family

The victim segment of the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (**NIBRS**) is much like the victim/offender component of the **SHR**. **NIBRS** relationship codes were recoded in this study as shown below:

Victim's relation to the offender was—			
Stranger	Acquaintance	Intimate	Other family
	Acquaintance	Spouse	Parent
	Friend	Common-law spouse	Step-parent
	Neighbor	Ex-spouse	Own child
	Babysitree (the child)	Boyfriend/ girlfriend	Stepchild
	Child of boyfriend/ girlfriend	Homosexual relationship	Sibling
	Employee		Stepsibling
	Employer		Grandparent
	Other known		Grandchild
			In-law
			Other family

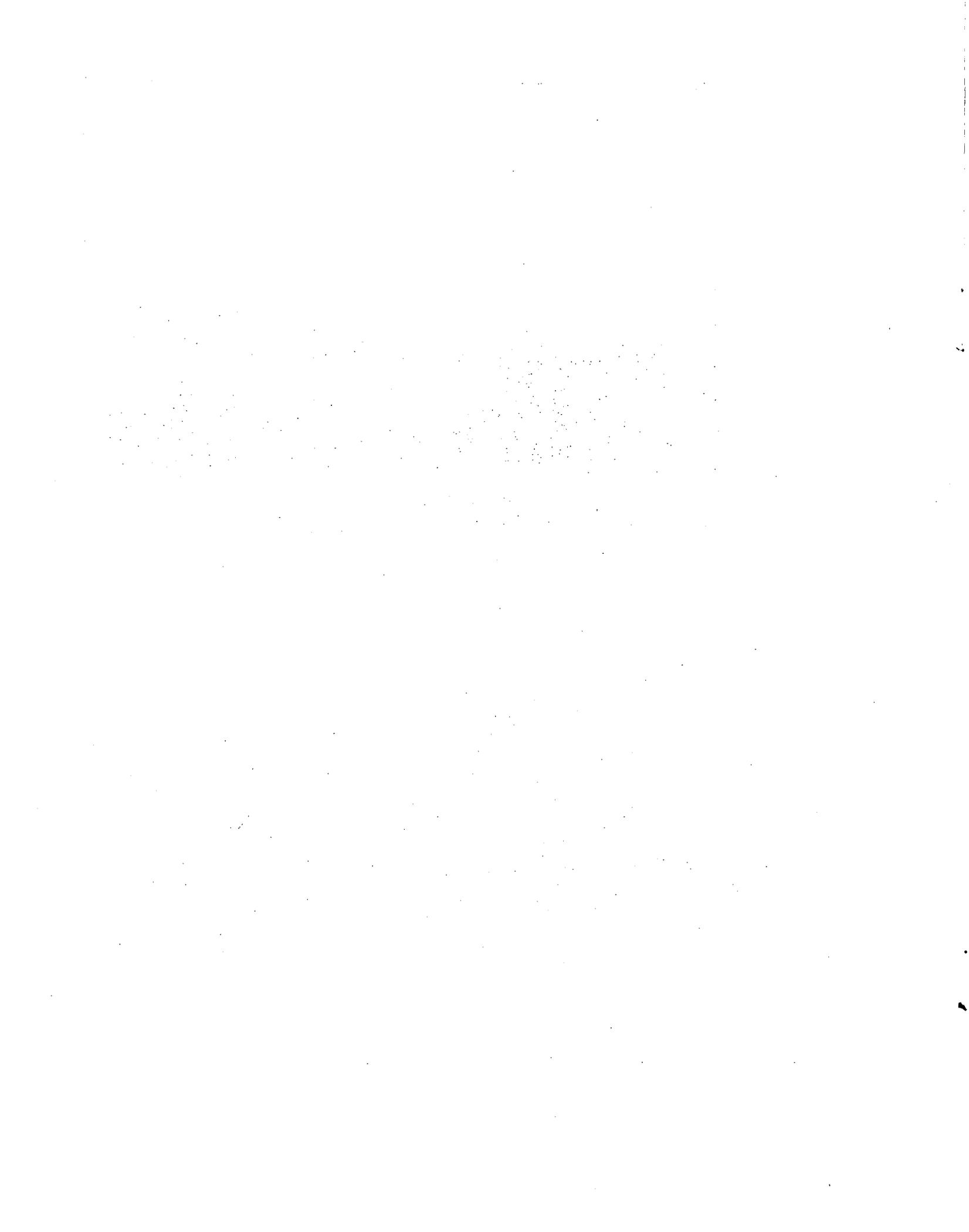
This report also presents data gathered from hospital emergency departments under the Survey of Injured Victims of Violence (**SIIV**). Codes used in this collection to represent these relationships were as follows:

Offender's relation to the victim was—			
Stranger	Acquaintance	Intimate	Other family
	Friend	Spouse	Parent
	Inmate/patient	Ex-spouse	Child
	Other known	Boyfriend/ girlfriend	Sibling
			Other relative

The BJS Survey of Inmates in Local Jails and the Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities provide for the collection of detailed victim information from convicted violent offenders. These data were recoded to the same four general categories of victim/offender relationship:

Offender's relation to the victim was—			
Stranger	Acquaintance	Intimate	Other family
Known by sight only		Spouse	Parent/
Casual acquaintance		Ex-spouse	step-parent
Well-known		Boyfriend/	Own child/
Friend/ex-friend		ex-boyfriend	stepchild
Other nonrelative		Girlfriend/	Sibling/stepsibling
		ex-girlfriend	Other relative

## **Appendix 2: Data for graphical figures**



**Cover and page 5. Intimates committed fewer murders in 1995 and 1996 than in any year since 1976**

Year	Murders of an intimate	
	Male victims	Female victims
1976	1,357	1,600
1977	1,294	1,437
1978	1,202	1,482
1979	1,262	1,506
1980	1,220	1,550
1981	1,278	1,572
1982	1,141	1,480
1983	1,112	1,462
1984	989	1,443
1985	957	1,546
1986	985	1,586
1987	933	1,494
1988	855	1,582
1989	903	1,414
1990	858	1,500
1991	779	1,518
1992	722	1,456
1993	708	1,581
1994	692	1,405
1995	547	1,320
1996	516	1,326

Note: Intimates include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Murder includes nonnegligent manslaughter. Data are for all ages of victims.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1976-96.

**Page 3. Each year from 1992 to 1996 there were more than 960,000 victimizations of women by an intimate**

	Number of violent victimizations committed by intimates				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Male	145,650	163,558	176,168	115,483	147,896
Female	952,188	1,072,072	1,003,167	953,683	837,899

Note: Intimates for the NCVS include current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Intimates for the SHR include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault, as measured by the NCVS, and murder as reported by law enforcement agencies to the FBI. Data are for victims age 12 or older.

Sources: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96, and FBI, Supplementary Homicide

**Page 3. Each year from 1992 to 1996 about 8 in 1,000 women and 1 in 1,000 men experienced a violent victimization by an intimate**

	Rate of violent victimization by intimates per 1,000 persons				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Male	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.1	1.4
Female	8.8	9.8	9.1	8.6	7.5

Note: Intimates for the NCVS include current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Intimates for the SHR include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault, as measured by the NCVS, and murder as reported by law enforcement agencies to the FBI. Data are for victims age 12 or older.

Sources: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96, and FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1992-96.

**Page 4. Among female victims of violence, strangers and friends or acquaintances rather than intimates were responsible for the highest rates of crime**

Victim-offender relationship	Rate of violent victimization per 1,000 women				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Intimates	8.8	9.8	9.1	8.6	7.5
Other relatives	2.7	3.3	2.9	2.2	2.8
Friend/acquaintances	14.1	15.9	15.3	14.2	13.7
Stranger	14.8	15.4	16.8	13.2	11.8

Note: Intimates for the NCVS include current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Intimates for the SHR include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault, as measured by the NCVS, and murder as reported by law enforcement agencies to the FBI. Data are for victims age 12 or older.

Sources: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96, and FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1992-96.

**Page 4. Among male victims of violence, strangers and friends or acquaintances accounted for the highest rates of victimization**

Victim-offender relationship	Rate of violent victimization per 1,000 men				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Intimates	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.1	1.4
Other relatives	1.1	1.6	2.2	2.0	1.6
Friend/acquaintances	20.2	20.3	18.5	17.3	16.7
Stranger	39.6	38.8	38.2	33.8	30.8

Note: Intimates for the NCVS include current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Intimates for the SHR include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault, as measured by the NCVS, and murder as reported by law enforcement agencies to the FBI. Data are for victims age 12 or older.

Sources: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96, and FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1992-96.

**Page 4. Though less likely than males to experience violent crime overall, females are 5 to 8 times more likely than males to be victimized by an intimate**

Victim	Rate of violent victimization per 1,000 persons				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
<b>Total violent victimization</b>					
Males	64.2	65.2	63.6	56.4	53.0
Females	41.2	45.7	45.5	39.2	37.1
<b>Victimization by intimates</b>					
Males	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.1	1.4
Females	8.8	9.8	9.1	8.6	7.5

Note: Intimates for the NCVS include current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Intimates for the SHR include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault, as measured by the NCVS, and murder as reported by law enforcement agencies to the FBI. Data are for victims age 12 or older.

Sources: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96, and FBI, Supplementary Homicide

**Page 5. The number of intimate murders declined 36% from 1976 to 1996 as the number of spouse murders went down 52%**

Year	Number of intimate murder victims		
	Spouse	Ex-spouse	Boy/girlfriend
1976	2,174	123	662
1977	2,017	110	603
1978	1,940	116	629
1979	1,940	146	683
1980	1,911	115	744
1981	1,946	136	768
1982	1,722	136	763
1983	1,676	128	770
1984	1,501	97	833
1985	1,581	111	811
1986	1,542	127	901
1987	1,489	96	841
1988	1,467	100	869
1989	1,326	78	913
1990	1,371	110	879
1991	1,297	82	918
1992	1,262	81	834
1993	1,232	94	964
1994	1,145	91	861
1995	1,030	60	776
1996	987	73	749

Note: Murder includes nonnegligent manslaughter. Data are for all ages of victims.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1976-96.

**Page 5. Declines in the percentage of murders that are attributed to an intimate have been greater among male victims**

Year	Percent of homicide victims killed by an intimate	
	Male	Female
1976	11.2%	31.3%
1977	11.0	29.3
1978	10.5	30.3
1979	10.8	30.3
1980	9.8	30.2
1981	9.5	29.7
1982	9.1	28.5
1983	9.7	29.4
1984	8.9	28.2
1985	8.6	29.5
1986	8.4	29.7
1987	8.3	28.1
1988	7.8	29.2
1989	7.7	28.0
1990	6.9	28.8
1991	6.3	28.7
1992	6.2	28.8
1993	6.1	28.6
1994	6.2	28.5
1995	5.4	27.8
1996	5.4	29.0

Note: Intimates include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Murder includes nonnegligent manslaughter. Data are for all ages of victims.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1976-96.

**Page 7. Over the last two decades intimate murder rates dropped far more rapidly among blacks than among whites, with the sharpest decreases among black male victims**

Rate of murder by an intimate per 100,000 persons age 20-44

Year	White			Black		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1976	1.31	0.89	1.72	14.01	16.51	12.01
1977	1.27	0.93	1.61	11.94	14.97	9.49
1978	1.30	0.88	1.72	11.38	13.32	9.83
1979	1.35	0.97	1.73	11.10	13.34	9.33
1980	1.37	0.91	1.81	10.66	12.36	9.30
1981	1.33	0.92	1.73	9.64	11.14	8.40
1982	1.30	0.82	1.77	8.33	9.72	7.17
1983	1.22	0.82	1.61	8.35	9.20	7.65
1984	1.17	0.69	1.65	7.06	7.75	6.47
1985	1.20	0.70	1.70	6.95	7.46	6.53
1986	1.21	0.70	1.73	7.36	7.55	7.19
1987	1.14	0.65	1.63	6.46	6.90	6.10
1988	1.13	0.59	1.68	6.60	6.62	6.58
1989	1.01	0.56	1.45	6.36	6.70	6.07
1990	1.06	0.58	1.54	6.24	6.08	6.39
1991	1.02	0.53	1.51	6.02	5.36	6.58
1992	0.98	0.54	1.42	5.35	4.59	6.00
1993	1.03	0.49	1.57	5.62	4.75	6.36
1994	0.99	0.47	1.51	4.84	4.55	5.09
1995	0.89	0.38	1.40	3.87	3.33	4.32
1996	0.85	0.36	1.34	3.74	2.83	4.51

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1976-96.

**Page 8. The decline in the rate of intimate murder per 100,000 has been greater among black victims, especially black men killed by their spouses**

Year	Rate of murder by an intimate per 100,000 persons in each population category							
	White				Black			
	Husband Ex-husband	Boyfriend	Wife/ Ex-wife	Girlfriend	Wife/ Exwife	Girlfriend	Husband Ex-husband	Boyfriend
1976	0.97	0.67	1.73	1.69	12.62	10.68	18.44	12.93
1977	1.01	0.72	1.62	1.53	10.26	7.81	16.92	11.67
1978	0.98	0.61	1.74	1.63	11.19	7.43	14.99	10.66
1979	1.11	0.62	1.73	1.73	9.74	8.64	15.90	9.62
1980	0.99	0.72	0.17	2.32	10.04	8.03	14.35	9.61
1981	1.03	0.67	1.76	1.65	8.47	8.29	12.89	8.89
1982	0.84	0.76	1.76	1.81	7.07	7.32	10.80	8.34
1983	0.91	0.63	1.54	1.84	8.23	6.83	10.71	7.47
1984	0.65	0.79	1.56	1.97	5.90	7.27	8.37	7.11
1985	0.73	0.64	1.60	2.05	6.31	6.81	7.73	7.18
1986	0.70	0.68	1.53	2.42	6.74	7.80	7.74	7.35
1987	0.65	0.64	1.48	2.15	6.10	6.09	6.86	6.95
1988	0.55	0.68	1.51	2.21	6.23	7.04	6.69	6.54
1989	0.53	0.62	1.21	2.25	5.58	6.71	6.73	6.67
1990	0.54	0.66	1.39	2.03	5.83	7.07	5.77	6.40
1991	0.45	0.69	1.35	2.01	6.04	7.16	5.08	5.63
1992	0.56	0.50	1.29	1.84	6.08	5.90	4.53	4.64
1993	0.43	0.60	1.29	2.46	6.05	6.70	4.53	4.94
1994	0.46	0.49	1.39	1.88	4.13	6.08	4.75	4.37
1995	0.39	0.39	1.12	2.27	3.72	4.97	2.93	3.69
1996	0.37	0.37	1.10	1.90	3.63	5.19	2.28	3.21

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1976-96.

**Page 9. Females at every age are much more likely than males to be murdered by an intimate**

Age of victim	Percent of murder victims killed by intimates	
	Male	Female
17 or younger	0.8%	5.8%
18-24	2.5	28.5
25-29	5.5	36.3
30-34	7.6	41.3
35-39	9.3	44.3
40-44	10.6	41.4
45-49	11.7	40.2
50-59	10.8	31.8
60 or older	6.9	19.3

Note: Intimates include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Murder includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1976-96.

**Page 10. In 1976 guns were used in about 71% of intimate murders; in 1996, in about 61%**

Year	Murders of an intimate	
	With guns	Without guns
1976	2,113	846
1977	1,916	814
1978	1,863	822
1979	2,008	761
1980	1,939	831
1981	1,929	921
1982	1,738	883
1983	1,663	911
1984	1,578	853
1985	1,642	861
1986	1,673	897
1987	1,574	852
1988	1,515	921
1989	1,441	876
1990	1,477	883
1991	1,397	900
1992	1,378	799
1993	1,498	792
1994	1,342	755
1995	1,163	703
1996	1,168	640

Note: Intimates include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Data are for all ages of victims.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1976-96.

**Page 10. For both whites and blacks, when intimate murder occurs, increasingly the woman, not the man, is the victim**

Year	Number of women who died for each male victim of intimate murder	
	White victims	Black victims
1976	1.72	0.84
1977	1.73	0.71
1978	1.77	0.83
1979	1.65	0.83
1980	1.85	0.82
1981	1.72	0.84
1982	1.85	0.81
1983	1.79	0.87
1984	2.12	0.88
1985	2.36	0.95
1986	2.23	1.01
1987	2.28	0.98
1988	2.68	1.15
1989	2.38	0.93
1990	2.42	1.11
1991	2.59	1.26
1992	2.64	1.38
1993	2.99	1.50
1994	2.83	1.29
1995	3.41	1.37
1996	3.32	1.70

Note: Intimates include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Murder includes nonnegligent manslaughter. Data are for all ages of victims.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1976-96.

**Page 13. Among female victims of intimate violence, blacks experienced higher rates than whites in 1994, 1995, and 1996**

Victim characteristic	Average annual rate of nonlethal violent victimization by an intimate per 1,000	
	Male	Female
White	1.4	8.2
Black	2.1	11.7
Other <sup>a</sup>	.5	5.6
Hispanic <sup>b</sup>	1.3	7.2
Non-Hispanic	1.4	8.7

Note: Nonlethal intimate violence includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Because it is based on interviews with victims, the NCVS does not include murder. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

<sup>a</sup>Denotes Asians, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Alaska Natives, and American Indians.

<sup>b</sup>Hispanic or Latino persons could be of any race.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96.

**Page 13. The highest rates of intimate violence affect women ages 16 to 24**

Age of female victim	Average annual rate of nonlethal violent victimization by an intimate per 1,000 females
12-15	2.6
16-19	20.1
20-24	20.7
25-34	16.5
35-49	7.2
50-64	1.3
65 or older	.2

Note: Nonlethal intimate violence includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Because it is based on interviews with victims, the NCVS does not include murder. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96.

**Page 14. Women in low-income households experience a higher rate of nonlethal violence from an intimate than do women in households with larger incomes**

Household income	Average annual rate of nonlethal intimate violence per 1,000 persons	
	Male	Female
Less than \$7,500	2.7	21.3
\$7,500-\$14,999	1.4	12.3
\$15,000-\$24,999	1.8	10.4
\$25,000-\$34,999	1.8	7.2
\$35,000-\$49,999	1.1	5.8
\$50,000-\$74,999	1.5	4.4
\$75,000 or more	0.5	2.7

Note: Nonlethal intimate violence includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Because it is based on interviews with victims, the NCVS does not include murder. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96.

**Page 14. Urban women experience a higher rate of nonlethal violence by an intimate than suburban and rural women**

Average annual rate of nonlethal violence by an intimate per 1,000 persons

	Male	Female
Urban	1.5	10.0
Suburban	1.4	7.9
Rural	1.3	8.0

Note: Nonlethal intimate violence includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Because it is based on interviews with victims, the NCVS does not include murder. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. "Urban" denotes central cities in Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's). "Suburban" denotes the population outside the central cities in MSA's. "Rural" denotes non-metropolitan areas.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96.

**Page 15. Most intimate violence occurs in or near the victim's home**

Percent of nonlethal violence by intimates

	Male	Female
At or near own home	63.0%	72.2%
At or near other's home	18.3	12.2
Commercial place	3.4	2.8
At school	1.1	1.2
Open area of parking lot	12.2	9.1
Other	2.0	2.5

Note: Nonlethal intimate violence includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Because it is based on interviews with victims, the NCVS does not include murder. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96.

**Page 16. Almost 30% of intimate violence occurs from 9 in the evening till midnight**

Time	Percent of intimate violence reported to the police
Midnight	7.1%
1	5.5
2	4.6
3	3.3
4	2.0
5	1.5
6	1.4
7	1.7
8	2.1
9	2.2
10	2.6
11	2.9
Noon	3.1
1	3.1
2	3.2
3	3.7
4	4.3
5	4.9
6	5.8
7	6.2
8	6.7
9	7.2
10	7.7
11	7.4

Note: Intimates for NIBRS include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Violent crimes include murder, rape, sexual assault, kidnaping, robbery, assault, and other violence.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), 1995.

**Page 19. About half the women who are victimized by an intimate report the violence to law enforcement**

Year	Percent of female victims of intimate violence who reported to the police
1993	48%
1994	50
1995	53
1996	56

Note: Intimates include current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Nonlethal violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1993-96.

**Page 20. Nearly 6 in 10 women who called the police when victimized by an intimate said that the police arrived within 10 minutes**

Police arrived within —	Percent of female victims of intimate violence who reported to the police
5 minutes	25.2%
10 minutes	32.2
1 hour	34.6
More than 1 hour	7.9

Note: Intimates include current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Nonlethal violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96.

**Page 22. Women Injured by Intimates accounted for about 1 in 5 visits to hospital emergency departments for injuries arising from intentional violence**

	Number of injury cases treated in hospital emergency departments		
	Intimate violence	Other types of violence	Unrecorded relationship
Total	243,316	700,777	383,633
Males	38,958	487,814	287,233
Females	204,358	212,963	96,400

Note: Intimates for SIVV include current and former spouses and current boyfriends and girlfriends.

Source: BJS, Study of Injured Victims of Violence (SIVV), 1994.

**Page 27. About half of prison and jail inmates were drinking beer or liquor when they committed a violent crime against an intimate companion**

	Percent of inmates serving a sentence for a violent crime against an intimate	
	State prison	Local jail
Not drinking	53.1%	50.9%
Liquor only	12.1	5.5
Beer only	14.8	25.4
Beer and liquor	11.7	15.4
Other combinations	8.3	2.8

Note: Violent crimes for the surveys of inmates include murder, rape, sexual assault, kidnaping, robbery, assault, and other violence. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

Sources: BJS, Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991, and Survey of Inmates in Local Jails, 1995

**Page 29. Among State prisoners in prison for committing a violent crime against an intimate, 29% reported carrying a firearm at the time**

Victim's relation to violent prisoner	Percent of prisoners who reported carrying a firearm during the offense
Intimate	28.9%
Stranger	29.4
Acquaintance	26.7
Other family member	9.2

Note: Violent crimes for the survey of inmates include murder, rape, sexual assault, kidnaping, robbery, assault, and other violence. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

Source: BJS, Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991.

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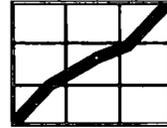
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# National Institute of Justice

## Research Preview

Jeremy Travis, Director

November 1997

# The Crime of Stalking: How Big Is the Problem?

*Summary of a Presentation by Patricia Tjaden, Ph.D., Center for Policy Research*

Scientific information on stalking in the United States has been limited, despite unprecedented media, legal, and legislative attention to the subject over the past decade. To better understand the broader context of violence in which stalking occurs, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collaborated in a comprehensive survey of violence against women. The National Violence Against Women Survey, conducted by the Center for Policy Research, collected data from 8,000 women and 8,000 men 18 years of age or older on a broad range of issues related to violence.

This Research Preview discusses the stalking aspects of the study. Further findings from the survey are anticipated by spring 1998. With regard to stalking, the survey collected data on:

- The prevalence of stalking.
- The characteristics of offenders, victims, and stalking behaviors.
- Victims' perceptions of why they are stalked.
- The co-occurrence of stalking and domestic violence.
- Victims' responses to stalking, including their involvement with the justice system.
- The psychological and social consequences of stalking.

Survey findings indicated that stalking is a bigger problem than previously thought, affecting about 1.4 million victims annually. The survey showed that stalking was strongly linked to the controlling behavior and physical, emotional, and sexual abuse perpetrated against women by intimate partners. About half of all female stalking victims reported their victimization to the police and about 25 percent obtained a restraining order.

To screen for stalking victimization, the survey asked about specific harassing and threatening behaviors

respondents had experienced repeatedly from marital and cohabitating partners, friends, acquaintances, relatives, and strangers. The word "stalking" was not used in the survey. Researchers defined stalking conservatively—as "a course of conduct directed at a specific person that involves repeated physical or visual proximity, nonconsensual communication, or verbal, written, or implied threats" sufficient to cause fear in a reasonable person.<sup>1</sup>

The survey was fielded between November 1995 and May 1996. The national sample of households was generated through random-digit dialing; interviews averaged 25 minutes and were conducted using a computer-assisted telephone interviewing system. Of those who started the interview, 97 percent of women and 98 percent of men completed it.

## Survey results

**Incidence and prevalence.** Of those surveyed, 8 percent of women and 2 percent of men said they had been stalked at some point in their lives. When the raw figures were extrapolated to 1995 estimates of the adult population, the results projected 8.2 million female and 2 million male lifetime stalking victims, most of whom were stalked by only one stalker. In most cases, stalking episodes lasted 1 year or less, but, in a few cases, stalking continued for 5 or more years. Researchers estimate that approximately 1 million women and 400,000 men are stalked each year in the United States.

**Offender characteristics.** Most victims knew their stalker. Women were significantly more likely to be stalked by an intimate partner—whether that partner was a current spouse, a former spouse or cohabiting partner, or a date. Only 21 percent of stalkers identified by female victims were strangers. On the other hand, men were

significantly more likely to be stalked by a stranger or an acquaintance. About 87 percent of stalkers were men. Women tended to be victimized by lone stalkers, but in 50 percent of male victimizations the stalker had an accomplice—usually a friend or girlfriend.

**Victim characteristics.** Most victims were between the ages of 18 and 29 when the stalking started. About 80 percent were women. When information on specific categories of minority women was combined, the data showed no difference between the proportion of minority women who were stalked and the proportion of white women who were stalked. However, a comparison of stalking prevalence among minority women showed that Native American women are at significantly greater risk of being stalked.

**Stalking behaviors.** Both men and women reported that stalkers behaved in ways that induced fear, although they did not always make credible threats against their victims.

- Stalkers made overt threats to about 45 percent of victims.
- Stalkers spied on or followed about 75 percent of victims.
- Stalkers vandalized the property of about 30 percent of victims.
- Stalkers threatened to kill or killed the pet(s) of about 10 percent of victims.

**Victims' perceptions.** The typical female victim thought she had been stalked because her assailant wanted to control her, scare her, or keep her in a relationship. About 60 percent of stalking by intimate partners started *before* a relationship ended. Men reported intimidation and control as possible stalker motivations.

**Links to partner abuse.** A clear relationship existed between stalking and other emotionally controlling and physically abusive behavior. About half of the female stalking victims had been stalked by a current or former marital or cohabiting partner. About 80 percent of these women were, at some point in the relationship, physically assaulted by that partner, and 31 percent were sexually assaulted.

**Justice system involvement.** Half of all victims reported their stalking to the police. About one-quarter of the women obtained a restraining order—a far greater proportion than men. Eighty percent of all restraining orders were violated by the assailant. About 24 percent of female victims who reported stalking to the police (compared to 19 percent of male victims) said their cases were prosecuted. Of the cases where criminal charges were filed, 54 percent resulted in a conviction. About 63 percent of convictions resulted in jail time.

About half of the victims who had reported to the police were satisfied with the response they received. Victims rated courts slightly higher—with 60 percent satisfaction.

When asked how their situation changed after they reported to the police, about half noted improvement. When asked what the police could have done better, 42 percent said the police should have put their assailant in jail, 16 percent indicated a need to be better protected by the police, and 20 percent said the police should have taken their situation more seriously.

### Stalking's aftermath

Although the stalking usually stopped within 1 to 2 years, victims experienced its social and psychological consequences long after. About one-third reported they had sought psychological treatment. In addition, one-fifth lost time from work, and 7 percent of those said they never returned to work. When asked why the stalking stopped, about 20 percent of the victims said it was because they moved away. Another 15 percent said it was because of police involvement. Also, stalking of women victims often stopped when the assailant got a new girlfriend or wife.

The authors concluded that findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey lend credence to the need for address-confidentiality programs that encourage victims who are challenged with continued pursuit and unusual safety risks to develop personal safety plans. Such plans usually include relocating as far away from the offender as possible and securing a confidential mailing address that provides mail forwarding service but does not divulge the new location. While extreme, such measures may be the most effective way to ensure freedom from harassment and violence to victims of stalking.

1. This definition reflects the one provided by the congressionally mandated *Project to Develop a Model Anti-Stalking Code for States*, a research report developed by the National Criminal Justice Association and published by NIJ, October 1993 (NCJ 144477).

This summary is based on a presentation by Patricia Tjaden, Ph.D., Senior Researcher, Center for Policy Research in Denver, Colorado, at an NIJ Research in Progress Seminar where she discussed the stalking findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey. The seminar, *Stalking in America: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey*, is available as a 60-minute videotape for \$19 (\$24 in Canada and other countries). Use the order form on the next page to obtain this videotape, NCJ 163921, and any of the others available in NIJ's Research in Progress Seminar Series.

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# National Institute of Justice

## Research Preview

Jeremy Travis, Director

October 1997

# Drugs, Alcohol, and Domestic Violence in Memphis

*Summary of a Presentation by Daniel Brookoff, M.D., Ph.D.*

A 1995 study of domestic violence in Memphis, Tennessee, revealed that almost all assailants had used drugs or alcohol during the day of the assault; two-thirds had used a dangerous combination of cocaine and alcohol. The vast majority of those assaulted were repeat victims of the current assailants. Two-thirds of assailants were on probation or parole at the time of the assault. In addition, a majority of battering incidents involved the assailant's use or display of a weapon, and a number of victims suffered injuries severe enough to require immediate medical attention.

These and other findings emerged from a month-long pilot study funded by the Methodist Hospital Foundation of Memphis. This collaborative community study sought to determine the city's prevalence of domestic violence and factors contributing to it. A survey team of medical personnel and University of Memphis researchers accompanied officers from the Memphis Police Department as they responded to nighttime calls for assistance. On average, the police received more than 15 calls per 7-hour shift for domestic assault or other residential disturbances. The survey team studied 62 incidents fitting the legal criteria for domestic assault; several involved multiple victims (a woman and her child) or multiple assailants (a man and his friend). The team privately interviewed persons who were at the scene when police arrived, including all 72 victims, two-thirds (42 of 64) of their assailants, and 75 adult family members.

