

**STATISTICAL
ANALYSIS
CENTER**

**1997
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
IN
ALABAMA**

**STATE OF ALABAMA
CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION CENTER
LARRY WRIGHT
Director**

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Domestic Violence

This report was produced by the Statistical Analysis Center of the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center. Data presented in this report was provided by the Uniform Crime Reporting Division of ACJIC for the calendar year of 1997. For purposes of this report, domestic violence is indicated when the relationship of the victim and offender is husband, wife, common-law spouse, ex-husband, ex-wife, girlfriend, boy-friend, ex-girlfriend, or ex-boyfriend. Statistics contained within this report include adult and juvenile victims.

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Domestic Violence

- Of the 24,651 violent offenses* reported in 1997, 18% were domestic violence incidents. Domestic violence was indicated in 4,445 offenses reported: in 49 homicides; 196 rapes; 67 robberies; and in 4,133 aggravated assaults. 2,647 incidents of domestic violence were cleared for a 60% clearance rate. 36% of the clearances were exceptional, i.e...lack of prosecution.
- There were 24,987 domestic simple assaults, which represent 40% of all simple assaults reported in 1997. 14,889 domestic simple assaults were cleared for a 60% clearance rate. 44% of the clearances were exceptional.
- 83% of the victims were females, and 17% were males. 53% of the victims were black, and 47% were white. In 56% of the offenses, the offender was black, and in 84% the offender was male.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 3% of the offenses; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 84%; a knife was the weapon used in 4%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 9%.
- 40% of the victims suffered injuries: 2% were injured with a firearm; 5% were injured with a knife; 82% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 11% were injured with other dangerous weapons.
- In 36% of domestic violence offenses the victim was the wife of the offender; in 23% the victim was the girlfriend of the offender.

*Excluding simple assaults

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	31%
Common-law wife	5%
Ex-wife	6%
Husband	7%
Common-law husband	1%
Ex-husband	2%
Girlfriend	23%
Ex-girlfriend	17%
Boyfriend	4%
Ex-boyfriend	4%

Domestic Violence - Homicide

- There were 49 domestic homicides reported in 1997, representing 12% of the 413 homicides reported in Alabama for that year. 37 domestic homicides were cleared for a 76% clearance rate. 19% of the clearances were exceptional.
- 39% of the victims were males, and 61% were females. 78% of the victims were black, and 22% were white.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 59% of the homicides; a knife was the weapon used 33%; hands, fists or feet were used as a weapon in 4%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 4%.
- In 29% of the homicides the victim was the wife or ex-wife of the offender; in 12% the victim was the husband; in 39% the victim was the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend; and in 20% of the homicides the victim was the boyfriend or ex-boyfriend of the offender.
- 83% of the homicides occurred at a residence; 5% occurred in a street, alley, or parking lot; and 12% occurred in other locations.
- In 78% of the homicides the offender was black; and in 65% the offender was a male. 74% of the homicides had black victims and black offenders; 18% had white victims and white offenders; 4% had white victims and black offenders; 0% had black victims and white offenders; and in 4% of the homicides the offender's race was not reported.

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	23%
Common-law wife	6%
Ex-wife	0%
Husband	8%
Common-law husband	2%
Ex-husband	2%
Girlfriend/Ex-girlfriend	39%
Boyfriend/Ex-boyfriend	20%

Domestic Violence - Rape

- There were 196 domestic violence rapes in 1997, representing 15% of the 1,345 rapes reported in Alabama for that year. 110 domestic rapes were cleared for a 56% clearance rate. 54% of the clearances were exceptional.
- 45% of the victims were black females and 55% were white females.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 4% of the rapes; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 85%; a knife was the weapon used in 4%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 7%.
- 17% of the victims suffered injuries: 6% were injured with a firearm; 2% were injured with a knife; 81% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 11% were injured with other dangerous weapons.
- 67% of the victims were the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender, and 33% of the victims were the wife or ex-wife of the offender.
- 75% of the offenses occurred at a residence; 2% occurred in a street or alley; and 23% occurred in other locations.
- In 50% of the rapes the offender was white; in 47% the offender was black; and in 3% of the rapes the offender was of another race.
- 20% of domestic rape victims were juveniles, but only 3% of the offenders were juveniles.

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	22%
Common-law wife	3%
Ex-wife	8%
Girlfriend	30%
Ex-girlfriend	37%

Domestic Violence - Robbery

- There were 67 robberies in 1997 that indicated domestic violence. This represents 1% of the 6,843 robberies reported for Alabama in that year. 51 domestic robberies were cleared for a 76% clearance rate. 71% of the clearances were exceptional.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 16% of the robberies; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 75%; a knife was the weapon used in 5%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 4%.
- 44% of the victims suffered injuries: 11% were injured with a firearm; 7% were injured with a knife; 75% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 7% were injured with other dangerous weapons.
- 66% of the victims were the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender; 14% of the victims were the wife or ex-wife of the offender.
- 58% of the offenses occurred at a residence; 13% occurred in a street or alley; and 29% occurred in other locations.
- In 83% of the robberies, the offender was black and in 92% the offender was a male.

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	8%
Common-law wife	2%
Ex-wife	4%
Husband	4%
Common law-husband	1%
Ex-husband	3%
Girlfriend	30%
Ex-girlfriend	36%
Boyfriend	9%
Ex-boyfriend	3%

Domestic Violence - Assault

Aggravated

- Of the 16,050 aggravated assaults reported in 1997, 4,133 were domestic aggravated assaults - or 26% of all aggravated assaults reported in Alabama for that year. 2,449 incidents of domestic aggravated assault were cleared for a 59% clearance rate. 35% of the clearances were exceptional.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 16% of the assaults; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 28%; a knife was the weapon used in 20%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 36%.
- 60% of the victims were injured: 8% with a firearm; 21% with a knife; 31% with fists, feet or hands; and 40% with other dangerous weapons
- 39% of the victims were a wife or ex-wife of the offender; 33% of the victims were a girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender; and 16% of the victims were a husband or ex-husband of the offender. 64% of the offenders were black, and 73% were males.

Simple

- There were 24,987 domestic simple assaults reported in 1997, or 40% of all simple assaults for that year. 14,889 incidents of domestic simple assaults were cleared for a 60% clearance rate. 44% of the clearances were exceptional, i.e...lack of prosecution.
- Hands, fists or feet were used as a weapon in 94% of these assaults, however, 44% of the victims still reported injuries.
- 45% of the victims were a wife or ex-wife to the offender; 41% were a girlfriend or ex-girlfriend.

Domestic Violence - Aggravated Assault

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	29%
Common-law wife	6%
Ex-wife	4%
Husband	12%
Common-law husband	3%
Ex-husband	1%
Girlfriend	21%
Ex-girlfriend	12%
Boyfriend	8%
Ex-boyfriend	4%

Domestic Violence - Simple Assault

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	34%
Common-law wife	5%
Ex-wife	6%
Husband	6%
Common-law husband	1%
Ex-husband	2%
Girlfriend	25%
Ex-girlfriend	16%
Boyfriend	3%
Ex-boyfriend	2%