## Characteristics of victims and assailants

In the Memphis study, 72 percent of victims were female and 78 percent of the assailants were male. Of the 20 male victims, 9 were the sons of female victims who had tried to intervene in the assault of their mothers. Of the female victims 40 percent had been assaulted by cohabiting boyfriends, 29 percent by noncohabiting boyfriends, 20 percent by cohabiting husbands, and 11 percent by estranged or divorced husbands or former boyfriends. The remaining incidents involved sibling or in-law assault, parent-child or child-parent assault, and wives battering their husbands. Eleven victims were children.

## Findings

**Alcohol and drug use.** Victims and family members reported that 92 percent of assailants used drugs or alcohol during the day of the assault. They also reported that 67 percent had used a combination of cocaine and alcohol, which forms cocaethylene, a substance that produces heightened and prolonged intoxication. Nearly half of all assailants (45 percent) were described by families as using drugs, alcohol, or both daily to the point of intoxication for the past month. Nine percent of assailants were either under treatment or had previously received treatment for substance abuse. According to their own reports or reports of family members, about 42 percent of victims used alcohol or drugs on the day of

the assault; 15 percent had used cocaine. About half of those using cocaine said that their assailants had forced them to use it.

**Previous assaults.** In an overwhelming majority of incidents (89 percent), the primary victim had suffered a previous assault by the current assailant; 91 percent of those victims had reported a prior incident to the police (73 percent within the previous 2 weeks). Most prior victims reported daily (35 percent) or weekly (55 percent) battering. Of the 45 women assaulted by a current or former sexual partner, 44 percent reported an assault by that man during pregnancy.

**Weapons and injuries.** In 42 (68 percent) of the domestic assault episodes, assailants had used or displayed weapons, including 19 blunt instruments (hammers, baseball bats, etc.), 17 knives, and 6 guns. About 15 percent of victims suffered serious injuries requiring immediate medical attention.

**Arrests and court action after the incident.** Two-thirds (28 of 42) of those assailants who were present when police arrived were arrested, mostly for domestic assault. The survey team reviewed arrest and court records 8 weeks after the police calls and found that 33 percent of those arrested on the scene for domestic assault had pleaded guilty, 8 percent had charges dismissed, and 58 percent were released and awaiting case disposition. Of arrested assailants, 75 percent were out of jail in less than 18 hours; half of these did not have to post bond. All assailants who pleaded guilty were given suspended sentences of 30 to 90 days with 1 year of probation; 50 percent were ordered to participate in an anger management program; and 25 percent were ordered to perform 3 days of community service. In 23 percent of cases in which the assailant fled the scene before police arrived, the victim later swore out a warrant for his arrest. All victims were told how to obtain a warrant, but most refused—possibly because of the \$50 fee, fear of escalating violence and retaliation by the assailant, or reluctance to expose the assailant to punishment.

**Involvement of children.** Eleven victims (15 percent) were younger than 18 years; most were assaulted after witnessing assaults on their mothers. A total of 90 children directly witnessed 53 (85 percent) of the assaults. In many cases, researchers observed small children emulating violent behavior on the scene. When child abuse occurred in conjunction with the battering of an adult, the adult victim did not bring the child abuse to

the attention of the police. None of the children in the survey was referred to treatment or child protective services as a result of the police visit.

## Postsurvey results and suggestions

As a result of the survey, the medical and criminal justice communities in Memphis are collaborating to ease the plight of domestic violence victims and increase the penalties for assault in cases where alcohol, drugs, or weapons are used or children are present. A small crisis center has been established within the police department to provide immediate medical care. Victims are brought to the center without having to initiate action themselves and are automatically referred to counseling and support services. In addition, supplemental reports of victim and assailant interviews are sent to prosecutors so that drug or alcohol problems are known at arraignment and rehabilitation can be ordered. Finally, the fee for obtaining an arrest warrant has been waived. Suggestions for future action include:

- Testing assailants at the time of arrest for alcohol or drug intoxication.
- Detoxifying arrested drug- or alcohol-dependent assailants prior to release from jail.
- Assessing children who directly witness domestic violence to determine if psychological treatment is needed.
- Allowing domestic assault victims to swear out arrest warrants at the assault scene.
- Providing emergency counseling or psychiatric treatment for women whose self-esteem has been eroded by the manipulative and coercive behavior of a batterer.

This summary is based on a presentation at the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) by Daniel Brookoff, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Director of Medical Education at the Methodist Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, to an audience of researchers and criminal justice practitioners. The seminar, *Drug Use and Domestic Violence*, is available as a 60-minute videotape for \$19 (\$24 in Canada and other countries). Use the order form on the next page to obtain this videotape, NCJ 163056, and any of the others available in NIJ's Research in Progress Seminar Series.

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## Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report

September 1997, NCJ-164508

# Sex Differences in Violent Victimization, 1994

By Diane Craven, Ph.D.  
BJS Statistician

During 1994 U.S. residents age 12 or older experienced 11.6 million violent victimizations — murders, rapes, sexual assaults, robberies, aggravated assaults, and simple assaults.<sup>1</sup> Men experienced more of these crimes than women: 6.6 million versus 5 million. Strangers to the victims committed most of the violence against males (3.9 million), while persons whom the victims knew committed most of the violence against females (3 million).

This report examines how the sexes do or do not differ in the patterns and number of violent victimizations they experienced. Using the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and the Supplemental Homicide Reports (SHR) of the FBI, the report presents selected characteristics of the victims, incidents, and offenders. For comparability with the NCVS, only homicide victims age 12 or older are included. (For information on child victims see *Child Victimization: Violent Offenders and Their Victims*, BJS report, NCJ-153258, March 1996.)

<sup>1</sup> *Criminal Victimization 1994* (NCJ -158022, April 1996) reported 10.9 million violent victimizations. Series crimes, excluded in that report, are included in this report.

### Highlights

- During 1994 men experienced almost 6.6 million violent victimizations; women experienced 5 million. For every 3 violent victimizations of males, there were 2 of females.
- Females were more likely to be victimized by persons whom they knew (62% or 2,981,479 victimizations) while males were more likely to be victimized by strangers (63%, or 3,949,285).
- In 1994 for every 5 violent victimizations of a female by an intimate, there was 1 of a male. Intimates committed over 900,000 victimizations of females and about 167,000 victimizations of males.
- For homicides in which the victim-offender relationship was known, an intimate killed 31% of female victims age 12 or older (1,392) and 4% of male victims 12 or older (663).
- Women separated from their spouses had a violent victimization rate (128 per 1,000) over 1½ times that of separated men (79 per 1,000), divorced men (77 per 1,000), and divorced women (71 per 1,000).
- When multiple offenders committed the violence, both males (79%) and females (65%) were more likely to be victimized by strangers than by persons whom they knew.
- Most violent victimizations did not involve the use of weapons. Offenders were armed in 34% of victimizations of males (2,042,000) and in 24% of victimizations of females (1,126,100).
- Female victims were more likely than males to report robberies and simple assaults to law enforcement agencies.
- In assaults, but not robberies, females were more likely than males to sustain an injury. When injured during a violent crime, male victims were more likely than female victims to be seriously hurt.
- Females were more likely to be victimized at a private home (their own or that of a neighbor, friend, or relative) than in any other place. Males were most likely to be victimized in public places such as businesses, parking lots, and open areas.

## Rates of violence for men and women, 1994

During 1994 males sustained more violent victimizations than females. The 6.6 million violent victimizations included 33,000 rapes and sexual assaults, nearly 900,000 robberies, almost 1.7 million aggravated assaults, over 4 million simple assaults, and 17,448 homicides (table 1).

Women age 12 or older experienced 5 million violent victimizations: about 432,000 rapes and sexual assaults, 472,000 robberies, over 940,000 aggravated assaults, and over 3 million simple assaults. In addition, 4,489 females age 12 or older were victims of homicide.

In a comparison of victimization rates per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, males were at a significantly higher risk than females (64 per 1,000 to 46 per 1,000). The gap between the violent victimization rates of males and females narrowed between 1974 and 1994 (figure 1). In 1994 there were 3 male victims for every 2 female victims. Twenty years before, the ratio was 4 for every 2. In 1994 men were relatively safer than they had been in 1974, as their victimization rate declined. The rate of violent crime for women remained unchanged until an increase beginning around 1990.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>See *Female Victims of Violent Crime*, BJS Selected Findings, NCJ -162602, December 1996.

This report systematically assesses some of the similarities and differences between victimizations of females and males. To set a context for understanding how the sex of a victim relates to the experience of violent crime, the report examines —

- Victim characteristics, such as race, education, and age
- The victim's relationship to the offender
- Types of victimizations or crime categories like robbery and assault
- Whether the offender acted alone or with others
- Presence of weapons
- Consequences of injury from violence
- Whether the crime was reported to law enforcement
- When and where the victimization took place.

**Table 1. Number and rates of violent victimizations, by sex of victim, 1994**

	Number of violent victimizations in 1994			Rates per 1,000 persons age 12 or older	
	Total	Female	Male	Female	Male
All violent crimes	11,605,300	5,026,500	6,578,800	45.5	63.6
Homicide	21,937	4,489	17,448	0.04	0.17
Non-fatal victimizations	11,583,400	5,022,000	6,561,400	45.5	63.5
Rape/sexual assault	465,000	432,100	32,900	3.9	.3
Robbery	1,329,100	471,900	857,300	4.3	8.3
Aggravated assault	2,599,800	941,100	1,658,700	8.5	16.0
Simple assault	7,189,400	3,176,900	4,012,500	28.8	38.8

Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Source: Violent victimizations were measured in the BJS National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). Homicide data were derived from the FBI Crime Reporting Program's Supplemental Homicide Report (SHR). All numbers include only those homicides and violent victimizations of persons age 12 or older.

## National estimates of violent victimization

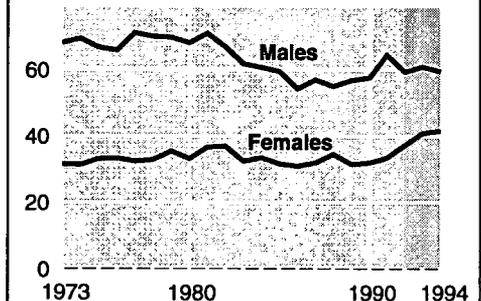
National estimates of violent victimization derive from two primary sources within the U.S. Department of Justice —

- The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), conducted by the BJS in conjunction with the Bureau of the Census, provides information about criminal victimizations nationwide, including both those incidents reported to law enforcement and those which were not reported.

- The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program compiles data from law enforcement agencies nationwide.

In this report the NCVS was the source of all nonfatal victimization data, and the UCR's Supplemental Homicide Reports (SHR) was the source of the homicide data.

Rates of violent crimes (including murders, rapes, robberies, and assaults) per 1,000 population



Sources: BJS, the National Crime Survey (NCS) data, 1973-92 and the NCVS data, 1992-94, for rape, robbery, and assault; FBI, UCR data for homicides.

The 1973-91 rates were adjusted for comparability to data collected under the redesigned survey method, 1992-94. For further explanation, see BJS, *Criminal Victimization, 1973-95*, NCJ-163069, April 1997.

Figure 1

## Demographic characteristics of female and male victims of violence

White females and females of other races (American Indian, Asian, Native Alaskan, and Pacific Islander) had significantly lower rates of violent victimization than their male counterparts; however, only some evidence exists for a difference between rates of black females and males (table 2).

Among females only, the rate of blacks (56 per 1,000) was significantly higher than those of whites (42 per 1,000) or of persons of other races (36 per 1,000). For 1994, among males, the rates for the racial categories were not significantly different. However, multiple year analyses demonstrate higher rates of serious violent victimization for both blacks and Hispanics. (For more information, see *Age Patterns of Serious Violent Crime*, BJS Special Report, NCJ-162031, September 1997.)

Females, both Hispanic and non-Hispanic, had lower rates of violent victimization than males. Hispanic women (52 per 1,000) were more likely than non-Hispanic women (43 per 1,000) to be victims of violence. Among males there was some evidence that Hispanics had higher rates of violent victimization than non-Hispanics.

Females in the lowest household income bracket were more likely to be victimized than those at all other income levels. In general, the relative risk of being a victim of violence declined as household income increased. Among females the violent victimization rate in the lowest income bracket was 2½ times that in the highest bracket (76 per 1,000 compared to 29).

Men in the bottom income bracket also had a significantly higher rate (99 per 1,000) than other men; the least affluent had almost twice the rate of violent victimization of men in the highest income bracket (53 per 1,000). Males were at higher risk than females, regardless of income level, although there is only some evidence for this difference in the \$7,500-14,999 range.

While the rate for female victimization generally declined as household income increased, the rates for victimization of males remained relatively stable as income rose above \$7,500.

The pattern of victimization associated with where the victim lived ran from the highest risk in urban areas to the lowest risk in rural areas.<sup>3</sup> Taking the victim's sex into account does not change this pattern.

<sup>3</sup>Location is where the victim lived, not where he or she sustained the violence. Previous research has indicated that most victimizations occur in the vicinity of the victim's residence. See *Crime Victimization in City, Suburban, and Rural Areas*, BJS, NCJ-135943, June 1992.

Females in the two younger age groups were at significantly greater risk for victimization than those in older age groups. After age 19, relative risk declined with each subsequent age group. For every 5 victimizations of females age 12 to 19, there was 1 victimization of a woman 50 or older. This general pattern of declining risk was also present among male victims. After age 49, both females and males experienced a dramatic decrease in relative risk of violent victimization — a 75%-decrease for females (from 36 per 1,000 to 9) and a 73%-decrease for males (from 45 per 1,000 to 12).

**Table 2. Rates of violent victimization per 1,000 females or males, by characteristics of victims, 1994**

Victim characteristic	Rates per 1,000 persons age 12 or older <sup>a</sup>		Ratio of male-to-female victimizations
	Female	Male	
<b>Race</b>			
White	42.4	59.3	1.4*
Black	55.9	66.3	1.2**
Other	35.6	63.8	1.8*
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
Hispanic	52.4	67.9	1.3*
Non-Hispanic	43.0	59.3	1.4*
<b>Household income</b>			
Less than \$7,500	76.1	99.1	1.3*
\$7,500-14,999	54.2	64.5	1.2**
\$15,000-24,999	43.6	57.7	1.3*
\$25,000-34,999	41.7	58.9	1.4*
\$35,000-49,999	36.5	58.7	1.6*
\$50,000-74,999	38.0	58.1	1.5*
\$75,000 or over	29.0	53.4	1.8*
<b>Residence</b>			
Urban	52.7	78.0	1.5*
Suburban	43.9	59.2	1.3*
Rural	31.8	40.1	1.3*
<b>Age</b>			
12-15	97.4	139.1	1.4*
16-19	101.8	143.6	1.4*
20-24	81.0	117.3	1.4*
25-34	60.2	66.3	1.1
35-49	35.9	44.7	1.2*
50 or older	8.8	12.0	1.4*
<b>Education</b>			
Some high school or less	58.3	79.2	1.4*
High school graduate	38.0	50.0	1.3*
Some college or more	40.2	56.9	1.4*
<b>Marital status</b>			
Married	20.5	28.6	1.4*
Widowed	7.7	11.7	1.5
Divorced	70.7	76.8	1.1
Separated	127.8	79.1	.6*
Never married	82.5	110.5	1.3*

\*The male-female differences were significant at the 95-percent confidence level.

\*\*The male-female differences were significant at the 90-percent confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Exclude homicide.

**Table 3. Victim-offender relationships, by sex of victim, 1994**

Victim-offender relationship	Nonfatal violent victimizations			
	Female		Male	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Stranger	1,858,600	38.4%	3,949,300	63.4%
Known	2,981,500	61.6%	2,279,200	36.6%
Intimate		20.7		2.8
Other relative		6.6		3.6
Friend/acquaintance		34.3		30.2

The victimization rates of 16-to-19-year-old females and males were 11 times higher than for their counterparts age 50 or older. In all age categories except 25-34, victimization rates for males were significantly higher than those for females.

Female and male victims with the lowest educational attainment (some high school or less) had the highest rates of victimization. At every level of education, however, males were more likely than females to be victims of violent crime.

Females and males who had never married were nearly 4 times more likely to experience violent victimization than those who were married at the time of the interview. Both married and never-married males were more likely to experience victimization than their female counterparts.

Divorced women and men and separated men had similar rates of violent victimizations (71, 77, and 79 per 1,000, respectively). Separated women had a dramatically elevated rate (128 per 1,000). The victimization rate of separated women was 1½ times that of never-married women, nearly 2 times that of divorced women, and over 6 times the rate of married women.

The violent victimization rate of separated women exceeded the rates for men across all marital statuses except for those who had never married. It was the only rate for a demographic category in which the females had a higher victimization rate than males. The victimization rate for separated women exceeded those of males

in all other demographic subgroups except males age 12-24 years.

Lack of NCVS information about the sequence of events in the lives of separated female victims limits the understanding of their high victimization rate. The NCVS categories reflect respondents' marital status at the time of the interview, up to 6 months after the incident. Separation or divorce could have preceded or followed the violence (or both in a series of victimizations).<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup>For a discussion of "separation assault," see M.R. Mahoney, "Legal Images of Battered Women: Redefining the Issue of Separation," *Michigan Law Review*, Vol. 90, No. 1, pp. 1-94.

### Victim-offender relationship

One of the most important differences between the sexes in their experience of violent victimization is in the victim-offender relationship.

For male victims a stranger committed a majority of victimizations (63%), while a nonstranger committed 37% (table 3). For female victims the distribution was reversed. The offender was most often someone known to them (62%). A stranger committed 38% of the violence against females.

Friends or acquaintances committed 34% of violent victimizations of females; intimates (current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend), 21%; and other relatives, 7%. Although males were predominately victimized by strangers, friends or acquaintances accounted for 30% of their victimizations.

**Table 4. Type of violent crime, by victim-offender relationship and sex of victim, 1994**

	Total <sup>†</sup>	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Simple assault
<b>Females</b>				
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Intimates	903,700	13.9	20.1	21.5
Spouse	329,800	6.0	7.4	7.7
Ex-spouse	90,000	*	*	2.3
Boy/girlfriend	483,900	7.5	10.7	11.5
Other relatives	304,900	6.9	5.2	7.4
Friend/acquaintance	1,492,900	19.7	27.2	37.7
Stranger	1,728,100	59.5	47.6	33.5
Number of victimizations	4,429,600	453,900	894,800	3,080,800
<b>Males</b>				
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Intimates	166,700	*	2.4	2.8
Spouse	30,300	*	*	*
Ex-spouse	27,800	*	*	*
Boy/girlfriend	109,100	*	*	1.8
Other relatives	221,300	*	3.7	3.8
Friend/acquaintance	1,870,700	10.4	28.4	35.1
Stranger	3,940,900	84.5	65.5	58.4
Number of victimizations	6,200,000	810,500	1,544,100	3,845,400

Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

\*10 or fewer unweighted cases.

<sup>†</sup>Excludes homicide, rape, and sexual assault.

## Types of crimes

Females and males were victims of specific types of crimes in varying degrees. Among female victims, friends or acquaintances committed 40% of the rapes and sexual assaults; strangers, 32%; and intimates, 24%. The intimate offender was more likely a boy/girlfriend or ex-boy/girlfriend (14.3%) than a spouse (7.3%), a difference that may be due in part to spouses' reluctance to disclose violence by their partners.<sup>5</sup>

Victim-offender relationship	Percent of rapes or sexual assaults	
	Female	Males
Intimates	24.0%	*
Spouse	7.3	*
Ex-spouse	*	*
Boy/girlfriend (or ex-)	14.3	*
Other relatives	*	*
Acquaintance/friend	40.0	*
Stranger	32.0	*

Note: Detail does not add to 100% because of unspecified categories.

\*10 or fewer unweighted cases.

Boyfriends or girlfriends may be more likely than spouses to define violent episodes as criminal and thus be also more willing to disclose the incidents and the relationship.

For robberies and assaults combined in 1994, males sustained 3.9 million victimizations by strangers, about twice as many as the 1.7 million victimizations of females (table 4). When the offender was an intimate, victimizations of females were almost 5½ times greater than those of males (903,700 and 166,700, respectively).

Strangers committed most robberies, against both females (60%) and males (85%). Friends or acquaintances accounted for 20% of victimizations of females and 10% of victimizations of males. Of robberies of women, intimates committed 14% and other relatives, 7%.

Strangers committed almost half the aggravated assaults against females and about two-thirds of those against

<sup>5</sup>This report does not distinguish between heterosexual and same-sex intimate violence.

males. Friends or acquaintances accounted for 27% of the assaults against females and 28% of those against males — no significant difference. Intimates were responsible for a fifth of the aggravated assaults against women.

For simple assaults, the most common form of violent victimization, males were significantly more likely to be assaulted by strangers than by friends or acquaintances. Women and men were similarly likely to be victimized by acquaintances or friends (38% and 35%, respectively). However, for simple assaults against women, there was some evidence of greater likelihood of assault by friends or acquaintances than by strangers.

### Violent victimization by lone and multiple offenders

Most victimizations involved a lone offender: 83% of female victimizations and 73% of male victimizations. The remainder (17% and 27%, respectively) involved more than one offender during a single incident. In 1994 multiple offenders committed over 1.7 million victimizations against males and almost 825,000 victimizations against females (table 5).

In lone-offender incidents, victimizations of males were more likely to involve strangers (58%). For victimizations of females, however, lone-offender incidents were significantly more likely to involve someone whom the woman knew (67%) rather than a stranger (33%).

**Table 5. Number of offenders, by sex of victim and victim-offender relationship, 1994**

	Total*	Known	Stranger
<b>Females</b>			
Lone	4,017,600	67.0%	33.0%
Multiple	824,700	35.4	64.6
<b>Males</b>			
Lone	4,541,000	42.2%	57.8%
Multiple	1,703,800	21.3	78.7

\*Excludes homicides.

**Table 6. Victimization by strangers, by sex of victim, number of offenders, and type of crime, 1994**

Sex of victim	Percent of victimizations committed by strangers		
	All	Lone	Multiple
<b>Females</b>			
Total*	38.4%	33.0%	64.6%
Robbery	59.5	51.0	77.5
Aggravated assault	47.6	41.0	69.2
Simple assault	33.5	29.6	57.5
<b>Males</b>			
Total*	63.4%	57.8%	78.7%
Robbery	84.5	78.8	89.5
Aggravated assault	65.5	61.2	76.2
Simple assault	58.4	54.3	74.1

\*Includes rape and sexual assault not shown separately.

In multiple-offender victimizations, strangers were more likely than persons known to the victim to commit violence against males (79%) and females (65%).

Females were far more likely to suffer rapes and sexual assaults by someone whom they knew; 28% of rapes and sexual assaults of females involved a stranger acting alone. (This finding is not shown in a table, and small numbers of sample cases precluded other analyses.)

In comparisons of lone and multiple offender victimizations for robberies and aggravated and simple assaults, robberies of both female and male victims usually involved strangers, particularly in incidents with multiple offenders (table 6). Simple assaults were the least likely to involve strangers, particularly in lone-offender incidents.

This pattern of victimization was consistent regardless of the sex of the victim (that is, declining stranger involvement from robbery to simple assault). For both women and men, regardless of whether the crime was a robbery or an assault, incidents involving multiple offenders were significantly more likely to be committed by strangers than incidents involving a lone offender.

## Homicides of persons age 12 or older: Victim-offender relationship

Homicides exhibited some of the same victimization characteristics found in nonfatal violent incidents. Males were more likely than females to be victims of homicide. For every female homicide victim there were 4 male victims.

Female homicide victims were more likely to be killed by an intimate (31%) than were male victims (4%). Friends or acquaintances killed 34% of male homicide victims and 24% of female victims.

Victim-killer relationship	Percent of homicides in 1994		
	Total	Female	Male
Intimates	9.4%	31.0%	3.8%
Spouse	5.1	17.2	2.0
Ex-spouse	.4	1.6	.1
Boy/girlfriend	3.9	12.3	1.7
Other relatives	4.5	7.0	3.9
Friend/acquaintance	32.3	23.9	34.4
Stranger	13.6	7.9	15.0
Unknown	40.2	30.1	42.9
Number of homicides	21,937	4,489	17,448

Source: FBI, UCR Supplemental Homicide Report, 1994.

## Use of weapons

Most victimizations did not involve the use of weapons. For those cases in which presence or absence of a weapon could be determined (91% of all violent victimizations — about 10.5 million incidents), 30% involved the use of a weapon. A third of male victimizations (2,042,000) and a quarter of female victimizations (1,126,100) involved an armed offender.

Seventy-seven percent of both male and female violent victimizations involving weapons were aggravated assaults. This relatively large percentage results in part from definition, because any assault or attempt involving a weapon is classified as aggravated. Other violent crimes may also involve the use of a weapon. In violent victimizations involving weapons in which the victim-offender relationship was known, 64% of them had male victims (1,904,000) (table 7). Of these, 71% were committed by strangers, significantly higher than the 53% of female victimizations committed by armed strangers.

**Table 7. Victim-offender relationship, by victimizations with a weapon and sex of victim, 1994**

Relationship	Percent of victimizations involving a weapon	
	Female	Male
Total	100 %	100 %
Intimates	15.7	2.4
Other relatives	5.0	2.9
Friend/acquaintance	26.6	23.6
Stranger	52.7	71.2
Number of victimizations	1,077,600	1,904,000

Intimates committed almost 16% of the victimizations of women involving a weapon, significantly higher than 2% of comparable male victimizations. There was also some evidence of a higher percentage of victimization of females by other relatives who were armed. Friends or acquaintances committed about a fourth of the victimizations by armed offenders — regardless of the victim's sex.

Among victims of an armed assailant, females faced a firearm as often as other objects used as a weapon and were least likely to be attacked or threatened with a knife (table 8). Males faced firearms more often than knives or objects used as a weapon. There was no significant difference between females and males in type of weapon.

**Table 8. Type of weapon involved in violent victimizations, by sex of victim, 1994**

Type of weapon <sup>a</sup>	Victims of victimizations involving weapons	
	Female	Male
Total	100 %	100 %
Firearm	40.2	44.6
Knife	21.9	21.8
Other <sup>b</sup>	37.9	33.6
Number	1,073,100	1,954,200

<sup>a</sup>The NCVS does not include a category for 'personal weapon' such as fists or feet that may be used as a weapon to threaten or inflict injury. The Supplemental Homicide Reports for 1995 indicated that 9.1% of homicides of females age 12 or older (355) and 3.1% of the male homicides (440) involved the use of fists, feet, or other body parts to inflict the fatal injury.

<sup>b</sup>Includes sharp or blunt objects and other objects wielded to threaten or hurt.

In robberies involving weapons, there was no significant difference between females and males. Almost 60% of robberies involved firearms, while the remainder were divided between knives and other weapons (20% each).

For both females and males about 20% of aggravated assaults involved knives. For male victims firearms and other types of weapons each accounted for 40% of aggravated assaults, while for female victims, there was greater use of other types of weapons (44%) rather than firearms (36%).

## Injuries

Most offenders did not physically injure the victim during the violent victimization. Females were injured in 30% of victimizations (1,493,100) and males in 22% (1,466,300). However, in victimizations involving an actual attack or an attempted attack rather than threats, 51% of the female victims and 41% of the males were injured.

Type of assault	Percent of injuries in attacks or attempts	
	Female	Male
Aggravated	56.2%	45.7%
Simple	45.4	36.6
Number	2,250,500	3,031,500

Of these victimizations females were more likely than males to be injured in both aggravated and simple assaults. There was no difference between the sexes in injury from robberies. For female victims, 65% of rapes, attempted

rapes, and sexual assaults together resulted in injuries other than the rape or sexual assault itself.

In 95% of all victimizations in which the victim sustained an injury, there was adequate information about the type and severity of the injury to classify it as serious or minor. (See *Methodology*.) Most victimizations involving injuries result in minor injuries. For males 17% of victimizations resulted in serious injuries, significantly higher than the 9% for females.

### Reporting to law enforcement

The NCVS collects information on violent victimizations of which only some were reported to law enforcement. Overall, a higher percentage of female victims than male victims reported violent crimes to law enforcement (table 9).

The extent to which violent crimes were reported varied by crime type. More than two-thirds of the rapes and sexual assaults measured by the NCVS remained unreported to law enforcement. (The rapes and sexual assaults of males were too few to analyze.)

Overall, females (64%) were more likely than males (52%) to report robberies to law enforcement. For assaults in general, there was little differ-

ence in reporting behavior. Simple assaults were less likely to be reported to law enforcement agencies than either aggravated assaults or robberies. Across all crime categories, women were more likely than men to report victimizations which did not involve injury. There is only some evidence of this difference for aggravated assault. The presence of injuries altered the likelihood of reporting to law enforcement the victimizations of both women and men.

For simple assaults involving an injury, both females and males were more likely to report them to law enforcement than simple assaults without injury. Males were more likely to report robberies and aggravated assaults with injury than those without injury.

When an injury occurred, both females and males were as likely to report robberies, as likely to report aggravated assaults, and as likely to report simple assaults to law enforcement.

Injury sustained by females during rapes and/or sexual assaults also affected whether law enforcement was notified. Females who suffered injury from rapes and sexual assaults, other than the rape or sexual assault itself, reported 37% of those victimizations — a statistically significant increase from 22% of rapes and sexual assaults without an additional physical injury (not shown in a table).

**Table 9. Crime reported to law enforcement, by presence of injury, type of victimization, and sex of victim, 1994**

Sex of victim	Percent of all crimes reported*	Crime reported — no injury		Crime reported — with injury	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Females</b>	45.5%	1,366,600	41.3%	701,100	56.6%
Robbery	63.7	188,600	61.7	110,200	67.4
Aggravated assault	55.7	340,000	53.3	180,400	61.0
Simple assault	39.7	838,100	35.4	410,400	52.7
<b>Males</b>	40.5	1,828,400	36.6	768,400	54.1
Robbery	51.8	285,800	48.1	153,900	60.3
Aggravated assault	49.6	561,200	46.1	249,300	59.9
Simple assault	34.2	981,300	30.8	365,100	48.7

Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

\*Excludes homicides, rape and sexual assault.

### Time and place of victimization

Other characteristics of violence differed for female and male victims: the time and place of the crime and what they were doing when they were victimized (table 10). Victimizations of females were most likely to occur in daylight (55%), particularly between noon and 6 p.m. Male victimizations were equally likely to occur during daylight and darkness, with 72% occurring between noon and midnight.

Females were more likely to be victimized at a private home (their own or that of a neighbor, friend, or relative) than any other place. Males were most likely to be victimized in public

**Table 10. Characteristics of violent incidents, by sex of victim, 1994**

Characteristic of crime incident or victim	Percent of violent victimizations	
	Females	Males
<b>Daylight or dark</b>	5,007,700	6,546,100
Daylight	54.5%	49.2%*
Dark	40.9	46.8*
Dawn/dusk	3.7	3.5
<b>Time of occurrence</b>	4,973,300	6,522,800
6 a.m. - noon	14.9%	12.1%*
Noon - 6 p.m.	37.9	36.1
6 p.m. - midnight	33.6	36.0
Midnight - 6 a.m.	11.0	13.5*
<b>Place of occurrence</b>	5,022,000	6,561,400
At private home	45.8%	25.8%*
School	12.9	13.0
Public place	33.4	50.0*
Other	7.8	11.2*
<b>Activity of victim</b>	4,998,900	6,539,300
Away from home	46.8%	59.9%*
Going to or from home	13.7	19.8*
At home	32.1	13.6*
Other	7.4	6.7
<b>If traveling, means of transportation<sup>†</sup></b>	637,900	1,125,100
Private vehicle	47.0%	39.0%**
School bus or taxi	6.8	4.8
Public transportation	9.0	8.8
On foot	37.2	47.4*

Note: The different totals for characteristics reflect missing or unavailable data.

\*Differences between females and males are significant at 95-percent confidence level.

\*\*Differences between females and males are significant at 90-percent confidence level.

<sup>†</sup>Excludes bikes and motorcycles.

places such as businesses, parking lots, and open areas.

Victimizations of males were the most likely to occur when the victim was away from home (60%). Victimizations of females were more likely to occur either away from home (47%) or while the victim was at home (32%).

When traveling, females were less likely to be victimized than males (14% and 20% of victimizations, respectively). The percentage of victimizations occurring while using different means of transportation also differed. Males were more likely than females to be victimized as they were walking and more likely to be victimized walking than while taking other means of transportation. There was some evidence of a higher risk for females than for males to be victimized in private vehicles.

There were no differences between females and males in the percentage of victimizations occurring at school, in school buses or taxis, or on public transportation.

## **Methodology**

Except for homicide data provided by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, this report presents data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) for 1994. The NCVS obtains information about crimes, including incidents not reported to police, from a continuous, nationally representative sample of households in the United States. Each year approximately 50,000 households and 100,000 individuals age 12 or older are interviewed.

References in this report to "women" or "females" and "men" or "males" include adolescents but not children under age 12.

The percentages presented in the tables were calculated from unrounded numbers. The percentages presented in the text were rounded from those in tables.

### *Calculation of NCVS rates*

For NCVS crimes the numerator for a given rate is the estimated number of victimizations. The appropriate denominators or population totals were derived from the NCVS sample frame of households, including group quarters such as dormitories. Excluded are persons younger than 12, U.S. citizens living abroad, institutionalized persons, crew members of merchant vessels, and personnel living on military bases.

### *Calculation of homicide rates*

For homicides the numerator for a given rate is the number of incidents submitted by law enforcement agencies to the FBI for inclusion in the UCR. Victim-offender relationships were derived from the Supplemental Homicide Reports. Any missing characteristics were allocated from similar cases. The appropriate denominators were generated from the Census population breakdowns.

### *Computation of standard errors*

The results presented in this report were tested to determine whether the observed difference between groups was statistically significant. Most comparisons mentioned in the report passed a hypothesis test at the .05 level of statistical significance (or the 95-percent confidence level), meaning that the estimated difference between comparisons was greater than twice the standard error of that difference.

Some comparisons were significant only at the 90-percent confidence level. These comparisons are qualified by the phrase "some evidence of a difference." Comparisons that failed the 90-percent hypothesis test were not considered statistically significant.

Calculations were conducted with statistical routines developed specifically for the NCVS by the U.S. Bureau of Census. These Sigma programs account for the NCVS complex sample design in the calculation of generalized variance estimates.

### *Low incidence exclusions*

In this report an asterisk (\*) replacing a number in a table indicates that the estimate was based on 10 or fewer unweighted sample cases. Because standard errors cannot be accurately computed for such estimates, it is inadvisable to compare them to other estimates. Therefore, the estimate is not included in the table.

Caution should be used when comparing estimates not discussed in the text. Seemingly large differences may not be statistically significant at the 95-percent or even the 90-percent confidence level.

### *Missing data*

Missing data in the NCVS analyses range between 0 and 7%. The only exception is for 'household income,' in which missing data were 13% of the females and 14% of the males.

## Definitions

*Friends/acquaintances:* friends or former friends, roommates or boarders, schoolmates, neighbors, someone at work, or some other known nonrelative.

*Injury:* Serious injuries include knife or stab wounds, gun shot or bullet wounds, broken bones, teeth knocked out, internal injuries, unconsciousness, and any other injury which resulted in 2 or more days of hospitalization. Minor injuries include bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches, swelling, and chipped teeth. Other injury categories include rape, attempted rape, and sexual assault.

*Intimates:* spouses or ex-spouses, boyfriends and girlfriends, or ex-boyfriends and ex-girlfriends. This relationship is defined by the respondent.

*Multiple-offender victimizations:* victimizations perpetrated by more than one offender. For multiple-offender incidents, to be classified as a 'stranger' incident, all of the offenders were strangers to the victim.

*Other relatives:* parents or step-parents, children or stepchildren, siblings, or some other relative.

*Strangers:* anyone not known previously by the victim, or known by sight only.

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Data may be obtained from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960. The report, data, and supporting documentation are also available on the Internet: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

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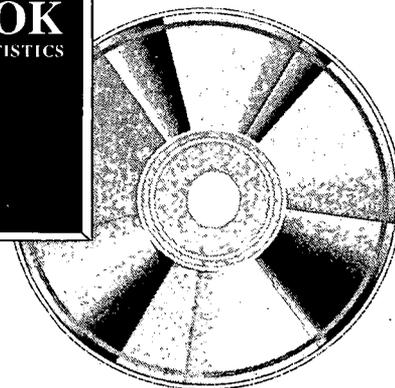
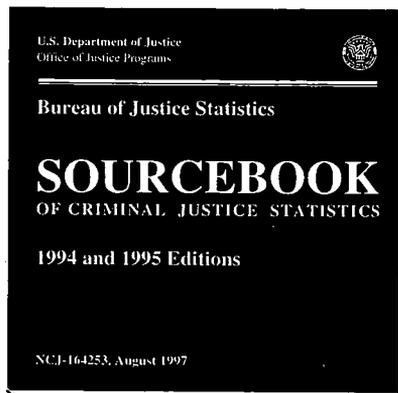
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## Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report

August 1997, NCJ-156921

# Violence-Related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments

By Michael R. Rand  
BJS Statistician

With statistical support from  
Kevin Strom  
BJS Statistician

During 1994 U.S. hospital emergency department (ED) personnel treated an estimated 1.4 million people for injuries from confirmed or suspected interpersonal violence. These patients represented about 1.5% of all visits to hospital ED's and 3.6% of the injury-related ED visits in 1994.<sup>1</sup> Of the total, 1.3 million were treated for injuries from confirmed violence, while 82,000 sought care for injuries that had probably been — or were suspected of having been — sustained from acts of violence.

Based on information from the patients or knowledgeable persons accompanying the patients, 94% of the persons treated for intentional or possibly intentional injuries sustained those injuries in an assault. About 31% of those injured during an assault — or 29% of all those injured — indicated being injured in a fight. Two percent were injured during a completed or attempted robbery, and 5% were injured by an offender during a completed or attempted rape or sexual assault.

<sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control, *Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 1994 Emergency Department Summary Advance Data*, 275, May 17, 1996.

### Highlights

- Among the estimated 1.4 million hospital emergency department (ED) patients treated in 1994 for nonfatal injuries sustained in intentional or possibly intentional violence —
  - 94% were injured during an assault.
  - 2%, during a robbery.
  - 5%, by an offender in a rape or sexual assault.
- Males were three-fifths of all persons treated in ED's for injuries sustained in violence. Persons under age 25 were about half.
- Blacks, who constitute about 13% of the population, represented 24% of those treated for violence-related injuries.
- Of all persons treated for violence related injuries —
  - 7% had been injured by a spouse or ex-spouse.
  - 10%, by a current or former boyfriend or girlfriend.
  - 8%, by a parent, child, sibling, or other relative.
  - 23%, by a friend or acquaintance.
  - 23%, by strangers.In almost 30% of all cases in the study, the relationship of the person inflicting the injury to the patient was not recorded for the study.
- A higher percentage of women than men were treated for injuries inflicted by an intimate — a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend. Men were more likely than women to be treated for injuries caused by nonrelatives: acquaintances and strangers.
- The estimated number of persons treated in ED's for injuries inflicted by intimates was 4 times higher than estimates from the National Crime Victimization Survey, an ongoing household survey.
- People injured in violence were treated for a variety of injuries:
  - 34% for bruises or similar injuries
  - 31% for cuts, stab wounds, or internal injuries
  - 17% for fractures, sprains, dislocations, dental injuries, or other muscular/skeletal injuries
  - 5% for gunshot injuries
  - 5% for rapes/other sexual assaults
  - 4% for concussions or other head injuries
  - 5% for other injuries.
- About 92% of violence victims treated in ED's were released at once after treatment; about 8% were hospitalized for further treatment.

Seventeen percent of those requiring ED treatment for violence-related injuries, about 243,000 persons, had been injured by someone with whom they had an intimate relationship — a spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend, ex-boyfriend, or ex-girlfriend.

These are some key findings of the Study of Injured Victims of Violence (SIVV), conducted for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), to estimate the number of persons treated in hospital emergency departments for nonfatal injuries from violence.<sup>2</sup>

### Study of Injured Victims of Violence

The SIVV was undertaken to augment available estimates of certain types of more serious violence, such as domestic violence and sexual assault,

<sup>2</sup>This study was initiated with funding from the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Table 1. Characteristics of persons treated in hospital emergency departments for violence-related injuries, 1994**

Characteristic of emergency department patients injured by violence	Number treated	Percent	Rate per 1,000 U.S. residents
Total	1,417,500	100%	5.5
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	862,000	60.8%	6.8
Female	554,700	39.1	4.2
Not specified	900	.1	--
<b>Race</b>			
White	744,400	52.5%	3.4
Black	344,300	24.3	10.5
Other	161,600	11.4	14.4
Not recorded	167,200	11.8	--
<b>Age</b>			
Under 12	75,600	5.3%	1.6
12-14	87,100	6.1	7.8
15-18	199,600	14.1	14.2
19-24	325,800	23.0	14.9
25-34	389,600	27.5	9.4
35-64	318,700	22.5	3.5
65+	20,300	1.4	0.6
Not recorded	900	.1	--

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.  
--Not applicable.

that have been shown to be difficult to measure. (See the box on page 6 and *Understanding Violence Against Women*, National Research Council, 1996.)

The study was conducted as a supplement to the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), in a nationally representative, one-third sample of 31 hospitals having emergency departments. CPSC conducts the NEISS to measure injuries related to consumer products. Because hospital coders examine every ED record, NEISS can be used for special studies outside the normal scope of the CPSC mission. (See the box on this page.)

Relying on ED records, coders in each sample hospital classified the cause of injury for every person treated as intentional, possibly intentional, or unintentional.

*Intentional injuries* were those deemed to have been caused deliberately by another person. These injuries, for example, resulted from assaults, fights,

family violence or abuse, and sexual assault or rape.

*Possibly intentional injuries* were those in which the injury sustained was characteristic of injury from violence, such as extensive bruising with no explained cause, or those in which the cause reported did not account for or was inconsistent with the injury sustained. In the same category were those injuries about which a knowledgeable person, such as a parent or guardian of the ED patient, expressed suspicions of violence. This category included suspected family violence and sexual assault.

*Unintentional injuries* were injuries resulting from accidents such as motor vehicle accidents, falls, occupational injuries, and sports injuries.

In this report *violence-related injuries* refers to nonfatal injuries classified as either intentional or possibly intentional. The study excludes self-inflicted injury and uses *violence* and *interpersonal violence* interchangeably.

### The National Electronic Injury Surveillance System of the CPSC

The NEISS is an ongoing program to identify and measure the number and type of injuries associated with consumer products. The injuries are those treated at hospital ED's in the United States and its territories.

The NEISS is conducted at a sample of 91 hospitals. The stratified, probability sample of hospitals was constructed to be representative of all U.S. hospitals that have at least 6 beds and provide 24-hour emergency service. The collected data can be weighted to produce national estimates of patients treated in hospital ED's. (See page 8 for further discussion of the NEISS methodology.)

The medical staffs at the selected hospitals have been trained to include information in patient records about the cause and circumstances of any treated injury. Coders at each

hospital examine the records of all ED patients and identify cases involving injuries related to consumer products. For pertinent cases the coders abstract information on a number of variables. The coders enter the information into personal computers and electronically transmit the data to CPSC for processing and tabulation.

Because the sample is nationally representative and the record of every patient at selected ED's is evaluated, the NEISS provides an efficient means for collecting information about injuries resulting from violence.

In addition to SIVV, the NEISS sample has been used for studying the following: firearm injuries (Centers for Disease Control), injuries involving motor vehicles (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration), and work-related injuries (National Institutes for Occupational Safety and Health).

For each intentional or possibly intentional injury identified, hospital coders extracted from the ED records information about the patient and the nature of the violence related to the injury. As explained in the *Methodology* section on page 8, unintentional injuries were excluded from the study; as were fatal injuries, self-inflicted injuries, those that law enforcement officers inflicted in the line of duty, injuries such as broken hands incurred by persons while attacking others or committing other crimes, and those inflicted by persons under age 13.

### Intentional injuries treated

About 1.4 million people were treated in hospital ED's in 1994 for nonfatal injuries sustained in intentional or possibly intentional acts of violence (table 1). Injuries were categorized based on the circumstances of their occurrence rather than offenders' motives.

While an offender may not have intended to cause the specific injuries measured by the study, the injuries were the outcomes of violent acts. Thus, a nose broken in a fight, a gunshot wound of an innocent passerby to a drive-by shooting, and a stab wound inflicted during a robbery are examples of intentional or possibly intentional injuries that the study measured.

	Number	Percent
Total	1,417,500	100.0%
Intentional	1,335,900	94.2
Possibly intentional	81,700	5.8

In 1994 persons treated for intentional or possibly intentional injuries accounted for 3.6% of all physical injuries treated in hospital ED's. The 1994 SIVV estimate of 1.4 million treated in hospital ED's for injuries from interpersonal violence was virtually identical to the estimate of violence-related injury by the 1994 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS).<sup>3</sup> Excluding homicides would not measurably affect the NHAMCS estimate of 1,456,000 ED visits related to "homicide and injury purposely inflicted by other persons." Most of the 23,300

homicide victims in 1994 were not brought to ED's.

### Characteristics of persons treated for violence-related injuries

Three-fifths of all persons treated in hospital ED's during 1994 for injuries sustained in violence were male. About half were under age 25. Blacks, who constitute about 13% of the Nation's population, represented 24% of those treated for violence-related injuries.

These data on the characteristics of persons in hospital ED's for violence-related injuries corroborate data from other sources on the characteristics of victims of violent crime. The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) has consistently found that blacks, males, and persons age 15-24 are the most vulnerable to become violent crime victims.<sup>4</sup> Comparisons between SIVV data and those from the NCVS are discussed on page 7.

### Characteristics of injuries

While a patient might have exhibited a variety of injuries, using information in ED records, CPSC's coders at each hospital in the study categorized the most serious or significant of the injuries sustained.

About a third of all persons in the study were treated for bruises or similar injuries, and another third were treated for cuts, stab wounds, or internal injuries (table 2). About a sixth of the injuries treated were muscular/skeletal injuries, such as fractures, sprains, dislocations, or dental injuries. Gunshot injuries and rapes or other sexual assaults each represented about 5% of all treated injuries.

Among those injuries for which the place of occurrence was obtained, almost half were inflicted in or around a home, either the patient's or someone else's. Public places, such as stores, restaurants, or office buildings, were the next most common (29%), fol-

lowed by open areas such as on the street (15%).

About three-fifths of the injuries were inflicted without the use of a weapon. Most such patients were injured after being punched or kicked. Some were injured in falls during assaults or by being thrown to the ground, into part of a building like a wall or door, or into an object like a table.

**Table 2. Characteristics of violence-related injuries treated at hospital emergency departments, 1994**

Characteristic of injury and violent event	Number	Percent
<b>Injury diagnosis</b>		
Total	1,417,500	100.0%
Shot	70,300	5.0
Concussion/head injury	50,900	3.6
Muscular/skeletal injury	234,800	16.6
Cut/stab wound/ internal injury	433,500	30.6
Bruise	477,600	33.7
Burns/chemical injury	13,300	.9
Poisoned	1,400	.1
Rape/sexual assault	63,800	4.5
Other	72,000	5.1
<b>Weapon used</b>		
Total	1,417,500	100.0%
No weapon	827,700	58.4
Firearm	60,900	4.3
Hit with gun	15,300	1.1
Knife/sharp object	100,100	7.0
Other object	264,900	18.7
BB/pellet gun	9,400	.7
Not recorded	139,200	9.8
<b>Place of occurrence</b>		
Total	1,417,500	100.0%
Home	410,300	28.9
Street	128,300	9.0
Store, office, factory	246,400	17.3
School	54,800	3.9
Recreational area	20,300	1.4
Not recorded	557,300	39.4
<b>Month of occurrence</b>		
Total	1,417,500	100.0%
January	101,300	7.1
February	90,700	6.4
March	102,400	7.2
April	115,600	8.2
May	114,300	8.1
June	135,200	9.5
July	136,100	9.6
August	139,800	9.9
September	129,600	9.1
October	124,100	8.8
November	115,700	8.2
December	112,700	8.0

Note: Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

<sup>3</sup>Centers for Disease Control, *Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey*

<sup>4</sup>BJS, *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1994*, NCJ-162126, May 1997.

**Table 3. Involvement of alcohol or illegal drugs in violence-related injuries treated in hospital emergency departments, 1994**

Involvement of alcohol or illegal drugs	Patients with violence-related injuries					
	All		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,416,600	100.0%	862,000	100.0%	554,700	100.0%
Involvement	201,400	14.2	144,800	16.8	56,600	10.2
No involvement recorded	1,215,300	85.8	717,200	83.2	498,000	89.8

Note: Table excludes cases for which sex of patient was not ascertained. Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

About 5% of the victims, representing about 61,000 injured, were treated for nonfatal gunshot wounds. These injuries exclude those inflicted by BB or pellet guns, shown separately. The firearm injury estimate was not significantly different from that of a previous study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control using a full sample of 91 NEISS hospitals. That study estimated 58,485 persons were treated in hospital ED's for firearm injuries from assault or legal intervention during the year ending May 31, 1993.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup>Joseph L. Annett, James A. Mercy, Delinda R. Gibson, and George W. Ryan, "National Estimates of Nonfatal Firearm-Related Injuries," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 273, 22, June 14, 1995, pp. 1749-1754.

**Table 4. Disposition of emergency department patients treated for violence-related injuries, by type of weapon, 1994**

Weapon identified with injuries treated	Total	Treated and released	Hospitalized
Total	100%	92.4%	7.6%
No weapon	100	97.0	3.0
Gun	100	39.6	60.4
Hit with gun	100	93.9	6.1
Knife/sharp object	100	76.0	24.0
Other object	100	94.9	5.1
BB/pellet gun	100	92.3	7.7
Not recorded	100	95.1	4.9
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
No weapon	61.3	23.1	
Gun	1.8	34.2	
Hit with gun	1.1	.9	
Knife/sharp object	5.8	22.3	
Other object	19.2	12.6	
BB/pellet gun	.7	.7	
Not recorded	10.1	6.3	

Note: Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

About 100,000 people, or about 7% of all those treated for violence related injuries, were treated for stabbing or cutting wounds. Approximately 19% of the injuries were sustained by being hit with an object like a rock or a stick that an assailant held or threw. In nearly 10% of the cases, the source of the injury was not recorded.

A slightly higher percentage of violence-related injuries occurred during the warmer months — June, July, and August — than during other months. Altogether 29% of the intentional and possibly intentional injuries occurred during the summer.

In 14% of the violence-related injuries treated in ED's in 1994, the ED record indicated that the victim or someone else involved in the incident had been drinking or using drugs (table 3). This estimate should be considered a lower bound of the percentage of injuries involving alcohol or drugs. Usually the ED's did not test patients for intoxication but indicated alcohol or drug involvement if cited by patients or other involved persons or if ER personnel observed the patient under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

In most cases the hospital record did not specify whether the person who had been drinking was the patient, another person involved in the incident surrounding the injury, or both. Almost all of the alcohol/drug citations on the hospital records reflected alcohol involvement. Drugs were cited on the hospital record in less than 1% of all violence-related injuries treated.

The apparent difference between the percentages of injuries associated with alcohol and/or drugs for men (17%) and women (10%) was not statistically significant. About a fifth of the alcohol/drug-related injuries to men were sustained in or near bars or restaurants, many during what were characterized on the hospital records as "bar fights."

	Male	Female
Total involving alcohol	100%	100%
At/near bar	18	9
Other/unspecified place	82	91

Over 90% of all persons requiring ED treatment for intentional or possibly intentional injuries were released after treatment (table 4). About 8% were hospitalized at least overnight.

Persons suffering gunshot or knife wounds were more likely than other persons treated to require overnight hospitalization. Sixty percent of persons treated in the ED for gunshot wounds required overnight hospitalization, as did 24% of those suffering stab wounds. While accounting for only 5% of those treated, victims of gunshot wounds represented a third of those requiring hospitalization. (Firearms were involved in about 70% of U.S. murders in 1994. These fatal injuries were outside the scope of this study.) Similarly, stabbing victims, about 7% of persons treated, represented a fourth of those who were hospitalized after treatment in the ED.

**Table 5. Characteristics of persons causing violence-related injuries treated in hospital emergency departments, 1994**

Characteristic of the offender	Number	Percent
<b>Sex</b>		
Total	1,417,500	100.0%
Male	763,400	53.9
Female	144,300	10.2
Not reported	509,800	36.0
<b>Age</b>		
Teenager (12-19)	185,500	13.1%
Adult (20+)	726,700	51.3
Teen or adult	43,500	3.1
Not reported	461,900	32.6

Note: Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

**Table 6. Relationship between the emergency department patient injured by violence and the person committing that violence, 1994**

Relationship to patient	Number	Percent
Total	1,417,500	100.0%
Spouse/ex-spouse	103,800	7.3
Parent	40,400	2.8
Child	11,500	.8
Other relative	57,700	4.1
Boy/girlfriend	139,600	9.8
Other friend	228,200	16.1
Other acquaintance	102,400	7.2
Stranger	326,400	23.0
Not reported	407,600	28.8

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.

### Characteristics of persons inflicting injuries

Although about a third of the cases contained no information about the person who inflicted the injury, in those cases with such information, 5 in every 6 ED patients reported that a male had injured them (table 5). Three of every four patients providing information on offender age reported that the person who injured them was over age 19. To facilitate obtaining information about the person who inflicted the injury, hospitals classified age into three categories: child (under age 13), teenager (age 13-19), and adult (age 20 or older). As explained on page 9, persons injured by children were excluded from the analysis for this report.

These data substantiate findings from the NCVS that adult males commit most violence. Males committed more than three-fourths of the violent crimes

**Table 7. Patient/offender relationship in violence-related injuries, by the sex of emergency department patient, 1994**

	Hospital ED patients injured by violence			
	Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	862,000	100.0%	554,700	100.0%
Spouse/ex-spouse	15,400	1.8	88,400	15.9
Other relative	56,900	6.6	52,600	9.5
Boy/girlfriend	23,600	2.7	116,000	20.9
Other friend	142,100	16.5	86,100	15.5
Other acquaintance	75,200	8.7	27,200	4.9
Stranger	248,800	28.9	77,500	14.0
Not reported	300,100	34.8	106,900	19.3

Note: Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

### Child injuries from suspected rape and sexual assault

Virtually all of the older teenagers and adults who visited the hospital ED's as a result of sexual violence sought treatment for a physical injury suffered during the attack. A substantial number of the child patients, representing 39% of the rape and sexual abuse cases of children under age 12 treated at the ED's in 1994, were brought by parents or guardians to evaluate whether the child had been a victim of a sexual assault or rape. In many cases of suspected abuse, there were physical signs or symptoms that could have resulted from sexual abuse. In other cases the children had been alone with persons suspected of committing such acts.

In almost all of these suspected child abuse cases, the study records do not include outcomes of the hospital examinations or of other investigations.

that the NCVS measured in 1994. Persons age 18 or older committed about four-fifths of NCVS-measured aggravated assaults. In about a third of all cases in the SIVV, however, the ED record did not contain information about the characteristics of the person inflicting the injury.

Adult men inflicted two-thirds of the violence-related injuries about which ED patients provided information. Teenage males were responsible for an additional 15%; adult women, 11%; and teenage females, 4%.

For this study these cases were classified as possibly intentional injuries, and the data reflect suspected, rather than confirmed sexual abuse of children.

Recent studies of the validation of claims of sexual abuse of children have found that physical examinations alone are usually insufficient to determine whether a child has been the victim of such attacks.\* The American Academy of Pediatrics "Guidelines for the Evaluation of Sexual Abuse of Children" states that the diagnosis of child sexual abuse must be made on the basis of a child's history, of which the physical examination is one part.†

\*Joyce A. Adams, "Significance of Medical Findings in Suspected Sexual Abuse: Moving Towards Consensus," *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 1, 3, 1992, pp. 91-99.

†American Academy of Pediatrics, "Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, Guidelines for the Evaluation of Sexual Abuse of Children," *Pediatrics*, 87, 2, February 1991, pp. 254-260.

Offender age	Offenders identified by ED patients	
	Male	Female
Teenager (12-19)	14.7%	3.8%
Adult (20+)	66.9	10.8
Teen or adult	2.9	.8

### Patient-offender relationship

The patient's spouse or ex-spouse inflicted about 7% of all violence-related injuries treated in ED's (table 6). A current or former boyfriend or girlfriend caused injuries to an additional 10% of persons seeking treatment. Parents, children, siblings, and others related to the patient were responsible for about 8% of all intentional or possibly intentional injuries; friends or acquaintances caused about 23%; and persons who were strangers to the patients, about 23% of the injuries. In almost 30% of all cases, the relationship between the patient and the injurer was unknown.

A higher percentage of women than men were injured by someone with whom they shared an intimate relationship: a spouse, ex-spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend, ex-boyfriend, or ex-girlfriend (table 7). Conversely, injured men

were more likely than women to have been treated for injuries inflicted by nonrelatives: acquaintances and strangers. Because the patient-offender relationship was unknown in about a third of all injuries of males, compared to a fifth of injuries of females, this finding should be regarded by some caution.

When cases without a recorded patient-offender relationship areas are excluded, patients under age 12 were more likely to have been injured by a relative or acquaintance than by a stranger. Over half of the teenagers requiring ED treatment for violence-related injuries were injured by an acquaintance. Adults were about equally likely to be injured by an acquaintance or a stranger —

Age of ED patient	Total	Relationship to the patient of the person who inflicted the injury		
		Relative	Acquaintance	Stranger
Child (younger than 12)	100%	56.3%	34.1%	9.7%
Teenager (age 12-19)	100%	11.9	58.2	29.9
Adult (age 20 or older)	100%	20.9	43.9	35.2

### Accounting for differences in measures of violent crime

The Federal Government and research organizations currently conduct several programs to measure the prevalence, characteristics, and consequences of violent crime. The Department of Justice administers two such ongoing programs. The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program provides a measure of the number of crimes that come to the attention of law enforcement agencies across the Nation, and the BJS National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) provides a detailed picture of crime incidents, victims, and trends from the victim's perspective.

The estimates from the various studies of violent crime have often varied dramatically. Such differences are expected, given the varying nature and content of distinct statistical programs. Discussing differences in estimates of violence against women from various studies, the National Academy of Sciences found that "as with all research, a variety of methodological factors can be linked to the differences in study findings. Sample composition and locale, data collection method and question construction and context are among the most

important methodological differences in U.S. studies."<sup>2</sup>

It is therefore not surprising that the SIVV estimates of the persons treated in hospital ED's for violence-related injuries differ from those of the NCVS, even when, to enhance comparisons with the NCVS, injuries sustained by persons under age 12 were excluded from the SIVV. The differing methodologies and contexts of the two studies can explain much of the differences between the SIVV and NCVS estimates.

The SIVV is based on identification by a patient, hospital staffer, or other knowledgeable person of the cause of injuries sustained by people treated in the ED. The context of the study is nonaccidental injury, regardless of whether the victim perceived the event to have been criminal in nature.

The context of the NCVS is crime, some of which resulted in injury requiring treatment in a hospital ED. Any injuries sustained in violence that a victim did not perceive to be criminal in nature might not be recounted by the victimization survey.

There are also other information filters operating in each program that

<sup>2</sup>National Research Council (NRC), *Understanding Violence Against Women*, Washington, D.C., 1996.

can help to explain differences in resulting estimates. The SIVV data are collected at the time the injury is treated; therefore, error cannot be introduced by forgetting or misremembering aspects of the incident. However, some people treated in hospital ED's may choose not to relate the cause of injury or may provide inaccurate or incomplete information about the source of injury. The NCVS data are collected up to 6 months after the incident. Responding to personal situations at the time of the interview, victims may choose not to recount incidents or may feel unable to recount incidents that happened to them earlier.

Moreover, the SIVV includes persons who live outside usual household settings, such as the homeless and persons in institutions, not included in the NCVS.

The appropriateness of a particular measure must depend on the context in which the estimate is used. As an example, the NCVS estimate of persons treated in ED's could be more appropriate in discussions of the extent to which crime victims seek treatment for their injuries, while the SIVV measure could be more appropriate for examination of the more encompassing impact of violence on health services.

**Table 8. Offense type in violence-related injuries treated in hospital emergency departments, 1994**

	Number	Percent
Total	1,417,500	100.0%
Rape/sexual assault	65,100	4.6
Robbery	22,000	1.5
Assault	1,330,400	93.8
Fight/altercation	416,600	29.4
Assault	913,800	64.5

Note: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding.

### Crime classification of incidents surrounding injuries

To measure the number of incidents in which ED patient injuries were sustained from criminal actions and to enable comparisons with estimates from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), each SIVV case was assigned a type-of-crime code. BJS applied the code by reviewing the written descriptions of the incidents on the NEISS record. The coding protocol is described in *Type-of-crime coding of injuries in the SIVV* on page 10.

In many cases the written descriptions, which were based on information that the patient or another knowledgeable person provided, contained minimal detail of circumstances of the injury. These cases were, for lack of other information, categorized for the study as assaults, as were cases in which the assaultive behavior was fully described. About 94% of the injuries in the SIVV were sustained during incidents that were classified for the study as assaults (table 8). Of these a third were sustained in what were described as altercations or fights. About 2% of the people treated for intentional injuries were victims of robbery, and 5% were victims of rape, sexual assault, or suspected sexual assault.

While the percentages of treated injuries from assaults were generally similar among age groups, young children differed from others in the percentages of treated injuries that resulted from fights and sexual assaults. Among patients treated for a violence-related

**Table 9. Offense type in violence-related injuries treated in hospital emergency departments, by age of patient, 1994**

	Total	Child (under age 12)	Teen (age 12-19)	Adult (age 20 or older)
<b>Number</b>				
Total	1,416,700	75,600	341,000	1,000,000
Rape/sexual assault	65,100	22,100	15,500	27,500
Robbery	22,000	100	2,300	19,600
Assault	1,329,600	53,500	323,200	952,900
Fight/altercation	416,500	7,100	113,200	296,200
Assault	913,100	46,400	210,000	656,700
<b>Percent</b>				
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Rape/sexual assault	4.6	29.2	4.5	2.8
Robbery	1.6	.1	.7	2.0
Assault	93.9	70.7	94.8	95.3
Fight/altercation	29.4	9.4	33.2	29.6
Assault	64.5	61.3	61.6	65.7

Note: Table excludes cases for which age of patient was not ascertained. Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

injury, about 29% of the children under age 12 were treated for suspected or confirmed rape or sexual assault, compared to 5% of teens and 3% of adults (table 9). See the box *Child injuries from suspected rape and sexual assault* on page 5.

Children treated in ED's for intentional or possibly intentional injuries were less likely than teenagers or adults to have sustained their injuries in incidents characterized as fights or altercations (9% versus 33% and 30%, respectively.) Part of these differences between children and others injured in fights may have come from NEISS excluding injuries inflicted by persons age 12 or younger.

Among children under age 12 brought to hospital ED's, half of those who were examined or treated for sexual abuse were age 4 or younger; half those treated for injuries from other types of violence were age 5 or younger.

	Median age of children under age 12 treated in hospital ED's for violence-related injury
Any injury	5 years
Rape/sexual assault*	4
Fights, assault	6

\*Includes suspected rape/sexual assault.

### Comparisons with other data on violence

The SIVV was implemented to improve estimates of certain types of more serious violence, especially those difficult to measure — violence between people known or related to each other, rape and sexual assaults, and violence against children.<sup>6</sup> These crimes typically occur in nonpublic settings. Many of the victims, including those of long-term abuse, are unable or unwilling, because of fear or embarrassment, to report such abuse to authorities or to programs that measure these victimizations.

The NEISS collection effort may help clarify the variations in current estimates of such crimes. The estimates often vary because of differences in collection methods and because there is lack of agreement on the behaviors defined by "domestic violence," "sexual assault," and "child abuse."

<sup>6</sup>NRC, *Understanding Violence Against Women*, Washington, D.C., 1996.

In 1992 BJS redesigned the NCVS questionnaire to "produce more accurate estimates of rape and sexual assault and of any kind of crimes committed by intimates or family members."<sup>7</sup> At the time it was redesigning the victimization survey, BJS began exploring alternative means for measuring the extent and characteristics of these difficult-to-measure forms of violence. The fielding of the SIVV in 1993 came from this effort.

SIVV estimates of persons seeking treatment at hospital emergency departments in 1994 for violence-related injuries are substantially higher than NCVS estimates for the same category of persons (1.3 million versus 540,000) (table 10). For these comparisons, SIVV patients under 12 years old were excluded to allow comparability with the NCVS.

The differences between the SIVV and the NCVS estimates were greatest for those types of violence thought to be most undercounted in studies of violence, that is, rapes/sexual assaults and crimes by intimates or other relatives. The number of rapes/sexual assaults measured by the SIVV was about double that of the NCVS. The SIVV estimate of ED treated injuries inflicted by a spouse or ex-spouse was many times that of estimates from the NCVS. The differences between the SIVV and NCVS were not evenly distributed across types of crimes or patient-offender relationships.

The percentages of ED treated injuries inflicted by intimates, and by relatives, were substantially higher in the SIVV than in the NCVS, despite a larger number of SIVV cases with missing data for victim-offender relationship. An intimate — a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend — inflicted 18% of all injuries recorded in the SIVV, compared to 12% of injuries treated in ED's and recorded in the NCVS. The NCVS estimate of the proportion of injuries inflicted by a

stranger was about double that of the SIVV (54% versus 24%).

The two programs also differed in the nature of the offenses surrounding the injuries. While the percentage of all injuries treated in ED's that were rapes or sexual assaults were almost identical in the two programs, the percentage of injuries sustained in robberies was almost negligible in the SIVV but represented about 20% of the ED-treated injuries in the NCVS. When the patients were treated at the hospital, some SIVV robbery cases were likely classified as assaults. It is not possible to determine from these data the extent of such misclassification, however.

A principal reason for differences between estimates from this study and the NCVS are the differences in study contexts and victim perspectives. Some of these methodological differences in the two programs are discussed in the box on page 6.

SIVV data provide evidence that the crimes believed to be most liable to undercounting are actually more frequent than the NCVS has estimated. The fresh perspective of the hospital ED enables a formulation of a broader measure.

## Methodology

Data collection for the SIVV began in October 1993 at a one-third sample (31 ED's) of the current NEISS sample. The data described in this report cover injuries treated in hospitals in the NEISS sample during calendar year 1994.

### Sample design

The 91 hospitals in the NEISS sample were selected from 4 strata based upon hospital size (small, medium, large, and very large) as determined by the number of annual visits to the ED's. The NEISS sample includes hospitals in urban, suburban, and rural settings, and was designed to enable national estimates. Because the sample is representative of all hospitals with ED's in the Nation, the NEISS can be used to estimate the number and characteristics of all injuries, including injuries derived in acts of violence, treated in hospital ED's.

For the SIVV, a third of the hospitals in each strata, for a total of 31, were randomly selected for inclusion in the study. To obtain national estimates of intentional and possibly intentional injuries, each injury was assigned a weight based on the inverse of the

**Table 10. Comparison of the Study of Injured Victims of Violence (SIVV) and the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), by offense, 1994**

Type of offense	SIVV patients*		NCVS victims reporting treatment at a hospital emergency department		Ratio of SIVV/NCVS
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total	1,341,900	100.0%	539,300	100.0%	2.5
Rape/sexual assault	43,000	3.2	24,300	4.5	1.8
Robbery	21,900	1.6	109,900	20.4	0.2
Assault	1,277,000	95.2	405,000	75.1	3.2
Total	1,341,900	100.0%	539,300	100.0%	2.5
Spouse/ex-spouse	103,800	7.8	25,100	4.7	4.1
Other relative	75,200	5.5	8,200	1.5	9.2
Boy/girlfriend (current/former)	139,600	10.5	37,700	7.0	3.7
Friend/acquaintance	313,400	23.2	143,900	26.7	2.2
Stranger	322,000	24.1	289,800	53.7	1.1
Unknown or unreported	388,000	29.0	34,500	6.4	11.2

Note: Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

\*Age 12 or older.

<sup>7</sup>BJS, *Violence against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*, Special Report, August 1995, NCJ-154348.

**Table 11. Patients treated in hospital emergency departments, by type of injury, 1994**

	Un-weighted number	Percent
Total	13,161	100.0%
Intentional/possibly intentional	11,549	87.8
Recoded as unintentional	24	.2
Dead on arrival	55	.4
Injured by law enforcement	227	1.7
Injured by child under age 12	1,167	8.9
Offender injured	98	.7
Self-inflicted	31	.2

probability of selection of the hospitals within each of the four strata of hospital size. Adjustments to the weights were made when necessary to account for changes in the NEISS sample and non response by hospitals in any given month. Because the SIVV sample was a third the size of the NEISS sample, the SIVV weights were 3 times the NEISS weights. To produce national estimates, study weights were summed across all hospitals for cases of interest.

*Study procedures*

Prior to the start of the Study of Injured Victims of Violence in 1993, medical staffs and NEISS coders at each in-sample hospital were trained to identify injuries sustained during acts of violence. At each hospital in the sample, on an ongoing basis, NEISS coders examined the ED records to determine the nature and source of every injury for which people sought treatment.

Based on information provided by ED doctors and nurses the coders classified all injuries into one of three categories:

- intentional injury
- possible or suggestive of intentional injury
- nonintentional injury.

For all cases classified as intentional or possibly intentional, the coders recorded additional information about the case, including information about the person inflicting the injury and type of weapon used, (if any), to inflict the injury.

Only those injuries coded as intentional or possibly intentional were included in the study. Nonintentional injuries were those determined to be accidental in nature. In addition, self-inflicted injuries, such as suicide attempts, were excluded as out of scope for the study.

In all, 13,161 unweighted cases were coded by sample hospitals as intentional or possibly intentional injuries treated in 1994. Upon review in BJS, some cases were reclassified based on the written and coded entries of the cases. Twenty-four cases were reclassified as non-intentional injuries; in most of these, the written entries indicated injuries consistent with accidents. Three of the recoded cases were statutory rapes, outside the scope of this study. (Statutory rape was excluded to maintain comparability with NCVS and UCR measures of violent crime. These programs exclude statutory rape from their violent crime estimates.)

A number of persons injured by violence were excluded from the analyses for this report:

- Persons who died en route to or in ED's
- Persons injured by children age 13 or under
- Criminal suspects and prison or jail inmates injured by law enforcement officials

Persons hurting themselves in suicide attempts or other circumstances

Persons injured while committing a crime or assaulting others in a fight.

Some of these exclusions were made because there was not enough information to classify them correctly. Most were made to focus on the issue of crime more closely; children younger than 13, for example, would seldom be charged with a crime. In all, the cases excluded from analysis represented about 12% of all intentional or possibly intentional injuries treated at the hospitals ( table 11). Three-fourths of the excluded cases were injuries inflicted by children age 12 or younger.

The NEISS sample does have some limitations that should be taken into account then interpreting the results from this study. The Centers for Disease Control, as part of their NEISS-based study of firearm injuries, identified four major factors associated with the NEISS sample design that could influence the accuracy of national estimates of gunshot wounds.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup>For a comprehensive discussion of these factors see Yvette Davis, Joseph L. Annett, Kenneth E. Powell, and James A. Mercy, "An Evaluation of the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System for Use in Monitoring Nonfatal Firearm Injuries and Obtaining National Estimates," *Journal of Safety Research*, 27, 2, 1996, pp. 83-91.

**Appendix table. Estimates of intentional and possibly intentional injuries treated at hospital emergency departments, by various characteristics: standard errors, confidence intervals, and coefficients of variation, 1994**

	Number	Standard error (SE)	95-percent confidence interval		Coefficient of variation (CV)
Total	1,417,535	131,248	1,160,289	1,674,781	0.093
Intentional	1,335,864	126,417	1,088,086	1,583,642	0.095
Possibly intentional	81,671	19,299	43,845	119,496	0.236
Male	861,993	86,829	691,809	1,032,177	0.101
Female	554,653	49,894	456,860	652,446	0.090
White	744,377	68,968	609,199	879,555	0.093
Black	344,332	67,286	212,450	476,213	0.195
Other	161,645	61,247	41,601	281,688	0.379

These factors, which may apply to violence-related injuries as well, are the following:

— The NEISS sample does not account for hospitals with an ED that came into existence after 1985.

— Hospitals were assigned to different strata based on the number of annual visits for treatment. The current NEISS sample design does not account for annual changes in the number of ED visits when assigning hospitals to different strata.

— Most of the large and very large hospital in the NEISS sample are located in the northeastern United States. While the overall sample is statistically valid, the uneven distribution of the larger hospitals may influence national estimates based on NEISS data.

— For gunshot wounds there was substantial variation in the number of cases within and among hospital size strata. This variation yielded coefficients of variation of about 22%, which are high compared to the coefficients of variation for annual estimates of product-related injuries (10%).

Despite these limitations, CDC concluded that the NEISS was a useful tool for conducting research into firearm injury.

#### *Type-of-crime coding of injuries in the SIVV*

A hierarchy based on that used for the NCVS was used to code type of crime: rape, attempted rape, sexual assault, robbery, assault. Thus, a case was classified as a rape or attempted rape if the written description mentioned "rape" or "attempted rape" or described such acts. Absent these, if the description described other sexual assaults, it was so classified. This category included children brought to the emergency department for evaluation of possible sexual abuse. (See the box on page 5.)

Cases not involving rape or sexual assault that included aspects of theft or which were described as "mugging"

were coded as *robberies*. Cases not classified above that were described on the records as "fights," "arguments," and "altercations" were classified as *fights* and cases not coded as described above were classified as *assaults*. Typically, these last described cases had summaries that included such descriptions as "beaten," "struck," "shot," "hit," "hit with," "assaulted," "punched," and "kicked." For comparison with the NCVS, fights and assaults in the SIVV were combined into a composite assault category.

For a number of reasons, the limited amount of available information constrained the type-of-crime coding for this study. For each SIVV case, the code was based primarily on a summary within two lines of writing describing the reason for the ED visit and on the description of the injury gleaned from the medical record.

Three conditions especially restricted the coding. First, the coding depended on information provided by the patient or someone with the patient, and does not represent a legal finding about the case. It is possible that some robbery, rape, and sexual assault injuries were classified as assaults because the injured person during treatment did not provide the information. Second, some patients were unwilling or unable to provide information about the incident in which the injuries were received. Third, medical staffs varied widely in the amount of information about causes of injury that they elicited and recorded on hospital forms.

A good example of the limits imposed on the coding occurred in trying to separate injured offenders from injured victims. Except for those cases in which the hospital record contained information that the person treated had been injured while committing a crime, the study could not distinguish between the two types of patients. Cases in which the record clearly indicated that the patient suffered injury in the course of committing a crime were removed from analysis.

However, since many injuries in the study resulted from events recorded as altercations, fights, and arguments, the records did not contain enough information to differentiate those injuries suffered by "innocent" victims from injuries inflicted upon aggressors or instigators of violence. It is likely that investigation of many of these cases, like those of persons injured in bar fights, would not have been able to establish who were offenders and who were victims.

The extent of information entered in this text area varied considerably from case to case. For the sake of consistency, it was decided not to attempt to interpret the information available, but to rely upon what was entered in the text.

#### *Standard errors of estimates*

Variance estimates were calculated for each estimate presented in this report using formulas provided by the CPSC. These variance estimates were used to calculate standard errors (SE's) and coefficients of variation (CV's) for each estimate.

The national estimate of 1.4 million intentional and possibly intentional injuries had an SE of 132,000 and a CV of 9.3%.

All comparisons presented in this report met statistical tests of significance at the 90-percent or 95-percent confidence levels. Most differences presented were significant at the 95-percent confidence level (about 2.0 standard errors). Differences significant at the 90-percent confidence level (about 1.6 SE's) were qualified by the phrase "some evidence."

The SE's, 95-percent confidence levels, and CV's for some of the major variables are presented in the appendix table on page 9.

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Michael Rand wrote this report. Kevin Strom constructed and extensively edited the data files. Tom Hester, assisted by Rhonda Keith, edited and produced the report. Marilyn Marbrook, assisted by Jayne Robinson and Yvonne Boston, administered the final production.

The Intentional Injury Study was undertaken with funding from the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. At the Consumer Product Safety Commission, under the direction of Art McDonald, Eileen Kessler oversaw the collection and processing of the data.

August 1997, NCJ-156921

This report and many of its data, as well as other reports and statistics, may be found at the Bureau of Justice Statistics Internet World Wide Web site:  
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Report



## Bureau of Justice Statistics Selected Findings

December 1996, NCJ-162602

# Female Victims of Violent Crime

By Diane Craven, Ph.D.  
BJS Statistician

Incidents of violence against women include murders, rapes, sexual assaults, robberies, and both aggravated and simple assaults. National estimates of the extent and nature of female victimization derive from two primary sources within the U.S. Department of Justice.

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in conjunction with the Census Bureau, provides information about criminal events nationwide, including those not reported to law enforcement. The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system compiles data on crimes brought to the attention of law enforcement agencies nationwide. Currently, over 16,000 city, county, and State law enforcement agencies voluntarily submit agency-level summary reports of crimes within their jurisdictions.

Together, these data shed light on different aspects of female victimization. This report summarizes findings from several U.S. Department of Justice published reports focusing on the number of violent victimizations, rates of victimization, and the contexts in which the incidents occurred.

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system data\* show that between 1992 and 1994, the number of violent crimes committed against women reached almost 14 million:

\*Data on murders are reported in the FBI's UCR. Data on rape, sexual assault, robbery, and both simple and aggravated assault are from the NCVS.

- an estimated 4.4 million in 1992
- 4.8 million in 1993, and
- nearly 4.7 million in 1994.

In 1994 there were 1 rape for every 270 women, 1 robbery for every 240 women, and 1 assault for every 29 women. For homicide — the least frequent — there was 1 female victim for approximately every 23,000 women 12 or older.

### From 1973 to 1994 the violent victimization rates of women and men converged

In 1994 women were about two-thirds as likely as men to be victims of violence. Of the 10.9 million crimes of violence in 1994, 4.7 million were against women. The rate of victimization was 43 per 1,000 women about two-thirds the 60 violent victimizations per 1,000 men.

Twenty years ago women's likelihood of victimization was less than half that of men. The overall trend indicates that the rates of victimization for men and women converge — the rate for men decreasing and the rate for women remaining relatively stable or increasing.

Rates of violent crimes (including murders, rapes, robberies, and assaults) per 1,000 population

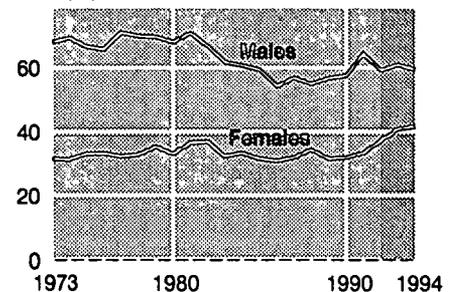


Figure 1

Sources: BJS, the National Crime Survey (NCS) data, 1973-92 and the NCVS data, 1992-94, for rape, robbery, and assault; FBI, UCR data for homicides.

The 1973-91 rates were adjusted for comparability to data collected under the redesigned survey method, 1992-94. See BJS, *Criminal Victimization, 1994*, April 1996, NCJ-158022.

## Women are at less risk than men of homicide in general

In 1995 the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system reported that females represented 23% of all known homicide victims in the United States. In single victim-single offender incidents, males are most often slain by males (89%). Similarly, 9 of every 10 female victims were murdered by males.

## In general, for both fatal and nonfatal violence, women are at higher risk than men to be victimized by an intimate

Female homicide victims are more than twice as likely to have been killed by husbands or boyfriends than male victims are to have been killed by wives or girlfriends.

For those cases in which the victim-offender relationship is known, husbands or boyfriends killed 26% of female murder victims, whereas wives or girlfriends killed 3% of the male victims.

Source: FBI, *Crime in the United States 1995: Uniform Crime Reports*.

In 1992-93 females experienced 7 times as many incidents of nonfatal violence by an intimate as did males. Each year women experienced over 1,000,000 violent victimizations committed by an intimate, compared to about 143,000 incidents that men experienced.

	Annual average number of violent crime victimization by lone offenders*	
	Female	Male
<b>Known</b>	2,715,000	2,019,400
Intimate	1,008,000	143,400
Relative	304,500	122,000
Acquaintance/ friend	1,402,500	1,754,000
<b>Stranger</b>	802,300	1,933,100

\*Excludes homicide

Women were also more likely than men to experience violent victimization by a relative. In contrast, men experience victimizations by friends, acquaintances, and strangers in greater numbers than women.

Source: BJS, *Violence against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*, August 1995, NCJ-154348. This report restricted the analysis to lone-offender victimizations.

## Women are more likely to be victimized by someone they know than by a stranger

In 1992-93 a majority of women victims (78%) indicated that the offender who victimized them was a person known to them (sometimes intimately). About 9% of female victims reported that the offender was a relative; 29%, an intimate (which includes spouse or ex-spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend, and ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend); and 40%, an acquaintance.

Twenty-three percent of female victims indicated that the offender was a stranger. This is in contrast to the victim-offender relationships in male victimizations that more frequently involve strangers. Male victims are about as likely to be victimized by a stranger (49%) as by someone they know (51%).

Source: BJS, *Violence against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*, August 1995, NCJ-154348.

## The murder rates for both male and female victims of intimate violence have declined

From 1977 to 1995 the rate for husbands, ex-husbands, or boyfriends as murder victims of an intimate partner dropped by two-thirds. For female murder victims of an intimate, the decline was far less dramatic, from a rate of 1.6 per 100,000 to 1.3. These rates were based on murders in which law enforcement authorities determined the circumstances of the crimes.

During the same period, the homicides in which police could not determine the victim-offender relationship increased from 27% to 40% of all cases. Illegal drug trafficking is widely considered to be a major factor in the rise of murders with unknown circumstances. If that interpretation is correct, the increased proportion of murders with unknown victim-offender relationships should not greatly affect conclusions about the trends of murders by intimates.

Rate of intimate murders per 100,000 persons age 16 and over

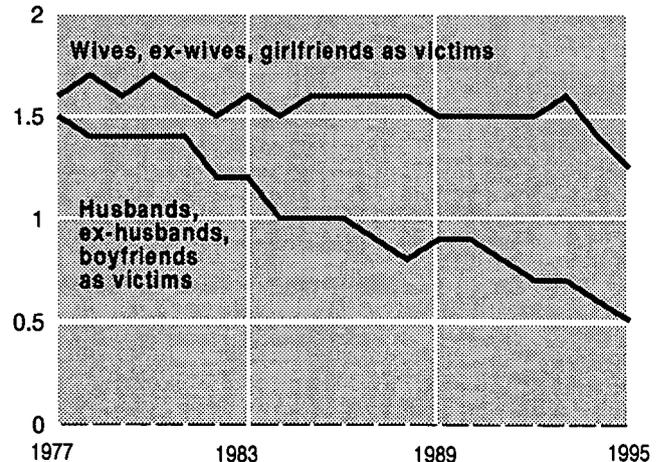


Figure 2

Sources: BJS, *Violence between Intimates*, November 1994, NCJ-149259.

FBI, *Crime in the United States 1995: Uniform Crime Reports*.

FBI, *Crime in the United States 1994: Uniform Crime Reports*.

FBI, *Crime in the United States 1993: Uniform Crime Reports*, Section 5, Homicide analysis.

**Victimization rates of men exceed those of women in all violent crime categories except rape and sexual assault**

	Victimization rates per 1,000 persons age 12 or older	
	Female	Male
All crimes of violence	43	60
Rape/sexual assault	4	.2
Robbery	4	8
Assault	35	51
Aggravated	8	15
Simple	27	36
Homicide	.04	.18

Source: BJS, *Criminal Victimization 1994*, April 1996, NCJ-158022. Homicide rates were calculated from FBI, *Crime in the United States 1994: Uniform Crime Reports*.

**Low-income women are more likely to experience violent victimizations**

Women with an annual family income under \$10,000 were more likely to experience violence than those with a family income of \$10,000 or more.

When the violence is committed by intimates, women in the lowest income group are at 4 times greater risk than women in the highest income group.

Family income	Average annual rate of violent victimizations per 1,000 females	
	Total	Intimate
Less than \$10,000	57	20
\$10,000-\$14,999	47	13
\$15,000-\$19,999	42	11
\$20,000-\$29,999	38	10
\$30,000-\$49,999	31	5
\$50,000 or more	25	5

Source: BJS, *Violence against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*, August 1995, NCJ-154348.

**The race or ethnicity of the female victim is not associated with level of risk**

There is no evidence from the NCVS to suggest that different races have higher or lower risks of victimization by intimates. Also, between Hispanics and non-Hispanics there is no measurable difference in risk of victimization by intimates.

Source: BJS, *Violence against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*, August 1995, NCJ-154348.

**Female victims are more likely to be injured in violence by intimates than in violence by strangers**

Although women are more likely to sustain an injury when victimized by an intimate, the percentage of violent incidents requiring medical care is not affected by the victim-offender relationship.

	Percent of female victims	
	Sustaining injury	Requiring medical care
<b>All lone-offender violence*</b>	33%	41%
<b>Victim-offender relationship</b>		
Intimate	52%	41%
Other relative	38	35
Acquaintance/friend	26	43
Stranger	20	37

\*Excludes homicide.  
Source: BJS, *Violence against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*, August 1995, NCJ-154348.

**Women injured in violent crimes are more likely than those not injured to report victimizations to law enforcement**

Among violent victimizations of women by lone offenders, a higher percentage of those involving injury than those without injury were reported to law enforcement:

- Injured 54%
- Not injured 39

Source: BJS, *Violence against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*, August 1995, NCJ-154348.

**Victimization estimates from different sources may vary**

Statistics reported from various sources may sometimes lack consistency. Many factors may contribute to these seemingly disparate results, such as differences in sample design, in sources of data (official reports or self-reports), in survey methodology, in the scope and specificity of the questions asked, in the time frame

covered ("ever," "this year," or "while at college"), and in the definitions of events and relationships.

When reviewing data from different sources, it is useful to examine overall trends over time and the general magnitude and direction of patterns in the data, rather than focusing on specific numbers. Patterns and conclusions that are consistent across multiple data sources are generally reliable for policy purposes.

**Sources**

BJS, *Criminal Victimization 1994*, April 1996, NCJ-158022.

BJS, *Violence against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*, August 1995, NCJ-154348.

BJS, *Violence between Intimates*, November 1994, NCJ-149259.

FBI, *Crime in the United States 1995: Uniform Crime Reports*.

FBI, *Crime in the United States 1994: Uniform Crime Reports*.

FBI, *Crime in the United States 1993: Uniform Crime Reports*.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D., is director.

BJS Selected Findings summarize statistics about a topic of current concern from both BJS and non-BJS data sets. Cathy Maston provided statistical review. Tom Hester, Tina Dorsey, Priscilla Middleton, and Yvonne Boston edited the report. Marilyn Marbrook administered production.

December 1996, NCJ-162602

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**Female Victims  
of Violent  
Crime**



# National Institute of Justice

R e s e a r c h R e p o r t

## *Domestic and Sexual Violence Data Collection*

*A Report to Congress under the Violence Against Women Act*

*Jointly Published with the Bureau of Justice Statistics*

The studies reported here were mandated by Sections 40292 and 40509 of Title IV, the Violence Against Women Act, of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. The enabling legislation is as follows:

**SUBTITLE B—SAFE HOMES FOR WOMEN, DATA AND RESEARCH**

**SEC. 40292. STATE DATA BASES.**

- (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Attorney General shall study and report to the States and to Congress on how the States may collect centralized data bases on the incidence of sexual and domestic violence offenses within a State.
- (b) **CONSULTATION.**—In conducting its study, the Attorney General shall consult persons expert in the collection of criminal justice data, State statistical administrators, law enforcement personnel, and nonprofit nongovernmental agencies that provide direct services to victims of domestic violence. The final report shall set forth the views of the persons consulted on the recommendations.
- (c) **REPORT.**—The Attorney General shall ensure that no later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the study required under subsection (a) is completed and a report describing the findings made is submitted to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

**SUBTITLE E—VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT IMPROVEMENTS**

**SEC. 40509. REPORT ON RECORDKEEPING RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall complete a study of, and shall submit to Congress a report and recommendations on problems of recordkeeping of criminal complaints involving domestic violence. The study and report shall examine—

- (1) the efforts that have been made by the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to collect statistics on domestic violence; and
- (2) the feasibility of requiring that the relationship between an offender and victim be reported in Federal records of crimes of aggravated assault, rape, and other violent crimes.

The National Institute of Justice was charged with carrying out the study of domestic and sexual violence data collection by the States mandated by Section 40292. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) was given the responsibility of responding to Section 40509. Because national data collections originate at the State level, BJS joined the Federal study to the State study.

# **Domestic and Sexual Violence Data Collection**

**A Report to Congress under the  
Violence Against Women Act**

Justice Research and Statistics Association

A Joint Publication of the National Institute of  
Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics  
**July 1996**

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This report was prepared by the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) under the direction of Joan C. Weiss, executive director. The primary author of this report is James Zepp, director of the JRSA National Computer Center. JRSA appreciates the invaluable contributions and support provided by the representatives of the National Institute of Justice, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation as well as the other U.S. Department of Justice officials who participated in this effort. JRSA also is indebted to the members of the Panel to Assess State and Federal Data on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault for their commitment to addressing the issues of domestic and sexual violence and to this project, and to the directors of the State Statistical Analysis Centers around the country who took the time to respond to the survey on State data collection efforts.

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## Foreword

The Violence Against Women Act provides for a fundamental change in our criminal justice system's response to violent crimes committed against women. This legislation reflects the recognition that violence against women is a crime with far-reaching, harmful consequences for families, children, and society. It recognizes the seriousness of the problem of violence against women and offers direction for a new, collaborative approach to preventing violence and protecting victims.

As we seize the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of women and children victimized by violence, we want to be sure to proceed on the basis of knowledge. We need sound data to guide our policymaking. The Congress recognized this need by calling for a study to learn how the States could centralize data collection on the incidence of sexual and domestic violence offenses and to examine statistical recordkeeping at the Federal level for domestic violence-related criminal complaints.

This report, supported by the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, represents an important first step in analyzing what needs to be done to ensure reliable estimates of the extent and nature of violent crimes committed against women. The study found that the Federal Government and the majority of States currently are collecting some statistics annually on these crimes: 35 States collect data on domestic violence, 30 gather statistics on sexual violence. Some of these existing State programs can serve as working models for States that currently do not collect data on these crimes.

For the future, the study identifies a need to grapple with two issues. One is the variation across States—in definitions, in types of victims included in reporting requirements, and in other elements—that make it difficult to compare or aggregate data at a national level. A second is the need to include not only law enforcement statistics but data from other parts of the criminal justice system. The study emphasizes the need for collaborative data collection within the criminal justice system and from other key sources such as health care providers, employers, and schools—in order to develop a more detailed picture of domestic and sexual violence. This study itself is evidence of the importance of collaboration: in this case, between researchers and policymakers at the Federal, State, and local levels.

Research on violence against women is gaining unprecedented momentum. We look forward to continued partnership in using the tools of research and statistics to improve the way we deal with violence against women and treat women victims of violent crime.

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## **Executive Summary**

The objectives of the Project to Assess State and Federal Data on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault were twofold: to identify ways that States could centralize the collection of information on the incidence of domestic and sexual violence offenses and to examine the problems of statistical recordkeeping at the Federal level for domestic violence-related criminal complaints.

To meet the first objective—State data collection—the researchers focused on the current status of reporting in the States, which could serve as a starting point for future data collection improvement efforts. The project concentrated primarily on law enforcement-based indicators of domestic and sexual violence offenses. Because of the complex nature of domestic violence as a community problem and the legislation’s citation of centralized State data bases, consideration was given to information sources outside of the criminal justice system.

A panel of experts representing backgrounds in criminal justice statistics, law enforcement, and victim services as well as other related concerns met twice to provide comments and suggestions to the project staff. Information from States and Territories on their data collection programs and issues was sought through a survey, to which 47 responded, and followup interviews.

Information on Federal statistical recordkeeping was obtained from a wide range of Federal, State, and local agencies involved in domestic violence. The project primarily focused on the efforts of the U.S. Department of Justice—specifically the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)—to collect domestic violence incident data. The two major programs reviewed were the FBI’s transition from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and the recent BJS modifications to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).

### **Key Findings**

The most significant finding was that the Federal Government and a majority of States (35 for domestic violence; 30 for sexual violence) are currently collecting some statistics annually on these offenses. On closer inspection, however, there was a wide variation in how each State defines these offenses, determines what is counted, and measures or reports incidents. The variability also applies to the types of victims included in reports. Since some States

have adopted family violence as opposed to domestic violence statutes, their statistics may include child victims along with adults. In addition, some State statutes apply regardless of the gender of the victims and the offenders, while others are not as inclusive of all possible relationships and living situations. This results in State statistics that may not be comparable or suitable for aggregation at the national level for estimates of prevalence and severity. The reasons for these disparities include differences in State criminal codes, the characteristics of existing State information systems, and the relative attention to the concerns of domestic and sexual violence given by individual States.

Issues about accuracy and completeness of coverage also were raised about the FBI's and BJS's data sets and collection methodologies:

- The FBI's summary UCR system, which is currently the main source of national criminal offense data, does not provide the detailed information needed to document the full extent of domestic violence-related events known to law enforcement agencies.
- NIBRS, which is intended to replace the UCR system, would provide much needed detailed data for domestic violence-related offenses. The progress of law enforcement agencies toward complying with the NIBRS data standard, however, has been slower than originally anticipated when the standard was developed in the late 1980s. Further, while the NIBRS standard includes a major data element related to domestic violence (i.e., victim-offender relationship), it is not precisely tailored for measuring domestic violence as it now stands. Relying on local incident-based reporting systems that contain relevant information for measuring domestic violence but do not fully meet the current NIBRS data standard raises considerable practical difficulties at the Federal level.
- The NCVS recently has been modified by BJS as a result of discussions and studies over the past 20 years about the problem of underreporting of domestic and sexual violence incidents. The revised survey instrument and procedures were fully implemented for the data set covering the 1993 calendar year, and the first data from the revised survey became available in late 1994. The first analyses based on this information were published as this report was being written. Because of the short time that these revisions have been in effect, they should continue to be evaluated for their effectiveness.

## **About This Report**

This report discusses data collection issues raised by panel members, Federal, State, and local agencies, and survey responses. It suggests further actions for improving and expanding data collection and reporting at the State and national levels. The seriousness of domestic and sexual violence crimes is increasingly recognized, and the need for better measures to inform policy and planning decisions is clearly evident. Although no data system will be able to avoid all possible sources of error, efforts are being made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Justice Statistics, and State agencies to improve the reporting content of their respective statistical systems. Achieving the goal of improved reporting and more comprehensive statistics for domestic and sexual violence, however, will require cooperation and coordination of many Federal, State, and local governments and agencies. Both organizational and technical solutions are needed.

## **Purpose and Background**

Section 40292 of Title IV—the Violence Against Women Act—of the 1994 Crime Act specifies that a study shall be conducted on “how the States may collect centralized data bases on the incidence of sexual and domestic violence offenses within a State.” The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) asked the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) to undertake a study of domestic and sexual violence incident data collection by the States.

Section 40509 of the Violence Against Women Act authorizes that a study be conducted on the “problems of recordkeeping of criminal complaints involving domestic violence.” It specifies that this study include an examination of:

- The efforts that have been made by the U.S. Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to collect statistics on domestic violence.
- The feasibility of requiring that the relationship between an offender and victim be reported in Federal records of crimes of aggravated assault, rape, and other violent crimes.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) was designated by the Office of the Attorney General with the responsibility of responding to this statutory requirement. Because national data collections originate at the local level, BJS joined the Federal study to the State study.

The availability of comprehensive and reliable statistical data on domestic and sexual violence is a critical imperative because decisionmakers at State and local levels are confronting questions concerning appropriate policies and effective procedures for addressing this problem, and they need more information to guide their thinking. Since most laws and policies that deal directly with domestic and sexual violence offenses are passed by the States, it is appropriate that information systems are created or enhanced at this level of government.

A project panel of domestic and sexual violence and criminal justice experts generally agreed that because these problems are complex issues involving many types of offenders and behaviors, statistical data are needed that can better inform policy decisions. The mixed results reported in studies on mandatory arrest policies for domestic violence offenders were cited as

indicative of the possible unknown dimensions on which more information may help to provide answers or explain inconsistent policy outcomes.<sup>1</sup>

Depending on what information is collected, these data can help address questions such as:

- What are the characteristics of offenders and victims? This could help agencies direct resources toward subpopulations particularly affected by these problems.
- Are there different behavior patterns evident among various offender subgroups? As policymakers and agency managers wrestle with finding appropriate strategies for dealing with domestic and sexual violence, the documentation of any behavioral differences may help to explain the relative effectiveness of various approaches.
- Are there differences in these offenses across communities? Unmet needs for crime prevention and treatment services could be identified for better planning and allocation of resources.
- What trends are occurring in domestic violence? Do patterns vary over time by type of offender, victim, or offense?

Much of this project's efforts concentrated on how the States and other key agencies define and measure these offenses. Because several States had established incident-based crime reporting systems long before the Federal Government began its efforts to implement a national system, and because many have been involved in addressing domestic and sexual violence issues, it is appropriate to study how other States can learn from this experience and be encouraged to collect data where questions remain about the prevalence and severity of these problems.

For the purposes of this project, the legislation was broadly interpreted to mean an examination of crime statistics related to domestic and sexual violence. This may include measures of crime incidents, offenses, offenders, and victims. (See appendix F, which explains various terms used for crime

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<sup>1</sup> Blumstein, Alfred, and Joan Petersilia, "NIJ and Its Research Program," *25 Years of Criminal Justice Research: The National Institute of Justice*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, December 1994. Limited copies of this document are available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, 800-851-3420. Ask for NCJ 151287. Or you can view the document online at <http://www.ncjrs.org>.

statistics. Care in the use of terms for indicating what is being measured is important when discussing specific data sets.)

Because of the wide scope of the study's topics and the limited time and resources available to conduct it, the project could only characterize issues and methods of data collection in general terms. Subsequent investigation would be needed to identify concerns such as specific differences among individual Federal, State, and agency data elements; statutory or administrative powers; and legal definitions of domestic and sexual violence.

This project gathered input from two major sources: 1) a panel of experts representing a variety of backgrounds in domestic and sexual violence research and services, criminal justice statistics, and law enforcement, and 2) a survey of the States. The purpose of these efforts was to elicit information on the current status of data reporting, concerns about the quality of the data collected, and strategies for improving reporting on these offenses.

The 1994 Violence Against Women Act specified that this project seek input from experts with backgrounds in law enforcement, criminal justice statistics, and victims' services. In fulfillment of this mandate, a panel of individuals representing these diverse interests was recruited. To further broaden the perspectives reflected in the discussions and in recognition of other related research activities, additional participants from other segments of the criminal justice system and health research also were invited. Although the focus was on data collection at the State government level, it was important to consider relevant Federal data collection efforts in this subject area. States often adopt Federal data standards for compliance with funding or reporting requirements, comparability with other States, and ease of adoption since no development time is required. Since the majority of information generated on domestic and sexual violence incidents is from local agencies, and they generally have the primary role in implementing criminal justice policies, their perspective on reporting concerns was important for this study. For this reason, participation by representatives from Federal and local governments was sought.

Project activities included two meetings of the Panel to Assess State and Federal Data on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (April 10–11 and June 29, 1995; see appendix A for a list of participants). Information relevant to Federal data collection efforts on domestic and sexual violence was presented by representatives of BJS and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program Office. In addition, representatives from other Federal agencies contributed their expertise, including the Bureau of

Justice Assistance, National Institute of Justice, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Justice's Violence Against Women Office.

Because of the complementary nature of Federal, State, and local goals, comments on the Federal statistical efforts also were received from non-Federal criminal justice professionals, including representatives from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), National Center for State Courts, six State Statistical Analysis Centers (Alabama, Connecticut, Colorado, Iowa, Massachusetts, and Michigan), and three local government agencies (the Washington Metropolitan Police Department; the Alexandria, Virginia, Police Department; and the Baltimore, Maryland, Mayor's Coordinating Council on Criminal Justice). Representatives from several domestic violence victims' advocacy/service organizations—e.g., National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the House of Ruth—also participated in these discussions.

During the first project panel meeting on April 10–11, 1995, in Washington, D.C., the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) directors from Alabama, Connecticut, Colorado, Massachusetts, and Michigan provided descriptions of domestic and sexual violence data collection efforts in their respective States. Representatives from domestic and sexual violence agencies discussed data collection systems to which they contribute information, concerns about existing statistics on these problems, and issues involving data sharing among service providers and criminal justice agencies. Law enforcement and other criminal justice representatives cited some of the problems and limitations that domestic violence incidents present for the classification and processing of cases. Additional approaches to estimating domestic and sexual violence incidents were described by a researcher from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Staff from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) provided information on current Federal data collection systems and recent efforts to improve these data sets.

The panel members reviewed a draft survey instrument developed by JRSA project staff to obtain information from the States and Territories on existing domestic and sexual violence data reporting systems and on problems and solutions they have experienced. Based on suggestions offered during the panel meeting and on a field test conducted in four States, the survey instrument was revised. In May the final version (see appendix B) was mailed to each State's or Territory's SAC director; this official was considered most likely to have experience with the broad range of data sources on which information was sought. If a State did not have a SAC, the respective State

Uniform Crime Reporting Program Office received the survey as the next most appropriate agency.

A total of 47 responded—42 by the initial June 5, 1995, deadline, and 5 after reminder phone calls were made and additional copies of the survey were sent to nonrespondents. (See appendix C for a listing of responding jurisdictions. A summary of the survey responses is included in appendix D.)

The panel reconvened on June 29, 1995, in Washington, D.C., to review the State survey results. In addition, Bonnie Campbell, the newly appointed director of the Violence Against Women Office, U.S. Department of Justice, spoke to the panel on the need for reliable crime data on domestic and sexual violence. She indicated that as national policies are being decided on these issues, more data would help to inform these discussions. Additional comments were made by representatives from the National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Bureau of Justice Assistance, National Academy of Sciences, and the National Center for State Courts. The FBI representative also briefed the panel on the FBI Criminal Information Systems Advisory Committee's recent decision to review that agency's position on the National Incident-Based Reporting System. The comments and suggestions from panel members were used in preparation of this project report.

## Findings and Recommendations

The major finding is that many States are already collecting or are implementing systems to collect data on domestic and sexual violence offenses. According to the State survey results, 35 of 47 responding States and Territories collect domestic violence statistics annually, and 30 respondents gather sexual violence statistics. But there is wide variation among States that have systems in place or nearing completion with regard to what information is collected and how it is gathered.

The variability reflects differences in how States have approached these two issues and the existing structures for collecting general crime incident data. For example, some States have passed specific domestic or family violence statutes that clearly define this as an offense and may even have statewide reporting requirements. Other States have not designated domestic violence as a separate offense but have instituted reporting systems for cases that can be characterized as such. If a State already had an incident-based crime reporting system, then it may have simply added or derived domestic violence crime statistics from this. Lacking this capability, other States have had to create domestic violence-specific reporting systems.

Since law enforcement agencies are the primary point of first contact with the criminal justice system and are responsible for enforcing protection orders, their data are a major source for estimating the overall prevalence and severity of domestic and sexual violence problems known to the criminal justice system. Every State and Territory provides Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data; there are about 16,000 agencies contributing information to this statistical data set. Discussions at both panel meetings focused on the National Incident-Based Reporting System, one of the major developments in law enforcement statistics in the past 10 years. (See “Incident-based data” under “Uniform Crime Reporting,” page 26, which describes the issues raised about this data system’s future.)

Information from prosecutors, courts, and corrections can provide important insights into the processing and subsequent dispositions of cases. However, comprehensive statewide statistical data bases from these sources are less frequently available than are law enforcement data sets (see table 1). This may be due to the fact that most of these systems originally were created for operational information needs, such as case or agency management, and not necessarily for the production of statistical reports. Unless these capabilities were included in their initial system design or subsequently added, data on

the characteristics of victims, offenders, offenses, and other related information may not be readily available.

**Table 1: States With Non-UCR Criminal Justice Data Bases for Domestic and Sexual Violence**

Data Source	N=47 Domestic Violence Number of States (percent)	Sexual Violence Number of States (percent)
Protection order registries	10 (21%)	5 (11%)
Protection order issued	11 (23%)	4 (9%)
Community corrections	6 (13%)	5 (11%)
Corrections	7 (15%)	7 (15%)
State criminal history repository	14 (30%)	12 (26%)
Civil/criminal courts	13 (28%)	10 (21%)
Special data bases or flagging systems	9 (19%)	10 (21%)

Source: See appendix D, "State Survey Results," questions 12a, 12b, 12f, 12g, 12h, 12j, 12k, 13a, 13b, 13f, 13g, 13h, 13j, and 13k.

Although most States collect data on domestic and sexual violence, the State survey indicates that few draw on noncriminal justice information sources (see table 2). As noted in the previous discussion of criminal justice data bases, unless specific statistical reporting capabilities have been built into these information systems, data may not be easily obtainable for research and policy analysis purposes.

Table 2: States With Noncriminal or Civil Data Bases for Domestic and Sexual Violence

Data Source	N=47 Domestic Violence Number of States (percent)	Sexual Violence Number of States (percent)
Child protection services	8 (17%)	11 (23%)
Health care providers	5 (11%)	4 (9%)
Higher education institutions	3 (6%)	4 (9%)
Victim services providers	18 (38%)	10 (21%)

Source: See appendix D, "State Survey Results," questions 12c, 12d, 12e, 12i, 13c, 13d, 13e, and 13i.

Despite data collection difficulties cited in the project panel discussions and the State survey responses, the importance of having reliable and comprehensive indicators for domestic violence was repeatedly highlighted. Data are needed for basic research on the problems of domestic and sexual violence, for resolving debates over proposed legislation and budgets, for guiding administrative or managerial decisions over program policies and resources, and for informing the public about the seriousness and extent of these problems in their communities.

The following suggestions for future work on improving and expanding domestic and sexual violence data collection emerged from the panel discussions and survey responses.

#### **Increasing or Improving State and Local Reporting**

Although the majority of States are collecting some form of information on domestic and sexual violence offenses, there is still a significant number that do not. In addition, there are substantial disparities in the types and quantity of data collected. If the availability of reliable indicators for domestic and sexual violence is considered an important goal, then several strategies can be employed to improve and expand this reporting effort.

To encourage States to improve or establish a data reporting program for domestic and/or sexual violence offenses, various educational activities could be provided to increase State officials' awareness of successful efforts by other States. Through publications or meetings, exemplary programs could be highlighted as working models for other States to adopt.

An important factor in maintaining ongoing data collection programs is showing that information gathered is used for analyses or is worthwhile for decisionmaking. Such feedback can be a strong motivating influence to the staff who are generating data. By providing examples of analyses and applications based on these data, policymakers may be more willing to allocate the authority and resources necessary to establish or continue collecting information on these concerns. These may be analytic approaches to policy alternatives, crime analysis systems for police, or planning tools for agencies to direct staff and other resources.

### **Recognizing the Need for Multiple Indicators To Fully Capture the Extent of the Problem**

It was evident from this study that domestic and sexual violence offenders are not single populations; there are a number of subgroups that have distinct behaviors and motivations. Although the reporting of aggregate statistical figures can provide some rough estimates of prevalence, important differences may be lost that could be significant for policy and planning decisions.

Therefore, consideration should be given to identifying indicators that could inform these discussions. Special studies could help to provide detailed information beyond general statistical data sets. This includes methods for estimating offender or victim characteristics not captured in general statistical reports and examining individual histories for patterns of recidivism among offender subpopulations.

### **Identifying Existing Commonalities in Data Definitions and Reporting Methods Across States**

A more indepth analysis of State reporting systems could be conducted to identify existing commonalities in definitions, forms, and practices across States. Although this study received materials from many of the States in response to the survey, not all States responded or provided all of the referenced items. The constraints of this project did not allow for a systematic comparison of individual data elements, procedures, and definitions across jurisdictions and agencies, but a review was done of the

available materials that looked for examples and general trends among the respondents.

A State-by-State analysis could serve as a good starting point for any national reporting standards or help in compiling multi-State data on domestic and sexual violence incidents. By disseminating this analysis to the States, some may be persuaded to modify their current practices to increase data comparability across States.

## **Data Collection Issues**

The following pages present issues and concerns raised during the two panel meetings, during discussions with individuals involved with domestic and sexual violence problems or statistical information systems, and from the responses to the State survey. Any data collection efforts by the States will have to address many of these concerns in order to implement or expand their systems.

### **Multidimensional Aspects of Domestic and Sexual Violence Offenses**

The many aspects related to domestic and sexual violence include possible data sources, point-of-case involvement or intervention, and definitional criteria that can determine what information may be collected and some of the resulting limitations. Recognizing these multiple dimensions is important to ensure that the resulting data sets respond to policy and other informational needs. Because both domestic and sexual violence are complex issues involving many social and psychological forces, reliance on a single statistical indicator does not present a complete picture of either problem.

#### ***Offense type—domestic and sexual violence***

The legislation mandated that this project study data collection alternatives for both domestic and sexual violence offenses. These are separate crimes that usually have their own respective statutory definitions and reporting mechanisms. Although the concept of sexual violence has been expanded over time in many States to include a broader range of victimizations, its acceptance as a major criminal offense was well established. Recognition of domestic violence as a serious criminal offense is a more recent phenomenon.

One indication of the difference between these crimes is that forcible rape was included in the State data compiled in the Federal Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system at its inception in 1930, while estimates of domestic violence-related incidents can only be inferred from UCR statistics for murder and manslaughter. Victim-offender relationship information is not collected for other crime categories, so no domestic violence estimates can be derived from these counts. The data standards published in 1988 for the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which is intended to replace the UCR system, broaden the definition of forcible rape and increase the sexual violence-related offense categories, but they still do not list domestic violence as an offense category or provide any other means for explicitly identifying

these incidents.<sup>2</sup> It is possible to infer domestic violence incidents from NIBRS information by using the victim-offender relationship data. However, this could be challenged as including incidents that are not necessarily part of a violent relationship.

A further distinction between sexual and domestic violence incidents is their defining characteristics. Sexual violence is a crime that is generally determined by specifically prohibited sexually related acts taken by a perpetrator against another person. On the other hand, domestic violence-related incidents not only require a criminal act but also must occur between individuals with an existing or prior close relationship. Because any violent act may be considered domestic violence related if a legally accepted relationship exists between the offender and victim—and the definitions used vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction—it is extremely difficult to collect consistent and reliable statistics for this offense. Furthermore, as with hate crimes, a distinguishing characteristic for domestic violence incidents may be the offender's intent in committing an act such as intimidation of the victim. In this instance, a relatively minor offense like vandalism of property may have a much greater significance when considered in the context of a violent domestic relationship.

Consequently, the approaches for collecting data on domestic violence are different from those for sexual violence. In general, domestic violence requires more data elements and greater detail to derive statistical estimates and to differentiate the severity or nature of cases. While personnel generating incident reports need training to ensure accurate reporting for both offenses, domestic violence appears to present more difficulties for staff in the field to properly identify these cases. Other concerns that can affect accurate data reporting will be discussed in later sections.

### *Service domains—criminal justice, health, and social services*

A truly comprehensive data collection effort for domestic and sexual violence incidents would involve multiple service domains. Because of the strong psychological and social impact that domestic and sexual violence can have on victims, awareness and treatment of cases often may not originate in or involve the criminal justice system. Data from health and social service

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<sup>2</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reporting: National Incident-Based Reporting System—Volume I: Data Collection Guidelines*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, July 1, 1988:5-16.

providers can be used to supplement prevalence estimates based on criminal justice sources.

Interest in integrating or sharing information across service domains to promote coordination of efforts has led the Bureau of Justice Assistance to fund three demonstration projects (in Baltimore, Maryland; Santa Clara, California; and the Commonwealth of Virginia). The experience from the Baltimore domestic violence demonstration project indicated that definitional differences as well as the varying responsibilities across agencies can create significant problems for data collection and integration. Concerns about client confidentiality also may prevent health and social service providers from sharing information on specific individuals with the criminal justice system. Even with individual case information, it may be impossible or extremely expensive to link data across agencies and service domains in order to avoid duplicate counting of incidents or persons. Further, the disparate sources of data and uses for which they are intended may argue against their close integration.

A practical concern is that few States indicated in their survey responses that there were noncriminal justice data bases available for analyses. For this and the previously cited reasons, the active integration of criminal justice, health, and social services information systems may not be feasible or desirable. Among the alternatives raised in the panel discussions were special studies that could incorporate information across service domains and may provide some insights into the overall prevalence and handling of domestic violence cases.

Limited tracking of cross-service domain interactions also may provide some estimates of this phenomenon without requiring an elaborate coordination of separate information systems. Examples of this are the New York State Domestic Incident Report form, which includes information on whether an officer made a referral to a protective or victim services agency, and the Wisconsin Domestic Abuse Report form, which tracks a case through sentencing and includes various forms of counseling/treatment as sentencing options and information on whether medical treatment was required. Since many States have mandatory referral laws for health and social service providers, report forms used for these referrals could provide some information on cases originating from noncriminal justice sources.

***Criminal justice domains—law enforcement, prosecution, courts (criminal and civil), and corrections***

Within the criminal justice system, data collection is complicated by the division of responsibilities across many independent entities—law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, and corrections. Although some local jurisdictions have established integrated criminal justice information systems, most criminal justice data are fragmented along operational boundaries. The continued difficulties in obtaining complete and accurate criminal history records were cited as one indicator of the inability to track individuals as they move through the criminal justice system or recidivate for subsequent crimes.

Improving this situation requires surmounting technical, procedural, and organizational obstacles across many agencies. Although this can be done, it is a lengthy, resource-intensive process that requires coordination and cooperation at all levels of the participating organizations. Factors that work against achieving this goal and other forms of information systems integration are changing governmental priorities for information, short-term budget horizons, frequent personnel changes, the absence of or conflicting data standards across information sources, and rapidly shifting technologies. Any major data collection effort should consider these issues as part of its planning.

***Intergovernmental—Federal, State, and local governmental coordination***

Even with a State-centered data collection effort, both the Federal and local levels of government need to be considered. Federal systems often influence the ways State agencies design or implement their data systems. As previously noted, the Federal Government has several major statistical data and records systems (UCR/NIBRS, NCIC 2000 the Project, National Crime Victimization Survey, and National Criminal History Improvement Program) that provide data standards, funding, and national data-sharing capabilities.

Although many States have developed their own information systems independent of any Federal effort, when feasible, planning for future data systems should try to maximize their usefulness and potential for piggybacking onto other reporting systems to avoid repetitive data collection or incompatible information systems. In addition to the obstacles cited in “Criminal justice domains—law enforcement, prosecution, courts (criminal and civil), and corrections,” there can be wide variations in offense classifications and procedures from State to State because each State sets its own criminal code. This situation often requires a translation of State-

generated information, such as offense codes, into a national coding scheme. The result may sometimes be a grouping of otherwise dissimilar cases. For example, in Louisiana an assault may be simply a verbal threat, while other States require physical contact or injury by an assailant. Consequently, Louisiana may appear to have a greater problem with assaults than other States when national compilations of State crime data are reviewed. Although automated criminal records systems can be programmed to perform many of these report translations, some cases may require human judgment to interpret the circumstances.

In these situations, State agencies frequently find themselves between Federal data standards and the applicable State and local practices. Even though States generally determine criminal statutes, health and social service regulations, and many public services, it is local agencies that often implement or enforce these policies and programs. Consequently, local personnel are usually responsible for collecting information from victims and offenders and must process the reports for submission to State agencies. Given these circumstances, most statewide data collection programs will involve substantial intergovernmental coordination and cooperation among a large number of agencies.

In the area of crime data, some of the larger States must collect and process data from 500 to nearly 1,000 different agencies. Gathering complete and accurate data across all of these entities in a timely manner can be a challenging task that requires careful planning, adequate resources (particularly training of local staff in reporting procedures), and good communications at all levels of participation.

### ***Multijurisdictional—multiple State and local agencies***

Because of victim and offender mobility, agencies increasingly must be able to share information across State and local boundaries. There are several Federal and regional efforts under way to either provide mechanisms to do this or to encourage the development of these systems. Achieving this goal will take time, however, and many technical and organizational obstacles will have to be overcome.

One situation where this has been identified as a serious problem is with court protection orders because officials outside of the originating jurisdictions generally do not have ready access to the information required for enforcement. In addition, policies and standards for issuing court protection

orders can vary from area to area, making enforcement across jurisdictional boundaries a complex issue for local authorities.

*Definitional aspects of domestic violence*

Because the recognition of domestic violence as a serious criminal offense is a relatively recent phenomena for many communities, understanding of the problem continues to evolve. Hence, the legal definitions and procedures for this offense can vary widely from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. The following discussion of two aspects of this problem explains some of the differences in how domestic violence incidents are treated.

**Domestic abuse as a continuum of violent actions.** Domestic violence often does not consist of a single incident; it is instead a continual state of victimization.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, recognizing and counting domestic violence incidents can be somewhat different from other types of crimes, which are generally limited in time and do not often involve repeated offender victimization of the same person. In the National Crime Victimization Survey, this circumstance is acknowledged by the use of a “series crime incident” designation for situations in which the respondent cannot identify details for discrete victimization events, and more than five victimizations occurred in the previous 6 months.

Because intimidation also may be part of the behavior exhibited by abusers, offenses that otherwise would not be considered violent may be characterized as part of an overall behavior pattern. This further complicates the recording of criminal events since it involves judging an offender’s motivation.

With this concept of domestic violence as a continuum of behaviors rather than a discrete event, it is understandable why domestic violence statistics may include many different criminal actions that vary from relatively minor offenses to extremely serious ones. This situation particularly applies as the definition of domestic violence is made more inclusive of the range of abusive behaviors. Some of these may or may not be part of the governing statutes for any given State, which may make comparing data across States exceedingly difficult.

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<sup>3</sup> Wiersema, B., “The Impact of Series Incidents on Estimates of Violent Victimization,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Phoenix, 1993.

It also becomes a measurement issue because thresholds along this continuum must be established to determine whether and how any given event or action is counted. These decisions have obvious implications for resulting statistical figures and observations.

**A range of relationships from spouses to intimate acquaintances and nonrelatives.** Some States are inclusive in their definition of domestic violence as far as the range of victim-offender relationships allows, while others require either a spousal relationship or a child in common for a criminal act to be considered domestic violence.<sup>4</sup> As legal definitions of domestic violence expand to include more informal relationships such as current or ex-boyfriends/girlfriends, roommates, and cohabitants, the reporting systems must be modified to reflect these broader perspectives and to differentiate the characteristics of these victim/offender subgroups within the general population. Otherwise, important details may be lost in working with aggregate statistics, which could blur the diversity among domestic violence victims and offenders.

### **Alternative Approaches to Data Collection**

In both the panel discussions and State survey responses, it was evident that the States have adopted a wide variety of approaches to collecting data on domestic and sexual violence incidents.<sup>5</sup> This is largely explained by differences in statutory legal definitions and procedures, individual agency authority, and existing data and reporting systems.

For example, the State of Connecticut uses a separate form to collect family violence offense data since it does not have an operational general crime incident-based reporting system. This data collection program is mandated by a statute that also specifies many of the data items to be gathered. The State intends to incorporate this information into NIBRS, which it is currently implementing.

#### ***Single focus (domestic or sexual violence) law enforcement reporting systems***

Information specific to domestic and sexual violence offenses often has not been included in general criminal justice reporting systems. Because some

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<sup>4</sup> See appendix D, question 38.

<sup>5</sup> See appendix D, questions 19, 20, 21, and 22.

State statutes call for reporting on these concerns, one approach used by several States has been the development of a special report form for either domestic violence or sexual violence incidents.<sup>6</sup>

In some instances this is a supplement to a State's Uniform Crime Reporting form (Kansas, Michigan, and Puerto Rico), while in others it is a completely separate reporting system (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Wisconsin). As States move from the aggregate data reporting system (UCR) to incident-based, NIBRS-type systems, many States operating separate reporting systems for domestic and sexual violence offenses (e.g., Connecticut) are planning to merge them into the general data collection program.

One advantage of a single-focus approach to data collection is that it allows gathering of offense-specific information that may be more difficult to include in a general form intended for all possible crimes. The trade-off is that specialized forms may be more difficult to implement on a statewide basis and may be considered an additional reporting burden.

### *Uniform crime reporting*

Since 1930 the Uniform Crime Reporting system has been the major national statistical series for crimes known to law enforcement agencies. All States contribute data to this program in some manner. This system, however, only reports aggregate totals for crimes, which limits any analyses to indicating general trends in crime and not much more. In the 1980s the FBI conducted studies that led to the decision to replace the summary UCR system with NIBRS. The following discussion highlights some of the issues related to UCR and NIBRS and the implementation status of these data systems.

**Aggregate crime data.** The summary UCR program provides only aggregate or total data on eight major crimes and on arrestee age, sex, and racial/ethnic characteristics for all offenses. Known as the Part I Offenses, the eight offense categories are:

- Criminal homicide (murder and nonnegligent manslaughter).
- Forcible rape (rape by force and attempts to commit forcible rape).

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<sup>6</sup> See appendix D, questions 21d and 22d.

- Robbery (theft using a firearm, knife or cutting instrument, other dangerous weapon, or strong-arm method to force or threaten a victim).
- Aggravated assault (an unlawful attack on a victim using a firearm; knife or cutting instrument; other dangerous weapon; or hands, fists, and feet).
- Burglary (includes forcible entry; unlawful, nonforcible entry; and attempted forcible entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft).
- Larceny theft (the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another person, except for a motor vehicle).
- Motor vehicle theft (theft or attempted theft of an auto, truck, bus, or other vehicle that is self-propelled and runs on land surface and not on rails).
- Arson (willful or malicious burning of or attempt to burn a structure, vehicle, or other property, with or without intent to defraud).<sup>7</sup>

About 16,000 law enforcement agencies participate in the FBI's UCR system, and almost every State has a functioning UCR Program Office. With its long history and stability, UCR statistics are the most frequently cited data for national, State, and local crime trends in this country. Unfortunately, the weaknesses of the UCR are generally acknowledged, and its value for policy and planning decisions is extremely limited.

At this time the majority of States still produce only UCR data reports. Although most States are working toward implementing a statewide incident-based reporting system, only a few have fully operational programs. Even among States with operational systems, the data reported may reflect only a small proportion of the jurisdictions or crimes in that State.<sup>8</sup>

Although it would be technically feasible to add domestic violence to the offenses reported as aggregate statistics, there potentially would be some confusion with other offenses. Since domestic violence can be any criminal act between persons having a legally recognized relationship for this purpose,

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<sup>7</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1984:5-32.

<sup>8</sup> See appendix D, questions 4 and 5.

in an aggregate statistical reporting system that includes domestic violence as a category, it would be impossible to tell how many domestic violence incidents were murders, how many were assaults, or even how many were acts of intimidation that did not involve physical harm. Conversely, in an aggregate reporting system, the proportion of assaults that were related to domestic violence incidents could not be determined because only a single figure is given for each offense category.

Recognizing the dual nature of domestic violence, incidents could be counted for both domestic violence and other appropriate offense categories. This practice, however, would result in possibly double-counting crime incidents with no way to clearly determine the extent of overlap between domestic violence and other offense categories.

More complete estimates of sexual violence from aggregate data systems could be derived by expanding the number of sexual violence offenses to include more than just forcible rape. These statistics would have the same limitations as other aggregate information. However, because of the complexity of domestic and sexual violence as interpersonal events and as crimes, aggregate statistics would be of minimal value for policy and planning decisions.

One solution to the problem of lack of detail in aggregate statistics is exemplified by a study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which reviewed individual nonfatal incident reports from the Atlanta Police Department to identify how many involved family or intimate assaults.<sup>9</sup> Even though the department does not specifically record family or domestic violence as an offense, CDC staff determined from a sample of cases reported in 1984 which ones could be classified as such. Based on the proportion of family and domestic violence incidents found in this sample, estimates by known offense category could then be calculated for the total reported crimes. Assuming that the rates found in this study are transferable to other jurisdictions and time periods, this approach could be used to estimate domestic violence incidents occurring in other areas. Similar studies could be conducted to assess the validity of these estimators for other jurisdictions and time periods.

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<sup>9</sup> Saltzman, Linda E., James A. Mercy et al., "Identification of Nonfatal Family and Intimate Assault Incidents in Police Data," *American Journal of Public Health*, 62, No. 7 (July 1992):1018-1020.

**Incident-based data.** With local agencies increasingly automating their records systems, more will have the ability to generate electronic data files that can be used for a variety of reports and analyses, and they will be able to develop greater capabilities to conduct incident-based analyses. Although each agency may be able to electronically access individual records, the information identified may not be consistent across agencies because of a lack of State data standards, differences in software used, or local operational characteristics. Therefore, although automation may improve the likelihood that States can obtain data from local agencies, it will not guarantee ready input for centralized data bases.

In 1988 the FBI published its NIBRS data standards. This system is the most prominent national effort to have States collect crime incident data and represents the most likely source of reasonably comparable State statistics on reported domestic and sexual violence incidents. The NIBRS data standard is a substantial departure from the summary UCR system. Instead of aggregate data for 8 crimes, NIBRS specifies 52 data elements (one more data element was subsequently added for identifying hate crimes) to be reported for every crime incident known to law enforcement.<sup>10</sup>

Reporting NIBRS information is even more complex than it appears from the previous statement because NIBRS data elements are divided into six groups or segments—Administrative Data, Offense, Property, Victim, Offender, and Arrestee. Except for Administrative Data, all of the segments may need to be addressed for the same incident depending on the circumstances. For example, a criminal kills a security guard while robbing a bank. In reporting this incident, two Offense Segments would be entered—one for murder and one for robbery. Two Victim Segments also would be submitted—one for the murdered guard and one for the bank robbed. Depending on what actually was taken or damaged by the robber, one or more Property Segments also may be required. The UCR system used a hierarchy rule, which allowed for the reporting of only the most serious offense committed during an incident; and it had much more limited, if any, related information about the crimes being committed. Because most automated information systems must allow for the largest possible data record, NIBRS data files can be quite large relative to the amount of data being reported.

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<sup>10</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook—NIBRS Edition*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1992.

NIBRS also increases the number of crime categories about which offense and arrestee data are collected from 8 to 22. Group A includes the following crimes:

- Arson
- Assault offenses
- Bribery
- Burglary/breaking and entering
- Counterfeiting/forgery
- Destruction/damage/vandalism of property
- Drug/narcotic offenses
- Embezzlement
- Extortion/blackmail
- Fraud offenses
- Gambling offenses
- Homicide offenses
- Kidnaping/abduction
- Larceny/theft offenses
- Motor vehicle theft
- Pornography/obscene material
- Prostitution offenses
- Robbery
- Sex offenses, forcible
- Sex offenses, nonforcible
- Stolen property offenses
- Weapon law violations

Arrestee data only are collected for 11 additional offenses, which are referred to as Group B offenses:

- Bad checks
- Curfew/loitering/vagrancy violations
- Disorderly conduct
- Family offenses, nonviolent
- Liquor law violations
- Peeping Tom
- Runaway
- Drunkenness
- Trespass of real property
- All other offenses

Although NIBRS does not include a specific domestic violence offense code, it is possible to estimate domestic violence incidents from NIBRS data because victim-offender relationships are reported for crimes against persons and robbery. Using this data element, domestic violence estimates can be calculated for any offense category.

The absence of a national definition of domestic violence causes irregularities in the inclusion/exclusion of more informal relationships such as current or ex-boyfriends/girlfriends, roommates, and cohabitants. Some States define domestic violence in terms of a wide range of victim-offender relationships, while others require either a spousal relationship or a child in common for a criminal act to be considered domestic violence.<sup>11</sup> The exclusion of informal relationships obscures the distinctions between the characteristics of these

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<sup>11</sup> See appendix D, questions 37 and 38.

victim/offender subgroups and the general population and minimizes the aggregate national estimate.

During the April 10–11 meeting of the project panel, FBI representatives indicated that adding to the allowable codes for a specific NIBRS data element would be much easier to implement than expanding the number of data elements. For example, codes for indicating “ex-boyfriend/girlfriend,” “child in common,” and “shared domicile” could be introduced for the victim-offender relationship data element, which would reflect expanded definitions for domestic violence that are used by some States. Similarly, domestic violence could be added to the list of NIBRS offense codes. Adding a separate domestic violence data element (such as Michigan and Kansas have done to their incident-based reporting data standard), however, would create significant problems for Federal, State, and local governments because they would have to reprogram software and reprint manuals and forms to accommodate this change.

Including victim-offender relationship data in the national statistical data standard does have one important benefit. Because the definitions for domestic and sexual violence can vary widely across States regarding which types of relationships and offenses are included, national estimates based on State-reported statistics for these crimes would not be uniformly consistent. Calculating prevalence estimates using selected offense categories and victim-offender relationship data would produce more reasonably consistent national statistics since these figures would be less affected by differences in State domestic/sexual violence definitions.

Another major difference between the NIBRS and UCR systems is that the NIBRS record links original incident reports to subsequent arrestees. This feature will allow further analysis of crime characteristics related to the eventual capture of a suspect. For domestic violence incidents, this would provide some indication of how frequently arrests are made in these cases and for various related offenses or types of offenders.

As long as a State can produce a data file that complies with the FBI’s standards, it is permitted to expand the incident-based data elements collected from law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction. One reason for doing so is to increase the utility of the data for resource allocation studies, crime analysis, and other applications that need information on crime patterns. Because NIBRS was originally designed as a statistical data base, it intentionally lacks certain information items that help agencies with their operational needs. For example, some States include geocodes to map crime

data and offender physical characteristics, such as scars, marks, and tattoos, to identify specific criminals and to link previously unknown cases to particular suspects.

The variability across States in their incident-based reporting standards has created some difficulties for automated information systems vendors and agency data processing managers. It generally increases the amount of computer software customization that is required for each agency before it is able to produce NIBRS-compliant data files. Consequently, reporting agencies have experienced difficulties either in locating records management software that complies with the NIBRS data standard as well as their own State standard or in obtaining the resources necessary to revise their existing reporting systems.

Because of these and other concerns, NIBRS implementation across the States has been slow, and many State and local agencies have complained about the additional reporting burden placed on them. Since participation in UCR and NIBRS is voluntary, almost any expansion of these reporting requirements can be a significant resource issue for many agencies that are already coping with difficult budgetary choices.

According to the FBI UCR Program Office, as of June 2, 1995, 8 States had been approved as capable of producing NIBRS-compliant data, and 20 States were testing for NIBRS compliance. Only 7 States do not have plans or have not indicated interest in NIBRS participation.<sup>12</sup> The survey on State domestic and sexual violence data collection conducted by JRSA also indicated that a majority of the States (38, or 81 percent) have or plan to have an incident-based reporting system in the next 2 years.<sup>13</sup>

Although only a few States are currently producing NIBRS-compliant data, most are moving in the direction of implementing some level of incident-based reporting capability statewide. Even some of the States with no intention of meeting the FBI's data standards either had or were considering an incident-based reporting system. Consequently, there will probably be a subset of States for which crime incident data can be aggregated for national-level analyses, and there even may be certain data elements for which some additional States can provide information to further expand data coverage. Attaining the goal of a crime incident-based reporting system that is national

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<sup>12</sup> See appendix C.

<sup>13</sup> See appendix C, question 1.

in scope and contains uniform data elements, however, may take substantially more time than originally envisioned and may never be fully achieved without a significant commitment of Federal resources.

State survey responses also revealed that States have adopted various reporting methods for collecting domestic violence data. For example, Michigan and Kansas have added a box on their crime incident report forms that officers must mark to indicate whether an incident was domestic violence related. Other States (e.g., Connecticut, New York, and Wisconsin) have separate forms for reporting domestic violence. The special domestic violence report form enables States to collect offense-specific information that may be more difficult to include in a general crime incident report form. Use of a separate form, however, does carry the physical and psychological burden of additional paperwork, which increases the likelihood that officers will fail to complete or submit a report.

Finally, it should be noted that any incident-based reporting system also will be subject to the underreporting concerns that have been raised about the summary UCR system. Law enforcement agencies cannot be expected to provide data on crimes of which they are not aware. Consequently, additional sources may be consulted to estimate the degree to which the problem of underreporting affects the crime statistics gathered by law enforcement agencies—such as a major Federal statistical data base, which is discussed in the next section.

### *Crime victimization surveys*

Crime victimization surveys supplement crime statistics generated by law enforcement agencies. Their purpose is to provide data about crimes that may not be reported by victims to police and to obtain detailed information that may not be collected in traditional police reports. State survey responses showed that only a few States (10, or 21 percent) conduct such surveys, and only half of these collect domestic or sexual violence data.<sup>14</sup> Among the possible reasons for the low number of States that do these studies are the costs involved, controversies that can arise over survey questions or methods, and resistance by government agencies to burden citizens with more information requests.

**National Crime Victimization Survey.** At the national level, the Bureau of Justice Statistics operates the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).

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<sup>14</sup> See appendix D, questions 7, 8, and 9.

The survey itself is administered by the Bureau of the Census through a cooperative agreement. It collects information on the following completed and attempted crimes: rapes, robberies, assaults, larcenies, burglaries, and motor vehicle thefts. The survey's purpose is to gather information on unreported crimes as well as on aspects of reported crimes that may not be collected through police-generated crime statistics.

The data consists of interviews from approximately 50,000 housing units and 100,000 persons. All members of a selected household are interviewed every 6 months for a period of 3 years. The first and fifth interviews are conducted in person; the remainder are done over the phone.<sup>15</sup> To encourage cooperation in relating what may be very personal or potentially embarrassing information, interviewees are assured that their responses will be kept confidential. Interviewers receive special training to address those portions of the survey instrument requiring greater sensitivity.

Past NCVS-based family violence statistics have been substantially lower than those from specific family violence surveys and studies. In order to address specific concerns about the NCVS's ability to accurately reflect the incidence of domestic and sexual violence, several revisions in the survey's questions and procedures have recently been implemented. These changes in the NCVS should bring its estimates closer to those from other information sources, but some differences will remain due to NCVS's purpose, which is to measure potential criminal behavior, as opposed to other studies' orientation toward family or domestic relations. The 1993 statistics are the first data set to fully incorporate these changes. The actual data became available in late 1994, and the first analyses of this data were published in August 1995.<sup>16</sup>

One important distinction is that the questions on the NCVS instrument are intentionally phrased to elicit information about respondents' experiences during the previous 6 months regardless of whether or not they could be considered crimes. This approach is taken to avoid underreporting due to interviewee misconceptions, which may be either culturally based or personal perceptions concerning what constitutes criminal behavior. Therefore, in

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<sup>15</sup> Bachman, Ronet, and Bruce M. Taylor, "The Measurement of Family Violence and Rape by the Redesigned National Crime Victimization Survey," *Justice Quarterly*, 11, No. 3 (September 1994).

<sup>16</sup> Bachman, Ronet, and Linda E. Saltzman, *Violence Against Women Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*, Special Report, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (NCJ 154348), August 1995.

addition to those crimes not reported to police for reasons of inconvenience or fear of involving authorities, these statistics include events that respondents may not consider to be crimes and would probably not have reported, even if the other barriers did not exist.

From this perspective, responses to the NCVS questions “are *not* crime-specific; rather, they are behavior specific.”<sup>17</sup> Some may argue that this effort to be more inclusive or comprehensive in coverage may lead to an overestimation of crime because it counts events that are not truly criminal behavior. For domestic violence in particular, this can be a difficult issue since the public’s and the criminal justice system’s concept of this crime continues to evolve. Consequently, keeping statistical measurement methods consistent and relevant under such circumstances can be challenging.

By their very nature, victimization survey-based crime estimates will be higher than law enforcement-generated crime statistics. Concerns have been raised as to how many of the discrepancies between the two sets of figures are attributable to measurement methods as opposed to the actual incidence of crimes. The Bureau of Justice Statistics has conducted and sponsored many studies to assess the possible impact of various survey methodologies and procedures on reporting results.<sup>18</sup>

Although some measurement concerns can be addressed by rephrasing questions or making changes in the administration of the survey instrument, other errors may be more difficult to control for. This fact was acknowledged in comments by BJS staff in describing the NCVS’s recent revisions:

This redesign project is only one step in the evolution of our thinking about issues of rape and family violence. Research, however, including the NCVS, cannot be divorced from the social context in which it is conducted. Existing attitudes and stereotypes regarding these victimizations are linked inextricably to our ability, as researchers, to quantify the problem. Unfortunately, research indicates

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<sup>17</sup> Bachman, Ronet, and Bruce M. Taylor, “The Measurement of Family Violence and Rape by the Redesigned National Crime Victimization Survey,” *Justice Quarterly*, 11, No. 3 (September 1994):509–510.

<sup>18</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, *The National Crime Survey: Working Papers, Volume I: Current and Historical Perspectives* and *Volume II: Methodological Studies*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, December 1981.

the persistence of impediments that prevent many women from reporting these victimizations.<sup>19</sup>

### *Other criminal justice domains*

In addition to law enforcement and victimization data, information from prosecutors, courts, and corrections can show charging practices, conviction rates, and sentencing patterns for these offenses. Further analysis of these data sources would go somewhat beyond the original scope of this project, which was to study how data on the incidence of domestic and sexual violence offenses could be collected. Obtaining information from these additional sources would expand knowledge about case dispositions, possible treatment outcomes, and recidivism among types of offenders.

Many of the data collection problems cited for police information also apply to these segments of the criminal justice system, i.e., lack of uniform data definitions and standards, incompatible computer hardware and software, and other organizational barriers. Another problem is that many of the records systems on which any statistical information is based were developed for internal processing of individuals or cases. Consequently, they may lack summary reporting capabilities. Finally, data quality also may be a concern, particularly for data items that are not required for the originating agency's information needs and, therefore, may not be thoroughly checked or verified before submission.

### *Multiservice domain data links*

Although such an information system would present valuable data on victims and offenders, it would need to overcome substantial technical and organizational obstacles and probably would require greater funding resources than are currently available. Concerns such as client confidentiality also would prevent tracking individuals through multiple service systems.

### *Special studies*

With the diversity of victim-offender subpopulations for both domestic and sexual violence offenses, no general data reporting system will be able to capture sufficiently detailed information for all possible analyses. Therefore,

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<sup>19</sup> Bachman, Ronet, and Bruce M. Taylor, "The Measurement of Family Violence and Rape by the Redesigned National Crime Victimization Survey," *Justice Quarterly*, 11, No. 3 (September 1994):511.

special studies that focus on specific victim-offender groups or behavior patterns may be a more reasonable solution for obtaining answers to policy questions that general statistical data sets may not be able to address. If properly planned, such special studies can supplement what is known from general crime statistical data and could be used to estimate specific characteristics that may be lost in larger data categories or groupings.

### **Concerns About Reporting Alternatives**

Unfortunately, no single data reporting system will be able to find all instances of domestic or sexual violence. Each has weaknesses in definitional detail or implementation that can lead to uncertainties about possible under- or overreporting in the resulting statistics. The following sections explore some of these concerns.

#### ***Incomplete coverage of all cases***

No data source will be able to capture all possible instances of domestic and sexual violence. Victims' refusal to report crimes to or cooperate with public officials will contribute to underreporting problems. Any failures by police, prosecutors, and service providers to recognize or accurately record domestic and sexual violence offenses also will result in underestimates of prevalence in agency-generated statistics. Surveys and victims' self-reports may suffer from errors stemming from how the survey questions are phrased or administered or from the respondents' unwillingness or inability to answer accurately.

Prevalence estimates, which may be based on samples or indirectly derived from crime statistics, may be affected by these and other measurement errors. Unfortunately, because of the realities imposed by data collection resources and methods and the nature of the crimes being studied, it is not always possible to eliminate or control for all of these concerns. Consequently, any analyses of these statistics must simply acknowledge these limitations and, when available, use alternative measures that may provide additional support for these indicators.

#### ***Possible duplication across data systems***

Individual victims and offenders may come into contact with several different criminal justice, health, and social service agencies. Within an agency, the same person also may be involved in multiple incidents or service events. Without a universal personal identifier for victims and offenders, it is

extremely difficult and expensive to track individuals across records that are usually organized around cases or incidents. The task is even harder when multiple agencies are involved, since records systems may not be compatible. Given that domestic abuse and sexual violence are behaviorally motivated crimes, there is a tendency for these offenders to recidivate. This may result in the duplication of individuals in statistical figures based on agency records. Depending on the nature of the analysis, this may or may not be important. For example, research related to mandatory arrest policies require specific followup information on known abusers to identify intervention points and subsequent behaviors. Studies looking at other aspects of victim-offender characteristics may not be so dependent on the elimination of duplicate records.

***Incomplete reporting***

Failures to provide complete and accurate data plague most information-gathering efforts. Criminal offense reporting may be affected by factors such as victim noncooperation and agency failures to collect data or properly implement procedures. The level of difficulty these problems create for statewide data collection was indicated in the State survey (see table 3).

**Table 3: Data Collection Concerns for State Survey Respondents**

N=47		
Data Collection Concerns	Serious Problem Number of States (percent)	Some Problem Number of States (percent)
High error rates in local agency submissions	2 ( 4%)	31 (66%)
Incomplete local agency submissions	6 (13%)	33 (70%)
Nonparticipation by local agencies	6 (13%)	27 (57%)

Source: See appendix D, question 33.

Because domestic and sexual violence victims can face possible reprisals by the offenders, a heavy burden of embarrassment, and other repercussions, obtaining their cooperation can be extremely difficult for law enforcement and other agencies. The act of reporting domestic violence and some sexual violence incidents may be considered by victims as a last resort or as a way to make an irreparable break in a relationship. Consequently, the victims may perceive reporting as an admission of personal failure that they cannot face or believe is avoidable.

Additionally, the problem of adequate training of personnel in handling these cases often was cited in the project panel discussions and survey responses. As many jurisdictions are recognizing the seriousness of these offenses, new laws and policies are being adopted, which in turn may require time to train all relevant staff in new procedures and to fully implement them.

For all the above reasons, underreporting of domestic and sexual violence can be more of a problem than for other types of offenses. Although efforts can be made to overcome some of the factors hindering accurate reporting, some barriers may never be completely surmounted given the nature of these crimes and the social and behavioral issues involved.

### *Definitional issues*

With any statistical data set, it is important to be aware of what definitions are used to determine what cases or persons are being included or excluded. Both domestic and sexual violence can be viewed from different perspectives, such as the frequency of abuse, level of abuse, categories of victims, or types of offenders. Obviously, what is counted will affect the resulting statistical figures. This situation should be recognized in any discussion of the prevalence of these social problems.

The panel members and the State survey responders indicated many definitions for both domestic and sexual violence. This is due in part to statutory differences across the States, but it also reflects an evolving understanding of domestic and sexual violence that is occurring in society in general, which is reflected in the policies and practices of various agencies around the country. Because domestic and sexual violence are being treated as much more serious criminal offenses than in the past, these differences can result from some jurisdictions adopting more aggressive or comprehensive approaches than others.

Unfortunately, this situation makes collecting uniform and consistent data across jurisdictions much more difficult. During the second panel meeting, the representative from the Washington Metropolitan Police Department announced that a new sexual assault law had been recently passed by his government. This announcement highlighted the challenge of trying to implement statistical measures for events about which relevant criminal laws may be rapidly changing.

Because identifying domestic violence crimes may involve consideration of a criminal act, the relationship between the victim and offender, and the offender's motive for committing the act, properly classifying cases can be more difficult than for other types of offenses. For example, a crime incident that would normally be considered a property crime (e.g., a burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny, or vandalism) could be classified as a domestic violence incident if the perpetrator's intent is to harass or intimidate the victim. This may require the investigating officers to go beyond the facts initially presented for a complaint to its possible underlying circumstances.

An additional complication for data reporting is that some States have not mandated a specific domestic violence offense with which to charge an offender. In these instances, the offender is charged with another offense, but his case may be flagged as a domestic violence case for reporting purposes. Other States have broader family violence statutes that include domestic violence.

### **Summary**

In summary, different definitions, legal procedures, and records management systems that are used to identify domestic violence and sexual assault complicate data collection efforts. Jurisdictional and agency differences can contribute to problems that prevent the compilation of reliable and uniform national estimates for these offenses. Definitional differences between service domains such as law enforcement agencies and victim services providers, along with incomplete sharing of information, speak to the importance of using multiple sources of data to develop a comprehensive understanding of the problem.



# **Appendix A**

## **List of Project Participants**

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**Appendix B**  
**State Survey Form**

# Status of Domestic and Sexual Violence Data Reporting in the States

**INTRODUCTION** - Section 40292 of the Violence Against Women Act mandated that the Attorney General study and report to the U.S. Congress on the feasibility of collecting domestic and sexual violence data at the state level. A panel of law enforcement, criminal justice statistics, and domestic violence professionals is working with the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) to identify the issues involved in gathering this information.

As background for this report, JRSA is requesting your assistance in assessing the current status of state-level incident reporting and in raising concerns that affect this situation. Our focus is on the prevalence of state data collection efforts and the identification of strategies which may be useful for other states. Consequently, although some differences among states may be a matter of degree, some questions have only Yes/No responses in order to minimize the questionnaire's complexity. Since the Federal legislation specifies state-level data collection, discrepancies in items such as reporting formats across states are not critical issues for this study. We encourage you to consult any other relevant agencies and staff in your state for this subject.

Please return this document to JRSA, 444 North Capitol Street, Suite 445, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 624-5269 fax by no later than June 5th. If you need a clarification on any questions or additional information, please contact Jim Zepp at JRSA, (202) 624-8560. Thank you for your cooperation.

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_-

## I. CURRENT STATUS OF DATA SOURCES

- |                                                                                                                                          |    |                                 |  |                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Does your state have or plan to have within the next two years an incident-based reporting system for local law enforcement agencies? | 1. | Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> |  | No<br><input type="checkbox"/> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|

*(If Yes, please answer Questions 2 through 6. If No, please skip to Question 7.)*

2. Which of the following best describes this incident-based reporting system's current level of implementation? *(Check all that apply.)*

- |                                                             |    |                          |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|--|--|
| a. developing state-wide data standard                      | 2. |                          |  |  |
| b. implementing data collection among local agencies        | a. | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| c. applying to FBI for NIBRS data submission certification  | b. | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| d. producing incident-based reports but not NIBRS certified | c. | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
| e. producing incident-based reports and NIBRS certified     | d. | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |  |
|                                                             | e. | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |  |

3. If data reports are **not** currently available from this system, by what date would any reports be expected?     3.     \_\_\_\_\_

4. If data reports are currently available, indicate the percentage of your state's local jurisdictions that contribute information. *(Check the most appropriate categories.)*

- |                                                |    |                          |  |                          |  |                          |  |                          |
|------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
|                                                |    | 0 to                     |  | 26 to                    |  | 51 to                    |  | 76 to                    |
|                                                | 4. | 25%                      |  | 50%                      |  | 75%                      |  | 100%                     |
| a. major cities (>50,000 population)           | a. | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. medium to small cities (<50,000 population) | b. | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. suburban communities                        | c. | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. rural areas                                 | d. | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5. What percentage of all reported crimes in your state do the incident-based statistics represent? 5. \_\_\_\_\_%

6. What percentage of law enforcement agencies in your state record victim/offender relationship information for non-homicide offenses? 6. 

0 to 25%	26 to 50%	51 to 75%	76 to 100%
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Does your state conduct a crime victimization survey? 7. 

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8./9. If yes to Question 7, does it include data on domestic and/or sexual violence incidents?

Domestic Violence Data Reporting		Sexual Violence Data Reporting	
	Yes		No
8. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10./11. Does your state collect domestic and/or sexual violence data from non-UCR reporting systems?

10. <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	11. <input type="checkbox"/>	No
------------------------------	-----	------------------------------	----

12./13. If yes to Question(s) 10 or 11, please check all of the following that apply.

- a. protection order registries
- b. protection order issued
- c. child protection services
- d. health care providers (e.g., individual practitioners, hospitals)
- e. higher education institutions
- f. community corrections (e.g., probation, parole)
- g. corrections (e.g., prison, residential facilities)
- h. state criminal history repository
- i. victim services providers
- j. civil/criminal courts
- k. special databases or flagging systems (e.g., gun registries, child sex offender registries)

12.		13.	
a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	a.	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	b.	<input type="checkbox"/>
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	c.	<input type="checkbox"/>
d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	d.	<input type="checkbox"/>
e.	<input type="checkbox"/>	e.	<input type="checkbox"/>
f.	<input type="checkbox"/>	f.	<input type="checkbox"/>
g.	<input type="checkbox"/>	g.	<input type="checkbox"/>
h.	<input type="checkbox"/>	h.	<input type="checkbox"/>
i.	<input type="checkbox"/>	i.	<input type="checkbox"/>
j.	<input type="checkbox"/>	j.	<input type="checkbox"/>
k.	<input type="checkbox"/>	k.	<input type="checkbox"/>

14./15. Is your state required to disseminate the domestic and/or sexual violence data that it collects to specific audiences or agencies?

14. <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	15. <input type="checkbox"/>	No
------------------------------	-----	------------------------------	----

16. If Yes to Question(s) 14 or 15, please identify these audiences or agencies. (Specify if your comments only apply to one offense type.)

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## II. REPORTING ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE OFFENSES

	Domestic Violence Data Reporting		Sexual Violence Data Reporting			
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
17./18. Are annual statistics on domestic and/or sexual violence offenses collected in your state?	17.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	18.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>(If No, please skip to Question 33.)</i>						
19./20. These statistics are produced as part of: <i>(Check the most appropriate category.)</i>	19.			20.		
a. aggregate crime statistics (e.g., UCR)	a.	<input type="checkbox"/>		a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. incident-based crime statistics (e.g., NIBRS)	b.	<input type="checkbox"/>		b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. both a. and b. above	c.	<input type="checkbox"/>		c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
d. other, please specify _____	d.	<input type="checkbox"/>		d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
21./22. How are these statistics derived?	21.	Yes	No	22.	Yes	No
a. a specific offense code is entered on incident reports	a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. a non-offense code or special box is marked on incident reports	b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. violent offenses are sorted by victim-offender relationship	c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. domestic/sexual violence specific incident forms are collected	d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. other methods are used for identifying domestic and/or sexual violence cases, please specify _____	e.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	e.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23./24. Are victim characteristic data available?	23.	Yes	No	24.	Yes	No
a. age	a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. race	b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. ethnicity (e.g., Hispanic/Non-Hispanic)	c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. gender	d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. relationship to offender	e.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	e.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. other, please specify _____	f.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	f.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25./26. Are offender characteristic data available?	25.	Yes	No	26.	Yes	No
a. age	a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. race	b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. ethnicity (e.g., Hispanic/Non-Hispanic)	c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. gender	d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. relationship to victim	e.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	e.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. other, please specify _____	f.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	f.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27./28. Can the incidents be categorized by related offense information (e.g., murder, aggravated assault, rape, etc.)?	27.	Yes	No	28.	Yes	No
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Domestic Violence Data Reporting		Sexual Violence Data Reporting	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
29./30. Is any information on related injuries (e.g., apparent broken bones, possible internal injuries, severe lacerations, etc.) available?	29. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31./32. Is any information on weapons used (e.g., handgun, knife, fist, etc.) available?	31. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	32. <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### III. DATA COLLECTION ISSUES

33. Please rate the following data collecting concerns as significant problems for your state:

	33.	Serious	Some	None
a. lateness of local agency data submissions	a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. high error rates in local agency submissions	b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. incomplete local agency submissions	c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. incompatible automated information systems	d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. nonparticipation by local agencies	e.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. lack of adequate local agency staff training	f.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. ambiguous or inconsistent definition(s) of domestic violence offenses	g.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. ambiguous or inconsistent definition(s) of sexual violence offenses	h.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. no state authority to collect these data	i.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. inadequate funding to implement data collection	j.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

34. What are the major impediments to state-wide collection of domestic/sexual violence data? (Please specify if comments apply to only one offense type.)

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35. Are there any resource issues that affect or will affect the collection of domestic/sexual violence data in your state? (Please specify if comments apply to only one offense type.)

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36. Please briefly describe any strategies that your state has successfully employed for improving data reporting by agencies.

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37. If your state has legal definitions for domestic and/or sexual violence offenses, please attach a copy.

38. If your state has a legal definition for domestic violence offenses, does it apply to the following victim groups. (Check all that apply.)

- |                                     |     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| a. female spouses                   | 38. |                          |
| b. male spouses                     | a.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. same sex partners                | b.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. common law partners              | c.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. ex-spouses                       | d.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. parents                          | e.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. persons having a child in common | f.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. boyfriends/girlfriends           | g.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. ex-boyfriends/girlfriends        | h.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. children                         | i.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| k. other, please specify _____      | j.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| l. not applicable                   | k.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                                     | l.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

39. Does your state's legal definition for sexual violence offenses apply to the following victim groups. (Check all that apply.)

- |                   |     |                          |
|-------------------|-----|--------------------------|
|                   | 39. |                          |
| a. adult females  | a.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. adult males    | b.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. minors         | c.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. not applicable | d.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

40. Please attach copies of the data forms used for collecting domestic violence and sexual violence information.

We would also appreciate receiving any recent reports or studies that your state has produced on the incidence of domestic and/or sexual violence. Please return this document to **JRSA, 444 North Capitol Street, Suite 445, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 624-5269 fax by no later than June 5th.** Thank you again for your help.

## **Appendix C**

### **List of Respondents to JRSA Survey of States and Territories**

## **States and Territories Responding to JRSA Survey on Domestic and Sexual Violence Data Collection**

Alabama	Montana
Alaska	Nebraska
Arizona	Nevada
Arkansas	New Hampshire
California	New Jersey
Colorado	New York
Connecticut	North Carolina
Delaware	North Dakota
District of Columbia	Northern Mariana Islands
Florida	Ohio
Georgia	Oklahoma
Hawaii	Pennsylvania
Idaho	Puerto Rico
Illinois	Rhode Island
Indiana	South Dakota
Iowa	Tennessee
Kansas	Texas
Louisiana	Utah
Maine	Virgin Islands
Maryland	Washington
Massachusetts	West Virginia
Michigan	Wisconsin
Minnesota	Wyoming
Missouri	

**Appendix D**  
**State Survey Results**

# Status of Domestic and Sexual Violence Data Reporting in the States

## **SURVEY RESPONSES WITH PERCENTAGES**

Please note the following:

- Normal typeface indicates absolute values for responses; italics are used to delineate percentage figures for total responses.
- The N value for each question indicates the total number of responses on which the percentage figures are based.
- Some questions may have less total responses than there were for the overall survey because of negative responses to qualifying questions.
- The percentages given for some questions may not add to 100 due to either rounding error or multiple choice responses.

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### **I. CURRENT STATUS OF DATA SOURCES**

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1. Does your state have or plan to have within the next two years an incident-based reporting system for local law enforcement agencies?	N=47	Yes	No
	1.	38 81%	9 19%

*(If Yes, please answer Questions 2 through 6. If No, please skip to Question 7.)*

2. Which of the following best describes this incident-based reporting system's current level of implementation? *(Check all that apply.)*

	N=38		
	2.	#	%
a. developing state-wide data standard	a.	15	40%
b. implementing data collection among local agencies	b.	16	42%
c. applying to FBI for NIBRS data submission certification	c.	13	34%
d. producing incident-based reports but not NIBRS certified	d.	12	32%
e. producing incident-based reports and NIBRS certified	e.	8	21%

3. If data reports are NOT currently available from this system, by what date would any reports be expected?

<u>State</u>	<u>Response</u>
Alabama	
Alaska	
Arkansas	undetermined
Colorado	1-1-96
Connecticut	1-1-96
D.C.	9/96
Delaware	
Florida	
Georgia	
Idaho	
Indiana	unknown
Iowa	
Kansas	
Louisiana	1-1-96
Maine	
Maryland	July 1996
Massachusetts	current
Michigan	
Montana	1/1/96
Nebraska	1996
New Hampshire	6/96
New Jersey	7/1/96
New York	1997
North Carolina	6/96
North Dakota	
Northern Mariana Islands	12/95
Ohio	
Oklahoma	
Pennsylvania	1997
Rhode Island	6/97
South Dakota	
Tennessee	NIBRS
Texas	it is in a test mode
Utah	
Virgin Islands	
Washington	1-1-96

4. If data reports are currently available, indicate the percentage of your state's local jurisdictions that contribute information. (*Check the most appropriate categories.*)

	N=21	0-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%	No Response
a. major cities (>50,000 population)	8	38%	4 19%	1 5%	8 38%	0 0%
b. medium to small cities	3	14%	5 24%	4 19%	8 38%	1 5%
c. suburban communities	3	14%	4 19%	4 19%	5 15%	5 15%
d. rural areas	6	29%	4 19%	2 10%	7 33%	2 10%

5. What percentage of all reported crimes in your state do the incident-based statistics represent?

Range	Frequency	Percent
1-25%	7	31.8%
26-50%	3	13.6%
51-75%	2	9.1%
76-100%	10	<u>45.5%</u>
Total responses	22	100.0%

6. What percentage of law enforcement agencies in your state record victim/offender relationship information for non-homicide offenses?

N=31

0-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%
10 32%	4 13%	3 10%	14 45%

7. Does your state conduct a crime victimization survey?

N=47	Yes	No
7.	10 21%	37 79%

	Domestic Violence Data Reporting				Sexual Violence Data Reporting			
8./9. If yes to Question 7, does it include data on domestic and/or sexual violence incidents?	N=10 8.	Yes 5 50%	No 5 50%	NR 0 0%	N=10 9.	Yes 5 50%	No 5 50%	NR 0 0%
10./11. Does your state collect domestic and/or sexual violence data from non-UCR reporting systems?	N=47 10.	Yes 31 66%	No 15 32%	NR 1 2%	N=47 11.	Yes 22 47%	No 20 43%	NR 5 11%
12./13. If yes to Question(s) 10 or 11, please check all of the following that apply.	N=31 12.	#	%		N=23 13.	#	%	
a. protection order registries	a.	10	32%		a.	5	22%	
b. protection order issued	b.	11	36%		b.	4	22%	
c. child protection services	c.	8	26%		c.	11	48%	
d. health care providers (e.g., individual practitioners, hospitals)	d.	5	16%		d.	4	17%	
e. higher education institutions	e.	3	10%		e.	4	17%	
f. community corrections (e.g., probation, parole)	f.	6	19%		f.	5	22%	
g. corrections (e.g., prison, residential facilities)	g.	7	23%		g.	7	30%	
h. state criminal history repository	h.	14	45%		h.	12	50%	
i. victim services providers	i.	18	58%		i.	10	44%	
j. civil/criminal courts	j.	13	42%		j.	10	44%	
k. special databases or flagging systems (e.g., gun registries, child sex offender registries)	k.	9	29%		k.	10	44%	
14./15. Is your state required to disseminate the domestic and/or sexual violence data that it collects to specific audiences or agencies?	N=47 14.	Yes 19 40%	No 26 55%	NR 2 4%	N=47 15.	Yes 10 21%	No 27 57%	NR 10 21%
16. If Yes to Question(s) 14 or 15, please identify these audiences or agencies. (Specify if your comments only apply to one offense type.)								

(See attached listing for responses to this question.)

## II. REPORTING ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE OFFENSES

	Domestic Violence Data Reporting				Sexual Violence Data Reporting			
	N=47	Yes	No	NR	N=47	Yes	No	NR
17./18. Are annual statistics on domestic and/or sexual violence offenses collected in your state?	17.	35 76%	12 26%	0 0%	18.	30 64%	17 36%	0 0%

*(If No, please skip to Question 33.)*

19./20. These statistics are produced as part of: *(Check the most appropriate category.)*

	N=35			N=30		
a. aggregate crime statistics (e.g., UCR)	19.			20.		
b. incident-based crime statistics (e.g., NIBRS)	a.	15	43%	a.	13	43%
c. both a. and b. above	b.	10	29%	b.	8	27%
d. other, please specify <i>(See attached listing for responses to this question.)</i>	c.	8	23%	c.	9	30%
	d.	14	40%	d.	7	23%

21./22. How are these statistics derived?

	N=35			N=30		
a. a specific offense code is entered on incident reports	21.	Yes	No	22.	Yes	No
b. a non-offense code or special box is marked on incident reports	a.	9 27%	25 74%	a.	17 57%	13 43%
c. violent offenses are sorted by victim-offender relationship	b.	6 17%	29 83%	b.	2 7%	28 93%
d. domestic/sexual violence specific incident forms are collected	c.	13 37%	22 63%	c.	12 40%	18 60%
e. other methods are used for identifying domestic and/or sexual violence cases, please specify <i>(See attached listing for responses to this question.)</i>	d.	16 46%	19 54%	d.	6 20%	24 80%
	e.	8 23%	27 77%	e.	3 10%	27 90%

	Domestic Violence Data Reporting			Sexual Violence Data Reporting		
23./24. Are victim characteristic data available?	N=35			N=30		
	23.	Yes	No	24.	Yes	No
a. age	a.	29 83%	6 17%	a.	20 67%	10 33%
b. race	b.	26 74%	9 26%	b.	21 70%	9 30%
c. ethnicity (e.g., Hispanic/Non-Hispanic)	c.	17 49%	18 51%	c.	14 47%	16 53%
d. gender	d.	29 83%	6 17%	d.	21 70%	9 30%
e. relationship to offender	e.	28 80%	7 20%	e.	20 67%	10 33%
f. other, please specify ( <i>See attached listing for responses to this question.</i> )	f.	4 11%	34 89%	f.	2 7%	28 93%
25./26. Are offender characteristic data available?	N=35			N=30		
	25.	Yes	No	26.	Yes	No
a. age	a.	27 77%	8 23%	a.	21 70%	9 30%
b. race	b.	25 71%	10 29%	b.	21 70%	9 30%
c. ethnicity (e.g., Hispanic/Non-Hispanic)	c.	18 51%	17 49%	c.	18 60%	12 40%
d. gender	d.	28 80%	7 20%	d.	21 70%	9 30%
e. relationship to victim	e.	24 69%	11 31%	e.	18 60%	12 40%
f. other, please specify ( <i>See attached listing for responses to this question.</i> )	f.	4 11%	31 89%	f.	3 10%	27 90%
27./28. Can the incidents be categorized by related offense information (e.g., murder, aggravated assault, rape, etc.)?	N=35	Yes	No	N=30	Yes	No
	27.	27 77%	8 23%	28.	19 63%	11 37%
29./30. Is any information on related injuries (e.g., apparent broken bones, possible internal injuries, severe lacerations, etc.) available?	N=35	Yes	No	N=30	Yes	No
	29.	21 60%	14 40%	30.	15 48%	16 52%
31./32. Is any information on weapons used (e.g., handgun, knife, fist, etc.) available?	N=35	Yes	No	N=30	Yes	No
	31.	26 74%	9 26%	32.	21 70%	9 30%

### III. DATA COLLECTION ISSUES

33. Please rate the following data collecting concerns as significant problems for your state:

- a. lateness of local agency data submissions
- b. high error rates in local agency submissions
- c. incomplete local agency submissions
- d. incompatible automated information systems
- e. nonparticipation by local agencies
- f. lack of adequate local agency staff training
- g. ambiguous or inconsistent definition(s) of domestic violence offenses
- h. ambiguous or inconsistent definition(s) of sexual violence offenses
- i. no state authority to collect these data
- j. inadequate funding to implement data collection

N=44		33.	Serious	Some	None
a.	4 9%	37 84%	3 7%		
b.	2 5%	31 72%	10 23%		
c.	6 14%	33 75%	5 11%		
d.	12 27%	21 47%	12 27%		
e.	6 13%	27 60%	12 27%		
f.	4 9%	35 80%	5 11%		
g.	8 19%	15 35%	20 47%		
h.	4 10%	16 40%	20 50%		
i.	7 17%	10 24%	25 60%		
j.	21 50%	13 31%	8 19%		

34. What are the major impediments to state-wide collection of domestic/sexual violence data? (Please specify if comments apply to only one offense type.)

*(See attached listing for responses to this question.)*

35. Are there any resource issues that affect or will affect the collection of domestic/sexual violence data in your state? (Please specify if comments apply to only one offense type.)

*(See attached listing for responses to this question.)*

36. Please briefly describe any strategies that your state has successfully employed for improving data reporting by agencies.

*(See attached listing for responses to this question.)*

37. If your state has legal definitions for domestic and/or sexual violence offenses, please attach a copy.

*(See attached listing for responses to this question.)*

38. If your state has a legal definition for domestic violence offenses, does it apply to the following victim groups. *(Check all that apply.)*

- a. female spouses
- b. male spouses
- c. same sex partners
- d. common law partners
- e. ex-spouses
- f. parents
- g. persons having a child in common
- h. boyfriends/girlfriends
- i. ex-boyfriends/girlfriends
- j. children
- k. other, please specify *(See attached listing for responses to this question.)*
- l. not applicable

N=47

- 38.
- a. 36 77%
- b. 35 75%
- c. 24 51%
- d. 29 62%
- e. 32 68%
- f. 31 66%
- g. 32 68%
- h. 25 53%
- i. 22 47%
- j. 29 62%
- k. 6 13%
- l. 2 4%

39. Does your state's legal definition for sexual violence offenses apply to the following victim groups. *(Check all that apply.)*

- a. adult females
- b. adult males
- c. minors
- d. not applicable

N=47

- 39.
- a. 31 66%
- b. 29 62%
- c. 30 64%
- d. 3 6%

40. Please attach copies of the data forms used for collecting domestic violence and sexual violence information.

*(See attached listing for responses to this question.)*

Question 16. If Yes to Question(s) 14 or 15, please identify these audiences or agencies. (Specify if your comments only apply to one offense type.)

<u>State</u>	<u>Response</u>
Alaska	Governor, legislature, community service providers, native organizations, other state agencies.
California	Summary domestic violence data is collected and reported in the Department's annual publication, "Crime and Delinquency in California."
Colorado	Law enforcement, victims groups, policy analysts (reported in annual state crime report).
Connecticut	Published in annual report.
D.C.	U.S. attorney, private citizens, women groups, advocacy groups (i.e., Georgetown Law School), attorneys who represent victims of such crimes.
Florida	Governor and legislature; and by request, under our public records law, to any entity requesting such data. Certain categories, such as our child abuse registry, are exempt.
Georgia	GCIC is mandated by state law to provide an annual report on domestic/family violence only.
Idaho	All criminal justice agencies.
Louisiana	Joint Legislative Workgroup on Treatment and Prevention of Sex Offenses.
Maine	All UCR data (including domestic violence and sexual violence) is to be submitted annually to the Governor, legislators, and all law enforcement agencies.
Montana	To Federal agencies.
New Jersey	Reports provided to law enforcement agencies and to any agency or person who requests a copy.
Northern Mariana Islands	Office of Victims of Crime (OVC), U.S. Department of Justice, CNMI Legislature, and any interested agencies or individuals.
Pennsylvania	Report to Legislature on Child Abuse.
Puerto Rico	Comisión para los Asuntos de la Mujer, Oficina del Gobernador.
South Dakota	Information must be made available to SD law enforcement.
Texas	Department of Public Safety.
Utah	Department of Human Services Report on Child Abuse.
Washington	WASPC will begin collecting domestic violence-related Part I crimes at the direction of the legislature. We will provide the legislature mid-year and annual statistics. Other distribution of the report will be provided to local state law enforcement agencies and other governmental groups. Collection will begin July 1, 1995.
West Virginia	UCR information required to be in annual report submitted to legislature, law enforcement, and Governor's Office.
Wyoming	To the public upon request.

Questions 19./20. These statistics are produced as part of: *(Check the most appropriate category.)*

d. other, please specify

<u>State</u>	<u>Response</u>
California	Summary reporting form, "Domestic Violence Related Calls for Assistance."
Connecticut	Family Violence Reporting Program.
Kansas	Through a special report from the Kansas State Attorney General.
Louisiana	Sentencing/Corrections.
Maryland	State UCR Reports.
Nevada	Statewide reporting requirements per statute.
Northern Mariana Islands	Federal requirement and SAC activity.
Puerto Rico	Other statistical reports required by law.
South Dakota	Criminal history statistics.
Tennessee	Currently done through Judicial Council; eventually by NIBRS.
West Virginia	WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence.
Wisconsin	Prosecutor reporting; law enforcement reporting.
Wyoming	State DV Collection Program.

Questions 21./22. How are these statistics derived?

e. other methods are used for identifying domestic and/or sexual violence cases, please specify

<u>State</u>	<u>Response</u>
California	Summary form submitted.
Colorado	Per NIBRS requirements.
D.C.	Non-offense code for domestic violence arrest.
Missouri	The contributing agency determines how to identify these types of offenses. They may use one or more of the methods described above.
New Hampshire	Crisis center statistics.
South Dakota	Fingerprint cards.
Utah	NIBRS and Child Abuse Registry.
West Virginia	UCR and Domestic Violence Coalition reports.

Questions 23./24. Are victim characteristic data available?  
f. other, please specify

<u>State</u>	<u>Response</u>
Alabama	Weapon, injury, location, time of day.
Colorado	Per NIBRS requirements.
Connecticut	Children involved/present, injury type.
Michigan	Injury.
Northern Mariana Islands	Location.
Ohio	Height, weight, hair, eyes.
West Virginia	If victim was complainant.

Questions 25./26. Are offender characteristic data available?

f. other, please specify

<u>State</u>	<u>Response</u>
Connecticut	Liquor/drugs involved, prior court orders, weapons used, offense type.
Michigan	Weapon, arrest type, clearances.
Northern Mariana Islands	Location.
Ohio	Height, weight, hair, eyes.
West Virginia	Types of abuse, factors in abuse.

Question 34. What are the major impediments to state-wide collection of domestic/sexual violence data? (Please specify if comments apply to only one offense type.)

<u>State</u>	<u>Response</u>
Alabama	UCR summary downgrades male sexual assault victims to an assault. Part I offenses lose criminal mischief and vandalism. Data is not centralized.
Alaska	Funding.
Arizona	No authority is major problem.
Arkansas	Willingness of local agencies to increase reports. This would be a separate program in addition to UCR and has not really been addressed.
California	Funding for IBR when legislation is passed.
Colorado	"Ruralness" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Turnover in small departments.</li> <li>- Training unavailable (closed state training center five years ago).</li> <li>- Large number of small (n = &lt;5) law enforcement agencies.</li> </ul>
Connecticut	We want to implement NIBRS to replace current Family Violence Reporting Program and to begin collecting data on sexual violence incidents/offenders/victims. Resources are an issue.
D.C.	Domestic violence—better training and report writing by officers in the field.
Delaware	No statutes relating specifically to domestic violence.
Georgia	Lack of training.
Hawaii	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No standard definition of domestic violence for all agencies.</li> <li>2. No agency assigned to collect data.</li> <li>3. No funding to implement a multi-agency data collection system.</li> </ol>
Illinois	A consistent definition of domestic violence and related offenses is needed for adoption by all reporting law enforcement agencies. Many revisions need to be made within the current UCR reporting program to better capture domestic-related incidents.
Indiana	Non-UCR state.
Iowa	Both types of offenses—non-participation of agencies. Some agencies don't count cases if the county attorney decides not to prosecute.
Kansas	Lack of training and awareness of officers to identify the specific situation.
Louisiana	Funding for data collection.
Maine	Accurate and complete data collection for both types of offenses rests in the success or failure of NIBRS implementation. Congress can mandate, but it is the state UCR Programs and local police agencies that must struggle to make implementation a reality.
Maryland	Domestic violence definitions are geared to criminal law violations and are constrained—they don't lend themselves completely to data collection. Funding and other different programs stretching beyond limits of staff.

Massachusetts	Non-reporting of domestic violence by non-NIBRS departments.
Michigan	With NIBRS, drawing data off by VOR doesn't guarantee that if your definition says to be a domestic, you must have "resided" together or had a child in common (this is one definition but widely used), that this will be the case. You could be a boyfriend or girlfriend and never lived together.
Minnesota	Resources to implement NIBRS and definitions of domestic/sexual violence offenses.
Missouri	There is no mandatory requirement to report domestic/sexual violence data to the state. Our crime incident information systems are based on a voluntary reporting standard.
Montana	Incompatibility between local and state data collection systems.
Nevada	Sexual violence—no statutory authority. Domestic violence—no focus to program, lack of use of data collected, limited data collection/analysis because of staffing. Both offenses—no Statistical Analysis Center.
New Jersey	None, once all local police departments are automated and participate in IBUCR.
New York	Historically, aggregate counts of domestic violence known offenses were reported through UCR. However, reporting was sporadic and premised on no common definition of domestic violence. In 1994, legislation was enacted to require police departments to complete a uniform report on all incidents of "domestic violence," which was defined as criminal conduct between members of the same family or household.
North Carolina	Incident-based crime reporting is not operational in the larger urban departments, which represent almost half of the reported crimes. The primary source of data is the criminal case filings and dispositions in the court system, but there is no specific offense classification.
North Dakota	Data is collected through NIBRS program. Not all agencies report in incident-based format, therefore data is not statewide. Also, NIBRS data would only reflect incidents brought to attention of law enforcement.
Northern Mariana Islands	Some data donors are not automated nor linked to SAC.
Oklahoma	Domestic abuse is collected on a form "as mandated," which collects only date, time, and type of offense.
Pennsylvania	Essentially domestic violence is an assault or sexual offense which occurs in a domestic setting. Without IBR we cannot identify these offenses as domestic violence.
Puerto Rico	Lack of funding commitment. Lack of human resources.
Rhode Island	The funding of a full-time position at the state's Centralized Domestic Violence Unit to process and analyze data. The VAWA funds will add but \$10,000 towards the initiative. The SAC will, however, lend data collection and analysis assistance.
South Dakota	1. NIBRS reporting is not mandatory in SD. 2. When using FPC's, there is currently no way to determine if a simple assault charge is related to domestic violence or not.
Utah	NIBRS still needs to be implemented in the larger jurisdictions.

- Virgin Islands    Need to have automated data collection.
- Washington        Unknown at this time.
- West Virginia     Switch to IBRS—serious problems with local agency ability to comply, especially with info on sexual violence. Domestic violence info is okay.
- Wisconsin          - Incompatible local systems—automated.  
- Some non-reporting/non-cooperation.  
- The more variables collected, the more errors and/or the more time in correcting them.

Question 35. Are there any resource issues that affect or will affect the collection of domestic/sexual violence data in your state? (Please specify if comments apply to only one offense type.)

<u>State</u>	<u>Response</u>
Alabama	Developing communications procedures to get data from one state computer system to another. Presently, courts have civil filings, which include restraining orders. Courts have their own computer network, and it is not the same as the state's system.
Alaska	Lack of funding.
Arizona	Agencies are reluctant to provide data absent clear legislative mandate when additional resources are required to gather data.
Arkansas	Yes, we do not have the resources at this time to add the collection of these two types of data.
Colorado	- Training. - Need computers and software.
Connecticut	Yes. Resources are needed for local agencies to switch to NIBRS reporting, particularly the larger cities, which account for the highest proportion of cases.
D.C.	Budget constraints have limited MPD's efforts to implement Automated Reporting System, which will capture data elements.
Delaware	Lack of data entry funds make late reporting a major issue. Training, especially for new staff, is difficult.
Florida	Turnover rate of personnel who handle data causes need for constant training.
Georgia	Lack of implementation funding for sexual violence. Funding was just implemented in Jan. '95 for Domestic Family Violence.
Hawaii	Hawaii needs adequate funding and leaders who are willing to implement a data collection mechanism for the state regarding domestic violence and general violence.
Illinois	Currently there are several problems within the offense and arrest reporting system in Illinois which do not allow for complete collection of necessary statewide data. These problems need to be alleviated before additional mechanisms to collect specific domestic/sexual offense data can be put in place.
Iowa	Both types of offenses—software concerns and lack of personnel.
Kansas	Data is being collected, entered, but funding is not available that allows for additional staff to complete statistical programs and to eliminate an existing backlog.
Maine	Adequate funding to assist local agencies to initially become automated and/or upgrade current software to be NIBRS compliant.
Maryland	The UCR Program already captures domestic violence and has no plans for a separate reporting of sexual violence. Funding for agencies to report NIBRS. MD Program will collect domestic violence, child abuse, and sufficient detail on sex crimes to generate adequate information.
Massachusetts	Greater use of software for collecting NIBRS data.

Michigan	No more so than implementation costs to begin submitting NIBRS data (training, materials, programming, etc.).
Minnesota	Lack of funds to implement NIBRS.
Missouri	The high costs for reporting complete and accurate crime incident data to the state is always a serious concern and adversely affects the possibility of complete collection of these data.
Montana	No.
Nevada	Both offenses—lack of staff/program funding.
New Hampshire	High caseloads/lack of personnel; no access to fax machines, etc.
New York	A statewide database is currently under development.
North Carolina	No, it is more of a standards issue of data definition and incident-based automation in the local agencies.
North Dakota	Resources at local level for law enforcement agencies to acquire software capable of providing incident data. Also staff time to enter data. Resources for training/re-training officers ref. incident-based reporting.
Northern Mariana Islands	Inadequate funding.
Oklahoma	NIBRS, when implemented, will give us much more detail without changing mandate.
Pennsylvania	The move to IBR has been funded adequately to date. Funding of protection order registry is unresolved.
Puerto Rico	No data available for sexual violence, except for forcible rape.
Rhode Island	See previous (question's) response.
Tennessee	Large agencies feel modifying their information systems is prohibitively expensive.
Virgin Islands	Lack of computers/automation, need for additional training, and failure to implement (fully) domestic violence team throughout the Territory.
Washington	Unknown at this time.
West Virginia	Money, software, equipment lacking, especially at local agency level.
Wisconsin	Resources and standards for automation systems and applications—particularly local.

Question 36. Please briefly describe any strategies that your state has successfully employed for improving data reporting by agencies.

<u>State</u>	<u>Response</u>
Alabama	In crime reporting we use a 4-digit code similar to NCIC codes instead of a 3-digit code. This allows us to add new codes as we need to.
Alaska	Attempting to set standards.
Arizona	None have been particularly successful.
Arkansas	None—other than extensive quality control of measures and one-to-one training—both by telephone and at local agencies.
Colorado	Provided equipment.
Connecticut	In the current Family Violence Reporting Program, staff in the Crime Analysis Unit at state police review each form for accuracy and completeness and then take the necessary steps to correct them.
D.C.	Training of officers, advocacy groups being involved in training, participation of the Metropolitan Police Department on task forces that are concerned with the issues.
Delaware	Used Federal funds to fill in missing and late data.
Florida	FDLE has an aggressive training program which serves the entire state. Help is available by phone for specific questions by agencies.
Georgia	Increased the number of training sessions for users; creation of newsletters with information about procedural changes and issuance of quarterly updates on procedural or systematic changes.
Illinois	The Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986 requires law enforcement agencies to forward reports of domestic violence incidents and information pertaining to orders of protection to the Illinois State Police.
Indiana	In process of implementing NIBRS and upgrading CCH.
Iowa	Both types of offenses—always have on-going training; paper submission option for agencies that cannot afford hardware, software, and personnel.
Kansas	Newsletter.
Maine	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assisted local depts. with NIBRS-based police forms and in-service training.</li> <li>2. Worked closely with software vendors on NIBRS-compliant standards.</li> <li>3. Targeted Federal and state justice assistance grants toward record-information improvement.</li> <li>4. Used special interest groups (victim service agencies) to be NIBRS advocates with police.</li> </ol>
Maryland	We have an additional Battered Spouse Report associated with our summary UCR Program. This report is incident based and will evolve into a Domestic Violence Report 1/96. This report will capture crimes and relationship.
Massachusetts	Grants to buy NIBRS software.

Michigan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better definitions.</li> <li>- Better training/resource manual.</li> <li>- Expanded VOR/mandatory to complete.</li> <li>- No defaulting of incomplete data.</li> </ul>
Missouri	In other criminal justice-related information systems, the state has used video training tapes to promote completeness, uniformity, and accuracy in field reporting.
Montana	None.
Nevada	Implemented/completed CHRI baseline assessment. Implemented III. Implemented UCR in 1994.
New Jersey	Reporting has always been good in New Jersey.
New York	Enactment of legislation mandating a uniform report on all alleged incidents of domestic violence.
North Carolina	We are presently working with the NC Administrative Office of the Courts to create a database of criminal cases based on the offense and the last name or address of the complainant and the defendant. This should give us some good information on cases filed—disposition and sentences of "domestic violence" cases.
North Dakota	So far, low cost things like calling on phone to remind agencies to get their data in—or providing training upon request. Also train all new officers at academies.
Northern Mariana Islands	We have developed a statistical worksheet to be used by our VOCA subgrantees, automate criminal records, establish criminal history records, and link several criminal justice organizations.
Oklahoma	We have been working for several years on NIBRS. Have developed a universal report form, software, and collection procedures. We hope to get FBI certified this year.
Pennsylvania	Funded and assisted in development of IBR software for police.
Rhode Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Assisting in the design of the state domestic violence reporting form, i.e., DV-1.</li> <li>(b) The move to make the state 90 to 100 percent IBR/NIBR participants.</li> <li>(c) The negotiating (successfully) for statistical data collecting and activities for the state's DV Unit.</li> </ul>
Utah	NIBRS grant—Central Repository plus 50 agencies.
Virgin Islands	Tying funding to improved data reporting.
Washington	WASPC conducts annual statewide training seminars. We apply extensive editing procedures on every report received by the Uniform Crime Reporting Section. We have also invited agencies to our office for any emergency training at the request of any agency.
West Virginia	UCR/IBR had best results with legislative mandate for reporting, mandated training for IBRS, and providing training.
Wisconsin	Timely and consistent feedback and error checking (time consuming).
Wyoming	Some training of law enforcement officers and the implementation of IBR will give a better picture of these types of violence.

Question 37. If your state has legal definitions for domestic and/or sexual violence offenses, please attach a copy.

<u>State</u>	<u>Response</u>
Alabama	State statutes on protection from abuse, domestic violence facilities, family violence protection order enforcement, reporting of child abuse or neglect, and child abuse generally.
Alaska	State statutes defining domestic violence for civil laws pertaining to restraining orders.
Arizona	State statutes on sexual and family offenses.
Arkansas	State statutes on family law definitions; offenses involving family, dependents, etc.; offenses against children or incompetents; offenses against the person; and sexual offenses.
California	State statutes on response to domestic violence.
Colorado	State statutes on domestic violence.
Connecticut	State statutes on family violence prevention and response: definitions, investigation of family violence by peace officer, family violence response and intervention units, and family violence offense report.
Florida	State statutes on sexual battery.
Georgia	State statutes on family violence.
Hawaii	State statutes on abuse of family, child, and household members, and sexual offenses. State statutes on domestic violence crime prevention.
Illinois	Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986.
Iowa	State statutes on domestic abuse, sex act, sexual abuse definitions.
Kansas	State statutes on domestic violence criminal procedure and Suggested Law Enforcement Domestic Violence Policy.
Maine	State statutes on protection from abuse.
Maryland	MD House Bill 140—Domestic Violence Act.
Michigan	Multiple definitions were indicated but copies were not sent.
Minnesota	MN Domestic Abuse Act.
Missouri	State statutes on abuse—adults and children—shelters and protective orders and sexual offenses.
Nevada	State statutes on domestic violence.
New Jersey	State statutory definitions of sexual offenses and domestic violence.
New York	NY Family Protection and Domestic Violence Act of 1994 and state statutes on NY State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence.
North Dakota	State statutes on adult abuse and gross sexual imposition.
Oklahoma	State statutes on domestic abuse, forcible sodomy, rape, and sexual battery.

Puerto Rico	PR Domestic Abuse Prevention and Intervention Act.
Rhode Island	RI Bill 88–H 8719 Domestic Abuse Prevention Act.
Texas	Texas Family Code definition of family violence.
Virgin Islands	VI statutes on domestic violence, rape, and unlawful sexual contact.
Washington	State statutory domestic violence definitions and domestic violence reporting—training, powers, duties.
Wisconsin	WI Domestic Abuse Mandatory Arrest Law and Sexual Assault Statutes.
Wyoming	State statutes on family violence protection.

Question 38. If your state has a legal definition for domestic violence offenses, does it apply to the following victim groups. (Check all that apply.)

k. other, please specify

<u>State</u>	<u>Response</u>
Connecticut	Ever lived together.
Florida	Anyone who lives, or has lived, together.
Hawaii	Persons residing or formerly residing in the same dwelling unit.
Iowa	The assault is between persons who have been family or household members residing together within the past year and are not residing together at the time of the assault.
Kansas	No legal definition.
Michigan	Dependent upon which one of multiple statutory definitions is applicable to a given case.
Montana	In-laws.
North Dakota	Any family member.
Northern Mariana Islands	The CNMI does not have a domestic violence statute, but existing laws include these victim groups.
Oklahoma	Anyone living or who has ever lived under the same roof.
Tennessee	Current or former household members.
West Virginia	People residing together now or in the past.
Wisconsin	Same household or former same household.

Question 40. Please attach copies of the data forms used for collecting domestic violence and sexual violence information.

<u>State</u>	<u>Response</u>
Alabama	AL Uniform Incident/Offense and Arrest Report Forms.
Alaska	AK Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's Client Intake Report Form.
Connecticut	CT NIBRS Form.
D.C.	MPD Incident-Based Reporting Form.
Florida	State Hate Crime Statistical and Uniform Crime Reports Incident Report Forms.
Georgia	GA Family Violence Incident Report Form.
Iowa	IA Incident, Arrest, and Supplemental Report Forms.
Kansas	KS Standard Arrest/Juvenile and Standard Offense Report Forms.
Maine	ME State Police Field, Person/Entity Detail, and Arrestee/Suspect Details Report Forms.
Maryland	MD Supplementary Battered Spouse Report Form.
Michigan	MI MCR-1 Incident Report Form.
Missouri	MO Crime Index Report Form.
Montana	MT Department of Family Services Domestic Violence Report Form.
Nevada	NV Domestic Violence Arrest Report.
New York	NY Standardized Domestic Incident Report.
Northern Mariana Islands	CNMI Victim Statistics Worksheet.
Oklahoma	OK Domestic Abuse Report Form.
Puerto Rico	PR Police Department Domestic Violence Incident Report Forms.
Rhode Island	RI DV-1 Domestic Violence Reporting Form.
South Dakota	SD Incident Report.
Tennessee	TN Domestic Violence Investigations Law Enforcement Log Sheet.
Virgin Islands	VI Police Department's Offense Report and Domestic Violence Supplementary Report Forms.
Washington	WA Domestic Violence Related Part One Offenses Report Form.
West Virginia	WV Monthly Domestic Violence Report Form.
Wisconsin	WI Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Report Forms.
Wyoming	WY Domestic Violence Reporting Form.



**Appendix E**

**FBI NIBRS Status Report**  
**as of 06/02/95\***

\* For updates, contact the Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20531, or access the Web site at <http://www.nibrs.search.org>.

State or Federal Agency	Date NIBRS Testing Started	Actual**		Projected					
				1995		1996		1997	
		Number of Agencies	Population Represented						
<b>Operational:</b>									
Colorado	5/91	1	1%	1	1%	251	100%	251	100%
Idaho	12/90	115	96%	116	99%	117	100%	117	100%
Iowa	5/91	175	75%	175	75%	187	80%	188	85%
North Dakota	1/89	84	82%	84	82%	84	82%	84	82%
South Carolina	11/89	339	100%	339	100%	339	100%	339	100%
Utah	5/90	30	27%	50	45%	75	75%	100	85%
Vermont	10/92	18	58%	18	58%	30	75%	30	75%
Virginia	10/92	130	0.3%	130	0.3%	170	36%	200	49%
<b>Testing:</b>									
Arkansas	2/90			3	2%	9	12%	15	22%
Delaware	6/91			62	100%	62	100%	62	100%
Indiana - (NS)	10/93			3	5%	3	5%	3	5%
Louisiana	1/95			12	30%	25	40%	31	50%
Maine	1/95			50	45%	75	65%	100	90%
Massachusetts	8/90			50	40%	100	55%	150	70%
Michigan	2/94			550	80%	551	91%	551	91%
Montana	6/93			113	100%	113	100%	113	100%
Nebraska	5/91			8	6%	15	9%	15	9%
New Hampshire	12/93			0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
New York	10/92			50	5%	200	15%	300	70%
Ohio - (NS)	12/92			1	1%	3	4%	7	9%
Oklahoma	11/91			25	27%	148	46%	229	75%
Oregon	2/94			25	78%	25	78%	25	78%
Pennsylvania	5/95			140	5%	150	8%	150	8%
Tennessee - (NS)	11/93			2	1%	3	2%	3	2%
Texas	7/92			50	20%	150	40%	275	46%
Washington	1/91			27	18%	67	40%	75	45%
West Virginia	7/94			153	50%	229	75%	306	100%
Wisconsin	8/92			50	25%	100	35%	120	45%
Dept. of Commerce Office of Insp. General	11/94								
FBI	3/93								
<b>Plans to test in 1995:</b>									
D.C.				3	100%	3	100%	3	100%
Guam				1	100%	1	100%	1	100%
Connecticut				3	50%	69	66%	99	96%
Kansas				375	100%	375	100%	375	100%
New Jersey				16	4%	16	4%	16	4%
New Mexico - (NS)				6	40%	15	50%	15	50%
South Dakota				50	70%	55	75%	55	75%
Dept. of Defense									
<b>Developmental:</b>									
Alabama*				316	100%	316	100%	316	100%
Hawaii				0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Illinois*				687	73%	687	73%	842	100%
Kentucky				0	0%	558	100%	558	100%
Maryland				0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Minnesota				321	100%	321	100%	321	100%
Nevada				27	93%	35	100%	35	100%
North Carolina				0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Rhode Island				0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Wyoming				0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

State	Date NIBRS Testing Started	Actual**		Projected							
		Number of Agencies	Population Represented	1995		1996		1997			
				Number of Agencies	Population Represented	Number of Agencies	Population Represented	Number of Agencies	Population Represented		
<b>No Formalized Plan:</b>											
Alaska											
Arizona											
California											
Florida											
Georgia											
Mississippi - (NS)											
Missouri - (NS)											
<b>Total***</b>				<b>4,092</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>5,732</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>6,675</b>	<b>39%</b>		

\*Previously certified to submit NIBRS. Returned to developmental status due to computer program design problems.

\*\*Counts are based on UCR participating agencies and corresponding populations.

\*\*\*Totals represent all 4 stages (operational, testing, planning, and development) of NIBRS implementation.

Operational - NIBRS data submitted to the FBI.

Testing - submitting test data from various agencies within the state to the FBI.

Plans to test - agency has employed a consulting firm to design software or agency is conducting intrastate testing of data.

Developmental - agency is in the process of designing and implementing various levels of data collection.

No formalized plan - agency has indicated there is no formal plan and/or no current interest in participating in NIBRS.

NS - Non-program state - not a centralized repository for state UCR data collection.



## **Appendix F**

### **A Note on Terminology for Crime Statistics**

## A Note on Terminology for Crime Statistics

In any discussion of domestic and sexual violence crime statistics, it is important to be precise in the terminology used to describe the crime data being collected and analyzed. Otherwise, what appear to be conflicts between various prevalence or severity indicators may be actually due to the use of different units of measure.

A distinction should be made between the terms "incident" and "offense." According to the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data standards,

An "incident" is defined for NIBRS reporting purposes as one or more offenses committed by the same offender, or group of offenders *acting in concert*, at the *same time and place*.<sup>1</sup>

From this definition, certain relationships are evident among the terms used, e.g., an incident is a single event during which multiple offenses or crimes may be committed and with which several victims and offenders may be associated. Consequently, a jurisdiction's statistics for offenses, victims, and offenders may be greater than its number of reported incidents.

The number of offenses, victims, and offenders also may be different from one another since each is an independent phenomenon. In other words, a single offender may have multiple victims or may commit multiple offenses against a single victim, or multiple offenders may attack a single victim.

A further refinement is that most crime incident data sets rarely have the ability to distinguish between first-time offenders and recidivists. This would require examining criminal history records to determine whether someone is a repeat offender when reporting every crime incident. Since the offender is often unknown when a crime is first reported, this information would have to be retroactively added when a case is cleared. Additionally, since the crime is reported at arrest, subsequent prosecutorial or judicial actions may invalidate the assignment of a crime to an individual. Tracking these decisions and updating personal records and higher level statistical data sets require more of a resource commitment than most jurisdictions are willing to make. As a result, the number of offenders reported in incident-based data sets may be greater than the actual criminal population. This would be particularly true for offenses such as domestic and sexual violence that are behaviorally motivated crimes and where offenders may have a greater tendency to recidivate.

All of this means that the use of specific statistical figures in discussing prevalence or severity of domestic and sexual violence problems should be done with a full awareness of what they represent. In addition to concerns about under- or overreporting problems, there may be legitimate reasons for discrepancies across various data sets because of differences in definitions and procedures for data collection employed in each.

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reporting: National Incident-Based Reporting System—Volume I: Data Collection Guidelines*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, July 1, 1988:17.

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# About the National Institute of Justice

The National Institute of Justice, a component of the Office of Justice Programs, is the research and development agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. NIJ was established to prevent and reduce crime and to improve the criminal justice system. Specific mandates established by Congress in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended, and the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 direct the National Institute of Justice to:

- *Sponsor special projects and research and development programs* that will improve and strengthen the criminal justice system and reduce or prevent crime.
- *Conduct national demonstration projects* that employ innovative or promising approaches for improving criminal justice.
- *Develop new technologies* to fight crime and improve criminal justice.
- *Evaluate the effectiveness of criminal justice programs* and identify programs that promise to be successful if continued or repeated.
- *Recommend actions* that can be taken by Federal, State, and local governments as well as private organizations to improve criminal justice.
- *Carry out research on criminal behavior.*
- *Develop new methods of crime prevention* and reduction of crime and delinquency.

The National Institute of Justice has a long history of accomplishments, including the following:

- Basic research on career criminals that led to the development of special police and prosecutor units to deal with repeat offenders.
- Research that confirmed the link between drugs and crime.
- The research and development program that resulted in the creation of police body armor that has meant the difference between life and death to hundreds of police officers.
- Pioneering scientific advances such as the research and development of DNA analysis to positively identify suspects and eliminate the innocent from suspicion.
- The evaluation of innovative justice programs to determine what works, including drug enforcement, community policing, community anti-drug initiatives, prosecution of complex drug cases, drug testing throughout the criminal justice system, and user accountability programs.
- Creation of a corrections information-sharing system that enables State and local officials to exchange more efficient and cost-effective concepts and techniques for planning, financing, and constructing new prisons and jails.
- Operation of the world's largest criminal justice information clearinghouse, a resource used by State and local officials across the Nation and by criminal justice agencies in foreign countries.

The Institute Director, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, establishes the Institute's objectives, guided by the priorities of the Office of Justice Programs, the Department of Justice, and the needs of the criminal justice field. The Institute actively solicits the views of criminal justice professionals to identify their most critical problems. Dedicated to the priorities of Federal, State, and local criminal justice agencies, research and development at the National Institute of Justice continues to search for answers to what works and why in the Nation's war on drugs and crime.

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# Bureau of Justice Statistics Executive Summary

September 1995, NCJ-156831

## Spouse Murder Defendants in Large Urban Counties

By Patrick A. Langan, Ph.D.  
BJS Statistician  
and John M. Dawson  
former BJS Statistician

Following are highlights from *Spouse Murder Defendants in Large Urban Counties*. The full report may be ordered using the form on page 4.

### Number of spouse murder defendants and their demographic characteristics

In 1988 the justice system in the Nation's 75 largest counties disposed of an estimated 540 spouse murder cases. Husbands charged with killing their wife outnumbered wives charged with killing their husband. Of the 540, 318 — or 59% — were husband defendants and 222 — or 41% — were wife defendants.

Blacks comprised 55% of the 540 defendants, and whites comprised 43%. Among husband defendants 51% were black and 45% were white. Among wife defendants 61% were black and 39% were white. In 97% of the murders, both spouses were the same race.

Ages of spouse murder defendants ranged from 18 to

87. The average age was 39. The average age of husband defendants was 41; of wife defendants, 37 years.

### Arrest charge

First-degree murder was the most frequent charge at arrest, accounting for 70% of defendants. In descending order of seriousness, charges were distributed this way across the 540 spouse murder defendants:

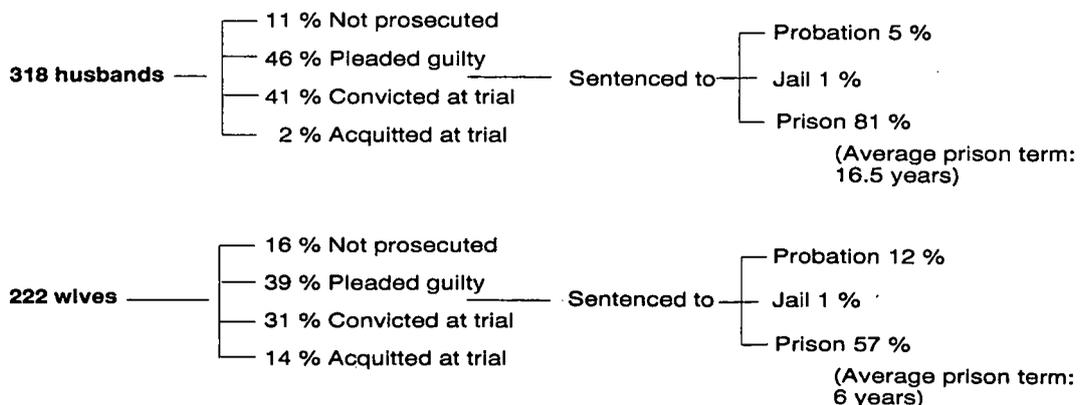
- 70% first-degree murder
- 24% second-degree murder
- 6% nonnegligent manslaughter

### How the justice system disposed of spouse murder cases

Cases were disposed of in one of three ways:

- (1) the prosecutor declined to prosecute; or

### In spouse murder cases, wife defendants were less likely to be convicted and to receive severe sentences than husband defendants



Note: Sentencing percentages in this chart have as their base all defendants, whether convicted or not.

- 
- (2) the defendant pleaded not guilty, stood trial, and was either acquitted or convicted; or
  - (3) the defendant pleaded guilty.

Of the 540 spouse murder defendants, 232 — or 43% — pleaded guilty to killing their spouse, and 238 — or 44% — pleaded not guilty and stood trial. The remaining 70 persons — or 13% — were not prosecuted.

#### **Outcome for spouse murder defendants who pleaded not guilty and stood trial**

Of the 238 who pleaded not guilty, 63% were tried by a jury and the remaining 37% were tried by a judge. Together, judges and juries acquitted 16% of the 238 spouse murder defendants and convicted 84% — or 199 persons — of killing their spouse.

Bench trials (trials before a judge) had a higher acquittal rate than jury trials: 26% of bench trials ended in acquittal, versus 11% of jury trials.

#### **Defendants convicted of killing their spouse**

Of the 540 spouse murder defendants, 431 (or 80%) were ultimately convicted of killing their spouse. Their conviction was the result of either pleading guilty (232 persons) or being convicted at trial (199 persons).

While most persons arrested (70%) for spouse murder were charged with first-degree murder, most persons convicted (52%) of spouse murder had negligent or non-negligent manslaughter as their conviction offense.

#### **Sentences for defendants convicted of killing their spouse**

Of the 431 defendants convicted of killing their spouse, 89% were sentenced to a State prison, 1% were sentenced to a county jail, and the remaining 10% received a sentence of straight probation (no prison or jail confinement).

An estimated 12% of the 431 convicted spouse murderers received a sentence to life imprisonment and 1% received the death penalty.

Excluding life and death sentences, the average prison term imposed was 13 years.

#### **Wife defendants less likely to be convicted**

Wife defendants had a lower conviction rate than husband defendants —

- Of the 222 wife defendants, 70% were convicted of killing their mate. By contrast, of the 318 husband defendants, 87% were convicted of spouse murder.
- Of the 100 wife defendants tried by either a judge or jury, 31% were acquitted. But of the 138 husband defendants tried, 6% were acquitted.
- Of the 59 wife defendants tried by a jury, 27% were acquitted. But of the estimated 91 husband defendants tried by a jury, none was acquitted.

#### **Convicted wife defendants sentenced less severely**

An estimated 156 wives and 275 husbands were convicted of killing their spouse. Convicted wives were less likely than convicted husbands to be sentenced to prison, and convicted wives received shorter prison sentences than their male counterparts —

- 81% of convicted wives but 94% of convicted husbands received a prison sentence.
- On average, convicted wives received prison sentences that were about 10 years shorter than what husbands received. Excluding life or death sentences, the average prison sentence for killing a spouse was 6 years for wives but 16.5 years for husbands.
- Among wives sentenced to prison, 15% received a sentence of 20 years or more (including life imprisonment and the death penalty); among husbands, it was 43%.

#### **Victim provocation more often present in wife defendant cases**

According to information contained in prosecutor files, more wife defendants (44%) than husband defendants (10%) had been assaulted by their spouse (threatened with a weapon or physically assaulted) at or around the time of the murder.

#### **Self-defense as possible explanation for wives' lower conviction rate**

In certain circumstances, extreme victim provocation may justify taking a life in self-defense. Provocation was more often present in wife defendant cases, and wife defendants were less likely than husband defendants to be convicted, suggesting that the relatively high rate of victim provocation characteristic of wife defendant cases was one of the reasons wife defendants had a lower conviction rate than husband defendants. Consistent with that,

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of the provoked wife defendants, 56% were convicted, significantly lower than either the 86% conviction rate for unprovoked wife defendants or the 88% conviction rate for unprovoked husbands.

**No explanation for why State prison sentences were, on average, 10 years shorter for wife defendants than husband defendants**

Wives received shorter prison sentences than husbands (a 10-year difference, on average) even when the comparison is restricted to defendants who were alike in terms of whether or not they were provoked —

- The average prison sentence for unprovoked wife defendants was 7 years, or 10 years shorter than the average 17 years for unprovoked husband defendants.

**Victim's race unrelated to outcomes**

The victim was black in 55% of cases and white in 43%. The likelihood of a defendant being convicted of spouse murder was about the same whether the murder victim was white or black. Among spouse murder defendants whose victim was white, 81% were convicted. Among those whose victim was black, 79% were convicted.

Likewise, the sentence was unrelated to the victim's race. The likelihood of a convicted spouse murderer receiving a prison sentence was about the same whether the murder victim was white or black: the convicted spouse murderer was sentenced to prison in 93% of cases where the victim was white, not significantly different from the 87% of cases where the victim was black. The length of the prison sentence imposed on a convicted spouse murderer was generally unrelated to whether the murder victim was white or black —

- For conviction for first-degree murder, the average prison term (excluding life and death sentences) was 29 years in white-victim cases, not significantly different from the 32 years in black-victim cases
- For conviction for second-degree murder, the average prison term (excluding life sentences) was 19 years in white-victim cases, significantly longer than the 13 years in black-victim cases. However, 23% of convicted second-degree murder defendants in black-victim cases received a sentence of life imprisonment, compared to 8% of defendants in white-victim cases.
- For conviction for nonnegligent manslaughter, the average prison term (excluding life sentences) was 8 years in white-victim cases, not significantly different from the average 6 years in black-victim cases.

**Defendant's race unrelated to outcomes**

The likelihood of conviction, and of a prison sentence if convicted, and the length of the prison sentence were about the same whether the spouse murder defendant was white or black —

- 78% of white defendants were convicted, not significantly different from the 80% of black defendants.
- Among convicted spouse murderers, 93% of white defendants were sentenced to prison, not significantly different from the 88% of black defendants.

**Processing time**

Three measures of processing time were taken from the day of the murder — to arrest, to indictment, and to final disposition. Most spouse murder defendants were arrested on the same day the killing occurred. Average time to indictment was 4 months. Average time to final disposition was almost exactly 1 year.

For husbands tried by a jury, 12½ months was the average elapsed time from the day of the murder to the conclusion of the jury trial. For wives tried by a jury it was significantly longer, about 18½ months.

**Methodology**

This study is based upon a systematic sample of murder cases disposed of in the 75 most populous counties in 1988. A case was considered disposed if the prosecutor screened it out, if the defendant pleaded guilty, or if the defendant went to trial and was either convicted or acquitted. The 75 are where a little over half of all murders in the Nation occur.

Spouse murder defendants in the sample were drawn from State prosecutor files in 33 of the 75 counties. The counties were widely scattered, from Los Angeles and San Diego, Denver and Dallas, to Philadelphia and Dade County (Miami). For each defendant, data collectors filled out a lengthy questionnaire and prepared a brief narrative from file information. Prosecutor files include such items as the police arrest report, investigator reports, and information on how the case was disposed. Questionnaires and narratives are the sources of data for this report.

The same database used in this report was previously analyzed by John M. Dawson and Barbara Boland (*Murder in Large Urban Counties, 1988*, BJS Special Report, NCJ-140614, May 1993) and by John M. Dawson and Patrick A. Langan (*Murder in Families*, BJS Special Report, NCJ-143498, July 1994).

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